INTERNET CENSORSHIP AND RESISTANCE







Joseph Bonneau

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(thanks to Steven Murdoch)



Gates Scholars' Symposium 2010

Historical Censorship



He who controls the past controls the future, and he who controls the present controls the past

—George Orwell, Nineteen Eighty Four, 1949

Historical Censorship



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Information as a Human Right

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

—Article 19, UN Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Information as a Human Right

The final freedom, one that was probably inherent in what both President and Mrs. Roosevelt thought about and wrote about all those years ago, ... is the freedom to connect—the idea that governments should not prevent people from connecting to the internet, to websites, or to each other... a new information curtain is descending across much of the world.

—Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State (2010)

The Internet Dream

The Net treats censorship as damage and routes around it.

— John Gilmore, 1993

The Internet Reality

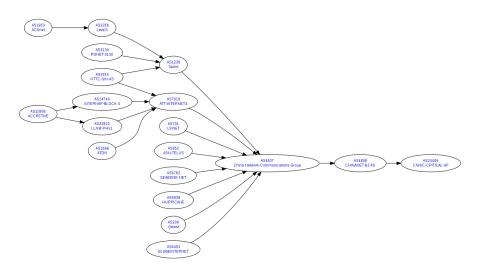
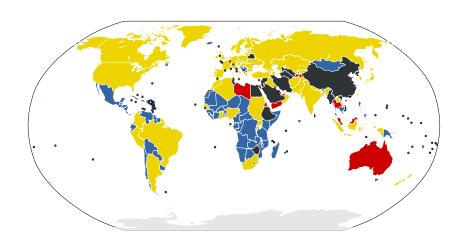


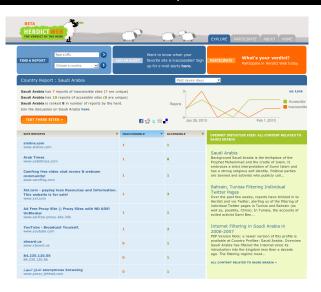
Diagram: robtex.com

Pervasive Censorship



Reporters Without Borders Internet censorship ratings

Pervasive Censorship



Herdict.com

- International News
- Political Opposition
- Militant Groups
- Human Rights
- Religion
- Pornography
- Sex Education
- Homosexuality
- Drugs & Alcoho
- "Illegal" Content
 - Hate groups
 - Child pornography
 - Copyrighted material
 - Wit



BBC

- International News
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Falun Gong

- International News
- Political Opposition
- Militant Groups





Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK)

- International News
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PRESS RELEASE/STATEMENT

Beijing Lawyers Beaten for Representing Falun Gong Case

HRIC has learned that Beijing rights defense lawyers Zhang Rai (基础) and U Chunft (安祐南) were violently beaten at their dient's home in Chongqing by local police on May 13, 2009. They were then brought to the local police station for interrogation and were locked up in an iron cage and slapped in the face. A morth earlier, Beijing rights defense lawyer Cheng Hai was also violently beaten by the police in Chengdu, Sidhuan for handling a Falun Gong Cage... More?

PRESS RELEASE/STATEMENT

Wife of Abducted Rights Defense Lawyer Gao Zhisheng Requests Urgent Help from U.S. Congress in Open Letter

Geng He (我相), wife of Gao Zhishen (高智息), the prominent Chinese rights defense lawyer who has been disappeared since early February 2009, is requesting help from the United States government to put pressure on the Chinese government to disclose Gao's whereabouts. She has requested that Human Rights in China (HRIC) release her open letter, dated April 23, 2009, to member of the U.S. Congress... 1969 >>

Human Rights in China

- International News
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Christianity.com

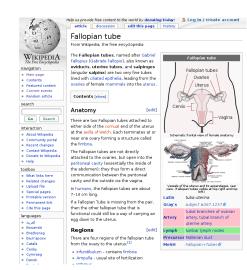
- International News
- Political Opposition
- Militant Groups
- Human Rights
- Religion
- Pornography

- - Hate groups





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Wikipedia

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- Homosexuality



ABOUT ILGA NEWS FILES COUNTRIES GET INVOLVED CONTACT The only worldwide federation campaigning for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex rights. Since 1978. 2009 report on State-sponsored homophobia 80 countries around the world consider homosexuality illegal, five of them punish homosexual acts with death ILGA, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association publishes the third edition of its report... UN Conference on Racism ILGA facilitates LGRTI visibility at Durban review conference World The UN Conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, held in Geneva during April 2009, was a follow up to the Conference in Durban, South... UN Durban Review 2009 States must do more to explicitly protect LGBTI people UN Racism Conference Affirms Multiple Grounds of Discrimination APRIL 24, 2009 (Geneva)- Governments endorsing the conference declaration should do more to... Joint Statement at the Durban Review Conference Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity as Multiple Forms of Discrimination & Related Intolerance The following speech was given by Lindiwe Nkutha, South Africa (Coalition of African Lesbians) on behalf of ILGA, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans...

