

Good evening everyone. It is August 7th 2022, and this is the 7at7 series broadcasting from L200 in the center of Zurich, here; and from pEp foundation's BigBlueButton server, online, here.

Every 7th of the month at 7pm, we offer an experimental news program about the digital world, and a special topic on digital empowerment.

“We” is a coalition of organizations, like the ISOC Switzerland Chapter, the pEp foundation, NetHood, CIRCE, Digitale Gesellschaft, CCC Switzerland, SGMK, and more.

In times of pandemic, wars, climate crisis, political crisis, and more, we ask ourselves what are the important questions (and answers) for the future of the Internet?

What are viable alternatives to the threats that big Internet platforms, among others, pose on democracy, ecology, health.

This month's again full of disasters, like the official announcement by twitter that a recent breach exposed a list of 5.4 million user accounts or the massive cyberattach in German Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Not to mention the chess robot that broke a 7-year boy's finger. AI algorithms can harm us not only through their inherent biases but also from their inevitable mistakes and inaccuracies.

Still, it is encouraging that there are numerous organizations, initiatives, artists, activists try hard to create different imaginaries of technology and data.

Oriana Persico and Salvatore Iaconesi are two of these people. Salvatore passed away a few days ago after a long battle with cancer. As his partner Oriana stressed "Anyone who has known, loved, and understood Salvatore at least a little, knows that the sheer commemoration doesn't suit him: the only way we can remember him is to keep making things happen, passing on and reinterpreting that style, that thinking, the works and fragments he left us, to compose and recompose them in new concatenations."

There are different ways to do this. As professionals, working for established organizations that fight for digital rights is one way.

Many such organizations have job openings like EDRi (European Digital Rights) searching for a communications and campaign intern.

Digitale Gesellschaft, the Swiss Digital Society organization has a similar opening for communication, campaigning, fund raising.

Many people are searching today for meaningful jobs, and luckily there are some!

Communication is important and building new narratives can benefit from analogies and metaphors like the organic Internet we have.

Recently a catalogue has been created with similar ideas on a more sustainable way to approach the Internet, the “Damaged Earth Catalogue”. For example, the concept of permacomputing introduced very recently is very close to this of the organic Internet discussed in previous 7at7 events and perhaps one of the next 7at7 events could be on this topic.

Think of the contrast of a web site running on solar energy, which means that some times is offline, with the web3 hype and what the corporate world tries to make out of it.

Our today's guest, Alice, has been exploring this space and she is here today to discuss what she discovered.