



BITS OF FREEDOM

Annual report 2017



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PREFACE

Where do you draw the line? That is the question we posed to our followers at the end of 2017. If we don't draw the line at an untargeted, large scale, mass surveillance dragnet, then where will we?

When it comes to the legislative process of laws as the aforementioned dragnet law, the role of Bits of Freedom is indispensable. From consultation to the moment the law first enters the Senate (and beyond), we'll be keeping a sharp eye on the proceedings, preparing alternative plans, investigating the potential consequences, and coordinating—if necessary—the resistance. This critical stance isn't based upon mistrust of the government. On the contrary, it's based on the belief that a democracy can only function properly when the three powers are properly held to account. 2017 proved once more that our contribution actively improves new laws.

For years now, we've been making purposeful investments in the establishment of a far-reaching digital rights movement. We enjoyed the fruits of that labor in 2017. The local branch of Bits of Groningen had its most active year to date, and we were able to establish Bits of Eindhoven. Our volunteer translators went full steam ahead to ensure that our work was translated swiftly into English and available to the rest of Europe.

We've also made many investments in that European community as well. For example, we organized the yearly conference that saw almost 30 digital rights organizations join together in order to discuss and plot out the strategy for the coming years.

The past year saw the first fulltime campaigner join our ranks. This enabled us to generate awareness for our work in new ways. Take the Day of Internet Freedom we organized, for example, where we ran a twelve hour web-in, during which we hosted dozens of guests from our bed in the Volkshotel, and live streamed it on the Internet: “Web Peace, Bed Peace!” 20,000 people also found a letter on their doormat, sent by the National Security Service, which we had devised. The recipients were asked to book an appointment with the service in order to have a ‘relay’ installed in their home network to enable eavesdropping. As soon as they attempted to do so, they were redirected to our voting guide for the new dragnet law.

The highlights of 2017 are front and center in this annual report. They are our greatest points of pride, and the activities that have had the greatest impact. We hope you’ll enjoy the read and look forward to the support of our donors, volunteers, and broader constituency, to ensure that 2018 also experiences many highlights. If you’d like to lend a hand, then of course we’d love to hear from you!

Bits of Freedom, June 2018

Team

Hans de Zwart	Inge Wannet
Rejo Zenger	Imre Jonk
Ton Siedsma	David Korteweg
Evelyn Austin	Karim Khamis

Board

Lonneke van der Velden
Hermine Masmeyer
Manon Oostveen
Clemens la Lau

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OUR 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

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We resisted the dragnet law

The Law on the intelligence and security services 2017 (Wiv), better known as the dragnet law, was discussed in the both the Senate and the House of Representatives in 2017. Together with ISOC NL and Free Press Unlimited we called upon the public to contact their representatives via our campaign site GeenSleep.nl. The senators in particular weren't used to being approached like this. Although the opposition came up with dozens of motions to improve the law, there was insufficient political will to amend the law and bring it in line with the European Human Rights Convention.

As such, we've banded together with several other NGOs to form a coalition for the filing of a lawsuit. The coalition includes members ranging from other human rights organizations, lawyers, journalists, and numerous internet companies. The Public Interest Litigation Project will coordinate the coalition, and the process representation will be done through the lawyers of Boekx.

At the end of 2017, it was made clear that, at the start of 2018, a national advisory referendum would be held regarding the dragnet law. We've played an integral role in the coalition of organizations campaigning for the opposing vote, and have determined our strategy for winning the referendum. We'll explain how a vote against

the dragnet law doesn't mean that you're voting against having a secret service law, but that you're voting for a better law. Through a five-point plan, we'll explain how the law must be improved upon: The dragnet has to go, unchecked data can't be exchanged with foreign services, real-time access to databases must be restricted, unknown vulnerabilities must always be reported, and supervision of services must be binding.

