Providing scalable reliable open source infrastructure (for small/medium teams)

FOSDEM 2023

Brussels, Belgium

Providing scalable reliable open source infrastructure **(for small/medium teams)**

FOSDEM 2023

Brussels, Belgium

Boris Budini (boris@cloud68.co)
Redon Skikuli (redon@cloud68.co)

FOSDEM 2023

Brussels, Belgium

Boris Budini (boris@cloud68.co)
Redon Skikuli (redon@cloud68.co)

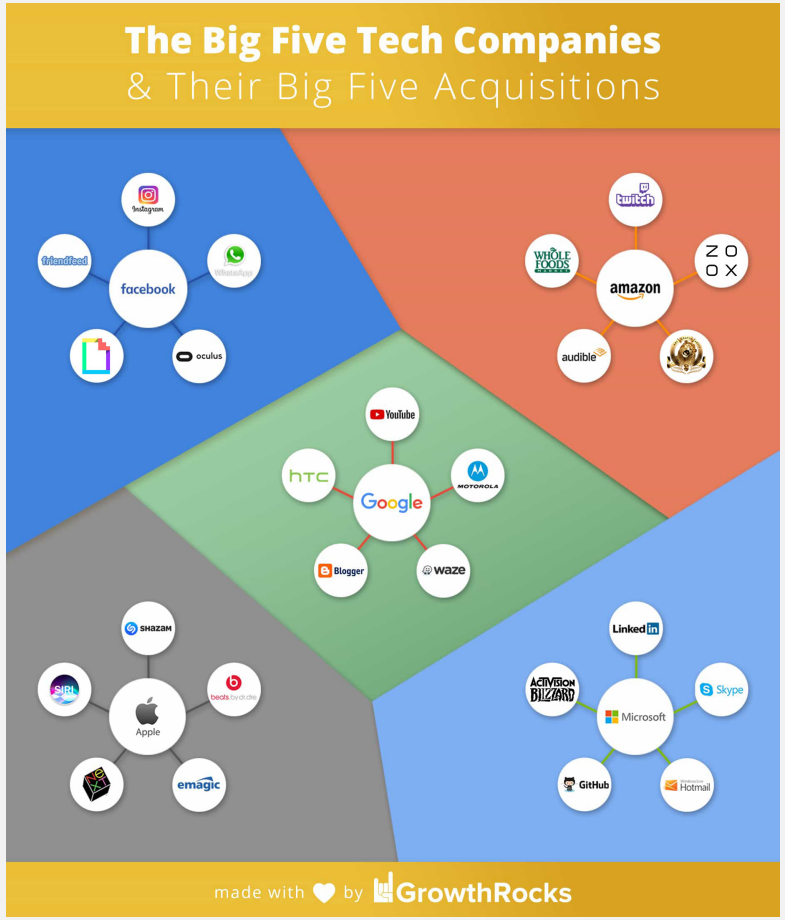
FOSDEM 2023

Brussels, Belgium

Big Tech

Big Tech

Big Tech (the issue-s)

