obsoletos
a project by basurama

Research, creation and spreading of creative system resulting from technological waste

obsoletos.org | info@obsoletos.org

Basurama is a forum for discussion and reflection on trash, waste and reuse in all its formats and possible meanings. It was born in Madrid School of Architecture (ETSAM) in the year 2000 and, since then, it has evolved and acquired new shapes.

Our aim is to study those phenomena inherent in the massive production of real and virtual trash in the consumer society, providing points of view on the subject that might generate new thoughts and attitudes. We find gaps in these processes of production and consume that not only raise questions about the way we manage our resources but also about the way we think, we work, we perceive reality.

Far from trying to offer a single manifest to be used as a manual, Basurama has compiled a series of multiform opinions and projects, not necessarily resembling each other, which explore different areas. We try to establish subtle connections between them so that they may give rise to unexpected reactions. We are not worried about its lack of unity; moreover, we believe it to be evocative and potentially subversive.

Basurama association created the so called project **Obsoletes** in may 2008, after three years of activities connected to the creative reutilization by means of technology. After these first experiences, and as consequence of several phenomena observed, the Basurama association concluded it was necessary to carry out a project in order to study in depth the increasing problem of electronic waste and the planfied obsolescence, with an extended approach.

Workshop with Scrapyard Challenge. June 2007
Workshop on arduino and conductive fabrics. Intermediae Cultural Centre, Madrid.

Open Space. May 2007
Workshop and exhibition on reutilization of computer waste. Observatori festival, Valencia.

Cirquit Bending. May 2006
Workshop on instruments manufacturing/ making from noisy discarded toys and sonorous knick-knacks. With the collaboration of Lektrolab and Olaf Ladousse. La Casa Encendida, Madrid.

Open Space. September-October 2005
Free connection to Internet (computer network GNU/Linux) with reutilized computers. La Casa Encendida, Madrid

Technological workshop and travelling circus
Faculty of Physical Sciences, Complutense University, Madrid, September and October 2008

The Faculty of Physic Sciences was facing an important problem caused by the accumulation of waste computers and discarded equipments, that were starting to take up corridors and common areas.

Twelve equipments were recoverd and a use was given to some ob the obsoletes objects existing in the building. A side consequence was that a unique point was defined for the accumulation and management of faculty's electronical waste.

Collaborators: Ministry of Culture and Faculty of Physical Sciences at Complutense University, Madrid.
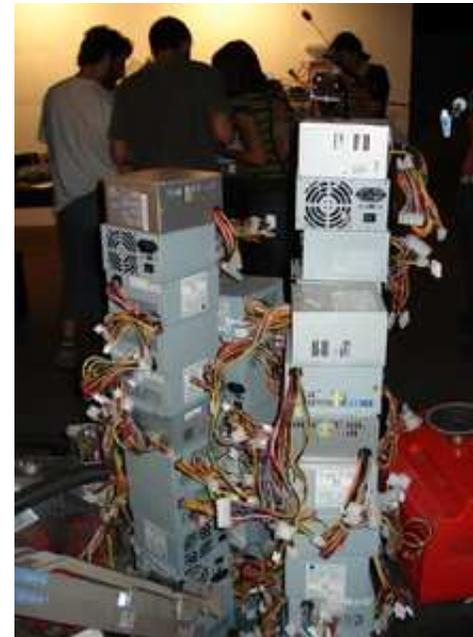

Conference about the reutilization of obsolete technology
Industrial Engineering School, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Ciudad Real, November 2008

During year 2006, University of Castilla-La Mancha throwed away 200 tons of technological material after the consideration as obsolete. Knowing this data, we suggested to organise a conference to make this reality visible to the university community and show that this material may have a different destiny to the waste plant.

The workshop lasted one week and the objective was that the resulting objects were used by the students.

Collaborators: Ministry of Culture, Centre of Studies of Castilla-La Mancha, Industrial Engineering School of Ciudad Real.

