

O, Mga Dasalin na Dadalas ang Kalasan

| <i>Part 1</i> | <i>Part 2</i> | <i>Part 3</i> | <i>Part 4</i> |
|---|--|---|--|
| Act Carefully, Act Bold | Basics of OpSec | Ayos lang maging matumal sa trabaho | Refuse! There's enough stuff in circulation for ALL |
| We don't really need the Police | The Need for Privacy in and out of our Digital Spaces | Understanding Automation | Right to Repair |
| Paano dapat mag- serve ng search warrant ang pulis sa bahay? | Use Linux as Daily Driver | How much is enough | Approaching Zero Waste |
| Ano ang mali sa estado? | Watch YouTube videos using alternative clients | Sino ang 'di pa nasisiraan ng bait? | Consider these for your next smartphone |
| Demokrasya sa Gobyerno at Kapitalismo | Against All Ads | Do NOT start a business | Radical Transportation |

Kung tatakas ka rin lang, isama mo na ito.

Alam natin kung gaano kahirap ang buhay. Ang pupuksa sa kagustuhan mong magpatuloy ay ang mga sistemang kinalakhan mo na; mga tradisyong 'di palaging patas; mga batas na may kinikilingan.

Hirap tayo sa ganitong siste. Ngunit tila mas hirap tayo sa pag-iisip pa ng ibang paraan ng pamumuhay na kung saan walang matatapakan, walang maiiwan, walang masasaktan.

Ano na?

Ewan. Malamang wala dito sa zine na ito ang sagot. Pero kung makakatulong man ito sa pagbukas ng iyong kaisipan, okay na rin 'yun.

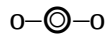
Copyright

Walang copyright! Ito ay nasa Public Domain sa ilalim ng **CC0 1.0** license. Pwede mong kopyahin, ipa-photocopy, i-post sa social media, i-edit nang walang paalam, i-review, *angkinin*, perahan, at kung ano-ano pa. Sa ating lahat ito; kaya isama mo na kung tatakas ka rin lang.



This work (*AKALA KO WISIKAN NG WARI-WARI*) is free of known copyright restrictions.

ANG LAHAT NANG ITO AY KATHANG ISIP LANG, at isinulat para sa ikalilibang ng lahat. Hindi mananagot ang mga awtor sa kung anuman ang gawin ng mambabasa tungkol sa mga impormasyong nakapaloob dito. Ikaw na abogado/pulis/law enforcer, maaari ka nang tumigil sa pagbabasa. Para sa lahat: anong klaseng mundo ang mayroon na tayo para magkaroon pa ng lecheng disclaimer na ito. ●



Noong hiningi ang aking pambungad na salita para sa koleksyon na ito ng mga pagmumuni, pagkuwestiyon, pananaliksik, at paglalalatag, ang una kong reaksiyon ay tumanggi at kuwestiyunin ang awtoridad ko sa pagbibigay ng opinyon.

Ngunit ang panunulat ng *Aklas* ay nagbigay sa akin ng lakas ng loob na tumingin sa ibang perspektibo at sa mundong may iba pang posibilidad—ang posibilidad na ang opinyon at perspektibo ng kahit sino ay mahalaga at may katuturan, lalo na kapag kapakanan ng bawat isa ang sentro ng mga perspektibong ito.

May mga likha/sulat na maaaring malayo sa iyong karanasan, at hindi ka pamilyar sa mga ito. Ngunit kung iisipin at dadamhin, may koneksyon at katuturan ang mga ito sa ating buhay, sa sarili, at sa komunidad na kinabibilangan.

Hamon din ito sa atin na lumabas sa ating mga kumportableng espasyo at nakasanayang kalakaran... na baka mas may kaaya-aya, patas, at malayang mundo pa ang ating maaaring kabilangan.

Maligayang banayad na pagbabasa.



To be governed is to be watched over, inspected, spied on, directed, legislated over, regulated, docketed, indoctrinated, preached at, controlled, assessed, weighed, censored, ordered about, by men who have neither right, nor knowledge, nor virtue.

– **Pierre-Joseph Proudhon**

ACT CAREFULLY; ACT BOLD

There is a moment in our life when we decide to take direct action; to make a [zine](#), to write a book, to create art, to organize a collective, etc.

In many of these, we will be working with other people with whom we should build rapport to arrive at the goal as seamless as possible.

It's only proper to have some ground rules that you and your comrades could work on and modify depending on your particular situation.

Be transparent

A smooth operation hinges on the working knowledge of all the moving parts. (Radical) Transparency, therefore, has the potential to expose the flaws behind processes, which can then be improved upon.

For example, the Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) community publishes the source code of their programs for everyone to see. This means that anyone with the technical know-how can audit the source code for, let's say, any security issues.

Another example: in a mutual aid effort, your group has agreed to necessary tasks each one must do to set the operation up. What each one could do is to report their progress, so the group has an idea of where they are along the project, and can react accordingly. This can be monitored by holding a regular meeting.

However, (radical) transparency must not be confused with any info that's need-to-know basis. This might mean that you continuously share critical pieces of information among your trusted peers, while excluding your friends and family who have nothing to do with the operation. This also means that you don't need to share your personal private info to anyone, especially if it has no bearing whatsoever in the operation.

Establish clear expectations for what type of behaviors are appropriate

The group could practice beforehand identifying unsafe behaviors, unsafe conditions, or any other harmful instances that might jeopardize anyone and anything in the operation.

For example, the group can agree when horseplay is acceptable and when it isn't. The group can also agree from the get-go that no one should be romantically and/or sexually involved with anyone in the group for the duration of the project, so as not to complicate stuff. If need be, provide everyone a copy of the list of such expectations so that all have a reference, and are reminded to be mindful of their actions in and out of the group.

Correct inappropriate behaviors

Once boundaries have been set, agree upon the "corrective measures" that the group will implement for any inappropriate behaviors. Perhaps, the group can start imposing limits on the involvement of the misbehaving person; or, if the deed is so harmful, the group can kick them out.

Carry through with own actions and promises

Self-explanatory.

If, somehow, you could not follow through, own your shortcomings and apologize. Either try not to repeat it, or don't make further promises until your situation improves.

Be flexible enough to change strategy

When making plans, allow for some wiggle room when something (or someone) goes astray. Nothing is ever set in stone, and change always looms in the horizon. In order to be flexible, though, you should have at least a good working knowledge about all the moving parts of the operation. At the very least, you have a plan B in the event that something doesn't work out according to the initial plan.

Every project manager ever knows that in every project, an anomaly of sorts is inevitable. It's just a matter of mitigating its impact. Of course, to mitigate, coordination and communication with key members are important.

Engage in open discussions

Everybody should provide opportunities for collaborative team discussion and learning. Create a safe space for discussion. If physical meeting isn't possible (especially during COVID pandemic), then you might consider getting everyone on board using Signal Messenger, Briar, or some other secure and private messaging apps¹.

Accept ideas as they are, whether they are seemingly stupid at first. The goal is to gather as many ideas from everyone as possible, and to distill them after as a group, agreeing collectively on what would add value to project and/or to the people.

Use social praise and public recognition to reinforce cooperation among the team. Prompt feedback is always appreciated when recognizing group and individual performance.

Practice what they preach, even when under pressure

The success of any operation does not, unfortunately, stem from complacency,². It's definitely hard to maintain composure when under pressure, but if there has been a good relationship among you and your peers, stress can be alleviated by the fact that you can trust yourself and your comrades that everyone will do their part³.

No. Not even in the face of Armageddon. Never compromise.

– Alan Moore

Communicate meaningful information

Meaningful information can be highly subjective here, so you and your group can decide what this could be. It could only be pieces that are related to the operation, and anything that isn't can be weeded out. It could also be brief inspirational pep talk that could boost the project members' morale.

1 More choices here: <https://www.privacytools.io/privacy-messaging>

2 Unless that that particular operation is Don't Go To Work Today, and even that can be stressful.

3 Plebejus, C. (2021, April 21). *Presumption of Trust*. Bandilang Itim. <https://bandilangitim.noblogs.org/2021/04/21/presumption-of-trust/>

WE DON'T REALLY NEED THE POLICE

...and their friends, anyone really who associate themselves with these scum. We suppose they wouldn't be flushing themselves in the toilet any time soon, so it's up to us to call them out (at the very least) for the shitty people that they truly are.

In a more serious note⁴, “[i]n an empowered society, people do not need written laws; they have the power to determine whether someone is preventing them from fulfilling their needs, and can call on their peers for help resolving conflicts.

Never forget the victims

In the wake of police brutality, families of victims grieve for their loved ones lost to injustice.

So long as the power to “put in order” those who dare question, let alone defy, the law is concentrated on a select few, we will have more victims to grieve for.

Comrades from **Hacktibista.ph** has a growing list of PNP & AFP's abuses, brutality, impunity, and human rights violations:

<https://hacktibista.ph/abuses>⁵

What's Next?

Rachel Herzing, co-founder of Critical Resistance, suggests:

Instead of “police reform” ... we must find ways to shrink the role of police in our lives, striving toward the eventual abolition of the institution of police.⁶

Here in the Philippines, the passing of Anti-Terror Bill would further enable the incompetent yet power-hungry cops to do what they're destined to do: to protect the interests of the State and Capitalists, usually violently. The Senate version “allows the police or military to perform warrantless arrests against suspected terrorists and detain them for two weeks.”⁷

For non-violence, we can continue to document and expose the abuses made by the police. This won't really stop their misbehavior, but in so doing, we let them know we're watching, more so than they us.

For a more lasting, sustainable approach though, education is the way forward, starting with ourselves. Then, we should at least try imparting what we've learned on our friends and family.

4 Excerpt from “Who will protect us without police?” from Peter Gelderloos's *Anarchy Works*, <https://anarchy.works/primer.html#toc42>

5 Mirror link: <https://web.archive.org/web/20221017034430/https://hacktibista.ph/abuses/>

6 Price, A., Macaré, J., & Schenwar, M. (2016). *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect? : Police Violence and Resistance in the United States* [E-book].

7 Moya, J. (2020, May 30). *Anti-terror bill passes House committee level*. SUNSTAR. <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1858345>

PAANO DAPAT MAG-SERVE NG SEARCH WARRANT ANG PULIS SA BAHAY?

galing sa payo ni [Kristina Conti](#).

1. Mayroon dapat search warrant (SW) na pirmado ng isang judge. Dapat kumpleto at tama ang address, at partikular ang mga bagay na hinahanap.
2. Kailangang magpakilala ang pulis, at ipaalam kung bakit sila naroon. Kung hindi sila sinagot o pinagbuksan nang nasa loob, saka lang sila pwedeng manira ng pintuan, bintana, o anumang. Ulit: kailangan alam nang nasa loob ng bahay na pulis ang dumating (unipormado) at kung ano ang pakay.
3. Kaagad dapat isagawa ang search o paghahanap sa mga bagay na nakasulat sa SW. Kailangang may witness sa search: ang (mga) may-ari o nakatira sa bahay, o kaya kapamilya. Kung wala, dapat magtawag ng dalawang taga-roon sa lugar “of sufficient age and discretion⁸.” Malimit ipapatawag ng pulis ang barangay. Sa drug cases kasi, required ang barangay, media, o DOJ, alinman sa dalawa. Ang tawag sa kanila ay *insulating witnesses*.
4. Dapat maayos ang documentation sa search. Kailangang gumawa ng detalyadong imbentaryo o resibo na nakuha sa lugar. Kung hindi ito maiaabot sa may-ari o nakatira, dapat iiwan ang papel sa lugar kung saan natagpuan at kinuha ang kontabando.
5. Kung kontrabando—firearms na walang lisensya, explosives, o droga—maaaring hulihin ang (mga) taong may hawak sa bagay o kontrol ng lugar kung saan nakuha ito. May special laws kasi tungkol sa illegal possession ng mga ito. Labas dito, at kung hindi mahuli sa akto ng paggawa ng krimine, pwede lang kunin ang gamit, na gagawing ebidensya sa kasong isasampa. Saka lang ’pag nasa korte na ang kaso na maaaring ma-isyuhan ng warrant of arrest ang taong may hawak o kontrol ng bagay noong nag-search. SA ARESTADO: Kailangang ipaalam sa tao kung bakit siya inaaresto, at basahan ng Miranda rights. Magkaiba ang proseso/operation ang search at ang arrest.
6. Magre-report ang pulis sa judge na nag-isyu ng warrant.

Paano kung...

1. **Walang SW?** Mananagot ang pulis sa violation of domicile, na krimen ayon sa Revised Penal Code (RPC) Article 128.
2. **May SW pero may pagmamalabis?** Krimen ito ayon sa RPC Article 129.
3. **Kinuha ang gamit na wala sa SW?** Maaaring panagutin sa RPC Article 129. Maaari ring kasuhan ng pagnanakaw depende sa sirkumstansya.
4. **Nag-search nang walang witness?** Krimen ito ayon sa RPC Article 130.
5. **Wala/hindi maayos ang return sa korte?** Maaaring ma-contempt of court.

8 A person of suitable (or sufficient) age and discretion is one who has attained the age of full legal capacity (18 years old) and is considered to have enough discernment to understand what is happening. *Discretion* is defined as the “ability to make decisions which represent a responsible choice and for which an understanding of what is lawful, right, or wise may be presupposed.” Thus, such person, must know how to read and understand the language in which the SW is written (most likely in English).

ANO ANG MALI SA ESTADO?

Mahilig ka bang mamilit ng iba? Paano kung ayaw nila sa bagay na pinipilit mo? Anong gagawin mo sa kanila?

