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!

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.
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!

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

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!

Click to support us and help Sepia reach their potential – Illustration CC-By David Revoy

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.

Click to support us and help push Yetube back - CC-By Illustration
David Revoy

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

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 interface (« Files » application)

**Nextcloud: an imperfect solution (but a solution nonetheless)**

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: framaspace.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.

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
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 distribution 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 distribution 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

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**

![Graph showing distribution of accounts](image)

**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!

*Framaspace meme using biologist Richard*
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...
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).

![Scenario under construction for a « tutorial in which you are the hero »](image)

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.
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:

![Click to support us and push Yetube away – Illustration CC-By David Revoy](image)

- 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**

**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.
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...

- « 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
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.
Collectivise the Internet : Three years to Ruffle the Feathers of Surveillance Capitalism

If the major issue in the digital world is systemic (a system called Surveillance Capitalism), then the answer cannot be limited to » individual degoogleizing initiatives ». Our new roadmap Collectivise the Internet / Convivialise the Internet is all out on providing digital tools for non-profit organizations and collectives that work for the common good and the good of the Commons.

Let us tell you this story...

This article was published in French in October 2022 as part of the launch of Framasoft’s new roadmap Collectivise the Internet / Convivialise the Internet.
Emancipating Ourselves from Googles’ Industrial Animal Farmland

At Framasoft, we learn by doing. With every new campaign, with every new three-year roadmap, we try to apply lessons from the past. And every time, we discover more about our own misconceptions, our mistakes and ways forward to fix them.

During the Degoogleize The Internet campaign (2014-2017), we have learned that, although our small association could not degoogleize the whole planet, there is still a great deal of people who show interest in web-based tools that respect their values and integrity. Providing Free and open-source services to as many people as possible ensures a large-scale deployment, even if that means risking focusing the demand and expectations on us. During this time period, we also initiated the alternative hosting collective CHATONS (an acronym that also means « kittens », in French), so that other hosts could join us in this adventure.

Then, we started the Contributopia roadmap (2017-2020), in which we contributed to many collective, popular and federated project, therereby meeting like-minded contributors, with whom we share the common values of sharing, fairness, caring, and emancipation, free and open-source software (FOSS) values that attracted us. We’ve come to realize, walking down this path, gathering and relating, that digital choices are societal choices, and that the choices made by FANGs are the pillars of a system: surveillance capitalism.
Entire books are merely attempting to define what surveillance capitalism is, so what we are sharing here is just a rough summary of what it actually is. Surveillance capitalism is a system that transforms collective behaviours into data sets by prioritizing profit and power above all. The aim is to sell prediction and manipulation of our future behaviours, generally as commercial, cultural or electoral propaganda. In order to do so, some mega corporations try to establish monopolies on digital tools that maximize the acquisition and monopoly on our attention.

Simply put, surveillance capitalism creates industrial data farms, where we are the cattle. On the one hand, we are force-fed with attention mush (enriched with ads), and, on the other, part of our lives and our social behaviours are snatched from us to be resold to prosperous buyers at premium price.

That is why, at Framasoft, we have developed tools designed away from the values pushed by this system. Among the solutions we developed are
PeerTube, a video platform software, and Mobilizon, a group and events management system. However, these tools require an entire group of people managing, maintaining, drafting and ensuring its editorial policy, and moderating: many small organizations do not have the human resources to handle this in-house.

Discover the projects we want to carry out  Support Framasoft

Requiring digital tools that do not give goose bumps

From 2019 to 2022, we also ran the Déframasoftisons Internet action plan. We closed several projects which were underused or available through other trusted « CHATONS » hosts. This allowed us to save some energy for future projects, to reinforce our will to take care of our organization by avoiding unreasonable growth or restructuring that would disrupt our collective and the way it operates - which has made us pretty effective so far! - but especially to promote the decentralization of ethical digital tools.

Between 2020 and 2022, right in the middle of a global pandemic that confirmed our general dependency on online services, we intensified our efforts in maintaining our actions. Incidentally, we revised our plans for « Let’s deframasoftize » and chose to maintain some of the tools we intended to restrain or close: Framalistes, Framagit, Framateam, Framacalc.... We made that choice because we could see little to no other alternatives, and we did not want to let so many people down.