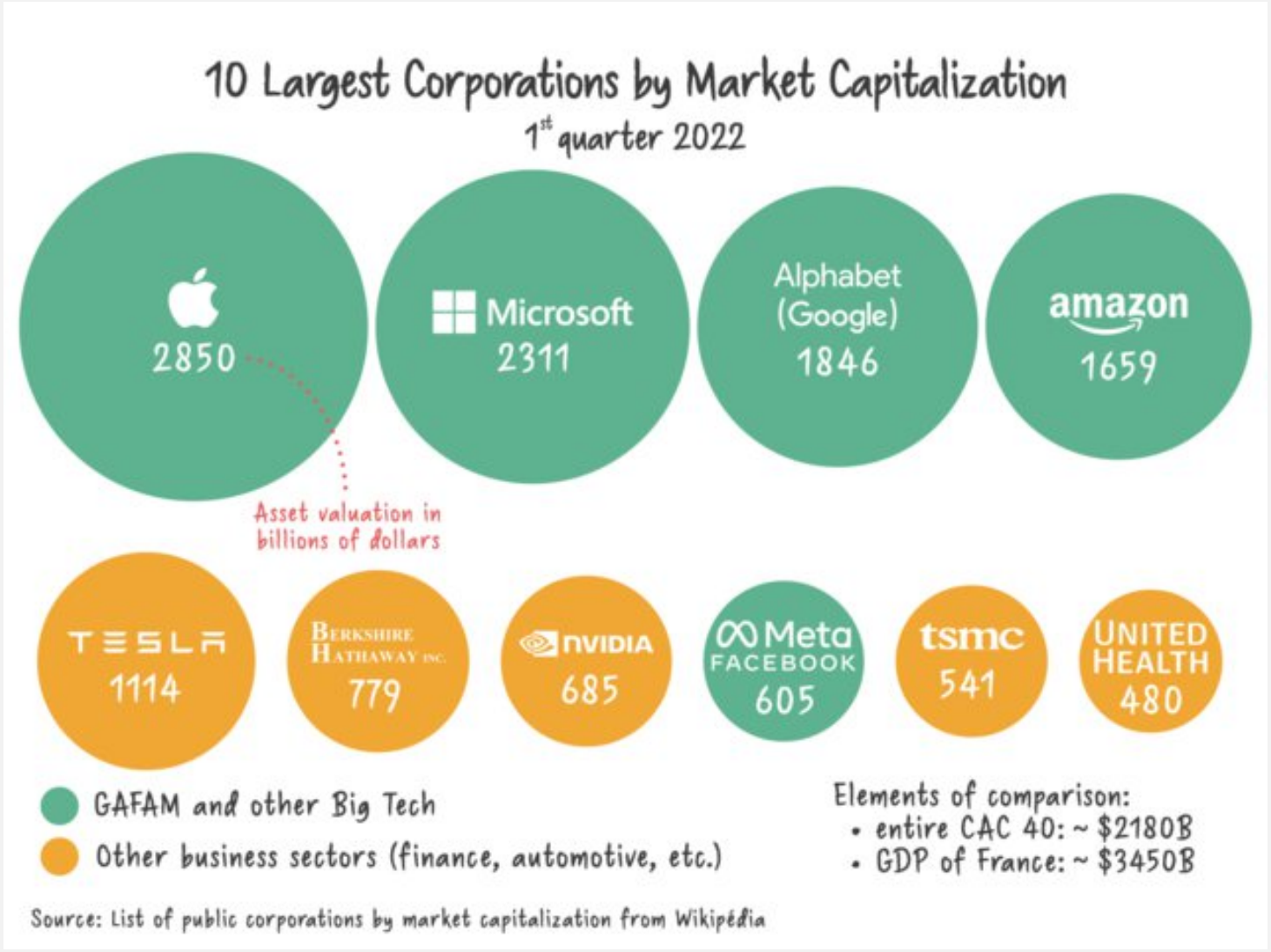


GAFAM

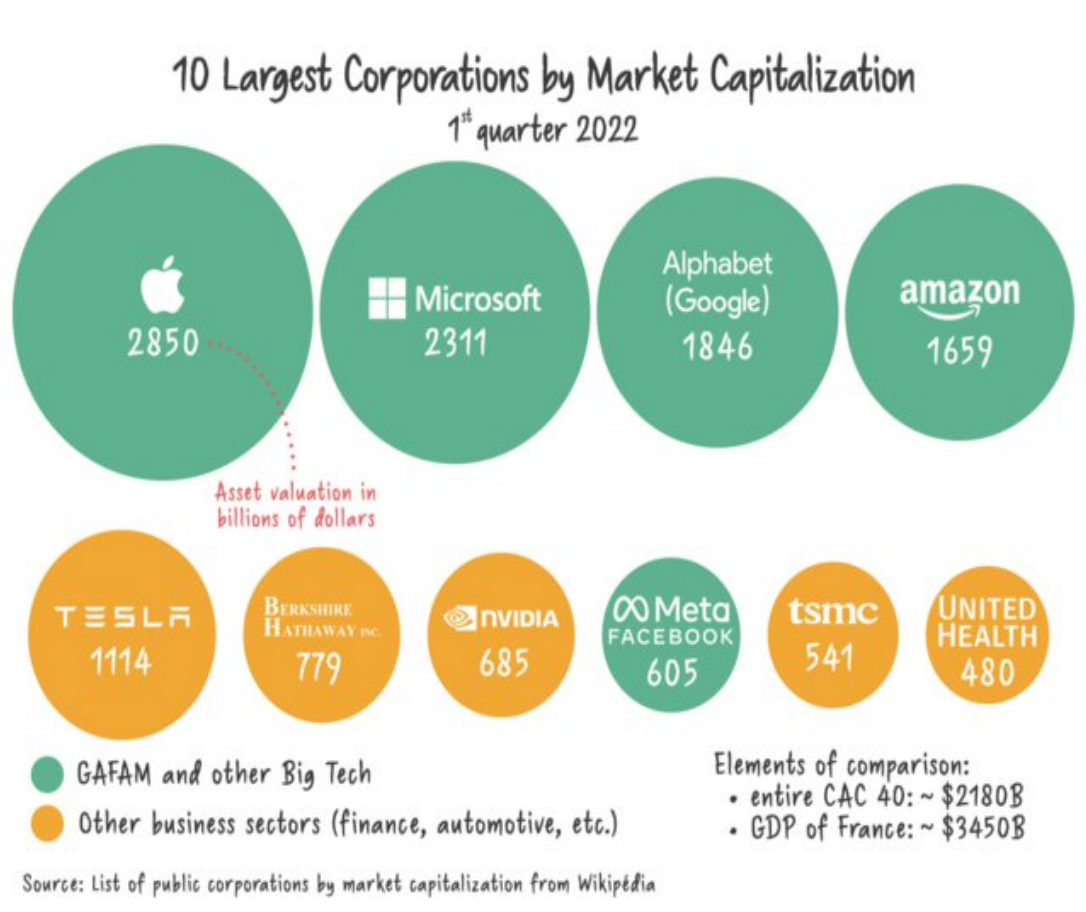
=

Google (Alphabet)
Apple
Facebook (Meta)
Amazon
Microsoft

Big Tech (the issue-s)

