

The Death of Transit and Beyond



Geoff Huston

Chief Scientist, APNIC

**This presentation is not about any
specific network details**

Or specific plans

Or particular services

Or any particular technology

Or anything like that

It's about architecture

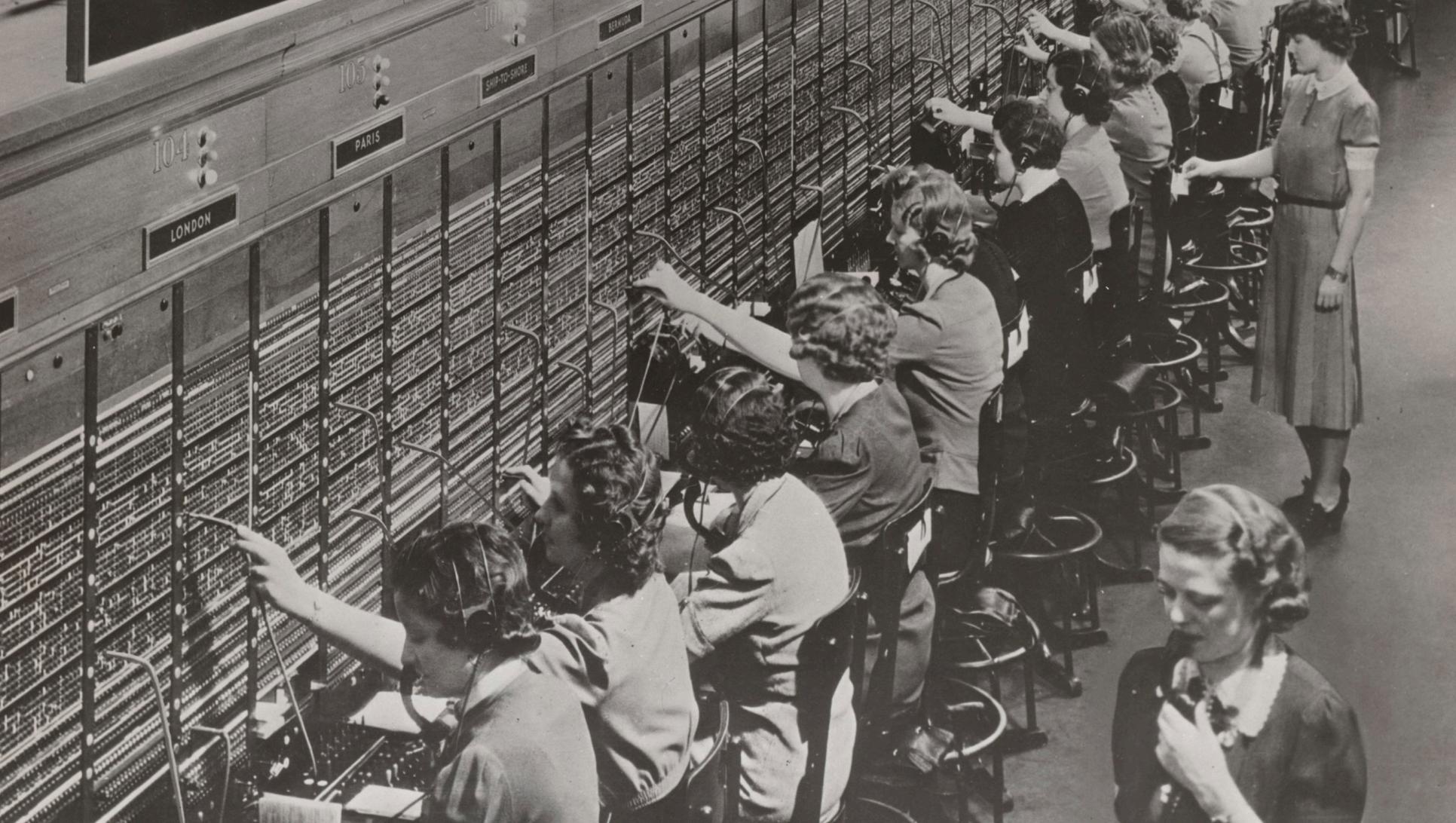
And, in particular, about the evolution of
network architecture in the Internet

It's about architecture

And some thoughts about the implications of these changes in terms of public policies for the Internet

Our Heritage

The Telephone Network



Our Heritage

The Telephone Network

The major technology achievement of the twentieth century

- Connected handsets to handsets
- The network was intentionally transparent
- Real time virtual circuit support between connected edge devices
- Network-centric architecture with minimal functionality in the edge devices

Computer Networks

ON
OFF
HALT
INH

W.D.T.

AUTO
RSTRT

MEMORY
PRCT

- 3
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 11
- 12
- 23
- 24

IMP STATUS PANEL

INTERFACE MESSAGE PROCESSOR

Developed for
the Advanced Research Projects Agency
by Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc.



