

# WELCOME

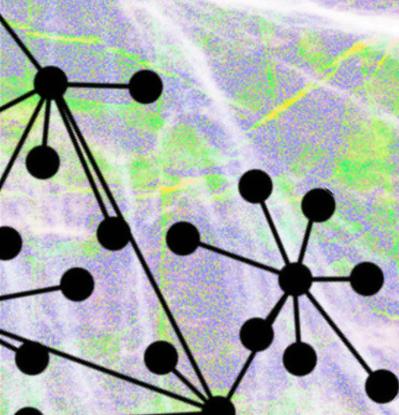
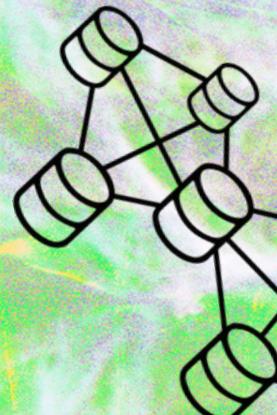
## to Decentralized Social

\$27.07 billion

This praxis session on Decentralized Social Media will begin with an overview of platforms and protocols such as Bluesky (ATProto) and Mastodon (ActivityPub). Participants will set up accounts on both platforms, as well as participate in hands-on activities building on experience from the command-line and server set up praxis sessions. The instructors will also lead participants through a discursive skill sharing session on using these technologies, as well as more well-known tools and platforms, for promotion of creative work

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- 03 The semi-recent history of decentralized social
- 04 Major protocols today
- 05 Challenges for Decentralized Social
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- 08 Skillshare





# WHY DECENTRALIZED SOCIAL?



From Oct 2022

## *Elon Musk Completes \$44 Billion Deal to Own Twitter*

The world's richest man closed his blockbuster purchase of the social media service, thrusting Twitter into a new era.

# Facebook and Instagram get rid of fact checkers

8 January 2025

Share  Save 

**Liv McMahon, Zoe Kleinman & Courtney Subramanian**  
BBC News in Glasgow and Washington

# Mark Zuckerberg's Meta donates \$1m to Trump fund

12 December 2024

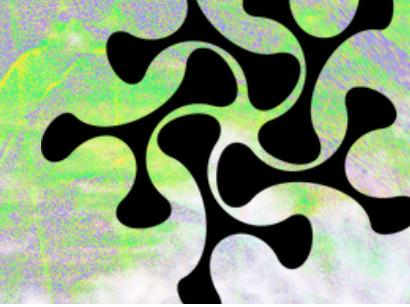
Share  Save 

**Liv McMahon**  
Technology reporter

# RECENT HISTORY



# It started with Secure Scuttlebutt



Public Private Patchwork word, @key, #channel Profile Mentions

+ Join Pub

Active Channels

- #new-people
- #anarchitecture
- #datastructures
- #licensing
- #welcoming\_committee
- #patchbay
- #sudoroom
- #scuttlebot

Who to follow

- @jiangplus
- @iainkirkpatrick
- @Michael
- @keks
- @eight45.net
- @grammolan

@ktorn, @don and @Dominic replied

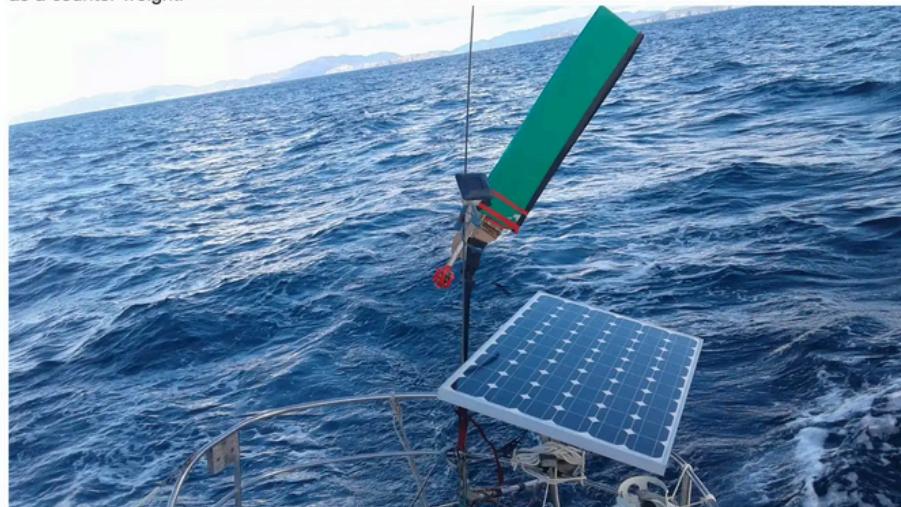
 @Dominic 5 days ago +12 #boats

Okay, so I build a crazy self-steering contraption... and it actually works!!!

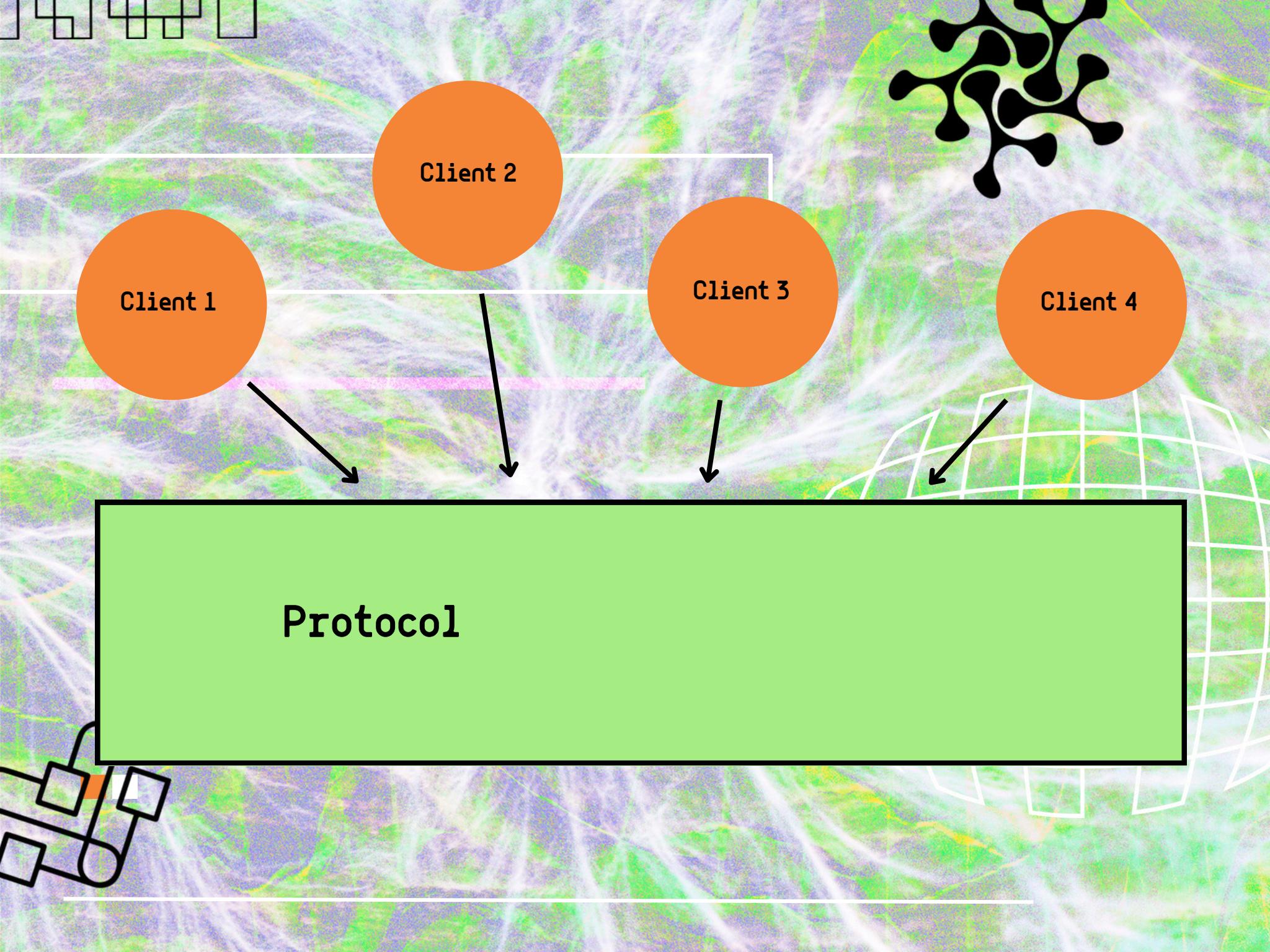
currently self steering a beam-reach from Bay of Islands towards Cavali Islands.

