#### Digital Communities – Net Vision

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

Bernd Lutterbeck Berlin University of Technology (DE)

Ars Electronica: Hybrid - Living in Paradox Linz, 5. September 2005

From technology emerges the freedom to create an endless variety of new environments

#### **The Vision**



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

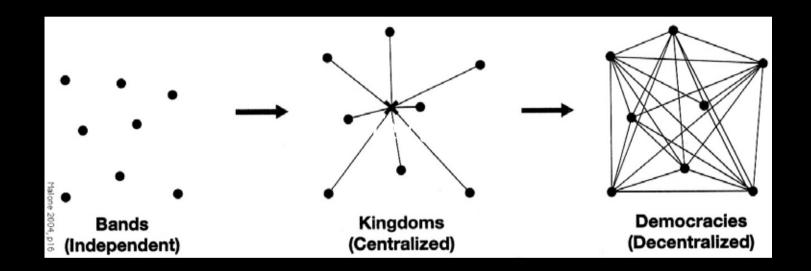
Mark Weiser (1952 – 1999), XEROX PARC

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

F. Ma. 37

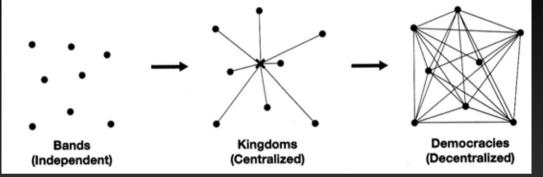
# Cooperation and Decentralization are among the best devices

## The pattern in human societies



Source: Malone 2004

The major ways human societies have been organized throughout history reveal a remarkably simple pattern that foreshadows how businesses are now changing.



#### **Human societies**

Business Organizations •

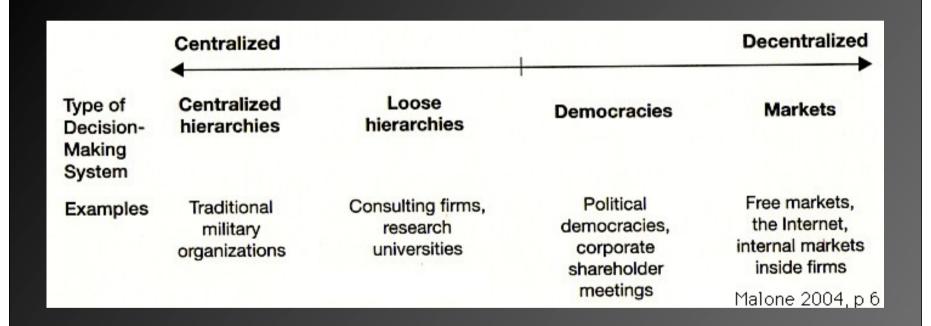
The major changes in how businesses were organized throughout history echo the changes in how societies were organized.

Small businesses (Independent)

Corporate hierarchies (Centralized)

Networks (Decentralized)

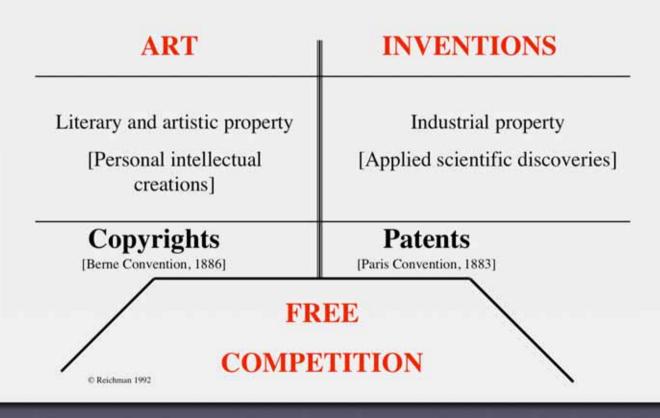
### The Decentralization Continuum



Institutions structure the behavior of humans

# The institution of intellectual property gives creativity a structure

# Bipolar Structure of the International Intellectual Property System



Source: Reichman 1992

# In many cases resources are best organized by commons.

Prominent example is the Internet.

Commons is a resource management principle

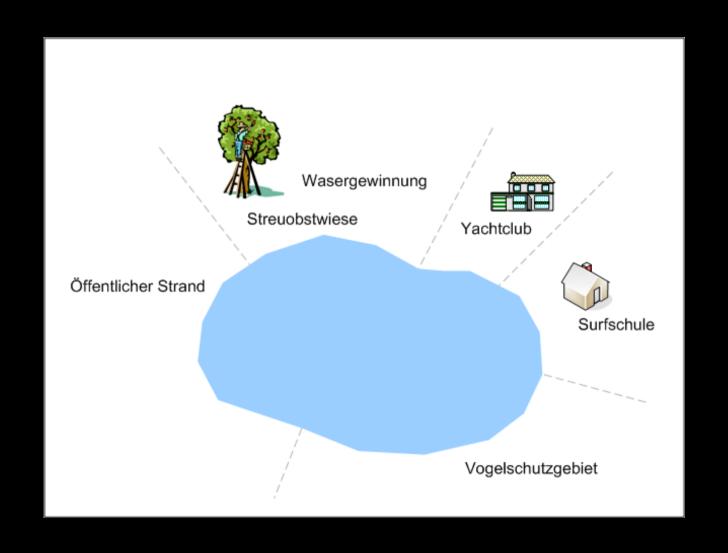
# «A resource is managed as a commons means

• • • • •

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

Source: Frishmann 2004, p 4





## Alert!

# Organizing resources is a problem of power!

## a future?

Communities by contract?

#### Shopping mall in Bloomington/Minnesota



Largest mall in US
4.2 Million square foot
~11,000 to 13,000 employees
~ 520 shops

~ 50 Million visitors/tourists/customers \$ 1.7 billion economic impact Prada (NY) is architecture plus (IT-) technology





But Prada is more

– an arrangement of public sphere in the 21<sup>th</sup> century