

# The Element update.

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The Matrix Conference 2026, Malmö



# Remember 2025?



# Company News.

- Good progress towards sustainability.
- Over 50% growth in revenue in 2026.
- Commercial success means we can continue to invest in all our FOSS projects.
- Supporting the Foundation until it reaches sustainability





# element Server Suite

# Pro vs Community, what does it mean?



## Community

- ✓ FOSS under AGPL
- ✓ Empowers the individual: e.g.
  - All security and encryption
  - All communication features
  - Instant sync
  - Threads
  - Speedy small servers



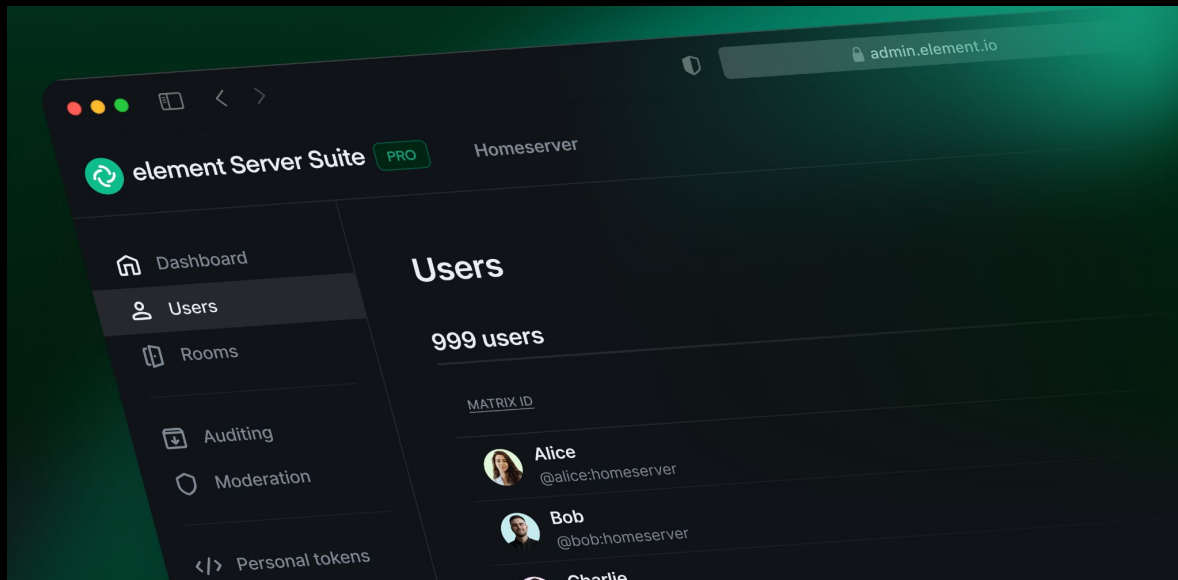
## PRO

- ✓ Proprietary. No copyleft.
- ✓ Empowers the organisation: e.g.
  - Audit and antivirus
  - Company directory integration
  - Mobile device management
  - Cyber Resilience Act compliance
  - Speedy huge servers



# element Server Suite

PRO



## Caught up with ESS classic

- Supervision (formerly Admin Bot)
- Auditing (formerly Audit Bot)
- Hookshot (web hooks)

