



*The COOK Report on  
Internet Protocol  
Technology, Economics, and Policy*



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## **Do-It-Ourselves Telecommunications:**

***Guifi.net Commons Coming to US from Catalonia - In Spain & US  
We Are Now Building Network Infrastructure Held as Commons***

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## Next Issue

(target date April 1) will be on the network analysis methodology of Neil Davies who has met with guifi.net about apply his methodology there. We intend to do an issue on US Ignite as well as another issue on guifinet after our visit there.

Russian literary critic in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century lived in hope of being able to ameliorate the autocracy by means of their writings.

I am very pleased to report for the first time in the 21 years of the Cook Report my actions have had direct influence on events, namely the adoption of the philosophy and tools by the FNF the best Commons network effort in the the US with the best in the world namely guifi.net.

# Executive Summary

## *Why Have a Network in the First Place?*

Why do Americans seem to favor a mythic individualism rather than any form of social collectivism? America began as a nation that worshiped the myth of the power of the individual rather than any concept of the collective good. We developed as a nation of immigrants who settled a continent and whose heroes were those who pushed back the lonely frontier. Consequently, the development of America culture has been different from the cultures of Europe and Asia. Our immediate cultural heritage and national character covers the nearly two and a half centuries of American independence. Families in the United States may have put down "roots" but the very short length of our history means that while we can trace roots back, at most four centuries, to the Mayflower, it is rather easy for families in Europe to go back well over a millennium. The difference between the two can be immense.

Meanwhile, The Enlightenment strongly influenced our founding political philosophy. There the foundation of government was based not upon Divine Right but upon the citizen and the right of the citizen to overthrow the government, were it to be oppressive. The Bill of Rights at the time of its writing was uniquely American. "One Nation, under God, with a government by for and of the people." But examination of that sentence must also be tempered by the understanding that our heroes were frontiersmen. Daniel Boone, Paul Bunyan, Davey Crockett, Johnny Appleseed and, in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the rugged cowboy who used force-of-arms to protect his family from threat of "savage indians."

When the Great Depression toppled our economy and Franklin Roosevelt saved our democracy with his social programs four decades of prosperity followed. The Republicans, as the party of industrial and financial capital and the privilege that went with economic success, had a serious problem. After Eisenhower was followed as by Nixon, who had to resign in disgrace, what would they do to find a winner in the presidential contest? When Ford failed to be re-elected they turned, in an age defined by the influence of television, to an actor. Ronald Reagan did not have a persuasive intellect but he knew how to be an actor and excelled at the role of the rugged TV cowboy on the American frontier.

In the 1970s American power was seriously questioned for the first time since World War II. The American economy, ever more dependent on oil, faced a situation where the oil came from places not friendly to our way of life. Ronald Reagan was elected as a new American father figure -- someone we could believe in. I argue that at precisely the wrong time in the development of industrial capitalist, when the development of the ideas of FDR were more important than ever and more hated than ever by the Republican Party, Reagan ruled by telling the citizen that he or she was so good and so independent that the best course of action was to stand up to the corporate state by just taking your skills to an employer that would recognize your innate worth. In other words, you too, can still play the role of the independent cowboy.

Considered over the past three decades, Reagan's election was a disaster for the USA. The party of a by-gone day of power and privilege was in control deregulating everything in sight and pumping up the economy by deficit spending. Private interest was rapidly replacing the national and public interest. Media basked in the myth of the "bright shining city on a hilltop." Government was cast as the enemy, the private citizen frontiersman was the hero, and the role of the political system was portrayed as "getting government off the backs of the private sector" which, not surprisingly, had only its own interests at heart.

Communism had been the great fear of the Cold War. It was, of course, the precise opposite of American individualism. Reagan was lucky enough to have the Soviet Union crumble under the weight of its own central planning as industrial goods had to rely more and more on the computer and integrated circuits that they did not possess in any quantity. Of course the Soviets also crumbled, in part, because Reagan spent them into bankruptcy. However by the time G.H.W. Bush, Reagan's Vice-President, ran against George Dukakis, Reagan's heritage was the one that appeared to say: individual self-interest was the way to go, along with financial deregulation - both of them directions that paved the way for the 2008 collapse.

To ignite the Occupy movement, it took the betrayal by Obama of his 2008 campaign for "hope and change" and the failure to get Washington in control of Wall Street. It seemed that the failure to re-regulate or even to prosecute the banks responsible stunned far too few people. By the election of 2012, the commercial internet had, for some 20 years, been transforming human communication and the development of knowledge on a global basis. What might have been a successful image of American culture as late as the 1950s, some 60 years later had shown itself to be unworkable. The rugged individuals of the 50s were on the way to becoming serfs of the one percent class for whom economic deregulation had proven to be a goldmine in every imaginable way.

The technology history of industrial capitalism, as written by Carlotta Perez and published in 2002, the year after the first Internet bubble collapsed, has made it clear our government has failed to force her prescribed rebalancing between financial capital and the broader interest of the citizens. In the past this rebalancing has led to what she called "Golden Ages." While the Internet globally has become a new and critical enabling technology. In 2013 the USA is still rushing madly to place everything involving this technology over to the hands of very companies who are determined to milk it forever in order to preserve their old cash cows. I argue that every month we continue to do this, we cut our collective throats a little deeper. Yet impetus is a powerful force. Despite many signs that our unchanged course is a slow motion disaster in the making, we continue onward. At this point, I argue that looking to Washington for any kind of positive change is an exercise in futility.

There is, however, an extremely positive future course that we should take. In keeping with our frontiersman image, we have always regarded ourselves as tinkerers and do-it-yourselfers. Every American youth seemed to regard their adolescent ability to make the family car run better as a mark of achievement. The digital revolution and proprietary systems as applied to cars have pretty much closed this possibility down. Therefore, new avenues are needed.

Much to his credit Dave Hughes, the Cursor Cowboy, recognized this as early as 1976. I did not come across this man online until 1980, and met him in person for the first time only in 1981. However, in the early 1980s, as I got to know him well, I realized that he was quite possibly the

first American to grasp well the possibilities of home-based businesses enabled by the BBS and then Internet technology. He spread this understanding by being a good story teller and capturing metaphorical images like "electronic cottages" and "digital homesteading." Where some people see first the money-making possibilities of the new technology, The Colonel, as Hughes is also known, found social and emotional contexts in which to describe them. By 1991 he had grasped the idea that wireless would become very important. After convincing me to start this newsletter, in late 1991, all I heard from him was "wireless." I am skilled at connecting people and used these skills to bring him to the attention of Don Mitchell at the National Science Foundation. Eight years of NSF funded projects followed, concluding in 2003 when he went to Namche Bazar, Nepal as a follow-up to my introduction to a Sherpa whom I had met in Nepal in 2002.

The Cursor Cowboy had always said that wireless would reign supreme one day. In the sense of a do-it-yourself personal technology, he was absolutely right. Guifi.net reminded me that officially it is technology agnostic, but because wireless was more accessible, Guifi.net became the culmination of that technology, while all the time had intended to culminate with the use of fiber. Guifi.net emphasizes that its founding priority is really the network infrastructure as a user-owned Commons and at the earliest possible moment it must switch to fiber which it is already doing. I agree at some point all networks need to include optical fiber, but because wireless technology is highly flexible, relatively easy to install, and not as subject to right-of-ways issues, **wireless begins as the absolute foundation on which the networks we need will be built.** We, the people, must build them and take back power we have seeded to global corporations.

This issue tells the rise of do-it-yourself wireless, which now the technology -- with another decade of Moore's law pushing it as well as the internet uniting its advocates -- has become so good, and so powerful that small handfuls of people can quickly create very significant change. And note the plural: **One person does not a network make. Many do-it-yourselfers become plural: Do-it-Ourselves (DIO).** I contend that DIY wireless, when brought to the USA, will have another major benefit. It needs a community as a foundation on which to grow and prosper. DIY wireless is vastly different from commercial internet because **it will really work only with the creation of an information constituency behind it.** It will become a powerful force here because its embrace can ameliorate multiple problems.

DIY wireless will appeal to Americans as rugged tinkerers. It will unite local community interests, to grow local organizations doing the absolutely necessary tasks of keeping money and jobs local. Two centuries ago we would have communities holding their own barn raisings. Now communities can do the rough equivalent by building their own networks where DIO **do-it-ourselves gives every participant ownership and a stake in the outcome. Executed well, it can become the lever by which people wrest control over their lives and future from the smothering embrace of globalism, while they search for whether a reasonable balance between the two forces may exist.**

In May 2013, to see it first hand and to understand in detail how guifi.net works and bring the workings back home, I and likely two or three other friends will go to Spain, and then to Catalonia. The mission will succeed because the philosophy behind guifi.net and the way in which it is organized will become the requisite foundation in the USA for a future established on the political, social, and economic principles on which our nation was founded. I started this issue as a follow up to the progress of Isaac Wilder whom I met during the hopeful days of Occupy 2011 in New York City.

By chance Isaac asked whether I might also look at other networks, mentioning Buenos Aires, Barcelona and Berlin. He added that guifi.net was the largest. A few days later in early December, through another network contact from Catalonia, I found myself in the midst of a conversation with Ramon Roca - a guifi.net cofounder.

Setting this in a larger context, the following introduction will use Susan Crawford's new book, *Captive Audience*, to explain how we got into the mess in which we find ourselves. Next, Part One of this issue will be an in depth examination of guifi.net and its breath-taking tools. Then, Part Two looks at Isaac's network in Kansas City. As the result of my sharing drafts with Isaac, his group has rapidly gotten up to speed on guifi.net and is now undertaking the steps needed to join the world-wide guifi.net confederation. The issue will conclude with an essay by Jeff Michka explaining critical issues involved in transplanting guifi.net between two different cultures. The confluence of these developments here are extremely positive, and I hope powerful in the midst of an otherwise very bleak social and economic period.

This effort began with no prior goal other than to see what this network in Catalonia was all about and ascertain what, if any, lessons it held for what Isaac was trying to do. However, one thing led to another. When I saw how vast guifi.net had become, and that it was self-managing and sustaining, the light went on and I said to Isaac, "Hey, here is your proof of concept. What you are doing is not quixotic - it can be done." The recognition there could be no top-down answer, thanks to Ramon's willingness to guide us, led to an understanding of the modular character along with the knowledge of the concept of the Commons as platform. It led to a realization. Here was a group of Catalonians who seemed to have built a working solution to the problems that have eluded us. Consequently, in the last days of January it became clear to me and my colleagues that we must do it **OURSELVES**.

Suddenly we realized a workable solution had developed along Spain's Mediterranean coast. The bottom up model it rested on was a perfect fit for our needs and goals. Why not visit and find out everything about how it works and bring the ideas back here? Then, during the past few days, there was an added fortuitous leap. With no advanced planning on my part, I had developed such a detailed description of guifi.net, that it seemed almost like a virtual visit. No longer, "let's get three or four people together go there, study further and bring back a description with the hope that the sale would be made," it appears that a small group of like-minded people acting autonomously can reach a shared conclusion and shave many months off the time it would take a larger group to decide.

Consequently, this short book is only the beginning of the coverage of guifi.net. I intend to compile during the rest of 2013.

To encourage the start up of nodes in the US, **The COOK Report** will produce a handbook on how it functions and is governed. In the sense of the ideas of Michel Bauwens and the P2P Foundation, guifi.net is an idea whose time has come. Get the right people together who recognize the problem and a solution can self-organize.

***Why have a network? On the American side of the pond it is to bring people together who have been isolated and then abandoned by industrial capitalism enabling them to establish common goals for the community in which they live.***



# Introduction

*Why the people must take back the Internet*

# Communications and Speech

## *Taking back Internet Access and Control in Spain and the USA*

At the beginning of 2013, the globalized corporate state sets the prices and rules for access to communications and speech in the USA and to a lesser extent Europe. This is a situation that five years ago would have been unthinkable. But now Washington DC has betrayed the much of the Bill of Rights - for example first amendment -speech; fourth - search and 5<sup>th</sup> self-incrimination. While in the name of financial capital, Spain has been devastated. In the province of Catalonia a people's network infrastructure owned and operated as a Commons called guifi.net took root in 2004 and has spread to more than 20,000 operative nodes as of January 2013.

This **COOK Report** begins its process of chronicling the rise of guifi.net with the goal that Americans may be able to stand up to the corporate state and declare their independence from its growing stranglehold. If we are not to become serfs of the new corporate world order, we must begin to build and own our own telecommunications infrastructure. One that is held together and maintained as a Commons. The bad news is that it is late in the game. The good news is that wireless mesh technology backed up by fiber has become cheap enough where it is possible to build. The USA must begin that construction now.

Whether in America or elsewhere in the World, ease of access to means of communication may be taken as a filter through which to view the social and economic priorities of a society. This holds true at levels ranging from the nation state down to the local community. Recent events in the United States have marked a betrayal of these priorities. This issue explains the situation and presents the beginnings of a call to action - one that will be expanded after a direct **COOK Report** visit to Catalonia in May.

### **Eighty Years Ago Public Interest Demanded Universal Access**

Compared to the Internet, access to telecommunications, here in the US during the last great period of economic upheaval in the 1930s, was a significant test of where things were headed then. With leadership that is lacking now, the outcome was influenced along the lines that there are technologies so important that they must be treated as a basic part of the infrastructure of any modern society rather than as purchased goods or services accessible primarily to the wealthy. It was also understood that they were not to become a means for distant corporations to extract profit from the local community. The Communications Act of 1934 prioritized access to telephony under the banner that a communications network became all the more useful given the larger the number of people who could attach

to it. Consequently national policy would ensure, by one means or another, every American family would be part of the network. Service would be universal.

With the Internet, the stakes were much higher. The Internet was not just a means of voice communication but one of the digital communication of everything -- written language, spoken language, images, pictures, sounds, data and knowledge of all kinds were becoming available to those with the right education, equipment, and connection in ways that could not have been attained two or three generations before.

And yet a twenty year-long debate in the United States seems to have reached its culmination in the year 2012. During this time the creation of a high technology monopoly for the cable television operators divided the United States into respective territories served by only one company in the late 90s. There were two kinds of connectivity: a wireline CATV monopoly between homes and business and, for the old telephone companies, wireless connections to mobile phones and small mobile computing platforms known as "smart phones."

The hope had been these extraordinary technologies would have been treated as utilities in the sense of roads and highways, water and sewage plants, and electricity. Furthermore, these basic platforms were something deemed to be inherently natural monopolies. It made no sense to have different highways for different vehicles or multiple electric utility networks or multiple water works.

It was thought the networks built out in the name of competition and in also the name of what is now lost namely "public" or "national" interests would have to be shared with the public. But as these developments played out against a new Gilded Age background of financial excess, those who built out networks spent money to hire lawyers to litigate away the regulatory system, rather than maintain the network or to better the technology itself. By the end of 2012 and the publication of Susan Crawford's book *Captive Audience*, it looks as though the cable providers have established a wireline monopoly and the old Telcos a wireless one for access to our fellow citizens and for the conduct of business and acquisition of knowledge in the United States of America.

Here, as these gigantic corporations became ever larger, and after passage of the 1996 [Telecommunications Act](#), acquired a stranglehold over the political process. The technology of the Internet grew from the more primitive dial-up to an extraordinarily more powerful instantiation known as "broadband." Here the power of the users' computers and fiber optics could be combined to yield communications channels that would handle, on a global basis video, audio, data processing and retrieval and, -- as the new company named Google delivered its message, -- bring access to all of human knowledge.

In the 1980s and 90s, American homes in urban and suburban areas developed two wires - one for the telephone company the second for the cable-TV company. It was assumed

that any alternative competition would have to be wireless. But rather quickly, it became evident that wireless could not compete well with fiber optics, and anyone who owned fiber-to-the-customer would have what was called a natural monopoly, in a previous era where the regulators had not been captured. In the United States, with the end of 2012 and the publication of Susan Crawford's book *Captive Audience*, the outcome of the would-be monopolist's battle is sharply and sadly portrayed as an apparent victory for Comcast as the nation's largest cable provider and owner of the victorious wire to the home.

At the same time, telco owners of the older copper wire did, with the full acquiescence of the US government, what would have been impossible to do generations before. That is, they divided up the market between wireline and wireless where Verizon and AT&T - the largest of the reunified telephone companies - would be the monopoly source of mobile communications. This would happen while Comcast and Time Warner, along with three or four other smaller cable systems, would provide wireline voice to the home along with wireline television and wireline Internet.

The monopoly of these multiple providers was ensured because their territories were geographic and did not overlap. It looked like a dismal conclusion where the only possible alternative source would be the fixed wireless ISPs that were expanding and doing an amazingly good job of serving their customers. At the beginning of 2013, it seems that there may be an opportunity for huge numbers of fixed wireless providers, especially in view of the fact that Verizon and AT&T at the same time were embarked on a campaign to get rid of what was known as the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) as well as the attendant obligations under the law that had guided the PSTN since the 1930s.

By January of 2013 Verizon, AT&T and others were in the midst of what appeared would be successful campaigns to abolish "provider-of-last-resort" laws in the states that were there to ensure that -- with public subsidies ranging into the billions of dollars per year -- service would be available to all Americans living in rural areas. The only problem was at this point in time, expected service began to be much more than just voice telephone calls. It began to be the greater power and higher bandwidth required by an Internet that could carry voice, data, and video. The telcos relied on DSL as a patch to their systems. But by 2010 these DSL systems were soon beaten by DOCSIS standard for cable TV modems powered by hybrid coax fiber systems to the home built out by cable MSOs in the 1990s.

Wireless technology was there, but the political and economic power were squarely in the hands of the huge cable providers and the telcos, the latter having been reassembled after their breakup of the early 1980s. It looked like a devastatingly done deal that instantiated the power of the feudal lords over the powerless peasants. Those who looked to Washington for help found themselves looking not at help but a kind of regulatory-free-hell after four years of the Obama Administration. It became extremely clear govern-

ment on the national level was designed to enhance the power and political contributions from the national communications companies. The interests of the ordinary American had been sold to the highest political bidders. If the campaign to abolish the PSTN were to become successful, it seemed possible that large rural areas of the US could loose all telecommunication service. ***If rural Americans wanted modern telecom and internet services, they might just be left to build them on their own.***

With this issue ***The COOK Report*** points out we must understand that we are now on our own, and Washington DC will do nothing on behalf of our interests. We can turn to the realization while many of the early builds of unlicensed wireless technology were mesh networks, the underlying technology has now assumed capabilities that only a few dreamers had hoped for in the 1990s; the capability of serving as a feasible and reliable alternative to the predatory economics imposed by the incumbent cable providers and telcos.

***With this issue, The COOK Report points out we . . . are now on our own and Washington DC will do nothing on behalf of our interests.***

Consequently, this issue will update the efforts of the Free Network Foundation of Isaac Wilder and his compatriots in Kansas City, and it will also tell an even more amazing story of how a band of Catalonians, branching out Mao-like from rural countryside into Barcelona, developed a do-it-yourself network called guifi.net.

"Computer networks are key infrastructures (probably *the* key infrastructure) of the 21th century. This argument alone is strong enough for not leaving them to be controlled just by private interests. Fortunately computer network technologies are accessible enough (in contrast to nuclear tech, for instance) to let standard citizens get truly involved. One step further, what we (at least I) like from [guifi.net](http://guifi.net) is the overall concept, i.e.citizens truly involved in an infrastructure management (design, implementation, operation, etc.); this concept can be exported to most of the infrastructures/services I can think of (roads, health system,etc.). Essentially it is about telling the people that with the correct attitude they can do much more than simply pay the bills and complain about how the world is going: The Commons Concept." ***Roger Baig Viñas -- guifi.net***

If guifi.net's American counterparts wish to be anything beyond exploited information serfs, we must bring guifi.net here. Betrayed by corporate bought-and-paid-for interests, the time has come to build it ourselves and do so now at home and across every nook and cranny of our land. When we can provide excellent broadband in rural or inner city areas the greedy telcos and cablecos deemed unworthy (read unprofitable and inconvenient), we will have an invigorating opportunity to tip the power structure in our direction and avoid exploitation on behalf of absentee corporate shareholders and overarching corporate greed.

Before turning to the development of guifi.net, we shall look further at Susan Crawford's *Captive Audience* which offers a better understanding of how we wound up in our current deplorable condition.

## **How We Got into This Mess**

### ***and Why We must Build the People's Network Ourselves***

Affordable voice communication via telephone to anywhere in the nation and ultimately the world was the critical communications technology of the last century. During the Great Depression of the 1930s when our president had the temerity to say to the bankers "I welcome your hatred," the Federal Communications Commission undertook to ensure that voice-based telecommunications - that is to say the telephone - be extended universally on an affordable basis to every American citizen.

For 50 years the Federal Government, acting through the FCC, oversaw the development of voice communications services as something very close to a national monopoly. They forced AT&T to run it in the public interest in order to fund as universal and affordable combination of brilliant technology development with Bell laboratories and judicious oversight in the public interest defined on the basis that the oversight of voice communications be guided not for the enrichment of a narrow stratum of wealthier of citizens but on the basis that all Americans should have the opportunity to converse with fellow citizens on an open, equitable and yes affordable basis.

In the US there was one phone company -- AT&T. This huge company, for a few decades, ran Bell Labs, at the time, the greatest technology development laboratory in the world. Through government imposed oversight, it and a small group of heavily subsidized subsidiaries kept the most remote rural farmhouse in good contact with the entire nation. And it was run on a stable basis as a non-speculative utility -- a grandmother's stock that you bought and held for retirement.

However technology moved onward and as digital stored memory computers came to maturity in the 1960s and 70s, technologists were quick to see that these new digital computing technologies could beneficially be merged with the older telecommunications technologies. This happened and from the merger we gained packet switched networks that carry both voice and data. Then, with the ascendancy of the IP protocol, we gained the capability to have basically a single digital network transmitting bits - ones and zeros - that could be rendered into voice or into an entire universe of information carrying capability.

In the 19th century the most significant enabling technology was electricity. The first electrical utilities were built on isolated basis in cities around the nation to serve the wealthy elite of the time who could afford the prices charged. As Susan Crawford says in her brilliant new book *Captive Audience*, (p. 258) "by the mid-1920s 15 holding compa-

nies controlled 85% of the nation's electricity distribution and the Federal Trade Commission found that power trusts routinely gouged consumers." "In response, recognizing that cheap, plentiful` electricity was essential to economic development and quality of life, thousands of communities formed electric utilities of their own . . . . As a result of the depredations of the electrical utilities, we came to understand that public goods like electricity (and railroads and highways) must be overseen by the public (and funded by the public) if they are to remain publicly useful and generate increasing economic and social returns for all. Why have Americans stopped applying this thinking to communications?"

This question "***why have Americans stopped applying this thinking to communications***" is the most significant question that is now affecting, in a critical and highly negative way, the control of the Internet in the United States since the internet just happens to be most important enabling technology of the 21st century. In her new book [\*Captive Audience: Telecom Industry and Monopoly Power in the New Gilded Age\*](#), Susan Crawford portrays the development of the commercial Internet over the period of roughly the past 20 years. The book shows how the Internet has, so to speak, jumped the tracks.

In the guise of deregulation, we have a winner-takes-all point of view where the Internet has been sold to the public more as a means of entertainment than as a means of enabling these more crucial civic, economic, and political policy purposes. We have forgotten that it was not entertainment but rather these debates that, during the 1930s, enabled Franklin Roosevelt to pull our nation out of the depression and lead us through a global war guided by a strong and shining definition of the national and public interest. It was this shared sense of national purpose that enabled what became known as the American Century. These were the debates that guided us through 60 to 70 years of prosperity and growth.

## **Embracing Entertainment and Abandoning Public Interest**

Rather than seen as a means of entertainment, the Internet should have embodied the very essence of the term "public purpose" exerted in the public or national interest. This apparently innocuous difference has been lost on American citizens as the Internet has become a technology -- without access to which -- US citizens cannot even apply for jobs; cannot adequately participate in the evolving healthcare and educational system; and cannot have access to informed political or economic debate as a result of which our nation is being run ever more for the interests and benefit of the one percent.

By the end of Bill Clinton's second term; George Bush's disputed election and 9/11 the best that our "leaders" could offer to the nation turned out to be the fraudulent sale of Obama's "hope and change". Rather than the promised transformation we were given a "sell-out" as the new Obama administration brought us to a point where after the economic crash of 2008, the telecommunications revolution of the 21st century was transformed into a wide open unregulated economic free-for-all.

Susan outlines what happened. Having spent many millions in the 1990s on a Hybrid Fiber Coax upgrade to their networks by 2000, the cable companies had developed DOCSIS 2.0 and were approaching the point of installation of DOCSIS 3.0 which could provide far higher bandwidth than the telcos' DSL run over a plant of several decades old copper. The cable companies chosen medium - video - of course needed more bandwidth than voice by far.

After the Supreme Court gave the Presidency to George Bush, the Republicans controlled the FCC from 2001-2008. They adopted a strategic position where the ability of video to escape any regulation served to enable a strategic game of content acquisition. Susan shows how Comcast played the content acquisition game far better than anyone else. At the same time, over the 15 years between the passage of the 96 Communications Act and 2010, the telcos, eager to keep their stock prices high by means of minimum network maintenance, played to their forte with mobile wireless voice and data and essentially "abandoned" a copper infrastructure that, as DOCSIS 2.0 moved up to 3.0 could not keep up to the speeds of the MSOs.

Having reported on the entire development of the commercial Internet from 1992 to the beginning of 2013, I have personally witnessed the events that Susan describes. In March of 2006 when Verizon applied for a cable TV franchise exemption in my state of New Jersey, I well remember how their executives pointed out (largely after the session was over) that as they moved to fiber hosts they would not maintain two networks. They would shut down their older obsolete copper-based network known as the Public Switched Telephone Network one that had been regulated since its inception in exchange for their investment in FiOS. They would never ever run two networks.

By the beginning of 2013 that 2006 statement of intent has become all too true. For a while Verizon looked visionary as it rolled out FiOS only after having gotten permission from the FCC to monopolize it. FiOS was a network bringing an architecturally limited form of fiber to the home. Wall Street acted quickly to punish Verizon -- driving down its stock price for its temerity to invest considerable money in a basic upgrade of its network. AT&T, however, did even less. Susan is appropriately blunt:

Under these situations "the cable companies have no incentive to upgrade their core network hardware to ensure that advanced fiber connections are available to every home throughout the country." **(p.260)**

Communications companies describe globally competitive high-speed access as a luxury, just as private electric city companies did a century ago. Yet communications services are now as important as electricity. Today if you asked American mayors what technology they most want for their city, the majority would say " 'affordable high-speed Internet access.' And they want these networks not simply for the jobs created but because the Internet brings the world to their community high-speed Internet access gives towns and cities on-



line commerce and services; the ability to reach world markets, to to learn and communicate invent and innovate. It brings a wealth of economic activity and information.” (pp. 260-61)

Also such capabilities as real-time remote conferences among workers sharing screen space and in widely separated places collaboratively developing strategies and business plans of all types – an activity that enables them to stay at their desks rather than fly off to distant cities. Something that drives their competitiveness. But something that is too much to ask from America’s telecommunications monopolists.

All around the world, even including in the United States, Research and Education optical networks are government-subsidized. In Europe and parts of Asia they are used with extraordinary effectiveness to help develop pre-competitive research. The United States has an investment in these networks but with anything sounding of industrial policy anathema to political leaders and with our two largest R&E networks having fought each other almost to the death between 2004 and 2007 – the winner (Internet2) existed on hand-outs from Washington DC – the loser, (National Lambda Rail) technically superior to the winner was taken over by a Los Angeles billionaire.

Most Americans don’t even know how these networks are continuing, in Europe, to speed advances in research, in healthcare, in grid and in cloud computing. Hundreds of millions of stimulus funds were invested in educational and community anchor institution oriented network development, none of which has been significant so far; and most of all which has not even entered the debate in the United States.

Susan finds that “the future of startup businesses, independent programmers, computing industry, the quality of life of many Americans, and the free expression online are all in jeopardy; neither business nor people can count on fast, open access to new markets, new ways of getting an education, new ways of gaining healthcare and new ways of making a living. It is clear from extensive evidence around the world that this publicly supervised infrastructure should be made available to everyone and be provided on a wholesale basis to last mile competitors in order to keep speeds high and prices low. Yet vertically integrated, incumbent, monopoly communications providers have every incentive to discriminate in favor of their own communication and content to the detriment of innovation coming from the rest of us, and to the detriment of information flow generally.. America has emerged decades after the breakup of AT&T with the communications system that has all the monopolistic characteristics of the old Bell System but none of the oversight or universality.” (p.261)

“Yet this inequality is not irrevocable. It is not a product of ‘market forces’ absent human intervention. But to fix it a new approach is needed.” (p.261)

***“The 1<sup>st</sup> step is to decide what the goal of telecommunications policy should be.***

Network access providers—and the FCC—are stuck on the idea that not all Americans need the high-speed access now standard in other countries” Susan correctly finds the FCC standards for 2020 - 4 Mb per second downloads and 1 Mb per second uploads to be unacceptable. She adds “in a sense, **the FCC adopted the cable companies’ plan as the country’s goal**. Its embrace of asymmetric access—far lower upload and download speeds also serves the Carriers interests: only symmetric connections would allow every American to do business from home rather than use the Internet simply for high-priced entertainment.” (pp. 261-62)

As she then points out, other countries have chosen different goals: South Korea, Japan, Netherlands, Hong Kong, Australia and the United Kingdom are among them. While in the US the best we can do is the Gigabit fiber access built in Lafayette Louisiana, Chattanooga Tennessee, and Kansas City Kansas and Missouri.

