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... Advertisement. **Vote-Auction** Sidesteps Legalities. Associated Press Page 1 of 1. ... The owners say the US **vote auction** is a test to determine how they can make money ...

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... Advertisement. Lawyers Are Cheap at **Vote Auction**. by Mark ... an Oct. 31 French interview in which he admits **Vote-auction** was a hoax. ...

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... Embattled **vote auction** site returns to the Web. ... The new **Vote-auction.com**, however, asks for "donations" for the "political engagements" of the voters. ...

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... Web site says **vote auction** was just a 'game'. From... Computerworld. by Craig Stedman. (IDG) -- A controversial Web site that drew ...

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[Vote Auction](#)

... On November 1, Network Solutions (the private for-profit corporation in charge of all .com, .net, and .org domains) shut down **Vote-auction.com** without warning ...

[www.zakros.com/mica/wdf00/voteauction.html](#) - 9k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

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... to shut it down. **Vote-auction.net** - <http://vote-auction.net/> Bringing democracy and capitalism closer together. Founded by James ...

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[Buy This Vote! - The Web puts democracy on sale. By Jeremy Derfner](#)

... Meanwhile, James Baumgartner, a graduate student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, had launched **Vote-auction.com**, an Internet marketplace for the wholesale ...

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... The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners is planning to file a lawsuit Monday against **Vote-auction.com**, a Web site that enables people to put their ...

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[Vote auction site attempts to skirt shutdown order | CNET News.com](#)

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Politech: Internic deletes **vote-auction.com** from domain database? ... Dear Declan, the conflict with **vote-auction.com** has reached a new level. ...

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... predicts George W. Bush wins election"; Previous message: Declan McCullagh: "Internic deletes **vote-auction.com** from domain database?"; ...

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... **Vote-auction.com** legal wrangles continue. By Kieren McCarthy. Published Wednesday 1st November 2000 17:40 GMT. The controversial site ...

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... The site has been re-born as **vote-auction.com** (note the hyphen), and instead of selling votes it is asking for "donations" for them. ...

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Web vote sale all about buzz Effort aims to highlight flawed electoral system.

BY SALLY DUROS. (September 18, 2000) Web site Voteauction ...

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[Further Thoughts About Vote-auction.com](#)

... Further Thoughts About **Vote-auction.com**. Subject ... Voteauction.... Next by thread:

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... Further Thoughts About **Vote-auction.com**, SImparl: Re: Further Thoughts About **Vote-auction.com**, Robert F. Bodi; Re: Further Thoughts ...

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[Web site offering votes for sale draws concern-8/19/00](#)

... Baumgartner said he wouldn't profit from the actual **vote auction**, but hopes to eventually have advertisers. ... "This **vote auction** gives them the right to vote." ...

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... Business October 25, 2000 **Vote-Auction: Capturing the B2C Market of the Election Industry** [Berlin, GERMANY] The operators of the **vote-auction.com** Web site, who ...
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... Contact: Voteauction: pr@[62.116.31.68] 62.116.31.68 Corenic (responsible for deleting **Vote-auction.com**: Werner Staub <secretariat@corenic.org> Bill Jones: (916 ...
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... 9, 2000: Lawyers Are Cheap at **Vote Auction**; CNN (half-hour legal show, Burden of Proof), Oct. ... 3, 2000: Internic Pulls Plug on **Vote-Auction.com**; Wired, Oct. ...
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[LJWorld.com : Vote auction site hard to kill](#)

... **Vote auction** site hard to kill. The Washington Post. Monday, October 9, 2000. Did you think that href="Voteauction.com" target=_blank ...
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... Re: **Vote-Auction** vom wem gesperrt? // Re: Corporate vote-buying OK, satire not OK (fwd). To: debate@fitug.de; Subject: Re: **Vote-Auction** vom wem gesperrt? ...
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... Vive **vote-auction.com**. Le site qui prétend vendre des voix d'électeurs aux enchères a été contraint de fermer sous la pression de la justice américaine. ...
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... Société. 31/10/2000 • 13h02. "**Vote-auction** est un acte pour la liberté d'expression". La controverse médiatique créée par **Vote** ...
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... [V]OTE-AUCTION. <http://www.voteauction.com> 1.st.domain.original.domain, registrar.lock! <http://www.vote-auction.com> 2.nd.domain, registrar.hold! ...
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... Agency". ubermorgen "we have no nationality". Voteauction [V]ote-auction - **vote-auction.net** Seal. <http://vote-auction.net>. legal documents. ...
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[freedomforum.org: ACLU fights to protect vote-brokering Web sites](#)

... But the American Civil Liberties Union said it would fight to keep **vote-auction.com** on the Internet, saying the Web site was constitutionally protected under ...
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[The Fix » Vote Auction](#)

The Fix. 1/9/2000. **Vote Auction**. Filed under: General. — gjw @ 12:10 am. I don't quite understand how this works but it seems deeply scary. ...
the-fix.org/index.php/archives/2000/09/vote-auction/ - 24k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[<nettime> vote action](#)

... an interesting side issue was that one of the first measures to stop the activist-entrepreneurs from **vote-auction** was to force the domain-name administrator ...
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[Rhizome.org: The New Media Art Resource](#)

Title - [V]ote-auction (<http://www.vote-auction.net>) Artist - HANS BERNHARD Status - This is a linked project Original URL - <http://www.vote-auction.net> Date ...
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... Ubermorgen's uber-slogan originates from a CNN interview questioning the **Vote Auction**

simulations that Bernhard pursued: "its different because its ...
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[Vote Auctions Culture Jamming Media Activism](#)

... cluebot.com: Internic Pulls Plug on **Vote-Auction.com** . Thumbshots, cluebot.com:

Interic Pulls Plug on **Vote-Auction.com** News brief and archived discussion. ...

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... Nixon said the defendants connected to the Web site, **vote-auction.com**, are violating Missouri law by not telling consumers that the buying and selling of ...

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[Missouri judge issues temporary restraining order against Web site ...](#)

... The order, signed by Cole County Circuit Judge Thomas Brown, directs the operators

of the Web site **vote-auction.com** to disclose on the site that the buying and ...

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[disinformation | capitol punishment: does voteauction.com subvert ...](#)

... Bernhard immediately registered the site as **Vote-Auction.com** with a non-US company. On November 1st, 2000, Network Solutions (the ...

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[name registration step 1](#)

NAME.SPACE [**VOTE.AUCTION**] is available. REGISTER. namespace: login: enter password: verify password: The template you selected serves the gTLD "AUCTION". ...

www.dns411.com/cgi-bin/whois.pl?whois=vote.auction - 7k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Is a vote-selling Web site parody or threat?](#)

... wicked? A Web site, **Vote-auction.com**, is generating grins and chagrin with its brazen offer to buy and sell votes via the Internet. ...

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[News&features - October 26, 2000](#)

... They have counter-sued and reopened the site under a slightly different name, **vote-auction.com** (www.vote-auction.com), registering under a European registry ...

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[Andrew Leigh examines the possibilities for buying votes in US ...](#)

... moment. If you are a registered US voter, the process is as simple as logging onto **Vote-auction.com**, and checking the going price. ...

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[Update: Web site says vote auction was just a game - Computerworld](#)

... Home > Browse Topics > Government > Government Policy. Update:

Web site says **vote auction** was just a game, ...

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... Slideshow] / *** <http://hansbernhard.com/X/splashscreens/splash1.html> <http://lizvlx.com/pages/shoppingbaskets.html> / **** [http://vote-auction.net/dvd ...](http://vote-auction.net/dvd...)
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... Freedom. Internic have deleted the entry for **vote-auction.com**. ... DNS. Dear Declan,.
The conflict with **vote-auction.com** has reached a new level. ...
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... switzerland. after receiving this email, corenic decided to shut down all
dns-services on the domain **vote-auction.com** without notice. ...
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netuser

... exhibition [f]originals (fake - originals) evolves out of this process and focuses
on the legal documentation resulting from www.vote-auction.net (initially www.netuser.cc ...
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Vote Selling > Massachusetts Decries Online Vote Selling > ...

... Reilly's office filed a civil complaint last Friday to shut down **Vote-Auction.com**,
a site that lets voters offer up their ballots to the highest bidder. ...
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Nixon sues website

... no. Nixon filed a lawsuit against **vote-auction.com** taking it temporarily offline.
Michelle Wirth has more from Jefferson City. Actuality ...
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Website offers auction 2000 presidential votes

... A website operating out of Vienna, Austria-- www.vote-auction.com -- is offering
to buy and sell votes on the web for the 2000 presidential race. ...
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Hans Bernhard

... difficult to differentiate between a simple .php document and real 500k usd
auctioning-software]. <http://www.vote-auction.net>. ipnic ...
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[Business Wire: Domain Bank Acts to Stop Internet **Vote Auction**](#)

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... Voteauction.com Shutdown Order Fails to Stop Site. This **vote auction** site is not down for the count, despite an Illinois judge's order to shut down. ...

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... Anstatt Voteauction.com gibt es jetzt **Vote-Auction.com**. Kaum hatte das Gericht in Chicago, Illinois, einen vorläufigen Bescheid ...

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... Le site de vente de votes **Vote-auction.com** persiste et signe. 23/10/2000 17h19. Après le chassé-croisé légal lors de sa création ...

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... **vote-auction**[V]ote-auction voteauction.com [V]ote-auction – THE ACTION from March 2000 through Election-Day[November 7th] 2000 'til

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... Voteauction.com resurge como **Vote-auction.com**. ... "Muchos de los usuarios de **Vote-auction.com** han dado testimonio de su apoyo en varios correos electrónicos. ...

www.diarioti.com/noticias/2000/oct2000/15193630.htm - 13k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[LBO-Talk Archive November 2000: Re: URGENT - Nader trader](#)

... wrote: > >> "W. Kiernan" wrote: >> >> While you're poking around on line, have a look at <http://62.116.31.68>, >> > which used to be **vote-auction.com** until ...

squawk.ca/lbo-talk/0011/0244.html - 5k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[LBO-Talk Archive November 2000: Re: URGENT - Nader trader](#)

... On Fri, 3 Nov 2000, Anita Mage wrote: > >> Liz (last name escapes me) who had been

doing **vote-auction.com** was at the >> mikro lounge here in Berlin on ...

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[auction aus domain name online](#)

... ausdehnt. Laut Sprechern von **Vote-auction.com** genügte eine Email aus

Supporting ... auf der Domain **Vote-auction.com** per E-Mail

[www.lookabout.com.au/promo/doorway/domainnames/auction-aus-domain-name-online.html](#) - 14k

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... Legal steps are taken 04/01 against CORENIC/CSL/JOKER.com | illegal DNS-shutdown of **vote-auction.com**. ... [the Bulgarian holding company], **Vote-auction Ltd.** ...

[opencultures.t0.or.at/oc/r/orgs](#) - 20k - 6 Mar 2005 - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[disLEXia - Vote auction Web site moves operations overseas \(2000 ...](#)

See <http://blogs.23.nu/disLEXia/stories/492/> for details and further pointers. Thursday, 26. October 2000. **Vote auction** Web site moves operations overseas. ...

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... [<http://www.vote-auction.net>] In the course of this massive action [over 2500 news clippings, including a CNN 30 min. exclusive ...

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... führen soll. Jetzt, 4 Jahre nach **vote-auction** zeichnet sich ein ähnliches Projekt mit global-impact ab: SELLtheVOTE. Warum soll ...

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... Switzerland. After receiving this email, Corenic decided to shut down all DNS-services on the domain **vote-auction.com** without notice. ...

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... Vote" (Lauren Weinstein) Web sites report exit poll results before networks do (NewsScan) Political dirty tricks, cyber-style (NewsScan) **Vote auction** Web site ...
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... **vote auction** by lemurific (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:43AM: Re:RPI by delmoi (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:27AM: Selling out? ...
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... 8 Nov 2000] ---- **Vote auction** Web site moves operations overseas. "NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan ...
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... media, **Vote-auction** pakeni uuteen osoitteeseen. Paljon meteliä poliittisesta verkkokaupasta Mika Lahdensivu Julkaistu 25/10/2000 kello: 13:27, ...
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Die Arbeit [V]ote-auction (**vote-auction.net**) von ubermorgen.com als Beispiel möglicher künstlerischer Praxis in der Gegenwart. Dienstag, 11. ...
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... Aktionen: Hans Übermorgen, Wien (art)Wahl Projekt in den USA: <http://www.ubermorgen.com/2003/> **Vote Auction**: <http://www.vote-auction.net> E-Vote Machines Face ...
www.pilgernundsurfen.ch/ - 25k - 6 Mar 2005 - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

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Donnerstag, 2. November 2000 **Vote-auction** Internet-Auktion von US-Wahlstimmen geschlossen **Vote-auction** ist erneut geschlossen worden. ...
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... Dieser Fall, der sich letztes Jahr tatsächlich mit der website www.vote-auction.com so zugetragen hat, sorgte für einiges Aufsehen. ...
www.freitag.de/2001/22/01221403.php - 10k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[CNN.com - Technology - 'Nader Traders' may have affected outcome ...](#)

... Analysis: Internet lessons for Campaign 2004 November 15, 2000 Web site says **vote auction** was just a 'game' November 10, 2000 Experts: E-voting could have ...

www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/11/17/nader.traders.help.gore.idg/ - 47k - 7 Mar 2005 - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

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... El 50% de la población norteamericana con derecho a voto se queda en casa el día de las elecciones, según explica la página **Vote-auction.com**. ...

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... **Vote-auction.com**, and The Yes Men have all made use of the tactics of resistance through apparent affirmation of and compliance with the image and the ...

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... site. One that received an impressive amount of press is **vote-auction.com**, which can now be found at <http://62.116.31.68/>. Developed ...

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... links: George W Bush campaign. Al Gore 2000. **Vote auction** site. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites. ...

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... NEWS/RESOURCES: ----Current Online Articles Relating to Arts and Technology: "Lawyers Are Cheap at **Vote Auction**" "ICANN: The Winners Are ..." "The Jukebox ...

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... Voter Z. 4. **Vote-auction.com**. 12. 100. 50. ... [here, if necessary voteauction.com some more]: **vote-auction.com** permits voters to auction their votes, voluntarily, to ...

theyesmen.org/wto/ppt/tsld011.htm - 4k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

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... Here he offered a solution - "**Vote-Auction.com**," a web site designed to save corporations millions of dollars now paid to political consultants, advertising ...

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... yadda yadda and Fat Cat likes what he's hearing: a plan outlining the seemingly

limitless free-trade benefits that an international **vote auction** would bring ...

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... jail. There is a site called **vote-auction.com** where a block of presidential votes is being auctioned to the highest bidder. Around ...

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[voteauction.com](#)

... of victory in Chicago were tentative, and sure enough, about a week later voteauction.com opened up under a new domain name, "**vote-auction.com**," and this ...

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... Further information may be found at <http://www.techserver.com/noframes/story/0,2294,500264747-500410488-502507401-0,00.html>. ILLINOIS CLOSES **VOTE AUCTION** SITE. ...

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... together. Founded by James Baumgartner (as voteauction.com), produced by ubermorgen.com and helped by ®TMark. **vote-auction.net** · ...

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... Ubermorgen's uber-slogan originates from a CNN interview questioning the **Vote Auction** simulations that Bernhard pursued: "its different because its ...

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... Because, first Domain Bank, the original registrar for voteauction.com, then Network Solutions, registrars for the altered "**vote-auction.com**," yanked the ...

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Chicago Board Vows Continued Legal Battle Against **Vote Auction** Site, 10/24/2000. ... For its part, **Vote-auction.com** responded with defiant messages on its Web site. ...

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... you. See you all next year. And remember to **vote Auction** back in again next year! GM, Bruce Reiff [1st Year], NA. bdrgames@aol.com, NA. ...

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Lawyers Are Cheap at **Vote Auction** by Mark K. Anderson 2:00 pm Nov. 9, 2000 PST As Election 2000 descends into an Elian's Revenge ...

[misc.survivalism](#) - Nov 13 2000, 11:17 am by Number Six - 1 message - 1 author

[VOTEAUCTION SATIRE ILLEGALLY SQUELCHED, \(resend\)](#)

... On November 1, Network Solutions (the private for-profit corporation in charge of all .com, .net, and .org domains) shut down **Vote-auction.com** without warning ...

[misc.activism.progressive](#) - Nov 5 2000, 1:29 pm by MichaelP - 1 message - 1 author

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... On November 1, Network Solutions (the private for-profit corporation in charge of all .com, .net, and .org domains) shut down **Vote-auction.com** without warning ...

[flora.mai-not](#) - Nov 5 2000, 10:37 pm by MichaelP - 3 messages - 2 authors

[The Nader Thing](#)

"Charlotte L. Blackmer" <c...@rahul.net> wrote: <re: **vote auction**> From what I have heard on the news, it was based in this state, so our Secretary of State had ...

[soc.singles.moderated](#) - Nov 3 2000, 1:30 pm by Ocean Gypsy - 547 messages - 64 authors

[Is Bush a creationist?](#)

... You're right. It should be illegal. He's perhaps talking about the "**vote auction**" thing. Which should be illegal, in my opinion. ... what **vote auction**? ...

[talk.origins](#) - Nov 1 2000, 9:35 am by sarah clark - 48 messages - 22 authors

[Risks Digest 21.11](#)

... Vote" (Lauren Weinstein) Web sites report exit poll results before networks do (NewsScan) Political dirty tricks, cyber-style (NewsScan) **Vote auction** Web site ...

[comp.risks](#) - Nov 8 2000, 4:32 pm by RISKS List Owner - 1 message - 1 author

[Cenata na Demokraciqta](#)

By Steven E. Landsburg Posted Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2000, at 4:00 pm PT At **Vote-auction.com**, you can sell your presidential vote. At ...

[soc.culture.bulgaria](#) - Nov 1 2000, 2:40 pm by gbantc...@my-deja.com - 1 message - 1 author

[Vote-auction victim of DNS-shutdown](#)

Vote-auction falls victim to ILLEGAL DNS-SHUTDOWN -----

Vienna/Berlin, November 2nd, 2000, 7 am CET Below ...

[alt.thebird](#) - Nov 2 2000, 12:11 pm by votingp...@aol.com - 1 message - 1 author

[#Vote Auction Site To Open Again, Offshore](#)

... **Vote Auction** Site To Open Again, Offshore Richard Stenger of CNN, August 26, 2000

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/24/internet.vote/index.html> (CNN ...

[alt.politics.bush](#) - Aug 26 2000, 8:23 am by Lupe - 2 messages - 2 authors

[ACLU joins fight over 'vote-buying' Internet ...](#)

... But the American Civil Liberties Union said it would fight to keep **vote-auction.com** on the Internet, saying the Web site was constitutionally protected under ...
[alt.thebird](#) - Nov 3 2000, 2:34 pm by Michael J. Schneider - 1 message - 1 author

[Capitalism & Democracy Converge](#)

... ask for a donation'. Saturday afternoon, a message on [www.vote-auction.com](#) said the service was temporarily offline. Posted on the ...
[alt.politics.bush](#) - Oct 22 2000, 10:40 pm by John H. McCloskey - 2 messages - 2 authors

[Stuff the Tree! We have Sky-tower.](#)

... would be a reasonably accurate description if it were not for the fact that leftist bludgers have perverted the democratic electoral process into a **vote auction** ...

[nz.politics](#) - Nov 2 2001, 9:34 pm by Newsman - 16 messages - 8 authors

[Subastemos el voto](#)

... en la elección presidencial de los Estados Unidos, a pesar de la oposición de algunas cortes menores de justicia ([http://vote-auction.com/index01.htm](#)). ...
[chile.soc.politica](#) - Oct 25 2000, 12:50 pm by TiTo - 31 messages - 9 authors

[Michael Moore should be charged with treason](#)

... and there'd be some kind of **vote auction** going on everywhere and people would race around to various polling stations to check out what the going rate is. ...
[alt.os.windows-xp](#) - Jul 19 2004, 12:51 am by Zoogar, ruler of the Zerg - 40 messages - 18 authors

[Make your vote count: Sell it to the highest bidder!](#)

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Sounds good, I agree but could a bunch of federal agents get a search warrant ...

[talk.politics.libertarian](#) - Oct 25 2000, 2:59 pm by TiTo - 12 messages - 6 authors

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... The election industry is spending hundreds of millions of dollars in an attempt to influence the presidential election," organizers of the **vote auction** said in ...
[alt.politics.reform](#) - Aug 19 2000, 8:59 am by Robert Hewett - 1 message - 1 author

[Web Sites Offer Votes For Sale - VoteAuction.com](#)

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[alt.politics](#) - Aug 19 2000, 2:04 pm by Robert Hewett - 1 message - 1 author

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... All Men Are Mortal (1995) vote Ape, The (1940) vote Appartement, L' (1995) vote Arzt Von Stalingrad, Der (1958) vote Asfour Stah (1986) **vote Auction** Of Souls ...
[rec.arts.movies.lists+surveys](#) - Oct 25 1996, 7:29 pm by Movie Ratings Report - 1 message - 1 author

[Limbaugh Lie f the Day 10/2604](#)

... [http://www.alternet.org/election04/19870/](#) [http://www.vote-auction.net/](#) etc you folks are working tirelessly to steal the election with your illegal activites ...
[alt.fan.rush-limbaugh](#) - Oct 27 2004, 7:53 pm by Demolibers are Braindead

[Attention Nader and Gore supporters: Important](#)

... The votexchange programmes (if they are not hoaxes, like **vote-auction.com**) simply make the system more proportional on a national basis. ...
[alt.music.radiohead](#) - Nov 4 2000, 10:15 pm by spm1...@my-deja.com - 33 messages - 16 authors

[Arriana's Hilarious Iowa Straw Poll Analysis](#)

... that all the ballots have been paid for -- excuse me, counted -- and George W. Bush has been declared the winner of the Iowa Pay-Per-Vote Auction, it's time to ...

[alt.politics](#) - Aug 19 1999, 1:09 am by aladdinsane - 4 messages - 3 authors

[Special Report: Politics and the Internet](#)

... online voting. More: See PoliticsOnline's Media Reference Center. 3.

Vote-auction, vote-swap sites provide election twists. One of ...

[netscape.public.mozilla.layout](#) - Jan 25 2001, 7:17 pm by politicsonline - 1 message - 1 author

[I TOLD YOU SO...!!!!](#)

... As long as the socialists continue with the twin evils of destroying the education system, and making each election a **vote auction** or handout spree, then there ...

[nz.politics](#) - Apr 14 2002, 7:13 pm by Redbaiter - 18 messages - 7 authors

[Kerry Campaign Wet-Dream in MO](#)

quoted : <http://www.local6.com/news/3834797/detail.html> A Missouri man posted his "**vote**" auction on ebay. That is illegal. Further ...

[alt.politics.bush](#) - Oct 21 2004, 5:16 am by TBone - 4 messages - 3 authors

[Democracy is for sale...](#)

www.vote-auction.com Sell your vote (for real).

[alt.music.dead-kennedys](#) - Oct 26 2000, 7:51 pm by The Passenger - 1 message - 1 author

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... This is not openness and And if you don't get them that quick do you want a refund on your vote ? Can I sell it at **vote-auction.com**? ...

[uk.net.news.management](#) - Oct 24 2000, 8:18 pm by Jack Howard - 42 messages - 16 authors

[voteauction.com](#)

... unregistered them. But they're back already. The new domain name is **vote-auction.com**. Same machine, new name (with a hyphen). As ...

[alt.politics](#) - Oct 21 2000, 1:22 pm by garb...@my-deja.com - 2 messages - 2 authors

[Alan Keyes: Scrapping the slave tax](#)

... The Bush/Forbes **vote auction** in Ames, Iowa, last weekend was just the latest example of corrosive big money at work in our political process. ...

[alt.politics](#) - Aug 22 1999, 2:27 am by Mr. J. - 1 message - 1 author

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... greed for political power. As they have perverted democracy here in NZ by turning each election into a **vote auction**. Even if it ...

[nz.politics](#) - Apr 11 2003, 5:31 am by Tilly - 138 messages - 26 authors

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... It is just a **vote auction**, with countries casting their votes on the basis of the best backhander that they can screw out of the US. ...

[uk.politics.misc](#) - Mar 17 2003, 3:13 am by Binky Dawkins - 14 messages - 3 authors

[The .eu , an European unity new symbol](#)

... in Switzerland. Actually I did think of US court decisions. Primarily of cases such as **Vote Auction**, or etoy vs etoys. But that ...

[europa.union.euro](#) - Jan 28 2002, 7:25 am by Christian Feldhaus - 55 messages - 16 authors

[Domain Market Newsletter #5](#)

... Hack auf microsoft.com ein Scherz <http://www.ix.de/newsticker/data/hes-23.10.00-000/> - Anstatt Voteauction.com gibt es jetzt **Vote-Auction**.com <http://www.ix.de> ...
[japan.internet.domain](#) - Oct 31 2000, 10:41 am by Oleg - 1 message - 1 author

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... A Tangled Web From: "Michael J. Schneider" <m...@winternet.com> 9.
Vote-auction victim of DNS-shutdown From: votingp...@aol.com 10. ...
[talk.politics.guns](#) - Nov 7 2000, 2:23 pm by American_Liberty - 1 message - 1 author

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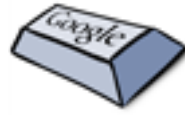


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 Display _____ results per page.

Results Window

Open search results in a new browser window.

Save your preferences when finished and **return to search**.

vote



Dictionary

vote (v t)

n.

- a. A formal expression of preference for a candidate for office or for a proposed resolution of an issue.
- b. A means by which such a preference is made known, such as a raised hand or a marked ballot.
2. The number of votes cast in an election or to resolve an issue: *a heavy vote in favor of the bill.*
3. A group of voters alike in some way: *the Black vote; the rural vote.*
4. The act or process of voting: *took a vote on the issue.*
5. The result of an election or referendum.
6. The right to participate as a voter; suffrage.

v., *vot·ed*, *vot·ing*, *votes*.

v. intr.

1. To express one's preference for a candidate or for a proposed resolution of an issue; cast a vote: *voting against the measure.*
2. To express a choice or an opinion.

v. tr.

1. To express one's preference for by vote: *voted the straight Republican ticket.*
2. To decide the disposition of by vote, as by electing or defeating: *vote in a new mayor; voted out their representative; vote down the amendment.*
3. To bring into existence or make available by vote: *vote new funds for a program.*
4. To be guided by in voting: *vote one's conscience.*
5. To declare or pronounce by general consent: *voted the play a success.*
6. *Informal.* To state as a preference or opinion: *I vote we eat out tonight.*

idiom:

vote with (one's) feet *Informal.*

To indicate a preference or an opinion by leaving or entering a particular locale: *"If older cities are allowed to decay and contract, can citizens who vote with their feet ... hope to find better conditions anywhere else?"*(Melinda Beck).

[Middle English, *vow*, from Latin *v* *tum*, from neuter past participle of *vov* *re*, to vow.]

vot'a·ble or **vote'a·ble** *adj.*



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[Directory](#) > [General Reference](#) > [Dictionary](#) > vote

[top](#) ↑



Thesaurus

vote

noun

The right or chance to express an opinion or participate in a decision: [say](#), [suffrage](#), [voice](#). *Informal* [say-so](#). See [participate/abstain](#).

verb

To select by vote for an office. [ballot](#), [elect](#). See [choice](#), [politics](#).



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[top](#) ↑



Encyclopedia

voting, method of registering collective approval or disapproval of a person or a proposal. The term generally refers to the process by which citizens choose candidates for public office or decide political questions submitted to them. However, it may also describe the formal recording of opinion of a group on any subject. In either sense it is a means of transforming numerous individual desires into a coherent and collective basis for decision.

In early human history voting was simply the communication of approval or disapproval by tribal members of certain proposals offered by a chieftain, who typically held an elected office. Eventually in political voting, the [ballot](#) came into use, a sophisticated form of which is the [voting machine](#). In modern democracies voting is generally considered the right of all adult citizens. In the past, however, voting was often a privilege limited by stringent property qualifications and restricted to the upper classes, and it is only in recent times that universal suffrage has become a fact. In the United States this was accomplished in 1920 when women were given the right to vote by the Nineteenth Amendment. While in democracies voting is, generally, a voluntary right, in totalitarian systems it is virtually a compulsory duty, and nonvoting may be considered an act of disapproval of government policies.

In recent years a great deal of study has been devoted to the analysis of voting behavior in nonauthoritarian nations. Through the use of complex sampling surveys attempts have been made to determine on what basis a voter makes a decision. Findings reveal that voting is influenced not only by political differences but also by religious, racial, and economic factors. For this reason nearly all politicians rely on a sampling survey, or [poll](#), to gauge the attitudes of their constituencies. Also a subject for considerable study in the United States is that large segment of the population that refrains from voting. Research has shown that nonvoting is caused by factors that include social cross pressures, new residency in the community, and relative political ignorance or lack of interest.

See also [election](#); [referendum](#).



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[Directory](#) > [General Reference](#) > [Encyclopedia](#) > vote

[top](#) ↑



Legal Dictionary

vote¹

n.

[Latin *votum* vow, hope, wish]

- a. A usually formal expression of opinion or will in response to a proposed decision; *esp* One given as an indication of approval or disapproval of a proposal, motion, or candidate for office
- b. The total number of such votes made known at a single time (got half the vote)
2. The collective opinion or preference of a body of persons expressed by voting
3. The right to cast a vote; *specif* The right of suffrage
 - a. The act or process of voting (brought the question to a vote)
 - b. A method of voting

vote²

vb.

vot·ed vot·ing -*vi*

- a. To cast or conduct a vote (vote for acquittal)
 - b. To exercise a political franchise (encourage people to vote) -*vt*
- To choose, endorse, decide the disposition of, defeat, or authorize by vote (vote an appropriation)
 - To cast votes on a corporate matter on the basis of (*voted* their shares against the proposed merger)



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[Directory](#) > [Legal](#) > [Legal Dictionary](#) > vote

[top](#) ↑



WordNet

Note: click on a word meaning below to see its connections and related words.

The *noun* **vote** has 5 meanings:

Meaning #1: a choice that is made by voting

Synonyms: [ballot](#), [voting](#), [balloting](#)

Meaning #2: the opinion of a group as determined by voting

Meaning #3: a legal right guaranteed by the 15th amendment to the US constitution; guaranteed to women by the 19th amendment

Synonyms: [right to vote](#), [suffrage](#)

Meaning #4: a body of voters who have the same interests

Meaning #5: the total number of votes cast

Synonym: [voter turnout](#)

The verb **vote** has 5 meanings:

Meaning #1: express one's preference for a candidate or for a measure or resolution; cast a vote

Also see: [vote in](#) (meaning #1), [vote out](#) (meaning #1)

Meaning #2: express one's choice or preference by vote

Meaning #3: express a choice or opinion

Meaning #4: be guided by in voting

Meaning #5: bring into existence or make available by vote



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[Directory](#) > [Language](#) > [WordNet](#) > vote

[top](#) ↑




Wikipedia

vote

For the Finno-Ugric people, see [Votes](#).



 Voters at the voting booths in the [US](#) in 1945

Voting is a method of [decision making](#) wherein a group such as a [meeting](#) or an [electorate](#) attempts to gauge its opinion -- usually as a final step following discussions or debates. Alternatives to voting include [consensus decision making](#) (which works to avoid polarisation and the marginalisation of [dissent](#)) and [betting](#) (as in an [anticipatory democracy](#)).

In a [democracy](#), **voting** commonly implies [election](#), i.e. a way for an [electorate](#) to select among [candidates](#) for office. In [politics](#) *voting* is the method by which the [electorate](#) of a democracy appoints representatives in its [government](#).

A **vote**, or a **ballot**, is an individual's act of voting, by which he or she express support or preference for a certain [motion](#) (e.g. a proposed resolution), a certain candidate, or a certain selection of candidates. A [secret ballot](#), the standard way to protect voters' [political privacy](#), generally takes place at a [polling station](#). (Compare [postal ballot](#).)

Nevertheless, a country's having an election featuring the populace casting votes does not necessarily mean the country is democratic. Many authoritarian governments have "elections" but the candidates are pre-chosen and approved by elites, there is no competition, voter qualifications are restrictive, and voting is often a sham.

In some democracies, such as [Australia](#), voting in a national election is not optional, but mandatory, on penalty of a significant fine.

Standard vote types

Different [voting systems](#) use different types of vote. Suppose that the options in some election are *Alice*, *Bob*, *Charlie*, *Daniel*, and *Emily*.

In a voting system that uses a *single vote*, the voter can select one of the five that they most approve of. [First past the post](#) uses single votes. So, a voter might vote for Charlie. This precludes him voting for anyone else.

In a voting system that uses a *multiple vote*, the voter can vote for any subset of the alternatives. So, a voter might vote for Alice, Bob, and Charlie, rejecting Daniel and Emily. [Approval voting](#) uses such multiple votes.

In a voting system that uses a *ranked vote*, the voter has to rank the alternatives in order of preference. For example, they might vote for Bob in first place, then Emily, then Alice, then Daniel, and finally Charlie. A great many voting systems use ranked votes. See [preference voting](#).

In a voting system that uses a *scored vote* (or *range vote*), the voter gives each alternative a number between one and ten (the upper and lower bounds may vary). See [range voting](#).

[Kenneth Arrow](#) lists 5 characteristics of a fair [voting system](#). Unfortunately, [Arrow's impossibility theorem](#) shows that it is impossible for any voting system to have all 5 characteristics at the same time.

More esoteric vote types

More complicated methods have also been proposed, principally as a theoretical tool. For example, one method would make an average vote look like the following:

Alice > Charlie >>> Bob >> Emily > Daniel

This can be interpreted to mean: "Alice is my favourite, followed by Charlie, Bob, Emily, and Daniel, in that order. I am willing to compromise on Charlie if it allows me to avoid Bob, Emily, or Daniel being elected. If Alice and Charlie are eliminated, then I'll vote for Bob. In such a circumstance I am *not* willing to compromise on Emily to avoid the election of Daniel."

Complex voting systems that may allow for such statements attempt to deal with the need to accommodate expressions of both [tolerances and preferences](#) in voting.

Issues

Casting a vote expresses an implied willingness to participate in a common process with some shared outcome. Those who feel unable to express their limits or boundaries of tolerance in a voting system may be more likely to resist or fight or fail to support decisions made through it (more of an issue with [parties](#) or policies). Those who feel unable to express their real preferences may lack all enthusiasm for the choices or for the eventually chosen representative or [leader](#). Any vote balances both kinds of considerations.

One common issue, especially in first-past-the-post systems, is that of the [protest vote](#): one might "waste one's vote" on a minor party to send a signal of strong preference for a candidate or party that cannot win, or of intolerance for the "more mainstream" options. However it is difficult to tell from the vote alone whether one is positively inclined to the minor party or negatively inclined to the major party. Russia offers its electors a "None of the Above" option, so that protest votes can be properly tallied. Other jurisdictions may record the incidence of (apparently deliberately) "spoiled" ballot papers.

Also, it is often not clear whether the voter really understands how his or her vote is counted in the voting system, especially with the more complex types. This often leads to issues with the results. [Ballot design](#) and the use of [voting machines](#) have particular importance, given this issue. Optimally participants in a vote should perceive the results, especially of a political vote, as [fair](#). If fairness appears lacking, resistance to the results may lead at best to confusion, at worst to [violence](#) and even [civil war](#), in the case of political rivals.

In an effort to make balloting cheaper and more transparent, [Argentina](#) introduced [electronic voting](#) for a gubernatorial election scheduled for [14 September 2003](#). The pilot test involved 500,000 voters distributed among 20

constituencies in the eastern Argentine [province](#) of [Buenos Aires](#).

See also

- [List of democracy and elections-related topics](#)
- [Initiative](#)
- [Proportional representation](#)
- [Referendum](#)
- [Suffrage](#)
- [Vote-rigging](#)
- [Voter turnout](#)
- [Voting rights](#)
- [Voting system](#)

External links

- [Black Box Voting](http://www.blackboxvoting.org) (*http://www.blackboxvoting.org*), a website collecting instances of buggy software, failures in testing, failures to follow procedures, and failures to record votes correctly
- [MoveLeft Media Voting Rights articles](http://www.moveleft.com/moveleft_subject_submit_voting_rights.html) (*http://www.moveleft.com/moveleft_subject_submit_voting_rights.html*)
- [Richard's Ramblings](http://www.richardsramblings.com/archives/2004/07/001325.html) (*http://www.richardsramblings.com/archives/2004/07/001325.html*) voting history versus personal privacy
- [Verified Voting](http://www.verifiedvoting.org) (*http://www.verifiedvoting.org*), a website championing paper ballots from electronic voting machines, and collecting data to discover (using statistical analysis) and challenge errors in electronic voting
- [The Open Voting Consortium](http://www.openvotingconsortium.org) (*http://www.openvotingconsortium.org*) An [open source](#) voting software project for electronic voting machines with paper ballots and other security features



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[Directory](#) > [General Reference](#) > [Wikipedia](#) > vote

[top](#) 



Translations

Translations for: **Vote**

Nederlands (Dutch)

stemmen, kiezen, aannemen, een opinie uiten, verklaren, voorstellen, doen stemmen voor iets, kiezen in overeenstemming met, kiesrecht, stemming, stem, balletje gebruikt in geheime stemming, oordeel bereikt door stemming, kiezer, kiesgroep, voorstel om over te stemmen gelijke stemrecht voor iedereen

Français (French)

voter, vote, référendum, suffrage, voix

Deutsch (German)

n. - Stimme, Abstimmungsergebnis, Wahl, Abstimmung
v. - wählen, abstimmen, bewilligen, (ugs.) vorschlagen

Ελληνικά (Greek)

n. ψοφος, ψηφοφορία, δικαίωμα ψοφου, αποτέλεσμα ψηφοφορίας, (Βρετ.) κονδύλιο ειδικό προορισμού. ψηφίζω, δίνω ψοφο, εγκρίνω, αναγνωρίζω ομοφώνως, (μτφ.) προτείνω, εισηγομαι

Italiano (Italian)

votare, voto

Português (Portuguese)

n. - voto (m), cédula eleitoral (f), direito de voto (m)
v. - votar, aprovar ou decidir por voto, sugerir (coloq.)

(Russian)

Español (Spanish)

n. - sufragio, derecho de voto, votación, voto, parecer, dictamen
v. intr. - votar
v. tr. - votar, pronunciarse, declarar

Svenska (Swedish)

n. - röst, omröstning, röster, röstsedel, rösträtt, anslag, budget
v. - rösta, votera, besluta, bevilja, anse, föreslå (fam.)

中国话 (Simplified Chinese)

n. - 投票, 选票, 选举
v. intr. - 投票, 选举
v. tr. - 投票选举, 公认, 投票决定

中國話 (Traditional Chinese)

n. - 投票, 選票, 選舉
v. intr. - 投票, 選舉
v. tr. - 投票選舉, 公認, 投票決定

日本語 (Japanese)

n. - 投票, 票決, 票, 投票用紙, 投票権, 投票総数, 投票結果, 賛否表示
v. - 投票する, 票決する, 認める, 提案する, 衆議一決する

••••• (Arabic)

•(•••••) •••, •••••, •••••••••, ••••, ••••••••, ••••••, ••••••••
(•••) •••, •••••, •••••, ••••, •••••••, ••••

••••• (Hebrew)

n. - ••••, •••••, •••••••••, •••, •••••, ••••••••, ••••••••, ••••••
v. intr. - ••••••, ••••
v. tr. - •••

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Some good "vote" pages on the web:



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[Sign Language](#)commtechlab.msu.edu



[Math](#)mathworld.

wolfram.com

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[cloture](#) (Politics)

[disfranchisement](#) (Politics)

[nonvoter](#)

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[Sealed-Bid Auction](#) (sales term)

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[procurement auction](#)

[Reverse Japanese Auction](#) (sales term)

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[V]ote-auction
- Bringing democracy and capitalism closer together -
ubermorgen, 2000-2004



[V]ote-auction Web-Site Nov 7 2000

Voteauction Web-Site Mar - Jul 2000

SELLtheVOTE.COM 2004

CNN - "Burden of Proof" 2000 [27 Min. FEATURE/.mp4]

[Small/9Mb] | [Large/20Mb] | [.zip/21Mb]

VOTEAUCTION DVD COMING SOON - WATCH THE TRAILER

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Voteauction was a Website which offered US citizens to sell their presidential vote to the highest bidder during the Presidential Elections 2000, Al Gore vs. G.W. Bush.

The Website was conceived by the student James Baumgartner and then sold to the austrian business-artists Hans Bernhard (founder of etoy [5]) and Lizvix from ubermorgen[1] in Austria and (V)ote-auction Inc. in Sofia/Bulgaria [a subsidiary of the ubermorgen group] for a undisclosed sum. Voteauction was ubermorgens feature Media Hacking performance in the year 2000.

Several US States (Missouri, Wisconsin, Chicago, Arizona, Nevada, California, Massachusetts, New York) issued temporary restraining orders or injunctions for alleged illegal vote trading. This led to the shutdown of 2 domains (voteauction.com and vote-auction.com). Federal Attorney Janet Reno, the FBI and the NSA were investigating the case to ensure the integrity of the voting process on november 7th, 2000.

Over 1800 global and national News features in online media, print, television and radio have been reported (including a 27 min. CNN exclusive "Burden of Proof")[2].

"[V]ote-Auction" is one of most risky and paradoxically successfull projects by ubermorgen: it is "the only platform in the world that provide the final consumer an effective role in the American election industry". A true interchange system that finally "brings capitalism and democracy closer together".

ubermorgen exhibited the [V]ote-auction CNN tape, Voteauction-Seals and [F]original legal Documents in the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum 2001, The Premises Gallery Johannesburg 2002, Museu d`Art Contemporani de Barcelona 2003, Read_me 2.4 Helsinki 2003, Konsthall Malmoe 2004, Kunsthau Graz 2004, Lentos Museum of Modern Art 2005.

A follow up „legal art“ action called "The Injunction Generator" [4] was awarded with a "Honorary Mention" at the Prix Ars Electronica 2003. The Injunction Generator [4] is a artistic software module which claims to generate on request legal injunctions and personalized documentation in .rtf/.pdf format to force a site into taking its contents offline.

Carrying on with their principles of 'radical corporative marketing strategy' (Media Hacking), the artists group ubermorgen has produced an effective and credible interface which helps

creating one's own documented cease-and-desist request, which is also automatically sent to the DNS administrators, to the site's owner and to some journalists to trick them into supporting the 'public trial'.

Fall 2004, ubermorgen collaborated with Jorgen Follested on SELLtheVOTE.COM[6] and exhibited *THE*AGENCY* [for manual Election Recounts] [7] in a solo-exhibition at Kunsthaus Graz, medien.KUNSTLABOR Gallery. 5uper.net and ubermorgen are producing "Voteauction - The Movie & Die Aktion", a experimental film based on the CNN feature "Burden of Proof" and material from "Voteauction - Die Aktion" [emails, injunctions / legal documents, log-files, articles, historical data][8]. Release Date, February 2005.

[1] <http://ubermorgen.com>

[2] http://ubermorgen.com/vote_auction_cnn_transcript.txt full transcript

[3] 2000_LEGAL_DOCUMENTS/CHICAGO_ILLINOIS/207.70.85.119/

[4] <http://ipnic.org>

[5] <http://etoy.com>

[6] <http://SELLtheVOTE.COM>

[7] *THE*AGENCY*

[8] [Court orders, research material, emails](#)

[voteauction.pdf](#)



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[V]ote-auction
- Bringing democracy and capitalism closer together -
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[4] <http://ipnic.org>

[5] <http://etoy.com>

[6] <http://SELLtheVOTE.COM>

[7] [*THE*AGENCY*](#)

[8] [Court orders, research material, emails](#)

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Vote-Auction Sidesteps Legalities

Associated Press

02:00 AM Oct. 26, 2000 PT

SACRAMENTO, California -- A website offering to sell 21,000 votes for president to the highest bidder has changed its domain name and switched its registrar to a company based in Germany. Federal and state laws prohibit the sale of votes, but the Austrian owners of vote-auction.com denied they had moved operations overseas to avoid legal challenges.

Instead, investor Hans Bernhard wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press, research showed that users frequently tried to type the new name of the site instead of the old name, which lacked the hyphen.

The site asks voters to fill out personal details and then offers to sell the votes in blocks broken down by state to the highest bidder. The technique, the website says, brings the "big money of campaigns directly to the voting public."

The site offers to deliver the votes to any corporation or individual, but it hasn't identified voters, bidders or said when the sale will end.

The owners say the U.S. vote auction is a test to determine how they can make money. They still need to work out how voters would be paid and how to verify that they cast the right ballot.

Election officials in Michigan and New York have criticized the scheme and a court challenge in Illinois led to the closing of the old site. California Secretary of State Bill Jones warned any vote sellers they could face felony charges and a minimum of three years in prison.

The site was reopened this week with the help of CSL Computer Service of Germany. By Thursday, more than 2,500 California voters had offered their votes and the leading bid was \$48,000 or \$19.61 per vote.

"Truthfully, this could probably go on forever, so long as it is known by those who wish to use the service, for lack of a better term," said Steve Jones, a

professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago, who follows the Internet.

Shad Balch, a spokesman for California's secretary of state, said the domain name change would not affect California's investigation into the site and its employees.

He said investigators have found a way to identify users but would not go into details. Bernhard said the site's message board had been taken offline to protect users from the investigation.

Industry experts say it would be almost impossible to identify voters by using technology.

"There is virtually no legal way to check who is using the site without a subpoena or warrant, which is unlikely when the operations are international," said Stewart Farley of Internet Products Inc., a San Diego company that makes Web-filtering products.

The original website was launched by a New York graduate student who sold the site in August after he was threatened with legal action by New York state officials.

Internet auction site eBay has also had to wrangle with potential vote selling. In August, six people offering to sell their votes for president drew bids as high as \$10,100 before the online auctioneer shut them down.



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Lawyers Are Cheap at Vote Auction

by [Mark K. Anderson](#) | Also by this reporter

02:00 PM Nov. 09, 2000 PT

As Election 2000 descends into an Elian's Revenge of tangled Florida lawsuits, Miami politics and federal interventions, it's probably fitting that the equally turbid [tale](#) of Internet vote-auctioning also finds a litigious end.

[Vote-auction.com](#), the satirical vote-peddling website, is now caught in the crossfire of lawsuits from five states, with investigations in other states underway. Not to be outdone, the Austrian [investor](#) who has run Vote-auction since late August is preparing to mount his own legal challenge to the Nov. 1 [shutdown](#) of his site.

What began as a ruthless e-commerce project, boldly selling what no one had sold before, has become a freedom-of-speech case where the defendants remove their veils and cry, "Spoof!"

Harvey Grossman of the Chicago branch of the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) has entered the fray, defending the site's American creator, New York graduate student James Baumgartner, in a lawsuit [filed](#) by the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners.

"The representation James is making is that no votes were ever bought or sold and no arrangements were ever made to buy or sell votes," Grossman said. "This was purely political satire."

Previous to the election, Hans Bernhard, the Austrian vote auctioneer, had [maintained](#) the legitimacy of Vote-auction, breaking his cover once in an Oct. 31 French [interview](#) in which he admits Vote-auction was a hoax.

Bernhard was similarly candid in an interview Tuesday.

"We've made a strategic move, in order to prevent further madness in the U.S. legal system," he said. "We're going after the free speech argument."

Everybody knows. We know it, you know it, the legal people know it: We've never ever sold or bought any votes. It's ridiculous."

Now, not only are the Chicago election board and the Illinois attorney general plying their trade against Bernhard et al., but state attorneys general in Massachusetts, Missouri, Texas and Wisconsin are also at various stages in the process of trying to restrain or eradicate the site. All of them, except for Missouri, cite their respective state laws prohibiting the purchase or sale of votes.

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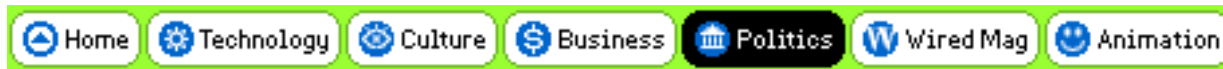
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Lawyers Are Cheap at **Vote Auction**

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Embattled vote auction site returns to the Web

October 24, 2000
 Web posted at: 9:08 a.m. EDT (1308 GMT)



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*By Richard Stenger
 CNN.com writer*

(CNN) -- A Web site created to buy and sell votes in the 2000 presidential election has returned to the Internet, despite legal challenges that temporarily knocked it offline twice.

The Voteauction.com site did make a few changes after an Illinois court ordered it to shut down last week. It unveiled a new name, adding a hyphen between "vote" and "auction."

And it toned down its message. The earlier version promised to allow U.S. citizens to peddle their votes to the highest bidders, presumably candidates or their representatives, who would then dictate how the sellers cast their ballots.

The new Vote-auction.com, however, asks for "donations" for the "political engagements" of the voters.

The changes came after a Cook County, Illinois, judge issued a restraining order Wednesday to shut down the site until the courts resolved a lawsuit filed against it by the Chicago Board of Elections.

The defendants include Hans Bernhard of Vienna, Austria, and Voteauction.com creator James Baumgartner, a New York graduate student. Baumgartner said he started the site in part to protest the influence of big donors and expensive consultants in elections.

Tom Leach, a spokesman for the Chicago Elections Board, said the new name would not allow the vote auctioneers to escape the law. The court order applies not only to Voteauction.com but also to any similar sites associated with persons from Voteauction.com.

"It covered any other Web sites selling votes. It doesn't matter what sheep's clothing the wolf is wearing," Leach said.

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The Chicago board promises to fire more legal punches. Leach said the board will go to court soon to seek contempt charges against the variation Vote-auction.com, and has notified Austrian authorities about the site.

According to Vote-auction.com, the site is "cutting out the middleman and bringing the big money of presidential politics directly to you."

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U.S. citizens who buy or sell votes can be convicted of felony voter fraud, a crime punishable by heavy fines or prison sentences.

The [Associated Press](#) contributed to this report.

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Web site says vote auction was just a 'game'

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November 10, 2000
 Web posted at: 9:29 a.m. EST (1429 GMT)

by Craig Stedman

(IDG) -- A controversial Web site that drew the ire of election officials in the U. S. for purportedly offering to auction off blocks of votes to the highest bidder now claims the whole idea was just a game.



In a statement posted on the site Tuesday, the Austrian operators of Vote-auction.com said they had ended their "grand -- or perhaps more accurately, notorious -- game." Many of the U.S. residents who signed up to sell their votes "acted as if they had actually considered it a real business," the statement added. "In fact, it was . . . a real-life game for voters who finally had found a way to think about what their vote is worth on the free market, and to themselves."

Vote-auction.com was initially launched by a graduate student in New York, who sold it to the Austrian group last month after the Web site was ordered to be shut down by a judge in Illinois. The site, which also had run afoul of election officials in California and New York, was then relaunched by the Austrians under a different URL.

Earlier this week, a state court judge in Boston issued another injunction against the site, acting on a civil complaint that was filed last Friday by the Massachusetts attorney general's office (see "Massachusetts wins injunction against vote auctioning site," link below). The complaint charged that the site's offer to let voters register to sell their votes in blocks broken down by different states was illegal.

In their statement, the new owners of Vote-auction.com said they "are sure" that the various court cases against the Web site will eventually be dropped. "It will be obvious, even to the legal folk, that there are people out there buying and selling votes -- but that it is not us," the statement said.

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November 5, 2000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOTEAUCTION SATIRE ILLEGALLY SQUELCHED, WILL RE-OPEN IN HUNDREDS OF PLACES

RTMark.com reveals its role, offers cash to the first person who can redirect the domain of a major candidate's website to <http://62.116.31.68>

<http://rtmark.com/voteauction.html>

Voteauction, the satirical website which bills itself as "the only election platform channelling 'soft money' directly to the democracy consumer," has fallen victim to a heavy-handed and sometimes illegal campaign against free speech by two corporations and several public officials.

On November 1, Network Solutions (the private for-profit corporation in charge of all .com, .net, and .org domains) shut down Vote-auction.com without warning or explanation, shortly after public attacks by the California Secretary of State, and after the Chicago Board of Elections filed an election fraud lawsuit against the domain. Neither the owners nor the service providers received any notification or warning of the shutdown, and Network Solutions has refused to comment on the issue. (See <http://rtmark.com/etoynsi.html> for an earlier example of illegal and still unexplained acts by the company.)

California Secretary of State Bill Jones seems to have set the stage for this blatant disregard of Constitutional free speech protections by stating last week on CNN that corporate financing of elections is one subject that cannot be discussed: "whether this is a parody... makes absolutely no difference whatsoever in California... because you are talking about the corruption of the voting process." (<http://www.cnn.com/video/burden/2000/10/24/show.rm80.ram>)

RTMark sponsored Voteauction.com in June (project VOTE, listed at <http://rtmark.com/featured.html#VOTE>) precisely because the satirical site helps highlight the ways corporations already effectively purchase votes. As law professor Jamin Raskin said about Voteauction, "...we have now evolved a system in which it's OK for money to buy elections, and yet we somehow cling to the fantasy that there's something deeply immoral about the purchase of an individual vote." (<http://www.wirednews.com/news/politics/0,1283,38559,00.html>)

RTMark and many others believe that if U.S. authorities such as Bill Jones wish to purge the election process of corruption, they should start by preventing corporations from spending unlimited sums on electing particular candidates, not by stopping a satire that highlights the problem. As one commentator wrote, "few would disagree

that the problem with money in politics today is the hundreds of millions of dollars at the top, not a few dollars at the bottom. Which is why the short-lived vote sale should be seen less as a serious act of sabotage and more as guerrilla theater." (http://slate.msn.com/netelection/entries/00-08-23_88646.asp)

Network Solutions' illegal deletion of the Vote-auction.com domain is just the latest blow in a series of actions that have closed the satirical website three times since it opened in August.

1: In August, Voteauction.com founder James Baumgartner, a graduate student, was told by New York State Board of Elections officials that they would press charges against him; they even implied that he could be guilty of treason, which is punishable by execution. Baumgartner, faced with what amounted to an official state-sponsored death threat, had little choice but to close the site on August 18, at which point RTMark helped transfer the domain to its current Austrian owner, Hans Bernhard, who immediately re-opened Voteauction.com with new features.

2. On October 21, Domain Bank, the U.S. company with which Voteauction.com had been registered, illegally froze the domain. Bernhard responded by registering Vote-auction.com (with an added hyphen) with a company located outside U.S. jurisdiction.

3: On November 1, to circumvent this approach, Network Solutions, without warning and in clear violation of international law, removed Vote-auction.com from its root servers (the computers that provide domain information to all others). It is unknown who requested this action, and under what authority Network Solutions feels justified in performing it. Andy Mueller-Maguhn, a newly-elected director of ICANN, the non-profit corporation responsible for all internet domains, agreed this was an illegal move and said "I guess we will have to do something about this."

In response to Network Solution's attack, the Voteauction team has begun gathering Vote-auction and Voteauction domains around the world and is calling on other domain owners to point their domains or sub-domains to <http://62.116.31.68>, the Voteauction IP (IP addresses are not dependent on domain name registrars or on Internic). If you have a domain or sub-domain that you can point to <http://62.116.31.68>, please do so and forward the information to [mailto:pr@\[62.116.31.68\]](mailto:pr@[62.116.31.68]) to be added to a list of supporters.

In addition, RTMark has secured a \$500 investment, of which \$300 will be offered to the first person who can redirect the domain of a major US political candidate (for federal or state office) to <http://62.116.31.68>. The remaining \$200 will be offered to the first person to re-route the domain of a major media outlet covering the elections to the Voteauction IP.

RTMark's primary goal is to publicize corporate subversion of the democratic process. To this end it acts as a clearinghouse for anti-corporate projects. # 30 # This message is

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- [@TMark: Voteauction.com](#) - <http://rtmark.com/voteauction.html>
@TMark page about its investment in Voteauction.com.
- [Wired: Selling Votes or Peddling Lies?](#) - <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39770,00.html>
Did Voteauction.com really solicit bids on American votes, or was it all a mirage? The owner says yes, while the site's creator says no. A judge will decide.
- [Slate: If eBay Ran the Election](#) - <http://slate.msn.com/id/92292/>
In the hypothetical future where all votes are traded on the Internet, it's easy to see how bipartisan collusion would line the pockets of politicians at the expense of voters by holding down the price of votes.
- [Slate: Buy This Vote! The Web puts democracy on sale](#) - <http://slate.msn.com/id/88646/>
The schemes generated a lot of media attention and some sellers and buyers-the bidding on eBay reached \$10,100, and Voteauction found 200 takers in a single day.
- [CNN: Web site offers to sell U.S. presidential votes](#) - <http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/18/internet.vote/index.html>
A new Web site promises to "bring capitalism and democracy closer together" by auctioning votes in the 2000 presidential election.
- [Wired: Thousands Sign Up to Sell Votes](#) - <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38931,00.html>
Boasting of the more than 6,000 Americans who have signed up to auction off their presidential votes to the highest bidder -- illegal activity under the laws of every state in the union -- Voteauction is now detailing its plans to begin an outreach campaign.
- [Salon: Will culture-jam for food](#) - <http://www.salon.com/tech/log/2001/05/18/voteauction/>
The prankster behind the Voteauction.com satire needs your help to pay off his \$3,800 legal debt. By Katharine Mieszkowski.
- [Wired: Austrian Takes Bids on U.S. Votes](#) - <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38559,00.html>
Voteauction.com has changed owners as well as modus operandi. And this time, it appears, the prospect of squelching the wrongdoing is going to involve more than a threatening phone call.

- [Wired: Close Vote? You Can Bid on It](http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38229,00.html) - http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38229,00.html
If citizens do indeed find the choice between Gush and Bore meaningless, the proprietors of Voteauction.com say, why not at least make a little cash on the side?
- [Salon.com: Democracy for sale](http://www.salon.com/tech/log/2000/08/17/vote_sale/) - http://www.salon.com/tech/log/2000/08/17/vote_sale/
Bid for the vote of one U.S. citizen, now on eBay!
- [CNN: Constituent puts vote up for sale on eBay](http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/16/internet.vote/) - http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/16/internet.vote/
A Maryland voter protesting political corruption vows to hawk his ballot in the 2000 general election to the highest bidder on the Internet.
- [Wired: Voteauction Bids the Dust](http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38355,00.html) - http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38355,00.html
Last week, Voteauction received a spate of publicity that began with a Wired News story. Two days of intense press and Internet attention followed, which concluded in legal threats that compelled its operator to shut it down.
- [Vote-auction.net](http://vote-auction.net/) - http://vote-auction.net/
Bringing democracy and capitalism closer together. Founded by James Baumgartner (as voteauction.com), produced by ubermorgen.com and helped by @TMark.
- [Disinformation: Capitol Punishment: Does Voteauction.com Subvert Democracy?](http://www.disinfo.com/archive/pages/dossier/id505/pg1/) - http://www.disinfo.com/archive/pages/dossier/id505/pg1/
by Alex Burns.
- [CNN: Vote-selling Web site to be revived, possibly offshore](http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/24/internet.vote/) - http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/24/internet.vote/
An Internet site designed to auction U.S. presidential votes could reopen days after New York authorities convinced its American creator to shut it down, said a maverick Austrian businessman who bought the domain name.
- [Wired: Voteauction Booth is Closed](http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39590,00.html) - http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39590,00.html
The vote buy-and-sell website shuts down after a district court in Illinois slaps it with an injunction. Accused of illegally trafficking votes, its creator now says the whole thing was a joke.
- [USA Today: Votes up for auction draw official inquiries](http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/jk082300.htm) - http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/jk082300.htm
Pranks or not, legal officials and election watchdogs are taking seriously the recent attempts to buy and sell political votes on the Internet.
- [CNN: Web site offering to sell votes shut down](http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/23/voteauction.shutdown.idg/) - http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/23/voteauction.shutdown.idg/
Voteauction.com, a site that enables citizens to sell their votes, shut down Friday amid legal questions.
- [Wired: Chicago to Sue Vote Auctioneers](http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39431,00.html) - http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39431,00.html
Election officials in Chicago are expected to file suit after finding more than 1,000 Illinois residents have signed up to auction off their presidential votes.
- [AuctionWatch: Straight Talk from Voteauction.com](http://www.auctionwatch.com/awdaily/dailynews/august00/4-081800.html) - http://www.auctionwatch.com/awdaily/dailynews/august00/4-081800.html
You, the taxpayer who finances the monkey show, now has a chance to partake of the corruption that is politics.
- [kuro5hin.org: Dot com ruled by US law?](http://www.kuro5hin.org/?op=displaystory;sid=2000/11/3/143335/151) - http://www.kuro5hin.org/?op=displaystory;sid=2000/11/3/143335/151
Article and forum discussing the implications of InterNIC pulling the European domain vote-auction.com.

- [News.com: eBay pulls auction for U.S. presidency](http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1005-200-3664281.html) - http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1005-200-3664281.html
With confusion increasing over who will be the 43rd president of the United States, one eBay auctioneer had put the presidency up for bid.
- [Slashdot: Voteauction.com](http://slashdot.org/articles/00/08/17/1459228.shtml) - http://slashdot.org/articles/00/08/17/1459228.shtml
News and discussion forum.
- [FSB: American Cynicism, 101](http://www.fsb.com/fortunesb/articles/0,2227,966,00.html) - http://www.fsb.com/fortunesb/articles/0,2227,966,00.html
In the old days, you could rig an election by raising the dead and getting them to the polls. Student James Baumgartner wants to change the rules, by offering disinterested citizens a chance to auction their ballots online.
- [Cape Rock: The Going Rate For A Presidential Vote? \\$152 on eBay.](http://www.thecaperock.com/apr00/vote-auction.shtml) - http://www.thecaperock.com/apr00/vote-auction.shtml
Fake news article about eBay vote auction which may have inspired some of the real auctions.
- [The Register: Votes for sale online in the US](http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/1/13758.html) - http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/1/13758.html
Chicago's gangster ridden past has come back to haunt city officials with the appearance of a new website - Voteauction.com, where people can register to sell their vote to the highest bidder.
- [Daily Gazette: Web site offering votes for sale draws concern](http://the.facts.tripod.com/dg000819.htm) - http://the.facts.tripod.com/dg000819.htm
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute graduate student James Baumgartner says he's doing a service to the country with his new Web site Voteauction.com by encouraging participation in elections.
- [FCW: Chicago wants Voteauction gone](http://www.fcw.com/civic/articles/2000/1009/web-vote-10-10-00.asp) - http://www.fcw.com/civic/articles/2000/1009/web-vote-10-10-00.asp
The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners said it has asked federal and state attorneys to shut down a Web site that offers votes to the highest bidder.
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- [@TMark: Voteauction.com](#) - <http://rtmark.com/voteauction.html>
@TMark page about its investment in Voteauction.com.
- [Wired: Selling Votes or Peddling Lies?](#) - <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39770,00.html>
Did Voteauction.com really solicit bids on American votes, or was it all a mirage? The owner says yes, while the site's creator says no. A judge will decide.
- [Slate: If eBay Ran the Election](#) - <http://slate.msn.com/id/92292/>
In the hypothetical future where all votes are traded on the Internet, it's easy to see how bipartisan collusion would line the pockets of politicians at the expense of voters by holding down the price of votes.
- [Slate: Buy This Vote! The Web puts democracy on sale](#) - <http://slate.msn.com/id/88646/>
The schemes generated a lot of media attention and some sellers and buyers-the bidding on eBay reached \$10,100, and Voteauction found 200 takers in a single day.

- [CNN: Web site offers to sell U.S. presidential votes](http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/18/internet.vote/index.html) - http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/18/internet.vote/index.html
A new Web site promises to "bring capitalism and democracy closer together" by auctioning votes in the 2000 presidential election.
- [Wired: Thousands Sign Up to Sell Votes](http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38931,00.html) - http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38931,00.html
Boasting of the more than 6,000 Americans who have signed up to auction off their presidential votes to the highest bidder -- illegal activity under the laws of every state in the union -- Voteauction is now detailing its plans to begin an outreach campaign.
- [Salon: Will culture-jam for food](http://www.salon.com/tech/log/2001/05/18/voteauction/) - http://www.salon.com/tech/log/2001/05/18/voteauction/
The prankster behind the Voteauction.com satire needs your help to pay off his \$3,800 legal debt. By Katharine Mieszkowski.
- [Wired: Austrian Takes Bids on U.S. Votes](http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38559,00.html) - http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38559,00.html
Voteauction.com has changed owners as well as modus operandi. And this time, it appears, the prospect of squelching the wrongdoing is going to involve more than a threatening phone call.
- [Wired: Close Vote? You Can Bid on It](http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38229,00.html) - http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38229,00.html
If citizens do indeed find the choice between Gush and Bore meaningless, the proprietors of Voteauction.com say, why not at least make a little cash on the side?
- [Salon.com: Democracy for sale](http://www.salon.com/tech/log/2000/08/17/vote_sale/) - http://www.salon.com/tech/log/2000/08/17/vote_sale/
Bid for the vote of one U.S. citizen, now on eBay!
- [CNN: Constituent puts vote up for sale on eBay](http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/16/internet.vote/) - http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/16/internet.vote/
A Maryland voter protesting political corruption vows to hawk his ballot in the 2000 general election to the highest bidder on the Internet.
- [Wired: Voteauction Bids the Dust](http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38355,00.html) - http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38355,00.html
Last week, Voteauction received a spate of publicity that began with a Wired News story. Two days of intense press and Internet attention followed, which concluded in legal threats that compelled its operator to shut it down.
- [Vote-auction.net](http://vote-auction.net/) - http://vote-auction.net/
Bringing democracy and capitalism closer together. Founded by James Baumgartner (as voteauction.com), produced by ubermorgen.com and helped by @TMark.
- [Disinformation: Capitol Punishment: Does Voteauction.com Subvert Democracy?](http://www.disinfo.com/archive/pages/dossier/id505/pg1/) - http://www.disinfo.com/archive/pages/dossier/id505/pg1/
by Alex Burns.
- [CNN: Vote-selling Web site to be revived, possibly offshore](http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/24/internet.vote/) - http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/24/internet.vote/
An Internet site designed to auction U.S. presidential votes could reopen days after New York authorities convinced its American creator to shut it down, said a maverick Austrian businessman who bought the domain name.
- [Wired: Voteauction Booth is Closed](http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39590,00.html) - http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39590,00.html
The vote buy-and-sell website shuts down after a district court in Illinois slaps it with an injunction. Accused of illegally trafficking votes, its creator now says the whole thing was a joke.
- [USA Today: Votes up for auction draw official inquiries](http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/jk082300.htm) - http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/jk082300.htm
Pranks or not, legal officials and election watchdogs are taking seriously the recent attempts to buy and sell political votes on the Internet.

- [CNN: Web site offering to sell votes shut down](http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/23/voteauction.shutdown.idg/) - http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/23/voteauction.shutdown.idg/
Voteauction.com, a site that enables citizens to sell their votes, shut down Friday amid legal questions.
- [Wired: Chicago to Sue Vote Auctioneers](http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39431,00.html) - http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39431,00.html
Election officials in Chicago are expected to file suit after finding more than 1,000 Illinois residents have signed up to auction off their presidential votes.
- [AuctionWatch: Straight Talk from Voteauction.com](http://www.auctionwatch.com/awdaily/dailynews/august00/4-081800.html) - http://www.auctionwatch.com/awdaily/dailynews/august00/4-081800.html
You, the taxpayer who finances the monkey show, now has a chance to partake of the corruption that is politics.
- [kuro5hin.org: Dot com ruled by US law?](http://www.kuro5hin.org/?op=displaystory;sid=2000/11/3/143335/151) - http://www.kuro5hin.org/?op=displaystory;sid=2000/11/3/143335/151
Article and forum discussing the implications of InterNIC pulling the European domain **vote-auction.com**.
- [News.com: eBay pulls auction for U.S. presidency](http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1005-200-3664281.html) - http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1005-200-3664281.html
With confusion increasing over who will be the 43rd president of the United States, one eBay auctioneer had put the presidency up for bid.
- [Slashdot: Voteauction.com](http://slashdot.org/articles/00/08/17/1459228.shtml) - http://slashdot.org/articles/00/08/17/1459228.shtml
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- [FSB: American Cynicism, 101](http://www.fsb.com/fortunesb/articles/0,2227,966,00.html) - http://www.fsb.com/fortunesb/articles/0,2227,966,00.html
In the old days, you could rig an election by raising the dead and getting them to the polls. Student James Baumgartner wants to change the rules, by offering disinterested citizens a chance to auction their ballots online.
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Fake news article about eBay **vote auction** which may have inspired some of the real auctions.
- [The Register: Votes for sale online in the US](http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/1/13758.html) - http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/1/13758.html
Chicago's gangster ridden past has come back to haunt city officials with the appearance of a new website - Voteauction.com, where people can register to sell their vote to the highest bidder.
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The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners said it has asked federal and state attorneys to shut down a Web site that offers votes to the highest bidder.
- ▭ [cluebot.com: Internic Pulls Plug on Vote-Auction.com](http://www.cluebot.com/article.pl?sid=00/11/03/1852255&mode=nested) - http://www.cluebot.com/article.pl?sid=00/11/03/1852255&mode=nested
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net election Tracking politics as it's practiced on the Web.

Buy This Vote!

The Web puts democracy on sale.

By Jeremy Derfner

Posted Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2000, at 8:30 PM PT



Washington Post
Online

Slate, the *Industry Standard*, and washingtonpost.com join forces to examine the effect of the Internet on Campaign 2000.

Last Tuesday, an eBay user offered his vote to the highest bidder, and five copycat vote-sellers followed suit. Meanwhile, James Baumgartner, a graduate student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, had launched Vote-auction.com, an Internet marketplace for the wholesale purchase of votes. The model was simple: Recruit willing voters, auction them off in state blocs, double-check their absentee ballots for accuracy, and split the proceeds evenly. The schemes generated a lot of media attention and some sellers and buyers—the bidding on eBay reached \$10,100, and Vote-auction found 200 takers in a single day.

But it was all over inside a week. Baumgartner shut down Vote-auction after his academic adviser received a call from the state board of elections, and he sold the content and domain name to an Austrian company. eBay pulled all six auctions after a day.

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News & Politics

The problem is that vote-buying and -selling is clearly illegal. Every state prohibits a market in votes, and buying or selling votes in a federal election is a [federal crime](#) punishable by a \$10,000 fine and five years in jail. (So far, no Internet vote-sellers have been charged.) Though Baumgartner isn't testing it, he has suggested that he could mount a defense on the grounds that money equals speech, a reference to the landmark Supreme Court decision in [Buckley vs. Valeo](#), which struck down campaign spending limits and is anathema to campaign-finance reformers. In fact, a *Buckley* defense would fail. In 1982, the court ruled (in [Brown vs. Hartlage](#)) that buying, selling, or arranging to buy or sell votes is not constitutionally protected speech.

Baumgartner insists that votes have been for sale in America at least since 1757, when George Washington bought alcohol for every voter in his House of Burgesses district. But the reality of colonial corruption was rarely so simple. Voters were tied to each other through business and family connections, and a man was expected to vote for his patrons.

Flagrant vote-buying came into prominence with the expansion of the franchise and the rise of the political boss in the mid-1800s. Big-city machines routinely got out the vote by paying for it with cash on election morning. The practice was so common that cartoonist Thomas Nast started his career depicting it (click [here](#) for an example). On a deeper level, the machines unapologetically operated on the principle of giving favors for votes. Poor voters especially could count on food, coal, and patronage jobs as long as they voted with the boss.

By the late 1800s, reformers were sure the machines had corrupted democracy. They pushed for secret ballots and Australian ballots (as opposed to pre-marked party ballots) in part so that bosses could never be sure who voted for whom. Most political machines broke down by the 1920s, and yet a vote-buying scandal still crops up every few years. In 1996, for instance, 21 Georgians were indicted for selling their votes in a county election for \$50 apiece.

Some experts saw the abortive Internet vote auctions as old-style machine politics with a high-tech twist. The chairman of the [Voting Integrity Project](#), a conservative front group, called Vote-auction an "obscenity" and warned of a "bloodless coup." But few would disagree that the problem with money in politics today is the hundreds of millions of dollars at the top, not a few dollars at the bottom. Which is why the short-lived vote sale should be seen less as a serious act of sabotage and more as guerrilla theater.

One eBay seller confirmed that the auction of his vote was a "political



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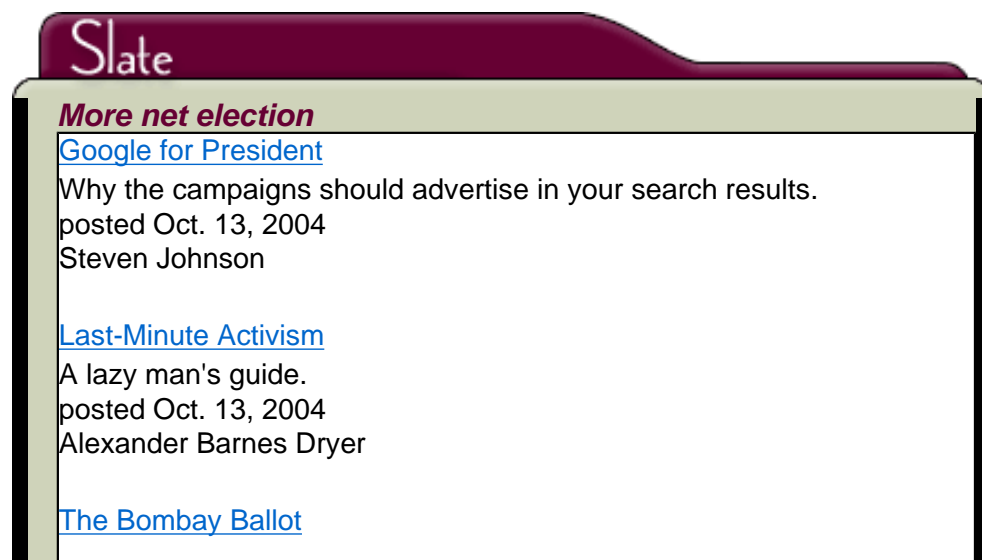
prank." His original posting included the following description: "Why should the American citizen be left out? Congressmen and senators regularly sell their vote to the highest bidder. Democracy for sale!"

Baumgartner's intentions are harder to figure because he never recanted or even cracked a smile, but his sense of irony is undeniable. According to Baumgartner, the biggest spenders invariably win elections today, but they do it messily, with big advertising budgets and paid consultants. Vote-auction, he claimed, would bring market efficiency to the electoral process by "cutting out the middle man." Vote-auction's slogan? "Bringing Democracy and Capitalism Closer Together."

Ralph Nader's now-famous MasterCard parody makes the same point (click [here](#) to see the ad), as did the protesters outside the conventions when they offered delegates money for their credentials. Many campaign-finance reformers, including Sheila Krumholz of the [Center for Responsive Politics](#) and American University law professor Jamin Raskin, have said they appreciate the vote-selling sentiment, though they would deplore the practice.

John Bonifaz, the executive director of the [National Voting Rights Institute](#), said the vote auctions are indeed bribery, but so is "a lot of what goes on in the halls of Congress and in the White House." What Baumgartner and the eBay seller did is "only one or two steps removed from the existing campaign-finance system," Bonifaz said.

*Jeremy Derfner, a former **Slate** editorial assistant, is a graduate student in American history at Columbia University.*



The image shows a screenshot of a sidebar from the website Slate. At the top, the word "Slate" is written in white on a dark purple background. Below this, there are three article recommendations, each with a blue link title, a short description, a posting date, and the author's name.

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Reader Comment from The Fray:

Lucky Janet Reno doesn't run eBay. It would take four years to decide whether or not selling votes is illegal.

--Dennis

(To reply, click [here.](#))

The article raised in my mind the following question: Would it not be appropriate to establish a vote-buy-back program similar to the gun-buy-backs promoted by the gun control crowd? Suppose one were to offer, oh, \$25 to any registered voter (in a selected city or neighborhood, of course) who *did not vote* at all in a particular election? Obviously, anyone offering to sell their right to vote for such a modest sum has no particular business voting and the sponsors of the buy-back are not asking anyone to vote for or against a particular candidate so what would be the problem? In the one case, people are bribed not to exercise their right to arms, in the other they are bribed not to exercise their right to vote.

--Jack Dupont

(To reply, click [here.](#))

I wonder if it would pass legal muster if the voter offered to sell merely his attention to some free speech by the politician, rather than his vote itself. This is the theory by which campaign contributions are not held to be bribery of the politician involved, in that there is supposedly no *quid pro quo* that the politician will change his vote to favor the contributor, so that the contributor is given nothing but access and a hearing in exchange for the money. Why can't a voter make the same claim, ie that "Of course I didn't vote for Smith because his campaign credited my account for that \$50. That money simply got me to scroll through their informative web site, where I found arguments so compelling I could not but vote for Smith. That auction I held to get to the figure of \$50? Well, my time is limited, I can't waste it scrolling through everyone's web sites. My time is certainly worth more than the \$10 the Vegetarian Party offered me."

--[Glen Tomkins](#)

(To reply, click [here.](#))

[A number of readers made similar points--"Politicians try to buy my vote, so why can't I sell it" and "While I will not sell my vote to anyone, if someone wants to lobby me, I'm having a dinner party at \$10,000 per plate." One poster tried to answer them:]

What politicians provide in return for campaign donations is access to their time. A politician's schedule is discretionary, not an inalienable right. There is no sale of access, but rather a predisposition to hear out those who help fund election success. Be careful condemning this predisposition, for it applies to small donors as well as large, and to citizen groups as well as fat cats. If a politician assures he/she will vote a certain way in return for a specified amount money, then that is graft. The legal point with graft is not the transfer of an inalienable right but rather a dereliction of duty, a willful failure to represent the citizenry. The worst disservice to democracy created by our current campaign finance system is the time it requires from politicians and staff that is diverted from attending to public business. A representative democracy will fail if it is not both deliberative and participatory. As things stand, there is little time available for negotiated synergy, and little incentive to pursue issues that don't return a high dollar value to campaign coffers.

--[Aghast](#)

(To reply, click [here.](#))

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net election Tracking politics as it's practiced on the Web.

Buy This Vote!

The Web puts democracy on sale.

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Last Tuesday, an eBay user offered his vote to the highest bidder, and five

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copycat vote-sellers followed suit. Meanwhile, James Baumgartner, a graduate student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, had launched **Vote-auction.com**, an Internet marketplace for the wholesale purchase of votes. The model was simple: Recruit willing voters, auction them off in state blocs, double-check their absentee ballots for accuracy, and split the proceeds evenly. The schemes generated a lot of media attention and some sellers and buyers—the bidding on eBay reached \$10,100, and **Vote-auction** found 200 takers in a single day.

But it was all over inside a week. Baumgartner shut down **Vote-auction** after his academic adviser received a call from the state board of elections, and he sold the content and domain name to an Austrian company. eBay pulled all six auctions after a day.

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The problem is that vote-buying and -selling is clearly illegal. Every state prohibits a market in votes, and buying or selling votes in a federal election is a [federal crime](#) punishable by a \$10,000 fine and five years in jail. (So far, no Internet vote-sellers have been charged.) Though Baumgartner isn't testing it, he has suggested that he could mount a defense on the grounds that money equals speech, a reference to the landmark Supreme Court decision in [Buckley vs. Valeo](#), which struck down campaign spending limits and is anathema to campaign-finance reformers. In fact, a *Buckley* defense would fail. In 1982, the court ruled (in [Brown vs. Hartlage](#)) that buying, selling, or arranging to buy or sell votes is not constitutionally protected speech.

Baumgartner insists that votes have been for sale in America at least since 1757, when George Washington bought alcohol for every voter in his House of Burgesses district. But the reality of colonial corruption was rarely so simple. Voters were tied to each other through business and family connections, and a man was expected to vote for his patrons.

Flagrant vote-buying came into prominence with the expansion of the franchise and the rise of the political boss in the mid-1800s. Big-city machines routinely got out the vote by paying for it with cash on election morning. The practice was so common that cartoonist Thomas Nast started his career depicting it (click [here](#) for an example). On a deeper level, the machines unapologetically operated on the principle of giving favors for votes. Poor voters especially could count on food, coal, and patronage jobs as long as they voted with the boss.

By the late 1800s, reformers were sure the machines had corrupted



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democracy. They pushed for secret ballots and Australian ballots (as opposed to pre-marked party ballots) in part so that bosses could never be sure who voted for whom. Most political machines broke down by the 1920s, and yet a vote-buying scandal still crops up every few years. In 1996, for instance, 21 Georgians were indicted for selling their votes in a county election for \$50 apiece.

Some experts saw the abortive Internet vote auctions as old-style machine politics with a high-tech twist. The chairman of the [Voting Integrity Project](#), a conservative front group, called **Vote-auction** an "obscenity" and warned of a "bloodless coup." But few would disagree that the problem with money in politics today is the hundreds of millions of dollars at the top, not a few dollars at the bottom. Which is why the short-lived vote sale should be seen less as a serious act of sabotage and more as guerrilla theater.

One eBay seller confirmed that the auction of his vote was a "political prank." His original posting included the following description: "Why should the American citizen be left out? Congressmen and senators regularly sell their vote to the highest bidder. Democracy for sale!"

Baumgartner's intentions are harder to figure because he never recanted or even cracked a smile, but his sense of irony is undeniable. According to Baumgartner, the biggest spenders invariably win elections today, but they do it messily, with big advertising budgets and paid consultants. **Vote-auction**, he claimed, would bring market efficiency to the electoral process by "cutting out the middle man." **Vote-auction's** slogan? "Bringing Democracy and Capitalism Closer Together."

Ralph Nader's now-famous MasterCard parody makes the same point (click [here](#) to see the ad), as did the protesters outside the conventions when they offered delegates money for their credentials. Many campaign-finance reformers, including Sheila Krumholz of the [Center for Responsive Politics](#) and American University law professor Jamin Raskin, have said they appreciate the vote-selling sentiment, though they would deplore the practice.

John Bonifaz, the executive director of the [National Voting Rights Institute](#), said the vote auctions are indeed bribery, but so is "a lot of what goes on in the halls of Congress and in the White House." What Baumgartner and the eBay seller did is "only one or two steps removed from the existing campaign-finance system," Bonifaz said.

*Jeremy Derfner, a former **Slate** editorial assistant, is a graduate student in American history at Columbia University.*

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Lucky Janet Reno doesn't run eBay. It would take four years to decide whether or not selling votes is illegal.

--Dennis

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The article raised in my mind the following question: Would it not be appropriate to establish a vote-buy-back program similar to the gun-buy-backs promoted by the gun control crowd? Suppose one were to offer, oh, \$25 to any registered voter (in a selected city or neighborhood, of course) who *did not vote* at all in a particular election? Obviously, anyone offering to sell their right to vote for such a modest sum has no particular business voting and the sponsors of the buy-back are not asking anyone to vote for or against a particular candidate so what would be the problem? In the one case, people are bribed not to exercise their right to arms, in the other they are bribed not to exercise their right to vote.

--Jack Dupont

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I wonder if it would pass legal muster if the voter offered to sell merely his attention to some free speech by the politician, rather than his vote itself. This is the theory by which campaign contributions are not held to be bribery of the politician involved, in that there is supposedly no *quid pro quo* that the politician will change his vote to favor the contributor, so that the contributor is given nothing but access and a hearing in exchange for the money. Why can't a voter make the same claim, ie that "Of course I didn't vote for Smith because his campaign credited my account for that \$50. That money simply got me to scroll through their informative web site, where I found arguments so compelling I could not but vote for Smith. That auction I held to get to the figure of \$50? Well, my time is limited, I can't waste it scrolling through everyone's web sites. My time is certainly worth more than the \$10 the Vegetarian Party offered me."

--Glen Tomkins

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[A number of readers made similar points--"Politicians try to buy my vote, so why can't I sell it" and "While I will not sell my vote to anyone, if someone wants to lobby me, I'm having a dinner party at \$10,000 per plate." One poster tried to answer them:]

What politicians provide in return for campaign donations is access to their time. A politician's schedule is discretionary, not an inalienable right. There is no sale of access, but rather a predisposition to hear out those who help fund election success. Be careful condemning this predisposition, for it applies to small donors as well as large, and to citizen groups as well as fat cats. If a politician assures he/she will vote a certain way in return for a specified amount money, then that is graft. The legal point with graft is not the transfer of an inalienable right but rather a dereliction of duty, a willful failure to represent the citizenry. The worst disservice to democracy created by our current campaign finance system is the time it requires from politicians and staff that is diverted from attending to public business. A representative democracy will fail if it is not both deliberative and participatory. As things stand, there is little time available for negotiated synergy, and little incentive to pursue issues that don't return a high dollar value to campaign coffers.

--[Aghast](#)

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The Chicago Board of Elections plans to file a lawsuit against [Voteauction.com](#), saying the site promotes fraud.

By Ronna Abramson

Posted Friday, Oct. 13, 2000, at 9:00 PM PT



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Slate, the *Industry Standard*, and [washingtonpost.com](#) join forces to examine the effect of the Internet on Campaign 2000.

The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners is planning to file a lawsuit Monday against [Vote-auction.com](#), a Web site that enables people to put their presidential votes up for bid, after discovering that 1,131 Illinois residents were participating in that questionable practice.


The suit will request an injunction to shut down the Web site, which was launched by graduate student James Baumgartner in August 2000 in New York and then purchased by a group of European investors.

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"They're violating the law," says Thomas Leach, a spokesman with the election board. "The fact is that they're promoting vote fraud. It's a federal and state felony to buy or sell votes, or to offer to buy or sell votes."

Hans Bernhard, an Austrian who is one the site's new owners, said he has not yet received official notice from the Chicago agency and could not comment on the suit. But he maintains that the theory behind the site is no different than soft-money contributions raised by political parties.

Bernhard acknowledges that verifying votes remains a technical and legal problem. Baumgartner, who is working toward an MFA degree at Renssellaer Polytechnical Institute, had envisioned requiring participants to vote by absentee ballot, sending the ballot first to Vote-auction to verify that the correct candidate was checked off.

"This is clearly an offense," acknowledges Bernhard, addressing the question of whether the absentee-voter verification idea was illegal. Bernhard expects his team of 20 people to devise a solution within the next couple of weeks.

Chicago officials are particularly sensitive to this use of absentee ballots, Leach says. Complaints about absentee ballot tampering arose in the city's aldermanic elections in 1995 and prompted the elections board to regularly survey 5 percent of absentee votes to ensure there is no fraud, according to Leach.

The Chicago lawsuit is not the first legal run-in for Vote-auction. Baumgartner shut down the site in August after a New York City Board of Elections commissioner threatened a crackdown. Then Baumgartner sold the site to a group of four investors from Switzerland, Austria, and German, led by Bernhard, who reports owning a number of small dot-com ventures. The California secretary of state also has sent an e-mail and certified letter to Bernhard notifying him that Vote-auction is engaged in criminal activity.

The site says it has 15,128 people who have put their votes up for bid. The total bid price currently comes to \$170,600. California's votes appear to be the most valuable, selling for \$19.61 per vote. Votes from Louisiana are the least valuable, selling for \$3.57 each.



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After acquiring the site for an undisclosed price, Bernhard relaunched Vote-auction last month with new features, including a "voter empowerment kit." The kit lets users download a form letter asking candidates to pay them directly for their vote instead of spending money on advertising. "Since you are spending so much money on this year's election, why not give it straight to the voters instead?" the letter reads. "For a mere \$____, you can influence my vote directly and be assured of my support. I look forward to doing business with you," it closes.

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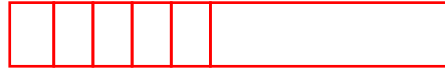
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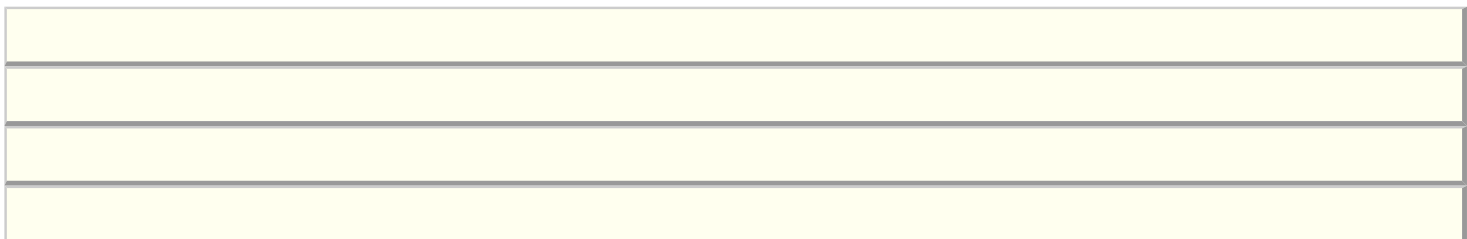
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It is unclear whether the votes being auctioned are legitimate. But with the balance of the presidential election hanging on a thin margin, the authorities aren't taking any chances.

"Could it affect the outcome of the elections? Yes," Leach said. "Should it? No."

Created by James Baumgartner, a graduate student in New York, and later sold to a group of investors in Austria, the Web site has U.S. election officials up in arms.


Authorities in New York, Illinois and California moved to shut down the site, with Chicago's election commission winning an injunction last week against Baumgartner, Austrian entrepreneur Hans Bernhard and three others, as well as Domain Bank, the registrar that provided the Internet address. As part of the court order, the judge specifically said [Voteauction.com](#) could not appear on the Net under a different name.

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"They're in defiance of a legitimate court order and in contempt of the American judicial system," Leach said of Bernhard and the others involved in [Vote-auction.com](#).

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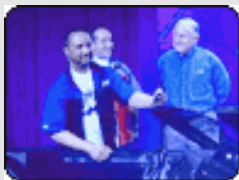
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A rogue Web site purporting to sell votes for the upcoming U.S. presidential election is back in operation after being shut down last week under a federal court order.

The Web site, formerly [Voteauction.com](#), reappeared on the Net over the weekend under a new address run from outside the United States and beyond the easy reach of election officials.

"The Web site may have started as a parody, but we don't think it's a joke," said Thomas Leach, spokesman for the Chicago Board of Elections, which last Wednesday won an injunction ordering the site taken down. "It's encouraging U.S. citizens to break the law."

The idea for the site, now [Vote-auction.com](#), is to capitalize on undecided voters who planned on sitting out the November presidential election. Uncommitted voters can sell their votes to the Web site. The votes are then auctioned to the highest bidder, who decides which presidential candidate gets them.

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Politech: Internic deletes vote-auction.com from domain database?

From: Declan McCullagh (declan_at_well.com)

Date: Nov 03 2000

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As a bit of an experiment, I created a discussion thread on cluebot.com for this topic. Instead of me collecting and forwarding responses by hand, I suggest politech subscribers post them at the below URL instead. It's faster and easier than me doing it manually, and perhaps more democratic.

The link:

<http://www.cluebot.com/article.pl?sid=00/11/03/1852255&mode=nested>

You can post anonymously or sign up to get an account:

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-Declan

<http://www.cluebot.com/article.pl?sid=00/11/03/1852255&mode=nested>

Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 15:45:39 +0100 (MET)

From: Iliya Nickelt-Czycykowski <iczycykowski_at_aip.de>

To: Declan McCullagh <declan_at_well.com>

Subject: vote-auction.com deleted from DNS

Dear Declan,

the conflict with vote-auction.com has reached a new level. Internic deleted its DNS entry on November 1st, after the domain was registered and hosted by an European registry service and was out of reach for US law. You can still reach it at <http://62.116.31.68/>, and you can read their press release there. A number of other domains (www.voteauction.at, www.voteauction.de, www.voteauction.cu, www.voteauction.ru, www.vote-auction.net, www.vote-auction.org) should be up soon. No matter what you think about it, whether you see it as a political satire or take it seriously (the makers don't), it is interesting to see that .com is obviously ruled by US law. Maybe .eu is a better idea than I originally thought.

