

The AUM 2009 Dana Cloud (Operation Raindrop) - Final

Introduction

(With reference to the file: AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-MindMap-In_Detail-Final.pdf)

I call it my “Dana Cloud”, a trope of the “Dharma Cloud” of Buddhism (The Cloud of the Buddha’s Teachings), hence the “Dana Cloud” of the Buddha’s activism. It is also referred to as “Operation Raindrop”, as it is a massed, parallel, micro-donation model – a dam is filled by rainfall, one drop at a time.

From the perspective of Permaculture it can be considered “Integrity Irrigation in the Governance Garden”

It is modelled on the “Fundamental Root Pragma” of “Act Or Assist”.

If you have the skills, energy and time to assist directly with an Active Conscience Organisation (ACO) then you can or you can assist indirectly by financially supporting them, or you can do both.

Unless you are a polymath genius of boundless energy and efficiency, there will be only a small finite number of ACO’s that you can assist directly with your personal skills, capabilities, time, familiarity and experience, however the number of ACO’s you can assist indirectly is practically infinite.

The structure of this dana cloud is constrained, by the fact that I am on Social Security and so of limited means. Saving money is difficult at best, so what I aim to do, is an end of financial year donation blitzkrieg, where I can get the annual \$500 advance from Social Security, as a base amount, and then donate it, with augmentation, to the Active Conscience Organisations (ACO’s) of my choice.

Massed, parallel, micro-donations, done on the same day, done and dusted.

I then pay off the advance back to Social Security over the subsequent six months, it is easier for me to pay back incrementally and consistently than to accumulate savings reliably, in my circumstances, at the financial margins.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maslow's_hierarchy_of_needs

Akin to the Maslowian Hierarchy of Needs with the base of survival and the acme of self-actualisation, there is a cognate Maslowian hierarchy of finances and income from survival to the acme of pure self-discretion, the more money you have the easier it is to donate, given that you have more discretionary income to apportion between self and selflessness, sensibly, beyond survival and maintenance and long term planning.

The top layer of the Maslowian Hierarchy, the Self-Actualisation level, is particularly apt, with its qualities of “morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice and acceptance of facts...”

At my financial level, on social security, which is geared to survival maintenance, I aim for a minimum of 5% of gross income. The greater the gross income level the more that discretionary freedom is practical, for incomes of \$25,000 up to \$100,000 per annum, in the spirit of "Spinal Tap", "Up To Eleven" – 11% and for greater income levels, the sky is the limit, at \$1,000,000 per annum, 51% should be the absolute minimum to demonstrate true executive competence, marshalling the amplified income.

The design of this dana cloud is also constrained by the absolute amount available for donation and by the MMQ (*Minimal Meaningful Quanta*) of donation, which I fixed at circa \$10.00 AUD per ACO in 2009, that constrains the FFF (*Fractal Fine Feathering*) of the design – for instance, with a budget of \$500, then the maximum dimension of the *Fractal Fine Feathering* design pattern would be 50, with an MMQ of \$10. In the 2009 Dana Cloud, as finalised at the EOFY 2009, the FFF dimension is 47, the initial dimension at BOFY 2009 was 42.

The final cumulative amount of donations, for FY 2009, was \$838.00, which was an augmentation of \$328 over the original advance of \$500, it proved to be 5.26% of my gross income, as measured at EOFY 2009, and would have taken circa \$16.00 per week to save for, incrementally, over the course of a year.

In the 2008 AUM design, the cumulative amount of donations for FY 2008 was \$581 which was 4.16% of my gross income for that financial year, the FFF dimension was 42. With each successive year as a stewardship competence goal, you always seek to refine the design from three perspectives:

- Refining the care portfolio of active conscience interdiction dimensions in the logical stewardship design for that particular financial year, to best address the emergent problems, both acute and chronic.
- Seek to increase the percentage of your gross income that is devoted to donations.
- Seek to increase the fractal fine feathering (FFF) dimension of your design.

Whereas the 2008 AUM design was intended to be a fairly comprehensive spread spectrum of active conscience interdiction dimensions over myriad logical stewardship domains, the 2009 AUM design was focussed more on "kicking butts" at the big end of town and the unnecessary discretionary bastardry therein.

