

Mastodon and the Fediverse



An introduction to Mastodon and the Fediverse.

Logo By Eukombos [CC0], from Wikimedia Commons

Introduction:

- Bob Murphy
- System administrator in New Jersey
- Long-time Linux user, long time Fediverse denizen.
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- Slides available at murphnj.neocities.org

Overview

- The fediverse (a portmanteau of "federated" and "universe") is a collection of protocols, servers, and users.
- Together they form communities that can communicate together.
- Users can exchange short messages, blog-style posts, music, and videos between services.

Some history

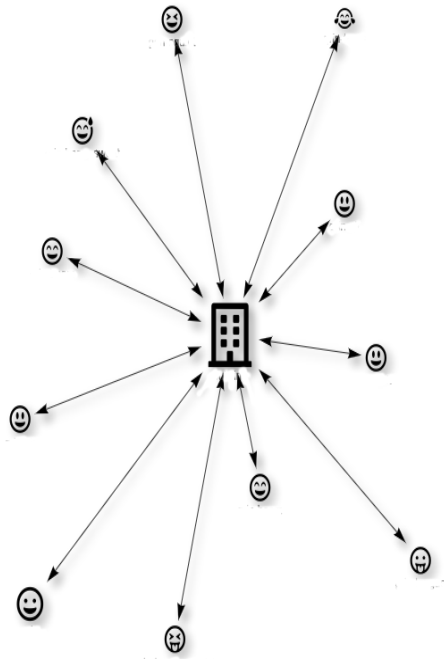
- In 2008, Evan Prodromou created a microblogging service called identi.ca using the Ostatus protocol and status.net server software.
- In about 2012, he changed his service to use a new protocol, pump.io. He released the Ostatus protocol to the Free Software Foundation, where it got incorporated into GNU/social. The fediverse continued along for several years.
- March 2016, Eugen Rochco (Gargron) created Mastodon, which used GNU/social with a tweetdeck-like interface. This gained some popularity.
- In 2018, a new protocol called ActivityPub was accepted as a standardized protocol by the W3C. Most Fediverse platforms have adopted it. It was authored by Evan Prodromou, Christine Lemmer-Weber, and others, and it expanded upon the previous services to provide a better and more flexible protocol.

Federation

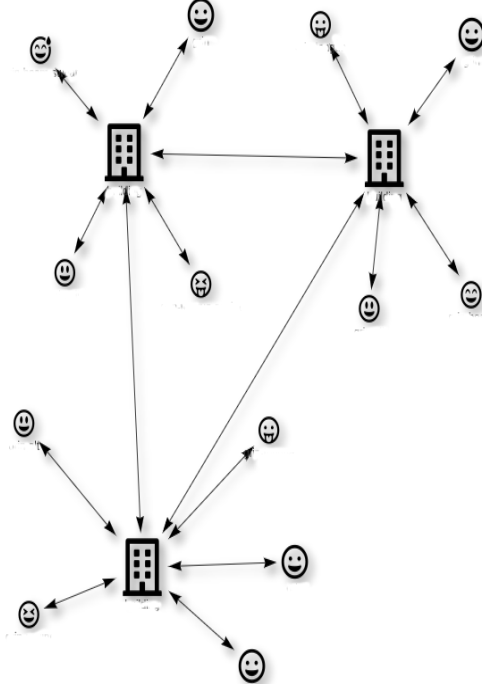
- Most services are run by a single company or organization. A single silo that your data is trapped in, the only way to share with others is to have them join that service.
- Federation allows users of different services to inter-operate with one another, without creating an account for each shared resource. (Largely)
- System operators can block other instances in case of egregious issues, and users can likewise block users or instances to improve their experience.

