

# Open Standards: an attempt of Explanation

Workshop

"PUBLIC ENTITIES REDUCING LOCK-IN:  
THE WAY FORWARD"  
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# Lock-in is *Control*

- How data comes in
- How data goes out
- How metadata is handled
- User interface, user experience
- Hardware/Binary compatibility
- Legal control

Standards are one remedy  
Open Source is another one,  
but they are not equivalent

# Lock-in can be strict or soft



Legal restrictions,  
object code only

vs.



Convenience

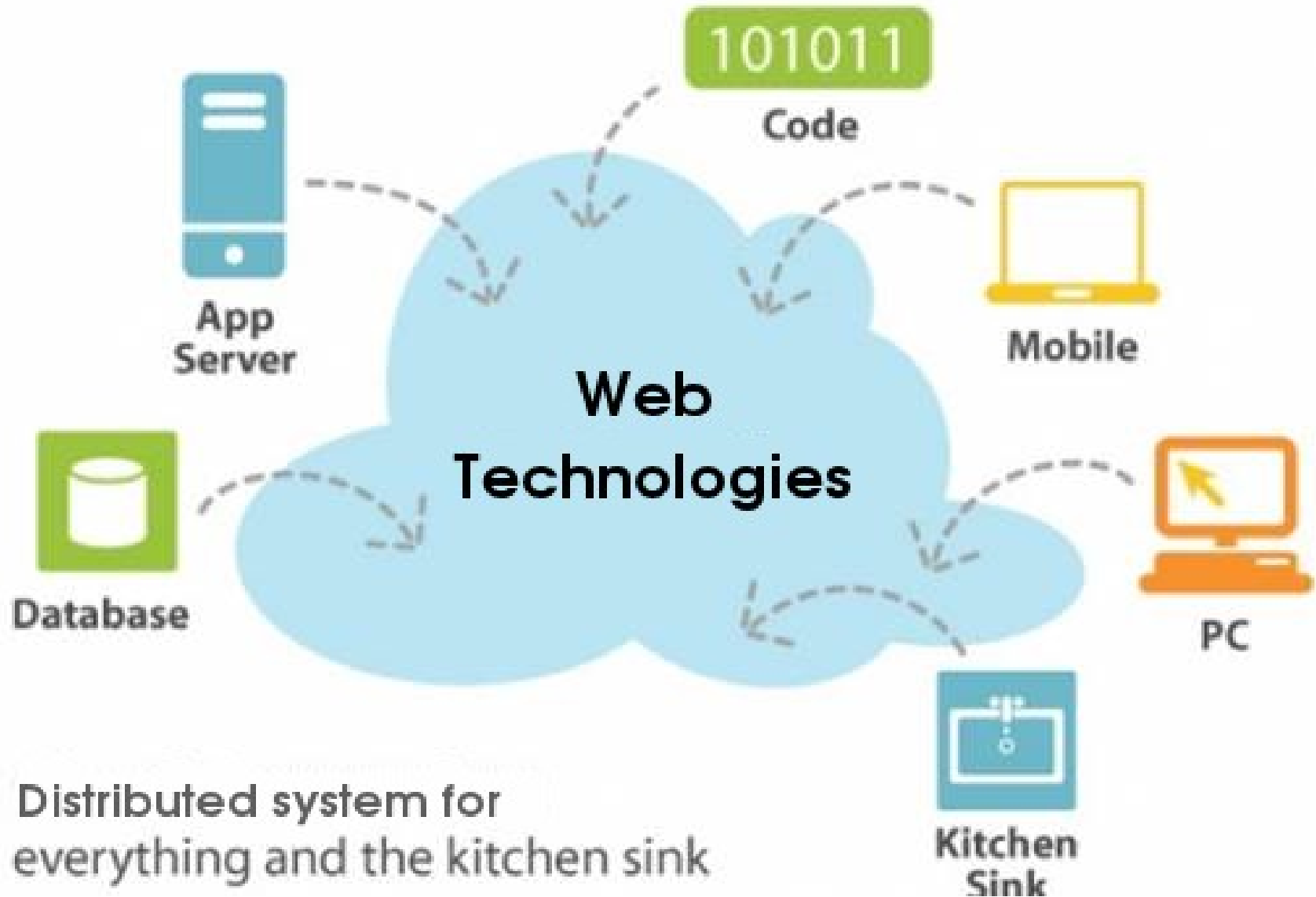
# Silos are beautiful & convenient



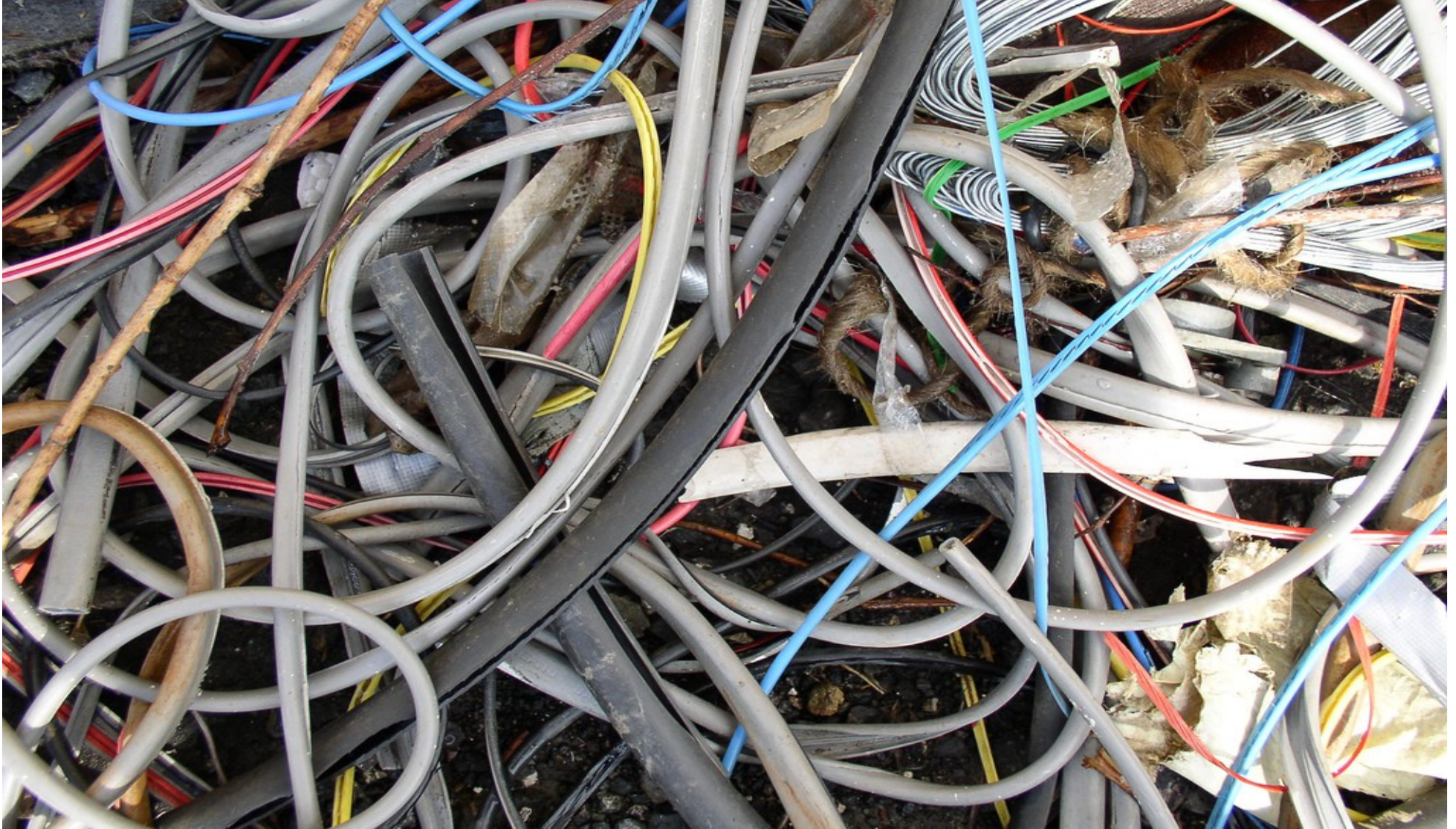
Beautiful silos have  
one disadvantage



# Possible Solution: Distributed System



# Distributed Systems tend to be complex



**But the  
Internet  
works**





# Distributed interoperability

- Robust because:
  - Data formats
  - Wire formats
  - Protocols
  - Semantics
  - Defined in/out
- Difficult because
  - Identity management
  - Increased complexity
  - Possibly multiple vendors

**needs lots of standards**

# Open Stand Principles

## 1. Cooperation

## 2. Principles:

- a) Due process
- b) Broad consensus
- c) Transparency
- d) Openness

## 3. Empowerment

- a. Technical merit
- b. Interoperability
- c. Serve competition
- d. Building blocks for further innovation
- e. Benefiting humanity

## 4. Availability

## 5. Voluntary Adoption

<http://open-stand.org/principles/>

# Open Stand reflects Internet Standardisation


- Rough consensus and running code
- Technical merit counts more than strict process
- Goal: Economies of scale