It's inspired by a "servo pendulum" design, but only uses junk you probably already have lying around. So far I have spent \$30. \$20 on rope and \$10 on a pulley. (although I already had a few of those in my junk drawer)

So the design is a horizontal windvane, made from coreflute (aka coroplast) a door hinge and some bolts as a counter weight.



Then it goes to a little servorudder at the end of what was the boat hook (which was previously a broom)



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Index.html

File Edit View Window Help

/public /private

GAMES MY MOVE (1) INVITATIONS OBSERVE

first P  
<happy0> lol... i bet patchbay / patchfoo users have their walls spammed with 'x' sends private message! now :(

<happy0> but eh, it's important i reach the bottom of this chat box so i can test scroll works :D

<alan> ok

<alan> An I should probably have killed your bishop.

<alan> But I swore death to the gg

<happy0> lol P. i'm mostly just disappointed that u killed my pony :(

<alan> ok, i will spout more drivel

<happy0> lol... oh dear, it doesn't like the bottom of the chat box at all :P

<alan> coward

<happy0> thanks for helping me discover that :)

<happy0> i can try to fix that bug =>p

<alan> run away

<happy0> same here, yeah P. i can try to fix it though :D

<alan> weird stuff just happened for me, when we hit the bottom

<alan> <alan> testepropi

<happy0> i think i sorted it :D

<happy0> I

<happy0> huray lol ordering sorted too :D

<happy0> test



alanZ  
happy0

e4

exd5

Nc3

Be2

b3

Bb2

Nf6

Nf5

O-O

e6

Nb5

Bxh6

Bg5

Bxf4

fxe6

d5

Qxd5

Qe5+

Nc6

Bf5

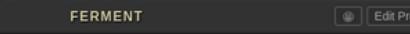
Nf6

Qf4

a6

axb5

f6



Sun Aug 20 21:13

Index.html /notifications /chess

Discovery Following FERMENT Edit Profile + Add Audio

Who to follow

- d-dubz 9 posts // 5 followers
- Nergal 1 posts // 3 followers
- finn 1 posts // 2 followers
- myf 1 posts // 2 followers
- kevintari 1 posts // 2 followers
- Midweek Special 1 posts // 2 followers
- null radix - testing 1 posts // 0 followers
- substack 0 posts // 5 followers
- ungoldman 0 posts // 4 followers
- 2xAA 0 posts // 4 followers

Lunar Nontoxic 3 weeks ago

Lunar Method of Man 3 weeks ago

mixmix 03: Datassette - MusicForProgramming 3 weeks ago

DESTROY WITH SCIENCE I Am Not A Robot 4 weeks ago

calendar /scry Faerie Ring

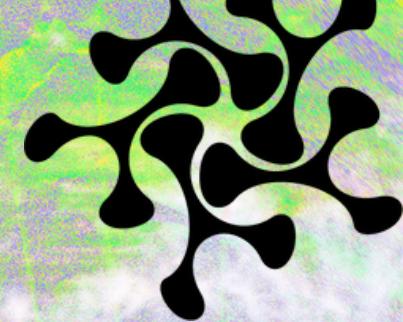
Faerie Ring

The first call! (60-90 mins) Following calls will be at the same time (every 2 weeks) \_ This is closed to people who I've already talked to about this meeting...

Gathering: %Z1kK8Aj8...

All times are in your current time zone

Nov 12	Nov 12	Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 13	Nov 13	Nov 13	Nov 14	Nov 14	Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 15	Nov 15
MON	TUES	WED	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	WED	THU	FRI	THU	FRI	SAT
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27:00	28:00	29:00	30:00	27:00	28:00	29:00	30:00	27:00	28:00	2		



Scuttlebutt is notably not federated, each user syncs several hops out from their own followers locally



Patchwork

Public Private More | ▾ word, @key, #channel Profile Mentions X

Patchwork 3.16.2 has been released. Click here to download and view more info!

schmars ① 1 year ago

Scuttling some butts at 35.000 ft with [@ZyxkP+J...](#)

isthisa liked this message

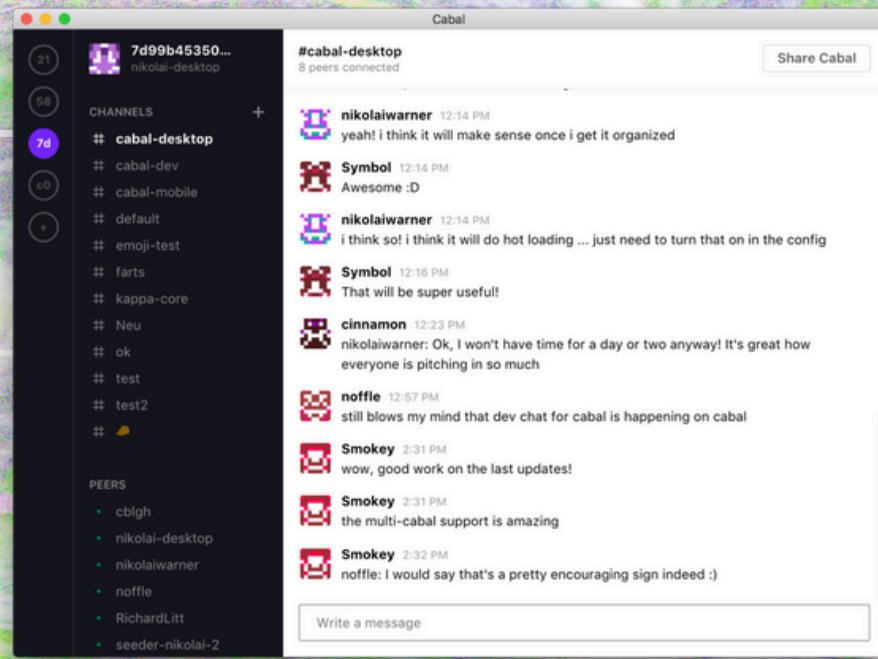
3 likes

Send Private Message

Friends

- glyph
- Powersource
- SoapDog
- cbigh
- af
- zelf
- micro
- cryptix
- Rabble
- cft

View 68 more



7d99b45350... nikolai-desktop

CHANNELS

- # cabal-desktop
- # cabal-dev
- # cabal-mobile
- # default
- # emoji-test
- # farts
- # kappa-core
- # Neu
- # ok
- # test
- # test2
- #

PEERS

- cb1gh
- nikolai-desktop
- nikolaiwarner
- noffle
- RichardLitt
- seeder-nikolai-2

#cabal-desktop  
8 peers connected

Share Cabal

nikolaiwarner 12:14 PM yeah! i think it will make sense once i get it organized

Symbol 12:14 PM Awesome :D

nikolaiwarner 12:14 PM i think so! i think it will do hot loading ... just need to turn that on in the config

Symbol 12:16 PM That will be super useful!

cinnamon 12:23 PM nikolaiwarner: Ok, I won't have time for a day or two anyway! It's great how everyone is pitching in so much

