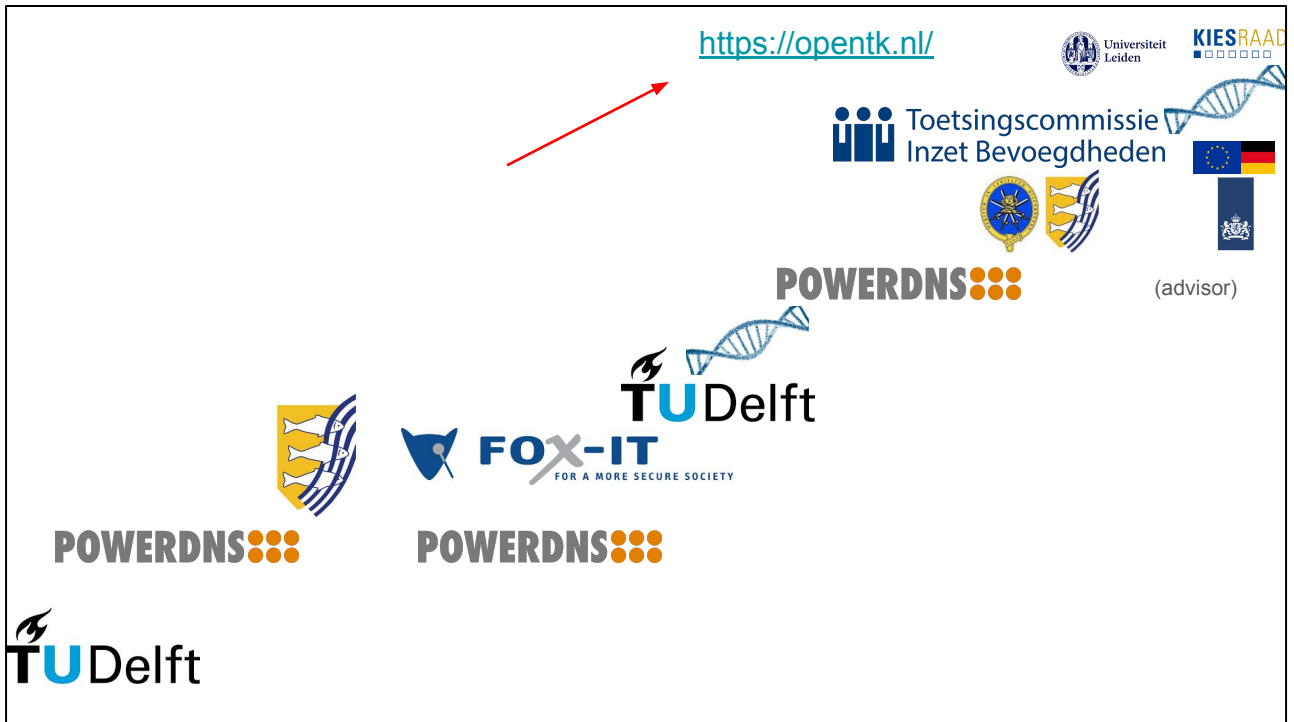


Moving beyond the Digital Commons



<https://berthub.eu/dc-edic>

bert@hubertnet.nl / @bert_hubert@eupolicy.social



I've done lots of things, within government, as a government supplier, as a government buyer, as government oversight. Also large scale telecommunication software (open source)

All of society now runs on computers
(not ours)

IT is more important than ever. And the
world is also far **scarier** today

Governments have a **leading role** in
improving things
(industry is not going to do it)



Also see: berthub.eu.
Subscribe to mailing list
Schrijf in voor nieuwsbrief

5G: The outsourced elephant in the room

📅 Jan 20 2020

This article is part of a series on (European) innovation and capabilities.

In a break from the usual GPS/Galileo, DNA and C++ posts, here is a bit on 5G and national security. It turns out that through PowerDNS and its parent company Open-Xchange, we know a lot about how large scale European communication service providers work - most of whom are our customers in some way.

