Mobilizon V4 : the maturity stage

5 years after its announcement, Mobilizon, our free, federated alternative to Facebook groups and events, is reaching maturity. We take this opportunity to look back on its history and future.

VS ⬅️: Let’s take back some ground from the tech giants!

Thanks to your donations to our not-for-profit, Framasoft is taking action to advance the ethical, user-friendly web. Find a summary of our progress in 2023 on our Support Framasoft page.

➡️ Read the series of articles from this campaign (Nov. – Dec. 2023)

Five years of Mobilizon

As this is the last major version of Mobilizon to be ported by Framasoft (yes, we’re teasing you a bit ⬅️), we’d like to start with a reminder of the various stages that led us to this v4.

2018: an intention and attentions

Remember: in December 2018 (5 years ago already!), we announced (in French) our intention to develop Mobilizon. Our aim was to offer an alternative to Facebook groups and events, which had become the de facto dominant tool as a platform for mobilisation, whether it was organising a birthday party, a free software conference or a climate protest.

To do this, we decided to do things in the right order, starting by asking different audiences about their real needs and expectations (not those we assumed). The aim was to create a tool that was not only practical and welcoming, but also empowering. For example, we decided to reject any form of social gamification (in Mobilizon you follow groups rather than individuals, we banned infinite scrolling in favour of simple pagination, etc.).
2019: Crowdfunding and first beta version

In May 2019, we launched an appeal for donations to fund the development of a first version. Thanks to the mobilisation and generosity of over 1,000 donors, it was a success, with almost €60,000 raised. Less than 6 months later, we announced a beta version of the software.

This version provided a good foundation for creating and publishing events. However, it still lacked « core » functionalities, such as the ability to register anonymously for an event, or federation (i.e. the ability of a Mobilizon instance (in French) to easily exchange data with other Mobilizon instances, or even Mastodon instances).

2020: a pandemic and a V1

In October 2020, after a few months delay due to a worldwide pandemic, the first stable version (« v1 ») of Mobilizon was released!

This v1 already offered what was to become the core of the software: groups (the central element of Mobilizon), articles, resources linked to a group, the possibility of having several profiles for the same account, the possibility of participating in an event without registering, and... the federation.
2021: notifications and an app

At the end of 2021, we announced version 2 of Mobilizon. One of the main new features was the eagerly awaited integration of a notification system. But also on the menu: time zone management, « RTL » management (for languages written from right to left, such as Arabic or Hebrew), provision of RSS feeds, the addition of sorting filters, the ability to define an event as « online » (without geographical location), public group tracking, etc. There was even the release of a smartphone application developed by Tom79 (thanks again to him!).

2022: Engines and search

The third major version of Mobilizon was released with the regularity of a Swiss watch, one year after v2.

Its main focus was search. It introduced the possibility of federated searches: a search from the « SOMETHING » instance could return results from events hosted on the Mobilizon « ELSE » instance. As with PeerTube’s SepiaSearch metasearch engine, we designed and implemented a Mobilizon-specific engine that allows searches across multiple instances: https://search.joinmobilizon.org

With this release, we have also redesigned the front page of the software. Our aim is to give you more opportunities to discover events and groups you may not have known existed, and to make the diversity of content published on Mobilizon more
2023: waiting for v4...

During 2023 we also quietly released two minor versions. These added anti-spam tools, the ability to manage arbitrary addresses (because an address database can never be perfectly up to date), the ability to use external authentication systems, and the ability to define an external website for people who want to manage registrations outside Mobilizon.

They were also the occasion for bug hunting and improvements to the Mobilizon API, paving the way for one of the most eagerly awaited features of v4 (yes, the teasing is unsustainable []).
What’s new in Mobilizon v4?

We’ve done it! Version 4 is finally here and we’re very proud of the new features it brings!

**Private Announcements and Conversations**

Event organisers can now send private announcements to attendees. This has been a long awaited feature!

Group or event administrators or moderators can now contact people registered in a group or event directly. You can then write to all these people, or select sub-groups, for example only those who have confirmed their attendance, or conversely those who have not confirmed (or declined). It’s even possible to contact people who have registered without creating a Mobilizon account. This opens up some very interesting possibilities, such as the possibility of communicating important information: a change of location or date, for example.

Please note that this is an announcement system and registrants cannot reply (although moderators can add messages). This is not a forum, but a channel for sharing important information in a more top-down way.
As well as this announcement mechanism, we’ve added a conversation system.

This allows you to contact a group or specific people and chat with them live.

For example, an outsider to an event can contact the group administrator from the event page and exchange messages with them. Think of this conversation system as the « DM » (direct message) or « MP » (private message) system you know from other social platforms.

For those who have a Mastodon account (or equivalent), the magic of Fédivers means that you can even use this conversation feature to send private messages from Mastodon, while the person you are contacting can reply from Mobilizon!
Import and synchronise events from other platforms (Facebook, Meetup, etc.)

Once again, this was one of the most eagerly awaited features of Mobilizon.

But it was also one of the most complicated for us to implement in the software. Because these external platforms (yes, Facebook, we’re looking at you!) are the despots of kingdoms of which you are merely the vassal. If they want to raise the drawbridge over which your data passes, they can do so with the snap of a finger, and there is nothing you or we can do about it.

That’s why we’re announcing this feature as present, BUT with a great deal of reserve and caution.

Nevertheless, we’re excited to introduce this new Mobilizon feature to you!

How does it work?

First of all, please understand that everything that follows takes place... outside of Mobilizon. In an external tool modestly called « Mobilizon Import System » (note that we’ve kept it simple []).

From this tool, you’ll be able to connect to your Mobilizon account and define your profiles or groups on which you authorise external platforms (such as Meetup or EventBrite) to post. These profiles and groups then become « Destinations ».

Then, simply go to the page of the event you want to synchronise (e.g. https://www.eventbrite.fr/e/billets-street-art-feminisme-743545834607), copy and paste this address into Mobilizon’s import system, and the event will be imported.

In addition to the classic import, it is also possible (depending on the platform) to set up the synchronisation of one or more events. Once synchronised, the new events will be published on your selected Mobilizon profile/group. Event updates on the source (for example, if you change the description on Meetup) will automatically update the event republished on Mobilizon (note that deletions are not currently handled).

Important note: iCal (.ics) event feeds are supported! This means you can have events in Framagenda (or Google Calendar, we won’t judge you (too much)) and
synchronise them in Mobilizon! Nice, isn’t it?

In addition to the iCal format, the platforms currently supported are Eventbrite, Meetup...

Yes, we can see you now, screaming in your head:

« What about Facebook? » «

So Facebook, « It’s complicated » ©

We did all the work on our end and... it works (Yaaaaaaay! ❄️)... but only with our « App Developer » account (Oooooooohhh! ❄️).

We still have to go through several validation steps, and... we have absolutely no hand in it. It’s Facebook’s kingdom, so Facebook decides. Maybe it’ll work for 5 years, 5 months, 5 days. Maybe it won’t work at all. ❄️

Technically, another feature – reserved for developers – that we’ve added is the ability to add « webhooks », which are internal calls that can also act as « destinations » for sources. Events can then be sent to these webhooks, which will do... well, whatever you want them to do! This might be useful for our friends at Transiscope, for example, so that their tool can also import events from other platforms.
The « Mobilizon Import System » was deliberately developed outside the Mobilizon core. It is therefore a separate piece of software. In fact, we think that this software is likely to need a lot of modifications (for example, to correct bugs or to add new platforms such as Démosphère or Agenda Militant) and that there might be an interest in hosting this application outside Mobilizon instances (for example, to share functionality between several instances, or to manage the legal risks imposed on us by third party platforms). So we’ve made it a separate software project, but of course free and self-hosting.

