

Amplify Our Voices: Building Digital Sovereignty on the Fediverse

I am Benjamin Bellamy.



- I ❤️ Podcasts, I ❤️ FOSS
- Business Development Manager for Truly-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 \neq follower count
- Happiness \neq number of likes
- Culture \neq 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

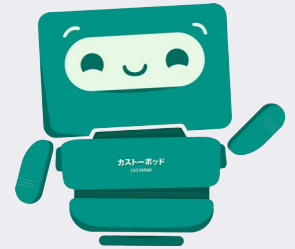
- Podcasting!
- RSS (1999) still thriving in 2026
- But threats are real: YouTube “podcasts”, Spotify for podcasters





















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

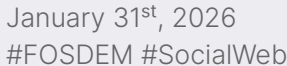


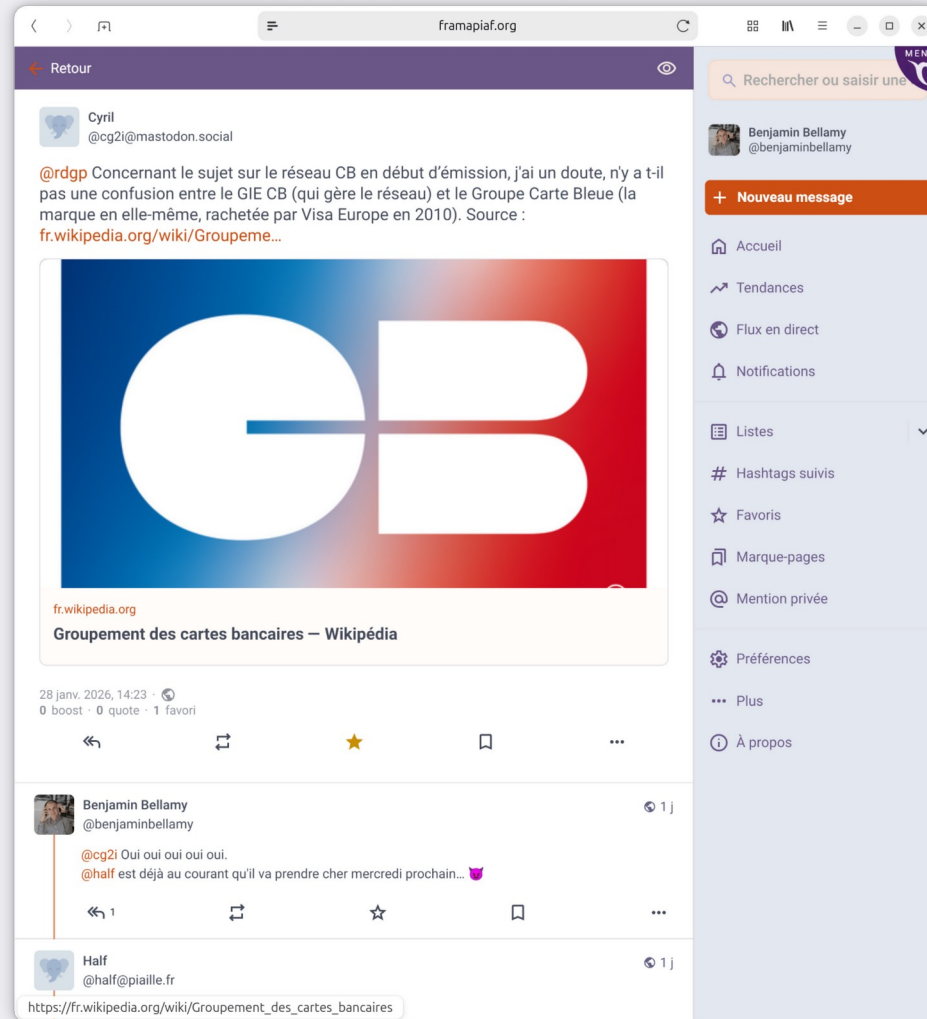
 **Free & open-source** (AGPL v3 License) ·  **Focused on data sovereignty** (your content, audience, and analytics belong to you, and you only) ·  **Podcasting 2.0 features** (GUID, locked, transcripts, funding, chapters, location, persons, soundbites, ...) ·  **Built-in social network** ( Castopod is 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) ...

