# The Fediverse

An introduction to the Fediverse.

Logo By Eukombos [CC0], from Wikimedia Commons

# Introduction:

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- System administrator in New Jersey
- Long-time Linux user, long time Fediverse denizen.
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- https://identi.ca/murph

# Overview

- The fediverse is a collection of protocols, servers, and users.
- Together they form networks that can communicate together.
- Users can exchange short messages, blog-style posts, music, and videos throughout.

# Some history

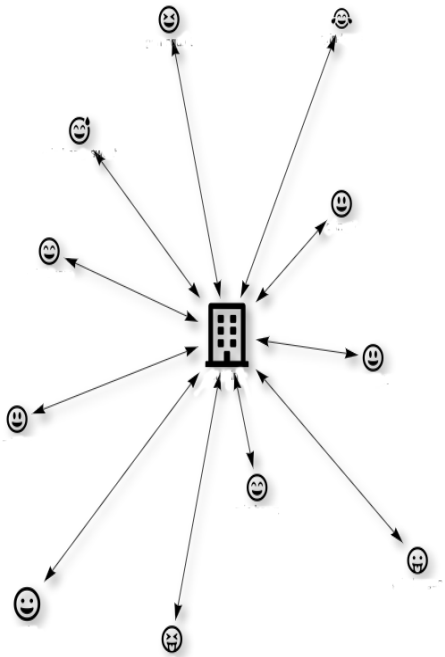
- In 2008, Evan Prodromou created a twitter-like service called identi.ca. It used the Ostatus protocol.
- In about 2012, he changed his service to use a new protocol, pump.io. He released the status.net protocol to the FSF, renamed as GNU/social. The fediverse continued along for several years.
- March 2016, Eugen Rochco (Gargron) created Mastodon, which used GNU/social with a tweetdeck-like interface. This gained some popularity.
- 2018, Activitypub, a new protocol was accepted as a standardized protocol. Most fediverse platforms have adopted it. Authored by Evan P., Christopher Lemmer-Weber and others, it expanded upon the previous into a better protocol.

# Federation

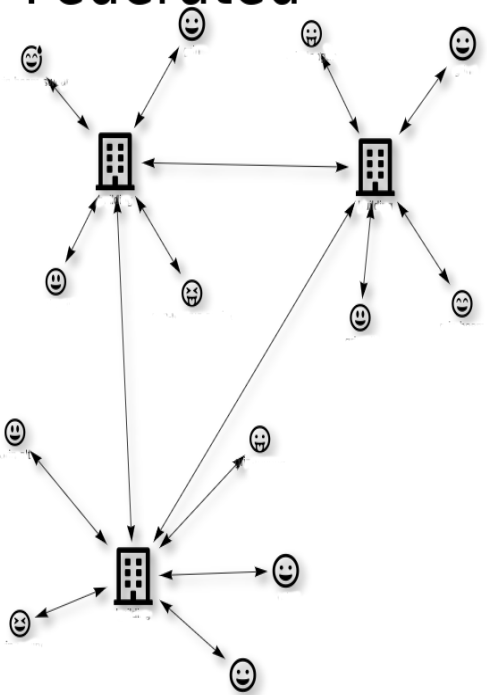
- Most services are run by a single company or organization  A single silo that your data is trapped in, the only way to share with others is to have them join that service.
- Federation allows users of different services to inter-operate with one another, without creating an account for each shared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

