

Free Technology → Free Society



a presentation by

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free software [developer, advocate, thinker]

Freedom means different things to different people.
We have different values, different goals, different dreams.



But we do share a world



that increasingly relies
on information
technology.



A society that is reliant on a technology
can only be as free as
that technology is.



Proprietary, lock-in information systems
are the largest threat to freedom we face.



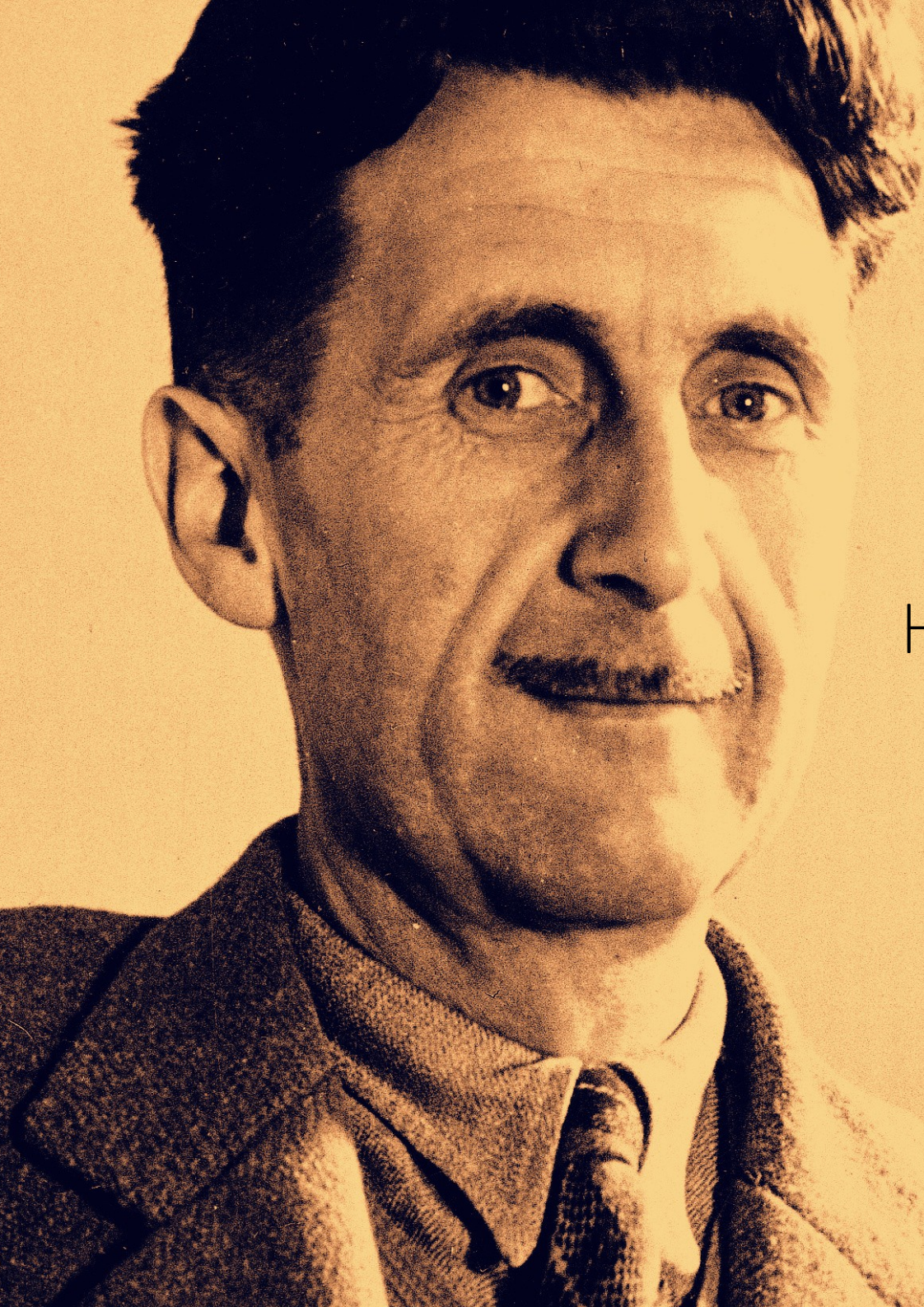
This becomes apparent when understanding the benefits that come from free-as-in-freedom technology.



