ActivityPub, Spritely, and BlueSky

Christopher Lemmer Webber https://dustycloud.org/

Fediverse: https://octodon.social/@cwebber

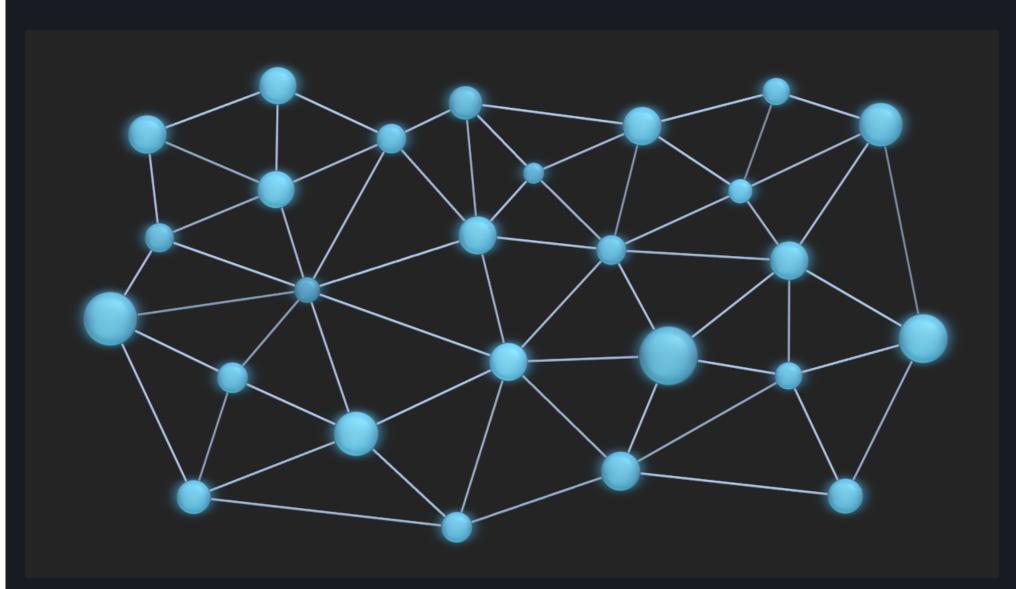
Twitter: https://twitter.com/dustyweb

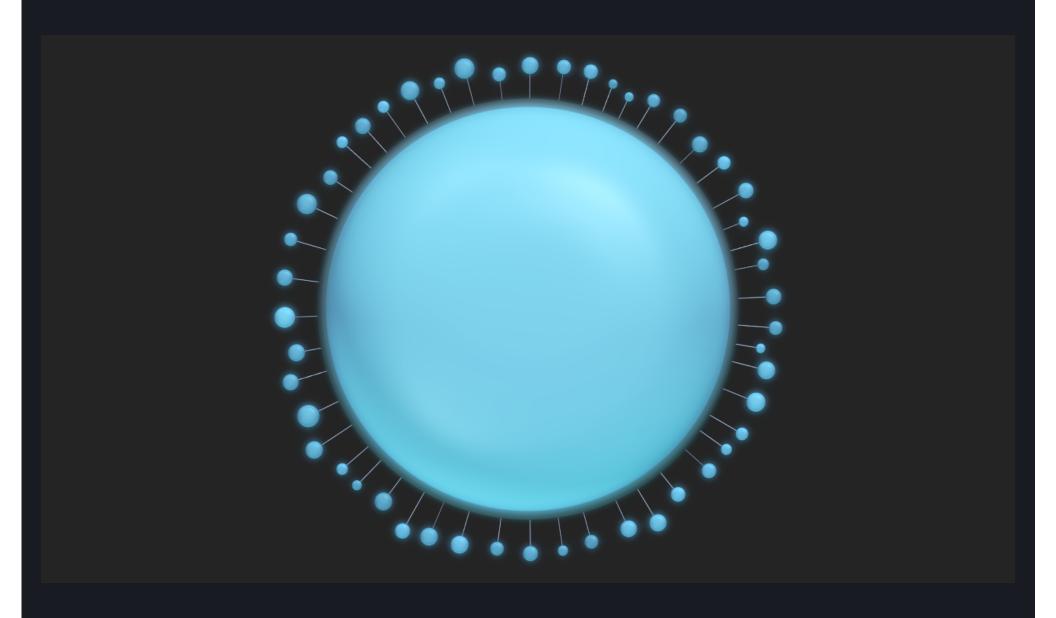
Who am I?

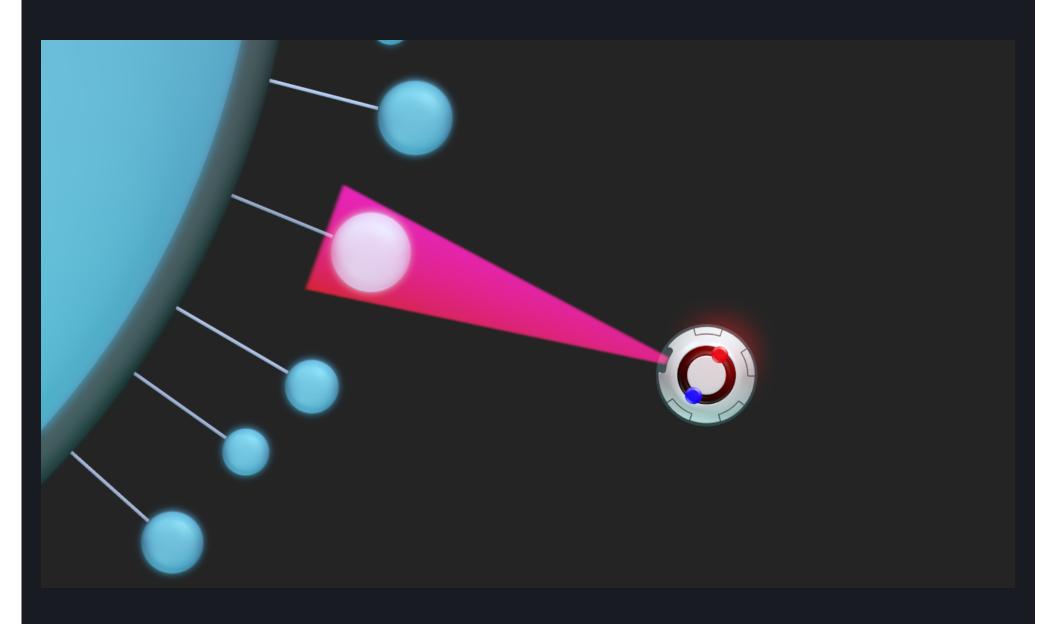
- FOSS activist (CC tech lead, etc)
- Co-chair of W3C Social CG
- Standards author/editor
- ActivityPub co-author

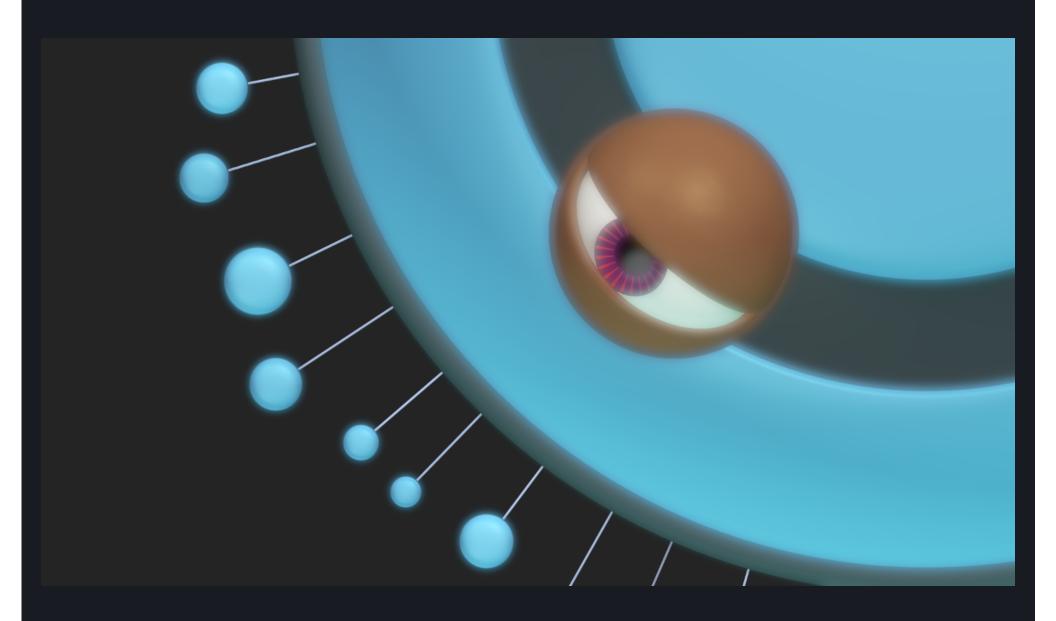
• Framing

- ActivityPub: A Success Story
- Identifying Limitations
- Finding Solutions in Spritely
- A Trip to Space
- Back on Earth
- Blue Skies Ahead

