

Cryptoanarchists' solution to such a re-introduction of hierarchy to cyberspace is cryptography:

„But we discovered something. Our one hope against total domination. A hope that with courage, insight and solidarity we could use to resist. A strange property of the physical universe that we live in. The universe believes in encryption. It is easier to encrypt information than it is to decrypt it. We saw we could use this strange property to create the laws of a new world. To abstract away our new platonic realm from its base underpinnings of satellites, undersea cables and their controllers. To fortify our space behind a cryptographic veil. To create new lands barred to those who control physical reality, because to follow us into them would require infinite resources“ (Assange et al. 2012: 4)

The argument goes as such: because not even with an infinite amount of weaponry an encrypted information can be decrypted, cryptography is not only a useful tool against surveillance, it is considered „the ultimate form of non-violent direct action“ (ibid. 5) by cryptoanarchists. Despite the contested field of privacy, the internet opens up far more possibilities for individuals to anonymously interact, also in economic terms. In the early 90s Timothy May wrote „These developments will alter completely the nature of government regulation, the ability to tax and control economic interactions, the ability to keep information secret, and will even alter the nature of trust and reputation“ (May 1992). Such a transformation, therefore, opened up not only social discussion about communication, but any social transaction and interaction, which by default created a battleground between libertarian perspectives of the cryptoanarchy movement, corporations and national governments and legislations