- T1 1
- T2 2
- T3 3
- T4 4
- F 5
- I 6
- A 7
- C 8
- PI 9
- 10
- ML 11
- EA 12
- DP 13
- MP 14
- P 15
- 16
- RESET

ON OFF
PF1 PFH
POWER

1 2 3 4
SENSE

X B A P/Y M
OP
REGISTER

MASTER CLEAR
STORE FETCH
P P+1
MA RUN S1
START
OPERATION

Computer Networks

The original concept for computer networks was the telephone network

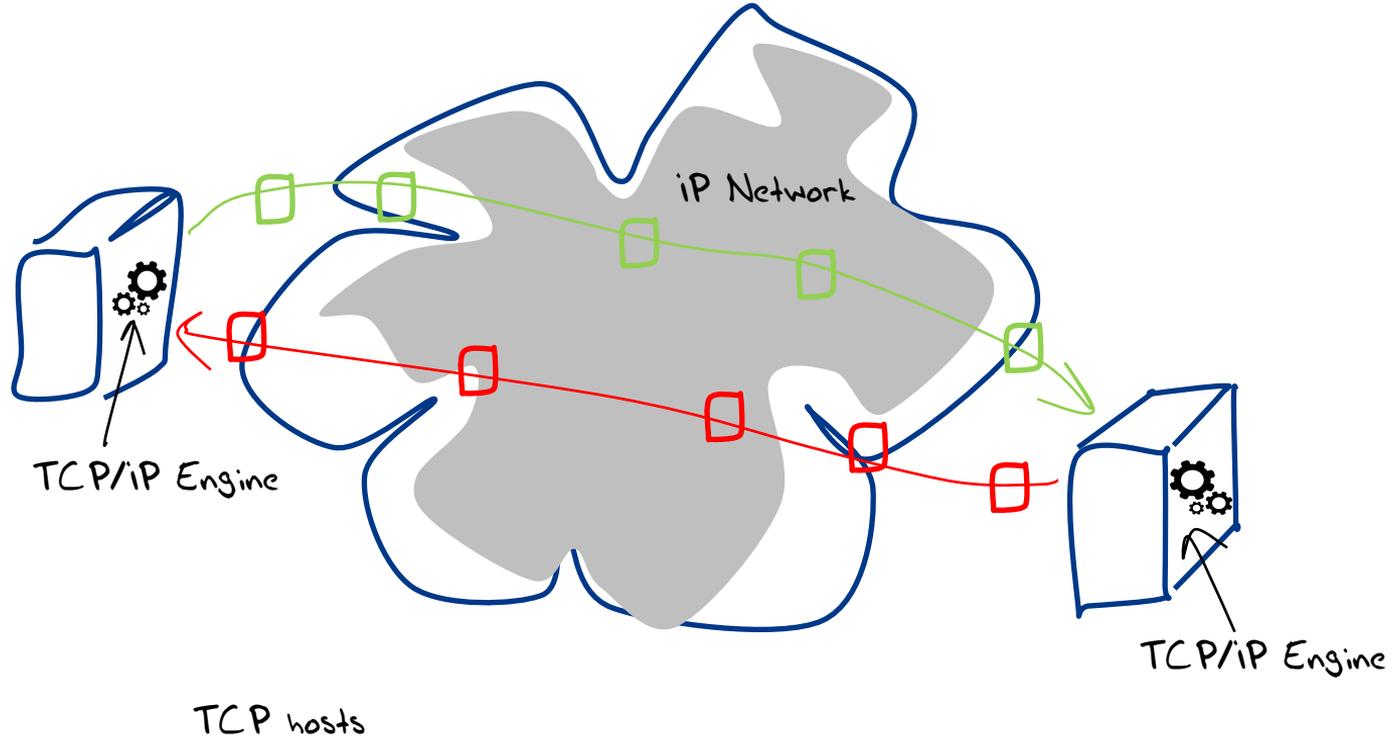
- The network was there to enable connected computers to exchange data
 - All connected computers were able to initiate or receive “calls”
 - A connected computer could not call “the network” – the network was an invisible common substrate
 - It made no difference if the network had active or passive internal elements

Internet Architecture (c1980's)

“End-to-End” design:

- Connected computer to computer
- The network switching function was stateless
 - No virtual circuits, no dynamic state for packets to follow
- Single network-wide addressing model
- Single network-wide routing model
- Simple datagram unreliable datagram delivery in each packet switching element
- hop-by-hop destination-address-based packet forwarding paradigm

Internet Architecture (c1980's)



The Result was Revolutionary!

By stripping out network-centric virtual circuit states and removing time synchronicity the resultant packet carriage network was minimal in design and cost and maximized flexibility

More complex functions, such as flow control, jitter stability, loss mitigation and reliability, were pushed out to the attached devices on the edge

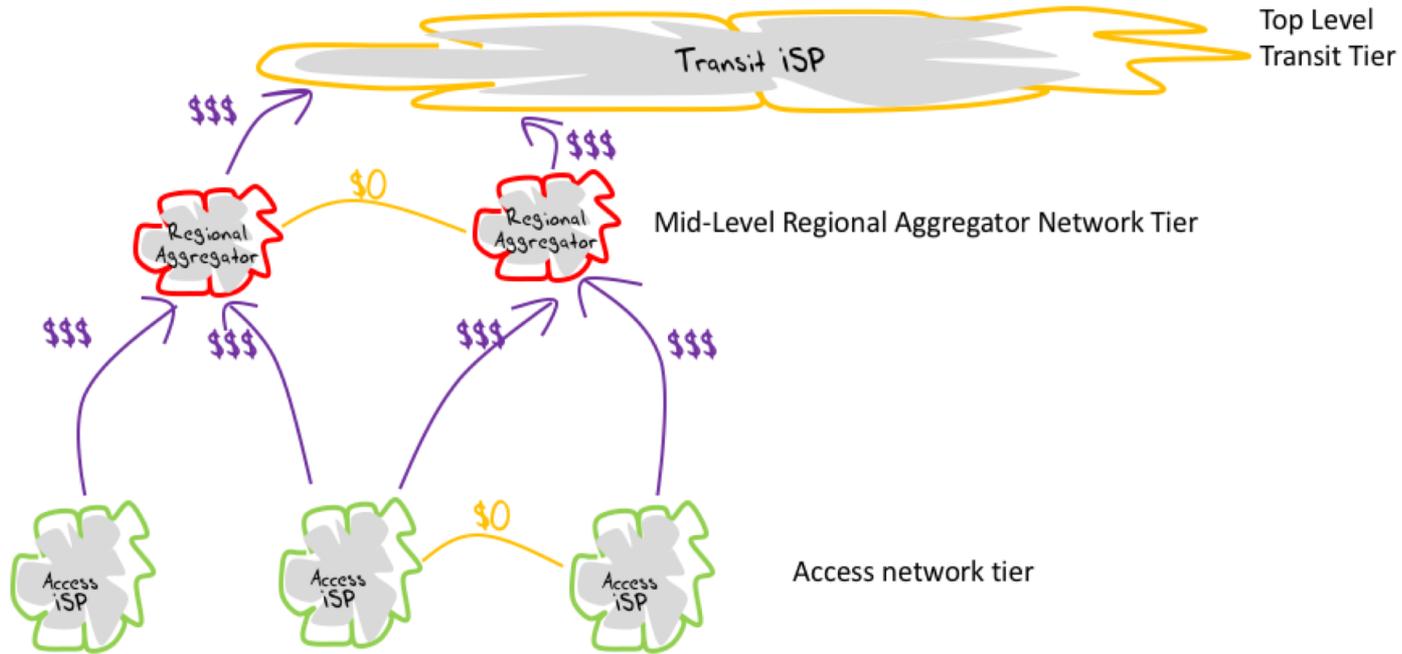
Role Specialization

In the regulated world of national telephone operators every telephone network was “equal”

Markets do not normally support such outcomes, and we see role specialization as a way of sustaining efficient distribution chains to support public services

We rapidly started differentiating between Internet networks differentiating on roles and services and differentiating on the flow of revenues between networks

Network Role Segmentation



Enter Content

Breaking the edge into **clients** and **servers**

- Access networks service the needs “clients”
- Clients are not directly reachable by other clients
- Clients connect to services

The role of the network here is to carry clients to the service access point

- The assumption here is that there are many more clients than service points

Content vs Carriage

Who pays whom?

