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

Facebook 'dark ads' can swing political opinions, research shows

News Media Alliance targets Facebook and Google in fight against fake news

Facebook employs ex-political aides to help campaigns target voters

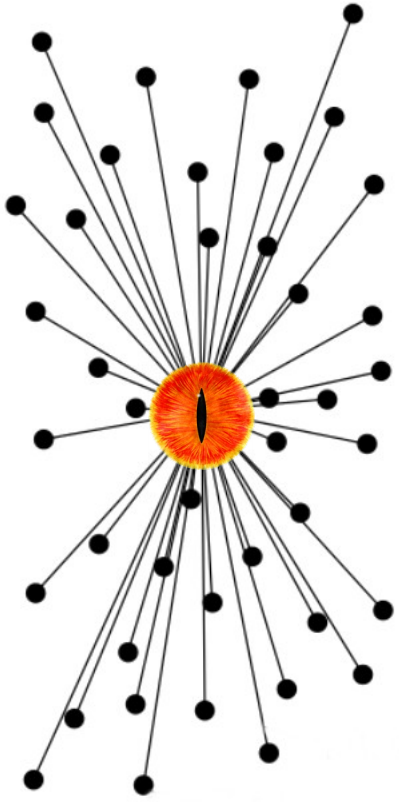
Inquiry launched into targeting of UK voters through social media

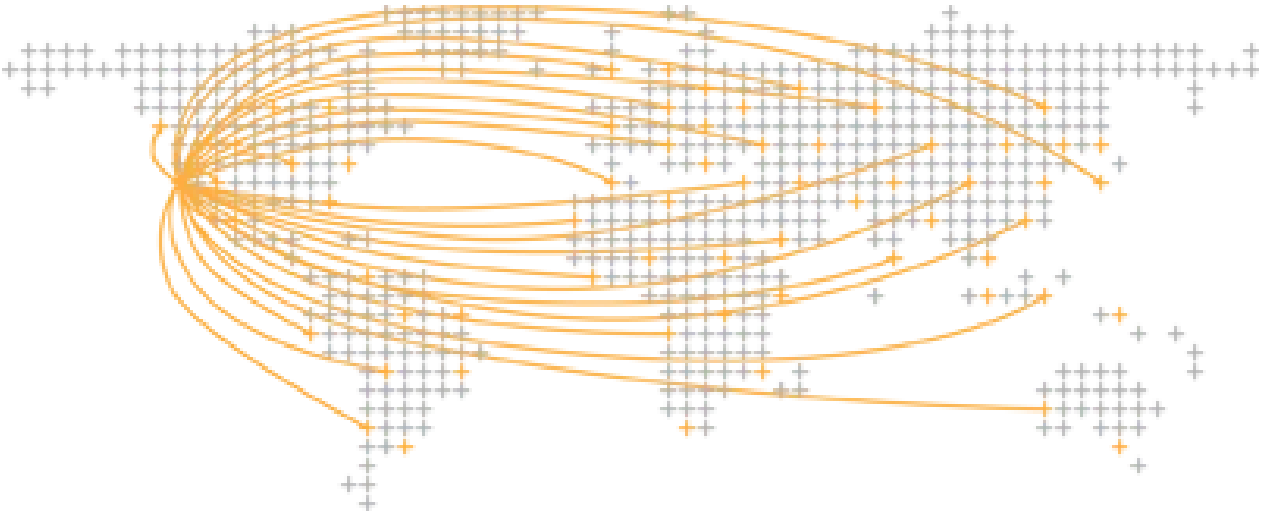
Information commissioner's investigation to go further than current exploration of practices used in EU referendum

Facebook says likely Russia-based group paid for

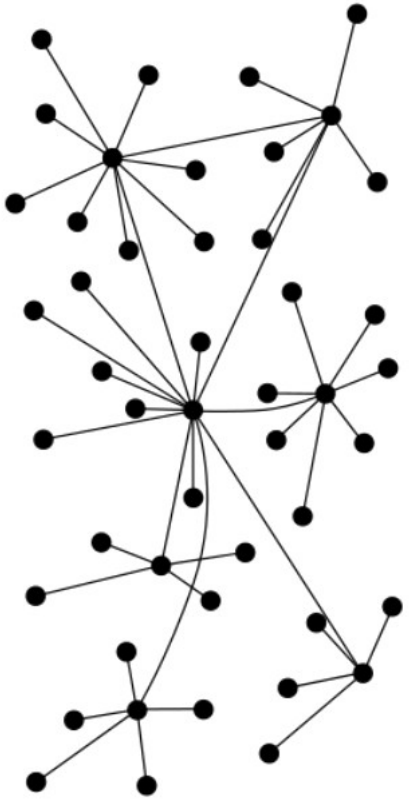
Our data has been privatized and commodified.

