



Clear skies, no clouds in sight



Running a business on FOSS

Who am I

Hein-Pieter van Braam

(But please call me "HP")

Free software enthusiast

(Co)Founder of two Godot related companies

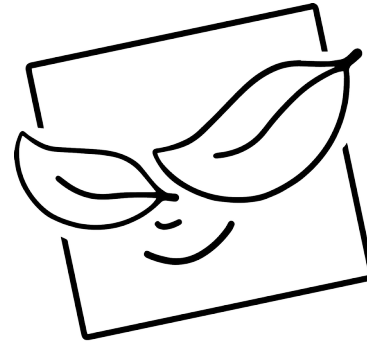
- Prehensile Tales b.v.
- Ramatak Inc.

Treasurer of The Godot Foundation

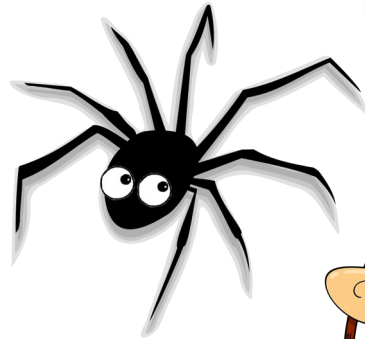
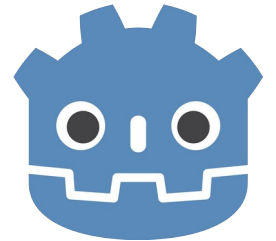
Gigantic nerd

Founder of Notabug.org

Personal blog: <https://blog.tmm.cx>

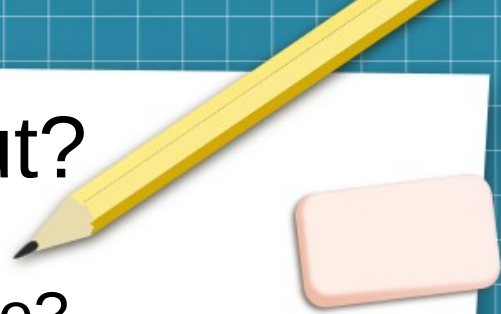


RAMATAK



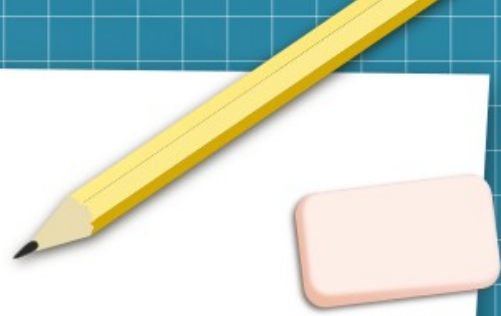
What is this presentation about?

- Can you run a business on entirely FOSS software?
- Should you run a business on entirely FOSS software?
- Are you mad?
- What does it mean to do this?
- How to do this.

