

Beware Red Flags On The Net

Rick Falkvinge
Swedish Pirate Party

Beware Red Flags On The Net

Rick Falkvinge

Founder of the first Pirate Party

@Falkvinge



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Introduction



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How many here have heard of



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**How many here have heard of
the Swedish Pirate Party?**



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(one-half to two-thirds)





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How many here have heard of



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**How many here have heard of
ANY OTHER Swedish party?**



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(scattered hands)



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SO...



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The Net



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Copying and Sharing



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Civil Liberties



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pirates



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Stand tall



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2 seats in European Parliament
50 seats in German Parliaments
150+ seats on local councils
56 countries





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Digital Photography Pioneers?



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Polaroid



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Kodak



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Polaroid went bankrupt in 2001.



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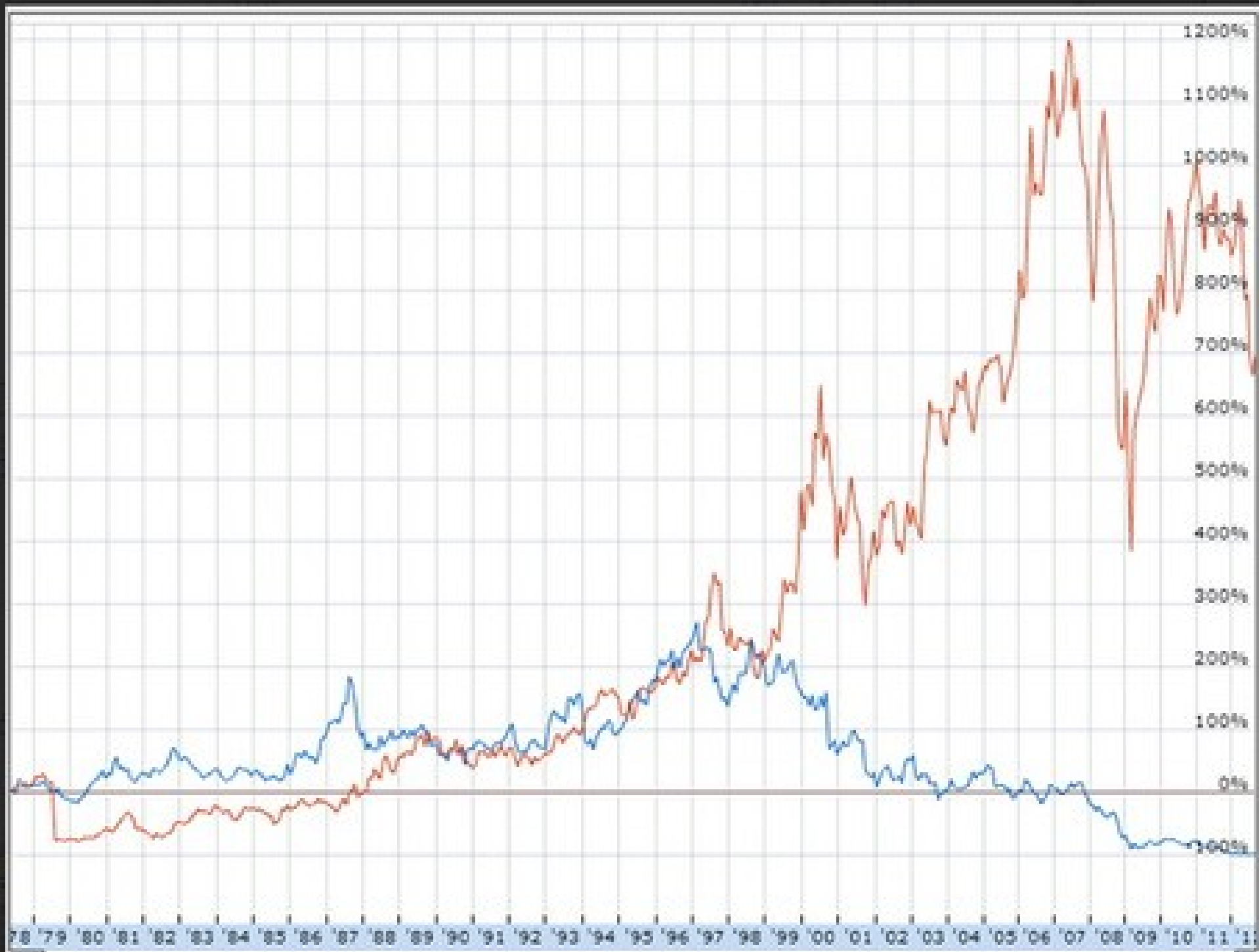
Kodak went bankrupt this year.



