

# The cyber utopia was this?

**The side effects of the Internet.  
Sofactivism,  
tribalism,  
trivialization,  
and new censorship.**

Luis Arroyo

Asesores de Comunicación Pública

Brussels, March 22, 2013

[www.luisarroyo.com](http://www.luisarroyo.com)

@LuisArroyoM

# Old and new prophecies

**"The Goliath of totalitarianism will be brought down by the David of the microchip"**

Ronald Reagan, The Guardian, June 14, 1989



# Old and new prophecies

**"You cannot have Rwanda again because information would come out far more quickly about what is actually going on and the public opinion would grow to the point where action would need to be taken"**

Gordon Brown, The Guardian, June 19, 2009



# Old and new prophecies

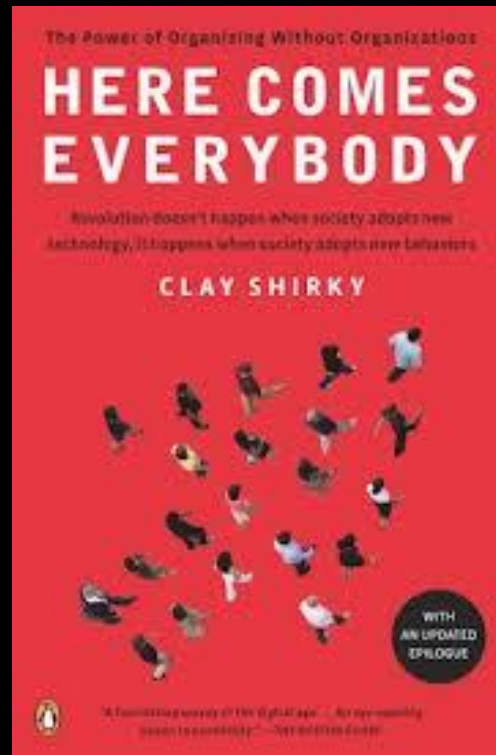
**“The arrival of the era of wireless communications will make war impossible, because it will be ridiculous”**