# Economies of scale

- One phone is useless, everybody having a phone makes buying a phone worthwhile
- Prices per entity come down
- Collaboration and cooperation become easier

# To achieve economies of scale, Open Standards:

- Must be available for free on the Internet
- Must be implementable on a Royalty Free basis
- Must be of technical merit and usable
- Must cater to an eco - system

**BUT** 

A Camel is a Horse



decided by a Committee

# Games

- An assembly of organisations competing with the market leader is not a standardisation organisation

- Divide and conquer consist on having a free part that only makes sense if implemented with that other part:

- Patents
- Limited Access
- Lock-in



# Open Source does not replace Open Standards

- Open Source can lock-in:
  - Via non-standard formats
  - Via expensive maintenance agreements
  - Via investment in training
- Data-formats more important than source code
- Cloud systems typically sit on the meta-data

# How to assess?

- Most needs around Internet technologies, but <http://www.openictprocurement.eu/> Is excluding Internet technology standards
- MSP recognition system is there to help you
  - <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/identification-ict-specifications>  
Tells you how you can get help

# Questions?

- Acknowledgements for pictures:
  - Silo by Magnus:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/feil/>
  - Camel by wikimedia.org

# Expectations

- Extensible Technologies
- Agile Agreements
- Federation of Identities
- Combinability of Semantics

