

President Trump och teknikprofiler i hans närhet

Läsinstruktioner: detta dokument skiftar mellan Svenska och Engelska pga av det är en sammanställning av flera enskilda dokument som skapats av mig på uppdrag an andra organisationer och länder. Viss överlappning av information finns men flera aktiviteter tål att upprepas. Detta dokument rör enbart det som cirkulerar kring AI och infrastruktur teknologi och andra hänsyn är inte tagna i detta läge. För vidare diskussioner om prioriteringar och eventuella aktiviteter i närtid står jag till förfogande. Jonas Kjellstrand.

Table of Contents

President Trump och teknikprofiler i hans närhet	1
Overview summary	2
Introduktion	3
Centrala teknikprofiler	3
Fyra inflytelserika teknikkluster	3
Ideologiska och ekonomiska drivkrafter	4
Potentiella konflikter	4
Policyinitiativ och framtidsscenarier	5
Första Slutsats	5
Djupdykning i J D Vance	5
Bakgrund och karriär	5
Koppling till teknologiprofiler och "PayPal-maffian"	6
Risk Assessment of J.D. Vance's Tenure and Implications for Sweden	7
Key Risks and Sweden's Mitigation Strategies	7
1. Economic and Trade Policies	7
2. AI & Emerging Tech Regulation	8
3. U.S.-China Tech Rivalry and Its Spillover Effects	8
4. Shift in Transatlantic Relations & Security	9
5. Financial and Energy Impacts	9
Perspective on Assessment: Sweden Must Act Proactively	10
Sweden must:	10
The Paypal mafia	10
1. Peter Thiel	10
2. Elon Musk	11
3. Reid Hoffman	11
4. Max Levchin	11
5. David Sacks	11
6. Steve Chen and Chad Hurley	11
7. Jeremy Stoppelman	11

8. Premal Shah	12
9. Luke Nosek	12
10. Roelof Botha	12
11. Keith Rabois	12
12. Jack Dorsey	12
13. J.D. Vance	12
Expanded Network and External Connections	12
Second Conclusion.....	14
<i>Policy Direction of the U.S. Toward Core Technology Companies & EU Under the Influence of This Group – Implications for Sweden</i>	14
1. U.S. Tech Policy Under Their Influence: Deregulation, AI Dominance, and Nationalism	14
What to Expect:	14
2. U.S. vs. EU: Tensions in Digital Sovereignty & Market Control	15
What to Expect:	15
3. Impact on AI, Defense, and Cybersecurity Policy	16
What to Expect:	16
4. Space & Next-Gen Technology: U.S. Wants Europe Dependent on American Leadership	16
What to Expect:	16
Final Assessment: Sweden’s Position in This U.S.-EU Tech Divide.....	17
Key Takeaways for Sweden:	17
<i>Strategic Priorities for Sweden: Urgent Action Required</i>	17
1. Energy: Secure National Control & Strategic Allocation	17
2. AI & Cloud Infrastructure: Build a Sovereign Tech Stack	18
3. AI Capacity: Scale Swedish AI Startups into Global Players	18
4. Knowledge: Equip the Population for the AI Economy	18
The Bottom Line: Sweden Must Act Now	19

Overview summary

The document "Trump and Technology Implications for Sweden" provides an in-depth analysis of how the policies of the Trump administration, particularly regarding AI, technology, and cybersecurity, may impact Sweden. It explores key players in Trump's tech circle, such as Elon Musk, Peter Thiel, and J.D. Vance, and examines their influence on deregulation, AI acceleration, and geopolitical strategies. The document identifies critical risks for Sweden, including economic protectionism, AI deregulation, and transatlantic tensions, while proposing strategic mitigation measures. It emphasizes the urgent need for Sweden to strengthen its technological sovereignty, build independent AI and cloud infrastructure, secure its energy resources, and enhance its role in global AI leadership to navigate the evolving US-EU tech landscape. The bottom line is clear—Sweden must act decisively to safeguard its economic and technological future in light of the shifting global power dynamics.

Introduktion

President Donald Trump omges av ett antal inflytelserika teknikprofiler vars intressen och affärer ofta sammanfaller med hans politiska och ekonomiska agenda. Dessa individer har inte bara haft en betydande roll inom tekniksektorn, utan har också format debatten kring innovation, fri marknad, regleringar och nationell säkerhet. Deras inflytande sträcker sig över olika kluster, som har väsentlig betydelse för USA:s framtida teknikutveckling och globala konkurrenskraft.

Centrala teknikprofiler

Bland de mest framträdande teknikprofilerna i Trumps närhet finns:

- **Elon Musk** (Tesla, SpaceX, X/Twitter, Neuralink, Starlink)
- **Peter Thiel** (Palantir, Founders Fund, tidigare PayPal)
- **David Sacks** (PayPal, investerare, konservativ debattör)
- **Marc Andreessen** (Andreessen Horowitz, Silicon Valley-investor)
- **Jacob Helberg** (strateg inom geopolitisk teknologi)
- **Jared Isaacman** (SpaceX, militära rymdsatsningar)
- **Michael Kratsios** (tidigare teknikchef i Vita huset)
- **Blake Masters** (Thiels protegé, tidigare senatskandidat)
- **Vivek Ramaswamy** (bioteknik, republikansk politiker)
- **Shyam Sankar** (Palantir, AI och försvarsinnovation)
- **Gail Slater** (juridisk expert inom teknikreglering)

