

Discussion Questions #2

for:

["A History of the Internet" Talk](#) by Laurel Schwulst (2021)

[Reboot the World](#) by Paul Ford (2016)

[My Website Is A Shifting House Next to a River ...](#) by Laurel Schwulst (2018)

In your small group, chat about the readings.
Write on the back of this paper your group's answers.

- (1) What's your understanding of "decentralization" through these?
- (2) What's the most interesting / memorable thing about a history of the internet / world wide web?
- (3) What would you like to know / understand better regarding how the internet / world wide web works?

"Anyone can set up a web site and point to all the other web pages. Everyone is a publisher. Everyone is a peer. That's why it's called a web. Individuals knit themselves together by linking to one another. Everyone tends his or her own little epistemological garden, growing ideas from seed and sharing them with anyone who comes by." — Paul Ford

"What is a website, anyway? It's easy to forget. Today there are millions of ways to make a website, and the abundance is daunting. But at its core, a website is still the same as ever before: A website is a file or bundle of files living on a server somewhere. A server is a computer that's always connected to the internet, so that when someone types your URL in, the server will offer up your website. Usually you have to pay for a server. You also have to pay for a domain name, which is an understandable piece of language that points to an IP. An IP is a string of numbers that is an address to your server." — Laurel Schwulst

"Making a shift to a more democratized internet won't be easy. Once you start to rally your energies toward a more open future, you will be shocked by the forces arrayed against you; the intransigence of the people who want to buy and sell your information; the amorality of the hackers who play with millions of people for sport; the cold, endemic corruption of intellectual property and patent law; the infinite protections for copyright. It can get a person down." — Paul Ford

"in the age of information overload, THE ULTIMATE LUXURY IS MEANING AND CONTEXT." — Louis Rossetto (1991)