



Amplify Our Voices: Building Digital Sovereignty on the Fediverse

I am Benjamin Bellamy.



- I ❤️ Podcasts, I ❤️ FOSS
- Business Development Manager for Truely-Open-Source-AI Solutions at **LINAGORA**
- Founder of **Ad Aures**
- Father of **Castopod**
- Photographer for **WikiPortraits**

Who are you?

- Are you a developer?
- Are you on the Fediverse?
- Are you a developer for the Fediverse?

The Critical Moment

- The web is at a crossroads: geopolitical fragmentation, platform consolidation
- Big Tech gatekeepers controlling our digital voices

A Different Kind of Social

But imagine a social web with:

- No algorithm manipulating your timeline
- No advertising tracking your every move

You Are Not a Number

- Quality ≠ follower count
- Happiness ≠ number of likes
- Culture ≠ number of shares



The Platform Trap

- Enshittification (Coined by Cory Doctorow)
- Three-stage decay cycle:
 - Stage 1: Good to users (growth)
 - Stage 2: Abuse users for business customers (monetization)
 - Stage 3: Abuse everyone for shareholders (extraction)
- If they can make it worse, they will

“Enshittification”

Users and creators trapped, quality degraded,
control lost



Digital Sovereignty

- Geopolitical fragmentation creating digital borders
- Dependence on US/Chinese platforms = strategic vulnerability
- Data harvesting without consent
- European digital independence is a democratic imperative

The Social Web Alternative

- ActivityPub: W3C standard since 2018
- 25+ million users across 20,000+ instances
- Different platforms for different content:
 - Mastodon (microblogging), Pixelfed (photos), PeerTube (video), Castopod (podcasts), Mobilizon (events), Lemmy (forums)...
- Choose your server, keep your connections
- Open source, transparent, community-governed

Heterogeneous Networks

- ActivityPub's killer feature: Different social networks talking to each other
- Follow a Castopod podcast from Mastodon, Comment on PeerTube videos from Pixelfed, Share Mobilizon events to your timeline
- Impossible on proprietary platforms:
 - Instagram can't follow YouTube channels
 - Twitter can't comment on Spotify podcasts
- ActivityPub breaks these silos
- ActivityPub breaks the corporate lock-in
- One identity, multiple contexts



ActivityPub's Limitations

- Technical complexity: Harder to implement than simpler protocols
- Identity portability: Moving between servers is difficult
- Scalability challenges: Large instances can struggle
- Moderation complexity: Instance-level decisions affect federation
- Discovery limitations: No global search by design (privacy tradeoff)
- Implementation fragmentation
- Resource intensive: Self-hosting requires technical knowledge
- Network effects: Smaller than centralized platforms (for now)

Alternative Protocols

- **AT Protocol** (Bluesky): 20M+ users, portable identity, BUT single relay (centralization risk), corporate governance
- **Nostr**: Censorship-resistant, cryptographic identity, Bitcoin integration, but basic features, poor discoverability

Web 1.0 Social Network

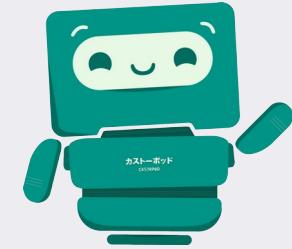
- Podcasting!
- RSS (1999) still thriving in 2026
- But threats are real: YouTube “podcasts”,
Spotify for podcasters

Podcasting 2.0

- Community-driven features protecting the open ecosystem: transcripts, chapters, soundbites, Value4Value, person tags, location...
 - Apple adopted <podcast:transcripts>
 - Apple adopted <podcast:chapters>
- This proves: Open standards can lead, platforms follow
- **Innovation doesn't need gatekeepers**

A word about Castopod

- Open-source podcast hosting platform
- Native ActivityPub integration
- Your podcast becomes a Fediverse actor
- Followers get episodes in their timeline
- Comments, shares, boosts—all federated
- Native Podcasting 2.0 features