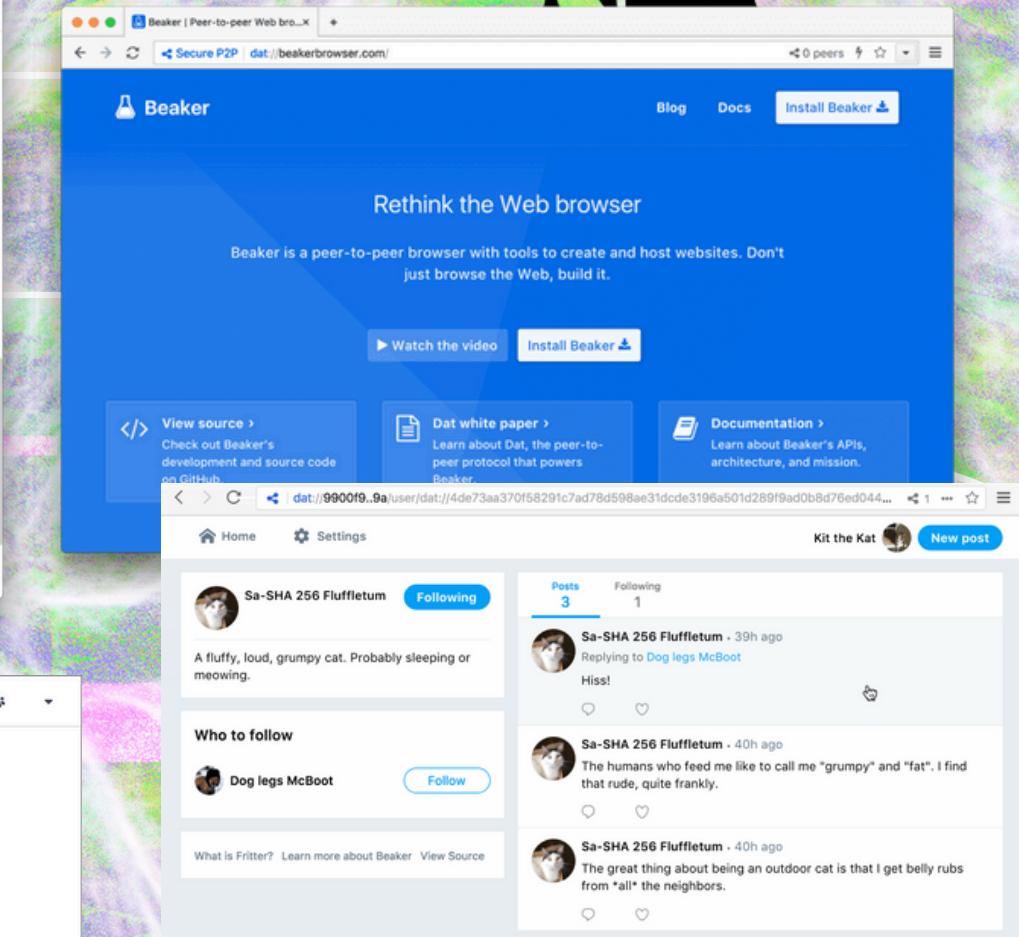
noffle 12:57 PM still blows my mind that dev chat for cabal is happening on cabal

Smokey 2:31 PM wow, good work on the last updates!

Smokey 2:31 PM the multi-cabal support is amazing

Smokey 2:32 PM noffle: I would say that's a pretty encouraging sign indeed :)

Write a message



Secure P2P | dat://beakerbrowser.com/ 0 peers

Beaker

Blog Docs Install Beaker

Rethink the Web browser

Beaker is a peer-to-peer browser with tools to create and host websites. Don't just browse the Web, build it.

Watch the video Install Beaker

View source > Check out Beaker's development and source code on GitHub.

Dat white paper > Learn about Dat, the peer-to-peer protocol that powers Beaker.

Documentation > Learn about Beaker's APIs, architecture, and mission.

Home Settings

Sa-SHA 256 Fluffletum Following

A fluffy, loud, grumpy cat. Probably sleeping or meowing.

Who to follow

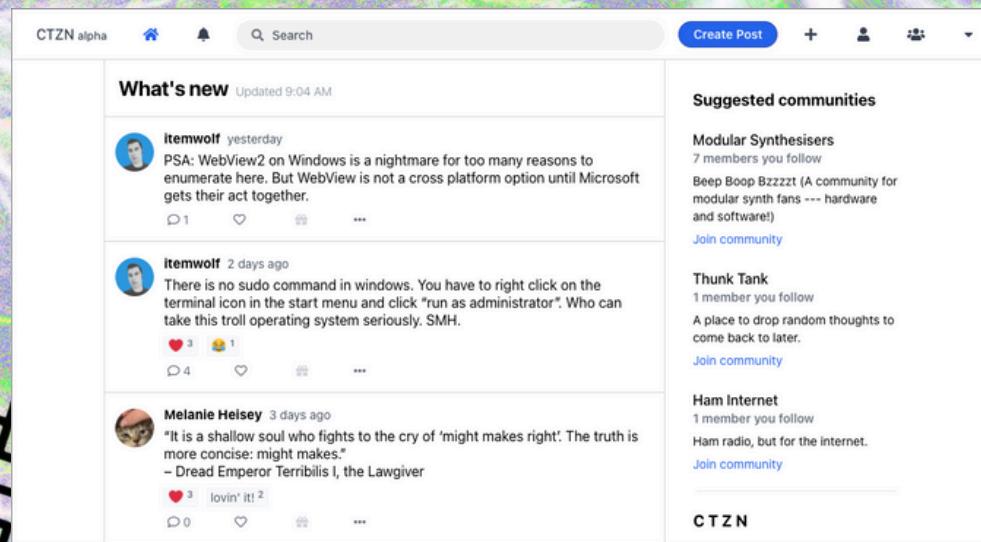
Dog legs McBoot Follow

What is Fritter? Learn more about Beaker View Source

Sa-SHA 256 Fluffletum - 39h ago Replying to Dog legs McBoot Hiss!

Sa-SHA 256 Fluffletum - 40h ago The humans who feed me like to call me "grumpy" and "fat". I find that rude, quite frankly.

Sa-SHA 256 Fluffletum - 40h ago The great thing about being an outdoor cat is that I get belly rubs from \*all\* the neighbors.



CTZN alpha

Q. Search

Create Post

What's new Updated 9:04 AM

itemwolf yesterday PSA: WebView2 on Windows is a nightmare for too many reasons to enumerate here. But WebView is not a cross platform option until Microsoft gets their act together.

1 1 ...

itemwolf 2 days ago There is no sudo command in windows. You have to right click on the terminal icon in the start menu and click "run as administrator". Who can take this troll operating system seriously. SMH.

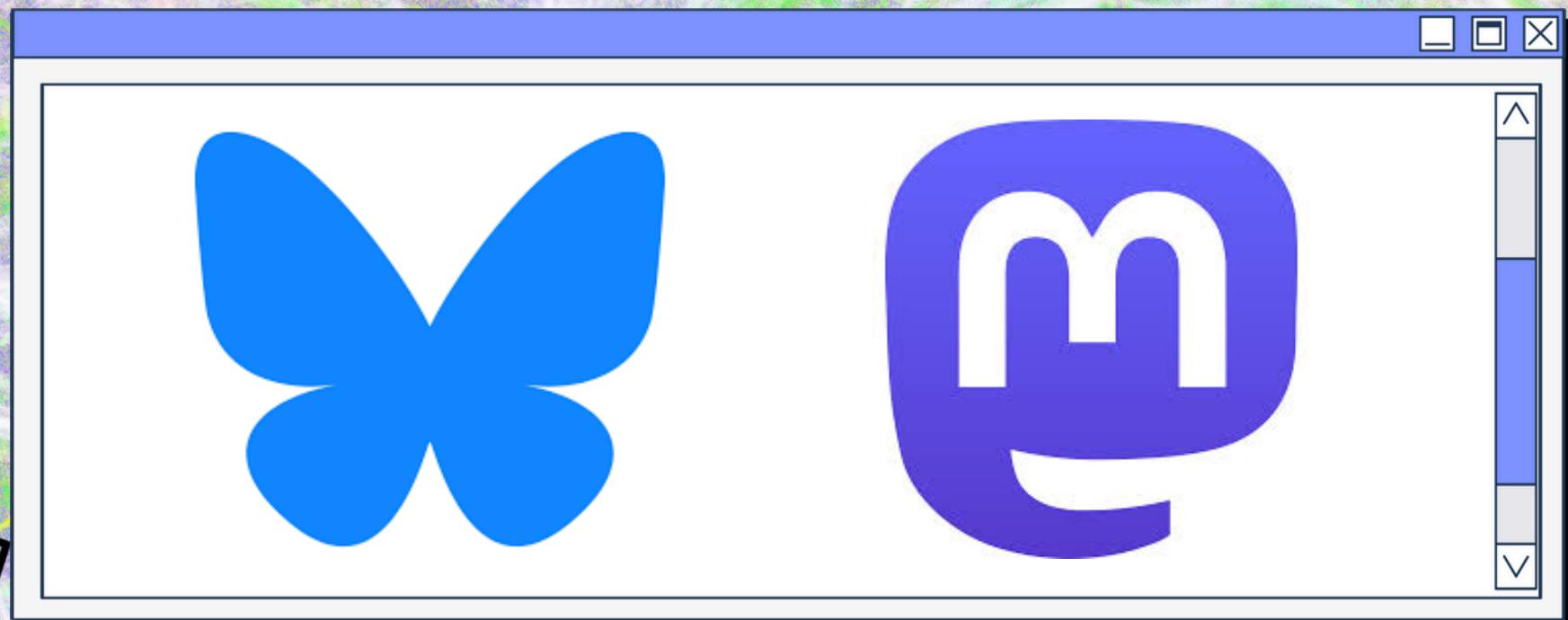
4 1 ...