During this period of forced isolation, a pressing need began to be voiced more and more:

*I am willing to ‘degoogle-ize’ myself, but I need someone to assist me, who can be here, in person to help me throughout this transition.*
We have been hearing this need for this kind of human, tangible support for a while, and this is not unexpected. One of the mechanisms of capitalism is to individualize (« the customer is always right ») so as to better isolate and place the responsibility on each of us. For example, the information that we name « personal data » is neither personal nor data: it is more accurately the digital harvesting of our lives linked to those of others. Those are our social behaviours.

Conversely, if so many organizations, federations, etc. are so efficient in their task for the common good (whether they help us discover knitting or fight climate inaction), it is precisely because they rest on the enjoyment of being and doing together, on the joy of meeting and exchanging, on the human warmth we find in the collective.

Ducking out the slump thanks to conviviality

The future Big Tech is designing for us is one where humans are being:
* isolated – so that connections between humans rely solely upon their tools
exploited – so that more and more tools are being created for us to consume
* singled out – so that no collective action is put in place that challenges their methods
* dependent – on their system of absolute monopoly
* greedy – so our lack of money can be weaponized against us
* competing – to pit us against each other and justify the rise of their elite class

This future that surveillance capitalism is designing for us as we speak, is neither engaging nor sustainable.. It treats both people and the Earth as a liability and will lead us straight to destruction.

On the other hand, trying to step out of our comfortable FOSS-enthusiasts’ bubble to try and reach out to other communities that are changing the world, has proved to be not as desorienting as we might have thought. We found that oftentime we shared the same utopias and the same definition of society: one based on contributing.

These « Contributopians » share the same dream as us: a future where humans are proud, autonomous, emancipated, knowledgeable, sharing and helpful to each other... a future where digital tools are under control, transparent, user-friendly and enhance the emancipation of human beings.
Thus, let’s summarize the lessons learned from our previous endeavours:

- **We did not yet have tools that fit the needs of the small organizations and associations** that do so much with so little, but most of all with a lot of good will.
- We are aware of the risk of **remaining isolated, singled out in our “small, individual ‘degoogleization’ initiatives”** against a whole system that can only be faced effectively through collective action.
- We can see how crucial it is **to put humans back at the center, the need for human presence and kindness** when assisting others throughout their transition towards ethical digital practises.
- We have been able to confirm that **a good number** of associations and organizations from civil society which are working for the commons **share with us these common values.**

These patrons/champions of a « society of contribution » work hard to make our common dreams a reality.

*Long story short: it’s high time we degoogleized the Contributopians!*

(... those who wish to be, of course. We have never forced anyone to do anything, and we won’t start now!)

- Discover the projects we want to carry out  
- Support Framasoft

**Finding warmth with the jolly fellows**

The four long-term actions we introduced in the article « Convivialise the Internet » [(Framaspace, Émancip’Asso, ECHO Network, Peer.tube) all serve the same purpose: to equip organizations with online tools that fit their values.](#)

These four projects rely on the strength of the collective while also taking into account the known constraints and limits that associations face. **Kindness alone cannot magically and miraculously provide people with knowledge,** time and means to train to use Nextcloud, PeerTube and other ethical tools.
Similarly, the 39 members that compose Framasoft (10 of whom are employees) cannot spawn everywhere to personally train each and every new organization that wants to use, let’s say Framaspace, especially as that number could rise—with the help of your generous donations—up to thousands of organizations within 3 years!

That is why all of these projects are both about building a sense of community through shared spaces and some time allocated to community-building activities and sharing practices, challenges, etc., and providing support via coaching, improvements tailored for specific needs, and learning content to help people to be more autonomous and master the different tools, etc. Going blindly ahead with preconceived notions and a “we know best what works best for you” kind of attitude does not seem to be the most suitable — let alone humane — approach.

Discover the projects we want to carry out  Support Framasoft
Let’s steer our ship into a virtuous circle

We want to be efficient, so we want our tools to actually be used. Our goal is thus to make our tools useful – yeah, because designing tools that are actually useful is what disruptive innovation is all about, to make Tech for good that is community-owned and still very much online!

We are thus planning not to plan everything, except time and space dedicated to your feedback. We also want to be available to tackle issues we might face on each of the actions that we feel ready to take. In other words, if we already plan to develop new features, create tutorials, host webinars and draft learning content, we do not want to predefine everything upfront, so as to save some time to help our users, our main target.

This is the virtuous circle that we defined over the course of our various experimentations and that best fits our workflow:

1. Launch a first draft of our project, although
imperfect

It’s OK if the paint is still fresh, or if it’s still a rough sketch. It’s absolutely OK too to start with a very small target audience. We have 3 years ahead of us to improve all that, and we have time and resources in store to do so.

