

Fediscovery

Improving Search and Discovery on the Fediverse

February 2025, FOSDEM



About Me

- Long-time web developer
- Employee at Mastodon gGmbH
- FOSDEM fan

Search and Discovery on the Fediverse


Starting out

The image shows a dark-themed screenshot of the Mastodon web interface. At the top center, the text "Starting out" is displayed in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the interface is divided into three main sections:

- Left Sidebar:** Contains a search bar with the placeholder text "Search or paste URL". Below it is the profile of "David @admin", featuring a blue elephant profile picture and a three-dot menu icon. Underneath is a text input field with the placeholder "What's on your mind?". Below the input field are two buttons: "Public" (with a globe icon) and "English" (with a language icon). At the bottom of this section are icons for image, video, audio, and emoji, followed by a character count "500" and a blue "Post" button.
- Center Panel:** At the top, it says "Home" with a house icon and a settings gear icon. The main content area is empty, displaying the message "Your home timeline is empty! Follow more people to fill it up." in a light gray font.
- Right Sidebar:** Features the Mastodon logo at the top. Below it is a list of navigation items: "Home" (with a house icon), "Notifications" (with a bell icon), "Explore" (with a magnifying glass icon), "Live feeds" (with a globe icon), "Private mentions" (with an @ icon), "Bookmarks" (with a bookmark icon), "Favorites" (with a star icon), and "Lists" (with a list icon). A horizontal line separates these from the settings section, which includes "Preferences" (with a gear icon), "Moderation" (with a list icon), and "Administration" (with a gear icon).

Find someone to follow





Find someone to follow



David
@admin

What's on your mind?

Public English

    500 [Post](#)

Search for "gargron"

All Profiles Hashtags Posts

No results.

mastodon

- Home
- Notifications
- Explore
- Live feeds
- Private mentions
- Bookmarks
- Favorites
- Lists
- Preferences
- Moderation
- Administration



Find someone to follow

✕ gargron

 **David**
@admin


What's on your mind?

Public English

    500 **Post**

Search for "gargron"

All Profiles Hashtags Posts



No

mastodon

- Home
- Notifications
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- Preferences
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- Administration

Find interesting content

Find interesting content

The screenshot displays the Mastodon search interface. At the top left, a search bar contains the text "cat photos". Below it is the profile of "David @admin". The main content area shows a search for "cat photos" with tabs for "All", "Profiles", "Hashtags", and "Posts". The "All" tab is selected, and the search results area is empty, displaying "No results." The right sidebar contains the Mastodon logo and navigation links: Home, Notifications, Explore, Live feeds, Private mentions, Bookmarks, Favorites, Lists, Preferences, Moderation, and Administration.

cat photos

David @admin

What's on your mind?

Public English

500 Post

Search for "cat photos"

All Profiles Hashtags Posts

No results.

mastodon

Home

Notifications

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Private mentions

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Find interesting content

The screenshot displays the Mastodon web interface. At the top left, a search bar contains the text "cat photos". Below it is the profile of "David @admin" with a blue elephant avatar. A text input field asks "What's on your mind?". Below the input are buttons for "Public" and "English", and a "Post" button. The main content area shows a search for "cat photos" with tabs for "All", "Profiles", "Hashtags", and "Posts". The "All" tab is selected, showing a cartoon illustration of a grey elephant holding a yellow trumpet. The word "No" is visible at the bottom of the illustration. On the right side, the Mastodon logo is at the top, followed by a navigation menu with items: Home, Notifications, Explore, Live feeds, Private mentions, Bookmarks, Favorites, Lists, Preferences, Moderation, and Administration.

cat photos

David @admin

What's on your mind?

Public English

Post

500

Search for "cat photos"

