

B r i c o l a b s :

goal: to build generic
information infrastructures

[www .genericinfrastructures.com /](http://www.genericinfrastructures.com/)

[http://robvankranenburg.wordpress.com /](http://robvankranenburg.wordpress.com/)

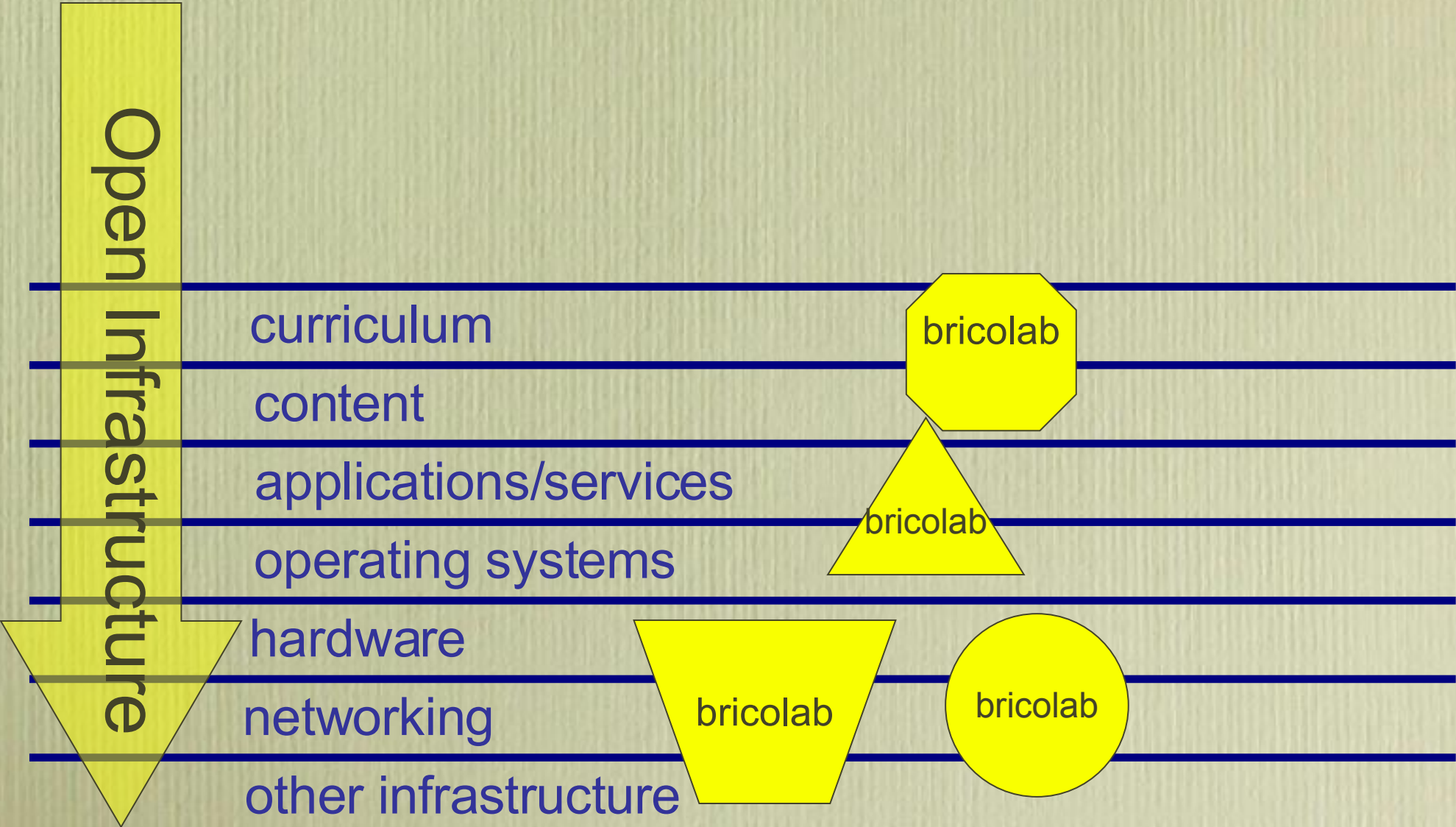
exploiting the loop of open hardware, open
software and open content—messy ambient
labs, faithful social networking

