

# Network Cultures - Winter Camp 2009

9 december 2008

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## 0.1 Disclosure agreement

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Dyne.org is a *non-profit* effort lead by a **grassroot** committee of *hackers* dedicated to development of *free and open source software* for the **freedom of expression**.

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## 0.2 History

Dyne.org appeared online in 2000 when the HasciiCam<sup>1</sup> software was published: an invention widely appreciated for its artistic value and for making possible to broadcast live video using old hardware from a slow network connection.

Once upon a time<sup>2</sup> dyne.org homepage consisted of its skin-like coloured background, the upper menu recited “korova, muse, ascii, proximity, theorem, timezones, conspire” while a transforming Moebius band decorated the center of the page, tagged with a quote from *Gertrude Stein*



Figure 0.1: a rose is a rose is a rose is a rose is a rose

Inspired by a mix of *software* and *poetry*, a growing network of developers released to the public software made to insure **freedom of expression**, configuring dyne.org as a free software atelier, a portal to **Digital Creation** and **Media Art**.

**dyne.org software is redistributed by:** Free Software Foundation (USA)<sup>3</sup>, Ircam, Centre Pompidou (FR)<sup>4</sup>, Vienna Univ. of Technology (AT)<sup>5</sup>, Providence Univ. Taichung (TW)<sup>6</sup>,

<sup>1</sup><http://ascii.dyne.org>

<sup>2</sup>[http://web.archive.org/web/\\*/http://dyne.org](http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://dyne.org)

<sup>3</sup><ftp://ftp.gnu.org/mirrors/dynebolic/>

<sup>4</sup><http://mirrors.ircam.fr/pub/dynebolic/>

<sup>5</sup><http://gd.tuwien.ac.at/opsys/linux/dynebolic/>

<sup>6</sup><ftp://ftp.cs.pu.edu.tw/Linux/dynebolic/>

Tecnische Univ. Ilmenau (DE)<sup>7</sup>, Netherlands Unix User Group (NL)<sup>8</sup>, Instituto de Computação Uni de Campinas (BR)<sup>9</sup>, NIC Funet (FI)<sup>10</sup>, Heraklion University Crete (GR)<sup>11</sup>, W3Media Open Source Mirror (NL)<sup>12</sup>, Ibiblio public library<sup>13</sup> and many others.

Ranging from radio makers, humanitarian organizations, video artists, medical researchers, media activists and educators, **a large amount of people employed and redistributed dyne.org software worldwide, free of charge**, echoing to the freedom spirit of this autonomous initiative.

Despite the fact in its early days (and until now) **dyne.org was never boosted with merchandising or money**, several young hackers pioneered the constitution of a wide horizontal network.

**Openness, knowledge sharing and freedom of creation** have been the philosophical principles guiding the evolution of dyne.org, hosting creations that have been conceptualised not for a profit, but for their role within society.

### 0.3 Community

A young and displaced brotherhood of hackers, alchemists, radio amateurs, mathematicians and nomads.

The Freaknet<sup>14</sup> is an on-site medialab<sup>15</sup>, museum<sup>16</sup> and poetry hacklab<sup>17</sup> in the Mediterranean island of Sicily, surviving since 1994 the hostile environment of South Italian criminal administration and cultural repression.

The Hackmeeting<sup>18</sup> is since 1998 the annual gathering of computer and reality hackers, an auto-organized TAZ<sup>19</sup> inspired by people and projects at CCC<sup>20</sup>, 2600<sup>21</sup>, GNU<sup>22</sup> and EFF<sup>23</sup>.

Servus.at<sup>24</sup> supported the birth of this digital community since the very beginning, hosting it in the digital space, offering solidarity and support for our on-line operations.

Our digital community is born from these on-site communities and even more on-line, in the past 8 years it gathered a wider international participation that interacts on **software development** and **network cultures**.

### 0.4 Definition of terms

#### Dyne

One dyne is the force required to cause a mass of one gram to accelerate at a rate of one centimeter per second squared in the absence of other force-producing effects.

A dyne is 1.000.000 times a newton.

The dyne measure has been established by Heraclitus<sup>25</sup>, a greek philosopher born at Ephesus around 540 b.C., whom once also said that **much learning does not teach understanding**.