Illustration of federation

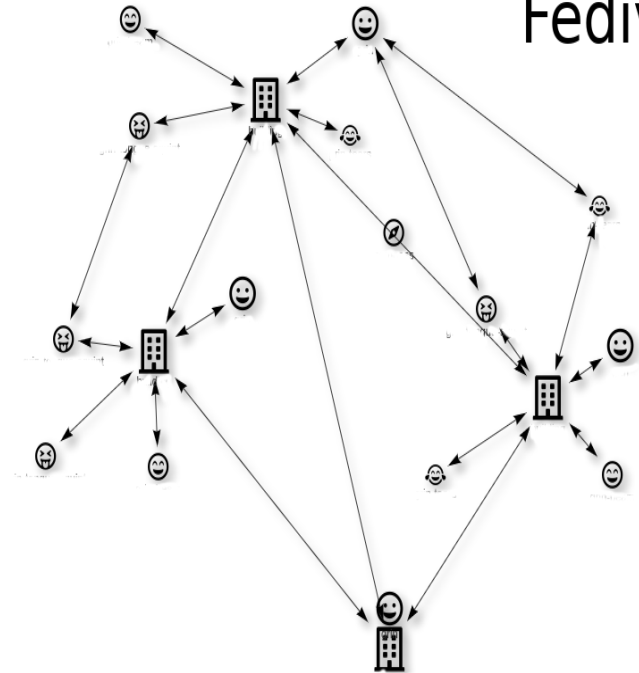
Centralized



Federated



Fediverse



Services available (partial)

- Mastodon,pleroma,misskey
- Pixelfed
- Lemmy
- Write.as, read.as
- Peertube
- Funkwhale
- Mobilizon,gettogether.community

Microblogging

Image hosting

Link aggregator

Blogging

Video Hosting

Audio Hosting

Event planning

More services

- There are many new services that all use the ActivityPub protocol to work together
- More are being created every day, development is rapid.

What some call "Fediverse"...



... is just different social networks speaking
ActivityPub to each other.

Example: Mastodon (default)

Browser address bar: <https://gardenstate.social/home>

Search or paste URL

@murph
Edit profile

What's on your mind?

500

Publish

Home

CK's Technology News
@CKsTechNews@cktn.todon.de
37m

#Linux Kernel 5.15.95 is out

cdn.kernel.org/pub/linux/kerne...

```
signed-off  
commit 3f94c70333f61a593e08b7bfa2953fe1e8844eb  
Author: Arnd  
Date: Fri Jan 27 10:39:44 2023 +0100  
  
platform/x86/amd: pmc: add CONFIG_SERIO dependency  
commit abce209d18fd26e865b2406cc68819289db973f9 upstream.  
  
Using the serio subsystem now requires the code to be reachable:  
x86_64-linux-id: drivers/platform/x86/amd/pmc.o: in function 'amd_pmc_suspend_handler':  
pmc.c:(.text+0x86c): undefined reference to 'serio_bus'  
  
Add the usual dependency: as other users of serio use 'select'  
rather than 'depends on', use the same here.  
  
Fixes: 8e68615e8932 ("platform/x86/amd: pmc: Disable IRQ1 wakeup for RN/CIN")  
Signed-off-by: Arnd  
Link: https://lore.kernel.org/r/20230127093950.2368575-1-arnd@kernel.org  
Reviewed-by: Hans de  
Signed-off-by: Hans de
```

0

TILvids
@tilvids@mstdn.social
53m

#LINUX vs #WINDOWS - Complete performance test!

(video courtesy of @thelinuxEXP)

tilvids.com/w/rfeQ9mZcKKA6s9q9...

