

Internet and human rights (1/12)

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A bit of context about the Internet

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- APIs are accessed over the Internet,
- The Internet is used for everything (not just business),
- The Internet is no longer “extra stuff”; it is the common space where our activities take place,
- Therefore, politics of the Internet are important.

An Internet meant for more than brands and bullshit



Edward Snowden ✓

@Snowden

Abonné



He drew in fire visions of an Internet meant for more than brands and bullshit, founding @EFF, @freedomofpress, and writing the Declaration of Independence of Cyberspace. Farewell, my weary giant. You were the dawn of digital rights.

A bit of context about software

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- Universal Declaration of Human Rights; 70th anniversary two days ago,
- Universal, like the Internet,
- Freedom of speech, of assembly, right to privacy, non-discrimination. . .

But this is politics? I only work on practical stuff

“These concepts have little to do with the technology that’s possible, and much to do with the technology that we choose to create.” (RFC 3935)

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- Yes, this is politics; but there are no “purely technical” decisions,

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- Yes, this is politics; but there are no “purely technical” decisions,
- Example of work at IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force, the standard organisation of Internet protocols): the group HRPC (Human Rights and Protocol Considerations),

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- Yes, this is politics; but there are no “purely technical” decisions,
- Example of work at IETF: the group HRPC,
- Lot of work, leading to the document “RFC 8280”. A must-read.

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- Behind many APIs: a database of personal data,
- Your database will leak (do you really think your security is better than the security of Yahoo, Equifax, Deloitte, British Airways, Marriott, Quora?),

Practical: working with personal data

- Remember: personal data is not only when there is a name; an IP address is personal data,
- Behind many APIs: a database of personal data,
- Your database will leak,
- Important: **minimize** data (only the city, not the full address, only the birth year, not the full birth date),

Practical: working with personal data

- Remember: personal data is not only when there is a name; an IP address is personal data,
- Behind many APIs: a database of personal data,
- Your database will leak,
- Important: **minimize** data,
- GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) is mandatory in Europe, but it is not only a legal matter.

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- Even if you don't have an explicit database, you have an implicit one, produced by logging,
- Do you really need to log all this? And to keep it for weeks/months?
- Data minimization (only a prefix, not the full IP address).

Practical: available database vs. API

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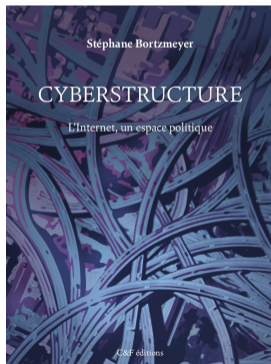
Practical: available database vs. API

- Access through an API, or making the database available?
- There are technical reasons to choose one or the other,
- But think also of other reasons: privacy (no logging of queries) and robustness (more independence for users).

And now, a commercial

My book, “Cyberstructure” (only in French at this time), about these subjects. Editor C & F Éditions.

<https://cyberstructure.fr/>



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- What we do has consequences,
- True, there are other criteria when you take a decision,
- But today, human rights are typically never taken into account,
- This should change.

Serment du Beffroi de Montrouge (Paris Web conference)

