



Mermaid And The PeerNet

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What is the PeerNet? According to Jakob Eriksson et al. "An unwritten principle of the Internet Protocol is that the IP address of a node also serves as its identifier. We observe that many scalability problems result from this principle, especially when we consider mobile networks. In this work, we examine how we would design a network with a separation between address and identity. We develop Peer-Net, a peer-to-peer-based network layer for large networks. PeerNet is not an overlay on top of IP, it is an alternative to the IP layer".

So why is the PeerNet interesting? PeerNet (Network Layer) has been designed with Mobile Nodes and Peer To Peer interactions in mind. Which means that a TCP connection will break if a Node changes its location as its IP will change. But PeerNet addresses more than that. PeerNet is highly resilient, immune to control and manipulations. "When it comes to something as essential as the Planetary Communication Infrastructure we would power our nodes directly rather than having to buy exclusively into an existing established commercial infrastructure and depend fully on it (and on whom has the power to control it, limit it, censor it, or close it)"- Robin Good

Enter Mermaid. According to the P2P community Mermaid is a potential killer application for PeerNet. Even though it works on the IP stack it promises all which PeerNet hopes to achieve in terms of no-control and no-censorship. Mermaid is a Hybrid IP-PeerNet application. Mermaid has the potential to function and keep the world communication infrastructure up and running in the event of an unfortunate global catastrophe.

References

- 1) Extending the Internet The PeerNet- Robin Good
(http://www.masternewmedia.org/news/2008/03/19/extending_the_internet_the_peernet.htm)
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