

PRIVACY IS THE ENEMY

A GRAND DECENTRALIZATION THEORY

True freedom will be attained when all information is liberated.

It has recently been revealed that our lives and communications are being monitored on an unprecedented scale.

Like it or not, Big Brother has arrived and Privacy is Dead.

However!

This document presents the unlikely proposition that the only way for us to combat the threat posed by a total surveillance society... is to build our own.

Backstory

Ten years ago, I came to the conclusion that a Free and Open internet was the key to humanity's ultimate liberation.

Since that time, I've been working tirelessly in service of this vision; convinced that a solution to all the world's problems was within our grasp.

After a decade of research and development, I've finally managed to devise a comprehensive proposition for the implementation of a completely Free and Open society, underpinned by a Free and Open internet.

It is hoped that its release will provide sufficient inspiration to get things rolling.

Privacy Is Dead And Total Surveillance Is Inevitable

As recently revealed by Edward Snowden, [a small number of governments](#) have been actively collaborating to create a [monolithic security apparatus](#) that is monitoring nearly everything that takes place online.

This information is being stored in [ever-expanding digital databases](#) that will likely soon include all global phone conversations, emails, photos, videos and [personal information](#).

Encrypted communications are either [compromised outright](#), or [stored in gigantic databases](#), in hopes of later decryption. Without going to extreme lengths, maintaining privacy online has become [nearly impossible](#).

And though it's been a lesser media event, [surveillance drones are now in service](#) that can hover over entire cities and [record everything below them](#) in perfect detail.

With the rapid proliferation of internet-linked smartphones, [video glasses](#), and traditional [surveillance camera networks](#), almost every inch of the public realm is being recorded.

Although few realize it, [modern facial recognition technology](#) now allows for [the creation of databases](#) that contain [every recognizable photo and video](#) ever taken of you.

[These databases](#) can be easily linked to your criminal record, [bank account](#), [confidential medical information](#), and [employment history](#), to create a [complete dossier](#) of your entire life and allow for the [covert monitoring of your every move](#).

Every day, this technology gets [smaller](#), faster, cheaper and [more pervasive](#). There is truly [nowhere to hide](#).

The Dangers Of A Closed Surveillance Society

Although many believe that "*if you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear*", Closed surveillance networks do come with some [very serious consequences](#):

- Anyone who [has access to these databases](#) (or can [hack into them](#)) is able to secretly monitor and learn nearly everything about any [person](#) or [institution](#) in the world.
- They can covertly [spy on love interests](#) and [political opponents](#), steal [trade secrets](#) from business competitors, predict the stock market, and even influence wars.
- From a [single photograph](#), anyone's entire life history can be called up and used against them, including the politicians and judges who implement the laws that are supposed to keep the whole system in check.

Ultimately, Closed surveillance networks concentrate unprecedented power in the hands of their [exclusive administrators](#).

How Should We Adapt To This New Reality?

It is important to first examine the fundamental nature of privacy.

Privacy is defined as "*The state or condition of being free from being observed or disturbed by other people*" or "*The state of being free from public attention*".

But it can also be defined as "*retaining a selective monopoly on information*". This is **Strategic Privacy**.

And from the dawn of civilization, all major institutions have retained their power by employing Strategic Privacy to carefully control the spread of information:

- Religious institutions attempted to restrict access to scientific information that would provide a competing view of the universe.

- Modern governments indoctrinate the majority of citizens in state-run schools, secretly make decisions behind closed doors, and classify millions of documents.
- Strategic Privacy is essential to the empowerment of private businesses, who secretly develop new products and techniques. In more abstract terms, “intellectual property” laws represent their attempts to enforce “informational monopolies” on digital goods.

But in the information age, and an emergent paradigm of total surveillance where no information can be kept private, it is all coming down.

- Everywhere that science has penetrated, religious belief has been lessening.
- Government and corporate secrets are frequently leaked and released on the internet.
- “Intellectual property” (movies, music, books, images) can be easily digitized to strings of pure information, shared instantly across the internet, and perfectly reproduced.
- [3D scanning and printing technologies](#) will soon allow us to scan almost any object and perfectly reproduce it in unlimited quantities.
- Right now, we are able to print [guns](#), [cars](#), [circuit boards](#), [houses](#), and [DNA](#). We can print cheaply in [metals](#), generate [human organs](#) that can live for weeks, and very soon we will be able to print our own [synthetic drugs](#).
- Every individual could potentially soon own the means of production and reproduction. The end of all scarcity for many items is becoming a very real possibility.

In the face of such rapid technological advances, privacy-empowered institutions must now go to extreme lengths in order to protect their crumbling monopolies on information.

They spend billions on security, only to be compromised by leakers and hackers who disseminate their [secret information](#) with minimal resources.

And they continually wage massive legal campaigns, to little avail, against those who transmit and receive their “intellectual property”.

The argument that our online activities should be monitored and policed is predicated largely upon the belief that we should continue to assist these institutions in retaining their Private Informational Monopolies.

Ultimately, it all boils down to the fundamental question of our age:

SHOULD ALL INFORMATION BE LIBERATED?

AN EXAMINATION OF PRIVATE INFORMATIONAL MONOPOLIES AND THE OPEN ALTERNATIVES

Everywhere, we can witness the fallout from a world dominated by Private Informational Monopolies.

Violent conflicts continually rock the globe, debts spiral out of control, millions languish in prisons, depression and addiction rates have reached [epidemic levels](#), and the environment is being rapidly destroyed.

It's readily apparent that our present system is destructive, unsustainable and doomed to collapse.

But by transitioning to a new system of individual and institutional transparency, we can successfully address all of these problems.

Here's how it can be done.

A WORLD OF INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY

For the majority of our lives, we've been free to move and communicate without being monitored and recorded; to behave, more or less, like no one was watching.

