The Future of Computing and Why You Should Care

•

Todd Weaver
Digital Rights Activist
Founder – Purism, SPC

Purism

A little about me...

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6 statements

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True

False

1.
I was born in the US capital, Washington DC, on Independence Day in 1974 making my birthday 74-7-4.

2.
I have been a digital rights activist since 1995.

3.

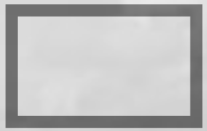
I played bass guitar for a decade in a punk rock band I joined in 2003.

4.

I built, wrote, and deployed over 250,000 GNU based hardware media players in 2005.

5.

I started the first online cable company in 2007 and was sued for $30b by 34 Big Media companies for copyright infringement.



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6.

I wrote and directed a play about the double-entendre of the word “booty” in a pirate and mermaid musical called Pirate Booty in 2017.

"The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people, but the silence over that by the good people."

~ MLK Jr.

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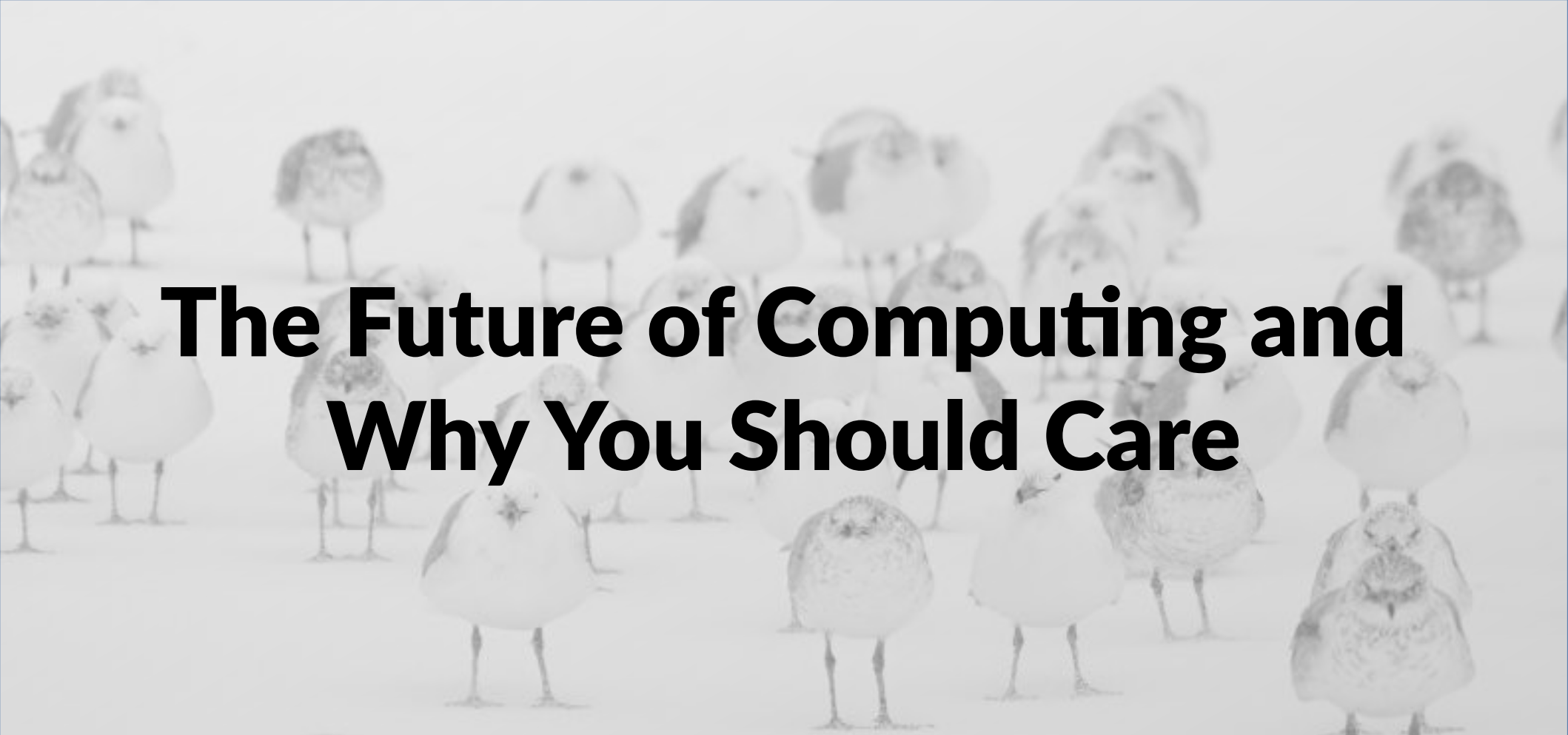

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I believe we can change the future of computing for the better.

Something is wrong with our digital world

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What that is

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What that is
How it came to be

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What that is
How it came to be
Why we must change it
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"A person who won't care, has no advantage over one who doesn't care."

~ Mark Twain

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Part 1: History

Governments write the rules of the game that society plays.