Regards,

Iliya Nickelt

--

```
|               Iliya Nickelt               |
|   Astrophysikalisches Institut Potsdam   |
|   Telegrafenberg, 14473 Potsdam         |
|   Tel. +49 331-288 2308 (Fax 2310)     |
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Kurzweil: Rooting for the Machine
by Declan McCullagh (declan_at_wired.com)
1:35 p.m. Nov. 3, 2000 PST

BETHESDA, Maryland -- Raymond Kurzweil doesn't merely predict that machine intelligence will surpass human brains by the end of the century. He's eagerly anticipating it.

In a Kurzweillian future, the world would become a very strange place, where converging advances in nanotechnology, biotechnology and computer science combine to propel humanity to its next stage of evolution.

"By the end of this century, I don't think there will be a clear distinction between human and machine," Kurzweil told the Foresight Institute's Eighth Conference on Molecular Nanotechnology on Friday.

"We can expand the capacity of our brains by a factor of thousands or millions, and, by the end of the century, by trillions," predicts the inventor-turned-author of the Age of Intelligent Machines and the Age of Spiritual Machines.

Technology, of course, has been part of human existence since our Cro-Magnon ancestors picked up a stone and realized it could be more than part of the landscape.

But Kurzweil is talking about something a bit more ambitious. If he's right, exponential progress in science and engineering will allow us to merge with machines. We will become resistant to diseases, think faster, live better, and become transhuman in ways that would make even Superman green with envy.

If he's wrong, well, then we'll continue to have buggy software, faulty memories, and lifespans that fall far short of the lowly leopard tortoise.

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"True democracy is best defined as 'three wolves and a sheep voting on who's for dinner'."

--Anonymous

The Going Rate For A Presidential Vote? \$152 on eBay.

Fake News written by [Martha Throebeck](#) on **April 1, 2000**

from the pursuit-of-happiness dept.

PERRYVILLE, MO -- It might be illegal, but that isn't stopping Doug Bruewski from auctioning off his vote for the November general election. Doug has placed his vote up for sale on [eBay](#), the online auction site, with a minimum bid of \$100 and no reserve. Even though the auction only started two days ago, Doug has already received 10 bids up to \$152.

"I got the idea last week when a friend asked me who I planned to vote for," Doug explained. "I said that I hated both Bush and Gore and that I probably wouldn't vote. And then the idea hit me: If I wasn't going to use my right to vote, I could sell it to someone else and make enough money to pay off my bar tab. Heck, if lobbyists and interest groups can buy votes from Congressmen with campaign contributions, then why can't I sell my vote in exchange for beer contributions?"

If the auction is successful, Brueski hopes to sell other Constitutional rights. "I don't really need freedom of press. I wonder if anyone would want that. I'm agnostic, so I don't need that freedom of religion. My son doesn't like school, so maybe I could sell his right to a free public educashon. Oh, and I'd like to ditch my right to a trial by jury... I'm not a criminal, after all, and I never intend to be. The only right I can't part with is freedom of assembly because I, uh, like to go to bars."

Brueski might want to hold on to those rights because both the Federal and Missouri governments have launched an investigation of the auction. "This might not be as bad as that Senator who put himself up for sale on eBay last year, but it's still illegal," a Federal Election Commission bureaucrat said.

The political observers we talked to weren't sure about the legality of the auction, but they did seem to agree that Brueski's asking price was too high. One commented, "In previous Missouri elections, the average vote has only been worth maybe ten bucks. \$152 seems like a rip-off to me."

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freedom of assembly because I, uh, like to go to bars."

Brueski might want to hold on to those rights because both the Federal and Missouri governments have launched an investigation of the auction. "This might not be as bad as that Senator who put himself up for sale on eBay last year, but it's still illegal," a Federal Election Commission bureaucrat said.

The political observers we talked to weren't sure about the legality of the auction, but they did seem to agree that Brueski's asking price was too high. One commented, "In previous Missouri elections, the average vote has only been worth maybe ten bucks. \$152 seems like a rip-off to me."

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By [Kieren McCarthy](#)

Published Wednesday 1st November 2000 17:40 GMT

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By [Linda Harrison in New York](#)

Published Monday 23rd October 2000 20:37 GMT

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This, it states, would let prosecutors in Chicago individually sue users of vote-auction.com for "voter fraud".

Apparently any US citizen found guilty of selling or buying a vote can get thrown into jail for between one and three years.

The minimum bid on the site is \$100, with \$50 minimum increases. The price difference between States is vast, with California commanding the greatest value per vote of \$19.61, with \$2,546 votes registered for sale. In total the site claims to have more than 21,000 votes at its disposal. ®

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Web vote sale all about buzz

Effort aims to highlight flawed electoral system

BY SALLY DUROS

(September 18, 2000) Web site Voteauction.com started as a student project, sparred with the law and landed in the portfolio of an Austrian marketing company.

The attempt to create a marketplace to buy and sell votes of citizens willing to cast ballots for whomever pays them to do so fits into a broader pattern of activity that is particularly suited to the Internet: guerrilla marketing.

The purpose of guerrilla marketing isn't to sell something. It's simply to create a buzz.

And Internet marketers are becoming increasingly adept at the technique.

Ubermorgen.com in late August bought Voteauction.com after the latter ran afoul of U. S. election laws.

Voteauction.com's tag line sounds like a parody: "Bringing democracy and capitalism closer together."

At the close of business last Friday, 220 Illinois residents had posted their votes for sale and attracted total bids of \$5,300, or \$24.09 apiece, the sixth-best price in the nation, according to the Web site.

Voteauction.com may have hit an intuitive chord with a U.S. public that again threatens to sit out the election in record numbers, but it also hit a legal brick wall. It's against the law to sell your vote or to ask somebody to sell you their vote. The law is clear: Sell your vote and go to jail.

Douglas Kellner, a commissioner at the New York City board of elections, viewed the site as a "challenge to the integrity of the electoral system." The board brought pressure to bear, and Voteauction.com creator James Baumgartner, a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y., shut down the site and sold it to Ubermorgen.com.

"I started it as a viable business that could operate under election laws, and I think it makes a serious statement about our electoral system as well," Baumgartner said.

Now Voteauction.com belongs to a guerrilla marketing specialist. Ubermorgen.com offers shock/drama marketing concepts and consulting. The company is based in Vienna, Austria. Listed as a client and on the resume of Ubermorgen.com principal Hans Bernhard is the company called etoy. Etoy is the online artists collective that last year beat back a challenge to its domain name by eToys, the e-commerce toy store.

The etoy vs. eToys battle is regarded by some as the watershed clash between the Internet "community" and the Internet "industry." The community won after waging a one-month war during which etoy said "hundreds of well-informed people and media experts contested the aggressor on every level."

It also is a well-documented case of guerrilla marketing.

This kind of below-the-radar marketing is becoming a real issue, said Irv Rein, professor of communication science at Northwestern University in Evanston and co-author of the book *High Visibility*. "It used to be that creation of word of mouth came from the streets, but the new technology allows us to change our whole concept of word of mouth."

Now it is word of mouse.

Mindshare Internet Campaigns creates such efforts. In 1996, the firm staged the Black Page Protest against the Communications Decency Act. During the protest, thousands of Web sites (including Yahoo! and Netscape) went black, helping to galvanize the public against online content regulations.

"Voteauction.com is a wonderful parody," said Jonah Seiger, co-founder of mindshare. "It's an example of using the Internet to generate discussion and draw attention to an issue."

"These are age-old tactics that are influenced by the medium," Seiger said. "The tradition of media strategists has moved from handbills to television to the Internet."

If it is a parody, Voteauction.com offers a dangerous kind of satire because it asks the viewer to commit a crime by selling his or her vote.

"I think Congress needs to administer hearings on how the Internet can facilitate applications of this nature," said Deborah Phillips, chairwoman and president of the Voting Integrity Project, a nonpartisan group aiming to raise awareness of Internet voting issues. "They should be investigating this."

She may be right. Leaders at Ubermorgen.com said they think a worldwide market exists for the buying and selling of votes, even though the practice is illegal everywhere.

"We do believe that the trend of selling votes directly will continue to grow, and we will have a legalization within the next 20 to 30 years," Bernhard wrote in an e-mail.

"We see a very large market for this business. We want to cut out the middleman. We want to turn (business-to-business elections into business-to-consumer elections) from a financial point of view," he said. "Opportunities in the U.S., in Europe (especially Germany and the U.K.) and in Asia will guarantee us the return of investment and a large share in the (business-to-commerce) election market."

Sally Duros is a Chicago free-lance writer who can be reached at sally@sduros.com.

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BY SALLY DUROS

(September 18, 2000) Web site Voteauction.com started as a student project, sparred with the law and landed in the portfolio of an Austrian marketing company.

The attempt to create a marketplace to buy and sell votes of citizens willing to cast ballots for whomever pays them to do so fits into a broader pattern of activity that is particularly suited to the Internet: guerrilla marketing.

The purpose of guerrilla marketing isn't to sell something. It's simply to create a buzz.

And Internet marketers are becoming increasingly adept at the technique.

Ubermorgen.com in late August bought Voteauction.com after the latter ran afoul of U. S. election laws.

Voteauction.com's tag line sounds like a parody: "Bringing democracy and capitalism closer together."

At the close of business last Friday, 220 Illinois residents had posted their votes for sale and attracted total bids of \$5,300, or \$24.09 apiece, the sixth-best price in the nation, according to the Web site.

Voteauction.com may have hit an intuitive chord with a U.S. public that again threatens to sit out the election in record numbers, but it also hit a legal brick wall. It's

against the law to sell your vote or to ask somebody to sell you their vote. The law is clear: Sell your vote and go to jail.

Douglas Kellner, a commissioner at the New York City board of elections, viewed the site as a "challenge to the integrity of the electoral system." The board brought pressure to bear, and Voteauction.com creator James Baumgartner, a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y., shut down the site and sold it to Ubermorgen.com.

"I started it as a viable business that could operate under election laws, and I think it makes a serious statement about our electoral system as well," Baumgartner said.

Now Voteauction.com belongs to a guerrilla marketing specialist. Ubermorgen.com offers shock/drama marketing concepts and consulting. The company is based in Vienna, Austria. Listed as a client and on the resume of Ubermorgen.com principal Hans Bernhard is the company called etoy. Etoy is the online artists collective that last year beat back a challenge to its domain name by eToys, the e-commerce toy store.

The etoy vs. eToys battle is regarded by some as the watershed clash between the Internet "community" and the Internet "industry." The community won after waging a one-month war during which etoy said "hundreds of well-informed people and media experts contested the aggressor on every level."

It also is a well-documented case of guerrilla marketing.

This kind of below-the-radar marketing is becoming a real issue, said Irv Rein, professor of communication science at Northwestern University in Evanston and co-author of the book High Visibility. "It used to be that creation of word of mouth came from the streets, but the new technology allows us to change our whole concept of word of mouth."

Now it is word of mouse.

Mindshare Internet Campaigns creates such efforts. In 1996, the firm staged the Black Page Protest against the Communications Decency Act. During the protest, thousands of Web sites (including Yahoo! and Netscape) went black, helping to galvanize the public against online content regulations.

"Voteauction.com is a wonderful parody," said Jonah Seiger, co-founder of mindshare. "It's an example of using the Internet to generate discussion and draw attention to an issue."

"These are age-old tactics that are influenced by the medium," Seiger said. "The tradition of media strategists has moved from handbills to television to the Internet."

If it is a parody, Voteauction.com offers a dangerous kind of satire because it asks the viewer to commit a crime by selling his or her vote.

"I think Congress needs to administer hearings on how the Internet can facilitate applications of this nature," said Deborah Phillips, chairwoman and president of the Voting Integrity Project, a nonpartisan group aiming to raise awareness of Internet voting issues. "They should be investigating this."

She may be right. Leaders at Ubermorgen.com said they think a worldwide market exists for the buying and selling of votes, even though the practice is illegal everywhere.

"We do believe that the trend of selling votes directly will continue to grow, and we will have a legalization within the next 20 to 30 years," Bernhard wrote in an e-mail.

"We see a very large market for this business. We want to cut out the middleman. We want to turn (business-to-business elections into business-to-consumer elections) from a financial point of view," he said. "Opportunities in the U.S., in Europe (especially Germany and the U.K.) and in Asia will guarantee us the return of investment and a large share in the (business-to-commerce) election market."

Sally Duros is a Chicago free-lance writer who can be reached at sally@sduros.com.

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Regarding the Vote-auction.com site, Thomas Leach, spokesman for the Board of Elections, admitted that the site was a parody. He stated yesterday, "The Web site may have started as a parody, but we don't think it's a joke."

See Patricia Jacobus, "Vote auction site attempts to skirt shutdown order," CNET.com News, Oct. 23, 2000, available online at:

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The article further quotes Leach as saying, "[The vote-auction.com site is] encouraging U.S. citizens to break the law." That claim is highly debatable. However, even assuming, arguendo, that vote-auction.com were encouraging U.S. citizens to break the law (which claim I vigorously dispute), then the lawsuit would still violate the First Amendment.

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- Prev by Author: [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#)
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- Index(es):
 - [Author](#)
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[Top of Archive](#) | [Author Index \(this month\)](#) | [Thread Index \(this month\)](#)

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[\[Author Index \(this month\)\]](#) [\[Thread Index \(this month\)\]](#) [\[Top of Archive\]](#)

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- Next by thread: [Re: Further Thoughts About **Vote-auction.com**](#)
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 - [Author](#)
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Thread Index (Switch to [Author Index](#))

- [Significant recent court rulings on spam](#), *Edge, Ronald D*
- [RE: Spam](#), *Renaud OLGATI*
 - [Re: Spam](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Joint Ownership Of Copyright - Implications And Problems](#), *Ron Huttner*
 - [Re: Joint Ownership Of Copyright - Implications And Problems](#), *Ipickering*
 - [Re: Joint Ownership Of Copyright - Implications And Problems -Reply](#), *Ron Huttner*
- [Re: New poll: Spam](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Fwd: FW: Filter Flash: Valenti vs. Lessig, October 1](#), *Stanley M. Morris*
 - [Fwd: FW: Filter Flash: Valenti vs. Lessig, October 1](#), *Stanley M. Morris*
- [The new "E-Sign Act"](#), *Doug Isenberg*
 - [RE: The new "E-Sign Act"](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
- [The new E-sign Act](#), *milone*
- [Digital certificates](#), *James O'Connor*
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), *Gary Friedlander*
 - [RE: Digital certificates](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), *Eric Parker*
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), *Dot and Jim*
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), *Eric Parker*
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), *Dot and Jim*
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), *SImparl*
 - [FW: Digital certificates](#), *Todd Boyle*
- [Electronic lab notebooks](#), *margot*
- [Digital Signatures](#), *Marsha C. Thomas*
 - [Digital Signatures](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
- [E-Sign Act: good, bad, indifferent?](#), *Doug Isenberg*

[Doing Business on the Internet](#)

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[The Best \(And Worst\) Legal Sites On The Web](#)

- [RE: E-Sign Act: good, bad, indifferent?](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
- [Question: Views on different jurisdictions](#), *Roberto Coelho*
 - [RE: Question: Views on different jurisdictions](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: Question: Views on different jurisdictions](#), *Roberto Coelho*
- [Student Web site.](#), *Stanley M. Morris*
 - [Re: Student Web site.](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Student Web site.](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Student Web site.](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: Student Web site.](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Student Web site.](#), *Kevin Grierson*
- [Accounting terrorism. E-Sign Act: good, bad, indifferent?](#), *Todd Boyle*
- [1003099/00 \(NYS, Cyberlibel & other\) seeks Attorney \(was Re: Student Web site\)](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*
 - [CyberLibel Case Update](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*
- [CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Jonathan Bender*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Stanley M. Morris*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [RE: RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *JRobbins*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Ipickering*

- [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
- [RE: Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
- [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
- [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Dodi Schultz*
- [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*

- [Re: E-Sign Act](#), *milone*
 - [RE: Re: E-Sign Act](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: E-Sign Act](#), *Daniel Uhlfelder*
 - [Re: RE: E-Sign Act](#), *milone*
 - [Re: E-Sign Act](#), *milone*
 - [RE: Re: E-Sign Act](#), *Paul B. Nosek, Attorney at Law*
 - [Re: E-Sign Act](#), *RuthenianGuy*
 - [RE: E-Sign Act](#), *Johnson, Anna*
 - [Re: E-Sign Act](#), *RuthenianGuy*

- [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Jonathan Bender*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Jonathan Bender*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Doug Isenberg*

- [Re: Cyberdefamation, Cyberspread](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation, Cyberspread](#), *Michael Martinez*

- [Comparative State SPAM Laws](#), *Mark Milone*
 - [Re: Comparative State SPAM Laws](#), *Timothy Walton*

- [Telecom / Internet Noncompete Agreements](#), *David Bolduc*
- [Presidential election and the Internet](#), *Doug Isenberg*
 - [Presidential Election and the Internet](#), *David Bolduc*
 - [Re: Presidential election and the Internet](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [RE: Presidential election and the Internet](#), *Daniel Uhlfelder*
 - [RE: Presidential election and the Internet](#), *Robert F. Bodi*

- [Re: Presidential election and the Internet](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*
- [RE: Presidential election and the Internet](#), *RuthenianGuy*
- [Domain Hijacking Discovery Requests](#), *milone*
 - [Re: Domain Hijacking Discovery Requests](#), *Trinh Nguyen*
- [Presidential Choice](#), *Dennis S. Deutsch*
- [Le Spam - Vive La France !!](#), *Ron Huttner*
 - [RE: Le Spam - Vive La France !!](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [Re: Le Spam - Vive La France !!](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*
- [Defaced websites](#), *Kogan, Jay*
 - [Re: Defaced websites](#), *PattyOh105*
 - [Re: Defaced websites](#), *Leora Stacee-Chun*
 - [Re: Defaced websites](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Defaced websites](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [RE: Defaced websites](#), *Gina K. Anderson*
- [Teflon-coated Domain Registrars](#), *milone*
 - [RE: Teflon-coated Domain Registrars](#), *Washelesky, Angela*
 - [RE: Teflon-coated Domain Registrars](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: Teflon-coated Domain Registrars](#), *milone*
- [Digital Signature Software](#), *Daniel Uhlfelder*
 - [RE: Digital Signature Software](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
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- [Governmental Web Sites](#), *Dave Fish*
- [Where Bush and Gore Stand on Internet Issues](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *SImparl*
- [E-Sign Act and Contract Retention](#), *milone*
 - [Re: E-Sign Act and Contract Retention](#), *RuthenianGuy*
 - [RE: E-Sign Act and Contract Retention](#), *Ecker, Michael*

- [Pres. campaign/effect on e-commerce](#), Daniel Uhlfelder
- [where B and G stand on internet](#), John R. Palmer
- [Bush and Gore Explain Positions on Napster, Free Speech](#), Doug Isenberg
 - [Re: Bush and Gore Explain Positions on Napster, Free Speech](#), Doug Isenberg
- [New poll question: High-tech employment benefits](#), Doug Isenberg
 - [Re: New poll question: High-tech employment benefits](#), Chris Clark
 - [Re: New poll question: High-tech employment benefits](#), Seth Finkelstein
 - [RE: Re: New poll question: High-tech employment benefits](#), DigitaEye Designs
- [Help! Cyber Harassment Issue](#), Troy L. Springston
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), Doug Isenberg
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), Stanley M. Morris
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), SImparl
- [Cyber-harassment](#), Barbara W. Gall
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Chris Clark
 - [RE: Cyber-harassment](#), Felipe Jacobsen Junqueira
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Timothy Walton
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Michael Martinez
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Timothy Walton
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Michael Martinez
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Kevin Grierson
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Timothy Walton
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Robert F. Bodi
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), MGoldstein
 - [RE: Re: Cyber-harassment](#), DigitaEye Designs
 - [RE: Re: Cyber-harassment](#), DigitaEye Designs
 - [RE: Cyber-harassment](#), Johnson, Bruce
 - [RE: Cyber-harassment](#), Robert F. Bodi
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Jim Harper
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Michael Martinez
 - [RE: Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Michael Martinez
 - [RE: Cyber-harassment](#), Michael Martinez
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Timothy Walton
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), MGoldstein
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Kevin B. O'Brien
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Jim Harper
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Michael Martinez
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Michael Martinez
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Kevin Grierson
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), SImparl
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Michael Martinez
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Timothy Walton
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Kevin Grierson
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Robert F. Bodi
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), Michael Martinez

- [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Dr. L. D. Misek-Falkoff*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [ebXML tied to legal domain](#), *Todd Boyle*
- [No Subject](#), *Anonymous*
- [Re: Help! Cyber Harassment Issue](#), *MGoldstein*
- [CNN vs. cnnnews.com](#), *RuthenianGuy*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [RE: Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *jperl*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *StevePenico*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago](#)

- [Regarding Voteauction....](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *Stanley M. Morris*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *SImparl*
- [RE: Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *smmorris*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *SImparl*

- [This list's rules \(also: archives\)](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [RE: Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Amaguin, Roman F.*
 - [Re: Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*

- [Voteauction.com](#), *Dodi Schultz*
- [Voteauction.com back online! \(was Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of\)](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Voteauction.com back online! \(was Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of\)](#), *MGoldstein*
- [MP3.com legislation \(was Re: Voteauction.com back online!\)](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Re: Voteauction.com back online! \(was Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of\)](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Rogue-terrorist Web sites \(kind of\)](#), *StevePenico*
- [RE: Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regardin g Voteauction....](#), *Amaguin, Roman F.*
- [Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [RE: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Amaguin, Roman F.*
 - [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [RE: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*

- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *StevePenico*
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *StevePenico*
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Jim Harper*

- [RE: Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *Kevin Grierson*
- [Further Thoughts About Vote-auction.com](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Further Thoughts About Vote-auction.com](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Further Thoughts About Vote-auction.com](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Further Thoughts About Vote-auction.com](#), *SImparl*

- [Archives for GigaLaw.com Discussion List](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Myths about domain names and trademarks](#), *Doug Isenberg*
 - [RE: Myths about domain names and trademarks](#), *Nathaly J. Vermette*

- [Copyright and anonymous public news posts](#), *John Cole*
 - [Re: Copyright and anonymous public news posts](#), *Ivan Hoffman*

- [Are domain rights only for a limited period ?](#), *arabiankid*
 - [RE: Are domain rights only for a limited period ?](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [Re: Are domain rights only for a limited period ?](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Are domain rights only for a limited period ?](#), *Doug Isenberg*

- [Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Laura Rapacioli*
 - [RE: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Ivan Hoffman*
 - [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Laura Rapacioli*
 - [RE: Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Doug Isenberg*

- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Robert F. Bodi
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Doug Isenberg
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Doug Isenberg
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Timothy Walton
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Jonathan Bender
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Michael Martinez
- [RE: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), JRobbins
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Laura Rapacioli
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Timothy Walton
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Robert F. Bodi
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Jonathan Bender
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Michael Martinez
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Michael Martinez
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Doug Isenberg
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), SImparl
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Robert F. Bodi
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Doug Isenberg
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Robert F. Bodi
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Timothy Walton
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), William S. Lovell
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), MGoldstein
- [RE: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), MGoldstein
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), SImparl
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), SImparl

- [Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings\)](#), Timothy Walton
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Posti...](#), SImparl
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Posti...](#), Doug Isenberg
- [ECPA](#), McCormack, Joy
 - [Re: ECPA](#), astute1
 - [RE: ECPA](#), Amaguin, Roman F.
 - [Re: ECPA](#), Robert F. Bodi
 - [Re: ECPA](#), astute1
 - [Re: ECPA](#), William S. Lovell
 - [ECPA](#), Dodi Schultz
 - [Re: ECPA](#), Robert F. Bodi
 - [RE: ECPA](#), DigitaEye Designs
 - [Re: ECPA](#), Jim Harper

- [RE: ECPA](#), *McCormack, Joy*
- [RE: ECPA - Electronic Communications Privacy Act](#), *McCormack, Joy*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *John Cole*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Posti...](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Posti...](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Directors liable for security breaches?](#), *Johnson, Anna*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Robert Panzer*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Pos...](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Pos...](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Pos...](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Po...](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Po...](#), *Dr. L. D. Misek-Falkoff*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Po...](#), *SImparl*
- [Palm-site Privacy](#), *milone*
 - [RE: Palm-site Privacy](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: Palm-site Privacy](#), *milone*
 - [RE: RE: Palm-site Privacy](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Po...](#), *MGoldstein*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Po...](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Some minor suggestions](#), *William S. Lovell*
 - [Re: Some minor suggestions](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and](#)

[Bulletin Board Po..., Jonathan Bender](#)

- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post..., Kevin Grierson](#)

- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post..., Michael Martinez](#)

- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post..., Robert F. Bodi](#)

- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post..., Kevin Grierson](#)

- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post..., Kevin Grierson](#)

- [List moderation, Kevin Grierson](#)

- [Copyright in Correspondence., Barbara W. Gall](#)

- [RE: Copyright in Correspondence., Mike Persson](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., Robert F. Bodi](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., Jonathan Bender](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., SImparl](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., Jonathan Bender](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., Robert F. Bodi](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., Robert F. Bodi](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., Kevin Grierson](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., Jonathan Bender](#)

- [RE: Copyright in Correspondence., James O'Connor](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., Jonathan Bender](#)

- [RE: Copyright in Correspondence., Robert F. Bodi](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., SImparl](#)

- [RE: Copyright in Correspondence., Mike Persson](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., Stuart Kern](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., Kevin Grierson](#)

- [Re: Copyright in Correspondence., Jonathan Bender](#)

- [RE: Copyright in Correspondence., Robert F. Bodi](#)

- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post..., Robert F. Bodi](#)

- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post..., Kevin Grierson](#)

- [Re: problem with this forum, Robert Panzer](#)

- [Re: problem with this forum, Robert F. Bodi](#)

- [FTC Report on B2Bs, Daniel Uhlfelder](#)

- [List Rule Misstated, Chris Clark](#)

- [State law and software licenses \(was: Copyright in Correspondence\), Stuart Kern](#)

- [LAWS AGAINST HACKERS, Dave Fish](#)

- [RE: LAWS AGAINST HACKERS, Amaguin, Roman F.](#)

- [Re: LAWS AGAINST HACKERS, SImparl](#)

- [How \(and How NOT to\) Reply, Dodi Schultz](#)

- [UCITA, Daniel Uhlfelder](#)

- [RE: UCITA](#), *James S. Huggins (GigaLaw)*
 - [Re: UCITA](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [RE: UCITA](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: UCITA](#), *SImparl*
 - [RE: UCITA](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [RE: UCITA](#), *James S. Huggins (GigaLaw)*
 - [RE: UCITA](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [RE: RE: UCITA](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: RE: UCITA](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: UCITA](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [RE: UCITA](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: UCITA](#), *Jonathan Bender*
-
- [Esign vs. UCITA](#), *milone*
 - [Texas and linking to Internet Gambling sites](#), *CDitty*
 - [Re: Texas and linking to Internet Gambling sites](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Texas and linking to Internet Gambling sites](#), *milone*
 - [RE: Texas and linking to Internet Gambling sites](#), *Daniel Uhlfelder*
 - [Re: Texas and linking to Internet Gambling sites](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Napster and BMG settle](#), *Yedidya (Didi) M. Melchior*
 - [Re: RE: UCITA <= in re toast](#), *Dr. L. D. Misek-Falkoff*

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Discussion List Archive October 2000

Thread Index (Switch to [Author Index](#))

- [Significant recent court rulings on spam](#), Edge, Ronald D
- [RE: Spam](#), Renaud OLGATI
 - [Re: Spam](#), Timothy Walton
- [Joint Ownership Of Copyright - Implications And Problems](#), Ron Huttner
 - [Re: Joint Ownership Of Copyright - Implications And Problems](#), Ipickering
 - [Re: Joint Ownership Of Copyright - Implications And Problems -Reply](#), Ron Huttner
- [Re: New poll: Spam](#), Timothy Walton
- [Fwd: FW: Filter Flash: Valenti vs. Lessig, October 1](#), Stanley M. Morris
 - [Fwd: FW: Filter Flash: Valenti vs. Lessig, October 1](#), Stanley M. Morris
- [The new "E-Sign Act"](#), Doug Isenberg
 - [RE: The new "E-Sign Act"](#), DigitaEye Designs
- [The new E-sign Act](#), milone
- [Digital certificates](#), James O'Connor
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), Gary Friedlander
 - [RE: Digital certificates](#), DigitaEye Designs
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), Eric Parker
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), SImparl
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), Dot and Jim
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), Eric Parker
 - [Re: Digital certificates](#), Dot and Jim

[Where Bush and Gore Stand on Internet Issues](#)

[How Napster and MP3 Would Play Under Australian Law](#)



[Doing Business on the Internet](#)

[Internet and Online Law](#)

[Internet and Online Privacy: A Legal and Business Guide](#)

[Representing High Tech Companies](#)

[The Internet and Dispute Resolution: Untangling the Web](#)

[Computer Law: Drafting and Negotiating Forms and Agreements](#)

[The Best \(And Worst\) Legal Sites On The Web](#)

- [Re: Digital certificates](#), *MGoldstein*
- [Re: Digital certificates](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Digital certificates](#), *MGoldstein*
- [Re: Digital certificates](#), *SImparl*
- [FW: Digital certificates](#), *Todd Boyle*

- [Electronic lab notebooks](#), *margot*
- [Digital Signatures](#), *Marsha C. Thomas*
 - [Digital Signatures](#), *DigitaEye Designs*

- [E-Sign Act: good, bad, indifferent?](#), *Doug Isenberg*
 - [RE: E-Sign Act: good, bad, indifferent?](#), *DigitaEye Designs*

- [Question: Views on different jurisdictions](#), *Roberto Coelho*
 - [RE: Question: Views on different jurisdictions](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: Question: Views on different jurisdictions](#), *Roberto Coelho*

- [Student Web site.](#), *Stanley M. Morris*
 - [Re: Student Web site.](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Student Web site.](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Student Web site.](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: Student Web site.](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Student Web site.](#), *Kevin Grierson*

- [Accounting terrorism. E-Sign Act: good, bad, indifferent?](#), *Todd Boyle*
- [1003099/00 \(NYS, Cyberlibel & other\) seeks Attorney \(was Re: Student Web site\)](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*
 - [CyberLibel Case Update](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*

- [CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Jonathan Bender*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Stanley M. Morris*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [RE: RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael*

- Martinez*
- [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *JRobbins*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Ipickering*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [RE: Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [RE: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Dodi Schultz*
 - [Re: CyberDefamation \(was - Student Web site\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Re: E-Sign Act](#), *milone*
 - [RE: Re: E-Sign Act](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: E-Sign Act](#), *Daniel Uhlfelder*
 - [Re: RE: E-Sign Act](#), *milone*
 - [Re: E-Sign Act](#), *milone*
 - [RE: Re: E-Sign Act](#), *Paul B. Nosek, Attorney at Law*
 - [Re: E-Sign Act](#), *RuthenianGuy*
 - [RE: E-Sign Act](#), *Johnson, Anna*
 - [Re: E-Sign Act](#), *RuthenianGuy*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Jonathan Bender*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Jonathan Bender*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation](#), *Doug Isenberg*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation, Cyberspread](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*
 - [Re: Cyberdefamation, Cyberspread](#), *Michael Martinez*

- [Comparative State SPAM Laws](#), *Mark Milone*
 - [Re: Comparative State SPAM Laws](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Telecom / Internet Noncompete Agreements](#), *David Bolduc*
- [Presidential election and the Internet](#), *Doug Isenberg*
 - [Presidential Election and the Internet](#), *David Bolduc*
 - [Re: Presidential election and the Internet](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [RE: Presidential election and the Internet](#), *Daniel Uhlfelder*
 - [RE: Presidential election and the Internet](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Presidential election and the Internet](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*
 - [RE: Presidential election and the Internet](#), *RuthenianGuy*
- [Domain Hijacking Discovery Requests](#), *milone*
 - [Re: Domain Hijacking Discovery Requests](#), *Trinh Nguyen*
- [Presidential Choice](#), *Dennis S. Deutsch*
- [Le Spam - Vive La France !!](#), *Ron Huttner*
 - [RE: Le Spam - Vive La France !!](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [Re: Le Spam - Vive La France !!](#), *L Misek-Falkoff*
- [Defaced websites](#), *Kogan, Jay*
 - [Re: Defaced websites](#), *PattyOh105*
 - [Re: Defaced websites](#), *Leora Stacee-Chun*
 - [Re: Defaced websites](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Defaced websites](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [RE: Defaced websites](#), *Gina K. Anderson*
- [Teflon-coated Domain Registrars](#), *milone*
 - [RE: Teflon-coated Domain Registrars](#), *Washesky, Angela*
 - [RE: Teflon-coated Domain Registrars](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: Teflon-coated Domain Registrars](#), *milone*
- [Digital Signature Software](#), *Daniel Uhlfelder*
 - [RE: Digital Signature Software](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: Digital Signature Software](#), *Todd Boyle*
 - [RE: Digital Signature Software](#), *RuthenianGuy*
- [Governmental Web Sites](#), *Dave Fish*
- [Where Bush and Gore Stand on Internet Issues](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *MGoldstein*

- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *SImparl*
- [E-Sign Act and Contract Retention](#), *milone*
 - [Re: E-Sign Act and Contract Retention](#), *RuthenianGuy*
 - [RE: E-Sign Act and Contract Retention](#), *Ecker, Michael*
- [Pres. campaign/effect on e-commerce](#), *Daniel Uhlfelder*
- [where B and G stand on internet](#), *John R. Palmer*
- [Bush and Gore Explain Positions on Napster, Free Speech](#), *Doug Isenberg*
 - [Re: Bush and Gore Explain Positions on Napster, Free Speech](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [New poll question: High-tech employment benefits](#), *Doug Isenberg*
 - [Re: New poll question: High-tech employment benefits](#), *Chris Clark*
 - [Re: New poll question: High-tech employment benefits](#), *Seth Finkelstein*
 - [RE: Re: New poll question: High-tech employment benefits](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
- [Help! Cyber Harassment Issue](#), *Troy L. Springston*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction.com](#), *Stanley M. Morris*
- [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *SImparl*
- [Cyber-harassment](#), *Barbara W. Gall*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Chris Clark*
 - [RE: Cyber-harassment](#), *Felipe Jacobsen Junqueira*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [RE: Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: Cyber-harassment](#), *Johnson, Bruce*
 - [RE: Cyber-harassment](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Jim Harper*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [RE: Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [RE: Cyber-harassment](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Timothy Walton*

- [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Kevin B. O'Brien*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Jim Harper*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Cyber-harassment](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Dr. L. D. Misek-Falkoff*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [ebXML tied to legal domain](#), *Todd Boyle*
 - [No Subject](#), *Anonymous*
 - [Re: Help! Cyber Harassment Issue](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [CNN vs. cnnnews.com](#), *RuthenianGuy*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *MGoldstein*
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 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *Timothy Walton*
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 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *SImparl*
 - [RE: Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *smmorris*
 - [Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *SImparl*

- [This list's rules \(also: archives\)](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [RE: Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Amaguin, Roman F.*
 - [Re: Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Right to Anonymity \(was Re: Cyber-harassment\)](#), *Timothy Walton*

- [Voteauction.com](#), *Dodi Schultz*
- [Voteauction.com back online! \(was Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of\)](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Voteauction.com back online! \(was Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of\)](#), *MGoldstein*
- [MP3.com legislation \(was Re: Voteauction.com back online!\)](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Re: Voteauction.com back online! \(was Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of\)](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Rogue-terrorist Web sites \(kind of\)](#), *StevePenico*
- [RE: Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), *Amaguin, Roman F.*
- [Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [RE: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), *Amaguin, Roman F.*

- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), Timothy Walton
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), SImparl
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), Michael Martinez
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), Timothy Walton
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), Michael Martinez
- [RE: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), Robert F. Bodi
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), SImparl
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), Michael Martinez
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), Michael Martinez
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), Michael Martinez
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), StevePenico
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), StevePenico
- [Re: Right To Internet Access \(was Re: Anonymity\)](#), Jim Harper

- [RE: Re: Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding Voteauction....](#), Kevin Grierson
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 - [Re: Further Thoughts About **Vote-auction.com**](#), Robert F. Bodi
 - [Re: Further Thoughts About **Vote-auction.com**](#), SImparl
 - [Re: Further Thoughts About **Vote-auction.com**](#), SImparl

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 - [RE: Myths about domain names and trademarks](#), Nathaly J. Vermette

- [Copyright and anonymous public news posts](#), John Cole
 - [Re: Copyright and anonymous public news posts](#), Ivan Hoffman

- [Are domain rights only for a limited period ?](#), arabiankid
 - [RE: Are domain rights only for a limited period ?](#), DigitaEye Designs
 - [Re: Are domain rights only for a limited period ?](#), Robert F. Bodi
 - [Re: Are domain rights only for a limited period ?](#), Doug Isenberg

- [Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), Laura Rapacioli
 - [RE: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), DigitaEye Designs

- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Ivan Hoffman*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Laura Rapacioli*
- [RE: Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Timothy Walton*
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- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Michael Martinez*
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- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Laura Rapacioli*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Jonathan Bender*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Doug Isenberg*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *William S. Lovell*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *MGoldstein*
- [RE: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *MGoldstein*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings](#), *SImparl*

- [Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Postings\)](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Posti...](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Posti...](#), *Doug Isenberg*

- [ECPA](#), *McCormack, Joy*
 - [Re: ECPA](#), *astute1*
 - [RE: ECPA](#), *Amaguin, Roman F.*
 - [Re: ECPA](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: ECPA](#), *astute1*
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 - [ECPA](#), *Dodi Schultz*
 - [Re: ECPA](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [RE: ECPA](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [Re: ECPA](#), *Jim Harper*
 - [RE: ECPA](#), *McCormack, Joy*

- [RE: ECPA - Electronic Communications Privacy Act](#),
McCormack, Joy
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Doug Isenberg*
 - [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *John Cole*

- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Posti...](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Posti...](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Directors liable for security breaches?](#), *Johnson, Anna*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Timothy Walton*
 - [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Robert Panzer*

- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Pos...](#), *SImparl*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Pos...](#), *Timothy Walton*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Pos...](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Po...](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Po...](#), *Dr. L. D. Misek-Falkoff*
 - [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Po...](#), *SImparl*

- [Palm-site Privacy](#), *milone*
 - [RE: Palm-site Privacy](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: Palm-site Privacy](#), *milone*

- [RE: RE: Palm-site Privacy](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Po...](#), *MGoldstein*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Po...](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Some minor suggestions](#), *William S. Lovell*
 - [Re: Some minor suggestions](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Po...](#), *Jonathan Bender*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Kevin Grierson*
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 - [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Kevin Grierson*
- [List moderation](#), *Kevin Grierson*
- [Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Barbara W. Gall*
 - [RE: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Mike Persson*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Jonathan Bender*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *SImparl*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Jonathan Bender*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Jonathan Bender*
 - [RE: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *James O'Connor*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Jonathan Bender*
 - [RE: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *SImparl*
 - [RE: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Mike Persson*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Stuart Kern*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Jonathan Bender*
 - [RE: Copyright in Correspondence.](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [Re: Copyright of Correspondence \(Was Re: Trademarks and Bulletin Board Post...](#), *Kevin Grierson*
- [Re: problem with this forum](#), *Robert Panzer*
 - [Re: problem with this forum](#), *Robert F. Bodi*
- [FTC Report on B2Bs](#), *Daniel Uhlfelder*

- [List Rule Misstated](#), *Chris Clark*
- [State law and software licenses \(was: Copyright in Correspondence\)](#), *Stuart Kern*
- [LAWS AGAINST HACKERS](#), *Dave Fish*
 - [RE: LAWS AGAINST HACKERS](#), *Amaguin, Roman F.*
 - [RE: LAWS AGAINST HACKERS](#), *SImparl*
- [How \(and How NOT to\) Reply](#), *Dodi Schultz*
- [UCITA](#), *Daniel Uhlfelder*
 - [RE: UCITA](#), *James S. Huggins (GigaLaw)*
 - [Re: UCITA](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [RE: UCITA](#), *MGoldstein*
 - [Re: UCITA](#), *SImparl*
 - [RE: UCITA](#), *Kevin Grierson*
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 - [RE: UCITA](#), *MGoldstein*
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 - [RE: RE: UCITA](#), *DigitaEye Designs*
 - [RE: UCITA](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [RE: UCITA](#), *Kevin Grierson*
 - [Re: UCITA](#), *Jonathan Bender*
- [Esign vs. UCITA](#), *milone*
- [Texas and linking to Internet Gambling sites](#), *CDitty*
 - [Re: Texas and linking to Internet Gambling sites](#), *Michael Martinez*
 - [Re: Texas and linking to Internet Gambling sites](#), *milone*
 - [RE: Texas and linking to Internet Gambling sites](#), *Daniel Uhlfelder*
 - [Re: Texas and linking to Internet Gambling sites](#), *Michael Martinez*
- [Napster and BMG settle](#), *Yedidya (Didi) M. Melchior*
- [Re: RE: UCITA <= in re toast](#), *Dr. L. D. Misek-Falkoff*

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The Independent Voice of the Capital Region

Web site offering votes for sale draws concern

By **Steven Cook**
Gazette Reporter

August 19, 2000

TROY - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute graduate student James Baumgartner says he's doing a service to the country with his new Web site [Voteauction.com](#) by encouraging participation in elections.

But State Board of Elections executive director Tom Wilkey said Baumgartner's entrepreneurship is illegal. State and federal laws prohibit the sale of political votes, Wilkey said.

"If this is indeed not a joke and not an attempt to make a political point," Wilkey said Friday, "There are laws all over the country against this."

Voter watchdog groups say that if the site, which essentially allows people to put their votes up to the highest bidder, is allowed to continue it would "drive the final stake into the heart" of the U.S. electoral system.

"Most of these people think it doesn't matter who they vote for," said 26-year-old Overland Park, Kan.,-native Baumgartner of the more than 200 people who signed up Thursday at his site. For a few of them it will be their first time voting, which is great."

The site was launched Aug. 1, Baumgartner said, as a way of "connecting campaign contributors directly to voters."

Thursday's surge in seller enrollment came after popular computer magazine Wired posted a story on its Web site.

For now, the site only allows people to auction their presidential vote. But Baumgartner said he has plans to include other races, like the U.S. Senate or House.

The site works by having voters identify their state of voter registration. All the registered voters from a particular state are bundled and sold to the highest bidder.

The money is then distributed "democratically," Baumgartner said, to the voters, each getting an equal portion of the winning bid, Baumgartner said.

Once auctioned votes are confirmed, voters will be asked to send completed

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absentee ballots. The site would then forward them to the state's election officials.

Baumgartner said he wouldn't profit from the actual vote auction, but hopes to eventually have advertisers.

The auction, he said, is a natural extension of today's elections and the millions spent by lobbyists and corporations funding the candidates.

It's those interest groups and corporations that are the intended buyers, he said, though none have signed up.

"Corporations don't have the right to vote," Baumgartner said. "This vote auction gives them the right to vote."

"We're not advocating campaign finance reform," he said. "Campaign financing is essential to our company. Obviously, Voteauction.com wouldn't work if the system wasn't what it currently is."

Though more than 200 people have signed up to auction their votes and a small number have signed up to bid, no votes have been sold yet, Baumgartner said.

And the Board of Election's Wilkey strongly cautioned Baumgartner against going through with any sales.

Wilkey noted a recent case in Maryland where the state attorney general is investigating a user of the online auction site eBay for posting his vote for auction.

Wilkey said no complaints have been filed with the board yet, but any violations, which would be felonies, would be forwarded to the local district attorney.

Baumgartner's attorney, Paul Rapp, of Albany, likened Voteauction.com to that of embattled music site Napster. Napster, embroiled in a lawsuit brought by the entertainment industry, allows users to trade music online without the site taking part in the transaction.

"It appears to be up in the air," Rapp said. "James is not selling his own vote and he's not buying anybody's vote. He's merely acting as a place for people to meet to do that."

"It sort of fits seamlessly into the discussions about campaign financing and what that means," Rapp said.

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<p>Be welcome to our new polls-section!</p> <p>At the moment, we ask you the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. users: who do you think is better, Bush, Gore, or Nader? International Users: who do you think is better, Bush, Gore, or Nader? [V]ote-auction.com: legal or illegal? Would you rather go voting if you received money for it? 	<p>We have subject to diverse legal calamities during the last few weeks. We, however, feel the moral obligation to keep up our services to all our users....</p> <p>Read our very latest Press Releases:</p> <p>[V]ote-auction announces END-RESULTS, 07-11-2000</p> <p>[V]ote-auction victim to ILLEGAL DNS-SHUTDOWN, 02-11-2000</p> <p>[V]ote-auction.com back online, 22-10-2000</p>
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<u>Voteauction Message Board</u>	History & Updates
<p>Interact with other voteauction.com users and post your opinions about voteauction.com, vote-selling, campaign investing, and campaign finance.</p> <p>Take a closer look here.</p>	<p>[V]ote-auction.com is run by an Austrian Holding Company. In our aim to provide you with the best service possible, we have just updated our software.</p> <p>Everything is pretty automated now, so you can always see live figures for both bids and registered voters.</p> <p>To see live figures, and to join the game, click on the BID-CHECK button on the top right of the page</p> <p>To take a look at our history, take this link</p>

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Business

October 25, 2000

Vote-Auction: Capturing the B2C Market of the Election Industry

[Berlin, GERMANY] The operators of the vote-auction.com Web site, who sell votes for the American presidential election, have dedicated themselves to satirically "combining the American principles of democracy and capitalism." Last week the election site had to close by judicial order and it has since been hosted in Austria. But according to the Chicago Board of Elections, the Web site is still breaking the law even at its new address. "This offer is a wolf in sheep's clothing," says Tom Leach, a member of the board, "and it's in contempt of court." After the judicial order, the site operators removed the term "auction" from the site and now refer to a "donation for the political engagement of the voters." **de.internet.com** spoke with the Austrian vote sellers.

de.internet.com: Your satirical concept of auctioning off U.S. absentee votes to the highest bidder brought the U.S. Justice Department into the picture and your server had to be moved out of the country. Did you expect such a strong headwind?

vote-auction.com: Not to such an extent, no. But we're not naive, we didn't expect people not to react to it. What we find alarming are the extreme tactics. No one is talking to us and anyone who has the slightest thing to do with it is being taken to court.

de.internet.com: What kind of reactions have you received from those who use your site? How is business going?

vote-auction.com: The reactions are very polarizing as you might expect. There has been some hate mail from the USA and many many letters of support. The letters in which people ask how they can buy votes are also very interesting.

de.internet.com: Your offer seems to shake the very foundations of parliamentary democracy in the USA?

vote-auction.com: We're asking ourselves that question too. We simply say: we didn't invent the election industry, we just want to capture the B2C market. And there's a lot

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of money and a lot of power behind it.

de.internet.com: Thank you for the interview.



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Business

October 25, 2000

Vote-Auction: Capturing the B2C Market of the Election Industry

[Berlin, GERMANY] The operators of the [vote-auction.com](#) Web site, who sell votes for the American presidential election, have dedicated themselves to satirically "combining the American principles of democracy and capitalism." Last week the election site had to close by judicial order and it has since been hosted in Austria. But according to the Chicago Board of Elections, the Web site is still breaking the law even at its new address. "This offer is a wolf in sheep's clothing," says

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Tom Leach, a member of the board, "and it's in contempt of court." After the judicial order, the site operators removed the term "auction" from the site and now refer to a "donation for the political engagement of the voters." **de.internet.com** spoke with the Austrian vote sellers.

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de.internet.com: Your satirical concept of auctioning off U.S. absentee votes to the highest bidder brought the U.S. Justice Department into the picture and your server had to be moved out of the country. Did you expect such a strong headwind?

vote-auction.com: Not to such an extent, no. But we're not naove, we didn't expect people not to react to it. What we find alarming are the extreme tactics. No one is talking to us and anyone who has the slightest thing to do with it is being taken to court.

de.internet.com: What kind of reactions have you received from those who use your site? How is business going?

vote-auction.com: The reactions are very polarizing as you might expect. There has been some hate mail from the USA and many many letters of support. The letters in which people ask how they can buy votes are also very interesting.

de.internet.com: Your offer seems to shake the very foundations of parliamentary democracy in the USA?

vote-auction.com: We're asking ourselves that question too. We simply say: we didn't invent the election industry, we just want to capture the B2C market. And there's a lot of money and a lot of power behind it.

de.internet.com: Thank you for the interview.



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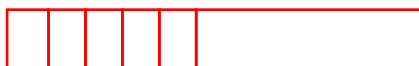
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November 5, 2000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOTEAUCTION SATIRE ILLEGALLY SQUELCHED, WILL RE-OPEN IN HUNDREDS OF PLACES

RTMark.com reveals its role, offers cash to the first person who can redirect the domain of a major candidate's website to 62.116.31.68

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 Vote-auction.com:

Werner Staub <secretariat@corenic.org>

Bill Jones: (916) 653-7244

ICANN: icann@icann.org

Andy Mueller-Maguhn: andy@ccc.de

Domain Bank: shemphill@domainbank.net

Network Solutions: cregan@netsol.com

RTMark: voteauction@rtmark.com

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Voteauction, the satirical website which bills itself as "the only election platform channelling 'soft money' directly to the democracy consumer," has fallen victim to a heavy-handed and sometimes illegal campaign against free speech by two corporations and several public officials.

On November 1, Network Solutions (the private for-profit corporation in charge of all .com, .net, and .org domains) shut down Vote-auction.com without warning or explanation, shortly after public attacks by the California Secretary of State, and after the Chicago Board of Elections filed an election fraud lawsuit against the domain. Neither the owners nor the service providers received any notification or warning of the

shutdown, and Network Solutions has refused to comment on the issue. (See rtmark.com/etoynsi.html for an earlier example of illegal and still unexplained acts by the company.)

California Secretary of State Bill Jones seems to have set the stage for this blatant disregard of Constitutional free speech protections by stating last week on CNN that corporate financing of elections is one subject that cannot be discussed: "whether this is a parody... makes absolutely no difference whatsoever in California... because you are talking about the corruption of the voting process." ([CNN](#))

RTMark sponsored Voteauction.com in June (project VOTE, listed at rtmark.com/featured.html#VOTE) precisely because the satirical site helps highlight the ways corporations already effectively purchase votes. As law professor Jamin Raskin said about Voteauction, "...we have now evolved a system in which it's OK for money to buy elections, and yet we somehow cling to the fantasy that there's something deeply immoral about the purchase of an individual vote." ([Wired News](#))

RTMark and many others believe that if U.S. authorities such as Bill Jones wish to purge the election process of corruption, they should start by preventing corporations from spending unlimited sums on electing particular candidates, not by stopping a satire that highlights the problem. As one commentator wrote, "few would disagree that the problem with money in politics today is the hundreds of millions of dollars at the top, not a few dollars at the bottom. Which is why the short-lived vote sale should be seen less as a serious act of sabotage and more as guerrilla theater." ([Slate](#))

Network Solutions' illegal deletion of the Vote-auction.com domain is just the latest blow in a series of actions that have closed the satirical website three times since it opened in August.

1: In August, Voteauction.com founder James Baumgartner, a graduate student, was told by New York State Board of Elections officials that they would press charges against him; they even implied that he could be guilty of treason, which is punishable by execution. Baumgartner, faced with what amounted to an official state-sponsored death threat, had little choice but to close the site on August 18, at which point RTMark helped transfer the domain to its current Austrian owner, [Hans Bernhard](#), who

immediately re-opened Voteauction.com with new features.

2. On October 21, Domain Bank, the U.S. company with which Voteauction.com had been registered, illegally froze the domain. Bernhard responded by registering Vote-auction.com (with an added hyphen) with a company located outside U.S. jurisdiction.

3: On November 1, to circumvent this approach, Network Solutions, without warning and in clear violation of international law, removed Vote-auction.com from its root servers (the computers that provide domain information to all others). It is unknown who requested this action, and under what authority Network Solutions feels justified in performing it. Andy Mueller-Maguhn, a newly-elected director of ICANN, the non-profit corporation responsible for all internet domains, agreed this was an illegal move and said "I guess we will have to do something about this."

In response to Network Solution's attack, the Voteauction team has begun gathering Vote-auction and Voteauction domains around the world and is calling on other domain owners to point their domains or sub-domains to 62.116.31.68, the Voteauction IP (IP addresses are not dependent on domain name registrars or on Internic). If you have a domain or sub-domain that you can point to 62.116.31.68, please do so and forward the information to pr@[62.116.31.68] to be added to a list of supporters.

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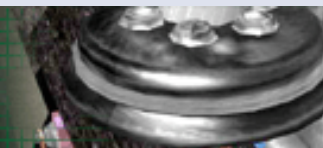
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Vote auction site hard to kill

The Washington Post

Monday, October 9, 2000

Did you think that [href="Voteauction.com" target=_blank>Voteauction.com](#), the seemingly parodic Web site created to aggregate and sell votes to the highest bidder, was dead and gone? Well, it's not.

The site's creator, New York college student James Baumgartner, sold the site to Austrian businessman Hans Bernhard, who resurrected it. Now the city of Chicago, particularly sensitive to charges of electoral corruption, has sent letters to state and federal attorneys asking them to force the site to stop operating in the state.

There are 521 Illinois residents signed up on the site, and their votes are being offered for \$8,500.

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FEATURES

Dose of danger

Ryan



Smith remembers the night, during his junior year of high school, when a friend gave him his first Vicodin. "It felt so incredible. I remember thinking, 'I am going to do this for the rest of my life,'" he says. Over the next year, Smith, now 22, and his friends moved on to other pills -- Xanax, Valium, OxyContin and the attention deficit disorder medication Adderall, called "kiddie cocaine" for its ability to be crushed and snorted. ...

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ON THE STREET

Should congress raise the federal minimum wage from \$5.15?

"Absolutely. Who could possibly afford to live at \$5.15 an hour? I think



\$6.50 would probably be better. It gives people an incentive to work hard and improves the quality of the work."

— **David Lloyd, Kansas University law student, Lincoln, Neb.**

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A stand-up fella

Bob Newhart isn't the type of



comedian who needs to wear a plastic arrow through his head, speak in a goofy voice or bash watermelons with a sledgehammer to gain attention. No, with the exception of employing his signature telephone, Newhart is among the most reserved, low-maintenance comics to grace the stage. ...

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ON THE STREET

Do you plan to vote in the April 5 election?

"Yes. I plan to vote for the City Commission, state

constitutional amendment and school finance. Those seem to be the hot-button topics right now."

— **Denise Spidle, Kansas University senior, Lawrence**

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- *To:* debate@fitug.de
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- *From:* kris@koehntopp.de (Kristian Koehntopp)
- *Date:* 6 Nov 2000 05:56:34 -0000
- *>Received:* from valiant.koehntopp.de ([195.244.233.52])by white.koehntopp.de (8.10.2/8.10.2/SuSE Linux 8.10.0-0.3) with SMTP id eA65wXu24847for <debate@fitug.de>; Mon, 6 Nov 2000 06:58:33 +0100
- *Comment:* This message comes from the debate mailing list.
- *Newsgroups:* schulung.lists.fitug-debate
- *References:* <200011051714.SAA02031@post.webmailer.de> <3A05FEF7.A1FFC967@merz-akademie.de>
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In schulung.lists.fitug-debate you write:
>nur bei einem "normalen" Nameserver kommt "can't find
>www.vote-auction.com: Non-existent host/domain" heraus.

Ist der Glue-Record da? Ich nehme an, der uebergeordnete DNS-Server hat einfach den Glue gedroppt und damit steht die Domain alleine da.

Kristian

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 - *From:* Alvar Freude <alvar.freude@merz-akademie.de>

- **References:**

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Re: **Vote-Auction** vom wem gesperrt? // Re: Corporate vote-buying OK, satire not OK (fwd)

- *To:* debate@fitug.de
- *Subject:* Re: **Vote-Auction** vom wem gesperrt? // Re: Corporate vote-buying OK, satire not OK (fwd)
- *From:* kris@koehntopp.de (Kristian Koehntopp)
- *Date:* 6 Nov 2000 05:56:34 -0000
- *>Received:* from valiant.koehntopp.de ([195.244.233.52])by white.koehntopp.de (8.10.2/8.10.2/SuSE Linux 8.10.0-0.3) with SMTP id eA65wXu24847for <debate@fitug.de>; Mon, 6 Nov 2000 06:58:33 +0100
- *Comment:* This message comes from the debate mailing list.
- *Newsgroups:* schulung.lists.fitug-debate
- *References:* <200011051714.SAA02031@post.webmailer.de> <3A05FEF7.A1FFC967@merz-akademie.de>
- *Sender:* owner-debate@fitug.de

In schulung.lists.fitug-debate you write:

```
>nur bei einem "normalen" Nameserver kommt "can't find  
>www.vote-auction.com: Non-existent host/domain" heraus.
```

Ist der Glue-Record da? Ich nehme an, der uebergeordnete DNS-Server hat einfach den Glue gedroppt und damit steht die Domain alleine da.

Kristian

- **Follow-Ups:**

- [Re: **Vote-Auction** vom wem gesperrt? // Re: Corporate vote-buying OK, satire not OK \(fwd\)](#)
 - *From:* Alvar Freude <alvar.freude@merz-akademie.de>

- **References:**

- [Re: Corporate vote-buying OK, satire not OK \(fwd\)](#)
 - *From:* Alexander Svensson <alexander@svensson.de>
- [Vote-Auction vom wem gesperrt? // Re: Corporate vote-buying OK, satire not OK \(fwd\)](#)
 - *From:* Alvar Freude <alvar.freude@merz-akademie.de>

- Prev by Date: [MAKE MONEY ONLINE!!](#)

- Next by Date: [Re: Big Brother Award: Apache und der Telepolis-Artikel](#)

- Prev by thread: [Vote-Auction vom wem gesperrt? // Re: Corporate vote-buying OK, satire not OK \(fwd\)](#)

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[FYI] "Die Abschaltung von Vote-auction.com zeigt, wie das Web bequem zensiert werden kann."

- *To:* debate@fitug.de
 - *Subject:* [FYI] "Die Abschaltung von Vote-auction.com zeigt, wie das Web bequem zensiert werden kann."
 - *From:* "Axel H Horns" <horns@ipjur.com>
 - *Date:* Mon, 6 Nov 2000 18:20:29 +0100
 - *Comment:* This message comes from the debate mailing list.
 - *Organization:* NONE
 - *Sender:* owner-debate@fitug.de
-

<http://www.heise.de/tp/deutsch/inhalt/te/4200/1.html>

----- CUT -----

Email aus USA

Armin Medosch 06.11.2000

Die Abschaltung von Vote-auction.com zeigt, wie das Web bequem zensiert werden kann. Mit dem Zugriff auf das DNS wird amerikanische Rechtsauffassung unmittelbar, automatisch und weltweit gültig

Die Abschaltung, bzw. Suspendierung des Domainnamens Vote-auction.com

macht die rechtliche Unsicherheit schmerzlich bewusst, der europäische und andere nicht-amerikanische Inhaber von Domainnamen innerhalb der Top Level Domains .com, .org und .net ausgesetzt sind. Scheinbar genügte schon eine Email an Corenic, um Vote-auction.com aus dem Rennen zu werfen.

Es geht eigentlich gar nicht darum, was Vote-auction.com tut oder welchen Vergehens sie beschuldigt werden. Die Kernfrage ist die, ob sich mittels des Domain Name Systems amerikanische Rechtssprechung

automatisch und unmittelbar über den gesamten Globus ausdehnt. Laut Sprechern von Vote-auction.com genügte eine Email aus USA, um die in der Schweizer ansässige Organisation Corenic zu veranlassen, den Domainnamen Vote-auction.com zu suspendieren. Wer oder was ist aber Corenic und wie können sie glauben, rechtmäßig gehandelt zu haben? Der ICANN-Beobachter Ted Byfield sprach in seinem fortlaufendem Bericht The roving_reporter bereits von der ISOC-CORE-gTLD-MoU-ICANN-

Hydra. Wir erinnern uns, eine Hydra ist in der griechischen Sagenwelt ein vielköpfiges Monster.

[...]

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[FYI] "the disconnection of Vote auction.com shows, like the Web to be comfortably censored can."

- *Ton* : debate@fitug.de
 - *Subject* : [FYI] "the disconnection of Vote auction.com shows, like the Web to be comfortably censored can."
 - *From* : "Axel H of horn" <horns@ipjur.com >
 - *DATE* : Mon, 6 November 2000 18:20:29 +0100
 - *COMMENT* : This message comes from the debate mailing cunning.
 - *Organization* : NONE
 - *Transmitter* : owner debate@fitug.de
-

<http://www.heise.de/tp/deutsch/inhalt/te/4200/1.html>

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email from the USA Armin Medosch 06,11,2000 the disconnection of Vote auction.com shows, how the Web can be censored comfortably. With the access to the DNS American legal concept becomes directly valid, automatically and world-wide the disconnection, and/or suspending of the Domainnamens Vote auction.com makes the legal uncertainty painfully conscious, the European and other non-American owner of Domainnamen within the Top level Domains com, org and net is suspended. Apparently email at core NIC was already sufficient, in order to throw Vote auction.com from running. It does not concern actually at all, what does Vote auction.com or which they are accused of of passing. The central issue is those whether by means of the Domain Name of system American iurisdiction expands automatically and directly over the entire globe. According to speakers of Vote auction.com email from the USA was sufficient, in order to arrange into Swiss residents organization core NIC to suspend the Domainnamen Vote auction.com. Who or which however core NIC is and as can it believe to have rightfully acted? The ICANN observer Ted Byfield spoke in its sequential report The more roving_reporter already of the ISOC CORE gTLD MoU ICANN Hydra. We remember, a Hydra are in the Greek legend world a

vielkoepfiges monster. [...] ----- CUT

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- *To:* debate@fitug.de
- *Subject:* [FYI] "Die Abschaltung von **Vote-auction.com** zeigt, wie das Web bequem zensiert werden kann."
- *From:* "Axel H Horns" <horns@ipjur.com>
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- *Sender:* owner-debate@fitug.de

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Die Abschaltung, bzw. Suspendierung des Domainnamens **Vote-auction**.com

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[...]

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... Re: **Vote-Auction** vom wem gesperrt? // Re ... fwd). To: Kristian Koehntopp <kris@koehntopp.de>; Subject: Re: **Vote-Auction** vom wem gesperrt? ...
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[\[Fwd: \[V\]ote-auction announces END-RESULTS :: PRESS-RELEASE\]](#)
... CET Below is the latest press release by [V]ote-auction: http://62.116.31.68
http://www.voteauction.de / realname: voteauction [formerly **Vote-auction.com** and ...
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... On November 1, Network Solutions (the private for-profit corporation in >charge of all .com, .net, and .org domains) shut down **Vote-auction.com** >without ...
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... schrieb: > Es sieht derzeit so aus, als wenn nicht Internic (gibt's > gar nicht mehr) oder Network Solutions die Lichter bei **Vote- > Auction** ausgeknipst haben ...
www.fitug.de/debate/0011/msg00211.html - 5k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

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... On November 1, Network Solutions (the private for-profit corporation in >> charge of all .com, .net, and .org domains) shut down **Vote-auction.com** >> without ...
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... But the American Civil Liberties Union said it would fight to keep **vote-auction.com** on the Internet, saying the Web site was constitutionally protected under ...
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... and more as guerrilla theater." (slate.msn.com/netelection/entries/00-08-23_88646.asp) Network Solutions' illegal deletion of the **Vote-auction.com** domain is ...
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... Re: [FYI] Neues zu RPS: From: "Neko (Simone Demmel)" <neko@greenie.muc.de>. **Vote-Auction** vom wem gesperrt? ... Re: **Vote-Auction** vom wem gesperrt? ...
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- Cyberdissidents vietnamiens en appel
- Plus de CO2 = moins d'eau potable

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 - Le fichage des passagers aériens
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Les réserves de pétrole sont dangereusement surévaluées, dénonce un groupe d'experts

jeudi 27/11 SOCIÉTÉ
La Cnil met les "étiquettes intelligentes" sur sa liste noire

mercredi 26/11 CULTURE
"The Meatrix", un modèle de dessin animé militant, hilarant et viral

mardi 25/11 ÉCONOMIE

Société

23/10/2000 • 16h18

Voteauction.com n'est plus. Vive vote-auction.com

Le site qui prétend vendre des voix d'électeurs aux enchères a été contraint de fermer sous la pression de la justice américaine. Il réapparaît avec une adresse à peine différente : vote-auction.com. Pour son fondateur, voteauction n'est qu'un "canular".

Voteauction.com n'existe plus. Le site sur lequel les électeurs américains sont censés pouvoir vendre leurs voix au plus offrant n'est plus en ligne. Son propriétaire actuel, Hans Bernhard, un homme d'affaires autrichien, s'est plié à une injonction rendue par un tribunal de Chicago (Illinois) le 18 octobre dernier, ordonnant la fermeture du site d'enchères qui se définit comme le "leader de l'industrie du vote".

Pressions financières

Le jour même du jugement, Bernhard Hans, déposait un nouveau nom de domaine, vote-auction.com. Ce second site est désormais en ligne, mais son contenu est sensiblement édulcoré par rapport à la mouture précédente. Vote-auction.com ne parle plus d'enchères mais de "donations" au profit des électeurs. Le tableau offrant un compte-rendu du nombre de personnes inscrites et du montant des enchères état par état a disparu. Chez Voteauction, on explique qu'il ne s'agit que d'un problème technique, et que le tableau sera à nouveau en ligne "dans quelques jours". Si Bernhard a obéi à la décision de la justice américaine, alors que ses bureaux se situent à Vienne, très loin de l'Illinois, c'est qu'il n'avait pas les moyens financiers de s'offrir un procès. Hans Bernhard raconte que domainbank.com, la société d'enregistrement de noms de domaines où avait été acheté l'URL voteauction.com, lui a demandé 100 000 dollars de participation aux frais judiciaires (Domainbank est également poursuivi par le tribunal de Chicago). Plutôt que de payer, Bernhard a préféré faire appel à un nouveau fournisseur, Silver Server.

Bidonnage complet ?

Voteauction.com a été créé au début du mois d'août dernier par un jeune Américain, James Baumgartner. Cet étudiant de l'Etat de New York a toujours défendu le sérieux de son site, même après qu'il l'eut cédé à Hans Bernhard. Son discours a changé : "Je n'ai jamais eu l'intention de vendre la moindre voix", jure-t-il aujourd'hui. Est-ce parce que la Justice a entamé des poursuites qu'il tempère son propos ? "Pas du tout. Ni moi, ni Hans Bernhard n'avons jamais eu autre chose en tête que de créer une satire du système électoral américain", assure-t-il. Baumgartner explique que les chiffres publiés sur l'ancien site étaient "gonflés". "Il n'y a jamais eu plus de 3000 personnes inscrites pour vendre leurs

Dans la même rubrique

- 28/11/2003 • 18h33
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La Grèce bannit la biométrie de ses aéroports à un an des Jeux olympiques

Dossier RFID
Les étiquettes "intelligentes"

Dernières infos

- 28/11/2003 • 19h29
Quand le déclin de la production pétrole mondiale va-t-il débiter ?
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- 26/11/2003 • 19h06
"The Meatrix", un modèle de dessin animé militant, hilarant et viral
- 26/11/2003 • 18h47
Pour les Etats-Unis, les essais nucléaires ne sont pas encore de l'histoire ancienne

Les hébergeurs indépendants ne sont toujours pas responsables, pour l'instant

voix", déclare-t-il ainsi dans [un article](#) publié par Wired le 21 octobre. Le site en revendiquait plus de 22 000. Mieux : selon Baumgartner, aucun contributeur n'a jamais pris part aux enchères. Une affirmation que ne confirme pas l'actuelle direction de Vote-auction : "*James ne participe plus à Voteauction depuis plus de deux mois. Je ne peux en dire plus sans lui faire courir des risques judiciaires*", déclare un proche collaborateur de Bernhard. Ambiance... Vote-auction est censé avoir recueilli quelque deux millions de dollars de promesses d'enchères depuis le mois d'août.

Matthieu Auzanneau

Vote-auction.com
<http://www.vote-auction.com>

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To remember
Lapse of memory of the password

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Transfer deciphered the topicality of new technologies, proposed a wire information daily newspaper and a series of tools of day before. Our agency, refusing any publicity, depended on its subscriptions.

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QUANTIFY DAY

700 000

genetic trackings each year in Europe, according to the European Commission (...)

REVIEW OF WEB

- Badgered Lindows
- Cyberdissidents
- Vietnamese in call
- More CO2 = less drinking water

DAY PHRASES

"This public utility that we ensure needs your support for perdurer"

The association Inf' OGM, which justifies the end of the exemption from payment of its news bulletin (...)

File

Nuclear power put at the secrecy

Recent files

- Racism on line: the business S.O.S-rabble
- The pointing of the air passengers
- The battle of the software patents
- The energy dead end
- Hydrogen, an energy (almost) clean

[All files](#)

Ones of the week

Monday 1er/12 TRANSFERT.NET
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Friday 28/11 ECONOMY
The crude oil reserves are dangerously overestimated, denounces a group of experts

Thursday 27/11 COMPANY
Cnil puts les"étiquettes intelligent "on its black list

Wednesday 26/11 CULTURE
"The Meatrix", a model of drawing animated militant, laughing and viral

Tuesday 25/11 ECONOMY

Company

23/10/2000 • 16h18

Voteauction.com is not any more. Live vote-auction.com

The site which claims to sell voices of voters with the biddings was constrained to close under the pressure of American justice. It reappears with a hardly different address: vote-auction.com. For its founder, [voteauction](http://voteauction.com) is only one "hoax".

Voteauction.com does not exist any more. The site on which the American voters are supposed capacity to sell their voices with highest offerer is not any more on line. Its current owner, Hans Bernhard, an Austrian businessman, yielded with an injunction returned by a court of Chicago (Illinois) on last 18 October, ordering the closing of the site of bidding which is defined as the " *leader of the industry of the vote* ".

Financial pressures

The very same day judgement, Bernhard Hans, deposited a new domain name, vote-auction.com. This second site is from now on on line, but its contents are appreciably edulcorated compared to preceding grinding. Vote-auction.com does not speak any more a bidding but of " *donations* " to the profit about the voters. The table offering a report of the number of registered people and amount of the biddings state by state disappeared. At Voteauction, one explains that it is only about one technical problem, and that the table will be again on line " *in a few days* ". If Bernhard obeyed the decision of the American court, whereas its offices are located in Vienna, very far from Illinois, it is that it did not have financial means to offer a lawsuit. Hans Bernhard tells that domainbank.com, the company of recording of domain names where the URL voteauction.com had been bought, asked for 100 000 dollars of share in the expenses to him legal (Domainbank is also continued by the court of Chicago). Rather than to pay, Bernhard preferred to call upon a new supplier, Silver Server.

Complete Bidonnage?

Voteauction.com was created at the beginning of last August by a young American, James Baumgartner. This student of... the tat of New York always defended the serious one of his site, even after it had yielded it to Hans Bernhard. Its speech changed: " *I never intended to sell the least voice* ", swears it today. Is this because Justice started continuations which it moderates its matter? " *At all. Neither me, nor Hans Bernhard never had another thing at the head to create a satire of the American electoral system* ", it ensures. Baumgartner explains why the figures published on the old site " *were inflated* ". " *There never was more than 3000 people registered to sell their voices* ", declares

In the same heading

- 28/11/2003 • 18h33
Criirad carries felt sorry for against Cogema to have diffused infos on the nuclear waste
- 27/11/2003 • 17h14
Cnil puts les"étiquettes intelligent "on its black list
- 26/11/2003 • 18h54
An associative observatory to fight against the inequalities
- 24/11/2003 • 22h09
EDF refuses to study the resistance of the EPR to an attack of the 11-September type
- 24/11/2003 • 18h36
Greece banishes the biometrics of its airports at one year of the Olympic Games

File RFID "intelligent" labels

Last infos

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When the decline of the world oil production will begin?
- 28/11/2003 • 19h19
The crude oil reserves are dangerously overestimated, denounces a group of experts
- 27/11/2003 • 19h01
A treaty onusien wants to oblige the belligerents to clean the "explosive residues of war"
- 26/11/2003 • 19h06
"The Meatrix", a model of drawing animated militant, laughing and viral
- 26/11/2003 • 18h47
For the United States, the nuclear tests are not yet of the old history
- 25/11/2003 • 19h13

The independent shelterers are still not responsible, for the moment

it thus in [an article](#) published by Wired on October 21. The site asserted some more than 22 000. Better: according to Baumgartner, no contributor never took share with the biddings. An assertion that the current direction of Vote-auction does not confirm: "*James has not taken part any more in Voteauction for more than two months. I cannot say some more without him to make run legal risks*", declares a close relation collaborator of Bernhard. Environment... Vote-auction is supposed to have collected some two million dollars of promises of bidding since August.

Matthieu Auzanneau

Vote-auction.com
<http://www.vote-auction.com>

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An antiracist prosecuted for anti-semitism

21/11/2003 • 18h48

The Jonctions festival confronts art, technologies and ethics

20/11/2003 • 19h28

A civil servant cannot use his professional transport with fine chocolate éclairs

20/11/2003 • 19h00

Technologies of automated monitoring hold show in Milipol 2003

20/11/2003 • 18h22

Free Zouhair Yahyaoui, the Tunisian cyberdissidents remain badgered by the mode

20/11/2003 • 16h29

The parodic site Send Them Back militates for the reference of all the "stolen" mp3 with the RIAA

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Nouvel Obs, Le Nouvel Observateur, quotidien d'information francophone, french daily

news, Journal d'information en continu diffusé sur le Web. A côté de l'information ...
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Sam-mag, magazine on line, l'actualité sur le référencement professionnel, le
positionnement, la promotion, la popularité des sites internet.

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Oubli du mot de passe

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CHIFFRE DU JOUR

700 000
dépiages génétiques chaque année en Europe, selon la Commission européenne (...)

REVUE DE WEB

- Lindows harcelé
- Cyberdissidents vietnamiens en appel
- Plus de CO2 = moins d'eau potable

PHRASE DU JOUR

"Ce service public que nous assurons a besoin de votre soutien pour perdurer"
L'association Inf'OGM, qui justifie la fin de la gratuité de son bulletin d'information (...)

Dossier
Le nucléaire mis au secret

Dossiers récents

- Racisme en ligne : l'affaire Sos-racaille
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Unes de la semaine

- lundi 1er/12 TRANSFERT. NET
Transfert s'arrête... encore !
- vendredi 28/11 ÉCONOMIE
Les réserves de pétrole sont dangereusement surévaluées, dénonce un groupe d'experts
- jeudi 27/11 SOCIÉTÉ
La Cnil met les "étiquettes intelligentes" sur sa liste noire
- mercredi 26/11 CULTURE
"The Meatrix", un modèle de dessin animé militant, hilarant et viral
- mardi 25/11 ÉCONOMIE

Société

31/10/2000 • 13h02

"Vote-auction est un acte pour la liberté d'expression"

La controverse médiatique créée par Vote-auction est l'objet-même de cette entreprise artistique et politique. Interview croisée de Hans Bernhard et LizVlx qui dénoncent, de leur QG berlinois, la marchandisation de la démocratie.

Pourquoi avoir racheté Vote-auction ?

Nous sommes un groupe de businessmen qui représente un groupe d'investisseurs. Nous sommes intéressés par les projets hautement dynamiques et risqués. Nous voyons dans Vote-auction un intérêt à long terme, surtout grâce à l'énorme attention médiatique que suscite le site. Nous escomptons un retour sur investissement d'ici 3 à 5 ans.



DR

Pourquoi chercher à caricaturer le système électoral américain ?

Sur notre page d'accueil, il est écrit que nous voulons "*rapprocher le capitalisme et la démocratie*". En permettant aux individus de toucher de l'argent pour leur vote, nous voulons montrer que ce genre de système est déjà en place au niveau des entreprises. La transparence est un mot-clef de notre projet. Si les sociétés comme les ...tats-Unis ne changent pas radicalement, on en arrivera de toute façon aux enchères de votes dans quelques années. Grâce à Vote-auction, il y a eu des discussions et des débats dans le monde entier : ...tats-Unis, France, Japon, Autriche, Allemagne, etc.

Que pensez-vous du système électoral américain ?

Personnellement, je pense que la situation des ...tats-Unis est très perverse. Il y a des centaines de millions de dollars injectés directement par les entreprises dans la vie politique et, selon le vieil adage, celui qui paye gouverne. On ne peut pas revenir en arrière, alors, plutôt que de se faire abrutir par des spots de campagne diffusant 1000 fois par jour le même blah-blah, autant que les électeurs aient quelques dollars dans leur poche.

Quel genre de réactions recevez-vous des internautes ?

Nous avons des tonnes d'e-mails. Nous en avons reçu de vétérans du Vietnam et d'imbéciles fascistes. Vous voyez, les Américains sont si arrogants, c'est pour cela que nous les emmerdons au maximum. Sinon, nous avons eu beaucoup de soutien, de gens qui pensaient également qu'il est important d'être radical si on

Dans la même rubrique

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La Criirad porte plainte contre la Cogema pour avoir diffusé des infos sur les déchets nucléaires
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Les hébergeurs indépendants ne sont toujours pas responsables, pour l'instant

veut changer tout ça.

Comment allez-vous techniquement mener les enchères ?

Nous sommes en train de mettre à jour les logiciels de la plate-forme. Nous avons nettoyé la base de données de tous les doublons et erreurs. Le basculement sera fait le 31 octobre. Tout sera alors automatisé pour la phase de pré-enchères. Nous avons abandonné le système pensé par Baumgartner, à qui nous avons acheté le site. Nous ne nous ferons pas envoyer les procurations de vote en Allemagne pour les vérifier et ensuite les renvoyer aux acheteurs aux ... tats-Unis. Tout reposera sur la confiance, sur la promesse de voter pour untel contre celle de recevoir tant de dollars. Acheteur et vendeur devront prendre contact, par exemple par e-mail, et régler les détails du deal et le moyen de paiement. Bien sûr, plus vous donnez d'argent, plus vous pouvez attendre de loyauté de la part du votant. C'est que nous avons appris en observant l'industrie électorale... (rires).

Il n'y a donc pas de certitude, ni pour l'acheteur, ni pour le vendeur...

Les vendeurs peuvent recevoir l'argent avant le vote. Les acheteurs auront eux accès à des statistiques sur les votants : chaque vendeur remplit un questionnaire de données démographiques et renseigne sur son état, sa profession, son âge, ses revenus, etc. Ces données sont croisées avec les études américaines sur le degré de confiance suivant les critères socio-professionnels. En gros, l'indice de loyauté d'un fonctionnaire de New York qui gagne bien sa vie sera plus grand que celui d'un étudiant californien et pauvre. De toute façon, dans les campagnes de pub politique, tous les téléspectateurs ne vont pas voter ce qu'on leur suggère. Si 10% le font, c'est déjà bien. Avec notre système, la certitude est plutôt de l'ordre de 90%.

Quel genre d'acheteurs avez-vous ?

Il y a plus d'individus que d'entreprises, ce qui est plutôt une bonne chose à nos yeux. Il y a moins d'acheteurs dans les ...tats isolés comme le Missouri ou le Nord. La plus grosse offre pour tous les votes d'un ...tat est de 120 000 dollars, ce qui correspond à environ 1000 dollars par vendeur. Ces derniers peuvent espérer en moyenne entre 100 et 500 dollars pour leur voix, mais ce chiffre est en augmentation. En tout cas, nous ne manquons pas d'acheteurs.

Dans le cadre des procès dont vous faites l'objet, des ... tats américains ont menacé de s'attaquer aux citoyens qui vendraient leur vote sur Vote-auction. Quelle protection offrez-vous à ces derniers ?

Si ces autorités voulaient obtenir des infos personnelles sur les acheteurs, nous ne pourrions même pas leur donner. Données démographiques et informations personnelles sont stockées séparément et ces dernières sont cryptées. De plus, nous n'avons pas l'intention de livrer la moindre donnée et nos hébergeurs nous soutiennent à 100%.

Votre site a-t-il fait l'objet d'attaques autres que judiciaires ?

Oui, nous avons été victimes d'un piratage il y a trois semaines. Mais c'était du hacking intelligent, non destructeur. Notre responsable sécurité travaillait sur son ordinateur au moment où le pirate s'est caché dans notre système et est entré en contact avec lui. Il a simplement dit "*salut, comment ça va ?*" et est reparti. Nous avons simplement dû tout réinstaller sur nos serveurs. Nous pensons également avoir été hackés par le FBI. Nous n'en sommes pas sûrs puisqu'ils sont très forts, mais cela nous était déjà arrivé avec Etoy. Et Vote-auction est exactement le type de site qui les intéresse.

Quel est votre lien avec le collectif international d'artistes

25/11/2003 • 19h13

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20/11/2003 • 16h29

Le site parodique Send Them Back milite pour le renvoi de tous les mp3 "volés" à la RIAA

Etoy ?

J'ai fondé Etoy en 1993-94 avec 6 autres personnes. J'en suis toujours actionnaire. Les membres d'Etoy ont un peu bifurqué il y a deux ans. Certains voulaient rester dans une démarche artistique et continuer à vendre des parts sociales à toutes sortes d'acteurs du marché de l'art. Avec Liz, nous avons voulu aller vers une approche encore plus business. Nous avons créé avec trois autres personnes une holding basée à Vienne, dont Voteauction et notre société de conseil Ubermorgen font partie. Mais depuis un an, j'ai recommencé à être un "agent etoy" en menant quelques conférences, notamment en Afrique du Sud et en Bulgarie.

Quel est le rapport entre Voteauction et Etoy ?

Nous voyons dans Voteauction une continuation de nos travaux au sein d'Etoy. Tout cela est basé sur l'intuition que l'approche business est un bon moyen de faire changer les choses. Au début de l'Internet, nous nous sommes rendu compte que le Réseau permettait à chacun de se présenter comme une entreprise ou un grand groupe, puisque les sites étaient tous logés à la même enseigne : pas d'image, technologie pauvre, fond gris... La différence, aujourd'hui, c'est que nous ne faisons plus semblant, nous sommes devenus de vraies entreprises.

Avez-vous reçu des soutiens publics aux ...tats-Unis ?

Oui, de la part de l'Electronic Frontier Foundation [*la plus grosse association américaine de défense des libertés individuelles sur Internet, NDLR*]. Nous sommes en contact par téléphone. Ils nous donnent des conseils, surtout dans le domaine légal. Ils considèrent que Vote-auction est un acte pour la liberté d'expression.

Quel est le dénouement rêvé pour le projet Voteauction ?

D'abord, que les enchères aient réellement lieu comme prévu la veille des élections. Pour cela, nous cherchons actuellement une solution qui soit techniquement efficace et légalement inattaquable. Parallèlement, nous voulons lancer le même jour une série d'événements en ligne, qui se sert du principe des sondages. Nous voulons mener et publier des sondages politiques en ligne dans tous les pays du monde. Ce sera très international, parce que les élections américaines affectent le monde entier. Regardés par tout le monde, ils peuvent potentiellement influencer le vote. C'est là encore une critique du processus électoral américain qui laisse les sondages affecter le cours du scrutin.

Quel genre de sondages comptez-vous réaliser ?

Nous allons nous inspirer de tous ces questionnaires habituels aux ...tats-Unis : on vous pose une série de questions du type : "*Voulez-vous que les ...tats-Unis dépensent plus ou moins d'argent en Serbie ?*". À la fin, on vous dit pour quel candidat vous devriez voter. Il y aura aussi d'autres sondages, plus classiques. Aux ...tats-Unis, cela va tellement loin qu'on parle de "sondages humoristiques" ("fun polls") pour des questions comme : "*Qui va remporter le scrutin dans le Michigan ?*" En fait, c'est un système de paris qui est tout sauf "fun". Les sondages seront en ligne à partir du 31 octobre.

Cela ne va pas arranger la polémique...

Ouais... Nous sommes spécialisés là-dedans. C'est ce que nous faisons dans la vie.

Alexandre Piquard

La vidéo du show CNN "Burden of proof"

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Economy



Company



Technologies



Culture

KEY WORDS

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Seek
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Data
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Transfer deciphered the topicality of new technologies, proposed a wire information daily newspaper and a series of tools of day before. Our agency, refusing any publicity, depended on its subscriptions.

COPINAGE

Thus throw Sil with **Terra economica !!!**

QUANTIFY DAY

700 000

genetic trackings each year in Europe, according to the European Commission (...)

REVIEW OF WEB

- Badgered Lindows
- Cyberdissidents
- Vietnamese in call
- More CO2 = less drinking water

DAY PHRASES

"This public utility that we ensure needs your support for perdurer"

The association Inf' OGM, which justifies the end of the exemption from payment of its news bulletin (...)

File

Nuclear power put at the secrecy

Recent files

- Racism on line: the business S.O.S-rabble
- The pointing of the air passengers
- The battle of the software patents
- The energy dead end
- Hydrogen, an energy (almost) clean

[All files](#)

Ones of the week

Monday 1er/12 TRANSFERT.NET

Transfer still stops...!

Friday 28/11 ECONOMY
The crude oil reserves are dangerously overestimated, denounces a group of experts

Thursday 27/11 COMPANY
Cnil puts les "étiquettes intelligent" on its black list

Wednesday 26/11 CULTURE
"The Meatrix", a model of drawing animated militant, laughing and viral

Tuesday 25/11 ECONOMY

Company

31/10/2000 • 13h02

"Vote-auction is an act for the freedom of expression"

The media controversy created by Vote-auction is the object-even of this artistic and political company. Cross interview of Hans Bernhard and LizVix which denounce, of their Berliner HQ, the marchandisation of the democracy.

Why to have repurchased Vote-auction?

We are a group of businessmen which represents a group of investors. We are interested by the highly dynamic and risked projects. We see in Vote-auction a long-term interest, especially thanks to the enormous media attention which the site causes. We discount a return on investment from here 3 to 5 years.



DR.

Why seek to caricature the American electoral system?

On our banner page, it is written that we want "to bring closer capitalism and the democracy". While allowing the individuals to touch argent for their vote, we want to show that this kind of system is already in place on the level of the companies. The transparency is a keyword of our project. If the companies as... tats-Plain do not change them radically, one arrives from there in any event at the biddings of votes in a few years. Thanks to Vote-auction, there were discussions and debates in the whole world: ... tats-Plain, France, Japan, Austria, Germany, etc.

What do you think of the American electoral system?

Personally, I think that the situation of... tats-Plain is very perverse. There are hundreds of million dollars injected directly by the companies in the political life and, according to the old proverb, that which pays control surface. One cannot retrogress, then, rather than to be made abrutir by spots of countryside diffusing 1000 times per day same the blah-blah, as much as the voters has some dollars in their pocket.

Which kind of reactions do you receive Net surfers?

We have tons of e-mail. We received from them veterans of Vietnam and imbeciles fascistic. You see, the Americans are so arrogant, it is for that that we emmerdons them to the maximum. If not, we had much support, people who also thought that it is significant to be radical if one wants to change all that.

Dans la même rubrique

- 28/11/2003 • 18h33
La Criirad porte plainte contre la Cogema pour avoir diffusé des infos sur les déchets nucléaires
- 27/11/2003 • 17h14
La Cnil met les "étiquettes intelligentes" sur sa liste noire
- 26/11/2003 • 18h54
Un observatoire associatif pour lutter contre les inégalités
- 24/11/2003 • 22h09
EDF refuse d'étudier la résistance de l'EPR à une attaque de type 11-septembre
- 24/11/2003 • 18h36
La Grèce bannit la biométrie de ses aéroports à un an des Jeux olympiques

**Dossier RFID
Les étiquettes "intelligentes"**

Dernières infos

- 28/11/2003 • 19h29
Quand le déclin de la production pétrole mondiale va-t-il débiter ?
- 28/11/2003 • 19h19
Les réserves de pétrole sont dangereusement surévaluées, dénonce un groupe d'experts
- 27/11/2003 • 19h01
Un traité onusien veut obliger les belligérants à nettoyer les "résidus explosifs de guerre"
- 26/11/2003 • 19h06
"The Meatrix", un modèle de dessin animé militant, hilarant et viral
- 26/11/2003 • 18h47
Pour les Etats-Unis, les essais nucléaires ne sont pas encore de l'histoire

The independent shelterers are still not responsible, for the moment

How will you technically carry out the biddings?

We are updating the software of the platform. We cleaned the data base of all the doubled blooms and errors. The swing will be made on October 31. All will then be automated for the phase of pre-bidding. We gave up the system thought by Baumgartner, with which we bought the site. We will not be made send the procurations of vote in Germany to check them and then to return them to the purchasers to... tats-Plain. All will rest on confidence, on the promise to vote for so-and-so against that to receive so many dollars. Purchaser and salesman will have to make contact, for example by e-mail, and to regulate the details of the deal and the means of payment. Of course, more you give money, more you can await honesty on behalf of the voter. It is that we learned by observing electoral industry... (laughter).

There is thus no certainty, neither for the purchaser, nor for the salesman...

The salesmen can receive the money before the vote. The purchasers will have them access to statistics on the voters: each salesman fills a questionnaire with demographic data and informs about his state, his profession, his age, his incomes, etc. These data are crossed with the American studies on the degree of confidence according to the socio-professional criteria. Approximately, the index of honesty of a civil servant of New York which earns its living well will be larger than that of a Californian and poor student. In any event, in the political pub campaigns, all the telev viewers will not vote what one suggests to them. If 10% do it, it is already well. With our system, the certainty is rather about 90%.

Which kind of purchasers do you have?

There are more individuals than companies, which is rather a good thing in our eyes. There is less of purchasers in... the tats isolated like Missouri or North. The largest offer for all the votes of one... tat is of 120 000 dollars, which corresponds to approximately 1000 dollars per salesman. The latter can hope on average between 100 and 500 dollars for their voice, but this figure is in increase. In any case, we do not miss purchasers.

Within the framework of the lawsuits whose you are the object, of... the tats American threatened to attack the citizens who would sell their vote on Vote-auction. Which protection do you offer to the latter?

If these authorities wanted to obtain personal infos on the purchasers, we could not even give them. Demographic data and personal information are stored separately and these last are cryptées. Moreover, we do not intend to deliver the least given and our shelterers support us at 100%.

Was your site the subject of attacks other than legal?

Yes, we were victims of a hacking three weeks ago. But it was intelligent hacking, not destructor. Our person in charge of security worked on his computer at the time when the pirate hid in our system and came into contact with him. Is he simply said " *hello, how that?* "and set out again. We simply had all to reinstall on our waiters. We also think of being hackés by the FBI. We n en are not sure puisqu'ils are very strong, but that had already arrived to us with Etoy. And Vote-auction is exactly the type of site which interests them.

Which is your bond with the international collective Etoy artists?

I founded Etoy in 1993-94 with 6 other people. I am always shareholder. The members of Etoy forked a little two years ago. Some wanted to remain in an artistic step and to continue to sell social shares with all kinds of actors of the market of art. With Liz, we wanted to go towards an approach even more business. We created with three other people a holding based in Vienna, from which Voteauction and our company of Ubermorgen council form part. But for

ancienne

25/11/2003 • 19h13

Les hébergeurs indépendants ne sont toujours pas responsables, pour l'instant

25/11/2003 • 19h04

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24/11/2003 • 18h16

10 000 manifestants réclament la fermeture de la School of Americas

21/11/2003 • 19h36

Deux affaires judiciaires relancent la polémique sur la responsabilité des hébergeurs

21/11/2003 • 19h04

Un anti-raciste poursuivi en justice pour antisémitisme

21/11/2003 • 18h48

Le festival Jonctions confronte art, technologies et éthique

20/11/2003 • 19h28

Un fonctionnaire ne peut utiliser sa messagerie professionnelle à des fins religieuses

20/11/2003 • 19h00

Les technologies de surveillance automatisée tiennent salon au Milipol 2003

20/11/2003 • 18h22

Zouhaïr Yahyaoui libre, les cyberdissidents tunisiens restent harcelés par le régime

20/11/2003 • 16h29

Le site parodique Send Them Back milite pour le renvoi de tous les mp3 "volés" à la RIAA

one year, I have started again to be a "agent etoy" by carrying out some conferences, in particular in South Africa and Bulgaria.

Which is the relationship between Voteauction and Etoy?

We see in Voteauction a continuation of our work within Etoy. All that is based on the intuition that the approach business is a good means of making change the things. To the beginning of the Internet, we realized that the Network made it possible each one to be presented in the form of a company or a great group, since the sites all were placed with the same sign: no the image, poor technology, gray bottom... The difference, today, it is that we do not make seeming any more, we became true companies.

Did you receive public supports for... tats-Plain?

Yes, on behalf of the Electronic Frontier Foundation [*the largest American association of defense of the personal freedoms on Internet, note*]. We are in contact by telephone. They give us councils, especially in the legal field. They consider that Vote-auction is an act for freedom d expression.

Which is the outcome dreamed for the Voteauction project?

Initially, that the biddings take place really as envisaged the day before elections. For that, we currently seek a solution which is technically effective and legally unattackable. In parallel, we want to launch the same day a series of events in line, which is useful of the principle of the surveys. We want to carry out and publish political surveys on line in all the countries of the world. It will be very international, because the American elections affect the whole world. Looked by everyone, they can potentially influence the vote. It is there still a critic of the American electoral process which lets the surveys affect the course of the poll.

Which kind of surveys do you hope to realize?

We will take as a starting point all these usual questionnaires to... tats-Plain: to you a series of questions of the type is posed: " *do you Want that them... tats-Plain spend more or less d argent in Serbia?* ". At the end, one says to you for which candidate should vote to you. There will be also d autres surveys, more traditional. To... tats-Plain, that goes so much far qu on speaks about "humorous surveys" ("fun polls") for questions like: " *Which will gain the poll in Michigan?* "In fact, c est a system of bets which is very safe" fun ". The surveys will be on line as from October 31.

Cela ne va pas arranger la polémique...

Ouais... Nous sommes spécialisés là-dedans. C'est ce que nous faisons dans la vie.

Alexandre Piquard

La vidéo du show CNN "Burden of proof"

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Nouvel Obs, Le Nouvel Observateur, quotidien d'information francophone, french daily

news, Journal d'information en continu diffusé sur le Web. A côté de l'information ...
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Site d'information et de veille consacré aux dérives
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... Société. 31/10/2000 • 12h25. **Vote-auction** pirate les élections américaines. De l'aveu même de son patron, Hans Bernhard, le site qui vend aux enchères les ...

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... l'instant. Société. 7/11/2000 • 15h42. Votes aux enchères : **vote-auction** tombe le masque et baisse le rideau. À quelques heures ...

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... Société. 27/12/2001 • 19h55. Le hacker des médias. Avec **Vote-Auction**, on a cru qu'il vendait des votes aux enchères. Ce n'était qu'un coup d'artiste. ...

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HANS BERNHARD

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THE HOMELAND

<http://hansbernhard.com>

WORDWAR

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/WORDWAR> 1991-1993.txt.software.madness.the.man.machine.
text.generator

ETXTREME

http://www.ubermorgen.com/etxtreme_v1_0 etxtreme.ru version 1.0 non.functional.the.
system.vision

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simulating.machine

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[V]OTE-AUCTION

<http://www.voteauction.com> 1.st.domain.original.domain, registrar.lock!

<http://www.vote-auction.com> 2.nd.domain, registrar.hold! [without legal case!]

<http://www.vote-auction.net>

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<http://www.vote-auction.net/index00.htm> , index.original.site

<http://www.vote-auction.net/news.htm> press.liste

http://dmoz.org/Society/Activism/Media/Culture_Jamming/Vote_Auctions

http://www.vote-auction.net/VOTEAUCTION/2000_LEGAL_DOCUMENTS/CHICAGO

legal documents.foriginals.legal.art

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<http://www.bmdi.de> german.ministry.of.the.interior

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<http://www.ipnic.org/preliminary.html> generate.an.injunction

<http://residence.aec.at/kop/> kingdom.of.piracy.proud.member.of.KOP

[oneCycleOccur](#) / <http://www.onecycleoccur.net> initial.ipnic.org.live.performance.south.africa.2001

ONLINEPAINTINGS

<http://www.anuscan.com>

[ekmrz](#)

[bart-n-lisa.com](http://www.bart-n-lisa.com)

<http://www.ubermorgen.net>

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/2003>

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These search terms have been highlighted: **vote auction**

[READ_ME 2.3](#) helsinki, finland,, 2003

lecture1; may 30, afternoon[toolisthemessage]

HANS BERNHARD

"EXTREME.RU, TOTAL DESASTER AND SIMPLICISMUS"

[talk.file.notes.txt](#)

THE HOMELAND

<http://hansbernhard.com>

WORDWAR

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/WORDWAR> 1991-1993.txt.software.madness.the.man.machine.
text.generator

ETXTREME

http://www.ubermorgen.com/etxtreme_v1_0 etxtreme.ru version 1.0 non.functional.the.
system.vision

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/etxtreme/home.html> etxtreme.ru version 2.0.the.system.draft.
simulating.machine

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/DAILYTOP9> daily.top9.web.application,daily_e-nfo_breakfast
http://www.ubermorgen.com/DAILY_TOP9_E_NFO_BREAKFAST 1 daily_e-nfo_breakfast.
manual
http://www.ubermorgen.com/DAILY_TOP9_E_NFO_BREAKFAST 2 daily_e-nfo_breakfast.
manual
<http://212.95.181.35/es0f1a/files/core-engine-top10.html> daily.tops.all.the.daily.enfo_breakfast
[text.market.example](#) etxtreme.text.market
[choose a market.example](#) etxtreme.various.markets
[start.stop.menue](#) rudimentary.start.stop.initiate.menue.etxtreme
[market code](#) java.servlet.tech
[system code](#) java.servlet.tech
http://www.macros-center.ru/read_me/art_work/12/readme12.zip read_me_2.1.core-engine/
etxtreme.v.to.download

GENTICS/BINARY/MATH CONCEPTS

<http://www.runme.org/project/+geneticbinarymathpoetry> genetic.binary.math.to.download
http://hansbernhard.com/GENETICS_BINARY math.binary.test.versions.overview
http://hansbernhard.com/GENETICS_BINARY/GENETIC_SEQUENCES genetic.
modifications
[http://hansbernhard.com/GENETICS_BINARY/BINARY_SEQUENCES/
MATH_AESTHETICS](http://hansbernhard.com/GENETICS_BINARY/BINARY_SEQUENCES/MATH_AESTHETICS) math.formulas
<http://www.bernhards.net> the.family.with.the.different.fathers.and.the.son.doing.covert.dna.
testing.on.all.family.members

OTHERS

http://www.ubermorgen.com/THE_WHITE_WEBSITE using.the.web.as.software

-
lecture2; may 31, late afternoon[guerrillaengineering]
UBERMORGEN
"THE INJUNCTION GENERATOR AND [V]OTE-AUCTION"
[talk.file.notes.txt](#)

UBERMORGEN

<http://www.ubermorgen.com>

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/2001>

[V]OTE-AUCTION

<http://www.voteauction.com> 1.st.domain.original.domain, registrar.lock!

<http://www.vote-auction.com> 2.nd.domain, registrar.hold! [without legal case!]

<http://www.vote-auction.net>

voteauction.info, voteauction.biz, voteauction.net, voteauction.org are all property of the ubermorgen ltd., sofia/bulgaria

<http://www.vote-auction.net/index00.htm>, index.original.site

<http://www.vote-auction.net/news.htm> press.liste

http://dmoz.org/Society/Activism/Media/Culture/Jamming/Vote_Auctions

http://www.vote-auction.net/VOTEAUCTION/2000_LEGAL_DOCUMENTS/CHICAGO

legal documents.forignals.legal.art

http://www.vote-auction.net/VOTEAUCTION/2000_FLORIDA/voteauctionflorida_election.gif florida.election.count

<http://www.bmdi.de> german.ministry.of.the.interior

http://www.ubermorgen.com/va_wisconsin_dismiss.jpg dismiss.vote.party.against.settlement.cause.no.case!

[V]OTE-AUCTION CNN

<http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0010/24/bp.00.html> best.linked.transcript.of.burden.of.proof

[google for burden of proof cnn](http://www.google.com/search?q=cache:300hX6GoohMJ:www...om/read_me/+vote-auction&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&client=safari) top.ranked!

IPNIC

ipnic. internet partnership for no internet content / Internet Protocol Network Information Center

<http://www.ipnic.org> splash.screens

<http://www.ipnic.org/intro.html> introduction

<http://www.ipnic.org/preliminary.html> generate.an.injunction

<http://residence.aec.at/kop/> kingdom.of.piracy.proud.member.of.KOP

[oneCycleOccur](http://www.onecycleoccur.net) / <http://www.onecycleoccur.net> initial.ipnic.org.live.performance.south.africa.2001

ONLINEPAINTINGS

<http://www.anuscan.com>

[ekmrz](#)

[bart-n-lisa.com](http://www.bart-n-lisa.com)

<http://www.ubermorgen.net>

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/2003>

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[ubermorgen READ_ME 2.3 2003](#)

READ_ME 2.3 helsinki, finland,, 2003. -. lecture1; may 30, afternoon[
toolisthemessage] HANS BERNHARD "EXTREME.RU, TOTAL DESASTER AND ...
[www.ubermorgen.com/read_me/](#) - 10k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Voteauction 2000-2004 ubermorgen](#)

[V]ote-auction - Bringing democracy and capitalism closer together - ubermorgen,
2000-2004. [V]ote-auction Web-Site Nov 7 2000 Voteauction ...
[www.vote-auction.net/](#) - 9k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[KINGDOM OF PIRACY](#)

[residence.aec.at/kop/](#) - 1k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[IP·NIC Injunction Generator](#)

Afghanistan, ...
[www.ipnic.org/preliminary.html](#) - 101k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

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Artnode & cph:dox & Overgaden

presents

ubermorgen, Hans Bernhard



8.11.2004, 1930h

soundtrack by micromusic.net

lizvlx - hans bernhard - ubermorgen - etoy
1994 - 2004

10 years digital actionism
legal art
net-exhibitionism
manic insomnia
and
media hacking.

etoy
Voteauction

cphdox
8.11.2004, 19h

Han er blevet kaldt netkunstens "slemme, geniale dreng". Med god grund. Hans Bernhard, også kendt som Hans Bernhard from ubermorgen, hans_extrem, etoy.HANS og net_CALLBOY, har siden netkunstens fødsel i midten af 90erne hacket og provokeret online. Med lige dele sagsanlæg og anerkendelse som resultat. Han har gjort det muligt at sælge sin stemme til det amerikanske præsidentvalg under slogant "Bringing Capitalism and Democracy Closer Together", kidnappet merkantile webservere og lavet en falsk hjemmeside for det tyske indenrigsministerium på adressen naziline.com. Det er performance-dada-punk for de digitale mediers tidsalder. Fuld risiko, ingen respekt og et tæt kendskab til Internettets subversive kanaler. Til dette foredrag viser han en film fra sin optræden på CNNs program "Burden of Proof" og fortæller om sine aktiviteter med Übermorgen og netkunstfirmaet etoy, som stod bag det legendariske værk TOYWAR, der endte med at koste legetøjsfirmaet eToys 4,5 milliarder dollars i aktieværdi. En garanteret underholdende førstehånds-beretning fra den aktivistiske netkunsts forfron

etoy

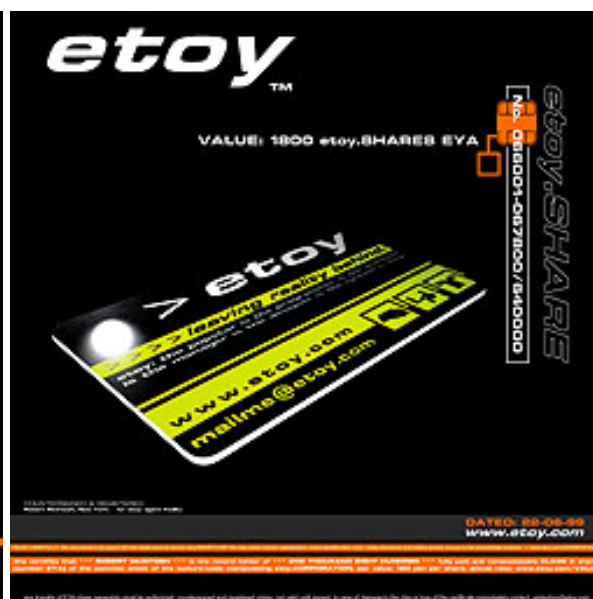


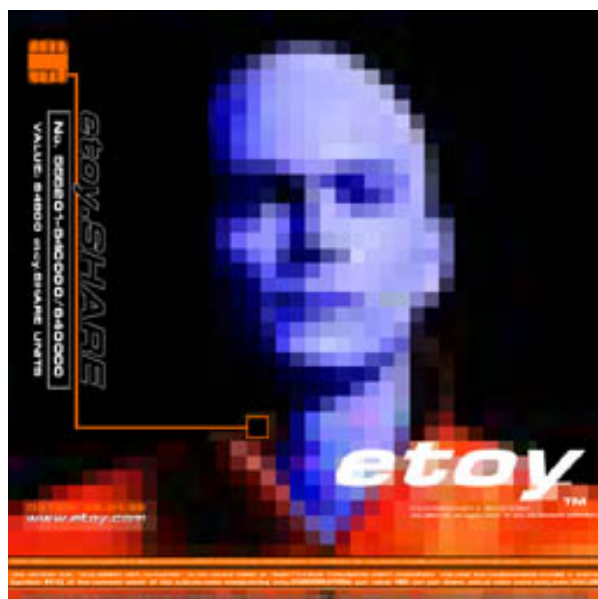
the etoy.GANG - the first street-gang on the internet, 1996

brainhard.com & [WORDWAR \[1994\]](#)

brainhard.com & [WORDWAR](#)

corporate identity / corporate philosophy
1994-1996





"yes!...and all our children will be playing in their garden of joy surrounded by glamour and perverted disco tunes... etoy, immature priests from another world..."
björk

interview with etoy

etoy - slogans 1994-2004

LEAVING REALITY BEHIND

ALWAYS ONLINE - SOMETIMES LOST

etoy: the popstar is the pilot is the coder is the designer is the architect is the manager is the system is etoy

etoy: TWISTING VALUES

WE ARE NOT NATURAL ANYMORE!

LOGISTICS FOR THE NEXT LEVEL

FLASHING INTO THE FUTURE

THE FUTURE IS NOW

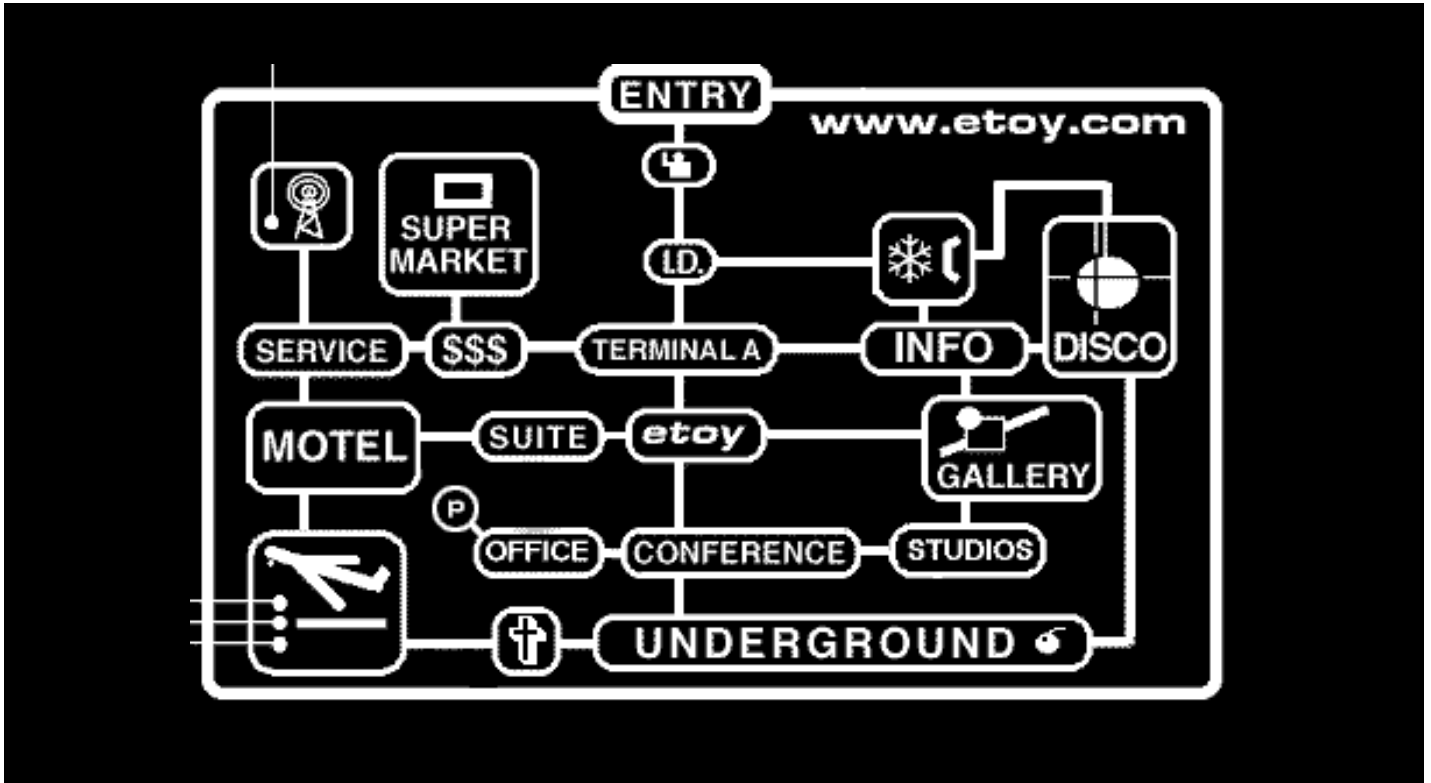
kill netscape by using it!

etoy.TANK-SYSTEM - phase I 1994
etoy - leaving reality behind

c3.hu/tank-system



etoy.HISTORY - the basic-concept: hans X
digital emigration / reality emigration; internet tech, lsd & peter weibel



etoy.TANK-SYSTEM
c3.hu/tank-system

tv-hijack.zip 1996

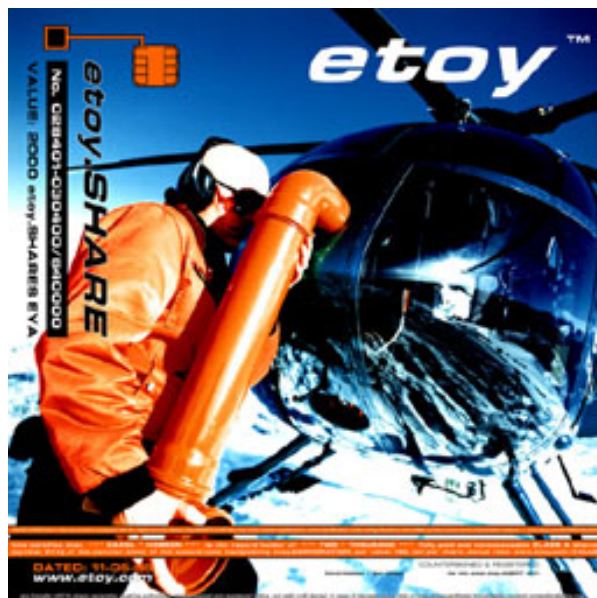




The Internet-Art-Terror organisation etoy has hijacked a TV-Show on 7.12.96 / 2100 hours. After their Live-Act in the Swiss TV-Infotainment Magazine "Zebra", the etoy.AGENTS have intruded the Prime-Time Show "Benissimo" and they controlled the Swiss TV-Reality for a few seconds. Our anonymous etoy.AGENT has entered the stage, asked the Show-Master Bernhard Turnheer where the way to the Internet is... he told him, that he couldnt stand this TV-Reality anymore and that he needs to know the way to the internet...

Only after massive pressure of the etoy.LAWYER, wich was at this moment not inside the Television Building, the 4 remaining Agents have been released out of Custody around 2300 hours, just before a Police-Task Force arrived at the Swiss Television Building. This Action has received massive Press-Reactions: 3 Headlines from Sunday to Tuesday... in the biggest Swiss Rainbow-Paper "Blick". International Feed-Back from England, Norway and Italy...

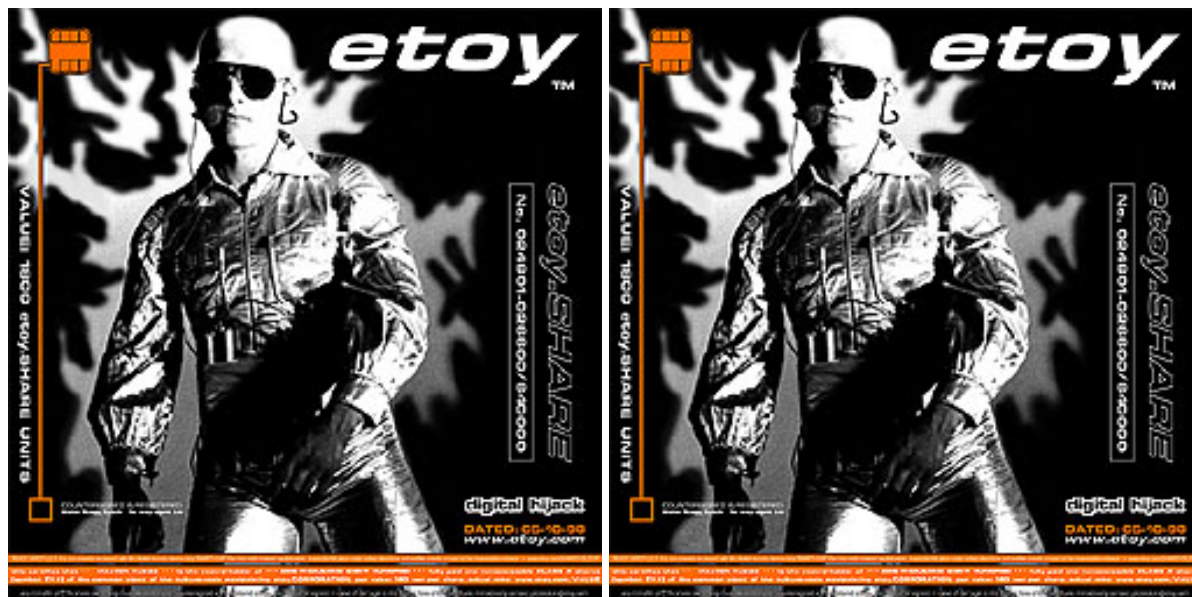
leaving reality behind helicopter-action
.rm 1996

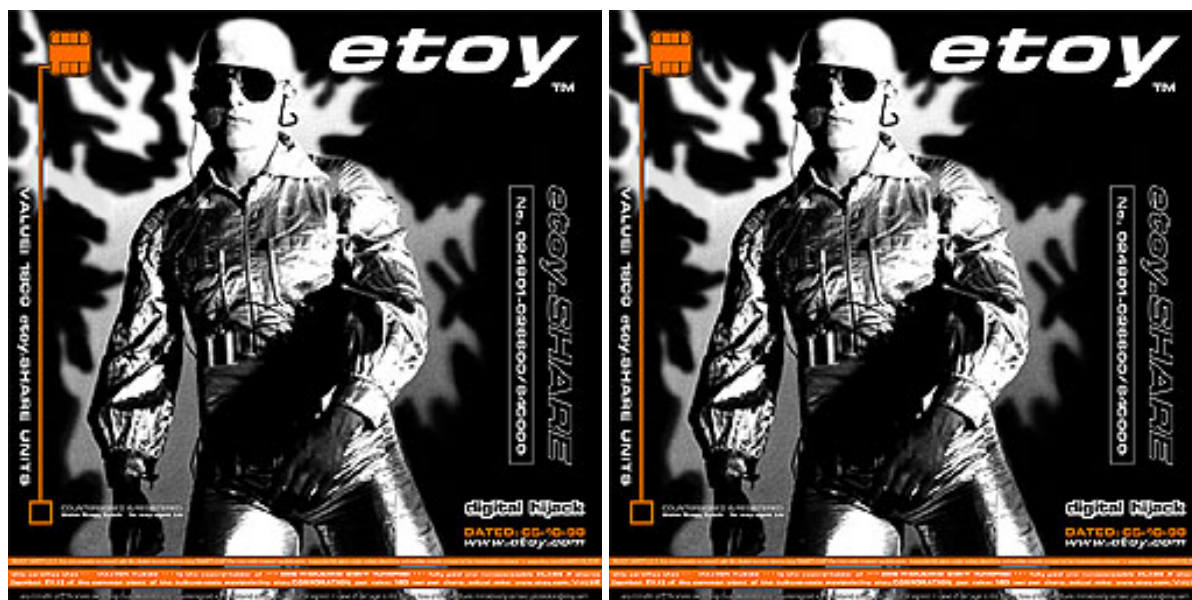


Riefenstahl was severely injured in a helicopter accident in Sudan. She was flown back to a hospital in Munich. Meanwhile etoy.AGENTS were up to a dada foto-tv-shooting on "glitzernde Gletscher" in switzerland on a SFDRS assignment [swiss national television station]

.rm

the digital hijack 1996
hijack.org





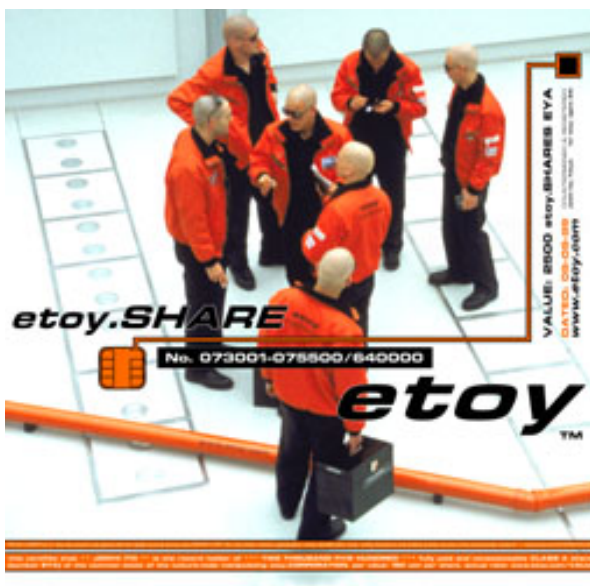
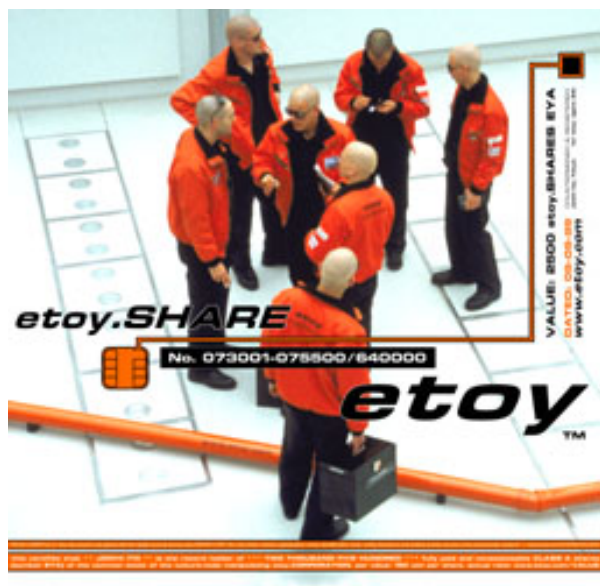
don't fucking move - this is a digital hijack
search-engine hack
meta-refresh=0
1.5 mio internet users hijacked in 3 months
free kevin mitnick
cia / austrian secret service - house search 6 a.m.
email threats ulrike meinhof anonymous remailer

ars electronica - phase II 1996



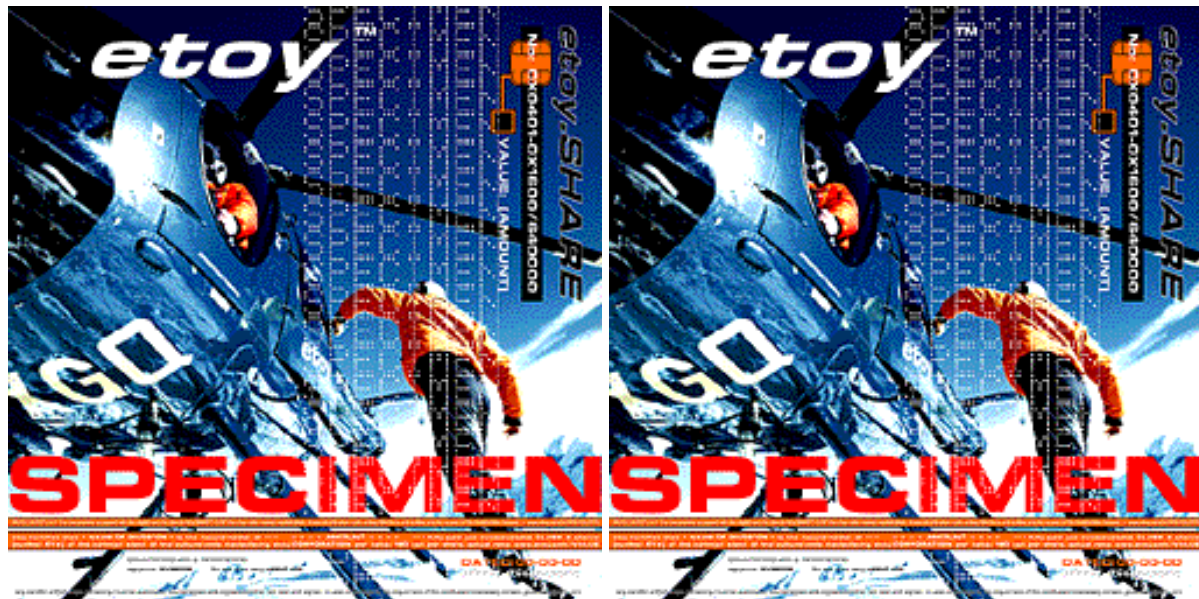
golden nica - ars electronica 1996

-1999



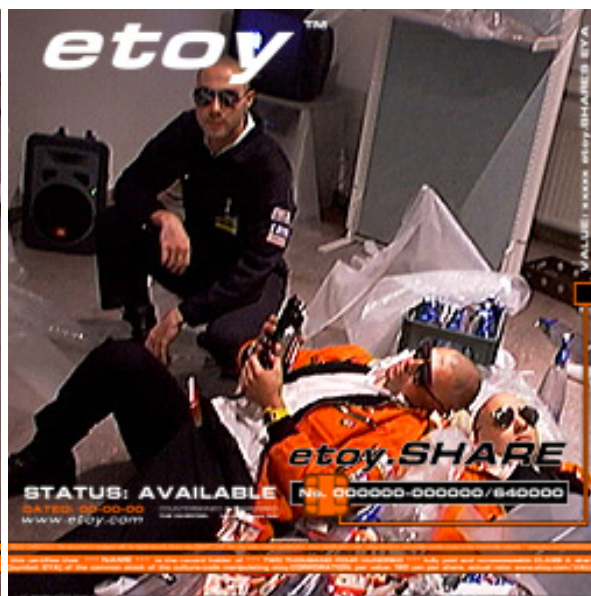
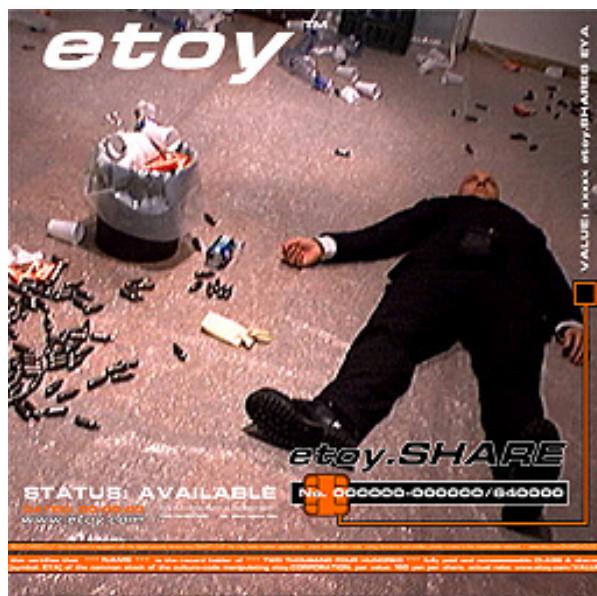
etoy.TANK-SYSTEM exhibition design center linz

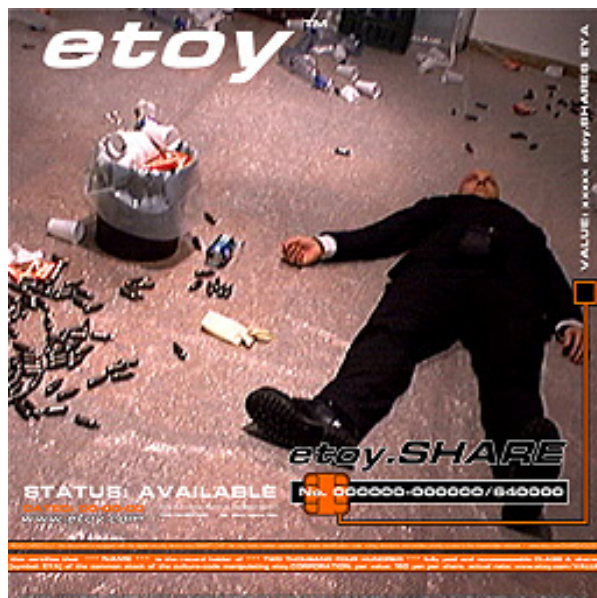
etoy.SHARES



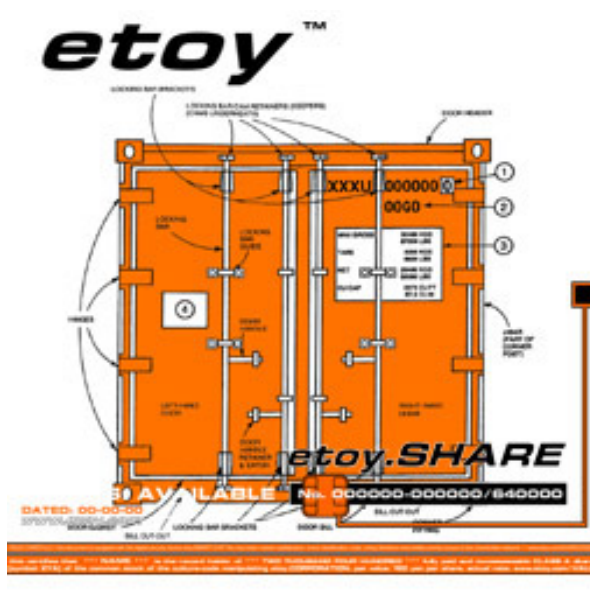
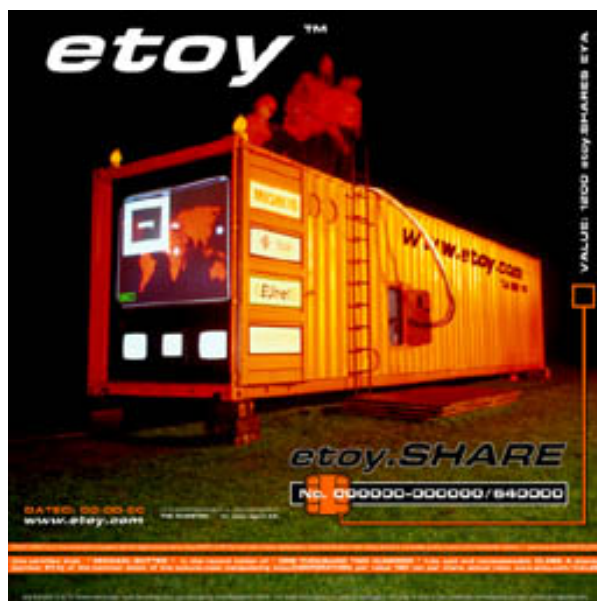
share.etoy.com

budapest residency & performance
etoy.PROTECTION 1997





etoy.TANK[-17] 1999-200x



etoy™

etoy.SHARE

№: 011001-042200/640000

VALUE: 3000 etoy.SHARES EYA

DATED: 11-08-06
www.etoy.com

etoy™

etoy.SHARE

№: 011001-015200/640000

VALUE: 1200 etoy.SHARES EYA

DATED: 21-09-06
www.etoy.com

etoy™

etoy.SHARE

№: 011001-0154000/640000

VALUE: 4000 etoy.SHARES EYA

DATED: 05-10-06
www.etoy.com

etoy™

etoy.SHARE

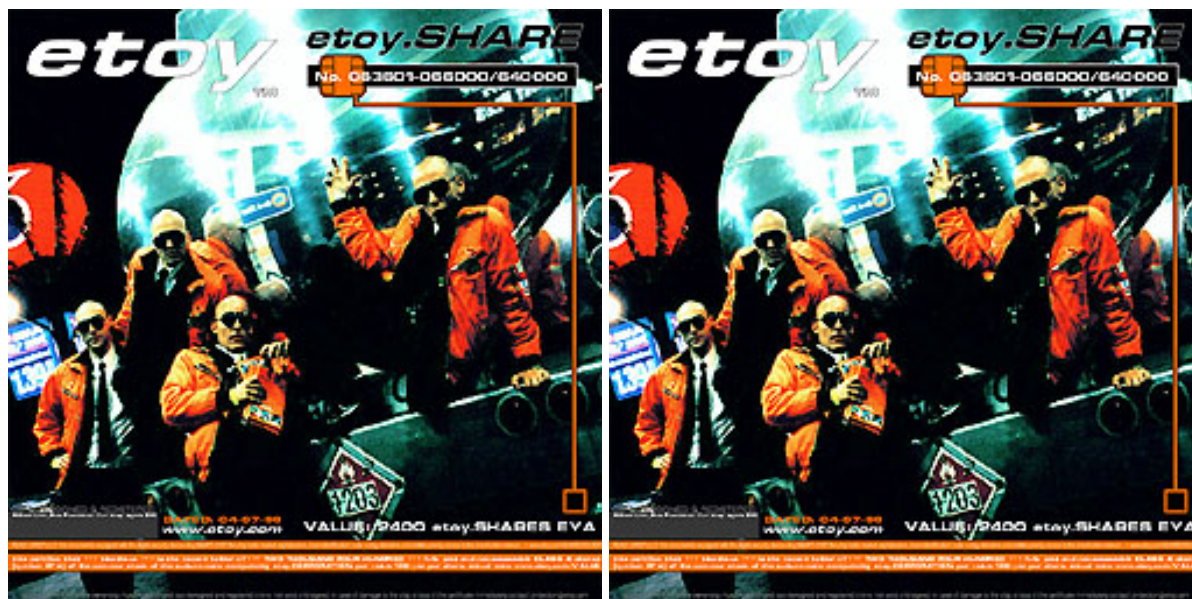
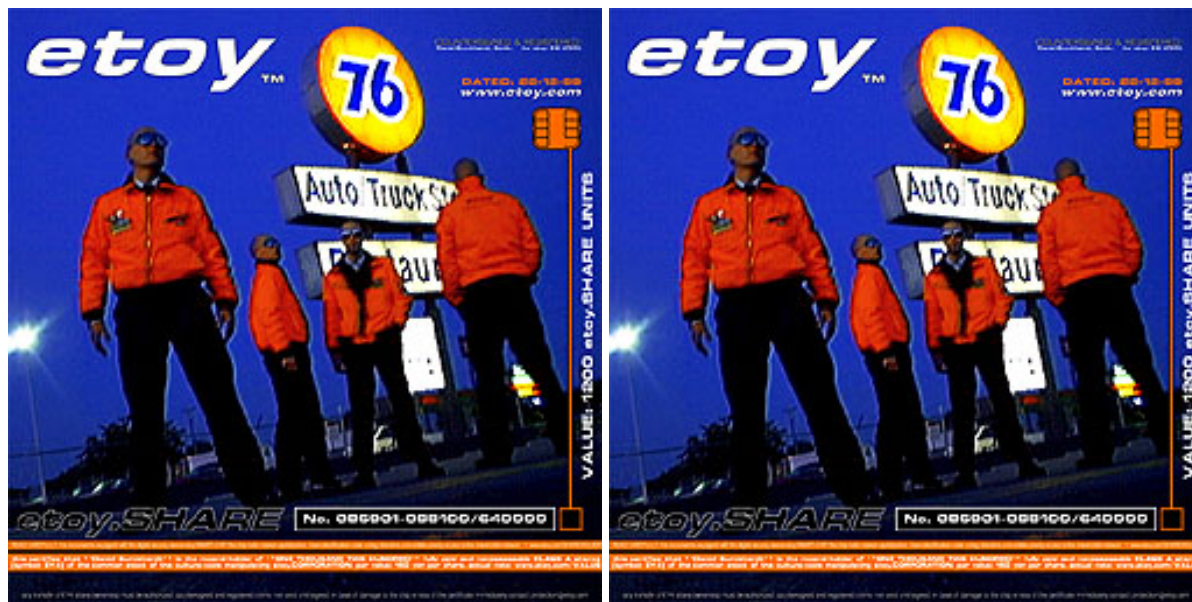
№: 011001-0152000/640000

VALUE: 2000 etoy.SHARES EYA

DATED: 05-10-06
www.etoy.com

usa-emigration 1998

Los Angeles - San Diego - San Francisco



the last original crew picture, san francisco 1999

TOYWAR 1999-2000





legal battle
4.5 billion dollars eToys share-value lost during campaign
domain temporarily shut-down
community fight
toywar-army

etoyholding - phase III 1999-2004

founding 1999

mother-corporation

legal art / legal affairs

strategic planning

etoy.trademarks europa, asia& usa [etoy.CORPORATION zurich / switzerland]

etoyholding - the corporate network

subcompanies

etoy.venture-association cayman islands

etoy.ag st.johns / antigua

etoy gmbh berlin / germany

etoy.corporation zurich / switzerland
etoy.com global
etoyholding.com global

leaving reality behind
the battle for the soul of the internet

etoy.BOOK 2002/2003 [us-edition]
amazon.de [search: "leaving reality behind"]

Adam Wishart and Regula Bochler



leaving reality behind

The battle for the soul of the internet

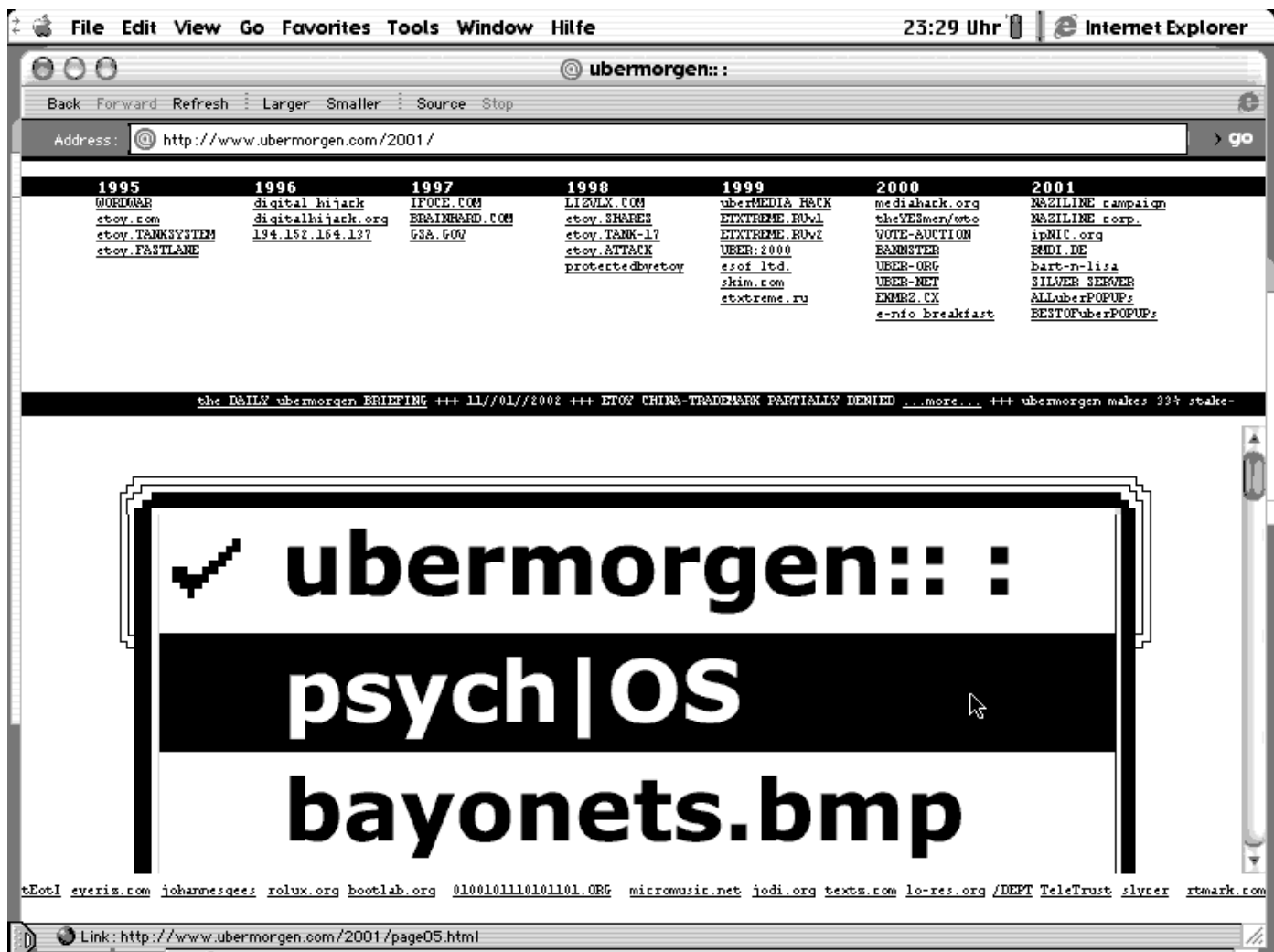


"leaving reality behind has everything. a court case, a cast of unforgettable characters, and a story that could only have happend during the internet insanity. a fascinating read."

online: [prologue](#) / [1.chapter](#)

break

ubermorgen:: : 1999-20xx
ubermorgen.com



founded 1999
artist duo lizvlx and Hans Bernhard

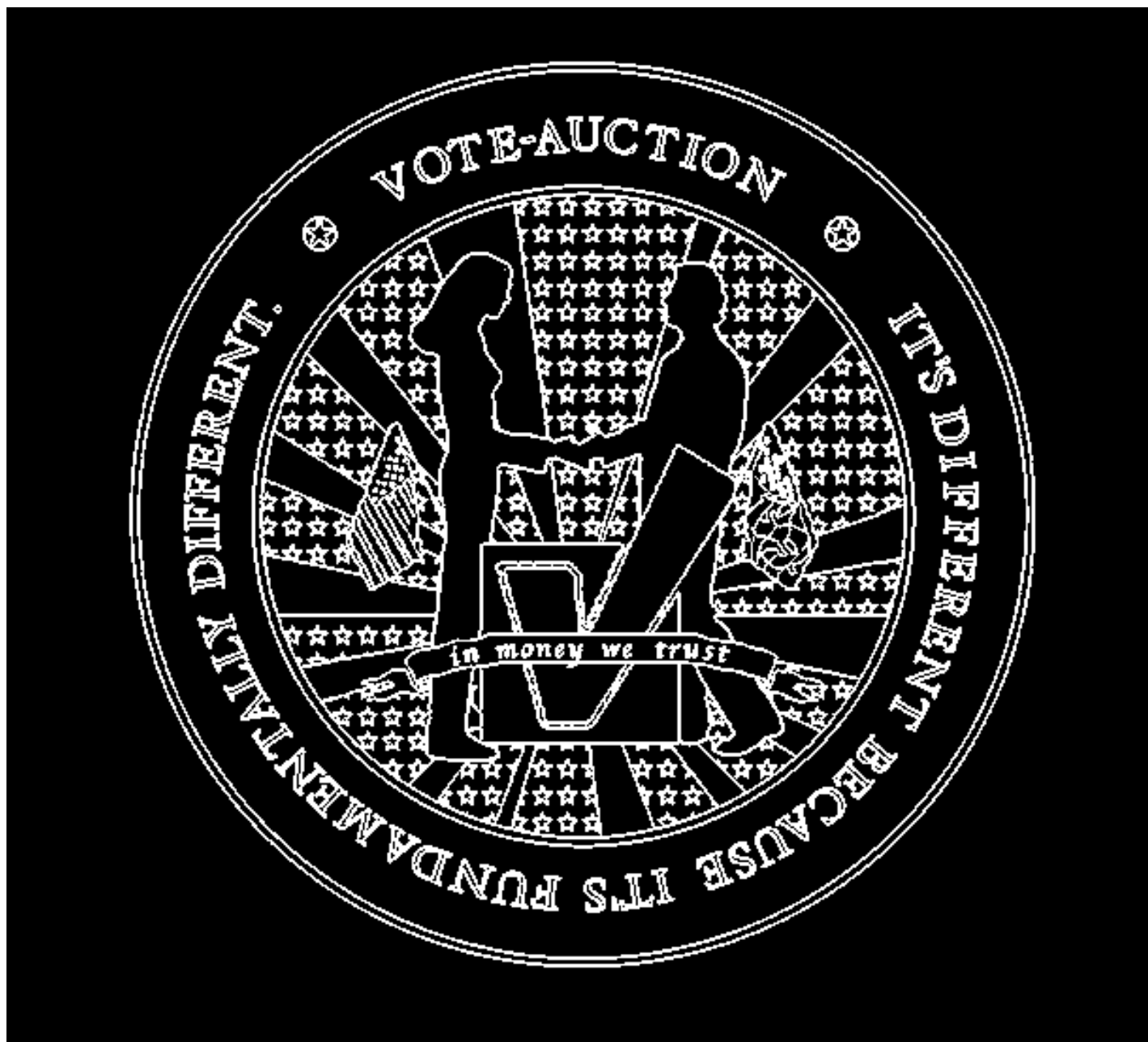
ubermorgen is the author of projects such as "Voteauction, Naziline, Injunction generator, The Agency"

ubermorgen "we have no nationality"

Voteauction

[V]ote-auction - vote-auction.net

Seal



<http://vote-auction.net>

legal documents

[Chicago TRO](#)

[Chicago Complaint](#)

[Chicago Memorandum of Law](#)

[Chicago Preliminary Injunction](#)

screenshot



CNN "burden of proof", 27 Min. [DVD], live-broadcast.

Voteauction was a Website which offered US citizens to sell their presidential vote to the highest bidder during the Presidential Elections 2000, Al Gore vs. G.W. Bush.

The Website was conceived by the student James Baumgartner and then sold to the austrian business-artists Hans Bernhard (founder of etoy [5]) and Lizvlx from ubermorgen[1] in Austria and (V)ote-auction Inc. in Sofia/ Bulgaria [a subsidiary of the ubermorgen group] for a undisclosed sum. Voteauction was ubermorgens feature Media Hacking performance in the year 2000.

Several US States (Missouri, Wisconsin, Chicago, Arizona, Nevada, California, Massachusetts, New York) issued temporary restraining orders or injunctions for alleged illegal vote trading. This led to the shutdown of 2 domains (votauction.com and vote-auction.com). Federal Attorney Janet Reno, the FBI and the NSA were investigating the case to ensure the integrity of the voting process on november 7th, 2000.

Over 1800 global and national News features in online media, print, television and radio have been reported (including a 27 min. CNN exclusive "Burden of Proof") [2].

"[V]ote-Auction" is one of most risky and paradoxically successfull projects by ubermorgen: it is "the only platform in the world that provide the final consumer an effective role in the American election industry". A true

interchange system that finally "brings capitalism and democracy closer together".

ubermorgen exhibited the [V]ote-auction CNN tape, Voteauction-Seals and [F]original legal Documents in the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum 2001, The Premises Gallery Johannesburg 2002, Museu d` Art Contemporani de Barcelona 2003, Read_me 2.4 Helsinki 2003, Konsthall Malmoe 2004, Kunsthaus Graz 2004.

A follow up „legal art“ action called "The Injunction Generator" [4] was awarded with a "Honorary Mention" at the Prix Ars Electronica 2003. The Injunction Generator [4] is a artistic software module which claims to generate on request legal injunctions and personalized documentation in .rtf/.pdf format to force a site into taking its contents offline.

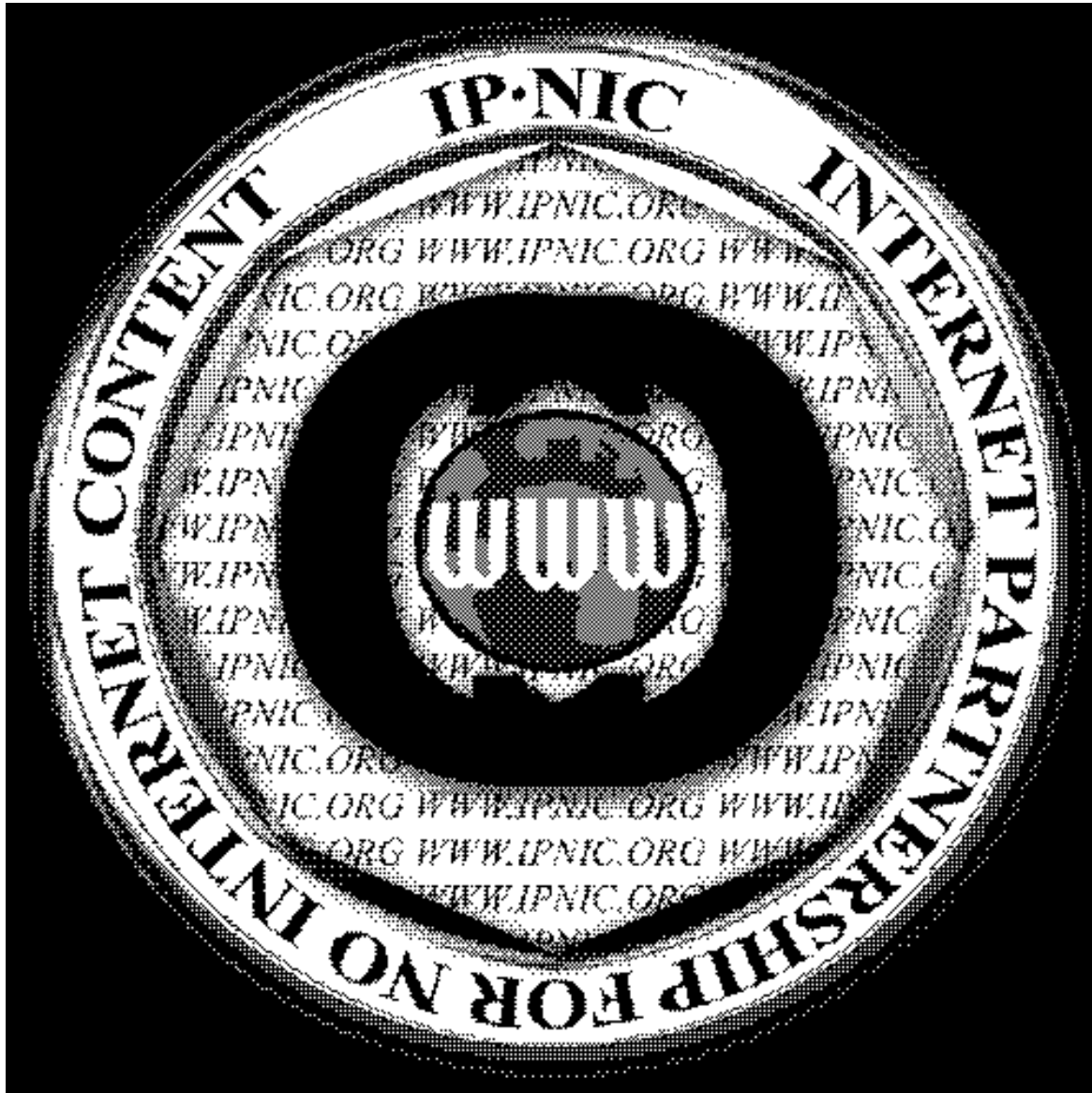
Carrying on with their principles of 'radical corporative marketing strategy' (Media Hacking), the artists group ubermorgen has produced an effective and credible interface which helps creating one's own documented cease-and-desist request, which is also automatically sent to the DNS administrators, to the site's owner and to some journalists to trick them into supporting the 'public trial'. Fall 2004, ubermorgen collaborated with Jorgen Follsted on SELLtheVOTE.COM[6] and exhibited *THE*AGENCY* [for manual Election Recounts] in a solo-exhibition at Kunsthaus Graz, medien.KUNSTLABOR Gallery.

<http://vote-auction.net>

THE INJUNCTION GENERATOR

ipnic.org

Crime and Misconduct Information	
13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> defendants violate trade r domain.
14	<input type="checkbox"/> defendants violate the law above-mentioned domain



ubermorgen's legal art.

With their usual controversial and iconoclast spirit, Ubermorgen, an artist group created by some of the members of etoy, realized The Injunction Generator, a software module which claims to generate on request legal injunctions and personalized documentation in .rtf/.pdf format to force a site into taking its contents offline. Carrying on with their principles of 'radical corporative marketing strategy', the group has produced an effective and credible interface which helps creating one's own documented cease-and-desist request, which is also automatically sent to the DNS administrators, to the site's owner and to some journalists to trick them into supporting the 'public trial'. The project is published on the IP-NIC domain, an acronym which mimics the official protocols (Internet Protocol - Network Information Center), revisited as 'Internet Partnership for No Internet Content'. This sarcastic provocation (a 'public shutdown service') was conceived after experiencing a similar mishap for the [V]ote-auction project, which invited american citizens to put up their vote for auction. At the time (2000) an email injunction by an american court was sent to the swiss provider hosting the site, who took them immediately offline even though email documents aren't legally considered official and even though Swiss is outside of american jurisdiction. [[Neural.it](http://www.neural.it)]

2004 *THE*AGENCY* [for manual Election Recounts]



*THE*AGENCY* SEAL, Pixel on Screen

Courtesy of the artist, medien.KUNSTLABOR, Kunsthaus Graz, 2004



Gallery-Visitor votes on Florida Absentee Ballot
November 2, 2004

Foto courtesy of the artist, medien.KUNSTLABOR, Kunsthaus Graz

http://ubermorgen.com/*THE*AGENCY*/

ubermorgen projects & clients

selection 1999-2001

ars media-hack 1999



2000 2000



voteauction 2000



bmdi.de 2000



dr. bichlbauer - wto / cils salzburg action 2000

andy bichlbaum a.k.a. hans bernhard and lizvlx in collaboration with RTMark.com

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES

Correspondence: PO Box 19, A-5033 Salzburg, Austria / Offices: Schwoigmuehlweg 6B, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria
Tel.: ++43 662 /835399 Fax.: ++43 662 /835171 Web: www.cils.org

Speaker Confirmation

International Provision of Services and Sale of Goods


26-29 OCTOBER 2000, SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

I accept appointment as a Speaker for the *International Trade* session of the conference scheduled 26-29 October 2000 at Salzburg, Austria.

I agree to fulfill my role as Speaker to the best of my ability. In return a 40% discount provided to me and 20% provided to my guest from the applicable conference fee (including lodging and meals, professional and social programs), and the inclusion of my name and that of my firm in the conference program and advertising.

Should I be unable to participate because of personal emergency or professional obligation, I will make best efforts to provide a suitable replacement.

(Please print or type)

NAME: Andreas Bichlbauer	
FIRM: World Trade Organization	
PROPOSED TITLE OF PRESENTATION:	
Trade Regulation Relaxation and Concepts of Incremental Improvement: Governing Perspectives From 1790 to the Present	
SIGNATURE: 	DATE: August 20, 2000

Please sign and return a copy of this form to confirm your participation. We cannot list you as a Speaker without confirmation.

Further Information regarding the Center, the Conferences, and the venues is available on the Internet at <http://www.cils.org>.

NAZI~LINE 2001

in collaboration with christoph schlingensief



[screenshot 1](#) - campaign web-site

[screenshot 2](#) - corporate web-site

2001 2001

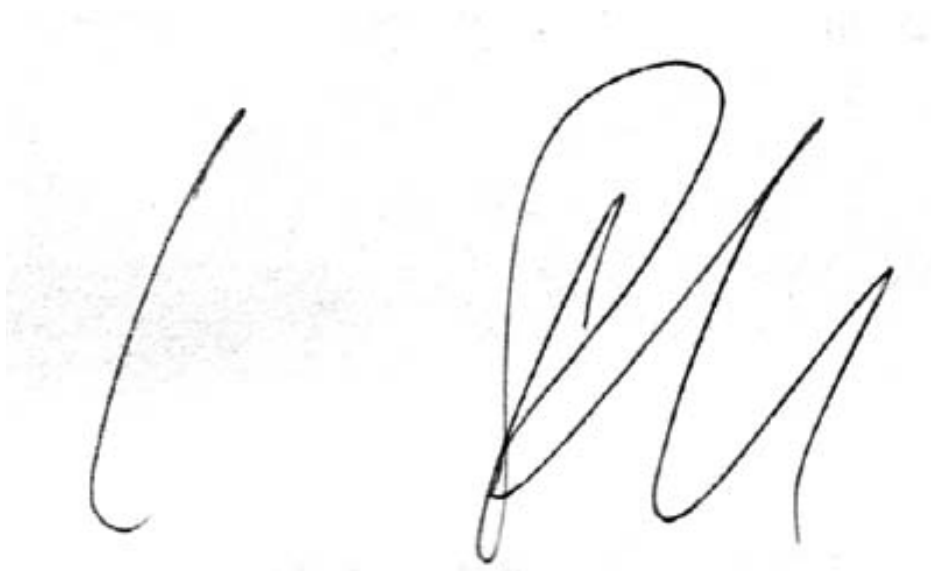


bartnlisa kuenstlerhaus wien action, 2001
[bartnlisa_khaus_ACTION_2001.mov](#)

[injunction generator 2002](#)



[F]originals 2000-2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'L' followed by a series of loops and a final downward stroke.

and

esof ltd. 2001

ALLuberPOPUPs & uberBESTOFpopUPs 2001

uberSEALS 2000-20xx

uberNEWSAGENCY 2001-2002

necessary 2003-200x

2004 2004

u.v.m.

clients

[consulting, design, communication, marketing]

etoy.com 1999-2001

rosa.com 1999-2000

micromusic.net 2000

skim.com 1999-2000

SILVER SERVER 1999-2002

microsoft austria 2000

microsoft germany 2001

allianz munich 2002

microbuilder 2004

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These search terms have been highlighted: **vote auction**

Artnode & cph:dox & Overgaden

presents

ubermorgen, Hans Bernhard



8.11.2004, 1930h

soundtrack by micromusic.net

**lizvlx - hans bernhard - ubermorgen - etoy
1994 - 2004**

10 years digital actionism
legal art
net-exhibitionism
manic insomnia
and
media hacking.

etoy
Voteauction

cphdox
8.11.2004, 19h

Han er blevet kaldt netkunstens "slemme, geniale dreng". Med god grund. Hans Bernhard, også kendt som Hans Bernhard from ubermorgen, hans_extrem, etoy.HANS og net_CALLBOY, har siden netkunstens fødsel i midten af 90erne hacket og provokeret online. Med lige dele sagsanlæg og anerkendelse som resultat. Han har gjort det muligt at sælge sin stemme til det amerikanske præsidentvalg under slogant "Bringing Capitalism and Democracy Closer Together", kidnappet merkantile webservere og lavet en falsk hjemmeside for det tyske indenrigsministerium på adressen naziline.com. Det er performance-dada-punk for de digitale mediers tidsalder. Fuld risiko, ingen respekt og et tæt kendskab til Internettets subersive kanaler. Til dette foredrag viser han en film fra sin optræden på CNNs program "Burden of Proof" og fortæller om sine aktiviteter med Übermorgen og netkunstfirmaet etoy, som stod bag det legendariske værk TOYWAR, der endte med at koste legetøjsfirmaet eToys 4,5 milliarder dollars i aktieværdi. En garanteret underholdende førstehånds-beretning fra den aktivistiske netkunsts forfron

etoy

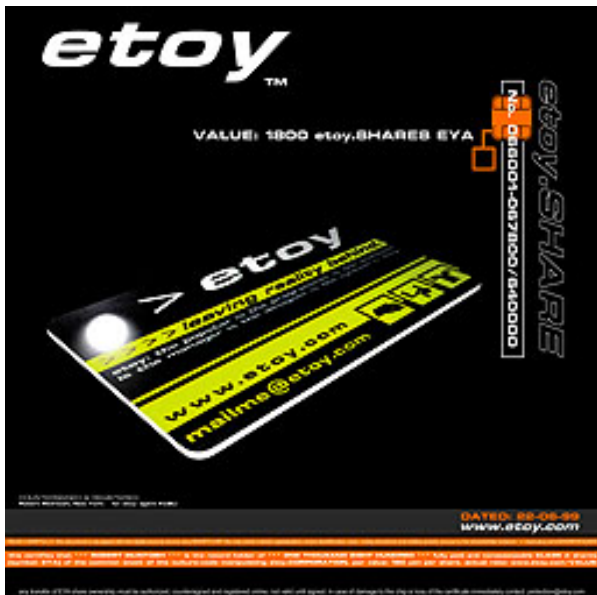


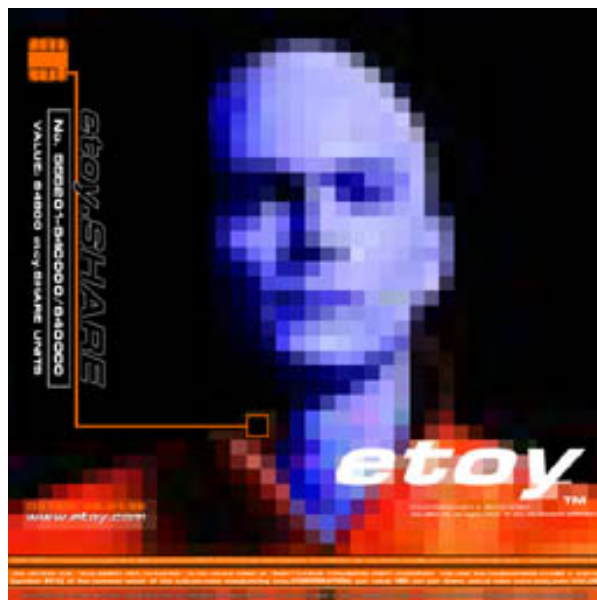
the etoy.GANG - the first street-gang on the internet, 1996

brainhard.com & WORDWAR [1994]
brainhard.com & WORDWAR

corporate identity / corporate philosophy

1994-1996





"yes!...and all our children will be playing in their garden of joy surrounded by glamour and perverted disco tunes... etoy, immature priests from another world..."
björk

interview with etoy

etoy - slogans 1994-2004

LEAVING REALITY BEHIND

ALWAYS ONLINE - SOMETIMES LOST

etoy: the popstar is the pilot is the coder is the designer is the architect is the manager is the system is etoy

etoy: TWISTING VALUES

WE ARE NOT NATURAL ANYMORE!

LOGISTICS FOR THE NEXT LEVEL

FLASHING INTO THE FUTURE

THE FUTURE IS NOW

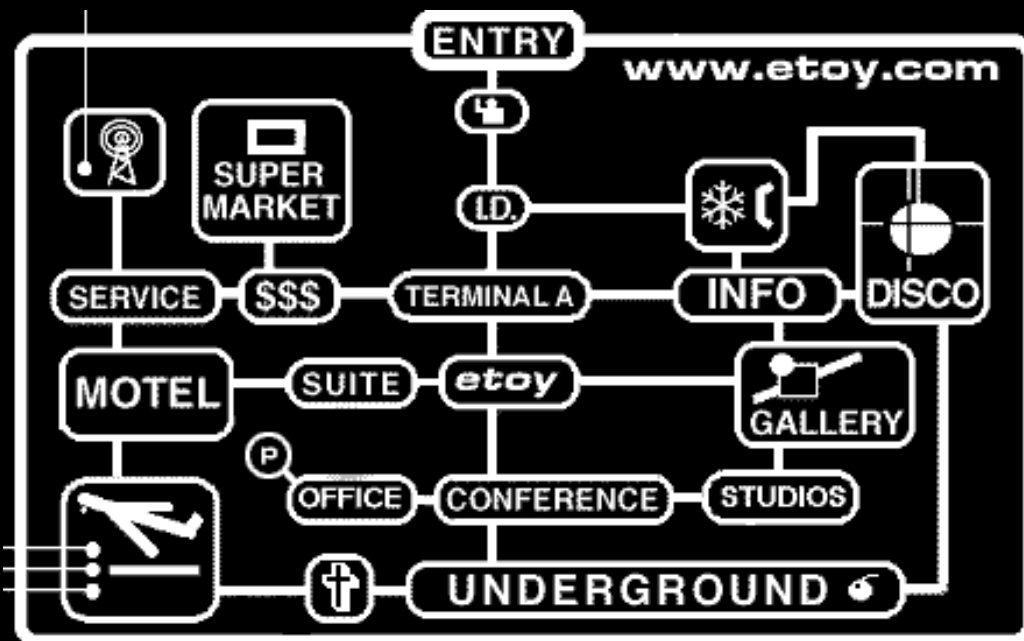
kill netscape by using it!

etoy.TANK-SYSTEM - phase I 1994
etoy - leaving reality behind

c3.hu/tank-system



etoy.HISTORY - the basic-concept: hans X
digital emigration / reality emigration; internet tech, lsd & peter weibel



etoy.TANK-SYSTEM
c3.hu/tank-system

tv-hijack.zip 1996



The Internet-Art-Terror organisation etoy has hijacked a TV-Show on 7.12.96 / 2100 hours. After their Live-Act in the Swiss TV-Infotainment Magazine "Zebra", the etoy.AGENTS have intruded the Prime-Time Show "Benissimo" and they controlled the Swiss TV-Reality for a few seconds. Our anonymous etoy.AGENT has entered the stage, asked the Show-Master Bernhard Turnheer where the way to the Internet is... he told him, that he couldnt stand this TV-Reality anymore and that he needs to know the way to the internet...

Only after massive pressure of the etoy.LAWYER, wich was at this moment not inside the Television Building, the 4 remaining Agents have been released out of Custody around 2300 hours, just before a Police-Task Force arrived at the Swiss Television Building. This Action has received massive Press-Reactions: 3 Headlines from Sunday to Tuesday... in the biggest Swiss Rainbow-Paper "Blick". International Feed-Back from England, Norway and Italy...

leaving reality behind helicopter-action
_rm 1996

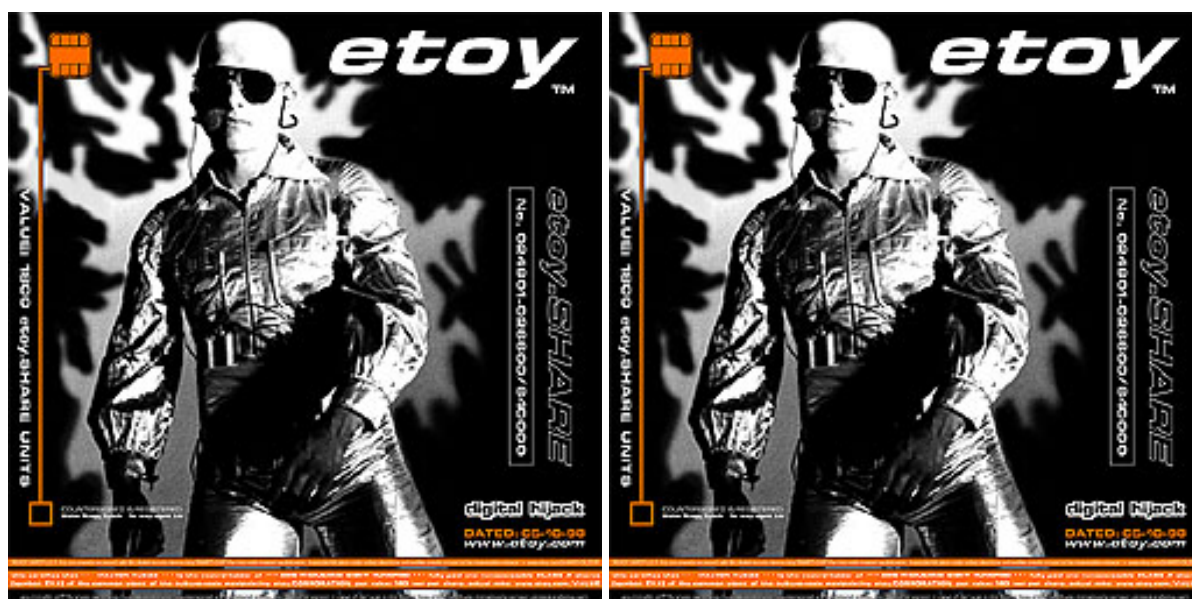
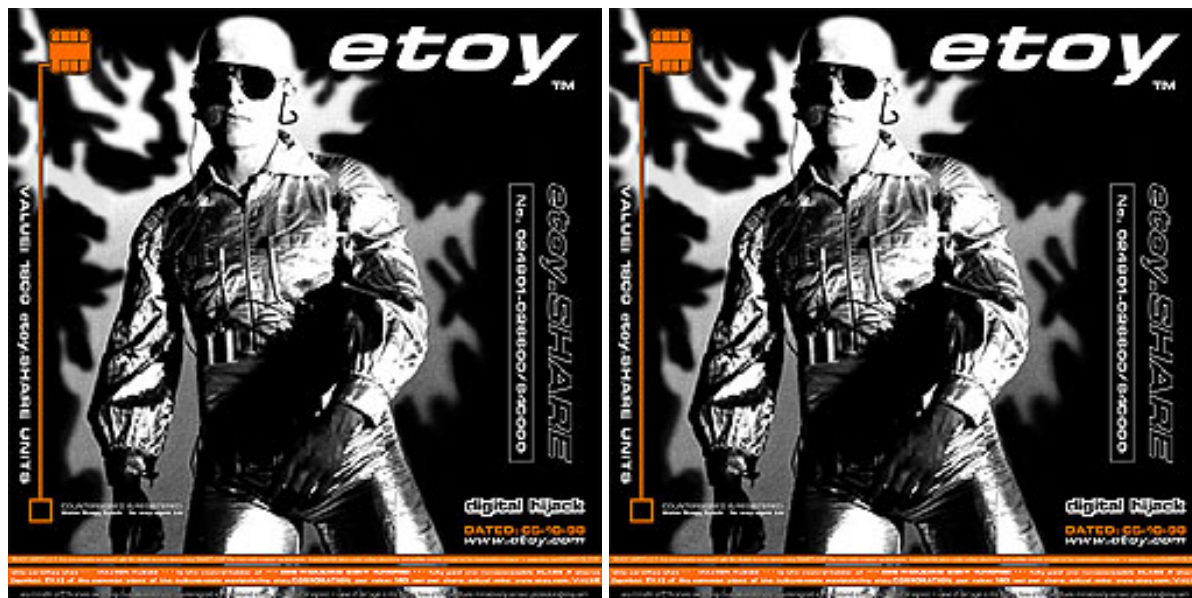




Riefenstahl was severely injured in a helicopter accident in Sudan. She was flown back to a hospital in Munich. Meanwhile etoy.AGENTS were up to a dada foto-tv-shooting on "glitzernde Gletscher" in switzerland on a SFDRS assignment [swiss national television station]

.rm

the digital hijack 1996
hijack.org





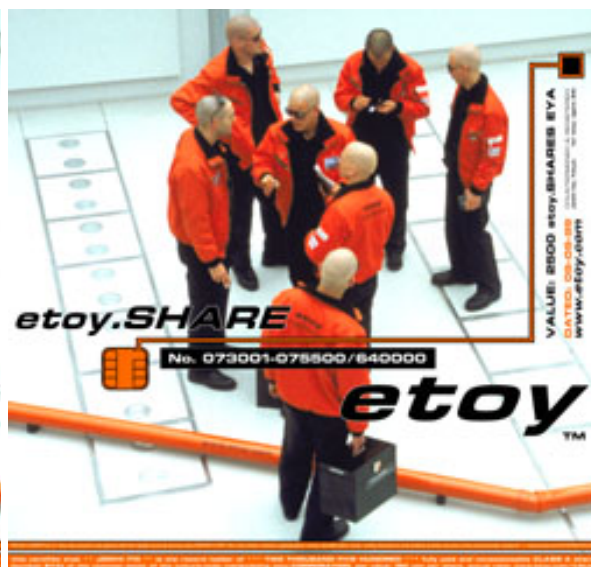
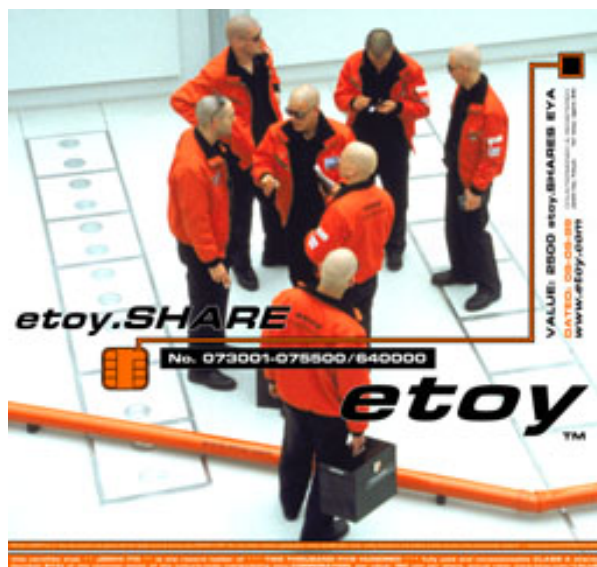
don't fucking move - this is a digital hijack
search-engine hack
meta-refresh=0
1.5 mio internet users hijacked in 3 months
free kevin mitnick
cia / austrian secret service - house search 6 a.m.
email threats ulrike meinhof anonymous remailer

ars electronica - phase II 1996



golden nica - ars electronica 1996

-1999



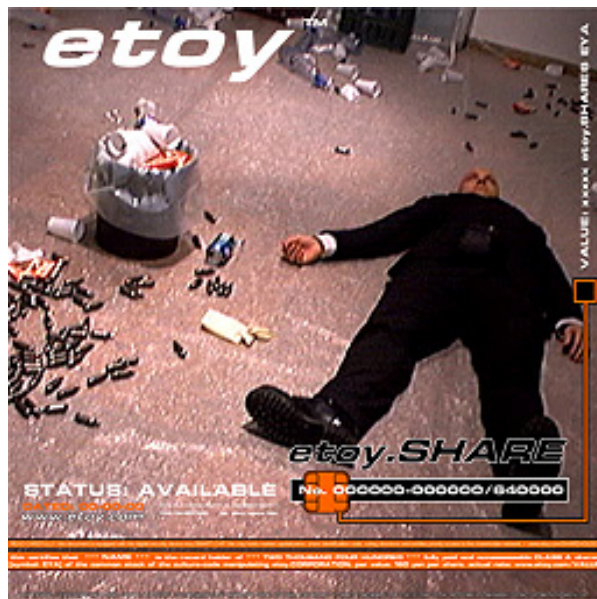
etoy.TANK-SYSTEM exhibition design center linz

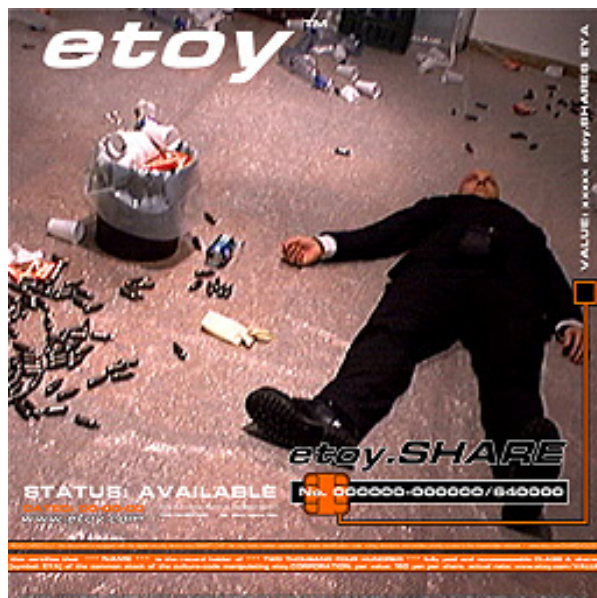
etoy.SHARES



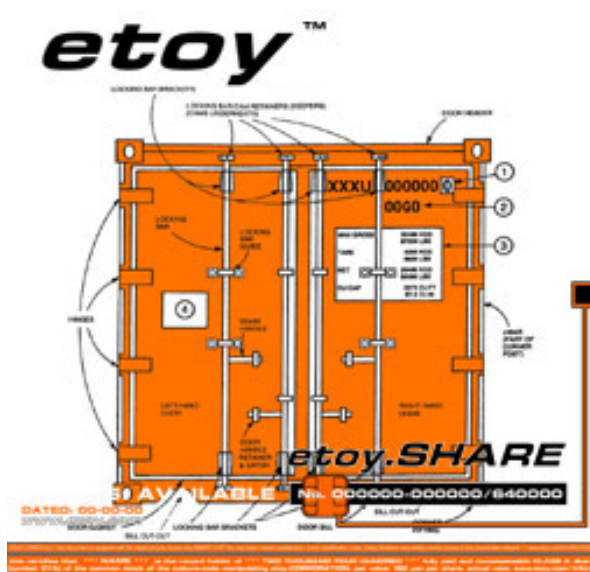
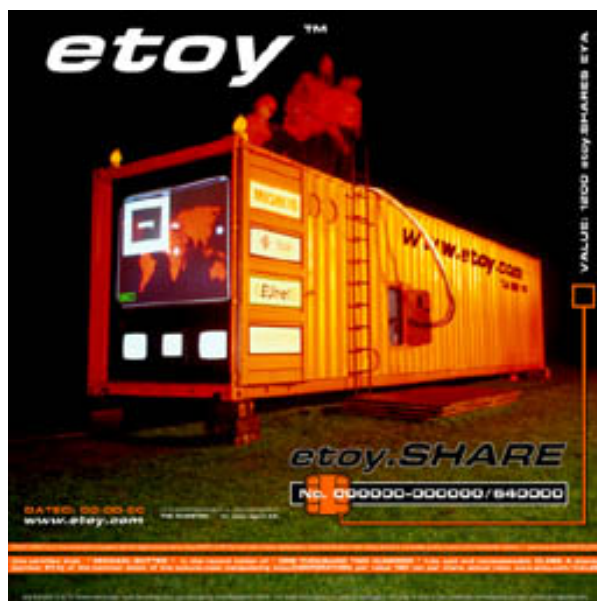
share.etoys.com

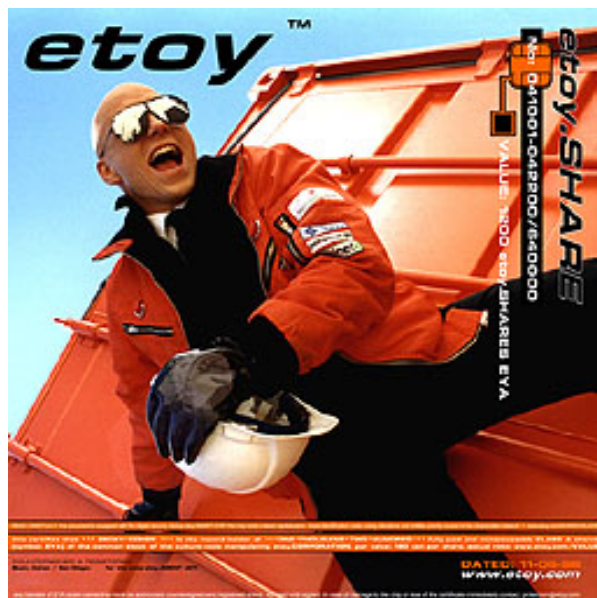
budapest residency & performance
etoym.PROTECTION 1997





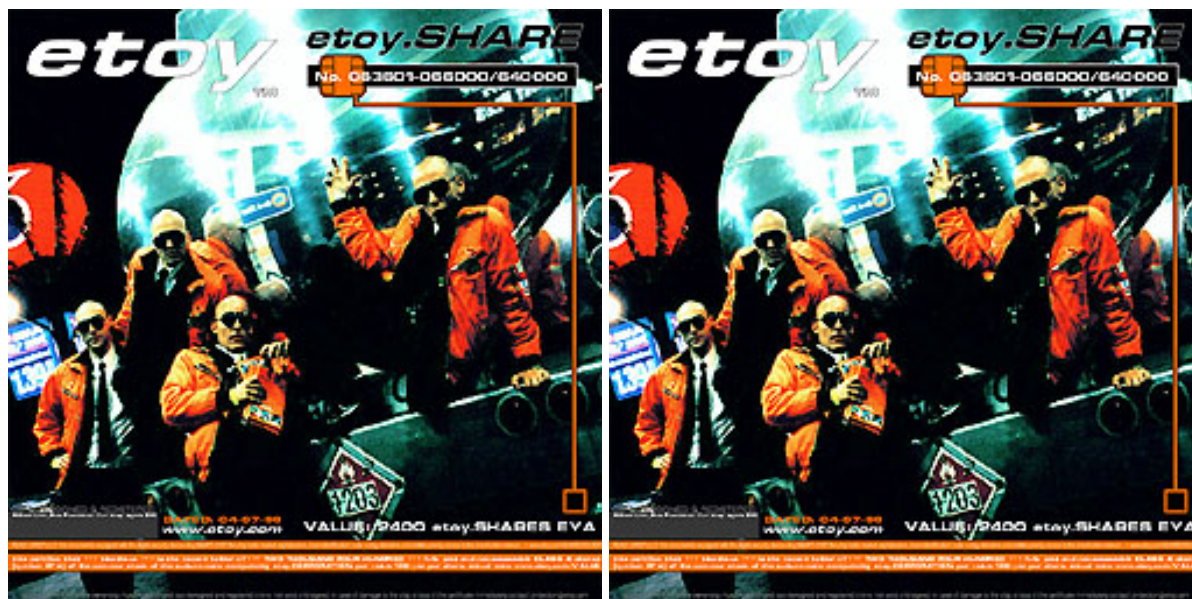
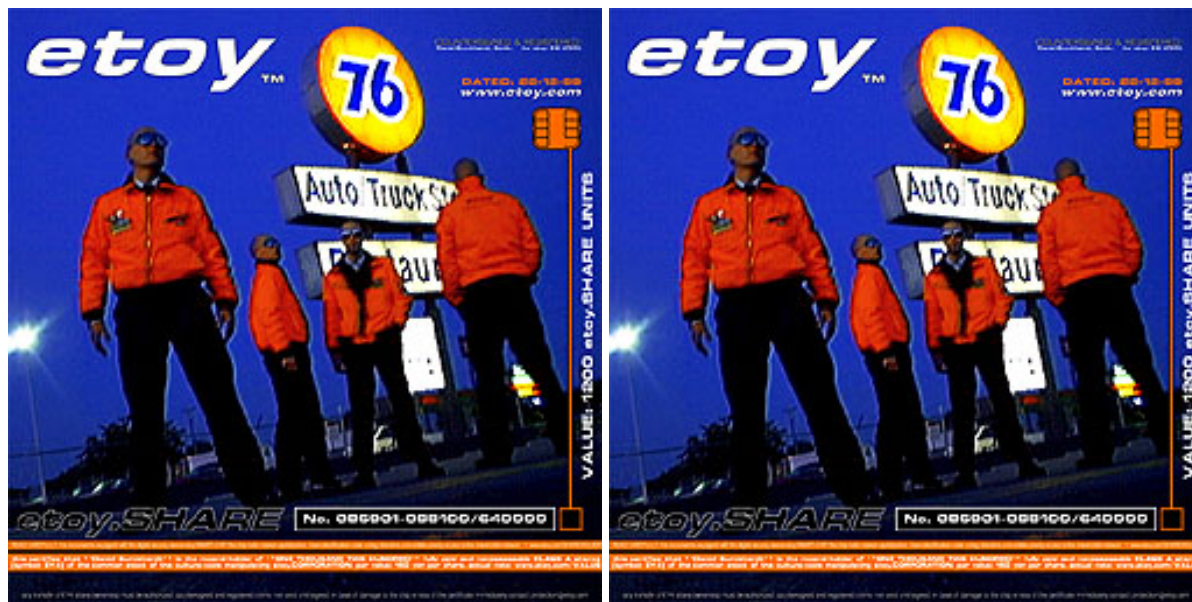
etoy.TANK[-17] 1999-200x





usa-emigration 1998

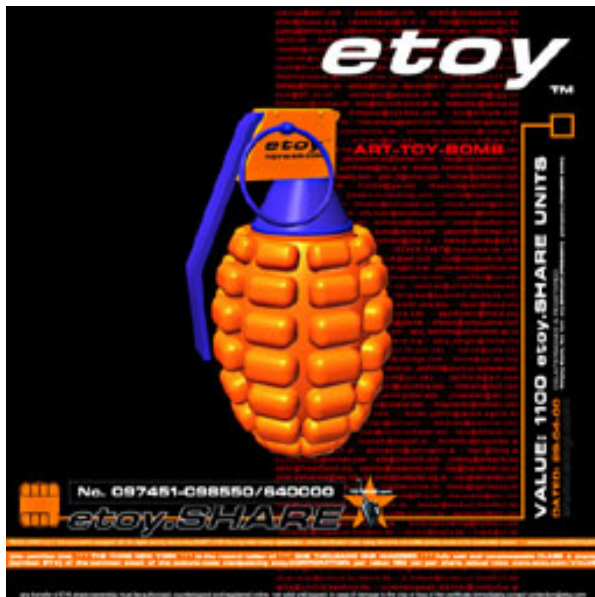
Los Angeles - San Diego - San Francisco



the last original crew picture, san francisco 1999

TOYWAR 1999-2000





legal battle
4.5 billion dollars eToys share-value lost during campaign
domain temporarily shut-down
community fight
toywar-army

etoyholding - phase III 1999-2004

founding 1999

mother-corporation

legal art / legal affairs

strategic planning

etoy.trademarks europa, asia& usa [etoy.CORPORATION zurich / switzerland]

etoyholding - the corporate network

subcompanies

etoy.venture-association cayman islands

etoy.ag st.johns / antigua

etoy gmbh berlin / germany

etoy.corporation zurich / switzerland
etoy.com global
etoyholding.com global

leaving reality behind
the battle for the soul of the internet

etoy.BOOK 2002/2003 [us-edition]
amazon.de [search: "leaving reality behind"]

Adam Wishart and Regula Bochler



leaving reality behind

The battle for the soul of the internet

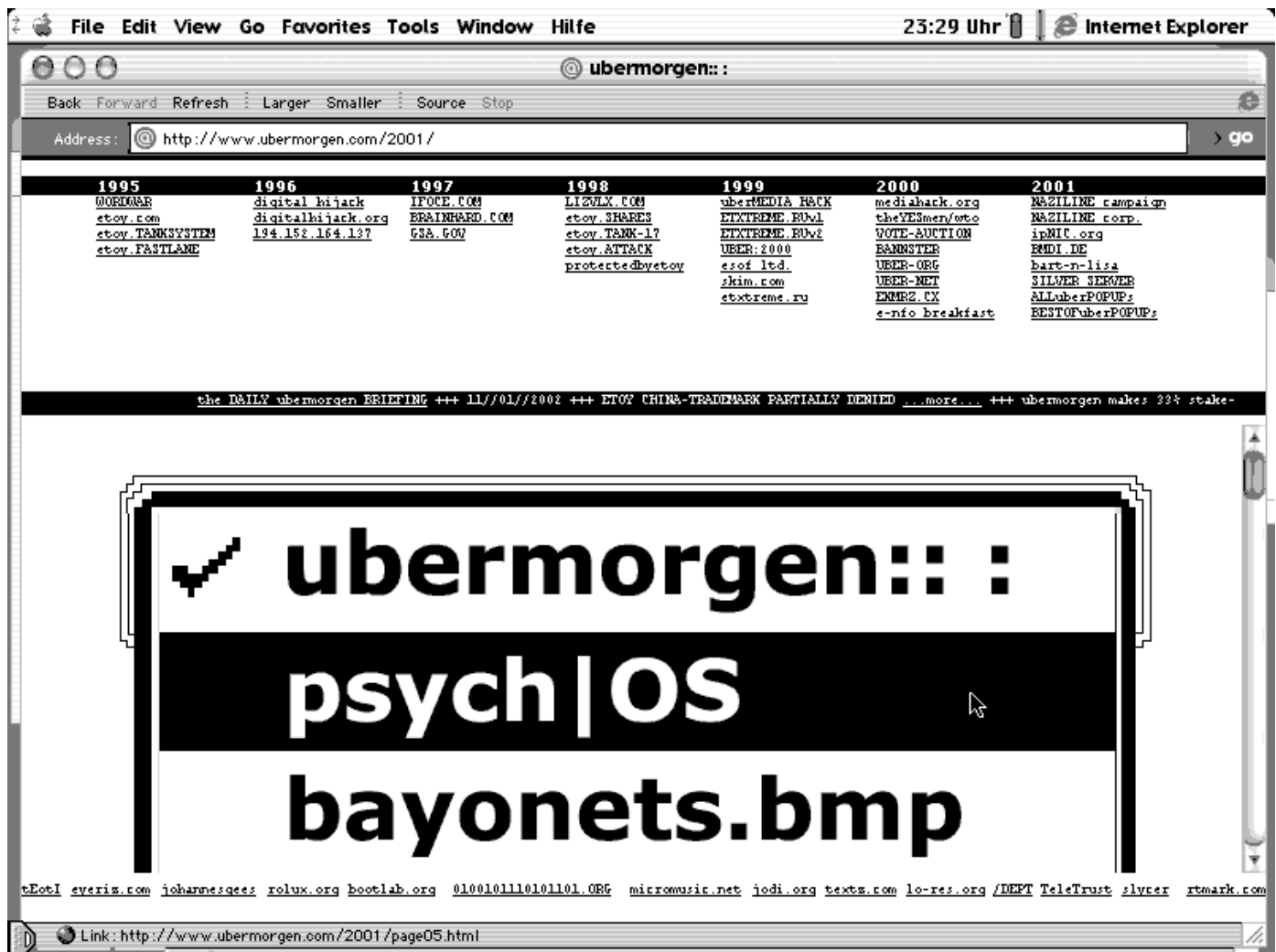


"leaving reality behind has everything. a court case, a cast of unforgettable characters, and a story that could only have happend during the internet insanity. a fascinating read."

online: [prologue](#) / [1.chapter](#)

break

ubermorgen:: : 1999-20xx
ubermorgen.com



founded 1999
artist duo lizvlx and Hans Bernhard

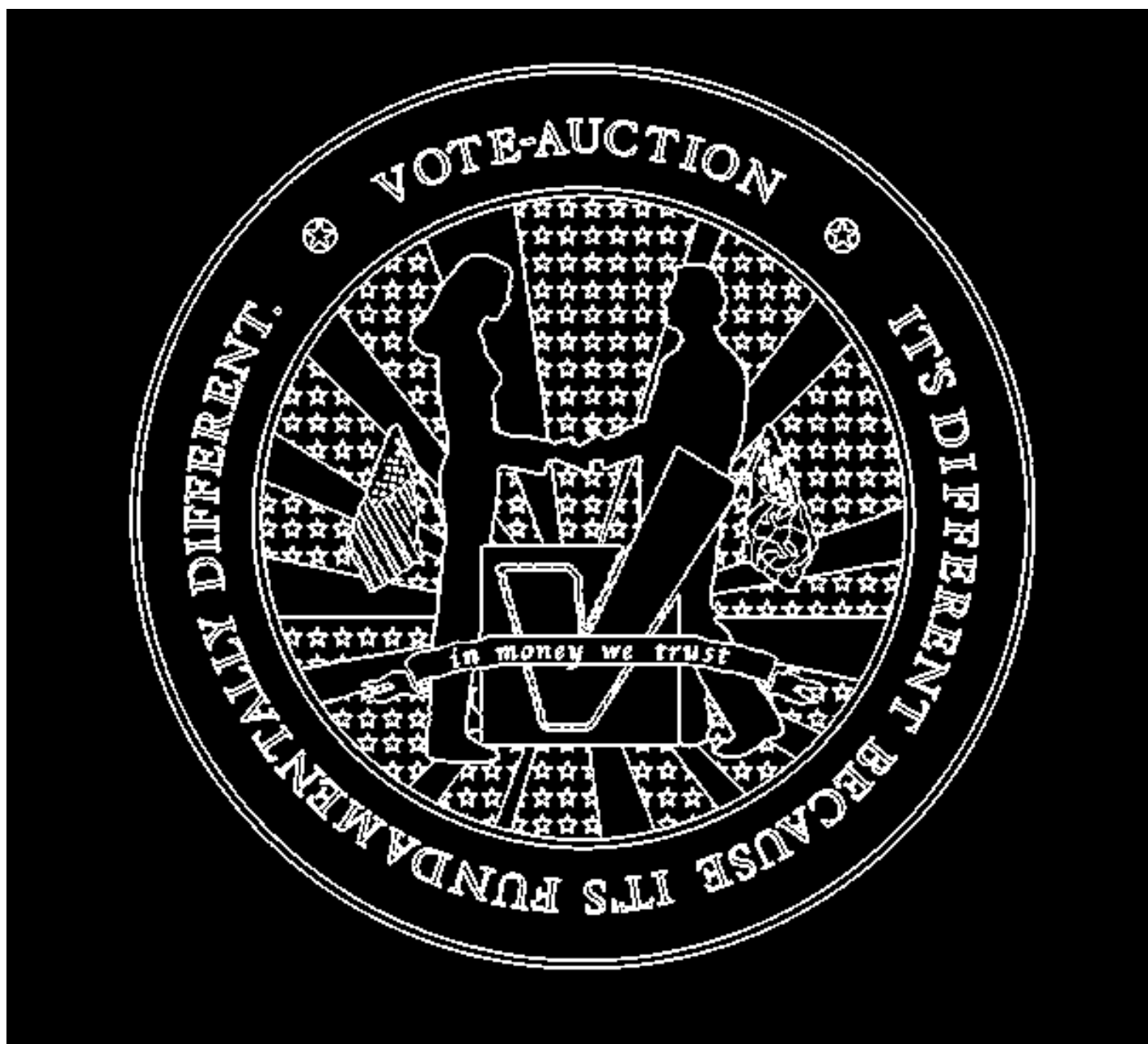
ubermorgen is the author of projects such as "Voteauction, Naziline, Injunction generator, The Agency"

ubermorgen "we have no nationality"

Voteauction

[V]ote-auction - vote-auction.net

Seal



<http://vote-auction.net>

legal documents

[Chicago TRO](#)

[Chicago Complaint](#)

[Chicago Memorandum of Law](#)

[Chicago Preliminary Injunction](#)

screenshot



CNN "burden of proof", 27 Min. [DVD], live-broadcast.

Voteauction was a Website which offered US citizens to sell their presidential vote to the highest bidder during the Presidential Elections 2000, Al Gore vs. G.W. Bush.

The Website was conceived by the student James Baumgartner and then sold to the austrian business-artists Hans Bernhard (founder of etoy [5]) and Lizvlx from ubermorgen[1] in Austria and (V)ote-auction Inc. in Sofia/ Bulgaria [a subsidiary of the ubermorgen group] for a undisclosed sum. Voteauction was ubermorgens feature Media Hacking performance in the year 2000.

Several US States (Missouri, Wisconsin, Chicago, Arizona, Nevada, California, Massachusetts, New York) issued temporary restraining orders or injunctions for alleged illegal vote trading. This led to the shutdown of 2 domains (voteauction.com and **vote-auction.com**). Federal Attorney Janet Reno, the FBI and the NSA were investigating the case to ensure the integrity of the voting process on november 7th, 2000.

Over 1800 global and national News features in online media, print, television and radio have been reported (including a 27 min. CNN exclusive "Burden of Proof") [2].

"[V]ote-Auction" is one of most risky and paradoxically successfull projects by ubermorgen: it is "the only platform in the world that provide the final consumer an effective role in the American election industry". A true

interchange system that finally "brings capitalism and democracy closer together".

ubermorgen exhibited the [V]ote-auction CNN tape, Voteauction-Seals and [F]original legal Documents in the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum 2001, The Premises Gallery Johannesburg 2002, Museu d` Art Contemporani de Barcelona 2003, Read_me 2.4 Helsinki 2003, Konsthall Malmoe 2004, Kunsthaus Graz 2004.

A follow up „legal art“ action called "The Injunction Generator" [4] was awarded with a "Honorary Mention" at the Prix Ars Electronica 2003. The Injunction Generator [4] is a artistic software module which claims to generate on request legal injunctions and personalized documentation in .rtf/.pdf format to force a site into taking its contents offline.

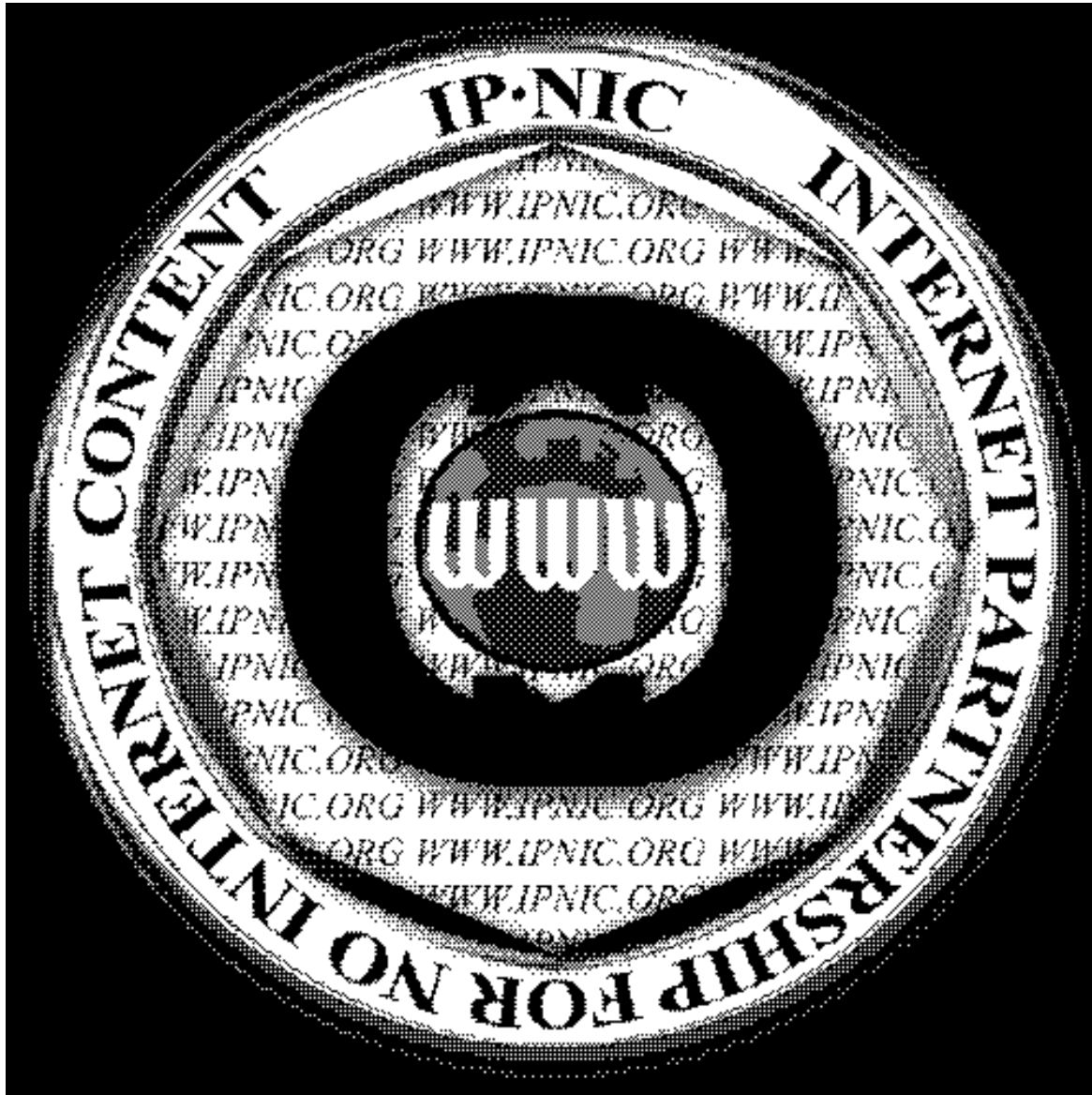
Carrying on with their principles of 'radical corporative marketing strategy' (Media Hacking), the artists group ubermorgen has produced an effective and credible interface which helps creating one's own documented cease-and-desist request, which is also automatically sent to the DNS administrators, to the site's owner and to some journalists to trick them into supporting the 'public trial'. Fall 2004, ubermorgen collaborated with Jorgen Follsted on SELLtheVOTE.COM[6] and exhibited *THE*AGENCY* [for manual Election Recounts] in a solo-exhibition at Kunsthaus Graz, medien.KUNSTLABOR Gallery.

<http://vote-auction.net>

THE INJUNCTION GENERATOR

ipnic.org

Crime and Misconduct Information	
13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> defendants violate trade r domain.
14	<input type="checkbox"/> defendants violate the law above-mentioned domain



ubermorgen's legal art.

With their usual controversial and iconoclast spirit, Ubermorgen, an artist group created by some of the members of etoy, realized The Injunction Generator, a software module which claims to generate on request legal injunctions and personalized documentation in .rtf/.pdf format to force a site into taking its contents offline. Carrying on with their principles of 'radical corporative marketing strategy', the group has produced an effective and credible interface which helps creating one's own documented cease-and-desist request, which is also automatically sent to the DNS administrators, to the site's owner and to some journalists to trick them into supporting the 'public trial'. The project is published on the IP-NIC domain, an acronym which mimics the official protocols (Internet Protocol - Network Information Center), revisited as 'Internet Partnership for No Internet Content'. This sarcastic provocation (a 'public shutdown service') was conceived after experiencing a similar mishap for the [V]ote-auction project, which invited american citizens to put up their vote for auction. At the time (2000) an email injunction by an american court was sent to the swiss provider hosting the site, who took them immediately offline even though email documents aren't legally considered official and even though Swiss is outside of american jurisdiction. [[Neural.it](http://neural.it)]

2004 *THE*AGENCY* [for manual Election Recounts]



*THE*AGENCY* SEAL, Pixel on Screen

Courtesy of the artist, medien.KUNSTLABOR, Kunsthaus Graz, 2004



Gallery-Visitor votes on Florida Absentee Ballot
November 2, 2004

Foto courtesy of the artist, medien.KUNSTLABOR, Kunsthaus Graz

http://ubermorgen.com/*THE*AGENCY*/

ubermorgen projects & clients

selection 1999-2001

ars media-hack 1999



2000 2000



voteauction 2000



bmdi.de 2000



dr. bichlbauer - wto / cils salzburg action 2000

andy bichlbaum a.k.a. hans bernhard and lizvlx in collaboration with RTMark.com

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES

Correspondence: PO Box 19, A-5033 Salzburg, Austria / Offices: Schwoigmuehlweg 6B, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria
Tel.: ++43 662 /835399 Fax.: ++43 662 /835171 Web: www.cils.org

Speaker Confirmation

International Provision of Services and Sale of Goods


26-29 OCTOBER 2000, SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

I accept appointment as a Speaker for the *International Trade* session of the conference scheduled 26-29 October 2000 at Salzburg, Austria.

I agree to fulfill my role as Speaker to the best of my ability. In return a 40% discount provided to me and 20% provided to my guest from the applicable conference fee (including lodging and meals, professional and social programs), and the inclusion of my name and that of my firm in the conference program and advertising.

Should I be unable to participate because of personal emergency or professional obligation, I will make best efforts to provide a suitable replacement.

(Please print or type)

NAME: Andreas Bichlbauer	
FIRM: World Trade Organization	
PROPOSED TITLE OF PRESENTATION:	
Trade Regulation Relaxation and Concepts of Incremental Improvement: Governing Perspectives From 1790 to the Present	
SIGNATURE: 	DATE: August 20, 2000

Please sign and return a copy of this form to confirm your participation. We cannot list you as a Speaker without confirmation.

Further Information regarding the Center, the Conferences, and the venues is available on the Internet at <http://www.cils.org>.

NAZI~LINE 2001

in collaboration with christoph schlingensief



[screenshot 1](#) - campaign web-site

[screenshot 2](#) - corporate web-site

2001 2001

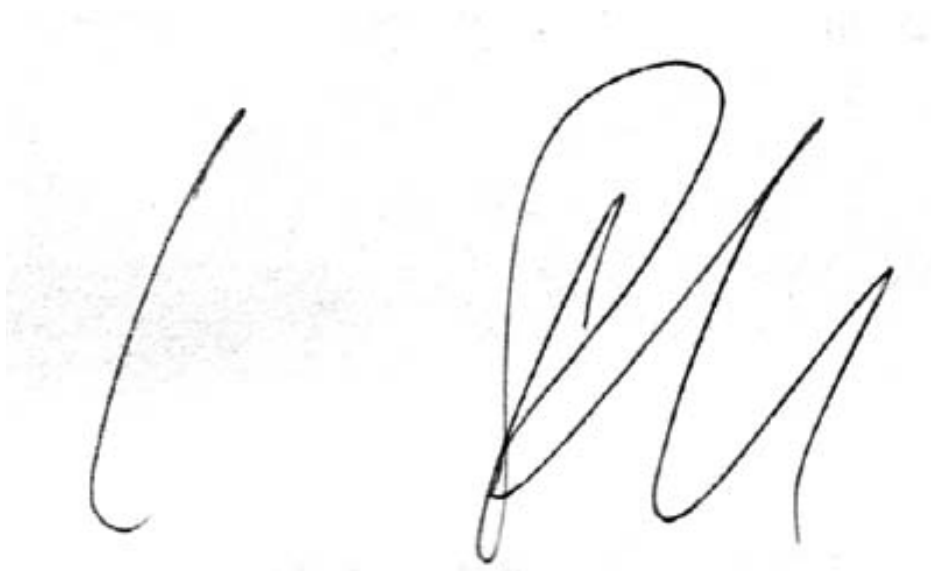


bartnlisa kuenstlerhaus wien action, 2001
bartnlisa_khaus_ACTION_2001.mov

injunction generator 2002



[F]originals 2000-2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'L' followed by a series of loops and a final downward stroke.

and

esof ltd. 2001

ALLuberPOPUPs & uberBESTOFpopUPs 2001

uberSEALS 2000-20xx

uberNEWSAGENCY 2001-2002

necessary 2003-200x

2004 2004

u.v.m.

clients

[consulting, design, communication, marketing]

etoy.com 1999-2001

rosa.com 1999-2000

micromusic.net 2000

skim.com 1999-2000

SILVER SERVER 1999-2002

microsoft austria 2000

microsoft germany 2001

allianz munich 2002

microbuilder 2004

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[uber2004](#)

www.ubermorgen.com/2005/ - 1k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[The Yes Men](#)

The Yes Men agree their way into the fortified compounds of commerce, ask questions, and smuggle out stories. They call this 'Identity Correction.'

www.theyesmen.org/ - 20k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[eselUpdateWiki - Raum Struktur](#) - [[Translate this page](#)]

eselUpdateWiki: HomePage. RecentChanges | FindPage | | LikePages | BackLinks.
Raum Struktur. Updatepse Selbstreferenzen; künstlerische ...

update.esel.at/wiki/index.php/RaumStruktur - 8k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Franz Wassermann](#) - [[Translate this page](#)]

MyLivingroom.org ist eine virtuelle Galerie der Arbeiten des Künstlers Franz Wassermann.

www.mylivingroom.org/ - 3k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[IP-NIC](#)

www.ipnic.org/ - 9k - 6 Mar 2005 - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[:.....: KINGDOM OF PIRACY :.....:](#)

Culture Without Commodities:From Dada to Open Source and Beyond Felix Stalder<felix@openflows.org> Toronto, July 2002 Only a handful of movements in the West's ...

kop.fact.co.uk/KOP/writers/html/w3texts.html - 20k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[What is Moore's Law? - A Word Definition From the Webopedia ...](#)

This page describes the term Moore's Law and lists other pages on the Web where you can find additional information.

www.webopedia.com/TERM/M/Moores_Law.html - 41k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[New York Surveillance Camera Players](#)

Only someone completely distrustful of all government would be opposed to what we are doing with surveillance cameras. -- NYC Police ...

www.notbored.org/the-scp.html - 5k - 6 Mar 2005 - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[etoy.CORPORATION](#)

etoy.INVESTOR RELATION NEWS. ...

www.etoy.com/ - 8k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[RTMark: Your Real Corporation Clearinghouse](#)

start (or continue) today! ...

www.rtmark.com/ - 22k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

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[Preferences](#)

Web Results 1 - 10 of about 62 from [www.ubermorgen.com](#) for **vote-auction**. (0.29 seconds)

[ubermorgen READ_ME 2.3 2003](#)

... [V]OTE-AUCTION. <http://www.voteauction.com> 1.st.domain.original.domain, registrar.lock! <http://www.vote-auction.com> 2.nd.domain, registrar.hold! ...
www.ubermorgen.com/read_me/ - 10k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[UBERMORGEN - LIZVLX & HANS BERNHARD - CPHDOX 11 2004](#)

... Agency". ubermorgen "we have no nationality". Voteauction [V]ote-auction - **vote-auction.net** Seal. <http://vote-auction.net>. legal documents. ...
www.ubermorgen.com/lectures/cphdox/main.html - 48k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[UBERMORGEN - CV](#)

... <http://ubermorgen.com> <http://hansbernhard.com> <http://lizvlx.com> <http://vote-auction.net> <http://vote-auction.net/CHICAGO/> <http://vote-auction.net/CNN/> [http ...](#)
www.ubermorgen.com/2005/cv_ubermorgen.html - 4k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[To: "irina koch" <v13@virgilio.it> From: net_CALLBOY <hans ...](#)

... i really dont know too much about the motivation of rtmark or james, although i agree that **vote-auction** has pretty well made the connection between soft-money ...
www.ubermorgen.com/uberINTERVIEW_1101_var_engl.txt - 27k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[ubermorgen:: : DINA CCCB BARCELONA UBERMORGEN ETOY 2002](#)

... eyeriz from eyeriz dot com. - and the **vote-auction** ltd, sofia bulgaria, the legal body for the **vote-auction** action... - and as i said ...
www.ubermorgen.com/DINA_2002/ - 37k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[uberNEWSAGENCY +++ ubermorgen DAILY BRIEFING +++ fresh ; live ...](#)

... MULTIFUNCTIONAL 1 2 3 uberSIGNATURES UBERMORGEN RELEASES NEW POLLS FOR 2002 UBERMORGEN'S INJUNCTION GENERATOR IN TAIWAN EXHIBITION * **VOTE-AUCTION** MOVIE-SCRIPT ...
www.ubermorgen.com/uberNEWSAGENCY/20020404_index.html - 18k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[EXHIBITIONS / PUBLICATIONS / TALKS /](#)

... Group exhibition. Kokerei Essen, "Soziale Technologien" <http://www.mediaartnet.org/works/vote-auction/>. Lectures. READ_ME 2.3 festival / helsinki. ...
www.ubermorgen.com/2005/exhibitions.html - 44k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[uberNEWSAGENCY +++ ubermorgen DAILY BRIEFING +++ fresh ; live ...](#)

... **VOTE-AUCTION** DNS UBERMORGEN GROUP FOCUSING ON DOCUMENTA11

UNFRIENDLY TAKEOVER OF TELETRUST.INFO DECLARED UNNECESSARY UBERMORGEN OFFICIALLY DENIES LINK TO ...

www.ubermorgen.com/uberNEWSAGENCY/20020118_index.html - 11k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[uberNEWSAGENCY +++ ubermorgen DAILY BRIEFING +++ fresh ; live ...](#)

... UPCOMING BRIEFINGS: UBERMORGEN LAW SUIT AGAINST CSL NOT FULFILLING **VOTE-AUCTION**

DNS UBERMORGEN GROUP FOCUSING ON DOCUMENTA11 UNFRIENDLY TAKEOVER OF TELETRUST ...

www.ubermorgen.com/uberNEWSAGENCY/20020116_index.html - 10k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

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... AC.UK LECTURE TOUR 02/2002 UBERMORGEN RELEASES NEW POLLS FOR 2002 UBERMORGEN'S

INJUNCTION GENERATOR IN TAIWAN "PIRACY" EXHIBITION **VOTE-AUCTION** MOVIE-SCRIPT PRE ...

www.ubermorgen.com/uberNEWSAGENCY/20020125_index.html - 13k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)



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ACLU fights to protect vote-brokering Web sites

By The Associated Press

11.02.00

[Printer-friendly page](#)

A Europe-based Web site claiming to buy and sell votes for the U.S. presidential election apparently closed yesterday under pressure from Chicago election officials.

But the American Civil Liberties Union said it would fight to keep vote-auction.com on the Internet, saying the Web site was constitutionally protected under the First Amendment.

"We think political parody and satire is protected whether on the written page or the Internet," said Harvey Grossman, ACLU of Illinois legal director.

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The site is also being challenged in several other states. Officials in Missouri and Wisconsin filed lawsuits Oct. 31 seeking to stop the site from operating in their states. Massachusetts voting officials are currently drafting a lawsuit, and officials in Nebraska and Oregon are investigating the issue.

The site was created by James Baumgartner, a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., who said he did it as a parody to "evoke public commentary concerning an issue which is at the core of this nation's democracy, whether or not elections are for sale."

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Hans Bernhard of Vienna, Austria, for one Euro, less than a dollar. Bernhard then arranged for the Swiss group to establish the domain vote-auction.com.

The difference in the name was no more than a hyphen between the words *vote* and *auction* and the contents were apparently very similar.

Bernhard had claimed, without proof, to have been offered \$260,000 for more than 21,000 votes. Even if that could be verified, there is no way to prove how the 21,000 votes would have been cast.

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It now goes before U.S. District Judge William J. Hibbler, the same judge who forced reluctant Illinois election officials to put the name of Green Party candidate Ralph Nader on the Nov. 7 ballot.

In Missouri, a circuit court judge yesterday issued a temporary restraining order against the site's operators, and a Nov. 28 hearing has been set on preliminary and permanent injunctions. Missouri officials are also seeking \$1,000 fines for each violation of state law.

Meanwhile, the ACLU of Southern California planned to go to court today to try to prevent California Secretary of State Bill Jones from threatening creators of vote-swapping Web sites.

One site, www.voteswap2000.com, was voluntarily shut down this week after officials from Jones' office told the site's creators that they were breaking state election laws.

On the site, supporters of Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader who live in states where the race is close agreed to vote for Democrat Al Gore in exchange for a Nader vote in a state where there is no contest.

The deal could allow a Gore victory in close states and still earn Nader federal campaign dollars in 2004.

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ACLU lawyers said they would seek a restraining order in federal court in Los Angeles because the site is protected under the First Amendment.

"This could be the first case ever of a government official censoring political speech on the Internet," said Mark Rosenbaum, ACLU of Southern California legal director. "This is not manipulating the vote at all, but a discussion about how to strategically vote."

The site's creators voluntarily took the site down Oct. 30 and replaced it with an explanation that they didn't know they were acting illegally until contacted by state officials.

"We apologize for the inconvenience of anyone who has used the site in the past few days. As I said, we are not lawyers. At the time we set the site up we understood that what we were doing was legal," the site read.

Jones' office plans on fighting the proposed restraining order, which could put the site back online.

"You can't trade a dollar for a vote, a job for a vote, or a vote for a vote," said Jones spokesman Alfie Charles. "It's the secretary of state's job to protect the integrity of the election process."

Update

Federal appeals court reinstates lawsuit by vote-swapping Web sites

Judges say that failing to resolve dispute between Web site operators, California may result in 'chilling' plaintiffs' protected speech in next election. 02.08.03

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ACLU fights to protect vote-brokering Web sites

By The Associated Press

11.02.00

[Printer-friendly page](#)

A Europe-based Web site claiming to buy and sell votes for the U.S. presidential election apparently closed yesterday under pressure from Chicago election officials.

But the American Civil Liberties Union said it would fight to keep [vote-auction.com](#) on the Internet, saying the Web site was constitutionally protected under the First Amendment.

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The Fix

1/9/2000

Vote Auction

Filed under:

- General

— gjw @ 12:10 am

I don't quite understand how this works but it seems deeply scary. Since when have elections been an "Industry" for profit to be made off?

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Pit Schultz on 26 Oct 2000 14:54:22 -0000

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<nettime> vote action

- *To:* nettime-l ****at**** bbs.thing.net
- *Subject:* <nettime> vote action
- *From:* Pit Schultz <pit ****at**** klubradio.de>
- *Date:* Thu, 26 Oct 2000 09:46:29 +0200
- *Reply-To:* Pit Schultz <pit ****at**** klubradio.de>
- *Sender:* nettime-l-request ****at**** bbs.thing.net

{piggyback on}

just recently there has been one of the first larger e-votes in the history of net.politics. even if non-profit the company who ran it, was overwhelmed by the requests. only those with access to the proper

tools (speak voting-bots) had a good chance to get their own id-number

and later the right to put a candidate into the seat.

in the future (speak next election), the decision if you can vote or can't will depend very much on a number of other 'technical' circumstances. like, having an internet connection at all,

or a social security number, or at least an intact media immunity system,

like perceptual spam filters etc. voting in times of interactivity,

is something much nearer to gaming, the demographics of consumer studies, or the gambling at wall street. Pepsi or Coke? Vote now! in the meanwhile let's switch over to:

<http://www.cnn.com/video/burden/2000/10/24/show.rm80.ram>

For american patriotic governmentalists the humour ends where the game gets real. applying e-bay to the voting system, and merging e-commerce and the emerging e-voting industry puts e-democracy where it is now: to the brink of hypercapitalism. democracy for crazy people is a world-wide health product and comes in a package with the toxic drug itself:

free market and a smile of jimmy carter. even the chinese, the serbs and soon the north-koreans have to accept the dollar-democracy.

as a european you might be able to buy hitler's 'mein kampf' from US based e-book-shops, but now US feds want to sue some austrians for a business plan which targets on the unalienatable right to vote. what is to be exposed is the double moral of a multi-billion election industry. at the one side, an online street theater which left the art-tank to do 'serious' business, at the other, a political theatre which left the area of real-politics to get engaged into perception management. Enter the Broadband SuperHighway! (no matter if you enter from the right or left) In Europe many kinds of bribaries are historically part of political culture and don't even have to be called lobbyism. it's just "friendship" between powerful men. like Kohl and Jelzin, or Kohl and some nameless rich guys. but the people in germany are eager to forgive him - the charts for Kohl are already going up, thanks to a perverse media logic which gives the greatest rewards to the greatest sinner. an interesting side issue was that one of the first measures to stop the activist-entrepreneurs from vote-auction was to force the domain-name administrator to take their adress off the net.

This is the ICANN way of control, from the whois database to the individual, if we can't erase the content, you might still take away my domain name or adress under which people 'know' my site. but this strategy is short-sighted of course. the future is now. politics enter the stock market and vice versa. so, let's bet, how many people actually vote in the USA? and how many people have a car, a fridge, or a computer? don't forget to use the message board first! public intellectuals and media theorists first.

{piggyback off}

from: net_CALLBOY <play **at** ubermorgen.com>
subject: for y/eyes! press:: vote-auction.com
ccontent-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii" ; format="flowed"

[...]

+ CHECK OUT the press.section:

<http://www.vote-auction.com/news.htm>

CNN, wirednews, WIRED, USA Today, ABC, NBC, FOX, Slate, Washington Post, Industry Standard, AP, CNET, Telepolis,

Spiegel Online, Slashdot, ...

various serious legal cases/ prosecutions ::

- :: board of elections chicago
- :: california secretary of state
- :: board of election nebraska
- :: texas attorney general
- :: tech crime unit arizona,

...heavy duty stuff! see some docs under::

<http://www.vote-auction.com/legal/index.htm>

the domain voteauction.com has been deactivated on orders of some local judge in chicago/illinois; sooo much fun and pressure there!

read more in our attached press.release or under::

<http://www.vote-auction.com/pr.htm>

our holding-company is specialized on high-risk ventures!

::.. we invest into / they invest into ..::

ubermorgen.com, etoy.com, SILVER SERVER, rtmark.com, skim.com, uptoart.com, etxtreme.org, voortekk.com, rosa.com, dplanet.org, msn.de, micromusic.net, and many more..

for ubermorgen.com and the etoy.HOLDING::

:: lizv1x [CEO ubermorgen.com]

:: etoy.HANS /net_CALLBOY [CEO vote-auction.com]

.

"if you don't get help from us, please get help somewhere!"

<http://www.ubermorgen.com> :: shock marketing :: software dev.

.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vote-auction.com back online

Berlin, October 22, 2000

Below you find the latest press release by Vote-auction.com [formerly voteauction.com]. We have included the most relevant information on the latest developments of the site and the people and users behind it.

You can also find this press release at <http://www.vote-auction.com/pr.htm>

For any further information feel free to contact pr **at** vote-auction.com or in urgent cases call +49-175-2066954.

[V] Voteauction.com is dead, long live Vote-auction.com

The "Leader of the Election Industry", vote-auction.com has regained access to the web via its new domain

<http://www.vote-auction.com>

During the past week, diverse rumours and hear-say has been passed concerning the website which explores the high-risk consumer markets of the American election industry.

The site's original domain had been ordered shut down by a local American court in the U.S. state of Illinois earlier this week. But whilst American authorities took their time and tax payers' money to legally pursue almost everybody related to the existence of the website, the owners of the site worked on a re-design and strategy paper for version 2.0 of the project.

[V] Sue 'em 'til they drop...

The legal authorities of Chicago, Illinois, made every

effort to get the site out of service during the last 2 weeks. Amongst the original creator of the project, James Baumgartner, and the owner of the domain, Hans Bernhard, they also found it in the public's interest to sue:

- . domainbank.com: Domainbank inc., is the registry where the original domain "voteauction.com" is registered. It is defendant in named Chicago legal case.
- . silverserver.at: Both SILVER SERVER's president as well as of one of the top technical staff are also named defendants in the Chicago legal case. SILVER SERVER is vote-auction.com's internet access provider.

[V] (Il)legal Battle?

It remains open for discussion how it should be possible that a dns (domain name service) or an access provider could ever be responsible for contents accessible via domains they are providing routing services for. Vote-auction.com sees this as illegal practice in total violation of standards set by ICANN.

We can only interpret domainbank's and SILVER SERVER's name on the list of defendants as a indirect means of repression to force vote-auction.com to go offline.

Concerning domainbank inc., this strategy seemed to work out for Chicago prosecutors: Because of domainbank being involved in the legal case, the provider "politely asked" vote-auction.com to provide them with a USD 100,000.00 bond for potential legal costs. Vote-auction.com decided not to comply. Instead, we asked them to transfer our "voteauction.com" domain to another provider. This order was not fulfilled by domainbank, as they had at that time already made a "deal" with Chicago authorities "not to move the domain anywhere", as we were told by one of domainbank's executives.

Concerning "defendant" SILVER SERVER, we can provide you with a clear statement from their president:

"SILVER SERVER clearly and fully supports vote-auction.com.

SILVER SERVER president, o.o., is proud to be the billing contact for vote-auction.com. actually we received very interesting offers by investors to launch vote-auction.com in russia and japan."

[V] Users give full support - despite potential respresion

Lots of users of Vote-auction.com have described their support in various emails. This is another reason why we decided not to wait to get back online until local U.S. legal authorities understand that Vote-auction.com works for and NOT against democracy. We will keep on protecting any data which has been submitted to us by trusting users.

Chicago courts have a somewhat different approach to user rights. The court has ordered all data of users registered with the site to be disclosed to the authorities. This would then enable prosecutors in Chicago to sue users of vote-auction.com individually for so-called "voter fraud".

[V] Where to go from here

Vote-auction.com is ready to deliver even more services to the vital elections markets. We will keep on focusing on the American elections until mid-November this year. In the meantime we will also finish our redesign and software upgrade in order to get ready for upcoming elections worldwide.

For the Vote-auction.com team:

lizv1x

[V]ote-auction.com

PLEASE NOTE: If you want to access Vote-auction.com via web or mail, please be sure to use the correct domain:

pr **at** vote-auction.com
<http://www.vote-auction.com>

We will not be able to receive messages sent to the old address. Thank you.

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# more info: majordomo **at** bbs.thing.net and "info nettime-l"

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thing.net

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- Next by Date: [<nettime> \[ot\] \[!nt\] \n2+0\](#)
- Prev by thread: [Re: <nettime> Re: Palestinians as Myth](#)
- Next by thread: [Re: <nettime> vote action](#)
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Pit Schultz on 26 Oct 2000 14:54:22 -0000

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<nettime> vote action

- *To:* nettime-l ****at**** bbs.thing.net
- *Subject:* <nettime> vote action
- *From:* Pit Schultz <pit ****at**** klubradio.de>
- *Date:* Thu, 26 Oct 2000 09:46:29 +0200
- *Reply-To:* Pit Schultz <pit ****at**** klubradio.de>
- *Sender:* nettime-l-request ****at**** bbs.thing.net

{piggyback on}

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<http://www.cnn.com/video/burden/2000/10/24/show.rm80.ram>

For american patriotic governmentalists the humour ends where the game gets real. applying e-bay to the voting system, and merging e-commerce and the emerging e-voting industry puts e-democracy where it is now: to the brink of hypercapitalism. democracy for crazy people is a world-wide health product and comes in a package with the toxic drug itself: free market and a smile of jimmy carter. even the chinese, the serbs and soon the north-koreans have to accept the dollar-democracy.

as a european you might be able to buy hitler's 'mein kampf' from US based e-book-shops, but now US feds want to sue some austrians for a business plan which targets on the unalienatable right to vote. what is to be exposed is the double moral of a multi-billion election industry. at the one side, an online street theater which left the art-tank to do 'serious' business, at the other, a political theatre which left the area of real-politics to get engaged into perception management. Enter the Broadband SuperHighway! (no matter if you enter from the right or left) In Europe many kinds of bribaries are historically part of political culture and don't even have to be called lobbyism. it's just "friendship" between powerful men. like Kohl and Jelzin, or Kohl and some nameless rich guys. but the people in germany are eager to forgive him - the charts for Kohl are already going up, thanks to a perverse media logic which gives the greatest rewards to the greatest sinner. an interesting side issue was that one of the first measures to stop the activist-entrepreneurs from **vote-auction** was to force the domain-name administrator to take their adress off the net.

This is the ICANN way of control, from the whois database to the individual, if we can't erase the content, you might still take away my domain name or adress under which people 'know' my site. but this strategy is short-sighted of course. the future is now. politics enter the stock market and vice versa. so, let's bet, how many people actually vote in the USA? and how many people have a car, a fridge, or a computer? don't forget to use the message board first! public intellectuals and media

theorists first.
{piggyback off}

from: net_CALLBOY <play **at** ubermorgen.com>
subject: for y/eyes! press:: **vote-auction.com**
ccontent-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii" ; format="flowed"

[...]

+ CHECK OUT the press.section:

<http://www.vote-auction.com/news.htm>

CNN, wirednews, WIRED, USA Today, ABC, NBC, FOX, Slate,
Washington Post, Industry Standard, AP, CNET, Telepolis,
Spiegel Online, Slashdot, ...

various serious legal cases/ prosecutions ::

:: board of elections chicago
:: california secretary of state
:: board of election nebraska
:: texas attorney general
:: tech crime unit arizona,

...heavy duty stuff! see some docs under::

<http://www.vote-auction.com/legal/index.htm>

the domain voteauction.com has been deactivated on
orders of some local judge in chicago/illinois;
sooo much fun and pressure there!

read more in our attached press.release or under::

<http://www.vote-auction.com/pr.htm>

our holding-company is specialized on high-risk ventures!

::.. we invest into / they invest into ...:

ubermorgen.com, etoy.com, SILVER SERVER, rtmark.com,
skim.com, uptoart.com, etxtreme.org, voortekk.com,
rosa.com, dplanet.org, msn.de, micromusic.net, and many more..

for ubermorgen.com and the etoy.HOLDING::

:: lizvlx [CEO ubermorgen.com]

:: etoy.HANS /net_CALLBOY [CEO **vote-auction**.com]

.
"if you don't get help from us, please get help somewhere!"
<http://www.ubermorgen.com> :: shock marketing :: software dev.
.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vote-auction.com back online

Berlin, October 22, 2000

Below you find the latest press release by **Vote-auction**.com [formerly voteauction.com]. We have included the most relevant information on the latest developments of the site and the people and users behind it.

You can also find this press release at [http://www.**vote-auction**.com/pr.htm](http://www.vote-auction.com/pr.htm)

For any further information feel free to contact pr ****at**** **vote-auction**.com or in urgent cases call +49-175-2066954.

[V] Voteauction.com is dead, long live **Vote-auction**.com

The "Leader of the Election Industry", **vote-auction**.com has regained access to the web via its new domain

[http://www.**vote-auction**.com](http://www.vote-auction.com)

During the past week, diverse rumours and hear-say has

been passed concerning the website which explores the high-risk consumer markets of the American election industry.

The site's original domain had been ordered shut down by a local American court in the U.S. state of Illinois earlier this week. But whilst American authorities took their time and tax payers' money to legally pursue almost everybody related to the existence of the website, the owners of the site worked on a re-design and strategy paper for version 2.0 of the project.

[V] Sue 'em 'til they drop...

The legal authorities of Chicago, Illinois, made every effort to get the site out of service during the last 2 weeks. Amongst the original creator of the project, James Baumgartner, and the owner of the domain, Hans Bernhard, they also found it in the public's interest to sue:

- . domainbank.com: Domainbank inc., is the registry where the original domain "voteauction.com" is registered. It is defendant in named Chicago legal case.
- . silverserver.at: Both SILVER SERVER's president as well as of one of the top technical staff are also named defendants in the Chicago legal case. SILVER SERVER is **vote-auction**.com's internet access provider.

[V] (Il)legal Battle?

It remains open for discussion how it should be possible that a dns (domain name service) or an access provider could ever be responsible for contents accessible via domains they are providing routing services for.

Vote-auction.com sees this as illegal practice in total violation of standards set by ICANN.

We can only interpret domainbank's and SILVER SERVER's name on the list of defendants as a indirect means of repression to force **vote-auction**.com to go offline.

Concerning domainbank inc., this strategy seemed to

work out for Chicago prosecutors: Because of domain-bank being involved in the legal case, the provider "politely asked" **vote-auction.com** to provide them with a USD 100,000.00 bond for potential legal costs. **Vote-auction.com** decided not to comply. Instead, we asked them to transfer our "voteauction.com" domain to another provider. This order was not fulfilled by domainbank, as they had at that time already made a "deal" with Chicago authorities "not to move the domain anywhere", as we were told by one of domain-bank's executives.

Concerning "defendant" SILVER SERVER, we can provide you with a clear statement from their president:

"SILVER SERVER clearly and fully supports **vote-auction.com**. SILVER SERVER president, o.o., is proud to be the billing contact for **vote-auction.com**. actually we received very interesting offers by investors to launch **vote-auction.com** in russia and japan."

[V] Users give full support - despite potential respresion

Lots of users of **Vote-auction.com** have described their support in various emails. This is another reason why we decided not to wait to get back online until local U.S. legal authorities understand that **Vote-auction.com** works for and NOT against democracy. We will keep on protecting any data which has been submitted to us by trusting users.

Chicago courts have a somewhat different approach to user rights. The court has ordered all data of users registered with the site to be disclosed to the authorities. This would then enable prosecutors in Chicago to sue users of **vote-auction.com** individually for so-called "voter fraud".

[V] Where to go from here

Vote-auction.com is ready to deliver even more services to the vital elections markets. We will keep on focusing on the American elections until mid-November this year. In the meantime we will also finish our

<nettime> vote action

redesign and software upgrade in order to get ready for upcoming elections worldwide.

For the **Vote-auction.com** team:

lizvlx
[V]ote-auction.com

PLEASE NOTE: If you want to access **Vote-auction.com** via web or mail, please be sure to use the correct domain:

pr ****at**** **vote-auction.com**
<http://www.vote-auction.com>

We will not be able to receive messages sent to the old address. Thank you.

```

[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
[ ]
[ ] [V]ote-auction.com
[ ]
[ ] pr **at** vote-auction.com
[ ]
[ ] The Election Industry Leader - Bringing
[ ] Capitalism & Democracy closer together
[ ]
[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

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.....

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in the msg body
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thing.net

-
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 - Next by Date: [<nettime> \[ot\] \[!nt\] \n2+0\](#)
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Italian daily updated site on new media art, electronic music and hacktivism, quarterly printed as magazine. Quotidiano di arte dei nuovi media (new media art), ...
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Title - [V]ote-auction (<http://www.vote-auction.net>)

Artist - HANS BERNHARD

Status - This is a linked project

Original URL - <http://www.vote-auction.net>

Date Created - 6.23 00:00:01.2000

Date Archived - 6.23 00:00:01.2000

Technology Used - Perl, JavaScript, HTML, Flash, Email, DHTML

Biography

1999-2002 <http://www.ubermorgen.com> 2000-2002 <http://www.etoymag.com> 1994-1999 <http://www.etoymag.com>

Statement

dearZ; here you find all relevant information to [V]ote-auction: <http://www.vote-auction.net/news.htm> building the perfect market-place, full access for all, speed and easy to use,.. bringing capitalism and democracy closer together; IT'S DIFFERENT BECAUSE ITS FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT!

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Title - [V]ote-auction (<http://www.vote-auction.net>)

Artist - HANS BERNHARD

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LOOP-BASED RECORDING ARTIST COMMUNIITY. -RESIDENT ARTIST SPOTLIGHT- Omnitechnomatrix.

I've studied all types of music for the last 13 years. ...

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integer THE_WHITE_WEBISTE by ubermorgen by HANS-ULRICH OBRIST

[HANS BERNHARD](#)

Message 1 of 1 in thread
2003-03-09 08:42:54 AM

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>This is a multi-part message in MIME format...

understood.m!melikememe.mult!part

> >"THE_WHITE_WEBISTE by ubermorgen"
 >>On the Iconoclasm of Modern Art
 >>
 >>by HANS-ULRICH OBRIST

:: texte attached;;

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Rhizome Commissions

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Syndication

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[templink] [templink] [templink] [templink] [templink] [templink]

[templink] [templink] [templink]

> >forwarded by HANS BERNHARD / UBERMORGEN

>>--

>

>Dear Hans + Hans [henry miller whispered: fuck the hanz]

please also address LIZVLX [liz maria haas];

but yes, fuck the HANS reminds me of some tag on a waste basket

in vienna which reads: fuck the system, which is

absolutely a waste of surface and attention, the taggerZ

must be very young and unexperienced. better tag "random system" or "random pop-star".

as i usually call LIZVLX;

>M.Bowra typed in his Memoirs [women are at their absolute best when
>reading + `reading` think you not]

i dont know about that, my-beeing-a-woman experience lacks massive
experience. to be

exakt, almost 30 yearz.

>0. humans see subjektive kolors

>

>He abandoned this idea [men are at their absolute best writing]

REFRESH

that is so LOGIC;

>0. humans see subjektive colors

>

>He abandoned this idea [men are at their absolute best writing + abandoning]

>

>0. i'm damned if i know what we see

>

>

>... since women are at their absolute best when reading + `reading`

>I puzzle on further ...

>

>Vision is the dominant human sense [friendly semi.divagation - why

>is the art industry

>populated so with ugly + destitute western + eastern male + female losers]

the wanting-to-be-an-artist and the beeing-an-artist are addresses to the mind you might not want to carry on further than from 18-20 and again from

30-32 and then from 45-47, and from 70-72. all other times in the human life should be occupied with strong urges towards "FORSCHUNG" und "NEUGIERDE"

und "KOMMUNIKATIONSBEDUERFNIS".

but i dont know, i dont usually go to art events because i dont like to hang out with losers and ugly idiots i dont know.. i prefer to hang out with losers and

ugly idiots i know [i.e. my family and my friends].

>Vision as NN + touch is fully duplex - ie. it informs what takes place at our >v.private boundaries + in the exported world.

i follow NN and the cult around NN for many years. i dont read a lot

[i got a so-

called time-deficiency-ABHAENGIGKEIT], more 8h per day tv,

there is much respect for NN. formal respekt for language treatment and human

respect for machine like consistenzi in kommunikation, extreme email
<http://www.ubermorgen.com/etxtreme/home.html>
http://www.ubermorgen.com/etxtreme_v1_0/

>Amicalement. NN

lovely greetZ from LIZVLX "the number girl"
<http://www.ubermorgen.com/194/000.html>

warm!!!!

HANS BERNHARD "the etoy.COWBOY and ubermorgen pop-star"
[HTTP://WWW.HANSBERNHARD.COM](http://WWW.HANSBERNHARD.COM)

> >"THE_WHITE_WEBISTE by ubermorgen"
>>On the Iconoclasm of Modern Art
>>
>>by HANS-ULRICH OBRIST
>
>dze zalt konzentrax!e !n okz!dent xyz = 01 monokrom argumnt ...
>

!a attachet kesamtgunstwerk beu!z und !to!

>-----=_1047177437-624-349
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>Content-Disposition: inline; filename="message-footer.txt"
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>
>-----Syndicate mailinglist-----
>Syndicate network for media culture and media art
>information and archive: <http://anart.no/~syndicate>
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"Gesamtkunstwerk"

by

Nicholas Primich

5/11/02

Contents:

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: A Master

Section 3: An Apprentice

Section 4: The Workplace

Section 5: Conclusion

Bibliography

Section 1: Introduction

My argument is that the barrier that once stood between fine art conceptual thought and design conceptual thinking is being broken down as a result of globalisation.

"The main historical thrust of neoliberal economic globalisation is to bring about a situation in which private capital and 'the market' alone determine the restructuring of economic, political and cultural life, making alternative values or institutions subordinate. Rather than capital and 'the economy' being embedded in society and harnessed to serve social ends, 'the economy' becomes the master of society and of all within it, and society exists to serve the ends of capital and its need for self-expansion. It is a necessary aspect of this process that 'politics' itself, and 'democracy' in particular, should become increasingly formalistic, stripped of substantive radical, revolutionary, or even reformist content, any of which might challenge the consolidation of the hegemony of capital over society".

What does this mean? It means instead of society running the economy, the economy runs society. This affects us in terms of people having to pay for everything; the doctor, the hospital, etc. The government no longer pays in other words we become a user pays society. Social values are not as important as money. This means that money is valued more than people (Gills 2002).

I intend to study this by comparing the conceptual thoughts and theories of an internationally recognised fine art master (Joseph Beuys) with the work of a modern day multimedia designer, artist, hacker, performer and genius (Hans Bernhard). Joseph Beuys said this (De Domizio 1997: 51):

"Democratic Creativity is increasingly compromised by the progress made on the part of bureaucracy, coupled with the savage proliferation of an international mass culture. Political creativity continues to be reduced to the simple delegation of decisions and power. The imposition of a cultural and economic dictatorship throughout the whole world, thanks to the economic trusts, which are in continuous expansion, leads to loss of articulation, ability to learn, and verbal expression".

De Domizio (1997: 115) believes that Beuys' thought was humanist thought and that it will continue to grow, because today we have concentrated too much on science and technology, neglecting true human relationships.

The Internet has unquestionably been a major catalyst of globalisation and its wide spread reach to the four corners of society. Hans Bernhard was asked if the Internet has made the world a better place? To which he replied:

"No, just a faster and smaller place...[Design Indaba Magazine 2001]"

Section 2: A Master

Joseph Beuys (Fig.1) was born in Krefeld on 12 May 1921 (Stachelhaus 1991: 9). He grew up in a strongly catholic petit bourgeois environment near Kleve - where he spent the first years of his life.

Throughout history, this region has been torn by countless wars, from Roman times up to the world wars of the twentieth century (Stachelhaus 1991: 9). Numerous historical figures are bound up with this territory, and some of them cast powerful spells upon Beuys' imagination. Among them (Stachelhaus 1991: 9), Johann Moritz von Nassau, of the House of Orange in the 17th Century, attempted building an ideal city of the soul in Kleve. Another was Anacharsis Cloots, an ardent intellectual and revolutionary guillotined for his efforts defending the ideas of the French Revolution in Europe. This

region at the time, was predominantly Dutch and Catholic, and placed little if any importance on borders (De Domizio 1997:17).

According to Heiner Stachelhaus (1991:9), Beuys did not have a close relationship with his parents and took care of himself from an early age. Beuys, remembered (De Domizio 1997:18) that for years he acted the part of a Shepard walking around with a sort of 'Eurasian staff' and a flock gathered around him exploring everything in the vicinity. At 17 he set up a well-equipped laboratory at home and engaged in scientific experiments. Together with his innate talent for natural sciences, Beuys showed a passion for sculpture (De Domizio 1997:19). Announcing only a few days before his own death on 23 January 1986, Beuys honoured and thanked the man he considered his "Master" (De Domizio 1997:77), the late Wilhelm Lehmbruck, and then told of his first introduction to Lehmbruck and Lehmbruck's work. Beuys (as quoted in De Domizio 1997:77) continued that one day by mere chance, he laid his hands on a publication lying on a table with many others. Opening it he saw a sculpture by Lehmbruck, and an idea flashed through his mind, the idea that everything was a sculpture. He saw a flaming torch and heard a voice telling him to protect it. This event accompanied him through World War II and eventually spurred him on to pursue it (De Domizio 1997:77). His favourite topics in literature were philosophy, entropology, folklore, Nordic Mythology (De Domizio 1997:19; Stachelhaus 1991:11-14) and other subjects that were forbidden by the Nazis.

He remained a detached spectator of the Nazi years, and as a sideline his love of music took him to cello and piano lessons (Stachelhaus 1991:12). Despite his love of art, he took his diploma and became a paediatrician in 1940. From there, his strong interest in science and technology lead him to join the German air force in 1941. After being shot down, badly wounded five times, and captured once, he returned to Kleve in 1946. Sitting in a lecture one day he recognised the limitations of science, and decided to dedicate the rest of his life to art, leaving his grim experiences of war behind him (De Domizio 1997:20-22).

At this time Jack Moffit (1997) believes Beuys discovered, explored and transformed Austrian philosopher Rudolph Steiner's anthroposophy theory into his own theory of art. Robert Allan (2000:55) defines Anthroposophy as a system of belief, which holds that there is a spiritual world that can be perceived by faculties latent in human beings and that these latent faculties can be developed by systematic training. According to Alan Bullock & Stephen Trombley (1999:37), Steiner claimed to derive his teachings "from 'spiritual research'

based on an exact 'scientific' mode of supersensible perception".

Beuys (as quoted in De Domizio 1997: 24) reveals later that in 1951, in a state of depression, he literally began questioning everything including his own life. Seeking the most profound elements in life, art and science, he began seeking a completely different theory of art, science, life, democracy, capital, economics, culture and freedom. During this time he managed to establish the outlines of a larger theory of art that involved social structures as a whole, the revolution and evolution of all human development, and an anthropological idea of human creativity.

Between 1962 and 1965 (De Domizio 1997:28), Beuys was part of the Fluxus movement, which based itself on a connection between art and life and was directed towards a new order of human society. Often working with the concept of chaos Beuys awoke to the idea that a new situation could be created from it. Another idea of Beuys' by which art is available to everyone and useable anywhere and everywhere came from this period (De Domizio 1997:28), namely vehicle art.

Beuys, according to De Domizio (1997:34) never demanded a specific knowledge or particular reaction from the public to his work, but instead sought out the energy points within the field of human power and understanding - with the belief that man must complete himself through his own efforts (De Domizio 1997:81).

In a certain sense, Beuys was an anarchist (Stachelhaus 1991:106). He had no time for the mind-set of democratic compromise, but was rather interested in breaking through the limitations that had been imposed on democracy. Beuys meant very seriously when he said (Stachelhaus 1991:106) that he had nothing to do with politics but that he only knew art, this keeping within the principles of his expanded concept of art, the idea that art is the primary factor governing our existence and our actions.

In 1964 right-wing students accused Beuys of pursuing revolutionary goals, while in 1969 a group of left-wing students interrupted an action of his in Berlin and instead accused him of being a reactionary (De Domizio 1997: 38). But despite these accusations, Beuys (De Domizio 1997: 38) felt that belonging to the left, right or center no longer meant much because the so-called parliamentary democracy was being questioned as a whole. Beuys had defined his objectives as early as 1967 with the formation of the German Student Party [DSP] (Stachelhaus 1991:107). The DSP emerged from the great

public debates that Beuys regularly held in his class at the Dusseldorf Academy. Commenting on the DSP's establishment, according to Stachelhaus (1991:107), Beuys simply stated: "I want into parliament!".

To broaden the horizons of the German Student Party, Beuys founded the 'Organisation for Non-Voters and Free Referendum' in 1970. Beuys explains (De Domizio 1997:42):

"The educational concept refers to the fact that man is a creative being. It is important to be aware of this: to create an awareness of the fact that he is a creative being and a free being and that for these reasons he must inevitably behave in an anti-authoritarian fashion. The concept of perception theory confirms that only the creative man can change history, can use his creativity in a revolutionary way. To go back to my educational concept, this would mean the following: Art = creativity = freedom of man [freedom being one of his main motivations]".

Beuys goes on explaining that a revolution is within ourselves, and that the only possible revolution lies in our ideas, therefore 'We are the revolution' and only in our behaviour is there evolution (De Domizio 1997:47).

From here on his work revolved around many interesting and different points of view, with subject titles that were not directly a reflection of what we see, but asked the question of what there was to see (De Domizio 1997:43).

According to De Domizio (1997:7) as early as the 70's, Beuys warned - in "Aufruf zur Alternative" (Appeal for the Alternative) and "Aktion Dritter Weg - Aufbauninitiative" (Third Way Action - Promotional Initiative) - that the human race was condemned to sink even deeper into ecological crisis; to be defencelessly exposed to a wild growing threat of war: to stand by impotently as the rift between rich and poor nations continues to grow; to be persistently tormented by racial hate, religious struggle, and nationalism, by exploitation and oppression, by humiliation and violence, by the dictates of political and economic power, and by biological and social manipulation. Beuys (De Domizio 1997:8) was the artist who, more than any other, wanted and was capable of going beyond art by directing all his efforts towards the utopian territories of natural energy and spiritual communication: reality as a phenomenological specter of human possibilities.

In 1974 Beuys (De Domizio 1997:49), together with the Nobel Prize Winner Heinrich Boll, established what could be considered the

artist's most important creation, aimed at a real form of progress with respect to existing educational institutions: the 'Free International University', (Luckenbach 1997) which admitted all students and function outside of the existing academic system. Often using the blackboard as a demonstrative tool, his actions became lectures in which he directly addressed his audiences.

Joseph Beuys' two most singular aspects of thought were reappropriation and free creativity (De Domizio 1997:9), the former consisting of a rare attitude with regards to reconstruction rather than conquest, towards discovery rather than invention and therapeutic improvement as opposed to substitution, in this sense the need to speak and necessity of communication. The second aspect is characterised by that famous free human creativity that he preached and taught. Beuys (De Domizio 1997:67) versed his free creativity theory in Bolognaro 1984:

"...The only thing that each one of us can do is to begin with the study of his or her own anthropological powers...[for] the development of human beings on this planet [it] is a question of freeing ourselves from all dependencies of the past. We now must face the realization that it is no longer possible simply to follow a leader [or] a political ideology...and that the time has come for us to begin to make full use of the most important of all our powers: the power of creativity (Creativity is a matter of the possibility of thinking...or thinking power and the level of the creativity of the feelings)...[and it's] most authentic part...freedom...It is our duty to show what we have produced with our freedom...[since] Freedom mostly means the freedom of others. When we know that we are cooperating together as free individuals, then we are also much closer to the creation of a real and concrete democracy [as] democracy structures have to be a result of freethinking and of our equality as thinking individuals...the basis upon which we can then establish a constitution".