Dessa personer har haft långvariga affärsrelationer och ofta delat ideologiska perspektiv. Fyra huvudsakliga teknikkluster kan identifieras utifrån deras verksamhet och inflytande:

Fyra inflytelserika teknikkluster

1. **PayPal-klustret**
 - Musk, Sacks och Thiel har en gemensam bakgrund i PayPal och har sedan dess byggt upp inflytelserika bolag med stort kommersiellt och politiskt inflytande.
 - Musk och Sacks har fått nyckelroller i Trumps administration, där de sannolikt kommer att driva en agenda för **lättnader i regleringar, återindustrialisering och innovation inom försvarssektorn.**
2. **Sociala medier och informationskontroll**
 - Musk (X/Twitter), Zuckerberg (Meta), Bezos (Amazon, Washington Post) och Trump själv (Truth Social) kontrollerar plattformar med global räckvidd och kan forma den politiska och ekonomiska debatten.
 - De kommer sannolikt att **driva frågor om yttrandefrihet, minskad statlig inblandning och avregleringar av innehållsmoderering.**
3. **Försvars- och rymdteknik**
 - Musk, Thiel, Isaacman och Stephens har betydande intressen inom försvar och rymdsektorn, vilket kan få direkt påverkan på USA:s strategi.

- Moderna försvarslösningar som AI-drivna vapen, satellitövervakning och privatfinansierad rymdfart kommer att spela en viktig roll.
4. **Emerging Tech-klustret**
- Företag och individer som Musk, Kratsios, Bezos, Zuckerberg och Nadella driver utvecklingen inom AI, kvantdatorer och automatisering.
 - Statliga investeringar i forskning och utveckling kommer att vara centralt, men konkurrensen mellan dessa aktörer är intensiv.

Elon Musk intar en unik position eftersom han är delaktig i samtliga kluster och har affärsintressen som berör både amerikansk och global teknikpolitik.

Ideologiska och ekonomiska drivkrafter

Trumps administration och teknikprofilerna delar flera gemensamma intressen:

- **Avreglering och fri marknad:** Minskad statlig inblandning, särskilt inom AI och digital ekonomi.
- **Nationell suveränitet:** Amerikansk teknologi ska prioriteras, vilket kan leda till restriktioner för utlandsägda teknikbolag.
- **Yttrandefrihet och plattformsstyrning:** Motstånd mot omfattande innehållsmoderering och censur.
- **Amerikansk dominans inom ny teknik:** Staten kan investera kraftigt i AI och molninfrastruktur.
- **Etisk och säker AI:** Säkerställande av att AI-utvecklingen sker med tydliga etiska ramar, skydd för personlig integritet och minskad risk för missbruk inom övervakning och beslutsfattande system.
- **OBS:** den riktiga fienden till USA i samtliga AI frågor är Kina. Samtliga personer jag pratat med tycker att Bidens administration för mycket gick på EU's linje om regleringar och med det sagt svängde många tidigare tech profiler från sitt liberala näste till att inte bara gå på Trumps linje utan även stödjade honom med kapital. Tech profilerna "köpte" in sig i den Amerikanska administrationen – och kommer så småningom kräva ut sin investering.

Potentiella konflikter

Trots gemensamma intressen finns vissa friktionsytor:

- **Invandringspolitik:** Musk och Ramaswamy vill attrahera global spetskompetens, medan MAGA-rörelsen ofta är skeptisk till invandring.
- **Handelspolitik och Kina:** Teknologiprofiler vill undvika handelskrig, medan Trump är mer konfrontativ gentemot Kina.
- **Intern konkurrens:** Rivalitet mellan Musk och Bezos om rymd- och AI-kontrakt kan eskalera.
- **OBS:** Det finns en historisk friktion mellan Musk och Thiel som baserar sig på att Musk tyckte Thiel fick oförtjänt mycket från affären + Thiel varit bättre på att skapa sig ett namn och hållts i högre regard än Musk. Friktionen kommer visa sig i den nuvarande administrationens framfart speciellt då Thiels Palantir är en stor leverantör till den Amerikanska staten.

Policyinitiativ och framtidsscenarier

Trump-administrationen kan införa omfattande reformer:

- **Förenkling av regler och skatter:** USA kan bli en mer attraktiv innovationshubb jämfört med EU.
- **Strategiska satsningar inom AI och kvantteknik:** Staten kan allokera miljarder dollar för att säkra amerikansk teknologisk överlägsenhet.
- **Etiska ramar för AI:** Regler och standarder kan utvecklas för att minimera AI:s risker för diskriminering, integritetsintrång och autonomt beslutsfattande i kritiska system.
- **Möjlig nationellisering av vissa nyckelbolag:** Amerikanska intressen kan prioriteras före utlandsägda bolag. Detta kan innebära att Trump kan lägga beslag på Ericsson som exempel.
- **OBS:** Räkna med utspel och konstigheter kring flera av Svenska spjutspetbolag där allt ifrån lägga tullhinder till regelrätt övertagande kommer ske. Mycket av det utspelen vi kommer se är “throw shit on the wall and see what sticks”.

Första Slutsats

Teknikprofilerna kring Trump har potential att omforma USA:s teknikpolitik genom avregleringar, statliga satsningar och geopolitisk strategi. Samtidigt finns det betydande kommersiella och ideologiska konflikter, både internt och gentemot etablerade republikanska värderingar. Den globala tekniksektorn, inklusive svenska aktörer, kommer att påverkas av dessa förändringar och behöver navigera en snabbt föränderlig politisk och ekonomisk verklighet.

