

About Sutra

Our mission is to connect people through presence and shared understanding. We offer tools and resources to help people create powerful group experiences that emphasize connection, meaningful communication, and shared awareness. We believe there has never been a greater need for presence and our aspiration is to build software that fosters mutual support and empathy through dialogue, co-creation, and learning.

Sutra means “thread of knowledge” in Sanskrit. In Eastern Philosophy, knowledge is often passed down through short verses known as sutras. This process weaves a web of connection that supports the transmission of deep wisdom and understanding through direct experience and dialogue.

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Sutra (STR)

Description:

Sutra was founded in 2015 after years of actively researching how communities function. Our effort explored ways to connect people within communities to share knowledge and resources, particularly around work. Through a journey of extended iteration and testing, we began to see how learning can be a pathway to practicing new ways of being together. Building tools to help people create conversational learning experiences that bring people together has become the focus of our work. We believe that cultivating collective presence is one of the most effective ways to generate positive change in the world.

Stakeholder(s):

Natasha Sell :

Co-Founder — Natasha Sell comes from three generations of educators in her family. She has led global education projects at Harvard and the Asia Society. Since 2009 she has been deeply engaged in connecting communities through collaboration. She received her Master's Degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, focusing on School Leadership and Development. She is also a certified yoga teacher and a trained facilitator.

Lorenz Sell :

Co-Founder — Lorenz Sell is the creator of the software behind Sutra. His interest in community dynamics began after attending the Burning Man Festival in 2007. He has spent almost two decades building technology companies and has a deep interest in how software can be used to cultivate meaningful connection online. He is a certified yoga teacher and received a degree in Computer Engineering from Tufts University.

Vision

A peaceful world

Mission

To connect people through presence and shared understanding

Values

Awareness: The heart of Sutra is awareness in action

Action

Empathy

Dialogue

Co-Creation

Learning

Conversation: The conversation is the content

Wisdom: Cultivate wisdom and insight through scalable small group communication.

Insight

Scalability

Security: Feel secure -- No advertising, no distractions, and we never sell your data. Invite participants to share in an intimate and private space designed to support authentic connection.

Authenticity

Connection: Let's connect... Creating a safe space for deep connection and sharing to occur online can be a subtle process. Our approach is part technology, part process, and part content. Creating a relational container that supports a learning experience can generate presence and participation in a natural and organic way. We work with individuals and organizations in architecting conversational experiences that foster authentic engagement and shared insight.

1. Content & Conversations

Host content and conversations

Host your content and conversation in one place — Create a safe space for online discussion between video calls. Manage all your communication, share zoom recordings, videos, and other learning materials in one convenient place.

1.1. Discussions

Enable online discussion between video calls.

1.2. Communications

Manage communications

1.2.1. Video Recordings

Share zoom recordings and videos

1.2.2. Learning Materials

Share learning materials

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2. Conversations

Facilitate conversations

Run meaningful conversations — Sutra is designed around conversations rather than announcement posts. Easily run small group discussions and engage participants in real conversations that grow deeper over time.

2.1. Discussions

Run small group discussions

2.2. Participation

Engage participants in conversations

Support participation — Sutra helps you take conversations deeper through participation insights. Easily notice people who haven't been engaging and send them personal emails to check in.

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3. Learning

Facilitate learning experiences

Facilitate self paced learning experiences — Create automated conversational experiences that feel personal. Increase engagement through interactive journaling prompts that foster reflection and insight.

3.1. Conversational Experiences

Create automated conversational experiences

3.2. Engagement

Increase engagement through interactive journaling

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4. Understanding

Harvest understanding

Harvest understanding — Tag and organize messages retroactively to curate collective insights. Easily compile tagged discussion posts into sharable knowledge resources.

4.1. Organization & Tagging

Tag and organize messages to curate collective insights

4.2. Knowledge Resources

Compile tagged discussion posts into sharable knowledge resources

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5. Payments

Receive payments

Receive payments easily — Set up one time charges or recurring subscriptions for your program, workshop or community. Easily create registration and payment pages for your group learning experience.

5.1. Charges & Subscriptions

Set up charges and subscriptions for programs, workshops, and communities

5.2. Registrations & Payments

Create registration and payment pages for your group learning experience

Administrative Information

Start Date:

End Date:

Publication Date: 2021-01-04

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