Other Mobilizon v4 improvements

Don’t go away! We’ve got more great features to share with you!

First of all, we’ve improved compatibility for tracking other federated event instances (one of the most interesting projects is « Event Federation for WordPress» , which would eventually allow the famous WordPress website/blog engine to be used as an event platform. We talked to the people coordinating this project to share our experiences and incorporated their requests in the form of developments in Mobilizon (which they confirmed in their latest blog post).

Secondly, we have improved the formatting of event descriptions when exporting events and in ICS feeds (which now take into account the status « tentative »,
« confirmed » or « cancelled »).

Also, we changed email registration confirmations for attendees without an account to now include an unsubscribe link.

Finally, Mobilizon is now available on more operating systems and architectures (Debian, Ubuntu, Fedora, arm64, etc.).

**Mission accomplished, Framasoft is ready to pass the baton!**

Framasoft had announced in March 2023 in the Mobilizon roadmap that this v4 would be the last we would develop.

We still strongly believe in the future of this project.

But we’ve reached our goal: we announced an intention and a vision in 2018 and... we’ve fulfilled our mission!

Of course, software is far from bug-free. But anyone involved in software development knows that there will always be things to fix, features to add... It’s never-ending. And we sincerely believe that it’s also important to be able to step back, say to yourself that you’ve kept your commitment, and hand over a project.

The Framasoft team is small: Mobilizon is a salaried developer (yes, only one!), and not even full-time... He is certainly supported by the rest of the association in terms of communication, project management, fundraising, etc. But after five
years, we consider the project a success. But after 5 years, we feel that Mobilizon is stable enough for him to redirect his energy and skills to other projects and missions.

We’re not putting Mobilizon on the shelf!

First of all, Framasoft is committed to maintain this v4 for the next few months (and as long as we can), especially in case of security updates or blocking bugs. We’ll also maintain our public, French-language forum https://mobilizon.fr.

But we won’t be developing any new features.

Secondly, another team (the Kaihuri association, well known to the Mobilizon community as the maintainers of the Keskonfai instance) already has a take-over and contribution project to improve Mobilizon’s handling. They present their project and their ambitions on our forum dedicated to Mobilizon: don’t hesitate to give them your feedback and encouragement (or disagreement, for that matter), but also your desire and ability to contribute.

So, if the community doesn’t mind, in the next few weeks we’ll be handing over all the Mobilizon « keys » to this community (they already have maintainer access to the source code repository, but this also applies to the joinmobilizon.org, mobilizon.org, search.joinmobilizon.org websites, tools, social media accounts, etc.).

Mobilizon seems to have a bright future ahead!
For five years, thanks to your donations, Rose has been training to fight Faceghoul – Illustration by David Revoy – Licence: CC-By 4.0

Five years of Mobilizon, thanks to you (and your donations)!

Although we’ll be handing over the keys to the project in a few weeks time, all the work done throughout 2023 has come at a significant cost.

If you like this version 4, and it’s possible for you to do so, we encourage you to support Framasoft as a token of our gratitude for all the work we’ve done this year, but also for honouring our original moral contract: to provide you with a free, federated alternative to Facebook groups and events.

Once again this year we need you, your support, your sharing, to help us regain ground on the toxic GAFAM web and multiply ethical digital spaces.

So we’ve asked David Revoy to help us present this on our « Support Framasoft » page, which we invite you to visit (because it’s beautiful) and above all to share as widely as possible:
If we are to balance our budget for 2024, we have five weeks to raise €162,716: we can’t do it without your help!

Support Framasoft

PeerTube v6 is out, and powered by your ideas!

It’s #givingtuesday, so we’re giving you PeerTube v6 today! PeerTube is the software we develop for creators, media, institutions, educators... to manage their own video platform, as an alternative to YouTube and Twitch.

VS: Let’s take back some ground from the tech giants!

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The sixth major version is being released today and we are very proud! It is the most ambitious one since we added peer-to-peer livestreaming. There is a good reason for that: we packed this v6 with features inspired by your ideas!

We are so eager to present all the work we achieved that we’ll get right into it. But stay tuned: in two weeks, we’ll take more time to talk about PeerTube’s history, the state of this project and the great plans we have for its future!

This year: two minor updates and a major achievement

In 2023, and before preparing this major update, we released only two minor versions... but one of them brought to the table a major technical feature that will help democratize video hosting even more.

March 2023: PeerTube v5.1

You’ll get more details in the news dedicated to the 5.1 release, so to keep it short, this version brought:
- an « asking for an account » feature, where instance moderators can manage and moderate news account requests;
- a back-to-live button, so in case you lag behind during a livestream, you can go back to the direct
- Improvements on the authentication plugin, to facilitate signing on with external credentials

June 2023: PeerTube 5.2...

As you’ll find out in our 5.2 release blogpost, there were some smaller but important new features such as:

- Adapting RSS feeds to podcast standards, so any podcast client could be able to read a PeerTube channel, for example
- The option to set the privacy of a livestream replay, that way streamers can choose beforehand if the replay of their live will be Public, Unlisted, Private or Internal
- Improved mouse-free navigation: for those who prefer or need to navigate using their keyboard
- And upgrades in our documentation (it’s quite thorough: check it out!)

...with a major feature: Remote Transcoding

But the game changer in this 5.2 release was the new remote transcoding feature.

When a creator uploads a video (or when they are streaming live), PeerTube needs to transform their video file into an efficient format. This task is called video transcoding, and it consumes lots of CPU power. PeerTube admins used to need (costly) big-CPU servers for a task that wasn’t permanent… until remote transcoding.

Remote transcoding allows PeerTube admins to deport some or all of their transcoding tasks to another, more powerful server, one that can be shared with other admins, for example.

It makes the whole PeerTube administration cheaper, more resilient, more power-efficient... and opens a way of sharing resources between communities!
We want, once again to thank the NGI Entrust program and the NLnet foundation for the grant that helped us achieve such a technical improvement!

PeerTube v6 is Based... (on your ideas)

Enough with the past, let’s detail the features of this new major version. Note that, for this whole 2023 roadmap, we developed features suggested and upvoted by... you! Or at least by those of you who shared your ideas on our feedback website.

Protect your videos with passwords!

That was a very awaited feature. Password-protected videos can be used in lots of situations: to create exclusive content, mark a step in an educational plan, share videos with people trusted by the ones you trust...

On their PeerTube account, creators can now set a single password when they upload, import or update the settings of their videos.

But with our REST API, admins and developers can take it a step further. They can set and store as many passwords as they want, thus easily give and revoke access to videos.
This feature was the work of Wicklow, during his internship with us.

**Video storyboard: preview what’s coming!**

If you like to peruse your videos online, you might be used to hover the progress bar with your mouse or finger. Usually, a preview of the frame appears as a thumbnail: that’s called a storyboard feature, and that’s now available in PeerTube!

Please note that as Storyboards are only generated when uploading (or importing) a video, they will only be available for new videos of instances that upgraded to v6...

Or you can ask, very kindly, to your admin(s) that they use the magical `npm run create-generate-storyboard-job` command (warning: this task might need some CPU power), and generate storyboards for older videos.

**Upload a new version of your video!**

Sometimes, video creators want to update a video, to correct a mistake, offer new information... or just to propose a better cut of their work!

Now, with PeerTube, they can upload and replace an older version of their video. Though the older video file will be permanently erased (no backsies !), creators will keep the same URL, title and infos, comments, stats, etc.

