# Mastodon and the Fediverse

An introduction to Mastodon and the Fediverse.

Logo By Eukombos [CC0], from Wikimedia Commons

# Introduction:

- Bob Murphy
- System administrator in New Jersey
- Long-time Linux user, long time Fediverse denizen.
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- Slides available at murphnj.neocities.org

# Overview

- The fediverse (a portmanteau of "federated" and "universe") is a collection of protocols, servers, and users.
- Together they form communities that can communicate together.
- Users can exchange short messages, blog-style posts, music, and videos between services.

# Some history

- In 2008, Evan Prodromou created a microblogging service called identi.ca using the Ostatus protocol and status.net server software.
- In about 2012, he changed his service to use a new protocol, pump.io.  He released the Ostatus protocol to the Free Software Foundation, where it got incorporated into GNU/social. The fediverse continued along for several years.

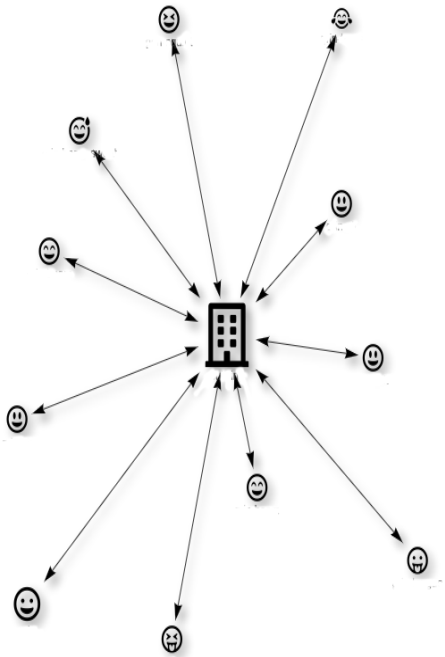
- March 2016, Eugen Rochco (Gargron) created Mastodon, which used GNU/social with a tweetdeck-like interface.  This gained some popularity.
- In 2018, a new protocol called ActivityPub was accepted as a standardized protocol by the W3C. Most Fediverse platforms have adopted it. It was authored by Evan Prodromou, Christine Lemmer-Weber, and others, and it expanded upon the previous services to provide a better and more flexible protocol.

# Federation

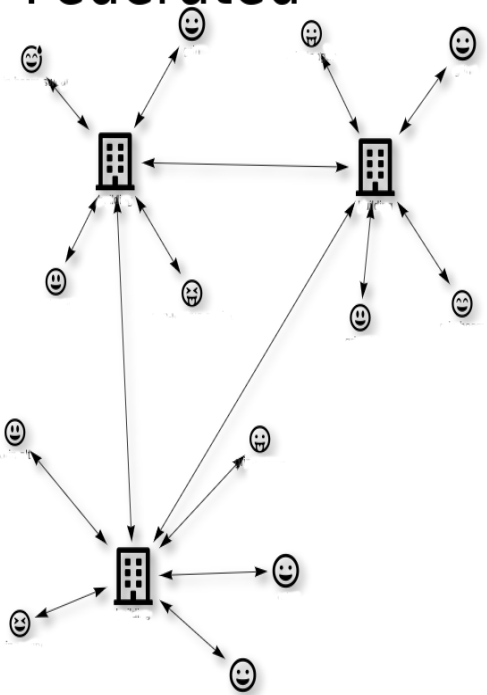
- Most services are run by a single company or organization  A single silo that your data is trapped in, the only way to share with others is to have them join that service.
- Federation allows users of different services to inter-operate with one another, without creating an account for each shared resource. (Largely)
- System operators can block other instances in case of egregious issues, and users can likewise block users or instances to improve their experience.

