about:Fediverse

A short introduction to the Fediverse

9 November 2024 · SFSCON, Bolzano

Tobias Diekershoff · System Hacker · fsfe.org/about/tobiasd

fsfe

about:Me

FLOSS enthusiast from Berlin/Germany

Volunteer & System Hacker @ **FSFE**

Friendica Developer

Friendica is a FLOSS Social Networking Platform that is part of the **Fediverse** since 2010.

Slides at git.fsfe.org/tobiasd/talks

fsfe

about:Fediverse

- What is wrong with Walled Gardens?
- The idea of the **Fediverse**
- How does **ActivityPub** work?
- What can we do in the Fediverse
- How to **start**

„The **fediverse** (commonly shortened to fedi) is a collection of social networking services that can communicate with each other (formally known as federation) using a common protocol. Users of different websites can send and receive status updates, multimedia files and other data across the network. The term fediverse is a portmanteau of "**federation**" and "**universe**".

-- Wikipedia

About:WalledGardens
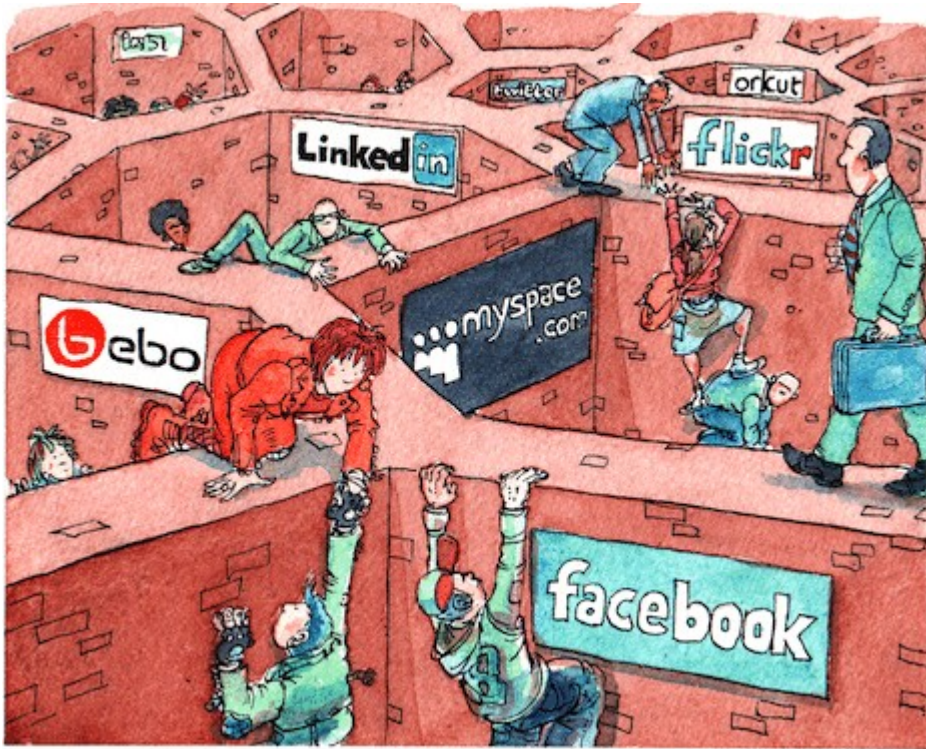
Social Networking Sites as Walled Gardens by David Simonds,
The Economist, 19 March 2008

- Centralized Platforms

- *No* interaction among users of **different** platforms

- Mostly *Ad* driven pushing relevant postings to keep users online

- Moderation issues

- What happens if the platform is sold and the new owner is not so cool?

about:Fediverse
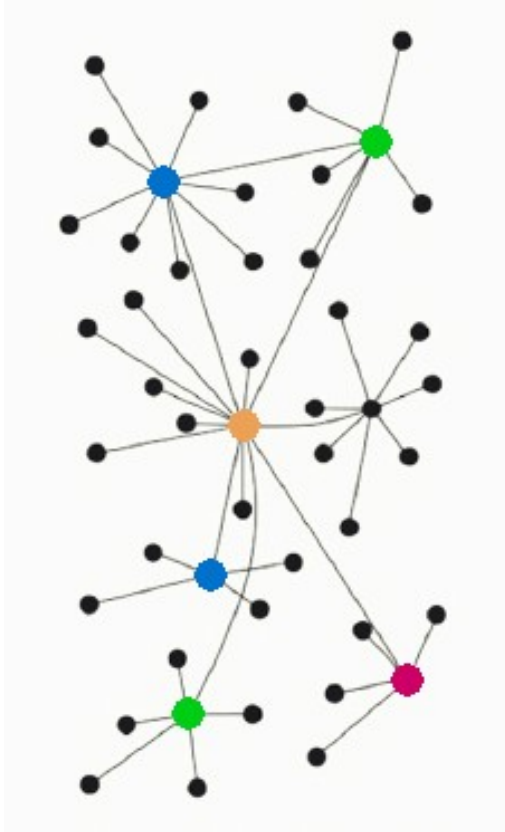
„The **fediverse** is a collection of social networking services that can communicate with each other using a common protocol. Users of different websites can send and receive status updates, multimedia files and other data across the network. The term fediverse is a portmanteau of "**federation**" and "**universe**"