- The only reason why access networks have clients is because there are content services that clients want to access
 - Therefore carriage providers should pay for content
- There is no “end-to-end” financial settlement model in the Internet – both “ends” pay for access and network providers settle between themselves. To a carriage network, content is just another client
 - Content should pay for carriage, just like any other client

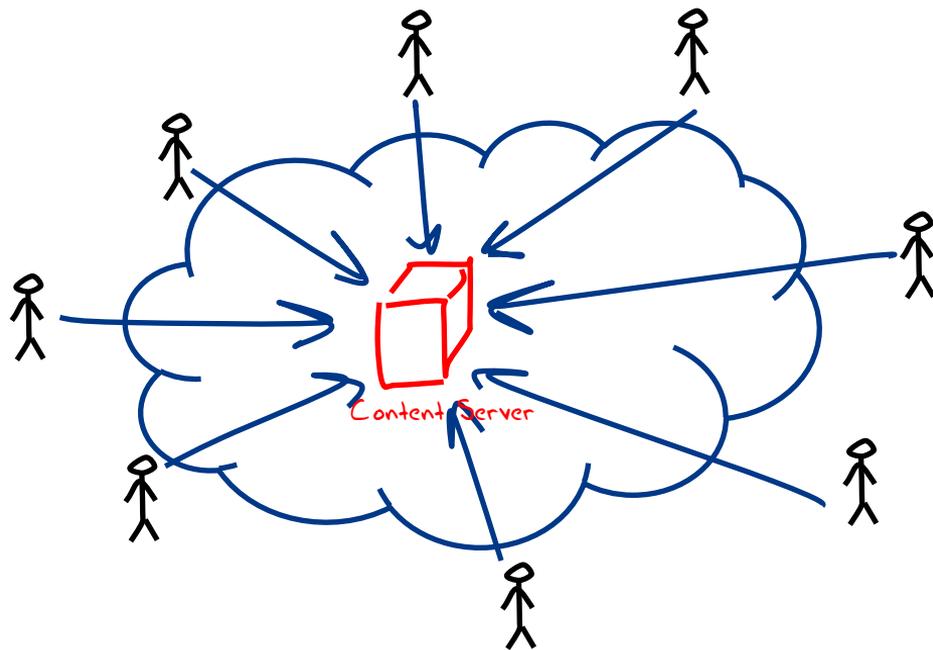
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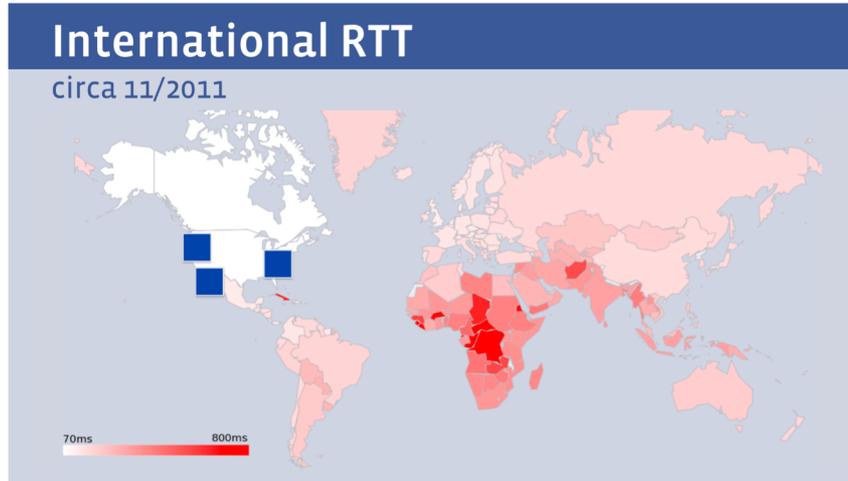
The content folk resolved this fight by going "over the top" and created relationships directly with end users

