

WAVE

Wave Principles & Zero State Constitution V1.2

1 May 2013

Wave is a movement loosely organized around the idea that *a wave of technological and social change is engulfing humanity*, and that this wave should be harnessed for good where possible. The Wave motto is “Positive Social Change Through Technology”.

‘Wave’ is a term intended to represent only a simple common understanding and collaboration, and does not automatically preclude or endorse any philosophies or ideologies. Any point of view that is generally considered compatible with the Wave Principles is also considered to be compatible with the movement itself.

The following document is comprised of two sections. The first is a set of general principles first announced on 1 May 2011, common to all groups and organizations affiliated with the movement. The second is the Constitution of the Zero State, which is a formally organized community within the movement.

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1.0 WAVE PRINCIPLES

The Wave Principles are arranged in five categories: **A**utonomy and Accord, **E**Xtension of Rights and Responsibilities, **I**ntentional Community and Constructive Effort, **O**rientation of Values and Mission, **M**etamorphosis and Renewal. These categories are summarized by the mnemonic acronym AXIOM.

1.1 Autonomy and Accord

A

Philosophies which assert the complete primacy of a single idea, method, force, principle, person, or faction are inherently unbalanced. They sacrifice entire systems or societies for their own, limited concerns. Accord or balance between forces and

concerns is critical to the success of any system, and to the wellbeing of citizens in any society. Wave is beholden to no single party or philosophy, with constructive and compassionate ethical values that revolve around this Principle of Autonomy and Accord.

B

Science, art, philosophy, and technology - as tools we use to understand and shape the world - must be used in a balanced way. Similarly, we must balance innovation and trade with protection of the community and environment.

C

Science, art, philosophy, and their sub-disciplines are to be regarded as having equal value in our work. This does not mean that scientific and artistic products have been or can be judged by any single criterion, but that technology and scientific process do not exist in a vacuum, but rather in a cultural context. Art and culture influence people, and the ways in which people will relate to technology and science. We afford these processes equal respect as a matter of principle.

D

Considered action is to be emphasized over purely theoretical concerns. Philosophy, conversation, and deep consideration have great value, but to be of utmost value they must eventually be grounded in concrete action of some type.

E

Although false and transitory beliefs can occasionally have utility, we must ensure that rational and critical appraisal is developed, allowing us to detect false beliefs and assumptions, deliberate or accidental.

F

The current global economic system is deeply dysfunctional. This dysfunction is not a result of specific crises, but is endemic, designed into the very basis of the system. This dysfunction causes widespread suffering, and therefore must be stopped. Removal of dysfunctional systems must coincide with implementation of functional alternatives. We endeavour to operate an alternative economy with two components, outlined below.

G

(1) External Trade: A system for trade with exterior systems using different forms of currency and regulations. Public debt and debt trading within and on behalf of Wave organizations is strictly forbidden.

H

(2) Publici Juris: All goods and services are created and shared among citizens with no use of monetary economy whatsoever. Where a Publici Juris system is in effective operation, sale of such goods and services, or use of any emergent currency within the Wave sphere of influence is prohibited and unnecessary. The rule of Publici Juris is only practicable in virtual or online environments, or where the goods or services in question do not exist in a state of scarcity (natural or artificial).

I

Where the rule of Publici Juris is not yet practicable, effort should be made to operate in such a way that will make later implementation of Publici Juris more, rather than less, feasible. One such interim measure is to ensure that members of Wave organizations are not discouraged from advantageous exchanges, by using decentralised alternative currencies or certified trading partners where money of some form is necessary.

J

Where possible, Wave will encourage abandonment of non-replaceable fossil fuels at the first possible opportunity. Where it is possible to combine such initiatives with technological development (e.g. Space Based Solar Power driving a sustainable hydrocarbon energy economy), we should attempt to do so.

K

As activity becomes decentralized and locally oriented, waste is to be minimized where possible. This includes local recycling in physical environments rather than export to centralized waste management centres, and an emphasis on telecommuting (working via shared virtual environments and other electronic systems) rather than unnecessary physical travel.

1.2 Extension of Rights and Responsibilities

A

Personal liberty and equality of opportunity are of paramount importance within the Wave movement, and always apply insofar as such freedoms do not reduce the freedoms of others, whether deliberately or accidentally.