For example, while we hope to provide millions of organizations with Framaspace within 3 years, it will be a good start to offer it to 200-300 organizations by the end of 2022!

2. Take users’ feedback into account

The Frama.space forum, the PeerTube community the study programs on ECHO Network and the comments received on Emancip’Asso are all important resources to gather feedback on our tools. It’d be too easy to lock ourselves in an echo chamber and avoid the reality of those who are actually fighting on the battlefield. We go as far as considering the creation of an Observatory of Practices and Free Open-Source Digital Experiences, basing ourselves on the organizations that make up the Frama.space user community. Codename: OPEN-L. Stay tuned for that... And let’s hope we manage to set it up!

3. Improve our solutions step by step

Our goal is to improve each of those actions over time. This could be done by creating documentation and pedagogical tools, moderating and facilitating user communities, working on the ergonomy or on new features to be developed. We want to keep total freedom to improve each action depending on the feedback we get from users.

4. Link humans to tools, and to other humans

Here’s another important, yet often overlooked aspect: connections. Such a shame, considering that the Web is, by definition, designed to connect people, ideas and things. This step can take many forms. It may mean taking the time to introduce our users to the new improvements brought about by each of our actions. It may also mean broadening our user community for any given project. Finally, it may mean taking advantage of having organizations share a common tool by sharing with them, offering them and informing them on what their
fellows are doing.

Additionally, it will take some journaling: to summarize experiences, the lessons learned, to gather the relevant resources... and share all of that with the community. Whatever the form, this connecting step is when we take the time to reflect, to review our actions so as to better start a new virtuous circle and launch a better version of the project.

Discover the projects we want to carry out

We ain’t no quacks. Please support us!

Ain’t gonna beat around the bush: Collectivise the Internet / Convivialise the Internet is a roadmap with a clear political purpose, in the sense that it shall contribute to changing the world (if only one byte at a time).

After eight years spent observing and informing the public on the future that Big Tech is already materializing for us day by day and the political choices that they are forcing on our societies, it feels more and more crucial to keep one corner of the Web free from their influence.

Such is « also » our role, because these new actions do not and will not replace the ones we are already conducting. All the ‘degoogleized » software already available to everyone, the development of PeerTube and Mobilizon, the FOSS collective CHATONS, the common cultural resources... All of these projects are still ongoing and will still require more work over the upcoming three years.
If you agree with our set goals and strategy, if the actions that we are currently undertaking seem important to you, then we would like to remind you that **Framasoft is exclusively funded by... You.** It is only your kind contributions, eligible to a 66% tax cut for French taxpayers, that allow us to keep going in total independence.

If you can (as we are well aware that our current times are particularly harsh), and if you wish to, please support us.

[Support Framasoft](#)

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This page has been translated from French to English by Framalang volunteers: Bastien, Bromind, Ellébore (proofreading), Goofy, GPSqueeeek, Mathilde (proofreading), Stan, Susy
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

Framasoft 2022 : a casserole cooked up thanks to you, thanks to your donations

Did you know that 98% of Framasoft’s budget is based on donations (86% of which are from individuals). It is therefore thanks to you and your support (thank you!) that all our actions are possible. So we wanted to give you a summary of what we have done in 2022. A look back at 12 months of popular
education on the challenges of digital and cultural commons, which we wanted to be rich in flavours to please your (and our!) taste buds.

« Collectivise Internet / Convivialise Internet » The actions of our new roadmap are 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

But who is behind the stove?

Behind this little feast, who is there? A small group of 38 people: 28 volunteers and 10 employees, convinced that a world where digital technology allows us to gain freedom is possible! We tell you here what we did, thought about and moved forward in the kitchens. And the ovens are still hot!

Sharing our values, intentions and actions loud and clear

After 3 years of work, workshops guided by Marie-Cécile Godwin and fine-tuning
by the association, we published our manifesto in November. This long work made us think a lot and allowed us to highlight very simply the political dimension of our associative project: we want to change the current world for a better one, where the Commons are favoured, where social justice is a fundamental value and where our liberties are preserved.

The second part of this important work was to make sure that our manifesto intentions are understood as soon as they arrive on framasoft.org. We have therefore completely redesigned our main website to make our associative project clear, fluid and easily understandable.

Collectivise Internet / Convivialise Internet: our new roadmap 2023-2025

After 5 years on course with Contributopia, we needed to refine our compass and review our direction: where do we want to continue our exploration for the next few years? This is how the new roadmap Collectivise Internet / Convivialise Internet (code name: COIN / COIN – quack in french) was created: we want to address more directly the collectives and associations committed to a better world (without putting aside the thousands of people who use our tools!).