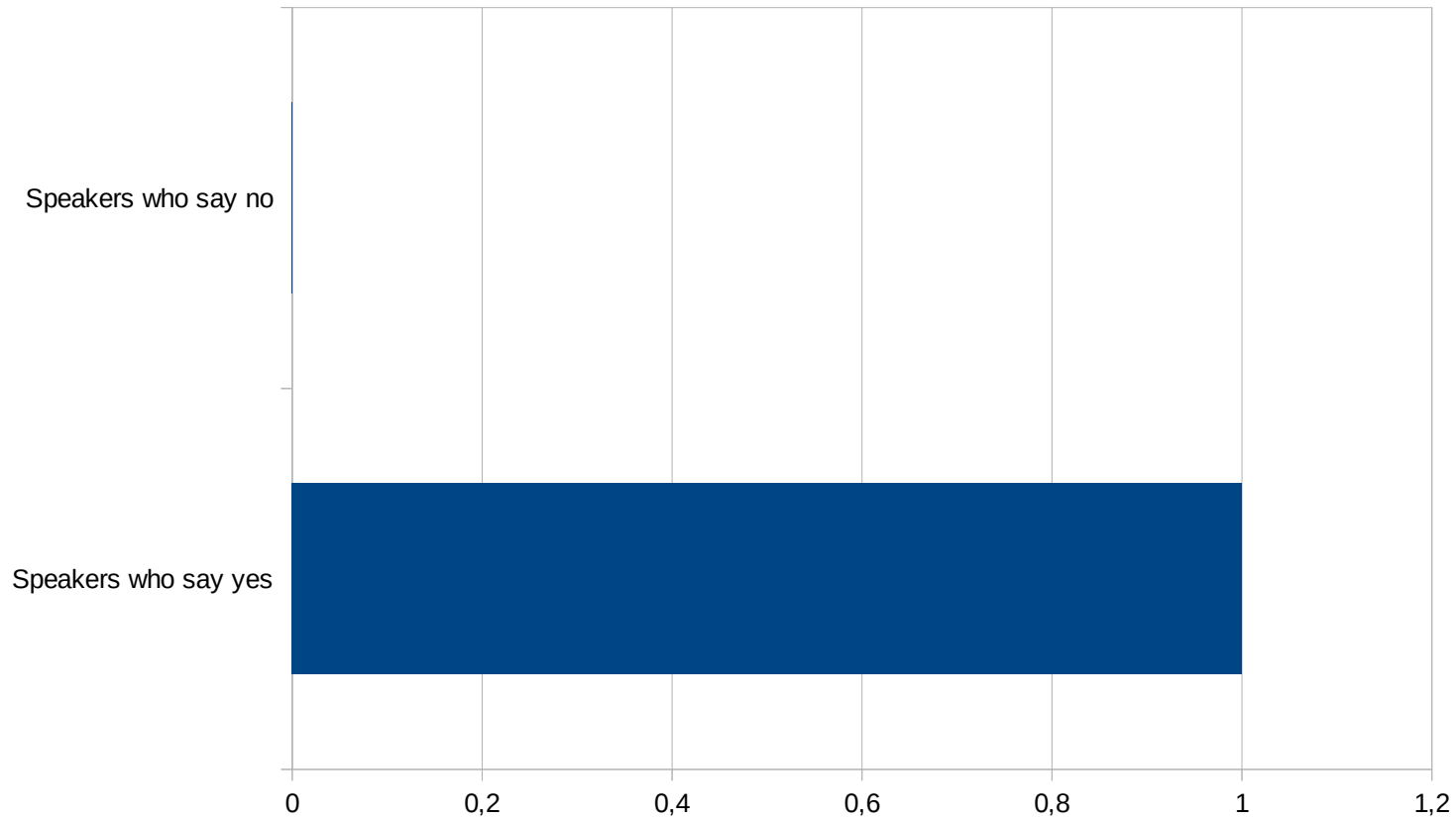
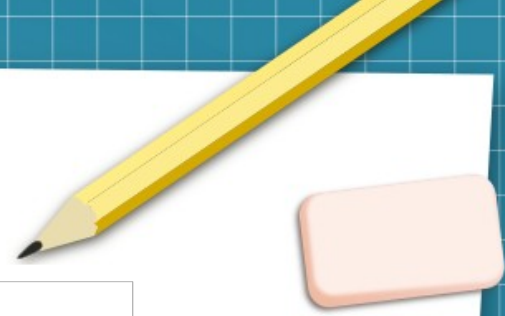


What this presentation isn't

- A lesson in managing large numbers of servers
- A lesson in starting flame wars about configuration management systems.

