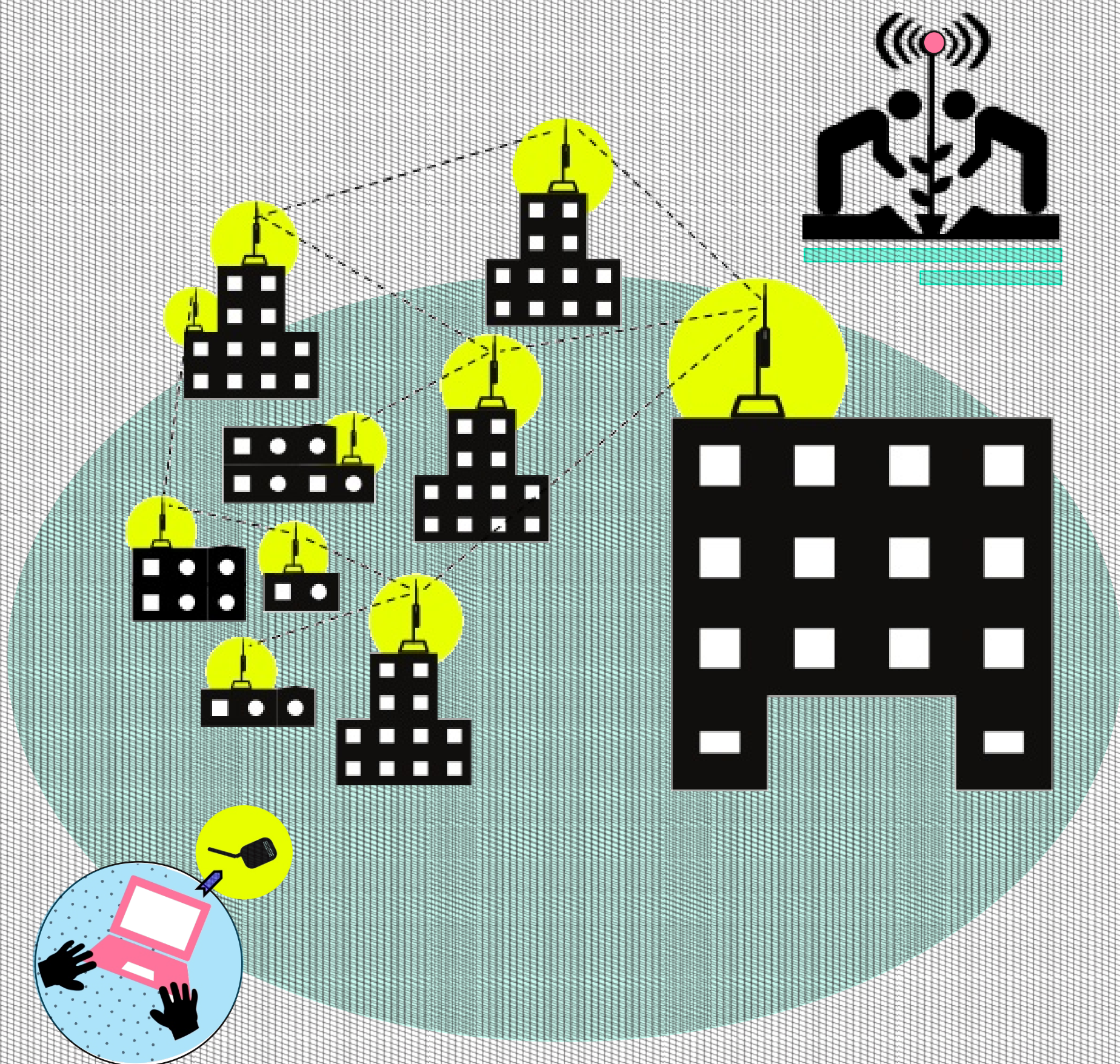


Intro to Community Wireless Networks



What is a Community Wireless Network?



Open community wireless networks digitally connect communities, and allow neighbors to share Internet access or use locally hosted applications. Neighbors are linked from rooftop to rooftop using wireless equipment.



Ownership and management duties are distributed among the community.

