

## **Week 4**

**Cass R. Sunstein—**

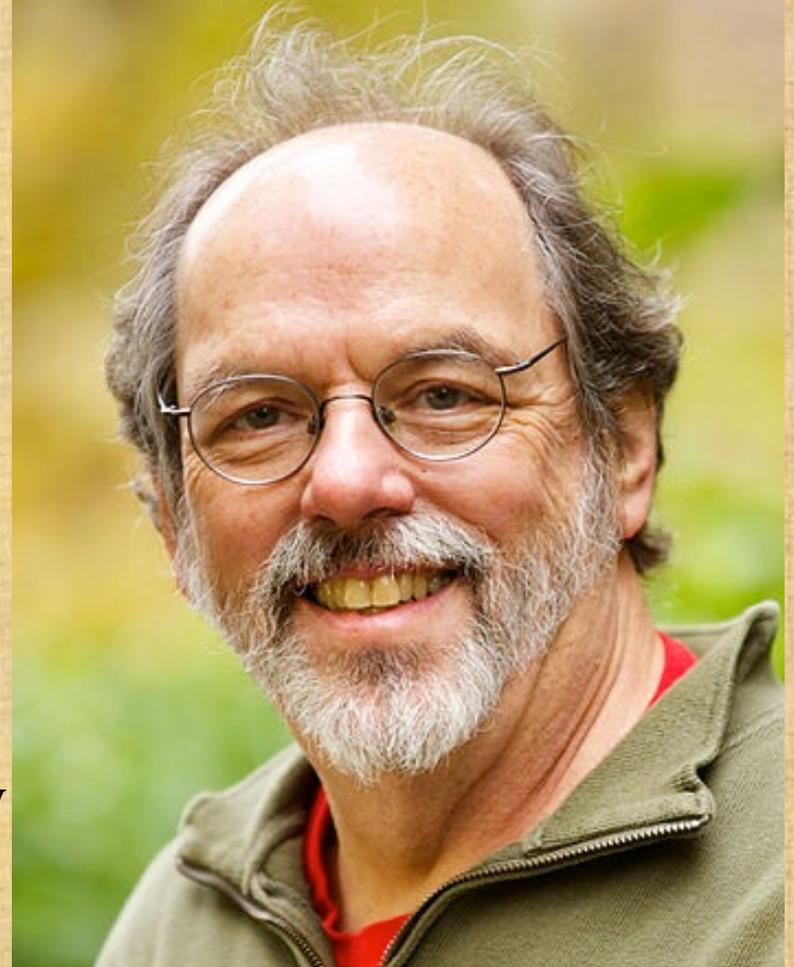
***Many Working Minds:***

***Wikis, Open Source Software, and Blogs***

**Wiki**—is from the Hawaiian word  
*wiki* or *kiwiki*,  
which means *fast* or *speedy*.

**Howard G. “Ward” Cunningham**  
created wiki  
in 1994 with [WikiWikiWeb](#).

He wanted “the simplest  
online database that could possibly  
work.”



**Bol Leuf said of wiki, “Wiki is inherently democratic  
—every user has exactly  
the same capabilities as any other user.”**

**That statement raises all sorts of potential  
problems from posting erroneous material  
or other unfair practices.**

**So why does the democratic experiment work?**

**Sunstein think that it has not been misused,  
because everyone wants Cunningham's  
democratic experiment to function well.**

