

The Rise of Pirates

Rick Falkvinge, The Pirate Party

Why? - *Catalyzing events*

What? - *New politics*

How? - *New methods*

Why? - *Catalyzing events*

What has happened?

What has happened?

The information monopoly of the government has been broken.

Historical precedents:

- Printing press
- Broadcast radio
- Television

What has happened?

So, what's new this time around?

- The publications are decentralized
- Zero or small publication cost
- Information chain is bidirectional

What opportunities have risen?

- Independent review of power
- Uncontrollable information flow
- Public, anonymous debate on previously stigmatized subjects
- Dramatically easier to organize large groups of people (100,000+)

Threats

- IDEAS that are uncontrolled
- FACTS that get checked & verified
- ORGANIZED PEOPLE everywhere

These are serious threats to any establishment that relies on controlling the newsfeeds.

Additional threats

- **BUSINESSES** that stop working

Any business that relies on having control of the flow of digital information will stop working.

Ironically, these businesses – the copyright industry – becomes the government's best excuse to try to counter the threat.

What is threatened?

An establishment consisting of media, government and senior academics can no longer control the public discourse.

- New ideas are presented
- Old facts are challenged
- People get new frames of reference

Measures

Copyright business threatened:

- Eliminate fair trials

Challenging ideas and facts posted anonymously:

- Eliminate anonymity

No control of discourse:

- Introduce censorship, wiretapping, and data retention

Countermeasures

Technical countermeasures:

- Encryption
- Anonymity tunnels, providers
- Multi-layer onion routing

What? - *New politics*

What are we demanding?

Summary of platform

The Pirate Parties are the next-generation civil liberties movement.

Right to postal secrecy

It is absolutely forbidden for government to open or examine letters in the mail, even if they know that the mail flow contains narcotics. Not to mention illegally copied letters, jokes, music, or movies.

We demand the laws to apply online as well as offline.

The postal secret is vital.

Right to postal secrecy

It is absolutely forbidden for government to register who is sending letters to whom and when.

We demand the laws to apply online as well as offline.

The postal secret is vital (and should be labelled a communications secret).

Right to anonymous opinions

The right to send a letter in the mail without specifying a sender has been around for centuries, and is vital.

We demand the laws to apply online as well as offline.

The author of a letter or an idea decides themselves when to break anonymity.

Right to culture

Public libraries arrived in 1850.

Since then, people have been able to freely take part of all of humanity's collective knowledge and culture.

We demand the laws to apply online as well as offline.

Access to culture has always boosted civilization and ideas.

Immunity of the messenger

Since the Roman Empire, the messenger immunity has been absolute. The messenger is never responsible for the contents of a message.

We demand the laws to apply online as well as offline.

Neutrality of the infrastructure

It is unthinkable for government to try to stop all letters to or from certain valid addresses, based on moral, business or other criteria.

We demand the laws to apply online as well as offline.

The infrastructure, the network, must be entirely neutral.

Right to knowledge

We also demand that the commercial monopolies on knowledge known as patents are gradually dismantled.

Civilization grows when people build on each others' ideas.

The Copyright Monopoly

- Copyright is thought of, and defended, by some as being “property”.
- Rather, it is a strong limitation of property rights.

The Copyright Monopoly

If I buy a chair:

- can copy
- can disassemble, reuse
- can put out for neighbors
- normal for property



The Copyright Monopoly

If I buy a DVD:

- none of this



How? - *New methods*

Dropkicking the structures

Dropkicking the establishment

The generation growing up now communicates...

- Faster,
- More efficiently, and
- On a larger scale

...than any generation before it.

Oldmedia is no longer needed to distribute ideas.

Dropkicking the establishment

The Pirate Party in Sweden got 7.1% in the European Elections. We beat three of the parties in Parliament.

Our budget: €50,000.

Their budget: €6,000,000.

This, if nothing else, shows that you **can** play by new rules.

Don't wait for permission

It is a challenge to create a collective out of 50,000 individualists who distrusts authority.

Our solution was to **never require, and never wait for permission.**

We trust our activists. If three members want to do something, they can – and should – just do it.

Get everybody writing and talking

It is not enough to write online. Rather, it is a catalyst to offline discussions.

Get everybody writing on blogs - and speaking in their own social circles.

Use blogs as a leverage to spread ideas. Help people who **want** to talk about the ideas, to do so.

Get everybody writing and talking

Provide sources. Provide confidence.
Provide documents.