B

The movement is intended to be fully distributed, with Principles being enacted on a local basis. As such, there should be no central point of focus which makes the entire system vulnerable. Power is in the hands of the membership in Wave organizations, in partnership with local coordinators. This system and the specific rules it develops are together known within the Zero State community as Zerocracy.

C

The best form of government is the least intrusive government. Wave leaders do not encumber other citizens unnecessarily, and only make their presence felt where guidance regarding Principle and action are required in order to achieve the goals of the movement.

D

Direct democratic activity should be embraced locally, with every citizen taking some personal responsibility for enacting the Principles. Representative, rather than direct, democracy may only be employed where representatives have clearly limited powers. Such representatives may only exist to facilitate direct, local democracy, rather than replace it.

E

Transparency of governance and administration is vital to the health of the Wave movement and its Principles. For that reason, unjustified censorship is permissible under only the most extreme and temporary circumstances, and the appropriate justification for any censorship must be made available upon request by any interested party within the movement. Similarly, all leaders within the movement are to be held accountable for their decisions and actions. In the first instance, such accountability should take the form of transparent decision making where possible.

F

Where any aspect of governance or administration is considered unacceptable, citizens are free to leave the Wave sphere of influence of their own accord, with no influence or interference being permitted on the part of others. Leaders must note such action as a form of valid protest, and duly consider revision of their conduct.

G

All freedoms and advantages of the movement must be offered to as wide a circle of sentient and sapient entities as appropriate, where possible. Participation must always be optional, but we work to make that option available as widely as possible.

1.3 Intentional Community and Constructive Effort

A

We believe in working with and using those aspects of society which have value, in order to address those which do not. For example, we are not in any way ‘anti-human’, but we believe that we can, and should, improve the human condition and environment using technology. This desire to develop the positive and eliminate the negative should be understood as being in the spirit of positive, creative, and constructive effort.

B

We emphasise action, and a balance between art and science, by pursuing practical projects, organized into “Aspects”. The four highest priority “Focus Aspects” recognized by the Zero State community act as both organizational infrastructure, and – in conjunction with the Wave Principles – as a constant reminder of our original intentions.

C

The Principle of Constructive Effort must also be applied in all discussion, debate, and planning. When any discussant makes critical comments while leaving their own proposals or views unstated, others – even non-members – will be supported in their right to call for immediate and explicit statement of such proposals or views. In other words, we must work to make our speech constructive, and will not engage in or support non-constructive forms of debate.

D

Philosophy and ideology must serve action toward achieving our goals, rather than distracting from such action. Responsibility for taking action and the consequences of

that action must be assumed by each individual, working to lead efforts themselves rather than waiting to be told what to do. This point can be summarized as: *Just Do It*. If any initiative is incompatible with Wave Principle or rules, coordinators must take action as appropriate.

E

Wave is a futurist movement, exploring the impact of accelerating technological growth on society, economics, politics, and the human condition, through science, art, and other means. We are working to create a *distributed autonomous community* – the Zero State – and to ensure fair treatment and mutual support for its citizens. “Mutual support” means that ZS citizens should help each other as a matter of priority when such help can be given without any problematic cost to themselves.

F

Access to this new society is free and open to all would-be citizens, and participation and membership in all aspects of Zero State and the Wave movement are strictly voluntary, as a matter of principle. We will, however, endeavour to offer full access and membership as widely as possible. This and other points of principle act as the ethical and ideological centre of Wave.

1.4 Orientation of Values and Mission

A

We want a new, healthy society – a new future – which embraces the compassionate use of technology to solve problems, reject Authoritarianism and uncontrolled Crony Capitalism, and embody the principles of freedom, democracy, and transparency of government.

B

Where there is unwanted suffering, we will seek to abolish it. Our highest goal is to work toward a society in which involuntary suffering has been abolished by the considered, compassionate application of technology.

C

We seek to instill compassion in ourselves and our sentient creations, which may eventually succeed us in power. This is a matter of not only virtue and leading by example, but potentially of self-preservation.