4 projects have been unveiled and will be progressively improved as the months go by thanks to the beneficiaries’ feedback, with the idea of creating more links between the tools and the people:
- **Frama.space**: offering liberated cloud to small activist collectives
- **Peer.tube**: to promote the PeerTube for which we are working
- **Emancip’Asso**: to promote the digital emancipation of the associative world
- **ECHO Network**: to understand the needs of popular education in different European countries.

We have detailed the actions of this roadmap and why we are undertaking them on the Framablog (in french...!).

![Illustration CC BY David Revoy](image)

**Seeing each other again and seeing you again: it’s a real boost!**

This year 2022 will also have been marked by a more intense resumption of shared moments, in the flesh (with good airing!): GAs, Framacamp, events, fairs, conferences, festivals, film screenings, round tables... Because as much as we love doing all this, seeing you and us motivates us, boosts us and encourages us to continue testing new, ambitious, wacky and funny projects (Remember Proutify? The extension has just been updated by one of our volunteers)... **it’s so important to have fun doing all this!**
Without you, everything we do would not be possible: 98% of the association’s resources come from donations. Do you think that our reflections are going in the right direction? If you have the means, if you have the desire, we thank you in advance for your support.

Support Framasoft

As an appetizer: popular education buffet

For us, popular education is the basis for a better world: everyone can share their knowledge and access it, in all simplicity. We present here the different popular education actions carried out this year.

Sharing knowledge and points of view

To begin with, Framasoft intervened, in person or remotely, in various spaces, to
talk about digital emancipation, alternative digital, or how to be free online. Our members have made more than 70 interventions, for different structures, associations or groups, in different regions of France. You can watch some of these interventions on our Framatube channel.

Then, Framasoft keeps the pen active on the Framablog. More than 100 articles have been published this year, between presentations of our different actions, translations of Framalang, weekly press review, guest keyboards, interviews of various emancipatory projects, audio articles... The Framablog is a space where we express ourselves without limits.

We also intervened about twenty times in the media when we were asked to share our points of view on digital issues: video interviews, podcasts, articles... You will find the different links accessible on this page.

Illustration CC BY David Revoy

Des Livres en Communs: the publishing house that breaks the rules

Our publishing house, Des Livres en Communs (formerly Framabook), is turning the publishing codes upside down by offering a grant to authors upstream of the writing process, as well as the publication of the work under a free licence, in digital form only.

Following the first call for publication launched in January: « Towards a more contributive, more united, more ethical and more free world: how to equip and
organise ourselves together », the project « L’amour en Commun », by Margaux Lallemant and Timothé Allanche was selected. The objective of this publication is to question how the commonality of love, as a means of organisation and a motor of commitment, **allows us to build an alternative to capitalist society**.

The book is currently being created, between fieldwork and immersions, while being accompanied by our publishing committee.

Des Livres en Communs also participated in the co-editing and proofreading of the « **Guide du connard professionnel** », a work carried out with PtiloukEditions.

![Illustration CC BY David Revoy](image)

**UPLOAD: a free university that is growing**

The Free, Open, Autonomous and Decentralised Popular University (UPLOAD: standing for Université Populaire Libre, Ouverte, Autonome, et Décentralisée in french) is a large popular education project initiated and coordinated by Framasoft (for the moment), in a decentralised and networked logic. The objective is to contribute (on our scale) to making society more just and our world more liveable, **by focusing on the training of citizens by citizens**.

This project is largely formed by the LibreCourses, online courses allowing access to different knowledge and skills. Stéph offered us a conference (in french) to present the topic during the Free Software Days.

This year’s Librecourses will have been punctuated by the theme « Low-tech and
digital »: a first session between April and June and a second between November and January 2023. Do you also find the exponential growth of digital technology problematic? Are you interested in reducing the technical footprint of a tool? You can find the videos of the courses here.

Illustration CC BY David Revoy

**Peer.tube: a showcase for PeerTube that looks like us**

With Peer.tube, we want to create a showcase for PeerTube, with quality content selected in advance. It’s our answer to a question we’re often asked: « But where do I find interesting content on PeerTube? The Peer.tube site is already available with a first selection of channels and videos, but the project will only really move forward next year.**
Has our popular education buffet piqued your curiosity? Do you think our contributions are going in the right direction? Then we’d like to reiterate that all this was made possible thanks to you and your donations – thank you!

