



Ethics in Technology

Internet Measurements' Ethical Dilemmas and RIPE Atlas

Vesna Manojlovic, Community Builder BECHA@ripe.net

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Overview



- Technical is political
- Moral obligations of scientists, engineers, hackers
- Our values determine our (technical) choices

- Ethics of Internet Measurements
- RIPE NCC's RIPE Atlas design
- Example of "web measurements" workaround

Conclusion: Question Everything!

Main Inspirations



- [r] Phillip Rogaway: <u>"The Moral Character of Cryptographic Work"</u> (2015)
- [p] Allison Parrish: "Programming is Forgetting: Toward a New Hacker Ethic" (2016)
- [ensr] <u>"Philosophy meets Internet Engineering:</u>
 Ethics in Networked Systems Research" (2015)
- [art] <u>Langdon Winner: "Do Artefacts Have</u> <u>Politics?"</u> (1980)
- [u] Ursula K. Le Guin: <u>"A Non-Euclidean View of California as a Cold Place to Be"</u> (1989)



Ethics in Science & Technology



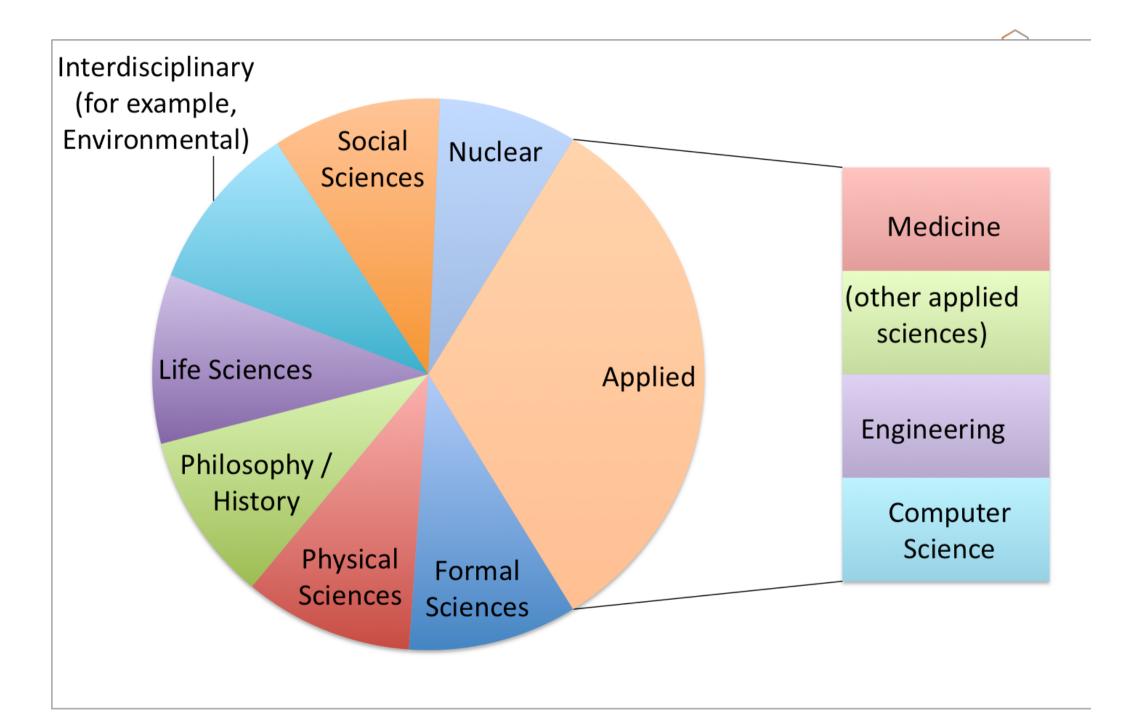


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Ethics

Ethics (via Latin *ethica* from the Ancient Greek ἠθική [φιλοσοφία] "moral philosophy", from the adjective of ήθος ēthos "custom, habit"), a major branch of philosophy, is the study of values and customs of a person or group. It in simplest terms is the philosophy on how to act. It covers the analysis and employment of concepts such as right and wrong, good and evil, and responsibility. It is divided into three primary areas: meta-ethics (the study of the concept of ethics), normative ethics (the study of how to determine ethical values), and applied ethics (the study of the use of ethical values).

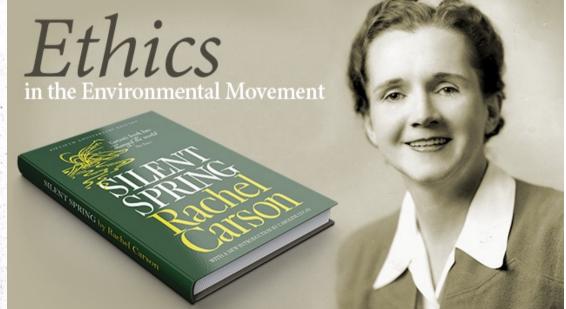






The othe of Hippocratus

which he gaue vnto his defiples and fcollers, which professing Phisicke and Chirurgerie is very worthie to
be observed and kept faithfullie, of everie true
and honest Artests, althought he himselfe were but a heathen man , and without ... yet for his noble and excellent f kil of our in Philicke and Chirurgerie, he Whole first eric nest general policy of the first policy of the policy tradition of the state of the policy of the for cuer.



Technical is Political



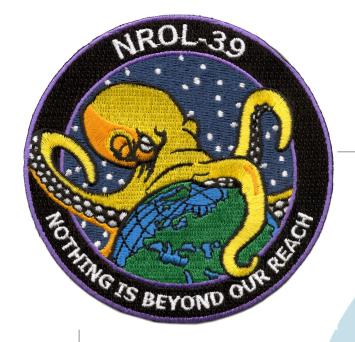
- The machines, structures, and systems of modern material culture are (should be) judged for their:
 - contributions of efficiency and productivity,
 - positive and negative environmental side effects,
 - the ways in which they can embody specific forms of power and authority.
- Technological ideas and technological things are **not** politically **neutral**: routinely, they have strong, built-in tendencies. Technological advances are usefully considered not only from the lens of how they work, but also **why** they came to be as they did, whom they help, and whom they **harm**. [r]

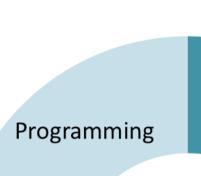
Programming is Political



- Language is political
- Artefacts are political [art]
- Transcription / translation is political [p]
- Crypto is political [r]
- Code Is Politics [how]

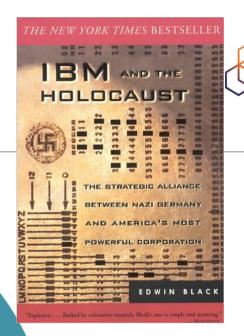
"The Personal is Political" [feminism]





Other areas of Computer Science

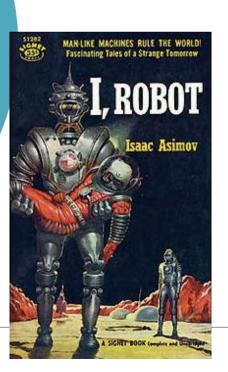
ΑI





Networking

Cryptography





Internet Ethics: FLOSS, Hackers, Cryptographers





"Free Software" Values



Individual freedoms

- to use the software as you wish;
- to study the program and how it works (perusing its source code);

• At a collective level:

- the freedom to distribute exact copies of the program, so you can help your neighbor; and
- the freedom to modify the source code and distribute these modified versions under the same conditions.
- https://gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw
- Open Source vs Free / Libre Software?

Everybody needs a hacker



Hackers Ethics



Levy's Hacker Ethic

- Access to computers should be unlimited and total.
- All information should be free.
- Mistrust authority—promote decentralization.
- Hackers should be judged by their hacking, not bogus criteria such as degrees, age, race or position, gender
- You can create art and beauty on a computer.
- Computers can change your life for the better.

Tips for Academic Cryptographers



- ◆ Attend to problems' social value. Do anti-surveillance research.
- Be introspective about why you are working on the problems you are.
- ¬ Think twice, and then again, about accepting military funding.
- Regard ordinary people as those whose needs you ultimately aim to satisfy.
- Use the academic freedom that you have
- De open to diverse models. Regard all models as suspect and dialectical.
- Get a systems-level view. Attend to that which surrounds our field.
- Design and build a broadly useful cryptographic commons.
- ■ Take adversaries seriously.

https://criticalengineering.org



- 8. The Critical Engineer looks to the history of art, architecture, activism, philosophy and invention and finds exemplary works of Critical Engineering. Strategies, ideas and agendas from these disciplines will be adopted, re-purposed and deployed.
- 9. The Critical Engineer notes that written code expands into social and psychological realms, regulating behaviour between people and the machines they interact with. By understanding this, the Critical Engineer seeks to reconstruct user-constraints and social action through means of digital excavation.
- 10. The Critical Engineer considers the exploit to be the most desirable form of exposure.