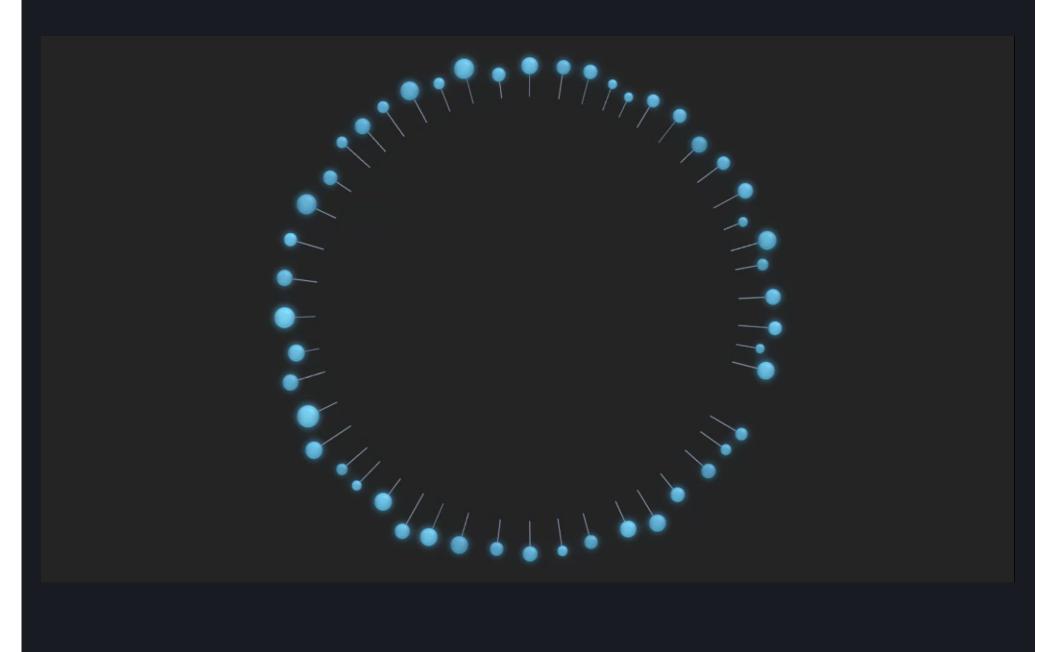




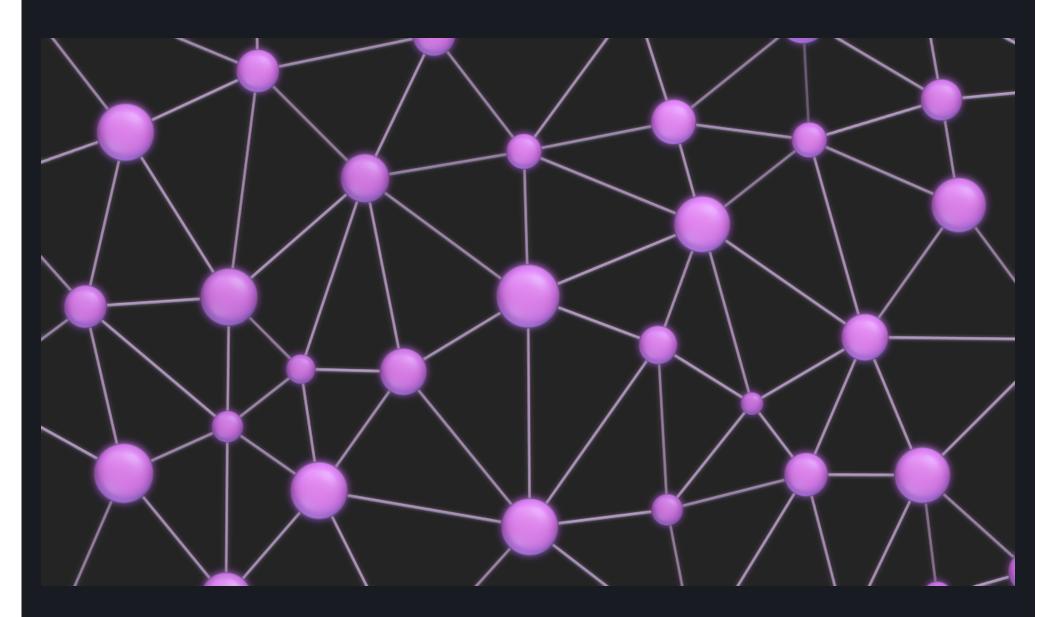












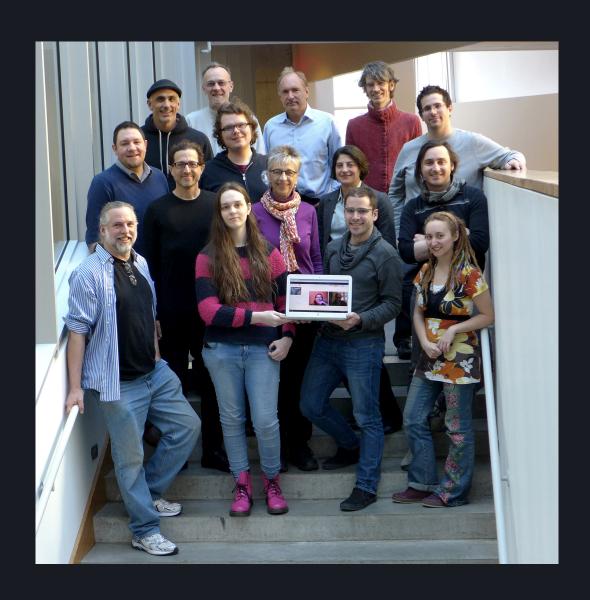
- Framing
- ActivityPub: A Success Story
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- Finding Solutions in Spritely
- A Trip to Space
- Back on Earth
- Blue Skies Ahead



Healing a fractured federation

- OStatus
- Zot
- XMPP
- Pump
- Tent
- Diaspora

About 3 years of standardization efforts...



ActivityPub

W3C Recommendation 23 January 2018



This version:

https://www.w3.org/TR/2018/REC-activitypub-20180123/

Latest published version:

https://www.w3.org/TR/activitypub/

Latest editor's draft:

https://w3c.github.io/activitypub/

Test suite:

https://test.activitypub.rocks/

Implementation report:

https://activitypub.rocks/implementation-report

Previous version:

https://www.w3.org/TR/2017/PR-activitypub-20171205/

Editors:

Christopher Lemmer Webber

Jessica Tallon

Authors:

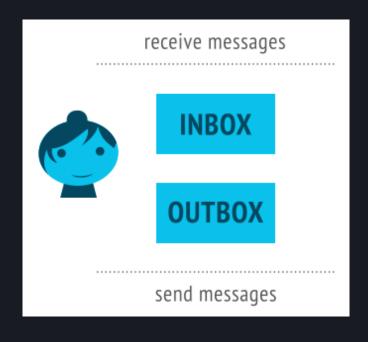
Christopher Lemmer Webber

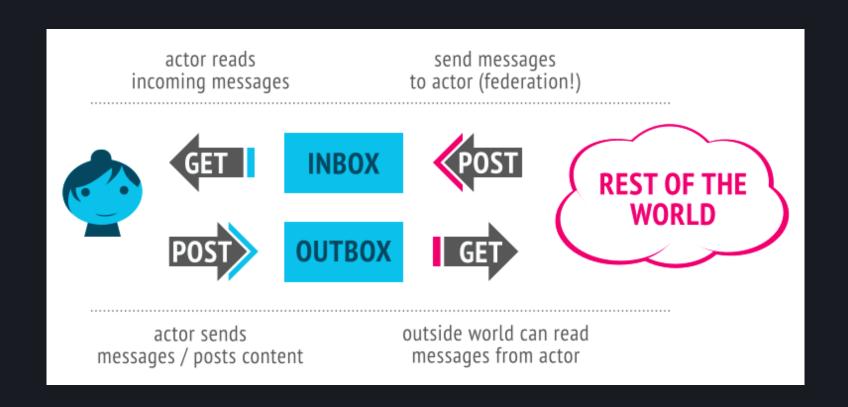
Jessica Tallon

Erin Shepherd

Amy Guy

Evan Prodromou



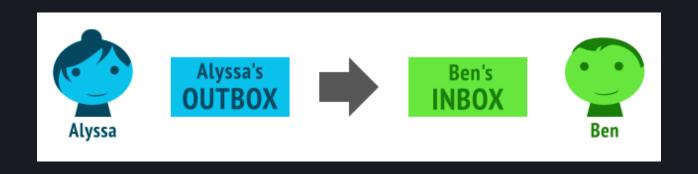












Widely implemented...