Djupdykning i J D Vance

James David "J.D." Vance, född 2 augusti 1984 i Middletown, Ohio, är en amerikansk politiker, författare, jurist och före detta marinkårssoldat. Han tjänstgör sedan den 20 januari 2025 som USA:s 50:e vicepresident under president Donald Trump.

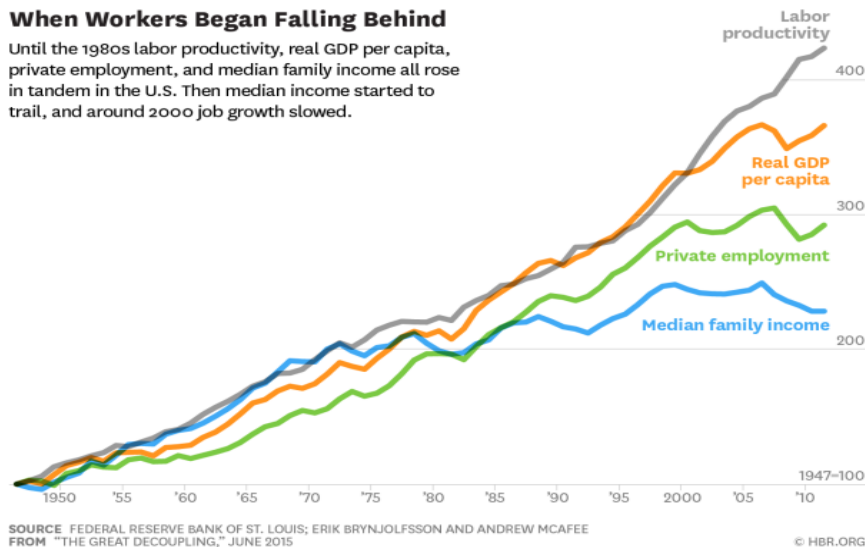
Bakgrund och karriär

Uppvuxen i en arbetarklassfamilj präglad av fattigdom och missbruk, lyckades Vance ta sig ur dessa förhållanden genom att tjänstgöra i USA:s marinkår och senare avlägga en juristexamen vid Yale University. Hans självbiografi, "Hillbilly Elegy" (2016), blev en bästsäljare och gav en inblick i livet för den vita arbetarklassen i USA:s rostbälte. **Boken bidrog till att förklara de socioekonomiska faktorer som ledde till Donald Trumps framgångar i presidentvalet 2016.**

NOTE: grundläggande faktor i det J D Vance beskriver i sin bok är den separation av värdeskapande produktivitet, GDP/capita, reallöner och medianinkomst/hushåll som skedde i USA under slutet av 1970-talet (se graf). Detta faktum pekas på av flera kända ekonomer som brytpunkten för där USA började få problem. Noterat att Sverige har utvecklats på samma sätt sedan 1990-talet men med en långsammare effekt – än så länge. Utan att åtgärda detta kan Sverige förvänta sig en liknande politisk utveckling som vi nu ser i USA.

When Workers Began Falling Behind

Until the 1980s labor productivity, real GDP per capita, private employment, and median family income all rose in tandem in the U.S. Then median income started to trail, and around 2000 job growth slowed.



Efter sin examen arbetade Vance inom riskkapitalbranschen i Silicon Valley, där han knöt kontakter med flera framstående teknologiprofiler. Han var anställd hos Mithril Capital, en riskkapitalfirma grundad av Peter Thiel, en av de ursprungliga medlemmarna i den så kallade "PayPal-maffian".

OBS: relationen mellan Thiel och Vance är MYCKET god. Man kan utgå från att Thiel nästan "fjäärstyr" Vance. Från källor har jag att Thiel inte anser Vance vara speciellt smart men väldigt duktig på att "exekvera" och utför order.

Koppling till teknologiprofiler och "PayPal-maffian"

"PayPal-maffian" är en benämning på den grupp tidigare PayPal-anställda som senare grundade eller investerade i flera framstående teknologiföretag, gruppen inkluderar bl.a. Peter Thiel, Elon Musk och Reid Hoffman. Vance's arbete med Thiel på Mithril Capital stärkte hans band till denna inflytelserika grupp. Thiel stödde också Vance ekonomiskt under hans politiska karriär, inklusive hans framgångsrika kampanj för en senatsplats i Ohio 2022.

Utöver Thiel har Vance även fått stöd från andra teknologimiljardärer som Elon Musk och Marc Andreessen. Dessa relationer har varit betydelsefulla för Vance's politiska uppgång och har bidragit till att forma hans ståndpunkter i frågor som skattepolitik, AI-utveckling och kryptovalutor.

Sammanfattningsvis har J.D. Vance, genom sina erfarenheter inom både tekniksektorn och politiken, etablerat sig som en central figur med starka kopplingar till inflytelserika teknologiprofiler och "PayPal-maffian".

OBS: För Sverige innebär det att gå via de vanliga kanalerna inom politiken såsom ambassadörer, konsulat, regeringsfunktioner inte fungerar praktisk och har föga påverkan på denna gruppering. Istället har det visat sig väldigt effektivt att använda personer med befintliga bra relationer med dessa kluster som en väg in med tydliga budskap, affärsmöjligheter och framför allt unika bemärkelser såsom Nobelpris för att nämna ett

exempel. Personligen har jag haft kontakter och nära relationer med dessa kluster sedan mitten av 90-talet.

