



A “Disruptive Standard” for Quantified Self data?

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What's the State of QS Data Today?

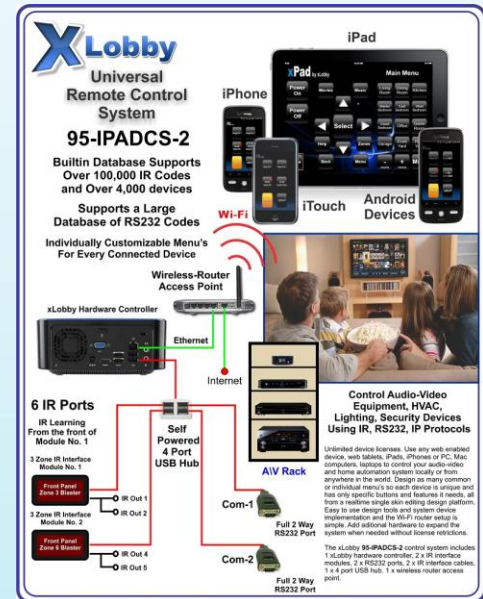


- Exploding
- Siloed
- No common interchange standards
- Device-focused, not data-focused
- Everyone wants to “import”, no one wants to “export”



A “Universal Standard”?

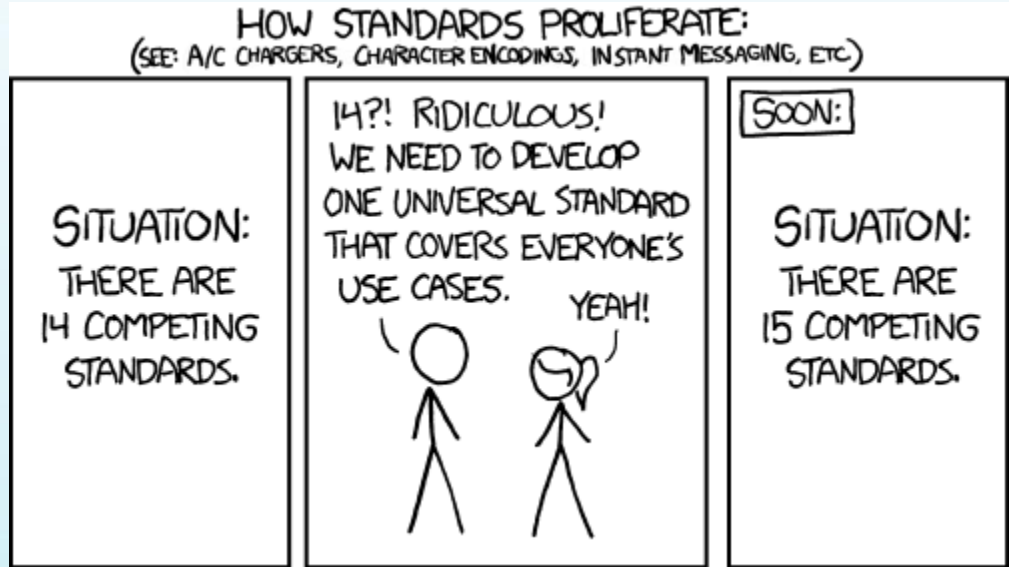
- Might solve the QS data interoperability problem
- If it were feasible





“Universal” Standards are Rare

- Easy to *declare* a standard universal
- Hard to have it become universal
- Cf. universal remotes
- [Cf. https://xkcd.com/927/](https://xkcd.com/927/)



Strategies for universal standard



Strategy

- It “learns” all the others
- It federates all the others
- It tolerates all the others
- It’s so nice no one has the heart to tell it it doesn’t understand all the others

Drawback

- It’s always behind the curve
- They all have to agree
- Not very universal
- Let’s talk a bit more about this one...



