

The New Knowledge Economy

Stephen Downes

March 20, 2000

Outline

- The Technology
- The Impact
 - Society
 - Commerce
 - Governance
- Keeping Up

The Technology

- Bandwidth – unlimited
- Processing – unlimited
- Software – task based
- Hardware – portable, wireless
- Presentation – multimedia, simulations

The Impact - Society

- New Social Unit – The Online Community
- Types of Online Communities
- Properties of Online Communities
- Social Impact:
 - Withdrawal from traditional communities
 - Increased empowerment and participation

The Impact - Commerce

- Shattering of Commerce
- Commerce begins with Community
- Globalization and Competition

The Impact – Commerce (2)

- Commercial Impact:
 - Customized and personalized service
 - 24-7 service
 - Competition
- Corporate Impact
 - Monopolies don't work
 - The Network Effect
 - Workplace organization

The Impact - Governance

- Legislative and Representative Function
 - Increased participation and activism
 - Inclination toward direct democracy
 - Primacy of the Community
 - Decline (or reshaping) of the Middle

The Impact - Governance (2)

- Information and Communication
 - The community as a community
 - Modes of Communication
 - Information overload

The Impact – Governance (3)

- Services
 - Services as E-Commerce
 - Competition
 - Government services as a network effect

Keeping Current

- Joining or founding a community
- Information flow
 - Pull – web sites
 - Push – newsletters
- Participation