Did You Know? MeshCore and WadaMesh Are Quietly Fueling a Communications Revolution

Technology & Digital Trends

By Hernán Moraga-Müller, October 29, 2026

In an era where smartphones track our locations, social media platforms monetize our attention, and governments and corporations collect unprecedented amounts of digital data, a growing number of people are beginning to ask a simple question:

Do we really need all this technology just to stay connected?

Around the world, a fascinating grassroots movement is gaining momentum. Technical enthusiasts, radio hobbyists, former CB radio operators, emergency preparedness advocates, and even everyday citizens are discovering alternative communication networks based on decentralized mesh technology. Two names are increasingly appearing in these conversations: **MeshCore** and **WadaMesh**.





Video: Short explanation of how it works

Video: Wadamesh short

The Return of Communication Freedom

While the latest smartphones continue competing over artificial intelligence features, cloud integration, and online services, MeshCore is moving in the opposite direction, going back to basic messaging functions (i.e,. direct messages, private rooms, public and custom channels).

Using inexpensive LoRa-based devices, MeshCore enables users to create decentralized networks capable of exchanging messages without cellular service, Internet access, telecom providers, monthly fees, or centralized infrastructure.

Every device becomes part of the network. Messages can hop from node to node, extending communications well beyond the range of a single radio.

For many users, this technology represents more than a technical curiosity. It is becoming a statement about digital independence.

Why the Sudden Growth?

In my opinion, people are becoming increasingly concerned about intrusive technology and are exploring alternative solutions to satisfy essential needs such as staying connected with loved ones and friends without the intrusion of spyware, adware, excessive data collection, governments, corporations, and other third parties.

What began as a niche technical hobby has evolved into a genuine social phenomenon.

The Ottawa mesh community (i.e., Greater Ottawa Mesh Enthusiasts) has been witness of how MeshCore alone has experienced explosive growth in less than a year, mirroring a worldwide trend, to the point that a dedicated MeshCore website was created for its community (i.e., MeshCore Canada). New users are joining every week, experimenting with mesh communications, building repeaters, extending network coverage, and discovering a refreshingly different approach to personal communications.

Many participants describe the experience as bringing back the excitement that amateur radio and CB radio enthusiasts felt decades ago, while incorporating modern digital capabilities.

Meet the $100 Mesh "Smartphone"

One of the most exciting developments has been the arrival of the **LILYGO T-Deck**, an affordable handheld device that resembles a miniature BlackBerry.

For approximately $100, users can obtain a compact communications platform featuring:

- Full-color touchscreen
- Illuminated physical keyboard
- Rechargeable battery
- LoRa radio
- GPS capabilities
- Open-source software support

When loaded with the latest versions of **WadaMesh**, the device transforms from a simple MeshCore node into something surprisingly close to a minimalist Android phone.

Within the limitations of its modest hardware, besides a rich set of messaging functions, users gain access to:

- An application store
- Network management tools
- Node administration utilities
- Games
- Web-browsing capabilities
- Remote VNC connectivity
- Mapping and navigation functions
- Community-developed applications

The result is remarkably polished considering the hardware's simplicity and power efficiency.

More Than a Radio Network

What makes WadaMesh particularly interesting is that it demonstrates how rapidly community-driven innovation can evolve.

A platform that initially focused on messaging has grown into a multifunction digital ecosystem built specifically around decentralized communications.

Users often discover that the technology itself is only part of the attraction. The real value lies in the people.

Finding peers in Ottawa is rewarding. Exchanging messages with users in Toronto or Montréal through a chain of interconnected nodes is even more exciting. As volunteers continue deploying strategic repeaters and linking communities across Ontario and Québec, every new connection feels like a small accomplishment.

The experience often carries a surprising sense of adventure.

Modern-Day Explorers

There is something uniquely satisfying about helping expand a communications network with your own hands.

Building a repeater powered with a solar panel, finding an optimal location, and then watching new communities becoming reachable delivers a feeling that is difficult to find in today's highly managed digital ecosystems.

In many ways, participants become modern "Jacques Cartier" explorers, extending digital pathways into previously disconnected areas and enabling new routes of communication.

Unlike large infrastructure projects, the barriers to entry are remarkably low. A modest investment and some curiosity are often enough to begin experimenting.

A Learning Experience Like No Other

Using MeshCore with WadaMesh is not merely about sending messages.

It is an educational journey involving:

- Wireless communications
- Networking concepts
- Solar power systems
- DIY electronics
- Antenna design
- Geographic coverage planning
- Community collaboration

Most importantly, it provides users with a rare opportunity to better understand the technologies they use instead of simply consuming them.

Many longtime participants believe that communications technology was originally intended to empower individuals. Decentralized mesh networking offers an opportunity to revisit that philosophy and place control back into the hands of users.

Join the Adventure

For those interested in exploring MeshCore, building community infrastructure, or simply learning something new, free workshops will soon be available in the National Capital Region.

The author is coordinating with the Ottawa Mesh Community to offer **free workshops on designing and building lightweight, solar-optimized, easy-to-deploy MeshCore repeaters** every **first Saturday of the month**.

Additional information can be found at:

👉 **www.ecosol.ca/repeater.pdf**

or by joining the

👉 **Ottawa Mesh Community** (i.e., https://ottawamesh.ca)

Whether you're a seasoned radio operator, a technology enthusiast, IT professional, or simply curious about alternative ways of staying connected, MeshCore and WadaMesh offer a glimpse into a future where communications belong once again to the people who use them.

Perhaps the most interesting question is not whether mesh networking will continue growing. It already is. The real question is how many people will choose to rediscover the freedom of truly decentralized communications.