

Participatory budgets in the Nordic Countries

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Who we are

Digidem Lab is an independent democracy lab for **participatory democracy**. We study, test, and offer internationally tested methods and tools for **citizen participation**.

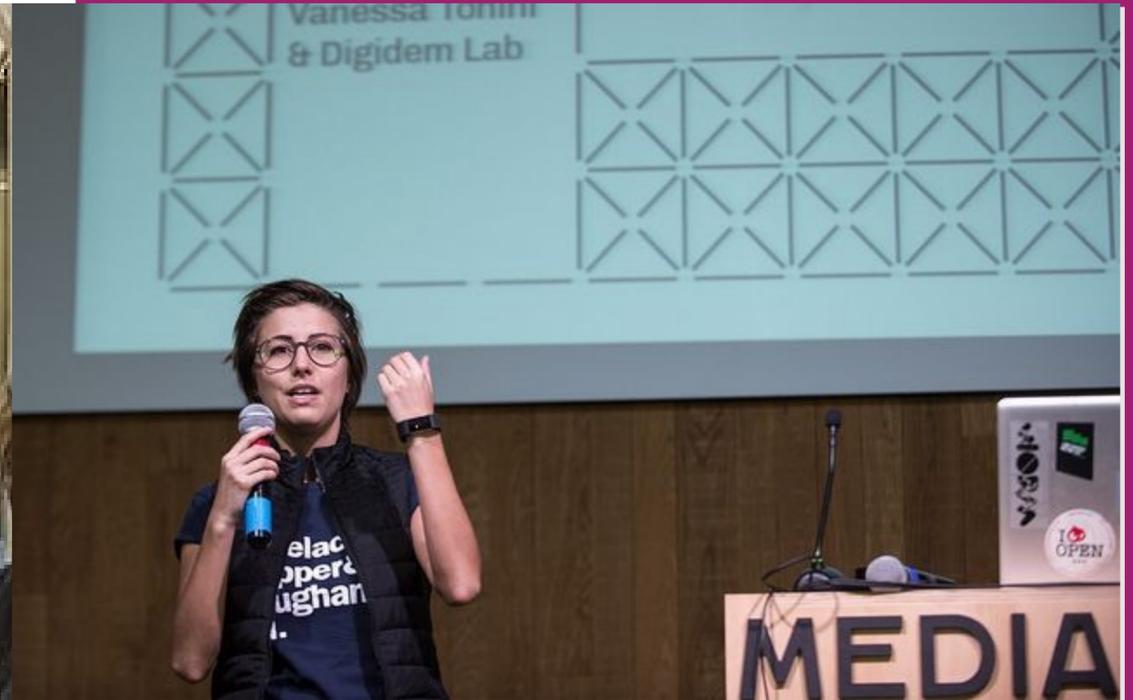
We have 30 PBs with...

- **Cities and city districts:** Majorna Linné (Gothenburg), Hisingen (Gothenburg), Lundby (Gothenburg), Skärholmen (Stockholm), Gislaved, Sigtuna, Botkyrka
- **Public housing companies:** Stena Fastigheter, Familjebostäder, Bostadsbolaget Hjällbo och Biskopsgården (Gothenburg)
- **Schools:** Lundby (Gothenburg)
- **Civil society organisations:** Malmö Tillsammans
- **As part of a consortium:** New York, Chicago

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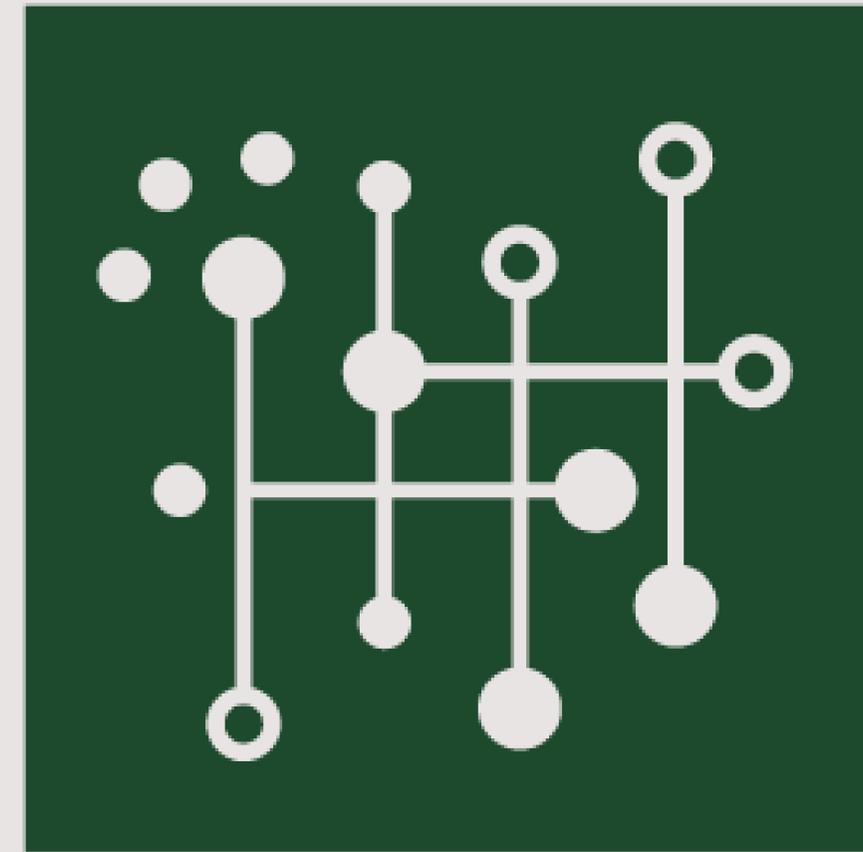
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Collective Intelligence through Digital Tools (2020-2023)