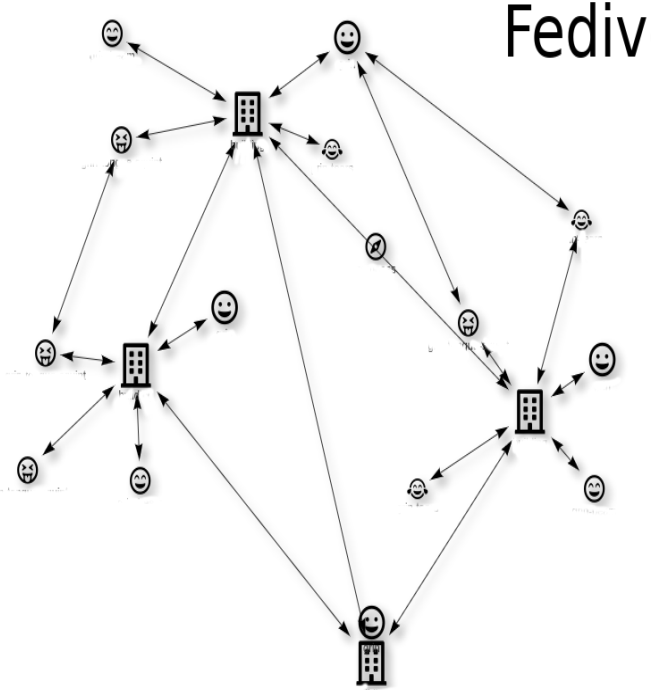
Centralized



Federated



Fediverse



# Services available  (partial)

| | |
|---|---|
| • Mastodon, pleroma, misskey | Microblogging |
| • Pixelfed | Image hosting |
| • Lemmy | Link aggregator |
| • Write.as read.as | Blogging |
| • Peertube | Video Hosting |
| • Funkwhale | Audio Hosting |
| • Mobilizon, gettogether.community | Event planning |

# Hosting

- Join an instance
  - https://joinmastodon.org/
  - https://Fediverse.party/
- Create your own instance
  - Bare metal
  - VPS
  - Container
- Hosted Mastodon
  - https://masto.host/
    - Various levels
    - Starting at 6euro
    - They maintain it

# Requirements

- CPU
  - With docker: 2x1.8GHz
    - 2900 users
  - Without: 4x3.4GHz
    - 1800 users

It depends!

- Your mileage may vary
  - $5-20 /month ?