D

In assessing the sentience of any entity, we will use capacity for suffering as a factor in our judgment. We will not cause suffering to any sentient entity for scientific or any other purpose where there is any alternative, particularly where the alternative encourages technological development, such as advanced non-invasive scanning technologies. We will also promote technological developments increasingly allowing us to spare involuntary suffering as much as possible.

E

Ignorance causes suffering, and so we must work to spread accurate knowledge where it will help others at no significant risk to ourselves.

F

We seek to promote Wave principles, mutual support programs, increased knowledge, expanded consciousness, good health, and prolonged life.

G

Insofar as it does not violate other principles, we seek to treat others with respect. We aim to treat them as they would wish to be treated, and will not treat them as they do not wish to be treated.

H

Coercion and aggression are forbidden, but we may act to prevent involuntary suffering, which includes comprehensive action in defence of the Wave movement. Defensive action must only be taken when necessary, and later justified in full to the members of the movement.

I

Our work must be based on local, replicable models, which can be efficiently scaled up to deal with larger issues. Thus, the local community is always of immediate importance, and efficient communication with others is critical. Where the work in question is primarily based in virtual space, “local” means small groups and functional communities, as opposed to high-level organizational groups. Where Wave activity has an influence in physical space, “local” refers both to small communities and the geographic areas associated with them.

J

When working toward the abolition of involuntary suffering, we must remember that ‘negative’ emotions should be engineered only insofar as this does not compromise any critical motivational role in behaviour that cannot be replaced. Involuntary suffering often represents a state of imbalance of some sort, and our aim is not to eliminate ‘negative’ emotions, but to optimize emotional function for minimal involuntary suffering. Optimization is a process which may be considered in terms of achieving balance between necessary and desired elements.

1.5 Metamorphosis and Renewal

A

The “Zero” in ‘Zero State’, like the symbol of a wave of change, refers to total social, political, technological, environmental, and spiritual renewal. A technologically driven, total societal “reset” to zero must include new approaches to government, individual empowerment, accelerating technological advance, and approaches to the world’s problems founded in a new psychology.

B

A wave of technological change unprecedented in human history is coming, and it will sweep away the world we know. Technological development and its effects on culture are accelerating exponentially. After a critical rate of change is reached, the sum of previous human knowledge important to the new civilization will reduce toward zero. The terms ‘Zero State’ and ‘Doctrine Zero’ may also be taken to refer to our lack of certainty in knowing what the future holds, beyond that point.

C

Although we cannot predict exactly what will happen, we expect that Artificial and Augmented Intelligence (AI) may be developed to harness the potential to solve the world's problems, while Virtual Reality (VR) and nanotechnologies may similarly be developed to harness the potential to recreate the world and its inhabitants.

D

We recognize that advanced technologies often pose risks in addition to offering promise. Rather than being paralyzed by precaution, we must work to mitigate risks while maximizing positive outcomes. Maximization of the survivability and value of technology is the long-term goal of the Wave movement.

E

Technology and the advantages it confers must be preserved as a matter of priority. Unless a certain technology poses specific risks, then fundamental opposition to it on political, philosophical or religious grounds is contrary to the Wave ethos. Deep consideration and debate of technological risks and advantages is, however, to be encouraged.

F

As our control over reality and perception grows, we must aspire to truth and exploration. We expect that the use of technology toward transcendence in a transhumanist context leads us to a worldview in which successive alterations to the human condition may allow us to apprehend wider vistas of reality than those previously directly perceived by humans.

G

For the purposes of managing relationships between the Wave movement and entities it encounters, we draw a distinction between sentience and sapience. 'Sentience' is considered to be the capacity for phenomenological awareness, potentially but not necessarily including self-awareness, also known as Consciousness. 'Sapience' refers to higher cognitive function, including capacities for reasoning and communication.

H

Where an entity is judged to be sentient but not sapient, then Wave responsibilities to it will be limited to offering the alleviation of involuntary suffering where we have such capability. An entity is judged to be sapient where it would fully understand the rights and responsibilities associated with the status of personhood, and be capable of communicating meaningful assent to an offer of membership in any Wave organization.

