

Solidarity By Design

Designing technology for social movements and labor organizing.

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Easy to get involved

As self-organizing as possible

Make sure people don't get in trouble

Gives people a feeling of community

As self-organizing as possible

Rick Falkvinge talks about a "swarm" and a "scaffolding" in every social movement. The "scaffolding" is the support structure, the organization. The "swarm" - activists who come and go, have energy and define the growth. You can't control the swarm, because too much control kills it.

Can we build a network that will act as a scaffolding, so that we can get by with as little maintenance as possible? Code is law - how do we design the digital scaffolding to best serve the people?

Easy to get involved

The people at the fringes of any bubble are the ones who have the most friends outside of it. If you want a movement to grow, you have to let them be the ones talking to the people outside and not be a control freak about it.

We want tools that make it easy to get started and don't overwhelm newcomers.

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Most people find it hard to go from support to action (or discontent to dissent.) They need an easy step that gets them over the fence.

App you can download and get started?

THE BARRIER OF ENTRY

IS TOO DAMN HIGH

imgflip.com

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Don't get people in trouble

Labor unions are more aware of the risks than most people expect.

Your threat model could be an employer or a country. Plan for both. We decided our default TM is Poland, we went for statelessness + encryption + domain fronting + panic buttons + ephemeral 90ies-style chats.

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EASY UX IS A MUST FOR ALL SECURITY FEATURES. YOUR USERS DON'T NEED TO NOTICE OR UNDERSTAND THEM, IT HAS TO BE EASY TO USE THEM CORRECTLY.

In most cases, perfect is the enemy of good (don't shoot!)

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NEED 1: ORGANIZE GIG ECONOMY WORKERS

It's very hard for gig economy workers to unionize (in some countries it's actually illegal.)

But the internet makes it possible to organize. So what does a union need in terms of logistics?

- regional contacts
- basic information about goals and positions
- news/events
- feedback/ survey options
- a way to network people with each other

NEED 2: ISOLATED SUPPORTERS

A person who is a lone supporter outside of your typical bubble finds it especially hard to get involved. We want to make it easy and give them a feeling of community.

- regional contacts
- local networking (regional chat? Tinder for activists?)
- news/events
- help with talking to people around them

NEED 3: ESTABLISHED LABOR UNIONS

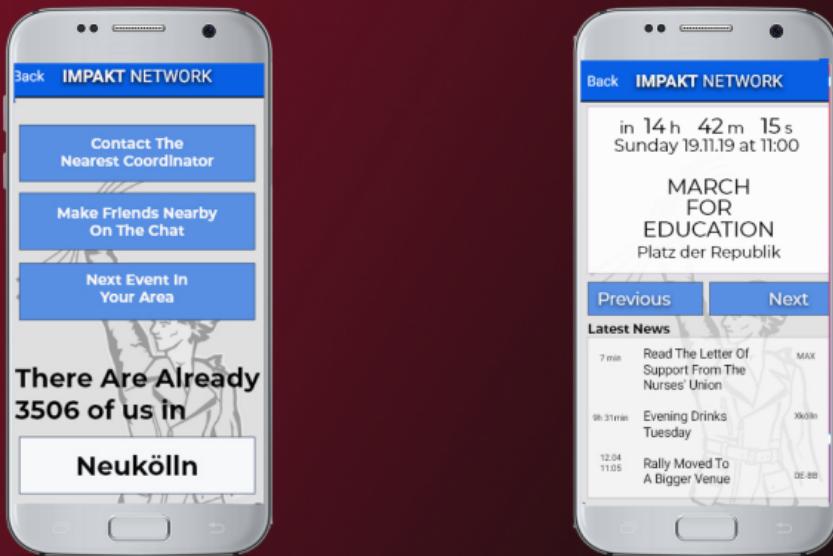
Actually a really great community to start a social network.

Some want to automate logistics and coordinate between regions and subunions, some want tools to fight more effectively.

- feedback/survey options
- information delivery
- easy onboarding
- work tools
- panic buttons
- mesh networks
- sidestepping union bureaucracy

IMPAKT

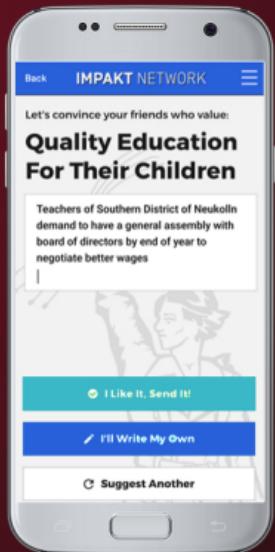
Something people can just download and get started, security happens in the background.



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Leverage the social graph without collecting data.



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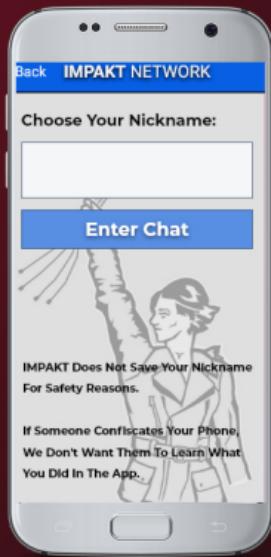
Respond to the needs of labor unions and crowdsourcing decisions.



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The app is stateless (except for your chosen region) + domain fronting to hide from employers



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We have a POC back end and a part of the front ready, UI in the works and several labor unions big and small who want to use it.

Help?

impakt.network
changeagent.dev
evainfeld.net

TALK TO ME <3

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