Panta rei

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<sup>7</sup><ftp://ftp.tu-ilmenau.de/Mirrors/dynebolic/>

<sup>8</sup><ftp://ftp.nluug.nl/pub/os/Linux/distr/dynebolic/>

<sup>9</sup><http://www.las.ic.unicamp.br/pub/dynebolic/>

<sup>10</sup><ftp://ftp.nic.funet.fi/index/dynebolic>

<sup>11</sup><ftp://ftp.cc.uoc.gr/mirrors/linux/dynebolic/>

<sup>12</sup><ftp://mirror.w3media.nl/dyne/>

<sup>13</sup><ftp://distro.ibiblio.org/pub/linux/distributions/dynebolic/>

<sup>14</sup><http://freaknet.org>

<sup>15</sup><http://medialab.freaknet.org>

<sup>16</sup><http://museum.dyne.org>

<sup>17</sup><http://poetry.freaknet.org>

<sup>18</sup><http://www.hackmeeting.org>

<sup>19</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temporary\\_Autonomous\\_Zone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temporary_Autonomous_Zone)

<sup>20</sup><http://www.ccc.de/>

<sup>21</sup><http://2600.org/>

<sup>22</sup><http://www.gnu.org/>

<sup>23</sup><http://www.eff.org/>

<sup>24</sup><http://www.servus.at>

<sup>25</sup><http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Search?search=Heraclitus>

## Hackers

By using the term *hacker* we mean:

- A migratory lifeform with a tropism for computers.
- One who enjoys the intellectual challenge of **creatively overcoming or circumventing limitations**.
- A person who enjoys **exploring the details** of programmable systems and how to stretch their capabilities, as opposed to most users, who prefer to learn only the minimum necessary.
- One who programs enthusiastically (even obsessively) or who enjoys programming rather than just theorizing about programming.
- An expert at a particular program, or one who frequently does work using it or on it; as in a **Unix hacker**.
- An **expert or enthusiast of any kind**. One might be an astronomy hacker, for example.

## Grassroots

Grassroot is a spontaneous, non-hierarchical and passionate way to participate and do things, which you can see as deeply different if not opposed to the Corporate way.

The fundamentals of this network are identities, defining themselves with and through their activity: dyne.org is not represented neither subsumes them. Each identity emerges by the code that has published.

Theory and practice can't be separated in our network of autonomous peers: while the participation is open, development tools and documentation are shared so that anyone can train independently to interact with others.

## Free and Open Source Software

**FOSS** implies **4 fundamental freedoms**: the freedom **to run** the program, for any purpose; the freedom **to study** how the program works, and adapt it to your needs; the freedom **to redistribute** copies so you can help your neighbour; the freedom **to improve** the program, and release your improvements to the public, so that the whole community benefits.

With the definition of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) we refer to all software licensed and distributed under the GNU General Public License, as published by the Free Software Foundation<sup>26</sup>. In fact, free has to be intended as “Libre”, free as of speech, not simply gratis, coming with all possibilities to redistribute, modify and adapt the software without any fee.

We consider this total freedom (as in *libre*, not simply as in *gratis*) extremely important, as it leaves people autonomous in creating their own **local economies to self sustain development efforts**. Being free to modify, redistribute and even resell immaterial goods renders local efforts independent from neo-colonialist economies: **players weakened by the global market can develop independently**, still cooperating on a globally shared source base.

## 0.5 Technology

The reuse of old technology, the preservation of old computer and of our “digital past” (software, documentations and media supports) is for us a way to stop the unsustainable consumerist way of producing technology nowadays.

For our software creations we use programming techniques based on the GNU and BSD traditions of coding, which are carefully cultivated even by the youngest programmers of our community.

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<sup>26</sup><http://www.fsf.org>

## 0.6 Mission Statement

### Dyne.org stands

**To promote the idea and practice of open source knowledge sharing** within civil society: by fostering research, development, production and distribution of FOSS solutions.

**To open the participation to on-line and on-site communities**, leveraging the democratic and horizontal access to technology, lowering the economical requisites to its accessibility.