Susan states that a 4 Mb-per-second goal “gives us what corporate America asked; it allows the cable distributors to assert that they have already made the necessary investments they are poised to provide the richest Americans profitable asymmetrical high-speed access while leaving ample wiggle for their own “premium” bundled services. As a result, the firmly entrenched digital divide, with rural, poor, and minority areas hoping along with publicly subsidized 4 Mb per second services while urban and suburban residents pay as much as they can spare to access high-bandwidth, will remain the status quo. In there America will stagnate, while other countries rocket ahead.” (p. 263)

“What does America really need? For starters, most Americans should access to a reasonably priced 1 Gb symmetric fiber to the home networks. This would mean 1000 Mb per second connections, speeds hundreds of times faster than what most Americans have today. The copper-based lines are not up to gigabit task because they cannot handle additional data.” (p. 263)

“But as we have learned, wireless connections work well for small screens carrying low-resolution images but cannot support data rates that will be needed for each home. Only fiber will be able to cope America’s exponentially growing demand for data transmission” Susan concludes: “Opponents of a minimum fiber to the home requirement will say that no one needs such a fast connection. When municipal networks make fiber available, adoption rates for those connections are very high; even though fiber is a new (and rare) commodity, 50% of customers routinely sign up. **America is a nation of fast adopters and innovators, given the chance; if the infrastructure is there the American market will find uses for it**. But without that fast nationwide fiber infrastructure, America will not be the country that produces the next big idea the next Google, for the world market of fast connections. (p.264)

In her last statement Susan has just hit the crux of the argument that I shall make for the rest of this issue. **For most of the last century Americans were a nation of prod-**

**gious and talented do-it-yourselfers. And at long last unlicensed wireless technology has vastly improved in performance and lastly come down in price.** I have followed Isaac Wilder for the past year and noted his remarkable progress. But pointed by him in the direction of the Iberian Peninsula, I have only just discovered guifi.net. One of the most remarkable aspects of its story is that it has shown the feasibility of a distributed owned do-it-yourself mesh-based wireless network that even now is beginning to connect to fiber and, when blocked by the local incumbent, is beginning to self-fund the installation of its own fiber.

I shall argue that after the extraordinarily disappointing events of the past two years where ***the FCC has betrayed the long-term interests of the 99% of Americans—the only reasonable course is to throw down the gauntlet to the centralized authorities in Washington DC and state capital and say to hell with the 1%, we shall take charge of our own future we shall build our network infrastructure ourselves.***

The execution of this political strategy and maneuvering just outlined is laid out by Susan along with the horribly disappointing betrayal of our national interest which the Federal Communications Commission regarded as nothing more worthy than the unregulated pursuit of profit. The result has been a situation where this most critical new utility was created and treated not as a sacred trust but as a monopoly, subject to the control of the highest bidder and as a means of ensuring a society divided by the economic control exerted by what has popularly become known as the 1% operating at the expense of the 99%.

This issue of ***The COOK Report*** will show basically what appears to be left to the nation that has let its infrastructure slip into decay, that has failed in its political leadership and created a system that will be hostile to technology innovation since it has enabled the largest corporations with greatest control over the existing system to maintain the system as a monopoly and as one where introducing innovation will be extremely difficult because the monopolist controllers will be hostile to anyone with new ideas. New ideas whose implementation could interrupt the stable cash flow ensured by an evermore sclerotic monopoly system are anathema in such a situation.

It will take the point of view that our government has been captured by the wealthy would be monopolists and that the regulatory guidance that once was there to ensure the interest of a more egalitarian public has been vanquished as well. We have a situation where the remaining regulators serve a brief tenure in jobs on behalf of the companies they regulate, expecting to go on to a reward of lush employment by those very companies. As Wall Street has gone, so has telecommunications

At one point in our society, perhaps a century ago the role of the government was to protect the interests of the most broad economic segment of its population. Now things have

changed to a situation where government has abandoned any such pretext. The very companies that offer a vital economic service now enjoy the ability to deliver it as a monopoly. They are free to deliver the service to those people who can pay the rapidly increasing bill --with lesser versions of the service left like crumbs on the floor for the rest of the people to scurry around and attempt to pick up.

In what has been termed as a more progressive era, the role of the government, the role of Washington DC has been to ensure access to public utilities like water and sewer services; highway rail and other transportation services; electricity, and water, and sanitary services necessary as part of the most basic infrastructure of a modern functioning society. While all of that is under siege, telecommunications in principle has fallen under the control of a new class of would be feudal overlords who will not hesitate to use that control to accelerate what many critics see as a march toward serfdom on the part of the less fortunate 99% of the population. I argue that our politicians, whose allegiance has been bought by the largest corporations are smoothing the pathway to permit a new corporate feudalism to run American society and our economy and increasingly to do the same throughout the world.

***The main focus of this issue will be to point out the necessity for citizens who do not like the current direction of things to, in effect, just do it themselves.*** With the commoditization of integrated circuits and evermore sophisticated use of radio frequency technologies - wireless systems are being built that can replace our current monopolies but that, the only way this will happen is ***if sufficient numbers of us recognize the critical importance of stepping up to the plate and taking matters into our own hands.***

I will look at two examples - the first in Europe where we see guifi.net on the Iberian Peninsula and the second by Isaac Wilder of the Free Network Foundation just starting out in Kansas City, Missouri. As Roosevelt did in the 1930s with the Civilian Conservation Corps, so now we need to do it on our own. How? Perhaps by forming our own young geeks corps to go out and emulate what the Catalonian's have done? This issue will show how they could begin to build their own system free of corporate control in rural areas of the United States by starting out to build web meshes in every backyard. We must rise up and say to the huge corporate monopolists ***"we shall link together and we shall overcome your government sanctioned predation."***

While Julian Assange is still under arrest at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, we have also to face the necessity of purging this control by means of independent and "bottom up builds" of our own networks before the security details of our hollowed out "nation states" clamp down on us all through the security state's control of our top-down structures of power.

## Why a Government By and For the One Percent?

What has happened that has allowed this shift in the balance of power from the early 1960's when President Kennedy could inspire a younger American generation to serve the interests of their fellow Americans? Why the shift to the present time when the government, as an elite ruling class, exists to serve the interests of their global corporations in what under the guise of building "earnings" for the share holders represent's an abandonment of what once was a shared concept of the public interest? Instead the elite is enabling both the financial and telecommunications systems to become predatory in form. Consequently - driven by the desire to extract ever more money from their customers - whom they can abuse since they have maneuvered the government into granting them a monopoly via division of the market into wired versus wireline. The cable providers, led by Comcast, control the wire while the incumbent telcos ATT and Verizon control wireless. Cable providers and telcos cross sell each other's product. We are back to the days of the oil robber barons and in washington no one cares.

Susan Crawford tells the very complicated story in a way that no one has before attempted because she is the first to chronicle the victory of cable TV also known as the MSOs or Multiple System Operators. We live in a time when there is less reason than ever before to trust our government. In a time of media consolidations, the only reason that most of us know there is something other than the "official" reason for events are the citizen blogs and news portals that the internet has enabled to flourish. Matt Taibbi's writings for *Rolling Stone* and Yves Smith and others in the website *Naked Capitalism* are much more informative than the *New York Times* or Rupert Murdoch's *Wall Street Journal*. And yet the FCC, having betrayed what was once called the "national interest": is on the verge of allowing Murdoch to buy more media.

Crawford also shows how a behemoth like Comcast was built in such a way as to become the Standard Oil of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Media dare not take a path independent of Comcast or, in our 500 channels of 24 by 7 entertainment, their message will be smothered. Susan gives the determined reader an outline of how, like the proverbial frogs, we have been slowly boiled.

She points out that from a policy viewpoint "the crisis in American communications bears some similarity to the banking crisis and to global warming: it has taken decades to arrive; it has happened through incremental policy decisions; mergers and changes in society; it involves technical terms that enable easy obfuscation; large entities have an interest in maintaining the status quo; and there is a great deal of political bluster about possible effect of regulation on innovation and investment." Finally, "in the communications industry, no signal crisis -- no equivalent of the banking collapse -- has erupted to trigger public outrage." (p.11)

Those of us who thought the FCC's role was as a watch dog for the public rather than private interest, were soon greeted with a rude awakening. "When the telephone was the dominant medium of exchange US law required that every American have access to a phone along with other utility services such as water and electricity. Although Internet has become the common medium of our era and no one can get a job or apply for benefits or keep up with the rest of the world without high speed access, this service is framed as an expensive luxury he reserved for the rich; fully a 3<sup>rd</sup> of Americans don't subscribe to high-speed Internet access and non subscription is highly correlated with low socio-economic status . . . So the much-needed economic boost that comes from creating and marketing the next big thing will go elsewhere. But few people with power to change the situation seem to understand this." When the monopoly service is selling a must have addictive product at an 85% mark up, it has every incentive to see that nothing new may challenge its dominance. And it will have, by dint of sheer size alone, the ability to stamp out any challenger. **(p12)**

Three paradigm shifts enabled the Comcast NBC Universal merger. They happened between 1996 and 2010. Of the three "the first the big new idea behind the Internet was that its language – and language is all the Internet is, a couple of simple agreements that allow computers to "speak Internet " – facilitated a general-purpose global open network of networks." The Internet as an event that has changed two billion lives around the world is becoming the single common digital platform for communication. **(p12)**

Second, the cable and telephone companies across whose wires Internet talk was flowing made a successful concerted effort to persuade the FCC to ***completely deregulate provision of the two-way, general-purpose communication on which the country's economic, cultural, political and social life depends: high-speed Internet access.***

Third, the newly elected president Barack Obama, seemed to understand that high-speed access was essential for anyone wanting to participate effectively in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy. . . He suggested that non-discriminatory ubiquitous connections were essential – or he seemed to. It looked as though government intervention to ensure world leading reasonably priced wired open Internet access for everyone would be an important priority for the new administration." But Susan concludes: ***"things did not turn out that way for range of reasons that I hope to make clear in this book. Consequences of this failure and policy are likely to be a drag on American success for generations."*** **(p.13)**

I argue that the government marked especially by the Obama FCC has betrayed the interests of the 99% of Americans. Comcast owns the content and the pipes that do the distribution. Economics dictate that it will favor its own view of the world. Susan points out: "the hearing held to provide oversight of the Comcast NBC merger proposal mask a profound, little-understood American problem ***the lack of supervision over the mammoth companies that sell American access to all information all communications all***

***entertainment all the things that make today's economy, politics, and society function." (p.14)***

"Once there was separation of different media: television, voice, and text. Now thanks to the rise of digital technology and the advent of the Internet they have become lightly differentiated uses the same physical connections. Consequently, the question of who controls the wires is about the issue of who controls the connections that unite the economy, politics, and society" **(p.16)**

In short we had "a gigantic company providing essential infrastructure for every American, a shifting media landscape, a deregulated environment, and a smoothly operating political campaign built on decades steady effort made it impossible for federal officials reject the merger out of hand: the Comcast- NBCU narrative offers a cautionary tale about what has happened to communications in America." **(p. 18)**

Susan concludes that the only hope we have left is in our municipal networks as exemplified by Lafayette Louisiana, Chattanooga Tennessee and Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas. So far so good, but those efforts often been successfully challenged in court. I argue in this issue that -- in view of our betrayal -- we had best turn away from our "bought-and paid-for" central purveyors of power and just do it ourselves. This issue shows how we may begin and how we must take from what guifi.net offers and let a thousand Isaac Wilder's network commons be built.

# **Part One: guifi.net**

*Do It yourself Commons Infrastructure in Spain*



# A Bottom-Up Confederation

## *As an Organizational Framework for User-built Telecommunication Systems*

By a “bottom up” plan and design, along with good timing, the founders and organizers of guifi.net have created an extremely powerful. organizational framework for user-built telecommunication systems. After about seven weeks of intense study of their history and accomplishments by means of an extended interview and follow up conversations and email interview with Ramon Roca, a co-founder, and by probing in some depth of their amazing website I conclude that they have built a Wikipedia-like organizational framework of affiliation and confederation.

I suggest that this framework could be used by build-it-yourself telecommunications advocates as a point of attraction for enabling other would be network builders. The only requirement for confederation is that network infrastructure be held and [operated as a Commons](#) to craft and document plans of action appropriate to their respective geographical areas no matter where in the world they may happen to be located. Given that this form of organization has not been a mainstream way of doing things in the US, advocating its adoption here necessitates a thorough understanding of its operation. One that can be obtained only by an onsite visit that we shall undertake in May.

***This user-built infrastructure is held together as a Commons.***

Meanwhile what emerges from intense study of what they are doing and have done, as reflected in their website is the availability of a decade’s work in [open source infrastructure building](#) that is available by affiliation to all newcomers. This user-built infrastructure is held together as a user-owned Commons. The Commons is held together by appropriate mailing lists, with excellent backend databases that invite inquiry sharing by new affiliates. To participate all anyone need do is create a login and password. Then, as with a wiki, one is trusted to add content. Critical parts of infrastructure code have been built in such a way as to be shareable by new affiliates.

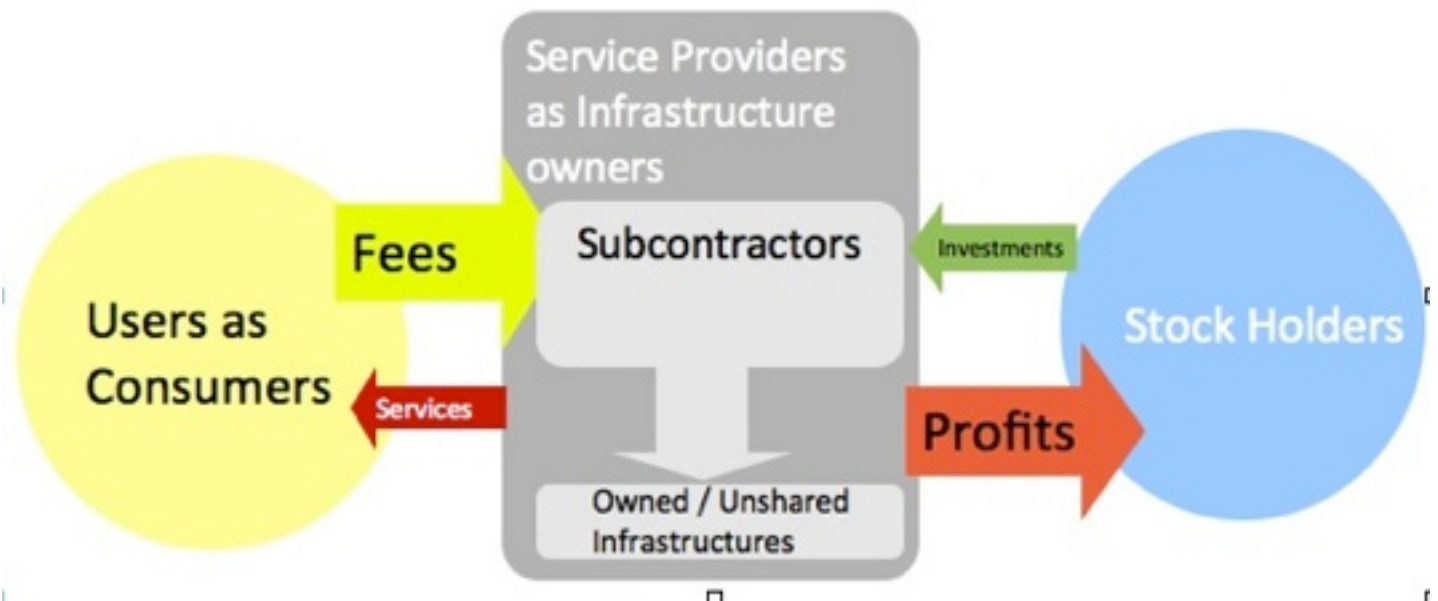
***What they have achieved is a body of work that network builders can use to leverage fresh investment of time and resources*** in devoting what Clay Shirkey calls their “cognitive surplus”-- a surplus notably in the hands of large numbers of under-used laborers in countries like Spain and the United States. What we have here are the critical points of attraction that can transform themselves in to a much-needed infrastructure building global effort in a manner similar to what *Wikipedia* did a decade ago. This is a

blueprint for a body of material that can be used to lay out the coordinates of the necessary kinds of action that must be taken in order to build new nodes and backbones of what becomes a citizen's infrastructure. This must be done in order to take back the promise of the Internet from the hands of global, corporate-capitalism by which it has been co-opted and betrayed by the political and regulatory bodies of the countries of the users where the elites have built a top-down and economically extractive means of control.

A critical question before us now is what becomes of the Internet, sold as part of entertainment packages to a passive populace by corporate controlled predatory groups. How does one oppose the Internet as a means of entertainment delivered on a platform with a message of user passivity that lulls its audience into acceptance of its fate? The Internet must unite rather than isolate its users at the edge.

The guifi.net confederation delivers power to the edge via a bottom up [construction of "zones"](#) that can be remotely user defined. Ramon, in a Skype conference with Isaac Wilder and myself on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, showed us how this is done. Under the existing American Zone we created a United States Zone and then a New Jersey zone. Under New Jersey we created one for Ewing Township and my house at 431 Greenway Ave became the first United States node. I shall present this, in much more detail, in a later section.

For now, the key is to understand the Commons definition of infrastructure and how it helps the local economy by keeping money local.

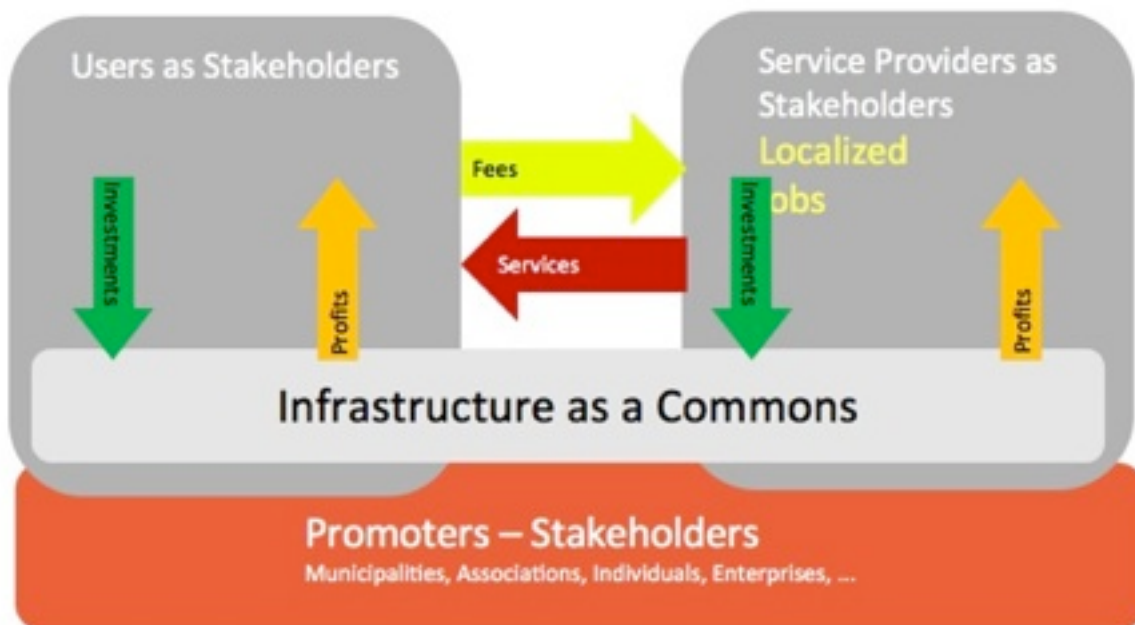


## The Old Way as an Extractive Model

Service providers -- [Telefonica](#) in Spain  
 --- MSOs; ATT; and Verizon in US

Give bottom up control to like-minded groups at the edge and network users become direct stake holders in the network as a 'glue" that defines the relationship of their community to the world. Service providers come from the local community and are attendant to its needs and view in a way that workers in a call center in a foreign country can never be.

## The Commons -a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Return to a very



## Old Concept the Commons Model

I suggest that this is a creative platform that is very much needed for many economic models these days. Any profits are invested in rebuilding and improving the infrastructure. The member of the Commons gets better service because he or she has an immediate and personal stake in whether good service is or is not being delivered I will explain it in more detail at the end of my treatise on guifi.net.

# Guifi Net: The Beginnings

**Editor's Note:** Ramon Rocha is an employee of Oracle, a native Catalanian and the President of the Board of the guifi.net Foundation. As he says - "I try to avoid that title. I am one of the founders but only one. Member of the Board is quite enough." I interviewed Ramon on December 6 via Skype.

**COOK Report:** Please tell me something about your background and how you came to be a key person in the building of possibly the largest Wi-Fi network in the world.

**Roca:** I'm already pushing fifty years of age and have been working as a techie in the ICT industry for about 30 years. I worked for Oracle and spent quite a few months in San Francisco between 1993 and 1996. In 1996 when I received a permanent work visa I had to definitely decide between of being an Oracle employee in Spain, or the US: After talking with my family, the final choice was to become based permanently in Spain. When I joined Oracle in 1993 it was a small company - not much more than a startup.

**COOK Report:** Were you still working for Oracle when you returned to Spain?

**Roca:** Yes. I was still working for Oracle because you know I'm basically a technician. I was not one of those young guys who were operating in the startup mode in the 90s and not at all typical of the people who would leave Oracle and go to Netscape to in order to strike it rich. I was motivated primarily by the challenges of my job and not at all by secondary things like stock options. For me one of the benefits of globalization was the fact that I could return to Spain and build a family and a house and good quality of life and could still work very handily for Oracle from virtually anywhere in the world.

**COOK Report:** What kind of work were you doing for Oracle?

## Work in the Spanish Countryside Demanded Broadband

**Roca:** After 20 years at Oracle, I had done almost everything except working as a sales rep. Technical support, engineering, developing, consultancy. Right now my job title is enterprise or industry architect. I am there to make sure that complex technical projects work well and satisfy whatever needs customers have. My clients were mainly in financial services and the public sector.

But when I got back in the late 90s and started working from outside of Barcelona, I found out very quickly that a good broadband connection to the Internet was absolutely necessary for me to do my work at my home without having to try to commute for hours alone in a car by myself to work in an office complex with its own corporate broadband connection. I also realized that it was not just myself and the kind of technical work I was doing but that a good Internet connection for everyone: farmers schoolteachers govern-



**The large house above belongs to Ramon's father. The smaller, more modern house below is what Ramon built for his family after returning to Spain. In the picture below his father's house may be seen in the background to the extreme left. Ramon makes the point that good telecommunications infrastructure allows multiple generations of family to stay together should they desire to do so.**



ment employees, you name them, was increasingly mandatory for living and working as an up-to-date professional public service or business person.

When I got back to Spain and built my house, I realized that I had to get connected and indeed well-connected. Consequently, at this point, I started doing point-to-point shots with wireless links and I started building my own antennas. To find solutions in a rural area I had to pretty much do everything myself. What came out of all this was a very strong do-it-yourself philosophy.

**COOK Report:** Where were you in Spain?

**Roca:** I was 100 km outside of Barcelona. I was actually closer to the border of France than I was to Barcelona.

**COOK Report:** How did your participation evolve?

**Roca:** In my particular case my motivations were as a hobby and the need to do heavy-duty technical work from the countryside rather than having to try a long daily commute to Barcelona. It would have been useless to ask the incumbent, Telefonica. They would have very quickly told me: you are far too many kilometers away from the nearest copper-based exchange point. DSL wouldn't work and that's all they had to offer.

At this point there were already many wireless communities.

**COOK Report:** Well I am by no means a specialist in wireless but I had a friend named Dave Hughes from Colorado who in 1992 and 1993 when I first started my newsletter was very interested in wireless. I did some basic research on his behalf and in January of 1995 and made a contact with the National Science Foundation that resulted in his getting for him in the fall of 1995 for what turned out to be a total of about seven years of well-paid work as a principal investigator for the founding and construction of some very early wireless projects.

I am back into writing about this again because of a new friend, much younger than Col. Hughes, a man named Isaac Wilder who was part of the original **Occupy Wall Street** contingent. Isaac's current story shares part of this issue with you. He was the person who told me about guifi.net and advised me to look into what is going on in Catalonia. I also have the impression now that technology developments are enabling mesh wireless to scale in routing and in other ways that it never could before and that slowly but surely it may be becoming a real alternative infrastructure for people who either can't afford the corporate monopolies or do not wish to be dependent on them.

So tell me more please about how your communication needs, while working for Oracle quite far outside Barcelona, started you off on a journey that morphed in to the creation of guifi.net.

**Roca:** It was in the year 2000-2001 that I began to work with and discover local wireless activity in Catalonia. In looking at what these early developers were doing, my conclusion was that many of them were not very successful in the number of subscribers they attracted or in building a sustainable business operation,

There was one in Barcelona called Barcelona Wireless which after a couple of years disappeared. Of course there were many technical issues to be solved but more important than

these issues were the social and economic considerations needed for it to become sustainable. They were very confident in their technical ability which was tendered on a volunteer basis. But they found that the economic and social issues that faced them in their effort to make something sustainable on a volunteer basis was extremely difficult.

## **Serious Work on guifi.net Begins in 2000-2001**

**COOK Report:** How did you overcome this problem?

**Roca:** While guifi.net was founded in 2004, we were not one of the first wireless groups. This meant that we had the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of our predecessors. Let me explain in more detail. What happened when I got myself connected at my home to the Internet in approximately 2002, my neighbors came to me and said: "this is very good how did you do it? We would like to have such a connection too. Would you help us?"

Now when I talk about "geeks," while there are tens of thousands of us around the world, you will be lucky if you find only one or two in every village. So I understood at the time that in order to build sustainable connectivity I needed to be inclusive when my neighbors came to me and said "Ramon how did you do this?" While I was glad to see other people interested, I knew that these other people, no matter what, would still be a distinct minority and I realized that I better figure out a way to help them. I thought of the old expression that it is much better to teach people how to fish rather than to just supply them with fish by means of your own labor.

So when people said to me "if it's necessary to pay an electrician or some other professional to come to my home and do this, I want it badly enough that I will pay some one," we told them it's not that difficult. We will show you how or, in some cases, we realized it would be a good idea for us to teach professionals how to provide the services for them. This turned out to be quite a key issue. Namely that any telecommunications infrastructure that we would build we would do so in the space of an open commons where everything was open and copyable and nothing was closed and proprietary.

***Furthermore that no one person or small group of people would own the entire infrastructure because it would be created as a public infrastructure as a commons accessible to everyone. To be more specific [guifi.net](http://guifi.net) nodes are in commons as long as they are connected to [guifi.net](http://guifi.net) (as a consequence of the [guifi.net](http://guifi.net) license) but I keep the ownership of what I connected and I can retrieve them whenever I want.***

We explained to people that they would have to build their own pathway to reach every town and that we would be there to make certain, to the maximum extent possible, that every pathway built would have another little village with its own pathway to interconnect with and that in doing it this way we would achieve a mesh network infrastructure that would be much stronger for its participants than something built on a purely random basis.

## The Concept



### Commons definition(\*):

The commons is terminology referring to **resources that are owned in common or shared** between or among communities populations. These resources are said to be "held in common" and **can include everything from natural resources and common land to software**. The commons **contains public property and private property**, over which people have certain traditional rights. In some areas the process by which commonly held property is transformed into private property is termed enclosure.

The commons were traditionally defined as the elements of the environment - forests, atmosphere, rivers, fisheries or grazing land - that **are shared, used and enjoyed by all**.

(\*) Wikipedia

## The Concept (II)



### Open Commons as opposed to Enclosed

Private or public property doesn't matter

Public property can be managed or used Enclosed

Private property can be Open to all

### Bottom-up Broadband

Bottom driven initiative to build Commons infrastructures and meet the Top-down

We were able to explain to them that a viable sustainable public infrastructure would need to be built in a formal way on a peer-to-peer agreement to interconnect with everyone else. We made it very clear to everyone that the best path forward would be to build on a shared peer-to-peer basis where the infrastructure would belong to and be operated by the builders and the users and where it would be kept quite independent of the ownership or control of any kind of telecommunications incumbent or network operator which in most cases was the phone company.



**COOK Report:** Your presentation talks about the network operations in the sense of occupying a Commons for the benefit of as many people as possible. Is this an example of that situation where you are talking about issues that are as much philosophical and economic as they are technical?

