Sustainable Commons Production and the Virtues of Moderation

James Grimmelmann New York Law School

TPRC 29 September 2007

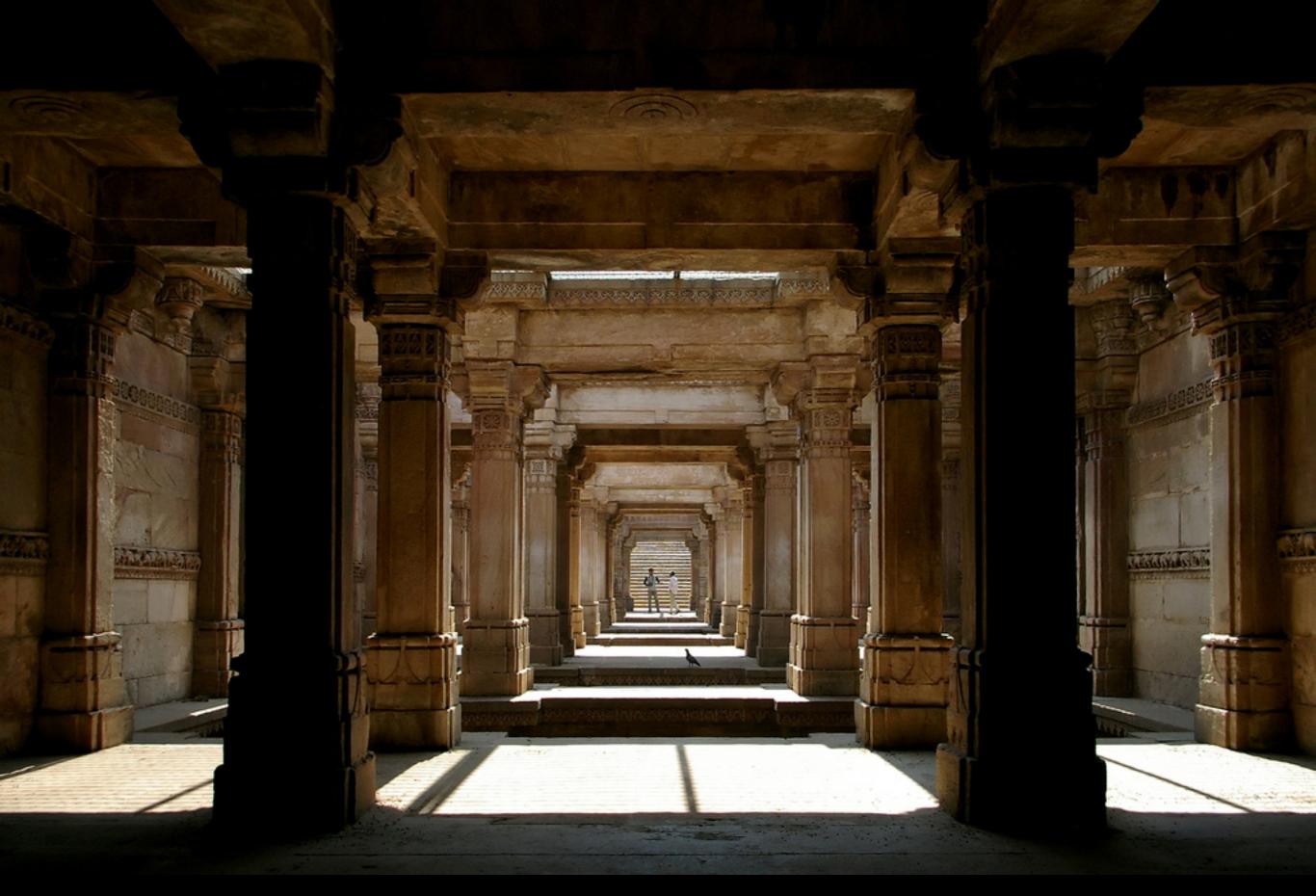
(I) Motivation

Must you be a fool to contribute to a commons?



CHEZRURGER

Not necessarily; people have intrinsic motivations.