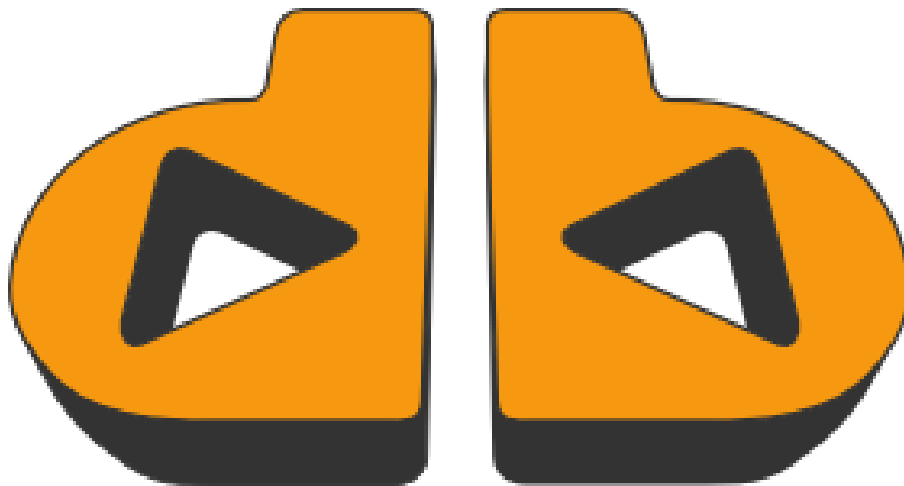
**To foster employment of FOSS in artistic creation**: exploring new forms of expression and interaction, disseminating new languages that can be freely adopted and re-elaborated by everyone, insuring the long term conservation of digital artworks.

**To support FOSS development, also when non-profitable**: being software a socially relevant media it should not be invented and maintained only on the basis of its merchantability.

## 0.7 Operational missions

**Who is benefitting?** Since years our productions are employed successfully worldwide in cultural, independent as well commercial initiatives. Our user base counts thousands of people in every continent.

### The dyne Operating System



dyne:bolic<sup>27</sup> GNU/Linux multimedia live CD is developed since 2001. As a 100% free operating system, this GNU/Linux distribution is among the few recommended by the Free Software Foundation<sup>28</sup>. You can employ this live-CD **without the need to install anything**: the easiest installation ever.

dyne:bolic is an operating system shaped on the needs of media activists, artists and creatives as a **practical tool for multimedia production**: you can manipulate and broadcast both sound and video.

It is **optimised to run on old computers**, turning them into a full media stations: the minimum you need is a pentium 1 with 64Mb RAM and IDE CD-ROM, or even a game console.

It supports **strong encryption for private data** that can be carried around and flexibly employed on usb sticks.

Press reviews: Linux Journal 2007<sup>29</sup>, Linux.com 2007<sup>30</sup>, Sound on Sound 2006<sup>31</sup>, Linux.com 2006<sup>32</sup>,

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<sup>27</sup><http://dynebolic.org>

<sup>28</sup><http://www.gnu.org/links/links.html#FreeGNU/LinuxDistributions>

<sup>29</sup><http://www.linuxjournal.com/node/1000096>

<sup>30</sup><http://distrocenter.linux.com/distrocenter/07/03/29/1738243.shtml?tid=127>

<sup>31</sup>[http://www.soundonsound.com/sos/aug06/articles/puredata\\_0806.htm](http://www.soundonsound.com/sos/aug06/articles/puredata_0806.htm)

<sup>32</sup><http://distrocenter.linux.com/distrocenter/06/03/03/214216.shtml>

Slashdot 2006<sup>33</sup>, ComputerWorld 2006<sup>34</sup>, The Hindu 2006<sup>35</sup>, OSNews 2004<sup>36</sup>, Newsforge 2003<sup>37</sup>, Slashdot 2003<sup>38</sup>, Slashdot 2003<sup>39</sup>, The Hindu 2003<sup>40</sup>, ZDNet 2002<sup>41</sup>.

dyne:bolic is part of the Linux Audio Consortium and has been nominated among the **top 10 open source projects in 2005**, in its lifespan this project has been redistributed by several magazines and publications all across the world, up to the realistic estimation of more than **one million copies**.