**Roca:** In the early days, that is to say in 2003-2004, we did not yet have this kind of vision. We were just focusing on our immediate local areas and on agreements with our neighbors and ***one thing that we soon discovered was very helpful was the ability to make an agreement with the local bishop.***

## The guifi.net initiative

### Building the Commons from the Bottom



### 100% Bottom-up Broadband

#### Goals:

#### Broadband 4 ALL

Create self-sustainable ecosystem. Any help might be appreciated as a facilitator or speed-up, however the network needs to be viable by itself, therefore:

Need to get rid from speculative interest or low value-add intermediaries

Based on organic growth

By developing new business models, enabling new stakeholders & "self-provisioned" operation

Room for innovation & cooperation by addressing today's unmet challenges

What happens? Well each Bishop has links to a number of churches and of course the churches have very good places to install antennas. We install antennas and radios in these buildings for free. We are non-profit. We work for the benefit of local populations and not for the economic benefit of any third parties.

## Taking an Expansive Point of View - Looking for Partners for Building the Commons

**COOK Report:** Did the Catholic Church support for your effort in part because you were using the idea of a Commons as your foundation and the Church thought that this was a good idea?

**Roca:** Yes. As far as the Church was concerned the point is that we were building something for the community. You don't have to be Catholic to be part of guifi.net, and while Spain has become much more secularized over the last few decades, ***our idea of service to the community was certainly very much embraced by the Church.***

Two things happened. We built very much for the commons and rather than focused on my city or my village wireless, our focus was much more global and we were looking to connect everyone. This was in 2003-2004 and so, instead of building just for the geeks, we decided to include everyone. Very quickly we started doing multi kilometer wireless shots between several villages and we helped everyone who was interested no matter whether he or she was a technician or not. We were looking for partners. The bishops were partners but ***we also recruited local municipalities and local administrators who were seriously looking for solutions to help the real people at this point.***

**COOK Report:** Did it make a real difference because, by 2003, people were much more aware of the kinds of opportunities that they could get with access to the net and what was becoming known as Web 2.0?

**Roca:** Yes, even then with ordinary, non-technical people, you did not have to explain very much why internet was important for their lives. If you spoke to the fathers in these rural areas, you would find out and that these men did want to give their children the same opportunity that the Internet afforded children who lived, for example, in Barcelona.

**COOK Report:** I remember writing in 2005 or 2006 about some people in the city administration in Barcelona who had plans to bring fiber into the countryside? What was that all about?

**Roca:** Well we were not visionaries. At that time we thought we would find a temporary solution that could perhaps become permanent. Government was spending multimillions of Euros on those programs – ones that we assumed would be successful. These public programs managed to connect a few thousand people in rural areas after spending a €50 million budget. In 2008 the Catalan government stated that the "Banda Ample Rural (BAR)" program had connected about 8000 nodes. They did not directly state how much it cost but from other indirect sources we estimated about 70M€. Aside from that BAR uses had a monthly fee of 40€ and the Catalan gov had to pay another 40€ to the company per user per month.

By the same time [guifi.net](http://guifi.net) already had more than 8000 nodes in operation. In our case the connections were done at zero cost to the taxpayers while, given the public program, connections were made at the expense of creating a very large taxpayer liability. We demonstrated that we could do quite a lot without subsidies or the promise of any economic model based on subsidies. If you look at where the publicly funded subsidies were directed, you will find that they were sent to the incumbents – that is to the large telcos.

## Open organization

### Collaborative & social

Forum, mailing lists, social networks

Sharing resources, knowledge management, methodologies

Internet enabled applications

Network management & self-provisioning

### Horizontal, meritocratic

Focused on results

Welcomes innovation & participation

### Business friendly

Common infrastructure, but open to any service provider

## In terms of Economics

### It's all about:

Raise funding & supply

Meet more demand

Cut TCO

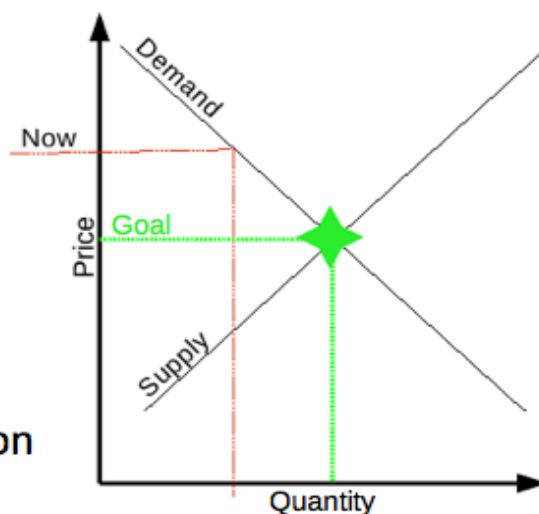
By introducing new business models

Balance the ecosystem from infrastructure control to providing services

Enable BuB as an option

### Doesn't break the market rules

Is about enhancing competition



**COOK Report:** I had heard about a fiber project for Catalonia called Xarxa Oberta, sponsored by Local Ret and seven and a half years ago - summer of 2005 - I wrote about it. That 9 page article may be found on page 100 through page 108 of my September October 2005 issue [downloadable as a pdf from this page on my site.](#) At the time it looked as though Local Ret was an inspirational example of the Catalanian people, government and Telefonica coming together for the common good. [**Editor:** this specific case is discussed on **pages 74-78** below.]

## What Top Down Broadband Looked Like – Telefonica in Complete Charge

**Roca:** Would that what you were told so long ago turned out to be true. Let's look at reality.

In some cases, for example, an incumbent would win a public tender of €10 million to fiber connect a specified area of rural villages and the people would find that the incumbent winners tried to deploy a few nodes as possible because the profit was in the tender itself rather than in its exploitation by building out nodes. What the incumbent wanted was not a requirement to invest but an opportunity to increase its profit margins. Before long there were lawsuits filed by the public administration of the towns that had awarded a grant to the incumbent insisting that the incumbent had not produced what they contracted for.

Very often these public tender contracts were given to new companies who were pledged to build works that are in competition with the incumbent. But the public did not benefit. To give you one example, shortly after one contract had been awarded to a brand-new company, that company was acquired by Telefonica.

You mentioned how when you visited Spain in 1966 you were impressed by the apparent influence of the Catholic Church everywhere you went. Well I would say that in the early years of the new century, Telefonica exerted far more authority within Spain than the Catholic Church could have ever dreamt of. For example, imagine situations such as this huge company having as its employee the wife of the Prime Minister! They then lobby and get contracts like this from local public administrations. [**Editor's Note:** Public Administration within the European Union refers to local or regional government authority.] You must realize that the motivation of any big corporation like a Telefonica is to increase its quarterly income quarter after quarter after quarter. These companies are looking for increased profit margins - not for investments. Telefonica doesn't care whether it serves 10 million or 50 million customers; what it does care about is that every quarter it increases its profit margin.

In the end ***all these programs were based on subsidies and there were no real long term sustainable business models behind them.*** What they would have to do was not well specified. The approach to the government was "give me the money and I

will do it.” Also at this time in the European Union telecommunications was liberalized and Telefonica, in theory at least, was no longer a monopoly and its could say to the government you cannot do it on your own but must do it in cooperation with what we would like. We are now private sector

and under liberalization you must cooperate with us and give us the money. We took the liberalization policy at face value. And we assume for a short while that the need for what we were doing might have been fulfilled but after watching what Telefonica did, as supposed to what it said it would do, we realized that our activities were even more necessary than before. We realized now that we could not work with Telefonica without having

a legal form of our own and as a result incorporated as a not for profit foundation. I am the head of the Board of Directors of that Foundation. Five of us joined the board. All five of us worked together very hard.

Also under Spanish law, when you have a foundation like this, you cannot be paid any kind of salary by the foundation. You can have employees but board members themselves cannot have any direct income from their work on behalf of the foundation.

This is why I still have my job with Oracle and all the other board members also maintain their economic independence and, as such, have no conflict of interest. I explained our role by saying that we are business developers for others and for the local employees who are providing services to their local communities on behalf of the network.

## P2P Universal Peering Agreement

COMMONS<sup>4</sup>EU  
guifi.net

### P2P Peering Agreement

- Free transit for all & single open & public Commons
- Ensures building Commons
- is not about private networks
- Enforce non-discriminatory basis
- “Network of networks” by “Comuns XOLN”
- Stakeholders retain ownership, QoS & SLA advantages
- Win-win scenario, stimulates investments
- Aggregation of networks, creating a whole and extending the Internet

## Legal framework

COMMONS<sup>4</sup>EU  
guifi.net

### EU Directives

#### General authorization (2002/20/CE)

- Everyone is entitled to develop telecoms
- NRA at every country to ensure a liberalized market
- We should notify them
- To be addressed at each member state

### Legal entity: The Operator

- Not-for-profit, Non-partisan Foundation
- Coordination – foundation for interconnection/interoperability, manageability and self provisioning
- Formal entity, becomes the formal operator

# Fiber Becomes Mandatory -- and the Importance of the guifi.net Foundation

As 2007 became 2008 we realized that our users would need to incorporate fiber optics as well because, in places, the growth of the network was demanding that. For example some of the point-to-point links on our network backbone were demanding now the capability for handling terabytes of data on a monthly basis. When you face a situation like this you will soon realize it is much more cost-effective to switch from wireless to fiber. We started buying fiber from China at about €1000 per kilometer and started to deploy it where the copper had been. If we deployed fiber where the copper had been we could cover 100 km at 1 Gb per second.



Smart citizens building commons by investing and collaborating and hacking public domains & resources.

## Traditional proprietary/closed model vs Commons BuB



	Investor	Business goal	Coverage	Service level	Competition
Proprietary Closed	Financial stakeholders or owners	Margin driven or speculative	Determined by business, not interested in low density areas or low incomers.	Provided by the operator. Often seen as a frustration by the user	Restricted to selected partners.
Commons	All participants	Participant profit driven	In the participants interest	Provided by the user, direct control if subcontracted	Open to all, including freelancers and SME.

**COOK Report:** How did you acquire the necessary rights-of-way to lay your fiber. In situations like this that often becomes a very difficult problem. How did you solve this?

**Roca:** *Our establishment as a Foundation in 2007 gave us the legal capability to act as a carrier and important other capabilities of right to interconnect with other carriers and the ability to join [RIPE NCC](#) as a full-fledged member* to get an autonomous systems number and the assignment of IPv4 blocks. We now were no longer an "ad hoc backyard project," but a serious full-fledged Internet service provider.

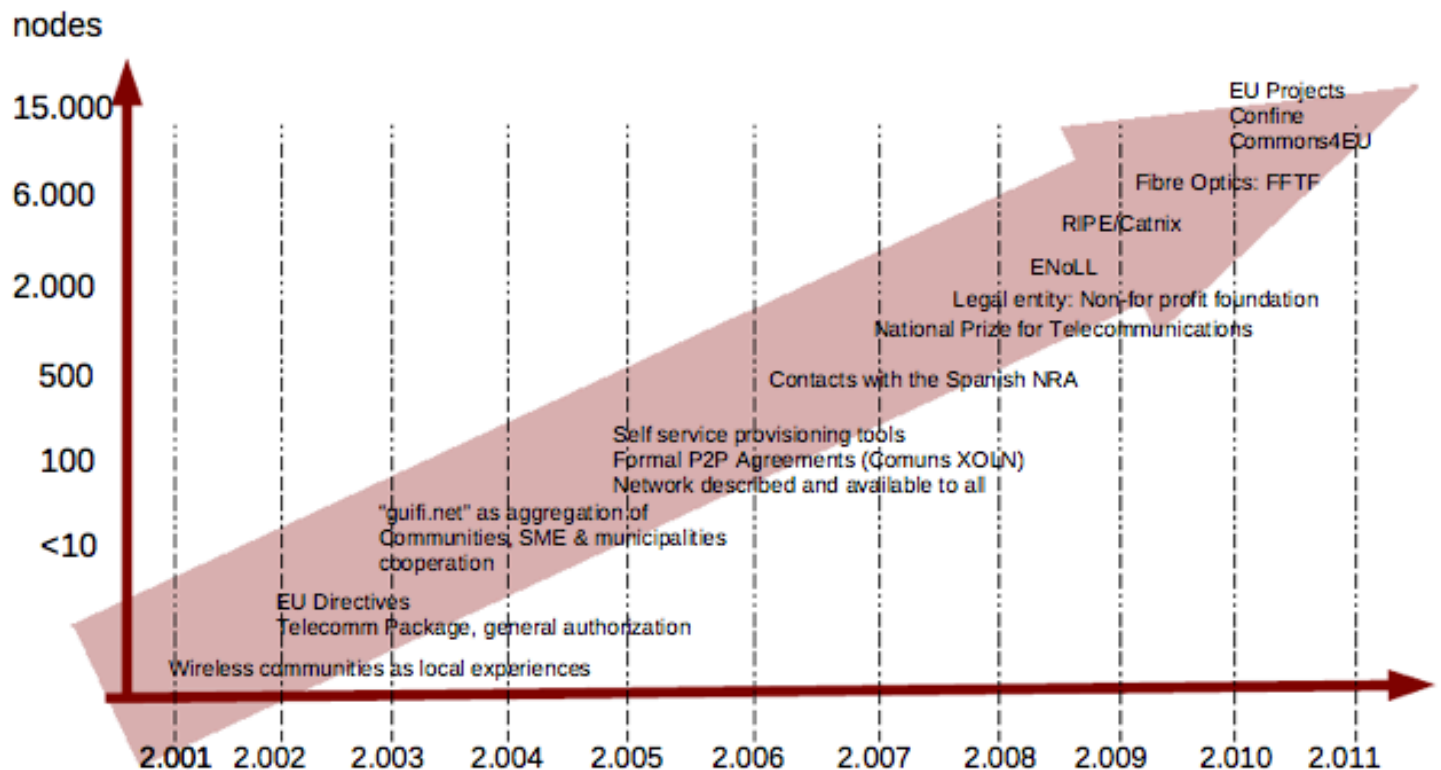
As a new Internet service provider, our business model was somewhat different and very simple. Instead of making money because you control the infrastructure, the money to stay alive comes from the services provided over the infrastructure that is a part of the public commons. **Now to make this public Commons infrastructure valuable for the community that uses it you contract for service level agreements with the users where people who maintain and operate the network do upgrades and fix problems are paid by the users.** The people who operate the network and fix problems are all scattered locally across the network service area so when a problem occurs the person who fixes it is almost guaranteed to live nearby. We can point out to our customers that instead of talking to someone who may be in a Telefonica call center in Argentina: they will no longer have to wait many hours or even longer for Telefonica to send someone. [guifi.net](#) has established a cadre of people who have the necessary skills in every community.

**COOK Report:** How does it work from the customer point of view? Supposing I move into one of these villages and I want to obtain service directly from [guifi.net](#), how do I do it and what will it cost me? [This will also be examined in much more detail below.]

**Roca:** Well if you have some technical skills and want to install your own antenna and get connected, it will cost you between 200 and €300. About one third of that is material and two thirds labor. If you are actually getting fiber from a highway as a spur connection that covers about a kilometer to your farm or remote small business it would cost between about 800 and thousand euros. This would be a one-time connection cost and your monthly bill for data including voice would be about €20: and with these prices the electronics that we buy by default to light the fiber do so at 1 Gb per second. If you decide that you really need the bandwidth you can get a symmetric service of 1 Gbs for €80 a month.: In 3 to 5 years we will very likely be able to upgrade the entire network by replacing the 1 Gb per second optronics with 10 Gb per second optronics at approximately the same price that people now pay for one gigabit. The connection to [guifi.net](#) network (specially in WiFi) is free, so if you follow the DIY approach all you pay is the equipment required to set up the links. Once in [guifi.net](#) network you have free access to basic services such as to a federated WEB proxy system that has more than 300 proxies. What has a cost is: 1) the installation itself if it is done by a professional installer (all of them are SMEs), 2) some services, like full internet access (these services are provided by local ISPs; they flow over the [guifi.net](#) network)

# 10 year perspective

guifi.net



**COOK Report:** Let me ask you another question. I have the impression that you have wireless users scattered all over in small villages. However, fairly early on, you began to string fiber to connect the villages to each other. Is that correct?

**Roca:** Yes. We started the fiber **from** the rural areas and that is why we use the term FFTF (Fiber From the Farm). By next year (2013) we hope to reach our first urban areas. The speed of doing this will depend upon two variables over which we do not have too much control. However we are trying to do our very best. One of these is that we do not have too many trained professionals because indeed laying the fiber takes some professional training. The other difficulty is the fact that the incumbent providers, primarily Telefonica, try to protect their incumbency by making it difficult for us to expand. We are creating competition for them and they do not like that one little bit.

For example the installation of a last mile network extension of a few kilometers in 2009 took us about 9 weeks to get the necessary permits and build the entire extension. Now when you go from the last mile for a few kilometers and you'll eventually reach the existence of potentially available dark fiber into which you could connect and easily then go all the way to Barcelona and the undersea cables that attach Barcelona to the rest of the world instead of being connected quickly you are slowed down by the reluctance of the incumbents to permit you to interconnect. You now run into problems with the law which



after liberalization is supposed to be non-discriminatory, equal opportunity and a bunch of other good things -- you suddenly find out that reality is quite different from theory.

When you want to make a specific connection to someone else's fiber that other party gives you excuse after excuse as to why it is too difficult doing everything it can to slow you down. As you can see from the chart on the next page NRA is Spanish Regulatory Administration. In every country of the European Union there is a national regulatory agency.

**COOK Report:** In selling your case in talking to the Spanish NRA you were trying to figure out how you and Telefonica would enter act in dealings with each other? And your foundation was established in 2007?

**Roca:** Yes to both of your questions, and ENoLL is the [European Network of Living Labs](#). This is built on the assumption that the most fertile innovation comes when there is a joint venture between political administrations, universities, companies, and real users. At one point, on behalf of the European Union, there was an accreditation process to recognize organizations that were using this approach to work with each other on behalf of innovation. We obtained certification from them because we were a very good example of innovation driven by our users.

**COOK Report:** And in 2007 you joined RIPE NCC and [Catnix](#). RIPE NCC is the European IP Address Registry and I would imagine Catnix would be the Catalonia Internet exchange in Barcelona and your source of connectivity not only to all of Spain but to the global internet?

**Roca:** That is correct. This is our source of peering and interconnection.

**COOK Report:** In 2007, when guifi.net obtained its first legal recognition, how did you do back haul at that point? From the point of view area how did the network grow from year to year? Do you have any maps?

**Roca:** Yes. [They will be shown in detail below.] As we began to grow, ***we had to develop the software kinds of tools to deal with and manage the growth such that our network could scale and we needed the involvement of other professionals to achieve this***. Also these tools were needed to manage the distribution of IPv4 addresses. All of this requires an extensive software development effort. Consequently on the backend of guifi.net there is a database. As part of this there are engines that manage IPv4 addresses and create configurations to manage such critical backend tasks as BGP configuration peering, SNMP configuration and so on. To give you an example, if you go to our guifi.net website, you will notice in the middle of the page a chart depicting the number of working nodes. This number comes directly from the database and every time a new node joins the network and becomes active whether it be on the basis of an installation by a third party or a self-service installation. The growth in the network is measured automatically.

**COOK Report:** This is excellent but, where would I go on the website to get instructions on how to sign up, assuming I live in the region and wanted to join the network.

**Roca:** The WEB site has, on the one hand, a [calendar](#) to help organizing meetings and other community events since dissemination and knowledge transfer are critical, especially when starting new zones. On the other hand it has a well [documented step-by-step](#) how to guide (figures on pages 52 and 53 -on how to add a new node and its hardware and a [get-involved](#) entry outlining how to get further involved.

You will find that these local meetings are quite frequent. Imagine that you are living in an area and you want to be the first in that area to be connected. Unfortunately you can do nothing. You must find someone who is connected and is also close enough to you to connect to.

**COOK Report:** How would I find out where the next meeting was in an area reasonably close to me that I could attend?

**guifi.net** Open, Free and Neutral Network Internet for everybody

Search [ ] Languages English [ ]

Old Homepage | Informació | Support | Foundation | Contact | Press | Login / Register

**Guifi.net, a project for everybody**  
Individuals, companies, administrations... they have made their lives easier thanks to Guifi.net

**What is guifi.net?**  
It's a telecommunications network that links people

**Experiences**  
How do individuals, companies, administrations and universities use guifi.net

**Get involved!**  
Discover how you can become part of guifi.net, how to get connected, how to help...

**GUIFI.NET TODAY** SERVICES RECENT POSTS NEW FORUM TOPICS

**19159 working nodes**

- 22144 links
- 34680.2999999999 total kilometers of links
- 153 last week new nodes
- 50 working nodes last week

**Nodos operatius**

2004 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13

**Guifi.net Foundation**  
What is the Foundation?  
Become a friend!  
Become a volunteer!

**Sponsorships**  
The network grows and is maintained thanks to sponsorships  
40% Sponsor a node!

RIPE NCC MEMBER | European Living Lab | openspectrum.eu | CATNIX | Premi Nacional de Recerca i Innovació en Telecomunicacions

Informació de guifi.net | Eines de gestió | Suport | Reconeixements

- Get involved at guifi.net
- New at Guifi.net
- Events
- Notícies Guifi.net a blogs externs
- Videos de guifi
- Image gallery
- Llicència Comuns Sense Fitxer (CC0)

- Alta d'usuaris a la web
- Alegri nodes amb Google Maps
- Navegar per zones geogràfiques
- Coverage maps
- Informa d'errors al web (trac)
- Search IP v4 addresses
- Search MAC addresses
- Pending users queue
- Former "guifi.net menu"

- Forum
- Mailing lists
- Chat
- Local Groups
- FAQ

- Premi Nacional de Telecomunicacions de la Generalitat
- Chosen as "Living Lab" by UE
- Premi a la Innovació pel CNJC
- Vivaweb Award

Guifi.net - Avís Legal

## Understanding How guifi.net Has Grown

**Roca:** Okay, but let me first show you the map that explains how the network has been growing. Here you will see a map for the [entire region](#), where Barcelona on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea is right in the middle.

We do have the means of showing growth. [This page starts](#) with a satellite view and you will see on the upper right there are some buttons and if you click the one called "init" for initiate you will, in effect, tell the database to play out the locations of the nodes as they



have joined the network from the year 2004. Now you can get a better idea of where the network is laid out by going to the map view and you will see that it has grown mainly but not entirely along three North, South highways extending from the major highway E 15



that goes inland and somewhat parallel to the Catalan coast - namely C16, C17, and where E15 turns northward. [Editor: as readers will see, it turns out that for people well motivated enough to study the website in depth can find out how to join.]

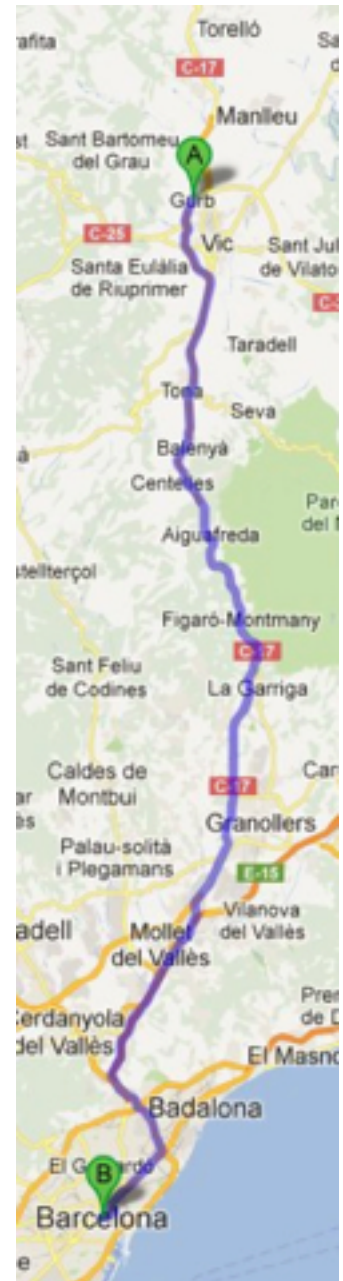
27/03/2007 nodes: 1162



18/02/2008 nodes: 2766



23/01/2010 nodes: 7432



Above is Ramon's route from Barcelona to Gurb. From 2009 to the present as will be shown in the next section they have been installing fiber from the farms to the C17 expressway.

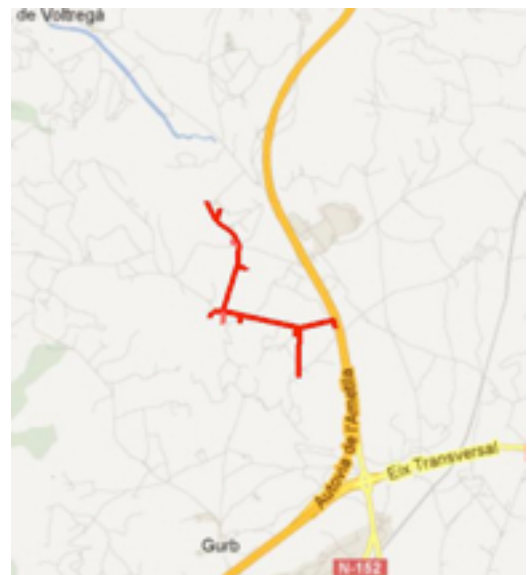
10/12/2012 nodes: 13920



The growth is organic which means that when we reach a new town, people in the next town are aware and began their efforts to link their newcomers to folks in the previous town.

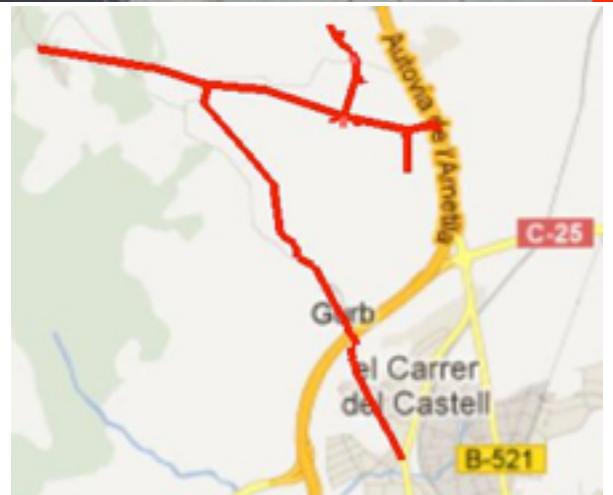
### GURB Nord Project Phase 1 2009

At a cost of 18,000 euros the residents “crowd-sourced” this fiber. In a March 2012 [Tedx Madrid program](#) Ramon described the citizen’s build. They laid aerial fiber and the ran it down the main street of Gurb, and after two years got permission to connect to the fiber running along C17. Pictures continue on next page.

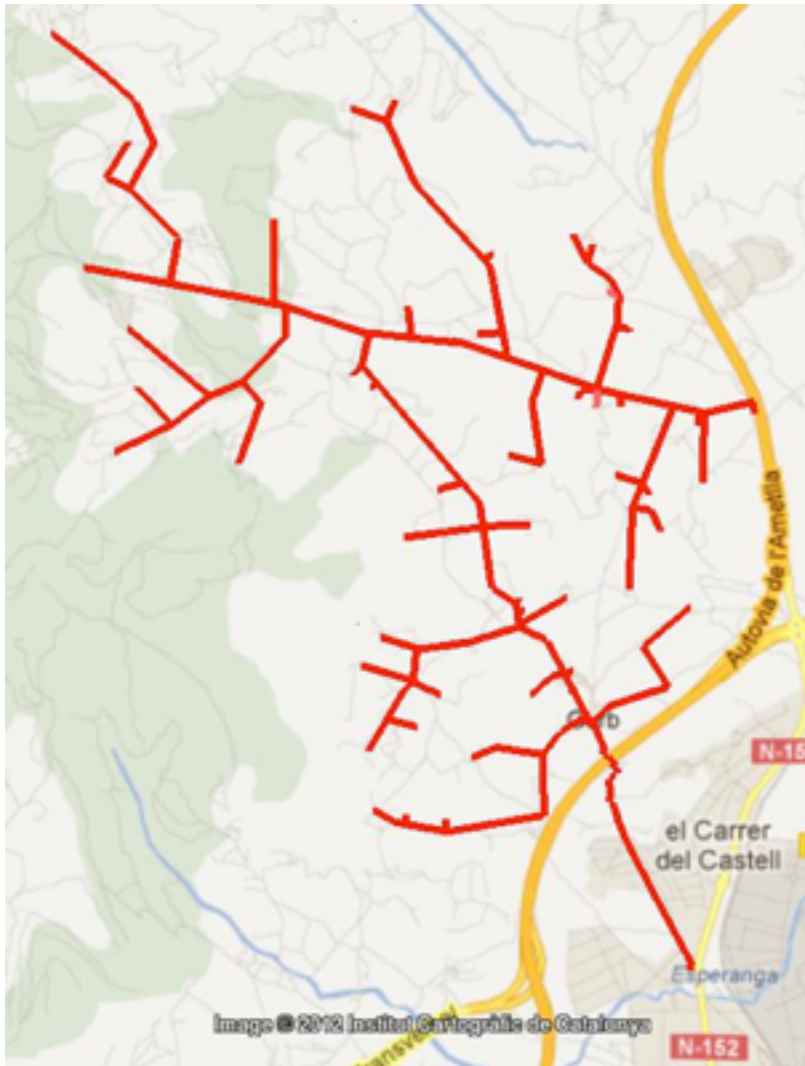




Fiber jumps the road on poles and runs on main street to the high way.



