

TITLE: HOWTO: the will to organize

hoping to not have bored you so far. willpower we have, we don't need to manifest it. more people is councious, even without manifesto. we need to do and to tell people how to do. we need to focus on problems and document how to solve them. we don't need a manifesto. we need an howto. there we go with everyone bulding it up in his/her own language. there we can point out problems we all know about, there we can focus the ways out then, and i hope we won't be all staged on a hollywood movie at the end. ciao :)

jaromil ([jaromil@dyne.org](mailto:jaromil@dyne.org))

Broad perspective: COMMONING.

Global challenges and goals: a glocal design to educate for commoning. The coming decade worldwide will be determined by the strained relationship between formal and informal structures and environments. A design for commoning, for living together locally in a globally connected world, is the new challenge. On a political pedagogic level there is foremost the need to redefine the balance between securities and insecurities. Feeling safe has to do with the ability to deal with un-safety and insecurity, to have a corporeal experience of agency. It has very little to do with being safe. For how long will it last? The education we aim for can be defined as creating and facilitating the intellectual, corporeal and socio-cultural temporary zones of potentialities within which insecurity is distributed on an equal level. Learning then is lifelong by default, an intricate multiple relationship that is about learning how to deal with insecurity and instability. This relationship forms the basis of all democratic action as it creates trust on a convergence of levels we humans need in order to sustain the practice of everyday life and confrontations. We start - crudely naive and simplistically - our discussions with the assumption that this notion of distributing insecurity has been employed inadvertently as a political principle in the Pacific Rim, in sharp contrast to the US and Europe where notions of security, control and safety as a default in business, health, have led to a deep mistrust of risktaking and employing distributing security as a political and pedagogic/didactic principle, leading to only more fear of public space and fellow citizens. Our next assumption is that we find embodied the practices and embodied processes of a new found agency of citizens in forging new balances between security/insecurity in Pacific-Asia in new media centres. We then posit that it is vital for the project of commoning that we find ways of documenting what is going on, harvest a concept-scenario-prototype format from their ways of working. For that we need to find common ground, identify common trends and decide on urgencies.

Text to open the discussion:

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## QUESTIONS

- Developing a practice of authorship: IP, originality and authorship, who claims what when? and what should the education process focus on: individual gain or communal authorship?

At the Contested Commons Conference (Sarai/CSDS, Delhi, January 2005) an impressive number of voices argued to go beyond Creative (some rights reserved) Commons, as this way of operating leaves the fundamental notions of individual ownership and individual rights to specific ideas a person might conjure up, intact.

Apart from the facts that the notion of 'originality' is a specific historic constellation - for in a networked world all nodes draw upon the same published data -, that this idea of being 'the first' in or with something is a specific *western* historic sociocultural constellation as if this is of any matter in our overmediatized globally networked environment.

*debate:*

Instead of regressing back into an untenable situation that cripples creativity and the kind of link management that is required for a creative cultural sustainable economy, we would do well to take a leap forward away from licenses and individual property rights to new forms of scripting solidarity between producers and consumers, citizens and policy, money and power, teachers and students.

- Developing a practice of ethics, using Varela's notion of enaction.

In *Evolution, Alienation and Gossip, The role of mobile telecommunications in the 21st century*, Kate Fox claims that about two thirds of our conversation time is entirely devoted to social topics: "discussions of personal relationships and experiences; who is doing what with whom; who is 'in' and who is 'out' and why; how to deal with difficult social situations; the behaviour and relationships of friends, family and celebrities; our own problems with lovers, family, friends, colleagues and neighbours; the minutiae of everyday social life - in a word, gossip". This underlines the importance of the notion of enaction that Varela outlines in his study *Ethical Know-How, Action, Wisdom and Cognition*:

"enaction as the ability to negotiate embodied, everyday living in a world that is inseparable from our sensory-motor capacities" [\[ii\]](#)

For him this notion is the key to understand ethics in our everyday life. He

wonders if the traditional way of setting up a cognitive set of ethical principles and axioms; you should do this, you should not do that...is actually indicative of the way people behave when confronted with difficult decisions. What do you do, he asks, when you enter your office and you see your colleague tied up in a what appears to be embarrassing telephone conversation? Would you not be very quiet and try to sneak out of the room unnoticed? Was that not an ethical decision that you made? And were you not immediately convinced that it was an embarrassing situation? Varela then wonders if we possess a kind of ethical sense. A sense to negotiate encounters on a daily level.