# Illustration of federation

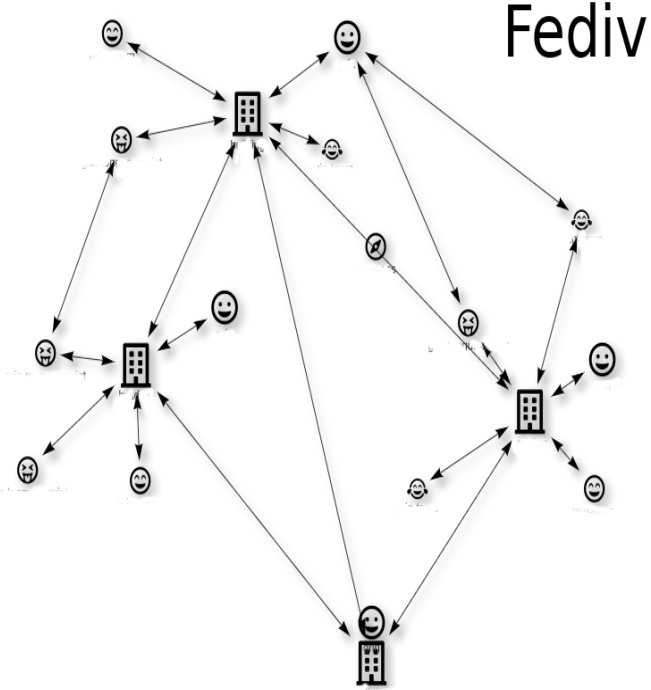
Centralized



Federated



Fediverse



# Services available  (partial)

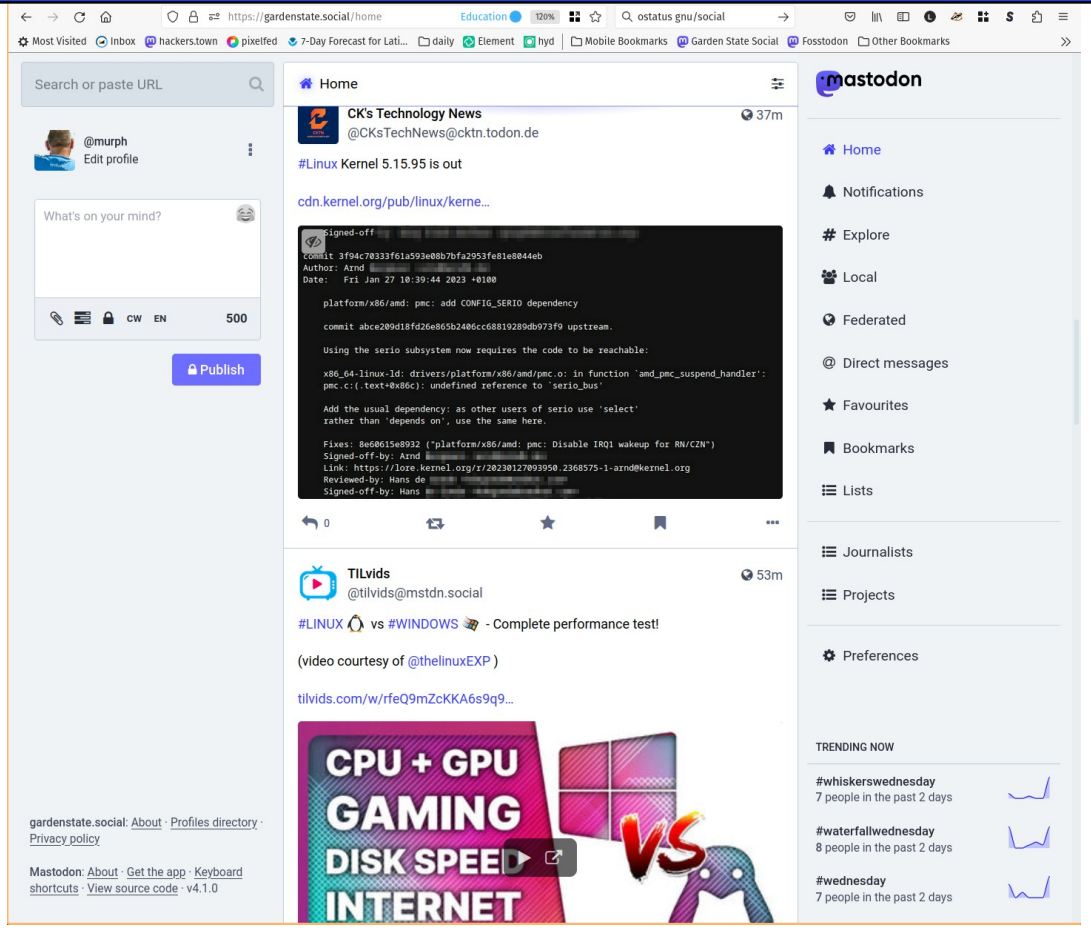
| | |
|---|---|
| • Mastodon, pleroma, misskey | Microblogging |
| • Pixelfed | Image hosting |
| • Lemmy | Link aggregator |
| • Writefreely.org, Wordpress(plugin) | Blogging |
| • Peertube | Video Hosting |
| • Funkwhale | Audio Hosting |
| • Mobilizon, gettogether.community | Event planning |

# More services

- There are many new services that all use the ActivityPub protocol to work together
- More are being created every day, development is rapid.

Robert Martinez

# Example: Mastodon (default)



# Profile example

Edit profile

**murph**
@murph@gardenstate.social

Just an ordinary desktop Linux user. New Jersey resident, and proud of it!

This account's home timeline may be displayed publicly at a conference, so only follow if you're OK with that. If you have an issue with me following you, just let me know, and I'll remove it from this account.

