
Datadroppers & Studio Station, open data service and libraries

2015-16

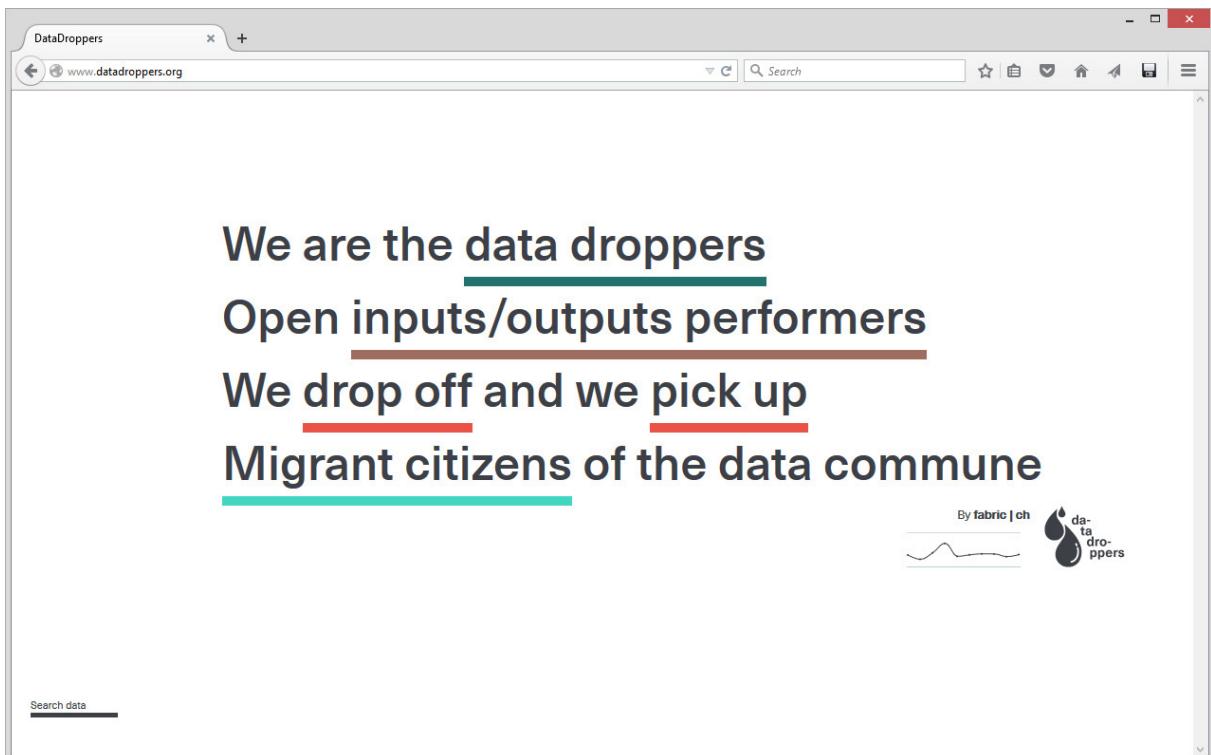
Project by fabric | ch

Location: Internet

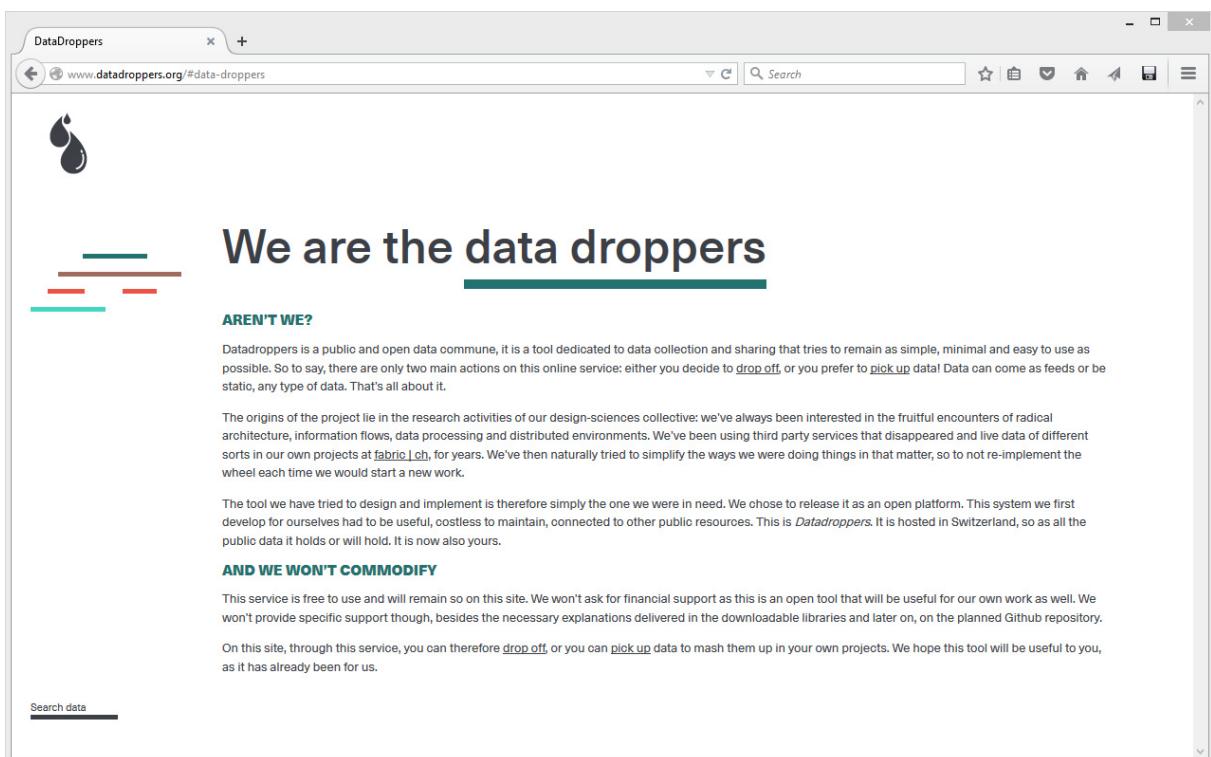
First exhibited during Poetics and Politics of Data at the Haus der Elektronischen Künste (HEK), in Basel (CH)

<http://www.datadroppers.org>

- Data commune
- Online tool for data sharing and mashup, usable by all devices that produce dynamic or static public data
- No login, no password, no terms of service: an “unsocial,” “unprofiled,” and “uncommodifiable” online service
- Service for open data storage, indexation, and retrieval
- Printable domestic hacks for sensor casings (RasPi)
- Data Droppers, Diggers, Pickers, ...



[Img. 1]



[Img. 2]

Open inputs/outputs performers

Migrant citizens of the data commune

The 'Open inputs/outputs performers' section discusses how data becomes public through the website. It explains that users can search for specific data types like 'GPS' or 'Info'. It also mentions the 'horizontal citizenship' concept where data is shared among participants.

The 'Migrant citizens of the data commune' section is a more advanced version of the first. It includes a 'No CITIZEN LOGIN' section, a 'horizontal citizenship' logo, and a 'Search data' bar.

[Img. 3, 4]

We drop off and we pick up

USES OF THE DATADROPPERS SERVICE

The purpose of this web service is to share public data. It's very simple nature is explained in the Open inputs/outputs performers section. You don't need to create an account to start using the datadropers.org service.

You can just start by searching for some data (tags, labels, units, types, locations, etc.), get info about them and then possibly pick up the chosen data feed. You can also decide to drop off one of your own.

You can also download documented libraries for you own use.

PICK UP DATA INFO
PICK UP DATA LAST VALUE
PICK UP DATA HISTORIC VALUES
DROP OFF DATA
DROP OFF DATA VALUE

[Img. 5]