All Profiles Hashtags Posts

No

mastodon

Home

Notifications

Explore

Live feeds

Private mentions

Bookmarks

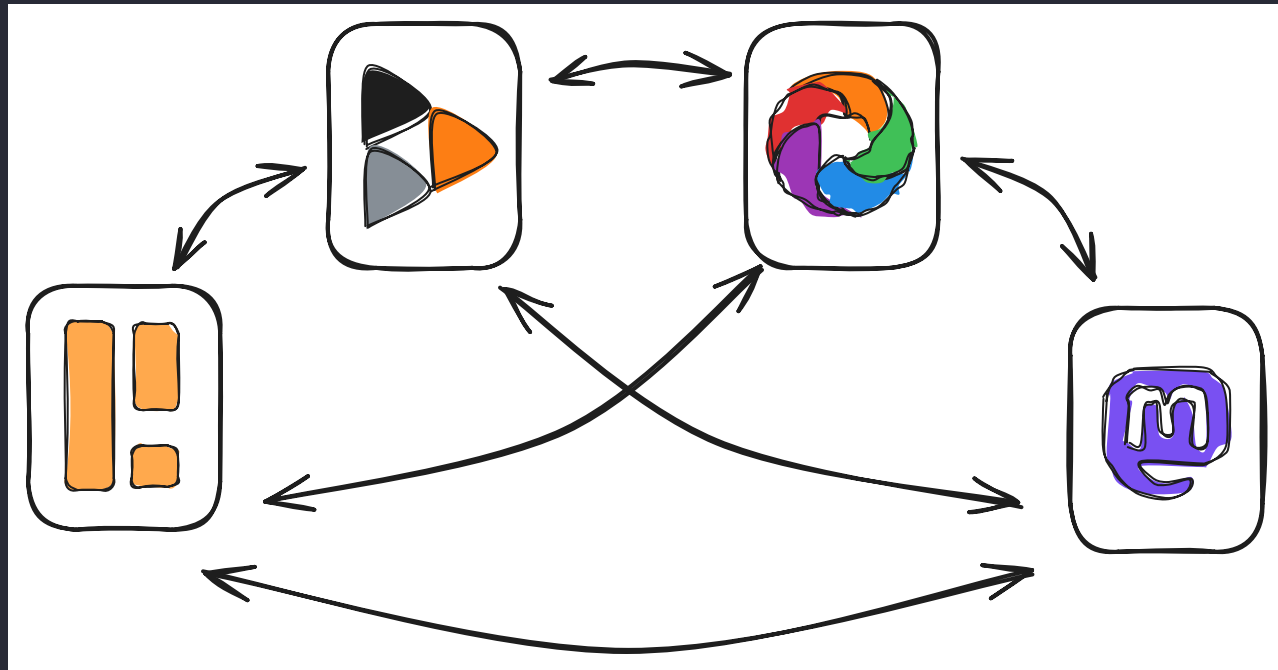
Favorites

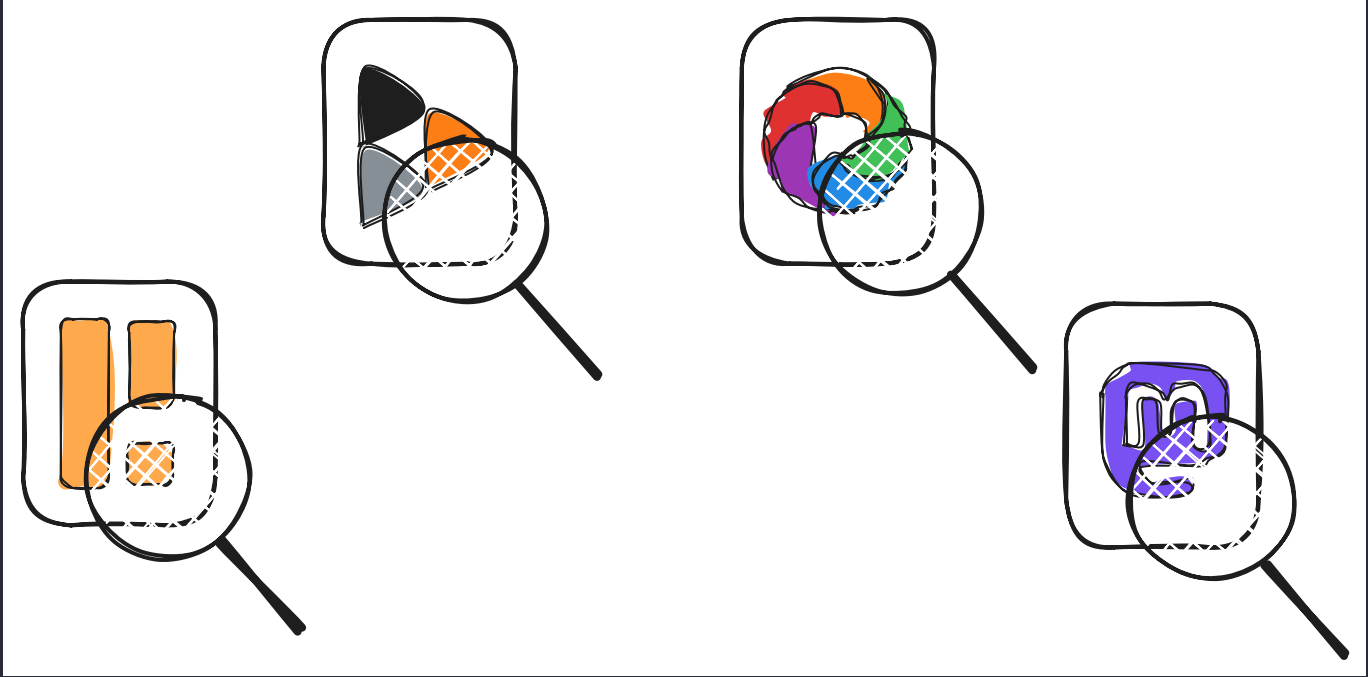
Lists

Preferences

Moderation

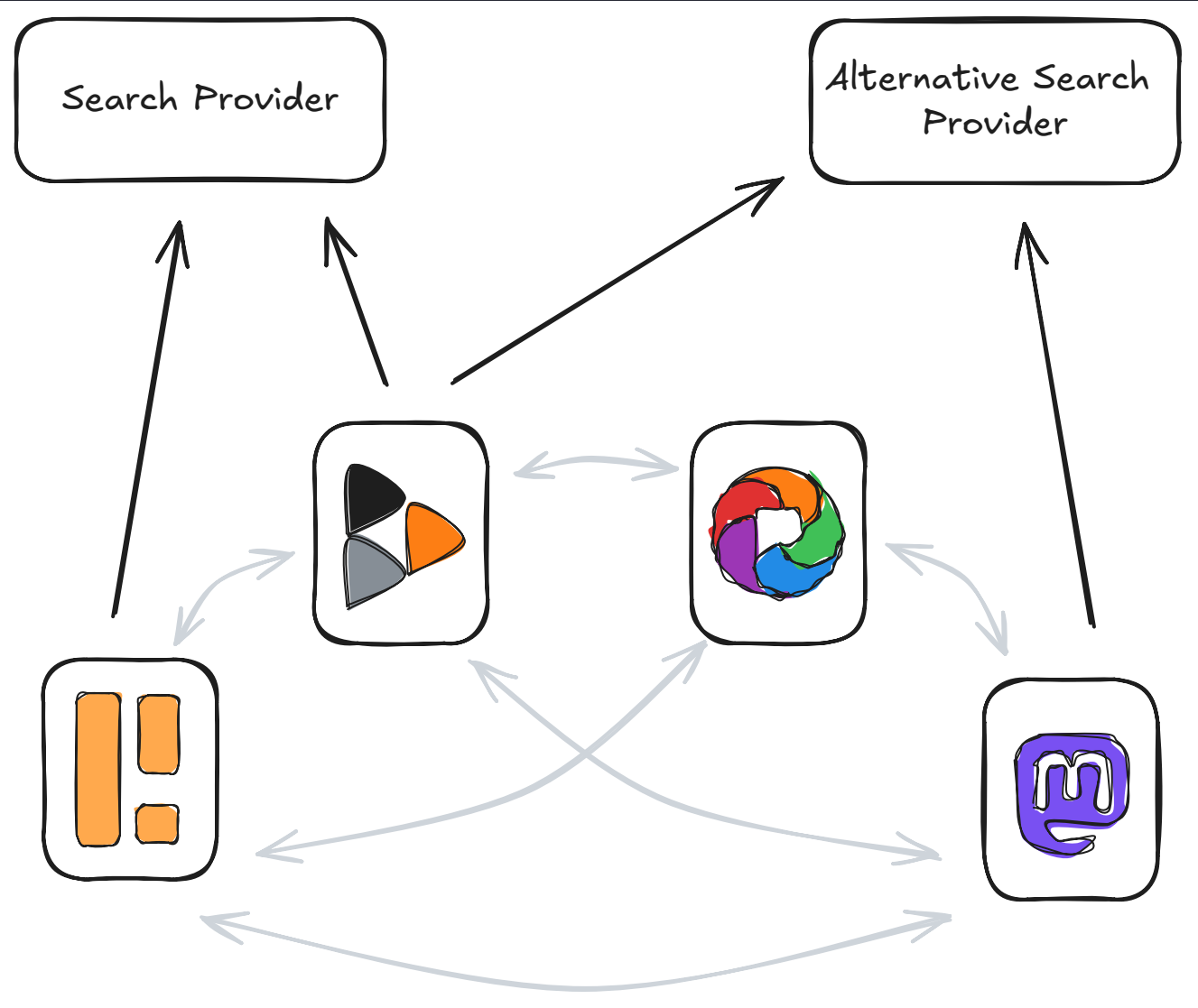
Administration





Detour: Service Providers

Fediverse Auxiliary Service Providers



Fediscovery: Goals

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- FASP proof-of-concept

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- Reference Implementation

NGI Search Timeline

1. Sep '24:
Website, FASP specification ✓
2. Feb '25:
Data Sharing, Trends + Account Search specs,
reference implementation
3. Jun '25:
Account Recommendation spec and impl.,
security audit, deployment on Mastodon servers