I support Framasoft’s popular education actions

**Main course: digital empowerment frying pan**

Enabling citizens to become digitally empowered and free their practices is the core of our actions. But what is this good pan made of? Liberated ingredients, quality, and a good pinch of love. We tell you all about it.

**Online services to do without the digital giants**

Our online services are often the reason why people know us: more than 9 out of 10 people told us so during our survey « What you think of Framasoft » launched
at the end of May. And to tell the truth, we were not very surprised. To give you some figures, we count more than **50 million visits** on all our sites since the beginning of the year, more than **350 surveys are created every day** on Framadate, nearly **15,000 forms are created every month** on Framaforms, nearly **110,000 collaborative writing pads** are active on Framapad. We still find this incredible!

Between 2014 and 2019, our little association has made around 40 free and trusted online services available to Internet users (yes, 40!). For many reasons, this was too much, and we have gradually closed, between 2019 and 2022, a part of these services, while proposing alternatives. This period of closure is now over: **our 16 online services are available to anyone who wants to use tools that respect our freedoms**. We have therefore decided to update and redesign the degooglisons-internet.org website to make it an easily accessible gateway, to make it reflect our image and above all to reassure our users.

Keeping these services up to date, managing the machines that run them or answering your questions about support, is a daily job, and we try to put our best efforts into it!
PeerTube: freeing your videos and channels is getting easier

PeerTube is the software we develop (well, one of our employees, yes, one!) to offer an alternative to video platforms. And 2022 will have been a year rich in evolutions, where we now count more than 1000 active PeerTube platforms.

Let’s go to V5!

To begin with, version 4.1 was released in February, bringing interface improvements, new mobile features, an improved plugin system, new search filters and new instance customization possibilities for admins.

In June, we released version 4.2, which brought a great new feature: the Studio, or the possibility to edit videos directly from the web interface. This version also brought more detailed viewing statistics, the possibility to adjust the latency during a broadcast or the direct editing of subtitles (thanks Lutangar!)

In September, version 4.3 was released, allowing the automatic import of videos from a remote channel (thanks to Florent, one of the administrators of the PeerTube Skeptikón instance) and new improvements to the interface and the integration of live videos (a collaborative effort with a designer from la Coopérative des Internets).

And we can already tell you that the new major version, v5, will be released in a few days with (exclusive information!) two-factor authentication or the possibility to send live files to the cloud for admins...

Edit of December 13th : V5 is released ! Find all the information on this article.

Collecting your ideas to enrich the software

Do you create content on PeerTube? Do you enjoy watching videos on PeerTube? In July, we launched the ideas.joinpeertube.org tool (in english) to collect your needs for the software and help us identify new features to develop to make PeerTube more enjoyable to use.
Please feel free to take a look around, to vote for one of the features already proposed or to propose a new one. A big thank you to everyone who took the time to share their opinion!

**joinpeertube.org: easier access to PeerTube**

joinpeertube.org is THE site that introduces PeerTube, THE gateway to information about this alternative to centralized video platforms, and we want to leave it wide open!

The previous version of joinpeertube.org was mainly focused on the technical features of PeerTube, and therefore addressed to technical profiles. However, now that there are more than 1,000 PeerTube platforms, we felt that it was necessary to promote the software to a wider audience who may be less digitally literate.

After an audit of the site via user tests carried out by La Coopérative des Internets, the web agency proposed improvements to allow a better understanding of PeerTube. You will find all the details of this version on this article of the Framablog: and we hope that this redesign will be useful and will facilitate the use of PeerTube!

Illustration CC BY David Revoy

**Mobilizon: we make it easy for you to search**

Mobilizon is the software that Framasoft is developing (well, one of our
employees-es and not even full time!) to offer an alternative to Facebook events and groups.

**Mobilizon Search Index, a search engine in the fediverse**

As we did before with Sepia Search (our search engine for discovering content published on PeerTube), we want to offer a gateway to Mobilizon to show its emancipatory potential.

Mobilizon Search Index references the events and server groups that we have approved on instances.joinmobilizon.org (currently a little over 80 instances, and we hope the list will grow!). The search engine then allows you to explore the events and groups of all these servers, and in different ways: search bar (well, it’s rather classic), by categories (interesting, isn’t it?) or even by geolocating yourself to find events nearby (crazy!).

The source code is free-libre: anyone (with some computer skills, anyway...!) can install a Mobilizon Search Index, and adapt it to their needs.