Obviously, such a feature requires trust between videomakers and admins, who don’t want to be responsible for a cute kitten video being « updated » into an awful advertisement for cat-hating groups.

That’s why such a feature will only be available if admins choose to enable it on their PeerTube platforms, and will display a « Video re-upload » tag on updated videos.

**Get chapters in your videos!**

Creators can now add chapters to their videos on PeerTube. In a video settings page, they’ll get a new « chapters » tab where they’ll only need to specify the timecode and title of each chapter for PeerTube to add it.
If they import their video from another platform (cough YouTube cough), PeerTube should automatically recognize and import chapters set on this distant video.

When chapters are set, markers will appear and segment the progress bar. Chapter titles will be displayed when you hover or touch one of those chapters segments.

**Stress tests, performance and config recommendations**

Last year, thanks to French indie journalist David Dufresne’s Au Poste! livestream show and his hoster Octopuce, we got a livestream stress test with more than 400 simultaneous viewers: see the report here on Octopuce’s blog[FR].

Such tests are really helpful to understand where we can improve PeerTube to reduce bottlenecks, improve performance, and give advice on the best configuration for a PeerTube server if an admin plans on getting a lot of traffic.

That’s why this year, we have decided to realize more tests, with a thousand simultaneous users simulated both in livestream and classic video streaming conditions. Lots of thanks and datalove to Octopuce for helping us deploy our test infrastructure.

We will soon publish a report with our conclusions and recommended server configurations depending on usecases (late 2023, early 2024). In the meantime, early tests motivated us to **add many performances improvements** into this v6, such as (brace yourselves for the technical terms):

- Process unicast HTTP job in worker threads
- Sign ActivityPub requests in worker threads
- Optimize recommended videos HTTP request
- Optimize videos SQL queries when filtering on lives or tags
- Optimize /videos/{id}/views endpoint with many viewers
- Add ability to disable PeerTube HTTP logs
...and there’s always more!

A new major version always comes with its lot of changes, improvements, bugfixes, etc. You can read the complete log here, but here are the highlights:

- We needed to settle a technical debt: **v6 removes support for WebTorrent to focus on HLS (with WebRTC P2P)**. Both are technical bricks used to get peer-to-peer streaming in web browsers, but HLS is more fitted to what we are doing (and plan to do) with PeerTube

- The **video player is more efficient**
  - It is not being rebuilt anymore every time the video changes
  - It keeps your watching settings (speed, fullscreen, etc.) when the video changes
  - It automatically adjust its size to match the video ratio

- We have **improved SEO**, to help videos hosted on a PeerTube platform appear higher in the search results of search engines

- We worked a lot on **improving PeerTube’s accessibility** on many levels, to streamline the experience of people with disabilities.

What about PeerTube’s future?

With YouTube waging war against adblockers, Twitch increasingly exploiting
streamers, and everyone becoming more and more aware of the toxicity of this system... PeerTube is getting traction, recognition and a growing community.

We have so many announcements to make about the future we plan for PeerTube, that we will publish a separate news, in two weeks. We are also planning on hosting an « Ask Us Anything » livestream, to answer the questions you’d have about PeerTube.

Please stay tuned by subscribing to PeerTube’s Newsletter, following PeerTube’s Mastodon account or keeping an eye on the Framablog.

Click to support us and help Sepia push back Videoraptor – Illustration CC-By David Revoy

Thank you for supporting PeerTube and Framasoft

In the meantime, we want to remind you that all these developments were achieved by only one full-time payed developer, an intern, and a fabulous community (lots of datalove to Chocobozzz, Wicklow, and the many, many contributors: y’all are amazing!)

Framasoft being a French not-for-profit mainly funded by grassroots donations
(75% of our yearly income comes from people like you and us), PeerTube development has been funded by two main sources:

- French-speaking FOSS enthusiasts
- Grants from the NGI initiative, through NLnet (in 2021 & 2023)

If you are a non-French-speaking PeerTube aficionado, please consider **supporting our work by making a donation to Framasoft**. It will greatly help us fund our many, many projects, and balance our 2024 budget.

Once again this year we need you, your support, your sharing to help us regain ground on the toxic GAFAM web and multiply the number of ethical digital spaces. So we’ve asked David Revoy to help us present this on our support Framasoft page, which we invite you to visit (because it’s beautiful) and above all to share as widely as possible:

> If we are to balance our budget for 2024, we have five weeks to raise €176,425: we can’t do it without your help!

**Support Framasoft**

Thanks again for supporting PeerTube,
Framasoft’s team.
700 organisations already up in the (free) clouds: Framaspace’s first year in review

The aim of this long article is to take stock of the Framaspace project (an associative cloud based on Nextcloud) a little over a year after its announcement.

VS ⚡: Let’s take back some ground from the tech giants!

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Once upon a time there was Frama.space

Remember, a year ago we announced (in French, sorry!) one of Framasoft’s most ambitious projects: Frama.space.

For those of you who weren’t there, or who don’t remember, the desire to set up Frama.space was based on three things.

The first is that **things are fucked**. Politically, socially, geopolitically, ecologically and so on. Of course, you may think otherwise, but we don’t think the world is going very well...

The second observation is that civil society, caricatured here as **associations and trade unions, is under attack from all sides**. The pressure to depoliticise associations, the reduction of their funding in favour of « impact companies » or the start-up nation, the attacks on freedom of association... All this is eroding the
capacity of the voluntary sector to respond to needs that the market cannot meet. It is becoming increasingly difficult to balance a social contract that is being undermined by both business and government.

Finally, closer to Framasoft, digital technology has become a tool for organising people, but also for taking action. However, this rather positive observation is
countered by two more negative observations. Firstly, digital technology is a tool for surveillance and alienation. And secondly, associations are lagging behind both in terms of use and consistency (The report in the link is in French, sorry!). Associations working for an ecological transition, for example, will use the tools and services of GAFAM, which play a large part in the problem they are trying to solve.

**Frama.space: (Next)cloud for non-profit organisations**

A year ago we announced a new Framasoft service: Frama.space.

Its mission? To equip the ‘contributing society’. In other words, to digitally equip « off-market » associations and groups. Whether it’s the AMAP in FarFarAway-town, the community café in Bernache-sur-Yvette or the queer theatre collective in Cygne-lès-Lavaur.

We believe that these associations and collectives need (and even want) to rediscover the coherence between their values, their actions and their tools. It seems contradictory to us, for example, to be an association committed to « zero waste » and still use Google or Microsoft tools.

Please note that this is not a value judgement on our part. We fully understand that there may be contradictions and legitimate objections (it is perfectly possible to be concerned about the fate of the planet and still drive your children to a weekly sports activity 20km away).

However, we believe it is important that these structures have the choice to have easy access to tools that are not based on the mechanisms of surveillance capitalism.
Framaspace includes the collaborative online office suites Collabora Online and OnlyOffice. Here is a screenshot of a spreadsheet being edited directly in the browser.

The software has a lot of room for improvement (in terms of UX, technical debt, performance, etc.), but... it’s still the best horse in the stable.
What’s more, its community is large (over 60 million users worldwide) and quite active, which gives us hope for the future.

We have therefore decided to base our Framaspace offering on this software, proposing a technically ambitious offering capable of eventually hosting up to 10,000 Framaspace spaces (and therefore as many instances of the Nextcloud software). To achieve this, we have built a substantial technical infrastructure (the video link is in French, sorry!) and developed homemade software tools (free of charge, of course) to validate registration requests and automatically provision new spaces very quickly, with just a few clicks.