**What do you think about a world  
full of kind and gentle computer users?**

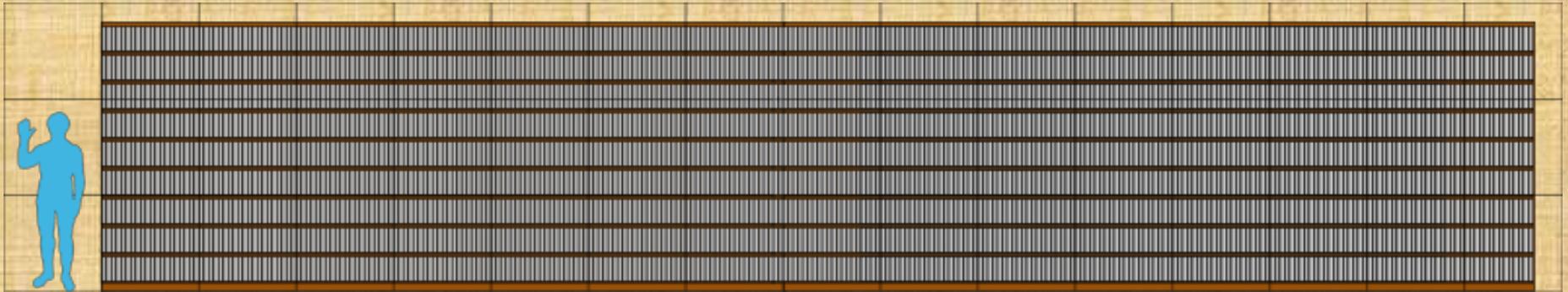
# Wikipedia

**Wikipedia's mission is “to distribute a free encyclopedia to every single person on the planet in their own language.”**



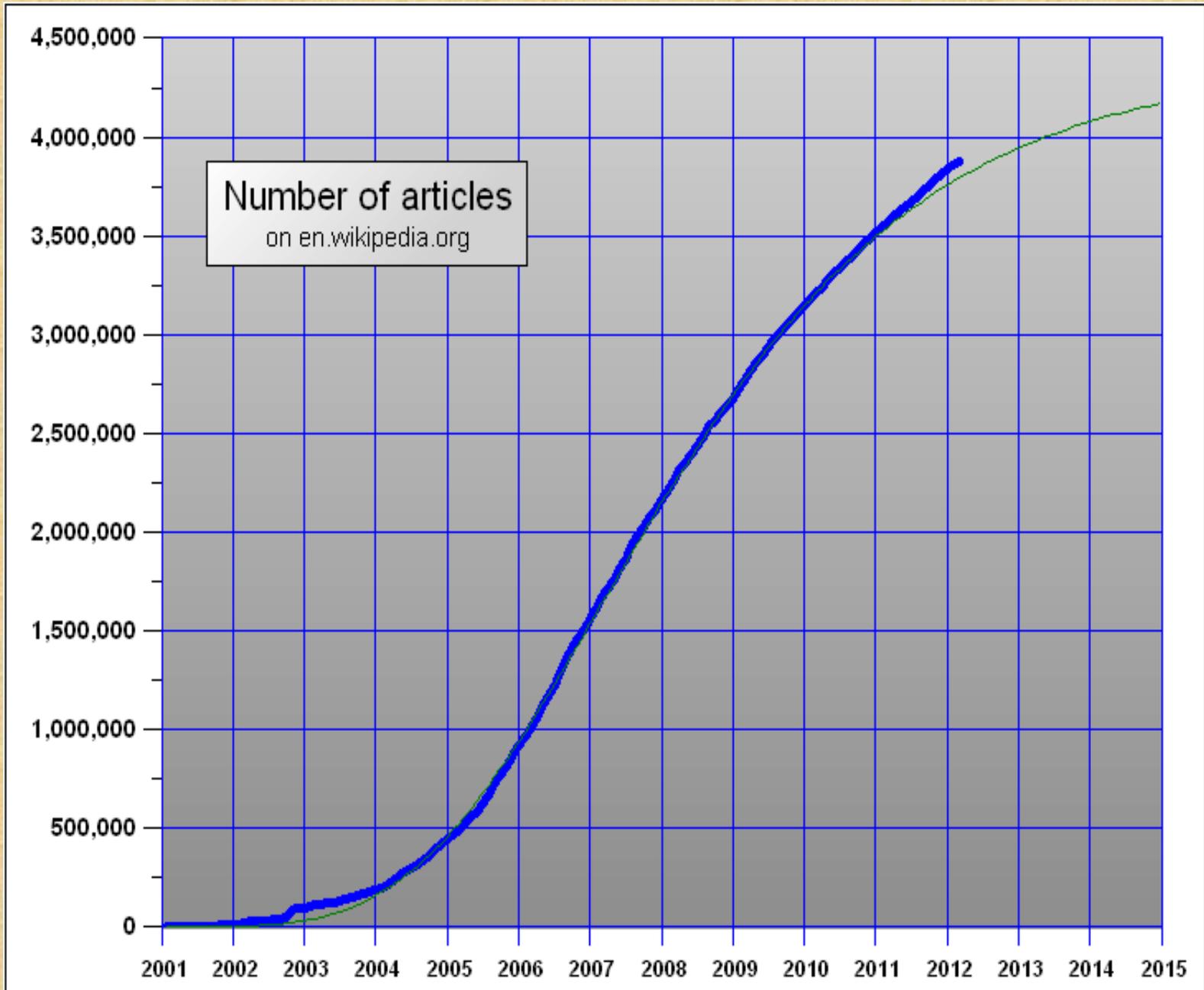
**WIKIPEDIA**  
*The Free Encyclopedia*

**There are nearly 4 million English articles on wiki...  
as of 3/10/12.**



**An image estimating the size of a printed version of  
Wikipedia as of August 2010. ([Up-to-date image](#)  
using volumes of [Encyclopædia Britannica](#))**