ILGA celebrates its 30th anniversary: in 2008, join us and celebrate our world movement!

English Español Français Português Other Ilga Sites

WORLD SOCIAL FORU Women's Assembly

International Busine Equality Index Which is the most gay friendly corporation in th

South Africa Sexual Violence Sexual Violence Against Lesbian Women in Soutl Africa

World IGLYO and ILGA Global LGBT youth netw

Awid Feminist Forum

World

UN Gen. Assembly Statement Affirms Rights for all First ever statement on sexual orientation and gender identity at the U

ILGA delegation ralli

International Lesbian & Gay Association

- International News
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TheSite.ora

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- "Illegal" Content
 - Hate groups
 - Child pornography
 - Copyrighted material
 - Witness identities



Zundelsite.org

Coming to a Country Near You?

Leaked 2009 Blacklist:

- Poker
- Youtube videos
- Gay porn
- Wikipedia pages
- "Fringe" religions
- Euthanasia
- A tour operator
- A dental practice

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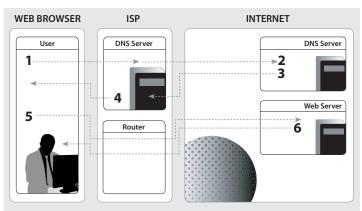


Australian Communications and Media Authority

communicating | facilitating | regulating

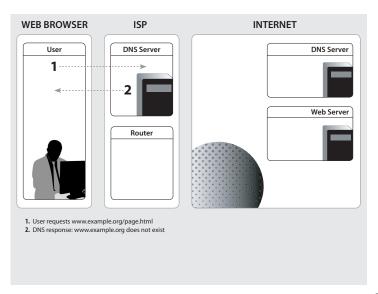


Normal Web Browsing

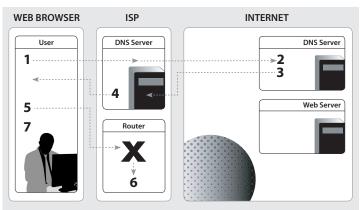


- 1. User requests www.example.org/page.html
- 2. DNS lookup for www.example.org
- 3. Lookup response: www.example.org is 192.0.2.166
- 4. www.example.org is 192.0.2.166
- 5. Get web page: www.example.org/page.html at 192.0.2.166
- 6. Here is www.example.org/page.html

DNS Blocking



IP Blocking



- 1. User requests www.example.org/page.html
- 2. DNS lookup for www.example.org
- 3. Lookup response: www.example.org is 192.0.2.166
- 4. www.example.org is 192.0.2.166
- 5. Get web page: www.example.org/page.html at 192.0.2.166
- 6. Router drops all packets to 192.0.2.166
- 7. Browser concludes that www.example.org is inaccessible

404 Errors



Address Not Found

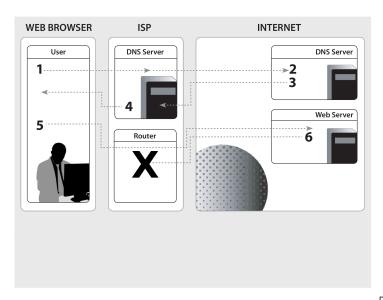
Firefox can't find the server at www.freetibet.cn.

The browser could not find the host server for the provided address.

- Did you make a mistake when typing the domain? (e.g. "ww.mozilla.org" instead of "www.mozilla.org")
- Are you certain this domain address exists? Its registration may have expired.
- Are you unable to browse other sites? Check your network connection and DNS server settings.
- Is your computer or network protected by a firewall or proxy? Incorrect settings can interfere with Web browsing.

Try Again

Deep Packet Inspection



Connection Resets



Connection Interrupted

The connection to the server was reset while the page was loading.

The network link was interrupted while negotiating a connection. Please try again.

