

We're all peer-to-peer now

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From the 1998 Web -> Web 2.0

Changing usage and traffic patterns



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A simple blog page

Google as the guardian of our privacy

Google creates and holds a lot of interesting information about how millions of people use the Web: searches we perform, pages we look at, sites we visit, growing pictures we generate, etc. This has caused much fear on the part of the public that Google is collecting all of this data -- and that it can be used against us. Google has been collecting the data even though it's about us -- or worse, of course -- Google is trying to protect the privacy of our data. Now, according to a report in the San Jose Mercury News (PDF) and Google says (PDF), Google is refused to comply with a government subpoena for just this data, assert their users' privacy interests as a justification. According to the file:

The government is looking for this data in order to develop arguments in support of the legal effort to ban certain security-related measures.

In this case, Google is assuming the role of privacy protector very similar to that which telephone carriers and cable companies have traditionally performed. Naturally, it has often been those companies who have complained, or at least enough to protest, their customers privacy against government access requests because of the simple fact that the subset of individuals whose privacy is at risk, have the physical ability to grant or deny access to the government. For example, telephone company BellSouth (Unisys) has the protection that would come under the Electronic Communications Act (ECA). The ECA protects communications between individuals and other electronic communications (Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 1986), and helped to stop our president, the Clinton administration with the idea that forcing the Open-Net Act key access systems on US phone users. Recently, however, Intel (processors) is pressuring from lobbying Congress to reveal the identity of certain customers suspected of copyright infringement through file sharing. Google, furthermore sought (Document) to prevent the privacy of subscriber calling information.

New comes Google following in the footsteps of these telephone communications providers. Those providers who have been protecting Google's privacy since they were first starting. On the other side of the issue is the entire telecommunications industry, to whom the government is trying to get access to in order to use the ultimate truth-seeking function of the judicial process. The likely scenario is that the disclosure has been ongoing for a year. Other very I figure out, I hope that at least will never get a clear view into the terms of the disclosure and whenever requesting the court believe is disclosed whether or not the user is involved.

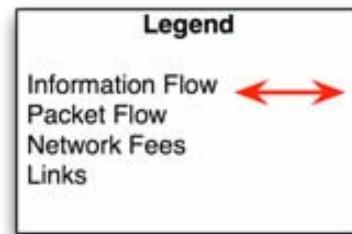
January 18th 2008 Posted to [Privacy](#), [Telecommunications](#), [NSA](#), [NSA](#)

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American Civil Liberties Union challenges NSA unwarranted wiretapping

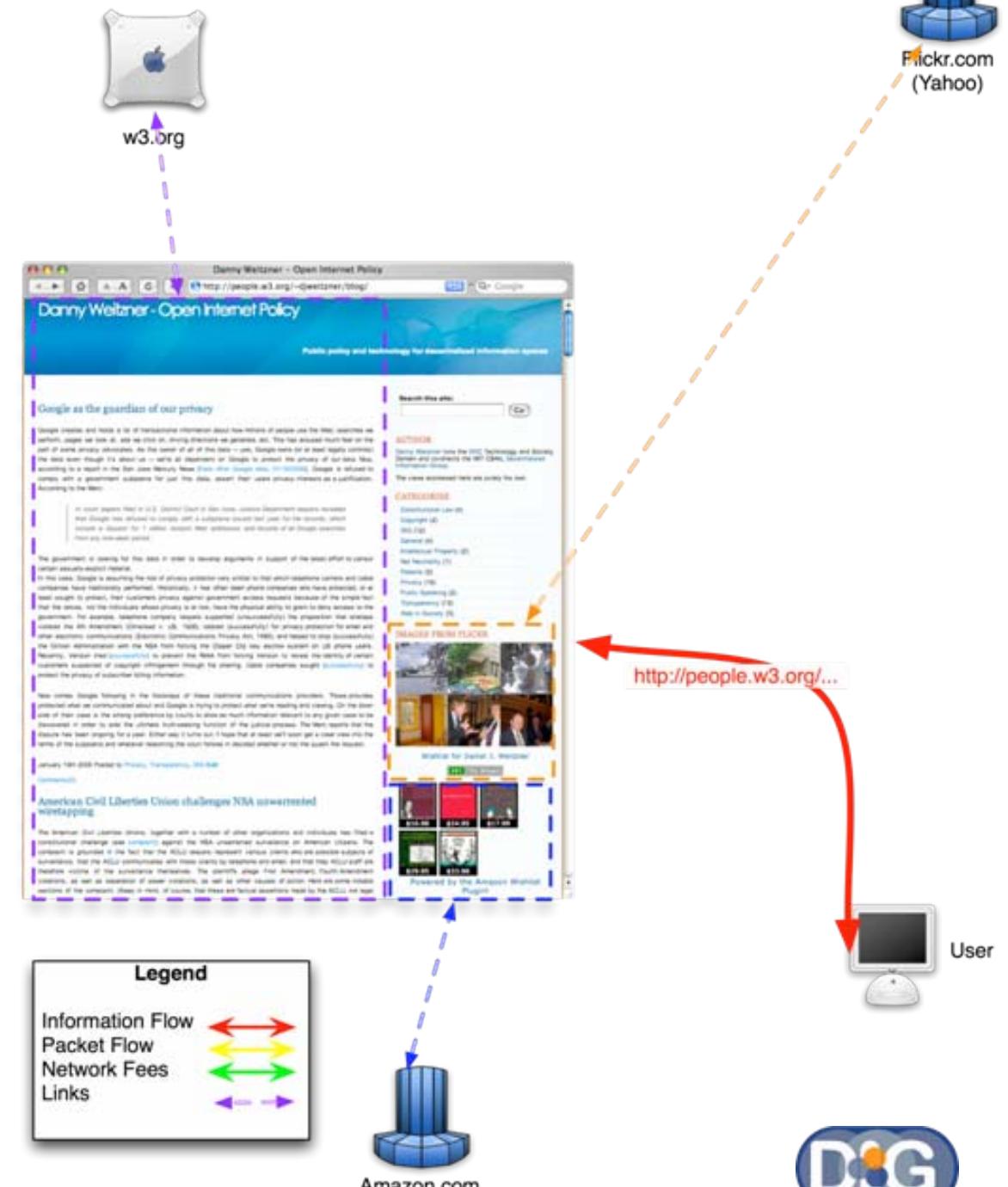
The American Civil Liberties Union, together with a number of other organizations and individuals has filed a constitutional challenge case ([Brief](#)) against the NSA's unwarranted surveillance on American citizens. The complaint is grounded in the fact that the ACLU argues that certain citizens who are possible subjects of surveillance, that the ACLU communicated with those agents by telephone and email, and that thus ACLU staff are members, members of the organization. The complaint argues that the government's actions violate the First Amendment, as well as violation of privacy violations, as well as other causes of action. Here are some notable sections of the complaint. Please note, of course, that these are factual assertions made by the ACLU, not legal

