

# Internet Essentials for Activists

Technology can be intimidating, but in our society the Internet has become so pervasive in social life that if you aren't able to use it effectively, you become a sort of de facto second-class citizen. No one should suggest that off-line actions, nor traditional organizing and education are made less important by the advances of computer networks, but for those with the privilege of having easy access to these technologies, it would be a strategic mistake not to utilize the tools given to us.

While most people residing in the developed world can access the Internet, few are aware of the multitude of possibilities which might be realized by alternate uses of what is essentially an ordering of ones and zeros. The form of labor associated with the production of those ones and zeros is described in Negri and Hardt's Multitude as occupying a similar social location to the proletariat in the industrial revolution. Unfortunately, for most of us, computer technology is a weapon used by the powerful against the privileged, but powerless. When your experience with computers is defined by commodified knowledge, obfuscation, and a constant stream of

advertising and flat out solicitation, you can be forgiven for writing off computers, abstaining or minimizing your time spent with them. In the past, people who have taken this stand against the introduction of a new technology have been known as Luddites, and I have no argument with their cause. The abstention from a technology preserves the knowledge of how to live without it, and its importance cannot be trivialized.

It then falls on those who can see the alternate possibilities for the deployment of computer technologies to share our vision with those who might be receptive. At the same time we must share our technical knowledge with those who have been working for social justice, and respect their efforts and strategies while making suggestions on how they might best utilize computer technology to make their activism more effective.

It is in that spirit that this educational space is imagined, to share skills and understandings about computers in general and the Internet specifically, to make our time spent on-line a bit more empowered and efficient. If you would like to attend at the time and location below, please take the time to fill out the brief survey on the reverse of this page, and bring it with you. This will help your facilitator tailor the presentation to your groups needs.

Date: Tuesday May 23

Time: 6:30-9:30PM

Location: San Jose Peace Center  
48 South 7th Street, San Jose

1> What is your level of computer experience?

|-----|  
Saw one once Hacker

2> How often do you use your computer for the following?

Correspondence  
|-----|

Social networking  
|-----|

Multimedia creation  
|-----|

News  
|-----|  
Never ----- Many times a day

47> What does the term Intellectual Property mean to you?

\_\_\_\_\_

528> How about Electronic Civil Disobedience?

\_\_\_\_\_

H> What is your primary movement affiliation or -ism?

\_\_\_\_\_

Banana> PROMIS? (circle one)

Nah I'm scared Woo Hoo! Huh?

Use This Space To Express Yourself!