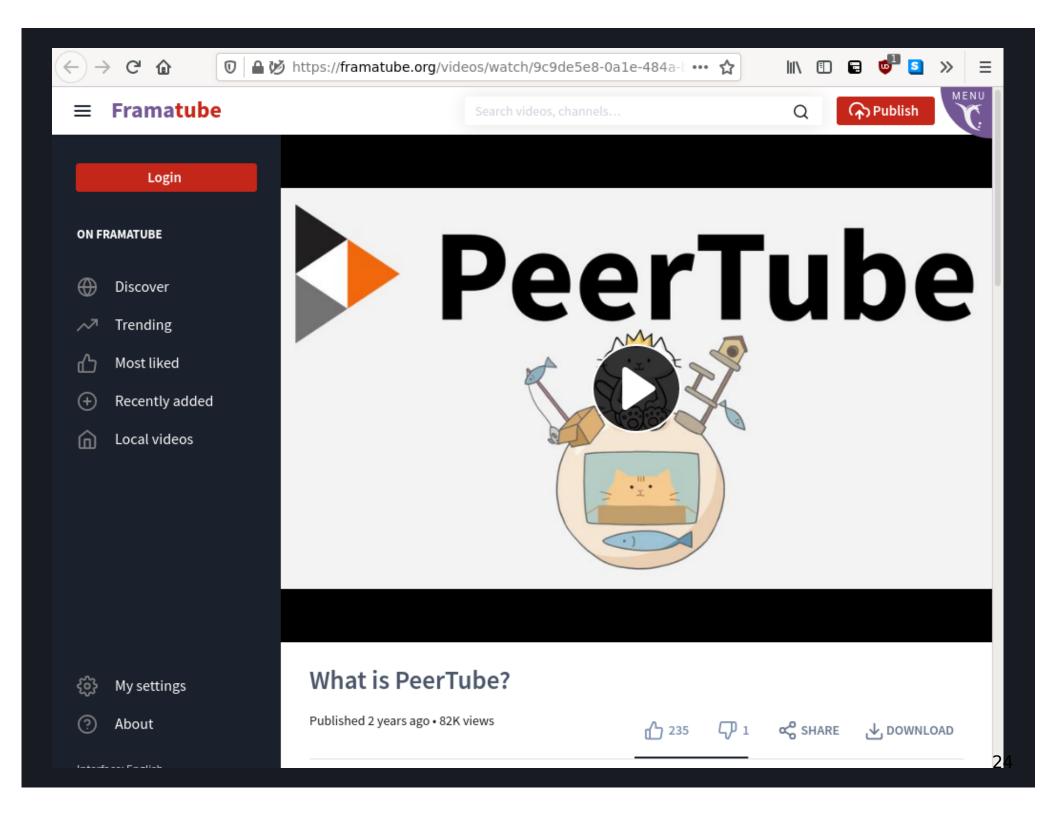
- Mastodon
- Pleroma
- Peertube
- Funkwhale
- Pixelfed
- Wordpress plugin
- ... too many to track anymore

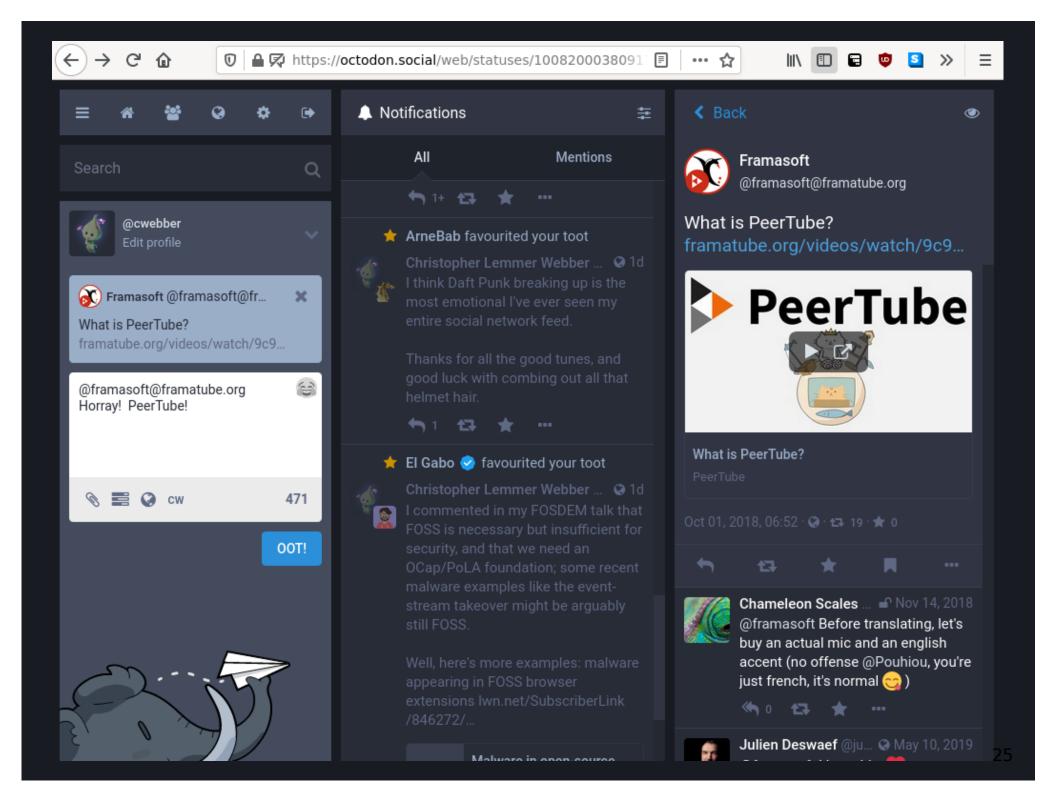
Not bad, ActivityPub!

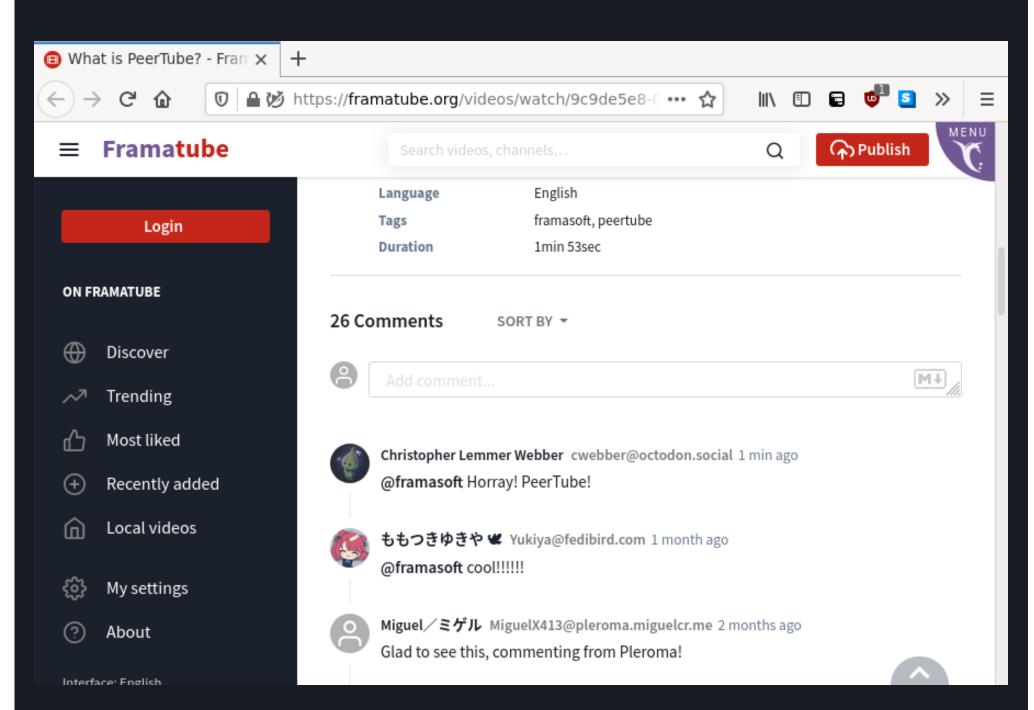
~50-100 implementations

Thousands of servers

Millions of users







- Framing
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Unmet needs in present AP ecosystem

- Content survival
- Identity survival and migration
- Better privacy and security (E2EE, P2P)
- Stronger anti-abuse / anti-harassment
- Richer interactions

Unmet needs in present AP ecosystem

- Content survival
- Identity survival and migration
- Better privacy and security (E2EE, P2P)
- Stronger anti-abuse / anti-harassment
- Richer interactions ...?!?!?!