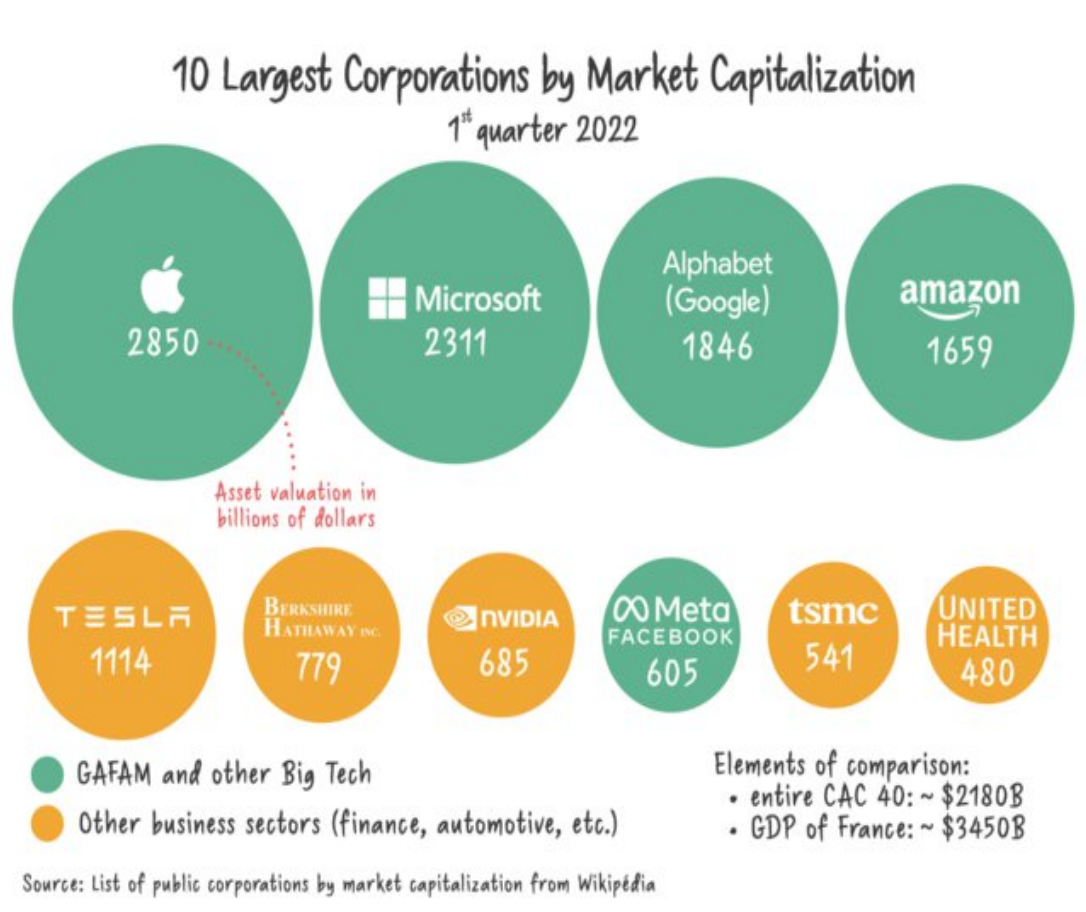


Big Tech (the issue-s)



- The Big Five tech giants have replaced the energy giants such as ExxonMobil, BP, Gazprom, PetroChina, Chevron, and Shell ("Big Oil") from the first decade of the 21st century at the top of the NASDAQ stock index.
- also outpaced the traditional big media companies such as Disney, Warner Bros. Discovery, and Comcast by a factor of 10.
- In 2017, the five biggest American IT companies had a combined valuation of over $3.3 trillion, and made up more than 40 percent of the value of the Nasdaq 100.
- It has been observed that the companies remain popular by providing some of their services to consumers for free.

Big Tech (the issue-s)



- The Big Five tech giants have replaced the energy giants such as ExxonMobil, BP, Gazprom, PetroChina, Chevron, and Shell ("Big Oil") from the first decade of the 21st century at the top of the NASDAQ stock index.
- also outpaced the traditional big media companies such as Disney, Warner Bros. Discovery, and Comcast by a factor of 10.
- In 2017, the five biggest American IT companies had a combined valuation of over $3.3 trillion, and made up more than 40 percent of the value of the Nasdaq 100.
- It has been observed that the companies remain popular **by providing some of their services to consumers for free**.

Big Tech (the issue-s)

- Among those who believe that **acquisitions will weaken an original innovative atmosphere** is scholar Tim Wu, Wu pointed out that when Meta acquired Instagram, it simply **eliminated a competitive threat** that may have presented a fresher competitor had it remained independent.
- Wu formulated the idea of **oligopoly "kill zones"** created by acquiring competitors that approach their market.

If Big Tech is bad, why do we keep using it?

- Free as in... freemium
- Convenience of these choices
- Tightly integrated services (leading to vendor lock-in)