Commented interface for CHARON, the software developed by Framasoft that allows us to manage Framaspace applications. (Commentary in French, but if you want more information on this point, ask us in the comments section bellow!)

But enough of reminiscing: if you want to know more about the ambitions behind Framaspace, you can watch two videos:

- The political presentation of the project (in French), by Pierre-Yves Gosset, project coordinator, at the Capitole du Libre (November 2022);
- The technical presentation of the project (in French), by Luc Didry and Thomas Citharel, technical managers of the project, at the ESUP
Taking stock, calmly

Frama.space becomes Framaspace.org

First of all, we already had to change the name because the .space extension increased the likelihood that emails containing frama.space addresses would be considered spam. This was obviously the fault of the email giants (article in French, sorry!), but we couldn’t accept a solution that would interfere with the normal use of the platform. So we decided to use a domain name with a more traditional but longer extension: framaspase.org. The transition is underway and will take place in stages as there is no rush. **We also announced that we have four objectives:**

1. Facilitate access to Nextcloud/Framaspace
2. Raise awareness of Nextcloud/Framaspace
3. Contribute to the creation of a French-speaking Nextcloud/Framaspace community
4. Use Nextcloud/Framaspace as an empowerment tool

This first anniversary is therefore a good time to take stock of each of these objectives.

Functional assessment: does it work or not?

Yes, it does!

While you are reading these lines, **more than 700 spaces are active**. This means that Framasoft provides tools to 700 associations and groups. And the feedback is very positive!

We have been able to carry out complex operations without too much difficulty. For example, we’ve carried out major upgrades of Nextcloud (from version 25 to version 26) with very limited downtime (less than 2 minutes per space).

As far as the technical infrastructure is concerned, there are occasional potholes, but the infrastructure is holding up!
For example, at the end of 2022 we noticed that there was a problem with our office suite management system. With the year-end holidays just around the corner, followed by intense preparations for the Framasoft AGM, we decided to suspend registration and take the time needed to develop a long-term solution. We reopened the registration in March 2023. So, in case you missed the news: it’s perfectly possible to register your association or collective on https://framaspace.org!

The fact that it’s Framasoft that manages the technical aspects can have certain disadvantages (we limit the number of accounts, disk space or Nextcloud plugins you can use). However, this outsourcing makes life much easier for the users (who, in most cases, would find it very difficult to maintain over time an instance of Nextcloud software that they would have installed ‘manually’).

In one year, we have gone from 0 to more than 700 spaces managed by Framasoft. We therefore consider this functional assessment to be more than satisfactory.

Click to support us and push
Demon Drive away - Illustration
CC-By David Revoy

Public awareness

One of Framaspace’s objectives is also to raise awareness of Nextcloud and the Framaspace offer (or similar offers elsewhere, in particular at CHATONS).
To this end, in 2023 we will:

- **3 conferences**: Capitole du Libre 2022, Capitole du Libre 2023, OSXP;
- **2 interviews**: NextINpact, Techologie;
- published **3 articles** about Framaspace: Association Mode d’Emploi, NextINpact, ZDNet;
- participated in **1 workshop/webinar**: « Collaborate effectively with Nextcloud », at Solidatech, in partnership with Arawa;
- **1 newsletter** distributed: Lettre d’information Framaspace #1.

**On a report card, we could write: « Not bad, but can do better »**.

**« Community » review**

This concerns our desire to build a community of French-speaking Nextcloud users in the long term.

To this end, we have:

- Opened a community-based help forum: 148 accounts created and 542 messages exchanged
- published a series of tutorials on the forum
- carried out a survey on satisfaction and expectations about Framaspace (presented at the CHATONS camp and results to be published soon).

This part of the project got off to a rather slow start, but that’s quite logical, because for various reasons we were not able to devote as much time to this part of the project in 2023 as we would have liked.

**Empowerment assessment**

This part of the project is planned for 2025. There were no plans to work on it in 2023. So it’s logical that we haven’t made any progress on it.
The 5 key points of this « empowerment » slide:
Disseminating information / Working together to identify needs / Transforming uses / Federation / Pooling funding for certain functionalities

Project stats
Here are some numbers to give you a more objective view of the first year. If you’re not interested, you can skip to the « Review of the review » section

Typology of the structures

Breakdown by type of structure
Breakdown of spaces by type of structure (Colours explained below)

**Description:**

- 72% associations under the law of 1901 (yellow);
- 22% informal groups (pink);
- 5% trade unions (green);
- 1% associations under the 1907 law (mixed/cultural associations) (blue).

**Breakdown by activity**
Description (note: organisations could choose more than one topic):

- A first « block » of more than 250 organisations in the following sectors or themes **Education/training, environment, culture, social affairs**;
- a second « block » of more than 100 organisations claiming to be active in the following sectors or themes: Friendship/Mutual Aid, Leisure, Defence of Fundamental Rights, Political Activities, Economy and Social Affairs: Amicale / Entraide, Loisirs, Défense des droits fondamentaux, Activités politiques, Économie ;
- a final « block » of less than 100 organisations claiming to be active in the following sectors or themes: Sport, Health, Research, Justice, Spiritual or philosophical activities, Tourism.

**Breakdown by year in which the structure was created**
**Description**: 50% of the 700 spaces correspond to structures created in 2017 or later. Even if a dozen structures existed before 1950, we can deduce that the Framaspace public as a whole represents rather recent structures.

**Breakdown by number of persons employed**

**Description and comments**: 500 of the spaces (71% of the total) are structures with no employees. There are a few structures with more than 20 employees, but
these are often « anomalies » (for example, the space is created for a local trade union group, which indicates the number of employees of the national trade union).

**Breakdown by number of members**

![Graph showing breakdown by number of members](image)

**Description:** Half of the spaces represent organisations with less than 30 members. 75% say they have 100 members or less.

**Breakdown by number of beneficiaries**

![Graph showing breakdown by number of beneficiaries](image)
**Description:** Half of the spaces represent organisations claiming to reach 100 people or more. There are a few organisations claiming to reach more than 25,000 people, but these are often « anomalies » (for example, the space is created for a local trade union group, which indicates the number of beneficiaries of the national trade union).

**Breakdown by annual budget**

![Budget Graph](image)

**Description:** 150 organisations did not wish to answer this question. Of the remaining 550 organisations, half said they had an annual budget of less than €4,000 (around a hundred organisations even said they had a budget of €0). About 25% of the organisations reported having a budget between €4,000 and €50,000 (which can be correlated with organisations having at least one employee). A handful of organisations report a budget of more than €50,000/year, but again these are mostly ‘statistical anomalies’.

**Examples of structures**

*NB: These associations have presented themselves publicly on the Framaspace forum, so we have no problem with their identity or purpose being made public.*

For example:

« Hello. We’re the « Les petits pois sont verts » association in Clamart. Our aim
is to imagine and build a way of life based on solidarity and respect for the environment by ..:

- Bringing together people in Clamart who share the same motivations,
- encouraging local dynamism
- supporting projects,
- gathering and disseminating information.

We are only a few years old and we advocate the use of free and sober digital technology.

We use the following Framasoft tools Framapad, Framadate and recently Frama.space. »

Or again:

« The Association des Cavaliers Au Long Cours (CALC) is a French-speaking association with about 200 members from all over the world (our most distant member is in Kyrgyzstan!), but mainly from Western European countries. Our aim is to develop long-distance travel with a mounted and/or covered animal (horse, donkey, mule, etc.). We also help would-be travellers with their organisation and provide assistance to travellers in difficulty ». 