So, does this make you want to test it?

**A v3 focused on research**

We released the 3rd major version of Mobilizon in November. The software has reached the maturity we wanted it to have, and that is very motivating!

In the new features: many elements of the software have been modified to avoid accumulating technical debt, the design of the homepage has evolved in design, and the search results page has also been revised (hello Mobilizon Search Index!). Increasing the possibilities of discovering events and groups to make the diversity of content published on Mobilizon more visible was also the goal of this v3.

This v3 was able to evolve thanks to the various contributions (thanks to the community!), was partly financed by a grant from NLNet (thanks to them!), and of course by you, and your donations (again a big thank you).
Frama.space: emancipating small associations and activist collectives

Frama.space is a new service (in french) that we offer to small associations and activist collectives, to allow them to match their strong internal values (of social justice and emancipation) with digital tools in the same direction (free and non-monopolistic tools). We want to empower associations and activist collectives by opening digital spaces for sharing, working and organising (up to 50 accounts per collective, based on the free software Nextcloud with: office suite, 40 GB of storage, synchronisation of diaries and contacts, video tools, etc.).

Announced on 15 October when our roadmap Collectivisions / Convivialisions Internet was released, pre-registration has been open since 18 November. Currently, applications are being reviewed (by real·es human·es!) to open 250 first spaces by the end of the year. Our ultimate goal (a tad ambitious, yes!) being to make 10,000 Frama.space spaces available by the end of 2025.

Do you want to read more about the political aim of the project? We invite you to read this article or to watch this conference, which provides all the important details.
Do you find our actions to empower citizens through digital technology interesting? Do you think we are going in the right direction? **All this was possible thanks to you and your donations.** Thank you!

**I support Framasoft’s digital empowerment actions**

**For dessert: farandole of a better world (to share!)**

Because a good meal is always better when shared. And because it’s by sharing our know-how that we can go further. We act with other structures, which, like independent islands, bathe in the common waters of the same archipelago (can you also imagine floating islands with a good custard?): **we keep our independence while sharing values of social justice.** Acting together is obvious!
From the kittens’ side

The CHATONS (kittens in french) collective is a bit like a network of online service CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). Where Google, Facebook or Microsoft would represent the agri-food industry, the members of CHATONS would be computer farmers offering organic online services without GMOs, pesticides, aggressive marketing, in short: without a « race for purchasing power ».

At the end of this year, after already 14 litters of kittens, we count 97 members in the collective, i.e. 97 alternative hosts working in the same direction: resisting the gafamisation of the Internet and proposing alternatives respectful of our private lives.

The collective was present on different events during the year (Free Software Days, Digital Accessibility Workshop, Geek Faeries, Freedom Not Fear, Fête de l’Huma, Capitole du Libre), to present its actions. The second CHATONS camp took place this summer, a great time to meet and to relaunch great collective dynamics. Different working groups were created, in particular the group « An association for the CHATONS collective » aiming at an autonomization of the collective with the aim that we (Framasoft) leave little by little the coordination of the collective to the collective itself.
**Emancip’Asso: promoting the digital emancipation of the associative world**

The aim of Emancip’Asso is to **help associations to find support to help their digital practices evolve towards more ethical practices**. Designed in partnership with Animafac, 2022 will have been a year of... paperwork (yes, this is often the beginning of ambitious projects!).

We spent some time putting together a steering committee (20 members) that was varied, heterogeneous and representative of the diversity of the associative world. Then, as the project was intended to be financially independent, the first six months of the year were devoted to fundraising, which bore fruit (hurrah!). We currently have **four funders** (and we hope that the list will continue to grow!): the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for the Progress of Humankind, the Crédit Coopératif Foundation, the Un monde par Tous Foundation and the Libérons nos ordis Association.

The first funding allowed us to work on the first stage of the project: **a training course for ethical hosts** to help them accompany associations in their digital transition. Search for speakers, preparation of the programme and logistics: the training (it’s full!) will take place in Paris, from 16 to 20 January 2023 (the programme in detail is here).

Finally, at the end of this year, we applied to different student programs to set up two working groups: one on the graphic identity of Emancip’Asso (in progress!), and a second one on the realization of the emancipasso.org website (to come).