Phase 2 on the far right was completed in late 2011 and...



Phase 3 in 2012 and a more dense loop of country road N-152 in late 2012. The phase 4 picture below attaches to the lower right of the phase 4 picture to the left.



Phase 2 cost 40,000 euros, phase 3 and 4 400,000 euros and in 2013 a trunk along C-17 north from Gurb to St. Pere de Torelló 30,000 more. Road N152 crosses B521 at el Carrer del Castell above right. This is in a suburb of [Vic a city of 40,000](#) an old historical city just south of Gurb. It is situated at a possible jumping of point for the fiberization of Vic.

On the preceding page (p. 47), we get another example of the depth and richness of the information on the guifi.net site. An aerial view of the fiber node, yellow for fiber, green for radio links and red for the fiber breakouts. It is shown followed by an extremely detailed blog tutorial used to explain the installation. This is the url <http://guifi.net/node/23288>.





## Description of the first section of fiber in Gurb (FFTF)

**Editor's Note:** The following information was created on July 29 2009 by Mr Ganon and later modified on 06/03/2011 -- I copied the text that follows directly from the guifi.net web site.

Here's a brief description of the project we are preparing to make the first connections from Farms with Fiber Optic (FFTF) in the municipality of Gurb. 1 Gigabit connections are replaced and some sections are now wireless.

### Proposed action Summary

- Municipality: Gurb
- Terms and conditions of the network: Free and Open Network Neutral based interconnection agreement between equals " [Pro-Common open, free and Neutral "XOLN "](#)
- Features deployment
  - 2 kilometers of [fiber optic trunk](#) open and neutral format, capable of bleeding (fiber connection) along the entire route.
  - 3 finished fiber connections to homes / farms / farm with a fiber indented from the " [Corca](#) "with" [torpedo](#) "and ended with a switch with 8 UTP connections, 2 [SFP connectors](#) 1 Gbit fiber connected to the fiber and mounted on a [wall closet "rack"](#) 10 "6U. In total is expected to initially give connection to 3 houses, provide connectivity options for nine houses, and start on some sections that can be expanded in 12 additional homes (in short, a performance that may affect up to about 24 homes, farms or farms or live-stock). The incorporation of new connections will gradually go away as checking the proper functioning.
  - 6 "[kinks](#)" to make connections to more homes and new branches.
  - Mainly air, using the sticks of copper telephone line existing facade where needed, and perhaps a stretch buried.
  - Ability to support a bandwidth of 100 Mb / s (megabits per second), higher 1Gb/so.
  - Forecast interconnection with other networks promoted by the government open.
- Planned implementation: Immediate

### Details and features of the deployment Fiber Optic Cable

For distribution trunk cable is used suitable for outdoor installation and protection of polyethylene dielectric (non-conductive) with 80 fibers, so as to allow bleeding of making one or more fibers in each connection point, while lengthening the leg up in the future can be completed rings.



The features are:

- 8 tubes with fibers 10 each (total 80 fibers).
- 15.4 mm diameter
- 125 m in length between poles
- 175 kg / km (17.5 kg/100m)
- Tensile strength of 4000N
- Crushing Strength 2500N/100mm

### Attachments to the sticks

The aerial cable is attached to the poles with a hose fittings catching with a skirt to not stress him, and hung the stick from a stainless steel clamp.

### "Torpedoes"

The "torpedoes" are capsules that serve to order the cable to which you have removed the protective outer layers and are left bare to make connections or welds. The cable is coiled inside commands in "cassettes". On the right you can see diagrams of these capsules, and below, images of different types of "torpedoes" and its components.



Are expected to mount a "torpedo" at each point where there will be a bleed connection to a house or fibers branching, or a welding operation. [Editor's note there is another page of detail that I have not included.]

- **Building a complete end to end solution for NGN networks**

When Where		Milestone	Status
Feb-Mar'09	n/a	Notification to ANR (Spain: CMT)	done
Apr-Jun'09	Rural last mile	Project definition & preparation	done
Jul-Aug'09	Rural last mile	Network deployment	done
Jun-Dec'09	City	Membership RIPE & Local IX (for wholesale)	done
Dec'09	Rural last mile	Network operational (between farms)	done
Jan-Jul'10	Regional link	Negotiations with authorities, public administrations...	done
Aug-Nov'10	Regional link	Project definition & preparation	done
Dec'10	Regional link	Connection works (fiber fusions)	done
2011	All	Full operation FFTF <---> Internet	done

Above is a timeline for the details of the Gurb fiber build-out just discussed on the previous four and one half pages. Below is the [home page](#) for Xarxaoberta, the regional fiber network built between 2002-2006 by the public administrations of Catalonia and already discussed. The small map below gives an idea of where the fiber of Xarxaoberta runs.



**Joining guifi.net in Three Steps [\(click here\)](#)**

And you will find instructions on how to join should you be living in the general area of the network.

## Joining guifi.net in three steps

created: Sat, 01/10/2005 - 21:34 - lluis.dalmau - updated: 17/11/2011 - 12:02 pm

This guide t'adjudarà understand what guifi.net project, you can also contact other members of the network. It is a guide for yourself you can do the installation, or you can choose any installer to get it done.

It is recommended that you look at the guidelines and / or courses to see how the three steps and other interesting things:

- manual on how to mount a node (PDF) (AleixRoca, 07-2010)
- extensive guide assembly step of a supernode (acacha, 03-2009)
- video of the whole process (Henry, 22-10-2008)
- Guide reusing old routers (JaumeSala)
- guifi.net manual connection (PDF, 7.8Mb) (V5 carles\_se 13-03-2010)
- Example step connection to a specific supernodes (Institut de l'Ebre) (acacha 17/11/2011)

For questions on the steps you can write to the mailing list guifi.net or forum but is **very important** for you to say the **name of your node** and **the web link** that takes, for example:

I'm adding a device ... .. **VicCasaMeva** <http://guifi.net/ca/node/1714> to me and this happens ...

It is recommended that you read the documents that contain:

- General Principles of deployment guifi.net
- Code of Good Practice

The **basic equipment** that a user may need this

The basic steps you must follow are only 3 or so but some extra dedication begins:

1. **Add a node**
2. **Add a new device**
3. **Add a link**

### Step 1. Adding a node

understand node as the place where you want to join a stable and permanent guifi.net

Need:

- put a name to the node

example VicDrFleming21 or BCNsepulveda111

**Recommended:** use the name of the town, at first, tries to respect and abbreviations have other nodes in your district, if any, in the end, put the name of the node

- Add your node

First you need a website user [www.guifi.net](http://www.guifi.net) and have logged in as a registered user

add a new node:

- use maps

## Documentation guifi.net

- ▽ Introduction to guifi.net
  - ▽ Joining guifi.net in three steps
    - Distances and profiles
    - What I put my router firmware?
    - The creation of users for "proxy"
  - ▷ How do you open, free and neutral guifi.net?
  - ▷ Presentations
  - ▷ Collection of guides and manuals
  - ▷ Questions and Answers guifi.net
- ▷ guifi.net background
- ▷ Collaborate with guifi.net
- ▷ Business partners, service companies, installers, shops material ...
- ▷ Development
  - How to translate the menus on the website Guifi.net
  - Budget
  - ▷ On the common wireless license

**COOK Report:** I found these instructions in Catalan almost by accident on the website while I was [looking to make the maps shown above](#). This illustration is produced by using Google translate. Click here for the original version in [Catalan](#). Or better yet under idiomes (languages) at top click English and you get this different [illustration](#).

## 1. 2. 3. join guifi.net !

created: Sat, 26/02/2011 - 17:22 — lluis.dalmau - updated: 07/11/2012 - 12:28pm

There is coordination and help forum: <http://guifi.net/en/forum/228>

If you are interested in some document without translation, you can use an online translator or ask for help in the forum.

You can join guifi.net in three steps ...

1. **Add a node**
2. **Add a router in your node**
3. **Make a link between your router and an access point near your node**

### Step 1. Add a node

A node is a location, for example, your house. A node is a stable place of guifi.net

You need ...

- a user of this website
- login in guifi.net with your user
- add your new node ...
  - o use the map
  - o or use guifi.net zones [http://guifi.net/en/guifi\\_zones](http://guifi.net/en/guifi_zones), make zooms, find your location and clic on the map for add your node

Remember ...

- o node name, it's interesting ... CityStreetNumber, for example: VicDrFleming21 or BCNsepulveda111
- o short name, it's your node name, for example: VicDrFleming21 o BCNsepulveda111
- o coordinates, latitude and longitude
- o other information ...

Un cop hauràs desat ja tindràs el node afegit i podràs començar el segon pas ...

Now, you have different tools available ... [Distances from your node](#)

### Step 2. Add a router in your node

In your node page, you can add a router, for example, '*Trasto sensefils, com ara un router o un punt d'accés*', Router Wi-Fi like a router or an access point

Select this option, add a router, filled form and save your router information. It's important to select your router correct firmware.

Normally, you need to add a 'wireles radio' in the form.

### Step 3. Make a link between your router and an access point near your node

You've added a node, congratulations!

You've added a router in your node with a 'wireless radio client', fantastic!

Now, you need to add a link between your 'wireless radio client' and an access point near your node, come on!

- if you have an access point near you, you're lucky!
- if you don't have an access point near, you need to coordinate with the people in your area, for example, use the forum, talk with the owners of the other nodes, convince your relatives or friends to set up a node, ...
  
- Your router is in your node page in guifi.net
- edit it!
- you can choose to add a link to an access point, select it!
- find and choose the correct access point
- save the form

Now you have finished work on the web and you can download the configuration file 'UnSolClic', there is information in the configuration file for configure your router.

### Add a new area in guifi.net website

If you don't have any guifi.net node in your area, you can write to the forum and we can help you for add your new area.

See you soon !!!

///

These excerpted instructions are more brief and appear to be written for more for English speakers than the translated Catalan page that precedes them. The [Catalan page](#) is extremely rich with links (not visible in the screen shot above) to [YouTube tutorials](#), general videos, and system documentation.

It is extraordinarily interesting to see how the members of the guifi.net community have been able to map out and compile what it takes to join the network in such a way that others can join themselves to the network with a minimal amount of effort. It appears that they have a situation now where joining the network can effectively become self-provisioning. This is the only network of its type in the world of which I am aware.

## Use of Google Maps for Virtual Network Planning

Guifi.net has made the most superb use of Google Earth that I have ever seen. When you want to find guifi.net nodes you bore down [from here](#).



Zoom out and you get the entire world. Zoom in and you may focus on Europe and then the Iberian peninsula. I will use the next few pages to demonstrate how the maps find zones which are built out independently of each other - with each node connecting in mesh fashion bottom up. The reader should take what follows as a guifi.net geography lesson.

Next let's go from the world map to the [Iberian Peninsula](#).

On the next page immediately to the left is a [chart](#) listing the number of nodes on the Iberian Peninsula - operational nodes in green planned in blue. **Ramon** explained: We are building in many places across the Iberian Peninsula also in Europe and in other places in the world. This is why earlier



Nom de la zona	Operatiu	Projectat
Andalucía	13	141
Aragón	35	50
Asturies	43	105
Cantabria	8	14
Castilla la Mancha	0	17
Castilla y León	10	36
Catalunya	14.856	6.849
Ciudades Autónomas	0	0
Comunidad de Madrid	27	231
Distrito do Braga	0	1
Distrito do Porto	2	1
Euskal Herria	25	52
Extremadura	2	8
Galiza	73	329
Illes Balears	2	46
La Rioja	98	34
Murcia	0	8
Nafarroa	12	17
Pais Valencià	4.074	1.833
	19.280	9.772

today I had a videoconference with people in Bogota, Colombia. There is a group that has sprung up there that is going to use our methods and software and I made myself available to answer their questions.

**COOK Report:** So if I'm someone like Isaac Wilder for example in Kansas City and I wanted to use your software stack it is there for the taking, correct? Your philosophy is to make the stack available to everyone so that they can profit what from what you have done?

**Roca:** Yes absolutely. Like any other open source project we have mailing lists for the developers so by all means suggest to Isaac that he check out our mailing lists and use an appropriate one to



find out how to borrow the software which would suit his purpose. If you go [to this page](#), you will get the following page [Guifi.net World Page](#) that informs you:

“This is the root page of the guifi.net mesh network. From here you can drill down to obtain any detail of the [network nodes](#) and [services](#).” The final sentence the extract above says: “If you wish to join guifi.net network and extend this root zone, just do it: This has been built on open source and supports multi-language.” The only problem may be that since we originated in Catalonia the dominant language of the mailing lists is not only not English nor Spanish, but Catalan.

### zone information

zone name	World - guifi.net <b>World</b>
default proxy	Take from parents
default graph server	Take from parents
network global information:	
Mode	infrastructure
DNS Servers	
NTP Servers	
OSPF zone	
Time zone	(GMT+01:00) Gurb, France, Germany, Italy

### contact information

created by: rroca at 15/01/2006 - 6:05pm - updated by: joseba at Sun, 23/05/2010 - 01:44

zone statistics

### Nodes listed at guifi.net World

Zone name	Online	Planned	Building	Testing	Total
Africa	0	17	0	5	22
America	5	83	2	2	92
Asia	0	5	0	0	5
Europe	19.280	9.806	372	530	30.098
	19.285	9.911	374	537	30.217

**COOK Report:** So the growth spreads geographically in a way similar to that experienced by [Matt Larson and his Vistabeam network](#) in western Nebraska where as soon as possible when a new town is added the next town along the line of growth sees the possibility of

connecting. However, the difference here is that the connection possibility depends on Vistabeam investing in money to add a new tower and a new link and people who want service half to purchase it from Vistabeam. With guifi.net the situation is somewhat flatter and more organic in this sense that the network is more open and people have instructions available to them on what to do to become a part of the network, although once they do join the network service is not free. Neither in the case of Vistabeam nor in the case of guifi.net.

**Roca:** That is correct. The growth is mainly by contact and direct connection to what is already there. It is a bit more difficult to start fresh in the place with no existing nodes to connect to -- although it is possible to do that. Since the access to the network is open and free and the basic services (namely WEB access) are also free. It is a bit more intricate. [guifi.net](http://guifi.net) concerns stop at network level, so contents are left untouched from the philosophical/conceptual point of view. But, since networks are useless without user provided content and since we understand that WEB access is an essential right, we also spend some effort encouraging the users to add content to the network and do so in an open fashion, where the federated proxies system is the most relevant one. But again, strictly speaking, the [guifi.net](http://guifi.net) role (and therefore also the Foundation's one) is restricted to the network level.

## Growth in the Valencia Region

**COOK Report:** The maps appearing [above](#) are composed of screenshots that I took in mid-December 2012 as I am writing this material and they list the total of active nodes as slightly more than 14,000 but the guifi.net site claims a total of over 19,000 nodes. Where did those come from?

**Roca:** We think that this growth by daisy-chained direct contact is good but that we also need to emphasize our spread by working on the startup of new nodes not connected directly to each other. That is how you would account for this additional 5000 or so nodes spread elsewhere in the Iberian Peninsula. In Castile and in Valencia for example, as the map on the

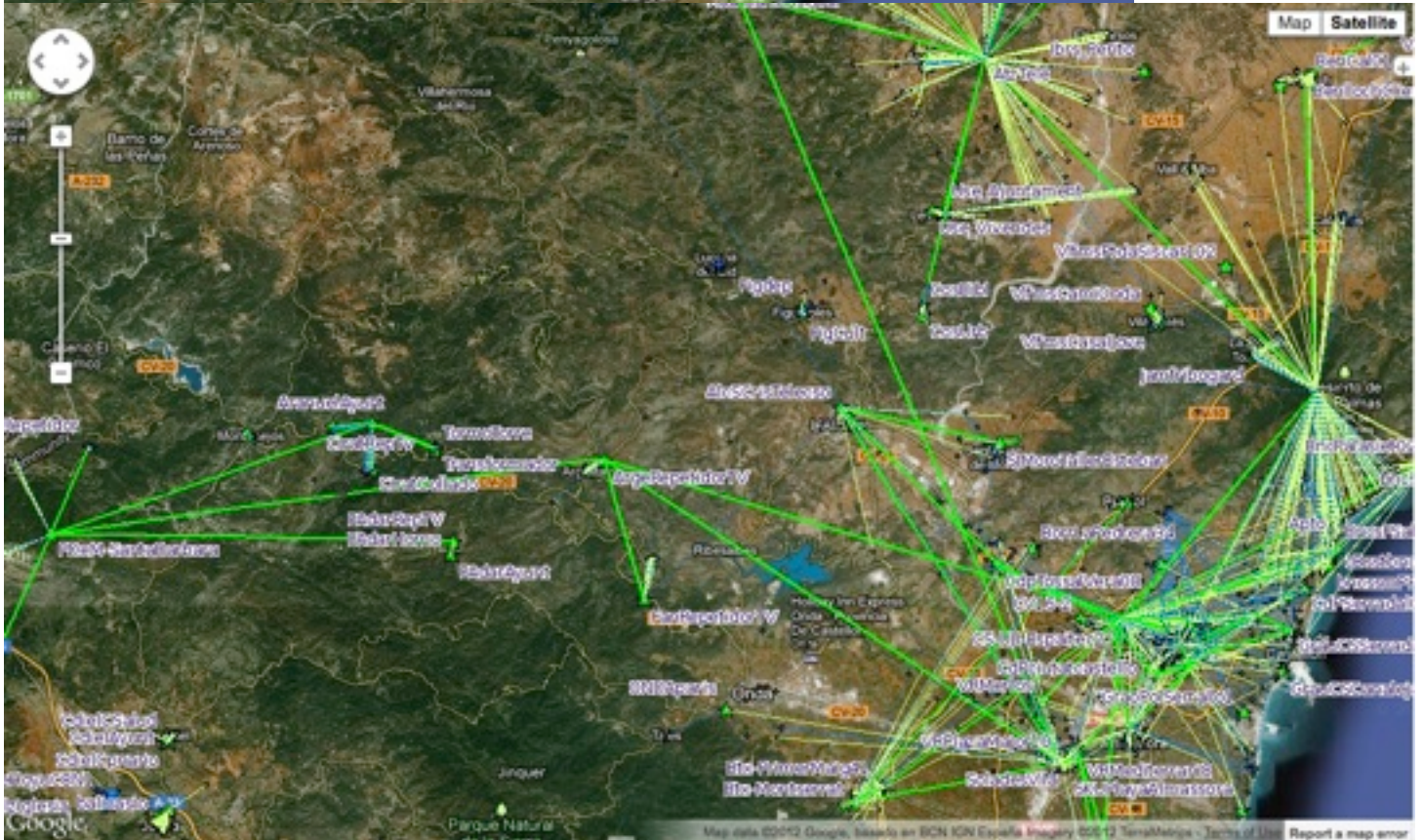




previous and on the next two pages shows, it seems that we are in the earlier stages of Catalanian kinds of growth.

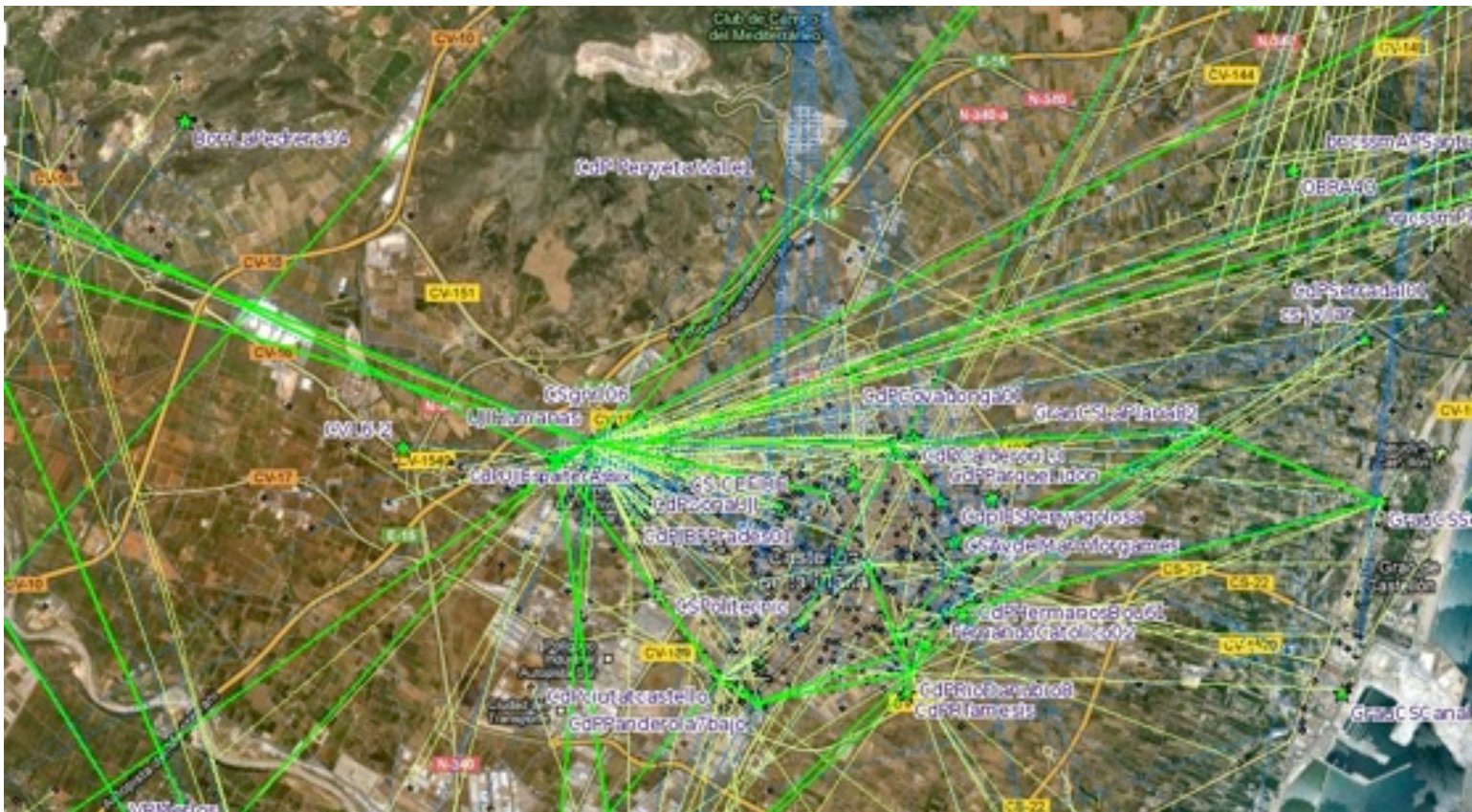
The next map to the left zooms in on the bottom half of the map on the preceding page.

Continuing to zoom further in and again





zoom in, and, as you will see several pages below, you get to the level of individual houses.



## Local Groups

Guifi.net is divided into local groups or zones that are mainly geographically organized as they build, maintain and operate their local infrastructure. Below is the [group web page](#) that offer links to the pages of each group.

created: Mon, 11/04/2011 - 22:00 — lluis.dalmau - updated: 23/12/2012 - 3:10am

In guifi.net thousands of people involved in open networks are organized globally in the mailing lists of users, but also at the level of local groups on mailing lists or websites of areas. It is important for people to get involved in local groups in order to have information on activities, incidents, improvements and any coordination to ensure and improve maintenance and availability of network and content that are available and used in a common way and for the latest news or new content.

List of various local groups

	<a href="http://osona.guifi.net">http://osona.guifi.net</a>
	<a href="http://terresdelebre.guifi.net">http://terresdelebre.guifi.net</a>
	<a href="http://castello.guifi.net">http://castello.guifi.net</a>
	<a href="http://www.badalonawireless.net">http://www.badalonawireless.net</a>
	<a href="http://www.hospitaletwireless.org">http://www.hospitaletwireless.org</a>
	<a href="http://www.guifiraval.net">http://www.guifiraval.net</a>
	<a href="http://www.matarowireless.net">http://www.matarowireless.net</a>
 <a href="http://pinedasensefils.cat">pinedasensefils.cat</a> Xarxa sense fils guifi-net a Pineda de Mar	<a href="http://pinedasensefils.cat/">http://pinedasensefils.cat/</a>
	<a href="http://taradell.guifi.net">http://taradell.guifi.net</a>
	<a href="http://digicafe.capellades.net/webdrupal">http://digicafe.capellades.net/webdrupal</a>
	<a href="http://cerdanyola.guifi.net/">http://cerdanyola.guifi.net/</a>
	<a href="http://www.iglu.cat/">http://www.iglu.cat/</a>

Comunidad WiFi Sillanet	<a href="http://www.sillanet.org">http://www.sillanet.org</a>
 palafrugell.guifi.net	<a href="http://palafrugell.guifi.net">http://palafrugell.guifi.net</a>
guifi.net Madrid	<a href="http://madrid.guifi.net">http://madrid.guifi.net</a>
 guifibages	<a href="http://guifibages.cat">http://guifibages.cat</a>
 guifi-net Terrassa	<a href="http://terrassa.guifi.net">http://terrassa.guifi.net</a>
Comunitat...  GraciaSensefils.net ..fent xarxa!	<a href="http://graciasensefils.net/">http://graciasensefils.net/</a> - <a href="http://guifi.net/gsf">http://guifi.net/gsf</a>
 XaTeGi Associació de les Terres Gironines	<a href="http://girona.guifi.net">girona.guifi.net</a>
 guifi-net grup local de Girona	<a href="http://guifi.dyndns.info">http://guifi.dyndns.info</a> Girona
 sensefils.net	<a href="http://PoblenouSenseFils.Net">PoblenouSenseFils.Net</a>
 valencia-guifi.net	<a href="http://valencia.guifi.net">http://valencia.guifi.net</a>
 Malaga guifi-net	<a href="http://malaga.guifi.net/">http://malaga.guifi.net/</a>
GuifiurG Grup de guifaires de l'Urgell (i esperem que de Lleida)	<a href="http://guifi.net/urgell_info">http://guifi.net/urgell_info</a> (temporal)
 HLV HackLab Valls	<a href="http://hacklabvalls.org/guifinet">http://hacklabvalls.org/guifinet</a>
 guifi-net	<a href="http://galicia.guifi.net">http://galicia.guifi.net</a>
 guifi-net	<a href="http://sfeldc.guifi.net">http://sfeldc.guifi.net</a>
Associació Guifi.net de Sant Feliu de Codines	



**Guifi.net gets considerable support from local church bell towers and roof tops for placing its antennas.**

**COOK Report:** How about the software itself? What language is it written in?

## Gurb Zone

**Roca:** The network software should be understandable in what ever programming language it was written, the localization of the software from Catalonia to the American Midwest for example should be easier than writing it from scratch. GoogleMaps will work anywhere but now let me show you some additional tools. Try [this URL](#) .

Gurb is the small town where I live. On the next page you see the map of the area with the nodes and their links and below the map are the supernodes shown and immediately below them but not in the above screenshot are the ordinary nodes in this area. Now move the slider on the map until you get to a level of detail where you can identify individual hubs.