## Run in Multiple Modes

- Mission Partner Environment
- Air Gapped
- TI Messenger
- Multi tenancy

## Element Admin

- Federation tab
- Device tab

## Supply Chain

- SBOMs
- Distroless images
- CVE scanning

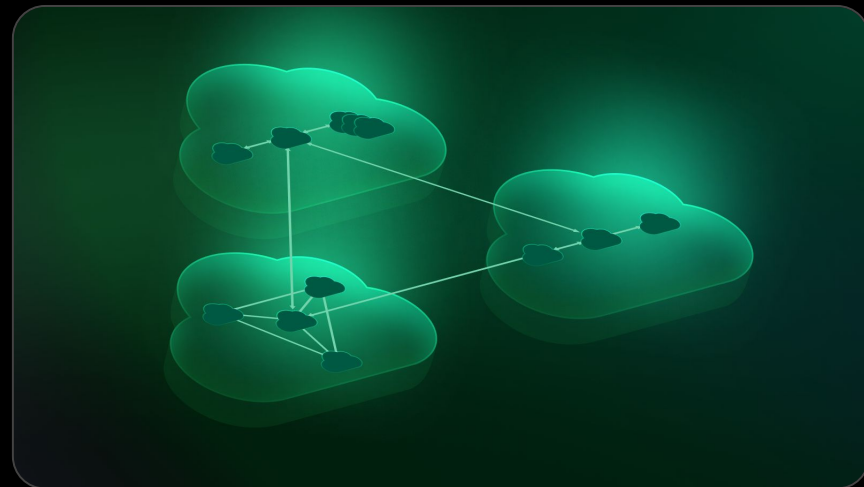
## Certification

- ISO27001 ISO5230
- Cyber Essentials Plus
- IT-Grundschutz (in flight)

# Mission Partner Environment (MPE).

For defence ministries that need to interoperate over federation.

- Message security labelling
- SIP dial in
- XMPP interop
- Cross-domain gateway
- DDIL / low bandwidth support in Element Pro



# But what about Synapse within ESS?

# Synapse

## Community

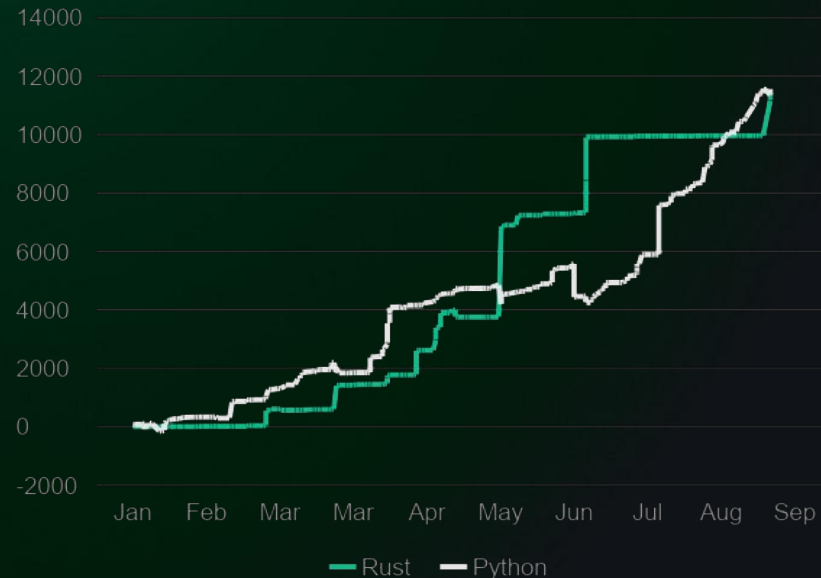
### Matrix 2.0

- Delayed Events (MSC4140)
- Sticky Events (MSC4354)
- MatrixRTC (MSC4143)
- RTC Transports endpoint (MSC 4243)
- Push rules for call invites and invitations (MSC4075)
- Matrix spec 1.17 lands imminently



# Synapse Community Rustification.

- Learn lessons from Synapse Pro and Neutrino P2P
- Core data model in rust
- Hot paths in Rust
- Canonical JSON and client event serialization



