

地域共創社会に向けた「ゆるやかなつながり」の実現技術に関する一考察

A Study on Technologies for Enabling "Loose Connections" toward a Co-creative Regional Society

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Abstract In 1998, NTT Laboratories pioneered the world's first peer-to-peer (P2P) theory by proposing the "Brokerless Model: SIONet" [1]. In response to the questions—"What is a connection?" and "What is the essence of connection?"—we reinterpreted this Brokerless Model from the perspectives of "strong connections" and "loose connections." As a result, we redefined it into the eight distinct connection types, as illustrated in Figure 1. Moreover, our analysis revealed that strong connections are effective for problem-solving, while loose connections are essential for realizing a co-creative regional society. Notably, the notion of loose connections proposed by the P2P theory has not only produced various innovative internet services such as Skype [2], social networking services (SNS) [3], P2P insurance [4], P2P energy [5], blockchain [6], and virtual supercomputers [7], but has also been proven to be applicable and valuable in real-world social contexts. In particular, the key to fostering a co-creative regional society lies in the following initiatives: regional innovation and digital transformation (DX), the development of regional platforms, the formation of sustainable community, and cross-industry collaboration and interdisciplinary integration. Through examining these initiatives, we have identified that one of the essential components for realizing a co-creative regional society is loose connections. In other words, the realization of a co-creative regional society first requires horizontal integration (*Yokogushi* in Japanese) of diverse regional activities and resources. Second, achieving effective *Yokogushi* depends on one essential element: the use of loose connections. Third, the eight connection types illustrated in Figure 1 provide a practical framework for constructing and sustaining loose connections. Currently, we are planning to promote projects in collaboration with local governments, to work on field experiments, and to foster innovation and DX talent, with the aim of realizing a co-creative regional society grounded in the concept and structure of loose connections.

Keywords Co-creative regional society, Loose connections, P2P, Innovation, Platform

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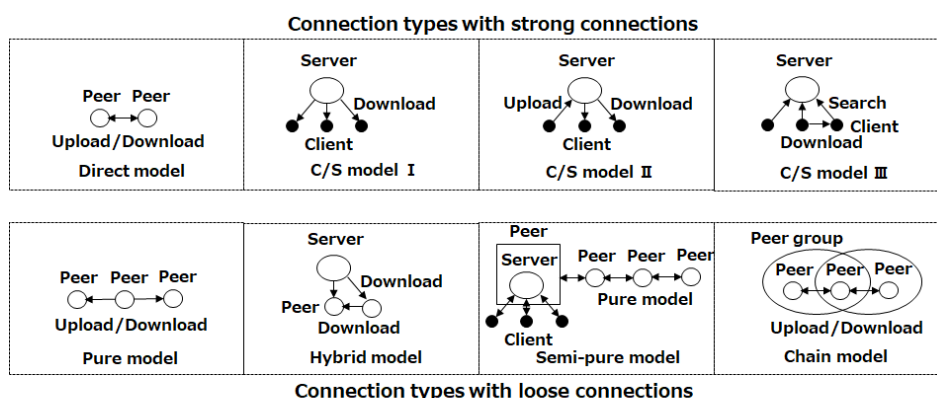


Fig.1 Connection types