

Ethics & Responsibilities online

Holder : Agnez

Participants : ?

When you have a web presence (e.g. website, newsletter ..) you can use all sorts of comfortable tools that help you get the job done. But those often come with downsides and might not treat you user in a fair way : tracking their behavior without their knowledge or consent and selling this data without any transparency about it.

Webdesigners and application developers could act in a responsible manner : inform their clients what third party services do and what alternatives exist. If the choice goes for the track using service : be clear to the end-user (website visitor, newsletter reader) what happens when consulting the content.

Players like e.g. NGOs and others that aim to make a societal change should pay attention of who they empower if their choice goes for one tool/service or another, and probably chose for a solution that fits the values they represent.

Some keywords we came up with : clarity, transparency, honesty.

We talked about some cases we were part of where a group did not use the best ethical solutions out there (google drive instead of e.g. nextcloud, slack instead of e.g. matrix ...). Here is one case example : In the catalunian network of cooperatives (XES) they have a sort of check list to test "How social is your project" :

<https://pamapam.org/ca/> This tool used to be closed source, so it was itself not built the most social way. Some members of the network kept pointing on that issue and finally the license of the tool is going to be changed.

Some points we found can lead to choice for better/more ethical tools :

- inform
- create think groups
- be stubborn (people won't easily quit the tool they know, but are eventually willing to chose the ethical solution)