We fought for true net neutrality

T-mobile is purposefully pushing the boundaries of what European net neutrality laws will let it get away with. This provider is offering phone bundles where certain music services are being offered data-free. Listening to music from these providers won't use up your data bundle. There's no fundamental difference between making certain services more expensive (for example, a more costly subscription if you also want to use WhatsApp) and cheapening, or even offering for free, other services. The latter being exactly what T-mobile is doing. As such, we feel that T-mobile is disregarding the principle of a neutral treatment of the customer's internet traffic. Which was why we asked the Netherlands Authority for Consumers & Markets (ACM), the regulator for net neutrality, to enforce the European rules. Something that, in October, the ACM refused to do. Since we disagree with this decision, we've appealed to the ACM to reconsider. We await their response to our appeal in early 2018.

We tried to save the meme

In Brussels, the European legislative bodies were working on new copyright rules. The European Commission's proposal has many flaws. The newly proposed article 11 forces one to pay if they want to link to a news site. Article 13 details the obligation of websites to scan and filter uploaded content: an upload filter. Irrespective of the frequent accuracy issues of such filters, they also render currently normalized practices impossible. Should this law be passed without any changes, the legal usage of copyrighted material will become impossible—a mortal blow for citations, parodies, and memes.

We took the initiative to start the Save the Meme campaign site and ensured that it was translated into eight different languages together with EDRi and epicenter.works. The European Parliament will vote on this legislative proposal in 2018.

We sent 20,000 letters in the name of the National Security Service

On Saturday, November 4th, 20,000 households across the country had a letter from the National Security Service in their mailbox. The letter asked its recipients to book an appointment online for the installment of a ‘relay’ in their home network to make the large scale interception of communications simpler to do for the secret service. When people visited the website, email address, or phone number mentioned by the letter, it was immediately apparent that this was a Bits of Freedom initiative. Readers were redirected to the voting guide for Where do you draw the line? where they were able to get to know the key concerns regarding the new secret service law via five scenarios.

The letter generated particularly large amounts of attention in the local press, and via social media. That same day, the Dutch Secret Service felt obliged to explain on their site that the letter wasn’t from them and the Amsterdam Police advised people to tear up the letter via Twitter. Tens of thousands of people ultimately ended up going through our voting guide.

We put internet liberation in Liberation Day

During the Amsterdam liberation festival on Liberation Day, together with We Are Data, we presented the Mirror Room: In a container, visitors were measured by various sensors, analyzed, and subsequently confronted with their own data. Volunteers of Bits of Groningen ran a ‘Mobiele Wasstraat’ in Groningen.

We organized a sold-out fourth edition of the Godwin lecture together with ARTIS and De Correspondent. Maxim Februari voiced a peerless critique of rationality, and reflected upon the nature of data. You can read the lecture online (in Dutch): Data-hungry states and companies put far more at stake than just your privacy.

We used tracking to inform people about tracking

Together with Panoptikon, we organized a campaign about tracking during the lobbying efforts surrounding the upcoming European e-Privacy legislation. Facebook users were targeted based on their behavior and were shown an advertisement. With this study, we confronted them with the enormous amount of information about users which Facebook shares with its advertisers. The advertisement referred to the campaign site Why Are You Tracking Me? Which explains the excessive ease with which companies are currently able to utilize personal information for purposes such as advertising.

We published a teaching package about the political side of the internet

Much of the available teaching material about the internet concerns media knowhow. It mostly explains how you can properly assess the information available on the internet, and how you can protect yourself from the internet's (social) hazards. The internet itself, and its political effects, aren't actually a part of that particular discussion. Which is why we've made a series of teaching packages readily available in cooperation with Waag Society, titled In Charge Online Six lessons with teaching instructions aimed at pupils from the latter classes of primary school, and the early classes of secondary school, provide accessible and practical assignments that address subject matter such as privacy, internet governance, security, tracking, encryption, and algorithms.

We organized the thirteenth edition of the Big Brother Awards

For the thirteenth year in a row, we've pilloried the year's most brazen privacy violators. This year also featured a dazzling theater performance, including a live band in the Stadsschouwburg in Amsterdam, for hundreds of spectators. Playwrights Oscar Kocken and Daan Windhorst wrote satirical songs and sketches. Winners of the public vote were the cabinet ministers responsible for pushing through the dragnet law. Minister of Home Affairs, Kajsa Ollongren, accepted the prize on behalf of the government. The winner of the expert's vote was Focum, for trading in data without taking any responsibility whatsoever. The positive Felipe Rodriguez Award went to journalist Kashmir Hill for the inimitable way in which she makes privacy problems clear to a large audience.

