

# MASSACHUSETTS PIRATE PARTY

## FALL 2015 QUARTERLY NEWLETTER

Party of the Open



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### Contact us

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## Massachusetts Public Records Law Update

Massachusetts took a step closer to improving its public records law when the Judiciary Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight reported favorably on H.3665 (An Act to improve public records). The bill next goes to the committee on House Ways and Means and we need your help in making sure it passes. Massachusetts' public records laws rank 39th and received an F in the Center for Public Integrity's rankings. As Common Cause notes, this bill would: Allow courts to award attorney's fees when agencies block access to public information, giving "teeth" to enforcement and promoting compliance with the law and bringing our laws up to the standards of most other states;

Make records affordable, with only nominal costs that aren't large enough to actually inhibit access;

Promote electronic distribution of public records, and make more public documents available online;

Designate "records access officers" in government agencies, streamlining the access process and reducing bureaucratic complexity by assigning responsibility for answering requests.

The ACLU of Massachusetts, Common Cause Massachusetts, MA Newspaper Publishers Association and the New England First Amendment Coalition have done great work advocating for this bill, but we need to help them get this bill passed. Take a moment and tell your state representative and senator that they need to pass this bill. Those who oppose greater government transparency and accountability are trying to kill this bill. We have to stop them!

Thank you.

### Organizations we support

Black Lives Matter  
May First/People Link      Sommerville Community Access TV  
Move to Amend      Occupy Wall Street      Occupy Boston      Somerville Public Library  
Fight for the Future      Eelectronic Frontier Foundation      Stone Soup      Worcester  
Free Software Foundation      Internet Defense League  
BLU      Shanti      Mission Libre Boston      NLG Massachusetts      ACLU Massachusetts  
JOBS Not Jails      ADA Project      Free Software Conservancy      Common Cause

## Upcoming Events

Monthly Cryptoparty at Parts and Crafts  
Freedom Rally

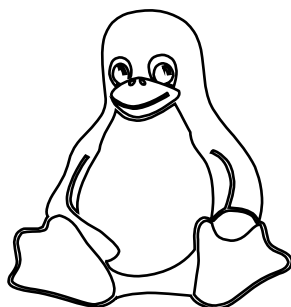
## May First People Link DDOS Attacks Continue

May First People Link has been under a series of DDOS attacks on reproductive rights sites. We need to spread the word about the good work that MF/PL is doing in providing progressive organizations a platform and a voice.

Read Alfredo Lopez's latest update on the attacks here.

<https://mayfirst.org/still-stronger-after-latest-attack>

Cory Doctorow



## In the News

### Police Brutality and State Terrorism



### TPP and CISA

## **MPP Annual Picnic at George's Island**

Mass Piratees met for the annual ferry boat trip over to Georges Island for snacks and compelling discussion about freedom of speech and electoral politics.

While there was no old timey baseball, we were treated to real pirates stories along with vivid descriptions of mutinies, walking the plank and hangings shared by the friendly park ranger. The park previously served as an internment camp for war prisoners during the American Civil War.

The beautiful sights of the Island were deceptively used as a military fort with multiple cannons and a great strategic military and navel history.

## **Mass Alliance Against Predatory Lending (MAAPL) Hackathon**

**Event:** The David and Goliath Hackathon: Fight against Predatory Lending

**For:** MAAPL ,The Mass Alliance Against Predatory Lending

**Who:** Anybody with Computer Word processing skills or programming skills (See details below)

**When:** July 18th from 11am to 2pm

**Where:** Stone Soup, 4 King St., Worcester, 01610 ( maps below)

### **Details:**

Participants (Steve, Jamie, Noe, and Kendra along with other community members) helped MAAPL build their website that will be used to defend Massachusetts' families against illegal foreclosure. Participants with helped build content by uploading documents or transferring content from the old MAAPL website. Participants with programming skills also helped in the design and creation of web forms and SQL procedures.

Three hours of participation literally helps to save a family from losing their home.

Sponsored by: The Mass Alliance Against Predatory Lending, Worcester Unemployment Action

## **P2P Conference**

The MPP hosted an in house crypto-party at this year's annual P2P conference featuring James Bamford and Bruce Schneier. Thanks to all who helped our supporters learn the fundamentals of cryptography.