Internet Measurements Ethics

Theory of Applied Ethics

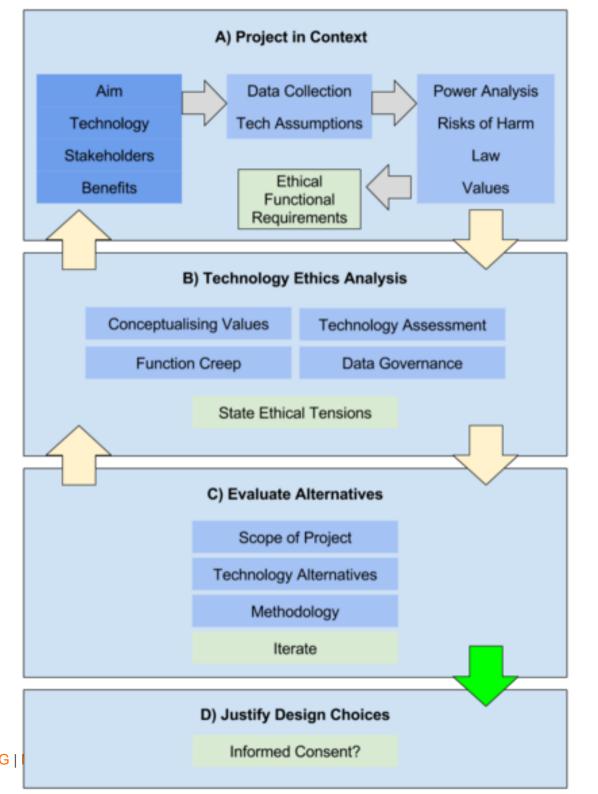


- Consequentialism ("the ends justify the means")
 - Utilitarianism
- Deontology ("duty for duty's sake")
- A mix: "Virtue Ethics"
 - right actions are those chosen by the actor of virtuous character
- Principlism
 - respect for autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice
 - but what if these are conflicting? what guides the action?
- Casuistry: practical, case reasoning

Measurements Ethics [ensr]



- Internet as socio-technical system
- Responsibilities resulting from power imbalances
- Meaningful informed consent
- Weighing risks, benefits and values for an ethical analysis
- Status of easily accessible data
- Not condoning potentially unethical research methods







RIPE NCC, RIPE Atlas, Ethics Implemented

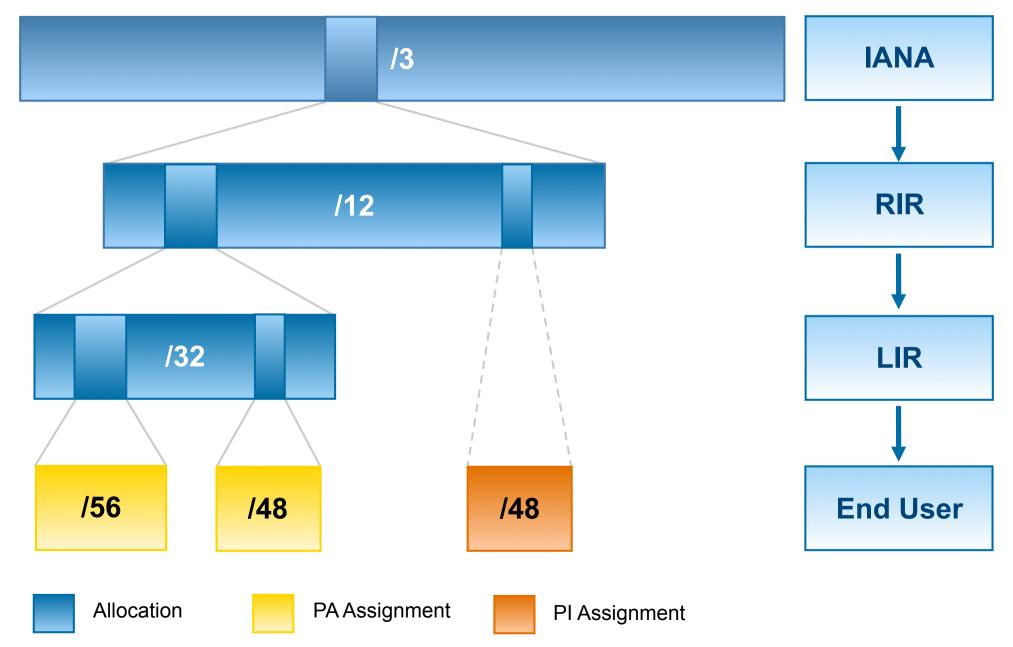
The Internet Registry System





IPv6 Addresses Distribution

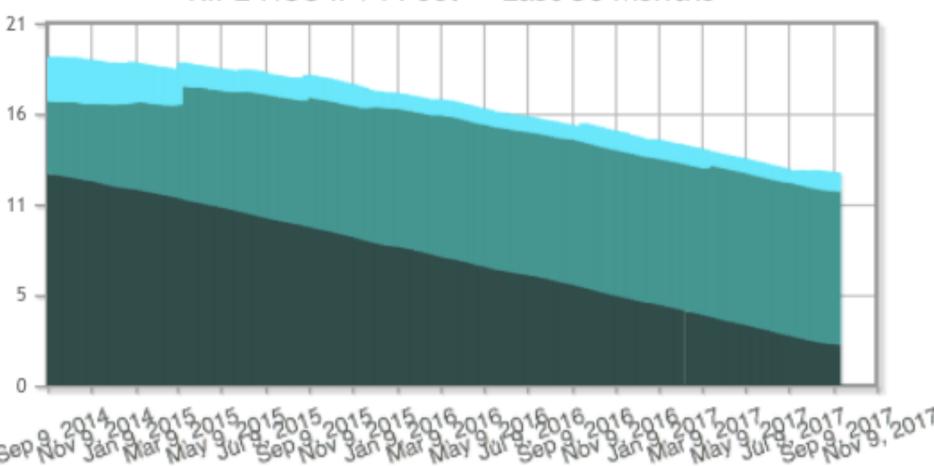




IPv4 Available pool







RIPE Atlas



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

RIPE Atlas ☑ is a global, open, distributed Internet measurement platform, consisting of thousands of measurement devices that measure Internet connectivity in real time.



https://atlas.ripe.net

Most Popular RIPE Atlas Features



- Six types of measurements: ping, traceroute, DNS, SSL/TLS, NTP and HTTP (to anchors)
- APIs to start measurements and get results
- Powerful and informative visualisations: "<u>Time</u> <u>Travel</u>", <u>LatencyMON</u>, <u>DomainMON</u>, <u>TraceMon</u>
- CLI tools
- Streaming data for real-time results
- Roadmap shows what's completed and coming

Measurements Platforms Comparison



Platform	Flexibility	Coverage	Blocking resistance	Main use
PlanetLab [16]	High	Low/Medium	Medium	Network measurements
Atlas [18]	Low	Medium/High	Medium	Network measurements
M-Lab [6]	Low	High	Medium	Network measurements
Tor [5]	Medium	Medium	Low	Low-latency anonymity
OONI [10]	High	Low	Medium	Interference analysis
Herdict [11]	Low	Low/Medium	Low	Interference analysis
OpenNet [14]	Low	Medium	High	Interference analysis

Table 1: Comparison between several popular filtering analysis platforms.

