

Slow snail quick start

You will need: a printer, a drawing to send, glue stick, or tape, or snail slime

1. Prepare the drawing you wish to send and distribute.

2. Open the website of many snails and click "new" to upload the file

3. Take a moment to think how many, to whom, and which delivery method you wish to use.

4. Set the row and column to slice the drawing into pieces accordingly. Keep an eye on the amount of available snails!!!

5. Choose the display of your drawing either private or public

6. Click 'Upload'... you will be redirected at the QR codes page.

7. Print the QR codes!

8. Cut the original drawing into pieces accordingly.

9. Cut the QR code keys one by one. And paste them to the assigned piece of the drawing.

10. Write funny messages for each piece maybe? Also invite your recipient to scan the QR to confirm the delivery!

11. Deliver each piece via your desired distribution method.

12. Wait....

Here is an overview of many snails. For technical documentation and installation guide, please refer to <https://gitlab.com/km0/many-snails/>

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Colophon

Many Snails is developed by Draw-It-With-Others (DIWO) working group. Initiated in the context of XPUB Special Issue 29: Gossiping at the Intersection of Crafts and Resistance by Doriane Timmermans

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Designed by DIWO with additional drawings by Doriane and XPUB 1 & Joke & Sophie using Inkscape and DRW (draw-it-with-others.org/drw)

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crawling upside down like a snail? unfold the zine open!

Technically speaking...

1. Many Snails is written in Python using Flask, a framework that allows to create web applications.

2. Many Snails is a website with many pages.

Flask is running on our server, called "diwoboot".

It is connected with the outer internet through an application called NGINX.

NGINX is sitting on the edges of the server.

It listens for incoming requests from the outer internet, and it maps them to the internal network of the server. This is known as "reverse proxy".

When someone types the url of the Many Snails website in the browser, NGINX receive the request, and forwards it to the Many Snails Flask application.

When you visit the "/new" page, you can select an image and setup things such as title, amount and configuration of pieces to cut the image into.

On upload, the image will be sent to the server.

3. If there are enough available snails, Flask will accept the request.

Flask will receive the file and cut it into pieces using the ImageMagick "-crop" function.

Each piece will be renamed with a random ID, and saved into a publicly accessible folder.

Keeping them in a publicly accessible folder, but obscuring them with a random name is also known as "security through obscurity".

4. The original image will be also renamed with a random ID, and saved into the publicly accessible folder.

The idea is that the pieces shall remain unknown until delivered.

6. Many Snails can be self-hosted easily, as it doesn't require much space or computing resources.

If you don't have access to a server, there are many snails running on "diwoboot".

After successfully uploading the image, Flask will redirect you to the QR page.

A QR code is generated for every piece of the image.

Each QR is assigned to one snail.

Each QR links to the delivery page of the piece.

The QR should be placed on the correspondent piece of the image to be delivered.

5. this is the moment in which many snails travel the world to deliver the pieces.... the software does not know anything about what's going on here!

When receiving a piece, the recipient shall scan the QR to confirm the delivery.

When scanned, a request will be sent to Flask to unlock the piece for everyone.

Now when someone open the page of the whole drawing, the unlocked piece will be visible.

The snail will slowly return home.

Many Snails

slow-pace file sharing system

draw-it-with-others.org

Picture this situation:

You have a book that two friends want to borrow. What do you do?

You first lend it to one, and then to the other. That's how it works, right?

there is a way to share the book with the two of them at the same time.

Simply split the book in two! ...and after they read, swap the halves! Send one half each...

File sharing, as sharing was originally intended to be: a slice for everyone!

This is exactly the algorithm of many snails: split a file into pieces, snail them around, and share the pieces with each other.

Well, let's be clear from the start: no actual snails are involved in here. The snails are in your head.

We exist like the characters in your favourite books.

We can crawl everywhere, and find who we are searching for even on the other side of the ocean or on a remote island. No one can stop us, not even with one million euro or lettuce.

How do many snails work?

You can focus on the content.

We will take care of slicing and splicing and setting up the distribution, following your needs and schedules and priorities and concerns about delivery methods.

With many snails you can take a file and cut it up into small pieces.

After slicing, each of these pieces can be delivered independently.

Hand-to-hand, by mail, by sea... when it comes to delivery, the only limit is your imagination.

(and the number of available snails, more about that later)

Once a piece is delivered, the receiver can scan the provided QR to confirm the delivery.

At that very moment... the piece will become available online for all the other recipients! Eheheh, snail magic...

Connect to many snails!
<https://draw-it-with-others.org/many-snails/>

OK, we think you are ready

Well, now it is gonna take another week for them to come back, and be available again for another delivery!

Not just that. Say you sent a file to a friend, and the snail took a week to get there.

Many snails many quirks

The quirk of this software is the amount of snails needed for your deliveries. Say you want to share a file with 8 friends...

You guessed it right, you will need 8 snails!

But wait!!! SNAILS ARE NOT UNLIMITED RESOURCES. We literally had to name each one of them! Please check that there are enough available for the delivery....

Join the snail movement

With so many snails to take care of, some helping hands would be nice! If you want to contribute, plz reach out! Here are some snail thoughts to be seeded... Wouldn't it be mega cool to see them flower???

Not Only img
 Compatibility with other file formats! Text and audio could be fun to implement...

Snail Union
 We want fair delivery hours policies!

Missing Snail
 From time to time, a snail may go missing. So! A section of the website with flyers about missing snails... Someone must have seen them around, no?

Bug Tracking
 Snails love bugs! Maybe they will eat them...!

Dating App
 For snails & alike to have fun and meet up! (who knows, maybe to multiply!?)

Sharing Names
 We named all of the snail but..... how about exchanging names between friends? Naming snails instead of counting sheep!