<http://people.w3.org/...>





...from many sources



Speakers depend on essential, non-discriminatory features of the Internet

Low/zero transaction costs between speakers & user-audience

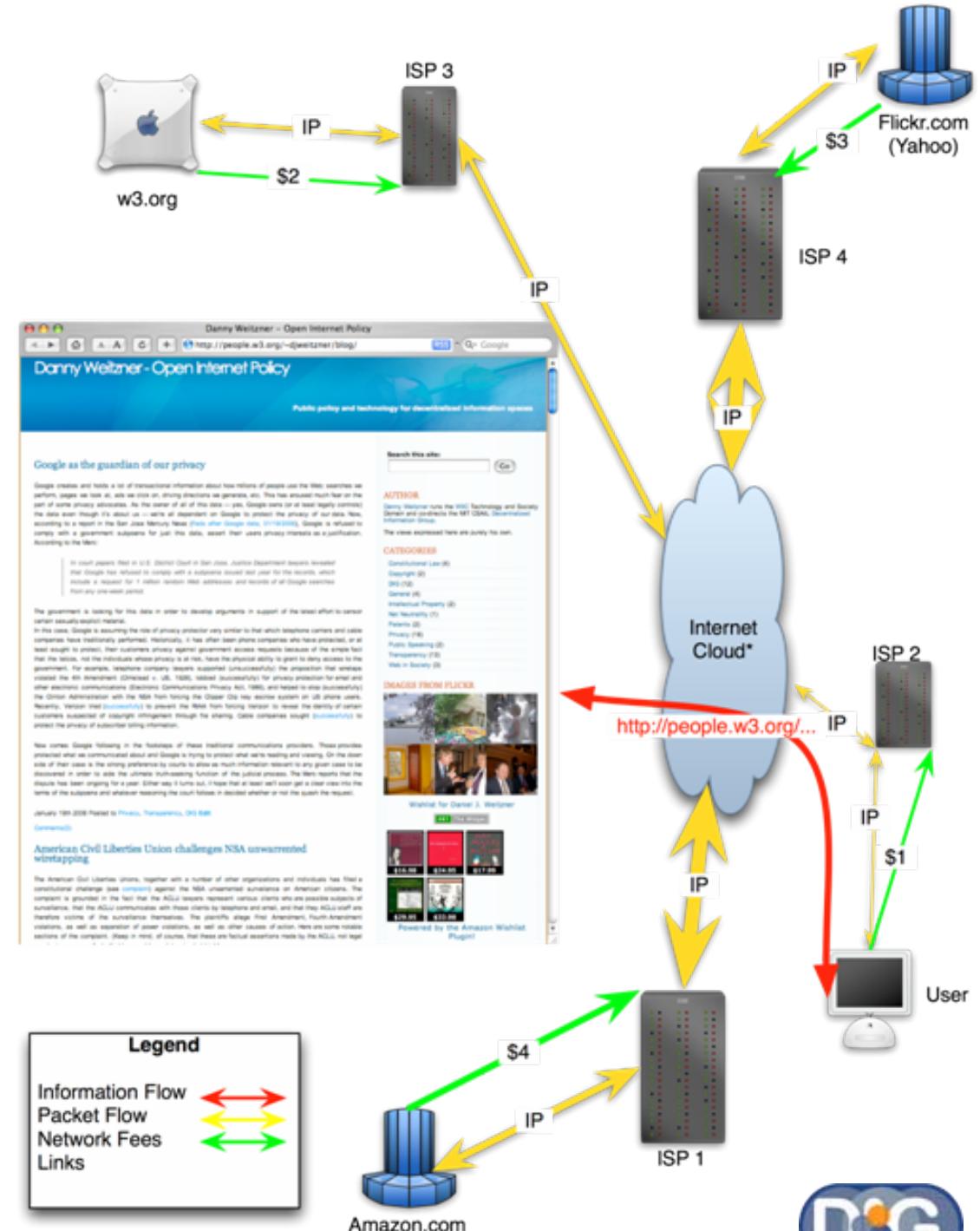
- Simple economic model

- user pays
- No privity between speaker and user's ISP

- Internet community social compact

- Common technical protocols
- Best efforts routing
- Aggressive network management to curb criminal interference with network operation (spam, DDOS, etc.)

These essential features of the Internet *enable open competition, innovation and First Amendment diversity of speakers, but did not arise through market forces alone.*



Images based on joint work with Alissa Cooper/CDT

