Writing an ActivityPub specification for Podcasting

PodcastIndex Roundtable, April 24th 2021

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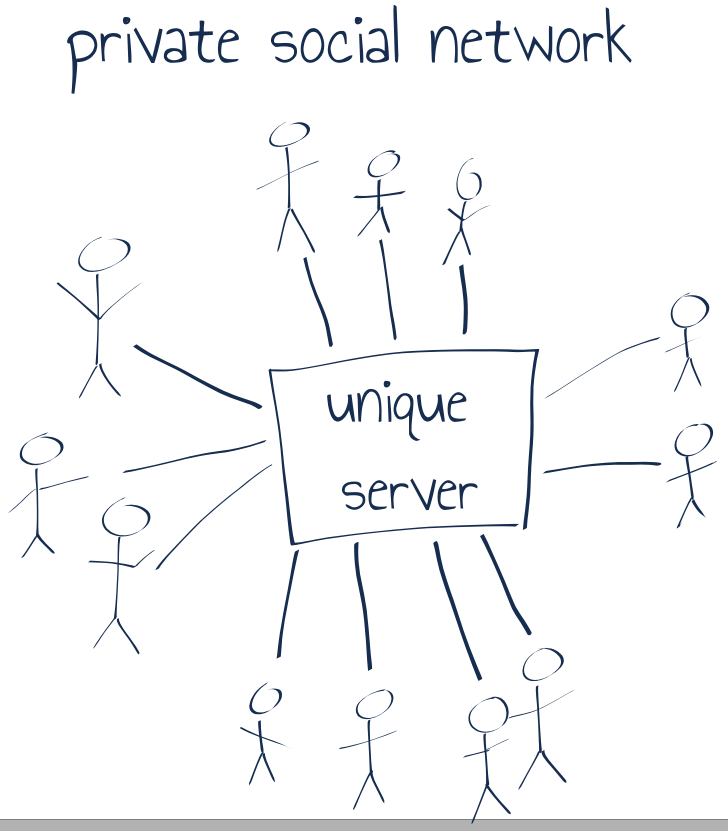
CC BY SA

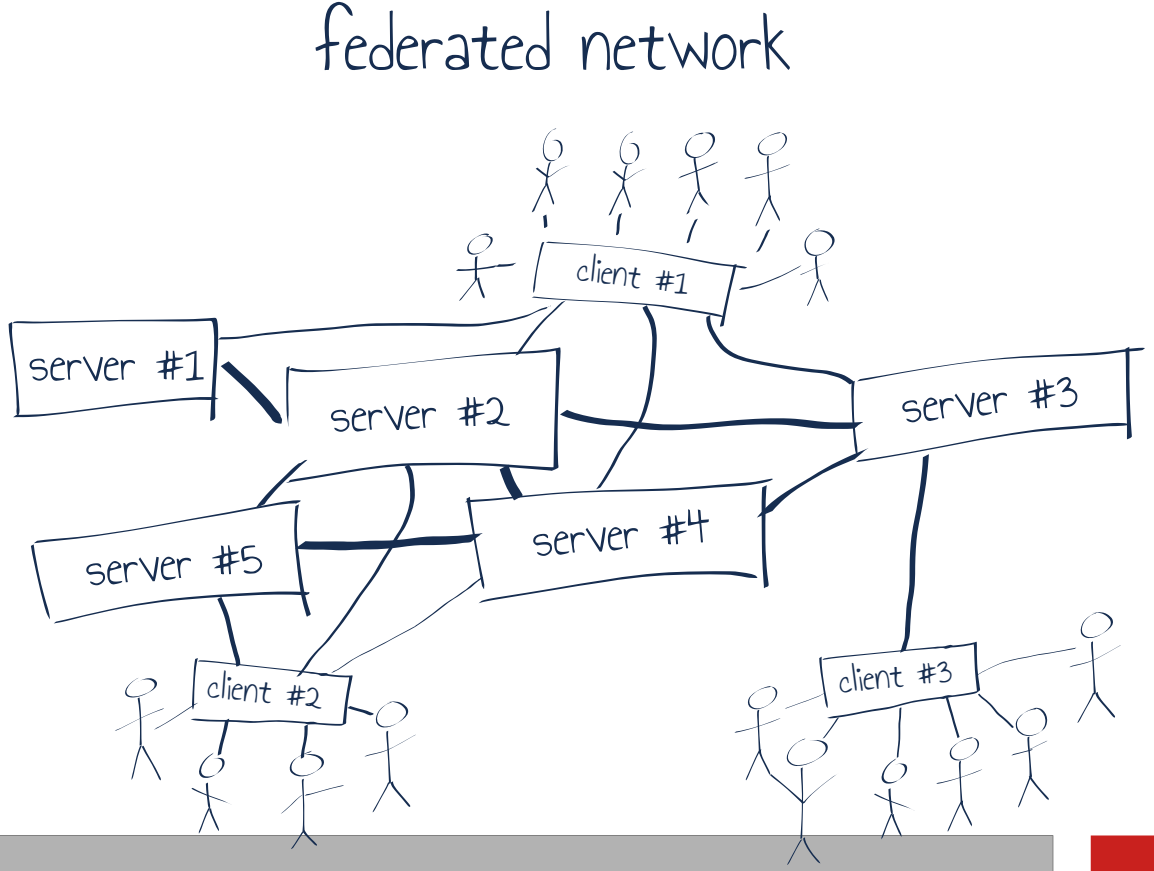
Disclaimer!