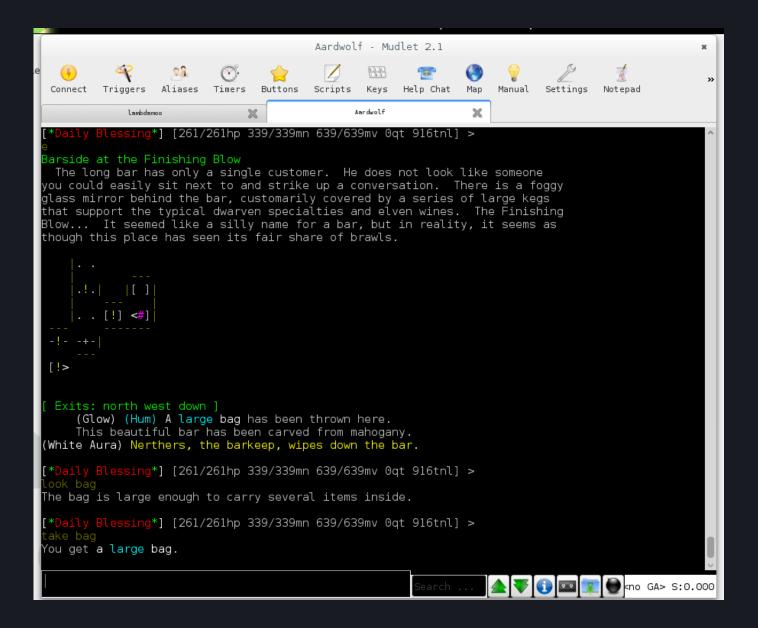




Health Berk Bernam Ang 21-1

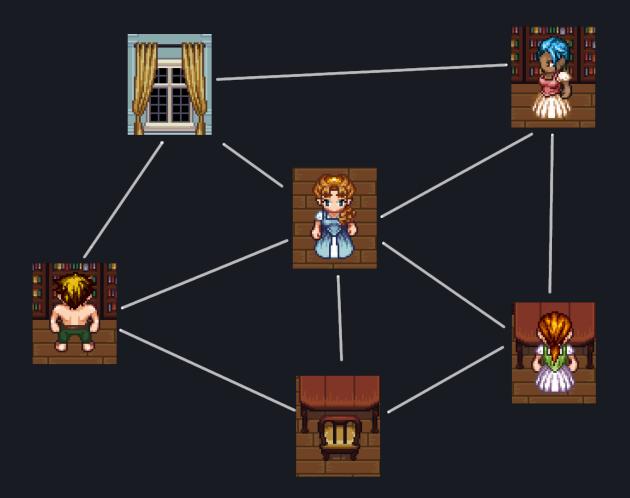
My dear Eric Do you remember the little mouse which you saw at Bollon Garden I have got another one now with a while mark on its head -It is so time that it will sit on my hand and east hemp seeds. I de was very ill I mee and I gave him some medecin and now he is quite well again.





```
You are carrying:
  · a glowing disc
j1mc wanders west.
> read sign
Sorry, I didn't understand that? (type "help" for common commands)
Aeva pulls on the shield of the statue, and a glowing copy of it materializes
into their hands!
You hear a voice whisper: "Share the software... and you'll be free..."
> read map
              [& :YOU ARE: &| smoking | *UNDER*
         + playroom + : HERE : + parlor | *CONS-
  room
                                              | TRUCTION*|
                        ' ---- '
                     : LOBBY : '---'
j1mc enters the room.
go east
                                                         [connected]
```





ELECTRIC COMMUNITIES

280 SECOND STREET LOS ALTOS, CA 94022 415.917.5640 ELECTRIC@COMMUNITIES.COM

Cyberspace Protocol Requirements

Version 27-February-1995

© 1994, 1995 by Electric Communities, all rights reserved. Proprietary and confidential. We begin with the overall system goals. We have identified eight high-level characteristics that the Global Cyberspace Infrastructure architecture must possess:

0	Scalable	The technological and institutional components should be sufficient for a system that includes every person and computer in the world.
0	Open	Cyberspace is open to new providers of services without regulation and at low cost.
*	Decentralized	There exists no singular privileged technical or administrative nexus.
*:-	Traversable	Data and objects can move between users, between services, and between machines.
\$	Commercial	Cyberspace contains a complete foundation for economic activity of all kinds.
ti	Social	Cyberspace contains the components necessary to support community life.
	Secure	The technology facilitates making good decisions about which entities can be trusted and protects users from the untrusted ones.
-	Portable	Protocols and service features are logically independent of the technical details of the physical network.

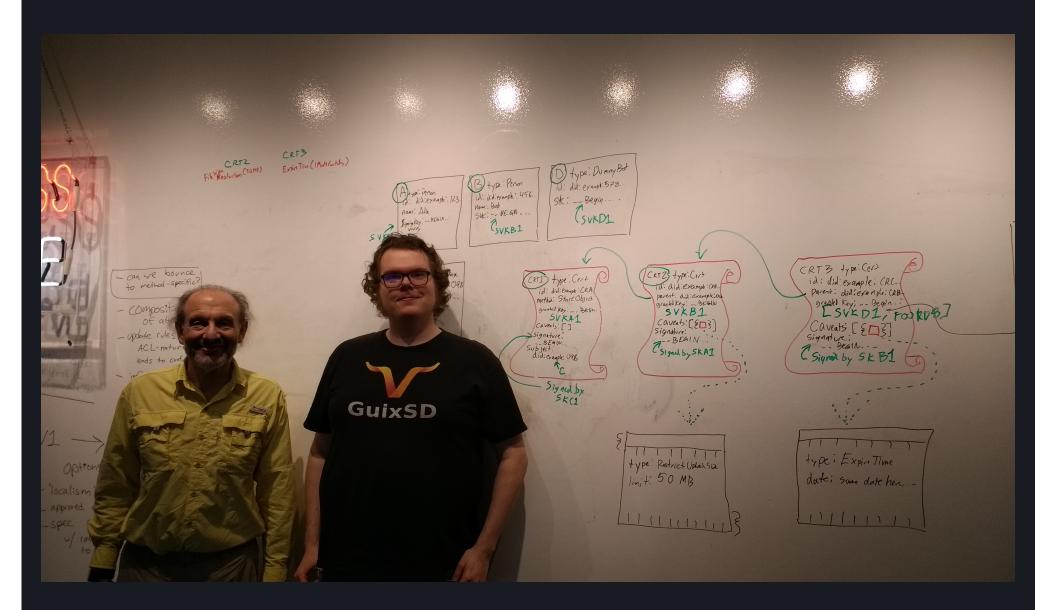




Open Source Distributed Capabilities

Welcome to *ERights.org*, home of *E*, the secure distributed persistent language for capability-based smart contracting.

Quick Start | What's New? | What's **E**? Smart Contracts | History & Talks | Feedback



Object-Capability Security in Virtual Environments

Martin Scheffler

Jan P. Springer

Bernd Froehlich

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

ABSTRACT

Access control is an important aspect of shared virtual environments. Resource access may not only depend on prior authorization, but also on context of usage such as distance or position in the scene graph hierarchy. In virtual worlds that allow user-created content, participants must be able to define and exchange access rights to control the usage of their creations. Using object capabilities, fine-grained access control can be exerted on the object level. We describe our experiences in the application of the object-capability model for access control to object-manipulation tasks common to collaborative virtual environments. We also report on a prototype implementation of an object-capability safe virtual environment that allows anonymous, dynamic exchange of access rights between users, scene elements, and autonomous actors.

Keywords: Object Capabilities, Security, Virtual Environments

Index Terms: D.1.5 [Programming Techniques]: Object-Oriented Programming; I.3.7 [Computer Graphics]: Three-Dimensional Graphics and Realism—Virtual Reality; K.6.5 [Computing Milieux]: Management of Computing and Information Systems—Security and Protection

1 Introduction

The rise of a new category of virtual environments could be observed in recent years: virtual worlds that allow thousands of users to interact and shape their surroundings. The premier example of this kind of virtual world is Second Life (http://www.secondlife.com). In Second Life, a number of tools can be used to add virtual objects to the world. Using a scripting language, users can program their chieft to let them interest with other years or objects. It is possible.