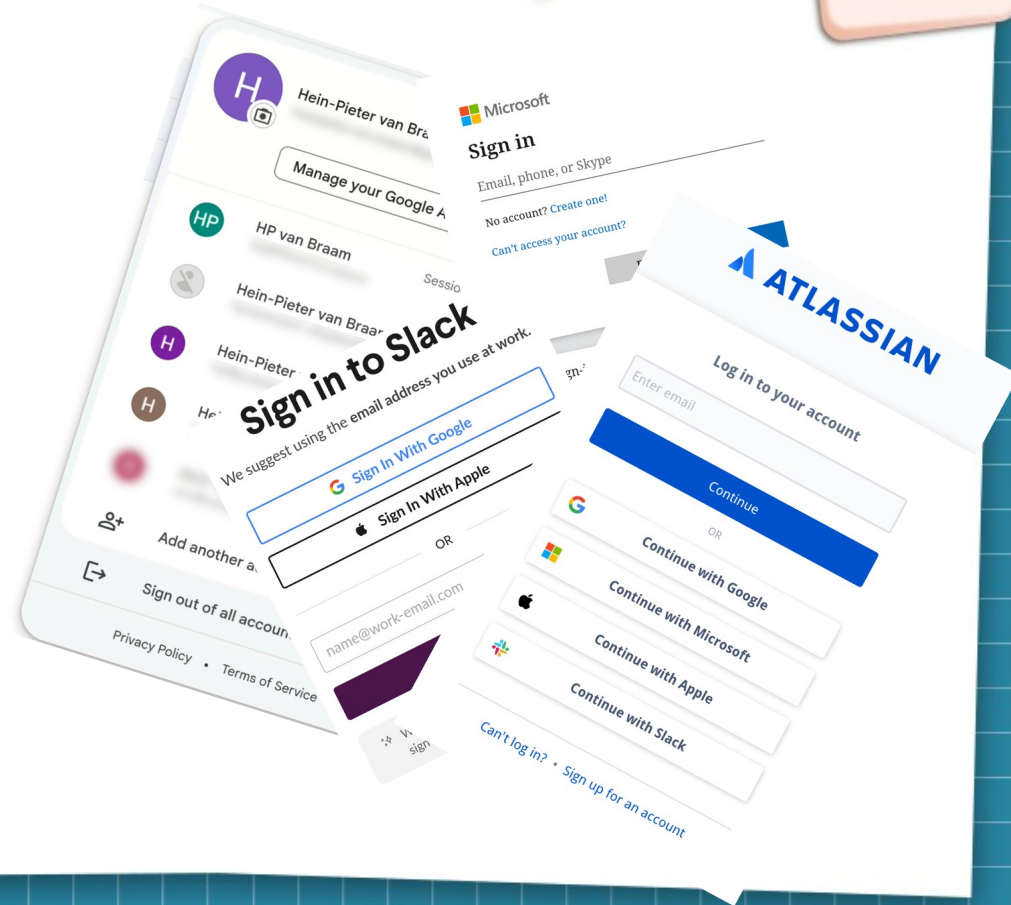


So, can you?



Why would you though?

- For users juggling many accounts is confusing.
- **Someone** has to fix issues when they arise.



Access control

- Giving people correct access is hard.
- Removing access at the right time is even harder.
- NDAs and compliance issue!



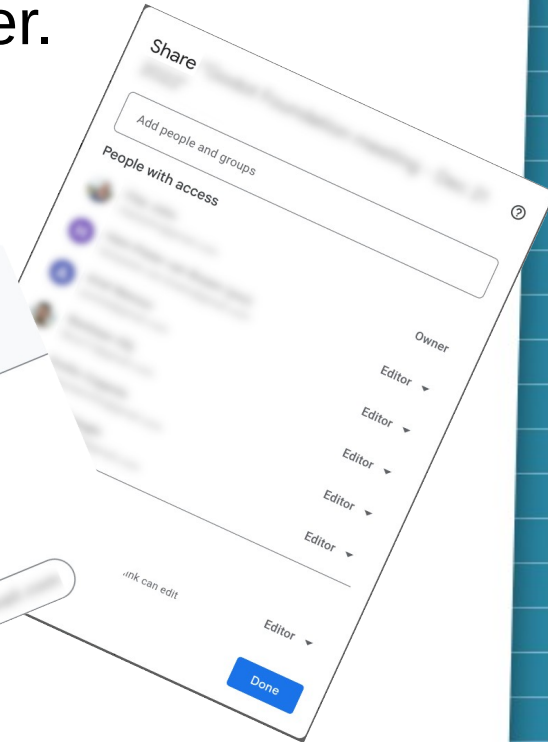
You need access

Request access, or switch to an account with access.
[Learn more](#)

Message (optional)

Request access

You're signed in as



But you can do that with SaaS!

