



Internet of Squirrels

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If we want to have “sustainable Internet”, we have to “consider the squirrels”!

Squirrels are a symbol for **all** more-than-human beings & ecosystems: trees, rivers, soil, insects, fish, forests, cats, sea-weed...

Considering squirrels is an analogy for **ecocentric** attitudes.

Squirrels are a metaphor for all those humans with **no** own voice: the disconnected, the marginalised, the exploited, the oppressed, those not yet born... and who I take the responsibility to speak **for**.

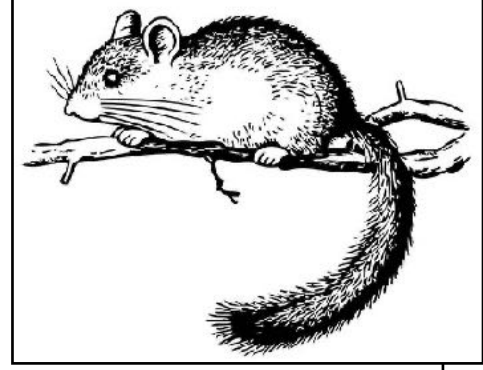
“Internet of Squirrels” is a direct opposition to “*Internet of Things*”, a reminder that we will not achieve SDGs & ESRs through the technological fixes, but that the solutions to our technical problems are, in fact: **social, political, ecological and spiritual solutions**.

Squirrels symbolise “the other” - but taken to the **extreme**;
in order to “move the goal posts” of radical Diversity, Equity & Inclusion!

- for the engineer, squirrel is an “End User” => rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8890
- for the network operator, squirrel is a “customer” => forum.ripe.net
- for the academic, squirrel is a “research subject” => degrowthjournal.org
- for the content provider, squirrel is a “consumer”

I am a Speaker for Squirrels: https://wiki.unciv.nl/index.php?title=Speaker_For_Squirrels

On a technical level, Internet of Squirrels represents basic, modest, green connectivity for all, within planetary boundaries, harmless for squirrels: Internet “on the squirrel scale”.



Principles of Internet of Squirrels: ecology, sufficiency, reciprocity, empathy, anarchism, commons, altruism, ecocentrism (not anthropocentrism!), solidarity, degrowth, climate justice, decoloniality, intersectional feminism, stewardship, permaculture, regeneration, communality, radically open participation, caring, solar punk, reciprocity, animism...

On a metaphysical level, Internet of Squirrels acknowledges existence of meaningful connections & communication and/or “networks” among (& between) non-human species (murmurations of birds, mycelia networks, crows, ant colonies, Wood Wide Web, dolphins, slime mould, parrots...), and non-technological networks within human cultures.

While the first 50-60 years of the current Internet were based on growth, I imagine next 50 years oscillating between dystopia & utopia: due to polycrisis, Internet has to function (or not) within many disaster scenarios: a war-thorn country, a refugee camp, an aftermath of a hurricane, a flooding, raging forrest fire, a pandemic... a series of collapses.

We have to rely on the equipment to function with little electricity & intermittent connectivity, within a broken supply chain for parts, no way to pay for licenses, and people who are focused on survival needs first, & then meaningful & minimal connections: making emergency calls, finding the loved ones, letting them know you are alive, looking up the direction to a shelter...

Counter-computing movement & alternative networks give me hope: frugal, slow-tech, minimalistic, off-the-grid, retro, low-tech, communal, repaired, DIY, shared, recycled, renewable energy, durable-tech, circularity...

For the distant future, I dream of “just enough” networks, healthy connections in a healthy biosphere, Eco-Net that supports all communities of life.

Short-term, I am enjoying low-tech life in Lika, with the Puh, Lipa, Lisac & squirrels : you are invited to join: scan the QR code for more info!



Squirrels are symbol of innocent victims that are facing extinction, if we continue with developing “*Internet of ecocide*”, within the current social (economic, political, philosophical/spiritual) conditions.

