



Cory Doctorow

Technology Activist, Journalist and Science Fiction Writer

TOPIC: Technology/Media

SUBTOPICS: The Future; Innovation

BIG IDEAS:

What the Internet is for

The Internet is *so* good at copying that it's easy to forget what the net is *best* at: making it possible for groups of humans to work together to accomplish the "superhuman"—to transcend individual limitations and do more than any one of us could do alone. Keeping the superhuman in the net isn't easy, though: we need to design our systems and policies to keep the net open and free.

Training kids to live online

Today, we protect kids online by spying on them and training them to accept surveillance and censorship. A better strategy for defending kids and teaching them to protect themselves is to train them to recognize surveillance and tracking online and in the world, and to give them the tools to win the technological arms race between surveillance and freedom.

Copy-native business-models

The Internet is the greatest copying machine ever invented, and it's never going to get any harder to copy stuff. If your business-model depends on controlling copies or excluding access to information, you're working against the 21st century, not with it. But there's lots of money to be made and good things to be done in a world of cheap, infinite copying.

BIOGRAPHY

Cory Doctorow is a science fiction novelist, blogger and technology activist. He is the co-editor of the popular weblog Boing Boing (boingboing.net), and a contributor to *Wired*, *Popular Science*, *Make*, *The New York Times*, and many other newspapers, magazines and websites. He was formerly Director of European Affairs for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (eff.org), a non-profit civil liberties group that defends freedom in technology law, policy, standards and treaties. In 2007, he served as the Canada – U.S. Fulbright Program Visiting Research Chair at the Annenberg Center for Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California.

Cory co-founded the open source peer-to-peer software company OpenCola, sold to OpenText, Inc. in 2003, and presently serves on the boards and advisory boards of the Participatory Culture Foundation, the MetaBrainz Foundation, Technorati, Inc., the Organization for Transformative Works, Areae, the Annenberg Center for the Study of Online Communities, and Onion Networks, Inc.

His novels are published and simultaneously released on the Internet under Creative Commons licenses that encourage their re-use and sharing, a move that increases his sales by enlisting his readers to help promote his work. He has won

the Locus and Sunburst Awards, and been nominated for the Hugo, Nebula and British Science Fiction Awards. His latest novel, *The New York Times* Bestseller *Little Brother*, was published in May 2008, and his latest short story collection is *Overclocked: Stories of the Future Present*. In 2008, Tachyon Books published a collection of his essays, called *Content: Selected Essays on Technology, Creativity, Copyright and the Future of the Future* (with an introduction by John Perry Barlow) and IDW published a collection of comic books inspired by his short fiction called *Cory Doctorow's Futuristic Tales of the Here and Now*. His next novel is *Makers*, due in October, 2009. Cory is presently working on a new young adult novel, *For the Win* which is about union organizing in video games.

In 2007, *Entertainment Weekly* called him, "The William Gibson of his generation." He was also named one of *Forbes Magazine's* 2007/8 Web Celebrities, and one of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders for 2007.