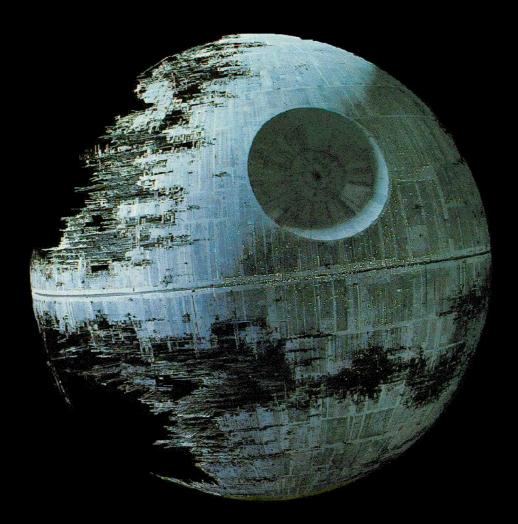
But why are some communities sustainable ...



... while others fail?



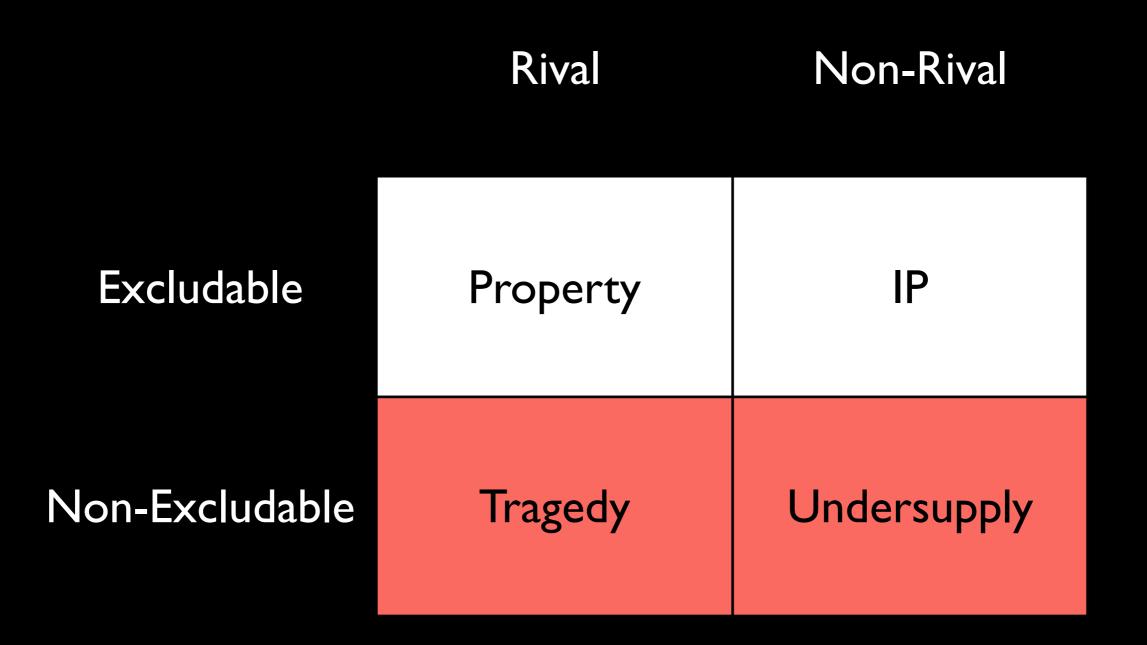
Does Wikipedia need to be more ...

