Domain Exploration - Team Works on my Machine (Team 3)

Basic Information:

- The Fediverse comes from the two words "federation" and "universe"
- It is a network of decentralized social media platforms
    - What makes them decentralized is the way that anyone can host an instance of a social media platform
- All Fediverse instances and platforms are built on top of the ActivityPub protocol, which lets them be connected
- The fediverse is still a relatively small community, but it is growing rapidly. As more people become aware of the benefits of the fediverse, we can expect to see it become even more popular in the years to come.

Examples:

- https://joinmastodon.org/
- https://join-lemmy.org/
- https://pleroma.social/
- Threads by Instagram promises to integrate with the Fediverse at some point: https://help.instagram.com/169559812696339
- https://pixelfed.org/
- https://joinpeertube.org/en

Benefits of the Fediverse:

- **Decentralization**: in theory, no massive company controls social media anymore, but this could be a problem as massive companies could host the biggest instances, effectively making it more centralized.
    - Some benefits of decentralization here are: "freedom of speech", lack of recommendation algorithms, people picking communities that align with their values (could be a negative due to echo chambers)
- **Interoperability**: Since all platforms are built on the ActivityPub protocol, all instances can interact with each other, giving users access to the entire fediverse with one account
- **Open standards:** The fediverse uses open standards, which means that anyone can develop new platforms and services that are compatible with the network. This promotes innovation and competition.

Problems with the current Fediverse

- New and relatively unknown
- No strong recommendation algorithms to get people easily discover posts and content
    - Arguably a good thing
- Lack of moderation due to small user base
- Complexity to sign up for layperson, complexity of hosting instances
- Each instance might result in wildly different experiences
- **No incentive to get on any of these platforms (for most people)**

ActivityPub ([more here](#))

- A W3C standard protocol that allows users to create, update, and delete content and has federated APIs to share notifications and content between different instances of the social media on multiple servers
- Aims to improve the interoperability between different softwares run on a wide network of servers