Naturally, this led to all sorts of problems:

- You could get into car accidents and blame the other person, even if you were at fault.
- You could rise to the top of many institutions by cheating, intimidating, and exploiting.
- Dangerous criminals were often released and allowed to roam freely among us.
- You could bully and harass and even attack others and often get away with it.
- The rich and powerful could easily commit crimes and avoid prosecution.
- The poor were targeted and incarcerated at exponentially higher levels.
- You could easily engage in love affairs and other deceptive behavior.
- Countries were attacked and invaded under false pretexts.
- Corruption and fraud were commonplace.
- Entire regions of cities were unsafe.
- Justice often did not prevail.

In the online sphere, people could easily assume fake identities and harass people or write [hateful messages](#) without having to worry about being exposed.

They could also covertly [exploit security faults](#) in order to commit fraud, extortion and theft on a massive scale.

There were many incentives to lead a life of vice, rather than virtue.

But with the rise of public databases and total surveillance both online and off, things are changing fast, and anyone who lies or cheats or hurts another person now runs the risk of exposure and recrimination, no matter how powerful they are.

Citizens [filming the actions of police](#), wars being prevented by the public release of [incriminating video footage](#), and the [Weinergate](#) affair are all prime examples.

The Arab Spring (triggered in large part by [Wikileaks' exposure](#) of the Middle Eastern elite, who enjoyed lavish lifestyles while the majority subsisted in grinding poverty) is probably the most notable example of exposure-driven reprisal.

A WORLD OF INDIVIDUAL TRANSPARENCY

Whereas in the past it was possible to acquire status and power by deceptive means, in an Open society, nothing can be falsified or hidden. Everything is based on reputation.

There are two components- *Online* and *Offline*.

OFFLINE TRANSPARENCY

LEVEL 1 (PERSONAL):

Everyone wishing to participate will utilize a personal "[Black Box](#)" that will constantly record the environment around them in all directions whenever they are in public.

This is intended as a preventive measure that would deter anyone from physically harming you, stealing your property or even being rude to you.

Evidence of these actions could be easily uploaded and facial recognition technology used to compile a public database of all transgressions. Once created, the same device could easily warn you whenever unsavory individuals entered your vicinity.

LEVEL 2 (PROPERTY AND VEHICLES):

This technology could also be employed as a modern surveillance system for your home and vehicle to deter burglars, vandals and peeping toms.

As this would [eliminate the threat of fraud](#) and severely diminish the odds of theft and vandalism, insurance rates could be drastically lowered.

The odds of recovering stolen property would also increase dramatically.

LEVEL 3 (COMMUNITIES):

Cameras mounted on buildings (and hovering [drones](#)) would be networked to create a modern surveillance system that monitored larger areas.

The network would be open to all members of the community, allowing everyone to collectively monitor their entire neighborhood.

This would eliminate the problems of vandalism, theft, violence, and those who don't clean up after their dogs.

LEVEL 4 (CITIES):

Drones could monitor traffic and watch for accidents, scan for fires with thermal imaging technology, collect scientific data, [generate electricity](#) and support disaster relief efforts.

LEVEL 5 (COUNTRIES AND BEYOND):

Surveillance drones could [deter illegal fishing](#) and [poaching](#), watch for forest fires, conduct scientific research, monitor war zones, etc.

LEVEL ZERO (INSIDE YOUR HOME AND OTHER PRIVATE SPACES):

You would of course use non-networked cameras inside your home, to ensure that your private actions remained private.

Video recorded in and around your home could identify intruders, safely monitor your children, and protect you against any false accusations of wrongdoing.

ONLINE TRANSPARENCY

The essential complement to the proposed system of offline transparency is a new social network that will be completely Open.

It will be centered around a profile that details your life history and is illustrated with a facial-recognition database of all recognizable photos and videos of you that have ever been publicly uploaded.

Via the Open surveillance camera network, your Open Profile will be continually updated by you and the people you interact with in the public realm.

This Open Profile will form the basis of your Open Reputation, which will either grant or deny you status, respect and opportunity.

Your identity will need to be comprehensively and continuously verified, which will require a system of [biometric authentication](#).

While this may sound pretty crazy, the truth is that [similar databases](#) have already been created by [advertisers](#) and [surveillance agencies](#). These Closed databases do not deliver us any advantages and could easily be used against anyone at any time.

CREATING AN OPEN PROFILE

When creating your Open Profile, you would ideally add as much information as possible, including your legal, educational, medical, financial, and employment history (all of which is currently accessible via Closed databases).

This will grant you the opportunity to explain every element of your past in fine detail.

For example, if you have a criminal record, you'll be able to explain the circumstances (e.g. if you were under a period of undue stress, if you've been rehabilitated, and if you've made restitution to the victim).

Of course, you'll also be able to highlight everything you're proud of: accomplishments, awards, volunteer work and positive deeds.

By providing an updated medical history, others will know that you're safe to interact with and people will be able to [instantly help](#) if you ever require medical assistance.

There will be opportunity for discrimination, but also opportunity to connect with others who have similar issues and comfort in the knowledge that you are not alone.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of the Open Profile system will be the mass realization that all of us have problems and we've all made plenty of mistakes.

JOINING THE NETWORK

Your Open Profile will be divided into two sections: One from before you joined the Open Network and one after.

Joining the Open Network will be taken as admission that you've chosen to live your life as a transparent individual and are willing to accept responsibility for your actions.

Everyone will enter this thing, saying "*I am a human being. I am fallible and imperfect. Please accept me as I am. I intend to be a good person and connect with others and contribute to building this new community.*"

This will create a new social paradigm of authenticity, respect and civility.

- Would you rather rent your property to a stranger with references that can be easily falsified, or someone who is reputable and compelled to maintain their reputation?
- Would you like to hire people who could easily lie about their qualifications, or someone with proven credentials and incentive to maintain them?
- Would you rather interact with complete strangers who could potentially be violent criminals, or people with trusted reputations?
- Would you entrust your children to the care of another parent or daycare worker who might have a secret history of child abuse and neglect?
- Would you rather navigate an internet filled with anonymous trolls, spammers and criminals, or a known, trusted and supportive community?