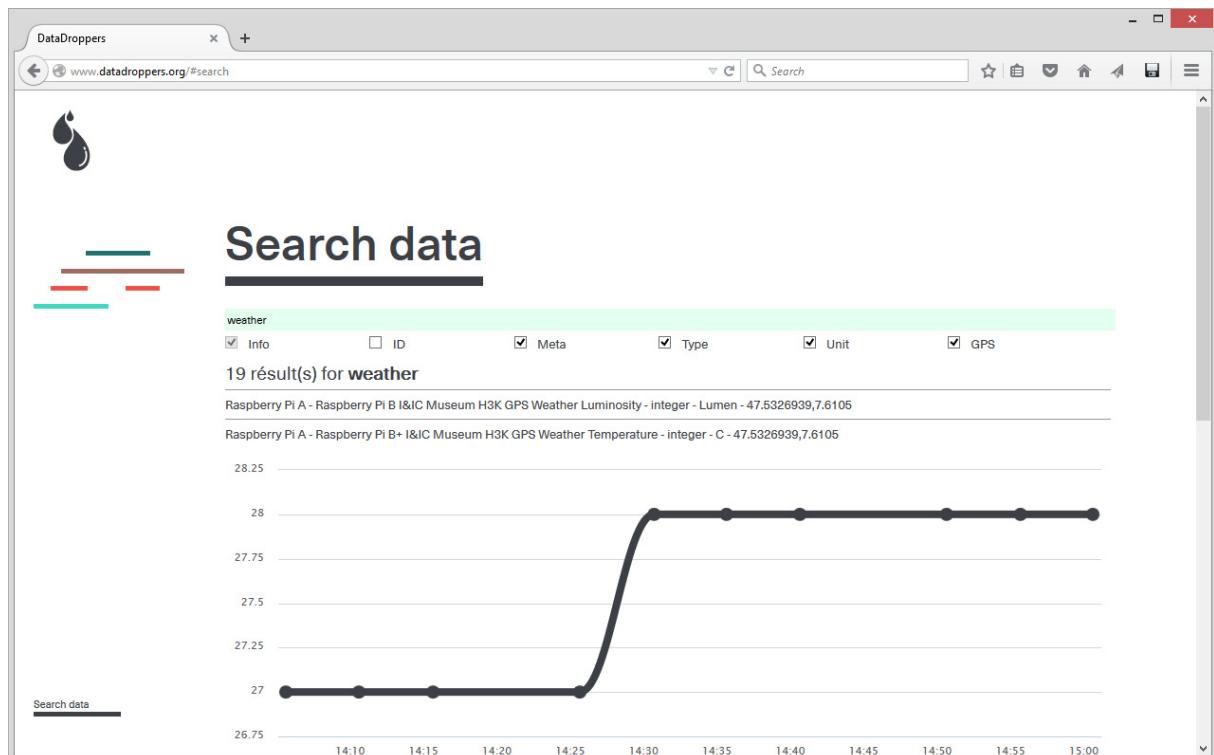
Search data

Search data

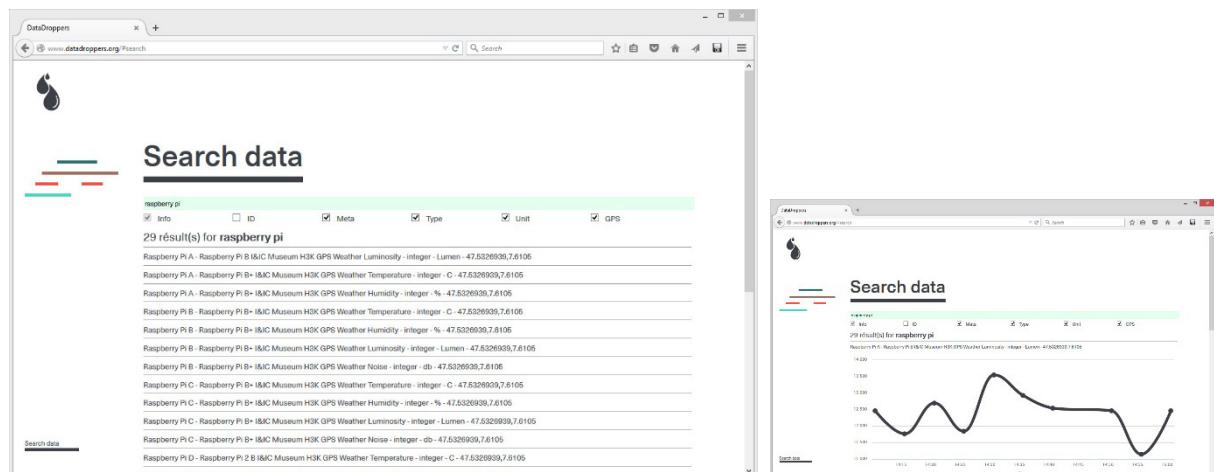
The left screenshot shows a search bar with filters for 'Info', 'ID', 'Meta', 'Type', 'Unit', and 'GPS'. The right screenshot shows the results for a search term 'weather', listing 19 results. Each result includes a timestamp and a detailed description of the data type and location.