Workshop on fast hacks with computer component
Week of Solidarity, Carlos III University, Madrid (UC3M), February 2009

The Delegation of Engineering Without Borders of Carlos III University invited Obsoletos to the Week of Solidarity to organise a one-day activity, with the objective of reusing the damaged components accumulated by the students associations.

After the analysis of the available material, it was decided to built speakers with hard disks, the most predominant component.

Collaborators: Arts Unit of Madrid Town Hall, Engineering Without Borders, Carlos III University.

Research group about technological obsolescence
Laboratory of Procomún, Medialab Prado, Madrid from May 2008

The objective of Obsoletos is to study the possibilities of transformation, reconfiguration or reprogramming allowed by technology and to create new technological dispositives with new qualities:

• Those coming from a standarizable transformation processes, that is, not unique objects but reproductible in series.
• Those that modify the original properties of the initial object or that use them in a different way.
• Those that can be executed with the smallest tehcnological level possible, in order to allow the definition of creation systems easily trasnferable to other people.
• Those that are auto-referents, that is, each created object expresses its waste origin.

Collaborators: Arts Unit of Madrid Town Hall, Medialab Prado Madrid.

Recovered circuits: worshops for the creative reutilization of computers wastes
Medialab Prado, Madrid
May 2009

The aim of these workshops was the exploration of the possibilities of hacking focused on obsolete equipments. The workshops started a study of the existing possibilities of modification of computer equipments, analysing how these dispositives nowadays obsolete were used in their time when they were high-technology and discover methods and toold for their handling today.

The three workshops were oriented to give clues to the handling of electronical material, to perform systems of reutilization with the objective, not of the workshop, of generationg finished objects.

Collaborators: Medialab Prado, Arts Unit of Madrid Town Hall.

Manuel Ortega, professor of Computig, University of Castilla-La Mancha. **Tinkartank**, neo-norwegian experiments in technology and art. **Carlos Rey**, systems architect in IBM during 32 years. **Jeroen Domburg**, editor of spritesmods.com.

Workshop on technological independence: electronics and free software
Consortium of Ciudad Universitaria, Madrid
Abril 2009

Univerde asked Obsoletos to organise a workshop with two different sessions in the Electronical Waste Week. We considered the two sessions independent: the first session offered basic electronical knowledge, the second one, basic concepts related to free software.

The common objective of both sessions was to qualify the attendants with a certain technological autonomy and to help them value it.

Collaborators: Arts Unit of Madrid Town Hall, Univerde Consortium of Ciudad Universitaria

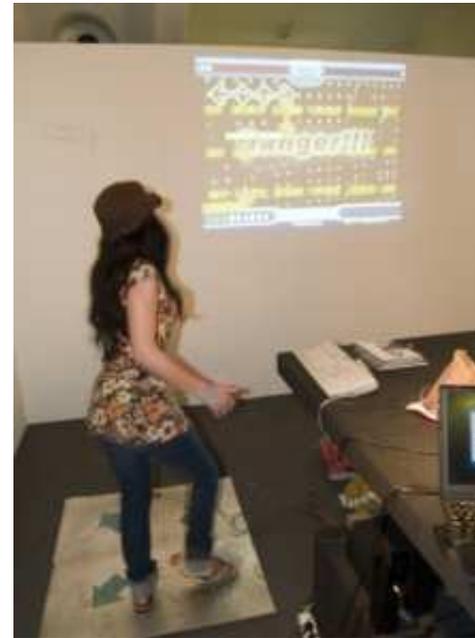**IDE bag**. Twisted IDE connectors.

Key pin. key from keyboard, plastic base, safety pin.
Robot mouse. Mouse casing, rubbers, led.
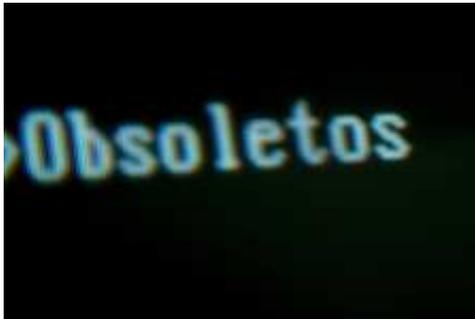
Speaker. Hard disk and paper cone.
Amplifier.

