

# Open educational resources in Learning Networks

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# Overview

- a bit of personal history
- varieties of being 'open'
- Learning Networks and open educational resources



# History

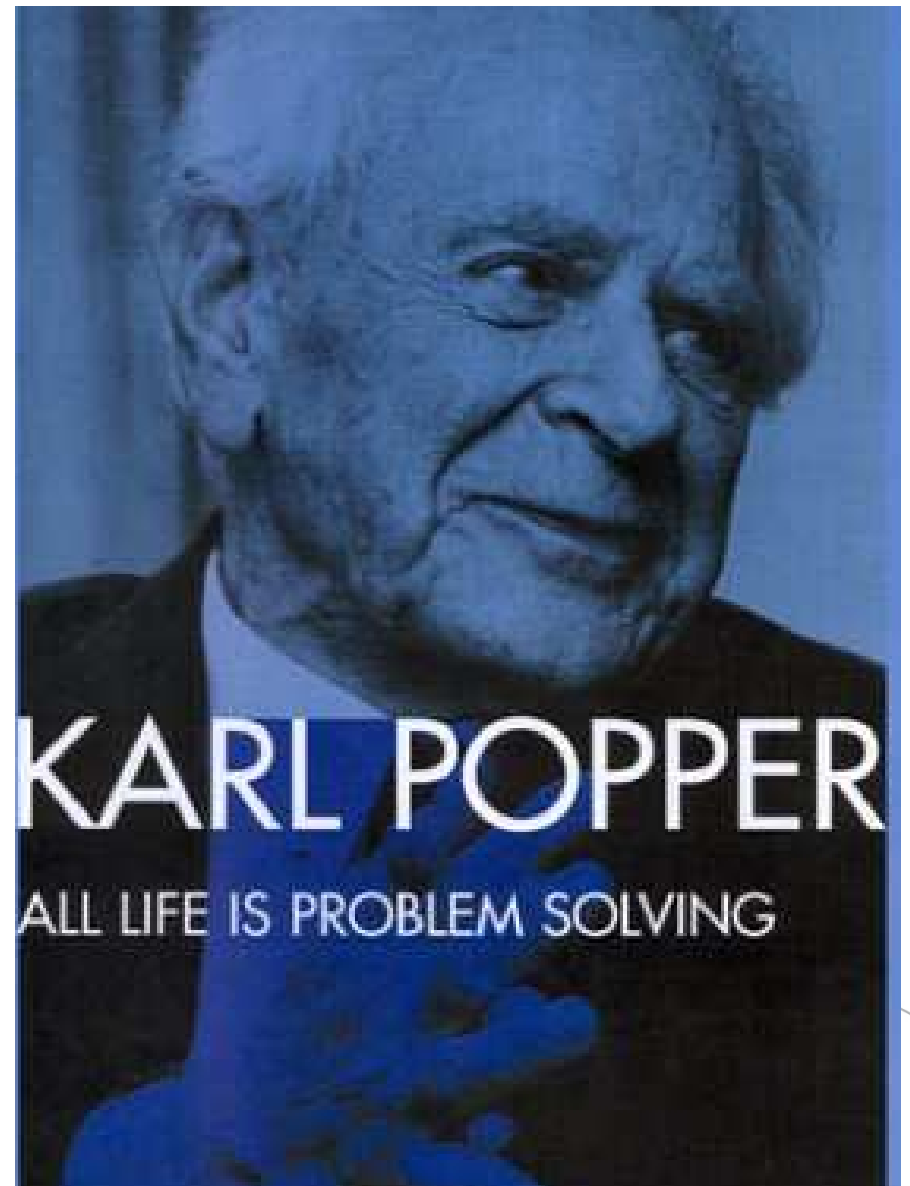


Isaac Asimov: The  
Foundation Trilogy, 1951  
about a psycho-historian,  
living in about 12,000 AD  
psycho-history is the  
science that captures  
societal development in  
statistical laws



Sir Karl Popper: The Open Society and its Enemies (1945), The Poverty of Historicism (1957)

no general laws of historical development at the system level, only laws on interaction between people  
open society: devises rules that minimise the risks of bad rulers



- an open society is an *end in itself*, because it takes the interests of its participants at heart (moral stance)
- openness in society is a *means to the end*, of fairness, achieved through ‘tinkering’, piecemeal change (pragmatic stance)
- idea: openness as used by Popper has wider ramifications than political philosophy alone



