

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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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

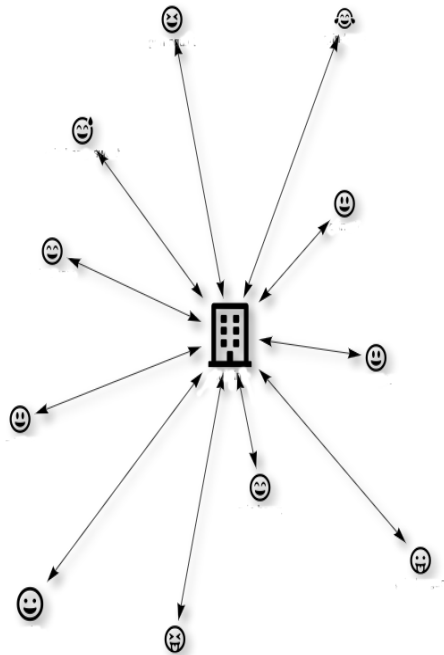
- In 2008, Evan Prodromou created a microblogging service called identi.ca using the Ostatus protocol and status.net server software.
- In about 2012, he changed his service to use a new protocol, pump.io. He released the Ostatus protocol to the Free Software Foundation, where it got incorporated into 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

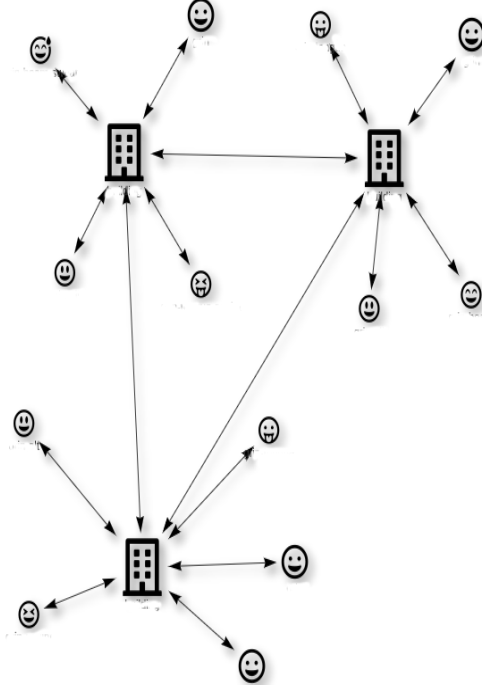
- Most services are run by a single company or organization. A single silo that your data is trapped in, the only way to share with others is to have them join that service.
- Federation allows users of different services to inter-operate with one another, without creating an account for each shared 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

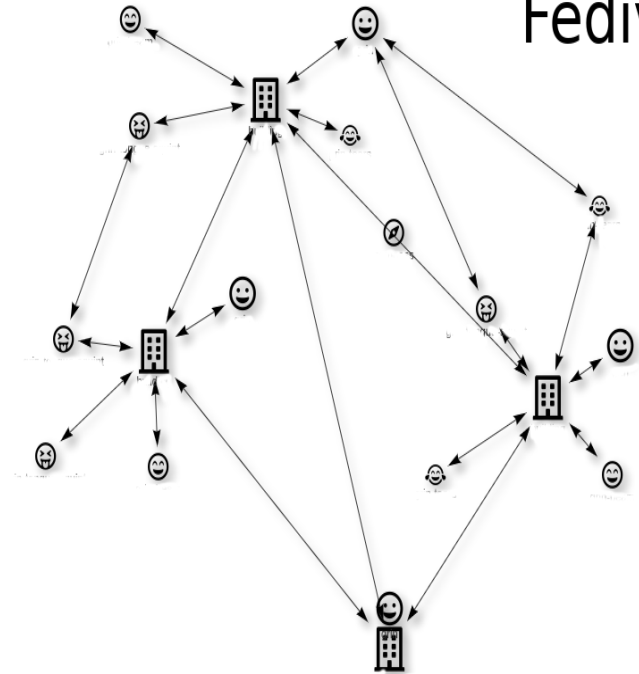
Centralized



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 3f94c70333f61a932e8b7bfa2953fe1e8844eb  
Author: Arnd  
Date: Fri Jan 27 10:39:44 2023 +0100  
  
platform/x86/amd: pmc: add CONFIG_SERIO dependency  
commit abce209d18fd26e85b2406cc68819289db973f9 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...

