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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Free Speech Online Announces Major Software Upgrade for CGIProxy**

Berkeley, CA: The [Berkeley Institute for Free Speech Online](https://FreeSpeechOnline.net) (Free Speech Online), this month announced UX and security updates for the original circumvention tool CGIProxy. Created in 1996 in response to censorship in China and Singapore, CGIProxy has served millions in high risk settings and led to the generic use of the term “a cgi proxy”. Its open source code contributed to the development of other commonly used circumvention tools. Also, its creator James Marshall and users have supported and contributed to human rights activism from the earliest days of the Internet freedom community.

CGIProxy, which has always been offered to citizens free of charge, keeps activists and journalists secure and anonymous to bypass censorship wherever they are. As internet freedom declines for the sixth year in a row and governments around the world heighten surveillance to protect against threats of terrorism and hate speech, the ability to bypass censorship has never been more important.

“Free speech is a fundamental element of functioning democracies,” says James Marshall, President of Free Speech Online. “The threats to free speech on the Internet are greater than ever, and we’re proud to make it easier to offer secure and anonymous access to the world’s information.” Marshall has dedicated his career to Internet freedom, regularly iterating and improving CGIProxy and supporting others in the anti-censorship community.

As an independent proxy that doesn’t require the user to download anything (called clientless), CGIProxy was already amongst the easiest to use-- an automatic installation wizard now makes it easier for proxy owners to set up. Security has always been its most critical design principle. Ongoing security improvements and audits ensure that it will remain a leader in protecting users around the world, including places of high surveillance such as China and Iran.

Free Speech Online shepherds the production and enhancement of CGIProxy. Its work is made possible through donations from individuals, foundations, and bilateral and multilateral organizations such as the US Department of State. To support Free Speech Online and ensure the Internet remains open and free, visit <https://FreeSpeechOnline.net>.

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