

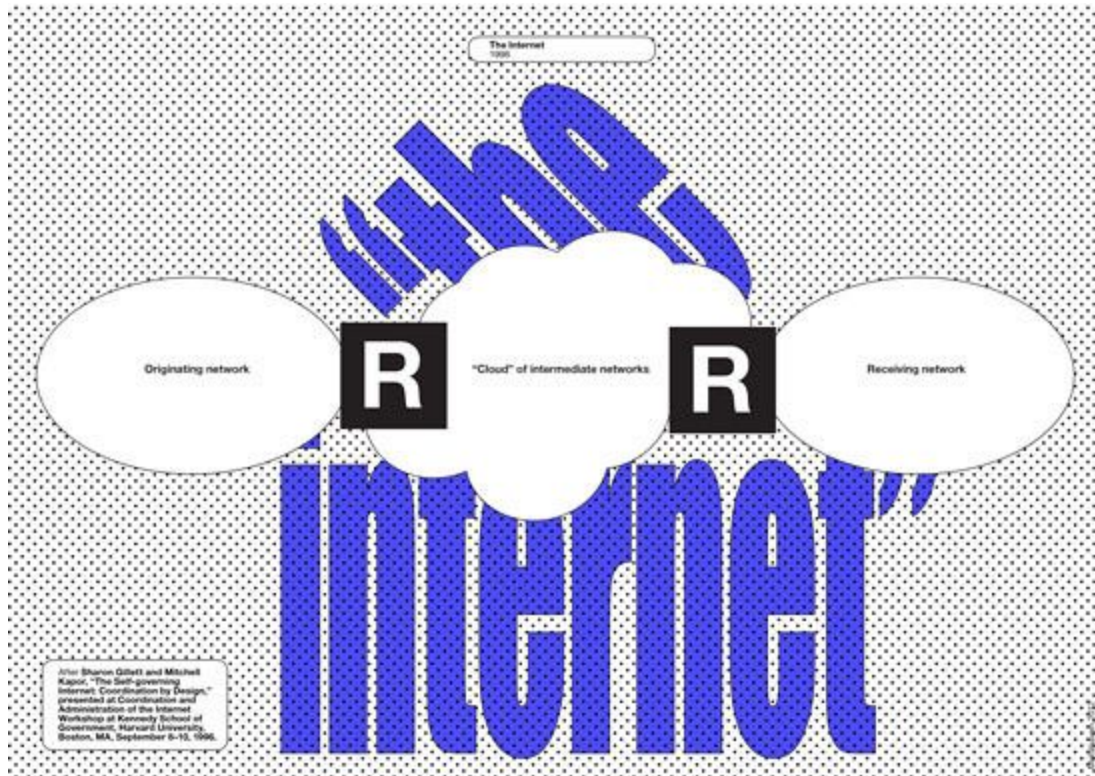
Captives of the Cloud: Part I

Metahaven

“We are the voluntary prisoners of the cloud; we are being watched by governments that we did not elect.”

What is the “Cloud”?

- The “Cloud” is a network of servers that is utilized worldwide
 - Every server of the network has a different function
 - E.g. - One server could have computing power to run an application
 - E.g. - Another server could deliver a service, such as Instant Messaging for Facebook
- “Cloud Companies”
 - Facebook
 - Google
 - Ebay
 - Etc.



A diagram of the first notion of the "Cloud," published in an MIT research paper

“The biggest driver of the cloud is the ever-expanding spectrum of mobile devices- iPhones, iPads, Androids, and such-from which users tap into the cloud”