Guglielmo Marconi



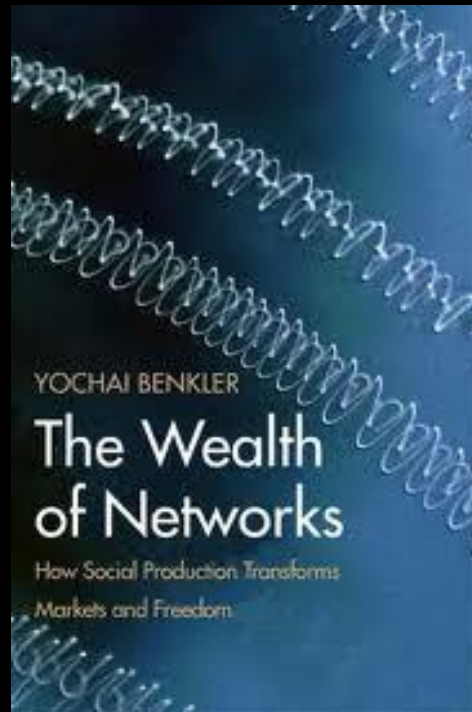
# Old and new prophecies

*Shirky: Here Comes everybody*



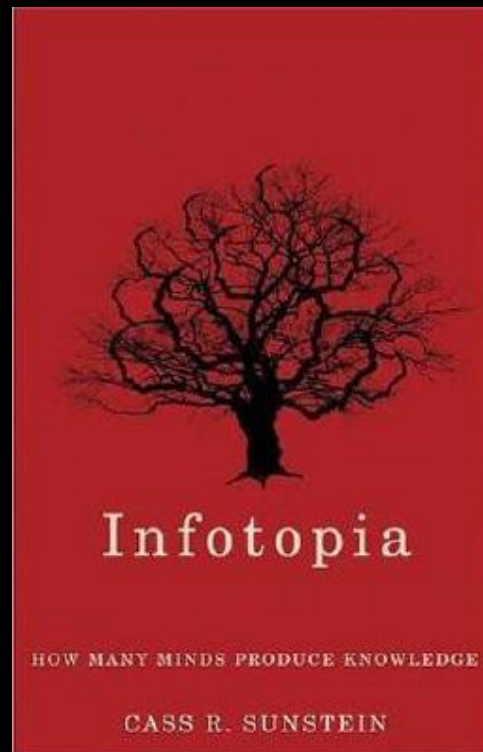
# Old and new prophecies

Benkler: *The Wealth of Networks*



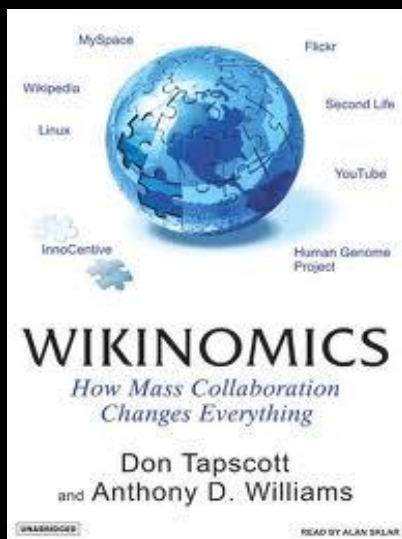
# Old and new prophecies

Sunstein: *Infotopia. How Many Minds Produce Knowledge*

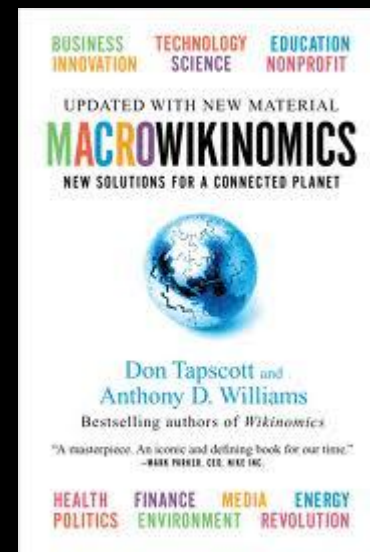


# Old and new prophecies

Tapscott and Williams: *Wikinomics. How Mass Collaboration Changes Everything.*



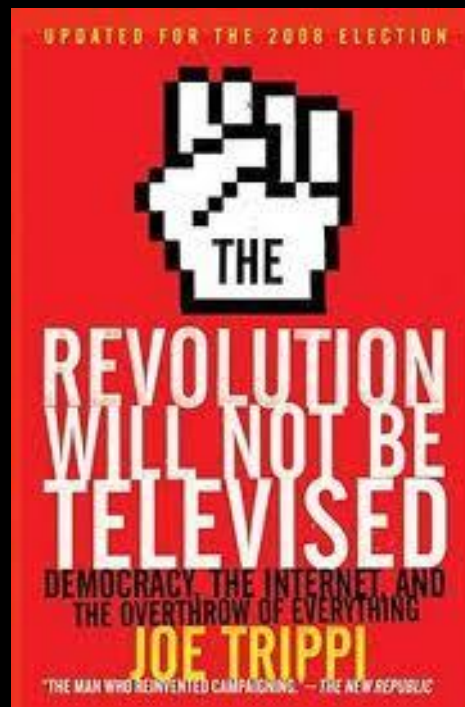
Also...*Macrowikinomics!!!*





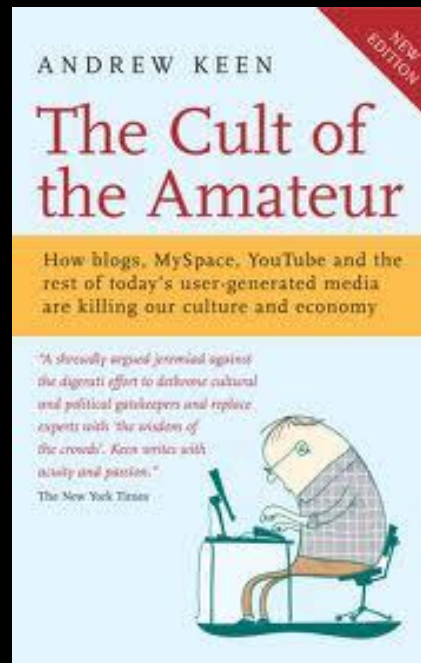
# Old and new prophecies

Trippi: *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised. Democracy, the Internet and the Overthrow of Everything*



# Old and new prophecies

*Keen: The Cult of the Amateur. How Blogs, MySpace, YouTube and the Rest of Today's User-Generated Media are Killing our Culture and Economy*