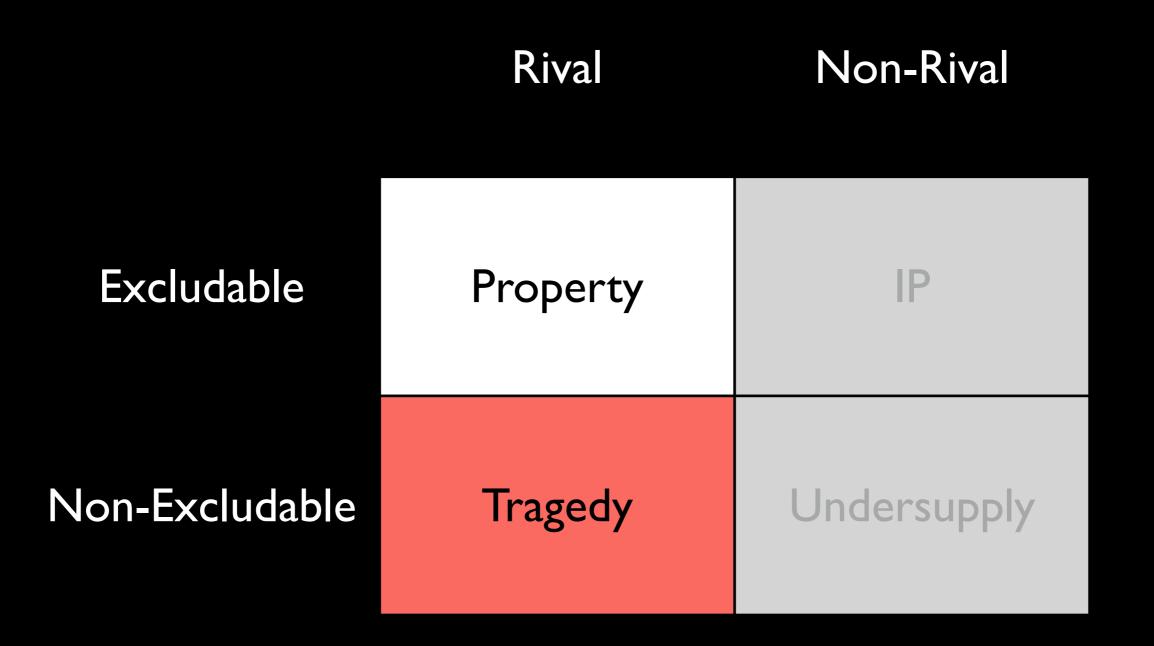


... authoritarian?

(2) Semicommons

	Rival	Non-Rival
Excludable	Private	Club
Non-Excludable	Common-Pool	Public





	Rival	Non-Rival
Excludable	Commons	IP
Non-Excludable	Tragedy	Undersupply

	Rival	Non-Rival
Excludable	Commons	IP
Non-Excludable	Tragedy	Undersupply

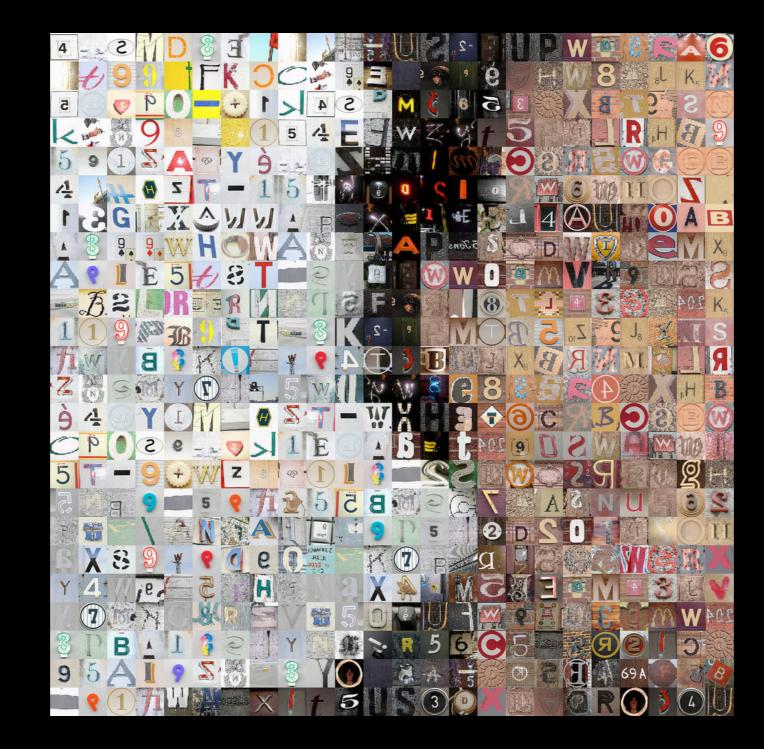
	Rival	Non-Rival
Excludable	Commons	IP
Non-Excludable	Tragedy	Commons