You can find Angie and Anne-Laure presenting the project on video here.
ECHO Network: understanding the digital needs of popular education, here and elsewhere

2022 will also have been the year of the development of the European project « Ethical, Commons, Humans, Open-Source Network » (ECHO Network, it’s a bit easier to remember...). Led by the popular education movement CEMÉA France, the project brings together 7 structures from 5 European countries (France, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Italy). What do they have in common? **The support, each at its own level, of the public in their autonomy and emancipation.**

The objective of the project is to exchange on the difficulties, opportunities and ways to accompany the public that our associations serve towards a digital transition. And the background: **how to accompany this emancipation in (or even by) a digital world centralised by the web giants?**

The first meeting of the exchange will take place in Paris from 14 to 17 January 2023. This opening seminar will allow us to unpack the general theme: supporting the digital transition of associations that train citizens. Read more here.
And that’s not all!

Knowledge transfer

With Hubikoop (territorial hub of the New Aquitaine region for an inclusive digital environment) we started in September the animation of the course « Accompaniment to the discovery of ethical digital services » : 8 workshops for the actors of the digital mediation in New Aquitaine. This partnership is starting to give rise to new ideas, which we will tell you about next year!

In the framework of the PENSA project with Aix-Marseille University, we intervened in June for a training of trainers on the theme « Free software and services for the digital emancipation of citizens ». The final objective is to enable teachers to develop their skills for a critical use of digital technology in education.

We have also carried out various actions in connection with AFPA and more specifically the people in charge of the training of Digital Mediation Space Managers, to transmit more knowledge on ethical digital.

Framasoft also became a member of the MedNum. Our ambitions behind this? To raise awareness of free tools among digital mediation actors, to train digital
mediators in ethical alternatives and to **equip** the cooperative itself with free tools.

Finally, you will find us in the booklet « Le temps des conquêtes, les nouveaux horizons de l’ESS » published by ESS France.

### Important statements taken

The L.A. Coalition (of which Framasoft is a member) took a position in April on the Republican Commitment Contract: the collective denounced it as a **potential source of litigation and abusive sanctions** by the administration or public authorities to the detriment of associations and foundations.

The first abuses of the republican commitment contract quickly emerged. We signed the tribune «Civil disobedience is part of the freedom of expression and the repertoire of legitimate actions of associations », published in l’Humanité in September: **associative freedoms are essential and currently in danger.**

We also signed the tribune « For the digital commons to become a pillar of European digital sovereignty » by Wikimedia France in June. Cultural commons are an integral part of Framasoft’s social purpose, **defending them is essential!**

### Support by conviction

Following the announcement of its very difficult financial situation this summer, we supported the media **NextINpact** (very qualitative digital watch) by buying « suspended » subscriptions that we drew at random.

We also supported affordance.info (qualitative content on digital and relevant social issues) by migrating its blog from a non-free tool (Typepad) to a free tool (WordPress), all hosted by us.

We proposed a **Signal** proxy (free messaging) following a call from the structure informing of the blocking of its application by the Iranian regime in the face of the current revolts.
Did you like our shared dessert? You think that these actions carried out with other islands of our archipelago are to be encouraged? **Know that they are also only possible thanks to you and your donations.** Thank you again!

**I support Framasoft’s archipelago actions**

Framasoft, today, is more than **50 000 € of expenses per month**. We closed the 2021 accounting year with a deficit of €60,000 (which donations – more generous during the 2020 confinements – fortunately allowed us to absorb).
At the time of writing, we estimate that we are €127,500 short of our annual budget and can confidently launch our actions in 2023. If you can (yes, at the moment it is particularly complicated), and if you want to, please support the actions of our association.

I support the actions of Framasoft

To understand and get started with PeerTube, check out the new Joinpeertube.org

2022 is definitely the year of our websites’ redesign: after the evolution of our services homepages, degooglisons-internet.org website and recently framasoft.org, it is now time for joinpeertube.org to get a makeover.

« 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)

This website was launched on 28 February 2018 and redesigned once at the end of 2019. Its aim is to help those who have heard of PeerTube discover more about it and understand what it is. Indeed, it is not always easy for Internet users used to the web giants centralised video platforms to understand PeerTube specifics. The 2019 version of this website made possible to understand what PeerTube is
for people with a good digital literacy. But we felt that was not always the case for a larger majority of Internet users.

In order to confirm this impression, we worked with the web agency La Coopérative des Internets, which conducted an audit of the website via user tests and suggested ways of improving it. The JoinPeerTube you are accessing today is the result of this collaborative work.

Let see what changed...

