

[What elements belong in a Data Seder? | by Phil Wolff | Digital Justice](#)

"A traditional Haggadah is made up of three parts: a lengthy section recalling the Exodus and its meaning, the actual meal with symbolic foods, and a number of after-dinner songs that praise God"

Timing

Can we peg this to an event in history?

- Snowden Day - man vs gov
- Cambridge Analytica - man vs corp
- Aaron Swartz - man vs closed
- First time someone logged in ???
- First network connection / phone call / telegraph message ???
- TBL mother of all demos
- First use of PKI by a private person
- Prince claiming his IP and identity
- Stasi HQ storming: German president praises 'democratic act' "Thirty years ago, crowds of people prevented East Germany's feared secret police from shredding files in the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Frank-Walter Steinmeier urged society to heed the lessons."
<https://p.dw.com/p/3WDwh>
- When Netscape slew Microsoft for an open internet

Preparation

Selling Chametz

As part of Passover, matzo (unleavened bread/crackers) has a special place.

We remember our fleeing Egypt by not having any risen baked goods in our homes or meals for the eight days of Pesach. We actively remove all of our chometz, even dusting our floors for loose crumbs and selling any undiscovered chametz to our gentile friends.

Is there a counterpart to matzo/chametz in data theology?

Ritually claim my data

- [Claiming my data](#). And those of my dependents.

Ritually sell my data

- Ritually selling unclaimed data by/about/with me into a trust.
- The trust ritually reversing the transaction after the holiday.
- Symbolic of our IP bondage, our ignorance of all our surveillance and created data, and of the role of a trusted data fiduciary to protect our interests in our digital selves.

Stories of Overcoming Our Data Slavery

Origin story. The first data abuse.

Overcoming the *If You Have Nothing To Hide* argument

Resources:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nothing_to_hide_argument#Against_the_argument
- Defend the right
-

I am my data and my data is me

Privacy Heroes

Frankenstein

Symbolic Meal

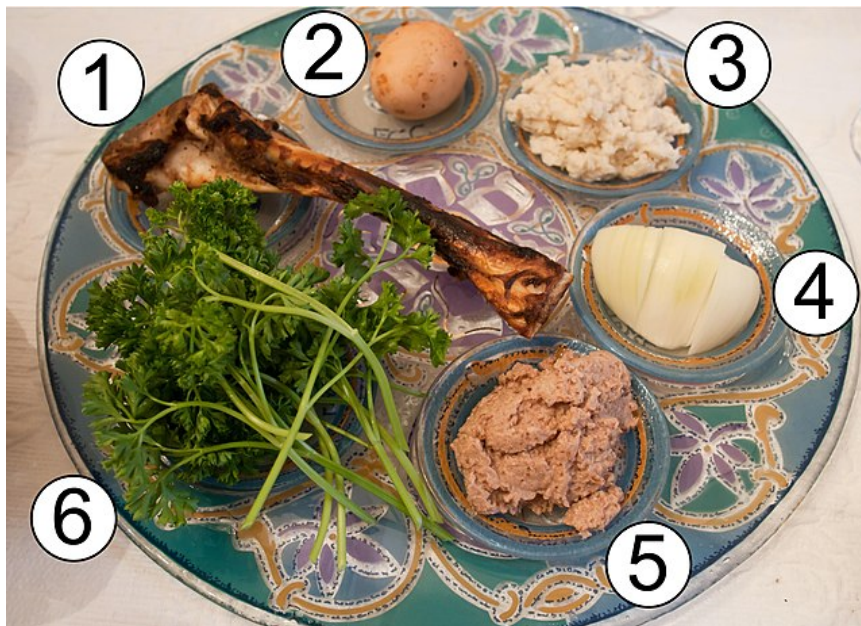
Washing Hands

Ritual act? Words?

Cleansing our hands and centering our minds in preparation of making a sacred space. Or whatever kind of space this is.

Plate of Symbolic Foods

History



The Passover seder has a tray of food items. We point to each and tell of its symbolism.

1. roasted shank bone = Passover sacrifice
2. boiled egg = spring and the circle of life

3. bitter herbs (horseradish) = bitterness of slavery
4. Onion
5. haroset (an applesauce-like mixture with wine, nuts, apples, etc.) = the mortar used by the Jews as slaves in Egypt
6. karpas (or greens, often parsley) = spring.

What ideas should we symbolize at the data seder?

What foods would represent those ideas?