ANTs **against** ANTi things:

ANTi Ecocide

ANTi Cloud

ANTi Data Centres

ANTi Big Tech

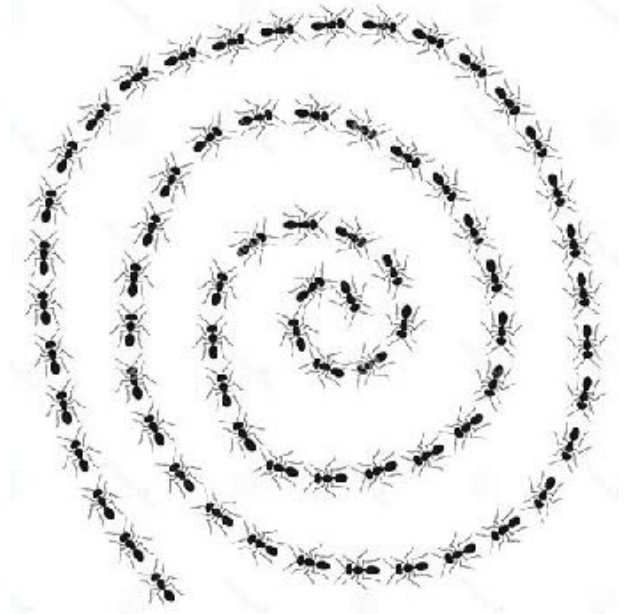
ANTi Fossil Fuels

ANTi Patriarchy

ANTi-Capitalism

ANTi Techno-Colonialism

ANTi Techno-Optimism



High-speed Internet & other “advanced digital technologies” (quantum communication, 5G, 6G, HD video, VR, blockchain, AI, online gaming, etc), is what I call the “**Internet of Ecocide**”: a.k.a. Luxury, Excessive, Gargantuan, Gilded Internet... Internet of Affluence, Internet of Exploitation, Internet of Armageddon .

“Internet of Ecocide” is extremely damaging for the environment: burning fossil fuels for operations & shipping, over-consuming water (& energy & raw materials) for manufacturing & cooling, digging-up rare metals, occupying land, extracting value from many for the profits of the few, while externalising pollution (destroying habitats, dumping e-waste — even in space! —, generating excessive CO₂ emissions)...

Quotes

“imagine... 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 next door.” ~~ *Ursula K. LeGuin*

“expansion of industrialized Internet production as separating organisms from their relational ecologies and coercing them into maximized production, under late capitalism’s growth imperative...”

“(I) approach Internet systems through the concept of more-than-human freedom. (I) aim to bring together the focus on Internet sovereignty and a more-than-human perspective to the organisms involved in Internet creation.”

~~ <https://morethanhumanfreedom.wordpress.com>
(paraphrased, replacing “food” with “Internet”)



“... those who have no physical voices, but whose biological presence keeps us breathing...” — *“My Octopus Teacher” video*

Degrowth is a social movement and a research framework which advocates for a transition to sustainable and just forms of social organization. The foundational insight of degrowth is that there cannot be endless growth on a finite planet.

Like all punk, **solarpunk** goes against the current ruling philosophy and requires a full system change. It lets care be the guide instead of greed. Solarpunk sees humans as part of the natural ecology, not apart from it as our current industrialized society does. There is great emphasis on getting your hands in the dirt following bio-dynamic permaculture and regenerative principles, to tend to your environment and grow your own food. Care of each other, care of ourselves and care of our environment are all intertwined. Solarpunk holds technology in its heart as a way to support this equal, care-driven, non-polluting meaningful life. It focuses on hyper-local, small, self-governing networks while also making the best of being connected global citizens. Without the capitalist push for the biggest economic benefit but with the eco-socialist spread of resources and benefit for all. Life would maybe have a slightly slower pace, but there would be much more to enjoy along the way.

— *By Priscilla Haring-Kuipers*

“... humanity (must) give up some of its core beliefs, from the fantasy that we can control the planet, to the notion that we are ‘above’ other beings.”
— *Timothy Morton: Humankind*

Consensus includes
“the Voices who spoke for
the Four Sacred Things:
Deer, Hawk, Salmon, Coyote”
— *Starhawk:
The Fifth Sacred Thing*

! DANGER

 **No Internet on a dead planet**



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! WARNING

 **Stop doing ECOCIDE!**

www.UnCiv.NL



! DANGER

 **Global Warming**

 **Internet on Fire**

www.UnCiv.NL



! DANGER

 **No water for data-centres!**



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NOTICE

 **Healthy Internet In a Healthy Society**

 www.UnCiv.NL