I

All advantages and rights which apply to Wave members are automatically offered to all sapient entities within the Wave sphere of influence, including sapient entities which others may consider to be property or 'non-persons' of any sort. For example, sapient entities taking the form of animals, fictional characters, historical recreations, or any type of avatar will be afforded the same rights as any other member of the Wave movement.

J

The work of the movement takes place initially, and primarily, in virtual space. There we have greater power to explore and manipulate the environment, and it is easier to safely contain any experiments. In developing a virtual sphere of influence, we aim to escape subjection to the tyrannies of geography and the traditional nation-state.

K

Commitment to virtual space does not mean, however, that we consider ourselves earthbound. On the contrary, our commitment to exploration includes that of off-world environments. The virtual Zero State will afford a common cultural platform for physically distributed Wave communities. Exploration and colonization of space in posthuman form are imperative, both to satisfy the Wave principles, and to maximize the likelihood of our long-term survival.

L

Our mission is to transcend our limitations through the use of technology, and to help others toward such transcendence with their explicit consent. Transhumanism is central to our vision of the future of civilization. This is defined as an imperative to technologically increase intelligence, expand consciousness, enhance our physical bodies, and defeat disease of all types.

1.6 Amendment of the Wave Principles

The Wave principles are intended as the ethical centre of the movement, and thus can only be developed by a conservative process of consensus within that movement.

Each round of amendments to the principles must be indicated by incrementing the version number, and the first decimal place of that number may only be incremented by one, once per year on May 1st. Whole version numbers will therefore not change more frequently than once per decade.

All amendments must be ratified by all seven chambers of the movement's coordinating committee, known as SANSAD (see section 2.3).

2.0 ZERO STATE CONSTITUTION

Zero State is a formally organized community (or group of communities) within the Wave movement. Being a member of the Wave movement does not automatically mean that one is a citizen of the Zero State, but all "ZSers" are at least implicitly part of the Wave movement. What follows is the highest-level statement of rules and procedures within Zero State.

2.1 Adherence to the Wave Principles

The Wave principles constitute the ethical basis of Zero State, and the clearest statement of its founding intent. Although the spirit and intent of the principles must by necessity be interpreted by people and organizational bodies, the principles must always be considered of primary importance when determining the future of Zero State, including any decision which might be expected to set strong precedent.

2.2 ZS Organizational Infrastructure: The Six C's

Zero State's organizational infrastructure may be described in terms of six layers of abstraction, from principle (the most abstract) to local organizational units associated with clearly defined geographic territories. These layers have different functions and characteristics, and should not be considered to constitute a simple hierarchy.

2.2.1 Constitution

The Wave Principles and Zero State Constitution together represent the highest and most abstract level of organization within the movement.

2.2.2 Congress

The most comprehensive decision making body within the movement is the Congress – a meeting to be held every five years from the original declaration of the principles, when possible. The Congress is to include SANSAD and all other relevant representatives from the various affiliated organizations that constitute the movement.

2.2.3 Chambers

The seven chambers of SANSAD (see section 2.3) constitute the most comprehensive form of executive decision making within the movement when Congress is not in session.

2.2.4 Colleges

The movement shall endeavour to build an educational infrastructure which will both develop and apply our principles, helping to make knowledge as widely available as possible.

2.2.5 Cadres

Organised frameworks of committed activists coordinating online will form the global substrate of the movement. Groups of approximately 25 people will be organized into "Cadres", being able to further split into five smaller teams known as "Fives". According to Zerocratic procedure, each Five and Cadre must have a single recognized coordinator.

2.2.6 Cantons

While Cadres can exist online, irrespective of geographic constraints, ZS must also develop a network of local, geographic presences. Such presences must operate internally according to Zerocratic procedure, have an associated geographical footprint which is considered part of the ZS sphere of influence, and will be known as "Cantons".

2.3 SANSAD

The Wave principles are applied to the various parts of the movement, including Zero State, by a coordinating committee known as SANSAD. The word ‘Sansad’ is Sanskrit for “House”, considered not only appropriate to what is essentially a kind of parliament, but also to reflect the idea that the entirety of the movement is like a single House, and that the Wave principles apply to all activity under that House’s roof. SANSAD is not envisaged as a centralized, top-down authority, but as a channel for communication between the various self-determining aspects of the Wave movement.

