



Framasoft

# Advices to new fediverse administrators and developers

Luc Didry

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# Introduction

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and the same goes for developing ActivityPub software.



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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)

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Who am I?



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- ▶ SysAdmin at Framasoft
- ▶ Perl developer
- ▶ ActivityPub enthusiast
- ▶ *Not* involved in PeerTube or Mobilizon development





You have an open instance? Moderate!  
With great power comes great responsibility.



You have an open instance? Moderate!

With great power comes great responsibility.

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



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- ▶ Think about the bus factor
- ▶ People take vacations
- ▶ Avoid burnout





## 1. Create a moderation team.

There is no need to be tech-savvy to moderate, so you can ask non-tech people to help you.

It's almost vital to have more than one moderator

- ▶ Think about the bus factor
- ▶ 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



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- ▶ 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



## 1. Know your limits



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- ▶ 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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- ▶ Backup your data on a distant server



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- ▶ Supervize your service
- ▶ Supervize your backups
- ▶ Supervize the expiration date of your certificates



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- ▶ Having a description of your instance will help people know if it suits their needs
- ▶ Don't have money? Politely ask your users if they can help :-) (Liberapay is a good platform for that)



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## 1. Moderation (yes, again)





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(yes, again)

- ▶ Look at the moderation tools implemented by other federated softwares



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- ▶ Ask your community for what they want to see implemented



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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

# Our advices for developers

A secret life is a happy life



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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



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- ▶ 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

Questions?





- ▶ <https://framasoftware.org>
- ▶ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Framasoftware>
- ▶ <https://degooglisons-internet.org>
- ▶ <https://contributopia.org>
- ▶ <https://joinpeertube.org>
- ▶ <https://joinmobilizon.org>
- ▶ <https://liberapay.com/>
- ▶ Get those slides on <https://frama.link/ap-conf-2019>



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- ▶ Kitten photo CC-BY-SA Nicolas Suzor