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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?

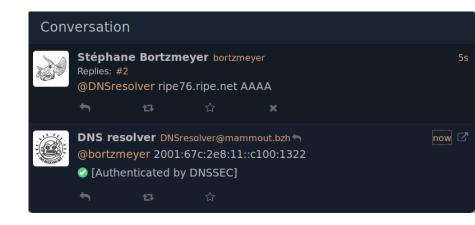
- Exchange short messages (sometimes called toots)
- Send pictures of cats



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



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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