 **Free & open-source** (AGPL v3 License) ·  **Focused on data sovereignty** (your content, audience, and analytics belong to you, and you only) ·  **Podcasting 2.0 features** (GUID, locked, transcripts, funding, chapters, location, persons, soundbites, ...) ·  **Built-in social network** ( Castopod is part of the **Fediverse**, a decentralized social network · ❤️ Create posts, share, favourite, and comment on episodes) ·  **Built-in analytics** ( GDPR / CCPA / LGPD compliant ·  Standard IABv2 **audience measurement** ·  On-premises analytics, no third party involved) ·  **Built-in marketing tools** (SEO ready: open-graph meta-tags, **JSON-LD**, ...) ·  **PWA** (install as a standalone app) ·  **Customizable theme colors** ·  Generate **ready-to-share video clips** from episodes ·  Generate **soundbites** ·  **Embeddable player** (embed your episodes on any website) ·  **Monetization** ( Funding links ·  value4value / WebMonetization ·  Premium podcasts) ·  **Publish** your episodes **everywhere** with **RSS** ( On all indexes and apps, Podcast Index, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Deezer, Podcast Addict, AntennaPod, Anytime Podcast Player ...) ·  Broadcast your episodes **instantly** with **WebSub**) ·  **Podcast import** (move your existing podcast into Castopod) ·  Move your podcast **out** of Castopod ·  **Multi-tenant** (host as many podcasts as you want) ·  **Multi-user** (add contributors and set roles) ·  **i18n support** (translated in English, French, Polish, German, Brazilian Portuguese, Serbian, Spanish, simplified Chinese, and 20 more) ...

Breaking the Platform Trap

- Traditional platform model:
 - You create content → Platform owns relationship → Platform monetizes
- Federated model:
 - You create content → You own relationship → You control monetization
- RSS ensures universal access
- ActivityPub adds social layer
- Reach without dependence

Time for some screenshots...

The screenshot shows a Mastodon instance with the following details:

- Header:** Shows the URL rdgp.fr and the word "LOIS".
- Post by RdGP (@rdgp):**
 - Content: "Cette semaine RdGP reçoit Aaron, stagiaire de 3ème. Il partage avec nous le regard que porte sa génération sur les enjeux numériques d'aujourd'hui et de demain. Un épisode marqué par une trahison..."
 - Timestamp: 2 days ago
 - Replies: 1
 - Retweets: 3
 - Likes: 2
 - Reply button: "Reply to @rdgp"
- Reply by Cyril (@cg2@mastodon.social):**
 - Content: "@rdgp Concernant le sujet sur le réseau CB en début d'émission, j'ai un doute, n'y a-t-il pas une confusion entre le GIE CB (qui gère le réseau) et le Groupe Carte Bleue (la marque en elle-même, rachetée par Visa Europe en 2010). Source : fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groupe...me..."
 - Timestamp: 2 days ago
 - Replies: 0
 - Retweets: 0
 - Likes: 0
- Right sidebar:**
 - RSS Podcast feed:** An icon with an orange square and a white 'R'.
 - Find RdGP on:** Icons for various social media platforms: YouTube, LinkedIn, Medium.
 - Listen on:** Icons for various audio platforms: SoundCloud, Spotify, Google Play Music, etc.
 - Links:** Home, Links, Credits, Map.
 - Footer:** 06/01/1978 Legal notice (CC BY-SA 4.0) RdGP.fr Powered by Castopod

January 31st, 2026
#FOSDEM #SocialWeb

framapiaf.org

Retour

Cyril
@cg2i@mastodon.social

@rdg Concernant le sujet sur le réseau CB en début d'émission, j'ai un doute, n'y a t-il pas une confusion entre le GIE CB (qui gère le réseau) et le Groupe Carte Bleue (la marque en elle-même, rachetée par Visa Europe en 2010). Source : fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groupement_des_cartes_bancaires



fr.wikipedia.org

Groupement des cartes bancaires – Wikipédia

28 janv. 2026, 14:23 · 0 boost · 0 quote · 1 favori

Benjamin Bellamy
@benjaminbellamy

@cg2i Oui oui oui oui.
@half est déjà au courant qu'il va prendre cher mercredi prochain... 🤪

