

Grandma uses the Internet for EVERYTHING!

I never pirated anything! Never did, never will. I just use the Internet for all it's worth, and there's a lot out there that I have yet to use it for.

When we have abundant evidence that commercial interests only limit range of topics, dumb down content, and censor information, it would be sheer lunacy if we were to allow commercial interests – of whatever stripe – to limit the Internet. That cannot continue if we love democracy.

I live outside a small town where the local (Menomonie, Wis.) newspaper is owned by some outfit out of New York, Clear Channel Communications bought and moved the formerly local radio station to a “bigger market”, and we live so far from the Wisconsin state capital and so close to the Minnesota state capital that it is difficult to get news and in-depth reporting about our home state.

For me the internet is KEY to:

- a.) “meeting” with fellow members of the organizations I belong to, including my church
- b.) “seeing” and visiting with our son in Taiwan, our grandchildren in Portland, OR, our granddaughter in Minnetonka MN, and friends and relatives in Belgium, Mexico, India, and beyond,
- c.) sending lessons to and receiving assignments from my adult students of Spanish (my small business called Sol y Sombra)
- d.) downloading free language materials for my students (Spanish) and myself (German and Mandarin)
- e.) studying Mandarin through the Minneapolis Technical Community & College via the internet to save time and fuel
- f.) testing and buying entrepreneurial programs called SHAREWARE that are available over the internet (these cover the range of possibilities for a range of computers)
- g.) downloading FREE mp3 programs on a range of topics, including: foreign language programs (Spanish, German, Mandarin), radio programs (public radio generally), and other special interest programs
- h.) finding the words for “Seven Old Ladies Locked in a Lavatory” and the Mexican national anthem, etc.
- i.) searching for and find: recipes, weight-loss advice, information on illnesses and medicines, court decisions, books and movies, etc.
- j.) getting state news from the Madison papers and the Wheeler Report (internet),
- k.) borrowing (and downloading!) books from the Menomonie library,
- l.) communicating with PEO sisters,
- m.) and more, you just don't want to read any more.

