

# Cooking-pot markets: collaborative ownership of information goods

Wizards of OS 4

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# WOS1: 1999

*Cooking pot markets*

*Most people think free software is a peculiar phenomenon*

# WOS4: 2006

*Cooking pot markets*

*Most fields of social science have published  
research on free software*

*Business success and mainstreaming*

# Cooking pot markets

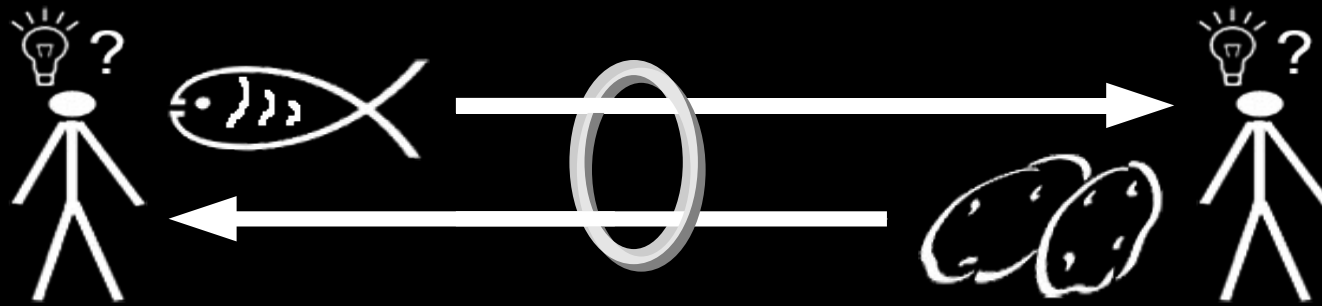
*WOS1 1999: a hypothesis, with anecdotal evidence*

*WOS4 2006: lots of similar ideas, lots of empirical evidence*

*Mainstream economists no longer scoff at producing “for free” - instead, they do it themselves, spending time on their blogs!*

