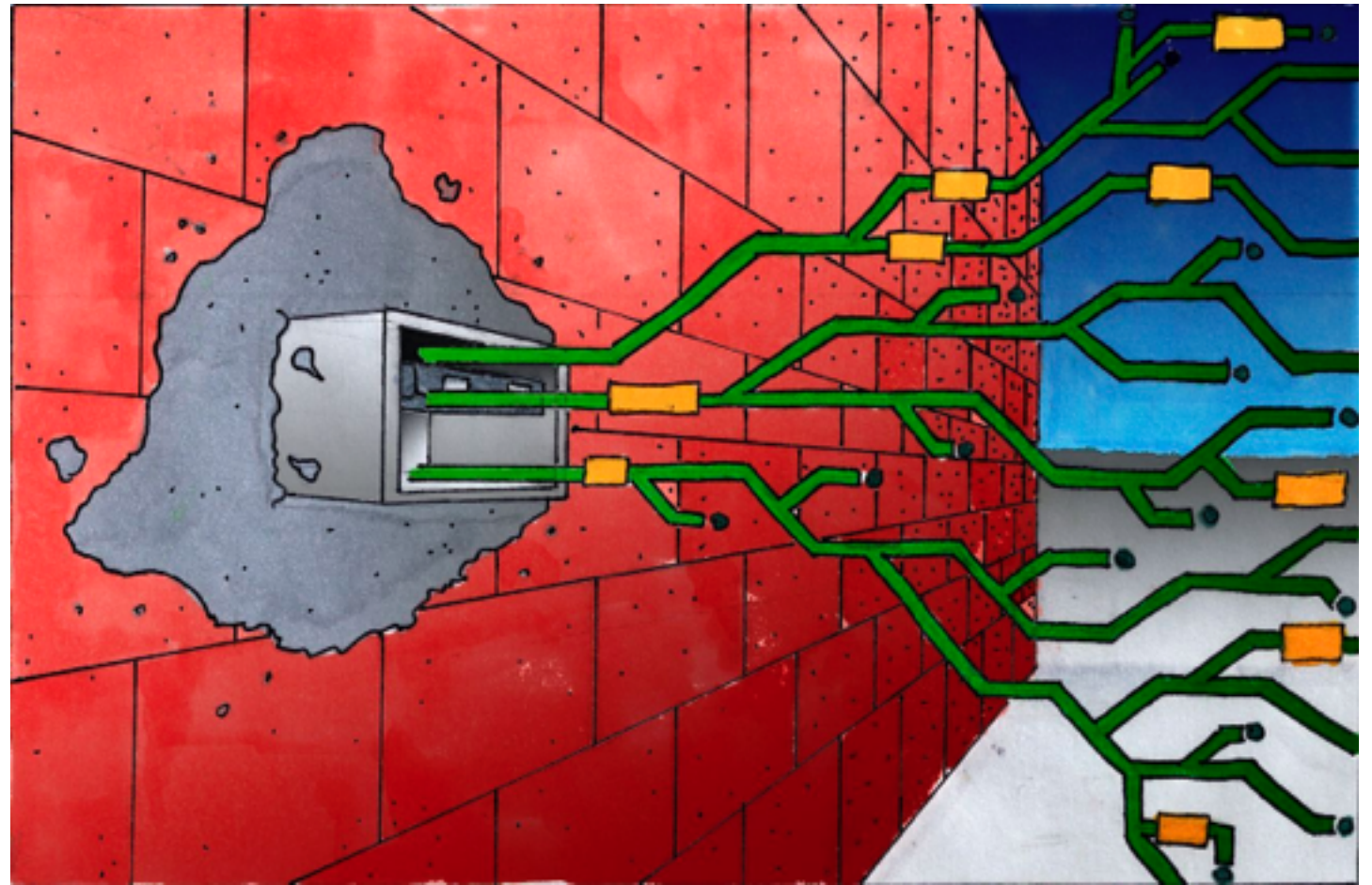


USB dead drop

July 2015



What is it

- USB device installed in a public space
- name (dead drop) comes from method of espionage communication not requiring to meet directly (contrast with live drop)
- anonymous, offline, promoting data sharing



deaddrops.com/

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USB_dead_drop

History

- Berliner artist Aram Bartholl, member of F.A.T. lab
- October 2010, project set up at 5 public locations in NYC



But what is it?

