



Vx:meeting in Amsterdam 18, 19, 20th Jan 2008

VX:mission will look at how distribution of Social Justice Video is happening using Free and Open Source technology. It is a chance to find out about existing distribution projects, get feedback for your own projects or ideas, find collaborators and scheme about how best to distribute your video. This event is associated with the transmission network. For more info check <http://transmission.cc>

Programme

Friday 18th Jan, 18:30 -22:00 - Opening Night
Cameleon Theatre, Derde Kostverlorenkade 35D

A night of films and ideas from the world of radical social justice video. VX:mission is a working gathering of video activist and open software technology hackers. We are working together to increase the noise of social justice video on the internet and the digital pirate airwaves. Join us on this night as we bring you videos, news from the digital underground and a plan to save us from the corporate digital vacuum cleaners like YouTube.

Saturday 19th January. Private Hacklab Sessions. Reserve in Advance. Ruysdaalstraat 79

- 10:00 Drupal implementation of RSS aggregation, and video publishing
- 11:30 Subtitles proejct - DotSub presentation and tactical collaboration
- 12:30 Floss Manuals session
- 14:00 Giss.tv streaming network presentation
- 15:00 Show in a Box session
- 16:30 Plumi / Plone / Engage media session

Sunday 20th January. Public Workshops, Reserve in Advance. Ruysdaalstraat 77-89

- 11:00 Customising Miro Player - visionontv project
- 12:00 Subtitling Video and the Internet
- 13:00 Producing Collaborative DVDs for screenings via the Internet
- 14:00 Break
- 15:00 Network Distribution and International Screening Database
- 16:30 Video.indymedia.org - planning meeting

Locations and how to get there:

Cameleon Theatre, Derde Kostverlorenkade 35D: Take tram 1 at Central Station, get out at Overtoomsesluis, walk towards bridge, it's the canal on your right hand side, on the right side of the water.

Ruysdaalstraat 79: Take tram 16 or 24 from Central Station, get out at the stop on Ruysdaalstraat.

You can call this number from Thursday lunchtime if you get really lost: +31615422770. For making reservations and getting more information look at <http://transmission.cc/vxmission> or contact mickfuzz@rocketmail.com

Saturday 19th January, 10:00-12:30

Private Hacklab Sessions, part I

Reserve in Advance

Location: Ruysdaalstraat 79

Unfortunately spaces are so limited in the venue on Saturday that we have to prioritise existing members of the network and the people travelling from other countries. However we don't want to exclude people who have a lot to give or learn from these technical sessions. So please do get in contact if you want to attend and we'll try to work something out (mickfuzz@rocketmail.com).

10:00 Drupal implementation of RSS aggregation, and video publishing

We'll be looking at Film Forge and ifiwatch.tv as examples of Drupal-based Video distribution sites. Aggregation tool : <http://ifiwatch.tv> - IFIWatch.TV exists to aggregate independent media on the International Financial Institutions - that is, on the World Bank, IMF and Regional Development Banks. This video portal has lately been redesigned to suck relevant feeds from online video publishing websites, display appropriate content and enable users to create their own feeds from the results of searches for video that interests them. To reach its full potential as a new model 'node' in emerging independent media networks, the system will require more and more feeds to feature standardised video metadata, so that content management systems can automatically sort and present video information in ways that make it easier for humans to find the media they want. The Transmission Metadata Standard is now ready to implement, and we will be promoting this to all who wish to facilitate more effective exchange of online video.

Video Upload and Distribution tool : <http://wiki.koumbit.net/FilmForge/> - FilmForge is a distribution (or profile) of the Free/Libre Open Source Software content management system Drupal, tailored to the needs of video making communities. FilmForge makes it simple to install and run your own video sharing site.