Let's examine three undeniable benefits of free technology,
and discuss how they preserve human rights and freedom in general.

ONE

It preserves history.



“He who controls the past
controls the future.

He who controls the present
controls the past.”

- George Orwell

Information



MKExtract cannot extract this kind of file...

OK

Windows

Windows cannot open this file:

File: reflection1.mdi

When you open this file, Windows needs to know what program created it. Windows can search the Internet online to look it up automatically, or you can manually select from a list of programs on your computer.

What do you want to do?

Use the Web service to find the appropriate program.

Select the program from a list

OK Cancel

D:\wrapper.exe

Executable 'D:\wrapper.exe' had the following errors:

- Couldn't find library MSVCR80.dll (required by c:\Program Files\Common Files\Microsoft Shared\OFFICE12\msxmlmt.dll)

Please ensure that it is installed

OK



There has been a network or file permission error. The network connection may be lost.
(FileName.doc)

OK

WordPad



Can not load Word for Windows 6.0 files.

OK

TWO

It guarantees equal access for all.

Equal access allows us to
participate
economically,
politically,
culturally,
and socially.



http://

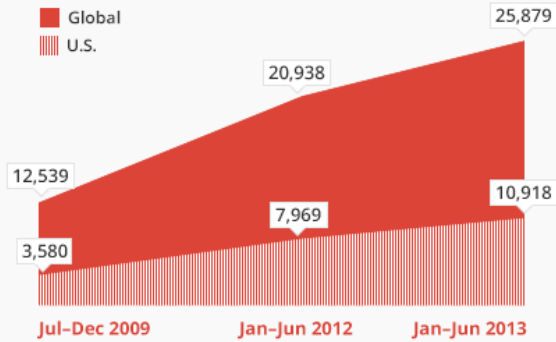
THREE

It prevents the centralization of power.

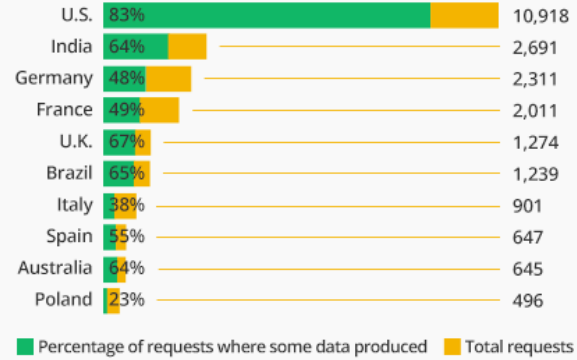
Centralized authority is naturally opposed to alternatives.

Being free requires the possibility of alternatives.

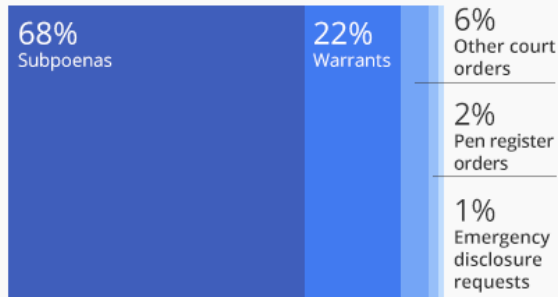
Since July 2009, government requests for Google users' information have more than doubled



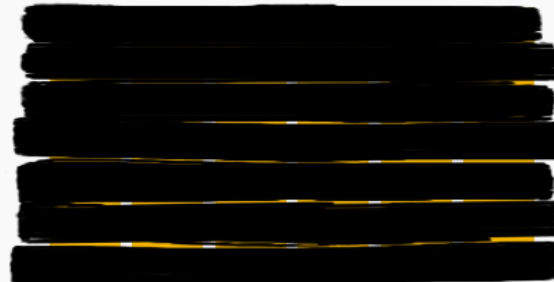
The top 10 countries requesting user information from January to June 2013 span the globe



From January to June 2013, Google received 10,918 requests from the U.S. government



Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) requests (The U.S. government contends that we cannot share this information)



What could go wrong?

KOLAB

COLLABORATE IN CONFIDENCE

on site ... cloud ... hosted

You choose.

ONE ... TWO ... THREE

Protects history.

Guarantees equal access.

Distributes power.



SO LET'S TALK ABOUT ...

Proprietary online services.

A plan for the “internet of things”.

The limits governments try to impose.