Half
@half@piaille.fr

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groupement_des_cartes_bancaires

Rechercher ou saisir une

Benjamin Bellamy
@benjaminbellamy

+ Nouveau message

Accueil

Tendances

Flux en direct

Notifications

Listes

Hashtags suivis

Favoris

Marque-pages

Mention privée

Préférences

Plus

À propos

A screenshot of a web browser window showing a profile page on the pixelfed.social platform. The URL in the address bar is "pixelfed.social". The page title is "pixelfed". The user's profile picture shows a person holding a camera. The user's name is "benjaminbellamy" and they have 62 posts, 52 followers, and 25 following. The bio indicates they are a Photographer for WikiPortraits.org and that all their pictures are published under Creative Commons licences (CC-BY-SA 4.0). Their website is listed as benjamin.wikipортraits.fr. They joined in March 2019. There are two navigation tabs: "POSTS" and "COLLECTIONS". Below the tabs are three thumbnail images: a silhouette of a person jumping against a sunset, silhouettes of people on horseback against a sunset, and a person playing a guitar on stage.

framapiaf.org

Rechercher ou saisir une URL

Benjamin Bellamy
@benjaminbellamy

Public, n'importe qui peut citer

Français

Qu'avez-vous en tête ?

Publier

Retour

Benjamin Bellamy
@benjaminbellamy@pixelfed.social

9 juil. 2025

Dans l'air il s'élance,
son pied fend l'horizon de terre, d'eau et de feu –
뛰어넘자기.

Traduire

Masquer

ALT

framapiaf.org: À propos · État · Annuaire des profils · Politique de confidentialité

Mastodon: À propos · Télécharger l'application · Raccourcis clavier · Voir le code source · v4.5.5

