Messaging House

Roof (aka umbrella)

The Digital Life Collective researches, develops, funds and supports Tech We Trust – those technologies that put the individual's autonomy, privacy and dignity first, or that support those technologies that do. Our tech, not their tech.

Pillars

Trust

We cannot trust technology exposed to others' surveillance and manipulation. If we cannot trust our tech we cannot trust ourselves. And if we cannot trust ourselves, we cannot trust each other.

Privacy

Tech We Trust protects personal privacy, per the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Equality

Tech We Trust is open and accessible to all. Equality is essential.

Decentralized

Tech We Trust is decentralized / distributed. No one should dominate.

Co-operative

The Digital Life Collective is a co-operative. We're member funded, member owned, and member operated, for everyone's benefit. Of, by, and for the people.

Co-operation requires mutual trust. Tech We Trust requires co-operation.

Foundations

Ecosystem

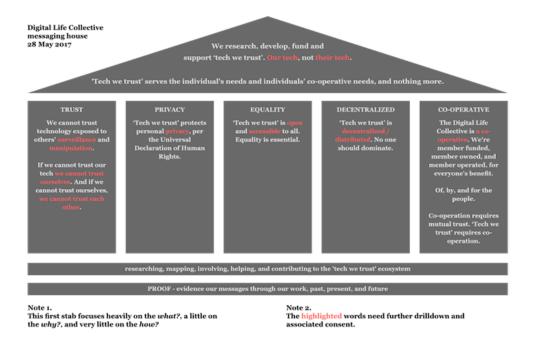researching, mapping, involving, helping, and contributing to the 'tech we trust' ecosystem

Proof

evidence our messages through our work, past, present, and future

###

ARCHIVE

Drafted 28 May 2017 and shared as PDF in Collective Open Chat. Not a good format for subsequent collaborative editing, obviously. Sorry about that!!

In 'house' format:

**Digital Life Collective
messaging house
28 May 2017**

We research, develop, fund and support 'tech we trust'. Our tech, not their tech.

'Tech we trust' serves the individual's needs and individuals' co-operative needs, and nothing more.

TRUST	PRIVACY	EQUALITY	DECENTRALIZED	CO-OPERATIVE
We cannot trust technology exposed to others' surveillance and manipulation.	'Tech we trust' protects personal privacy, per the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.	'Tech we trust' is open and accessible to all. Equality is essential.	'Tech we trust' is decentralized / distributed. No one should dominate.	The Digital Life Collective is a co-operative. We're member funded, member owned, and member operated, for everyone's benefit.
If we cannot trust our tech we cannot trust ourselves. And if we cannot trust ourselves, we cannot trust each other.				Of, by, and for the people.
				Co-operation requires mutual trust. 'Tech we trust' requires co-operation.

researching, mapping, involving, helping, and contributing to the 'tech we trust' ecosystem

PROOF - evidence our messages through our work, past, present, and future

Note 1.
This first stab focuses heavily on the *what?*, a little on the *why?*, and very little on the *how?*

Note 2.
The highlighted words need further drilldown and associated consent.

This document is for the subsequent collaborative iteration until we're happy we've pinned it down sufficiently to inform the development of the content for our future website.

Note 1. This first stab focuses heavily on the what?, a little on the why?, and very little on the how?

Note 2. The words in green are actual proposed messages, everything else is commentary or explanation.

Note 3. The words highlighted in purple need further drilldown.

Roof (aka umbrella)

We research, develop, fund and support Tech We Trust. Our tech, not their tech.

'Tech we trust' serves the individual's needs and individuals' co-operative needs, and nothing more.

Joachim has suggested:

> *We research, develop, fund and support Tech We Trust. OurTech, not their tech. Tech We Trust serves the individual as part of a collective and nothing more.*

But "as part of a collective" is about as weird as "individuals' co-operative needs" imo. Here's me thinking out loud:

Tech We Trust is ….

> *our personal technology*

> *technologies at all layers in the stack that ...*

> *technology intentionally and solely designed to help us live in this digital world*

> *those technologies that put the individual's autonomy, privacy and dignity first and only*

> *tech that imbues agentic powers!*

> *those technologies that combine to serve the individual's informational, interfacial and social needs first and only*

16th June distillation ...

> ***Tech We Trust – those technologies that put the individual's autonomy, privacy and dignity first, or that support those technologies that do.***

This distillation addresses the following points, in no particular order:

- doesn't sound 'weird'!
- doesn't reference 'social', which would risk us being labelled as intent on finding a Facebook replacement

- avoids the ambiguity of statements such as "personal technology"
- avoids jargon (e.g. stack, agency, agentic)
- talks in human not tech terms
- the kind of tech that we're seeking to displace / replace cannot be confused for Tech We Trust under this definition
- the "or" part includes lower level technologies for which a connection to human dignity would be an impossible stretch, but that nevertheless need to play a part

But falls short by:

- not referencing the societal aspects; no (wo)man is an island; reflecting more than individual needs in terms of avoidance of harm (e.g. the emergence of a police state)
- AND it doesn't reference accessibility/inclusivity - it's not just tech that we trust it's also tech that all can use reliably (if you can't use it, you can't trust it)

————

Steve proposes listing everyday instances that represent Tech We Trust:

Tech We Trust is:

> a phone that only tells people you trust where you are

> a credit card that helps you make payments securely and doesn't tell others what you have bought

> a private browser that gives you access to your online services in an interface that works for you

> an email account that can't be hijacked and doesn't receive messages that waste your time

> a search engine that asks you if you're OK with it saving specific information about your searches and lets you choose what the engine can do with that data

> an online store or marketplace that allows you to store your browsing history locally or provide elements of it to the store so they can improve their service(s) to you

> an Internet connection (your ISP or phone operator) that doesn't record everywhere you go on the web

However, for each of these it becomes quickly evident that the context conveyed remains insufficient to assure we're talking about Tech We Trust. But we could turn this on its head and very quickly list equivalent (i.e. normal today) instances that represent Tech We Can't Trust. And why.

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###

Drilldown – beyond the core house

Our tech

(The following is copied from this [doc](#).)

Their tech is, obviously, out of our control. As we've seen, there's no reason to trust it and every reason not to.

My tech is the form that many reactions to their tech take, but it soon becomes apparent that its usefulness is very limited. No (wo)man is an island. As social animals, we live and work together, and so then must our technology. Putting it more technically, your data needs to breathe with other data, so to speak, for it to acquire the context to become useful, actionable information. Moreover, little 'personal data' is actually personal (e.g. the diary entry for coffee with your mate is pertinent to you both).

Ourtech entails us coming together as we each determine for our shared benefit. Under our direct supervision. Interoperable. Personal. Mutual. Co-operative. Trusted.

By the way, the space between our and tech is missing deliberately. *Ourtech* is a thing. The Digital Life Collective exists to nurture tech we trust; to create *ourtech*.

For those who like to ponder the meaning of words at greater length, *our* has two different meanings, both perfectly suited to our concept of *ourtech*; the perfect counterpoints.

1/ Belonging to or associated with the speaker and one or more other people, singularly:

> "Jo and I muted our phones." Jo has her phone and I have mine.

> "We made our New Year's resolutions." I made my resolutions and my companions made theirs.

2/ Belonging to or associated with people in general, plural:

> "Welcome to our city." We make this city.

> "Our lives are complicated these days." We all have complicated lives in the context of one another's'.

Our tech is the individual human + digital and groupings of people + digital.