

The case for public ownership of AI infrastructure

Ali Knott



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 - AI systems in **social media platforms**
 - **Generative AI systems**.

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Social media platforms also use AI to moderate platform content, through **harmful content classifiers** of various kinds.

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Maybe some part of them belongs in the public domain?

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- My suggestions are for democracies, of course.

For more on public social media infrastructure

- Ethan Zuckerman has an interesting FAQ (Zuckerman, [2020](#))
- Tim Berners-Lee is developing a protocol (called [SOLID](#)) for storing data in decentralised media
- Jimmy Wales' WT Social (now [TrustCafe](#)) is a Reddit-like site that runs on donations. . .

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- It's easier to enforce regulation for 'closed' models.
- And easier to control proliferation (obviously).

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On one side we have the **Frontier Model Forum**:

- Founded July 2023, led by Google, OpenAI, Microsoft, Anthropic (all companies that keep their gen AI models closed).
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On the other side we have the **AI Alliance**:

- Founded in December 2023, led by Meta and IBM
- The aim is to 'accelerate open innovation in AI'.
- Many of the biggest academic AI unis are members
- Also HuggingFace, Dubai's university, Linux, Red Hat. . .

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- Governments hold some technology privately, e.g. weapons, intelligence. . .

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