Providing scalable reliable open source infrastructure (for small/medium teams)

FOSDEM 2023

Brussels, Belgium
Providing scalable reliable open source infrastructure (for small/medium teams)

FOSDEM 2023

Brussels, Belgium
Boris Budini (boris@cloud68.co)
Redon Skikuli (redon@cloud68.co)

FOSDEM 2023

Brussels, Belgium
Big Tech
Big Tech
Big Tech (the issue-s)

GAFAM

= 

Google (Alphabet)
Apple
Facebook (Meta)
Amazon
Microsoft
Big Tech (the issue-s)
The Big Five tech giants have replaced the energy giants such as ExxonMobil, BP, Gazprom, PetroChina, Chevron, and Shell ("Big Oil") from the first decade of the 21st century at the top of the NASDAQ stock index.

- also outpaced the traditional big media companies such as Disney, Warner Bros. Discovery, and Comcast by a factor of 10.

- In 2017, the five biggest American IT companies had a combined valuation of over $3.3 trillion, and made up more than 40 percent of the value of the Nasdaq 100.

- It has been observed that the companies remain popular by providing some of their services to consumers for free.
Big Tech (the issue-s)

- The Big Five tech giants have replaced the energy giants such as ExxonMobil, BP, Gazprom, PetroChina, Chevron, and Shell ("Big Oil") from the first decade of the 21st century at the top of the NASDAQ stock index.
- Also outpaced the traditional big media companies such as Disney, Warner Bros. Discovery, and Comcast by a factor of 10.
- In 2017, the five biggest American IT companies had a combined valuation of over $3.3 trillion, and made up more than 40 percent of the value of the Nasdaq 100.
- It has been observed that the companies remain popular by providing some of their services to consumers for free.
Big Tech (the issue-s)

- Among those who believe that acquisitions will weaken an original innovative atmosphere is scholar Tim Wu, Wu pointed out that when Meta acquired Instagram, it simply eliminated a competitive threat that may have presented a fresher competitor had it remained independent.

- Wu formulated the idea of oligopoly "kill zones" created by acquiring competitors that approach their market.
If Big Tech is bad, why do we keep using it?

• Free as in... freemium
• Convenience of these choices
• Tightly integrated services (leading to vendor lock-in)
If Big Tech is bad, why do we keep using it?

- Free as in... freemium
- Convenience of these choices
- Tightly integrated services (leading to vendor lock-in)
The solution - part 1
Small tech + Open Source
The solution - part 1
Small tech + Open Source
Small tech vs. GAFAM

source: https://small-tech.org/
The solution(s) – part 2
The solution(s)

1. Self host (ideal scenario)
2. No-code hosting platforms
3. Internal team (sysadmin)
4. Hosting collectives (like Chatons.org)
5. Managed Service providers
The solution(s)

1. **Self host (ideal scenario)**
2. No-code hosting platforms
3. Internal team (sysadmin)
4. Hosting collectives (like Chatons.org)
5. Managed Service providers

- Instance deployment and maintenance require technical expertise
- DIY can work good for side projects, but for production environments of SMEs, it might not be feasible due to the inherent complexity
User reaction regarding Dropbox launch

on April 5, 2007 | parent | context | favorite | on: My YC app: Dropbox - Throw away your USB drive

I have a few qualms with this app:

1. For a Linux user, you can already build such a system yourself quite trivially by getting an FTP account, mounting it locally with curlftpfs, and then using SVN or CVS on the mounted filesystem. From Windows or Mac, this FTP account could be accessed through built-in software.
The solution(s)

1. Self host (ideal scenario)
2. **No-code hosting platforms**
3. Internal team (sysadmin)
4. Hosting collectives (like Chatons.org)
5. Managed Service providers

- Provide a low-barrier entry to the world of self hosting
- Is a great way to quickly setup and maintain infrastructure
- Customizations usually require some technical knowledge (accessing services from the internet, backup & disaster recovery, etc)
The solution(s)

1. Self host (ideal scenario)
2. No-code hosting platforms
3. Internal team *(sysadmin)*
4. Hosting collectives (like Chatons.org)
5. Managed Service providers

- Highest amount of flexibility, as an internal team can satisfy all team requirements
- Higher costs for an internal team
- Hardware/cloud costs on top of team costs
The solution(s)

1. Self host (ideal scenario)
2. No-code hosting platforms
3. Internal team (sysadmin)
4. Hosting collectives (like Chatons.org)
5. Managed Service providers
The solution(s)

1. Self host (ideal scenario)
2. No-code hosting platforms
3. Internal team (sysadmin)
4. Hosting collectives (like Chatons.org)
5. Managed Service providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>Free plan?</th>
<th>Green?</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AlfaCloud</td>
<td>🇫🇷🇷🇺</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>AlfaCloud offers everything you need for GDPR compliance. Using the nextcloud simplifies compliance and reduces business risk and costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloud68</td>
<td>🇩🇪</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Cloud68.co Offering ready2use Nextcloud instances with admin access, routine backups &amp; human support from long FLOSS contributors. Servers based in Germany.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLODU</td>
<td>🇩🇪</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cloud.de">www.cloud.de</a> Since 2013 we offer German-hosted cloud storage with daily external server backup for premium security. With German</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Managed service provider(s)

1. open platforms
2. no technical knowledge required
3. tech and user support
4. higher technical expertise
5. ToS and legal coverage
6. service continuity and sustainability
The solution(s): Managed Service Provider

example: hosting Mastodon requirements

• technical know-how
• platform specific know-how (what does federation mean?)
• important: legal complications
• moderation
The solution(s): Managed Service Provider

example: hosting Mastodon requirements:
• technical know-how
• platform specific know-how (what does federation mean?)
• important: legal complications
• moderation
"Rise against Vendor Lock-In"
Thank you FOSDEM!

Email: office@cloud68.co
Mastodon: @Cloud68@fosstodon.org