

# Leaving Big Tech



For PvIB, February 2026  
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# Who am I?

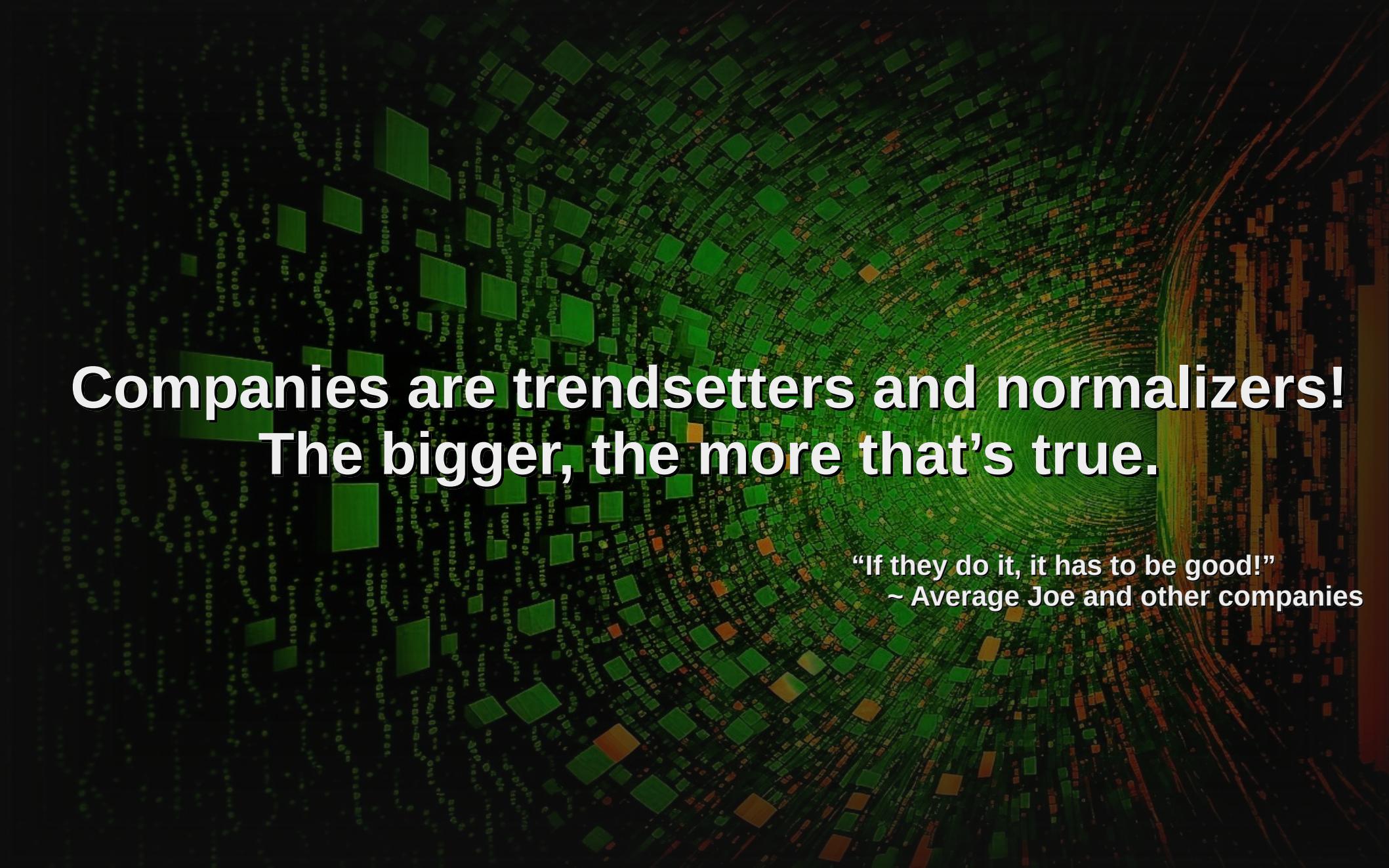


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- Security Officer @ team.blue
- Privacy advocate
- Computer nerd
- Degree: HBO-ICT Software Engineering
- Absolutely not a designer (as this presentation may show)

**team.blue**





# Companies are trendsetters and normalizers! The bigger, the more that's true.

“If they do it, it has to be good!”  
~ Average Joe and other companies



# Big Tech, why not?

## Geopolitical dependencies

- Cloud Act
- EU-US DPF, but no DPRC
- Political interference



AP News · 5d

**Trump's sanctions on ICC prosecutor have halted tribunal's work**

By Molly Quell

## Power abuse

- Monopoly allows for one-sided decisions, also in open source projects (like Chromium)
- Lobbying for political influence
- And (political) use of dependence
- Commercial companies want to earn, not necessarily improve



why not?