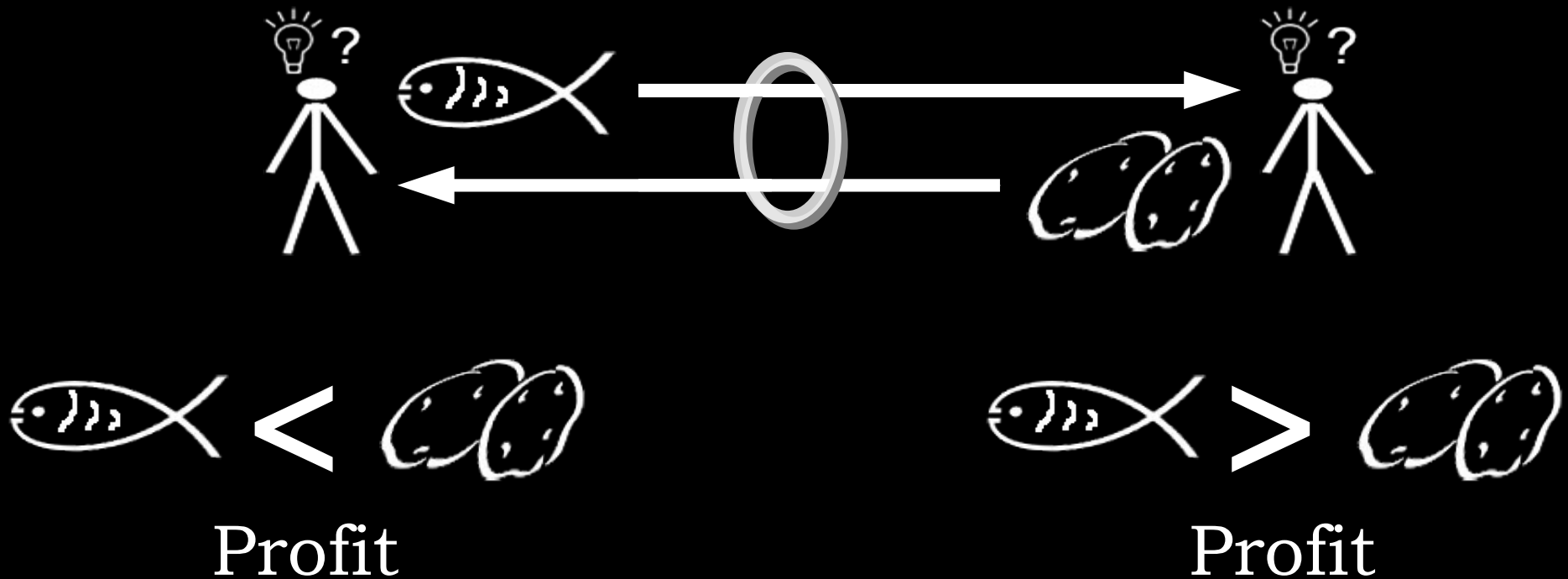
# Value-flow and cooking pots

Barter

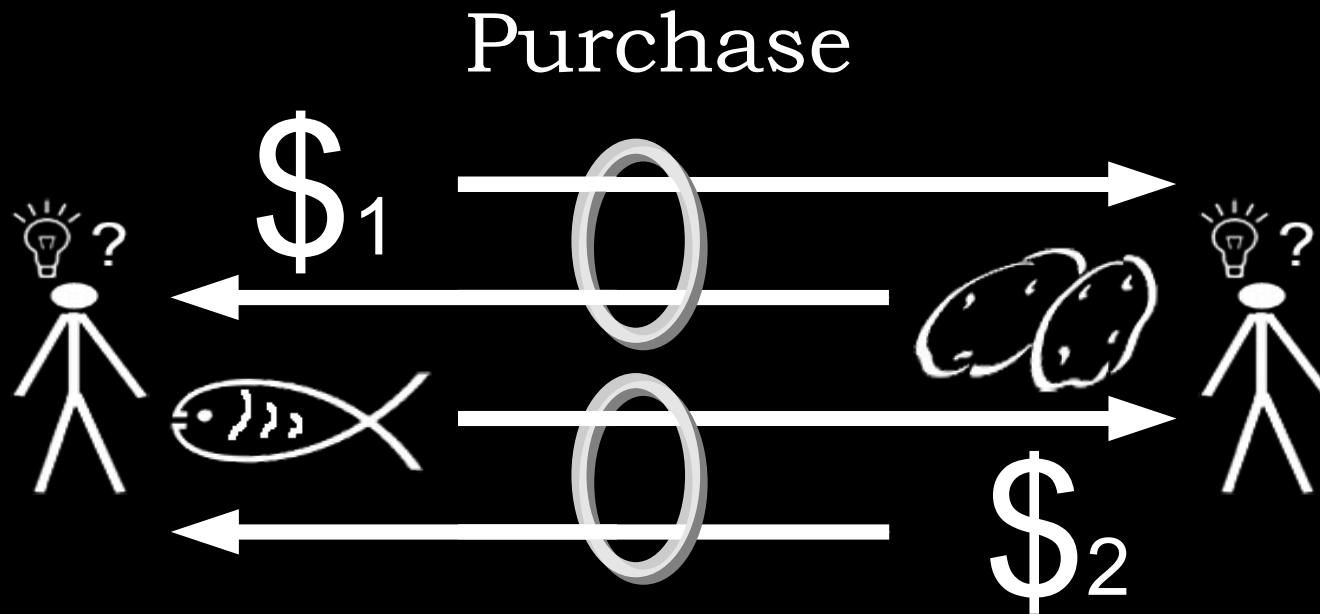


# Value-flow and cooking pots

Barter

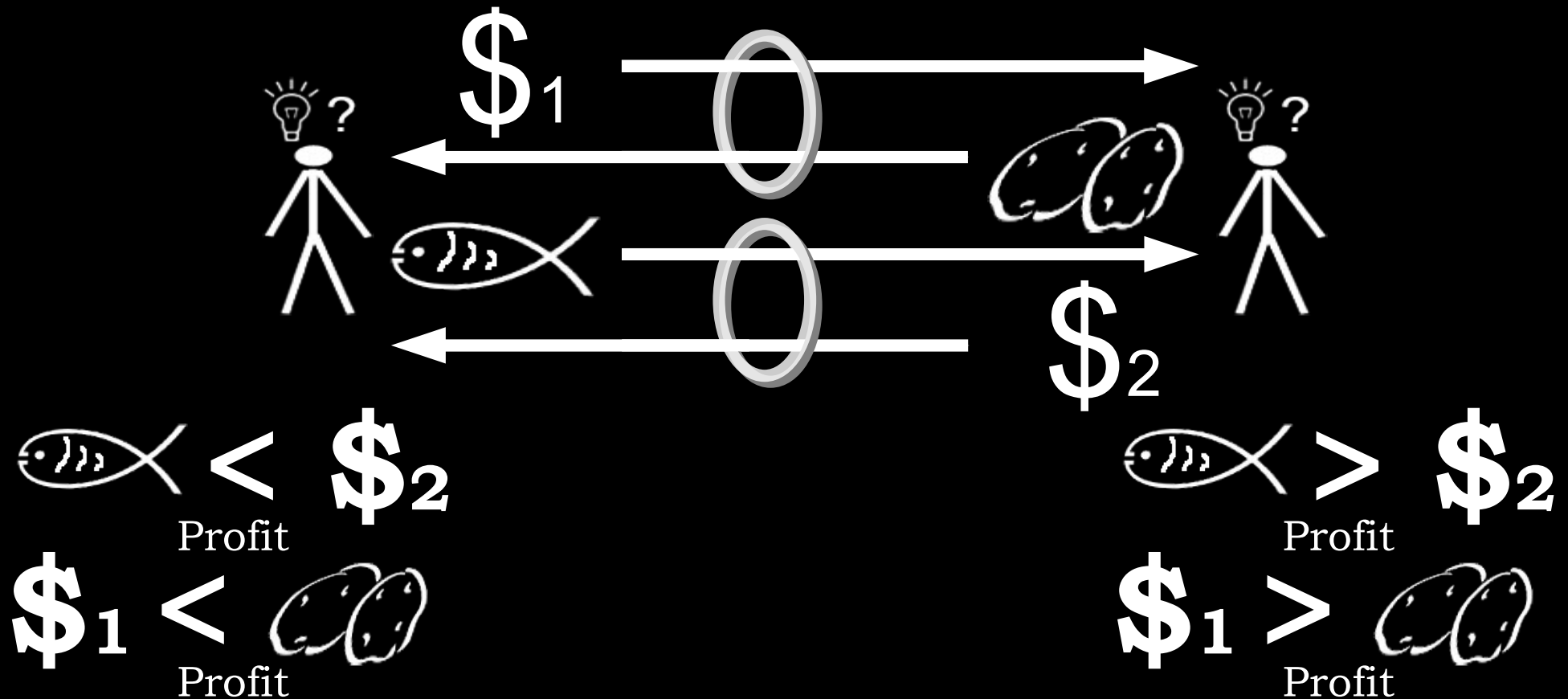


# Value-flow and cooking pots



# Value-flow and cooking pots

Purchase