# Synapse Community Rustification.

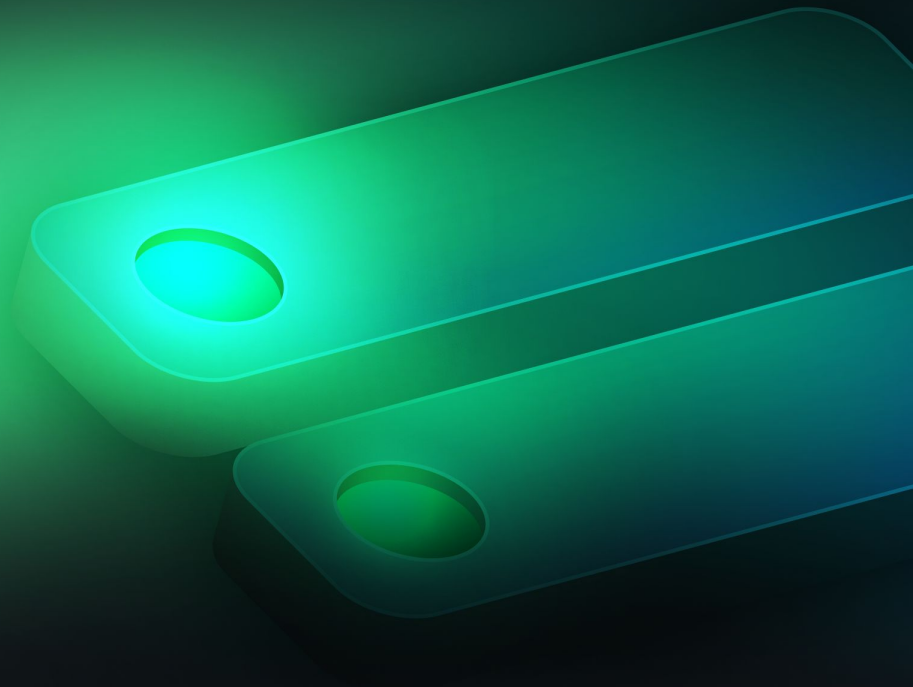
- <What we are doing>

<Some graphs>

# Synapse **PRO**

Focuses on large, resilient, HA deployments.

- Mature, robust, indestructible
- Shared memory for massive servers
- Smart sharding and replication
- Fleet Management and Multi-tenancy
- Compliance guarantees, e.g. CRA IT-Grundschutz
- LTS distribution
- Even more rust than Synapse Community





# element Call

# element Call

## Spec

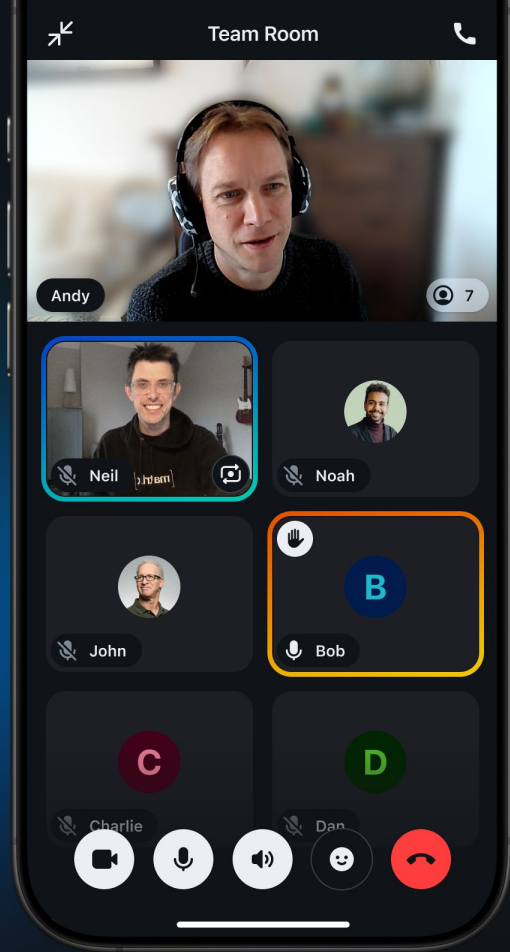
- We authored the MatrixRTC MSCs and implementations, so any Matrix client and server can take part in a call. All in FCP\*

## Reliability

- Invested heavily in test infrastructure to be confident that it just works. Supported by scaling and stability work in ESS.
- Native apps for greater control.

## Features

- Easier to show than tell.
- Demo time.



