

TOOLS
LANGUAGE &

WHY GOVERNMENT CANNOT MANAGE THE 21ST CENTURY

- 21st Century Problems
- Climate, for example, is hard
- The Big Threats
 - *Nukes, Biotech, Nanotech, Asteroids, Weird Physics, Environment*
 - Mostly government *funded*

CORPORATIONS DID PRETTY WELL... IN THEIR DAY...

- **Increase shareholder value**
- **Externalize all possible costs**
- **Grow without limits**
- **Limited liability incompatible
with environmental limits**
- **In short, a colossal hack**
- **Arms of the State, anyway**

STATE/CORPORATE INTERFACE

- Limited liability in return for corporate tax payments
- Patent in exchange for limiting trade secrecy
- Gov/corp revolving door
- *Regulatory capture*
- Threatens democracy itself

THIRD CLASS OF ACTORS

- Charities, religions just corps
- Massive work-together social movements are different, new
- Wikipedia, Linux... *Occupy?*
- Something is happening out there
- *Let me tell you my part of it...*

THREE PROJECTS

- Hexayurt Project – *world's cheapest/best emergency house*
- SCIM – *systems mapping and crisis communications system*
- EdgeRyders & STAR-TIDES
Open Government + Networks

HEXAYURT PROJECT

Lesson 1: Real Change is Slow

- Thomas Kuhn, *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
- Doubles every year? 33 Years!
- In starting, you know nothing
- Growing with people takes much longer than doing work
- Lasting change *changes people*

Lesson 2: Passive Cooperation

- **90% never leave a comment**
- **Cooperate with silent majority**
- **Modules and components**
- **Documentation, Free licenses**
- **Encourage lateral transfer**
- **Give space for people to lead**
- **Interfaces, APIs, capabilities**

SIMPLE
critical
infrastructure
MAPS

Lesson 3: Controlled Vocabularies

- *Medical students learn anatomy*
- Things have exactly one name
- Everybody who's on the team shares precise language
- Without this, it's madness
- AIRSPEAK, SEASPEAK
- *Occupy* is building some bits

Lesson 4: Put the Meaning and Purpose in the Language

- SCIM *starts* with the Individual level, not the State
- That's most useful, but it also builds the goals into the map
- There's always an implicit map
- *The Medium is the Message*
- The map/lang shapes thought (*Sapir-Whorf hypothesis*)

EdgeRyders & STAR-TIDES

EdgeRyders – *Council of Europe*

- Alberto Cottica/Nadia ElImam
- *Council of Europe* wanted info
- A great online gathering game
- Performative research, leaves a real network in place
- **COME TO STRASBOURG**
 - <http://bit.ly/edgeconf>

start the game

Sign in | Sign up



Edgeryders

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



HOME WHAT AND WHY A THINK TANK A GAME COMMUNITY PROJECT BLOG CAMPAIGNS

WELCOME TO EDGERYDERS

GET HELP

with your own transition to the future. See what the most creative and generous young people in Europe are up to, get in touch with them, get inspiration as to where you can go

Hot now



STAR-TIDES – *US Dept of Defense*

- In 2006 it was a good idea
- Then I believed that the *Democrats* would fix America
- Obama supports Guantanamo
- But still, good people building a civil-military network to help
- Disaster relief info sharing

Sharing Sustainable Solutions



Find or Share Infrastructure or Research



RECENT BLOG POSTS

Solar-powered cooking solutions

Anti-malaria garment drives bugs away

EVENTS

AFCEA Joint Warfighting Exposition 2012

PROJECTS

African Working group
Wed, 01/25/2012 - 13:14

Lesson 5: The Fishing Rod of State

- *Legitimacy, Wealth and Power* at one end, no local knowledge
- *Local expertise* is stored one person at a time, a nurse say
- *Ideally* each individual has the full weight of the rod with 'em
- Not painting with a boat oar...

*Legitimate
Power*



*Flexible
Response*



Lesson 6: Generating Legitimacy

- State has three kinds of actors
 - *Bureaucracy* stable and slow
 - *Markets* fast, agile, reckless
 - *Networks* subtle, powerful
- Keeping intentions pure, without self-interest, to the end
- *Let's think networks for a bit*

Information-dense Human Systems

- Complexity of core systems up!
 - *Monarchy* – one head limits
 - *Democracy* – voting
 - *Markets* – price signals
 - *Networks* – broad engagement
- Smart systems out-compete
- But why the global gridlock?

The Goat Rodeo

actors goals	same	different
	CARTEL	COMPETE
same		
different	COOPERATE	GOAT RODEO

Nash and Coase

- Economists, Nobel winners
- Nash Equilibrium *in which the game sucks but nobody can do better by changing alone*
- Coase's Nature of the Firm *in which Hierarchy exists to reduce cost of Understanding*

The Nash-Coase Intersection

- Globally locked in Nash eq.
- Now info get cheaper, better
- Coase says smaller actors now
- US *loses to Al Qaeda post 9/11*
- Failing States = Coase Crunch
- Big Six need new Nash eq.
- Recentralize *core governance?*

What does this mean for us?

- Cheap information = small players in networks win
- The State is struggling badly
- International level goat rodeo
- Generation-long time lag for full network paradigm shift
- *Democratically Legit Networks*

Personal strategy for the challenge

- Depression comes if you expect better from people/the world
- Weak states make billionaires
- Global poor now on the march
- Family, human values, morals
- Chaos beyond belief, no clarity
- *Rapidly socialize healing tech*

Managing the megathreats

- Can government manage the Big Six or will networks do it?
- Democracy still works (*Pirates*)
- Shift in tech, shift in values

The crisis requires more of us
than we have managed so far

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good luck!