



Amplify Our Voices: Building Digital Sovereignty on the Fediverse

I am Benjamin Bellamy.



- I ❤️ Podcasts, I ❤️ FOSS
- Business Development Manager for Truely-Open-Source-AI Solutions at **LINAGORA**
- Founder of **Ad Aures**
- Father of **Castopod**
- Photographer for **WikiPortraits**

Who are you?

- Are you a developer?
- Are you on the Fediverse?
- Are you a developer for the Fediverse?

The Critical Moment

- The web is at a crossroads: geopolitical fragmentation, platform consolidation
- Big Tech gatekeepers controlling our digital voices

A Different Kind of Social

But imagine a social web with:

- No algorithm manipulating your timeline
- No advertising tracking your every move

You Are Not a Number

- Quality ≠ follower count
- Happiness ≠ number of likes
- Culture ≠ number of shares



The Platform Trap

- Enshittification (Coined by Cory Doctorow)
- Three-stage decay cycle:
 - Stage 1: Good to users (growth)
 - Stage 2: Abuse users for business customers (monetization)
 - Stage 3: Abuse everyone for shareholders (extraction)
- If they can make it worse, they will

“Enshittification”

Users and creators trapped, quality degraded,
control lost



Digital Sovereignty

- Geopolitical fragmentation creating digital borders
- Dependence on US/Chinese platforms = strategic vulnerability
- Data harvesting without consent
- European digital independence is a democratic imperative

The Social Web Alternative

- ActivityPub: W3C standard since 2018
- 25+ million users across 20,000+ instances
- Different platforms for different content:
 - Mastodon (microblogging), Pixelfed (photos), PeerTube (video), Castopod (podcasts), Mobilizon (events), Lemmy (forums)...
- Choose your server, keep your connections
- Open source, transparent, community-governed

Heterogeneous Networks

- ActivityPub's killer feature: Different social networks talking to each other
- Follow a Castopod podcast from Mastodon, Comment on PeerTube videos from Pixelfed, Share Mobilizon events to your timeline
- Impossible on proprietary platforms:
 - Instagram can't follow YouTube channels
 - Twitter can't comment on Spotify podcasts
- ActivityPub breaks these silos
- ActivityPub breaks the corporate lock-in
- One identity, multiple contexts



ActivityPub's Limitations

- Technical complexity: Harder to implement than simpler protocols
- Identity portability: Moving between servers is difficult
- Scalability challenges: Large instances can struggle
- Moderation complexity: Instance-level decisions affect federation
- Discovery limitations: No global search by design (privacy tradeoff)
- Implementation fragmentation
- Resource intensive: Self-hosting requires technical knowledge
- Network effects: Smaller than centralized platforms (for now)

Alternative Protocols

- **AT Protocol** (Bluesky): 20M+ users, portable identity, BUT single relay (centralization risk), corporate governance
- **Nostr**: Censorship-resistant, cryptographic identity, Bitcoin integration, but basic features, poor discoverability

Web 1.0 Social Network

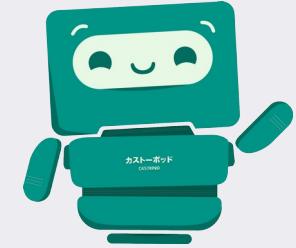
- Podcasting!
- RSS (1999) still thriving in 2026
- But threats are real: YouTube “podcasts”, Spotify for podcasters

Podcasting 2.0

- Community-driven features protecting the open ecosystem: transcripts, chapters, soundbites, Value4Value, person tags, location...
 - Apple adopted <podcast:transcripts>
 - Apple adopted <podcast:chapters>
- This proves: Open standards can lead, platforms follow
- **Innovation doesn't need gatekeepers**

A word about Castopod

- Open-source podcast hosting platform
- Native ActivityPub integration
- Your podcast becomes a Fediverse actor
- Followers get episodes in their timeline
- Comments, shares, boosts—all federated
- Native Podcasting 2.0 features