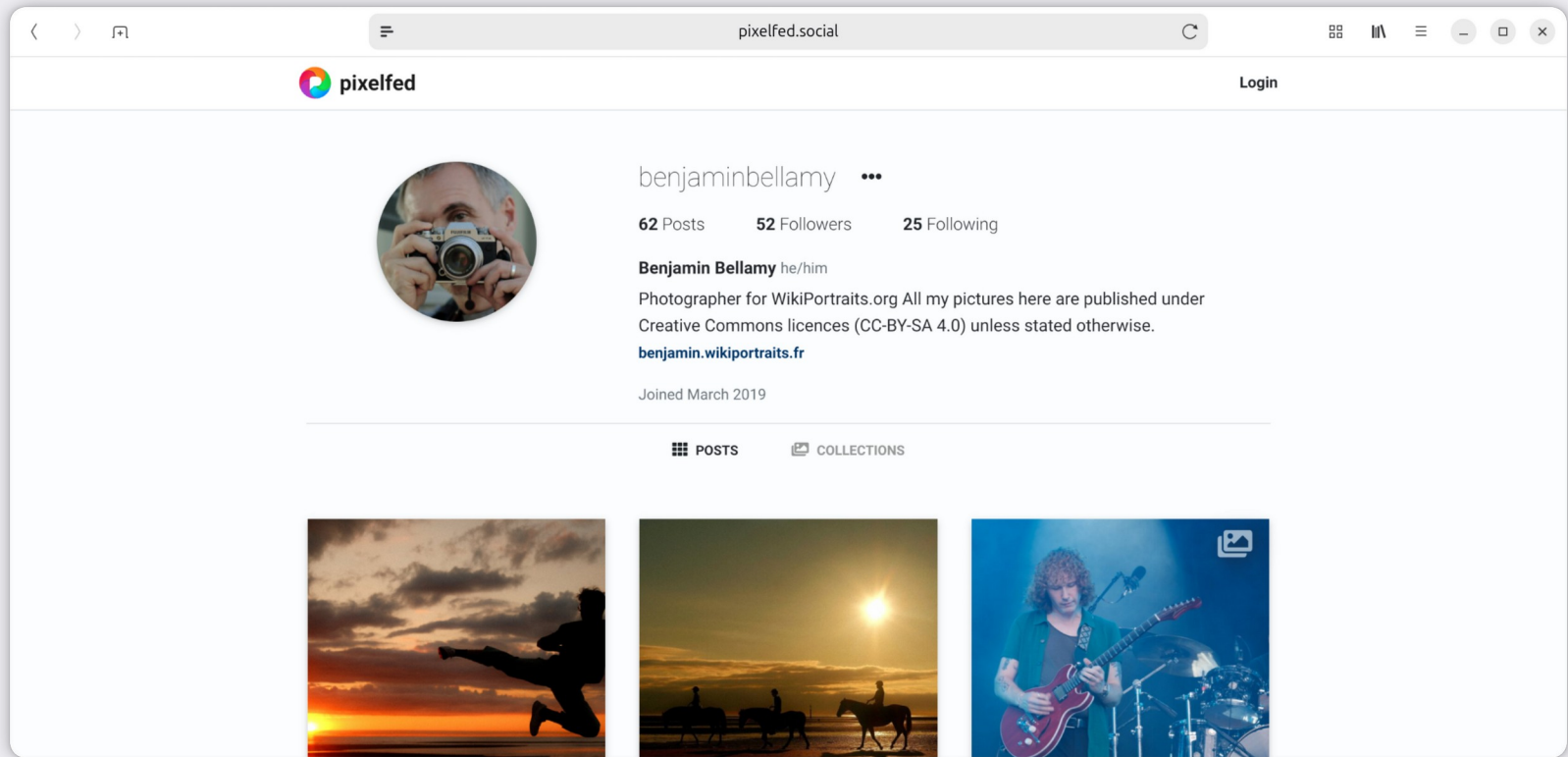
Breaking the Platform Trap

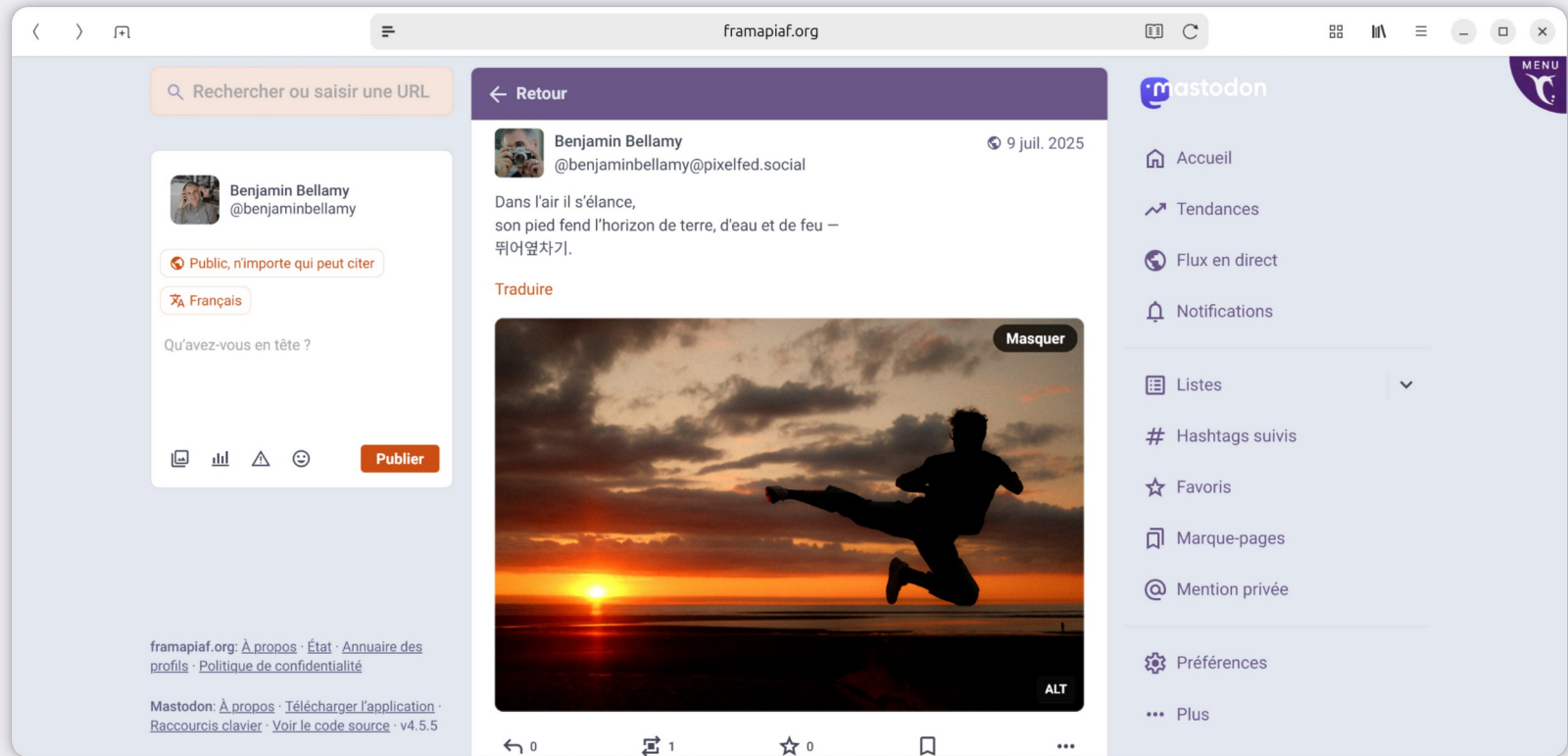
- Traditional platform model:
 - You create content → Platform owns relationship → Platform monetizes
- Federated model:
 - You create content → You own relationship → You control monetization
- RSS ensures universal access
- ActivityPub adds social layer
- Reach without dependence

Time for some screenshots...