We launched @freedom.nl email addresses on Liberation Day

We proclaimed June 12, 2017 the Day of the Internet Freedom and did a web-in inspired by Yoko Ono and John Lennon in the Volkshotel. Our presenters laid in bed for 12 hours, receiving new guests every half hour such as Aleid Wolfsen, Linda Duits, Aral Balkan, and Karin Spaink. The efforts of our volunteers were put on display as well: Wouter Moraal gave an elaborate explanation of our Privacy Cafes, and Nepthis Brandsma talked about Bits of Groningen. It was live-streamed in its entirety thanks to Fast Moving Targets. We garnered over 500 donors through this campaign. The imagery of this campaign was designed by KesselsKramer and the campaign site freedom.nl was designed by Van Lennep. A look back at the campaign can be found [here](#).

We also entered into a partnership with email service Soverin. Everyone who becomes a Bits of Freedom donor for a minimum of 10 euros per month is entitled to a surveillance-free @freedom.nl email address with 25GB worth of storage space.

Want a surveillance-free email address too? [Become a donor](#).

We lifted the annual EDRI conference to a higher plane

The members of the European Digital Rights initiative (EDRI) come together each year for a general assembly. The past saw somewhat ineffective ways of using our time together. As a result, for the March 2017 edition that we organized in Amsterdam at Mediamatic, we cranked up the level of ambition. This time, the contents of the schedule were entirely in line with the wishes of the members. There were sessions on fundraising, campaigning, involving volunteers, and ensuring a healthy working environment, but we also gave plenty of attention to the future of digital rights and influencing strategies in a post-truth era. More than 50 attendees from 28 organizations (a record number) came together for this conference.

We have a new logo and website

Having been launched in 2007, our website was starting to show its age. After a thorough selection procedure, we decided to entrust Van Lennep with the design of our new site. They were also given our logo and corporate identity to update. The result was a responsive website with an emphasis on visuals. The site is now more accessible to people who come into contact with our subjects for the first time, but also still serves the people who are professionally engaged in internet freedom. Part of our new corporate identity is our own font, the ‘FREEDOM FONT’ (you’re looking at it now).

More information about our corporate identity can be found [here](#).

We regularly appeared on the radio, on TV, and in the newspaper

We’ve been on radio and TV dozens of times, and have been covered by major evening news channels multiple times over the course of 2017. Newspapers and magazines knew where to find us, too. Below is a small sampling of media appearances:

NOS news about anonymous browsing with Tor

Nieuwsuur in its broadcast about the dangers of the Internet of Things

An opinion piece in the NRC about how the anti-terror policy is making us paranoid

For the startup community with Fast Moving Target regarding the dragnet law

“Big Brother is fucking you” by Powned

The AD about our National Security Service letter

As an expert featured in the Volkskrant in a comprehensive privacy article

Kassa regarding the plan by Dutch Filmworks to stop illegal downloaders

The De Balie podcast about the dragnet law referendum

NOS news about billboards with cameras at train stations

And...

We voiced the EDRi point of view with regards to the application of back doors in encryption. // We organized an evening for the admins of TOR nodes. // We fought for the importance of anonymity. // We said ‘no’ to ‘computer says no’. // We wrote a note about the hacking proposal for the Senate. // We aided in writing amendments to the proposal for new e-privacy regulation. // Via a freedom of information request, we discovered that the police is asking what they are actually supposed to regulate. // Together with Internet Society NL, Kennisland, Netwerk Democratie, Open State Foundation, and Waag Society, we organized a new edition of the Masterclass Internet Politics. // We gave lectures and workshops at dozens (maybe hundreds) of locations: At ministries, conferences, educational institutions, debating centers, political parties, and more. // We moved from Bickersgracht 208 to Prinseneiland 97hs. // We were still the adoptive parent of the pig ‘Big Data’. // We collected from our donors via Triodos instead of via the ABN AMRO. // We made plans for a new version of our Privacy Insight Machine. // Via a freedom of information request, we discovered that the minister is completely disregarding the duty to audit the CIOT annually. // We assisted in a European study into the effectiveness of the retention obligation. // We organized numerous gatherings for our constituency, with interesting speakers. // We shared our perspective on ‘notice