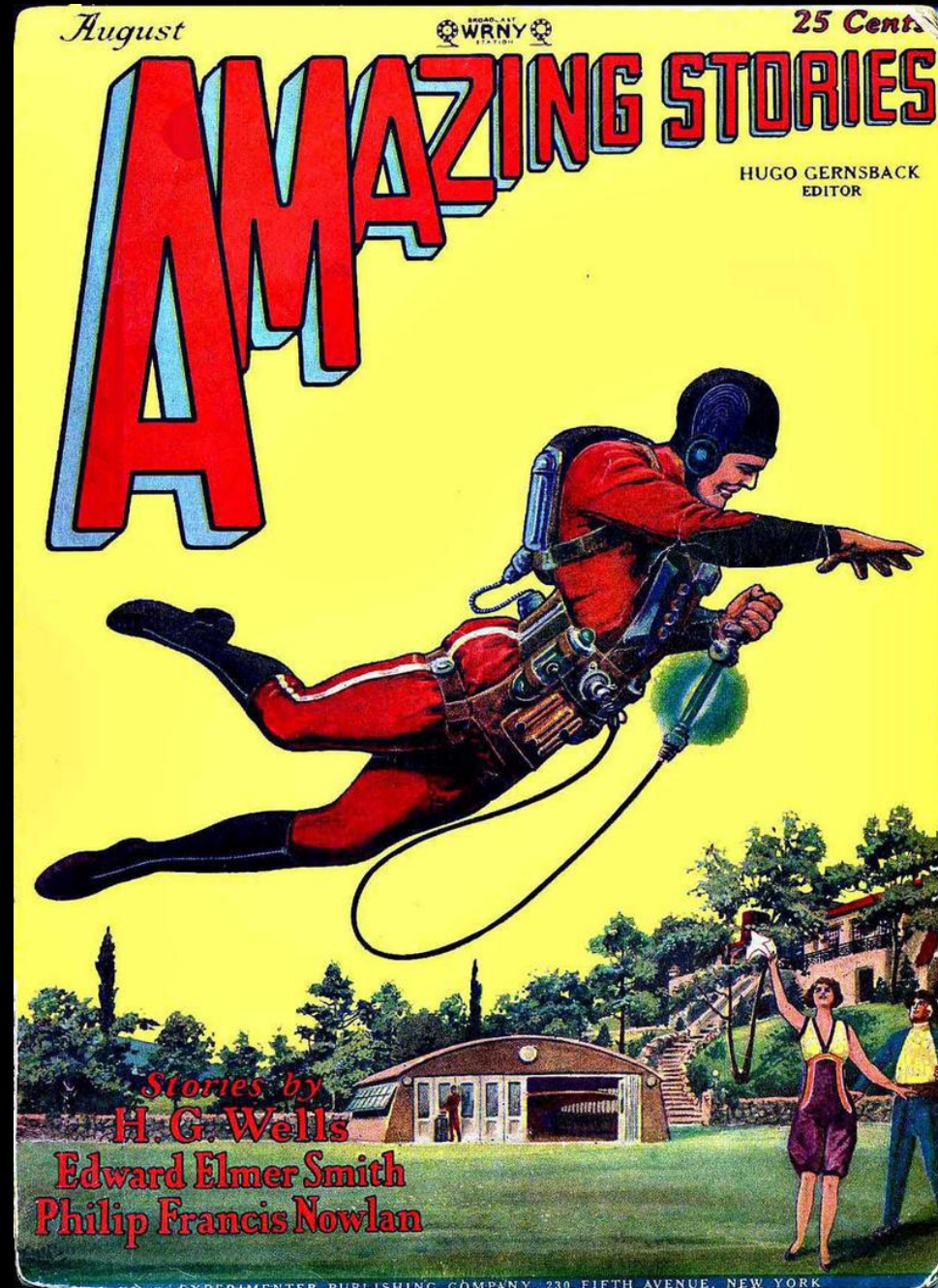


# Forever and ever

“And so we come full circle. The ebb and flow of futurism is a curious one. Technology isn't cyclical but it would seem our technological predictions of the future may very well be repeating themselves. Forever. And ever.”

Matt Novak:

<http://www.theverge.com/2012/5/24/3035470/future-passed-television-history>



# **Deliberative democracy**

(Fishkin)

- **Accurate and relevant information. Ok.**
- **Balance between the various positions on the same dispute. Ok.**
- **Diversity of opinions. Ok.**
- **Will of citizens to weight arguments objectively and regardless of who defends them. OK???**



# Internet, dream of Liberty and Transparency

Open.

Direct.

Potentially transparent.

Diverse.

Participative.

Immediate.

Multimedia.

Free.

