

## The Community in Your Computer

This project looks at how new media technologies, such the Internet, change and challenge traditional community organizations and networks. With the decline of social capital, the increase of isolating bonding capital over bridging capital, and the reduced participation in civic organizations, this project intends to determine how individuals are using new communication and media systems to compensate for this decline. By conducting interviews with community leaders, content providers, and end users, and by examining trends in use of traditional media sources (i.e. newspapers, radio, television, word of mouth, etc.) versus new media sources (Front Porch Forum, Facebook, Twitter, blogs, text messaging, etc.), this project will examine if and how community participation has changed in the past twenty years since the advent of popular use of the Internet. In identifying these factors, members and leaders of communities can use these technologies to supplement traditional community engagement, encourage participation in civic organizations, and to develop bridging social capital to reduce isolation and marginalization of groups within communities.