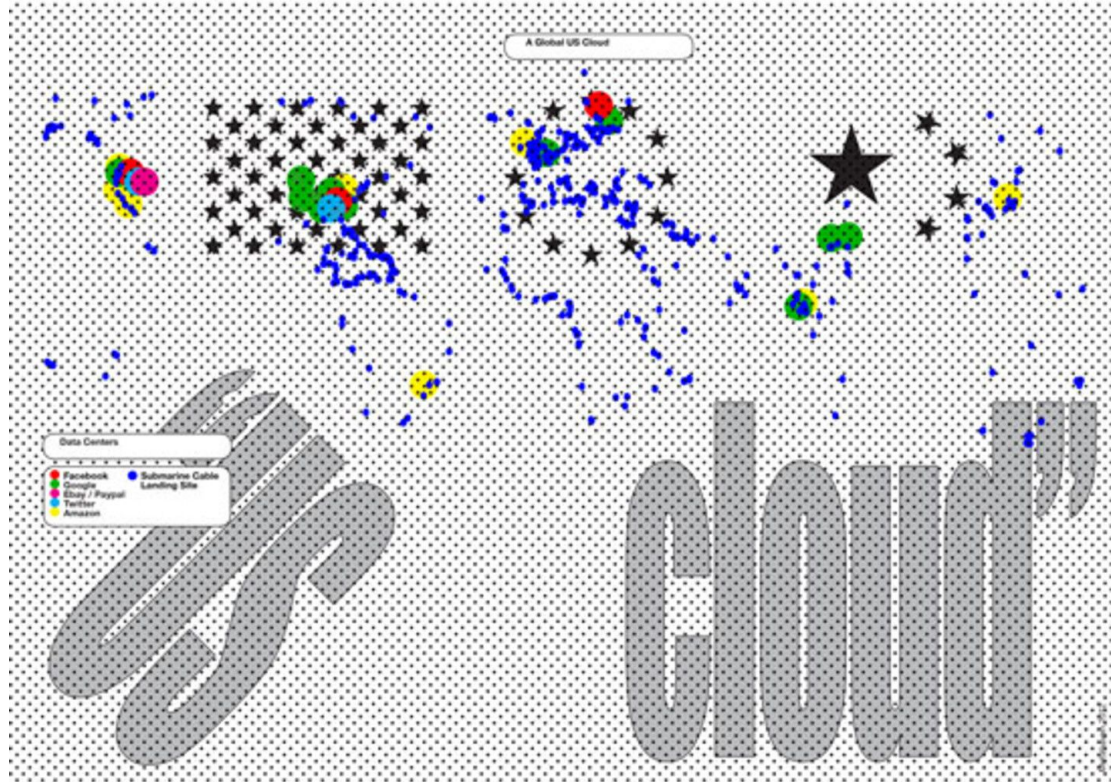
— Aaron Levie, CEO of Box

The US Cloud & Patriot Act: Abuses from the Government

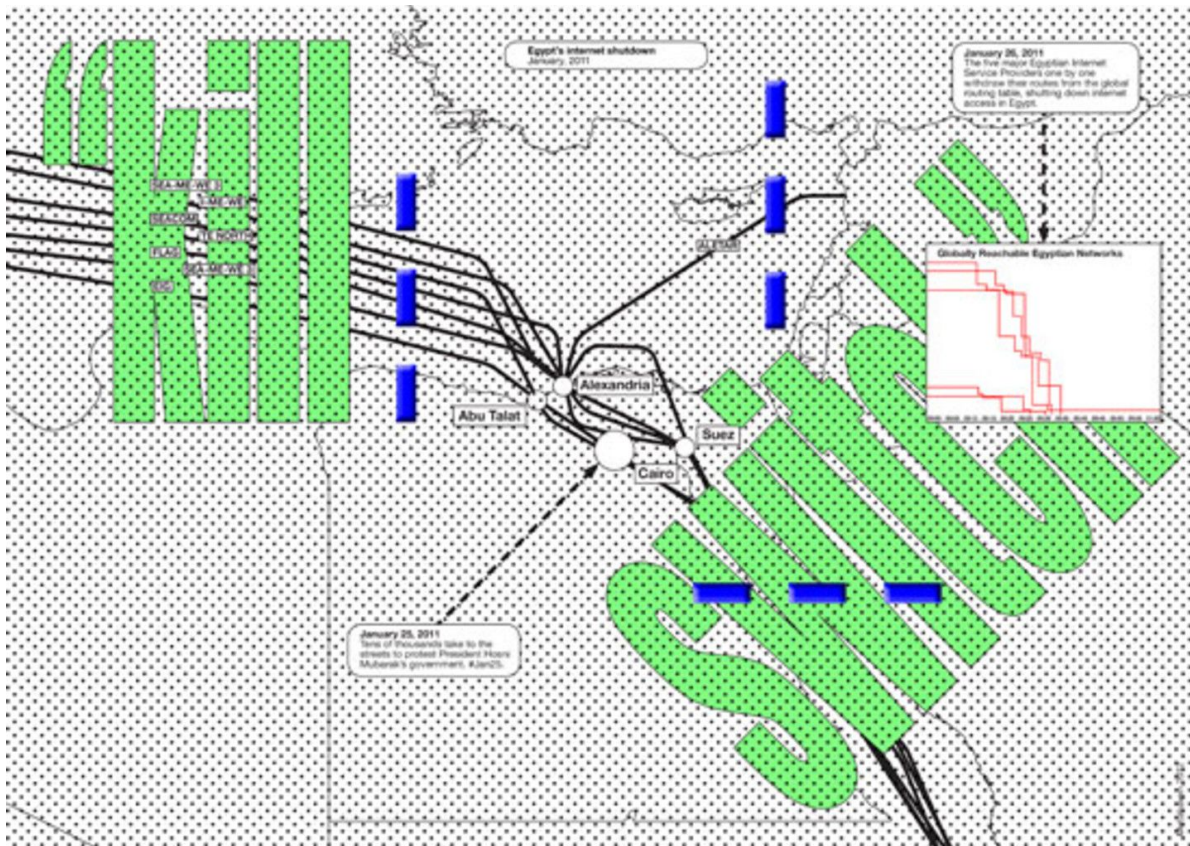
- US Patriot Act
 - Anti-terrorism law introduced in 2001
 - Essentially gives government access to and control over all “Cloud” data
- Jeffrey Rosen, law professor at GWU, proclaims that under the Patriot Act, *“rather than investigating potential terrorists, is mostly used to spy on innocent Americans”*
- Companies like Microsoft and Google have publicly confirmed that under the Patriot Act, the US government has access to their company's data

