Advices to new fediverse administrators and developers

Luc Didry

September 7 2019
Hosting an ActivityPub service is not like hosting another service
Hosting an ActivityPub service is not like hosting another service and the same goes for developing ActivityPub software.
Let me introduce Framasoft.
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➤ Promotion, dissemination and development of free software
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Introduction
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- We currently host more than 30 freely available web services (including a Mastodon instance)
- We publish two ActivityPub softwares:
  - PeerTube, a YouTube alternative
  - Mobilizon, a Facebook events/Meetup alternative (not released yet)
Let me introduce myself.
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Luc Didry, aka Framasky or Sky
Introduction
Who am I?

Let me introduce myself.
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- SysAdmin at Framasoft
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- ActivityPub enthusiast
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- Perl developer
- ActivityPub enthusiast
- *Not* involved in PeerTube or Mobilizon development
You have an open instance? Moderate!
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Well, even if it’s a closed instance, but in that case, it’s easier, unless it’s a huge one.
1. Create a moderation team.
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▶ People take vacations
▶ Avoid burnout
▶ If in doubt about a report, you can ask the other moderators for their opinion
2. Create a code of conduct.
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- You will have a document to refer to if people disagree with your moderation’s policy (it won’t cover every case, but will still be useful)
- Moderators’ work will also be eased by being able to refer to it for judging reports
3. Important points to note

- Spam/harassment is easier with the federation if other servers are trusted by default like on Mastodon
- People may not read an entire thread before reacting (the thread may even not be finished)
- Interactions may be done with different softwares, thus not with the same limitations
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Our advices for instance administrators

Moderation

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Our advices for instance administrators
SysAdmin

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- Don’t open registration if you don’t know if you want and can maintain the service for a long time
- Or display a big warning on the registration page
- If you open registrations, make the level of service explicit when people register
2. Do your job seriously
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- Supervize the expiration date of your certificates
Our advices for instance administrators

Misc

3. Misc

Having a description of your instance will help people know if it suits their needs.

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Our advices for developers

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- Look at the moderation tools implemented by other federated softwares
- Ask your community for what they want to see implemented
- Implement moderation feedback, to let people know what action has been taken for their reports
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- Avoid to communicate about your software with your own account on social media: create an account @your-software instead of using @you
- ActivityPub is a protocol for making social media (and more, but still): this is where conflicts may be fast and furious, even more when users use the very software that you develop
3. Misc

- Design your settings and their default value with care, as it will impact the experience for everyone.
- Find a way (banner, emails, ...) for admins to easily announce something to all of their users.
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Questions?
Conclusion

Links

- https://framasoft.org
- https://degooglisons-internet.org
- https://contributopia.org
- https://joinpeertube.org
- https://joinmobilizon.org
- https://liberapay.com/
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