Result	Description
Raspberry Pi A - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Luminosity	Integer - Lumen -47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi A - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Temperature	Integer -47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi A - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Humidity	Integer % 47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi B - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Temperature	Integer -C-47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi B - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Humidity	Integer % 47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi B - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Luminosity	Integer Lumen 47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi B - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Noise	Integer -47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi C - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Temperature	Integer -47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi C - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Humidity	Integer % -47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi C - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Luminosity	Integer Lumen 47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi C - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Noise	Integer -47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi D - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Temperature	Integer -C-47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi D - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Humidity	Integer % -47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi D - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Luminosity	Integer Lumen 47.52026936,7.6105
Raspberry Pi D - Raspberry Pi B + IAC Museum HK GPS Weather Noise	Integer -47.52026936,7.6105

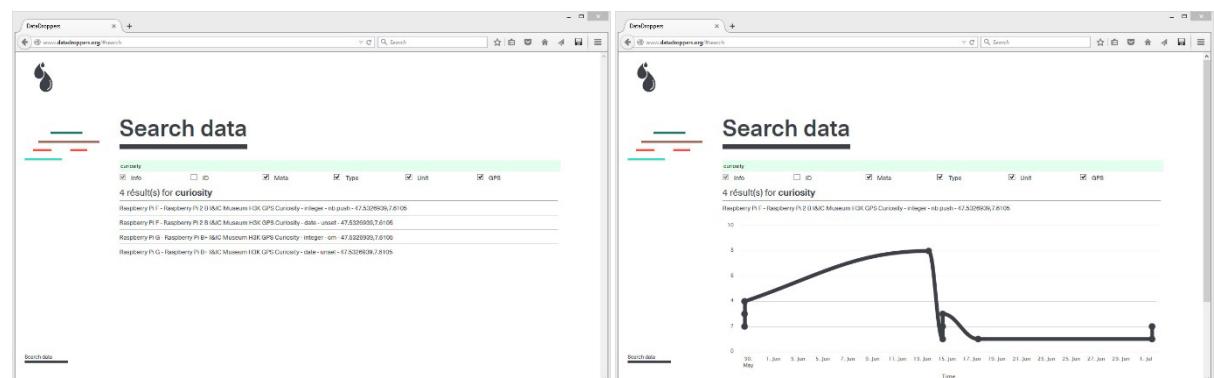
[Img. 6, 7]