Gusto mo bang pinipilit kang gumawa ng mga bagay na maaaring di mo gustong gawin? Anong maaaring gawin sayo kung di ka pumayag?

Wala namang masama kung ayaw mong mamilit *at* ayaw mong magpapilit, lalo na kung wala ka namang sinasaktang iba.

Ngunit iba ang pananaw ng mga namumuno sa pamahalaan, sa kahit saang lugar. Ang pamahalaan, bilang estado, ay ang pinakamalaking institusyon na may kapangyarihan sa ating buhay.

Noong kalagitnaan ng Abril 2021, nagsibulan ang mga bodegang bayan (community pantry) na nagsimula sa kagustuhan ng kapwa na makatulong sa kaniyang komunidad.⁹ Makailang araw lang ay, nagpadala na ng mga alagad ang estado. Bumisita ang ilang pulis sa ibang bodegang bayan para manggulo— nagtatanong kung sino ang nagsimula, saang organisasyon napapabilang, atbp¹⁰¹¹.

Nakakayamot, pero ito ang gusto ng estado: gawing monopolyo ang ating pamumuhay. Ang ating kalayaang tumulong sa iba. Ang dahas. Ang panlilinlang, pang-aapi, pangungutya.

Walang nagagawa kung sino man ang nakaupo. Walang nagagawa kung ano mang partido ang namumuno. Pare-pareho lang sila ng layunin: angkinin ang lahat nang maaangkin, bahala na kung may matira pa sa iba.

Monopolyo ng Karahasan

Ang ninanais naming lipunan ay malaya mula sa karahasan ng iilang gustong pamunuan ang iba.

Diba estado ang dahilan kung bakit mababa, kumpara sa kung ano ang dapat, ang buwis ng mga kapitalistang namumuhunan sa kasaganahan ng ating yaman? At dahil hindi patas ang pagbubuwis, manggagawang-uri na naman ang sasalo ng buwis na palaging tinatakasan ng mayayaman. Di gaya ng mayayaman, hindi kayang takasan ng manggagawang-uri ang parusa sa *tax evasion*. Salamat sa estado, dahil libreng nakapamiminsala ang mga kapitalista sa 99% ng tao.

Diba estado ni Lenin at ng mga Bolshevik ang pumatay sa ilang milyong tao sa Russia noong panahon nila?¹² Estado rin nila ang nagsimula ng “Gulag,” o concentration camp para sa mga political prisoners.

Diba estado ni Mao ang dahilan kung bakit milyung-milyong tao ang namatay sa gutom noong “Great Leap Forward”¹³? Dahil sa pangamba, ang estado niya rin ang nagsimula ng

9 Villanueva, N. G. (2021, April 18). *Community pantry: ‘Not charity, but mutual aid.’* Inquirer.Net. <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1420463/community-pantry-not-charity-but-mutual-aid>

10 Lalu, G. P. (2021, April 19). *Netizens call out cops for ‘profiling’ community pantry organizers.* Inquirer.Net. <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1421154/netizens-call-out-cops-for-profiling-community-pantry-organizers>

11 Cordero, T. (2021, April 20). *Privacy body calls on PNP to look into alleged profiling of community pantry organizers.* GMA News Online. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/784395/privacy-body-calls-on-pnp-to-look-into-alleged-profiling-of-community-pantry-organizers/story/>

12 Blakemore, E. (2020, September 2). *How the Red Terror set a macabre course for the Soviet Union.* National Geographic. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/red-terror-set-macabre-course-soviet-union>

13 Szczepanski, K. (2020, August 28). *The Great Leap Forward.* Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-great-leap-forward-195154>

Cultural Revolution, kung saan tinatarget ng mga Red Guards ang revisionists at ibang kalaban ng estado.

Diba ang estado ang gumagawa ng batas na nagpapahirap lamang sa mga manggagawang- uri? Kung lalabag, mayroong mga kulungan na palaging bukas at naghihintay. Ang mga presong ito ay di makatao: siksikan, mainit, nakakawala ng dangal, puno ng galit at pighati. Kaparusahan lang ang naghihintay sa mga taong nagkakasala, at hindi pagbabago.

Estado lang ang may kakayahang sumira nang pagkarami-raming buhay at likas yaman.

Mahirap mang ipaliwanag sa mga kapwa natin na posible ang magtulungan nang di kailangan ang gobyerno, ito ay nangyayari na sa iba't ibang dako ng mundo!¹⁴¹⁵¹⁶¹⁷

'Di ba natural sa kalikasan ang pang-iibabaw, o ang pagkilala sa autoridad?

Ang problema sa autoridad, noon hanggang ngayon, mabuti man o masama ang hangarin, ay sa tingin nila, alam nila kung ano ang nararapat para sa atin.

Ang argumento ng iba: "*Human nature* na ang maging ganid, *violent*, kaya kailangan mayroong mamamahala sa atin."

Kung hanggang dito lang ang pag-iisip, hindi talaga magiging sapat ang "tiwala lang."

Ang pwedeng ibalik dito ay: "Kung masama na ang *human nature*, bakit natin dapat ipagkatiwala sa kanya ang mamahala? Kung natural siyang masama, kasamaan lang din ang magagawa niya sa pamumunuan niya."

Kung ang mga tao ay likas namang may kabutihang loob, kailangan pa ba natin ng lider? Baka kaya na nating pag-usapan ang anumang magiging hidwaan sa pagitan natin?

Maliban na lang kung ang pakay lang nila ay makatulong sa nakararami, bakit hindi na lang asikasuhin ng mga lider ang pagpapabuti sa ating mga kalagayan, at wag nang makialam sa mga personal na buhay natin?

Teka, kaya bang gawin yun nang magkabukod?

Konsepto ng bilang/dami

Kailangan nating maunawaan ang kakayahan ng isang tao na isipin ang bilang/dami (ng anumang bagay), at kung paano maaaring makaapekto ang paglaki o pagliit nito sa ating pananaw.

Isipin ang mga sumusunod:

1. Kaya mo bang isipin ang limang aso? Eh ang isang daang aso? Eh ang isang milyong

14 *Finding the Thread that Binds Us: Three Mutual Aid Networks in New York City*

<https://crimethinc.com/2020/06/26/finding-the-thread-that-binds-us-three-mutual-aid-networks-in-new-york-city>

15 *Doing What State and Market Cannot: The Visible Hand: How a Mutual Aid Network Serves Tens of*

Thousands in Poland <https://crimethinc.com/2020/08/25/doing-what-state-and-market-cannot-the-visible-hand-how-a-mutual-aid-network-serves-tens-of-thousands-in-poland>

16 *Puerto Rico: The Road to Decolonization: Disaster Relief, Mutual Aid, and Revolt*

<https://crimethinc.com/2021/02/08/puerto-rico-the-road-to-decolonization-disaster-relief-mutual-aid-and-revolt>

17 *Solidarity, Direct Action, and Self-Determination: Kasa Invisível An Occupied Social Center Becomes a Hub of Mutual Aid in Belo Horizonte, Brazil* <https://crimethinc.com/2020/09/28/solidarity-direct-action-and-self-determination-kasa-invisivel-an-occupied-social-center-becomes-a-hub-of-mutual-aid-in-belo-horizonte-brazil>

- aso? Kaya mo bang ilarawan ito sa iyong isipan?
2. Kaya mo bang isipin ang isang butil ng buhangin? Eh ang kalahati nito? Eh ang kaapat nito? Kaya mo bang ilarawan ito sa iyong isipan?
 3. Kaya bang mag-usap-usap ng tatlong tao nang nagkakaintindihan? Eh nang isang daang tao? Eh nang isang milyong tao? Kaya bang maintindihan nang bawat isa ang takbo ng usapan kung ganito karami ang nag-uusap-usap?

Maaaring ihalintulad ang [3] sa pamumuno ng lider sa isang komunidad. Kung nakasentro lang sa iisang tao/grupo ang pagdedesiyon, paano sila nakakasigurado na angkop para sa *lahat* ang desisyon na ito?

Sa paglaki ng populasyon, di maikakaila na mas lalong humihirap ang mag-organisa nang walang nahihirapan, naiiwan, o nasasaktan. Para umalalay sa kakulangan ng lider mamuno, gagamit ito ng mga mapang-aping paraan, tulad ng paglikha ng kapulisan.

Bakit hindi bitak-bitakin ang isang malaking grupo sa mas maliliit na hanay, kung saan mas malaki ang pagkakataon na magkaunawaan ang mga tao?

Kapangyarihan na ayaw bitawan

Di na bago sa atin ang political dynasties, kung saan kabilang na ang mga Ampatuan, Aquino, Duterte, Estrada, Marcos, Ortega, Roxas, atbp. Marami sa kanila ang nananatiling may position sa gobyerno.

Sa kanila, ang kapangyarihan ay karangyaan. Ang karangyaan ay nagbubunga pa ng kapangyarihan. Natural lang na gagawin nila ang lahat upang manatili sa pwesto. Sa diktadurya man o demokrasya, ang mga taong naghahari-harian lang makikinabang kung naka-sentro sa kanila ang kapangyarihan.

Hindi nila napapansin na nakatapak sila sa mahinang tungtungan. Anumang panahon ay (i)tataob ito.

Ang Tugon

Kailanman, saanman, hindi monopolyo ang sagot. Wag sumunod sa mga gustong mamuno sa'tin. Kung interes lang din ang pag-uusapan, mas interesado kami sa kalayaan ng lahat ng lipunan. Hindi nila kayang hulihin tayong lahat.

DEMOKRASYA SA GOBYERNO AT KAPITALISMO

Ang gobyerno ay hindi bobo! Sadya lahat ang kilos nito at mas malala ito!

Katuwang ang mga malalaking korporasyon ng gobyerno sa pagpapalaganap ng mga “batas” na iilan lang naman ang nakikinabang at pinagsisilbihan. Ang masama pa rito, ang marami sa batas na ito ay hindi patas, dahil ang mga ito ay sinulat hindi ng taong masa na silang nakararanas ng kawalan ng hustisya, kundi ng mga ulupong sa naghaharing uri na maginhawang naninirahan sa kanilang malalaking bahay.

Ito ba ang bunga ng demokrasya?

Katakataka tuloy isipin na ang mga lahat ng masasamang nangyayari sa atin ngayon ay dahil

sa demokrasya. Para bang ito ang pinili natin.

Tinalakay kamakailan ni Dave Darby sa kanyang sanaysay ang apat na pananaw tungkol sa tinatawag nating demokrasya.¹⁸

Ang sumusunod ay ang pagtangka naming isalin ang mga pangunahing punto nito sa wikang Filipino. Gayunpaman, hinihikayat namin ang mambabasa na basahin ang kabuuan (English), na ang link ay matatagpuan sa footnotes.

1. “Namumuhay tayo sa Demokrasya”

Nasa estado ang kapangyarihan, na siyang ipinapatupad ang kagustuhan ng karamihan. Pinipili ng taumbayan ang mga tao at partido na kumakatawan sa kanilang mga adhikain. Ang mga napili ang bumubuo ng gobyerno. Marami na ang namatay para lang makaboto ka, kaya ang pagboto ay ang tungkulin mo bilang mamamayan.

2. “Walang demokrasya, dahil wala sa estado ang tunay na kapangyarihan.”

Tuta lang ang estado ng mga korporasyong madalas sa Davos.¹⁹ Ang tinatawag nating demokrasya ay lunod sa corporate money, galing sa mga korporasyon patungo sa bulsa ng mga politiko. At paano pamamahalaan ng national government ang mga multinational corporation? Lagpas na ito sa kakayahan ng estado, dahil mas malawak at mas malalim ang saklaw ng mga korporasyon.

3. “Walang demokrasya, dahil katuwang ng estado ang mga korporasyon sa pamamalakad ng isang lipunan.”

Magkaugnay ang layunin ng estado at ng mga korporasyon, kaya nasa interes nila ang magtulungan.

Ito ang iilan sa mga natatanggap ng politiko mula sa korporasyon: - Mga Donasyon - Mga position bilang board member - Magagarang bakasyon - Mga share sa kompanya

At ito naman ang iilan sa mga natatanggap ng mga korporasyon mula sa gobyerno: - Mababang buwis; o minsan, nakakalusot (o pinalulusot) sa buwis. - Bagong infrastructure (Skyway? Aeropolis?) na pabor lang sa iilan. Di na bali kung ang mga construction nito ay magpapaalis sa maraming tao sa kanilang tirahan, at/o makakasira pa sa kalikasan. - Madalas pinipili ang malalaking korporasyon para sa mga government contract.

4. “Hindi mahalaga kung sino ang nasa gobyerno, dahil ang sistema ay may sariling pwersa na 'di kayang baguhin ng eleksyon.”

Kung iisiping mabuti, sino ba talaga ang may kontrol?

Ang global economy ay may sariling lakas na 'di kayang hamunin ng nag-iisang bansa. Kung ang mga polisiya ng isang bansa ay hindi naaayon sa kagustuhan ng mga international

18 Darby, D. (2021, August 8), Our response to: “why don’t you start a political party?” *Lowimpact.org*
<https://www.lowimpact.org/our-response-to-why-dont-you-start-a-politic>

19 And World Economic Forum ay mayroon taunang pagtitipon sa Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, bagaman kinansela ang para sa 2021. Ang pagtitipon ng mga global leader sa resort town na ito ay, kung tutuusin, walang naman talagang magandang pinatutunguhan. Palusot lang ito ng mga bilyonaryo at ng iba pang naghaharing uri na may ginagawa silang makabuluhan para sa atin at sa kalikasan. Alamin pa:
<https://www.weforum.org/about/world-economic-forum>

investor, wala sa kanila ang magtatayo ng business sa bansang iyon. Bababa ang bansa sa global rankings dahil sa capital flight.

