

English ([index.html](#)) French ([index\\_fr.html](#)) Spanish ([https://utopia.partidopirata.com.ar/manifiesto\\_por\\_la\\_prevention\\_de\\_datos.html](https://utopia.partidopirata.com.ar/manifiesto_por_la_prevention_de_datos.html))

# The Data Prevention

...by the Plumbing Birds

## Manifesto

The privacy discourse sputtered out of steam. This has lead to the current stalemate: we know we're observed, traced and tracked, but pretend it's not happening or nothing to fret about. The question is not when the repressed will return but how? Hackers have been proclaiming that privacy has been dead for decades, that everything can and will be captured, stored and analyzed. And they were right. So, what's to be done?

What's the best way to protect one's self if not prevent to transmit data in the first

place? Effectual hindrance of data coming into being. How to convene a collective dimension of "social networking" without being aggregated in huge data silos extraneous to us, yet profiting on us? How can we reclaim autonomy in our everyday life, knowing that all sorts of sensors, bots and algorithms are active? How can these technologies ever be decommissioned? Are we perhaps waiting for a Great Showdown, a World War, a millennial cyber attack that brings down the entire infrastructure, a bad solar flare or an electronic magnetic pulse knocks out the power grid and erases all hard drives? Or are we about to fall asleep and be numbed forever, having accepted that everything we do, think and desire, can and

will be stored, and can be used against us?

We need to de-codify contestation in order to multiply the lines of flight outside of calculated settings. We need to ask the hard questions, too. Adblockers, filters, firewalls, close-reading of terms & conditions and online protests against the collection and reselling of private data merely mitigate the problems that are at stake. More to the point, what logic does data protection participate in? Is it, effectively, the same logic it aims to cloak and hide from? Why do we think life can be informationalized? What desire feeds the notion that big data can be transformed into a knowable, manipulated, gamed, anticipated, preempted, capitalized and controlled life? Are we hedging and feeding

## Unicorns or Frankensteins?

We're not talking about the weather. Let's move from protection to the design of an anti-serum, or rather a deep serum that not merely responds. Our credo is: do not feed the platforms. We're proposing creative sabotage, concrete forms of prevention that undermine the 'big data' regime on all levels, from the molar to the molecular. Let's take concrete steps towards an overall data reduction. We will no longer feed the data-hungry Minority Report machines that are programmed to identify emerging erratic behavior.

Data prevention is a direct response to top-down 'smart' city technologies. We aim to uphold a preventive-strike. The 'smart'

discourse is only trying to cover up the fact that these are spying technologies.

Prevention sounds innocent, but make no mistake, it is not. In many cases prevention itself is already seen as a crime. Do we only talk about preventing events from happening, or are we also generating new scenarios?

Data prevention is part of a longer history, we recall the opposition of native Indian Americans to having pictures of themselves taken, the punks in the streets of London punching fashion photographers for commodifying their looks.

Ted Hughes once spoke of the grin hat was trying out faces. Well, that's real. In our case it is fear attempting to become integral. Fear is trying out all human capabilities. Fear can

trick us into living a nudged and predictable life. This has come to pass as generation after generation corrupt, spineless, greedy people have been in the drivers seat. We cannot call it leadership. These people, let's say Bilderberg, Fortune 500 and MBA globally have facilitated anything 'easy', outsourcing anything 'hard' to places that could be exploited. So now there is no more place to exploit. Hence the fight for the internal space, the very notion of what it means to be human. We live in a world where people can not be exploited and enslaved, yet for the shame some would feel of having been deceived for so long about what use is made of their data, hara kiri would be their only option. Most people cannot wake up as there

is no longer a self to wake up to, just consumed refractions of a zombified and spectacularised self.

We intend to launch a campaign to gather ideas about designing products and services that do not gather data. To us is important to say farewell to the premise that data is the oil of the 21st century. All data can and will be financialized, this is the inevitable step programmed deep inside most data architectures themselves. We want to disassociate ourselves from the dark side of financialization of data.

We also question the 'mining' aspect of the data mining metaphor of resource extraction. Digging up resources is a devastating environment crime that ruins our planet,

from tar sand mines to coal pits and digging for cobalt. Mining comes with a high price. Mind the metaphors you use.

We need to get rid of the idea that data traces are things that we 'leave behind' in some careless way. It not only legitimates the drag net, but it diverts attention from the rather aggressive techniques that inspect our browsers, networks, and devices. We therefore need to reshape the possibilities of data production. This also means we need to stop drawing parallels between computation machines and the human brain, between data and grey matter.

If it is true that the machine only works when all the relevant people are convinced, we need to tell other tales. Convictions are

not innocent; they are about re-making worlds. You invest in it.

Let's stop celebrating the invisible, de-activation, retreat. Let's quit the visualization of data centers, data points, data pattern, data collection and recognition algorithms. We're tired of being smeared with how Big Data might smell, feel, look or sound. We do no longer want to play into the game or change its rules.

Data prevention is not a strike, it is only perceived as sabotage by the apparatus needing to be fed by data. We do not believe in safe ways to deal with 'big data' collected to monitor, and control, populations. What we prevent here is a conditioned, ultimately boring life that limits itself. Let's get rid of

the guilt to do the forbidden and then feel the heavy presence of Big Brother, the all-seeing God that will remember every tiny move or bad thought. Let see it as consensual sex without consequences: data prevention creates space for pleasure and possibilities, it is not done to save precious space on our hard disks. Being in the space for possibility is breaking free from the dual pole of production (of data) and paranoia (for the same dynamic).

