SAFETY TECH

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Loudhailer

SILICON CAPE
INITIATIVE

Contents**.**

Overview.

The purpose of having the Community Property meetings is for all parties partaking in the discussions to learn from each other and for everyone to have the opportunity to talk to each other. Participants included individual representatives from The Loudhailer, Amit Ramdath-Tech Entrepreneur, Aiden-Data Scientist, Avatron, My Black Box, Autonosky, Telicon, Full Stack, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, African Ideas, My Life Line, Solution House Software, Upalo, Chain Link Security and the key host Kerry Petrie.

Community of Practice was proposed by two anthropologists Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger and consists of a group of people who share a concern or passion for something they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. The definition is very broad and can be applied to a group of engineers, civil servants and even street gang. It is essentially a pure working group working collaboratively to leverage their shared resources for mutual benefits.

The three key elements of CoP focus on:

1. The Domain which members are brought together by a learning need they share, and here in the Western Cape that domain is the DASH-tech inititative. This is made up of Safety Tech, 4-IR Tech, Screen Tech, Fintech and Township Tech, and the focus of this specific CoP is Safety Tech.

2. The Community which involves all stakeholders and is a collective of learning which becomes a strength and bond over time formed over a common ground that strengthens each individual path.

3. The Practice involves in these interactions producing resources that effect the work done and reinforces community work.

Safety Tech as a catch all phrase is a very broad term entailing many different products and services from personal, cybersecurity, food security, community security space, gender-based violence space, surveillance. It is very broad and encompaases different components.

Defining SafetyTech.

Safetytech incorporates all technology-focused systems and processes, hardware, software and resources that contribute to the creation of an environment where adverse incidents are minimised, and citizens are abel to lead lives fee from fear of personal harm or asset loss

As part of the CoP workshop, participants were split into two breakaway rooms to integrate the above definition and give a response and whether this definition is helpful.

Breakaway Definition Discussion Points for Consideration:

•   Affordability and accessibility- tech is predominantly reserved for middle to upper income and there needs to be more inclusivity of lower income communities

•   Through tech we can be more proactive on prevention of issues such as crime

•   Contribution is a key word in the deifiniton. We need to integrate efforts into the broader society and have an integrated approach between stakeholders

•   Some situations are only able to be addressed froma reactionary stance i.e natural disasters, acccidents. Increasing resonse time to address situations

•   We need to emphasise the human element and highlight the importance of human intellegince. Tech is useful but needs to be in the right hand.

How could CoP support our work? Challenges & Opportunities:

•   How do we start to combine community safety/ security resources? Through integration of tech to empower communities to take control of their own environments. We cna also utilize computer vision and create opportunities for collaboration

•   Exponential growth in cybersecurity threats. Consideration for voluntary rapid response team

•   Consideration of drone security an deploying drones in emergency situations

•   There is also a lack of data and need for creation of verification methods for counterfeit products within poorer communities

•   Create a free community platfrom. There is still a very silo'd approach and proctiveness. When can we work together for the benefit of the country?

•   Difficulty engaging with local government. There is a need to consider some of the legislative restrictions causing hindrances and progression.

•   Lack of collaboration between stakeholders and communities. We need to form collaborations and legislation around community buy-in and there is a huge amount of collaboration to integrate with stakeholders to create an ecosystem

•   Lack of access and skills to tech and resources

•   Lack of data

•   Need to knowledge sharing

•   People have their own agendas which can overshadow these types of discussions.

•   How do you bypass connectivity issues like electricity within poorer communities ? Possibility of looking into solar options

•   Opportunity to involve big business and enyterprises to solve the under-sourced community infrastructure issues

•   How can tech be improved/ adapted?

•   Networking opportunities

How do we identify a way forward?

The project will run until March 2022 as it was originally conceived as a three year project, but due to COVID it has been reduced to a just over a two year project. In terms of taking it forward, this first CoP was an opportunity to meet and get a sense of who might be interested in taking on some service, what kind of issues could be addressed and if there is an appetite.

These challenges and opportunities are exactly what CoPs are built for. CoPs are built for strengthening relationships between stakeholders for improved collaboration, creating collectives that can move as new entities in the world that can be used for collective bargaining, lobbying, engagement and legislation, positioning as a cluster and built for that resource sharing and learning so that we can improve our own work in that way.

Next Steps.

The programme is going to run an additional **three CoPs per workstream** between now and the end of the next financial year for DEDAT which will be in March 2021. One in January, February and the last in March. We want to start building on and refining the kind of work the CoP can do for participants. It needs to be beneficial for everyone.

We need to think about regularly participants want to meet over this two year period? Are there particular leadership structures participants want to engage with? Do participants want sub-committees? How best can logistics and operations work within participants existing schedules?

In addition to these three CoPs, The Loudhailer and Silicon Cape will be hosting **three Roundtable Sessions**.

The roundtables are there to bring experts into the room to see how support leadership is evolving aroun challenges. CoPs are about learning and mutual resource leveraging. If there are any networks or organizations participants know and feel will be vital inputs to either of these engagements, please send an email to engage@siliconcape.com. The Loudhailer and Silicon Cape will be holding and coordinating the supportive administrative side of the workshop which takes awya the burden from individual participants.

The other important next step to consider is signing up for the project newsletter on the Silcon Cape website. This way participants can get a sense of when the next CoPs and Roundtables are happening and any updates happening in specific workstreams.

NB: If any information mentioned in the main meeting room that participants do not want to be identified with and it will be captured in the report with no indication of who said it.

Recommendations by Participants:

Ansu Sooful

• Set up a linkage with each of the members of the CoP through linked in or similar channels of communication.

• A grouping for commuinicating some of the activities being undertaken from a community perspective and draw on one anothers strengths and capabilities to do some of things being set out to achieve.

Kerry Petrie

• Loudhailer team to do an email to the attendees with a couple of suggestions of communication channels, slack, whatsapp etc, in order to get a quick sense of how best would like to engage.