WHAT I REALLY LIKE ABOUT THE BRICOLABS IS THE KIND OF LOW-TECH HACKING OF EVERYDAY INFRASTRUCTURE. IF THE PARTICIPANTS COME OUT OF A BRICOLAB COURSE WITH AN INCREASED SENSITIVITY TO EVERYDAY, UBIQUITOUS, TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURES, THAT WOULD BE FANTASTIC.”

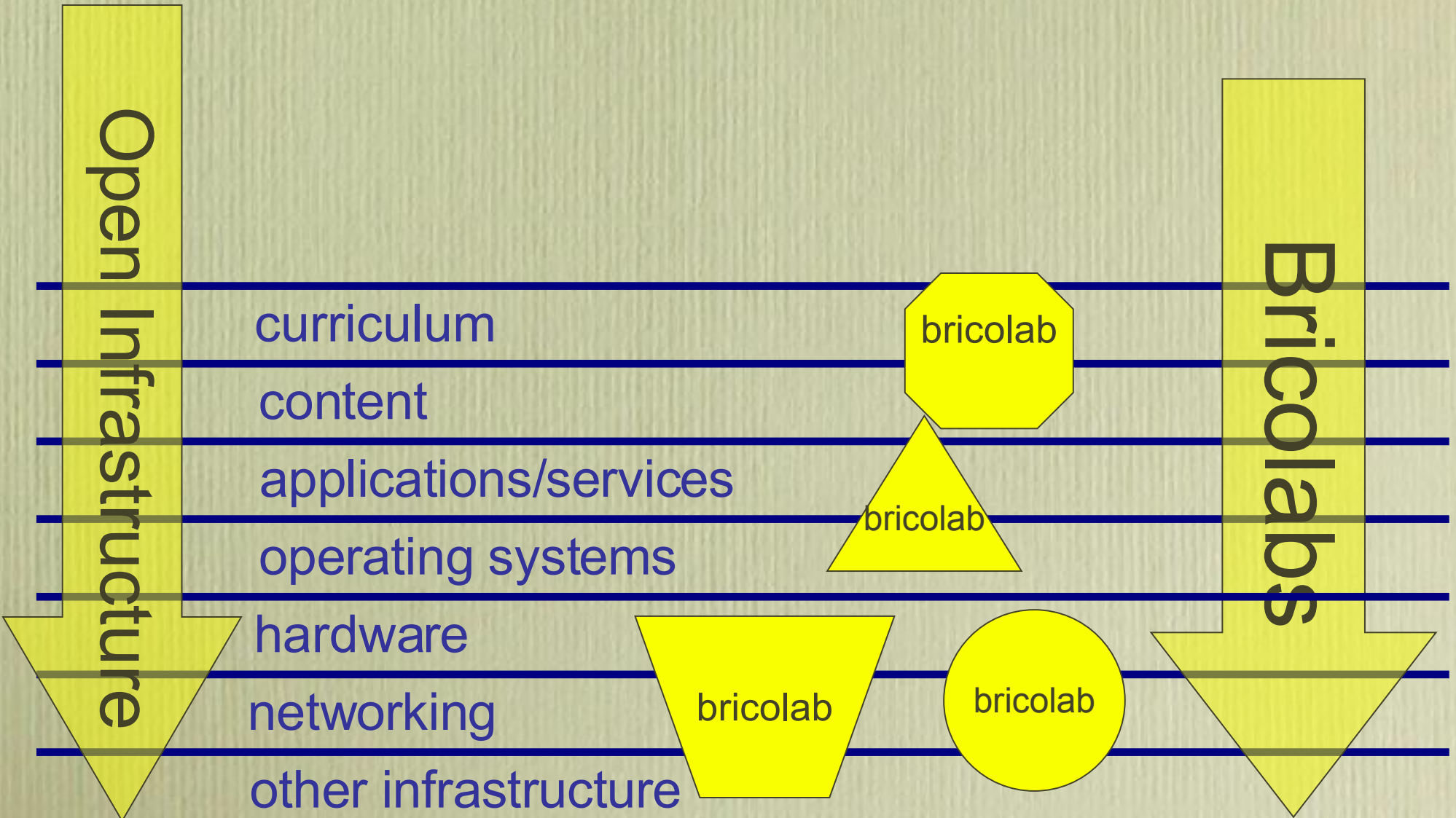


Tim o A mall

A “bricolab” is a site where technologists, artists, community activists, and others explore one or more of the layers that together make up a generic information infrastructure