SANSAD is composed of seven chambers, with three of those being dedicated to Zero State, as the largest founding organization within the movement and the source of the Wave principles. The committee meets quarterly (May, August, November, & February) to vote on all issues tabled in the preceding three months.

The first three chambers are drawn from Zero State, as follows:

The first chamber represents the four ZS Founding Institutes: INTENT, PRAXIS, BUREAU, and TETRAD. The coordinator appointed by each Institute takes a single seat on the committee.

The second chamber represents the four ZS Focus Aspects. Assignment of the Focus Aspects is recommended by the POL (ZS Politics) coordinator once per year, and approved by SANSAD. Each Focus Aspect coordinator retains a seat on SANSAD for as long as they remain coordinator, and their Aspect remains one of the four Focus Aspects.

The third chamber is a democratic body elected by the ZS general membership (AKA the Citizenry). The four democratic representatives are required to communicate the majority views of the Citizenry in all decision making, in addition to developing and maintaining electoral and direct-democratic systems within ZS.

The votes of the first three chambers are final regarding all “internal” Zero State matters, which affect that organization only. Where any issue affects the entirety of the Wave movement and/or its constituent organizations, then discussion and voting must include all seven chambers.

The fourth to seventh chambers are arranged as follows:

The fourth to seventh chambers are drawn from the wider Wave movement, and have dual functions. All four chambers form part of the SANSAD voting body, when it is voting on issues relevant to the entirety of the Wave movement rather than just Zero State. Additionally, each chamber acts as a kind of “think tank”, intended to discuss and develop Wave policy within its own broad remit. The fourth chamber’s remit is science, law, philosophy and religion. The fifth chamber’s remit includes political, military and security matters. The sixth chamber’s remit is trade and economic

concerns. The seventh chamber's concerns are media, democracy, human and animal rights, and the environment.

Across the fourth to seventh chambers, four representatives per chamber are elected from an array of candidates put forward by all of the organizations constituting the Wave movement. Each such organization may propose one candidate per chamber, and has four votes (to be ranked in order of preference) per chamber when electing representatives.

2.4 Amendment of the Constitution and ZS Policies

The Wave Principles and Zero State Constitution may only be amended as a single document, by all seven chambers of SANSAD as described in section 1.6. Policies and rules which apply only to Zero State and which are not included in this document may be voted on by only the first three chambers of SANSAD.

2.5 Zerocracy

Zero State is administered with a system known as "Zerocracy", which is a mix of direct democracy and meritocracy. This system relies upon a heterarchical cellular structure, where direct democracy and personal initiative are strongly encouraged within each section. At the same time, each section has a single Coordinator, ideally chosen by the section members themselves, from within their own group. While the Coordinator is expected to encourage "grassroots" and "bottom-up" activity, the Coordinator is the only person recognised as being able to make final decisions for the section. The essence and spirit of the system is to maximise personal freedom with "laissez faire" management and direct democracy in all areas, but at the same time leave no room for trolls to deliberately game and disrupt our rules and community.

In the event of any dispute, the Coordinator is the final arbiter. Where anyone wishes to appeal a Coordinator's decision or there is any dispute between the Coordinators of different sections, then the next most senior Coordinator (i.e. that of a greater section including those in dispute) must make all relevant decisions. One Coordinator cannot create an administrative record for another at the same level, and should not publicly dispute the judgment of another. Instead, all appeals and disputes are to be taken to a senior Coordinator, or - *in extremis* where there is no more senior Coordinator - to SANSAD.

The list of rules given in section 2.8 applies to all core ZS projects, forums, mailing lists, social network presences, and physical meetings. Although Coordinators can run things as they see fit as long as they do so in the spirit and to the letter of the principles, they are generally encouraged to apply the rules below in all administrative and disciplinary matters, and are expected to do so as a matter of default (i.e. without a good reason for doing otherwise).

2.6 Voting within SANSAD

Although the term only officially applies within Zero State, the Wave movement broadly operates according to *Zerocracy*, as described in section 2.5. In practice, this means that while groups or entire organizations may operate internally as they see fit,

their relationship with the Wave movement as a whole will depend upon a single recognized coordinator of that group or organization. Although diversity and democracy are actively encouraged in grass-roots decision making across the movement, there is limited scope for deliberately destructive game-playing, and a single point of responsibility for any decision can be identified if need be.