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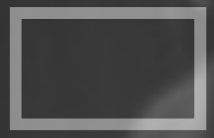
If you are somebody who wants no rules whatsoever, rules will be written that govern you without your involvement.



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Write the rules

Write the rules that we want to see in an ethical society that respects freedoms and liberties.

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Exploitative Big Tech
abuse our digital rights
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Exploitative Big Tech
abuse our digital rights
because...
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Exploitative Big Tech
abuse our digital rights
because...
it's at the core of their business
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1. Government regulation

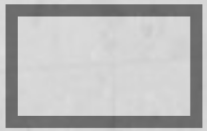
1. Government regulation

(that is ethical for society)

1. Government regulation

(that is ethical for society)

2. Business models change



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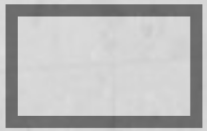
1. Government regulation

(that is ethical for society)

2. Business models change

(to something ethical for society)



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1. Government regulation

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2. Business models change

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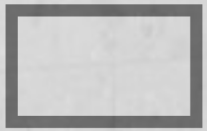
3. People switch



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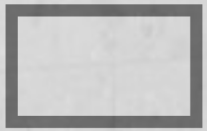

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Big Tech

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But... You're a Company?

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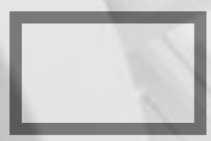
But... You're a Company?

Actually, we're a Social Purpose Corporation (SPC)



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“Purism is what is called a 'Social Purpose Corporation,' which allows a business to prioritize social objectives over fiduciary duties.”

~ Christine Lagorio-Chafkin - Senior writer
Inc.

All corporations
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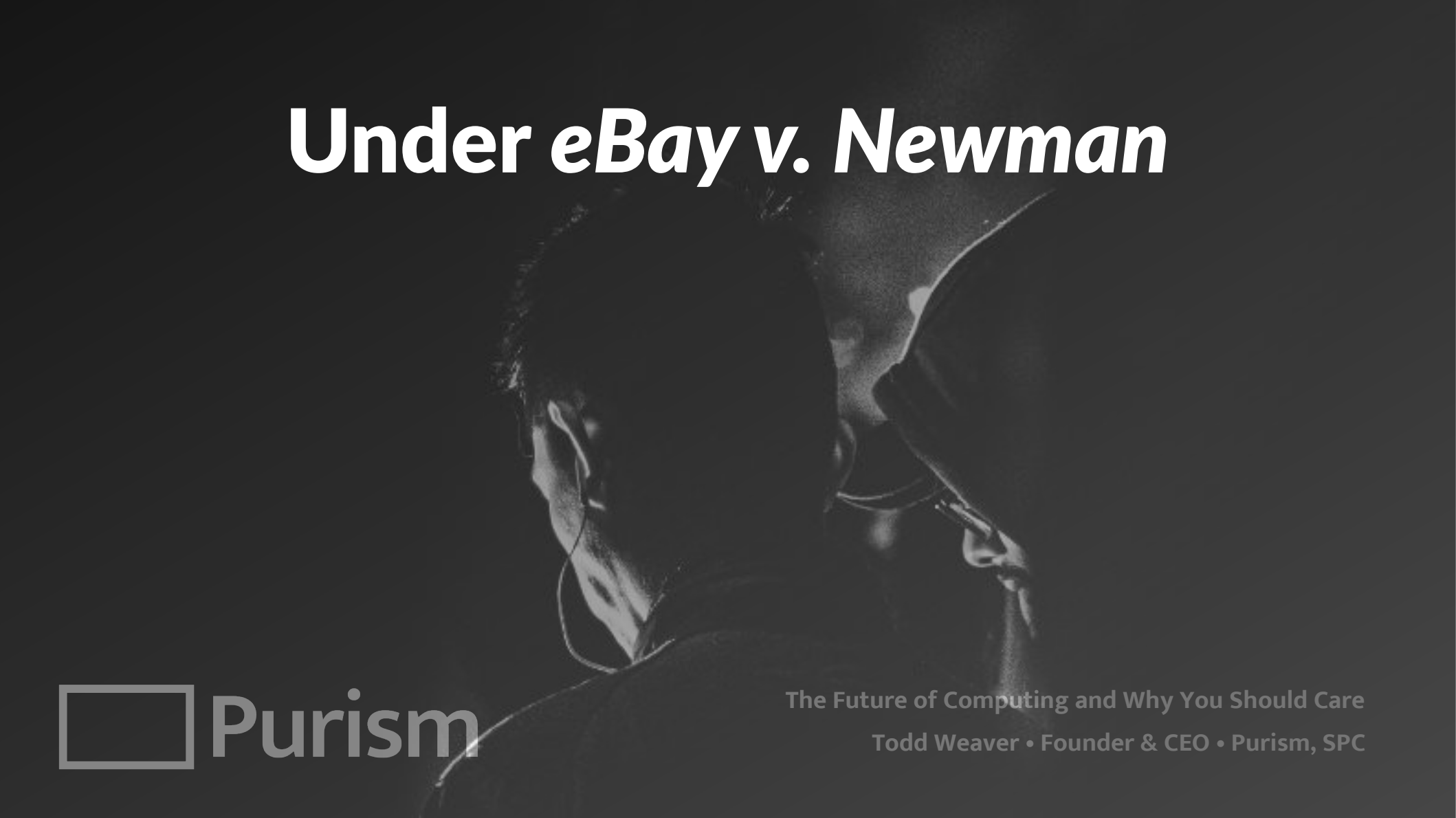
Under *eBay v. Newman*