Ideas:

The hypervigilance of School Surveillance

- kale

A promise of freedom and control from the start of your life.

- Hardboiled egg

Survivorship of our cyberselves, passed on in trust to family or community or those we choose, after we die.

-

Weaponizing of personal data

-

Warm and comforting TBD

-

The interconnectedness of everything

-

Balance (yin/yang)

-

Aaron's Cup.

Action

Pour a glass of wine and open the door for the spirit of activist Aaron Swartz to visit us, pausing a quiet moment to see if this is the year he comes.

Roots

This parallels the religious tradition of doing the same for the prophet Elijah, whose arrival anticipates the fulfillment of hoped-for biblical prophecies.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aaron_Swartz

<https://www.aaronswartzday.org/>

Reading / Script

TBD. (favorite drink/food?)

The Plagues

A drop of wine for each "plague" that befell our online selves.

[add to the list, sort/cluster]

Our data was given to governments without warrant.

Our email was read by robots to pick more persuasive adverts.

Our web sites were deleted.

Our accounts were banned

Our identities were forced to be 'real' instead of our many truer selves

Our democracies were corrupted

Our names were changed without permission

Our streets were monitored

Our homes wired

Our activists jailed

Our public spaces surveilled

Our commons privatized

Our minorities were outed and persecuted

Our data/reading was prefiltered/censored **

Claiming our Data

On this night I claim all my data.

I claim the data I create through speech and words,
spoken and written.

I claim the data I create by living and breathing in the
world.

I claim the data I create intentionally and unintentionally.

I claim the data I've forgotten.

I claim the data I never knew existed.

I claim their data on behalf of those unable to claim it for themselves.

I claim the data that lives in my body.

I claim the data that is code by me.

I claim the data that is code that runs in my body.

I claim the data made with other people.

I claim the data

I claim the data

I claim the data

I claim my data as part of my self. As much me as my mind and my body.

My Trustee of Distant Data

I control so little of my data. It is stored on the shelves of companies and governments, in the cupboards of churches and the attics of homes. It rests and flows across cyberspaces near and far. It lies beyond my reach, or even my awareness. Yet it is mine.

Where data is considered property, instead of person, I have claimed my data. But for all the data I have claimed but don't control, I hereby put my property

claims for it in revocable trust for future reclamation and reparation.

Trustee, do you accept my distant data into your care? To seek it out and bring it under your control in my name? To assure its preservation, its security from theft or misuse? To return it to my custody, or those of my inheritors, when and how I choose? To be steadfast and true, putting your data fiduciary duty to me above your own needs?

The data fiduciary says:

I accept your sacred trust. I shall seek out your data wherever it may be. I shall wrest control over it from those who have kept that control from you. I will act as you would have me do, in your interests, in your name. I promise.

Comingling of the Data

Action

We toss handfuls of popcorn (or another cheap painless popped grain) into the air and at each other. Symbolizing the sharing of our cyberselves.

Roots

Food fights. Rocky Horror Picture Show throwing toast.

Reading / Script

All of me. Why not take all of me? Can't you see? I'm nothing without you?

Self Sovereignty

Action

Announcing something about yourself that you define. Your pronouns. Your favorite color of the previous year. A feeling you have. Go around the table.

Sing the [The Pronouns Song](#).

Roots

Reading / Script

Self Sovereignty is the idea that your identity starts with you, that you should be able to say who you are, to describe and define yourself on your own terms.

So describe something about yourself to share with us in this seder. We'll go around the table.

Closing Circle

In which we give thanks for the meal, for those who came before us, for the promise of our future.

In which we rededicate ourselves to leaving humanity and our cyberspaces better than we found them.

("Try and leave this world a little better than you found it, and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate, you have not wasted your time but have done your best." Robert Baden-Powell)

Songs of Data Liberation

We might take inspiration from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passover_songs or Tom Lehrer lyrics.

Let My Data Go, the spiritual

EFF Union Song

That time John Perry Barlow...

When Suw and her ORG goats took on...

In my head it has the cadence of a rowdy drinking song.

Self Sovereignty Song

The Many Faceted Identity

Lyrics celebrating the glorious faces we can show the world in all our many sides

The Pronouns Song

Lyrics that conjugate the many pronouns. In the spirit of growing-list songs like Chad Gadya

A Bicycle Built For Four

You, Me and our digital twins.

Notes and Resources

The Art of Gathering book.