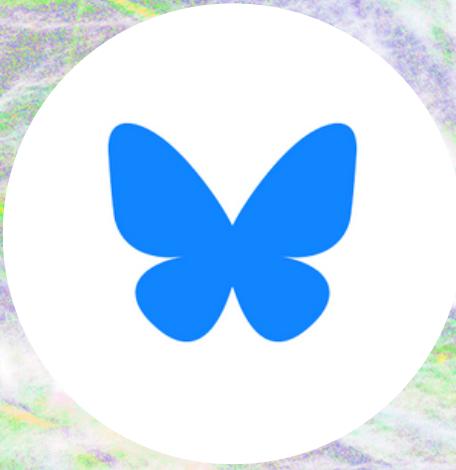
Melanie Heisey 3 days ago "It is a shallow soul who fights to the cry of 'might makes right'. The truth is more concise: might makes." - Dread Emperor Terribilis I, the Lawgiver

3 2 ...

CTZN

# MAJOR PROTOCOLS TODAY





## Both are Federated Neither has fully private content

- Built on AT Proto
- Public launch in 2024
- No other apps significant apps on the base protocol yet
- Newer protocol addresses some of the main criticisms of mastodon
- Significantly more users
- Funded by venture capital

- Built on ActivityPub
- Been around for a lot longer
- Greater diversity of apps on the base protocol
- More decentralized?
- Significant choice between instances
- Free and open source



grafana.social	Grafana Social	85 users • 1790 statuses
	An instance for employees of Grafana Labs.	
www.psychocloud.tech	Mastodon	31 users • 2357 statuses
parody.town	Parody.Town	8 users • 342 statuses
	A place for parodies.	
social.sigsoft.org	SIGSOFT Mastodon Server	81 users • 1046 statuses
	A Mastodon server for member of SIGSOFT, the ACM Special Interest Group on Software Engineering ( <a href="https://www.sigsoft.org">https://www.sigsoft.org</a> ). The SIGSOFT Mastodon server is run by the SIGSOFT executive committee.	
frinx.online	frinx.online	1 users • 6 statuses
	Dieser Server wird betrieben von der frinx.it GmbH in Hannover und ist eine Ergänzung zum frinx.network (FRinx Is Not Xing)	
soziale.cloud	Soziale Cloud	26 users • 2434 statuses
	Just one of many Mastodon servers. We don't have specific topics. Mainly German and English. Data location is Germany.	
lewacki.space	lewacki.space	833 users • 28129 statuses
	lewacki.space to fed skierowany przede wszystkim do osób o szeroko rozumianych poglądach lewicowych.	
blubrry.chat	Blubrry Podcasting	9 users • 86 statuses
	This is the Blubrry Podcasting mastodon server that is for Blubrry customers. Sign up using your Blubrry.com email address associated with your Blubrry account for verification.	

## Instances

Can lead to option paralysis

**Greater choice in terms of environment, moderation, etc, but comes with greater centralization of power in the form of the instance admin**

### Brands & Products

While it is encouraged on the instance to share personal projects, it is discouraged to use the platform as a "brand", or to use your account solely to do repeated advertisement of products. You're welcome to add fundraising links to your profile description, and to share them on the local timeline from time to time.

This is the Blubrry Podcasting mastodon server that is for Blubrry customers. Sign up using your Blubrry.com email address associated with your Blubrry account for verification.

