

TAKING A FRESH LOOK AT THE FEDIVERSE

What's new for Mastodon and the wider ecosystem

August 2025, FrOSCon

ABOUT ME

- Backend developer at Mastodon gGmbH
- Alumn of H-BRS
- Founding team member of FrOSCon

QUICK POLL

AGENDA

- Why the fediverse?
- What is new at Mastodon?
- Other fediverse developments
- Getting (re-)started

THE PROBLEM WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

- "Engagement" drives ad revenue
- Algorithmic feeds lead to
 - Addiction
 - Reduced attention span
 - Polarization
- Privacy issues
- Closed source software

ENTER THE FEDIVERSE

THE FEDIVERSE ALTERNATIVE

- No algorithms or optional, open algorithms
- No centralization
- More privacy, consent-based interactions
- Choice of platform, server, client etc.
- Open source software

COMMON COMPLAINTS

COMPLEX ONBOARDING

THE FEDIVERSE IS SILENT

I CANNOT FIND WHAT I AM LOOKING
FOR

WEIRD INTERACTIONS



ABOUT MASTODON

- Microblogging
- Largest fediverse platform
- Largest fediverse server (mastodon.social)
- AGPLv3
- Non-profit company

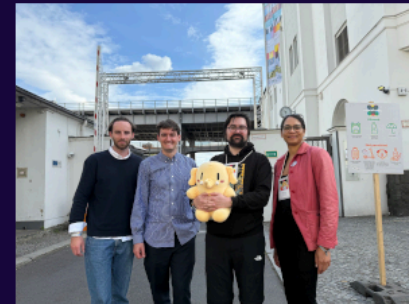
WHAT IS NEW FOR MASTODON?

LEGAL RESTRUCTURING

- No individual ownership
- Dependably non-profit
- Not for sale
- "Billionaire proof"

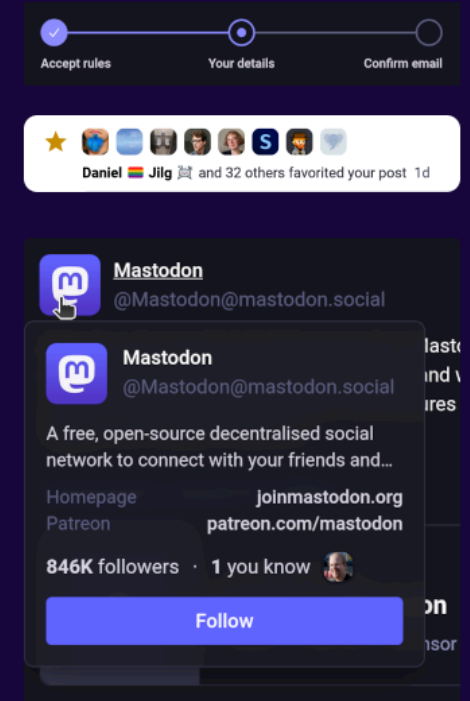
A GROWING TEAM

- 14 FTE, 20+ people + open source contributors
- 3 new members in the engineering team
- Still figuring out how to deliver faster