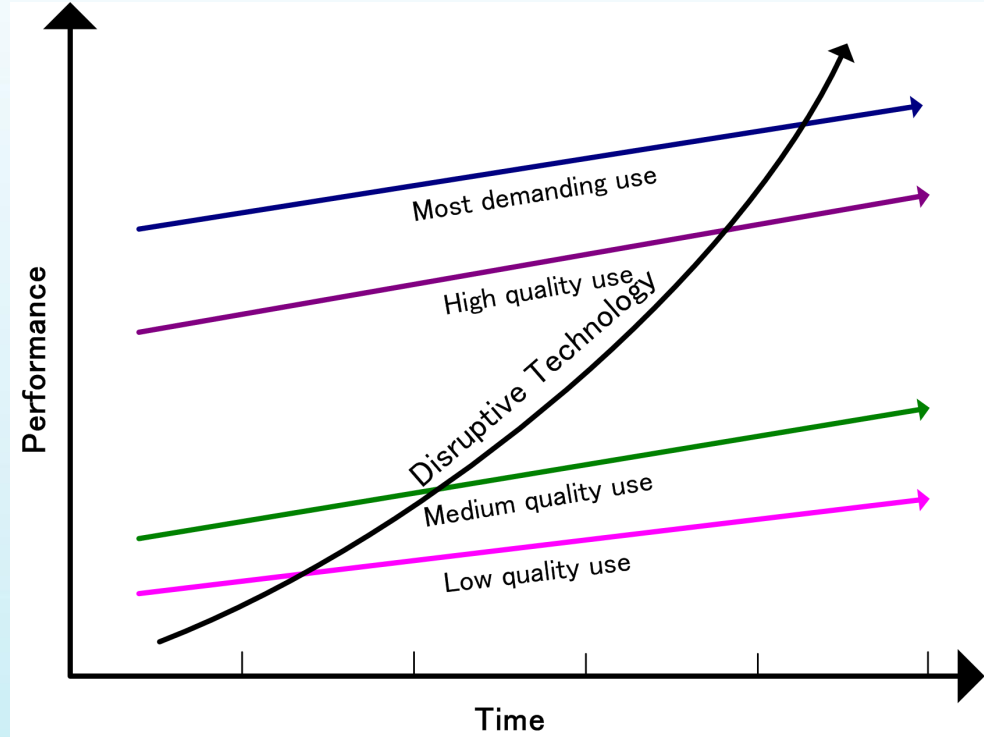
A Disruptive Standard

- Disruptive Standard : Incumbent Standard ::
Disruptive Technology : Incumbent Technology
- Disruptive standards are good candidates for universal standards



Clay Christensen 101

- What is a “Disruptive Technology”?
- How does it disrupt?
- From below





http: A Disruptive Standard

- Only three “verbs” in http 1.0
 - GET, POST, HEAD
 - No limit to # of verbs (or who implements them)
- Agnostic about payloads
- No checking or guarantees
- Stateless



Why Did HTTP Kill Gopher?

“Gopher ha[d] a more rigid structure compared to the free-form [HTML](#) of the Web. With Gopher, every document ha[d] a defined format and type, and the typical user navigate[d] through a single server-defined menu system to get to a particular document. This can be quite different from the way a typical user might traverse documents on the Web.”

Wikipedia, “Gopher/Stagnation”

i.e., http was a better candidate because it was a less dictatorial, “nicer”, “simpler”, disruptive standard



Copy/Cut/Paste: A Disruptive Standard

- Only three verbs
- Payload agnostic
- Allowed point-to-point support
- No checking or guarantees
- Stateless



Copy/Paste Enabled PC app Interoperability

- Systematized at Xerox PARC
- Popularized by Apple
 - Extended beyond text editors to arbitrary blobs
 - Recipient could support or not



Gorillas and Disruptive QS Stds

- Amazon
 - Wearable Tech store lags marketplace
- Apple
 - Cf. App Store: a commerce focus without interoperability
- Google
 - Calico
- Other?



Some QS Disruptive Std Wannabes

- HealthBook
- TeleHash
- Thali
- Personal APIs
- Kynetx
- Mydex
- iCal
- Others??