and takedown’ with the European Commission. // The Minister of Economic Affairs adopted our suggestions regarding IMSI-catchers. // Together with a number of other organizations, we wrote a letter to the ‘formateur’ of the new cabinet, with five recommendations to successfully manage the information society. // We wrote numerous movie reviews for the Filmkrant. // We asked all of our followers once again to tune into our ‘Insert User’ podcast. // We supervised the EDRi network group. // We played host to the Tech Solidarity Meetup. // Ehsan Razaghi did a week’s job shadowing internship with us. // We published our ‘Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure’ policy. // We still have a certified in-house emergency response staff member. // We spoke to the Review Committee on the Intelligence and Security Services (CTIVD) about the right to inspect the policies of the secret services. // We were angry about the way companies are also tracking us in the physical world. // We explained several times why it is important to report unknown vulnerabilities to the manufacturer as soon as possible. // We gave multiple lectures at the SHA2017 hackers festival. // Because Translink turned students’ travel data over to DUO, we called on students to request their data from Translink. // We were angry about the cameras in Exterior’s advertising pillars, which were turned off very quickly as a result. // Once again, we explained what the term ‘hacker’

actually means. // We wrote dozens of articles for the EDRI-gram. // Bits of Eindhoven organized its first meeting. // We thought about Next Generation Internet together with Nlnet and Gartner. // We participated in the International Copyright Law Summer Course. // We organized information evenings about legislative proposals. // We pleaded the case for password managers. // We spoke in several hearings in the House of Representatives, for example, about what parliamentarians have called “mutual privacy” and about the market dominance of the Silicon Valley giants. // We organized dozens of Privacy Cafés, appointed Jennifer Veldman as the coordinator of the Cafés, and organized a day for the volunteers. // We created a tool to map out the digital rights movement in Europe: Mapping the Movement.

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ABOUT BITS OF FREEDOM

ABOUT

The statutory objective of Bits of Freedom is “to defend and promote digital civil rights in the information society, with particular emphasis on the fundamental right to freedom of communication and the fundamental right to privacy, as well as everything that is connected with, or capable of being at, the forefront of such issues, all in the broadest sense of the word.”

The team

In 2017, the Bits of Freedom team consisted of the following people: David Korteweg (policy advisor), Evelyn Austin (movement builder), Hans de Zwart (director), Imre Jonk (system administrator), Inge Wannet (office manager), Rejo Zenger (policy advisor), and Ton Siedsma (policy advisor). Daphne van der Kroft was our communication strategist until November, and Tijmen Swaalf came into service on the 1st of April as a campaigner. Karim Khamis supported us as a freelance graphic designer.

Jens Thomaes, Marit Raats, and Jeroen Grooten each interned for a few months. Helma de Boer, Loes Derks van de Ven, and Tim van der Molen were guest bloggers for a number of months.

The board

Up until June 2017, the board consisted of: Lonneke van der Velden (chairman), Clemens la Lau (treasurer), Manon Oostveen, Hermine Masmeyer, and Joris van Hoboken. In the summer, we said goodbye to Joris, who had served two full board terms. The members of the board receive a volunteer’s allowance of €500 per year. The Board received no expense allowance for their Board activities.

The advisory board

The advisory board consists of prominent individuals with expertise in law, politics, media/communication, art, technology, and business. In 2017, the board consisted of the following people: Bart Jacobs (chairman), Anneke Jansen, Antoinette Hertsenberg, Bert-Jaap Koops, Jaap Stronks, Linda Duits, Lineke Sneller, Maxim Februari, Olaf Kolkman, Ot van Daalen, and Sjoera Nas. The members of the advisory board receive no (expense) reimbursement.

More information about the employees, board members, and the members of the advisory board can be found [here](#).

The volunteers

Much of what we do depends on volunteers. Once again this year, hundreds of people invested their time to aid in the fight for internet freedom. They've helped us with translations, web design, and campaigns, and organized their own events. We're deeply grateful for all the help!

Want to become a volunteer? [Here](#) you can.