Mastodon

Accueil

Tendances

Flux en direct

Notifications

Listes

Hashtags suivis

★ Favoris

Marque-pages

@ Mention privée

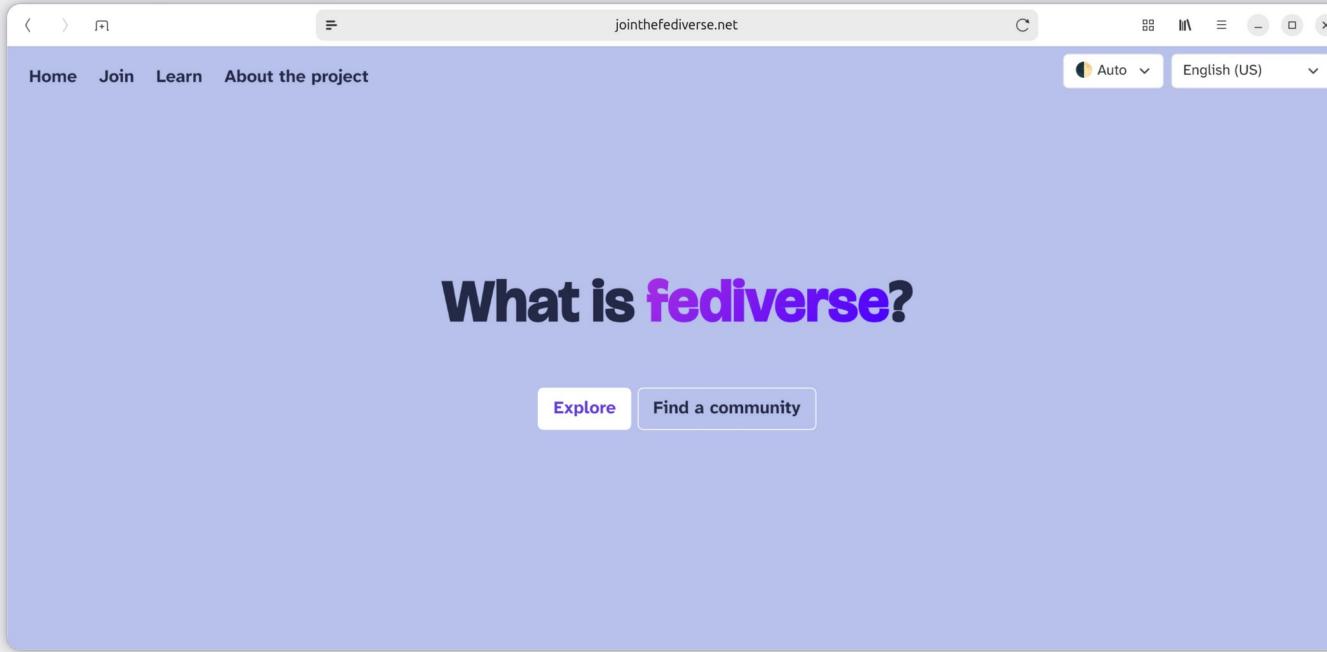
Préférences

Plus

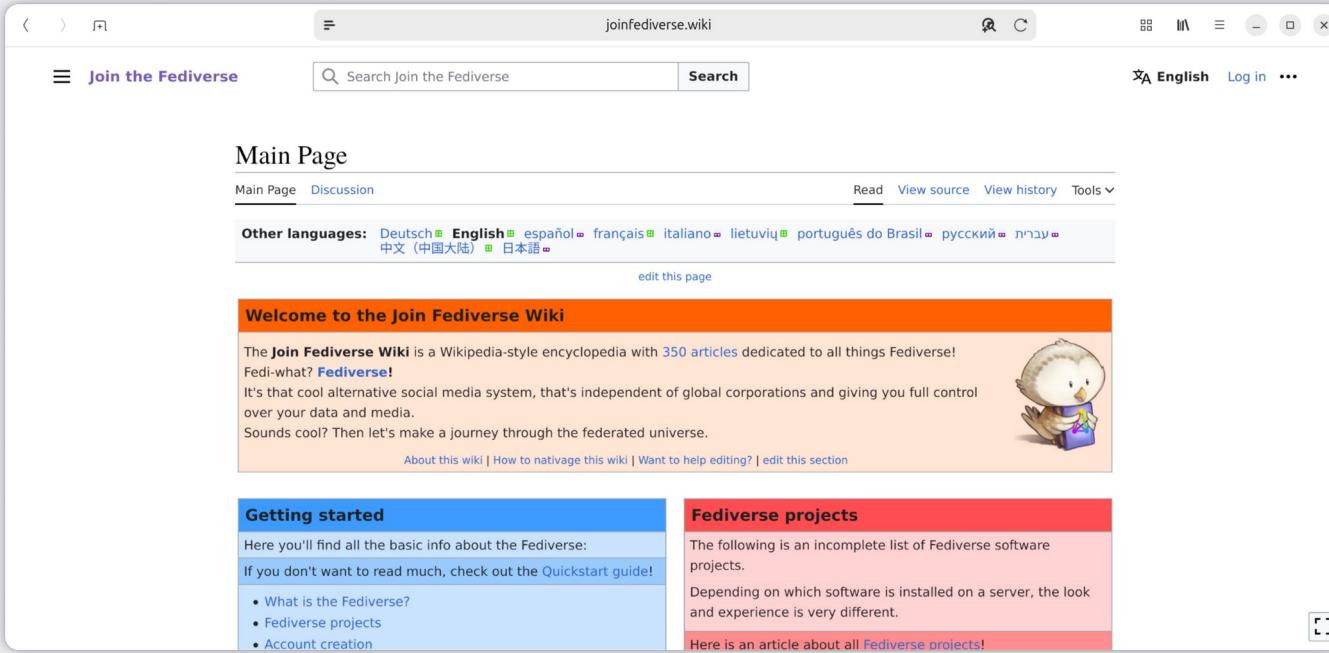
January 31st, 2026
#FOSDEM #SocialWeb



Where do I start?