In addition, in a previous life I worked in national security and because of that I have relevant knowledge of how governments (your own and foreign ones) "interact" with telecommunication providers. So what follows is based on lived experience.

Note: this article is mostly about Europe. Considerations and conditions in the US and the rest of the world are very different.

Telecommunication is what makes the world go round, and with everything moving to the cloud, any breakdown would severely disrupt our economy and safety. So it makes sense to think hard about this vital service to our society.

Apparently Thierry Breton read this and was impressed. So proud.

[\[overzicht\]](#)
[\[activiteiten\]](#)
[\[on geplande activiteiten\]](#)
[\[besluiten\]](#)
[\[commissies\]](#)
[\[geschenken\]](#)
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[\[open vragen\]](#)

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[\[verslagen\]](#)
[\[🔍uitgebreid zoeken\]](#)
[\[wat is dit?\]](#)

Zoek in alle kamerstukken, of voer document-, zaak- of activiteitsnummer in

Meest recente documenten (live updates)

☐ Alleen regeringsdocumenten

Datum	Bijgewerkt	Comm.	Onderwerp	Titel/Soort
2025-10-06	2025-10-06 17:21	K&GG	Geannoteerde Agenda Energieraad (formeel) 20 oktober 2025 (2025D43662)	Brief regering
2025-10-06	2025-10-06 17:20	I&W	Reactie op verzoek commissie over de correspondentie tussen het ministerie en de Europese Commissie inzake het LVB Schiphol openbaar aan de Kamer te doen toekomen (2025D43623)	Evaluatie Schipholbeleid
2025-10-06	2025-10-06 17:18	I&W	Startbeslissing Nedersaksenlijn (2025D43614)	Vaststelling van de begrotingsstaat van het Mobiliteitsfonds voor het jaar 2026
2025-10-06	2025-10-06 17:15	FIN	Inspectiebelastingen, toeslagen en douane (IBTD)-rapportage "Rechtsbescherming geschillen douaneheffingen" (2025D43655)	Brief regering
2025-10-06	2025-10-06 17:13	DEF	Geannoteerde Agenda Raad Buitenlandse Zaken Defensie d.d. 15 oktober 2025 (2025D43645)	Brief regering

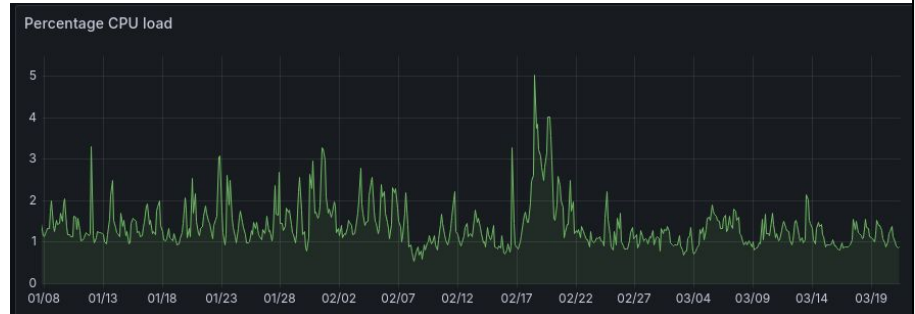
I actually run stuff on the internet. Including the opentk.nl parliamentary monitor, with 8000 active users, including users with no place else to go



The European Commission (DEFIS) relies on my open source, digital commons, <https://galmon.eu/> project



- Bare metal, 64 GB RAM, 1TB SSD
- Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-10500T CPU 6 cores
- “500 euro/year”
- <35W
- [Galmon.eu](https://galmon.eu), opentk.nl, berthub.eu/nlelec, BAG conv



Behold, the server that powers _all_ of this



This is not so great for Europe. Clouds come from the west, maintenance and equipment comes from the east



At least we still have this going for us!



mec



“That cloud and AI of
yours come out of our
machines exclusively”



ZEISS

TRUMPF

Nice.