Risk Assessment of J.D. Vance's Tenure and Implications for Sweden

Overview

J.D. Vance, as Vice President under Donald Trump's administration, is expected to reinforce Trump's policies, particularly in areas such as economic nationalism, deregulation, and a more adversarial stance toward China and the EU. His strong ties to tech billionaires, including Peter Thiel and Elon Musk, suggest a policy framework that favors technological acceleration, deregulated AI, and domestic industrial revival at the expense of international collaboration.

For Sweden, this creates both risks and opportunities that need strategic mitigation.

Key Risks and Sweden's Mitigation Strategies

1. Economic and Trade Policies

Risk: Increasing US Protectionism and Economic Nationalism

Vance and Trump advocate for policies that prioritize American manufacturing and technology sovereignty. This could result in:

- **Increased tariffs on European tech exports** (including telecom infrastructure and cloud services).
- **Buy American policies** that limit Swedish firms' access to U.S. government contracts.
- **Tech sovereignty measures** that could hinder companies like Ericsson from competing in the U.S. 5G market.

Mitigation Strategy for Sweden:

- Strengthen **bilateral trade agreements** with U.S. states that favor open markets (e.g., California, Texas) and make it a priority to considerably strengthen the function and profiles working in Silicon Valley with a clear mandate to build relationships necessary for Sweden's continued strength.
 - Increase lobbying efforts through the **EU and Nordic Council** to carve out exemptions for critical sectors.
 - Enhance Sweden's technological **alliances with Canada, Korea and Japan** to counterbalance U.S. shifts. It is critical we have bilaterally great relationships with these countries as everything else equal are jointly bigger than US and China on AI infrastructure if we pool our resources.
-

2. AI & Emerging Tech Regulation

Risk: U.S. Moves Toward Unregulated AI and a More Aggressive AI Race

Vance's proximity to Peter Thiel and Elon Musk suggests he will push for **deregulated AI development**, which may:

- Undercut **European AI safety standards** like GDPR and the AI Act.
- Give U.S. tech giants an **unfair advantage over Swedish AI startups** that must comply with strict EU laws.
- Increase **military AI applications**, pressuring allies like Sweden to align with U.S. defense AI strategies.

Mitigation Strategy for Sweden:

- Strengthen **Sweden's role in EU AI policy** to ensure harmonized global standards.
 - Promote **Nordic AI coalitions** that prioritize **ethical AI** as a counterweight to U.S. deregulation and build it on Sweden based AI developments.
 - Increase **public-private AI collaborations** to maintain Sweden's competitiveness in AI innovation. EcoDataCenter in Dalarna is a great example of this public-private partnership.
-

3. U.S.-China Tech Rivalry and Its Spillover Effects

Risk: Sweden Caught in the Crossfire of U.S.-China Tech Sanctions

Vance supports a **hardline stance on China**, meaning:

- Swedish firms with **Chinese dependencies** (e.g., Volvo Cars, Ericsson's supply chain) could face **U.S. secondary sanctions** without prior notice or warning. Sweden is already seen as China friendly by the list of people presented earlier in the text.
- **Semiconductor export restrictions** could impact Swedish access to key chip technology. This could happen overnight and also get to include certain software. The quicker we are as a country to get infrastructure in place the better off we are and can mitigate such actions.
- Potential **pressuring of Sweden to ban Chinese companies** (e.g., TikTok, Huawei) from critical infrastructure. This is not a risk it's a guarantee. It comes in the next wave of Trump activities as this is on the US administrations list of to-do's.

Mitigation Strategy for Sweden:

- Diversify semiconductor supply chains **beyond U.S.-China dependencies** (e.g., via Taiwan, South Korea, EU fab investments).
- Seek **security assurances from the U.S.** regarding trade impacts on Swedish firms.
- Strengthen **Nordic digital sovereignty strategies** to first balance reliance on both U.S. and Chinese tech and second build own capability and capacity in critical applications.

4. Shift in Transatlantic Relations & Security

Risk: U.S. Reducing Commitment to NATO and EU Relations

If Vance and Trump deprioritize NATO funding or increase **bilateral deal-making over multilateralism**, Sweden faces:

- **Increased security burdens** despite recent NATO membership.
- Potential **U.S. military disengagement** from Northern Europe, shifting defense responsibilities to EU/NATO.
- Pressure to **align with U.S. military AI policies** despite ethical concerns.

Mitigation Strategy for Sweden:

- Strengthen **EU security initiatives** (PESCO) to reduce NATO dependency.
- Expand **defense ties with the UK and Canada** in case U.S. security commitments wane.
- Advocate for **AI governance norms in NATO** to prevent unchecked military AI escalation.

5. Financial and Energy Impacts

Risk: U.S. Policies Affecting Green Energy and Investment Climate

Vance has been skeptical of **green subsidies** and supports **fossil fuel expansion**, meaning:

- **Weaker U.S. support for global climate initiatives**, affecting Swedish renewable investments.
- A **stronger U.S. oil & gas sector**, leading to **price volatility** for Sweden's energy market.
- **Increased capital flight to the U.S.**, making Sweden less attractive for tech startups and investments.

Mitigation Strategy for Sweden:

- Push for **EU energy autonomy policies** to reduce exposure to U.S. market fluctuations. It is important that Sweden temporary has a Sweden first energy strategy.
 - Expand Sweden's **green technology exports to Asia and the Middle East**.
 - Ensure Sweden remains a hub for **ESG-driven capital** to counterbalance shifts in U.S. investment trends.
-

Perspective on Assessment: Sweden Must Act Proactively

J.D. Vance's tenure as Vice President signals a **more aggressive, tech-driven, and nationalist U.S. approach**, with risks in **trade, AI regulation, military policies, and energy security**.