As with a need for an everyday ethics that can re-affirm a communal integrity and sense of trust in leadership, we need a pragmatic philosophy that does not shun but foregrounds the absolutes and belief in religious essences:

"Whether we are scientists or artists, politicians or publicans, the question of the "potatiness of potatoes" or the "wateriness of water" is there for all to inquire into. Those who know say we only have to open our eyes, look, keep looking, and see. With the dangers facing our world as it is today, that could make a real difference." [\[iii\]](#)

- Developing an agency in Techné

Every new set of techniques brings forth its own literacy: The Aristotelian protests against introducing pencil writing, may seem rather incredible now, at the time it meant nothing less than a radical change in the structures of power distribution. Overnight, a system of thought and set of grammar; an oral literacy dependant on a functionality of *internal* information visualization techniques and recall, was made redundant because the techniques could be externalised. Throughout Western civilization the history of memory externalisation runs parallel with the experienced disappearance of its artificial, man made, character. An accidental disappearance, however much intrinsic to our experience, that up till now has not been deliberate. This is the fundamental change and the *technology design challenge* that we are facing in pervasive computing and the converging trend towards smart environments; the *deliberate* attempt of a technology to disappear as technology. In what respect will it alter our notion of the self as a more or less stable identity? Will it not provoke an identity building on the ability to change roles in communication environments? What kind of privacies lay hidden in our new connectivities? What will it do with our creative abilities as expert users to improve, challenge, build upon and advance a technology that is running in the background?

Cultural issues have become deliverables on the programming/coding level.

The EU working document of Working Party 29 "too wishes to provide guidance

to manufacturers of the technology (RFID tags, readers and applications) as well as RFID standardization bodies on *their responsibility* towards *designing privacy compliant technology* in order to enable deployers of the technology to carry out their obligations under the data protection Directive." EU thinking on RFID is quite sophisticated around the subtlety of privacy thinking. The argument *we track things, and not people* is untenable as data-mining is seen in logical conjunction with RFID. From this it becomes clear that there is no killer application of RFID as RFID is itself the killer application of smart connectivity.

- Developing a new authorship as educators and theorists: plot

*Let us go back to consider "writing", to talk about meaning again. To the random function raised at an aesthetic level, let us oppose the strong notion of plot[3] as a production of meaning."*[4]

- Developing cultural equivalents of Launch and Learn. .

Learn and launch is an implementation principle that characterizes disruptive technologies, such as RFID. Since it is not (yet) a "plug and play" technology, many companies have adopted a "launch and learn" approach to adopting the technology. Sean Campbell, IBM's RFID leader claims. "You should build through trials and controlled pilots. There is no substitute for hands-on learning, what [early RFID adopter] Gillette calls 'launch and learn.'" He stresses the key factor of involving a cross-section of employees for a successful implementation. "Everyone from the executives to the warehouse workers must know the project goals and how the system works, he said. Finally, he stressed the need to store and organize the reams of data companies get from RFID systems".[iv] BAA IT Director Rundle sums it up: "We are learning as we are going." [v] What social practices are emerging from this expanding, disruptive device ecology?[5] Bryan Alexander asks: "Perhaps we are beginning to see the emergence of *learning swarms*. Are instructors ready to join in learning swarms on their specialties or to facilitate the ad hoc growth and flourishing of such learning swarms? Can we integrate these into our "less swarmy" campus environment? "

- Developing new formats of integrity:

Academic research, formal academic education and general R&D are becoming increasingly irrelevant for actual practices of business, transactions, standardization, organising, learning, and producing formats that produce urgency, in short for the very practice of everyday living. For a viable dynamic commoning to flourish open flows of data inform the possibilities of what might become information for some, plain data to others and knowledge for communities. Rapid prototyping , practice based phd's, and demo or die can not only be seen as new ways of disseminating ideas, but as radical breaks with the academic positivistic tradition.