🌱 **Free & open-source** (AGPL v3 License) · 🤝 **Focused on data sovereignty** (your content, audience, and analytics belong to you, and you only) · 🎙️ **Podcasting 2.0 features** (GUID, locked, transcripts, funding, chapters, location, persons, soundbites, ...) · 💬 **Built-in social network** (🚀 Castopod is part of the **Fediverse**, a decentralized social network · ❤️ Create posts, share, favourite, and comment on episodes) · 📈 **Built-in analytics** (⚖️ GDPR / CCPA / LGPD compliant · 💰 Standard IABv2 **audience measurement** · 🏠 On-premises analytics, no third party involved) · 🎤 **Built-in marketing tools** (SEO ready: open-graph meta-tags, **JSON-LD**, ...) · 🚧 **PWA** (install as a standalone app) · 🎨 **Customizable theme colors** · 🎬 Generate **ready-to-share video clips** from episodes · 🎧 Generate **soundbites** · 🎵 **Embeddable player** (embed your episodes on any website) · 💰 **Monetization** (🔗 Funding links · 🤝 value4value / WebMonetization · 💎 Premium podcasts) · 📡 **Publish** your episodes **everywhere** with **RSS** (📲 On all indexes and apps, Podcast Index, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Deezer, Podcast Addict, AntennaPod, Anytime Podcast Player ...) · ⚡ Broadcast your episodes **instantly** with **WebSub**) · 📁 **Podcast import** (move your existing podcast into Castopod) · 📂 Move your podcast **out** of Castopod · 🏢 **Multi-tenant** (host as many podcasts as you want) · 💬 **Multi-user** (add contributors and set roles) · 🌎 **i18n support** (translated in English, French, Polish, German, Brazilian Portuguese, Serbian, Spanish, simplified Chinese, and 20 more) ...

Breaking the Platform Trap

- Traditional platform model:
 - You create content → Platform owns relationship → Platform monetizes
- Federated model:
 - You create content → You own relationship → You control monetization
- RSS ensures universal access
- ActivityPub adds social layer
- Reach without dependence

Time for some screenshots...

rdgp.fr

LOIS

LOI n° 78-17 du 6 janvier 1978
relative à l'Informatique, aux Données et aux Libertés (1).
L'Assemblée nationale et le Sénat ont adopté.
Le Président de la République promulgue la loi dont la teneur suit :

CHAPITRE I^e

Principes et définitions

Art. 1^e. — L'informatique doit être au service de chaque citoyen. Son développement doit s'opérer dans le cadre de la protection des intérêts collectifs, de la sécurité de l'identité humaine, ni aux droits de l'homme, ni à la vie privée, ni aux libertés.

Art. 2. — Toute décision de justice impliquant une appréciation sur un comportement humain ne peut avoir pour fond une analyse informatique qui n'aurait pas pour finalité l'évaluation de la personnalité de l'intéressé.

Art. 3. — Toute appréciation de comportement humain ne peut avoir pour fond une analyse informatique qui n'aurait pas pour finalité l'évaluation de la personnalité de l'intéressé.

RdGP @rdgp

Bien De Grâce Patriote

398 followers

ACTIVITY EPISODES ABOUT

← Back to RdGP posts

RdGP @rdgp 2 days ago

Cette semaine RdGP reçoit Aaron, stagiaire de 3ème. Il partage avec nous le regard que porte sa génération sur les enjeux numériques d'aujourd'hui et de demain. Un épisode marqué par une trahison...

Read more

S02:E19 2 days ago

[Actu] Trahison, disgrâce, carte Kiwi et Laissez Carla tranquille !

32:03

1 3 2

Reply to @rdgp

Cyril @cg2@mastodon.social 2 days ago

@rdgp Concernant le sujet sur le réseau CB en début d'émission, j'ai un doute, n'y a-t-il pas une confusion entre le GIE CB (qui gère le réseau) et le Groupe Carte Bleue (la marque en elle-même, rachetée par Visa Europe en 2010). Source : fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groupe...

0 0 0

CHAPITRE II

LA COMMISSION NATIONALE DE L'INFORMATIQUE ET DES LIBERTÉS

Art. 6. — Une commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés est instituée. Elle est chargée de l'application des dispositions de la présente loi, notamment dans le domaine des contrats de travail et de l'exploitation de l'information nominative.

Art. 7. — Les crédits

RSS Podcast feed

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06/01/1978 Legal notice

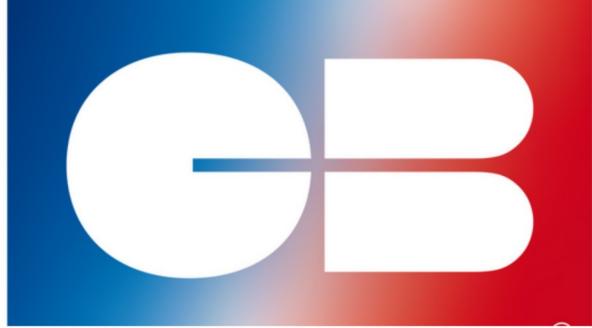
(CC BY-SA 4.0) RdGP.fr Powered by Castopod