- public is invited to share or find data by plugging their devices into the USB stick
- each dead drop is installed with two files: deaddrops-manifesto.txt, and readme.txt





The Dead Drops Manifesto

Dead Drops is an anonymous, offline, peer to peer file-sharing network in public space. Anyone can access a Dead Drop and everyone may install a Dead Drop in their neighborhood/city. A Dead Drop must be public accessible. A Dead Drop inside closed buildings or private places with limited or temporary access is not a Dead Drop. A real Dead Drop mounts as read and writeable mass storage drive without any custom software. Dead Drops don't need to be synced or connected to each other. Each Dead Drop is singular in its existence. A very beautiful Dead Drop shows only the metal sheath enclosed type-A USB plug and is cemented into walls. You would hardly notice it. Dead Drops don't need any cables or wireless technology. Your knees on the ground or a dirty jacket on the wall is what it takes share files offline. A Dead Drop is a naked piece of passively powered Universal Serial Bus technology embedded into the city, the only true public space. In an era of growing clouds and fancy new devices without access to local files we need to rethink the freedom and distribution of data. The Dead Drops movement is on its way for change!

Free your data to the public domain in cement! Make your own Dead Drop now! Un-cloud your files today!!!

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Aram Bartholl 2010



[O] [Y] [A] [D] [O] [Y] [A] [D]

