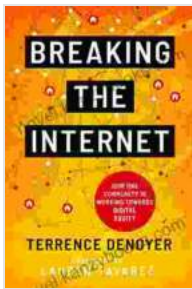


How One Community Is Working Toward Digital Equity



In the United States, broadband internet access is increasingly essential for full participation in society. Yet, there remains a significant digital divide, with many low-income and minority communities lacking access to affordable, high-speed internet.

The town of Wilson, North Carolina, is one community that is working to close the digital divide. In 2016, the town launched a pilot program to provide free Wi-Fi in its public housing developments. The program was a success, and in 2018, the town expanded it to include all of its low-income residents.



Breaking the Internet: How One Community is Working Toward Digital Equity by Terrence Denoyer

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 153 pages
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The Wilson Wi-Fi program is just one example of how communities can work to close the digital divide. By providing affordable, high-speed internet access to all residents, communities can help to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to succeed in the 21st century economy.

The Digital Divide

The digital divide is the gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not. This gap can be caused by a number of factors, including income, race, education, and geography.

The digital divide has a number of negative consequences for individuals and communities. For individuals, the digital divide can make it difficult to get a job, complete schoolwork, and access healthcare information. For communities, the digital divide can lead to economic decline and social isolation.

The Wilson Wi-Fi Program

The Wilson Wi-Fi program is a community-based initiative to close the digital divide in Wilson, North Carolina. The program provides free Wi-Fi to all low-income residents of the town.

The program is funded by a combination of public and private sources. The town of Wilson provides the infrastructure for the Wi-Fi network, and the Wilson Housing Authority provides free Wi-Fi to its residents. The program is also supported by a number of local businesses and organizations.

The Wilson Wi-Fi program has been a success. Since its launch in 2016, the program has provided free Wi-Fi to over 2,000 low-income residents of Wilson. The program has also helped to increase computer ownership and internet use in the town.

The Benefits of Digital Equity

There are a number of benefits to closing the digital divide. For individuals, digital equity can lead to:

- Increased job opportunities
- Improved educational outcomes
- Better access to healthcare information
- Increased social connectedness

For communities, digital equity can lead to:

- Economic growth
- Improved educational attainment

- Reduced social isolation

How to Close the Digital Divide

There are a number of things that can be done to close the digital divide. One important step is to provide affordable, high-speed internet access to all communities. This can be done through a variety of means, such as expanding broadband infrastructure and providing subsidies for low-income families.

Another important step is to increase digital literacy. This means teaching people how to use computers, the internet, and other digital tools. Digital literacy programs can be offered in schools, libraries, and community centers.

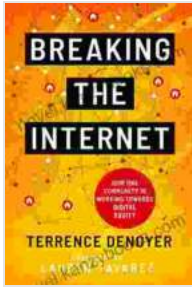
Finally, it is important to address the social and economic factors that contribute to the digital divide. This includes addressing issues such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of education. By addressing these underlying issues, we can help to create a more equitable society where everyone has the opportunity to succeed in the 21st century economy.

The digital divide is a serious problem that has a number of negative consequences for individuals and communities. However, there are a number of things that can be done to close the digital divide. By working together, we can create a more equitable society where everyone has the opportunity to succeed in the 21st century economy.

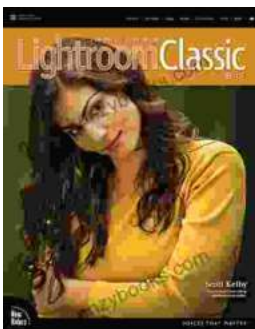
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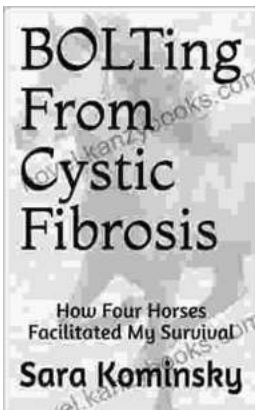


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