*Capital flight*²⁰ ang tawag sa pag-aalis ng mga korporasyon ng kanilang financial assets at kapital palabas ng bansa. Marami pa ang maaaring maging sanhi nito, gaya ng kaguluhang may kinalaman sa politika o ekonomiya. At dahan-dahang pagbagsak naman ng ekonomiya ng bansa ang isa maaaring maging bunga nito, na siya namang magdudulot ng mas mababang kalidad ng pamumuhay ng karamihan, dahil sa kawalan ng trabaho, pagtaas ng presyo ng bilihan, atbp.

Siyempre, kabisado na natin ang internal logic ng mga kapitalista: “Bakit ako mamumuhunan sa palugi?” Lahat ay may presyo, at lahat ng may presyo ay kailangang tubuan. Ikaw, mambabasa, sa apat na nabanggit, ano(-ano) ang pinaniniwalaan mo? At sa tingin mo, kaya bang magtagumpay ng demokrasya sa ilalim ng kapitalismo? Kung oo, paano? Kung hindi, bakit?

20 Chen, J. (2021, February 8). *Capital Flight Definition*. Investopedia.
<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/capitalflight.asp>

The user's going to pick dancing pigs over security every time.

– **Bruce Schneier**

BASICS OF OPSEC

Operational Security (OpSec) is the process of preventing useful information from being gained by an adversary.

TL;DR: Know what to protect and know how to protect it.

OpSec is not simply a set of actions you take during an action that protects you. It's a way of thinking you apply to all aspects of your life. OpSec is also not an individual undertaking.

Your personal security depends on the security of your comrades and vice versa. This is often called "security culture."

The definition of OpSec is more formalized in the contexts of military and espionage, and in those cases it tends to have the explicit focus on only protecting information. In colloquial usage, it tends to be broader and includes the adjacent fields of information security and physical security. This is a natural extension of the original definition since a significant amount of secret information is transmitted digitally, and a breach of OpSec may have immediate physical security consequences.

Threat Modeling

Threat modeling is the foundation of OpSec. It's a methodology used to identify threats, and through this identification, inform mitigation against them. Threat modeling is not a checklist that someone can give you to reduce your risks or ensure your adversaries cannot achieve their goals. Threat modeling must be done analytically on a case-by-case basis. The process of developing an individual threat model is similar regardless of the person doing the threat modeling, but the resultant threat model is highly personalized.

OpSec Vocab

Target – a person or group who may be subject to scrutiny, repression, or espionage

asset – something a target may want to protect such as information, physical items, or intangibles like their own liberty, mental health, or bodily health

adversary – a person or group who wants to learn about, capture, or destroy a target's assets

goal – a specific task or outcome an adversary wishes to achieve

capability – info, a skill, or an item an adversary has that may use against a target to achieve goals

vulnerability – something an adversary could exploit or leverage in pursuit of their goals

threat – the combination of an adversary with their goals and capabilities

attack – a possible threat that is executed

mitigation – an action taken to reduce risk

You are likely familiar with threat modeling and have already used it in your day-to-day life even if you have not done so formally. Making this decision to keep your phone in your pocket and not message your comrades while you walk home at night is threat modeling. You have recognized that the threat of mugging or assault exists in a certain area, that this risk is higher at night, and that you are less likely to be targeted if you are visibly paying attention to

your surroundings.

Your threat model will need to change with time as the threat landscape and your own tolerance for risk changes. The political climate may become more repressive, or you may start a family and need to reconsider what possible consequences you and your family can endure.

To start building your threat model, start by identifying your assets, possible adversaries, their goals, and their capabilities. Helpful questions might be:

- What do I care about?
- What do I want to protect?
- What objectives am I trying to achieve? And how?
- Who might prevent me from achieving these objectives? And how?
- How have similar people with similar objectives been thwarted or arrested?
- If an adversary's attack is successful, how can I limit the damage done?

Threat modeling is an iterative process. As you ask yourself these questions and write down their answers, you will be able to think of additional threats. Talking to your friends and family may help you identify threats and vulnerabilities, but remember that their threat models are not necessarily your own.

Once you have enumerated the threats, consider the risks associated with each. How likely is it to occur and what are the consequences if it does? These are estimates and meant to help you prioritize which threats need to be addressed first. Threats that have severe consequences but are extremely unlikely might still be ranked as low risk. Threats that are moderately likely with only moderate consequences might be ranked as high risk. Go with your gut when assigning risk and prioritizing the threats.

Once you have listed your threats, consider different mitigation against them. Some mitigation might cover multiple threats at one time, or you may need many mitigation to cover your highest priority risks. A mitigation may not fully remove a threat or reduce the risk to zero. Mitigation are meant to decrease the amount of risk you face. In addition to thinking about how effective a given mitigation may be against a threat, also consider if you are likely to follow through with this mitigation. A mitigation that you are incapable of executing is not useful.

As you build your threat model, you may start to feel that perfect security is an impossible goal, and as a result you might as well give up. This is called security nihilism: the belief that because security cannot be "perfect," any amount of security should be forsaken. Rid yourself of the belief that you are either "secure" or "insecure." There is no such thing as perfectly secure. There is simply a state of being more secure against certain threats and less secure against those threats. Your goal should be to improve your security, not make it ironclad against all threats.

Lastly, your threat model needs to account for random chance. You may have incredible adept online security, and you may always cover your face and tattoos at actions. Nevertheless, you may have bad luck and have the same daily commute as a detective investigating local activists.

THE NEED FOR PRIVACY IN AND OUT OF OUR DIGITAL SPACES

Since the birth of the internet, many netizens have made discussions without ever revealing their names and/or faces. Though this has its pros and cons, privacy, through anonymity, is an inert right we have been exercising long before big tech companies like Google and Facebook came stealing the scene.

One might think that being private-conscious in internet is a *first-world* problem (it isn't). On the contrary, Big Tech companies are racing to exploit the developing countries. As smartphones become more accessible to more people, so too grows the coverage of spying eyes²¹. And something as personal as smartphone is a treasure trove of data ripe for the picking.

While this post isn't exactly a step-by-step procedure on how to become as private as possible on the internet, it hopes to, at least, give the readers an idea on what Internet Privacy is, and why it matters, especially in developing countries.

Our Usage

According to [Internet World Stats](#), more than half of the world population has access to the internet, and by sheer number, Asians constitute the majority of these internet users. That number will increase in the coming years, as internet becomes more widely available. That you are reading this likely means you have access to internet through your preferred device, unless this article is printed for offline, off-grid perusing.

We consume a lot of info per day. How does an average person distill all this into usable knowledge? How are we using all these hours spent on the internet?

In this information era, many of us can now access a cheap yet reliable computing device, mostly in the form of smartphone. Major telecoms offer free data for Facebook (and/or Instagram). This grants people access to a version of internet of questionable ethics. Facebook, as you may have heard a lot by now²²²³²⁴²⁵²⁶, doesn't care about what its users think, despite Mark Zuckerberg saying²⁷:

I believe the future of communication will increasingly shift to private, encrypted services where people can be confident what they say to each other stays secure and

- 21 *The Problem with Mobile Phones*. (2018, October 30). Surveillance Self Defense. <https://ssd.eff.org/en/module/problem-mobile-phones>
- 22 *Research confirms Facebook's influence on election | Penn State University*. (2010, September 21). Penn State News. <https://news.psu.edu/story/164594/2010/09/21/research/research-confirms-facebooks-influence-election>
- 23 Spangler, T. (2018, April 3). *Facebook Under Fire: How Privacy Crisis Could Change Big Data Forever*. Variety. <https://variety.com/2018/digital/features/facebook-privacy-crisis-big-data-mark-zuckerberg-1202741394/>
- 24 Chan, R. (2019, October 5). *The Cambridge Analytica whistleblower explains how the firm used Facebook data to sway elections*. Business Insider. <https://www.businessinsider.com/cambridge-analytica-whistleblower-christopher-wylie-facebook-data-2019-10>
- 25 Asif, S. (2020, May 22). Personal data of 12 million Facebook users exposed online. HackRead. <https://www.hackread.com/12-million-facebook-user-data-exposed-online/>
- 26 Associated Press in New York. (2021, April 5). *Facebook data leak: details from 533 million users found on website for hackers*. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/apr/03/500-million-facebook-users-website-hackers>
- 27 Zuckerberg, M. (n.d.). *A Privacy-Focused Vision for Social Networking*. Facebook. Retrieved April 23, 2021, from <https://www.facebook.com/notes/mark-zuckerberg/a-privacy-focused-vision-for-social-networking/10156700570096634/>

their messages and content won't stick around forever.

How can we stay private and/or anonymous in the digital space?

One would even ask, "What do I care? I have nothing to hide."

Edward Snowden couldn't have said it better:

"If you think privacy is unimportant for you because you have nothing to hide, you might as well say free speech is unimportant for you because you have nothing useful to say."

People tend to judge based on small fragments of truth they obtained online. In an ocean of information, it is reckless for someone to select partial truths to conform to the story they desire to tell.

Surveillance + Capitalism = ?

Major social networks, like Facebook, are free ~~because they~~ to monetize our attention and personal information.

There are many ways they can do that. Some of it are:

- **Advertisement:** Companies pay social networks to place their ads on the platform. We've known it in traditional platforms like radio and TV, and now they've moved into our social lives.
- **Personalized Ads:** Unlike the previous one, these kinds of ads target *you*, using algorithms that attempt to make a profile out of your online behavior. You *are* tracked through your online habits—the articles you like, the posts you share, the items you (window-)shopped, and *maybe* even the words you speak around your smartphone²⁸, etc.
- **Data Buy-and-Sell:** Social networking sites, and other big tech in and out of FAMANG, sell your data to third-party companies, with or without our consent.

Think for a moment: the most pressing issues of our times are buried in layers of personalized advertising and attention grabbing techniques. No wonder we're distracted and all over the place!

In some places, surveillance is mandatory and state-sponsored.

China

Thanks to the implementation of its mass surveillance, Chinese government can track down Muslim minorities, like Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and Kyrgyz, to control and monitor them²⁹.

The Chinese government can also rank citizens with a social credit system, which, depending on where a person currently is in the ladder, could affect what services would be available to them. A bad social credit score could ban you from traveling by plane. These are definitely extreme examples that are, by the way, in place now enabled by State Surveillance.

Five Eyes

The UKUSA Agreement is an agreement between the United Kingdom, United States,

28 Linder, C. (2020, July 29). *How to Tell If Your Apps Are Spying on You*. Popular Mechanics.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/apps/a33448364/how-tell-apps-spying-protect-privacy/>

29 Grauer, Y. (2021, January 29). *Revealed: Massive Chinese Police Database*. The Intercept.

<https://theintercept.com/2021/01/29/china-uyghur-muslim-surveillance-police/>

Australia, Canada, and New Zealand to cooperatively collect, analyze, and share intelligence. Members of this group, known as the Five Eyes, focus on gathering and analyzing intelligence from different parts of the world. While Five Eyes countries have agreed to not spy on each other as adversaries, leaks by Snowden have revealed that some Five Eyes members monitor each other's citizens and share intelligence to avoid breaking domestic laws that prohibit them from spying on their own citizens. The Five Eyes (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK, USA) alliance also cooperates with groups of third-party countries to share intelligence (forming the Nine Eyes [Denmark, France, Netherlands, Norway] and Fourteen Eyes [Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden]), however Five Eyes and third-party countries can and do spy on each other.

We must be alarmed.

Don't panic, though.

[Learn about your threat model](#), i.e.:

- who you are running/hiding away from
- why are you running/hiding away from them - how capable are they in locating you - what are the tools that are available to you that can keep you from their surveillance

Consider this: You don't want advertisers (the who) to bombard you with their tacky, sometimes un-skippable ads (the why). They could get your data from data brokers, or from when you click their ads in websites (the how). Good thing that there are reliable ad-blockers (the what) that can completely remove them from your sight.

In this example, we identify advertisers as the adversary. Such an adversary pales in comparison with authoritarian regimes that has complete control over a country's flow of information.

In an ideal world, our every action isn't under 24/7 surveillance; it wouldn't need be. But ours is an imperfect one, and powers have risen to monitor the smallest details of what we do. What we could do now is to remain vigilant, watch those who watch us, and at the very least call them out if they make us uncomfortable. It will take a long time to dismantle the prevailing structures that enable this surveillance, but knowing about them is a good start.

Staying private in a world that demands attention can be hard to do. Cameras, microphones, and GPS are only few of the items that can capture moments in our lives. If one would trust a company with servers and strong cloud computing systems to store our personal information for us, how do we know they wouldn't use our data to benefit them? Or hand them over to some third party for analysis? Or worse, use it against us?

The efficiency of these software services, though, relies on the information given to them by the end-users. The larger the database, the better the algorithm would be, the better the services. What, then, must be the compromise between Software-as-a-service (SaaS) providers and their consumers? Should we, the users, even seek such compromise?

The number of privacy-conscious people online increases. Many are realizing their right to own their data, and keeping and/or sharing it at their own discretion. They are starting to see how big tech companies are trying to "mine" as much data as they can. And yet, this population remains a tiny fraction compared with the ones whose personal data have been shared on the internet, willingly or otherwise.

Why do we need to be private?

The choice must be ours if and when we want to share what data we want to share. We also need to acknowledge that not everything we do, online or offline, is for the whole world to

know about. There are just some things that we'd rather keep off from as many people as possible: the passphrase of your email; your passionate dating life; secret family recipes, etc. It's highly likely that the things we do online do not constitute as crime, and yet privacy advocates demand for more private and secure designs in the programs and applications that connect us to the internet.