NSL: National Security Letters

- One of the most powerful instruments US Government uses to look into data on cloud providers
- Once issued, the NSL includes a gag order that prohibits recipients (Cloud Companies) from notifying users until after the investigation from the government has been fully conducted



A selection of the global US social media cloud, resorting under the Patriot Act



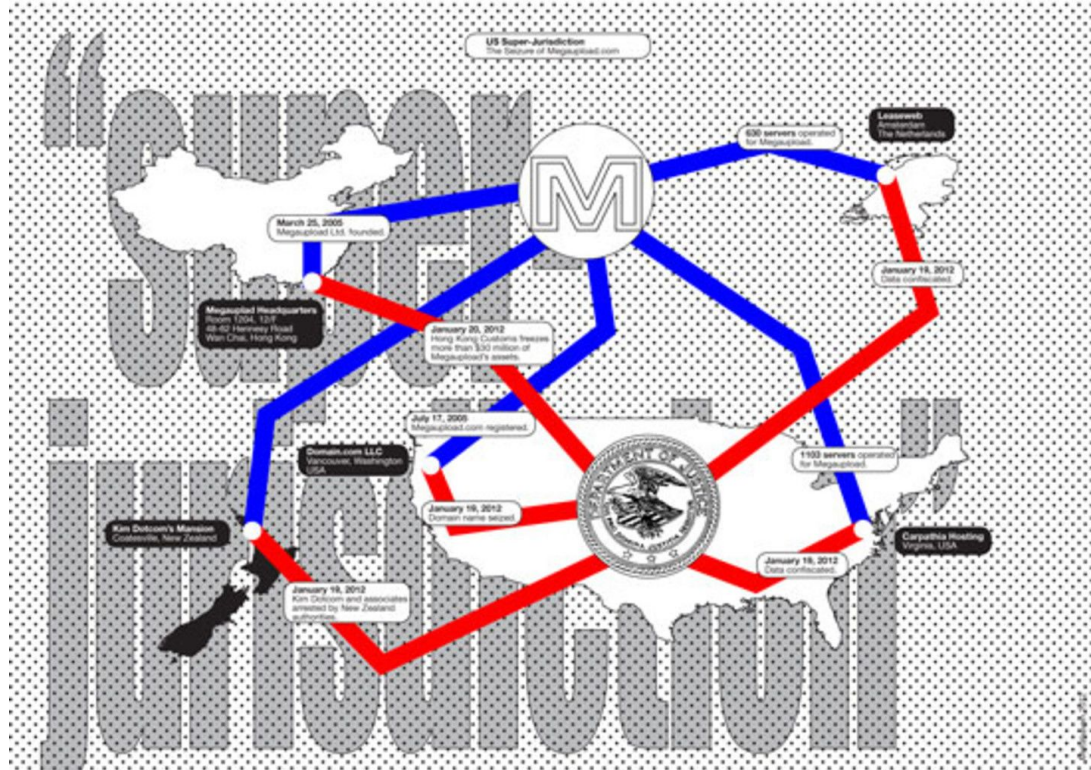
Mubarak “kill switch” which took Egypt off the internet in January, 2011