Try Again

B

Tradeoffs

- DNS blocking
 - Cheap, very easy
 - Over-blocks complete websites
 - Trivial to bypass
- IP blocking
 - Cheap, easy
 - Over-blocks virtual hosting
- Deep Packet Inspection
 - Expensive
 - Tricky to get right
 - Far more powerful



Photograph: David Gaya

The Censorship-Industrial Complex















Seven "Corporations of Interest," EFF

- ISPs
- Web service providers
- Search engines







"Tiananmen Square" on Google.com and Google.cn

You have got to decide do you want to obey the laws of the countries you are in or not? If not, you may not end up doing business there...

You have got to decide do you want to obey the laws of the countries you are in or not? If not, you may not end up doing business there...



Bill Gates

Blocking Through Fear & Intimidation



Blocking Through Fear & Intimidation

- Ubiquitous Warnings
- Intimidation
 - Social pressure
 - Disconnection
 - Extra-legal punishment
- Citizen policing





Blocking Through Fear & Intimidation

I call on Egyptian government officials to take the necessary procedures to protect the Egyptian youth from the spread of subversive religious ideologies among them by permanently shutting down religious institutions in this country.



Kareem Ameer, Egyptian blogger (sentenced to four years in prison)

Problems with Blocking

- Deployment costs
- Lack of transparency
- Temptation to abuse
- Transition to active surveillance
 - USA: NSA wiretapping
 - UK: Interception Modernisation Programme



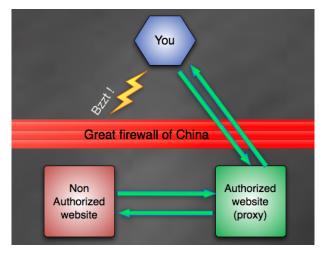
NSA room 641

Censorship Resistance

Avoid telling hackers they shouldn't do something, and NEVER tell them they can't do it...

- Software to resist censorship:
 - · Hide where a user is visiting
 - Hide who the user is
 - Hide where content is hosted
- Must also resist attack by censors

Web Proxies



- Relay traffic through an uncensored machine
- Vulnerable to monitoring and punishment

Paid VPN services



home about us products & services WiTopia blog support contact us



Peace of mind

in a dangerous world.



- Why should YOU choose WiTopia?
- Why do I need a personal VPN?
- Frequently Asked

products & services

personalVPN™ - SSL (openVPN)

Our openVPN-based SSL VPN is our most popular service. WiTopia openVPN customers enjoy full access to all WiTopia gateways – Dallas, TX, London, UK, Los Angeles, CA, Manchester, UK, New York Metro, San Francisco, CA, Seattle,



WA, Washington, DC, Hong Kong, CN (more coming soon!) – as well as alternate ports and 256-bit encryption options. This will ensure the ultimate in speed, unblockability, and security. Experts worldwide agree that openVPN is a wonderfully robust and powerful IVPN solution. As the first VPN service provider to deploy it commercially back in March 2005 we absolutely agree. See chart at bottom of page for compabile devices and comparison.

\$59.99 / YEAR







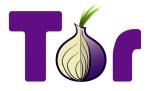
Psiphon

- Users in free countries set up proxies
- Censored users choose a proxy run by somebody they trust
- No software for browsing user
- Encryption hides traffic
- Weak anonymity

