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When Google Met WikiLeaks



Synopsis

In June 2011, Julian Assange received an unusual visitor: the chairman of Google, Eric Schmidt, arrived from America at Ellingham Hall, the country residence in Norfolk, England where Assange was living under house arrest. For several hours the besieged leader of the world's most famous insurgent publishing organization and the billionaire head of the world's largest information empire locked horns. The two men debated the political problems faced by society, and the technological solutions engendered by the global network; from the Arab Spring to Bitcoin. They outlined radically opposing perspectives: for Assange, the liberating power of the Internet is based on its freedom and statelessness. For Schmidt, emancipation is at one with US foreign policy objectives and is driven by connecting non-Western countries to American companies and markets. These differences embodied a tug-of-war over the Internet's future that has only gathered force subsequently. When Google Met WikiLeaks presents the story of Assange and Schmidt's encounter. Both fascinating and alarming, it contains an edited transcript of their conversation and extensive, new material, written by Assange specifically for this book, providing the best available summary of his vision for the future of the Internet.

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Customer Reviews

Julian Assange is the editor in chief of WikiLeaks and the author of Cypherpunks: Freedom and the Future of the Internet (OR Books, 2012). An original contributor to the cypherpunk mailing list, Assange is the author of numerous software projects in line with the cypherpunk philosophy,

including the Rubberhose encryption system and the original code for WikiLeaks. An ethical hacker in his teens, and subsequently an activist and internet service provider to Australia during the 1990s, he is the co-author (with Sulette Dreyfus) of *Underground*, a history of the international hacker movement. Julian is currently a refugee under the protection of the government of Ecuador, and lives in the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

Indispensable insight on this important topic of contemporary times. Reveals to you the beauty of the tenacity of incredible awesome figures & fascinating minds. Considering the importance of this story & its "face to face" encounter interview, the clarity is extraordinary. Not overwhelming. Much to appreciate about the sensitivity & good nature of Julian Assange for sharing his interview with everyone. You will appreciate the excellence in his commitment to making complex issues comprehensible & simple to understanding. His good manner & passion for his work & his creativity provides readers not only with visionary insight but his work is cultivating & humanizing.

Not my usual type of reading, but it turned out to be a page turner. And I've thought about it a lot since. Assange is an interesting and super intelligent guy. The book is not long. The first half (approx) is background, which is essential. Then there is the transcript of the conversation with the Google guys, which is very clean and clear and the best part of the book. Highly recommended, esp if you don't know anything about Wikileaks, Assange, or cryptography. Written for the layman, not the techie.

Extremely well-written and interesting read, written by one of the most interesting and heroic human beings on the planet, imho. Completely changed my perception of the Google I thought I knew.

Good reading. With this book you really can understand the thinking of the CEO of one of the most influential companies in the digital world and how is helping to the government of the United States of America. Is a good reference on how the freedom in Internet is ending.

I have never bothered to review a product before this one inspired me. This is probably THE MOST IMPORTANT book I have ever read, and I have read thousands of books. This transcript of the conversation between Eric Schimdt and Julian A. is an essential part of our intellectual record for the history of humanity. Agree with Eric, or agree with Julian, your choice. It's the verbatim transcript.

Reads like a thriller.

Two among the most influential experts in information technology, one on the side of privacy of the internet for the citizen's and the right for full disclosure of information on war crimes and genocides, and the other - Google's - on the other side.

Conversations important for the information content and especially for the contrast between how the information should be controlled. In the case of the corporate interests -- Google -- it manipulates information to protect the interests of money and power. In the case of activists like Assange, it is making the information available to the masses, and the profit motive seems absent.

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