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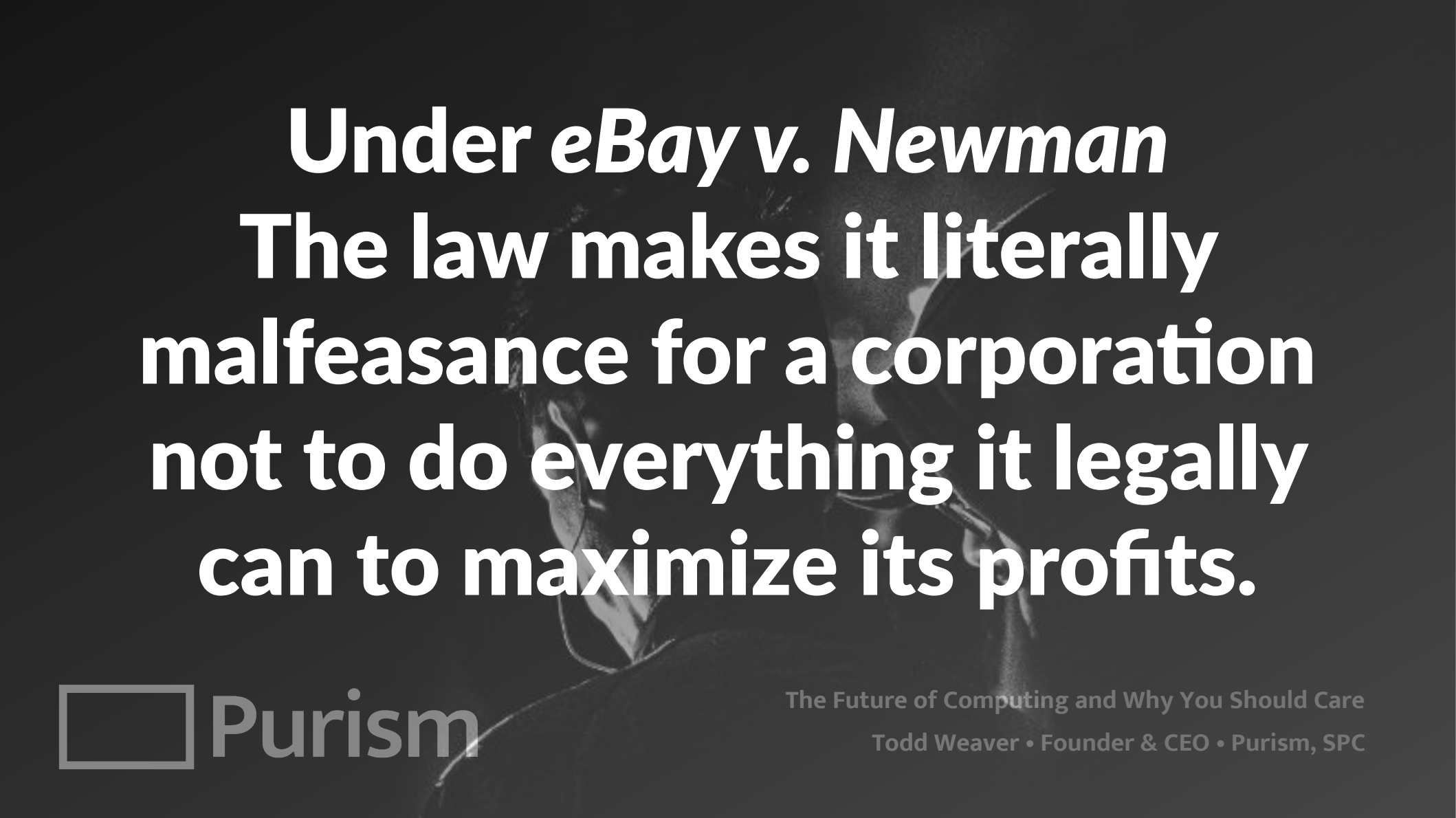

Under *eBay v. Newman* The law makes it literally malfeasance for a corporation not to do everything it legally can to maximize its profits.

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The regulations at the foundation of Big Tech are forcing the exploitation of our digital rights.

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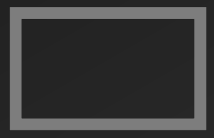
"Having chosen a for-profit corporate form, the directors are bound by the fiduciary duties to promote the value of the corporation for the benefit of its stockholders."

