

GLOSSARY OF NETWORK TERMS

Action Network	The network of activities in a network.
Asynchronous	Not at the same time.
Breakthroughs	Insights of new ways of understanding a situation, often unexpected, generally obtained as a result of reflection about recently completed projects.
Coalitions	Organizations that unite to work on a consensus basis on an issue or strategy.
Close Triangles	Connecting two people you know who don't know each other; this is done when you know both people have some interest in common.
Clusters	Sets of individuals who are all similar in some way and tend to interact frequently. Examples are people from a certain geography, type of organization, social class or background. Clusters often have their own jargon and practices.
Clustering Process	Processes that enable people to find others interested in the same topic or activity.
Collective Sensemaking	The process by which people in a network make sense of the system they are transforming and identify leverage points and opportunities in the system.
Complex Reciprocity	Giving freely with no expectation of direct reciprocity because the individual knows that the network of sharing means that he/she will be able to access what is needed from the network.
Community of Practice (CoP)	A group of people who share an interest, a craft, and/or a profession. CoPs are often formalized to meet regularly to support and learn from each other.
Core	The center of a network where there are denser ties. Although most people in the core do not know each other, they can access most individuals through their direct connections.
Deep Structures	The most basic (usually unconscious) guiding principles of systems that shape our relationships and interactions
Developmental Evaluation	Developmental evaluation uses a complexity lens to understand what is being developed through innovative engagement.
Dyad	A discussion unit of two people.
Formal Network	A network that meets regularly, has membership, a governance system, and clear purpose.
Hubs	People who are well-connected to others.
Innovation Diffusion	The spread of an innovation.
Innovation Fund	Small pool of money that provides seed funds or incentive funds to encourage self-organization and collaboration; each project must include people from different organizations, different age groups, different communities or whomever you want to encourage to work together; application forms are very simple and application timelines very short.
Intentional Network	A network intentionally focuses on a particular area, problem or issue; it may or may not be formally organized.
Joint Design Process	A process that gathers diverse participants to identify key design elements needed in a new service, project, program or structure. People provide input that is then crafted by a smaller group into a proposal offered for final feedback.
Learning Network or Cluster	A group of people who come together over a period of time to share what they are doing and what they are learning from their local activities with the goal of identifying patterns of success.
Leverage points	The identification of specific places in a system (often called opportunities) where a modest amount of effort appears likely to bring significant change in a short period of time.
Links	Lines on network maps that represent the connections between two individuals.
Meta-Network	A network of local or regional networks, usually focused on one issue, problem or system development area.
Movement	A collection of individuals or organizations that come together around a common concern with the intention of engendering social change around that concern.
Multiscalar Networks	Networks that operate on local, regional and national/ international levels for experimentation, learning and development of support structures and policy.
Network Catalyst	A Network Catalyst helps people become aware of the networks in which they are embedded and encourages them to become more intentional about those networks.
Network Guardian	A Network Weaver who keeps track of what is happening in the network, brings in resources and helps develop the system of support for the network.
Network Hubs	People who are well-connected to others; usually hubs are also very influential.
Networking Hubs	Spaces that encourage serendipitous interactions among people in a network.

Network Weaver	People who take responsibility for making networks healthier; do so by connecting people, coordinating self-organized projects, facilitating Networks, and being a Network Guardian.
Nodes	Term used to describe entities in a network; in our case nodes represent individuals.
Open Space	A process for meetings where people identify topics for sessions and then lead discussions on that topic.
Opportunity Process	Process that helps networks identify people with overlapping interests and encourages them to take actions steps (called Small Acts) to explore opportunities
Patterns of success	Key factors that appear to be present in many successful activities.
Peer Assist	A process for assisting a network participant with a challenge. The assistee briefly describes the situation and lists questions they would like answered. The group assisting asks clarifying questions then gives thoughts and advice. The person responds.
Periphery	The outer part of a network, consisting of individuals who are only connected to the core through one or two people. A large periphery is important because it is the core's connection to new ideas and resources, and a gateway into many other networks.
Policy networks	Policy networks are the networks of individuals and organizations that work to change or create policy. Policy can be legislation, procedures, or regulations.
Quality connections	Relationships based on respect and trust. Such relationships are critical for people to engage in high-risk, high impact collaborations.
Relationship Network	The relationship network consists of all the connections among people in a network and the pattern that the total set of relationships creates. The pattern determines whether communication and new ideas will flow throughout the network.
Rhizomatic	When the structure of the network contains what is needed to spread the network. Rhizomes are the root structure of ginger or bamboo, where every plant is connected to all others and support and resources flow easily throughout the network.
Sandbox	An ongoing gathering, usually virtual, where people help each other learn, share insights from their work, and provide peer support.
Scale	When a social innovation spreads from being a local innovation to a widely implemented innovation.
Scaling Out Networks	Networks that enable local innovations to inspire similar innovations in other communities.
Scaling Up Networks	Networks that enable sets of communities to develop new infrastructure and policy to support innovations so they are transformative.
Self-Organizing	Individuals or groups seeing an opportunity to make a difference or experiment and initiating collaborative action.
Social Web	Interactive aspects of the Web.
Smart Network	A network with a large core usually consisting of overlapping clusters (representing different types of organizations, geographies, backgrounds, ages, etc.) of dense relationships and a large periphery of resources and new ideas that can be accessed by the core.
Speed Networking	A process that helps people in a network get to know each other better; people pair up with someone they don't know and take turns answering a question you suggest such as "What excites you about ----?" or "What is the best network you have been a part of?"
SPIN Networks	Segmentary (composed of many diverse and changing groups), Polycentric: (having multiple, often temporary, and sometimes competing leaders or centers of influence), and Networked.
Social Web, Web 2.0	Platforms on the Web that support discussion and other forms of engagement by participants.
Support Network	The communications systems, evaluation systems, resources systems and training systems that make a network more effective.
Technology Stewards	People who help others learn to use social web platforms.
Tipping point	The point at which a system moves from one mode of operation to another.
Transformation	Qualitative change; change in how people relate in our system and how the system works.
Twosies	Two people self-organizing a small action project. Twosies enable people to get to know each other in a low-risk environment.
Your friends' friends	People who your direct connections know, but you don't know; often good to explicitly ask friends or co-workers who they know and what resources/gifts each of their friends has.
Wicked problems	Wicked problems are difficult to clearly define, are often multi-causal and when addressed lead to unforeseen consequences.

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