**Therefore, one would have to double the graph  
if using the 4 million articles as of today.**



**Wiki is #6 on the top 10 visited websites in the States.**

- 1. Google**
- 2. Facebook**
- 3. Yahoo! (emails)**
- 4. YouTube**
- 5. Amazon**
- 6. Wikipedia**
- 7. Twitter**
- 8. Blogspot**
- 9. Craigslist**
- 10. MSN Hotmail**



**Years ago, humans got God ticked off,  
and the result was that humans were given  
many languages at the Tower of Babel.**

**However, wiki is resolving our language problem.**

# WIKIPEDIA

## English

*The Free Encyclopedia*

3 543 000+ articles

## 日本語

フリー百科事典

730 000+ 記事

## Deutsch

*Die freie Enzyklopädie*

1 181 000+ Artikel

## Français

*L'encyclopédie libre*

1 061 000+ articles

## Italiano

*L'enciclopedia libera*

768 000+ voci

## Español

*La enciclopedia libre*

710 000+ artículos

## Русский

*Свободная энциклопедия*

654 000+ статей

## Português

*A enciclopédia livre*

669 000+ artigos



## Polski

*Wolna encyklopedia*

769 000+ haseł

## Nederlands

*De vrije encyclopedie*

668 000+ artikelen

**Sunstein said of wiki,  
“...it dwarfs the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.”**

**His point was in volume/size,  
but some of the articles are not perfect  
with important omissions and errors.**

**Nevertheless, volunteers attempt to correct  
the problems quickly with hundreds  
of revisions on an hourly basis.**

**Sunstein discusses the concept that in wiki  
that authorship is corporate.  
Articles are started, edited, reedited, etc.**

**That also allows for copying data  
and using it without legal issues.**



**GNU Free Documentation License is used by wiki.**

**Sunstein raises the issue of impartiality  
of various authors on hot-button issues.**

**Wiki attempts to alert the readers  
to this problem with this Stop Hand.**



# **Why Wikis Work (or Not)**

**Should the ones that do most of the editing receive a franchise and a “more powerful status?”**

**Then what would stop someone from getting to that status and then mess with the message and have control over differing points of view?**

# **Wikis and More Wikis**

**Other media outlets have experimented  
with the wiki model  
with varying degrees of success.**

**The *Los Angeles Times* attempt failed  
and *Esquire's* succeeded.**

**There is a large range of new types of wikis.  
The range from Wikicities, to World Wind Wiki,  
to Wikispecies, to Wikisource, to Meta-Wiki,  
to Flu Wiki, to Urban Dictionary, etc.**

