



Original Free Speech Online Tool Creator Calls on the Power of the Crowd

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The Berkeley Institute for Free Speech Online seeks to raise \$30,000 for development of the original censorship defeating software CGIProxy to support human rights advocates and journalists everywhere.

For the first time ever, the [Berkeley Institute for Free Speech Online](#) (Free Speech Online for short) launched a fundraiser "[Because Every Voice Matters](#)" on crowd-funding site CrowdRise this week, asking free speech lovers everywhere to support its free open source tool CGIProxy.

Two out of three Internet users around the world live in countries that censor information, and government restrictions worldwide are growing. Free Speech Online puts the software for access and privacy into the hands of the people who need them the most, and makes its content-neutral tools available to every web user around the world for free— because people should decide for themselves what to share and what to seek. Millions of people use Free Speech Online's original anticensorship tool CGIProxy to stay secure while accessing and sharing information from the entire web.

CGIProxy is a sophisticated piece of open source software that gives individuals and communities the power to access the full web in security and privacy, no matter where they are. Created by founder James Marshall in 1996 as a response to censorship in China, CGIProxy was the first censorship circumvention tool to launch. CGIProxy has been consistently upgraded to offer support to the most complex of web technologies. In many places, it is a human rights activist's only protection from government surveillance. Other circumvention tool creators study CGIProxy's open source code to learn how to address technical challenges. CGIProxy is the only decentralized, free anticensorship tool currently in production

FREE SPEECH NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT. For less than a fraction of a cent per person, we can ensure all people can safely access and share information everywhere.

"It's important to us to keep CGIProxy free for anyone who needs it anywhere," says James Marshall, President of the Berkeley Institute for Free Speech Online. "After 21 years of bootstrapping, developing, sharing, and improving CGIProxy, we now ask for your help in spreading the word. Traditional funding sources are stretched thin and the need has never been greater: Please consider giving to nurture this unique, democracy and peace enabling technology."

To help build the movement, you can donate and share the [Berkeley Institute for Free Speech Online on their CrowdRise page](#) now. Help us reach the goal of \$30,000 and spread the word!

The **Berkeley Institute for Free Speech Online** supports the development and outreach of free speech software, starting with CGIProxy, which its founder James Marshall introduced 21 years ago.

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James Marshall is available for interviews.