~ Chancellor William B. Chandler, III



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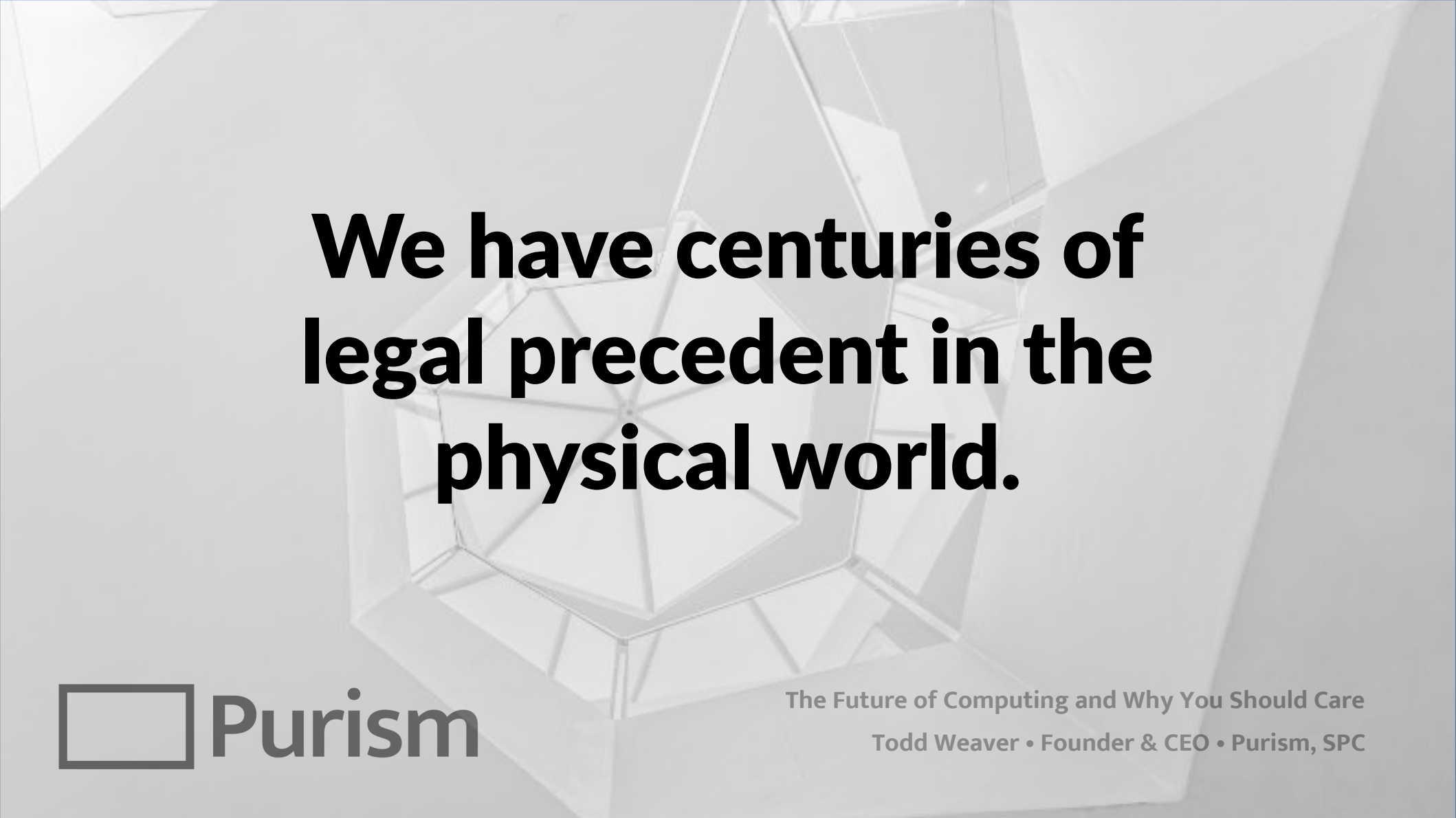

We have centuries of legal precedent in the physical world.

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We have nearly no digital rights.
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Big Tech exploits you every millisecond of every day.
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All future government regulation will be influenced, funded, and lobbied by Big Tech.

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Could you imagine

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Could you imagine your mobile phone under the complete control of Apple or Google?

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We need to write the rules based on values we want in society.

AI algorithms from Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, IBM, and Apple

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AI algorithms from Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, IBM, and Apple (GMAFIA)

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AI algorithms from Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, IBM, and Apple (GMAFIA) have one input variable:

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AI algorithms from Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, IBM, and Apple (GMAFIA) have one input variable: $Maximize_Shareholder_Value
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1.
Gather everything on all of society

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2.
Keep people digitally captive

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3.
Maximize exposure time

4.
Polarize opinion to elicit more profit

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What if the input request to AI algorithms was "respect people"?

