



The Matrix.org Foundation & Governing Board updates

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Matrix' adoption and relevance have reached the next level.

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Meanwhile Matrix is the poster child for Digital Sovereignty, esp in Europe.

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Constant flux of invites to participate in panels, workshops, policy feedback and analysis...

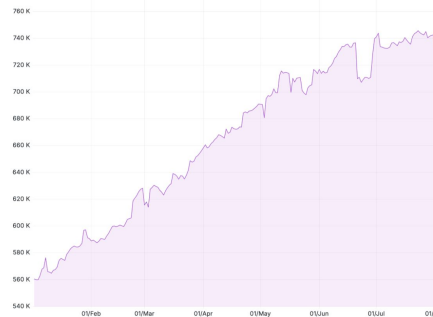
And as of today, breaking news: Amandine was appointed to the **Advisory Board of the Digital Commons EDIC!**



More implementations than we can count!

Retained 30-day users
(Based on Synapse phone-home stats)

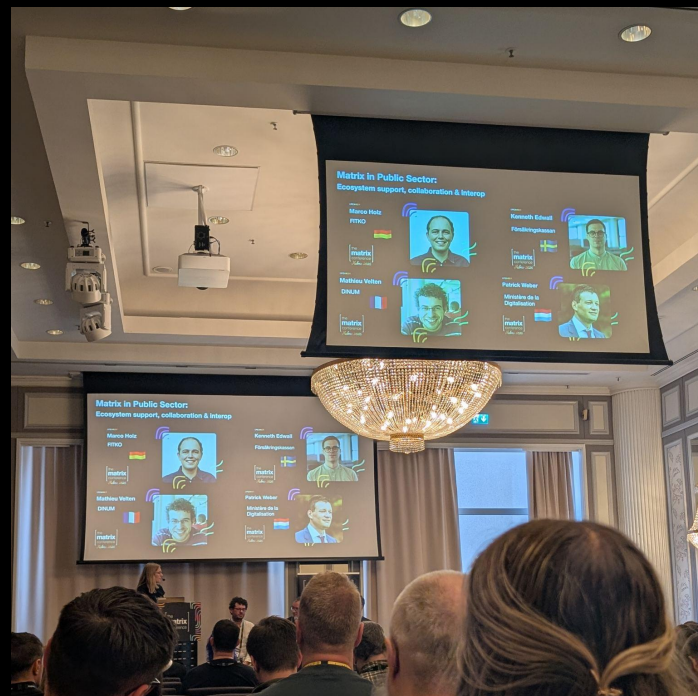
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- R30 shows committed users, who have been active for over 30 days.
- Growing 50% YoY
- Stats are increasingly unreliable due to folks turning off reporting.
- (Figures include one 170K R30 deployment which is flickering on & off)

These public sector organisations all selected Matrix because it's an open standard.

[matrix]



Who says open standard,...

...says neutral steward.



**The neutral steward of Matrix,
a Digital Common Good.**

One mission: Keeping Matrix open and neutral

“The Matrix.org Foundation exists to act as a neutral custodian for Matrix and to nurture it as a single unfragmented standard, for the greater benefit of the whole ecosystem, not benefiting or privileging any single player.”



UK non-profit

Community Interest
Company



Open by default

All IP released under
Apache 2.0



Vendor neutral

No company gets special
treatment

Four responsibilities



Protect & evolve the protocol

The Spec Core Team guards one canonical, unencumbered specification.



Give everyone a voice

The Governing Board seats individuals, projects, companies and funders.



Grow the adoption

Events, outreach and nurturing the ecosystem itself



Keep the network safe

Trust & Safety team and moderation tools for every server admin.

What the Foundation has delivered this year



Spec

- Shipped 26 MSCs across 3 releases



Ecosystem

- European government membership work
- See *WGs report*



Governance

- Improved processes and involvement with the GB
- Supporting the WGs' work (see *WGs reports*)



Trust & Safety

- Reporting v2
- T&S MSCs
- BAU ongoing support



Operations

- Revenue increase
 - €540k grant (starting 2027)
 - ~20% MoM growth on premium subscriptions on matrix.org
- Secured the Foundation financially with a loan from Element
- Hired:
 - A replacement for Thib (👋 AndyP!)
 - A part-time fundraising manager / comms specialist (👋 Kaitlin!)
- Produced the first Annual Report
- Trademark policy & brand pages