Other examples:

- Plan B - Breton Pop Education Association (Rennes)
- AMAP of St Vallier de Thiey (Alpes Maritimes)
- La Gonette – local currency for citizens (Lyon)
- Les amis du Portique - Journal of Philosophy and Human Sciences
- Les Pieds à Terre - environmental education (Haute-Loire)
- Family planning in the Aude
- ...

Use of structures

Office suites used
Distribution of Framaspaces between Collabora Online and OnlyOffice

NB: The overrepresentation of Collabora Online is due to the fact that it is the office suite offered by default. The administrator of the instance can switch to OnlyOffice if they wish, but very few do.

Usage stats

- **Number of active**
  - Active: 700
  - Rejected: 14
  - Deactivated (by their administrators) 10
- **Accounts** (admins + users): 3,356
  - Average: 4.8 accounts; Median: 2 accounts
- **Hosted user files**: 760,939 for 860 GB (excluding revisions and recycle bin)
  - 131 GB in recycle bin
  - 99% of spaces have created at least one file
- **Connections:**
  - 198 rooms connected in the last 3 days
  - 390 rooms connected in the last 15 days

**Number of accounts**

Description: almost 300 rooms have only one account (necessarily the « admin » account). This means that 40% of the spaces have no collaborative use with other users. However, we did find cases where the space admin did have collaborative uses with other people in his or her association (for example, by using shared folders, with or without passwords). This means - all the same - that 60% of the spaces have several users. 42% even have 5 or more users.

**Used disk space**
Description: almost all spaces have used their file space (only 2% have never created a file). It is interesting to note that less than 20% of the spaces use more than 1 GB (out of a maximum of 40 GB per space).

Number of files

Description: 50% of the rooms have more than 250 user files. This is a good « surprise » in our opinion: it means that Framaspace is quite useful (either for storing or sharing files).
Balance sheet

Expenses
At present, the technical infrastructure (computer servers) of Framaspace costs us about 1,200 € per month (i.e. about 15,000 € per year). The cost of the work, estimated by the very inaccurate LaLouche Institute, is around €20,000 of investment before the launch of the project. Since the start of the project, we’ve been able to estimate this figure at around €2,000 per month (3 people involved, working very, very part-time on this project). So, roughly speaking, Framaspace has cost Framasoft around €60,000.

Income
The income side is a bit more complex.

Framaspace is a project reserved for small associations and solidarity groups, and it is deliberately free. We don’t want the price to be a barrier to access. And we don’t want to set a « free price », because a price means a service sold, a service provided, an invoice and obligations (contractual, accounting and fiscal). We voluntarily choose to donate without expecting any financial compensation (which does not mean that we cannot hope for it ).

It is likely that some members of the associations we host have made a donation to Framasoft. However, we do not want to earmark donations for Framasoft projects. For accounting purposes, a donation earmarked for a project must go into a dedicated fund that must be used for that project. However, we would like donations to Framasoft to be able to finance « loss-making » projects, which is exactly what Framaspace is doing in this first year.

For the sake of simplicity we can say that the income is... €0!

Cost per space
From the above data, we can deduce that the cost of a space (so far) is €86
per year (or €7 per month, of which €1.8 per month is infrastructure costs).

However, the infrastructure costs are not expected to change too much and the labour costs are expected to increase slightly by 2024, while the number of spaces could triple or quadruple. Let us assume a total cost of €60,000 (for 2023) + €15,000 for the servers in 2024 + €36,000 in labour costs. This gives a total of €111,000 by the end of 2024. Assuming 2,500 active spaces at the end of 2024, the total cost would be €45 per space per year (i.e. €3.7 per month, including €1/month for infrastructure costs). These costs could fall further in 2025.

It’s a significant cost, and few associations can afford this type of project, which does not aim to be profitable or even break even.

However, we believe that the political importance of this project means that we have to take this risk. We hope (more from experience than naivety) that the associations that can afford it will support Framasoft (and indirectly Framaspace) financially.

Review of the review

The news is pretty good!
Dawkins’ famous line about science, « It works, Bitches ». (context; PeerTube video)

First of all, Framaspace works
Managing 700 Nextcloud instances in one year isn’t bad, is it? Especially since outsourcing is going pretty well (for now!).

Secondly, we’ve managed to reach the audience we wanted to reach: associations (registered or de facto) that are fairly small, with small budgets. Most of them focus on education, the environment, social or cultural issues. Which is hardly surprising given Framasoft’s target audience.

Finally, Framaspace is used. More than half the spaces have regular connections. And people handle quite a lot of files (rather small files, which explains why very few spaces use more than one GB of the maximum 40 GB allowed).

We feel that our 2023 goals have been more than adequately met in terms of actions. We could even say that it’s a success given the resources we’ve invested.

Offering « locked » spaces (for example, you can’t install the Nextcloud plugins of your choice on Framaspace, and only small associations or collectives can open a Framaspace) has had the expected frustrating effect. In fact, we have regularly referred people frustrated by these limitations to friendly structures such as Zaclys, IndieHosters, Cloud Girofle, Paquerette, Arawa, etc. This shows that we’re not taking a « slice of the cake », but helping to make it bigger.
Framaspace in 2024 (and 2025)

As you may have read in our ‘assessment of the assessment’, Framaspace is meeting a need, and Framasoft believes the response is pretty good. It’s far from perfect, of course, but for a small association that wants to get out of the box and align its values with its digital tools, Framaspace could be the answer.

But we’re not going to stop there! Framaspace is still in beta testing (and will probably be until the end of 2025!) and many improvements are still to come.

Support

First of all, we’re going to keep hosting spaces. Now that Framaspace is more stable, we think we can pick up the pace and host 2,500 spaces by the end of 2024 (i.e. more than triple the current number. Don’t worry!).

Next, we’ll continue our outsourcing initiatives. For example, by moving from Nextcloud 26 to Nextcloud 27 in late 2023 or early 2024. Each version brings a host of new features (see our friends at Arawa who give a summary presentation...
here and here).

On the support side, we want to produce a bit of a special tutorial. In fact, many tutorials already exist (we highlight the Coopaname one, produced by La Dérivation). But this type of tutorial doesn’t meet everyone’s needs. That’s why we want to produce a more narrative and immersive tutorial. A « tutorial in which you are the hero » (or « tricks in which you are the heroine », if you prefer). Inspired by « Books in which you are the hero », the user⋅ice will embody a character who has to carry out various missions with his or her Framaspace room. The special feature is that certain « quests » can either be bypassed (for example, if the user⋅ice already knows how to create a user⋅ice account) or explored in more depth (for example, on file sharing).

![Diagram](image_url)

Scenario under construction for a « tutorial in which you are the hero ». Sorry, the translator didn’t have the courage to translate every box!

We also want to provide documentation (and facilitation tools) to facilitate migration from OneDrive, Dropbox or GoogleDrive, and to simplify import/export between Nextcloud instances. For example, an association that has reached the 50 account limit on its Framaspace space and wants to migrate to
a more powerful Nextcloud with our friends at IndieHosters would be able to transfer its data – files, calendars, contacts, etc. – in a more automated way.

Finally, we are aware that one of the major weaknesses of Nextcloud (and by extension Framaspace) is the difficulty of « onboarding » novices to a (too?) rich and sometimes (very?) confusing interface. That’s why we want to integrate the free IntroJS tool into Nextcloud to highlight certain parts of the software and make it easier to learn. See the video below.

*Video demonstration of how IntroJS has been integrated into Nextcloud to make it easier to learn.*

Still on the subject of getting started, we’re working with designer Marie-Cécile Godwin, who teaches at the Strate design school, to get her students thinking about how Nextcloud could be improved from a UX and UI perspective.

