

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. It is July 7th 2021, and this is the 7at7 series broadcasting from L200, here, and BigBlueButton, also here.

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

“We” means a coalition of organizations like the ISOC Switzerland Chapter, the pEp foundation, NetHood, Digitale Gesellschaft, CCC-CH, open network infrastructure, the L200 space, and more: and we aim to answer the question “what type of Internet do we really need?”

To the increasing daily disasters that Internet corporations cause to privacy and democracy, even to public health, we want to add positive stories of tangible alternatives, about what all of us could do to create a more healthy and sustainable Internet ecosystem.

So let's see what happened the last month in the digital world.

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On the disasters side, for one more time there is a lot to report, with perhaps most important: the “yet another” linkedin data sell off at a mass scale affecting over 700million users.

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Some people have already started organizing legally, to get compensation for having their data left exposed and exploited.

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While the Big Tech companies are pushing for more favorable laws and treatment. Lobbying is where they invest most of their money!

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Good and reliable information is then what is most needed on the other side, and Digitale Gesellschaft is launching a new project called Politpulse to do exactly this. Stay tuned!

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Good advocacy does have good results sometimes like the new “Ordinance on Internet Domains” which will not allow anymore the private information of web site owners (the WHOIS as it is called) to be exposed to curious eyes.

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And of course, there are numerous free software solutions for protecting our privacy, like the ToR browser who released a new version 10.5, the pEp encryption tools, for which we learned a lot in April 7at7.

You can watch the recording at <https://7at7.digital/>

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Alternative free software platforms like NextCloud, are also advancing and NextCloud is already at version 2.2 with many cool new features.

Peertube, where we host also the recordings of 7at7 is also becoming established and many nice projects alike the video channel Rebouté are based on its technology.

Trying such alternatives is the best form of support and a way to be part of the solution for a better Internet!

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Sometimes getting to the ground also helps like the erection of a statue of the three famous American whistleblowers during the Russia-US summit, by the “Geneva call” initiative to free WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Nils Melzer stated that the conditions of Assange's incarceration in a high-security London prison can be regarded as psychological torture and cruel treatment.

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On another note, Republik starts an information campaign about our personal responsibilities for using the Internet with moderation and care.

Sometimes less Internet is better Internet :-)

But there are also important things to make the Internet better, like privacy, education, community engagement.

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Internet Society is an organization that works both for bringing Internet to those that still don't have access to, but also to make the Internet a better place for everyone.

Panos is here to tell us more about it.