	Rival	Non-Rival
Excludable	Commons	IP
Non-Excludable	Tragedy	Commons

Offline semicommons



Online semicommons





Layering





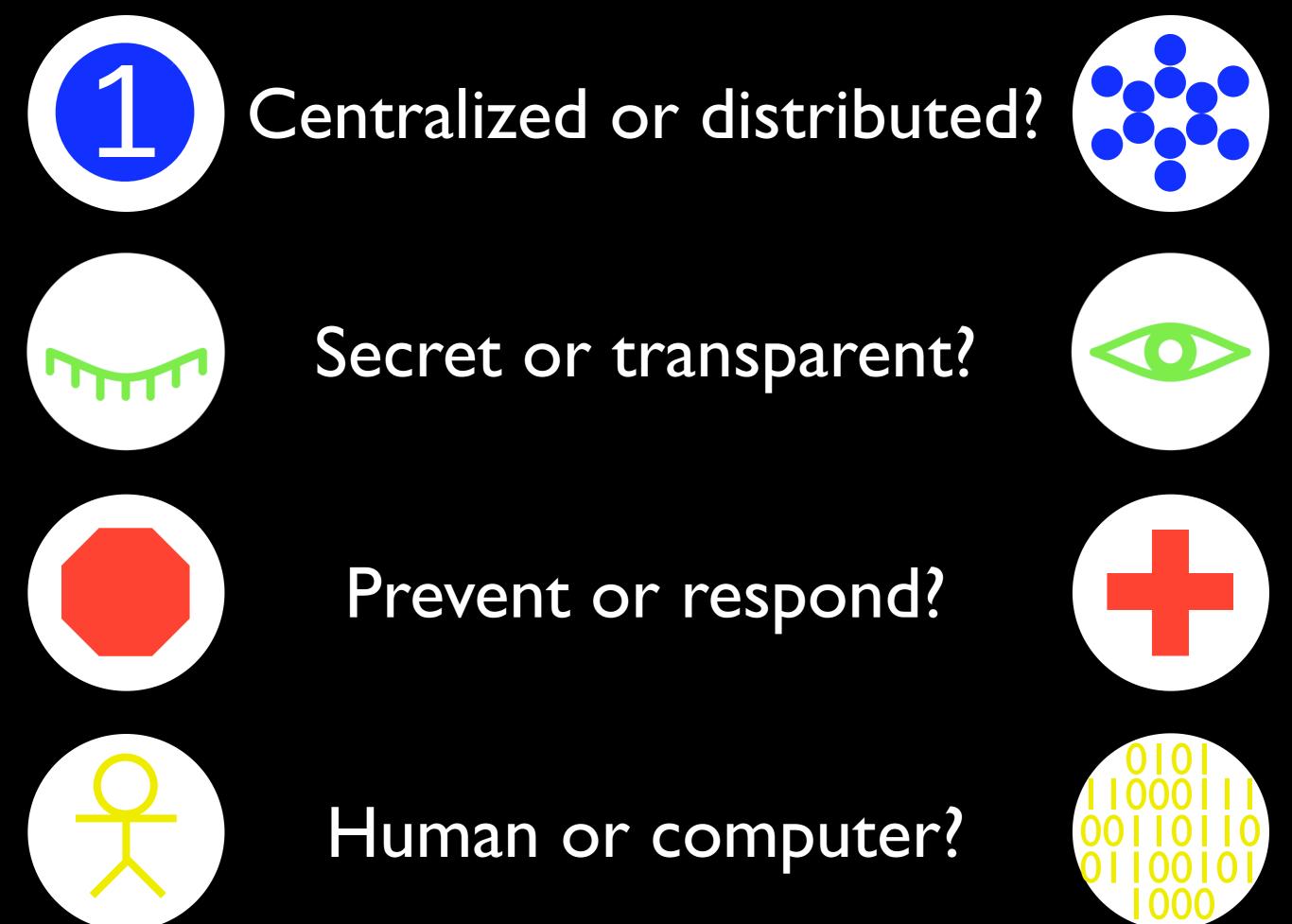


(3) Moderation patterns

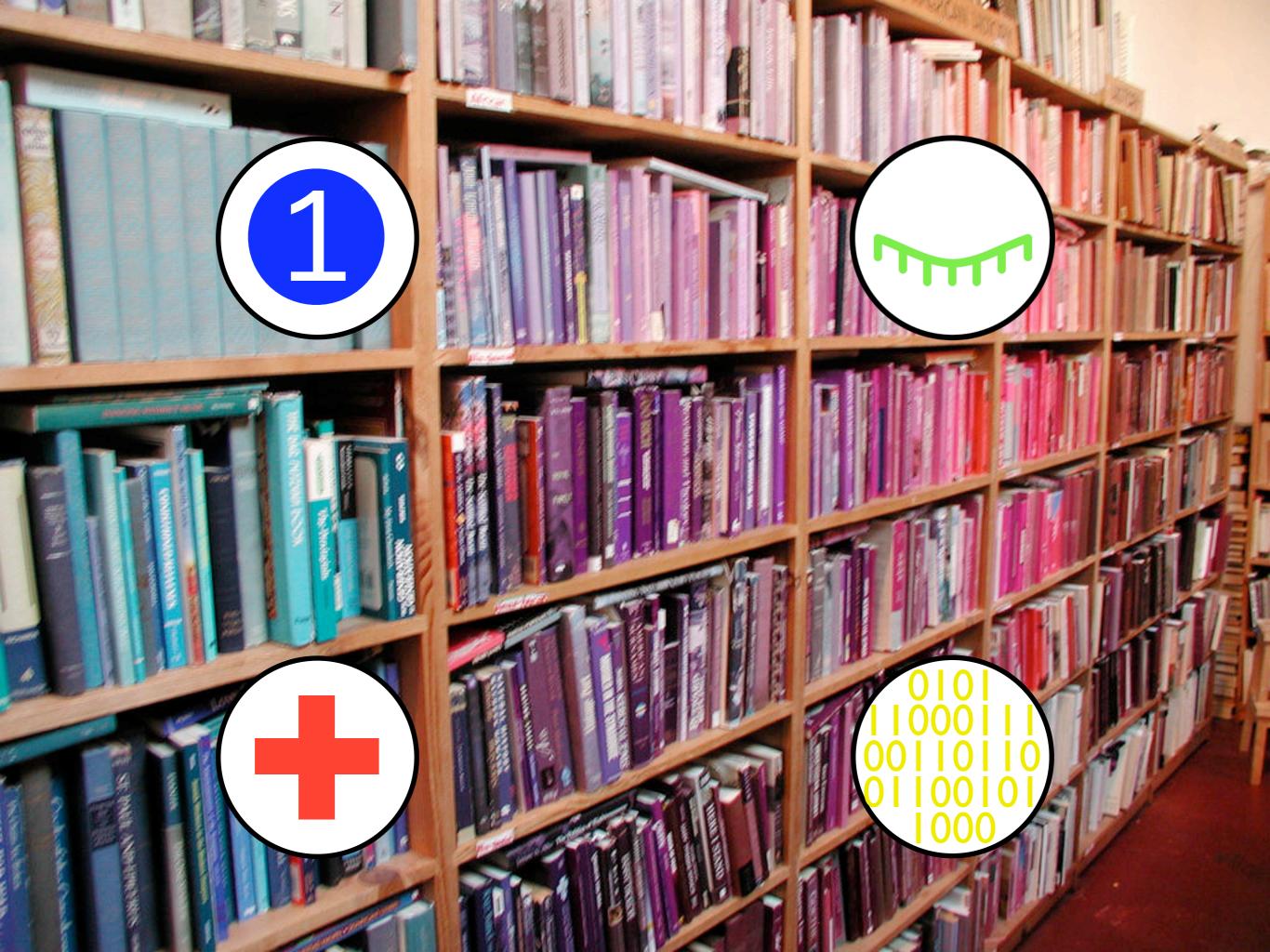