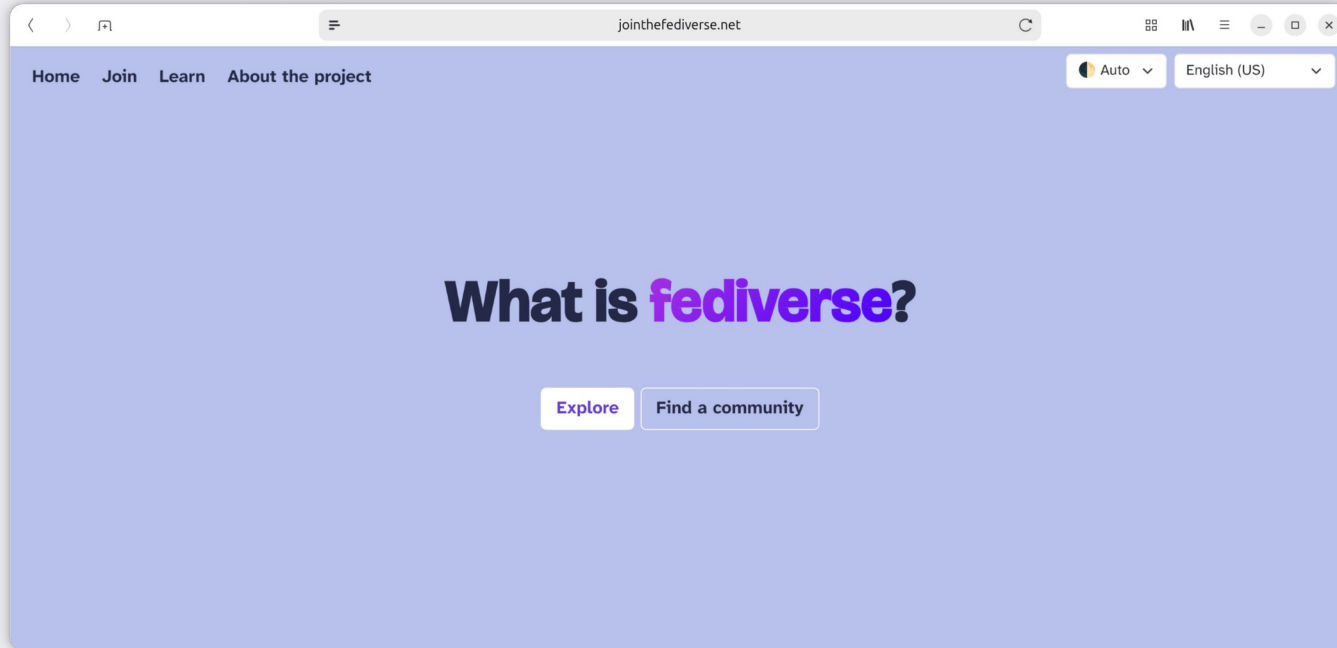




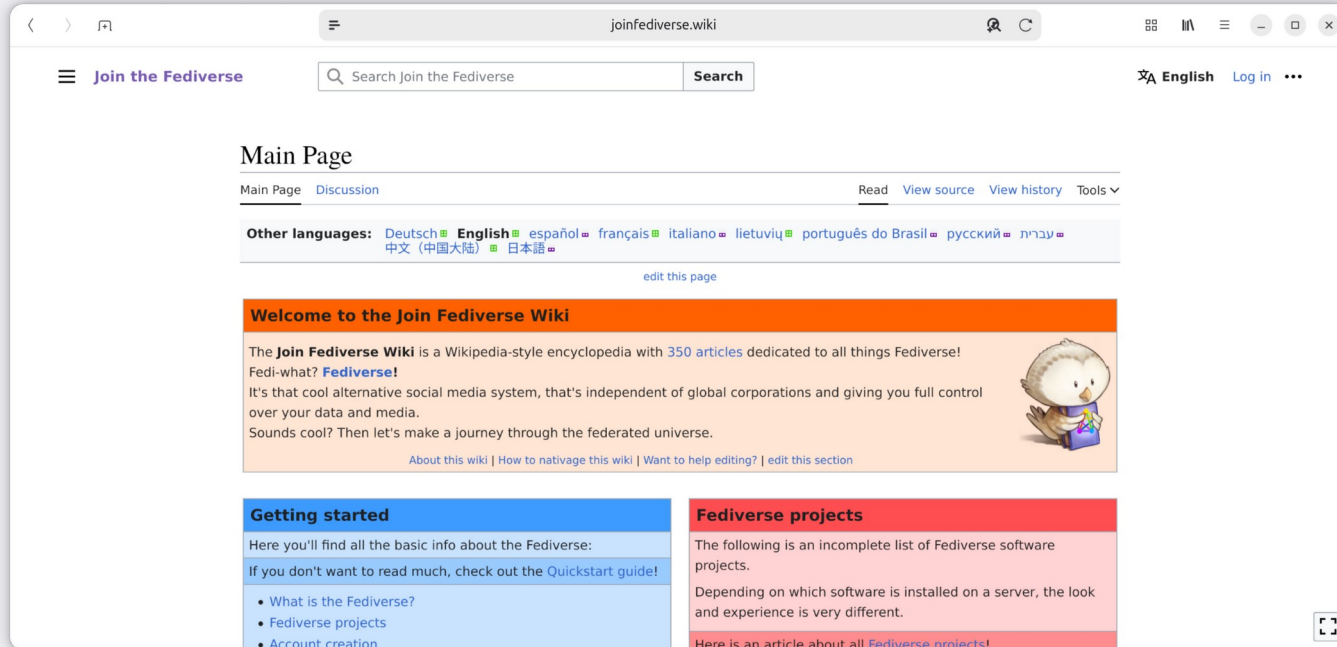




