

Cryptome

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Note Wikipedia gob-smacked editors: Cryptome is a self-funded free public library, not the melodramatic hyperbole tuba-blared here -- get a grip on your eyeball jiggery-pokery. Disclosing sensitive documents for public study is a duty for any library and should not be over-emphasized and monetized like exaggerating media hoopla and scandal mongering leak sites lemming hungry rodents. Further, wash your mouse and keyboard, lurid citations of the family of Deborah Natsios -- none involved in Cryptome -- are cheap shots on the order of Glenn Greenwald rhetorical squeals: "repellent and demented" or WikiLeaks' sanctimoniously chronic belly-ache "smear."

We made a few corrections, but the page is still a biased narrative aimed at the least intelligent and most addicted to low entertainment. Leave them be awful as they are, get a real job hatcheting for WMD-secured governments, over-haired politicians, dissolute oligarchs and pseudo-communist billionaires.

Cryptome is a pro-transparency publishing platform and an anonymous drop-box for whistleblowers created in 1996 by John Young and Deborah Natsios.^{[1][2][3]} The site aggregates information about freedom of information, cryptography, spying, and surveillance.^[4] The website is best known for exposing the CIA analyst who found Osama Bin Laden.^{[5][6]}

Cryptome

CRYPTOME

Web address	cryptome.org (https://cryptome.org/)
Commercial?	Yes
Registration	None
Owners	John Young, Deborah Natsios
Editors	John Young, Deborah Natsios
Launched	June 1996
Current status	Active

Contents

- 1 People
 - 1.1 John Young
 - 1.2 Deborah Natsios
- 2 Hosted documents
 - 2.1 Editorial policy
- 3 History
 - 3.1 2007
 - 3.2 2010
 - 3.3 2012-2014
 - 3.4 2015
- 4 Governmental investigation
- 5 Notable criticism
- 6 See also
- 7 References
- 8 External links

People

Cryptome was created by John Young and Deborah Natsios, architects. The two share editorial duties.

John Young

John Young was born in 1935. He grew up in West Texas, as teenager served in Army Corps of Engineers in Germany and earned degrees in philosophy and architecture from Rice University 1957-63. He went on to receive his graduate degree in architecture from Columbia University in 1969. In 1968 during the Columbia Student Strike he helped create community service group Urban Deadline of which Cryptome is a project.
{{cite web|url=[7]} {{cite web|url=[8]}

Deborah Natsios

Deborah Natsios is also successful architect. In addition to co-editor she is responsible for Cryptome projects like Cartome, which posts her original critical art and graphical images and other public resources to document sensitive areas.

As Cryptome disclosed in 2000, she is the daughter of Nicholas Natsios, the CIA station chief for Greece, Vietnam, France, Korea, Argentina, The Netherlands and Iran.^{[8][9][10][11]} Nicholas Natsios was the station chief in Vietnam during the arrest and assassination of Ngo Dinh Diem. During this time his deputy was William Colby, the future Director of Central Intelligence.^[12] Her cousin is Andrew Natsios, former administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development and and former U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan^[8]

Hosted documents

Cryptome hosts about 85,000 reprinted news articles, Google Maps images and other public documents on their website, including a list of Stasi workers at the time of its dissolution on December 8, 1989.^{[13][14]} According to the website, "Documents are removed from this site only by order served directly by a US court having jurisdiction. No court order has ever been served; any order served will be published here – or elsewhere if gagged by order."^[4] Documents are removed at the request of law enforcement as well as individuals.^{[10][15][16]}

Editorial policy

To Wikipedia editors: You need to review earlier pages on Cryptome to see favorable items to offset these negatives.

In a 2013 Associated Press article, John Young explained that "we have an editorial role in selecting files, but we don't tell people what to think about them."^[17] Earlier that year, Cryptome said that "if a document will annoy, and best, deeply anger, believers in authority then it gets published."^[18]

In a separate interview, John Young declared that "Facts are not a trustworthy source of knowledge. Cryptome is not an authoritative source. It's a source of imaginatory material. Don't trust Cryptome, we lie to you helplessly. Don't believe anything you see there."^[19] Later in the same interview he added, "Cryptome is not trustworthy, and lies."^[20] When asked about providing context for material, Cryptome said "we do not believe in 'context.' That is authoritarian nonsense. For the same reason, we do not believe in verification, authentication, background."^[18]

History

2007

On April 20, 2007, the website received notice from its hosting company, Verio, that it would be evicted on May 4 for unspecified breaches of their acceptable use policy.^{[21][22]}