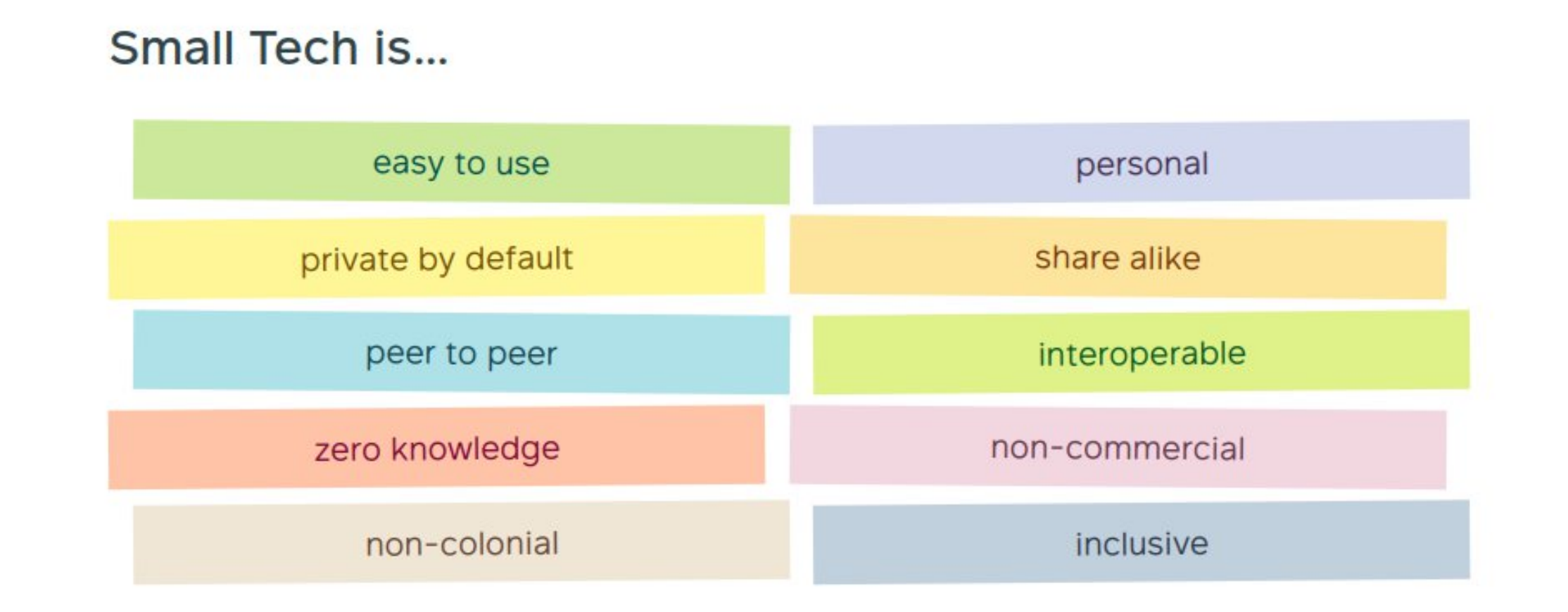
If Big Tech is bad, why do we keep using it?

- Free as in... freemium
- Convenience of these choices
- Tightly integrated services (leading to vendor lock-in)