“Bricolabs” is the loose organization which encourages and supports the movement of resources, expertise, people, know-how, and objects between individual bricolab sites.





It does so in two ways:

First, by creating spaced spaces for exchanging tutorials and other “know-how” about making open curriculum, content, applications/services, OS, hardware, networking, or other open infrastructures;

Email lists

website

workshops

conferences

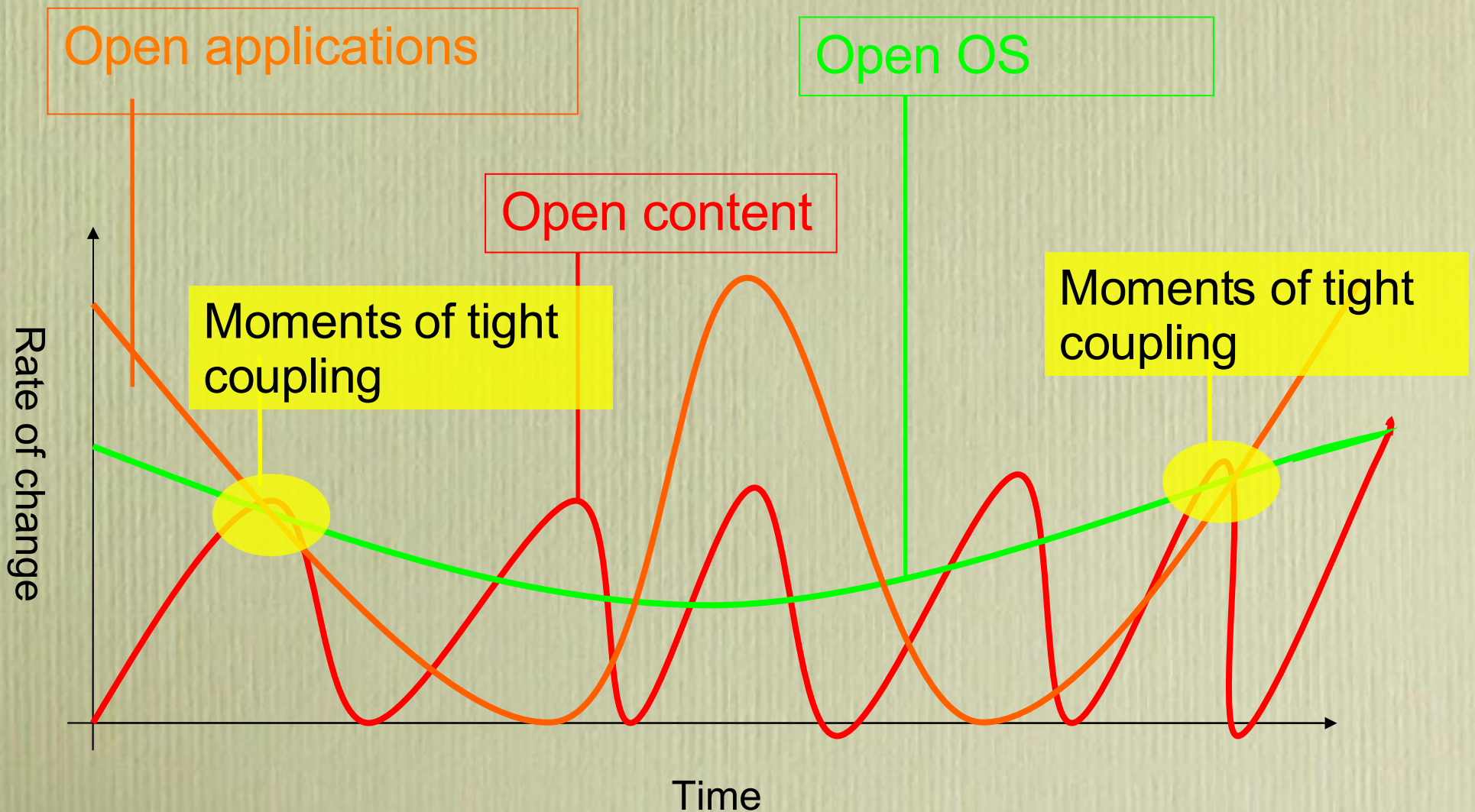
It does so in two ways:

Second, by watching for objects that impact on multiple layers of the generic information infrastructure, and are of interest to a number of bricolabs.

Identifying these “boundary objects”, involves both retrospectively looking at the open objects upon which people are currently working;



But also prospectively identifying new social and technical developments that may act as points of contact between people working on different layers of the overall information infrastructure.



Significance of Brazil

enormous:

Preste Maria; visit to artists

workshops/studios

notion of autonomy;

handicraft

Metareciclagem

Gambiarra

Changing patterns of

development

Role of art within social contexts

the specifics of location &

the specifics of language

exciting use of language and

concept to remake

and recharge approaches to

development

direct influence on bricolage

from Brazil: new as spawned

there

Way in which ideas travel:
networked initiative
membership now 34 different
organisations/people
in 16 countries (majority UK
and Netherlands but also Brazil,
Thailand, China, South Africa,
France, Belgium, Indonesia

Core group (ff, Rob van Kran,
Jaromil & Matt Ratto) currently
debating approaches to
governance, communication
systems, protocols - lots of
discussion -

how to integrate larger group,
how to organise... balancing
collaboration with autonomy

recycling + skills development
+ social networks - unpicking
seamlessness
interesting from many
perspectives
possibility of EU bids

more

info www.genericinfrastructures.net

and if you want to join in contact

kranenberg@xs4all.nl

or see his blog at



w w w .boundaryobject.org

- praxis: process — dialogue —
- creative tensions
- network building
- opening up spaces for exchange
- who are the public, who are we talking to?
- in a world of globalisation, how do we situate the local, the specific, the situated — the extreme?
- how does value emerge thro the poetics of difference

U ncom m on G round

creative encounters across
sectors and disciplines'
available from V irtueel

P latform A m sterdam

addresses the significance of
the m essy boundaries'

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+ R ob V an K

Design for Commoning

It is important to recognise that the end goal of our work is not the creation of novel devices, new markets, or emergent forms of communicative activities. Instead, our goal is the development of a generic information infrastructure - and the tools and knowledge required to use, appropriate, rework, and innovate it. We see such a resource, created, maintained, and owned by no one individual, institution, or company, as a necessary part of a 'digital territory' in which a global, informed, and socially engaged citizenry has the potential to develop and grow. Such a terrain is not just about the technology; equally important is the development of the 'critical making' skills that allow this citizenry to engage with their information landscape, to make educated political and economic as well as technical decisions. The coming decade worldwide will be determined by the strained relationship between formal and informal structures and environments. A design for commoning, one that views 'uncommon ground' as a resource, rather than a threat is the way towards living together locally in a globally connected world.