How to be private

One of the best ways to stay private on the internet is to actually limit your time there. This limits what Google and Facebook can hoard, although this doesn't mean that they can't make a profile out of your online habits. Have something to replace the digital consumption, a hobby outside the digital medium. Remove as many social media apps on your phone and/or on your life as you can. Retain only close friends and family in your social media circles.

Google has grown from their beginnings as a search engine. It's understandable that many of the functions we require online can be efficiently performed by Google. So much so that "google" is synonymous to "look it up online."

Google, though, has become more than just a powerful search engine. Google is also an advertising company.

Big brother, it turns out, not only watches you, he's an advertiser as well. We may unknowingly have loved him as well.

As soon as you can, ditch Google, Facebook, and other big tech softwares you're using regularly. Look for replacements in PrivacyTools (<https://www.privacytools.io>) for your daily drivers, most of them are up to par, if not better than Google anyway. Convince your friends and family to do the same with you.

USE LINUX AS DAILY DRIVER

Transitioning to GNU/Linux ("Linux" from this point) from Windows or macOS is not a difficult choice to make. Though, I would still recommend that you do your own due diligence, both in software and hardware side of things.

Most of the top Linux distributions (or "distros") work with a wide range of hardware out of the box. So if you're new to Linux, you need not to worry about whether it would work on your machine. It likely will. Take note, though, that if your machine is 32-bit (read: old), you will have to check on a Linux distro whether they have a variant that supports this architecture. Debian is one that has an installer for 32-bit, but there are others.

Takeaways, now na!

1. If you don't have the time to research, and just want something that works, get [Linux Mint](#). New and advanced users alike can easily configure the desktop environment to fit their workflow.
2. If you have a bit more time, you may look into [PrivacyTool's OS suggestions](#). They listed **Fedora** and **Ubuntu** as the beginner distros for those looking for an easy transition to Linux.
3. If you're starting out, don't distrohopping (i.e., trying out every Linux distro out there). It's a waste of time and resources. Just stick to the first choice you'll make for at least a few months, before even considering looking at another distro. There are a lot of

Linux distros out there, so it's easy to have analysis paralysis. Refer back to item 1 or 2.

But I'm not a programmer, software engineer, IT person, etc.?

You don't need to be a computer wizard to get into a new operating system that's not Windows or macOS.

Ask yourself: how did you learn using Windows? Were you guided by someone more knowledgeable on computer? Did you play around with the clicky things and see what would happen when you do click on them? Did you need the Office suite for school or work? Did you need it for games, entertainment, surfing the web?

Whatever the answer is, the same thing can be applied to Linux. A lot of the things that you can do on Windows, you can do too on Linux. Only that in Linux, you won't be limited to proprietary software over which you have no say whatsoever.

Linux offers more wiggle room, more configurability

After some experience with it, you can begin to tweak some of the configuration to enhance your workflow. For example, if you're an excellent touch-typist, it's possible to have a working environment that is purely keyboard-based; your fingers will never have to leave the keys to reach for that mouse!

Another one: if you're the type who wants their whole screen utilized, then you know the hassle of constantly resizing windows to maximize screen real estate. There are programs called Tiling Window Managers, which will automatically fit to screen window/s so that there's no wasted space.

You can also just fully customize the aesthetics of your desktop, just for the sake of it! Look at the examples in Reddit's [r/unixporn](https://www.reddit.com/r/unixporn).

I have no time to move away from Windows. Convince me!

Well, let's see...

Windows is a privacy nightmare

1. Data syncing is enabled by default. Unless you take the time to configure things in the Control Panel, the data is sent to Microsoft servers for their analysis.
2. Your device is tagged with a unique advertising ID by default, which is used to serve you with personalized advertisements by third-party advertisers and ad networks.
3. Beware if you're using the assistant Cortana—it can collect any of your data.
4. Actually, "even after all telemetry features disabled, Windows 10 is phoning home more than you could ever think of."³⁰

Linux requires no payment whatsoever

It's free: free as in freedom, meaning you're free to do with it whatever you wish. and free as in free beer. The former empowers the user to decide which software to use, to tweak the system according to their needs, etc. And the latter means you don't have to pay for anything to do all that.

30 Khandelwal, S. (2016, February 10). *Windows 10 Sends Your Data 5500 Times Every Day Even After Tweaking Privacy Settings*. The Hacker News. <https://thehackernews.com/2016/02/microsoft-windows10-privacy.html>

Many of us do not have time on their hands to learn a new OS. That's why newcomers are advised to choose user-friendly distros like the ones mentioned above. They work right out of the box, and the user interface will feel familiar.

Moreover, if you own an Android smartphone, you're already using Linux in some way. Android is based on the Linux Kernel. If you had the patience to learn how to use a smartphone, you have the patience to do the same on your computer. Which isn't really that much, especially if you have a non-demanding use case.

You can try it out first.

You don't have to wipe out your current system and flash it fresh with Linux. It can be daunting to learn new things. Good thing that Linux community is very much alive and vibrant. You can look up for solutions online for any problems you might encounter, or just straight up ask in the forums. People are generally helpful to newbies.

You can look into dual-booting. Meaning, you can install Linux *alongside* Windows. When you boot (i.e. turn on your computer), you can choose which OS to use for that session. Gamers usually do this: their games are installed in Windows (since most PC titles are programmed only to run on Windows), and have everything else set up in Linux.

You can also look into live USB boot. Meaning, an entire Linux is set up on a USB drive which you only plug in on your computer every time you want to access this distro. When you turn on your computer, choose to boot from the USB drive, and you'll boot into Linux. When you're done, just unplug your drive, and you'll boot into Windows on your next session.

There's actually more to this!

Linux (or more appropriately, GNU/Linux) is one of the UNIX-like operating system family.

Other UNIX-like operating systems include, but are not limited to, macOS, Solaris, and BSD (Berkeley Software Distribution).

Each of them offers unique UI/UX for varying use cases, but let's not get confused with a lot of options right now. My purpose of mentioning them is to let you know that there's a whole gamut of OS that you don't need to pay for, while actually being objectively better than Windows.

WATCH YOUTUBE VIDEOS USING ALTERNATIVE CLIENTS

This post enumerates several ways you might want to consume content on YouTube (YT) without using any of YT's platforms.

Why the alternative

YT's platforms require a lot of system's resources, including heavy power consumption. As a consequence, this decreases the lifespan of your electronics, especially when used regularly.

Even if you're the casual consumer,³¹ the alternatives provide better experience.

³¹ Unless you're using YT for educational purposes, please don't spend hours binge-watching random videos on YT, or anywhere in the internet, really.

Pros:

- No ads (not counting the in-video ones included by the creator, but those you can skip)
- Privacy-respecting
- Quicker loading times
- Free and open source software (FOSS)

Cons:

- No way of interaction; you cannot like or comment on a video, only read others' comments.
- By skipping the ads, you take away a possible revenue of the channel. If you want to support the channel, check if they have other ways receiving it.

With Graphical User Interface (GUI)

For many people, GUIs are the way they interact with their computer.

The following recommendations involve little to no effort in setting up.

Youtube.com (Web, preferably in a privacy-respecting browser)

Check these browser add-ons that will improve your watching experience.

- **Use Ad Blocker.** Ads are annoying and insidious. There are lots of tools and methods to avoid them.³² We recommend uBlock Origin (<https://ublockorigin.com>).
- Use SponsorBlock (<https://sponsor.ajay.app>), which is an open-source, crowd-sourced extension for skipping in-video sponsor segments. Consider contributing the community by sending segments (time stamps).

Invidious (Web, preferably in a privacy-respecting browser)

Invidious is an alternative front-end to YT. The original instance <https://invidio.us> has shut down since 1 Sep 2020. That link will show you other Invidious instances that have sprouted in the time since. The original author of the code, Omar Roth, decided to step away from open source.³³

Any instance with a health of 100 usually works, but your experience may differ. You may have to jump from one instance to another and see which one works best.

Freetube (Desktop client; Linux, macOS, Windows)

Freetube (<https://freetubeapp.io>) is another YT client you can download on your computer, with the intention of it being more private. It will be a familiar experience, similar to the web application.

NewPipe (mobile: Android)

NewPipe (<https://newpipe.net>) is a lightweight YT experience for Android. Many fans say it's the gold standard for a FOSS: it is, in many fronts, better than the original.

Among its features, it allows you to download video directly from the app. You can also download audio only for any music or podcasts that are on YT.

³² Read also: [Against All Ads](#)

³³ Roth, O. (2020, August 1). *Stepping away from open source*. Omar Roth. <https://omar.yt/posts/stepping-away-from-open-source>

The app is available both on their site and on F-Droid (<https://f-droid.org>)

Using Command Line Interface (CLI)

The next few are aimed mostly at the [Unix-like OS](#).

Any CLI programs accept text input (in a terminal emulator or command prompt) to execute some functions. You will have to type a few commands to bring up a video.

Many of them have good documentations, so setting up shouldn't be hard.

yt-dlp (macOS, BSD, Linux, Windows)

yt-dlp (<https://github.com/yt-dlp/yt-dlp>) is a command-line program to download videos from YT and a few more sites. The first rule of `yt-dlp` is to *never* not talk about `yt-dlp`.

Since it requires a Python interpreter, make sure that your computer has one. If you're on any Unix-like OS, it most likely has.

Just to be sure, type in your terminal:

```
which python
```

It should output something like: `/usr/bin/python` indicating that it exists in that directory.

Or you could type:

```
python -V
```

It should output something like `Python 2.7.16` indicating that it does exist in that current version.

If in any case it outputs a blank line, you might need to download it from python.org

`yt-dlp`'s official documentation has detailed instructions in installing it in whatever platform you have.

To start downloading YT videos, open your terminal emulator and enter:

```
yt-dlp URL
```

where URL is the actual YT link of the video that you can copy from your browser and directly paste³⁴ it on the terminal.

After download has completed, you can now watch it in your favorite video player.

Recommended players: **mpv** (<https://mpv.io>) or **vlc** (<https://www.videolan.org/vlc>)

Using MPV or VLC

You can also stream YT videos in your terminal using the video players. Download either into your computer and start using them for consuming YT.

In your terminal, type `mpv URL` or `vlc URL`.

Wait for the video to load. It should spawn a new window for your video player.

I personally recommend MPV, because it's more lightweight, but last I checked, it should work on either. Sometimes, MPV will output an error, and this could be because the video format is currently not supported.

³⁴ Most modern terminal emulators in Unix-like OS supports direct pasting from clipboard, that is, it recognizes `Ctrl + v` as Paste. If that doesn't work, though, try pasting with `Shift + Insert`.

If that happens, you can try putting an option to stream MP4 format instead. MP4 is widely supported and has large hardware and software support. Still in your terminal, enter:

```
mpv --ytdl-format=MP4 URL
```

Failing that, try streaming with VLC.

Last thoughts

There are a few more YT clients out there that I have not included here, because I have no experience in using them.

Among the above, I equally like NewPipe and youtube-dl, because it lets me download quality videos (and audios) using the least amount of effort and share them freely in the wild.

No man earns punishment, no man earns reward. Free your mind of the idea of deserving, the idea of earning, and you will begin to be able to think.

— **Ursula K. Le Guin**, *The Dispossessed*

AGAINST ALL ADS

Here's for you, marketing agents, with thy doggone tongues: may maggots devour into your quota, your daily woes. You consult the clinical behaviours, wipe clean the tiles with dirt-stained corpo fabrics meant to patch the holes in our shirts. Somehow, you get to decide whether you are having any of that, which I can acknowledge as excreta worth flushing down the drain.

– Millennial, circa 2018

People, most of them anyway, don't go out of their way and say, "Please, give us more ads!" No, everyone (except capitalists and ad agents) hates ads, especially when they are obtrusive, distracting, and nonsensical—and all of them are. At the very least, we don't care if tomorrow they would cease to exist. They belong nowhere in this plane of existence.

If we are to distill the essence of advertising, it's using the combination of arts and psychology to "influence" a person's decision. That's a weird way to spell *manipulate*, but okay. If sales and profit motivate Capitalists, then advertising (or marketing, depending on terms and conditions that apply) becomes their tool to achieve that.

Adverse effects ad hominem

To be effective, it must affect sinew and flesh. It must appeal to the carnal, because external forces controlling the body seems to be the trend still. And it will go on like that, so long as the desired effects favors only the few that do the controlling.

Good: "Sex sells."

Better: Go deeper. To do that, companies pay for science-backed research to know how best they can sell a *lifestyle*.³⁵ One company even bought an entire issue of scientific journal to do just that.³⁶

All ads pollute. We waste resources—human hours (including attention), materials, physical and digital real estate, tons of energy, etc.—to build an industry of convincing consumers to buy, to let people know that so-and-so products and services exist, and that you can avail them for [what amounts to only] 5% discount on your first purchase.³⁷

All ads are fantastic, in that all of them are out of sync of reality. A growing number of them even *are* surreal, an attempt to stand out from the noise while simulatenously being it. Fantasy, when it successfully reaches the mind, lets us escape from our current state, even if for a brief moment. Ads are conveniently designed to be short and succinct. It's the drop of poison that can still corrupt the well.