 "Global Network Interference Detection over the RIPE Atlas Network" (FOCI14) 2017

ENSURING A FUTURE FOR DETECTING INTERNET DISRUPTIONS



A Field Survey of the Ecosystem Around Internet Censorship, Disruptions, and Shutdowns

Category & Characteristics	Requirements	Example(s)
ECONOMIC		
Protecting business access	AttributionContextual	Online services combating censorship/disruption targeting their services or companies
Ensuring large-scale access	AttributionContextualCompellingComparative	Department of State, international telecommunications bodies/groups [e.g., ITU, ICANN], RIPE Atlas, M-Lab

Ethics built into design of RIPE Atlas



- Active measurements only
 - No passive measurements
 - probes do not observe user traffic

Data, API, source code, tools: free and open

 Kept set of measurements very limited, in order to prevent placing hosts in danger



Ongoing RIPE Atlas moral dilemmas



2013: Opening-up source code

 2014: Keeping "non-public" measurements available

 2015: Not allowing HTTP measurements to random targets

2016: Security audit



Web Measurements, the ethical way

Measuring Reachability of Web Servers



- Users have been asking for HTTP measurements
- Due to ethical reasons, in 2015 we've decided:
 - not possible to target arbitrary web sites with probes
 - "standard" HTTP measurements are ONLY possible towards RIPE Atlas anchors
- September 2017: a proven workaround
 - https://labs.ripe.net/Members/wilhelm/measuring-your-webserver-reachability-with-tcp-ping
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liaql4xk-GI

Workaround: Using a "TCP Ping"

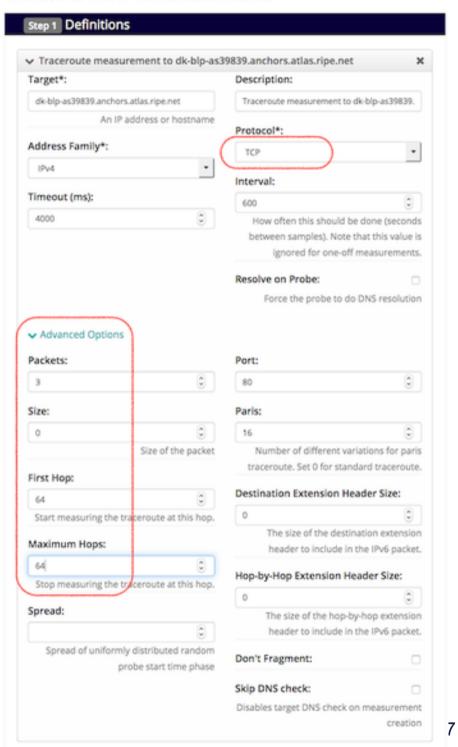


- traceroute (TCP) to the targeted web server
 - towards IP address: port 80
 - 3 packets; a packet size of zero
 - "maximum hops" = 64; initial time-to-live (TTL) = 64
 - long enough for the first traceroute attempt to immediately reach the destination address
- Mimics the behaviour of the TCP handshake
 - that takes place when setting up an HTTP connection
- This measures the same network delays!
 - RTT turns out to be equivalent to HTTP connect times

How to: Web UI

- Go to "Measurements"
- Click on "New msm"
- "Advanced options"
- Add up to 1000 probes
- Choose "one off"
 - or continuous / repeated
- Done!
 - you need to have "credits"

Create a New Measurement



How to: Command Line (CLI)



```
# ripe-atlas measure traceroute --target
82.94.235.165 --protocol TCP --size 0
--first-hop 64 --max-hops 64 --port 80
```

CLI tools:

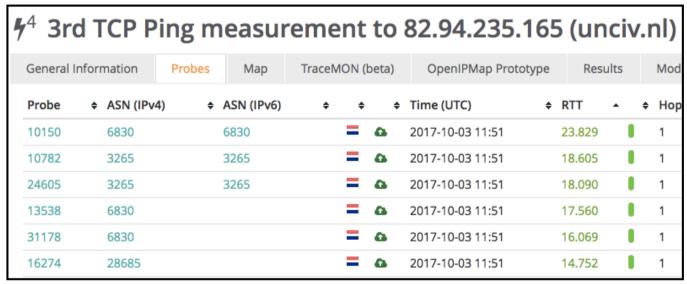
- Source: https://github.com/RIPE-NCC/ripe-atlas-tools/
- Documentation: https://ripe-atlas-tools.readthedocs.org/
- Included in many Linux / BSD distributions

Results





- Reachability Map
 - colour-coded for latency
- List of probes and latencies



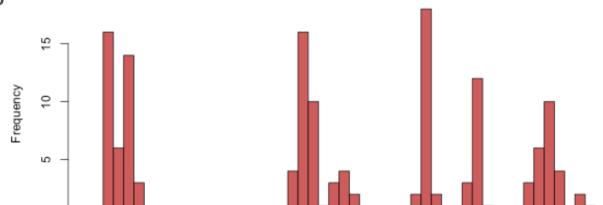
- Download as JSON
- https://atlas.ripe.net/api/v2/measurements/9412863/results/? start=1506988800&stop=1507075199&format=json

Detailed Technical Information



215

- Rene Wilhelm on RIPE Labs
- for 68% of the probe/ destination pairs, median values differ by less than 1ms
- Interdecile ranges differ by less than 6ms
- When compared to RTT of 100 milliseconds, a difference in spread of 5-15ms may still be acceptable to assess network performance



200

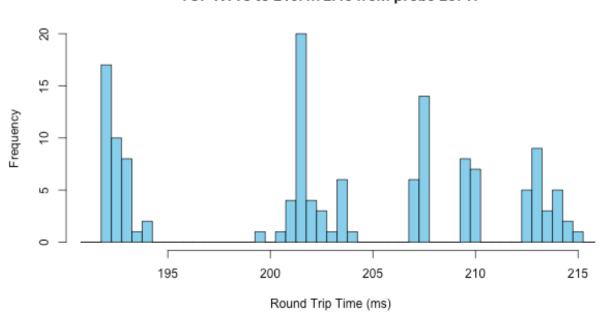
195

HTTP Time to Connect to 210.4.72.46 from probe 25717

TCP RTTs to 210.4.72.46 from probe 25717

205

210



Web Measurements: Feedback?



- This is the newest feature! October 2017
- We are looking for feedback:
 - is this useful?
 - what is your use case?
 - would you like to have a query tool, like DomainMon?
 - do you prefer CLI, for own scripting?
 - would you use it for monitoring?
- Thank you for using RIPE Atlas!
 - we invite you to write about it on RIPE Labs

Take part in RIPE [Atlas, NCC, community]!



- Join the hackathon!
- Come to the RIPE/ENOG/SEE/MENOG meeting!
- Write for RIPE Labs!
- Join RIPE Atlas community!
 - Host a RIPE Atlas probe!
 - Use our (open) measurements data!
 - Use, modify & improve our (FLOSS) software!
- @RIPE Atlas, atlas@ripe.net, atlas.ripe.net



Beyond Hackers Ethics

Question Everything!

http://linnytu.com/hacker



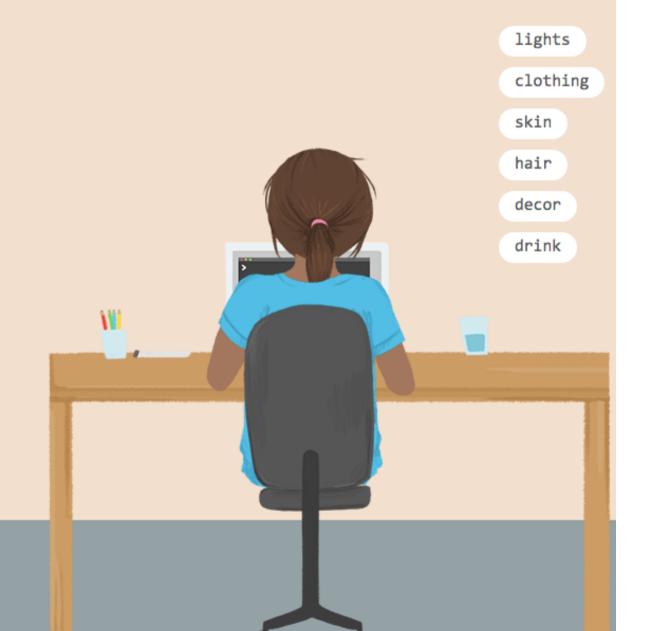


C ↑ innytu.com/hacker

or is it?

the image of the white, male hacker in a hoodie is harmful and exclusive to people who don't fit that mold.

what if you could change that image?



Hacker Ethic Questions

- Access to computers should be unlimited and total. Who gets to use what I make? Who am I leaving out? How does what I make facilitate or hinder access?
- All information should be free. What data am I using? Whose labor produced it and what biases and assumptions are built into it? Why choose this particular phenomenon for digitization/transcription? What do the data leave out?
- Mistrust authority promote decentralization. What systems of authority am I enacting through what I make? What systems of support do I rely on? How does what I make support other people?
- Hackers should be judged by their hacking, not bogus criteria such as degrees, age, race or position. What kind of community am I assuming? What community do I invite through what I make? How are my own personal values reflected in what I make?

Allison Parrish: "Programming is Forgetting: Toward a New Hacker Ethic" (2016)

networkedsystemsethics.net Questions



- Context: How would you describe the context within which data is collecte (or affected), or phenomena are measured?
- Aims: What are the aim and benefits of the project?
- Benefits: Why are the benefits good for stakeholders?
- Purpose limitation: Can the scope of data collection be limited whilst still
- Politics and Power: Are particular stakeholders empowered or disempow
- Risk of Harm: Could the collection of the data in this study be reasonably to any person's well-being?
- Law: Which bodies of law are likely to be applicable to the operation of the
- Values: Which values will the project conceivable impact?
- Burdens: Who carries the burden of harms or impacted values, and how?
- Technology Ethics: Can the harms and impacted values be traced to part the project?
- Function Creep: Does the project potentially set a precedent for unethical

Question Everything!