gardenstate.social: About · Profiles directory · Privacy policy

Mastodon: About · Get the app · Keyboard shortcuts · View source code · v4.1.0

mastodon

Home

Notifications

Explore

Local

Federated

Direct messages

Favourites

Bookmarks

Lists

Journalists

Projects

Preferences

TRENDING NOW

#whiskerswednesday
7 people in the past 2 days

#waterfallwednesday
8 people in the past 2 days

#wednesday
7 people in the past 2 days

CPU + GPU
GAMING
DISK SPEED
INTERNET

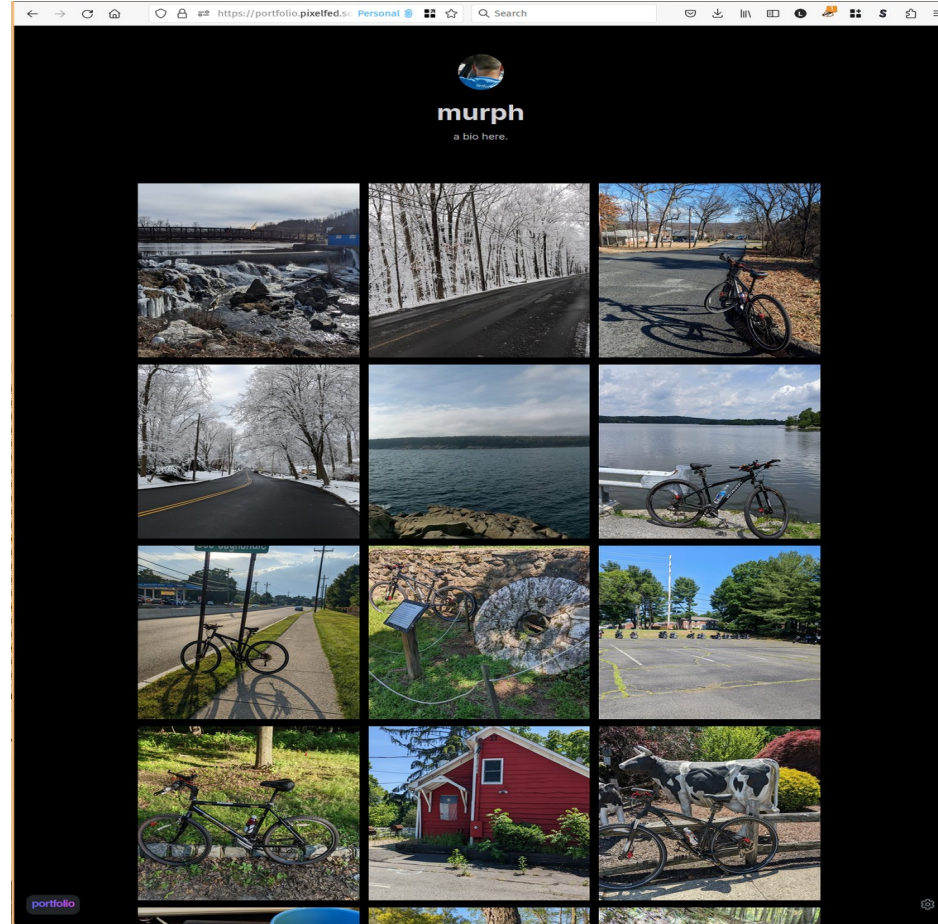
VS

Example: Mastodon (advanced)

The screenshot displays the Mastodon web interface with a dark theme. The layout is divided into several sections:

- Left Sidebar:** Contains navigation icons (hamburger menu, notifications, settings, compose), a search bar, a user profile card for @murph, a text input field "What's on your mind?", and a "TOOT!" button. At the bottom is a cartoon illustration of an elephant.
- Home Timeline:** A list of posts from followed accounts. Visible posts include:
 - Drew DeVault (@sr@cmpwn.c...) about GitLab outages.
 - The Privacy Foundation (@th...) about the "Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies" (EARNIT) Act.
 - A post about encryption by Sen. Durbin.
 - Drew DeVault (@sr@cmpwn.c...) about GitHub outages.
- Local timeline:** A list of posts from the local area. Visible posts include:
 - Nathan DeGruchy (@nathand) about the CDC chief's statement on a vaccine.
 - Igor Jagec (@igorjagec) about the next version of Ubuntu.
 - James Valleroy (@jvalleroy) about a food poll.
 - karan (@karan) about adding latency calculation in Lite.
- Federated timeline:** A list of posts from the federated network. Visible posts include:
 - BBC中文 (@bbcnews@news...) about the US election system.
 - they misuser (@extinct@re...) about a Patreon tax rollback.
 - A post about tier pricing for a service.
 - Maddie (@...) about a lecture.
 - David (@chillalimen@mastodon...) about a memorial vigil.
- Right Sidebar:** Features a "Back" button, a profile card for SDF.ORG (@SDF@mastodon.sdf.org) with an "Unfollow" button, a "NOTE" section with a "Click to add note" button, and a list of recent toots from SDF.ORG, including one about a public access UNIX system and another about a Breakout game.