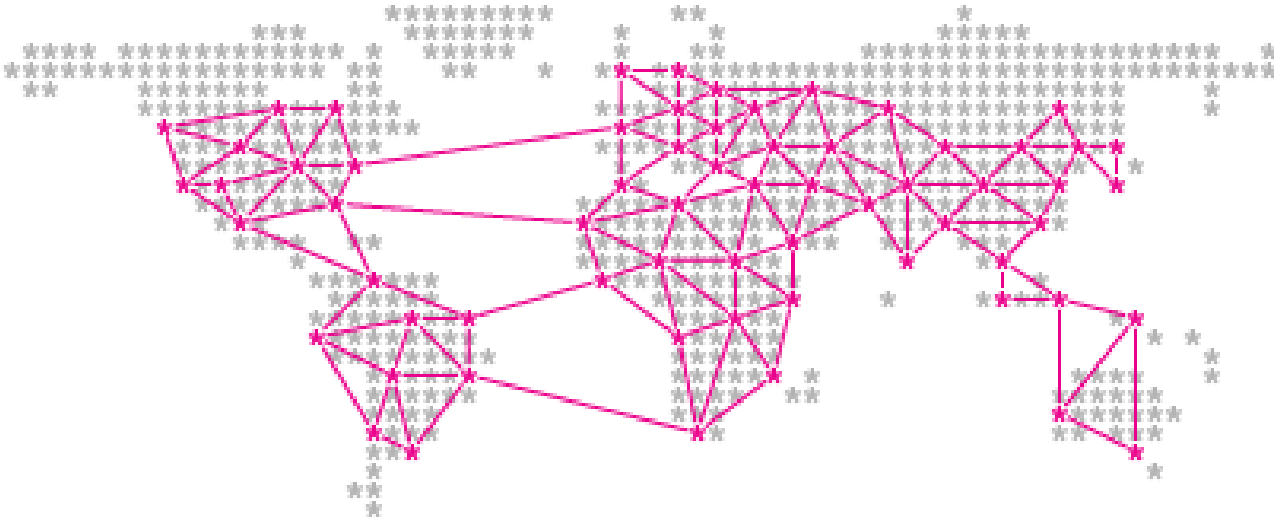
Gated Communities vs. Public Spaces



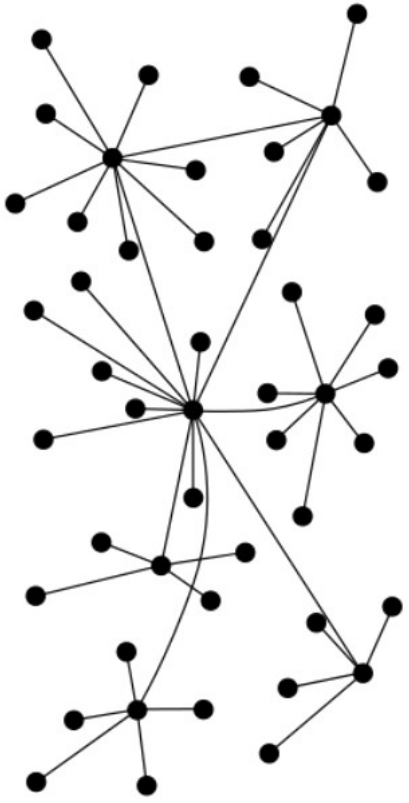


Centralized Network Structure



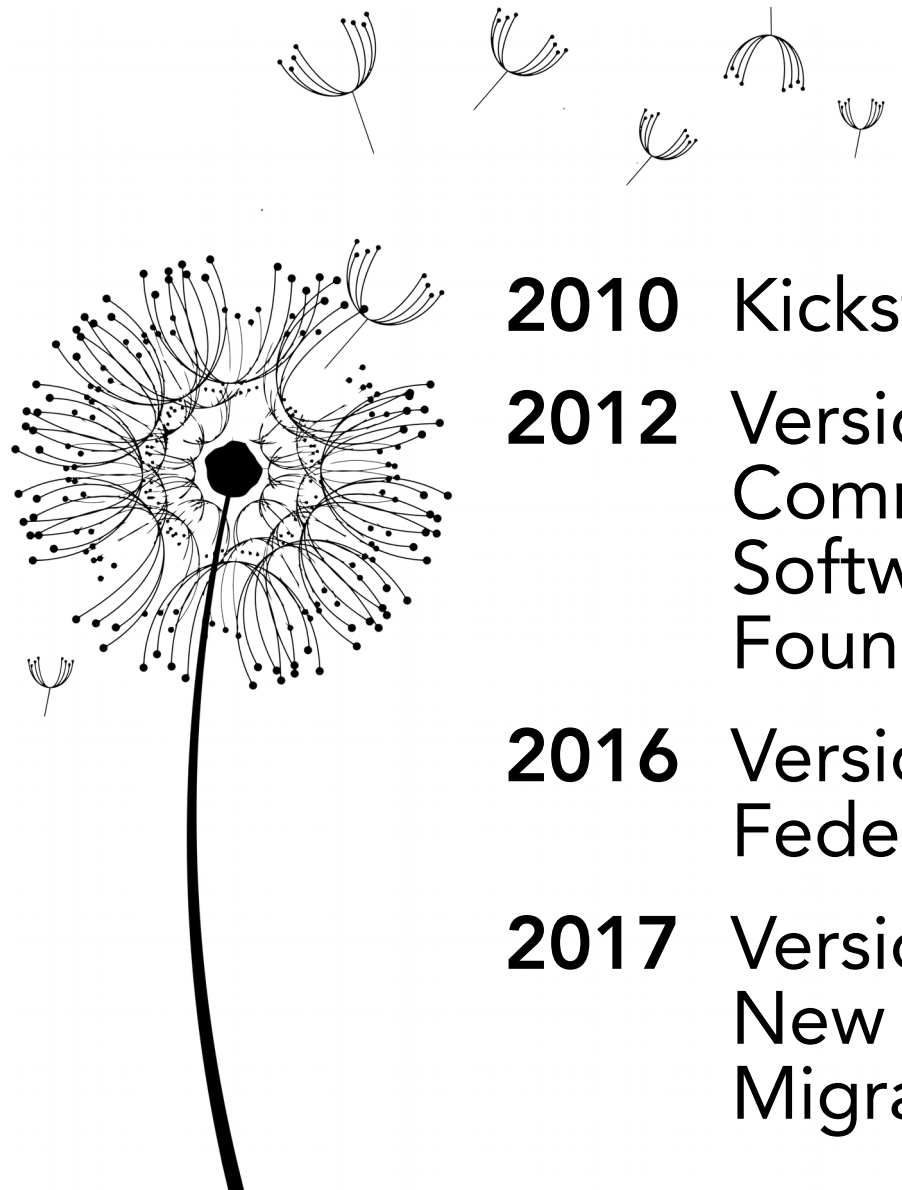


Decentralized Network Structure



