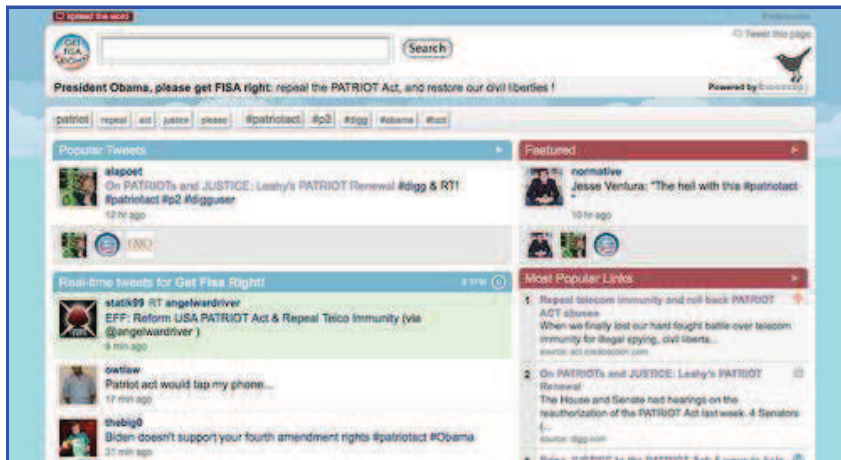


but: social network sites provide a unique opportunity to engage with diverse audiences.

Taking it to the next level



Discussions of the Patriot Act on Twitter, via Twazzup

Organizations like ACLU, EFF, and the Cato Institute are becoming increasingly effective at using social network sites. Combined with Get FISA Right and our allies, we have solid presences on Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, Organizing for America, Care2, Change.org, and in the progressive blogosphere.

The challenge now is to leverage this strength and turn it to action. Here are a few suggestions to kick off the discussion.

- for civil liberties organizations, including Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, information in action alerts could broaden reach significantly. Providing social network-specific ways of contacting politicians (act.ly, a Facebook app, etc.) would similarly get a lot more people involved.
- progressive and libertarian bloggers and new media should include links to activism information when they cover the story.
- Twitter is a particularly attractive place for civil liberties activism right now. Civil liberties organizations and bloggers should get in the habit of using the #patriotact hashtag; retweeting important information and action alerts; taking advantage of technologies like [Twazzup](#), [act.ly](#), and [2Gov](#); and engaging with the people who show interest.
- as Chip Pitts, and Sarah Burris pointed out in comments on [an earlier draft](#) of this essay, social network activism is an ideal complement for and local in-person organizing. Somebody needs to take the lead on putting this all together — and then replicating it in all 50 states.
- Get FISA Right's online and phone organizing meetings involving social network activists, bloggers, and non-partisan organizations have led to sharing value information and creating and deepening connections. More of this, please!

The Patriot Act battle's far from over. Representatives Conyers, Nadler, and Scott have introduced some [much stronger Patriot Act reform legislation in the House](#), and there's still the floor debate the Senate. If you look at the votes from 2008 and the seats that have changed hands since then, we have a chance to win this one if we get organized.

And if we get *really* organized, well, there are at least a handful of seats where the civil liberties vote could make the difference in a primary or general election: Harman, Specter, Reid, Feinstein, Leiberman So our leverage will only increase.

Social network activism has proved very successful for civil liberties (Strange Bedfellows, Get FISA Right) and other causes (Jena, Join the Impact, the DREAM Act, Obama).

Now's the time to take things to the next level.

jon

Also posted on [Pam's House Blend](#)