# Demo time

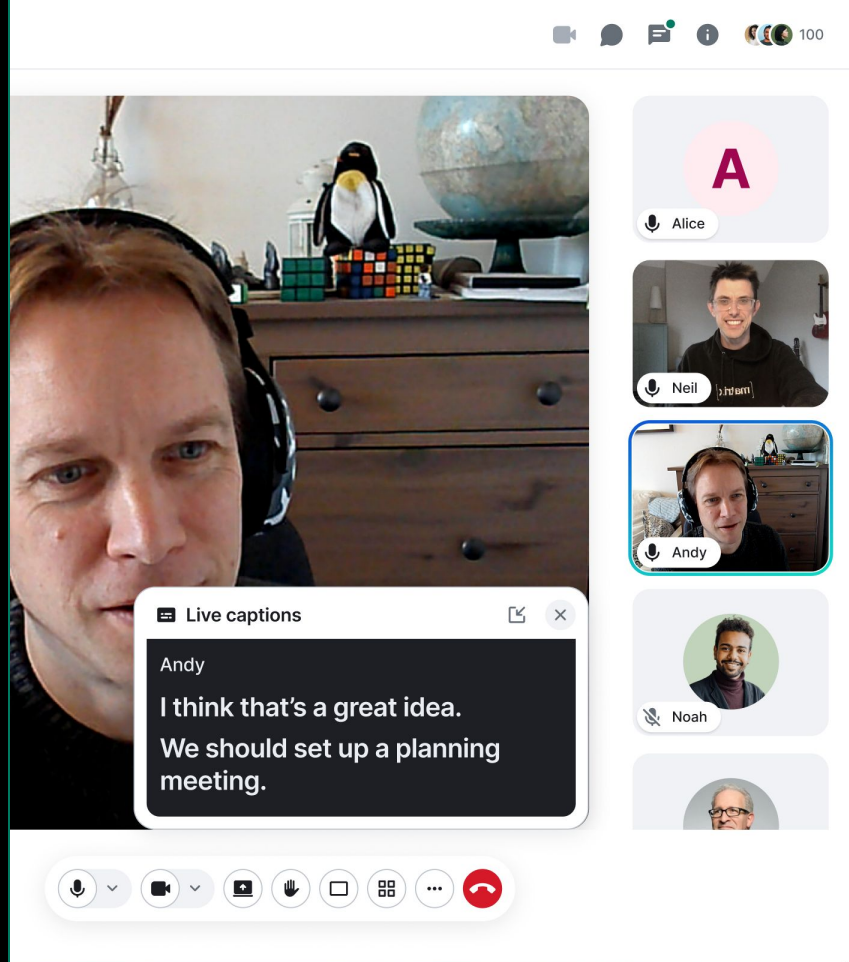


# element Call **PRO**

- Guest access
- Custom background
- Floor Control and speaker queues
- Chat next to video

## Pro

- Recording, captions, transcriptions
- PSTN in and out, dial out from conferences, SIP video in.
- MPE labelling
- Benchmarked for 200 users





# element Web

From messaging to productivity

Unreads People

> Favourites

> Teams

> Projects

> Community

Start chat

# New room

New video room

New section

## Custom Sections



Alice

Away

## User status

## Share files from Nextcloud

All files

Documents

5 items

Photos

10 items

## Nextcloud files and Collabora editing



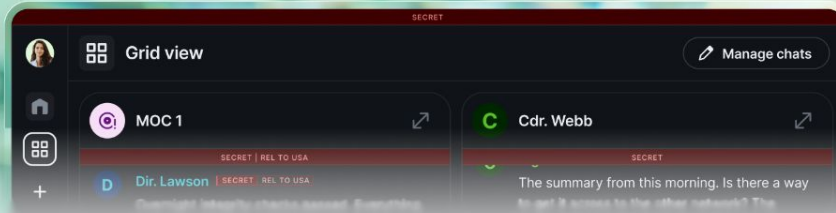
### filepanel is missing entries · Issue #12490

If you enable filepanel whilst scrolled up, it shows no ent...  
github.com

Who can fix this? [#12490](#)



## Link previews



## Message classification labels (Pro)

< 2026-Report.pdf

2026 REPORT

## PDF and Markdown viewer



## Project room

Encrypted

New members see history

## Room history sharing

## Data retention

Automatically delete messages after set time.

