

Liquid Democracy in the Pirate Party of Germany

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Outline

1 Pirate Party

- Historical Origin

2 Liquid Democracy

- Historical Origin
- OpenSource Software Implementations

3 Statistics

Origin of the Pirate Parties

Swedish NGO Pirate Bureau **Piratbyrå**

- founded in August 2004 as a counterpoint to lobby groups like the Anti-Piracy Bureau **Antipiratbyrå**
- to support free share of information, culture, intellectual property
- origin of **The Pirate Bay** BitTorrent tracker

Swedish Pirate Party **Piratpartiet**

- founded in January 2006 with a name inspired by **Piratbyrå**
- main emphasis on civil rights, privacy of individuals, transparency of administration, freedom of information

Foundation of Pirate Parties following the Swedish idea

- French **Parti Pirate** in June 2006
- Austrian **Piratenpartei Österreichs** in July 2006
- German **Piratenpartei Deutschland** in September 2006

Liquid Democracy (LD)

idea

concept of unmoderated debating and decision making to realise a continuum between representative and direct democracy by a flexible delegated voting mechanism

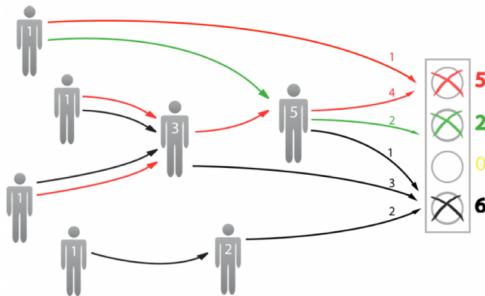


Figure : delegated voting, source <https://kaerf.org>

History of Liquid Democracy with German focus

early academic debate in the US

- 1912: first idea of interactive representation
- 1967: direct voting “by wire” during live TV show
- 1969: work on “Direct and Proxy Voting“ in Legisl. Process
- 1970: questions concerning missing debate/populistic votes

recent history (probably not influenced by previous ideas)

- 2000-2003: ideas of debating and voting mechanisms are discussed in the american web 2.0 sphere
- 2002: work on “Delegative Democracy” by MIT student B. Ford
- 2004: software implementation of a wiki-democracy by Ford
- 2007: first mentions of LD concept in wiki of Berlin's pirate party
- 2009: foundation of NGO **Liquid Democracy e.V.** in Berlin
- 2010: German Pirate Party starts using **Liquid Feedback**
- 2011: German enquiry commission for internet uses **Adhocracy**

Liquid Democracy: History of Implementations in Detail

- 09/06: foundation of German Pirate Party (PP) in Berlin
- 02/07: initial discussion about LD in party wiki
- '09: *manifestations against internet censorship (Zensursula)/ data preservation (Stasi 2.0)* ⇒ PP grows from 800 to 11k
- '09: active party members found a dedicated organisation **Liquid Feedback e.V.** to spread idea of LD and build a software
- 09/09: board of Berlin Länder-party decides to introduce LD in '11
- *the software **Adhocracy** of LF e.V. is evaluated as not suited*
- 10/09: beta of **LiquidFeedback (LQFB)** is presented
- 01/10: board of Berlin Länder-party starts official trial of **LQFB**
- 03/10: board of Berlin Länder-party starts official use of **LQFB**
- *privacy concerns are rising, biggest party crisis so far for 3 months*
- 08/10: central introduction of **LQFB** on the federal level
- 01/11: **LQFB** developer break away from Pirate Party

Tools that implement Liquid Democracy

Adhocracy (AdH)

- self-structured discussion platform
- possibility to append votings
- public/internal discussions
- delegated voting
- used by German parliament, few parties (SPD, Die Linke)
- developed by Liquid Democracy e.V.
- language: Python

and many little projects more...

LiquidFeedback (LQFB)

- discussions and platform for definitive votings
- various modes: quick surveys, collaboration on statutes
- delegated voting
- used by a lot of pirate party entities in various countries
- developed by Public Software Group e.V.
- language: Lua & PL/pgSQL