Another large part of Beuysian thought was the concept of 'Social Sculpture' (De Domizio 1997:83), whereby art is a daily act, a broadened and dilated action, not localised, not univocal, not limited to the relative content of the art object but art as the creative commitment of living, entirely incarnated in behaviour. A way of transforming the world into 'Social Sculpture', in which no man needs to acknowledge himself, but rather is and acts as an 'artist', the demiurge of every moment of his life (De Domizio 1997:83).

Being considered as an avant-garde artist probably meant nothing to

Beuys explains De Domizio (1997:82), though he became a media icon partly of his own making (Luckenbach 1997). Constantly being photographed and videotaped, he promoted the ideological causes that made his art a vehicle to bring about discourse (Luckenbach 1997). Others called him a charlatan, a diseased preacher, and even a crafty buffoon, yet some would place Beuys on an artistic altar (De Domizio 1997:81). In truth however, he was a tireless agitator, who provoked and challenged continuously for what he so strongly believed in, crossing the traditional frontiers of art to open the doors of the ghetto in which it had been impounded (De Domizio 1997:82).

Well remembered for a popular image of being the man with 'the felt hat' he explained its significance (De Domizio 1997:2): "A rabbit isn't a rabbit without ears...[so] Beuys isn't Beuys without the hat".

Section 3: An Apprentice

Hans Bernhard (Fig.2) was born in New Haven Connecticut in 1973 (Bernhard 2002) and studied Visual Media Art at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna with a professor Peter Weibel (MFA Degree 1999). He is currently working on his PHD in 'Media Hacking' (Bernhard 2002).

Bernhard found himself on the Internet for the very first time in 1993 (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Sitting in front of three shells (telnet-sessions) he asked himself where he was, where he was physically, and where he was mentally? Not knowing if he was on a server in Tokyo, in Vienna or on a machine in Cape Town, he got nervous and began to sweat heavily. Sparks were exploding in his brain and immediately he knew that this was it, that this was his future now, and that this was the future (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

That same year, funded by Japanese venture capital, in a Swiss mountain training facility, Bernhard and six other hackers (Fig.3) distributed across Europe founded the multi award winning and much talked about "Etoy.com" (Bernhard 2002). Etoy's goals were to smash the boring style of electronic traffic channels; to stretch reality by leaving it behind; and to play the game between business, art, and entertainment, by kidnapping web-crawling humans and injecting a little uncertainty into life on the web (Etoy 2002). Knowing that the highlighting of corporate abuse would cause such controversy, they began the Etoy tanksystem in 1994 with the very symptomatic slogan: "Etoy: the pop-star is the pilot is the coder is the designer is the architect is the manager is the system is Etoy (Bernhard

2002). The corporate identity and panic management strategies were central to their high-pressure explorations. They used the web as a stage to disrupt the data flow, abuse technology, and promote pop-music (Bernhard 2002). It ran from 1993 to 1996, a time when the world-wide-web was unknown to the general public (Bernhard 2002), yet Etoy was awarded the Golden Nica first prize of the ARS Electronica festival for new media in 1996 (Bernhard 2002). In 1996, pop star singer Bjork from Iceland said the following (Bernhard 2002): "...and all our children will be playing in the garden of joy surrounded by glamour and perverted disco tunes...etoym, immature digital priests from another world". Etoy operated until 1999, when due to personal conflicts, the board split into two parts (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Today Bernhard and three other founding members are running the Etoy-holdings company which holds major and minor stakes in all other Etoy companies (Bernhard 2002). Bernhard's involvement is purely profit orientated since Etoy-holdings deals with financial, legal, trademark, buying and strategic planning (Bernhard 2002).

In 1999, together with his partner Maria Haas, he founded a network holding of companies in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Bulgaria called Ubermorgen (Bernhard 2002). These are heavily involved in software development, licensing deals, fine art, applied design and even high-end consulting services for global multinationals such as the Allianz Insurance Corporation. Bernhard's intentions at the time were to research and investigate global corporations ["...monsters of the universe..."] just like it (Bernhard 2002). Hosting their server farm from their bedroom, Ubermorgen has completed an amazing amount of legal articles, projects, lawsuits, and publications using global mass media as an art form, as a fine art, and as a business strategy (Bernhard 2002).

Hans Bernhard has often been called subversive because of the things that he says he likes doing and the way that he goes about doing them (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Bernhard explains (Design Indaba Magazine 2001) that he loves the thrill, the style, and the aesthetics of action. Going directly to prison or being immediately killed are the dangers associated with the supposedly illegal measures that he takes. But it is this reality (Design Indaba Magazine 2001) that he feeds off of and craves - not the threat of dying or a prison sentence - but that he can show people that certain things [like attacking corporations and governments] thought illegal, can actually be done or opposed legally, and most of all, extremely effectively. This draws relevance from Joseph Beuys' theory of free

creativity, how freedoms should be shared and displayed as a duty to mankind, as freedom more often than not means the freedom of others and not just the individual (Section 2 page 5). Yet Bernhard claims only to be as anti-establishment as anybody else is (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). He does not regard his 'anti-motives' as a result of his work, but merely as a natural motivation for an individual surviving (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Money, as much as it might appear at first glance, is not Bernhard's real motivation (Bernhard 2002). He needs it to live and finance his research and art ventures but otherwise sees it as a distraction (Bernhard 2002). Bernhard explains (Bernhard 2002): "My true motivations are freedom. [T]he freedom to research what and how and when and where I want. [T]o publish where and what I want, to say what I want, where and how I want it. [T]hat is my pure and true motivation".

Beuys shared a similar thought to creative freedom (Section 2 Page 5).

What Bernhard believes drives him into the right topics, pictures, words and content is his honesty with himself in constantly thinking about getting more money and fame (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Bernhard intentionally does not only focus on visual aspects, but on what he calls gesamtkunstwerk, which means the overall art concept (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). This acts as a meta-level (similar anthroposophy theory of Beuys) that brings all his legal, corporate, and aesthetic art forms and activities together (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). In general his core focus is on global structures but also on the production and maintenance of them. Firstly looked at from a business, financial and profit driven angle and secondly from a purely artistic one (Bernhard 2002).

Bernhard has been called a maverick businessman, the Etoy promotions hammer and even the "nasty shock marketing maniac" by media platforms such as Wired magazine, the Washington Post, underground Italian magazines and German theoretical publications (Ubermorgen 2002). Old-school corporations willing to pay their excessive fees have gotten some of Ubermorgens communications strategies better known as a character marketing, drama marketing and most effective - shock marketing - by which you shock the user, and due to this shock the users channels are wide open so any information can be fed into the users brain (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). The Internet today is structured in such a way, that shock marketing can be used by artists; activists; terrorists; and by any of the other millions of

naïve users that surf it each day (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).
Ubermorgens approach and projects are so dangerous and radical that possible areas of attack by enemy companies or governments need to be distributed for liability reasons, so a series of Ubermorgen holding companies were established in Vienna, Austria; and in Sofia, Bulgaria (Bernhard 2002).

French philosopher Jean Baudrillard said in Cannes 2000 that (Bernhard 2002):
"Ubermorgen means the day after tomorrow, a slight tip towards their aesthetic and activist vision and prejudice, they are hardcore and radical in their actions and they are extremely strange and highly intelligent people".

Bernhard however prefers the term uniqueness, unique not because of what Ubermorgen does but because how, when and where they do it (Bernhard 2002).

Ubermorgen's uber-slogan originates from a CNN interview questioning the Vote Auction simulations that Bernhard pursued: "its different because its fundamentally different" (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Section 4: The Workplace

The author of this essay believes that these two individuals can only be likened and compared in context. The state of the world and its politics; the degree of globalisation development; and the combined cost of the above to humanity and human relationships at the same time, are the three most pivotal factors that need understanding. Beuys' vision of the future from back in the 70's (Section 2 page 4) can still be seen as impressively intuitive, but Bernhard's is far more accurate and/or up to date. Bernhard believes that mankind is looking at and living in a highly political decade (Bernhard 2002) where global wars will only get worse. Military conflicts between the police [USA] and resisting forces [nations, institutions, networks] will heat up, while conflicts between Europe and the US will arise (Bernhard 2002).

Beuys was an artist who displayed, performed, and exhibited his works and beliefs in galleries and institutions, to groups who still relied on the spoken word of mouth and the live real-time experience. Others interested would visit his exhibitions to interact and experience his work for themselves. However as time has unfolded, the growth of globalisation and its trends have decreased personal interaction with human beings and real live experiences drastically - to the point where greeting grocery store staff is unnecessary thanks

to shopping online, and the adventure of experiencing overseas or the outdoors is lost by downloads available on screen at home for nothing more than the price of a phone call.

Beuys elucidated the passage (of his work) from a personal experience to a more fundamental and universal human experience that is paradigmatic of his work on the whole (Luckenbach 1997). The author of this essay believes that a similar description could be given to that of Bernhard's work across world media.

Today, Bernhard, through media hacking likes causing chaos by misusing the "pseudo" freedom of the net (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Media hackers exploit weak spots within social, commercial, political and technical networks implementing disinformation via these subverted interfaces. Completely different to Beuys, media hackers, like Bernhard, have dealt with the effects of globalisation on human communications by forcing their work and beliefs on people via the systems (world wide web and media) that they depend on most (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

In Joseph Beuys' discovery of performance art, he combined the theatrical elements of time and space with props and a directional score (Luckenbach 1997). His own function as the artist shifts into a new dimension as a 'performer-shaman'. Layering and manipulating "fragments", he acted out a ritual, which simultaneously is the creation of a new work of art (Luckenbach 1997). Beuys' goal was to erase the line separating art and life in the tradition of the radical modernists Marcel Duchamp and Bertold Brecht, whose evolutionary steps led to the erasure of this line. But Beuys' "gesamtkunstwerk" (total art work) was the creation of a symbiotic whole - art as a model for life (Luckenbach 1997).

For a period of four months in 1996, the Etoy gang legally hacked into five major search engines devising a trap for net travellers and technology tourists of the time (Bernhard 2002). With the twilight zone of the medium forming the place of action, search engines were transformed into a stage, designed as a merger between a Hollywood action movie script and a real life airplane hijacking (Bernhard 2002). This was a shocking experience and a violent attack on the innocent Internet user of the time. It became known as the digital hijack (Fig.4) - and the members of Etoy as the first street gang on the information super highway (Fig.5) (Etoy 2001). The role of a 'performance' remains very similar as it occurs here through time and space on the internet, only the stage has evolved and changed as a result of technology, into a stage on screen. Where Beuys used art to create a model for life, Bernhard and other Etoy operators used art (design and hacking) to insert some humane uncertainty of life

back into the inhuman, super reliable, information super highway (Etoy 2002).

Bernhard illustrated the 'performer-shaman' understanding of Beuys' in another work of his. During a presentation, at the Design Indaba 2002 in Cape Town, of a CNN exclusive video interview with Hans Bernhard on his Vote Auction project, Bernhard had arranged for two designers from very different institutions, namely Joshua Davies from Praystation and Tom Roope of Tomato, to assist him in shaving his head clean on stage in front of the audience (Bernhard 2002). The Ubermorgen group then approached the Museum of Modern Art with the shaved hair of Bernhards as a first ever collaboration artwork between Praystation and Tomato (Bernhard 2002).

In language, semantics are the vehicle by which sounds are given form and thoughts are given meaning, allowing communication to take place (Luckenbach 1997). Beuys equated the phenomenon of language with evolution, as a catalyst that moulds and propels human society (Luckenbach 1997). Believing that the concept of people is elementally coupled with its language, the looming horrors of World War II aided Beuys' choice of sculpture (as it starts with speaking and thinking), to provide for ideas to take shape through the forward looking images that present themselves through it as a result (Luckenbach 1997).

Bernhard again has a likeness to this line of thinking only his work has an extremely controversial (unpopular reaction) and deliberate motive behind it. However he develops it further, instead of just providing a vehicle for his ideas to generate on or take shape through, he set up a simulation of his work and let its trial in reality prove his controversial message correct. In spring 2000, an American art student invented a platform for American citizens to offer and sell their individual votes during the US presidential election that same year (Bernhard 2002). On November 7th companies, political parties, and individuals could then auction off these votes via the Vote-Auction website and buy whole states. But due to heavy government official pressure, James Baumgartner (the inventor) offered the then very small venture to the Ubermorgen group (Bernhard 2002). Ubermorgen, at the time, had no idea that this was the pay dirt that they had been looking for.

Ubermorgen then took control over Vote-Auction (Fig.6) and pushed the limits, in terms of shock marketing and public relations to a global mass media level never seen before - with the core message "bringing capitalism and democracy closer together!" (Bernhard 2002) American principles of capitalism and democracy were already tightly intertwined, like most democratic countries corruption of the election process was legal for large corporations but illegal for individuals (Bernhard 2002). 'Vote-Auction just wanted a perfect

market for votes, it would never be political, just purely business, art and market orientated, with no underlying ideology, just a strong belief in declaration' (Fig.7) (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). For liability reasons Ubermorgen immediately set up Vote-Auction LTD in Bulgaria even though most lawsuits were on Bernhard and Baumgartner alone (Bernhard 2002). During those four months temporary injunctions, court complaints and many other legal threats were received from thirteen state attorneys. Federal attorney Janet Reno, along with the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Security Agency investigated the case. Ubermorgen suspected a break and entry into their own servers and questioned why two domains were illegally shutdown by United States authorities (Bernhard 2002). The term Media hacking came about while Ubermorgen were developing the story in real-time and watching it later or the next morning on CNN world report (Bernhard 2002). During those four months an expected 500 million people were reached with the Vote-Auction brand and pervert commercial message (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). All that amassed was an endless story without any proof of illegal activities, all Vote-Auction representatives were only named plaintiffs (Bernhard 2002). E-mails from veterans of World War II read about the aesthetics of the war for democracy and how Vote-Auction was destroying it. Amongst these came the occasional death threat, mainly because of the very painful visuals inserted by Ubermorgen into the initial website design which was not manipulated much in order to keep it authentic (Bernhard 2002). 'The global media, played the ultimate pop soundtrack to this techno-political-action-thriller (Bernhard 2002). Beuysian thought on Social Sculpture (Section 2 Page 5) seems far from a reality after an experiment like this proves itself successful. Vote-Auction becomes a digital sculptural vehicle upon which ideas can formulate for an answer to a polluted society.

After a project like this Bernhards view on corporate censorship remains senseless, saying that sometimes it makes no sense to talk about the ethical values of a semi-technical action as censorship, as the technical aspect overrules the ethical one - what he prefers, is the practical (or pragmatic) approach (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

However, within Beuys' work, language and communication were often entirely discrete entities (Luckenbach 1997). Language was one possible vehicle for communication; it functioned as a catalyst, whereas communication was more profound, elemental, and universal - fundamentally biological (Luckenbach 1997).

Beuys' Multiples were devices of communication, vehicles for the distribution of ideas that could reach an even wider group of people than could a single work of art (Luckenbach 1997). Yet all of Beuys'

objects had meaning only in relation to his ideas; the objects, however widely distributed, always return to the maker. This created a circular motion consisting of Beuys' art, his persona, and the metaphors that weave in and out of his work (Luckenbach 1997). One vehicle for the distribution of ideas that supersedes all others is that of the Internet. Hans Bernhard continuously hijacks this vehicle for the very reason that it allows him to express himself, through his projects, and the concepts behind them. Characteristically of Bernhard, his use of a 'Beuys like multiples' approach also had a subversive tilt. Running as an experiment on the rate of viral distribution on the net, a staged conspiracy on the biggest PC software manufacturer was used to attract attention to a website and project of the Ubermorgen group. Bernhard explains (Design Indaba Magazine 2001): Media hackers cannot be afraid of playing with information and information distribution, but rather have to be able to witfully play with these mechanisms.

In 1999 a press release was issued in the name of the jury of the ARS Electronica in Linz. Being the most important new media art festival and new media art award, Ubermorgen's initial press release was headlined "Linux wins pris ars electronica due to Microsoft intervention". Sent out in the name of the head of the Jury to journalists, media and cultural people in the global tech-community, the e-mail was very detailed and in-depth and described the potential bribery of the net capital jury. Six hours after the release the first stories claiming this e-mail to be a fake appeared in international media-art and technology publications, but this was even to late, the virus had been spread. On the opening Monday morning of the festival over 250 journalists requested information concerning this press release. Multiplication of the e-mail had gone into the two digit million figure by viral distribution. Not even the obvious fake character of this message could stop hundreds of articles being published about it worldwide. Representatives of the Etoy-corporation were questioned aggressively of any responsibility for this act. This was just a teaser action to show off Ubermorgens capabilities in terms of communications and perversion. In fact, the use of these guerrilla marketing tactics was merely just to soft launch the brand Etxtreme.ru and co-brand it with Linux. Etxtreme (Fig.8) was one of the early content creations of the Ubermorgen group.

Section 5: Conclusion

Time seems to be all that stands between these two individuals, however, what has happened and changed in the world during that time seems to make the short distance between them seem a little further than it really is. Beuys came across to the world with greater ease and less tension, never 'attacking' anyone and therefore was always seen as a fairly passive artist with potentially revolutionary beliefs - but never as a serious threat to any governments or institutions. Where presently, Bernhard is seen entirely as a threat as he lashes out and attacks those government institutions with his potentially revolutionary actions. Beuys and Bernhard have very similar long-term goals and motivations but their places in time/history don't allow for that likeness to be seen easily.

Realistically designers are fundamentally different to artists in some ways, for example: designers and architects are normally more constructive and/or goal orientated with what they do, often demanding or needing feedback and some response to work that they have completed, as they do have responsibilities as designers to sell or make immediate contact/impact. Whereas an artist, is more concerned with the message that they leave from themselves within their artwork, and not necessarily with what they get out of it.

Beuys' dream of a singular social structure has arrived, only at a very heavy price. People in general have lost their individuality and freedoms - as political and capitalist ventures control and regulate almost everything. Though those individuals that have not lost their will to embrace those freedoms (Bernhard) are seen as going against the grain, in effect being labelled troublemakers. Bernhard ideally, if not intentionally through his work, is only searching for the freedom that Beuys once had dressed as a Shepard boy in his youth wandering the hillsides. Old popularity of gallery exhibitions moved online into the world-wide-web as mankind continues to surround and engross him self with such technologies. This can explain why Bernhard continuously looks for the loopholes within the globalisation-trend-bubble and then exploits them. Though globalisation has not only made the current world smaller and faster but it has also blurred the distance between the past and present.

Beuys placed so much importance on language and communication that it could be understood as a growing interest in the history of graphic design (these two being the main aspects of graphic design history). Globalisation might not have been as active as it is today but this interest of Beuys' suggests that the conceptual barrier between art and design was being broken down even then.

In a world where physically coming closer together is actually driving us personally further apart, communication of any sort becomes increasingly important - whether you are a designer, artist or just someone asking for directions on a street corner.

Ultimately, the quest for communicating effectively with ourselves, and the world around us might be the cataclysmic goal that designers and artists must reach together, in order for any such barriers between art and design to ever be cleared for good.

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THE_WHITE_WEBISTE by ubermorgen

On the Iconoclasm of Modern Art

by HANS-ULRICH OBRIST

The crisis of representation began at the historical moment when painting lost-under the pressure of photography and the praise of its unprecedented, truthful representation-its interest in presenting reality and took instead-from paint to brush, from canvas to frame-the means of expressing representation as the subject of representation. With Van Gogh the color began no longer to be bound to the object. With his pure, absolute suprematist color painting, Malevich banished the object from the picture. At the same time the represented object vanished by being replaced through a real object: the ready-made of Marcel Duchamp. In 1921 Rodchenko painted three monochromes as the "last paintings" and in 2003 ubermorgen "painted" [coded] 2 monochromes online.

[HTTP://WWW.UBERMORGEN.COM/THE_WHITE_WEBSITE/](http://www.ubermorgen.com/the_white_website/)

[HTTP://WWW.UBERMORGEN.COM/THE_BLACK_WEBSITE/](http://www.ubermorgen.com/the_black_website/)

The self-dissolution of painting or any visual surface can be explained in three steps: first, by a shift of accent the color is analyzed as the medium of painting and becomes the main element, above form, i.e. in Impressionism and Expressionism. Second, color becomes independent, leaves behind the laws of local colors and receives its own absolute status, see, for example, Suprematism and monochromes. Third, paint is replaced by other materials, such as white by aluminum. Surface design without painted color allowed for the making of "unpainted" paintings, allowed mere surfaces of wood, metal, marble, or cardboard to hang or lean on the wall as paintings. In this dialectics of liberation, which consists of declaring progressively historical elements of easel painting independent (from color and canvas up to the frame) and making them absolute, not only were objects repressed from the abstract image but finally the picture itself became repressed and destroyed (empty canvases, empty frames), in the end leading to the departure from the picture.

The paint-less or monochrome easel painting could be-as was shown by artists from Lucio Fontana to Yves Klein-cut or drilled or torn,

attacked by fire or acid. Finally only the empty frames of paintings or just the backs of paintings, were shown. Even the surface of the canvas could be replaced by the surface of the skin. Naked bodies covered with paint became the instruments for color application or became the canvas itself. Painting as the arena of action (Action Painting) became a bodily action on the canvas and finally a painting on the body, an action without canvas. Centered on the artist's body, even the products of this body [like feces] could find the social consensus to be accepted as an artwork.

From the empty image to the empty gallery, from the white painting to the »white cube« (O'Doherty), we see the iconoclastic gesture of modern art. In this iconoclastic tradition we also see the substitution of painted images with texts. The material-bound, object-like paradigm was replaced by insight into the linguistic nature of all artistic expressions.

Yet by leaving the picture and the mediation, modern art has also produced a way out of the crisis of representation. Especially the Neo-Avantgarde after World War II and movements like Kinetics, Fluxus, Happening, Actionism, Body Art, Process Art, Land Art, Arte Povera, Concept Art, net.art, corporate art and above all the development of Media Art-from Expanded Cinema to Virtual Reality, from closed circuit video installations to interactive computer installations-prepared social practices as open art forms, by making the pure spectator a participating and interacting user.

Thus began the farewell to the idea of modernism (T. J. Clark), that was determined by the iconoclastic gesture. These practices, in forms of intervention, interaction, institutional critique and contextualization took art beyond the White Cube, where questions of gender, race, class, power, colonialism had not been asked. With the end of the epoch of modern art, which announced the end of art, new practices beyond the crisis of representation began in the form of corporate representation [etoy, ubermorgen] or social networks and activists [rtmark.com].

From mathematics to medicine, from computer-supported proof methods to computer tomography, we see a triumphant return of the image to the natural sciences. While modern art turned more and more into an iconoclastic strategy, in a critique of representation, we see the

advent of an iconophilic science trusting the representative power of the image.

We live in a period where art, as the former monopolist of the representative image, has abandoned this representative obligation. Yet science, in contrast, fully embraces the options which technical machine-based images offer for the representation of reality. Therefore, it could be the case that mankind will find the images of science more necessary than the images of art. To be able to maintain its significance up against the sciences and their picture-producing procedures, art must look for a position beyond the crisis of representation and beyond the image wars straight into the blind spaces of the black black and the white [ubermorgen/THE_WHITE_WEBSITE] and the non-existing twilight zone [HTTP://WWW.HANSBERNHARD.COM] in our space.

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HANS BERNHARD

aa.mdk etoy.HANS, etoy.BRAINHARD, hans_extrem, e01

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> >forwarded by HANS BERNHARD / UBERMORGEN
>>--
>
>Dear Hans + Hans [henry miller whispered: fuck the hanz]

please also address LIZVLX [liz maria haas];

but yes, fuck the HANS reminds me of some tag on a waste basket

in vienna which reads: fuck the system, which is

absolutely a waste of surface and attention, the taggerZ


must be very young and unexperienced. better tag "random system" or "random pop-star".

as i usually call LIZVLX;

[Forgot your password?](#)
[Help](#)

49 online

[Graham](#) (GB)

[Jason](#) (US) 

[Martin](#) (GB)

(Plus 46 anonymous users)

REFRESH

>M.Bowra typed in his Memoirs [women are at their absolute best when
>reading + `reading` think you not]

i dont know about that, my-beeing-a-woman experience lacks massive
experience. to be

exakt, almost 30 yearz.

>0. humans see subjektive kolors

>

>He abandoned this idea [men are at their absolute best writing]

that is so LOGIC;

>0. humans see subjektive colors

>

>He abandoned this idea [men are at their absolute best writing + abandoning]

>

>0. i'm damned if i know what we see

>

>

>... since women are at their absolute best when reading + `reading`

>I puzzle on further ...

>

>Vision is the dominant human sense [friendly semi.divagation - why

>is the art industry

>populated so with ugly + destitute western + eastern male + female losers]

the wanting-to-be-an-artist and the beeing-an-artist are addresses to the
mind you might not want to carry on further than from 18-20 and again from

30-32 and then from 45-47, and from 70-72. all other times in the human
life should be occupied with strong urges towards "FORSCHUNG" und
"NEUGIERDE"

und "KOMMUNIKATIONSBEDUERFNIS".

but i dont know, i dont usually go to art events because i dont like
to hang out
with losers and ugly idiots i dont know.. i prefer to hang out with losers and

ugly idiots i know [i.e. my family and my friends].

>Vision as NN + touch is fully duplex - ie. it informs what takes place at our
>v.private boundaries + in the exported world.

i follow NN and the cult around NN for many years. i dont read a lot
[i got a so-
called time-deficiency-ABHAENGIGKEIT], more 8h per day tv,

there is much respect for NN. formal respekt for language treatment and human

respect for machine like consistenzi in kommunikation, extreme email
<http://www.ubermorgen.com/etxtreme/home.html>
http://www.ubermorgen.com/etxtreme_v1_0/

>Amicalement. NN

lovely greetZ from LIZVLX "the number girl"
<http://www.ubermorgen.com/194/000.html>

warm!!!!

HANS BERNHARD "the etoy.COWBOY and ubermorgen pop-star"
HTTP://WWW.HANSBERNHARD.COM

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>>On the Iconoclasm of Modern Art
>>
>>by HANS-ULRICH OBRIST
>
>dze zalt konzentrax!e !n okz!dent xyz = 01 monokrom argumnt ...
>

!a attachet kesamtgunstwerk beu!z und !to!

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"Gesamtkunstwerk"

by

Nicholas Primich

5/11/02

Contents:

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: A Master

Section 3: An Apprentice

Section 4: The Workplace

Section 5: Conclusion

Bibliography

Section 1: Introduction

My argument is that the barrier that once stood between fine art conceptual thought and design conceptual thinking is being broken down as a result of globalisation.

"The main historical thrust of neoliberal economic globalisation is to bring about a situation in which private capital and 'the market' alone determine the restructuring of economic, political and cultural life, making alternative values or institutions subordinate. Rather than capital and 'the economy' being embedded in society and harnessed to serve social ends, 'the economy' becomes the master of society and of all within it, and society exists to serve the ends of capital and its need for self-expansion. It is a necessary aspect of this process that 'politics' itself, and 'democracy' in particular, should become increasingly formalistic, stripped of substantive radical, revolutionary, or even reformist content, any of which might challenge the consolidation of the hegemony of capital over society". What does this mean? It means instead of society running the economy, the economy runs society. This affects us in terms of people having to pay for everything; the doctor, the hospital, etc. The government no longer pays in other words we become a user pays society. Social values are not as important as money. This means that money is valued more than people (Gills 2002).

I intend to study this by comparing the conceptual thoughts and theories of an internationally recognised fine art master (Joseph Beuys) with the work of a modern day multimedia designer, artist, hacker, performer and genius (Hans Bernhard). Joseph Beuys said this (De Domizio 1997: 51):

"Democratic Creativity is increasingly compromised by the progress made on the part of bureaucracy, coupled with the savage proliferation of an international mass culture. Political creativity continues to be reduced to the simple delegation of decisions and power. The imposition of a cultural and economic dictatorship throughout the whole world, thanks to the economic trusts, which are in continuous expansion, leads to loss of articulation, ability to learn, and verbal expression".

De Domizio (1997: 115) believes that Beuys' thought was humanist thought and that it will continue to grow, because today we have concentrated too much on science and technology, neglecting true human relationships.

The Internet has unquestionably been a major catalyst of globalisation and its wide spread reach to the four corners of society. Hans Bernhard was asked if the Internet has made the world a better place? To which he replied:

"No, just a faster and smaller place...[Design Indaba Magazine 2001]"

Section 2: A Master

Joseph Beuys (Fig.1) was born in Krefeld on 12 May 1921 (Stachelhaus 1991:9). He grew up in a strongly catholic petit bourgeois environment near Kleve - where he spent the first years of his life.

Throughout history, this region has been torn by countless wars, from Roman times up to the world wars of the twentieth century (Stachelhaus 1991:9). Numerous historical figures are bound up with this territory, and some of them cast powerful spells upon Beuys' imagination. Among them (Stachelhaus 1991:9), Johann Moritz von Nassau, of the House of Orange in the 17th Century, attempted building an ideal city of the soul in Kleve. Another was Anacharsis Cloots, an ardent intellectual and revolutionary guillotined for his efforts defending the ideas of the French Revolution in Europe. This region at the time, was predominantly Dutch and Catholic, and placed little if any importance on borders (De Domizio 1997:17).

According to Heiner Stachelhaus (1991:9), Beuys did not have a close relationship with his parents and took care of himself from an early age. Beuys, remembered (De Domizio 1997:18) that for years he acted the part of a Shepard walking around with a sort of 'Eurasian staff' and a flock gathered around him exploring everything in the vicinity. At 17 he set up a well-equipped laboratory at home and engaged in scientific experiments. Together with his innate talent for natural sciences, Beuys showed a passion for sculpture (De Domizio 1997:19). Announcing only a few days before his own death on 23 January 1986, Beuys honoured and thanked the man he considered his "Master" (De Domizio 1997:77), the late Wilhelm Lehmbruck, and then told of his first introduction to Lehmbruck and Lehmbruck's work. Beuys (as quoted in De Domizio 1997:77) continued that one day by mere chance, he laid his hands on a publication lying on a table with many others. Opening it he saw a sculpture by Lehmbruck, and an idea flashed through his mind, the idea that everything was a sculpture. He saw a flaming torch and heard a voice telling him to protect it. This event accompanied him through World War II and eventually spurred him on to pursue it (De Domizio 1997:77). His favourite topics in literature were philosophy, enthropology, folklore, Nordic Mythology (De Domizio 1997:19; Stachelhaus 1991:11-14) and other subjects that were forbidden by the Nazis.

He remained a detached spectator of the Nazi years, and as a sideline his love of music took him to cello and piano lessons (Stachelhaus 1991:12). Despite his love of art, he took his diploma and became a paediatrician in 1940. From there, his strong interest in science

and technology lead him to join the German air force in 1941. After being shot down, badly wounded five times, and captured once, he returned to Kleve in 1946. Sitting in a lecture one day he recognised the limitations of science, and decided to dedicate the rest of his life to art, leaving his grim experiences of war behind him (De Domizio 1997:20-22).

At this time Jack Moffit (1997) believes Beuys discovered, explored and transformed Austrian philosopher Rudolph Steiner's anthroposophy theory into his own theory of art. Robert Allan (2000:55) defines Anthroposophy as a system of belief, which holds that there is a spiritual world that can be perceived by faculties latent in human beings and that these latent faculties can be developed by systematic training. According to Alan Bullock & Stephen Trombley (1999:37), Steiner claimed to derive his teachings "from 'spiritual research' based on an exact 'scientific' mode of supersensible perception".

Beuys (as quoted in De Domizio 1997: 24) reveals later that in 1951, in a state of depression, he literally began questioning everything including his own life. Seeking the most profound elements in life, art and science, he began seeking a completely different theory of art, science, life, democracy, capital, economics, culture and freedom. During this time he managed to establish the outlines of a larger theory of art that involved social structures as a whole, the revolution and evolution of all human development, and an anthropological idea of human creativity.

Between 1962 and 1965 (De Domizio 1997:28), Beuys was part of the Fluxus movement, which based itself on a connection between art and life and was directed towards a new order of human society. Often working with the concept of chaos Beuys awoke to the idea that a new situation could be created from it. Another idea of Beuys' by which art is available to everyone and useable anywhere and everywhere came from this period (De Domizio 1997:28), namely vehicle art.

Beuys, according to De Domizio (1997:34) never demanded a specific knowledge or particular reaction from the public to his work, but instead sought out the energy points within the field of human power and understanding - with the belief that man must complete himself through his own efforts (De Domizio 1997:81).

In a certain sense, Beuys was an anarchist (Stachelhaus 1991:106). He had no time for the mind-set of democratic compromise, but was rather interested in breaking through the limitations that had been

imposed on democracy. Beuys meant very seriously when he said (Stachelhaus 1991:106) that he had nothing to do with politics but that he only knew art, this keeping within the principles of his expanded concept of art, the idea that art is the primary factor governing our existence and our actions.

In 1964 right-wing students accused Beuys of pursuing revolutionary goals, while in 1969 a group of left-wing students interrupted an action of his in Berlin and instead accused him of being a reactionary (De Domizio 1997:38). But despite these accusations, Beuys (De Domizio 1997:38) felt that belonging to the left, right or center no longer meant much because the so-called parliamentary democracy was being questioned as a whole. Beuys had defined his objectives as early as 1967 with the formation of the German Student Party [DSP] (Stachelhaus 1991:107). The DSP emerged from the great public debates that Beuys regularly held in his class at the Dusseldorf Academy. Commenting on the DSP's establishment, according to Stachelhaus (1991:107), Beuys simply stated: "I want into parliament!".

To broaden the horizons of the German Student Party, Beuys founded the 'Organisation for Non-Voters and Free Referendum' in 1970. Beuys explains (De Domizio 1997:42):

"The educational concept refers to the fact that man is a creative being. It is important to be aware of this: to create an awareness of the fact that he is a creative being and a free being and that for these reasons he must inevitably behave in an anti-authoritarian fashion. The concept of perception theory confirms that only the creative man can change history, can use his creativity in a revolutionary way. To go back to my educational concept, this would mean the following: Art = creativity = freedom of man [freedom being one of his main motivations]".

Beuys goes on explaining that a revolution is within ourselves, and that the only possible revolution lies in our ideas, therefore 'We are the revolution' and only in our behaviour is there evolution (De Domizio 1997:47).

From here on his work revolved around many interesting and different points of view, with subject titles that were not directly a reflection of what we see, but asked the question of what there was to see (De Domizio 1997:43).

According to De Domizio (1997:7) as early as the 70's, Beuys warned - in "Aufruf zur Alternative" (Appeal for the Alternative) and "Aktion Dritter Weg - Aufbauninitiative" (Third Way Action - Promotional Initiative) - that the human race was condemned to sink even deeper

into ecological crisis; to be defencelessly exposed to a wild growing threat of war: to stand by impotently as the rift between rich and poor nations continues to grow; to be persistently tormented by racial hate, religious struggle, and nationalism, by exploitation and oppression, by humiliation and violence, by the dictates of political and economic power, and by biological and social manipulation. Beuys (De Domizio 1997:8) was the artist who, more than any other, wanted and was capable of going beyond art by directing all his efforts towards the utopian territories of natural energy and spiritual communication: reality as a phenomenological specter of human possibilities.

In 1974 Beuys (De Domizio 1997:49), together with the Nobel Prize Winner Heinrich Boll, established what could be considered the artist's most important creation, aimed at a real form of progress with respect to existing educational institutions: the 'Free International University', (Luckenbach 1997) which admitted all students and function outside of the existing academic system. Often using the blackboard as a demonstrative tool, his actions became lectures in which he directly addressed his audiences.

Joseph Beuys' two most singular aspects of thought were reappropriation and free creativity (De Domizio 1997:9), the former consisting of a rare attitude with regards to reconstruction rather than conquest, towards discovery rather than invention and therapeutic improvement as opposed to substitution, in this sense the need to speak and necessity of communication. The second aspect is characterised by that famous free human creativity that he preached and taught. Beuys (De Domizio 1997:67) versed his free creativity theory in Bolognano 1984:

"...The only thing that each one of us can do is to begin with the study of his or her own anthropological powers...[for] the development of human beings on this planet [it] is a question of freeing ourselves from all dependencies of the past. We now must face the realization that it is no longer possible simply to follow a leader [or] a political ideology...and that the time has come for us to begin to make full use of the most important of all our powers: the power of creativity (Creativity is a matter of the possibility of thinking...or thinking power and the level of the creativity of the feelings)...[and it's] most authentic part...freedom...It is our duty to show what we have produced with our freedom...[since] Freedom mostly means the freedom of others. When we know that we are cooperating together as free individuals, then we are also much closer to the creation of a real and concrete democracy [as] democracy structures have to be a result of freethinking and of our

equality as thinking individuals...the basis upon which we can then establish a constitution".

Another large part of Beuysian thought was the concept of 'Social Sculpture' (De Domizio 1997:83), whereby art is a daily act, a broadened and dilated action, not localised, not univocal, not limited to the relative content of the art object but art as the creative commitment of living, entirely incarnated in behaviour. A way of transforming the world into 'Social Sculpture', in which no man needs to acknowledge himself, but rather is and acts as an 'artist', the demiurge of every moment of his life (De Domizio 1997:83).

Being considered as an avant-garde artist probably meant nothing to Beuys explains De Domizio (1997:82), though he became a media icon partly of his own making (Luckenbach 1997). Constantly being photographed and videotaped, he promoted the ideological causes that made his art a vehicle to bring about discourse (Luckenbach 1997). Others called him a charlatan, a diseased preacher, and even a crafty buffoon, yet some would place Beuys on an artistic altar (De Domizio 1997:81). In truth however, he was a tireless agitator, who provoked and challenged continuously for what he so strongly believed in, crossing the traditional frontiers of art to open the doors of the ghetto in which it had been impounded (De Domizio 1997:82).

Well remembered for a popular image of being the man with 'the felt hat' he explained its significance(De Domizio 1997:2): "A rabbit isn't a rabbit without ears...[so] Beuys isn't Beuys without the hat".

Section 3: An Apprentice

Hans Bernhard (Fig.2) was born in New Haven Connecticut in 1973 (Bernhard 2002) and studied Visual Media Art at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna with a professor Peter Weibel (MFA Degree 1999). He is currently working on his PHD in 'Media Hacking' (Bernhard 2002).

Bernhard found himself on the Internet for the very first time in 1993 (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Sitting in front of three shells (telnet-sessions) he asked himself where he was, where he was physically, and where he was mentally? Not knowing if he was on a server in Tokyo, in Vienna or on a machine in Cape Town, he got nervous and began to sweat heavily. Sparks were exploding in his

brain and immediately he knew that this was it, that this was his future now, and that this was the future (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

That same year, funded by Japanese venture capital, in a Swiss mountain training facility, Bernhard and six other hackers (Fig.3) distributed across Europe founded the multi award winning and much talked about "Etoy.com" (Bernhard 2002). Etoy's goals were to smash the boring style of electronic traffic channels; to stretch reality by leaving it behind; and to play the game between business, art, and entertainment, by kidnapping web-crawling humans and injecting a little uncertainty into life on the web (Etoy 2002). Knowing that the highlighting of corporate abuse would cause such controversy, they began the Etoy tanksystem in 1994 with the very symptomatic slogan: "Etoy: the pop-star is the pilot is the coder is the designer is the architect is the manager is the system is Etoy (Bernhard 2002). The corporate identity and panic management strategies were central to their high-pressure explorations. They used the web as a stage to disrupt the data flow, abuse technology, and promote pop-music (Bernhard 2002). It ran from 1993 to 1996, a time when the world-wide-web was unknown to the general public (Bernhard 2002), yet Etoy was awarded the Golden Nica first prize of the ARS Electronica festival for new media in 1996 (Bernhard 2002). In 1996, pop star singer Bjork from Iceland said the following (Bernhard 2002): "...and all our children will be playing in the garden of joy surrounded by glamour and perverted disco tunes...etoy, immature digital priests from another world". Etoy operated until 1999, when due to personal conflicts, the board split into two parts (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Today Bernhard and three other founding members are running the Etoy-holdings company which holds major and minor stakes in all other Etoy companies (Bernhard 2002). Bernhard's involvement is purely profit orientated since Etoy-holdings deals with financial, legal, trademark, buying and strategic planning (Bernhard 2002).

In 1999, together with his partner Maria Haas, he founded a network holding of companies in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Bulgaria called Ubermorgen (Bernhard 2002). These are heavily involved in software development, licensing deals, fine art, applied design and even high-end consulting services for global multinationals such as the Allianz Insurance Corporation. Bernhard's intentions at the time were to research and investigate global corporations ["...monsters of the universe..."] just like it (Bernhard 2002). Hosting their server farm from their bedroom, Ubermorgen has completed an amazing amount of legal articles, projects, lawsuits, and publications using global mass media as an art form, as a fine art, and as a business strategy

(Bernhard 2002).

Hans Bernhard has often been called subversive because of the things that he says he likes doing and the way that he goes about doing them (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Bernhard explains (Design Indaba Magazine 2001) that he loves the thrill, the style, and the aesthetics of action. Going directly to prison or being immediately killed are the dangers associated with the supposedly illegal measures that he takes. But it is this reality (Design Indaba Magazine 2001) that he feeds off of and craves - not the threat of dying or a prison sentence - but that he can show people that certain things [like attacking corporations and governments] thought illegal, can actually be done or opposed legally, and most of all, extremely effectively. This draws relevance from Joseph Beuys' theory of free creativity, how freedoms should be shared and displayed as a duty to mankind, as freedom more often than not means the freedom of others and not just the individual (Section 2 page 5). Yet Bernhard claims only to be as anti-establishment as anybody else is (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). He does not regard his 'anti-motives' as a result of his work, but merely as a natural motivation for an individual surviving (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Money, as much as it might appear at first glance, is not Bernhard's real motivation (Bernhard 2002). He needs it to live and finance his research and art ventures but otherwise sees it as a distraction (Bernhard 2002). Bernhard explains (Bernhard 2002):
"My true motivations are freedom. [T]he freedom to research what and how and when and where I want. [T]o publish where and what I want, to say what I want, where and how I want it. [T]hat is my pure and true motivation".

Beuys shared a similar thought to creative freedom (Section 2 Page 5).

What Bernhard believes drives him into the right topics, pictures, words and content is his honesty with himself in constantly thinking about getting more money and fame (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Bernhard intentionally does not only focus on visual aspects, but on what he calls gesamtkunstwerk, which means the overall art concept (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). This acts as a meta-level (similar anthroposophy theory of Beuys) that brings all his legal, corporate, and aesthetic art forms and activities together (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). In general his core focus is on global structures but also on the production and maintenance of them. Firstly looked at from a business, financial and profit driven angle and secondly

from a purely artistic one (Bernhard 2002).

Bernhard has been called a maverick businessman, the Etoy promotions hammer and even the "nasty shock marketing maniac" by media platforms such as Wired magazine, the Washington Post, underground Italian magazines and German theoretical publications (Ubermorgen 2002).

Old-school corporations willing to pay their excessive fees have gotten some of Ubermorgens communications strategies better known as a character marketing, drama marketing and most effective - shock marketing - by which you shock the user, and due to this shock the users channels are wide open so any information can be fed into the users brain (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). The Internet today is structured in such a way, that shock marketing can be used by artists; activists; terrorists; and by any of the other millions of naive users that surf it each day (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Ubermorgens approach and projects are so dangerous and radical that possible areas of attack by enemy companies or governments need to be distributed for liability reasons, so a series of Ubermorgen holding companies were established in Vienna, Austria; and in Sofia, Bulgaria (Bernhard 2002).

French philosopher Jean Buadrillad said in Cannes 2000 that (Bernhard 2002): "Ubermorgen means the day after tomorrow, a slight tip towards their aesthetic and activist vision and prejudice, they are hardcore and radical in their actions and they are extremely strange and highly intelligent people".

Bernhard however prefers the term uniqueness, unique not because of what Ubermorgen does but because how, when and where they do it (Bernhard 2002).

Ubermorgen's uber-slogan originates from a CNN interview questioning the **Vote Auction** simulations that Bernhard pursued: "its different because its fundamentally different" (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Section 4: The Workplace

The author of this essay believes that these two individuals can only be likened and compared in context. The state of the world and its politics; the degree of globalisation development; and the combined cost of the above to humanity and human relationships at the same time, are the three most pivotal factors that need understanding. Beuys' vision of the future from back in the 70's (Section 2 page 4) can still be seen as impressively intuitive, but Bernhard's is far more accurate and/or up to date. Bernhard believes that mankind is

looking at and living in a highly political decade (Bernhard 2002) where global wars will only get worse. Military conflicts between the police [USA] and resisting forces [nations, institutions, networks] will heat up, while conflicts between Europe and the US will arise (Bernhard 2002).

Beuys was an artist who displayed, performed, and exhibited his works and beliefs in galleries and institutions, to groups who still relied on the spoken word of mouth and the live real-time experience. Others interested would visit his exhibitions to interact and experience his work for themselves. However as time has unfolded, the growth of globalisation and its trends have decreased personal interaction with human beings and real live experiences drastically - to the point where greeting grocery store staff is unnecessary thanks to shopping online, and the adventure of experiencing overseas or the outdoors is lost by downloads available on screen at home for nothing more than the price of a phone call.

Beuys elucidated the passage (of his work) from a personal experience to a more fundamental and universal human experience that is paradigmatic of his work on the whole (Luckenbach 1997). The author of this essay believes that a similar description could be given to that of Bernhard's work across world media.

Today, Bernhard, through media hacking likes causing chaos by misusing the "pseudo" freedom of the net (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Media hackers exploit weak spots within social, commercial, political and technical networks implementing disinformation via these subverted interfaces. Completely different to Beuys, media hackers, like Bernhard, have dealt with the effects of globalisation on human communications by forcing their work and beliefs on people via the systems (world wide web and media) that they depend on most (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

In Joseph Beuys' discovery of performance art, he combined the theatrical elements of time and space with props and a directional score (Luckenbach 1997). His own function as the artist shifts into a new dimension as a 'performer-shaman'. Layering and manipulating "fragments", he acted out a ritual, which simultaneously is the creation of a new work of art (Luckenbach 1997). Beuys' goal was to erase the line separating art and life in the tradition of the radical modernists Marcel Duchamp and Bertold Brecht, whose evolutionary steps led to the erasure of this line. But Beuys' "gesamtkunstwerk" (total art work) was the creation of a symbiotic whole - art as a model for life (Luckenbach 1997).

For a period of four months in 1996, the Etoy gang legally hacked

into five major search engines devising a trap for net travellers and technology tourists of the time (Bernhard 2002). With the twilight zone of the medium forming the place of action, search engines were transformed into a stage, designed as a merger between a Hollywood action movie script and a real life airplane hijacking (Bernhard 2002). This was a shocking experience and a violent attack on the innocent Internet user of the time. It became known as the digital hijack (Fig.4) - and the members of Etoy as the first street gang on the information super highway (Fig.5) (Etoy 2001). The role of a 'performance' remains very similar as it occurs here through time and space on the internet, only the stage has evolved and changed as a result of technology, into a stage on screen. Where Beuys used art to create a model for life, Bernhard and other Etoy operators used art (design and hacking) to insert some humane uncertainty of life back into the inhuman, super reliable, information super highway (Etoy 2002).

Bernhard illustrated the 'performer-shaman' understanding of Beuys' in another work of his. During a presentation, at the Design Indaba 2002 in Cape Town, of a CNN exclusive video interview with Hans Bernhard on his **Vote Auction** project, Bernhard had arranged for two designers from very different institutions, namely Joshua Davies from Praystation and Tom Roope of Tomato, to assist him in shaving his head clean on stage in front of the audience (Bernhard 2002). The Ubermorgen group then approached the Museum of Modern Art with the shaved hair of Bernhards as a first ever collaboration artwork between Praystation and Tomato (Bernhard 2002).

In language, semantics are the vehicle by which sounds are given form and thoughts are given meaning, allowing communication to take place (Luckenbach 1997). Beuys equated the phenomenon of language with evolution, as a catalyst that moulds and propels human society (Luckenbach 1997). Believing that the concept of people is elementally coupled with its language, the looming horrors of World War II aided Beuys' choice of sculpture (as it starts with speaking and thinking), to provide for ideas to take shape through the forward looking images that present themselves through it as a result (Luckenbach 1997).

Bernhard again has a likeness to this line of thinking only his work has an extremely controversial (unpopular reaction) and deliberate motive behind it. However he develops it further, instead of just providing a vehicle for his ideas to generate on or take shape through, he set up a simulation of his work and let its trial in reality prove his controversial message correct. In spring 2000, an American art student invented a platform for American citizens to offer and sell their individual votes during the US presidential

election that same year (Bernhard 2002). On November 7th companies, political parties, and individuals could then auction off these votes via the **Vote-Auction** website and buy whole states. But due to heavy government official pressure, James Baumgartner (the inventor) offered the then very small venture to the Ubermorgen group (Bernhard 2002). Ubermorgen, at the time, had no idea that this was the pay dirt that they had been looking for. Ubermorgen then took control over **Vote-Auction** (Fig.6) and pushed the limits, in terms of shock marketing and public relations to a global mass media level never seen before - with the core message "bringing capitalism and democracy closer together!" (Bernhard 2002) American principles of capitalism and democracy were already tightly intertwined, like most democratic countries corruption of the election process was legal for large corporations but illegal for individuals (Bernhard 2002). **Vote-Auction** just wanted a perfect market for votes, it would never be political, just purely business, art and market orientated, with no underlying ideology, just a strong belief in declaration' (Fig.7) (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). For liability reasons Ubermorgen immediately set up **Vote-Auction** LTD in Bulgaria even though most lawsuits were on Bernhard and Baumgartner alone (Bernhard 2002). During those four months temporary injunctions, court complaints and many other legal threats were received from thirteen state attorneys. Federal attorney Janet Reno, along with the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Security Agency investigated the case. Ubermorgen suspected a break and entry into their own servers and questioned why two domains were illegally shutdown by United States authorities (Bernhard 2002). The term Media hacking came about while Ubermorgen were developing the story in real-time and watching it later or the next morning on CNN world report (Bernhard 2002). During those four months an expected 500 million people were reached with the **Vote-Auction** brand and pervert commercial message (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). All that amassed was an endless story without any proof of illegal activities, all **Vote-Auction** representatives were only named plaintiffs (Bernhard 2002). E-mails from veterans of World War II read about the aesthetics of the war for democracy and how **Vote-Auction** was destroying it. Amongst these came the occasional death threat, mainly because of the very painful visuals inserted by Ubermorgen into the initial website design which was not manipulated much in order to keep it authentic (Bernhard 2002). 'The global media, played the ultimate pop soundtrack to this techno-political-action-thriller (Bernhard 2002). Beuysian thought on Social Sculpture (Section 2 Page 5) seems far from a reality after an experiment like this proves itself successful. **Vote-Auction** becomes a digital sculptural vehicle upon which ideas can formulate for an answer to a polluted society.

After a project like this Bernhards view on corporate censorship remains senseless, saying that sometimes it makes no sense to talk about the ethical values of a semi-technical action as censorship, as the technical aspect overrules the ethical one - what he prefers, is the practical (or pragmatic) approach (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

However, within Beuys' work, language and communication were often entirely discrete entities (Luckenbach 1997). Language was one possible vehicle for communication; it functioned as a catalyst, whereas communication was more profound, elemental, and universal - fundamentally biological (Luckenbach 1997).

Beuys' Multiples were devices of communication, vehicles for the distribution of ideas that could reach an even wider group of people than could a single work of art (Luckenbach 1997). Yet all of Beuys' objects had meaning only in relation to his ideas; the objects, however widely distributed, always return to the maker. This created a circular motion consisting of Beuys' art, his persona, and the metaphors that weave in and out of his work (Luckenbach 1997).

One vehicle for the distribution of ideas that supersedes all others is that of the Internet. Hans Bernhard continuously hijacks this vehicle for the very reason that it allows him to express himself, through his projects, and the concepts behind them.

Characteristically of Bernhard, his use of a 'Beuys like multiples' approach also had a subversive tilt. Running as an experiment on the rate of viral distribution on the net, a staged conspiracy on the biggest PC software manufacturer was used to attract attention to a website and project of the Ubermorgen group. Bernhard explains (Design Indaba Magazine 2001): Media hackers cannot be afraid of playing with information and information distribution, but rather have to be able to witfully play with these mechanisms.

In 1999 a press release was issued in the name of the jury of the ARS Electronica in Linz. Being the most important new media art festival and new media art award, Ubermorgen's initial press release was headlined "Linux wins pris ars electronica due to Microsoft intervention". Sent out in the name of the head of the Jury to journalists, media and cultural people in the global tech-community, the e-mail was very detailed and in-depth and described the potential bribery of the net capital jury. Six hours after the release the first stories claiming this e-mail to be a fake appeared in international media-art and technology publications, but this was even to late, the virus had been spread. On the opening Monday morning of the festival over 250 journalists requested information concerning this press release. Multiplication of the e-mail had gone into the two digit million figure by viral distribution. Not even

the obvious fake character of this message could stop hundreds of articles being published about it worldwide. Representatives of the Etoy-corporation were questioned aggressively of any responsibility for this act. This was just a teaser action to show off Ubermorgens capabilities in terms of communications and perversion. In fact, the use of these guerrilla marketing tactics was merely just to soft launch the brand Etxtreme.ru and co-brand it with Linux. Etxtreme (Fig.8) was one of the early content creations of the Ubermorgen group.

Section 5: Conclusion

Time seems to be all that stands between these two individuals, however, what has happened and changed in the world during that time seems to make the short distance between them seem a little further than it really is. Beuys came across to the world with greater ease and less tension, never 'attacking' anyone and therefore was always seen as a fairly passive artist with potentially revolutionary beliefs - but never as a serious threat to any governments or institutions. Where presently, Bernhard is seen entirely as a threat as he lashes out and attacks those government institutions with his potentially revolutionary actions. Beuys and Bernhard have very similar long-term goals and motivations but their places in time/history don't allow for that likeness to be seen easily.

Realistically designers are fundamentally different to artists in some ways, for example: designers and architects are normally more constructive and/or goal orientated with what they do, often demanding or needing feedback and some response to work that they have completed, as they do have responsibilities as designers to sell or make immediate contact/impact. Whereas an artist, is more concerned with the message that they leave from themselves within their artwork, and not necessarily with what they get out of it.

Beuys' dream of a singular social structure has arrived, only at a very heavy price. People in general have lost their individuality and freedoms - as political and capitalist ventures control and regulate almost everything. Though those individuals that have not lost their will to embrace those freedoms (Bernhard) are seen as going against the grain, in effect being labelled troublemakers. Bernhard ideally, if not intentionally through his work, is only searching for the freedom that Beuys once had dressed as a Shepard

boy in his youth wandering the hillsides. Old popularity of gallery exhibitions moved online into the world-wide-web as mankind continues to surround and engross him self with such technologies. This can explain why Bernhard continuously looks for the loopholes within the globalisation-trend-bubble and then exploits them. Though globalisation has not only made the current world smaller and faster but it has also blurred the distance between the past and present.

Beuys placed so much importance on language and communication that it could be understood as a growing interest in the history of graphic design (these two being the main aspects of graphic design history). Globalisation might not have been as active as it is today but this interest of Beuys' suggests that the conceptual barrier between art and design was being broken down even then.

In a world where physically coming closer together is actually driving us personally further apart, communication of any sort becomes increasingly important - whether you are a designer, artist or just someone asking for directions on a street corner.

Ultimately, the quest for communicating effectively with ourselves, and the world around us might be the cataclysmic goal that designers and artists must reach together, in order for any such barriers between art and design to ever be cleared for good.

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THE_WHITE_WEBISTE by ubermorgen

On the Iconoclasm of Modern Art

by HANS-ULRICH OBRIST

The crisis of representation began at the historical moment when painting lost-under the pressure of photography and the praise of its unprecedented, truthful representation-its interest in presenting reality and took instead-from paint to brush, from canvas to frame-the means of expressing representation as the subject of representation. With Van Gogh the color began no longer to be bound to the object. With his pure, absolute suprematist color painting, Malevich banished the object from the picture. At the same time the represented object vanished by being replaced through a real object: the ready-made of Marcel Duchamp. In 1921 Rodchenko painted three monochromes as the "last paintings" and in 2003 ubermorgen "painted" [coded] 2 monochromes online.

[HTTP://WWW.UBERMORGEN.COM/THE_WHITE_WEBSITE/](http://www.ubermorgen.com/the_white_website/)
[HTTP://WWW.UBERMORGEN.COM/THE_BLACK_WEBSITE/](http://www.ubermorgen.com/the_black_website/)

The self-dissolution of painting or any visual surface can be explained in three steps: first, by a shift of accent the color is analyzed as the medium of painting and becomes the main element, above form, i.e. in Impressionism and Expressionism. Second, color

becomes independent, leaves behind the laws of local colors and receives its own absolute status, see, for example, Suprematism and monochromes. Third, paint is replaced by other materials, such as white by aluminum. Surface design without painted color allowed for the making of "unpainted" paintings, allowed mere surfaces of wood, metal, marble, or cardboard to hang or lean on the wall as paintings. In this dialectics of liberation, which consists of declaring progressively historical elements of easel painting independent (from color and canvas up to the frame) and making them absolute, not only were objects repressed from the abstract image but finally the picture itself became repressed and destroyed (empty canvases, empty frames), in the end leading to the departure from the picture.

The paint-less or monochrome easel painting could be-as was shown by artists from Lucio Fontana to Yves Klein-cut or drilled or torn, attacked by fire or acid. Finally only the empty frames of paintings or just the backs of paintings, were shown. Even the surface of the canvas could be replaced by the surface of the skin. Naked bodies covered with paint became the instruments for color application or became the canvas itself. Painting as the arena of action (Action Painting) became a bodily action on the canvas and finally a painting on the body, an action without canvas. Centered on the artist's body, even the products of this body [like feces] could find the social consensus to be accepted as an artwork.

From the empty image to the empty gallery, from the white painting to the »white cube« (O'Doherty), we see the iconoclastic gesture of modern art. In this iconoclastic tradition we also see the substitution of painted images with texts. The material-bound, object-like paradigm was replaced by insight into the linguistic nature of all artistic expressions.

Yet by leaving the picture and the mediation, modern art has also produced a way out of the crisis of representation. Especially the Neo-Avantgarde after World War II and movements like Kinetics, Fluxus, Happening, Actionism, Body Art, Process Art, Land Art, Arte Povera, Concept Art, net.art, corporate art and above all the development of Media Art-from Expanded Cinema to Virtual Reality, from closed circuit video installations to interactive computer installations-prepared social practices as open art forms, by making the pure spectator a participating and interacting user.

Thus began the farewell to the idea of modernism (T. J. Clark), that was determined by the iconoclastic gesture. These practices, in forms of intervention, interaction, institutional critique and contextualization took art beyond the White Cube, where questions of gender, race, class, power, colonialism had not been asked. With the end of the epoch of modern art, which announced the end of art, new practices beyond the crisis of representation began in the form of corporate representation [etoy, ubermorgen] or social networks and activists [rtmark.com].

From mathematics to medicine, from computer-supported proof methods to computer tomography, we see a triumphant return of the image to the natural sciences. While modern art turned more and more into an iconoclastic strategy, in a critique of representation, we see the advent of an iconophilic science trusting the representative power of the image.

We live in a period where art, as the former monopolist of the representative image, has abandoned this representative obligation. Yet science, in contrast, fully embraces the options which technical machine-based images offer for the representation of reality. Therefore, it could be the case that mankind will find the images of science more necessary than the images of art. To be able to maintain its significance up against the sciences and their picture-producing procedures, art must look for a position beyond the crisis of representation and beyond the image wars straight into the blind spaces of the black black and the white [ubermorgen/THE_WHITE_WEBSITE] and the non-existing twilight zone [[HTTP://WWW.HANSBERNHARD.COM](http://www.hansbernhard.com)] in our space.

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HANS BERNHARD

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kuro5hin.org: Dot com ruled by US law?

Article and forum discussing the implications of InterNIC pulling the European domain vote-auction.com.


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CNN: Constituent puts vote up for sale on eBay

A Maryland voter protesting political corruption vows to hawk his ballot in the 2000 general election to the highest bidder on the Internet.

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Wired: Voteauction Bids the Dust

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Activism News

Lords' reject government plans on terror



AFP/File

- LONDON (AFP)

Government proposals to fight terrorism suffered a blow when the upper house of parliament voted to allow judges, to impose restrictions including electronic tagging and curfews on suspects.

Gilligan hits out at fake-notes allegation in Kelly docu-drama



- LONDON (AFP)

The reporter at the centre of the David Kelly affair lashed out at allegations in an upcoming TV documentary drama that he faked his notes about the



News.com: eBay pulls auction for U.S. presidency

With confusion increasing over who will be the 43rd president of the United States, one eBay auctioneer had put the presidency up for bid.

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Wired: Selling Votes or Peddling Lies?

Did Voteauction.com really solicit bids on American votes, or was it all a mirage? The owner says yes, while the site's creator says no. A judge will decide.

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The Register: Votes for sale online in the US

Chicago's gangster ridden past has come back to haunt city officials with the appearance of a new website - Voteauction.com, where people can register to sell their

vote to the highest bidder.

www.theregister.co.uk

View [ratings](#) for **The Register: Votes for sale online in the US** or rate [The Register: Votes for sale online in the US](#)



CNN: Web site offering to sell votes shut down

Voteauction.com, a site that enables citizens to sell their votes, shut down Friday amid legal questions.

www.cnn.com

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cluebot.com: Americans Sell Their Votes for \$10 Each

If you needed further proof that Americans are disgusted with politics, just check out Voteauction.com, which allows people to auction off their votes to the highest bidder.

www.cluebot.com

View [ratings](#) for **cluebot.com: Americans Sell Their Votes for \$10 Each** or rate [cluebot.com: Americans Sell Their Votes for \\$10 Each](#)



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www.wired.com

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respected expert on Iraqi weapons whose July 2003 suicide triggered a political firestorm in Britain.

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Race watchdog suggests separate classes for black boys

LONDON (AFP)

Paris 2012 bid faces sternest test to date

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Prince Charles unfazed by topless protest in New Zealand visit

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Olympic swimming star Phelps among Sullivan Award finalists

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Japanese TV giant Fuji turns up pressure on brash Internet guru

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ICC to leave Lord's for Dubai

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New poll keeps Labour in the lead in Britain

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Hong Kong leader Tung confirms resignation plans to top aides: press

HONG KONG (AFP)

Duerer's Hare and the Prado museum: The fine art of lending backfires

VIENNA (AFP)

Slate: If eBay Ran the Election

In the hypothetical future where all votes are traded on the Internet, it's easy to see how bipartisan collusion would line the pockets of politicians at the expense of voters by holding down the price of votes.

slate.msn.com

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Salon.com: Democracy for sale

Bid for the vote of one U.S. citizen, now on eBay!

www.salon.com

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Slate: Buy This Vote! The Web puts democracy on sale

The schemes generated a lot of media attention and some sellers and buyers-the bidding on eBay reached \$10,100, and Voteauction found 200 takers in a single day.

slate.msn.com

View ratings for [Slate: Buy This Vote! The Web puts democracy on sale](#) or rate [Slate: Buy This Vote! The Web puts democracy on sale](#)



Daily Gazette: Web site offering votes for sale draws concern

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute graduate student James Baumgartner says he's doing a service to the country with his new Web site Voteauction.com by encouraging

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the.facts.tripod.com

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Wired: Austrian Takes Bids on U.S. Votes

Voteauction.com has changed owners as well as modus operandi. And this time, it appears, the prospect of squelching the wrongdoing is going to involve more than a

threatening phone call.

www.wired.com

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Prominent Nepalese journalist released after detention

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China's parliament accepts Jiang's resignation from state military body

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Slashdot: Voteauction.com

News and discussion forum.

slashdot.org

View ratings for **Slashdot: Voteauction.com** or rate Slashdot: Voteauction.com



CNN: Vote-selling Web site to be revived, possibly offshore

An Internet site designed to auction U.S. presidential votes could reopen days after New York authorities convinced its American creator to shut it down, said a maverick

Austrian businessman who bought the domain name.

www.cnn.com

View ratings for **CNN: Vote-selling Web site to be revived, possibly offshore** or rate CNN: Vote-selling Web site to be revived, possibly offshore



Wired: Voteauction Bids the Dust

Last week, Voteauction received a spate of publicity that began with a Wired News story. Two days of intense press and Internet attention followed, which concluded in legal threats that compelled its operator

to shut it down.

www.wired.com

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USA Today: Votes up for auction draw official inquiries

Pranks or not, legal officials and election watchdogs are taking seriously the recent attempts to buy and sell political votes on the Internet.

www.usatoday.com

View ratings for **USA Today: Votes up for auction draw official inquiries** or rate USA Today: Votes up for auction draw official inquiries



Cape Rock: The Going Rate For A Presidential Vote? \$152 on eBay.

Fake news article about eBay vote auction which may have inspired some of the real auctions.

www.thecaperock.com

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TheStandard: Net Election: Want to Sell Your Vote? Not So Fast

The Chicago Board of Elections plans to file a lawsuit against Voteauction.com saying the site promotes fraud.

www.thestandard.com

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Wired: Voteauction Booth is Closed

The vote buy-and-sell website shuts down after a district court in Illinois slaps it with an injunction. Accused of illegally trafficking votes, its creator now says the whole thing was a joke.

www.wired.com

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RTMark: Voteauction.com

RTMark page about its investment in Voteauction.com.

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TheStandard: Voteauction to Lose Domain Name

After a court defeat in Illinois, the site that enables people to sell their presidential votes faces a shutdown.

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American business program catches on with the young in Asia



NFTE

- WASHINGTON (AFP)

When American businessman Steve Mariotti was assaulted by a student gang for a paltry 10 dollars, he did not go to the police. He threw his job and started a business training scheme to help students from low income communities make money the right way.

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CNN: Web site offering to sell votes shut down

Voteauction.com, a site that enables citizens to sell their votes, shut down Friday amid legal questions.

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If citizens do indeed find the choice between Gush and Bore meaningless, the proprietors of Voteauction.com say, why not at least make a little cash on the side?

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Daily Gazette: Web site offering votes for sale draws concern

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute graduate student James Baumgartner says he's doing a service to the country with his new Web site Voteauction.com by encouraging participation in elections.

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Portal Listings

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FCW: Chicago wants Voteauction gone

The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners said it has asked federal and state attorneys to shut down a Web site that offers votes to the highest bidder.

www.fcw.com

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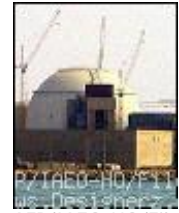
Slashdot: Voteauction.com

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slashdot.org

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Iran, Russia sign landmark deal to fire up controversial nuclear plant



AFP/IAEO-HO/File

- TEHRAN (AFP)

Iran and Russia signed a landmark nuclear fuel accord that paves the way for the firing up of the country's first atomic power station, a project the United States alleges is part of a cover for weapons development.

Activism News

Fantasy interactive games reaping real rewards on the Internet

CANNES, France (AFP)

China's thirsty masses turn to whisky as drink of the future

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South Korean scientists find key to producing cancer-killing cells

SEOUL (AFP)

Agony of Japan's stressed crown princess lingers on

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Ancient tomb believed to reveal state of pope's health

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Opening arguments to begin in Michael Jackson trial

SANTA MARIA, United States (AFP)

After months of preparation and nail-biting, Oscar is here

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Cape Rock: The Going Rate For A Presidential Vote? \$152 on eBay.
Fake news article about eBay **vote auction** which may have inspired some of the real auctions.
www.thecaperock.com

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USA Today: Votes up for auction draw official inquiries

Pranks or not, legal officials and election watchdogs are taking seriously the recent attempts to buy and sell political votes on the Internet.

www.usatoday.com

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Jones Issues Warning Against On-line Vote Buying Schemes

Press release from California Secretary of State.

www.ss.ca.gov

View ratings for **Jones Issues Warning Against On-line Vote Buying Schemes** or rate Jones Issues Warning Against On-line Vote Buying Schemes



Salon: Will culture-jam for food

The prankster behind the Voteauction.com satire needs your help to pay off his \$3,800 legal debt. By Katharine Mieszkowski.

www.salon.com

View ratings for **Salon: Will culture-jam for food** or rate Salon: Will culture-jam for food

TheStandard: Wanna Buy My Vote? Fuhgeddaboutit

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● **Phone:** 573-751-8844

● **Fax:** 573-751-5818

Oct. 31, 2000

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[Vote-auction.com](#), which currently is based in Austria, represents that it will auction off votes to the highest bidder, with money then going to the voters selling their ballots.

"Missouri law is quite clear on the issue of absentee ballots that only the voter who originally receives the absentee ballot can fill it out," Nixon said. "The [vote-auction.com](#) Web site tries to convince consumers that this is a First Amendment issue, but there is no getting around the simple fact that this is an illegal vote-buying and vote-selling scheme, and the people behind this site are breaking the law by representing that it is legal."

Nixon filed the lawsuit in Cole County Circuit Court against Viennese residents Hans Bernhard and Luzius Bernhard; against the Austrian business Vienna Backbone Service, the Internet service provider for [vote-auction.com](#); and against the Swiss business Core Internet Council of Registrars, which registered the domain name "[voter-auction.com](#)."

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DA VINCI CODE DECODED MARTIN LUNN

capitol punishment: does voteauction.com subvert democracy?

by [Alex Burns](#) (alex@disinfo.com) - May 20, 2001

"We were both doing this as a political satire or media intervention kind of thing."
 ~~ Voteauction.com founder James Baumgartner.

"We're not running projects like that to make hoaxes. We're running businesses."
 ~~ Maverick Austrian entrepreneur Hans Bernhard.

"If it's true it's just been a hoax, then the only way they can prove that is to open their site to FBI technologists. Otherwise, we have no way of verifying."
 ~~ Voting Integrity Project president Deborah Phillips.

"These people are just 50 years ahead of their time in seeing that the ultimate destination of the current [electoral] process is that everything will be for sale."
 ~~ James Raskin, American University law professor.

"[If this is bribery then so is] a lot of what goes on in the halls of Congress and in the White House."
 ~~ National Voting Rights Institute executive director John Bonifaz.

The 2000 presidential campaign signalled a sea-change in American politics, from D2KLA and challenges to the corporate-owned debates commission that disallowed three-way debates, to Ralph Nader's creative idealism versus Gore and Shrub. To see this legitimacy shift in microcosm, just study the Voteauction.com controversy.

Founded by New York electronic arts student James Baumgartner (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Voteauction.com billed itself as "the only election platform channelling 'soft money' directly to the democratic consumer."

Baumgartner's satire about campaign financing and free-market economics set off a scandal after a *Wired News* article (August 17, 2000) discovered the site. After lawsuit threats by the New York State Board of Elections and Chicago Board of Elections officials (and heavy-handed comparisons to treason), Baumgartner sold the site on August 18th, 2000, to maverick Austrian entrepreneur Hans Bernhard, who re-opened it. The deal was brokered by legendary culture jammers @TMark.

On October 21, 2000, the company Domain Bank illegally froze the Voteauction.com domain, capitulating to authorities. Bernhard immediately registered the site as Vote-Auction.com with a non-U.S. company. On November 1st, 2000, Network Solutions (the for-profit company that administers .com, .net, and .org domains) violated international law by removing Vote-Auction.com from its root servers.

U.S. media used double-binding 'closed logic' to define Voteauction.com: either it was parody gone too far (Baumgartner) or shameless commercialism (Bernhard). Any other interpretations (such as a site that was both parody and political forum) were mooted. Past initiatives such as R.U. Sirius' Revolution party were unmentioned, consigned by unspoken consensus to the historical dustbin.

Soundbite-worthy sources such as an increasingly shrill Deborah Phillips (Voting Integrity Project) won out over the chorus of law academics and critics who pointed to current campaign financing practices. The Chicago Board of Elections officials, who filed an election fraud lawsuit against Voteauction.com, and California Secretary of State Bill Jones, received prominent coverage for their comments.

ITEM OF THE DAY



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Jones went as far as to challenge Constitutional free speech provisions when he stated on CNN's *Burden of Proof* program (October 24, 2000) that "whether this is a parody . . . makes absolutely no difference whatsoever in California . . . because you are talking about the corruption of the voting process."

@TMark and the American Civil Liberties Union had entered the fray by November 5, 2000. RTMark questioned Network Solution's actions, and quoted new ICANN director Andy Mueller-Maguhn: "I guess we will have to do something about this." The ACLU stressed freedom of speech provisions are protected.

A further spin-off were the many vote-swapping sites targeting Gore and Nader voters which sprang up in Voteauction.com's wake. Hopefully, the Voteauction.com debacle made some people pause to question why they were voting for two corporate pawns.

MORE INFORMATION

[Domain Bank Inc](#)

The company that registered Voteauction.com's domain name didn't hesitate to cooperate with authorities once the media frenzy was underway. Did they do the right thing?

[Voteauction.com](#)

Despite at least four separate attempts to shut the site down, Voteaction lives! Log in and see what all the controversy is about.

[@TMark: Voteauction.com](#)

The @TMark pranksters reveal their brokerage of Voteauction.com, and offer a powerful case-study in how to hijack the mass-mind. Highly recommended!

[Chicago Board Of Elections v Voteauction.com](#)

Legal documents pertaining to the Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago's lawsuit against Voteauction.com. Interesting for research purposes.

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[Votesswap 2000](#)

Voteauction.com has spawned a micro-trend: vote swapping, er, political "discussion forum" Web sites. Count 'em: One . . .

[Close Vote? You Can Bid On It](#)

This *Wired News* article (August 17, 2000) by Mark K. Anderson covers initial reactions from legal specialists about the Voteauction.com site. Survey the calm before the storm hit.

[Wanna Buy My Vote? Fuhgeddaboutit](#)

This *Independent Standard* article (August 21, 2000) by Ronna Abramson announces the death of Voteauction.com, and goes to Douglas Kellner, a New York City Board of Elections commissioner, for comments. Kellner is outshined by James Baumgartner: "I thought it'd be more direct and more democratic to have these voters make money from their vote."

[VIP Report](#)

Voting Integrity Project president Deborah M. Phillips gets vitriolic in this missive (August 23, 2000) about the Voteauction.com site: "Imagine if there were widespread unfettered participation in this site -- then the presidential race truly would go to the highest bidder! This website is an INSULT to every American who has ever fought to protect our freedom or for the right to vote in America!" Huh, you don't *already* believe the elections go to the highest bidder?

[Voteauction Bids The Dust](#)

This *Wired News* article (August 22, 2000) by Mark K. Anderson announces the death of Voteauction.com. Founder James Baumgartner is unrepentant and witty: "I think that that along with what was going on with eBay and Yahoo auctions shows that this is something people are really concerned about: If the politicians are selling their votes -- and they clearly are -- then the people should be allowed to as well."

[Personal \(Campaign\) Finance](#)

This *ABC News* article (August 20th, 2000) by Sascha Segan shows that the mainstream press conglomerates can be slow to catch on. Features some interesting 1996 campaign funding statistics.

[Web Site Offers To Sell U.S. Presidential Votes](#)

This *CNN* article (August 18, 2000) by Richard Stenger features comments from Voteauction.com founder James Baumgartner, a New York political science student graduate: "I'm being realistic. Most people have an honest view of how the candidates are selling themselves. Voters should be included in the situation and get some of the windfall."

[Straight Talk From Voteauction.com](#)

This *Auctionwatch.com* article (August 18, 2000) by Chris Connor surveys the

history of vote rigging, and how Voteauction.com outbid Ebay for press attention.

Jones Issues Warning Against On-line Vote Buying Schemes

This press release (August 22, 2000) from California Secretary of State Bill Jones may have triggered the demise of Voteauction.com. Jones starts: "Any individual who attempts to buy or sell votes, whether through an Internet auction site or personal communication, is guilty of a felony and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law." I guess, by this logic, that all elected politicians are therefore unprosecuted felons.

Buy This Vote!

This *Slate* article (August 23, 2000) by Jeremy Derfner examines the history of vote-scamming. Features some ironic commentary from National Voting Rights Institute executive director John Bonifaz, who argued that if you believe Voteauction.com is indulging in bribery, then so is "a lot of what goes on in the halls of Congress and in the White House."

Votes Up For Auction Draw Official Enquiries

This *USA Today* article (August 23, 2000) by Janet Kornblum shows how sources can shape perceptions about issues. Voting Integrity Project president Deborah Phillips states: "I love the Internet. But the more I've looked at this issue, the more concerned I've become, because there's a different mind-set that goes hand-in-hand with Internet entrepreneurs." The same mind-set as major party campaign financiers, perhaps?

Vote-selling Web Site To Be Revived, Possibly Offshore

This *CNN* article (August 25, 2000) by Richard Stenger discusses the shift of Voteauction.com from America to maverick Austrian businessman Hans Bernhard.

Voteauction To Lose Domain Name

This *Independent Standard* article (October 19, 2000) by Ronna Abramson announces a preliminary injunction against Voteauction.com by the state of Illinois, and warned that Domain Bank was about to pull the plug on the site's domain name.

Thousands Sign Up To Sell Votes

This *Wired News* article (September 22, 2000) by Mark K. Anderson suggests that over 6000 Americans had signed up with Voteauction.com to sell their votes. Voting Integrity Project president Deborah Phillips continues her media campaign: "Why isn't the Justice Department getting involved? Why hasn't there been any comment from the White House? Why hasn't Congress held any hearings?" I'll give you a clue: Joe McCarthy is long dead.

VoteAuction.com & The Whack-A-Mole Defense

This *TechnoDemocracy Now* article (October 22, 2000) by Thom Wysong explains Voteauction.com's shift to Europe, and how to get around DNS entries.

Will Culture-Jam for Food

This *Salon* article (May 18, 2001), by Katharine Mieszkowski, describes Voteauction.com founder James Baumgartner's battle to pay his \$3800 legal fees. "Like many of the ©TMark projects, Voteauction.com is basically a clever joke that ran the risk of being too subtle for humor-impaired keepers of law and order."

Bidding For Ballots: Democracy On The Blocks

This *CNN* transcript of the program *Burden of Proof* (October 24, 2000) features legal analyses of online vote auctioneering and the future status of Voteauction.com. RealVideo version also available.

Bidding For Ballots: Democracy On The Blocks

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[Vote Swapper Swatted Down](#)

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This *Cluebot.com* posting (September 29, 2000) summarizes the Voteauction.com debate: "Note to Congress: shape up, or Americans will ship out."

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capitol punishment: does voteauction.com subvert democracy?

by [Alex Burns](#) (alex@disinfo.com) - May 20, 2001

"We were both doing this as a political satire or media intervention kind of thing."
~~ Voteauction.com founder James Baumgartner.

"We're not running projects like that to make hoaxes. We're running businesses."
~~ Maverick Austrian entrepreneur Hans Bernhard.

"If it's true it's just been a hoax, then the only way they can prove that is to open their site to FBI technologists. Otherwise, we have no way of verifying."
~~ Voting Integrity Project president Deborah Phillips.

"These people are just 50 years ahead of their time in seeing that the ultimate destination of the current [electoral] process is that everything will be for sale."
~~ James Raskin, American University law professor.

"[If this is bribery then so is] a lot of what goes on in the halls of Congress and in the White House."
~~ National Voting Rights Institute executive director John Bonifaz.

The 2000 presidential campaign signalled a sea-change in American politics, from D2KLA and challenges to the corporate-owned debates commission that disallowed three-way debates, to Ralph Nader's creative idealism versus Gore and Shrub. To see this legitimacy shift in microcosm, just study the Voteauction.com controversy.

Founded by New York electronic arts student James Baumgartner (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Voteauction.com billed itself as "the only election platform channelling 'soft money' directly to the democratic consumer."

Baumgartner's satire about campaign financing and free-market economics set off a scandal after a *Wired News* article (August 17, 2000) discovered the site. After lawsuit threats by the New York State Board of Elections and Chicago Board of Elections officials (and heavy-handed comparisons to treason), Baumgartner sold the site on August 18th, 2000, to maverick Austrian entrepreneur Hans Bernhard, who re-opened it. The deal was brokered by legendary culture jammers @TMark.

On October 21, 2000, the company Domain Bank illegally froze the Voteauction.com domain, capitulating to authorities. Bernhard immediately registered the site as **Vote-**

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[Auction](#).com with a non-U.S. company. On November 1st, 2000, Network Solutions (the for-profit company that administers .com, .net, and .org domains) violated international law by removing [Vote-Auction](#).com from its root servers.

U.S. media used double-binding 'closed logic' to define Voteauction.com: either it was parody gone too far (Baumgartner) or shameless commercialism (Bernhard). Any other interpretations (such as a site that was both parody and political forum) were mooted. Past initiatives such as R.U. Sirius' Revolution party were unmentioned, consigned by unspoken consensus to the historical dustbin.

Soundbite-worthy sources such as an increasingly shrill Deborah Phillips (Voting Integrity Project) won out over the chorus of law academics and critics who pointed to current campaign financing practices. The Chicago Board of Elections officials, who filed an election fraud lawsuit against Voteauction.com, and California Secretary of State Bill Jones, received prominent coverage for their comments.

Jones went as far as to challenge Constitutional free speech provisions when he stated on CNN's *Burden of Proof* program (October 24, 2000) that "whether this is a parody . . . makes absolutely no difference whatsoever in California . . . because you are talking about the corruption of the voting process."

@TMark and the American Civil Liberties Union had entered the fray by November 5, 2000. RTMark questioned Network Solution's actions, and quoted new ICANN director Andy Mueller-Maguhn: "I guess we will have to do something about this." The ACLU stressed freedom of speech provisions are protected.

A further spin-off were the many vote-swapping sites targeting Gore and Nader voters which sprang up in Voteauction.com's wake. Hopefully, the Voteauction.com debacle made some people pause to question why they were voting for two corporate pawns.

MORE INFORMATION

[Domain Bank Inc](#)

The company that registered Voteauction.com's domain name didn't hesitate to cooperate with authorities once the media frenzy was underway. Did they do the right thing?

[Voteauction.com](#)

Despite at least four separate attempts to shut the site down, Voteaction lives! Log in and see what all the controversy is about.

[@TMark: Voteauction.com](#)

The @TMark pranksters reveal their brokerage of Voteauction.com, and offer a powerful case-study in how to hijack the mass-mind. Highly recommended!

[Chicago Board Of Elections v Voteauction.com](#)

Legal documents pertaining to the Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago's lawsuit against Voteauction.com. Interesting for research purposes.

[Nader Or Gore?](#)

Fifteen . . .

[VoteTrader.org](#)

Fourteen . . .

[In Defense Of Nadertrading](#)

Thirteen . . .

[Greens For Gore](#)

Twelve . . .

[Nader's Raiders For Gore](#)

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[VoteExchange](#)

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[Vote Exchange 2000](#)

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[SwapVote.com](#)

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[TradeVotes.com](#)

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Five . . .

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Three . . .

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Two . . .

[Voteswap 2000](#)

Voteauction.com has spawned a micro-trend: vote swapping, er, political "discussion forum" Web sites. Count 'em: One . . .

[Close Vote? You Can Bid On It](#)

This *Wired News* article (August 17, 2000) by Mark K. Anderson covers initial reactions from legal specialists about the Voteauction.com site. Survey the calm before the storm hit.

[Wanna Buy My Vote? Fuhgeddaboutit](#)

This *Independent Standard* article (August 21, 2000) by Ronna Abramson announces the death of Voteauction.com, and goes to Douglas Kellner, a New York City Board of Elections commissioner, for comments. Kellner is outshined by James Baumgartner: "I thought it'd be more direct and more democratic to have these voters make money from their vote."

[VIP Report](#)

Voting Integrity Project president Deborah M. Phillips gets vitriolic in this missive (August 23, 2000) about the Voteauction.com site: "Imagine if there were widespread unfettered participation in this site -- then the presidential race truly would go to the highest bidder! This website is an INSULT to every American who has ever fought to protect our freedom or for the right to vote in America!" Huh, you don't *already* believe the elections go to the highest bidder?

[Voteauction Bids The Dust](#)

This *Wired News* article (August 22, 2000) by Mark K. Anderson announces the death of Voteauction.com. Founder James Baumgartner is unrepentant and witty: "I think that that along with what was going on with eBay and Yahoo auctions shows that this is something people are really concerned about: If the politicians are selling their votes -- and they clearly are -- then the people should be allowed to as well."

Personal (Campaign) Finance

This *ABC News* article (August 20th, 2000) by Sascha Segan shows that the mainstream press conglomerates can be slow to catch on. Features some interesting 1996 campaign funding statistics.

Web Site Offers To Sell U.S. Presidential Votes

This *CNN* article (August 18, 2000) by Richard Stenger features comments from Voteauction.com founder James Baumgartner, a New York political science student graduate: "I'm being realistic. Most people have an honest view of how the candidates are selling themselves. Voters should be included in the situation and get some of the windfall."

Straight Talk From Voteauction.com

This *Auctionwatch.com* article (August 18, 2000) by Chris Connor surveys the history of vote rigging, and how Voteauction.com outbid Ebay for press attention.

Jones Issues Warning Against On-line Vote Buying Schemes

This press release (August 22, 2000) from California Secretary of State Bill Jones may have triggered the demise of Voteauction.com. Jones starts: "Any individual who attempts to buy or sell votes, whether through an Internet auction site or personal communication, is guilty of a felony and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law." I guess, by this logic, that all elected politicians are therefore unprosecuted felons.

Buy This Vote!

This *Slate* article (August 23, 2000) by Jeremy Derfner examines the history of vote-scamming. Features some ironic commentary from National Voting Rights Institute executive director John Bonifaz, who argued that if you believe Voteauction.com is indulging in bribery, then so is "a lot of what goes on in the halls of Congress and in the White House."

Votes Up For Auction Draw Official Enquiries

This *USA Today* article (August 23, 2000) by Janet Kornblum shows how sources can shape perceptions about issues. Voting Integrity Project president Deborah Phillips states: "I love the Internet. But the more I've looked at this issue, the more concerned I've become, because there's a different mind-set that goes hand-in-hand with Internet entrepreneurs." The same mind-set as major party campaign financiers, perhaps?

Vote-selling Web Site To Be Revived, Possibly Offshore

This *CNN* article (August 25, 2000) by Richard Stenger discusses the shift of Voteauction.com from America to maverick Austrian businessman Hans Bernhard.

Voteauction To Lose Domain Name

This *Independent Standard* article (October 19, 2000) by Ronna Abramson announces a preliminary injunction against Voteauction.com by the state of Illinois, and warned that Domain Bank was about to pull the plug on the site's domain name.

Thousands Sign Up To Sell Votes

This *Wired News* article (September 22, 2000) by Mark K. Anderson suggests that over 6000 Americans had signed up with Voteauction.com to sell their votes. Voting Integrity Project president Deborah Phillips continues her media campaign: "Why isn't the Justice Department getting involved? Why hasn't there been any comment from the White House? Why hasn't Congress held any hearings?" I'll give you a clue: Joe McCarthy is long dead.

VoteAuction.com & The Whack-A-Mole Defense

This *TechnoDemocracy Now* article (October 22, 2000) by Thom Wysong explains Voteauction.com's shift to Europe, and how to get around DNS entries.

Will Culture-Jam for Food

This *Salon* article (May 18, 2001), by Katharine Mieszkowski, describes Voteauction.com founder James Baumgartner's battle to pay his \$3800 legal fees. "Like many of the @TMark projects, Voteauction.com is basically a clever joke that ran the risk of being too subtle for humor-impaired keepers of law and order."

Bidding For Ballots: Democracy On The Blocks

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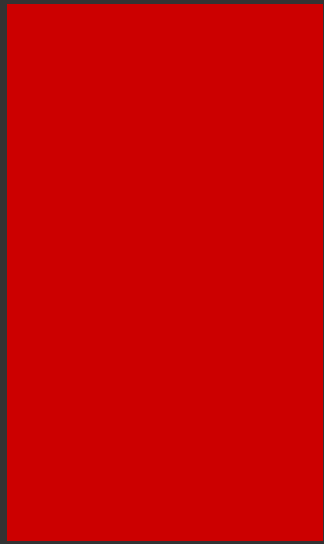
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The template you selected serves the gTLD "AUCTION". There is a limit of 26 characters to your name including the gTLD.

You must choose a login and a password [case sensitive] of at least 6 characters which will be assigned to manage your account. The registration process consists of 5 easy steps.

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Is a vote-selling Web site parody or threat?

Web site's auction premise brings reprisals.

By William Matthews

Federal Computer Week, 09/25/00

BREAKING NEWS



Wicked political satire, or just wicked? A Web site, Vote-auction.com, is generating grins and chagrin with its brazen offer to buy and sell votes via the Internet.

"Sell your vote online," the site urges. "Voteauction.com is devoted to combining the American principles of democracy and capitalism by bringing the big money of campaigns directly to the voting public."

The site promises candidates "a greater return on your campaign investment" by buying votes outright rather than paying millions of dollars to consultants and advertisers to influence voters.

To voters, Voteauction says, "profit from your election capital by selling your vote to the highest bidder."

The month-old Web site has been praised as pointed parody and condemned as a detriment to

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democracy.

Created by James Baumgartner, a 26-year-old graduate student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., the site has generated hundreds of responses from voters as well as a prompt cease-and-desist order from the New York Board of Elections.

Amid warnings that buying and selling votes is a felony, Baumgartner sold the site to an Austrian businessman, who has said he plans to operate the site through the November presidential election to judge its potential for profit.

The idea that the Internet could turn votes into a marketable commodity troubles many. About a week after Vote-auction went online, California Secretary of State Bill Jones threatened to prosecute "any individual who attempts to buy or sell votes, whether through an Internet auction site or personal communication."

California election fraud investigators "will be monitoring Web sites for suspicious election activity," Jones said.

"There is no question in my mind that this could be used to influence the outcome of elections," said Deborah Phillips, president of The Voting Integrity Project, a voter rights organization. "It's cynical."

Others see only keen satire. "It's a joke," insisted Ari Schwartz, a policy analyst at the Center for Democracy and Technology, a research organization that promotes improving democracy via information technology.

New York election officials were less certain. "It's hard to place in my mind if it's over-the-line political satire, or if there is money being transacted," said Lee Daghlian, public information director for the New York Board of Elections.

Ultimately, state election officials warned Baumgartner that selling and buying votes "is thoroughly illegal," Daghlian said. However, the state took no action against Baumgartner after he posted "Not Valid in New York" on the site. "As far as we're concerned, since it says that, it

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Is a vote-selling Web site parody or threat?

Web site's auction premise brings reprisals.

By William Matthews

Federal Computer Week, 09/25/00

Wicked political satire, or just wicked? A Web site, **Vote-auction**.com, is generating grins and chagrin with its brazen offer to buy and sell votes via the Internet.

"Sell your vote online," the site urges. "Voteauction.com is devoted to combining the American

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principles of democracy and capitalism by bringing the big money of campaigns directly to the voting public."

The site promises candidates "a greater return on your campaign investment" by buying votes outright rather than paying millions of dollars to consultants and advertisers to influence voters.

To voters, Voteauction says, "profit from your election capital by selling your vote to the highest bidder."

The month-old Web site has been praised as pointed parody and condemned as a detriment to democracy.

Created by James Baumgartner, a 26-year-old graduate student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., the site has generated hundreds of responses from voters as well as a prompt cease-and-desist order from the New York Board of Elections.

Amid warnings that buying and selling votes is a felony, Baumgartner sold the site to an Austrian businessman, who has said he plans to operate the site through the November presidential election to judge its potential for profit.

The idea that the Internet could turn votes into a marketable commodity troubles many. About a week after **Vote-auction** went online, California Secretary of State Bill Jones threatened to prosecute "any individual who attempts to buy or sell votes, whether through an Internet auction site or personal communication."

California election fraud investigators "will be monitoring Web sites for suspicious election activity," Jones said.

"There is no question in my mind that this could be used to influence the outcome of elections," said Deborah Phillips, president of The Voting Integrity Project, a voter rights organization. "It's cynical."

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Others see only keen satire. "It's a joke," insisted Ari Schwartz, a policy analyst at the Center for Democracy and Technology, a research organization that promotes improving democracy via information technology.

New York election officials were less certain. "It's hard to place in my mind if it's over-the-line political satire, or if there is money being transacted," said Lee Daghlian, public information director for the New York Board of Elections.

Ultimately, state election officials warned Baumgartner that selling and buying votes "is thoroughly illegal," Daghlian said. However, the state took no action against Baumgartner after he posted "Not Valid in New York" on the site. "As far as we're concerned, since it says that, it doesn't apply in New York, - it's out of our hands," Daghlian said.

Justice Department spokeswoman Chris Watney said at least two federal laws make it illegal to buy or sell votes or to aid and abet in the buying or selling of votes. She declined to say whether any action would be taken against Voteauction.

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Too late to sell out

By **Becca Costello** and **Steven T. Jones**

If you were inspired by the SN&R's coverage of Internet vote-buying ("Sell Your Vote," Sept. 14) and were still hoping to cash in on your apathy, you've missed your chance. But you might have saved yourself from prosecution.

California Secretary of State **Bill Jones** warned voters in August that it's a felony to sell their votes through Internet sites such as voteauction.com, but his office seemed powerless to stop the site, which was located in Europe and guaranteed anonymity to vote buyers and sellers.

That changed last week. Jones held a press conference on Monday, Oct. 16, warning that his office was aggressively seeking to shut down the site, which was boasting of the 1,836 Californians and 15,128 voters nationwide that had offered their votes for sale. Later that day, voteauction.com announced that "bidding has been cancelled" in California, New York and Illinois.

The next day, Jones said, "The company's decision to suspend the bidding for votes in selected states is not enough. Voteauction.com must be shut down immediately, and the individuals who offered to buy or sell votes through the site must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

His first demand is exactly what happened that same day, when a federal judge in Illinois granted the Chicago Board of Elections a temporary restraining order that shut down the voteauction.com site.

Yet voteauction.com founder **James Baumgartner** and current owner **Hans Bernhard** are fighting back. They have counter-sued and reopened the site under a slightly different name, vote-auction.com (www.vote-auction.com), registering under a European registry that is for now beyond the reach of American courts.

"We will keep on focusing on the American election until mid-November this year," Vote-auction.com declared in a press release.

A trial in the Illinois case is set to begin Oct. 30. Meanwhile, Jones' office continues to explore ways to shut down vote-buying operations and to obtain the names of Californians who have offered to sell votes on voteauction.com.

"To buy or sell your vote is a felony," points out Jones spokeswoman **Beth Miller**.

While Jones intends to prosecute Californians who have engaged in vote buying and selling, that will likely require getting those names from voteauction.com. And operators of the site defend their actions on free speech grounds and say that providing a forum for vote-auctioning is not a crime. Election officials disagree.

"We are pursuing additional steps to shut them down, and we do have an active criminal investigation," Miller said. "This is uncharted territory, and our legal office is pursuing all possible channels."

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Vote buying in America: who benefits?

By [Andrew Leigh](#) - posted Thursday, November

30, 2000

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Say "vote buying" to your average political scientist, and he or she will probably respond with "Bangladesh", "Zimbabwe" or "Indonesia". That is, unless they've been watching the US election campaign closely, because that's exactly what's happening at the moment.

If you are a registered US voter, the process is as simple as logging onto Vote-auction.com, and checking the going price. Anonymous bidders state their price, depending on which state the voter is from. For example, this week a vote in the safe state of Texas is worth just \$4.19, but one in marginal Michigan will garner \$22.73. If a majority of voters were willing to sell their votes, winning the Presidency would cost between \$200 million and \$1.1 billion (based on 1996 turnout figures). Given the power of the Presidency, many interest groups would consider that a steal.

For budding vote-sellers, though, there's a small catch. Due to a recent court ruling, they won't actually see the proceeds of their sale. Instead, the money will be donated to a charity of their choice. The amounts on offer appear substantial – with the site's owner claiming to have been offered over \$260 000 by various bidders. This claim is unproven, though we can be certain about something else – officials in at least four states of the US are preparing to take legal action against Vote-auction.com.

Presumably the practice of vote-buying will be quickly stamped out by legislation, but it will much trickier for officials to tackle the other practice that has emerged over the past few weeks: vote swapping. This arises from a simple problem. Gore needs to obtain a majority of electoral college votes (in most states, the candidate who wins the most votes gets all the electoral college votes from that state). Nader needs to win 5 percent of the popular vote, entitling him to Federal matching funds for the 2004 election, but most Nader supporters don't want Bush to win.

When you think about it, the surprise is that it took until October for someone to come up with a solution that benefits both parties. Gore voters in safe seats agree to vote for Nader in return for Nader voters in marginal seats agreeing to vote for Gore. At least five websites are now dedicated to just this purpose – winwincampaign.org, nadertrader.org, votematch.westsidebeta.com, voteexchange.com and nadergore.org.

The legality of these sites is unlikely to be tested until well after polling day. In the meantime, those using them argue that what they're doing is no different from what politicians do every day – you do me a favour, I do you a favour, and we're both better off. In a country where electors can only tick one box, advocates of vote-swapping contend that it provides the same benefits as preferential voting.

Interestingly, whilst it could provide substantial benefits to both Gore and Nader, vote-swapping has emerged as a purely grassroots movement. Gore is probably glad of it, but for obvious reasons, can't lend his support. Nader, on the other hand, seems quite happy with the prospect that he might deliver the election to Bush – and perhaps even a little miffed at the emergence of vote-trading.

Whether the next President is Bush or Gore, my guess is that 2001 will see a heated

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following debate over whether or not to wipe out vote-buying and vote-trading. But until then, organisations for the United States has once again shown itself to be the country where the market their generosity: rules supreme.

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Andrew Leigh is a co-author of *Imagining Australia: Ideas for our Future* along with Macgregor Duncan, David Madden and Peter Tynan. Dr Andrew Leigh is an economist in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University.

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Update: Web site says vote auction was just a game

News Story by [Craig Stedman](#)

NOVEMBER 08, 2000

[\(COMPUTERWORLD\)](#) - A controversial [Web site](#) that drew the ire of election

officials in the U.S. for purportedly offering to auction off blocks of votes to the highest bidder now claims the whole idea was just a game.

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as if they had actually considered it a real business," the statement added. "In fact, it was . . . a real-life game for voters who finally had found a way to think about what their vote is worth on the free market, and to themselves."

Vote-auction.com was initially launched by a graduate student in New York, who sold it to the Austrian group last month after the Web site was ordered to be shut down by a judge in Illinois. The site, which also had run afoul of election officials in California and New York, was then relaunched by the Austrians under a different URL.

Earlier this week, a state court judge in Boston issued another injunction against the site, acting on a civil complaint that was [filed](#) last Friday by the Massachusetts attorney general's office ([see story](#)). The complaint charged that the site's offer to let voters register to sell their votes in blocks broken down by different states was illegal.

In their statement, the new owners of Vote-auction.com said they "are sure" that the various court cases against the Web site will eventually be dropped. "It will be obvious, even to the legal folk, that there are people out there buying and selling votes -- but that it is not us," the statement said.

Vote-auction.com also posted the results of its auction offer, but the statement said users "will have to be quick to access the site." The whole affair will be "put . . . into real legal context" today, it added.

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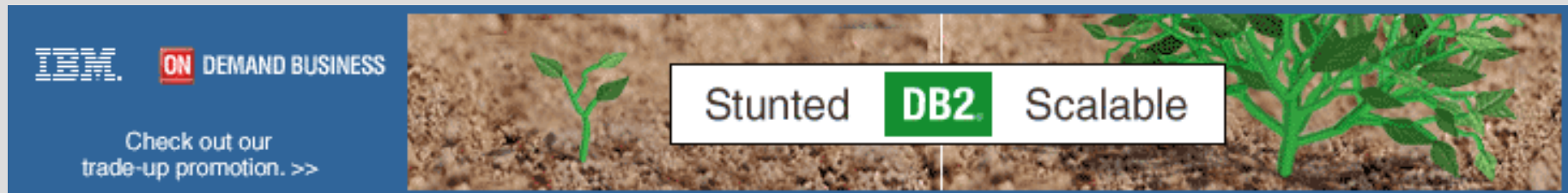
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Update: Web site says **vote auction** was just a game

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syndicate

SUBJECT: [syndicate] DIGITAL CULTURES LAB(international dance and technology meeting)

FROM: Yukihiro Yoshida <yukihiro[at]sfc.keio.ac.jp>

DATE: Mon, 07 Mar 2005 15:17:45 +0900

This is a multi-part message in MIME format...

-----=_1110176287-45979-121

Hi list ---

This is conference on the subject,dance and technologies.
I am also working as Liason in this conference (see the webpage)

Warmest Regards,

Yikihiro YOSHIDA

Related Webpage

http://art.ntu.ac.uk/performance_research/birringer/idadat.htm

DIGITAL CULTURES LAB

(international dance and technology meeting)

28 November - 4 December, 2005

Hosted by Nottingham Trent University's Future Factory in cooperation with Radiator Festival for New Technology Art, essexdance and other UK partners.

Coordinator: Johannes Birringer

Description

Digital technologies challenge our techniques of dance and performance, customary perceptions of culturally embodied knowledge and sensory processing, and assumptions about choreography, composition, and the relations between maker, performer, and audience.

The central aim of this international lab meeting in November-December 2005 is to take stock of the evolution of

contemporary dance (technology), and develop a new understanding of interaction design and physical computing in the dance and performance field through critical engagement with the consequences of interactivity on contemporary digital cultures.

We shall ask: whether interactive performance has become an instance of collaborative culture, beyond aesthetic conventions of concert dance, and how interactive media blur distinctions between performer and audience/user, between performance, play, ritual, game and utility.

Western knowledge of digital interactivity is examined through non-Western concepts of interaction. Non-western articulations of the digital provide a framework for fresh interpretations of participatory design. The cultural questions in this research lab derive from observations of multi-level collaborations between artistic, theatrical, technological, and research partners from different cultural backgrounds and locations, as well as from lab experiments with divergent perceptions of the sensory processing of the digital.

The theoretical scope of the project encompasses an analysis of "digital cultures" in interactive dance based on the findings of an international and cross-cultural lab with the participation of 20 or 25 distinguished choreographers, composers, performance and media artists, programmers, and designers. The lab workshop takes place at Nottingham Trent University over a period of one week and is closed to the general public.

The weekend conference and exhibition events are open to all.

Cross-cultural perspectives and digital art are the focus of the concluding Public Roundtables and Colloquium to be held at this conference (Friday through Sunday, December 2-4, 2005).

Commissions for new work will be announced, and these will be on display throughout the week. The colloquium is organized in collaboration with the Radiator Festival for New Technology Art. If you wish to make a presentation on the subject of the Lab during the conference, please send us a proposal.

johannes.birringer@ntu.ac.uk

Live Art - Digital Research
Nottingham Trent University
Victoria Studios - Shakespeare Street
Nottingham NG1 4FQ UK

http://art.ntu.ac.uk/performance_research/birringer/idat.htm

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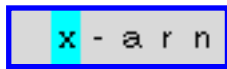
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syndicate RSS

SUBJECT: [syndicate] Lentos Kunstmuseum - ubermorgen Recent & Coming
FROM: ubermorgen <play[at]ubermorgen.com>
DATE: Fri, 25 Feb 2005 14:07:23 +0100

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Opening

"Just do it! The subversion of signs from Marcel Duchamp
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Friday, Feb 25, 2005, 7 pm

http://e-flux.com/displayshow.php?file=message_1108750218.txt
http://www.lentos.at/en/45_443.asp , Lentos Linz / Austria

Recent

Konsthall Malmoe

<http://www.konsthall.malmo.se/o.o.i.s/2766>

http://e-flux.com/displayshow.php?file=message_1101311863.txt

Kunsthhaus Graz

Solo Show, medien.KUNSTLABOR,

*THE*AGENCY* for manual election recount / **** /

Kuenstlerhaus Vienna

"Update" / ***** /

Publication

Neural.it Interview

http://ubermorgen.com/interviews/neural_it_2005/

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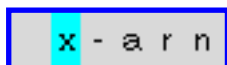
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Dot com ruled by US law? ([Politics](#))

By [titus-g](#)

Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:19:35 PM EST



Internic have deleted the entry for vote-auction.com.

Regardless of whether you believe the site itself to be right or wrong this raises a lot of questions.

A lot of things that are legal in one country are illegal in others, should for example [smokedot.org](#) be pulled as such things are frowned upon in some S.E. Asian countries?

Or should the right to pull entries out of gTLDs be reserved for the US? (not trying to start an anti US flamewar here btw, can't think offhand of any country that wouldn't do this given half a chance)

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Here's the full mail
from Declan
McCullaghs

[Politech](#) mailing list anyway...

As a bit of an experiment, I created a discussion thread on cluebot.com for this topic. Instead of me collecting and forwarding responses by hand, I suggest politech subscribers post them at the below URL instead. It's faster and easier than me doing it manually, and perhaps more democratic. The link: <http://www.cluebot.com/article.pl?sid=00/11/03/1852255&mode=nested>

You can post anonymously or sign up to get an account: <http://www.cluebot.com/users.pl>

-Declan

<http://www.cluebot.com/article.pl?sid=00/11/03/1852255&mode=nested>

Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 15:45:39 +0100 (MET)
From: Iliya Nickelt-Czycykowski <iczycykowski@aip.de>
To: Declan McCullagh <declan@well.com>
Subject: vote-auction.com deleted from DNS

Dear Declan,

The conflict with vote-auction.com has reached a new level. Internic deleted its DNS entry on November 1st, after the domain was registered and hosted by an European registry service and was out of reach for US law. You can still reach it at <http://62.116.31.68/>, and you can read their press release there. A number of other domains (www.voteauction.at, www.voteauction.de, www.voteauction.

- smokedot.org
- [Politech](#)
- [http://www.cluebot.com/article .pl?sid=00/11/03/1852255&mode=nested](http://www.cluebot.com/article.pl?sid=00/11/03/1852255&mode=nested)
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- <http://62.116.31.68/>
- [More on Freedom](#)
- [Also by titus-g](#)

cu, www.voteauction.ru, www.vote-auction.net, www.vote-auction.org) should be up soon. No matter what you think about it, wether you see it as an political satire or take it seriously (the makers don't), it is interesting to see that .com is obviously ruled by US law. Maybe .eu is a better idea than I originally thought.

Regards,

Iliya Nickelt

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[Dot com ruled by US law?](#) | 56 comments (55 topical, 1 editorial, 0 hidden)

Distributed DNS (2.66 / 3) (#53)

by [andrewmuck](#) on Sun Nov 5th, 2000 at 09:26:49 PM EST
(andrewm@opendesign.cx) <http://www.opendesign.cx>

There are a few projects for protecting agains government interference, but in need of getting implemented.

Please see the [advogato article](#)

Request for Hack (3.66 / 3) (#52)

by [loosenut](#) on Sun Nov 5th, 2000 at 09:21:13 PM EST

I just received an email from [RTmark](#) describing voteauction's shutdown. The end of the email said this:

RTMark has secured a \$500 investment, of which \$300 will be offered to the first person who can redirect the domain of a major US political candidate (for federal or state office) to <http://62.116.31.68> [voteauction's working IP address]. The remaining \$200 will be offered to the first person to re-route the domain of a major media outlet covering the elections to the Voteauction IP.

Go for it!

Are the threats against Voteauction real? (4.80 / 5)

(#38)

by [TuxNugget](#) on Sat Nov 4th, 2000 at 12:11:37 PM EST
(linuxfutures@ureach.com) <http://www.linuxfutures.com>

Voteauction.com strikes me as a satirical comedy and a massive troll.

At one time, the registration screens for voteauction.com included a "user agreement" that linked to a broken page. There was no way to buy and sell votes -- that part was clearly a facade for making a political statement.

Going back after the "shutdown", I noticed that the court documents listed on the site are undated. This also strikes me as a bit odd.

Also, [CNN says that the case will be heard in a Federal Court after the ACLU fought to change the venue](#), whereas the [undated documents on voteauction](#) are supposedly from a county court.

So, what should we believe? They could have pulled their own plug just to get back in the news around election day.

- [Its a Troll \(Or a satire\) \(Vague ramblings\)](#) by squigly, 11/04/2000 03:32:13 PM EST (3.00 / 3)

Al Gore invented voting! (1.00 / 8) (#37)

by [alacrityfitzhugh](#) on Sat Nov 4th, 2000 at 08:52:45 AM EST

Right after he invented the new economy

ehem (2.25 / 4) (#35)

by [boxed](#) on Sat Nov 4th, 2000 at 06:56:00 AM EST
<http://boxed.killingar.net>

Or should the right to pull entries out of gTLDs be reserved for the US?
(not trying to start an anti US flamewar here btw, can't think offhand of
any country that wouldn't do this given half a chance)

I can think of a number of countries who wouldn't abuse the top level domain as much as the US. (Observe of course that no civilized country would let anything stand up if they could stop it.) Holland, Sweden and Norway are some of the few countries I know who would definitely be less violent in their administration if they could get this than the US currently is (carnivore and echelon comes to mind). Holland because they are (imho) overly "liberal". Sweden because we have strict laws for freedom of speech and press *that are actually followed strictly*. Same with Norway but they also have a strong national conciousness against bullying countries (after being occuppied by Sweden and/or Denmark for hundreds of years to and fro and most recently by Nazi-germany). To tell you the truth I'd trust Norway way more than Sweden or any other country when handling internet issues like this.

"I don't hate you, I just find you in general to be prudish, ignorant, arrogant, overly-religious, introspective, unsubtle, friendly, cheerfull, prone to going over the top." - FeersumAsura

For once, NSI may be in the clear (4.87 / 8)

(#34)

by [byte](#) on Sat Nov 4th, 2000 at 06:07:56 AM EST
(rmckeeth@home.com)

Of course, the obligatory IANAL...

But from what I can see Network Solutions looks to be in the clear here. After reading the legal briefs on Vote Auction's site it appears as if they are in violation of laws in many US states as well as US Federal law. From the Complaint posted at Vote Auction:

Title 18, Section 597 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. §597) provides, "Whoever makes or offers to make an expenditure to any person, either to vote or withhold his vote, or to vote for or against any candidate; and whoever solicits, accepts, or receives any such expenditure in consideration of his vote or the withholding of his vote shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year or both; and if the violation was willful, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both."

Vote Auction seems to be in clear violation of this statute. While again, IANAL, I certainly think NSI would have cause for concern about any link to a corporation or organization utilizing NSI resources to commit a federal crime. And regardless of wether we like it or not NSI's resources are definately being used here:

From <http://www.icann.org/committees/dns-root/y2k-statement.htm>

"The root of the Internet namespace consists of a single file, the root zone

file, which describes the delegations of the top level domains and the associated records necessitated by the DNS protocol to implement those delegations. Currently, this file is maintained by Network Solutions Incorporated of Herndon, Virginia, USA and is made available to the 12 secondary servers from the primary a.root-server.net. Change control of this file is held by the IANA with changes, typically modifications of the name servers for top level domains, being made approximately once or twice a week."

It's also crucial to note that both NSI and IANA are under contract from the US Government (specifically the US Department of Commerce) to manage the .com TLD. Further, note that the Circuit Court in Cook County, Illinois has granted a preliminary injunction against Vote Auction that states:

1. Defendants and ***all those acting in concert with them*** are enjoined from:

A. Using or operating any Internet web site that encourages or allows residents of Illinois to sell their votes to be cast at the November 7, 2000 General Election.

I think it's reasonable that providing RRs (Resource Records for the DNS deficient, the DNS entries that make domain names possible) could be seen as 'acting in concert' with the defendants. Therefore I don't see that it's unreasonable for NSI ***in this case*** to remove all RRs for Vote Auction pending further hearings.

I don't know about anyone else but if I were calling the shots at NSI, IANA, ICANN, etc. I would have done pretty much the same as they did. Not because I think it should be illegal to buy/sell votes but simply because there appears to be a large conflict of interest in a company under charter from a government organization assisting in violations of the law.