**Raising awareness of Nextcloud**

In 2024, we will of course continue our efforts to make Nextcloud better known in the French-speaking world.

For example, we have already subtitled a number of Nextcloud presentation videos in French. But we’d like to go further. For example, we’d like to redo the voice-overs or translate the documentation (flyers, brochures, etc.).

*Video of a Nextcloud promotional video, originally in English only and subtitled by Framasoft.*

Framasoft will also continue to promote Nextcloud and Framaspace through conferences, webinars, interviews, etc.

We will also continue to share our experience and feedback with the CHATONS community, many of whose members offer services based on Nextcloud. We think we’ve acquired a certain amount of knowledge and know-
how around Nextcloud, but above all we know that we still have a lot to learn.

Finally, we’re going to start **getting in touch with the heads of associative networks** (Collectif Associations Citoyennes, Mouvement Associatif, popular education networks, but also networks such as Associations Mode d’Emploi, Solidatech, Associathèque, etc.) to present Framaspace, and highlight what Nextcloud can do (or can’t do!) in terms of collaborative ethical digital technology. The ultimate aim is to **assess its relevance as a « digital commons of general interest » for associations.**

**Framaspace & Nextcloud user community**

In 2024, we will continue our work to **promote, animate and coordinate a community of Nextcloud software users** on the Framaspace forum.

We will also publish a **website for the OPEN-L Observatory** (« Observatory of Free Digital Practices and Experiences »), which will publicly host the various surveys (and their results!) that Framasoft will have conducted among its audiences. This site will be open to other organisations wishing to share their feedback. The aim is not to reinvent the wheel, but to make it easier to objectify the needs (and frustrations) of users.

Of course, we will continue to improve both Framaspace and Nextcloud. We’re lucky (and happy) to have Thomas, **one of the world’s leading contributors** from outside Nextcloud GmbH, on our staff.

- His contributions to the heart of Nextcloud
- Its contributions to the Nextcloud calendar app
- The applications that Framasoft maintains for the Nextcloud community:
  - https://github.com/nextcloud/registration/
  - https://framagit.org/framasoft/nextcloud/csp_editor
  - https://framagit.org/framasoft/nextcloud/login-notes
  - https://framagit.org/framasoft/nextcloud/drop_account
  - https://framagit.org/framasoft/nextcloud/holiday_calendars (now abandoned as it has been integrated into the calendar app)

This means that Framasoft (through Framadrive, Framagenda and now Framaspace) **is taking a very active part in this digital commons that is the
Nextcloud software.

On a more ‘internal’ note, in the coming months we should be increasing our capacity to work on the Framaspace project within Framasoft: Thomas, currently the lead developer on Mobilizon, will shift up to 50% of his time to Framaspace, and Pierre-Yves, currently co-director of Framasoft, will leave this role to concentrate on the association’s digital services (including Framaspace, of course).

Empowering ‘off-market’ structures

We have many policy ambitions for the Framaspace project (see our launch article – only in French, sorry!).

To achieve this, we will use surveys to gather information about the needs (both functional and more political) of the structures we host. Depending on the results, and if resources allow, we will be able to adapt Framaspace to the needs of its users.

We have noticed that in the associations we support, the issue of digital tools often lies with one or two volunteers, who sometimes struggle to implement a change management policy or convince their board. So we also want to produce « practical information sheets » to make life easier for these key people. « For example, we’ll look at how to carry out a digital diagnosis of my association, or how to convince my board to switch from Gdrive or Dropbox to Framaspace.

Finally, and we are aware of the high demand for this item, we would like to pool funding for new features in Framaspace.

We will focus on :

- The possibility of managing your members in Framaspace (members, categories, identity card, subscriptions, membership reminders, etc.) using the (fabulous) free association management software Paheko;
- The possibility of managing your association’s accounts (data entry, balance sheet, profit and loss, choice of chart of accounts, etc.), again thanks to Paheko;
- the possibility of quickly creating visual communication tools using
the Aktivisda software (see the example of the Alternatiba association);
- allow associations that wish to do so to publish pages presenting their
  structure and activities. To do this, we want to make it possible to
  **publish a mini-website presenting the organisation** (written in
  Framaspace’s « Collectives » application).

Help Li, Framaspace’s unicorn mascot, Push back Demondrive by supporting
Framasoft! – Illustration CC-By David Revoy

**Moulaga needed!**

As you can see, the Framaspace 2024 roadmap is already very full!

Please note: none of the items below are firm commitments on our part. They’re
just our wishes, what we want to implement in the coming year. It’s all very
ambitious. And like any ambition, we need to know what resources we can devote
to it.

As we said, Framaspace is a project with a large deficit. **That’s a good thing: it’s not intended to be profitable, much less to make a profit.** However, it is
the resources you entrust to us (i.e. your donations) that enable us to
act.Therefore, we sincerely believe that €1 (or €100 or €1,000, eh! []) donated to
Framasoft **really** does help to change things and have a positive impact on the
digital world ‘outside the market’. That’s why we invite you, if you can, to support Framasoft with a donation, so that we can continue our work, and especially to maintain and develop the Framaspace project. Once again this year we need you, your support, your sharing to help us regain ground on the toxic GAFAM web and multiply the number of ethical digital spaces. So we’ve asked David Revoy to help us present this on our « Support Framasoft » page, which we invite you to visit (because it’s beautiful) and above all to share as widely as possible:

Click to support us – Illustration CC-By David Revoy

**If we are to balance our budget for 2024, we have six weeks to raise €183,478: we can’t do it without your help!**

Support Framasoft
Let’s regain ground on the toxic web ! - Framasoft’s 2023 report

A year ago, we launched our 2022-2025 roadmap, « Collectivising the Internet, Convivialising the Internet ». The aim: to encourage the adoption of user-friendly web tools by groups that share the values of Free/Libre culture.

VS : Let’s take back some ground from the tech giants!

Thanks to your donations to our not-for-profit, Framasoft is taking action to advance the ethical, user-friendly web. Find a summary of our progress in 2023 on our Support Framasoft page.

➡️ Read the series of articles from this campaign (Nov. – Dec. 2023)

One year on, we are proud and delighted to present this first full update on our activities, funded (as always) by your donations.

Click on Coin-Coin to support Framasoft – Illustration CC-By
David Revoy
Changing the world, one web corner at a time

The actions of Collectivise / Convivialise Internet (« Collectivisons Internet / Convivialisons Internet » aka « Coin-coin » (qwack qwack, in French), hence the mascot) complement and add to the maintenance of our historical actions: online services and software tools, sharing experience, various contributions and collaborations.

As we wrote last year on this blog, the goal remains the same: to ensure that there are more and more bubbles of ethical web, in order to regain ground on the toxic digital world occupied by the tech giants.

This blogpost is a very quick summary of our end-of-year campaign. It aims to give you a general idea of what your donations are going towards. If you’re interested, we’ll be posting details of the key actions in this report on this blog every Tuesday (if everything goes well©) until the end of the year.

Support Framasoft
Framaspace, solidarity collectives get to grips with this convivial cloud

We said it back in 2022: Framaspace is our most ambitious project in this new roadmap. By the end of 2025, we aim to provide up to 10,000 collaborative cloud spaces based on Nextcloud software for small groups of people to work together.

We’ll be covering Framaspace news in detail during the week of Nov. 21st:

- **The first year of Framaspace**
  - A high demand, already almost 700 Framaspaces open;
  - ...and even more if you ask here for one for your *(French-speaking only)* collective;
  - Lessons learned from this beta release;
  - the first needs expressed by the beneficiaries;
  - technical improvements, updates, maintenance, etc.