11:30 Subtitles project - DotSub presentation and tactical collaboration

dotSUB was developed with the specific goal of enabling anyone, anywhere, who had access to a browser, and was bi-lingual between any language pair, to subtitle any film or video from one language into another language - assuming one has the permission of the rights holder, or it is in the public domain or licensed under a CC license. We wanted the interface to be as easy to use as the google search bar, and wanted it to require no previous training, nor any downloaded clients. We wanted it to be free to use (for content that is freely distributed with no commercial aspirations) and embed and virally distribute all of the language versions around the web as streams or mpg4 files in all languages, and wanted the process to be an open wiki, very much like a wikipedia for video. We have been working on the project now for 4 years, and the use of our tool is growing at about 15 -20% per month.

12:30 Floss Manuals session

Presentation Floss manuals system and new Video related docs on Flossmanuals and Suitcasemanuals.net. In this session we'll be looking at Floss manuals system, new video distribution documentation and other relevant work. FLOSS Manuals provides quality free manuals about how to use free software. There are new manuals on Video Encoding, Video Distribution and DVD / Subtitle creation. We hope that these will be useful for the Video activist and independent video production community.

Saturday 19th January, 14:00-18:00

Private Hacklab Sessions, part II

Reserve in Advance

Location: Ruysdaalstraat 79

14:00 Giss.tv streaming network presentation

The g.i.s.s. network <http://giss.tv/>, an experimental streaming server that shapes a ring of servers running an Icecast branch that allows server loading, and in which any user can create a mountpoint and start streaming, and Theora Streaming Support, a small-quick graphic interface for `dvgrab-ffmpeg2theora-oggfwd` in linux: <http://gollum.artefacte.org/tss/>, written by colleagues Lluís Gomez i Bigorda and Yves Degoyon.

15:00 Show-in-a-Box session, Word Press video distribution system

Many video creators are shy of the web since they want to make sure their work looks good online. Being artists ourselves, we know that presentation is very important. Being media activists, we also know that using open source tools and sane copyrights are also important.

WordPress is a fantastic blogging tool and we've been using it to run videoblogs for a few years now. Over time we've begun to develop and use some tools that make WordPress better suited for video. Show-In-A-Box was created to bring these all together and create the ultimate videoblogging platform.

<http://showinabox.tv/wordpress/about/>

We are making custom WP plugins to better manipulate video. We are also making beautiful, original themes that better showcase video. We have video tutorials and a strong community to help guide newbies to creating their own videoblog to document the world around us. We'll show lots of awesome examples of what online video can look like using free and open tools.

16:30 Plumi / Plone / Engage media session

Plumi is a media specific implementation of the Plone content management system. It has been driven by the Engagemedia collective from Australia.

Sunday 20th January, 10:00-14:00

Public Workshops, part I

Please Reserve in Advance (mickfuzz@rocketmail.com)

Location: Ruysdaalstraat 79

11:00 Customising Miro Player - visionontv project

Presentation: Transmission branded Miro player, and Visionontv customised Miro player

Collectives are changing the Miro player so that they can offer a download of the player with their own channels, search features and other features added. We'll look at how this is done and what it means to video networks.

Projects like VisiononTv from Undercurrents, Ifiwatch.tv, Engagemedia.org (Australia) and numerous global Indymedia video spin-offs are linking up their databases to create decentralised search tools that will greatly increase the profile and possibilities of social justice video online. This is being co-ordinated via the rebel alliance of Indymedia related groups called Transmission. <http://tranmission.cc>

This process is being done using the Transmission metadata standard, details of which can be found here. http://wiki.transmission.cc/index.php/Metadata_working_group

Using open source tools like Miro the Video podcast player, these video projects hope that once you start watching video in this way you won't want to go back to YouTube or it's evil cousins. Miro allows you to subscribe to different channels of video content, some are themed by subject and some are just the pick of the channel editors. You can even subscribe to YouTube channels in Miro as well and it sneakily downloads those videos for you to keep if you want to. Collectives are changing the Miro player so that they can offer a download of the player with their own channels, search features and other features added.

