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Reflexion on Daniel Joseph 'The Time Canada Wanted Its Own Internet Because It Thought the
US Would Mess It Up'

In this text, Daniel Joseph re-counts how the Canadian government had plans to build a 'Canadian Internet', or more specifically the 'Trans-Canada Computer Communications Network (TCCN)', in the 1970s. This concept came to flourish out of concern for 'technological sovereignty' and the idea that all data accessed and created by Canadians would be accounted and used by (mostly) American-based companies. Scientists behind the project did not hit too far off from what the future would hold for them. Today, most of our network-based daily activities go through US-owned entities. We google information we need, we listen to our Apple Music or Spotify playlists, we watch our shows on Hulu, Netflix, Disney+, ... All this data goes directly within US databases to be used however they seem fit.

The TCCN plan never came to fruition, as public and political opinions rapidly evolved to question what the Canadian federal government, originally planning to be sole proprietor of the country-wide network, would do with all of this data. Little did they know, we ended up in pretty much the same spot, however let it become a virtual American data monopoly.

The writing of this article is relevant today because we have now grown to realize how dependant we are on US (and sometimes European) based companies in our everyday

'interneting'. Being reliant on a third party is one thing, but our data is also being scrutinized. Continuously. As a consequence, we have seen an increase in some Countries' interest in developing community-based platforms. Joseph also makes a point to remind us that we have been used to seeing one way the internet functions. Nevertheless, he mentions that "we should keep in mind that a different internet is achievable, one that might put the interests of the average people who use it first.", emphasizing on the idea that we are not using the internet the best way it could be used. He concludes on the not-so-far-fetched idea of an internet by the people, for the people. We grew accustomed to only seeing one way this Internet thing could work, and so we have stopped exploring other options. It might be time to start that thinking process again and explore what we could come up with that would better satisfy our needs of today.