Across the movement, representatives and coordinators are not there to dictate policy, but rather to act as spokespeople and channels of communication for direct democratic processes within the sections they speak for.

SANSAD is no exception to the Zerocratic rule. Items that require voting upon by the committee must be tabled at least one week in advance of quarterly meetings, and motions are carried by simple majority across the relevant chambers (three in matters pertaining only to ZS, seven for matters regarding the entire movement). Votes in absentia must be registered with the committee at least 24 hours before the meeting.

The committee chair is equated with the INTENT seat within the first (Founding Institutes) chamber. The role of INTENT is to ensure that Zero State and the Wave movement adhere to the original spirit and intent of the principles. The chairperson will abstain from all SANSAD votes as default, only offering a vote to break ties or in matters expected to set extraordinary precedent. Additionally, the chair may veto a SANSAD vote under only exceptional circumstances where the original intent or survival of the movement is considered to be at stake. In such an event, the chair must fully and publicly explain this action to the entire membership at the first reasonable opportunity, in accordance with the principles. Here the role of the chair is that of Zerocratic coordinator, intended to be laissez faire except in an emergency, when it is recognized as having a transparent final responsibility for decisions made by the committee.

2.7 Administration

2.7.1

As a general rule, the basic procedure followed by forum admins when dealing with any perceived breach of the points below (under “Standards & Issues of Concern”) will be to offer (1) one clear warning, and then (2) a ban. Bans apply simultaneously to *all* core ZS forums, rather than only the specific forum where the offense occurred. Under normal circumstances, the ban will be temporary, and must be for a clearly specified period. Deliberately ignoring such a ban or repeated and wilful rule breaking may warrant a permanent ban, at admins' discretion.

2.7.2

Occasionally a troll may attempt to circumvent these rules by pushing an issue as far as they can, even to the point of a temporary ban, and then switching trolling tactics - making it seem reasonable that because this is a new issue, their slate should be cleaned of warnings and bans. Such an approach could allow a troll to permanently disrupt ZS while technically following the rules, and therefore cannot be allowed. Where administrators suspect that a person is testing the system in this way, they should 'clean the slate' after a temporary ban - so the user no longer has a warning against their name - but at the same time insist that the next ban will be permanent. Thus, after one more warning and then a second infraction, the user will be

permanently barred from all ZS resources. This solution represents a balance between fairness (giving the benefit of the doubt) and security (actively opposing deliberate disruption of ZS).

2.7.3

To stop subversion of these rules by trolls, all changes must be approved by SANSAD. Where any such changes cannot wait for the committee's next quarterly meeting, 50% of administrators can vote to force an emergency meeting.

2.7.4

When making public announcements regarding a warning or ban, administrators must use the text template from the relevant section of the Zero State wiki (by copying the text and inserting the relevant details). The purpose of this is to minimise confusion, ambiguity and inconsistency which may complicate any dispute, or create opportunities for those who would deliberately disrupt ZS. Whenever a warning is issued to any user, a wiki page for that user should be created or updated, as appropriate.

2.8 Standards and Issues of Concern

2.8.1

Most generally we encourage behaviour (including verbal behaviour) compatible with the Wave principles. Opposition to the principles (as opposed to measured, constructive criticism) is incompatible with ZS membership, and therefore not considered acceptable in core ZS forums.

2.8.2

We expect that all those who use ZS resources will at least seriously attempt to demonstrate respectful, polite behaviour in their use of those resources. Abuse, intimidation, threats, or deliberate offense will not be tolerated.

2.8.3

Certain topics may be considered "flagged" because they do not typically lend themselves to discussions which are balanced, constructive, or obviously valuable, instead distracting us from the aims and work of the ZS community. If you have something to say which you consider valuable enough to warrant posting on a flagged topic, you may only do so with the explicit prior permission of an officially recognised admin. Of course you may *mention* such topics in other contexts, as long as the flagged topic is mentioned only briefly and is not the central subject of your post, and the brief mention breaks no other rules. The point of this rule is to deter recursive, regressive, and often acrimonious discussions which are already catered for elsewhere on the internet. Currently flagged topics include:

2.8.3.1

Debates which assert a certain philosophical interpretation about the identity or consciousness of whole brain emulation a.k.a. uploads. The official position of Zero State regarding this topic is that the philosophical status of the identity or consciousness of an upload is a black box that is not to be discussed.