With online advertising, they even subtract from the overall user-experience of the internet. Embedded scripts and trackers in a lot of modern websites drastically slow the loading time. A lot of them collects your data, with or without your permission. Companies store these data alongside the unique IP addresses that are used to profile visitors.³⁸ And let's not forget the

35 CrimethInc. (1996). *Selling Ourselves Out*. The Anarchist Library.

<https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/crimethinc-selling-ourselves-out>

36 Dayen, D. (2021, July 7). Juul: Taking Academic Corruption to a New Level. The American Prospect.

<https://prospect.org/health/juul-taking-academic-corruption-to-new-level/>

37 But you *have to* look for the fine print. It says there that you must first shell out an obscene minimum amount of money. Or that some other fees are included. Or that the discount only applies in certain regions. Or that there are hoops that you have to jump through, which aren't really worth the hassle.

38 Evans, D. S. (2009). The online advertising industry: Economics, evolution, and privacy. *Journal of*

intrusive pop-ups that are part of the site’s design, because those are never not annoying.

In our modern society, people who work in advertising, marketing, finance, and other bullshit jobs exist for the sole purpose of manufacturing consent³⁹ and inventing reality,⁴⁰ and producing and selling stuff we don’t need to make the rich richer. If YOU belong in any of these fields, please consider this: your work enables the elite, directly or indirectly, to keep the structures that feed off of the excess labor of the working class, just the way they are now. But, YOU, unlike the bosses higher up in the corporate ladder, you’re human: air goes in and out of you. You feel a slight discomfort in knowing the fruits of your labor.

Living under capitalism, you and I are eventually coerced to cooperate, to participate in maintaining the status quo, lest we die of hunger or illness or despair, or a concoction of the three. It doesn’t mean, though, that we’ll blindly accept this fate without putting up a fight.

What to do (or not do)

As mentioned, (m)ad agents pour ridiculous amounts of resources into crafting the perfect ad material. So don’t you dare think you’re immune to marketing. Those that appeal to you, when they reach you, will work on you. *Parang budol*. Targeting ads (*ha!*) and eliminating them, thus, is a necessary move against the capitalist agenda.

What follows are our recommendations that you can work with when removing as much of it in your life. If you want something added, feel free to contact us.

1. Secure your web browser.⁴¹ Installing ad blockers⁴² is a low-effort, high-reward that anyone can do. We highly recommend [ublock Origin](#).
2. Don’t use Google Chrome. If possible, avoid Google products whenever you can.⁴³⁴⁴
3. If possible, buy only second-hand products.⁴⁵ Not buying new things circumvents marketing. It also has the added benefit of being more eco-friendly.
4. Vandalism is not for everyone, > ;) so instead, answer this as best as you can: how can print ads, fliers, posters, billboards, and other ad materials, be *repurposed* so that they become more useful than a waste of space?
5. The only acceptable advertisement is anti-ableism, anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-homophobia, anti-transphobia, anti-speciesism,⁴⁶ anti-militarism, and anti-capitalism. Promote these ideas whenever and wherever, in physical and digital spaces.⁴⁷

Advanced Tips

This subsection discusses what other things you could do to remove ads, but they’re not for everyone. It tiptoes on the line between usability and quality of experience. Or: The tightrope oscillates between adventurism and paranoia. Decide for yourself whether you’re willing to take extra steps and make compromises, before proceeding.

economic perspectives, 23(3), 37-60

39 Watch the almost-three-hour documentary version of Noam Chomsky’s book:

https://archive.org/details/manufacturing_consent

40 Download the e-book (pdf) from <https://pdfdrive.com>. Look up Michael Parenti’s *Inventing Reality*.

41 *Privacy: Securing Your Browser*. (n.d.). The New Oil. Retrieved 27 July 2021, from

<https://thenewoil.xyz/browser.html>

42 Some browsers, like [Brave](#) have built-in ad blocker, requiring little to no tweaking from non-techy users.

43 *Is Google evil?* (2017, December 13). Unix Sheikh. <https://www.unixsheikh.com/articles/is-google-evil.html>

44 Free Software Foundation. (n.d.). *Google’s Software Is Malware*. GNU Project - Free Software Foundation.

Retrieved 27 July 2021, from <https://www.gnu.org/proprietary/malware-google.html>

45 See [Refuse!](#) in this publication.

46 Here’s an interesting thought: why is it that “food animals,” when used as an icon/logo/mascot to advertise their own meat, are always smiling?

47 Ponkan. (2020, June 1). *Advertising Anarchy*. Freedom through Freedom.

<https://usbond.noblogs.org/post/2020/06/01/advertising-anarchy/>

6. The default operating system of your computer is a spyware. Consider switching to Linux.⁴⁸
7. In Linux, use a terminal-based browser like `w3m` or `lynx`.⁴⁹
8. Disable JavaScript completely, since most of ads and trackers rely on this. The specifics vary from browser to browser, so you may have to look up on how to do it on yours. Note that doing this will break a lot of sites.

Sites that are neither accessible from a terminal browser nor require JavaScript to deliver the relevant content correctly don't have much to contribute. There are a few exceptions, like bank-, school-, or work-related sites.

9. Set up a Pi-Hole at your home and block all ads in all of the devices connected to the network.⁵⁰
10. Back in the real world, install artwork that doesn't try to sell a product or service. Conversely, uninstall/vandalize art that only tries to sell, kind of like how that one ad agency did to their own billboard for a Netflix show⁵¹, only in this case, unironically. After all, "All art is quite useless." (Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, 2).

APPENDIX: Art according Oscar Wilde

If ads are a perverted version of art, then they are useless. Oscar Wilde had had some strong opinions about art being quite useless. This appendix contains two of them.

Preface to *The Picture of Dorian Gray*⁵²

The artist is the creator of beautiful things. To reveal art and conceal the artist is art's aim. The critic is he who can translate into another manner or a new material his impression of beautiful things.

The highest as the lowest form of criticism is a mode of autobiography. Those who find ugly meanings in beautiful things are corrupt without being charming. This is a fault.

Those who find beautiful meanings in beautiful things are the cultivated. For these there is hope. They are the elect to whom beautiful things mean only beauty.

There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all.

The nineteenth century dislike of realism is the rage of Caliban seeing his own face in a glass.

The nineteenth century dislike of romanticism is the rage of Caliban not seeing his own face in a glass. The moral life of man forms part of the subject-matter of the artist, but the morality of art consists in the perfect use of an imperfect medium. No artist desires to prove anything. Even things that are true can be proved. No artist has ethical sympathies. An ethical sympathy in an artist is an unpardonable mannerism of style. No artist is ever morbid. The artist can express everything. Thought and language are to the artist instruments of an art. Vice and virtue are to the artist materials for an art. From the point of view of form, the type of all the arts is the art of the musician. From the point of view of feeling, the actor's craft is the type. All art is at once surface and symbol. Those who go beneath the surface do so at their peril.

48 See how to "[Use Linux as Daily Driver](#)" in this blog.

49 Das, A. (2020, October 20). *You can Surf Internet in Linux Terminal With These Command Line Browsers*. It's FOSS. <https://itsfoss.com/terminal-web-browsers/>

50 Pi-hole is a free and open source software application that offers network-wide protection, blocks in-app ads, improves network performance, etc. More info: <https://pi-hole.net/>

51 Rodriguez, M. (2021, June 15). *Turns Out GIGIL's Marketing Pitches for Trese Kept Getting Rejected*. SPOT PH. <https://www.spot.ph/entertainment/movies-music-tv/86495/gigil-netflix-trese-a4362-20210615>

52 Download a free copy from Project Gutenberg: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/174/>

Those who read the symbol do so at their peril. It is the spectator, and not life, that art really mirrors. Diversity of opinion about a work of art shows that the work is new, complex, and vital. When critics disagree, the artist is in accord with himself. We can forgive a man for making a useful thing as long as he does not admire it. The only excuse for making a useless thing is that one admires it intensely.

All art is quite useless.

Wilde's Letter to Bernulf Clegg⁵³

My dear Sir

Art is useless because its aim is simply to create a mood. It is not meant to instruct, or to influence action in any way. It is superbly sterile, and the note of its pleasure is sterility. If the contemplation of a work of art is followed by activity of any kind, the work is either of a very second-rate order, or the spectator has failed to realise the complete artistic impression.

A work of art is useless as a flower is useless. A flower blossoms for its own joy. We gain a moment of joy by looking at it. That is all that is to be said about our relations to flowers. Of course man may sell the flower, and so make it useful to him, but this has nothing to do with the flower. It is not part of its essence. It is accidental. It is a misuse. All this is I fear very obscure. But the subject is a long one.

AYOS LANG MAGING MATUMAL SA TRABAHO

1. 'Wag isumbong ang kasama sa trabaho, maliban na lang kung ang kanyang ginagawa (o 'di ginagawa) ay maaaring magdulot ng panganib sa'yo o sa iba ninyong kasama.
2. Sabi sa Biblia, Mateo 5:41, "At sa sinomang pipilit sa iyo na ikaw ay lumakad ng isang milya, ay lumakad ka ng dalawang milya na kasama niya." Sa madaling sabi: 'Wag pabibo nang 'di humihingi ng wastong kabayaran. 'Wag mag-overtime. 'Wag magtrabaho sa araw nang pahinga.
3. Magpanggap kang kapakipakinabang, lalo na kung 'di naman talaga.
4. 'Wag sumali sa mga company outing lalo na kung ito ay gaganapin sa [mga] dayoff/s, maliban na lang kung sigurado kang sasaya ka sa pagsama dito.
5. Kaugnay ng #1, 'wag isumbong ang sinumang kumukuha nang walang paalam ("nakaw" daw ayon sa nakararami) ang isang mall, isang opisina, o isang kumpanya, maliban na lang kung magdudulot ito ng panganib sa'yo o sa ibang tao kapag 'di mo ito ginawa.
6. Pagtakpan mo ang anumang kamalian at nilabag ng kasama sa trabaho, maliban na lang kung nagdudulot siya ng panganib sa'yo o sa iba ninyong kasamahan.
7. 'Di ka dapat magmalasakit sa kumpanyang pinagtatrabahuhan mo. 'Di ka lang din naman pinapasweldo ng tama, bakit ka pa makikialam sa kinikita nila? Kung ang iyong employer ay totoong masama (halimbawa: iniikutan ang labor laws, hindi patas ang pasahod, nanloloko ng mga customer, atbp.), tama lang na maminsala ka sa kanilang bottomline. Mas maganda kung makakahikayat ka ng katrabaho na magiging kakampi mo. Tandaan lang na laging mag-ingat sa anuman ang inyong gagawin. Pag-isipang mabuti nang 'di ka magdulot ng panganib sa iba, at siyempre, nang 'di rin maituro sayo ang sabutahe na gagawin mo.
8. Kung ang customers ay galing sa manggagawang uri, isaalang-alang mo ang kanilang

53 *Art is useless because.* ... (2010, January 4). Letters of Note. <https://lettersofnote.com/2010/01/04/art-is-useless-because/>

pangangailangan higit pa sa pangangailangan ng kumpanya. Maging tapat at totoo sa serbisyo sa kanila. Magbigay ng diskwento kung kaya mo lang din naman. At bigyan mo sila ng insider's tip kung sa tingin mong hindi okay ang bibilhin nila.

9. Kung ang customers ay burgis at kapitalista, sikapin mong maging hadlang ka sa wastong serbisyo na gusto nila. Kung ikaw kumukomisyon sa sales, ayos lang na pigain mo sila!
10. 'Wag mahiyang kumuha ng gamit na kakailanganin sa trabaho (papel, lapis, atbp.), ngunit 'wag din basta-basta na lang mangupit at mang-ubos nang wala sa lugar. Hindi natin gustong gatungan ang Consumerist System na umiiral behind the scenes na nakasasama rin sa kalikasan at lipunan⁵⁴.

UNDERSTANDING AUTOMATION

How nice it would be to automate every little boring job that we currently now have?

You might think that your administrative office work could be completed within one or two hours with a basic understanding of a computer programming language⁵⁵. Or you could be a sewer hunter of our modern times, wishfully thinking, "When do we finally invent a machine that can complete the job, instead of me going down the drain?" Unless it's something you enjoy doing. In which case, more power to you!

Automation of jobs are key to a more fulfilling life, especially those that threaten the worker's safety and well-being. It has the potential to free people from their regular miseries. Imagine all the things one could do after regaining some of the time that was previously allocated for "work". More people would then look into other avenues of [creating value](#).

Is it even possible?

There's a lot to unpack here, and I might not be able to discuss them all. Here are a few thoughts.

To be Sick and Tired

For blue collar jobs: doing something for one-third of a day is exhausting, physically and mentally.

For white collar jobs: [pretending to be doing something for one-third of a day](#) is exhausting, physically and mentally.

For every other job in between: one or a combo of the above two.

By the end of shift when you're really tired, it's hard to be in a mental space to do other hobbies.

Capitalism pushes us to work until we drop dead, because it doesn't want us to do other things that have no profit motive. It destroys freedom.

Since automation would allow the working class more freedom, it is heavily regulated by the ruling class.

54 Patama na rin ito sa mga mahilig kumuha ng mga non-consumable items sa hotel (gaya ng towel, kumot, tsinelas, atbp.), eroplano (mga kubyertos, baso, atbp.), atbp.

55 Even a non-programmer will benefit from learning a programming language. Check out Python for more info here: <https://python.org>

High-tech dystopia?

Automation of everything requires an access to a certain level of technology. The consensus as of writing is to develop artificial intelligence and/or machine learning (AI/ML). Engineers and scientists have been exploring fields which AI integration would vastly improve the quality of work.

