

STEAL THIS SOFTWARE

For those of us who feel that technology is a tool being used by the powers that be to control the world around us, talk of software may sound counterrevolutionary.

This thinking is false. It's what software corporations *want* you to think! What they don't want you to know is that we can control their technology better than they can! We can do it for free, and we can do it in a way that keeps cops, or feds, or whoever we don't like from reading it. Proprietary software, from the whole Microsoft complex to Internet Explorer is full of back doors through which your information seeps out and gets recorded. Ever notice how you'll perform google searches and as time goes on, the adds that pop up eerily match your searches and interests? Isn't that fucking creepy!?

To get around this issue, and issue of technological consumerism, people have been working constantly with each new form of technology to make it free and secure. When the printing press was invented, so was the radical pamphlet, known in the modern community as a zine. Pseudonyms were employed for the sake of security and new idioms were born. The foundation for a culture of encryption was built, and a language was reclaimed for the people.

When we use communications technology in the midst of a mass action either to alert dispatch that someone needs a medic or that there needs to be a last minute change in route, many scouts will encrypt their radios. Typically a frequency is easily detectable by authorities, but with the help of an additional piece of hardware, they might be able to find your channel, but they sure as shit can't hear it.

Today we live in the communication age and that has up sides and down sides. While we've been able to share ideas, information, and stories with more speed than ever before, we're now vulnerable in new ways. The good news is that we have the power to reclaim our communication for the free and secure usage as activists and create a world where our words and thoughts will no longer be co-opted by centralized information!