# How the timelines work:

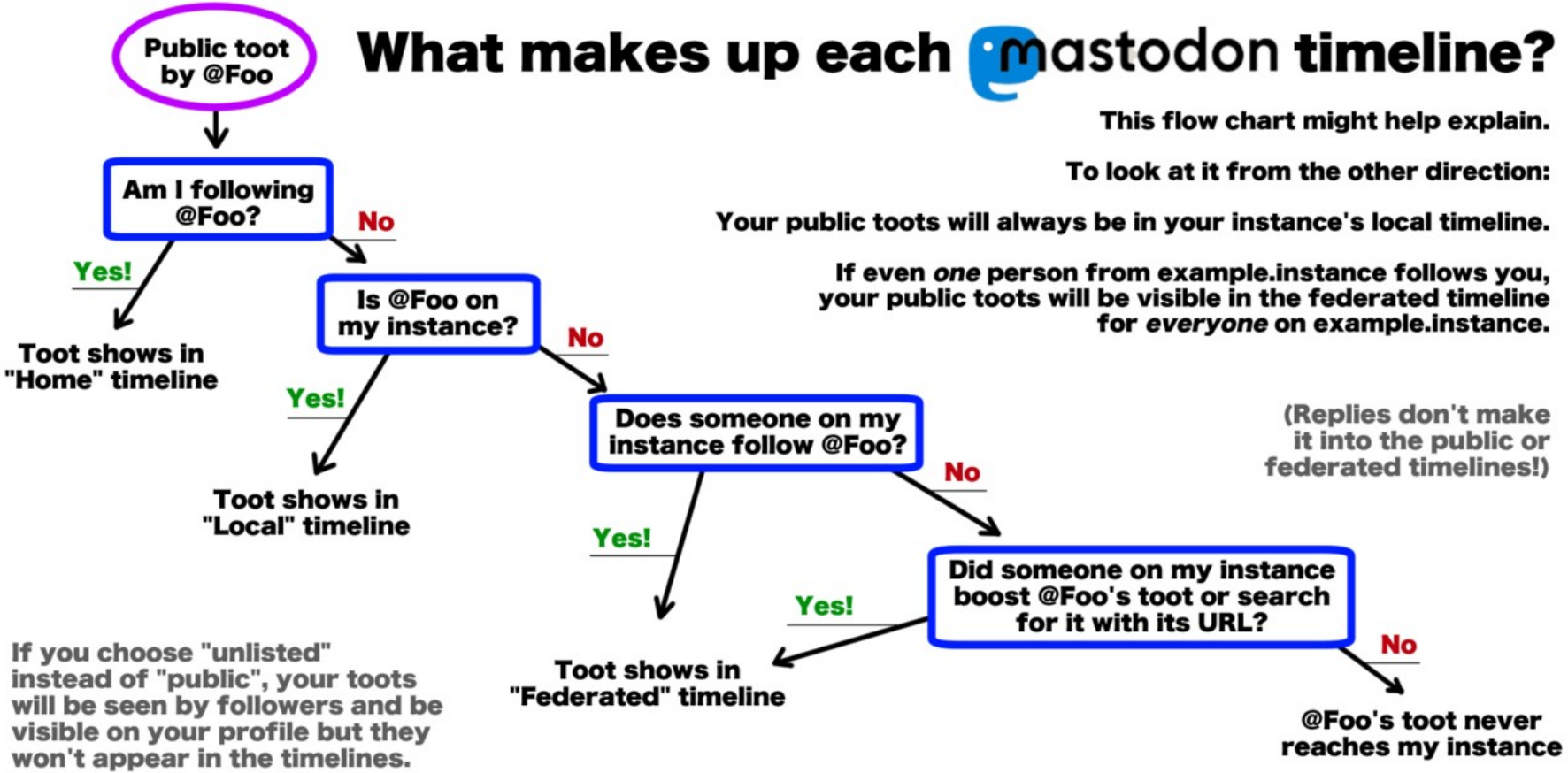