Remember!

All of our [medical](#), legal, educational, and [financial information](#) exists on databases that will eventually be [compromised](#) and all of our private information made public.

And "[reverse search-engine](#)" tools that use facial recognition software to scrape the entire internet and [reveal every photo and video ever taken of us](#) are the new reality.

With these things in place, all friends, relatives, [love interests](#), and prospective employers will be able to easily discover [everything about us](#).

Preemptive transparency is the only defense.

POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES ONCE INDIVIDUAL TRANSPARENCY IS ADOPTED ON A LARGE SCALE

Once these Open networks grow and spread throughout our communities and cities, they will allow for some truly incredible advantages:

- You could easily upload a picture of anyone you wanted to avoid and have the network warn you if they ever got too close.
- Criminals can be easily tracked wherever they run, and in time, they will have to either stop being criminals or move to a community that is not Open.
- Bullying, harassment and police brutality will be a thing of the past.

- Self-surveillance allows for the [perfect alibi](#). You can never be falsely accused.
- Good deeds and leading a life of virtue and contribution will not go unrewarded.
- Even those with physical disabilities would be enabled to fully participate; helping to monitor the video feed and maintain the system.
- Everyone will also be able to list their religious and political beliefs, views on drugs, and other moral issues, along with what they are willing to tolerate / would rather avoid.
- This will make it easy for people to "find the others" and rearrange themselves into cohesive, tight-knit communities founded on common morals, principles and interests.

Modern life for many is characterized by dissociation and loneliness. People long to connect with others, but in order to connect on a deeper level, they must reveal something of themselves.

Once set in motion, a feedback loop will likely emerge, creating an unstoppable wave of radical transparency and unprecedented connection throughout society :)

MORE INCREDIBLE ADVANTAGES

- Open Profiles will allow for a [modern voting system](#), wherein participants could easily reach consensus on any collective issue, at zero cost and with zero risk of fraud.
- It would also enable every community to transparently fund all essential services, without the need for a monolithic tax structure and governmental bureaucracy to oversee and regulate everything.
- Each neighborhood could collectively fund and maintain its own fire, [protection](#), [health](#) and maintenance services, and instantly respond to any problems or breakdowns at the community level.
- The resolution of local social problems could also be funded and managed by communities themselves, not relegated to politicians living thousands of miles away.

But individual transparency only represents half of the equation!

In order to facilitate the transition to a fully Open Society, institutional transparency will also be required...

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CLOSED AND CENTRALIZED INSTITUTIONS (*INFORMATION MONOPOLISTS*)

Prior to the advent of the internet, all humanity's most powerful institutions have been *Closed* and *Centralized*.

Closed, meaning that they operated with as little transparency as possible, and Centralized, meaning that all were hierarchical, with power concentrated in the hands of a small number of individuals at the top.

As competitive institutions, their success hinged on how well they could maintain their *Strategic Informational Monopolies* (privacy).

Private Sector:

Driven by profit, private businesses competed to secretly develop new products and marketing techniques in order to gain the edge in the marketplace.

If they could be the first to market with a desirable new product, or the first to patent it, their profits would generally increase.

Public Sector:

Driven by power, politicians competed to secretly develop new propaganda techniques in order to gain the edge in their respective power structures.

If they could successfully make secret agreements behind closed doors and devise effective propaganda campaigns, their power would generally increase.

Competition between private businesses and within political institutions and the legal separations between the two was intended to prevent the rise of monopolies and the concentration of undue power.

But it was inevitable that business and government would secretly collude whenever possible, creating an unstoppable feedback loop that further consolidated the wealth and power of those who controlled these hierarchical institutions.

On the global stage, competition and collusion between national governments and multinational corporations was often fraught with deception, exploitation and wars of aggression.

SOCIOPATHY AND THE LUST TO DOMINATE

By definition, *sociopathic individuals* are incapable of emotion or empathy and driven exclusively by *an insatiable lust for power and dominance*.

And while these individuals comprise only a small percentage of the population, the hierarchical nature of Centralized institutions means that a small number of ruthless sociopaths can easily rise to corrupt and control them.

Further, recent studies show that acquiring power can be as [addictive as cocaine](#).

This knowledge provides a simple explanation for the corruption, exploitation and ruthless power struggles that have rocked humanity from the dawn of civilization.

But in order to understand why these cycles of tyranny and destruction have never been successfully challenged in this age of modern “enlightenment”, we must examine the most fundamental informational monopoly of all.

CLOSED AND CENTRALIZED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

First implemented at the height of the industrial revolution, Closed and Centralized educational institutions were designed to groom their students for entrance and/or obedience to the dominant hierarchical institutions of their time.

At a very young age, the young were taken from their homes, separated into groups based on age, dominated by authority figures, and driven to compete against each other.

Rather than encouraging critical thinking skills, standardized curricula enforced rote memorization within a narrow field of knowledge and respect for their institutions and leaders.

These institutions were [specifically designed](#) to perpetuate the prevailing system of Centralized command and control; never to question its validity or encourage the investigation of potential alternatives.

Surreptitiously, they conditioned for competition, submission and dependence, rather than self-knowledge and self-mastery.

And although every advance in communications technology (print, radio, film, television) represented an opportunity to break these informational monopolies and give rise to a more enlightened society, all were quickly co-opted and [used to reinforce them](#).

The end result was a predictable and obedient citizenry who could be easily manipulated by corporate advertisers and government propagandists alike.

Preying on the widespread fears and insecurities of these cognitively and emotionally stunted individuals, sophisticated marketing campaigns could easily sell them anything; from toxic snack foods to [trillion-dollar wars of aggression](#).

CLOSED AND CENTRALIZED CORPORATIONS

Whereas public institutions were generally created in response to a fundamental public need, corporations had no such mandate. These state-ordained institutions had one overriding objective- to turn a profit.