## Gurb

availability   data   map   networks   nodes   pending/review   services  
suppliers   users queue

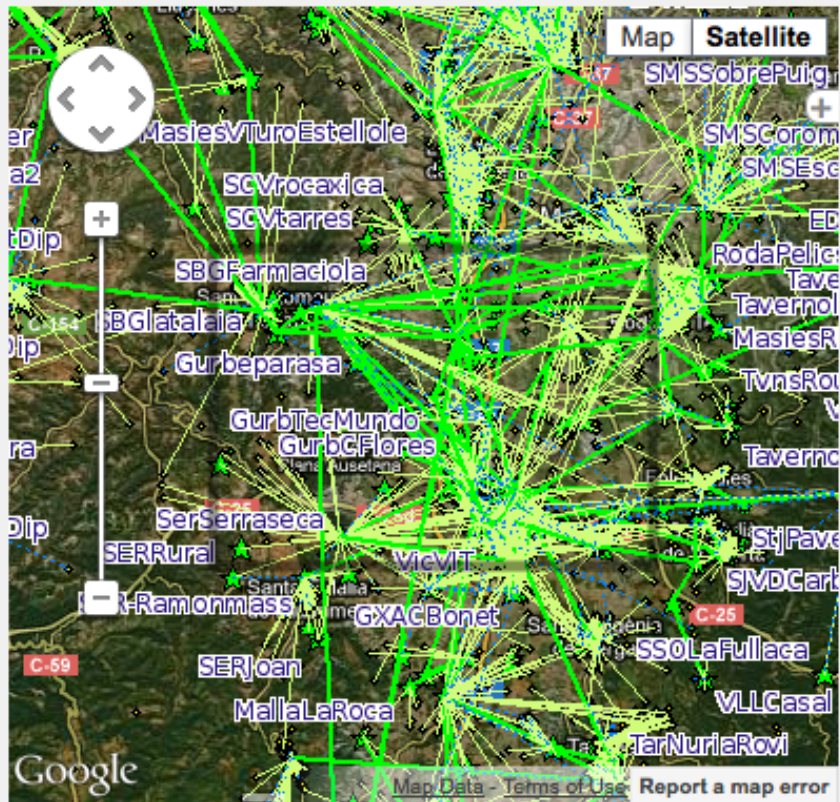
Gurb és un municipi amb força extensió (52 qms. quadrats) i dispersió de la població en cases de pagès. La majoria d'aquest territori no disposa avui en dia de'accés a banda ample de tipus comercial tot i les diverses iniciatives que hi hagut en aquest sentit. Segurament per això que a Gurb des de mitjans del 2.004 hi ha hagut una notable embranzida on els veïns interessats s'han anat organitzant fent un desplegament per donar cobertura sistemàtica a totes les parròquies (Sant Andreu, Vespella, Granollers i St. Julià) i de les zones urbanes més properes a Vic, donant així un accés alternatiu a llocs on ni tansols hi havia telèfon convencional. L'Ajuntament des d'un principi ha donat suport a aquesta iniciativa dels veïns, connectant-se a la xarxa. En aquesta zona podeu vere com progressen les connexions.





zone information

zone name	Gurb - <b>Gurb</b>
default proxy	2619-Gurb, GurbProxyEsperanca
default graph server	6833-Gurb, GraphCecilia
network global information:	
Mode	Infrastructure
DNS Servers	10.138.0.2
NTP Servers	10.138.0.2
OSPF zone	
Time zone	(GMT+01:00) Gurb, France, Germany, Italy



contact information

created by: webmestre at 01/08/2005 - 10:10pm · updated by:  
vicmartirs at Sat, 20/11/2010 - 15:31

▶ zone statistics

Nodes listed at Gurb

nick (shortname)	supernode	area	status
GurbCEPA	17	Amistat	Working
GurbElSerrat	17	Gurb-Nord	Working
GurbPavello	7	Sant Andreu	Working
GurbTecMundo	5	Casa Mundó S/N	Working
GurbAdelaida	4	Costat del Rest. El moli	Working
GurbCampo	4	Granollers	Working
GurbXiob	4		Working
GurbElSeri	3	Gurb-Nord	Working
GurbSEsteve	3	Sant Esteve de Granollers	Working
GurbTecCirera	3	Mas Cirera S/N	Working





The words **"Add a new node here"** on the previous page if shown on your screen are a live url rather than as a screen shot as I have pasted in here. Click on the screen of your laptop you will get a new box asking you to fill in all the necessary forms: which kind of hardware you are going to install and what you are getting connected with. Finally the software will tell you from the precise point you have chosen whether you have line of sight to create a new wireless link from that spot. **Now, by using Google maps and this technique you can apply our tools to building new wireless networks anywhere in the world.**

### GurbTecMundo

data
devices
distances
graphs
links
profiles map
services

users


---

created: Mon, 07/11/2011 - 17:46 — marc.mundo - updated: 22/12/2012 - 11:39am

node	43320 GurbTecMundo	<b>GurbTecMundo</b>
zone (mode)	Gurb (Infrastructure)	Casa Mundó S/N
position (lat/lon)	Lat:41.960160 Lon:2.230321	10 meters above the ground
available for mesh & status	Yes	Working
graphs provided from	6833-Gurb, GraphCecilia	

**contact information**

created by: marc.mundo at 07/11/2011 - 5:46pm ·  
updated by: GurbTec at Sat, 03/03/2012 - 22:56



Supernode: GurbTecMundo - wLANs in

		Now	Avg	Max	Total
■	GurbTecMundoFibra in	-nan	-nan	-nan	0.00
■	GurbTecMundoCaseta in	-nan	-nan	-nan	0.00
■	GurbTecMundoVic11Set in	-nan	-nan	-nan	0.00
■	GurbTecMundoXiob in	-nan	-nan	-nan	0.00
■	GurbGrbTcMndNnMSAPO in	-nan	-nan	-nan	0.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>					0.00

**COOK Report:** Absolutely awesome! Now I see a node called GurbTechMundo. Below the satellite view map -- on page 64 above -- is a listing of supernodes.

**Roca:** Yes.

**COOK Report:** And the yellow line?

**Roca:** The yellow line is a direct connection to end users. Now the Gurbtechmundo supernode on the page above is in effect a backbone node for fixed regional connections. Below you will find CEPA the largest supernode in Gurb.

## Gurb CEPA

[data](#) [devices](#) [distances](#) [graphs](#) [links](#) [profiles](#) [map](#) [services](#) [users](#)

created: Tue, 11/01/2005 - 09:36 — rroca - updated: 04/12/2012 - 11:38pm

Nou Supernode que substitueix al del Femer. És al costat i en un punt molt més elevat, el que li ha de millorar la eficàcia sense haver de tocar les antenes que ara connecten amb el Femer.

En un principi està previst que disposi d'enllaç troncal amb les antigues Escoles de Gurb i el Supernode del Seminari, i que amb dues sectorials, una pel sector nord- oest i l'altre pel sector nord i nord est, per a connexions dels veïns de Gurb.



node	1706 GurbCEPA	<b>Gurb CEPA</b>
zone (mode)	Gurb (infrastructure)	Amistat
position (lat/lon)	Lat:41.940083 Lon:2.242527	15 meters above the ground
available for mesh & status	Yes	<b>Working</b>
graphs provided from	6836-Gurb, GraphEsperanca	

**contact information**  
 created by: rroca at 11/01/2005 - 9:36am - updated by: vicmartins at Sat, 20/11/2010 - 15:33

**COOK Report:** Do you have a list some where of the kinds of radios used in the backbone?

**Roca:** Over ten year's time there are many. We are not tied to any single vendor and consequently we use any kind of hardware that works well. The electronics all be-

comes obsolescent within two or three years and over the last 10 years we have been using radios from dozens of companies. What we call a supernode is a node with several radios and several antennas Which can be made by many companies.

#### devices

device	type	ip	status	last available	unsoldic
GurbCEPAST1	radio	10.138.12.65/27	Working		RouterOSv4.7+
GurbCEPAST2	radio	10.138.12.97/27	Working		RouterOSv4.7+
GurbCEPAST3	radio	10.138.16.129/27	Working		RouterOSv4.7+
GurbCEPAST4	radio	10.138.14.33/27	Working		RouterOSv5.x
GurbCEPAST5	radio	10.138.14.161/27	Working		RouterOSv4.7+
GurbCEPASwitch	generic	/	Working		
GurbCEPAPC	generic	/	Working		

You are not allowed to update this node.

#### links (wds)

linked nodes (device)	ip	status	kms.	az.
<b>GurbCEPAST1 - GurbCEPARocLlarg</b>				
7257-SBGRocLlarg (SBGRocLlargST1/SBGRocLlargCEPA)	172.25.0.222/172.25.0.221	Working	6.226	318-NW
<b>GurbCEPAST1 - GurbCEPAPavello</b>				
4962-GurbPavello (GurbPavelloAP/GurbPavelloCEPA)	172.25.1.125/172.25.1.126	Working Up (100.00%)	1.88	339-N
<b>GurbCEPAST2 - GurbCEPAPonent</b>				
66-GurbCamprodon (GurbCamprodon)	172.25.0.193/172.25.0.194	Working Down (0.00%)	2.01	290-W
102-GurbCMundo (GurbCMundo)	172.25.1.81/172.25.1.82	Working Up (99.85%)	1.022	326-NW

Talking in very general terms, in the beginning, the majority of the ordinary radios were made by Linksys, the American company. Afterwards, the situation was very much dominated by [Mikrotik](#) radios, and lately Mikrotik has been losing share in favor of Ubiquity. Originally, the Ubiquity radios were a "customer premises device," in other words for end-users, but with AirFiber, of course, they have developed a very interesting backbone product that we are just beginning to test.

Now getting back to geography, the Gurb region where I live was where guifi.net started. There are other regions. For example one is [Barcelona](#). We only have about 65 nodes in Barcelona—this in a density of population of about 4 million.

**COOK Report:** There are many many other opportunities for getting connected to the Internet in Barcelona, I imagine.

**Roca:** True, but we should be getting access to some fiber in the Barcelona area and experience better growth there.

**COOK Report:** In the diagram of Barcelona on this page I am thinking that must be line of sight connections from tall buildings for radios correct? Or is it fiber?

## Barcelona

availability data map networks nodes pending/review services suppliers  
users queue

created: Mon, 01/08/2005 - 22:10 — webmestre - updated: 30/11/2012 - 10:38am

Bloc de notes compartit on podem afegir canvis importants de la zona de Bcn:

<http://etherpad.gulfi.net/barcelona-estat-actual>

SAX!! 😊

### zone information

zone name	BCN - Barcelona
default proxy	11377-Barcelona, BCNSettProxy
default graph server	24760-Barcelona, BCNAragoOlostSrvGraf
network information:	
Mode	Infrastructure
DNS Servers	10.138.27.194,10.139.6.130
NTP Servers	10.138.27.98,10.138.27.194
OSPF zone	
Time zone	(GMT+01:00) Gurb, France, Germany, Italy

### contact information

created by: webmestre at 01/08/2005 - 10:10pm - updated by: eloi.rebes at Fri, 30/11/2012 - 10:38

zone statistics

## Nodes listed at Barcelona

Zone name	Online	Planned	Building	Testing	Total
Núvol de Gràcia	17	39	2	6	64
Núvol de Sant Martí	22	19	1	0	44
Núvol Sants-LesCorts	18	29	0	1	48
Núvol UPC Campus Nord	5	15	0	0	20
Núvol Vallcarca	5	4	0	0	9
	67	106	3	7	185

**Roca:** It's not fiber. We do not have the software yet that will allow us to map the fiber in our network. We have our fiber hard coded in our network operational software but we do not yet have the means of displaying it on the GoogleMaps.

There are other issues as well. We have found out that that the bigger the city the more essential is the collaboration of the local government. This is so for many reasons: because its is more difficult to get permissions to implement projects. Because the people are more isolated from each other, dissemination campaigns are more important). Barcelona local government not only has never supported guifi but has fought against it, very likely due to the issue of urban elitism and privilege.

**COOK Report:** Excellent points! You have absolutely remarkable interactive Network Maps on your website but I am wondering if you have anything that explains how you spread out to other parts of Spain or even to a few other parts of Europe or elsewhere the city of Bogotá in Colombia for example.

## The Three Pillars

**Roca:** When we try to expand to another part of Spain ***we have a process that we try to use and that we describe as a "quick win in a short time."*** ***If we take on a new project and don't provide positive results, the local people we're trying to work with will get discouraged.*** That is one of the key points. The other is that you have to involve in the very beginning what we call the three pillars.

One pillar is citizens, and the second pillar is public administration [local governments] because very often access to roof tops is needed. Now public administrations are also important especially in places where we don't have access to fiber because, when new people join the network they want to get connected to the global Internet as well as to each other.

So public administrations deal with libraries and schools that normally have Internet access across the entire territory of a given public administration. Now these entities are already public in the sense that their connectivity has been paid for by the taxpayers and so what we do is install proxies in these entities and then by the use of nearby radios share that access with the result of giving more people in the public Internet access at no cost.

The third pillar is composed of the professionals about whom we were talking in the beginning and who are motivated by a culture of do-it-yourself because they have more knowledge than the general public. As a result then we train them as professional employees. They are tied to that territory and we give them the tools and capability to be able to install radios for people who want to join the network in the new territory.

When all of those three things happen, we can take on a new project in a new territory and have good hope of getting good results within a few months. Those are the ingredients we need and when we have them we go public. When we have laid this kind of groundwork we schedule public meetings in theaters and in other local places appropriate for this kind of announcement of what we have done. We tell people that they can take what we have done and point out the steps by which they can either self install or pay someone who we have trained to install them on the new extension of the network. This is very much the process that we are following.

## The Supply Chain

When I am talking about everything that needs to happen, much needs to happen together. ***If there is a lack of cooperation by the public administration, then everything will go wrong. Everyone needs to be involved. This is not something that a single corporation or a single citizen operating on their own can accomplish.***

**COOK Report:** You point out that "TCO should be reduced" by working with capital expenditure and operational expenditure instead of fees. You use the term TCO - is that total cost of ownership?

**Roca:** Yes. Total cost of ownership. For example you can come to Telefonica which offers lots of fiber but you will find that Telefonica charges a business €1000 per month for use of that fiber to provide only 10 MBs per second of data service.

So what I mean is that, after a year the total cost of ownership for company to be online can be €12,000. However if you own your own infrastructure, after one year the total cost of that ownership will be far less than the €12,000. For this to happen, there must be cooperation. But with cooperation the total cost of ownership becomes much less.

**COOK Report:** When this slide on page 76 below says "missed demand due to the lack of diversity of business models", I think what you are telling me is that when you go to a new group of people, you will have an understanding of who these people are you will have in your arsenal many different models so to speak that you can explain and pull out of your hat to fit the needs of your audience and to present the kind of business model that will be applicable to the community to which you are introducing the network.

**Roca:** Yes. But the slide has also another purpose. In the beginning many people were saying yes you're succeeding because you are going into unserved areas. Originally this was true but over time, even in areas with some service, we are doing better and better.

Let me give you an example. One instance of companies who are applying more pressure to us are large enterprises -- not telephone companies but manufacturing companies, trading companies, research organizations, and institutions of education. Now many of

these organizations are saying to us: take a countrywide location and provide us fiber and to be honest I am not sure that I will use your fiber as opposed to fiber that I could get from Telefonica because having a choice of someone else is the only way that I will be able to negotiate with them. This is one of the points. The other point is **public administrations, which are one of their biggest customers, are a source of money for the telecom operators. They were spending millions of euros for the ostensible purpose of fighting the digital divide because these millions of euros were going straight to the Telcos.**

Ironically now we are starting to get some cooperation from the European Union but not from the Spanish authorities, at least not at the same level. We are successful at cooperating with local administrations, local villages and others but we are not successful in cooperating with other higher level government government administrations. They would much rather keep Telefonica happy. But when we go to Brussels people are very happy to hear about regions like ours that are successful in introducing local competition.

Telefonica is the biggest company in all of Spain. When privatization came to the telcos in Europe unfortunately they kept them in one piece rather than breaking them up. Also the board and staff of Telefonica has many important former politicians which further makes things difficult for us.

## C4EU Kick off

**COOK Report:** Can you tell me a bit about the C4EU Kickoff. It sounds like this is what you are saying when you mention Brussels. Tell me what C4EU is all about. Have you gotten some monetary support from Brussels?

**Roca:** Yes. While we got no help from the Spanish or Catalan government, in 2010 Nellie Kroes on behalf of the Digital Agenda 2020 in the European Union talked about access to fiber for everyone said that "I know it will happen but not the way things are now, so help me make it happen by giving me ideas."

We were happy to answer her request with our idea of "Bottom up Broadband." But there was no money involved. It was only about providing ideas. However after that by becoming a Living Lab what we are doing in Spain became perceived in a very positive manner. In Brussels they do some framework programs and provide funding for universities and other entities looking for positive solutions. By following those ideas we were in a very good position to ask for funding for one of the projects. Commons for Europe -- [C4EU actually has a website.](#)

These projects are not given to a single entity but rather to a consortium. Now the Commons for EU consists of several packages and we are the leaders for Working Group Number 7 which is called Bottom-up-Broadband. This project is framed around the idea



of a Commons. Do you know the [Code for America](#) experience? [Code for EU](#) is very much the same idea of [creating software as a commons](#) and then sharing it and developing it further among the partners. We are now doing the same with regard to telecom infrastructures with Bottom Up Broadband (BuB4EU).

It is designed to allow the citizens to hack -- in a good way -- public infrastructure. Now what does this mean? Suppose there is a railway or road that has fiber running along it the idea is to attach fiber to that already existing infrastructure and use the result as a public commons since it is already being paid for by the tax payers. For a public administration there are two choices. Here one is to give such infrastructure to private companies who will operate in a private way as is being done with the telcos ***or manage it as a public infrastructure so that everyone is able to use it. Use it and improve it by expanding it, is why this concept here makes sense. If there is something wrong with the infrastructure and we are allowed to use it, perhaps then we will be more than happy to fix it.***

[Commons XOLN](#) is defined on our website. ***It means that if you create a node and add it to our network, you will need to accept the terms and conditions of Commons XOLN.*** It is an acceptance that certain rules will apply such as open Peering. Having a clear license which must be accepted for joining the network (in a viral license fashion) has proven to be one of the key factors to explain [guifi.net](#) scalability. A clear set of rules accepted by everybody, i. e. a clear common framework, fosters investments, participation, etc. and reduces community misunderstandings and conflict. [Xarxa Oberta, Lliure i Neutral \(XOLN - Neutral, Libre and Open Network\)](#) is the [guifi.net](#) license. a reference to the English version would be great, but at the moment I do not know where to find the latest English version). Essentially it sets the traits of the network (namely neutral, libre and open - i. e. In Commons) and guarantees that they will remain unaltered in the future regardless of future build outs

Two concepts are problems are being solved by XOLN. Transit like Internet is free. To make an infrastructure company, you assume that that infrastructure has an owner who paid for it. So that owner has two choices. One, if he keeps the ownership, he is able to provide quality of service and will have priority of transit when others want to get connected with that particular segment. If that link costs €1000 and we are getting 6 people connected by means of it, then we will divide the cost by six and you will not be any longer the single owner of the fiber link. The cost of the infrastructure must be paid for and the only thing that is free is that we are not charging for transit within the network. That is why you might have to get connected to some other network segment and why you might have to pay something that leads to alignment with the real cost. Now for the provision of transit to the rest of the Internet that goes through real carriers there will also be a charge.

At some point you will have to get connected to another segment of the public internet and in this case what you pay will be more aligned to the real cost. The provision of transit to the rest of the Internet that goes through carriers just like a service. Users can

have and share those services or professional services can provide that to the users. We don't have a price list. We are always based on cost. End cost for the users who contract for those services are very much connected with the prices that professionals are charging the users. I was including that in the €20-€30 that a gigabyte fiber charges every user at the end of the month.

**COOK Report:** How is the current terrible economy impacting guifi.net?

**Roca:** Favorably. We are still growing very rapidly. People need connectivity. And the problem is not in the business model because our business model now makes more sense than ever. Ten years ago it seemed that working technology was very speculative. Everybody wanted to do the next very rich IPO. But now the situation has changed greatly and the emphasis is on sustainability. The fact that we are still represent a very tiny percentage of the entire market this means we have a large space for growth. But as we get bigger, we attract more opposition that sometimes goes way beyond any kind of ethics. We have seen nasty things from big ones trying to block us

In interactions with our technical people and suppliers they could be very sophisticated and these people would say "Ramon we are afraid of working with you because Telefonica told us you do not have the proper permission to be working on these poles." In a sane economy traditional telcos should be able to convince their customers that they can offer good service at a reasonable price because this is just the way they do business rather than because they are the biggest kid on the block that throws its weight around. One of the golden rules is that capitalism works only if there is competition.

**COOK Report:** A couple of clarifying questions. When you talk about 19,000 nodes, a node is a place where there is a physical connection to the network and each node could be a house or a small business or a school?

**Roca:** Yes We know exactly how many nodes we have but we do not know the precise number of people depending on those. We can deduce statistically that there are about 3 people per node.

**COOK Report:** And the cost of the network is really the cost of each node?

**Roca:** Yes.

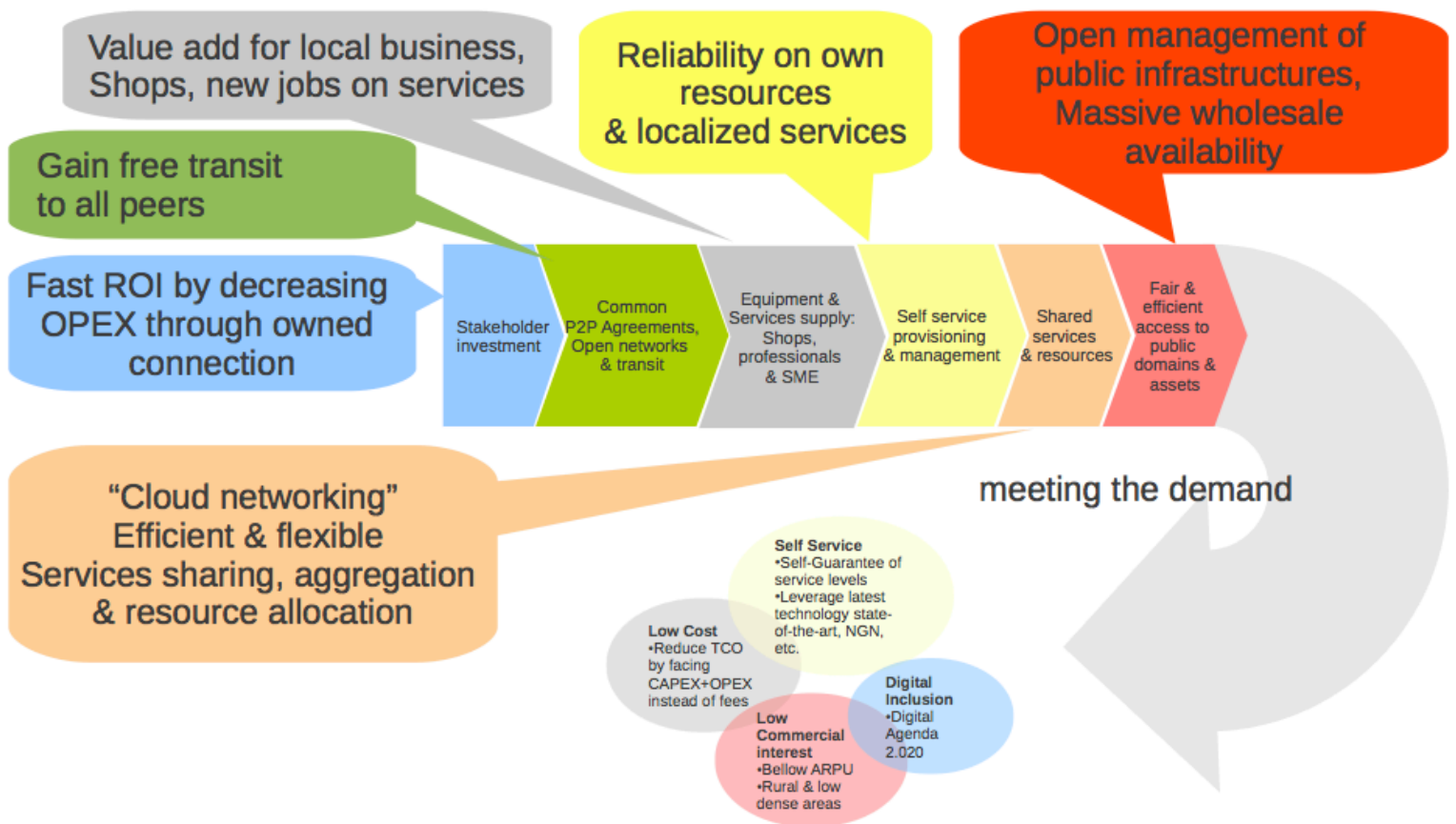
## Further Explanation of guifi.net Terminology, Commons, Fiber and Business Model

**Editor's Note:** Ramon joined the Arch Econ list a few days after our December 6 interview and over the next few days we clarified many important points. Ramon asked on December 10.

**Roca:** I'm seeing here some people who seem to be involved in fibre projects for communities. For those projects we do think that one of the challenges (among many) is complexity (experiences, logistics, technical, operation, socio-economics, network management & provisioning, inventory...). One of the ways to address that is to create a collaborative place to assist those communities, share resources and knowledge, in a similar way we did for [guifi.net](http://guifi.net) for wireless communities, but on a world wide scale.

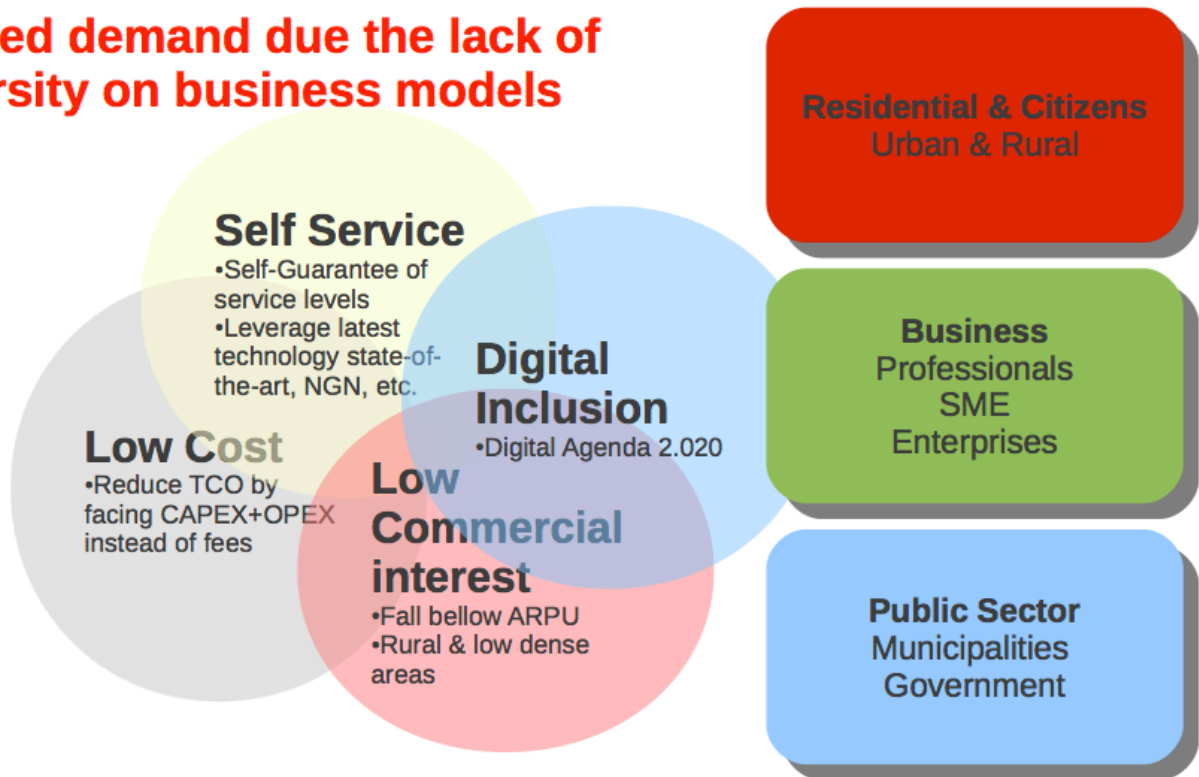
That might start with something like a website. I'm wondering if you share this point of view and if any of you would like to get involved on this. **[Editor:** Over the next few hours, Ramon received responses from Holland, Canada, Maryland, Louisiana, Minnesota, Virginia and Nebraska.) Late on the tenth he added:

Thanks for all comments. I appreciate them. Let me try to share with you where I want to go a bit further and be a bit more precise.



You'll realize that we have provided many examples of distinct types of networks based on the ownership (municipal, wisp/isp, community...). Ownership varies, but business model is still very much the same in all of them: Is centered on the infrastructure owner, you are

## Missed demand due the lack of diversity on business models



either a member or a customer, and rules apply depending on which one you are related, regardless of whether the network is for profit or not.

When I'm referring to BuB or Commons, I'm not looking into the type of ownership. There can be many types. In fact hopefully there will be all of them at the same time. We focus on when the economic model instead of being derived from the ownership, comes from alternatives like providing materials or services to it. For example with regard to the network -- professionals, SMEs, etc can charge for their services for ensuring SLA, fixing problems, sell equipment, installations and deployments, etc.

**Roca:** Yes. In this scenario, it makes a lot of sense to scale and to aggregate (is when value comes). The sharing of resources and methodologies, becomes key.

**COOK Report:** Well yes.... but give examples please of who is sharing with whom and for what? How is ownership invested in the guifi Foundation? This is a very critical question.

**Roca:** What is in Commons is what is determined by the p2p agreement (Comuns XOLN). Essentially it is the network itself. Anything else is outside of the Commons agreement. However, to be in a Commons and next to an already existing deployment doesn't necessarily mean that has to be donated to the [Guifi.net](http://Guifi.net) Foundation.

Now I'll describe for you a real world example for financing fibre deployment in rural areas that we have recently applied, which is very much a complex process, but one that is proven to work.

