

Abstract

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**Internet as Anarchy - Toward a
Political Philosophy of the
Internet**

The internet is probably the first global network of communication in history in which the anarchist vision becomes reality: an environment without any central leadership, in which voluntary groups, communities and individuals find themselves in a deliberate and un-hierarchical web of relations. Is online communication beyond the state and does it create an anarchical environment? There is no conclusive answer, because the users are subject to the judicial system of states on the one hand, but they can escape the centralized systems of rules of states on the other hand. The present paper traces the matters of ethical and political theory, which may enable us to better understand the potential of self-regulation and self-representation of the users in their role as users. How can ethical handholds be established which are shareable by the online users despite, the enormous ethical differences that separate them? Do the online users have any shared political interest? We can probably take it for granted that the internet will never acquire the shapes of anything like a state. But it clearly offers space for politics. And as the surface of various communities, it is itself the terrain of political realities. The goal of the present analysis is not to work out any kind of code of ethics and a model of self-representation either. The goal is to put forward criteria which may be relevant for any possible normative online system of action

including even possible handholds for the shared political self-determination of the online users.