

The internet was probably the last great collaboration between right & left wing libertarianism before more progressive members would go on to champion marriage equality and the more conservative members of their ranks would go on to complain about age of consent laws for some weird reason. The idea of Napster being this great interrupter of major commerce continues to bring joy to my little pirate heart. I remember watching Lars Ulrich running his mouth off on TV about how his fans were thieves and nearly breaking down into tears of anger over loss of revenue.

However this trip down nostalgia lane turns sour once I reflect on the current state of the net and how even *The Virtual Revolution* notes the monopoly of Facebook. What started as a utopian of equality which subverted classic hierarchies of power soon found itself emulating those same systems but in a digital market. If we are to take Arianna Huffington at her word, she claimed her motivations for the Huffington Post were to subvert the power held by traditional news media. Now, she finds herself at the top of a new digital news power structure which brings with it the same issues as its analog counterparts.

Near the end of the film, someone being interviewed makes a joke about the internet's transition to a less libertarian frontier. They mention that somewhere between when the internet was conceived and where it evolved to there must have been a perfect balance of chaos and order. MySpace, I would put forward, was that time. It challenged copyright as a business with its ability to play 5 tracks while also failing to rely on data harvesting as its main source of revenue. This may be nostalgia talking but that was when the internet seemed to be at its most lively.