CPU + GPU
GAMING
DISK SPEED
INTERNET

VS

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

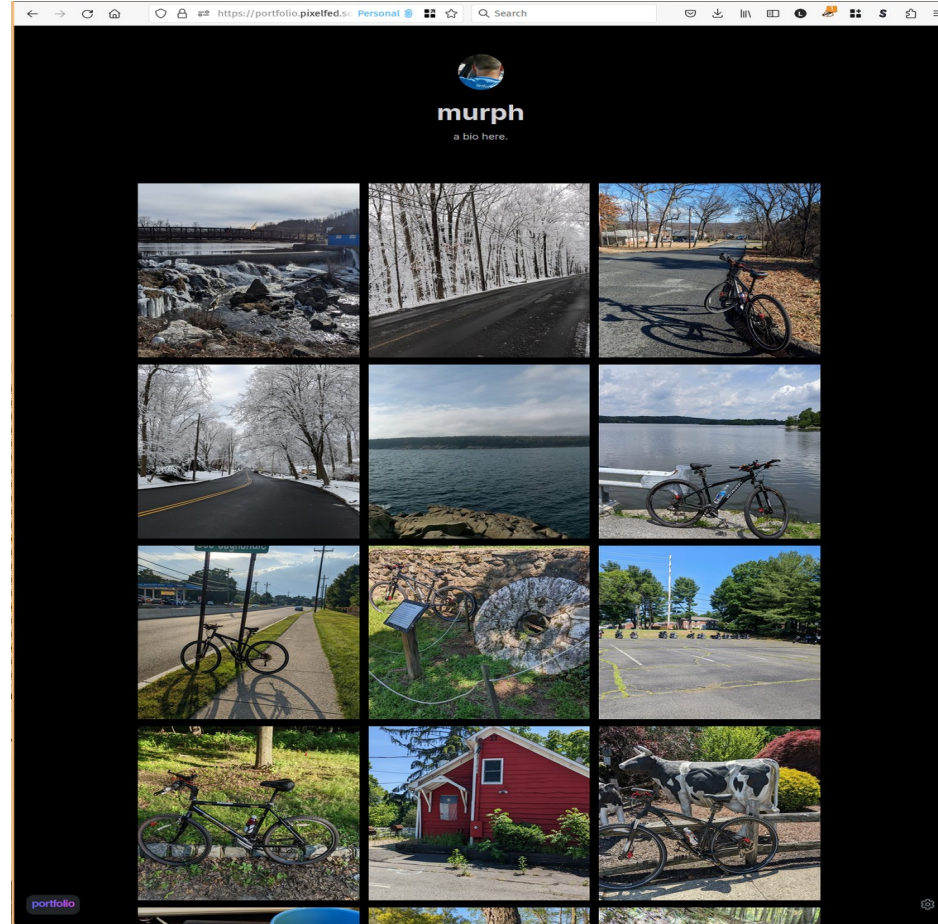
#wednesday
7 people in the past 2 days

Example: Mastodon (advanced)

The screenshot displays the Mastodon web interface, which is organized into several main sections:

- Profile Section (Left):** Includes a search bar, a profile card for **@murph** with an "Edit profile" link, a text input field "What's on your mind?", and a "TOOT!" button. A cartoon illustration of an elephant is visible at the bottom left.
- Home Timeline:** A list of posts from followed accounts. Visible posts include:
 - Drew DeVault** (@sr@cmpwn.c...): "On September 16th, GitLab had an unplanned outage lasting ~2x the total duration of all of sr.ht's unplanned outages in 2020".
 - The Privacy Foundation** (@th...): "The 'Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies' (or #EARNIT) Act, was introduced by Senator: Lindsey Graham (R-SC). And other co-sponsors: govtrack.us/congress/bills/116... This bill naively undermines #encryption. 'Encryption is a powerful tool to protect private information like passwords and financial details. However, it also can be used by criminals...' - Sen. Durbin. Have you contacted your Senator to share your disapproval of this criminalization of #privacy?"
 - Drew DeVault** (@sr@cmpwn.c...): "Compared to sr.ht's total unplanned outages in 2020, GitHub has..."
- Local timeline:** A list of posts from accounts in the local area. Visible posts include:
 - Nathan DeGruchy** (@nathand): "The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicted Wednesday that most of the American public will not have access to a vaccine against the novel coronavirus until late spring or summer of next year — prompting a public rebuke from President Trump, who declared the CDC chief was wrong." "Yeah, I'm gonna settle in to working from home."
 - Igor Jagec** (@igorjagec): "Why the Next Version of ... OMG! Ubuntu!"
 - rho** (@rho): "Alcohol"
 - James Valleroy** (@jvalleroy): "food poll, silly"
 - karan** (@karan): "adding latency calculation of custom endpoints in Lite?"
- Federated timeline:** A list of posts from accounts across the network. Visible posts include:
 - BBC 中文** (@bbcnews@news...): "美国大选的选举人团制度为何备受争议" (The Electoral College system for the US presidential election is why it is so controversial). "虽然在历史上并不多见,但是美国总统候选人在绝对票数不如对手的情况下是仍然有可能当选的。" (Although it is not common in history, it is still possible for a US presidential candidate to win with an absolute majority less than the opponent's). #bbcnews
 - they misuser** (@extinct@re...): "i guess in slightly better news patreon is rolling back it's recent tax bullshit"
 - though i'm sure it'll come back with something even worse soon enough**
 - Maddie** (@...): "I spread myself too thin and I just... can't pay attention to this lecture. The week's been too long already, and I'm spent for today"
 - David** (@chillalimen@mastodon...): "anyway, the lizer memorial vigil and wake is gonna be held in an hour"
- User Profile (Right):** The profile of **SDF.ORG** (@SDF@mastodon.sdf.org). It shows a bio, a "NOTE" section with a "Click to add note" link, and statistics: 1.9K Toots, 7 Following, 4K Followers. It also lists recent toots, including "SDF Public Access UNIX System - sdf.org" and "Join Echolink 9229 NET Mondays 0000 UTC".