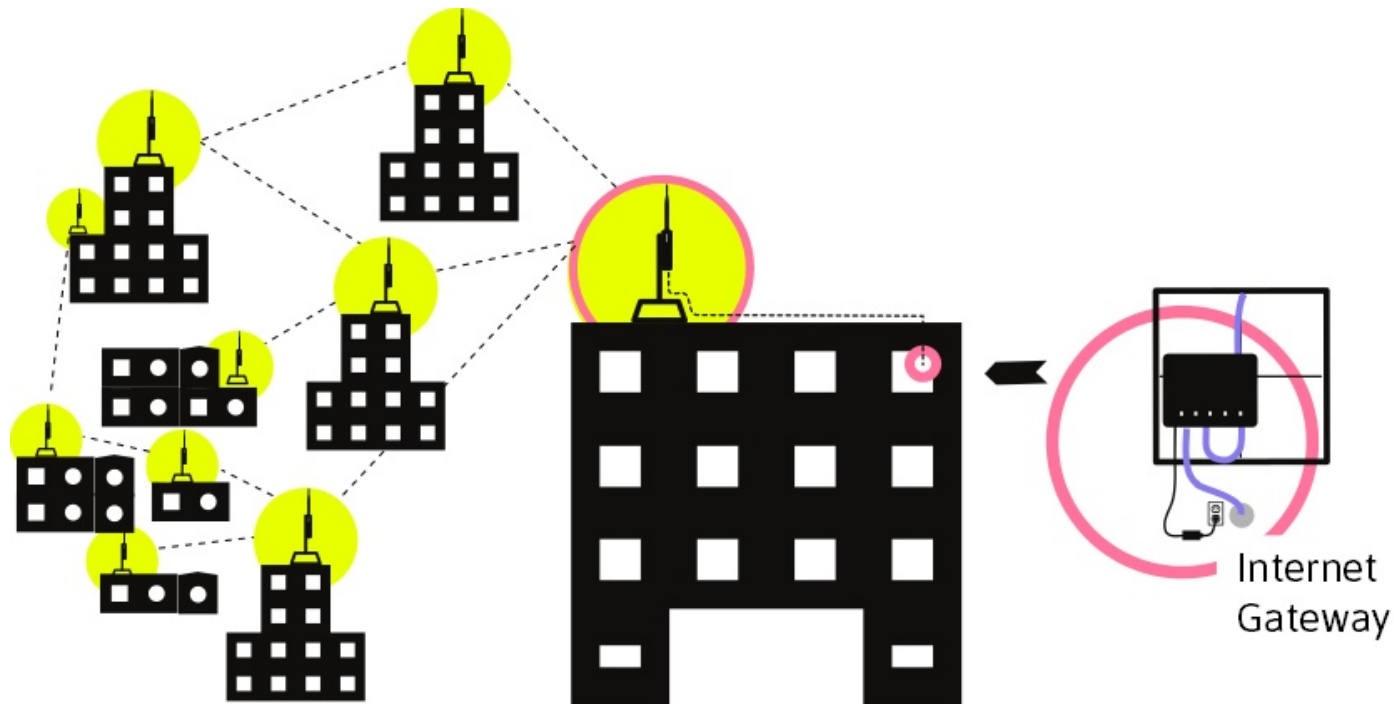


Community networks are built by a coalition of community anchor institutions, community-based organizations, municipal representatives, and individuals working together to plan, design, and deploy a network.