European and US cloud players - somewhat to scale



100 times smaller

Exclusive: US threatens new ICC sanctions unless court pledges not to prosecute Trump

By Humeyra Pamuk

December 10, 2025 1:16 PM GMT+2 · Updated 22 mins ago



Yesterday



The International Criminal Court building is seen in The Hague, Netherlands, January 16, 2019. REUTERS/Piroschka van de Wouw [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-threatens-new-icc-sanctions-unless-court-pledges-not-prosecute-trump-2025-12-10/> - this just keeps happening!





Virkkunen



Sejourne



King

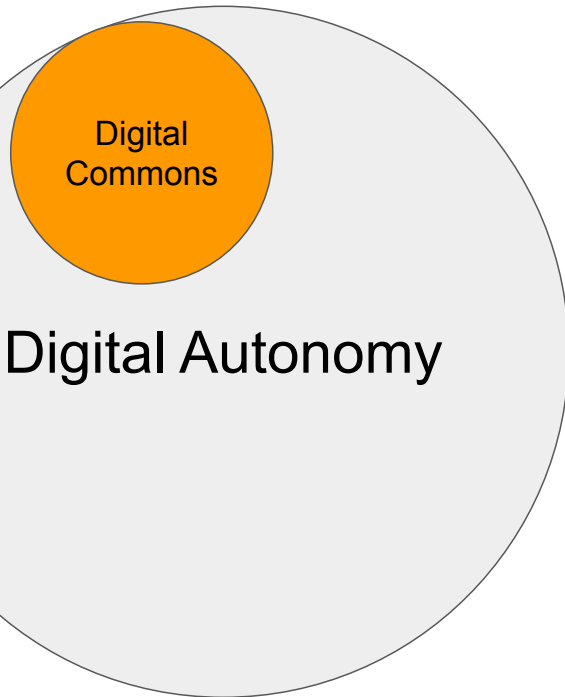


Ber Huber de Tech Exper, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoTMwX_cIDs - famous Dutch TV show

Digital Commons European Digital Infrastructure Consortium



Well I hope you can solve it!



Digital Commons will **always** enable you to have Digital Autonomy.

But the other way around is not necessarily the case.

This makes Digital Commons even more important!

YouTube

Search

Create

www.rijksoverheid.nl/na www.rijksoverheid.nl/na

zijn we heen en weer geslingerd tussen dieptepunten en hoogtepunten.

25 januari 2022: Inleidend statement persconferentie met premier Rutte en minister Kuipers.

Rijksoverheid 14.5K subscribers

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Red Bull
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"Run away" is BS
2251
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Nieuwsuur
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Something Weird Happens When $E=mc^2$
Veritasium
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Beyond Military
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Dutch former Royal Netherlands Army soldier trains jihadists in...
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2.3M views · 11 years ago
15:49

Corona press conference



Knife Expert: The Terrifying Truth About Knife Defense

Jesse Enkamp

6M views · 1 year ago



Flying our newest Embraer home | Cockpit Tales | KLM

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

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Anna Cramling

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Beyond Military

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New



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Nieuwsuur

2.3M views · 11 years ago



Mr Bean does 'Blind Date' | Comic Relief

Comic Relief

22M views · 16 years ago



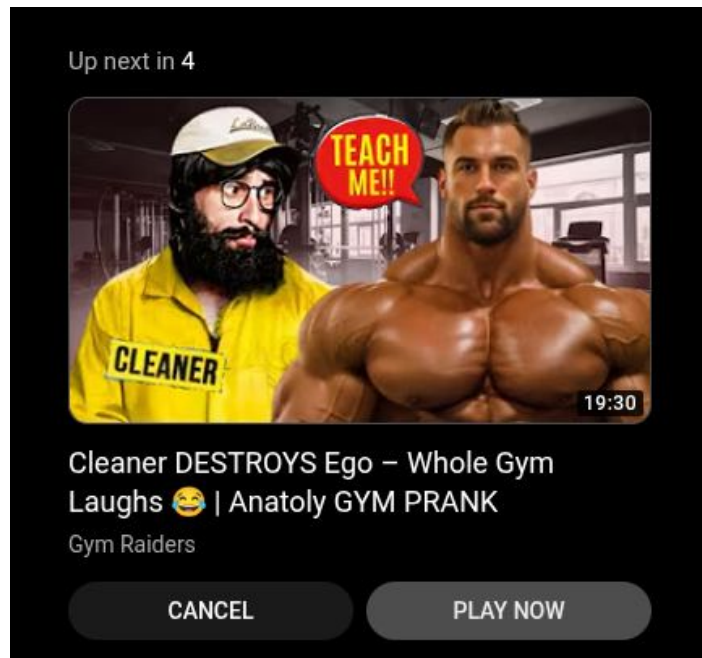
Scammers PANIC After I Hack Their Live CCTV Cameras!

