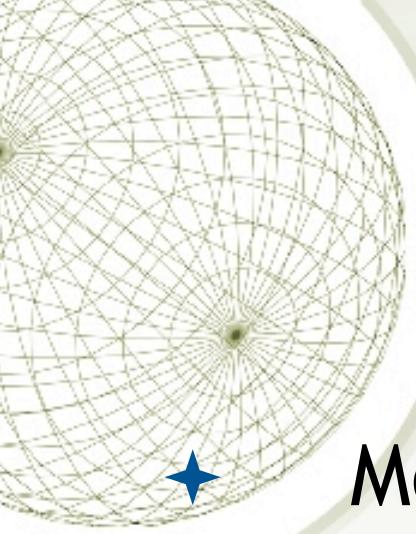


Software Not Provided:

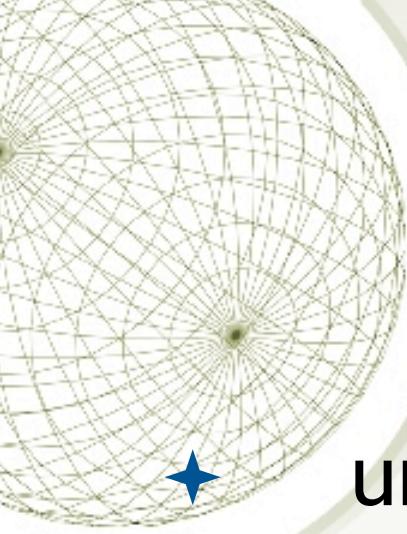
Challenges, Experiences, and Opportunities in Supporting Communities and Democracy

Todd Davies, SSP, Stanford
Jerry Feldman, CSEE, Berkeley
and ICSI



Under what conditions is software produced?

- ❖ Money motive
- ❖ Scratching your itch
- ❖ Easy to write
- ❖ Similar to something else that exists



But what about software that is...

- ❖ unprofitable
- ❖ not widely desired by developers
- ❖ hard to write/service

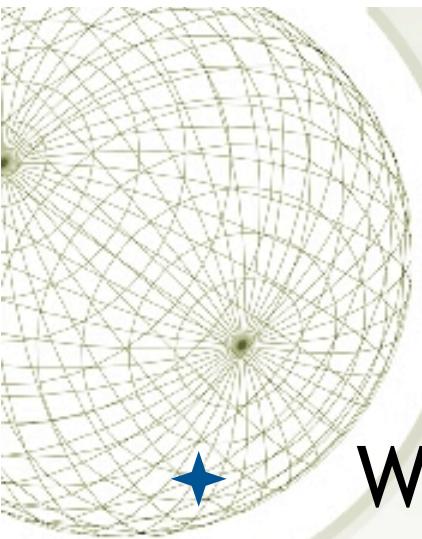
AND

- ❖ novel



For instance, software that is...

- ◆ designed for people who have little to no money
- ◆ designed to meet particular needs of those who are not computer experts
- ◆ complex, either in the tasks it supports or the nature of what is needed
- ◆ not already available



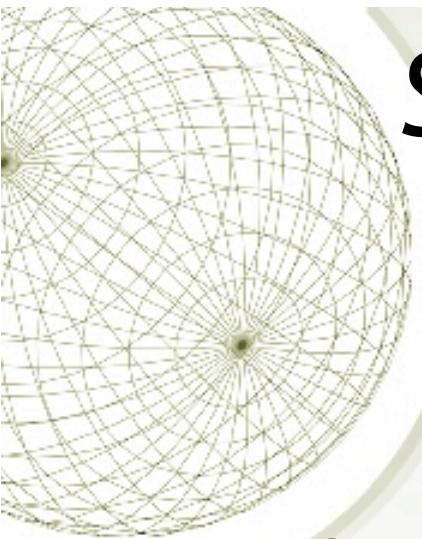
Questions for discussion

- ❖ What software do under-resourced people need?
- ❖ What types of tools do nonexperts need but experts not need?
- ❖ What features make software hard to write?
- ❖ What software is technically feasible but not available?



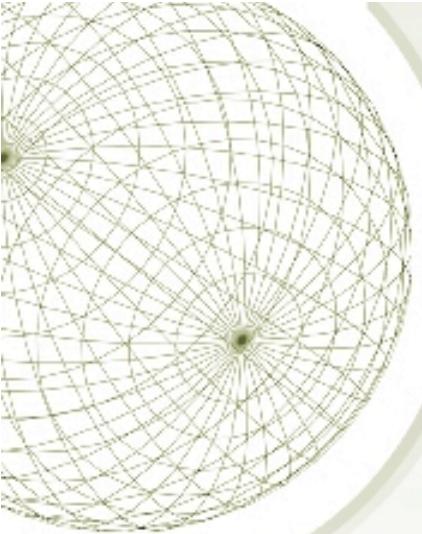
A candidate application area for underprovided software:

community computing
software especially aimed at
meeting the neeedss of low-
income communities



Subspecies of Community computing: Community-based software

- ❖ Is the software developed by, as well as for, the community?
- ❖ Do community members have control (i.e. ownership) over both technology and content?
- ❖ Is community benefit the primary goal that drives the availability of the network (as opposed to motives of an external provider)?

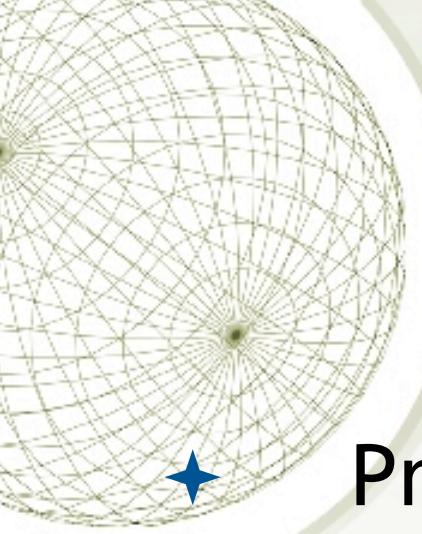


Examples of community computing

- ❖ Community networks
- ❖ EPA.Net
- ❖ The Election Incident Reporting System (EIRS)
- ❖ Online deliberation platforms

- ❖ Project description
- ❖ Funding model: corporate philanthropy, one-time gift to CTC
- ❖ History and contribution to the community
- ❖ Challenges

- ❖ Project description
- ❖ Funding model: joint grant to two nonprofit advocacy groups
- ❖ History and contribution to democracy
- ❖ Challenges



Deme

- ❖ Project description
- ❖ Funding model: university leverage grant to support student programmers
- ❖ History so far
- ❖ Challenges
- ❖ More at Groupspace.org