



SSRC JUST TECH FELLOWSHIP • WORK PROPOSAL • 2027

#Tech4Gud

A Utopian Cyberpunk Future

Augmented reality that veils and protects — an inversion of Matsuda's Hyper-Reality, built on a distributed council of human guardians.

Cory “Ike” Ilo, PhD

DIBIA Research • XR Privacy & Intelligent Systems



THE PROBLEM

Hyper-Reality is no longer a concept film.

Matsuda's 2016 film imagined AR as surveillance by default — a city that gamifies you and sells you back to yourself. A decade on, it ships: sensor-rich glasses (Ray-Ban Meta, Apple Vision Pro, Android XR) that buy context by imaging the world and everyone in it. Documents, faces, and homes enter the record incidentally; the wearer's own gaze can re-identify them.

The exposure falls hardest on those least equipped to find a privacy menu.

● Bystander capture

Non-consenting people are imaged; only the wearer has any control.

● Identity inference

Gaze is biometric — the data that drives adaptation can re-identify you.

● Sensitive surroundings

Screens, meds, mail, IDs — swept into the record, never chosen to be shared.

THE BIG IDEA

Invert the lens: read the wearer, not the world.

The Veil — after W.E.B. Du Bois — governs the terms on which one is seen.

The default · Hyper-Reality

- Sensing serves ads and surveillance by default.
- The wearer is the product.
- Privacy is a setting almost no one finds.

The inversion · #Tech4Gud

- A light, on-device Veil runs continuously, by default.
- It protects everyone — not only the privacy-literate.
- The same sensing now powers social, situational & presence awareness.

The bystander, reframed. Avoidance never images them; mitigation filters them. Protection becomes a property of how the wearer's own system senses — not a right the bystander must invoke.



WHAT MAKES IT BUILDABLE

A design space — not a feature toggle.

● **Avoidance** · GoldiLocks

Sense a different modality — gaze, not the camera.

● **Mitigation** · InPlainGaze

Re-encode the permitted signal — the Veil. Keep the use, shed the identity.

● **Protection** · ARPA

Defend against deceptive overlays before they render.