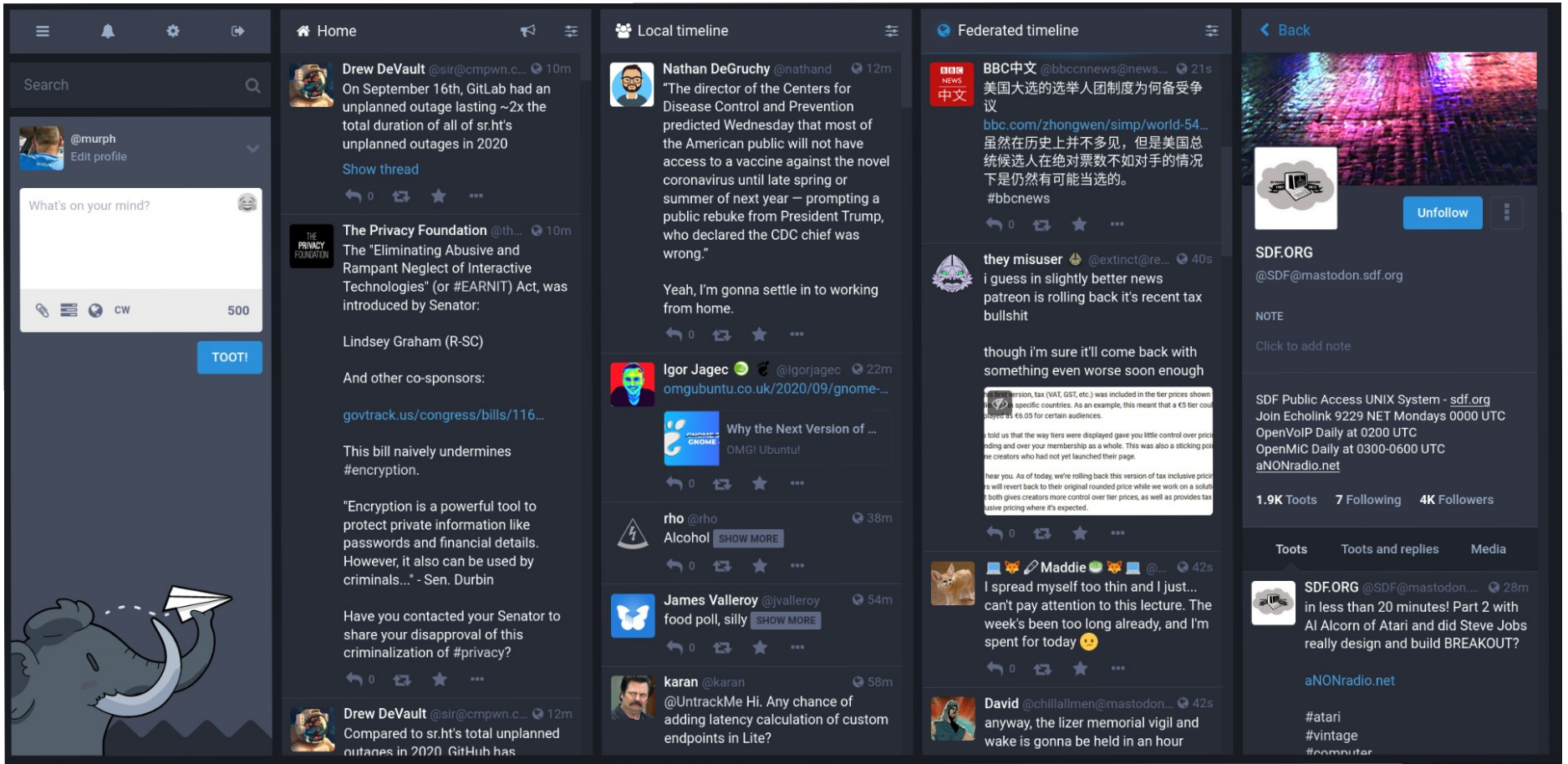
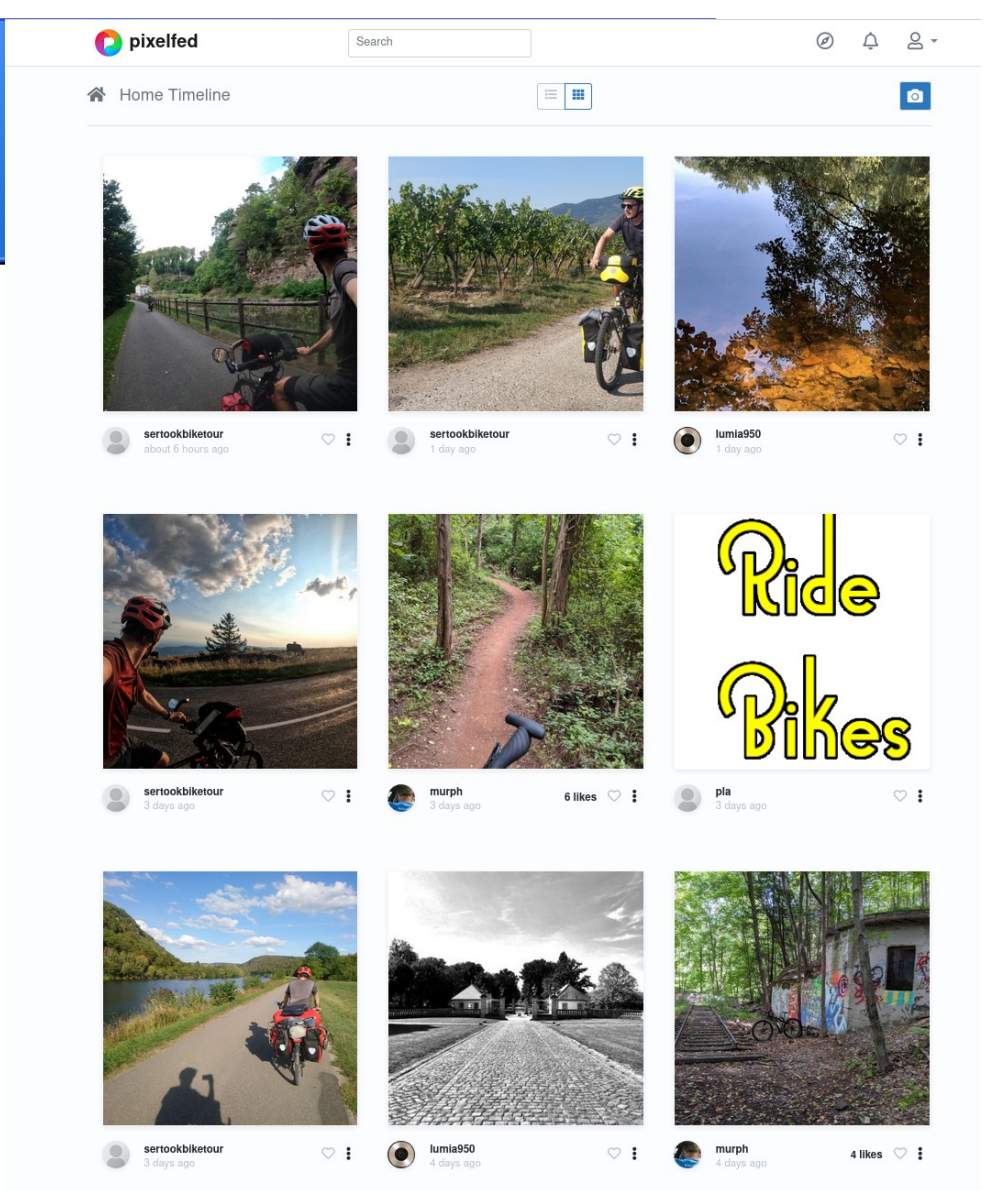