"Technological advances are usefully considered

not only from the lens of

how they work,

but also

why they came to be as they did,



whom they *harm*." [r]

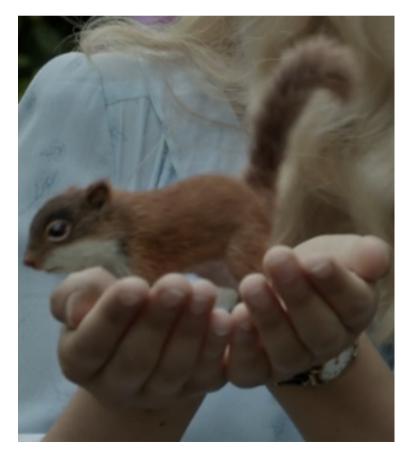


With great power...



At a time when science plays such a powerful role in the life of society, when the destiny of the whole of mankind may hinge on the results of scientific research, it is incumbent on all scientists to be fully conscious of that role, and conduct themselves accordingly. I appeal to my fellow scientists to remember their responsibility to humanity.²¹⁰

- ... great responsibility
- to humanity...
- to the planet...
- and to squirrels!





Possible Alternatives / Additions to Hackers Ethics

http://feministinternet.net



- A feminist internet starts with and works towards empowering more women and queer persons – in all our diversities – to dismantle patriarchy. This includes universal, affordable, unfettered, unconditional, and equal access to the Internet.
- 2. A feminist internet is an extension, reflection, and continuum of our movements and resistance in other spaces, public and private. Our agency lies in us deciding as individuals and collectives what aspects of our lives to politicize and/or publicize on the internet.
- 3. The internet is a transformative public and political space. It facilitates new forms of citizenship that enable individuals to claim, construct, and express our selves, genders, sexualities. This includes connections across territories, demands for accountability and transparency, and significant opportunities for feminist movement-building.
- 4. Violence online and tech-related violence are part of the continuum of gender-based violence. The misogynistic attacks, threats, intimidation, and policing experienced by women and LGBTQI people are real, harmful, and alarming. It is our collective responsibility.

9. The internet's role in enabling access to critical information - including conversations on health, pleasure, and risks - is essential, and must be support and protected.

10. Surveillance by default is the tool of patriarchy to control and restrict rights both online and offline. The right to privacy is a critical principle for a safer, ope internet for all. Equal attention needs to be paid to lance practices by individuals against each oth well as the private sector state actors, in to the state. FEM PRINCIPLES

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(Tech) Ethics of Nonviolence

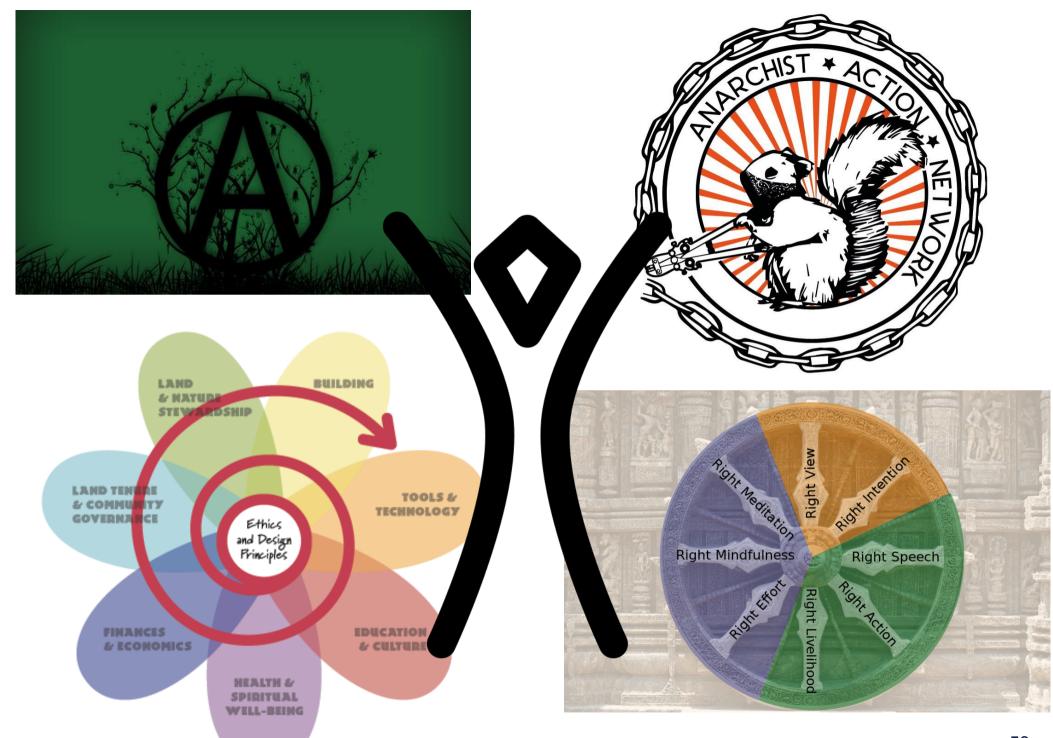


- Nonviolent resistance philosophy of Gandhi & Martin Luther King Jr
- Algorithmically-geeky <u>"Non-violent</u>
 <u>Communication" by Marshal Rosenberg</u>
- "Guide to Empathetic Technical Leadership" http://empathetictechnicalleader.com
 - FREE to read online: https://leanpub.com/littleguide/read
- Open Source and Feelings (#OSSfeel)
 - http://www.osfeels.com/

Internet of Empathy



- Positive freedom of connectivity, interaction and involvement
 - Instead of libertarian "freedom" as independence and self reliance
- This freedom comes at the price of greater responsibility
- "the intrinsic value of a network does not lie in the sovereignty and independence of its nodes, but in their connectedness,"
- Empathy is willingness to engage with the Other, and willingness to enrich network with our contributions
- From: "To Our Friends" by The Invisible Committee https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/our-friends "

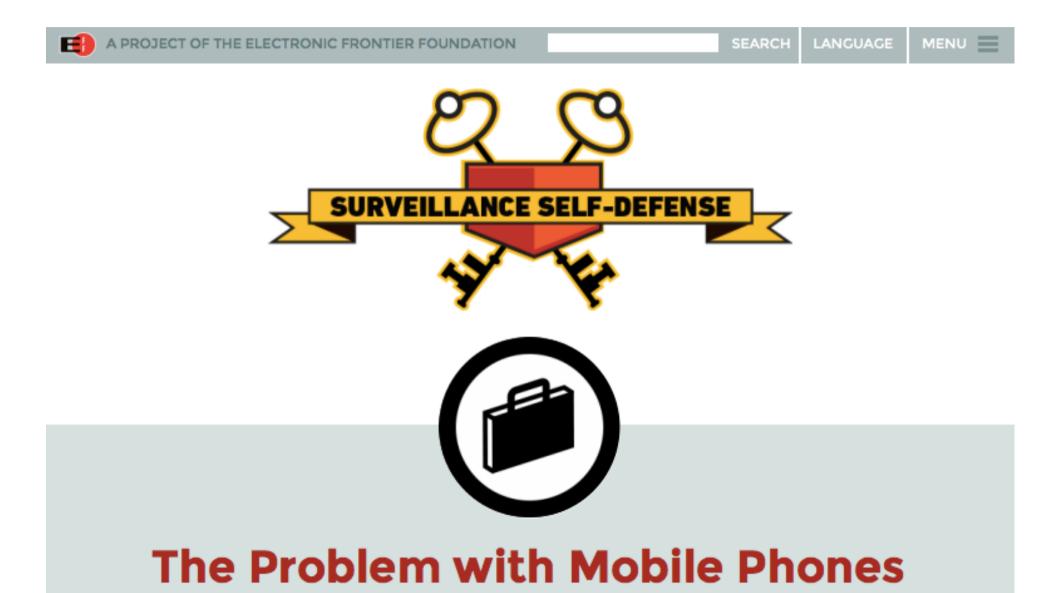




Beyond Techno-Optimism

Mobile phone as a tracking, spying device?!





Mobile phone as a tracking, spying device?!