JOINED
Feb 10, 2023

WEAK SAUCE VERIFICATION
✔ murphnj.neocities.org/

**210** Posts **475** Following **75** Followers

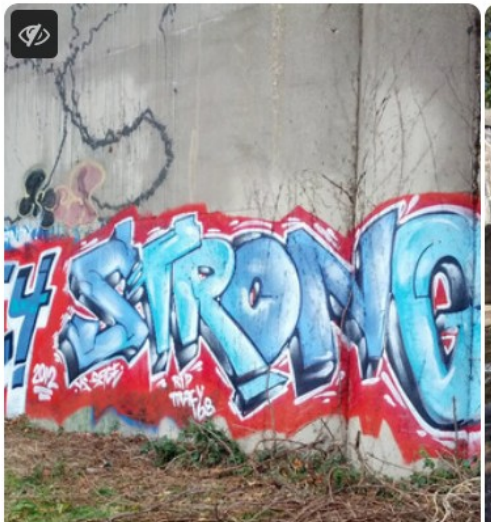
Posts | Posts and replies | Media

Pinned post

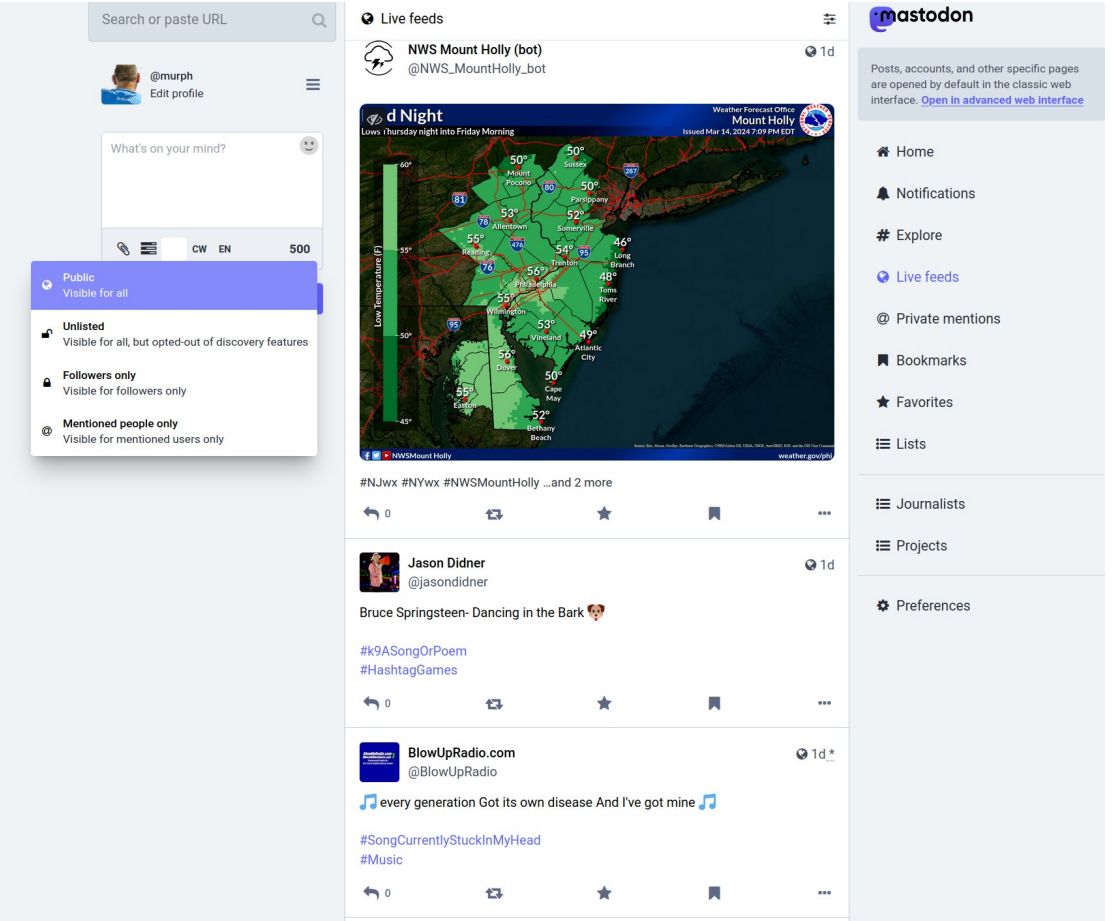
**murph**
@murph

Feb 14, 2023

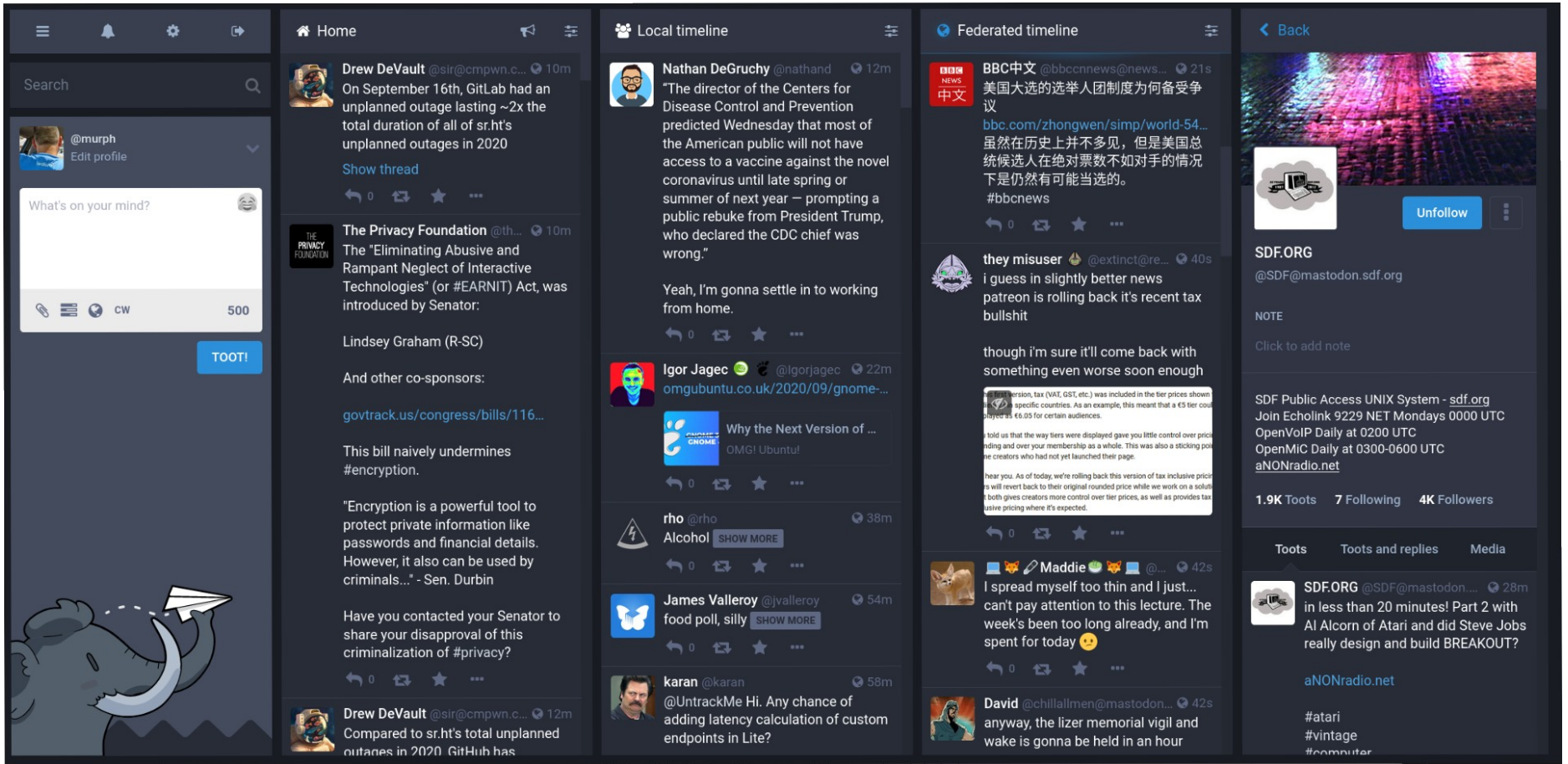
#introduction
I'm a long-time fediverse denizen, #Linux user, and #NJ resident and #bike rider.
Just as a little background, I'm doing a talk at #SCaLE20x this March, and for that purpose, I'm setting up an account with a timeline that I can display publicly without worries of exposing anyone's follower-only messages by accident on my main account.
So, if you don't mind a little extra exposure, feel free to follow, I'll probably follow back.
If you want to follow me, but not here, at @murph@hackers.town



