

Roleplaying in Etherpad

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Roleplaying in the open source world was a meetup facilitated by Juliette from H&D, with a kick off lecture by Susan Ploetz is an artist-researcher working with somatics, theory, writing, performance, simulation and live action role plays (larping) in different configurations. Her work deals with the overlapping spaces of soma and technos; she uses imagination, magical materiality, and protocol to induce emancipatory emotive dissonances and perceptual expansion. She explores body-centered game design and narrative-building play as co-creative world-making that develops individual agency within spontaneous, ephemeral, decentralized communities.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlBkPswlPhE&feature=emb_title

Building forth on H&D’s commitment of rethinking tools, we collectively explored alternatives scenarios for human-computer interaction.

We took the perspective of the tool itself to rethink our positions as makers. We imagined, embodied and enacted a new open source tool ecology! What tool can you imagine?

What are the features, quirks and glitches?

How would it be used and by whom?
How do the tools of our emerging tool ecology relate to each other?

Using methods of character

development and role play in combination with H&D’s hacking and DIY approach we explored open source world-making and collaborative storytelling.

The following section is a transcription of the etherpad workshop script and play with no edits.

player lisa

A. Ppette

sevc

Synastra

Sinem

Fanta the face filter

Use: Holding, touching, moving from player to player, charging

Goal: energizing, focussing, Specificity: I might be broken so i am not sure what is my purpose anymore... crisis moment!

Mutation: I know

you can see back and forth

noticing the cyclical character of time you travel along the transit cycle

using this lens you leave your physical form and you embody your imaginative avatar that is pure manifestation of seeing

Use: change your face like botox, i could be dangerous

Goal: acceptance

Specificity: i only work with internet

Mutation: soon you wont be able to take me off your face

~(ツ)~

~(ツ)~

~(ツ)~

Os as alites etur? Pudae soluptae num nulioris ra dus consequ Os as alites etur? Pudae soluptae num nulioris ra dus consequid quasime nimus, qui blaute dit >>> quid molest Os as alites etur? Pudae soluptae num nulioris ra dus consequid quasime nimus, qui blaute dit quid molest

>>>>Welcome to my world <3

hello

helloooo hiiii hey
hellosup
hi yo

hii alles goed? jaaaaa

hey yi changed my color. :) HIHI
ah.. text became white!

hii

hihi

>>>> BRAINSTORM! (5min)
what is a tool? what do you
associate with tools, toolness,
tooling?

○ An extension of your
cognition
things you can use to help you
do stuff, i think of scissors
when i think of tools. Tooling are
ways or object to help you achieve
sth. achievements that are basic
or complicated depending on the
tool. i think tools should always
be useful, if not then they are
extra, not useless but they occupy
space for no good purpose.

way of articulation
translation of ideas into form-

○ A conditioning device
intermediate between me and the
world
Enable actions

○ extension of the body
(body can be human and not human)

○ association of tools with
productivity and work in relating

to industrialization
- a tool relates to intention,
perhaps? but as this tool can be
turbulent.. the intention with
which a tool is being created
does not mean that it is used
as such. many philosophers have
written about tools... the hammer
comes up a lot... a hammer is for
hammering... blablabla.. or the
debate around guns. do guns kill
people? or do people kill people?
clear is that certain tools afford
certain tool relationships no?
in the context of software ...
licenses are interesting tools
to create legal frameworks /
agreements on use and reuse --
anyhow i think that 'tool' is
also overused as a metaphor.. and
can become rather unspecific...
uncritical perhaps? l

playing, changing states, another
bodypart, the fool, putting this
together, apart and to recombine,
things that make us human vs
animals --i think of internet,
gossip and phones
Limits & disaffordances

>>>>What tools do you like?

○ Obsidian\<3
○ i like clumsy tools that
let you do just a few things..
like this one, etherpad, or
ethercalc... i like it because
it doesn't assume too much in
a way.. like for instance
creative cloud tools are not
tools anymore.. it's more like
a platform... convergences of
tools and services that assume a
kind of identification and to me
trespassed what I want from a tool
relationship.. adobe is a kind of
exclusive membership only club...
where scribus... or gimp is maybe
a bit more rough but i can feel
its edges.. you know what i mean?
I like the tools that make my

life easier, if i didn't have a
boiler for boiling, it will take
longer time to boil the water.
tools for communicating and
relating

custom made and mutable - modular
ones - collaborative -
Writing
storytelling
the unreliable narrator
language
astrology
cameras, gossip ?! what's up with
the gossip recurrence, gestures
I like tools that help me expand
my vision
Speculative tools
Machine vision
sexy tools

>>>>What tools do you dislike?

rigid use
surveillance
cookies
excluding tools like some laws
workflow tools.. they manage
collaboration to much
i like all tools i love tools

>>>>What open source tools
do you know?

linux
wikimediapedia mediawiki is the
tool?
blender <3
OBS
processing
gimp
scribus
inkscape

YOU ARE A TOOL!
Introduce yourself as your
character-tool trying to encompass
as many details as you can think
of!