Sweden must:

1. **Bolster transatlantic trade protections** through **EU channels**.
2. **Strengthen AI and cybersecurity alliances** with **Nordic and EU partners**.
3. **Reduce dependence on U.S.-China supply chains** to avoid economic shocks.
4. **Enhance its role in shaping NATO strategy** to counter U.S. unpredictability.
5. **Drive independent green investments** to stay resilient against shifting U.S. priorities.
6. **Build a small public/private taskforce** to operate in the clusters of relevant people and in that have a trade mindset of both comparative advantages and Swedish sovereignty.

By acting **early and decisively**, Sweden can **navigate the risks while maintaining strong U.S. ties** without being overshadowed by American economic nationalism.

The Paypal mafia

The "PayPal Mafia" refers to a group of former PayPal employees and founders who went on to establish and invest in numerous successful technology companies. Beyond their internal connections, many members have cultivated extensive networks across various industries. Here's an expanded overview of key figures and their external affiliations:

(yellow highlight denotes critical relationships for Sweden)

1. Peter Thiel

- **Facebook:** As the first outside investor, Thiel's early funding was pivotal in Facebook's development.
- **Palantir Technologies:** Co-founded this data analytics company, which collaborates with government and financial sectors.
- **Founders Fund:** Through this venture capital firm, Thiel has invested in companies like LinkedIn, Spotify, and SpaceX.
- **Political Involvement:** A prominent supporter of conservative causes, Thiel has backed political figures including Donald Trump and J.D. Vance.
- **Enhanced Games:** Partnered with Aron D'Souza to propose an alternative to the Olympics, allowing performance-enhancing drugs under controlled conditions.
□cite□turn0news20□

2. Elon Musk

- **Tesla, Inc.:** CEO of this leading electric vehicle and clean energy company.
- **SpaceX:** Founder and CEO, advancing private space exploration and satellite communications.
- **Neuralink:** Co-founded this neurotechnology company developing implantable brain–machine interfaces.
- **The Boring Company:** Established to develop tunnel construction and infrastructure projects.
- **Political Connections:** Musk's involvement in government efficiency initiatives has been facilitated by political figures like Stephen and Katie Miller.
□cite□turn0news21□

3. Reid Hoffman

- **LinkedIn:** Co-founded the professional networking platform, later acquired by Microsoft.
- **Greylock Partners:** As a partner, Hoffman has invested in various tech startups, including Airbnb and Dropbox.
- **Political Engagement:** An active supporter of Democratic candidates and initiatives promoting responsible technology use.

4. Max Levchin

- **Yelp:** Co-founded this crowd-sourced review platform.
- **Affirm:** Founded this financial technology company specializing in installment loans for consumers.
- **HVF (Hard, Valuable, Fun):** Established this lab and fund to create and invest in projects that leverage data for innovation.

5. David Sacks

- **Yammer:** Founded this enterprise social networking service, acquired by Microsoft.
- **Craft Ventures:** Co-founded this venture capital firm investing in early-stage startups.
- **Political Involvement:** Appointed as the AI and crypto czar in the Trump administration, influencing technology policy.

6. Steve Chen and Chad Hurley

- **YouTube:** Co-founded the video-sharing platform, later acquired by Google.
- **AVOS Systems:** Established this company to develop new internet products and services.

7. Jeremy Stoppelman

- **Yelp:** Co-founded and serves as CEO, guiding its growth in the local business review market.

8. Premal Shah

- **Kiva:** Co-founded this nonprofit organization enabling peer-to-peer lending to alleviate poverty.

9. Luke Nosek

- **Founders Fund:** Co-founded alongside Peter Thiel, investing in companies like SpaceX and Facebook.
- **Gigafund:** Established to support companies with long-term visions, including SpaceX.

10. Roelof Botha

- **Sequoia Capital:** As a partner, Botha has invested in companies like YouTube and Instagram.
- **Eventbrite:** Serves on the board of this event management and ticketing platform.

11. Keith Rabois

- **Square:** Co-founded this mobile payment company.
- **OpenDoor:** Co-founded this online real estate marketplace.
- **Founders Fund:** Partner at this venture capital firm, investing in various startups.

12. Jack Dorsey

- **Twitter:** Co-founded the social media platform, serving as CEO during two separate terms.
- **Square:** Co-founded and leads this financial services and mobile payment company.

13. J.D. Vance

- **Author:** Wrote "Hillbilly Elogy," a memoir reflecting on his upbringing and socio-economic issues.
- **Politics:** Serves as the 50th Vice President of the United States under President Donald Trump.
- **Investment:** Partnered with Peter Thiel in venture capital endeavors, focusing on startups in Middle America.

These individuals have significantly influenced various sectors, extending their impact beyond the original PayPal network into broader technological, political, and philanthropic arenas.