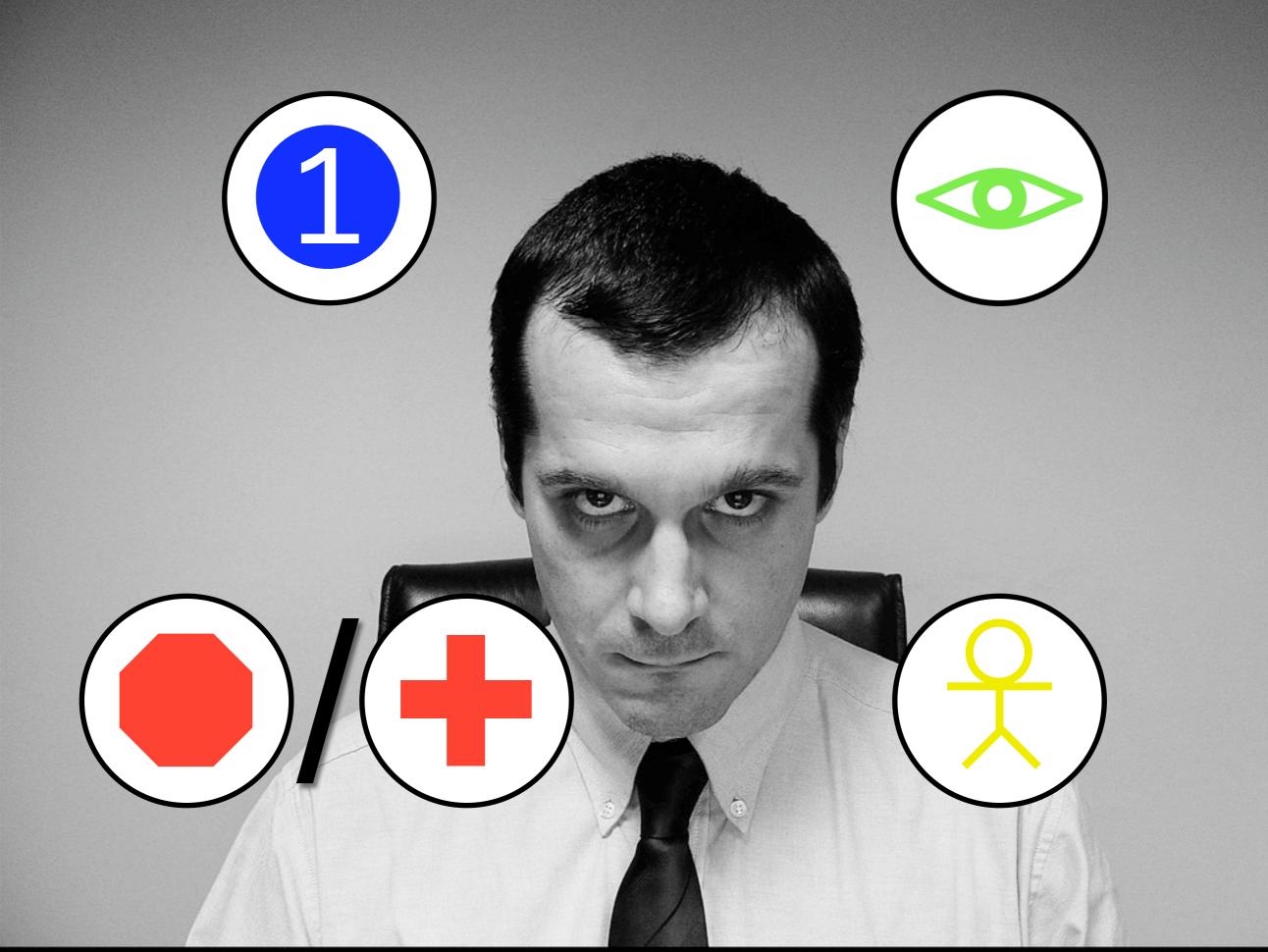






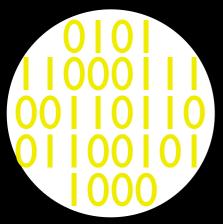
artmusicflash politicsphotography Science history bush humor Religion technology election law video war a me games film fun weird books culture funny movies lesign food photos iraq language amusing advertising space omics architecture gallery animation tv travel silly internet UK media tews blogs terrorism gay canada apple 9-11 MP3 literature television drugs