Promotion & Advocacy

- FOSDEM, The Matrix Conference 2026, Matrix Community Summit, FrOSCon...
- European Sovereign Tech Package and Open Source strategy feedback
- EuroCommons participation
- Digital Commons EDIC Advisory Board participation

Run in the open, by the whole ecosystem

5

Guardians

Directors, 3 of them
independent

24

Governing Board seats

Elected by every member
group

10

Spec Core Team

Volunteer experts
evolving the spec

5

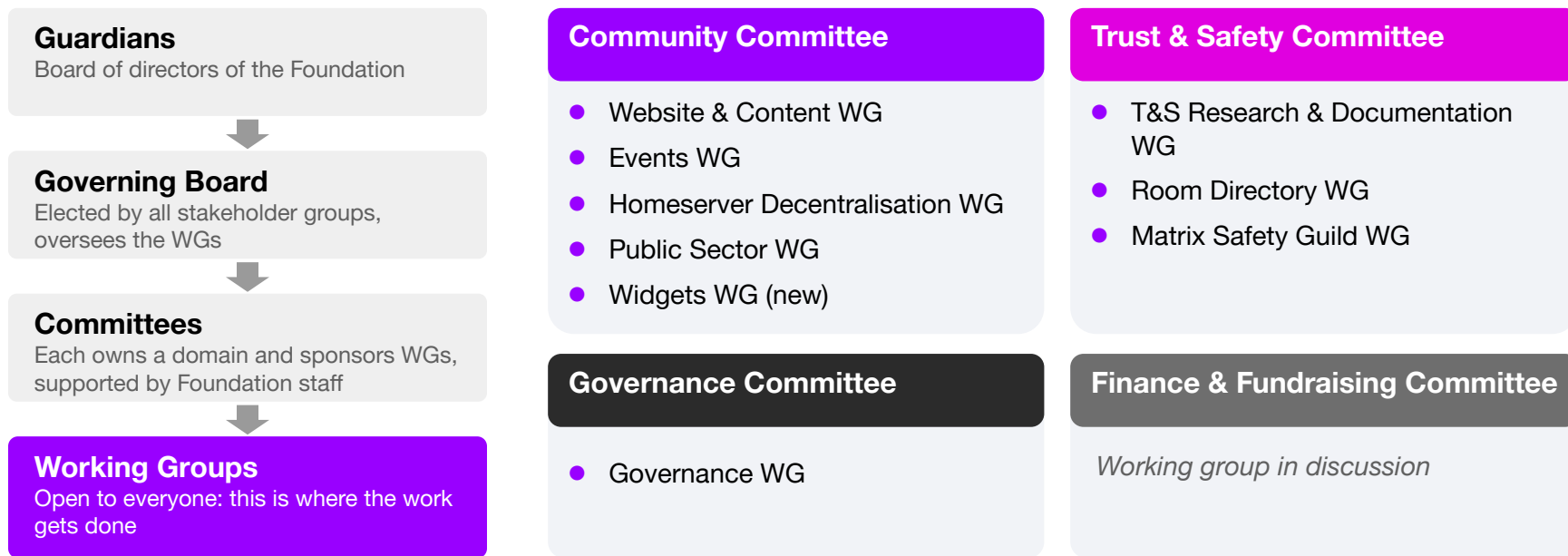
Staff

Keeping it all running
(50% working on T&S)

with the help of the Working Groups, which are open to everyone.

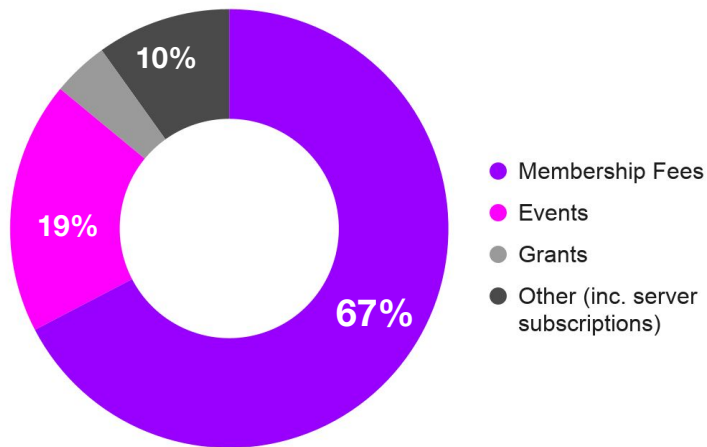
How the Working Groups fit in

Working Groups are where the impact happens, and they are open to all.