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**Most incumbents don't ignore
new technology.**



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**They attack it and try to have it
banned, killed, neutered.**





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Today's Entertainment:

- Who are we? (“Just A Protest Party”)
- Reactions of Incumbents
- Industries threatened by Information (many!)
- Industries threatened by the Net (many more!)
- History repeats; Crystal Ball



Today's Entertainment:

- Who are we? (“Just A Protest Party”)
- Reactions of Incumbents
- Industries threatened by Information (many!)
- Industries threatened by the Net (many more!)
- History repeats; Crystal Ball
- Coffee Break





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“Just a Protest Party”



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“Protest?”



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**Wanting to change the status quo
is dissent *by definition*.**





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Greens



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40 years ago



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Workers' movements



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80 years ago



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Liberals



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120 years ago



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40 years ago



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Rallying cries of youth were...



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Peace and Love



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...”sustainability”



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17-year-olds of today



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Free Speech and Openness



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a.k.a. “Leave the net alone”



The Internet was acting weird



so I tried turning it off and on again



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Not rocket science



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A letter in the mail – 40 years ago



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Anonymous



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Secret in transit



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Untracked



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Mailman never responsible



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**Reasonable that our children
have the same rights**



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**...entirely regardless whether
somebody can no longer profit**







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Reactions of Incumbents



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automobile



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~~automobile~~
horseless carriage



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Horrible new invention



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unnatural



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new things scare people



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and horses



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“Red Flag Act” of 1865



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Three “crew” in every car



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Driver,



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Driver, stoker,



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Driver, stoker, red flag waver



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**Safely (and slowly) transport
people and cargo to
railroad, stagecoach stations**





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Railroad and stagecoach industries



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Limited usefulness



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Banned from competing with incumbents



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--in Britain!



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**Germany's car industry got
a 20-year head start**



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Separating special interests from public interest



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**If an industry is obsolete,
it is in the public interest
to move on.**





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Electric car batteries



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(General Motors)



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**This mistake is being repeated
over and over.**



Especially with the Net.