Content Server



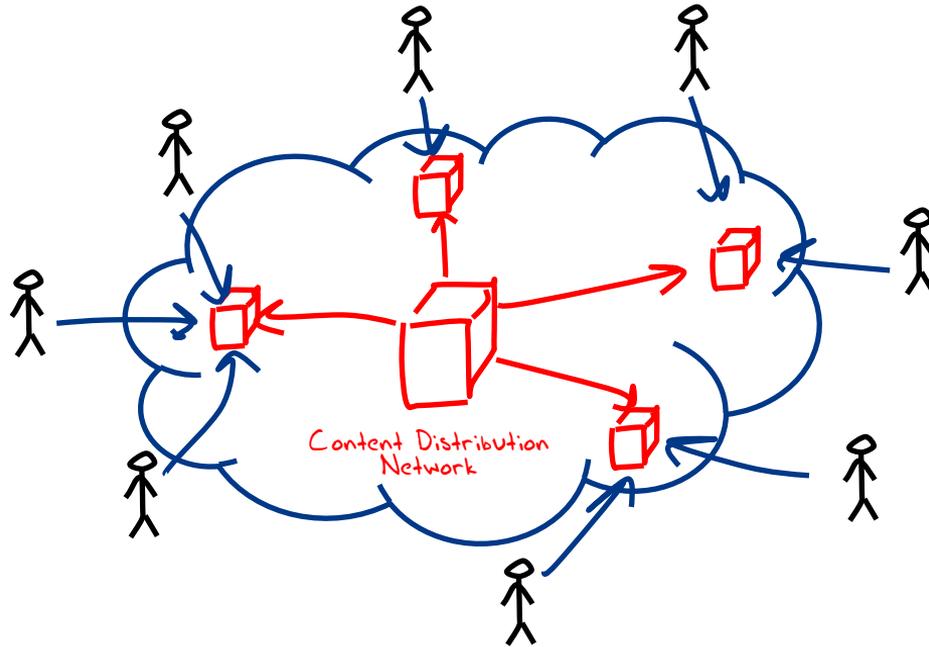
The Tyranny of Distance

But not all clients enjoy the same experience from a single service



*Facebook presentation at
NANOG 68*

Content Distribution

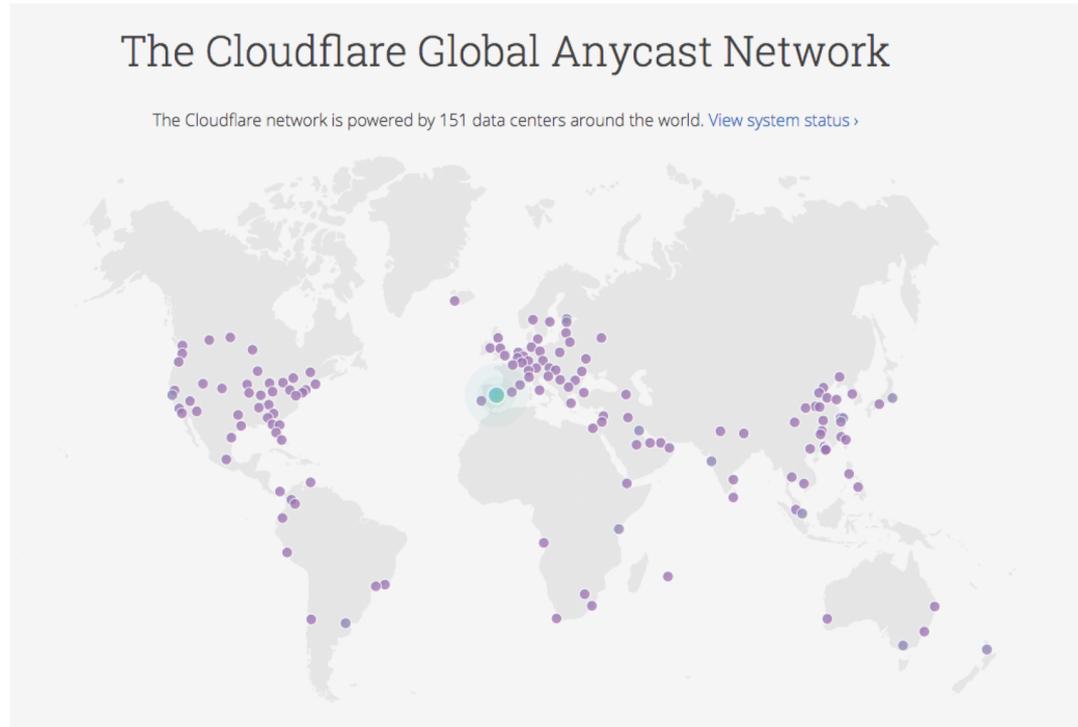


Let them eat data!

The rise of the Content Distribution Network

- Replicate content caches close to large user populations
- The challenge of delivering many replicant service requests over high delay network paths is replaced by the task of updating a set of local caches by the content distribution system and then serving user service requests over the access network
- Reduced service latency, increased service resilience, happy customers!

CDN Reach - some examples



CDN Reach - some examples

A new architecture for the modern internet

Deploying thousands of small, scattered points of presence (POPs) may have worked for legacy CDNs in the dial-up era, but the internet has become increasingly dynamic, and spinning disks no longer get the job done. Fastly has taken a **fundamentally different approach**: we've focused our efforts on placing fewer, more powerful POPs at strategic locations around the world. With Tier 1 transit, solid-state drive (SSD) powered servers, and an engineering team that lives to optimize for speed, we've built a blazing-fast network that requires less hardware to deliver comprehensive global reach. Fastly's high-density POPs enable us to serve more from cache, including static and event-driven content. This improves your cache hit ratio, resulting in better user experiences.



Network

[/ system status >](#)



CDN Reach - some examples

fastly Products Customers Pric

A new architecture

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Role Reversal

Service portals are increasingly located adjacent to users

And that means changes to the network:

- Public Networks no longer carry users' traffic to/from service portals via ISP carriage services
- Instead, Private Networks carry content to service portals via CDN services

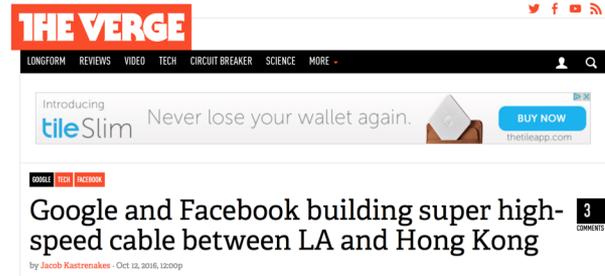
This shift has some profound implications for the Internet

Who's building now?

Almost all new submarine international cable projects are heavily underwritten by content providers, not carriers

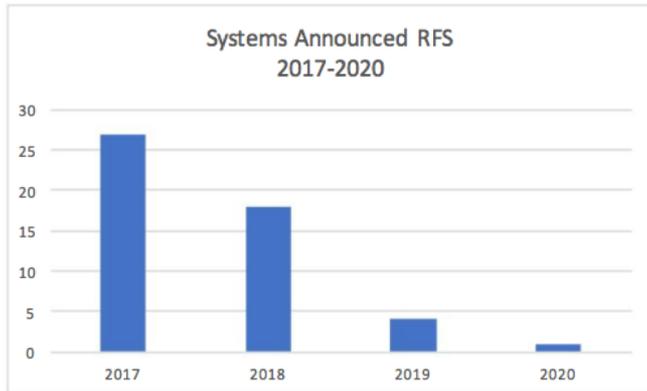
Large content providers have huge and often unpredictable traffic requirements, especially among their own data centers. Their capacity needs are at such a scale that it makes sense for them, on their biggest routes, to build rather than to buy. Owning subsea fibre pairs also gives them the flexibility to upgrade when they see fit, rather than being beholden to a third-party submarine cable operator.”

Tim Stronge of Telegeography, January 2017

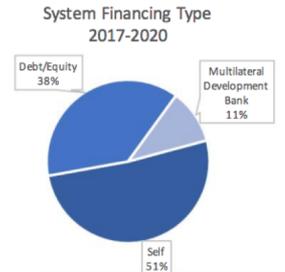
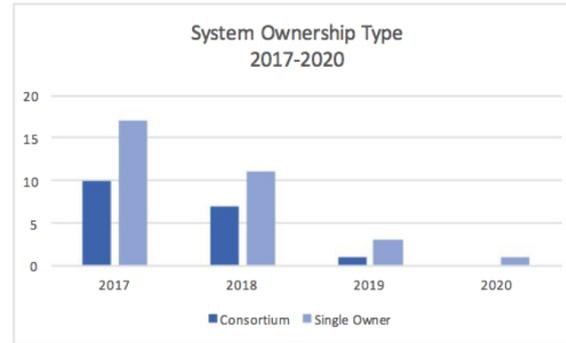


Submarine Cables

And those that are being built are now single owner cables



Fewer cables being built



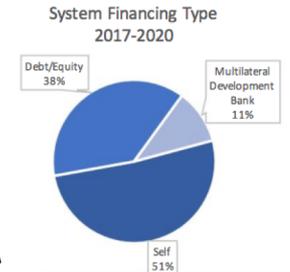
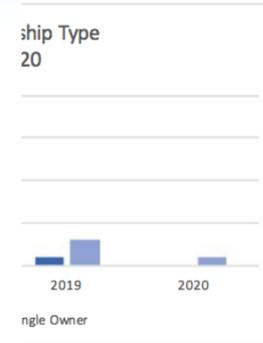
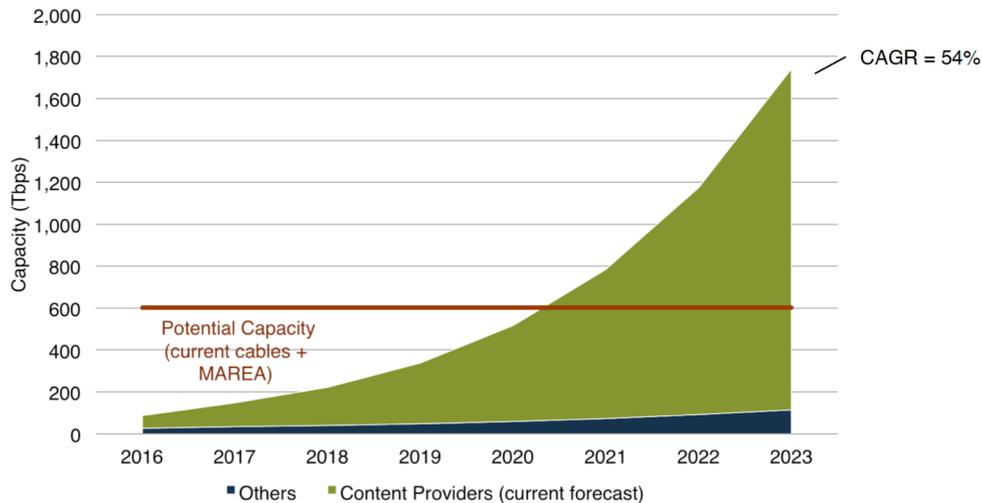
And the majority are now self-funded