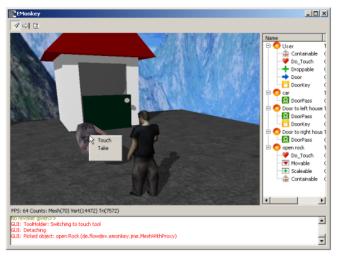


Figure 1: Screenshot of a prototype virtual environment using object-capability security.

that allow for dynamic assignment and revokation of fine-grained access rights in an anonymous way.

We created a prototype virtual environment using the capabilitysecure programming language E (cf. figure 1). In our system, capabilities define how actors can be accessed and manipulated (e. g. how they can be moved or how to change their appearance). Capabilities can be attached to the visual representation of their actors to make them publicly available and they can be exchanged

- Framing
- ActivityPub: A Success Story
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- Blue Skies Ahead



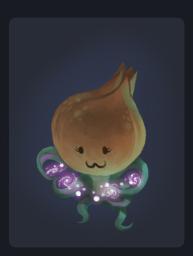
https://spritelyproject.org/

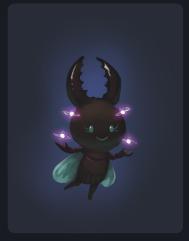




















Avoiding vaporware avoidance

by demo-centric approach



Porta & Bella

portable encrypted storage

Spritely Golem: Secure, p2p distributable content for the fediverse

Prerequisite reading: (none)

Recommended reading: Magenc

This is a demo for Golem, one of the Spritely demos. Each Spritely demo tries to demonstrate a key idea on how to "level up" the fediverse.

The problems this demo is trying to address is:

- Nodes go down, and their content tends to go with them. How can we have content that survives? Content which is distributable over a peer to peer network seems like it would help.
- Except if an entire network is helping hold onto and distribute content, how do we keep private content private?
- How to do this in a way that is compatible with the ActivityPub specification?

By encrypting the file and splitting it into chunks distributed through the network and only sharing the decryption key with the intended recipient, and by using a URI scheme that captures the appropriate information, we can accomplish all the above. Golem uses the magenc extension of the magnet URI scheme to accomplish the above.

Why the name "Golem"? In folklore and fantasy literature (the name here can apply to either but borrows more from the fantasy literature tradition, but the idea originates in Jewish folklore), a Golem is assembled from inanimate parts, and only through the casting of magic words is it brought to life. Likewise, here encrypted chunks are distributed inanimately through the network, and the magic words uttered are the decryption key, known only to the intended recipients (and, well, anyone they choose to pass them on to).

NOTE: This demo is not intended for production deployments. The purpose of this demo is to explain its core ideas to federated social web implementors. As such, the demo takes many shortcuts for the sake of brevity. It is intended to be simple enough to

Why Johnny Can't Encrypt: A Usability Evaluation of PGP 5.0

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EECS and SIMS
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720
tygar@cs.berkeley.edu

Abstract

User errors cause or contribute to most computer security failures, yet user interfaces for security still tend to be clumsy, confusing, or near-nonexistent. Is this simply due to a failure to apply standard user interface design techniques to security? We argue that, on the contrary, effective security requires a different usability standard, and that it will not be achieved through the user interface design techniques appropriate to other types of consumer software.

1 Introduction

Security mechanisms are only effective when used correctly. Strong cryptography, provably correct protocols, and bug-free code will not provide security if the people who use the software forget to click on the encrypt button when they need privacy, give up on a communication protocol because they are too confused about which cryptographic keys they need to use, or accidentally configure their access control mechanisms to make their private data world-readable. Problems

Not One Click for Security

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1501 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304
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Hewlett-Packard Laboratories
1501 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304
tyler.close@hp.com

ABSTRACT

Conventional wisdom holds that security must negatively affect usability. We have developed SCoopFS (Simple Cooperative File Sharing) as a demonstration that need not be so. SCoopFS addresses the problem of sharing files, both with others and with ourselves across machines. Although SCoopFS provides server authentication, client authorization, and end-to-end encryption, the user never sees any of that. The user interface and underlying infrastructure are designed so that normal user acts of designation provide all the information needed to make the desired security decisions. While SCoopFS is a useful tool, it may be more important as a demonstration of the usability that comes from designing the infrastructure and user interaction together.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.1.2 [User/Machine Systems] Human factors; H.5.2 [User Interfaces]: User-centered design; H.5.3 [Group and Organization Interfaces]: Computer-supported cooperative work; K.4.3 [Organizational Impacts]: Computer-supported cooperative work

for SCoopFS¹, a system for Simple Cooperative File Sharing.

Even the people who never use anything but email for sharing work on documents voiced the same complaint. "You've got to remember to send the latest version and apply the updates when they come in." In addition, most of them reported resorting to convoluted conventions to avoid losing work due to edit conflicts. A few even mentioned the lack of security, since almost nobody bothers to encrypt email. Several people wanted to share files between Windows and Linux machines. We designed SCoopFS to address these requirements. This paper discusses the interaction design of SCoopFS. Details of its implementation will be reported separately.

SCoopFS demonstrates two points. First, it shows that managing rights at a fine granularity is easier than dealing with them in large chunks. Second, SCoopFS shows that, at the very least, security need not impede usability and can be largely invisible to the user. The degree to which this view is counter to people's intuitions forced us to change the name of our project. The first "S" in SCoopFS originally stood for "Secure", but several prospective



Brux

identity / contact management

Human Meaningful



Decentralized

Globally Unique

Human Meaningful



Decentralized

Globally Unique

Eg: "Chris Webber"

Human Meaningful



Decentralized Globally Unique

Eg: dustycloud.org

Human Meaningful



Decentralized ^ Globally Unique

Self-Authenticating Designators

4acth47i6kxnvkewtm6q7ib2s3ufpo5sqbsnzjpbi7utijcltosqemad.onion

did:foo:a249761a1c90454a865c228b2caff17edbe94b2d7c3443391b82856b5c0fca9

Human Meaningful



Decentralized ^ Globally Unique

Self-Authenticating Designators

Self-Authenticating Designators:

"My name is how you'll know it's me."

Human Meaningful



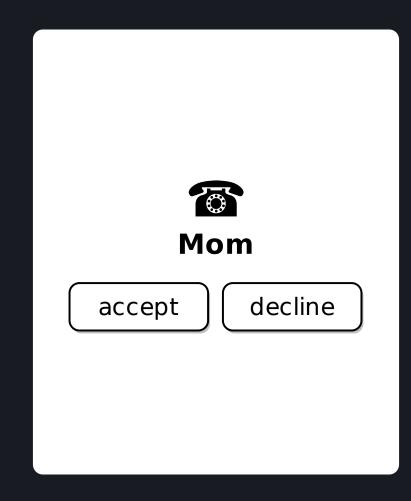
Decentralized ^ Globally Unique

Self-Authenticating Designators

4acth47i6kxnvkewtm6q7ib2s3ufpo5sqbsnzjpbi7utijcltosqemad.onion

did:foo:a249761a1c90454a865c228b2caff17edbe94b2d7c3443391b82856b5c0fca9

Uh....