Example: Pixelfed



Example: Peertube

Local videos - LinuxRocks PeerTube - Mozilla Firefox

Fosstodon x Fediverse—Distributed Soc x Local videos - LinuxRocks x +

https://peertube.linuxrocks.online/videos/local?state=42

write.as fediverse

Most Visited defaults Fosstodon daily Linux Academy Element | Matrix HQ otfbookmarks occasional Other Bookmarks Mobile Bookmarks

LinuxRocks PeerTube

Search videos, channels... Upload

murph
murph

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- Most liked
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- Local

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https://peertube.linuxrocks.online/accounts/art

Local videos

Dolphin logo in Solvespace (NEW)
15 hours ago • 13 views
eric_buijs

[Linux] DRAG - Racing Simulator Gameplay
1 week ago • 2 views
ekianjo

نمایشت با بزرگم - نصب و آشنایی با بزرگم افرا
1 week ago • 2 views
ilam_lug

نمایشت هفتیم - ویکی پدیا: بزرگم افرا
1 week ago • 0 views
ilam_lug

نمایشت با بزرگم - مدیر بزرگم های بزرگم افرا
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GamerOS - Can Steam Machines Make a
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How to find people to follow

- Look in your local timeline.
- Find interesting people, and follow them.
- See what they post and boost, and look at the people that follow them.
- Search for hashtags that interest you.
- You can follow hashtags in your Home timeline.
- From there, find the people posting about what interests you.

Will the Fediverse stick around?

- Some people reported that since many of the Twitter users that tried Mastodon moved back, that Mastodon is doomed to fail.
- Since the fediverse is not tied to a company that has to provide immediate

profits, slow growth is OK, it allows communities to work to accept new people

graph from the-fediverse.info



New services that federate?

- **Bluesky**

- Controlled by one rich dude. (Sound familiar?)
- Not yet federated with anyone.
- Moderation seems iffy

- **Threads**

- Controlled by one rich dude (again?)
- Seems to have died down after a big initial splash
- Also does not federate with anyone yet.

Conclusion:

- The Fediverse is a way to use the web in a more individual way, either by choosing an instance with a community that suits your needs, or running your own server, and making it exactly the way you want.
- It avoids the advertising, algorithms, and other unpleasantities that plague some other social networks.
- When you join the fediverse, you are joining a community of the instance that you choose, you are not a way for a company to figure out how to make profit from your communication.

Where to learn more:

A few links to find more about the Fediverse:

- General info:
 - fediverse.info -- Nice video explanation, also, subject-based way to find (self-selected) users.
 - fedi.tips -- Comprehensive guide for users.
- Where to start
 - joinmastodon.org -- largest list of Mastodon servers
 - joinfediverse.wiki -- Great information on different fediverse services and instances
 - Fedi.garden -- well-curated list of instances
- Which instance to join (assuming you don't want to spin up your own just yet):
 - fediverse.party/en/portal/servers
- -
- Stats, monitoring service, and list of the known Fediverse:
 - the-federation.info - charts and graphs of fediverse use.

this slide shamelessly stolen from [Mauricio Uribe](#) (with permission) and subsequently vandalized beyond recognition.

Thank you.

