



GEEKS FOR
SOCIAL CHANGE

The old world is dying, the new world
is struggling to be born

Anarchist organising in an age of platform dependency

Anarchist Studies Network 9 · Manchester · August 2026

PART 1

THE WORLD WE'RE IN

We need to talk about WhatsApp

- How many groups are you in that depend on it?
- What's your work / activism / life balance like?
- Have you ever tried to leave it?
- Are you in *any* organisation that manages without it?

If WhatsApp died tomorrow

· “The Day WhatsApp Goes Dark” · .com · 2026

- 3.3 billion users
- 99% of smartphones in Brazil
- Clinical networks run on it
- Rescue crews dispatch on it

Talk notes and references



Mailing list signup! I'll send out all the refs in a week or two.

[gfsc.community · @gfsc@sunbeam.city](mailto:@gfsc@sunbeam.city)

Indymedia to Instagram

- Does anyone remember Indymedia?
- How are email lists going?
- We used to own our infrastructure

The movement is one
shadowban, one strike, one ToS
change from losing its memory
and its front door.

These are not neutral tools badly
made.

This is hostile infrastructure
working as designed.

No owned space online.
Fewer spaces offline.
Isolation as deadly as two packs
a day.

PART 2

YOU'VE ALREADY TRIED

This room does not need telling.
The conference chat is on Signal.

Free as in beer beats free as in
freedom when you're skint.
The corporate tool isn't free.
It's a payday loan.

The ethical argument never wins
on its own.

The unit of escape is collective,
or it doesn't happen.

The problem isn't awareness.
The problem isn't ideology.
The problem is resourcing.

PART 3

THE GAP IS INFRASTRUCTURE, AND IT'S OURS TO CLOSE

Hold a server together, the way
you already share a building, a
van, a PA.

Where this road leads:
datacentres inside community
buildings.
Computing made visible, owned
in common.

The Community Technology Canvas

top three from each sheet only · org: _____ · date: _____

People

the persons themselves:
needs, skills, roles

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Communities

groups, networks,
convenors

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Physical places

buildings, rooms, kit,
who holds the keys

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

♦ crossings: how is each of these represented below? who owns that representation?
(what are your bridges? who owns them? not everything needs a bridge: staying on dry land is a choice, not a gap)

Digital spaces: the river

where your community is represented: accounts, sites,
socials, drives, chats · what runs here? who controls it? who pays?

The dry land

what we're definitely
not digitising

1. _____ 2. _____

♦ crossings: what keeps each digital space alive? where does the evidence of impact come out?
(income flows up into the river; evidence flows down out of it)

Income

what resources all of the above

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Impact

the change you can show, and where the evidence lives

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Next three moves

what would co-producing your technology look like back at work? 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Gap pass: mark everything

● works ● fragile ● broken ○ missing (wanted)



Who owns your bridges?

The way out isn't better
software.
It's conversations in the middle.

The point of owning our infrastructure is to create the conditions for us to live happy, healthy and connected lives despite our enemies.

The Canvas is free



Sign up and the Community Technology Canvas arrives the day it drops. And if you want your town or scene on PlaceCal, that's a thing you can just do. Come find me.

gfsc.community · @gfsc@sunbeam.city