Submarine Cables

Growth depends on content

being built are now

Lit vs. Potential Capacity on All Trans-Atlantic Cables: Baseline View



And the majority are now self-funded

Today's Internet Architecture

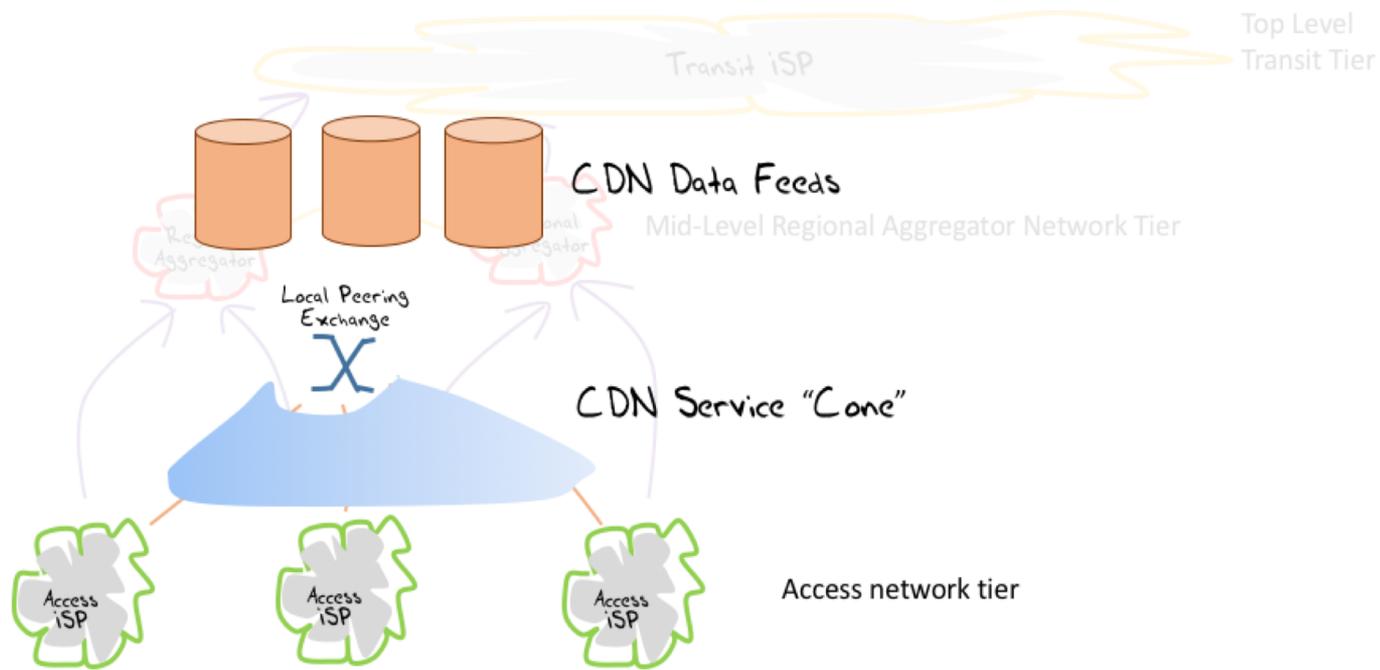
We've split the network into **clients** and **servers**

- Web servers
- Streaming servers
- Mail servers
- DNS servers

Servers and services now sit in CDN bunkers with global replication and DDOS hardening

Users don't reach out to content any more - the CDNs bring content to users

Today's Internet Architecture



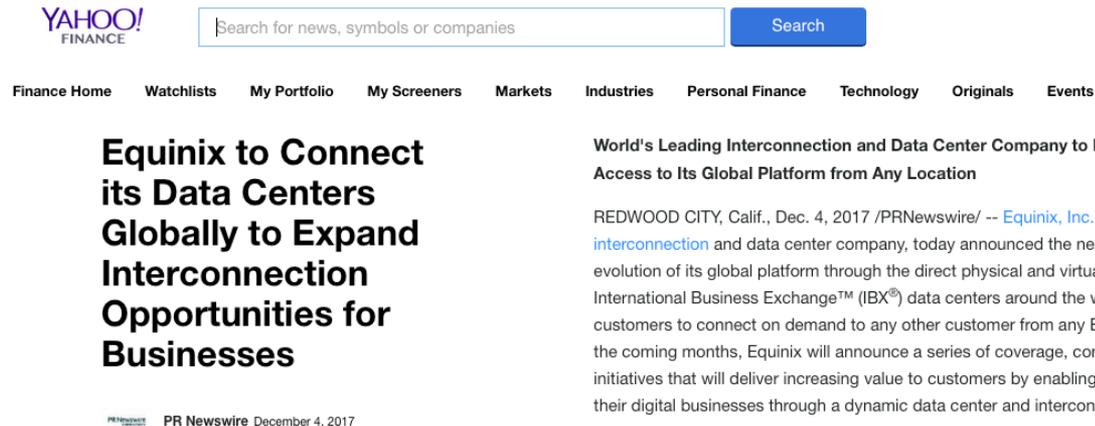
Who needs Transit?

- If users don't send packets to users any more...
- If content is now delivered via CDNs to users via discrete service cones...
- If there is no universal service obligation...

Then why do we still need Transit Service providers?

Closed Transit?

We see the CDN systems reserve a carriage resource through dedicated bandwidth / wavelength / cable purchase and effectively bypass the open IP carriage infrastructure



The screenshot shows the Yahoo Finance website interface. At the top left is the 'YAHOO! FINANCE' logo. To its right is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for news, symbols or companies' and a blue 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a horizontal navigation menu with links: 'Finance Home', 'Watchlists', 'My Portfolio', 'My Screeners', 'Markets', 'Industries', 'Personal Finance', 'Technology', 'Originals', and 'Events'. The main content area features a large, bold headline: 'Equinix to Connect its Data Centers Globally to Expand Interconnection Opportunities for Businesses'. To the right of the headline is a sub-headline: 'World's Leading Interconnection and Data Center Company to Deliver On-Demand Access to Its Global Platform from Any Location'. Below these is the start of a news article dated 'REDWOOD CITY, Calif., Dec. 4, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- Equinix, Inc. (EQIX)'. At the bottom left of the article is a small 'PR Newswire' logo and the text 'PR Newswire December 4, 2017'.

