

Aesthetic.Computer

Proposal for Social Software Cycle 2

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Score for Social Software — Cycle 2 · DESMA 596/199 · March 2026

<https://aesthetic.computer> · <https://github.com/whistlegraph/aesthetic-computer> · <https://nopaint.art>

WHAT AC IS

Aesthetic Computer is an open-source, mobile-first runtime and social network for creative computing. Users write, publish, and share small interactive programs called *pieces* at URLs like aesthetic.computer/paint or [@handle/piece-name](https://aesthetic.computer/@handle/piece-name). The platform has @handles, real-time chat, pixel painting, ephemeral status updates (moods), ATPROTO integration (identity and Bluesky bridging), a built-in Lisp dialect (KidLisp), multiplayer WebSocket sessions, and user profiles. It has been in continuous open-source development since 2021.

WHAT I NEED

I need outside perspective on AC's social design. I've built the technical infrastructure but I can't evaluate the social dynamics from inside the project. Specifically:

- What feels opaque when you first encounter the platform?
- Which social features sustain participation vs. which are socially inert?
- How does the "instrument" metaphor read to someone encountering it fresh?
- What would you want to do on AC that you currently can't?
- Where does the design exclude people it should welcome?

These questions need sustained dialogue, not a usability test. I want to develop AC in the open over 10 weeks—sharing what I'm working on, what

decisions I'm facing, what the community is doing—and get feedback from the cohort as users and critics.

WHAT AC HAS

- **2,798 @handles**—per-character color customization, profile scorecards
- **18,016 chat messages**—real-time group messaging with hearts and custom fonts
- **4,392 paintings**—pixel art published via built-in drawing tools
- **16,174 KidLisp programs**—a 118-function Lisp dialect for generative art
- **265 published pieces**—user-written interactive programs at public URLs
- **351 built-in pieces**—drawing, music, games, programming, social tools
- **22 domains**—aesthetic.computer, kidlisp.com, notepat.com, and more

Everyone in the cohort gets an @handle and full access to the platform, the codebase, and the development process.

WHY THIS CYCLE

AC's [SCORE.md](#) already uses a musical score metaphor to organize the project. The interface works like an instrument—users discover memorable paths and build literacy through play. The technical infrastructure is mature. The open question is social design: how do these features shape the way people relate to each other? That

needs dialogue with people thinking critically about social software.

PRACTICE

I'm Jeffrey Scudder, an artist, educator, and software developer. Before AC I made No Paint (2020), a pixel art tool where non-technical users

learned computing through social participation. AC extends that into a full platform. I teach creative computing and have used AC in courses and workshops. I develop across multiple machines (Windows, macOS, Fedora Linux) using a shared Docker devcontainer with Emacs, VS Code, Claude Code, and Fish shell.

THE NETWORK

Live data from AC's MongoDB cluster — March 2, 2026

2,798 @HANDLES	18,016 CHAT MESSAGES	4,392 PAINTINGS
2,900 MOODS	16,174 KIDLISP PROGRAMS	265 PUBLISHED PIECES
333 CLOCKS	102 TAPES	93,122 BOOT EVENTS

Who makes things: 1,067 have painted · 997 have posted moods · 59 have written KidLisp · 19 have published pieces

THE INSTRUMENT LOOP

prompt → type a piece name → enter → play the piece → ESC → back to prompt

USER DATA FLOW

@handle → paint / chat / mood / kid / publish → MongoDB → profile → public URL

ATProto PDS → Bluesky (identity + moods) · paintings → DO Spaces CDN

SAMPLE DOCUMENTS (LIVE)

```
mood { mood: "studying astronomy", when: "2026-03-02T12:32:49Z", atproto: { rkey: "3mg3b6j4k2x" } }
painting { code: "gfl", slug: "2026.03.02.14.14.39", when: "2026-03-02T13:14:48Z" }
kidlisp { code: "27z", source: "fade:red-blue-black-blue-red\nscroll (* 100 amp)", hits: 1 }
chat { text: "y'all gonna piss me off", when: "2026-03-02T05:26:25Z", font: "font_1" }
piece { code: "zod", slug: "zod", name: "3d-cube", extension: ".mjs", hits: 1 }
```

ARCHITECTURE & SITEMAP

22 domains & ~355 disk routes & ~85 API endpoints & open source since 2021

AESTHETIC.COMPUTER • Netlify — ~85 API endpoints, edge functions • Canvas 2D + WebGL2 frontend • ES Modules, WebSocket hot-reload • Auth0, Firebase, Stripe • 351 built-in pieces	SESSION SERVER • Fastify + Geckos.io (WebSocket) • Jamssocket ephemeral containers • Redis state sync • Chat, multiplayer, rooms • DigitalOcean + pm2	OVEN.AESTHETIC.COMPUTER • Express.js + FFmpeg • Tape → MP4, screenshots • OG image generation • Caddy (auto HTTPS) • DigitalOcean droplet
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FEED.* / GRAB.*