**I looked up *dime* in the Urban Dictionary.**

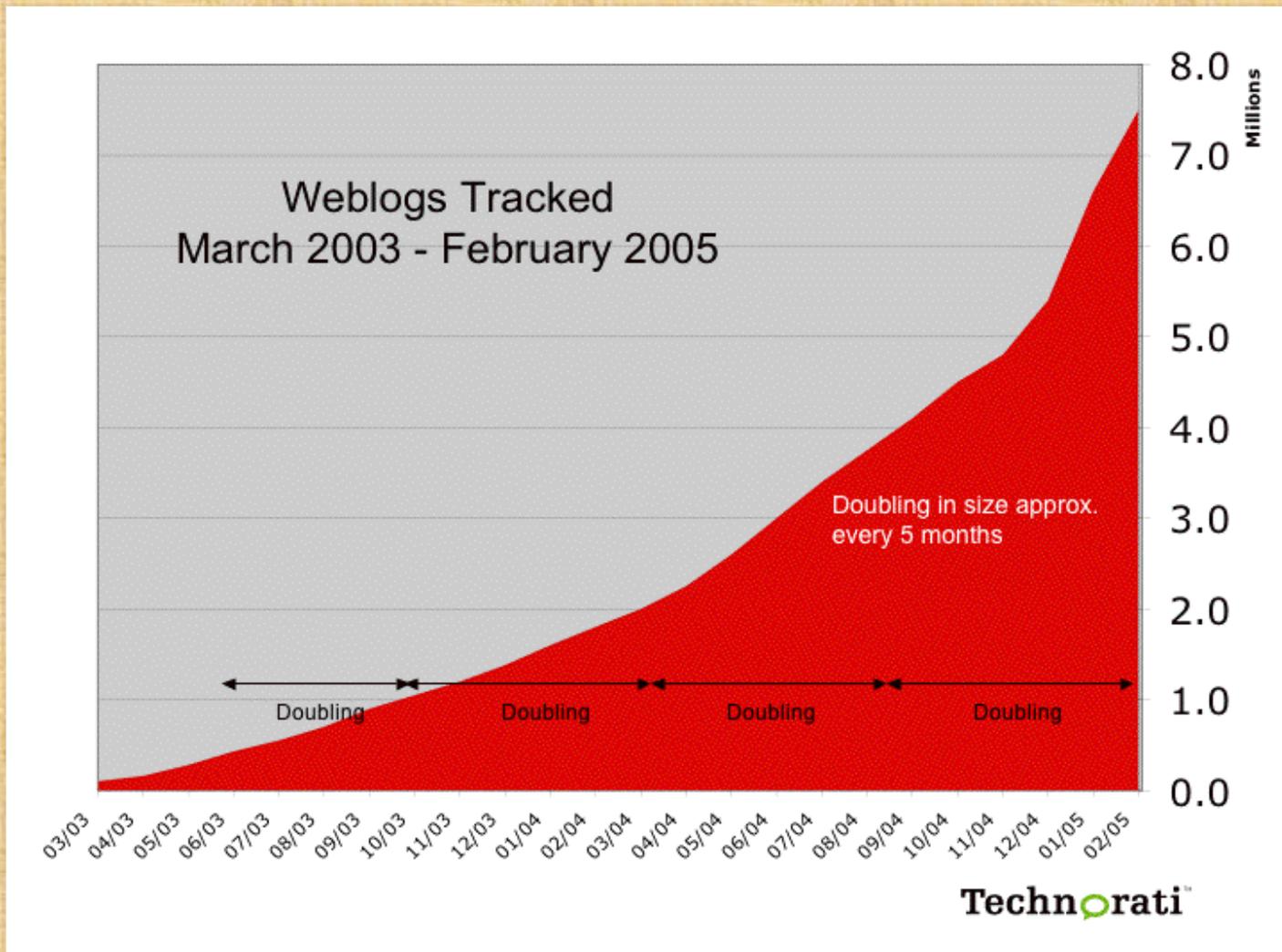
**What does it mean?**

**From the Urban Dictionary's thesaurus for dime:**

**sexy hot weed hottie fine nickel girl ten money  
dime piece beautiful marijuana piece quarter  
chick ass babe dub cute pot**

# Blogs

**Weblogs are also growing rapidly.**



**And that was 7 years ago  
when it was 8 million....**

**Today, according to wiki,  
“As of 16 February 2011...,  
there were over 156 million  
public blogs in existence.”**

**Atrios, Instapundit, and Daily Kos  
are the most visited blogs.**

# **Stories about Blogs**

**Glenn Reynolds teaches law  
at University of Tennessee  
and started Instapundit in 2001.**

**His nickname is *the Blogfather*.**

# **Blog Triumphalism?**

**On a number of occasions blogger found things that affected the general populace.**

- 1. Rather-gate and memos about Bush**
- 2. Trent Lott praised Strom Thurmond**
- 3. John Kerry remembered  
Christmas in Cambodia**