Decentralized, Federated Network Structure

diaspora*



diaspora*

2010 Kickstarter Campaign raises $200,000

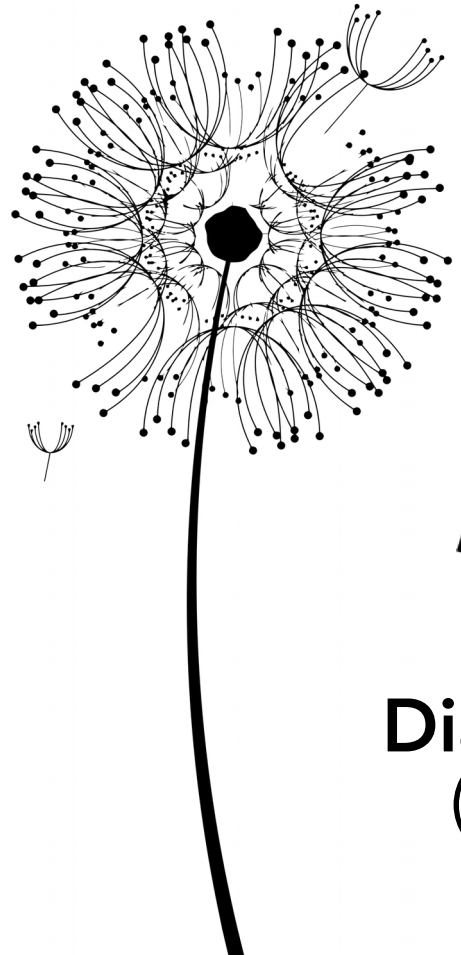
2012 Version 0.0.0
Community governance under Free Software Support Network/Diaspora* Foundation

