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GOSIM 2024 EUROPE

THE CURRENT STATE OF THE FEDIVERSE

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The State of the Fediverse

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Written Fediverse Report

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Agenda:
- Defining the fediverse
- A very short history
- Fediverse cultures
- What are the fediverse-native actors working on?
- What are new entrants thinking about?
- New areas of the fediverse appearing

Defining the fediverse

The fediverse is a collection of social networking services that can communicate with each other using a common protocol.
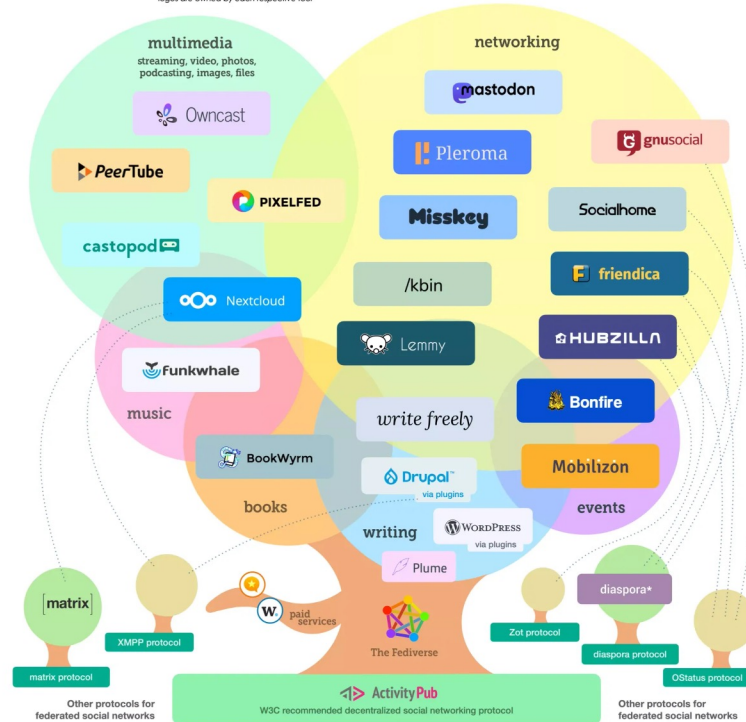
Usually fediverse is used to refer to the ActivityPub protocol network

The many branches of the Fediverse

axbom.com/fediverse • CC BY-SA Per Axbom
version 3.0 • January 17, 2023

Note: this is an overview and not a complete mapping of the Fediverse.

logos are owned by each respective tool

multimedia
streaming, video, photos, podcasting, images, files

networking

Owncast

PeerTube

PIXELFED

castopod

Nextcloud

mastodon

Pleroma

gnusocial

Misskey

Socialhome

/kbin

friendica

Lemmy

HUBZILLA

funkwhale

music

Bonfire

write freely

BookWyrm

books

Drupal
via plugins

writing

Mobilizon

events

WordPress
via plugins

Plume

matrix

W.
paid services

XMPP protocol

The Fediverse

Zot protocol

diaspora*

diaspora protocol

OStatus protocol

matrix protocol

Other protocols for federated social networks

ActivityPub
W3C recommended decentralized social networking protocol

Other protocols for federated social networks

A super short history

Four phases of the fediverse:

- Early 2010s to 2017: proto-fediverse
- 2017 - Nov 2022: Building on ActivityPub
- Nov 2022 - Late 2023: Twitter Migrations and Mastodon
- Early 2024: integrating with the fediverse

Building on ActivityPub

- ActivityPub becomes an official W3C specification
- Fediverse-native platforms get build:
    - Mastodon
    - PeerTube
    - Lemmy
    - PixelFed

The Twitter migrations

- After Elon Musk takes over Twitter, multiple waves of migrations to other platforms happen
- Mastodon the biggest beneficiary
- The effect of these migrations stop roughly in the second half of 2023

Fediverse integrations

- Existing platforms and new platforms announce that they will integrate with ActivityPub/fediverse:
  - Threads
  - Flipboard
  - Ghost

The current state and culture

The current state of the fediverse

- Main use case is microblogging, dominated by Mastodon
- Still small overall; ~1M MAU
- Threads is a small AND big player

Fediverse cultures

- Anti-big-tech
- Focus on opt-in consent

Fediverse-native platforms

The main fediverse-native players:

- Mastodon
- PeerTube
- Lemmy
- PixelFed

The new players

The new entrants:

- Threads
- Flipboard
- Ghost
- Discourse

The new users

The new users:

- Governments
  - EU/NL/German/Swiss govs
- Public benefit organisations
- Not: younger people

The new scenes

The New Scenes

- Podcasting with the Podcastindex.org bridge
- Forums with NodeBB and Discourse

THANK YOU

More information available at:

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THANK YOU

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