<http://wiki.transmission.cc/index.php/TransmissionMiroPlayer>

12:00 Subtitling Video and the Internet

Presentations Proposal for a activist subtitle website

This session will look at some of the issues and opportunities facing film makers who can use the Internet to co-ordinate, create and distribute subtitle for their films. Specifically this session will look at plans for an open source DotSub type library website for for social justice films. We'll also looking at the functionality of new tools like G8tv.org and subtitle horse. <http://subtitle-horse.org/>

13:00 Producing Collaborative DVDs for screenings via the Internet

How can we create DVDs in a decentralised way. Is there a demand for a European wide DVD of social justice events to be used for screenings.

Past projects RuffCuts and the indymedia ENR have looked a decentralised way of creating CDroms and VHS's for screening at public venues. Broadband technology opens the door for a new level of collaboration. Broadcast quality Video files can be exchanged and on-line translation tools used to create and distribute multilingual DVDs. We look at the question, are there existing networks of video producers who can benefit from these technology and explore possible future projects and how can they work together.

Sunday 20th January, 14:00-18:00

Public Workshops, part II

Please Reserve in Advance (mickfuzz@rocketmail.com)

Location: Ruysdaalstraat 79

14:00-15:00 Break

15:00 Network Distribution and International Screening Database

Presentation Mute Agents site. Existing distributors consistently fail the cultural sector and have not taken sufficient advantage of the Web for e-commerce and social networking. The mission of NDS is to provide an alternative. Using the Web's ability to help people share information and collaborate, it enables the global promotion, sales and fulfilment of goods, improving cultural producers' sustainability and visibility at national and international level.

The system works by creating a global web of locally-inputted information, ranging from producers and agents to outlets and goods. Two core barriers to the creation of a global market place for independent cultural products are high freight costs and a parity of goods' prices. We are tackling these through systems we (and others) call 'Community Couriering' (CC) and Peer-to-Peer E-commerce (P2P EC). With CC, people carry goods for less than commercial couriers' rates (when they are taking certain routes for other purposes already); with P2P EC, producers and buyers negotiate prices to index them to the purchasing power in the relevant region rather than via a straight currency conversion (this is known as Purchasing Power Parity http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity).

See: dev site <http://agents.metamute.org> and our work area <http://3d.openmute.org>

16:30 Video.indymedia.org - planning meeting

Presentation: what is the current situation with imc-video site?

Followed by a discussion to bring people up to date with developments concerning a global indymedia video site. Aims include a reliable upload site, ability to mirror video content across multiple servers, more advanced syndication tools, searching across video feeds created by regional IMCs and a YouTube style embedded video player for videos.

There is a wiki page on this subject on the global indymedia wiki - <http://docs.indymedia.org/view/Global/NewVideoIndymediaOrgProposal>

What is Transmission?

Transmission is a network of journalists, video makers, artists, researchers, programmers and web producers who are developing online video distribution tools for social justice and media democracy. Our objective is to make independent online video distribution possible (using FLOSS) by building the necessary tools, standards, documentation and social networks.

Agora TV (Argentina), Asia 247 (Malaysia), Alt-med-res (U.K.), Burn Station (Catalunya), Candida TV (Italy), Clearer Channel (U.K.), Deckspace (U.K.), Deptford.tv (U.K.), Democracy Now! (U.S.A.), Rasta Soft (international), EngageMedia (Australia), Exequo (U.K.), Hackitectura (Spain), IFIwatch.tv (U.K.), IMC Video (international), InsuTV (Italy), Jinbonet (South-Korea), Labournet (South-Korea), M2HZ (Finland), Media Culture Action -- Against Neoliberal Globalization (South-Korea), Moviments (Catalunya), Mute (U.K.), NGVision (Italy), Obin.org (Poland), OurMedia (U.S.), Participatory Culture Foundation (Democracy Player) (U.S.A.), People's media Chamsesang (South-Korea), Pool (Austria), r23 (Catalunya), Rafilm (Sweden), Real2Reel (U.K.), Revolt Video (Ireland), Sanance Artistic Network (Austria), Tactical Engage Media (Netherlands), V2V (Germany), Witness (U.S.A.), The People Speak (U.K.).