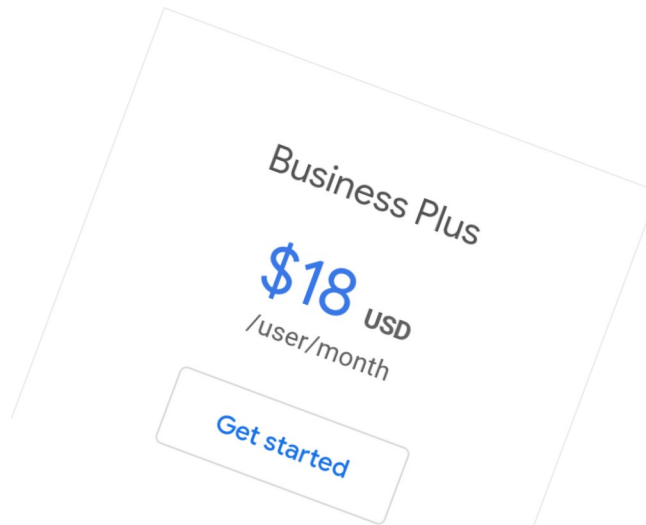
- Single Sign On and centralized access control is usually only available at the higher price tiers.
- If a *single* SaaS provider offers all you need it might also work.



Business+
Scale your business, increase productivity, and keep your teams connected



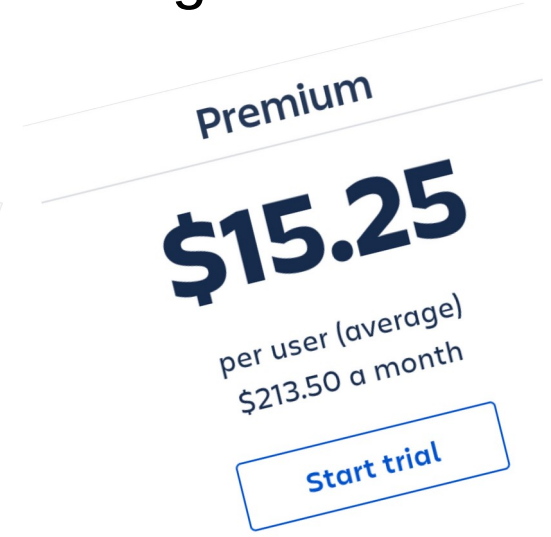
€11.75
per person/month, when billed yearly
€14.10 per person/month when billed monthly



Business Plus

\$18 USD
/user/month

[Get started](#)



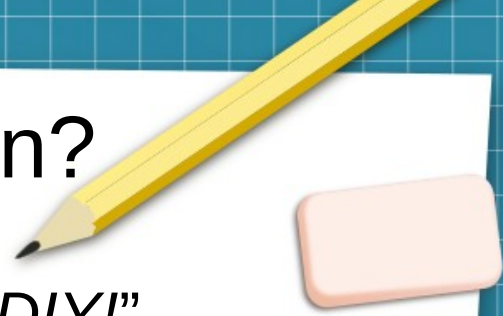
Premium

\$15.25
per user (average)
\$213.50 a month

[Start trial](#)

So, this is all about money then?

- The common wisdom is: *“it is **more** expensive to DIY!”*
 - I do not believe this is true, at least not for my companies.
- *“It is only free if you your time is free”*
 - Supporting users with mismatched accounts is not free.
 - Failing in compliance could be very far from free.