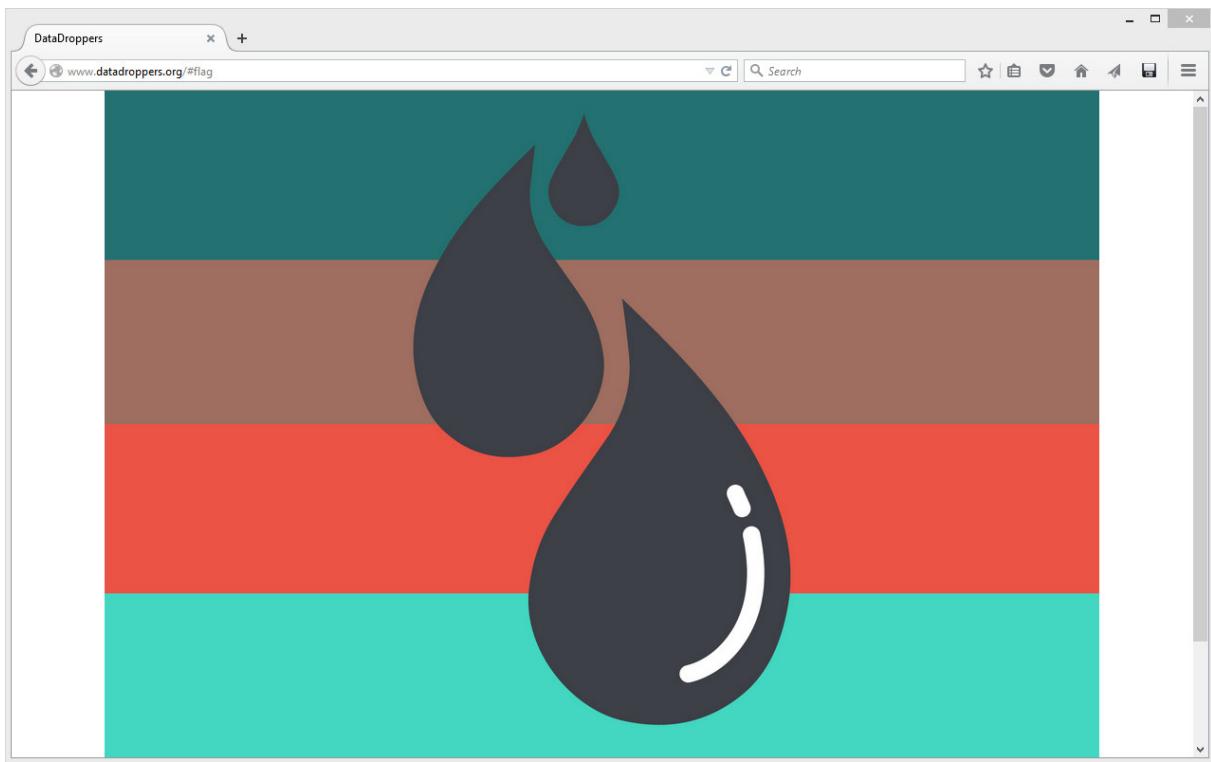
[Img. 8]



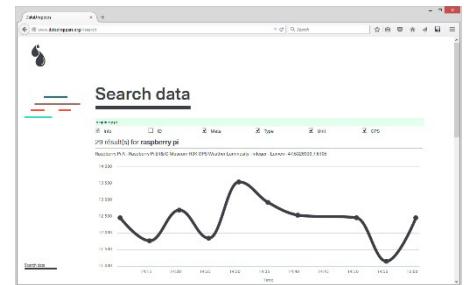
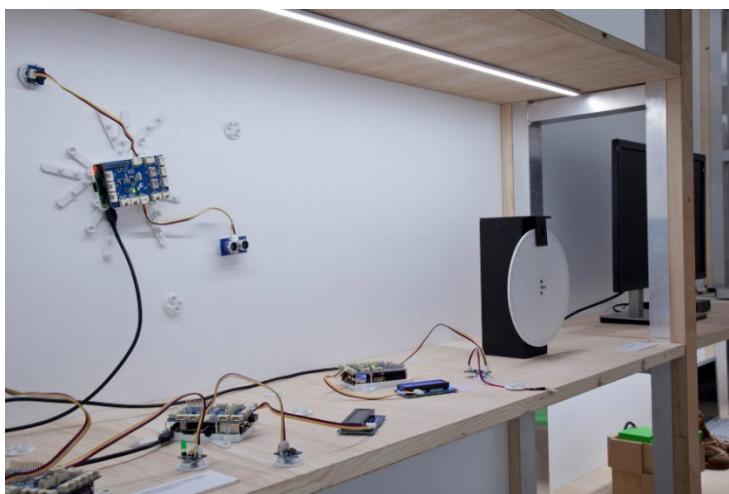
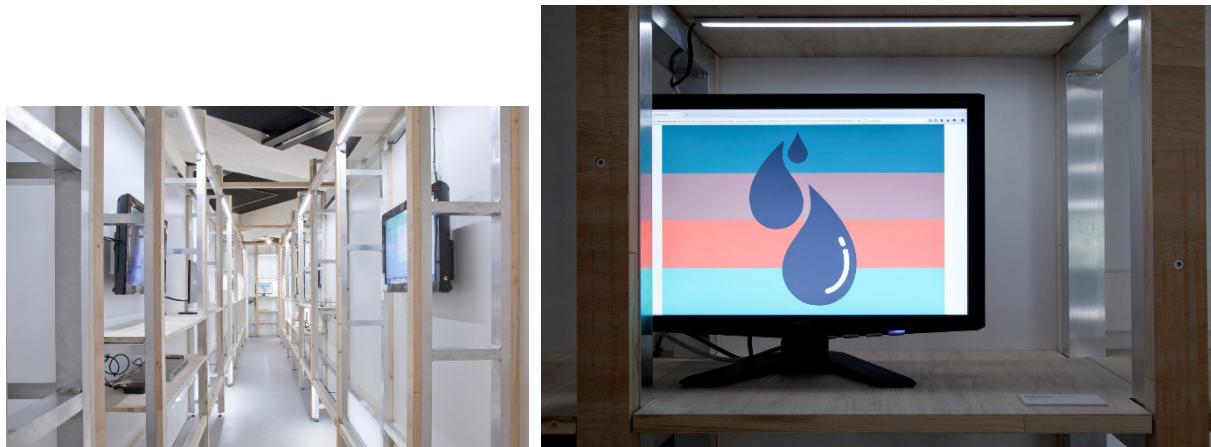
[Img. 9, 10]