The solution - part 1
Small tech + Open Source

The solution - part 1
Small tech + Open Source

Small tech vs. GAFAM

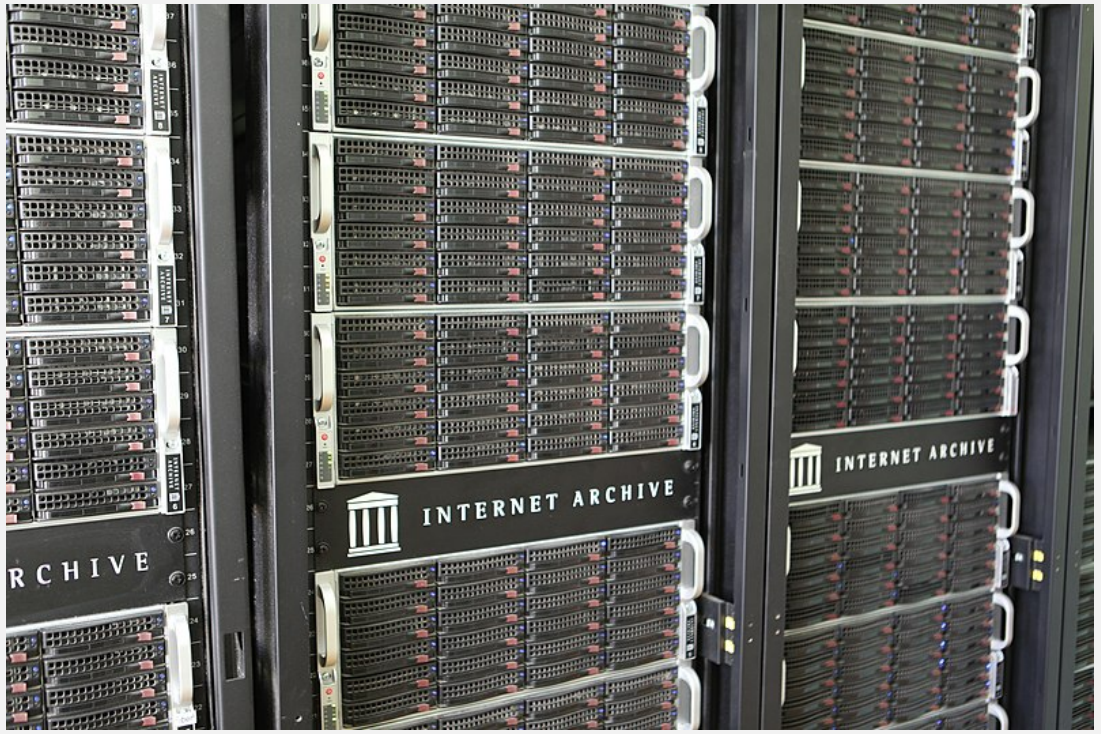


source: https://small-tech.org/

The solution(s) – part 2

The solution(s)

1. Self host (ideal scenario)
2. No-code hosting platforms
3. Internal team (sysadmin)
4. Hosting collectives
   (like Chatons.org)
5. Managed Service providers



The solution(s)

1. **Self host (ideal scenario)**
2. No-code hosting platforms
3. Internal team (sysadmin)
4. Hosting collectives (like Chatons.org)
5. Managed Service providers

- Instance deployment and maintenance require technical expertise
- DIY can work good for side projects, but for production environments of SMEs, it might not be feasible due to the inherent complexity

User reaction regarding Dropbox launch

▲ [redacted] on April 5, 2007 | parent | context | favorite | on: My YC app: Dropbox - Throw away your USB drive

I have a few qualms with this app:

1. For a Linux user, you can already build such a system yourself quite trivially by getting an FTP account, mounting it locally with curlftpfs, and then using SVN or CVS on the mounted filesystem. From Windows or Mac, this FTP account could be accessed through built-in software.

The solution(s)

1. Self host (ideal scenario)
2. **No-code hosting platforms**
3. Internal team (sysadmin)
4. Hosting collectives (like Chatons.org)
5. Managed Service providers

- Provide a low-barrier entry to the world of self hosting
- Is a great way to quickly setup and maintain infrastructure
- Customizations usually require some technical knowledge (accessing services from the internet, backup & disaster recovery, etc)

