Progressive Technology Project & May First Movement Technology - AMC 2020

Interactive Timeline Mapping Excercise: Our Movement's relationship to the Internet

Questions:
1. What movement events should be added to the timeline?
2. What future movement events could define or change our relationship
to the internet?

YouTube brand sponsorships
Free digital labour. Self-branding
--> later, requirement to declare sponsorships

rise of identity verification - Facebook validating your college email address
exclusion/othering of people through this identity verification requirement

Instagram algorithms, content creators started fighting   Video streaming more widely accesible

Breakout 9:
- Facebook has changed how we experience the internet
- Youtube!
- KPop scene buying out tickets to the rally and organized to crash police feeds
- Younger generations took over Social media groups to highjack tags and redirect information
- Internet of Things - Impacts our security and out ability to be tracked (Smart Toaster xD)
- Fandom scene changed - created more space for diverse voices, informal publication industry driven by women and queer folks
- Harry Potter ! - Striving for Social Change, Creating Space for Learning about Inclusive Writing
- Twitter on both sides — creates space for folks to have their voices heard, increases access to resources while also amplifying voices like Trump
- Facebook is really powerful in how public health is being twisted -- covid conspiracies
- Wikipedia -- Not corporate, run by volunteers, interesting way of sharing and accessing knowledge on the internet
- Collective ownership of the platforms in the future, could change our relationship with the internet
- Owning our own stories as a future use of the internet?
- People are trying to figure out how to love to different platforms for file sharing and organizing? Instead of traditional platforms like Google Drive
- How will we be able to make that switch and organize safely remotely?

1997 - Great Firewall of China - fracturing global access

Predictive analytics
Item preferencing
AI for text messages, email

Explosion of decentralized protocol projects
beginning to happen ~2017(?) -ongoing,
largely influenced by libertarian politics

When encryption becomes
unreliable - no privacy
anywhere

1995-1996 Self created website hosts
such as geocities and angelfire,
beginning of everyone becoming
their own media creators + publishers

Firefox 1.0 (2004)
Breaks corp dominance
of web innovation

Diaspora project sparked
discussion and visioning
around new social media
architectures,
failed to take off (2010)

? Nextcloud
? Signal texting

~2016
technology
for deep fakes

Growth of streaming, media ownership,
renting not buying (Netlix growth, Disney+)

Mass migration of people's because of climate change.
When we have movement "Facebook".
Successful missions to Mars/ Space Race
New internet?
Reducation of the internet, move into masses, people

1997 RSS protocol invented
enabling blogging

2004 Fusicology, creating tools
for independent artists to create
and share music, promote, DIY

Beyonce's album
drops, takes control of
digital music distribution

2018
Campaigns connect
Corporate Tech with
surveillance &
repressive
policies

Mastodon, federated system
implementing ActivityPub
protocol

rise and fall of
DIY business

Net neutrality
Passed and then
killed

Investment in and adoption of alternate/non-corporate tools?
Untethered/self-sufficient ways of networking

1993
Mosaic web browser by
Univ of IL
Netscape poaches
programmers

2003
Self-Hosted Wordpress
Drupal, etc

2013 Google Kills Google Reader
Media moves off of blogs and RSS
to Twitter en mass, blog centralization
accelerates

2020
Covid-19

Break up corporate tech & media
monopolies (Google, Disney)

Fiber availability
Real-time/simultaneous interpretation and translation
Treat the internet as a utility — end privatization!

1970
Birth of
Internet

2000s
Napster & peer to peer

2005
Inroduction of YouTube for
personal expression

2020
Covid-19
Move to online
Black Lives Matter
Public uprising

Future?

Creator co-ops?