**Less information, easier to understand**

User testing revealed the homepage was too long and contained too much information, and that some informations were too technical. To give you an example, the tagline « free software to take back control of your videos » was not well understood. By using it, we assumed that people arriving on the website were familiar with the fact that software can provide online service (Software as a service mode). This is obviously not true for a large number of Internet users.

We have therefore simplified the wording: you will no longer find a mention of « software », PeerTube is now a tool that allows the creation of a video platform (and not an « instance », a term that only those in the know understood).

We have also simplified the texts so that they contain fewer explanations. This has greatly reduced the length of the homepage! And for those who would like to know more, we have added a section at the bottom of each page inviting you to consult the F.A.Q. (frequently asked questions). Very thorough and easy to use, the F.A.Q. is now directly accessible from the menu.
A new menu to differentiate use cases

On this updated JoinPeerTube, new pages have been created, others have been deleted or modified. The aim of this restructuring is to provide more support for users in their specific use cases (e.g. not offering information about publishing content to someone who just wants to watch videos).
The new homepage is now called **What is PeerTube?** because we have limited the information on it to the essentials. Useful for everyone, this page presents, in a few lines (and hopefully!), what PeerTube is. The section **What do we find on PeerTube?** encourages you to discover our own selection of quality content. By offering two different selections (one recommending PeerTube platforms, the other videos hosted on different platforms), we hope to provide a better understanding of the tool.

The new **Browse Content** page allows you to search through the 600,000 videos and 1,000 platforms in the PeerTube network. This integrated search engine uses SepiaSearch, the search engine we have been maintaining since September 2020. The results are now displayed according to their type (among videos, channels and playlists), which is really convenient.
The *Publish videos* page is intended for video makers. After explaining in a few lines the interest of distributing your videos via PeerTube when you are a content creator, we present the two ways to join PeerTube:

- by creating an account on an existing PeerTube platform
- by creating your own PeerTube platform

The first proposal takes you to the **Find a PeerTube Platform** page which displays a list of platforms based on several criteria: profile type (the videomaker profile only offers platforms open to registration), topic(s), sensitive videos mode and language.

The second proposal takes you to the PeerTube technical documentation site where those with technical skills will find everything they need to start hosting their own PeerTube platform.

The PeerTube news page is still accessible from the menu. If you want to know about the features of the latest versions, and subscribe to the PeerTube newsletter,
it is just one click away!

Expanding Contribution

As you know, PeerTube is a free-libre tool to which you can contribute in many ways. The PeerTube community is already very active, whether it be suggesting new features or improvements, submitting bug reports, creating plugins and themes, translating interfaces, improving documentation, creating tutorials, or responding to those who have difficulty using the tool.

By clicking on the *Contribute* orange button in the menu, you can discover three easy ways to contribute to the project.

First way: **suggest an idea or improvement on Let’s Improve PeerTube!**, launched last July. We want to know what content creators, video-lovers and non-tech-savvy people miss from PeerTube or what changes/new experiences they would like to have. If you are not necessarily inspired, you can always vote for one of the 90+ ideas already posted. We’d like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who made these proposals and all those who voted.

Second way: **participate in the funding of PeerTube**. As you probably already know, PeerTube is a project financed by Framasoft, so funded by donations from our (mostly French and French-speaking) supporters. Framasoft is in charge of
the financial management and the development of the project, among other things. The growing success of PeerTube means that we have to do more and more work to maintain and respond to the people who use it. Do you think we are going in the right direction? Then, if you have the desire and the means, we invite you to make a donation.

Third way: **participate in PeerTube development**. Whether you have programming skills or not, there will always be something to contribute. We have listed on a dedicated page how you can help. Don’t hesitate!

**Making PeerTube easier to use**

JoinPeerTube first versions highlighted how PeerTube is a great technical tool and allowed us to promote it to people with technical skills. Now that there are over 1000 PeerTube platforms, **our new focus is to reach a wider, less digitally savvy audience to make it easy for them to understand what PeerTube is all about**. We hope that this new version of the site will be useful and make PeerTube easier to use.

For those of you who are wondering where we are with PeerTube development, we remind you that a version 4.3 was released last September. You should also know that an RC (Release Candidate) version of V5 is now available. If all goes well, we will release the new major version of PeerTube within two or three weeks (time to fix the bugs that the RC will bring up). We will announce all the new features here very soon...

At the time of publishing, we are still missing 145 100 € 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

Helpful links

- JoinPeerTube
- Sepia Search
- Let’s improve PeerTube!
- PeerTube Support Forum
- See the source code of PeerTube
- See the source code of JoinPeerTube
- Support Framasoft