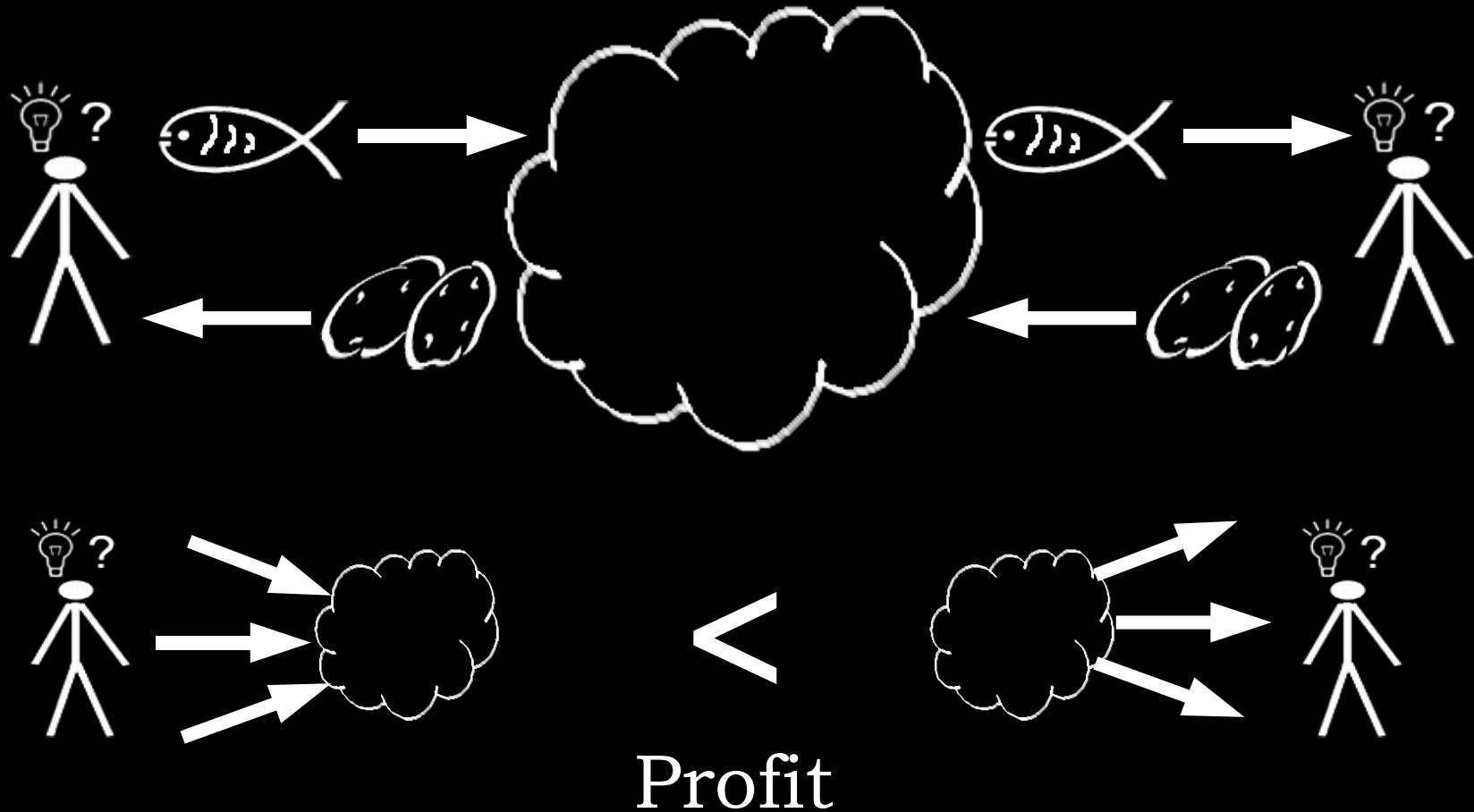
# Value-flow and cooking pots

Cooking-pot (easier to draw a cloud)

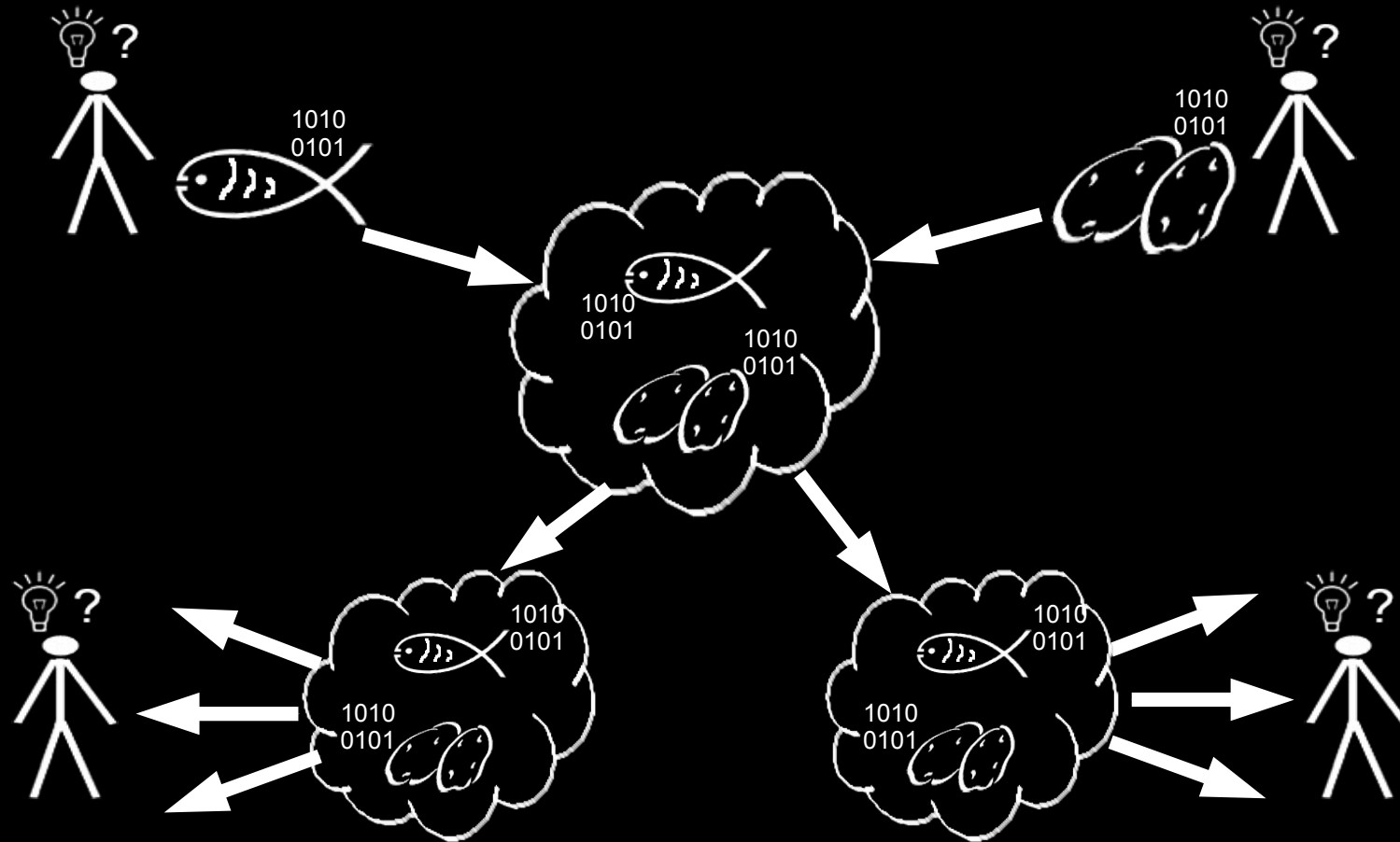


# Value-flow and cooking pots

Cooking-pot (easier to draw a cloud)

