

The Internet infrastructure and technologies from an Indigenous perspective: comparing Māori traditions and genealogies.

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Notes from the presentation will be published separately.

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About Me

- ▣ Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Toa
- ▣ From Christchurch
- ▣ Past 20 years in ICT and Web with a focus on Māori, Indigenous and Asia Pacific issues

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Overview

1. An holistic description and comparison of Māori Culture and Society (Te Ao Māori) with the Internet
2. Digital Colonialism
3. Data Sovereignty
4. Indigenous imagery

Tino Rangatiratanga

1. (noun) self-determination, sovereignty, autonomy, self-government, domination, rule, control, power. (<http://www.maoridictionary.co.nz>)

Whakapapa

Genealogy/ Whakapapa (1)

4. **(noun)** genealogy, genealogical table, lineage, descent - reciting *whakapapa* was, and is, an important skill and reflected the importance of genealogies in Māori society in terms of leadership, land and fishing rights, kinship and status. It is central to all Māori institutions....

<http://www.maoridictionary.co.nz>

Genealogy/ Whakapapa (2)

- The Internet infrastructure has whakapapa
- Vint Cerf
- DARPA, ARPA

Genealogy/ Whakapapa (3)

- ▣ All Māori Iwi now face an issue of recording genealogies in a cultural sensitive manner
- ▣ IP must fully remain with Iwi, hāpū and whānau
- ▣ Systems must be culturally sensitive
- ▣ Indigenous view that images and names have spiritual connections.

Gods - Atua

- Papatūānuku is the earth mother
- Ranginui is the Sky Father
- Tangaroa is the God of the ocean
- Tawhirimatea is the god of the air and wind

Te ao Māori/Māori
world view

The Internet compared to the natural world

- ▣ Indigenous Peoples relate to natural world.
- ▣ The Internet relies on the natural world to exist.
- ▣ Everything in the natural world had whakapapa and a god or supreme being.

Internet - Ipurangi

- Internet is equivalent to the whole world.
- The Internet infrastructure (land, sea, air) in New Zealand is “Te Ao Māori – The Māori world”.

Internet from Southern Cross Cable

- ▣ A vein inside Tangaroa
- ▣ Connects Papatūānuku and Tangaroa
- ▣ Māori belief is that seafood near the cable can not be eaten

Fibre and cables

- ▣ Veins inside Papatūānuku
- ▣ Cautious of significant land areas when laying cables

Wireless

- ▣ Sending knowledge via Tawhirimatea.
- ▣ What kind of knowledge is it?
- ▣ Is there sacred knowledge?
- ▣ Will there be a wifi connection next to a sacred land area?

Caution: Wireless

▪ Digital Data is sent in packets through the air and through human bodies, resulting in an infringement of sacred knowledge.

Network Providers/iwi

- Network Providers are the same as Iwi.
- Iwi are large groups of related families who reside in the same geographic region.

Networks/Hāpū

- Corporate/Education/Organisation and personal networks are the same as traditional Māori hāpū.
- A Māori hāpū is a sub group of an Iwi that comprises of more closely related families in the same geographic region.

Web sites/Whānau

- ▣ Web sites are the same as whanau
- ▣ Whanau is a Maori family of blood connections whom share the same DNA and tangata are the people.

Computers / Rorohiko

- ❑ Computers are the people.
- ❑ Systems and apps are the body parts that make the people
- ❑ Systems and apps need whakapapa and appropriate names.

Firewall and AntiVirus / Pā

- A pā is a fortified village that protected all members of a family, hāpū and Iwi who sought safety.
- Often more than one and there were traps and decoys to protect the pā.

Social media and crowd sourcing ***/Marae***

- ▣ A marae is where Iwi, hāpū, whanau and tangata met to discuss various topics, catch up with friends and to generally create a large social gathering.
- ▣ Māori culture are accustomed to crowd sourcing and open planning

Mobile phone/ Waea Pūkoro

Traditional Māori musical instrument called a Purerehua created sounds in the wind and was used for communication.

Open Source and
Proprietary
from an Indigenous
view

Commercial and Proprietary software and systems

▪ Could be referred to as colonial.

Proprietary systems and software

- ▣ International conglomerates take Intellectual Property that has remained within traditional Indigenous knowledge for centuries.
- ▣ Māori can not understand the environment
- ▣ Help and information are not readily available.
- ▣ A user pays for the right to access their own information

Te reo Māori
The Māori
language

■ ***Te Reo Māori/Māori Language***

- About 100,000 newly created ICT words since 1997
- Linux distro was the first system to have majority localised into te reo Māori.
- Translators and experts do not want to share and give away their IP to corporate thus resulting in a lack of new terminology being created.

▣ ***Localization Projects***

- ▣ Historically failed to be successful due to lack of translators.
- ▣ 2015 there is a lack of communication between Indigenous Peoples and Open Source community.
- ▣ There are te reo sources for may projects

Digital and Data colonialism and sovereignty

Digital Colonialism

A dominant culture enforcing its power and influence onto a minority culture to digitize knowledge that is traditionally reserved for different levels of a hierarchical closed society, or information that was published with the sole intent of remaining in the one format such as radio or print.

2 Digital Colonialism (2)

A blatant disregard for the ownership of the data and the digitized format, nor the dissemination.

Digital data that becomes the topic of data sovereignty.

Conglomerates and government who use their influence to digitize data as they want.

Digital Colonialism

**Don't Digitize
Indigenous
knowledge without
consultation**

Data Sovereignty

Data Sovereignty

1. Wherever your digital information is stored, it is subject to the laws, or legal jurisdiction, of the country in which it resides.
2. Indigenous Peoples expect their knowledge to be held in their own country and to be secure.

Data Sovereignty

The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, and the US PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, permit U.S. government agencies to access any information stored within the U.S. legal jurisdiction without your permission or notification to you. This includes data held by any U.S. organization which may hold your data in a country other than the USA.

Data Ownership

Social media grant extremely broad rights over your content... With these terms companies are saying 'you own your content, but we can just use it however we want.'

Usage of images

- Seek Indigenous permission to use images.
- Don't copy and paste from web sites
- Māori carvings and tattoos all have unique meaning
- Mark of Kri resulted in an Indigenous Hacker