- **In the pipeline for next year(s)**
  - Preparation of tools to make it easier for newcomers to use the system;
  - Ideas for « tutorials where you are the hero » (or « schemes where you are the heroine »);
future explorations: the possibility of publishing websites, or even managing members and accounts?

Support Framasoft

PeerTube: a v6 based on your ideas

We’ve been developing this software for six years, and once it’s installed on a server, it can be used to create an ethical alternative to YouTube, Twitch, Vimeo and so on.

The technical possibilities offered by PeerTube all serve the same purpose: to allow you to host and distribute your videos and live streams, even (and especially) if you don’t have the money of Google or the server farms of Amazon.

The features that we will describe in detail during the week of Nov. 28th have been selected from your ideas:

Click to support us and push Videoraptor away - Illustration
CC-By David Revoy
• **Version 5.1** (March 2023)
  • Moderation of account requests;
  • Back to live.

• **Version 5.2** (June 2023)
  • Major work on transcoding that can be offloaded to a remote server;
  • Replay visibility;
  • RSS feed adapted for podcasts.

• **Version 6** (end of November 2023)
  • Improved accessibility;
  • Image preview in progress bar;
  • Videos chapters;
  • Uploading a new version of a video;
  • Password protection for videos;
  • Live load & stress tests (report to be published later).

**Support Framasoft**

**Mobilizon, the final countdown of the battle...**

...for Framasoft!

After 4 years of development, we feel we’ve completed our vision for Mobilizon. Once this v4 is released, we hope that your groups will have the features they need to organise themselves around their events, and emancipate themselves from Facebook or Meetup.

**That’s why during the week of Dec. 5th, we’ll be talking in detail about:**
Version 3.1 (March 2023)
  • Ability to enter an unlisted address;
  • Anti-spam tools.

Version 4 (December 2023)
  • Import events from other platforms (MeetUp, Facebook, etc.);
  • Message from organisers to participants.

The future
  • We will provide security updates;
  • We will maintain the French-speaking instance Mobilizon.fr;
  • Other groups already have plans to develop Mobilizon with new ambitions...
  • ...and there is always room for your own vision!

Support Framasoft

PeerTube (yes, again! but...) in 2024:
we’re betting big on its success

The toxicity of YouTube, Twitch and the like is becoming increasingly visible... More and more groups, institutions and content creators discover and use PeerTube. In 2023, we’ve been working hard internally to better support this burgeoning success and give PeerTube every chance to succeed.

That’s why, during the week of Dec. 12th, we’ll be talking specifically about:

- **The roadmap to PeerTube v7** (end 2024)
  - Export and import tool for your account;
  - Accessibility audit and recommendations integration;
  - Comment moderation tool (for admins and video-makers);
  - Keyword list moderation tool;
  - Separation of audio and video streams (opens up future possibilities);
  - Addition of « zero pixel » resolution (receive audio only);
  - Recategorisation of sensitive content (more detailed than SFW/NSFW);
  - Redesign of the video management area;
  - Redesigning the interface following a user experience (UX) audit.
• **Investing even more in PeerTube** to give it a better chance of growing its audience, starting in 2024
  - Promote the PeerTube ecosystem (newsletter, social media, etc.);
  - Work on a « showcase » instance of PeerTube;
  - Hire a second developer (from September 2023);
    - Threefold goal: master 270,000 lines of code, encourage contributions, but above all...
• ...**Official PeerTube mobile application** (end of 2024)
  - Based on design work (survey, mock-ups, etc.);
  - For Android, iOS (폰)... and ideally AndroidTV;
  - First version: discover and watch videos (search, playlists, subscriptions, notifications).

Support Framasoft

Émancip’Asso: professional training, MOOC, website...

Conceived in partnership with Animafac, the Émancip’Asso project aims to train service providers to understand and support associations in their transition to ethical web tools.

A lot of work has already been done this year and we’ll be talking about it during the week of Dec. 19th:
- Organisation of face-to-face professional training (January 2023)
- **Publication of the MOOC** « Developing a range of services to support associations in their ethical digital transition », the extended version of the face-to-face professional training course, aimed at anyone wishing to start or improve their support skills.
  - MOOC with free and independent participation;
  - Understand the non-profit sector and its digital applications;
  - To master the support methods used by non-profit organisations;
  - Design and promote a range of services tailored to this ecosystem;
  - Not forgetting networking in order to work together more effectively.
- **Design and publication of the Émancip’Asso website**
  - A list of service providers who can support associations in their transition process;
  - A space for associations to help each other;
  - Access to additional resources;
- **What’s next for 2024**
  - To increase the number of support services listed;
  - A campaign to promote the system to associations;
  - Active community management.
Support Framasoft

Digital empowerment with practical tools

To end the year on a high note, we’d like to talk about the hard work we’re doing on the practical, concrete tools we offer.

Whether it’s our « De-google-ify internet » services or our historical directory of free software, these tools enable more than 1.5 million people every month to break free from the tech giants and their toxic tools.

During the week of Dec. 26th, if you’ve been good (or naughty), we’ll announce:

- **Framalibre, the free software directory**
  - Complete overhaul of the directory following design surveys;
  - Still collaborative, with a priori moderation (to fight spam);
  - (under the hood) New static engine, easy to use entries;
  - Fluid and simplified interface, adapted to mobile phones;
  - Simple search (search bar, tags);
  - Software recommendations;
  - « Small sites » tool: create your own pages to recommend your favorite FOSSes.
- « De-google-ify internet » services
  - Almost 10 years of existence!
  - Our annual usage statistics;
  - Maintenance, backups, updates;
  - Huge work to fight spam;
  - The success of Framagroupes...
  - ...and the campaign to renew the services (we have lots of ideas!)

Support Framasoft

All the work we can’t describe in 7 weeks...

If you’ve read through the 94 pages of our 2022 Activity Report (FR), you’ve already guessed: it’s very difficult to summarize everything our small association is doing.

But just because we won’t be devoting a week to each of the following projects doesn’t mean that nothing has happened...
So here’s what we won’t have time to go into until the end of the year:

- CHATONS Collective (ethical web service providers)
  - Framasoft has been dedicating paid time to the collective for 6 years now;
  - Organisation of the CHATONS camp (August 2023);
  - This is our last year of coordinating the collective;
  - Major transmission and support work, allowing it to become autonomous;
  - Self-managed internal debates have already taken place;
  - Framasoft remains a member of the collective, we just stop coordinating it.

- ECHO Network (European exchange project on ethical digital support for citizens)
  - Co-organisation of the inaugural seminar in Paris (January 2023);
  - Study visit to Berlin (March 2023);
  - Brussels study visit (June 2023);
  - Rome study visit (September 2023);
  - Zagreb study visit planned for early December 2023;
  - In 2024, pooling shared experiences into practical tools.

- Peer.Tube (showcase of quality content broadcast on PeerTube)
  - Prioritized the development of PeerTube in 2023;
  - Work planned for 2024 (content promotion, showcase, community of curators, etc.).

Support Framasoft
Seven weeks to balance our budget for 2024

If Framasoft is able to employ not 10 but 11 people, to rent nearly 57 servers, to travel all over France (and beyond), and to finance everything it does in the digital commons... It is all thanks to your donations.

Your donations are and will remain our main source of funding, allowing us to act freely and in complete independence.

This year again, we need you, your support, your sharing, to help us regain ground on the toxic GAFAM web, and multiply ethical digital spaces.