NanoBaiter

39M views · 1 year ago



yeah



Yeah 2...



Wopke Hoekstra
@WBHoekstra

We have a final deal on our 2040 climate target ✓

We now have a legally binding 90% GHG reduction target: 85% domestic cuts + up to 5% international credits.

This is an ambitious and pragmatic agreement that brings predictability and flexibility for everyone.

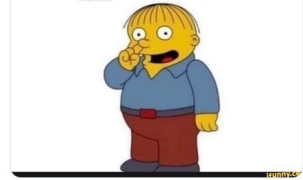


European Parliament and 3 others



Crypto Meme Italia
@CryptoMeme_Ita · 10h

The tv told me that if I eat bugs and pay more money to the government the weather will be gooder



6 199 2.2K

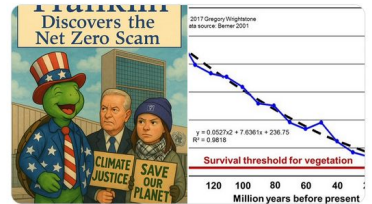


Fran Strajnar
@Techemist · 7h

Imagine being proud of taxing plant-food.

If global CO2 drops any lower all life on Earth dies.

EU is now Science denier conspiracy theorists.



2 76 1.3K

Why rely on X to talk to ... trolls & journalists? If you talk somewhere else, the journalists will listen there as well.

NEWS > CYBERSECURITY AND DATA PROTECTION

The Netherlands shuts off Google tracking on spy job listings

This took three years

Government recruitment site ran Google trackers on intelligence service job ads, raising security concerns.

LISTEN COPY LINK X D

POLITICO PRO Free article usually reserved for subscribers



In a statement, Communications Manager for Google Mathilde Méchin said: "Businesses, not Google Analytics, own and control the data they collect and Google Analytics only processes it at their direction. This data can be deleted at any time".

<https://www.politico.eu/article/the-netherlands-shuts-off-google-tracking-spy-job-listings/>



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Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens-nieuwsbrieven hadden 'onbedoeld' een trackingpixel

Twee nieuwsbrieven van de Nederlandse Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens bevatten een trackingpixel. Het was volgens de privacywaakhond niet de bedoeling dat deze werd meegestuurd met de nieuwsbrieven. De gegevens die de toezichthouder heeft verzameld, zijn vernietigd.

In de [nieuwsbrief van 10 december](#) stelt de AP lezers op de hoogte. "In de laatste twee nieuwsbrieven hebben we onbedoeld een trackingpixel meegestuurd. Deze pixel registreerde of een nieuwsbrief werd geopend. Dit past niet in ons beleid. We hebben deze gegevens vernietigd. Ook hebben we ervoor gezorgd dat de trackingpixel in eerder verzuurde nieuwsbrieven geen nieuwe gegevens meer kan verzamelen", schrijft de privacytoezichthouder. De AP licht verder niet toe hoe de trackingpixel in de nieuwsbrieven is beland.