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Information is Dangerous



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sociologists



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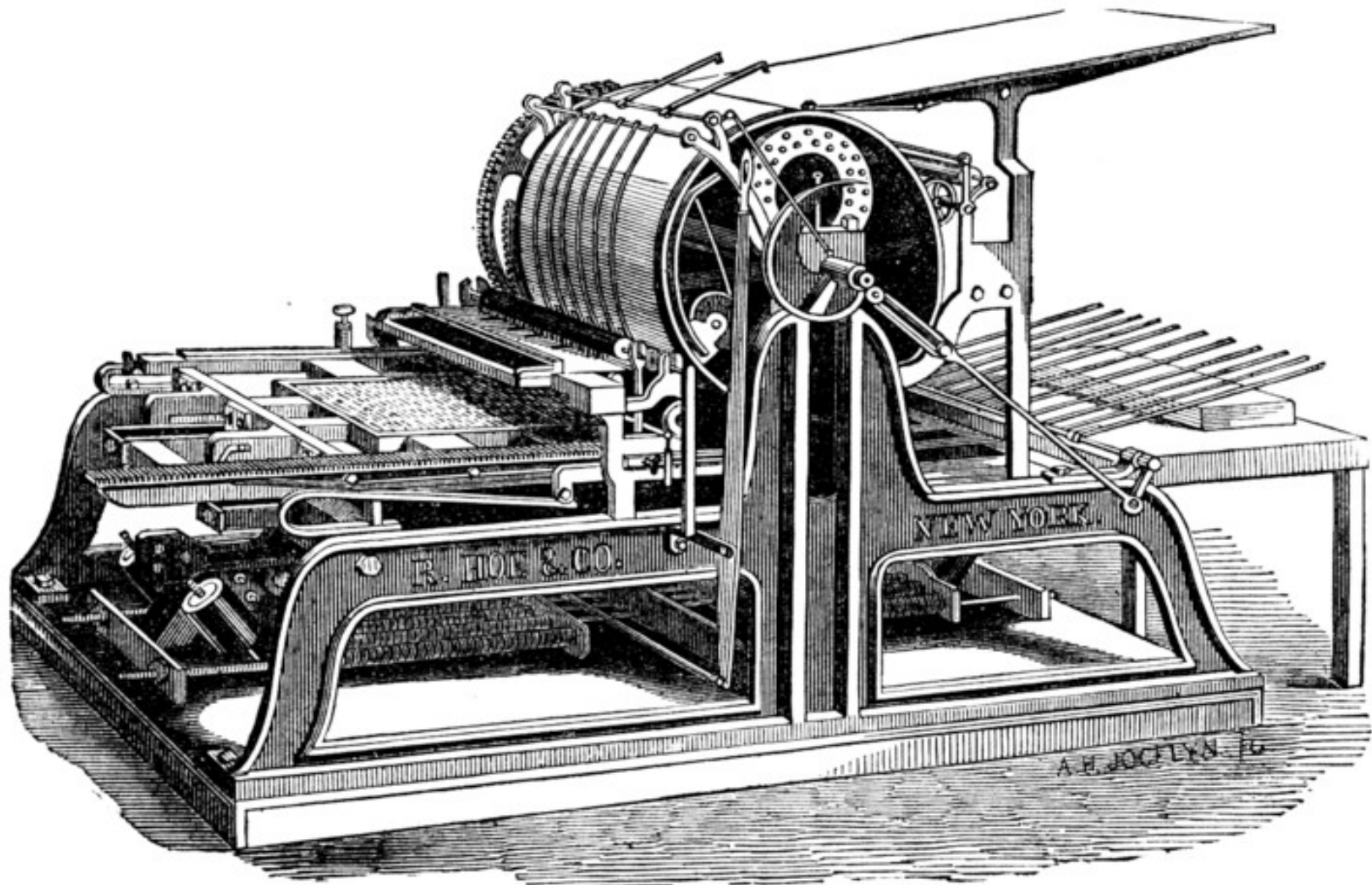
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