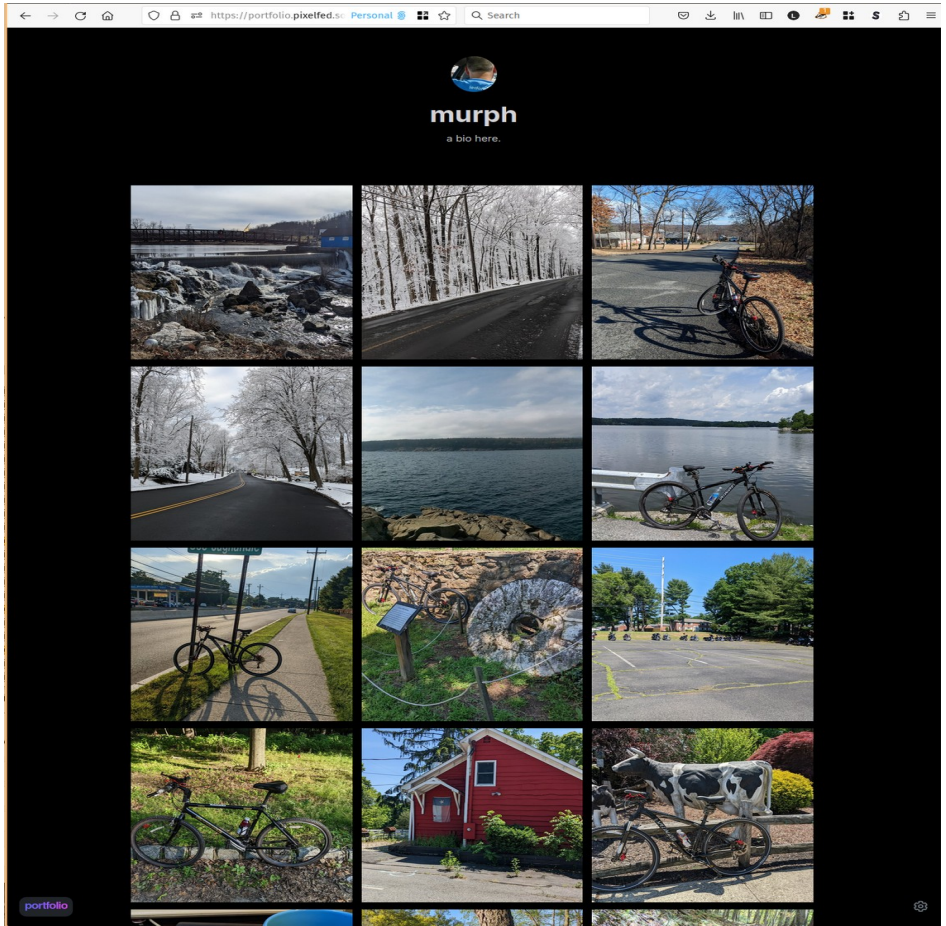
# Local feed and direct messages

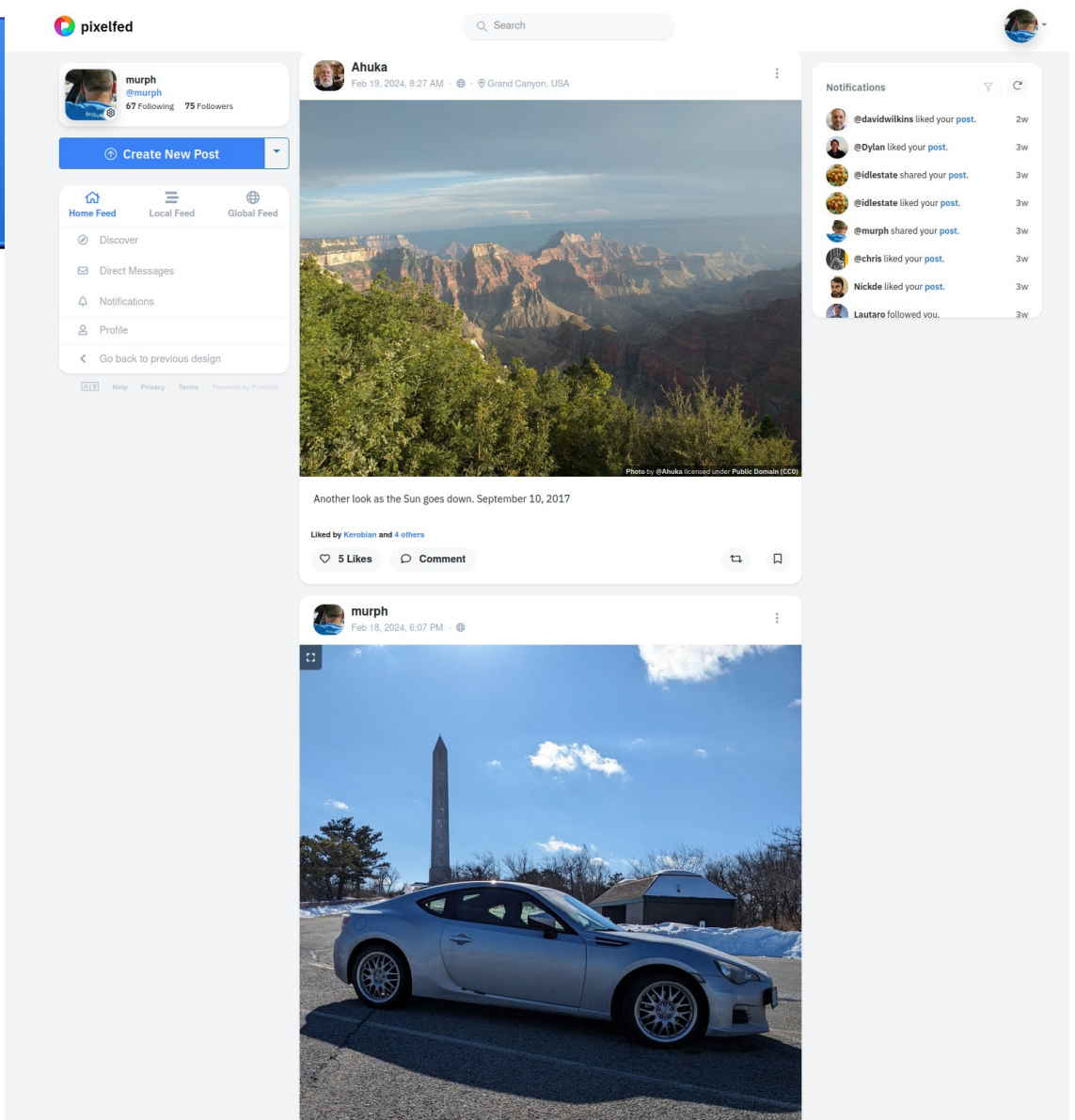


# Example: Mastodon (advanced)

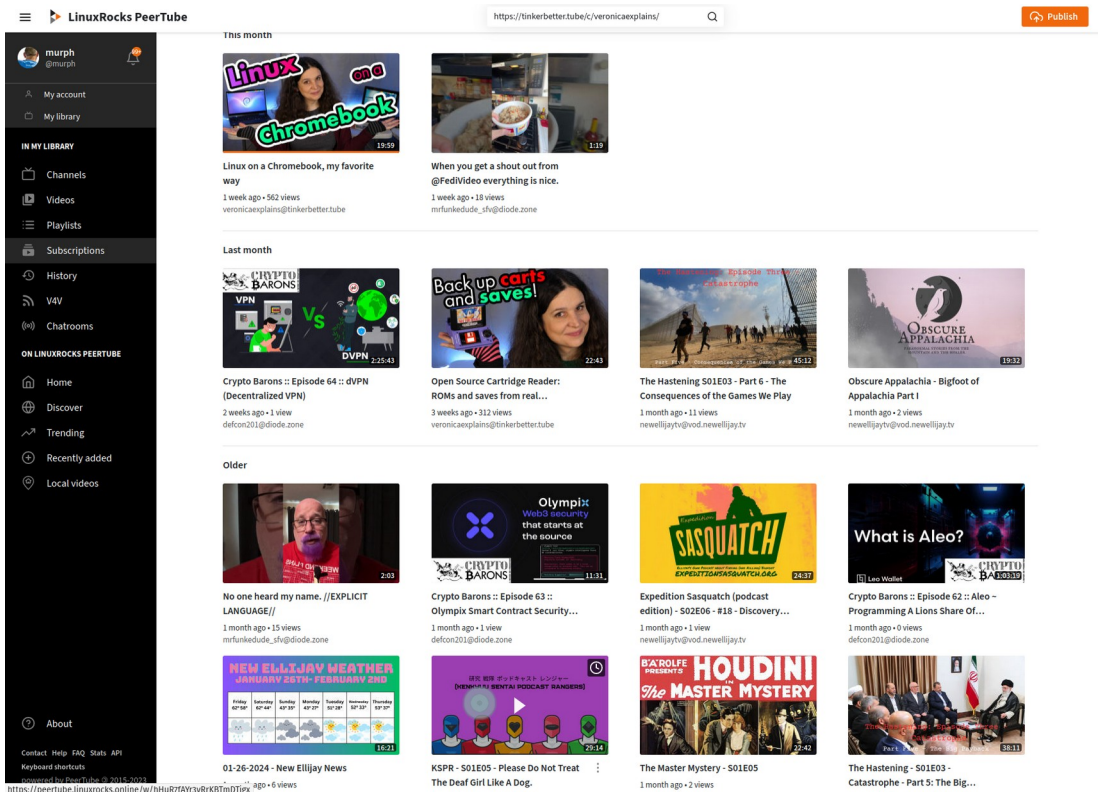


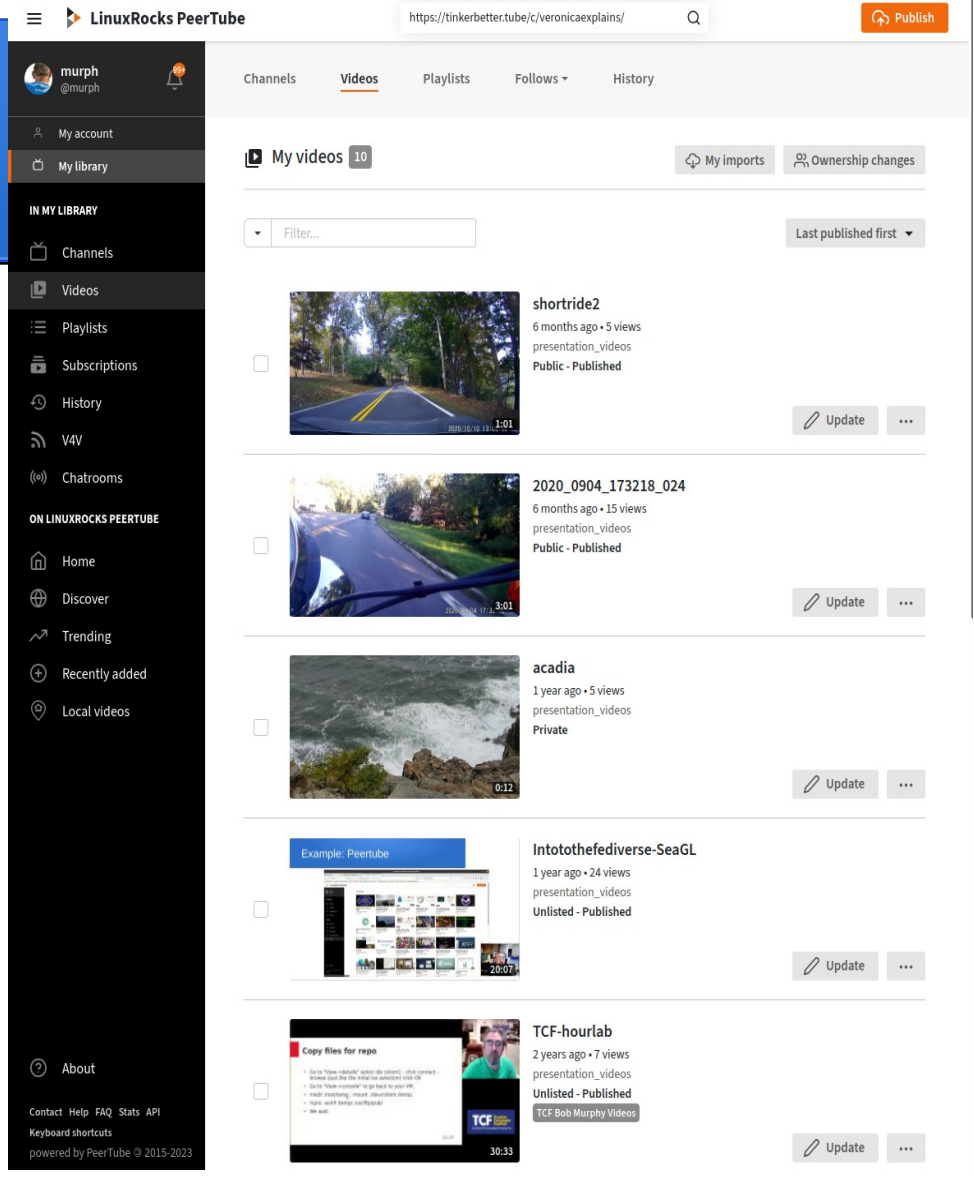
# Example: Pixelfed



# Example: Peertube



# Lemmy

SDF Chatter Communities Create Post Create Community murph

Support for this instance is greatly appreciated at https://sdf.org/support

Posts Comments | Subscribed Local All | New

2 — Wine error when running Magellan VantagePoint
@potentiallynotfelix@iusearchlinux.fyi to Linux@lemmy.ml English • 44 minutes ago
0

-5 — If we were to ban cars, what would happen to emergency services?
@SpiceDealer@lemmy.world to Fuck Cars@lemmy.world English • 2 hours ago
8 (1 New)

63 — This is your last chance, after this there is not turning back...