- Cloudflare Workers
- Hono + TypeScript (feed)
- Browser Rendering API (grab)
- KV, Durable Objects

DATA LAYER

- MongoDB Atlas — user content
- Redis — session cache
- DO Spaces (S3 CDN) — media
- ATProto PDS — identity + Bluesky

KIDLISP.COM

- 118 built-in functions, 12 categories
- Evaluator: lib/kidlisp.mjs
- Programs stored in MongoDB
- Shareable by 3-char code

Source: github.com/whistlegraph/aesthetic-computer • boot.mjs → bios.mjs → disk.mjs (~572KB API) → disks/*.mjs

Languages: JavaScript (ES Modules), TypeScript (workers), KidLisp, HTML/CSS

Dev: Docker devcontainer across Windows / macOS / Fedora • Emacs (Evil mode) + VS Code + Claude Code • Fish shell
• esbuild, Jasmine, Vitest, Wrangler, pm2

22 domains: notepat.com, kidlisp.com, sotce.net, botce.ac, wipppps.world + subdomains (feed, grab, help, oven, etc.)

362 PIECES — TYPE A NAME AT THE PROMPT TO PLAY

DRAWING & PAINTING

paint AI-powered auto-painting from text
nopaint paint or reject, then publish
line simple line brush
pline perfect 1px line algorithm
shape filled freehand shapes
oval draw ovals and circles
box rectangles with modes + thickness
fill flood fill with a color
spray stylus-based spray painting
smear smear brush (co-designed by Rapter)
marker brush interpolation tool
crayon draw with a crayon
sparkle-brush sparkle emitter
bits confetti/speckle brush
multipen multi-touch tracked cursors
doodle build up and replay points
wand generative art viewer
blur blur pixels with a radius
crop crop or extend painting
stamp import painting as stamp
pull copy + move pixels
snap camera still to painting
camera paste stills to painting
paste load external image
handprint stamp your hand
selfie decorated photo (w/ Molly Soda)
painting view any painting by number
paintings user portfolio page
colors scrollable CSS color list
nail multiplayer thumbnailing
wipe clear painting with a color
icon add vector glyphs (Molly Soda)
colplay painting as tonal keyboard
make KidLisp from text prompts
vary AI-vary an existing image

MUSIC & AUDIO

notepat tap pads to play notes
beat rhythmic percussion
tone single frequency + wave type
chord play a musical chord
melody plays back a tracker score
song melody + lyrics sing-along
sing character responds with notes
bleep colored box tone maker
say text-to-speech
whistle mic input → sine wave melody
metronome visual metronome
microphone audio + video monitor
uke live ukulele pitch detector
pedal audio effect pedal for Ableton
amp microphone amplifier
tracker 12-tone composer
3x3 ortholinear pad instrument
rattle accelerometer shaker
squaresong a song as a program
dync percussive pad instrument
slip single voice instrument
clock clock with melody + live keyboard
clocks browse saved clock melodies
stick render clock melody to WAV
amby tonal radial music generator
autopat notepat autoplay jukebox
sample spread a sample across pats
sfx sound effects player
bgm background music + visualizer
r8dio Danish talk radio stream
kpbj KPBJ.FM community radio
audio longform player + subtitles
butterflies multi-touch bitmap instrument
seashells bytebeat algorithmic synthesis
shh noise drones
notepat-tv remote notepat pictures

GAMES & INTERACTIVE

1v1 multiplayer Quake-like 3D shooter
brick-breaker brick breakout game
scawy-snake snake game with color growth
run&gun 2D side-scrolling shooter
hop first-person shooter
sno snowball game (ida, mxsage, jeffrey)
words Word Munchers-style game
gostop body movement regulation game
staka stack colors with your hand
flap animated flapping sequence
fly bounce around in 3D
field open 3D walking space
pond chat in ripples
bubble floating bubbles (mxsage + jeffrey)
balls balls bouncing on lines
rain rain falling (drawn by Aspen)
toss two oscillators at once
starfield classic starfield effect
metaballs blob rendering
ant colony simulation + pheromones
fps basic first-person environment
game basic game template
horizon side-scrolling world
i walk as the letter "i"
paintball paint on a 3D ball
cards playing card (tap to flip)
tremory temporal memory trainer

