



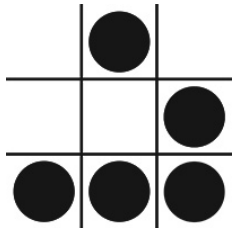
A Case For Hacktivism

... or how hackers will help build a libertarian 21st century

Marco Ricca

Lausanne ISIL Conference, Aug 23rd, 2013

Define Hacker?



They wanted to be able to do something in a more exciting way than anyone believed possible and show "Look how wonderful this is. I bet you didn't believe this could be done." (Richard Stallman)



or: if you've ever used a coffee machine to make tea ... you're a hacker.

Half an Hour

- Tries to answer a single question

what will we make of the Information Age?



or



Everyone Can Feel The Tension

REVOLUTION

PRISON PLANET



CRYPTOME

INFO WARS



What is the Internet Made of?



A hierarchical, thought-through,
organized “backbone”

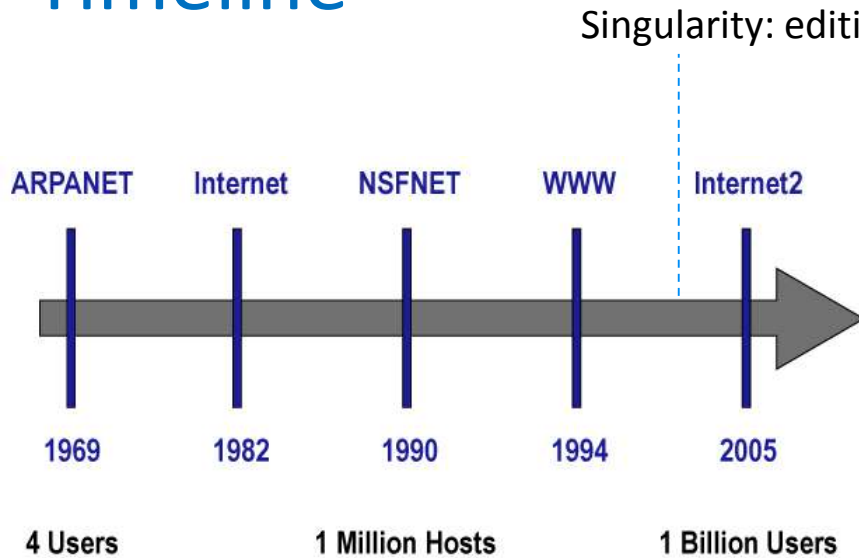


A heuristic and dynamic conglomerate
of voluntary peering agreements



The Internet itself is the unplanned and formidable product
of free, unilateral, individual human action

Timeline



Singularity: editing-formatting divergence

What is the Internet today ?

- « Global connectedness » ?
- « Information at your fingertips » ?
- « Like TV but only not broadcast » ?

Low entry barrier
Freely-traded asset



Exponential growth of asset quality-value

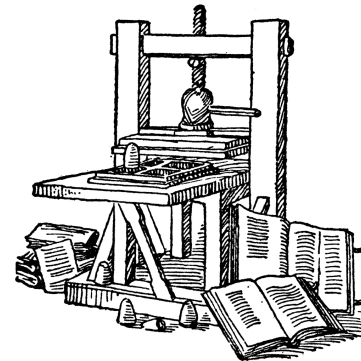
Information

Ideas

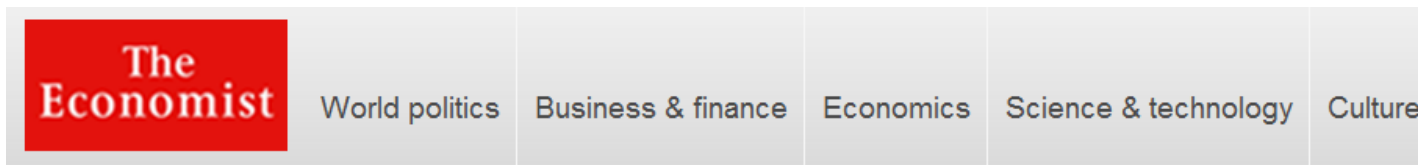
So ...

... the Internet is a distributed invention that dramatically decreases the cost of producing and delivering ideas.

Any historical precedent?



The Printing Press



Social media in the 16th Century

How Luther went viral

Five centuries before Facebook and the Arab spring, social media helped bring about the Reformation

Dec 17th 2011 | From the print edition

 Like 4.6k

 Tweet 3,471

Proof?

If the Internet functions as a free-market of information,
thus empowering the emergence of ideas,

then the best «informational goods»
should be the ones that leverage the Internet the most.

Is it the case?