*An experience, is dramatic when enquiries the quality of the presence, hence the actor's identity, there and then. Immersion is the opposite of feeling dull; it means concentration. I trust my digital guide if it can build up a deeper relation with the environment, with the work of art. But if it is designed to make me chat with some other guy in the room or even to end up dating with the one that has liked my same pieces, well, it is only a mere product, it turns myself in a consumer, and the museum in a supermarket. We do not need it. (Pizzo, 2005)*

[1] Disappearing Computer Privacy "Troubadour" (Researcher) for . EU FET (Future and Emerging Technologies Programme)

[2] Van Kranenburg, Rob. Towards Designerly Agency in a Ubicomp World, In: Tales of the Disappearing Computer, Kameas A., Streitz, N. (eds), CTI Press, 2003, pp. 119-127.

[3] Comment by Bruno Colet on this reading of plot:

I like a lot:

O. the image of scrabble (in 4\*);

O. the word 'plot' (I use sometimes the idea of 'territory', more physical, ethnic, in reference to a talking on space notion of Australian aboriginals);

O. 'processes'. I so often used it and bring it facing so many people with fished eyes, dumbfounded.

So, I feel as a dancer more than ever.

Thank you very much.

BroC

[4]

Short invective on theatre and virtuality: Five things I don't want to hear anymore Antonio Pizzo [Intervento presentato a "Virtuality 2005", Torino, 6 Novembre 2005 / Speech presented at "Virtuality 2005", Turin, November 6, 2005]

[5] Going Nomadic: Mobile Learning in Higher Education Bryan Alexander  
EDUCAUSE REVIEW | September/October 2004, Volume 39, Number 5  
(September/October 2004): 28–35.

[6] *Systems are doing it for themselves; distributing insecurity.*

*Intrusion detection needs to be looked at as a process and not as a product. IDSes are systems that support the process. The products support the process.[6]*

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"One of the biggest problems in IDS world is false positives and too many alerts. To avoid these false positives, IDSes are implementing protocol intelligence. That means, IDSes need to maintain some sort of state information on per connection basis. If you take HTTP as an example, this state information involves storing URL and in case of TCP connections, data packet buffering OR pure data buffering, if the packets come out of order (people refer to this as TCP streaming or TCP reassembly). In case of IP, packets need to be buffered for IP reassembly. So, lot of state information need to be maintained at different levels. Assume that on per HTTP connection, if 500 bytes of state information is maintained, for 10000 simultaneous connections, you require 5 Mbytes of memory." [6]

In an unmodified Digital Territory embedded systems will be doing a check upon themselves to see if they are in 'on' mode and all right. As all is forever emerging and in flux, you do not want large amounts of your battery operated systems memory used for constantly checking upon itself.

So we move from our current operational programming rules - to distribute security - towards organizational principles that are guided by the principle of distributing insecurity.

"Because of the extent of interconnectivity of home networks and devices, disruptions will affect the whole network and will therefore, become *critical*." [6]

[i] *Evolution, Alienation and Gossip*, The role of mobile telecommunications in the 21st century, By Kate Fox

[ii] *Ethical Know-How, Action, Wisdom and Cognition*, Fransisco J. Varela, Stanford University Press, California, 1992; p. 17

[iii] . C.J.Moore *Take a closer look at the nature of things*. International Herald Tribune, Saturday-Sunday, August 13-14, 2005.

[iv] No Substitute For RFID 'Launch and Learn' By Colin C. Haley June 14, 2005

[v] Airport operator tests RFID for mystery application  
Steve Ranger silicon.com April 29, 2005