framapiaf.org

Retour

Cyril @cg2i@mastodon.social

@rdp Concernant le sujet sur le réseau CB en début d'émission, j'ai un doute, n'y a t-il pas une confusion entre le GIE CB (qui gère le réseau) et le Groupe Carte Bleue (la marque en elle-même, rachetée par Visa Europe en 2010). Source : fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groupement_des_cartes_bancaires



fr.wikipedia.org

Groupement des cartes bancaires – Wikipédia

28 janv. 2026, 14:23 · 0 boost · 0 quote · 1 favori

Benjamin Bellamy @benjaminbellamy

@cg2i Oui oui oui oui.
@half est déjà au courant qu'il va prendre cher mercredi prochain... 🤪

Half @half@piaille.fr

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groupement_des_cartes_bancaires

Rechercher ou saisir une

Benjamin Bellamy @benjaminbellamy

+ Nouveau message

Accueil

Tendances

Flux en direct

Notifications

Listes

Hashtags suivis

Favoris

Marque-pages

Mention privée

Préférences

Plus

À propos

pixelfed.social

benjaminbellamy •••

62 Posts 52 Followers 25 Following

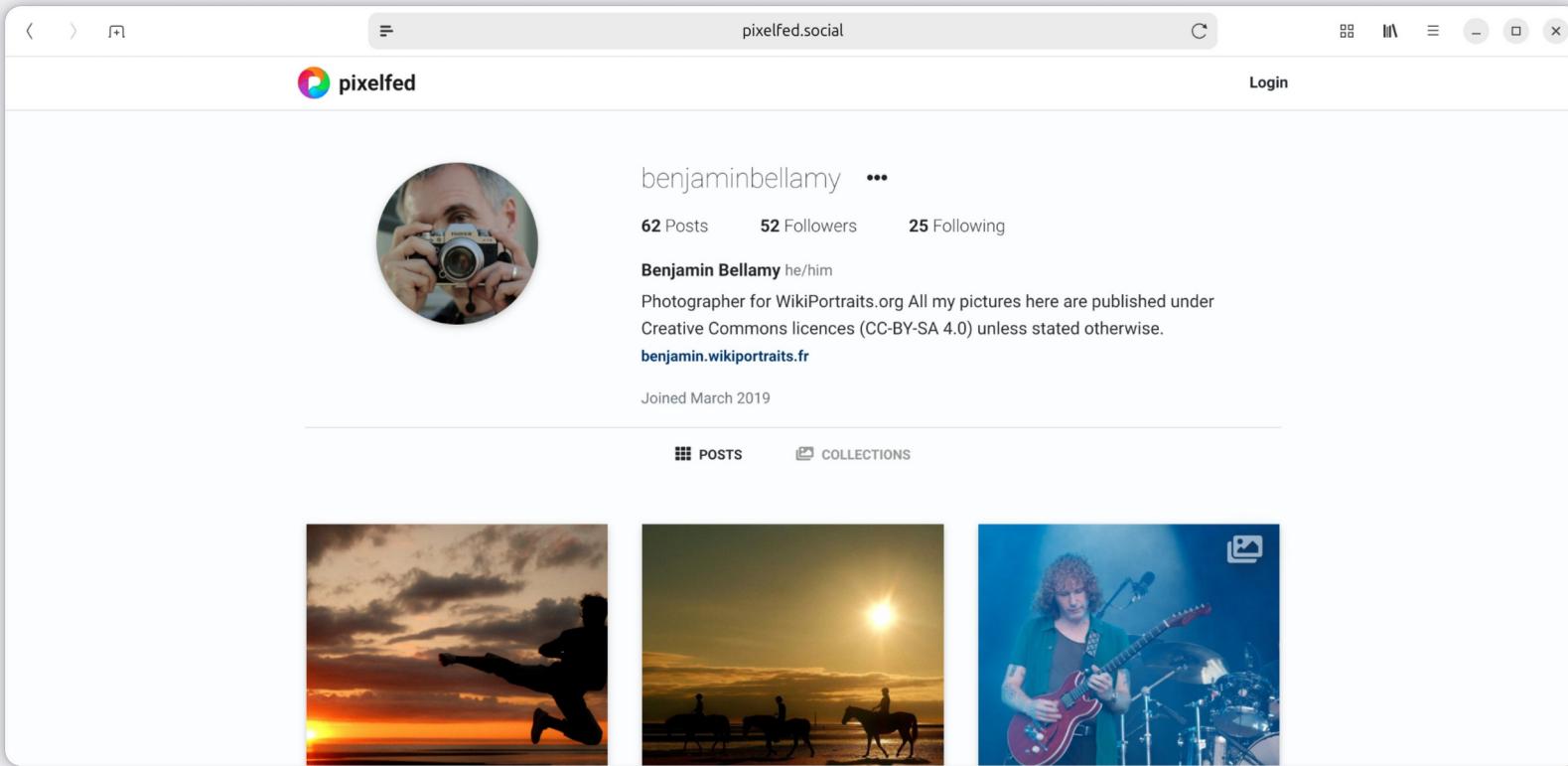
Benjamin Bellamy he/him

Photographer for WikiPortraits.org All my pictures here are published under Creative Commons licences (CC-BY-SA 4.0) unless stated otherwise.

benjamin.wikipортraits.fr

Joined March 2019

■■■ POSTS 📸 COLLECTIONS



Rechercher ou saisir une URL

Benjamin Bellamy
@benjaminbellamy

Public, n'importe qui peut citer

Français

Qu'avez-vous en tête ?

Publier

framapiaf.org: [À propos](#) · [État](#) · [Annuaire des profils](#) · [Politique de confidentialité](#)

Mastodon: [À propos](#) · [Télécharger l'application](#) · [Raccourcis clavier](#) · [Voir le code source](#) · v4.5.5

Retour

Benjamin Bellamy
@benjaminbellamy@pixelfed.social

9 juil. 2025

Dans l'air il s'élance,
son pied fend l'horizon de terre, d'eau et de feu –
뛰어 옆차기.

Traduire

Masquer

ALT

0 1 0 ...