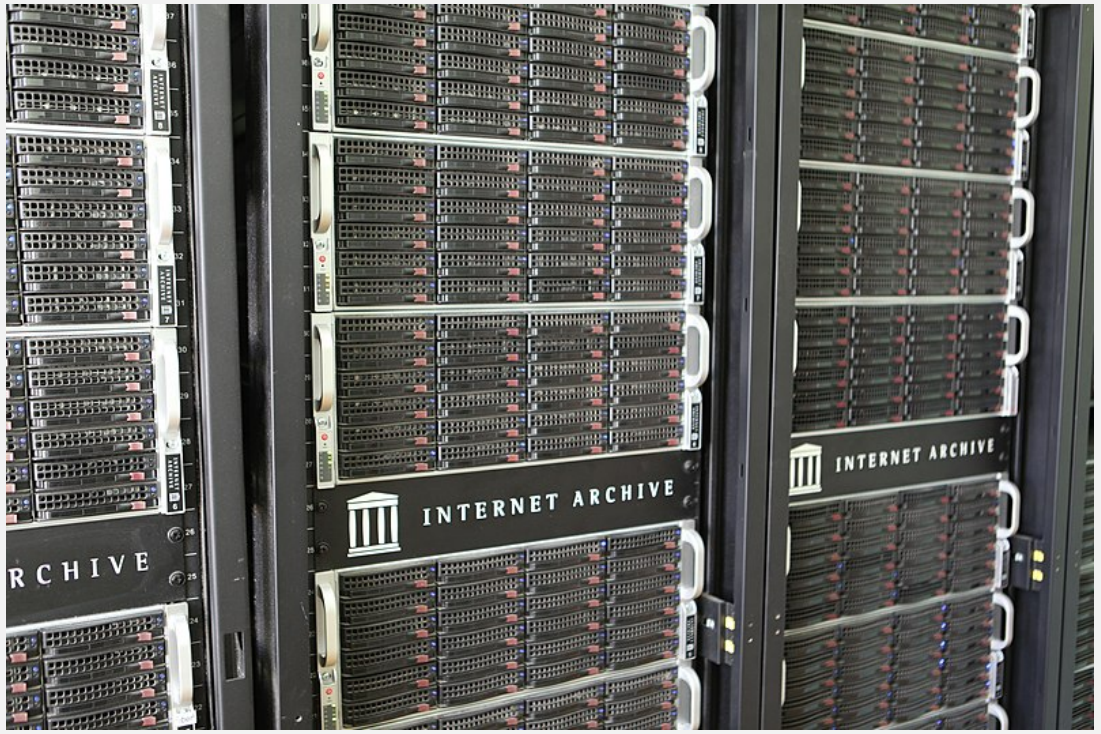
The solution(s)

1. Self host (ideal scenario)
2. No-code hosting platforms
3. **Internal team (sysadmin)**
4. Hosting collectives (like Chatons.org)
5. Managed Service providers

- Highest amount of flexibility, as an internal team can satisfy all team requirements
- higher costs for an internal team
- hardware/cloud costs on top of team costs

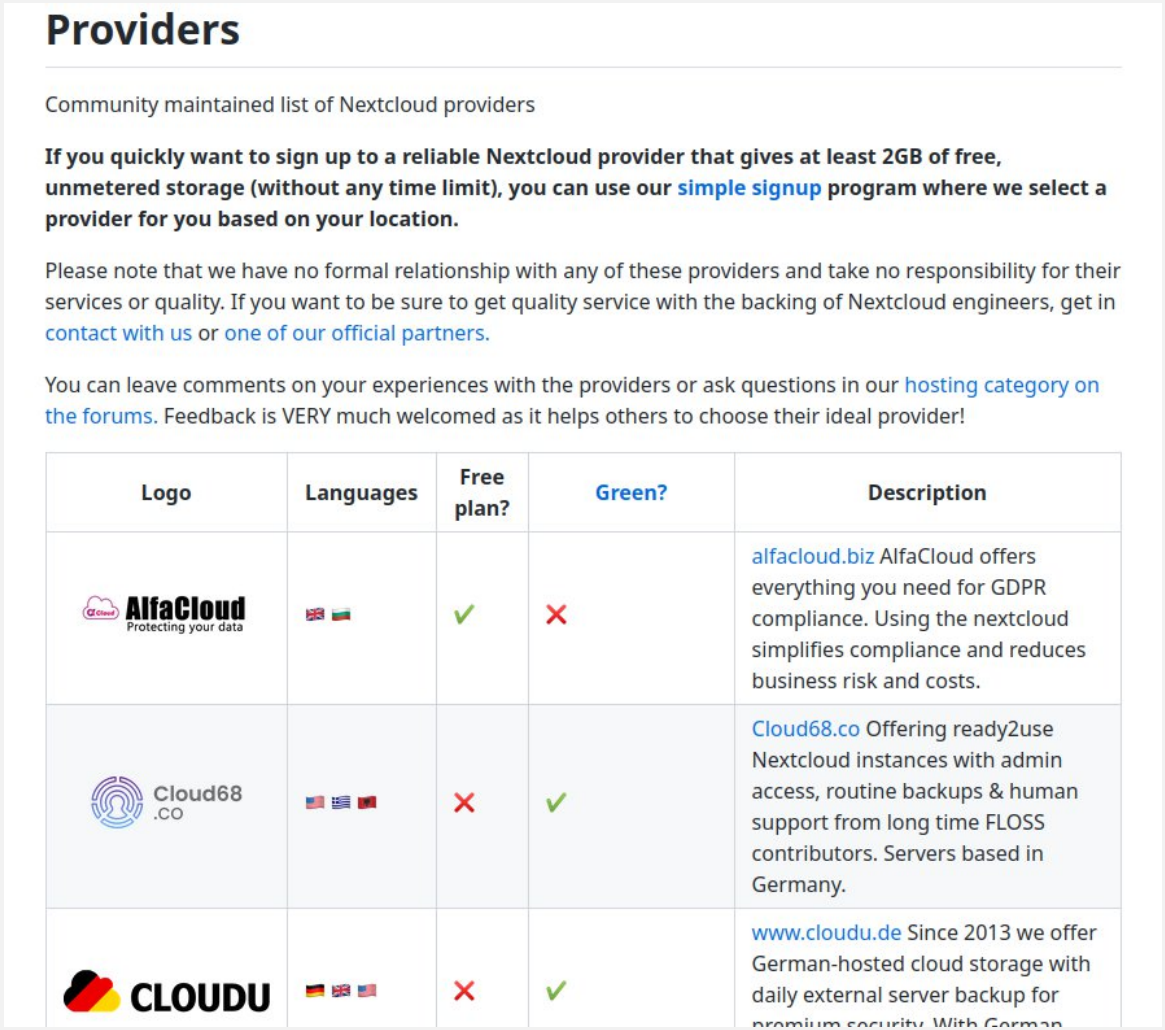
The solution(s)