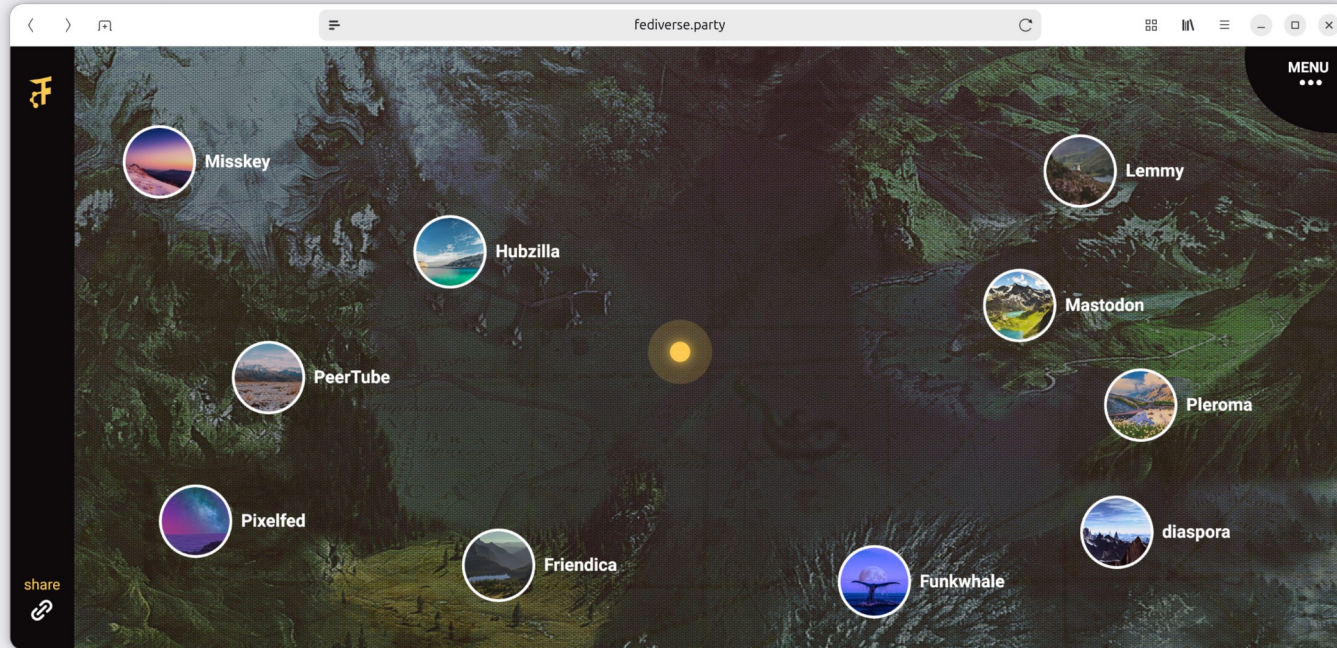
Where do I start?