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

mood choose a mood + build image
moods live feed of all moods
chat multiplayer messaging
share QR code link sharing
sign IRL message, upside down
signature timestamped painting stamp
mail email preferences + blast history
list comprehensive piece directory
handle customize @handle colors
handles directory of all handles
get-handle claim your @handle
profile public user scorecard
ptt push-to-talk voice chat
handtime hand-based messaging
insta browse Instagram profiles
play dramaturgical messaging game

CHARACTERS

mom doting mother
dad handyman disguised as father
brother younger brother
sister know-it-all sister
husband forgetful husband
wife nagging wife
boyfriend avoidant boyfriend
girlfriend GF with savior complex
kid software kid
angel guardian angel (Judeo-Christian)
liar compulsive liar
sage walker demo (mxsage + jeffrey)
tobby type characters in time
valbear valentine bear card maker
gargoyle character (@georgica)
dolls 2D cartoon videos with mic
robo robot drawing automation
botce paywalled AI chatbot

KIDLISP & PROGRAMMING

kidlisp default KidLisp piece
keep preserve KidLisp as Tezos KEEP
kept view KEEP mint result
prompt LLM-backed "access-everything" console
learn chatbot tutorial
lang interface language chooser
decode tokens → poems
encode poems → tokens
docgen generate piece API docs
\$ live KidLisp code preview feed
pack offline HTML for KidLisp piece
code graphical KidLisp editor (.lisp)
chart make a piece from a diagram

SEQUENCING & ROUTING

merry URL-able piece sequencer with timing
merryo looping merry (plays forever)
mo quick looping merry shorthand
merry-fade crossfade between KidLisp \$codes
pip piece-in-piece, run multiple at once
split two AC instances side by side
m4d generate Max for Live device (prompt cmd)

WHISTLEGRAPH & MEDIA

whistlegraph 2D recording tool
wg Feral File card player
wgr whistlegraph recorder
wipppps audio-reactive fractals
neo-wipppps wipppps music visualizations
m2w2 Music 2 Whistlegraph 2 instrumentals
stage performance tool
tv vertical tape feed ("For You")
tapes browse recent tapes
replay view any tape recording
video playback + export video
cap camera video recorder
screen mirror system display
desk webcam/Elmo selector
screenshots browse dev screenshots

VISUALIZATION & ART

halley Halley's method fractal
morpho pixel sorting morphogenesis lab
noise noise on every pixel
rainbow-x centered rainbow X
neural-garden GPT learns drawing gestures
a-star A* pathfinding demo
zzzwap dynamic pathfinding for wipppps
spline interactive line with curves
digitpain0-3 animated DIGITPAIN series
hell-world random hell_ painting viewer
freaky-flowers random Freaky Flower token
commits live GitHub commit visualization
visualizer color history decay effect
lmn-flower pull a petal
lmn-petal touch an interactive petal
opinion essays on computing & creativity
weather Weather Channel + smooth jazz

SYSTEM & UTILITY

about AC Q&A chatbot
demo what is aesthetic.computer?
deck slide deck explainer
description read about any command
desktop download Electron desktop app
mobile download iOS/Android app
os bootable FedAC OS image
theme prompt theme chooser
token display auth token (3 taps)
wallet animated Tezos wallet display
connect-wallet wallet connection page
download screenshottable download screen
ads advertise on AC
mug ceramic mug with your painting
mugs browse recent mugs
boots boot telemetry viewer
booted-by who booted AC
404 error page
delete-erase-and-forget-me delete account

TRANSLATION

english / en translate to English
danish / da translate to Danish
spanish / es translate to Spanish

EXTERNAL & HARDWARE

ableton Max for Live device browser
aframe A-Frame VR drawing (WebXR)
gameboy GameBoy emulator
gamepad gamepad connectivity test
ff1 send art to FF1 Art Computer
ordfish virtual fish viewer
ordsy B&W ordsy picture palette
snappidaggs Goodiepal archive browser
prutti Lessons NOT Learnt (Goodiepal)
triquilt half-square triangle quilt tool
hueber psychedelic Uber

EDUCATION & WORKSHOP

ucla-1 - ucla-7 UCLA workshop lessons
+ **-keyboard -box -turtle -balls -dial -jump**
variants
baktok learn to talk backwards
laer-klokken learn the clock
alphapoet alphabetical nonsense poet

ABC123 SERIES (36)

a-z interactive letters with musical notes
0-9 interactive numbers with sounds

DYNAMIC PATTERNS

/@handle → user profile
/@handle/piece → user-published piece
/preview/* → OG images
/session/* → multiplayer rooms