METAFILTER COMPILATION ALBUM (VOL. Ø1) IS AT THE DUPLICATORS ETA NOVEMBER 2006



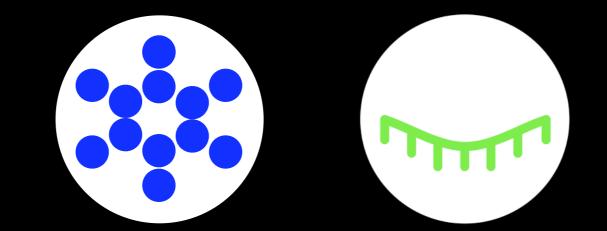


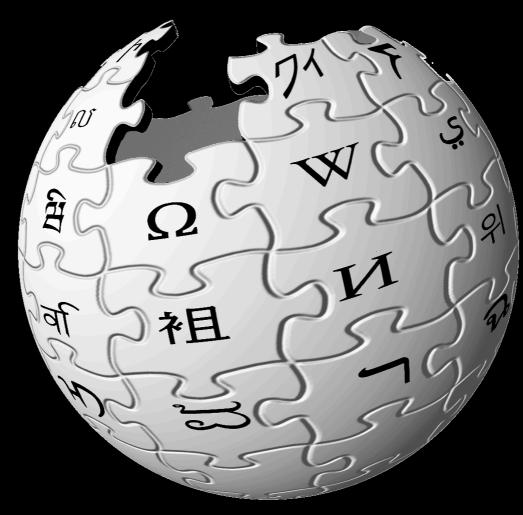


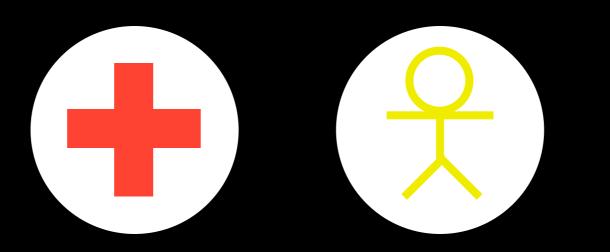




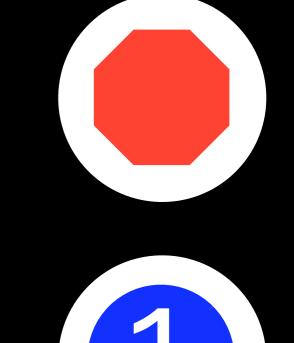








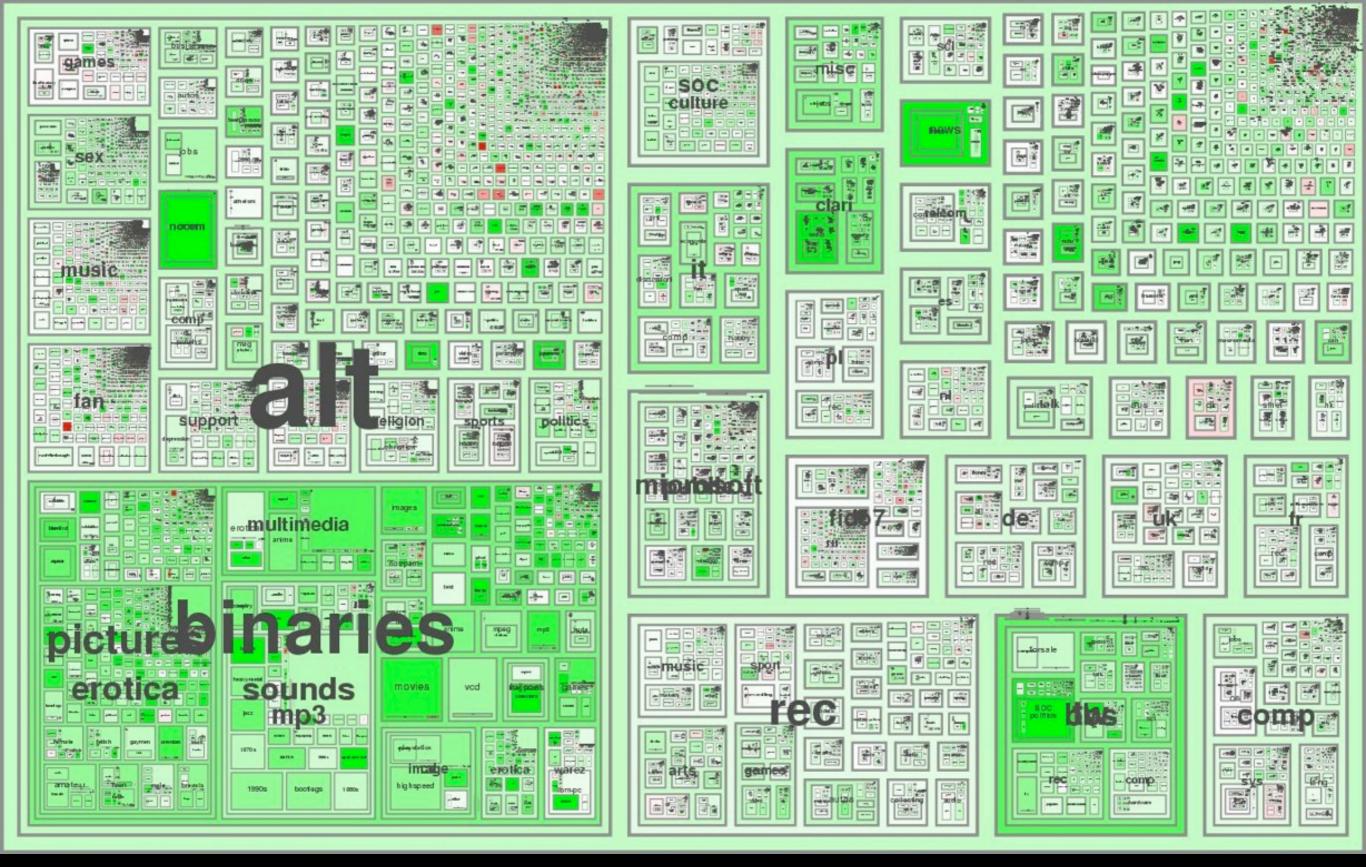








(4) Application



Whatever happened to USENET?



USENET was functional at the scale of a newsgroup ...



... but it got the property boundaries wrong.

Smaller building blocks proved more stable.



Conclusion

Colophon

The following images are © their respective photographers and are available under the indicated Creative Commons license:

- Clown: Children at Risk Foundation / Gregory J. Smith, "Be happy...!", <u>http://flickr.com/photos/beija-flor/148731910/</u>, BY-NC-ND 2.0
- Gujarati step well: Dave Morris, "Adalaj Wav step well,," <u>http://flickr.com/photos/davemorris/298826574/</u>, BY-NC-SA 2.0
- Interior ruins: John Baird, "Fisher Body Plant 21," <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/johnbaird/112856502/</u>, BY-NC-ND 2.0
- Ram: John Baird, "Ram," <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/johnbaird/145718528/</u>, BY-NC-ND 2.0
- Photomosaic: Jim Bumgardner, "Mosaic Portrait: Other Things, "<u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/krazydad/74287919</u>/, BY-NC-SA 2.0
- Cake: K Satos, "tropical tricolour cake, sliced," <u>http://flickr.com/photos/santos/115247549/</u>, BY-NC-ND 2.0
- Seashells: Supermietzi, "1980," <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/supermietzi/188063021/</u>, BY-NC-SA 2.0