YAHOO! FINANCE Search for news, symbols or companies Search

Finance Home Watchlists My Portfolio My Screeners Markets Industries Personal Finance Technology Originals Events

Equinix to Connect its Data Centers Globally to Expand Interconnection Opportunities for Businesses

World's Leading Interconnection and Data Center Company to Deliver On-Demand Access to Its Global Platform from Any Location

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., Dec. 4, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- [Equinix, Inc. \(EQIX\)](#), the global [interconnection](#) and data center company, today announced the next phase in the evolution of its global platform through the direct physical and virtual connection of its International Business Exchange™ (IBX®) data centers around the world, enabling customers to connect on demand to any other customer from any Equinix location. Over the coming months, Equinix will announce a series of coverage, connectivity and service initiatives that will deliver increasing value to customers by enabling them to rapidly scale their digital businesses through a dynamic data center and interconnection platform.

PR Newswire PR Newswire December 4, 2017

Transit?

- Once the CDN caches sit “inside” the Edge NAT of the Access ISP then the entire wide area network becomes a marginal activity compared to the value of the content feeds!

Internet Names and Addresses?

If the Internet is (or maybe soon will be) a collection of discrete CDN service 'cones' then why do we expect end users to pay for the maintenance of:

- A global address plan?
- A global name system?
- A single global network?

It's not just the Death of Transit

It's the re-purposing of the entire network

- Service provisioning sits within cloud providers and distributed data centres
- Edge computers are now acting as televisions into the clouded world of data
- The distinction between personal and public data realms is disappearing into the realm of corporately owned private data empires

Exactly where are we?

- We started this journey building a telephone network for computers to communicate between each other
- But now one-way content distribution lies at the core of today's Internet
- This content distribution role is an enterprise service framework rather than a public carriage service
- The internal parts of the carriage network are now being privatized and removed from public regulatory oversight

Policy?

If CDN feeder networks are private networks, and there is little residual public carriage other than last mile access networks, then what do we really mean by “public communications policy”?

In the regulatory world ‘content’ is **commerce**, not **carriage!**

Policy?

In today's Internet what do we mean in a policy sense by concepts such as:

“universal service obligation”

“network neutrality”

“rights of access” or even

“market dominance”

when we are talking about diverse CDNs as the dominant actors in the Internet?

The Large and the Largest

	Company	Market Cap (B)
	Apple	910
	Amazon	825
	Alphabet	775
	Microsoft	756
	Facebook	562
	Tencent	479
	Alibaba	476
	Berkshire Hathaway	464
	JPMorgan Chase	356
	ExxonMobil	350

The world's 10 largest publicly traded companies, as ranked by their market capitalization, Q2, 2018

Content really is King

- None of these seven technology companies are a telephone company, or even a transit ISP, or even an ISP at all!
- All of them have pushed aside carriage networks in order to maintain direct relationships with billions of consumers
- These valuable consumer relationships are based on content services, not carriage

Content Consolidation

- There are not thousands of content service platforms
 - There are just a few left
- And the space is dominated by a small number of dominant actors who set the rules of engagement for all others

Content Consolidation

"The size and scale of the attacks that can now easily be launched online make it such that if you don't have a network like Cloudflare in front of your content, and you upset anyone, you will be knocked offline.

...

In a not-so-distant future, if we're not there already, it may be that if you're going to put content on the Internet you'll need to use a company with a giant network like Cloudflare, Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Amazon, or Alibaba.

...

Without a clear framework as a guide for content regulation, a small number of companies will largely determine what can and cannot be online.

Consolidation?

Alphabet is primarily
an advertising
company that
dabbles in blue-sky
technology projects.

Never in the history of the world has a single company had so much control over what people know and think. Yet Washington has been slow to recognize that Google's power is a problem, much less embrace the obvious solution: breaking the company up.

Google accounts for about 90 percent of all Internet searches; by any honest assessment, it holds a monopoly at the very gateway to information in the modern world. From there, the company's power radiates outward, dominating everything from maps to smartphone operating systems to video distribution — vacuuming up huge quantities of highly specific data about users along the way.

Boston Globe , June 14 2018

Competition or Cartel?

With a small number of truly massive enterprises at the heart of the area of digital content and service is this still a space that is shaped by competitive pressures?

Or do these dominant incumbents get to set their own terms of engagement with each other, with users, and even with the public sector?

Competition or Cartel?

With a small number of truly massive enterprises at the heart of the area of digital content and services, the market is one that is shaped by competition.

Or do they get to set their own terms of engagement with each other, with users, and even with the public sector?

As concerning as this might sound, it's not a novel situation!

We've been here before...



American Art: The Gilded Age

Mark Twain coined the phrase "the Gilded Age" in 1873. This term, with its connotations of superficiality and ostentatious wealth, has come to refer to the decades following the Civil War. During that period of rapid industrialization, the contrast between the lifestyles of so-called robber barons and average workers was enormous. The metaphor of gilded surfaces resonates in the richly decorated possessions of the ruling class, from domestic furniture to picture frames.

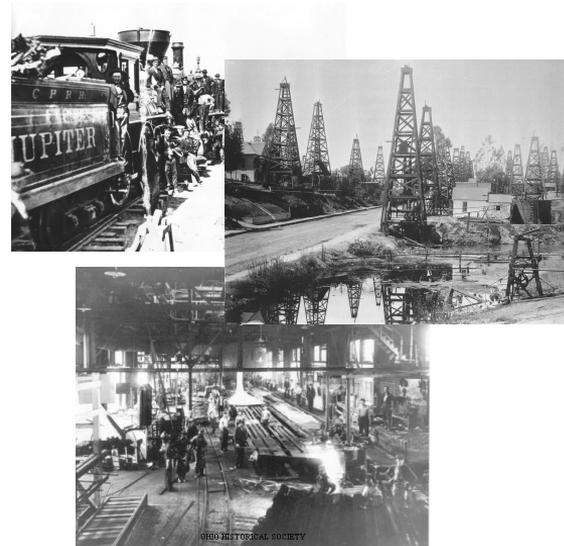
This gallery examines the leading cultural phenomenon of the 1870s and 1880s, the American Aesthetic movement, through a range of objects produced for affluent consumers. Aestheticism, rooted in the English philosophies of John Ruskin and William Morris, advanced the notion that a beautiful environment could promote moral and social reform. In the process, the Aesthetic movement helped to liberate American art and design from the confines of historicism by admitting fresh influences from foreign lands.