But, as with all technology, its capabilities are a function of the biases of those that develop them. Like how dictionaries can be racist.⁵⁶⁵⁷ Or like how facial recognition software can be racist.⁵⁸⁵⁹

Moreover, the idea that machines are more efficient in doing tasks than humans is important to acknowledge here. We must remember that while the Industrial Revolution (arguably) increased productivity by employment of machines, it has also allowed efficient and effective destruction of our natural environment which, in my opinion, offsets the benefits gained.

Consider this: The future of automation will likely depend on the development of AI/ML. AI/ML relies on the processing prowess of computers which rely on their hardware. Electronics rely on mining industry, supply chain logistics, and oil industry, all of which harms the environment on a global scale.

There may be healthy compromise to be made among Effectivity, Efficiency, and Environmentalism. Our focus, then, should be in figuring that one out *soon*. Besides, everything neither can be or has to be fully automated.

What is possible?

For now, we have to recognize that we cannot automate every boring task there is, not even at the rate which our technology upgrades. In fact, at the current rate, we can't still rely machines (as of this writing) to make all the important and, dare I say, humane decisions.

Suggestions for doing the Dirty Work

In the meantime, we need to consider several things when doing work that nobody wants to do:

1. If nobody does it, and nothing happens when it doesn't get done, it probably didn't need to be done in the first place.
2. If the outcome does need to be achieved, we might look at alternative methods of achieving that end. For example, if nobody wants to clean the clogged estero, then we should be mindful of our domestic waste *and* stop throwing them in the estero!
3. If a certain task is the only way of achieving that end, then we should look at why it's unenjoyable, and how we might make it more bearable. We might also look at how it can be broken up into more bearable chunks. Still maintaining the clogged estero as an example, it's understandable why attempting to clean it can be unpleasant. Organizing the community to participate in a clean-up drive helps distribute the work load. To prevent fatigue, such clean-up drive would only last between three to six

56 Abagond, J. (2016, April 5). "*The dictionary was written by White people.*" Abagond. <https://abagond.wordpress.com/2016/04/05/the-dictionary-was-written-by-white-people/>

57 "*BUT THE DICTIONARY SAYS—*" (2012, October 20). FUCK YOUR RACISM. <https://fuckyourracism.tumblr.com/post/33943946460/but-the-dictionary-says>

58 Najibi, A. (2020, October 26). *Racial Discrimination in Face Recognition Technology*. Science in the News. <https://sitn.hms.harvard.edu/flash/2020/racial-discrimination-in-face-recognition-technology/>

59 Breland, A. (2017, December 4). *How white engineers built racist code – and why it's dangerous for black people*. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/dec/04/racist-facial-recognition-white-coders-black-people-police>

hours, scheduled regularly (say, thrice a week). Other members of the community could also provide free food for the cleaners as an incentive.

4. If nobody still wants to do it, it has to be done, there's no other available options, *and* it's as optimized and bearable as we can make it, whoever is able probably just takes turns.

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH

Adopting the capitalist mindset naturally bends our thinking towards wanting to earn money, because literally the opposite can kill us. Without money, the system disables us from obtaining basic needs like food, water, health care, etc.

Financial Independence ≠ Freedom

Either we don't talk about money or we do so openly, which can be strange, as there's almost no middle ground between the two. The former often vilifies the subject of earning money, and also the people hell-bent on building wealth at any cost. The latter, more often than not, litters financial independence blogs and forums for tips and tricks.

We should be living the Revolution now, planting seeds of radical ideas when- and wherever we can. At the same time, we must realize that its fruits will be for future generations. In the meantime, who shall start the discussion of how much is enough when we talk about personal property?

Clearly, it sucks to be below the poverty line. Everybody, including the state, actively works against your odds if you're poor. It doesn't help when you're constantly labeled as lazy or unwilling or hard-headed, in spite of the mounting evidence that it isn't your fault for being poor.

Does this mean that we should start obsessing over hoarding money, and try to deepen our pockets so it opens more opportunities?

Retire Early?

One thing I like about the seasoned "veterans" of the FI/RE movement ("Financial Independence / Retire Early") is that many of them encourage you to have a target number in mind, it being the amount of money you can live on without having to work (in the traditional sense) again. This *number* is the amount of money you need to retire completely from the so-called rat race, and, as a rough estimate, is supposed to be somewhere between 15 to 30 times your annual expense, depending a number of factors like lifestyle choices (or changes), income, luck, etc.

In order to determine your annual expense, start tracking your expenses first! Do it for a month to build the habit. When you have a month's worth of expenses, multiply it by 12, and you now have a rough estimate of your annual expense. Of course, the longer you track your expenses, the cleaner the data, the more accurate your number will be.

This retirement number is supposed to be a limit to save us from either grinding ourselves to death, or from obtaining obscene amounts of wealth that we wouldn't know how to spend it. This also serves as a reminder of what we really need to exist for the remainder of the retirement years. Billionaires and billionaire-wannabes don't get this: having more than you need literally endangers other people's lives, not to mention maintaining a life of excess

requires the destruction of environment. Having that much amount of money creates imbalances everywhere. Or perhaps they do know it, it's just that they couldn't be bothered to care less.

So... must you invest in the stock market?

Money is important under capitalism, and our society still relies on this utilitarian aspect of it.

Compared to trading, investing in stock market strikes a nice balance between asset growth (or really, preservation) and passivity.

Some Good Reasons you might not want to Invest

Now let's list (some, not all of) the arguments against investing (and even trading), all of which are valid, and pose real threat to people and environment.

You don't like Corporations

There are stocks, effectively companies, that you don't want to support. Some companies (e.g. Jollibee, SM, San Miguel Corp.) are involved in questionable labor practices. Some actively destroy the environment (e.g. Petron, Semirara, Philex).

If you're into mutual funds, well, they contain a basket of stocks and/or bonds of different entities, whether corporation or government, already involved in aforementioned malpractices.

You don't like the harmful effects of cryptocurrency

Major cryptocurrencies ("crypto" from this point), like Bitcoin and Ethereum require large amounts of energy, due to computations needed for mining and maintaining the blockchain. It gets worse when that energy is obtained from burning coal.

The intensive energy requirement takes a toll on the equipment, or the *mining rigs*, significantly shortening their life span. These equipment, when no longer fit for the job, will likely be added to the already kilotons of e-waste.

People wanting to ride on this bandwagon drives the demand for more computing equipment, like graphical processing units (GPUs), creating a global semiconductor shortage.

Chip fabrication is a very expensive operation. Such facility would require very precise conditions to be met—temperature, humidity, cleanliness, highly-skilled professionals, etc. More importantly, the upkeep also taxes the environment: since chip fabrication is also energy-intensive, it's heavily subsidized by fossil fuel; or rather, chip fabrication is *brought to you by* cheap fossil fuel which in turn is subsidized by governments all over the world.

And to top it all off, hackers, scammers, and other bad actors hover around cryptos looking to make easy money, and/or to influence disrupt something to make more easy money.

You find existing services to be bad

You cannot expect the UI/UX of any online brokers (assuming that's what you'd be using) to be any good. They can be ugly at best, confusing at worst.

Don't assume that anywhere in the tech stack of their platform runs a free and open source software. It might be because the software engineers running them are either understaffed,

overworked, underpaid, or some combination of all three.

Going through all of the above, it's only fair to ask yourself whether you want to fund any of them.

The investing path isn't foolproof. But in the meantime, one can learn a few useful skills here and there that can actually be of help should the society as we know it begin to collapse.

“I'm a Millennial, (un)fortunately, and my retirement plan is Societal Collapse.”

– an internet meme

Whatever the outcome is—whether Capitalism is abolished and money is rendered useless, or Capitalism flourishes for 2,000 more years—the chances of getting by are a bit higher when I take the investing route.

Our efforts shall not be muddied, though. We must still seek to abolish Capitalism, if that's not clear enough; and make the changes now, no matter the perceived significance, so long as it's toward our goals.

SINO ANG 'DI PA NASISIRAAN NG BAIT?

Walang masama kung aaminin nating unti-unti na tayong nauubusan ng pasensya sa lipunang kailanma'y 'di nawalan ng ganang pahirapan ang mga mahihirap.

Biruin mo, halos hindi tayo magkanda-ugaga sa kakatrabaho para sa katiting na kita. Sinasakripisyo tayo ng ating pamahalaan para sa ekonomiya. At tayo naman, sinasakripisyo natin ang ating sarili, ang pagkakataong makapiling ang mga mahal natin sa buhay, para tayo ay maging “kapakipakinabang sa lipunan.” Ang nakikinabang sa ating pinagpaguran ay ang mga amo nating kumportableng nagpapahinga sa kanila corner office.

Wala na ba talaga tayong ibang pagpipilian kundi ang ilagay sa piligro ang ating katawan at isipan sa araw-araw na pagsabak?

Hindi malabong isipin na ang sistema ay dinisenyo para ang karamihan sa atin ay mapagod, magsawa, at pumuro, nang sa gayon wala nang panahong makapag-isip para sa sarili at para sa kapwa.

Ang sistemang ito ang patuloy na nagtuturo sa tao na “sumunod na lang sa utos” ng awtoridad. Diba hinubog ang ating pagkatao at kamalayan sa pamamagitan ng mga nakaugaliang pagtuturo? Kung 'di man sa paaralan, sa mismong bahay natin nakikita ang mga mapang-aping tradisyon na ito. Kung lalabag ka, may karampatang parusa, 'di bali kung sino ang tama at mali.

Aminin man natin o hindi, matagal nang basag ang ating pula. Iba-iba lang ang grado depende sa kung sino ang kausap.

The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river.

– **Ross Perot**

DO NOT START A BUSINESS

Like many of us, I had often dreamt of starting up a small business I can call my own. Like many, I never liked the idea of working for someone else. The fruits of my labor never fully benefited me nor the people I cared the most. So I thought it might be better for me to start considering setting my own shop.

Business Startup Plan

Being my own boss sounded like a lifestyle fit for me.

If you look up on “how to start a business,” most of the framework you’ll end up finding goes something like this: 1. List the hobbies you enjoy. 2. From the list, pick one and deep-dive into it. This means learning best practices, best gear, finding a community. If it gets boring, just pick another hobby to dive into. 3. Find “pain points” in the hobby. 4. Look for solution/s for each or all of the pain points in the hobby. Supposedly, this is where you come in. 5. Sell the solution, as a service or product. You’ll be asked to look for a willing victim, *target customer* as they are called, and make the pitch.

It’s a seemingly simple framework, easily digestible for a budding entrepreneur. Since you’re starting with your hobbies, the entry barrier is almost nil, unless you have nothing going on in your life.

However, soon it came to me that to run a business from the ground up, an entrepreneur must dedicate their whole being into making it stable as soon as possible. This could mean working upwards of 50 hours per week, which is definitely more than what I can allot for something, or anything really, without losing focus.

Growth mindset is not sustainable

Business analysts, or whatever they are called these days, tend to be optimistic in their projections. It’s always growth, increase in sales, boost in revenue year-on-year. I doubt that they account for the finite resources in their spreadsheets. Or maybe they do; they just don’t care.

All they care about is seeing their projections come to fruition. It becomes the benchmark to chase. And when every business-owner goes about chasing loftier and loftier Numbers, the effect can be damaging, although subtle at first.

Bills must be paid. Necessities must be bought. This is our current reality under capitalism. Again it’s worth noting that it’s naive to disregard this reality, for the sake of revolution. But if the Revolution is worth pursuing, the current systems are worth abolishing.

Generating jobs isn’t exactly ethical

What a business essentially does is, take the resources from the community that are by the way already available to them in some form; funnel these through the operations; slap a nice branding; and sell it back to the community. Along the way, the business employs the labor of the community, which the community has to... thank for?

Get this: we encourage workers to thank their employers for the barely living wages as a reward to toiling under dreadful conditions.

If/when the workers realize unionize, they are met with violence.

White collar jobs are just as dreadful when all you do is sit in front of a computer, [looking busy playing with whatever spreadsheet](#). Modern offices also use up a lot of energy to run a lot of equipment to sustain the operations: air conditioning units, lighting, and computers and data centers among others.⁶⁰

Solving a problem doesn't need another startup

We suffer from different problems of varying magnitude. And we will continue to do so as we discover yet another set of problems that we don't know that we don't know.

This doesn't mean to scheme another money-making opportunity for each problem.

I'm certain that we don't need another apartment complex and condominiums if we're not going to give it to the homeless. We don't need another mall, another grocery store, if we're not giving essential items to those who need them the most. We don't need these structures if we're desecrating the land on which they will be erected; and if we're displacing the people who have been living there in peace.

We don't need another diner if we're not going to feed the hungry.

We don't need another plant seller if it means poaching endangered species from faraway land to import them into our living rooms.

We don't need another private school if we're going to brainwash the next batch of would-be entrepreneurs into continuing the capitalist legacy. We don't need them if they're not going to teach the children on how to truly care for people and for the environment.

Ask yourself if we need another manufacturing plant or factory that enables capitalists to steal from local resources; and then come back to me with a 200-word write-up that I might append in this post (who knows).

Also, you can't just start a business

Majority of businesses fail. That's the truth. The odds, by far, are that you will *lose* whatever you put into it, and end up in a worse place than when you started.

Even if it were somehow true that anyone could start a business and expect it to be successful, there would still have to be people who couldn't start a business, and instead had to be exploited by those more successful ones. Otherwise, the whole world would consist of owners, and nobody would do any actual labor. You didn't think that Elon Musk actually works a billion times harder than you, 'no'?

You might argue, "It's worth the risk." But just taking a risk doesn't mean that you deserve something for it, especially when that risk only exists because private property forms the basis of our economic activity. If all owners really do is assume the risk of ownership created by the existence of their class, why should that entitle them to the lion's share of their worker's efforts? Why even have an *owning class* at all?

