

BEYOND40



A FREE SOFTWARE CAUCUS

What is Beyond40?

- Very simply, Beyond40 is a “caucus” that aims to act as a grassroots voice in the free-software movement
- We seek to:
 - Help rebuild a base of power in the US to take on Silicon Valley
 - Revive a spirit of open debate in the movement
 - Serve as a testing grounds for new strategies and ideas
 - Provide a pipeline to help convert free-software enthusiasts into free-software activists
 - Support, connect, and lobby existing organizations in the space

How does Beyond40 work?

- We start by forming, local in-person chapters across the country, linking up organizers via Signal
 - This supports **social infrastructure**: organizers share information, establish connections, and coordinate with each other to take larger action.
- These chapters in turn then hold regular discussions focused on various topics, issues, and ideas in the space
 - This supports **ideological infrastructure**: members are educated, ideas are tested and built on, and strategies are developed.
- As time goes on, chapters begin organizing to take action both in their local communities and to support others in the space
 - This supports **technical infrastructure**: training developers, contributing to projects, hosting services, assisting migrations.

What sets our approach apart?

- Goal-oriented: what would it take to topple the existing system, how do we use our limited resources most efficiently
- Focused on building ourselves up slowly and sustainably
 - Credibility isn't given, it's earned
 - We don't need to be boosted by a famous person, what we need is to prove we can deliver
- Making the 'implicit' case for free-software
 - Not just trying to hard-sell normies on switching over, but lending support to existing infrastructure, projects, developers, and organizations in the space

Our Roadmap

Community



Action



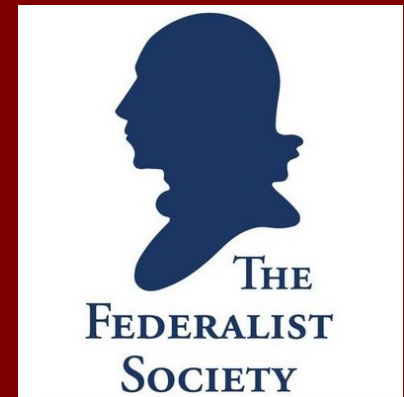
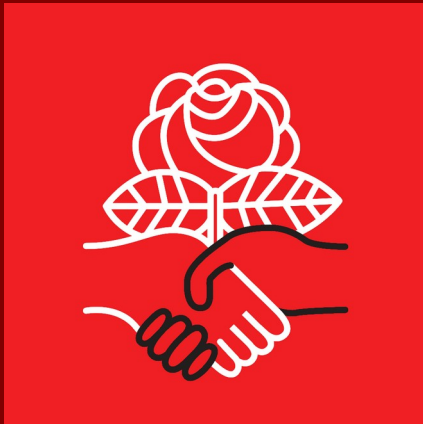
Credibility



Influence

How do we know it will work?

- Because this is literally the playbook used by political clubs to build influence



Roadmap: Stage 1

Stage 1: Seed Communities

- 1) Locate and reach out to local organizers across the country
- 2) Assist them with finding 3-4 “core” founding members to start a chapter
- 3) Begin regularly meeting, break the ice
- 4) Set the culture, introduce ideas, and encourage discussion!

Roadmap: Stage 2

Stage 2: Take Action

- 1) Get members' feet wet with taking initiative and contributing to group
- 2) Pivot discussions from ideas to strategy, start identifying areas of “outsized opportunity”
- 3) Work with local organizations and assist smaller actors in the FOSS space

Roadmap: Stage 3

Stage 3: Establish Credibility

- 1) Start experimenting with cross-chapter collaboration
- 2) Retain and foster connections from previous outreach efforts, work to bridge different actors and groups in the space
- 3) Slowly work our way up to more and more ambitious projects, making sure publicize our efforts

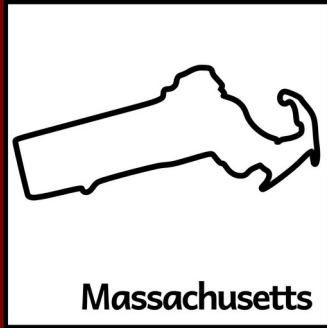
Roadmap: Stage 4

Stage 4: Wield Influence

- This is where we all aspire to be!
- Having built power, we become far more capable of long-term planning, partnerships, and coordination

What We've Done So Far

- We launched in September, and since then:



- Just by starting out:
 - The MD chapter organized a letter-writing campaign to the state legislature in response to a recent right-to-repair bill
 - The MO chapter provided assisted GNU/Linux installs in local libraries
 - The MA chapter has hosted talks by project leads from both Internet-in-a-Box

What We've Learned

- We've seen that it's often best to jump into doing stuff, people appreciate it
- We've seen even a small amount of determined people can make a big difference
- We've seen that being able to turn to each other helps a lot!

Join us!

Reach out to either FT (@notthesolution@mastodon.social) or Zach Liebl (zachliebl@zachliebl.com) if you have any questions.



Official Website
(<https://beyond40.codeberg.page>)



Interest Form
(linked on website)



Group Calendar
(linked on website)