- > University of Helsinki
- > NESTA (UK)
- > Digidem Lab & University of Gothenburg



COLDIGIT

Democratic innovation and digital participation

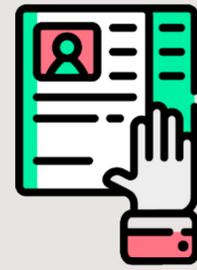
Harnessing collective intelligence for
21st-century decision-making

<https://www.nesta.org.uk/report/democratic-innovation-and-digital-participation-report/>

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Design the process



Collecting ideas & identifying delegates



Campaigning & Voting phase



Evaluate

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Anchoring with key stakeholders

Develop proposals

Implement proposals

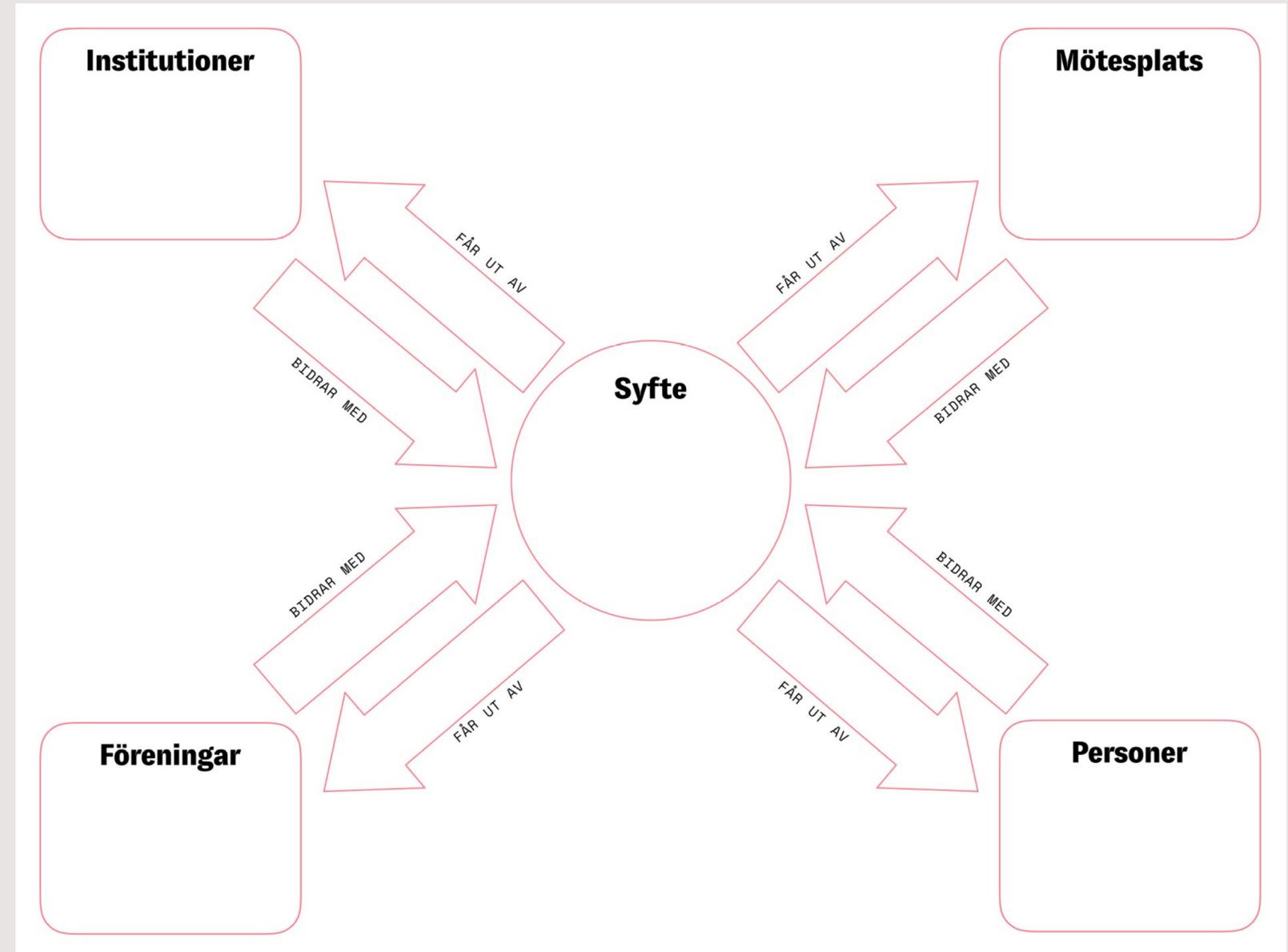
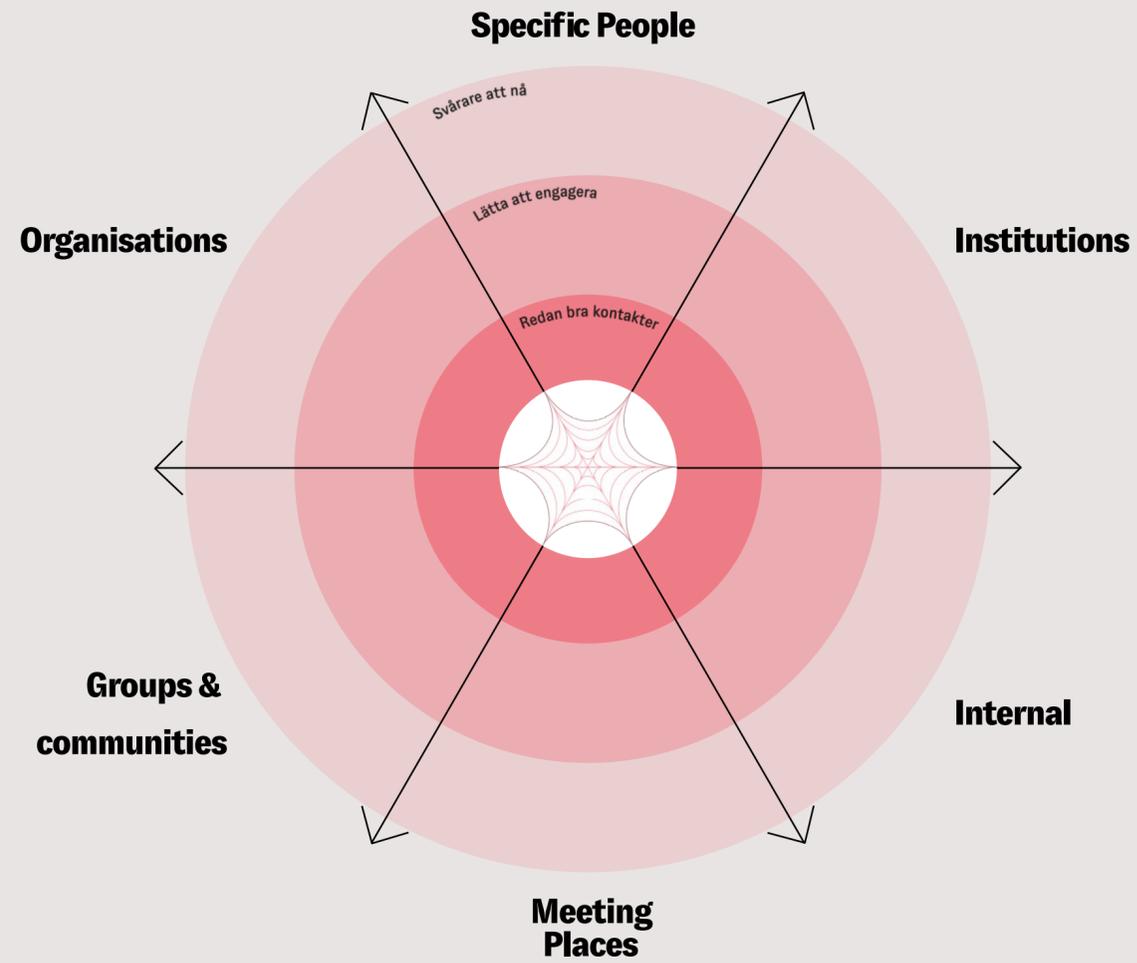