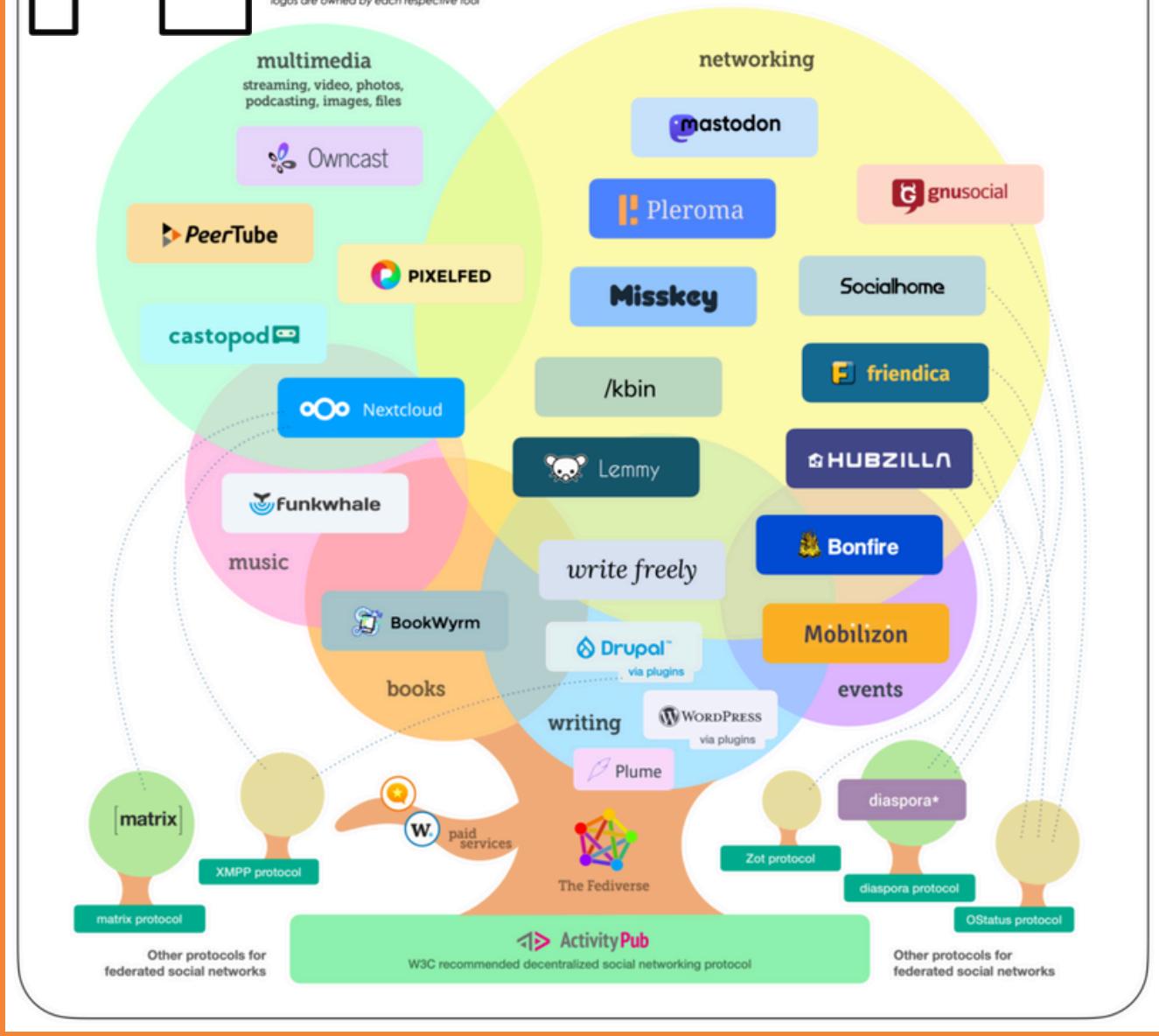
# The many branches of the Fediverse

[axbom.com/fediverse](http://axbom.com/fediverse) • CC BY-SA Per Axbom

version 3.0 • January 17, 2023

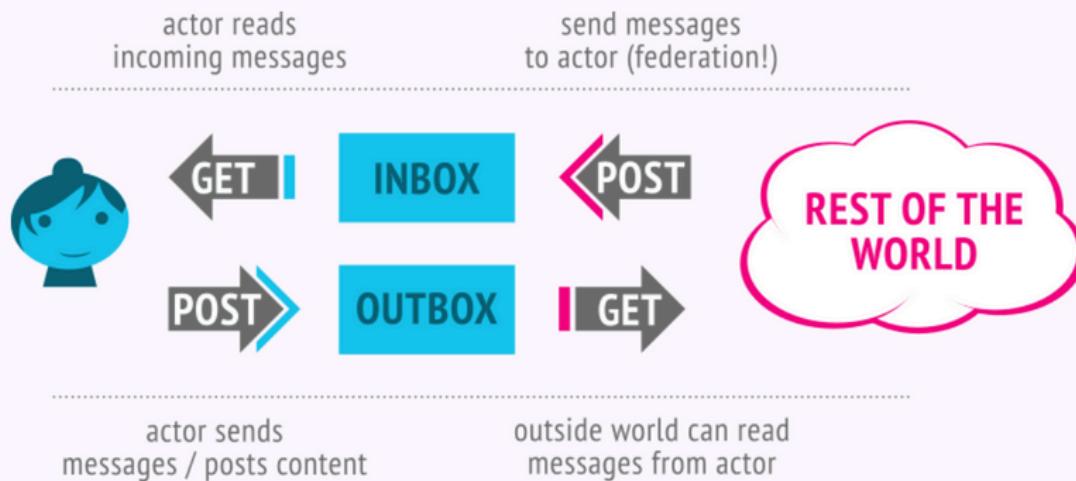
logos are owned by each respective tool

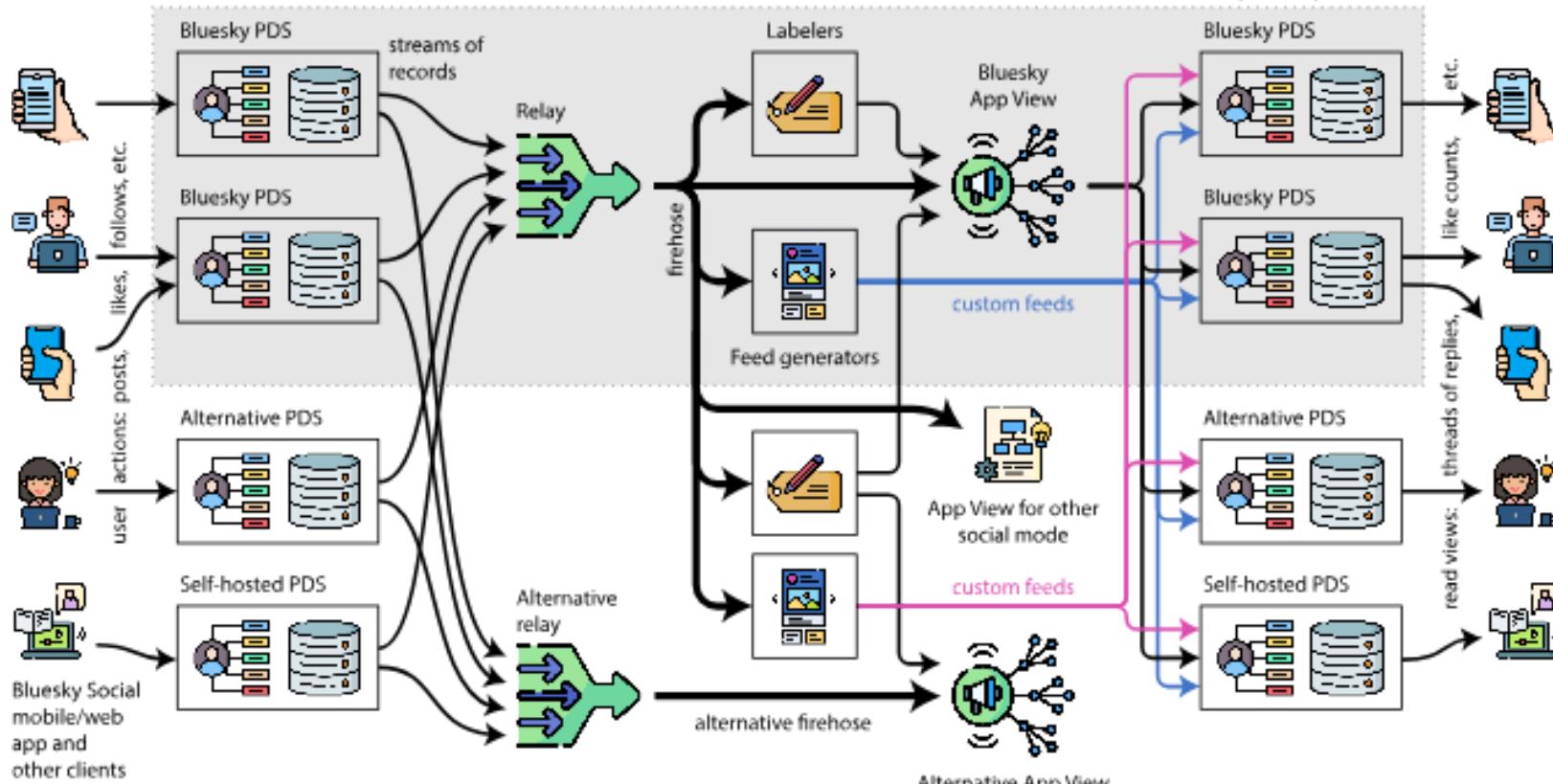
Note: this is an overview and not a complete mapping of the Fediverse.

