*TECHSHOP, TECHSHOP, WORLDWIDE*



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| *Picture source http://techshop.ws/*  ***GENERAL INFORMATION*** | |  |
| **Project name** | Techshop |
| **DE type** | Production (DP) |
| **Producer/provider** | Techshop |
| **Designer** | Jim Newton |
| **Start (year)** | 2006 |
| **State** | ongoing |
| **Project location** | Based in San Jose, CA, USA. Currently, there are 10 TechShop locations in USA; one in Paris France; and one in Abu Dhabi UAE |
| **Source of information** | http://www.bbc.com/news/business-27995179 |
| **Link to videos** | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJQR1N2ZJLQ  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nljpvlWYI34 |
| **Main contact** | Corporate Office in San Jose, CA |
| **E-mail** | info@techshop.com |
| **Website** | http://techshop.ws/ |

***SYSTEM CHARACTERISTICS***

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| **SYSTEM CONFIGURATION:** |  |
| **Provider/s (role)** | Techshop provides access to use of workshops(space), industrial tools and equipment |
| **Customer/s (type)** | Makers |
| **S.PSS CHARACTERISTICS:** |  |
| **Unit of Satisfaction** | Access to expensive prototyping and manufacturing tools |
| **Type of S.PSS** | Type II: Use-oriented PSS: enabling platform |
| **Offered product/s (related producer/s)** | Various industrial tools and equipment |
| **Offered service/s** | Access to makers space(workshop), use of industrial tools and equipment, education for safety and the use of available tools and equipment, classes, networking. |
| **Ownership of the offered product/s** | Belongs to Techshop |
| **DE access payment** | Pay for period (through membership monthly/yearly) |
| **DE system configuration** | decentralised + distributed |

***DESCRIPTION***

Techshop is chain of co-working spaces/workshops that provides access to use of industrial tools and equipment. Their CEO, Mark Hatch describes Techshop as “membership based DIY fabrication studio and workshop” and says they are “democratizing access to the tools of industrial revolution.” BBC describes it as “growing network of open access manufacturing workshops.” According to their website, the equipment and tools they provide includes but not limited to milling machines and lathes, laser cutters, sheet metal equipment, welding equipment, an indoor automotive work bay, woodworking equipment including a 4' x 8' CNC (computer numerically controlled) ShopBot router, plastics working equipment, hand tools, 3D printers, CNC vinyl cutters, sewing machines, design software.

The users of the service are makers, hobbyists, entrepreneurs, designers, artists, tinkerers, and students. The space can also be used by home users to make production for their home use. By democratizing access of expensive industrial tools and equipment to individuals (democratizing manufacturing), the service can foster DP and DD. These workshops combined with DS&I and DD platforms/services such as instruvtables.com, hackaday.io and Pinshape, it can give momentum to DE.

The member can use any equipment just by paying the membership fee which is $150 per month. They claim that members have access to over $1 million worth of advanced machines and tools, sophisticated 2D and 3D design software, and other professional equipment.

Although the company is successful overall, their two locations had to close (Beaverton in Oregon and Raleigh in North Carolina). Mark Hatch explains the reason as the closed facilities being too far away from the city’s creative class being 30 minutes outside of the city, which indicates the importance of the location of such services.

***SUSTAINABLE BENEFITS***

**Environmental Benefits**

*System life optimization: Since the company’s responsibility to repair and replace the equipment’s and tools in their workshops, it’s their interest to design the workshop and the choose the purchased equipment in the way that they would last long.*

*Resource reduction: Since the users use the shared equipment instead of purchasing their own, the service leads to reduction of resources as less production of the equipment is necessary for more users.*

**Socio-ethical Benefits**

*Favor/integrate the weaker and marginalized: the users who are not able to purchase high cost equipment and tools can access them through this service.*

**Economic Benefits**

*Added value for customers: The service provides very high-cost equipment to customers at very low cost. Small and individual enterprises can save money for not purchasing equipment and tools provided in this service.*

*Long term business/development risks: Small, individual enterprises and startups can use this service instead of investing in high cost equipment and tools, thus they can start and develop their business with less risk.*

*Partnership/cooperation: Techshop partnered with Intel’s to use Intel Galileo, the Arduino-compatible development boards based on Intel architecture.*