



Editor's Note: Eddie Bravo is the founder of 10th Planet Jiu-Jitsu and the Eddie Bravo Invitational.

Where is the source code for Comic Con?

Hello world!

This is a zine, a throwback to a time when I was personally introduced to communities building their own content and through that their environments. Anyone could fold a few sheets of paper in half and enter the publishing world. I worked at a small game shop in the early '90s that I later went on to own, and at that time the zines I saw were all about music. Once you saw one, you got it. Sure, there are an infinite number of ways to make anything better, but everything you need to make a zine the "source code" if you will, is right there. The game shop I worked at, the RPG group that meet on Saturdays, and everyone's dream summer trip Gen Con... the "source code" for them, where was it?

There is a wonderful essay titled "The Cathedral and the Bazaar" by Eric S. Raymond that introduces the reader to the ideas that helped create open source computer software. The Cathedral is the closed source model where only the creators of the software could see or modify the source. The Bazaar came from Raymond's observations watching the big bang that was Linux, everyone could see and

make changes to the source. A case is made that open source software has a very important role to play, which now I believe is accepted virtually unanimously. Open source contributors often ask for no individual compensation. From their perspective they see one small thing they already know how to fix or improve, so they do. It could be as small as the digital equivalent of picking up litter on a hiking trail. The bazaar is a collaborative effort built on everyone having all the data.

We are entering the internet of things. Your store, your club, your convention. I say your, not because you have keys to the shop. You more than likely don't. I say your because we all have the ability to take ownership in our own way. The question of how to help could be made much more clear with the right data. Where does that data come from? How is it stored and shared? Who gets to see it? I think it's the same question software engineers had to answer years ago, but in a much more abstract way. "Who gets to see the source code?" is only asked because the source code for software is sitting right there in a folder on the programmer's desktop.

Is there source code for your store? More than likely not, right now. Clubs and conventions might be closer. Many of them are organized as non-profits which means that their annual tax reports, and board meeting minutes are open to public inspection. These documents don't give fine grain detail, but they could be a starting point. At minimum, even with just that data it should be possible to create a template or guide for communities that don't have non-profit conventions. I believe that same data could also be used to help identify those communities.

In January of 2018 I am going to be reaching out to a few different groups to see if they will be interested in working together. In issue two I hope to start laying out the library of tools most helpful to convention organizers. This month I'm asking people to follow me on Twitter @bqopdtweets or sign up for our email list.

See you in 2018!

Click here to sign up for our email list!



Hold out baits to entice the enemy. Feign disorder, and crush him. -Sun Tzu

