

Black Swan

Automation for People





“When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men in a society, over the course of time they create for themselves a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it.”

- Frédéric Bastiat

Values Drive Decision Making

Focus on Money

- Encourages Consolidation
- Measured by personal power
- Focuses on cutting costs
- Focused on control
- Money is power

Focus on Community

- Encourages local business
- Measured by general prosperity
- Focuses on helping people work
- Money is a resource needed by all

“Think Global. Act Local.”

- Patrick Geddes

- Build tools to enable local commerce.
- Encourage on local manufacturing on demand.
- Make tools available to other communities.
- Collaborate between communities on improving tools and trying new processes.
- Make it easier for commerce to occur between communities without Wall Street involvement.
- Encourage investment in people, directly and collectively.

“No one should need to be big enough to destroy others and all of us must have to be powerful and resourceful enough to protect ourselves.”
— Zaman Ali

- Should technology benefit Capital or Labor? Help “capital” **choose** to be fair by enabling competition.
- Wall Street investors seem to only value money. Working to help that is destructive.
- Open Source software ensures that bad management decisions don’t result in the community losing a path forward.
- A separation between those who develop the software and those who benefit from its operation prevents some destructive incentives.
- Locally run instances allows for competition if the established player became economically abusive.
- Universal minimum wages say nothing about local costs of living. Allow the local markets to determine values instead of centralizing the choice with private profit driven companies.

Auburndale Technology Goals

- Community Tech Training: Develop a skilled workforce.
- Local ISP and Public Cloud: Open Internet
- Custom Development: Solutions built to order
- Community Tech Incubator: Encourage entrepreneurship
- Cloudy Town Community Manager: Manage Worcester, MA instance
- Cloudy Town related consulting: Integrate existing commerce with new platform.
- Needs to make enough money to pay expenses, including a fair salary for everyone involved.
- Prototype for similar companies in other communities.

Cloudy Town Goals

- APIs for Main Street
- Core set of capabilities to be utilized for low fixed monthly cost, rather than a percentage of returns.
- Customers are local operators of instances, who collectively need to pay enough to fund continued development of the software and a reasonable profit.
- Software will need to be modular in order to support varying needs and values of different communities.
- Allow people providing services to set their own fee structures.

Cloudy Town: Job Service

- Focus on units of work
- Send an alert for a task that needs to be completed
 - Notify specific person (Contact our usual cleaner)
 - Notify a group you manage (Contact our usual babysitters)
 - Notify all people in the area offering the service. (Who can fix this?)
- Schedule recurring tasks.
 - Have someone pick up week's worth of groceries.
 - Yearly pool open/close.
- (Worker) Flexible scheduling of work to make ends meet, allowing you to set your own schedule, so you can achieve your personal goals too.

Cloudy Town: Social Network

- Community social network
- Help people find the resources they need within the community.
- Help people with ideas connect with experts. Encourage entrepreneurship.
- Help experts find jobs that need to be done, so they can be in control of what work they do and when. Why sell your time wholesale?
- Connect with people with shared interests.
- Connect with people for mentorship opportunities.
- Manage the types of jobs you are interested in.
- Help people find what they need, not tell them what they need. No paid advertising.

Cloudy Town: Delivery

- API for arranging deliveries via local delivery services
 - Existing local delivery companies
 - Independent insured contractors
 - Doordash style crowd sourced delivery, focused on paying fair wages
- The same service can be leveraged for Uber/Lyft style rides as well
- Tackling them locally makes things like background checks more manageable.
- Central place for training for special handling during pandemics.

Cloudy Town: Retail

- Make it as easy to order from within the community as it is to order from Amazon.
- Make it easy for local producers to sell locally.
- Make it easy for local retailers to sell products obtained from remote producers.
- Leverage local delivery, or local pickup.

Cloudy Town: Calendaring/Scheduling

- Community calendar (Nextcloud?) for public events.
- Book appointments with local businesses.

Cloudy Town: Inventory

- Create local inventory of local resources:
 - Make it easy to lend, sell or loan expensive resources.
 - Help people make ends meet by making money from what they own.
 - Know where to find resources when they are needed in an emergency.
- Enable easy delivery of resources.

Cloudy Town: Mechanics

- Service for finding and rating both mechanics and shops.
- Make it easier for independent mechanics to get work.
- Someone could choose to provide house visits.
- Enable for pick up and delivery of cars to the mechanic.

Cloudy Town: Laundry

- Provide delivery and tracking service for local laundromats.
- Enable community laundry, for people who want to make money using their washer and dryer. They can pick handle delivery personally, or leverage delivery service.

Cloudy Town: Restaurants

- Online Reservations
- Online ordering
 - Pickup
 - Restaurant managed delivery
 - API driven delivery
- Easy resupply based upon usage when vendors use the platform.

Cloudy Town: Groceries

- Online ordering from participating grocery stores.
 - Customer pickup
 - Grocery store arranged deliveries
 - API driven deliveries
- Simplify buying for a household or other group.
 - Direct support for third party purchases.
 - Gig economy based personal shoppers
 - Collaborative shopping lists.

Cloudy Town: Local Manufacturing

- Leverage emerging maker spaces, 3D printing, and other local capabilities to order standard pieces on demand, or custom products.
- Create APIs for easy ordering where it makes sense.

Cloudy Town: Housing

- Make it easier for landlords to find tenants.
- Make it easier for tenants to find places to live.
- Make it easier for tenants to find roommates when needed.
- Make it easier to keep track of either when they are problematic through a rating system, like Yelp.
- Provide tools for managing the relationships.
 - Report maintenance needs
 - Communication channel between parties.
 - Etc.