Matrix and ActivityPub for Everything

How to Konquer the world using decentralization

Carl Schwan and Tobias Fella





Decentralize, you must.

- Yoda, probably



Matrix & ActivityPub



Decentralization

What?Everyone can use any server, while alsointeracting with anybody on another server

Why? See Twitter & Reddit

How? DIY! Use Matrix or ActivityPub

Matrix & ActivityPub

Matrix

An open network for secure, decentralised communication.

[matrix]

End-to-end encrypted

For one-to-one and group

conversations

Federated

Open

Not one server, but many

communicating between each other via

the Matrix protocol

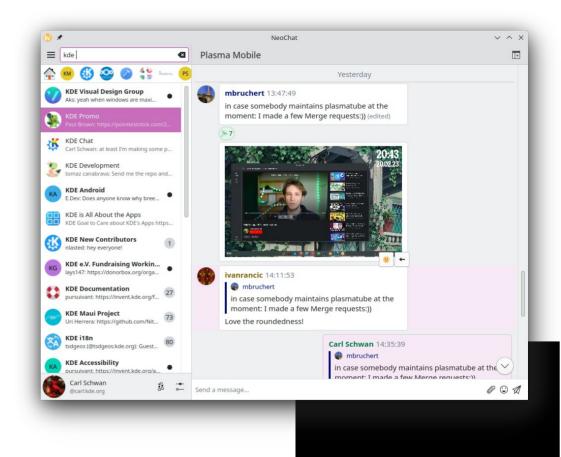
The specification is open and everyone

can contribute to it

Matrix

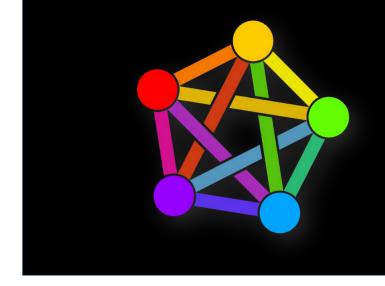
What makes Matrix interesting for us?

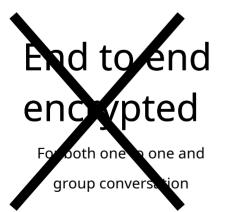
- KDE has:
 - a server: kde.org
 - a chat client: NeoChat
 - Matrix integration in Itinerary
- KDE contributes actively to libQuotient (Qt library for Matrix)
- Generic communication protocol with possibility to extend it with custom events. It's just JSON!
- Matches our values (privacy, Open Source, ...)



ActivityPub / Fediverse?

"The fediverse is a collection of community-owned, ad-free, decentralised, and privacy-centric social networks."





Federated

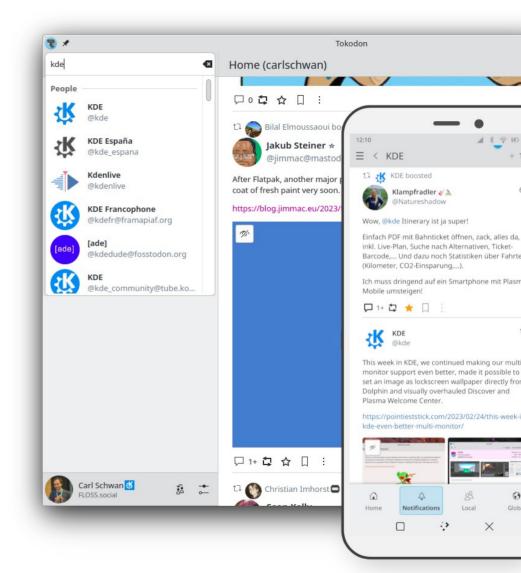
Open

Not one server, but many communicating between each others with many implementations The specification is open and is called ActivityPub. It is a W3C standard

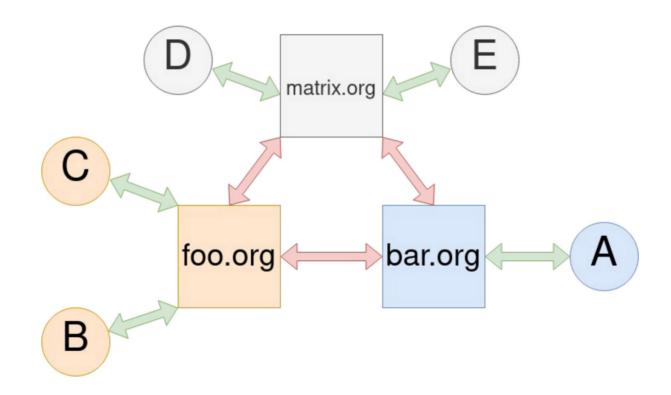
Fediverse

What about Mastodon and the Fediverse?

- KDE has:
 - an (unofficial) instance: kde.social
 - Two clients: Tokodon and Choqok
- Lots of different usage: Mastodon, Lemmy, Pixelfed, Funkwhale, BookWyrm, Nextcloud Social, Mobilizon, Peertube, ...
- Also matches our values (privacy, Open Source, ...)