Accueil

Tendances

Flux en direct

Notifications

Listes

Hashtags suivis

Favoris

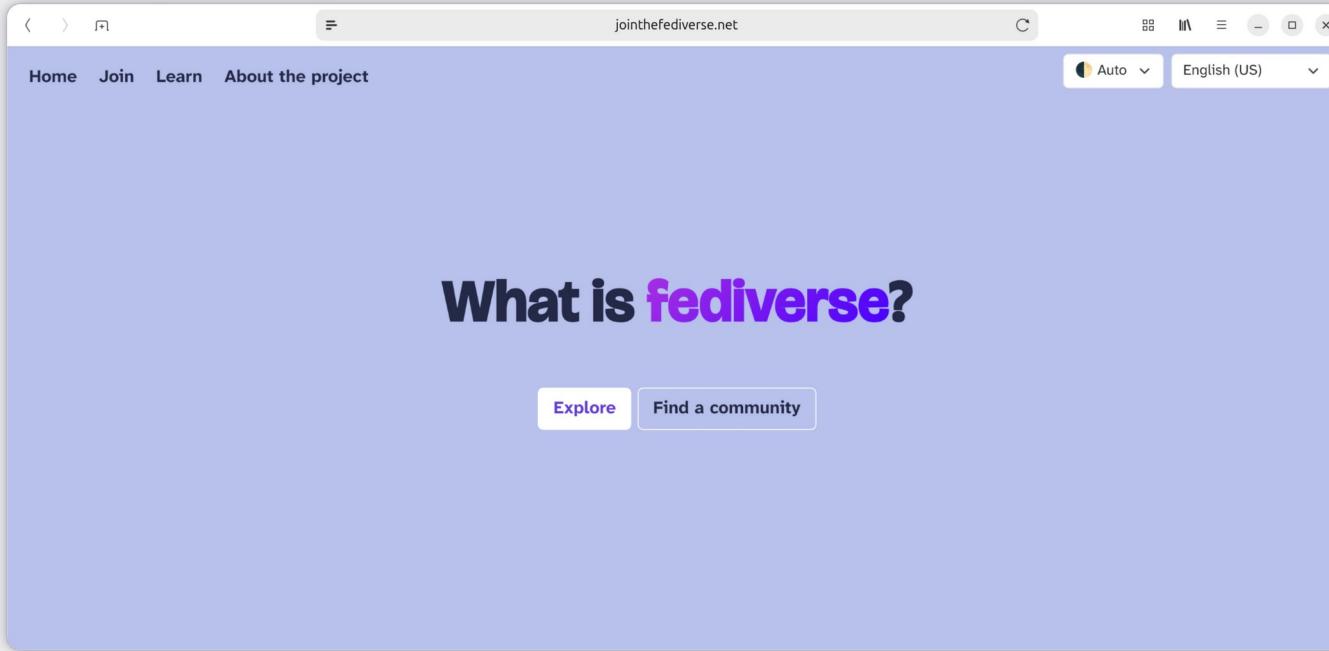
Marque-pages

Mention privée

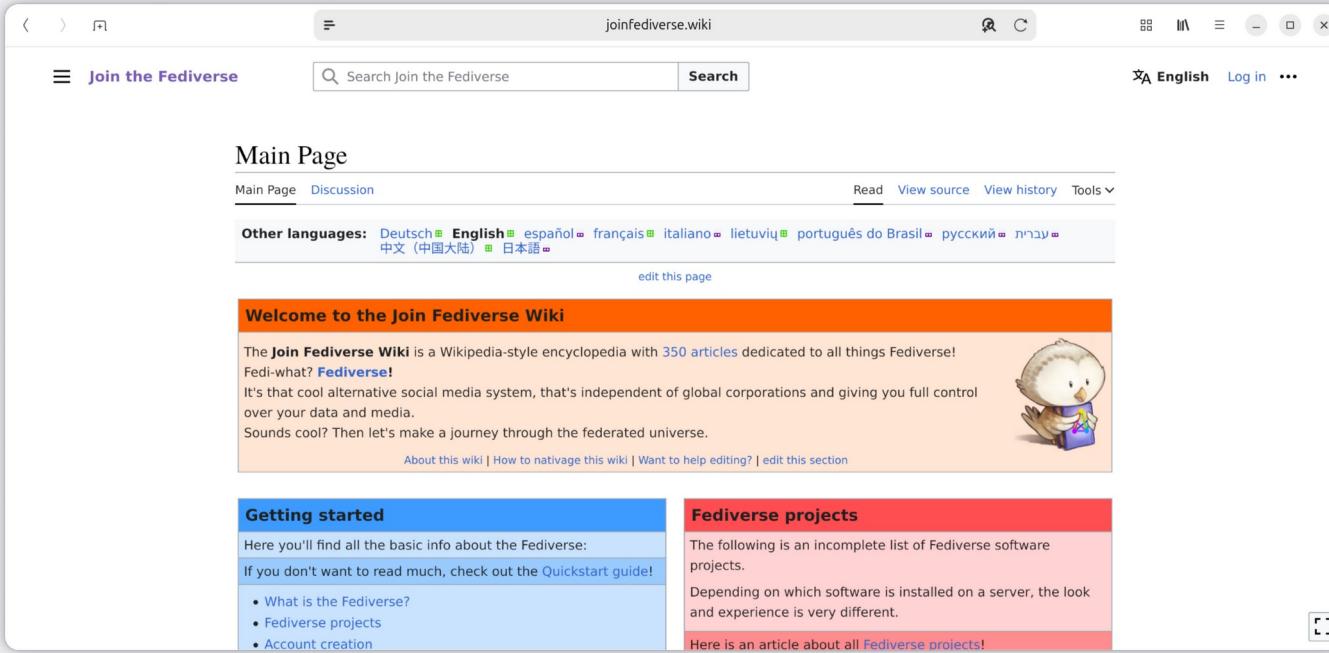
Préférences

Plus

Where do I start?

