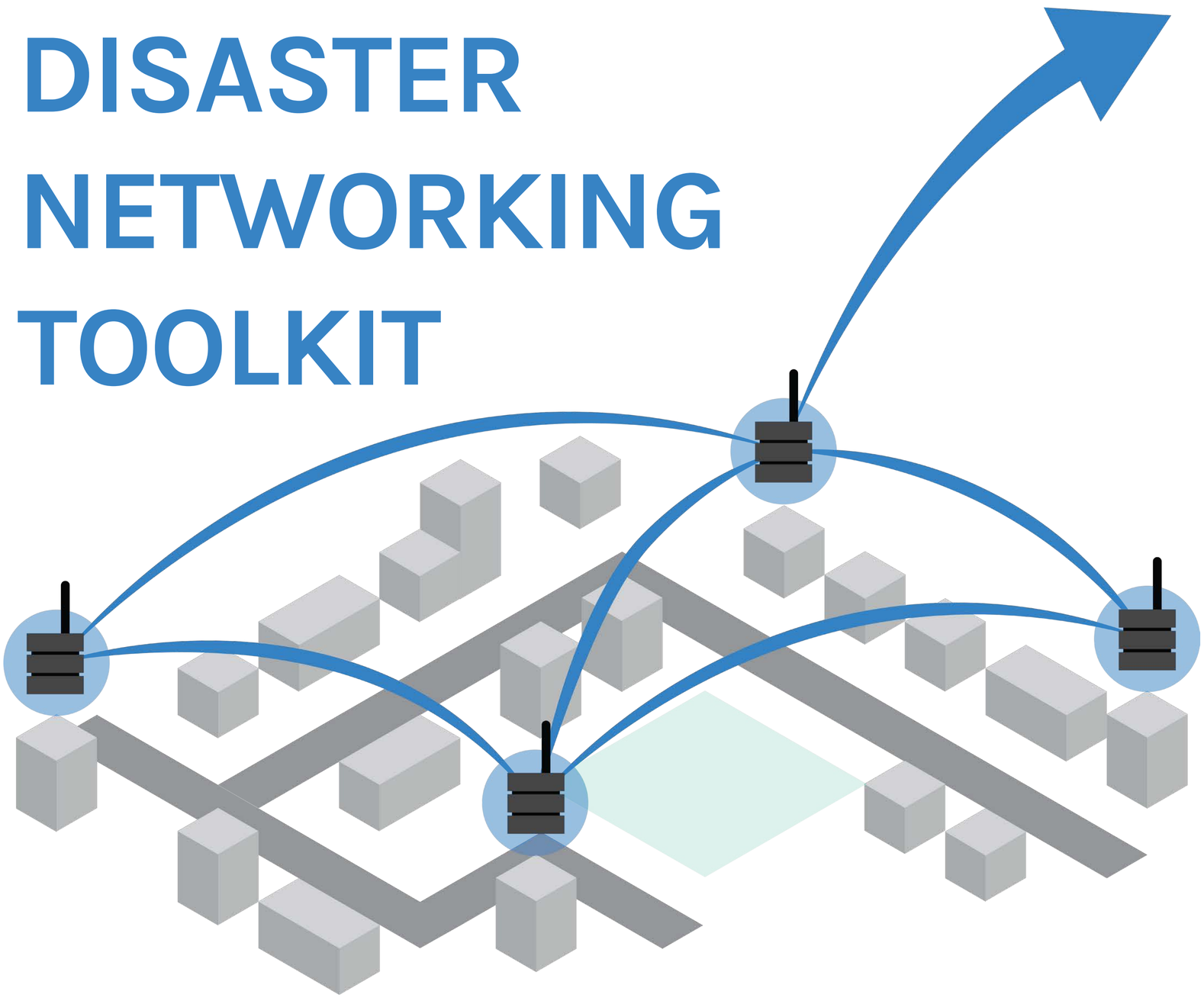
Fognet

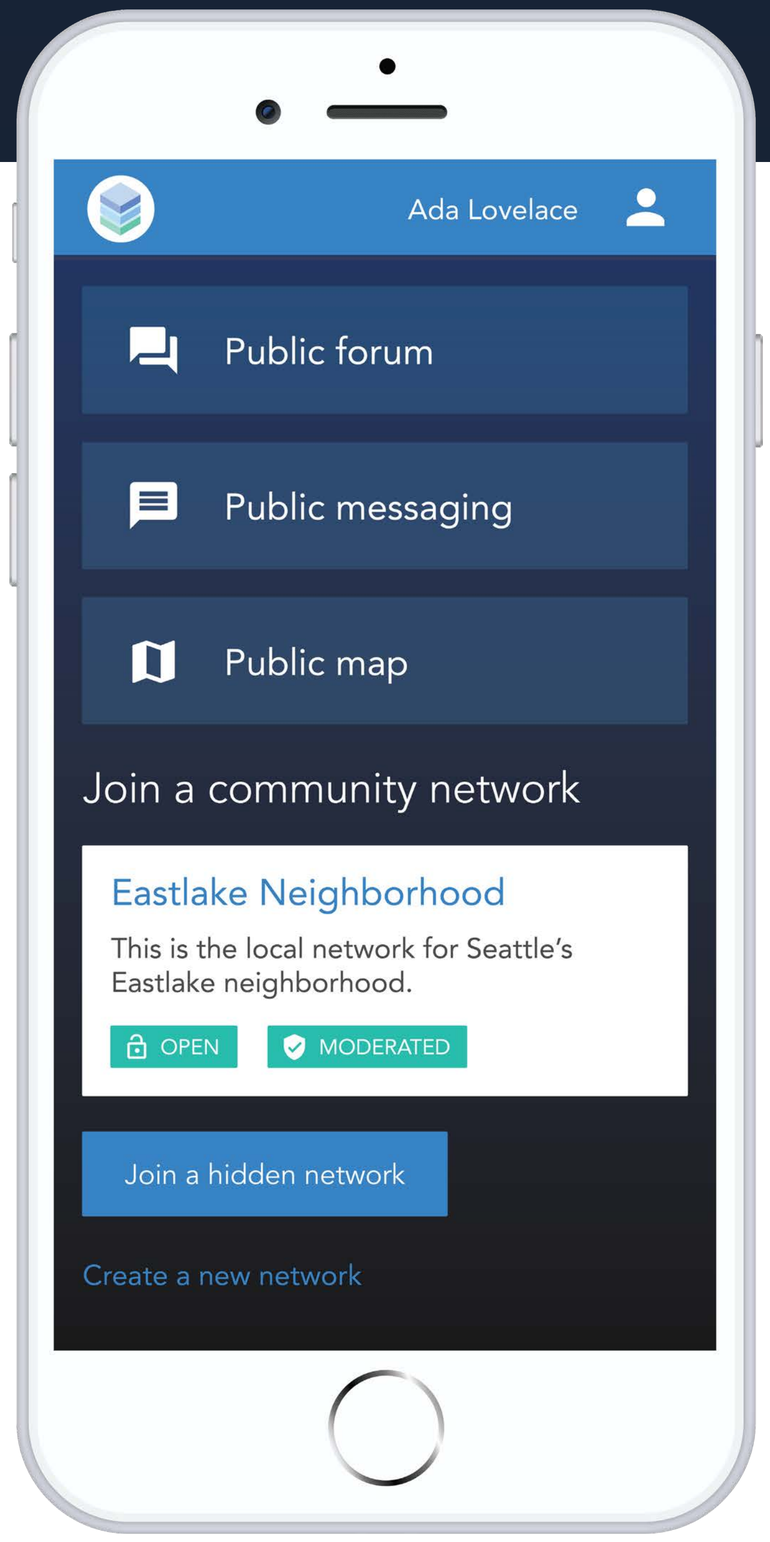
Helping communities help each other.

How might mesh networking support mutual aid and community resilience during disasters?

During a disaster, centralized communication infrastructures are especially vulnerable to failure. And most of the platforms and services we rely on for daily communication are designed for commercial interests rather than for developing community autonomy and resilience.

DISASTER NETWORKING TOOLKIT





Peer-to-peer connectivity

Fognet nodes work together with phones and laptops in the area to distribute direct peer-to-peer connectivity, without relying on internet service providers. The nodes are portable and battery powered.

Create custom networks

Fognet provides a default public network, but anyone can create open, private, or hidden networks using Fognet, enabling communities to define their own policies for participation.

Open source SDK

Fognet can be extended directly by the communities that use it! The Fognet SDK provides modules that support the core needs identified in our research: trust, information prioritization, and inclusivity.

Community-oriented research

We explored mesh networking as a way for people to share information and organize direct-aid within their communities during a rapid-onset disaster, when internet or cell service may be unavailable or unable to meet emergent community needs. We worked with community members engaged in Seattle-area grassroots disaster readiness and response planning.

Key findings

The communities we worked with helped identify that **trust** and **information prioritization** were among the most important concepts during disaster communication. But different people define these differently, so a community networking solution must be adaptable to account for many different expressions of trust, urgency, and relevance.

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