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 oilbookmarks occasional Other Bookmarks Mobile Bookmarks

LinuxRocks PeerTube

Search videos, channels... Upload

murph
murph

MY LIBRARY

- Videos
- Playlists
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VIDEOS

- Discover
- Trending
- Most liked
- Recently added
- Local

About

Contact Help FAQ Stats API Shortcuts

Copyright © 2011-2020
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 نرم افزار
1 week ago • 2 views
ilam_lug

نمایشت هفتیم - ویکی پدیا: نرم افزار اراد
1 week ago • 0 views
ilam_lug

نمایشت با بزرگم - مدیر بجزه های مورانگی در
1 week ago • 1 view
ilam_lug

GamerOS - Can Steam Machines Make a
4 weeks ago • 336 views
ekianjo

Extract A Single File from a Zip
4 weeks ago • 22 views
art

montage of lightning
1 month ago • 14 views
alpinekid

نمایشت داکوت فارسی: مستندسازی
1 month ago • 3 views
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thefakevip

Fantasy Strike ranked match
1 month ago • 6 views
zergling_man

murphscreen
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murph

ProtonMail Review
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[Linux] Yuzu - Emulate Nintendo Switch games!
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Introducing GNOME 3.20 'Delhi'
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2 months ago • 12 views
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How to find people to follow

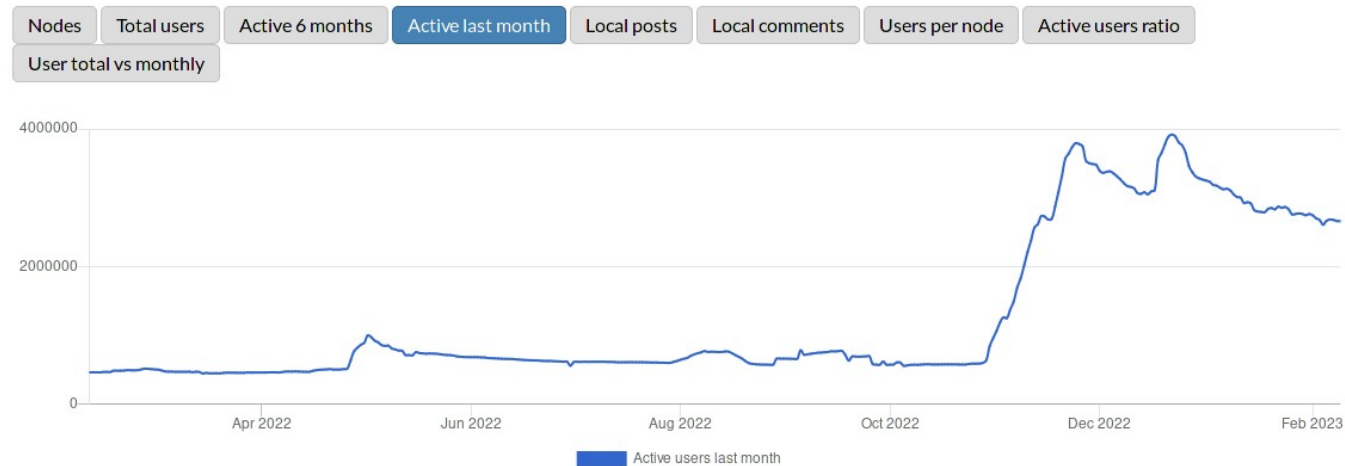
- Look in your local timeline.
- Find interesting people, and follow them.
- See what they post and boost, and look at the people that follow them.
- Search for hashtags that interest you.
- You can follow hashtags in your Home timeline.
- From there, find the people posting about what interests you.

