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THINK

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REQUIRE 'KNOWLEDGECOMMONS' # THIS CURRENTLY FAILS

Knowledge Commons Conference Beginner

This talk makes the case that (1) a vibrant commons of knowledge (culture, science, etc) is required for other 'opens' (source, infrastructure, society) to survive; (2) knowledge is harder and slower to open than other layers; (3) it can be done anyway, through disruptive services and collaboration that creates new categories of knowledge works rather than merely recapitulating and failing to compete with existing proprietary-dominated categories.

Understand the threat, challenge, and resultant opportunities for entrepreneurs, policymakers, and activists to contribute to ensuring an open future.

I misread the stage clock (current time on top, time left on bottom) and didn't do justice to my last two slides.

I promised to expand on my closing points virtually, thus this presentation...

"knowledge commons"

necessary [for open*]
hard[er than open*]
howto [with open*]

Recording of OWF talk covering first two at gondwanaland.com/mlog/2011/10/13/owf

howto [with open*]

- policy
- collaboration tools, vision
- provision, share, service knowledge
- dogfood



policy

- same rationale favoring open as (funding, procurement, regulatory) policy for software and others, e.g., public pays, public access; min monopoly, max competition, equality, welfare
- government, institutional; scales down to business and individual [responsibility]
- not limited to favoring "open"; broader policy change much needed
- small successes in various fields; would working across fields help?

collaboration tools, vision

- imagine FLOSS without distributed version control
- now, imagine FLOSS without version control
- now, imagine FLOSS without source
- non-software collaboration isn't nearly that bad, but...
- opportunity for tools, practices built for collaboration



provision, share, service knowledge

- note lack of 'sell' above; monetize, exploit knowledge yes, but not through selling © licenses, which perpetuates barrier
- knowledge commons has achieved world liberation (in preference to world domination) when © licenses only relevant for protecting commons
- the commons must be lively!
- help people share more and better, use what they share, and share back; there's currency to be gained

dogfood

- "eating your own dogfood" means using the product your company makes, or in this case, using the "open" stuff and methods you advocate
- credibility
- knowledge gains
- network effects



three ideas to leave with

- peer production of [free] cultural relevance
- aim to explode existing categories, not just recapitulate proprietary works (see encyclopedias)
- Intellectual Provenance



peer production of [free] cultural relevance

- given importance of network effects (other people liking is most important quality of "quality" works), peer production of popularity (more broadly and nicely, "cultural relevance") just as important as peer production of works
- free culture tastemakers and curators, and platforms for same, are heroes
- so little of interest around reputation and recommendation has been implemented at scale!

explode existing categories

- the internet isn't just another AOL
- wikipedia isn't just another encyclopedia
- what seemed paradoxical will be celebrated (watch "open design")
- what categories can be created through design for collaboration, assumption knowledge can be provisioned?

intellectual provenance

- where/when/who did this data/work/idea come from?
- valuable information for readers and writers
- a foundation for new metrics on scientific contribution, cultural relevance, etc
- deep technical and social problem (consider: web history)
- "Intellectual Property" is a barrier
- Intellectual Provenance an expansion of "IP" denoting something useful for society