Chart by:
@cassolotl
@dev.glitch
.social/

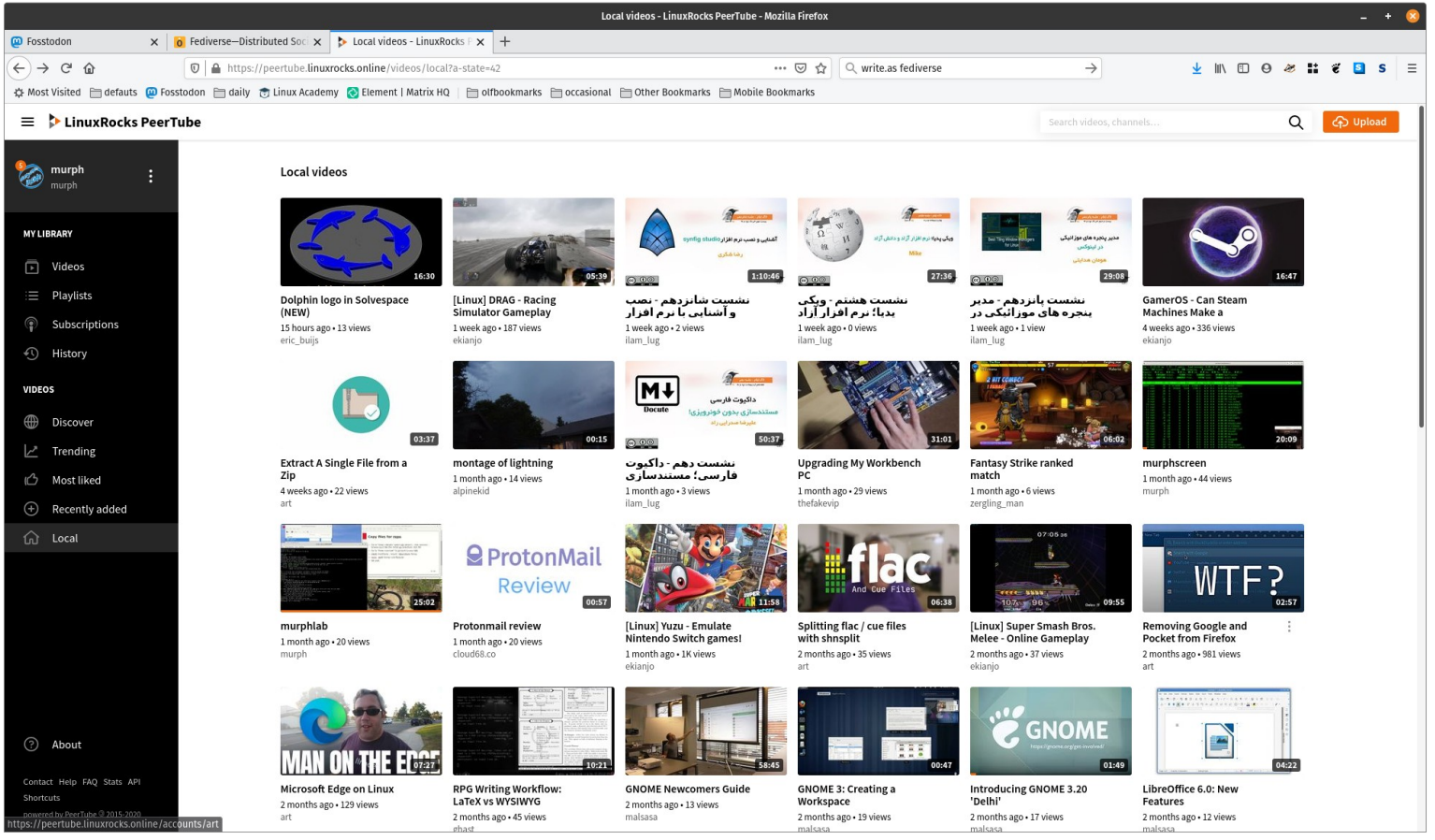
# Example: Mastodon



# Example: Pixelfed



# Example: Peertube



# Example: Mobilizon

# 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 unpleasantries that plague some other social networks.

# Where to learn more:

A few links to find more about the Fediverse:

- General info:
  - https://fediverse.party
  - https://feneas.org
- News about the Fediverse:
  - https://wedistribute.org
- Which instance to join (assuming you don’t want to spin up your own just yet):
  - https://fediverse.party/en/portal/servers
- Tool to visualize networks, communities on the Fediverse:
  - https://www.fediverse.space
  - https://kumu.io/wakest/fediverse
- Stats, monitoring service, and list/map of the known Fediverse:
  - https://fediverse.network
  - https://the-federation.infohttps://the-federation.info

this slide shamelessly stolen from Mauricio Uribe (with permission)  https://mxuribe.com

# Thank you.

- I’ll be happy to entertain any questions, or further demonstrate what I can on the fediverse.
- Interesting late development:
- Activitypub conference Oct 2nd-5th: https://conf.activitypub.rocks/#home
- Contact information:
  - https://identi.ca/murph
  - @murph@fosstodon.org https://fosstodon.org/@murph
  - murph@member.fsf.org