But rather than competing to deliver products and services that were the most useful, healthy, or reliable, it was quickly realized that consumptive desire and competitive advantage could often be achieved via [advertising alone](#).

After decades of indoctrination in Centralized educational institutions, many could be easily compelled to purchase products and services they did not require, including those that were extremely detrimental to their physical and mental well-being.

And over the years, the art of advertising has been developed and refined to razor precision by [sophisticated focus groups and teams of psychologists](#).

But there was one customer who was far more lucrative and far less discerning than the majority of individual consumers- Centralized governments.

And by overt lobbying or covert subterfuge, many corporations have managed to stifle competition and win lucrative government contracts.

This collusion was a primary driver behind the staggering number of [profit-driven wars](#) fought throughout the 20th century.

The state-granted concept of “limited legal liability” has also provided massive incentive for [high-level fraud](#) and [environmental destruction](#). Corporations who do not engage in such behavior are often placed at a considerable competitive disadvantage.

CLOSED AND CENTRALIZED SOCIAL SERVICES

All functions of government are overseen by elected officials whose primary motivation is to maintain their position of power.

Accordingly, In the face of any social epidemic (violence, addiction, poverty, terrorism, stupidity), all politicians must adopt platforms which are politically expedient; addressing such issues with lofty rhetoric and impracticable promises.

Handouts and enforcement schemes then ensue; which may deliver short-term “results” but generally serve only to perpetuate these problems.

Isolated, non-dynamic, and forceful rather than inspirational, all Centralized social policy institutions are [fundamentally flawed](#).

CLOSED AND CENTRALIZED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The final informational monopoly that must be understood in order to fully grasp the current system of Centralized command and control is the global financial system.

Although it affects us all to an incredible degree, to the vast majority, the underlying mechanics remain shrouded in mystery.

All you really need to know is:

- Closed and Centralized institutions control [the issuance of currencies, interest rates, commodity prices, and international exchange rates](#).
- Predictably, [those at the top abuse this power by secretly colluding in order to further enrich and empower themselves at the expense of everyone else](#).
- Like all Centralized institutions, they are inherently corrupt and dangerously unstable. This is evidenced by untenable national debts, ruinous depressions, currency collapses, and inflationary policies that consistently erode our purchasing power.
- Central banks have been granted the right to create money out of thin air, and whenever they do, it reduces the wealth of everyone else by diluting it.

Some view these developments as conspiracy, and in some sense they are, in the sense that all secretive corruption is.

But it all makes sense, given the fundamental structure of these Closed and Centralized institutions and their appeal to power-lusting sociopaths.

In recent times, international financial institutions have grown [more Centralized and powerful than ever](#); permitting a small number of individuals to dominate global affairs and [arbitrarily determine the economic fate of entire nations](#).

THE FALLOUT.

Throughout the 20th century, collusion and competition between the world's most powerful informational monopolies gave rise to unparalleled concentrations of power and unprecedented levels of tyranny and destruction.

And while it appeared as though the ever-increasing Centralization of power was a trend which might never reverse, with the introduction of the modern internet, the balance [began to shift...](#)

ENTER THE INFORMATION AGGREGATORS!

The creation of the modern internet led to the rapid rise of the “Decentralists”.

These institutions were *Decentralized Information Aggregators*, and they quickly rose to disrupt and displace the informational monopolies that had held sway for centuries.

Whereas traditional Centralized institutions either required or acted as physical middlemen between the producer and consumer of a product or service, the Decentralists facilitated *direct connections*.

This allowed "Decentralized" individuals to operate autonomously in new systems that were more dynamic, efficient and empowering than anything seen before.

EXAMPLES OF DISRUPTIVE DECENTRALISTS

- [Craigslist](#), [Kijiji](#), and other Decentralized marketplaces have connected millions of individuals and displaced many Centralized purveyors of products and services.
- Decentralized accommodation aggregators ([Air BnB](#), [CouchSurfing](#)) allow anyone to rent or share their property, displacing Centralized hotel chains.
- Decentralized transportation aggregators ([Zipcar](#), [Car2Go](#), [Uber](#)) openly compete with traditional taxi services and have made vehicle ownership unnecessary for many.
- Decentralized restaurant platforms ([Feastly](#), [Eatwith](#)) connect chefs and diners to meet and [enjoy meals together in private residences](#).
- [Paypal](#) has steadily displaced bank and money wiring agencies by facilitating direct online sales and allowing merchants and consumers to control their own banking.

In all examples, the informational monopolies of the past were destroyed or overridden by the Decentralists (e.g. never before could we dynamically aggregate the info required to share our homes with strangers or trade directly with people we'd never met).

This was the dawn of a true revolution in global connectivity.

While the Centralists did their best to fight back, they rarely recognized the threats to their informational monopolies before it was too late.

And even if they did, they were forced to resort to legal action rather than competition. The Decentralists were simply too dynamic, effective and useful to compete with.

BRAND NEW DECENTRALISTS

The virtual sphere has given rise to previously undreamt-of Decentralized institutions:

- *Facebook* aggregates Decentralized individuals and their personal information; enabling them to self-organize (events, groups, etc.).
- *Google* efficiently aggregates Decentralized websites and other information.
- *Reddit* aggregates Decentralized news and users across thousands of categories.
- The “*Buycott*” app aggregates the info necessary to break private informational monopolies that traditionally restricted knowledge of dangerous food ingredients and corporate ownership by simply scanning a product’s UPC code.

These, along with *Skype*, *Twitter*, *Youtube* and many others facilitated direct communication and connectivity between billions worldwide; steadily displacing the Centralized media institutions of yore (newspapers, booksellers, TV, Hollywood).

Everyone with an internet connection was granted access to their own printing press, media production studio, and means of instant international distribution.

Footage from war zones and revolutions was instantly shared worldwide, grassroots organizations could gain global traction with minimal resources, and viral video campaigns could be created by anyone to rapidly alter public perceptions.