UI UPDATES IN 4.3 AND 4.4

- Onboarding
- Grouped notifications
- Displaying quote posts
- Papercuts

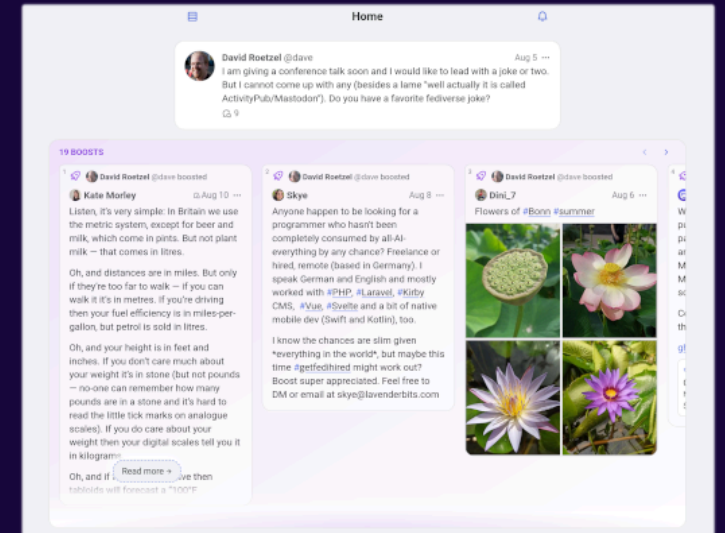
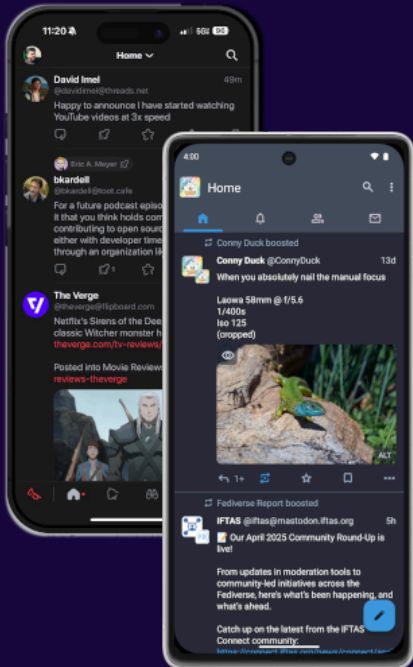