Where do I start?



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the main page of the [Join Fediverse Wiki](#). The page has a clean, modern design with a white background and a light gray header bar.

Header: The header includes a back/forward navigation bar, a search bar with placeholder "Search Join the Fediverse", a magnifying glass icon, and a "Search" button. To the right are language and user options: "English" (with a globe icon), "Log in", and a "More" menu.

Main Content: The title "Main Page" is centered above the main content area. Below it are links for "Main Page" and "Discussion". A horizontal menu bar below these links includes "Read", "View source", "View history", and "Tools".

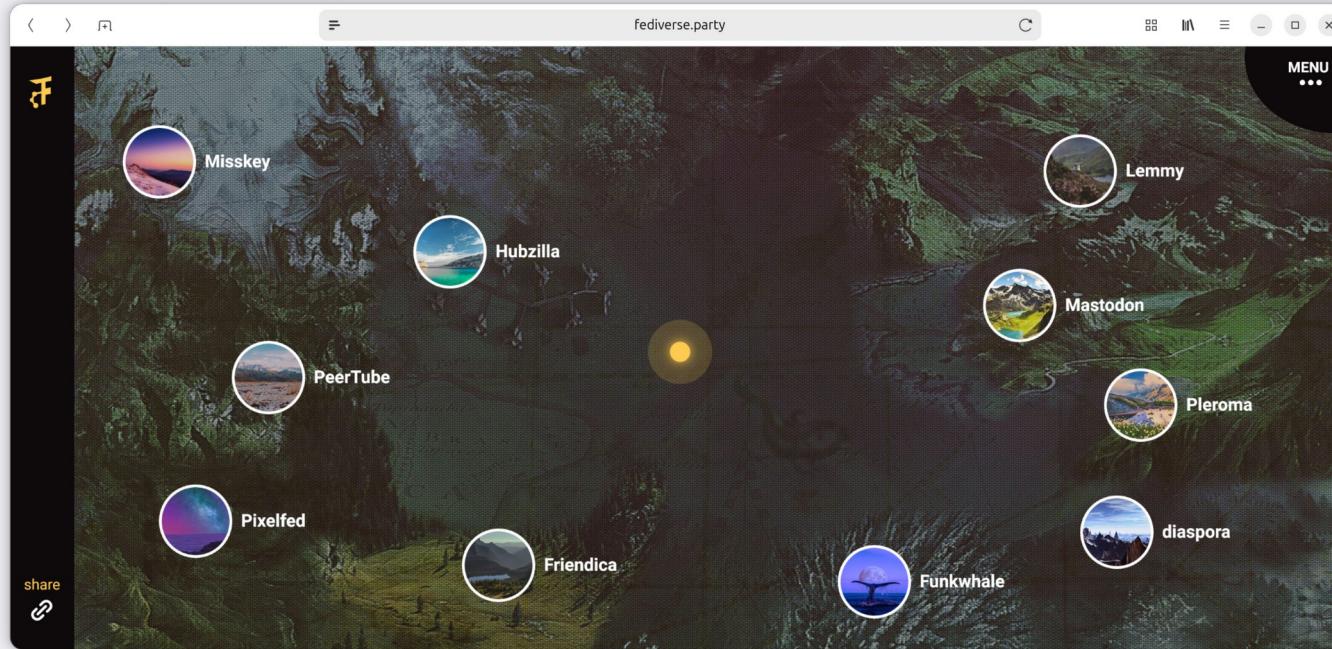
Language Options: A section titled "Other languages:" lists various language versions of the wiki, including English, Deutsch, Español, Français, Italiano, Lietuvių, Português do Brasil, Русский, עברית, 中文 (中国大陆), and 日本語.