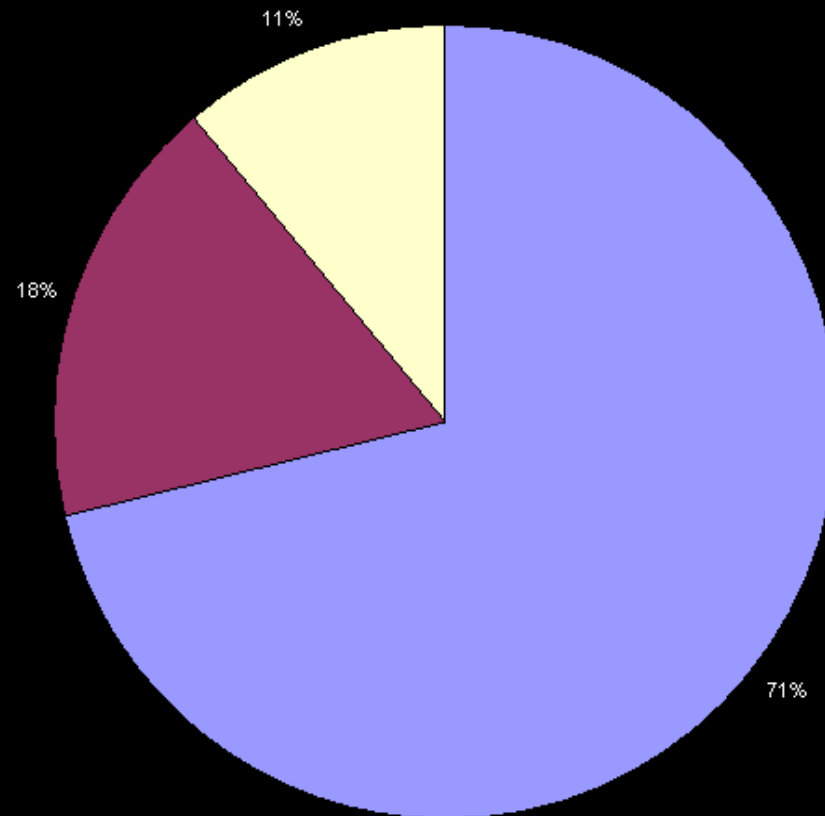


# Value-flow and cooking pots



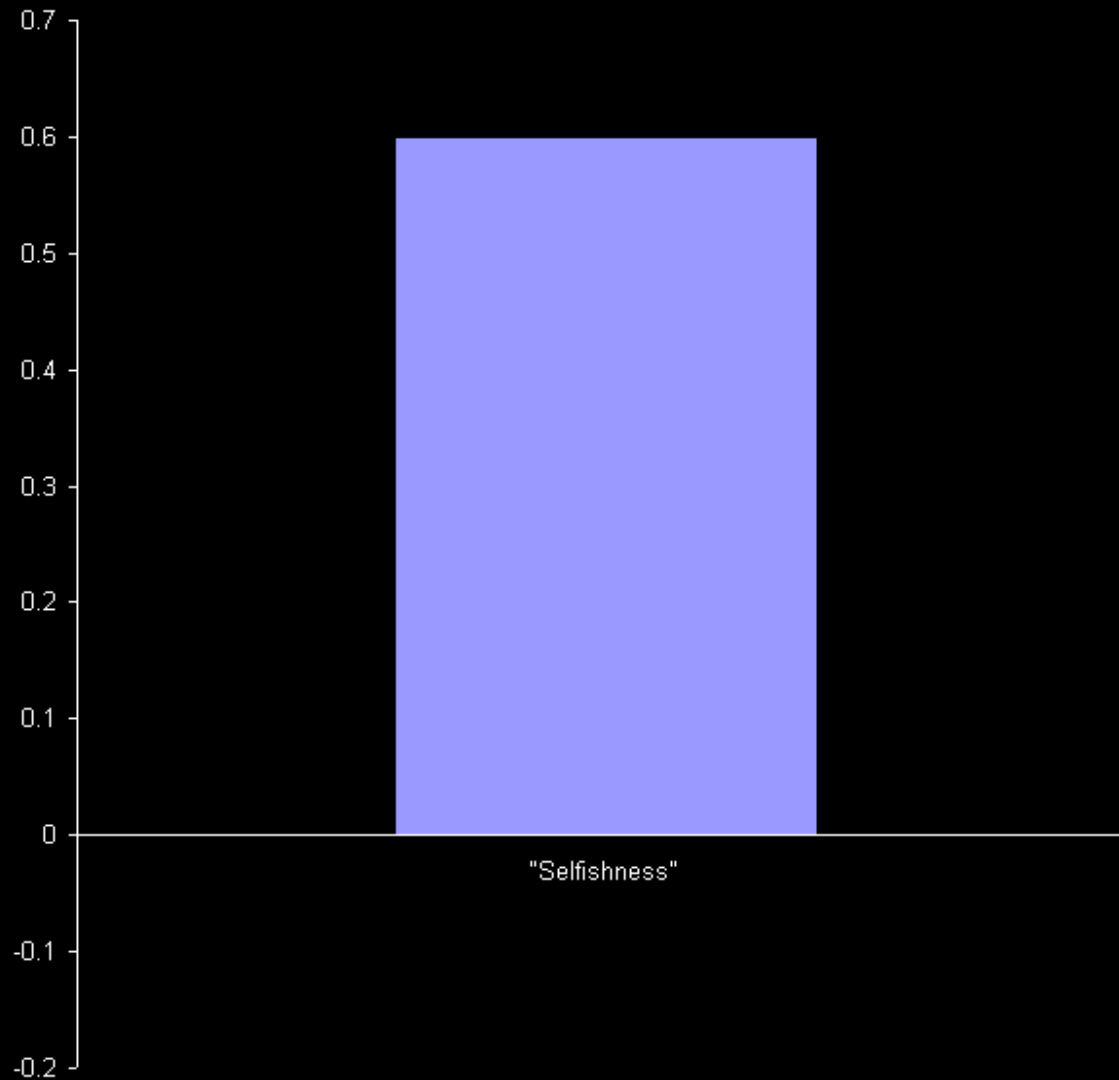
With knowledge goods, everyone gets *a copy of the whole pot*