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Unethical Society:

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Unethical Society:

Ethical Society:

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Unethical Society: 0%

Ethical Society: 100%

Maximizing shareholder value in a society that has nearly no digital rights, guarantees exploitation of that society.
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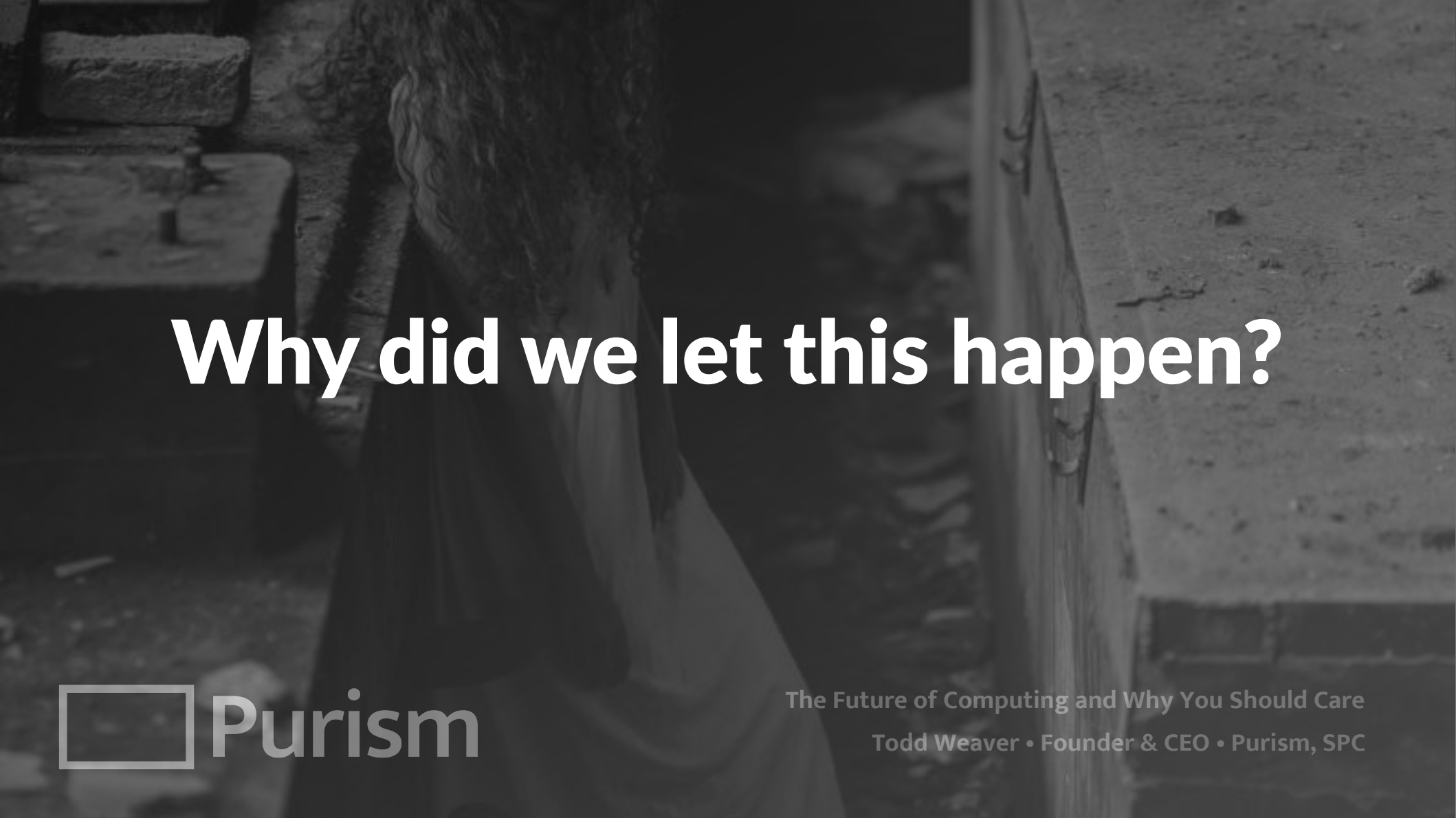