Right to be forgotten
introduced globally
(no revenge porn)

A: long history in the labor movement, witnessed a Teamsters strike completed after posting contract online for public - what happens
from 1997-forward? Convergence
B: the rise of remote work + gig work - working remote for 7 years now and it causes total dependence on tech and existing proprie-
tary systems, regardless of one's politics
C: works remotely for nationwide org, doing Palestine advocacy - employees all in dif. timezones, dependent on Google Suite, Zoom,
etc. consolidation of power on internet feels overwhelming when trying to use liberatory practices, but also trying to meet people where
you're at
B: progressive orgs. seem to depend on remote work because it has accessibility intentions. with boycott of FB ads by major corps..
and how Biden was asked to not use FB and he said no: a testament to how impossible it is to divorce from platforms while still trying
to do meaningful work.
D: IS A SUPERSTAR AND IS GOING INTO EIGHTH GRADE!!!!! transitioning into online classes, but also dealing with a president who wants
to push schools into being open - wtf?
E: works for Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance. when considering the future, reminded of a special (John Oliver?) about facial
recognition, which is so relevant right now with people at protests being targeted and later arrested. it's very on-point for white men,
but inefficient for BIPOC people - dangerous, increasing racial profiling. in DC, when ppl tried to take down the Andrew Jackson statue,
there were wanted posters with photos of protesters. contributes to policing and profiling.
F: grew up on the internet and witnessed the transition from anonymous spaces to full identity online + the data that goes with it.
thinking about tech being used by existing government systems - using facial recognition, using racist data for recidivism stats
A: ubiquity of cameras - some places in the world, they're everywhere! esp. in UK. is it coming here, or here already? they're already
using it! do we accept it or do we paint over the camera lenses?
C: there was a battle between convenience v. anonymity - and the battle is over. we'll give you our data for ease, simplicity, is
there any going back? the timeline showed that the Snowden revelations had little-to-no impact on consumption even though had significant
news coverage. how do we come back?
B: we're seeing the first generation of people whose lives were lived online coming of age in this context, too, with photos/documentation of
those digital lives, and weren't given the opportunity to opt in. how will Gen Z impact this, esp. given their relationship to this tech?
D: being online for school is so weird! when we talk, we gesticulate - use hand motions, to communicate fully. if
school is about in-person interactions, it will complicate how we communicate with one another, develop relationships. and
the total cognitive dissonance of gov. saying everything will be fine with kids going to school, while we know better?
children ARE dying of covid-19.
A: this is such a hard time to be making those transitions, the parents need to be more understanding.
D: yeah! I have a lot of friends saying their parents don't understand what we're going through - but maybe we can help
them understand? and it's frustrating that we've all moved to life online, without being able to take the option of IRL life.
C: reminds me of the tech gap - some people grow up with tech access, but not everyone did.
F: Philly organizers are trying to push Comcast to provide free web access to all students this fall, which has been a long-
time campaign, the future of tech that I want would include removing capital and profitability from the equation. why do we
have to pay for internet, for tech resources?

1987-1998
IGC & APC
built left-wing
Internet

1999
Battle of Seattle
Indymedia Network
is launched

2008
Obama elected
massive migration of
the Left to corporate
tools: Facebook, Twitter,
Google

2013
Edward Snowden reveals
government internet
surveillance

2020: finally tackling moving
organizational platforms to NON-
Corporate platforms, i.e., email to
server to .

Movement toward collectively
and cooperative owned
infrastructure.

A world with no borders/nation states
Abolition of the carceral state
Abolition of capitalism

1994
Zapatista Movement
use Internet to
communicate their stories/news

2003
Post-9/11 global justice
movement is crushed with
decline of Indymedia in the U.S.

2013
Gamergate raises
awareness of the
harassment and doxxing
experienced by women, trans,
and gender non-conforming
people on the Internet

2016
Trump elected
WAKEUP CALL!

2018
FOSTA/SESTA normalizes the censorship
of content online (sex work, LGBTQ+ content,
sex educator content)
impacted sex workers specifically
but also raised awareness of federal govs
ability to regulate online activity

localization - community self sufficiency
(smaller, scale push against globalization logics while also
allowing the freedom of movement)

Movement away from advertising driven
models of funding web infrastructure, tied
to moving away from surveillance
capitalism

Shared home/household devices
privacy of browsing when using one machine
being outed
Playing with the internet (HTML)

2006
EU and Argentina introduce
'Right to be forgotten'
laws

2010 Los McCain Cinco -
Undocumented youth do
online and offline action

Cambridge Analytica
(since 2014 but revelations
in 2017/2018)

2018 Parkland shooting
protests, Albuquerque New
Mexico 10k + people organized

FUTURE:
our data and what is powering our data-
how are we cooling and heating these giant data centers
organized labor + tech industry
the potential destruction of that data (people centered
revolution or through climate apocalypse)
the greater implementation of AI
greater economic divide of capitalism being replicated in
internet access
how could we develop ways of communicating that rely on
more "squishy" organic materials
what data is pleasurable to keep? what could we delete?