2.8.4

Disputes between forum users may be shut down by an admin, for the benefit of other users. Where no-one is obviously breaking the rules other than causing a disturbance and/or abusing each other, then those party to the argument will at first be asked to cease immediately, taking their discussion elsewhere. If such a request from an admin is refused or ignored, a warning or other appropriate action will be warranted.

2.8.5

False identities (AKA "sock puppets" or "shills") used for malicious purposes, to circumvent warnings & bans, or generally as a strategy to support problematic behaviour, are strongly prohibited within ZS. Any user identity determined to be a sock puppet can and should be immediately and permanently banned from maintaining a presence on any ZS resources. There does not need to be any reason or infringement other than being identified with reasonable confidence to be a sock puppet, and no warning is required or encouraged when enforcing the sock puppet ban. Where sock puppets can with reasonable confidence be traced back to a true or 'core' identity, then that user must also be permanently banned without warning. The severity of this ban is prompted by the fact that sock puppets can be a powerful tool for the disruption of online communities, and so represent a clear threat to ZS.

2.8.5.1

There is, however, one extremely strong caveat and exception to this ban, which is that the Wave principles insist upon tolerance and support of all identity modes that citizens may choose to adopt. This means that a person openly and honestly employing multiple personae may do so if they feel it is integral to their personal sense of identity and are not using that as an excuse to deceive and manipulate others. If the commonality behind multiple personae is concealed for the purpose of acting to circumvent Wave principle and ZS rules, then all such personae are to be considered sock puppets and banned.

2.8.6

The Wave principles emphasise liberty, including freedom of speech, except where other principles are contravened, or exercising ones own freedoms would limit the principled freedoms of others, whether accidentally or deliberately. Furthermore, the principles make provision for defensive action to be taken by ZS itself (since allowing anyone or anything to destroy or disable ZS would immediately weaken the Wave movement and undermine its principles), as long as such action is only taken when necessary and that necessity justified after the fact. When dealing with potential threats to ZS, sometimes administrators will find themselves adjudicating in "grey areas" where someone argues that they are acting in accord with our rules or principles while effectively working to undermine ZS at the same time. Where this appears to be the case, administrators are justified in taking action in accord with the procedures outlined above, but in the course of taking appropriate action they must satisfy the principles by making it clear that their actions were entirely necessary and justified, and explaining how that is the case. Once that explanation has been offered, other administrators may choose to rule on the matter as per the rules defined above, so any justification in terms of necessary action against threats can be overturned if it is considered unwarranted by other administrators.

2.8.7

The Zero State sphere of influence extends beyond public mailing lists and groups, as do its resources. The Wave principles and rules are considered to apply in all interactions between Zero State members unless all parties to any interaction explicitly agree that they do not. The same rules apply both in public and in private where at least one party considers them to, but Zero State can and will only take action in the matter where objectionable activity is provable by having been documented in some way. In order to maintain privacy such documentation will not be made public by ZS, except for view by administrators who request to verify its existence. Administrator decisions and policy must be justified to any and all ZS citizens upon request, as per the Wave principles, unless a reason (e.g. privacy concerns) has been identified why such information cannot yet be made public.

2.8.8

When issuing warnings, in addition to the standard template text administrators may choose to add a brief explanatory note clarifying specific behaviour considered unacceptable. Such clarifications must be both as concise and specific as possible, and are subject to the same rules of appeal and veto as any other warning or ban. ZS citizens who are considered "Supporting Members" are those who have paid a membership fee, made a donation, or contributed some form of effort noted as exceptional by ZS. Supporting Member status is itself forfeit in the event of any permanent ban, with no refunds or compensation whatsoever being applicable. For this reason, all Supporting Members are *strongly* encouraged to contact a ZS administrator off-list in the event of receiving any warning or temporary ban, in order to discuss matters calmly and decrease the likelihood of a permanent ban occurring.