# Back to reality



## Sofactivism

## Tribalism

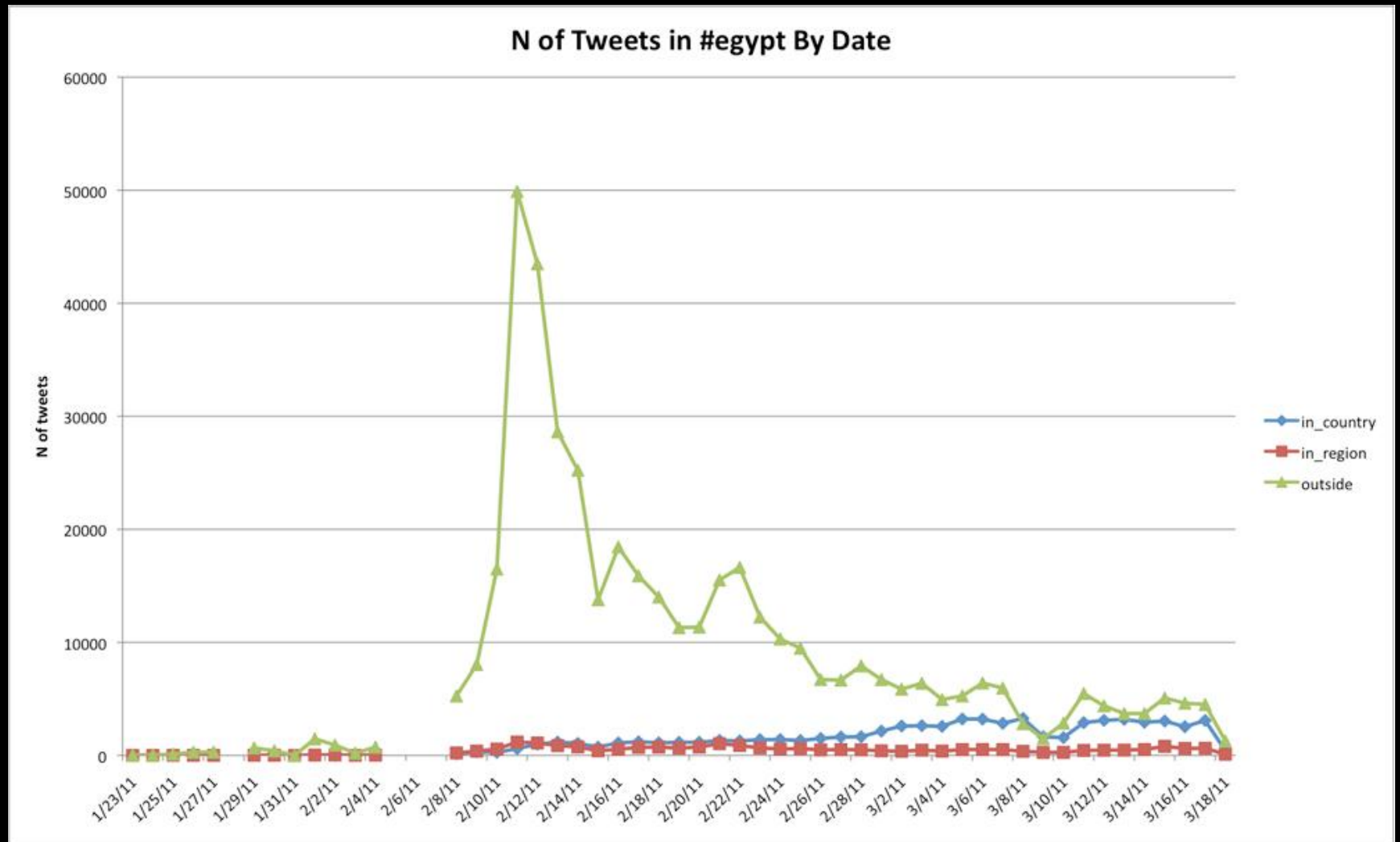


## Trivialization

## New Censorship



# Sofactivism



# Sofactivism

The screenshot shows the White House Petitions website interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes links for 'BLOG', 'PHOTOS & VIDEO', 'BRIEFING ROOM', 'ISSUES', 'the ADMINISTRATION', 'the WHITE HOUSE', and 'our GOVERNMENT'. A green banner features the text 'WE the PEOPLE YOUR VOICE IN OUR GOVERNMENT' and a 'Share Your Feedback' button. Below this, a secondary navigation bar contains 'CREATE A PETITION', 'OPEN PETITIONS', 'RESPONSES', and 'HOW & WHY', along with 'Log in | Create an Account'.

The main content area is titled 'WE PETITION THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO:' and displays a grid of petitions. Each petition card includes a description, the number of signatures, and a 'FIND OUT MORE' link.

Petition Description	Signatures	Action
Legally recognize Westboro Baptist Church as a hate group.	348,746	FIND OUT MORE
Reinstate Military Tuition Assistance (TA) and block the Armed Service Branches from any further suspension of TA.	114,320	FIND OUT MORE
Stop CISPA (Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act)	105,933	FIND OUT MORE
We ask American Congress to make The Act of Alexander Dolmatov to punish all Dutch officials responsible for his death	103,782	FIND OUT MORE
Investigate the IRS Tax-Exempt Status of the Westboro Baptist		
Revoke the tax exempt status of the Westboro Baptist Church & re		

On the right side, there is a 'Recent Petitions' sidebar with a 'CREATE A PETITION' button at the bottom. The sidebar lists recent petitions such as 'Invoke the Power of Eminent Domain to turn Martel Dormitory at Rice University Into a Parking Structure.' and 'please consider and promote the Progressive Caucus Budget Plan. We feel it is the most equitable.'

The browser's address bar shows the URL 'https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petitions/popular/0/2/0'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom displays the system clock as 18:32 on 19/03/2013.