☒ Enable

Timeframe

1 Month

## Message retention

# Next.

## Personal Productivity

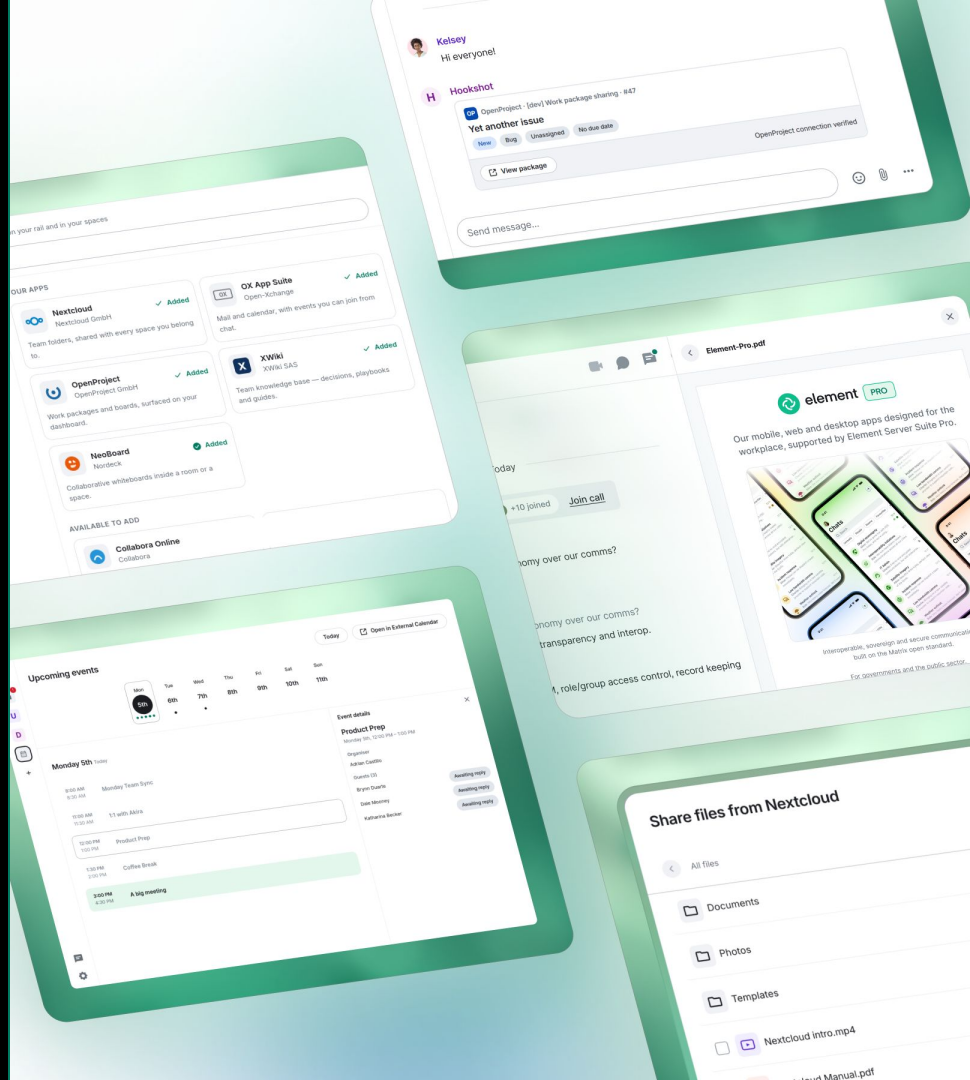
- Search and user directories
- Bookmarked messages
- Activity centre

## Collaboration

- Validated guest access
- Work items in the timeline, starting with OpenProject
- Live documents via Collabora, from your Nextcloud
- Calendar integration, starting with Open-Xchange.

