

**Location**

Various

**Maintained by**

Host institutions

**Duration**

2014 - Ongoing

**Category**

scientific, social

**Nr. and Title**

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# Autonomy Cube

**Initiator(s)**

Trevor Paglen and Jason Applebaum

**Description**

Pursuing the possibility of emancipatory use of technology, Paglen, together with Jacob Appelbaum, developed Autonomy Cube (2014). Autonomy Cube is a sculpture and internet router designed to be housed in civic spaces. The sculpture is meant to be both “seen” and “used.” Formally it references Hans Haacke’s ‘Condensation Cube’ (1963-65). Inside the cube, however, the wireless router offers free, open-access, encrypted, Internet hotspot which enables private, un-surveyed communication. Anyone can join this network and use it to browse the Internet, undetected.

Autonomy Cube does not provide a normal internet connection. The sculpture routes all Wi-Fi traffic over the Tor network, a global network of thousands of volunteer-run servers, relays, and services designed to help anonymize data. Autonomy Cube is itself a Tor relay, and can be used by others around the world to anonymize their internet use.

**Goals**

Providing a tool for surveillance-free internet infrastructure in which data and internet use can be anonymous. Reclaim the space within which users log on through the autonomy cube as public, civic space.

**Beneficial outcomes**

Allow the host institution and users to log on to the internet without being traced or surveyed.

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