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# Cloud of Cards

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## 2018

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Research direction by fabric | ch (in collaboration with N. Nova)

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Clients: ECAL, HES-SO (CH)

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Project developed in the context of Inhabiting & Interfacing the Cloud(s), joint design research between ECAL / University of Art and Design, Lausanne & HEAD - Genève, with the participation of ALICE Lab (Atelier de la conception de l'espace, EPFL. Prof. D. Dietz and EPFL+ECAL Lab)

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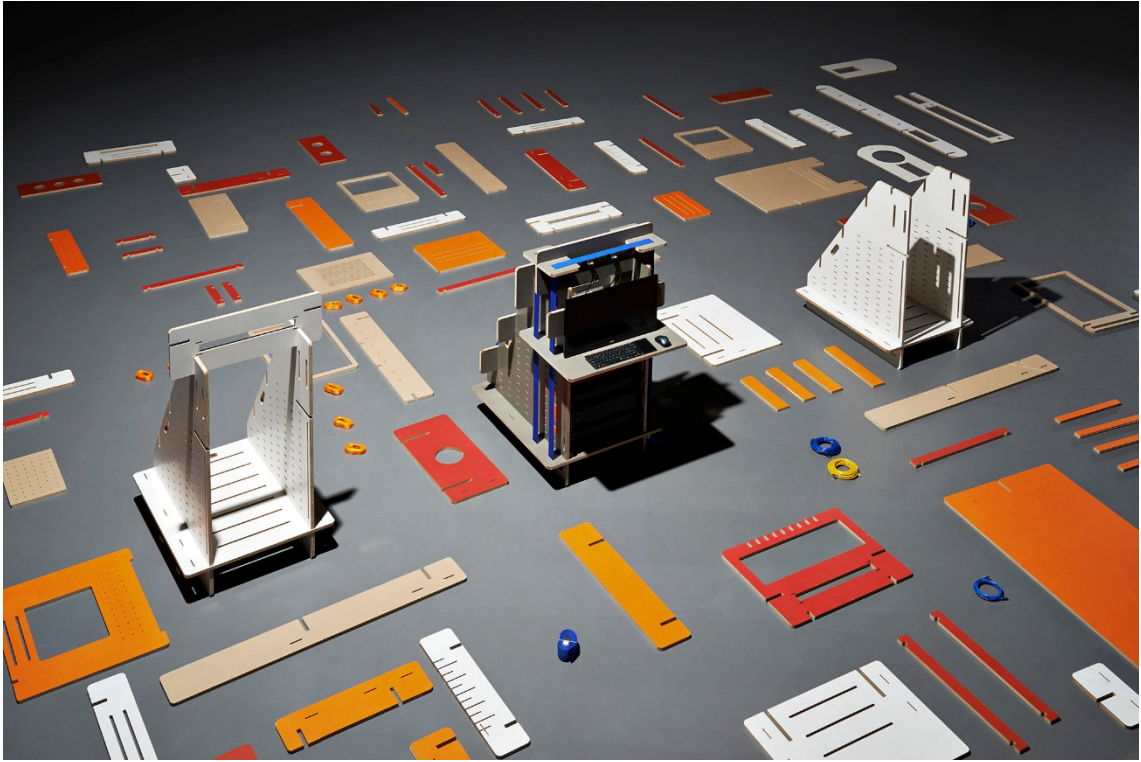
Location: Internet

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<http://www.cloudofcards.org>

