Peer-to-Peer : Harnessing the Power of Disruptive Technologies

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The term "peer-to-peer" has come to be applied to networks that expect end users to contribute their own files, computing time, or other resources to some shared project. Even more interesting than the systems' technical underpinnings are their socially disruptive potential: in various ways they return content, choice, and control to ordinary users.While this book is mostly about the technical promise of peer-to-peer, we also talk about its exciting social promise. Communities have been forming on the Internet for a long time, but they have been limited by the flat interactive qualities of email and Network newsgroups. People can exchange recommendations and ideas over these media, but have great difficulty commenting on each other's postings, structuring information, performing searches, or creating summaries. If tools provided ways to organize information intelligently, and if each person could serve up his or her own data and retrieve others' data, the possibilities for collaboration would take off. Peer-to-peer technologies along with metadata could enhance almost any group of people who share an interest--technical, cultural, political, medical, you name it.This book presents the goals that drive the developers of the best-known peer-to-peer systems, the problems they've faced, and the technical solutions they've found. Learn here the essentials of peer-to-peer from leaders of the field:

- **Nelson Minar** and **Marc Hedlund** of target="new">**Popular Power**, on a history of peer-to-peer
- **Clay Shirky** of **acceleratorgroup**, on where peer-to-peer is likely to be headed
- **Tim O'Reilly** of **O'Reilly & Associates**, on redefining the public's perceptions
- **Dan Bricklin**, cocreator of **Visicalc**, on harvesting information from end-users
- **David Anderson** of **SETI@home**, on how SETI@Home created the world's largest computer
- **Jeremie Miller** of **Jabber**, on the Internet as a collection of conversations
- **Gene Kan** of **Gnutella** and **GoneSilent.com**, on lessons from Gnutella for peer-to-peer technologies
- **Adam Langley** of **Freenet**, on Freenet's present and upcoming architecture
- **Alan Brown** of Red Rover, on a deliberately low-tech content distribution system
- **Marc Waldman**, **Lorrie Cranor**, and **Avi Rubin** of **AT&T Labs**, on the **Publius** project and trust in distributed systems
- **Roger Dingledine**, **Michael J. Freedman**, and**David Molnar** of **Free Haven**, on resource allocation and accountability in distributed systems
- **Rael Dornfest** of **O'Reilly Network** and **Dan Brickley** of ILRT/RDF Web, on metadata
- **Theodore Hong** of **Freenet**, on performance
- **Richard Lethin** of **Reputation Technologies**, on how reputation can be built online
- **Jon Udell** of**BYTE** and **Nimisha Asthagiri** and**Walter Tuvell** of **Groove Networks**, on security
- **Brandon Wiley** of **Freenet**, on gateways between peer-to-peer systems

You'll find information on the latest and greatest systems as well as upcoming efforts in this book.

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