The *Khan Academy* is just one of many burgeoning Decentralized educational platforms that now grant near-limitless knowledge to anyone with an internet connection.

This represents the greatest liberation of information in all of history and in the past decade it has facilitated a massive shift in global attitudes and awareness.

CROWDFUNDING

Another major breakthrough came with the launch of *Crowdfunding* in 2008.

This new fundraising model enabled anyone with a creative vision to solicit support from a Decentralized global community in order to fund and realize their dreams.

No longer was it necessary for artists and entrepreneurs to seek financing from Centralized institutions (government grants, media industries, manufacturing industries).

Artists and entrepreneurs were now empowered to retain full creative control and ownership of their projects. There were no more gatekeepers.

BUT NONE OF THESE DECENTRALISTS WERE OPEN.

Although these institutions have facilitated a revolution in the liberation of information, they are private, competitive, profit-driven and secretly share information about their customers with advertisers and legal authorities all the time.

On the inside, they remain Closed and Centralized and are at constant risk of corruption and compromisation, regardless of how virtuous their present leadership may be.

Accordingly, we now find ourselves in an *Extremely Critical Transitional Phase*, wherein these ever-expanding databases of aggregated information can grant near-unlimited power to anyone who manages to gain access...

ENTER THE INFORMATION LIBERATORS!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE

Everything was initiated by an ideologically-driven visionary named [Richard Stallman](#), who founded the [Free Software Movement](#) in 1983.

Recognizing the paramount importance of informational freedom as we moved into the digital age, he committed his life to the cause. His philosophies and Open programming architecture ultimately gave rise to the entire [Open-Source software movement](#).

Rather than being driven by competition, profit and power, Open-Source software projects are cooperative, not for profit, and empower the user, rather than the developer.

Completely Open and Decentralized, all Open-Source software is developed by autonomous individuals via a process of transparent online collaboration.

Anyone may contribute to the development, or fork it off to develop the software in new ways, provided the source code remains Open.

Unlike proprietary (Closed-Source) software, everyone can view the source code and propose refinements and upgrades. Thusly, programming bugs are generally discovered and fixed before the systems can be maliciously compromised.

And since there is no profit or power motive, the sole incentive is to create the most efficient, functional, and effective software possible.

Open-Source software also cannot be restrictively patented and its development requires no legal protections or privacy.

Completely Open and Decentralized, these are the most dynamic institutions ever devised and as they are non-hierarchical, there is zero risk of corruption.

Although they've been in direct competition with extremely powerful Centralized software companies, Open-Source projects have been steadily gaining ground; rallying millions to the ideology that all code should be freely available to all humanity.

The incredible growth of this movement over the past 30 years is proof positive that communities driven only by reputation, community and cooperation can thrive and succeed.

AND THEN THIS PHILOSOPHY BEGAN TO SPREAD BEYOND THE REALM OF SOFTWARE...

The launch of the [Wikipedia](#) in 2001 represented a revolutionary new social experiment. Could an Open and Decentralized encyclopedia that anyone could contribute to be successfully created?

Not only did it succeed, it drove its Centralized competitors out of business (*Microsoft Encarta* and *Encyclopedia Britannica*) and quickly rose to become one of the most popular resources on the internet.

It also gave rise to the [Wikimedia Commons](#), an Open and Decentralized repository of video, music and photos.

This set the stage for Open-Source ideology to explode worldwide, and over the past decade it certainly has:

- [Open-Source Ecology](#) is an incredibly ambitious new project that intends to create 50 different Open-Source farming and construction machines that will self-replicate and enable anyone to [build an entire civilization from scratch](#).

Every machine is developed and refined Openly and Cooperatively by a dedicated community of passionate contributors. Nothing is patented and the plans are all Openly available for anyone in the world to utilize and refine.

This represents a break from reliance on Centralized governments and corporations and a true revolution in individual empowerment. The only objective is to create the most sustainable, efficient, and reliable machinery possible.

And they are succeeding, with many machines now in production worldwide!

- With the rise of [3D printing](#) and the [Maker Movement](#), Open blueprints for the creation of thousands of different [items](#) and machines are now [Openly available](#).

- Once [drug-printing technology](#) comes online, the Open and Decentralized creation and distribution of all synthetic medicines will be a viable reality.
- [Arduino](#) is an Open and Decentralized initiative wherein circuitry is Openly developed and shared across a dedicated community.
- [Open Cores](#) is a groundbreaking new project wherein microchip hardware can be created and reprogrammed *internally* by teams of volunteers.
- Major advances in [solar panels](#), [wind turbines](#) and [battery storage](#) will soon allow for completely Open and Decentralized energy acquisition.
- [Nanotube saltwater filtration](#) will soon allow for the Open and Decentralized removal of salt from Ocean water, reducing dependence on Centralized water providers.
- Centralized agricultural conglomerates are being actively displaced by Decentralized farming cooperatives, [urban aquaponics](#), and [permaculture](#) initiatives.
- The release of an Open-Source boombox called [The Social Stereo](#) will allow the [Decentralized Dance Party](#) to become fully Open and Decentralized.
- In the realm of social services, the [Decentralized Community](#), holds much promise. The first example of its implementation was [#Occupy Sandy](#), which facilitated a [very admirable](#) Open and Decentralized response to Hurricane Sandy in 2012.
- Initiatives are also underway to create [Open-Source housing](#), as well as [vehicles](#), [drones](#) and [hyperloops](#), which will surely revolutionize transportation forever.

None of these projects require the enforcement of informational monopolies or any sophisticated legal safeguards. There are no secrets to protect and there is nothing to be stolen. Every aspect of the process and product is completely transparent.

These organizations are exponentially more [efficient](#), [dynamic](#) and [empowering](#) than any of their Closed and Centralized counterparts. The writing is on the wall for the Information Monopolists.

And now we must examine the most powerful Decentralizer of all!

