Public Stack Puzzle

purpose:
The public stack is an alternative development model for new technology. It bases the design process around public values, and asks all the difficult questions, so that we end up with safer technology that doesn't spy on us or sell our data. The tool is an outline of the layers of the stack upon which you can add different elements of your project. Together with your co-creators think about which elements are still missing at which layer and how to add them to your project. Filling out the stack is an iterative process, so make sure to keep coming back to the questions at different stages in your sensing project.

The public stack was developed by Waag under the Digital European Public Spaces initiative.

timeframe: 1-2 hours

number of facilitators: 1/5

group-size: 5 - 10 people

materials: large public stack canvas, project puzzle pieces, markers, sticky notes

instruction:
Divide participants into groups of two to three. Give each group a public stack canvas, prefilled or blank puzzle pieces and sticky notes for brainstorming. If you have a certain goal in mind with your project, you can write this down under the foundation layer of the stack. Thinking about your project, try to break the essential elements and processes of that project up into pieces and layer them over the public stack. Identify gaps in your design and how to fill these with existing or new elements when working towards a certain goal. If you are working towards multiple goals, you can repeat the mapping exercise for each; compare and contrast. If you have central values or other design demands, make sure to write these down in the foundation layer or on the borders of your stack so that it is clear to everyone what the minimum requirements are that need to be met.

public stack