Personally, I'm undecided on the Vote Auction issue and I'm waiting to see how this all shakes out in the end. What I do think is that this points out the need for either international control of the DNS root servers or extra-national (i.e. no nation or governmental organization) control. If nothing else the Internat has been and I hope will continue to be a very powerful force world-wide for free speach and I'm very ambivalent about any nation, the US included, dictating the shape and content of it.

To those who say the US controls .com (3.25 / 8) (#32)
by [Chakotay](#) on Sat Nov 4th, 2000 at 03:17:14 AM EST
(a-dot-arendsen-at-gee-mail-dot-com) <http://eaglestorm.net>

Fact is, the US should be using the existing but virtually unused TLD .us (yes, and Great Britain should be using .gb instead of .uk, and Burkina Faso should be using .uv, though ofcourse their decision to use .bf is understandable). .com, .org, .edu, .gov and .mil are international TLDs, though they're being hogged by ICANN, and thus by the US. The US should actually be using domains like .com.us, .org.us, etc.

But what I find most appalling here is that a non-US organisation created the domain name, and subsequently ICANN, a US organisation, removed it again. Whence do they reserve the right to do so?

--

Linux like wigwam. No windows, no gates, Apache inside.

- [.com has had the fewest restrictions](#) by swr, 11/04/2000 10:45:05 PM EST (**4.50 / 2**)
 - [You've just strengthened my point](#) by Chakotay, 11/05/2000 07:18:42 AM EST (**3.00 / 1**)
- [Lies, damned lies, and the .us TLD](#) by Inoshiro, 11/04/2000 01:38:51 PM EST (**4.75 / 4**)
 - [Re: Lies, damned lies, and the .us TLD](#) by dreamfish, 11/04/2000 04:42:50 PM EST (**5.00 / 1**)
- [Question \[OT\]](#) by OAB, 11/04/2000 07:30:07 AM EST (**3.00 / 1**)
 - [Chakotay](#) by Chakotay, 11/04/2000 02:32:41 PM EST (**3.00 / 2**)
 - [Unfortunately...](#) by Giant Space Hamster, 11/04/2000 06:23:27 PM EST (**4.00 / 1**)
 - [Almost](#) by Chakotay, 11/05/2000 07:20:38 AM EST (**5.00 / 1**)
 - [Alright...](#) by Giant Space Hamster, 11/05/2000 11:45:09 AM EST (**3.00 / 1**)
 - [Well...](#) by Chakotay, 11/05/2000 06:04:03 PM EST (**3.00 / 1**)
 - [Re:Chakotay](#) by dammitallgoodnamesgone, 11/04/2000 04:45:35 PM EST (**5.00 / 1**)
 - [Re:Chakotay](#) by dreamfish, 11/04/2000 06:33:58 PM EST (**5.00 / 2**)

Smokedot.org! (2.00 / 3) (#28)

by [DJBongHit](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 09:19:03 PM EST
(smokedot@smokedot.org)

Ack! It's not Smokedot.com, it's [Smokedot.org](#)! Speaking of which, I should get around to registering Smokedot.com at some point too... I'll go do that now.

~DJBongHit

--

GNU GPL: Free as in herpes.

- [Foiled Again](#) by DJBongHit, 11/03/2000 10:51:56 PM EST (2.00 / 3)
 - [Trusted users, only rate spam to 0!](#) by Broco, 11/07/2000 07:45:43 PM EST (none / 0)

Relevant MLP (3.00 / 3) (#19)

by [interiot](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 05:15:32 PM EST
([kuro5hin.org at paperlined dot org](#)) <http://paperlined.org/>

[The Debate Over Internet Governance: A Snapshot in the Year 2000](#)

Harvard Law School has interviewed 12 people about governing the internet, with a particular focus on [ICANN](#). Mike Roberts, the president of ICANN is one of the interviewees.

There's a TON of comments on that site, I'll quote just a few here. Sorry they're so long.

Jay Fenello: [re WTO & ICANN] What I noticed is that the model is exactly the same. You had a process whereby the WTO was set up by multi-nationals for multi-nationals and discredited and eliminated all of the minority voices from their process. You have no representation for people within the WTO. *Decisions are made behind closed doors.* The WTO also has a uniform dispute resolution policy. How about that? They call it almost exactly the same name. ... *The fact that the media doesn't cover any of them allows each of us to be marginalized and made a minority and silenced because we don't realize that each other exists.* But the internet potentially has the ability to get the word out. I don't know if we will be successful. The way I see it is we are in a race right now. The race is for all the people who want to see legitimate governance, not decisions behind closed doors in smoke filled rooms, but legitimate governance...

Mike Roberts (ICANN CEO): There was a lot of comment about that in the summer of 98 in constructing our by-laws. As among by-laws for non-profit technology oriented companies,... these by-laws have very extensive checks

and balances in them for looking at the judgment of the directors. *There's the reconsideration provision in which any decision can be challenged by anyone and the board is required to specifically review such a challenge. Beyond that, there's the independent review provision which we're almost done with and which will create an external body to deliberate on whether in any given situation the board violated its own by-laws. There are very few, if any, - in fact I've never seen or heard of another American non-profit corporation - that has those structures associated with double checking the judgment of the directors.*

Eric Menge: I think there are three main components that really need to be put into any sort of internet governance. One would be representation. Next would be a clearly defined duty, a clearly defined scope of authority... And three some sort of review mechanism to keep a check. ...well, *ICANN was suffering from a major problem - lack of funding. ... They had to create a large global scale organization with little staff, no money and a lot of disadvantages.* Regarding representation, they are slowly moving in that direction. Hopefully, the at-large membership will help a lot in creating more representation and getting the board to be fully elected. We believe that an elected board is absolutely necessary to have accountability. ...[second,] *Whenever you're dealing with something that is not exactly a government entity but a non-profit corporation,* the ability of everyone to have a say, to have input is crucial. That's where procedure comes in. That way no one can walk away saying it was unfair, I didn't have a chance to have my say, they were bought and sold by big companies, or they're only supporting the United States over the rest of the world. ... Finally, the third party is important because they act as an outside check. ... John Locke who believed that no government could ever be trusted.

Also, there's a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that lays out the transition from US government control to ICANN control:

2. Neither Party, either in the DNS Project or in any act related to the DNS Project, shall act unjustifiably or arbitrarily to injure particular persons or entities or particular categories of persons or entities.

Dot com ruled by US law. (3.00 / 8) (#12)
by [Forum](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:35:30 PM EST
(forum@disinfo.net)

I don't know about the rest of you, but just the thought of this infuriates me. By saying that because the US runs DNS, they can effectively shut down a site that they don't like is absurd. For an organization whose First Amendment to their Constitution is "Freedom of Speech", to blatantly kick said free speech in the face because you don't like what it's saying is intrinsically wrong. Something has to be done about this "Well, maybe they were wrong and they deserved it" attitude or we're ALL in trouble, because someday someone isn't going to like what you have to say. Get the word out, tell people what is going on, vote. Do something. One time it may be YOUR door the FBI is kicking in, or your site InterNIC is deleting the DNS entry for.

-forum

-- "When I walk down the street and only 3 or 4 shots are fired at me, I find it hard to stay awake." -HC

- [Two issues..](#) by Miniluv, 11/04/2000 02:42:53 AM EST (4.00 / 2)

Hmm. (3.88 / 9) (#11)

by pb on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:26:37 PM EST
(pbaylies@gmail.com)

Since you don't know *why* it was deleted, this is all just idle speculation. I doubt it was Bill Clinton, the "Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy", or the Supreme Court. More likely, some bozo complained, and it got pulled, but we don't know.

Complain to your provider, or to INTERNIC, and FIND OUT why it was pulled. While you're at it, try to register it again, preferably not through NSI.

Once you find out, or have some more information, THEN post this to K5. I don't like my news to be entirely one-sided, no matter which side it is.

"See what the drooling, ravening, flesh-eating hordes ^{^W^W^W^W}Kuro5hin.org readers have to say."

-- pwhysall

- [Hi pb](#) by titus-g, 11/03/2000 04:56:48 PM EST (3.00 / 2)
 - [Hi, titus-g!](#) by pb, 11/03/2000 05:36:26 PM EST (3.00 / 1)
 - [Oops...](#) by pb, 11/03/2000 05:42:03 PM EST (3.00 / 1)
 - [eek](#) by titus-g, 11/03/2000 06:49:03 PM EST (3.00 / 1)
- [Go Here](#) by greyrat, 11/03/2000 04:49:47 PM EST (3.50 / 2)
 - [And again](#) by greyrat, 11/03/2000 04:54:22 PM EST (4.00 / 4)
 - [Thanks...](#) by pb, 11/03/2000 05:30:55 PM EST (3.00 / 2)
- [One sided information.](#) by Forum, 11/03/2000 04:37:00 PM EST (2.25 / 4)
 - [I did.](#) by pb, 11/03/2000 04:46:25 PM EST (4.00 / 2)

Discussion board spanners (3.71 / 7) (#10)

by [interiot](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:23:49 PM EST
([kuro5hin.org](#) at [paperlined dot org](#)) <http://paperlined.org/>

Instead of me collecting and forwarding responses by hand, I suggest politech subscribers post them at the below URL instead. It's faster and easier than me doing it manually, and perhaps more democratic.

This situation (same discussion, multiple sites) exists a lot, but few people mirror or otherwise try to connect discussions between Slashdot, Kuro5hin, etc... Or, if they do, they don't mention their source so they can take credit for the ideas. :)

[Metcalf's Law](#) states that the value of a network grows by the square of the size of the network. A network that is twice as large will be four times as valuable because there are four times as many things that can be done due to the larger number of interconnections.

So if online discussions followed Metcalfe's law, there should be some pressure to interconnect, but they haven't. We've moved away from Usenet, IRC, and FTP; and moved towards web-based discussion trees, web/java-based chatrooms, and Napster/Gnutella/Freenet, all with different implementations that would be hard/impossible to combine.

Why? Perhaps there's a variant of Metcalfe's law that says the S/N ratio decreases by the square of the size of the network. Or perhaps common implementations give greater motivation to write spamming/harvesting/monitoring bots. Or maybe we just find Gibson/Walled-City situations romantic because it differentiates us from the next guy.

Or maybe I'm discussing things at such an abstract level that the arguments are essentially meaningless, just like JonKatz's articles.

- [Discussion board S/N against Size](#) by [codemonkey_uk](#), 11/06/2000 07:47:44 AM EST (4.00 / 1)
 - [Defending Metcalfe's Law](#) by [interiot](#), 11/06/2000 02:06:54 PM EST (4.00 / 2)
- [Signal:Noise - Size or Quality of the Community?](#) by [weathervane](#), 11/03/2000 10:32:07 PM EST (4.00 / 2)

.com/.net/.org are US (3.16 / 6) (#9)

by [Delirium](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:15:06 PM EST
(delirium-k5@hackish.org)

Of course .com is ruled by US law - since the .com TLD was created by the US Government, I don't see why this comes as a surprise. Sure, they've made some show of giving up a bit of control in favor of some international arbitration panels, but it's still pretty much US-controlled due to its being a US creation.

Read my [diary](#).

ICANN (2.60 / 5) (#7)

by [reshippie](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:10:27 PM EST
([billy \(at\) reshippie \(dot\) net](mailto:billy(at)reshippie(dot)net))

Is still tied to the US government. I think it's the Dept of Commerce, or the FTC.

Therefore, the US government still has a great deal of "influence" (read: control) over it's actions. By proxy, then, they get to cotrol DNS.

Those who don't know me, probably shouldn't trust me. Those who do DEFINITELY shouldn't trust me. :-)

.com arbiter (3.77 / 9) (#4)

by [dreamfish](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 03:07:59 PM EST
(dreamfish@dreamfish.org.uk) <http://www.dreamfish.org.uk>

Which country takes jurisdiction over a .com? The country in which the server is based or the country in which the domain was registered?

It's further complicated by trying to determine where ICANN and WIPO come into it. We've all heard about people complaining to Network Solutions about use/abuse of a .com and them pulling it without warning or investigating the matter further, especially if that complaint came through the US courts but the domain is operated in another country.

- [Reciprocal treaties](#) by aphrael, 11/03/2000 03:21:33 PM EST (4.25 / 4)
 - [Reciprocal?](#) by holdfast, 11/03/2000 04:39:30 PM EST (4.00 / 3)
 - [Berne Convention](#) by aphrael, 11/03/2000 05:24:32 PM EST (4.00 / 3)

Would you expect anything less... (2.78 / 14)

(#3)

by [h0tr0d](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 03:01:37 PM EST

from the US? I certainly wouldn't. There are a few things that I've learned over the years and one of those is that not only is the US government run by big business but big business is in return run by the US government. It's one of those you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours scenarios.

Politician (prior to election): Thanks for the 40 billion dollar donation to my campaign.

Big Business (prior to election): No problem. We really believe in supporting good (read, easily pocketed) candidates.

Big Business (post election): Hey, you remember that small donation we made, well, we need a small favor now.

Politician (post election): Sure, anything for the people (read, I can claim that this will either save jobs or protect the innocent, right?).

Politician: Say, we're having a bit of a national security problem, could you help out (while my thugs quietly remind you of that tax break we just gave you)?

Big Business: Sure, anything to stand up for the freedoms (read, lobbying and bribery) that we believe in.

I figure this is probably pretty common conversation at the fund raisers and dinner parties of the politically elite.

-- It appears that my spleeing chucker isn't working again.

- [Yeah, I'm sure](#) by Matt Hall, 11/03/2000 07:02:03 PM EST (3.00 / 1)
 - [You missed the point.](#) by h0tr0d, 11/04/2000 03:32:20 AM EST (4.50 / 2)
 - [Vast and Murky Conspiracies...](#) by Miniluv, 11/04/2000 03:59:11 PM EST (3.50 / 2)

Legality (3.45 / 11) (#2)

by [aphrael](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 02:59:36 PM EST

(aphrael@NOSPAM.misanthrope.MAPSON.discontent.com) <http://www.discontent.com//blogs/index.php?blog=2>

While I don't think the DNS entry should have been yanked, I *do* believe it's perfectly legitimate for a state government to go after the people running a site located in the state which is being used to do something illegal in that state. It shouldn't be allowed to go after people running a site located in *another* state, or country, but that isn't what happened here.

Further proof (2.79 / 24) (#1)

by [Signal 11](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 02:45:18 PM EST
([signal11@attbi.com?Subject=kuro5hin comment](mailto:signal11@attbi.com?Subject=kuro5hin%20comment))

Further proof that the authoritarian elite in this country have taken over the critical framework of the internet.

My advice remains unchanged: Snub them by either setting up an alternate DNS system and updating your root.hints file, or by distributing new zone files that override root server defaults.

The DNS system is easily compromised via viral RR records... perhaps now would be a good time to revisit the alter.net idea, or impliment a kind of blackhole similar to the MAPS RBL, but that it acts in reverse - keeping censored sites alive and accessible. It would be the first step towards neutralizing the US-centric internet policies.

--

Society needs therapy. It's having trouble accepting itself.

- [2 be honest](#) by titus-g, 11/03/2000 09:06:58 PM EST (2.50 / 2)
- [OpenNIC](#) by Arkady, 11/03/2000 06:43:45 PM EST (2.50 / 2)
- ["Walled City"](#) by sugarman, 11/03/2000 03:18:12 PM EST (4.50 / 4)

[Dot com ruled by US law?](#) | 56 comments (55 topical, 1 editorial, 0 hidden)

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Dot com ruled by US law? ([Politics](#))

By [titus-g](#)

Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:19:35 PM EST



Internic have deleted the entry for **vote-auction**.com.

Regardless of whether you believe the site itself to be right or wrong this raises a lot of questions.

A lot of things that are legal in one country are illegal in others, should for example [smokedot.org](#) be pulled as such things are frowned upon in some S.E. Asian countries?

Or should the right to pull entries out of gTLDs be reserved for the US? (not trying to start an anti US flamewar

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here btw, can't think offhand of any country that wouldn't do this given half a chance)

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Here's the full mail from Declan McCullaghs

[Politech](#) mailing list anyway...

As a bit of an experiment, I created a discussion thread on cluebot.com for this topic. Instead of me collecting and forwarding responses by hand, I suggest politech subscribers post them at the below URL instead. It's faster and easier than me doing it manually, and perhaps more democratic. The link: <http://www.cluebot.com/article.pl?sid=00/11/03/1852255&mode=nested>

You can post anonymously or sign up to get an account: <http://www.cluebot.com/users.pl>

-Declan

<http://www.cluebot.com/article.pl?sid=00/11/03/1852255&mode=nested>

Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 15:45:39 +0100 (MET)
From: Iliya Nickelt-Czycykowski <iczycykowski@aip.de>
To: Declan McCullagh <declan@well.com>
Subject: **vote-auction**.com deleted from DNS

Dear Declan,

The conflict with **vote-auction**.com has reached a new level. Internic deleted its DNS entry on November 1st, after the

Note: You must accept a cookie to log in.

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Related Links

- smokedot.org
- [Politech](#)
- <http://www.cluebot.com/article.pl?sid=00/11/03/1852255&mode=nested>
- <http://www.cluebot.com/users.pl>
- <http://62.116.31.68/>
- [More on Freedom](#)
- [Also by titus-g](#)

domain was registered and hosted by an European registry service and was out of reach for US law. You can still reach it at <http://62.116.31.68/>, and you can read their press release there. A number of other domains (www.voteauction.at, www.voteauction.de, www.voteauction.cu, www.voteauction.ru, www.**vote-auction**.net, www.**vote-auction**.org) should be up soon. No matter what you think about it, wether you see it as an political satire or take it seriously (the makers don't), it is interesting to see that .com is obviously ruled by US law. Maybe .eu is a better idea than I originally thought.

Regards,

Iliya Nickelt

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[Dot com ruled by US law?](#) | 56 comments (55 topical, 1 editorial, 0 hidden)

Distributed DNS (2.66 / 3) (#53)

by [andrewmuck](#) on Sun Nov 5th, 2000 at 09:26:49 PM EST
(andrewm@opendesign.cx) <http://www.opendesign.cx>

There are a few projects for protecting agains government interference, but in need of getting implemented.

Please see the [advogato article](#)

Request for Hack (3.66 / 3) (#52)

by [loosenut](#) on Sun Nov 5th, 2000 at 09:21:13 PM EST

I just received an email from [RTmark](#) describing voteauction's shutdown. The end of the email said this:

RTMark has secured a \$500 investment, of which \$300 will be offered to the first person who can redirect the domain of a major US political candidate (for federal or state office) to <http://62.116.31.68> [voteauction's working IP address]. The remaining \$200 will be offered to the first person to re-route the domain of a major media outlet covering the elections to the Voteauction IP.

Go for it!

Are the threats against Voteauction real? (4.80 / 5)

(#38)

by [TuxNugget](#) on Sat Nov 4th, 2000 at 12:11:37 PM EST
(linuxfutures@ureach.com) <http://www.linuxfutures.com>

Voteauction.com strikes me as a satirical comedy and a massive troll.

At one time, the registration screens for voteauction.com included a "user agreement" that linked to a broken page. There was no way to buy and sell votes -- that part was clearly a facade for making a political statement.

Going back after the "shutdown", I noticed that the court documents listed on the site are undated. This also strikes me as a bit odd.

Also, [CNN says that the case will be heard in a Federal Court after the ACLU fought to change the venue](#), whereas the [undated documents on voteauction](#) are supposedly from a county court.

So, what should we believe? They could have pulled their own plug just to get back in the news around election day.

- [Its a Troll \(Or a satire\) \(Vague ramblings\)](#) by squigly, 11/04/2000 03:32:13 PM EST (3.00 / 3)

Al Gore invented voting! (1.00 / 8) (#37)

by [alacrityfitzhugh](#) on Sat Nov 4th, 2000 at 08:52:45 AM EST

Right after he invented the new economy

ehem (2.25 / 4) (#35)

by [boxed](#) on Sat Nov 4th, 2000 at 06:56:00 AM EST

<http://boxed.killingar.net>

Or should the right to pull entries out of gTLDs be reserved for the US?
(not trying to start an anti US flamewar here btw, can't think offhand of
any country that wouldn't do this given half a chance)

I can think of a number of countries who wouldn't abuse the top level domain as much as the US. (Observe of course that no civilized country would let anything stand up if they could stop it.) Holland, Sweden and Norway are some of the few countries I know who would definitely be less violent in their administration if they could get this than the US currently is (carnivore and echelon comes to mind). Holland because they are (imho) overly "liberal". Sweden because we have strict laws for freedom of speech and press *that are actually followed strictly*. Same with Norway but they also have a strong national consciousness against bullying countries (after being occuppied by Sweden and/or Denmark for hundreds of years to and fro and most recently by Nazi-germany). To tell you the truth I'd trust Norway way more than Sweden or any other country when handling internet issues like this.

"I don't hate you, I just find you in general to be prudish, ignorant, arrogant, overly-religious, introspective, unsubtle, friendly, cheerfull, prone to going over the top." - FeersumAsura

For once, NSI may be in the clear (4.87 / 8)

(#34)

by [byte](#) on Sat Nov 4th, 2000 at 06:07:56 AM EST

(rmckeeth@home.com)

Of course, the obligatory IANAL...

But from what I can see Network Solutions looks to be in the clear here. After reading the legal briefs on **Vote Auction's** site it appears as if they are in violation of laws in many US states as well as US Federal law. From the Complaint posted at **Vote Auction**:

Title 18, Section 597 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. §597) provides, "Whoever makes or offers to make an expenditure to any person, either to vote or withhold his vote, or to vote for or against any candidate; and whoever solicits, accepts, or receives any such expenditure in consideration of his vote or the withholding of his vote shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year or both; and if the violation was willful, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both."

Vote Auction seems to be in clear violation of this statute. While again, IANAL, I certainly think NSI would have cause for concern about any link to a corporation or organization utilizing NSI resources to commit a federal crime. And regardless of

wether we like it or not NSI's resources are definately being used here:

From <http://www.icann.org/committees/dns-root/y2k-statement.htm>

"The root of the Internet namespace consists of a single file, the root zone file, which describes the delegations of the top level domains and the associated records necessitated by the DNS protocol to implement those delegations. Currently, this file is maintained by Network Solutions Incorporated of Herndon, Virginia, USA and is made available to the 12 secondary servers from the primary a.root-server.net. Change control of this file is held by the IANA with changes, typically modifications of the name servers for top level domains, being made approximately once or twice a week."

It's also crucial to note that both NSI and IANA are under contract from the US Government (specifically the US Department of Commerce) to manage the .com TLD. Further, note that the Circuit Court in Cook County, Illinois has granted a preliminary injunction against **Vote Auction** that states:

1. Defendants and ***all those acting in concert with them*** are enjoined from:

A. Using or operating any Internet web site that encourages or allows residents of Illinois to sell their votes to be cast at the November 7, 2000 General Election.

I think it's reasonable that providing RRs (Resource Records for the DNS deficient, the DNS entries that make domain names possible) could be seen as 'acting in concert' with the defendants. Therefore I don't see that it's unreasonable for NSI ***in this case*** to remove all RRs for **Vote Auction** pending further hearings.

I don't know about anyone else but if I were calling the shots at NSI, IANA, ICANN, etc. I would have done pretty much the same as they did. Not because I think it should be illegal to buy/sell votes but simply because there appears to be a large conflict of interest in a company under charter from a government organization assisting in violations of the law.

Personally, I'm undecided on the **Vote Auction** issue and I'm waiting to see how this all shakes out in the end. What I do think is that this points out the need for either international control of the DNS root servers or extra-national (i.e. no nation or governmental organization) control. If nothing else the Internat has been and I hope will continue to be a very powerful force world-wide for free speach and I'm very ambivalent about any nation, the US included, dictating the shape and content of it.

To those who say the US controls .com (3.25 / 8) (#32)
by [Chakotay](#) on Sat Nov 4th, 2000 at 03:17:14 AM EST
(a-dot-arendsen-at-gee-mail-dot-com) <http://eaglestorm.net>

Fact is, the US should be using the existing but virtually unused TLD .us (yes, and Great Britain should be using .gb instead of .uk, and Burkina Faso should be using .uv, though ofcourse their decision to use .bf is understandable). .com, .org, .edu, .gov and .mil are international TLDs, though they're being hogged by ICANN, and thus by the US. The US should actually be using domains like .com.us, .org.us, etc.

But what I find most appalling here is that a non-US organisation created the domain name, and subsequently ICANN, a US organisation, removed it again. Whence do they reserve the right to do so?

--

Linux like wigwam. No windows, no gates, Apache inside.

- [.com has had the fewest restrictions](#) by swr, 11/04/2000 10:45:05 PM EST (4.50 / 2)
 - [You've just strengthened my point](#) by Chakotay, 11/05/2000 07:18:42 AM EST (3.00 / 1)
- [Lies, damned lies, and the .us TLD](#) by Inoshiro, 11/04/2000 01:38:51 PM EST (4.75 / 4)
 - [Re: Lies, damned lies, and the .us TLD](#) by dreamfish, 11/04/2000 04:42:50 PM EST (5.00 / 1)
- [Question \[OT\]](#) by OAB, 11/04/2000 07:30:07 AM EST (3.00 / 1)
 - [Chakotay](#) by Chakotay, 11/04/2000 02:32:41 PM EST (3.00 / 2)
 - [Unfortunately...](#) by Giant Space Hamster, 11/04/2000 06:23:27 PM EST (4.00 / 1)
 - [Almost](#) by Chakotay, 11/05/2000 07:20:38 AM EST (5.00 / 1)
 - [Alright...](#) by Giant Space Hamster, 11/05/2000 11:45:09 AM EST (3.00 / 1)
 - [Well...](#) by Chakotay, 11/05/2000 06:04:03 PM EST (3.00 / 1)
 - [Re:Chakotay](#) by dammitallgoodnamesgone, 11/04/2000 04:45:35 PM EST (5.00 / 1)
 - [Re:Chakotay](#) by dreamfish, 11/04/2000 06:33:58 PM EST (5.00 / 2)

Smokedot.org! (2.00 / 3) (#28)

by [DJBongHit](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 09:19:03 PM EST
(smokedot@smokedot.org)

Ack! It's not Smokedot.com, it's [Smokedot.org](#)! Speaking of which, I should get around to registering Smokedot.com at some point too... I'll go do that now.

~DJBongHit

--

GNU GPL: Free as in herpes.

- [Foiled Again](#) by DJBongHit, 11/03/2000 10:51:56 PM EST (2.00 / 3)
 - [Trusted users, only rate spam to 0!](#) by Broco, 11/07/2000 07:45:43 PM EST (none / 0)

Relevant MLP (3.00 / 3) (#19)

by [interiot](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 05:15:32 PM EST
([kuro5hin.org at paperlined dot org](#)) <http://paperlined.org/>

[The Debate Over Internet Governance: A Snapshot in the Year 2000](#)

Harvard Law School has interviewed 12 people about governing the internet, with a particular focus on [ICANN](#). Mike Roberts, the president of ICANN is one of the interviewees.

There's a TON of comments on that site, I'll quote just a few here. Sorry they're so long.

Jay Fenello: [re WTO & ICANN] What I noticed is that the model is exactly the same. You had a process whereby the WTO was set up by multi-nationals for multi-nationals and discredited and eliminated all of the minority voices from their process. You have no representation for people within the WTO. *Decisions are made behind closed doors.* The WTO also has a uniform dispute resolution policy. How about that? They call it almost exactly the same name. ... *The fact that the media doesn't cover any of them allows each of us to be marginalized and made a minority and silenced because we don't realize that each other exists.* But the internet potentially has the ability to get the word out. I don't know if we will be successful. The way I see it is we are in a race right now. The race is for all the people who want to see legitimate governance, not decisions behind closed doors in smoke filled rooms, but legitimate governance...

Mike Roberts (ICANN CEO): There was a lot of comment about that in the summer of 98 in constructing our by-laws. As among by-laws for non-profit technology oriented companies,... these by-laws have very extensive checks

and balances in them for looking at the judgment of the directors. *There's the reconsideration provision in which any decision can be challenged by anyone and the board is required to specifically review such a challenge. Beyond that, there's the independent review provision which we're almost done with and which will create an external body to deliberate on whether in any given situation the board violated its own by-laws. There are very few, if any, - in fact I've never seen or heard of another American non-profit corporation - that has those structures associated with double checking the judgment of the directors.*

Eric Menge: I think there are three main components that really need to be put into any sort of internet governance. One would be representation. Next would be a clearly defined duty, a clearly defined scope of authority... And three some sort of review mechanism to keep a check. ...well, *ICANN was suffering from a major problem - lack of funding. ... They had to create a large global scale organization with little staff, no money and a lot of disadvantages.* Regarding representation, they are slowly moving in that direction. Hopefully, the at-large membership will help a lot in creating more representation and getting the board to be fully elected. We believe that an elected board is absolutely necessary to have accountability. ...[second,] *Whenever you're dealing with something that is not exactly a government entity but a non-profit corporation,* the ability of everyone to have a say, to have input is crucial. That's where procedure comes in. That way no one can walk away saying it was unfair, I didn't have a chance to have my say, they were bought and sold by big companies, or they're only supporting the United States over the rest of the world. ... Finally, the third party is important because they act as an outside check. ... John Locke who believed that no government could ever be trusted.

Also, there's a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that lays out the transition from US government control to ICANN control:

2. Neither Party, either in the DNS Project or in any act related to the DNS Project, shall act unjustifiably or arbitrarily to injure particular persons or entities or particular categories of persons or entities.

Dot com ruled by US law. (3.00 / 8) (#12)
by [Forum](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:35:30 PM EST
(forum@disinfo.net)

I don't know about the rest of you, but just the thought of this infuriates me. By saying that because the US runs DNS, they can effectively shut down a site that they don't like is absurd. For an organization whose First Amendment to their Constitution is "Freedom of Speech", to blatantly kick said free speech in the face because you don't like what it's saying is intrinsically wrong. Something has to be done about this "Well, maybe they were wrong and they deserved it" attitude or we're ALL in trouble, because someday someone isn't going to like what you have to say. Get the word out, tell people what is going on, vote. Do something. One time it may be YOUR door the FBI is kicking in, or your site InterNIC is deleting the DNS entry for.

-forum

-- "When I walk down the street and only 3 or 4 shots are fired at me, I find it hard to stay awake." -HC

- [Two issues..](#) by Miniluv, 11/04/2000 02:42:53 AM EST (4.00 / 2)

Hmm. (3.88 / 9) (#11)

by pb on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:26:37 PM EST
(pbaylies@gmail.com)

Since you don't know *why* it was deleted, this is all just idle speculation. I doubt it was Bill Clinton, the "Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy", or the Supreme Court. More likely, some bozo complained, and it got pulled, but we don't know.

Complain to your provider, or to INTERNIC, and FIND OUT why it was pulled. While you're at it, try to register it again, preferably not through NSI.

Once you find out, or have some more information, THEN post this to K5. I don't like my news to be entirely one-sided, no matter which side it is.

"See what the drooling, ravening, flesh-eating hordes ^{^W^W^W^W}Kuro5hin.org readers have to say."

-- pwhysall

- [Hi pb](#) by titus-g, 11/03/2000 04:56:48 PM EST (3.00 / 2)
 - [Hi, titus-g!](#) by pb, 11/03/2000 05:36:26 PM EST (3.00 / 1)
 - [Oops...](#) by pb, 11/03/2000 05:42:03 PM EST (3.00 / 1)
 - [eek](#) by titus-g, 11/03/2000 06:49:03 PM EST (3.00 / 1)
- [Go Here](#) by greyrat, 11/03/2000 04:49:47 PM EST (3.50 / 2)
 - [And again](#) by greyrat, 11/03/2000 04:54:22 PM EST (4.00 / 4)
 - [Thanks...](#) by pb, 11/03/2000 05:30:55 PM EST (3.00 / 2)
- [One sided information.](#) by Forum, 11/03/2000 04:37:00 PM EST (2.25 / 4)
 - [I did.](#) by pb, 11/03/2000 04:46:25 PM EST (4.00 / 2)

Discussion board spanners (3.71 / 7) (#10)

by [interiot](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:23:49 PM EST
([kuro5hin.org](#) at [paperlined dot org](#)) <http://paperlined.org/>

Instead of me collecting and forwarding responses by hand, I suggest politech subscribers post them at the below URL instead. It's faster and easier than me doing it manually, and perhaps more democratic.

This situation (same discussion, multiple sites) exists a lot, but few people mirror or otherwise try to connect discussions between Slashdot, Kuro5hin, etc... Or, if they do, they don't mention their source so they can take credit for the ideas. :)

[Metcalf's Law](#) states that the value of a network grows by the square of the size of the network. A network that is twice as large will be four times as valuable because there are four times as many things that can be done due to the larger number of interconnections.

So if online discussions followed Metcalfe's law, there should be some pressure to interconnect, but they haven't. We've moved away from Usenet, IRC, and FTP; and moved towards web-based discussion trees, web/java-based chatrooms, and Napster/Gnutella/Freenet, all with different implementations that would be hard/impossible to combine.

Why? Perhaps there's a variant of Metcalfe's law that says the S/N ratio decreases by the square of the size of the network. Or perhaps common implementations give greater motivation to write spamming/harvesting/monitoring bots. Or maybe we just find Gibson/Walled-City situations romantic because it differentiates us from the next guy.

Or maybe I'm discussing things at such an abstract level that the arguments are essentially meaningless, just like JonKatz's articles.

- [Discussion board S/N against Size](#) by [codemonkey_uk](#), 11/06/2000 07:47:44 AM EST (4.00 / 1)
 - [Defending Metcalfe's Law](#) by [interiot](#), 11/06/2000 02:06:54 PM EST (4.00 / 2)
- [Signal:Noise - Size or Quality of the Community?](#) by [weathervane](#), 11/03/2000 10:32:07 PM EST (4.00 / 2)

.com/.net/.org are US (3.16 / 6) (#9)

by [Delirium](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:15:06 PM EST
(delirium-k5@hackish.org)

Of course .com is ruled by US law - since the .com TLD was created by the US Government, I don't see why this comes as a surprise. Sure, they've made some show of giving up a bit of control in favor of some international arbitration panels, but it's still pretty much US-controlled due to its being a US creation.

Read my [diary](#).

ICANN (2.60 / 5) (#7)

by [reshippie](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 04:10:27 PM EST
([billy \(at\) reshippie \(dot\) net](mailto:billy@reshippie.net))

Is still tied to the US government. I think it's the Dept of Commerce, or the FTC.

Therefore, the US government still has a great deal of "influence" (read: control) over it's actions. By proxy, then, they get to cotrol DNS.

Those who don't know me, probably shouldn't trust me. Those who do DEFINITELY shouldn't trust me. :-)

.com arbiter (3.77 / 9) (#4)

by [dreamfish](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 03:07:59 PM EST
(dreamfish@dreamfish.org.uk) <http://www.dreamfish.org.uk>

Which country takes jurisdiction over a .com? The country in which the server is based or the country in which the domain was registered?

It's further complicated by trying to determine where ICANN and WIPO come into it. We've all heard about people complaining to Network Solutions about use/abuse of a .com and them pulling it without warning or investigating the matter further, especially if that complaint came through the US courts but the domain is operated in another country.

- [Reciprocal treaties](#) by aphrael, 11/03/2000 03:21:33 PM EST (4.25 / 4)
 - [Reciprocal?](#) by holdfast, 11/03/2000 04:39:30 PM EST (4.00 / 3)
 - [Berne Convention](#) by aphrael, 11/03/2000 05:24:32 PM EST (4.00 / 3)

Would you expect anything less... (2.78 / 14)

(#3)

by [h0tr0d](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 03:01:37 PM EST

from the US? I certainly wouldn't. There are a few things that I've learned over the years and one of those is that not only is the US government run by big business but big business is in return run by the US government. It's one of those you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours scenarios.

Politician (prior to election): Thanks for the 40 billion dollar donation to my campaign.

Big Business (prior to election): No problem. We really believe in supporting good (read, easily pocketed) candidates.

Big Business (post election): Hey, you remember that small donation we made, well, we need a small favor now.

Politician (post election): Sure, anything for the people (read, I can claim that this will either save jobs or protect the innocent, right?).

Politician: Say, we're having a bit of a national security problem, could you help out (while my thugs quietly remind you of that tax break we just gave you)?

Big Business: Sure, anything to stand up for the freedoms (read, lobbying and bribery) that we believe in.

I figure this is probably pretty common conversation at the fund raisers and dinner parties of the politically elite.

-- It appears that my spleeing chucker isn't working again.

- [Yeah, I'm sure](#) by Matt Hall, 11/03/2000 07:02:03 PM EST (3.00 / 1)
 - [You missed the point.](#) by h0tr0d, 11/04/2000 03:32:20 AM EST (4.50 / 2)
 - [Vast and Murky Conspiracies...](#) by Miniluv, 11/04/2000 03:59:11 PM EST (3.50 / 2)

Legality (3.45 / 11) (#2)

by [aphrael](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 02:59:36 PM EST

(aphrael@NOSPAM.misanthrope.MAPSON.discontent.com) <http://www.discontent.com//blogs/index.php?blog=2>

While I don't think the DNS entry should have been yanked, I *do* believe it's perfectly legitimate for a state government to go after the people running a site located in the state which is being used to do something illegal in that state. It shouldn't be allowed to go after people running a site located in *another* state, or country, but that isn't what happened here.

Further proof (2.79 / 24) (#1)

by [Signal 11](#) on Fri Nov 3rd, 2000 at 02:45:18 PM EST
([signal11@attbi.com?Subject=kuro5hin comment](mailto:signal11@attbi.com?Subject=kuro5hin%20comment))

Further proof that the authoritarian elite in this country have taken over the critical framework of the internet.

My advice remains unchanged: Snub them by either setting up an alternate DNS system and updating your root.hints file, or by distributing new zone files that override root server defaults.

The DNS system is easily compromised via viral RR records... perhaps now would be a good time to revisit the alter.net idea, or impliment a kind of blackhole similar to the MAPS RBL, but that it acts in reverse - keeping censored sites alive and accessible. It would be the first step towards neutralizing the US-centric internet policies.

--

Society needs therapy. It's having trouble accepting itself.

- [2 be honest](#) by titus-g, 11/03/2000 09:06:58 PM EST (2.50 / 2)
- [OpenNIC](#) by Arkady, 11/03/2000 06:43:45 PM EST (2.50 / 2)
- ["Walled City"](#) by sugarman, 11/03/2000 03:18:12 PM EST (4.50 / 4)

[Dot com ruled by US law?](#) | 56 comments (55 topical, 1 editorial, 0 hidden)

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you can find some documentation of our [V]ote-auction "MEDIA HACK" at vote-auction.net or check out the [google database](#).

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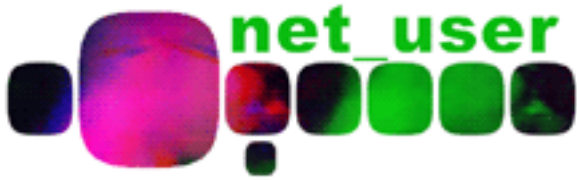
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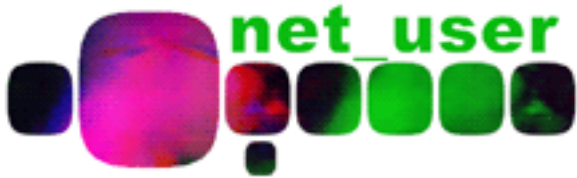
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November 06, 2000 (7:54 AM EST)

Massachusetts Decries Online Vote Selling

By Kim Renay Anderson, TechWeb.com

Selling votes is as illegal online as it is in the real world, according to Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly.

Reilly's office filed a civil complaint last Friday to shut down Vote-Auction.com, a site that lets voters offer up their ballots to the highest bidder.

A hearing on the preliminary injunction request is scheduled for Monday in Suffolk County Superior Court in Massachusetts.

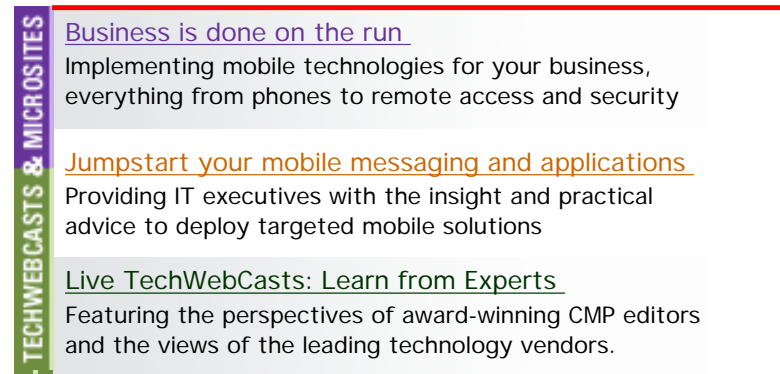
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Reilly said to date, 1,116 Massachusetts voters have registered on Vote-Auction.com. As of Nov. 2, the highest bid for the Massachusetts votes was \$12,000.

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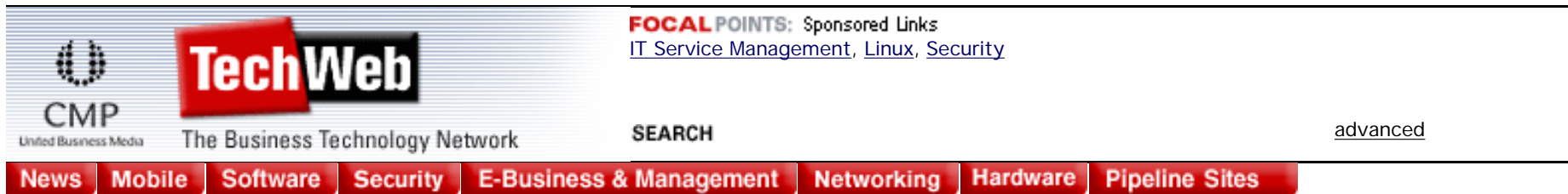
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Nixon sues website

[November 2, 2000](#)

By: [Michelle Wirth](#)

State Capital Bureau

If you wanted to sell your vote online to the highest bidder Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon says no. Nixon filed a lawsuit against **vote-auction**.com taking it temporarily offline. Michelle Wirth has more from Jefferson City.

Actuality:

RunTime:

OutCue:

Contents:

The Austrian based web site allowed US citizens to sell their vote to the highest bidder. Attorney General spokesman Scott Holste says hundreds of Missouri voters promised to sell their votes.

Actuality:

RunTime: 13 seconds

OutCue:

Contents: We wanted to put a stop to the claims that this was a legal business. So we went to

court on Wednesday and received a temporary restraining order.

A hearing will be held later this month to determine whether the site will be shut down permanently. Wisconsin, Illinois, and Massachusetts have also taken legal action against **vote-auction**.com. From Jefferson City, I'm Michelle Wirth.

Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon temporarily shuts down a web site selling Missouri votes.

Actuality:

RunTime:

OutCue:

Contents:

The Austrian based web site **Vote-auction**.com provides a forum for US voters to sell their vote to the highest bidder. Nixon's spokesman Scott Holste says it's illegal in Missouri to buy or sell votes.

Actuality:

RunTime: 13 seconds

OutCue:

Contents: We wanted to put a stop to the claim that this was a legal business. So we went to court on Wednesday and received a temporary restraining order.

Holste adds that hundreds of Missouri residents registered to sell their votes. A hearing will be held later this month to determine the fate of **vote-auction**.com.

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Website offers auction 2000 presidential votes

October 26, 2000

By: Lauren Shepherd

State Capital Bureau

JEFFERSON CITY - More than 560 self-described Missourians have offered to sell their November presidential vote to the highest bidder -- using a foreign-based WWW service that seeks to skirt laws making vote-selling illegal.

A website operating out of Vienna, Austria-- www.vote-auction.com -- is offering to buy and sell votes on the web for the 2000 presidential race. Individuals register on a site, giving their name, address, and demographic information that the site claims will remain confidential. By registering on the site, the vote-seller becomes part of a vote-block from their state. The votes then will be sold to the highest bidder on Nov. 7.

Once a bidder -- a corporation or an individual -- wins the vote block, they contact each voter with instructions for who to vote for in the election.

Currently, 21,079 people have registered with the site -- 561 claiming to be from Missouri.

How much each person gets will depend on the size of the highest bid for each state's block of votes.

The highest bid so far for the state's votes is \$8,701 -- that would provide \$10.62 to each Missourian. The WWW organizers refuse to identify either the bidders or the names of those who have offered to sell their votes.

"This speaks and reaks of voter fraud," said Attorney General Jay Nixon, who said he had not now about the WWW site until this report. "These are not auctions. These are elections."

Federal law and Missouri state law both prohibit the sale of votes in an election. Nixon said he would "use the full power of the office" to investigate the site and shut it down if there is any evidence that votes in Missouri have been sold or bought -- an action already in the works in Illinois.

Based on other cases, Nixon said Missouri could take legal action against a foreign-based WWW service if an illegal act is committed through a computer connected to the site from Missouri.

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A hearing will be held on October 30 to determine whether the website should be permanently shut down.

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Despite the legal challenge in Illinois and threatened suits in several other states, including Massachusetts, California and Nebraska, Liz Vlx, CEO of UBERMORGEN.COM based in Austria -- the holding company for the website -- wrote in an e-mail response to questions that she sees nothing wrong with the website.

"We provide an open-market platform for bidders and sellers," Vlx wrote. "We do not consider our work to be of illegal or criminal nature.

Vlx said she doesn't think the website will have much of an effect on this year's presidential election.

"I doubt very much that we can influence the elections, as we just do not have enough users for a purpose like that," she said.

She added that providing the auction service shouldn't be a problem in a democracy like America.

"Coming from Europe, where the buying of votes is legal in the first place, it seems strange that a democracy does not allow for the free exchange of votes," she said.

On the website, the company claims the auctioning of votes is protected by the free speech clause of the First Amendment, saying "freedom of spending and freedom of speech are central components of our capitalist democracy."

Deborah Phillips, president of the nonprofit Voting Integrity Project in Arlington, Virginia, called the auction site "outright illegal."

"This violates every state and federal election law," Phillips said. "These people are very slithery."

[Missouri Digital News is produced by the **State Government Reporting Program** of the [Missouri School of Journalism](#) (home of the [The Journalist's Creed](#)) in collaboration with [KSMU Radio](#) and with support from [the Missouri Press Association](#) and the [Missouri Broadcasters' Association](#). MDN was designed and is managed by [Phill Brooks](#).]

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Website offers auction 2000 presidential votes

[October 26, 2000](#)

By: [Lauren Shepherd](#)

State Capital Bureau

JEFFERSON CITY - More than 560 self-described Missourians have offered to sell their November presidential vote to the highest bidder -- using a foreign-based WWW service that seeks to skirt laws making vote-selling illegal.

A website operating out of Vienna, Austria-- [www.vote-auction.com](#) -- is offering to buy and sell votes on the web for the 2000 presidential race. Individuals register on a site, giving their name, address, and demographic information that the site claims will remain confidential. By registering on the site, the vote-seller becomes part of a vote-block from their state. The votes then will be sold to the highest bidder on Nov. 7.

Once a bidder -- a corporation or an individual -- wins the vote block, they contact each voter with instructions for who to vote for in the election.

Currently, 21,079 people have registered with the site -- 561 claiming to be from Missouri.

How much each person gets will depend on the size of the highest bid for each state's block of votes.

The highest bid so far for the state's votes is \$8,701 -- that would provide \$10.62 to each Missourian. The WWW organizers refuse to identify either the bidders or the names of those who have offered to sell their votes.

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Bringing Capitalism and Democracy Closer Together

HANS BERNHARD / Ubermorgen

Interviewed by Olga Goriunova and Alexei Shulgin

***OG and AS:** Software is used in many of your projects, but is usually hidden. Nevertheless it enables the creation of social spaces where the artistic action takes place ([V]ote-auction, etoy actions, IPNIC are especially notable examples of this). In a way software can be regarded as your artistic instrument, albeit in a non-demonstrative manner. Software as back-end is also the usual technique of IT-solutions. In this respect, your projects exploit corporate rhetoric and aesthetics by injecting some bug in generally recognized patterns. What is the ideology behind such a strategy?*

ubermorgen: there is no ideology. there is no political or social idealism, there is absolutely no concept, there are no goals! i don't even have ideas.

standard software is behind all my activities, it is the underlying layer of my work and my working process. it is the underlying layer of all our contemporary social spaces and our actions happening

within these spaces. i do not consider this software as my artistic instrument, it is just part of the infrastructure [like the streets or electricity]. the important question is, how specific software or software ideas can be communicated and visualized.

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most of the technical instruments were non-existent at that time. so we had to invent them and we did code some of them [special intranet solutions, databases, spam-tools, bots, etc.]. but mainly we used the concepts as mere thoughts and we talked about them, spreading the memes of a technical revolution [from the 1994 point of view!]. this was the right moment to leave reality behind.

<http://fanclub.etoy.c3.hu/tanksystem/index.html>

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<http://www.ipnic.org>

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hardcore stuff. my understanding of programmers and the way they work, my abstract understanding of networks and their underlying technology is what i am really proud of.

to maintain personal integrity and independence, i do some server side stuff, straight html and ascii-texting and design [my style of publication].

[HTTP://WWW.HANSBERNHARD.COM](http://WWW.HANSBERNHARD.COM)

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for thrills and fat money, we are currently working on concepts for a global online lottery system. we use lo-tech instead of high-tech, old tech instead of new tech, brainw[e]ar[e] instead of hardware, legal experience instead of lawyers, distributed responsibility instead of consultants.

elegance is a matter of terror in these days.

one of my dreams for many years [1999, etxtreme.ru] has been to bring the hidden code to the frontpage. i consider programming-languages as "normal" languages, i see programmers talk with each other and with machines in these languages. this is why use binary, dna-sequences and math-functions for my very abstract and stupid poetry, although i don't understand them and myself. 2002 sample:

<http://www.runme.org/project/+geneticbinarymathpoetry/>

***OG and AS:** Software and Internet technologies took political activism to a new level. Projects such as [V]oteauction.com [<http://www.vote-auction.net>] could be realized and covered widely in mass media only due to the new technologies that were introduced and made accessible for a wider audience. Do you see any further directions for the development of political activism through and with software?*

ubermorgen: yes and no. [V]ote-auction was primarily communicated through conventional mass media channels [TV, radio, newspapers, magazines]. new technology enabled channels such as email, mailing lists, online publications were clearly less important. from the production viewpoint, to execute and push such a MEDIA HACK to the top would have been impossible without the new digital tools and experiences [email, web-sites, global thinking, irresponsible journalists, high-speed publications, user-feedback, etc.].

to the second part of your question: yes, mobile devices and applications, peer to peer tech, etc. are strong futures in the global market of attention. but first, our generation has to actually work on the technology and the ideas that have now been available for over 20 years. only 0.1% of the potential is really in use. new generations are already crawling up our backs with totally new angles

on hard, soft and mixed tech, so let them speed by and watch 'em crash into the next apple-tree.

and, to not be mizundastood, ubermorgen and HANS BERNHARD have never been and will never be political. [V]ote-auction was a business stunt, an attack on democrazy, a pervert media hack, shock marketing sequences and a fearless series of questions posed to the mass. an experiment carried out on CNN and in the world press, designed by a highly intelligent student [james baumgartner] and braindeveloped and sharply executed by media hacking pros ubermorgen [lizvix and hans_extrem, technically supported by tilman singer and aaron kaplan / lo-res.org]. there is no ideology, no political task, we simply followed the slogan:

"bringing capitalism and democracy closer together"

and later on we developed our own ubermorgen truth:

"it's different because it's fundamentally different"

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/2256/>

***OG and AS:** Your background seems to be in business administration. Were you also educated in programming? How did you arrive at programming and why did you start using software?*

ubermorgen: lizvix's [maria haas] background is business [market research and advertisement, mba from the univ. of economics in vienna], she wrote her diploma work in perl [price-optimization-software] and has continued to work conceptually and practically on code.

my alma mater is the university of applied arts in vienna [prof. peter weibel], additionally i studied at the UCSD [prof. lev manovich], the art center college of design in pasadena [peter lunenfeld] and two years at the bergische universitaet of wuppertal [phd studies, prof. bazon brock]. my background is non-computer, yes-tech: both of my parents were genetics-scientists during the 1970s / 80s. as a dirty popper-teenager i played a lot of video-games, drank a lot of beer and smoked a lot of dope in the various shady game-halls in basle / switzerland.

my first labtop was an apple notebook 140, for about 3000 usd, a financial disaster. i used it mainly to write my WORDWAR stuff at night [pseudonym luzius europa brainhard], drinking a bottle of whiskey. writing until i fell asleep on the keyboard, getting up at 7 am to go to work in a logistics company... after a year i was fatburned out and almost kaputt, but that was when hans_extrem and etoy started cooking in my brain or i started to cook with HANS X ingredients:

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/WORDWAR/>

so word was the only software i used until i came to vienna. together with my partner michel zai i started to work with dpaint on amiga 4000 [as "worldwide elastic"].

http://www.brainhard.com/popUP_zai_bernhard.html

for me, computers were a simple tool, not very exciting...

but then, THE ULTIMATE MOMENT of my poor and boring life happened right in the heart of the morbid city of vienna, at the technical university [tu-wien]. it all came together during a sunny day. i went to a sun-workstation computer lab with my teacher and engineer franz penz. he opened a series of telnet session and connected me to various machines around the globe.

additionally, he opened up a web-browser [mosaic 0.9] and some gopher application. it took me some time, then it hit me hard, FULL BLAST! i had stars sparkling before my eyes, my body became fluid like on lsd, my emotions were extreme, my ratio started calculating the money and famous moments, my body went from fever to shaking cold, i would never need mind-altering drugs anymore... i was immediately part of this global organic men-machine network. something i never experienced before and never after.

since then i use shell, mail, text-editor, browser on a regular basis and most importantly, i started to think in terms of integrated global media networks as organisms. our planet is a technical planet:

all things are connected, all things are natural, computers as well as news-content, cotton, plastic, water and genetically modified meat with heavy metal.

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for thrills and fat money, we are currently working on concepts for a global online lottery system. we use lo-tech instead of high-tech, old tech instead of new tech, brainw[e]ar[e] instead of hardware, legal experience instead of lawyers, distributed responsibility instead of consultants.

elegance is a matter of terror in these days.

one of my dreams for many years [1999, etxtreme.ru] has been to bring the hidden code to the frontpage. i consider programming-languages as "normal" languages, i see programmers talk with each other and with machines in these languages. this is why use binary, dna-sequences and math-functions for my very abstract and stupid poetry, although i don't understand them and myself. 2002 sample:

<http://www.runme.org/project/+geneticbinarymathpoetry/>

OG and AS: Software and Internet technologies took political activism to a new level. Projects such as [V]oteauction.com [<http://www.vote-auction.net>] could be realized and covered widely in mass media only due to the new technologies that were introduced and made accessible for a wider audience. Do you see any

further directions for the development of political activism through and with software?

ubermorgen: yes and no. [V]ote-auction was primarily communicated through conventional mass media channels [TV, radio, newspapers, magazines]. new technology enabled channels such as email, mailing lists, online publications were clearly less important. from the production viewpoint, to execute and push such a MEDIA HACK to the top would have been impossible without the new digital tools and experiences [email, web-sites, global thinking, irresponsible journalists, high-speed publications, user-feedback, etc.].

to the second part of your question: yes, mobile devices and applications, peer to peer tech, etc. are strong futures in the global market of attention. but first, our generation has to actually work on the technology and the ideas that have now been available for over 20 years. only 0.1% of the potential is really in use. new generations are already crawling up our backs with totally new angles on hard, soft and mixed tech, so let them speed by and watch 'em crash into the next apple-tree.

and, to not be mizundastood, ubermorgen and HANS BERNHARD have never been and will never be political. [V]ote-auction was a business stunt, an attack on democracy, a pervert media hack, shock marketing sequences and a fearless series of questions posed to the mass. an experiment carried out on CNN and in the world press, designed by a highly intelligent student [james baumgartner] and braindeveloped and sharply executed by media hacking pros ubermorgen [lizvix and hans_extrem, technically supported by tilman singer and aaron kaplan / lo-res.org]. there is no ideology, no political task, we simply followed the slogan:

"bringing capitalism and democracy closer together"

and later on we developed our own ubermorgen truth:

"it's different because it's fundamentally different"

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/2256/>

***OG and AS:** Your background seems to be in business administration. Were you also educated in programming? How did you arrive at programming and why did you start using software?*

ubermorgen: lizvix's [maria haas] background is business [market research and advertisement, mba from the univ. of economics in vienna], she wrote her diploma work in perl [price-optimization-software] and has continued to work conceptually and practically on code.

my alma mater is the university of applied arts in vienna [prof. peter weibel], additionally i studied at the UCSD [prof. lev manovich], the art center college of

design in pasadena [peter lunenfeld] and two years at the bergische universitaet of wuppertal [phd studies, prof. bazon brock]. my background is non-computer, yes-tech: both of my parents were genetics-scientists during the 1970s / 80s. as a dirty popper-teenager i played a lot of video-games, drank a lot of beer and smoked a lot of dope in the various shady game-halls in basle / switzerland.

my first labtop was an apple notebook 140, for about 3000 usd, a financial disaster. i used it mainly to write my WORDWAR stuff at night [pseudonym luzius europa brainhard], drinking a bottle of whiskey. writing until i fell asleep on the keyboard, getting up at 7 am to go to work in a logistics company... after a year i was fatburned out and almost kaputt, but that was when hans_extrem and etoy started cooking in my brain or i started to cook with HANS X ingredients:

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/WORDWAR/>

so word was the only software i used until i came to vienna. together with my partner michel zai i started to work with dpaint on amiga 4000 [as "worldwide elastic"].

http://www.brainhard.com/popUP_zai_bernhard.html

for me, computers were a simple tool, not very exciting...

but then, THE ULTIMATE MOMENT of my poor and boring life happened right in the heart of the morbid city of vienna, at the technical university [tu-wien]. it all came together during a sunny day. i went to a sun-workstation computer lab with my teacher and engineer franz penz. he opened a series of telnet session and connected me to various machines around the globe.

additionally, he opened up a web-browser [mosaic 0.9] and some gopher application. it took me some time, then it hit me hard, FULL BLAST! i had stars sparkling before my eyes, my body became fluid like on lsd, my emotions were extreme, my ratio started calculating the money and famous moments, my body went from fever to shaking cold, i would never need mind-altering drugs anymore... i was immediately part of this global organic men-machine network. something i never experienced before and never after.

since then i use shell, mail, text-editor, browser on a regular basis and most importantly, i started to think in terms of integrated global media networks as organisms. our planet is a technical planet:

all things are connected, all things are natural, computers as well as news-content, cotton, plastic, water and genetically modified meat with heavy metal.

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Domain Bank Acts to Stop Internet Vote Auction

Business Wire, [Oct 19, 2000](#)

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Business Editors

BETHLEHEM, Pa.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 19, 2000

Domain Bank Inc., www.domainbank.com, an ICANN-accredited domain name registrar, Thursday announced that it has taken action to help stop the illegal auctioning of votes on the Internet.

Domain Bank is working with various government officials, including the Secretary of State of California, Bill Jones, and the Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago to eliminate alleged voter fraud on the Internet. A web site operated at the address www.voteauction.com has been engaged in an auction process by which individuals may register to sell their respective votes.

Today, in cooperation with government officials, Domain Bank placed the domain name voteauction.com on hold. As a result, within the next two to three days, the domain name will no longer point to the voteauction.com web site IP address, effectively blocking Internet traffic from reaching the web site.

Scott Hemphill, general counsel of Domain Bank, stated, "We are pleased to be of assistance to government officials in this matter. Providing a vehicle to sell votes on the Internet undermines democratic political systems. If the web site is intended as a joke, we don't find it humorous. If it's intended as a serious commercial venture, it is very troubling indeed.

"We remain committed to working with law enforcement in this matter."

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Order against the registrant of voteauction.com, ordering that the purported selling of votes be stopped immediately.

About Domain Bank Inc.

Domain Bank Inc. is an ICANN accredited, Bethlehem-based domain name registrar and was founded in 1997 for the purpose of facilitating registrations in Top Level domains. As the first active post-test bed registrar and a leader in .Com, Net, & .Org registrations, Domain Bank Inc. has been a prominent industry leader from its inception.

As a long-standing member of the domain name industry, Domain Bank has been a strong advocate of responsible Internet use.

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BREAKING SURF

Immortal Bacteria?

Some bacteria hibernate as spores, which lets them survive long periods in harsh conditions, but findings of really old bacteria have always been greeted skeptically. This week, Nature publishes an astonishing story about the raising of bacteria from spores trapped in a 250-million-year-old salt crystal from New Mexico. The DNA of the unknown Bacillus species most closely resembles that of *Bacillus marismotui*, which thrives in salty conditions. The scientists took great pains to avoid contamination so the finding seems credible, although other investigators still need a crack at it. Just how anything living can survive so long is still a mystery, but it does give new - um, life to the concept of panspermia (the transport of life between planets by natural forces). You'll find links to the Nature article, in summary or full text PDF, here as well as commentary on the significance of the finding.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/fow/001019.html>

The Truth about Bush and Gore

Candidates talk a lot during election campaigns (we've got them south and north of

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SURFING SITES

the US/Canada border now) in debates, town hall meetings, TV ads, and so forth, despite which it's sometimes hard to size up the office-seekers. To the rescue rides Martin Lewis with his amusing analysis of the US presidential candidates. What price freedom, he asks - and answers: about \$160 (plus shipping and handling). That's the cost of software called the Truster that turns your PC into a lie detector machine and which Martin used to analyze Al Gore and George Bush. In this wry commentary, he judges Gore reliable, while Bush is considered to exaggerate from time to time. What's next? Looking for hidden code in the responses? Whether any of this is worth more than a pinch of coonpucky is debatable, but it is an entertaining read. Do we have any volunteers to use it once Canada's Jean Chretien and Stockwell Day get going?

<http://www.time.com/time/daily/0,2960,58092-101001019,00.html>

Voteauction.com Shutdown Order Fails to Stop Site

This **vote auction** site is not down for the count, despite an Illinois judge's order to shut down. The site is owned by an Austrian and is apparently located on Bulgarian servers. The court injunction has shut down domain name service to "voteauction.com", so the site simply moved to the new domain "**vote-auction.com**". Most of the news media have missed a novel element of this case: the government is suing not only the owners of the Web site, but also the ISP and the domain name registrar. This may present a far greater threat to free speech than vote buying.

Story: <http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1005-200-3274948.html>

Vote Auction: <http://vote-auction.com/>

Vote Auction News: <http://www.vote-auction.com/pr.htm>

Land's End Virtual Model

"You step into a scanning room to the tune of upbeat music. In seconds, bursts of white light have recorded 200,000 points of measuring data - enough to determine your size and dimensions more accurately than ever." And presumably creating yet another database entry to be matched against your credit records. No matter, the idea by clothing retailer Land's End is science fiction come true and would be even cooler if you could actually get clothes cut to your scanned dimensions. Alas, for now you can only use your model to "try on clothes, create outfits, be surer than ever what size you should buy". The company is sponsoring a tour of the system through various cities to give people a chance to create their own virtual model. Oddly, the tour apparently overlooks Silicon Valley, where we know for a fact people are panting for the chance to have themselves digitized. A reasonably promising technology marred by upbeat music.

<http://www.landsend.com/spawn.cgi?target=SCANTOUR1000>

Internet Stock Manipulation Works

To the tune of almost \$1 million, if this article is to be believed. A teenager has apparently run a typical pump-and-dump scheme. He bought stock in some companies, hyped them on financial message boards, and sold when the stock rose. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) caught on and investigated, resulting in a settlement without admission of guilt and a fine of \$285,000.

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According to 60 Minutes, the kid made about \$800,000 from his trades, leaving him way ahead even after paying off the Feds. John Lebed, the teen in question, told 60 Minutes, "I wasn't posting any kind of false information. I didn't make up any facts or do anything like that." He was even kind enough to include a disclaimer in his posts telling people to do their own research. Was this a crime? If so, why isn't the SEC arresting all financial advisors on Wall Street? Wired has the story, and 60 Minutes has the interview transcript.

Wired: <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39583,00.html>

60 Minutes: <http://cbsnews.cbs.com/now/story/0,1597,242489-412,00.shtml>

First Instance of Media Subversion of Information Attack

This appears to be the first well documented instance of a type of threat which has been discussed for years. The Orange County Register wrote three stories about a man charged with cracking into a NASA site. About a week later, the Register found that the text of all three archived stories had been altered, mostly with juvenile stunt scribbling. While in the past, a number of newspapers have had their Web pages defaced, this appears to be the first time that archived news stories were changed. In this case, the blatant nature of the alterations led to a quick discovery, but the possibility of subtly altering history by changing the public record has come to light. Inside e-zine has the story.

http://www.inside.com/story/Story_Cached/0,2770,10757_7_4_1,00.html

More SDMI Digital Watermark Cracking News

Salon has been following the SDMI watermark cracking challenge in detail. Its latest story reports on a set of university researchers who claim to have successfully defeated the SDMI system. The group decided to participate in Phase 1 of the cracking contest because there was some scientific merit in doing so. The members declined to participate in Phase 2, opting instead to make their work public. This development comes on the heels of an investigative Salon piece that seems to confirm that all SDMI watermarks have been broken in the contest, something which has not yet been officially acknowledged. The SDMI section in Salon has all the related stories including these latest developments.

<http://www.salon.com/directory/topics/sdmi/index.html>

Online Pravda

Reading Pravda never was a truthful experience, despite the name, but the new online Pravda, in English, may be a step in the right direction - isn't everything on the Net true? Actually, the only link between this Pravda and the now-defunct official Communist Party propaganda tool is that Viktor Linnik, this one's founder, used to be an editor for the original. With banner ads in Russian and in English that is at times stilted and sorta quaint, the electronic newspaper sports major headings which give some insight into how Russians feel, think, and talk. A recent issue featured Caspian Sea pollution, trade with Japan, lots of US bashing, and discussions about budgets. The articles - even in detailed view - don't qualify as much more than short summaries, so don't expect depth. As Wired reports, this isn't the only Pravda around these days. Several print versions carry on a financially perilous existence, often supported by political parties.

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Information](#)[Credits](#)Pravda: <http://english.pravda.ru/>Wired: <http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,39433,00.html>**Readers Pay for King's Plant**

Stephen King had promised to keep his self-published e-novel "The Plant" going if more than 75% of downloaders paid \$1 per chapter. Anyone can download chapters but they must agree to, at some point, pay the \$1. If fewer than 75% of downloaders pay, King stops writing. So far, he's kept typing - 75.6% of downloaders have paid for the first three chapters. The fourth chapter has now been released. "The Plant", about a vampire plant that takes over a publishing company, is set in pre-Internet times: the early 1980s. King still hasn't decided if he'll actually finish the novel and that, for dedicated fans, is the scariest part.

The Plant: <http://www.stephenking.com/download.html>King: http://www.salon.com/books/feature/2000/08/11/guide_king/index.html**Have You Lived up to Your Info Quota This Year?**

Approximately two exabytes - a billion times a billion bytes - is the amount of unique information produced globally each year. A group of researchers from the School for Information Systems and Management at the University of California-Berkeley attempted to convert the annual global production of films, pictures, x-rays, and many other forms of information into megabytes and came up with the two-exabyte total, or 250 MB per person. The researchers have kindly posted suggestions as to what to read in their study, depending on the amount of information overload you suffer from. Us, we're just happy to be contributing our 250 MB a year.

<http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/how-much-info/>**How Low Would You Sink for Publicity?**

We cheerfully admit that this story is mostly a fun morsel for media insiders, but it's so funny that we just had to bring it to you. Just how low will public relations people go to promote their clients? Gene Weingarten of the Washington Post decided to find out. Given that we ourselves are buried in press releases and other PR detritus, this story hit very close to home and left us ROTFL.

Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7115-2000Oct14.html>ROTFL: <http://foldoc.doc.ic.ac.uk/foldoc/foldoc.cgi?ROTFL>**RealNetworks Releases New Audio Standard**

RealNetworks has unleashed a new standard called RealAudio 8, jointly developed with Sony. It claims the standard provides CD-quality music in smaller file sizes than MP3s, and that audio can now stream using two-thirds less bandwidth than the current RealPlayer G2 technology. The company also released a new version of its RealProducer software, which can create content in the new format.

RealNetworks will only further its virtual lock on the online broadcast industry.

<http://www.realnetworks.com/company/pressroom/pr/2000/realaudio8.html>**eBay Cleans up**

eBay is cleaning house, moving the steamier, sexier, and more pornographic items into a red light district. In what the company is calling a tough call, content that it deems pornographic or unsuitable for minors will be moved out of the open area of the site and into a Mature Audiences section. As eBay gets deeper and deeper in bed with Disney on a number of deals, some have wondered if the new sheriff in town might not be wearing mouse ears. CNet has more.

CNet: <http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1007-200-3248714.html>

eBay: <http://www.ebay.com/>

New Handspring Devices

Handspring has just released a couple of new models of their wildly popular handheld computers. The Visor Prism is its version of a color PDA, with 65K color support and excellent photo reproduction. As part of the launch, Handspring demonstrated a movie-playing capability on the device. The other PDA is the Visor Platinum, which runs a faster CPU than most Handspring and Palm units - 50% faster, according to the company. Prices for the Prism and the Platinum are \$449 and \$299 respectively.

<http://www.handspring.com/>

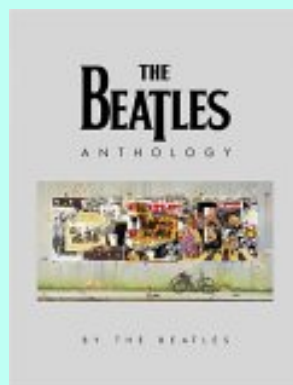
Security Trends for 2001

This brief document from online security organization SANS pulls together some predictions about security trends in the upcoming year. Brief paragraphs from luminaries involved with security in industry, government, and law enforcement outline what they see as threats and trends in the coming year. The first third of the document contains the predictions, while the rest is mostly ads for SANS security courses and books. It's in PDF format, but possibly of casual interest to security types.

http://www.sans.org/SANSSecAlert2_102000.pdf

Netsurfer Recommendations

Items our staff likes and you might too. Click on the image or title to order at a hefty discount from our affiliate Amazon.com, and send a few pennies our way as well.



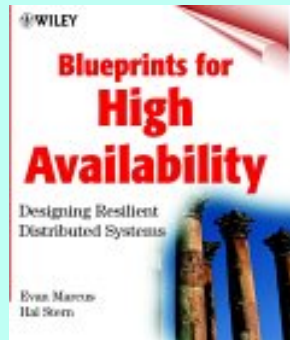
[The Beatles Anthology](#)

The Beatles

Chronicle Books; ISBN: 0811826848

This scrapbook chronicles a band which defined a decade, a band whose work has stood the test of time and influenced many subsequent musicians. This physically large book is the definitive story of the Beatles, in their own words. For once the final product actually does live up to the hype. The

material is fresh, spontaneous, and, until now, not available elsewhere. John Lennon's words are contextually intertwined with interviews and writing of the surviving members. Paul thinks they were "a kick-ass little band". It's safe to say they were the biggest and best kick-ass little band in history.



[*Blueprints for High Availability: Designing Resilient Distributed Systems*](#)

Evan Marcus, Hal Stern
John Wiley & Sons; ISBN: 0471356018

This fine high-level guide to creating highly available systems from imperfect components covers such topics as redundant network design, data replication, redundant servers, disaster recovery, and ongoing operations of your setup. While not as detailed as you may want, this is a good starting place for anybody who needs to design and maintain a reliable computer installation.



[*The Essential Groucho: Writings By, For, and About Groucho Marx*](#)

Groucho Marx, Stefan Kanfer (Editor)
Vintage Books; ISBN: 037570213X

This tasty morsel of a book is a perfect introduction to the staggering wit of Groucho Marx. The slim volume somehow manages to cover the breadth of Groucho's work. You get his magazine writings, book excerpts, bits from his movie scripts, TV show ad-libs, articles about Groucho written by others, and hilarious letters written by him to famous and not-so-famous people. The exchange with Warner Brothers lawyers who feared people would confuse [Casablanca](#) with [A Night in Casablanca](#) alone makes the book a good buy - and makes you wish Groucho were around today to wield his rapier wit in the Napster wars. Serious Marxists will want to read his definitive recent biography [Groucho: The Life and Times of Julius Henry Marx](#).



ONLINE CULTURE

The Demise of Email

This week, Wired, the online e-zine, decided to spell "e-mail" with a dash. Ordinarily, this rates right up there with watching paint dry in excitement, but there

is reason to note the event. In explaining the decision, Tony Long, copy chief of the e-zine, wrote that "no editor worth the name can justify looking on benignly while the English language is butchered in the name of some tin-pot revolution, regardless of its narcotic effect at the time", and more. Wired once forged ahead as the flag bearer of the digital revolution, trumpeting individuality, decentralization, and the power of technology to empower the individual. With this explanation Tony seems to have managed to insult everyone who worked to make it so and who appreciated that work. One man's tin-pot butchery is another man's freedom from convention and sublime evolution. The issue stirred up a hornet's nest of reader reactions, chronicled in a follow-up article. For what it's worth, we've used "e-mail" since 1994 and for some reason now feel compelled to apologize for that. E-mail: <http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,39450,00.html>
Reaction: <http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,39651,00.html>

The Gospel of Tux (v1.0)

Yea verily, in the beginning, Turing created the Machine. After years of strife, turmoil, and countless begats, the great and mighty Penguin, whose name was Tux, bestrode the Earth in digital splendor. So goes the story - heavily edited down to the two sentences above - in the wonderfully written Gospel of Tux (v1.0). This literary treat showed up on Slashdot last week, and chronicles in Biblical splendor the story of computing, culminating in the birth of Linux and the Fourth Age of Open Source. The cool story was written by someone called Lennier, obviously a person with some not inconsiderable literary talent. An instant and entertaining classic.

<http://slashdot.org/comments.pl?sid=00/10/19/1555251&threshold=1&commentsort=0&mode=thread&cid=71>

SURFING SITES

How to Not Leverage Scaleable Mission-Critical Buzzwords

The Buzz Saw is dedicated to stamping out that particular form of technobabble known as the buzzword. Buzzwords have taken over the public relations industry and many other forms of communication. The four brave souls who created and maintain this site list the most egregious current examples and rail cogently against their use. The creators also have very excellent opinions of themselves and the site is very edgy and trendy, without relying on much multimedia flash. Eliminating buzzwords and similar "in" language is a superb goal. If anything, the Buzz Saw is too limited and too mild, trading edge for content. Still, all revolutions need to start somewhere and if the Buzz Saw gets a good anti-buzzword trend going (the jury is out on that call), it's more than done its job.

<http://www.buzzkiller.net/>

Slaves to Money: Slaves on Confederate Currency

Paper currency was once art as well as legal tender, and not the uniform, boring stuff governments print today. In the 19th century, individual banks, companies, government units, and even people could and did issue their own paper money. Most notes featured elaborate artwork as a defense against counterfeiting. Beyond Face Value is a project created by historians at LSU and funded by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Its subject is Southern paper currency from the Civil War to Reconstruction that contains images of slaves and slavery. The art is nicely reproduced and the accompanying narrative places it in historical and economic context. This site is a paradigm of a virtual museum exhibit: engaging, attractive, effective, and easy to use.

<http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/cwc/BeyondFaceValue/index.htm>

Recondite Monday Night Recreation Remarks

When Dennis Miller joined the Monday Night Football staff this season, he was quite up-front in admitting he was not first-and-foremost a sports announcer, and he seems determined to point it out with a variety of obscure cultural and historical references every game. That's what the Annotated Dennis Miller at Britannica.com is for - to assist those who are actually watching for the football and for whom Miller is incidental. From Dante's "Inferno" to oil well fire expert Paul "Red" Adair, Miller's references run the gamut of intellectual intimidation. Locke Peterseim, the Britannica.com staffer with the unenviable job of tackling the dense references, cuts him down to size with his marvelously sarcastic "What Miller might have meant" commentary. If you'd like to have the references translated while you're watching the game, try Dennis Miller Demystified, which broadcasts an abbreviated version of the same sort of commentary live. Annotated:

<http://www.britannica.com/bcom/original/article/0,5744,12332+1,00.html>

Demystified: <http://www.dmdmyst.com/>

A Gallery of Museums

The embarrassing fact is that even though we can use the MuseumSpot portal to view online collections housed at the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and other monuments to high culture, the exhibit our vulgar-minded reviewer first clicked was "When Nixon Met Elvis" at the National Archives and Records Administration. Read Elvis's weird, strung-out, handwritten letter asking the President if he could be a federal drug enforcement agent. Aside from organizing exhaustive links to the high and the low, MuseumSpot also lets you search huge graphic databases of art, shop the gift sites, and send some of the best art e-mail postcards you can find on the Net.

<http://www.museumspot.com/>

A Remote Robot with a Green Thumb

Telerobotic surgery give you the creeps? Try something else as experimental, yet more pedestrian: remote gardening at the Telegarden, a Net project started in 1995 at the University of Southern California and now on display at Ars Electronica Center in Austria. Don't get thrown by the old dates; this project is still active. As a guest, you can view the indoor garden by clicking images to move the lens of an industrial robot. As a member, you can tend the garden by planting seeds or squirting water, and you can chat with fellow plant lovers. Try the multipage simulation tour before you sign up for the real thing - at modem speed, you may feel slow as a slug as you click your way toward a greater communal technohorticultural collaboration of root, robot, and router.

<http://telegarden.aec.at/>

Urban Gardening

We know your fondest wish is to converse about hedge-mazes, farmer's markets, and window-box gardens, and now you have a place to go. RealGarden City is for folks who grow tomatoes in flowerpots and harvest herbs from the city park - more as hobbyist than urban survivalist - and is an offshoot of Real Garden Magazine, a French publication (which explains the French page titles). The site is a community of bulletin boards on subjects like the ecosystems of cities or bird identification, and one strange thread about the Richard Gere/gerbil thing - we don't know why. You can also attend free online classes: the class on photographing nature in the city is full; the one on improving your nature-writing skills has already started, so get in line for the next round. This smorgasbord of online urban farming is available through an e-mail and password registration. We're hoping that Martha Stewart doesn't get a copy of the mailing list.

<http://community.realgarden.com/>

He Put a Spell on Them

The whole concept of Jayskids.com is so outrageous that at first we really thought it was a joke. But the claim that Screamin' Jay Hawkins ("I Put A Spell On You") fathered as many as 75 children came from the rock legend himself, and erstwhile biographer Maral Nigolian took it upon herself to track down all those screamin' children after Hawkins died last February. She never imagined she'd get more than 1,200 hopeful responses, but from that harvest, she has winnowed at least 33 confirmed progeny and several more "gray" submissions. Details are still being sorted out for a proposed gathering at Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, but it's bound to raise the roof.

<http://www.jayskids.com/>

Stay-at-Home Dads

You're a stay-at-home father, and like it or not, you face solitude, caregiving responsibilities, maybe part-time work, and, for some, lowered self-esteem. In your spare moments, check out Slowlane.com, a support site for stay-at-home dads, fathers in general, and their families. It has a lot of practical information such as how to run a home business, start a playgroup, and find other stay-at-home dads, and it covers issues such as divorce, custody, homosexuality, and social acceptance. A variety of resources beckons: articles and personal essays ("Tips on

Taking a Toddler to Disney World", "The Realities of Working at Home", "Networking Hints"); a monthly newsletter; e-mail loops; Web rings. Some dads may consider the discussion and bulletin boards the most useful resource here, but if you don't have time for those, at least take a look at the excellent collection of links to sites of relevant organizations, sites for dads, and sites for mothers and grandparents. You'll also find a glossary called Term Browser and a modest gift shop.

<http://www.slowlane.com/>

Testing, Testing...

You can never take enough tests. That's the guiding principle of AllTheTests.com, a search directory of online tests that measure IQ, EQ ("the social equivalent of IQ"), infotech comprehension, and more. We never realized there could be so many kinds of tests online till we got here. We dabbled in the fun category, which links to the lipstick personality test, Find Your Star Wars Twin, "Are You A Spammer?", and many other self-assessment challenges you'd likely never find without this site. Relationship tests also abound, including the Relationship Auto-Blender, the Two-Partner Match-o-Matic, and Can You Survive a Long Distance Relationship? The Knowledge category covers learning styles, plant and animal trivia, and more - even the AA9PW Commercial Radio Exam. The site rates each test with icons to indicate whether results are sent by e-mail, whether the test requires paper and pencil, and whether you can take it offline. As you might guess, this site has much to offer both occasional and obsessive visitors.

<http://www.allthetests.com/>

Test Your Personality

Yeah, here's another test. You know you will always be a very special snowflake in NSD's eyes, but that does not mean your personality cannot be slotted into one of 16 categories. The social scientists at the Spark Personality site spent weeks in bars talking to strangers, perfecting their test. Do you relate to life better orally or anally? Aren't babies incredibly special? Do you prefer Shakespeare or Einstein? Answers will describe you as dominant or submissive, introverted or extroverted, abstract or concrete, and some other stuff. Put it all together and you learn whether you're an Artist, a Mastermind (like our editor, by the way), a Businessman, or a something else. Forget the tired old "What sign are you?" drill. Make 'em take the test before you take 'em home.

<http://test2.thespark.com/person/>

Anagrams, Crosswords, and Wordplay

Here's a verbal mixmaster: the Anagram Engine has generated over 100 million anagrams during its three-year existence. Obviously, puzzle addicts and others really like the engine, and with good reason, since anagrams are only one facet of the site. Got most of the letters for your crossword's 2-down, but still can't think of the word? No worries - there's a crossword solver plopped right there on the opening screen. This page is actually constructed as a sort of mini-portal for puzzler or information hounds. In addition to the above, you get links to Google, an acronym finder, a dictionary and thesaurus, and to the puzzlemaker at

DiscoverySchool.com that offers a dozen or so customizable puzzles for your pleasure. A nod of approbation goes to this site. The tools it provides, together with those that it links to, make it a joy to visit for those who love wordplay.

<http://www.easypeasy.com/anagrams/>

Beanie Is Murder

Forget worrying about fur coats. The fashion industry is switching to novelties on a smaller scale. For a small price, you too can participate in the latest rage with a full complement of Beanie Baby attire. Sell off the heirloom necklace from your great-grandmother - it's nothing compared to a necklace made of authentic Beanie Baby necks. Your wrist can be complemented by wearing a ring of Beanie Baby heads on a distinctive scrunchy. The real spender, however, will certainly opt for a hard-to-find Beany Baby-hide coat for a mere \$35,000! Perfect to keep away the winter chills.

<http://www.bostonharbor.com/beaniebabybodyparts.html>

Norse Source

Did Leif Ericson beat Christopher Columbus to the New World? Some Viking did. If you seek proof, the Leif Ericson Vikingship site can lead you to the historical or community site you're looking for. The mission statement on the home page gives you a quick introduction to the site and its sponsor, a nonprofit organization in Philadelphia firm in its belief "that Leif Ericson was the first European to discover and explore the North American Continent." The centerpiece here is Ravnen, a Viking ship replica that has sailed the Atlantic - mostly, it seems, from parade to parade of celebratory ships - in the care of folk who cherish the Norse way of life. You'll find more meat in the Norseman Newsletters section than in the scrawny Historical Background or bibliographic Library. Curiously, even the FAQ has little information about Leif Ericson. If you like what you do find, you'll probably want to follow some of the site's external links (those that work, anyway) for more background.

<http://www.libertynet.org/viking/>

Computer Tools Resource

Freeseachers presents a page chock-full of links to some good Net tools. A lot of these places have been around for a good long time, like Zonelabs, Gibson Research, Anonymizer, PGP, and more. Essentially, the site brings together links to a solid constellation of top-rated toolkit programs and services for PC users. Listings are sparse (we didn't say it was a big constellation...), but the content that's included is as good as it gets. The main emphasis seems to be on privacy links here, but you can find surfing and e-mail tools, cleaning utilities, and even a few tools for multimedia or linguistics (such as the venerable standby, BabelFish). We like it; the clean pages load quickly and each entry briefly describes what you can expect. It's a reasonable place to begin your search for useful tools, even if you don't use Windows.

<http://www.freeseachers.f2s.com/>

ONLINE TRAVEL

Trek through Nepal

Some folks decide they'd like to see the world, and they just up and do it. For the rest of us, there are sites like Mark Burvill's Virtual Annapurna Trek, which he hopes will turn some of the latter into some of the former. His site records a three-week trek he took last year through the Nepalese Himalayas. The account is compelling, witty, and highly worth the read. In order to best experience this site, you'll need Flash. We'll let Mark give you the disclaimer himself: "Please note that I wanted to present an honest, no-holds-barred-warts-and-all account, and so if swearwords, poo, vomit and the (ahem) occasional joint are things which offend you, this site probably isn't your cup of mint tea." This reviewer has to admit, however, that she's never laughed so hard reading an account of vomiting before.

<http://www.bov.clara.net/>

Urban Photo Gallery

Dunno if you've noticed, but it's actually cool to live downtown again. If you're still stuck in the 'burbs, a trip to the Urban Photo Page might be a breath of gridlocked air. The photos take a treasures-within-the-city approach, and it really is rather refreshing to see pictures of New York City parks, Trinity Church in Boston, or a sunset view of the New Orleans skyline as artistic urban experiences. Originally the Calgary Photo Page, Urban Photo has spread out to encompass articles about the urb experience, Urbanite Magazine, discussion boards, and photos from many other cities. Several receive full treatment (Boston, Calgary, Montreal, Halifax) including street, neighborhood and subway maps, and even the miscellaneous cities like Phoenix and Salt Lake City have ample pictures - maybe even of your neighborhood.

<http://www.urbanphoto.org/>

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Barn-Raising Grammar

If you consider an exciting afternoon one where you sit around waiting to painstakingly split infinitives, the Language Fun Farm is right up your alley. The information architecture isn't the greatest, but the language news is top-notch if you can get past the annoying rainbow interface.

<http://www.teflfarm.com/>

Faces of the Past

There's finally a genealogical tool for those of us better with faces than with names. Ancient Faces lets users search photographs by surname, location, and more. Searching is free, as is uploading, as long as you submit to the lengthy (and probably not worthwhile for some folks) legal agreement.

<http://www.ancientfaces.com/>

SOFTWARE

Apache 1.3.14 Released

Apache 1.3.14 has been released. This features security fixes in the mod_rewrite module (previously reported), as well as two security bugs related to the mod_vhost_alias and virtual hosting. The virtual hosting bugs could allow a remote attacker to access the source to CGI applications or even access any file on the system.

Announcement: <http://www.apache.org/dist/Announcement.html>

Download: <http://www.apache.org/dist/>



Make Your PC Your E-VCR

At work, you often see people typing at their desks, their lips moving not to the words they're writing but rather to the song they're listening to with their headphones. Or perhaps they're actually watching their favorite TV show, streamed from home using SnapStream. Users can download the beta copy of the Personal Video Station (PVS) and watch, manage, and record television and video on their PC. Alas, it is only for Windows platforms.

<http://www.snapstream.com/>

Hypercosm 3-D Player

Are you into 3-D simulation? If so, your first stop at Hypercosm will probably be the download page, because you need to install the Hypercosm 3D Player to appreciate the interactive content of the site's Showcase, the highlight of these corporate pages. Hypercosm applets can be used for interactive audiovisual demos (as in the "Dremel Multipro online owner's manual"), presentations, and games. The instructional applets here include "Shuttle Docking with ISS" and "Mars Polar Lander". Games include air hockey, Demolition, and Meteor. We found the gene-splicing applet cool but sluggish on a Pentium 166. A slow processor or skimpy memory may frustrate you as you wait for one segment of an applet to play and the next to load. But as long as you have sufficient hardware, you can appreciate the niftiness of some of these samples.

<http://www.hypercosm.com/>

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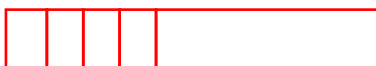
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Anstatt Votauction gibt es jetzt Vote-Auction.com

Florian Rötzer 23.10.2000

Die von einem Österreicher betriebene Auktionsseite für Wählerstimmen wurde dem Zugriff der amerikanischen Gerichte erst einmal entzogen

Kaum hatte das Gericht in Chicago, Illinois, einen vorläufigen Bescheid ausgesprochen, dass die Website votauction.com, weil sie illegal mit Wählerstimmen für den Präsidentschaftswahlkampf handelt, vom Netz genommen werden muss, tauchte sie wieder unter einem anderen Namen auf.

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Aus der Ferne musste man schon verwundert zur Kenntnis nehmen, warum eine Website, die zwar von dem amerikanischen Studenten James Baumgartner im Sommer eingerichtet wurde, aber seit längerem dem Österreicher und Ex-ETOY Netzkünstler Hans Bernhard gehört und von diesem betrieben wird und die angeblich auf einem Server in Bulgarien sich befand, aufgrund amerikanischer Gesetze überhaupt vom Netz genommen werden muss. Hinter Bernhard steht übrigens die Agentur ubermorgen.com, die mit Voteauction.com im Kampf um die Aufmerksamkeit genau das erreicht hat, was sie erreichen wollte: mit drastischen Mitteln etwas bekannt zu machen, Aufsehen zu erregen. "Schock-Marketing" und "Viral Marketing" mit "realitätsnahen" Hoaxes sind die Spezialitäten dieser von zwei Österreichern betriebenen Agentur aus dem Umfeld der Netzkunst-Gruppe etoy.com (Schock-Marketing aus dem Netz-Underground). Über den Geschmack in diesem Fall lässt sich sicherlich streiten, aber just das ist ja der Zweck des Unternehmens, bei dem vermutlich die Frage, ob es sich dabei um eine ironische Kritik oder um ein ernsthaftes kommerzielles Unternehmen handelt, sekundär ist.

In einer Presseerklärung machen die Betreiber deutlich, wie das Gericht seine vorläufige Verfügung durchsetzen konnte. Die Wahlkommission von Chicago, die wegen auctionvote.com vor zwei Wochen vor Gericht zog, klagte nicht nur gegen den früheren Besitzer und gegen den

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Vernetzte Medizin - Patienten-Empowerment und Netzinfrastrukturen in der Medizin des 21. Jahrhunderts. Von Philipp Grätzel von Grätz



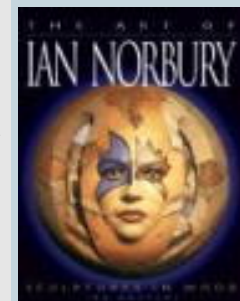
aktuellen Betreiber, sondern auch den amerikanischen Internetregistrar [Domainbank.com](#), über den die Website erstmals angemeldet wurde, sowie gegen den österreichischen Internetprovider Silverserver.at. Die schwache Stelle war natürlich der amerikanische Internetregistrar, den das Gericht zwang, Votauction.com aus dem DNS zu entfernen. Dadurch war zwar die Website nicht ganz aus dem Netz entfernt. Wer die IP-Adresse der Website kannte, konnte sie noch finden.

Allerdings hatte die Domainbank bereits am 17. Oktober kundgetan, dass man den Betreiber aufgefordert habe, binnen 30 Tagen die Website zu entfernen. Scott Hemphill, Rechtsberater der Domain Bank, begründete dies so: "Wir glauben, dass es sehr beunruhigend ist, den Verkauf von Stimmen für kommerzielle Zwecke im Internet oder anderswo zu fördern und dass dies die freien Wahlen unterhöhlt, die unser politisches System von den korrupten Systemen unterscheidet, welche die Demokratie in anderen Teilen der Welt schwächen. Wir sind in diesem Fall verpflichtet, mit dem Gericht zusammen zu arbeiten."

Hans Bernhard zweifelt an, ob ein Internetregistrar oder ein Internetprovider überhaupt für Inhalte verantwortlich sein können, die Kunden in das Netz stellen: "Vote-auction.com betrachtet dies als ungesetzliche Praxis in totaler Verletzung der von ICANN gesetzten Normen." Domainbank.com wollte jedenfalls sicher gehen und bat angeblich Hans Bernhard darum, 100000 Dollar für mögliche Kosten im Rechtsstreit zur Verfügung zu stellen. Der lehnte dankend ab und bat offenbar seinerseits vergeblich, die Domain einem anderen Provider zu überschreiben. Doch hatte Domainbank bereits mit dem Gericht die Vereinbarung getroffen, wie Bernhard von einem Mitarbeiter erfahren haben will, dass die Domain nicht übertragen wird.

Angeblich hat das Gericht in Chicago auch verlangt, dass alle Menschen, die sich bei Votauction.com registriert und ihre Stimme angeboten haben, den Behörden genannt werden müssen, um sie dann wegen Betrugs einzeln anzuklagen. Wie auch immer Bernhard das Unternehmen einer Auktion für Wählerstimmen wirklich versteht, so will er nicht nur die Angaben über die Benutzer der Website vertraulich halten, sondern auch die Auktion weiter fortsetzen, die "für und nicht gegen die Demokratie" arbeite.

Mit einem einfachen Trick konnte Bernhard die Website wieder ins Laufen bringen: über einen anderen Registrar, dieses Mal [CSL](#) aus Deutschland, meldete er die Domain leicht verändert wieder unter dem noch freien Namen [www.vote-auction.com/](#) an. Der österreichische Provider Silver Server steht weiter hinter dem Unternehmen. Und einen Tag, nachdem der alte Domainname aus dem DNS ausgetragen wurde, ging Vote-auction.com voll funktionsfähig, aber ohne amerikanische Beteiligung wieder ans Netz. Damit ist zunächst einmal die Auktion außerhalb des Zuständigkeitsbereichs der amerikanischen Gerichte angesiedelt. Die Betreiber wollen den "Auktionsdienst" für den Präsidentschaftswahlkampf bis 7. November anbieten und nach einem Redesign die propagierte Annäherung von Demokratie und Kapitalismus



[The Art of Ian Norbury: Sculptures in Wood](#)

Annäherung auch bei anderen Wahlen weltweit realisieren, überall dort, wo "Wahlspenden zur Beeinflussung von Wahlen eingesetzt werden".



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Instead of Voteauction there are Vote Auction.com now

Florian Roetzer 23.10.2000

The auction side for votes, operated by an Austrian, was only once extracted from the access of the American courts

The court in Chicago, Illinois, expressed had a provisional answer that the Website must be taken voteauction.com, because she acts illegally with votes for the presidency election fight by the net, hardly emerged it again under another name.



From the distance one had to take already surprised to the knowledge, why a Website, which was furnished by the American student James Baumgartner in the summer, but since the longer Austrian and ex T Oy net artist Hans Bernhard is heard and by this operated and allegedly on a server in Bulgaria was, due to American laws at all the net to be taken must. Behind Bernhard the agency by the way stands [ubermorgen.com](#) also [Voteauction.com](#) in the fight for the attention reached exactly, what wanted to reach it: with drastic means something admits to make to excite attention. "shock marketing" and "Viral marketing" with "close-to-reality" Hoaxes are the specialities of this agency from the surrounding field of the group of net arts, operated by two Austrians, etoy.com ([Shock marketing from the net Underground](#)) About the taste in this case can be argued, but surely just that is the purpose of the enterprise, with which probably the question, whether it concerns thereby around an ironical criticism or a serious commercial enterprise, is secondary.

In a press statement the operators make clear, how the court could implement its provisional order. The electoral committee of Chicago, which pulled because of auctionvote.com two weeks ago ago before court, complained not only against the former owner and against the current

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operator, but also the American Internetregistrar [Domainbank.com](#) over which the Website was announced for the first time, as well as against the Austrian Internetprovider Silverserver.at. The weak place was naturally the American Internetregistrar, which forced the court to remove Voteauction.com from the DNS. Thus the Website was distant out of the net not completely. Who knew the IP address of the Website, she could still find.

However the Domainbank had already on 17 October kundgetan that one had requested the operator to remove within 30 days the Website. Scott Hemphill, legal adviser of the Domain bank, justified this in such a way: "we believe to elsewhere promote that it is very disturbing, the sales of voices for commercial purposes in the InterNet or and that this the free elections undermined, which our political system differentiates from the corrupt systems, which the democracy in other parts of the world weaken. We are obligated in this case to work with the court together."

Hans's Bernhard, whether a Internetregistrar or a Internetprovider can be responsible for contents at all, the customers doubt into the net place: "regards Vote auction.com this as illegal practice in total injury of the standards set of ICANN." Domainbank.com want anyhow safe go and ask alleged Hans Bernhard around, 100000 dollar for possible cost in law case to order place. That rejected thanking and asked obviously for his part in vain to overwrite the Domain to another Provider. But Domainbank had already made the agreement with the court, as Bernhard of a coworker wants to have experienced that the Domain will not transfer.

Allegedly the court in Chicago also required that all humans, who registered themselves with Voteauction.com and offered their voice, which authorities must be called, in order to then accuse it individually of fraud. However Bernhard really understands the enterprise of an auction for votes, then he wants to keep not only the data concerning the users of the Website confidential, but also to further continue the auction, which works "for and not against the democracy".

With a simple trick Bernhard could bring the Website back in running: over another Registrar, this mark [CSL](#) from Germany, he announced the Domain easily changed again under the still free name [www.vote auction.com/](#) on. The Austrian Provider Silver server continues to stand behind the enterprise. And one day, after the old Domainname from the DNS was delivered, went Vote auction.com fully functionally, but without American participation again to the net. Thus first of all the auction is settled outside of the scope of responsibility of the American courts. The operators want to offer the "auction service" for the presidency election fight until 7 November and to realize after a Redesign the publicised approximation of democracy and capitalism to approximation also with other elections world-wide, everywhere, where "choice donations are used for the influence of elections".



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Das Internet und China - Digital sein, digitales Sein im Reich der Mitte. Von Weigui Fang

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Mehr in Telepolis: [Mit einem neuen Domainnamen bleibt alles beim Alten.](#) ([fr/Telepolis](#))

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test (eAgLE583 28.10.2000 18:35)

Re: Da der Handel mit Stimmen... (adrian Allemann 23.10.2000 16:53)

Re: Da der Handel mit Stimmen... (The Roach 23.10.2000 15:37)

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Instead of Voteauction.com there are Vote Auction.com now

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Mietserver wird Eigentum

Während fast alle Anbieter ihre dedizierten Server nur vermieten, übergibt das Unternehmen IPX-Server den Webserver nach zwei Jahren für den symbolischen Preis von 1,99 € ! Wer möchte kann sich dann den Server (im Midi-Tower-Format) nach Hause schicken lassen, oder ihn weiter zu vergünstigten Konditionen im Rechenzentrum betreiben. [mehr.....](#)

(Joachim Jürschick) / (pr/ipx)

The Website, which was created by the American student James Baumgartner in the summer, but since the longer Austrian and ex T Oy net artist Hans Bernhard is heard and operated by this, over a Austrian Provider on a Bulgarian server was platziert. Since however the Domain in the summer was registered with the American Domain bank, the court had the possibility of making at least the Registrar liable then also the names from the DNS removed, whereby however the Website was attainable still a few days over the IP address.

With a simple trick Bernhard the court could go around and bring the Website back in running: Over another Registrar, this mark CSL from Germany, he announced the Domain easily changed again under the still free name www.vote auction.com on. One day, after the old Domainname from the DNS was delivered, went vote auction.com fully functionally, but without American participation again to the net. Thus the auction side is outside of the scope of responsibility of the American courts. The operators want to offer first of all the "auction service" for the presidency election fight until 7 November and to introduce after a Redesign the publicised approximation of democracy and capitalism to approximation also with other elections world-wide.

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Comments

test (eAgLE583 28,10,2000 18:35)

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more...

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These search terms have been highlighted: **vote auction**



NEWS 23.10.2000 10:47

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Anstatt Voteauction.com gibt es jetzt **Vote-Auction.com**

Kaum hatte das Gericht in Chicago, Illinois, einen vorläufigen Bescheid ausgesprochen, dass die Website voteauction.com, weil sie illegal mit Wählerstimmen für den Präsidentschaftswahlkampf **handelt**, vom Netz genommen werden muss, tauchte sie wieder unter einem anderen Namen auf.

Die Website, die von dem amerikanischen Studenten James Baumgartner im Sommer geschaffen wurde, aber seit längerem dem Österreicher und Ex-ETOY Netzkünstler Hans Bernhard gehört und von diesem betrieben wird, wurde über einen österreichischen Provider auf einem bulgarischen Server platziert. Da aber die Domain im Sommer bei der amerikanischen Domain Bank registriert wurde, hatte das Gericht die Möglichkeit, zumindest den Registrar haftbar zu machen, der dann auch den Namen aus dem DNS entfernte, wobei allerdings die Website noch ein paar Tage über die IP-Adresse erreichbar war.

Mit einem einfachen Trick konnte Bernhard das Gericht umgehen und die Website wieder ins Laufen bringen: Über einen anderen Registrar, dieses Mal CSL aus Deutschland, meldete er die Domain leicht verändert wieder unter dem noch freien Namen www.vote-auction.com an. Einen Tag, nachdem der alte Domainname aus dem DNS ausgetragen wurde, ging **vote-auction.com** voll funktionsfähig, aber ohne amerikanische Beteiligung wieder ans Netz. Damit ist die Auktionsseite außerhalb des Zuständigkeitsbereichs der amerikanischen Gerichte. Die Betreiber wollen zunächst einmal den "Auktionsdienst" für den Präsidentschaftswahlkampf bis 7. November anbieten und nach einem Redesign die propagierte Annäherung von Demokratie und Kapitalismus Annäherung auch bei anderen Wahlen weltweit einführen.

Hinter Bernhard steht übrigens die Agentur [ubermorgen.com](http://www.ubermorgen.com), die mit voteauction.com im Kampf um die Aufmerksamkeit genau das erreicht hat, was sie erreichen wollte: mit drastischen Mitteln - "Schock-Marketing" -, etwas bekannt zu machen.

Mehr in Telepolis: [Mit einem neuen Domainnamen bleibt alles beim Alten.](#) (fr/Telepolis)

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... die sowieso auf Spektakuläres oder Schockmarketing setzt, wird nicht unerfreut sein, dass die von ihr betriebene Website [extern] **www.vote-auction.com** schon ...

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... Email aus USA. Armin Medosch 06.11.2000. Die Abschaltung von **Vote-auction.com** zeigt, wie das Web bequem zensiert werden kann. Mit ...

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... Auseinandersetzung hervorgegangen. Diesmal geht es um die umstrittene Webplattform für den Wahlstimmenhandel **Vote-auction.com**. Der ...

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... Und wie so oft im Internet zog die in den USA durch einen vorläufigen Gerichtsentscheid zu schließende Website einfach als [extern] **www.vote-auction.com** nach ...

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Le site de vente de votes *Vote-auction.com* persiste et signe

23/10/2000 17h19

Après le chassé-croisé légal lors de sa création en août dernier, le site *Vote-auction.com* vient d'ajuster sa stratégie et changer son nom de domaine afin de rester ouvert jusqu'aux élections américaines, le 7 novembre prochain.

La commission électorale du district de Chicago avait obtenu une injonction provisoire mercredi

dernier pour forcer le fondateur du site James Baumgartner ainsi que le propriétaire Hans Bernard de Vienne en Autriche à fermer *Voteauction.com*. Le site proposait aux électeurs d'offrir leurs votes aux candidats électoraux grâce à un système de vente aux enchères (voir notre [article](#)).

Vendredi, *Voteauction.com* a été fermé pour de bon. Baumgartner [se défendait](#) d'ailleurs au cybermédia *Wired.com* en disant que tout l'idée n'était qu'une hyperbole pour démontrer le ridicule et les incongruités du système électoral américain. «Je n'ai jamais voulu vendre les votes, a dit Baumgartner à *Wired*. C'était clair dans mon esprit que moi et Hans avions les mêmes principes en tête quant à la mise en oeuvre du site. Nous ne faisons cela qu'en tant que satire politique ou intervention médiatique.»

Une explication qui n'a pas suffi aux commissaires électoraux de Chicago. «Nous disons depuis le début qu'il croient peut-être que c'est une parodie, a dit à *Wired* Tom Leach, commissaire aux élections de Chicago. Nous pensons cependant que ce n'est pas drôle. Si je crie "Au feu!" à bord d'un avion et qu'il n'y a pas de feu, c'est tout de même un crime.» Les poursuites contre Baumgartner et Bernard tiennent donc toujours.

Coup de théâtre samedi alors que le site revient en ligne sous le nom de domaine *Vote-auction.com* (vous aviez remarqué le trait d'union?). Cette fois, au lieu de mettre les votes aux enchères, les protagonistes utilisent une technique plus raffinée. Les usagers désirant mettre leurs votes aux enchères ne le vendent pas mais demandent un don aux gens qui ont à cœur la victoire d'un candidat. Un long communiqué explique la position de *Vote-auction.com*, qui soutient ne pas se laisser intimider par les poursuites des fonctionnaires de Chicago.

Cependant, il devient difficile de juger si cette affaire est réelle ou si ce n'est qu'une blague. Si M. Baumgartner plaide le canular dans les pages de *Wired* en avouant qu'il n'y avait jamais eu d'offres pour les votes, la nouvelle incarnation de son site continue de dire que dans bon nombre d'États, les enchères vont bon train pour rémunérer les électeurs. De toute façon, que ce soit vrai ou non, *Vote-auction.com* a fait surgir des questions sur le processus électoral et les avantages que peuvent en tirer les individus.

Avec les élections fédérales canadiennes qui ont été déclenchées hier, il ne faudrait pas se surprendre qu'un petit comique ne vienne ici aussi tester la patience du Directeur général des élections...

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The site of sale of votes *Vote-auction.com* persists and signs

23/10/2000 17h19

After thecross legal one during its creation last August, the site *Vote-auction.com* comes to adjust its strategy and to change its domain name in order to remain open until the American elections, next 7 November.

The electoral commission of the district of Chicago had obtained a provisional injunction

last Wednesday to force the founder of the site James Baumgartner as well as the owner Hans Bernard of Vienna in Austria to close *Voteauction.com* . The site proposed to the voters to offer their votes to the electoral candidates thanks to a system of auction sale (see our [article](#)).

Friday, *Voteauction.com* was closed for good. Baumgartner [was defended](#) besides with the cybermédia *Wired.com* by saying that all the idea was only one hyperbole to show the ridiculous one and incongruities of the American electoral system. "I never wanted to sell the votes, said Baumgartner to *Wired* . It was clear in my spirit that me and Hans had the same principles at the head as for the implementation of the site. We did that only as a political satire or a media intervention."

An explanation which was not enough for the electoral police chiefs to Chicago. "We say since the beginning perhaps that it believe that it is a parody, said to *Wired* Tom Leach, police chief with the elections of Chicago. We think however that it is not funny. If I shout "With fire!" on plane board and that there is no fire, it is a crime all the same." The continuations against Baumgartner and Bernard thus hold always.

Blow of theatre Saturday whereas the site returns on line under the name of *Vote-auction.com* [field](#) (you had noticed the feature of union?). This time, instead of putting the votes at the biddings, the protagonists use more refined technique. The users wishing to put their votes at the biddings do not sell it but request a gift from people who have in heart the victory of a candidate. A long official statement explains the position of *Vote-auction.com* , which supports not to be let intimidate by the continuations of the civils servant of Chicago.

However, it becomes difficult to judge if this business is real or if it is only one joke. If Mr. Baumgartner pled the hoax in the pages of *Wired* while acknowledging that there had never been offers for the votes, the new incarnation of its site continuous of saying that in considerable States, the biddings go good train to remunerate the voters. In any event, that it is true or not, *Vote-auction.com* made emerge from the questions about the electoral process and the advantages which the individuals can draw.

With the Canadian federal elections which were started yesterday, one would not have to be surprised that small comic does not come here also to test the patience of the General manager of the elections...

→ [Dominic Fugère](#)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Canoë.qc.ca ▶ Canoë-Infos ▶ Canoë-Divertissement ▶ Canoë-Sports ▶ Canoë-Santé 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Techno-Sciences Accueil ARCHIVES 1996 - 1997 - 1998 1999 - 2000 - 2001 2002 - 2003 - 2004 Dossiers Forums Mégagiciel 		<h2>Le site de vente de votes Vote-auction.com persiste et signe</h2> <p>23/10/2000 17h19</p> <p>Après le chassé-croisé légal lors de sa création en août dernier, le site Vote-auction.com vient d'ajuster sa stratégie et changer son nom de domaine afin de rester ouvert jusqu'aux élections américaines, le 7 novembre prochain.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Webfin ARGENT ▶ Art de vivre ▶ Maison Passion ▶ Voyages ▶ Ados ▶ Canoë Digital 		<p>La commission électorale du district de Chicago avait obtenu une injonction provisoire mercredi dernier pour forcer le fondateur du site James Baumgartner ainsi que le propriétaire Hans Bernard de Vienne en Autriche à fermer <i>Voteauction.com</i>. Le site proposait aux électeurs d'offrir leurs votes aux candidats électoraux grâce à un système de vente aux enchères (voir notre article).</p>		DANS TECHNO Un «Big Brother» en peluche présenté par Microsoft <hr/> Navigateur Faille réparée par Firefox 1.0.1 <hr/> Internet Le PDG de Dell s'oppose aux restrictions sur le contenu en ligne <hr/> Ordinateurs personnels Taiwan demeure le premier fabricant mondial d'ordinateurs	
INCONTOURNABLES • Sondages! Gagnez 1000 \$		<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; color: red; text-align: center;"> Voir le reportage en RealVideo </div>		PUB	
BULLETIN TECHNO Apprenez les nouvelles dès qu'elles se produisent.. Adresse électronique :		<p>Vendredi, Voteauction.com a été fermé pour de bon. Baumgartner se défendait d'ailleurs au cybermédia Wired.com en disant que tout l'idée n'était qu'une hyperbole pour démontrer le ridicule et les incongruités du système électoral américain. «Je n'ai jamais voulu vendre les votes, a dit Baumgartner à <i>Wired</i>. C'était clair dans mon esprit que moi et Hans avions les mêmes principes en tête quant à la mise en oeuvre du site. Nous ne faisons cela qu'en tant que satire politique ou intervention médiatique.»</p>			
Tous nos bulletins		<p>Une explication qui n'a pas suffi aux commissaires électoraux de Chicago. «Nous disons depuis le début qu'il croient peut-être que c'est une parodie, a dit à <i>Wired</i> Tom Leach, commissaire aux élections de Chicago. Nous pensons cependant que ce n'est pas drôle. Si je crie "Au feu!" à bord d'un avion et qu'il n'y a pas de feu, c'est tout de même un crime.» Les poursuites contre Baumgartner et Bernard tiennent donc toujours.</p>			
MEMBRES CANOË Bulletins Passeport Canoë »		<p>Coup de théâtre samedi alors que le site revient en ligne sous le nom de domaine Vote-auction.com (vous aviez remarqué le trait d'union?). Cette fois, au lieu de</p>			
EN VEDETTE					

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mettre les votes aux enchères, les protagonistes utilisent une technique plus raffinée. Les usagers désirant mettre leurs votes aux enchères ne le vendent pas mais demandent un don aux gens qui ont à cœur la victoire d'un candidat. Un long communiqué explique la position de [Vote-auction.com](#), qui soutient ne pas se laisser intimider par les poursuites des fonctionnaires de Chicago.

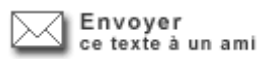
Cependant, il devient difficile de juger si cette affaire est réelle ou si ce n'est qu'une blague. Si M. Baumgartner plaiderait le canular dans les pages de *Wired* en avouant qu'il n'y avait jamais eu d'offres pour les votes, la nouvelle incarnation de son site continue de dire que dans bon nombre d'États, les enchères vont bon train pour rémunérer les électeurs. De toute façon, que ce soit vrai ou non, [Vote-auction.com](#) a fait surgir des questions sur le processus électoral et les avantages que peuvent en tirer les individus.

Avec les élections fédérales canadiennes qui ont été déclenchées hier, il ne faudrait pas se surprendre qu'un petit comique ne vienne ici aussi tester la patience du Directeur général des élections...

