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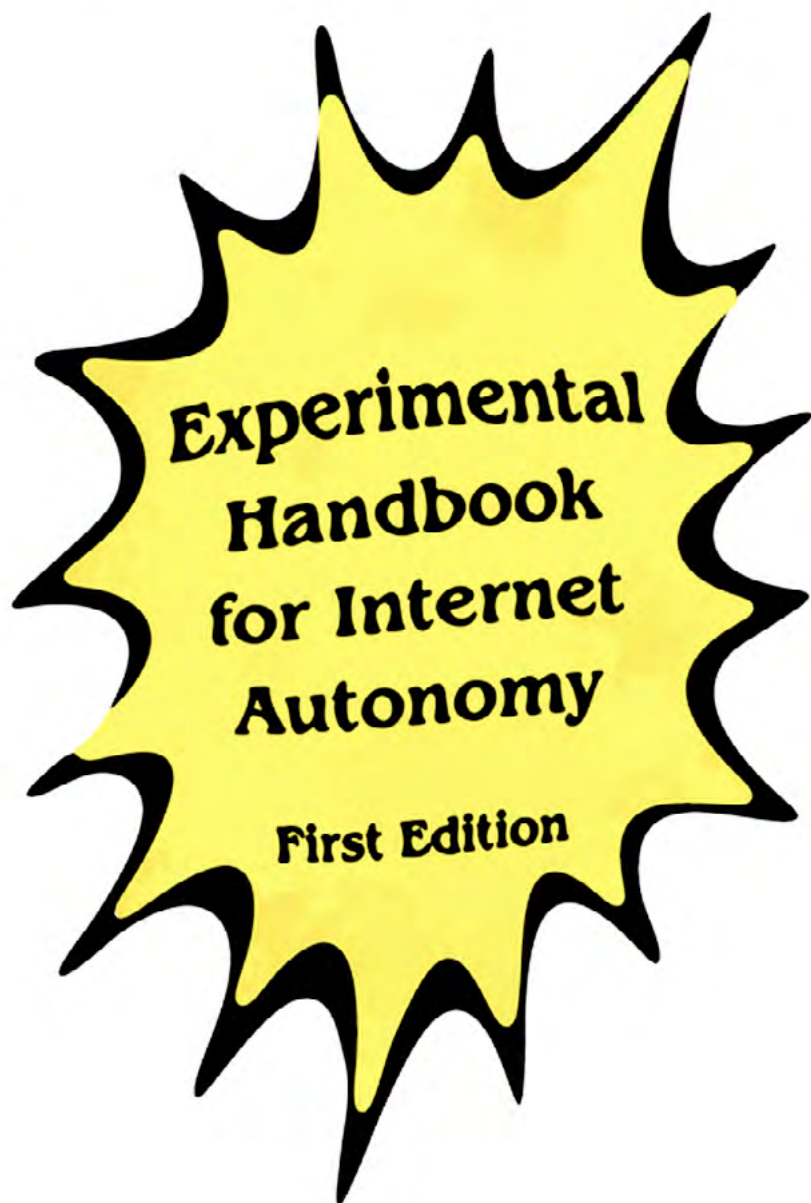
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rodri-go.net/cover.html



This zine wants to investigate how we can find autonomy in (and from) the internet. It goes out to all the other kids who grew up with the web and are now realising what it is doing to us.

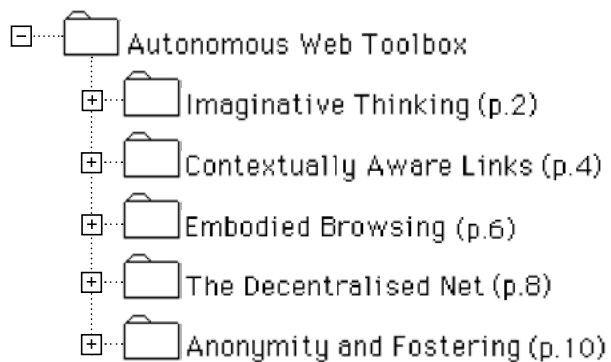
Do with its content as you wish!

If you want to know more about this topic and/or wish to read a speculative fiction story about the internet, feel free to read the whole publication at rodri-go.net/theautonomousweb.



