

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910826203403321
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Titolo	The net effect : romanticism, capitalism, and the internet // Thomas Streeter
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : New York University Press, c2010
ISBN	0-8147-4117-7 0-8147-0874-9
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (232 p.)
Collana	Critical cultural communication
Disciplina	303.48/33
Soggetti	Computers and civilization Computers - Social aspects Information technology - Social aspects Internet - Social aspects
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. "Self-Motivating Exhilaration" -- 2. Romanticism and the Machine -- 3. Missing the Net -- 4. Networks and the Social Imagination -- 5. The Moment of Wired -- 6. Open Source, the Expressive Programmer, and the Problem of Property -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Index -- About the Author
Sommario/riassunto	This book about America's romance with computer communication looks at the internet, not as harbinger of the future or the next big thing, but as an expression of the times. Streeter demonstrates that our ideas about what connected computers are for have been in constant flux since their invention. In the 1950's they were imagined as the means for fighting nuclear wars, in the 1960's as systems for bringing mathematical certainty to the messy complexity of social life, in the 1970's as countercultural playgrounds, in the 1980's as an icon for what's good about free markets, in the 1990's as a new frontier to be conquered and, by the late 1990's, as the transcendence of markets in an anarchist open source utopia. The Net Effect teases out how culture has influenced the construction of the internet and how the structure of the internet has played a role in cultures of social and political thought.

It argues that the internet's real and imagined anarchic qualities are not a product of the technology alone, but of the historical peculiarities of how it emerged and was embraced. Finding several different traditions at work in the development of the internet—most uniquely, romanticism—Streeter demonstrates how the creation of technology is shot through with profoundly cultural forces—with the deep weight of the remembered past, and the pressures of shared passions made articulate.