« Vorig nieuwsartikel

Lees meer



Door Lois Franx
Redacteur
Feedback

10-12-2024 • 15:05



Submitter: SKI3000



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Onbedoeld cookies geplaatst op werkenbij.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl

In de periode van 20 tot en met 23 januari 2025 heeft de AP analytische/tracking cookies en functionele cookies geplaatst op de website werkenbij.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl. Dit is een website die een externe leverancier voor de AP beheert. De AP is verwerkingsverantwoordelijke en dus verantwoordelijk dat er op deze website géén cookies worden gebruikt. Dat is dus niet goed gegaan.

“Neither Google or Vimeo/Cloudflare responded to our reminder of the 15th of May 2025.”

Waar bent u naar op zoek?

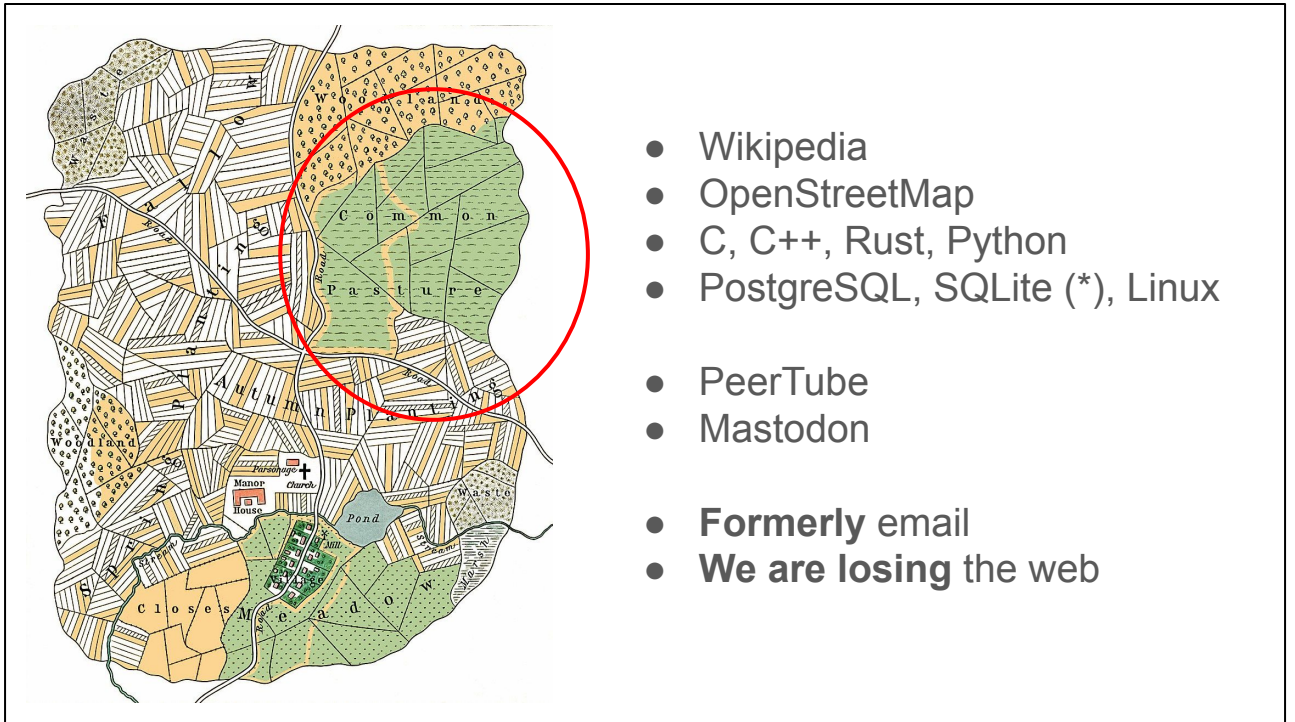
Even the well meaning people over at the Dutch Data Privacy Authority have a very hard time doing the right thing.

Our most basic functions are now so Digitally Uncommon that we have **very little effective control** over what is going on!

Why do we need **big tech** to talk to our citizens?

Why do we allow them to **hijack** our interactions?

These basic things should be Digital Commons, with tremendous transparency & control



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_land - a physical commons is somewhat easy to define. Digital Commons a lot trickier.

Perceived, but **false** digital commons



And we must address these all!

