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# **Coded Power: How to End Digital Despotism and Reclaim Our Data**

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**In the digital age, the contours of power are shifting, yet the debates about data and digital governance have not caught up with what is truly at stake: The rise of digital despotism as a form of social control. In a forthcoming book, Pistor and her co-author Co-Pierre Georg coin the concept of “coded power”, which stands for the control over the tangible means that govern the social fabric of society, including the legal and the digital codes. The centralization of digitally coded power was not preordained but is the result of design choices and policy and legal failures. To thwart data despotism, alternative coding strategies in digits and law are needed that recognize the relational nature of data and vest control rights firmly in the hands of their co-creators.**