High Museum of Art, Atlanta

The Gilded Age

A term applied to America in the 1870 – 1890's about the building of industrial and commercial corporate giants on platforms that were a mix of industrial innovation and enterprise with elements of greed, corruption and labor exploitation

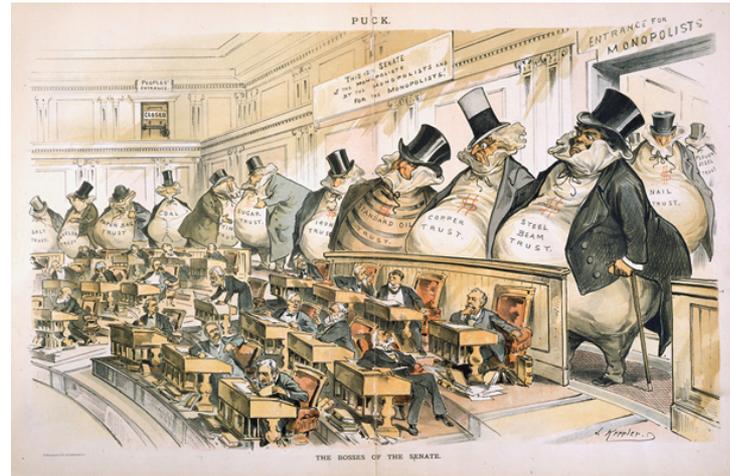
Andrew Carnegie - US Steel
John Rockefeller - Standard Oil
Theodore Vail - AT&T
George Westinghouse – Rail Brakes
Thomas Edison – General Electric
J P Morgan - Banking



The Gilded Age

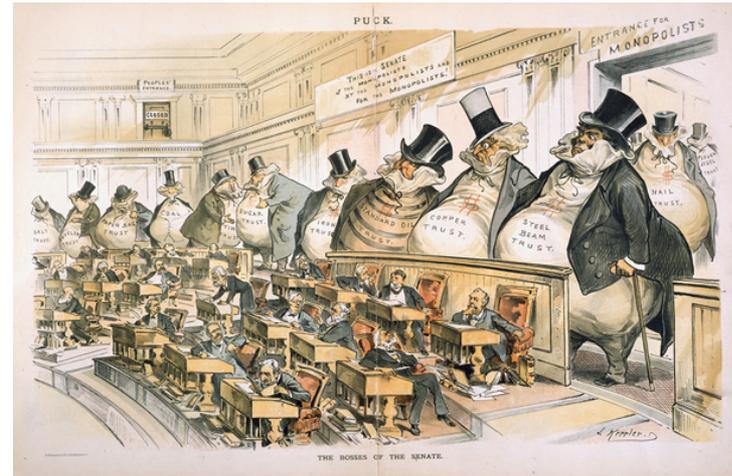
During this period in the United States the dominant position within industry and commerce was occupied by a very small number of players who were moving far faster than the regulatory measures of the day.

The resulting monopolies took the US decades to dismember, and even today many of these gilded age companies remain dominant in their field



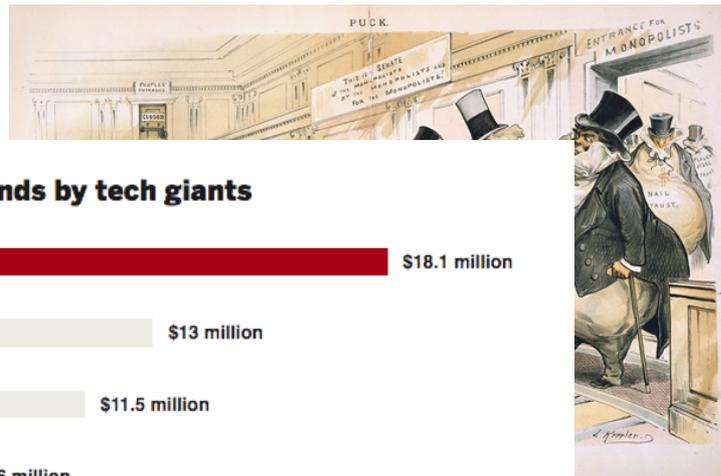
The Internet's Gilded Age

At some point in the past decade or so the dominant position across the entire Internet has been occupied by a very small number of players who are moving far faster than the regulatory measures that were intended to curb the worst excesses of market dominance by a small clique of actors.

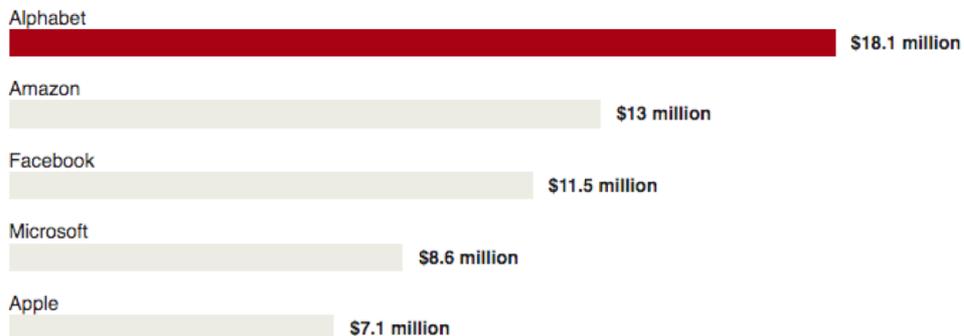


The Internet's Gilded Age

At some point in the past decade or so the dominant position across the entire Internet has been occupied by a very small number of companies, and this dominance is moving far faster than we would expect. The worst excesses of the Gilded Age are being repeated, but this time the dominance is by a few companies.



Total 2017 federal lobbying spends by tech giants



SOURCE: Open Secrets

The Internet's Gilded Age

These actors have enough market influence to set their own rules of engagement with:

- Users,
- Each other,
- Third party suppliers,
- Regulators and Governments

By taking a leading position with these emergent technologies, these players are able to amass vast fortunes, with little in the way of accountability to a broader common public good

The Internet's Gilded Age

These actors have enough market influence to set their own rules of engagement with:

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- Each other,
- Third parties
-

is this the internet we were dreaming of?

By taking a dominant position with these emergent technologies, these players are able to amass vast fortunes, with little in the way of accountability to a broader common public good

The Internet's Future

Gittes: How much are you worth?

Cross: I've no idea. How much do you want?

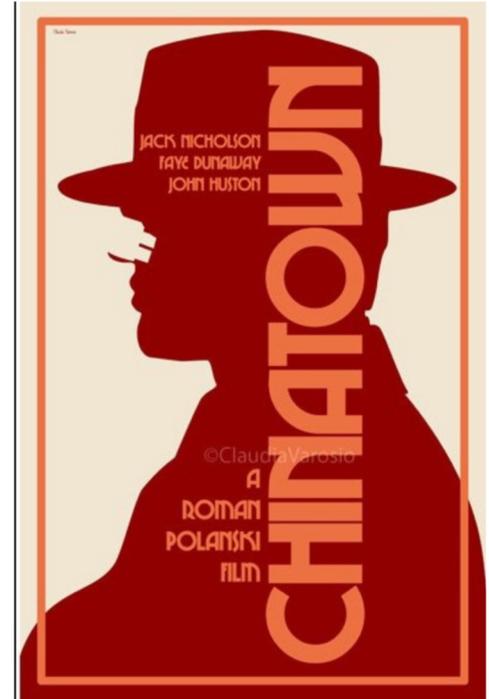
Gittes: I just want to know what you're worth. Over ten million?