DECENTRALIZED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

In late 2008, an anonymous individual operating under the alias “Satoshi Nakamoto” released the white paper for a revolutionary new Open and Decentralized digital currency.

It was called “Bitcoin”, and it captured the imaginations of a small army of Open-Source developers, who immediately set to work creating it.

Constructed of pure information, it is a math-based protocol that allows for the instant transmission of digital wealth across the globe.

Unlike all currencies of the past, Bitcoin is not issued or controlled by a Central authority, cannot be counterfeited, and the underlying protocol is extremely resistant to corruption.

In four short years, the Bitcoin ecosystem has grown to represent a multi-billion-dollar economy and has spread to all corners of the internet and [all countries of the world](#).

It manages to ingeniously implement artificial scarcity in a world where anything digital can be infinitely duplicated. Accordingly, it has seen a *millionfold* increase in value.

This increase in value shifted a massive amount of wealth to the early adopters, the majority of whom were major Open-Source ideologues. The potential ramifications of this shift in wealth / power are very obvious, and very exciting for all [Decentralists](#) :)

Bitcoin allows anyone, anywhere to become their own bank and instantly transfer funds worldwide at near-zero cost. Wealth is no longer constantly funneled to credit card providers, banks, governments, currency exchanges, and other Centralized middlemen.

It is "programmable money" that will allow autonomous individuals to directly make investments, [lend money to each other](#), pay their workers, and create Open and Decentralized escrow services.

The Bitcoin protocol even allows for the creation of [Decentralized Autonomous Organizations](#), including [Decentralized stock exchanges](#), meaning that it can ultimately replace all the functions now performed by Wall Street.

Exponentially more dynamic and efficient, once Bitcoin and [Dogecoin](#) become widely adopted, all traditional financial institutions will be rendered completely obsolete.

And as it is a “Deflationary currency”, the wealth of Bitcoin holders is not lost to the [stealthy inflationary policies](#) currently being implemented by all Central banks.

Even if Bitcoin is somehow compromised, the Open-Source protocol can be easily modified to create [next-generation Decentralized systems](#) that will quickly take its place.

The only way to challenge Bitcoin's robust, peer-to-peer network would be to shut down the entire internet.

Speaking of which...

THE FINAL KEY: A FULLY DECENTRALIZED INTERNET!

Currently, the provision of all domain names is controlled by a [single Centralized organization](#) and internet service is provided by monolithic Centralized corporations.

This grants authoritarian rulers the ability to block, filter and monitor all internet traffic.

But now, all over the world, pioneering Decentralists are rapidly laying the foundations for a new [Decentralized internet](#).

The basic premise is to create [a new network](#), based on MESHNET principles, wherein everyone's computer acts as an independent node that will transmit and receive data.

It will be a dynamic, self-healing, uncontrollable, and incredibly fast new system of instant global communication. The ultimate informational liberator!

[Freedom Towers](#), [self-charging MESHNET drones](#), [common cellphones](#) and [WiFi weather balloons](#) will soon blanket the globe and make this crazy dream reality.

Concurrently, the Bitcoin protocol will enable the creation of a completely [Open and Decentralized domain name system](#) that will be independent of any Centralized control.

POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES ONCE OPEN AND DECENTRALIZED INSTITUTIONS ARE ADOPTED ON A LARGE SCALE

The technology required to put an end to every single informational monopoly and create a fully Open and Decentralized society is now at our disposal or will be soon.

Once fully implemented, there will be no more banks or governments or corporations or countries. No more fraud, corruption, or forceful coercion.

No more middlemen; just autonomous individuals who organize themselves into autonomous communities, living as they wish to live and collectively building the futures they wish to inhabit.

As outlined above, each individual will enter this new Open Society by creating an Open Profile and all that will be required to navigate it will be a good Open Reputation.

There will be no need to build up a separate reputation on eBay to sell goods, or on Airnb to lease or rent accommodations, and no need to make unique profiles for all the different blogs, social networks, apps and etc.

Craigslist and Kijiji will be replaced by new Open Marketplaces where Open Profiles will ensure honest and polite transactions with reputable individuals.

Right now, everything is scattered across diffuse social networks and websites and apps and organizations. There's no need for that.

Everyone will be granted the freedom to develop and share their gifts, knowledge and skills and enabled to become autonomous masters of their physical and digital domains.

The Open Profile system will also enable everyone to transparently gain educational accreditation and then interface directly with anyone requiring their assistance.

Doctors can be linked directly with patients, teachers can connect directly with students in virtual classrooms, and independent fire, security and maintenance personnel can directly serve their communities.

All will have their performance appraised by the people they assist and always be rewarded accordingly.

Everyone's contributions to the Wikipedia (and every other collectively-created entity) will be reflected on their Open Profiles. This will end the problems of page vandalism and conflict-of-interest entries. Due credit and respect will always be received.

Underpinning all trade and collaboration will be the Open Wallet, wherein everyone's wealth will be public knowledge, but also completely immune to theft or extortion.

This is because all Bitcoin transactions can be followed through the "block chain", a [collectively-updated online ledger system](#) that publicly records every single transaction.

And Bitcoin micropayments (Bitcoin is divisible to an unlimited number of decimal places) will allow autonomous individuals to receive support from large numbers of supporters whenever they perform a [virtual service](#) or [share their creative works](#).

Rather than Centralized media institutions, Open and Decentralized information aggregators will collect and organize all news and creative output, allowing for unfettered journalism and total creative autonomy.

And the rise of new Open and Decentralized crowdfunding platforms will enable the collective funding of all creative ideas deemed worthy of support, with 100% of the funds going directly to the person with the idea.

This will also mean the death of traditional advertising- everything will be based on reputation and word-of-mouth.

There will be nothing we ourselves cannot build or protect or provide and all Central governments will be rendered completely obsolete.

In their place will rise vastly superior systems and new networked societies that are truly *Of The People, By The People, For The People*.