There are several hundred thousand blogs in Sweden. Of the top five influential, four are pirates.

(The fifth is a gossip blog.)

The best Member of Parliament is at rank 26.

Get everybody writing and talking

Don't like the media.

Be the media.

Wait for nobody.

Ask no one for permission.

Use speed of communication to your advantage.

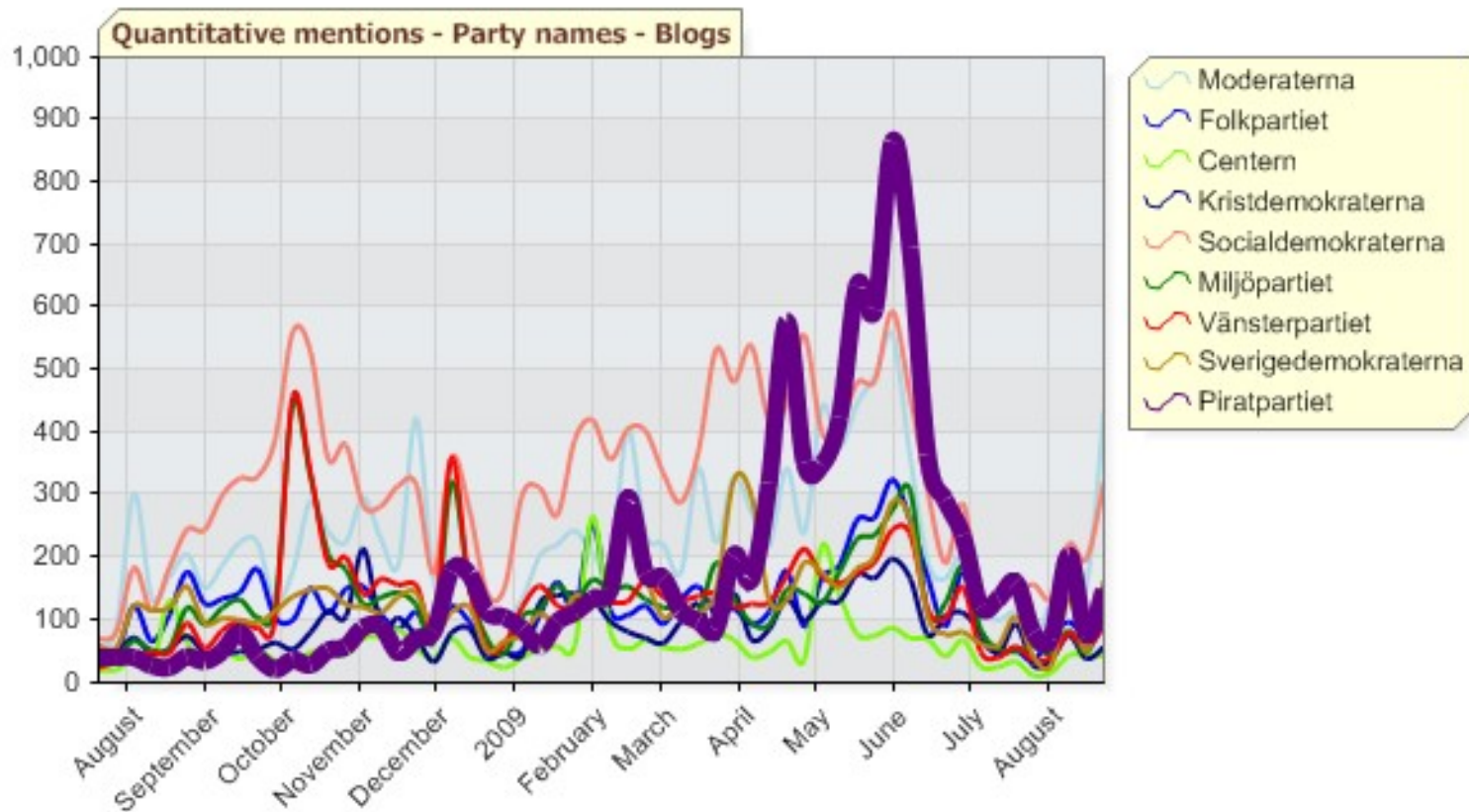
Get everybody writing and talking

When we opened at 5.1% in the first poll for the European Elections, we were **done**. We were **home**.