## **GURB Nord Project Phase 1 2009- Business Terms**

### **1.-CAPEX (passive)**

1. We go to a rural neighborhood that is next to another which already works.
2. We say to them that, if they want the the fibre to be extended to them, we do need to supply financing.
3. Total cost will be shared by all of them equally, so final cost will depend on how many of them will be interested on having it.
4. Since there is a need for money in advance (materials, etc...) we do need some financing in advance. In this case we don't take risks of going to Banks or Financial Institutions for that.
5. To encourage investment, those who are interested, and give money in advance, will have a discount of 20% at the time the final cost is calculated. Project will not start until there is enough financing for materials.
6. To avoid speculative positions (people that don't connect at the time the infrastructure is deployed, but wait to the next years with the hope that since the infrastructure is already there and paid, so hopefully we will get connected without having to afford the cost) we state clearly that once a cost will be fixed as described in step 3, the connections the years after will be at that price plus a penalty, and these funds will go for maintenance.

### **2-Illumination (active)**

Once we have the passive infrastructure on place, everyone has to pay the cost of it's activation (some might want to wait, cost also could be very much distinct according to every house characteristics, etc...)

### **3.-Operation**

We do calculate the cost of maintaining this infrastructure and amortizations, then we charge that to the service providers who want to provide services to the users through that network (everyone can) there (in case of something goes wrong, VoiP, etc...). Note that everyone can provide services on this infrastructure, users are free to contract services that they want. They charge that to their services and provide financing for it.

That was just an example. Another example coming next year (2013) is a industrial company that needs fibre, and already having some expensive fiber. They finance the deployment of another fibre, so then will be able to negotiate cost with their current provider. Close to that Industry are some urban areas, so the service providers can recover part of the investment

by allowing connections to it and share cost in a similar way as the previous example. In this case, there is no need for money from anyone else.

**Roca:** Often I do see people who refer to us ([guifi.net](http://guifi.net)) as one of the largest wireless communities, but this might not be accurate in all the senses: The trick is that we aren't a truly *single* community, we do aggregate many communities, municipal and private infrastructures through a p2p agreement which establishes the Commons (and everyone can subscribe regardless of the ownership). But in every case it is still very much a local (or regional) experience. So now I'm trying to imagine a step further, more global, and including fibre.

**COOK Report:** How does peering or open peering fit into this? Every region exchanges traffic with every other region without charge? What happens when traffic gets out of balance and the biggest region wants to charge smaller ones?

**Roca:** They can't. If a region manages their network improperly, what will happen is that this network will not work. Not for them and not for others who rely on them for transit and will find other options, Interchange costs to the rest of internet are shared and passed proportionally by following "showback" or "chargeback" rules model to whomever uses them. Those rules have to be public.

**COOK Report:** Thank you Ramon, let me try to answer. A guess on my part is that you want to establish a knowledge inventory of where and how to find out where interconnect points are located, where to find costs for interconnection, purchase of IRUs, regulatory case law ... that sort of thing?

**Roca:** The way that I would put it is that there is a need to have an agreement for aggregation of infrastructures provided by many that is operated as a whole and where such whole becomes a Commons regardless of who owns every single network segment.

**COOK Report:** By Commons do you mean a set of uniform rules under which everyone agrees to operate? But how will you achieve this?

**Roca:** Internet is a network of networks with no single owner but is the result of the interconnection of networks from ISP, and thereafter those ISP do provide their connectivity to it to their customers/members (top-down approach). Now try to imagine the same concept of network of networks, but built from the bottom, and from the edges (bottom-up).

**COOK Report:** Well yes but how? Examples please. Much is done under non disclosure in the top down way of working. In bottom up I think this is not possible. Am I correct?

**Roca:** Yes. In our bottom up approach non disclosure doesn't happen. Let me try another example -- could be a network of no-toll based roads, where several builders, owners and financing methods apply, but at the end, but none of them are based on direct transit fees to

the users of the infrastructure. Also for the open source, there might be no license fee, but a cost for services around it. In this scenario, it makes a lot of sense to scale and aggregate (which is when value comes), sharing resources and methodologies, becomes key.

**COOK Report:** Great... I applaud. But once you exceed a certain size you have so called publicly owned companies who must return benefits to shareholder who often and in fact most of the time are not the users of customers of the network. So the critical question needs to be whether you can do this with the money needed - the capital being provided only by the builders and users and none coming from third parties.

**Roca:** No, there is no need to establish a single organization to manage that. There can be many such organizations operating with just a single non-profit Foundation ensuring the Commons. I hope my previous examples did illustrate this.

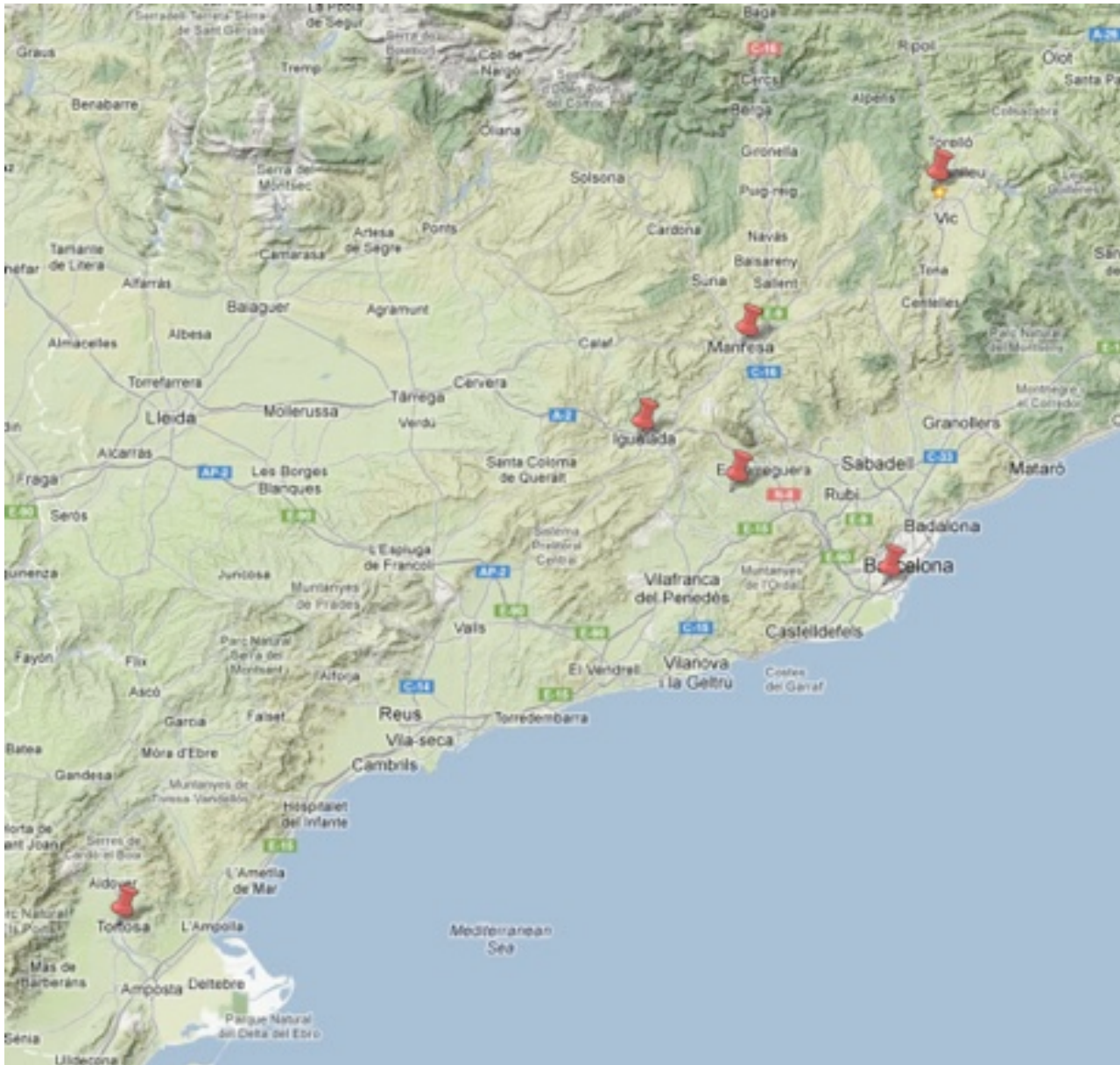
**COOK Report:** If you have to get money from a third party, then it seems the commons becomes difficult or more likely impossible because the source of money will want to give the part of the network it is closest to or it likes best and advantage over the other parts. It wants a winner. But to have a winner other parts must loose? Can you have non disclosure agreements and a commons at the same time? I don't think so. But I will say this -- you have a remarkable collection of brain power HERE - on this list - and that collection perhaps can answer your questions in ways that I operating alone cannot.

**Roca:** We can't have any NDA within the networks based on Commons. Strictly forbidden, every bit of information, term, etc should be made public. Third parties, i.e. providing interconnect to other non-Commons networks, that is to say. the rest of the Internet, might ask for. It is the case the case of some in Spain. In my opinion NDAs are a very dirty business practice since often there are public infrastructures involved..

Then at 2:22 am December 11 **Roca:** I agree with the interpretation as you just outlined it. What you see on the map, the whole network, is like a neutral interchange distributed across the territory. That's a consequence of our being between 2004 and 2009 formally established as a Commons and a neutral network. But as you look at those maps, you will miss some things that are there in reality. Some of these things are because of lack of functionality in our apps, and also because of some NDAs that we had to sign with some wholesale suppliers. These NDAs prevent us from publishing certain information, which is a very inconvenient common business practice here.

You may finalize this information, in terms of an inventory of our "proxies", which are gateways to the internet by using regular commercial residential lines (e.g. ADSLs) you'll find [it by browsing our database: Find "Internet access trough a proxy"](#) section in that page. Press cancel if you get a dialog asking for authentication) Those are the gateways user from the very beginning. [**Editor** - the full internet proxy gateway list of which only the first small part is shown to the left seems to be a couple hundred entries long.]

From 2009 on we do get also truly internet access by peering at a major Internet exchange. We do that by being [members at the Catalan Interchange point](#) (Catnix) that happens to be in Barcelona. Thanks to fiber, we do also have what we call "PoP-IX" (Interchange Points of Presence extended across the territory). Those are the ones that are affected by NDA forced by regional fibre providers. These have been setup mostly within the last year and are one of the most active parts in our development. Currently we can say that we have five, distributed across Catalonia and located at: **Gurb, Masquefa, Igualada, Tortosa, Manresa.**



We had another in Girona but right now we are forced to dismantle it. Hopefully you'll be able to find those locations at Google maps. Our goal is to provide FFTx access to those PoP-IX.

**COOK Report:** You also write "Our goal is to provide FFTx access to those PoP-IX."



service	zone	device	status	disponibilitat
<b>Internet access trough a proxy</b>				
Proxy, Vilafranca del Penedès, StPere	Vilafranca del Penedès	CarrerStPereServer1	Working	Up (100.00%)
Porta a Internet de DigiCape2	Capellades	CapelladesLaLigaServer1	Working	
Porta a Internet de DigiCape1	Capellades	CapelladesPonetSrvr1	Working	
Proxy de Buff - Igualada	Igualada	IgualadaRedRecServer1	Working	
Porta a Internet de Cal Font	Igualada		Working	
Porta a internet d'espelt.net	Igualada	espeltnet	Working	
Proxy d'IGLU - Igualada GNU/Linux Users	Igualada		Working	
Proxy a Internet d'ontanem.net	Igualada	ontanemnet	Working	
PdATel-SatSrvr2	Platja d'Aro		Testing	
Porta a internet de Platja d'Aro (Federat IN/OUT)	Platja d'Aro	PdACentreSRV	Working	Up (100.00%)
Porta a internet de Tel-Sat (Federat IN/OUT)	Platja d'Aro	PdATelSatSrvr1	Working	Up (100.00%)
Castelldefels-Proxy (Federat IN/OUT)	Castelldefels	CastelldefelsWireless	Working	Up (95.46%)
Castelldefels-Proxy2	Castelldefels	CstlIdfisWifiCAT	Working	Up (100.00%)
Servidor Proxy de Correu BCNOnzeSetembre11	Barcelona	BCNOnzeSetembreServer	Working	Up (100.00%)
Servidor Proxy de Barcelona - BCNGuipuscoa	Barcelona	BCNGuipuscoa87europa	Testing	Up (99.89%)
Servidor Proxy de Barcelona - BCNHangar	Barcelona	BCNHangarFusion	Working	Up (100.00%)
Servidor proxy federat de Barcelona - BCNmargarit0	Barcelona	margarito	Working	Up (99.81%)
Servidor Proxy de Barcelona - BCNmasGuineueta (Federat IN/OUT)	Barcelona	BCNmasGuineuetaSrvr1	Working	Down (0.00%)
Servidor Proxy de Barcelona - BCNMistralRocafort	Barcelona	BCNMistralRocafortSrvr1	Planned	Down (n/a)
Servidor Proxy de Barcelona 50Mb-BCNOnzeSetembre11 (Federat IN/OUT)	Barcelona	BCNOnzeSetembreServer	Working	Up (100.00%)
Proxy Federat BCNRossello208	Barcelona	BCNRossello208Fermat	Working	Up (100.00%)
Proxy socks BCNRossello208	Barcelona	BCNRossello208Fermat	Planned	Up (100.00%)
Proxy de Barcelona - BCNSett (Federat IN/OUT)	Barcelona	BCNSettServer1	Working	Up (99.77%)
Proxy Vallcarca (Federat IN/OUT)	Barcelona	BCNpsgMareDeuColl70Srvr1	Working	Up (99.83%)
Proxy a Les Planes [Collserola]	Barcelona		Testing	
proxy.elcarmel.guifi.net	Barcelona	BCNMurtra89Gintonic	Testing	Up (98.47%)
Servidor de proxy de 9 Barris	Barcelona	MITXet	Testing	Up (100.00%)
Proxy Federat a BCNsjmalta	Barcelona	BCNstJoanMalta51Srvr2	Working	Up (100.00%)
Proxy BCN AragóOlost (Federat IN/OUT)	Barcelona	BCNAragoOlostSrvr1	Working	Up (100.00%)
Proxy federat a BCNIorda17	Barcelona	BCNIorda17Servidoret	Working	Up (100.00%)
Proxy Xarx@ntoni a "Woodland" (BCN Calabria-Manso)	Barcelona	BCNXAICalabriaMansoSquid	Working	Down (0.00%)
proxy server knoppix	Olot	knoppixguifinet	Working	Up (100.00%)
proxy server knoppix backup	Olot	knoppixguifinet	Building	Up (100.00%)
Proxy socks Montolivet	Olot	MontolivetSrvr1	Working	Up (99.45%)
NAS Olot Geranis87	Olot	OlotGerais87Srvr1	Building	Down (n/a)
Proxy Picasola Olot	Olot	OlotPicasolaSrvrNas	Working	Up (96.39%)
OlotBellaire8 Servidor Proxy	Olot	OlotBellaire8Srvr1	Building	Down (n/a)
OlotHackerspace Servidor Squid	Olot	OlotOlotHackerspace	Building	Down (n/a)
OlotMontolivet	Olot	MontolivetSrvr1	Working	Up (99.45%)
Proxy Carles Olot	Olot	OlotMontolivetCarleSrvr1	Building	Down (n/a)
proxyfreenasknoppix	Olot	knoppixguifinet	Testing	Up (100.00%)
Servidor proxy Olotvalezquez8Srvr1	Olot	Olotvalezquez8Srvr1	Building	Down (n/a)
Servidor de proxy Karma	Olot	OlotKarmaServer	Working	Down (n/a)
Porta a Internet de Calldetenes (Federat IN/OUT)	Calldetenes	CallAjServer1	Working	
Porta a Internet de Centelles - El Pipa (Punt Jove) FEDERAT IN-OUT	Centelles	EIPipaVM	Working	Up (100.00%)

When I do the other look ups you have advised in this message, will I understand where the FTtx access is? The POPIXes are the five you have listed but where are FTtx? are they your supernodes? FTtx must be your supernodes. How many of those do you have?

**Roca:** Sometimes I think we have developed our own terminology to refer what we have, and have done this in a way that might lead to misunderstandings. Some definitions:

**Supernode:** Specific location which is doesn't have a single link (like a simple connection of a single home) but multiple, combining several PtP links and PtMP. Usually part of the network backbone where traffic gets aggregated/dispersed through several locations, serving coverage, etc. Also on wireless nodes, those who have multiple radios and antennas.

There are thousands of them, mainly wireless. Eight now, just a few of them have fibre.

**Catnix** - Catalan Interchange point with local operators in Catalonia. Located in Barcelona.

The screenshot shows the CATNIX website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Català', 'Castellano', and 'English', along with 'Contact' and 'Private area'. Below this is a large banner with the CATNIX logo and the text 'The Neutral Internet Exchange in Catalonia'. A secondary navigation bar contains links for 'Home', 'Who we are', 'Members', 'What we offer', 'Rates', 'News', 'Statistics', and 'Where we are'. The main content area is titled 'Catalunya Neutral Internet eXchange - Welcome' and includes a welcome message and a 'HIGHLIGHTS' section. The highlight features an image of Felix Baumgartner skydiving and a text block describing his record-breaking jump. To the right, there is a 'LINKS OF INTEREST' section with a preview of the IECISA website and a 'LATEST NEWS' section.

**PoP-IX:** Nodes with fibre. They are also supernodes and have antennas since they also connect with the rest of our wireless network. Those locations (the ones which I listed before) provide a fibre gateway to the Internet and are in fact remote ports of the main node in Barcelona, where there is also the Catnix.

**FFTx** (Note the 2nd F instead of a T, we say "fibre **FROM** the homes/farms" as an opposite concept of the top-down approach, FFTx, where the operator deploys the fibre to the homes. Refers to the last-mile. We have since 2,009 connected some farms and supernodes, but for some time we still have to go the rest of the internet through commercial subscriber lines, because of a lack of reasonable priced fibre connectivity at regional level. We started on 2009 with about 4 kms. Not mapped on our website apps, but mainly in Gurb. [**Editor:** This is the fiber described on pages 46-48 in the section above called "Gurb North Fiber Project." For the business case involved see above pages 78-79.]

**Roca:** Starting in 2011 at Gurb, and the others in 2012, those FFTx are starting to reach the PoP-IX's and thanks to this, get the full gigabit to the Internet. To provide figures, we

have around 20 kms deployed in 2012 after work done this summer and following what we previously deployed in 2009. There might be in the range of some dozens of houses connected, all farms in dispersed rural areas.

With the deployments we recently made, we expect to reach urban areas by next year, and by that, we do expect growth, in the same way as happened on 2003-4 with wireless (starts slow, but increases exponentially), so be hundreds next year, thousands after that.

Our focus is now on our regional fibre connectivity. That is public dark fibre that was already in place for years (at the roads, etc...), but not used. Not deployed by us. Was the most difficult part (deal with the public administration to find out ways for using that). You can imagine that there was important opposition for using those infrastructures in a more efficient way and injecting competition because of that. This is what links the distributed PoP-IX nodes to Barcelona.

Currently it is managed by a private company that won a public tender from the local administration. They force NDA in our contracts with them with what, IMHO, looks like a clear example of lack of transparency (They manage public assets!). Currently, we might use around 300 kms of that fibre.

Finally, guifi.net intends to create a bottom up broadband supply chain enabling self-service where the goal is to meet this demand with an alternative based self-service proposition, so users can choose between outsourced provisioning or self-service models. To remark that by creating this supply chain is inherent that doing so increases supply alternatives and with this, competition. Furthermore develops an ecosystem around it and generates economic activity and employment.

**COOK Report:** What happened to Local Ret that started with such high hopes in 2005?

## LocalRet - Good Intentions Go Astray

**Roca:** After 2005, the Catalan Government decided it did not want to manage a province-wide telecommunications enterprise and held a public tender for a private company to manage the taxpayer paid for assets. XarxaOberta is the name of a project promoted by the Catalan government aimed at connecting through optical fiber all the buildings of the Catalan government (i.e. town halls, hospitals, schools, etc.) to self-provide network connectivity. The project is financed via a 20 years long tender and the winner have the right to resell connectivity to third parties on a wholesale basis.

**XarxaOberta** is now the name taken by the private company that won the the public tender - a grant (€60MM) for managing the dark fibre already laid by the government and local administrations. Since the investment was still public, that's why the prices are fixed by the Spanish NRA (CMT). The 60M€ grant was just the initial amount of money. In 2012

the [final tender for covering all municipalities was assigned to Imagina-Axia](#) for 20 years for a total amount of 253M€ You can take a look at [the prices here](#): You'll see there that they begin their "service" by charging 417,49€ for just 100 Megabytes per second on a monthly basis!

XarxaOberta only began operations in early 2012. Jordi López Benassat was the Localret CEO from March 2006 to April 2009) By the time that XarxaOberta began operations Jordi López Benassat had already left. During 2011 we were able to do the same job, but just "by exception," between Gurb and Barcelona, only after strong protests (we already laid fibre in Gurb in 2009 and still waiting for more than a year to connect). During the time in 2011 that we operated that dark fibre, we were doing it at a fraction of that cost. In fact, since the fibre was already there, the cost of operation was nearly zero.

But now we have been forced to switch to XarxaOberta which is a joint venture with [Axia](#) (I believe they are Canadian), and Imagina-Mediapro. [Mediapro](#) was in bankruptcy at the time they won the public tender. The current managing director of XarxaOberta is the former public official who at that time, was in charge of the public tender.. So why go backwards? It's said that "Caesar wife's must be above suspicion", but I feel that's never the case here when private companies gain exclusive control of public infrastructures.

Let me illustrate with some local examples: Telefonica is known for hiring former influential or well connected politicians. When it was privatized, it was given to a friend of the prime minister at that time. The CEO [Mr. Villalonga](#) resigned just after some scandals with stock options and left Spain. He is now happily living in Miami. The current CEO, [Mr. Alerta](#), was found guilty for using privileged information while trading with his company's stock, but too late and so benefited from what he did. They hired the Spanish King's son-in-law, Mr. Urdangarin, until he got involved in a corruption scandal which is still now in court. They also hired the wife of Mr. Rajoy (current prime minister) and the husband of the vice-president, Ms. [Saenz de Santamaría](#). The last appointment at Telefonica Board happened just a few weeks ago. They hired former IMF President Mr. Rato, who later was in charge of Bankia at the time that became the largest Spanish financial institution to fail. Knowing how difficult is the current financial crisis in Spain, I don't think that this is the best marketing for Telefonica.

The last major telco public tenders in Catalonia were given to a single participant of that tender, one was the mentioned for Xarxa Oberta, other for Telefonica. A long time ago there was another for wireless rural broadband given to a company called Iberbanda, and just after the tender, Iberbanda was bought by Telefonica. Finally, the official who was in charge of the public tender when completed joined the board of the new company.

The question then is how many parasitic business models based on subsidies do we have? In an environment like this, you'll never know. Whatever the case very likely, too many. I'm not saying that everybody is corrupt. I still believe in the principle of innocence. But

this is too much, because it looks like these practices become business as usual and go on and on. That's the big problem I told you about. Too many people just tell the public administrations that since they may not have the expertise to operate this network technology, they have to give their assets to private sector in a public tender. I would challenge that concept however. Because as long as they gain control the public tender process, and get a contract designed to benefit them, they, will be reluctant to accept any other alternative, such as our concept of managing the public infrastructure as a Commons.

As a conclusion, everything lead by public administrations [local governments] should be done transparently and diversely, but unfortunately, and if you look at the results, this hasn't been the case.

## Our experience: Cost sheet, 1 Gbit circuit

€/km



1Gb circuit	Kms.	Activation	€/Month (*)	Now		Goal	
				mo. fee	%	% Share	mo. fee
Wholesale(**)	40.000	5.000	1.034,72	0,03	0	0,01	0,08
Barcelona - Vic	70	2.000	41.710,75	595,87	96,13	9,99	2,66
Gurb/Vic - FFTF	1,60	3.000	23,96	23,96	3,87	90	23,96

• **What happens?**

- Internet wholesale & Gurb/Vic – FFTF(\*\*\*) are multipurpose and interoperable IP networks
- Barcelona-Vic is closed and private (dark fiber/adif), so becomes 96,12% of the cost

• **Conclusions**

- Need for creating open, multipurpose and interoperable networks across territories
- Cost for regional wholesale network is around €2,67/mo., not more
- €30/year per final F.O. connection would be a reasonable levy for access to those infrastructures

(\*) Amortization 12 years

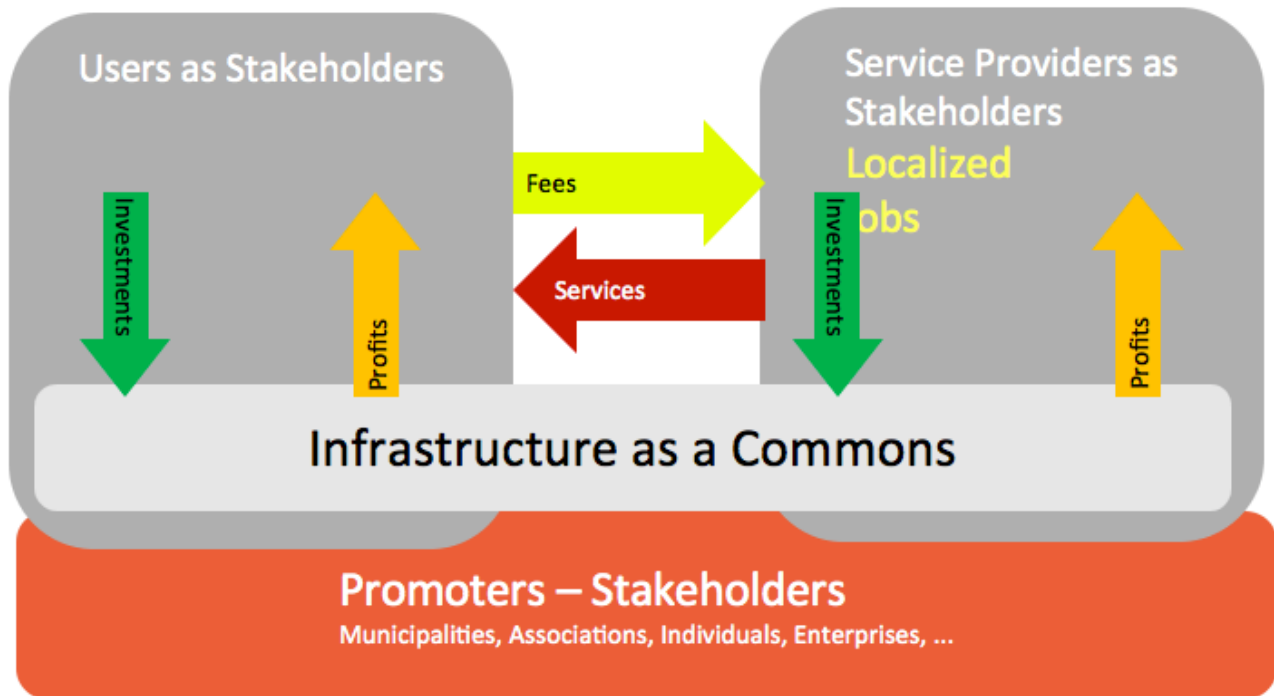
(\*\*) Traffic, aggregated

(\*\*\*) FFTF = Fiber From The Farm

That's also why I'm saying that [XarxaOberta](#) is now in fact very much like another incumbent. It takes the investments in fibre from public administrations, and manages it for wholesale but instead of at a real cost prices (like we do), at a prices fixed by a National Regulatory Authority looking at a market basis where there is no competition! Absurd. It ends as a parasitic business model based on subsidies. Since XarxaOberta in effect privatized the Localret fiber we rode to Barcelona, in 2012 we wound up with this situation. One which is probably still very far from Jordi's original concept as told to you in his interview with you. [If you check this result with the interview you wrote about that more than seven years ago](#), you'll realize that the result came very late, and was still far from the original scope. Localret (you're right, ends with a "t", but is in a single word, although if

you say it in Spanish might end with a "d"), is a [public consortium which aggregates assets](#) from municipalities and provide services to them.

In 2013 we are hoping to convince the public authorities to be reasonable in linking our Traffic from Gurb North to Barcelona. When we look at business models, here is what we see. When the project is new the private company invests and takes its profit from the local economy. When it grows older, investment decreases, cost to the users go up and even more money is removed from the local economy.



Under guifi.net’s Commons based ownership the results look like the above. The locality is far better off. Jobs and services and investment stay local.

## Network Architectural Tools

**COOK Report:** What are the requirements to be a zone? How does one find the services that each zone offers? Does each node have to install its own internet proxy in order to get people to an internet gate way?

**Roca:** Formally, the only requirement for running a new zone is to define a page on our web applications linked to a geography (i.e.: "Catalonia"). Then a zone can become a part of a flexible hierarchy, starting from the "World", and drill down up to a region, county, city, village or neighborhood. You just need to tell the app to which other zone every zone is related to. Everybody can define "zones". In short there only needs to be someone with the aim of running a zone.


