W3C SocialWeb CG + Credentials CG meeting

https://www.w3.org/community/socialcg/
https://socialhub.activitypub.rocks/
https://codeberg.org/fediverse/fep

SocialWeb WG/CG History

Jul 2014 - Feb 2018 - [Social Web Working Group](#)

- Multiple TRs: ActivityPub, ActivityStreams2 data model, Linked Data Notifications, WebSub, Webmention, Micropub, etc.
- Mastodon (and other in-progress decentralized social web networks) adopt ActivityPub protocol
- At charter expiration, the WG handed stewardship of specs to the CG (SWICG)

2018 - 2022 - "sleeping" CG

- But lots of activity on [SocialHub](#) forum, F.E.P. community ([Fediverse Enhancement Protocols](#))
- Elon Musk acquires Twitter
- Various waves of Twitter exodus, Mastodon-powered Fediverse gains even more momentum
- Lots of new AP/AS2 implementations beyond Mastodon!

Nov 2022 - now - SocialWeb CG "reboot" (mailing list activated, ~monthly calls started)

- ActivityPub errata work
- Discussion about possible chartering of a new WG
- Twitter gets renamed to X
- Reddit API controversies, rise of Lemmy and other Fedi-powered Reddit alternatives
- Meta's Threads announcement (Threads to implement ActivityPub)
- CG Task Forces:
    - ActivityPub Testing TF, Data Portability TF, AP + Webfinger report, AP + Http Signatures report

SocialWeb Challenges and Opportunities

- Open source community, general public, press, **more aware of the pressing need** for non-hypercentralized social media
- (as always) Social web specs (AP etc) need **more documentation**, dev onboarding, tutorials, etc.
- Need to integrate lessons learned since 2018, need **living specs**
- Bluesky, Threads, and other new social media projects, **galvanizing** (and polarizing) the community
- **Authentication, identity, authorization** still challenging (using 2016-era tools)
  - However, we now have DIDs, Data Integrity, Capabilities, etc, to experiment with
- **Moderation**, and Account (and content) **portability** are key issues

Why isn't everyone on the Fediverse (yet)?

- Still relatively new / unknown
- Follower discovery / empty village -- how do people discover you after you move?
- Initial [choice of home server](#) is high-friction and daunting to those unfamiliar with, e.g. FOSS distro choices (still bound to domains called "instances")
  - Choice of "Servers" (implementations of the protocol) even more advanced-topics
- Access control ("friends-only" threads, etc)
- MODERATION. Extra relevant due to CSAM legislation.
- Cross-instance #hashtags and Search
- Migrating to different providers (taking your account, followers, content with you) challenging

Intersection with the CCG

- DIDs a very promising direction in social web identity
  - Bluesky has designed one method and worked towards supporting others since launch
  - FEP-c390: Identity Proofs proposed, in implementation
  - Effective usage of DIDs needs wallets, though;
    very little overlap between Fediverse and Crypto

- Hey, what about *credentials*?
  - also very useful for profiles, combating disinformation, etc

- Need to sign *everything* (posts, profiles, social graphs)
  - FEP-8b32: Object Integrity Proofs

- Need better access control tech
  - zCap-LD, UCANs, synthesis of?

- Portable and/or translatable identifiers for content needed
  - else NxN translation of paths and URI schemes

Join the Conversation!

1. Join the SocialWeb CG!
   a. Especially sign up for the Mailing List

2. Follow the conversation on SocialHub forum

3. Follow the F.E.P. repo, join the decentralized spec work

4. Get a Fediverse account! :)
   a. Firefish.social, Mastodon.social, Social.coop, etc etc.

5. Join the CG Task Forces!
   a. Testing, Portability, WebFinger+AP, HTTPSig + AP