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 (⋯)... and ideally AndroidTV;
  - First version: discover and watch videos (search, playlists, subscriptions, notifications).

**Support Framasoft**

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**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.
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.
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]