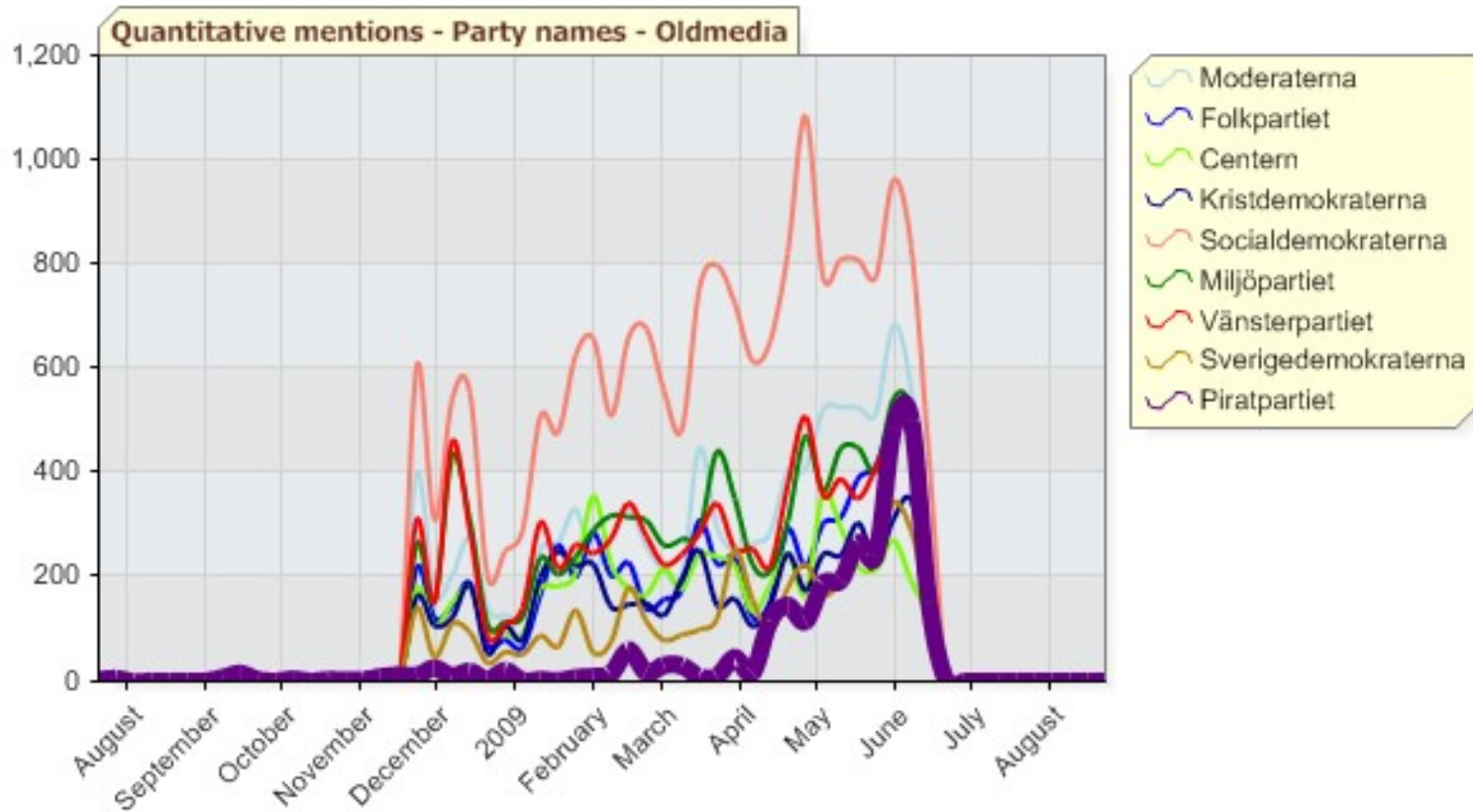
It was only then, when we got out-of-the-blue winning scores in the first poll, that oldmedia started writing about us.

Betting companies lowered their odds for us from 8x the money to 1.2x the money.

Blogosphere talk



Oldmedia talk



You can do this, too

- We pulled this off having
 - **no** salaried person
 - not **one** square meter of office space
 - web servers in a **garage** and a **closet**
 - 17,000 activists – eventually

We are not magical. We are not geniuses. We just communicate and organize like people do today.

If we can do this, you can too.

Thank you.

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Pirates Are Needed

Recent actions by copyright lobby:

- 4 years in prison for *accepting* file sharing
- Equating file sharing with child porn
- Demanding abolition of messenger immunity
- Demanding filtering of all communications
- Demanding right to cut off Internet
- Applauding mass surveillance legislation