

afnic

The fediverse, a
decentralized social
network

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The Internet is decentralized

- Noone can force all actors to do things
- Sometimes, it is regrettable
- But it is very important for the users

But users use centralized services to exchange

- Bad for freedom of speech, for user control, for resilience, for privacy
- A long time ago, in a galaxy far away, there were **decentralized social networks** like email
- Forgotten now, they are

The fediverse

- A recent name, not adopted by everyone
- Can be defined as **the set of servers exchanging activity information with ActivityPub** (or OStatus)
- Best known implementations: Mastodon, Pleroma, GNU Social, PeerTube

What do you do with it?

- Exchange short messages (sometimes called toots)
- Send pictures of cats



The screenshot shows the Pleroma.fr web interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with the following elements:

- Header: "Pleroma.fr" and user icons.
- Form: "Just landed in L.A." with a character count of "5000" and a "Submit" button.
- Navigation menu: "Timeline", "Mentions", "Public Timeline", "The Whole Known Network", "Bienvenue sur Pleroma.fr!", "Pleroma FE | Mastodon FE", and "Notifications".

The main feed displays several posts:

- Tris** (@mamot.fr) - 9min: "@bortzmeyer @prunus la France n'y trouve pas tout ce qu'elle veut en film d'horreur et n'a pas envie de dépendre d'un catalogue qui supprime certains titres au fil du temps".
- Prunus** (@ecurie.social) - 9min: "@Tris j'ai une connexion internet, m'en fou :D".
- Étienne Cdl** (@framapiaf.org) - 8min: "@goofy Botherland Botherhood #ironème #ironèmes".
- Baldur Bjarnason** (@toot.cafe) - 15min: "Bitcoin's energy use got studied, and you libertarian nerds look even worse than usual | Grist" with a link to <https://grist.org/article/bitcoins-energy-use-got-studied-and-you-libe-an-nerds-look-even-worse-than-usual/>.

Technical details

- Servers are called instances (last count, there were 2792, 70 % Mastodon, around 1.2 Maccounts)
- Do you like ActivityPub?
- You also need other protocols like Webfinger
- Fediverse addresses like `bortzmeyer@mastodon.gougere.fr`
- The only place where people use the new TLDs (mastodon.social, bsd.network, toot.cafe, Make the DNS great again)

Everybody loves bots

Conversation



Stéphane Bortzmeyer bortzmeyer

5s

Replies: #2

@DNSresolver ripe76.ripe.net AAAA



DNS resolver DNSresolver@mammout.bzh ↩

now



@bortzmeyer 2001:67c:2e8:11::c100:1322

✓ [Authenticated by DNSSEC]



Consequences

- The good: no way to censor everywhere, each instance is free. Also, network traffic becomes more symmetric
- The bad: instance admins are not always better than Twitter admins (but you can choose). And explaining federation to users is a bit more complicated
- The stupid: custom emojis

Merci !

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