(10min)

Questions to help you develop
for your character-tool

How would you describe yourself
in three words?

egg, round, glass
mushy magic tricky
horizontal, squarish, spacish
shiny, round, dense
shape shifting, chaotic, opening
gourmet, well-lit,
i change your face, i allow u to
be others, updated
lens, vision, time
open, moving, thinking
small, light, shiny

How would someone else describe
you in three words?
mindbending scary unpredictable
spiritual, hippy, sexy
energetic, creative, focussed
challenging, emotional, wall
difficult socially, can be
misinterpreted, fun
delusional, esoteric, desirable
mechanised, nonhuman, hygienic
triggering, apparent, helpful
focussed, kind, dreamer
annoying, helpfull

What do you feel conflicted,
confused, excited
or proud about?

i can interconnect beings & make
them feel & understand like no
other tool can. It can be very
confusing to pp and some will
reject my teachings. I'm not sure
about the nature of the experience
I am bringing
I am a bit broken, a broken tool,
perhaps. The thing is, I should
not be breakable.. like it's not
supposed to happen. and now I

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am not sure what to do... In a way, I am not even very certain on how I am supposed to be used, so the question is "Am I Really Broken?" ... its a bit of a crisis momen tto be honest. I watched "Keuringsdienst van Warde" and they talked about my kind of tool species and how there is a lot of people reselling fake tools of my kind.. so now I am wondering.. "Am I even Real?????" Or am I just some cheap reproduction?? The fact that something chipped off my side, does not make me more confident tbh
I feel conflicted about how language would look like with out me, I feel labit of confusion whether people find my spacishness triggering/ annoying or just see it as part of me.
sometimes its hard to confront people with their walls, ideas... it's not easy so see them struggling and that not everyone is touched through the tool in a deeper sense but I am happy if I can reach someone
in everyones smartphones, you use me when u need me, what would u do if my tech disappeared, proud that u need me
I feel like im serving unpaid labour but I'm getting the needed power as well. I feed people. there are some moral questions about the possibility of seeing back and forth on the cycle of time. the topic of responsibility emerges. curiosity about all the possibilities that are unfolding once you claim your time unreliability. How not to get seduced by the manipulative potential of this technology. On the other hand it becomes a portal to see that time is not linear but cyclical
im proud that people let me in, and im always scared to fall out - intriguing -
I'm confused by the reality I helped shape. Is it real or did

i convince even myself into believing it?

Who would you be as a tool?

a word soup
SpaceBar
face filter
A counterstory
offline cursor
advisor

Or what are you curious to explore in a tool?
I am a tool in crisis, identity crisis perhaps..
I would like to explore who decides whether or not I am useful actually? Is it only humans that get to decide? Is it important who manufactured me? Like is the way I am made significant for the ways I exist in the world and interacted with?
I would be curious to explore my own limits, concepts... that keep me stable in some way and how to find holes in them
im curious to explore the context of this tool, its position amongst where it is used, how it is used. the feelings of this tool.
how it can be shown for what it is, no more, no less.
to fly around, my belly facing files

What do you do?

I am usually just laying around honestly.. Its not a super entertaining moment of my life.. but there is potential... sometimes i am held, touched, sometimes I am charged... laying in the window. I see people looking at me at times.
I FEED
i change peoples faces

Script

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I am in some places and there to be read multiple times, partly... I am a king of verbal mirror
i give space for legibility, for opennes that creates freedom, I change, inspire, deceipt, give hope, make sense
I am able to open (up) places and people irl

are you physical, digital, do you have buttons? an interface?
I'm the interface between conscious and subconscious between individual and collective
I am physical but also digital. I do have buttons and an interface too.
im very physical
PHYSICAL and SPIRITUAL, so I think i am able to expand mind and matter whohooo- are we not only (almost) the same color but the same tool as well ? haha i wanna ask what are you but maybe thats not allowed?
I can be both, whatever feels more comfortable
i'm a botton. with a very specific funtion, i live in context.
digital and an interface
offline fingerextension
I am a tool of the mind

Do you have a specific function, powers?
I FEEEEED
i create womb-awareness
woooop. yes. i am energizing, creating focus, and perhaps upholding a certain connection to let u try who u want to look like without physically enduring it
create chaos in order and give birth to new patterns
I see here, back and forth
The power to persuade

Can you evolve, mutate?
I'm co-creating me too!!
just in meaning but not in

Script

materiality ... unless perhaps i could break even more
i evolve with each "trend"
yes I mutate in minds
yes, i am constantly changing
I alternate between arrow shape, a pointing micky mouse hand and a simple standing thin shortline

How does your tool's body feel?

Yummy
Smelly
glassy
hard
shiny
flexible

Are you comfortable?

Nope but warm
to watch yes, to lay on no
oh my god yes
kinda indifferent
sometimes
i change so much i dont know
I'm restless

Are you in control?
I am taking contro and leave you to enjoy the show - you'll integrate later l
only through my affordances
not anymore
i hate i have so much control
I try to subvert controll of others

Where do you come from?
from distributed wisdom
i cannot remember, but there are two options i guess, in any case... i can probably say from deep down inside the earth
an augmented space
the mind

What does your past look like, describe a fond memory?
it looks like a pokemon maker
about 1500 years ago i was moved gently... that tickled a bit ...