# Social loafing



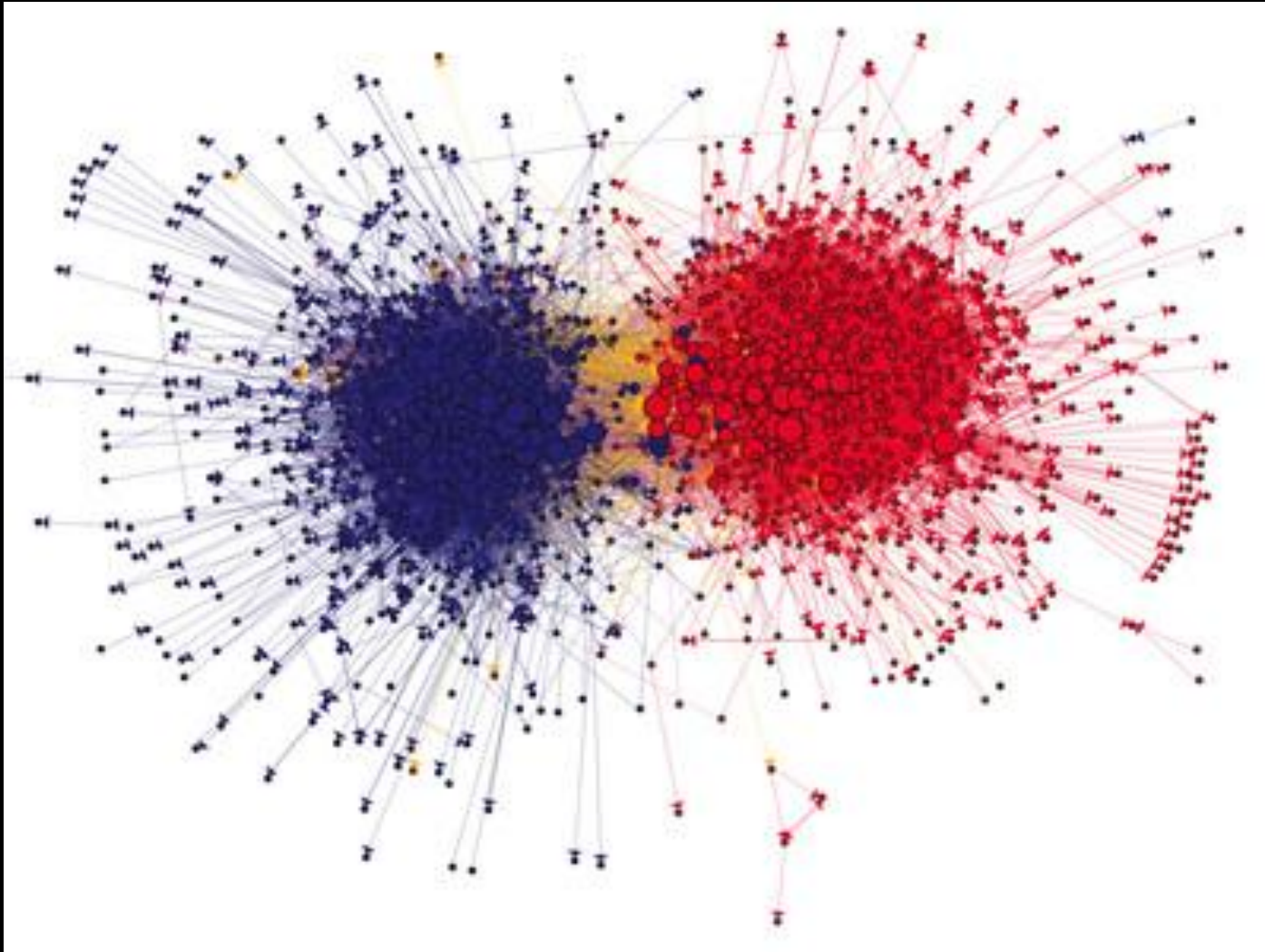
# Hierarchy, commitment, discipline



*If Martin Luther King, Jr., had tried to do a wiki-boycott in Montgomery, he would have been steamrollered by the white power structure. And of what use would a digital communication tool be in a town where ninety-eight per cent of the black community could be reached every Sunday morning at church? The things that King needed in Birmingham—discipline and strategy—were things that online social media cannot provide.*

