

The Copy Commons

A Xerox Machine for Common Everyday Goods

We can still have the same industrial efficiency as factories at a neighborhood scale.

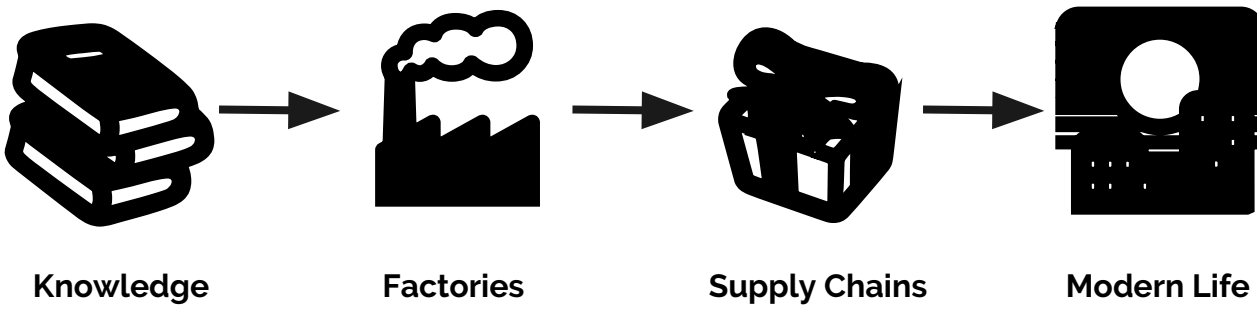
We will learn this by looking at this history of manufacturing and how recent advances make open source hardware possible.

During the industrial revolution 200+ years ago, knowledge workers needed to be on-site at the factory to use the production knowledge to make things.

It wasn't that practical to make industrial things locally. It was easier to create complex supply chains to deliver finished products.

These constraints contributed heavily to the structure of society we live in today.

The Past



Outcomes

- **Knowledge experts** work in one place, making factories necessary
- **Factories** mass produce goods, creating uniformity
- Manufactured goods travel long **supply chains**, wasting energy
- **Modern Life** revolves around consumerism and obsolescence

Now machines make things controlled by a computer. With this capability, people can make objects with no production knowledge at all, just an hour of training to draw 3D objects on a computer, and then they can make something real.

With the Internet, these designs can be shared, and built upon. Now things can be made locally, with lifetime design, and with significantly less waste.

The Transition

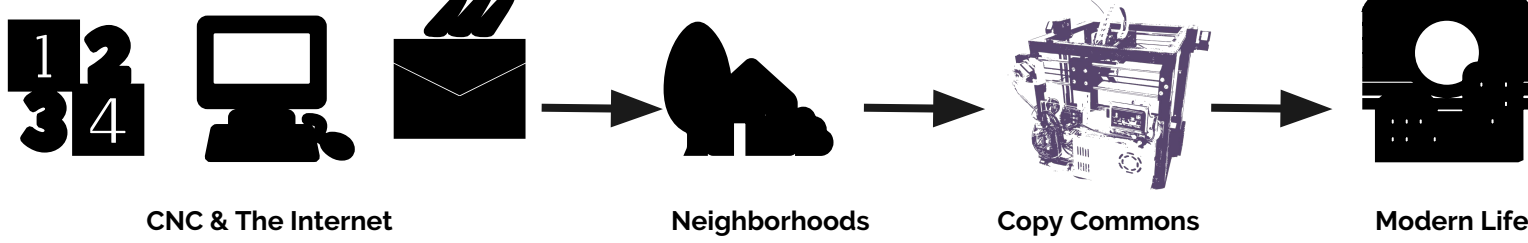


Outcomes

- **CNC** turns designs into products, without production knowledge
- **The Internet** makes designs and production knowledge accessible to all
- **Specialized Knowledge** can belong to the public commons, not only the privileged few

With open sourced hardware, there can be a “copy commons” in every neighborhood, connected to the Internet, where people can build the things they need to last a lifetime using pre-made designs and modifying them as needed to suit their specific circumstances.

The Future



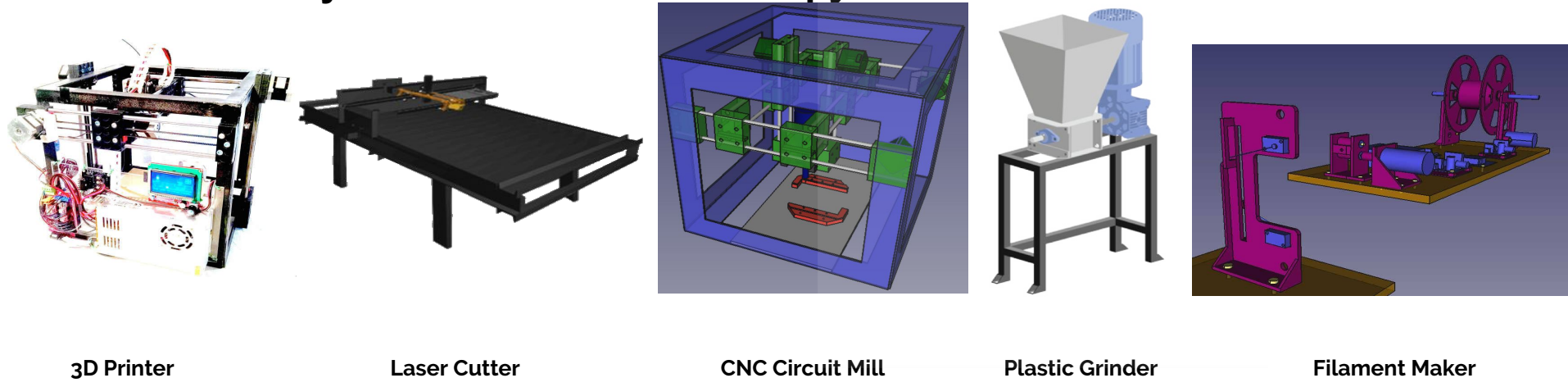
Outcomes

- **Distributed knowledge** equips folks to make things anytime, anywhere
- **Community scale infrastructure** enables made-to-order goods at industrial efficiency
- Goods are made local and repaired indefinitely at neighborhood “**copy commons**,” eliminating waste
- **Modern Life** revolves around “producerism” and lifetime design

The copy commons is like a xerox machine for consumer goods and more.

Today Open Source Ecology has prototypes of the first 5 machines of the copy commons, which would let you make things like cell phones, drones, and vacuums.

The microfactory: the starter kit for the copy commons



Outcomes

- Enable **localized production** to support entrepreneurship and material wealth
- Achieve **lifetime design** with all consumer goods, including things like vacuum cleaners, digital cameras, and aerial drones: saving energy and reducing waste
- Shift communities away from consumerism and towards “**producerism**”

The copy commons is part of a larger set of 50 machines called the Global Village Construction Set.

These machines let you process materials, make other machines, and directly make the modern goods we enjoy today.

By open sourcing hardware, we can take the land under our feet and produce modern standards.