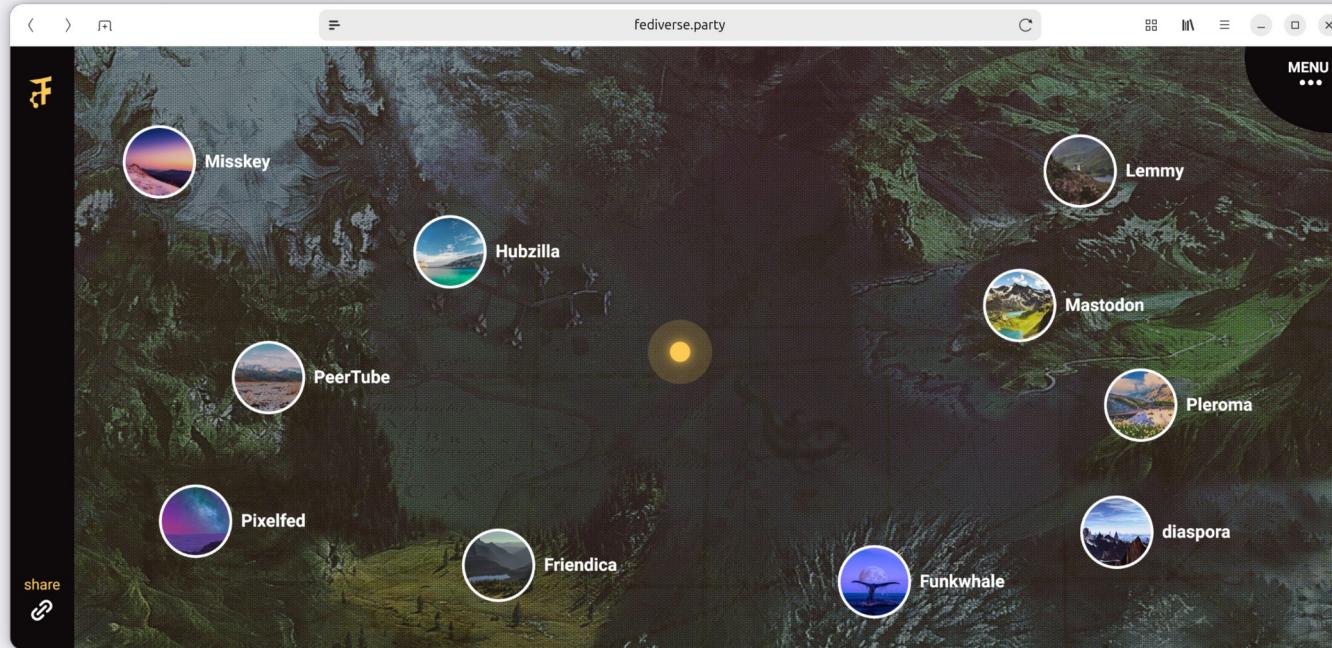


Where do I start?

