Setting up your D-CENT ecosystem

You can find out more at
sso.dcentproject.eu

Or find it on GitHub at
**github.com/d-cent/
stonecutter**

WHY THE D-CENT ECOSYSTEM?

D-CENT has brought together the largest European community of open-source democracy tool developers, hackers, grassroots citizen movements and policymakers.

We aim to create a uniquely European open and decentralised approach, aimed at empowering ordinary citizens to take action for the common good. This would be an alternative to closed and centralised internet platforms whose business models rely on aggregating users' information and monetising the identity and social data of their users.

We value privacy and security, and our tools are built on open-source code and open standards. D-CENT federates these tools, but they can be combined in many ways to support specific democratic processes. The D-CENT tools build on open standards for a distributed identity management system that gives people control over their own social data.

STONECUTTER

The foundation for the D-CENT system is Stonecutter, a privacy-aware open authentication and identity management tool that provides a single sign on for using the D-CENT tools and applications. This system is designed to be straight-forward for community groups to set-up and host, allowing users to authorise access to their data for use in various applications from an easy-to-use dashboard, without resorting to centralised platforms.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

The tool provides federated and privacy-aware user management for organisations. It can be used to provide users with a single account to access multiple websites in their community. This allows users to sign in to different applications using just one password.

Stonecutter is open source and self-hosted, so any organisation can use it to manage the user base of their applications. It also provides users with a clear understanding of what information they are sharing with the websites they're connecting to.

TECHNICAL SPECS

Stonecutter was built in Clojure, a JVM-based language. Client-side code is written in ClojureScript and the CSS files are written in Sass. It uses a MongoDB database to store the user data.

THE TOOL IN ACTION

Stonecutter is currently being used by the following groups

- A British political party, to allow everyone to contribute to their campaign, including those who do not have a Facebook or Twitter account or who do not wish to link their social and political profiles.

- New Garden Cities Project, to allow those who do not have social media accounts to engage with the project.

- Internally at ThoughtWorks, to ensure that only trusted users have access to sensitive discussions.