Welcome to the Protocol Kit!

Whether you're a seasoned protocol nerd hoping to broaden your horizons, or a protocol novice just getting started, we believe this kit will be an indispensable companion on your voyage of discovery into the world of protocols.

This package is the first of a planned six that you will receive over the next eight months, each with a hopefully stimulating bundle of goodies to help you study, explore, invent, and tinker with protocols of all sorts, ranging from technical to social, hard-edged to softedged. There will be reading material that will require (and repay) attentive study, provocative artworks, thought starters, trailheads, discussion prompts, explainers, hands-on exercises, and even a few tools and games.

The bulk of the material you will receive was developed by researchers who participated in the first Summer of Protocols cohort. The rest is supplementary material designed to complement and round-out this core material.

This first package is intended to get you set up and equipped for your voyage of discovery. It contains your 3-ring binder, some working/ organizing materials, and a set of initial inserts.

We recommend you take a few minutes to think about how you would like to use this kit, and as programmers put it, "set up your dev environment." Here is an informal "Installation Protocol" to integrate this kit into your routines (or the routines of your organization/team/study group):

- \* Grab a marker, personalize your copy by writing your name or that of your team or organization on your binder cover.
- \* Decide where to put it. A bookshelf by your desk? In a shared group space? On a coffee table for relaxed browsing? In a fullblown protocol workshop/laboratory/studio where your protocolthemed projects, books, and equipment live?
- \* We highly recommend roping in a couple of people to form a study group! A weekly in-person discussion group over coffee or a virtual group is a great mechanism for steadily cultivating your interest (all kit materials are available free online).
- \* Find, print, and add ONE selection of your own to the binder -- perhaps a journal article, tutorial, or news item. Or even a protocol specification that you want to study. It's not your journey until you make it personal.
- \* Finally, fill out the cover sheet that follows this letter and make that the first sheet of your binder. After all, a protocol kit should itself have a usage protocol!

And don't forget, there are more resources for you at summerofprotocols. com -- an email newsletter, all this kit material in digital form, a link to our Discord, and a calendar of live events.



# Why a kit?

We've chosen this particular format because we want to enable and inspire active and collaborative curiosity about protocols.

We -- the Summer of Protocols team and the cohort of researchers -came up with the idea of the Protocol Kit because all of us wanted to do more than just disseminate our own thinking to a passive audience. We wanted to share our own experience of being nerdsniped by this fascinating nascent field and spending a summer actively going deep into it.

Most of us, even those who generally disliked school, have memories of getting fascinated enough by a subject to study it deeply and systematically over an extended period, of being hooked by a new interest and consciously and deliberately setting out to master it.

You probably remember putting together a 3-ring binder or study notebook, collecting materials, and blocking out regular study time. If you're a social learner, you probably remember joining or pulling together clubs or study groups that met regularly to discuss ideas and work together. You probably recall making up "learning projects" to stress-test and grow your abilities.

Somehow, most of us lose these fascinating and deeply satisfying habits -- the protocols of studying -- as adults. New interests we develop as adults rarely progress beyond idle curiosity and drive-by sampling of random news or Wikipedia articles. Even when we modestly tag a new interest as a hobby, we rarely get to a satisfying level of mastery.

For many of us, the Summer of Protocols was our first opportunity in years, and in some cases decades, to really go deep and study a subject because we wanted to. It felt like rediscovering muscles we'd forgotten we had. And we wanted to share the experience.

This kit is the result.

While we would of course love to see a large community of casual spectators and fans of the world of protocols emerge, what we really hope to do is catalyze a proper scene of active explorers, tinkerers, artists, researchers, and builders. Our goal is to increase the depth and breadth of active engagement with this emerging field.

If we had the technology, we might have created something like the *Young Lady's Illustrated Primer* in Neal Stephenson's *Diamond Age* or *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* in the eponymous novel by Douglas Adams. But since we don't, we figured this 3-ring binder form factor would be the next best thing.

We hope you enjoy your Protocol Kit. Bon voyage!

## \* \* \* MY PROTOCOL KIT\* \* \*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This Protocol Kit belongs to:

name of person, workgroup, or organization

It lives in:

physical location

Primary contact person:

name and contact information

NOTES. Share useful information with anyone who might browse this kit such as information about related activities, resources, projects, or study groups.




ITEM	BORROWER	DATE OUT	DATE RETURN

ProtocolKit