Autonomous Web
Toolbox

My name is Rodrigo, you can
contact me at rodri-go.net/contact.html.
Your message is much appreciated!



// Imaginative Thinking: How to Think Critically About the Web

```
setup {  
  step_1 = 'Reflect on your internet experience: What are  
your concerns and how do you address them?';  
  
  step_2 = 'Make a list with the 2 or 3 topics you'd like  
to address the most.';  
  
  step_3 = 'Talk to your peers or go on the internet.  
Find others that share your concerns. See how they are  
addressing them.';  
  
  step_4 = 'Have a drink, get comfortable. Free yourself  
from the bounds of reality. You are now in speculative  
fiction territory.';  
};  
  
draw {  
  step_5 = 'Draw the systems that concern you. Use metaphors,  
how do they materialise in the physical world?';  
  
  step_6 = 'Look at your drawings. What's concerning about  
them? Think about and discuss ways to hack the system.';  
  
  step_7 = 'Draw a new, alternative system, inspired by  
your current ways of dealing with these issues, but  
boundless in scope and ambition';  
  
  step_8 = 'Share and discuss your new ideas. What are  
their assets and limitations?';  
  
  step_9 = 'Publish your thoughts – plant the seeds for  
your ideas. Lets keep on creating tools for a better  
internet.';
```

example =

The Experimental Handbook for Internet Autonomy is an ensemble of two speculative narratives and a zine.

The first narrative takes place in an oppressive, alienating world where users became enslaved by the web, living and dying as data generators for the Cloud. It examines the myriad of ways in which the internet is taking away our freedom. These are the first five steps of imaginative thinking.



The second narrative is a catalogue of experiments, thoughts and behaviours focused on finding autonomy in the internet. These experiments are the pillars of the speculative Autonomous Web, the realm where this story takes place. These are step six and seven of imaginative thinking.



This zine takes these experiments and turns them into executable 'human algorithms', making them tangible tools for collaborative (re)thinking about our relationship to the network (steps eight and nine).

};

// Bidirectional Links: How to Contextualise Information in the Web

```
setup {  
  step_1 = 'Think of any topic you feel passionate about. Today, you will make a simple Digital Garden with contextualised information. You can do this on a piece of paper or go the extra mile and create a simple web page.';  
};  
  
build {  
  step_2 = 'Write down a very general introductory sentence about your topic and give it a title. Remember, this could be anything. This will be your starting point.';  
  
  step_3 = 'Highlight two key terms in your sentence which you would like to expand on, as figured in the example on the next page.';  
  
  step_4 = 'Let's add two more nodes of information to the garden. In two separate pages, write a short sentence or paragraph about each term you highlighted.';  
  
  step_5 = 'Now that our garden has its first one-way nodes, let's connect them back together. In the two pages you just created, add a section titled "Back links". In this section, simply reference back the pages that talk about these terms. In the example, both nodes have a backlink to the Introduction Page.';  
  
  step_6 = 'You've successfully set-up a simple bidirectional linking system! For the sake of the example, let's add one more node to the garden, explaining what a hyperlink is. This is what the end-result looks like -->';  
  
  step_7 = 'You can go on, adding more layers of complex relationships to your garden. Here are a few existing examples of Digital Gardens with bidirectional linking:'  
  
  www.mentalnodes.com  
  notes.andymatuschak.org  
  ;
```

example =

Introduction Page

I believe [bidirectional links](#) are a powerful tool to [contextualise information](#).

Bidirectional Hyperlinks

A bidirectional [hyperlink](#) exists in two directions. This allows readers to deduce the relationship of the information that is presented to them. For example, source A includes information from source X. If links are bidirectional, readers can access source X and see that it is also referenced in two other sources, B and C, effectively making more information available to them.

Backlinks:

[Introduction Page](#)

The Importance of Contextualising Information

Information gets decontextualised as records of provenance get lost. The objective truth too gets lost in the process. Once a snippet of a text or interview is taken out of context, it can be rearranged to tell a completely different story. If a piece of information cannot be traced back to its original source, circular reporting can occur. In the WWW framework, [hyperlinks](#) are one-directional. No one can tell if the information has been copied and context is lost.

Backlinks:

[Introduction Page](#)

Hyperlinks

A hyperlink is a reference to a piece of data that one can follow by clicking or typing on a web browser.