# Altruism or self-interest?

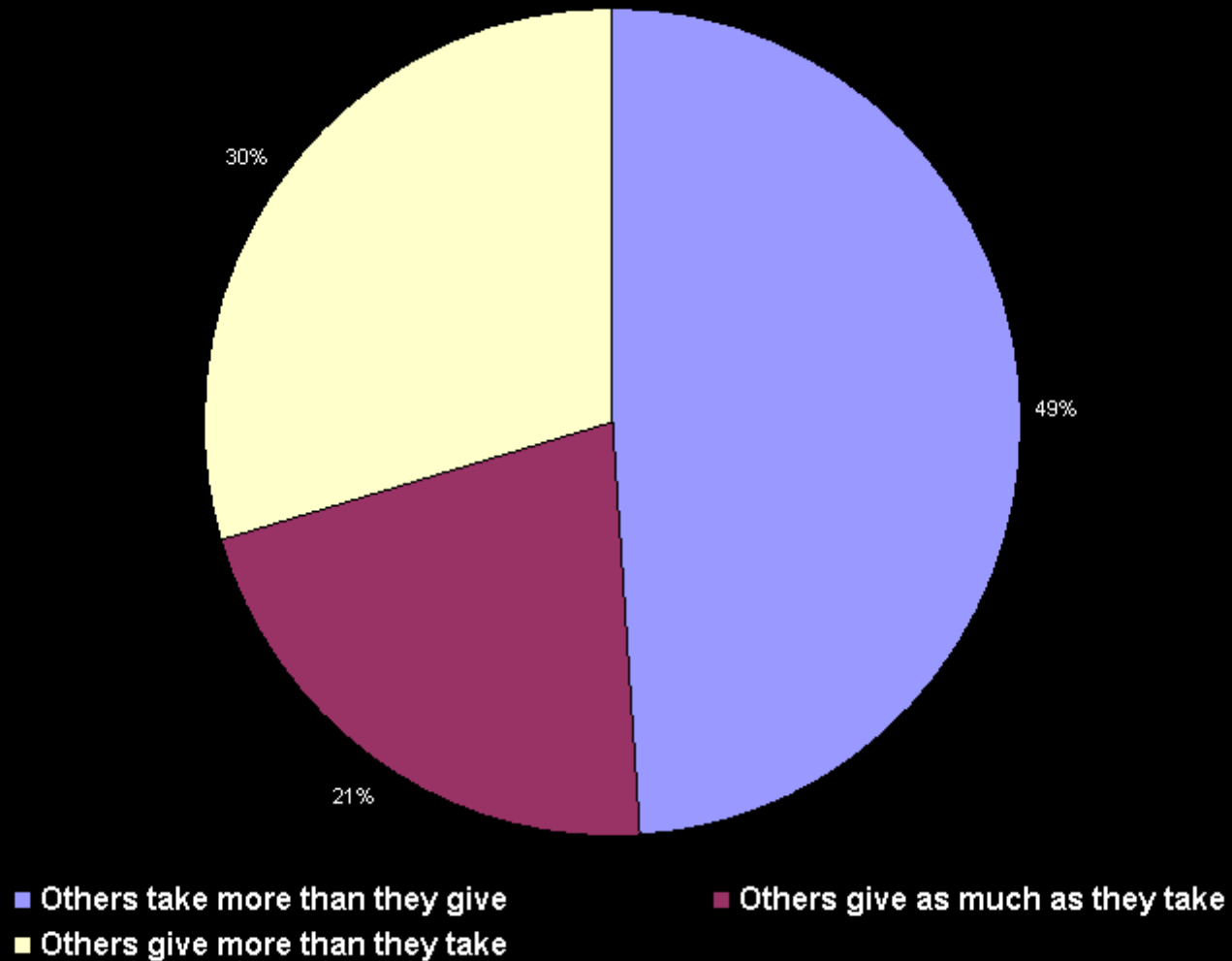


■ I take more than I give    ■ I give as much as I take    ■ I give more than I take