2010

In 2010, Cryptome was hacked, exposing the identities of whistleblowers and confidential sources.^[23] In February 2010, Cryptome was briefly shut down by Network Solutions for alleged DMCA violations after it posted a "Microsoft legal spy manual".^{[24][25][26]} Microsoft withdrew the complaint 3 days later and the website was restored.^[27] In March 2010, PayPal stopped processing donations to Cryptome and froze the account's funds.^{[28][15]}

2012-2014

In 2012, Cryptome was hacked to infect visitors with malware.^[29] In February 2013, Cryptome's website, email and twitter were hacked, exposing whistleblowers and sources again. Cryptome blamed hackers Ruxpin and Sabu for the cyber attack.^{[30][31]} In August 2013, the website was briefly taken down over Japanese terror files.^[32] In 2014, Cryptome attempted to raise \$100,000.^[3] Later that year, Cryptome was pulled offline again when it was found that malware infecting its visitors.^[33]

2015

In September 2015, Cryptome's encryption keys were stolen.^[34] In October 2015, it was discovered that Cryptome had been leaking months of its server logs, revealing users information. The logs had been mailed out to users who ordered the site's archive since 2013.^{[35][36]} Cryptome's privacy policy at the time said that "No user data is collected by Cryptome. Logs are deleted several times a day."^[37] Shortly before the leak was discovered, Cryptome revealed that they have detailed logs going back to the site's creation.^{[38][39][40]}

Governmental investigation

John Young, the creator of Cryptome, claims that the website has attracted the attention of various government agencies.^[41]

In December 2002, the Attorney General issued a subpoena requiring that John Young appear before a Grand Jury and turn over "all logs recording the I.P. addresses and/or users" who visited Cryptome. John Young posted a notice online declaring that visitor logs are deleted daily.^[42] He later revealed that they have detailed logs going back to the site's creation.^{[38][39][40]}

He reports being visited by two FBI agents from a counter-terrorism office.^[43] He claims that on another occasion, two FBI agents spoke with him on the phone.^[44] In June 2013, two US Secret Service agents visited Cryptome to request removal of a former presidential Bush family email allegedly hacked by Guccifer.^[15] In September 2015, a GCHQ slide leaked by Edward Snowden revealed that the agency was monitoring Cryptome's visitors.^[45]

Notable criticism

According to an article written by John Cook in *Radar*, "the closest Young comes to explaining to me why he created Cryptome is this: 'I'm a pretty fucking angry guy'."^[8]

A 2004 *New York Times* article said Cryptome was advising the public and tipping off terrorists. John Young acknowledged that New York City had to take down warning signs around gas mains after Cryptome posted pictures of their locations because they thought someone would blow them up.^[46] The March 2005 issue of

Reader's Digest focused on Cryptome in its regular "That's Outrageous" feature, relying on an interview with Young. It was highly critical of the site, asserting that it is an "invitation to terrorists" and that Young "may well have put lives at risk".^{[47][48]}

In July 2010, Wikileaks accused Cryptome of carrying out a smear campaign against them.^[49]

In 2014, Glenn Greenwald criticized Cryptome for posting a copy of his copyrighted book and doing "some repellent and demented things". Greenwald added that he was "glad there is a Cryptome".^[3] When asked about it two months later Young criticized Greenwald, saying that he had not "offered to pay for the publicity. He's is a deadbeat arrogant leech on other people's work."^[50]

See also

- Open government
- WikiLeaks

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External links

- Official website (<http://cryptome.org>)
- The Original WikiLeaks (http://observer.com/2010/12/the-original-wikileaker/)
- LeaksWiki Continues and Cryptome Interview (<https://civic.mit.edu/blog/shidash/leakswiki-continues-and-cryptome-interview>)
- Why All the Snowden Docs Should Be Public: An Interview with Cryptome (Cox, Joseph, Vice/Motherboard, July 16, 2014) (<http://motherboard.vice.com/read/cryptome-is-pushing-for-all-of-the-snowden-docs-to-be-made-public>)
- Gawker Interview: John Young & Deborah Natsios – A Discussion With Cryptome (Adrian Chen, Gawker, June 19, 2013) (<http://gawker.com/a-discussion-with-cryptome-514154708>)
- Older, quieter than WikiLeaks, Cryptome perseveres (Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2013 (<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/older-quieter-wikileaks-cryptome-perseveres>)
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- An Excerpt From 'This Machine Kills Secrets': Meet The 'Spiritual Godfather Of Online Leaking' (<http://www.forbes.com/sites/andygreenberg/2012/09/17/an-excerpt-from-this-machine-kills-secrets-meet-the-spiritual-godfather-of-online-leaking/>) (Greenberg, Andy, September 17, 2012)

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Categories: Technology websites | Cypherpunks | Internet properties established in 1996
| 1996 establishments in the United States

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