Backlinks:

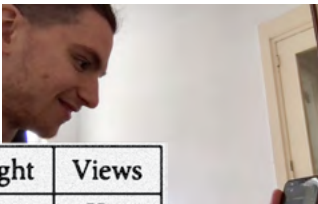
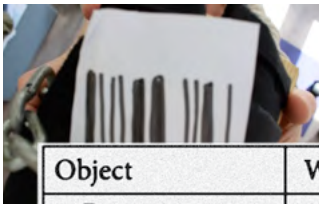
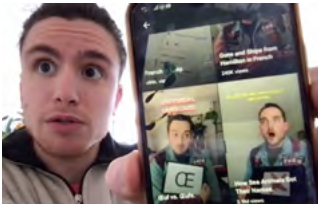
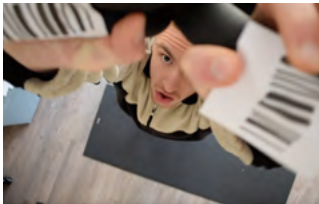
[Bidirectional Links](#) // [Contextualising Information](#)

};

// Embodied Browsing: How to Browse Physically and Mindfully

```
setup {  
  step_1 = 'Reflect on your internet behaviour. What  
  pitfalls are you more prone to fall into? Is it binging  
  videos? Or maybe scrolling endlessly through newsfeeds?';  
  
  step_2 = 'Find the best way to quantify this specific  
  activity. For a video, this could be the number of views it  
  has or its length. If you are scrolling too much, it could  
  be the number of posts you go through.';  
  
  step_3 = 'Think of a physical practice that could  
  benefit you. For example: running, stretching, weight  
  lifting, calisthenics, or even cleaning your house.';  
};  
  
move {  
  step_4 = 'Negotiate your physical and virtual activity.  
  In order to access some specific content, you must  
  activate a "physical key" first, by performing a  
  physical task of your choice. For example:'  
  
  weight_lifted = (video_views/10000 + 'Kg');  
  if (weight_is_lifted) {  
    'You can watch the video now.';  
  } else {  
    'Pick a lighter video or try again.';  
  };  
  
;  
  
  step_5 = 'Reflect - how does this make you feel? Are  
  you more aware of your browsing behaviour? Are you  
  willing to sacrifice time and practicality? How else  
  would you implement embodied browsing in your life?';
```


example =



Object	Weight	Views
1. Pea	1g	1K
2. Plastic Ball	200g	20K
3. Wooden Blocks	500g	50K
4. Metal Chain	1,5Kg	150K
5. Ankle Weight	3Kg	300K
6. Kettlebell	6Kg	600K
7. Kettlebell	12Kg	1,2M
8. Kettlebell	20Kg	2M



};

// The Decentralised Net: How to Be Online and Free from Big Tech -> Write Your Own Server Manifesto

```
setup {  
  step_1 = 'Think of your needs as an active user of the  
internet. What content do you want to publish? In what  
form? Who do you want to interact with?';  
  
  step_2 = 'Think of your assets. What can you bring to the  
table? Do you have programming skills? Do you have access  
to space and electricity? Are you someone who knows how to  
produce digital content? Do you have a critical eye for  
governance and ethical issues?';  
  
  step_3 = 'Team up with others who can add to your  
skillset and provide you with insight where you need  
the most.';  
};
```

```
write {  
  step_4 = 'Discuss and write a collaborative manifesto  
for your prospective self-hosted web server. Think  
beyond the technical aspects! Here's an example:'  
  
  areyoubeingserved.constantvzw.org/Summit_afterlife.xhtml  
  
  'And this is how servers work in the Autonomous Web:'
```

In the speculative Autonomous Web, each household has an autonomous server space, usually in a room embedded with plants, ponds and water tanks for shade and a cool temperature. The server harvests electrical energy from plant microbial fuel cells, as well as sunlight. This creates a self-contained cybernetic ecosystem, allowing each household to control their own data, which is then shared with other servers but never uploaded there, enabling the owner to pull-out or change data at will. Harvesting people's data becomes infinitely more complex, discouraging the big data economy and the persuasion technology it employs. Moreover, it reduces the overall cost of the network.