Welcome Section: An orange banner at the top of the main content area is titled "Welcome to the Join Fediverse Wiki". It contains text about the wiki's purpose: "The **Join Fediverse Wiki** is a Wikipedia-style encyclopedia with 350 articles dedicated to all things Fediverse! Fedi-what? **Fediverse!** It's that cool alternative social media system, that's independent of global corporations and giving you full control over your data and media. Sounds cool? Then let's make a journey through the federated universe." Below this text are links: "About this wiki", "How to navigate this wiki", "Want to help editing?", and "edit this section". To the right of the text is a small cartoon illustration of a bird-like character holding a book.

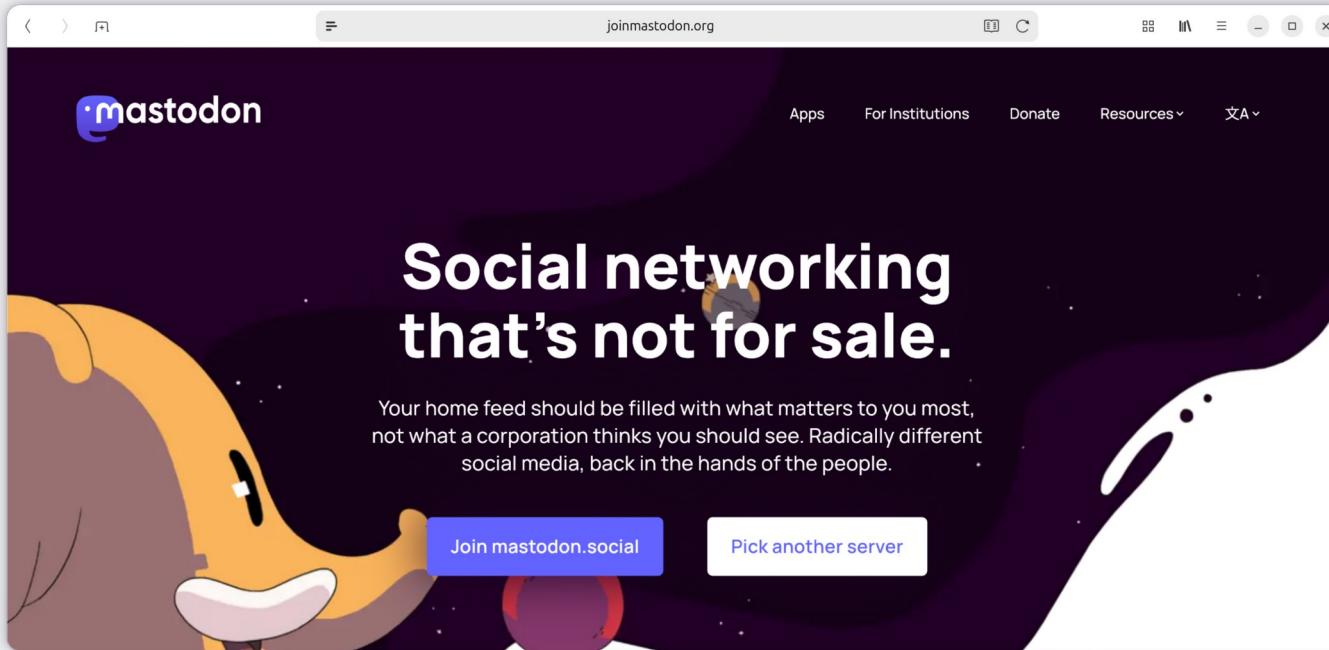
Getting started: A blue sidebar on the left contains the heading "Getting started" and text: "Here you'll find all the basic info about the Fediverse: If you don't want to read much, check out the [Quickstart guide!](#)". Below this is a bulleted list: "What is the Fediverse?", "Fediverse projects", and "Account creation".