≈ **85%**

task utility retained

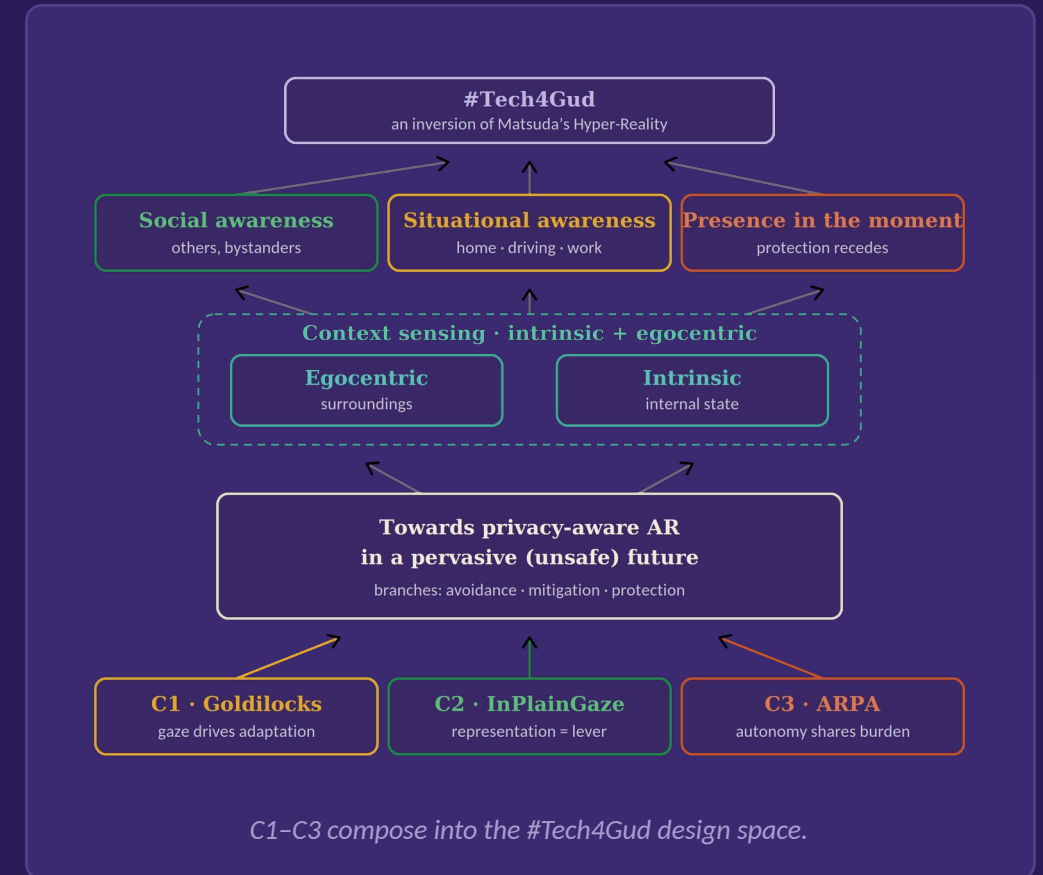
~**10×**

fewer re-identifications

on-device

and on by default

Evidence: three deployed systems. To appear, IEEE TVCG 2026.



THE PROJECT

Grab your LLC and come build.

Academia runs on graduate labor it treats as indenture. **DIBIA Inc inverts it:** a decentralized, distributed-human-compute organization where the researcher owns the work. It runs three ways.

Consultancy

grab your LLC, come build

Researchers join as independent contractors (Uber-style, on-demand). Paid for the work, owning their time, not bonded to a lab.

Marketplace

sell your research

An Airbnb-style marketplace: researchers list services to companies and find collaborators, on their own terms.

Incubator

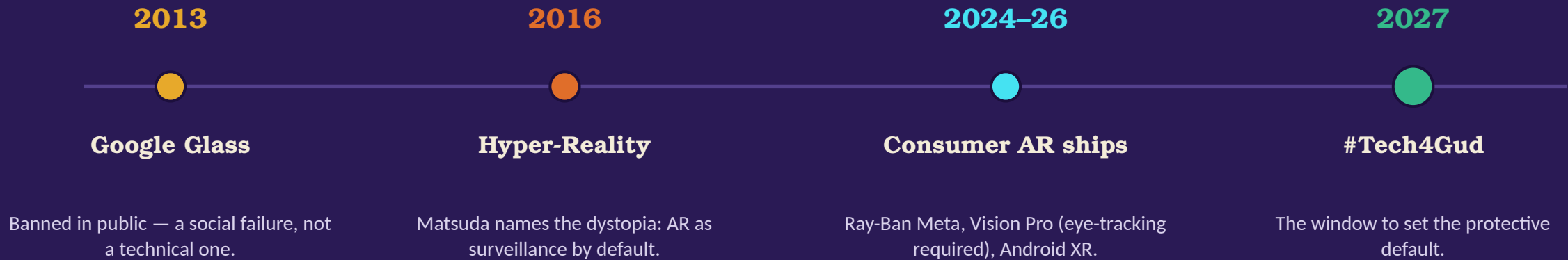
1 Jonin, 3 apprentices

Naruto-style apprenticeship. A PhD or postdoc leads three junior researchers, turning academia's unwritten rules into explicit mentorship.

What DIBIA builds: **SpatialSensai** (private XR sensing) · **DigiDinar** (trust as currency) · **#ThirdPlace** (configurable social hub). The #Tech4Gud stack.

WHY NOW

The defaults are being written this cycle.



The conventions for what these devices may sense — and on whose terms — are hardening now. We author the default, or inherit Hyper-Reality.

WHO IT'S FOR

Diaspora-centered. A model for everyone least served.

A protection that demands literacy protects the literate; a protection on by default protects everyone — including the bystander who never opted in.

DIBIA centers the African diaspora not as a market but as the design lens: traditions of collective protection — the Egungun who watches over the community, the baobab that sustains in hard ground — become technical defaults.

“I build this as an Igbo engineer-artist — a dibia in the old sense: one who shapes protective knowledge for the community.”