# **Not Hayek: Problems in the Blogosphere**

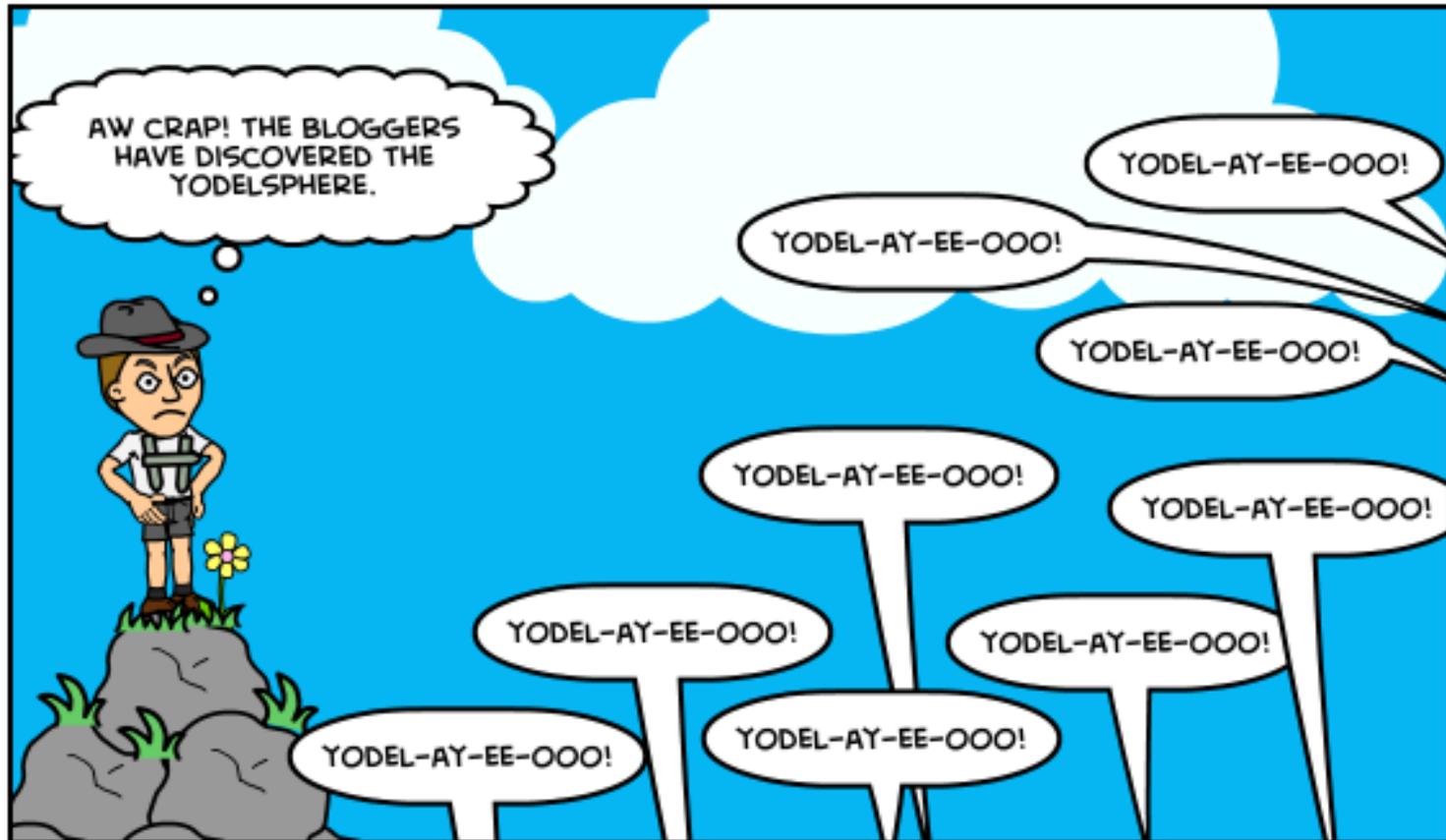
**Blogs lack peer review. There is also a lack of monetary interest for either good or bad blogging.**

**Sunstein discusses another problem with blogs; they tend to be read by people who agree with the blogger. Conservatives do not generally read liberal bloggers and vice versa.**

# Sunstein calls blogs the echo chamber effect.

ECHO CHAMBER IN THE ALPS

BY GUHMSHOO



Do you hear feedback,  
or is that just the  
echo chamber?

