

#Seppo: Onboarding and Install

A friendly, emancipated Social Web presence for non-Sysadmins.

Fri Nov 7th, 17:20, NOI Techpark

mro.name/sfscon

Problem I: Tech-Feudalism

- criticism[1] by Cory Doctorow / Yannis Varoufakis
- licence to use with terms and conditions (Jehovah!), no ownership
- no freedom of choice, no complaints
- everything in the cloud, no own servers
- in short: oligarch websites

[1]: <https://jacobin.com/2023/10/cory-doctorow-seize-the-means-of-computation-big-tech-democratization-infrastructure>

Problem II: root (sysadmin privileges)

- who of you is root on a public server?
- how many of your friends?
- your neighbours?
- your children's classmates' parents?
- and we're at SFSCON!

=> others have no chance to emancipated web services,
and that's a democracy issue.

What next as non-root?

- accept it
- become root
- hire a root
- DIY: cultivate a web allotment (shared hosting, no root)

Demo: Seppo.mro.name



Friendly incubated as <https://nlnet.nl/project/Seppo> in  NGI0

#Seppo: Onboarding

5/16

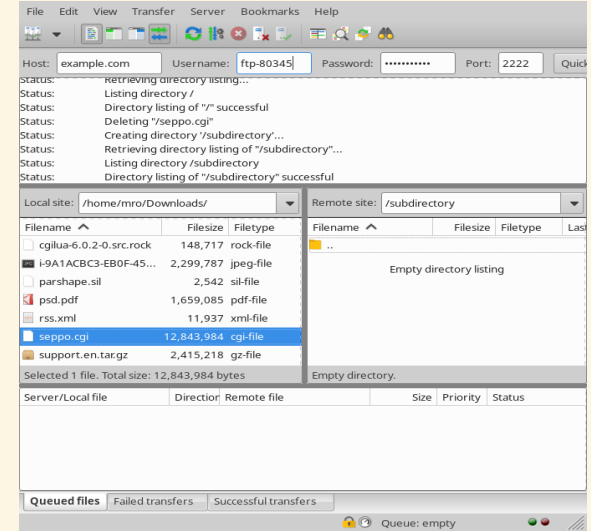
mro.name/sfscon

like so: 0. rent Shared Hosting

- not as convenient as the sign-up button at the oligarchs, but
- needs no root privileges
- needs no root-know-how (file copy is enough)
- fair business models, full agency
- ownership of your name

1. Download + upload 1 File

- oligarchs hate it (scales great to $n=1$)
- statically linked CGI[1] programm, no DB
- unheard of by many, old as the web
- no PHP updates etc.
- no SQL injection etc.



[1]: <https://doi.org/10.17487/RFC3875>

2. Visit your URL and choose name + password

- visit hostname + subdirectory + `‘/seppo.cgi’` with your browser
- choose your name
- choose a password

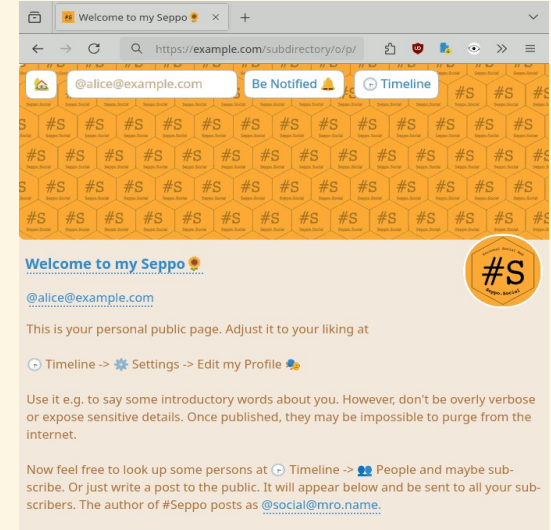
e voilà – now you can post, subscribe and be subscribed (follow and be followed) in the fediverse from e.g. Mastodon.

3. done! Now you have your

- own single-user ActivityPub[1] server
- own name (domain & account), ownership(!)
- few features, careful UX
- few malicious users, small TCB[2]
- full agency & responsibility

[1]: <https://w3.org/TR/ActivityPub>

[2]: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trusted_computing_base



Design Goals

- safety over simplicity over all else
- statically linked (built with 🐪 OCaml)
- single-user, easy operation
- no DB, no (serverside) scripting
- storage in readable (cough) text files
- rendering browserside XSLT
- JavaScript optional

Pain Points

- simple text, no HTML/markdown, no formatting
- alpha
- so far no favoriten-/boost-management (fire + forget)
- so far no account move
- so far no images

Democracy needs empowerment

needs

- active(!) participation
- freedom of choice
- agency & responsibility

Something completely different

Solon erfand im Auftrag der athener Aristokratie die Demokratie - um eine Revolution abzuwenden (ca. 600 v.u.Z.).

Ämter wurden fortan per Los besetzt (Kleroterion).

Abgestimmt wurde später das Scherbengericht (Ostrakismos, ca. 488 v.u.Z. bis ca. 415 v.u.Z.). Nämlich darüber, wer gerade zu mächtig wird und in's Exil muß.

Web platforms are paternalist so far

(or worse)

“Features”:

- imbalanced, feudal power relations
- one owner(!) with full authority
- many participants, mostly without claims
- no legal claim, no arbitration
- enshittification

Inspiration

- <https://PermaComputing.net/Principles>,
- *Occams razor* (William von Baskerville, ~1340),
- *Help me do it myself!* (Maria Montessori),
- *Tools for Conviviality* (Ivan Illich, 1973),
- *A Plea for Lean Software* (Niklaus Wirth, 1995).

Grazie mille,
per la vostra attenzione!

<https://Seppo.mro.name>

friendly incubated by  NGI0

#Seppo: Onboarding

16/16

mro.name/sfscon