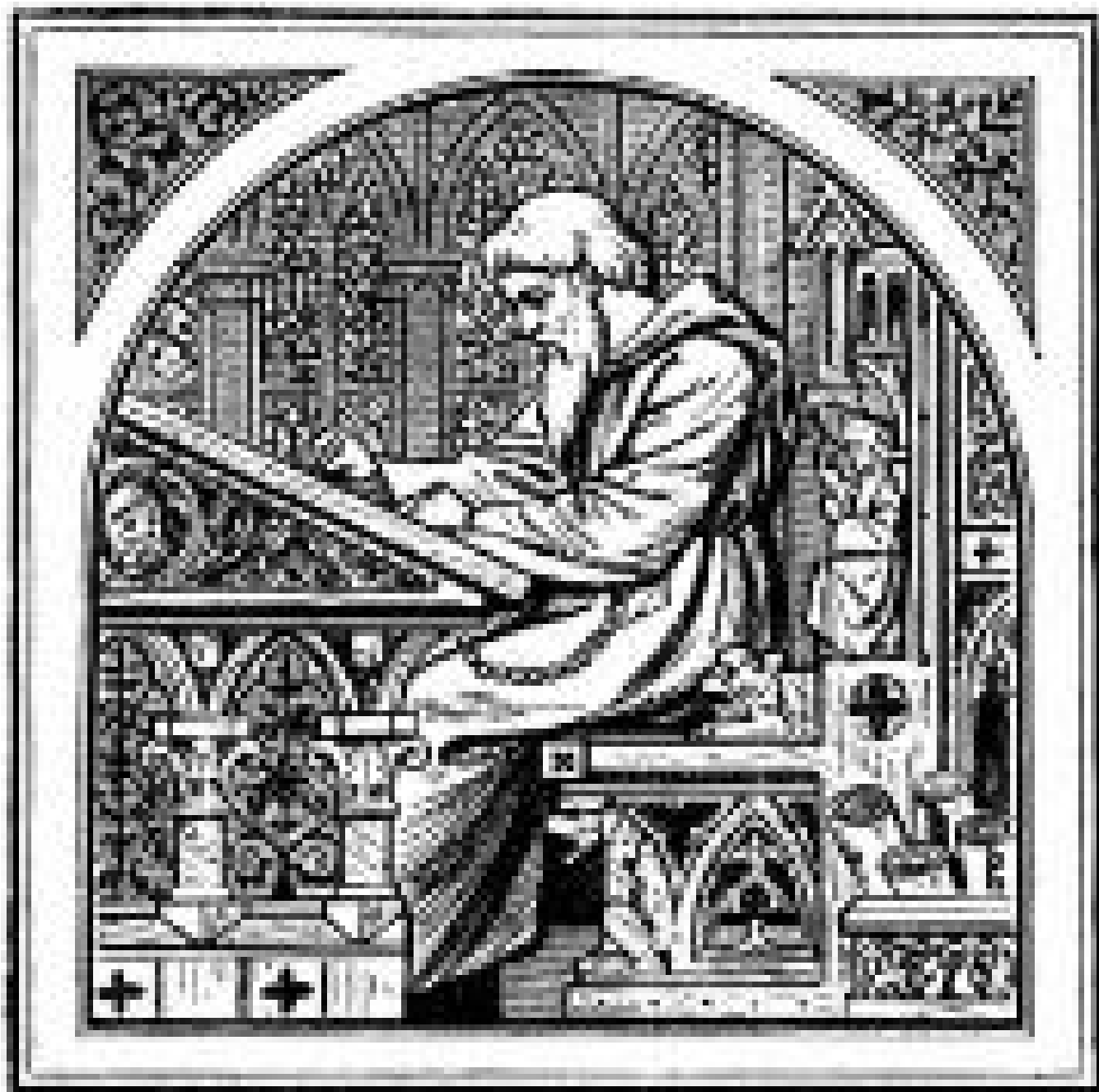
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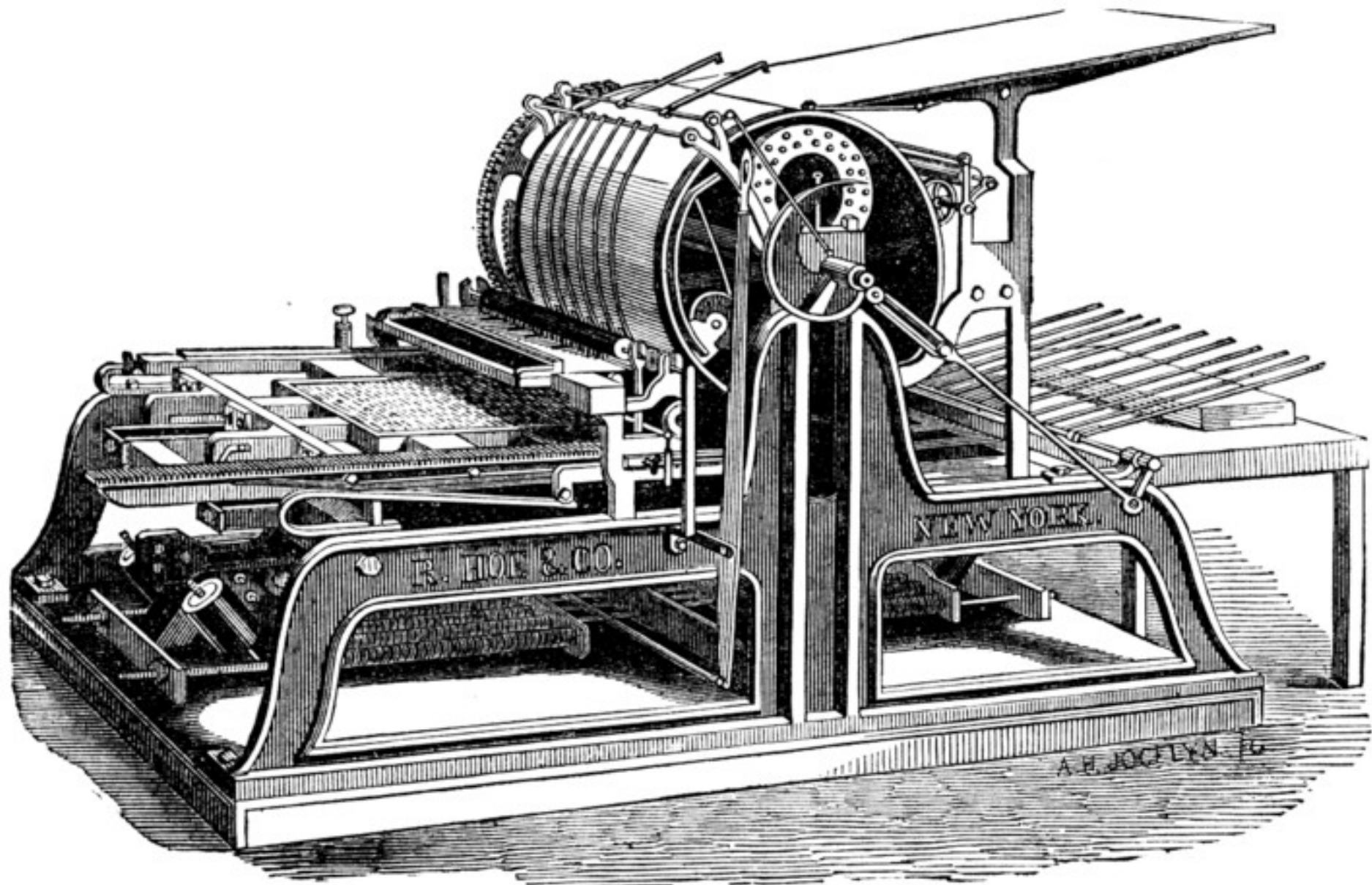


