# Federation

## *Decentralized Social Networking and Services*

der.hans

# GNU/Linux Tuning for MongoDB

LibrePlanet2020
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Online

der.hans
CDE
Object Rocket, a rackspace company
https://www.ObjectRocket.com/

Yes, we're hiring :)

# Upcoming Presentations

- LinuxFest Northwest, April in Bellingham, WA
    - status uncertain
    - Topic: Fediverse: Decentralized Social Networking and Services
    - Topic: uMatrix for Restricting Web JavaScript and Cookies
- Texas Linux Fest, May in Austin, TX
    - status uncertain
    - Topic: Fediverse: Decentralized Social Networking and Services
- List of Some Upcoming and Previous Talks and Publications
    - https://www.LuftHans.com/talks



# Social Media and Fediverse

- Mastodon
    - https://floss.social/@FLOX_advocate
- PLUME
    - https://fediverse.blog/~/LuftHans
- IRC
    - FLOX_Advocate on Freenode, usually in #LOPSA, #PLUGaz and #LibreLounge

# What is Federation?

coalition of decentralized, digital, social spaces

many providers

no centralized authority

interact with other services

# Mastodon Description

> Mastodon is a decentralized social media platform where users are in control. It is Free Software that any individual or organization can run on their own infrastructure while connecting to a global network, allowing communities effective self-government. It comes with better publishing capabilities and robust anti-abuse tools.

"users are in control"

# What are Social Networks?

- services aimed at helping people share data, experiences and thoughts

# What are Centralised Social Networks?

- spyware building exploitable psychological profiles tied to individuals

# Example Federation Services

- Mastodon - MicroBlog
- Pleroma - MicroBlog
- Nextcloud - Personal Cloud Services
- PixelFed - Image Sharing
- Plume - Blogging
- PeerTube - Video Sharing
- Diaspora - Social Blogging
- Friendica - Social Blogging

# Why Federate

- avoid monoculture

- ◦ ["I think nobody, not even Mastodon's development team, wants a monoculture."](#) — Christopher Lemmer Webber
- you can run your own instance
- per instance themes and fandoms
- per instance enforced guidelines
- per instance without enforced guidelines
- cooperative competition

# Free Software for Federation

- Is Free Software required to be a federated service?

# History of Federation

- email
- IRC
- RSS
- XMPP/Jabber
- Status.net
- Diaspora
- MediaGoblin
- identi.ca
- Social WG
- ActivityPub - W3C standard

# Federation Protocols

- SMTP
- IRC
- XMPP
- OStatus
- Diaspora
- Actvity Streams
- Pump.io
- [ActivityPub](#)
- Matrix
- Enterprise File Sync and Share

# Advantages of Self-Hosting

- no centralized filtering
- choose your moderators
- choose your retention
- feature forks
- require accessibility
- security
- privacy
- adult content
- internal only

# Internal Only

- business
- school / college / university
- medical provider
- club

# Disadvantages of Self-Host

- requires technical skills
- not everyone can afford to self-host
- moderating
- services using other people's computers are 'free'

# Methods of Self-Hosting

- use a pi or old laptop on home connection
- use phone with 4G or 5G
- pay service like masto.host
- install service on virtual host at cloud provider
- talk your roommate into hosting it

# Welcome to the Fediverse

## Choosing an Instance

- Not a permanent decision
- Local rules
- Theme or purpose of instance
- Number of users
- Moderators
- Instance admins

## Welcome to the Fediverse: Bad Actors and Disagreements

- Freedom isn't Free
- We don't have to get along, but it is an option.

# Federated Instance As Walled Garden

- Fediverse isn't necessarily Free as in Freedom

# Fediverse Features

- follows
- likes
- blocks
- filters
- content warning
- direct messages
- hosted instances

# Fediverse Services: Micro Blogging

- Mastodon
- Pleroma
- GNU social

# Fediverse Services: Social Blogging

- Diaspora
- Friendica

# Fediverse Services: Image Sharing

- PixelFed

# Fediverse Services: Media Sharing

- MediaGoblin
- PeerTube
- FunkWhale

# Fediverse Services: Blogging

- Plume
- WriteFreely

# Fediverse Services: Chat

- IRC
- Matrix

# Fediverse Services: Other

- NextCloud - Cloud Services ++
- GetTogether - Event Sharing
- Hubzilla - Decentralized Identity
- Lemmy - Link Sharing

# Participating in the Fediverse

- create an account
  - follow some people
  - firehose

# Dream Federated Service

- server takes messages with random objects
- fileshare provides filters for sharing pictures
- clients can subscribe for particular objects in your timeline
  - phone gets MicroBlogging and cat pics
  - desktop gets video and long form blogs
  - laptop and phone automagically sync with fileshare

# Fediverse Adjacent

- IndieWeb

# Homework

- "Twitter is in the outrage business; Mastodon isn't a business" - @codesections@fosstodon.org
- Is web federated?

# Thanks

- Thanks to LibrePlanet volunteers
    - For the work it took to organize the conference
    - For all the last minute work to change and put on the conference

# Resources

- [Mastodon founder, Eugen, on decentralization](#)
- [Mastodon abuse and harassment design and features Mastodon fork that experiments w/ features](#)
- [LibreLounge podcast](#)
- [The Federation](#)

# Resources Extras

- [Freenode IRC network](#)
- [debian IRC](#)
- [Mastodon instance chooser](#)
- [Semi-cateragized list of some Mastodon instances](#)
- [Moderators are people too](#)
- [Mastodon Elevator Pitch](#)

# Credits

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