However you also have to contemplate and meditate taking the "capability elevator" (intellectual, physical, educational, economic) of the myriad variants of human being from the penthouse to ground-level and down, down to the underground basement into the deep vulnerability of trailing edge consciousness and to take appropriate correctives for each level, it is only courtesy, given your innate or achieved stabilised capability.

One has to also bear in mind to see how sub-ordinate and otherwise deeply vulnerable stratas of consciousness whether animal, plant or inanimate suffer as well at the hands of humanity and its egoic ambitions. The whole structure allows me some (only some) peace and relief of conscience when meditating in retreat, along the lines of “Nero fiddling while Rome burns” and “Wall Street blowing carbon bubbles while Home burns.”

The structure also provides some (only some) relief of conscience during visionary research and exploration – in so far as they have the potential, actualised or not, to be tools of human ethical and visionary evolution – the structure providing some (only some) indication and reassurance that I am not totally asleep at the wheel.

It's also some insurance and guarantee that no matter how far out things might get in explorations and meditations, that at least I've done my homework, to some extent (only some). It also is my “Towards Mutual Comprehensibility” (TMC) with the rest of the scene, regardless how arcane and esoteric my research vectors may become.

The 2009 dana cloud design was not perfect, by any means, but it will do for FY 2009. It's not an exemplar of design, by any stretch of the imagination, but merely an example, this is important to note and to bear the distinction in meaning between “exemplar” and “example” in mind.

This release is the “Final” one, which means that it is the summary and summation of all the donations and micro-donations for the Financial Year 2009, from the 1st July 2009 until the 30th June 2010. Initially, circa the 4th of July 2009, the main “Strategic” design for donations in FY 2009 was executed, according to the planned budget and criteria. Of course in the subsequent twelve months, other matters arise and come to one's attention, and so there are the “tactical” amendments to your donation patterns in response.

This time around, for instance, there was the inability to donate to WikiLeaks back in July 2009 due to the great difficulties they were having with their donation vectors, subsequently corrected, and early in the New Year, there was the Haitian earthquake, hence the Médecins Sans Frontières entry, similarly with the discovery of the Environment East Gippsland campaign against clear-fell logging in Victoria, Australia, so similarly with the discovery of the Palast Investigative Fund for independent journalism.

If you are working on a fixed percentage of your gross income as a budget, then the initial “strategic design”, at the beginning of the intended annual period, could be allocated 80% of the available funds and the remaining 20% reserved over the remaining year for “tactical” responses as exigent matters arise or if new dimensions of active conscience are reconnoitred and discovered. Aligning the annual period with the Financial Year is very practical for tax purposes, as many, but not all, active conscience organisations have tax deductible donations.

As always, the work continues, FY 2010 beckons.

Practicalities

Two essential resources to establish a smooth orderly process are a debit Visa or a debit MasterCard and associated bank account and also a “PayPal” account.

A debit Visa or debit MasterCard has no credit facility and directly draws funds from the associated bank account – there should be absolutely no impediment to obtaining one, if you can open a bank account, you can obtain a debit card.

Internet banking facilities should also be set up with the relevant bank.

Dedicate the bank account and the associated debit Visa or MasterCard for donations only, nothing else, the only transactions should be deposits of funds into the card account and donations to organisations – this ensures that any reports generated from the account are uncomplicated by irrelevant, extraneous, transactions.

<http://www.paypal.com.au>

http://www.mastercard.com/au/personal/en/audebit/debit_info.html

http://www.visa-asia.com/ap/au/cardholders/cardsservices/visa_debit.shtml

Secondly, create a dedicated PayPal account for donations as well, linked to the donations debit Visa or MasterCard – the only transactions in the PayPal account should be donations – again that ensures clear and simple reporting.

These are dedicated donations PayPal and debit card resources.

If you want similar resources for every day transactions, then open a different bank account, a different debit card and a different PayPal account all dedicated to every-day transactions, exclusive of any donations.

For each PayPal account you will need a unique email address, here are some recommended resources:

<http://www.fastmail.fm>

<http://www.pobox.com>

<http://lavabit.com/>

<http://www.gmx.com>

<http://mail.google.com/>

All provide webmail access and also provide POP and IMAP access for your local email client on your computer as well.

