

The path towards decentralized moderation

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The challenge with moderation in digital communication is that disrupting communication often scales better than individual blocking.

In the [Freenet Project](#) (where centralized moderation simply is no option) the answer was to propagate blocking between users in a transparent way. That way blocking disruptors scales better than disrupting. For more info see: [The Freenet Web of Trust keeps communication friendly with actual anonymity](#)

If you want to try this, there are three steps:

- First the current state in Freenet: [OadSFff-version1.2-non-print-edition.pdf](#)
- Then the optimizations needed so this scales to arbitrary size: [deterministic-load-decentralized-spam-filter](#)
- Finally some starting code of a more generic prototype for faster testing: hg.sr.ht/~arnebab/wispwot

Also here's some data of the real world communication structure within Freenet that should be useful if you want to test algorithms: [The_Freenet_social_trust_graph_extn](#)

(the prototype implementation is built in a way that would be suitable for federation, because it can work with a shared database that only has different entry points to get your personal view of the trust-graph. It is far from finished, though)

I hope this helps you tackle these issues, because global-scale moderation without centralized control is one of the huge tasks ahead of us — a task that was mostly ignored in the Clearnet (there were underpaid moderators to burn out after all) but tackled within the Freenet Project more than a decade ago.

I wrote this as a reply to an [article about decentralized moderation](#).