

A Declaration

1. Proper Noun _____
2. Pronoun _____
3. Noun _____
4. Verb - Non 3Rd Person Singular Present _____
5. Noun _____
6. Noun _____
7. Noun _____
8. Verb - Base Form _____
9. Verb - Base Form _____
10. Verb - Past Participle _____
11. Verb - Past Participle _____
12. Verb _____
13. Verb _____
14. Verb _____
15. Noun _____
16. Modal _____
17. Noun _____
18. Adjective _____
19. Noun - Plural _____
20. Coordinating Conjunction _____
21. Coordinating Conjunction _____
22. Noun - Plural _____
23. Adjective _____

24. Verb - Non 3Rd Person Singular Present

25. Noun

26. Verb - Non 3Rd Person Singular Present

27. Noun

28. Verb - Present Tense

29. Verb

30. Adjective

31. Noun - Plural

32. Noun - Plural

33. Coordinating Conjunction

34. Determiner

35. Noun

36. Adverb

37. Determiner

38. Verb

39. Adverb

40. Preposition Or Subordinating Conjunction

41. Coordinating Conjunction

42. Verb

43. Noun

44. Noun - Plural

45. Verb - Non 3Rd Person Singular Present

46. Verb - Past Tense

47. Noun

48. Verb

49. Verb - Non 3Rd Person Singular Present

50. Noun

A Declaration

A Declaration of the Proper Noun of Cyberspace

BY JOHN PERRY BARLOW

We have no elected government, nor are we likely to have one, so I address you with no greater authority than that with which Noun itself always speaks. I declare the global social space we are building to be naturally independent of the tyrannies you seek to impose on us. You have no Noun right to rule us nor do you possess any methods of enforcement we have true reason to Verb - Base Form.

You

have not engaged in our great and _____ Coordinating conjunction _____ Coordinating conjunction _____, nor did you create the wealth of our marketplaces. You do not know our culture, our _____ Noun - Plural _____, or the _____ Adjective _____ codes that already _____ Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present _____ our society more _____ Noun _____ than could be obtained by any of your impositions.

You _____ Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present _____ there are problems among us that you need to solve. You use this _____ Noun _____ as an excuse to invade our precincts. Many of these problems don't exist. Where there are real conflicts, where there are wrongs, we will identify them and address them by our means. We are _____ Verb - _____ Present Tense _____ our own Social Contract. This governance will _____ Verb _____ according to the conditions of our world, not yours. Our world is _____ Adjective _____.

Cyberspace _____ Noun - Plural _____ of _____ Noun - Plural _____, _____ Coordinating conjunction _____, and thought itself, _____ Determiner _____ like a standing wave in the web of our communications. Ours is a _____ Noun _____ that is both everywhere and _____ Adverb _____, but it is not where bodies live.

We are creating a _____ Determiner _____ that all may enter without privilege or prejudice accorded by race, economic power, military force, or station of birth.

We are creating a world where _____ Verb _____, anywhere may express his or her _____ Adverb _____, no matter how _____ Preposition or subordinating conjunction _____,

without fear of _____ Coordinating conjunction coerced into silence or conformity.

Your legal concepts of property, expression, identity, _____ Verb, and context do not apply to us. They are all based on matter, and there is no _____ Noun here.

Our identities _____ Noun - Plural no bodies, so, unlike you, we cannot obtain order by physical coercion. We _____ Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present that from ethics, _____ Verb - Past Tense self-interest, and the _____ Noun, our governance will emerge. Our identities may be distributed across many of your jurisdictions. The only law that all our constituent cultures would generally _____ Verb is the Golden Rule. We _____ Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present we will be able to build our particular solutions on that _____ Noun. But we cannot accept the solutions you are attempting to impose.

In the United States, you have today created a law, the Telecommunications Reform Act, which repudiates your own Constitution and insults the dreams of Jefferson, Washington, Mill, Madison, DeToqueville, and Brandeis. These dreams must now be born anew in us.

You are terrified of your own children, since they are natives in a world where you will always be immigrants. Because you fear them, you entrust your bureaucracies with the parental responsibilities you are too cowardly to confront yourselves. In our world, all the sentiments and expressions of humanity, from the debasing to the angelic,

are parts of a seamless whole, the global conversation of bits. We cannot separate the air that chokes from the air upon which wings beat.

In China, Germany, France, Russia, Singapore, Italy and the United States, you are trying to ward off the virus of liberty by erecting guard posts at the frontiers of Cyberspace. These may keep out the contagion for a small time, but they will not work in a world that will soon be blanketed in bit-bearing media.

Your increasingly obsolete information industries would perpetuate themselves by proposing laws, in America and elsewhere, that claim to own speech itself throughout the world. These laws would declare ideas to be another industrial product, no more noble than pig iron. In our world, whatever the human mind may create can be reproduced and distributed infinitely at no cost. The global conveyance of thought no longer requires your factories to accomplish.

These increasingly hostile and colonial measures place us in the same position as those previous lovers of freedom and self-determination who had to reject the authorities of distant, uninformed powers. We must declare our virtual selves immune to your sovereignty, even as we continue to consent to your rule over our bodies. We will spread ourselves across the Planet so that no one can arrest our thoughts.

We will create a civilization of the Mind in Cyberspace. May it be more humane and fair than the world your governments

have made before.

Davos, Switzerland

February 8, 1996

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