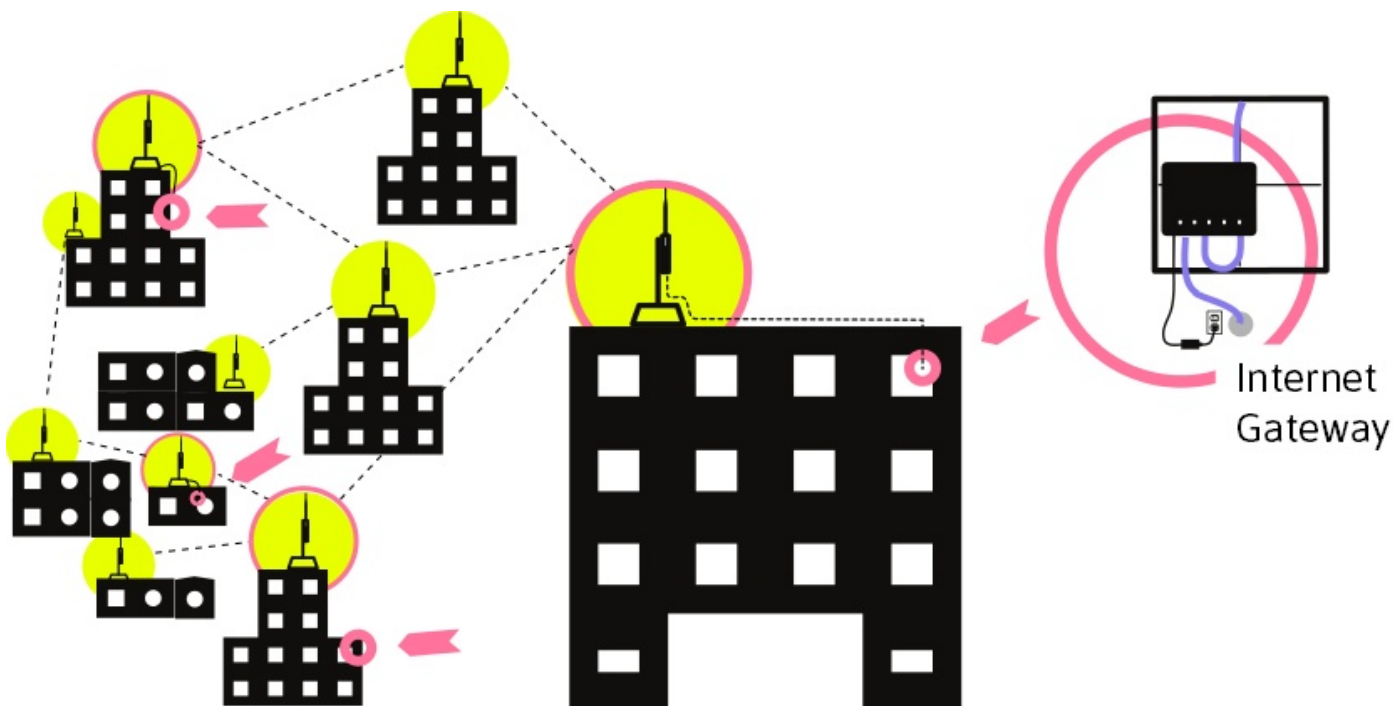


Digital Stewards are community members that take care of the network.

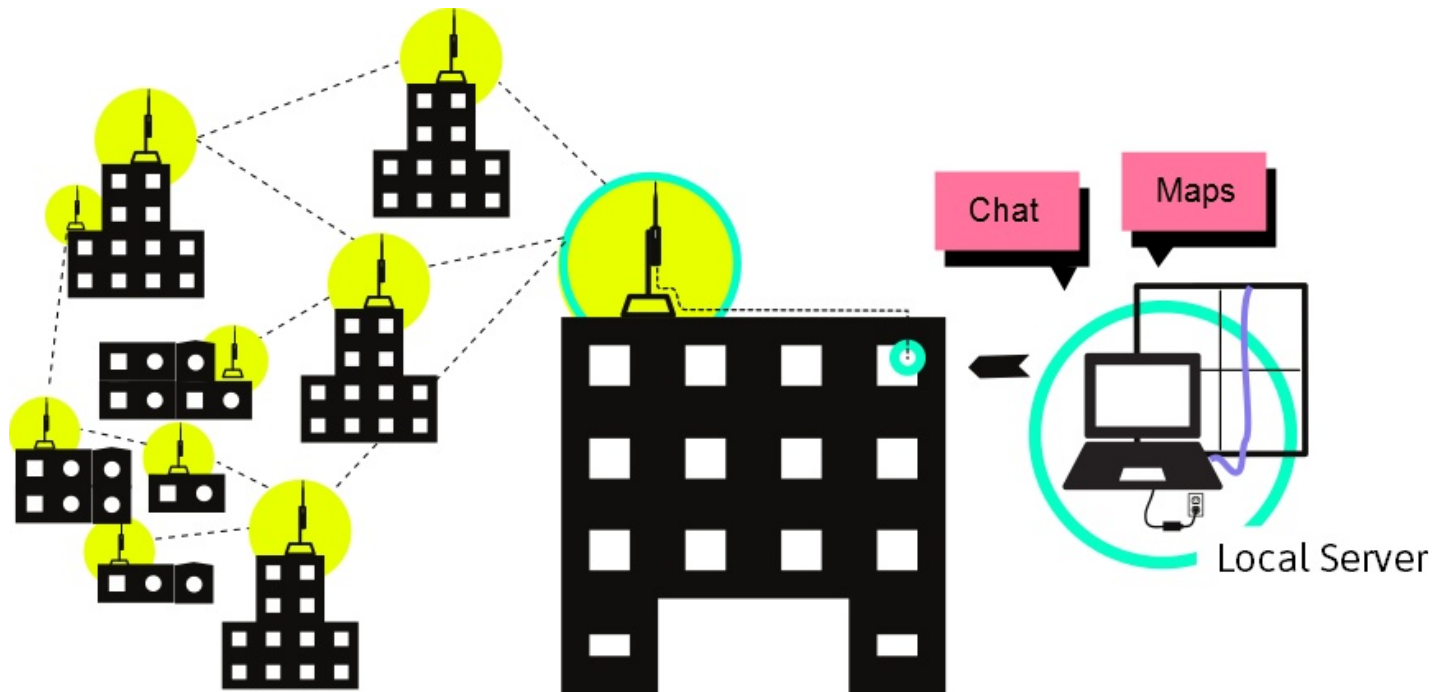
A network can distribute and share Internet access from one place.