media.kbin.social
Facni to linuxmemes@lemmy.world • 3 hours ago
3

39 — COSMIC Store Prototype
lemmy.world
Michael Murphy (S76) to Linux@lemmy.ml English • 3 hours ago
9

3 — Newsletter: eSIM Adapter (and Google Play Fun)
blog.jmp.chat
@singpolyma@lemmy.ml M to Sopranica@lemmy.ml English • 5 hours ago
1

32 — Macintosh Classic gets quadrupled memory with 4MB of onboard RAM — no daughterboard required
www.tomshardware.com
@misk@sopuli.xyz to retrocomputing • 6 hours ago
4
Comments

18 — FISA Reauthorization:" US Lawmaker Cited NYC Protests in a Defense of Warrantless Spying
www.wired.com
The Nexus of Privacy M to KOSA and other Bad Internet Bills (US-specific for now) English • 6 hours ago
1

98 — KDE Plasma 6.0.2
kde.org
@JRepin@lemmy.ml to Linux@lemmy.ml English • 7 hours ago
6

6 — Kubota Diesel-Powered Honda Insight With a Supercharger Averages 73 MPG
www.thedrive.com
Mike D. to Cars - For Car Enthusiasts@lemmy.world • 7 hours ago
1

32 — City trail = parking lot snow overflow
lemmy.world
@UnPassive@lemmy.world to Fuck Cars@lemmy.world English • 8 hours ago
12

36 — Steam Deck Beta Client Update Fixes Screenshots and GameCube Controllers
steamdeckhq.com
Fubarberry M to Steam Deck@sopuli.xyz English • 9 hours ago
9

https://lemmy.sdf.org/post/13692998

## Trending communities

swampies Wood Chatter
NeXTSTEP/OpenStep Banana Pi
The Z32 Community Might and Magic

Create a Community
Explore Communities

## SDF Chatter

A Lemmy instance hosted by the SDF.ORG

237 users / day | 394 users / week
563 users / month | 1.27K users / 6 months
4.14K users | 205 Communities | 7.04K Posts
63K Comments | Modlog
admins: @SDF

