

What's the Password Again?

Distributed Software and Cooperatives

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3. Future Visioning / Planning

- How *could* we use software?
- What needs to be done? How can we help to make co-ops more efficient and effective?

Overview of Technologies

What is Technology?



Cooperative Technology - What is it?

- signage



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- signage
- dinner bell
- filing cabinet
- group messaging apps
- meeting rules / Robert's Rules of Order
- **systems and patterns of interaction, often (but not always) using physical tools**



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“the revolution will not be televised...” or on your smartphone

Discussion

What technologies does your co-op use for
decisionmaking, document sharing, and
bookkeeping?

When do these work well, and when do they fail?

Remember, technologies include things like rules for running meetings, written notes, signs, as well as computerized technologies.

Free and Open Source Software

Why Care About Open Source?

```
def my_program(input):
    calculate the thing
    output "useful information" →
    save "file_for_later.txt"
0001010101010101
1010101010111110
0101010101011111
```

FOSS Principles

“the freedom to use, study, copy, modify, and redistribute computer software”

Case Study: Quickbooks

From Intuit's Terms of Service:

"Note that we may modify the **amount of storage space** you have through the Services and the **number of times** (and the maximum duration for which) you may access the Services in a given period of time... Your continued use of the Services will constitute your acceptance of and agreement to such changes."

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What if Intuit goes out of business? Or decides to double prices? Or their servers are hacked and personal info is stolen/deleted?

convenience vs. control

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“just call the landlord” vs. self-management

Relevant Rochdale Principles

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Open source software is continually improved - bugs can be fixed by anyone, not just developers working for company

Decentralized Software

Decentralized Software

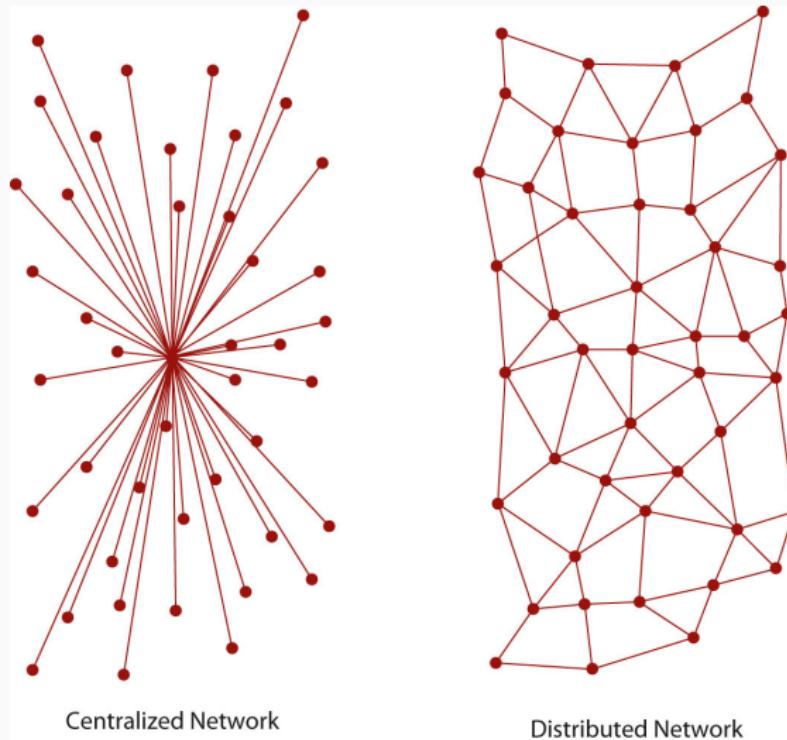


Figure 1: Figure from *Understanding Media and Culture: An Introduction to Mass Communication*

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Can use for documents, distributed ledgers (everyone keeps track of everyone's transactions), etc

Examples of Co-op Software and Alternatives

Google Docs

Each document is “owned” by one Google account. This account can change sharing settings, delete the document, etc.

Best Practices:

- Make a Google account for each “coordinator,” then pass these accounts between people as members change roles

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Best Practices:

- Make a Google account for each “coordinator,” then pass these accounts between people as members change roles
- Save local backups / use Chrome “offline” extension

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Can use GitHub (semi-centralized solution) for better interfaces, hosting wikis, etc.

Alternative: wikis

Not logged in [Talk](#) [Contributions](#) [Create account](#) [Log in](#)

Article [Talk](#) Read [Edit](#) [View history](#) [Q](#)

LocalWiki

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

LocalWiki is a collaborative project that aims to collect and open the world's local knowledge. The LocalWiki project was founded by [DavisWiki](#) creators Mike Ivanov and Philip Neustrom^[1] and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization^[2] based in San Francisco, California.^[3] LocalWiki is both the name of the project and the software that runs the project's websites.

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- 3 Notable LocalWiki communities
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LocalWiki

 localwiki
Original author(s) <i>Michael Ivanov, Philip Neustrom</i>
Developer(s) LocalWiki
Stable release v0.5.5
Preview release Master
Development status Active
Written in Python
Website LocalWiki

Loomio

- centralized tool for decentralized organizations
- open source, co-op run
- integrated collection of tools for voting on proposals, scheduling meetings, polling groups

loomio.org



Platform Co-op

Resource for starting and finding co-ops with digital platforms (ride sharing, journalism, finance, data management, etc)

platform.coop

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- Basic idea behind bitcoin (though 96% of bitcoin is owned by 4% of the network)
- Ideas could be useful for internal transactions in co-op (or network of co-ops): needs more people working on it!

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consider creating space in your organizations for dedicated
“software coordinators”

Discussion

What do we want computers to do for us?

What are the **obstacles** to changing technologies?

Which of these obstacles are **actionable**?