



HARVARD Kennedy School

## JOAN SHORENSTEIN CENTER on the Press, Politics and Public Policy

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### **Shorenstein Center Announces Launch of New Website and Essay: Riptide, an Oral History of the Epic Collision Between Journalism and Digital Technology**

CAMBRIDGE, MA – The Joan [Shorenstein Center](http://shorensteincenter.org) on the Press, Politics and Public Policy is pleased to announce the launch of an important new [website](http://digitalriptide.org) (<http://digitalriptide.org>) that chronicles the digital disruption of the news business from 1980 to the present.

Three Shorenstein Center Fellows who are veterans of digital journalism and media—John Huey, Martin Nisenholtz and Paul Sagan—interviewed 70 people who played important roles in the intersection of media and technology, from CEOs to coders, journalists to disruptors. They compiled more than 50 hours of video interviews and wrote a narrative essay that traces the evolution of digital news from early experiments to today.

“John, Martin and Paul have created an invaluable resource for reporters, business leaders, and students of the media,” said Alex S. Jones, director of the Shorenstein Center. “Among the three of them, they know top decision-makers in every media sphere, and they were able to ask probing questions that illuminated how key decisions were made at critical times in our digital evolution. This led them to a new understanding of what happened and why. They have done a tremendous service for those interested in media.”

John Huey retired from Time Inc. at the end of 2012, after serving seven years as its editor-in-chief, and a long career in the news business. Martin Nisenholtz is a senior advisor for The New York Times Company and managed its digital operations from 1995-2012. He was the founding leader for nytimes.com. Paul Sagan is executive vice chairman of Akamai Technologies, and until recently its CEO. He also has a background in broadcast and online journalism. They came together during their Shorenstein Center Fellowship in the Spring of 2013 and created the Riptide project.

On Monday, September 9th, the Shorenstein Center is sponsoring a panel discussion with three people who were interviewed for the Riptide project: Tim Armstrong of AOL, Caroline Little of the Newspaper Association of America and Arthur Sulzberger Jr. of the New York Times Company. The event will be moderated by the Riptide creators. It will be [webcast](http://forum.iop.harvard.edu/content/riptide-digital-disruption-news-business) at 6 p.m., live from the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government (<http://forum.iop.harvard.edu/content/riptide-digital-disruption-news-business>).

Joshua Benton, director of the [Nieman Journalism Lab](http://niemanlab.org), built the Riptide website and contributed greatly to the project, and the Nieman Foundation hosts the site. “We are most grateful to Josh Benton and the Nieman Foundation, without whose contribution Riptide would not have become the powerful resource it is,” said Jones.

The Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy is a Harvard research center dedicated to exploring the intersection of media, politics and public policy in theory and practice. The Center strives to bridge the gap between journalists and scholars and, increasingly, between them and the public. More information about the Center is available at <http://shorensteincenter.org>.