The Future of Computing and Why You Should Care

Todd Weaver
Digital Rights Activist
Founder – Purism, SPC
A little about me...
6 statements
True
False
1. I was born in the US capital, Washington DC, on Independence Day in 1974 making my birthday 74-7-4.
2. I have been a digital rights activist since 1995.
4. I built, wrote, and deployed over 250,000 GNU based hardware media players in 2005.
5. I started the first online cable company in 2007 and was sued for $30b by 34 Big Media companies for copyright infringement.
6. I wrote and directed a play about the double-entendre of the word “booty” in a pirate and mermaid musical called Pirate Booty in 2017.
"The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people, but the silence over that by the good people."

~ MLK Jr.
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I believe we can change the future of computing for the better.
Something is wrong with our digital world
What that is
What that is

How it came to be
What that is
How it came to be
Why we must change it
"A person who won't care, has no advantage over one who doesn't care."
~ Mark Twain
Part 1: History
Governments write the rules of the game that society plays.
There are always rules, and Governments influenced by Big Tech are writing those rules.
If you are somebody who wants no rules whatsoever, rules will be written that govern you without your involvement.
Write the rules
Write the rules that we want to see in an ethical society that respects freedoms and liberties.
Exploitative Big Tech abuse our digital rights
Exploitative Big Tech abuse our digital rights because...
Exploitative Big Tech abuse our digital rights because... it's at the core of their business.
1. Government regulation
1. Government regulation
(that is ethical for society)
1. Government regulation (that is ethical for society)
2. Business models change
1. Government regulation (that is ethical for society)
2. Business models change (to something ethical for society)
1. Government regulation (that is ethical for society)
2. Business models change (to something ethical for society)
3. People switch
1. Government regulation (that is ethical for society)
2. Business models change (to something ethical for society)
3. People switch (to something ethical for society)
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Big Tech
Big Tech exploits humanity for profit.
But... You're a Company?
But... You're a Company?

Actually, we're a Social Purpose Corporation (SPC)
“Purism is what is called a 'Social Purpose Corporation,' which allows a business to prioritize social objectives over fiduciary duties.”

~ Christine Lagorio-Chafkin - Senior writer, Inc.
All corporations
All corporations have a single goal:
All corporations have a single goal: Maximize Shareholder Value
Under eBay v. Newman

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Under eBay v. Newman

The law makes it literally malfeasance for a corporation not to do everything it legally can to maximize its profits.
The regulations at the foundation of Big Tech are forcing the exploitation of our digital rights.
"Having chosen a for-profit corporate form, the directors are bound by the fiduciary duties to promote the value of the corporation for the benefit of its stockholders."

~ Chancellor William B. Chandler, III
We have centuries of legal precedent in the physical world.
We have nearly no digital rights.
In the digital world...
Big Tech exploits you every millisecond of every day.
All future government regulation will be influenced, funded, and lobbied by Big Tech.
Could you imagine
Could you imagine your mobile phone under the complete control of
Could you imagine your mobile phone under the complete control of Apple or Google?
We need to write the rules based on values we want in society.
AI algorithms from Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, IBM, and Apple
AI algorithms from Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, IBM, and Apple (GMAFIA)
AI algorithms from Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, IBM, and Apple (GMAFIA) have one input variable:
AI algorithms from Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, IBM, and Apple (GMAFIA) have one input variable: $Maximize\_Shareholder\_Value$
1. Gather everything on all of society
2. Keep people digitally captive
3. Maximize exposure time
4. Polarize opinion to elicit more profit
What if the input request to AI algorithms was "respect people"?
Unethical Society:
Unethical Society:

Ethical Society:

Purism

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Unethical Society: 0%

Ethical Society: 100%
Maximizing shareholder value in a society that has nearly no digital rights, guarantees exploitation of that society.
Why did we let this happen?
How did we let this happen?
I know why.
It's convenient to give up control
It's inconvenient to stand up for your freedom.
Offered to choose: convenience & control
Offered to choose: convenience & control
or
inconvenience & freedom
I believe we can have both convenience & freedom
Society's technology genius is not lacking,
Society's technology genius is not lacking, its moral genius is.
Trust in Big Tech is eroding rapidly.
No Big Tech company has core values that help our digital rights.
"We protect your privacy"

~ Big Tech
"We protect your privacy"

Big Tech

Actually, you exploit personal private data without a person's knowledge.
"We use encryption"
"We use encryption"

Actually,
It's inside proprietary apps that you control
"We are secure"
~ Big Tech
“We are secure”

Actually,
You hold the master keys controlling society
"You can trust us"
"You can trust us"

Actually,
You won't let anybody verify anything
Part 2: The Present
Currently Big Tech is maximizing shareholder value without values.
We advocate, regulate, and build products that adhere to those digital rights.
"It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare."

~ Mark Twain
I believe there are five fundamental digital rights:
1. Right to Change Providers

If a person wants to change a service provider, they can easily move to another. (Decentralized Services)
2. Right to Protect Personal Data

A person owns and controls their own master keys to encrypt all data and communication, nobody else.

(User-controlled Encryption)
3. Right to Verify
Society has the freedom to inspect the source of all software used, and can run it as they wish, for any purpose.

(Software Freedom)
4. Right to be Forgotten
A service provider only stores the minimal personal data necessary to provide the service. Once the data is no longer required, it is deleted.

(Minimal Data Retention)
5. Right to Access

A person must not be discriminated against nor forced to agree to any terms and conditions before accessing a service.

(Personal Liberty)
We can change the future of computing for the better.
Part 3: The Future
As technology gets closer and closer to our brain the moral issues of digital rights become clearer and clearer.
Computers,

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Computers, Phones,
Computers, Phones, Wearables,

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"The S in IOT is for Security"

~ Anonymous
Computers, Phones, Wearables, IOT, Surgically Implanted
What Big Tech Company would you purchase your future brain implant from?
This is coming.
Big Tech Controlled Brain:
Big Tech
Controlled Brain:

Control
Your Own Brain:

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Big Tech
Controlled Brain: 0%

Control Your Own Brain: 100%
Knowing the severity of your technology decisions, and your understanding of the importance of ethical technology,
Knowing the severity of your technology decisions, and your understanding of the importance of ethical technology, it's a wonder why unethical Big Tech is still...
Knowing the severity of your technology decisions, and your understanding of the importance of ethical technology, it's a wonder why unethical Big Tech is still... big.
Let's all advocate, regulate, and release products, software, and services that ensure digital rights that are convenient and ethical for society.
I believe we can change the future of computing for the better.
6 statements
True
False
1. I was born in the US capital, Washington DC, on Independence Day in 1974 making my birthday 74-7-4.
True
2. I have been a digital rights activist since 1995.
True
I played bass guitar for a decade in a punk rock band I joined in 2003.
True
4. I built, wrote, and deployed over 250,000 GNU based hardware media players in 2005.
True
5. I started the first online cable company in 2007 and was sued for $30b by 34 Big Media companies for copyright infringement.
6. I wrote and directed a play about the double-entendre of the word “booty” in a pirate and mermaid musical called Pirate Booty in 2017.
Will you buy Big Tech products that lock you in with their keys so you have no control?
Will you use Big Tech products that control and exploit you for profit?
Will you use Big Tech services that control you and exploit you and your friends?
Will you use products and services from Big Tech when you know they are rotten to the core?
"Nope."
~ Rosa Parks

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"Friends don't let friends get spied on."

~ RMS

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Unethical or Ethical
What future will you choose?
What's your plan for tomorrow? Are you a leader or will you follow? Are you a fighter or will you cower? It's our time to take back the power.

~ The Interruptors

Purism

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Thank You!
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