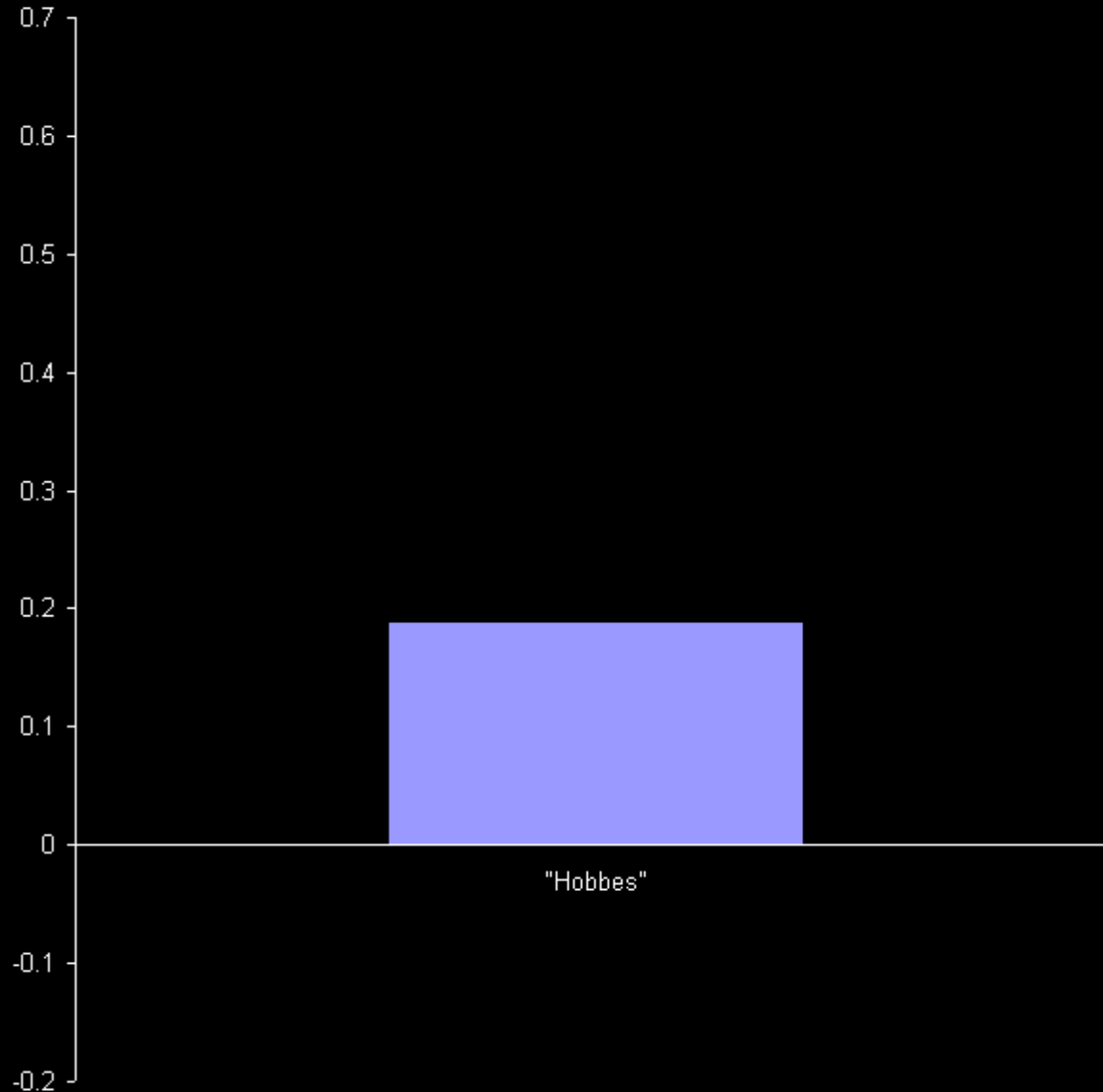
# Altruism or self-interest?



# A Hobbesian view?



# A Hobbesian view?



# Value – without prices

Example: Debian 2.2 GNU/Linux (2001)

Source lines of code: 55,201,526 (of which the Linux kernel forms under 6%)

If Debian was written in a software company:

Estimated effort: 14,005 person years

Estimated schedule: 6.04 years (team of 2,318!)

Development cost: US\$ 1,891,990,000



# Value – without market prices

Debian 2005:

104 001 person-years

(range: 85 977 to 188 988 person-years)

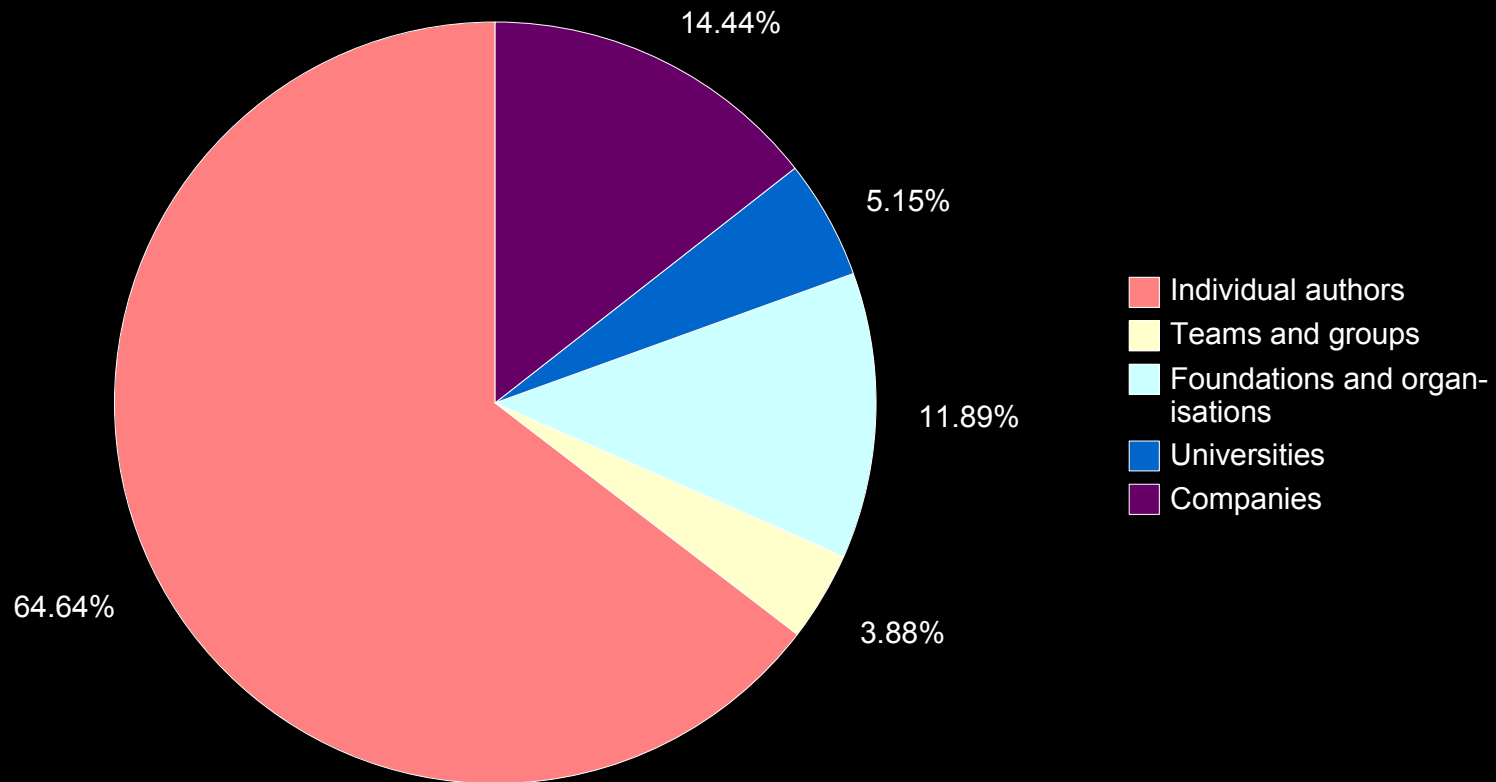
US\$ 14 billion

Non-Debian (eclipse, netbeans, etc)