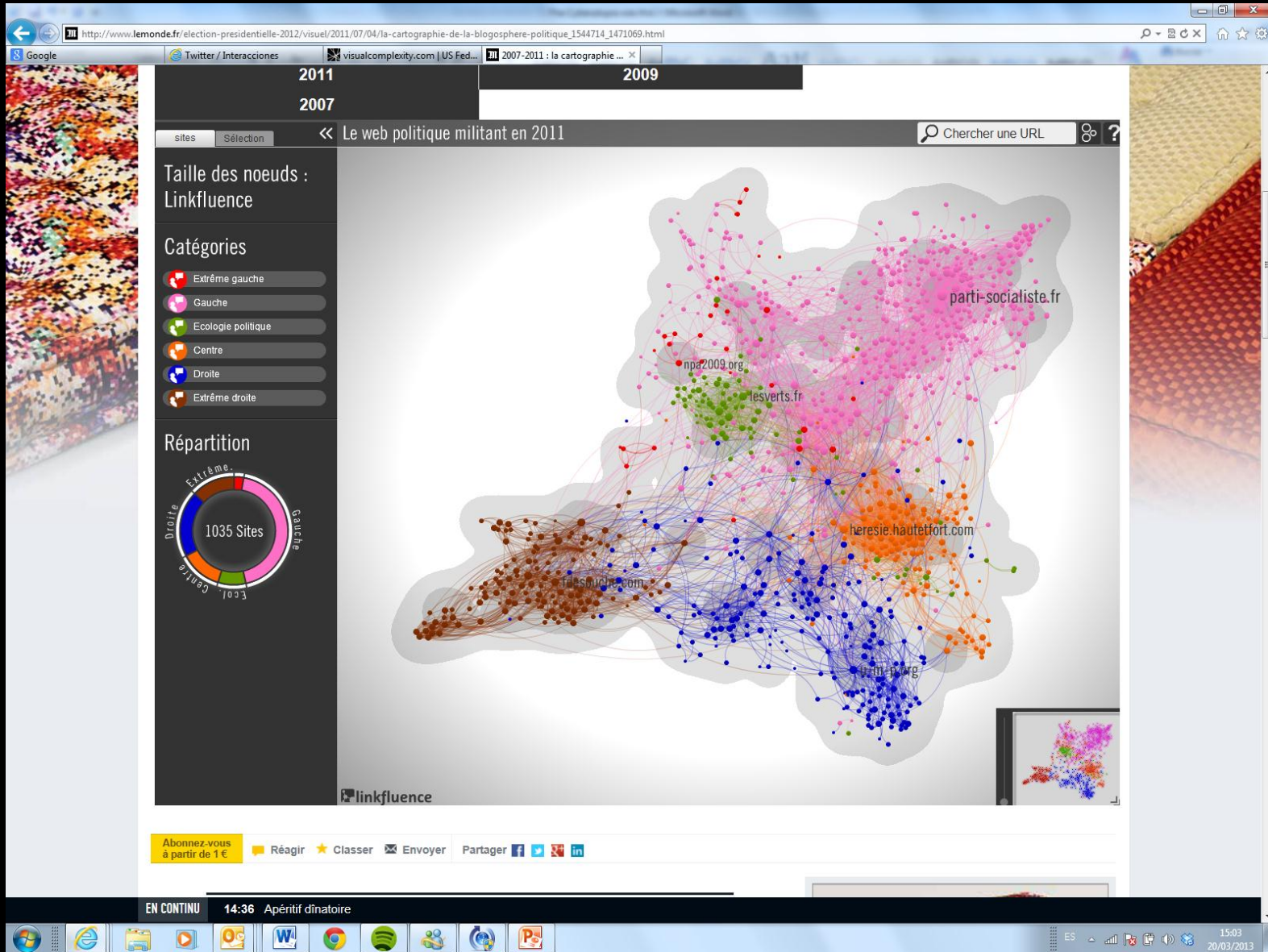
**Gladwel, 2010**

# The blogosphere in the US

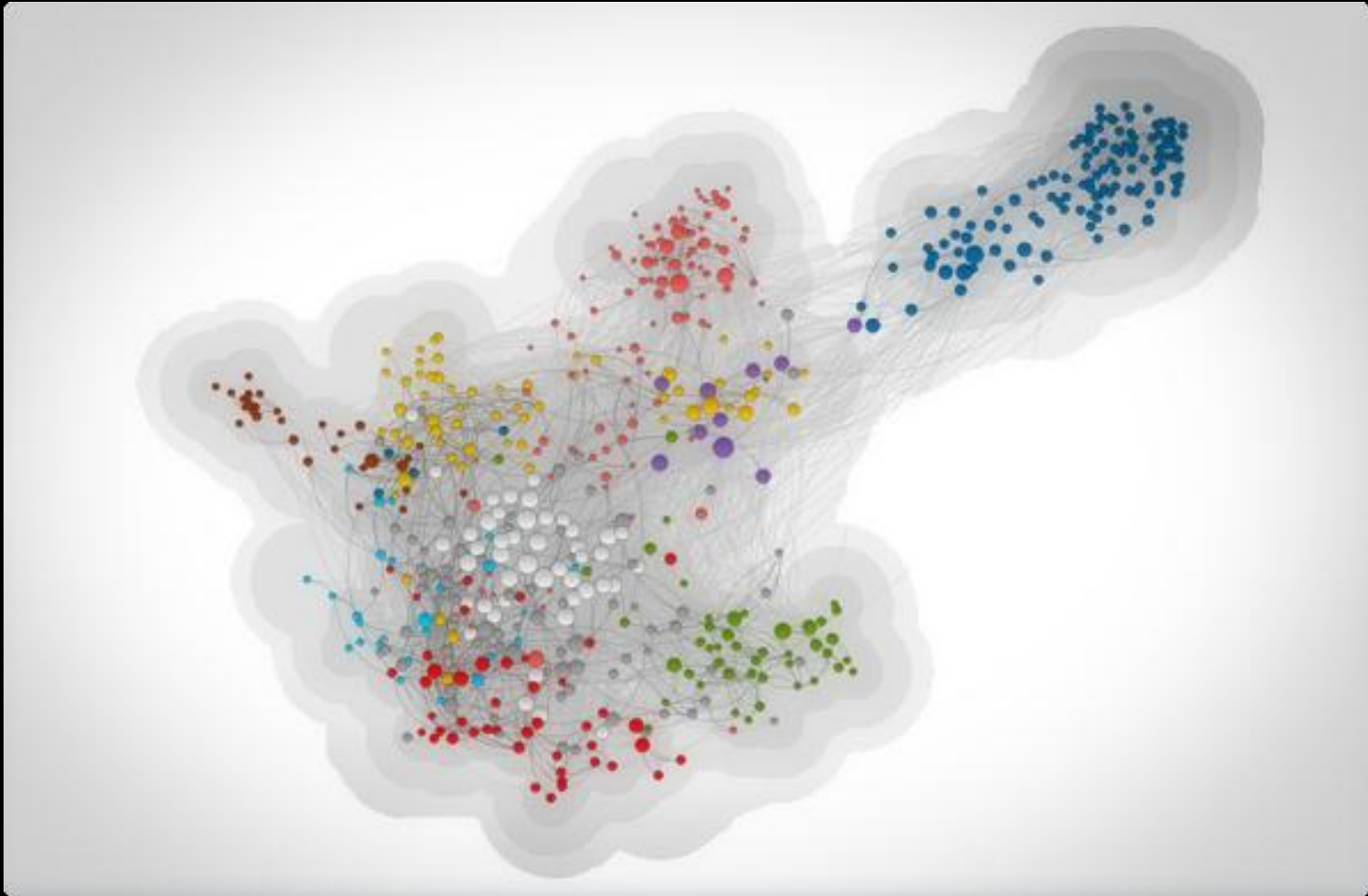




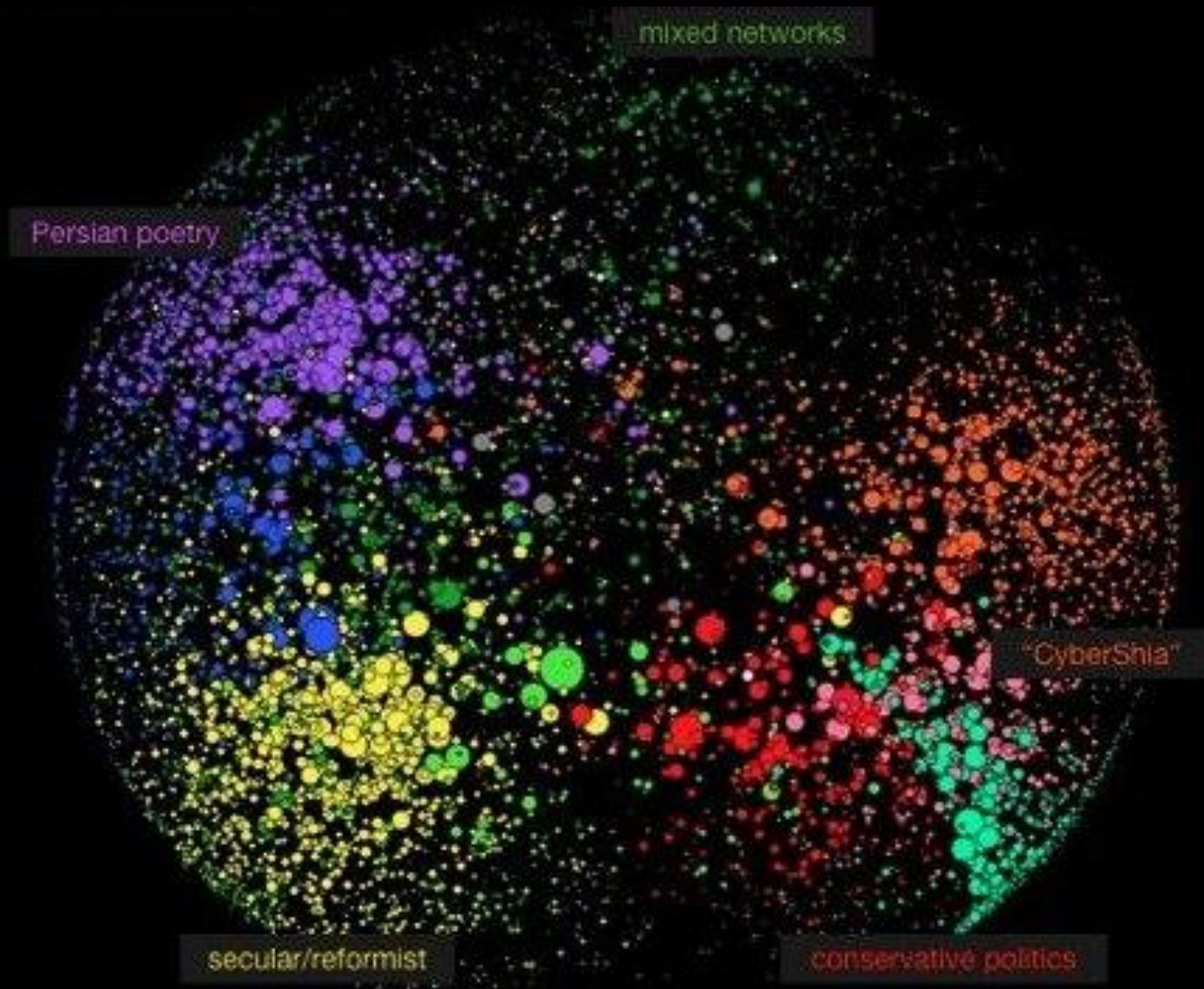
# The blogosphere in France



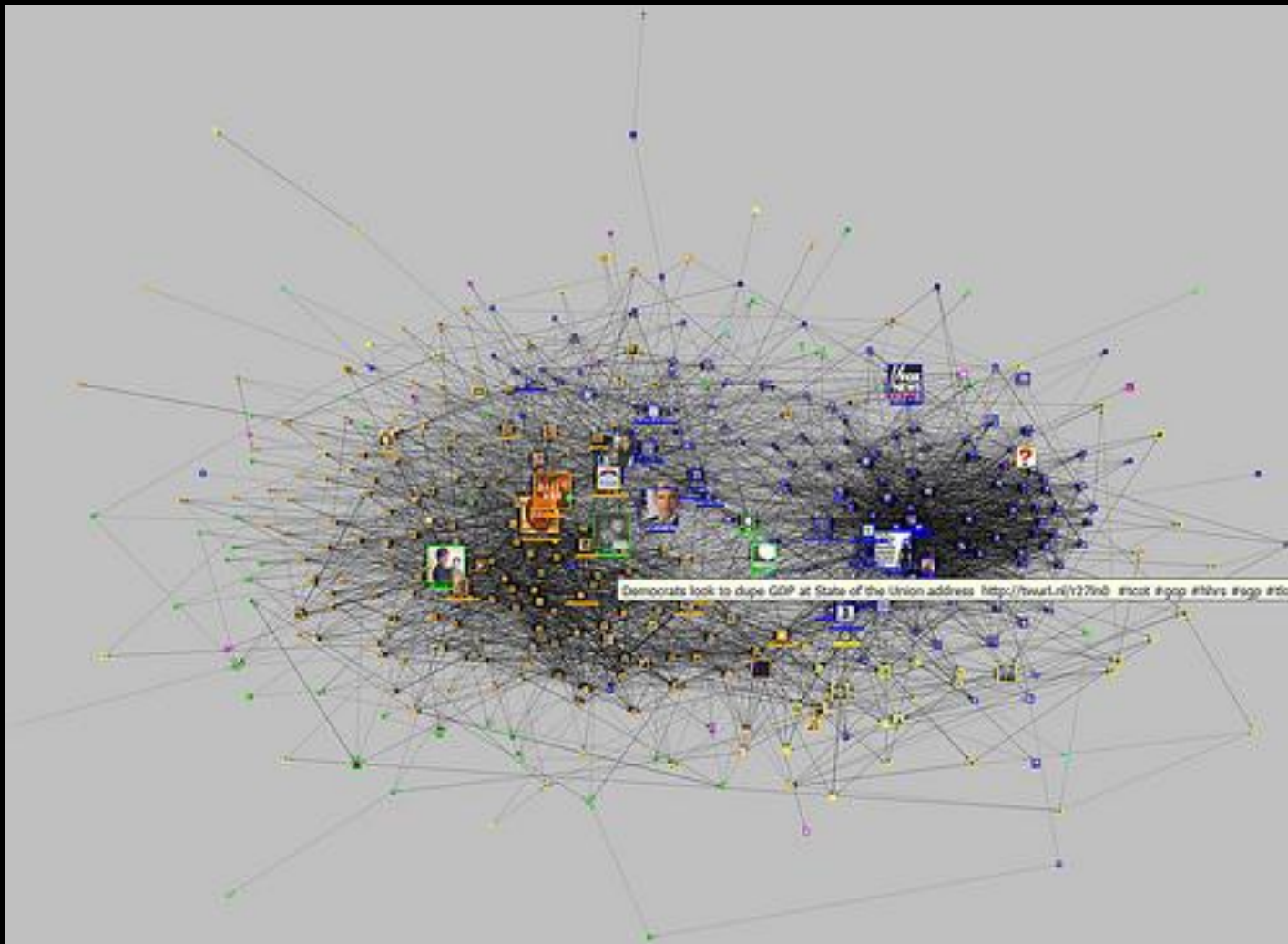
# The blogosphere in Germany



# The blogosphere in Iran



# Twitting the SOTU 2011







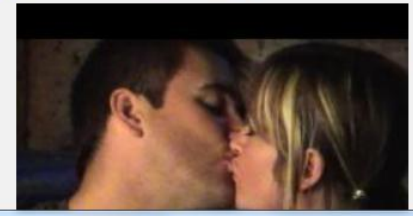
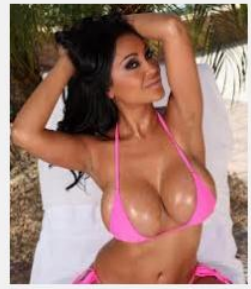
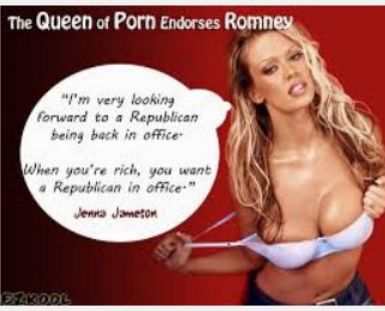
porn



Iniciar sesión

Web **Imágenes** Maps Shopping Vídeos Más Herramientas de búsqueda

Filtro SafeSearch moderado







# 联盟30强 谁 能如愿季后赛? 预测季后赛首轮晋级 赢 篮球战靴 马上参加

还没有新浪微博帐号? 现在加入

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# Gus Hunter, CIA Chief Techologist



It is nearly within our grasp to compute on all human generated information

A slide of his presentation

"The value of any piece of information is only known when you can connect it with something else that arrives at a future point in time. Since you can't connect dots you don't have, it drives us into a mode of, we fundamentally try to collect everything and hang on to it **forever.**"

"You're already a walking sensor platform,"

"Technology in this world is moving faster than government or law can keep up. It's moving faster I would argue than you can keep up: **You should be asking the question of what are your rights and who owns your data.**"

**THE WHOLE PRESENTATION HERE:**

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUPd2uMiXXg>**

# Internet and the dishwasher

the Internet is a post office, newsstand, video store, shopping mall, game arcade, reference room, record outlet, adult book shop and casino rolled into one. Let's be honest: that's amazing. But it's amazing in the same way a dishwasher is amazing—it enables you to do something you have always done a little easier than before.

Marshall Poe, author of *A History of Communications*



# Four ideas for consideration

1. From Internet centrism to citizen centrism.
2. Against elitism - Respect for the uncommitted, lazy and capricious citizen (bounded rationality).
3. Regulation and EU protection.
4. Adapting the Internet to us, not Us to the Internet.

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Luis Arroyo, consultant. [www.luisarroyo.com](http://www.luisarroyo.com)

@LuisArroyoM