To expand on these peoples external connections beyond this group, here are some notable associations:

Expanded Network and External Connections

1. **Elon Musk (Tesla, SpaceX, X/Twitter, Neuralink, Starlink)**

- **Sam Altman (OpenAI, former Y Combinator President)** – Initial collaborations in AI development before Musk distanced himself from OpenAI.
 - **Larry Page (Google/Alphabet)** – Former close associate; reportedly disagreed on AI risks.
 - **Tim Cook (Apple)** – Musk sought collaboration with Apple regarding software and batteries but has had a strained relationship.
 - **Donald Trump (Politics)** – Musk has engaged with Trump's administration, particularly on AI and regulatory policies.
2. **Peter Thiel (Palantir, Founders Fund, PayPal)**
 - **Mark Zuckerberg (Meta/Facebook)** – Early investor in Facebook, influencing its growth strategy.
 - **J.D. Vance (U.S. Vice President, author of "Hillbilly Elegy")** – Political protégé, supported by Thiel's financial backing.
 - **Erik Prince (Blackwater founder, defense contractor)** – Overlapping interests in defense and security technology.
 - **Tucker Carlson (Media)** – Strong ideological alignment and influence in conservative media circles.
 3. **David Sacks (PayPal, Investor, Conservative Commentator)**
 - **Donald Trump & GOP Leadership** – Has hosted fundraisers for Republican candidates.
 - **Balaji Srinivasan (Tech Entrepreneur, Bitcoin Proponent)** – Shared libertarian and decentralization ideologies.
 - **Jack Dorsey (Twitter, Square)** – Worked together on Twitter policies and free speech debates.
 4. **Marc Andreessen (Andreessen Horowitz, Silicon Valley Investor)**
 - **Ben Horowitz (Andreessen Horowitz Co-founder)** – Major investor in AI and crypto industries.
 - **Tim Cook (Apple)** – Andreessen Horowitz invested in various Apple-adjacent technologies.
 - **Naval Ravikant (AngelList, Podcast Host)** – Frequent collaborator in Silicon Valley startup ecosystems.
 5. **Jacob Helberg (Geopolitical Tech Strategist)**
 - **U.S. Department of Defense** – Works closely on technology and national security policies.
 - **Eric Schmidt (Former Google CEO)** – Has advised on technology and AI's role in geopolitics.
 6. **Jared Isaacman (SpaceX, Military Space Initiatives)**
 - **U.S. Air Force & Pentagon** – Has contracts for space-based defense technology.
 - **Lockheed Martin & Northrop Grumman** – Collaborates on military aerospace projects.
 7. **Michael Kratsios (Former White House CTO)**
 - **Palantir (Peter Thiel's Company)** – Transitioned into defense technology post-government service.
 - **Oracle (Safra Catz, Larry Ellison)** – Worked on cloud infrastructure deals with the government.
 8. **Blake Masters (Thiel Protégé, Former Senate Candidate)**
 - **Donald Trump (Politics)** – Endorsed by Trump in his Senate campaign.
 - **Josh Hawley (U.S. Senator)** – Shares national conservative ideologies.

- **Fox News & Conservative Media** – Frequent commentator.
- 9. **Vivek Ramaswamy (Biotech, Republican Politician)**
 - **Tucker Carlson & Fox News** – Prominent voice in conservative political commentary.
 - **JPMorgan & Wall Street Investors** – Deep financial ties from his biotech ventures.
- 10. **Shyam Sankar (Palantir, AI & Defense Tech)**
 - **CIA & NSA** – Strong connections through Palantir’s data analytics contracts.
 - **Microsoft (AI & Cloud Contracts)** – Works on government and defense cloud computing.
- 11. **Gail Slater (Tech Regulation Lawyer)**
 - **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** – Former key legal expert in tech regulation.
 - **Meta (Facebook), Google, Amazon** – Advised on regulatory strategies.

Second Conclusion

These individuals are deeply embedded in **politics, national security, venture capital, and AI development**. Their influence extends to governments, financial institutions, defense contractors, and leading tech firms, shaping **U.S. policy, global tech infrastructure, and future regulations**.

Policy Direction of the U.S. Toward Core Technology Companies & EU Under the Influence of This Group – Implications for Sweden

The individuals in this **core list**—Elon Musk, Peter Thiel, David Sacks, Marc Andreessen, Jacob Helberg, Jared Isaacman, Michael Kratsios, Blake Masters, Vivek Ramaswamy, Shyam Sankar, and Gail Slater—hold **strong libertarian, nationalist, and pro-tech industry** views. Their **policy preferences** will influence how the U.S. interacts with **core technology companies, the EU, and allies like Sweden**.

1. U.S. Tech Policy Under Their Influence: Deregulation, AI Dominance, and Nationalism

What to Expect:

- **Aggressive Deregulation for U.S. Tech Giants**
 - Favoring **less regulation** on AI, data privacy, and content moderation to promote rapid technological development.

- Opposition to the **EU's AI Act, GDPR, and Digital Markets Act (DMA)**, seeing them as overreach.
- Support for **corporate-friendly** policies that give U.S. firms an advantage over European counterparts.
- **Tech Nationalism: "America First" in AI & Cloud Infrastructure**
 - Preference for **U.S.-centric AI development**, limiting partnerships with foreign entities.
 - U.S. will likely **block European countries from relying on Chinese or non-American AI/cloud services**, pushing **AWS, Microsoft, and Palantir instead**.
 - Pressuring allies to **align with U.S. standards** rather than EU frameworks.
- **More Government Contracts for U.S. Tech**
 - **More defense and intelligence funding** directed toward Palantir, SpaceX, and AI firms aligned with national security.
 - **U.S. pushing for control over critical AI & cybersecurity technologies**, reducing European tech independence.

What Sweden Should Do:

- Push for **AI & cloud autonomy within the EU** while still **engaging with U.S. firms to avoid dependence on China**.
- Advocate for a **balanced regulatory approach** that doesn't put EU firms at a disadvantage against U.S. tech giants.