PayPal accounts have two modes of transactions, directly via the debit card, or directly via the associated bank account. Generally the former provides more information, for easy confirmation and cross-correlation of transaction records, and is to be recommended, whereas the latter is substantially more uninformative in your bank account’s transaction records – particularly in the instance where you transact multiple donations for the same amount on the same day.

Regarding the Spreadsheets

There are two identical spreadsheets, the former is the version for the Microsoft office Excel spreadsheet program; the latter is the version for OpenOffice.org Calc spreadsheet program:

- AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-Spreadsheet-Final.xls
- AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-Spreadsheet-Final.ods

The open source freeware OpenOffice.org Office Suite can be downloaded from: <http://www.openoffice.org/> As you will discover, the spreadsheets are quite simple, the only complicated formulae are in the Column “K” which calculates the number of days between the day of the donation transaction, and the day of confirmation/reconciliation of the transaction in the bank account. The respective example formulae are:

- Microsoft Office Excel: “=DATEDIF(B3,I3,"yd")”
- OpenOffice.org Calc: “=DAYS(I3;B3)”

If constructing your own spreadsheet, then the row indexes would be adjusted accordingly in the column “K”.

FreeMind Mind-Mapper Installation Notes

Regarding the mind-map file: “AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-MindMap-Summary-Final.mm”, that is a “mind map” in the format of FreeMind, which is an open-source Java framework based, mind-mapping application that is cross-platform. It can run on Microsoft Windows, Apple Mac OS X and the GNU/Linux operating systems, on personal computers, and so is a good collaborative and data-sharing tool. It can also run on other platforms, but installation is by “hand-rolling”.

<http://freemind.sourceforge.net/>

The stable version is v0.8.1 and the latest version is v0.9.0 RC7, the latest version is quite stable and is the recommended one to download:

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/freemind/files/freemind-unstable/>

For general information on the mind-mapping concept:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind_map

Many of the commercial mind-mapping applications are excellent as well, such as CoCo Systems VisiMap, Gael MindGenius and Mindjet MindManager, to name but a few, check the citations on the Wikipedia page, it's a matter of finding one that you like. Note however that the mind-map file formats tend not to be interoperable, however, there are usually import and export facilities from word document formats.

Please note that FreeMind, being a Java framework application, can be sensitive on Microsoft Windows Operating Systems, in particular, with the windows font-smoothing technology "ClearType" and may refuse to run at all. Disabling ClearType easily tests this:

Start -> Settings -> Display -> Appearance -> Effects

And then seeing as a consequence, if FreeMind then runs properly. If you have any such difficulties running FreeMind (or any Java application for that matter) on a Microsoft Windows Operating System, such as Windows XP, Vista or the new Windows 7, then in the first instance, download the "ClearType" PowerToy, install it, and then readjust, or tune, your ClearType:

<http://www.microsoft.com/typography/ClearTypePowerToy.mspx>

This is a technical explanation of the problem:

<http://www.x-setup.net/forum/showthread.php?p=6856>

Documentation Resources:

These README notes, that you are reading are from the full zip archive file:

"AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-Final-DataCode-20100809.zip"

Which can be downloaded from:

<http://tinyurl.com/colonelkurtz> or http://host-a.net/Colonel_Kurtz/

The archive contents include this README file in Adobe Acrobat PDF and plain text formats, and two spreadsheet files and some annotated mindmaps:

- AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-Spreadsheet-Final.xls – Microsoft Office Excel
- AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-Spreadsheet-Final.ods – OpenOffice.org Calc
- AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-MindMap-Summary-Final.mm – FreeMind
- AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-MindMap-In_Detail-Final.mmp – VisiMap

Note that the "In Detail" and "Summary" mindmaps contain the same data, the former requires the proprietary VisiMap, and is included for reference.

Printable PDF documentation:

- AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-Spreadsheet-Final.pdf (2pp)
- AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-MindMap-Summary-Final.pdf (1pp)
- AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-MindMap-In_Detail-Final.pdf (70pp)

Authentication documentation:

- AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-Transactions-eBanking-Redacted-Final.pdf
- AUM-2009-Dana_Cloud-Transactions-PayPal-Redacted-Final.pdf