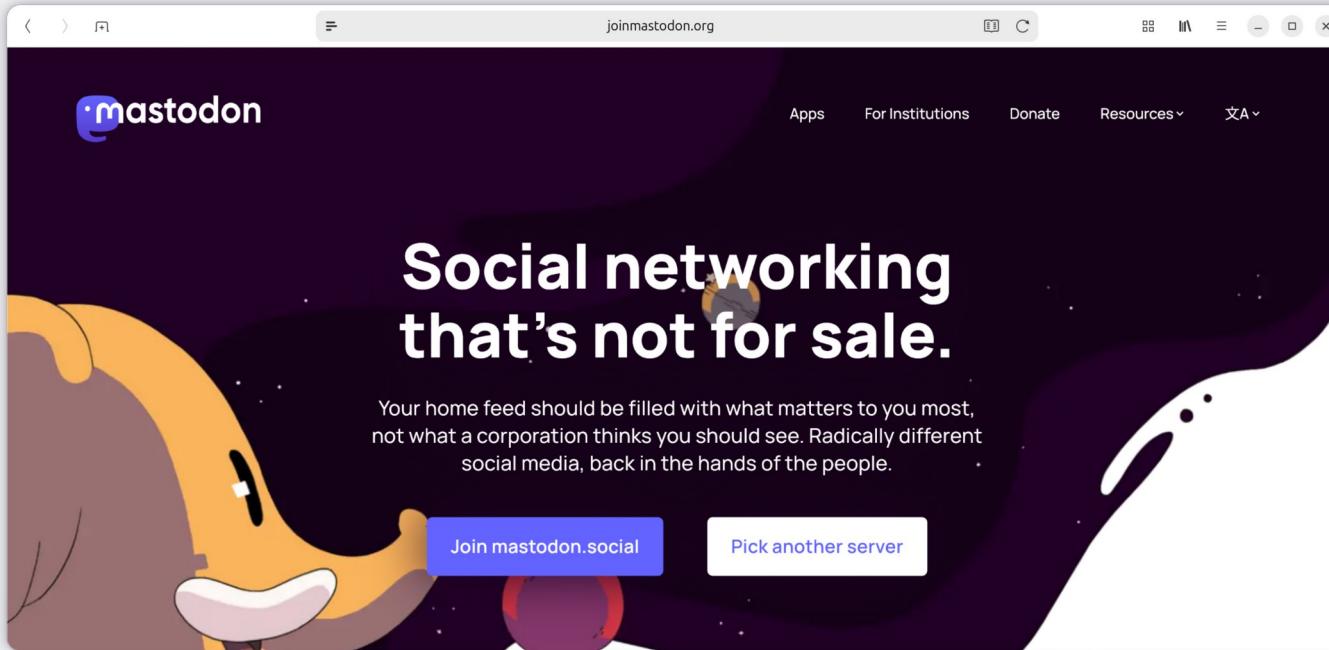


The screenshot shows a web browser window for the 'joinfediverse.wiki' website. The title bar says 'joinfediverse.wiki'. The page itself is titled 'Main Page' and features a navigation bar with 'Main Page' and 'Discussion' tabs, and buttons for 'Read', 'View source', 'View history', and 'Tools'. Below the navigation is a 'Other languages:' section with links to various languages including English, Deutsch, and French. A 'Welcome to the Join Fediverse Wiki' box contains text about the wiki and a cartoon chick holding a small box. Below this are two main sections: 'Getting started' (blue background) and 'Fediverse projects' (red background). The 'Getting started' section includes a 'Quickstart guide' and a list of links: 'What is the Fediverse?', 'Fediverse projects', and 'Account creation'. The 'Fediverse projects' section lists an incomplete list of projects and a link to an article about all Fediverse projects. The browser interface includes standard window controls (minimize, maximize, close) and a search bar at the top.