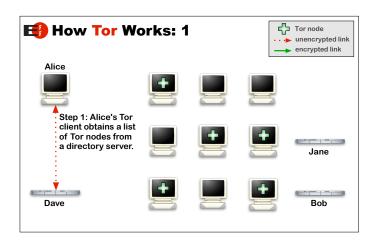


Tor

- Anonymous web-browsing
- Anonymous hosting
- De-centralised
- Versatile

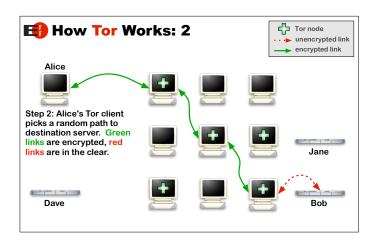


Tor Circuits



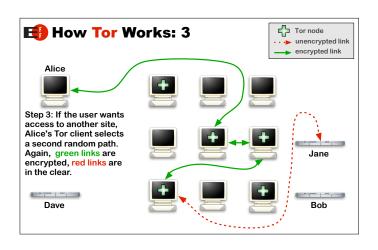
Diagrams: EFF

Tor Circuits



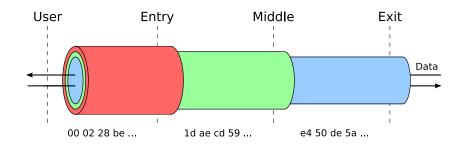
Diagrams: EFF

Tor Circuits



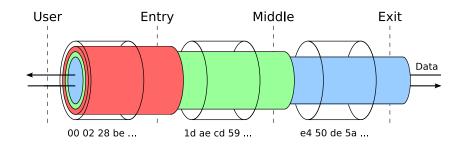
Diagrams: EFF

Tor Cryptography



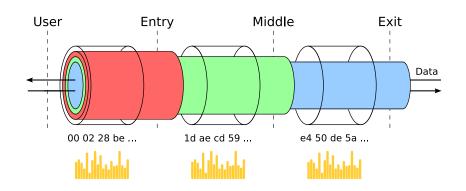
- Each relay in circuit removes/adds one encryption layer
- Separate encryption between relays
- Careful traffic analysis can correlate flows . . .

Tor Cryptography



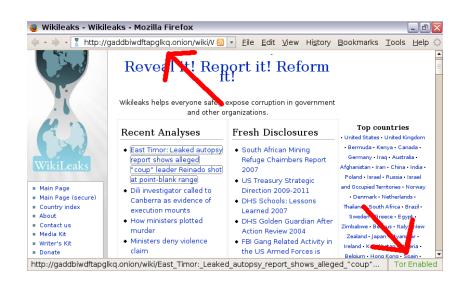
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Tor Hidden Services



Wikileaks

- Repository of sensitive documents
- Source anonymity strongly protected
- Mirrored and de-centralised
- Over 1.2M documents:
 - Classified documents
 - Corporate whistle-blowers' leaks
 - Political leaks
 - Censorship blacklists
 - Security breaches



- # Main Page (secure)
- = About
- = Donate a Hele
- * SUBMIT



- · Main Page
- # Country index . Contact us
- = Media Kit a mercanic ma
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English | Español | Français | Deutsch | Português | Italiano | Catalis | Hrvatski | Nederlands | Dansk | Svenska | Norski bokmåll | Suomi | Pycouni | Українська | Българок | Conoun | Česky | Polski | Románă | Latviešu | Eesti | Slovenčina | Lietuvių | Galego | Malti | Juris/r | Türkçe | EMryssci: | Shqip | Magyar | Chamoru | 部計 | 日本語 | 新司이 | 中文 | Tiếng Việt | Bahasa | Tru | Tagalog

Guantanamo's SERE Standard Operating Procedures, 2002

October 14, 2008 Summary

> This document clearly specifies that the abusive interrogation techniques to be used at Guatanamo Bay prison (ITF GTMO) are based upon the US military's Sunival Evasion

Resistance, and Escap (SERE) program. The document is notable for its documentation of the extent to which abuse was hureaucratically

standardized for routine use. The document is dated 10 Dec 2002 and written at the For Official Use Only level The

document was released a few days ago by George Washington University's National Security Archive to promote the film Tarturina Democracy

Unless otherwise specified the document described here

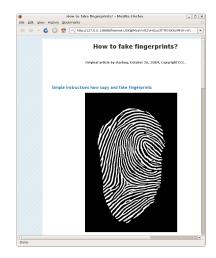
- . Was first publicly revealed by Wkileaks working with our source · At that time was classified. confidential, censored or otherwise withheld from the public
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Secure talk join our chat 4.

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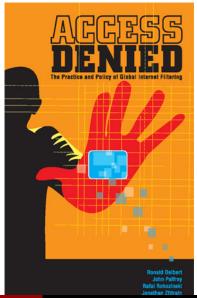
Freenet

- Parallel to World Wide Web
- Can create websites and post files
- Content collaboratively hosted
- Content encrypted and replicated
- Users don't know what they host!



Fight Censorship!

- Read Up
 - "Access Denied": opennet.net/accessdenied
 - Anonymity bibliography: www.freehaven.net/anonbib/
- Participate, Donate, Volunteer
 - Tor
 - Psiphor
 - FreeNet
 - Wikileaks
 - Electronic Frontier Foundation
 - Open Net Initiative
 - Reporters Without Borders
- Experience it Yourself...
 - chinachannel.hk



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Ethical Debate

- Censorship resistance often illegal
- Technologically impossible to block bad uses
 - Even with a definition of 'bad'
- Deployed systems commonly used to break laws

Ethical Debate

Nature knows no indecencies, man invents them

Ideas won't go to jail

Information wants to be free...