

# From software via hardware to Open Source everything

Christoph Schneider  
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)  
Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS)

[christoph.schneider3@kit.edu](mailto:christoph.schneider3@kit.edu)

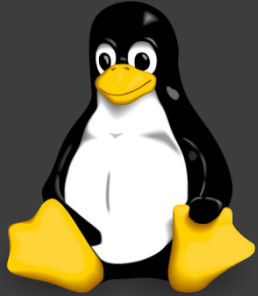


Watch the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wWTw4B7v9I>

# Outline

1. A brief history of Open Source: three waves
2. More people, more knowledge: more complexity
3. New things/worlds emerge: ontological shift
4. Open Source everything: new visions for society

# 1. A brief history of Open Source: three waves



- Free, Libre and Open Source Software



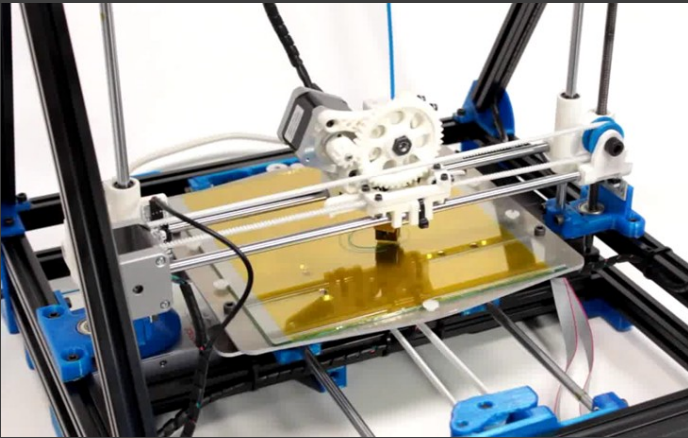
- Immaterial things: blogs, wikis, art, images...



open source  
hardware

- Inclusion of material things

## 2. More people, more knowledge: more complexity



[www.reprap.org](http://www.reprap.org)



e.g. [www.fablab-karlsruhe.org](http://www.fablab-karlsruhe.org)



[www.creativeregion.org/familiebinder](http://www.creativeregion.org/familiebinder)



[oshcore.com](http://oshcore.com)

### 3. New things/worlds emerge: ontological shift

Ontology (philosophical): The basic properties of the world

Empirical ontology: “worlds” are made and stabilized – and can be made differently

„... ontology makes a difference. I want to show that how we imagine the world and how we act in it reciprocally inform one another.“

Pickering, A., 2010, The Cybernetic Brain, p. 22

„The purpose of researching ontology, then, would not be to arrive at a better formulation of the reality of the world, or of the ways in which the world is real, but to interfere with the assumption of a singular, ordered world.“ Woolgar & Lezaun, The Wrong Bin Bag, in: Social

Studies of Science, 43, 2013, p. 323

## 3.1 Ontological shift: three characteristics

closed organizations → commons-based open organizations

Money → knowledge as dominant interaction medium

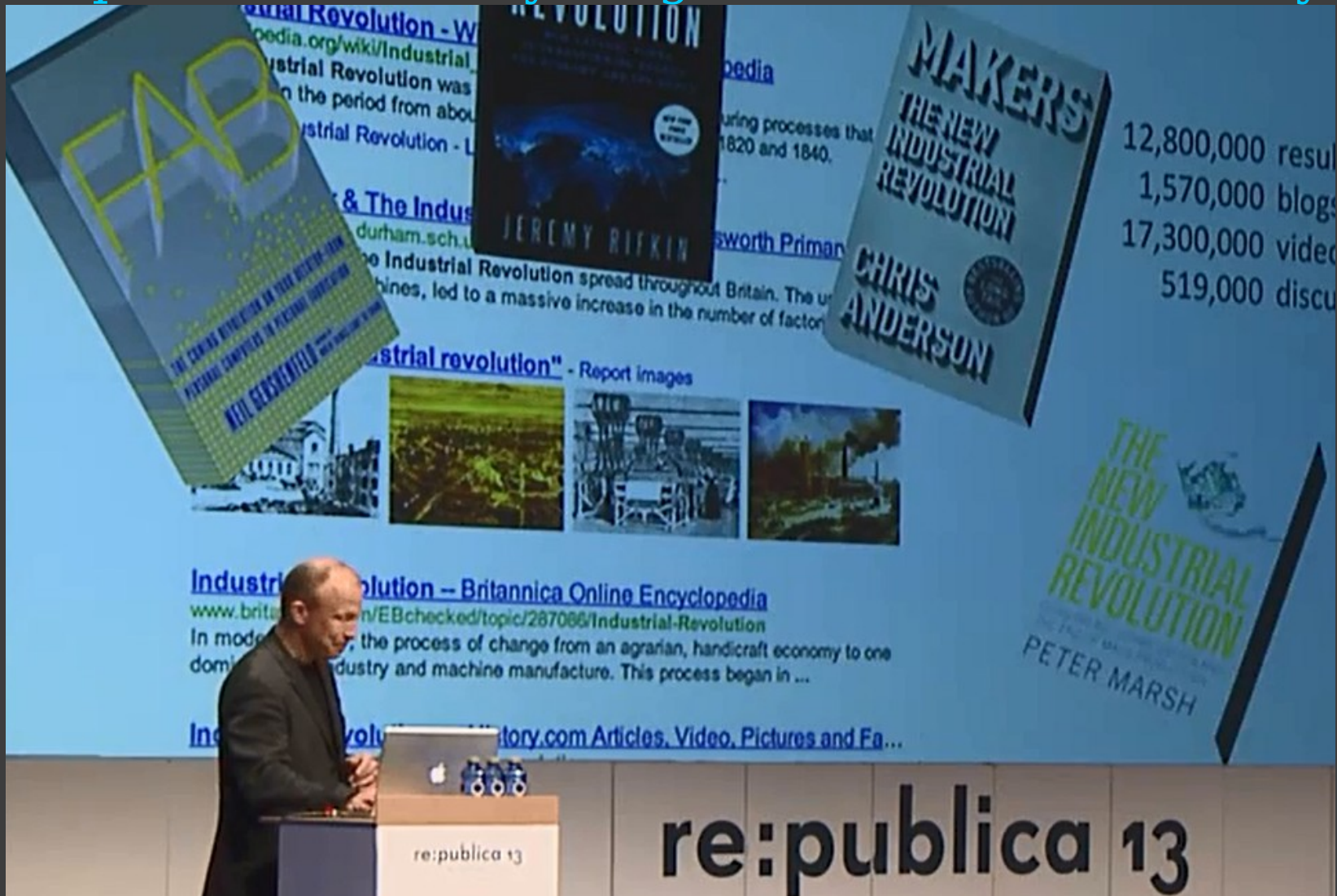
unified objects → modular prototypes



=> Experiments with new relations between people, knowledge and objects and thus with new ontologies.



# 4. Open Source everything: new visions for society







open source  
hardware

Thank you for your attention!

[christoph.schneider3@kit.edu](mailto:christoph.schneider3@kit.edu)