## Subscribed to communities

2600: Hacker Quarterly@lemmy.world
All Things "Weird Al" Yankovic@lemmy.world
Amiga@sopuli.xyz
Bicycles@lemmy.ca
Cars - For Car Enthusiasts@lemmy.world
CD Collectors F-Droid@lemmy.ml
Formula 1@lemmy.ml
Formula 1@lemmy.world
Fuck Cars@lemmy.world
Functional 3D Printing@kbin.social
High Quality GIFS
IdiotsInCars@lemmy.world
KOSA and other Bad Internet Bills (US-specific for now)
Linux@lemmy.ml
linuxmemes@lemmy.world
Mastodon@lemmy.ml
Mildly Infuriating@lemmy.world
New Jersey@lemmy.world
Not Just Bikes@feddit.nl
PortableApps.com retrocomputing

# How to find people to follow

- Look in your local timeline.
- Find interesting people, and follow them.
- See what they post and boost, and look at the people that follow them.
- Search for hashtags that interest you.
- You can follow hashtags in your Home timeline.
- From there, find the people posting about what interests you.

# Will the Fediverse stick around?

- Some people reported that since many of the Twitter users that tried Mastodon moved back, that Mastodon is doomed to fail.
- Since the fediverse is not tied to a company that has to provide immediate

  profits, slow growth

  is OK, it allows

  communities to work

  to accept new people

graph from the-federation.info

# New services that federate?

- **Bluesky**
- Controlled by a small number of people.
- Not yet federated with anyone.
- Moderation seems iffy

- **Threads**
- Controlled by one rich dude (Sound familiar?)
- Seems to have died down after a big initial splash
- Also does not federate with anyone yet.  (They have been experimenting though)

# Conclusion:

- The Fediverse is a way to use the web in a more individual way, either by choosing an instance with a community that suits your needs, or running your own server, and making it exactly the way you want.
- It avoids the advertising, algorithms, and other unpleasantries that plague some other social networks.
- When you join the fediverse, you are joining a community of the instance that you choose, you are not a way for a company to figure out how to make profit from your communication.

# Where to learn more:

A few links to find more about the Fediverse:

- General info:
  - fediverse.info -- Nice video explanation, also, subject-based way to find (self-selected) users.
  - fedi.tips -- Comprehensive guide for users.
- Where to start
  - joinmastodon.org -- largest list of Mastodon servers
  - joinfediverse.wiki-- Great information on different fediverse services and instances
  - Fedi.garden – well-curated list of instances
- Which instance to join (assuming you don’t want to spin up your own just yet):
  - fediverse.party/en/portal/servers
- Biased recommendation for this audience
  - gardenstate.social
- Stats, monitoring service, and list of the known Fediverse:
  - the-federation.info - charts and graphs of fediverse use.

this slide shamelessly stolen from Mauricio Uribe (with permission) and subsequently vandalized beyond recognition.

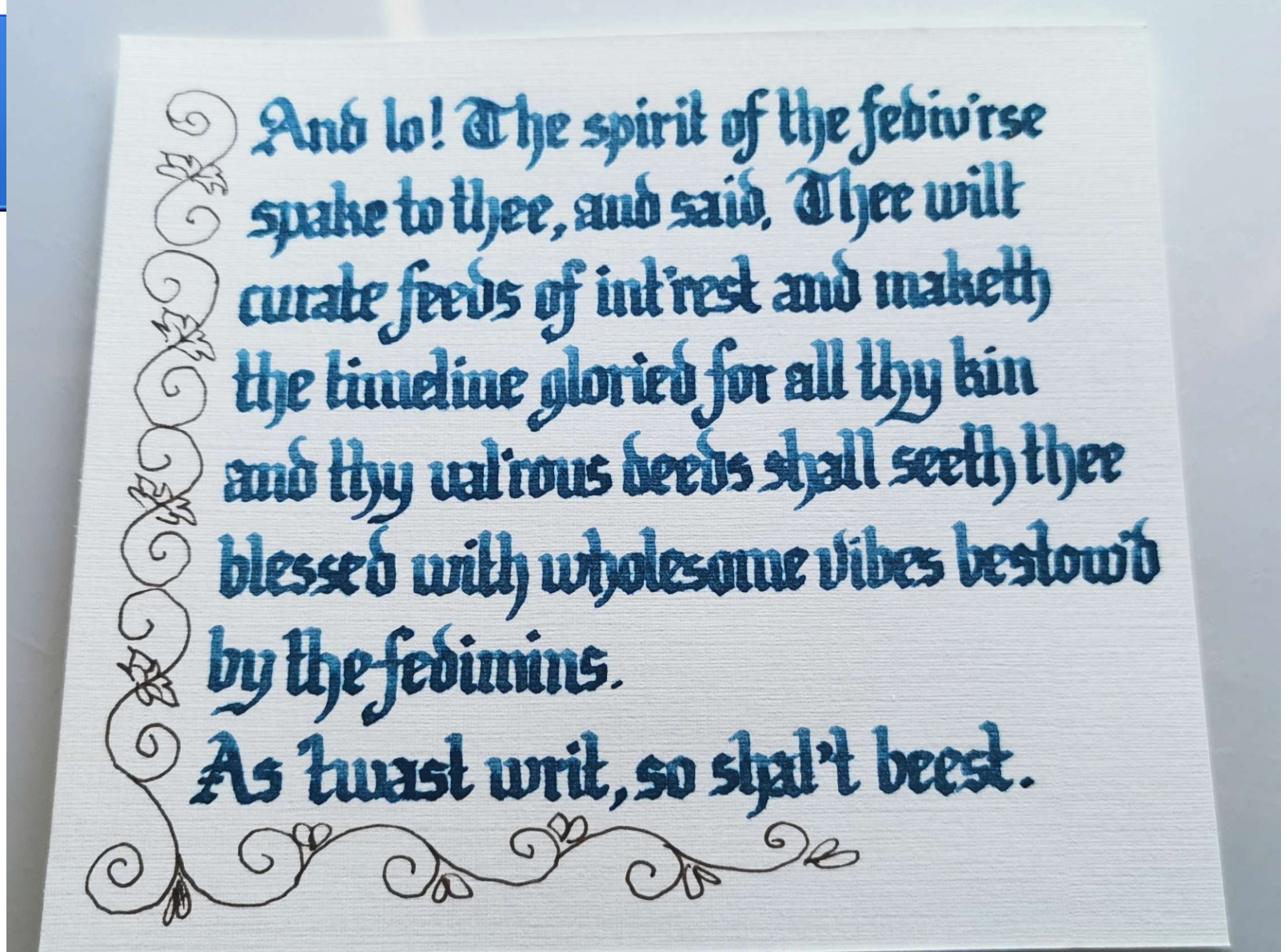
# Thank you.