Cross: Oh my, yes!

Gittes: Why are you doing it? How much better can you eat? What can you buy that you can't already afford?

Cross: The future, Mr. Gittes - the future!

Chinatown (1974)



What is this all about?

This is no longer just a conversation about incremental changes in carriage and communications within the Internet.

For me, the essential topic of this conversation is how we can strike a sustainable balance between an energetic private sector that has rapidly amassed overarching control of the digital service and content space, and the needs of the larger society in which we all would like some equity of opportunity to thrive and benefit from the outcomes of this new digital age.

The Economist

JANUARY 20TH–26TH 2018

The next space race

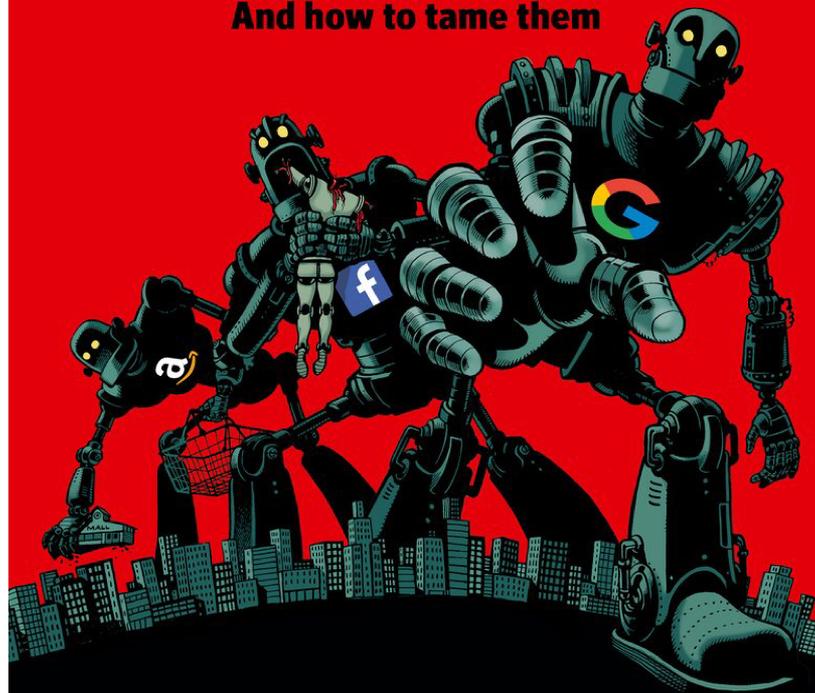
Immigration's poisonous politics

Something's coming: Bernstein at 100

Our Big Mac index

The new titans

And how to tame them



What's the problem?

Is it that these enterprises are:

- so big?
- exploitative of their workers?
- distorting markets?
- extracting monopoly rentals from consumers?
- not providing consumers what they want?

What we want

- It seems that these enterprises have focussed very sharply on giving users precisely what they want
- The ability to customise a solution to a market of 1 and still bring economies of scale to that market underlies their success
- So we all use these services – because they work for us!

There are side-effects

- In order to understand what each consumer wants, the service provider needs to understand the consumer
- Which brings us to...

Surveillance Capitalism

- Much of the wealth and impact of these activities is built upon a foundation of aggregation of individual user behaviour and construction of personal profiles
- It also has benefitted from a cavalier attitude towards data security and privacy concerns and the absence of regulatory imposts that attempt to safeguard some basic common aspects of personal privacy

Surveillance Capitalism

- Much of the wealth and impact of these activities is built upon a foundation of aggregation of individual behaviour and construction of personal profiles
- It also has benefited from a cavalier attitude towards data security, a lack of privacy concerns and the absence of regulatory imposts that attempt to safeguard some basic common aspects of personal privacy

Are there more microphones than people in this room today?

Is this what we want?



Samsung SMART TV
TV has never been this Smart



Is this what we



Samsung SMART TV TV has never been this Smart

Technology

Not in front of the telly: Warning over 'listening' TV

9 February 2015 Technology

Share



Samsung said personal information could be scooped up by the Smart TV

Samsung is warning customers about discussing personal information in front of their smart television set.

The warning applies to TV viewers who control their Samsung Smart TV using its voice activation feature.

When the feature is active, such TV sets "listen" to what is said and may share what they hear with Samsung or third parties, it said.

Privacy campaigners said the technology smacked of the telescreens, in George Orwell's 1984, which spied on citizens.



What we might want

If this situation calls for some public sector response then perhaps the thrust of any such response should focus on the consumer rather than the dynamics of the market

Some questions

An effective regulatory regime should be able to provide clear answers to these questions:

- Who owns my personal profile data?
- Where is it stored?
- What regulatory regime protects it?
- Should I be informed when my profile is sold?
- Do I have an informed valuation of my personal profile?
- Who is at fault if my personal data is leaked?

Where are we?

Its clear we're not in Kansas any more

And whatever the Internet may be, it's not a telephone network for computers

Where are we?

- We are now communicating with a computer-mediated environment rather than with each other
- The network itself is largely incidental to this evolving story, and this is not really about the Internet any more
- It's about a set of revolutionary social changes on a par with the industrial revolution that have been triggered by abundant computing, storage and comms

Where are we?

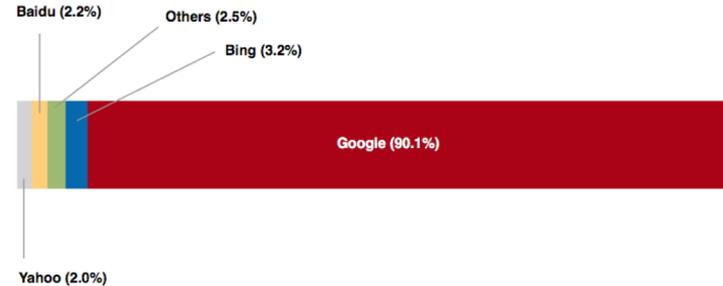
- We are now communicating with a computer-mediated environment rather than with each other
- The network itself is largely invisible to us in this evolving story, and this is not a good thing. *How many mips and gigs are in this room today?*
- It's about a set of revolutionary social changes on a par with the industrial revolution that have been triggered by abundant computing, storage and comms

Maybe its more than this

- In a world of abundant content what do we choose to view?
- What do we choose to believe?
- Search becomes the arbiter of content selection and assumes a level of ultimate importance in this world
- What's the outcome of search being dominated by a single entity?

Is it about what we buy or is this more about what we think?

Search engine market share in 2018



SOURCE: StatCounter

Share of search in US market

Where does all this head?

For our society this market-driven digitisation of our world has the potential to be incredibly empowering or incredibly threatening

Or both at the same time!

Thanks!