"In our times,

people are often willing to make drastic changes in the way they live

to accord with technological innovation;

at the same time,

they would resist

similar kinds of changes

justified on political grounds." [art]

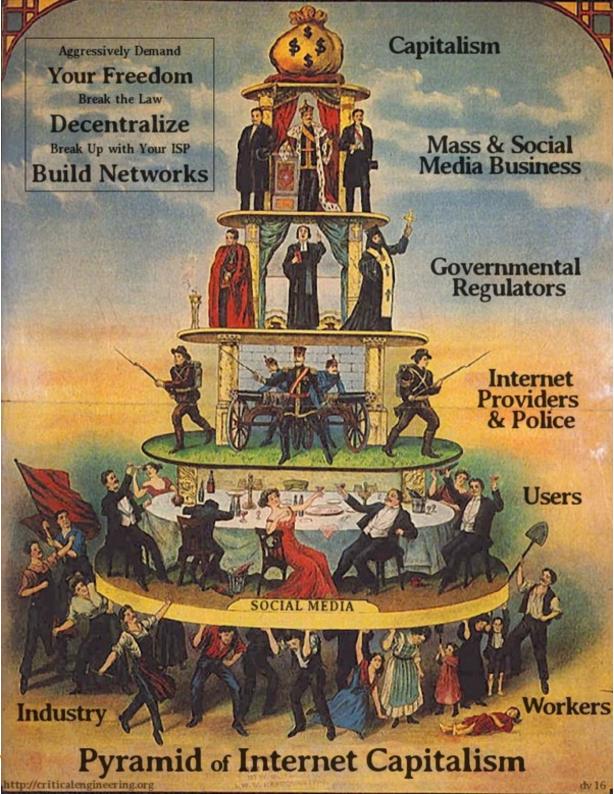


A NATURAL PAIRING A data center in Ashburn, Va., seen past a Dominion Virginia Power substation serving it. Worldwide, such centers use the rough equivalent of the output of 30 nuclear power plants.





OH BE REED BOOK











Squirrels Winning the Cyber-War ;-)



TOTAL SUCCESSFUL CYBER WAR OPS AS OF 2017.01.08 - 1748

Agent	Success
Squirrel	879
Bird	434
Snake	83
Raccoon	72
Rat	36
Marten	22
China	0
Russia	0*
USA	1



https://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/Hackers_tribes#Squirrels_against_technology





With Great Power

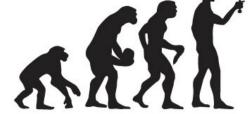
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Great Responsibility