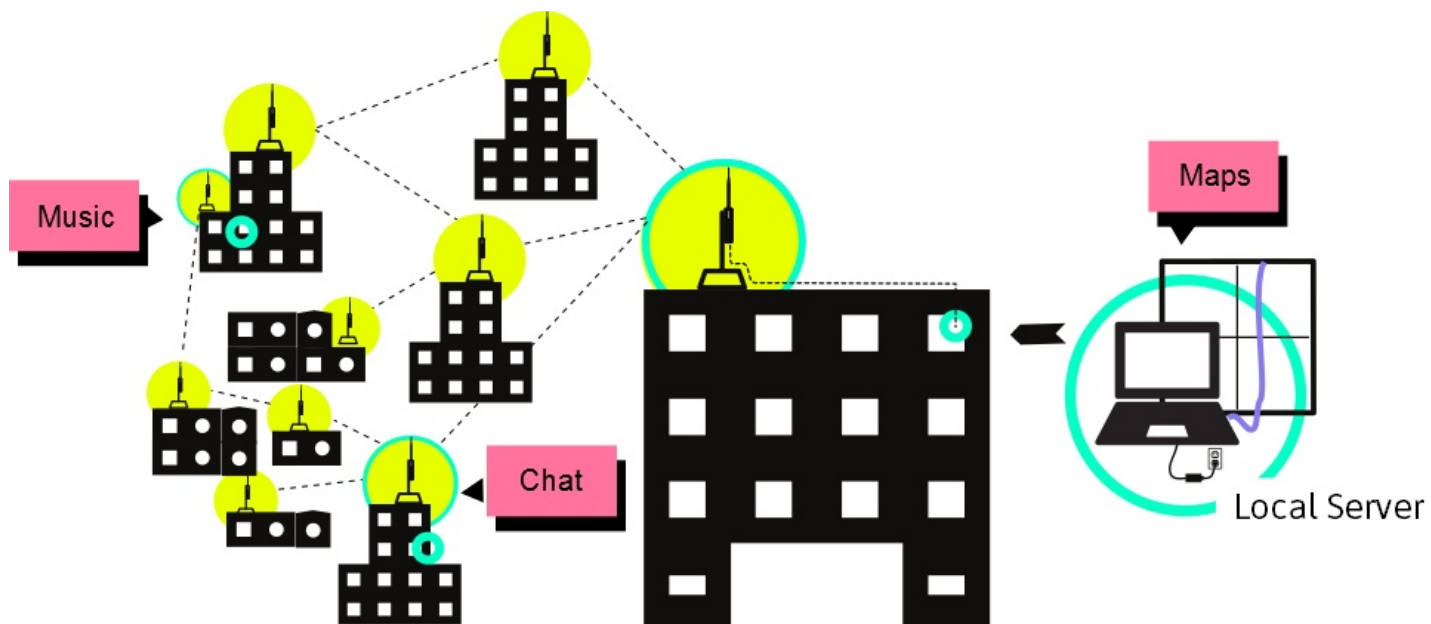
Or, from multiple places.



