



The Internet's Own Boy

Viewing Party Discussion Guide

The Internet's Own Boy raises many important questions on topics that may be new to some viewers. Whether you're watching this in a classroom or in a community setting, these questions can help to guide a discussion after the film.

Creative Commons:

- Has anyone in the room used or reused a creative work without knowing the copyright?
- What would an Internet without homemade music videos and memes made from screenshots be like? What if everyone always had to ask for permission first?
- Does fair use of creative works really make it impossible for the creators of those works to make a living? Who actually makes money off of copyright?

Open Access and Open Government

- Does anyone have a story to share about trying to access resources that are supposed to be a matter of public record, like court documents?
- How are some communities disproportionately affected by policies that close access to information?

Stopping SOPA

- Anyone remember the Stop Online Privacy Act (SOPA) or what it was like to see a website blacked out? What lessons did the Stop SOPA campaign teach us?
- What is the relationship between copyright and censorship?

The Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA)

- According to the government, it is illegal under the CFAA to violate a website's terms of service. Does knowing this mean that any of us will start to read the terms of service?
- Does knowing that there are such outdated and misused laws on the books have a chilling effect on your likelihood to share information?

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Next steps

- Does your university have an open access policy? Are you an artist who is going to start using Creative Commons?
- What are your concerns about the future of the Internet? Are you ready to get involved in a digital campaign or contact your elected officials about your concerns?
- If you want to get involved, but have reservations as to what to do next, what are those? What can we do to continue to raise awareness about these issues?
- How will you keep learning about fair use and copyright, unjust computer crime laws, open access, and other digital rights issues?

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