chatrooms, egalitarian convening that 'anyone' can join

2010-2016 Black Lives Matter, Arab Spring, Dreamers,
Standing Rock, success with social media

2018
google walk out
/ tech worker coalition
organizing

2021 - badass encrypted
feministbook launches and the
left moves over to that for
organizing

Past > Loss of Net Neutrality

Past > After Social Media
, algorithms started altering what we see

Future > COVID era of mixed type meetings (online and offline) is big learning curve

Future > Real time interpretation is improved and widely available, will increase accessibility, decrease exclusion

Future > Fiber: When uploading is accessible as downloading, allowing for people to put out media at the same rate that we intake it
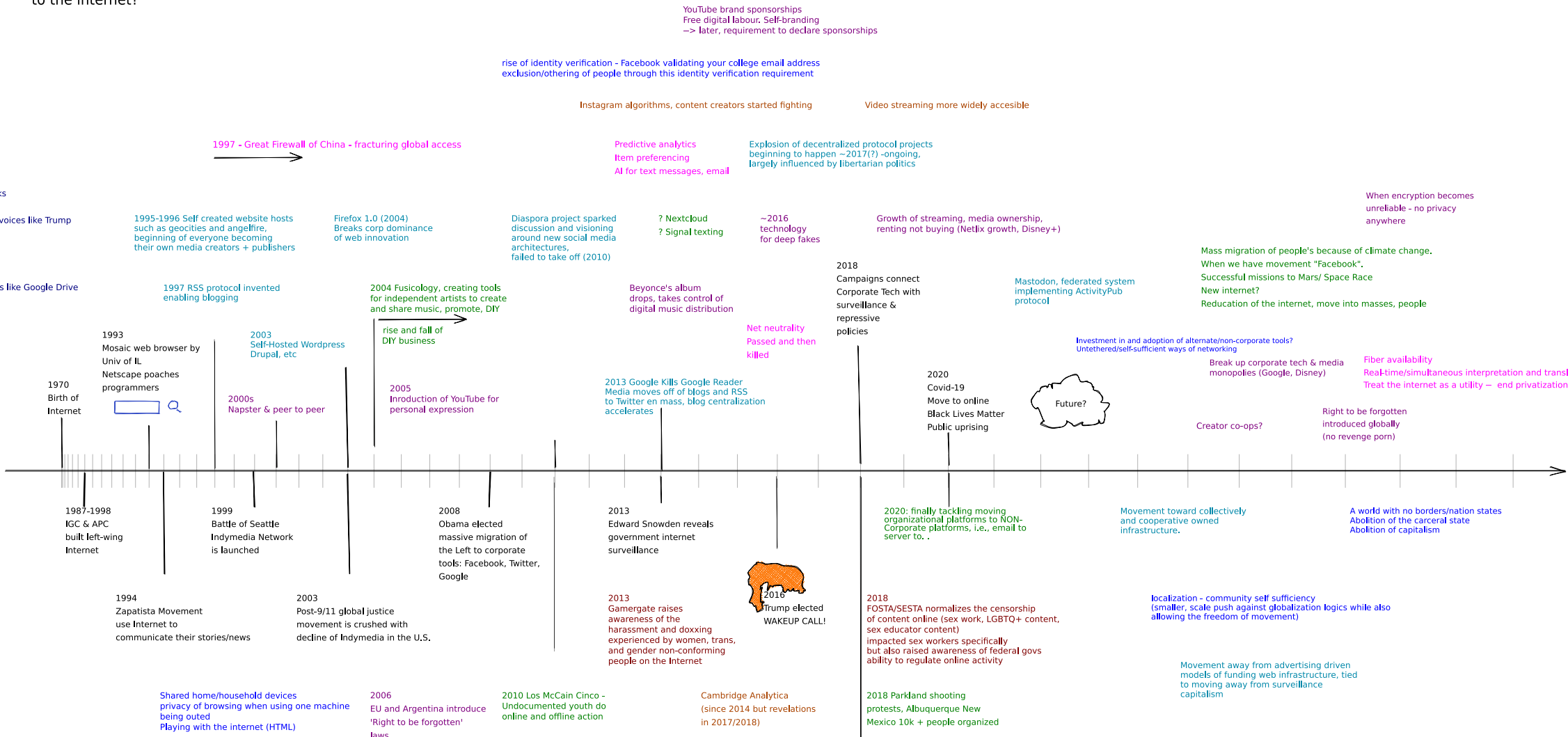
Future > internet de-privatized. Regulated and widely available like a utility (bring back net neutrality)