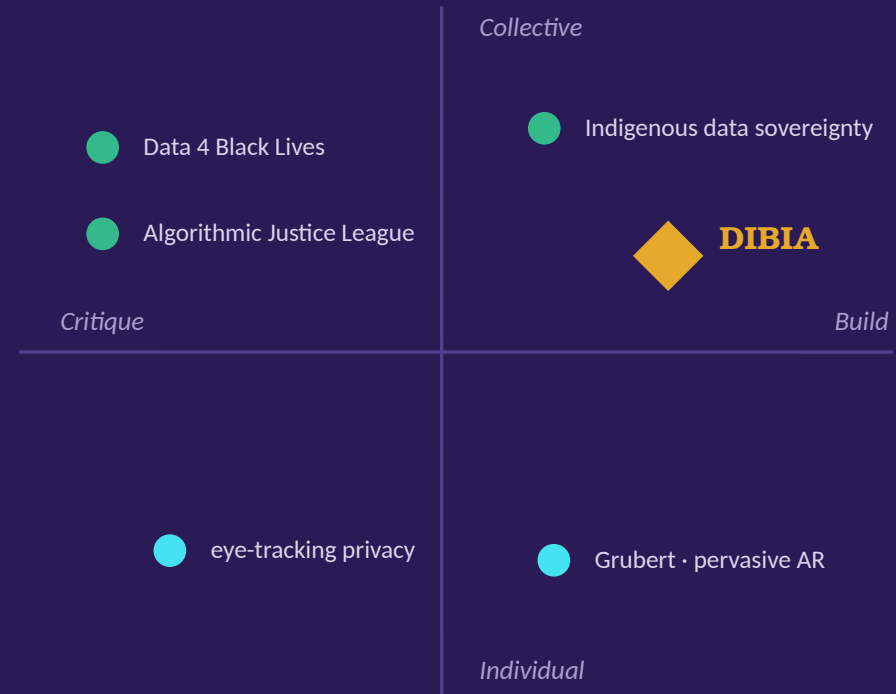


THE LANDSCAPE

Allies — and an empty lane.

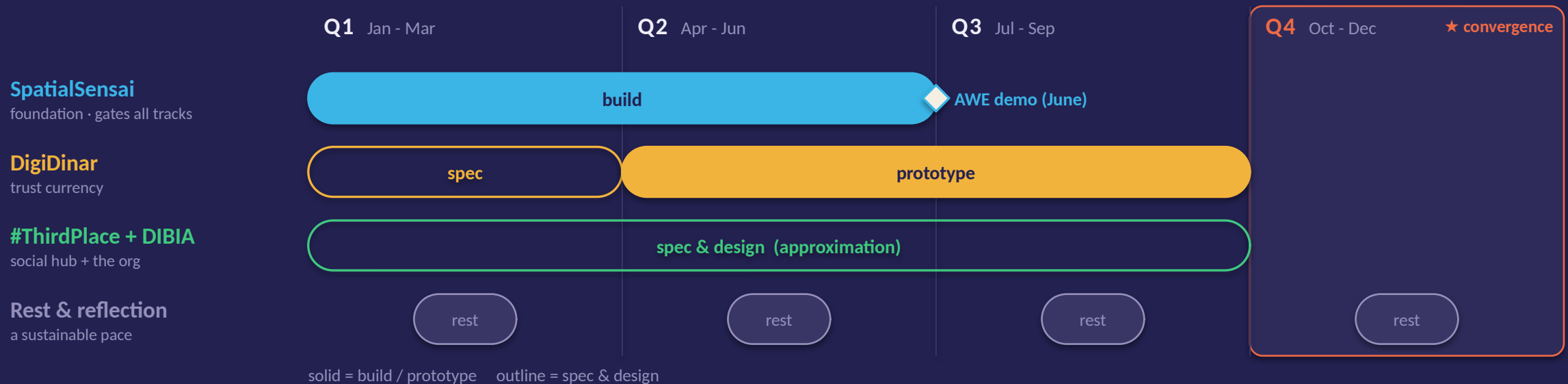
DIBIA stands with design-justice and data-sovereignty movements — the Design Justice Network, Data 4 Black Lives, the Algorithmic Justice League, Indigenous data sovereignty — and with privacy-XR research (Grubert's pervasive AR; eye-tracking privacy; David-John).

The empty lane it fills: diaspora-centered, distributed-human-compute protective-XR infrastructure — privacy built in at the representation layer, by and for community.



Ship the foundation. Convene the future.

SpatialSensai's everyday AR utility gates every other track, so it ships first. The downstream tracks are concept prototypes: we test the experience before the full technology exists.



★ **Q4 capstone, a #Tech4Gud society event:** emulate the future with SpatialSensai, DigiDinar, and #ThirdPlace running live, together.

\$60K, unrestricted: community honoraria · edge compute · exhibition & travel. Rest is scheduled, not earned.

THE FUTURE WE'RE BUILDING

Protection on the regular. By default. For everyone.

To be seen by the machine as an actor in a task — never compelled to be a name in a database.

THE ALCHEMISTS

Cory “Ike” Ilo

Lead · XR privacy

Cedrick K. Ilo

Adobe

Nikki Alabanza

Protection / dark patterns

Cherelle Connor

Virginia Tech

**Brendan David-
John**

Advisor · eye-tracking privacy

Public contribution: open Veil infrastructure · the counter-film · public writing & exhibition.



#Tech4Gud · DIBIA