-- Wikipedia

- **Communities** operate independent Social Media platforms for themselves
- Moderation following local rules and the communities needs
- Users can interact regardless of the Social Media service they use

fsfe

about:ActivityPub

- **Open Standard** for Server-to-Server and Client-to-Server communication
- Published 2018 by the W3C Social Web Community Group
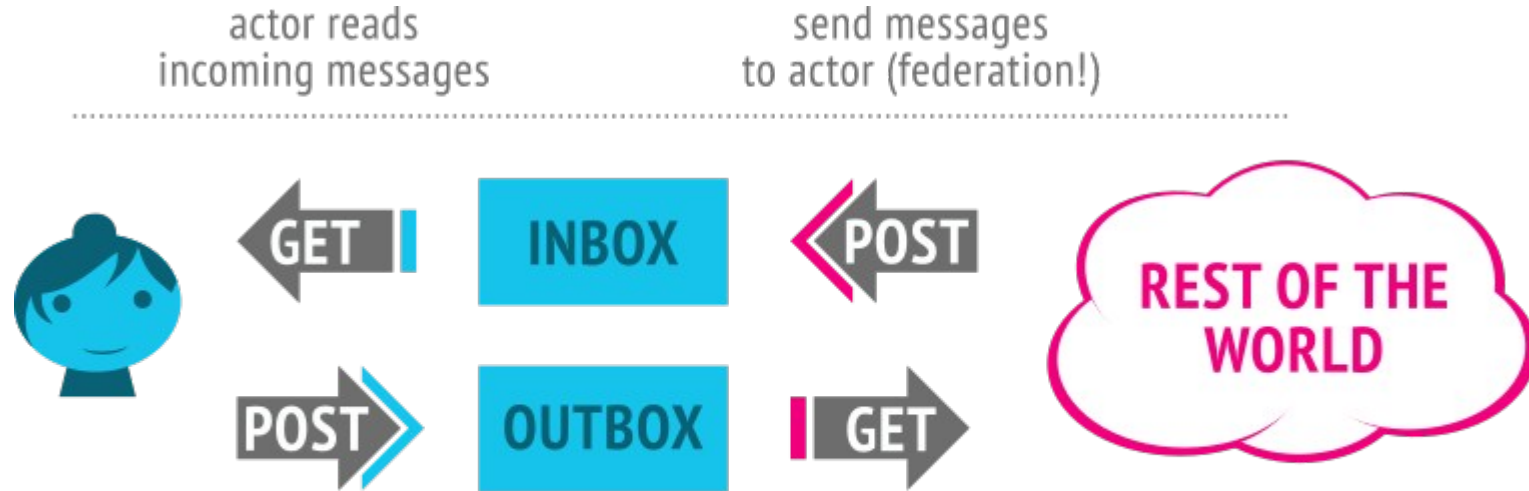
@cwebber   @erincandescent   @evan   @rhiaro   @tsyesika

about:ActivityPub

actor reads
incoming messages

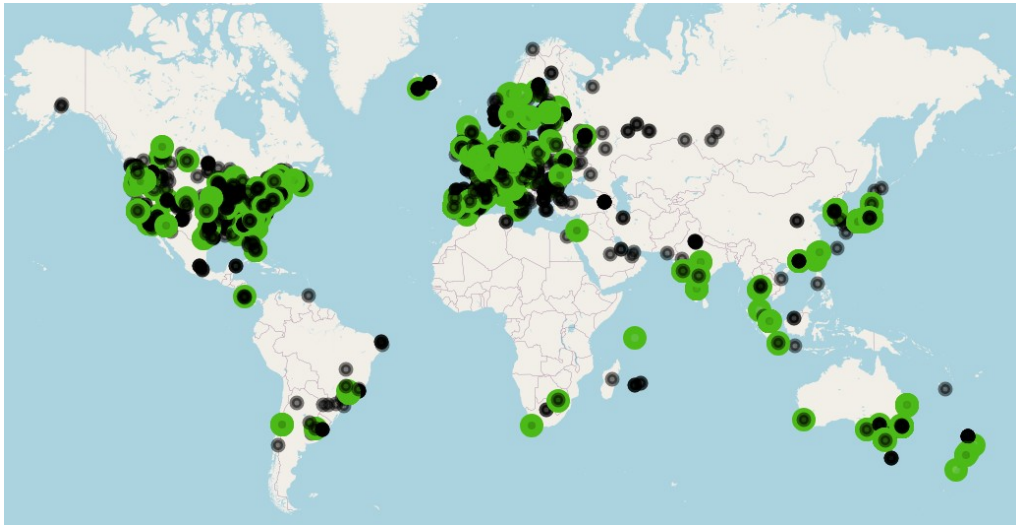send messages
to actor (federation!)