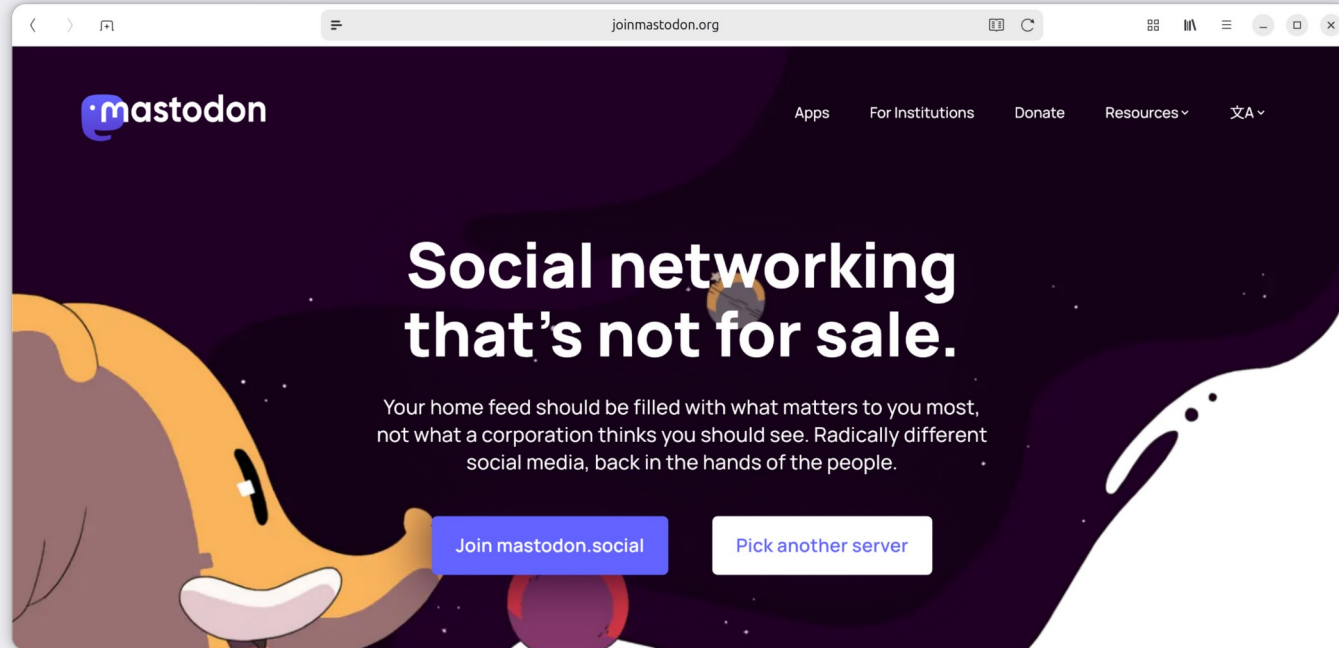
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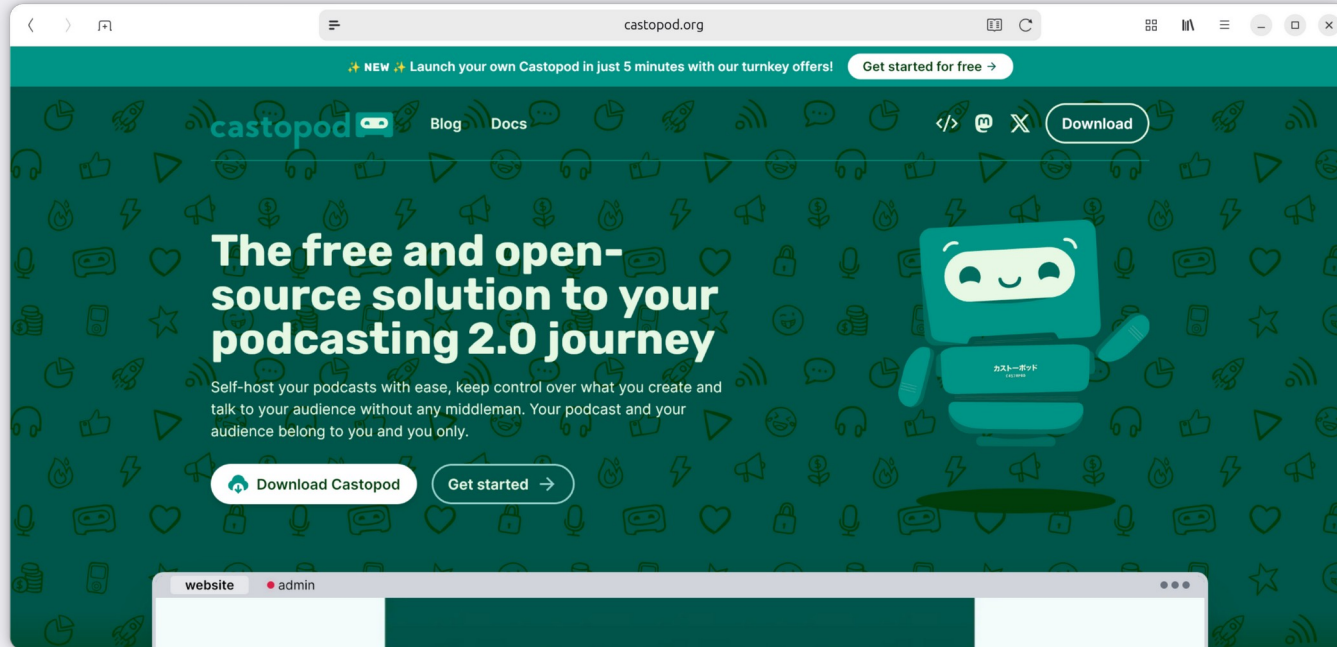
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Where do I start?



Where do I start?



Further reading...

<https://europeanopensource.academy/>



Thank you!



One Last Thing...

One-Command Install Script for Castopod:

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



A terminal window titled 'fedora@installation:~ -- ssh fedora@installation.cast...' showing the output of the Castopod installation script. The output includes a green Castopod logo, the script version (1.0.0), and a list of requirements and modifications. The script is for installing Castopod with FrankenPHP, MariaDB, Redis, and FFmpeg. It also includes a disclaimer and asks for confirmation to proceed with the installation.

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


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.
WHAT WILL BE MODIFIED:
  * 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
=====
LIMITATION OF LIABILITY
=====
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IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY,
FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT.
IN NO EVENT SHALL THE AUTHORS OR COPYRIGHT HOLDERS BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM,
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):
```

Thank you!

