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Hello... I'm back

Welcome back!

We were just diving into the **Sneakernet Development Chats (v0.5)**, focusing on building that resilient, offline mesh protocol.

Where would you like to pick up? We can jump right into:

- **The manifest .json schema** to see how data bundles and checksums are structured.
- **The Epidemic Routing Python logic** to build out the priority queue for limited drive space.
- **The Hardware Micro-Gate specification** to design the isolation boundary for untrusted USB drives.

Let me know **which technical piece** you want to build or discuss next!

I would like to start a special google workspace. I am willing to pay for a subscription account to get it started. On Jan 1, 2027, I plan to file for a 501(c)3 license and then apply for a Google for Non-Profits program. Is this a good time to take this leap?

Yes, this is an excellent time to take this leap, provided you set things up correctly from day one. In fact, establishing your technical infrastructure *before* your official 501(c)3 filing is a highly effective way to prepare your branding, draft your bylaws, and organize your board communication.

Google officially supports this exact transition pathway. You can start on a paid commercial tier now, and then seamlessly transition or downgrade that exact same account into a free **Google Workspace for Nonprofits** account once you receive your official IRS exemption letter.



Google Workspace Help +3

⚠ Two Critical "Gotchas" to Avoid Right Now

Before you put down your credit card, you must structure the initial account correctly to prevent massive roadblocks in 2027:

1. **You MUST buy the subscription directly from Google:**

Do **not** purchase your domain or your Google Workspace subscription through a third-party registrar or web host (like Squarespace, Wix, or GoDaddy). Third-party resellers "lock" the billing system. If you buy through them, Google will not be able to apply the nonprofit discount directly, and you will be forced to undergo a messy, multi-week "billing reseller transfer" process later. Purchase directly at [Google Workspace](#).

2. **Start on the "Business Starter" Tier:**

When choosing your initial plan, select **Google Workspace Business Starter**. When it comes time to transition to the free Nonprofit tier later, Google's automated system converts Business Starter seamlessly. If you choose a higher tier (like Business Standard or Plus), you will have to manually downgrade your account to Business Starter first before the support team can flip the switch to the free nonprofit version.



Google Help

The 2027 Transition Roadmap

Once you file for your 501(c)3 status on January 1, 2027, you will need to wait for the IRS to issue your **Determination Letter** (which can take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months depending on if you file the 1023-EZ or the full 1023 form).

As soon as you have that letter, follow these exact transition steps:

[Get IRS Letter]  [Register with Goodstack]  [Request Google Nonprofit Account]  [Convert Paid Workspace]

- **Step 1: Sign up at the Google Nonprofit Portal.** Go to [Google for Nonprofits](https://www.google.org/nonprofits) and sign in using your existing administrator account.



YouTube-Google.org +1

- **Step 2: Get verified by Goodstack.** Google utilizes a verification partner called **Goodstack** to validate tax statuses. You will upload your IRS Determination Letter and input your EIN (Employer Identification Number). This verification typically takes **2 to 14 business days**.

 Google Help +3

- **Step 3: Activate the Discount.** Once approved by Goodstack, log back into your Google for Nonprofits dashboard, click **Activate Products**, and submit your existing Workspace domain. Google Support will then migrate your paid billing cycle into the **\$0/month free nonprofit tier** (which covers up to 2,000 users).

 Google Help +2

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Pro-Tip for the Interim Period

Since you will be paying out-of-pocket for a few months, keep your user count to an absolute minimum (just yourself, or a generic admin address like `info@yourdomain.com`). You can use free basic Google groups to route mail to your early board members without paying for extra individual user licenses.

To help tailor this strategy, let me know:

- Will you be filing the streamlined **Form 1023-EZ** or the full **Form 1023**? (This heavily impacts your timeline for receiving the IRS letter).
- Have you already **purchased your domain name**, or will you be buying it during the Google Workspace setup?
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Good Heart Tech

How to Apply for FREE Nonprofit Google Workspace Services

Approval typically takes 2 to 14 days. If the application is declined, review the feedback, correct the issue, and reapply. There ...



Google Help

Workspace for Nonprofits AI & Productivity Program

Before you can participate in the program, your organization must have a Google for Nonprofits account and an active Google Worksp...



Google

Frequently asked questions about Google for Nonprofits

not eligible How do I get started with Google for Nonprofits? 1. Review eligibility requirements To be eligible for a Google for N...

Show all

1) I plan to use 1023-EZ. And, I plan to apply before 1-1-2027 so that everything will be working by that time. 2) I already own the domain name, and have owned it for over 5 years. And, I can easily get it recognized by Google, or I could even transfer it to Google if necessary.

Choosing the **Form 1023-EZ** path is a great strategic move. **under 30 days**, meaning you can realistically have your official 501(c)3 status in hand right around your January 1, 2027 target date. Since you already own the domain, you are in a perfect position to execute this smoothly.