The international network

We are one of the founders, and an active member of the European Digital Rights initiative (EDRi). Almost 40 organizations are united in this network, all fighting for internet freedom. The network and the European lobby are coordinated from the EDRi's Brussels office.

More information on the network can be found [here](#).

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FINANCES

OUR FINANCES

OUR

Our income over the course of 2017

The 2017 income for Bits of Freedom totaled € 636,468. 38% of that income came from individual donors, large funds contributed 43%, and 8% came from corporate supporters. The final 11% came from project financing. See:t

Income 2017 (x € 1,000)

	Realized 2017	Budgeted 2017	Realized 2016
Individual donors	242	209	197
Funds	276	340	324
Corporate supporters	48	49	44
Remaining	0	0	1
Sub-total	566	598	566
Project-based	70	102	137
Total	636	700	703

We received almost a quarter more support from individual donors than in 2016. We found 317 new regular donors who each donate an average of € 93 per year. This means we'll head into 2018 with 2,754 regular donors each donating approximately € 67 per year.

In 2017, our core expenses were supported by the Adessium Foundation, Internet4all, SIDN, and the Open Society Foundations (OSF).

The following companies supported us with € 5,000 or more: Bitonic, Eureka Unlimited, Leaseweb, and Voys. The following companies contributed € 2,500 or more: Internet, BIT, Greenhost, IB-vision, Mollie, Startmail, and VoIPGRID. We received € 500 or more from the following companies: Argeweb, Autoverzekering - hoyhoy, Auto-verzekeringenvergelijken.nl, Autoverzekering.nl, Baak Detailhandel, Bureau Bolster, Easyswitch.nl, First8, GeoCat, Green Mini host, Het Rooster, iCulture, Independer, Intermax Managed Hosting, Kennisland, Kentekencheck.nu, m7, NederHost, NetExpert, Nijweide BV, Overstappen.nl, PCextreme, Pricewise - energie, PrivacyLab, Prijs Vergelijken, RealConnections, Saldo Management, Savvii Managed Wordpress Hosting, Serinus42, Sooda internetbureau B.V., Telefoon Abonnement, Tifkap Enterprises, Unc

Inc., VBVB ICT, Het Vertaalcollectief, Vimexx, VoiceCowboys, and Zygomatic. Finally, we received support in kind from: Bitonic, Blendle, Cyso, Leaseweb, Mollie, Nines, Xolphin, and XS4ALL.

The Amsterdam 4th and 5th of May committee and Het Vrije Westen contributed to the organization of the ‘Mobiele Wasstraat,’ and to the Godwin lecture on Liberation Day. We received support from Stichting Democratie en Media to set up the campaign on behalf of the National Security Service. The Big Brother Awards were jointly financed by XS4ALL, the Digital Rights Fund, and the Stadsschouwburg Amsterdam. The Open Society Foundations (OSF) were prepared to support Max Schrems’ court case against Facebook. Because Max didn’t have a foundation at that time, we acted as an intermediary. We received € 42,794 from the OSF to pay his expenses.

Our expenses in 2017

The 2017 expenses amounted to € 643,553.

Expenses 2017 (x € 1.000)

	Realized 2017	Budgeted 2017	Realized 2016
Personnel costs	460	495	399
Housing	37	59	26
Office	7	17	7
Communications	19	18	27
Establishing the movement	16	16	7
General costs	26	35	19
Sub-total	565	640	485
Specific projects	79	126	130
Total	644	766	616

The majority of the project costs came from organizing the Big Brother Awards and from immediately making available the financial resources necessary for Max Schrems to conduct his court case.

The 2017 results

The depreciations were € 9,337 in 2017 and the financial income was € 132. After this, the year concluded with a negative result of € 16,422. This difference between income and expenditure has been compensated via the continuity reserves.

Bits of Freedom aims to be as efficient as possible. Our goal is to never spend more than 20% of our funds on fundraising, management, or administration. The most important fund raiser over the course of 2017 was the 12-hour live stream of the Day of Internet Freedom. Approximately 7.3% of our funds went to fundraising efforts in 2017. On top of this, approximately 8% of our funds were spent on management and administration. Almost 85% of our spent resources went directly towards our goal as Bits of Freedom: the defense of digital rights.