## Free Software Seminars

In our workshops and similar educational activities we enforce use of FOSS in communication and artistic creation: exploring new forms of expression and interaction, disseminating new languages that can be freely adopted and modified, ensuring to everyone the long term conservation of people's creations.

Concerning education, we believe that independence from commercial influences is crucial to not endorse or promote mercantile interests within public institutions.

The workshop consists in an hands-on experience employing GNU/Linux for digital artisanship and tactical media, exploring various ideas and practices of crafting and recycling technologies, to stimulate students towards the invention of novel forms of interactive computing and social networking.

## Museum of working computers

Our museum<sup>42</sup> consists of a collection of ancient computers, documentation, peripherals, calculators, manuals and software. When necessary we repair and fix broken hardware, the computers are setup working for the visitors (on-line and on-site) to experiment with them.

Our basic idea of an **open source museum** is to revert the classical museum structure where objects are "dead" under a glass table or in a closed shelf, to let people use and learn from them.

## 0.8 Future of the network

Dyne.org produces a document outlining future development plans every 8 years, the first one was released the 8 august 2008, titled "Weaver Birds" and provided as compendium to this document.

## 0.9 Main Goal for Winter Camp

The main goal in our participation to the Winter Camp is to network all developers involved in free on-line video streaming technologies based on the new free codec "Ogg/Theora".

Dyne.org is developing the software FreeJ<sup>43</sup> aiming at providing an efficient back-end for mixing of multiple signals (as video, text, images and more) into live or programmed streams on the Internet.

FreeJ is a vision mixer: an instrument for realtime video manipulation used in the fields of dance theater, veejaying, medical visualisation and TV. It lets you interact with multiple layers of video, filtered by effect chains and then mixed together. Controllers can be scripted for keyboard, midi and joysticks, to manipulate images, movies, live cameras, particle generators, text scrollers, flash animations and more. All the resulting video mix can be shown on multiple and remote screens, encoded into a movie and streamed live to the internet.

FreeJ can be controlled locally or remotely, also from multiple places at the same time; it can be automated via javascript to be operated via MIDI, Joysticks, wiimotes, mices and keyboards.

As a result of our development season, for which the Winter Camp is a crucial meeting point, we aim to provide FreeJ with various language bindings (Python, Ruby, Java and Perl in addition to Javascript

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<sup>33</sup><http://slashdot.org/articles/06/01/09/1131258.shtml>

<sup>34</sup><http://www.computerworld.com.au/pp.php?id=1693674882&fp=16&fpid=0>

<sup>35</sup><http://www.hindu.com/mp/2005/02/08/stories/2005020800950400.htm>

<sup>36</sup>[http://www.osnews.com/story.php?news\\_id=6490](http://www.osnews.com/story.php?news_id=6490)

<sup>37</sup><http://newsforge.com/article.pl?sid=03/06/26/1318213&tid=23>

<sup>38</sup><http://slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=03/06/24/1411254>

<sup>39</sup><http://slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=03/10/14/1219205&mode=thread&tid=126>

<sup>40</sup><http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/thscrip/print.pl?file=2003070700040200.htm&date=2003/07/07/&prd=biz&>

<sup>41</sup><http://news.zdnet.co.uk/hardware/emergingtech/0,39020357,39117043,00.htm>

<sup>42</sup><http://museum.dyne.org>

<sup>43</sup><http://freej.dyne.org>

which is already present) and integrate it in existing free on-line video portals, in collaboration with the communities Giss.tv, Engagemedia.org and Transmission.cc.

## 0.10 Participants

Disclosing full identity details of participants is at their discretion due to their critical roles in hostile environments. We might request to keep this information reserved, hereby not included in this document.

Coming from far abroad:

**- Vlax**

Oaxaca, Mexico

**- Rama**

Argentina

**- Andy**

Australia

Coming from Europe:

**- Asbesto**

IT

**- MrGoil**

DE

**- Shammash**

IT

**- Lluís**

ES - Valentina ES/IT

Local participants already in Amsterdam (origin listed, no travel costs):

**- Jaromil**

IT/NL

**- Xant**

IT/NL

**- Vane**

IT/NL

**- Robin**

DE/NL

**- Tati**

AR/NL

**- Pablo**

ES/NL

**- Bassam**

Iraq/NL

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