## **Digital Communities – Net Vision**

# What drives forward the vision of a democratic, open Internet?

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Ars Electronica: Hybrid - Living in Paradox Linz, 5. September 2005 From technology emerges the freedom to create an endless variety of new environments

## **The Vision**



"In the 21st century the technology revolution will move into the everyday, the small and the invisible…"

Mark Weiser (1952 - 1999), XEROX PARC

- Small, lightweight, cheap, mobile processors and sensors
  - in almost all everyday objects ("embedded computing")
  - on your body ("wearable computing")
  - embedded in the environment ("sensor networks")

F. Ma. 37

Source: F. Mattern 2003 (Engelberg lecture)

Cooperation and Decentralization are among the best devices

## The pattern in human societies



#### Source: Malone 2004



#### Human societies

The major changes in how businesses were organized throughout history echo the changes in how societies were organized.

### **Business Organizations**



## The Decentralization Continuum

	Centralized			Decentralized
Type of Decision- Making System	Centralized hierarchies	Loose hierarchies	Democracies	Markets
Examples	Traditional military organizations	Consulting firms, research universities	Political democracies, corporate shareholder meetings	Free markets, the Internet, internal markets inside firms
				Malone 2004, p 6

Institutions structure the behavior of humans The institution of intellectual property gives creativity a structure

## Bipolar Structure of the International Intellectual Property System



Source: Reichman 1992

In many cases resources are best organized by commons.

Prominent example is the Internet.

Commons is a resource management principle

# «A resource is managed as a commons means

... the resource is openly assessible to all within a community reagardless of their identy or intended use.»

Source: Frishmann 2004, p 4





Alert!

Organizing resources is a problem of power!

# a future?

## Communities by contract?

## Shopping mall in Bloomington/Minnesota



Largest mall in US 4.2 Million square foot ~11,000 to 13,000 employees ~ 520 shops ~ 50 Million visitors/tourists/customers \$ 1.7 billion economic impact Prada (NY) is architecture plus (IT-) technology





But Prada is more – an arrangement of public sphere in the 21<sup>th</sup> century