



# SCRIPT – INTRODUCTION TO TENDING THE TECH- ECOSYSTEM REPORT

NARRATED BY SARAH O'CONNOR

Imagine a community garden,  
with no fences or barriers to define its boundaries,  
but with an order nonetheless  
- as though it was intended to be that way.

A variety of flowers and plants can be seen growing harmoniously together,  
many of which would not normally interact in the wild.  
Some are edible,  
many bright and beautiful,  
others exotic,  
and a few potentially harmful to the uninitiated.

A closer look reveals a system,  
characterised by many symbiotic relationships.  
The native flowers draw pollinators to the veggie patch.  
The shadow of a sapling shelters violets at its base,  
which in turn keeps weeds at bay.

Gardeners move freely among the flowers and plants with the skill and care of experience.  
A plant that has grown too wild is pruned.  
A mature tree is carefully monitored,  
to ensure its spreading canopy does not block nourishing sunlight needed below.  
The branch of a shrub,  
bending under the weight of a beehive,  
is supported by twine taken from the gardener's toolkit.  
In a sheltered corner,  
a community member nurtures a new varietal into splendour.

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This vision of a well-tended,  
thriving garden  
is a metaphor for the role of effective regulators in cultivating the digital technology ecosystem.  
the gardeners are synonymous with regulators.

Like gardeners,  
effective regulators cultivate innovation and growth.  
They also weed out,  
harmful practices and products that threaten to outcompete  
or overrun the ecosystem.  
But, if regulators exert excessive control,



they risk curating a staid formal garden with little innovation or new life.  
At the opposite end of the spectrum: an uncontrolled jungle.  
In the middle: the community garden depicted above.

Community gardeners don't operate in isolation;  
they use tools given to them,  
and work within the boundaries set by landscape architects.  
the politicians and policymakers to the regulators.  
Mirroring disruption in the tech sector,  
gardens can be subject to unforeseen shocks,  
like drought and flood.

Importantly,  
a flourishing garden is not simply attributable to the interventions of the gardeners.  
It is the interaction between all the systems within the garden,  
that fosters life and growth.  
A gardener plants flowers,  
that attract bees,  
that pollinate other plants,  
and then go on to produce honey.

The best gardeners have a deep understanding of,  
and respect for,  
these interdependencies.

They work to counteract power imbalances between systems  
between mature and emerging plants  
and nurture symbiotic relationships  
that minimise the need for intervention at all.

Just as a thriving garden requires tending by an effective gardener  
a gardener with skills, knowledge, and resources  
the tech-ecosystem will flourish when it is tended by well-resourced,  
and skilful regulators,  
that understand the interests  
and interdependencies of each constituent part of the ecosystem.

In this way,  
the role of the regulator is not to 'control' the tech sector,  
but to create the space and conditions for the tech-ecosystem as a whole to thrive.  
In doing so,  
regulators –  
working with all stakeholders in the tech-ecosystem  
government, industry, civil society, and consumers  
shape an environment from which the full potential of digital technologies can be harvested.