- **You will not learn anything from this presentation.**
- **The sole purpose of these slides is to put things in order.**

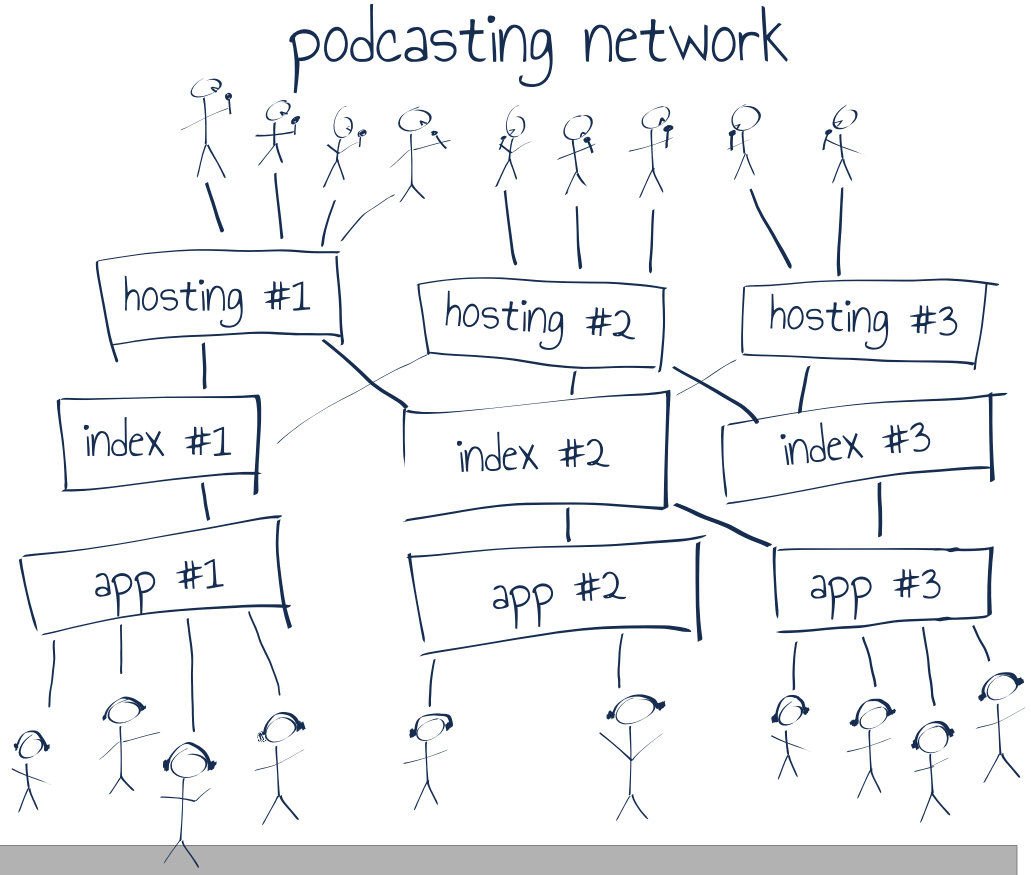
Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn...