But to become a truly active and operative zone, I would say that several things have to happen like having Internet gateways available, alternatives for connecting homes (either fibre or wireless), along with what I call the "three pillars" (participation from citizens, local administrations and professionals providing services....) All this is shown on the [Vic Osonaguifi zone page](#) directly below and extending for the full following page marked at the top osonaguifi. The multi colored diagram (lower right) has a live link and show the boundaries for each of the eight neighborhoods of Vic that are also listed as zones under the chart "Vic nodes" on the next page.

Home > Main menu > guifi.net World > Europe > Iberian Peninsula > Catalunya > Osona > Vic > (Vic-1-NO > Vic-2-N > Vic-3-Ctre > Vic-4 SO > Vic-5 SE > Vic-6-S > Vic-7-NE > Vic-8 Gxa)

### Vic

availability data map networks nodes pending/review services suppliers users  
queue

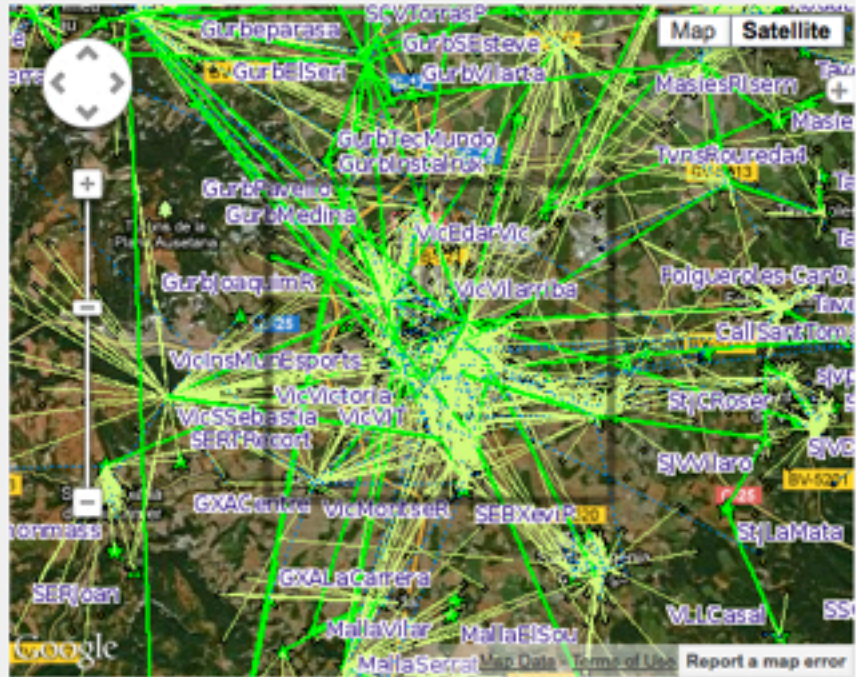
created: Mon, 01/08/2005 - 22:10 — lluis.dalmau - updated: 17/08/2012 - 4:07pm





zone information

zone name	Vic - Vic
homepage	<a href="http://osona.guifi.net/">http://osona.guifi.net/</a>
default proxy	5735-Vic, proxy-ausa
default graph server	6558-Vic-3 (Centre) Casc Antic, Eixample Morató, Verdaguer, GraphsAusa
network global information:	
Mode	Infrastructure
DNS Servers	10.138.160.98,10.138.0.2
NTP Servers	10.138.160.98,10.138.0.2
OSPF zone	
Time zone	(GMT+01:00) Gurb, France, Germany, Italy



contact information

created by: webmestre at 01/08/2005 - 10:10pm - managed by: iluis.dalmau - updated by: vicmartirs at Fri, 17/08/2012 - 16:07

zone statistics

Nodes listed at Vic

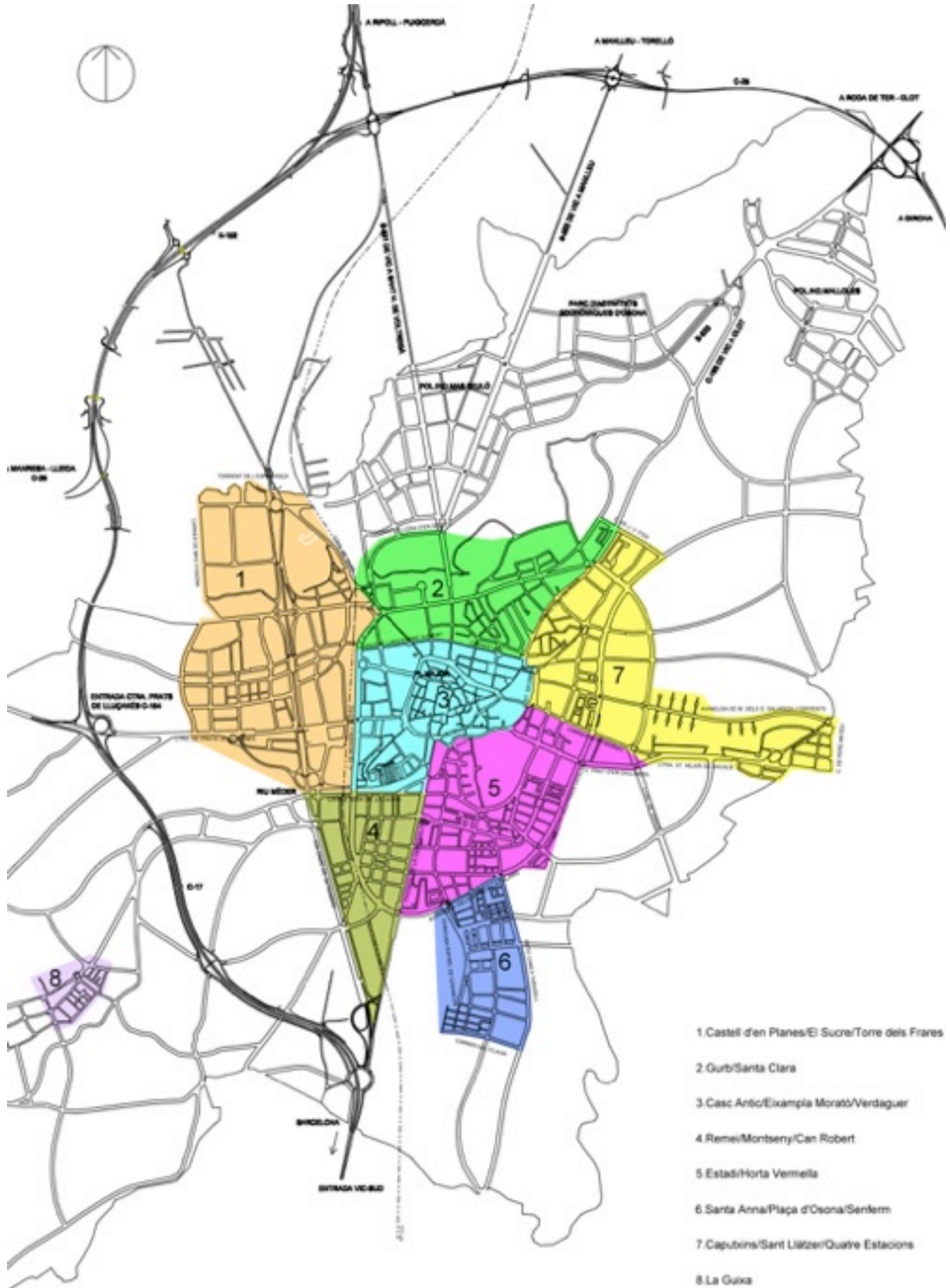
Zone name	Online	Planned	Building	Testing	Total
Vic-1 (NO) C.Planes,Sucre,T.Frares	124	66	1	1	192
Vic-2 (N) Gurb, Sta.Clara, Pol.Nord	224	95	3	6	328
Vic-3 (Centre) Casc Antic, Eixample Morató, Verdaguer	206	108	10	5	329
Vic-4 (SO) Remel, Montseny, Can Robert	112	50	1	4	168
Vic-5 (SE) Estadi, Horta Vermella	144	57	1	3	206
Vic-6 (S) Santa Anna, Plaça Osona, Sanferm	87	20	2	1	110
Vic-7 (NE) Caputxins, St. Llàtzer, Quatre Estacions	151	76	7	3	237
Vic-8 La Gulxa	56	18	0	0	74
	1.104	490	25	23	1.644

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osonaguifi

Desplegament de fibra òptica a Vic més





In terms of network services, you can see the available services for each zone at the zone page, by clicking on [the services tab](#) at the top of the Vic osonaguifi page that starts this section. A very truncated screen shot is immediately above. Clicking on one of the eight zones gets you a chart detailing the names location and condition of all nodes there: for example Vic-3 the Center Zone shown in turquoise on the page above this one.

## Vic

availability data map networks nodes pending/review **services** suppliers users queue

### Services of Vic (by zone)

service	zone	device	status	disponibilitat
<b>Asterisk VoIP PBX server</b>				
Servidor VeuIP de Vic	Vic-2 (N) Gurb, Sta.Clara, Pol.Nord	VicLaCentralServer	Dropped	Down (33.04%)
<b>Domain Name Server service</b>				
Servidor de noms a la Guixa	Vic-8 La Guixa	VicLaGuixaServer	Working	Up (93.06%)

### Vic-3 (Centre) Casc Antic, Eixample Morató, Verdaguer

availability data map networks nodes pending/review **services** suppliers users

created: Sun, 17/01/2010 - 20:19 — cesc.cex - updated: 17/09/2011 - 5:14pm

#### Vic



#### zone information

zone name	Vic-3-Ctre - Vic-3 (Centre) Casc Antic, Eixample Morató, Verdaguer
homepage	http://osona.guifi.net/
default proxy	Take from parents
default graph server	Take from parents
network global information:	
Mode	Infrastructure
DNS Servers	
NTP Servers	
OSPF zone	
Time zone	(GMT+01:00) Gurb, France, Germany, Italy



#### contact information

created by: cesc.cex at 17/01/2010 - 8:19pm - updated by: MiquelM at Sat, 17/09/2011 - 17:14

zone statistics

### Nodes listed at Vic-3 (Centre) Casc Antic, Eixample Morató, Verdaguer

nick (shortname)	supernode	area	status
VicHabitat	11	Hàbitat Catalunya	Working
Vicdalmau	7	Jaume I, el Conqueridor	Working

**COOK Report:** what can you do when just on a node? Local email only local? What about VoIP or other kinds of service?

**Roca:** When you become a connected node, you can access to whatever service available to the network you joined. The Commons P2P agreement strictly forbids limitations on that. Typically you would enjoy some public and private Internet gateways, as well as some others. VoIP is another example of popular service when the infrastructure provides enough reliable QoS.



**Roca:** Network neutrality is in the core of our Commons P2P agreement, consequently people are free to enjoy whatever content is available to the networks. With the new IPTV providers and [SMARTTV](#), people are free to access the provider they want. Unfortunately, in Spain, and also in Catalonia, the TV has been very much still either aerial (now digital terrestrial) or satellite, but not very much on cable, so we lack very much from local TV providers, however we can already enjoy things like Apple TV, or recently some interesting devices based on Android are appearing.

**COOK Report:** Is Spain addicted? In Catalonia does a Cable TV company offer services? Telefonica? Does it come bundled with internet service? How many subscribers to [guifi.net](#) also get TV?

**Roca:** As for Spain - Sure we are addicted to TV. I assume like any other part of the world. However neither here in Catalonia, nor in Spain, do we have Cable TV providers in the same way as you have in the US. TV is mostly aerial, with the limitations that this inherits. With IPTV operators are now bundling their TV platforms with a "triple play" strategy, so if you get broadband from them, you can get also their TV, but not that content from anyone else. We don't like this bundling strategy, and keep the users free from choose the multimedia provider of their choice. Due to the limitations of wireless, I would say that just a few percentage of users from [guifi.net](#), like myself, can enjoy high definition TV. Only those who have fibre in their homes. Others can just access TV at a low-res.

**COOK Report:** Is Telefonica the only commercial internet provider in all of Catalonia?

**Roca:** Telefonica as national incumbent is the only operator who has a network for that. Some other operators have some networks, but far from covering all territory. However the current regulations forces Telefonica to rent their networks to other operators, so commercially, other companies can also provides their services through Telefonica network (now mostly copper), that's the case of Jazztel, Orange, Vodafone...

**COOK Report:** What kind of phone service do you have? Did anyone offer commercial phone service?

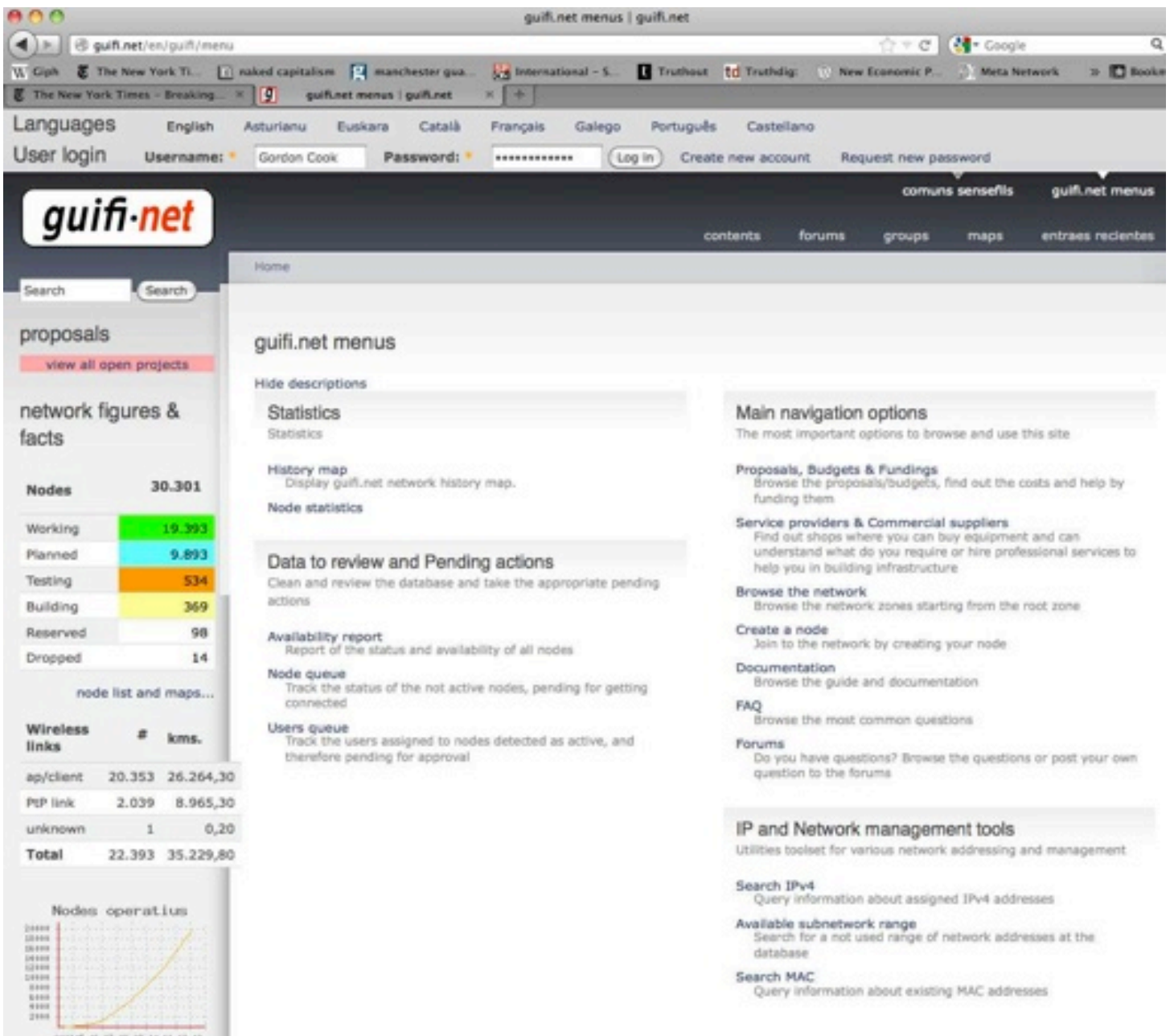
**Roca:** Currently, once you have a NGN broadband service, Internet has already plenty of VoIP providers who can give you cheap services. I'm currently having two or three of them.

**COOK Report:** If you have full-fledged Internet access at POPix... why is there a need for anyone to run proxies from or for anyone or thus?

**Roca:** We don't have fibre gateways everywhere, and just from wireless, the closest gateway in many cases might still be a shared ADSL. On the other hand, to enjoy a full-fibre gateway, you have to contribute to it's cost. By sharing the costs once you get some critical mass, is not a high cost, but you still have to share the cost. Some people might just want Internet for free, so they can still get that from public proxies available from public libraries etc., so proxies still make sense. When possible, those proxies already run on fibre, but still not all of them.

# Adding Zones and Nodes in North America

**Roca:** Now that you have given yourself a user ID on the guifi system, you can login and create content and I as administrator have privileges that I can use for teaching purposes, to also create content in order to impersonate you . So let's do that. You can see here the menus you have available. Go to guifi.net World and then to America and then to the United states, then New Jersey, and finally Ewing. Thus



# guifi.net World

[availability](#)   [data](#)   [map](#)   [networks](#)   [nodes](#)   [pending/review](#)   [services](#)   [suppliers](#)   [users queue](#)

created: Sun, 15/01/2006 - 18:04 — rroca - updated: 23/09/2011 - 3:05am

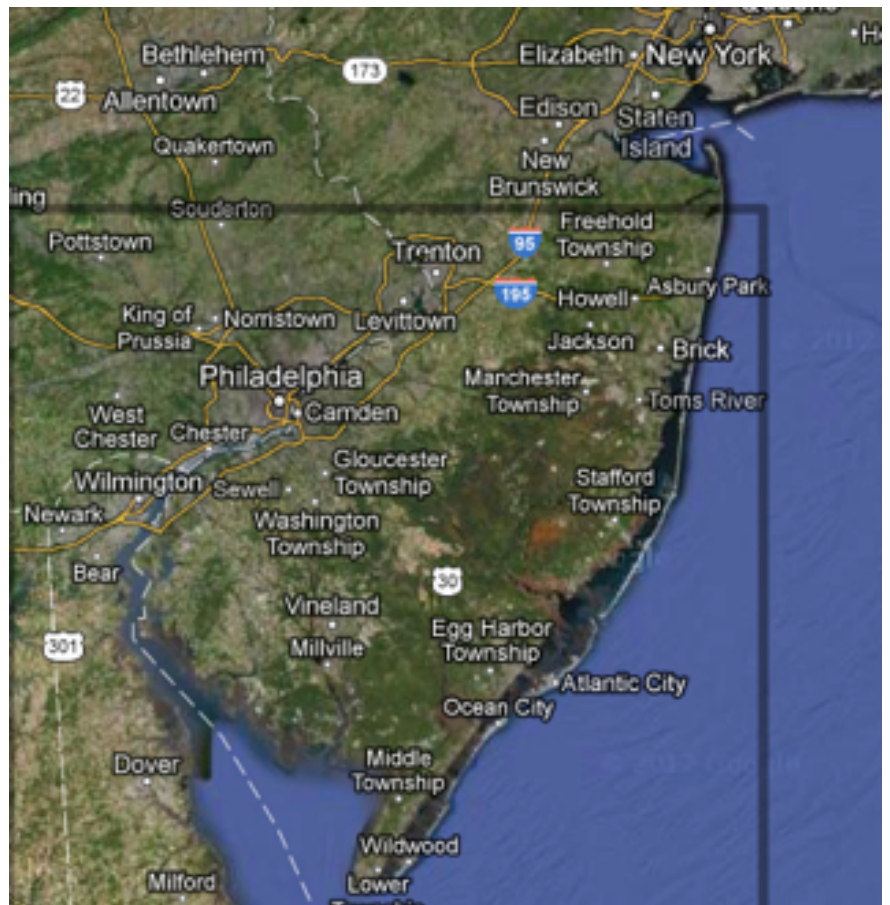
This is the root page of the guifi.net mesh network. From here you can drill down to obtain any detail of the network nodes and services. This application provides a set of functions for supporting wireless communities such as mapping tools, availability and bandwidth usage graphs, network ip allocations, configuration tools, user forums, etc. If you wish to join guifi.net network and extend this root zone, just do it: This has been built on open source and supports multi-language.



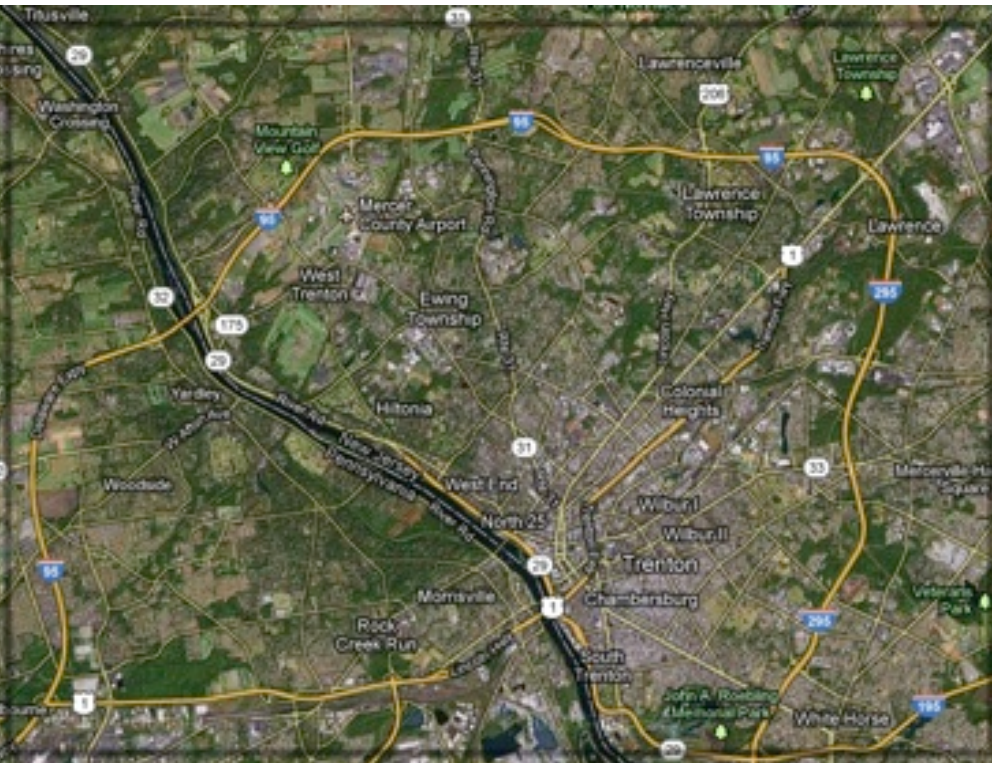
## The Americas Zone



### The United States Zone



### New Jersey Zone





Above are two views of the NJ zone and below of the Ewing Zone. At the lower right is my house - marked EW.GCook.

Once one is situated with a bird's-eye view of my house, point the mouse at my chimney, click and the precise latitude and longitude of my node comes up and the soft-

Home > Main menu > guifi.net World > America > United States of America > New Jersey > Ewing

## Ewing

[availability](#) [data](#) [map](#) [networks](#) [nodes](#) [pending/review](#) [services](#) [suppliers](#) [users queue](#)

created: Thu, 03/01/2013 - 17:51 — rroca - updated: 03/01/2013 - 5:51pm

### zone information

zone name	Ewing - Ewing
default proxy	Take from parents
default graph server	Take from parents
network global information:	
Mode	Infrastructure
DNS Servers	
NTP Servers	
OSPF zone	
Time zone	(GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (USA & Canada)

### contact information

created by: rroca at 03/01/2013 - 5:51pm



zone statistics

## Nodes listed at Ewing

nick (shortname)	supernode	area	status
EW.GCook	No		Planned

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ware asks me to name my node which I choose as EW.GCook or "Ewing zone Gordon Cook" and the close up view looks as at the left. The page Ewing Zone above, nodes listed gives information about the Ewing Zone. The line of text below Ewing gives availability, data, maps networks, etc all relating to activity in the Ewing zone. The tools have created a template for me that I may use to map my locations.

Next we tell the software where the back bone node I will connect to will be. I suggest to Ramon a radio in the bell tower of Ewing High School about 30 odd meters in elevation. The software uses a site called [Hey What's That](#) to calculate the capability of the radio I will need to install and offers me choices of Mikrotik and Ubiquity to install to have good signal to the high school backbone node some 800 meters away. [**Editor:** for more on this amazing tool see page 105 below.] When I save the page, its asks me to agree on your behalf that you will accept the licensing as infrastructure owned in commons and the it wants the height of your antenna. We will say 10 meters. However you must note that this [orographical tool](#) does not take into account the height of any intervening buildings .

#### Radio main settings (SSID, MAC, Channel...)

##### MAC: \*

Wireless MAC Address.

Some configurations won't work if is blank

##### SSID: \*

SSID to identify this radio signal.

##### Protocol:

Select the protocol where this radio will operate.

##### Channel:

Select the channel where this radio will operate.

##### Clients accepted?:

Do this radio accept connections from c

#### Antenna settings

##### Type (angle):

Angle (depends on the type of antenna you will use)

##### Gain:

Gain (Db)

##### Degrees (°):

Azimuth (0-360°)

##### Connector:

Examples:

MiniPci: Main/Aux

Linksys: Right/Left

Nanostation: Internal/External

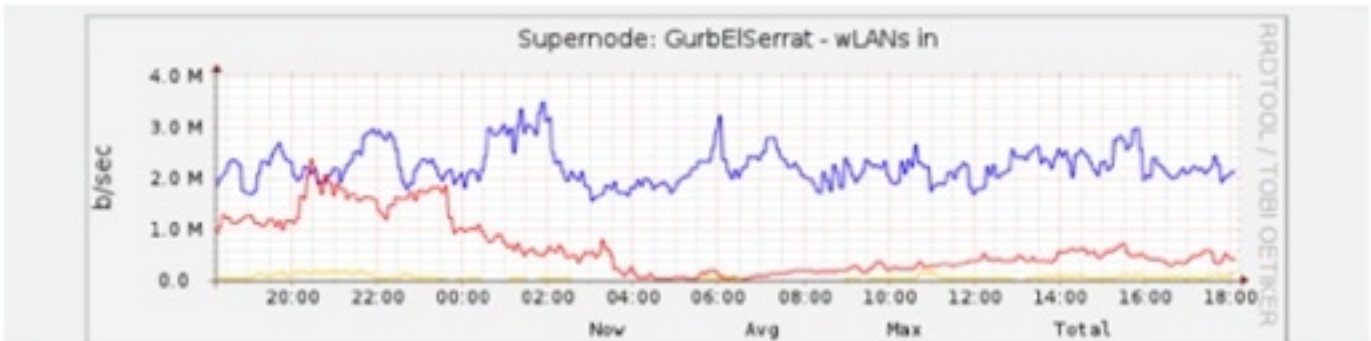
Now we have selected the radio and must configure it. If from the high school, you click on your house, and get a yellow line between the two, it means that it is line of sight between the 2 points. You will now be one of those tiny yellow circles you saw on the maps, a planned node ad not yet a real part of the network. This tool helps in two ways. ***It declares you as willing to participate in the network so neighbors can see who is willing and how close others are to them.*** And this tool also helps you to plan the network. It is just one of a very large number because we have to make network planning of nodes and backbones speedy and precise. For planing long links of 10 to 50 kilometers, this tool will let you know how the terrain varies. Namely ground level, hills valleys and so on. When doing short links, your line of sight must be from a point on your house that will clear the tallest tree between you and the high school.

## More about Node Placement

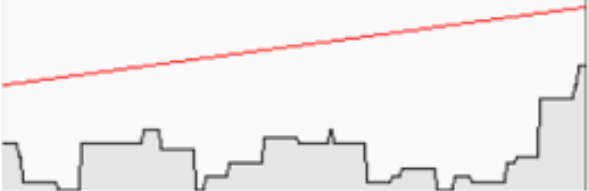

I can do a better job of showing you how this works by going to the node at my home and showing you the links and the traffic. The red and blue lines on the graph below the picture of

node	1568 GurbEISerrat	<b>GurbEISerrat</b>
zone (mode)	Gurb (infraestructura)	Gurb-Nord
posició (lat/lon)	Lat:41.974191 Lon:2.238115	0 metres des del terra
disponible per fer xarxa i monitoritzar	Yes	<b>Operatiu</b>
gràfics proveïts des de	6833-Gurb, GraphCecilia	

**informació de contacte**  
 adreça de correu electrònic (disponible si estàs identificat a la web) - creat per: webmestre a 15/09/2004 - 11.00pm - actualitzat per: roca a Dg, 04/09/2008 - 16:40

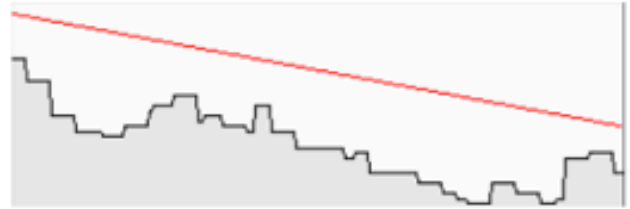



my node show the average bits per second traffic coming in and going out through my super-node which also has a fiber connection. Another tool will show you the nodes with whom you

<p><b>GurbTecMundo:</b> Gurb</p>	<p><b>1.687 Qms:</b> Working (03/03/2012) 202º - Sud</p>	
<p><b>GurbPavello:</b> Gurb</p>	<p><b>2.057 Qms:</b> Working (13/01/2007) 189º - Sud</p>	

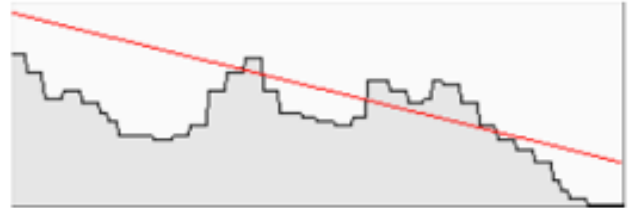
**GurbAdelaida:**  
Gurb

**2.452 Qms:**  
Working (06/05/2009)  
160° - Sud



**gurbjcasasas:**  
Gurb

**2.486 Qms:**  
Working (04/06/2009)  
69° - Est



can easily collect along with the terrain the location on the 360 degrees of the compass and the distance away. We are very proud of our tool set. This demo shows you maybe 5 to 10% of our existing tools. But let's go back to your node.