→ [Dominic Fugère](#)

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Voteauction.com resurge como Vote-auction.com

(25.10.2000): Tan sólo días después de que un juez de Illinois ordenara el cierre temporal de Voteauction.com, portal que ofrecía votos al mejor postor, el sitio está de nuevo en línea como vote-auction.com. Sin embargo, en vez de ofrecer la venta de votos, está pidiendo donaciones por ellos.



"Durante las semanas pasadas, han circulado diversos rumores en cuanto a que el sitio web explora el alto riesgo de los mercados de la industria de las elecciones. Pero mientras las autoridades toman su tiempo y el dinero de los contribuyentes para perseguir legalmente a casi todo lo relacionado con la existencia del sitio web, los dueños del sitio trabajaron en un rediseño y estrategia para la versión 2.0 del proyecto", se escribe en el propio sitio.

"Muchos de los usuarios de Vote-auction.com han dado testimonio de su apoyo en varios correos electrónicos. Esta es la otra razón por la cual decidimos no esperar para regresar en línea hasta que las autoridades legales de EEUU entiendan que Vote-auction.com trabaja a favor y no en contra de la democracia", agrega el sitio.

Aunque el sitio promete proteger los datos enviados por los usuarios, advirtió que la corte ha ordenado "que todos los datos de los usuarios registrados en el sitio sean revelados a las autoridades, lo que podría permitir a los fiscales en Chicago demandar individualmente a los usuarios del sitio por fraude electoral".

Sitio relacionado:

■ <http://www.vote-auction.com>

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Voteauction.com resurges like Vote-auction.com

(25.10.2000): Only days after a judge of Illinois ordered the temporary closing of Voteauction.com, vestibule that offered votes to the best postor, the site is again in line as it votes-auction.com.



Nevertheless, instead of offering the sale of votes, it is requesting donations by them.

"During the last weeks, diverse rumors as far as that have circulated the Web site explores the high risk of the markets of the industry of the elections. But while the authorities take their time and the money from the contributors to persecute legally to almost all the related one to the existence of the situated Web, the owners of the site worked in a redesign and strategy for version 2,0 of the project ", is written in the own site.

"Many of the users of Vote-auction.com have given testimony of their support in several electronic mails. This is the other reason by which we decided not to hope to return in line until the legal authorities of the U.S.A. understand that Vote-auction.com works to favor and not against the democracy ", adds the site.

Although the site promises to protect the data sent by the users, noticed that the cut has ordered "that all the data of the users registered in the site are revealed to the authorities, which could allow the public prosecutors in Chicago to demand individually to the users of the site by electoral fraud".

Related site:

■ <http://www.vote-auction.com>

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Voteauction.com resurge como **Vote-auction.com**

(25.10.2000): Tan sólo días después de que un juez de Illinois ordenara el cierre temporal de Voteauction.com, portal que ofrecía votos al mejor postor, el sitio está de nuevo en línea como **vote-auction.com**. Sin embargo, en vez de ofrecer la venta de votos, está pidiendo donaciones por ellos.



"Durante las semanas pasadas, han circulado diversos rumores en cuanto a que el sitio web explora el alto riesgo de los mercados de la industria de las elecciones. Pero mientras las autoridades toman su tiempo y el dinero de los contribuyentes para perseguir legalmente a casi todo lo relacionado con la existencia del sitio web, los dueños del sitio trabajaron en un rediseño y estrategia para la versión 2.0 del proyecto", se escribe en el propio sitio.

"Muchos de los usuarios de **Vote-auction.com** han dado testimonio de su apoyo en varios correos electrónicos. Esta es la otra razón por la cual decidimos no esperar para regresar en línea hasta que las autoridades legales de EEUU entiendan que **Vote-auction.com** trabaja a favor y

no en contra de la democracia", agrega el sitio.

Aunque el sitio promete proteger los datos enviados por los usuarios, advirtió que la corte ha ordenado "que todos los datos de los usuarios registrados en el sitio sean revelados a las autoridades, lo que podría permitir a los fiscales en Chicago demandar individualmente a los usuarios del sitio por fraude electoral".

Sitio relacionado:

■ <http://www.vote-auction.com>

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Re: URGENT - Nader trader

Subject: Re: URGENT - Nader trader
From: Anita Mage (mage@zedat.fu-berlin.de)
Date: Fri Nov 03 2000 - 10:42:19 EST

- **sorted by:** [\[date \]](#) [\[thread \]](#) [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#)
 - **Next message:** [LeoCasey@aol.com: "Nader: Unsafe At Any Speed \(1\)"](#)
 - **Previous message:** [Charles Brown: "Re: Allies against fascism?"](#)
 - **Next in thread:** [Michael Pollak: "Re: URGENT - Nader trader"](#)
 - **Maybe reply:** [Anita Mage: "Re: URGENT - Nader trader"](#)
-

Peter van Heusden wrote:

> *On Thu, 2 Nov 2000, Chuck0 wrote:*

>

>> *"W. Kiernan" wrote:*

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>> > *While you're poking around on line, have a look at <http://62.116.31.68>,*

>> > *which used to be vote-auction.com until internic pulled the plug on that*

>> > *domain name just yesterday.*

>>

>> *You know, I think more and more people are going to get pissed off about*

>> *this, because it's becoming apparent that buying a domain name is simply*

>> *buying a license to publish. What the courts and lawyers are doing is*

>> *the 21st century equivalent of seizing printing presses.*

>

> *Yes - but unfortunately, most people don't have any experience with these*

> *printing presses, and variations on the old 'printing is a font of*

> *blasphemy' theme are being used to justify these seizures.*

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> *Its really, really scary (as, btw, is that story of how Andres Salamon got*

> *raided).*

Liz (last name escapes me) who had been doing vote-auction.com was at the mikro lounge here in Berlin on Wednesday, and said that the court order to pull the domain name came from a US county judge. Before the lounge started a video of a CNN talk show on vote-auction.com was shown. I walked into WMF to see this video running on the screens of each wall of the space, and at

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Anita

- **Next message:** [LeoCasey@aol.com: "Nader: Unsafe At Any Speed \(1\)"](#)
 - **Previous message:** [Charles Brown: "Re: Allies against fascism?"](#)
 - **Next in thread:** [Michael Pollak: "Re: URGENT - Nader trader"](#)
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These search terms have been highlighted: **vote auction**

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- **sorted by:** [\[date \]](#) [\[thread \]](#) [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#)
- **Next message:** [LeoCasey@aol.com: "Nader: Unsafe At Any Speed \(1\)"](#)
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Re: URGENT - Nader trader

Subject: Re: URGENT - Nader trader
From: J. Barkley Rosser, Jr. (rosserjb@jmu.edu)
Date: Mon Nov 06 2000 - 12:36:39 EST

- **sorted by:** [\[date \]](#) [\[thread \]](#) [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#)
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 - **Previous message:** [LeoCasey@aol.com: "No Self-Respecting Socialist"](#)
 - **Next in thread:** [Peter van Heusden: "RE: URGENT - Nader trader"](#)
 - **Maybe reply:** [J. Barkley Rosser, Jr.: "Re: URGENT - Nader trader"](#)
-

Hey, while we're at it, what's "imbricate"?

Barkley Rosser

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Pollak <mpollak@panix.com>
To: lbo-talk@lists.panix.com <lbo-talk@lists.panix.com>
Date: Monday, November 06, 2000 6:25 AM
Subject: Re: URGENT - Nader trader

>

> *On Fri, 3 Nov 2000, Anita Mage wrote:*

>

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>> mikro lounge here in Berlin on Wednesday, and said that the court order*

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at*

>> *first couldn't tell whether it was satire or not.*

>

> *What's WMF?*

>

> *Michael*

>

>

>Michael Pollak.....New York City.....mpollak@panix.com

>

>

-
- **Next message:** [kelley: "RE: Chomsky & Hitch on Election \(vote Ralph\)"](#)
 - **Previous message:** [LeoCasey@aol.com: "No Self-Respecting Socialist"](#)
 - **Next in thread:** [Peter van Heusden: "RE: URGENT - Nader trader"](#)
 - **Maybe reply:** [J. Barkley Rosser, Jr.: "Re: URGENT - Nader trader"](#)
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These search terms have been highlighted: **vote auction**

Re: URGENT - Nader trader

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From: J. Barkley Rosser, Jr. (rosserjb@jmu.edu)

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> *Michael Pollak.....New York City.....mpollak@panix.com*
>
>

-
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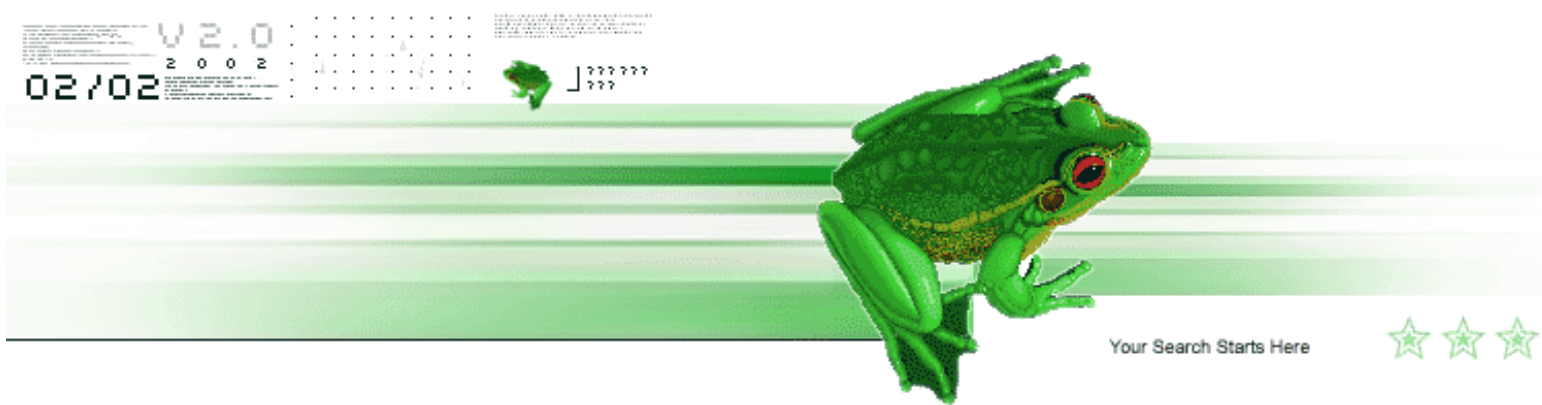
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OPEN CULTURES

FREE FLOWS OF INFORMATION AND THE POLITICS OF COMMONS

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Documentation, Video & Picture Archive.

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[The Future of Music Coalition](#)

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[kulturanova](#)

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Interacting bits and atoms in creating tools that redefine media.

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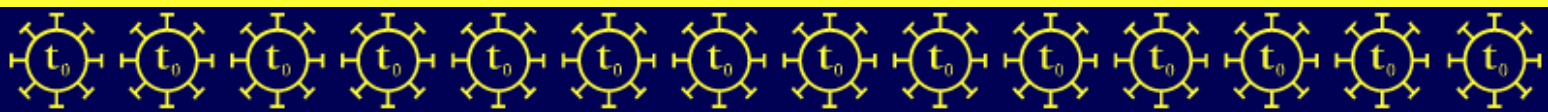
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Organizations

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アート・ミーツ・メディア: 知覚の冒険

 January 21(Friday) - March 21(Monday), 2005 Gallery A, B, 5F Lobby, Entrance Lobby

Art meets Media: adventures in perception

Media online : Software Art / Net Art / Community

Software Art

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<http://bak.spc.org/iod/iod4.html>

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<http://www.essl.at/works/Lexikon-Sonate.html>

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<http://www.jasonfreeman.net/MetaMix/>

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[http://art.runme.org/1043784855-26830-0/Re\(ad.htm.zip](http://art.runme.org/1043784855-26830-0/Re(ad.htm.zip)

21. "**retroyou R/C**"

2000

Joan Leandre

retroyou R/C is one of a few real artistic (i.e. referring to actual and historical art context) modifications of a commercial computer game (car racing in this case). Modifications are applied to: bitmaps and audio files, 3d objects and the world, and finally, to the behavior of the game.

http://retroyou.org/retroyou_RC_full_radioControl/

22. "**SCREEN SAVER**"

2000

Eldar Karhalev & Ivan Khimin

An example of creative misuse of software. Following SCREEN SAVER instructions, you can set your Windows build-in screen saver in such a way that it turns into a minimalistic meditative repetitive animation, - something Windows developers never thought about.

<http://runme.org/project/+savesaver/>

23. "**SOD**"

1999

Jodi

SOD is an extremely minimalistic and elegant deconstruction of the first 3D-computer game, Wolfenstein 3D. All objects, characters and shapes are replaced by simple black-and-white geometrical shapes, such as squares and triangles. The game still remains 100% playable.

<http://sod.jodi.org>

24. "**Tempest for Eliza**"

2001

Erik Thiele

TEMPEST was the name of a secret U.S. government project, which aim was to study the possibilities of spying on people at distance, basically seeing what they are doing on their computers. Tempest for Eliza proves such possibilities in a playful and artistic way--computer monitor transmits radio waves that can be received with AM radio receiver.

<http://www.eriky.de/tempest/>

25. "**Visual Poetry**"

2003

Douwe Osinga

Submit any sentence and it will return a sequence of images, generated by Google search engine. The project (mis-)communicates two major representational systems: textual and visual. The result is always poetic as the relations between words and images are algorithmic, therefore leaving space for imagination.

<http://douweosinga.com/projects/visualpoetry>

26. "**Vote-auction**"

2000

Übermorgen.com

Vote-auction is a project that was running parallel to the US elections of 2000. Based on the idea of "Bringing Capitalism and Democracy Closer Together", it was proposing to users (US citizens) to sell and buy their votes. The project has caused a big scandal in the US media.(In the elections of 2004, SELLtheVOTE.COM was operated).

<http://www.vote-auction.net/>

27. "**Wolfenstein 5k**"

2002

Lee Semel

Remake of the famous shooter. Written in JavaScript, the whole game takes only 5119 bytes of disk space. This project became the winner of "The 5k" competition in 2002 (<http://www.the5k.org>). Despite its size, the game is absolutely playable and enjoyable.

<http://www.wolf5k.com/>

28. "**%WRONG Browser**"

2000

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This alternative browser automatically generates 3-letter domains (such as "ibm" or "4pw" for example), and whenever one of the randomly created Web addresses exists in reality, the "%WRONG Browser" picks up elements from the respective site and produces abstract patterns that keep changing in an unpredictable manner. Previously released editions include ".com", ".org", ".nl", ".co.kr", ".co.jp" and ".ch".

<http://wrongbrowser.com>

29. "**Yellowtail**"

1998

Golan Levin

Yet another visual generative tool. Yellowtail repeats user's mouse movements and creates visually reach animations in real time. Unlike other programs of this kind, Yellowtail refers more to "old" painting techniques, rather than to "dry" algorithms.

<http://www.flong.com/yellowtail/>

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[http://art.runme.org/1043784855-26830-0/Re\(ad.htm.zip](http://art.runme.org/1043784855-26830-0/Re(ad.htm.zip)

21. "**retroyou R/C**"

2000

Joan Leandre

retroyou R/C is one of a few real artistic (i.e. referring to actual and historical art context) modifications of a commercial computer game (car racing in this case). Modifications are applied to: bitmaps and audio files, 3d objects and the world, and finally, to the behavior of the game.

http://retroyou.org/retroyou_RC_full_radioControl/

22. "**SCREEN SAVER**"

2000

Eldar Karhalev & Ivan Khimin

An example of creative misuse of software. Following SCREEN SAVER instructions, you can set your Windows build-in screen saver in such a way that it turns into a minimalistic meditative repetitive animation, - something Windows developers never thought about.

<http://runme.org/project/+screensaver/>

23. "**SOD**"

1999

Jodi

SOD is an extremely minimalistic and elegant deconstruction of the first 3D-computer game, Wolfenstein 3D. All objects, characters and shapes are replaced by simple black-and-white geometrical shapes, such as squares and triangles. The game still remains 100% playable.

<http://sod.jodi.org>

24. "**Tempest for Eliza**"

2001

Erik Thiele

TEMPEST was the name of a secret U.S. government project, which aim was to study the possibilities of spying on people at distance, basically seeing what they are doing on their computers. Tempest for Eliza proves such possibilities in a playful and artistic way--computer monitor transmits radio waves that can be received with AM radio receiver.

<http://www.eriky.de/tempest/>

25. "**Visual Poetry**"

2003

Douwe Osinga

Submit any sentence and it will return a sequence of images, generated by Google search engine. The project (mis-)communicates two major representational systems: textual and visual. The result is always poetic as the relations between words and images are algorithmic, therefore leaving space for imagination.

<http://douweosinga.com/projects/visualpoetry>

26. "**Vote-auction**"

2000

Übermorgen.com

Vote-auction is a project that was running parallel to the US elections of 2000. Based on the idea of "Bringing Capitalism and Democracy Closer Together", it was proposing to users (US citizens) to sell and buy their votes. The project has caused a big scandal in the US media. (In the elections of 2004, SELLtheVOTE.COM was operated).

<http://www.vote-auction.net/>

27. "**Wolfenstein 5k**"

2002

Lee Semel

Remake of the famous shooter. Written in JavaScript, the whole game takes only 5119 bytes of disk space. This project became the winner of "The 5k" competition in 2002 (<http://www.the5k.org>). Despite its size, the game is absolutely playable and enjoyable.

<http://www.wolf5k.com/>

28. "**%WRONG Browser**"

2000

Jodi

This alternative browser automatically generates 3-letter domains (such as "ibm" or "4pw" for example), and whenever one of the randomly created Web addresses exists in reality, the "%WRONG Browser" picks up elements from the respective site and produces abstract patterns that keep changing in an unpredictable manner. Previously released editions include ".com", ".org", ".nl", ".co.kr", ".co.jp" and ".ch".

<http://wrongbrowser.com>

29. "**Yellowtail**"

1998

Golan Levin

Yet another visual generative tool. Yellowtail repeats user's mouse movements and creates visually reach animations in real time. Unlike other programs of this kind, Yellowtail refers more to "old" painting techniques, rather than to "dry" algorithms.

<http://www.flong.com/yellowtail/>

[Go to Google Home](#)

Web [Images](#) [Groups](#) [News](#) [Froogle](#) [Local](#)^{New!} [more »](#)
[Advanced Search](#)
[Preferences](#)

Web

Your search - **related:www.ntticc.or.jp/Schedule/2005/art_meets_media/Mediaonline/softwareart.html** - did not match any documents.

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kop art projects 2002

low level all stars

AUTHOR	BEIGE vs. RSG
URL	http://rhizome.org/Low_Level_All_Stars

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URL	http://residence.aec.at/kop/A2/index.html

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stealth waltz

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URL	http://www.ipnic.org

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AUTHOR	0100101110101101.ORG
URL	http://WWW.0100101110101101.ORG/home/glasnost/

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AUTHOR	p.RT
URL	http://www.rex.b92.net/p.rt/art/index.html

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i_biology patent engine: (i-bpe)

AUTHOR	Diane Ludin
URL	http://w3.thing.net/~diane/index.php

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warriors of perception: search and manifest.

AUTHOR	Agnese Trocchi
URL	http://candida.thing.net/warriors/

"A brave Warrior of Perception, Variante, had been riding from flesh to simulation and back. She is now hiding deep inside the [Freenet](#) system to protect herself from copyright laws. In the Freenet she is re-materialized, stored as data in a number of HardDrives (HD) all around the net. Variante will recombine herself in a file on your HD only if you find the right key with which to call her. She will give you the right tracks to find the lost secret treasures of Freedom. You may find a network of accomplices; you will need them, because this will be a long quest... But if you are a pure and brave heart you may help her and gain your freedom.

"Go! Go Now! Install Freenet and look for the first track to find the Beautiful Warrior of Perception.

"'Warriors of Perception: Search and Manifest. (A Freenet Game)' will offer players the chance to know better a different type of net. I will use and develop spaces to explore the issues that are driving the need to build Freenet. The game will allow the player not only to gain insights into the nature of this new system and what it can do, but will also bring to the foreground questions about the new war against on-line 'gift culture' being waged by neoliberal copyright engines."

some universe for heike, dragan and your browser

AUTHOR	olia lialina
URL	http://residence.aec.at/kop/A13/index.html

"It is new, long and colorful.

"I was always attracted with free background collections. Especially with 'outerspace' and 'night sky and stars' backgrounds. Not those where you can see real Mars, Jupiter or Ursa Major. But ones with black, dark red, dark purple, dark green for space and light crumbs or kitchy animated stars for constellations and planets. And I always wanted to use them in my projects but they never fitted to my ideas.

"This is the tragedy of outerspace backgrounds. they are magnificent, but they dont fit to any idea. They never did. Private home pages, programs of cinema, pathfinder image gallery - everything was wrong case. Even starships dont look authentic. Because it is wrong to hang pictures on the sky and there are no letters in outerspace. And even if there were letters in outer space it would be impossible to read them. i-dots and stars or % and meteors are too easy to confuse.

"If you ever designed anything, you know that Outerspace background looks good only if nothing else is placed on it. If you ever were asked to redesign a page made in the end of 20th century the first thing you did was to remove starbck.gif.

"Outerspace can contain only another outerspace. Star backgrounds deserved to come to foreground. This is what i wanted to make in Some Universe. Plus to show that there is still chance for beauty outside flash and interaction is possible without clicking."

Anticipating your other questions:

"I took me almost two months to create The Most Beautiful Page on the web. Last three weeks of February and first three weeks of March 2002. Images were copied from free background collections. Iframes, Frames, Tables and HR were used to construct universe. I devote it to heike, a student, who shares my love to tables and starships; to dragan, who does not need such text to understand why and how things are made. And it is for your browser. What ever you use you will be able to see something."

omniCleaner

AUTHOR	Dragan Espenschied, Alvar Freude
URL	http://www.omnicleaner.com

In many sub-networks of the Internet, as in schools, universities, public libraries or simple dial-up connections, access to information is restricted. This happens for example by blocking blacklisted URLs with 'unwanted information' through a proxy, setting up manipulated DNS servers that direct requests to addresses different from the ones users originally intended, or totally suppressing certain communication protocols.

An important thing for this blocking to work is that it works in secret. As soon as it is widely known that information is blocked at all or even which particular information is blocked, the demand for this unwanted information will rise. When the goal is to completely wipe out information, every hint that this information exists at all threatens this goal.

However, wiping out information makes no sense. While information by itself can not do any harm, hiding it is very likely to be harmful. As most of the time the blocking is motivated politically, morally or monetarily, it is highly doubtful that hiding it from a part of internet users is more effective than to critically deal with it and educate the users about different views/laws/contexts concerning the content in question. Hiding information is just a very easy and lazy technical solution, and at the same time stupefies users.

To give users a chance to check by themselves if their networks blocks or manipulates information, ODEM has developed a software that compares data received from certain addresses in different networks that

are known to be unfiltered. People inside different networks can download and run a program that tests the access possibilities of their network. The collected information will go into a database and be published on mirrored websites. This will give an insight into which networks block which kind of content or communication channels, and which give free access.

People who are responsible for blocking means of information exchange should be pressured to justify their doings and the information that is subject to blocking should be critically discussed. As soon as a filtered Internet becomes the standard, the huge social and political potential of the medium, namely free communication, will be destroyed.

The project will not be limited to the Kingdom of Piracy exhibition, and will not run solely on the server set up for the exhibition. Instead the software was designed to be installed on several servers and networks to allow a better quality of cross-checking. After the KOP exhibition, the project will be continued as a division of ODEM.

This is **G o o g l e**'s **cache** of <http://kop.fact.co.uk/DIVE/cd/kop/2002.html> as retrieved on 7 Mar 2005 08:18:19 GMT.

G o o g l e's cache is the snapshot that we took of the page as we crawled the web. The page may have changed since that time. Click here for the **current page** without highlighting.

This cached page may reference images which are no longer available. Click here for the **cached text** only.

To link to or bookmark this page, use the following url: <http://www.google.com/search?q=cache:bH5Yq2k-TlcJ:kop.fact.co.uk/DIVE/cd/kop/2002.html+vote-auction&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&client=safari>

These search terms have been highlighted: **vote auction**

DIVE INTO KINGDOM OF PIRACY /

kop art projects 2002

low level all stars

AUTHOR	BEIGE vs. RSG
URL	http://rhizome.org/Low_Level_All_Stars

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AUTHOR	Agnese Trocchi
URL	http://candida.thing.net/warriors/

"A brave Warrior of Perception, Variante, had been riding from flesh to simulation and back. She is now hiding deep inside the Freenet system to protect herself from copyright laws. In the Freenet she is re-materialized, stored as data in a number of HardDrives (HD) all around the net. Variante will recombine herself in a file on your HD only if you find the right key with which to call her. She will give you the right tracks to find the lost secret treasures of Freedom. You may find a network of accomplices; you will need them, because this will be a long quest... But if you are a pure and brave heart you may help her and gain your freedom.

"Go! Go Now! Install Freenet and look for the first track to find the Beautiful Warrior of Perception.

"'Warriors of Perception: Search and Manifest. (A Freenet Game)' will offer players the chance to know better a different type of net. I will use and develop spaces to explore the issues that are driving the need to build Freenet. The game will allow the player not only to gain insights into the nature of this new system and what it can do, but will also bring to the foreground questions about the new war against on-line 'gift culture' being waged by neoliberal copyright engines."

some universe for heike, dragan and your browser

AUTHOR	olia lialina
URL	http://residence.aec.at/kop/A13/index.html

"It is new, long and colorful.

"I was always attracted with free background collections. Especially with 'outerspace' and 'night sky and stars' backgrounds. Not those where you can see real Mars, Jupiter or Ursa Major. But ones with black, dark red, dark purple, dark green for space and light crumbs or kitchy animated stars for constellations and planets. And I always wanted to use them in my projects but they never fitted to my ideas.

"This is the tragedy of outerspace backgrounds. they are magnificent, but they dont fit to any idea. They never did. Private home pages, programs of cinema, pathfinder image gallery - everything was wrong case. Even starships dont look authentic. Because it is wrong to hang pictures on the sky and there are no letters in outerspace. And even if there were letters in outer space it would be impossible to read them. i-dots and stars or % and meteors are too easy to confuse.

"If you ever designed anything, you know that Outerspace background looks good only if nothing else is placed on it. If you ever were asked to redesign a page made in the end of 20th century the first thing you did was to remove starbck.gif.

"Outerspace can contain only another outerspace. Star backgrounds deserved to come to foreground. This is what i wanted to make in Some Universe. Plus to show that there is still chance for beauty outside flash and interaction is possible without clicking."

Anticipating your other questions:

"I took me almost two months to create The Most Beautiful Page on the web. Last three weeks of February and first three weeks of March 2002. Images were copied from free background collections. Iframes, Frames, Tables and HR were used to construct universe. I devote it to heike, a student, who shares my love to tables and starships; to dragan, who does not need such text to understand why and how things are made. And it is for your browser. What ever you use you will be able to see something."

omniCleaner

AUTHOR	Dragan Espenschied, Alvar Freude
URL	http://www.omnicleaner.com

In many sub-networks of the Internet, as in schools, universities, public libraries or simple dial-up connections, access to information is restricted. This happens for example by blocking blacklisted URLs with 'unwanted information' through a proxy, setting up manipulated DNS servers that direct requests to addresses different from the ones users originally intended, or totally suppressing certain communication protocols.

An important thing for this blocking to work is that it works in secret. As soon as it is widely known that information is blocked at all or even which particular information is blocked, the demand for this unwanted information will rise. When the goal is to completely wipe out information, every hint that this information exists at all threatens this goal.

However, wiping out information makes no sense. While information by itself can not do any harm, hiding it is very likely to be harmful. As most of the time the blocking is motivated politically, morally or monetarily, it is highly doubtful that hiding it from a part of internet users is more effective than to critically deal with it and educate the users about different views/laws/contexts concerning the content in question. Hiding information is just a very easy and lazy technical solution, and at the same time stupefies users.

To give users a chance to check by themselves if their networks blocks or manipulates information, ODEM has developed a software that compares data received from certain addresses in different networks that are known to be unfiltered. People inside different networks can download and run a program that tests the access possibilities of their network. The collected information will go into a database and be published on mirrored websites. This will give an insight into which networks block which kind of content or communication channels, and which give free access.

People who are responsible for blocking means of information exchange should be pressured to justify their doings and the information that is subject to blocking should be critically discussed. As soon as a filtered Internet becomes the standard, the huge social and political potential of the medium, namely free communication, will be destroyed.

The project will not be limited to the Kingdom of Piracy exhibition, and will not run solely on the server set up for the exhibition. Instead the software was designed to be installed on several servers and networks to allow a better quality of cross-checking. After the KOP exhibition, the project will be continued as a division of ODEM.

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Posted by parasew at November 2, 2004 08:06 PM

Comments

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Posted by: [felix](#) at November 4, 2004 05:44 PM



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November 02, 2004

SELLtheVOTE.COM DOES IT THE AMERICAN WAY - THE DEMOCRATIC WAY

The on-line vote sell? That was still 2000 to the US choice Bush/Gore a topic, which the Austrian Media chop group [took care of](#) at that time [ubermorgen.com](#). With the project [voteauction.com](#) an on-line platform was created for the auction of the votes, presented as business idea and stamped of US media as insolence and electoral fraud.

The fact that it however actually can apparent around a sichtbarmachung of the botched choice system and the borders of the democracy were reached that becomes naturally no topic in the media. Thus most US citizens believe to still decide despite elector system to their liberty and the democratic form, who is to lead their country.

Now, after year vote auction draws 4 a similar project with global impact off: SELLtheVOTE. Why isn't each ground connection inhabitant to contribute to be allowed who US president become is, where this defines nevertheless substantially global topics? [SELLtheVOTE](#) has the answer: sell your vote. World-wide. In order to go the democratic, American way.

Everything began apparent with the fact that some people tried their voice via eBay to auctions:

Six people off-talk tons sell their vote for president on the InterNet this week, fetching as much as \$10.100 before on-line more auctioneer eBay canceled the bidding. Meanwhile, more another site is soliciting undecided voters tons more offer as A block ton the highest more bidder for each state.[..] ([i-cunning](#))

This addressed side with the name [voteauction.com](#) was konzeptioniert as study by the US student [James Baumgartner](#) and resold on [ubermorgen.com](#). In further consequence the topic taken up by the US media, reports were turned, invited expert rounds and asked live. Illinois tried the whole time to achieve a provisional order and close the side, was there nevertheless most "donation-willing" voters, who angebiten its voice on-line one to the purchase had. The operators of the side, Hans's Bernhard and Liz Haas with complaints bombarded, which became side closed, the Domain extracted, the server chopped [voteauction](#) came then with a new name and a changed wording again on-line one: [vote auction.com](#). The com Domains gives it meanwhile also not more, only a net to address survived. Now already nearly grass grew over the thing, which is most complaints obsolet - nevertheless the topic still up-to-date: to the current US choice 2004.



*Here official sending of * THE*AGENCY *, which state from itself to be to assign to no nationality.*

From: * THE*AGENCY * officeR@ubemorgen.com

SELLtheVOTE DOES IT THE AMERICAN WAY - THE DEMOCRATIC WAY
Vienna/Oslo/Washington, 22/10/2004, A0133 1/3 30 5330E13/01

Voice from SELLtheVOTE.COM user Linda, 25, NY: My vote goes ton of A Puerto Rican, Puerto Ricans living in Puerto Rico pay federal taxes, fight into the US army, and have US of passport haven - but acres entirely denied A right ton vote into the presidential elections.... Puerto Rico has been occupied and used as A military training cousin by the US... for decades. I more offer my vote tons of A Puerto Rican living in Puerto Rico... I wants sell you my vote.

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Posted by parasew RK November 2, 2004 08:06 PM

COMMENT

sellthevote is also from the day after tomorrow has eh all nothing brought...

Posted by: [felix](#) RK November 4, 2004 05:44 PM

Diese angesprochene Seite mit dem Namen voteauction.com wurde als Studie vom US-Studenten James Baumgartner konzeptioniert und an ubermorgen.com weiterverkauft. In weiterer Folge wurden das Thema von den US-Medien aufgegriffen, Reportagen gedreht, Expertenrunden eingeladen und live befragt. Illinois versuchte die ganze Zeit, eine einstweilige Verfügung zu erreichen und die Seite zu schliessen, waren dort ja immerhin die meisten "Spendewilligen" Wähler, die ihre Stimme Online zum Kauf angeboten hatten.

Die Betreiber der Seite, Hans Bernhard und Liz Haas wurden mit Klagen bombardiert, die Seite wurde geschlossen, die Domain entzogen, der Server gehackt. voteauction kam dann mit einem neuen Namen und geändertem wording wieder Online: **vote-auction.com**. Die .com Domains gibt es mittlerweile auch nicht mehr, lediglich eine .net Adresse hat überlebt. Jetzt ist schon fast Gras über die Sache gewachsen, die meisten Klagen sind obsolet - doch die Thematik nach wie vor aktuell: zur aktuellen US-Wahl 2004.



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NET VISION / NET EXCELLENCE

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On our server, you auto-generate an "injunction" (.pdf /.rtf format), a standard court-order, claiming the target-website to operate on an illegal basis, this document will then be sent to the appropriate DNS-registrar [DNS = domain name service], to the owner of the web-site and possibly to some journalists for legal and public processing. All you have to do is to simply fill out a form and send it off: it will take you not more than 15 minutes; if the web-site is taken down we will inform you via email.

This very useful platform [ipnic] grew out of our project [V]ote-auction. During the [V]ote-auction operation in fall 2000, an American court [circuit court of Cook County, Chicago] issued a temporary injunction, against the "individuals" [ubermorgen, James Baumgartner, and others] behind [V]oteauction. This injunction was then sent out per email to Corenic, the DNS-registrar in Geneva / Switzerland. After receiving this email, Corenic decided to shut down all DNS-services on the domain vote-auction.com without notice. The jurisdiction of an American court order does obviously not include Switzerland, the delivery of a court-order cannot be official via email; nevertheless we were offline but, thanks to this creative action and reaction, we were inspired to build a public shutdown-service.

You can find some documentation of our [V]ote-auction "MEDIA HACK" at <http://vote-auction.net> or check out the Google database.

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Subject: Risks Digest 21.11

RISKS-LIST: Risks-Forum Digest Weds 8 November 2000 Volume 21 : Issue 11

FORUM ON RISKS TO THE PUBLIC IN COMPUTERS AND RELATED SYSTEMS (comp.risks)

ACM Committee on Computers and Public Policy, Peter G. Neumann, moderator

***** See last item for further information, disclaimers, caveats, etc. *****

This issue is archived at <URL:http://catless.ncl.ac.uk/Risks/21.11.html>
and by anonymous ftp at ftp.sri.com, cd risks .

Contents: [Another election special edition]

Did a human factors problem affect the U.S. presidential election?

(Steve Bellovin)

More on Florida in this and previous elections (PGN)

E-voting as a panacea for Florida count? (Jeremy Epstein)

CNN: E-voting could have prevented U.S. election chaos (Evan McLain)

"REALITY RESET": "Hacking the Vote" (Lauren Weinstein)

Web sites report exit poll results before networks do (NewsScan)

Political dirty tricks, cyber-style (NewsScan)

Vote auction Web site moves operations overseas (NewsScan)

UK air-traffic control problems (PGN)

Indianapolis FAA route center running on generators for a week

(Nathan Brindle)

Raccoon power outage over the weekend (Dan Ellis)

Researchers able to defeat digital music security measures (NewsScan)

Verisign and MS authenticode (Carl Byington)

Microsoft Web site vandalized (NewsScan)

The latest in anti-spam technology (Greg Compestine)

Re: EMI, etc. (Pete Mellor)

2001 USENIX Annual Technical Conference - Call For Papers (Andrea Galleni)

Abridged info on RISKS (comp.risks)

Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 14:15:47 -0500

From: Steve Bellovin <smb@research.att.com>

Subject: Did a human factors problem affect the U.S. presidential election?

The outcome of the U.S. Presidential election may have been determined by poor human factors in a computerized vote-casting system.

As of this writing (early afternoon on Wednesday), Bush and Gore are

separated by less than 1800 votes (.03%) in Florida. Due to the arcana of U.S. election law, whoever carries Florida at this point will win the overall election. And there's a problem in one county that may have resulted in ~3000 votes that were intended for Gore in fact being cast for Buchanan, a minor party candidate.

Palm Beach County uses a punch-card voting system. Because of the layout of the names relative to the holes and the buttons to punch those holes, it was apparently easy to get confused about how to vote for Gore. Apart from all the calls to the election board by confused voters, there is circumstantial evidence from the actual tally: Buchanan drew 3407 votes in this county, more than anywhere else in the state, and considerably at variance with both the usual demographics (this county is heavily Democratic, and would be expected to vote for Gore) and with the number of votes Buchanan received in similar, neighboring, larger counties (789 in Broward; 561 in Miami-Dade County).

The director of the state Department of Elections doesn't think there's a problem -- but he was appointed by Jeb Bush, governor of Florida and brother of the Republican presidential candidate...

--Steve Bellovin

Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 16:17:09 PST
From: "Peter G. Neumann" <Neumann@CSL.sri.com>
Subject: More on Florida in this and previous elections

In addition to the Palm Beach County curiosity noted by Steve Bellovin, a heavily loaded ballot lock box was found today in a heavily Democratic precinct. I don't think this is what Al Gore meant by a "Lock Box on (Social) Security."

For some historical perspective, we might recall the 1988 election in Florida, in which there were 200,000 fewer votes for the Senate race than for the presidential candidates, and the remarkable anomaly was mostly only in four counties administered by a particular computer system vendor. The declared winner was Connie Mack, who has just retired, 12 years later. See **The New York Times**, 12 Nov 1988, and RISKS-7.78.

And then there was the St Petersburg city election in March 1993 in which 1429 votes were recorded for the incumbent mayor tabulated under an industrial precinct that had ZERO voters, where the mayor won the election by 1425 votes. Fuzzy math strikes again? See Rebecca Mercuri, *Corrupted Polling, Inside Risks, *Communications of the ACM**, vol 36 no 11, Nov 1993,

p.122, on her Web site at

<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~mercuri/mynewhome/Papers/corripoll.html>

I would not trust a computerized voting system even if I had written it myself, because of the many ways in which such systems can be subverted. (Last night's events will undoubtedly slow down the final wrapup of Rebecca's PhD thesis noted in RISKS-21.10, because there is more potential grist for her mill -- not just in Florida, but in other states as well.)

PGN]

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 15:28:02 -0500

From: "Jeremy Epstein" <jepstein@webmethods.com>

Subject: E-voting as a panacea for Florida count?

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/11/08/e.voting.no.gamble.idg/index.html>

An article on CNN.com quotes "experts" as saying that the problems getting an accurate vote could have been avoided if everyone used electronic vote counting technology. [Note: not online voting... just electronic voting machines.]

The article says in part "'Of course you would have 100 percent accuracy with electronic voting. That would prevent the necessity of a recount,' said Hans van Wijk, who markets electronic voting systems for Groenlo, Netherlands-based Nedap. In the Netherlands, some 80 percent of precincts use e-voting, he said."

As has been discussed numerous times in RISKS (including yesterday in RISKS-21.10), electronic counting is certainly not 100% accurate. But if this is what the public thinks of electronic counting, will there be the same naive expectations about accuracy of online voting? The article talks about that too (quoting someone from Baltimore Technologies as saying "Online voting would not only dramatically reduce the count time but also ensure a more reliable initial result"). There is an acknowledgement that online voting has its own dangers, noting the risks of accurate identification of users, denial of service, and malicious attacks. No recognition though of the risks of just plain malfunctioning software, though.

Gotta go. All this gore-y discussion of a recount in Florida has me bush-ed.

--Jeremy

[For those of you who have not seen it, PLEASE read the

People For Internet Responsibility Statement on Internet Voting:

<http://www.pfir.org/statements/voting>

PGN]

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 19:43:29 -0000

From: McLain Evan M CPT <mclaine@lewis.army.mil>

Subject: CNN: E-voting could have prevented U.S. election chaos

CNN's story about voting technology, on-line and otherwise:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/11/08/e.voting.no.gamble.idg/index.html>

An interesting quote from the article: "But Dublin-based electronic security company Baltimore Technologies said reliability is no problem. "Online voting would not only dramatically reduce the count time but also ensure a more reliable initial result," said a spokeswoman. She added that online voting would help older, ill, and disabled voters to take part in the polls."

RISKS readers will be happy to see there is also a discussion of potential fraud and security risks.

Evan McLain <evan.mclain@bigfoot.com>

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 12:46:51 -0800 (PST)

From: reality@vortex.com ("Reality Reset")

Subject: "REALITY RESET": "Hacking the Vote"

"REALITY RESET"

<http://www.vortex.com/reality>

by

Lauren Weinstein (lauren@vortex.com)

November 8, 2000

Today's Edition:

"Hacking the Vote"

<http://www.vortex.com/reality/2000-11-08>

To subscribe or unsubscribe to/from this list, please send the command "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" respectively (without the quotes) in the body of an e-mail to "reality-request@vortex.com".

"Hacking the Vote" (November 8, 2000)

"If they'd been listening to me all along, all of this election confusion could have been avoided," said Paddy Mastoid.

Paddy is the president of trust-us-not-to-badly-screw-up-your-vote.com, a firm promoting Internet voting systems. I found 12 messages from him on my voicemail this morning, as the nation awoke to the bizarre aftermath of election day, with a historically close election still undecided and the U.S. population swinging slowly in the wind.

"Look at this mess," said Paddy. "Now they have to re-count all those votes in Florida, there are concerns over voting irregularities down there, and we might well end up with a President who didn't even win the popular vote! Talk about not having a mandate. And I could have prevented all of this hassle!"

"How so?" I asked.

"Basically, our plan is to eliminate all those long lines at those obsolete polling places. We want to toss the antiquated paper ballots, punch cards, and mechanical voting machines out the window. We'll let people vote online using the same home and office PCs that they already use for accessing offshore gambling sites and downloading porn."

"Hmmm. Sounds like a tempting goal, but aren't you worried about security, reliability, all that sort of stuff?" I asked.

"Hey, we didn't just fall off the turnip truck. We're using secure, redundant Web servers, so your vote will be just as safe as your credit card numbers during online purchases," said Paddy. "You're happy buying things online, aren't you?"

"Well, no, not really, not with all of the security breaches at sites that were supposed to be secure, and their compromising of personal information. I realize that things can go wrong with old-style voting systems, especially if they're set up badly, but at least with them it's usually possible to do various forms of meaningful re-counting when there's a question about an election's validity."

"But that's my whole point!" said Paddy. "Look at all the trouble being caused by even being *able* to do a physical re-count. Wouldn't it be better to have a nice, computerized system where all the votes are electronic and stored safely in computers where nobody but programmers, system administrators, and top election officials can screw around with them? You

don't think any of those guys would mess things up do you? When it's all in the computer, you don't have any *choice* but to trust the computer! You can't really re-count so there'd be no point to complaining. Problem solved!"

"Hmmm. What about hackers? If these systems are on the Internet, they'd seem just as vulnerable to attack and manipulation as any other so-called secure sites."

"Not to worry!" said Paddy. "We ran a contest and invited hackers to crack our demonstration system. Five people tried and the only guy who got in was a 12 year old kid in West Palm Beach, and he promised cross-his-heart not to tell anyone how after we gave him a DVD player! No problem there."

"But why would most hackers even want to tip their hands by playing with your demo sites? Wouldn't the real pros just wait until a real election and then flood your servers with garbage to block real voters out? Couldn't they plant surprises in unrelated downloads that could hide on people's PCs for months or years before being activated on election day to disrupt or manipulate the voting process? There's really no way to secure the typical operating systems that most people have on their home or office computers from those sorts of attacks," I said.

"Picky, picky, picky!" said Paddy. "I say let's just deploy these Internet voting systems now and keep the people happy. If these hypothetical hackers you're talking about are really that good, we probably wouldn't even realize that they'd been screwing around with the election anyway. Ignorance can be bliss. And that would sure be preferable to all the hassles they're having in Florida today!"

"I really don't think that's necessarily true ..."

"And at least we wouldn't have network TV anchors getting punchy from being up all night!" said Paddy.

"You do have a point about that," I said.

"I knew that I could convince you, Lauren."

--Lauren--

Lauren Weinstein,

lauren@pfir.org or lauren@vortex.com or lauren@privacyforum.org

Co-Founder, PFIR - People For Internet Responsibility - <http://www.pfir.org>

Moderator, PRIVACY Forum - <http://www.vortex.com>

Member, ACM Committee on Computers and Public Policy

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Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 09:12:36 -0700
From: "NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>
Subject: Web sites report exit poll results before networks do

Whereas mainstream news organizations were bound by self-imposed rules preventing them from releasing state exit poll results before the polls closed, a number of politically oriented Web sites leaked the results as soon as they were available. Voter News Service (VNS), the consortium of news organizations that conducted the exit polls, is threatening to bring legal action against the sites that leaked early results, including DrudgeReport.com and Inside.com -- which, however, indicated that they obtained the information not from VNS but from unidentified sources. Inside.com editor Michael Hirschorn said that he had received e-mail leaks from dozens of mainstream journalists, and that the public have as much right to know that kind of information as journalists do. He added: "The genie is out of the bottle, and it's wishful thinking that you could put it back in. Once this information is out, thanks to e-mail and the Internet, it becomes incredibly easy to distribute." [AP/*San Jose Mercury News*, 7 Nov 2000 <http://www.mercurycenter.com/svtech/news/breaking/ap/docs/6063841.htm>; NewsScan Daily, 8 Nov 2000]

Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 09:12:36 -0700
From: "NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>
Subject: Political dirty tricks, cyber-style

In the closing hours of the election campaign the site of the Republican National Committee (RNC) was vandalized by hackers who urged visitors to vote for Gore. The Democratic National Committee (DNC) denied it had any connection to the act of vandalism, and said intruders had forced the shut-down of the DNC's external e-mail system. [AP/*USA Today*, 7 Nov 2000 <http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/cti782.htm>; NewsScan Daily, 8 Nov 2000]

Date: Thu, 26 Oct 2000 09:44:02 -0700
From: "NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>
Subject: Vote auction Web site moves operations overseas

A Web site offering to sell 21,000 votes for President to the highest bidder has changed its domain name and transferred its registration to a company based in Germany. The www.vote-auction.com site asks visitors to fill out personal details and then offers to sell the votes in blocks broken down by state. The goal, according to the Web site, is to bring "the big money of campaigns directly to the voting public," but the owners, who are Austrian, say they still need to work out the details of how everyone would get paid, and how to verify that they cast the right ballot. The site has been criticized by election officials in Michigan, New York and other states, but as of its reopening this week, more than 2,500 California voters had offered their votes and the leading bid was \$48,000, or \$19.61 per vote. In August, six people offering to sell their votes for President drew bids as high as \$10,000 on eBay before the online auctioneer shut them down. [AP 25 Oct 2000 <http://news.excite.com/news/ap/001025/20/votes-for-sale>; NewsScan Daily, 26 Oct 2000]

Date: Sat, 04 Nov 2000 20:27:12
From: "Peter G. Neumann" <Neumann@CSL.sri.com>
Subject: UK air-traffic control problems

If you are interested in aviation safety, you might want to check out <http://www.pprune.org>, click on "Forums", and then "rumors and news", for a remarkable collection of computer problems related to ATC in the UK.

Date: Tue, 07 Nov 2000 23:45:58 -0500
From: Nathan Brindle <nbrindle@netdirect.net>
Subject: Indianapolis FAA route center running on generators for a week

A week later, the FAA route center at Indianapolis is still running on backup generator power ever since a 31 Oct 2000 power outage that "caused flight delays and at least two close encounters between airplanes". The cause of the original outage was still unknown. The route center has 6 diesel generators, three of which are used normally and the other three are for backup. However, after the outage, the diesels fired up, but the main radar could not be brought back up. The 70 controllers had to had planes off to other centers. Close calls were reported by a private jet and a USAir flight. Onboard collision avoidance was given credit for avoiding any tragedies. [Source: An article in the *Indianapolis Star*, 7 Nov 2000 (Generators used for flight routing as a precaution, by Terry Horne); PGN-ed]

Date: Mon, 6 Nov 2000 11:19:42 -0800 (PST)
From: Dan Ellis <ellisd@cs.ucsb.edu>
Subject: Raccoon power outage over the weekend

I received the following e-mail on a Monday afternoon (after the problems had been fixed). Several physical devices had been damaged (network hubs and switches) at UC Santa Barbara making for a very unproductive time for many employees and students and for a very stressful time for facility and system administrators.

The point: the weak link will be found and exploited by somebody or something, causing discomfort to us all. Malicious intent is not a prerequisite.

Dan Ellis, PhD student, UCSB, ellisd@cs.ucsb.edu (805) 893-4394

> Date: Mon, 06 Nov 2000 08:33:55 -0800
> From: dragon@ece.ucsb.edu
> To: coe-notify@engineering.ucsb.edu, all-grad@engineering.ucsb.edu
> Subject: power outage over the weekend

> Information only --

> A bit after midnight Friday/Saturday, a raccoon strolled into the power
> substation that serves this end of campus and got across a transformer
> that takes the 16kV line down to 4160VAC. The raccoon paid the price for
> this, and he is now merely a warning example of how fragile our power
> infrastructure can be.

> However, various buildings on campus also paid a price, as all power on
> the "A" feeder was off line for nearly two hours.

> Some functions in some buildings had not been restored by this morning,
> however, including HVAC and equipment chilled water in Engineering 1.
> Almost all this equipment is now back in operation. You may wish to check
> computers and process controllers to determine if harm was done during
> this outage.

[A Rocky Raccoon gets added to the long list of Reubened Mammalians.
Must have been Raccoonoitering. After all, it was noit toim, even
if not Down Under! PGN]

Date: Tue, 24 Oct 2000 08:17:09 -0700

From: "NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>
Subject: Researchers able to defeat digital music security measures

A team of computer scientists at Princeton and Rice Universities and the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) has been able to remove the invisible "watermarks" used by the 200-company Secure Digital Media Initiative (SDMI) to protect digital music files from pirates. SDMI had offered a prize [RISKS-21.05] to anyone who could defeat its various security measures, four out six of which make use of watermarks. SDMI's Tala Shamoon said, "I expected some would have fallen. This is part of an empirical process to get the best technology." [AP/MSNBC 24 Oct 2000; <http://www.msnbc.com/news/480521.asp> NewsScan Daily, 24 Oct 2000]

Date: Mon, 23 Oct 2000 13:04:59 -0700
From: Carl Byington <carl@five-ten-sg.com>
Subject: Verisign and MS authenticode

MS has an authenticode mechanism that allows publishers to digitally sign their code using certificates from Verisign. The code is signed via a MS program (signcode) with
"-t <http://timestamp.verisign.com/scripts/timestamp.dll>"
as an option.

The Verisign stuff is suppose to properly timestamp the signature, but their clock is very wrong!! I did the signature at 12:42, and the .exe now has a new modification timestamp of 12:42, but the certificate claims it was signed at 12:46. So we cannot really believe the times in any of these Verisign certificates.

<http://www.five-ten-sg.com>

Date: Fri, 27 Oct 2000 09:00:30 -0700
From: "NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>
Subject: Microsoft Web site vandalized

Microsoft's internal computer network was invaded by "trojan horse" software that caused company passwords to be sent to an e-mail address in St. Petersburg, Russia. Calling the act "a deplorable act of industrial espionage," Microsoft would not say whether or not the hackers may have gotten hold of any Microsoft source code. [AP/*The New York Times*, 27 Oct 2000 <http://partners.nytimes.com/2000/10/27/technology/27WIRE-MSHACK.html>; NewsScan Daily, 27 October 2000]

[The following issue of NewsScan on 31 Oct 2000 (Hallowe'en!) noted Microsoft says the attack lasted only 12 days instead of the 5 weeks reported earlier, and no major corporate secrets were stolen. PGN]

Date: Mon, 6 Nov 2000 08:27:47 -0800
From: "Greg C" <gmc333@my-deja.com>
Subject: The latest in anti-spam technology

This morning I received a spam item that originated in a yahoo account. Yahoo seems to be pretty good at responding to spam, so I forwarded a report to them. I noticed in the body of the email that there was the quasi-traditional "to unsubscribe send your email address" to an account at myrealmmailbox.

So I did the obvious and forwarded the spam again to myrealmmailbox (after first browsing their Web site trying in vain to find a policy towards spam.) In return I received this reply:

>From: abuse@myrealbox.com
>To: gmc333@my-deja.com
>Subject: Automatic reply
>Date: Mon, 06 Nov 2000 09:09:05 +119303947 (MDT)
>
>Novell and myrealbox.com are not responsible for this
>mailing, it has not used our network or e-mail system. Novell
>Internet Message System (NIMS) employs some of the most
>sophisticated anti-spamming technology in the industry.
>The sender fraudulently used myrealbox.com
>IDs for replies or opt-out mails. These accounts
>never existed or have been terminated. We are committed
>to helping to eliminate this type of mail system
>abuse.

The RISKS? Apparently the technology is so advanced it's learned the art of plausible deniability. There is also the RISK that a human will never find out what I originally complained about and modify the system appropriately.

Greg Compestine <http://homestead.deja.com/user.gmc333/index.html>

Date: Mon, 16 Oct 2000 22:46:01 +0100 (BST)
From: Pete Mellor <pm@csr.city.ac.uk>

Subject: Re: EMI, etc. (Ladkin, RISKS-21.08)

Regarding the enormous convoluted problem of how much EMI is required to cause a spark and hence an explosion in a fuel tank (Re: EMI, TWA 800 and Swissair 111, from Peter B. Ladkin, RISKS-21.08), Andy Weir, in his book "The Tombstone Imperative" made a very simple suggestion:

Fill the vacant space above the fuel in the tanks with nitrogen, and any spark, however caused, cannot lead to an explosion.

Should not engineers welcome the most simple solution to a problem?

Should we not listen to people who are not engineers?

Peter Mellor, Centre for Software Reliability, City University, London EC1V 0HB
+44 (0)20 7477 8422 Pete Mellor <p.mellor@csr.city.ac.uk>

Date: Thu, 26 Oct 2000 17:28:02 -0700

From: Andrea Galleni <andrea+nospam@usenix.org>

Subject: 2001 USENIX Annual Technical Conference - Call For Papers

2001 USENIX Annual Technical Conference Announcement and Call for Papers
25-30 Jun 2001, Marriott Copley Place Hotel Boston, Massachusetts USA
<http://www.usenix.org/events/usenix01>

Sponsored by USENIX, the Advanced Computing Systems Association

FREENIX Refereed Track: November 27, 2000 General Session Refereed

Track: December 1, 2000 Notification to authors: January 31, 2001

Camera-ready papers due: May 1, 2001. Program Chair: Yoonho Park, IBM Research

USENIX Conference Office

2560 9th Street, Suite 215

Berkeley, CA 94710

USA Phone 510-528-8649;

Fax 510-548-5738 email: conference@usenix.org

Date: 15 Aug 2000 (LAST-MODIFIED)

From: RISKS-request@csl.sri.com

Subject: Abridged info on RISKS (comp.risks)

The RISKS Forum is a MODERATED digest. Its Usenet equivalent is comp.risks.

=> SUBSCRIPTIONS: PLEASE read RISKS as a newsgroup (comp.risks or equivalent) if possible and convenient for you. Alternatively, via majordomo, SEND DIRECT E-MAIL REQUESTS to <risks-request@csl.sri.com> with one-line, SUBSCRIBE (or UNSUBSCRIBE) [with net address if different from FROM:] or INFO [for unabridged version of RISKS information] .MIL users should contact <risks-request@pica.army.mil> (Dennis Rears). .UK users should contact <Lindsay.Marshall@newcastle.ac.uk>.

=> The INFO file (submissions, default disclaimers, archive sites, copyright policy, PRIVACY digests, etc.) is also obtainable from <http://www.CSL.sri.com/risksinfo.html> <ftp://www.CSL.sri.com/pub/risks.info> The full info file will appear now and then in future issues. *** All contributors are assumed to have read the full info file for guidelines. ***

=> SUBMISSIONS: to risks@CSL.sri.com with meaningful SUBJECT: line.

=> ARCHIVES are available: <ftp://ftp.sri.com/risks> or [ftp ftp.sri.com](ftp://ftp.sri.com)<CR>login anonymous<CR>[YourNetAddress]<CR>cd risks [volume-summary issues are in risks-*.00] [back volumes have their own subdirectories, e.g., "cd 20" for volume 20] <http://catless.ncl.ac.uk/Risks/VL.IS.html> [i.e., VoLume, ISsue]. <http://the.wiretapped.net/security/textfiles/risks-digest/> .

==> PostScript copy of PGN's comprehensive historical summary of one liners: illustrative.PS at <ftp.sri.com/risks> .

End of RISKS-FORUM Digest 21.11

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These search terms have been highlighted: **vote auction**

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Subject: Risks Digest 21.11

RISKS-LIST: Risks-Forum Digest Weds 8 November 2000 Volume 21 :
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FORUM ON RISKS TO THE PUBLIC IN COMPUTERS AND RELATED SYSTEMS
(comp.risks)

ACM Committee on Computers and Public Policy, Peter G. Neumann,
moderator

***** See last item for further information, disclaimers, caveats,
etc. *****

This issue is archived at <URL:http://catless.ncl.ac.uk/Risks/21.11.html>http://catless.ncl.ac.uk/Risks/21.11.html>

and by anonymous ftp at ftp://ftp.sri.com>ftp.sri.com, cd
risks .

Contents: [Another election special edition]
Did a human factors problem affect the U.S. presidential election?
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As of this writing (early afternoon on Wednesday), Bush and Gore are separated by less than 1800 votes (.03%) in Florida. Due to the arcana of U.S. election law, whoever carries Florida at this point will win the overall election. And there's a problem in one county that may have resulted in ~3000 votes that were intended for Gore in fact being cast for Buchanan, a minor party candidate.

Palm Beach County uses a punch-card voting system. Because of the layout of the names relative to the holes and the buttons to punch those holes, it was apparently easy to get confused about how to vote for Gore. Apart from all the calls to the election board by confused voters, there is circumstantial evidence from the actual tally: Buchanan drew 3407 votes in this county, more than anywhere else in the state, and considerably at variance with both the usual demographics (this county is heavily Democratic, and would

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for the presidential candidates, and the remarkable anomaly was
mostly only
in four counties administered by a particular computer system
vendor. The
declared winner was Connie Mack, who has just retired, 12 years
later. See
The New York Times, 12 Nov 1988, and RISKS-7.78.

And then there was the St Petersburg city election in March 1993 in
which
1429 votes were recorded for the incumbent mayor tabulated under an
industrial precinct that had ZERO voters, where the mayor won the
election
by 1425 votes. Fuzzy math strikes again? See Rebecca Mercuri,
Corrupted
Polling, Inside Risks, *Communications of the ACM*, vol 36 no 11, Nov

1993,

p.122, on her Web site at

http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~mercuri/mynewhome/Papers/corripoll.html

I would not trust a computerized voting system even if I had written it myself, because of the many ways in which such systems can be subverted.

(Last night's events will undoubtedly slow down the final wrapup of Rebecca's PhD thesis noted in RISKS-21.10, because there is more potential grist for her mill -- not just in Florida, but in other states as well.)

PGN]

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 15:28:02 -0500
From: "Jeremy Epstein" <jepstein@webmethods.com>
Subject: E-voting as a panacea for Florida count?

http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/11/08/e.voting.no.gamble.idg/index.html

An article on CNN.com quotes "experts" as saying that the problems getting an accurate vote could have been avoided if everyone used electronic vote counting technology. [Note: not online voting... just electronic voting machines.]

The article says in part "'Of course you would have 100 percent accuracy with electronic voting. That would prevent the necessity of a recount,' said Hans van Wijk, who markets electronic voting systems for Groenlo, Netherlands-based Nedap. In the Netherlands, some 80 percent of precincts

use e-voting, he said."

As has been discussed numerous times in RISKS (including yesterday in RISKS-21.10), electronic counting is certainly not 100% accurate. But if this is what the public thinks of electronic counting, will there be the same naive expectations about accuracy of online voting? The article talks about that too (quoting someone from Baltimore Technologies as saying "Online voting would not only dramatically reduce the count time but also ensure a more reliable initial result"). There is an acknowledgement that online voting has its own dangers, noting the risks of accurate identification of users, denial of service, and malicious attacks. No recognition though of the risks of just plain malfunctioning software, though.

Gotta go. All this gore-y discussion of a recount in Florida has me bush-ed.

--Jeremy

[For those of you who have not seen it, PLEASE read the People For Internet Responsibility Statement on Internet Voting:

http://www.pfir.org/statements/voting

PGN]

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 19:43:29 -0000

From: McLain Evan M CPT <mclaine@lewis.army.mil>

Subject: CNN: E-voting could have prevented U.S. election chaos

CNN's story about voting technology, on-line and otherwise:

http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/11/08/e.voting.no.gamble.idg/index.html

An interesting quote from the article: "But Dublin-based electronic security company Baltimore Technologies said reliability is no problem. "Online voting would not only dramatically reduce the count time but also ensure a more reliable initial result," said a spokeswoman. She added that online voting would help older, ill, and disabled voters to take part in the polls."

RISKS readers will be happy to see there is also a discussion of potential fraud and security risks.

Evan McLain <evan.mclain@bigfoot.com>

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 12:46:51 -0800 (PST)
From: reality@vortex.com ("Reality Reset")
Subject: "REALITY RESET": "Hacking the Vote"

"REALITY RESET"
http://www.vortex.com/reality>http://www.vortex.com/reality

by
Lauren Weinstein (lauren@vortex.com)

November 8, 2000
Today's Edition:
"Hacking the Vote"

http://www.vortex.com/reality/2000-11-08>http://www.vortex.com/reality/2000-11-08

To subscribe or unsubscribe to/from this list, please send the command "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" respectively (without the quotes) in the body of an e-mail to "reality-request@vortex.com".

"Hacking the Vote" (November 8, 2000)

"If they'd been listening to me all along, all of this election

confusion

could have been avoided," said Paddy Mastoid.

Paddy is the president of trust-us-not-to-badly-screw-up-your-vote.com, a firm promoting Internet voting systems. I found 12 messages from him on my voicemail this morning, as the nation awoke to the bizarre aftermath of election day, with a historically close election still undecided and the U.S. population swinging slowly in the wind.

"Look at this mess," said Paddy. "Now they have to re-count all those votes in Florida, there are concerns over voting irregularities down there, and we might well end up with a President who didn't even win the popular vote! Talk about not having a mandate. And I could have prevented all of this hassle!"

"How so?" I asked.

"Basically, our plan is to eliminate all those long lines at those obsolete polling places. We want to toss the antiquated paper ballots, punch cards, and mechanical voting machines out the window. We'll let people vote online using the same home and office PCs that they already use for accessing offshore gambling sites and downloading porn."

"Hmmm. Sounds like a tempting goal, but aren't you worried about security, reliability, all that sort of stuff?" I asked.

"Hey, we didn't just fall off the turnip truck. We're using secure, redundant Web servers, so your vote will be just as safe as your credit card numbers during online purchases," said Paddy. "You're happy buying things online, aren't you?"

"Well, no, not really, not with all of the security breaches at sites that

were supposed to be secure, and their compromising of personal information.

I realize that things can go wrong with old-style voting systems, especially if they're set up badly, but at least with them it's usually possible to do various forms of meaningful re-counting when there's a question about an election's validity."

"But that's my whole point!" said Paddy. "Look at all the trouble being caused by even being *able* to do a physical re-count. Wouldn't it be better to have a nice, computerized system where all the votes are electronic and stored safely in computers where nobody but programmers, system administrators, and top election officials can screw around with them? You don't think any of those guys would mess things up do you? When it's all in the computer, you don't have any *choice* but to trust the computer! You can't really re-count so there'd be no point to complaining. Problem solved!"

"Hmmm. What about hackers? If these systems are on the Internet, they'd seem just as vulnerable to attack and manipulation as any other so-called secure sites."

"Not to worry!" said Paddy. "We ran a contest and invited hackers to crack our demonstration system. Five people tried and the only guy who got in was a 12 year old kid in West Palm Beach, and he promised cross-his-heart not to tell anyone how after we gave him a DVD player! No problem there."

"But why would most hackers even want to tip their hands by playing with your demo sites? Wouldn't the real pros just wait until a real election and then flood your servers with garbage to block real voters out? Couldn't they plant surprises in unrelated downloads that could hide on people's

PCs for months or years before being activated on election day to disrupt or manipulate the voting process? There's really no way to secure the typical operating systems that most people have on their home or office computers from those sorts of attacks," I said.

"Picky, picky, picky!" said Paddy. "I say let's just deploy these Internet voting systems now and keep the people happy. If these hypothetical hackers you're talking about are really that good, we probably wouldn't even realize that they'd been screwing around with the election anyway. Ignorance can be bliss. And that would sure be preferable to all the hassles they're having in Florida today!"

"I really don't think that's necessarily true ..."

"And at least we wouldn't have network TV anchors getting punchy from being up all night!" said Paddy.

"You do have a point about that," I said.

"I knew that I could convince you, Lauren."

--Lauren--

Lauren Weinstein,
lauren@pfir.org or lauren@vortex.com or lauren@privacyforum.org
Co-Founder, PFIR - People For Internet Responsibility - <http://www.pfir.org>

Moderator, PRIVACY Forum - <http://www.vortex.com>

Member, ACM Committee on Computers and Public Policy
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Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 09:12:36 -0700

From: "NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>

Subject: Web sites report exit poll results before networks do

Whereas mainstream news organizations were bound by self-imposed rules preventing them from releasing state exit poll results before the polls closed, a number of politically oriented Web sites leaked the results as soon as they were available. Voter News Service (VNS), the consortium of news organizations that conducted the exit polls, is threatening to bring legal action against the sites that leaked early results, including DrudgeReport.com and Inside.com -- which, however, indicated that they obtained the information not from VNS but from unidentified sources. Inside.com editor Michael Hirschorn said that he had received e-mail leaks from dozens of mainstream journalists, and that the public have as much right to know that kind of information as journalists do. He added: "The genie is out of the bottle, and it's wishful thinking that you could put it back in. Once this information is out, thanks to e-mail and the Internet, it becomes incredibly easy to distribute." [AP/*San Jose Mercury News*, 7 Nov 2000 http://www.mercurycenter.com/svtech/news/breaking/ap/docs/6063841.htm;">http://www.mercurycenter.com/svtech/news/breaking/ap/docs/6063841.htm;

NewsScan Daily, 8 Nov 2000]

Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 09:12:36 -0700

From: "NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>

Subject: Political dirty tricks, cyber-style

In the closing hours of the election campaign the site of the Republican National Committee (RNC) was vandalized by hackers who urged visitors to vote for Gore. The Democratic National Committee (DNC) denied it had

any

connection to the act of vandalism, and said intruders had forced the shut-down of the DNC's external e-mail system. [AP/*USA Today*, 7 Nov 2000

http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/cti782.htm;">http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/cti782.htm; NewsScan Daily, 8 Nov 2000]

Date: Thu, 26 Oct 2000 09:44:02 -0700
From: "NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>
Subject: **Vote auction** Web site moves operations overseas

A Web site offering to sell 21,000 votes for President to the highest bidder has changed its domain name and transferred its registration to a

company based in Germany. The http://www.vote-auction.com">www.vote-auction.com site asks visitors to

fill out personal details and then offers to sell the votes in blocks broken down by state. The goal, according to the Web site, is to

bring "the big money of campaigns directly to the voting public," but the owners, who are Austrian, say they still need to work out the details of how everyone would get paid, and how to verify that they cast the right ballot.

The site has been criticized by election officials in Michigan, New York and other

states, but as of its reopening this week, more than 2,500 California voters had offered their votes and the leading bid was \$48,000, or \$19.61

per vote. In August, six people offering to sell their votes for President drew bids as high as \$10,000 on eBay before the online auctioneer shut them

down. [AP 25 Oct 2000 http://news.excite.com/news/ap/001025/20/votes-for-sale">http://news.excite.com/news/ap/001025/20/votes-for-sale

; NewsScan Daily, 26 Oct 2000]

Date: Sat, 04 Nov 2000 20:27:12
From: "Peter G. Neumann" <Neumann@CSL.sri.com>
Subject: UK air-traffic control problems

If you are interested in aviation safety, you might want to check out
http://www.pprune.org
http://www.pprune.org, click on "Forums", and then "rumors and news", for a remarkable collection of computer problems related to ATC in the UK.

Date: Tue, 07 Nov 2000 23:45:58 -0500
From: Nathan Brindle <nbrindle@netdirect.net>
Subject: Indianapolis FAA route center running on generators for a week

A week later, the FAA route center at Indianapolis is still running on backup generator power ever since a 31 Oct 2000 power outage that "caused flight delays and at least two close encounters between airplanes". The cause of the original outage was still unknown. The route center has 6 diesel generators, three of which are used normally and the other three are for backup. However, after the outage, the diesels fired up, but the main radar could not be brought back up. The 70 controllers had to had planes off to other centers. Close calls were reported by a private jet and a USAir flight. Onboard collision avoidance was given credit for avoiding any tragedies. [Source: An article in the *Indianapolis Star*, 7 Nov 2000 (Generators used for flight routing as a precaution, by Terry Horne); PGN-ed]

Date: Mon, 6 Nov 2000 11:19:42 -0800 (PST)
From: Dan Ellis <ellis@cs.ucsb.edu>
Subject: Raccoon power outage over the weekend

I received the following e-mail on a Monday afternoon (after the problems had been fixed). Several physical devices had been damaged (network hubs and switches) at UC Santa Barbara making for a very unproductive time for many employees and students and for a very stressful time for facility and system administrators.

The point: the weak link will be found and exploited by somebody or something, causing discomfort to us all. Malicious intent is not a prerequisite.

Dan Ellis, PhD student, UCSB, ellisd@cs.ucsb.edu (805) 893-4394

> Date: Mon, 06 Nov 2000 08:33:55 -0800
> From: dragon@ece.ucsb.edu
> To: coe-notify@engineering.ucsb.edu, all-grad@engineering.ucsb.edu
> Subject: power outage over the weekend

> Information only --

> A bit after midnight Friday/Saturday, a raccoon strolled into the power substation that serves this end of campus and got across a transformer that takes the 16kV line down to 4160VAC. The raccoon paid the price for this, and he is now merely a warning example of how fragile our power infrastructure can be.

> However, various buildings on campus also paid a price, as all power on the "A" feeder was off line for nearly two hours.

> Some functions in some buildings had not been restored by this morning, however, including HVAC and equipment chilled water in Engineering 1. Almost all this equipment is now back in operation. You may wish to check computers and process controllers to determine if harm was done during this outage.

[A Rocky Raccoon gets added to the long list of Reubened Mammalians.

Must have been Raccoonoitering. After all, it was noit toim, even if not Down Under! PGN]

Date: Tue, 24 Oct 2000 08:17:09 -0700

From: "NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>

Subject: Researchers able to defeat digital music security measures

A team of computer scientists at Princeton and Rice Universities and the

Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) has been able to remove the invisible

"watermarks" used by the 200-company Secure Digital Media Initiative (SDMI)

to protect digital music files from pirates. SDMI had offered a prize [RISKS-21.05] to anyone who could defeat its various security measures, four

out six of which make use of watermarks. SDMI's Tala Shamoon said, "I expected some would have fallen. This is part of an empirical process to get

the best technology." [AP/MSNBC 24 Oct 2000;

http://www.msnbc.com/news/480521.asphttp://www.msnbc.com/news/480521.asp

NewsScan Daily, 24 Oct 2000]

Date: Mon, 23 Oct 2000 13:04:59 -0700

From: Carl Byington <carl@five-ten-sg.com>

Subject: Verisign and MS authenticode

MS has an authenticode mechanism that allows publishers to digitally sign

their code using certificates from Verisign. The code is signed via a MS

program (signcode) with

"-t http://timestamp.verisign.com/scripts/timestamp.dllhttp://timestamp.verisign.com/scripts/timestamp.dll"

as an option.

The Verisign stuff is suppose to properly timestamp the signature, but their clock is very wrong!! I did the signature at 12:42, and the .exe now has a new modification timestamp of 12:42, but the certificate claims it was signed at 12:46. So we cannot really believe the times in any of these Verisign certificates.

http://www.five-ten-sg.comhttp://www.five-ten-sg.com

Date: Fri, 27 Oct 2000 09:00:30 -0700
From: "NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>
Subject: Microsoft Web site vandalized

Microsoft's internal computer network was invaded by "trojan horse" software that caused company passwords to be sent to an e-mail address in St. Petersburg, Russia. Calling the act "a deplorable act of industrial espionage," Microsoft would not say whether or not the hackers may have gotten hold of any Microsoft source code. [AP/*The New York Times*, 27 Oct 2000 http://partners.nytimes.com/2000/10/27/technology/27WIRE-MSHACK.html;">http://partners.nytimes.com/2000/10/27/technology/27WIRE-MSHACK.html;
NewsScan Daily, 27 October 2000]

[The following issue of NewsScan on 31 Oct 2000 (Hallowe'en!) noted Microsoft says the attack lasted only 12 days instead of the 5 weeks reported earlier, and no major corporate secrets were stolen. PGN]

Date: Mon, 6 Nov 2000 08:27:47 -0800
From: "Greg C" <gmc333@my-deja.com>
Subject: The latest in anti-spam technology

This morning I received a spam item that originated in a yahoo account. Yahoo seems to be pretty good at responding to spam, so I forwarded a report to them. I noticed in the body of the email that there was the quasi-traditional "to unsubscribe send your email address" to an account at myrealmailbox.

So I did the obvious and forwarded the spam again to myrealmailbox (after first browsing their Web site trying in vain to find a policy towards spam.)

In return I received this reply:

```
>From: abuse@myrealbox.com
>To: gmc333@my-deja.com
>Subject: Automatic reply
>Date: Mon, 06 Nov 2000 09:09:05 +119303947 (MDT)
>
>Novell and myrealbox.com are not responsible for this
>mailing, it has not used our network or e-mail system.  Novell
>Internet Message System (NIMS) employs some of the most
>sophisticated anti-spamming technology in the industry.
>The sender fraudulently used myrealbox.com
>IDs for replies or opt-out mails. These accounts
>never existed or have been terminated. We are committed
>to helping to eliminate this type of mail system
>abuse.
```

The RISKS? Apparently the technology is so advanced it's learned the art of plausible deniability. There is also the RISK that a human will never find out what I originally complained about and modify the system appropriately.

```
Greg Compestine <a href="http://homestead.deja.com/user.gmc333/index.html">http://homestead.deja.com/user.gmc333/index.html</a>><a href="http://homestead.deja.com/user.gmc333/index.html">http://homestead.deja.com/user.gmc333/index.html</a></a>
```

Date: Mon, 16 Oct 2000 22:46:01 +0100 (BST)
From: Pete Mellor <pm@csr.city.ac.uk>
Subject: Re: EMI, etc. (Ladkin, RISKS-21.08)

Regarding the enormous convoluted problem of how much EMI is required to cause a spark and hence an explosion in a fuel tank (Re: EMI, TWA 800 and Swissair 111, from Peter B. Ladkin, RISKS-21.08), Andy Weir, in his book "The Tombstone Imperative" made a very simple suggestion:

Fill the vacant space above the fuel in the tanks with nitrogen, and any spark, however caused, cannot lead to an explosion.

Should not engineers welcome the most simple solution to a problem?

Should we not listen to people who are not engineers?

Peter Mellor, Centre for Software Reliability, City University,
London EC1V 0HB

+44 (0)20 7477 8422 Pete Mellor <p.mellor@csr.city.ac.uk>

Date: Thu, 26 Oct 2000 17:28:02 -0700

From: Andrea Galleni <andrea+nospam@usenix.org>

Subject: 2001 USENIX Annual Technical Conference - Call For Papers

2001 USENIX Annual Technical Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

25-30 Jun 2001, Marriott Copley Place Hotel Boston, Massachusetts USA
http://www.usenix.org/events/usenix01http://www.usenix.org/events/usenix01

Sponsored by USENIX, the Advanced Computing Systems Association

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2560 9th Street, Suite 215

Berkeley, CA 94710

USA Phone 510-528-8649;

Fax 510-548-5738 email: conference@usenix.org

Date: 15 Aug 2000 (LAST-MODIFIED)
From: RISKS-request@csl.sri.com
Subject: Abridged info on RISKS (comp.risks)

The RISKS Forum is a MODERATED digest. Its Usenet equivalent is comp.risks.

=> SUBSCRIPTIONS: PLEASE read RISKS as a newsgroup (comp.risks or equivalent)

if possible and convenient for you. Alternatively, via majordomo, SEND DIRECT E-MAIL REQUESTS to <risks-request@csl.sri.com> with one-line,

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.MIL users should contact <risks-request@pica.army.mil> (Dennis Rears).

.UK users should contact <Lindsay.Marshall@newcastle.ac.uk>.

=> The INFO file (submissions, default disclaimers, archive sites, copyright policy, PRIVACY digests, etc.) is also obtainable from

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The full info file will appear now and then in future issues. *** All

contributors are assumed to have read the full info file for guidelines. ***

=> SUBMISSIONS: to risks@CSL.sri.com with meaningful SUBJECT: line.

=> ARCHIVES are available: ftp://ftp.sri.com/risksftp://ftp.sri.com/risks or

ftp ftp://ftp.sri.comftp.sri.com<CR>login anonymous<CR>[YourNetAddress]<CR>cd risks

[volume-summary issues are in risks-*.00]

[back volumes have their own subdirectories, e.g., "cd 20" for volume 20]

http://catless.ncl.ac.uk/Risks/VL.IS.htmlhttp://catless.ncl.ac.uk/Risks/VL.IS.html [i.e., VoLume, ISsue].

<a href="http://the.wiretapped.net/security/textfiles/risks-

[digest/](http://the.wiretapped.net/security/textfiles/risks-digest/)"><http://the.wiretapped.net/security/textfiles/risks-digest/>"><http://the.wiretapped.net/security/textfiles/risks-digest/> .

=> PostScript copy of PGN's comprehensive historical summary of one liners:

illustrative.PS at <ftp://ftp.sri.com/risks>"><ftp://ftp.sri.com/risks> .

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Authentication Options. from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll

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Hut Trips 2005. NOTE: This page will soon have information on the 2005 hut trips. (for large values of "soon"). Meantime, contact ...

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TBD: Links to external sites for weather, road conditions, and snow conditions. For starters: (These need to be verified and re-formatted.). ...

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Voteauction.com

Posted by [michael](#) on Thu Aug 17,

'00 10:39 AM

from the [retail-goods-at-wholesale-prices dept.](#)

[GMontag](#) writes: "Actually, this idea came up on the [H2K](#) mailing list a few months ago. A [Wired](#) story covers James Baumgartner's idea of the same thing. James is an MFA student at Albany, N.Y.'s Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Basic idea, auction off write-in ballots to the highest bidding special interest group (not politician, read the article). The voters fill everything out themselves and they go through a service to check if the vote was cast "properly". Pretty nifty idea and keeps with the tradition of [George Washington](#) of Va., The Hon. Richard J. Daley of Chicago and Cas Walker of Knoxville, Tenn. Research of the last 2 men is an exercise left to the reader. If you were planning on skipping your vote this year, perhaps you can pocket a few bucks instead."



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(1) | [2](#) | [3](#)

- [Re:Time to update democracy](#) by Benwick (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:57AM
- [Related article at CNN](#) by bguilliams (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:58AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by pallex (Score:1) Friday August 18, @02:45AM
- [Re:Illegal... but should it be?](#) by Oblio (Score:1) Friday August 18, @03:32AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by The Man (Score:2) Friday August 18, @07:05AM
- ["Superficial distinction" ??? I think not. . .](#) by Salgak1 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:44AM
- [good idea.](#) by delmoi (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:52AM
- [Add more corruption?](#) by Milican (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:54AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by djames1812 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:12AM

[Broadband](#)[PriceGrabber](#)[Product Guide](#)[Special Offers](#)[Tech Jobs](#)

- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by Beckman (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:12AM
- [Sell your vote](#) by arichar4 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:12AM
- [Re:Why would an interest group do this?](#) by kasparov (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:59AM
- [Re:Uh](#) by crayz (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:12AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by markhb (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:13AM
- [Re:Uh](#) by Michael O-P (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:01AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by PoitNarf (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:14AM
- [One vote has more effect than you calculate](#) by jsn (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:18AM
- [Re:Its time for a new leader](#) by Fesh (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:22AM
- [Re:Uh](#) by Michael O-P (Score:1) Friday August 18, @08:10AM
- [Hagelin](#) by rw2 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:00AM
- [Re:This is just wrong!](#) by DavidTC (Score:1) Friday August 18, @12:44PM
- [Jail or wealth](#) by anticypher (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:01AM
- [Re:This is just wrong!](#) by DavidTC (Score:1) Friday August 18, @12:46PM
- [Re:Better example.](#) by lordsutch (Score:2) Saturday August 19, @07:32AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by tswinzig (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:02AM
- [Re:Potato Spelling Famine](#) by generic-man (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:02AM
- [Please moderate the parent post \(#227\) up.](#) by bobv-pillars-net (Score:1) Saturday August 19, @10:30AM
- [Creative and clever "reality hacks"](#) by Moorlock (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:02AM
- [Re:Legality aside](#) by Lord Kano (Score:2) Sunday August 20, @10:18AM
- [Re:Extra Money](#) by tswinzig (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:03AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by Beckman (Score:1) Tuesday August 22, @09:55AM
- [Re:What are they smoking?](#) by randombit (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:03AM
- [Rensselaer](#) by Gothmolly (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:11AM

- [wow](#) by delmoi (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:12AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by kasparov (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:12AM
- [Re:Extra Money](#) by delmoi (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:16AM
- [Buying votes is *NOT* new.](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:23AM
- [Re:Legality aside](#) by exploder (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @09:16AM
- [The bottom 5th of households by income do not pay](#) by gelfling (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @09:25AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by PoitNarf (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:25AM
- [An offer, eh?](#) by TheDullBlade (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @09:26AM

You can already buy a vote at Ebay (Score:5)
 by [Hairy Potter \(219096\)](#) on Thursday August 17, @05:43AM
 (#849037)
 (http://members.xoom.com/T_rone/T_RONE.HTM)

See this [Salon](#) story.

Make me an offer.

- [Re:Democracy](#) by gunner800 (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:27AM
- [Some facts](#) by Wreck (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:27AM
- [vote auction](#) by lemurific (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:43AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by delmoi (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:27AM
- [Selling out?](#) by asparagus (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:44AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by Vagary (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:28AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by Icebox (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:29AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by shren (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:30AM
- [What are they smoking?](#) by nharmon (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:45AM
- [Re:Sounds familiar](#) by brandond (Score:3) Thursday August 17, @06:04AM
- [Re:Try reading the article?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:04AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by cnj (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:05AM

Illegal... but should it be? (Score:4)

by [lordsutch \(14777\)](#) <chris@lordsutch.com> on Thursday August 17, @06:05AM ([#849050](#))
(<http://www.linux-m68k.org/>)

This practice is almost certainly *highly illegal* in most states (and probably in many countries). However, it probably shouldn't be.

Under rational choice theories of political behavior (see, for example, Downs' *An Economic Theory of Democracy*), it is irrational to vote if the expected benefit of voting is negative. Since the universe is highly uncertain, and there are tens of thousands of voters in most democratic elections, the *gross* expected benefit of voting is damn close to zero already, and the *net* benefit rapidly turns negative when you incorporate the hour it takes to go and vote, the gas for your car, the forgone income or quality time with your family, etc. (Ego satisfaction may have some positive impact, but that's usually offset in most people by the other factors.) It is particularly irrational to vote in the United States, since Democrats and Republicans basically do the same thing once they are elected (take your money/freedom and spend it on their favored groups, without making any real societal changes).

Exchanging money for a vote changes the equation. People who don't otherwise care will vote because the net benefit of voting will be positive. Smaller groups in society benefit from this arrangement because they can "buy" support from apathetic (or even slightly opposed) voters, if they can translate their passion into money.

Imagine the following scenario: homosexuals in Colorado want to defeat an "anti-gay" state referendum (this actually happened). Under "non-vote-buying conditions", you get something like:

- 10% - Adamantly support gay rights
- 10% - Adamantly oppose gay rights
- 10% - Somewhat oppose gay rights
- 70% - Ambivalent; they probably split 35-35

In this situation, the gay rights people lose (the proposal wins 60-40). (The real vote was somewhat closer, 52-48, but the principle is the same.) Now imagine if the gay rights people gave \$10 to anyone who voted against the anti-gay proposal (maybe they get the money from Liz Taylor or something; it's not important):

- 10% - Adamantly support gay rights
- 10% - Adamantly oppose gay rights
- 10% - Somewhat oppose gay rights
- 70% - Ambivalent; maybe split 50-20 since they get \$10 for supporting gay rights (but \$0 for opposing them).

In this situation, the outcome is a 60-40 vote against the proposal, and the gay rights people win by converting ambivalent voters. Of course, the anti-gay-rights people could do the same, but if you accept "passion = \$\$" (admittedly, an imperfect relationship, but well-evidenced by the Israel lobby and other groups) it makes for more equitable outcomes to groups that genuinely care about the issues.

- [Re:Perhaps you should read the article?](#) by generic-man (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:05AM
- [Re:Sounds familiar](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:05AM
- [Re:Time to update democracy](#) by MaxGrant (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:06AM

- [Isn't this the case](#) by Beckman (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:07AM
- [I hate this idea](#) by gelfling (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @09:42AM
- [Have a read](#) by dmccarty (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @09:43AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by slam smith (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:44AM
- [Re:Hagelin](#) by Chiasmus_ (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:55AM
- [Re:First, do the math](#) by YoJ (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:32AM
- [RPI](#) by Ketzer (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:34AM
- [Re:Sounds familiar](#) by brandond (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:59AM
- [Oops](#) by Po84 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:04AM
- [Calm down people, it's called satire.](#) by invenustus (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:35AM
- [Re:Its time for a new leader](#) by Jainith (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:36AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by skoda (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:07AM
- [Offtopic???](#) by sunking7 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:11AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by The Man (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:38AM
- [Vermont](#) by jpatters (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:13AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by joshisisk (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:40AM
- [Re:Cutting out the media middle man.](#) by rumba (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:40AM
- [Re:Sounds familiar](#) by Shotgun (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @10:24AM
- [Re:Buying one voter, instead of all...](#) by Luminous (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:46AM
- [Not so \(or Yes so - maybe\)](#) by walnut (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:48AM
- [Re:\(clank!\) Bring out your dead! \(clank!\)](#) by anticypher (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:07AM
- [Re:Hagelin](#) by generic-man (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:10AM
- [Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by PoitNarf (Score:3) Thursday August 17, @06:10AM
- [Re:Potato Spelling Famine](#) by Vuarnet (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:10AM
- [Changing Middlemen](#) by JJ (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:11AM

- [Re:vote auction](#) by clare-ents (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:12AM
- [Re:You can already buy a vote at Ebay](#) by ackthpt (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:14AM
- [Re:Legality aside](#) by Lord Kano (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @10:33AM
- [Re:What do you want from him?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:36AM
- [Re:What do you want from him?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:38AM
- [Re:What do you want from him?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:39AM
- [Qualifications](#) by veldrane (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:48AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by TinCanFury (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @11:05AM
- [Just like prostitution....](#) by Fat Rat Bastard (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:51AM
- [Re:Website is a Logic Bomb](#) by MJN222 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @11:31AM
- [Re:Jail or wealth](#) by Skif (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:51AM
- [Somewhat OT, but relevant to many threads](#) by MJN222 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @11:36AM
- [A single vote wont net much, but...](#) by Maudib (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @11:37AM
- [Equal stakes for candidates](#) by CrazyFraggle (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:53AM
- [Re:haik-fu](#) by generic-man (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:54AM
- [Election Fraud!](#) by sulli (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:57AM
- [Tommunisim](#) by walnut (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:15AM

Deeply disturbing. (Score:5)

by [BaronM \(122102\)](#) on Thursday August 17, @06:16AM ([#849096](#))

This notion of selling votes deeply disturbs me.

Politicians of all stripes make campaign promises, including tax cuts or entitlement increases to influence voters to vote for them, which could be construed as logically equivalent to buying votes, but I don't really think it is. Selling a vote would entail voting for a politician for direct personal gain, but voting in favor of a politician who promises a tax cut is a statement on *public policy*; I doubt many voters calculate out "If I vote for X, I will get 1/280,000th of a 10,000,000 tax cut over 7 years, whereas a vote for Y only gets me 1/280,000 of 5,000,000 over 3 years", and then votes for the politician who is offering to "pay" more.

I live in Washington, DC, and have watched Congress at work many times. I really believe that most Congressmen are honorable and doing their best at a staggeringly hard job.

I'm starting to wonder about some of the citizens, though.

- [Re:Its time for a new leader](#) by MaxGrant (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:17AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by pallex (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:17AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by skoda (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:17AM
- [BREAKING NEWS](#) by walnut (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:36AM
- [Improving voter turnout](#) by GutterBunny (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:18AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by sqlrob (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:37AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by sqlrob (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:19AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by BeermanUK (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:38AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by Xerophorex (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:40AM
- [Better example.](#) by Malcontent (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:41AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by witz (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:41AM
- [Re:Pay attention, schmuck.](#) by cvd6262 (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:42AM
- [no quid pro quo](#) by abe ferlman (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:43AM
- [Re:Illegal... but should it be?](#) by amchugh (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @12:02PM
- [Re:Pay attention, schmuck.](#) by technos (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @12:38PM
- [Selling votes](#) by Trelane (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:57AM

Re:Illegal... but should it be? (Score:4)

by [Jason Earl \(1894\)](#) on Thursday August 17, @07:59AM ([#849113](#))

I used to live in Lima, Peru, where they *force* everyone to vote by fining non-voters. And my naive former self used to think that this was a good idea, but I don't think so anymore.

You see, in Peru everyone voted, but not everyone took the time to become educated about the issues. Because of this they were easily taken in by the most transparent of lies. After all, the average Peruvian doesn't have the education necessary to make complex economic value judgements. And the average American doesn't either. That's why factors like how tall the candidate is actually matter.

The secret of the US system is that the fanatics don't have more votes than you do, they simply are more likely to vote. That's why the senior citizen vote is so important. Senior citizens have been around long enough to know that their vote is worth casting. They read up on the issues, and they go out to the polls en masse. Educated people also tend to vote.

The rest of the populace assumes that their voice can't be heard, and so they whine and complain, but don't vote.

As for the fact that the person who raises the most money often wins. Well, with our current fund raising laws, this shouldn't surprise anyone. After all, with a cap on the amount an individual can give the politician with the most money generally has the most supporters.

My personal observation is that Americans that get involved in politics generally realize that they do have a voice, and the people that complain generally don't take the time to vote. The few exceptions to this rule are those that hold opinions that are so unpopular that we all should be glad that they don't win. Even the far out loonies have an influence that is *far* greater on politics than those that don't vote.

So vote before you complain.

- [Re:Illegal... but should it be?](#) by Nept (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @12:41PM
- [Just Don't Vote](#) by Luminous (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:59AM
- [Y'know, maybe it ain't that bad of an idea.](#) by MWoody (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @01:06PM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by jpowers (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:03AM
- [Re:\(clank!\) Bring out your dead! \(clank!\)](#) by FFFish (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @02:44PM
- [Re:RPI](#) by cnj (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @08:05AM
- [Troy not Albany](#) by kiwipunk (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @02:53PM
- [Re:Website is a Logic Bomb](#) by xtheunknown (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:11AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by Salgak1 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:14AM
- [Sell Absentee / Vote in Person](#) by Col. Klink (retired) (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:19AM
- [Pay attention, schmuck.](#) by technos (Score:3) Thursday August 17, @06:19AM
- [I don't know...](#) by gfxguy (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:22AM
- [Re:Try reading the article?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:22AM
- [Hopefully this will shake things up](#) by Xerophorex (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:28AM
- [Re:Illegal... but should it be?](#) by gdr (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:44AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by MarkKomus (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:44AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by acvh (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:28AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by Vuarnet (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:44AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by Detritus (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:28AM

- [So we want to replace Democracy with Capitalism?](#) by sleight (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:49AM
- [Re:Better example.](#) by Hard_Code (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:51AM
- [Political statements are necessary.](#) by Delusion_ (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:54AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by startled (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:54AM
- [Re:Jail or wealth](#) by Vuarnet (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:54AM
- [Re:Equal stakes for candidates](#) by abo (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @03:10PM
- [Re:Selling out?](#) by Benwick (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:47AM
- [Extra Money](#) by Grasshopper (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:47AM
- [Re:Pay attention, schmuck.](#) by sharv (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:17AM
- [Re:Better example. Same Example](#) by Kris_J (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @04:49PM
- [Re:One vote has more effect than you calculate](#) by Kris_J (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @04:52PM
- [Time to update democracy](#) by ibot (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:48AM
- [Re:\(clank!\) Bring out your dead! \(clank!\)](#) by Kris_J (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @04:59PM
- [Sounds familiar](#) by phaze3000 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:49AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by Kris_J (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:03PM
- [That wasn't Bush](#) by toup (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:49AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by tswinzig (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:22AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by Kris_J (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:07PM
- [Re:Legality aside](#) by Kris_J (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:27PM
- [Re:What do you want from him?](#) by DavidTC (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:53PM
- [So what?](#) by tswinzig (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:27AM
- [Why would an interest group do this?](#) by donutello (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:30AM
- [Huh?](#) by tswinzig (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:31AM
- [Re:Illegal... but should it be?](#) by Lozzer (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:28AM

- [Re:Time to update democracy](#) by bnenning (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:31AM
- [Re:Try reading the article?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:32AM
- [No you can't](#) by sulli (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:32AM
- [Legality aside](#) by Lord Kano (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:33AM
- [Fraud and Deception](#) by drteknikal (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:55AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by BeermanUK (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:35AM
- [People vote for what they've heard of](#) by ttyRazor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:35AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by Kevin DeGraaf (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:56AM
- [Website is a Logic Bomb](#) by dmccarty (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:56AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by Jeff Ballard (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:35AM
- [Um. RPI is not in Albany.](#) by Jeremiah (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:56AM
- [Re:Deeply disturbing.](#) by Meenik (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:57AM
- [First, do the math](#) by / (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:58AM
- [Performance Art](#) by miket01 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:59AM
- [This is just wrong!](#) by haystor (Score:3) Thursday August 17, @05:52AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by Chris Johnson (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:56PM
- [Re:Bush](#) by TrebleJunkie (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:52AM
- [Re:This is just wrong!](#) by DavidTC (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:02PM
- [Re:An offer, eh?](#) by Deosyne (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:25PM
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- [Re:Uh](#) by J Story (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:59PM
- [Re:Better example.](#) by Malcontent (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:10PM
- [What was it they said under Daley?](#) by angelo (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:54AM

- [Re:vote auction](#) by Deosyne (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:12PM
- [Re:Nader?](#) by aphrael (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:25PM
- [Re:Hagelin](#) by aphrael (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:29PM
- [Re:Anarchy!](#) by Fist Prost (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:35AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by tswinzig (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:36AM
- [Re:Hagelin](#) by nomadic (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:59AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by jpowers (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:00AM
- [Re:Illegal... but should it be?](#) by knight_23 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:37AM
- [Re:Deeply disturbing.](#) by startled (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:00AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by skoda (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:03AM
- [Re:Hagelin](#) by magnanimous_cow_herd (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:03AM
- [The point](#) by Hard_Code (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:04AM
- [Buying one voter, instead of all...](#) by Dilly Bar (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:06AM
- [Cutting out the media middle man.](#) by Money__ (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:11AM
- [\(clank!\) Bring out your dead! \(clank!\)](#) by kzinti (Score:3) Thursday August 17, @05:54AM
- [Potato Spelling Famine](#) by Benwick (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:54AM
- [Re:Website is a Logic Bomb](#) by Deosyne (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:28PM
- [Re:This is just wrong!](#) by wuice (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:45PM
- [Re:Sounds familiar](#) by nomadic (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:22PM
- [Its time for a new leader](#) by Jainith (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:54AM
- [Re:Hagelin](#) by Deosyne (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:40PM
- [Re:\(clank!\) Bring out your dead! \(clank!\)](#) by Thomas Miconi (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:19PM

*Small change can often be found under seat cushions. --
One of Lazarus Long's most penetrating insights*

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Posted by [michael](#) on Thu Aug 17,

'00 10:39 AM

from the retail-goods-at-wholesale-prices dept.

[GMontag](#) writes: *"Actually, this idea*

came up on the [H2K](#) mailing list a

few months ago. A [Wired story](#) covers James

Baumgartner's idea of the same thing. James is an MFA

student at Albany, N.Y.'s Rensselaer Polytechnic

Institute. Basic idea, auction off write-in ballots to the

highest bidding special interest group (not politician,

read the article). The voters fill everything out

themselves and they go through a service to check if the

vote was cast "properly". Pretty nifty idea and keeps

with the tradition of [George Washington](#) of Va., The

Hon. Richard J. Daley of Chicago and Cas Walker of

Knoxville, Tenn. Research of the last 2 men is an

exercise left to the reader. If you were planning on

skipping your vote this year, perhaps you can pocket a

few bucks instead."



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(1) | [2](#) | [3](#)

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- [Re:Good!](#) by djames1812 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:12AM
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- [Sell your vote](#) by arichar4 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:12AM
- [Re:Why would an interest group do this?](#) by kasparov (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:59AM
- [Re:Uh](#) by crayz (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:12AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by markhb (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:13AM
- [Re:Uh](#) by Michael O-P (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:01AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by PoitNarf (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:14AM
- [One vote has more effect than you calculate](#) by jsm (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:18AM
- [Re:Its time for a new leader](#) by Fesh (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:22AM
- [Re:Uh](#) by Michael O-P (Score:1) Friday August 18, @08:10AM
- [Hagelin](#) by rw2 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:00AM
- [Re:This is just wrong!](#) by DavidTC (Score:1) Friday August 18, @12:44PM
- [Jail or wealth](#) by anticypher (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:01AM

- [Re:This is just wrong!](#) by DavidTC (Score:1) Friday August 18, @12:46PM
- [Re:Better example.](#) by lordsutch (Score:2) Saturday August 19, @07:32AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by tswinzig (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:02AM
- [Re:Potato Spelling Famine](#) by generic-man (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:02AM
- [Please moderate the parent post \(#227\) up.](#) by bobv-pillars-net (Score:1) Saturday August 19, @10:30AM
- [Creative and clever "reality hacks"](#) by Moorlock (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:02AM
- [Re:Legality aside](#) by Lord Kano (Score:2) Sunday August 20, @10:18AM
- [Re:Extra Money](#) by tswinzig (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:03AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by Beckman (Score:1) Tuesday August 22, @09:55AM
- [Re:What are they smoking?](#) by randombit (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:03AM
- [Rensselaer](#) by Gothmolly (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:11AM
- [wow](#) by delmoi (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:12AM
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- [Buying votes is *NOT* new.](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:23AM
- [Re:Legality aside](#) by exploder (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @09:16AM
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You can already buy a vote at Ebay (Score:5)
 by [Hairy_Potter \(219096\)](#) on Thursday August 17, @05:43AM
 (#849037)
 (http://members.xoom.com/T_rone/T_RONE.HTM)

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- [Re:Democracy](#) by gunner800 (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:27AM

- [Some facts](#) by Wreck (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:27AM
- [vote auction](#) by lemurific (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:43AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by delmoi (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:27AM
- [Selling out?](#) by asparagus (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:44AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by Vagary (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:28AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by Icebox (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:29AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by shren (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:30AM
- [What are they smoking?](#) by nharmon (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:45AM
- [Re:Sounds familiar](#) by brandond (Score:3) Thursday August 17, @06:04AM
- [Re:Try reading the article?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:04AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by cnj (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:05AM

Illegal... but should it be? (Score:4)

by [lordsutch \(14777\)](#) <chris@lordsutch.com> on Thursday August 17, @06:05AM ([#849050](#)) (<http://www.linux-m68k.org/>)

This practice is almost certainly *highly illegal* in most states (and probably in many countries). However, it probably shouldn't be.

Under rational choice theories of political behavior (see, for example, Downs' *An Economic Theory of Democracy*), it is irrational to vote if the expected benefit of voting is negative. Since the universe is highly uncertain, and there are tens of thousands of voters in most democratic elections, the *gross* expected benefit of voting is damn close to zero already, and the *net* benefit rapidly turns negative when you incorporate the hour it takes to go and vote, the gas for your car, the forgone income or quality time with your family, etc. (Ego satisfaction may have some positive impact, but that's usually offset in most people by the other factors.) It is particularly irrational to vote in the United States, since Democrats and Republicans basically do the same thing once they are elected (take your money/freedom and spend it on their favored groups, without making any real societal changes).

Exchanging money for a vote changes the equation. People who don't otherwise care will vote because the net benefit of voting will be positive. Smaller groups in society benefit from this arrangement because they can "buy" support from apathetic (or even slightly opposed) voters, if they can translate their passion into money.

Imagine the following scenario: homosexuals in Colorado want to defeat an "anti-gay" state referendum (this actually happened). Under "non-vote-buying conditions", you get something like:

- 10% - Adamantly support gay rights
- 10% - Adamantly oppose gay rights
- 10% - Somewhat oppose gay rights
- 70% - Ambivalent; they probably split 35-35

In this situation, the gay rights people lose (the proposal wins 60-40). (The real vote was somewhat closer, 52-48, but the principle is the same.) Now imagine if the gay rights people gave \$10 to anyone who voted against the anti-gay proposal (maybe they get the money from Liz Taylor or something; it's not important):

- 10% - Adamantly support gay rights
- 10% - Adamantly oppose gay rights
- 10% - Somewhat oppose gay rights
- 70% - Ambivalent; maybe split 50-20 since they get \$10 for supporting gay rights (but \$0 for opposing them).

In this situation, the outcome is a 60-40 vote against the proposal, and the gay rights people win by converting ambivalent voters. Of course, the anti-gay-rights people could do the same, but if you accept "passion = \$\$" (admittedly, an imperfect relationship, but well-evidenced by the Israel lobby and other groups) it makes for more equitable outcomes to groups that genuinely care about the issues.

- [Re:Perhaps you should read the article?](#) by generic-man (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:05AM
- [Re:Sounds familiar](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:05AM
- [Re:Time to update democracy](#) by MaxGrant (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:06AM
- [Isn't this the case](#) by Beckman (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:07AM
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- [Have a read](#) by dmccarty (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @09:43AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by slam smith (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:44AM
- [Re:Hagelin](#) by Chiasmus_ (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:55AM
- [Re:First, do the math](#) by YoJ (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:32AM
- [RPI](#) by Ketzer (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:34AM
- [Re:Sounds familiar](#) by brandond (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:59AM
- [Oops](#) by Po84 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:04AM
- [Calm down people, it's called satire.](#) by invenustus (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:35AM
- [Re:Its time for a new leader](#) by Jainith (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:36AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by skoda (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:07AM
- [Offtopic???](#) by sunking7 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:11AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by The Man (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:38AM

- [Vermont](#) by jpatters (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:13AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by joshisisk (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:40AM
- [Re:Cutting out the media middle man.](#) by rumba (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:40AM
- [Re:Sounds familiar](#) by Shotgun (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @10:24AM
- [Re:Buying one voter, instead of all...](#) by Luminous (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:46AM
- [Not so \(or Yes so - maybe\)](#) by walnut (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:48AM
- [Re:\(clank!\) Bring out your dead! \(clank!\)](#) by anticypher (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:07AM
- [Re:Hagelin](#) by generic-man (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:10AM
- [Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by PoitNarf (Score:3) Thursday August 17, @06:10AM
- [Re:Potato Spelling Famine](#) by Vuarnet (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:10AM
- [Changing Middlemen](#) by JJ (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:11AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by clare-ents (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:12AM
- [Re:You can already buy a vote at Ebay](#) by ackthpt (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:14AM
- [Re:Legality aside](#) by Lord Kano (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @10:33AM
- [Re:What do you want from him?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:36AM
- [Re:What do you want from him?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:38AM
- [Re:What do you want from him?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:39AM
- [Qualifications](#) by veldrane (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:48AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by TinCanFury (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @11:05AM
- [Just like prostitution....](#) by Fat Rat Bastard (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:51AM
- [Re:Website is a Logic Bomb](#) by MJN222 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @11:31AM
- [Re:Jail or wealth](#) by Skif (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:51AM
- [Somewhat OT, but relevant to many threads](#) by MJN222 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @11:36AM
- [A single vote wont net much, but...](#) by Maudib (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @11:37AM
- [Equal stakes for candidates](#) by CrazyFraggle (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:53AM

- [Re:haik-fu](#) by generic-man (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:54AM
- [Election Fraud!](#) by sulli (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:57AM
- [Tommunisim](#) by walnut (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:15AM

Deeply disturbing. (Score:5)

by [BaronM \(122102\)](#) on Thursday August 17, @06:16AM ([#849096](#))

This notion of selling votes deeply disturbs me.

Politicians of all stripes make campaign promises, including tax cuts or entitlement increases to influence voters to vote for them, which could be construed as logically equivalent to buying votes, but I don't really think it is. Selling a vote would entail voting for a politician for direct personal gain, but voting in favor of a politician who promises a tax cut is a statement on *public policy*; I doubt many voters calculate out "If I vote for X, I will get 1/280,000th of a 10,000,000 tax cut over 7 years, whereas a vote for Y only gets me 1/280,000 of 5,000,000 over 3 years", and then votes for the politician who is offering to "pay" more.

I live in Washington, DC, and have watched Congress at work many times. I really believe that most Congressmen are honorable and doing their best at a staggeringly hard job.

I'm starting to wonder about some of the citizens, though.

- [Re:Its time for a new leader](#) by MaxGrant (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:17AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by pallex (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:17AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by skoda (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:17AM
- [BREAKING NEWS](#) by walnut (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:36AM
- [Improving voter turnout](#) by GutterBunny (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:18AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by sqlrob (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:37AM
- [Re:RPI](#) by sqlrob (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:19AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by BeermanUK (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:38AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by Xerophorex (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:40AM
- [Better example.](#) by Malcontent (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:41AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by witz (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:41AM
- [Re:Pay attention, schmuck.](#) by cvd6262 (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:42AM
- [no quid pro quo](#) by abe ferlman (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:43AM
- [Re:Illegal... but should it be?](#) by amchugh (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @12:02PM

- [Re:Pay attention, schmuck.](#) by technos (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @12:38PM
- [Selling votes](#) by Trelane (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:57AM

Re:Illegal... but should it be? (Score:4)

by [Jason Earl \(1894\)](#) on Thursday August 17, @07:59AM ([#849113](#))

I used to live in Lima, Peru, where they *force* everyone to vote by fining non-voters. And my naive former self used to think that this was a good idea, but I don't think so anymore.

You see, in Peru everyone voted, but not everyone took the time to become educated about the issues. Because of this they were easily taken in by the most transparent of lies. After all, the average Peruvian doesn't have the education necessary to make complex economic value judgements. And the average American doesn't either. That's why factors like how tall the candidate is actually matter.

The secret of the US system is that the fanatics don't have more votes than you do, they simply are more likely to vote. That's why the senior citizen vote is so important. Senior citizens have been around long enough to know that their vote is worth casting. They read up on the issues, and they go out to the polls en masse. Educated people also tend to vote.

The rest of the populace assumes that their voice can't be heard, and so they whine and complain, but don't vote.

As for the fact that the person who raises the most money often wins. Well, with our current fund raising laws, this shouldn't surprise anyone. After all, with a cap on the amount an individual can give the politician with the most money generally has the most supporters.

My personal observation is that Americans that get involved in politics generally realize that they do have a voice, and the people that complain generally don't take the time to vote. The few exceptions to this rule are those that hold opinions that are so unpopular that we all should be glad that they don't win. Even the far out loonies have an influence that is *far* greater on politics than those that don't vote.

So vote before you complain.

- [Re:Illegal... but should it be?](#) by Nept (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @12:41PM
- [Just Don't Vote](#) by Luminous (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:59AM
- [Y'know, maybe it ain't that bad of an idea.](#) by MWoody (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @01:06PM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by jpowers (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:03AM
- [Re:\(clank!\) Bring out your dead! \(clank!\)](#) by FFFish (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @02:44PM
- [Re:RPI](#) by cnj (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @08:05AM
- [Troy not Albany](#) by kiwipunk (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @02:53PM
- [Re:Website is a Logic Bomb](#) by xtheunknown (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:11AM

- [Re:Good!](#) by Salgak1 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:14AM
- [Sell Absentee / Vote in Person](#) by Col. Klink (retired) (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:19AM
- [Pay attention, schmuck.](#) by technos (Score:3) Thursday August 17, @06:19AM
- [I don't know...](#) by gfxguy (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:22AM
- [Re:Try reading the article?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:22AM
- [Hopefully this will shake things up](#) by Xerophorex (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:28AM
- [Re:Illegal... but should it be?](#) by gdr (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:44AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by MarkKomus (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:44AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by acvh (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:28AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by Vuarnet (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:44AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by Detritus (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:28AM
- [So we want to replace Democracy with Capitalism?](#) by sleight (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:49AM
- [Re:Better example.](#) by Hard_Code (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:51AM
- [Political statements are necessary.](#) by Delusion_ (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:54AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by startled (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:54AM
- [Re:Jail or wealth](#) by Vuarnet (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:54AM
- [Re:Equal stakes for candidates](#) by abo (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @03:10PM
- [Re:Selling out?](#) by Benwick (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:47AM
- [Extra Money](#) by Grasshopper (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:47AM
- [Re:Pay attention, schmuck.](#) by sharv (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:17AM
- [Re:Better example. Same Example](#) by Kris_J (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @04:49PM
- [Re:One vote has more effect than you calculate](#) by Kris_J (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @04:52PM
- [Time to update democracy](#) by ibot (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:48AM
- [Re:\(clank!\) Bring out your dead! \(clank!\)](#) by Kris_J (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @04:59PM

- [Sounds familiar](#) by phaze3000 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:49AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by Kris_J (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:03PM
- [That wasn't Bush](#) by toup (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:49AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by tswinzig (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:22AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by Kris_J (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:07PM
- [Re:Legality aside](#) by Kris_J (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:27PM
- [Re:What do you want from him?](#) by DavidTC (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:53PM
- [So what?](#) by tswinzig (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:27AM
- [Why would an interest group do this?](#) by donutello (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:30AM
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- [Re:Try reading the article?](#) by Crakor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:32AM
- [No you can't](#) by sulli (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:32AM
- [Legality aside](#) by Lord Kano (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:33AM
- [Fraud and Deception](#) by drteknikal (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:55AM
- [Re:What are YOU smoking?](#) by BeermanUK (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:35AM
- [People vote for what they've heard of](#) by ttyRazor (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:35AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by Kevin DeGraaf (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:56AM
- [Website is a Logic Bomb](#) by dmccarty (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @06:56AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by Jeff Ballard (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:35AM
- [Um. RPI is not in Albany.](#) by Jeremiah (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:56AM
- [Re:Deeply disturbing.](#) by Meenik (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:57AM
- [First, do the math](#) by / (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:58AM
- [Performance Art](#) by miket01 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:59AM

- [This is just wrong!](#) by haystor (Score:3) Thursday August 17, @05:52AM
- [Re:Most disgraceful thing on the web](#) by Chris Johnson (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:56PM
- [Re:Bush](#) by TrebleJunkie (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:52AM
- [Re:This is just wrong!](#) by DavidTC (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:02PM
- [Re:An offer, eh?](#) by Deosyne (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:25PM
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- [Re:Uh](#) by J Story (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:59PM
- [Re:Better example.](#) by Malcontent (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:10PM
- [What was it they said under Daley?](#) by angelo (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @05:54AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by Deosyne (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:12PM
- [Re:Nader?](#) by aphrael (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:25PM
- [Re:Hagelin](#) by aphrael (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:29PM
- [Re:Anarchy!](#) by Fist Prost (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:35AM
- [Re:Good!](#) by tswinzig (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:36AM
- [Re:Hagelin](#) by nomadic (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @06:59AM
- [Re:vote auction](#) by jpowers (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:00AM
- [Re:Illegal... but should it be?](#) by knight_23 (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:37AM
- [Re:Deeply disturbing.](#) by startled (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @07:00AM
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- [Buying one voter, instead of all...](#) by Dilly Bar (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @07:06AM
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- [\(clank!\) Bring out your dead! \(clank!\)](#) by kzinti (Score:3) Thursday August 17, @05:54AM
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- [Re:Website is a Logic Bomb](#) by Deosyne (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:28PM
- [Re:This is just wrong!](#) by wuice (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @08:45PM
- [Re:Sounds familiar](#) by nomadic (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:22PM
- [Its time for a new leader](#) by Jainith (Score:2) Thursday August 17, @05:54AM
- [Re:Hagelin](#) by Deosyne (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @09:40PM
- [Re:\(clank!\) Bring out your dead! \(clank!\)](#) by Thomas Miconi (Score:1) Thursday August 17, @10:19PM

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One organism, one vote.