HOE'S ONE-CYLINDER PRINTING PRESS.









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copyright



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Powerful people



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use their power



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to keep their power



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If you can dictate true from false,



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**If you can dictate true from false,
you wield the most power of all.**





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Newspapers



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**About every five or ten years,
the sky is falling**





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Copyright Industry's Enemies

- 1905: Self-playing piano
- 1906: Gramophone
- 1920s: Broadcast Radio
- 1930s: Loudspeakers
- 1940s: Television
- 1950s: Cable Television
- 1972: Photocopier
- 1970s: Loudspeakers (again)
- 1970s: Cassette Tape



Copyright Industry's Enemies (2)

- 1980s: Video Cassette Recorder
- 1980s: Digital Audio Cassette
- 1998: MP3
- 1999: The Internet
- 2000: Cloud-based music
- 2001: Digital Video Recorders
- 2003: High-definition TV
- 2006: Cloud-based music (again)
- 2012: Cloud Storage





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Throw Tantrums



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Throw Tantrums Get Taxpayer Money



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Crystal Ball: Industries Repeating Red Flags



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Disruption Takes Time



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Electricity



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60 years



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Assumptions?



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1st industry: Postal Services



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1st industry: Postal Services (ignored e-mail)



2nd industry: News Services



2nd industry: News Services (ridiculed blogging)



3rd industry: copyright industry



Not safeguarding “content”,



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**Not safeguarding “content”,
but the implicit *container***



4th industry: Banking



Cryptocurrencies



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5% off of every transaction



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AND charge us per year



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Free services today --



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**World-spanning encyclopedia
in all major and minor languages**



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**Searching every document
worldwide for information**



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Storing an infinite amount of data



Publishing ideas to entire world



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What do banks charge for?



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Keeping a number in a database



Keeping a number in a database

(and maybe handling 12 messages a month)





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Disparity



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5th industry: Telco Industry



Charge by minute for voice call



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Profit margins of



Profit margins of 1,000,000%



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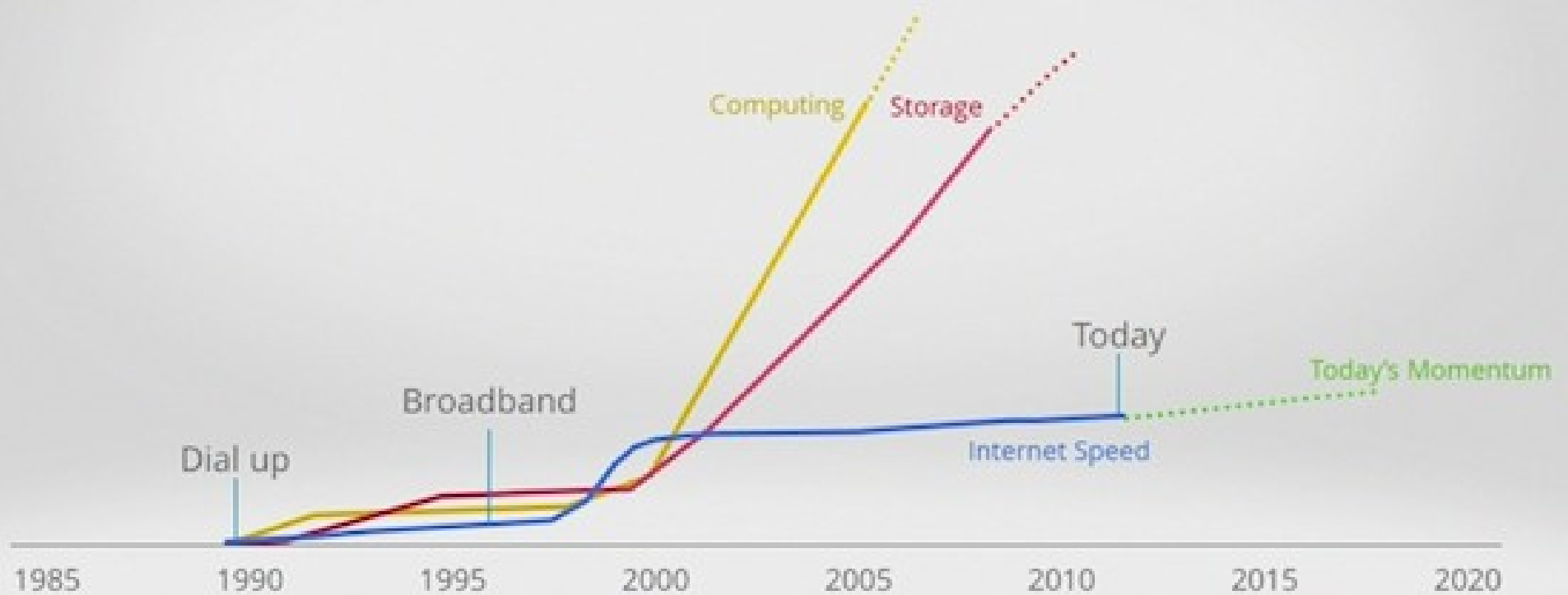


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Growth in Technology Innovation





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6th disruption: Governments



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**“bring out your popcorn”-type
scenario**





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All of this has happened before.



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**All of this has happened before.
All of this will happen again.**





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**“In winds of change, some people
build shelters, and other people
build windmills.”**

Chinese proverb



Beware Red Flags On The Internet

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