With regards to asset management and financial reserves, Bits of Freedom strives to maintain continuity reserves of at least a quarter of its annual costs for the coming year. These reserves are used to guarantee the continuity of the foundation for a number of months in case of unexpectedly high expenses, disappointingly low, or delayed income, and to be able to take responsible risks with our budgeting. At the end of 2017, the reserves amounted to € 252,475. No

investments are made into high-risk financial products.

The annual financial report for 2017 has been audited by WITH Accountants (specialized in non-profit organizations) and can be downloaded [here](#).

Our estimated budget for 2018

We expect an income of € 719,857 over the course of 2018.

Expected income 2018 (x € 1,000)

	Budgeted 2018
Individual donors	256
Funds	251
Corporate supporters	49
Remaining	0
Sub-total	556
Specific projects	148
New projects	15
Total	720

We want to find 500 new regular donors that will contribute an average of € 85 per year. Numerous foundations have already pledged their support for 2018 (Adessium, Internet4All, Open Society Foundations, and SIDN), and it’s our ambition to find another foundation in 2018, willing to pledge € 15,000. We expect to find € 5,000 worth of new corporate supporters. The project income depends on allocated subsidies for specific projects and events. We already know that Stichting Democratie en Media will contribute € 23,740 to our project to engage local groups, and that the SIDN fund will give € 53,136 to enable revisions of our data access request tool. On top of these additions, we are also receiving € 51,777 from Mozilla with which to pay an Open Web Fellow. Last but not least, we’ve requested € 49,978 from the referendum commission to campaign against the dragnet law.

The core expenses of Bits of Freedom are expected to amount to € 619,307 in 2018, taking into account seven people working four or more days a week and three part-time employees (7.8 FTE) and with unforeseen costs. The budgets of several specific projects and events have already been taken into account, to the sum of € 158,353. Think, for example, of a new edition of the Big Brother Awards, 5th of May activities, the referendum campaign, a new data access request tool, and work done by local

branches. The actual project costs (and subsequently the decision to carry out projects or not) is partially dependent on how many project subsidies are granted. With this, the total projected expenses amount to € 792,651.

Expected expenses 2018 (x € 1.000)

Budgeted 2018	
Personnel costs	510
Housing	28
Office	12
Communications	5
Establishing movement	20
General costs	44
Sub-total	619
Specific projects	158
New projects	15
Total	793

The difference between income and expenditure is € 72.794. This negative result will be supplemented from the continuity reserves, bringing them to the desired level (25% of the expected costs of the next financial year).

Our financing for the coming years

A sustainable financial situation is very important to Bits of Freedom. As such, we prefer structural financing over project-based financing. The point of departure for our fundraising efforts is to keep Bits of Freedom completely independent. As much as possible, we aim to always plan ahead 5 years with our financial planning.

We are financed via four main sources. Our objective is that at least a third of our funding should come from individual donors. Additionally, we'd also like at least a third of our income to come from funds and foundations. We never want the amount of corporate supporters to exceed a third of our total income, and no individual corporate supporter contributes anything exceeding 10% of our continuity reserves. To conclude, we also receive project funds on top of our core funding.

It'll be a challenge to stay at the current size, with an occupancy of 8 FTE, the upcoming years. The multi-year funding by several funds will end in 2019, and a number of them have indicated that they won't extend this funding. Our number of new donors is growing rapidly (up to 59% of our income in 2022), and we're investing in the search for corporate supporters that will contribute 14% of our income 5 years from now. However, this still leaves a gap in our budget ranging between € 105,000 and

€ 205,000. This will have to be filled out via a renewal of contracts with existing funds, and the discovery of new ones.

Do you want to support Bits of Freedom with your company? Have a look [here](#).

Supporting Bits of Freedom is fiscally advantageous for private donors as well. Check [this](#).



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WE'LL CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR INTERNET FREEDOM IN 2018

Our privacy and freedom of communication will be under pressure once more the coming year. Here's a taste of our 2018 plans. We're fighting for your internet freedom:

By saying 'No!' to the dragnet law

In the first few months of the year, we'll be hard at work with the campaign against the dragnet law for the secret services. In all manner of ways, we'll will explain how a 'no' vote in the referendum is a vote for a better law.