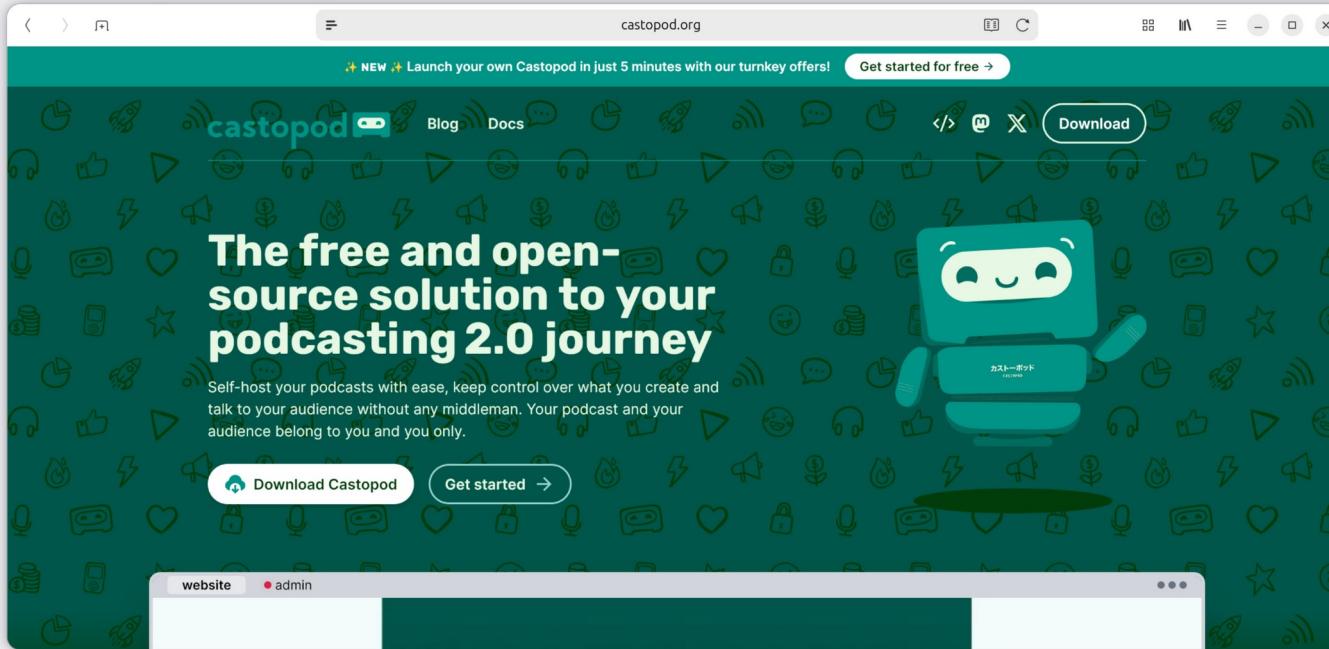
Where do I start?



Where do I start?



Where do I start?



Further reading...

<https://europeanopensource.academy/>



Finding each other: discovery without walled gardens

By Benjamin Bellamy, Business Development Manager for AI Solutions & Community Management at ALGORIA

The last open frontier: how podcasting preserved the original internet spirit

In an era where algorithms determine what you see and when you reach, podcasting stands as an unlikely, though powerful, exception. This interoperability is fundamental yet revolutionary compared to the walled gardens of content, audience, and identity locked to a single platform's architecture. There's no algorithm deciding whether episodes you subscribe to are available on a particular platform and shutting off the rest of the ecosystem.