Search: | b

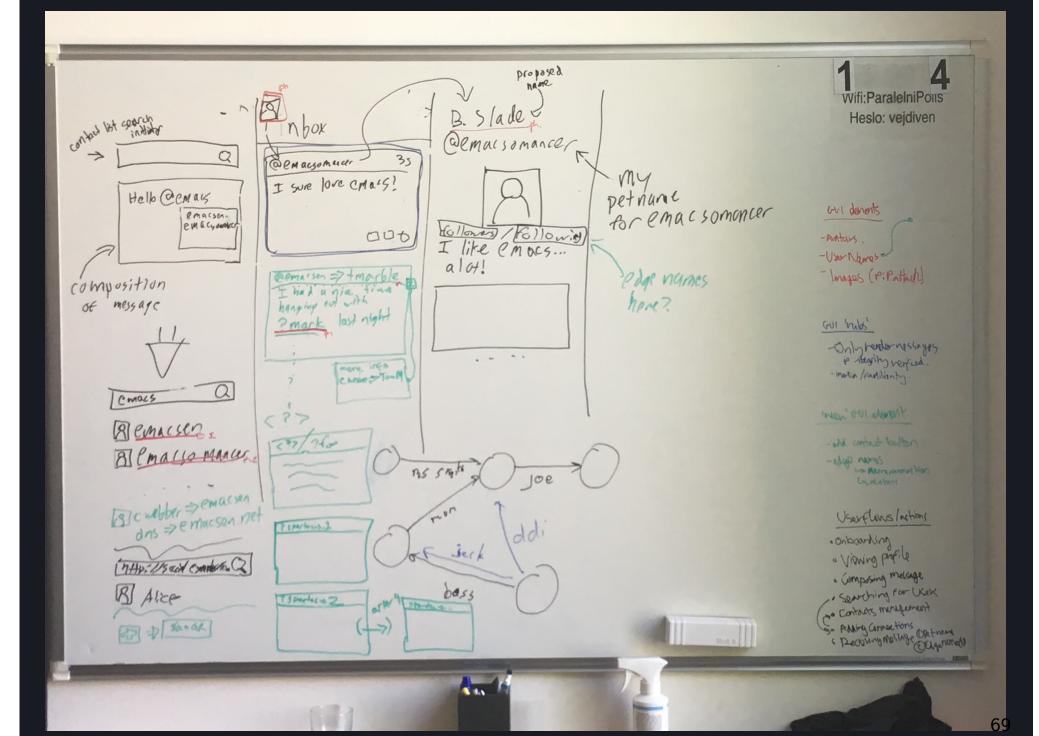
ben

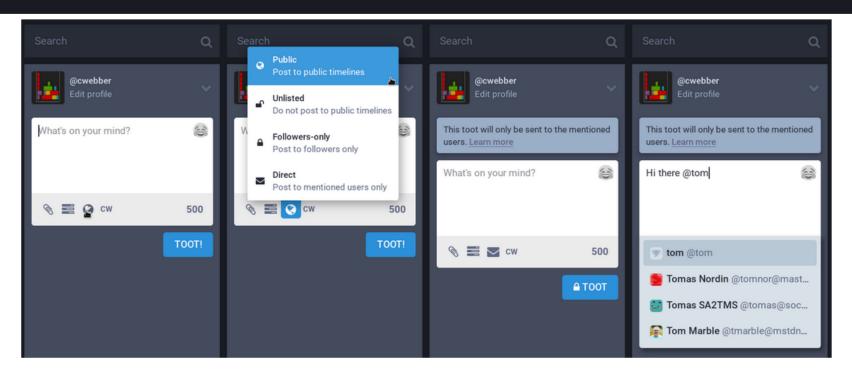
Personal contacts:

- **Ben Grossmeier**
- **T** Benjamin Gonwick

Network contacts:

- Petnames ("local contacts")
 - o @mom
 - o @chriswebber
- Edge names (petnames as "naming hubs")
 - o @chriswebber>markmiller
 - @katesills>markmiller
 - o @twitter>dustyweb
 - @dns>dustycloud.org





Switching from public to private is done by clicking on the "world" icon, which represents public posting, and selecting the "envelope" icon, which represents private posting. Between the envelope and a header that gives more information about private messaging, these are the primary indicators that the user is in private messaging mode. The same interface of targeting another user with <code>@</code> and typing characters through completion suggestions exists in private mode, but now takes on different implications: rather than merely mentioning other users, we are now also indicating that they are the sole intended recipients of the message.

Proposed changes

- · Changes: maybe none!
 - Consider changing default from private mode vs. public mode -- perhaps this could be made obvious by a change from light mode to dark mode.
 - NOTE: private by default is like e-mail (may start with To: box on top), public by default is like twitter (make it look like a tweet box)..
 - o NOTE: movies sometimes use different color balance to guide the viewer to understand when multiple timelines are interleaved.

The primary risk that comes from this interface is that it may be difficult for the user to identify when they are in "public posting mode" versus "private posting mode". Posting a message publicly that was intended to be private can have consequences ranging from mere embarassment to a violation of confidentiality to serious disclosure of personally identifiable information.

OcapPub: Towards networks of consent

This paper released under the Apache License version 2.0; see LICENSE.txt for details.

For a broader overview of various anti-spam techniques, see AP Unwanted Messages, which is in many ways informed this document but currently differs in some implementation rollout differs. (These two documents may converge.)

Conceptual overview

The federated social web is living in its second golden age, after the original success of StatusNet and OStatus in the late 2000s. A lot of this success has been around unification of adoption of a single protocol, ActivityPub, to connect together the many different instances and applications into a unified network.

Unfortunately from a security and social threat perspective, the way ActivityPub is currently rolled out is under-prepared to protect its users. In this paper we introduce OcapPub, which is compatible with the original ActivityPub specification. With only mild to mildly-moderate adjustments to the existing network, we can deliver what we call "networks of consent": explicit and intentional connections between different users and entities on the network. The idea of "networks of consent" is then implemented on top of a security paradigm called "object capabilities", which as we will see can be neatly mapped on top of the actor model, on which ActivityPub is based. While we do not claim that all considerations of consent can be modeled in this or any protocol, we believe that the maximum of consent that is *possible* to encode in such a system can be encoded.

Intentional, Granted, Accountable, Revokeable

OcapPub: Towards networks of consent

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The complement to freedom of speech

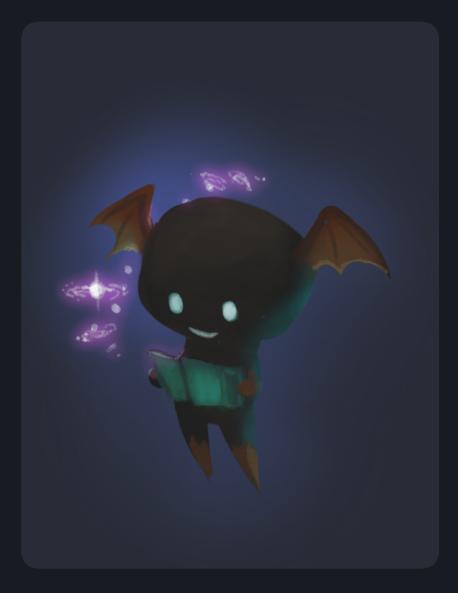
is the freedom to filter

Alice's Worlds

High school math teacher

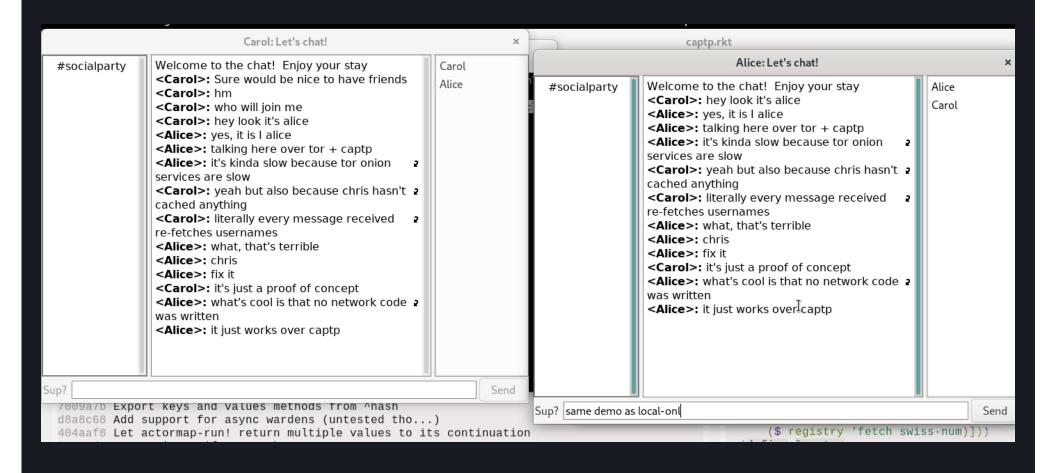
Tabletop games with friends

Fanfiction author



Goblins

Distributed, transactional programming



Vat B Bob Vat C. Caro

Transactions

+

OCap Security

+

Distributed Programming



We're inviting you to build, deploy and operate dApps and DeFi Markets.

Get started with the Agoric alpha by tapping into our JavaScript smart contract platform. DeFi is right around the corner.

TRY ALPHA



Vat B Bob Vat C. Caro

- Framing
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Fantasary

decentralized virtual worlds



Fantasary

Is this a distraction?

This... would be a distraction.*



Less distracting?