# Customers (should) care!

## Increasing disdain for US & Big Tech

- Enshification
- Behaviour of leaders
- Worries about political changes

## Linear connection between Big Tech SNS and societal problems

- Increased depression rates, including suicide (attempts and succeeded) rates
- Polarization in society
- Distribution and normalization of factual non-truths
- Cognitive issues, like shortened attention range
- See [The Social Dillema](#) (ENG) and [VPRO's Tegenlicht "Error 404: het internet in crisis"](#) (NL)





# But doesn't Big Tech care?

No, not really...

- activity → seeing ads → \$\$\$
- And so
  - Get people addicted!
  - The more data, the better they can build something that entices you
  - But often that's not the "boring" nuances truth

And no, **nobody** is immune

- Also not if you know how it works
- Not even the creators themselves





# Outside of social media

## Get you stuck in an ecosystem

- Lure in
- Get stuck
- Enshification & abuse of dependency

## Open software

- Chromium → Manifest V3
- RCS → one sided additions
- AOSP → Play Integrity API





# Then, how go without?

It's not all or nothing, every bit helps!

To FOSS or not to FOSS?

- All FOSS is *possible*, but generally not practical
- Often a mix of FOSS and proprietary

My recommendations 🔥 <https://gitlab.com/cambionn-random/altlist>

- Many more lists

Start simple, what can you do independent?

- MS Office → **LibreOffice**
- Gmail/Outlook → Proton Mail, **VPS with mail server**
- Chrome → **LibreWolf**
- Android → **GrapheneOS, Linux**
- OneDrive → **NextCloud, TransIP Stack, Proton Drive**
- Password in browser → 1Password, **Bitwarden, Proton Pass, KeePass**
- Windows/MacOS → **Linux**



# What about the socials?

Socials are nothing without users...

- So don't be part of the problem!
- Less engagement, but more interaction
  - Don't dare? **Do both!**



**Note regarding private use**

FOMO?

- No need!
  - Important things will come! But only when needed...

Convince others?

- Be nice
- Use prudence
- Don't get angry at the people



# But... A lot of that cost money!

You always pay

- With data, with all the just mentioned issues
- Or with something else?

Support your software!

- Money
- Work
  - Not only programming, but also testing, translating and business management
- Spread the word!
  - You don't need to have an audience (but it does help 😊)
    - Mouth to mouth advertisement is the most effective type in existence



# But the F in FOSS!

“Free as in freedom”

- Not “no money”

Everything cost money!

Always? Truly always?

- Yeah, basically so
- Everything cost money, free does not exist

Then who pays FOSS?

- Donations
- Companies
- paid side-projects and services

Ok, maybe excluded hobby projects

- But once those grow...

IT'S  
FREE





# So what about companies?

Only one is true

- You can never secure that
- It doesn't work / it's inefficient
- That doesn't work with what our customers are using
- But that's not an ecosystem!

So

- Certain knowledge and skill is needed
- FOSS is not a way to cut cost, but moves cost

But

- In the current geopolitical climate, do you want to outsource that to Big Tech?
- Good selling-point: no US-dependency, own knowledge





# Questions?

# Abbreviations

## EU-US DPF

EU-US Data Privacy Framework

## DPRC

Data Protection Review Court

## SNS

Social Networking Service

## RCS

open chat protocol to replace SMS

## AOSP

Android Open Source Project, the open source basis of Android

## FOSS

Free Open Source Software

# Extra links

## Privacy Guides

Well respected website with privacy friendly software advise.

## European Alternatives

Website with European alternatives for big tech services.

## Tweakers - Persoonlijk Privacy Topic

Long going topic on the Tweakers forum with lots of input regarding personal privacy (Dutch only).

## GrapheneOS FAQ

Aside of OS specific info also contains lots of good info regarding security & privacy on mobile devices and networks.

## Bits Of Freedom

Dutch organisation that fights for privacy and a free internet.