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**Design for and with the
community**

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Use independent and diverse facilitators

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**Treat inclusivity as
standard**

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**Citizen-led agenda setting
and process design**



Marginalised communities can develop participation fatigue if continually engaged with little follow-up action

People lack the incentive or motivation to engage

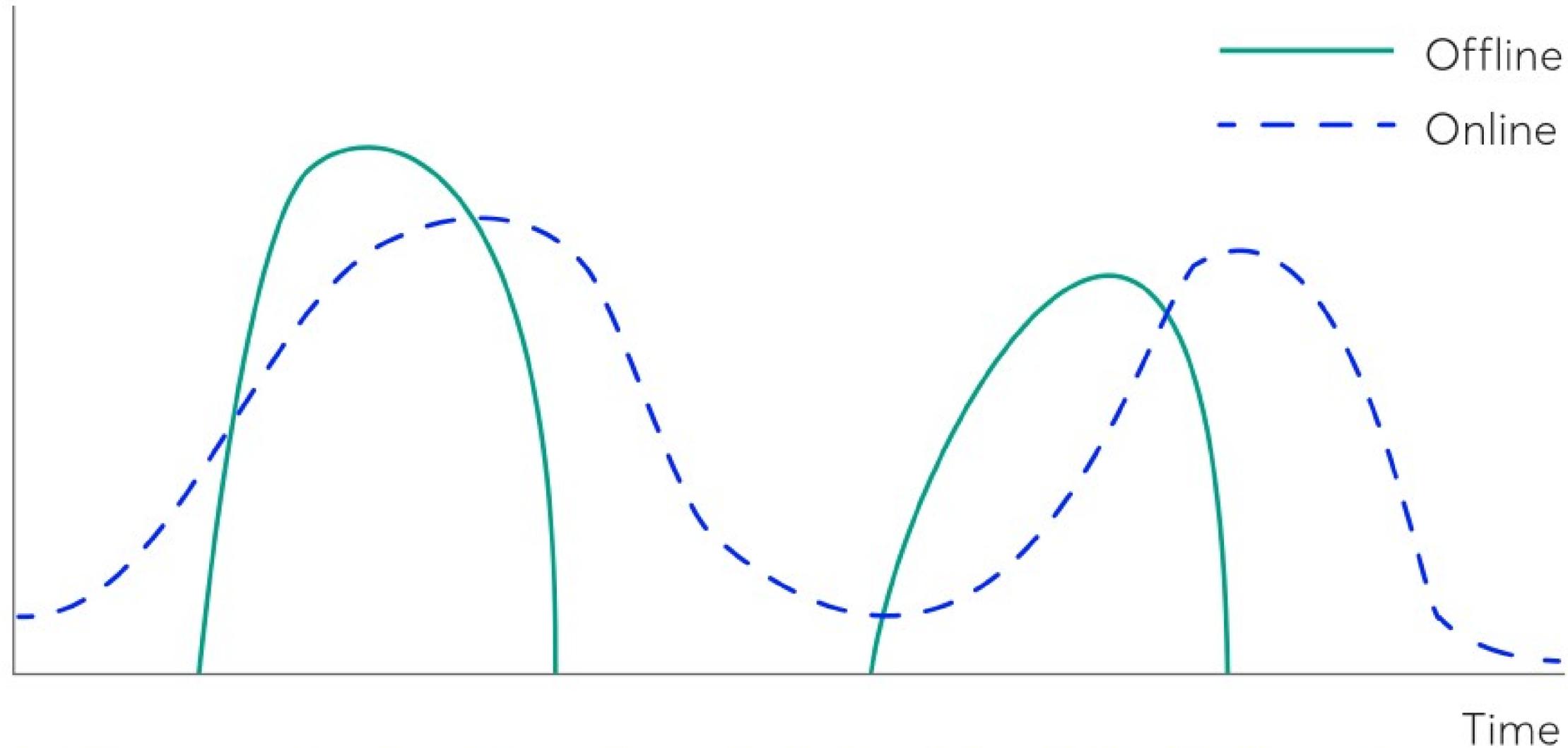


**Reluctance of institutions
to share real power**



Lack of in-person events resulting in falling participation on digital platforms

Participation



An illustration of evidence from pilots in Gothenburg⁴² and Helsinki⁴³ that online participation follows in-person activities, forming a 'digital shadow'. (The level of participation illustrated is arbitrary.)