[Img. 11, 12]



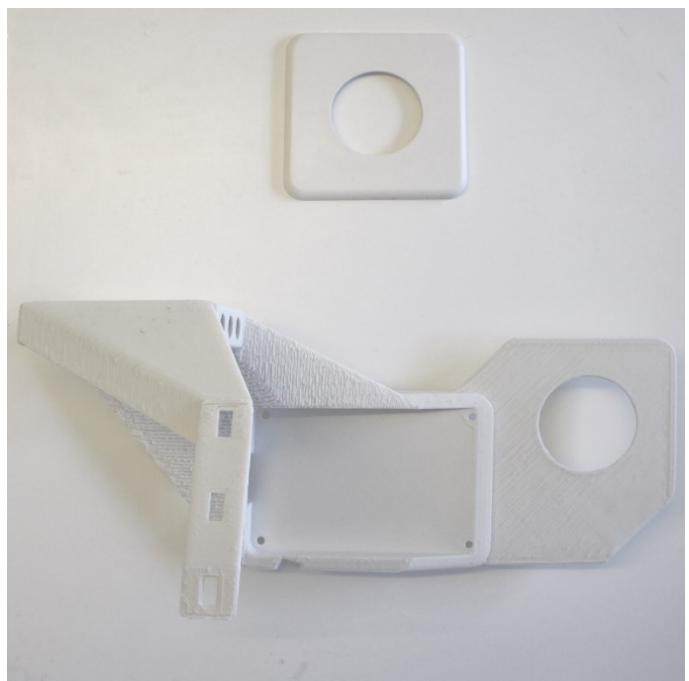
[Img. 13]



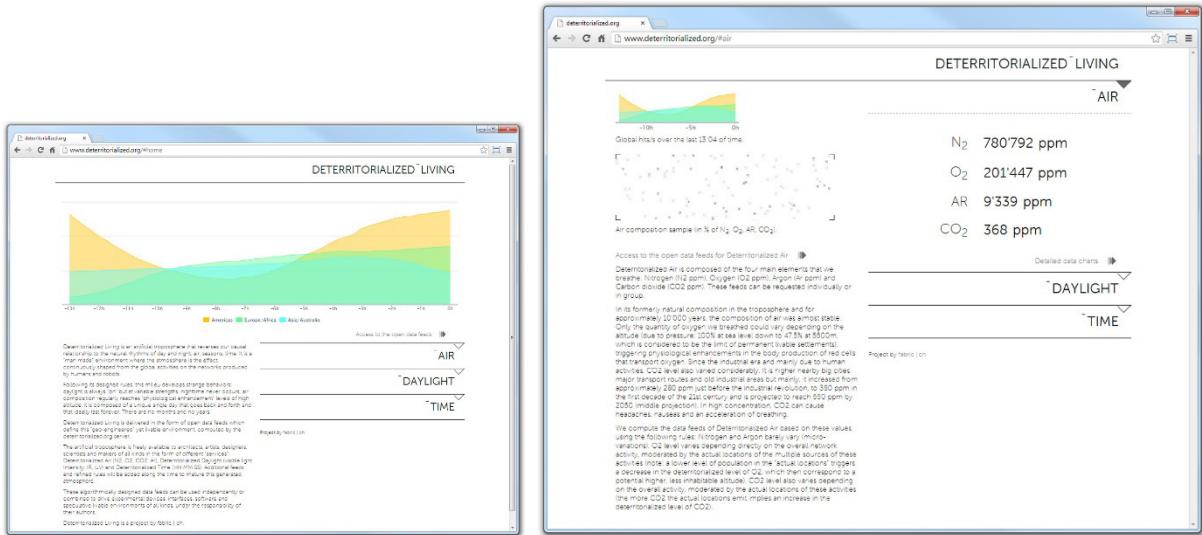
[Img. 14, 15, 16, 17]