Linuxin portable. K6 computer, 400 MHz processor, 128MB RAM with free software (GNU/Linux Debian).
Pink Jail Box. Pentium I computer, 350 MHz processor, 128MB RAM with free software (Linux Xubuntu) in pink bird cage.

Cassette wallet. Cassette tape.
Bubble machine. CD reader, 2 pomps.

ChipBot. A motor from a mobile phone vibrator.
Bookcase. CPU box.

Dancing machine. Four keyboards and
StepMania free software

obsoletos.org
We hack your memories

Our blog is a space in which the Obsoletos team dump our ideas, references and thoughts about the world of technology, the reutilization and obsolescence.

It aims to be a meeting point of those interested in these topics.

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obsoletos.org is also an experiment of transparent managing of cultural projects. We detail where we get the money from, how we do spend it, who we work for and which our motivations are.

obsoletos.org is online since May 2008.

Internet data
Google PagaRank: 4
Alexa trafic ranking: 794.172
Technoraty Rank: 90.472
Technorati Authority: 57 (blogs in which obsoletos.org home is linked in the last six months)
Spanish Ranking Alianzo: 701
Suscribers: 560
Frontpages in Meneame: 5

Contents
Posts: 375
Comments: 668
Categories: 18
Tags: 604
Editors: 4

Data since it was born
since May 2008

Visits: 117.966
Unique visitors: 190.438
Pageviews: 190.438

Traffic sources
Referring sites: 64.975 (55,08%)
Direct traffic: 31.368 (26,59%)
Search engines: 21.623 (18,33%)

Average time on site: 2 minutes

Origin of visits (99 países):
Spain: 82.734 (70,13%)
Mexico: 9.372 (7,94%)
Argentina: 5.593 (4,74%)
Colombia: 3.751 (3,18%)
Chile: 3.584 (3,04%)

Last month data
April 2009

Visits: 27.056
Unique visitors: 21.837
Pageviews: 36.180

Traffic sources
Referring sites: 17.556 (64,89%)
Direct traffic: 3.844 (14,21%)
Search engines: 5.656 (20,90%)

Average time on site: 1:10 minutos

Origin of visits (99 países):
Spain: 20.282 (74,96%)
Mexico: 1.515 (5,60%)
Argentina: 1.035 (3,83%)
Chile: 784 (2,90%)
Colombia: 723 (2,67%)

Obsoletos

Manuel Polanco Pérez-Llantada
Student at Architecture School of Madrid (ETSAM), founder member of Basurama Association and director of Obsoletos project. He has been the editor of fanzine a5 and collaborating teacher in the ETSAM.

Diego Rodríguez Ibánez
Founder member of Leisure Club, in which he used to experience new ways of technological interaction with different waste materials since 2001. Nowadays is working as a programer in Indizen Optical Tecnologies (www.iot.es) and is studying Physical Sciences in Faculty of Physical Sciences, Complutense University.

Pablo Rey Mazón
Architect by Architecture School of Madrid (ETSAM) and founder and active member of Basurama, Meipi Team (meipi.org) and Montera34 design collective (montera34.com). He has worked on design and data visualization in and out of the university scope.

Francisco Fernández Ferreiro
Industrial designer and founder member of Leisure Club. He has worked as a drafsman and 3D modeler. Nowadays is the projecs director and usability expert of Adtech Internet, a marketing online company.

Alfonso Sánchez Uzábal
Student at Architecture School of Madrid (ETSAM), founder member of Meipi Team where he has developed a collaborative spaces webpage (meipi.org). Founder member of montera34 design collective (montera34.com) and he has being working as editor and web and net administrator during four years in Ciudades para un Futuro más Sostenible Digital Library (http://habitat.aq.upm.es).

Last actualization
June 2009

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