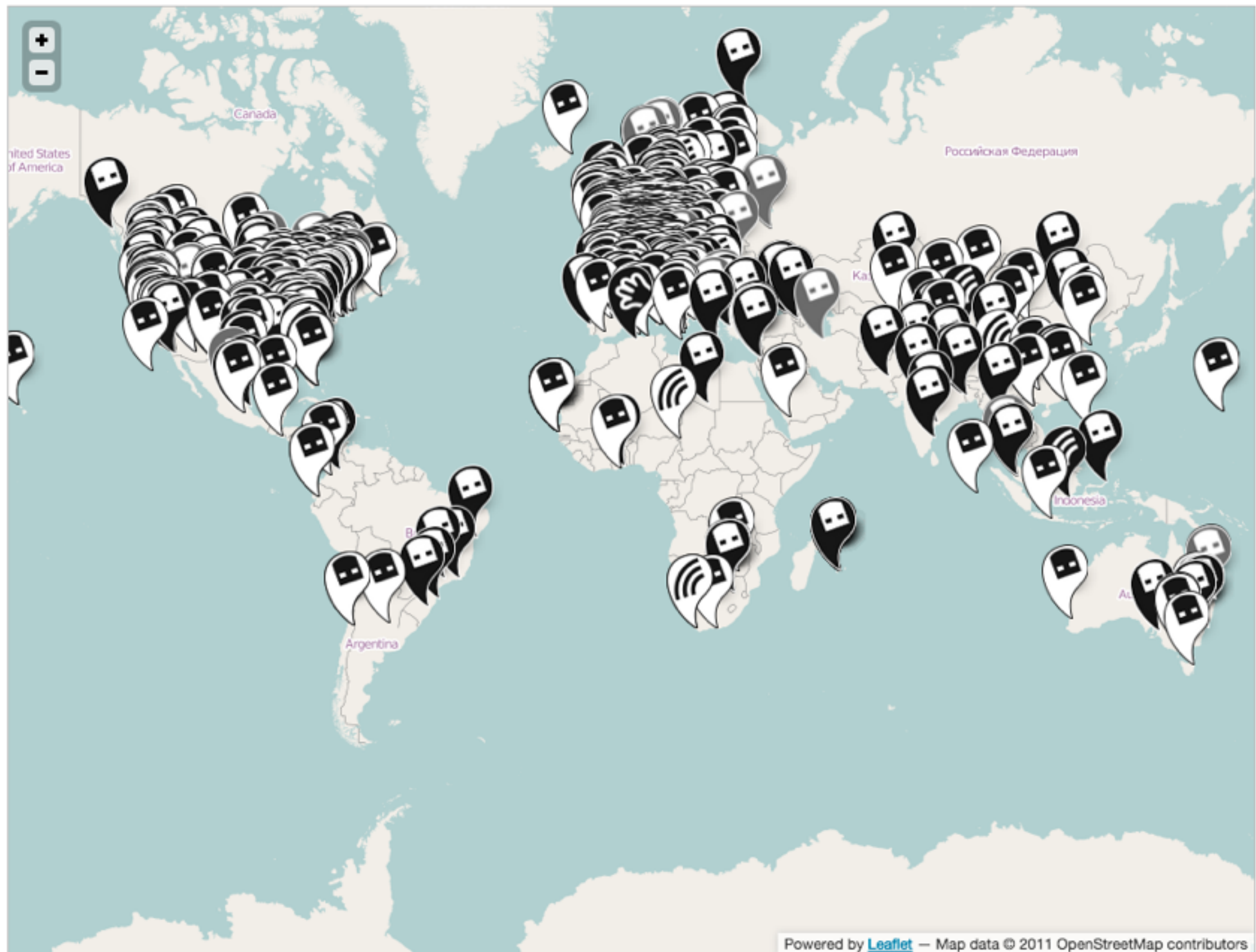


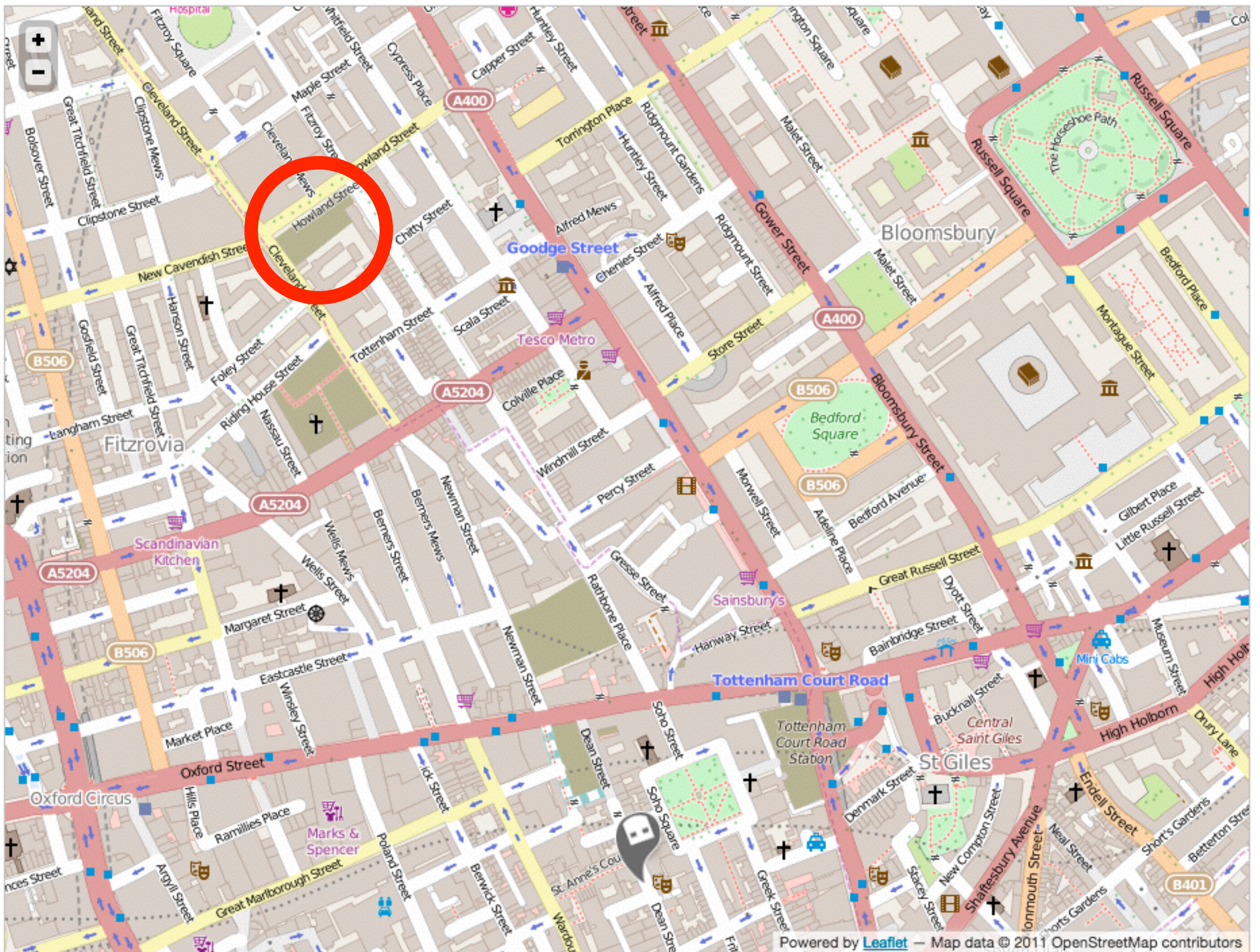
Dead Drops is an offline peer to peer file sharing network in public. Drop any files you want on this drive. Download any files you find here which look interesting to you. For more information, comments and a map on all dead drops world wide please goto