Transmission Working Groups

Metadata working group

Summary : The Transmission network's online video metadata standard aims to facilitate video distribution and aggregation tools to exchange and search Video with more flexibility, detail and efficiency, and hence popularity and usability, than existing RSS feeds

http://wiki.transmission.cc/index.php/Metadata_working_grou

A metadata standard for online video will ensure a common definitions for basic information such as title, date, author and language and (free) tags. This standard is to be used in video upload forms and video feeds of data coming from each participating site. The standard will allow creation of search and importation tools for Content Management Systems (CMS)

The initial draft standard was presented to the London Re:Transmission meeting in October 2006. Since then the standard has received substantial technical feedback, and it is now ready for testing. We recently released a 0.9 version (pre-pre-release) of the TX Metadata Standard. You can find it here:

http://clearerchannel.org/docs/tx_metadata_standard_0_9.pdf

We plan to start implementing the standard into Plumi, Drupal and Wordpress video content management systems at the vx:mission meeting in Amsterdam, January 18-20th 2008.

Subtitling working group.

The subtitling working group is looking at the best way to translate and subtitle films collaboratively on and offline, and present the subtitles online for download in a way that makes them easily findable and usable.

http://wiki.transmission.cc/index.php/Subtitling_working_group

Documentation working group.

The documentation project aims to create documentation, guides and tutorials to allow easy downloading,

encoding and distribution of digital video files using free and open source softwares.
http://wiki.transmission.cc/index.php/Documentation_working_group

International Screening Database working group

Using the Web to help people share information and collaborate, NDS enables the global promotion, sales and fulfilment of goods, improving cultural producers' sustainability and visibility at national and international level.

http://wiki.transmission.cc/index.php/International_Screening_Database_working_group

Codecs Research

A review of the best available tools for the creation, playback and embedding of online video using Free and Open Source Software video codecs, and a set of recommendations for development to enhance their adoption by social change video projects on the web.

http://wiki.transmission.cc/index.php/Codecs_Research

TransmissionMiroPlayer

Participatory Culture Foundation are working with the Transmission network to create a Miro player which comes with the channels of member video distributors already installed, and will link to a Transmission-created channel guide.

<http://wiki.transmission.cc/index.php/TransmissionMiroPlayer>

Why NOT just use YouTube...

1. Exploitation: ScrewTube exploits your free videomaking to gain ad revenue.
2. Surveillance: Posting on YT risks surveillance and IP tracking, both by corporations and the state. For example in 2004 Yahoo collaborated with Chinese authorities to identify dissident blogger Shi Tao. He is now serving 10 years in jail. Many sites record your IP address, not just corporate projects.
3. Censorship: Posting on YT opens the door to censorship since they will do takedowns at State request or for copyright violations.
4. When Sharing isn't really sharing: Sites like YT only allow sharing with other members, or by embedding YT videos in your site or blog. There is no re-distribution via p2p networks, or availability of high-resolution downloads for screenings.
5. When Free isn't really free: Though free to use, the platform is closed – using YT technology entails using YT. With free software platforms, anyone can create their own video-sharing site.
6. When a community isn't really a community: YouTube was sold to Google for \$1.65 billion in Google stock. If it can be bought and sold, is it really a community? Editorial and software control should be in the hands of the user community. Control of ScrewTube sites is organised by the profit motive.
7. Intellectual Property: Sites like ScrewTube place exploitative terms and conditions on your contributions, allowing them to re-sell and remix your work.

Using existing ethical and pirate technologies, we can do much, much better....