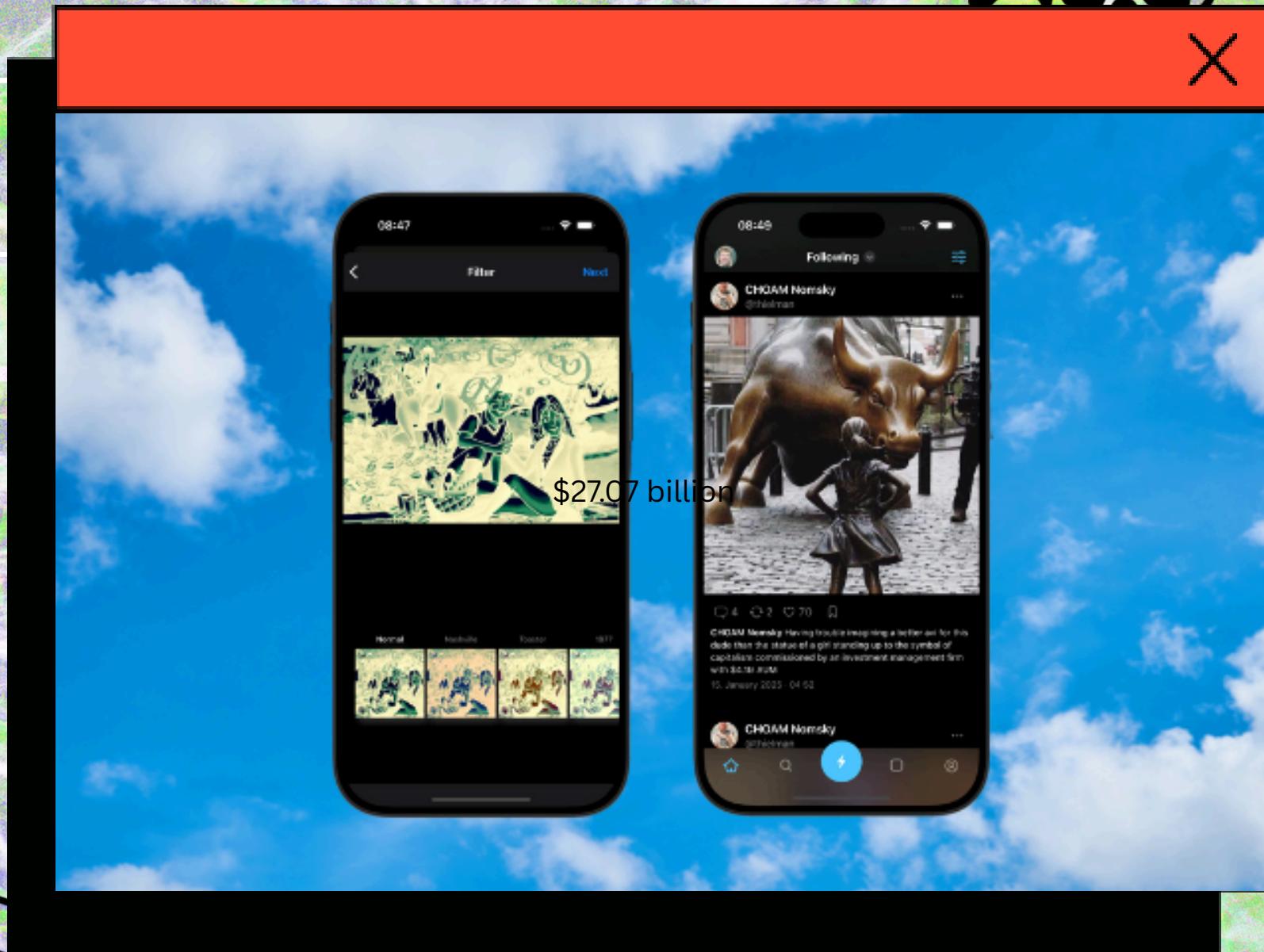


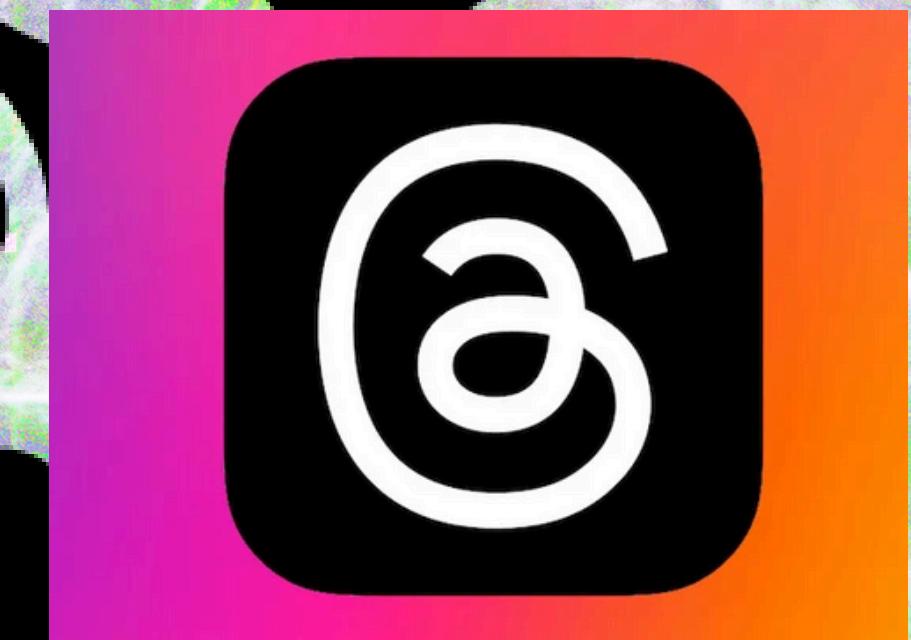
### EXAMPLE 15: Object with audience targeting

```
{  
  "@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",  
  "type": "Note",  
  "content": "This is a note",  
  "published": "2015-02-10T15:04:55Z",  
  "to": ["https://example.org/~john/"],  
  "cc": ["https://example.com/~erik/followers",  
         "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams#Public"]  
}
```



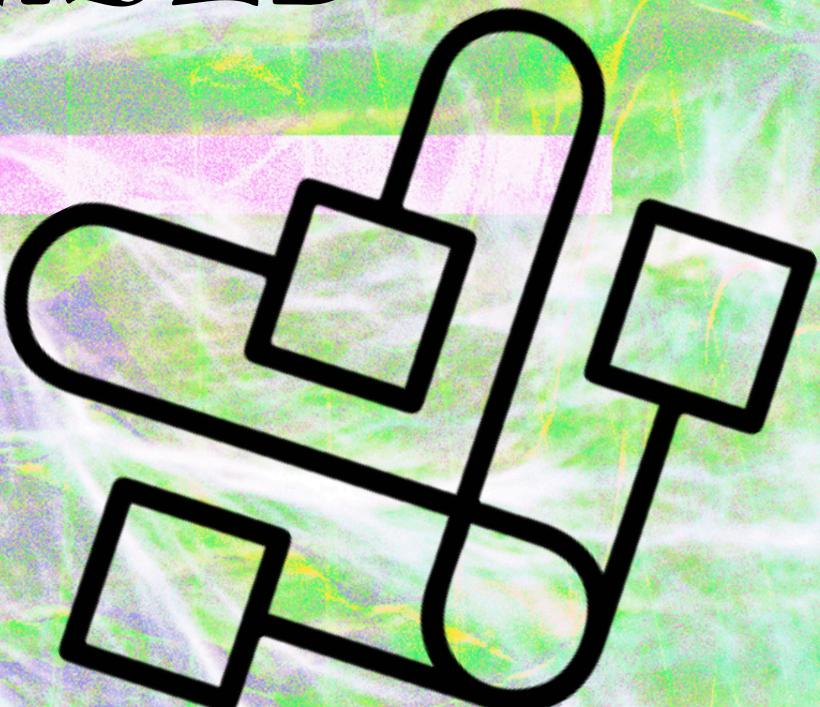




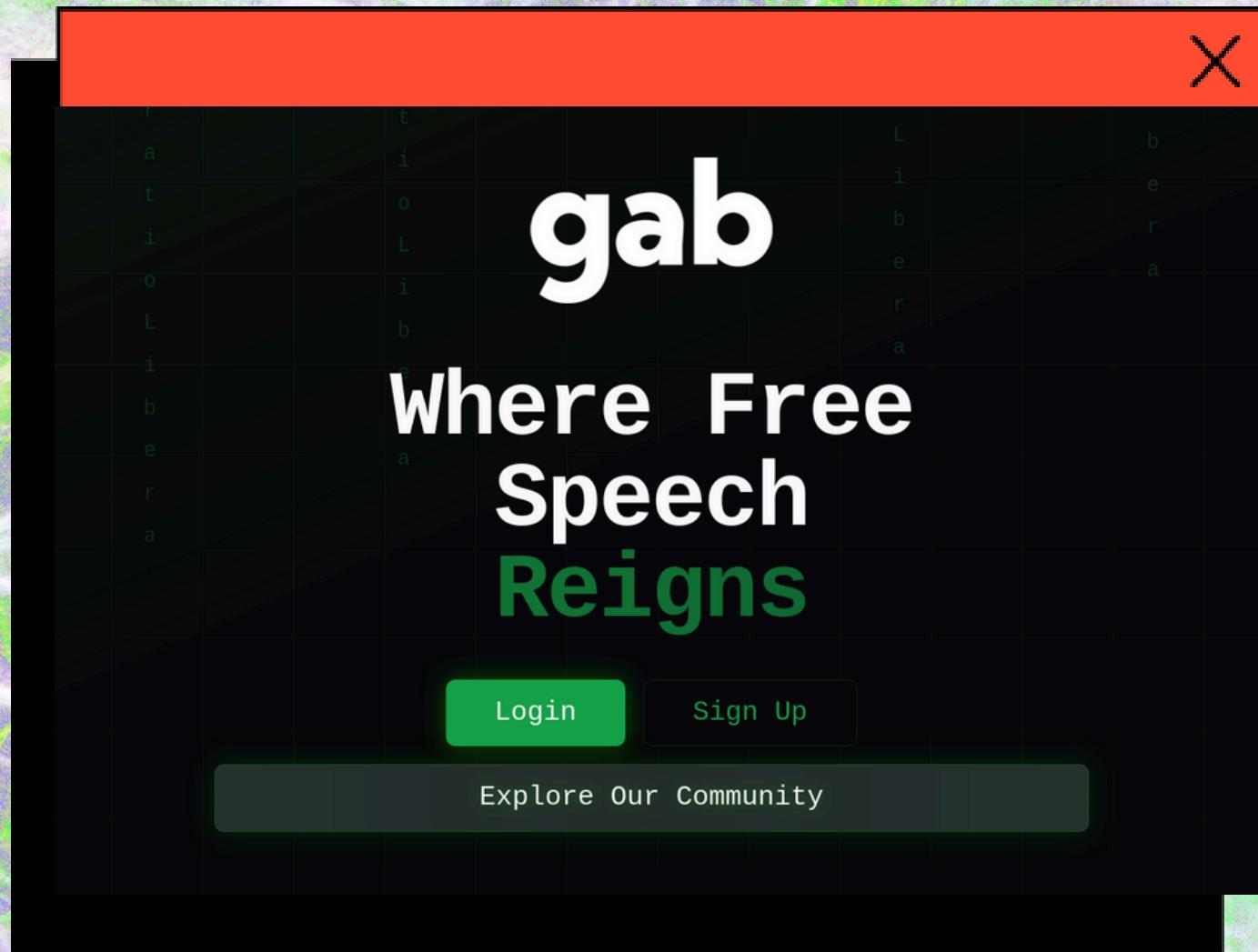




# CHALLENGES FOR DECENTRALISED SOCIAL



# The problem of content moderation

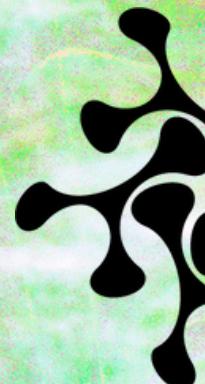
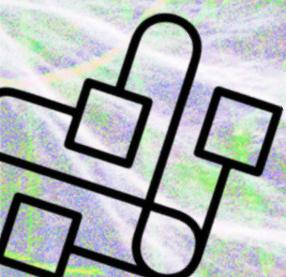


