



comments on the seal

The Collaborative Technology Alliance is an informal initiative to make visible, and to evolve, what is already emerging our networks and communities. It will communicate to the wider world the connection that already exists between our platforms and our communities, and a rallying cry for a greater diversity of technologies and communities to join. The CTA Seal can be adopted as a visible representation of the connections and intentions active within our emerging 'network of networks'.

What's Collaborative Technology?

'Collaborative Technology' represents an evolving infrastructure for use by decentralized and distributed networks/communities to operate more effectively - to think and act better, together. It consists of platforms and interfaces which are designed to facilitate grassroots communities, distributed networks, and forward-thinking groups to better sense-make complex issues, self-organize, navigate decisions, and co-create value. The term represents a diversity of types of technology, from group ideation and brainstorming, intention alignment, conversation analysis and synthesis, structured decision-making, resource creation, distribution and management, value exchange and more.

Why this Alliance?

Our respective communities and platforms are eager to actively coordinate and collaborate. We attend gatherings, conferences and summits to develop relationships between our networks, to share our activities, our ideas and our processes. We gather to share what we've learned, coordinate activities and work together. We hold group calls on technical interoperability. We share our documentation. We may not know the exact way towards tangible interoperability at the onset, but we're thinking about it constantly.

Yet this web of relationship and connections between our communities, and our platforms is not as visible to the wider world, except via glimpses of social media activity and perhaps updates within our own networks. Therefore we see it is as deeply meaningful to create a visible representation of this intention.

With this intention of rejuvenating and expanding the commons, and with each of us bringing our unique gifts, we can begin to intuit a sense of a possible harmony and collaboration, where actually each of us working on something that is radically unique to us, for the benefit of the whole.

Joining the alliance is not binding, but should not be taken lightly. Adopting the seal is an explicit pledge towards interoperability between our technologies and our communities. ~~We may decide later in this process to further define what principles and values are associated with the pledge.~~

Below are outlines of what the pledge represents for different members of the Alliance - Platforms, Communities/Networks and Individuals.

Individuals that support the pledge

I am a user, designer or developer of collaborative technology.

My identity is not limited to one network or group of people. I may work with various communities, networks and projects, and I desire to move freely between them.

I desire a cohesive, user-friendly experience across platforms.

I believe in having control over my personal data.

I believe that transparency around privacy is essential to respecting me as an individual.

I desire to benefit from and contribute to a growing knowledge commons.

Communities / Networks that support the pledge

We desire technologies which empower us as communities to make better sense, exchange value between one another, and be empowered to tap into collective intelligence and make better decisions.

We recognize we need a diversity of interfaces to support our communities as we navigate co-creative processes.

Individuals may be part of multiple communities, networks and projects.

We believe in creating mechanisms of value exchange between our communities.

Our communities use many technologies - our allegiance is to our own network, not to a specific platform.

We need effective tools to share ideas, make decisions, realize our actions, reveal our impacts and communicate to a wider community.

Platforms that support the pledge

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Originally created by Ishan Shapiro

Co-authored by Ishan Shapiro, Greg Cassel, Chris Wells, Connor Turland, Caterina Rindi, Edward West, Sybille Saint Girons, [Add your name here]

We're building software to empower self-organizing grassroots efforts to grow into vibrant, commons-based, peer-to-peer communities.

We take a community-centric perspective to building technology, not a platform centric perspective.

We believe in inclusivity, accessibility and diversity.

We are part of communities/networks ourselves, and we're powerfully motivated by the need for open, interoperable technologies to support inclusive communities.

We recognize that a diversity of tools and interfaces are needed based on a community/network's context.

We recognize that code quality, security, API design and modularity are essential to collaborating on an ecosystem level.

We commit to working towards using best practices within design, development, and documentation of our technologies.

We recognize interoperability and data portability to be key functions of all technologies that we build, and vital to the development of healthy and open communities.

We believe in providing control over ownership and use of personal data in the hands of users of our platforms, as well as following best practices in terms of security.

We recognize that transparency in regards to privacy and privacy policies are essential to building trust among users of our platforms.

We recognize that openness is invaluable in building trust within communities and between collaborators, and open licensing is a practical and powerful incentive for collaboration.

We commit to move towards increased openness of source code, content and data through open or reciprocity-based licensing.

**CTA Founding Platform Members come from:
(platform members are building collaborative tech)**

Metamaps.cc

Bitmind.co

Wezer

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CTA Founding Community Members:
(community members are using collaborative tech)

Valeureux

CTA Founding Individual Members:

Sybille SAINT GIRONS

Statements from Founding Members*:
(personal values statements any type of member would like to include)

*these are not a formal part of the alliance nor do all members agree to them

We wish to provide tools as good as the big enterprises have access to, we wish to help communities to foster their actions (Wezer)

We wish our volunteers contributions here allow us to have access to services and goods out there. (Valereaux)

We, Valeureux, need for our own community effective efficient tools to share our ideas, make decisions, realize our actions , reveal our impacts and, communicate outside. We wish also that our volunteers contributions here allow us to have access to services and goods out there. We wish that serving our needs will serve wider community needs. We wish all community to have these needs satisfied and we are devoted to do so. (Valereaux)

I feel an urge to have a full digital infrastructure to hold our collective relation, collaboration and support before being totally enclosed by the Big Intrenet Companies! (Sybille)