Fediverse projects: A red sidebar on the right contains the heading "Fediverse projects" and text: "The following is an incomplete list of Fediverse software projects. Depending on which software is installed on a server, the look and experience is very different. Here is an article about all [Fediverse projects!](#)".

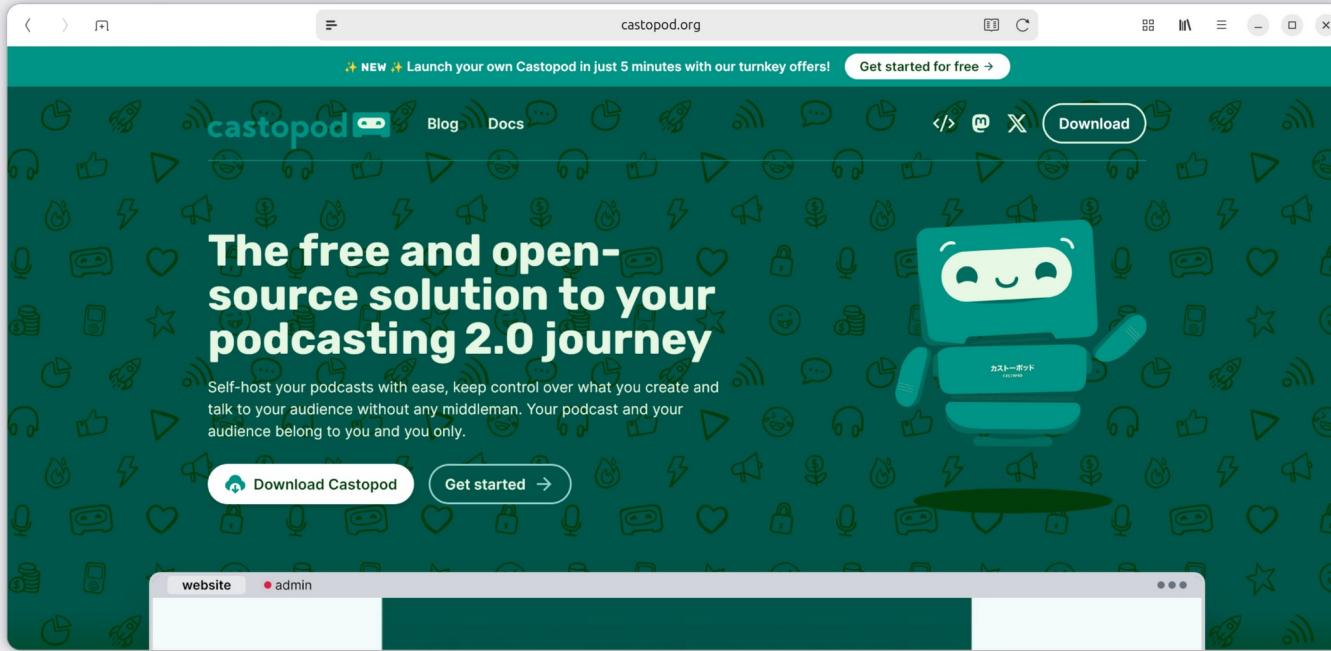
Where do I start?



Where do I start?

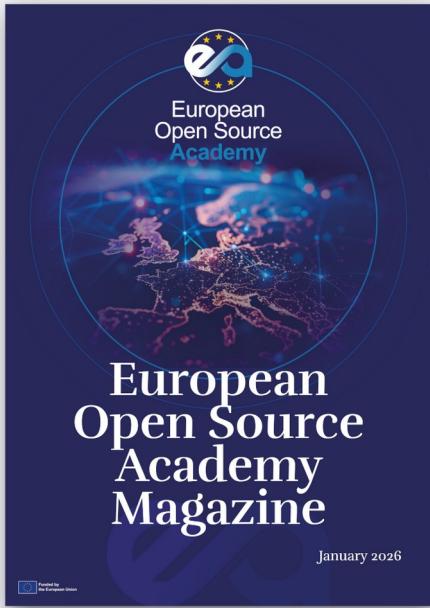


Where do I start?