Specifications (Drafts)

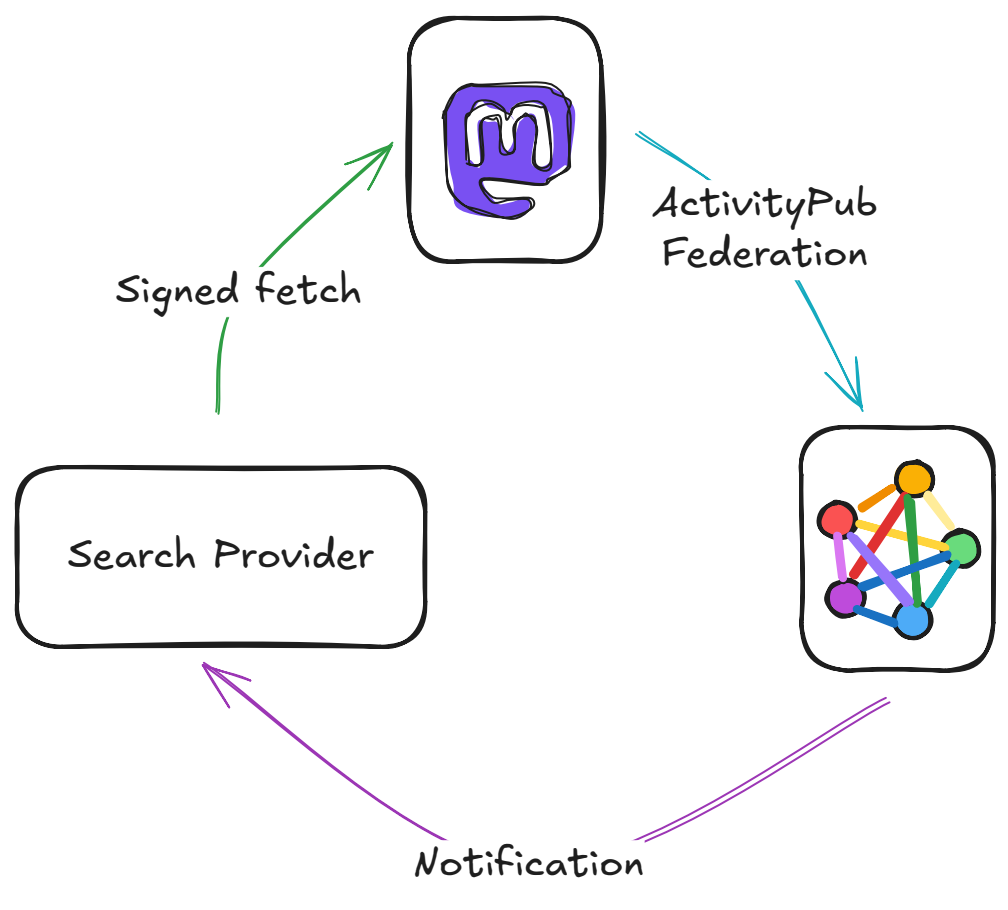
On Github:

[mastodon/fediverse_auxiliary_service_provider_specifications](https://github.com/mastodon/fediverse_auxiliary_service_provider_specifications)

List of Specifications

- FASP<->Fediverse server basic interaction
- Data Sharing
- Trends (open PR)
- Account search (coming very soon)
- Account recommendation (before june)
- Post search (tentatively planned)

Data Sharing



Privacy & Consent

- Public content only
- `discoverable` flag
- `indexable` flag
- Server-level block
- User-level block

Trends

- Posts, Hashtags and Links
- Past x hours, y days, week?
- Still an early draft...
- ... which we will need to implement

Account Search

- Full-text search for name, description, hashtags
- First draft coming real soon™
- Feedback welcome

SDK

On Github: [mastodon/fasp_ruby](https://github.com/mastodon/fasp_ruby)

Reference Implementation

On Github: [mastodon/fediscoverer](https://github.com/mastodon/fediscoverer)

F.A.Q.

Is this only for Mastodon?

Is this only for Mastodon?

No

Centralization

Centralization

Yes, but...

Privacy

Privacy

- Public content only!
- Consent
- Blockable

Bespoke APIs

Bespoke APIs

Yes!

How to contribute?

- Specification GH repo
- Approach us directly
- Mastodon stand in the H Building

Thank you!