MOBILE APPS

- Android
- iOS

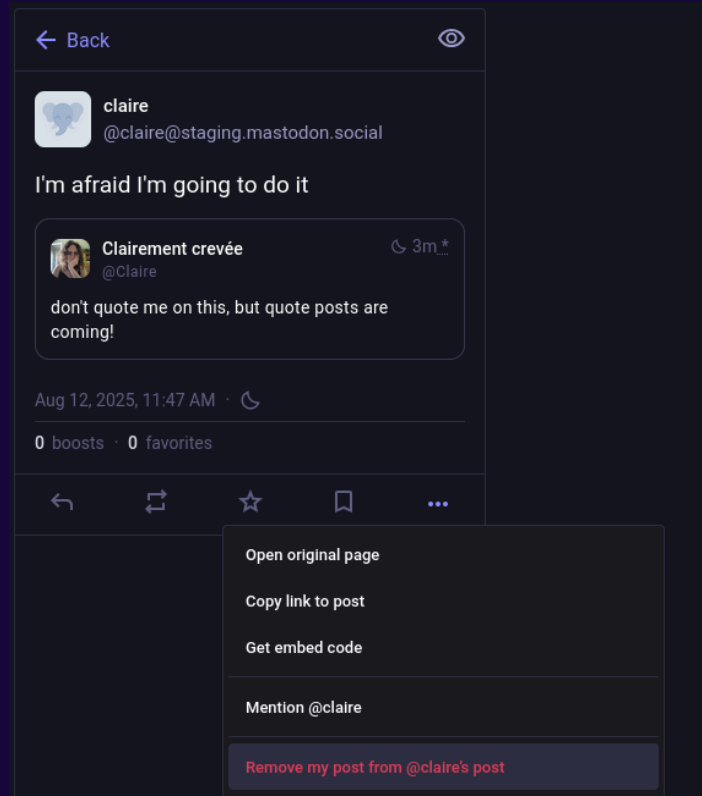
THIRD-PARTY CLIENTS

- iOS
- Android
- Web



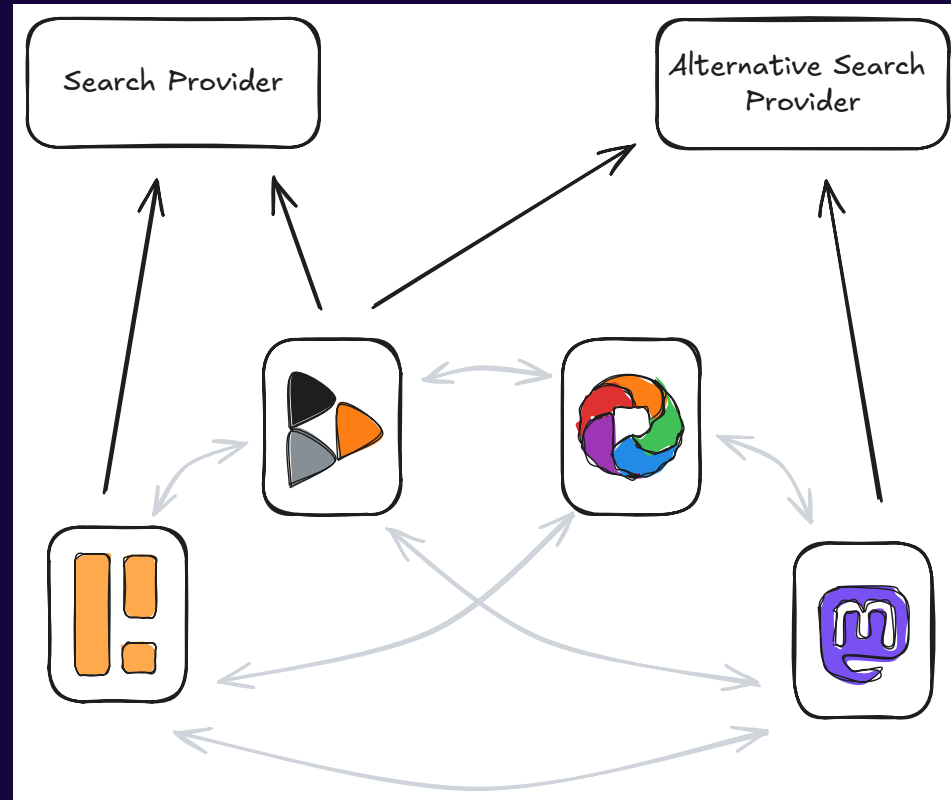
WHAT IS UPCOMING?

QUOTE POSTS



FETCH ALL REPLIES

FEDISCOVERY



STARTER PACKS

INSTITUTIONAL FEATURES

MID-TERM PLANS

DONATION CAMPAIGNS

MORE FASP

UX AND UI IMPROVEMENTS

INTERESTING OTHER FEDI DEVELOPMENTS

LONG-FORM CONTENT

- write freely, Wordpress, ghost

The screenshot displays the Mastodon 'Notes' interface. On the left is a sidebar for 'Building ActivityPub' with navigation options: Analytics, Network (selected), View site, Posts (+), Drafts, Scheduled, Published, Pages, Tags, and Members (3,690). The main content area is titled 'Notes' and features a 'What's new?' input field. Below it, a post by Anuj Ahojja (@quillmatiq@mastodon.social) is shown, with the text 'I always miss having a folding phone when I'm at conferences 🙄'. Below that, a repost by Jesse Karmani (@jesseplusplus@mastodon.social) is shown, with the text '@johannab "people not product" "slow down and be kind" ❤️❤️❤️ #FediCon'. On the right is a navigation menu with options: Search the social web, Reader, Notes (selected), Notifications, Explore, Profile, and Preferences. At the bottom right, there is a 'New note' button and a 'Follow suggestions' section for 'Longformers' (@index@longformers.ghost.io).

PIXELFED AND LOOPS

- Photo and short video sharing
- Crowdfunding campaign
- Loops alpha release soon™

FEDERATED FORUMS

- Classic Forums: Discourse, nodeBB
- Link aggregators: Mbin, Lemmy
- Context backfill

FORGEJO

- Git "forge"
- Software project management platform
- ForgeFed - ActivityPub extension



- TypeScript AP server framework
- CLI tool
- "The swiss army knife of ActivityPub"

GETTING (RE-)STARTED

CHOOSING A SERVER

FINDING PEOPLE TO FOLLOW

FINDING PEOPLE TO FOLLOW

#dogsofmastodon

#froscon

#opensource

#fensterfreitag

#believeinfilm

#catsofmastodon

BLOCK LIBERALLY

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

THANK YOU!