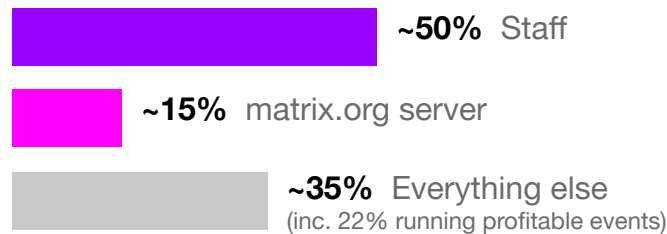


Matrix is free to use, not free to maintain

Where our 2026 revenue comes from



Where our costs go



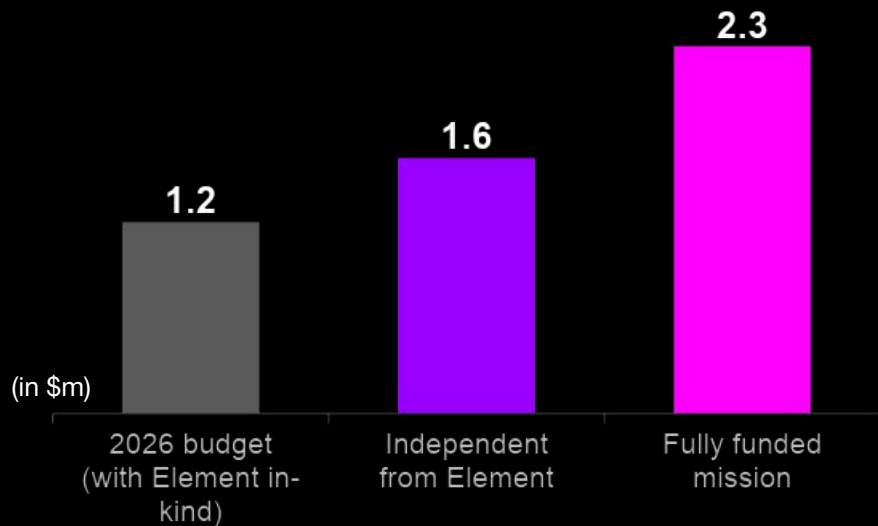
Element once carried most of the cost, up to \$5M a year.

Today the Foundation is diversifying, but the cost of half of its staff needs are still covered by in-kind support from Element.

WHY SUPPORT IT



Every new member brings Matrix closer to full independence



If 80% of the public sector organisations using Matrix became Silver members, the Foundation would be fully independent.

Companies building on Matrix: the same logic applies to you.

Grant funding

We won up to €540k funding in grants from Horizon Europe as part of a big coalition of open source products (SuperStack)*: is grant funding an answer?



Positives

- More and more funding available for open source.
- We have a very long list of things we could add to Matrix and would love to get funding to do.



Negatives

- Grants mainly fund devs, but we only do T&S development, so the scope is limited.
- Grants never fund standalone spec or governance work.
- Lack of dev means we'd need to delegate implementation and lose most of the funding.

Exploratory revenue paths



Certification

Provide a way for users/buyers to understand the profiles of the available Matrix offerings.



SCT Consulting

Make available SCT members to help organisations progress their thinking on some highly technical issues.



Trust & Safety blocklists

Make the access to the Foundation's blocklist a paid service.



Training

Certify Matrix developers, or other Matrix-specific training.

Certification and SCT consulting are the most advanced, but blocked on resources to implement them, and on funding to invest.

How the Foundation can help **you**



Vendors

- Promotion to the Matrix community and beyond
- Certification
- A network of partners and users



Users

- A network of peers for knowledge sharing and co-funding
- Access to trusted vendors



Builders

- Access to users
- Knowledge sharing
- Joint funding

Everyone: keep Matrix independent.