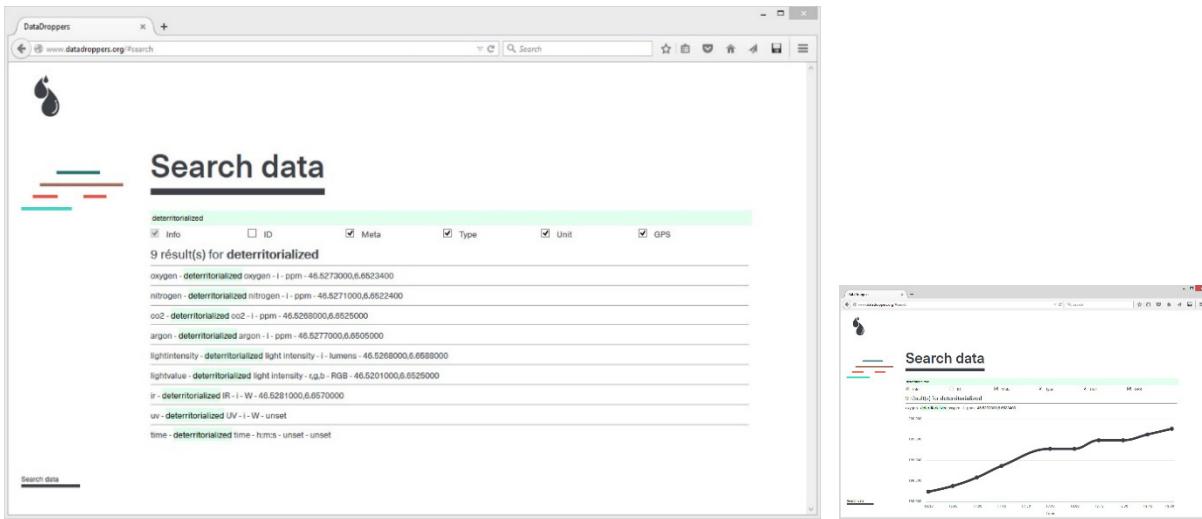
[Img. 18]



[Img. 19, 20]



[Img. 21, 22]



[Img. 23, 24]

Image captions:

- [Img. 1] **Web service access page, statement as navigation and interface.**
- [Img. 2-4] **Statement, pages.**
- [Img. 5] **Web service command lines that allow one to declare ("drop off") and retrieve ("pick up") various data values.**
- [Img. 6-8] **Search data section (in this case, "classical" weather data produced by sensors).**
- [Img. 9-12] **Data produced and declared by Raspberry Pis during the Poetics and Politics of Data exhibition at the Haus der Elektronischen Künste in Basel. Different data can also appear; in this example, we can see a "Curiosity" value. It is produced by simple buttons with no functional explanations given at all about their uses displayed randomly within the exhibition.**
- [Img. 13] **Datadropplers comes with a downloadable flag.**
- [Img. 14-17] **The project was exhibited during the exhibition Poetics and Politics of Data at the Haus der Elektronischen Künste in Basel. Sensors mounted on Raspberry Pis produce live data that is retrieved and displayed during the exhibition.**
- [Img. 18-20] **Studio Station is a set of printable casings for Raspberry Pis (model 2 and later). They come as small hacks of existing elements that can be found in domestic environments.**
- [Img. 21-24] **Another type of data that can and will be accessible from Datadropplers' web service are fictional data, or the ones generated by creative projects of all sorts. In this example, the project Deterritorialized Living – <http://www.deterritorialized.org> –, an artificial climate delivered in the form of data feeds, has sent the data generated about its fictitious climate to datadropplers.org. The project can therefore be retrieved from the Datadropplers service, as well.**

Txt

Datadropers

We are the data droppers

Aren't we?