Future > continue developing alternatives to corporate and proprietary softwares, supporting and funding
POC developers and tech folx

Past > 90's Clinton/Gore put lots of resources into building 'info super highway' , this cyber-libertarian vision of internet
that Newt Gingrich was also jazzed about - in the 90's, projects and funding for building out internet
was rooted in white supremacy.

Future > how can we made tech accessible to un-housed folx, if they don't have battery power, access to
connectivity, or may not know how to use certain tech. Public libraries are a good resource, and are starting
to address these issues, but these projects are under-funded, under-developed.

Future > the US needs to look to other nations who are offering free and regulated internet successfully

Personal - proliferation of personal devices (getting a cell phone,
having a device at all times, SMS services)

Mythology of more privacy with your own personal device
Obfuscation of your identity online; making up who you are

2012 Techies of Color training-PTP/May1st

people realizing that
their phones were platforms
for surveillance

Expansion of the carceral system / privatization
Centralized criminal databases and tracking
Alongside rise of internet usage and eventually
creation of identity mapping/linkage

technological takeovers of
cities - gentrification,
houselessness

Black-made media
allowing for streaming
without a paywall

Discussion: what will it take to cause the jump to fully encrypted,
fully open source, securely configured hardware?
-we need a solution that meets people's needs (they are on Facebook
bc of need for community, for example)
-taking it one thing at a time,- build up layers of security by slowly
replacing one tool at a time - ex: start with a listserv moving from
Google Groups to an alternative
-start getting small groups of friends to become "secure pods" and
shift communications to Signal
-the corporate internet is NEW - it's only been around for ~10 years -
we can get rid of it!
—although the physical elements of the internet have always been corporate
or government
—can we build autonomous internets? mesh networks? where do these fit in?
regional internets? (Travel for internet tourism?)

INTERNET HISTORY
- 1998 Founding of Critical Path by Kiyoshi Kuromiya (internet re: HIV/AIDS healthcare/activism/etc) https://critpath.org/history/
- I had a blog with 1000 readers at 15 years old. it used to be because it was fun - became about influencers, profit. what are ways to add non-money value. ie if we had UBI, can focus on other stuff.
- when Ferguson was happening, Tumblr was one of the places where I got some of the most accurate, people-centered information. They changed it since then. How to access that kind of space, as opposed to the corporate entity.
- Tiktok is a good platform and Trump is going to ban it. It's going to have a huge impact. For my age group (15) snapchat, instagram, and tiktok. Banning social media is a red flag.
- I think there was some attempts to create open source social media but i think that they didn't get a lot to support (Mastodon)

GENERAL NOTES
- Ways people have used the internet to connect
- Internet porn, queer porn, fanfiction - building infrastructures that are not corporate ones
- people hit walls and all say we're going to leave facebook, but then don't end up abandoning -- ello, mastodon, diaspora. the corporate platforms having this corporate-driven ease of use. how do either not need that ease, or get it.

FUTURE
- the internet exists in a place, there's a server somewhere in the world. it's like a mall and people can kick you out whenever they want. Folding is a thing where you can share a bit of your computer's power, crowdsourcing power.
Like peer-to-peer torrent. Everybody puts a tiny bit - something more powered by the people that use it.
- the re-election of trump and the new law enforcement will cause a lot of events that will definitely impact the internet
- having this conversation because we can put things in place that protect movt, anonymity. would like to see a safe place to plan, meet, purchase, by us for us, puts in place ways to resist corporate impact and corporate corruption
- these companies all started as rebel youth, because corporate tools. protect against inevitable corruptability.
- we are in jobs and not communities. activism is making community, not profitable. in jobs, money is focus, people are replaceable.
- re: UBI, we're all testing the excalidraw. you need a lot of people to use it and test it. these kinds of things could totally change the internet.