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Digital device justice for addressing the digital divide

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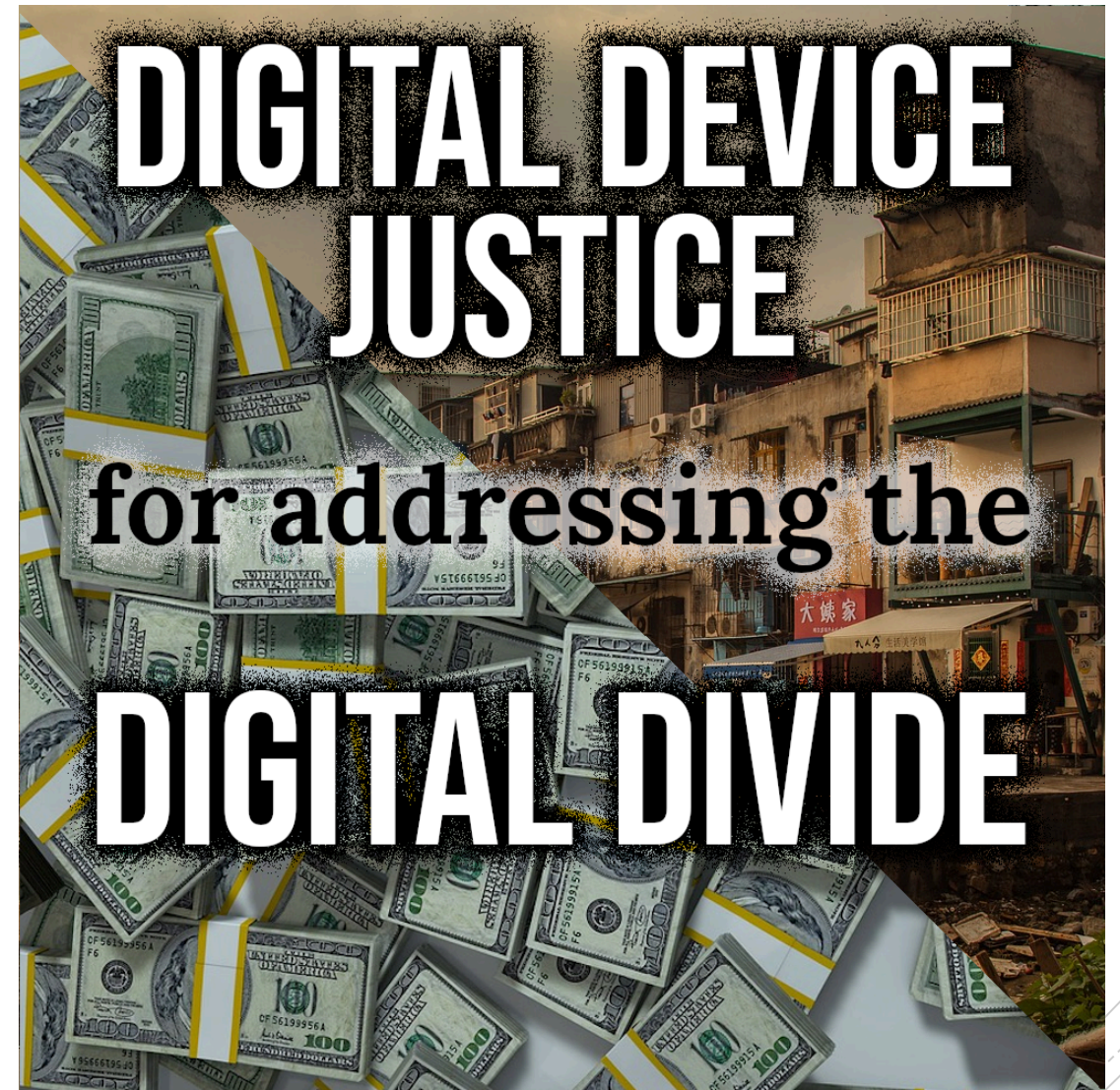
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DIGITAL DEVICE JUSTICE

for addressing the
DIGITAL DIVIDE

Thank you,
Globethics!

Thanks also to
Bishop Argwings and
AMMP Prayer Group



James Coder

**DIGITAL DEVICE
JUSTICE**
for addressing the
DIGITAL DIVIDE

an
Equity and
Inclusion issue

- Potentially helping millions of oppressed people to productively use the internet for work and education

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Justification

- In the last decade, our way of growing our primary user technologies for work and education (internet and internet-connected devices) regarding devices and apps has been aimed at relatively wealthy individuals and nations, with little thought about the marginalized. Technical advances have since made possible the empowerment of millions of people in areas with internet access to make use of the internet for work and education – a possibility we have left unactualized, leaving these millions digitally disabled and unnecessarily in poverty
- Obstacles less technological, due to ETHOS: lack of community support for low-powered Linux devices, increasing dependence on high-power, expensive devices, and increasing demands on user devices by websites and applications
- Changing ethos can help millions of oppressed people learn, work productively, feed their communities, and contribute their voices

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Basic Description

- A web development hub pilot project is begun in rural Kenya under the aegis of a trusted community leader (a diocesan bishop)
- Motivated learners are taught web tech AND basic Linux for home / business usage and expected with their free education to begin teaching others and establishing a community Linux support network
- Apps built will conform to standards of operability and ease of use on cheap and low-powered devices – the devices of oppressed persons
- Community learns, benefits, and profits from cheap devices using low-power-friendly applications, spreads the news, helps establish more hubs / the ethos of device justice for empowering the marginalized; and their voices are heard in the west

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Outcome: Potentially millions affected; wealthy areas improved with the voices of unheard and oppressed communities

- **ONE YEAR MARK:** a group, probably in rural Kisumu, Kenya, learns web development, helps surrounding community learn Linux, and more discarded western devices / Raspberry Pi desktop computers are made available in schools and public places.
- **FIVE YEAR MARK:** more educational web development hubs have been established; wealth from employment and learning aid community flourishing already in initial hub, allowing for the beginning of new hubs. Westerners and others hear more from important voices of communities hitherto ignored.
- **TEN YEARS:** Hundreds have been taught web development, tens of thousands have benefited from increased access to the internet; Westerners are more aware of what they have to contribute.
- **TWENTY YEARS:** Potentially millions have been helped by the increase in education, wealth, and improved assets and infrastructure. A number of communities unheard from now have a prominent voice in developed areas.

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How to achieve?

- Start with a relatively close-knit community which looks up to its leader, to prevent “brain drain” and keep those who learn in community
- Emphasize sustainable growth and necessity of realistic social pre-conditions before trying to start new hubs
- Emphasize good stewardship of social capital which comes from project and working with local leaders, keeping in mind the many failures of western “parachute in with a big dream” projects. The communities and hubs themselves must be the driving force, Existing hubs must drive creation of new ones, and shielded from western PR expectations. QUIET, sustainable progress from WITHIN.
- Problems of “The Participatory Condition of the Digital Age” and various forms of toxic westernization

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Time

- Both short-term and long term.
- **SHORT TERM:** Rural Kisumu area will likely benefit enormously.
- **LONG TERM:** The potential of helping millions is on our radar, but we remain modest, focused, and local-oriented. We shield project from expectations of the empty enthusiasm of western PR while maintaining an ethical perspective.

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Thanks for your
kind attention!

For more detailed information:

<https://bit.ly/3GsOkhU> - project
description PDF

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