“Super Jurisdiction”

- The US manages the internet’s core, giving it jurisdiction over all domains, whether they are domestic or international.
 - E.g. 2012 seizure of Megaupload.com, Hong Kong based internet-enterprise of uploading and downloading videos
 - E.g. 2012 DOJ (Department of Justice) seized Bodog.com, gambling website from Canada
- With this “super jurisdiction,” the US has seized over 750 different domains believed to have committed “intellectual property theft,” or theft of material that has been copyrighted.

“All Your internets Belong to US”

–Michael Geist, University of Ottawa



Seizure of Megaupload.com enabled by US “super jurisdiction” over the Cloud

Cloud Surveillance

- “Security First” Norm:
 - Concerning the threats of terrorism and child pornography create a mandate for the state to police the net without restriction
- Surveillance expanded to electronics communications:
 - 2002 case where Mark Klein, former AT&T technician witnessed NSA had “Set up a system that vacuumed up internet and phone-call data from ordinary Americans with cooperation of AT&T”
- Because of expanding technologies...
 - FBI has ordered social networking sites such as Facebook to “alter their code to ensure their products are wiretap-friendly”

SOPA

- Stop Online Piracy Act
 - Controversial bill introduced in 2011
 - Purpose to expand US law enforcement to combat online copyright infringement and trafficking
- Data encryption
 - Communications providers required to provide unencrypted data
 - Encrypted data is protected as “free speech” under the First Amendment
 - FBI combats that by labeling and insinuating encrypted data as illegal

Coercive Paternalism: Attack on Anonymity

- Real name requirements
 - Enforced by social networking platforms such as Facebook and Google
 - Require users to set their user names to the same as the name on their passports
- How companies phrase their “real name policies”
 - Want to avoid sounding “too authoritarian”
 - E.g.- “so that you will always know who you are connected with” (Facebook),
 - E.g.- or “so that people you want to connect with can find you” (Google)
- All in the effort to create an “identity ecosystem” for the internet, according to White House Cybersecurity Coordinator Howard Schmidt

