Creating a More Distributed and Fair Tech Industry

SmolTech LLC

Introduction

Hello, I'm Greg Boyce

- Director of Technology for The Worcshop in Leicester, Massachusetts
- Owner of SmolTech LLC
- 25 years of experience with Linux, Security and complex distributed systems
- Author of a book on running Linux network services
- I write

In 2018, I Shifted My Attention

"Attention is a moral act: it creates, brings aspects of things into being, but in doing so makes others recede.

What a thing is depends on who is attending to it, and in what way. The fact that a place is special to some because of its great peace and beauty may, by that very fact, make it for another a resource to exploit, in such a way that its peace and beauty are destroyed.

Attention has consequences."

– Iain McGilchrist "The Master and His Emissary"

ANYWHERE FROM 70-90% OF CORPORATE SERVERS ARE SAID TO BE USING LINUX AS AN OS

FREE OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE HAS UNINTENTIONALLY BECOME THE LARGEST TRANSFER OF WEALTH PRODUCED BY VOLUNTEER LABOR TO THE CAPITALIST CLASS IN HUMAN HISTORY

Tech Inherits The Problems Of Society

"Here's the flaw at their heart. Twentieth-century capitalism's cornerstones shift costs to and borrow benefits from people, communities, society, the natural world, or future generations. Both cost shifting and benefit borrowing are forms of economic harm that are unfair, nonconsensual, and often irreversible. Call it a great imbalance: not a transient event, like the "Great [insert ominous synonym here]," but an ongoing relationship, a titanic glitch in the global economy's vast scales."

– Umair Haque "The New Capitalist Manifesto: Building a Disruptively Better Business"

Biased Understanding of Money

"Fill your bowl to the brim and it will spill.
Keep sharpening your knife and it will blunt.
Chase after money and security and your heart will never unclench.
Care about people's approval and you will be their prisoner.
Do your work, then step back.
The only path to serenity."

— Tao Te Ching Chapter 9 (Mitchell)

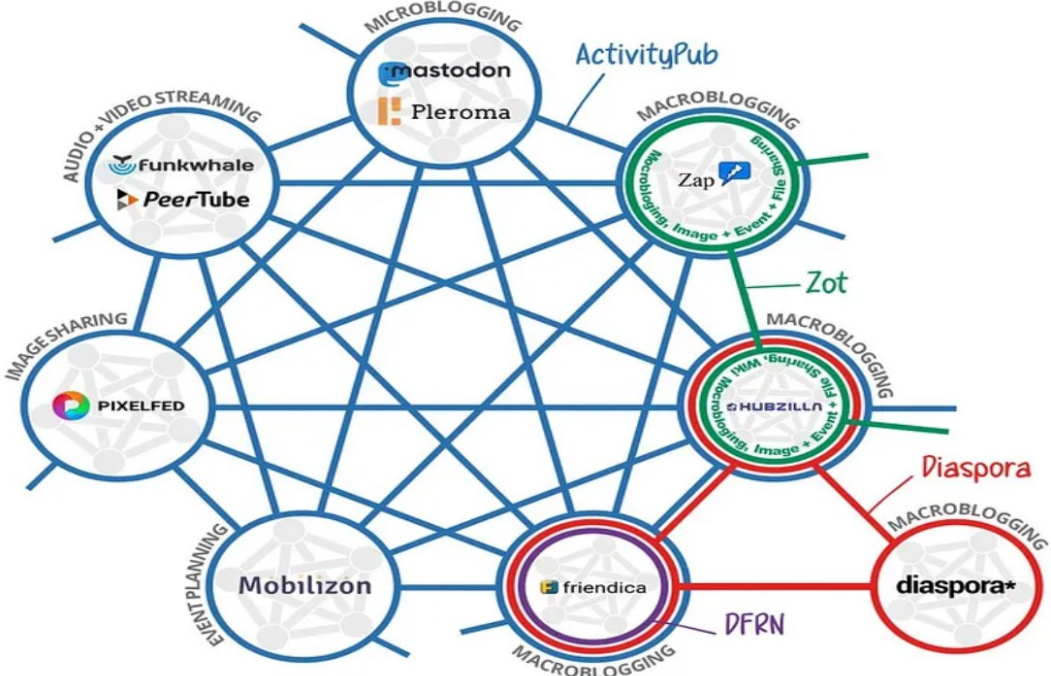You don't have to swim faster than the shark, just faster than the person you're with.

— Kevin Nealon

Code Is Law

"Ours is the age of cyberspace. It, too, has a regulator. This regulator, too, threatens liberty. But so obsessed are we with the idea that liberty means "freedom from government" that we don't even see the regulation in this new space. We therefore don't see the threat to liberty that this regulation presents."

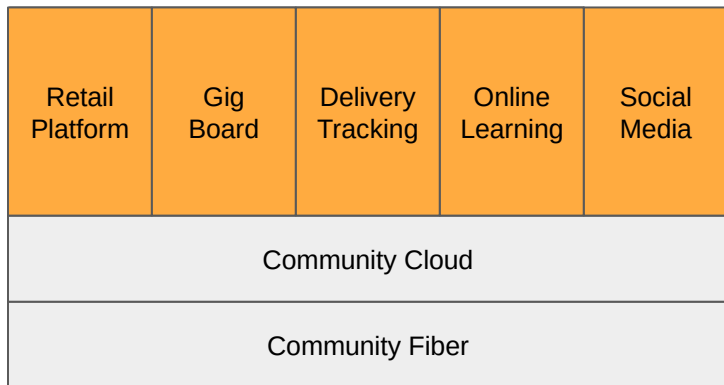– Lawrence Lessig "Code Is Law" 1/1/2000

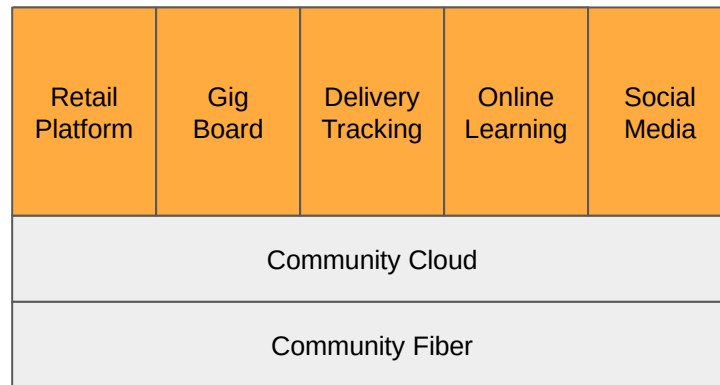# Fediverse

Software In Service

- We're building digital infrastructure for local commerce
- Community clouds. Offer opportunities to manage local clouds, instead of sending significant amounts of money to companies like AWS and Google
- Services priced to fund the employment of staff, not building economic empires
- Managed within the community, so the community has more influence on how it operates
- Help other communities do the same, instead of centralizing control within a single company..
- Enable interoperability between communities, through ActivityPub and other similar protocols.

The Core Concept

Create per-community tech stacks, which are independently operated, but which share tools and technologies.

Retail Platform	Gig Board	Delivery Tracking	Online Learning	Social Media
Community Cloud				
Community Fiber				

Worcester, MA

Retail Platform	Gig Board	Delivery Tracking	Online Learning	Social Media
Community Cloud				
Community Fiber				

Boston, MA

Phase 1: Partner with Maker Spaces

Member Management	Retail Platform	Gig Board	Online Learning
Community Cloud			