Further reading...

<https://europeanopensource.academy/>



Finding each other: discovery without walled gardens



From my experience speaking at European conferences, I have seen that the FOSSDEM (Free and Open Source Software Developers' European Meeting) in Lyon, France, is one of the largest and most popular events held there. These conferences attract a diverse group of attendees, from students to professionals, and offer a range of presentations and workshops on various topics related to open source software development.

One of the most interesting aspects of these conferences is the emphasis on community involvement. Participants are encouraged to contribute to the development of open source projects, share their knowledge and expertise, and work together to solve problems. This collaborative spirit is what makes these conferences so valuable and inspiring.

In addition to the technical sessions, there are also social events and networking opportunities for attendees to connect with each other and with the local open source community. These events provide a great opportunity for people to meet and exchange ideas, and to learn more about the latest developments in the field.

Overall, attending a conference like FOSSDEM is a great way to stay up-to-date on the latest trends and innovations in open source software development. It's a chance to learn from experts, meet new people, and contribute to the growth of the open source community.

Thank you!



One Last Thing...

One-Command Install Script for Castopod:

```
curl -fsSL https://castopod.org/install | sudo bash
```



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "fedora@installation:~ — ssh fedora@installation.cast...". It displays the Castopod installation script. The interface includes a green logo with a white robot head and the word "castopod" below it. The script itself is a multi-section document with a dark background and white text. It starts with a header: "CASTOPOD INSTALLATION SCRIPT (FrankenPHP + Caddy)" and "Script version: 1.0.0". It provides a "Report issues" link and a "PURPOSE" section describing the installation of Castopod with FrankenPHP, MariaDB, Redis, and FFmpeg. The "REQUIREMENTS" section lists "Root access, domain(s) pointing to this server, ports 80/443 open, supported OS". The "WHAT WILL BE MODIFIED" section lists several changes like upgrading system packages, installing FrankenPHP, creating MariaDB databases, and modifying Redis configuration. The "LIMITATION OF LIABILITY" section contains a standard disclaimer. At the bottom, a prompt asks "Do you want to proceed with the installation? (yes/no):" followed by a text input field.

```
fedora@installation:~ — ssh fedora@installation.cast...
~/Documents/Castopod/castopod-install

castopod

=====
CASTOPOD INSTALLATION SCRIPT (FrankenPHP + Caddy)
Script version: 1.0.0
Report issues: https://code.castopod.org/adaures/castopod/-/issues
=====

PURPOSE:
Install Castopod with FrankenPHP, MariaDB, Redis, and FFmpeg.
Automatic HTTPS via Caddy's built-in ACME support.

REQUIREMENTS:
Root access, domain(s) pointing to this server, ports 80/443 open, supported
OS:
WHAT WILL BE MODIFIED:
* System packages will be upgraded (apt-get dist-upgrade / dnf upgrade)
* FrankenPHP will be installed to /usr/local/bin/
* MariaDB databases will be created
* Redis configuration may be modified (if more databases are needed)
* Cron jobs will be added
* Files will be created in /var/www/castopod/
* Systemd service will be created for FrankenPHP
=====

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY
=====
THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR
IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY,
FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT.
IN NO EVENT SHALL THE AUTHORS OR COPYRIGHT HOLDERS BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM,
DAMAGES OR OTHER LIABILITY, WHETHER IN AN ACTION OF CONTRACT, TORT OR
OTHERWISE, ARISING FROM, OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOFTWARE OR THE
USE OR OTHER DEALINGS IN THE SOFTWARE.
By proceeding, you acknowledge that:
* You have read and understood this disclaimer
* You accept all risks associated with running this script
* You have backed up any important data on this server
* You understand this script will make system-level changes
=====

Do you want to proceed with the installation? (yes/no):
```

Thank you!