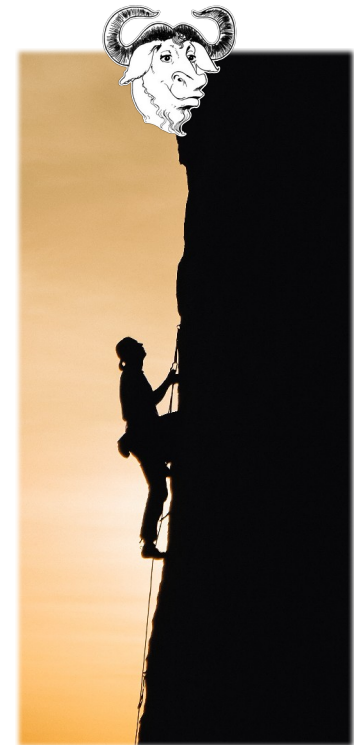


So what is it about?

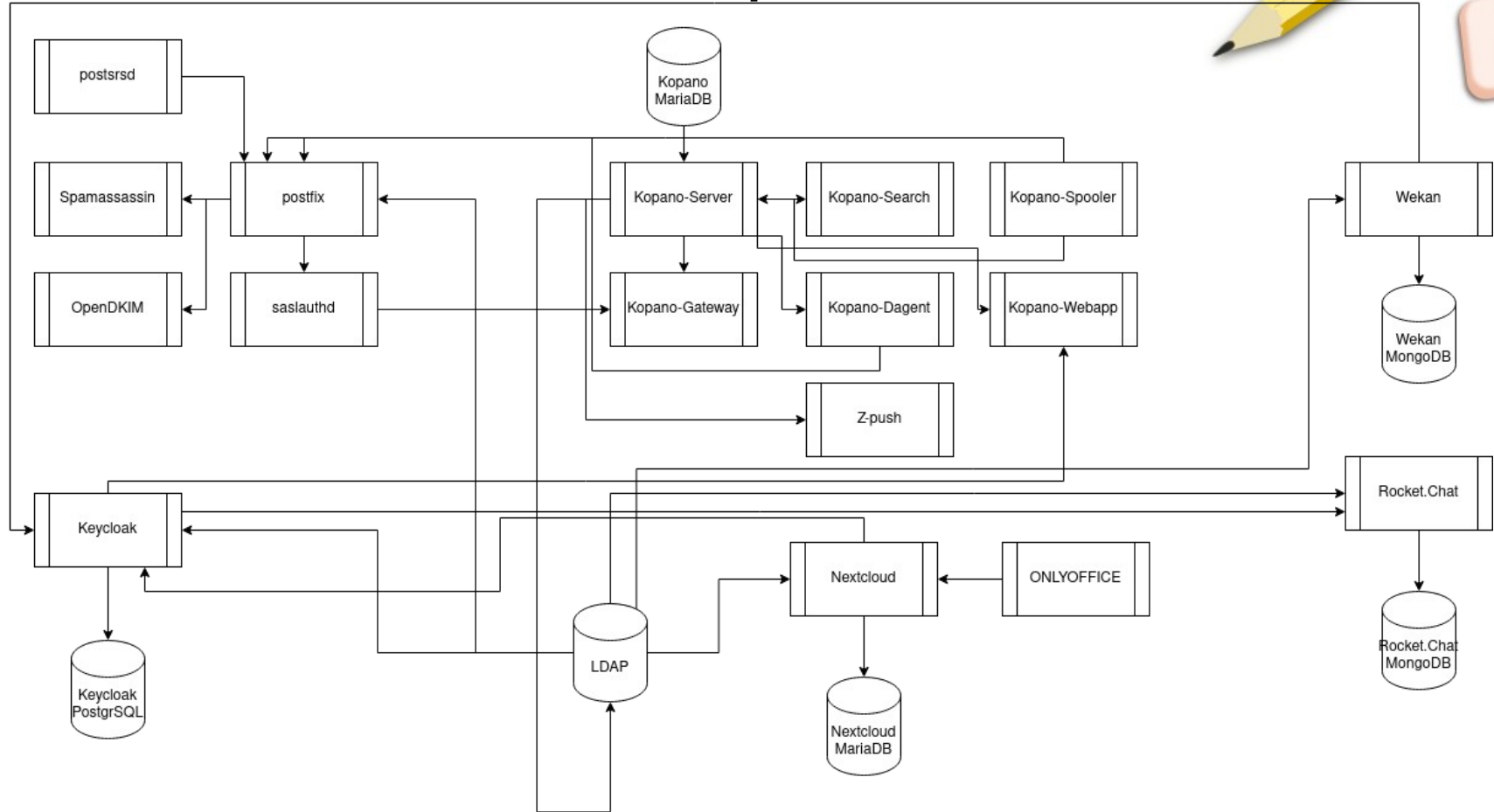
- Control of my data.
- *Unsurprising* costs.
- Peace of mind with regards to access control.
- Make the workday just a *little* bit better for my users.
- Using FOSS makes me feel warm and fuzzy inside.
- Being part of a community of users rather than a customer.