Let us err. Collectively.

We need to materially engage with the enigmatic, the flawed, the partial, the impure, the surprise, the transgressive, the Black Swan.

These days prevention is an offensive strategy

that questions hidden power relations. It's not just passive hiding but taking action. Let's prevent this political tech design initiative from ending up in the offline Romanticism section. All actions, gestures, thoughts and movement can and will be captured and caught in the data trap. This can make us depressed, but this fate can also be turned upside down. There was and always will be an abundance of data. Let's break free from the prospect to lock ourselves up in voluntary monasteries and other tribe-like inward looking social structures. There is no need to save data, let alone recycle them.

Data prevention makes a fresh start and leaves behind a tiring discourse. The idea is

no longer merely to filter, install blockers and build walls, protecting ultimately instable and open architectures. We create new design principles. Data prevention goes in the offensive. We're tired having to protect ourselves.

Join in this new design movement! Make people aware of what happens, and switch off what needs to.

Engineers are taking us to real-time, thinking that it is an empty space. But we live there in dreamtime. We were ever caught by surprise in the plains. The rain dance went limp. Authorities caught us fishing, labelled aboriginals and slaughtered us filled our minds with cluttering noise and meaningless chatter chatter chatter. Counting

on this we would lose the open line. This time, this time we occupy that space with our tools and dreams as we live and we eat your tools and 'logic'.

We, the Platform Plumbers, want you to tell us about your favorite things. Describe them any way you want. We record the richness of your emotions and feelings for your favourite things. We are getting used to doing with less. After all the sensors just measure light, motion, temperature, magnetic fields, gravity, humidity, moisture, vibration, pressure, electrical fields, sound, stretch, glucose level, oxygen level, or osmolality, anything else? Probably a few things, but you can do much better. Don't you forget that. Practice. Start now and join us in shaping the Dionysian

design genre.

Do not be afraid: we will work with you and your structures. We do need to appreciate the ethos of bureaucracy. All your assets, as you call them, belong to us to none no one. You my friend who is evil keep yourself evil still, the four horsemen and the jumper are hurrying down.

So it is up to us to make things find the hard road again. This is not a mass movement. It can only be done with those who are on the path already. If you are, read on. If you are not, don't feel bad, there are plenty things left to do and who knows you may break through one day.

We will see you when you see us. You'll see us when we see you.

# The Platform Plumbers

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With Respect for a pioneering project: Dowse  
(<http://Dowse.eu>)

Welcome to debate on: Fairsky  
(<http://Fairsky.org>)

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## Platform of the Plumbing Bird

Platform Plumbers

we know what hides behind walls  
and how to drill all the necessary holes  
for good and bad  
to fix, to change and maintain the pipes  
to flood, disrupt, deny the waters.

Responsibility is not control

Awareness is a mercyfull weapon for the  
wise.

Is better to be aware today (brothers and sisters)

and awake at night as we must  
standing for responsible data pregnancy,  
and fair data under a fairer sky/

Plato holds data (doxa) accountable of  
confusion and all wrong opinions  
and Episteme he calls the field of the wise,  
that knows how to mark the land.

We don't need faith into some theoretical  
dogma

We stay on the side of the platform  
-on which opinions falls as droplets-  
and we sum up -upon us- the ability to collect  
these waters

knowing what to share, to store, to let go.

Because we are willing to use the source

wisely

in the time of the drought

for humans, animals and woods alike

Because we share the point of view

of the whole ecosystemical bunch

Citizens!

Hold up to this notion of belonging

hold up to your refined data politeness

over their agendas of hidden data policies

and know what you can then well teach

to hold on before what you can only preach

well

They say: money

money -without us- has no economical trust

we can better put trust into money that we

bake ourselves up  
and get on the path uphill  
to "other ideas" that are good. Better.  
Virtualised economies  
fueled up by remote notions of debt  
are obsolete by design,  
and going to be worthless

Citizens, conspire to unfulfill the one way  
exploitation  
to grow ecosystems of polite automatic  
conversations between pairs  
instead of feeding motorised pushers of  
unwanted sleeping pills and snake oil  
and allow these drops to be clean water for  
all of the living souls on this plain

while we learn, and sleep and love, outside,  
the un-attended trap of tracked down,  
data-silos stored,

overvalued, obviousness works against us

**WE KNOW**

we have no agency on the data, and we  
should

and **WE KNOW**

and the data is not the truth but her shadow,  
we know

to be used at will by self hypnotised  
puppeteers

to create fictions that does not compile into  
histories;

advertising for unwanted goods;

bed time stories for the lust of self loving  
politicians;

serving the one ideals of "the one percent"

We should have agency on data

because every shadow is a shadow of a body

hit by the light under the sun

we shall be close to these droplets and their

sources

and the melting ice in spring

and say no thanks when we must

and please no when we feel is our right/

We shall meet again (brothers and sisters)

on the verges of this gorgeous green land

once a desertified mud-bowl

each of us able to speak the language of

choice

to amuse the friends and make the childrens

laugh

ad we will be called the platform plumbers

the designers of the garden's grid  
the layers of the pipes, of filters, of the  
recycling ponds  
the choosers of the right seeds to keep  
the letter-go of wild grasses and bees  
-because no design holds the whole-  
we will be remembered as the observers of  
the waves  
the happy carvers of algorithmic stones  
that needed to grow into no pyramidal graves

Let the policies of the politeness-poets speak  
tonight  
in, above and below the grid