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 unpleasanties 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.
 - fedidb.org - more numbers

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:

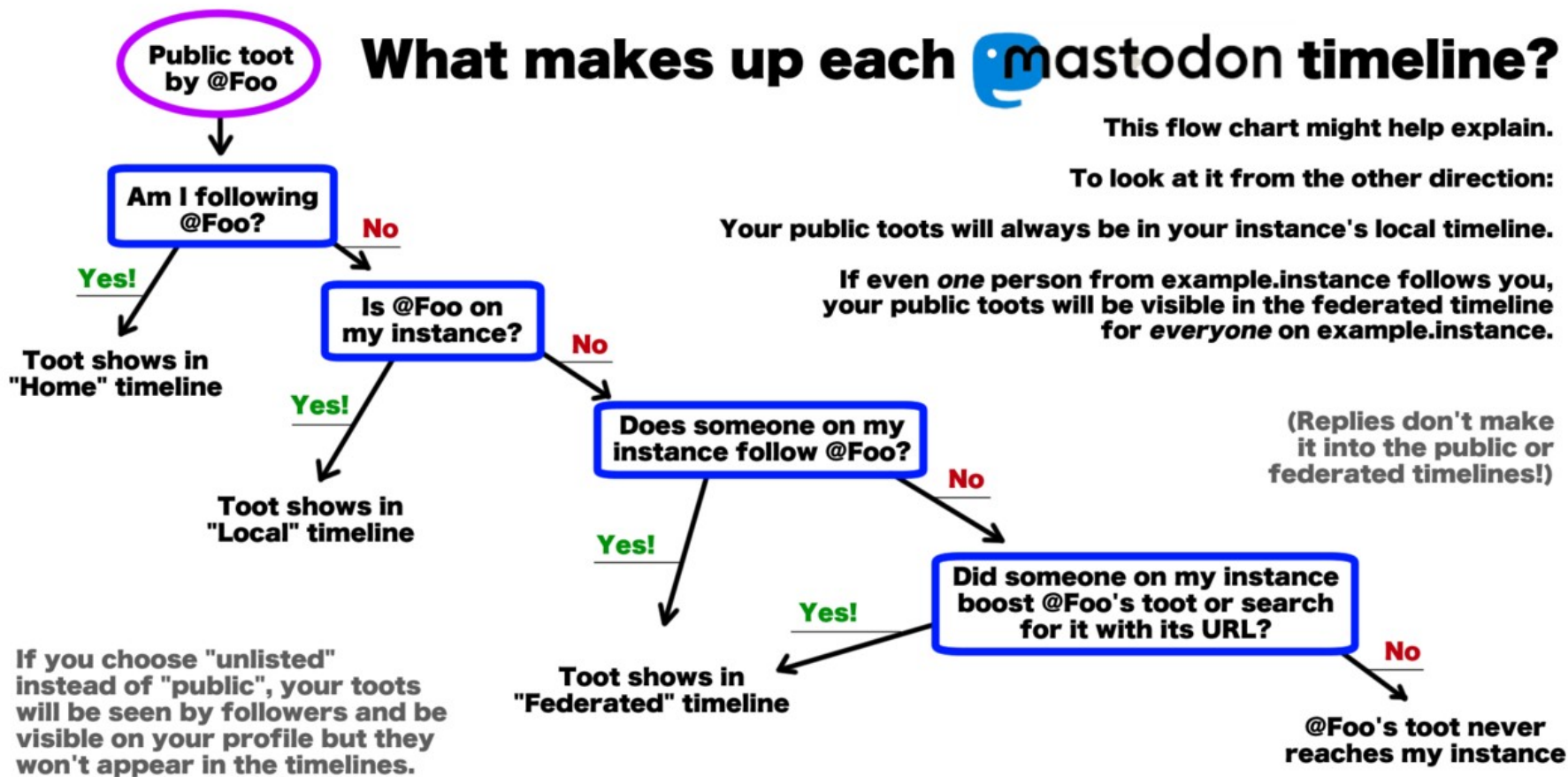


Chart by:
@cassolotl
@dev.glitch
.social/