Now imagine that we want to put a wireless device on your roof. Therefore I tell the system I want to add a wireless device. Now from the list it gives us, let's tell it we want a good powerful nano station. So when I choose the device the system gives me the screen below for configuration. Now on the next screen I give it a mac address - a fake one - save and exit. The fake is for demo purposes. Users should provide their actual address

Device model, firmware & MAC address (AirOsv30)

Wireless radios section

1 radio

Radio #0 - ap - EwingWGCKRd1AP0 - 2 interface(s)

Radio main settings (SSID, MAC, Channel...)

**MAC:** \*  
11:22:33:44:55:66  
Wireless MAC Address.  
Some configurations won't work if it is blank

**SSID:** \*  
EwingWGCKRd1AP0  
SSID to identify this radio signal.

**Protocol:**  
802.11b (1-11Mbps - 2.4Ghz)  
Select the protocol where this radio will operate.

**Channel:**  
Auto 2.4GHz  
Select the channel where this radio will operate.

**Clients accepted?:**  
Yes  
Do this radio accept connections?

Antenna settings

**Type (angle):**  
sector 120 degrees  
Angle (depends on the type of antenna you will use)

**Gain:**  
14  
Gain (Db)

**Degrees (°):**  
0  
Azimuth (0-360°)

**Connector:**  
Main/Right/Left  
Examples:  
MiniPci: Main/Left/Right  
Linksys: Right/Left/Top

view device    all   data   graphs   interfaces   links   services   traceroute   unsolclic   **edit device**   delete device

Error in MAC address (1122335566), use 99:99:99:99:99 format.

—▶ Device name, status and main settings (EWGCookRd1) - Planned

—▶ Device model, firmware & MAC address (AirOsv30)

🔊 Wireless radios section

▼ 1 radio

▼ Radio #0 - ap - EwingWGcKrd1AP0 - 2 interface(s)

🔊 📶

▼ Radio main settings (SSID, MAC, Channel...)

MAC: \*  
  
  
Some configurations won't work if it is blank

SSID: \*  
  
SSID to identify this radio signal.

Protocol:     Channel:     Clients accepted?:

[Fit to Window](#)

**COOK Report:** And if I had the radio in front of me, I could give your system the real address. Yes?

**Roca:** Yes indeed. Right now the radio-device is not capable of being a client because you still have no radio at your high school. Still it could function as an access point. Therefore I will use the software to "add" add a new radio. Doing that does a lot of things for me. It will show me the

edit device *EWGCookRd1*    all   data   graphs   interfaces   links   services   traceroute   unsolclic   **edit device**

- The device *EWGCookRd1* has been UPDATED by *rroca*.
- A notification will be sent to: *ramon.roca@guifi.net,webmestre@guifi.net*
- The node *EWGordonCook* has been UPDATED by *rroca*.
- A notification will be sent to: *ramon.roca@guifi.net,webmestre@guifi.net*

—▶ Device name, status and main settings (EWGCookRd1) - Planned

—▶ Device model, firmware & MAC address (AirOsv30)

🔊 Wireless radios section

—▶ 1 radio

🔊 Cable connections section

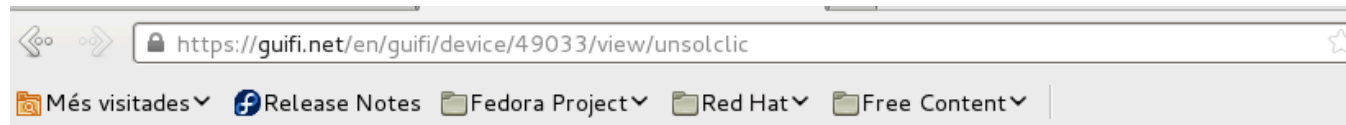
▼ 1 interface

▼ wlan/Lan - 1 address(es)

🔊 📶

—▶ 10.72.8.1 / 255.255.255.224 - 0 link(s)

mac address, we tell it what kind of antenna we will use and the 360 degree orientation of the antenna. Now I will save it. And something very important to understand is that we have an IP address of 10.72.8.1 as you can see where the cursor is at the very bottom of your screen shot. This IP number and its net mask that the system shows you will be unique across all the world in which guifi.net is setting up these devices. It uses netblock 10 that globally is designed for "natted" unannounced back bones. Doing it this way means that we control our own global hierarchy and that you, without being an administrator, can set up in such a way that you fit into our network hierarchy and that one day a gateway to the internet can be established for you from those addresses. In addressing there is also IPv6 as a consideration that we are working on.



```
# Generated for:
# AirOsv30
```

[Click here to download configuration file for: EWGCookRd1](#)

Put the mouse cursor over the link. Right click the link and select "Save Link/Target As..." to

```
# Configuration for AirOs> Unsolcllc version:1.1 !! WARNING: Beta version !!
# Device: EWGCookRd1
#
# Methods to upload/execute the file:
# 1.- As a file. Upload this through web management:
# a.System->Configuration Management->Locate file
# b.Upload
# 2.- Telnet: Open a terminal session, create new /tmp/system.cfg file and cut&paste
# the contents of the file. Save it an execute the command:
#
# /usr/etc/rc.d/rc.softrestart save
#
# Notes:
# -Web access method is recommended
# (the script reconfigures some IP addresses, so communication can be lost.
# 192.168.1.1 will be the new one)
# -Changes are done in user passwords on the device, default user and password are
# changed to root/guifi.
# -The ACK is set to 45 for 802.11b mode, and to 25 for 802.11a (600 meters aprox,)
#
## Link to AP info
Ap SSID = guifi.net-
WAN Ip address =
WAN Netmask =
WAN Gateway =
Primary DNS Server =
Secondary DNS Server =
Device HostName = EWGCookRd1
IEEE 802.11 Mode: = B Only (2,4Ghz 11MB)
```

Now we developed our netblock 10 advertising before we joined RIPE-NCC and gained access to public IPv4 blocks. we had no other choice than using private IPv4 addresses (RFC1918). More precisely, our address scheme was, and still is, Free Networks compliant (Free Networks is an abandoned project that was aimed at coordinating IPv4 private addresses allocation among Wireless Communities).

The use of this netblock 10 IPv4 "natted netblock" does not yet incorporate IPv6 (no one has written yet a software feature that will do this) but what it does do is this: When I click on the "install" option the system gives me all the configuration information for the "virtual" radio we have just installed. We are running software called **unsolclic**. Among its its benefits are: spectacular reduction of the knowledge required, elimination of human misconfigurations that assist our scalability. "**unsolclic**" is a WEB feature that gives the configuration of each network device in form of a script ready to copy and paste into the device. To get a correct "unsolclic" configuration is essential that we provide valid data to the system (real physical location, real MAC addresses, etc.)

This is the kind of screen you run on the device that describes everything. There is no need for manual configuration of new radios because when you are running a network like this. It is much better to have new devices for people that self configure through a few easy steps rather than force people to type in into a web interface a long series of entries each of which must be precise for the system to work.

***Networks across the world are facing issues like this and this is why it makes sense to cooperate with each other so that each new community does not have to do this as part of a time consuming wheel reinventing process.***

**COOK Report:** What would Isaac have to do to be able to use in Kansas City the tools that you have developed?

**Roca:** One of the questions that I have already gotten from Isaac is where is the source code of all this? I will see that he gets its because we are more than happy to have others hacking on and improving what we have already developed. This is not the end of the story it is just the beginning.

**COOK Report:** So long as a third party uses what you have developed in accordance with the rules of open source they are perfectly welcome to regardless of whether they are directly affiliated with you in any way?

**Roca:** Yes. We developed our rules of infrastructure owned as commons quite early on and since we purchased the fiber in 2009 we haven't done much more development while we are working on getting the necessary interconnection approvals. But I am already thinking that the next generation of this should be written from the point of view of wireless plus fiber in the development of Bottom-up-Broadband (BuB).

**COOK Report:** When at the end of 2012 you had the "[International Summit for Community Wireless Networks 2012](#)" in Barcelona and Sasha Meinrath was a major organizer, did he react well to the code that you have prepared? Did he say anything like "oh boy I know so-and-so in the US who really needs to see this and will probably want to use it"?

**Roca:** I am not sure that Sasha has actually seen these tools that I have just shown to you and by way of self-criticism I might say that our various communities are not as good as they should be in sharing the tools that they develop. We are very bad in international dissemination, especially comparing our field trial results with the results of other projects.

**COOK Report:** I would really like to help and one of the ways I could do so is to explain what you've done in such detail that it will become obvious to readers who are not aware of you as I was not aware until recently. As many people as possible should understand that guifi.net entity exists and furthermore that it is a system that goes an order of magnitude beyond the capabilities of any system that I have ever seen and I strongly suspect that my readers would have the same reaction. It seems to me that you can do everything the incumbents can for a much cheaper price.

**Roca:** We believe that is true and in a more fair way from the social point of view.

**COOK Report:** And considering the very bad situation we have here - in the USA - I personally would like to see you to replace the incumbents.

**Roca:** We believe we would get further faster with the local political administration if we put it differently and said "look why don't you let us compete with the incumbents? If we can do what we believe we can, we will become an alternative to them and in rural areas offer services that they cannot. Surely it is time to give the local people a choice?" Also it helps us to stay on better terms with the European Community authorities.

**COOK Report:** Why don't you put it this way and say to the authorities that, while there may be some pieces of content that the incumbents could offer that you would have a hard time matching on that from a technology point of view there would be little if anything that the incumbents could do that you could not do. Is that a fair appraisal?

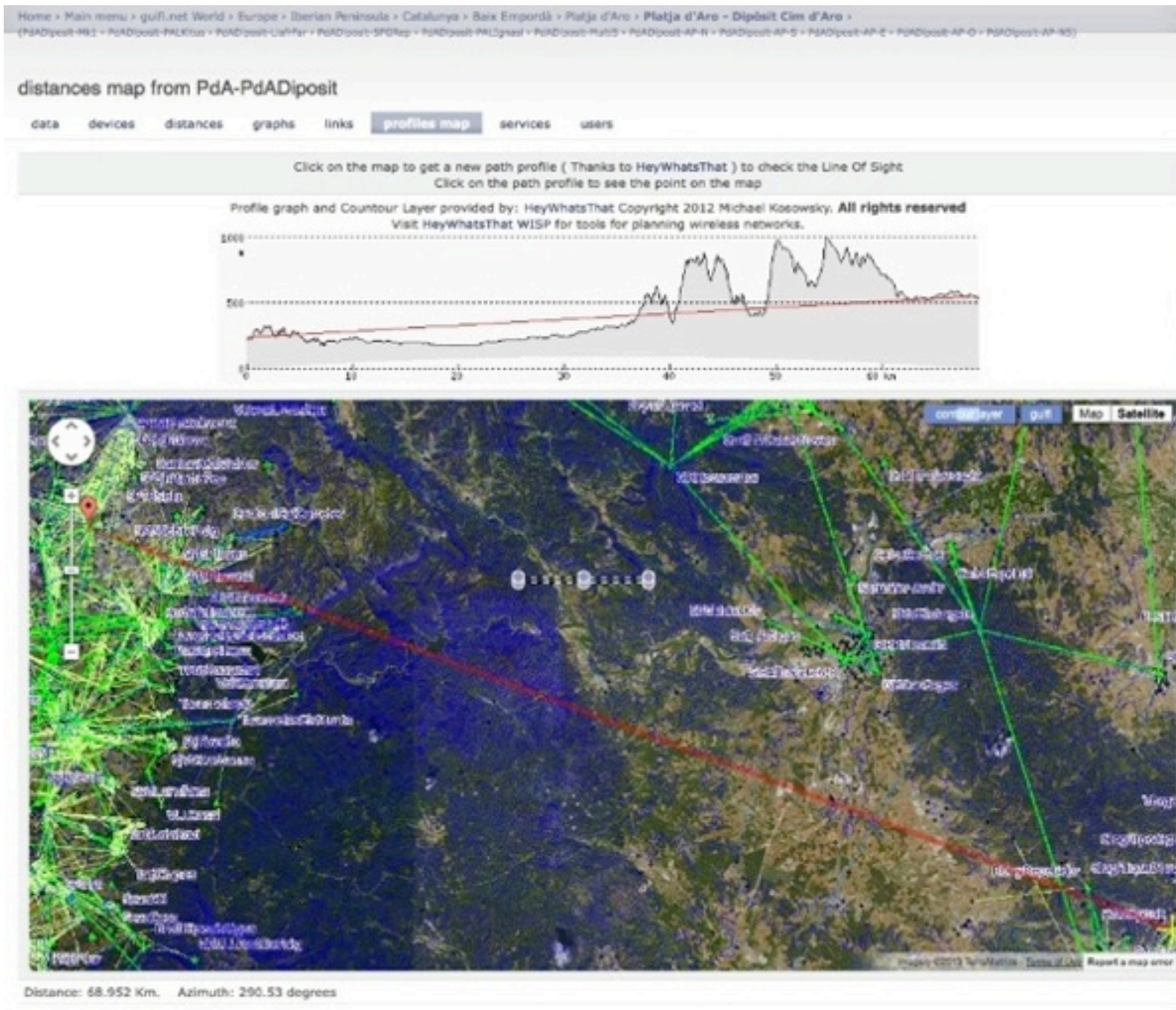
**Roca:** Yes. And for just providing Internet access we don't need the incumbent at all.

**COOK Report:** But I think what you are also saying is that it is much better not to become a target to the incumbent or the authorities unless you absolutely must.

**Roca:** Yes.

# Treasures Everywhere

**Cook Report:** As I continue to work on the retelling of the guifi.net story I discovered many fascinating new tools of guifi.net. Here is one such tool. This page was gotten by [this url](#). The map below is for planning line of sight connections between nodes and can show the would be user what will work and what won't. Turning on contours give a much better idea of the topography involved, These pages use material from [this site](#) as well. Profile graph and Contour Layer provided by: [HeyWhatsThat](#). But readers should note that this [orographical tool](#) does not take into account the height of any intervening buildings.





FAQ / Site Map  
Sign up  
@heywhatsthat  
Comments?



WISP Fixed Wireless Analysis and beta versions of the [main site](#) and [Path Profiler](#)

All panoramas

View

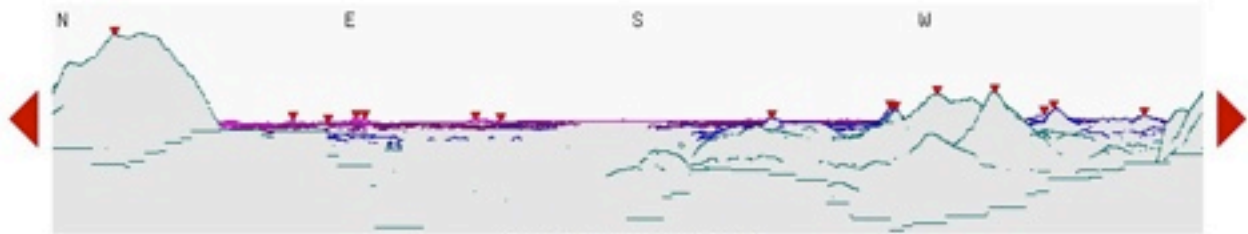
New panorama

Print

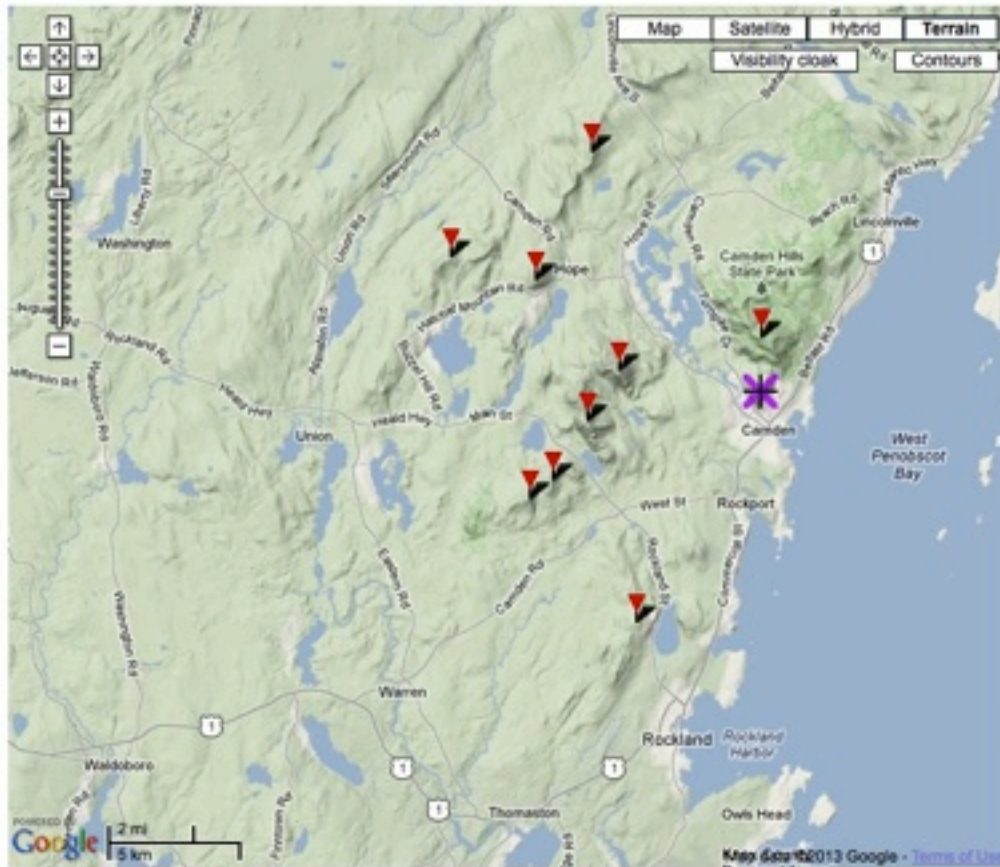
### The View From Mount Battie

latitude 44.223056° N longitude 69.069167° W  
elevation 793 ft above sea level (6 ft above ground)

Night view  
[Email this panorama](#)  
[View in Google Earth by day](#)  
[at night](#)  
[Use true north](#)  
[Show profile](#)



(vertical scale exaggerated 5.3x)



20°	Mount Megunticook	1 mile	1375 ft
75°	Blue Hill	28 miles	922 ft
86°	Caterpillar Mountain	21 miles	486 ft
95°	Sargent Mountain	40 miles	1362 ft
98°	Bernard Mountain	35 miles	1040 ft
132°	Rocky Mountain	25 miles	472 ft
140°	Duck Harbor Mountain	25 miles	262 ft
225°	Dodge Mountain	6 miles	659 ft
262°	Pleasant Mountain	6 miles	1027 ft
264°	Spruce Mountain	5 miles	955 ft
277°	Ragged Mountain	4 miles	1280 ft
295°	Bald Mountain	3 miles	1260 ft
310°	Simmons Hill	8 miles	945 ft
313°	Hatchet Mountain	6 miles	1083 ft
342°	Moody Mountain	7 miles	932 ft

(Bearings are magnetic; for true bearings subtract 17° or click [here](#))

44.223056° N 69.069167° W  
Click [here](#) to re-center map on The View From Mount Battie  
English Metric DD.DDDDDD° DD° MM.MMMM' DD° MM' SS.SS"

The next discovery I made was [here](#).

When you arrive at this target, you see the mail lists for the Osona region which covers the areas of Vic and Gurb. Here is the landing page on which you may find out about optical fiber laid to a summer camp for teenagers in Vic where the kid were taught how to

lay the fiber. Next is a list where users are informed that the [supernode VicPalau Bojons](#) is down. Money for the repair is being crowd sourced by the list as well as a schedule that people sign up for a schedule to go out and to install new equipment.

The screenshot shows the OsonaGuifi website interface. At the top is the logo and navigation menu with items like 'bloc', 'guifi.net', 'la gent', 'la xarxa', and 'els continguts'. Below the header is a large image of a building with solar panels. A secondary navigation bar includes 'DIVULGACIÓ', 'AGENDA', 'CONVOCATÒRIES', 'MILLORES', 'MANTENIMENT', 'APADRINAMENTS', and 'TÈCNIC'. The main content area features three news articles:

- Desplegament de fibra òptica a Vic**: Aquest estiu, durant el camp de treball, es va començar el desplegament de fibra òptica per connectar l'Escola Andersen, el Club Pati Vic, l'Alberg Canonge Collell, el Mas Osona i l'Estació Meteorològica. A l'agost vàrem fer una primera connexió provisional entre l'Escola Andersen i el Club Pati Vic. Al setembre s'ha construït la canalització soterrada que va quedar pendent per connectar els esmentats edificis i aquests dies es finalitza aquesta construcció. Hem previst que el **dissabte, 10 de novembre**, a partir de les 9 del matí, ens trobarem davant l'Alberg per realitzar el desplegament del cablejat de fibra òptica i connectar els edificis. Et convidem a participar en aquest desplegament de xarxa oberta, lliure i neutral, xarxa de comuns, amb fibra òptica: veient-ho, ajudant-hi, documentant-ho, ... Apunta-t'ho a l'agenda!
- Reparació supernode Vic Palau Bojons**: Apadrinament Obert! <http://guifi.net/ca/node/49608>
- Primers trams de fibra òptica a Vic**: Fa temps que s'està treballant en diversos projectes de desplegament de trams de fibra òptica guifi.net a Vic, això mateix està passant a altres poblacions de la plana, com Gurb, Centelles, Calldenes, entre d'altres. En el cas concret de Vic està previst fer trams que connectin diferents supernodes entre ells per tal de millorar la xarxa i permetre donar capil·laritat a aquests primers trams per poder fer arribar fibra des de qualsevol dels edificis veïns d'aquests supernodes.

On the right side, there is a sidebar with sections: 'Formulari de contacte', '@ llista de correu gvic', 'guifi.net la xarxa a osona xat guifi.net', 'fòrum guifi.net' (with a list of forum posts), 'altres espais de trobada', 'notícies guifi.net' (with a list of news items), and 'Usuaris' (with a list of users and their counts).

# Network Governance

## *The Commons License*

**COOK Report:** Finally, may I ask some questions about the Commons License? How close are you to having a good English translation of the Commons License that includes the changes brought about by were becoming a network with fiber as well as with wireless? How we should characterize the kinds of changes that you have had to make my virtue of becoming a network that uses fiber?

**Roca:** First we took out the word "wireless" from the License because we wanted to be technologically neutral. This means that we have the same agreement for both fiber and wireless. That's one of the points, the next is about managing the infrastructure in a way that keeps me Neutrality and avoids the conflicts that were beginning to appear in real-world practice. There are two kinds of conflicts that tend to arise that the license helps to solve.

Let me give you an example of something that is not written in the language but will tell you in practical terms of what actually the Licensee is useful for. When we have many organizations and communities that are working with the Commons network that we are building -- which is one of the goals because we wish to reach the whole world not just a given community. Under such conditions there are two kinds of conflicts that arise that the license helps to solve. Let me give you an example this is not written into the license but it will tell you in practical terms with the license is useful for.

Here is one thing that is important. We have to keep the conditions of network neutrality but we also have to work with people who provide professional services to the network. Things such as installing networks providing service level agreements fixing problems when they arise. From the now these people can charge money for doing so because they are offering professional services. So one of the conflicts that happens is that there are other people who are working on a non-volunteer basis. When they see other people taking what they regard as profits because they are working on the network maybe they become jealous I don't know how to describe exactly what. Some of them can't become upset. And say "oh no you said you were nonprofit but to charge for any services is violating the principles of the Internet."

Therefore it is important to have your charter written in such a way that it makes clear that the network is an infrastructure held in Commons for all but that people can also use the network for business services and provide services to users that they may charge for and so on. Now the other problem is that people who also control the infrastructure.

People who are professionals will also at some point be tempted that since they are very much building the infrastructure at some point they will be tempted to control the infrastructure and perhaps fix the prices or say to some friends okay we will give you a special deal or if you want to get connected here you have to be a customer of mine -- things like that.

The Commons is a useful agreement to describe the standards that people are expected to follow. And one of the things that became evident was that we had to make clear that the network must remain intact as a Commons. Somewhat wonky who wants to improve it for everyone's use by hiring professionals should be able to do so. This is very important and to make a point I will tell you for sure that if you don't have things rather thoroughly written down when conflicts arise as they will for sure, then there will be no way to solve such problems.

If you don't have these strictly enforced Commons agreements, there you will see them soon it will be, a private network either from the actions of professionals who control the, or from the actions of radicals who are against the use of the network for any kind of business purposes and in such case it will become a network just for geeks. Because he if people cannot hire professionals to build a network and especially for FiberNet works, what does this mean? It means that there is no chance for running a fiber when you have to do such things as cross property boundaries. You will quickly find that the do-it-yourself aspect cannot be 100%.

**COOK Report:** Right, but it does show how people can organize on a community basis with a minimal level of expertise and without a significant hierarchy can decide what they want to do and go ahead and do for themselves what has to be done.

**Roca:** Yes. But rules of participation must apply because there are costs and people must agree upon costs and agreed upon when and how they were put forth their money to pay.

**COOK Report:** I think I can spot an example. You said in passing much earlier that a group of us got together and ordered fiber from China and Medway realize that perhaps that 20 km or so of fiber in the urban area that you showed me more recently and that began to be laid in 2009--was that the fiber you were talking about? Did you and your neighbors literally get together and decide to measure the amount of fiber needed to connect those people to each other and to either other fiber runs or wireless supernodes?

**Roca:** Yes. It was done as a group purchase from China by the very people who would be served by it. And the big point here is to understand that some costs of apply and that the people involved must realize that they won't if they want fiber connections they must participate in financing the purchase and installation of the fiber to connect them. Now once it is deployed, the fiber will be for all of them.

The important thing to understand here is how the costs are split. If you are an incumbent and you build infrastructure like this you own that infrastructure and also the one who is providing the connectivity services. Right? In our model the difference is that the infrastructure is held in, and is not owned by any commercial provider at all and that since that infrastructure is owned by the community any professional is free to offer to provide services that rest on it.

**COOK Report:** And once the infrastructure is laid out, I cannot say "oh great now I will buy 20 meters of fiber to run from the ONT (optical network terminal unit) on the side of my business out to the fiber on the nearest street and be able to connect right there." I cannot say this because, by waiting, I will be able to piggyback on the investments of my neighbors. I must find some way to assess a more fair share of my cost in connecting to the fiber networks that my neighbors have already built?

**Roca:** Yes that is why we have rules about joining the infrastructure. Everyone should be able to join and that is why we work on a cost ace its. You may remember that the cost in this case in solving a build of over 20 km of fiber that connected several dozen users, was €1000. Everybody pays. The same rules apply for everyone and there is no way to get connected to the fiber for free. ***You must join the community and pay for your share of what the infrastructure cost is to the community you are joining.***

**COOK Report:** So do you add it all up then and while the distances between users who join is probably not the same, in each case you take the total distance that the build covers and divide by the number of participants to get an an average cost? Yes? And if someone along the fiber route in the original purchase chooses not to participate, you warn that person that if he decides later he wants to join he can indeed join but it will cost him the sheer cost plus a penalty?

**Roca:** Yes. What is the case is that the amount of fiber doesn't matter that much but making the splices, lighting it, and managing are the significant expenses - so we divided by all the houses who want to join and to avoid people taking a speculative position and say we will wait a year and see what happens.

When we say to them do what you want, but if you want to join later you must in effect contribute a full share of the original cost plus a penalty of 50% of the share cost and so in a case where a share cost €1000, that same share a year later, if you decide to wait, will cost you €1500.

## **Part 2 Free Network Foundation**

### *DIY Commons Infrastructure in the US*