- I'll be happy to entertain any questions, or further demonstrate what I can on the fediverse.
- Contact information:
 - <https://identi.ca/murph>
 - @murph@hackers.town <https://hackers.town/@murph>
 - murph@weirdness.com (email)

How the timelines work:

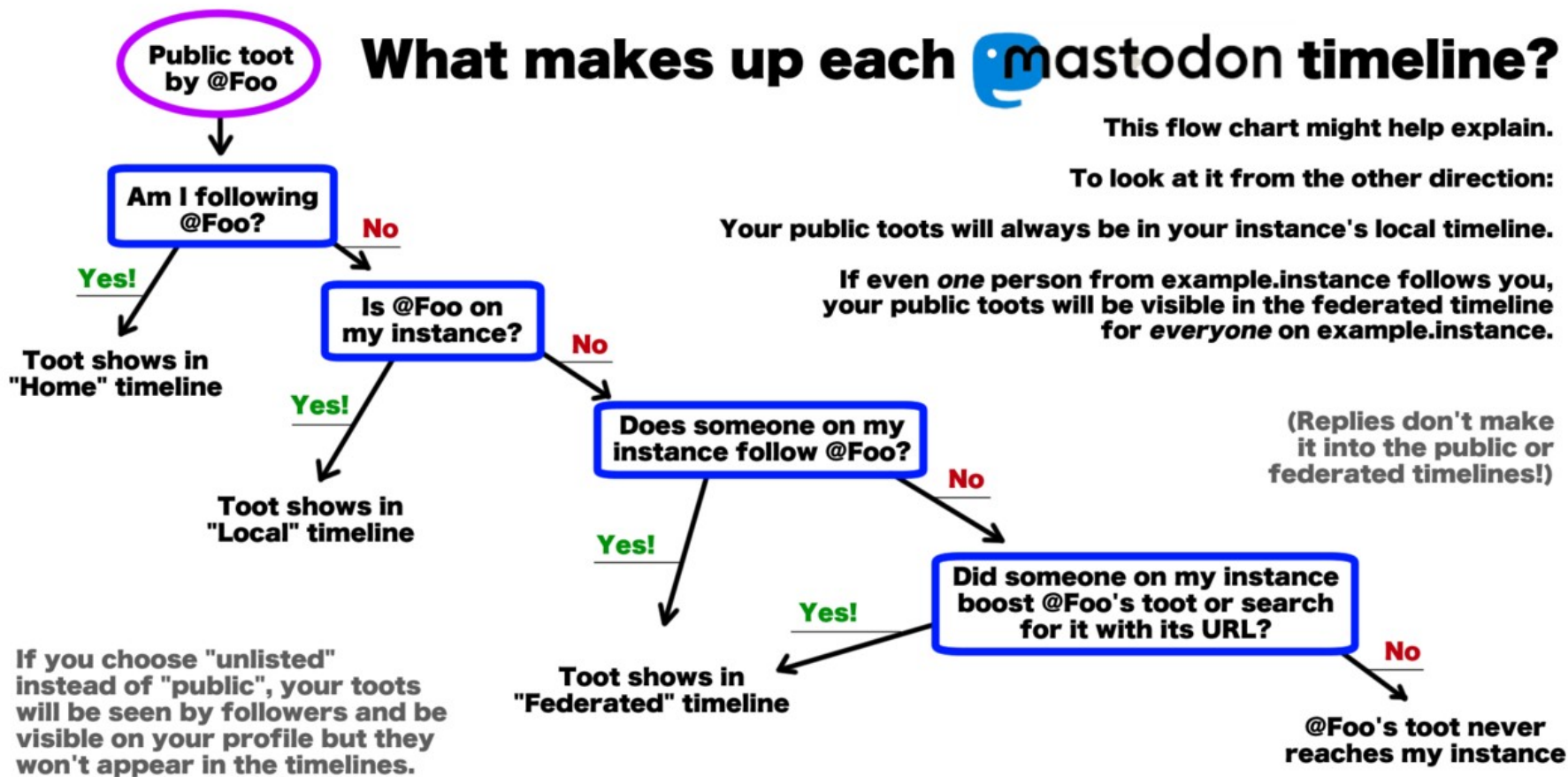


Chart by:
@cassolotl
@dev.glitch
.social/