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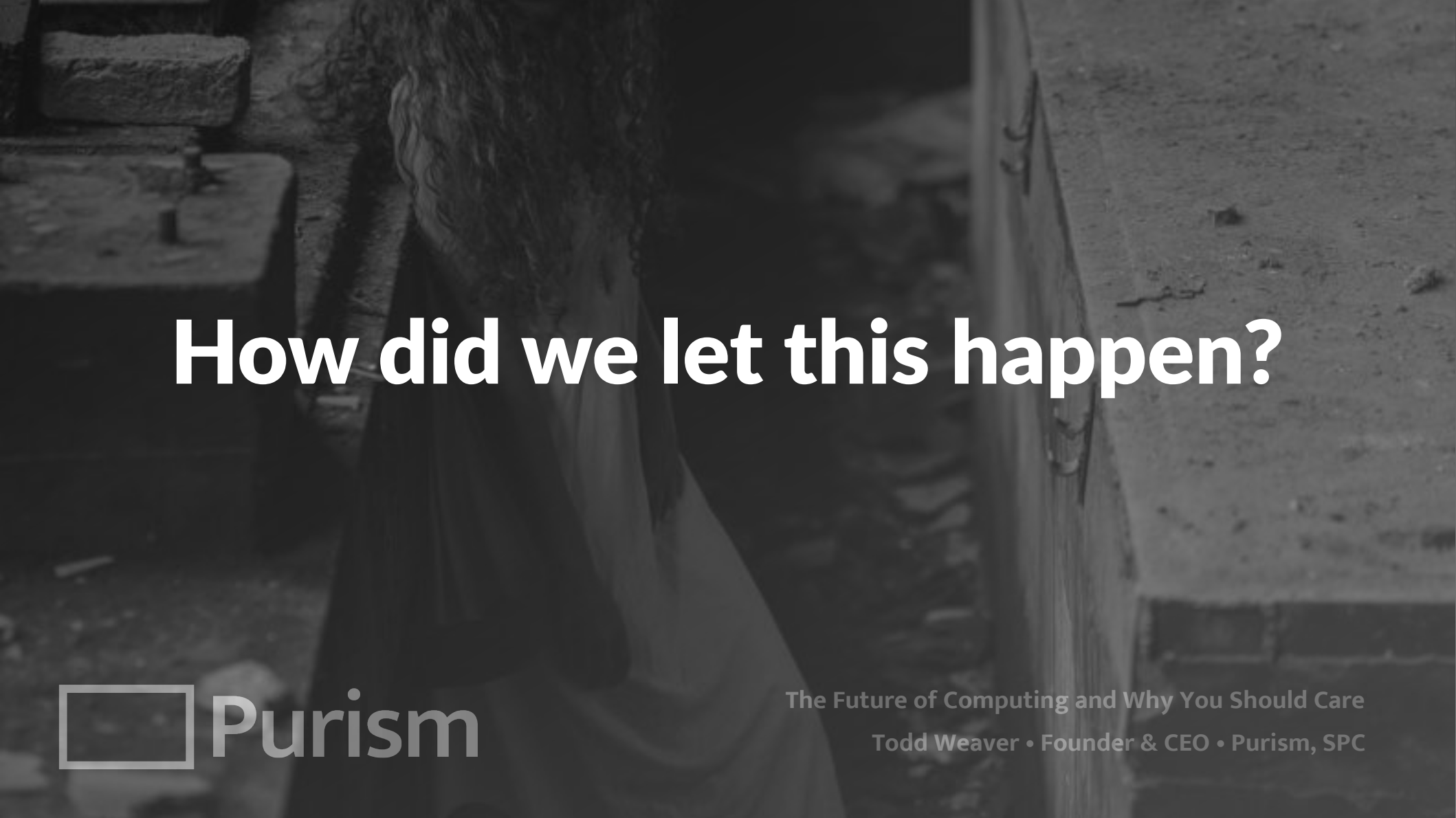

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Offered to choose:

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Offered to choose: convenience & control

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Offered to choose:
convenience & control
or
inconvenience & freedom
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I believe we can have both convenience & freedom

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Society's technology genius is not lacking,

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Society's technology genius is not lacking, its moral genius is.

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No Big Tech company has core values that help our digital rights.
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"We protect your privacy"
~ Big Tech
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"We protect your privacy"
~ Big Tech
Actually,
You exploit personal private data
without a persons knowledge
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"We use encryption"
~ Big Tech
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"We use encryption"
~ Big Tech
Actually,
It's inside proprietary apps
that you control
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"We are secure"
~ Big Tech
Actually,
You hold the master keys
controlling society
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"You can trust us"
~ Big Tech
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"You can trust us"
~ Big Tech
Actually,
You won't let anybody
verify anything
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Part 2: The Present

Currently Big Tech is maximizing shareholder value without values.

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We advocate, regulate, and build products that adhere to those digital rights.

"It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare."

~ Mark Twain

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I believe there are five fundamental digital rights:

1. Right to Change Providers

If a person wants to change a service provider, they can easily move to another.

(Decentralized Services)

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2. Right to Protect Personal Data

A person owns and controls their own master keys to encrypt all data and communication, nobody else.

(User-controlled Encryption)

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3. Right to Verify

Society has the freedom to inspect the source of all software used, and can run it as they wish, for any purpose.

(Software Freedom)

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4. Right to be Forgotten

A service provider only stores the minimal personal data necessary to provide the service. Once the data is no longer required, it is deleted.

(Minimal Data Retention)

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5. Right to Access

A person must not be discriminated against nor forced to agree to any terms and conditions before accessing a service.

(Personal Liberty)

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Part 3: The Future

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As technology gets closer and closer to our brain the moral issues of digital rights become clearer and clearer.

Computers,

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Computers, Phones,

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Computers, Phones, Wearables,

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Computers, Phones, Wearables, IOT,

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"The S in IOT is for Security"

~ Anonymous

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Computers, Phones, Wearables, IOT, Surgically Implanted

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What Big Tech Company would you purchase your future brain implant from?