If your goal is prosperity for all, which should be the goal of every society, then this one is a dead end. At best, it's a risky gamble for a privileged population.

60 *The Curse of the Modern Office*. (n.d.). LOW-TECH MAGAZINE.
<https://www.lowtechmagazine.com/2016/11/the-curse-of-the-modern-office.html>

They blast us with colorful material and witty words in all media. Makes us think that we could *almost* excuse ourselves for falling into their pitches.

We buy these solutions with either our money or time. It's likely both, since Capitalism conjures its own reality where money and time are intertwined.

We buy stuff, convinced that it's needed to get on with life. A small step forward, two leaps backward, if you ask me.

This was not always the case. The Silent Generation, in order to survive the world wars, were forced to make resources last. They were even encouraged to do so.

During the world wars, little to no production was done on many parts of the world. Supply of Stuff was low, and yet Demand of it remained the same, if not increased. Price of Stuff had the possibility to soar out of control if people would buy, thus reducing the supply. This is according to the Law of Supply and Demand.

For the majority who had little to no money to spend to begin with, they instead developed the practical skills needed to survive. Ask your grandparents, and they will tell you countless stories of frugality, of repairing your own stuff, of borrowing from others.

It's time to refuse new stuff.

Just because you can afford to buy it doesn't mean you can afford to maintain it. This leads to many of us resorting to just buying new things, instead of repairing our old ones.

Make do with what's already in circulation⁶². Ask your family, friends, and neighbors if they have the thing that you need that they don't. You could offer to buy it from them at a reasonable price. Or you could exchange it for something that they need that you might have (barter). Or you could offer your service (repair, drive, errand, etc.) that they might need as payment. In the last two examples, money need not even be involved!

Would it be possible to forgo some of the things that we take for granted? What would it be like to simplify our lives, to prune as many luxuries as possible? As we bring to front and examine the operations that make our existence worthwhile, we must ask, "How does this impact others?" We need to start asking these questions now so we can learn to do without excess.

The best time would have been years ago, but now is as good as any.

Technology has opened Pandora's box.

Now more than ever, we have the tools to make life easier. At the same time, the resources needed to make them have a real significant impact in people and environment.

The least we can do is to make the most out of all the materials we pulled out of the earth.

It's time to think really hard before deciding to buy something new that you might instead be able to procure second-hand; or even better, do it yourself if you know how. Remember that buying implies demand. People at the helm of manufacturers would interpret this demand as a need to produce more. "Since people are buying our product, we need to make more of it!"

Do you really need that organizer from that aesthetically pleasing brand, or will old empty tin cans and some creativity do?

62 Online platforms like Carousell (<https://carousell.ph>) and Facebook Marketplace are worth checking out for second-hand items.

Do you need to buy mason jars to rearrange your pantry, or will old containers do?

Do you need new clothes, or could you look for a novel way to match your existing articles into something fashionable? Perhaps you know how to sew, and upcycle some of your fabrics?

Do you really need the latest consumer electronics, or will a used one from three, four years ago perform just as well?

Asking such questions adds friction to convenience. There's no guarantee that you'll be swayed against buying, but it's a start. What's more important is to take your time, *literally*. Practice delaying gratification.

The simple (yet hard) ability to Not Buy Things has a great impact. It could reduce the demand to manufacture and produce stuff, which consequently would be good for people and the environment.

The Old and the Neomania.

Of course, there are some things that you really have to buy brand new, such as batteries and personal items like toothbrushes and underwear.

But do you really have to, though? Perhaps you have the ability, the resources, and/or the time to consider the following:

- Instead of using anything battery- or electricity-operated, is it possible to do it *manually*?
- Instead of relying on the latest technology, how can something be done by using "inefficient," low technology? Ask your elders on how they might have done it back in their days. There's always wisdom in their ways.
- Instead of plastic toothbrushes, why not opt for bamboo-made ones? Or perhaps you might want to look into how some twigs and plant roots can be chewed and gnawed as dental hygiene?⁶³
- Instead of buying underwear, why not look into making your own? Or if you can, go without it?

These are just a few suggestions. Our ancestors had done it for a long time; it's not impossible to still do them now. Choices like these can be pretty radical in our modern times, but we need to be radical with our choices if we are to save the environment.

If you must buy new things

We acknowledge that we can't quickly adjust to this *Refuse* mentality. The capitalist system forces us to participate in it, so it can be hard to negotiate our way out of it.

If you must buy new things, consider the following if you have the ability, resources, and/or time:

1. See to it that you invest in quality.

This means doing your research first. Among the competing brands, what would be the best bang for your buck? Ask people for their recommendations. Looking for quality isn't necessarily an exciting task, but if it could mean that you'd be using it for a long time, it's worth the due diligence.

63 Martignier, K. (2021, March 2). *Nature's Original Toothbrush*. Permaculture Research Institute. <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/04/784702588/the-best-thing-you-can-do-is-not-buy-more-stuff-says-secondhand-expert>

2. Check if you can obtain it locally.

Participating in local economy helps local entrepreneurs. Not only that, it also decreases the carbon footprint of an item by reducing the distance it needs to travel to your doorstep.

In both cases, expect it to be more expensive than the stuff that's mass-produced. You should be buying it for life anyway. It's a step to start refusing future purchases.

RIGHT TO REPAIR

The message is simple: we should have the right to repair the stuff we bought. The wastefulness of Global North negatively impacts the overall quality of life for those in Global South.

It's in our best interest to keep things functional for as long as we can maintain it that way. Not only that, it's also in the best interest of our environment, to not just throw away broken things without even trying to repair them. The least we can do is to wear them down until they can longer be fixed, so we don't have to be digging up earth for precious metals or cutting down trees for wood, or pull crude oil for plastics, or what have you.

Here in the Philippine archipelago, we repair our stuff when it breaks, or we ask someone who knows how to do so. Thanks to our many skilled technicians, mechanics, electricians, plumbers, masons, tailors, artisans, woodworkers, metalworkers, and every repairperson in between, because without them and their ingenuity, keeping our stuff working for as long as possible would be hard life to be in.

Thinking Indifferently

We shouldn't support companies that lobby against this right, like Apple,⁶⁴ even though, more recently they seem to be changing their gears.⁶⁵ Remember, any seemingly switch in their stance to appeal to consumers is just a PR move and a business decision.⁶⁶

Some companies would even invoke the law to lobby against your right to repair. At least in the US, Clean Air Act is used as an argument by automobile manufacturers and heavy equipment makers. Quoting from the iFixit week of 18 July 2022 report *Is the Clean Air Act Pro-Repair?*:

[L]obbyists for industry groups like the Equipment Dealers Association (EDA) as well as owners of agricultural equipment dealers have warned of the dire risks should ordinary equipment owners or “unauthorized” (that is, independent) repair professionals get their hands on diagnostic and repair tools that control the levers of emissions control systems designed to satisfy the Clean Air Act and prevent harmful pollution. Stopping right to repair laws that would provide access to such tools and information is tantamount to saving the environment and keeping our air clear of smog and pollution, they argue.⁶⁷

64 Lee, T., Crosby, A., Cooper, C. M., Stein, J. A., & Scardifield, K. (2019, July 11). *Design and repair must work together to undo our legacy of waste*. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/design-and-repair-must-work-together-to-undo-our-legacy-of-waste-119932>

65 Goldheart, S. (2020, July 31). *Apple Strangely in Agreement with us about Repair*. iFixit. <https://www.ifixit.com/News/43088/apple-strangely-in-agreement-with-us-about-repair>

66 Apple. (2021, November 17). *Apple announces Self Service Repair*. Apple Newsroom. Retrieved December 5, 2021, from <https://www.apple.com/newsroom/2021/11/apple-announces-self-service-repair/>

67 Roberts, P. (2022, July 26). *Is the Clean Air Act Pro-Repair? Repair Roundup Week of July 18 | iFixit News*.

Common Malpractices

Big companies will try to maintain as much control over their products as possible by:

- closed-source schematics;
- monopoly of replacement parts, if there's any at all;
- limiting the number of "certified" service centers;
- making it hard for third-party technicians to get accreditation;
- labeling independent repair shops as "unauthorized";
- using proprietary tools *and* limiting the public's access to them;
- and other things that can only be "good for the[ir] business."

As you can already tell, maximizing profit does not end with you buying their product.

What can be done

We should all be considering what would eventually happen to stuff we end up giving/throwing away. This goes beyond consumer electronics, though. We should be repairing any stuff ranging from furniture, agriculture and farming, automotive, clothing, medical device repair, etc.

Here are a few more thoughts.

Manufacturers

Manuals and schematics (two copies, ideally: one hard copy, one soft copy, and the latter should be readily available on the internet, preferably under permissive license⁶⁸) should be provided along with the product, including, among others, the necessary steps to maintain it, troubleshooting problems, and a working list of entities and/or individuals capable of more technical repair should we find the problem beyond our skills.

Replacement parts, and the needed tools, should be made available to everyone.

Products should be designed to be repaired, not thrown away.

End users

Read the manual. This documentation will tell you the do's and don'ts when using the product. The good ones even explain how to troubleshoot should there be a problem, or at least point you to a direction (e.g. website for more info).

If it applies, do a preventive maintenance, which in its core is just regularly checking your devices, and/or fixing them before they break. If you're not sure how to do this, ask a trusted technician.

Conclusion

One of the best ways we can reduce our consumption under Capitalism is by supporting our right to repair. To do that, we have to strongly consider repairing any broken items first, before even thinking of disposing them.

iFixit. <https://www.ifixit.com/News/62857/is-the-clean-air-act-pro-repair-repair-roundup-week-of-july-18>
68 There are many permissive licenses to choose from. Start here: <https://creativecommons.org/>

APPROACHING ZERO WASTE



The best way to be zero waste is taking it one small step at a time. Be mindful of what we put into our lives, be it something we consume or use indefinitely.

There are #DIV/0! steps to get rid of plastic use in your life, and to start your journey, read on for some actionable steps.

Avoid junk food

We already know it's junk despite its "Nutritional Facts", and yet we eat them because they're tasty and just fun to eat.

But not only are they unhealthy—i.e., they increase cardiovascular disease risk, elevate insulin levels, and are lacking nutrients— but the packaging is immediately thrown away after.

This also includes most of fast food, so might as well reduce eating those. To add to that, fast food industry is a wasteful industry, with its waxed papers, plastic bags, paper sacks, napkins, plastic cutlery, and plastic-wrapped condiments.

We need also to demand fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG, and/or consumer packaged goods, CPG) manufacturers to come up with better technologies for a more sustainable packaging.

Companies like Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, and Nestlé⁶⁹⁷⁰ must be made accountable for all the junk they continue to make soon!

Try ditching the plastic straw.

If you're able-bodied, consider ditching the notion of using straws ever. However, if intorting a tube with your lips is something you enjoy aside from sipping that drink, and/or you are actually a person with disability, you may opt for the reusable straws that are now available in a lot of places.

There are real reasons, though, why ditching plastic straws could be difficult, and I think the most affected ones here are people with disability.

69 COP27 Sponsor The Coca-Cola Company named worst plastic polluter for five years in a row according to 2022 Brand Audit. (2022, November 15). Greenpeace USA. <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/news/cop27-sponsor-the-coca-cola-company-named-worst-plastic-polluter-for-five-years-in-a-row-according-to-2022-brand-audit/>

70 BFFP: Brand Audit Report 2022. (2022, November 14). Brand Audit. <https://brandaudit.breakfreefromplastic.org/brand-audit-2022/>

Reusable Straws might not yet be for PWDs

Here's a helpful chart I found why some disabled people don't use reusable straws⁷¹⁷²:

| | Choking Hazard | Injury Risk | Not Positionable | Costly for Consumer | Not High-Temp Safe |
|------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Metal | | ● | ● | ● | |
| Bamboo | | ● | ● | ● | |
| Glass | | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Silicone | | | ● | ● | |
| Acrylic | | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Paper | ● | | ● | | |
| Pasta | ● | ● | ● | | |
| Single-use | | | | | |

The pressure to create bio-degradable straw options that are safe for the environment *and* for all disabled people shout fall upon the manufacturer, NOT marginalized disabled consumers.

Once we accept the necessity of plastic straws, we can work together on other environment initiatives that are effective, inclusive, and accessible.

Bring your own jug or water bottle.

It's uncool to buy an overpriced mineral water in PET bottle; even more so to know it's unsafe to reuse PET bottles. So avoid that and invest in a water bottle. It will save you more in the long run.

We must also start demanding local government units and private institutions to provide us with water refilling stations. Clean and free drinking water is our right, and it must be accessible to as many people as possible.

Before you go out and buy groceries, bring containers with you.

This is especially useful for wet goods like meat, fish, and other products that might otherwise be placed in a plastic bag by the vendor. Unlike the bags, you can wash your containers and reuse them next time. It helps a lot to plan your groceries, so you'll know how many containers you only need to bring in your run. In supermarkets, just ask the vendors first to take your container and adjust their electronic scale to zero before weighing goods.

Bring your own dining utensils.

This is to avoid single-use plastic utensils. This isn't an issue if you're avoiding fast food; and it's less likely you'll encounter plastic utensils in restaurants. You'll never know when you'd be eating out, so it's still good practice to bring something with you.

Conclusion

These small steps ensure little entry barrier for those wanting to ditch plastic. Going zero waste is hard, because plastic use has been normalized, so much so that when you follow the

71 Schultz, K. (2019, October 28). *Plastic straw bans are not fair to people with disabilities, and here's what we can do about it.* CreakyJoints. <https://creakyjoints.org/advocacy/plastic-straw-bans-bad-for-people-with-disabilities/>

72 Wong, A. (2018, July 19). *The Last Straw.* Eater. <https://www.eater.com/2018/7/19/17586742/plastic-straw-ban-disabilities>

steps above, many people will find you odd at first.