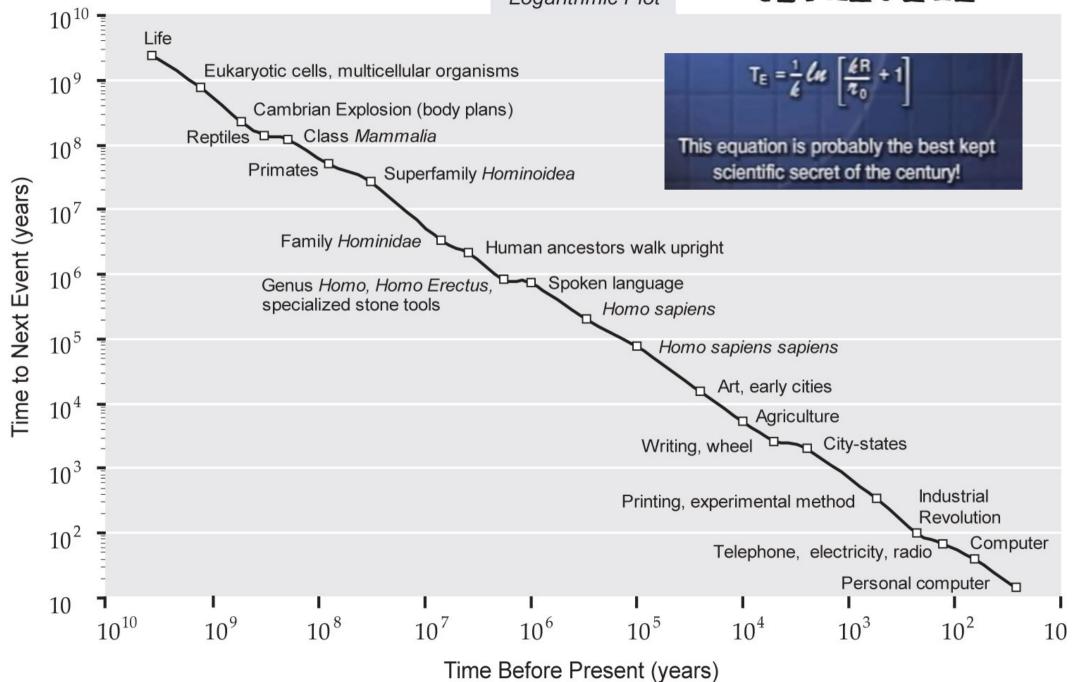


Beyond Myth of Progress, Beyond Anthropocentrism

Countdown to Singularity



Logarithmic Plot

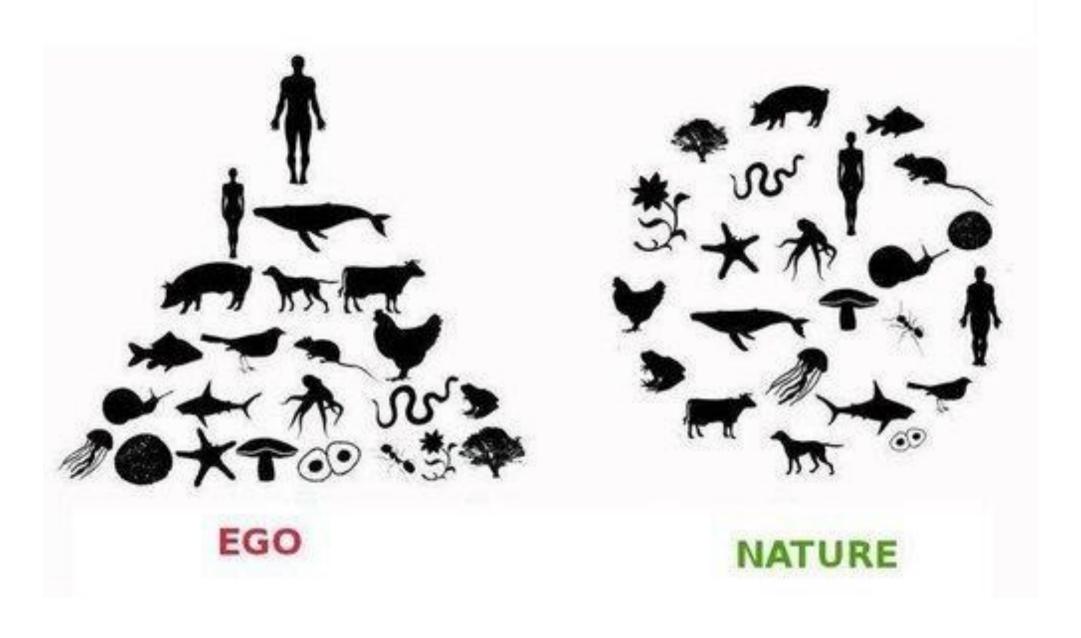


Imagine: Society > Science > Internet

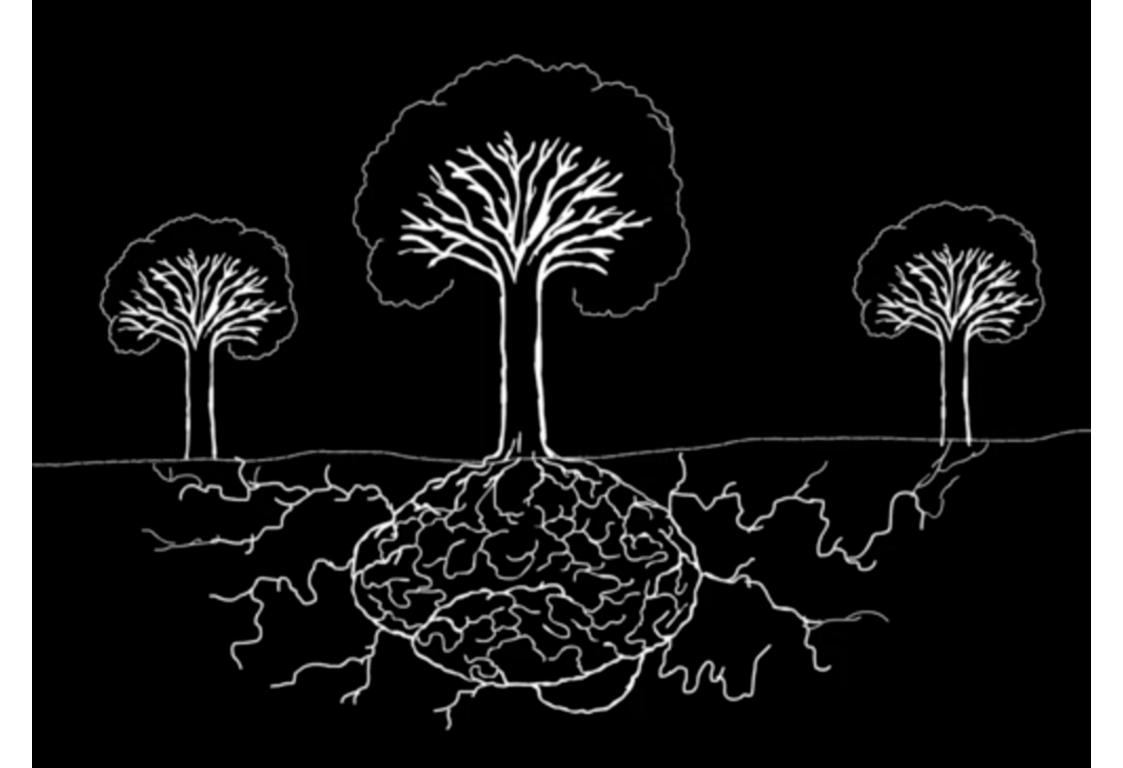


- ... a society predominantly concerned with preserving its existence (but not endlessly expanding)
- a society with a modest standard of living,
- conservative of natural resources,
- with a low constant fertility rate and
- a political life based upon consent;
- a society that has made a successful adaptation to its environment
- and has learned to live without destroying itself or the people (or squirrels) next door.
- Ursula K. Le Guin

Right place and the right role in the symphony of life



Mature cultures have found balance with Nature



Imagine If Trees Gave Off Wifi Signals, We Would Be Planting So Many Trees And We'd Probably Save The Planet Too.



Too Bad They
Only Produce The
Oxygen We
Breathe.

What If We Create a Better World?





Responsibility



At a time when science plays such a powerful role in the life of society, when the destiny of the whole of mankind may hinge on the results of scientific research, it is incumbent on all scientists to be fully conscious of that role, and conduct themselves accordingly. I appeal to my fellow scientists to remember their responsibility to humanity.²¹⁰

- Responsibility
- ... to humanity...
- ... to the planet...
- ... and to squirrels!











Acknowledgements

Main Inspirations



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- [u] Ursula K. Le Guin: <u>"A Non-Euclidean View of California as a Cold Place to Be"</u> (1989)

More references



- [w] http://networkedsystemsethics.net/
- Philosophy of Hacking, by Groente
- <u>Digital Tailspin: Ten Rules for the Internet After Snowden</u>
- Tor, Technocracy, Democracy
- Heather Marsh
- [how] Software Freedom your Way
- Sebastian Olme
- http://guymcpherson.com/2013/12/hackers-ethic-for-the-world-aftercollapse/
- http://becha.home.xs4all.nl/hackers-philosophers-utopian-networkdec-2012-becha.pdf

Even more references, July 2017



- IETF & Human Rights & https://www.rightscon.org/
 - https://www.ietf.org/proceedings/99/slides/slides-99-hrpc-presentation-milton-mueller-requiem-for-a-dream-00.pdf
 - https://www.article19.org/resources.php/resource/38819/en/ethicalapproaches-to-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomous-systems-at-ieeeseas-2017
 - https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-nottingham-for-the-users-05
- "To Our Friends", by The Invisible Committee
 - https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/our-friends
- "I Hate the Internet" http://weheardyoulikebooks.com/releases/i-hate-the-internet/
- Geoff Huston: "The Internet's Gilded Age" (March 2017) http://www.potaroo.net/ispcol/2017-03/gilding.html

RIPE Atlas references



- https://atlas.ripe.net
- https://labs.ripe.net/hackathons
- "Global Network Interference Detection over the RIPE Atlas Network"
- [a] "Ethics of RIPE Atlas Measurements" (2016)
- <u>"Ethics in Network Measurements"</u> (2017)
- "A Field Survey of the Ecosystem Around Internet Censorship, Disruptions, and Shutdowns" (June 2017)

Not Part of THIS Talk:

Nature Strikes Back

Squirrels Winning Cyber-War

OTAL SUCCESSFUL CYBER WAR OPS S OF 2017.01.08 - 1748		
Agent	Success	
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China	0	RWARAIN
Russia	0*	
USA	1	

• https://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/Hackers_tribes#Squirrels_against_technology

Jellyfish Attack Nuclear Power-Station

Reality: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/01/jellyfish-clog-swedish-nuclear-reactor-shutdown

 Fiction: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ The_Swarm_(novel)





Important things you need to know - Earth user guide

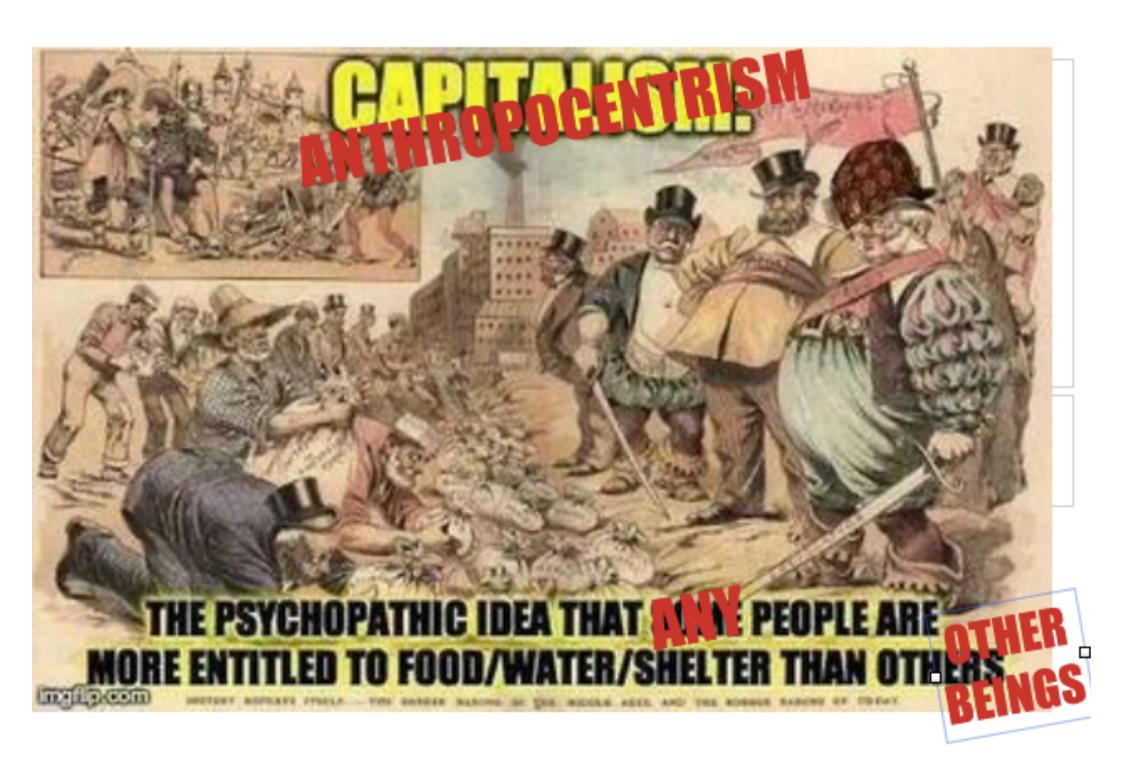
1. This is where you live

2. You and the other 15 million plants and animals are Earth's family

3. 50,000 of these plants and animals become extinct each year

- 4. We are consuming all other species and causing Earth's 6th mass extinction
- 5. This is comparible to a large asteroid strike
- 6. Life style changes can stop this happening