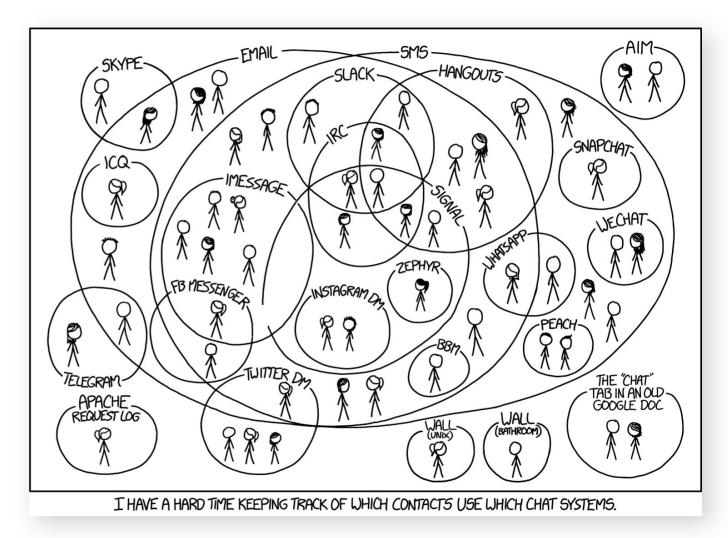


Federation - Matrix



- End-to-End Encryption
- Server shouldn't be able to read messages
- In Matrix: Olm and MegOlm, based on Double Ratchet algorithm from Signal
- In ActivityPub: Nothing*

Bridges



Existing use case

Use Mastodon as a comment platforms



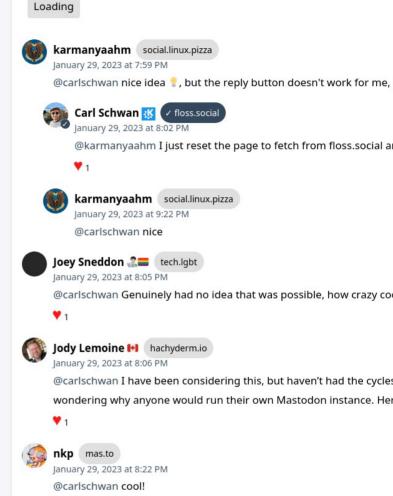
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https://carlschwan.eu/2020/12/29/adding-comments-to-your-static-blog-with-mastodon/

Use Matrix as a comment platforms

https://cactus.chat

Cactus Comments Demo

Here is an embedded comment section, so you can get a feel of what Cactus Comments is like. Enjoy 👋

 ${\ensuremath{\vartriangle}}$ Shitposts allowed ${\ensuremath{\vartriangle}}$

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What is Itinerary?

KDE Itinerary is a digital travel assistant that protects your privacy. It makes collecting all the information about your travel inside a single application easy and straightforward.

https://kde.org/for/travelers/

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Import Mobilizon events in Itinerary

Se connecter S'inscrire 7 Plus d'arbres, moins de Pub! Participer Par Les ContribUtopistes 3 personnes participent S Événement public Politique et organisations anti-pub contribution utopie surveillance toulouse Actions ... À propos de cet événement Lieu Gare de Toulouse-Matabiau Cachons les écran de pub-surveillance ! a 31500, Toulouse, France Afficher la carte Des écrans qui nous surveillent Date et heure Ces écrans polluent notre ville, nos espaces publics et nos cerveaux. Le samedi 7 novembre 2026 de 07:00 à 11:00 Organisé par Mais le pire, c'est qu'ils nous observent, et prennent des notes. Les ContribUtopistes @les contributopistes En effet, les capteurs intégrés à ces écrans publicitaires essaient de mesurer nos regards et nos réactions aux publicités émises !

Matrix in Itinerary

Matrix and Itinerary?!

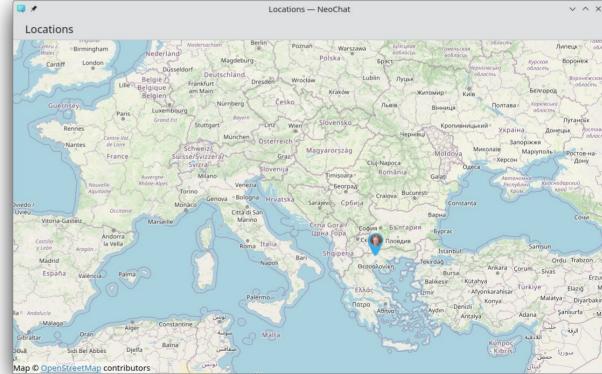
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Location sharing with Matrix and Itinerary

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Location sharing with Matrix

and Itinerary... And NeoChat



Synchronizing Itinerary data on Matrix

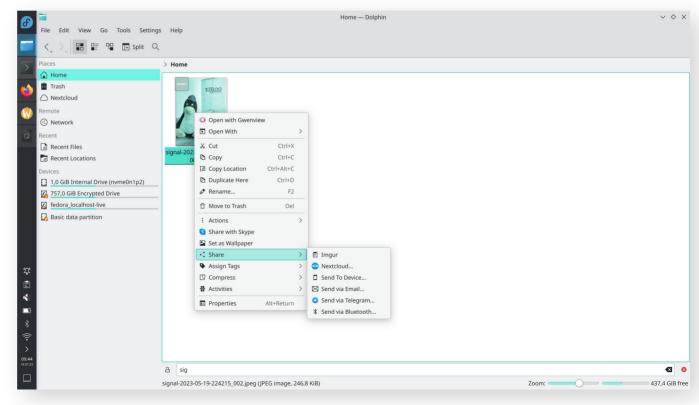
Wanted:

- Synchronizing (JSON) Data
- Synchronizing Files
- Across devices in different networks
- Secure

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Arrival at Tübingen Hbf on platform 5 Arrival time: 30 Jun 2023 17:53:00 CEST 72072						
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Future Ideas

Endless Possibilities



Use Matrix as iTiP handler

iCalendar Transport-Independent

Interoperability Protocol is the standard (RFC 5546) to send email invitations

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Import Mobilizon events in Kalendar/KOrganizer

Similar to importing the events in Itinerary

How?

Matrix: LibQuotient, developed by Alexey, Carl, and Tobias

ActivityPub: Nothing yet, come talk to us

QUESTION TIME