So we’ve asked David Revoy to help us present this off on our « Support Framasoft » page, which we invite you to visit (because it’s beautiful) and above all to share as widely as possible:
If we want to complete our budget for 2024, we have seven weeks left to raise 200 000 €: we won’t make it without your help!

Support Framasoft

We sincerely hope that this report and outlook will inspire you and (if you can) make you proud to support Framasoft.
PeerTube v5 : the result of 5 years’ handcrafting

Late 2017, we announced our desire to create a free, decentralised and federated alternative to YouTube.

Five years later, we are releasing PeerTube v5, a tool used by hundreds of thousands people on a thousand interconnected platforms to share over 850,000 videos.

« Collectivise Internet / Convivialise Internet »
Our new 3-year roadmap is funded by your donations.

You will find a short presentation of this roadmap on our Support Framasoft website.

➡️ Read all blogposts of this campaign (oct. – déc. 2022, mostly in French)

Illustration CC BY David Revoy
Five years of shaping PeerTube by hand

For the past 5 years, our only developer dedicated to PeerTube (and to other tasks in Framasoft) has released one new major version per year:

- PeerTube v1 (Oct. 2018) allows you to create a video platform with federation, peer-to-peer streaming, redundancy, search tools and multilingual interface.
- PeerTube v2 (Nov 2019) brings notifications, playlists and plugins.
- PeerTube v3 (Jan. 2021) adds federated search, live and peer-to-peer streaming.
- PeerTube v4 (Dec. 2021) allows to customise each platform’s homepage, to sort and filter displayed videos, and to manage them more easily.

Throughout these years, this developer has taken care to improve moderation and federation tools, the video player, the interface, the code and the accessibility and also to fix bugs while answering community questions and needs.

PeerTube ecosytem

PeerTube is an artisanal work, in the noble sense of the word. It is a handcrafted tool that now serves a large alternative ecosystem for online video.

- SepiaSearch, a Search Engine of PeerTube content
- Communication tools:
  - a support forum
  - a newsletter (also published on JoinPeerTube)
  - a Twitter account
  - a Mastodon account
  - a monitoring on reddit
- 2 crowdfundings to avoid PeerTube to be only financed by donations from French speaking people
- Let’s Improve PeerTube, a website to suggest or vote for ideas or improvements

Once again, we would like to remind you that our small non-profit creates and
maintains all this with only one developer on the project, helped by:

- **Framasoft employees and volunteers** for communication, strategy, administration;
- **PeerTube community** which regularly contributes to code, plugins, translations, suggestions, sharing and donations (thanks and lots of datalove to you <3);
- **Service providers** in specialized areas (UX or UI design, accessibility, creation of mobile applications, etc.).

However PeerTube is only one of dozens of projects we maintain at Framasoft, even though it is one of the largest.

Like every thing we do, **PeerTube is mainly funded by your donations** (and donations from foundations like NLnet).

Support PeerTube by donating to Framasoft

**A year of work to make PeerTube easier to use**

Since the beginning of 2022, we have been working on PeerTube to make it easier and easier to use for videomakers and their communities.

In February, version 4.1 brings several expected improvements: of the interface, of the video player on mobile devices, of the plugin system, of the search filters or of the instance customization.

In June, version 4.2 introduces two major new features: the Studio, for light video editing directly from PeerTube; and replay publication for «Twitch-like» live streams. Other new features include detailed video statistics, latency management for live streaming and subtitle editing directly from the interface.

In September, with version 4.3, you can now automate video import from a YouTube (or Vimeo) channel. We have also completely reworked the interface for creating a PeerTube account and improved the live streams display on external website.
PeerTube v5: improving and securing to empower yourself better

It’s now December 2022, and **PeerTube v5 is now available**! This version enhances security in several ways.

The file system has been redesigned to **secure internal and private videos**. This was a fairly complex work that lays a basis for some much asked future features.

Another very emancipating technical improvement is the **possibility of storing live streams in the cloud**, with « object storage » system. This means that PeerTube platforms hosted on a server with limited disk storage and bandwidth are no longer limited in their ability to offer live streams.

It is now possible to **use two-factor authentication** to connect to a PeerTube platform. We use the OTP (One Time Password) method which allows, via an external application, to generate a unique code to validate the connection to its account.
This new version also comes with a lot of **bug fixes and improvements**. For example, we have added more possibilities to the API, so that PeerTube contributors can develop even more powerful plugins.

Also, the PeerTube interface has received many changes. For example, in the **My Videos** menu now displays channels, and a mention of the playlist in which a video has been added to.

Finally, we have now a **detailed OpenTelemetry documentation** (feature released in version 4.2) which brings advanced statistics and observability.

**Support, intern, technical challenges and questions on our horizon**

Right now, we only have a clear vision for the near future of PeerTube.
This year again, we have supported John Livingston’s work on PeerTube Live Chat plugin, and we can announce that the easy plugin set-up is coming very soon!

In early 2023, we plan to work on a rather technical but very exciting feature, which should reduce the servers’ load and thus to lower the power needed to create a PeerTube platform: we’ll tell you more as soon as we’ve made progress.

Also in 2023, we will welcome a developer intern. We want more and more people to become familiar with PeerTube core code. We want to experiment with temporarily expanding the team working on it.
Finally, the day after this article is published, we will answer all your questions on reddit. **Join us on December 14th at 4pm (CEST) on r/opensource for an AMA (Ask Me Anything) about PeerTube and Framasoft!**

Support PeerTube by donating to Framasoft

**Share your ideas for PeerTube v6!**

These few points aside... we have no idea what the PeerTube roadmap will be in 2023. We need you to help us define it!

Please **go to Let’s Improve PeerTube and publish your ideas** (and vote for the ones you’re excited about). We want to know what the PeerTube community needs and wants, especially the « non-geek » audience who doesn’t care about words like « server » or « instance » and just want to watch and share videos.

More than 90 ideas have been already published on Let’s improve Peertube

In early 2023, we will go through the most popular suggestions and **select those**
that fit our vision for PeerTube and our development capabilities, in order to build the PeerTube v6 roadmap.

So it’s up to you to tell us what future you want for PeerTube!

An international tool...

This year, we were lucky enough to have two development contracts that helped us to fund some of our work on PeerTube.

The French Ministry of Education funded the Studio (a tool for editing videos) to be implemented on its platform apps.education.fr (a free-libre service platform provided by the Ministry to all teachers and staff).

Howlround, a Boston-based open platform for theatremakers worldwide, funded detailed video and live stats, but also replay feature for permanent lives.

Finally, we received an exceptional grant from the Dutch foundation NLnet to work on PeerTube v5.

...funded by French-speaking donations

Put together, these amounts represent a small half of our annual budget dedicated to PeerTube (which we estimate at 70 000 €). The other part comes from Framasoft’s budget, i.e. from the donations that our non profit receives from its mainly French-speaking community. To us, it seems almost unfair that it is mainly French speakers who finance a tool that has a truly international scope...

But here’s the thing: we’re already not very good at « selling ourselves », promoting our work and getting donations, so if we have to do international marketing, we’re not out of the woods!

We don’t have a marketing department: we only have you.

So we need your help. Spread the word about our donation campaign around you, especially outside the French-speaking world.

Do not hesitate to share the address support.joinpeertube.org around you, on
your PeerTube platforms, in your communities that benefit from this alternative.

At the time of publishing, we are still missing 115 000 € to finance our yearly budget and make everything we want to do in 2023 happen.

If you can (especially in these hard times) and if you want to, thanks for supporting our non-profit and our actions.

[Support Framasoft]