Mastodon, PixelFed, PeerTube…

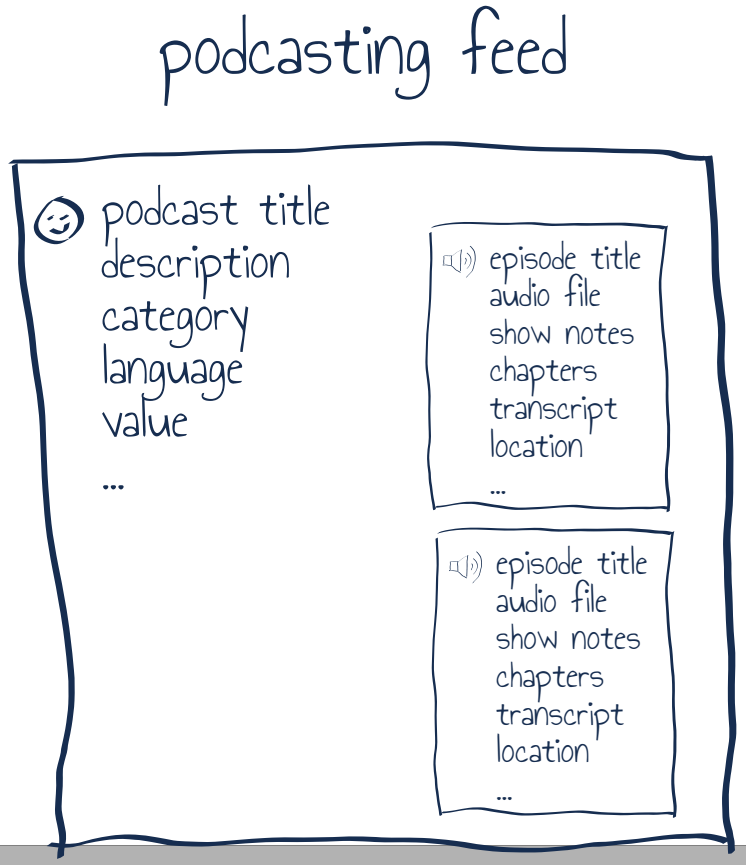


PodcastIndex, Apple, Buzzsprout, Podcast Addict…

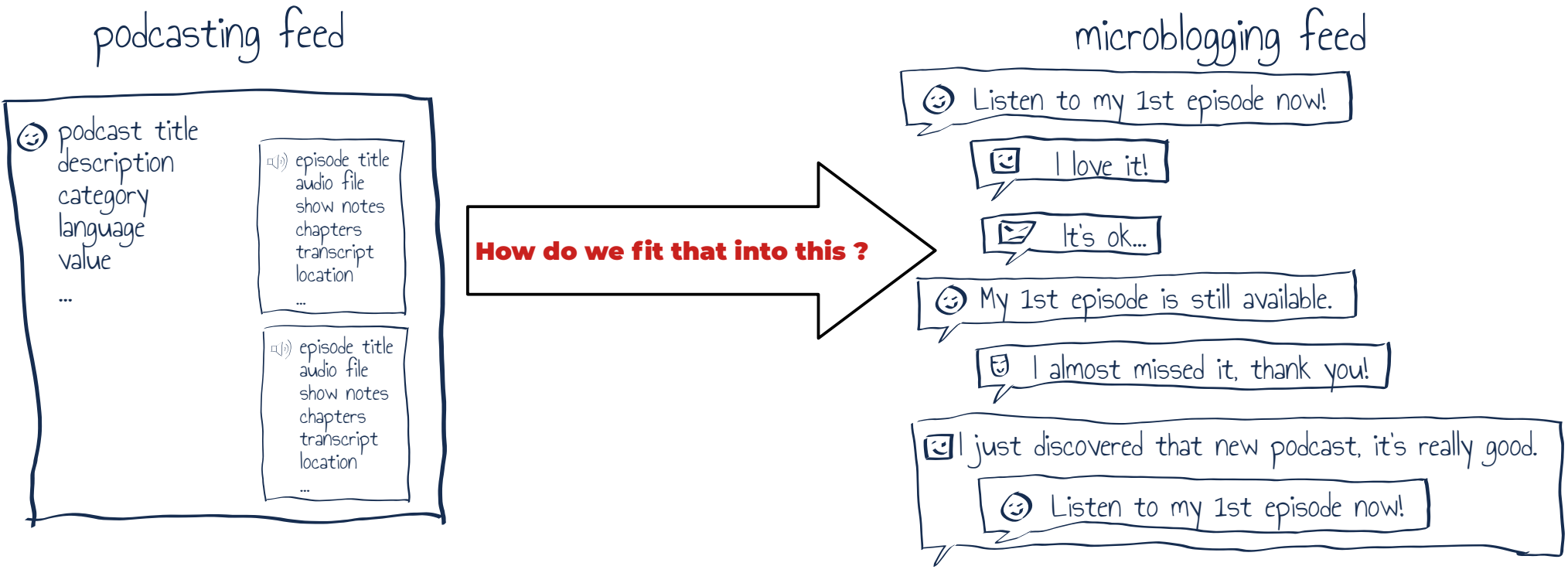


Mastodon, Twitter…

Buzzsprout, Transistor, Podserve, Castopod…

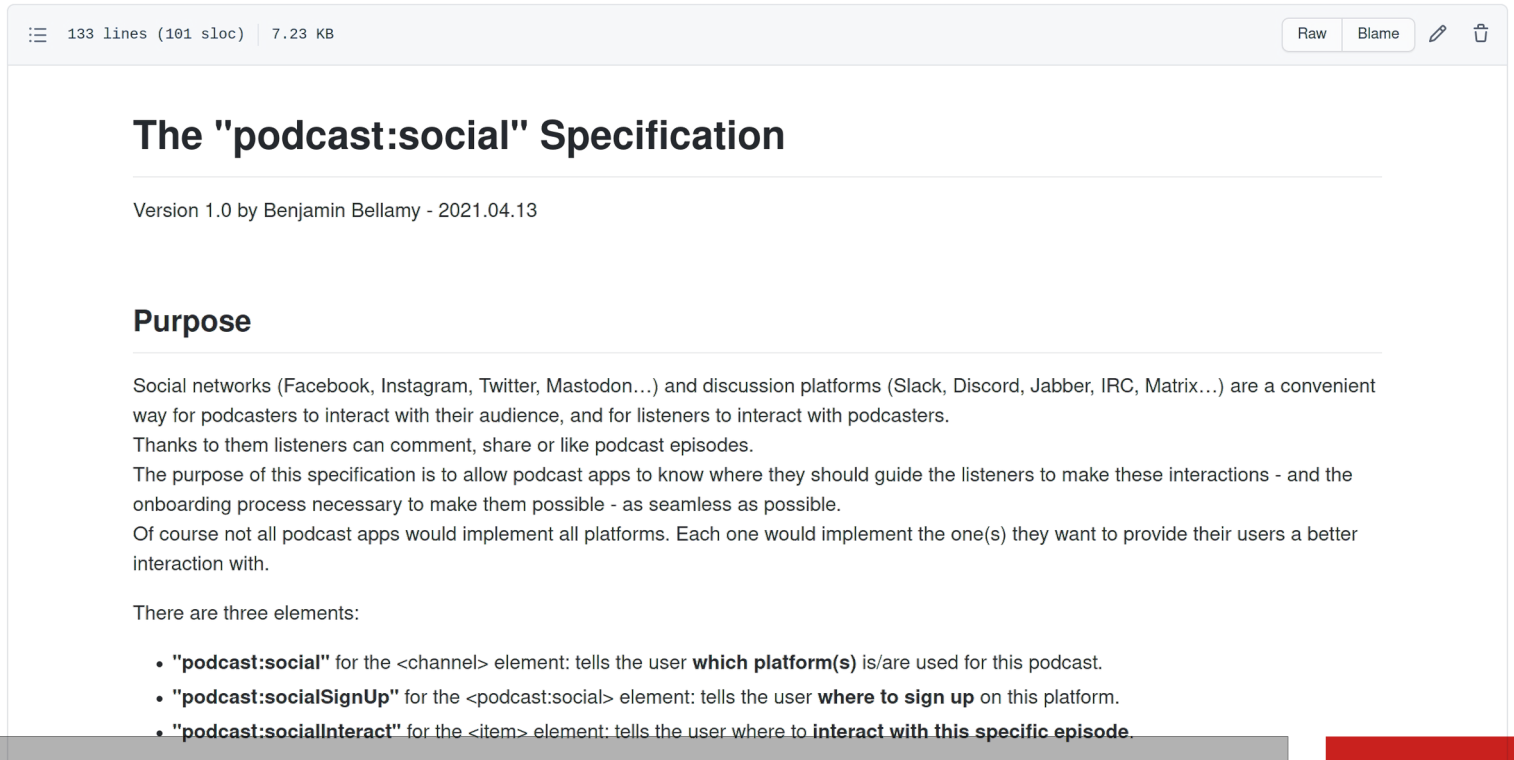


Question #1


podcasting feed
podcast title
description
category
language
value
...
episode title
audio file
show notes
chapters
transcript
location
...
episode title
audio file
show notes
chapters
transcript
location
...
How do we fit that into this ?
microblogging feed
Listen to my 1st episode now!
I love it!
It's ok...
My 1st episode is still available.
I almost missed it, thank you!
I just discovered that new podcast, it's really good.
Listen to my 1st episode now!

Answer #1

https://github.com/benjaminbellamy/podcast-namespace/blob/patch-9/proposal-docs/social/social.md