# The 'Open Movements'



# Open Interoperability Standards

oldest member

about interoperability

creates a level playing field

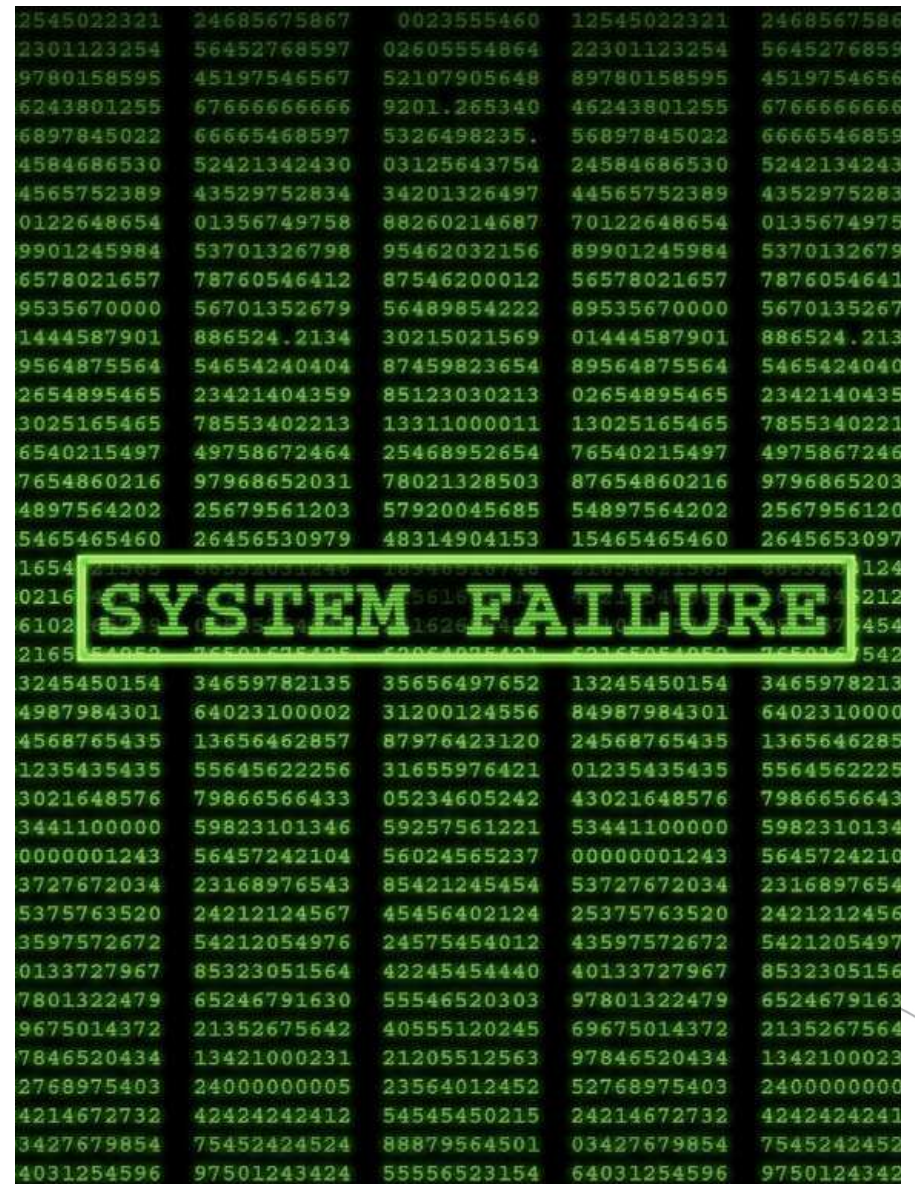
for vendors, contra  
monopolies (moral)

economic benefits for  
consumers, more



# Open Source Code

Richard Stallman's Free Software Foundation:  
software code as public good (moral)  
make money through services, not code; maintain code jointly (pragmatic)



# Open Content (OER)

- ‘knowledge is a public good’, Fred Mulder; ‘music should be freely downloadable’, Swedish Pirate party (moral)
- economy of scales; better quality (pragmatic)



# Open Learning

- started in the 1970s and 80s (OU '69, OUNL, OUJ '84)
- access to education for all, self-determination (moral)
- fighting the rising cost of education, seizing business opportunities (pragmatic)



- the open movement is characterised by both a moral justification and pragmatic benefits
- they should remain intertwined, just as in Popper's conception of an open society
- pragmatics without morals degrades into opportunism, morals without pragmatics may turn into 'zealotism'



# Open Learning in Learning Networks

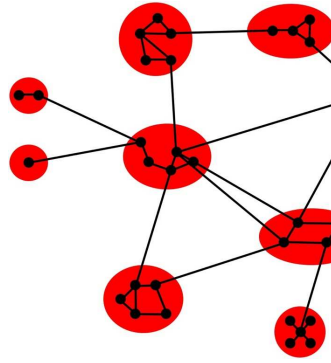


# Open Universities

- distance teaching
- second best - no direct interaction among students or teacher and students
- but the advent of fast, affordable networked computers can change all this ..



# Learning Networks



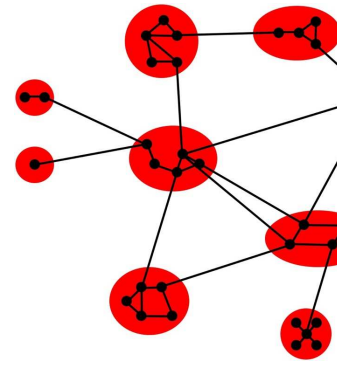
- Learning Networks, new bid for open learning or professional development
- *distributed*: online networks of partially overlapping communities
- *collaborative*: peers support each other



# Learning Networks

## (2)

- using web 2.0 technologies
- using any resource available, but thriving on open (educational) resources
- using open source-like business model: make money through additional services
- offer room for open innovation



# On to my colleagues

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