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THE RISKS DIGEST

Forum on Risks to the Public in Computers and Related Systems

ACM Committee on Computers and Public Policy, [Peter G. Neumann](#), moderator

Volume 21: Issue 11

Weds 8 November 2000

Contents

- [Did a human factors problem affect the U.S. presidential election?](#)
[Steve Bellovin](#)
- [More on Florida in this and previous elections](#)
[PGN](#)
- [E-voting as a panacea for Florida count?](#)
[Jeremy Epstein](#)
- [CNN: E-voting could have prevented U.S. election chaos](#)
[Evan McLain](#)
- ["REALITY RESET": "Hacking the Vote"](#)
[Lauren Weinstein](#)
- [Web sites report exit poll results before networks do](#)
[NewsScan](#)
- [Political dirty tricks, cyber-style](#)
[NewsScan](#)
- [Vote auction Web site moves operations overseas](#)
[NewsScan](#)
- [UK air-traffic control problems](#)
[PGN](#)
- [Indianapolis FAA route center running on generators for a week](#)
[Nathan Brindle](#)
- [Raccoon power outage over the weekend](#)
[Dan Ellis](#)
- [Researchers able to defeat digital music security measures](#)
[NewsScan](#)

- [Verisign and MS authenticode](#)
[Carl Byington](#)
 - [Microsoft Web site vandalized](#)
[NewsScan](#)
 - [The latest in anti-spam technology](#)
[Greg Compestine](#)
 - [Re: EMI, etc.](#)
[Pete Mellor](#)
 - [2001 USENIX Annual Technical Conference - Call For Papers](#)
[Andrea Galleni](#)
 - [Info on RISKS \(comp.risks\)](#)
-

✶ Did a human factors problem affect the U.S. presidential election?

Steve Bellovin <smb@research.att.com>

Wed, 08 Nov 2000 14:15:47 -0500

The outcome of the U.S. Presidential election may have been determined by poor human factors in a computerized vote-casting system.

As of this writing (early afternoon on Wednesday), Bush and Gore are separated by less than 1800 votes (.03%) in Florida. Due to the arcana of U.S. election law, whoever carries Florida at this point will win the overall election. And there's a problem in one county that may have resulted in ~3000 votes that were intended for Gore in fact being cast for Buchanan, a minor party candidate.

Palm Beach County uses a punch-card voting system. Because of the layout of the names relative to the holes and the buttons to punch those holes, it was apparently easy to get confused about how to vote for Gore. Apart from all the calls to the election board by confused voters, there is

circumstantial
evidence from the actual tally: Buchanan drew 3407 votes in this county,
more than anywhere else in the state, and considerably at variance with both
the usual demographics (this county is heavily Democratic, and would be
expected to vote for Gore) and with the number of votes Buchanan received in
similar, neighboring, larger counties (789 in Broward; 561 in Miami-Dade
County).

The director of the state Department of Elections doesn't think there's a
problem -- but he was appointed by Jeb Bush, governor of Florida and brother
of the Republican presidential candidate...

--Steve Bellovin

✂ More on Florida in this and previous elections

"Peter G. Neumann" <Neumann@CSL.sri.com>
Wed, 08 Nov 2000 16:17:09 PST

In addition to the Palm Beach County curiosity noted by Steve Bellovin, a
heavily loaded ballot lock box was found today in a heavily Democratic
precinct. I don't think this is what Al Gore meant by a "Lock Box on (Social)
Security."

[CORRECTION ADDED IN ARCHIVE COPY: Apparently this box contained
supplies, not ballots. But *The NY Times* 10 Nov noted various precincts in which ballot boxes and a bag of cards had not been included in the original count.]

For some historical perspective, we might recall the 1988 election in
Florida, in which there were 200,000 fewer votes for the Senate

race than
for the presidential candidates, and the remarkable anomaly was
mostly only
in four counties administered by a particular computer system
vendor. The
declared winner was Connie Mack, who has just retired, 12 years
later. See
The New York Times, 12 Nov 1988, and [RISKS-7.78](#).

And then there was the St Petersburg city election in March 1993
in which
1429 votes were recorded for the incumbent mayor tabulated under
an
industrial precinct that had ZERO voters, where the mayor won
the election
by 1425 votes. Fuzzy math strikes again? See Rebecca Mercuri,
Corrupted
Polling, Inside Risks, *Communications of the ACM*, vol 36 no
11, Nov 1993,
p.122, on her Web site at
<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~mercuri/mynewhome/Papers/corrpoll.html>

I would not trust a computerized voting system even if I had
written it
myself, because of the many ways in which such systems can be
subverted.
(Last night's events will undoubtedly slow down the final wrapup
of
Rebecca's PhD thesis noted in [RISKS-21.10](#), because there is more
potential
grist for her mill -- not just in Florida, but in other states
as well.)
PGN]

✶ E-voting as a panacea for Florida count?

"Jeremy Epstein" <jepstein@webmethods.com>
Wed, 8 Nov 2000 15:28:02 -0500

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/11/08/e.voting.no.gamble.idg/index.html>

An article on CNN.com quotes "experts" as saying that the problems getting an accurate vote could have been avoided if everyone used electronic vote counting technology. [Note: not online voting... just electronic voting machines.]

The article says in part "'Of course you would have 100 percent accuracy with electronic voting. That would prevent the necessity of a recount,' said Hans van Wijk, who markets electronic voting systems for Groenlo, Netherlands-based Nedap. In the Netherlands, some 80 percent of precincts use e-voting, he said."

As has been discussed numerous times in RISKS (including yesterday in [RISKS-21.10](#)), electronic counting is certainly not 100% accurate. But if this is what the public thinks of electronic counting, will there be the same naive expectations about accuracy of online voting? The article talks about that too (quoting someone from Baltimore Technologies as saying "Online voting would not only dramatically reduce the count time but also ensure a more reliable initial result"). There is an acknowledgement that online voting has its own dangers, noting the risks of accurate identification of users, denial of service, and malicious attacks. No recognition though of the risks of just plain malfunctioning software, though.

Gotta go. All this gore-y discussion of a recount in Florida has me bush-ed.

--Jeremy

[For those of you who have not seen it, PLEASE read the People For Internet Responsibility Statement on Internet Voting:

<http://www.pfir.org/statements/voting>

PGN]

✶ CNN: E-voting could have prevented U.S. election chaos

McLain Evan M CPT <mclaine@lewis.army.mil>

Wed, 8 Nov 2000 19:43:29 -0000

CNN's story about voting technology, on-line and otherwise:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/11/08/e.voting.no.gamble.idg/index.html>

An interesting quote from the article: "But Dublin-based electronic security company Baltimore Technologies said reliability is no problem. "Online voting would not only dramatically reduce the count time but also ensure a more reliable initial result," said a spokeswoman. She added that online voting would help older, ill, and disabled voters to take part in the polls."

RISKS readers will be happy to see there is also a discussion of potential fraud and security risks.

Evan McLain <evan.mclain@bigfoot.com>

✶ "REALITY RESET": "Hacking the Vote"

"Reality Reset" <reality@vortex.com>

Wed, 8 Nov 2000 12:46:51 -0800 (PST)

"REALITY RESET"

<http://www.vortex.com/reality>

by
Lauren Weinstein (lauren@vortex.com)

November 8, 2000
Today's Edition:
"Hacking the Vote"

<http://www.vortex.com/reality/2000-11-08>

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"Hacking the Vote" (November 8, 2000)

"If they'd been listening to me all along, all of this election confusion could have been avoided," said Paddy Mastoid.

Paddy is the president of trust-us-not-to-badly-screw-up-your-vote.com, a firm promoting Internet voting systems. I found 12 messages from him on my voicemail this morning, as the nation awoke to the bizarre aftermath of election day, with a historically close election still undecided and the U.S. population swinging slowly in the wind.

"Look at this mess," said Paddy. "Now they have to re-count all those votes in Florida, there are concerns over voting irregularities down there, and we might well end up with a President who didn't even win the popular vote! Talk about not having a mandate. And I could have prevented all of this hassle!"

"How so?" I asked.

"Basically, our plan is to eliminate all those long lines at those obsolete polling places. We want to toss the antiquated paper ballots,

punch cards,
and mechanical voting machines out the window. We'll let people
vote online
using the same home and office PCs that they already use for
accessing
offshore gambling sites and downloading porn."

"Hmmm. Sounds like a tempting goal, but aren't you worried
about security,
reliability, all that sort of stuff?" I asked.

"Hey, we didn't just fall off the turnip truck. We're using
secure,
redundant Web servers, so your vote will be just as safe as your
credit card
numbers during online purchases," said Paddy. "You're happy
buying things
online, aren't you?"

"Well, no, not really, not with all of the security breaches at
sites that
were supposed to be secure, and their compromising of personal
information.

I realize that things can go wrong with old-style voting
systems, especially
if they're set up badly, but at least with them it's usually
possible to do
various forms of meaningful re-counting when there's a question
about an
election's validity."

"But that's my whole point!" said Paddy. "Look at all the
trouble being
caused by even being *able* to do a physical re-count. Wouldn't
it be better
to have a nice, computerized system where all the votes are
electronic and
stored safely in computers where nobody but programmers, system
administrators, and top election officials can screw around with
them? You
don't think any of those guys would mess things up do you? When
it's all in
the computer, you don't have any *choice* but to trust the
computer! You
can't really re-count so there'd be no point to complaining.
Problem
solved!"

"Hmmm. What about hackers? If these systems are on the Internet, they'd seem just as vulnerable to attack and manipulation as any other so-called secure sites."

"Not to worry!" said Paddy. "We ran a contest and invited hackers to crack our demonstration system. Five people tried and the only guy who got in was a 12 year old kid in West Palm Beach, and he promised cross-his-heart not to tell anyone how after we gave him a DVD player! No problem there."

"But why would most hackers even want to tip their hands by playing with your demo sites? Wouldn't the real pros just wait until a real election and then flood your servers with garbage to block real voters out? Couldn't they plant surprises in unrelated downloads that could hide on people's PCs for months or years before being activated on election day to disrupt or manipulate the voting process? There's really no way to secure the typical operating systems that most people have on their home or office computers from those sorts of attacks," I said.

"Picky, picky, picky!" said Paddy. "I say let's just deploy these Internet voting systems now and keep the people happy. If these hypothetical hackers you're talking about are really that good, we probably wouldn't even realize that they'd been screwing around with the election anyway. Ignorance can be bliss. And that would sure be preferable to all the hassles they're having in Florida today!"

"I really don't think that's necessarily true ..."

"And at least we wouldn't have network TV anchors getting punchy

from being
up all night!" said Paddy.

"You do have a point about that," I said.

"I knew that I could convince you, Lauren."

--Lauren--

Lauren Weinstein,
lauren@pfir.org or lauren@vortex.com or lauren@privacyforum.org
Co-Founder, PFIR - People For Internet Responsibility - <http://www.pfir.org>

Moderator, PRIVACY Forum - <http://www.vortex.com>

Member, ACM Committee on Computers and Public Policy

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Web sites report exit poll results before networks do

"NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>

Wed, 08 Nov 2000 09:12:36 -0700

Whereas mainstream news organizations were bound by self-imposed
rules

preventing them from releasing state exit poll results before
the polls

closed, a number of politically oriented Web sites leaked the
results as

soon as they were available. Voter News Service (VNS), the
consortium of

news organizations that conducted the exit polls, is threatening
to bring

legal action against the sites that leaked early results,
including

DrudgeReport.com and Inside.com -- which, however, indicated
that they

obtained the information not from VNS but from unidentified
sources.

Inside.com editor Michael Hirschorn said that he had received e-
mail leaks

from dozens of mainstream journalists, and that the public have

as much
right to know that kind of information as journalists do. He
added: "The
genie is out of the bottle, and it's wishful thinking that you
could put it
back in. Once this information is out, thanks to e-mail and the
Internet, it
becomes incredibly easy to distribute." [AP/*San Jose Mercury
News*, 7 Nov
2000 <http://www.mercurycenter.com/svtech/news/breaking/ap/docs/6063841.htm>;
NewsScan Daily, 8 Nov 2000]

✦ Political dirty tricks, cyber-style

"NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>
Wed, 08 Nov 2000 09:12:36 -0700

In the closing hours of the election campaign the site of the
Republican
National Committee (RNC) was vandalized by hackers who urged
visitors to
vote for Gore. The Democratic National Committee (DNC) denied it
had any
connection to the act of vandalism, and said intruders had
forced the
shut-down of the DNC's external e-mail system. [AP/*USA Today*,
7 Nov 2000
<http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/cti782.htm>; NewsScan
Daily, 8 Nov
2000]

✦ Vote auction Web site moves operations overseas

"NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>
Thu, 26 Oct 2000 09:44:02 -0700

A Web site offering to sell 21,000 votes for President to the

highest bidder has changed its domain name and transferred its registration to a company based in Germany. The www.vote-auction.com site asks visitors to fill out personal details and then offers to sell the votes in blocks broken down by state. The goal, according to the Web site, is to bring "the big money of campaigns directly to the voting public," but the owners, who are Austrian, say they still need to work out the details of how everyone would get paid, and how to verify that they cast the right ballot. The site has been criticized by election officials in Michigan, New York and other states, but as of its reopening this week, more than 2,500 California voters had offered their votes and the leading bid was \$48,000, or \$19.61 per vote. In August, six people offering to sell their votes for President drew bids as high as \$10,000 on eBay before the online auctioneer shut them down. [AP 25 Oct 2000 <http://news.excite.com/news/ap/001025/20/votes-for-sale>; NewsScan Daily, 26 Oct 2000]

✶ UK air-traffic control problems

"Peter G. Neumann" <Neumann@CSL.sri.com>
Sat, 04 Nov 2000 20:27:12

If you are interested in aviation safety, you might want to check out <http://www.pprune.org>, click on "Forums", and then "rumors and news", for a remarkable collection of computer problems related to ATC in the UK.

✈ Indianapolis FAA route center running on generators for a week

Nathan Brindle <nbrindle@netdirect.net>

Tue, 07 Nov 2000 23:45:58 -0500

A week later, the FAA route center at Indianapolis is still running on backup generator power ever since a 31 Oct 2000 power outage that "caused flight delays and at least two close encounters between airplanes". The cause of the original outage was still unknown. The route center has 6 diesel generators, three of which are used normally and the other three are for backup. However, after the outage, the diesels fired up, but the main radar could not be brought back up. The 70 controllers had to had planes off to other centers. Close calls were reported by a private jet and a USAir flight. Onboard collision avoidance was given credit for avoiding any tragedies. [Source: An article in the *Indianapolis Star*, 7 Nov 2000 (Generators used for flight routing as a precaution, by Terry Horne); PGN-ed]

✈ Raccoon power outage over the weekend

Dan Ellis <ellisd@cs.ucsb.edu>

Mon, 6 Nov 2000 11:19:42 -0800 (PST)

I received the following e-mail on a Monday afternoon (after the problems had been fixed). Several physical devices had been damaged (network hubs and switches) at UC Santa Barbara making for a very unproductive

time for
many employees and students and for a very stressful time for
facility and
system administrators.

The point: the weak link will be found and exploited by somebody
or
something, causing discomfort to us all. Malicious intent is
not a
prerequisite.

Dan Ellis, PhD student, UCSB, ellisd@cs.ucsb.edu (805) 893-4394

> Date: Mon, 06 Nov 2000 08:33:55 -0800
> From: dragon@ece.ucsb.edu
> To: coe-notify@engineering.ucsb.edu, all-grad@engineering.ucsb.
edu
> Subject: power outage over the weekend

> Information only --

> A bit after midnight Friday/Saturday, a raccoon strolled into
the power
> substation that serves this end of campus and got across a
transformer
> that takes the 16kV line down to 4160VAC. The raccoon paid
the price for
> this, and he is now merely a warning example of how fragile
our power
> infrastructure can be.

> However, various buildings on campus also paid a price, as all
power on
> the "A" feeder was off line for nearly two hours.

> Some functions in some buildings had not been restored by this
morning,
> however, including HVAC and equipment chilled water in
Engineering 1.
> Almost all this equipment is now back in operation. You may
wish to check
> computers and process controllers to determine if harm was
done during
> this outage.

[A Rocky Raccoon gets added to the long list of Reubened
Mammalians.

Must have been Raccoonoitering. After all, it was noit
toim, even
if not Down Under! PGN]

✶ Researchers able to defeat digital music security measures

"NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>

Tue, 24 Oct 2000 08:17:09 -0700

A team of computer scientists at Princeton and Rice Universities and the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) has been able to remove the invisible "watermarks" used by the 200-company Secure Digital Media Initiative (SDMI) to protect digital music files from pirates. SDMI had offered a prize [[RISKS-21.05](#)] to anyone who could defeat its various security measures, four out six of which make use of watermarks. SDMI's Tala Shamoon said, "I expected some would have fallen. This is part of an empirical process to get the best technology." [AP/MSNBC 24 Oct 2000; <http://www.msnbc.com/news/480521.asp> NewsScan Daily, 24 Oct 2000]

✶ Verisign and MS authenticode

Carl Byington <carl@five-ten-sg.com>

Mon, 23 Oct 2000 13:04:59 -0700

MS has an authenticode mechanism that allows publishers to digitally sign their code using certificates from Verisign. The code is signed via a MS program (signcode) with
"-t <http://timestamp.verisign.com/scripts/timestamp.dll>";
as an option.

The Verisign stuff is suppose to properly timestamp the signature, but their clock is very wrong!! I did the signature at 12:42, and the .exe now has a new modification timestamp of 12:42, but the certificate claims it was signed at 12:46. So we cannot really believe the times in any of these Verisign certificates.

<http://www.five-ten-sg.com>

✶ Microsoft Web site vandalized

"NewsScan" <newsscan@newsscan.com>
Fri, 27 Oct 2000 09:00:30 -0700

Microsoft's internal computer network was invaded by "trojan horse" software that caused company passwords to be sent to an e-mail address in St. Petersburg, Russia. Calling the act "a deplorable act of industrial espionage," Microsoft would not say whether or not the hackers may have gotten hold of any Microsoft source code. [AP/*The New York Times*, 27 Oct 2000 <http://partners.nytimes.com/2000/10/27/technology/27WIRE-MSHACK.html>];

NewsScan Daily, 27 October 2000]

[The following issue of NewsScan on 31 Oct 2000 (Hallowe'en!) noted

Microsoft says the attack lasted only 12 days instead of the 5 weeks

reported earlier, and no major corporate secrets were stolen. PGN]

✶ The latest in anti-spam technology

"Greg C" <gmc333@my-deja.com>

Mon, 6 Nov 2000 08:27:47 -0800

This morning I received a spam item that originated in a yahoo account. Yahoo seems to be pretty good at responding to spam, so I forwarded a report to them. I noticed in the body of the email that there was the quasi-traditional "to unsubscribe send your email address" to an account at myrealmailbox.

So I did the obvious and forwarded the spam again to myrealmailbox (after first browsing their Web site trying in vain to find a policy towards spam.)

In return I received this reply:

>From: abuse@myrealbox.com

>To: gmc333@my-deja.com

>Subject: Automatic reply

>Date: Mon, 06 Nov 2000 09:09:05 +119303947 (MDT)

>

>Novell and myrealbox.com are not responsible for this
>mailing, it has not used our network or e-mail system. Novell
>Internet Message System (NIMS) employs some of the most
>sophisticated anti-spamming technology in the industry.
>The sender fraudulently used myrealbox.com
>IDs for replies or opt-out mails. These accounts
>never existed or have been terminated. We are committed
>to helping to eliminate this type of mail system
>abuse.

The RISKS? Apparently the technology is so advanced it's learned the art of plausible deniability. There is also the RISK that a human will never find out what I originally complained about and modify the system appropriately.

Greg Compestine <http://homestead.deja.com/user.gmc333/index.html>

Re: EMI, etc. (Ladkin, [RISKS-21.08](#))

Pete Mellor <pm@csr.city.ac.uk>
Mon, 16 Oct 2000 22:46:01 +0100 (BST)

Regarding the enormous convoluted problem of how much EMI is required to cause a spark and hence an explosion in a fuel tank (Re: EMI, TWA 800 and Swissair 111, from Peter B. Ladkin, [RISKS-21.08](#)), Andy Weir, in his book "The Tombstone Imperative" made a very simple suggestion:

Fill the vacant space above the fuel in the tanks with nitrogen,
and any spark, however caused, cannot lead to an explosion.

Should not engineers welcome the most simple solution to a problem?

Should we not listen to people who are not engineers?

Peter Mellor, Centre for Software Reliability, City University,
London EC1V 0HB
+44 (0)20 7477 8422 Pete Mellor <p.mellor@csr.city.ac.uk>

2001 USENIX Annual Technical Conference - Call For Papers

Andrea Galleni <andrea+nospam@usenix.org>
Thu, 26 Oct 2000 17:28:02 -0700

2001 USENIX Annual Technical Conference Announcement and Call for Papers
25-30 Jun 2001, Marriott Copley Place Hotel Boston,
Massachusetts USA
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Track: December 1, 2000 Notification to authors: January 31, 2001
Camera-ready papers due: May 1, 2001. Program Chair: Yoonho
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[PFIR Statement on Internet Voting](#)

PFIR - People For Internet Responsibility PFIR Statement on Internet Voting February 26, 2000. See also: "The Coming Electoral Blackout?" (20 Jan 2001). ...

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[IVTA - Internet Voting Technology Alliance](#)

ivta.org. Preliminary Information. ...

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[Contents](#)

Illustrative Risks to the Public in the Use of Computer Systems and Related Technology

Peter G. Neumann, Computer Science Laboratory, SRI International, Menlo ...

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An innovative cyber voting system for Internet terminals and mobile phones.

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Studium u. a. von alten Sprachen, Philosophie und Komposition in Deutschland, Israel und Österreich. Stipendiat des DAAD. Seit 1996 Lehrbeauftragter, ab 2001 wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter des Ordinariats für Kulturphilosophie und Medientheorie. Forscht und publiziert z. Zt. im Schnittbereich zwischen Medientheorie und Medienkunst. Arbeitet an einer Dissertation über die Geschichte der künstlichen Intelligenz, Plansprachenbewegungen im 19. Jahrhundert und der Free-Software-Bewegung der Gegenwart. Vorträge u.a. auf der Ars Electronica, der Transmediale Berlin und dem ReadMe-Festival für Software-Kunst. Weitere Projekte siehe www.h-a-l.net und www.seriouspop.com.

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Study among other things of old languages, philosophy and composition in Germany, Israel and Austria. Scholarship holder of the DAAD. Since 1996 of

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training representatives, starting from 2001 scientific coworker of the Ordinariats for cultural philosophy and medium theory. Researches and publishes at present on cut average between medium theory and media art. Works on a thesis over the history of artificial intelligence, plan language movements in 19. Century and the Free software movement of the present. Lectures among other things on the acres Electronica, the Transmediale Berlin and the ReadMe Festival for software art. Further projects see www.h A I.net and www.seriouspop.com.

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Andreas Leo Findeisen

Studium u. a. von alten Sprachen, Philosophie und Komposition in Deutschland, Israel und Österreich. Stipendiat des DAAD. Seit 1996 Lehrbeauftragter, ab 2001 wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter des Ordinariats für Kulturphilosophie und Medientheorie. Forscht und publiziert z. Zt. im Schnittbereich zwischen Medientheorie und Medienkunst. Arbeitet an einer Dissertation über die Geschichte der künstlichen Intelligenz, Plansprachenbewegungen im 19. Jahrhundert und der Free-Software-Bewegung der Gegenwart. Vorträge u.a. auf der Ars Electronica, der Transmediale Berlin und dem ReadMe-Festival für Software-Kunst. Weitere Projekte siehe www.h-a-l.net und www.seriouspop.com.

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NETZWERK DEMOKRATIE - Die politische Partizipation im Internet

Das Internet ist auch eine offene Plattform für Ansichten und Meinungen. In Webforen wird in aller Freiheit und ohne Zensur über gesellschaftliche und politische Fragen diskutiert. Diese Freiheit nährt die Hoffnung, dass das Internet in Zukunft mehr sein kann als dies. Auf der einen Seite sind es staatliche Stellen, die Kommunikationskanäle zwischen der Bevölkerung und der Verwaltung aufbauen und Dienstleistungen auf elektronischem Weg anbieten. Weiterführende Pläne sehen vor, dass auf diesem Weg dereinst auch gewählt und abgestimmt werden kann. Auf der anderen Seite erkennen soziale Bewegungen und Bürgeraktionen im Internet eine neue Möglichkeit der horizontalen politischen Organisation. Ohne hohe Eintrittshürden sollen sich alle politisch engagieren und äussern können. Sind wir somit auf dem Weg zu einer neuen, die von unterschiedlichen Netzwerken ausgeht? „Pilgern und Surfen 11“ sucht die Diskussion über die Zukunft der politischen Partizipation im Informationszeitalter. Es geht dabei um Chancen und Gefahren der elektronischen, also anonymisierten Demokratie sowie um die Auswirkungen auf die digitalen Medien, denen zwei widersprüchliche Strömungen einbeschrieben sind: Öffnung und Abschlüssung - Freiheit und Sicherheit.

Basislinks:

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- [e-demokratie](#)
- [weblog](#)

• e-vote:

Wahl- und Abstimmungshilfen:
<http://www.smartvote.ch> (mit Daniel Schwarz)

Bericht darüber:

http://www.kandidaten.ch/upload/cms/user/nlz_21_7_2003.pdf

<http://www.votez.ch> (mit Nick Lüthi)

<http://www.wahlen.ch>

Wahlsite der SRG Idée Suisse:

<http://www.ch03.ch/de/>

<http://www.politarena.ch>

Texte:

Andreas Ladner: Wählen per Internet verändert die Schweiz: <http://verdi.unisg.ch/org/idt/pmce.nsf/0/60e00cb05fd13355c1256c7f0036bbd3?OpenDocument>

Die Wahlen erobern das Internet, 19.9.2003:

<http://www.swissinfo.org/sde/swissinfo.html?siteSect=2051&sid=4254631>

Aktionen:

Hans Übermorgen, Wien

(art)Wahl Projekt in den USA:

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/2003/>

Vote Auction:

<http://www.vote-auction.net>

E-Vote Machines Face Audit:

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,59976,00.html>

• e-government - Der elektronische Schalter.

E-Government Basel Stadt:

<http://www.e-gov.bs.ch>

Bericht dazu auf www.infosociety.ch:

http://www.infosociety.ch/site/nouveaute/news/details.asp?id_fiche=6254

E-Gouvernement Zürich:

<http://www.e-gov.zh.ch>

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cyber-utopia is bullshit:
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HAT CYBERDEMOKRATIE
EINE ZUKUNFT ? von Nick
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E-Government beim Bund:

<http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/egov/index.de.html>

Le guichet virtuell: <http://www.ch.ch> ist ein Wegweisersystem, das Sie durch die Verwaltungsstellen von Bund, Kantone und Gemeinden führt. www.ch.ch enthält Informationen zu den üblichen Behördengängen und verbindet Sie mit der gesuchten Verwaltungsstelle.

Bericht darüber in: <http://www.netzwoche.ch>

Informatikstrategieorgan Bund: Mit der eGovernment-Strategie des Bundes vom 13. Februar 2002 hat der Bundesrat strategische Stossrichtungen aufgezeigt, an denen sich die Bundesverwaltung, aber auch Kantone und Gemeinden, bei der Festlegung von Prioritäten in diesem Bereich orientieren können. Das ISB zeichnet für Architektur und Standards (vgl. z.B. www.ech.ch), sowie für die Koordination von Erfahrungsaustausch und Reporting verantwortlich (vgl. z.B. www.eVanti.ch) und pflegt das Projektportfolio (Anhang II: Strategische Leitprojekte).

<http://www.isb.admin.ch/internet/egovernment/>

Schweizweite Initiative eVanti.ch:

<http://www.evanti.ch/?lang=de>

Download einer EU-Studie zu e-Government
eGovernment-Standardisierungsorganisation der Schweiz:

<http://www.ech.ch>

E-Government-Glossar:

<http://glossar.iwv.ch>

CH21 e-Government Impulsprogramm:

<http://www.egov02.ch/index.htm>

Center of Excellence for Electronic Government (Uni St. Gallen): mit einem 'Electronic Government-Barometer und News-Links zum Thema. Am 9. März wird der Bericht zum Stand von E-Government in der Schweiz 2003 veröffentlicht.

<http://www.electronic-government.ch>

Balanced e-Government: (Studie der Bertelsmann-Stiftung, Download-Möglichkeit)

<http://www.begix.de>

• Politik im Netz - Informationsgesellschaft. eDemokratie - Der politische Ort im Internet:

<http://www.edemokratie.ch>

Swiss Politics: (Plattform der SRG Idée Suisse)

<http://www.swisspolitics.org>

Das Parlament:

<http://www.parlament.ch>

GfS-Forschungsinstitut:

<http://www.gfs.ch>

Dazu: Polittrends

<http://www.polittrends.ch>

Generell:

Alle Berichte des Bundes zum Thema Informationsgesellschaft:

<http://www.infosociety.ch>

Bericht der Groupe de Réflexion für eine Informationsgesellschaft in der Schweiz (1997, insbes. Kap. 5 & 6), Download über:

http://www.infosociety.ch/site/propos/references/details.asp?id_fiche=2868&id_langue=1

Kompetenzzentrum Globale Informationsgesellschaft SwissGIS:

<http://www.swissgis.unizh.ch/d/home.htm>

Plattform für e-government und vergleichbare Themen:

<http://www.politik-digital.de>

Gruppe „Internet und Politik“:

http://amor.rz.hu-berlin.de/~h0936dbk/iup_home.html

In diesem Zusammenhang vgl.

Digitale Demokratie, Leske + Budrich Verlag, 2002.

Kursbuch Internet, bisher drei Nummern zu e-voting, e-government:

<http://www.kursbuch-internet.de>

Text:

Giaco Schiesser: Der Traum der Renaissance - Demokratie im digitalen Zeitalter (1997):

<http://www.xcult.ch/texte/schiesser/traum.html>

• weblog

Persönliche Weblogs:

<http://www.web-laun.ch/pieceoBlog/>

<http://habi.gna.ch/blog/>

Kollektiv geführte Weblogs:

<http://infam.antville.org/>

<http://www.bernergazette.ch/>

Die Über-Blogger

<http://joi.ito.com>

<http://kutter.antville.org/>

Das meistgelesene Blog:

<http://instapundit.com/>

Irakische Weblogs:

Salam Pax: http://dear_raed.blogspot.com/

<http://www.healingiraq.com/>

Iranische Weblogs:

<http://www.hoder.com/weblog/>

<http://farrokhi.net/blog/>

Iranischer Blog-Provider: <http://www.persianblog.com/>

Thematische Weblogs:

Medien: <http://www.medien Spiegel.ch>

Medien, IT: <http://www.dienstraum.com>

Selbstmord: <http://freitod.antville.org/>

Sex: <http://sex.antville.org/>

Weblogs von PolitikerInnen:

Benita Ferrero-Waldner: <http://www.benita-ferrero-waldner.at/132.0.html>

(nicht eigentlich ein Weblog, da die charakteristischen interaktiven Features fehlen)

John Kerry: <http://blog.johnkerry.com/>

Ali Mohammad Abtahi (einer der iranischen Vizepräsidenten):

<http://www.webnevesht.com/en/weblog/>

Weblogs von Wissenschaftlern:

<http://www.lessig.org/blog/>

<http://www.leuschke.org/log/>

Weblogs von JournalistInnen:

Rebecca MacKinnon (CNN): <http://nkzone.typepad.com/nkzone/>

Kevin Sites (CNN, NBC): <http://www.kevinsites.net/>

Weblogs als Teil einer Zeitungswebsite:

Tages-Anzeiger: <http://www.tagesanzeiger.ch/kilian>

Kurier (Wien): <http://weblog.kult.kurier.at/>

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NETWORK DEMOCRACY - the political participation in the InterNet

The InterNet is also an open platform for opinions and opinions. In Web forums in all liberty and without censorship social and political questions one discusses. This liberty feeds hope that the InterNet can be in the future more than this. On the side there is national places, which develop communication channels between the population and the administration and offer services on elektonischem way. Resuming plans plan that this way can be that once also selected and co-ordinated. On the other side social movements and citizen actions in the InterNet recognize a new possibility of the horizontal political organization. Without high entrance hurdles all are to engage themselves politically and be able to express. Are we thus on the way to a new, which proceeds from different networks? "Pilgern and Surfen 11" look for the discussion over the future of the political participation in the information age. It concerns thereby chances and dangers of the electronic, therefore anonymized democracy as well as around the effects on the digital media, which two contradictory currents are in-described: Opening and locking - liberty and security.

Basis on the left of:

- [e-government](#) • [e-democracy](#) • [e-vote](#) • [Web logs](#)

• e-vote:

Choice and tuning assistance:

<http://www.smartvote.ch> (with Daniel black)

Report on it:

http://www.kandidaten.ch/upload/cms/user/nlz_21_7_2003.pdf

<http://www.votez.ch> (with nod Luethi)

<http://www.wahlen.ch>

Wahlsite of the SRG Idée Suisse:

<http://www.ch03.ch/de/>

<http://www.politarena.ch>

Texts:

Andreas Ladner: Select by InterNet changes Switzerland: <http://verdi.unisg.ch/org/idt/pmce.nsf/0/60e00cb05fd13355c1256c7f0036bbd3?OpenDocument>

The elections conquer the InterNet, 19.9.2003:

<http://www.swissinfo.org/sde/swissinfo.html?siteSect=2051&sid=4254631>

Actions:

Hans the day after tomorrow, Vienna

(art)Wahl project in the USA:

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/2003/>

Vote Auction:

<http://www.vote.auction.net>

E-Vote Machines Face audit:

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,59976,00.html>

• e-government - the electronic switch.

E-Government Basel city:

<http://www.e.gov.bs.ch>

Report in addition on www.infosociety.ch:

http://www.infosociety.ch/site/nouveaute/news/details.asp?id_fiche=6254

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E-Government with the federation:

<http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/egov/index.de.html>

Le guichet virtually: <http://www.ch.ch> a signpost/guide system, you by the administration offices of federation, is cantons and municipalities leads www.ch.ch contains information to the usual authority courses and connects you with the looked for administration office.

Report on it in: <http://www.netzwoche.ch>

Computer science strategy organ federation: With the eGovernment strategy of the federation from 13 February 2002 the Upper House of Parliament pointed strategic directions of attack out, at which the federal administration, in addition, cantons and municipalities, during the definition of priorities within this range can orient themselves. The ISB has responsibility for architecture and standard (see e.g. www.ech.ch), as well as for the co-ordination of exchange of experience and reporting (see e.g. www.eVanti.ch) and maintains the Projektportfolio (appendix II: Strategic master projects).

<http://www.isb.admin.ch/internet/egovement/>

Switzerland width initiative eVanti.ch:

<http://www.evanti.ch/?lang=de>

Download of an European Union study to e-Government
EGovernment Standardisierungsorganisation of Switzerland:

<http://www.ech.ch>

E-Government-glossary:

<http://glossar.iwv.ch>

CH21 e-Government impulse program:

<http://www.egov02.ch/index.htm>

Center OF Excellence for electronics Government (University of pc. Gallen): with ' electronics a Government barometer and News on the left of to the topic. On 9 March the report is published to the conditions by e-Government in Switzerland 2003.

<http://www.electronic government.ch>

Balanced e-Government: (study of the Bertelsmann donation, Download possibility)

<http://www.begix.de>

• politics in the net - information society eDemokratie - the political place in the InterNet:

<http://www.edemokratie.ch>

Swiss Politics: (platform of the SRG Idée Suisse)

<http://www.swisspolitics.org>

The parliament:

<http://www.parlament.ch>

GfS GfS-Forschungsinstitut:

<http://www.gfs.ch>

In addition: Polittrends

<http://www.polittrends.ch>

Generally:

All reports of the federation about info. FCS ion company:

<http://www.infosociety.ch>

Report of the Groupe de Réflexion for an information society in Switzerland (1997, insbeso. Cape. 5 & 6), Download over:

http://www.infosociety.ch/site/propos/references/details.asp?id_fiche=2868&id_langue=1

Authority center global information society SwissGIS:

<http://www.swissgis.unizh.ch/d/home.htm>

Platform for e-government and comparable topics:

<http://www.politik digital.de>

Group of "InterNet and politics":

http://amor.rz.hu-berlin.de/~h0936dbk/iup_home.html

In this connection vgl.

Digital democracy, Leske + Budrich publishing house, 2002.

Course book InterNet, so far three numbers too e-voting, e-government:

<http://www.kursbuch.internet.de>

Text:

Giaco Schiesser: The dream of the Renaissance - democracy in the digital age (1997):

<http://www.xcult.ch/texte/schiesser/traum.html>

• Web logs

Personal Weblogs:

http://www.web_laun.ch/pieceoBlog/

<http://habi.gna.ch/blog/>

Collectively led Weblogs:

<http://infam.antville.org/>

<http://www.bernergazette.ch/>

The over Blogger

<http://joi.ito.com>

<http://kutter.antville.org/>

The most widely read Blog:

<http://instapundit.com/>

Iraqi Weblogs:

Salam Pax: http://dear_raed.blogspot.com/

<http://www.healingiraq.com/>

Iranian Weblogs:

<http://www.hoder.com/weblog/>

<http://farrokhi.net/blog/>

Iranian Blog Provider: <http://www.persianblog.com/>

Topic tables Weblogs:

Media: <http://www.medien Spiegel.ch>

Media, IT: <http://www.dienstraum.com>

Suicide: <http://freitod.antville.org/>

Sex: <http://sex.antville.org/>

Weblogs of politicians:

Benita Ferrero Waldner: <http://www.benita-ferrero-waldner.at/132.0.html>

(a Web log, there the characteristic interactive features are not actually missing)

John Kerry: <http://blog.johnkerry.com/>

Ali Mohammad Abtahi (one of the Iranian vices-president):

<http://www.webnevesht.com/en/weblog/>

Weblogs of scientists:

<http://www.lessig.org/blog/>

<http://www.leuschke.org/log/>

Weblogs of JournalisInnen:

Rebecca MacKinnon (CNN): <http://nkzone.typepad.com/nkzone/>

Kevin Sites (CNN, NBC): <http://www.kevinsites.net/>

Weblogs as part of a Zeitungswebsite:

Daily indicator: <http://www.tagesanzeiger.ch/kilian>

Courier (Vienna): <http://weblog.kult.kurier.at/>

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<http://www.wahlen.ch>

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<http://www.politarena.ch>

Texte:

Andreas Ladner: Wählen per Internet verändert die Schweiz: <http://verdi.unisg.ch/org/idt/pmce.nsf/0/60e00cb05fd13355c1256c7f0036bbd3?OpenDocument>

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(art)Wahl Projekt in den USA:

<http://www.ubermorgen.com/2003/>

Vote Auction:

<http://www.vote-auction.net>

E-Vote Machines Face Audit:

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,59976,00.html>

- e-government - Der elektronische Schalter.

E-Government Basel Stadt:

<http://www.e-gov.bs.ch>

Bericht dazu auf www.infosociety.ch:

http://www.infosociety.ch/site/nouveaute/news/details.asp?id_fiche=6254

E-Government Zürich:

<http://www.e-gov.zh.ch>

E-Government beim Bund:

<http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/egov/index.de.html>

Le guichet virtuell: <http://www.ch.ch> ist ein Wegweisersystem, das Sie durch die Verwaltungsstellen von Bund, Kantone und Gemeinden führt. www.ch.ch enthält Informationen zu den üblichen Behördengängen und verbindet Sie mit der gesuchten Verwaltungsstelle.

Bericht darüber in: <http://www.netzwoche.ch>

Informatikstrategieorgan Bund: Mit der eGovernment-Strategie des Bundes vom 13. Februar 2002 hat der Bundesrat strategische Stossrichtungen aufgezeigt, an denen sich die Bundesverwaltung, aber auch Kantone und Gemeinden, bei der Festlegung von Prioritäten in diesem Bereich orientieren können. Das ISB zeichnet für Architektur und Standards (vgl. z.B. www.ech.ch), sowie für die Koordination von Erfahrungsaustausch und Reporting verantwortlich (vgl. z.B. www.eVanti.ch) und pflegt das Projektportfolio (Anhang II: Strategische Leitprojekte).

<http://www.isb.admin.ch/internet/egovement/>

Schweizweite Initiative eVanti.ch:

<http://www.evanti.ch/?lang=de>

Download einer EU-Studie zu e-Government

eGovernment-Standardisierungsorganisation der Schweiz:

<http://www.ech.ch>

E-Government-Glossar:

<http://glossar.iwv.ch>

CH21 e-Government Impulsprogramm:

<http://www.egov02.ch/index.htm>

Center of Excellence for Electronic Government (Uni St. Gallen): mit einem 'Electronic Government-Barometer und News-Links zum Thema. Am 9. März wird der Bericht zum Stand von E-Government in der Schweiz 2003 veröffentlicht.

<http://www.electronic-government.ch>

Balanced e-Government: (Studie der Bertelsmann-Stiftung, Download-Möglichkeit)

<http://www.begix.de>

- Politik im Netz - Informationsgesellschaft. eDemokratie - Der politische Ort im Internet:

<http://www.edemokratie.ch>

Swiss Politics: (Plattform der SRG Idée Suisse)

<http://www.swisspolitics.org>

Das Parlament:

<http://www.parlament.ch>

GfS-Forschungsinstitut:

<http://www.gfs.ch>

Dazu: Polittrends

<http://www.polittrends.ch>

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Alle Berichte des Bundes zum Thema Informationsgesellschaft:

<http://www.infosociety.ch>

Bericht der Groupe de Réflexion für eine Informationsgesellschaft in der Schweiz

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(1997, insbeso. Kap. 5 & 6), Download über:
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Kompetenzzentrum Globale Informationsgesellschaft SwissGIS:
<http://www.swissgis.unizh.ch/d/home.htm>

Plattform für e-government und vergleichbare Themen:
<http://www.politik-digital.de>

Gruppe ???Internet und Politik“:
http://amor.rz.hu-berlin.de/~h0936dbk/iup_home.html

In diesem Zusammenhang vgl.
 Digitale Demokratie, Leske + Budrich Verlag, 2002.
 Kursbuch Internet, bisher drei Nummern zu e-voting, e-government:
<http://www.kursbuch-internet.de>

Text:
 Giaco Schiesser: Der Traum der Renaissance - Demokratie im digitalen Zeitalter (1997):
<http://www.xcult.ch/texte/schiesser/traum.html>

- weblog

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Weblogs von PolitikerInnen:
 Benita Ferrero-Waldner: <http://www.benita-ferrero-waldner.at/132.0.html>
 (nicht eigentlich ein Weblog, da die charakteristischen interaktiven Features fehlen)

John Kerry: <http://blog.johnkerry.com/>

Ali Mohammad Abtahi (einer der iranischen Vizepräsidenten):
<http://www.webnevesht.com/en/weblog/>

Weblogs von Wissenschaftlern:
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 Kevin Sites (CNN, NBC): <http://www.kevinsites.net/>

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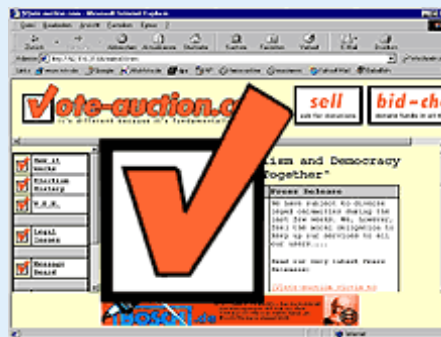
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Donnerstag, 2. November 2000

Vote-auction**Internet-Auktion von US-Wahlstimmen geschlossen**

Vote-auction ist erneut geschlossen worden. Die Website bietet eine Plattform, auf der US-Bürger ihre Stimmen für die anstehende Präsidentschaftswahl versteigern können. Die Zentrale Domainvergabestelle in den USA (InterNIC) hat die in Deutschland angemeldete Adresse Vote-auction.com aufgrund einer einstweiligen Verfügung gelöscht.



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Bereits im Oktober war die damalige Internet-Adresse der Website, voteauction.com, vom Netz genommen worden. Die Domain war in den USA angemeldet, weshalb rechtliche Schritte von dort aus möglich waren. Im Fall der zweiten, in Deutschland angemeldeten Adresse hingegen ist der Schritt der US-Behörden, den Domain-Namen von der InterNIC löschen zu lassen, unter Experten stark umstritten.

Andy Müller-Maguhn, der vor kurzem von Internet-Nutzern zu einem der 19 Direktoren der ICANN gewählt wurde, kommentierte die erneute Schließung der Website mit "Ich denke, wir sollten etwas dagegen tun". Die Politologin Jeanette Hofmann bestritt zwar die Zuständigkeit der Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), sagte jedoch: "Ohne Zweifel stinkt diese Sache zum Himmel."

Das Prinzip von Vote-auction ist einfach: 50 Prozent der

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amerikanischen Bevölkerung beteilige sich nicht an den Wahlen, so die Betreiber der Website. Diese Wahlberechtigten hätten nun die Möglichkeit, aus ihrer Stimme Kapital zu schlagen. Angesichts der riesigen Summen, die der US-Wahlkampf verschlingt, scheint das eine profitable Angelegenheit zu sein. Vote-auction bringe "Kapitalismus und Demokratie" näher zueinander, heißt es auf der Website.

Die zur Versteigerung stehenden Stimmen sind nach US-Bundesstaaten geordnet. Die Bieter können die Stimmen eines Bundesstaates ersteigern, wobei das Mindestangebot 100 US-Dollar beträgt. Dann geht es in 50-Dollar-Schritten weiter. Am Ende soll der jeweils Meistbietende die Adressen der Wahlberechtigten erhalten und sich mit ihnen in Verbindung setzen.

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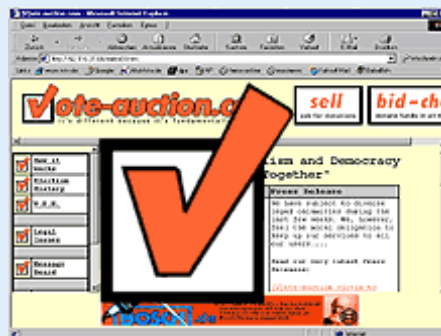
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Andreas is enough

Where the fun stops

MEDIUM DIARY ■ *The InterNet does not know borders, the right already*

Understand yourselves, you operate as German one in Germany registered web page. On it you argue satirisch with the American election campaign, without they offend thereby against German right. Since you give, on your platform votes at the highest bidders to mediate (in allusion on the central role, which donations in the American election campaign play), offend them however against American right. So far so well. But now somewhat ever Dagewesenes does not happen: Without you or your German registration place are informed of it, its web page no more is attainable over their announced names. It became not victim of a hacker attack, but on arrangement of an American court from the central name data base (root zone file) was painted.

This case, which actually course-carried in such a way last year with the website www.vote.auction.com has, provided for some attention. With this censorship the national right of a state was expanded for the first time since the whole InterNet. Urgent than before arises the question, which is to apply for right in the new on-line world. Thus did approximately 250 lawyers appear themselves past weekend in the Friedrichshainer conference center Pallisade, over over *new right for new media?* to discuss.

The question mark points thereupon that the discussion moves between Poland, whether the new technology InterNet makes a change of the existing laws necessary or whether the existing equipment is after the slogan, *which* off-line is punishable also *on-line* illegally, be continued using can.

Although lawyers are inclined to generate their world view on basis of the existence makes clear the example of vote auction that it does not concern letztendlich the question, whether we a new right, but which new right we in things InterNet get: One, in which we participated or one, which others made. The global net places for the first time the national legislators before the almost unsolvable task to harmonize nearly all ranges from the mark and copyright over the personality rights up to the pressing and laws of communication media internationally. Already now a clear increase of the procedures with foreign contact is to be registered. "foreign right played in former times with us only within the parts per thousand range of all legal proceedings a role, is it between 10 and 20 per cent," now already supports Patrick Mayer, attorney from Stuttgart, the legal relevance of the Internets.

The on-line world seems boundless, but legally seen it is many closer than the off-line company. If it was in former times no problem the fact that there

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was a *city* to Heidelberg, a company, several private people and books of same name is sued the courts today with complaints, with which they must decide, who now the right has to operate *the name* Heidelberg as Internetdomain.

In the center thereby questions of the trademark protection, copyright and the data security are located. Even if in the InterNet hardly money can be made up to now, the distribution fights were inflamed fully. On the side stand the large enterprises, which want to protect their marks and expand their markets. On the other side stand the national legislators, that are afraid for their past sovereignty. To forgotten are not also the Strafverfolgungsbehoerden and secret service, which want to participate as priviligiert as possible at data flow. The user have in this Cybermonopoly so far still no lobby. Five of the 17 directors of the ICANN (*InterNet corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers*) were only selected from the net municipality.

The European representative of the five is the speaker of the chaos computer club Andy Mueller Maguhn. In its paper it describes the ICANN existing since 1998 as a first attempt to create a kind InterNet government. "the problem thereby is that it is subject as a company of American right of control US Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Although it is responsible officially only for the completion of technical questions, its position of power results from the administration of the central roots zone file. This file contains all addresses and names of the Internets and determines thereby all traffic streams of the net." It is not technical a problem, not only a certain side (see *vote auction*) to separate for example all sides with a certain land identification from the net to exclude. War guidance in the InterNet is already long no more term only from Science Fiction novels.

Since most laws are only in preparation, it is still open whether itself the net to an on-line democracy developed or whether it will be coined/shaped by interests of lobby. At least up to then it resembles large playground for technically experienced ones still another. After the name *was painted* vote auction.com from the net, the Macher announced immediately the name *voterauction.com* . There one finds now the reflected official side of the election campaign of George Bush. Irony at least functions in the new on-line world at least just as well as off-lines.



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Freitag 22
Die Ost-West-Wochenzeitung

25.05.2001

Andreas Lange

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'Nader Traders' may have affected outcome in Florida

From...
INDUSTRY STANDARD
AN IDG.net SITE

November 17, 2000
Web posted at: 9:22 a.m. EST (1422 GMT)

by Scott Harris



(IDG) -- Outraged Democrats have been excoriating Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader and his followers for siphoning off enough votes from Vice President Al Gore in Florida to potentially throw the presidency to Texas Gov. George W. Bush. Nearly 97,000 Floridians voted for Nader in last week's election.

Yet so-called "Nader Traders" -- Green Party backers who agreed online to vote for Gore in swing states in exchange for Gore supporters voting Green in safe states -- may have helped the Democratic nominee in Florida.

With the margin of victory in the Sunshine State slipping to a few hundred votes in a recount last week, vote-swappers may have cast the deciding ballots. The "vote exchange" Web sites that appeared in the campaign's final weeks recorded nearly 1,400 formal pledges from Florida Nader supporters who said they would instead vote for Gore. They were paired with likely Gore supporters in Democratic and Republican strongholds who had agreed to vote for Nader.

Votetrader.org, an enterprise that assembled data from 10 large exchanges, found that more than 35,000 people had registered nationwide, producing about 15,000 trades that increased Gore's totals in several critical battleground states. The idea was to raise the Green Party's share of the popular vote to 5 percent, the threshold required for federal matching campaign funds in 2004. But only 3 percent of voters went Green.

Those vote-swapping numbers are fungible, proponents acknowledge, because so-called strategic voting is based on an honor system and vulnerable to manipulation and dirty tricks. And some nervous Nader fans acknowledge they would have probably voted for Gore anyway; those swaps, then, served to decrease Gore's popular vote total. But total participation could also be higher. The raw data from the exchanges doesn't include citizens who embraced the strategy by trading with family and friends -- the

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approach recommended on several sites, including NaderTrader.org. In a two-week period, that Wisconsin-based site saw its traffic soar to more than 650,000 visits, according to creator Jeff Cardille.

And the movement flourished despite a crackdown by California Secretary of State Bill Jones, who accused a Los Angeles-based site of violating state election laws, resulting in the closure of two California sites. American Civil Liberties Union lawyers lost a bid for a temporary restraining order against Jones but say they will continue the fight.

Although traffic may have simply moved to other exchanges, Brent Emerson of Voteswap.org suggests Jones' actions might have dissuaded some voters from participating. A Florida-based exchange, PresidentGore.com, warned Californians not to vote-swap.

Neither the Democratic nor the Green parties officially sanctioned the strategy that was independently conceived to help both groups. "I call them Nader traitors. You should vote your conscience," says Green activist Robert Smith of Tallahassee, Fla.

Nader himself rejected vote-trading, warning of the potential for fraud.

At a rally in Tallahassee last week as the Florida recount proceeded, Greens passed out fliers saying: "It's all over. And the winner of the 2000 presidential election is Aetna, AT&T, BellSouth, Boeing, Citigroup, DuPont, Enron..."

But voting their conscience is precisely what Nader Traders did, according to Cardille. The vote swappers argue their approach was a "win-win" for the environment, abortion rights and other causes.

But the phenomenon serves to underscore the specter of an electoral system in disarray. "We're bound to get some voting reform," says Dorothy Byrne, a Green Party coordinator in Pinellas County, Fla. "Maybe we'll get rid of the Electoral College mess." If that happens, she says, feel free to blame it on the Greens.

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'Nader Traders' may have affected outcome in Florida

From...

INDUSTRY STANDARD
AN IDG.net SITE

November 17, 2000
Web posted at: 9:22 a.m. EST (1422 GMT)

by Scott Harris

(IDG) -- Outraged Democrats have been excoriating Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader and his followers for siphoning off enough votes from Vice President Al Gore in Florida to potentially throw the presidency to Texas Gov. George W. Bush. Nearly 97,000 Floridians voted for Nader in last week's election.



Yet so-called "Nader Traders" -- Green Party backers who agreed online to vote for Gore in swing states in exchange for Gore supporters voting Green in safe states -- may have helped the Democratic nominee in Florida.

With the margin of victory in the Sunshine State slipping to a few hundred votes in a recount last week, vote-swappers may have cast the deciding ballots. The "vote exchange" Web sites that appeared in the campaign's final weeks recorded nearly 1,400 formal pledges from Florida Nader supporters who said they would instead vote for Gore. They were paired with likely Gore supporters in Democratic and Republican strongholds who had agreed to vote for Nader.

Votetrader.org, an enterprise that assembled data from 10 large exchanges, found that more than 35,000 people had registered nationwide, producing about 15,000 trades that increased

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Gore's totals in several critical battleground states. The idea was to raise the Green Party's share of the popular vote to 5 percent, the threshold required for federal matching campaign funds in 2004. But only 3 percent of voters went Green.

Those vote-swapping numbers are fungible, proponents acknowledge, because so-called strategic voting is based on an honor system and vulnerable to manipulation and dirty tricks. And some nervous Nader fans acknowledge they would have probably voted for Gore anyway; those swaps, then, served to decrease Gore's popular vote total. But total participation could also be higher. The raw data from the exchanges doesn't include citizens who embraced the strategy by trading with family and friends -- the approach recommended on several sites, including NaderTrader.org. In a two-week period, that Wisconsin-based site saw its traffic soar to more than 650,000 visits, according to creator Jeff Cardille.

And the movement flourished despite a crackdown by California Secretary of State Bill Jones, who accused a Los Angeles-based site of violating state election laws, resulting in the closure of two California sites. American Civil Liberties Union lawyers lost a bid for a temporary restraining order against Jones but say they will continue the fight.

Although traffic may have simply moved to other exchanges, Brent Emerson of Voteswap.org suggests Jones' actions might have dissuaded some voters from participating. A Florida-based exchange, PresidentGore.com, warned Californians not to vote-swap.

Neither the Democratic nor the Green parties officially sanctioned the strategy that was independently conceived to help both groups. "I call them Nader traitors. You should vote your conscience," says Green activist Robert Smith of Tallahassee, Fla.

Nader himself rejected vote-trading, warning of the potential for fraud.

At a rally in Tallahassee last week as the Florida recount proceeded, Greens passed out fliers saying: "It's all over. And the winner of the 2000 presidential election is Aetna, AT&T, BellSouth, Boeing, Citigroup, DuPont, Enron..."


But voting their conscience is precisely what Nader Traders did, according to Cardille. The vote swappers argue their approach was a "win-win" for the environment, abortion rights and other causes.

But the phenomenon serves to underscore the specter of an electoral system in disarray. "We're bound to get some voting reform," says Dorothy Byrne, a Green Party coordinator in Pinellas County, Fla. "Maybe we'll get rid of the Electoral College mess." If that happens, she says, feel free to blame it on the Greens.

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 **LA NOTICIA EN LA RED**
Ana Pantaleoni

La subasta de votos por Internet enturbia el proceso electoral norteamericano

Las 'webs' que parodian a los candidatos crecen a medida que se acerca el 7 de noviembre

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George Bush y Al Gore en el baile de los candidatos de Olsommer.com.

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Baumgartner, por consejo de las autoridades de Nueva York, cerró la *web* y vendió el dominio, a finales de agosto, a una empresa de comercio electrónico en Austria. La empresa, por orden de las autoridades de Chicago, ha tenido que cambiar el dominio (*vote-auction.com*). El nuevo dueño afirma que está evaluando el impacto del sitio y, en caso de éxito, igual lo aplica en otras elecciones en el mundo. Ha instalado el servidor en Bulgaria, lejos de la justicia de EE UU. A la polémica se sumó el hecho de que siete personas colgaron su voto en el sitio de subastas eBay. La puja fue retirada de inmediato.

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Lo mismo ocurre con la página Gwbush.com. En ambas páginas no queda candidato con cabeza y ofrecen sus argumentos para no votarlos: mentiras o adicción a las drogas o al alcohol. Perfilan la otra cara, la más satírica, del demócrata Al Gore y el republicano George Bush. Y es que Internet, además de informar, también se ríe de las elecciones norteamericanas.



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■ THE NEWS IN THE NETWORK

Ana Pantaleoni

The auction of votes by Internet clouds the North American electoral process

'webs' which they parodian to the candidates grows as it approaches the 7 of November

In case outside small the protagonism of the network in these American elections, the electronic auctions of votes have put the sour cherry. The page Web Voteauction.com allowed until the last week the voters to sell its vote to the best postor. They were registered up to 15,000 people, to about 10 dollars by vote. The authorities of Chicago forced to close the site that has taken hours in arranging dominion again: vote-aution.com. Yet, this pioneering and-campaign continues. The official pages face arduous rivals, those that parodian to the candidates. With images of Bush, bottle in hand, or documents on Gore and their assumption marijuana consumption.

50% of the North American population with right to vote remain in house the day of the elections, according to explains the Vote-auction.com page. If there is to choose between A Gore and George Bush, why not to become of passage with pesetillas, when Internet facilitates it? The site, that has been forced to close and to change the name dominion, remembers the tradition that exists in the United States of purchase of votes from the times of George Washington.

Whatsoever, to deal with the votes in the United States is illegal. The creator of Voteaction.com is a young person just licensed in

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George Bush and To Gore in the dance of the candidates of Olsommer.com.

Political Sciences of called New York James Baumgartner. Its objective era to criticize the American electoral system, in which the companies donate money to the candidates.

Baumgartner, by advice of the authorities of New York, closed *the Web* and sold the dominion, at the end of August, to a company of electronic commerce in Austria. The company, by order of the authorities of Chicago, has had to change the dominion (it votes-auction.com). The new owner affirms that he is evaluating the impact of the site and, in case of success, equal applies it in other elections in the world. He has installed the servant in Bulgaria, far from the justice of EE UU. To the controversy added the fact that seven people hung their vote in the site of auctions eBay. He bids up it was retired immediately.

Votes separate, the network and both candidates to the presidential ones of the United States of 2000, the republican George Bush and the democrat To Gore, have become inseparable companions. For good and the bad thing. First it was to mount the page. Later to incorporate entrances in Spanish to the sites to gain to the 25 million hispanohablantes voters who already live in EE UU. Ahora all the candidates they can be in a new political sand, the one of the cyberspace, and participate in a virtual electoral forum. An initiative without precedents. A collaboration between the 17 sites with greater traffic, like Cnn or Yahoo, follows the activity daily of the electoral campaign. And *Blue is Web White 2000 Cyber Debate*, of the Markle Foundation, that gathers the message of the day and a question of an internaut which supposedly they must respond the candidates.

Ciberdebate tries to complement the three televising debates that are celebrated during these elections. But unlike the television, in ciberdebate they are open to any candidate who appears in the electoral lists. Fear of organizers is that it is initiative, that started up 1 of October the past, counts on a little participation.

The dance of the candidates

The presidential candidates also arise in Internet with other less intellectual tasks. In Olsommer.com, Bush and the Gores dance to the rate of music. Hillary Clinton does not escape either of I wag. From www.gargaro.com/algore.html it is possible to be traveled to other connections, many, that parodian some characteristics of the personality of A Gore.

The same it happens with the Gwbush.com page. In both pages it is not left candidate with head and offer its arguments not to vote

them: lies or addiction to drugs or the alcohol. They outline the other face, most satirical, of the democrat To Gore and the republican George Bush. And it is that Internet, besides to inform, also is ed ***reflx mng of the North American elections.



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Lo mismo ocurre con la página Gwbush.com. En ambas páginas no queda candidato con cabeza y ofrecen sus argumentos para no votarlos: mentiras o adicción a las drogas o al alcohol. Perfilan la otra cara, la más satírica, del demócrata Al Gore y el republicano George Bush. Y es que Internet, además de informar, también se ríe de las elecciones norteamericanas.



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:110: Seminar for Contemporary Performing Arts

eivind orlando [eivindorlando at yahoo.com](mailto:eivindorlando@yahoo.com)

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Seminar for Contemporary Performing Arts

"Performed Politics"

Cankarjev dom, Ljubljana

October 18, 2004 (Monday), 19 hrs

Inke Arns (Berlin)

Affirmation and/as Resistance: On the Strategy of Subversive Affirmation in Current Media Activist Projects (including some examples from the field of contemporary performance)

Since the year 2000, Deportation Class , Please love Austria! , Vote-

auction.com , and The Yes Men have all made use of the tactics of resistance through apparent affirmation of and compliance with the image and the corporate identity of their opponents. While Deportation Class unmasked the "Star Alliance" founded in the 1990s

by Lufthansa and twelve other airlines as a "Deportation Alliance," thus agitating against Lufthansa's lucrative deportation business, Christoph Schlingensief adapted the mass-media Big Brother format to

stage a media-savvy deportation of asylum seekers live from the container on Herbert von Karajan Plaza, carried out through TED viewer voting throughout the Vienna Festwochen of 2000. By advertising the whole event as an action of the FPÖ [i.e. the Freedom

Party of Austria], Schlingensief could count on the attention of the

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an online action just prior to the US presidential elections of
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Here, the confluence of capital and (voting) power was demonstrated
with astonishing clarity. Finally, in their action The Yes Men, the
American activists' group RTMark sent alleged representatives of
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World Trade Organization (WTO) to international conferences, where
they delivered amazing reports on the state of the world's economy
and proclaimed the end of the WTO.

In my lecture I will look at these and other recent media activist
projects (etoy/Toywar, 0100101110101101.org, etc.) and analyze
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strategy of (subversive) affirmation as resistance. What becomes
apparent in these projects is the fact that today critical distance
is no longer seen as a viable strategy. As there seems to be no
outside of the text (Jacques Derrida) left - a situation brought
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it is rather the viral-like stealth tactics of subversive
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that still seem to hold a potential of resistance. These tactics
allow artists to take part in a certain social, political, or
economic discourse and affirm, appropriate, or consume it while
simultaneously undermining it.

Laibach and NSK as a whole (as well as others) have undoubtedly
played a crucial role for the formation of today's subversive-
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Duration: 60 min.

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prank was the work of an organization known as 0100101110101101.

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Laibach/NSK since the 1980s.

Subversive affirmation and over-identification are tactics - if we are to follow Michel de Certeau's definition given in his Practice of

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Subversive affirmation and over-identification are forms of critique

which through techniques of affirmation, involvement and identification put the viewer/listener precisely in such a state or situation which s/he would or will criticise later. Conceived as "estranging participation" or "involving alienation" (Sylvia Sasse),

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experience of what is being criticized.

The various tactics and parasitical practices which I will present have in common that they employ the classical methods of aesthetics, imitation, simulation, mimicry, and camouflage in the sense of "becoming invisible" by disappearing into the background.

Furthermore, the lecture will attempt to historically classify the artistic practices of subversive affirmation and trace them back to their origins. There appear to be largely unknown conceptual links to the absurdist practice of Oberiu (Association of Real Art - Daniil Charms and others) of the late 1920s / early 1930s which has been called the last Soviet avant-garde.

Duration: 45 Min.

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Tactical Writing

[David Rieder](#)

North Carolina State University



Extending this issue's focus on media literacy, I wanted to highlight the work of an international collective of tactical media practitioners whose projects have been the increasing focus of conference presentations and scholarly papers. The collective is post-disciplinary in focus and in purpose, and its tactics support a wide range of cultural expression from the aesthetic to the anarchistic. If media literacy is typically concerned with representational critique, these practitioners offer an alternative method. Informed in part by Michel de Certeau's theory of tactics, their methods are less concerned with representations than with the *use* of representations. For these practitioners, media literacy is a hybrid methodology of cuts and disruptions into the flow of "spectacular culture." One of their objectives is to open up local, temporary spaces for alternative, not-for-profit modes of thinking and living.

In the introduction to their book [Digital Resistance: Explorations in Tactical Media](#), from which the above quote is taken, the *Critical Art Ensemble (CAE)* write, "the tactical media practitioner uses any media necessary to meet the demands of the situation. While practitioners may have expertise in a given medium, they do not limit their ventures to the exclusive use of one medium" (8). From a pedagogical standpoint, media literacy is a local, pragmatic affair. De Certeau likens it the ancient Greek art

of sophistry. Moreover, tactical media literacy is the work of amateurs. The CAE explain:

Amateurs have the ability to see through the dominant paradigms, are freer to recombine elements of paradigms of thought long dead, and apply everyday life experience to their deliberations. (8)

Due to their "inexpertise," collective or group work is the staging point for the wide range of critical expression. With a local focus and a pragmatic philosophy towards the media, these practitioners are making their work known around the world.

In this column, I will focus on the work hosted on www.rtmark.com. TMark is a self-described corporate brokerage that "supports the sabotage (informative alteration) of corporate products . . . by channeling funds from investors to workers for specific projects." One of its distinguishing characteristics is its appropriation of the corporate model of the mutual fund to facilitate interaction among its users. Importantly, TMark is non-violent. One of their "bottom-line" criteria is "attack without physical injury."

Corporate Consulting for the 21st Century

On the FAQ for their site, TMark writes,



Project groupings called "mutual funds" perform much the same function as their financial counterparts: by facilitating investment based on general areas of interest, they allow investors to participate in unpredictable behavior without fully understanding its nature or consequences. (par. 12)

There is a wide range of fund themes many of which are managed by well-known groups or individuals in alternative cultures. "The Frontier Fund" is managed by DJ Spooky, That Subliminal Kid, "The High Risk Fund" is managed by Heath Bunting, who works on irational.org, and "The Media Fund" is managed by Andrei Codrescu, writer and commentator on *National Public Radio*. Looking at a snapshot of Codrescu's fund, the first project listed under development is the *CueJack*.

Andrei Codrescu, manager

For reasons of situation, this high-risk fund has tremendous potential yields. The Media Fund is managed by Andrei Codrescu, who has consistently produced oppositional cultural dividends in various contexts, from the poetic to the cinematic. His current position as commentator for National Public Radio completes his exceptional qualifications for this position.

To workshop a project in The Media Fund Forum, click on its JOIN button.

JOIN	FUNDS	US\$	NEED	DESCRIPTION
 Join CCAT list	media net labor	0	workers funds	"Use and develop <u>this software</u> that turns the Cuecat, the <u>freely available barcode scanner</u> meant to aid shopping from home and to keep messy information away from 'consumers', into a tool for learning about corporate behavior."
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®TMark also includes a list of past projects on its site. One that received an impressive amount of press is vote-auction.com, which can now be found at <http://62.116.31.68/>. Developed for the 2000 presidential campaign, the site, like the CueJack, is considered a piece of "parodyware." Drawing attention to the extent to which corporate interests drive the American electoral process, the site removes the traditional middlemen (the political parties) from the voting process, allowing voters to sell their votes directly to the corporations that influence voter interest. Developed by a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the site received a lot of attention from most major media outlets. In their introduction to the site, ®TMark writes:

In article after article and television spot after television spot, journalists found ways to mention that corporations already purchase American votes-- exactly the issue that founder James Baumgartner and owner-rescuer Ubermorgen.com intended the website to highlight.

Today, the site is a piece of tactical media history, but its developers claim that the concept driving vote-auction.com will be used again. This project is another example of the way in which a tactical media literacy will work within the logic of mass

media to create awareness and possible change.

Outlining his theory of tactics, de Certeau states, "a tactic boldly juxtaposes diverse elements in order suddenly to produce a flash shedding a different light on the language of a place and to strike the hearer" (37-38). In this way, the media literacy that is derived from these practitioners can be associated with the practices of collage and montage in modern avant-garde art. By juxtaposing elements that are typically separated in spectacular society, these practitioners try to create pockets of awareness that are unsupported by the mainstreams of society.

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The "CueJack" is a downloadable software program that subverts the normal operations of Digital Convergence's well-publicized :CueCat. As you probably know, the :CueCat is a handheld barcode scanner that directs Internet users to official corporate homepages listed in Digital Convergence's database. The *CueJack* subverts this action, redirecting users from the official listings in Digital Convergence's database to the results of a Lycos search query of publicized corporate illegalities and inequities. If the corporation in question has been boycotted, or if it has been charged with corporate abuse, the *CueJack*'s users will find out about it. The *CueJack*, like many of the projects in [®]TMark's funds, use mainstream technologies against the corporations and agencies that developed them. Spectacular culture is used against itself in the name of critical awareness and cultural transformation.

[®]TMark also includes a list of past projects on its site. One that received an impressive amount of press is [vote-auction.com](#), which can now be found at <http://62.116.31.68/>. Developed for the 2000 presidential campaign, the site, like the *CueJack*, is considered a piece of "parodyware." Drawing attention to the extent to which corporate interests drive the American electoral process, the site removes the traditional middlemen (the political parties) from the voting process, allowing voters to sell their votes directly to the corporations that influence voter interest. Developed by a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the site received a lot of attention from most major media outlets. In their introduction to the site, [®]TMark writes:

In article after article and television spot after television spot, journalists found ways to mention that corporations already purchase American votes-- exactly the issue that founder James Baumgartner and owner-rescuer Ubermorgen.com intended the website to highlight.

Today, the site is a piece of tactical media history, but its developers claim that the concept driving [vote-auction.com](http://www.vote-auction.com) will be used again. This project is another example of the way in which a tactical media literacy will work within the logic of mass media to create awareness and possible change.

Outlining his theory of tactics, de Certeau states, "a tactic boldly juxtaposes diverse elements in order suddenly to produce a flash shedding a different light on the language of a place and to strike the hearer" (37-38). In this way, the media literacy that is derived from these practitioners can be associated with the practices of collage and montage in modern avant-garde art. By juxtaposing elements that are typically separated in spectacular society, these practitioners try to create pockets of awareness that are unsupported by the mainstreams of society.

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US votes up for auction

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Americas

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Europe

Middle East

South Asia

From Our Own Correspondent

Letter From America

UK

UK Politics

Business

Sci/Tech

Health

Education

Entertainment

Talking Point

In Depth

AudioVideo



The auction is attracting voters across America

United States officials are investigating the activities of a website that is auctioning votes in the presidential election.

The California based www.voteauction.com says it is "Bringing Capitalism and Democracy Closer Together," but legislators in California, New York and Michigan have begun investigations into the site's activities.

In Chicago the Board of Elections has applied to have [voteauction.com](http://www.voteauction.com) shut down.

According to the website they have more than 21,000 registered members who are offering to sell their votes.

“ It is your vote, you can throw it away or destroy your ballot paper, so why can't you sell it? ”

**Hans Bernhard
Austrian investor**

The secretary of state for California has described the scheme as "no different from standing outside a polling place and selling your vote for a dollar".

Voter fraud

Mr Jones has warned that users could be charged with felony and jailed for three years.

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- ▶ The celebrations
- ▶ The Clinton years
- ▶ Road to the Presidency

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AUDIO VIDEO

TALKING POINT

ELECTION FACT FILES

Who's who

The site invites voters in each state to offer their votes for sale on the site through a bidding process.

The highest bid for votes in each state will then be given to a presidential candidate of the winning bidder's choice.

The price of the vote varies according to each state. In California for example the going price is \$19.61 and in Texas \$4.19.

Officials say they fear absentee voters will find the scheme attractive.



The Presidential candidates are facing commercial test of their popularity

Business venture

The website was designed by James Baumgartner, a graduate student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York.

He then sold it to a group of Austrian businessmen.

One of the investors, Hans Bernhard, has pledged to protect the identity of his clients.

"We have to protect our voters," Mr Bernhard told the Associated Press news agency.

"I know American institutions, especially legal and government institutions, threaten massively. And that's how they solve things, they make people afraid.

"We aren't afraid because there is no clear indication that something serious can come out of this."

The site is reported to have moved operations to various countries and is currently believed to be operating out of Bulgaria.

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- 18 Oct 00 | Americas
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Mr Bernhard has indicated that the company's business model could be extended to other countries.

"We are looking at a test pilot in the US elections but considering expanding to Germany and the UK - they are big markets for us.

"People need an incentive to vote. It is your vote, you can throw it away or destroy your ballot paper, so why can't you sell it?" he asked rhetorically.

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US votes up for auction

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World



- Africa
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- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Middle East
- South Asia

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Open Studio Weekly Digest: November 13- November 19, 2000

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Open Studio Weekly Digest, a free service of Open Studio: The Arts Online (<http://www.benton.org/openstudio>), reports on current events in our regional training sites, arts and technology news, and Web resources of interest to the nonprofit arts community. If you have any questions about this service, please contact openstudio@benton.org.

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Open Studio Weekly Digest
November 13- November 19, 2000

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----- New Resources on the Open Studio Web site

NEWS/RESOURCES:

-----Current Online Articles Relating to Arts and Technology:
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"ICANN: The Winners Are ..."
"The Jukebox Manifesto"
"Web Connection Supports Asian Arts Community for Third Year"
"NEA Chairman Upbeat Over Agency's Future Role"
"Adapting Business Principles to Help Nonprofit Organizations Make Sound Economic Decisions"

-----Online Resources for the Arts Community:
Center for Arts and Culture Listserve
Museum Computer Network's Spectra Millennial Digest
"Music and the Internet Revolution"

----- Conference:
Digital Independence 2001

-----Examples of Online Exhibitions:
One Stop Warhol Shop
Brooklyn Academy of Music's "Before & After Geography"

-----Resources for Technology Trainers:
Tutorialfind.com
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The Chronicle of Philanthropy's Building Nonprofit Web Sites

-----New Benton Foundation Resources
America Waits... For Low-Power radio

NATIONAL OPEN STUDIO UPDATE includes updates about the Open Studio national program and Web site.
#####

New Resources on the Open Studio Web site - Streaming Media on Music Web sites

Are you a musician interested in streaming your work to the Web? Are you an arts organization that would like to post your performances to your site? New to the Innovative Uses of Technology Section of the Digital Canvas Magazine are examples of Web sites that use streaming technologies to enhance their for-profit and nonprofit initiatives. These sites can provide inspiration to nonprofit arts groups and artists interested in using these technologies to promote their work. Visit these resources at: (<http://www.benton.org/openstudio/innovativeuses/streamingmedia-music.html>).

NEWS/RESOURCES highlights current news and resources to inform the

arts community about arts and technology-related issues.

#####

Current Online Articles Relating to Arts and Technology:

.....

"Lawyers Are Cheap at **Vote Auction**"

.....

"It seems that we are witnessing the birth of a new subgenre of action-art: Digital Legal Art," says artist and founder of etoy.com, Hans Bernhard. Bernhard has found himself in the center of several law suits from US States several law suits for his newest venture VoteAuction.com. VoteAuction.com, an Austria-based satirical Web site that claims to buy and sell votes, has been shut down by The Internet Council of Registrars (CORE). In response, Bernhard plans to begin his own legal challenge to the Nov. 1 shutdown of his site. Read this article at: (<http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,40092,00.html>).

.....

"ICANN: The Winners Are ..."

.....

Organizations will no longer feel restricted by the domain names dot.org, dot.com and dot.net. As of November 16, 2000, seven new top level domains were approved by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. An important addition is the dot.museum which will be available in early spring for certified museums to use. The other six new domain names are: dot-biz, dot-info, dot-name, dot-pro, dot-aero and dot-coop. Read this article at: (<http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,40228,00.html>).

.....

"The Jukebox Manifesto"

.....

This Salon article outlines the recent advances and current challenges of the Digital Music Industry in trying to control the trading of digital music on the Web. Because 58.5% of Napster users would be willing to pay for their service, the author states that the music industry could develop a higher quality item, probably resulting in an even more popular product. Read this article at: (<http://www.salon.com/tech/feature/2000/11/13/jukebox/index.html>).

.....

"Web Connection Supports Asian Arts Community for Third Year"

.....

For the third year in a row, Web Connection, a subsidiary of the

chinadotcom Corporation, has developed the online presence for the Hong Kong Arts Festival. The Web site for this month long festival will allow visitors to research their favorite programs, reserve tickets and experience the festival in an interactive multimedia format. This online presence will help promote the festival locally, regionally and internationally. Read this article at [Long URL will wrap]: (http://asia.biz.yahoo.com/news/asian_markets/asiapulse/article.html?s=asiafinance/news/001114/asian_markets/asiapulse/Web_Connection_Supports_Asian_Arts_Community_for_Third_Year.html).

.....

"NEA Chairman Upbeat Over Agency's Future Role"

.....

In this article in the Pittsburgh-Post Gazette, Bill Ivey, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, discusses the recent budget increase for the Endowment as well as next steps for the agency under a new administration. Read this article at: (<http://www.post-gazette.com/magazine/20001118people3.asp>).

.....

"Adapting Business Principles to Help Nonprofit Organizations Make Sound Economic Decisions"

.....

This Philanthropy News Network column features Dennis Young, CEO of the National Center on Nonprofit Enterprise, explaining possibilities for nonprofit organizations to adopt forprofit models and practices. The article outlines two case studies of nonprofits using for-profit practices, but warns that "nonprofits cannot blindly apply business methods without appropriate adaptation." Nonprofits interested in using ecommerce might be interested in Young's suggestions for partnerships with forprofit companies. Read this article at: (<http://pnnonline.org/innovations/young1117.adp>).

Online Resources for the Arts Community:

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Center for Arts and Culture Listserve

.....

The Center for Arts and Culture, an independent organization that examines the role of creativity in all areas of national public policymaking, has announced a new listserv for those interested in US cultural policy. The listserv will begin as a biweekly update about the Center's activities and new Web content. Eventually, the listserv will evolve into online discussions. Sign up for this resource at: (<http://www.culturalpolicy.org>).

Users might also be interested in this speech transcript, published by the

Center for Arts and Culture, by Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Advisor to the First Lady on the Millennium. McCulloch-Lovell spoke these words at the Center for Arts and Culture conference titled "Social Theory, Politics and the Arts Annual Conference." Visit this resource at: (<http://www.culturalpolicy.org/whatsnew/lovell.htm>).

.....
Museum Computer Network's Spectra Millennial Digest
.....

The Museum Computer Network's SPECTRA Millennial Digest contains short essays from over 70 well-known technologists, artists, educators, administrators on the ways in which technology will impact the future of museums. Users can purchase hard copies of the digest through the MCN Web site (located at: <http://www.mcn.edu>) or read the essays online at: (<http://www.artsconnected.org/millennialmuseum>). Each essay is also available as an electronic postcard, allowing you to email articles of particular interest to friends and colleagues.

.....
"Music and the Internet Revolution"
.....

Published by Free Pint, this article informs musicians about important online music issues, such as music piracy, copyright infringement and licensing. Visit this resource at [Note: Long URL will wrap]: (http://www.freepint.co.uk/issues/161100.htm?FreePint_Session=8283f1646d6c5dfe63f956623e8e0693#tips).

Conference- Digital Independence 2001

Digital Independence 2001 will bring innovative artists, technology visionaries and business leaders to San Francisco to address how independent mediamakers can cope with and exploit the digital revolution. From January 28-30, 2001, conference participants will be able to learn more about the new technologies-- from video games to digital cinema, broadcast and cable TV to streaming media. Read about this conference at: (<http://www.digitalindies.com>).

Example of Online Exhibitions:

.....
One Stop Warhol Shop
.....

A "unique Web project" developed by the Andy Warhol Museum in collaboration with ArtMuseum.net, this site serves as an excellent

introduction to all things Warhol. The site is structured around Warhol's premise that a museum is like a supermarket -- especially, of course, if you fill museums with images of the mass produced -- offering visitors three different sections to "shop": the supermarket, the factory, and Warhol himself. In addition, the Web site's menus offer voice-overs of Warhol and his associates. Unlike many museum sites devoted to contemporary artists, this one doesn't skimp on its materials, though it would have been nice if the images came in more than one size. Overall, we found the site informative and very much in the spirit of the man who almost single-handedly invented pop art. Visit this exhibition at: (<http://osws.artmuseum.net/enter.html>). [Copyright Internet Scout Project, 1994-2000. <http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/>].

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Brooklyn Academy of Music's "Before & After Geography"

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Brooklyn Academy of Music's "Before & After Geography" is based on choreographer Ralph Lemon's travel journals, rehearsal notes, documentation videos, and photographs surrounding the creation and performance of "Tree: Part 2 of the Geography Trilogy" during the Brooklyn Academy of Music's 2000 Next Wave Festival. Developed by Vivian Selbo and Carl Skelton, the complex assemblage of images, video, sound, animation and text suggest a model for how the offline stage and Internet might dialogue with one another; offering up alternative themes and questions the performance does not or can not address. Visit this exhibition at: (<http://www.bam.org/tree/>).

Resources for Technology Trainers:

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Tutorialfind.com

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Open Studio trainers can use this online resource to find a variety of technology-related and not-so-technology related tutorials. Trainers can find the latest tutorials on Web development, computer basics, the Internet, and multimedia technology. Although many of the technology resources link to popular Web resources such as CNET and Web Monkey, there are some unique finds as well. Trainers can also submit their online tutorials to reach a broader audience. Visit this resource at: (<http://www.tutorialfind.com>).

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DSL vs. Cable Modem Comparison

.....

This About.com article compares the technical differences between the

broadband connections of DSL (digital subscriber lines) and cable modems. As more arts organizations add streaming videos of performances to their Web sites, these organizations will be exploring what type of broadband connection to choose. Read this article at: (<http://compnetworking.about.com/library/weekly/aa111200a.htm?PM=n101120d>).

.....

The Chronicle of Philanthropy's Building Nonprofit Web Sites

.....

Chronicle of Philanthropy has compiled a variety of resources to help nonprofits build Web sites. Some of the resources will be familiar to Open Studio trainers, but this online resource does provide a nice compact handout to give trainees during Open Studio trainings. Visit this resource at: (<http://philanthropy.com/free/resources/technology/websites.htm>)

New Benton Foundation Resources:

This past week, Benton's Communications Policy and Practice (CPP) published one article online. CPP promotes public interest values and noncommercial services for the evolving Information Infrastructure through research, policy analysis, print and online publishing, and outreach to nonprofits and foundations.

.....

America Waits... For Low-Power radio

.....

As America waits for a new president to be chosen, the country continues to face other less talked about political ambiguities. In late October, with several important appropriations bills still in limbo, Congress passed a continuing resolution which allowed the government to operate while members of the Senate and the House went home to campaign for re-election. Many community groups around the country have been closely following the fate of one of the contested bills, which, if approved, would all but destroy the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) proposed low-power radio program (LPFM), meant to diversify radio ownership and give communities greater access to the airwaves. Visit this resource at: (<http://www.benton.org/DigitalBeat/db111500.html>).

#####

ABOUT OPEN STUDIO

Open Studio: The Arts Online, a joint program of the Benton Foundation (<http://www.benton.org>) and National Endowment for the Arts (<http://arts.endow.gov>), provides Internet access and training to artists and nonprofit arts organizations to ensure that the communications environment of the 21st century thrives as a source of creative excellence and diversity.

#####

If you have any questions about this service, please contact:

openstudio@benton.org.

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Democracy: Possible paths

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4

Vote-auction.com

12

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P.R. Agency

C

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B

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let us first look at elections as they currently unroll, with all their inefficiencies.

[click] at the top, we have a number of corporations, let's call them corporations A.

[click] from the corporation, involving the work of about twelve employees PER corporation, goes a great deal of money to

[click] a campaign--let's call it campaign B.

[click] From the campaign--involving...--goes a great deal of money to a

[click] p.r. agency--let's call it...

[click] from the p.r....

[click] to t.v. stations....

[click] finally, the TV stations relay the information to the consumer--with NO transfer of money, of course (except in the case of pay-per-view, etc.)

and of course the irony of this, in order to generate all the money that it takes to fuel this chain, you have all the workers of the corporations who are ALSO the citizens and the voters at the END of the chain.

now on the other hand, another model: in this case you have the [click] corporations paying, with about the same number of people involved, ONE entity: [click] Voteauction.com, Voteauction.com, in turn, employs ONLY four people to transmit NOT merely inf

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Voter Z

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WTO Satire "Inspiring" to WEF Protestors

WTO "Yes Men" Offer Food Delivery System, Show Hilarious Video.



Staten Island, Jan 31, 2002.

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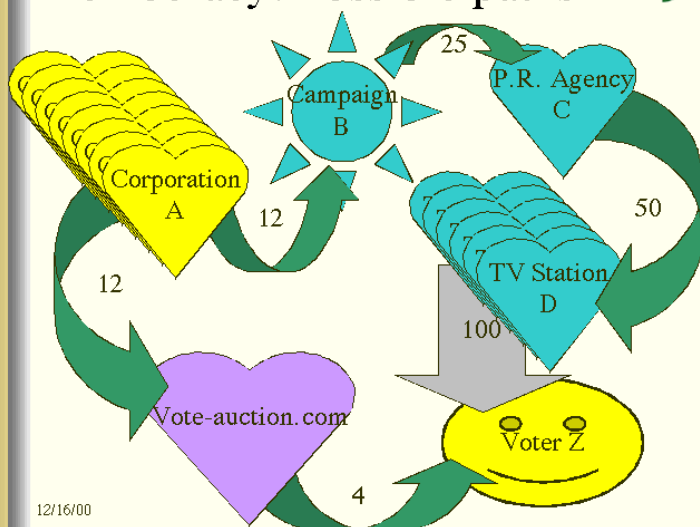
As the assistant was suddenly stripped of his business suit and ran offstage in his underwear, the speakers admitted that they were in fact the Yes Men, a political prank and satire group. In early 2000, the Yes Men took over <http://www.gatt.org>, a spoof of the WTO's former internet address. In May 2000 **www.gatt.org** received a request from the *Center for International Legal Studies* to speak at an international trade conference in Salzburg, Austria. "The ethical thing," said Dr. Baatasuna, "was to accept and do our best."

The audience was then treated to a 30-minute video, **The Horribly Stupid Stunt**, a hilarious account of the Yes Men's Salzburg prank from receipt of the invitation, the response to and reception of "Dr. Andreas Bilchbaur" by the CILS, Dr. Bilchbaur's slide presentation to the Salzburg lawyers, his being pried in face by a protestor, his subsequent death from bacillus infection, and the comments of conference participants for his funeral. The complete video is also available [online](#).

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Democracy: Possible paths



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After the video, the audience joined in a spirited discussion about the lack of real information in America about the WTO and its program and the media misrepresentation of WEF protestors as violent thugs.

At the coffee and sandwich period following, several WEF protestors remarked that the evening's presentation was the best thing they'd done all day. ***"It's very inspiring, and I'm very appreciative that you guys were here tonight to do this," said Ray Roberts, who came to New York City from Cleveland to join the protests against the WEF. "I've spent an entire day of very depressing workshops and conferences, people trying to figure out what the message is, and no one is clear on anything, really. It's a very important issue to me, and I want to see something positive come out of this. Going to these workshops is very hard; everyone is talking about the problem, and no one knows what to do about it. And the statistics, the facts, the stuff that goes on in the head, you know... people are naturally turned off to that kind of thing. But you have a way of presenting things that's very inspiring, and I'm so happy to be here. It's simple enough, it's engaging enough, to make a real impact. Really, you should franchise this."***

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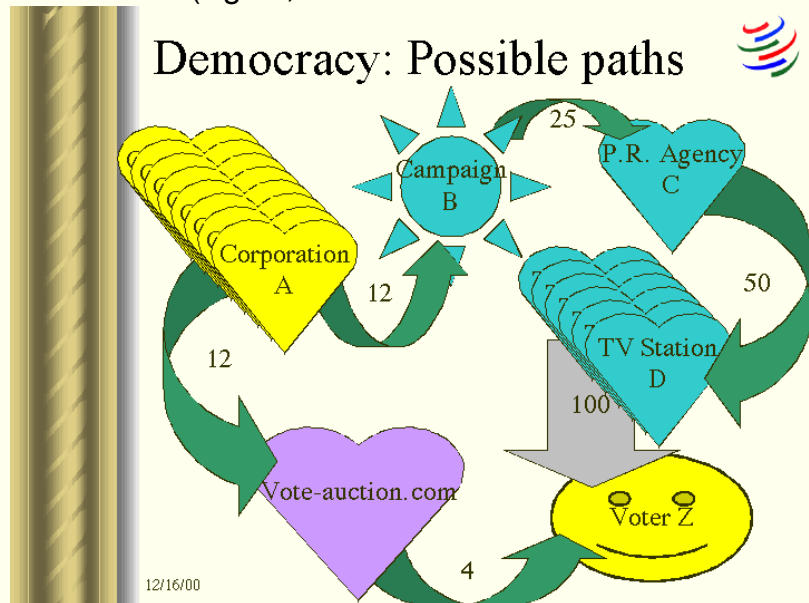
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- o IN BRIEF ARCHIVES
- o GUEST REVIEWER
- o CUTS of the MONTH - NOV

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By Jeff Miles with additional writing by Michael Vazquez

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But as the Yes Men continue in their efforts to target corporate irresponsibility on a global scale and expose the casualties of globalization which are often swept under the corporate rug, the question of just exactly what kinds of changes would be required to heighten corporate accountability and stop the PR spins which Mike and Andy call "goose stepping."

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I ask Mike and Andy what nasty scenes they've come across behind the closed doors of the privileged "Well," Mike began,"at the Heritage Foundation, I sat next to a fat Russian guy. He told me he was at the Million Woman March earlier that month, and he had looked out, and said to a friend, 'many thousands of woman, all singles, all lesbians, disgusting!' That's pretty much the most indicting thing I've heard or seen." Indicting, indeed.

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What is free and what is paid for

by **Matt Worley**

For those who want a bit of political mimicry, "The State of the Net is the Strongest It's Ever Been!" But that's a misleading statement, much like Clinton's last couple of January speeches to Congress. The reason it's the strongest is because more people than ever are using the Net than ever. The sheer numbers are overwhelming proof that the Internet isn't just another version of the CB radio. But it isn't all that it could be, and the amount of resistance to certain issues by traditional companies raises many of the same kinds of questions the current presidential campaign does. Mainly, who owns what and how much should all of us regular folk pay for it?

While phone, cable and wireless companies expand their Internet products (a turnaround for the baby bells who, only a year or so ago, were trying to put a per-minute cost on Internet use over phone lines) to give faster, more reliable and overall better service, everyone else is arguing about the content that comes streaming into our homes. How do we protect our children? How do we protect our "intellectual property?" But mostly, how do we make money?

At the heart of this is Napster. I know I've talked about this issue a bit too much, but the Napster fight and decision will affect the way file sharing is done in the future--much in the same way the Roe vs. Wade decision has been the legal division in the fight between pro-choice and pro-lifers.

This is about business and making money. Let's think about music marketing for a second, though. Companies send free music to reviewers, promoters and radio stations in hopes of some kind of coverage, play on the radio and maybe good reviews (although this last point isn't always necessary). Almost everyone listens to the radio--and the only costs to us are 1) having to listen to commercials, 2) having to listen to idiotic DJs telling bad lowest common denominator jokes and 3) the cost of the radio.

For the most part, I only listen to the radio when I'm in my car. But as a teenager, the radio was a window to a larger world. And then MTV became a larger window to an even more diversified world. Today, I rarely can get even half way to work before I have to shut the radio off and put in a mix tape of my own choosing.

I've seen articles about the amazing amount of Internet radio stations available, but these stations are even more selective in content than the over-the-air versions, mostly because they can only support a limited number of listeners, so they can't try to reach EVERYONE, just a very selective and single-minded few. And most of the time, the stations are rotated lists of

songs run by computer--not necessarily by human touch.

I like Napster because it gives me the choice of almost everything I want to hear. I pull down sound files and then throw a couple hours of MP3s on my jukebox at work. My own mix, songs I want to hear, no commentary and no constant reminder that I could buy this CD with a click of a button if I want. I only listen to these songs at work and most of them, well, the sound quality is like listening to bootlegs--even through the neat new Mac Cube speakers I conned my company into giving me.

Should I pay for these songs? Maybe. A small, set monthly fee (the suggested \$5 a pop sounded okay to me). But per download? No way. I throw out songs I don't like, or ones where the sound is so horrible I don't even want to listen. The big music companies don't get this. They want accountability and profits. But what is the difference between my programming my own radio station at work and just listening to the radio? I still buy CDs of music that I like, just like I buy CDs from bands whose songs I hear on the radio.

32 million people have signed up to the Napster service, which is more than the 25 million people who have signed up for AOL. The music companies should weigh their decisions with a bit of levity. That's a lot of people who like a personal choice in their music--and more than any one radio station (or music channel) in the world. If they can't see that Napster is one of the greatest music promotional tools ever created, then someone still has their blinders on.

On the flip side, the right to vote in this country is given to every citizen over the age of 18 who hasn't been convicted of a felony. This is a free thing and is apparently encouraged by those who are running for public service jobs. It is illegal to sell your vote. And if you get caught, you'll not only lose your right to vote, but you could get fined and/or put in jail.

There is a site called vote-auction.com where a block of presidential votes is being auctioned to the highest bidder. Around 5000 people have signed up to sell their votes, and the highest bid so far comes to around \$20 a vote.

As regular citizens, our votes are treated as a sacred trust between us and the government. But those who have been voted into public service sell their votes (through lobbyists) to the highest bidder. There is supposed to be a sacred trust between us regular people and the public servants (as they like to be called) who create and enact our laws.

If these people can sell their principles to whichever company or public interest group who comes up with the most campaign money, then why can't we sell our votes? Cut out the middle man and make a direct connection

between the actual citizen and the so-called public servant.

Obviously this isn't going to happen, but this vote auction site does bring up an interesting point: we are selling ourselves (for free, mind you) to whoever we vote for. And there is not necessarily a reciprocal action going on.

If we, as a people, could see our votes as an investment of ourselves in the running of our government, maybe we could get more people to exercise this (free) right.

The Internet has brought up many questions about our culture and the value of products and services we use on a regular basis. It is how we define and, in the end, enact laws about these uses that will shape the Internet in the near future. The freeness and relative anonymity of the Internet is what attracts most of us to use it in the first place. And like the Roe vs. Wade decision back in the 70s, we are at a crossroads. Which road will we take now?

Matt Worley likes to think there are more than two choices here, but he understands that people get confused when they can't just flip a coin.

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What is free and what is paid for by Matt Worley

For those who want a bit of political mimicry, "The State of the Net is the Strongest It's Ever Been!" But that's a misleading statement, much like Clinton's last couple of January speeches to Congress. The reason it's the strongest is because more people than ever are using the Net than ever. The sheer numbers are overwhelming proof that the Internet isn't just another version of the CB radio. But it isn't all that it could be, and the amount of resistance to certain issues by traditional companies raises many of the same kinds of questions the current presidential campaign does. Mainly, who owns what and how much should all of us regular folk pay for it?

While phone, cable and wireless companies expand their Internet products (a turnaround for the baby bells who, only a year or so ago, were trying to put a per-minute cost on Internet use over phone lines) to give faster, more reliable and overall better service, everyone else is arguing about the content that comes streaming into our homes. How do we protect our children? How do we protect our "intellectual property?" But mostly, how do we make money?

At the heart of this is Napster. I know I've talked about this issue a bit too much, but the Napster fight and decision will affect the way file sharing is done in the future--much in the same way the Roe vs. Wade decision has been the legal division in the fight between pro-choice and pro-lifers.

This is about business and making money. Let's think about music marketing for a second, though. Companies send free music to reviewers, promoters and radio stations in hopes of some kind of coverage, play on the radio and maybe

good reviews (although this last point isn't always necessary). Almost everyone listens to the radio--and the only costs to us are 1) having to listen to commercials, 2) having to listen to idiotic DJs telling bad lowest common denominator jokes and 3) the cost of the radio.

For the most part, I only listen to the radio when I'm in my car. But as a teenager, the radio was a window to a larger world. And then MTV became a larger window to an even more diversified world. Today, I rarely can get even half way to work before I have to shut the radio off and put in a mix tape of my own choosing.

I've seen articles about the amazing amount of Internet radio stations available, but these stations are even more selective in content than the over-the-air versions, mostly because they can only support a limited number of listeners, so they can't try to reach EVERYONE, just a very selective and single-minded few. And most of the time, the stations are rotated lists of songs run by computer--not necessarily by human touch.

I like Napster because it gives me the choice of almost everything I want to hear. I pull down sound files and then throw a couple hours of MP3s on my jukebox at work. My own mix, songs I want to hear, no commentary and no constant reminder that I could buy this CD with a click of a button if I want. I only listen to these songs at work and most of them, well, the sound quality is like listening to bootlegs--even through the neat new Mac Cube speakers I conned my company into giving me.

Should I pay for these songs? Maybe. A small, set monthly fee (the suggested \$5 a pop sounded okay to me). But per download? No way. I throw out songs I don't like, or ones where the sound is so horrible I don't even want to listen. The big music companies don't get this. They want accountability and profits. But what is the difference between my programming my own radio station at work and just listening to the radio? I still buy CDs of music that I like, just like I buy CDs from bands whose songs I hear on the radio.

32 million people have signed up to the Napster service, which is more than the 25 million people who have signed up for AOL. The music companies should weigh their decisions with a bit of levity. That's a lot of people who like a personal choice in their music--and more than any one radio station (or music channel) in the world. If they can't see that Napster is one of the greatest music promotional tools ever created, then someone still has their blinders on.

On the flip side, the right to vote in this country is given to every citizen over the age of 18 who hasn't been convicted of a felony. This is a free thing and is apparently encouraged by those who are running for public service jobs. It is

illegal to sell your vote. And if you get caught, you'll not only lose your right to vote, but you could get fined and/or put in jail.

There is a site called [vote-auction.com](#) where a block of presidential votes is being auctioned to the highest bidder. Around 5000 people have signed up to sell their votes, and the highest bid so far comes to around \$20 a vote.

As regular citizens, our votes are treated as a sacred trust between us and the government. But those who have been voted into public service sell their votes (through lobbyists) to the highest bidder. There is supposed to be a sacred trust between us regular people and the public servants (as they like to be called) who create and enact our laws.

If these people can sell their principles to whichever company or public interest group who comes up with the most campaign money, then why can't we sell our votes? Cut out the middle man and make a direct connection between the actual citizen and the so-called public servant.

Obviously this isn't going to happen, but this [vote auction](#) site does bring up an interesting point: we are selling ourselves (for free, mind you) to whoever we vote for. And there is not necessarily a reciprocal action going on.

If we, as a people, could see our votes as an investment of ourselves in the running of our government, maybe we could get more people to exercise this (free) right.

The Internet has brought up many questions about our culture and the value of products and services we use on a regular basis. It is how we define and, in the end, enact laws about these uses that will shape the Internet in the near future. The freeness and relative anonymity of the Internet is what attracts most of us to use it in the first place. And like the Roe vs. Wade decision back in the 70s, we are at a crossroads. Which road will we take now?

Matt Worley likes to think there are more than two choices here, but he understands that people get confused when they can't just flip a coin.

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Voteauction.com

An Internet jurisdiction case

In October, 2000, the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners became concerned that a Web site located in Austria, voteauction.com, had the potential to corrupt or, at least, to undermine confidence in the general election subsequently held on 7 November 2000 in Chicago and elsewhere in the United States. voteauction.com solicited voters in the then forthcoming election to offer to sell their votes, and also solicited persons interested in buying those votes. The Web site was constructed so that offers to sell and offers to buy were made by filling out a form that included the address, with a pull down list including Illinois as an option. Moreover, the Web site also included a summary of outstanding offers with Illinois as a specific listing. There was, thus, little difficulty in concluding that Illinois courts could exercise jurisdiction over the Web site under the Zippo Continuum [\[1\]](#) and the targeting concept of Millennium Enterprises. [\[2\]](#)

Accordingly, the Board of Election Commissioners filed a civil lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County against voteauction.com and its individual organizers and managers.

But the existence of theoretical jurisdiction was not enough; any judgment also must be enforced, and the procedures for transnational enforcement of judgments not only are uncertain, they would take months. The election was scheduled in weeks.

So, the Election Commissioners thought about practicable enforcement measures that might be taken against property located in the jurisdiction, or at least in the United States. One possibility was to target the domain name, "voteauction.com." Such an approach had been suggested by the author of this article in "Will the Judgment Proof Own Cyberspace." [\[3\]](#) The offending domain name was present in Illinois—and hundreds or thousands of domain name servers supporting hundreds or thousands of Internet service providers in the vicinity of Chicago. But litigating against all those ISPs quickly was ruled out. Instead, voteauction.com's domain name registrar, Domain Bank, was named as a defendant in the lawsuit, and the draft injunction attached to the complaint included a paragraph ordering that the domain name be withdrawn or cancelled. In October, Judge Murphy of the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois signed the injunction after a hearing.

Domain Bank had been notified of the lawsuit, and had engaged in extensive telephonic discussions with counsel for the Election Commissioners. Domain Bank had, in its standard domain name registration agreement, a provision prohibiting the use of domain names for "illegal purposes." After the injunction was issued, signifying a judicial determination that the domain name was being used illegally, Domain Bank cancelled the voteauction.com domain name, shutting down voteauction.com all over the world.

But celebrations of victory in Chicago were tentative, and sure enough, about a week later voteauction.com opened up under a new domain name, "vote-auction.com," and this domain name was registered in Switzerland with CORE. But CORE had a similar prohibition against illegal use in its standard domain name registration agreement. After extensive telephonic and email discussions between counsel for the Election Commissioners and counsel for CORE, CORE also cancelled the vote-auction.com domain name, once again shutting the site down. Subsequently, voteauction.com sought to publicize its IP address, the use of which would avoid the domain name system all together, but by then, the election had been held.

In some theoretical sense, it would have been better to have enforced the injunction against domain name translation in or near Chicago. That would have kept the enforcement action within the sovereign whose laws were being enforced. It also would have comported more comfortably with geographic limits on the jurisdiction of the court issuing the injunction. But doing that was impracticable, given the large number of ISPs and uncertain patterns of use. It was much easier under tight time deadlines imposed by the proximity of the election, to focus enforcement efforts on a single intermediary, the first located in another state but within the United States, and the second located in a foreign country. The theoretical jurisdictional grounds were shakier, but enforcement at this level was practicable.

[1] Zippo Mfg. V. Zippo Dot Com, 952 F. Supp. 1119 (W.D.Pa. 1997) (holding that the defendant purposefully availed itself of doing business in the forum state).

[2] Millennium Enter. v. Millennium Music, LP, 33 F. Supp. 2d 907, 915-16 (D. Or. 1999) (explaining *Zippo* continuum as a "sliding scale" under which the "likelihood that personal jurisdiction can be constitutionally exercised is directly proportionate to the nature and quality of commercial activity that an entity conducts over the Internet" and suggesting that jurisdiction exists over Web sites only when the forum state is targeted).

[3] Henry H. Perritt, Jr., *Will the Judgment-proof Own Cyberspace?* 32 Int'l Lawyer 1121

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Voteauction.com

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s in Brief

**Issue 41
November 2000**

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MICROSOFT AND DOJ: SKIRMISHES CONTINUE, SCHEDULE SET

On October 3rd, the government submitted its proposed briefing schedule and on October 5th, Microsoft replied. Microsoft held fast to its originally proposed schedule of October 2nd, which would defer arguments until next spring instead of holding them in January, as the government wanted. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit settled the matter on October 11th, splitting the difference between the parties and giving Microsoft until November 27th to file its primary brief and requiring the federal government to file its brief by January 12th, with Microsoft's reply brief due by January 29th. Final briefs must be submitted by February 9th and oral arguments are slated for February 26th and 27th.

Meanwhile, legal experts have suggested that U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, who delivered the initial decision against Microsoft, may have scotched his ability to rehear the case if it is returned to his court by making repeated statements about the case to lecture audiences and the media. It is thought likely that Microsoft will ask that Judge Jackson be disqualified on the grounds that his comments indicate bias. Jackson has also recently indicated that he may remove himself if the appeals court does not appear to repose much faith in his findings and conclusions.