A network can distribute local applications from a local server.



Or, from multiple local servers.



What skills do we need?

Community wireless networks require many different skills. For example, artists and designers popularize the network, electricians and handy-people teach others how to mount routers on buildings, organizers talk to people about the network and hold public meetings, technologists create local applications, community members host equipment on the roof or in their window. Everyone has an important skill to offer.

Who has these skills in your community?

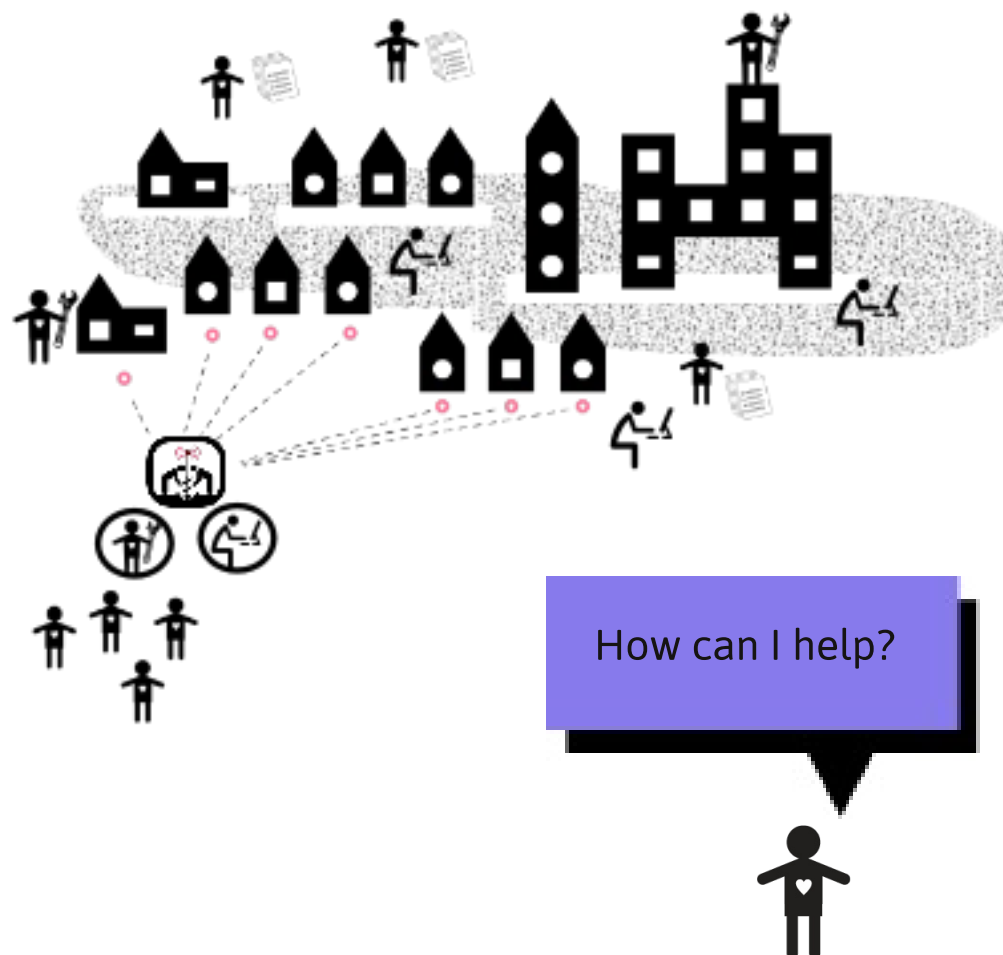
Organizer



Handy-Person



Technologist



Getting Started

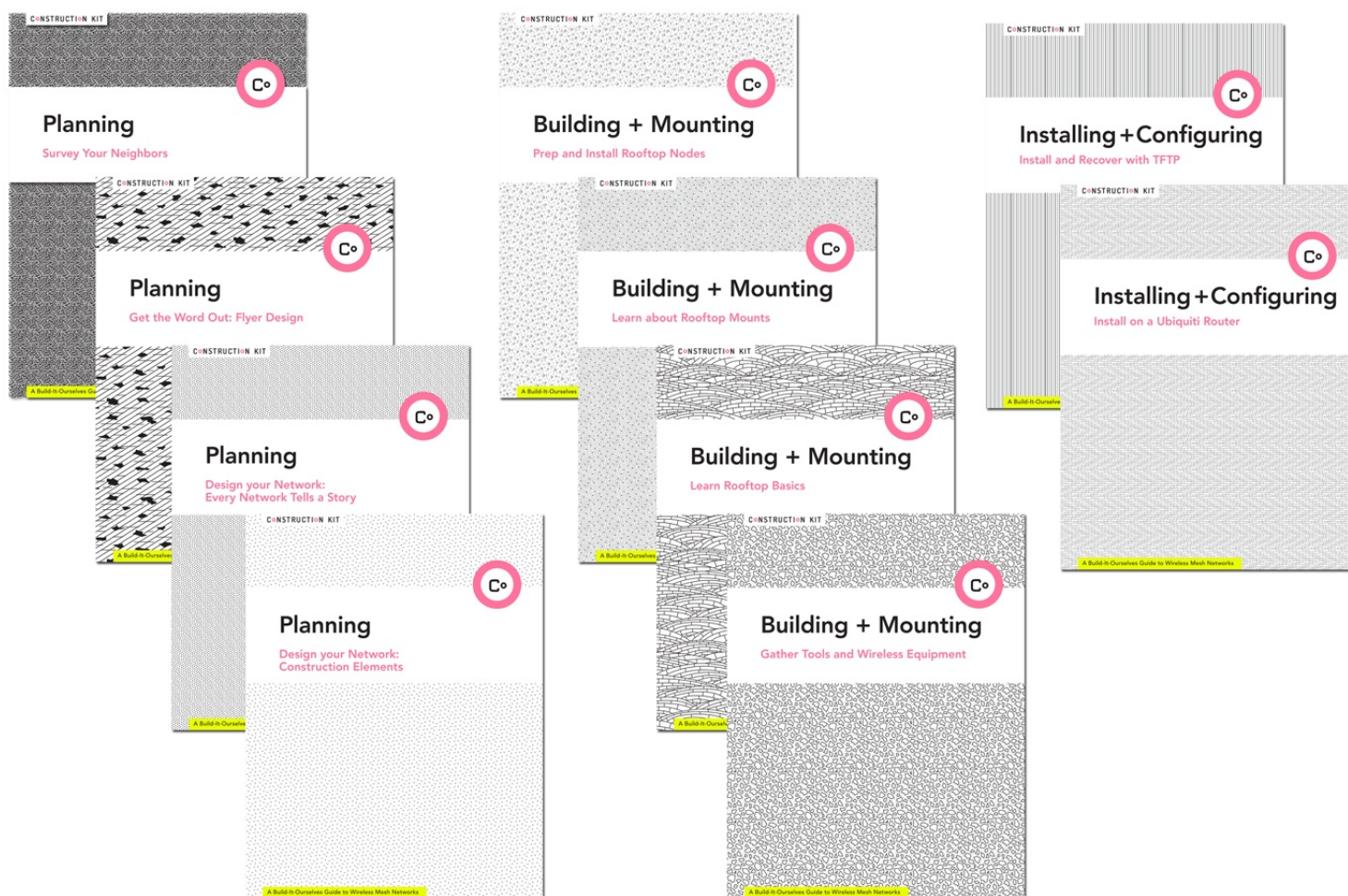


The Commotion Construction Kit can help you organize and plan in your community.

The Commotion Construction Kit includes activities you can use in your communities to help planning, building and govern the network together. These are useful no matter what equipment and firmware you choose to use.

There is no one right way to move through the activities. You will find tools to help you learn the software and build and mount the hardware, as well as tools to help you organize with others in your neighborhood to plan, build, and promote a network. The modules are designed to be used by individuals or groups for self-guided learning or to teach workshops or trainings. Start to explore anywhere and let us know how it goes for you.

<http://www.commotionwireless.net/docs/cck>



Related Information

Wireless Networking in the Developing World

A practical guide to designing and building wireless networks in local communities. The book can be downloaded or purchased.

<http://wndw.net/>

Altermundi Documentation

A growing collection of documentation related to Altermundi's community network in Argentina. Currently the documentation is in Spanish.

<http://docs.altermundi.net/RedesMiniMaxi/>