

# Open News Network



Submitted by:

Marc Lee and Christoph Ganser

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Project website:

<http://www.o-n-n.org>

If you have not the opportunity to test the O-N-N client software, we prepared a test installation for you:

<http://dummy.o-n-n.org/onn/?lg=en>

O-N-N Community Website examples:

<http://art.dugy.net>, <http://www.oamos.com>

## **Abstract**

The Open News Network (O-N-N) endeavors to bring together the creative and communicative potential of Internet users in order to better represent the opinions of each individual in the media landscape.

Going beyond the established frontiers of news distribution and media technologies, members of O-N-N communicate using peer to peer networks to try to get individual opinions established in the real world.

Are journalists still necessary in the age of the Internet?  
With O-N-N the reader becomes the author.

## **Background**

Through their presence in the public, influential media conglomerates determine which topics are newsworthy. At the same time, due to economic reasons, they have to focus on their largest audience groups. This leads to a focus on the lucrative „average consumer“. This economically driven process reinforces the over-simplification of the news media. Many people cannot identify with this „average“ arrangement and feel like they are not represented in the media landscape.

At the same time, everyday life and private life are becoming more and more a part of public interest: On the internet, the press and television present themselves to the average person and become „stars“. There appears to be a desire to share ones experiences and opinions with the general public.

The usual media technologies which have the journalist as a gatekeeper, who decides what is or is not published does not conform to this new trend.

This is where O-N-N steps in.

## **The Open News Network (O-N-N)**

The O-N-N incorporates the creative and communicative potential of Internet users into an O-N-N community in the form of a peer to peer network.

You can download and install the O-N-N client software from the [www.o-n-n.org](http://www.o-n-n.org) webpage and become an O-N-N member. As a member you have your own news site and user profile, which can be easily configured to your own requirements. You can also choose your own Internet address, e.g. „<http://art.dugy.net>“or <http://yourname.sceptic.net>. As long as your PC is online your news site will be available at this Internet address.

You can compose your own news or notices. These will be published on your own news site and then transmitted to all of the servers of the other O-N-N members where they will be fully and automatically redacted depending on the personal profile of each member. All sites extend these texts automatically with extra material (text, pictures and links), which are obtained from the Internet via search engine and is based on text analysis and classification. Diverse extended dossiers will be archived locally and also made available to the Internet. Thus the dossiers will be thematically similar but will differ optically.

Automated and targeted media notices will be sent to journalists with references to the various dossiers. The frequent appearance of the same topics on different servers will get the attention of journalists and can push the topic into the real world of traditional media. When a dossier is accessed by people or search engines, extra links to similar news articles from O-N-N will be integrated into the document using the style selected by the site owner. A forum on each news site will then help support discussion of the ideas presented.

The more members that belong to O-N-N the more frequently the information will multiply and also the more importance it will gain. Interconnection- and archiving strategies within O-N-N should push the articles into the top spots for Internet searches.

## **O-N-N Community**

Since the O-N-N software was made available not a long time ago there are still only a few participants and so there is not yet a community. We consider this to be a build up period as well as an experiment to see how the community forms.

In the following we characterize a few applications and abuses that may occur:

O-N-N can be used to...

... start rumors. Since the notices will multiply x-fold, so also will their relevance and believability to the public. Can rumors become the topic of the day? Could they make into the real world through normal media channels?

... carry out arbitrary or targeted retaliations/attacks on people, groups or companies.

... carry out propaganda, e.g. for political purposes. The counter reaction here would also be interesting to observe. Since everything will be published to everyone then advocates and opponents for an issue will show up on the same newssite.

... bring personal information into the open.

etc...

## Technical Details

System requirements: PC with broadband connection (i.e. ADSL or cable modem).

Utilized software for the O-N-N Client: Xitami Webserver, PHP, Sablotron XSLT Processor, Curl.

Since the IP address with broadband connections can change, the IP-DNS-Updater-Component makes sure that each member's news site can always be reached by the same Internet address (e.g. <http://art.dugy.net>). The IP-DNS-Updater-Component communicates with the DNS-server from O-N-N.

The web server accepts requests from users and search engines and hands them off to the template-engine, which then combines the stored XML-dossiers and displays them with XSLT-templates in the chosen style.

## Test Version:

In case you have no opportunity to install and test the O-N-N client software, we made a test version for you. It corresponds with the O-N-N client software, with the difference that the news you broadcast, will not be distributed in the O-N-N.

<http://dummy.o-n-n.org/onn/?lg=en>

## Supported by:

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Kathrine Schwab, external communication

Michael O'Dell, translation

## CV

Marc Lee and Christoph Ganser are attempting to dream up and develop new ideas on the frontiers of media technology. In doing so, they find the artistic and open source/open content approach to be very important.

### **Marc Lee:**

Marc Lee was born in 1969 in Knutwil (Switzerland). He lives and works in Eglisau Zurich

Website: <http://www.nun.ch>

### Education (Selection):

University of Art and Design, HGK Zurich Switzerland, "New Media" Department  
University of Art and Design, HGK Basel Switzerland, "Installation & Video Art" Department

### Exhibitions (Selection):

2006

Enseigner/Produire, ZKM-Museum Balcony, Karlsruhe, Germany  
Sichtbarkeiten, Edith Ruß-Haus für Medienkunst, Oldenburg, Germany

2005

Kanal7 on Radio LoRa, 97,5 MHz broadcasting TV-BOT News, daily at 12.00, 7.18.-7.31  
Mapping new Territories, with 56k-bastard.tv, Neue Kunsthalle St. Gallen, Switzerland  
ImageForum, with 56k-bastard.tv, Tokyo, Kyoto, Fukuoka, Japan, with 56k-bastard.tv