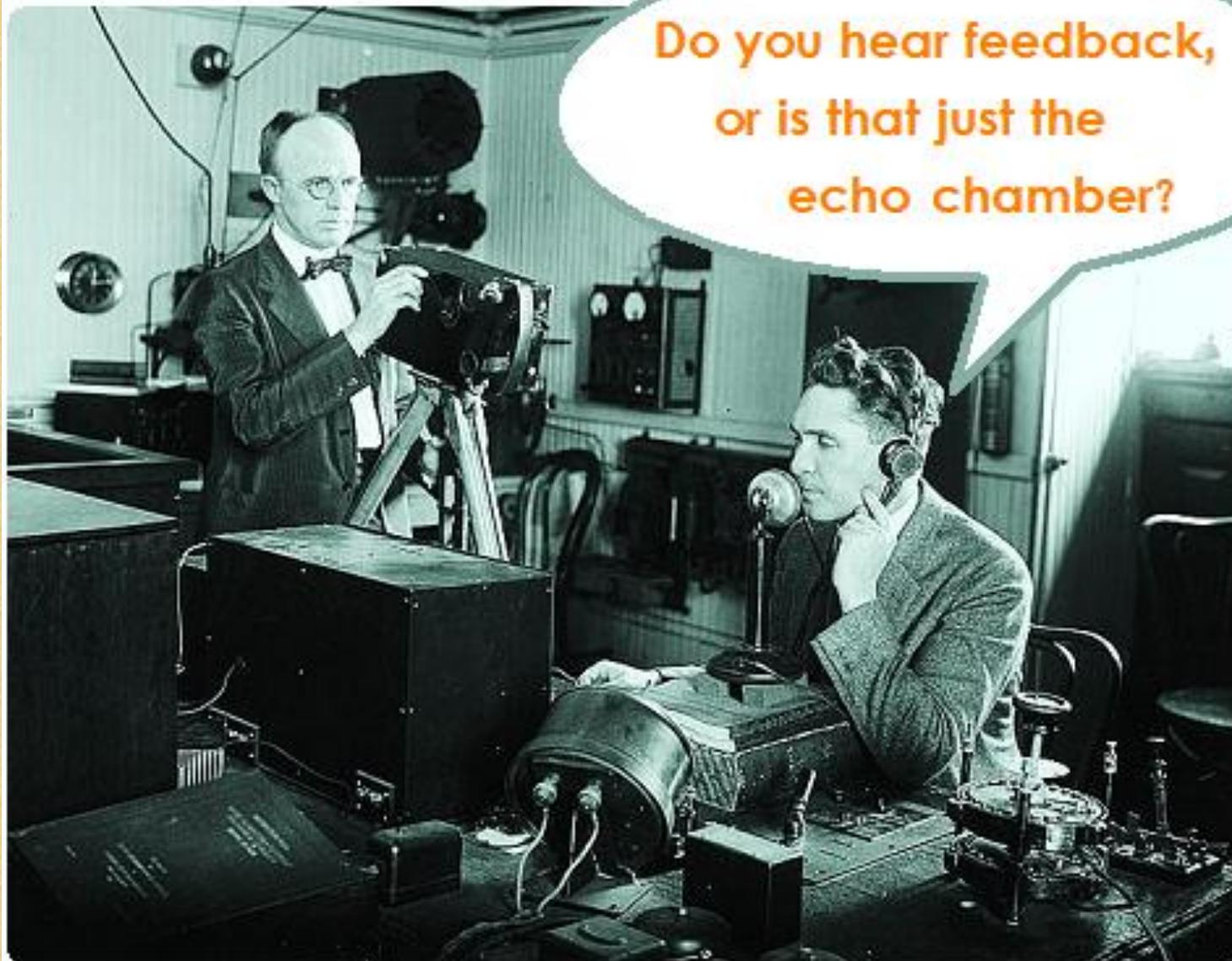


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**Ditto-heads love the great Ditto.**



<http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/409941/march-05-2012/rush-limbaugh-apologizes-to-sandra-fluke>

# Evidence

**Sunstein cites some early research that finds  
“91% of he links are to like-minded sites.”**

**He calls this the cocoon effect  
and is similar to the echo chamber effect.**



# **Creative Futures for Many Minds**

**Finally, Sunstein addresses  
the aggregate dispersed information issue.**

**[www.slashdot.org](http://www.slashdot.org) News for nerds, stuff that  
matters.... This is a site for engaging discussion.  
It has a grading device for their viewers  
to record their rating.**

The logo for Angie's list, featuring the text "Angie's list." in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word "Angie's" is written in a slightly larger font size than "list.". The apostrophe in "Angie's" is stylized with a small house icon above it. The entire logo is set against a solid green rectangular background.

**[www.angieslist.com](http://www.angieslist.com) does the same thing that was started years before by the Better Business Bureau.**



**[www.eBay.com](http://www.eBay.com) also does a similar evaluation with messages describing their rating on a product.**

**Open source software also has  
a possible even brighter future.**



**open source**