Merely a side-quest!

```
You are carrying:

    a glowing disc

j1mc wanders west.
> read sign
Sorry, I didn't understand that? (type "help" for common commands)
Aeva pulls on the shield of the statue, and a glowing copy of it materializes
into their hands!
You hear a voice whisper: "Share the software... and you'll be free..."
> read map
 | room + playroom + : HERE : + parlor | *CONS-
  > | |&: | : &| | TRUCTION*|
                 j1mc enters the room.
go east
                                                [connected]
```





Contents [hide]

- 1 History of the Spinoff publication
- 2 Health and medicine
 - 2.1 Infrared ear thermometers
 - 2.2 Ventricular assist device
 - 2.3 LASIK
 - 2.4 Cochlear implants
 - 2.5 Artificial limbs
 - 2.6 Light-emitting diodes in medical therapies
 - 2.7 Invisible braces
 - 2.8 Scratch-resistant lenses
 - 2.9 Space blanket
 - 2.10 3D foods printing
- 3 Transportation
 - 3.1 Aircraft anti-icing systems
 - 3.2 Highway safety
 - 3.3 Improved radial tires
 - 3.4 Chemical detection
- 4 Public safety
 - 4.1 Video enhancing and analysis systems
 - 4.2 Landmine removal
 - 4.3 Fire-resistant reinforcement
 - 4.4 Firefighting equipment
 - 4.5 Shock absorbers for buildings
- 5 Consumer, home, and recreation
 - 5.1 TEMPUR foam
 - 5.2 Enriched baby food
 - 5.3 Portable cordless vacuums
 - 5.4 Freeze drying
 - 5.5 Space age swimsuit
 - 5.6 CMOS image sensor
 - 5.7 Air-scrubbers
 - 5.8 Bowflex
- 6 Environmental and agricultural resources
 - 6.1 Water purification
 - 6.2 Solar Cells

Virtual Worlds: the right thing to aim for

- Flickr
- Slack
- Twisted Python
 - Informing Node.js, etc
- E programming language
 - O Secure smart contracts, pre-blockchains, even!*
 - Javascript Promises

^{*} Though not alone, see also Szabo et al

Extensibility

Unanticipated Collaboration

- Framing
- ActivityPub: A Success Story
- Identifying Limitations
- Finding Solutions in Spritely
- A Trip to Space
- Back on Earth
- Blue Skies Ahead

Timeline

- 0-6 months
 - Goal: Minimal functional distributed social network
 - O Secondary: Minimal virtual world demo on top
 - O Audience: Hardcore Enthusiasts

Timeline

- 6-12 months
 - Goal: Usable enough to dogfood
 - Secondary: Get Agoric + Spritely talking over
 CapTP
 - O Audience: Mastodon users, Twine developers

Timeline

- 12-24 months
 - o Goal 1: Usable enough for general audience
 - Goal 2: Direct integration work
 - Audience: Everyone

We begin with the overall system goals. We have identified eight high-level characteristics that the Global Cyberspace Infrastructure architecture must possess:

0	Scalable	The technological and institutional components should be sufficient for a system that includes every person and computer in the world.
0	Open	Cyberspace is open to new providers of services without regulation and at low cost.
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ti	Social	Cyberspace contains the components necessary to support community life.
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-	Portable	Protocols and service features are logically independent of the technical details of the physical network.

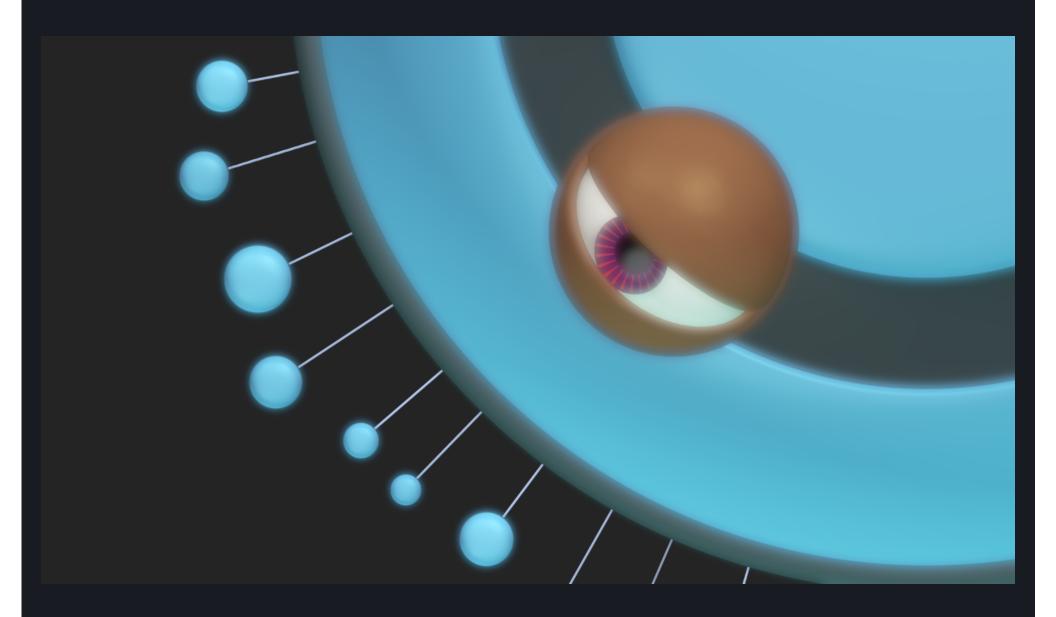
Am I the right fit for Bluesky?

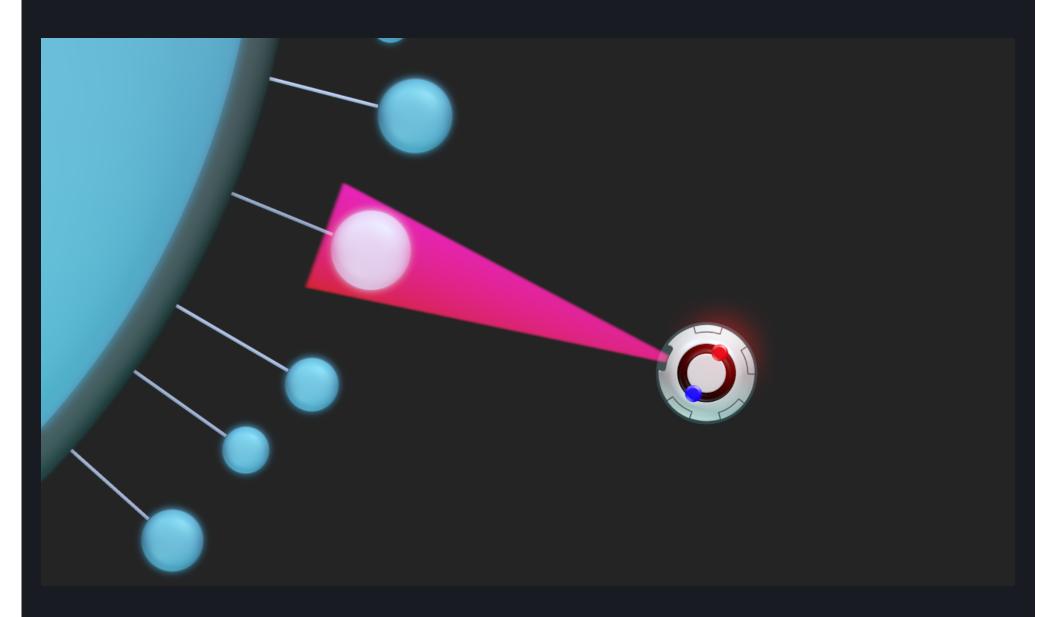
- Well known for fediverse work
- Experienced with standards and consensus-making
- Managed teams, built communities
- I've done the work and research