Ignore these at your peril!

Email as a (former) digital commons

- Open standards!
- Many open source implementations!
- No need to join any structure or entity to take part!
- **2025 reality:** less than 95% of your email arrives, unless you are a customer of Microsoft, Google, Apple or Amazon
- Big players randomly block non-big player email
 - No recourse
 - No appeal
 - **No communication even**
 - They blame you, and ridicule you for not sticking to their secret rules
- **Effectively, email is now a walled garden**
 - Unless you can stand to sometimes not be able to email
 - Or are ok with losing 5% of your messages

For successful Digital Commons **use**:

- 1) Open technology / standards (🤩)
 - 2) Open implementations (😊)
 - 3) **No gatekeepers, or gatekeepers with open governance**
-
- 4) (Also) provided **as a service, or with integrator** (😞)
 - 5) With **actual marketing and sales** (😬)
 - 6) **Good without excuses** (😡)

The top 3 items are usually well cared for



Also see: berthub.eu.
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Schrijf in voor nieuwsbrief

What we in the open world are messing up in trying to compete with big tech

📅 May 18 2025

Our societies and governments now largely run on American proprietary big-tech platforms. Many of us want to decrease this dependency, or even end it altogether.

This article is part of a series of posts on (European) cloud challenges.

Everyone in the open tech scene is full of good intentions and we all want to improve things, but mostly we are not succeeding. By our nature, we would like to build fun, open, federated, and standards-based things. But that's not enough — that's not what the world is waiting for (right now).

At the first “your stuff is weird, why is it like this,” you’ve lost almost everyone. **You get no credit just because your solution is European or Open Source or both.** Quite the opposite. Your stuff has to be more beautiful and easier to use than what Microsoft and Google offer

<https://berthub.eu/articles/posts/what-the-open-world-must-do-better/>

**I love all
these
projects**



Open standards	✓	✓	✓	✓
Open software	✓	✓	✓	✓
Governance	✓	✓	✓	✓
As a service	✓	?	☹️	✗
Marketing/Sales	☹️	?	✗	✗ > ✓
“Smooth, no excuses”		✗	✓	✗

What to do?

- Building a European community of public, private and civic stakeholders
- **Facilitating** access to funding, including via a physical and online one-stop-shop and expertise hub
- Offering legal and **technical** support for maintenance and scaling
- Providing policy advice and **awareness-raising**
- Coordinating and participating in **concrete** multi-country projects anchored in digital commons
- Hand out an award!

I have a few recommendations

- Governments very much DO NOT like to be the first to do something
 - Find champions in use of OpenStreetmap, PeerTube, BigBlueButton/Jitsi, Mastodon etc and **promote their good work**
 - **Norm setting**: DC-EDIC should be a living example of Digital Commons!
- Current Digital Commons community very idealistic (as they should be)
 - Educate them on what **governments also need** (which is not a free Mastodon server) and how users should not experience **barriers**
- Protect/rebuild the **email digital commons** by bundling delivery complaints to Digital Uncommons emailproviders, and providing publicity
- Educate governments to at least **ALSO** share their stuff on open platforms (no need to rip out everything first!)   **PeerTube**

"If you come at the king, you best not miss"



People, **rightfully**, hate any kind of IT change. You need to be a **huge success** to ram this through!

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-launch-digital-commons-edition-support-sovereign-european-digital-infrastructure-and>

- Digital Commons are a **bigger goal** than Digital Autonomy, but they also get you **Digital Autonomy**
- Currently almost everything is Digital Uncommons
 - Including government communications & email
- There are great Digital Commons out there already, and the standards & software are pretty good
 - However for DC **success** we need more
- DC-EDIC is in a great place to address those gaps & spin up the adoption & improvement process, plus educate government & industry
- Ponder addressing issues that are within reach first, and take over the world after that
- **GOOD LUCK!**

Moving beyond the Digital Uncommons



<https://berthub.eu/dc-educ>

bert@hubertnet.nl /  @bert_hubert@eupolicy.social