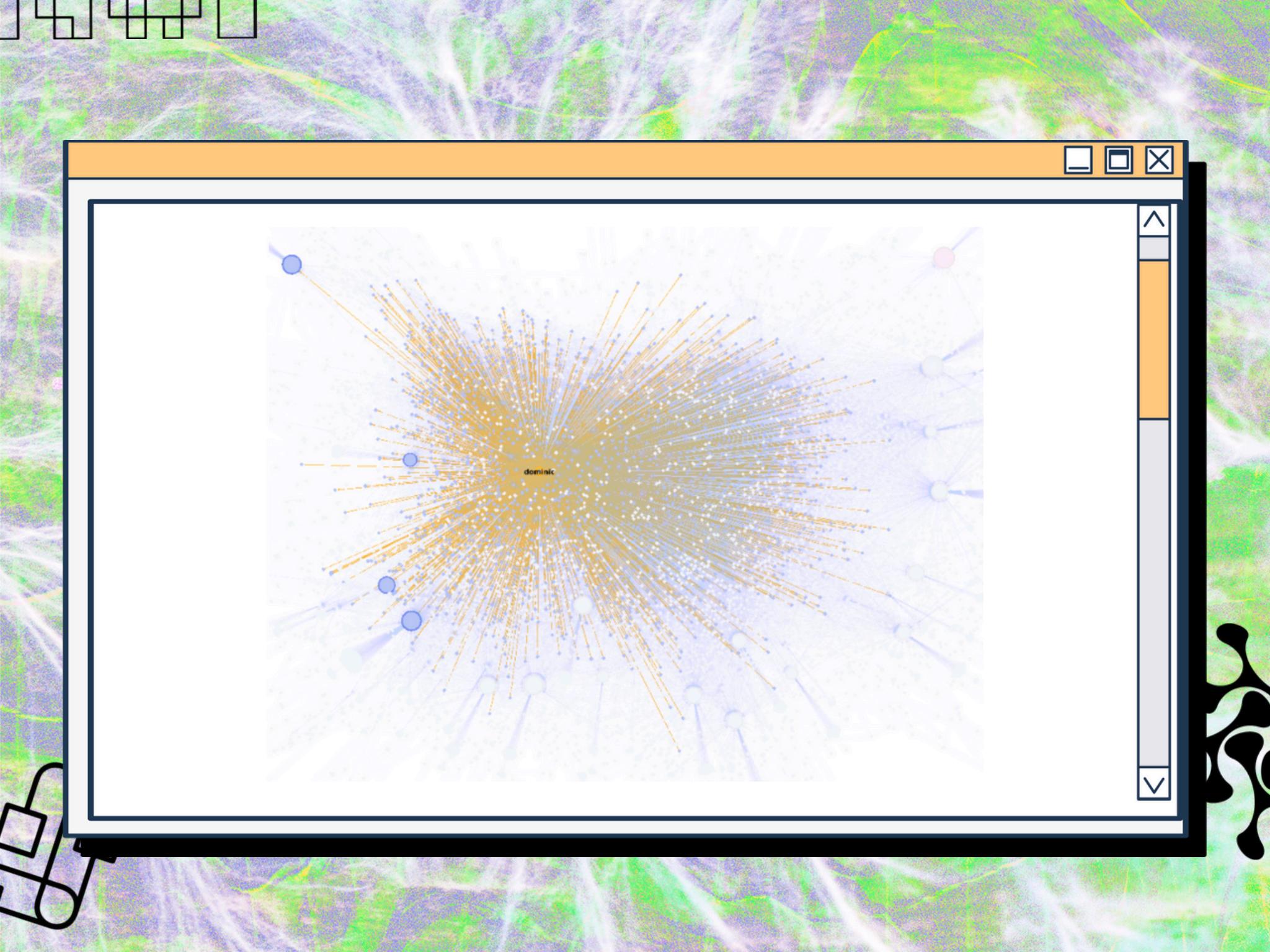


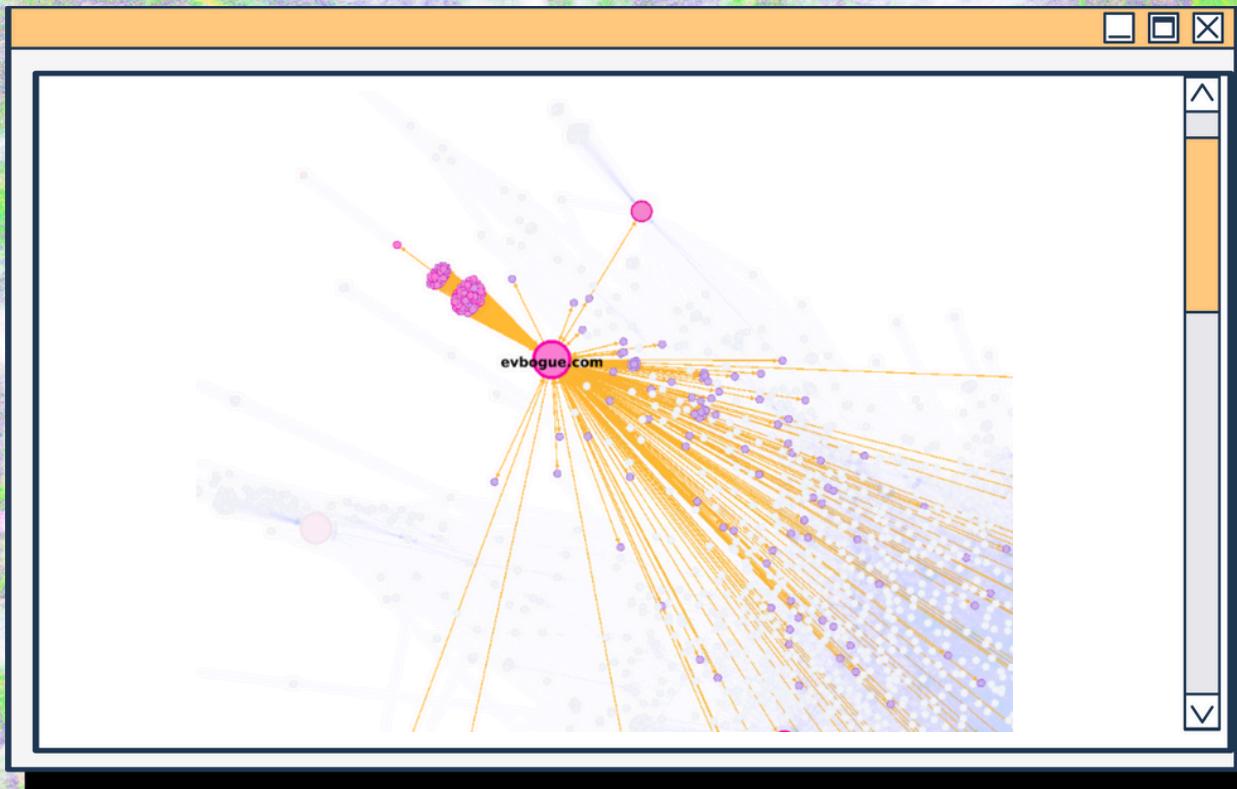
content  
moderation?



censorship?







Reply to Thanks for taking the time to keep us ... 2 likes

yes I guess the entry point was the TickTack pub. However, I blocked the original Altinget pubs, Mr Greybone's IDs and the TickTack pubs, yet I saw the Alltinet pub and the Greybone ID that I reported today.