This frontier evolves. In autumn 2020, Adam Curry ("The Podfather") and Dave Jones launched a competing script to extend RSS while maintaining openness. Built on RSS and public standards, the "podcast" is for anyone to use without platform permission – protecting predictability, and thus escaped the social media platform trap.

The numbers are remarkable. As of 2025, approximately 4.5 million podcasts and 584.1 million listeners globally – projected to 651.7 million listeners by 2026. The market is valued at nearly \$4 billion, with podcast advertising expected to grow from \$1.2 billion in 2025. Yet this ecosystem operates without central authority. Algorithmic interference, or platform gatekeepers.

This open frontier is maturing – it actively shapes how communities form and discover content differently than platform-controlled media always.

RSS as the great equaliser: infrastructure for discovery without gatekeepers

At podcasting's heart lies RSS – Really Simple Syndication. While tech leaders spent billions on walled gardens, RSS created a different model. Instead of what they want, creators find audiences directly.

The European vision: funding an alternative digital future

While the United States built its internet on data extraction and revenue maximization, Europe has quietly funded a different vision. Since 2004, the European Union's Network and Information Infrastructure (NII) initiative has invested over €500 billion in building blocks of a human-centric, privacy respecting infrastructure. This includes massive investment in research, innovation, and training costs – from Tristan Loo's 2000 concept to Ben Hammersley's 2010 manifesto. European funding has shaped open internet architecture.

The EU systematically supports the Fediverse – intercon-

necting platforms using open ActivityPub protocol, which users can follow and interact with. YouTube, or any other ActivityPub platform through one endpoint, independently. Platforms (end-to-end video processing, PaaS, news, educational, etc.) can broker interactions between ActivityPub and other platforms, creating a federating environment.

European funding supports Mastodon, a federating, privacy-focused platform (lightweight, decentralized, etc.) that allows users to post and interact with others across different platforms. Mastodon has over 10 million users, 100,000+ instances, and 100+ federating partners. Mastodon is the most active decentralized platform, with over 100,000 posts per day. Mastodon's core developer, GitHub, is a decentralized, open-source, and privacy-respecting platform.

ActivityPub is built on top of the decentralized, open-source, and privacy-respecting platform, GitHub. Mastodon's core developer, GitHub, is a decentralized, open-source, and privacy-respecting platform.

The Fediverse is a true open internet, where users can interact with each other without being controlled by a single platform. This is a fundamental shift in how the internet works, making it more open, decentralized, and user-controlled.

By broadcasting the Fediverse brings two-way conversation to podcasting

The Fediverse represents open protocols, not evolution. With over 11 million users, across thousands of instances, it follows Polyglot's core principles: Interoperability, Mastodon's pan-Lemmy distribution, RSS to Mastodon, and platforms with podcast episodes – all from one account.

The EU systematically supports the Fediverse – intercon-



Thank you!



One Last Thing...

One-Command Install Script for Castopod:

```
curl -fsSL https://castopod.org/install | sudo bash
```



The screenshot shows a terminal window with the following content:

```
fedora@installation:~ — ssh fedora@installation.cast...
~/Documents/Castopod/Castopod-install

[Castopod Logo]

castopod

=====
CASTOPOD INSTALLATION SCRIPT (FrankenPHP + Caddy)
Script version: 1.0.0
Report issues: https://code.castopod.org/adaures/castopod/-/issues
=====

PURPOSE:
Install Castopod with FrankenPHP, MariaDB, Redis, and FFmpeg.
Automatic HTTPS via Caddy's built-in ACME support.

REQUIREMENTS:
Root access, domain(s) pointing to this server, ports 80/443 open, supported
OS:
* System packages will be upgraded (apt-get dist-upgrade / dnf upgrade)
* FrankenPHP will be installed to /usr/local/bin/
* MariaDB databases will be created
* Redis configuration may be modified (if more databases are needed)
* Cron jobs will be added
* Files will be created in /var/www/castopod/
* Systemd service will be created for FrankenPHP

=====
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=====
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DAMAGES OR OTHER LIABILITY, WHETHER IN AN ACTION OF CONTRACT, TORT OR
OTHERWISE, ARISING FROM, OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOFTWARE OR THE
USE OR OTHER DEALINGS IN THE SOFTWARE.
By proceeding, you acknowledge that:
* You have read and understood this disclaimer
* You accept all risks associated with running this script
* You have backed up any important data on this server
* You understand this script will make system-level changes
=====

Do you want to proceed with the installation? (yes/no): [input field]
```

Thank you!

