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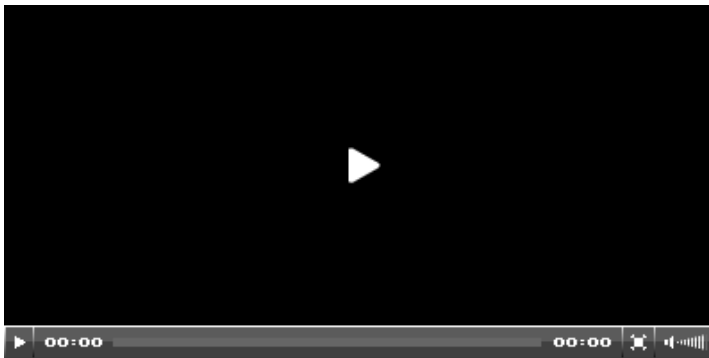
# mediacitizen

A CRASH-SCENE INVESTIGATION AT THE CROSSROADS OF OLD MEDIA AND NEW

tuesday, march 08, 2011

## Cato Institute: The Internet's Double-Edged Sword

Here's the debate last month over whether Internet access and social media are tools for fomenting revolution or facilitating crackdowns. There wasn't much of a debate really as we all agreed that it's very complicated. The debate was moderated by Jim Harper, Director of Information Policy Studies at Cato and featured Christopher Preble, Director of Foreign Policy Studies at Cato Institute, Alex Howard, of Gov2.0 and O'Reilly Media, and me.



[Alex Howard](#) describes these "debates" and others in more detail at Gov2.0.

Beginning at 13:00, I compare the imposing of democracy in Iraq c. 2003 to the bubbling up of democracy in Egypt c. 2011 -- an issue I think deserves more discussion. Watch it and let me know what you think.

posted by [timothy karr](#) at 6:53 pm

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### about me



**Timothy Karr**  
New York, New York, United States

Timothy Karr is the campaign director of [Free Press](#) and the [SavetheInternet.com](#) Coalition. Karr was the executive director of the MediaChannel and Media for Democracy. The views expressed here are Karr's alone.

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### what's it about

Mainstream media are in turmoil. Traditional reporting has become more about "infotainment" and packaging than information sharing. Commercial news networks' failure to serve as the fourth estate has put public mistrust of the media at an all-time high. More and more Americans are making a news system of their own, one that serves diverse interests, challenges the powerful and engages more people as agents of democracy. MediaCitizen is an investigation of this new media frontier, a place where people can take control of new media and the policies that govern them.

### karr's commentary

[At Seattle Times](#)  
[At Huffington Post](#)  
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[At Daily KOS](#)  
[At MediaChannel.org](#)  
[At In These Times](#)  
[At TomPaine.com \(now defunct\)](#)

### in the media



Free Press' Timothy Karr Responds to Comcast Net Neutrality Decision from Brian Lehrer Live.

### rules for commenting

Simple. If you're behaving like an idiot, I will delete your comments.

### twitter

Rep. Eshoo: Internet innovators understand that the "resolution of disapproval" hinders job creation and limits choice. #NetNeutrality 20 minutes ago

Rep. Waxman says theres "an enormous disconnect" between reality and the majority's planned Resolution of Disapproval. #NetNeutrality 35 minutes ago

Sen. Durbin: US tech industry "failing to address serious human rights challenges" <http://bit.ly/fYIo2T> #NetFreedom #Cisco #Narus about 4 hours ago

Better late than never. Sen. Dick Durbin on the Internet's double-edged sword: <http://bit.ly/fYIo2T> #NetFreedom about 4 hours ago

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