133 lines (101 sloc) | 7.23 KB

Raw Blame

The "podcast:social" Specification

Version 1.0 by Benjamin Bellamy - 2021.04.13

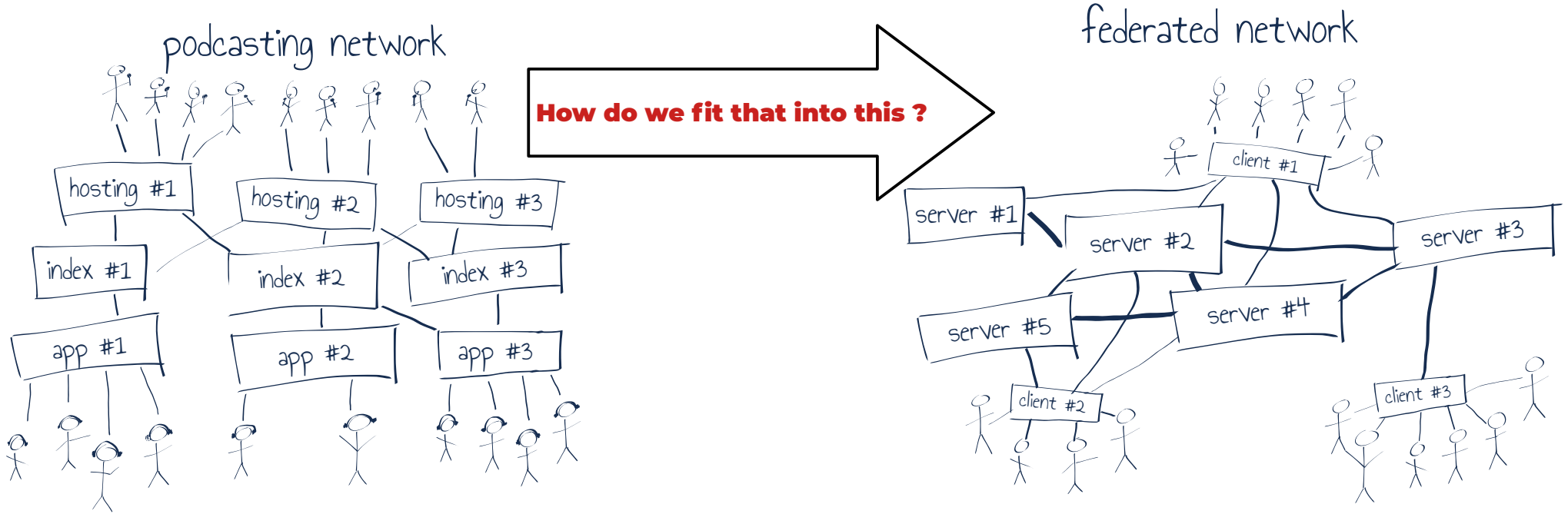
Purpose

Social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Mastodon…) and discussion platforms (Slack, Discord, Jabber, IRC, Matrix…) are a convenient way for podcasters to interact with their audience, and for listeners to interact with podcasters.
Thanks to them listeners can comment, share or like podcast episodes.
The purpose of this specification is to allow podcast apps to know where they should guide the listeners to make these interactions - and the onboarding process necessary to make them possible - as seamless as possible.
Of course not all podcast apps would implement all platforms. Each one would implement the one(s) they want to provide their users a better interaction with.

There are three elements:

- **"podcast:social"** for the <channel> element: tells the user **which platform(s)** is/are used for this podcast.
- **"podcast:socialSignUp"** for the <podcast:social> element: tells the user **where to sign up** on this platform.
- **"podcast:socialInteract"** for the <item> element: tells the user where to **interact with this specific episode**.

Question #2


podcasting network
hosting #1
hosting #2
hosting #3
index #1
index #2
index #3
app #1
app #2
app #3
How do we fit that into this ?
federated network
client #1
server #1
server #2
server #3
server #5
server #4
client #2
client #3

Answer #2

https://github.com/Podcastindex-org/activitypub-spec-work/blob/main/proposal-docs/podcast-activitystream/podcast-activitystream.md

205 lines (178 sloc) | 8.04 KB

Raw | Blame

The Podcast ActivityStream