## **Left Forum**

The MPP hosted an event on Third Party candidates and the need for open government at the Annual Left Forum in New York City hosted at the John Jay College of Law.

## Privacy Tools

### Election News

#### Scott Walker punked in New Hampshire

Scott Walker was greeted with a gigantic check verifying his receiving campaign donations from the Koch Brothers.

<http://downtrend.com/donn-marten/scott-walker-gets-pranked-by-liberal-environmental-activistb>



# MPP Platform

## Our Issues

### Putting People Before Corporations

The Supreme Court and Congress have expanded the power of corporations for over a hundred years and made them more powerful than people. Whether it is the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision that allows corporations to buy elections, or Congress' cuts in corporate tax rates while raising payroll taxes, real people end up with the short end of the stick. The Pirate Party will make sure our laws put people before corporations.

### Opening up Government

In order for citizens to control their democratic destiny, we need to know what our government is doing and which special interests are influencing our public elected officials. Increasingly government officials ignore open meeting laws, make deals favorable to corporations behind closed doors and sell off your public information to private interests. Massachusetts laws prevent people from recording public officials in their duties, such as a police officer making an arrest, but the police cameras can record your actions without your permission. The Pirate Party will make sure that our government is transparent and accountable to the people.

### Defending Your Privacy

Whether it was the PATRIOT ACT, illegal NSA wiretapping or local surveillance cameras, our government has used 9/11 to increase its surveillance and control over us. Corporations have increased their spying on employees in order to get more work out of them. The arguments for each step on the road to a surveillance state may sound convincing, but that road leads to less control by people and more by government and corporate elites. Terrorists may attack the open society, but only governments can abolish it. The Pirate Party will prevent that from happening.

### Promoting Culture & Knowledge Through Copyright Reform

The Founding Fathers created our copyright laws to promote knowledge & culture by giving the creator a limited monopoly over their creations. Congress, under the influence of corporations, has extended the duration of that government granted monopoly to seventy years after the death of the creator. Increasingly corporations have sought broader laws to ensure that they control and profit from more of our culture. Through Digital Rights Management (DRM) technologies they have locked down our culture, hindered sharing and criminalized their customers.

### The Pirate Party will:

- \*limit the copyright to five years for electronic media and fourteen years for tangible objects,
- \*make sure that all non-commercial copying, sharing and remixing are legal and
- \*ban DRM software.

There is no reason for copyright to continue until 70 years after death.

Everyone must have equal access to the internet, and the Pirate Party will foster network neutrality so that internet service providers cannot give preferential treatment to preferred web sites and we oppose three strikes laws that ban anyone from using the internet because of copyright violations. The internet has the potential to be a new Library of Alexandria, if we don't let corporations and government lock it down.

## **Fostering Innovation by Abolishing Patents**

We seek the abolition of patents. The patent system stifles innovation by making it difficult to incorporate an existing invention into a new one. It discourages researchers from sharing their new ideas until after a patent application. It prevents hundreds of thousands of people in poor countries from receiving the drugs they need. Currently pharmaceutical companies spend only 15% of their revenue on new drug research. The remaining 85% is spent on activities such as marketing and profit taking. A reformed system would dramatically increase the money available for innovation, while removing the obstacles to innovation posed by the current patent system.

## **Positions on Other Issues**

The scope of the Pirate Party was originally limited to a few core issues. However now the Massachusetts Pirate Party, in common with many other Pirate Parties, is drafting policies on a variety of different issues. We need your help in deciding positions on every policy that matters to Massachusetts voters. sure that all non-commercial copying, sharing and remixing are legal and ban DRM software.

There is no reason for copyright to continue until 70 years after death. Everyone must have equal access to the internet, and the Pirate Party will foster network neutrality so that internet service providers cannot give preferential treatment to preferred web sites and we oppose three strikes laws that ban anyone from using the internet because of copyright violations. The internet has the potential to be a new Library of Alexandria, if we don't let corporations and government lock it down.



# Monthly Cryptoparty at Parts and Crafts

## CRYPTO POTLUCK PARTY

Last Wednesdays of the Month: 6 - 9pm  
Aug 26, Sept 30, Oct 28, Nov 25.

A Crypto Party (aka Encryption Potluck) is a space to hang out and teach each other practical tools of digital security, such as how to set up email encryption on your computer and how to browse the web anonymously.

