



Webarchitects  
Co-operative  
NEWSLETTER  
New year 2018

## Join the party!

After 20 long years of providing internet services it's time for a birthday party - everyone's invited!  
Sat 3rd March 2018, music, drinks & food:  
[webarchitects.coop/20th](http://webarchitects.coop/20th)

## UK Co-ops rising

In recent years the UK co-op movement has been quiet, but things are changing. [Co-operatives UK](#) is helping create a new co-op every five days. We proudly provide internet services to many co-ops such as [Coop News](#). We'll also be at this year's [Phone Co-op AGM](#).

## Email improvements

A new email server running [Mailcow](#) is now in use for new domains, and existing domains on the mail.webarch.net and mail1.ecohost.coop servers will be migrated to it in time. The new server provides easier client configuration, a more modern interface for managing email accounts, user adjustable spam thresholds and also a nice web based interface, [SOGGo](#).

## New platforms

'*Beginners Guide to Tech & Platform Co-ops*' is a workshop by Webarchitects and [mc3 co-op](#) at the [Ways Forward 6 conference](#) in Manchester. Exploitative 'big capital' digital services like Uber and Airbnb threaten whole industries. Platform co-ops could be the answer; collectively owned and run by the people who depend on and participate in the services. For a good explanation of platform co-ops see [Shareable](#). One group with ambitions to create a platform co-op is [Fairmondo](#), an online marketplace for ethical goods and services.

## UK government's large scale hacking

Pressure group [Privacy International](#) is challenging the Investigatory Powers Tribunal decision that the UK government can use 'general warrants' making people all over the world open to [snooping](#), without individual suspicion. Webarchitects, as a member of [Open Rights Group](#) believe in privacy and security for journalists, whistleblowers and for all of us. We're following this and other internet security issues.

## The freeze in Iceland

As some of our clients will be aware, our Icelandic partners, *1984.is*, suffered major infrastructure problems recently. This meant an outage of services, so we have migrated most of these services to UK-based servers. One key problem highlighted by the issues at 1984.is was the lack of backups for their virtual servers. This is something that we take great care of at our data centre in Sheffield and we have just invested in two new backup servers, one of which will be based in Sheffield and this will synchronise backups to the second in Manchester.

## Discourse starts flowing

Fed up with the corporate dominated Internet? Your time online is sold to businesses who target you with their adverts. Now there's an alternative. [Discourse](#) offers easy-to-use discussion forums for organisations. It can replace Facebook and email lists, with zero spam. It has tools to migrate from other discussion boards, and integration with WordPress, etc. To see Discourse in action, go to [CoTech's forum](#) which is open to anyone with an interest in tech and co-ops, or see the progressive US forum [Common Dreams](#). It's free software so you can host it yourself, or [buy a Discourse site from Webarchitects](#).

[WordPress package](#) is a hosted service from Webarchitects. This comes with the reassurance of technical support which many web-developers need. It's pre-configured, with several great features, and NO advertising, unlike the free WordPress hosting at WordPress.org.

We also offer virtual servers with [Nextcloud](#), an open source, online office application for things like document, contacts and calendar sharing. [Get your organisation](#) onto the co-operative cloud!

**Webarchitects are green.** Our Sheffield datacentre runs on Good Energy. **Free/libre/open-source** software specialists.

**Hosting for all websites.** We help with all aspects of design and development, from domain name registration to systems admin.

**Transparency.** Check the status of our services at [webarch.info](#).

**Honest advice, from real human beings!**

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