

Offset	Topic
00:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions for promos
02:56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listener Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt, Kaity on Ogg feed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bashar on book lists, Amazon aStore
07:51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of the Week: demo
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://catb.org/jargon/html/D/demo.html
09:24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monologue: Grass roots hacktivism
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass roots as an organizational model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized from the bottom up, like grass growing from roots • Opposed to centrally orchestrated actions • So popular there is a term for orchestrated action that organizers try to camouflage • Astroturfing • Also traditionally action is local, efforts feeding into larger movements • Implication is grass roots organization is more natural, authentic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action by those organized is typically the same • Organizing people does require sharing a lot of information • Real problem may be quality, bias in information • Ideally, if people organize themselves, do so on their own research • Skeptical that all members of a grass roots movement research for themselves • Have certainly seen a memetic drift from organizers to typical citizen • Penn & Teller have done Bullshit episodes on grass roots activists, like environmentalists that demonstrate this • New term, net roots, talks about using online tools for grass roots organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the Internet grass roots organization need not be local, per se • Still by interested citizens, organic • Reach can be near global • Action is still local, more in common with grass roots action at that point • What do grass roots movements do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvassing neighborhoods • Cover events, talking to people • Stage demonstrations • Donate time and money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports non-local action

Offset

Topic

- In politics, lobbying
- For some organization, fund legal defenses and other legal activities
- EFF, PK use donations to fund their own actions as NGOs
- Take action
 - Call congress people, corporate representatives
 - Organize and sign petitions
 - In politics, getting people out to vote
- For net roots, some additional actions
 - Setting up social networking groups
 - Fair Copyright Canada group on Facebook
 - Post on blogs, fora and the like
 - Build and grow wikis to share information, educate
- Some actions have limited or arguable effect
 - Paradox of large volume of individual action
 - Most targets of activism want to know request for change are genuine
 - This is fair, especially when there is an appreciable cost to change
 - A strong bias towards printed, even hand written, letters
 - Skepticism of anything online
 - It is too easy to spoof online database
 - Similar skepticism even of paper petitions
 - It is a fair question, how do you prove each individual contributor is authentic?
 - Even ink signatures can easily be spoofed, hard to verify in the hundreds or thousands
- Newer organizations bridge grass roots and central organization
 - Electronic Frontiers Foundation
 - Public Knowledge
 - Open Rights Group
 - Provide tools, action centers, to provide information and means to act
 - Information may be biased but if done well, easy to use as a starting point for own research
 - Tools provide ability to take action, typically form letters for editing and sending
 - Some also allow sending FAXes, an interesting combination of electronic and physical action
 - Become centers of organization for like minded activism
 - Non-profit, member donation funded
 - Use funds to gather, host and present information on relevant topics
 - Staff bloggers
 - Staff researchers for all purposes

Offset

Topic

- Many also take direct action, also using funds
 - File briefs
 - Participate directly in law suits
 - Produce own educational materials
 - Participate in conferences
 - Host events, speakers
- Earn reputations for the issues they pursue and act on
- Can make true grass roots activism easier by following issues of the day by organization
- Gigi Sohn's lament
 - Most of what these new groups do themselves is narrow
 - Fight specific legal battles
 - Target specific legislation, legislators
 - There is a desire to go beyond, to form a positive reform movement
 - More proactive, sweeping, broad effect rather than reacting to issues as they occur
- Hacktivism
 - Challenging traditional modes of activism
 - Creative Commons is the best example
 - A good goal, developing a voluntary commons
 - Providing tools, means to contribute to the commons
 - A few politicians directly engaging with constituents, either for funding or traditional action
 - Novel technology demonstrations, like at hacker conventions
 - Few examples, a real challenge
 - Limited by the paradox of large amounts of individual actions
 - More often new ways to organize, motivate traditional activism

32:24

• Outro

- Contact me
 - Email to feedback@thecommandline.net
 - Web site at <http://thecommandline.net/>
 - IM to command.line@skype
 - Listener comment line is 240-949-2638
 - del.icio.us tag is "for:cmdln"
 - <http://twitter.com/cmdln>
- I'd like to thank libsyn.com for AAC hosting and Wouter de Bie for MP3 hosting
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