2016 Version 0.6.0
Federation code in separate library

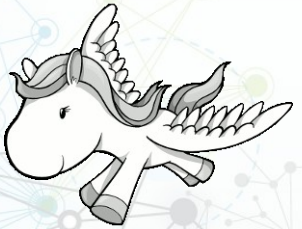
2017 Version 0.7.0 released on 19 August
New Federation protocol
Migrate user data between pods

diaspora*

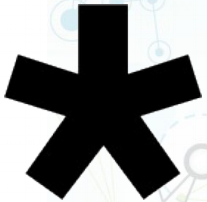
2017 Diaspora* Federation Protocol 0.2.0
(AGPL 3.0)



Friendica
(PHP)



SocialHome
(Python)



Diaspora*
(Ruby)

GangGo
(GoLang)

FREE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION

HIGH PRIORITY FREE SOFTWARE PROJECTS

2017

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 (SaaSS)). The free software community provided extensive feedback regarding many projects that fall under this initiative. *Read more...*

Free drivers, firmware, and hardware designs

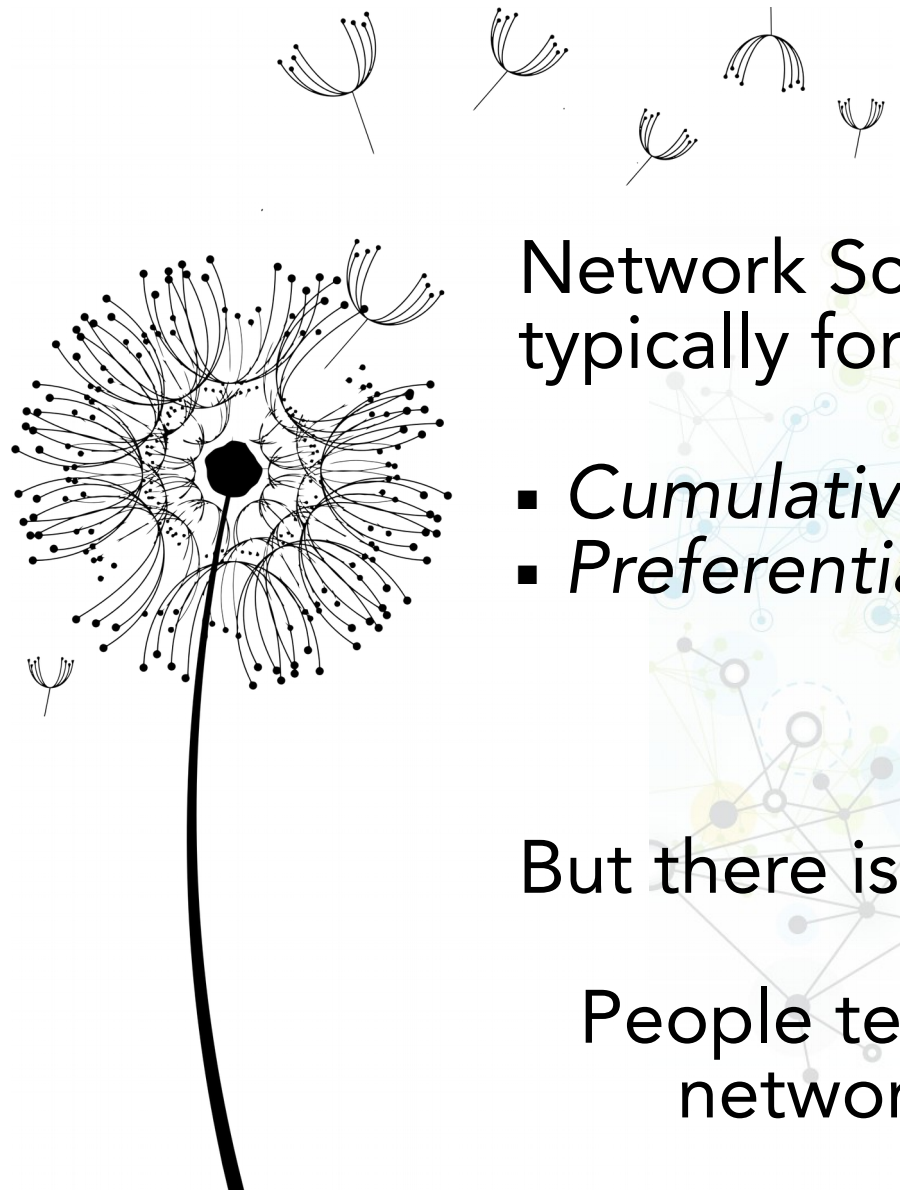
Drivers, firmware, and hardware are integral parts of the computers we use and the devices that interact with them -- and when these things are proprietary, they are incompatible with free software. Therefore, drivers, firmware, and hardware that can be fully used with free software are crucial to the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

RT
VISITORS
RESIDENTS
RT



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.