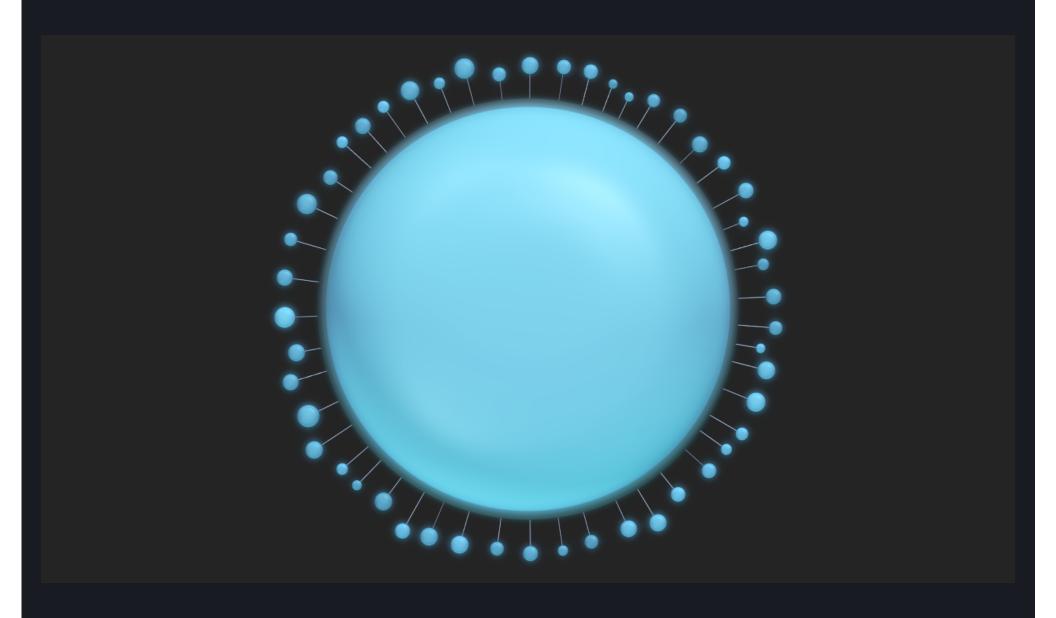
Making Bluesky work

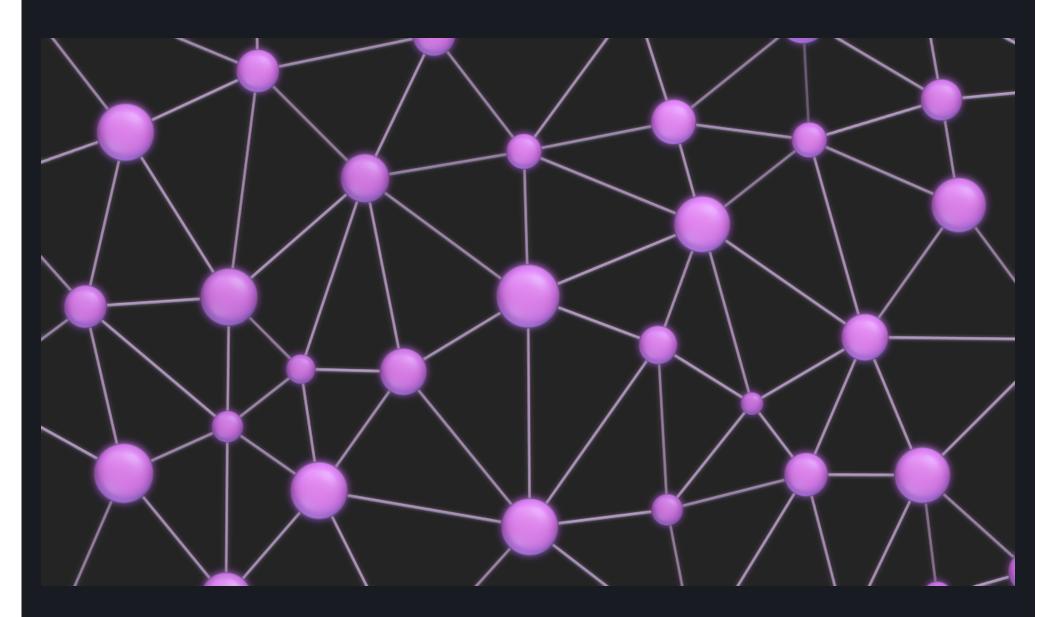
- Technical foundation
- Who's on the team?
- Encoding principles

- Framing
- ActivityPub: A Success Story
- Identifying Limitations
- Finding Solutions in Spritely
- A Trip to Space
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So... what's Twitter's role?

- Naming hub: @twitter>dustyweb
- Inter-Commodity Exchange
- Recommendations & Discovery
- Storage Option
- Plenty to be done ...

Ready? Set? Go!





I hope we can work together!



Questions?

** BONUS SLIDES **



LIVES: 3 SCORE: 00000010 LEVEL: 1 HI-SCORE: 00000010

LIVES: 3 SCORE: 00000090 LEVEL: 1 HI-SCORE: 00000090

LIVES: 3 SCORE: 00000090 LEVEL: 1 HI-SCORE: 00000090

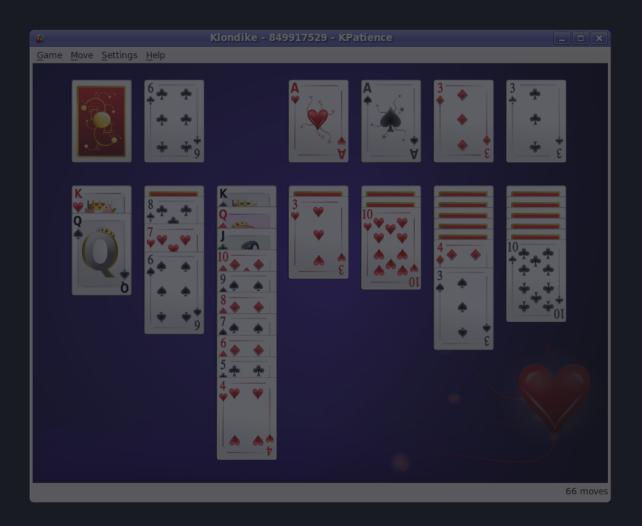
LIVES: 3 SCORE: 00000130 LEVEL: 1 HI-SCORE: 00000130

LIVES: 3 SCORE: 00000130 LEVEL: 1 HI-SCORE: 00000130

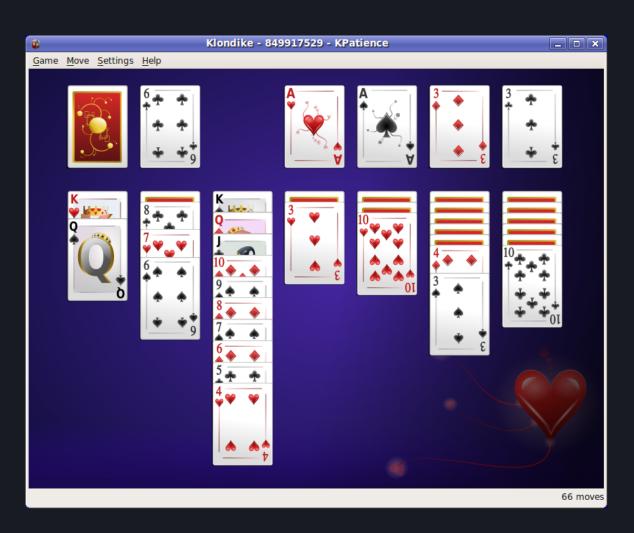


LIVES: 3 SCORE: 00000090 LEVEL: 1 HI-SCORE: 00000090





> solitaire()



- > solitaireWin = makeWinCanvas()
- > solitaire(solitaireWin)

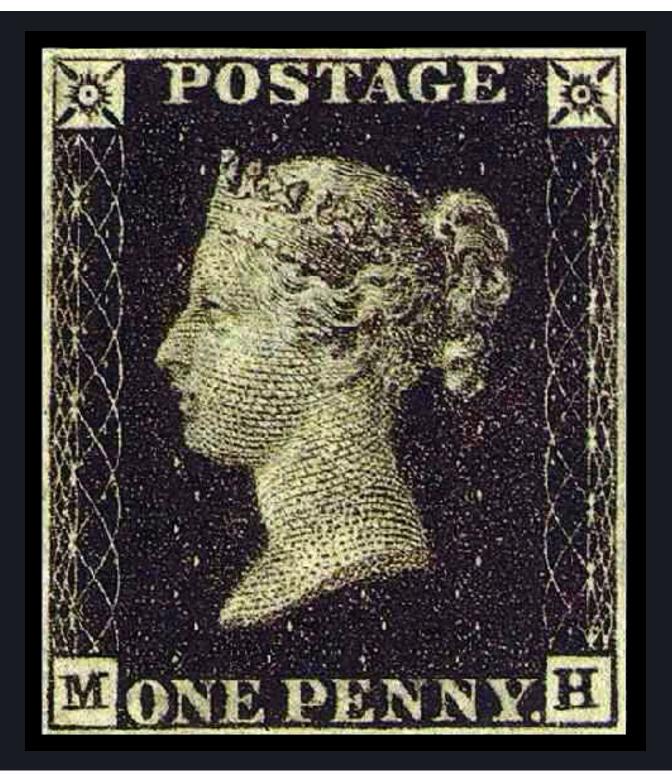


- > solitaireWin = makeWinCanvas()
- > scoreFile = openFile("~/.solitaire-hs.txt", "rw")
- > solitaire(solitaireWin, scoreFile)



Hyptis

distributed finance...?



Context Collapse vs Community Norms