Not ready to join? You can still help



Join a Working Group

Events, website, public sector, trust & safety and more. Ask in #foundation-office:matrix.org



Improve the spec

Anyone can propose a Matrix Spec Change (MSC) at spec.matrix.org



Make the case at work

If your organisation relies on Matrix, ask it to become a member



Talk to us

We are right here at the booth, or write to funding@matrix.org

LET'S CELEBRATE

Those funding Matrix's future

[matrix]

AUTOMATIC



element



GOUVERNEMENT

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Direction
interministérielle
du numérique



meedio
THE SAFE PLACE TO MEET



FlatTurtle



LIBERBYTE
FREE YOUR DATA





Keep Matrix open, neutral and free.
Become a member today.

matrix.org/membership - funding@matrix.org



Scan to join

All About the Governing Board

Who's Who on the Governing Board?



Community

Individual Members

Andy Balaam
Greg Sutcliffe
Mathieu Velten
Max

Ecosystem Members

Jade Ellis *Continuuity*
Kim Brose *Matrix Community Events*
Nicolas Werner *Nheko-Reborn*

Associate Members

Tobias Fella *KDE e.V.*
Vacant seat

Funder

Platinum Members

Neil Johnson *Element*
Vacant seat
Vacant seat
Vacant seat

Gold Members

Nick Mills-Barrett *Automatic*
Vacant seat
Vacant seat

Silver Members

Niklas Zender *Famedly*
Yoan Pintas *DINUM*

Foundation

Guardians

Matthew Hodgson
Ross Schulman
Vacant seat

Spec Core Team

Alexey Rusakov
Richard van der Hoff

Managing Director

Amandine Le Pape

Finance Committee



- Finalised loan agreement with Element (instead of not paying bills)
- 2027: Aiming to turn in-kind Platinum membership into paid Platinum membership donations+billed work
- Looking into other ways to stabilise the financial situation long term via additional revenue streams, e.g.:
 - Certification
 - Paid SCT consulting
- **Fundraising WG:**
 - Still looking for enthusiastic potential members
 - Objective: support the barebone team in setting up new revenue models and gathering more members

Governance Committee



- Finalising the server maturity project: make the ecosystem page more useful and trustable with clear indicators on the state of advertised homeservers
- **Governance WG:** Established, but operation mode currently unclear
- **Foundation Project Policy WG:**
 - Not established, looking for members
 - Clear policies for projects hosted on the matrix-org Github namespace

Trust and Safety Committee



- Established several WGs and gave input on a few foundation-side moderation decisions
- **Room Directory WG**
 - We now have a working room directory again with active moderation!
 - New #community:matrix.org space still needs a few finishing touches
- **T&S Research & Documentation WG**
 - Regular meetings established
 - Actively working on moderation guides
 - Looking to give input into moderation challenges long term
- **Shared Safety Guild**
 - Collaborated with Foundation on reporting v2 (cross-homeserver reports!)

Community Committee



- **Events WG**
 - Organised this event & FOSDEM booth!
 - You can now order a booth kit for your own events!
- **Website & Content WG**
 - Handling website, conference website, social media, TWIM
 - Working on improving the client & homeserver lists to ease comparisons
 - Future work: improving the messaging on the website
- **HS decentralisation WG:** Active proposal on homeserver list for registration
 - Check out their talk at **4:15pm today in Sofya!**
- **Public sector WG:** Still trying to find a clear operation mode
- **Widgets WG:** Still setting up, but potentially rethinking widgets
 - Check out their talk at **4:45pm today in Sofya!**

How to get involved?

- The real work happens in the Working Groups.
- *Anyone* can propose a Working Group, they just need a GB sponsor.
- If there is something you want to work on, just come and have a chat.
- Make it happen.

What's more, experience with a Working Group is the best possible preparation if you want to seek election to the Governing Board in the future.

Ideas we'd love to work on, can you help?

- Make it easier to contribute to Foundation repositories
- Improve the Foundation test suites, including migrating Sytest to Complement
- Fundraising, new angles, how to make the Foundation sustainable.
- Foundation governance topics, who does what and how?
- Improving the structure of the Matrix specifications
- Improve transparency on governance for Foundation repositories.
- Certifications - we're going to need this, but what does it look like?
- What projects should live in under the Foundation? What are the criteria?
- How can we orientate and support new entrants to the ecosystem?
- How can we better communicate big changes to Matrix?
- How can we help those new to FOSS get involved?

Questions?



Thank you!