GET | INBOX | POST

POST | OUTBOX | | GET

REST OF THE WORLD

actor sends
messages / posts content

outside world can read
messages from actor

Concept of ActivityPub (activitypub.rocks)

fsfe

about:Fediverse

- Fediverse 2024
  - ~14.000.000 accounts
  - ~20.000 communities

- Possible Services
  - Micro Blogs: Akoma, Mastodon, Sharky
  - Macro Blogs: Friendica, Hubzilla
  - Video Blogs: Peertube, OwnCast, loops
  - Image Stories: Pixelfed
  - Podcaster: Castropod
  - Websites: Wordpress, Drupal
  - ...

- Who is already there
  - Private persons
  - Associations, NGOs
  - Academics, Artists
  - Public authorities

fsfe

about:Fediverse
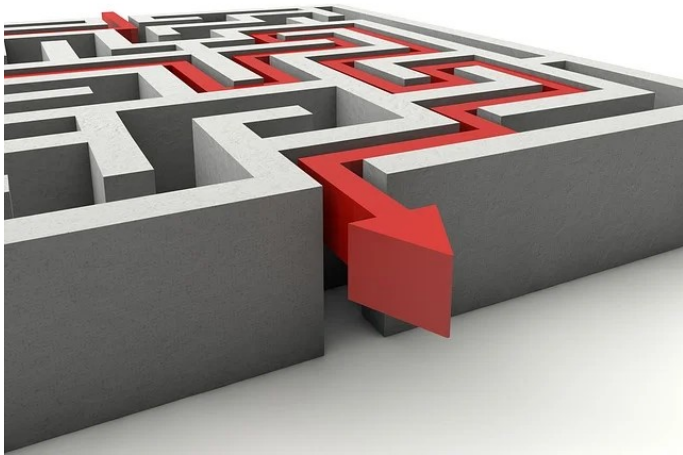
about:Fediverse

Illustration of the Expanded-Instances network
Lucio La Cava et al. 2021

- Donation based services without the need to maximize their profit
- Easily change the service
- Interaction in the global Fediverse beyond the borders of your service
- Chronological timeline, no sorting by the operators to push *important* content
- Moderation tools at the hands of users and service providers.
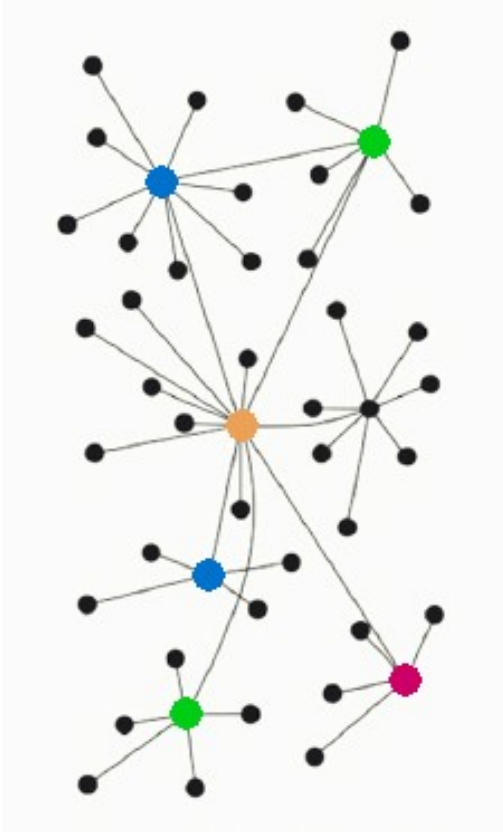- **Open Standards** and **Free Software**

fsfe

enter:Fediverse

livellosegreto.it
poliverso.org
toot.lugbz.social

- Server directories
  - fediverso.info/#istanze

  - fedi.directory
  - joinmastodon.org/it/servers
  - www.fediverse.to

fsfe

enter:Fediverse

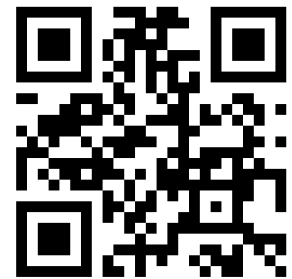- Find a nice community (local or topic)

- **Take some friends with you**!

- Post an introduction about yourself, tag it with #**NewHere** and #Introductions then pin it.

- #FediMeetup fun offline meetings

- Follow: @fsfe@mastodon.social

fsfe

support:FSFE

Become part of the movement for Software Freedom

my.fsfe.org/donate

about:Graphics

- *Decentral Networks* by Paul Baran et al. 1964

- *Social Networking Sites as Wallet Gardens* by David Simonds

- *Illustration of the Expanded-Instances network* by Lucio La Cava et al. 2021

License of the slides

fsfe