This Open framework will ultimately connect and liberate every single person in the world as well as the entire collective knowledge and creative output of all humanity.

But in order to bring about this vision, we must first address one very unwieldy obstacle. It is easily the greatest conundrum of the digital age.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

When first enacted [hundreds of years ago](#), the stated purpose of patent and copyright laws was: “*To promote the progress of science and useful arts*”.

And while these laws initially served their purpose quite successfully, the entire system was eventually co-opted by massive Centralized institutions (media, pharmaceutical, technology, software).

- Under their influence, copyright terms were extended exponentially and [re-mixers and file-sharers](#) were [aggressively persecuted](#).
- International copyright agreements meant that proprietary machines and medicines were [priced out of the reach of billions of the world's poorest individuals](#).
- In recent times, major technology companies have been forced to [spend more on patenting and patent-related lawsuits than research and development](#).

Whether these laws still promoted the progress of science and useful arts was obviously quite debatable...

ENTER THE INFORMATION AGGREGATORS!

Until very recently, the technology required to develop and distribute movies, music, books, and other media was extremely expensive and unwieldy. Thusly, Centralized institutions that aided in their production and distribution were absolutely essential.

But everything changed in the early 2000's with the rise of [Napster](#), [Kazaa](#) and all the other information-liberating Decentralists who first facilitated the sharing of creative works across the internet.

When they were shut down at the behest of the Centralized media conglomerates, the information-sharing networks quickly evolved to become even more Decentralized ([BitTorrent](#) / [Peer-To-Peer](#)) and [thrive to this day](#).

The widespread adoption of high-speed internet has also dramatically increased the speed of file-sharing and 3D printing technology means that [even physical items can now be easily shared digitally](#).

The means of production and reproduction are now available to us all and improving at an astonishing pace. Artificial scarcity can no longer be enforced and the informational monopolies of all Centralized Media institutions have been rapidly crumbling.

A TRANSITIONAL BREAKTHROUGH

In a remarkable legal development during this transitory phase, Youtube successfully negotiated advertising agreements with all of the largest Centralized media institutions (Sony, BMG, Universal, Viacom).

Instead of simply removing all uploaded videos that contain unlicensed music or video footage, [Youtube now places advertising beside them and gives a percentage of the ad revenue to the original copyright holder](#), as well as facilitating paid MP3 downloads.

This has given rise to an exciting new media landscape wherein creative works that do not fulfill the necessary copyright requirements of the past can now be freely distributed.

Although it is not widely recognized, this has been a *major* victory in the transition towards an Open and Decentralized media environment.

But the copyright battle is far from resolved, and as described above, Youtube and the others are ultimately Closed, Centralized and Corruptible.

HOW IT CAN ALL BECOME OPEN AND DECENTRALIZED

All artists dream that their work will spread far and wide and touch as many lives as possible. And of the ability to earn a living by sharing their creative output with others.

But although the modern internet now allows for creative works to be globally disseminated at minimal cost, artists rarely receive compensation, or even attribution.

But there is a solution!

Every time you upload a video to Youtube, it scans the audio and video and compares these against a giant database that contains a unique “digital fingerprint” of the millions of copywritten works that have been registered with them ([ContentID](#)).

Whenever registered audio or video is detected, the copyright owner is alerted and given the option of either having the video removed or splitting the advertising revenue.

This means that it would be possible to create a database that contained the digital fingerprint of all photo, video, audio, and writing that has ever been created.

Such a database (when combined with the Open Profile) would allow everyone to instantly register all of their creative works (and their specific roles in any collaborative creative works) in order to receive full attribution.

As everyone's movements in the Open Network will be public, it will be easy to keep track of who has viewed what, and how many times.

With this in place, and combined with the Open Wallet, it would be easy to set a monthly donation amount that would be divided up between all the creative works you enjoy.

The amount you donate can scale to match your income, and if you donate nothing, everyone will know that you are a filthy freeloader!

This same funding model could also be applied to the use of any collectively shared resource or utility (roads / cars / parks / garbage collection / social services / etc.).

HOW TO DEAL WITH EXISTING COPYWRITTEN WORKS

Whenever someone enjoys a historically-copywritten work, their support will be distributed according to the original contractual payment scheme. When the copyright term expires, people may freely donate in whatever ratio they please.

Alongside this model, people will of course be able to donate directly to any actor, musician, inventor, or key grip who maintains an Open Profile.

Payment structures could also be devised that would incentivize media corporations to upload all of their old news articles and broadcasts to the database, providing new revenue streams in a time where they are quickly drying up.

Even old corporate advertisements constitute an interesting historical reference and uploading them could generate revenues for these companies in a brand new way.

This would effect the rapid creation of a massive Open Repository of historical information and video footage for anyone to study, share, remix, and build upon.

And since “digital fingerprinting” can also detect fragments of the original artistic works within remixed versions, according percentages would go back to the original creators, providing massive incentive for them to *encourage* remixing, rather than fighting it.

This system could also apply to patent holders who have agreed to have their designs uploaded, replicated and remixed.

All of the above represent MAJOR INCENTIVES for both individuals and institutions to join the Open Network and upload as much of their work as possible.

The only way to access these works will be by joining the Open network. And the only way to have your creations added to the network will be to Openly release them.

Within such a framework, it is quite possible to envision a future wherein the collective knowledge and creative output of all humanity will be freely and instantly available for everyone to learn from and build upon.

This system will completely eliminate the need for Centralized corporations, or even Decentralized aggregators. There will be no more middlemen, and no need for laws or lawyers to be involved in the creative process ever again.

With a potential audience of billions, artists and entrepreneurs will be incentivized to create and share as much as possible and this new economy will be driven by creativity, innovation and exploration.

THE ULTIMATE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEN AND DECENTRALIZED SOCIETIES

Right now, we could literally crowdfund the creation of a brand new country that would be founded on the principles of Open-Source and Decentralization.