Stop the Rumors

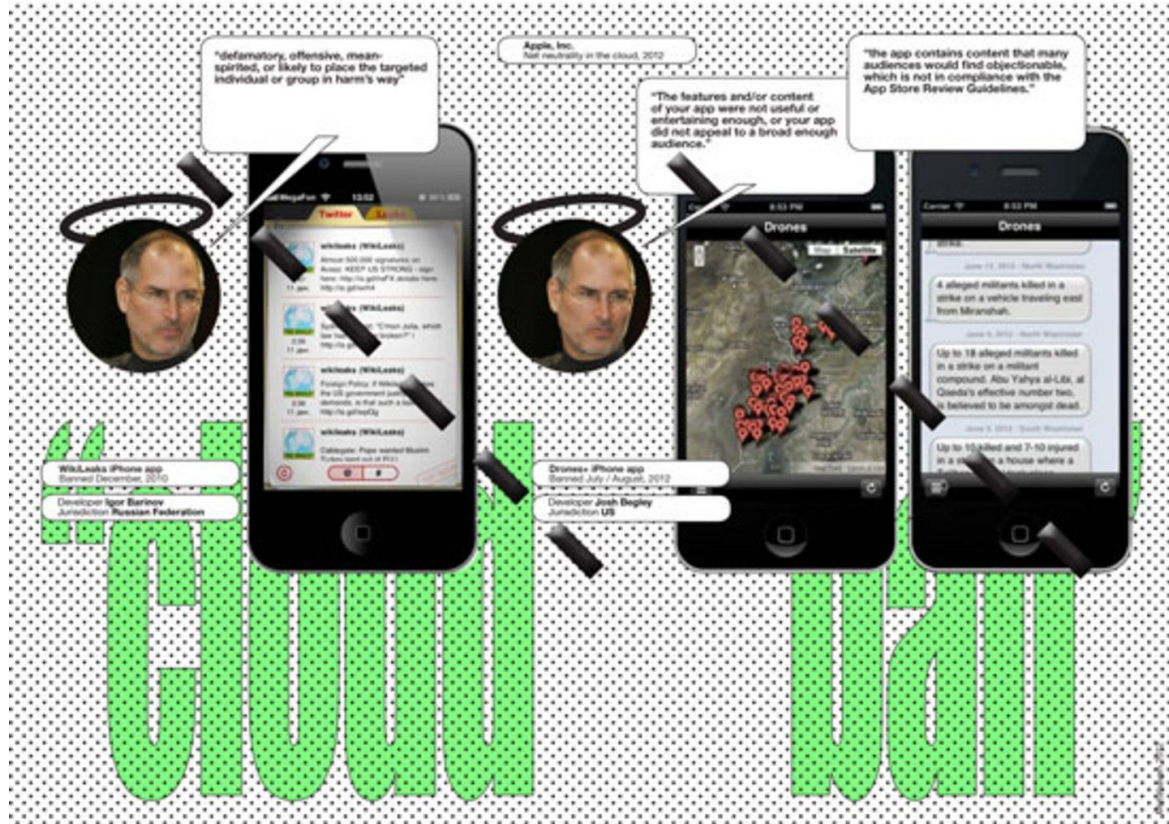
- Government policy against spread of rumors on internet
 - E.g. Obama was born in Kenya, making his presidency illegal
- Real name policy enforced in China
 - Users on “Sina Weibo,” country’s largest microblogging sites, required to register with real names and refrain from making statements undermining state’s honor
 - Incident where country flared up over the ouster of political leader Bo Xilai from the Communist party
 - Chinese police detained six people and shutdown 16 websites that had claims that military vehicles were entering Beijing

Internet Freedom: Curbed

- Internet Freedom
 - Free flow of information
 - Freedom of expression
 - Freedom of censorship
- Cloud as a political space
 - Switching off of social media platforms to impend social movements relying on collective action through social networking
 - E.g. - In February 2011, Facebook deleted profiles of dozen of political groups preparing to take part in anti-austerity protests in UK

Net Neutrality

- Internet service providers should enable user access to all content, without favoring or blocking certain products or websites
- Cloud companies combatting net neutrality
 - E.g. Apple shutting down “Drones+” app in 2012
 - Provided aggregated news on US drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia
 - Apple’s reasons were that app was “crude and objective” and did not fit into company’s app policy
 - Probably shut app down because Apple highly praised by politicians, didn’t want release an app that would aggravate the government



Apple's ban on two controversial iPhone apps shows lack of net neutrality in the Cloud

Discussion Questions

- How do you feel about government surveillance through the “Cloud”?
- With our ever-changing technologies, how will the “Cloud” manifest in the future?
- Will another country overtake the US in Cloud “super jurisdiction”?