

Report Launch

Actions for Environmental Justice from Community-Based Technological Infrastructures

Participating:
MariaLab (Brasil)
Sutty (Argentina)
Cloud68 (Estonia)

July 17th

1pm (Mexico)
3pm (New York)
7pm (UTC)

Surgeando
Comunicación
Cultural Digital

mayfirst

Corporate internet monopolies are not in the business of facilitating communication, their core business is data collection and data mining. Their **business models are extractive and exploitative**. However, it is usual to find responses to the climate crisis designed for these large data centers, leaving out smaller projects with quite different characteristics and needs.

In terms of environmental sustainability **smaller infrastructure projects** are already at an advantage because they don't engage in data collection and surveillance models. But **what other actions, options and strategies can these infrastructures implement?**

The <idea fuerza> of the research

To increase knowledge about action strategies for environmental sustainability in autonomous internet communications infrastructure projects.



We are conducting a participatory research with small and medium-sized internet service providers including independent, feminist, cooperative and alternative projects.

Interviewed groups

Maddix
Green Net
Cloud68
Koumbit
Riseup
MariaLab
Sutty
Código Sur
Numun
May First

Other groups consulted

Colnodo
Greenhost
accessnow
Sindominio
Archipiélago I (uno)
Undernet Uruguay
Electric Embers

Some sustainable practices already in place

- Rejecting the myth of “unlimited resources”
- Extending hardware life cycles
- In some cases, using hydroelectric power
(question mark from environmental groups)
- Verifying data center environmental policies
- Supporting environmental organizations
- Using free software and open source tools
- Developing lightweight technology like static websites
- Sharing infrastructure and using virtual servers
- In one case, maintaining an autonomous data center

Main blocks and obstacles

- **Economic barriers to explore solutions and experiment**
- **Cultural resistance and user preference for visually heavy and data-intensive websites**
- **Geopolitical constraints limiting decentralization efforts**
- **Huge barriers in hardware production involving exploitation and resource extraction**
- **Always-on digital culture that expects and wants constant connectivity**

Future projections and ideas regarding sustainability

- More collaborative infrastructures and shared activist servers
- Sustainability advocacy: encourage repairable, modular technology and lightweight software
- More incorporation of gender and social justice perspectives
- Rethink “ecological”, “green” and “eco-friendly” narratives
- Think on more physical community spaces to train and experiment
- Decentralize and have a better distributed ecosystem of providers
- Open source as political strategy
- Challenge colonial perspectives of technology

Speculative ideas

- Power generation from mud
- Bamboo solar panels
- Bio mechanical energy
- Biodegradable servers
- Join to the free hardware movement
- Computational photosynthesis: electricity generated from plants
- Eliminate AI
- Block big corporate providers and move to ecovillages

Needs for continuation and support

- Support for experimentation to test new sustainability strategies
- People (at least one person) in our groups dedicated exclusively to make research and networking including this topics
- Build stronger networks and collaborative ecosystems
- More spaces for radical imagination and speculative thinking, without apologizing for imagining different futures

Let's think together

<questions?>

<comments?>

</THANKS!>

sursiendo@sursiendo.org

info@mayfirst.org