Why is citizen participation not catching on in Sweden?

Lack of national coordination and support

Sweden ranked 23 out of the EU28+ countries in the European Commission's 2019 Open Data Maturity Index

OECD: The governance framework needs to support the overall digital transformation and avoid the silo-based and uncoordinated path followed over the past decade.

Deregulated public sector & reliance on big tech

☰ **WIRED** SECURITY POLITICS GEAR THE BIG STORY MORE ▾ [GIVE A GIFT](#)

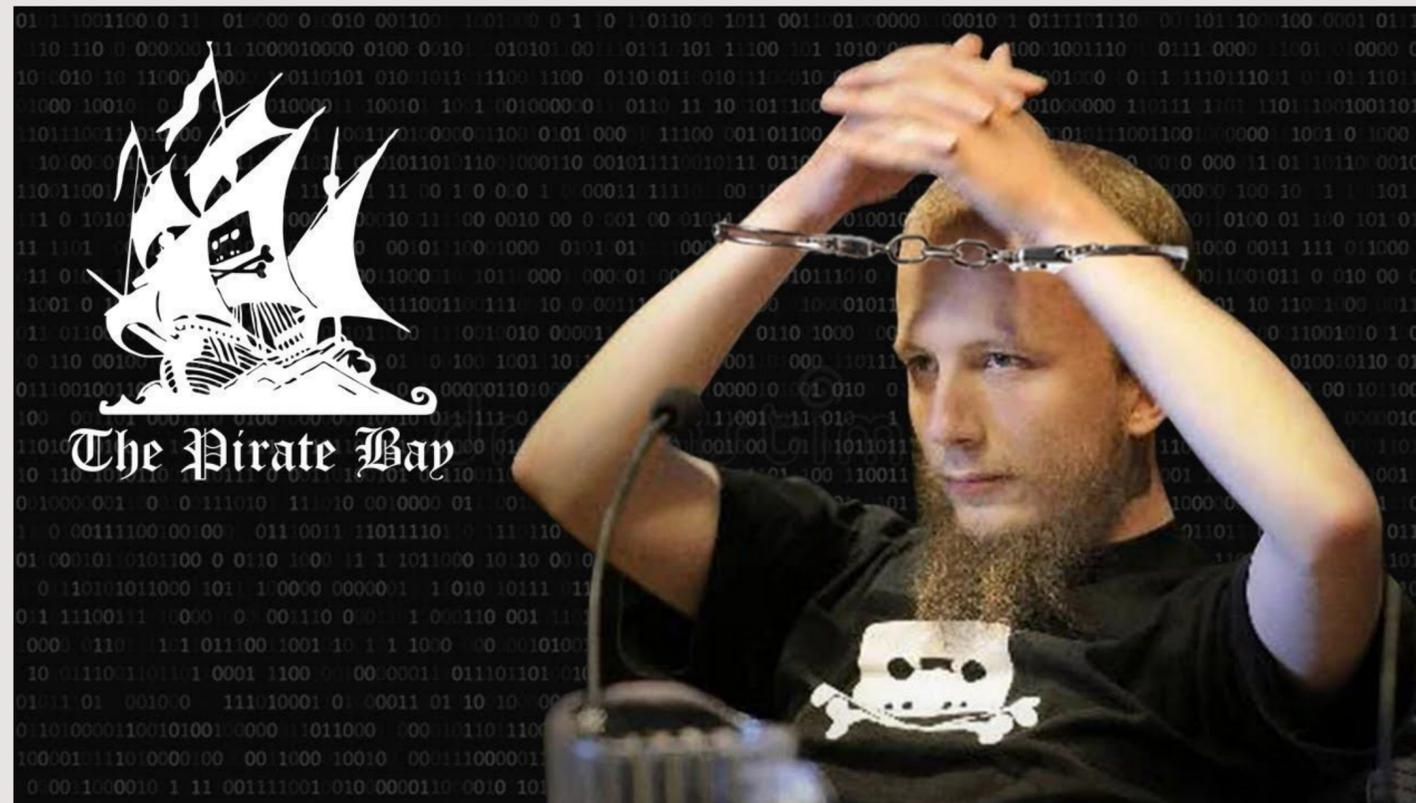
MATT BURGESS

SECURITY NOV 4, 2021 7:00 AM

These Parents Built a School App. Then the City Called the Cops

Stockholm's official app was a disaster. So annoyed parents built their own open source version—ignoring warnings that it might be illegal.

Weak open source and civic tech communities



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Thank you!

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