3 685 person-years

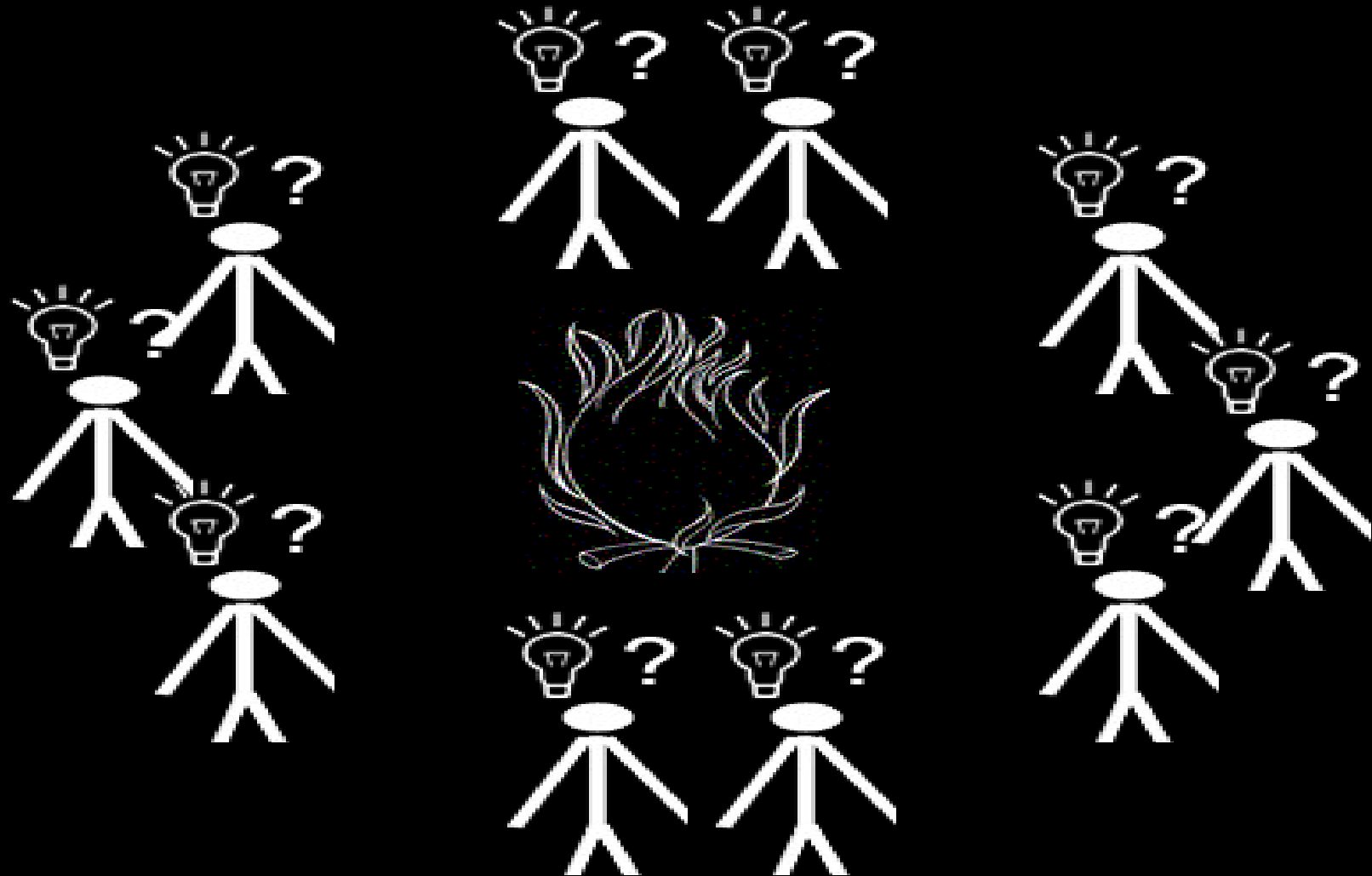
US\$ 500 million

# Network, not firms

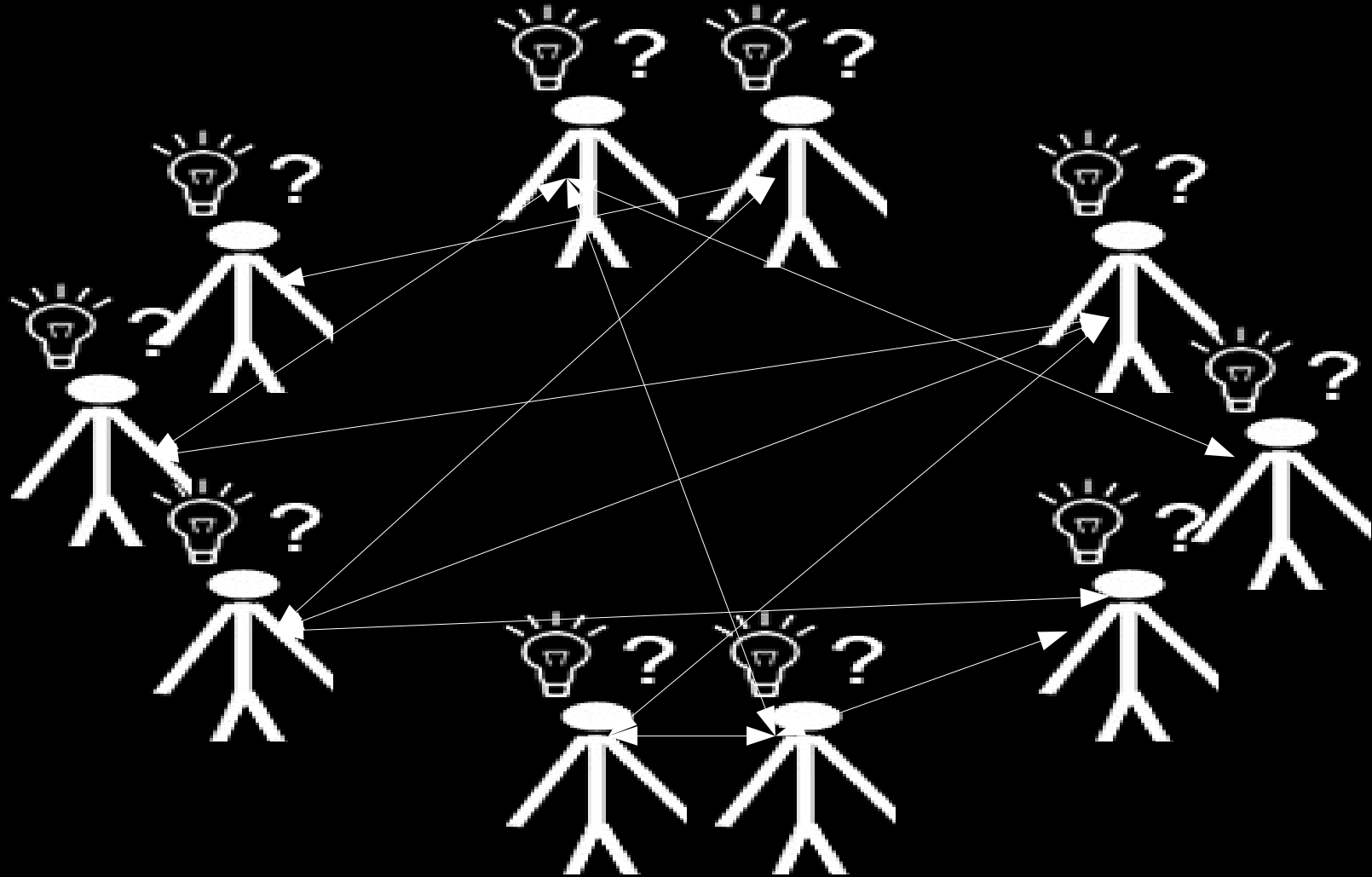


FLOSS source code shares by author type

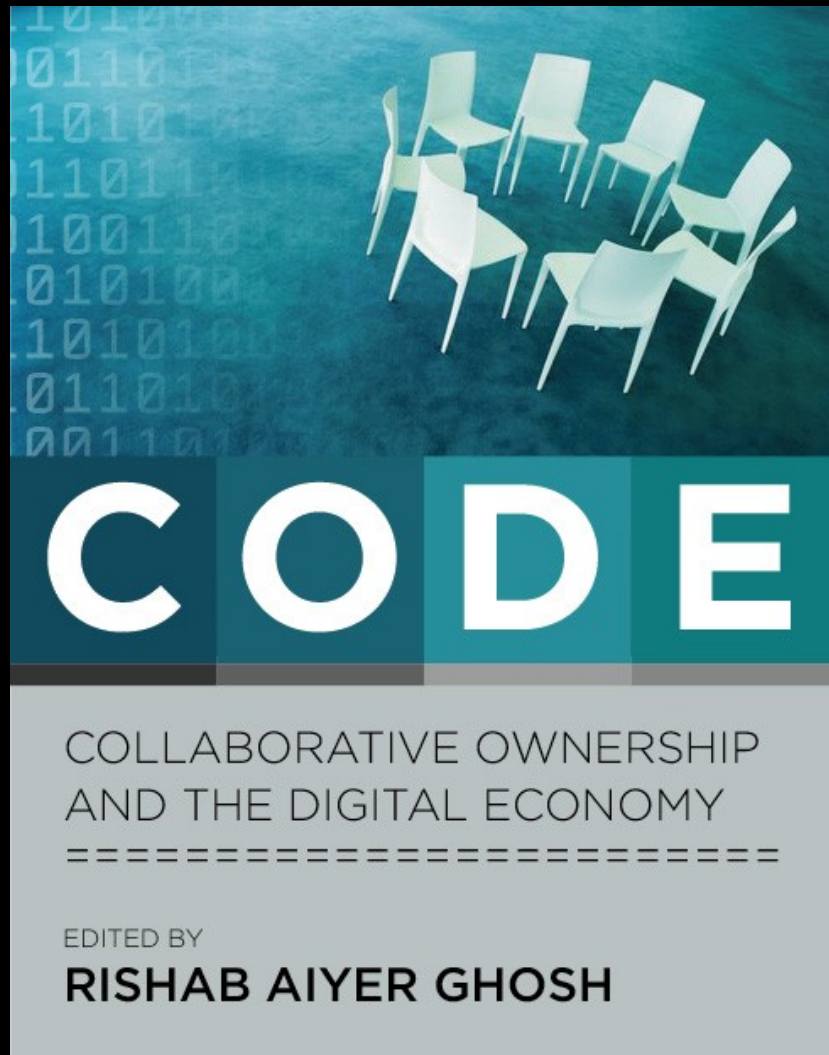
# The concept is old...



# This scale is new...



# Exciting novelty of collaboration



## **CODE: Collaborative Ownership and the Digital Economy**

**MIT Press, 2005**  
Rishab A. Ghosh, ed.

Philippe Aigrain, Yochai Benkler,  
Boatema Boateng, David Bollier,  
James Boyle, John Clippinger,  
Paul David, Cori Hayden, Tim  
Hubbard, Chris Kelty, James  
Leach, James Love, Fred Myers,  
Anthony Seeger, Richard  
Stallman, Marilyn Strathern

# Thank you

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UNU-MERIT

FLOSS Project

[www.flossworld.org](http://www.flossworld.org)