More importantly, we need to demand accountability from plastic-dependent corporations like Coca-cola, and pressure them to develop more sustainable ways of manufacturing and producing their goods. The complete removal of plastics is a big step towards the right direction!

Fret not, comrade; the seemingly social wite of these deeds you be employin' will free you soon from the plastic errors, and the ornithes acknowledge your flight. When you get the hang of it, convince your friends and family to start doing the same.

CONSIDER THESE FOR YOUR NEXT SMARTPHONE

So, finally, your smartphone is bricked, broken beyond repair for whatever reason, no more useful than paperweight. You're done making trips to repair shops to have it repaired for the *n*th time, and that's okay. At least, you've done your part to make the most out of it.

Before you go (online) shopping, though, I hope you consider these things first, since you're doing research anyway:

Reuse old phones

If you still have your old working phones around, why not reuse them? Check if they're still working. Check also if you still have the charger and the necessary cords, and if each of them are working.

If they are in need of repair, it's likely to be affordable.

One of the major downsides of old phones is that, it may not fit your daily usage anymore. Advancements in software may be too much for the relatively old hardware.⁷³ Like, talking to groups of people at once in an instant messaging app, or browsing the web may not even be feasible, because of hardware limitations.

If what you really need is better than Nokia 3310, then...

Look out for smartphone repairability scores.

iFixit has a list of repairable smartphones,⁷⁴ which is a good starting point. They explain how they rate devices. Start looking at ones that score at least 7. Now, we should be veering away from Apple's products, because their design for nonrepairability is not good design⁷⁵, *at all*⁷⁶. This should narrow down your list to just Android phones.

73 Most, if not all, software developers don't think much of the hardware side of things when writing programs. That's why it's likely that they'll design their applications to run on modern machines with modern specifications, leaving behind "old" but reasonably functional computers.

74 *Smartphone Repairability Scores - iFixit*. (2021, October 28). Ifixit. <https://www.ifixit.com/smartphone-repairability>

75 Lee, T., Crosby, A., Cooper, C. M., Stein, J. A., & Scardifield, K. (2019, July 11). *Design and repair must work together to undo our legacy of waste*. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/design-and-repair-must-work-together-to-undo-our-legacy-of-waste-119932>

76 Even as Apple, valued to be a trillion-dollar company, has the capability to do so, they don't intend to make their hardwares last. Durable phones would cut away their profits.

Make your Mobile OS more private

Smartphones are snitches; they're designed to gather data even on standby (through microphones, sensors, GPS, etc.). As long as it's connected to the internet, it sends packets of data to different companies' servers. Who knows what they do with them?

Android phones, in particular, are basically the eyes and ears of Google.

Good thing that Android, as a mobile operating system, is highly configurable, so it's worth considering flashing (i.e., replacing) the default OS with a custom one. PrivacyTools.io lists some recommended mobile operating systems.⁷⁷

GrapheneOS (<https://grapheneos.org>) and CalyxOS (<https://calyxos.org>) both have support for Google Pixel phones only; while both LineageOS (<https://www.lineageos.org>) and Ubuntu Touch support wider range of devices. You don't need to be a "technical person" to flash an Android phone with custom ROM, although it's worth noting that these custom ROMS make old phones snappier and increase UI/UX (in a while, this will be relevant).

You may also refer to FOSS Smartphone Hardening non-root Guide⁷⁸ if you don't want to root⁷⁹ your phone.

Of course, if you don't have the time nor patience to deal with this, you can always ask for help from someone with more expertise in mobile software.

Privacy Add-ons

If you don't want any of that (I get it, it could be just too much), you might want to add some of these apps on your Android phone, no root required. Your phone will likely warn you about installing from "unauthorized" sources. So, be sure to do your research first about any of these. Once you're convinced that these programs can be trusted, just *Allow* installing from third-party sources.

- **F-Droid** (<https://f-droid.org>) is an installable catalogue of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) applications. Think Google Play Store, but only FOSS, and minus Google's prying eyes. Install this first, because it's highly recommended that you obtain the next few apps on this list from F-Droid.
- **Aurora Store** (*search in F-droid*) is an alternate to Google Play Store with which you can search and/or download apps, update existing ones, get details about in-app trackers, spoof your location, and much more.
- **Blokada** (*search in F-droid*) is an ad blocker and privacy app (also available in iOS, tell your friends). It works for all apps and all browsers.
- **NetGuard** (*search in F-droid*) provides simple and advanced methods to block certain apps from accessing the internet, without requiring root privileges. Apps and addresses can be individually allowed or denied access to your Wi-Fi and/or mobile connections, allowing you to control exactly which apps are able to phone home or not.
- **Orbot** (*search in F-droid*) is a free proxy app that empowers other apps to use the internet more securely. It uses Tor to encrypt your internet traffic and then hides it by bouncing through a series of computers (nodes) around the world.

77 List of Privacy Friendly Mobile OS, via PrivacyTools: <https://www.privacytools.io/android-alternatives>

78 *100% FOSS Smartphone Hardening non-root Guide 4.0*. (2021, December 26). Reddit.

https://old.reddit.com/r/degoogle/comments/rosdbu/100_foss_smartphone_hardening_nonroot_guide_40/

79 When a phone is "rooted," the user has gained root access to their phone. This means the user has admin permissions, and can do a lot of things Android wouldn't normally let you do, such as blocking all apps on the phone from being able to contact specific websites. Rooting your phone opens many new doors. On the other side of some of those doors is a broken phone, so do your research if you ever plan to root your device.

Buy Secondhand!

No new things. Someone, somewhere is ready to part with their fully-functional smartphone, and the brand and model might just be included in your list. Ask around your friends and family. Visit sites like [Carousell](#), or even Facebook's Marketplace and check listings. This might also be the best time to consider your actual budget.

As last resort, and this isn't actually "buying", you may want to sign up for Freecycle⁸⁰ and post a listing there, although let's be honest—since a small number of people are aware of the site, your chances of obtaining a smartphone here are slim. And many people aren't just that keen on giving away stuff to strangers for free, but we can dream!

Conclusion

In this post, we tackled three things simultaneously, all of which were discussed in previous separate posts, each equally important: right to privacy, right to repair, and refusal to buy new stuff.

As for your old bricked phone, I need not tell you to don't just dispose it anywhere! It's now an e-waste and must be handled differently than your regular household waste. If it's not too wrecked, consider selling it off to technicians and DIY-enthusiasts for the parts (don't forget to pass the message about it being e-waste). You may want to keep it for the parts yourself.

RADICAL TRANSPORTATION

We begin and end most, if not all, of our travels as pedestrians. You'd think that it only makes sense to design a communal space around that central idea. But no, pedestrians are not the priority. Somehow in the urban "planning" (if one could ever call it that), decision-makers have thought that pedestrians are less valuable than cars. This is evident in the lack of proper sidewalks. By proper, we mean wide enough to fit at least four people standing next to each other; has ramps with *reasonable* slopes on curbs' endpoints, for people in wheelchair; and isn't blocked by any parked vehicle.

Cars-first Culture

Thanks to our friends in developed nations, we've developed a knack for cars. And to an extent, it's understandable. Once you've learned how to drive it, a car will take you to places with relative ease, as long as there is road on which the wheels shall roll. Perhaps we have the Western culture to thank for this inevitable outcome.

It's weird that many people think that having your own car symbolizes success, but it depends.

Those who can afford it will invariably use cars for their errands, regardless of travel distance and/or purpose. To them, it's only practical to travel in a car.

But is it?

The cost of having a car cannot pay for itself, with all the parking fees, fuel costs, maintenance cost, time lost in traffic jams, environmental cost of burning fuel, let alone the manufacturing of one single unit.

80 Freecycle Philippines Chapter: <https://www.freecycle.org/browse/PH/Philippines>

What about electric vehicles (EV)?

Don't believe it when capitalists shill for EVs. They're not any better than their combustion counterparts, in that they still require obscene amounts of energy in order to be manufactured and operated.

Where will we get the lithium and other rare earth metals for the battery if not by mining them from the ground?

We don't transition to clean energy by jumping into electric cars. If anything, we only threaten our forests.⁸¹

Inclusive travel

The focus should not be in adding more roads, but in lessening (private) cars. The former induces demand: as lanes and highways get added, so do the number of people who want to drive on them. The latter, unsurprisingly, has an inversely proportional effect: it makes road conditions more desirable. Less cars also means less traffic-related accidents.

Sure, we can rely on computing and internet to avoid traffic and/or find the shortest route possible, but if you've driven and used Waze or Google Maps (or something similar), you'd know that software can only do so much. An important side note: computing adds to the pollution, too! Data centers that enable online GPS navigation, among other things, still use massive amounts of electricity from the power grid.

This includes rethinking air and sea travels

For most of us, our travel usually happens on land. However, we face more challenges when dealing with the effects of both air and sea travels.

Air travel

If you can, please fly less, because aviation—including all of its facilities—use more carbon per passenger than other modes of transport.⁸² That means reconsider that trip abroad: if it's for a conference, can it be done through video call instead? If it's for vacation, why not consider exploring our archipelago first? I'm sure there are lots of beautiful places here that are more than just tourist traps.

Helicopters must only be used during emergencies, when saving lives and/or preventing (more) casualties.

Sea travel

Don't go on cruise ships. Not only is their very existence an environmental destruction, they are dangerous places, too, where people get food-poisoned, and possibly where a disease might infect trapped passengers, making it a hotbed for a would-be pandemic.⁸³

81 Ilagan, K., Lopez, E., Lehren, A., Schechter, A., & Schapiro, R. (2021, December 8). *Rise of electric cars threatens Philippine forests*. Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. Retrieved December 28, 2021, from <https://pcij.org/article/7649/rise-of-electric-cars-threatens-philippine-forests>

82 Alter, L. (2020, January 3). *What's the True Carbon Footprint of Flying?* Treehugger. Retrieved December 28, 2021, from <https://www.treehugger.com/whats-true-carbon-footprint-flying-4853983>

83 Shrikant, A. (2020, March 5). *The coronavirus cruise ship quarantines confirm cruises are bad*. Vox. Retrieved December 28, 2021, from <https://www.vox.com/the-goods/2020/2/25/21152903/coronavirus-cruise-ship-outbreak-cruises-sexual-assault-environment>

Ligaw notes:

- Cars are several layers of barrier from the outdoor elements. In order to achieve this individualized comfort, what have we had to sacrifice?
- Try not to buy a car. They cause pollution, directly and indirectly.
- Although details are sparse, only a fraction of the Philippine population owns a car. Yet we allot more of our public spaces for them by building more roads and widening existing ones.
- Traffic are mostly made by private vehicles, many with only one person, the driver, in them.
- Some people dream of riding in Tour de France. Meanwhile, here we zip in and out of cities with bike lanes that are not *yet* physically separated from roads for cars. And even then, I should be dreaming first of pedestrian-friendly cities before anything else!

Radical Alternatives:

- For sea travel, why not sail away?⁸⁴ Our ancestors did it with their balangays; we can do something similar!
- Try walking if destination is within two kilometers. Depending on your current physique, it's probably doable up to four. As they say, "Everything is within walking distance." Reclaim the streets!⁸⁵
- Try cycling if destination is within four kilometers. Depending on your bike, terrain, traffic, and/or your current physique, it's probably doable up to eight.
- Use public transportation. We all know that it's not the best, given our current infrastructure. But it does its job okay by having the capability to move a lot of people using only the space required.
- Consider car-pooling with friends, family, and/or neighbors. You can agree beforehand how you can share for fuel and/or toll fees.
- This last one isn't really radical: if you must buy a car, go for secondhand, and choose reliable models with readily available parts that third-party mechanics can do at a more affordable price.

Conclusion

Transportation overall should be about our mobility. This includes everything and *everyone*: better infrastructures for pedestrians (including PWDs, of course!); for people on bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and other non-motorized vehicles; and even non-motorized boats.

Effective—as opposed to efficient—mass transport requires us to reimagine our movement in our spaces. Only will we all be safe in our travels when we finally address our collective safety. We should urge policymakers to improve our mass transportation.⁸⁶ Or, you know, let's just do it ourselves.⁸⁷ Why wait? Direct action always gets the goods anyway.

84 de Decker, K. (2021, May 11). *How to Design a Sailing Ship for the 21st Century?* LOW – TECH MAGAZINE. Retrieved December 28, 2021, from <https://solar.lowtechmagazine.com/2021/05/how-to-design-a-sailing-ship-for-the-21st-century.html>

85 Magsalin, S. (2021, October 19). *A Jaywalking Manifesto*. Institute for Social Ecology. Retrieved December 28, 2021, from <https://social-ecology.org/wp/2021/10/a-jaywalking-manifesto/>

86 Tan, A. N. O. (2021, November 28). *Cycling advocacy groups push for P14-B budget for projects to improve mobility*. BusinessWorld Online. Retrieved December 28, 2021, from <https://www.bworldonline.com/cycling-advocacy-groups-push-for-p14-b-budget-for-projects-to-improve-mobility/>

87 Bagayas, S. (2020, July 26). *Filipinos' bayanihan fills in gaps of Duterte government's pandemic response*. RAPPLER. Retrieved December 28, 2021, from <https://www.rappler.com/moveph/filipinos-bayanihan-fills-in-gaps-duterte-government-pandemic-response/#shunning-citizen-led-innovation/>