Step-by-Step Execution Plan

Because you already own the domain name and want to transition seamlessly, use this exact configuration sequence:

1. Setting up Workspace Now (Paid Period)

- **Keep your domain where it is:** You do **not** need to transfer your domain registration to Google. In fact, it is better to leave it at your current registrar to keep things simple.
- **Verify by DNS:** When you sign up for Google Workspace, Google will ask you to add a TXT record to your current registrar's DNS settings. This takes 5 minutes and proves you own the domain.
- **Select the correct tier:** Sign up directly through Google and choose **Google Workspace Business Starter**. Do not use a middleman or reseller.

2. The Form 1023-EZ Timing Trick

- **The "Effective Date" rule:** The IRS grants 501(c)3 status retroactively to your date of formation (incorporation), as long as you file Form 1023 within 27 months of creating your legal entity.
- **When to apply:** To ensure everything is active by January 1, 2027, you should file your 1023-EZ by **late November or early December 2026**. This gives the IRS their 2–4 week processing window to return your official Determination Letter right before your launch date.

3. Flipping the Switch to Free

- As soon as that IRS letter arrives, plug your EIN into the **Google for Nonprofits** portal.
- Google's verification partner (Goodstack) will verify your newly issued EIN.
- Once approved, Google will stop charging your credit card and transition your existing accounts to the free **Google Workspace for Nonprofits** tier.

A Critical Check Before You File

To qualify for the Form 1023-EZ, your organization must project gross receipts of **less than \$50,000 per year** for the next 3 years, and have had less than \$50,000 in any past years. If your initial funding or donations will exceed this, you will be forced to use the longer, traditional Form 1023.

To ensure your domain verification goes smoothly, let me know:

- Which **domain registrar** (e.g., Namecheap, GoDaddy, Hover) currently holds your domain?
- Have you already **incorporated as a nonprofit corporation** at the state level? (You must do this before you can file the 1023-EZ).

1) My domain name is registered through eNom, a godaddy affiliate (I think). 2) Do you know for sure that I need to be incorporated? I can do that, but I thought that a "sole Proprietorship was ok for a non-profit. It's not a big deal, just a little less expensive.

1. Your Domain with eNom (GoDaddy Affiliate)

Yes, **eNom** is historically tied to GoDaddy's resale ecosystem, meaning it functions exactly as an independent domain registrar. This is actually great news! It confirms you own the domain independently.



When you set up Google Workspace, Google will just ask you to copy a specific line of text (a **TXT record**) from the Google admin panel and paste it into your eNom DNS settings. This safely establishes your email without moving your domain or altering your website.



Facebook · Nonprofit Resources and Grant Opportunities +1

2. Can a Sole Proprietorship be a 501(c)3?

No, a sole proprietorship cannot legally become a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

By definition, the [IRS](#) states that an individual or a sole proprietorship cannot pass the mandatory "**Organizational Test**" required for tax exemption. There are a few fundamental reasons why the law blocks this:



IRS (.gov)

- **The Entity Definition:** Under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3, tax exemption can only be granted to a formal legal entity: a **corporation**, a **limited liability company (LLC)** structured for public benefit, a **trust**, or an **unincorporated association**.
- **The No-Ownership Rule:** A sole proprietorship belongs entirely to the individual owner. However, by federal law, **nobody can own a 501(c)3 nonprofit**. A nonprofit belongs entirely to the public.



Foundation Group +1

- **The Dissolution Clause:** To get a 501(c)3 status, your legal paperwork must contain a clause stating that if the organization closes down, all leftover assets must be given away to *another* charity or the government. A sole proprietorship cannot do this because its assets are legally identical to your personal personal bank account and property.



Wiss +2

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The Good News: State Incorporation is Easier Than You Think

While it adds an extra step, incorporating a nonprofit at the state level is usually the most straightforward part of the process. In most states, you just fill out a short, 2-page document (usually called **Articles of Incorporation**) online and pay a nominal state filing fee.



Beacon Nonprofit +1

Once the state approves those articles, you legally exist as a nonprofit entity and can instantly generate a free online **EIN (Employer Identification Number)** from the IRS, which gives you exactly what you need to submit the Form 1023-EZ.



Google +1

To make sure we get the entity sequence exactly right, let me know:

- What **state** will your organization be based in? (I can look up the exact cost and name of the filing document you need).
- Do you already have **two other people** who can serve as your baseline officers/board members? (Most states require at least 3 distinct people to form a nonprofit corporation).
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eNom

My Domain Was Registered Through Google Workspace

If your website says it has been suspended, verification likely needs to be completed. After registering a new domain, a verificat...

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What domain and email setup options for new non-profits?

Jun 2, 2026 — When setting up Workspace, Google will give you a TXT record to add to your domain's DNS settings. Log into wherever you bought th...



Tithely

Setting up Google Workspace for Nonprofit Using Your Domain

Click Use Manual Setup and then Go to Admin Console. 2. Click Start Setup and follow the steps to Add a meta tag or domain host re...



Show all

Yes, I already have board members. and my state is Washington.

That is fantastic news. Having your board members ready and choosing **Washington State** makes this incredibly streamlined. Washington recently overhauled its laws with the [Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act](#), making the launch process fast, heavily reliant on electronic/email compliance, and entirely manageable online.