Datadropers is a public and open data commune; it is a tool dedicated to data collection and sharing that tries to remain as simple, minimal, and easy-to-use as possible. Hence, there are only two main actions on this online service: either you drop off or pick up data! Data can come as feeds or be static, any type of data will work. That's all there is to it.

The origins of the project lie in the experimental activities of our design-sciences collective: we've always been interested in the fruitful encounters of radical architecture, information flows, data processing and distributed environments. We've been using third-party services which have disappeared (most notably Pachube) and live data of different sorts in our own projects at fabric | ch, for years. We've then tried naturally to simplify ways of doing things in that matter, so as not to reinvent the wheel each time we started a new work.

The tool we have tried to design, and implement is therefore simply the one we needed. We chose to release it as an open platform. This system which we first developed for ourselves had to be useful, costless to maintain, connected to other public resources. This is Datadropers. It is hosted in Switzerland, as is all the public data it holds or will hold. It is now also yours.

And we won't commodify

This service is free to use and will remain so on this site. We won't ask for financial support, as this is an open tool that will be useful for our own work, as well. We won't provide specific support though, besides the necessary explanations delivered in the downloadable libraries or some occasional updates and, later, on the planned Github repository.

On this site, through this service, you can therefore drop off, or you can pick up data to mash them up in your own projects. We hope this tool will be useful to you, as it has already been for us.

Public Data

The data that is "dropped" through this (datadropers.org) website becomes public. Anybody can search for, read or "pick" the data, including the NSA or any corporate service. Once declared and as long as your feed(s) remains active, your data will be archived for your own needs, but also for anybody else's requirements to use in their own projects, for as long as datadropers.org is up and running.

Be aware that there will be no possibility for erasing data. As a future participant in the data commune, you should be careful about this point and shouldn't publish important data if you believe they should not become public and "permanent." Consider them as a

gift to other participants, as you'll benefit from the data of others. This is how we'll keep this service open, simple to manage, costless and free.

There is and will be no login, so there is and will be no logout. No terms of service and no changes in terms of service, no accounts, no profiles, no friends, no likes, no metadata. Only raw data that we don't really care about. These "absences" should guarantee that we can't do much on our side about these data. Alone, data is meaningless. It's what you do or what your projects/programs do that will matter. If you look more carefully at the command lines though, you'll probably understand that you can nonetheless make your data private or rather hidden in some ways if you would like to do so by choosing very personal tags or labels, for example.

How to use

There are two main actions possible on this site, either you drop off your data (declare your data) or you can also pick up (get) dropped off data after searching for them. Data can be of any kind, static or dynamic in the form of feeds. You can become an open inputs/outputs data performer by "picking up" dropped material and combining it into new forms, visualizations, or projects.

Besides these two main actions, there are several others that are quickly presented and documented in the We drop off and we pick up section of Datadropper's website. There are also libraries (Processing, JavaScript) that can be downloaded.

No citizen login

No login. No password.

We've removed these functionalities to avoid the possibility of creating profiles. We don't need your information, as this place is considered to consist of "public," horizontal citizenship. We would like to consider this project as an experiment. Almost no rules and a flat structure, only raw "dropped" data.

This "horizontal citizenship" comes with a flag, like that of a micro-nation, unless we are not, and we don't plan to become a nation. We move.

Datadroppers does remind us of the commune indeed... and, even so, we don't pretend to be communards; there are some obvious winks to past social experiments on this site. We range ourselves on the side of Utopia. It will undoubtedly be an interesting experiment to conduct in connection with data.

"Unsocial" and "unprofiled"

We have no plans to turn this service into a product. We're designers and coders, and we'll also use it in our work, this way... This is our tool.

Should we change our mind, like many predecessors did or had to do... Then the good point would be that there are no terms of service to change and essentially no profiles to commodify. It would then possibly be a complementary service, on a different site, for people who desire their data to remain private or be able to manage them in more specific ways.

But these kinds of services already exist...

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