If the dragnet isn't removed from the law by means of the referendum, we will try to get it done by a judge. That'd be a war of attrition, so we're glad that we wouldn't be waging it alone. We're working together with a large coalition led by the Public Interest Litigation project (PILP). The coalition has found a lawyer and is preparing to submit the summons as soon as the law comes into force.

By being a guide to the Internet of Things

We're sick and tired of all the ludicrous incidents caused by the Internet of Things. Not a day goes by without toys being hacked, a supplier remotely terminating a service, or the discovery that a supposedly powered-off device was in fact secretly storing information. Which is why we'll be publishing our recommendations next year about what we feel should be better taken care of with regards to the Internet of Things. We'll be actively tracking the problems that occur over the course of the second part of the year, and holding the manufacturers accountable.

By tightening up the powers afforded to the police

The government is presently revising the Code of Criminal Procedure. This law details exactly what lengths the police is allowed to go to, to tackle crime. The police's work is becoming ever more digital in nature. We feel that a number of issues need to be improved upon. For example, the use of digital tools puts an ever increasing number of innocent civilians in the government's cross-hairs. We're concerned that the consequences of digital methods of detection are becoming more and more harmful, while the associated guarantees against misuse are falling behind, and are also

observing how the increasing intermingling of government and industry complicates the ability to properly regulate these processes. We have several concrete suggestions for improvement which we'll be sharing with the Ministry of Justice and Security over the coming years.

By fighting T-Mobile for net neutrality

When one has a 'Data-free Music' subscription with T-Mobile, listening to certain music services doesn't subtract data from your bundle. This kind of zero rating violates the net neutrality principle: all Bits must be treated equally. If not, the freedom of internet users becomes compromised. Up until now, the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM) has sided with T-Mobile, but we have appealed against this. The hearing is now behind us. We'll decide on our next steps after the verdict is delivered in 2018.

By giving insight into what companies know about us

At the end of May 2018, the new European data protection laws went into effect for everyone. We've been helping you for years to see exactly what information companies are storing about you. We want to do an even better job over the course of the coming year. We are creating a tool to easily exercise your rights: My Data Done Right. With the help of a large group of volunteers and partner organizations, we'll make this tool available across all of Europe.

By having a presence at every liberation festival

For the past few years, we've been at the liberation festival in Amsterdam with our 'Mobiele Wasstraat' to help people 'wash' their mobile phone. We've got bigger plans this year: We want to utilize volunteers to be present at all fourteen liberation festivals simultaneously, using a smart game to tempt visitors to give some more careful thought to the true meaning of internet freedom, and how it might best be safeguarded. We'll be organizing the fifth Godwin lecture in the evening.

By providing people with the tools to get to work themselves

More and more people are starting to value privacy and freedom of communication, and are eager to help us protect everyone's internet freedom. We'll be making this a great deal easier over the coming year. Numerous do-it-yourself kits will enable volunteers to easily organize their own activities about privacy or freedom of communication. Think of something along the lines of a movie screening combined with an access request, a café evening with theses and debates, or a Privacy Café

where people are taught how to secure their phone. We're hoping that on top of Bits of Groningen and Bits of Eindhoven, we'll also have a couple of Bits of {insert your favorite cities} extra by the end of 2018.

And by keeping a sharp eye on everything, and sharing our work as much as possible

We're doing far more than this, of course. Naturally, we're keeping a close eye on copyright issues within Europe. We'll be at the forefront of protests when yet another government feels the need to build back doors into our encrypted communications, our volunteers will be organizing dozens of Privacy Cafés, we'll be speaking at an endless amount of events, and the media won't be able to ignore us when it comes to digital rights.

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COLOPHON

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Stichting Bits of Freedom (Bof) is based in Amsterdam and is registered with the Chamber of Commerce under number 34121286. The Bits of Freedom organization consists of the board of directors (board) and the bureau. The bureau is comprised of the director and other employees. An independent advisory board assists the director with regards to substantive strategic issues. The director is responsible for the daily strategic management of Bits of Freedom.

Bits of Freedom is a Public Benefit Organization (ANBI).

[Statutes](#)

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