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

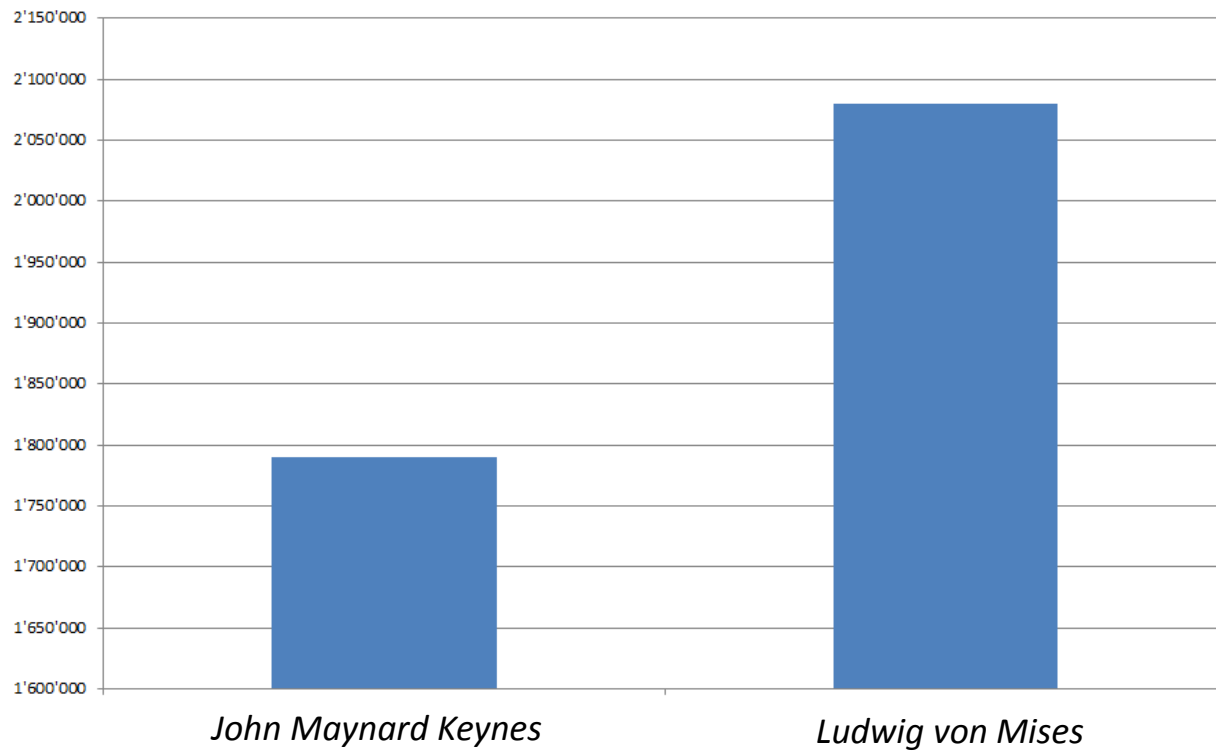
30 million articles in 287 languages

Same accuracy as *Britannica* (242 years old, 400'000 articles)



90% of smartphones and tablets (Android, iOS)
> 60% of all servers

What about Political Ideas?



■ Google hits statistics 24.08.2013

Hackers

Yesterday

MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab

UNIX, GNU, free software

Cypherpunks



Today

Anonymous

Crypto-anarchism

Open source software



Information-sharing as both an ideal and a practical strategy

Freedom of inquiry, hostility to secrecy

Emphasis on rationality

Distaste for authority

Playful cleverness

So What?

Hackers helped build the foundations

Humanity gets a free-market of ideas

Intangible assets improve in quality

Does it stop there?

What impact does it have on the real world?

Anachronisms

In this age, information is another word for number

Regulating the flow of information is akin to controlling the pronunciation of numbers

(and if one number is illegal, is the square of that number also illegal?)

Defamation, dissent, revisionism

become impossible to prosecute



Copyright, censorship, propaganda

become increasingly meaningless



Flow of Goods

Taxation and exchange barriers are more easily ignored, as anonymity represents a strong enforcement obstacle



Separation of Money and State

"Give me control of a nation's money and I care not who makes its laws"

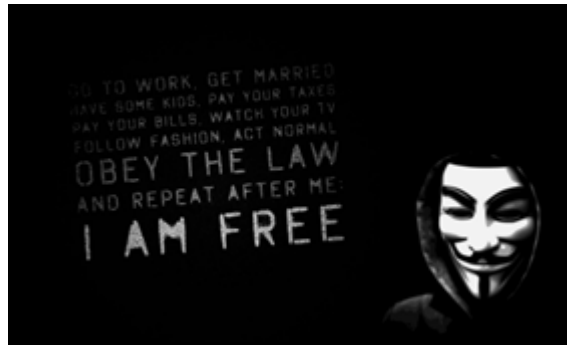


Bitcoin is a freely-tradable,
anonymous, decentralized,
and distributed crypto-currency

How Will Hackers Help?

Free and open software

Political mobilization



Connection relays

Data Leaks

Strong cryptography



Conclusions

- Classical liberal thinkers must factor the Information Age; nobody is re-creating Greek city-states.
- The Internet is built by, and around, « the hacker culture » - younger generations have grown up with it.
- Products of the Internet, and the Internet itself, are eloquent demonstrations of individual human action.
- NSA-like scandals help precipitate privacy as a competitive factor.
- The Internet is emancipating consciousness, enabling the emergence of free, self-actualized individuals.