> Version 1.0 by Yassine Doghri - 2021.04.15

The document aims to explain through examples and namespace definition how the existing RSS specification could be interfaced to ActivityPub.

This is meant as a complementary work to the existing RSS podcast namespace specification whilst unlocking features offered by the ActivityPub protocol.

Context

A Podcast show is essentially constituted of two entities. In the RSS specification, these are placed under the `<channel>` and `<item>` tags. The `<channel>`, referring to the Podcast, may include multiple `<item>` tags which are the Podcast episodes.

The ActivityPub protocol is a decentralized social networking protocol based upon the ActivityStreams 2.0 data format. This offers a base vocabulary for social interactions between decentralized servers and allows us to extend it for podcasting.

The syntax for defining the ActivityStreams 2.0 data format is called JSON-LD, a method of encoding linked data using JSON.

Just as the RSS specification, the **Podcast ActivityStream** defines two entities:

- Podcast Actor
- PodcastEpisode Object.

Question #3

Are these two answers compatible?

Answer #3

YES.

What is at stake? (1/2)

- **Create a unified specification for all podcast hosts, indexes, apps…**
- **Harness ActivityPub for Podcasting (this extends ActivityPub and does not modify it)**
- **Do better than other ActivityPub specifications (PeerTube, FunkWhale…) and show the way.**
- **Make it a W3C recommendation.**
- **Keep podcasting decentralized.**

What is at stake? (2/2)

- **Keep podcasting decentralized.**
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Now it’s up to you.

Thank you.

PS: Do not forget to keep podcasting decentralized.