WHAT SCIENCE FICTION CAN TEACH US ABOUT BUILDING COMMUNITIES

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Presentation (with notes) available at fastwonderblog.com
WHOAMI

• Geek, traveler, reader

• Past 12 years doing community & open source

• Read 73 books last year, mostly sci-fi / fantasy

• I keep a list: http://fastwonderblog.com/about/reading/

Photos by Josh Bancroft, Don Park
BIGGER ON THE INSIDE

Communities look very different from the inside than when viewing them as an outsider.
ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE

Communities are about the people who participate, not about the leaders.

Not about the leaders, it’s about everyone who participates.
DON’T GO TOO FAR

Take time to understand the community and participate gently to start without doing too much at once.
DON'T BE A REDSHIRT

Participate and contribute in a way that people will notice and value your work

Read John Scalzi's 'Redshirts'
USEFUL SKILLS

Learn and share new ideas with the rest of the team.
3 LAWS AND GUIDELINES

Guidelines / code of conduct
that change and evolve as needed
ANDROIDS AND EMPATHY

Don’t act like an android, show empathy and consider the impact of your actions.
YOU WILL BE ASSIMILATED

Bring new community members into your collective for new ideas
NO MONSTERS

Different isn’t bad,
disagree with ideas,
not the person
FERENGI != ROLE MODELS

• #37: You can always buy back a lost reputation
• #268: When in doubt, lie
• #115: Greed is eternal
WHUFFIE

Reputation is currency,
do good and
recognize others
MENTORING

Train the next generation and help others succeed
THE YOUNG CAN CONTRIBUTE

Age is often unknown, encourage young people to contribute
STRONG WOMEN

Encourage women in our field and get more women speaking at our events.
CONTROL ISSUES

Maintain balance to keep things productive while not being too controlling.

I ARE DUNECAT

I CONTROLS THE SPICE, I CONTROLS THE UNIVERSE.
DISTRIBUTE RESPONSIBILITIES

Avoid single points of failure and manage access to community resources
PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

Travel and meet interesting people working on global projects
MANAGE GROWTH

Gradual growth
to keep with new contributions
and maintain your culture
OUTLAST THEM

Be patient and allow others to participate
DON'T PANIC

Things will go wrong
keep things in perspective
calmly recover
THANK YOU

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Some of my favorite modern sci-fi / fantasy authors:
  Hugh Howey
  Lois McMaster Bujold
  Brandon Sanderson
  Connie Willis