Linking our thinking -project proposal

1. Introduction

We are witnessing a fast rise of note-taking apps that enable <mark>easy linking of notes</mark>. [Obsidian](), Roam Research and [Logseq]() (open source) have gained millions of users and raised investor money in the past couple of years. However, these tools are mostly for personal use and there are not yet easy-to-use options for teams. The best of the breed on relationship maps for collective use is [Kumu.io]().

Linking supports the natural human way of networked thinking, where we make sense of the complex world by recognising the wholes and the relationships rather than by splitting things into parts. At Sitra, we need such tooling for teams and collectives.
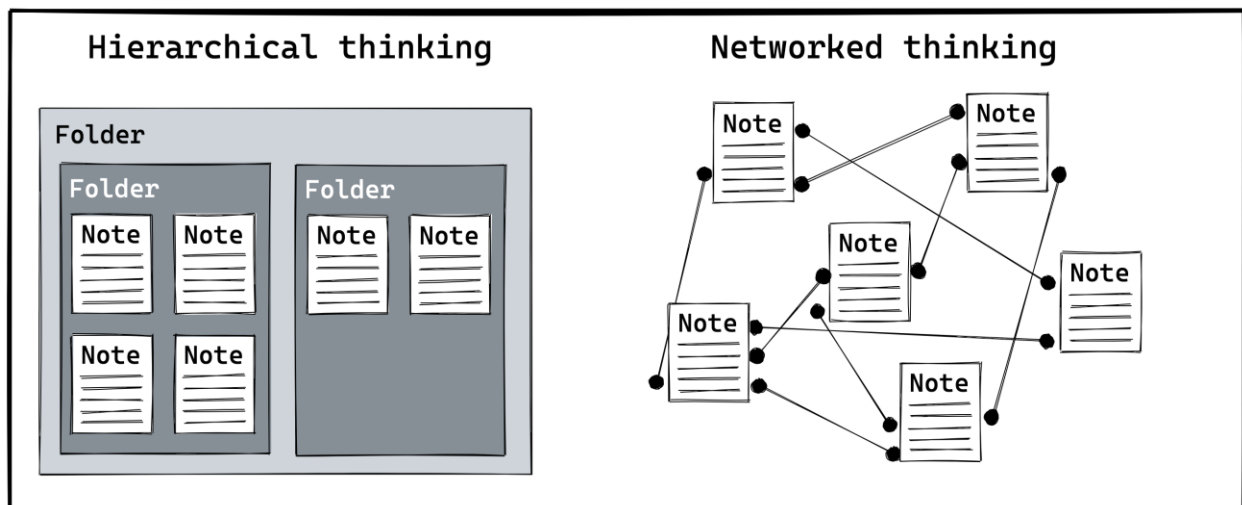

Image from [Logseq documentation]().

2. Project goals

Explore the viability and create a proof of concept of a collaborative web-based environment for editing and viewing linked notes.

Sitra will provide two data sets in the format of linked markdown files:

- **Data set A:** Impact- and project goals of Sitra's ongoing projects (100 files)
- **Data set B:** Set of policy goals related to the digitalisation from Tietopolitiikka.fi (200 files)

Preferably the outcome should be a published open source plugin for one of the mentioned note-taking apps and online implementations for the above-mentioned data sets.

The final objectives will be agreed after the initial exploration phase. At that stage, the team should know the biggest challenges in the project, and the project scope can be adjusted accordingly.

For Sitra, it is important to gain experience in working collaboratively with linked notes (we will do real user testing) and to develop the idea further based on the insights and outcomes from the project.

3. Technologies

Starting points:

- We recommend the [Logsec open source -project](#) (Clojure) as the starting point.
- The result can follow the approach of [Obsidian publish](#) with the addition that there should be a possibility for signed users to edit the notes.
- The notes can be served from Github with a static site generator such as [Hugo](#) or some alternative. See also [Logseq publish](#).
- Another potential pathway is to create a plugin that enables easy conversion of markdown notes to be visualised and edited in Kumu.io.

From the above-mentioned starting points, we expect the team to do an initial exploration and come up with an implementation plan that the team can follow independently.

4. Requirements for the students

- The team should be confident in evaluating, using and contributing to open source projects.
- We expect that the team is open and active in communicating with the product owner.
- Gaining basic understanding of [systems thinking](#) is recommended before starting the project (see [YouTube for example](#)) to understand the motives better.
- It is also beneficial if team members are interested in personal knowledge management (PKM) and would like to experiment [for example Obsidian](#) or Logsec in personal use

5. Legal Issues

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): The results are published under open source license (licensing model to be decided with the team)

Confidentiality: The client will not share any confidential information with the students.

6. Client

Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund, is an independent public foundation which operates directly under the supervision of the Finnish Parliament. Sitra is influential nationally and internationally and acts as a think tank, promoter of experiments and operating models and a catalyst for co-operation.

Client representatives:

Project manager: Kirsi Hanhisalo, kirsi.hanhisalo@sitra.fi, +358 50 369 3914

Product owner: Antti 'Jogi' Poikola, antti.poikola@sitra.fi, +358 44 337 5439

Poikola is leading specialist in data economy and has expertise in knowledge management tools and technologies. Hanhisalo is leading specialist in training and development (incl. Sitra Lab) and is a substance expert in the linked impact goals (Data set 1) and acts as the contact related to use cases and user testing.

We will establish a quick feedback channel (chat) and promise short response times to the team. Estimated guiding effort up to a few hours per week. We can offer meeting facilities from Sitra.