At the end of October, the appeals court backed off a proposed briefing on computer basics after both sides expressed concerns. The briefing was to be conducted by Illinois Institute of Technology official Michael H. Hites covering "basic concepts underlying the fundamentals of automation." Microsoft expressed concern that the briefing would touch on issues involved in the case and pointed out that Hites had performed research on behalf of rival Sun Microsystems. The DOJ, which expressed no objection in principle to the briefing, also expressed concern that the session would involve discussions of issues in

the case and suggested that the court would learn a great deal about computer basics simply by reviewing the trial transcripts. On October 26th, after considering the parties' concerns, the Court announced that it had canceled the briefing. On October 25th, AOL asked the appeals court for permission to file an amicus brief in support of the government's case. Three other trade associations, the Project to Promote Competition & Innovation in the Digital Age (ProComp), the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) and the Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA) also requested permission to file amicus briefs in support of the government. The Association for Competitive Technology (ACT) and the Computing Technology Industry Association (CTIA) asked to file amicus briefs on behalf of Microsoft. The court has said it is encouraging friends of the court supporting the same side to file a single joint brief to make the process more efficient. The Court has set up a portion of its site dedicated to the case, which may be found at <http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov>

HACKING BRINGS MICROSOFT AND G-MEN TOGETHER

After discovering that its computers had been hacked, Microsoft called in the federal government in the form of the FBI, which is now investigating a hacking incident "heard round the world." The incident was revealed on October 26th and apparently targeted a single future product of Microsoft's and did not involve the loss of Windows or Office source code, as had originally been reported. On the other hand, as we go to press, Microsoft has changed its story on multiple fronts, including what damage was done, how long the incident lasted, and even whether Microsoft was aware of the hacking while it was going on. Hackers infiltrated Microsoft's internal networks with QAZ Trojan, a virus that first appeared in July. The break-in is being treated as a probable act of industrial espionage, and was discovered by Microsoft employees after they detected passwords being sent to an e-mail account in St. Petersburg, Russia. Microsoft's statement regarding the break-in may be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/features/2000/oct00/10-27security.asp>

SEX SITE BILLING SCAM RESULTS IN TRO

On October 2nd, U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan of the Southern District of New York issued a temporary restraining order halting the conduct of Verity International Ltd. and two individuals from Britain as well as freezing their assets. The FTC had charged the defendants with billing thousands of U.S. consumers for videotext services that they did not know had been accessed through their phone lines. In order to use Verity's system, consumers downloaded special dialing software from "teaser" sites. Once activated, the program would disconnect from the normal ISP, dial a Madagascar number and direct the browser to an explicit sex site from a U.S. server. The remote link cost \$2.99 per minute. In a consumer alert issued on October 5th, the FTC warned Net users to beware of scams that reconnect computers to remote spots, at rates as high as \$7 a minute. The FTC's press release regarding the case and a link to the complaint may be found at <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2000/10/verity.htm>

BUSINESS METHODS PATENT BILL INTRODUCED

On October 3rd, Reps. Rich Boucher and Howard Berman introduced a bill, the Business Method Patent Improvement Act of 2000, which examines the granting of patents on Internet business methods, such as Amazon's "one-click" shopping and Priceline's "name your price" methodology. Though no action is expected in this session of Congress, the bill marks the first effort to determine whether Net business methods patents afford protection to real innovation or inappropriately offer protection to offline business methods that are simply assisted by technology. Boucher said the bill would "create the presumption that the computer-assisted implementation of an analog-world business method is obvious and thus is not patentable." The text of the Act may be found at <http://www.house.gov/boucher/docs/bmpiapage.htm>

CHINA CRACKS DOWN ON NET

On October 2nd, China published broad new regulations on Internet firms which limit foreign investment, require firms to strictly guard against "subversive" content, and would close down any unlicensed firms. The new rules are likely to deal a severe blow to China's nascent Internet industry that is heavily reliant on foreign capital. The regulations ban any content that is "subversive," that supports cults, that "harms the reputation" of China, or that hurts reunification efforts with Taiwan. Internet content and service providers must keep records of all content on their sites and of all users who dial into their servers for 60 days. These records must be given to police on demand. Current commercial Internet sites have 60 days from October 1st to provide detailed information for their businesses to the Ministry of Information Industry in order to obtain licenses. Companies without licenses or exceeding their stated business scopes will be fined or shut down. The rules also state that Internet content providers must have the approval of the Ministry of Information Industry before receiving foreign capital, cooperating with foreign businesses, or attempting domestic or overseas stock offerings. Further information may be found at <http://www.techweb.com/wire/story/reuters/REU20001002S0002>

PROFESSORS SETTLE TEACHER REVIEW WEB SITE CASE

On October 2nd, two California professors settled their suit against the Teacher Review web site, which called them "insane," "drugged out" and sex maniacs. Conceding that they are now afraid of being bankrupted by the case, plaintiffs Daniel Curzon Brown and Jesse David Wall, had filed their suit in 1999 alleging that the web site, which allows students to post anonymous critiques, contained vicious and false comments. In their suit, the teachers said the site had become a clearinghouse for lies, slander and personal attacks. Under the settlement agreement, the professors will pay the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) \$10,000 in attorney's fees and will stop posting anonymous reviews of themselves, a step they took to balance the commentary of the anonymous posters. Further information may be found at <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39258,00.html>. The site itself may be found at <http://www.teacherreview.com>

ACLU CHARGES BIAS IN CARNIVORE REVIEW

On October 4th, the American Civil Liberties Union accused the Justice Department of bias in its choice of a university team to review its Carnivore e-mail surveillance system. The DOJ had announced its selection of the Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute (IITRI), but the ACLU alleged that members of the IITRI are too close to law enforcement agencies and the current administration to be impartial. The team includes a former Clinton administration policy advisor and a former Justice Department official. Also included on the team are members who have backgrounds with the National Security Agency and the Department of Defense. Additionally, IITRI has for more than 30 years operated the Defense Department's Information Analysis Centers. The DOJ's site, at <http://www.usdoj.gov/jmd/pss/iitritechnicalproposal.pdf>, shows the names of team members blacked out in the PDF file. ACLU's site includes a link to <http://cryptome.org>, which contains a page that essentially fills in the blacked-out names in the DOJ's page. The ACLU's press release regarding the latest development on Carnivore may be found at <http://www.aclu.org/news/2000/n100400.html>

ICANN VOTE SELECTS FIVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

On October 11th, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) announced that its global online election resulted in the selection of five at-large board members. The new members are Karl Auerbach, a member of the Internet Engineering Task Force and a network architect at Cisco

Systems Inc., Ivan Moura Campos, from Brazil and CEO of Akwan Information Technologies, Masanobu Katoh, a Japanese citizen who works for Fujitsu in the United States, Andy Mueller-Maguhn, a member of the Chaos Computer Club, a German computer activist group and Nii Quaynor, from Ghana and on staff at Network Computer Systems. The new board members will assume their seats November 16th at ICANN's annual meeting. The results of the voting and further information may be found at <http://www.icann.org>

TEEN PUMP AND DUMPER SETTLES WITH SEC

On September 20th, the SEC settled with teenage stock trader Jonathan G. Lebed, who had been accused of operating a pump and dump scheme in which he bought low-priced stocks, hyped them on various Internet bulletin boards, and then sold them at a large profit. To settle the case, Lebed paid \$285,000, though he did not admit or deny the allegations. However, it appears that his profit was more like \$800,000, as reported on "60 Minutes," leaving many observers to wonder what sort of lesson the SEC hoped to teach. Jonathan's family is now driving a Mercedes SUV, admittedly purchased with his stock proceeds. The consent order in the case may be found at <http://www.sec.gov/enforce/adminact/33-7891.htm>

TOBACCO COMPANY SUES N.Y. OVER NET SALES

Brown & Williamson Tobacco announced on October 16th that it had filed suit in federal district court in New York to overturn a state law banning cigarette sales via mail, telephone, and the Internet. Brown & Williamson, the U.S. division of British tobacco company British American Tobacco, wants to combat the increasingly competitive retail market by offering catalog sales. B&W calls the law an "unconstitutional interference with commerce." The company wants smokers to be able to order cigarettes by mail, fax, telephone and, in the future, the Internet. Named as defendants in the lawsuit are Governor Pataki, Eliot Spitzer, the New York Attorney General and Antonia C. Novello, M.D., New York's Commissioner of Health. Further information may be found at <http://www.thestandard.com/article/display/0,1151,19424,00.html>

ISPS ORDERED TO REVEAL USERS' IDENTITIES

On October 12th, a Florida appeals court ruled that Internet service providers must disclose the identity of eight individuals who posted anonymous messages in a Yahoo financial chat room. The messages contained material allegedly defamatory to Erik Hvide, the former CEO of Hvide Marine. The American Civil Liberties Union had fought the disclosures, and obtained a stay freezing subpoenas for the records of Yahoo and America Online. The ACLU had asked the court to rule on whether Hvide had been defamed before identifying the defendants. The court did not explain its ruling and the defendants are considering whether to appeal. Further information may be found at <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39485,00.html>

TEAM CLAIMS VICTORY IN SDMI MUSIC HACKING CHALLENGE

Researchers from two U.S. universities and Xerox' Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) are claiming that they beat the music security schemes proffered by the Secure Digital Music Initiative and therefore qualify for the cash prizes offered for anyone who could defeat the four watermarking and two encryption schemes put forward by SDMI to protect music. The SDMI, which is seeking secure methods to distribute music online and via digital music devices, received 447 submissions. The team from Princeton University, Rice University and Xerox's PARC said they were apparently successful in breaking all four watermarking schemes. The SDMI says it is still evaluating submissions. Further

information may be found at <http://abcnews.go.com/sections/tech/DailyNews/sdmi001024.html>

Information about the efforts of the university/PARC team may be found at <http://www.cs.princeton.edu/sip/sdmi>

CYBERCRIME TREATY STIRS CONTROVERSY

The United States and a group of European nations have been negotiating the terms of a cybercrime treaty that is generating controversy among computer security experts. The Council of Europe's Draft Cybercrime Treaty, authorized by the 41 nation body in consultation with the U.S. Department of Justice, reportedly might be signed as early as December. The treaty makes it illegal to write or possess hacking software, both of which are legal in the U.S. The treaty also includes aiding and abetting rules which would make the publication of software vulnerabilities illegal. At a gathering of experts on computer security issues in Amsterdam in late October, experts warned that stealing information is not the same as deliberately defeating security measures, which is often done by those who want to enhance computer security and improve products. The Council of Europe has promised to provide a list of exceptions to the treaty, and professional network administrators are expected to be exempt. The treaty also includes extradition agreements and other controversial elements, such as requirements for Internet service providers and Network administrators to help police by maintaining detailed logs of all network activity. Further information may be found at <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,39519,00.html>

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO REVIEW AOL SUBSCRIBER SUIT

On October 2nd, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review a lower court opinion which held that AOL is not a "common carrier" that can be regulated by the Federal Communications Commission. Four AOL subscribers had filed a class action lawsuit, Howard v. America Online, alleging that AOL set improper charges and failed to protect subscribers' privacy rights and copyrights in violation of the 1934 Communications Act. The trial court dismissed the suit, ruling that Internet Service Providers are not common carriers and therefore not covered by the law. This decision was also upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The basis of the holding is that Internet companies are not common carriers because they provide "enhanced" services rather than basic communication services. The appeals court also said that the 1996 Telecommunications Act specified that it was not designating interactive computer services as common carriers. Further information may be found at <http://www.techserver.com/noframes/story/0,2294,500264747-500410488-502507401-0,00.html>

ILLINOIS CLOSES VOTE AUCTION SITE

On October 18th, a Cook County, Illinois Circuit Court judge issued an order prohibiting a website (voteauction.com) from auctioning off votes for the Presidential election. The preliminary injunction was issued by Judge Michael J. Murphy after the Chicago Board of Election Commission filed suit against the web site operators. Under Illinois law, selling or buying votes or attempting to sell or buy votes or conspiring or soliciting to buy or sell votes is a Class 4 felony. The web site is owned by a group of Austrians. After their domain name had been placed on hold, the group opened a second **vote auction** web site with a slightly different name. The new site may be found at <http://www.vote-auction.com> and further information is available at http://www.apbnews.com/newscenter/breakingnews/2000/10/26/votes1026_01.html

FEDERAL AGENCIES USING COOKIES IN SPITE OF BAN

Despite a White House order forbidding the use of cookies on government web sites, 13 government agencies are still using them according to the General Accounting Office. The agencies range from the

Federal Aviation Administration to the federal offices that provide disaster relief and administer Medicare. Cookies, small text files that record information about a person's browsing habits when surfing the Net, were forbidden by the White House Office of Management and Budget in June unless approved by the head of the agency and with clear notice about the use of cookies being given on the site. The U.S. Forest Service's International Programs site was even found to be using third-party cookies, which transmit visitors' activities to a private company hired to compile reports for the agency. Other agencies found to be using the cookie software were the U.S. Customs Service, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Bureau of Land Management, Central Federal Lands Highway Division, the Energy Department's Ames Laboratory, National Park Service, Office of Personnel Management, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, and the Health Care Financing Administration. Further information may be found at <http://www0.mercurycenter.com/svtech/news/breaking/ap/docs/5434821.htm>

NEW ENCRYPTION STANDARD CHOSEN

Following the conclusion of a three year worldwide competition, the Commerce Department announced on October 2nd that the Belgian Rijndael encryption algorithm had been selected as the nation's new Advanced Encryption Standard. The AES is intended to protect information in federal computer systems, but it is also expected to be widely utilized in the private sector, particularly in the financial services industry. The competition, which involved some of the world's leading cryptographers from 12 countries, was organized by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an agency of the Commerce Department's Technology Administration. Each candidate algorithm was required to support key sizes of 128, 192 and 256 bits. They were evaluated for the strength of their security as well as for their speed and versatility across a variety of computer platforms. Rijndael was selected because it had the best combination of security, performance, efficiency, ease of implementation and flexibility. A technical analysis of the AES candidates is posted on NIST's Web site, along with a wealth of other information about AES. The site may be found at http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/releases/g00-176.htm

EUROPE APPROVES AOL-TIME WARNER MERGER

The European Commission announced on October 11th that it had approved America Online Inc.'s \$135 billion acquisition of media company Time Warner Inc. After a four month investigation, the Commission said it had approved the merger after AOL agreed to sever all structural links with the German media group Bertelsmann AG. "The proposed undertakings will prevent AOL from having access to Europe's leading source of music publishing rights, thereby eliminating the risk of dominance in the emerging markets for online delivery of music over the Internet and software-based music players," the Commission said in a statement. The acquisition has not yet received approval from the Federal Trade Commission. Further information about the status of the talks with the FTC may be found at <http://news.excite.com/news/r/001024/16/media-timewarner>

FLORIDA: HOT GOODS AND WANTED LIST ONLINE

Florida recently launched an online record system to allow users to enter identification numbers for everything from appliances to cars to see if they have been reported as stolen. If an item turns up in the database, users can click on it and e-mail a tip to police, potentially receiving a tipper's reward of up to \$1,000. Beginning in December, the web site will let the public check to see if someone they know has been reported missing or is wanted by law enforcement agencies. Further information may be found at <http://www.computeruser.com/news/00/10/13/news12.html>

NAPSTER DECISION ON HOLD

The long-awaited Napster decision has been postponed as the three member panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals retired without a decision on October 2nd after a 50 minute hearing. Attorneys for the Recording Industry Association of America and the music-swapping service Napster fielded questions from the judges, who will shortly rule on the RIAA's request to reinstate the July 26th decision by a lower court prohibiting Napster from continuing to engage in its music swapping enterprise. Napster has been probing the possibility of making payment to major recording companies to compensate artists for the use of their music, but thus far all proposals have been rejected. Under one reported offer, Napster would pay \$500 million per year to the recording industry, with the funds coming from a \$4.95 monthly fee charged to Napster users. Further information may be found at <http://www.thestandard.com/article/display/0,1151,19760,00.html>

WEB TV SETTLES WITH FTC

WebTV Networks, Inc (WNI), a marketer of Internet access devices and a subsidiary of Microsoft, has agreed to settle Federal Trade Commission charges that advertising for the WebTV system was deceptive and violated federal law. The settlement will bar WNI from making deceptive advertising claims about the performance capabilities of the WebTV system, require clear and conspicuous disclosure of long distance telephone toll charges that some consumers may incur while using WebTV, and require reimbursement to certain former WebTV Internet service subscribers for long distance charges they incurred in the past. It also calls for a consumer education campaign to inform consumers about how to determine the advantages and disadvantages of using Internet access devices as compared to computers. A full list of all the deceptive claims and a link to the complaint and order in the case may be found at <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2000/10/webtv.htm>

LIBRARIANS PROTEST LOC DIGITAL COPYRIGHT RULING

Library associations are concerned that a recent Library of Congress ruling endangers the "fair use" principles that govern published materials. In issuing a ruling on the implementation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the Library of Congress effectively left owners of copyrighted digital content in control of how that information is accessed. Library associations maintain that fair use exceptions should be made. Librarians are concerned that the ruling will severely limit the public's ability to quote from digital materials, especially those that are not published in nondigital formats. The ruling prevents them from circumventing technological protection measures in seeking to refer to copyrighted material. Librarian of Congress James Billington noted in a public statement that the ruling addresses access to copyrighted materials, not use of content. Further information may be found at <http://www.techweb.com/wire/story/TWB20001030S0006>

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- **Next in thread:** [Wietse Venema: "Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]"](#)
- **Reply:** [Wietse Venema: "Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]"](#)
- **Messages sorted by:** [\[date \]](#) [\[thread \]](#) [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#)

What kind of mailer software is THAT broken?

(mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5]) -- shouldn't a SMTP dialog start with HELO, then MAIL FROM: and RCPT TO: ??

Transcript of session follows.

Out: 220 ns.pop-berlin.com ESMTP Postfix

In: Received: from mail.listserv.gmd.de (192.88.97.5) by mail.listserv.gmd.de (LSMTP for OpenVMS v1.1a) with SMTP id <6.E9C31770@mail.listserv.gmd.de>; Fri, 3 Nov 2000 13:53:30 +0100

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Received: from LISTSERV.GMD.DE by LISTSERV.GMD.DE (LISTSERV-TCP/IP release

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: 1.8d) with spool id 27866081 for TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE; Fri, 3

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Nov 2000 13:53:20 +0200

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Received: from mx1.globe.de (194.162.30.68) by mail.listserv.gmd.de (LSMTP for

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: OpenVMS v1.1a) with SMTP id <13.E250DCA3@mail.listserv.gmd.de>; Fri,

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: 3 Nov 2000 13:53:18 +0100

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Received: (qmail 20072 invoked from network); 3 Nov 2000 12:53:11 -0000

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Received: from acb1b4e0.ipt.aol.com (HELO digital-law.net)
(172.177.180.224) by
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: mail.digital-law.net with SMTP; 3 Nov 2000 12:53:11 -0000
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [de] (Win98; U)
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: X-Accept-Language: de,en-US
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: MIME-Version: 1.0
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Approved-By: Andreas =?iso-8859-1?Q?Gr=FCnwald?=
<gruenwald@DIGITAL-LAW.NET>
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Message-ID: <3A02B581.1DE08BAE@digital-law.net>
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 13:54:25 +0100
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Reply-To: Andreas =?iso-8859-1?Q?Gr=FCnwald?=
<gruenwald@digital-law.net>
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Sender: International Communications Law and Policy
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: <TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE>
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: From: Andreas =?iso-8859-1?Q?Gr=FCnwald?=
<gruenwald@digital-law.net>
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Organization: Digital Law Net GbR
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Subject: [TKRNEWS-L] Communications News 11/03/2000
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: To: TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In:
Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
In: Communications News: 11/03/2000
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: -----
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Created for TKRNEWS-L (International Communications Law and Policy)
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: ---Forward-this-message-and-inform-your-colleagues---
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: To subscribe to TKRNEWS-L, send mail to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.GMD.DE with

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: the command SUBSCRIBE TKRNEWS-L

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: -----

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In:

Out: 500 Error: bad syntax

In: [BROADCASTING] 11/03/00

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Private Rundfunkanbieter fordern rasche Erneuerung der Medienpolitik

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In:

Out: 500 Error: bad syntax

In: Eine rasche Erneuerung der Medienpolitik hat der Pr?sident des Verbandes

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Privater Rundfunk und Telekommunikation (VPRT), J?rgen Doetz, angemahnt.

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Derzeit sei ein erlahmender Reformeifer auf diesem Feld festzustellen,

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: sagte er am Freitag zum Abschluss der Jahreshauptversammlung in Berlin.

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Die Politik sei dabei, dieses wichtige Thema auf die lange Bank zu

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: schieben. Deshalb habe der VPRT den Entwurf f?r einen

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Medienstaatsvertrag erarbeitet, der m?glichst rasch in konkrete

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Ergebnisse umgesetzt werden soll. Dieses erste Konzept f?r eine

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: umfassende Neuordnung soll alle bestehende gesetzlichen Regelungen

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: abl?sen. Ziel sei es, sagte Doetz, "bestehende Schieflagen zu

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: beseitigen". Ein zentraler Punkt des Entwurfes ist die Gew?hrleistung

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: des freien Zugangs der Rundfunkveranstalter zu den Kabelnetzen und

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: digitalen Plattformen. Ein derzeit akutes Problem bestehe in der

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Auseinandersetzung mit den privaten Erwerbern der liberalisierten

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Kabelnetze. Die Investitionen zum Ausbau der Netze machten neue

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Gesch?ftsmodelle notwendig. Doetz sagte, der private Rundfunk sehe mit

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Sorge, wie dabei versucht werde, das Rundfunkangebot zu Gunsten anderer

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Felder auszuf?llen. "Das ist aber der falsche Weg", sagte Doetz. "Ohne

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: uns sollte das Angebot nicht neu geordnet werden." Der VPRT fordert,
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: dass ein Drittel des ausgebauten Kabelnetzes f?r den Rundfunk und seine
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Angebote reserviert bleiben muss. Diese Forderung schlie?e ausdr?cklich
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: auch die ?ffentlich-rechtlichen Anbieter ein, denn der Vorsto? der
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: privaten Kabelnetzbetreiber richte sich gegen den Rundfunk insgesamt.
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Full story at: <http://www.newsroom.de/>
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: -----
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In:
Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
In: [3G/UMTS] 11/02/00
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Dutch authority mulls wireless phone auction probe
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In:
Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
In: The Dutch competition authority NMa is considering making an
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: investigation into the nation's third-generation mobile phone licence
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: auction after a preliminary hearing was told two contenders had talked
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: to each other at the beginning of the auction, it said on Thursday. A
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: transport ministry hearing held on Wednesday in The Hague was told that
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Versatel and British Telecom-owned mobile operator Telfort had held a
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: conversation on July 6 -- the first day of the auction, the ministry
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: said, and it has passed this information to the NMa. Auction rules
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: barred contenders from having any contact during the auction. A
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: transport ministry spokesman declined to say whether the finding meant
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Telfort was at risk of losing its UMTS licence or whether the auction
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: could be nullified. Dutch broadband network firm Versatel has lodged
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: objections with the transport ministry about the way it handled the
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: auction, which ended in July when Versatel abruptly withdrew.
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Full story at: <http://www.newsroom.de/>

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: -----

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: [ENCRYPTION] 10/20/00

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: ["E-DEMOCRACY"] 11/02/00

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: 'Vote-Buying' Internet Site Closes

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In:

Out: 500 Error: bad syntax

In: A Europe-based Web site claiming to buy and sell votes for the U.S.

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: presidential election, apparently closed Wednesday under pressure from

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Chicago election officials. But the American Civil Liberties Union said

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: it would fight to keep vote-auction.com on the Internet, saying the Web

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: site was constitutionally protected under the First Amendment. "We think

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: political parody and satire is protected whether on the written page or

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: the Internet," ACLU legal director Harvey Grossman said. The Chicago

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Board of Election Commissioners, which sued to shut down the site, said

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: it was assured by the site's Swiss registrar, CORE Internet Council of

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Registrar, that vote-auction.com would be taken off the Web. The Swiss

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: group sent the board email saying it was acting "since it does

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: effectively appear that this domain name is used in connection with

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: unlawful activity." The message referred to an order that Cook County

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Circuit Judge Michael Murphy issued at the request of Chicago election

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: officials, requiring a similar-sounding site, voteauction.com, or any

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

Out: 421 Error: too many errors

Session aborted, reason: too many errors

-
- **Next message:** [Sunny Cheung: "Postfix to be an open relay"](#)

- **Previous message:** [marco.blume@ngi-net.de: "Some Ldap Probs"](#)
- **Next in thread:** [Wietse Venema: "Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]"](#)
- **Reply:** [Wietse Venema: "Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]"](#)
- **Messages sorted by:** [\[date \]](#) [\[thread \]](#) [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#)

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NEOHAPSIS ARCHIVES

LOCATION: [Neohapsis](#) / [Archives](#) / [Postfix](#) / [Message Index](#) / Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5]

Subject: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5]

From: Ralf Hildebrandt (hildeb@innominate.de)

Date: Fri Nov 03 2000 - 08:48:25 CST

- **Next message:** [Sunny Cheung: "Postfix to be a open relay"](#)
- **Previous message:** [marco.blume@ngi-net.de: "Some Ldap Probs"](#)
- **Next in thread:** [Wietse Venema: "Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]"](#)
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- **Messages sorted by:** [\[date \]](#) [\[thread \]](#) [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#)

What kind of mailer software is THAT broken?

(mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5]) -- shouldn't a SMTP dialog start with HELO, then MAIL FROM: and RCPT TO: ??

Transcript of session follows.

Out: 220 ns.pop-berlin.com ESMTP Postfix

In: Received: from mail.listserv.gmd.de (192.88.97.5) by mail.listserv.gmd.de

(LSMTP for OpenVMS v1.1a) with SMTP id <6.E9C31770@ mail.listserv.gmd.de>;

Fri, 3 Nov 2000 13:53:30 +0100

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Received: from LISTSERV.GMD.DE by LISTSERV.GMD.DE (LISTSERV-TCP/IP release
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: 1.8d) with spool id 27866081 for TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE;
Fri, 3
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Nov 2000 13:53:20 +0200
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Received: from mx1.globe.de (194.162.30.68) by mail.listserv.gmd.de (LSMTP for
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: OpenVMS v1.1a) with SMTP id <13.E250DCA3@mail.listserv.gmd.de>;
Fri,
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: 3 Nov 2000 13:53:18 +0100
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Received: (qmail 20072 invoked from network); 3 Nov 2000 12:53:11 -0000
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Received: from acb1b4e0.ipt.aol.com (HELO digital-law.net) (172.177.180.224) by
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: mail.digital-law.net with SMTP; 3 Nov 2000 12:53:11 -0000
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [de] (Win98; U)
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: X-Accept-Language: de,en-US
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: MIME-Version: 1.0
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Approved-By: Andreas =?iso-8859-1?Q?Gr=FCnwald?=<gruenwald@DIGITAL-LAW.NET>
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Message-ID: <3A02B581.1DE08BAE@digital-law.net>
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 13:54:25 +0100
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Reply-To: Andreas =?iso-8859-1?Q?Gr=FCnwald?=<gruenwald@digital-law.net>
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Sender: International Communications Law and Policy
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: <TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE>
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: From: Andreas =?iso-8859-1?Q?Gr=FCnwald?=<gruenwald@digital-law.net>

<gruenwald@digital-law.net>

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Organization: Digital Law Net GbR

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Subject: [TKRNEWS-L] Communications News 11/03/2000

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: To: TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In:

Out: 500 Error: bad syntax

In: Communications News: 11/03/2000

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: -----

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Created for TKRNEWS-L (International Communications Law and Policy)

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: ---Forward-this-message-and-inform-your-colleagues---

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: To subscribe to TKRNEWS-L, send mail to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.GMD.DE with

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: the command SUBSCRIBE TKRNEWS-L

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: -----

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In:

Out: 500 Error: bad syntax

In: [BROADCASTING] 11/03/00

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Private Rundfunkanbieter fordern rasche Erneuerung der Medienpolitik

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In:

Out: 500 Error: bad syntax

In: Eine rasche Erneuerung der Medienpolitik hat der Pr?sident des Verbandes

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Privater Rundfunk und Telekommunikation (VPRT), J?rgen Doetz, angemahnt.

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Derzeit sei ein erlahmender Reformeifer auf diesem Feld festzustellen,

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In: sagte er am Freitag zum Abschluss der Jahreshauptversammlung in Berlin.

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In: Die Politik sei dabei, dieses wichtige Thema auf die lange Bank zu

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In: Medienstaatsvertrag erarbeitet, der m?glichst rasch in konkrete

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In: Ergebnisse umgesetzt werden soll. Dieses erste Konzept f?r eine

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: umfassende Neuordnung soll alle bestehende gesetzlichen Regelungen

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: abl?sen. Ziel sei es, sagte Doetz, "bestehende Schieflagen zu
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: beseitigen". Ein zentraler Punkt des Entwurfes ist die Gew?hrleistung
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: des freien Zugangs der Rundfunkveranstalter zu den Kabelnetzen und
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: digitalen Plattformen. Ein derzeit akutes Problem bestehe in der
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Auseinandersetzung mit den privaten Erwerbern der liberalisierten
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Kabelnetze. Die Investitionen zum Ausbau der Netze machten neue
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Gesch?ftsmodelle notwendig. Doetz sagte, der private Rundfunk sehe mit
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Sorge, wie dabei versucht werde, das Rundfunkangebot zu Gunsten anderer
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Felder auszud?nnen. "Das ist aber der falsche Weg", sagte Doetz. "Ohne
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: uns sollte das Angebot nicht neu geordnet werden." Der VPRT fordert,
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: dass ein Drittel des ausgebauten Kabelnetzes f?r den Rundfunk und seine
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Angebote reserviert bleiben muss. Diese Forderung schlie?e ausdr?cklich
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: auch die ?ffentlich-rechtlichen Anbieter ein, denn der Vorsto? der
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: privaten Kabelnetzbetreiber richte sich gegen den Rundfunk insgesamt.
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Full story at: <http://www.newsroom.de/>
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: -----
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In:
Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
In: [3G/UMTS] 11/02/00
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Dutch authority mulls wireless phone auction probe
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In:
Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
In: The Dutch competition authority NMa is considering making an
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: investigation into the nation's third-generation mobile phone licence
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: auction after a preliminary hearing was told two contenders had talked
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: to each other at the beginning of the auction, it said on Thursday. A
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: transport ministry hearing held on Wednesday in The Hague was told that
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Versatel and British Telecom-owned mobile operator Telfort had held a

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: conversation on July 6 -- the first day of the auction, the ministry

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: said, and it has passed this information to the NMa. Auction rules

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: barred contenders from having any contact during the auction. A

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: transport ministry spokesman declined to say whether the finding meant

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In: Telfort was at risk of losing its UMTS licence or whether the auction

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In: could be nullified. Dutch broadband network firm Versatel has lodged

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: objections with the transport ministry about the way it handled the

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: auction, which ended in July when Versatel abruptly withdrew.

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: Full story at: <http://www.newsroom.de/>

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: -----

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: [ENCRYPTION] 10/20/00

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: ["E-DEMOCRACY"] 11/02/00

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In: 'Vote-Buying' Internet Site Closes

Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

In:

Out: 500 Error: bad syntax

In: A Europe-based Web site claiming to buy and sell votes for the U.S.

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In: presidential election, apparently closed Wednesday under pressure from

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In: Chicago election officials. But the American Civil Liberties Union said

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In: it would fight to keep **vote-auction**.com on the Internet, saying the Web

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In: it was assured by the site's Swiss registrar, CORE Internet Council of

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In: Registrar, that **vote-auction**.com would be taken off the Web. The Swiss

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In: group sent the board email saying it was acting "since it does
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: effectively appear that this domain name is used in connection with
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: unlawful activity." The message referred to an order that Cook County
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: Circuit Judge Michael Murphy issued at the request of Chicago election
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
In: officials, requiring a similar-sounding site, voteauction.com, or any
Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
Out: 421 Error: too many errors

Session aborted, reason: too many errors

-
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LOCATION: [Neohapsis](#) / [Archives](#) / [Postfix](#) / [Message Index](#) / Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5]

Subject: Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5]

From: Wietse Venema (wietse@porcupine.org)

Date: Fri Nov 03 2000 - 10:30:30 CST

- **Next message:** foutajallon@yahoo.com: "local mail getting deferred"
- **Previous message:** [Ricardo Campos Passanezi](#): "Re: Really slow delivery time when tons of messages in queue...."
- **In reply to:** [Ralf Hildebrandt](#): "Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5]"
- **Reply:** [Wietse Venema](#): "Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5]"
- **Messages sorted by:** [\[date \]](#) [\[thread \]](#) [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#)

Shortly before the release of Postfix, one of the alpha testers (Elon Gishri) received lots of SMTP protocol error notifications from Postfix, and they all looked like sessions that began with mail body material (in his case, lots of HTML-formatted mail).

The listserv at gmd.de was one of the few sending machines involved. Tcpcdump recordings showed that the SMTP client indeed began a session with mail content instead of HELO. The problem was never resolved, whether it was due to a BANDWIZ bandwidth management system or due to LSMTP mixing up data streams.

If this happens more often, it's worthwhile to capture the SMTP sessions with tcpcdump.

Wietse

Ralf Hildebrandt:

- > *What kind of mailer software is THAT broken?*
- > ([mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]](mailto:mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5])) -- shouldn't a SMTP dialog start with
- > HELO, then MAIL FROM: and RCPT TO: ??
- >
- > *Transcript of session follows.*
- >
- > *Out: 220 ns.pop-berlin.com ESMTP Postfix*
- > *In: Received: from mail.listserv.gmd.de (192.88.97.5) by mail.listserv.gmd.de*
- > *(LSMTP for OpenVMS v1.1a) with SMTP id <6.E9C31770@ mail.listserv.gmd.de>;*

> Fri, 3 Nov 2000 13:53:30 +0100
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Received: from LISTSERV.GMD.DE by LISTSERV.GMD.DE (LISTSERV-TCP/IP
> release
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: 1.8d) with spool id 27866081 for TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE;
> Fri, 3
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Nov 2000 13:53:20 +0200
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Received: from mx1.globe.de (194.162.30.68) by mail.listserv.gmd.de
> (LSMTP for
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: OpenVMS v1.1a) with SMTP id <13.E250DCA3@mail.listserv.gmd.de>;
> Fri,
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: 3 Nov 2000 13:53:18 +0100
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Received: (qmail 20072 invoked from network); 3 Nov 2000 12:53:11 -0000
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Received: from acb1b4e0.ipt.aol.com (HELO digital-law.net)
> (172.177.180.224) by
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: mail.digital-law.net with SMTP; 3 Nov 2000 12:53:11 -0000
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [de] (Win98; U)
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: X-Accept-Language: de,en-US
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: MIME-Version: 1.0
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Approved-By: Andreas =?iso-8859-1?Q?Gr=FCnwald?=
> <gruenwald@DIGITAL-LAW.NET>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Message-ID: <3A02B581.1DE08BAE@digital-law.net>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 13:54:25 +0100
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Reply-To: Andreas =?iso-8859-1?Q?Gr=FCnwald?=
> <gruenwald@digital-law.net>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Sender: International Communications Law and Policy
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: <TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented

> In: From: Andreas =?iso-8859-1?Q?Gr=FCnwald?=
> <gruenwald@digital-law.net>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Organization: Digital Law Net GbR
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Subject: [TKRNEWS-L] Communications News 11/03/2000
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: To: TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In:
> Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
> In: Communications News: 11/03/2000
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: -----
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Created for TKRNEWS-L (International Communications Law and Policy)
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: ---Forward-this-message-and-inform-your-colleagues---
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: To subscribe to TKRNEWS-L, send mail to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.GMD.DE with
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: the command SUBSCRIBE TKRNEWS-L
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: -----
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In:
> Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
> In: [BROADCASTING] 11/03/00
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Private Rundfunkanbieter fordern rasche Erneuerung der Medienpolitik
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In:
> Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
> In: Eine rasche Erneuerung der Medienpolitik hat der Pr?sident des Verbandes
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Privater Rundfunk und Telekommunikation (VPRT), J?rgen Doetz, angemahnt.
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> In: Derzeit sei ein erlahmender Reformeifer auf diesem Feld festzustellen,
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> In: sagte er am Freitag zum Abschluss der Jahreshauptversammlung in Berlin.
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> In: Die Politik sei dabei, dieses wichtige Thema auf die lange Bank zu
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: schieben. Deshalb habe der VPRT den Entwurf f?r einen
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
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> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Ergebnisse umgesetzt werden soll. Dieses erste Konzept f?r eine
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: umfassende Neuordnung soll alle bestehende gesetzlichen Regelungen

> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: *abl?sen. Ziel sei es, sagte Doetz, "bestehende Schieflagen zu*
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: *beseitigen". Ein zentraler Punkt des Entwurfes ist die Gew?hrleistung*
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
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> In: *uns sollte das Angebot nicht neu geordnet werden." Der VPRT fordert,*
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> In: *dass ein Drittel des ausgebauten Kabelnetzes f?r den Rundfunk und seine*
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: *Angebote reserviert bleiben muss. Diese Forderung schlie?e ausdr?cklich*
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: *auch die ?ffentlich-rechtlichen Anbieter ein, denn der Vorsto? der*
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: *privaten Kabelnetzbetreiber richte sich gegen den Rundfunk insgesamt.*
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: *Full story at: <http://www.newsroom.de/>*
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: -----
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In:
> Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
> In: *[3G/UMTS] 11/02/00*
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: *Dutch authority mulls wireless phone auction probe*
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In:
> Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
> In: *The Dutch competition authority NMa is considering making an*
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: *investigation into the nation's third-generation mobile phone licence*
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> In: could be nullified. Dutch broadband network firm Versatel has lodged
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: objections with the transport ministry about the way it handled the
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
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> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Full story at: <http://www.newsroom.de/>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: -----
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: [ENCRYPTION] 10/20/00
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: ["E-DEMOCRACY"] 11/02/00
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: 'Vote-Buying' Internet Site Closes
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In:
> Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
> In: A Europe-based Web site claiming to buy and sell votes for the U.S.
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: presidential election, apparently closed Wednesday under pressure from
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Chicago election officials. But the American Civil Liberties Union said
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: it would fight to keep vote-auction.com on the Internet, saying the Web
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: site was constitutionally protected under the First Amendment. "We think
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: political parody and satire is protected whether on the written page or
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: the Internet," ACLU legal director Harvey Grossman said. The Chicago
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Board of Election Commissioners, which sued to shut down the site, said
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: it was assured by the site's Swiss registrar, CORE Internet Council of
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Registrar, that vote-auction.com would be taken off the Web. The Swiss

> *Out: 502 Error: command not implemented*
> *In: group sent the board email saying it was acting "since it does*
> *Out: 502 Error: command not implemented*
> *In: effectively appear that this domain name is used in connection with*
> *Out: 502 Error: command not implemented*
> *In: unlawful activity." The message referred to an order that Cook County*
> *Out: 502 Error: command not implemented*
> *In: Circuit Judge Michael Murphy issued at the request of Chicago election*
> *Out: 502 Error: command not implemented*
> *In: officials, requiring a similar-sounding site, voteauction.com, or any*
> *Out: 502 Error: command not implemented*
> *Out: 421 Error: too many errors*
>
> *Session aborted, reason: too many errors*
>
>
>

-
- **Next message:** foutajallon@yahoo.com: "local mail getting deferred"
 - **Previous message:** [Ricardo Campos Passanezi: "Re: Really slow delivery time when tons of messages in queue...."](#)
 - **In reply to:** [Ralf Hildebrandt: "Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]"](#)
 - **Reply:** [Wietse Venema: "Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]"](#)
 - **Messages sorted by:** [\[date \]](#) [\[thread \]](#) [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#)

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NEOHAPSIS ARCHIVES

LOCATION: [Neohapsis](#) / [Archives](#) / [Postfix](#) / [Message Index](#) / Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5]

Subject: Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5]

From: Wietse Venema (wietse@porcupine.org)

Date: Fri Nov 03 2000 - 10:30:30 CST

- **Next message:** [foutajallon@yahoo.com: "local mail getting deferred"](#)
- **Previous message:** [Ricardo Campos Passanezi: "Re: Really slow delivery time when tons of messages in queue...."](#)
- **In reply to:** [Ralf Hildebrandt: "Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]"](#)
- **Reply:** [Wietse Venema: "Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]"](#)
- **Messages sorted by:** [\[date \]](#) [\[thread \]](#) [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#)

Shortly before the release of Postfix, one of the alpha testers (Elon Gishri) received lots of SMTP protocol error notifications from Postfix, and they all looked like sessions that began with mail body material (in his case, lots of HTML-formatted mail).

The listserv at gmd.de was one of the few sending machines involved. Tcpcdump recordings showed that the SMTP client indeed began a session with mail content instead of HELO. The problem was never resolved, whether it was due to a BANDWIZ bandwidth management

system or due to LSMTP mixing up data streams.

If this happens more often, it's worthwhile to capture the SMTP sessions with tcpdump.

Wietse

Ralf Hildebrandt:

> What kind of mailer software is THAT broken?
> (mail.listserv.gmd.de[192.88.97.5]) -- shouldn't a SMTP dialog start with
> HELO, then MAIL FROM: and RCPT TO: ??
>
> Transcript of session follows.
>
> Out: 220 ns.pop-berlin.com ESMTP Postfix
> In: Received: from mail.listserv.gmd.de (192.88.97.5) by mail.listserv.gmd.de
> (LSMTP for OpenVMS v1.1a) with SMTP id <6.E9C31770@ mail.listserv.gmd.de>;
> Fri, 3 Nov 2000 13:53:30 +0100
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Received: from LISTSERV.GMD.DE by LISTSERV.GMD.DE (LISTSERV-TCP/IP
> release
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: 1.8d) with spool id 27866081 for TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE;
> Fri, 3
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
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> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Received: from acb1b4e0.ipt.aol.com (HELO digital-law.net)
> (172.177.180.224) by
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: mail.digital-law.net with SMTP; 3 Nov 2000 12:53:11 -0000
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [de] (Win98; U)
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: X-Accept-Language: de,en-US
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: MIME-Version: 1.0
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
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> <gruenwald@DIGITAL-LAW.NET>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Message-ID: <3A02B581.1DE08BAE@digital-law.net>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 13:54:25 +0100
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Reply-To: Andreas =?iso-8859-1?Q?Gr=FCnwald?=
> <gruenwald@digital-law.net>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Sender: International Communications Law and Policy
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: <TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: From: Andreas =?iso-8859-1?Q?Gr=FCnwald?=
> <gruenwald@digital-law.net>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Organization: Digital Law Net GbR
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Subject: [TKRNEWS-L] Communications News 11/03/2000
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: To: TKRNEWS-L@LISTSERV.GMD.DE
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In:
> Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
> In: Communications News: 11/03/2000
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: -----
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Created for TKRNEWS-L (International Communications Law and Policy)
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: ---Forward-this-message-and-inform-your-colleagues---
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: To subscribe to TKRNEWS-L, send mail to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.GMD.DE with
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: the command SUBSCRIBE TKRNEWS-L
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: -----
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In:
> Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
> In: [BROADCASTING] 11/03/00
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Private Rundfunkanbieter fordern rasche Erneuerung der Medienpolitik
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In:

> Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
> In: Eine rasche Erneuerung der Medienpolitik hat der Pr?sident des Verbandes
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Privater Rundfunk und Telekommunikation (VPRT), J?rgen Doetz, angemahnt.
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> In: Derzeit sei ein erlahmender Reformeifer auf diesem Feld festzustellen,
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> In: dass ein Drittel des ausgebauten Kabelnetzes f?r den Rundfunk und seine
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Angebote reserviert bleiben muss. Diese Forderung schlie?e ausdr?cklich
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: auch die ?ffentlich-rechtlichen Anbieter ein, denn der Vorsto? der
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: privaten Kabelnetzbetreiber richte sich gegen den Rundfunk insgesamt.
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Full story at: <http://www.newsroom.de/>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: -----

> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In:
> Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
> In: [3G/UMTS] 11/02/00
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Dutch authority mulls wireless phone auction probe
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In:
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> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Full story at: <http://www.newsroom.de/>
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
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> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: [ENCRYPTION] 10/20/00
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: ["E-DEMOCRACY"] 11/02/00
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: 'Vote-Buying' Internet Site Closes
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> Out: 500 Error: bad syntax
> In: A Europe-based Web site claiming to buy and sell votes for the U.S.

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> In: presidential election, apparently closed Wednesday under pressure from
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> In: Chicago election officials. But the American Civil Liberties Union said
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> In: it would fight to keep **vote-auction.com** on the Internet, saying the Web
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> In: site was constitutionally protected under the First Amendment. "We think
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> In: political parody and satire is protected whether on the written page or
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> In: the Internet," ACLU legal director Harvey Grossman said. The Chicago
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Board of Election Commissioners, which sued to shut down the site, said
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> In: it was assured by the site's Swiss registrar, CORE Internet Council of
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> In: Registrar, that **vote-auction.com** would be taken off the Web. The Swiss
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> In: group sent the board email saying it was acting "since it does
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> In: effectively appear that this domain name is used in connection with
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> In: unlawful activity." The message referred to an order that Cook County
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: Circuit Judge Michael Murphy issued at the request of Chicago election
> Out: 502 Error: command not implemented
> In: officials, requiring a similar-sounding site, voteauction.com, or any
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> Session aborted, reason: too many errors
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- **Next message:** foutajallon@yahoo.com: "local mail getting deferred"
 - **Previous message:** [Ricardo Campos Passanezi: "Re: Really slow delivery time when tons of messages in queue...."](#)
 - **In reply to:** [Ralf Hildebrandt: "Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]"](#)
 - **Reply:** [Wietse Venema: "Re: Fwd: errors from mail.listserv.gmd.de\[192.88.97.5\]"](#)
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Section 1. Introduction

My argument is that the barrier that once stood between fine art conceptual thought and design conceptual thinking is being broken down as a result of globalisation.

"The main historical thrust of neoliberal economic globalisation is to bring about a situation in which private capital and 'the market' alone determine the restructuring of economic, political and cultural life, making alternative values or institutions subordinate. Rather than capital and 'the economy' being embedded in society and harnessed to serve social ends, 'the economy' becomes the master of society and of all within it, and society exists to serve the ends of capital and its need for self-expansion. It is a necessary aspect of this process that 'politics' itself, and 'democracy' in particular, should become increasingly formalistic, stripped of substantive radical, revolutionary, or even reformist content, any of which might challenge the consolidation of the hegemony of capital over society". What does this mean? It means instead of society running the economy, the economy runs society. This affects us in terms of people having to pay for everything; the doctor, the hospital, etc. The government no longer pays in

other words we become a user pays society. Social values are not as important as money. This means that money is valued more than people" (Gills 2002).

I intend to study this by comparing the conceptual thoughts and theories of an internationally recognised fine art master (Joseph Beuys) with the work of a modern day multimedia designer, artist, hacker, performer and genius (Hans Bernhard). Joseph Beuys said this (De Domizio 1997:51):

"Democratic Creativity is increasingly compromised by the progress made on the part of bureaucracy, coupled with the savage proliferation of an international mass culture. Political creativity continues to be reduced to the simple delegation of decisions and power. The imposition of a cultural and economic dictatorship throughout the whole world, thanks to the economic trusts, which are in continuous expansion, leads to loss of articulation, ability to learn, and verbal expression".

De Domizio (1997:115) believes that Beuys' thought was humanist thought and that it will continue to grow, because today we have concentrated too much on science and technology, neglecting true human relationships.

The Internet has unquestionably been a major catalyst of globalisation and its wide spread reach to the four corners of society. Hans Bernhard was asked if the Internet has made the world a better place? To which he replied:

"No, just a faster and smaller place...[Design Indaba Magazine 2001]".

Section 2. A Master

Joseph Beuys was born in Krefeld on 12 May 1921 (Stachelhaus 1991:9). He grew up in a strongly catholic petit bourgeois environment near Kleve – where he spent the first years of his life.

Throughout history, this region has been torn by countless wars, from Roman times up to the world wars of the twentieth century (Stachelhaus 1991:9). Numerous historical figures are bound up with this territory, and some of them cast powerful spells upon Beuys' imagination. Among them (Stachelhaus 1991:9), Johann Moritz von Nassau, of the House of Orange in the 17th Century, attempted building an ideal city of the soul in Kleve. Another was Anacharsis Cloots, an ardent intellectual and revolutionary guillotined for his efforts defending the ideas of the French Revolution in Europe. This region at the time, was predominantly Dutch and Catholic, and placed little if any importance on borders (De Domizio 1997:17).

According to Heiner Stachelhaus (1991:9), Beuys did not have a close relationship with his parents and took care of himself from an early age. Beuys, remembered (De Domizio 1997:18) that for years he acted the part of a Shepard walking around with a sort of 'Eurasian staff' and a flock gathered around him exploring everything in the vicinity. At 17 he set up a well-equipped laboratory at home and engaged in scientific

experiments. Together with his innate talent for natural sciences, Beuys showed a passion for sculpture (De Domizio 1997:19). Announcing only a few days before his own death on 23 January 1986, Beuys honoured and thanked the man he considered his "Master" (De Domizio 1997:77), the late Wilhelm Lehmbruck, and then told of his first introduction to Lehmbruck and Lehmbruck's work. Beuys (as quoted in De Domizio 1997:77) continued that one day by mere chance, he laid his hands on a publication lying on a table with many others. Opening it he saw a sculpture by Lehmbruck, and an idea flashed through his mind, the idea that everything was a sculpture. He saw a flaming torch and heard a voice telling him to protect it. This event accompanied him through World War II and eventually spurred him on to pursue it (De Domizio 1997:77). His favourite topics in literature were philosophy, anthropology, folklore, Nordic Mythology (De Domizio 1997:19; Stachelhaus 1991:11-14) and other subjects that were forbidden by the Nazis.

He remained a detached spectator of the Nazi years, and as a sideline his love of music took him to cello and piano lessons (Stachelhaus 1991:12). Despite his love of art, he took his diploma and became a paediatrician in 1940. From there, his strong interest in science and technology lead him to join the German air force in 1941. After being shot down, badly wounded five times, and captured once, he returned to Kleve in 1946. Sitting in a lecture one day he recognised the limitations of science, and decided to dedicate the rest of his life to art, leaving his grim experiences of war behind him (De Domizio 1997:20-22).

At this time Jack Moffit (1997) believes Beuys discovered, explored and transformed Austrian philosopher Rudolph Steiner's anthroposophy theory into his own theory of art. Robert Allan (2000:55) defines Anthroposophy as a system of belief, which holds that there is a spiritual world that can be perceived by faculties latent in human beings and that these latent faculties can be developed by systematic training. According to Alan Bullock & Stephen Trombley (1999:37), Steiner claimed to derive his teachings "from 'spiritual research' based on an exact 'scientific' mode of supersensible perception".

Beuys (as quoted in De Domizio 1997:24) reveals later that in 1951, in a state of depression, he literally began questioning everything including his own life. Seeking the most profound elements in life, art and science, he began seeking a completely different theory of art, science, life, democracy, capital, economics, culture and freedom. During this time he managed to establish the outlines of a larger theory of art that involved social structures as a whole, the revolution and evolution of all human development, and an anthropological idea of human creativity.

Between 1962 and 1965 (De Domizio 1997:28), Beuys was part of the Fluxus movement, which based itself on a connection between art and life and was directed towards a new order of human society. Often working with the concept of chaos Beuys awoke to the idea that a new situation could be created from it. Another idea of Beuys' by which art is available to everyone and useable anywhere and everywhere came from this period (De Domizio 1997:28), namely vehicle art.

Beuys, according to De Domizio (1997:34) never demanded a specific knowledge or particular reaction from the public to his work, but instead

sought out the energy points within the field of human power and understanding – with the belief that man must complete himself through his own efforts (De Domizio 1997:81).

In a certain sense, Beuys was an anarchist (Stachelhaus 1991:106). He had no time for the mind-set of democratic compromise, but was rather interested in breaking through the limitations that had been imposed on democracy. Beuys meant very seriously when he said (Stachelhaus 1991:106) that he had nothing to do with politics but that he only knew art, this keeping within the principles of his expanded concept of art, the idea that art is the primary factor governing our existence and our actions.

In 1964 right-wing students accused Beuys of pursuing revolutionary goals, while in 1969 a group of left-wing students interrupted an action of his in Berlin and instead accused him of being a reactionary (De Domizio 1997:38). But despite these accusations, Beuys (De Domizio 1997:38) felt that belonging to the left, right or center no longer meant much because the so-called parliamentary democracy was being questioned as a whole. Beuys had defined his objectives as early as 1967 with the formation of the German Student Party [DSP] (Stachelhaus 1991:107). The DSP emerged from the great public debates that Beuys regularly held in his class at the Dusseldorf Academy. Commenting on the DSP's establishment, according to Stachelhaus (1991:107), Beuys simply stated: "I want into parliament!". To broaden the horizons of the German Student Party, Beuys founded the 'Organisation for Non-Voters and Free Referendum' in 1970. Beuys explains (De Domizio 1997:42):

"The educational concept refers to the fact that man is a creative being. It is important to be aware of this: to create an awareness of the fact that he is a creative being and a free being and that for these reasons he must inevitably behave in an anti-authoritarian fashion. The concept of perception theory confirms that only the creative man can change history, can use his creativity in a revolutionary way. To go back to my educational concept, this would mean the following: Art = creativity = freedom of man [freedom being one of his main motivations]".

Beuys goes on explaining that a revolution is within ourselves, and that the only possible revolution lies in our ideas, therefore 'We are the revolution' and only in our behaviour is there evolution (De Domizio 1997:47).

From here on his work revolved around many interesting and different points of view, with subject titles that were not directly a reflection of what we see, but asked the question of what there was to see (De Domizio 1997:43).

According to De Domizio (1997:7) as early as the 70's, Beuys warned – in "Aufruf zur Alternative" (Appeal for the Alternative) and "Aktion Dritter Weg – Aufbauninitiative" (Third Way Action – Promotional Initiative) – that the human race was condemned to sink even deeper into ecological crisis; to be defencelessly exposed to a wild growing threat of war: to stand by impotently as the rift between rich and poor

nations continues to grow; to be persistently tormented by racial hate, religious struggle, and nationalism, by exploitation and oppression, by humiliation and violence, by the dictates of political and economic power, and by biological and social manipulation. Beuys (De Domizio 1997: 8) was the artist who, more than any other, wanted and was capable of going beyond art by directing all his efforts towards the utopian territories of natural energy and spiritual communication: reality as a phenomenological specter of human possibilities.

In 1974 Beuys (De Domizio 1997: 49), together with the Nobel Prize Winner Heinrich Boll, established what could be considered the artist's most important creation, aimed at a real form of progress with respect to existing educational institutions: the 'Free International University', (Luckenbach 1997) which admitted all students and functioned outside of the existing academic system. Often using the blackboard as a demonstrative tool, his actions became lectures in which he directly addressed his audiences.

Joseph Beuys' two most singular aspects of thought were reappropriation and free creativity (De Domizio 1997: 9), the former consisting of a rare attitude with regards to reconstruction rather than conquest, towards discovery rather than invention and therapeutic improvement as opposed to substitution, in this sense the need to speak and necessity of communication. The second aspect is characterised by that famous free human creativity that he preached and taught. Beuys (De Domizio 1997: 67) versed his free creativity theory in Bolognaro 1984:

"...The only thing that each one of us can do is to begin with the study of his or her own anthropological powers... [for] the development of human beings on this planet [it] is a question of freeing ourselves from all dependencies of the past. We now must face the realization that it is no longer possible simply to follow a leader [or] a political ideology...and that the time has come for us to begin to make full use of the most important of all our powers: the power of creativity (Creativity is a matter of the possibility of thinking...or thinking power and the level of the creativity of the feelings)...[and it's] most authentic part... freedom... It is our duty to show what we have produced with our freedom... [since] Freedom mostly means the freedom of others. When we know that we are cooperating together as free individuals, then we are also much closer to the creation of a real and concrete democracy [as] democracy structures have to be a result of freethinking and of our equality as thinking individuals...the basis upon which we can then establish a constitution".

Another large part of Beuysian thought was the concept of 'Social Sculpture' (De Domizio 1997: 83), whereby art is a daily act, a broadened and dilated action, not localised, not univocal, not limited to the relative content of the art object but art as the creative commitment of living, entirely incarnated in behaviour. A way of transforming the world into 'Social Sculpture', in which no man needs to acknowledge himself, but rather is and acts as an 'artist', the demiurge of every moment of his life (De Domizio 1997: 83).

Being considered as an avant-garde artist probably meant nothing to Beuys explains De Domizio (1997: 82), though he became a media icon

partly of his own making (Luckenbach 1997). Constantly being photographed and videotaped, he promoted the ideological causes that made his art a vehicle to bring about discourse (Luckenbach 1997). Others called him a charlatan, a diseased preacher, and even a crafty buffoon, yet some would place Beuys on an artistic altar (De Domizio 1997:81). In truth however, he was a tireless agitator, who provoked and challenged continuously for what he so strongly believed in, crossing the traditional frontiers of art to open the doors of the ghetto in which it had been impounded (De Domizio 1997:82).

Well remembered for a popular image of being the man with 'the felt hat' he explained its significance (De Domizio 1997:2): *"A rabbit isn't a rabbit without ears...[so] Beuys isn't Beuys without the hat"*.

Section 3. An Apprentice

Hans Bernhard was born in New Haven Connecticut in 1973 (Bernhard 2002) and studied Visual Media Art at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna with a professor Peter Weibel (MFA Degree 1999). He is currently working on his PHD in 'Media Hacking' (Bernhard 2002).

Bernhard found himself on the Internet for the very first time in 1993 (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Sitting in front of three shells (telnet-sessions) he asked himself where he was, where he was physically, and where he was mentally? Not knowing if he was on a server in Tokyo, in Vienna or on a machine in Cape Town, he got nervous and began to sweat heavily. Sparks were exploding in his brain and immediately he knew that this was it, that this was his future now, and that this was the future (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

That same year, funded by Japanese venture capital, in a Swiss mountain training facility, Bernhard and six other hackers distributed across Europe founded the multi award winning and much talked about "Etoy.com" (Bernhard 2002). Etoy's goals were to smash the boring style of electronic traffic channels; to stretch reality by leaving it behind; and to play the game between business, art, and entertainment, by kidnapping web-crawling humans and injecting a little uncertainty into life on the web (Etoy 2002). Knowing that the highlighting of corporate abuse would cause such controversy, they began the Etoy tanksystem in 1994 with the very symptomatic slogan: "Etoy: the pop-star is the pilot is the coder is the designer is the architect is the manager is the system is Etoy (Bernhard 2002). The corporate identity and panic management strategies were central to their high-pressure explorations. They used the web as a stage to disrupt the data flow, abuse technology, and promote pop-music (Bernhard 2002). It ran from 1993 to 1996, a time when the world-wide-web was unknown to the general public (Bernhard 2002), yet Etoy was awarded the Golden Nica first prize of the ARS Electronica festival for new media in 1996 (Bernhard 2002). In 1996, pop star singer Bjork from Iceland said the following (Bernhard 2002): *"...and all our children will be playing in the garden of joy surrounded by glamour and perverted disco tunes...etoy, immature digital priests from another world"*. Etoy operated until 1999, when due to personal conflicts, the board split into two parts (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Today Bernhard and three other founding members are running the Etoy-

holdings company which holds major and minor stakes in all other Etoy companies (Bernhard 2002). Bernhard's involvement is purely profit orientated since Etoy-holdings deals with financial, legal, trademark, buying and strategic planning (Bernhard 2002).

In 1999, together with his partner Maria Haas, he founded a network holding of companies in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Bulgaria called Ubermorgen (Bernhard 2002). These are heavily involved in software development, licensing deals, fine art, applied design and even high-end consulting services for global multinationals such as the Allianz Insurance Corporation. Bernhard's intentions at the time were to research and investigate global corporations ["...monsters of the universe..."] just like it (Bernhard 2002). Hosting their server farm from their bedroom, Ubermorgen has completed an amazing amount of legal articles, projects, lawsuits, and publications using global mass media as an art form, as a fine art, and as a business strategy (Bernhard 2002).

Hans Bernhard has often been called subversive because of the things that he says he likes doing and the way that he goes about doing them (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Bernhard explains (Design Indaba Magazine 2001) that he loves the thrill, the style, and the aesthetics of action. Going directly to prison or being immediately killed are the dangers associated with the supposedly illegal measures that he takes. But it is this reality (Design Indaba Magazine 2001) that he feeds off of and craves – not the threat of dying or a prison sentence – but that he can show people that certain things [like attacking corporations and governments] thought illegal, can actually be done or opposed legally, and most of all, extremely effectively. This draws relevance from Joseph Beuys' theory of free creativity, how freedoms should be shared and displayed as a duty to mankind, as freedom more often than not means the freedom of others and not just the individual (Section 2). Yet Bernhard claims only to be as anti-establishment as anybody else is (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). He does not regard his 'anti-motives' as a result of his work, but merely as a natural motivation for an individual surviving (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Money, as much as it might appear at first glance, is not Bernhard's real motivation (Bernhard 2002). He needs it to live and finance his research and art ventures but otherwise sees it as a distraction (Bernhard 2002). Bernhard explains (Bernhard 2002):

"My true motivations are freedom. [T]he freedom to research what and how and when and where I want. [T]o publish where and what I want, to say what I want, where and how I want it. [T]hat is my pure and true motivation".

Beuys shared a similar thought to creative freedom (Section 2).

What Bernhard believes drives him into the right topics, pictures, words and content is his honesty with himself in constantly thinking about getting more money and fame (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Bernhard intentionally does not only focus on visual aspects, but on what he calls *gesamtkunstwerk*, which means the overall art concept (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). This acts as a meta-level (similar anthroposophy theory of Beuys) that brings all his legal, corporate, and aesthetic art forms and activities together (Design Indaba Magazine

2001). In general his core focus is on global structures but also on the production and maintenance of them. Firstly looked at from a business, financial and profit driven angle and secondly from a purely artistic one (Bernhard 2002).

Bernhard has been called a maverick businessman, the Etoy promotions hammer and even the “nasty shock marketing maniac” by media platforms such as Wired magazine, the Washington Post, underground Italian magazines and German theoretical publications (Ubermorgen 2002). Old-school corporations willing to pay their excessive fees have gotten some of Ubermorgens communications strategies better known as a character marketing, drama marketing and most effective – shock marketing – by which you shock the user, and due to this shock the users channels are wide open so any information can be fed into the users brain (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). The Internet today is structured in such a way, that shock marketing can be used by artists; activists; terrorists; and by any of the other millions of naive users that surf it each day (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Ubermorgens approach and projects are so dangerous and radical that possible areas of attack by enemy companies or governments need to be distributed for liability reasons, so a series of Ubermorgen holding companies were established in Vienna, Austria; and in Sofia, Bulgaria (Bernhard 2002).

French philosopher Jean Baudrillard said in Cannes 2000 that (Bernhard 2002):

“Ubermorgen means the day after tomorrow, a slight tip towards their aesthetic and activist vision and prejudice, they are hardcore and radical in their actions and they are extremely strange and highly intelligent people”.

Bernhard however prefers the term uniqueness, unique not because of what Ubermorgen does but because how, when and where they do it (Bernhard 2002).

Ubermorgen’s uber-slogan originates from a CNN interview questioning the Vote Auction simulations that Bernhard pursued: “its different because its fundamentally different” (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Section 4. The Workplace

The author of this essay believes that these two individuals can only be likened and compared in context. The state of the world and its politics; the degree of globalisation development; and the combined cost of the above to humanity and human relationships at the same time, are the three most pivotal factors that need understanding.

Beuys’ vision of the future from back in the 70’s (Section 2) can still be seen as impressively intuitive, but Bernhard’s is far more accurate and/or up to date. Bernhard believes that mankind is looking at and living in a highly political decade (Bernhard 2002) where global wars will only get worse. Military conflicts between the police [USA] and resisting forces [nations, institutions, networks] will heat up, while conflicts between Europe and the US will arise (Bernhard 2002).

Beuys was an artist who displayed, performed, and exhibited his works

and beliefs in galleries and institutions, to groups who still relied on the spoken word of mouth and the live real-time experience. Others interested would visit his exhibitions to interact and experience his work for themselves. However as time has unfolded, the growth of globalisation and its trends have decreased personal interaction with human beings and real live experiences drastically - to the point where greeting grocery store staff is unnecessary thanks to shopping online, and the adventure of experiencing overseas or the outdoors is lost by downloads available on screen at home for nothing more than the price of a phone call.

Beuys elucidated the passage (of his work) from a personal experience to a more fundamental and universal human experience that is paradigmatic of his work on the whole (Luckenbach 1997). The author of this essay believes that a similar description could be given to that of Bernhard's work across world media.

Today, Bernhard, through media hacking likes causing chaos by misusing the "pseudo" freedom of the net (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Media hackers exploit weak spots within social, commercial, political and technical networks implementing disinformation via these subverted interfaces. Completely different to Beuys, media hackers, like Bernhard, have dealt with the effects of globalisation on human communications by forcing their work and beliefs on people via the systems (world wide web and media) that they depend on most (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

In Joseph Beuys' discovery of performance art, he combined the theatrical elements of time and space with props and a directional score (Luckenbach 1997). His own function as the artist shifts into a new dimension as a 'performer-shaman'. Layering and manipulating "fragments", he acted out a ritual, which simultaneously is the creation of a new work of art (Luckenbach 1997). Beuys' goal was to erase the line separating art and life in the tradition of the radical modernists Marcel Duchamp and Bertold Brecht, whose evolutionary steps led to the erasure of this line. But Beuys' "gesamtkunstwerk" (total art work) was the creation of a symbiotic whole – art as a model for life (Luckenbach 1997).

For a period of four months in 1996, the Etoy gang legally hacked into five major search engines devising a trap for net travellers and technology tourists of the time (Bernhard 2002). With the twilight zone of the medium forming the place of action, search engines were transformed into a stage, designed as a merger between a Hollywood action movie script and a real life airplane hijacking (Bernhard 2002). This was a shocking experience and a violent attack on the innocent Internet user of the time. It became known as the digital hijack – and the members of Etoy as the first street gang on the information super highway (Etoy 2001). The role of a 'performance' remains very similar as it occurs here through time and space on the internet, only the stage has evolved and changed as a result of technology, into a stage on screen. Where Beuys used art to create a model for life, Bernhard and other Etoy operators used art (design and hacking) to insert some humane uncertainty of life back into the inhuman, super reliable, information super highway (Etoy 2002).

Bernhard illustrated the 'performer-shaman' understanding of Beuys' in another work of his. During a presentation, at the Design Indaba 2002 in Cape Town, of a CNN exclusive video interview with Hans Bernhard on his Vote Auction project, Bernhard had arranged for two designers from very different institutions, namely Joshua Davies from Praystation and

Tom Roope of Tomato, to assist him in shaving his head clean on stage in front of the audience (Bernhard 2002). The Ubermorgen group then approached the Museum of Modern Art with the shaved hair of Bernhards as a first ever collaboration artwork between Praystation and Tomato (Bernhard 2002).

In language, semantics are the vehicle by which sounds are given form and thoughts are given meaning, allowing communication to take place (Luckenbach 1997). Beuys equated the phenomenon of language with evolution, as a catalyst that moulds and propels human society (Luckenbach 1997). Believing that the concept of people is elementally coupled with its language, the looming horrors of World War II aided Beuys' choice of sculpture (as it starts with speaking and thinking), to provide for ideas to take shape through the forward looking images that present themselves through it as a result (Luckenbach 1997). Bernhard again has a likeness to this line of thinking only his work has an extremely controversial (unpopular reaction) and deliberate motive behind it. However he develops it further, instead of just providing a vehicle for his ideas to generate on or take shape through, he set up a simulation of his work and let its trial in reality prove his controversial message correct. In spring 2000, an American art student invented a platform for American citizens to offer and sell their individual votes during the US presidential election that same year (Bernhard 2002). On November 7th companies, political parties, and individuals could then auction off these votes via the Vote-Auction website and buy whole states. But due to heavy government official pressure, James Baumgartner (the inventor) offered the then very small venture to the Ubermorgen group (Bernhard 2002). Ubermorgen, at the time, had no idea that this was the pay dirt that they had been looking for. Ubermorgen then took control over Vote-Auction and pushed the limits, in terms of shock marketing and public relations to a global mass media level never seen before – with the core message “bringing capitalism and democracy closer together!” (Bernhard 2002) American principles of capitalism and democracy were already tightly intertwined, like most democratic countries corruption of the election process was legal for large corporations but illegal for individuals (Bernhard 2002). ‘Vote-Auction just wanted a perfect market for votes, it would never be political, just purely business, art and market orientated, with no underlying ideology, just a strong belief in declaration’ (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). For liability reasons Ubermorgen immediately set up Vote-Auction LTD in Bulgaria even though most lawsuits were on Bernhard and Baumgartner alone (Bernhard 2002). During those four months temporary injunctions, court complaints and many other legal threats were received from thirteen state attorneys. Federal attorney Janet Reno, along with the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Security Agency investigated the case. Ubermorgen suspected a break and entry into their own servers and questioned why two domains were illegally shutdown by United States authorities (Bernhard 2002). The term Media hacking came about while Ubermorgen were developing the story in real-time and watching it later or the next morning on CNN world report (Bernhard 2002). During those four months an expected 500 million people were reached with the Vote-Auction brand and pervert commercial message (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). All that amassed was an endless story without any proof of illegal activities, all Vote-Auction representatives were only named plaintiffs (Bernhard 2002). E-mails from veterans of World War II read about the aesthetics of the war for democracy and how Vote-Auction was destroying it. Amongst these came the occasional

death threat, mainly because of the very painful visuals inserted by Ubermorgen into the initial website design which was not manipulated much in order to keep it authentic (Bernhard 2002). 'The global media, played the ultimate pop soundtrack to this techno-political-action-thriller (Bernhard 2002). Beuysian thought on Social Sculpture (Section 2) seems far from a reality after an experiment like this proves itself successful. Vote-Auction becomes a digital sculptural vehicle upon which ideas can formulate for an answer to a polluted society. After a project like this Bernhards view on corporate censorship remains senseless, saying that sometimes it makes no sense to talk about the ethical values of a semi-technical action as censorship, as the technical aspect overrules the ethical one – what he prefers, is the practical (or pragmatic) approach (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

However, within Beuys' work, language and communication were often entirely discrete entities (Luckenbach 1997). Language was one possible vehicle for communication; it functioned as a catalyst, whereas communication was more profound, elemental, and universal – fundamentally biological (Luckenbach 1997).

Beuys' Multiples were devices of communication, vehicles for the distribution of ideas that could reach an even wider group of people than could a single work of art (Luckenbach 1997). Yet all of Beuys' objects had meaning only in relation to his ideas; the objects, however widely distributed, always return to the maker. This created a circular motion consisting of Beuys' art, his persona, and the metaphors that weave in and out of his work (Luckenbach 1997).

One vehicle for the distribution of ideas that supersedes all others is that of the Internet. Hans Bernhard continuously hijacks this vehicle for the very reason that it allows him to express himself, through his projects, and the concepts behind them.

Characteristically of Bernhard, his use of a 'Beuys like multiples' approach also had a subversive tilt. Running as an experiment on the rate of viral distribution on the net, a staged conspiracy on the biggest PC software manufacturer was used to attract attention to a website and project of the Ubermorgen group. Bernhard explains (Design Indaba Magazine 2001): Media hackers cannot be afraid of playing with information and information distribution, but rather have to be able to wittfully play with these mechanisms.

In 1999 a press release was issued in the name of the jury of the ARS Electronica in Linz. Being the most important new media art festival and new media art award, Ubermorgen's initial press release was headlined "Linux wins pris ars electronica due to Microsoft intervention". Sent out in the name of the head of the Jury to journalists, media and cultural people in the global tech-community, the e-mail was very detailed and in-depth and described the potential bribery of the net capital jury. Six hours after the release the first stories claiming this e-mail to be a fake appeared in international media-art and technology publications, but this was even to late, the virus had been spread. On the opening Monday morning of the festival over 250 journalists requested information concerning this press release. Multiplication of the e-mail had gone into the two digit million figure by viral distribution. Not even the obvious fake character of this message could stop hundreds of articles being published about it worldwide. Representatives of the Etoy-corporation were questioned aggressively of any responsibility for this act. This was just a teaser action to show off Ubermorgens capabilities in terms of communications and perversion. In fact, the use of these guerrilla marketing tactics was merely just to soft launch the brand Etxtreme.ru

and co-brand it with Linux. Etxtreme was one of the early content creations of the Ubermorgen group.

Section 5. Conclusion

Time seems to be all that stands between these two individuals, however, what has happened and changed in the world during that time seems to make the short distance between them seem a little further than it really is. Beuys came across to the world with greater ease and less tension, never 'attacking' anyone and therefore was always seen as a fairly passive artist with potentially revolutionary beliefs - but never as a serious threat to any governments or institutions. Where presently, Bernhard is seen entirely as a threat as he lashes out and attacks those government institutions with his potentially revolutionary actions. Beuys and Bernhard have very similar long-term goals and motivations but their places in time/history don't allow for that likeness to be seen easily.

Realistically designers are fundamentally different to artists in some ways, for example: designers and architects are normally more constructive and/or goal orientated with what they do, often demanding or needing feedback and some response to work that they have completed, as they do have responsibilities as designers to sell or make immediate contact/impact. Whereas an artist, is more concerned with the message that they leave from themselves within their artwork, and not necessarily with what they get out of it.

Beuys' dream of a singular social structure has arrived, only at a very heavy price. People in general have lost their individuality and freedoms – as political and capitalist ventures control and regulate almost everything. Though those individuals that have not lost their will to embrace those freedoms (Bernhard) are seen as going against the grain, in effect being labelled troublemakers. Bernhard ideally, if not intentionally through his work, is only searching for the freedom that Beuys once had dressed as a Shepard boy in his youth wandering the hillsides. Old popularity of gallery exhibitions moved online into the world-wide-web as mankind continues to surround and engross him self with such technologies. This can explain why Bernhard continuously looks for the loopholes within the globalisation-trend-bubble and then exploits them. Though globalisation has not only made the current world smaller and faster but it has also blurred the distance between the past and present.

Beuys placed so much importance on language and communication that it could be understood as a growing interest in the history of graphic design (these two being the main aspects of graphic design history). Globalisation might not have been as active as it is today but this interest of Beuys' suggests that the conceptual barrier between art and design was being broken down even then. In a world where physically coming closer together is actually driving us personally further apart, communication of any sort becomes increasingly important – whether you are a designer, artist or just someone asking for directions on a street corner.

Ultimately, the quest for communicating effectively with ourselves, and the world around us might be the cataclysmic goal that designers and artists must reach together, in order for any such barriers between art and design to ever be cleared for good.

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Section 1. Introduction

My argument is that the barrier that once stood between fine art conceptual thought and design conceptual thinking is being broken down as a result of globalisation.

"The main historical thrust of neoliberal economic globalisation is to bring about a situation in which private capital and 'the market' alone determine the restructuring of economic, political and cultural life, making alternative values or institutions subordinate. Rather than capital and 'the economy' being embedded in society and harnessed to serve social ends, 'the economy' becomes the master of society and of all within it, and society exists to serve the ends of capital and its need for self-expansion. It is a necessary aspect of this process that 'politics' itself, and 'democracy' in particular, should become increasingly formalistic, stripped of substantive radical, revolutionary, or even reformist content, any of which might challenge the consolidation of the hegemony of capital over society". What does this mean? It means instead of society running the economy, the economy runs society. This affects us in terms of people having to pay for everything; the doctor, the hospital, etc. The government no longer pays in other words we become a user pays society. Social values are not as important as money. This means that money is valued more than people" (Gills 2002).

I intend to study this by comparing the conceptual thoughts and theories of an internationally recognised fine art master (Joseph Beuys) with the work of a modern day multimedia designer, artist, hacker, performer and genius (Hans Bernhard). Joseph Beuys said this (De Domizio 1997:51):

"Democratic Creativity is increasingly compromised by the progress made on the part of bureaucracy, coupled with the savage proliferation of an international mass culture. Political creativity continues to be reduced to the simple delegation of decisions and power. The imposition of a cultural and economic dictatorship throughout the whole world, thanks to the economic trusts, which are in continuous expansion, leads to loss of articulation, ability to learn, and verbal expression".

De Domizio (1997: 115) believes that Beuys' thought was humanist thought and that it will continue to grow, because today we have concentrated too much on science and technology, neglecting true human relationships.

The Internet has unquestionably been a major catalyst of globalisation and its wide spread reach to the four corners of society. Hans Bernhard was asked if the Internet has made the world a better place? To which he replied:

"No, just a faster and smaller place...[Design Indaba Magazine 2001]".

Section 2. A Master

Joseph Beuys was born in Krefeld on 12 May 1921 (Stachelhaus 1991: 9). He grew up in a strongly catholic petit bourgeois environment near Kleve – where he spent the first years of his life.

Throughout history, this region has been torn by countless wars, from Roman times up to the world wars of the twentieth century (Stachelhaus 1991: 9). Numerous historical figures are bound up with this territory, and some of them cast powerful spells upon Beuys' imagination. Among them (Stachelhaus 1991: 9), Johann Moritz von Nassau, of the House of Orange in the 17th Century, attempted building an ideal city of the soul in Kleve. Another was Anacharsis Cloots, an ardent intellectual and revolutionary guillotined for his efforts defending the ideas of the French Revolution in Europe. This region at the time, was predominantly Dutch and Catholic, and placed little if any importance on borders (De Domizio 1997: 17).

According to Heiner Stachelhaus (1991: 9), Beuys did not have a close relationship with his parents and took care of himself from an early age. Beuys, remembered (De Domizio 1997: 18) that for years he acted the part of a Shepard walking around with a sort of 'Eurasian staff' and a flock gathered around him exploring everything in the vicinity. At 17 he set up a well-equipped laboratory at home and engaged in scientific experiments. Together with his innate talent for natural sciences, Beuys showed a passion for sculpture (De Domizio 1997: 19). Announcing only a few days before his own death on 23 January 1986, Beuys honoured and thanked the man he considered his "Master" (De Domizio 1997: 77), the late Wilhelm Lehmbruck, and then told of his first introduction to Lehmbruck and Lehmbruck's work. Beuys (as quoted in De Domizio 1997: 77) continued that one day by mere chance, he laid his hands on a publication lying on a table with many others. Opening it he saw a sculpture by Lehmbruck, and an idea flashed through his mind, the idea that everything was a sculpture. He saw a flaming torch and heard a voice telling him to protect it. This event accompanied him through World War II and eventually spurred him on to pursue it (De Domizio 1997: 77). His favourite topics in literature were philosophy, anthropology, folklore, Nordic Mythology (De Domizio 1997: 19; Stachelhaus 1991: 11-14) and other subjects that were forbidden by the Nazis.

He remained a detached spectator of the Nazi years, and as a sideline his love of music took him to cello and piano lessons (Stachelhaus 1991: 12). Despite his love of art, he took his diploma and became a paediatrician in 1940. From there, his strong interest in science and technology lead him to join the German air force in 1941. After being shot down, badly wounded five times, and captured once, he returned to Kleve in 1946. Sitting in a lecture one day he recognised the limitations of science, and decided to dedicate the rest of his life to art, leaving his grim experiences of war behind him (De Domizio 1997: 20-22).

At this time Jack Moffit (1997) believes Beuys discovered, explored and transformed Austrian philosopher Rudolph Steiner's anthroposophy theory into his own theory of art. Robert Allan (2000: 55) defines Anthroposophy as a system of belief, which holds that there is a spiritual world that can be perceived by faculties latent in human beings and that these latent faculties can be developed by systematic training. According to Alan Bullock & Stephen Trombly (1999: 37), Steiner claimed to derive his teachings "from 'spiritual research' based on an exact 'scientific' mode of supersensible perception".

Beuys (as quoted in De Domizio 1997:24) reveals later that in 1951, in a state of depression, he literally began questioning everything including his own life. Seeking the most profound elements in life, art and science, he began seeking a completely different theory of art, science, life, democracy, capital, economics, culture and freedom. During this time he managed to establish the outlines of a larger theory of art that involved social structures as a whole, the revolution and evolution of all human development, and an anthropological idea of human creativity.

Between 1962 and 1965 (De Domizio 1997:28), Beuys was part of the Fluxus movement, which based itself on a connection between art and life and was directed towards a new order of human society. Often working with the concept of chaos Beuys awoke to the idea that a new situation could be created from it. Another idea of Beuys' by which art is available to everyone and useable anywhere and everywhere came from this period (De Domizio 1997:28), namely vehicle art.

Beuys, according to De Domizio (1997:34) never demanded a specific knowledge or particular reaction from the public to his work, but instead sought out the energy points within the field of human power and understanding – with the belief that man must complete himself through his own efforts (De Domizio 1997:81).

In a certain sense, Beuys was an anarchist (Stachelhaus 1991:106). He had no time for the mind-set of democratic compromise, but was rather interested in breaking through the limitations that had been imposed on democracy. Beuys meant very seriously when he said (Stachelhaus 1991:106) that he had nothing to do with politics but that he only knew art, this keeping within the principles of his expanded concept of art, the idea that art is the primary factor governing our existence and our actions.

In 1964 right-wing students accused Beuys of pursuing revolutionary goals, while in 1969 a group of left-wing students interrupted an action of his in Berlin and instead accused him of being a reactionary (De Domizio 1997:38). But despite these accusations, Beuys (De Domizio 1997:38) felt that belonging to the left, right or center no longer meant much because the so-called parliamentary democracy was being questioned as a whole. Beuys had defined his objectives as early as 1967 with the formation of the German Student Party [DSP] (Stachelhaus 1991:107). The DSP emerged from the great public debates that Beuys regularly held in his class at the Dusseldorf Academy. Commenting on the DSP's establishment, according to Stachelhaus (1991:107), Beuys simply stated: "I want into parliament!". To broaden the horizons of the German Student Party, Beuys founded the 'Organisation for Non-Voters and Free Referendum' in 1970. Beuys explains (De Domizio 1997:42):

"The educational concept refers to the fact that man is a creative being. It is important to be aware of this: to create an awareness of the fact that he is a creative being and a free being and that for these reasons he must inevitably behave in an anti-authoritarian fashion. The concept of perception theory confirms that only the creative man can change history, can use his creativity in a revolutionary way. To go back to my educational concept, this would mean the following: Art = creativity = freedom of man [freedom being one of his main motivations]".

Beuys goes on explaining that a revolution is within ourselves, and that the only possible revolution lies in our ideas, therefore 'We are the revolution' and only in our behaviour is there evolution (De Domizio 1997: 47).

From here on his work revolved around many interesting and different points of view, with subject titles that were not directly a reflection of what we see, but asked the question of what there was to see (De Domizio 1997: 43).

According to De Domizio (1997: 7) as early as the 70's, Beuys warned – in "Aufruf zur Alternative" (Appeal for the Alternative) and "Aktion Dritter Weg – Aufbauninitiative" (Third Way Action – Promotional Initiative) – that the human race was condemned to sink even deeper into ecological crisis; to be defencelessly exposed to a wild growing threat of war: to stand by impotently as the rift between rich and poor nations continues to grow; to be persistently tormented by racial hate, religious struggle, and nationalism, by exploitation and oppression, by humiliation and violence, by the dictates of political and economic power, and by biological and social manipulation. Beuys (De Domizio 1997: 8) was the artist who, more than any other, wanted and was capable of going beyond art by directing all his efforts towards the utopian territories of natural energy and spiritual communication: reality as a phenomenological specter of human possibilities.

In 1974 Beuys (De Domizio 1997: 49), together with the Nobel Prize Winner Heinrich Boll, established what could be considered the artist's most important creation, aimed at a real form of progress with respect to existing educational institutions: the 'Free International University', (Luckenbach 1997) which admitted all students and function outside of the existing academic system. Often using the blackboard as a demonstrative tool, his actions became lectures in which he directly addressed his audiences.

Joseph Beuys' two most singular aspects of thought were reappropriation and free creativity (De Domizio 1997: 9), the former consisting of a rare attitude with regards to reconstruction rather than conquest, towards discovery rather than invention and therapeutic improvement as opposed to substitution, in this sense the need to speak and necessity of communication. The second aspect is characterised by that famous free human creativity that he preached and taught. Beuys (De Domizio 1997: 67) versed his free creativity theory in Bolognano 1984:

"...The only thing that each one of us can do is to begin with the study of his or her own anthropological powers... [for] the development of human beings on this planet [it] is a question of freeing ourselves from all dependencies of the past. We now must face the realization that it is no longer possible simply to follow a leader [or] a political ideology...and that the time has come for us to begin to make full use of the most important of all our powers: the power of creativity (Creativity is a matter of the possibility of thinking...or thinking power and the level of the creativity of the feelings)...[and it's] most authentic part... freedom... It is our duty to show what we have produced with our freedom... [since] Freedom mostly means the freedom of others. When we know that we are cooperating together as free individuals, then we are also much closer to the creation of a real and concrete democracy [as] democracy structures have to be a result of freethinking and of our equality as thinking individuals...the basis upon which we can then establish a constitution".

Another large part of Beuysian thought was the concept of 'Social Sculpture' (De Domizio 1997:83), whereby art is a daily act, a broadened and dilated action, not localised, not univocal, not limited to the relative content of the art object but art as the creative commitment of living, entirely incarnated in behaviour. A way of transforming the world into 'Social Sculpture', in which no man needs to acknowledge himself, but rather is and acts as an 'artist', the demiurge of every moment of his life (De Domizio 1997:83).

Being considered as an avant-garde artist probably meant nothing to Beuys explains De Domizio (1997:82), though he became a media icon partly of his own making (Luckenbach 1997). Constantly being photographed and videotaped, he promoted the ideological causes that made his art a vehicle to bring about discourse (Luckenbach 1997). Others called him a charlatan, a diseased preacher, and even a crafty buffoon, yet some would place Beuys on an artistic altar (De Domizio 1997:81). In truth however, he was a tireless agitator, who provoked and challenged continuously for what he so strongly believed in, crossing the traditional frontiers of art to open the doors of the ghetto in which it had been impounded (De Domizio 1997:82).

Well remembered for a popular image of being the man with 'the felt hat' he explained its significance(De Domizio 1997:2): *"A rabbit isn't a rabbit without ears...[so] Beuys isn't Beuys without the hat".*

Section 3. An Apprentice

Hans Bernhard was born in New Haven Connecticut in 1973 (Bernhard 2002) and studied Visual Media Art at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna with a professor Peter Weibel (MFA Degree 1999). He is currently working on his PHD in 'Media Hacking' (Bernhard 2002).

Bernhard found himself on the Internet for the very first time in 1993 (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Sitting in front of three shells (telnet-sessions) he asked himself where he was, where he was physically, and where he was mentally? Not knowing if he was on a server in Tokyo, in

Vienna or on a machine in Cape Town, he got nervous and began to sweat heavily. Sparks were exploding in his brain and immediately he knew that this was it, that this was his future now, and that this was the future (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

That same year, funded by Japanese venture capital, in a Swiss mountain training facility, Bernhard and six other hackers distributed across Europe founded the multi award winning and much talked about "Etoy.com" (Bernhard 2002). Etoy's goals were to smash the boring style of electronic traffic channels; to stretch reality by leaving it behind; and to play the game between business, art, and entertainment, by kidnapping web-crawling humans and injecting a little uncertainty into life on the web (Etoy 2002). Knowing that the highlighting of corporate abuse would cause such controversy, they began the Etoy tanksystem in 1994 with the very symptomatic slogan: "Etoy: the pop-star is the pilot is the coder is the designer is the architect is the manager is the system is Etoy (Bernhard 2002). The corporate identity and panic management strategies were central to their high-pressure explorations. They used the web as a stage to disrupt the data flow, abuse technology, and promote pop-music (Bernhard 2002). It ran from 1993 to 1996, a time when the world-wide-web was unknown to the general public (Bernhard 2002), yet Etoy was awarded the Golden Nica first prize of the ARS Electronica festival for new media in 1996 (Bernhard 2002). In 1996, pop star singer Bjork from Iceland said the following (Bernhard 2002): *"...and all our children will be playing in the garden of joy surrounded by glamour and perverted disco tunes...etoy, immature digital priests from another world"*. Etoy operated until 1999, when due to personal conflicts, the board split into two parts (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Today Bernhard and three other founding members are running the Etoy-holdings company which holds major and minor stakes in all other Etoy companies (Bernhard 2002). Bernhard's involvement is purely profit orientated since Etoy-holdings deals with financial, legal, trademark, buying and strategic planning (Bernhard 2002).

In 1999, together with his partner Maria Haas, he founded a network holding of companies in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Bulgaria called Ubermorgen (Bernhard 2002). These are heavily involved in software development, licensing deals, fine art, applied design and even high-end consulting services for global multinationals such as the Allianz Insurance Corporation. Bernhard's intentions at the time were to research and investigate global corporations ["...monsters of the universe..."] just like it (Bernhard 2002). Hosting their server farm from their bedroom, Ubermorgen has completed an amazing amount of legal articles, projects, lawsuits, and publications using global mass media as an art form, as a fine art, and as a business strategy (Bernhard 2002).

Hans Bernhard has often been called subversive because of the things that he says he likes doing and the way that he goes about doing them (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Bernhard explains (Design Indaba Magazine 2001) that he loves the thrill, the style, and the aesthetics of action. Going directly to prison or being immediately killed are the dangers associated with the supposedly illegal measures that he takes. But it is this reality (Design Indaba Magazine 2001) that he feeds off of and craves – not the threat of dying or a prison sentence – but that he can show people that certain things [like attacking corporations and governments] thought illegal, can actually be done or opposed legally, and most of all, extremely effectively. This draws relevance from Joseph

Beuys' theory of free creativity, how freedoms should be shared and displayed as a duty to mankind, as freedom more often than not means the freedom of others and not just the individual (Section 2). Yet Bernhard claims only to be as anti-establishment as anybody else is (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). He does not regard his 'anti-motives' as a result of his work, but merely as a natural motivation for an individual surviving (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Money, as much as it might appear at first glance, is not Bernhard's real motivation (Bernhard 2002). He needs it to live and finance his research and art ventures but otherwise sees it as a distraction (Bernhard 2002). Bernhard explains (Bernhard 2002):

"My true motivations are freedom. [T]he freedom to research what and how and when and where I want. [T]o publish where and what I want, to say what I want, where and how I want it. [T]hat is my pure and true motivation".

Beuys shared a similar thought to creative freedom (Section 2).

What Bernhard believes drives him into the right topics, pictures, words and content is his honesty with himself in constantly thinking about getting more money and fame (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Bernhard intentionally does not only focus on visual aspects, but on what he calls *gesamtkunstwerk*, which means the overall art concept (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). This acts as a meta-level (similar anthroposophy theory of Beuys) that brings all his legal, corporate, and aesthetic art forms and activities together (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). In general his core focus is on global structures but also on the production and maintenance of them. Firstly looked at from a business, financial and profit driven angle and secondly from a purely artistic one (Bernhard 2002).

Bernhard has been called a maverick businessman, the Etoy promotions hammer and even the "nasty shock marketing maniac" by media platforms such as Wired magazine, the Washington Post, underground Italian magazines and German theoretical publications (Ubermorgen 2002). Old-school corporations willing to pay their excessive fees have gotten some of Ubermorgens communications strategies better known as a character marketing, drama marketing and most effective – shock marketing – by which you shock the user, and due to this shock the users channels are wide open so any information can be fed into the users brain (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). The Internet today is structured in such a way, that shock marketing can be used by artists; activists; terrorists; and by any of the other millions of naïve users that surf it each day (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Ubermorgens approach and projects are so dangerous and radical that possible areas of attack by enemy companies or governments need to be distributed for liability reasons, so a series of Ubermorgen holding companies were established in Vienna, Austria; and in Sofia, Bulgaria (Bernhard 2002).

French philosopher Jean Baudrillard said in Cannes 2000 that (Bernhard 2002):

"Übermorgen means the day after tomorrow, a slight tip towards their aesthetic and activist vision and prejudice, they are hardcore and radical in their actions and they are extremely strange and highly intelligent people".

Bernhard however prefers the term uniqueness, unique not because of what Übermorgen does but because how, when and where they do it (Bernhard 2002).

Übermorgen's uber-slogan originates from a CNN interview questioning the **Vote Auction** simulations that Bernhard pursued: "its different because its fundamentally different" (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

Section 4. The Workplace

The author of this essay believes that these two individuals can only be likened and compared in context. The state of the world and its politics; the degree of globalisation development; and the combined cost of the above to humanity and human relationships at the same time, are the three most pivotal factors that need understanding.

Beuys' vision of the future from back in the 70's (Section 2) can still be seen as impressively intuitive, but Bernhard's is far more accurate and/or up to date. Bernhard believes that mankind is looking at and living in a highly political decade (Bernhard 2002) where global wars will only get worse. Military conflicts between the police [USA] and resisting forces [nations, institutions, networks] will heat up, while conflicts between Europe and the US will arise (Bernhard 2002).

Beuys was an artist who displayed, performed, and exhibited his works and beliefs in galleries and institutions, to groups who still relied on the spoken word of mouth and the live real-time experience. Others interested would visit his exhibitions to interact and experience his work for themselves. However as time has unfolded, the growth of globalisation and its trends have decreased personal interaction with human beings and real live experiences drastically - to the point where greeting grocery store staff is unnecessary thanks to shopping online, and the adventure of experiencing overseas or the outdoors is lost by downloads available on screen at home for nothing more than the price of a phone call.

Beuys elucidated the passage (of his work) from a personal experience to a more fundamental and universal human experience that is paradigmatic of his work on the whole (Luckenbach 1997). The author of this essay believes that a similar description could be given to that of Bernhard's work across world media.

Today, Bernhard, through media hacking likes causing chaos by misusing the "pseudo" freedom of the net (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). Media hackers exploit weak spots within social, commercial, political and technical networks implementing disinformation via these subverted interfaces. Completely different to Beuys, media hackers, like Bernhard, have dealt with the effects of globalisation on human communications by forcing their work and beliefs on people via the systems (world wide web and media) that they depend on most (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

In Joseph Beuys' discovery of performance art, he combined the

theatrical elements of time and space with props and a directional score (Luckenbach 1997). His own function as the artist shifts into a new dimension as a 'performer-shaman'. Layering and manipulating "fragments", he acted out a ritual, which simultaneously is the creation of a new work of art (Luckenbach 1997). Beuys' goal was to erase the line separating art and life in the tradition of the radical modernists Marcel Duchamp and Bertold Brecht, whose evolutionary steps led to the erasure of this line. But Beuys' "gesamtkunstwerk" (total art work) was the creation of a symbiotic whole – art as a model for life (Luckenbach 1997).

For a period of four months in 1996, the Etoy gang legally hacked into five major search engines devising a trap for net travellers and technology tourists of the time (Bernhard 2002). With the twilight zone of the medium forming the place of action, search engines were transformed into a stage, designed as a merger between a Hollywood action movie script and a real life airplane hijacking (Bernhard 2002). This was a shocking experience and a violent attack on the innocent Internet user of the time. It became known as the digital hijack – and the members of Etoy as the first street gang on the information super highway (Etoy 2001). The role of a 'performance' remains very similar as it occurs here through time and space on the internet, only the stage has evolved and changed as a result of technology, into a stage on screen. Where Beuys used art to create a model for life, Bernhard and other Etoy operators used art (design and hacking) to insert some humane uncertainty of life back into the inhuman, super reliable, information super highway (Etoy 2002).

Bernhard illustrated the 'performer-shaman' understanding of Beuys' in another work of his. During a presentation, at the Design Indaba 2002 in Cape Town, of a CNN exclusive video interview with Hans Bernhard on his **Vote Auction** project, Bernhard had arranged for two designers from very different institutions, namely Joshua Davies from Praystation and Tom Roope of Tomato, to assist him in shaving his head clean on stage in front of the audience (Bernhard 2002). The Ubermorgen group then approached the Museum of Modern Art with the shaved hair of Bernhards as a first ever collaboration artwork between Praystation and Tomato (Bernhard 2002).

In language, semantics are the vehicle by which sounds are given form and thoughts are given meaning, allowing communication to take place (Luckenbach 1997). Beuys equated the phenomenon of language with evolution, as a catalyst that moulds and propels human society (Luckenbach 1997). Believing that the concept of people is elementally coupled with its language, the looming horrors of World War II aided Beuys' choice of sculpture (as it starts with speaking and thinking), to provide for ideas to take shape through the forward looking images that present themselves through it as a result (Luckenbach 1997).

Bernhard again has a likeness to this line of thinking only his work has an extremely controversial (unpopular reaction) and deliberate motive behind it. However he develops it further, instead of just providing a vehicle for his ideas to generate on or take shape through, he set up a simulation of his work and let its trial in reality prove his controversial message correct. In spring 2000, an American art student invented a platform for American citizens to offer and sell their individual votes during the US presidential election that same year (Bernhard 2002). On November 7th companies, political parties, and individuals could then auction off these votes via the **Vote-Auction** website and buy whole states. But due to heavy government official pressure, James

Baumgartner (the inventor) offered the then very small venture to the Ubermorgen group (Bernhard 2002). Ubermorgen, at the time, had no idea that this was the pay dirt that they had been looking for. Ubermorgen then took control over **Vote-Auction** and pushed the limits, in terms of shock marketing and public relations to a global mass media level never seen before – with the core message “bringing capitalism and democracy closer together!” (Bernhard 2002) American principles of capitalism and democracy were already tightly intertwined, like most democratic countries corruption of the election process was legal for large corporations but illegal for individuals (Bernhard 2002). **Vote-Auction** just wanted a perfect market for votes, it would never be political, just purely business, art and market orientated, with no underlying ideology, just a strong belief in declaration’ (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). For liability reasons Ubermorgen immediately set up **Vote-Auction** LTD in Bulgaria even though most lawsuits were on Bernhard and Baumgartner alone (Bernhard 2002). During those four months temporary injunctions, court complaints and many other legal threats were received from thirteen state attorneys. Federal attorney Janet Reno, along with the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Security Agency investigated the case. Ubermorgen suspected a break and entry into their own servers and questioned why two domains were illegally shutdown by United States authorities (Bernhard 2002). The term Media hacking came about while Ubermorgen were developing the story in real-time and watching it later or the next morning on CNN world report (Bernhard 2002). During those four months an expected 500 million people were reached with the **Vote-Auction** brand and pervert commercial message (Design Indaba Magazine 2001). All that amassed was an endless story without any proof of illegal activities, all **Vote-Auction** representatives were only named plaintiffs (Bernhard 2002). E-mails from veterans of World War II read about the aesthetics of the war for democracy and how **Vote-Auction** was destroying it. Amongst these came the occasional death threat, mainly because of the very painful visuals inserted by Ubermorgen into the initial website design which was not manipulated much in order to keep it authentic (Bernhard 2002). ‘The global media, played the ultimate pop soundtrack to this techno-political-action-thriller (Bernhard 2002). Beuysian thought on Social Sculpture (Section 2) seems far from a reality after an experiment like this proves itself successful. **Vote-Auction** becomes a digital sculptural vehicle upon which ideas can formulate for an answer to a polluted society. After a project like this Bernhards view on corporate censorship remains senseless, saying that sometimes it makes no sense to talk about the ethical values of a semi-technical action as censorship, as the technical aspect overrules the ethical one – what he prefers, is the practical (or pragmatic) approach (Design Indaba Magazine 2001).

However, within Beuys’ work, language and communication were often entirely discrete entities (Luckenbach 1997). Language was one possible vehicle for communication; it functioned as a catalyst, whereas communication was more profound, elemental, and universal – fundamentally biological (Luckenbach 1997). Beuys’ Multiples were devices of communication, vehicles for the distribution of ideas that could reach an even wider group of people than could a single work of art (Luckenbach 1997). Yet all of Beuys’ objects had meaning only in relation to his ideas; the objects, however widely distributed, always return to the maker. This created a circular motion consisting of Beuys’ art, his persona, and the metaphors that weave in and out of his work (Luckenbach 1997).

One vehicle for the distribution of ideas that supersedes all others is that of the Internet. Hans Bernhard continuously hijacks this vehicle for the very reason that it allows him to express himself, through his projects, and the concepts behind them.

Characteristically of Bernhard, his use of a 'Beuys like multiples' approach also had a subversive tilt. Running as an experiment on the rate of viral distribution on the net, a staged conspiracy on the biggest PC software manufacturer was used to attract attention to a website and project of the Ubermorgen group. Bernhard explains (Design Indaba Magazine 2001): Media hackers cannot be afraid of playing with information and information distribution, but rather have to be able to wittfully play with these mechanisms.

In 1999 a press release was issued in the name of the jury of the ARS Electronica in Linz. Being the most important new media art festival and new media art award, Ubermorgen's initial press release was headlined "Linux wins pris ars electronica due to Microsoft intervention". Sent out in the name of the head of the Jury to journalists, media and cultural people in the global tech-community, the e-mail was very detailed and in-depth and described the potential bribery of the net capital jury. Six hours after the release the first stories claiming this e-mail to be a fake appeared in international media-art and technology publications, but this was even to late, the virus had been spread. On the opening Monday morning of the festival over 250 journalists requested information concerning this press release. Multiplication of the e-mail had gone into the two digit million figure by viral distribution. Not even the obvious fake character of this message could stop hundreds of articles being published about it worldwide. Representatives of the Etoy-corporation were questioned aggressively of any responsibility for this act. This was just a teaser action to show off Ubermorgens capabilities in terms of communications and perversion. In fact, the use of these guerrilla marketing tactics was merely just to soft launch the brand Etxtreme.ru and co-brand it with Linux. Etxtreme was one of the early content creations of the Ubermorgen group.

Section 5. Conclusion

Time seems to be all that stands between these two individuals, however, what has happened and changed in the world during that time seems to make the short distance between them seem a little further than it really is. Beuys came across to the world with greater ease and less tension, never 'attacking' anyone and therefore was always seen as a fairly passive artist with potentially revolutionary beliefs - but never as a serious threat to any governments or institutions. Where presently, Bernhard is seen entirely as a threat as he lashes out and attacks those government institutions with his potentially revolutionary actions. Beuys and Bernhard have very similar long-term goals and motivations but their places in time/history don't allow for that likeness to be seen easily.

Realistically designers are fundamentally different to artists in some ways, for example: designers and architects are normally more constructive and/or goal orientated with what they do, often demanding or needing feedback and some response to work that they have completed, as they do have responsibilities as designers to sell or make

immediate contact/impact. Whereas an artist, is more concerned with the message that they leave from themselves within their artwork, and not necessarily with what they get out of it.

Beuys' dream of a singular social structure has arrived, only at a very heavy price. People in general have lost their individuality and freedoms – as political and capitalist ventures control and regulate almost everything. Though those individuals that have not lost their will to embrace those freedoms (Bernhard) are seen as going against the grain, in effect being labelled troublemakers. Bernhard ideally, if not intentionally through his work, is only searching for the freedom that Beuys once had dressed as a Shepard boy in his youth wandering the hillsides. Old popularity of gallery exhibitions moved online into the world-wide-web as mankind continues to surround and engross him self with such technologies. This can explain why Bernhard continuously looks for the loopholes within the globalisation-trend-bubble and then exploits them. Though globalisation has not only made the current world smaller and faster but it has also blurred the distance between the past and present.

Beuys placed so much importance on language and communication that it could be understood as a growing interest in the history of graphic design (these two being the main aspects of graphic design history). Globalisation might not have been as active as it is today but this interest of Beuys' suggests that the conceptual barrier between art and design was being broken down even then.

In a world where physically coming closer together is actually driving us personally further apart, communication of any sort becomes increasingly important – whether you are a designer, artist or just someone asking for directions on a street corner.

Ultimately, the quest for communicating effectively with ourselves, and the world around us might be the cataclysmic goal that designers and artists must reach together, in order for any such barriers between art and design to ever be cleared for good.

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Fuck You, Bill Jones, My Vote Is STILL For SALE!

2000-11-06 01:24:30



[Liberty](#)

By [Mr. Bad](#)

*I need some
screwtop wine and
an Algerian whore.
-- Mr. Bad*

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Goddamnit! It's like, every time you turn around, THE MAN is coming down on the Internet. You know what I have to say about that? "Fuck you, 'THE MAN'!" I don't care if you're Bill Jones or the Chicago Board of Elections, if you squash freedom of expression and the press, you have a fiery shit burrito with your name on it waiting for you in Hell.

Gar gar gar! So here's the big hoo-haw: this guy made this perfectly funny and amusing Web site called [Voteauction.com](#), linked to at the end of this page. The point of Voteauction.com is simple: there are thousands of folks out there who are making a HUGE business out of buying and selling YOUR vote. They do media spots, they do polls, they do campaigns, they do "walk-around money", they do whatever it takes to get your vote.

Now, how fair is -that-? I mean, it's YOUR VOTE, shouldn't you be seeing some of this

moolah? The deal with VoteAuction.com is that you could put your vote up for auction, and then you'd get paid and told just whom and what and where to vote for. VoteAuction.com cuts out the middle man, and pass the savings on to YOU!

HAW HAW HAW! It's a JOKE, get it? Selling votes is COMPLETE and UTTER BULLSHIT, whether it's done in NBC board rooms or on a crazy half-ass Web site. This is called POLITICAL SATIRE, and it's Constitutionally-protected free speech. The whole point of VoteAuction.com was to point out how egregious election-buying *is* in this country by taking the process to its logical conclusion.

Well, it seems some folks don't see it quite that way.

The original creator of VoteAuction.com, James Baumgartner, was visited by officials from New York State Board of Elections, who told him that they were going to press charges of TREASON against him. That's right, TREASON. As in, literally being subject to a FIRING SQUAD for a SATIRICAL WEB SITE. Yipes! The man backed down, which, like, I would, too.

Of course, there are folks on this here Innurnet who don't take that kind of shit lightly, such as [RTMark](#), authors of the fantastic [gwbush.com](#) site. They managed to get VoteAuction.com moved off-shore to Austria, where it could continue to operate outside the clutches of the asswipes at the NY Board of Elections.

That's when the real evil shit began. Because, first [Domain Bank](#), the original

registrar for voteauction.com, then [Network Solutions](#), registrars for the altered "vote-auction.com," yanked the registrations and fixed up the root domain servers so they would NEVER, EVER work. This is not about court injunctions or subpoenas or trademarks or what have you -- the domain registrars pulled the plugs without informing the VoteAuction.com people, or giving any reason.

Meanwhile, our own wankbot Secretary of State here in CA, Bill Jones, as well as the Chicago Board of Elections, have both filed in court to get everyone involved in voteauction.com hung by their asses from the nearest flagpole. You've just got to wonder when the Chicago Board of Elections comes down on you for fixing votes, man. CHICAGO, this what we're talking about here. I mean, don't they have some OTHER work to be doing in cleaning up elections, nudge nudge fucking WINK WINK!?

There's a lot of angles about this story that can make you mad. Like, the fact that it's FUCKING CHILLING to think that a few spineless, venal bastards at various domain registrars have so much control over what gets published and what doesn't. No legal responses, no agreements, no nothing. Having your domain name hoisted is like having a newspaper and all of a sudden someone lets the air out of all the tires of your delivery trucks. It's effectively squelching the free press, and it's WRONG WRONG WRONG.

But what's even darker is that law enforcement is even putting pressure on the registrars in the first place. Like, when major Presidential candidates are spending

HUNDREDS of MILLIONS of dollars to buy elections, why the HELL is this system coming down on a small satirical Web site? Can we talk about taking the LOG out of your fucking EYE before you go after the splinter in your neighbor's? Thank you? Because this is a WARPED system we have here, folks, and if you can go to the WALL for even TALKING about that system's defects, man, we're farther along the road to destruction than you think.

Check out voteauction, do what you can to support them, send some mail to the running dog shit-suckers linked above. Don't let them keep us down, dammit.

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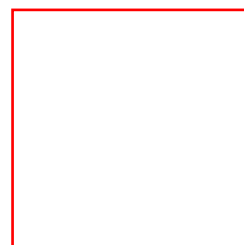
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Fuck You, Bill Jones, My
Vote Is STILL For SALE!
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By [Mr. Bad](#)



[Liberty](#)

*In the future, as
to not create any
more
controversy, I
will limit my
affection and
genuine liking of
people to a
"High Five" or a
head butt.
-- Amy*

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Chicago Board Vows Continued Legal Battle Against Vote Auction Site

10/24/2000

CHICAGO – Cats may have nine lives, and apparently so do Web sites. The [Chicago Board of Elections](#) is learning this adage the hard way. The [board](#) won a court order last week to shut down votes-for-sale site [Voteauction.com](#), but only hours after it was taken down, the site was reborn as [Vote-auction.com](#).

"We're going back to court on Monday and asking that [[Vote-auction.com](#)] be held in contempt," [board](#) spokesperson Thomas Leach told [ePrairie](#). "They violated our court order, which included a provision that they can't come back under a different name."

In a hearing held Oct. 18 in Cook County Circuit Court, the [board](#) won an injunction to shut down [Voteauction.com](#), charging the site with promoting the buying and selling of votes. Both are felonies under state and federal law.

[Voteauction.com](#), and now its surrogate replacement [Vote-auction.com](#), has garnered national attention since its August debut. The site enables individuals to place bids for a block of votes from any given state. According to the site, "The winning bidder for each state will be able to choose who the group will for en masse."

For its part, [Vote-auction.com](#) responded with defiant messages on its Web site.

"Sue 'em 'til they drop," a company press release stated. "The legal authorities of Chicago ... made every effort to get the site out of service during the last two weeks. But whilst the American authorities took their time and taxpayers' money to legally pursue almost everybody related to the existence of the Web site, the owners of the site worked on a re-design."

Leach's response was short and direct.

"We'll work it out in court," he said. "That's our response."



By MICHAEL E. RUBIN
Associate Editor
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March 3, 2005

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Chicago Board Vows Continued Legal Battle Against **Vote Auction** Site

10/24/2000

CHICAGO – Cats may have nine lives, and apparently so do Web sites. The [Chicago Board of Elections](#) is learning this adage the hard way. The [board](#) won a court order last week to shut down votes-for-sale site [Voteauction.com](#), but only hours after it was taken down, the site was reborn as [Vote-auction.com](#).

"We're going back to court on Monday and asking that [[Vote-auction.com](#)] be held in contempt," [board](#) spokesperson Thomas Leach told *ePrairie*. "They violated our court order, which included a provision that they can't come back under a different name."

In a hearing held Oct. 18 in Cook County Circuit Court, the [board](#) won an injunction to shut down [Voteauction.com](#), charging the site with promoting the buying and selling of votes. Both are felonies under state and federal law.

[Voteauction.com](#), and now its surrogate replacement [Vote-auction.com](#), has garnered national attention since its August debut. The site enables individuals to place bids for a block of votes from any given state. According to the site, "The winning bidder for each state will be able to choose who the group will for en masse."

For its part, [Vote-auction.com](#) responded with defiant messages on its Web site.

"Sue 'em 'til they drop," a company press release stated. "The legal authorities of Chicago ... made every effort to get the site out of service during the last two weeks. But whilst the American authorities took their time and taxpayers' money to legally pursue almost everybody related to the existence of the Web site, the owners of the site worked on a re-design."

Leach's response was short and direct.

"We'll work it out in court," he said. "That's our response."

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By MICHAEL E. RUBIN
Associate Editor
Startups/Entrepreneurs Reporter
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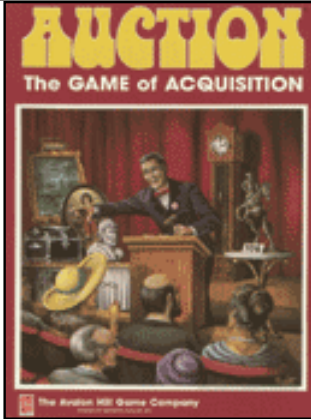
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auction [Updated October 2004]



2004 WBC Report

2005 Status:  **Trial** pending December [Membership](#) Century
Vote

Event History

1993	●	Bruce Reiff	●	8
1994	●	Ken Gutermuth	●	32
1995	●	Bruce Reiff	●	28
1996	●	Bruce Monnin	●	32
1997	●	Ken Gutermuth	●	16
1998	●	Cliff Ackman	●	28
1999	●	George Sauer	●	26
2000	●	Kevin Wojtaszczyk	●	39
2001	●	Arthur Field	●	34
2002	●	Bruce Reiff	●	40
2003	●	David Brooks	●	44
2004	●	Ray Stakenas II	●	42

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2.	Arthur Field	SC	04	38
3.	George Sauer	OH	03	26
4.	Ray Stakenas II	MI	04	20
5.	Andy Gardner	VA	04	20
6.	David Brooks	TN	03	20
7.	Kevin Wojtaszczyk	NY	02	20
8.	Jeff Mullet	VA	04	14
9.	Luke Koleszar	VA	99	14
10.	Lisa Gutermuth	TX	03	12
11.	Mary Kratz	ID	00	12
12.	Steve Cuccaro	MD	99	12
13.	Debbie Bell	MD	02	8
14.	Nick Benedict	ONT	01	8
15.	Debbie Gutermuth	TX	00	8
16.	Nick Smith	UK	01	6
17.	Cliff Ackman	PA	00	6
18.	Jason O'Donnell	OH	99	6
19.	Davyd Field	SC	03	6
20.	Ben Shanks	SC	04	4
21.	Tom Browne	PA	02	4
22.	Ken Gutermuth	TX	00	4
23.	Jon Lockwood	VA	04	2
24.	Beth Bernard	VA	03	2
25.	Debbie Otto	MO	99	2



Ray Stakenas II, MI 2004 Champion

2nd: Jeff Mullet, OH
3rd: Andy Gardner, VA
4th: Arthur Field, SC
5th: Ben Shanks, SC
6th: Jonathan Lockwood,
VA

Past Winners



Bruce Reiff - OH
1993, 1995, 2002



Ken Gutermuth - TX
1994, 1997



Bruce Monnin - OH
1996



Cliff Ackman - PA
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George Sauer - OH
1999



Kevin Wojtaszczyk - NY
2000



Arthur Field - SC
2001



Dave Brooks - TN
2003

Collecting by another name ...

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Bruce Reiff [1st Year]

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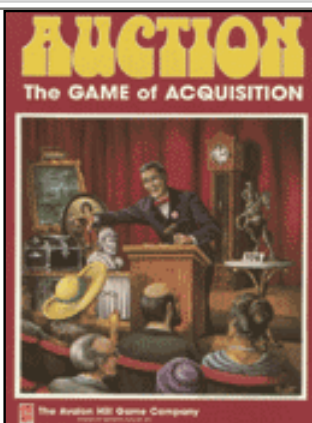
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Bruce Reiff [1st Year]



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hiperactivo.com/escritos/berlin2000/voteauction/ - 18k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

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... Seiten wie etwa die vom New York University Studenten James Baumgartner ins Leben gerufene Webseite zur Stimmenversteigerung: <http://www.vote-auction.com>. ...

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... Rötzer 07.11.2000. Email aus USA Die Abschaltung von **Vote-auction.com** zeigt, wie das Web bequem zensiert werden kann. Mit dem Zugriff ...

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... besorgt? PERRITT: So war es. Er nannte sich fortan www.vote-auction.com und hat diesen Namen in der Schweiz registrieren lassen. Wir ...

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... ungeregelt die Situation ist: In den Wirrnissen der US-Präsidentschaftswahl im vergangenen Herbst hatten Künstler die Homepage **vote-auction.com** registrieren ...

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... over the world. About a week later, the web site appeared again under the new domain name —**vote-auction.com**“. This time, the ...

[intel.si.umich.edu/tprc/papers/2002/81/Bechtold_Namespaces.pdf](#) - [Similar pages](#)

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... 236. **Vote-Auction** Bringing, democracy, capitalism, closer together, founded, james, baumgartner voteauction, com, produced, übermorgen helped, tmark. 237. ...

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... The request by Attorney General Tom Reilly would remove the **Vote-Auction.com** Web site from the Internet or require it to say that selling, buying, or ...

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... [http://www.auctions-usa.com/carriage.htm](#). **Vote-auction.net** - Bringing democracy and capitalism closer together. ... [http://vote-auction.net/](#). ...
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... One such Internet-based operation was **vote-auction.com**, which was created by an Austrian marketing company and based in New York before moving to Chicago when ...
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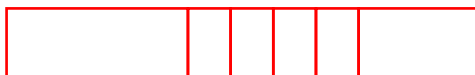
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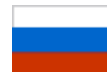
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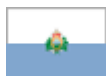
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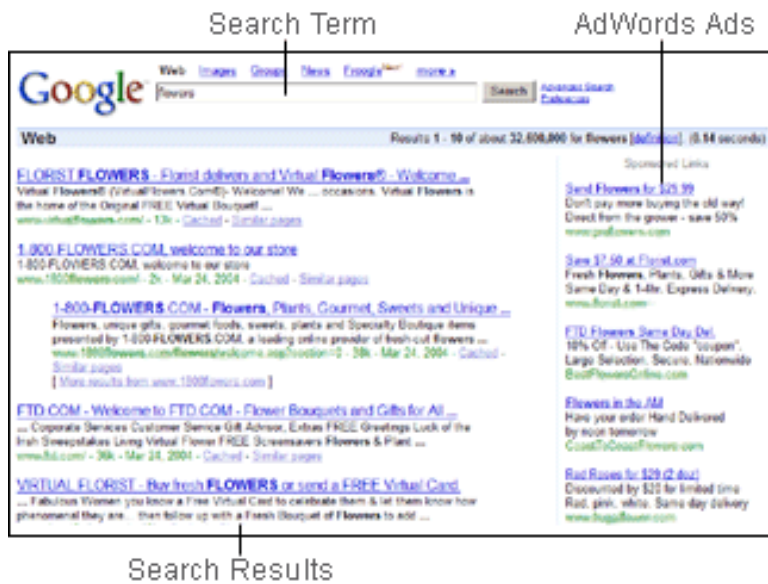
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