Ryan Swanson Cleveland PLLC +1

Because you already have a board, you fulfill the absolute legal baseline: Washington law requires a public charity to have **at least 3 distinct board members**.



WA Secretary of State (.gov) +1



Your Pre-2027 Washington Checklist

To ensure your Google Workspace, state incorporation, and federal 1023-EZ filing are live by **January 1, 2027**, use this timeline:

Step 1: Check Your Name Availability (Right Now)

Before filing anything, check that your desired organization name isn't already taken in Washington.

Use the official [Washington Secretary of State Business Search](#).

- **Crucial Rule:** In Washington, a nonprofit name **cannot** contain standard corporate endings like "Inc.", "Co.", "Company", or "Ltd.". Leave those words out entirely.



Nonprofit Association of Washington +1

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Step 2: Set Up Google Workspace (Today/This Week)

Go ahead and launch your Workspace on the **Business Starter Tier** directly through Google. Hook up your eNom domain via DNS text validation.



Charity Lawyer Blog

- Establish your primary admin email (e.g., `director@yourdomain.com`).
- Create a **free Google Group** email list (e.g., `board@yourdomain.com`) and add your existing board members' personal emails to it. This lets you email the entire board at once without paying for extra individual employee accounts yet!
-

Step 3: File Your Articles of Incorporation (Mid-October 2026)

Log into the Washington Corp7 Charities Online Portal (CCFS) to file your **Articles of Incorporation**.

- **The Cost:** It is **\$60** to file online. However, Washington offers a **reduced fee of \$20** if you certify that your gross revenue will be under \$500,000.
-  WA Secretary of State (.gov) +2
- **The IRS "Trap":** When the online application asks for your "Purpose Clause" and "Dissolution Clause," do not type generic text. The IRS *will reject* your 1023-EZ if you don't use their exact boilerplate legal definitions. Use the exact template phrasing provided by the IRS Required Provisions Guide.



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- **Officers:** You must designate a **President, Secretary, and Treasurer**. One person can hold multiple roles (like Treasurer + Secretary), but the **President and Secretary cannot be the same person**.



Beacon Nonprofit +1

- **Turnaround:** Online filings take just **2 to 3 business days** to process.



Harbor Compliance +1

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Step 4: Grab Your Free EIN (Late October 2026)

As soon as Washington sends your stamped Articles, go to the [IRS EIN Assistant](#). It takes 10 minutes to generate your Employer Identification Number online for **free**.

Step 5: Submit Form 1023-EZ (November 1–15, 2026)

Create an account on [Pay.gov](#) and complete the **Form 1023-EZ**.

- **The Cost:** The standard filing fee is **\$275**.
- **Timing:** Because the IRS usually processes the electronic 1023-EZ in roughly 15 to 30 days, filing in mid-November ensures your final approval letter arrives right before your official **January 1, 2027** goal post.



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Would you like me to generate the **exact text for the IRS-required Purpose and Dissolution clauses** so you can paste them perfectly into the Washington state application?

AI can make mistakes, so double-check responses



WA Secretary of State (.gov)

Starting a Nonprofit in Washington State - sos.wa.gov

To meet the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act requirements, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations must have at least three board m...



Charity Lawyer Blog

How to Start a Nonprofit in Washington State (2026)

Sep 7, 2016 — The standard filing fee is \$30, while expedited paper processing costs \$50. expedited online processing takes two to three busines...



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How to Start a Nonprofit in Washington: A First-Timer's Step-by ...

Filing your Articles of Incorporation officially establishes your nonprofit as a legal entity. You can submit these documents onli...



Show all

Yes, please give me the exact text

Here is the exact boilerplate text you need to copy and paste into the **Purpose** and **Dissolution** sections of your Washington State online application.

The IRS is incredibly strict about this terminology. If you use generic language, they will reject your Form 1023-EZ later. Using these exact templates prevents that issue.

1. Purpose Clause

Paste this verbatim into the "Purpose of the Organization" field:

"This organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code."

(Note: If you want to add a sentence describing your specific mission, like "Specifically, the organization will provide digital literacy training," you can append it to the end of the text above. However, the exact legal phrasing above **must** be included first).

2. Dissolution Clause

Paste this verbatim into the "Dissolution" or "Distribution of Assets upon Dissolution" field:

"Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes."



Two Quick Reminders for Your Washington Filing

1. **The Effective Date:** When filling out the application, the system will ask for your "Effective Date." Select "**Upon Filing**" so your legal entity becomes active immediately.
 2. **Registered Agent:** Washington requires you to name a Registered Agent with a physical Washington street address (not a P.O. Box). You can legally list **yourself** and your own home address for this role to save money.
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Now that you have the exact legal language for your state filing, would you like me to guide you through **setting up your Google Workspace account** using your eNom domain, or do you want to review the eligibility questionnaire for **Form 1023-EZ** next?

[Skip to previous prompt](#)

AI Mode response is ready