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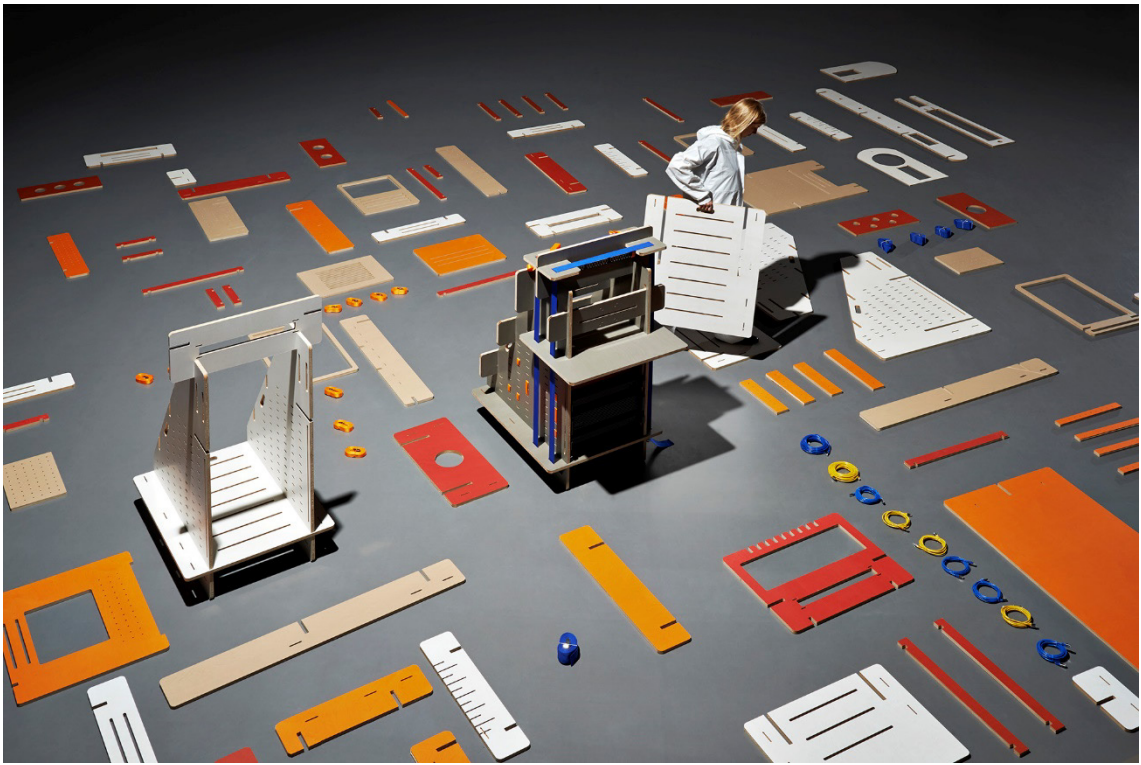
- Personal cloud infrastructure, to be used as a DIY kit
- Open-source home cloud
- Digital domesticity, tools for personal sovereignty
- Combined physical & digital artifacts
- Creative commons framework dissemination



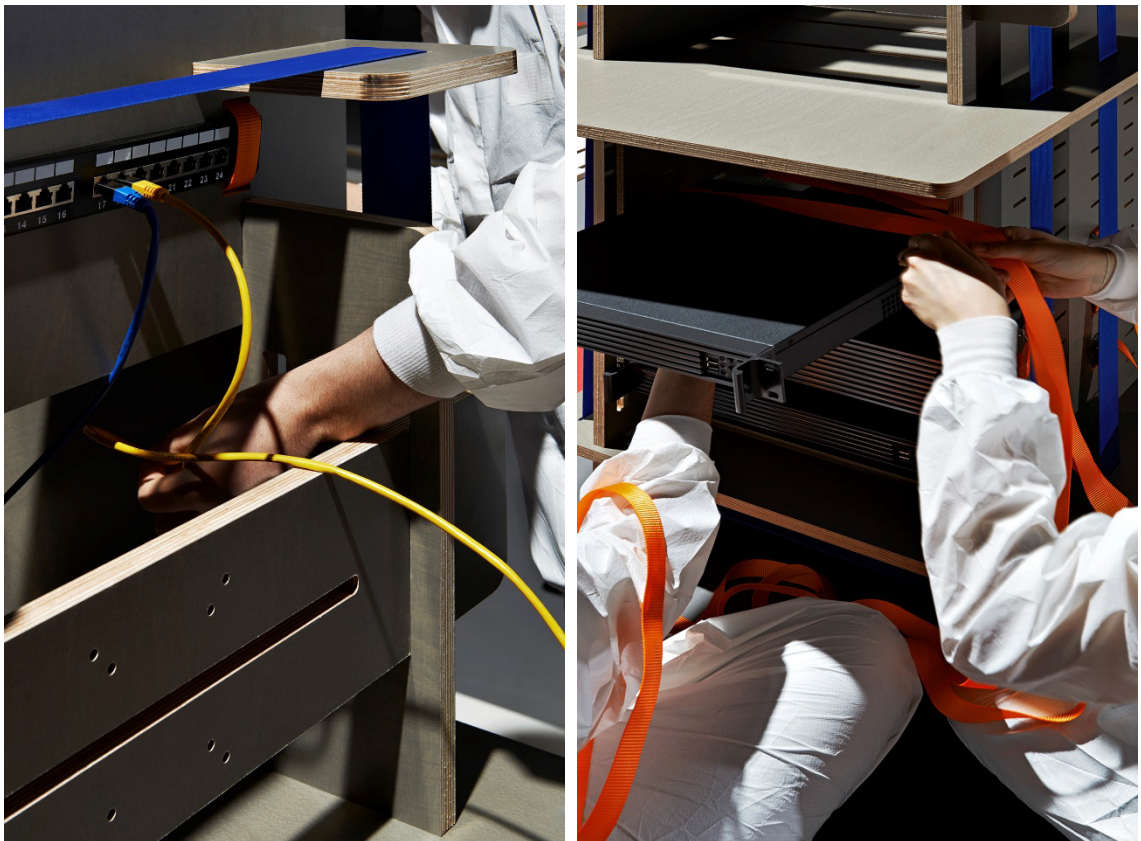
[Img. 1]