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This is coming.

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Big Tech Controlled Brain:

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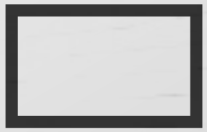
Big Tech Controlled Brain:

Control Your Own Brain:



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Big Tech Controlled Brain: 0%

Control Your Own Brain: 100%

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Knowing the severity of your technology decisions, and your understanding of the importance of ethical technology,

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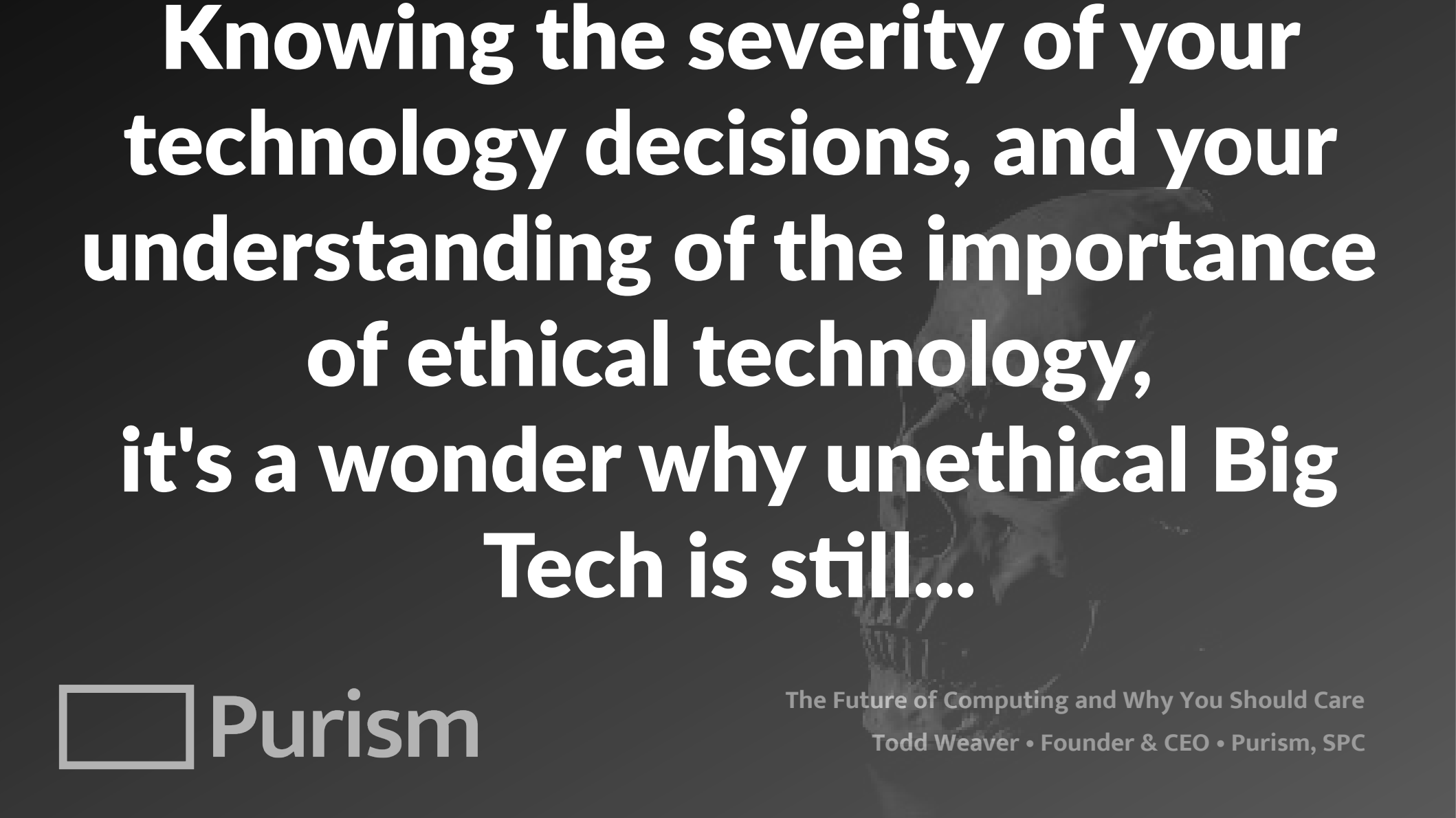
Knowing the severity of your technology decisions, and your understanding of the importance of ethical technology,
it's a wonder why unethical Big Tech is still...
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Knowing the severity of your technology decisions, and your understanding of the importance of ethical technology, it's a wonder why unethical Big Tech is still... big.

Let's all advocate, regulate, and release products, software, and services that ensure digital rights that are convenient and ethical for society.

I believe we can change the future of computing for the better.

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True

False

1.
I was born in the US capital, Washington DC, on Independence Day in 1974 making my birthday 74-7-4.

True

2.
I have been a digital rights activist since 1995.

True

3.