- I’ll be happy to entertain any questions, or further demonstrate what I can on the fediverse.

- Contact information:

  - @murph@hackers.town https://hackers.town/@murph
  - @murph@gardenstate.social https://gardenstate.social/@murph
  - murph@weirdness.com (email)

"La grande vague" by David Revoy, framasoft.org − CC-BY 4.0


And lo! The spirit of the fediverse
spake to thee, and said, Thee will
curate feeds of int'rest and maketh
the timeline gloried for all thy kin
and thy val'rous deeds shall seeth thee
blessed with wholesome vibes bestowd
by the fedimins.
As twast writ, so shalt beest.

# How the timelines work:

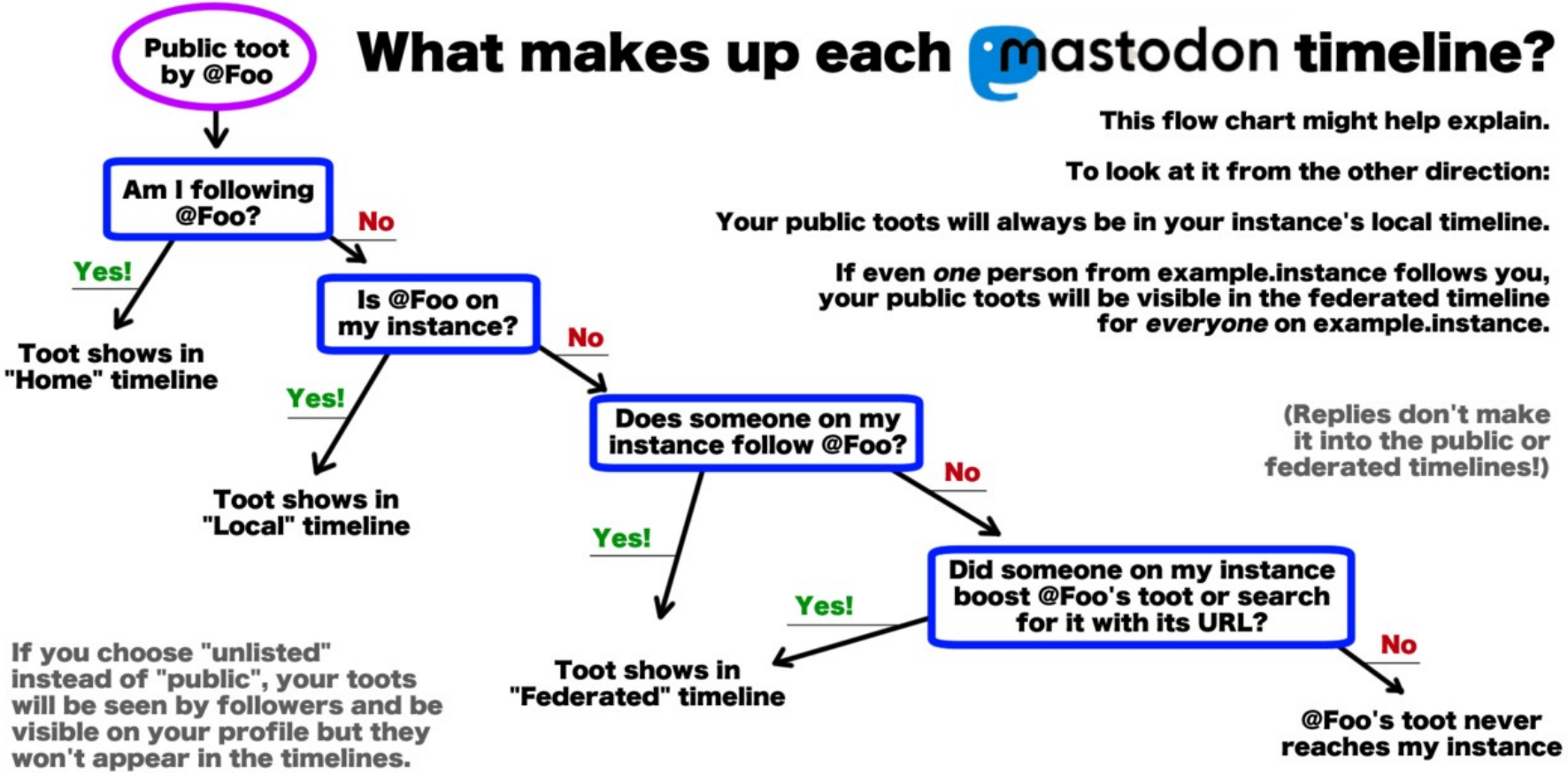



Chart by:
@cassolotl
@dev.glitch
.social/