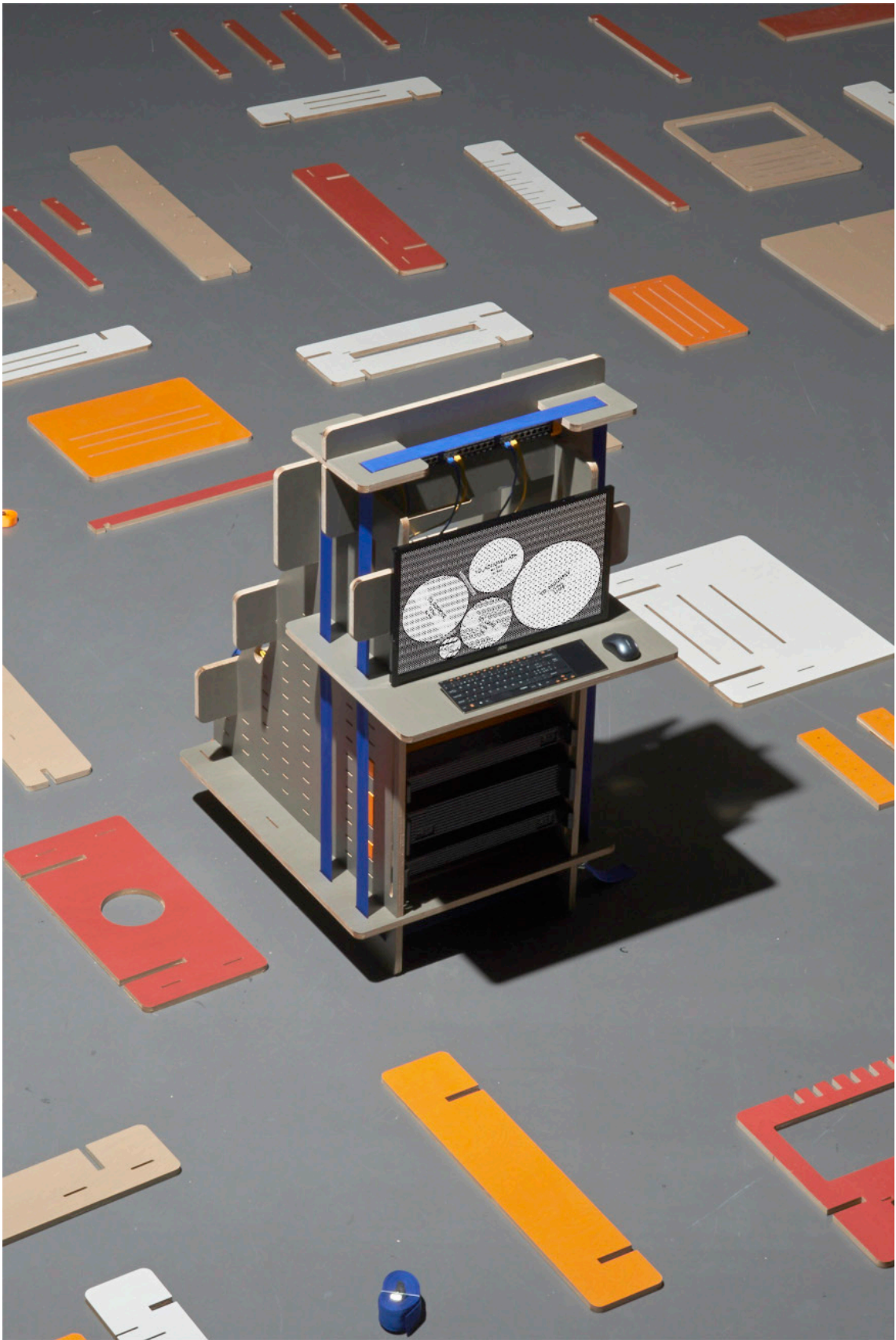
[Img. 2]