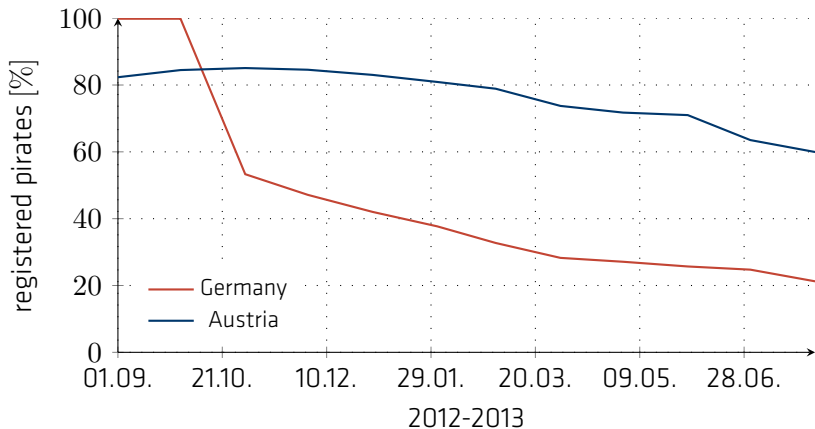
Problems of Liquid Democracy Systems by Architecture

- a secret vote doesn't permit to evaluate if vote was counted
- a public vote might put minorities under pressure
- continuum between direct and parliamentarian elements in LD smears also distinction between voters and politicians

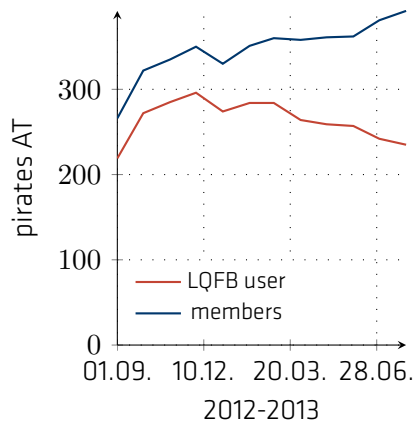
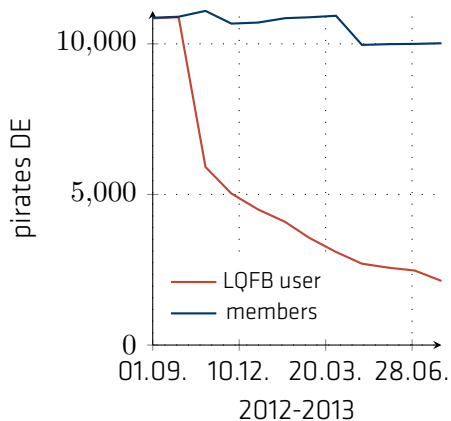
How many delegations are allowed without getting considered as politician?

Can the receive of delegations be limited?

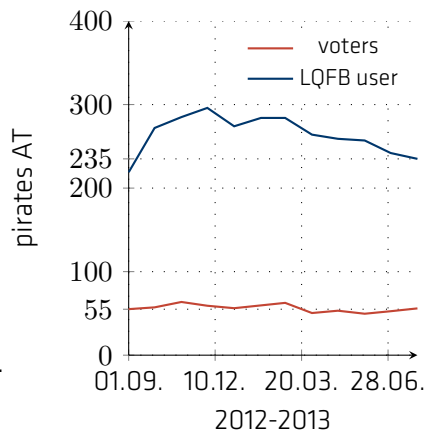
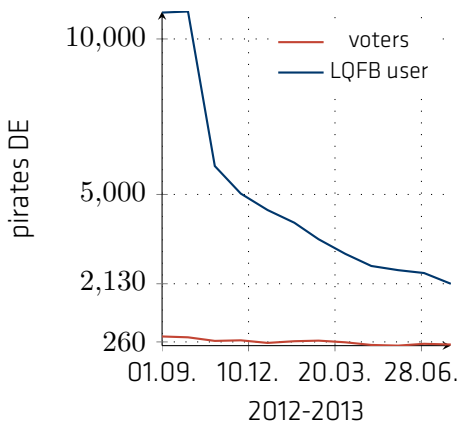
Activity of Party members in LQFB I



Activity of Party members in LQFB II



Activity of Party members in LQFB III



References

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piratbyr%C3%A5n>
- S. Jabbusch: *Liquid Democracy in der Piratenpartei*, 2011.
- conference talk DNP.13 in Wien: *Liquid Democracy Workshop*
- conference talk 26C3 in Berlin: *Liquid Democracy*
- conference talk 29C3 in Hamburg: *Long Live The Proletariat*
- S. Eisel: <http://www.kas.de/wf/de/33.32136/>
- *Liquid Democracy e.V.* <https://liqd.net/>
- *Liquid Feedback Software* <http://liquidfeedback.org/>

Contact

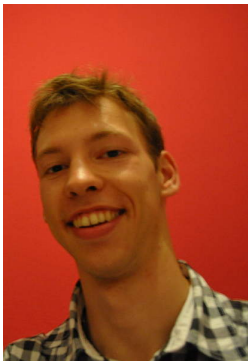


Figure : That's me.

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