Social Networks: Gated Communities ... or Free Cantons?
Filter information through social ties
Filter information through social ties

Democratization of social discourse
Democratization of social discourse
Our data has been privatized and commodified.
Gated Communities vs. Public Spaces
Centralized Network Structure
Decentralized Network Structure
Decentralized, Federated Network Structure
2010 Kickstarter Campaign raises $200,000

2012 Version 0.0.0
Community governance under Free Software Support Network/Diaspora* Foundation

2016 Version 0.6.0
Federation code in separate library

2017 Version 0.7.0 released on 19 August
New Federation protocol
Migrate user data between pods
2017  Diaspora* Federation Protocol 0.2.0
       (AGPL 3.0)

Diaspora*  (Ruby)
Friendica  (PHP)
GangGo     (GoLang)
SocialHome (Python)
High Priority Free Software areas:

**Free phone operating system**

Smart phones are the most widely used form of personal computer today. Thus, the need for a fully free phone operating system is crucial to the proliferation of software freedom. Read more...

**Decentralization, federation, and self-hosting**

This large and fragmented space deals with increased centralization of Web activities, and user reliance on servers they don’t control (Service as a Software Substitute (SaaS)). The free software community provided extensive feedback regarding many projects that fall under this initiative. Read more...

**Free drivers, firmware, and hardware designs**

Drivers, firmware, and hardware are integral parts of the computers we use and the devices that interact with them -- and when these things are proprietary, they are incompatible with free software. Therefore, drivers, firmware, and hardware that can be fully used with free software are crucial to the operation of free systems. Read more...

**Real-time voice and video chat**

Many widely used voice-over-IP programs, like Skype and FaceTime, use proprietary protocols and nonfree implementations. These programs seduce free software users into using proprietary software, often two users at a time. Using proprietary voice and video chat software means that we can’t be sure who is listening in, because we can’t see the code. Unfortunately, Google Hangouts is also not a solution here, because it still requires users to run proprietary software. Read more...

**Encourage contribution by people underrepresented in the community**


The Network Effect

Network Science tells us that networks typically form power-law degree distributions:

- **Cumulative Advantage** – Price, 1976
- **Preferential Attachment** – Barabási and Albert, 1999

« The Rich Get Richer »

But there is also a Local Network Effect:

People tend to migrate to federated social networks collectively not individually.