<http://deaddrops.com>

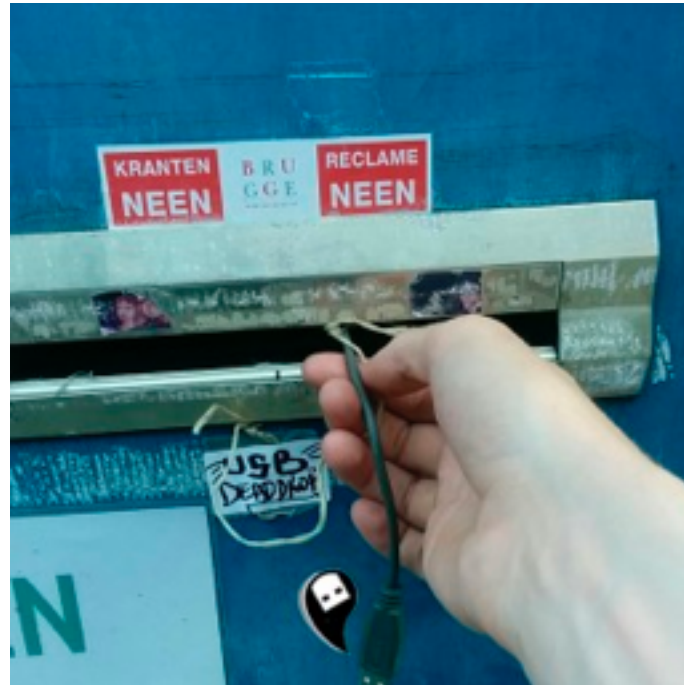
This Dead Drop was installed by:#[your name][date]

1561 USB-drops, around 10308 GB





Some locations



Pros, cons and uses

- pros: data sharing (datalove)
- cons: might be altered to electrically damage equipment; malware...
- Uses: share personal stories, recipes, music, photos, videos...in Estonia, in travel agency, backpackers share tips.
- Also: in Iran, one person tells people where to buy weed; in Germany, plans for bombs; guides to producing crystal meth...

How to create a USB dead drop

- in nature

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Create-a-USB-Dead-Drop-in-Nature/?ALLSTEPS>

- in the city

<http://www.instructables.com/id/USB-Dead-Drops/>

Wireless dead drop



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