Don't know much about computers? Don't worry! We will use accessible language and help you in every step of the way. Bringing a computer isn't mandatory to participate—there is lots of conversation to be had as well. But a goal of the cryptoparty is that people leave with actively implemented encryption tools on their devices to go start using in the real world.

### Schedule:

Potluck snacks/BYOB. Kids welcome to join.

- Introductions/ What do you want to learn?/ What can you teach?
- The basics: an introduction to crypto, the impacts of surveillance on everyday people, and deconstructing the idea of “but I have nothing to hide.”
- after that: bust out the laptops/devices and get to work! We will break into groups depending on what people are interested in learning, such as: PGP email encryption, TextSecure for sending secure SMS messages, the Tor Browser for searching anonymously online, and more.



@ Parts and Crafts

577 Somerville Ave

Somerville, MA

MBTA Porter Sq. redline / bus 87

wheelchair accessible

Parts and Crafts is a makerspace and community workshop in Somerville. On this night, the usually kid-filled space is inviting grown-ups to come participate here. We ask that all grown-ups who use the space keep this in mind and respect the kid-friendly environment.

More info:

[cryptoparty.in/boston](http://cryptoparty.in/boston)

# About

The Massachusetts Pirate Party was formed in May, 2010 by James O’Keefe, Chris Reynolds and Erik Zoltan. Since then it has been active in promoting promoting privacy, transparent government, innovation by reining in copyright laws and eliminating patent laws. It ran candidates for State Representative in 2014 and elected its first office holder in 2015.

## Pirate Council

**Captain – James O’Keefe** / jokeefe@jamesokeefe.org / 617-447-0210 / @jpokeefe / Key Id: 0xAAFF1FEC

**First Officer – Noelani Kamelamela** / noeseek@gmail.com / 617-901-4076 / Key Id: 0x358758A8

**Quartermaster – Steve Revilak** / steve@srevilak.net / 781-648-1083 / @Purple\_Bandanna / Key Id: 0x28C2A300

**PR/Media Director – Halley Murray** / paper\_waves@riseup.net / @paper\_waves / Key Id: 0x0DD7A733

**Activism Director – Joseph Moore** / moore.jo@husky.neu.edu / 585-748-9347

**Swarmwise Director – Jamie Slate** / james.slate@gmx.com / 413-230-1703

**Web/Info Director – Benjamin Cook** / blj54@wildcats.unh.edu / Key Id: 0x2D69B366

## Council of Arbitrators

**Olivia Pineyro** / bestpiggy@riseup.net / 617-416-1143 / @bestpiggy  
**Eli Haber** / fighteroffoo9@gmail.com / @aquaticonions

## Representative to the United States Pirate Party

**Lucia Fiero** / sutralu@gmail.com / 617-462-7361 / @Bluelustreak / Key Id: 0xBCADDE22



## Freedom Rally

We're there every year because it's a great time and a good opportunity to meet activists (aka future pirates!)

We will be tabling at the 26th Freedom Rally on September 26th and 27th. It will be on Boston Common and both days are currently scheduled from noon to 8pm. This is our sixth year at Freedom Rally and fifth year tabling at it. We hope you will help us make it a success.

What is the Freedom Rally? An opportunity for activists interested in ending the war on drugs and extending civil liberties to meet other like-minded individuals. You can also attend interesting lectures and presentations given by vendors and activists.

This is an opportunity for us specifically to meet more people at our table and tell them about the Pirate Party. We can share ongoing revelations about the US government's mass. surveillance, in the name of "homeland security" and what citizens can do to stay connected and anonymous, since these post 9/11 powers have been used mostly to spy on drug enthusiasts, not on terrorists. We teach folks about how the internet and social media make excellent tools for getting out the word about the safety and efficacy of cannabis, since the commercial media has shown us they are dead set against legalization. We teach people about the racist origins of the war on hemp, and how useful and free it is: Easy to grow, easy to share, and how big government and big business despise a market they can't get a big cut from. And if you have technology related hemp education teachings to share, we especially welcome you!

Before or after your shift you can enjoy the rally, which will feature live music and speakers, as well as alternative religion, philosophies, and politics, and a great variety of vendors selling nifty stuff you can't find anywhere else. We really want to take full advantage of this opportunity to network and recruit new Pirates. Plus cannabis reform is a very critical civil liberties issue.