I played bass guitar for a decade in a punk rock band I joined in 2003.

True

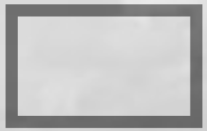
4.

I built, wrote, and deployed over 250,000 GNU based hardware media players in 2005.

True

5.

I started the first online cable company in 2007 and was sued for $30b by 34 Big Media companies for copyright infringement.



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True

6.

I wrote and directed a play about the double-entendre of the word “booty” in a pirate and mermaid musical called Pirate Booty in 2017.

True

Will you buy Big Tech products that lock you in with their keys so you have no control?
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Will you use Big Tech products that control and exploit you for profit?
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Will you use Big Tech services that control you and exploit you and your friends?
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Will you use products and services from Big Tech when you know they are rotten to the core?
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"Nope."

~ Rosa Parks

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"Friends don't let friends get spied on."

~ RMS

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Unethical or Ethical

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What future will you choose?

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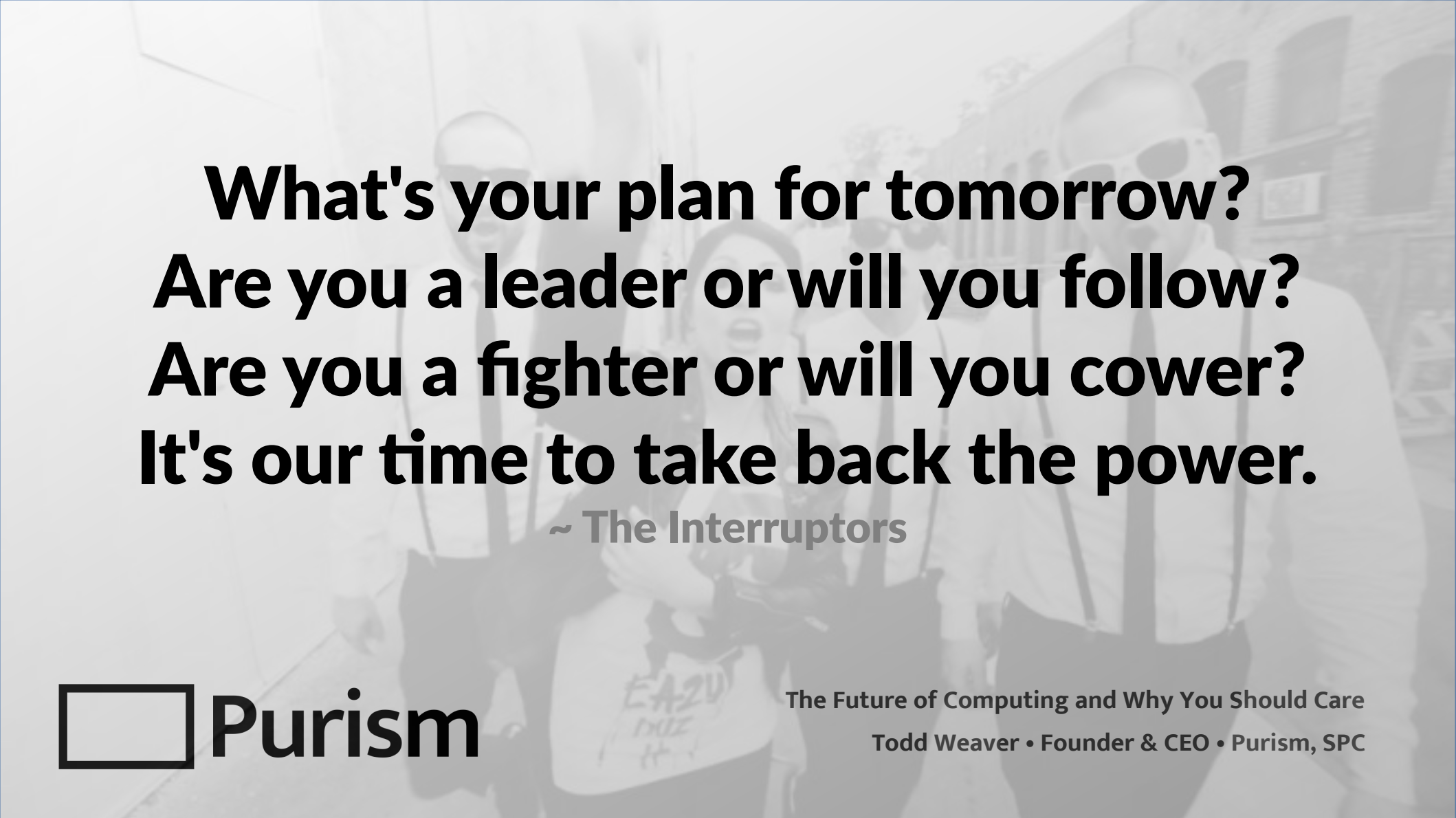

What's your plan for tomorrow?
Are you a leader or will you follow?
Are you a fighter or will you cower?
It's our time to take back the power.

~ The Interruptors

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Thank You!

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