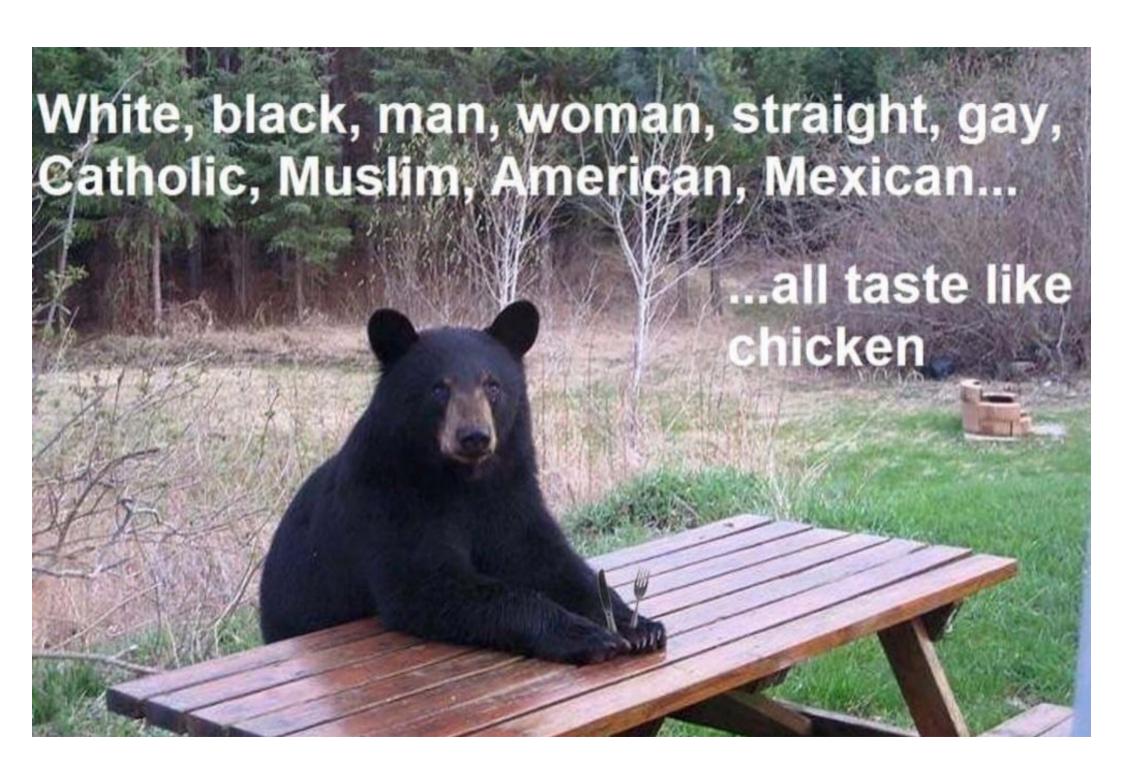
SYSTEM





"When you're accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression"



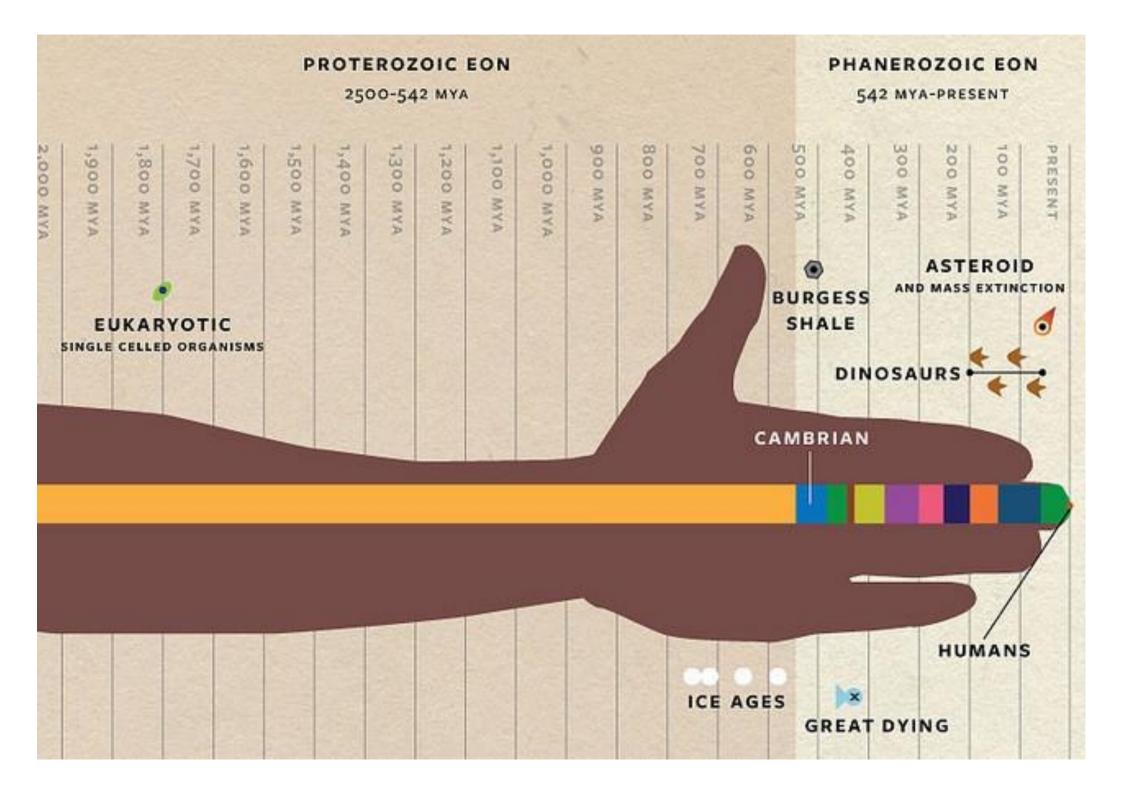


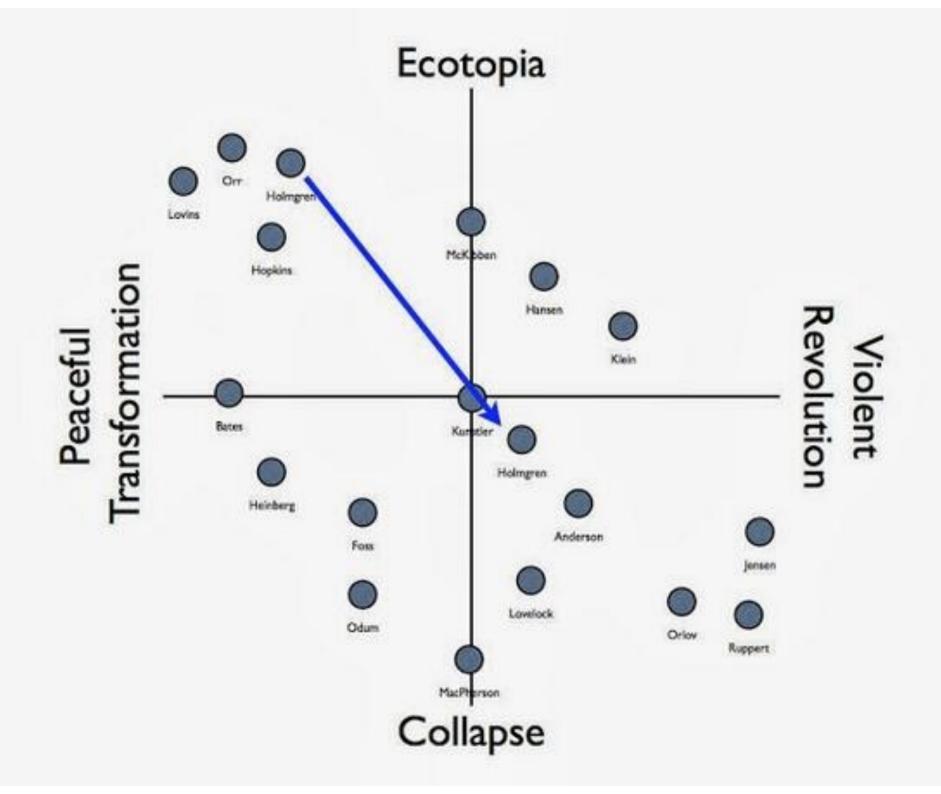
OCTOPI WALL STREET

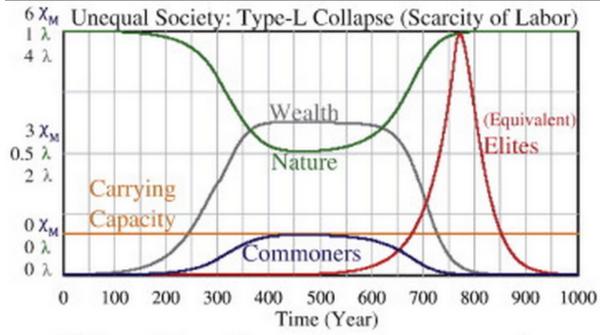


Invertebrates are 97% of animal diversity!