1. Self host (ideal scenario)
2. No-code hosting platforms
3. Internal team (sysadmin)
4. **Hosting collectives**
   (like Chatons.org)
5. Managed Service providers



The solution(s)

1. Self host (ideal scenario)
2. No-code hosting platforms
3. Internal team (sysadmin)
4. Hosting collectives (like Chatons.org)
5. **Managed Service** providers



Providers

Community maintained list of Nextcloud providers

If you quickly want to sign up to a reliable Nextcloud provider that gives at least 2GB of free, unmetered storage (without any time limit), you can use our simple signup program where we select a provider for you based on your location.

Please note that we have no formal relationship with any of these providers and take no responsibility for their services or quality. If you want to be sure to get quality service with the backing of Nextcloud engineers, get in contact with us or one of our official partners.

You can leave comments on your experiences with the providers or ask questions in our hosting category on the forums. Feedback is VERY much welcomed as it helps others to choose their ideal provider!

Logo	Languages	Free plan?	Green?	Description
AlfaCloud Protecting your data		✓	✗	alfacloud.biz AlfaCloud offers everything you need for GDPR compliance. Using the nextcloud simplifies compliance and reduces business risk and costs.
Cloud68.co		✗	✓	Cloud68.co Offering ready2use Nextcloud instances with admin access, routine backups & human support from long time FLOSS contributors. Servers based in Germany.
CLOUDU		✗	✓	www.cloudu.de Since 2013 we offer German-hosted cloud storage with daily external server backup for

Managed service provider(s)

1. **open platforms**
2. **no technical knowledge required**
3. **tech and user support**
4. **higher technical expertise**
5. **ToS and legal coverage**
6. **service continuity and sustainability**

The solution(s): Managed Service Provider

example: hosting Mastodon requirements

- technical know-how
- platform specific know-how (what does federation mean?)
- important: legal complications
- moderation

The solution(s): Managed Service Provider

example: hosting Mastodon requirements:

- technical know-how
- platform specific know-how (what does federation mean?)
- important: legal complications
- moderation

Rise against
VENDOR LOCK-IN

Thank you FOSDEM!

Email: office@cloud68.co

Mastodon: @Cloud68@fosstodon.org