[Img. 3]



[Img. 4, 5]



[Img. 6]



[Img. 7]



[Img. 8]

Image captions:

[Img. 1-6] Cloud of Cards comes as a set of blueprints, tools and instructions and forms a kit to assemble by oneself. The kit allows one to put together a personal cloud, including its physical parts, and is freely distributed and explained at [www.cloudofcards.org](http://www.cloudofcards.org).

[Img. 7-9] The various configurations that can be created with the kit allow one to address a new type of context for very small-scale data centers and personal cloud infrastructure. A more domestic environment is envisioned.

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## Cloud of Cards

**Cloud of Cards**, a home cloud kit for reappropriating your data self, is the principal outcome of the joint design and ethnographic research on *Inhabiting and Interfacing the Cloud(s)* led by ECAL (University of Art & Design, Lausanne) & HES-SO (CH), accompanied by two books in print-on-demand which document it.

The main results of the project are four artifacts [ A) - B) - C) - D) ], both digital and physical, which constitute a set of modular tools ("cards") that are delivered in the form of an open-source DIY kit, freely accessible at [www.cloudofcards.org](http://www.cloudofcards.org) as well as Github. The purpose of these tools is to give everyone, the community of designers and makers in particular, the possibility of setting up their own small-sized datacenter and cloud, manage their data in a decentralized way or develop their own alternative projects on this personal, small-scale infrastructure.

Cloud of Cards kit, main recipe:

- 1° Read the statement for *Cloud of Cards* complete kit or, alternatively, download and look at the two documentation books (*ethnography and design*, both in pdf and POD).
- 2° Assemble your own *19" Living Rack* based on the blueprints and instructions freely accessible on this site.
- 3° Install a Linux server in this rack, then a community ownCloud (or Nextcloud) software.
- 4° Continue to follow instructions and download the *Cloud of Cards Processing Library*, installing it as well on your server or personal computer for development.
- 5° Develop your own cloud projects and/or connected objects using this library or ...
- 6° Simply install ownCloud client, connect it to the *5 Folders Cloud* and discover its automated functions.
- 7° Assemble the *5 Connected Objects* and associate them with your Cloud to add physical interaction.
- 8° Play Cloud of Cards!

<http://www.cloudofcards.org>

The joint design and ethnographic research was directed at ECAL / University of Art & Design, Lausanne by Prof. Patrick Keller and at HEAD – Genève by Prof. Nicolas Nova with the support of Prof. Christophe Guignard (ECAL).

The process was carried out with the creative involvement of research assistants Lucien Langton and Léa Pereyre (ECAL), Anaïs Bloch and Charles Chalas (HEAD), and students from the Media & Interaction Design unit (ECALfrom Media Design (HEAD) and (students) from the Architecture Department (EPFL), as well as a team of partners and peers. Among them, we would like to recognize the EPFL+ECAL Lab, which made its facilities available to us, Matthew Plummer-Fernandez (#algotop), James Auger (Auger-Loizeau), Prof. Dieter Dietz (ALICE Lab, EPFL), Sascha Pohflepp, Dev Joshi (Random International) and Christian Babski (fabric | ch).

The project is based on the open-source software ownCloud.

fabric | ch, June 2017

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