- Frowning man: schizoo23, "the main man," <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/schizoo23/360887176/</u>, BY-NC-SA 2.0
- Great wall of China: Steve Webel, "Great Wall of China (2004)," http://www.flickr.com/photos/webel/64438599/, BY-ND 2.0
- Tollbooth: Jordansmall, "The Handoff," <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/jordansmall/88129701/</u>, BY-NC-ND 2.0
- Books: Mermaniac, "Rainbow of Books 3," <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/mermaniac/1473992/</u>, BY-NC-ND 2.0
- essamyn West: redjar, "Jessamyn West," <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/redjar/113978938/</u> BY-SA 2.0
- Matt Haughey: Matt Haughey, "Posted at 19.6 mph," http://www.flickr.com/photos/mathowie/10774597/, BY-NC-SA 2.0
- Josh Mllard: Kathleen Bennett, "Cortex is really, really, working on the compilation album," <u>http://flickr.com/photos/ferneyes/</u> 283066436/, BY-NC-ND 2.0
- Droplets: Steve Wall, "fragile universe," <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/stevewall/188024983/</u>, BY-NC-SA 2.0
- Gate: Peter Van den Bossche, "Useless gate," <u>http://flickr.com/photos/lhoon/134692335/</u>, BY-SA 2.0
- Paving stones: ISock, "Break It Down For Me," <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/Isock/301276274/</u>, BY-NC-ND 2.0

The following images are used under 17 U.S.C. § 107 ("fair use"):

- Lolcat
- Wikipedia logo
- Death star
- Google logo
- USENET diagram
- Internet connectivity diagram

All other elements are © James Grimmelmann and are available under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 United States license.