Hackathon Brief

This is a project that produces infrastructure for mutual social credit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutual_credit which is a pretty fragmented article. The original project was started in 2005, after discussions with Michael Linton: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_exchange_trading_system, Mary Fee of Letslink UK and briefly with Bernard Lietaer: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_Lietaer

By 2015, the original was getting rusty and it was time for a new one, based on some of the old lessons, but work mainly start during COVID.

Although the project looks like LETS, it's ambitions are somewhat broader. For example, money can be injected, thus giving something more conventional. Also the interfaces are gradually being developed for convenience. The old one had SMS payment from about 2009, this is being developed on the new one in a more rational way. NFC and mobile payment are on their way. Also the old one had templates that were machine translated into about 18 languages. The new one doesn't have this yet.

The original had a total of about 10000 downloads, not maintained now though, 6000 on Sourceforge and about 4000 on Github now frozen. The new one has moved back to Sourceforge: https://sourceforge.net/ because Microsoft now owns github.

It also doesn't have a Windows or Android version now, for the same reasons but also the technical choices don't support Windows. Also, it fits and runs on a Raspberry Pi, because I wanted low physical profile and low power as in: https://permacomputing.net/

Outputs from the Day

Most of this may be too complex to dive deep during one day. So some intellectual input on choices, some reimagining of the templating (of which the emphasis is simplicity), a little more user level documentation, since the old one had/has a 90 page manual: https://www.lulu.com/fr/shop/hugh-barnard/the-cclite-manual/paperback/product-1yvwk6e.html?page=1&pageSize=4 and a free pdf. I/we aim to do the same with this one.

If anyone wants a longer collaboration, the hackday is a good time to discuss it. I lost a couple of collaborators during the years and will now welcome new ones. I'm happy that this is a niche and somewhat quixotic project that, in fact, deals with a a fundamental issue in a fairly radical way. It's also, especially for those who downloaded the old one, an example of prefiguration: https://www.anthroencyclopedia.com/entry/prefigurative-politics

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