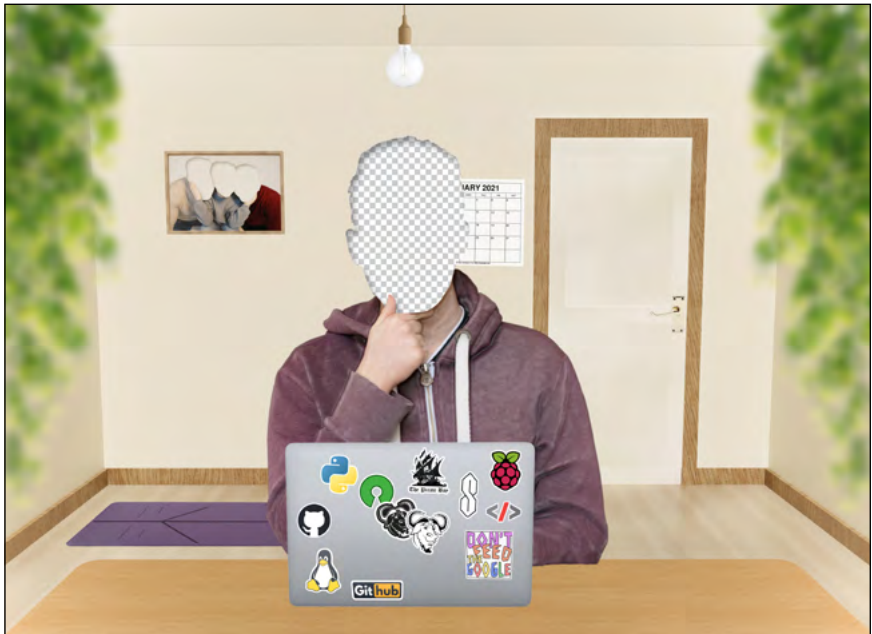


As individual servers are decentralised, popular services and platforms do not keep their users' data, saving them considerable server space. Those platforms are thus much more cost-efficient, making most of their revenue from offering enhanced functionalities or paid subscriptions. This system renders ads obsolete, as lower maintenance costs reduce their monetary incentive and the lack of user data makes them inefficient. It also gives new initiatives a chance at success. A lot of big platforms in the AW are maintained and developed by members of the community.

// An Anonymous Internet That Fosters Communities: How Can We Remain Anonymous While Being Accountable for Our Actions Online?

```
setup {  
  step_1 = 'Form a small group and have each member write  
    down one of their core characteristics.';  
  
  step_2 = 'Bring all of them together. You will use this  
    as a baseline to create a collective anonymous avatar  
    that will represent you on the internet.';  
};  
  
sketch {  
  step_3 = 'Sketch up how this avatar will look. Options  
    are endless - What kind of being is it? What medium  
    represents it best? Is it fond of any particular visual  
    style or aesthetic?';  
  
  step_4 = 'Anonymity can be a double-edged sword.  
    Before finishing up your avatar, define its morals.  
    To what extent is it free to speak its mind without  
    bullying or harassing others? Does it engage in online  
    debates? Is it political? Can it hack, stream illegal  
    content or do any other illicit activities? How do  
    you govern its actions among the different people  
    who compose it?';  
  
  step_5 = 'You have successfully created an anonymous  
    online identity that represents you and your values.  
    From now on and based on the protocols you have  
    established, you are free to use this identity while  
    browsing the internet.';
```

example =

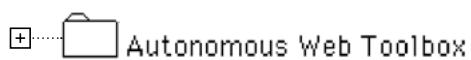


We anonymous kin of the Autonomous Web take it upon ourselves to respectfully **disrupt**, **hack** and **rethink** the systems that connect us.

We are a **distributed**, **adaptive** and **collectively produced system**. We will never all be in consensus. We embrace open **debate** and **conversation**. Our ideas can and will **change** as our life is not static. We are **iterative** and must constantly **update**.

We use open-source software, **when possible**, and **try** to invest some of our free time in **learning** about the internet and its underlying technologies, in order to make informed choices. We will never be perfect and know how to pick our fights. Together, we form an ever-growing toolbox for **resilience**, **safety** and **self-governance**.

};



Autonomous Web Toolbox





rodri-go.net/theautonomousw



<https://rodri-go.net/theautonomousweb>