2. U.S. vs. EU: Tensions in Digital Sovereignty & Market Control

What to Expect:

- **Increased Tensions Over EU Regulation of U.S. Tech Giants**
 - **U.S. tech leaders will fight back against EU antitrust actions** targeting Apple, Google, Meta, and Amazon.
 - Retaliatory measures, such as **U.S. restrictions on European tech firms** operating in the American market.
 - A push for **less EU intervention** in content moderation (aligned with Musk's free speech ideology).
- **Weaker U.S.-EU Cooperation on Digital Policies**
 - EU wants to create a **more independent European digital market**; the U.S. sees this as **anti-competitive**.
 - Potential **U.S.-EU conflicts over chip & AI supply chains**, especially if Sweden aligns too closely with EU industrial policies.
 - U.S. tech companies lobbying **against European regulations that impact their dominance**.

What Sweden Should Do:

- **Position itself as a neutral bridge** between the U.S. and EU to **maintain access to both markets**.

- Promote **Swedish AI & telecom as a “trusted alternative”** that can work within both U.S. and EU regulatory frameworks.
-

3. Impact on AI, Defense, and Cybersecurity Policy

What to Expect:

- **Stronger Push for U.S. AI & Cybersecurity Leadership in NATO**
 - U.S. will demand **more European reliance on American defense AI & cybersecurity tools** (e.g., Palantir, Anduril).
 - Sweden & EU countries will be pressured **to avoid Chinese AI tech** (e.g., Huawei, SenseTime).
- **More Military-Grade AI in U.S. Alliances**
 - Strong backing for **AI-driven military technologies** from Thiel, Sankar (Palantir), and Isaacman (SpaceX defense projects).
 - **U.S. pushing allies to adopt these AI capabilities in NATO**—potentially **conflicting with EU ethical AI regulations**.
- **Reduced EU Influence on AI Ethics & Governance**
 - The **U.S. will set its own AI rules**, dismissing EU efforts to regulate AI risks (Thiel & Musk oppose strong AI restrictions).
 - Risk of **Sweden being caught between U.S. AI policy and EU AI safety frameworks**.

What Sweden Should Do:

- **Strengthen AI sovereignty** while cooperating with the U.S. on defense AI.
 - **Avoid full reliance on Palantir & U.S. defense AI** by developing independent European cybersecurity solutions.
 - Balance **EU AI safety regulations** with **U.S. defense partnerships**.
-

4. Space & Next-Gen Technology: U.S. Wants Europe Dependent on American Leadership

What to Expect:

- **U.S. Expansion of Space & Defense Tech (SpaceX, Starlink, AI Military Applications)**
 - SpaceX’s role in **military satellite networks** means U.S. allies will need **American space tech for defense**.
 - **Starlink expansion into NATO military use**, forcing Sweden to decide between **U.S. control vs. European alternatives**.
- **Push for U.S. Leadership in Quantum Computing & Cloud AI**
 - Andreessen, Kratsios, and Thiel backing U.S. supremacy in **quantum computing, cloud AI, and biotech**.
 - **U.S. may limit Europe’s access to key quantum breakthroughs**.

What Sweden Should Do:

- **Strengthen European space collaboration** (ESA & independent satellite networks) to avoid reliance on U.S. space tech.
- Invest in **Nordic-based quantum computing research** to maintain technological sovereignty.

Final Assessment: Sweden's Position in This U.S.-EU Tech Divide

Sweden **cannot afford to be passive** in the shifting tech landscape under a U.S. policy direction driven by this group. The likely scenario is a **more aggressive, protectionist, and deregulated U.S. tech policy** that may:

- Undercut **European digital sovereignty**.
- **Pressure Sweden to follow U.S. AI & cybersecurity frameworks**.
- **Create friction with EU digital regulations**.

Key Takeaways for Sweden:

1. **Avoid full reliance on U.S. AI & cybersecurity dominance** – build European alternatives.
2. **Strengthen EU-Sweden leadership in AI ethics** to counterbalance U.S. deregulation.
3. **Leverage transatlantic partnerships wisely** – engage with U.S. tech while maintaining EU sovereignty.
4. **Anticipate U.S. retaliation against EU tech regulations** – navigate trade conflicts carefully.
5. **Develop Swedish-led AI & cloud solutions to remain competitive globally**.

Sweden must **strategically balance cooperation with the U.S. and alignment with EU policies to stay competitive while protecting its digital sovereignty**.

Strategic Priorities for Sweden: Urgent Action Required

Sweden is at a **critical inflection point** in the global AI and technology landscape. To secure **economic strength, technological sovereignty, and national resilience**, Sweden must act **now**. Four key areas require **immediate** strategic action:

1. Energy: Secure National Control & Strategic Allocation

Risk: Sweden's vast supply of clean, low-cost energy is increasingly attractive to foreign tech giants. Without a **national strategy**, Sweden risks becoming a **passive energy supplier** rather than a leader in AI and industrial innovation.

Action Required:

- ✓ Establish a **cross-party “Sweden First” energy strategy** to ensure that national energy serves Swedish long-term interests first.
 - ✓ Prevent **uncontrolled energy sell-offs** that leave Sweden dependent on foreign tech interests.
 - ✓ Recognize that **cloud infrastructure can be weaponized**—as seen in the U.S.-Canada dispute, where Trump **threatened cloud shutdowns** in retaliation for energy policy decisions.
-

2. AI & Cloud Infrastructure: Build a Sovereign Tech Stack

Risk: Sweden currently has **only one major operational AI/cloud infrastructure provider**. If no action is taken, Sweden will become **fully dependent on foreign AI infrastructure**, losing both economic and security control.

