



Leader in Decentralized Free Speech Technology Invites Cryptocurrency Donations and the Power of the Crowd

BERKELEY, California, November 20, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

For the first time, the [Berkeley Institute for Free Speech Online](#) (Free Speech Online for short) now accepts donations through Bitcoin, the decentralized blockchain-based cryptocurrency. Donations received through Bitcoin qualify for a charitable tax donation and are not subject to capital gains taxes. Therefore, donors who give through Bitcoin enjoy a double tax benefit that ensures the full amount of the donation can be used to support free speech efforts.

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 the only decentralized, free anticensorship tool currently in production. It is a sophisticated 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 Internet 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.

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. "The decentralized nature of CGIProxy makes it uniquely replicable and scalable," says James Marshall, President of the Berkeley Institute for Free Speech Online says. "Upgrades to the tool are critical for continuing to ensure security and ease of use for all, and we are enthusiastic about the potential for critical support through decentralized currencies."

To help build the movement, you can donate and share the [Berkeley Institute for Free Speech Online on their CrowdRise page or through their website](#) now with Bitcoin or cash. This giving season, help Free Speech Online 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.