Every community within could set their own guidelines and reputation criteria and people could choose to live in the community that best reflected their beliefs and ideals.

With the rise of 3D printing, solar panels, and all the rest, it is now possible to build thriving autonomous civilizations in previously uninhabitable areas.

And via the internet, it would be possible for the inhabitants to remotely earn wages in traditional Closed economies during the transitory implementation phase.

As outlined above, such a society would enjoy a supreme economic advantage, attract the best and brightest young minds and surely thrive and prosper.

But it may not be necessary run off to faraway corners of the earth in order to make this vision reality. If we are clever enough, we can facilitate the transition right here and now.

CONCLUSION:

I believe that people are fundamentally good and fundamentally programmed to connect and share and collaborate in harmony with like-minded individuals.

And I believe wholeheartedly that the liberation of all information is the fundamental key to the realization of this vision and the creation of a peaceful and prosperous new society that will be sustainable, equitable, and enjoyable for all.

We can do this, we have the technology.

- Gary Lachance

OBVIOUS CONCERNS / MAJOR OBSTACLES

THE OPEN REPUTATION

As each individual's definition of "right" and "wrong" varies considerably, the greatest hurdle will likely be the implementation of the Open Reputation.

My personal opinion is that the fundamental principle governing an Open Society would ideally be the "Non-Aggression Principle": *"One may not initiate the use of force against another person or their property"*

Also known as "The Golden Rule", this simple-yet-sensible principle has appeared consistently within every major spiritual belief system for thousands of years:

Buddhism

"Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful."

Christianity

"In everything, do to others as you would have them do unto you"

Confucianism

"Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself."

Hinduism

"This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you."

Islam

"Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself."

Judaism

"What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole of the Torah; all the rest is commentary."

Sikhism

"I am a stranger to no one and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed. I am a friend to all."

Taoism

"Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain and your neighbor's loss as your own loss."

Zoroastrianism

"Do not do unto others whatever is injurious to yourself."

The Non-Aggression Principle does not pertain to any of the “crimes of morality” which are currently forbidden in many authoritarian societies (file sharing, [recreational drug use](#), banned sexual orientations, banned religious practices, banned speech, etc.)

Accordingly, the abrupt implementation of an Open Society would incriminate many people for these “victimless crimes” and be a very big problem.

The only solution, it would seem, is to either eliminate these laws, or establish brand new communities that do not observe them.

Ultimately, it will probably be necessary to crowdfund the creation of brand new countries or [autonomous regions](#) that are governed exclusively by the Non-Aggression Principle in order to prove the model and inspire the rest of the world to follow suit.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

People are imperfect and the Non-Aggression Principle will surely be disobeyed.

This is the main reason that public surveillance is necessary. The Open network serves as an irrefutable digital witness who will never forget anything and cannot be influenced or intimidated into providing false testimony.

With a perfect record of all public events, the only missing component of the justice system is a “Dispute Resolution Organization” (DRO) to [mediate](#) between victims and aggressors.

The DRO (or DROs) will help to facilitate appropriate restitution and ensure that the aggressor is no longer a threat to the community.

Restitution could take the form of jail time, financial reparation, community service, mental rehabilitation, etc.

If the aggressor refuses to abide by the DRO’s decisions (and rebuild their reputation), their ability to navigate society will become increasingly restricted and they may ultimately find themselves stuck in the no-man's-land of bad reputations.

But realistically, communities wouldn't want gangs of no-man's-land barbarians attacking them, so there will be ample incentive to create effective DROs.

It’s impossible to foresee exactly how such a system will play out in practice, but much has been written about alternative dispute resolution [HERE](#).

TEMPORARY PRIVACY ZONES

Obviously, there will be demand for locations outside of people's homes to allow for private moments and conversations.

This can be facilitated by "temporary privacy zones", wherein personal recording devices are voluntarily shut off and the area will be monitored exclusively by a non-networked recording system (to act as a witness, in case any problems arise).

Once everyone has exited the area and signaled that everything is fine, the data can be permanently deleted. Such a system would be ideal for private residences as well.

TECHNICAL HURDLES

Relatively inexpensive videocameras that can continuously record our environments in [360 degrees](#) and in [any light](#) or weather conditions already exist, as do small, portable hard drives that can store hundreds of hours of high definition video footage.

And modern biometric technology provides [many incredible options](#) for individuals to register and continuously verify their identities, with no need for passwords.

The main technical hurdle will be the creation of a bulletproof Open Network that cannot be hacked or compromised.

Bitcoin provides the perfect model: a completely Decentralized network of independent nodes, wherein we ourselves become "coins" and the transaction ledger is now a constantly updated and verified Open Record of all human activity in the public realm.

Such a system would be extremely robust and near-immune to hacking or falsifying.

But it will require some very serious storage capacity, and very serious data bandwidth and the technology required to facilitate such a system does not yet exist.

But as storage capacity, video compression, and wireless transmission speeds continue to increase exponentially, we are getting there:

- A recent experiment successfully transmitted data at [40 Gigabytes Per Second](#).
- [700 Terabytes](#) of data can now be stored on [A Single Gram Of DNA](#).
- [Ethereum](#), a "next-generation Decentralized application platform" that will facilitate *Decentralized Identity and Reputation Systems* is [about to launch](#)!

Afterword

I enjoyed creating this document and it is my sincere hope that the ideas presented within will soon take hold and lead to a better future for as many people as possible.

My mission to [Decentralize the world](#) is ongoing and any support via [Bitcoin](#) and/or [Dogecoin](#) is greatly appreciated.

Privacy Is The Enemy is 100% copyright-free and can be freely adapted and shared worldwide with zero restrictions :)

Thanks!
Gary

BITCOIN ADDRESS:

1DEjqEewCWsCUj6mEFumKyUmdWw8F6TWiL



DOGECOIN ADDRESS:

DAuSpnfq4wE4Bedm8AhirDkwadTitkGAco