2004 -2007 Algorithmic Revolution, ZKM Medeinmuseum, Karlsruhe, Germany

2004

Tainment, Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst (NGBK), Berlin, Germany  
Switch Award 2004, Museum for Communication, Bern, Switzerland  
"News, i'm Lovin it", Foyer of the TV Productioncenter (TPC), Zürich, Switzerland  
Garage 2004 Festival, Stralsund, Germany  
Wozownia Art Gallery, Presented from the Transmediale Festival, Torun, Poland  
Virtually Swiss, Presentiert von [plug\_in] Forum für neue Medien Basel für Jiff  
Mind, Jeonju, Korea  
Transmediale.04 Festival "Fly Utopia!", Berlin, Germany  
Loogie.net TV, 6 days and each day 2 hours Live on TV, OKB Chanel, Berlin, Germany

2003

Art Bit Collection, ICC, Tokyo, Japan  
loogie.net, [plug\_in] Forum for new Media, Basel, Switzerland  
Ars Electronica, CODE Campus, Linz, Austria  
Metaworx in Basel, Geneva and Zürich, Switzerland  
Viper 03 Art Festival, Basel, Switzerland  
Dialog Festival 03, Winterthur, Switzerland  
Thinkquest, Migros Zürich, Switzerland  
Galerie Binz 39, Diplom Ausstellung HGKZ "Heimapparat", Zürich, Switzerland

- 2002 Bienal de Video Nuevos Medios, Presented from the Transmediale Festival, Santiago de Chile
- 2002 Open\_Source\_Art\_Hack, Zenith Media Lounge, New Museum, New York, USA  
digital-is-not-analog 2002, Campobasso, Italy  
Transmediale.02 Festival "Go Public!", Berlin, Germany  
Read\_Me Festival 1.2 Macros-Center, Moscow, Russia  
Kontrollfelder, hartware Dortmund, Germany  
Flag Art Festival, World Cup Stadium Seoul, Korea  
Art Bit Collection, ICC, Tokyo, Japan

**Christoph Ganser:**

Christoph Ganser was born in 1972 in Basel (Switzerland). He lives and works in Zürich.

Education

Master of Architecture at the ETH Zurich.

2003

Loogie.net TV Project with Marc Lee

2003

Start of Doctorate at the ETH Zurich in the field Human Computer Interaction and Computer Supported Cooperative Work

2001 -2003

Active in the field of web programming and technology exploration

**Awards (Selection):**

2005

Viper 2005, Nomination, Basel, Switzerland

2004

Switch Award 2004, Nomination, Bern, Switzerland

2003

tpc CreaTVty award 2003 of new media, TPC Zürich, Switzerland  
Förderpreis 2003, Award of University of Art and Design, HGK Zurich, Switzerland  
Honorary Mentions, media art festival Ars Electronica Prizes, Linz

2002

Transmediale Award 2002 in the category "Software", Berlin  
Transmediale Public Vote Award 2002 in the categories "Interaction" and "Software", Berlin  
Transmediale 2002 "Honorary Mention" in the category "Interaction", Berlin  
Read\_Me Festival 2002, "Honorary Mention", Moscow  
Viper Swiss Award 2002 "for Newcomers", Basel

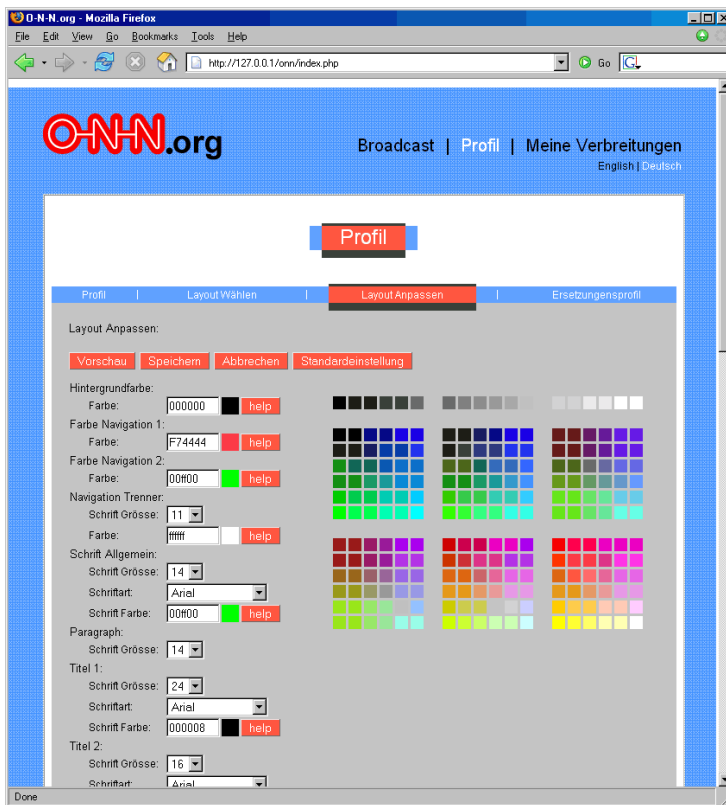
2001

"Honorary Mention" Europrix Student's Award, Europrix

http://www.o-n-n.org



Printscreen, O-N-N Client  
Generation of a news article.



Printscreen, O-N-N Client  
Layout customization in profile



Printscreen, example of an O-N-N Community Website.



Printscreen, example of the same news article as above on another O-N-N Community Website.

## O-N-N Terminal:



### **Material:**

- Industrial wood panels
- Poster
- Laptop with Internet connection