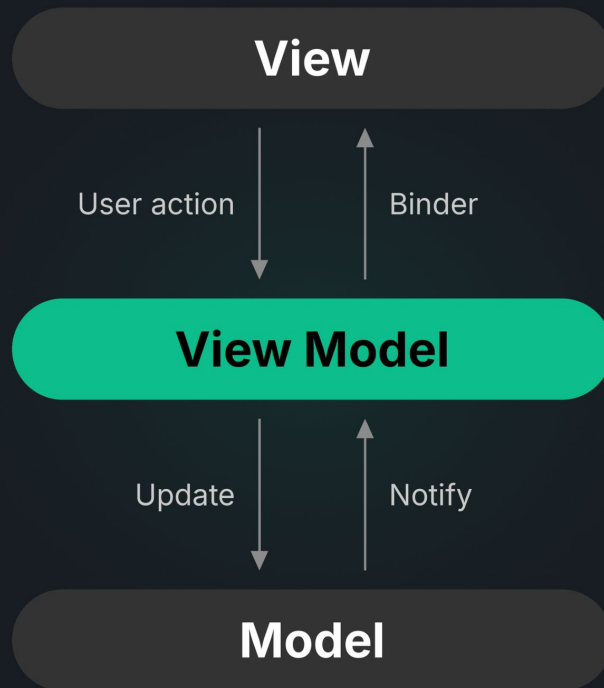
## Trust

- An extensions store
- User discovery
- Clear organisational boundaries



# Under the Hood.

- In the future, Element Web will be powered by the same Rust SDK that powers Element X.
- Rebuilding it component by component as MVVM so we can switch the engine over,
  - This improves quality of the experience today.
  - Makes it possible to switch the SDK in future.
- Track progress against Aurora





# Element X has caught up, and gone beyond.

|                       | Classic | Element X |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Spaces                | ✓       | ✓         |
| Threads               | ✓       | ✓         |
| Live location sharing | ✓       | ✓         |
| Message search        | ×       | ✓         |
| User status           | ×       | ✓         |

Element Classic will be delisted from the app stores at the end of this year. A nag banner will appear by default from November 15th.



# Beyond parity.



## Now

- Native Element Call
- Gallery messages
- QR code login in every direction
- Accessibility audited externally against BITV 2.0, EN 301 549 and WCAG 2.1 AA



## Next

- Multi-account
- Message retention
- User Discovery
- 1001 performance improvements

# Cryptography.

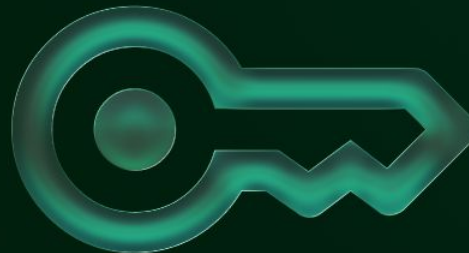
## Room history sharing (May)

Room admins can let invited members read earlier messages. The keys travel in encrypted to-device messages, so the server never sees the history.

## User verification via X.509 certificates (September) (Pro)

One way to ensure that you are talking to who you think you are talking to is to use X509 certificates issued by a trusted certificate authority.

Up next are dehydrated devices and recovery key setup and excluding insecure devices.



## Moving on from Classic

**ESS** **Classic**

Sunset in April 2027.