Action Required:

- ✓ Establish a **national, sovereign AI and cloud stack**—without it, Sweden will be at the mercy of **U.S. and Chinese-controlled AI ecosystems**.
 - ✓ Prioritize investments in **Swedish-owned AI infrastructure**, ensuring critical industries and government functions remain independent.
 - ✓ Recognize that **this is a question of sovereignty**—not just economic policy.
-

3. AI Capacity: Scale Swedish AI Startups into Global Players

Risk: Sweden has **world-class AI startups**, but they are **failing to scale**. If we continue small, fragmented investments, we will **lose leadership in AI innovation**.

Action Required:

- ✓ **Cluster and consolidate** AI startups into strategic hubs, fostering **growth, collaboration, and rapid scaling**.
 - ✓ Focus national efforts on a **few critical AI applications**, ensuring Sweden **owns key pieces of the global AI ecosystem**.
 - ✓ **Stop slow-feeding innovation**—AI leadership is a race, and Sweden **cannot afford to fall behind**.
-

4. Knowledge: Equip the Population for the AI Economy

Risk: AI will reshape **every sector**. If Sweden fails to **rapidly upskill its workforce**, it risks becoming a **low-value service provider** in the global economy, much like **Bangladesh in the textile industry**.

Action Required:

- ✓ Launch a **nationwide AI upskilling initiative**, ensuring **all levels of the workforce** are equipped to **work alongside AI**.

- ✓ Integrate AI education **across industries**—not just in tech, but in **manufacturing, healthcare, finance, and public services**.
 - ✓ Make Sweden a **leader in AI-augmented workforces**—turn **energy into intelligence** and **maintain national competitiveness**.
-

The Bottom Line: Sweden Must Act Now

If we fail to take decisive action in the next **12 months**, Sweden will:

- ⚠ Lose control of its **energy resources to foreign tech giants**.
- ⚠ Become **dependent on U.S. and Chinese AI infrastructure**.
- ⚠ Watch its **AI startups stagnate and get outcompeted**.
- ⚠ Fall behind in **AI-driven workforce transformation**.

APPENDIX

Individuals whom the media refers to as members of the PayPal Mafia include:^{[6][5]}

- [Peter Thiel](#), PayPal founder and former CEO who is sometimes referred to as the "don" of the PayPal Mafia. He serves as Chairman of the [Palantir](#) board, was a founder of [Founders Fund](#), and was the first outside investor in [Facebook](#).
- [Max Levchin](#), founder and [chief technology officer](#) at PayPal. Current CEO of [Affirm](#).
- [Elon Musk](#), co-founder of [Zip2](#), and founder of [X.com](#) (which merged with [Confinity](#) to form PayPal), [SpaceX](#), [OpenAI](#), [Neuralink](#), and [The Boring Company](#). He bought a controlling share in [Tesla Motors](#) and purchased [Twitter](#) (rebranded as [X](#)). He is the [wealthiest person on Earth](#), with a net worth of \$384 billion, and since 2025, he has been acting as a senior advisor to United States President [Donald J. Trump](#) and as head of the [Department of Government Efficiency \(DOGE\)](#).
- [David O. Sacks](#), former PayPal COO who later founded [Geni.com](#) and [Yammer](#).
- [Scott Banister](#), early advisor and board member at PayPal.^[7]
- [Roelof Botha](#), former PayPal CFO who later became a partner at the venture capital firm [Sequoia Capital](#).
- [Steve Chen](#), former PayPal engineer who co-founded [YouTube](#).
- [Reid Hoffman](#), former executive vice president who later founded [LinkedIn](#) and was an early investor in [Facebook](#) and [Aviary](#). Currently sits on the board of [Microsoft](#).
- [Ken Howery](#), former PayPal CFO who became a partner at [Founders Fund](#), and later served as the US Ambassador to Sweden during the Trump Administration.
- [Chad Hurley](#), former PayPal web designer who co-founded [YouTube](#).
- [Eric M. Jackson](#), who wrote the book [The PayPal Wars](#) and became chief executive officer of [WND Books](#) and co-founded [CapLinked](#).
- [Jawed Karim](#), former PayPal engineer who co-founded [YouTube](#). Founder of [YVentures](#).
- [Dave McClure](#), former PayPal marketing director who later co-founded [500 Global](#) and became a [super angel](#) investor for startup companies.
- [Luke Nosek](#), PayPal co-founder and former vice president of marketing and strategy who later became a partner at [Founders Fund](#).
- [Keith Rabois](#), former executive at PayPal who later worked at [LinkedIn](#), [Square](#), [Khosla Ventures](#), and [Founders Fund](#).
- [Jack Selby](#), former vice president of corporate and international development at PayPal who co-founded [Clarium Capital](#) with Peter Thiel.
- [Premal Shah](#), former product manager at PayPal who later became the founding president of [Kiva.org](#). Serves on the [Change.org](#) board.
- [Russel Simmons](#), former PayPal engineer who later co-founded [Yelp](#).
- [Jeremy Stoppelman](#), former vice president of technology at PayPal who later co-founded [Yelp](#).
- [Yishan Wong](#), former engineering manager at PayPal who later worked at [Facebook](#), became the CEO of [Reddit](#), and founded Terraformation Inc.
- [Yu Pan](#) was one of the co-founders of PayPal and played a role in designing the company's user interface and user experience. He later became involved in [private ventures](#) and some successful startups.