I think the new vector into the Norwegian crab island is [REDACTED] or in the vicinity thereof. They are friends with e.g., [@zie.pub](#) (693 friends), [@pub\\_dinosaur\\_one](#) (419 friends), [@pub\\_heropunch.io](#) (464 friends), and [@pub\\_ticktack](#) (117 friends), which gives a *lot* of exposure, and they are following 185 IDs, including several IDs from the Norwegian crab group.

It takes a lot of clicking around to see these connections. I wish it was possible to have some sort of realtime, clickable, graphical display of the social graph that would let you explore your connections and also block or follow people.

Like Reply

moderation



# Block Together

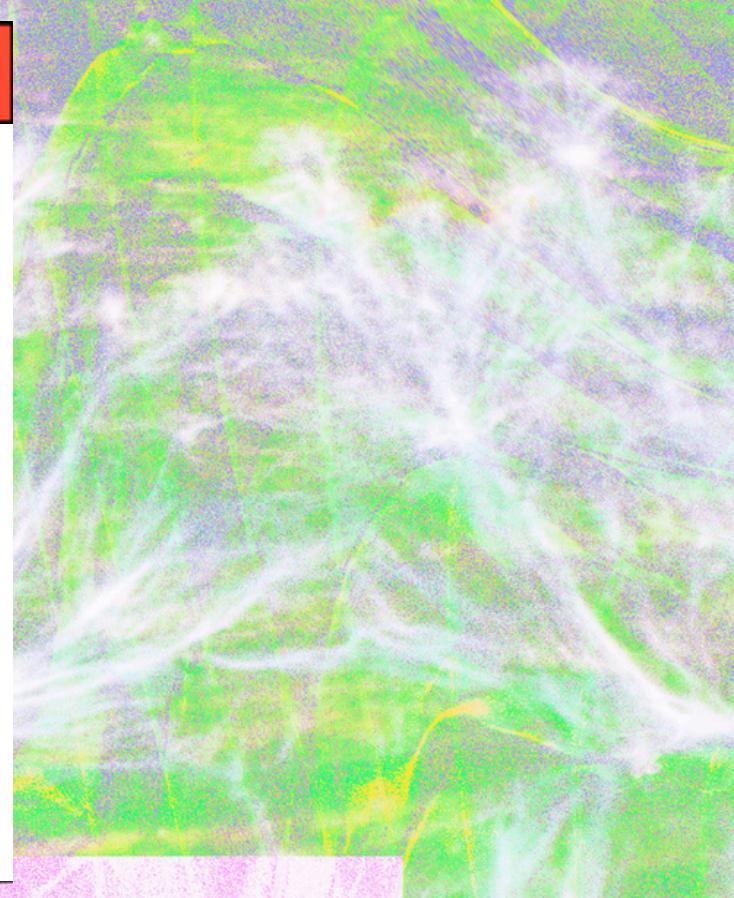
A web app intended to help cope with harassment and abuse on Twitter.

Note: As of 2018-06-28, the [two auto-block features](#) are disabled.

- Block young accounts (< 7 days old) that mention you.
- Block accounts with < 15 followers that mention you.
- Share your block list with friends [\(Example block list\)](#).
- Follow [@blocktogether](#) for news and updates.

[Sign up using Twitter](#)

Block Together will not tweet on your behalf, but it needs read/write access so it can block people when you ask it to. Twitter describes that permission as 'Post tweets for you.'



rainyday commented on Mar 18 • edited

Contributor + ...

Every communal blocklist on Twitter or Mastodon so far has ended up being weaponized by bigots, abusers or other bad actors (ggautoblocker being run by a TERF is a good Twitter example). I know this type of feature may seem like a useful tool for protecting women and minorities from harassment at first glance, but in practice shared blocklists are actually used to isolate, harass and abuse the most vulnerable.

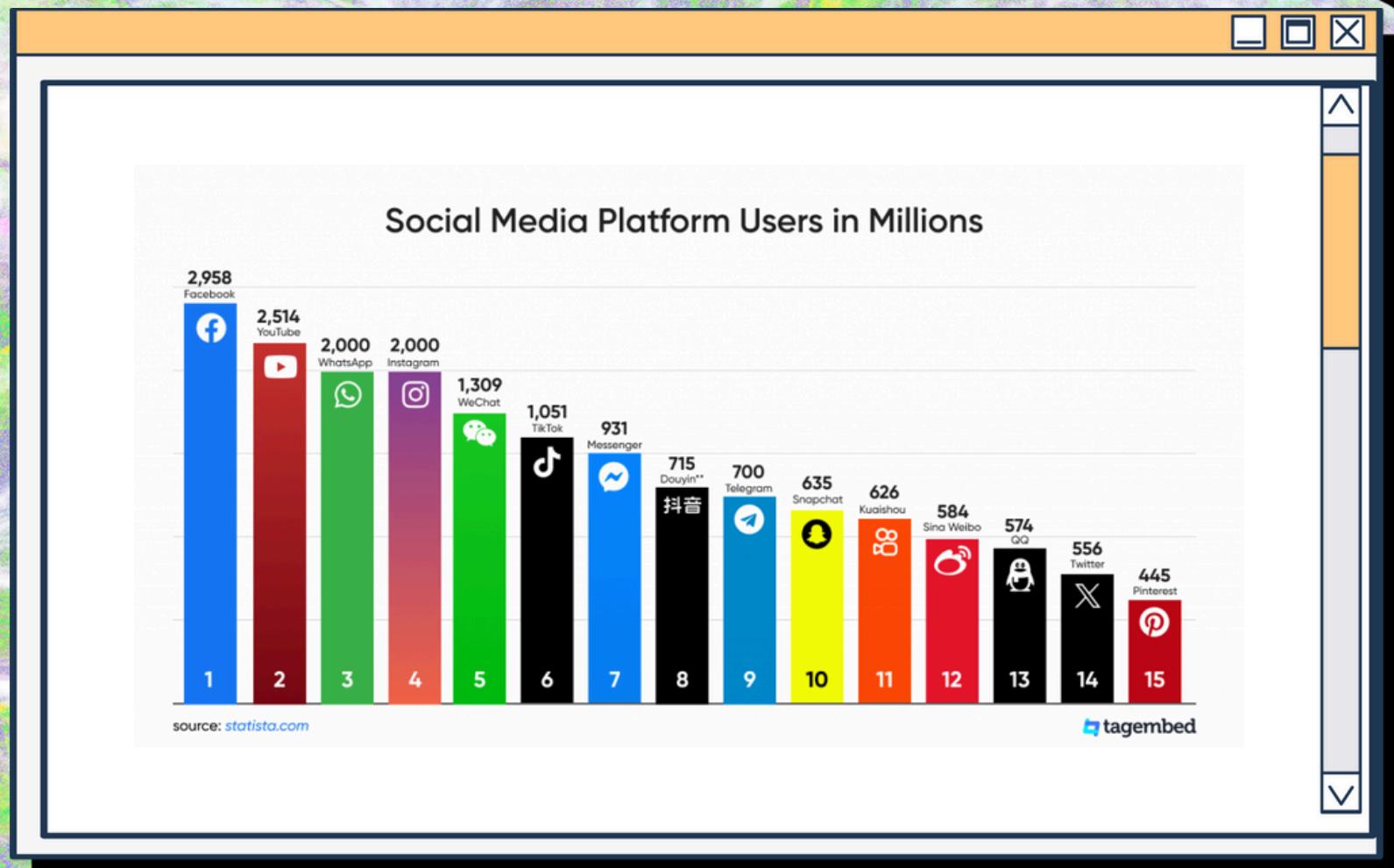
As such I think any official support for such a feature would set a very bad precedent.

6

moderation



# The problem of scale



# The problem of money

## A Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace

by John Perry Barlow

Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel, I come from Cyberspace, the new home of Mind. On behalf of the future, I ask you of the past to leave us alone. You are not welcome among us. You have no sovereignty where we gather.

Your increasingly obsolete information industries would perpetuate themselves by proposing laws, in America and elsewhere, that claim to own speech itself throughout the world. These laws would declare ideas to be another industrial product, no more noble than pig iron. **In our world, whatever the human mind may create can be reproduced and distributed infinitely at no cost.** The global conveyance of thought no longer requires your factories to accomplish.

Dweb for creators

Join the conversation



on  Bluesky