



The Internet Con

How to Seize the Means of Computation

By Cory Doctorow

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This isn't a book for people who want to fix Big Tech. It's a detailed disassembly manual for people who want to dismantle it.

Tech giants started out with high-minded ideals about “connection,” but Doctorow shows us how “connection” was a sticky trap that locked up everyone you love and everything you care about, turning “users” into “hostages.” So far, all the proposed solutions amount to self-policing: telling platforms “you’re so big you cause problems, so you have to get bigger so you can solve them.”

The Internet Con presents a solution that actually works. It reveals the thing that platforms fear the most: interoperability. Interoperability is the technical, policy and social tool that will decompose tech platforms into services that anyone can mix, match, plug into - or render obsolete.

Interoperability is how we *seize the means of computation*, putting control over tech into tech users’ hands. Enshrining new protections for reverse-engineers, tinkerers, co-ops, nonprofits and startups will fundamentally alter the politics and economics of tech monopolies, weakening them and hastening the day that regulators break them up so they no longer present a threat to society.

The Internet Con charts where Big Tech monopolies came from – and makes play how we’ll abolish them for good.

About the Author

Cory Doctorow is a science fiction author, activist and journalist. He is the author of many books, most recently *Radicalized and Walkaway*, science fiction for adults; *How To Destroy Surveillance Capitalism*, nonfiction about monopoly and conspiracy; *In Real Life*, a graphic novel; and the picture book *Poesy The Monster Slayer*. His latest book is *Attack Surface*, a standalone adult sequel to *Little Brother*. In 2020, he was inducted into the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame.

He works for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, is a MIT Media Lab Research Affiliate, is a Visiting Professor of Computer Science at Open University, a Visiting Professor of Practice at the University of North Carolina’s School of Library and Information Science and co-founded the UK Open Rights Group.