

Fuck Facebook

An introduction to federated social media

Social Media Bad

I don't think I actually have to do this slide

Like you've seen the news about Elon Musk and Zuckerberg, right? And like. Cambridge Analytica. Q anon. The fact that none of us can speak the same language as our grandparents anymore.

And search up Enshittification - I mean, don't google it, you'll get some AI recap that misunderstands the concept in a twist of irony. But Cory Doctorow is on Mastodon.

Look at this funny stock photo I found... I am not good at making powerpoints visually pleasing, but I want points for trying.



Social Media Good

It's bad but there is a reason we all like it that is not just addictive brain chemicals

BLM started and sustained on Twitter. Early Facebook let us keep up with friends. Reddit is very funny and also full of good specific info. Memes.

Connecting with strangers is fun.

Vocab

Federation - a decentralized social media system that connects different servers together so that a user on one server can follow users and content from any other (unblocked) server

Open source - Code that is openly available to the public to be copied, improved, and audited

Server - a federated social media site that hosts users and content. Usually moderated by one person or group

Moderation - On a server, mods control what servers they block for all users on the server and what users are allowed to say within that server. They can also choose to block specific users off other servers. For this reason, choosing a server is important, because you are choosing your moderation.

User - 1 account on 1 server

This is an AI image I generated with the prompt 'phone bad' and I actually kinda like it?



Vocab in action



Threads (Facebook's Twitter alternative) is federated but not open source

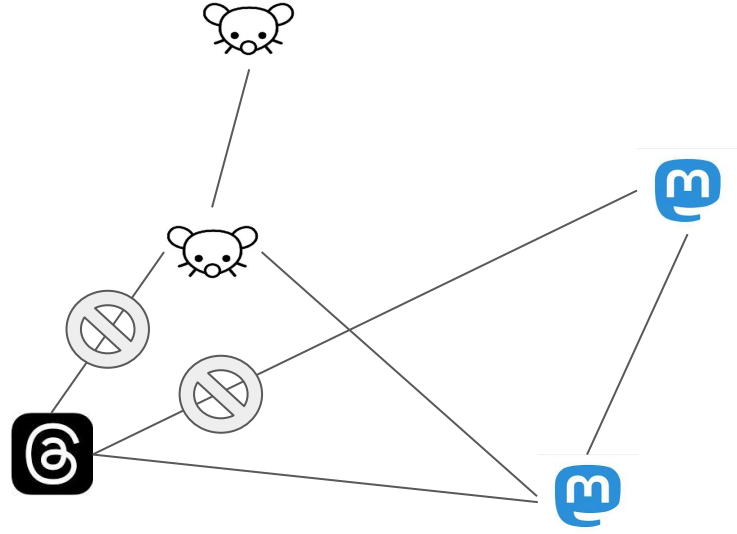


StoryGraph (a GoodReads alternative) is open source but not federated

Federation types

- Lemmy - Reddit - <https://join-lemmy.org/instances>
 - [Lemmy.blahaj.zone](https://lemmy.blahaj.zone) - gays
 - [Lemmy.world](https://lemmy.world) - general
 - 500+ other options
- Mastodon - Twitter - <https://joinmastodon.org/servers>
 - Mastodon.social - general
 - Tech.lgbt - LGBT Tech nerds
 - 250+ others
- Pixelfed - instagram
 - IDK. I don't use this.
 - Still in beta, but I hear it is cool.
- And many more





Picking a server

It doesn't matter that much, you are basically picking moderators, but you can always manually block keywords, people, and servers if you want.

You can follow users on different servers, so it really doesn't matter, as long as you don't accidentally pick one that REALLY sucks.

You can also migrate your account (although it is a little difficult) at any time, including your followers and who you follow.

Once you pick a server, that is the site you will go to to access your account, so bookmark that link and remember it.

A Note on Blocking

- With one central platform, everything is absolute. You're either on the platform or you are not, discoverable by everyone (except those you explicitly block) or discoverable by no one.
- Federation allows for more flexible rules, many of which are made by moderation, so you don't even have to think about it.
- Example: I don't wanna see nazis.
 - On Twitter/Instagram/Facebook, I have to block every individual nazi that finds my page, and reporting only helps if they say something horrible enough.
 - On Mastodon, if someone says something even a little nazi, they are blocked from having an account on my server and related servers by the mods. They can go make an account on their little nazi server, but if those servers are already blocked by my server. And I don't even have to think about it.

Creating accounts

I suggest creating separate accounts for each server type (lemmy v mastodon). You can technically follow mastodon users on lemmy and vice-versa, but the formatting is off.

Once your account is created your username will look like this

@[username]@[sitename].[siteext] - for example, my username on Mastodon is
@stevieLipschitz@urbanists.social

Finding accounts to follow

Honestly, this is the biggest barrier to entry, since there is no algorithmic timeline.

I started by searching hashtags of things that interest me.

Find servers with topics that interest you and follow active users.

Read this:

<https://fedi.tips/how-do-i-find-accounts-to-follow-on-mastodon-and-the-fediverse-how-do-i-find-my-friends/>

Mobile apps

Lemmy - Voyager

Mastodon - Tusky

Or like - just put in “Lemmy” or “Mastodon” in your app store

Controversy to be aware of

Threads (Facebook's Twitter clone) is now federated, but since it is not open source, and owned by Facebook, may federated servers block Treads. If you want to follow someone on Threads, consider this when picking a server. If you don't care, grab some popcorn.



Lemmy was developed by tanky communists. Like 'stalin did nothing wrong' communists, so some servers are a bit... authoritarian and Russia/China propaganda heavy. Something to be aware of on lemmy.ml and lemmygrad.ml in particular.



BONUS: Fuck Amazon

Goodreads is owned by Amazon and bad. Try StoryGraph instead.

<https://thestorygraph.com/>

Questions?

page_nothankyou@proton.me