**ESS** **PRO**

**Element Call SPA**

Will be Retired, date TBD



**In-app calling**

with guest access

**Element Classic**

Leaving App Store by year-end



**Element X**

# Looking ahead, themes for 2027

## Interoperability

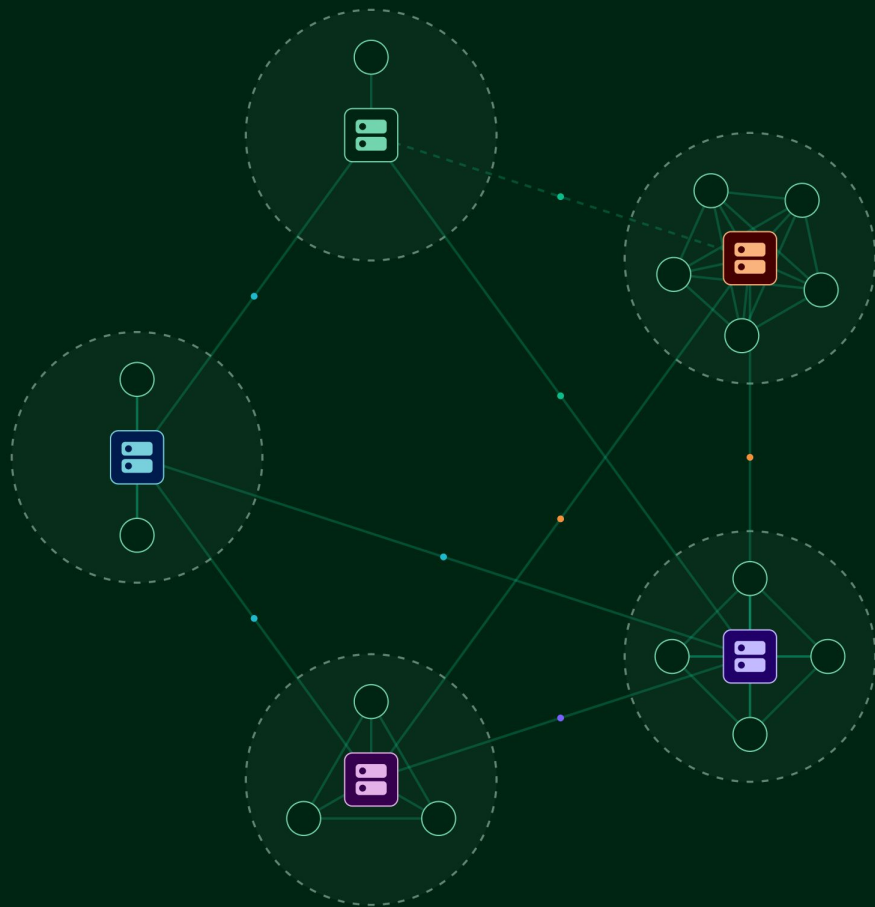
Collaborating across departments, organisations, and networks safely.

## User Discovery

Finding the right person on another server, without giving up privacy or control.

## Onboarding

From first invite to first conversation in as few steps as possible.



# Product Strategy 2027

## Simplicity & Familiarity

- Invisible crypto
- Frictionless onboarding
- Familiar clients
- Organisational model replacing spaces

## Productivity & Collaboration

- Element Web as Teams-like hub
- In-app video conferencing relaunch, incl. recap and SIP
- Third-party integration framework, openDesk first
- AI agents in rooms on sovereign models

## Performance

- Synapse as high-performance Rust backend
- Element Web on the Rust SDK
- E2EE calls to 200, townhalls to 2,000

## Federation & Network

- Trust as a product including trust spheres, trust providers, admin policy, trust-aware search, trust-decorated rooms
- Federation that just works including Secure Border Gateway, profiles, directory
- Consumer-style mobile apps with address-book and organisation discovery

## Security & Compliance

- Supply chain: reproducible builds, signed images, SBOM, VEX, distroless, hardened build environment
- Hardened apps and images; annual pentests
- CRA, IT-Grundschutz
- WCAG 2.1 AA with annual reports

## Protocol Advancement

- Hydra: finish the Synapse implementation and land it with the Spec Core Team
- Decentralised MLS using Hydra-supported epochs (ERA)
- Post Quantum: Building on our PQXDH prototype in Vodozemac.

# Takeaways.

**ESS**

**PRO**

Serving governments, with ESS  
Classic ending in April 2027.

**element Call**

Comes of age.

**element Web**

Moved from messenger  
to productivity app.

**element X**

Caught up with Classic  
and gone beyond.