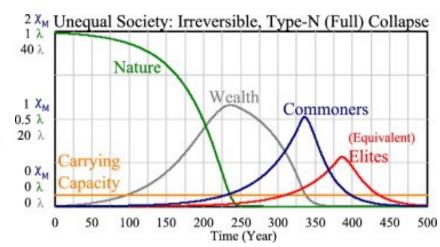
Brought to you by Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, University of Oregon

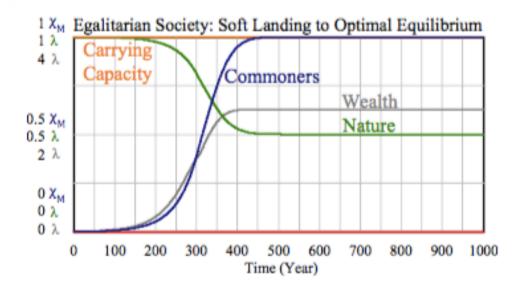


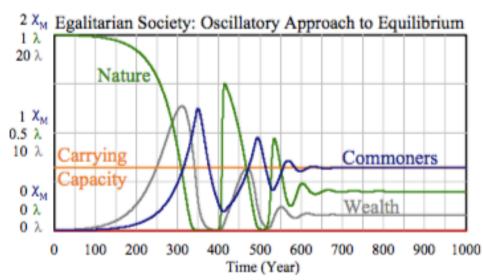




a) Population collapse following an apparent equilibrium due to a small initial Elite population when $\kappa=100$. This scenario also shows a different route to a collapse, in which, although Nature eventually recovers, population does not.







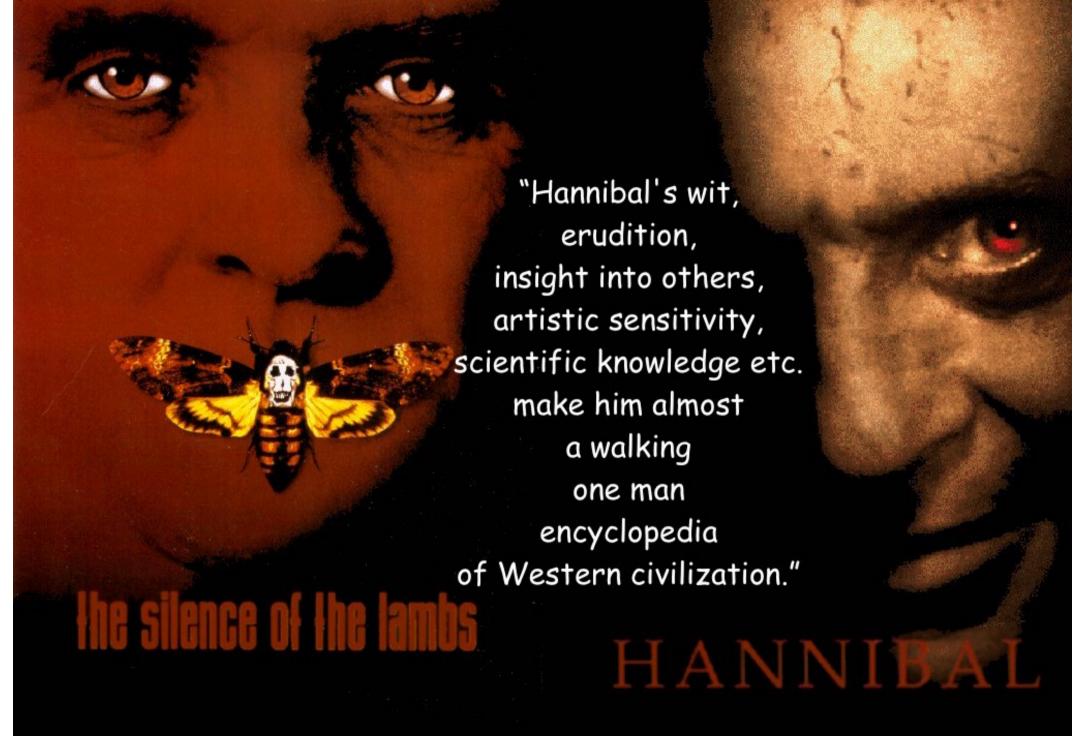
i think human consciousness is tragic mis-step in evolution.
we became too self-aware.
nature created an aspect of nature separate from itself.

the honorable thing for our species to do is to deny our programming.

stop reproducing.

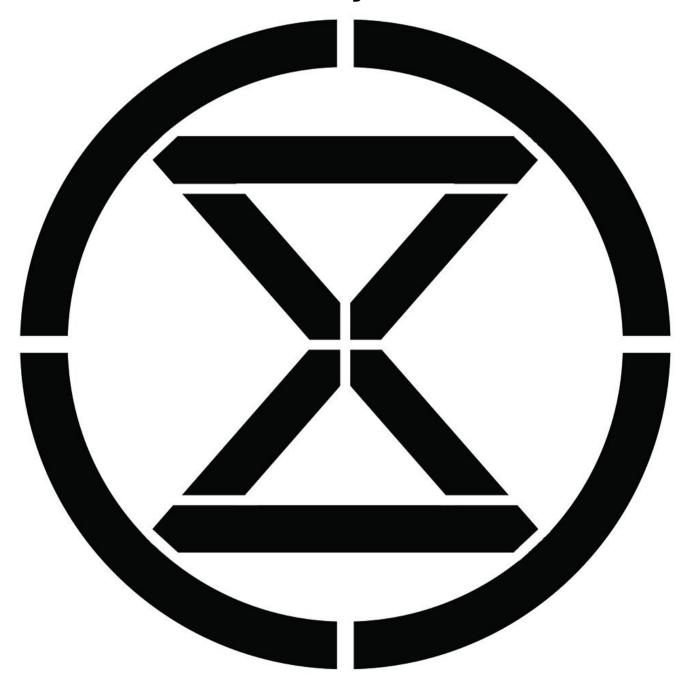
walk hand in hand into extinction.

one last midnight, brothers and sisters, opting out of a raw deal.

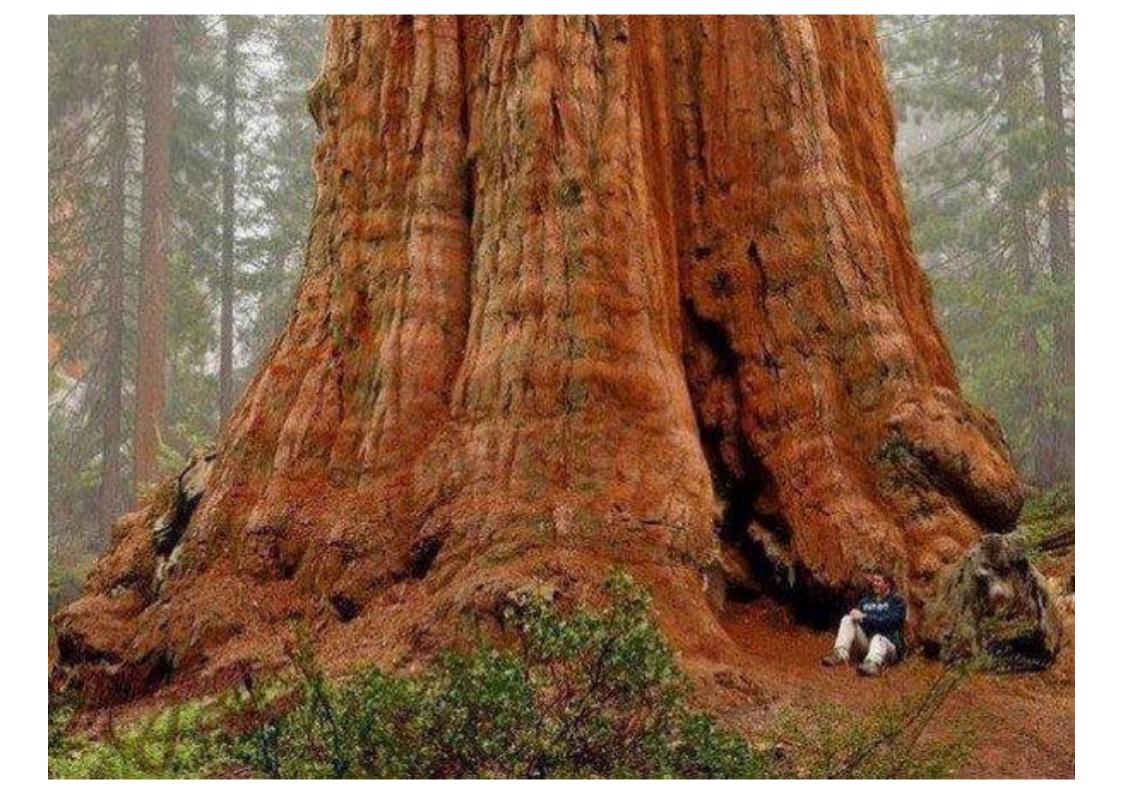


What better symbol of our age than a psychopath & a serial killer?

extinctionsymbol.info



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocene_extinction





http://UnCiv.NL