We encourage you to dress in your favorite pirate gear, be loud and show your support for the Internet, civil liberties and Chelsea Manning.

Please, invite your friends and family and help us find more Pirates to join us! If you are unable to table, please help in other ways, such as spreading the word about the Rally as well as our presence there. We need supporters to help from noon to 6pm as well as during set-up on Saturday and take down on Sunday. You don't have to table all day. An hour or two is great, though we would never turn you away if you want to help longer. Generally, it's a mellow time to get to know your fellow Pirates as well as meet non-Pirates. Thanks!

# CISA: The Dirty Deal between Google and the NSA that No One is Talking About

By Evan Greer and Donny Shaw

One of the things that civil liberties activists like to lament about is that the general public seems to care more about Google and Facebook using their personal data to target advertising than the government using it to target drone strikes.

The reality is that both types of abuse are dangerous, and they work hand in hand. It's hard to find a more perfect example of this collusion than in a bill that's headed for a vote soon in the U.S. Senate: the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act, or CISA.

CISA is an out and out surveillance bill masquerading as a cybersecurity bill. It won't stop hackers. Instead, it essentially legalizes all forms of government and corporate spying. Here's how it works. Companies would be given new authority to monitor their users -- on their own systems as well as those of any other entity -- and then, in order to get immunity from virtually all existing surveillance laws, they would be encouraged to share vaguely defined "cyber threat indicators" with the government. This could be anything from email content, to passwords, IP addresses, or personal information associated with an account. The language of the bill is written to encourage companies to share liberally and include as many personal details as possible.

That information could then be used to further exploit a loophole in surveillance laws that gives the government legal authority for their holy grail -- "upstream" collection of domestic data directly from the cables and switches that make up the Internet.

Thanks to Edwards Snowden, we know that the NSA, FBI, and CIA have already been conducting this type of upstream surveillance on suspected hackers. CISA would give the government tons of new domestic cyber threat indicators to use for their upstream collection of information that passes over the Internet. This means they will be gathering not just data on the alleged threat, but also all of the sensitive data that may have been hacked as part of the threat. So if someone hacks all of Gmail, the hacker doesn't just get those emails, so does the U.S. government.

The information they gather, including all the hacked data and any incidental information that happens to get swept up in the process, would be added to massive databases on people in the U.S. and all over the world that the FBI, CIA, and NSA are free to query at their leisure. This is how CISA would create a huge expansion of the "backdoor" search capabilities that the government uses to skirt the 4th Amendment and spy on Internet users without warrants and with virtually no oversight. All of this information can be passed around the government and handed down to local law enforcement to be used in investigations that have nothing to do with cyber crime, without requiring them to ever pull a warrant. So CISA would give law enforcement a ton of new data with which to prosecute you for virtually any crime while simultaneously protecting the corporations that share the data from prosecution for any crimes possibly related to it.

There's little hope for ever challenging this system in court because you'll never know if your private information has been shared under CISA or hoovered up under a related upstream collection. In a particularly stunning display of shadyness, the bill specifically exempts all of this information from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act or any state, local, or tribal law.

The members of Congress who are pushing hardest for the bill, unsurprisingly, have taken more than twice as much money from the defense industry than those who are opposing it. These politicians claim that CISA is intended to beef up U.S. cybersecurity and stop foreign hackers from ruining everything, but, as their funders in the defense industry know well, it will really just give the government more data and create new opportunities for contractors to sell their data analysis services.

The world's cybersecurity experts say that CISA won't stop cyber attacks, but it will create a gaping loophole for law enforcement agencies from the NSA right down to your local police department to access people's private information without a warrant. Systems like this have chilling effects on our willingness to be ourselves and speak openly on the Internet, which threatens our most basic rights.

The Internet makes a lot of good things possible, but it also makes it possible for corporations and governments to exploit us in ways they never could before. The debate over CISA is not about hackers, or China, or cybersecurity -- it's about whether we want to further normalize ubiquitous monitoring, warrantless surveillance, and unfettered manipulation of our vulnerabilities, or if we want to protect the Internet as a promising platform for freedom and self expression.

Greer and Shaw are members of Fight for the Future, a nonprofit dedicated to a beneficial use of the Internet.

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