But isn't this like... Super hard?

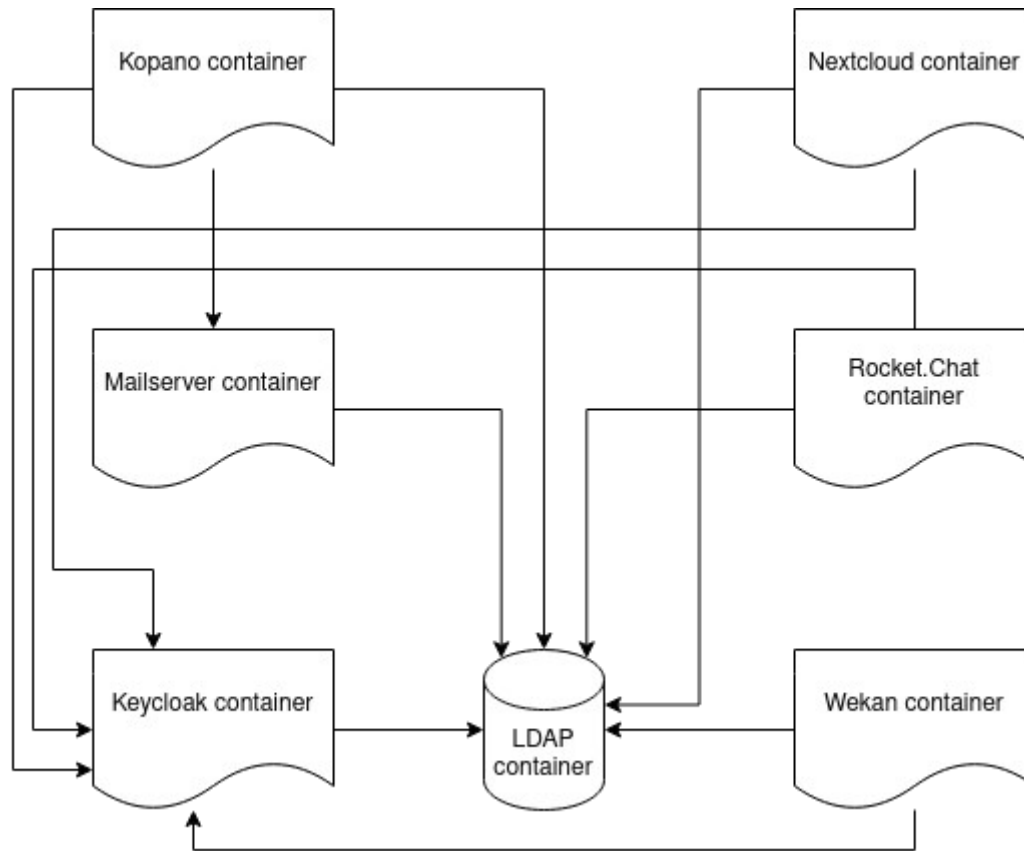
- You certainly have to study *some* things:
 - DNS.
 - Basic understanding of a web server.
 - Basic understanding of the Linux CLI.



Perception



Reality



Alright! Alright! What do we do?

- Keep things simple
- Trust upstream



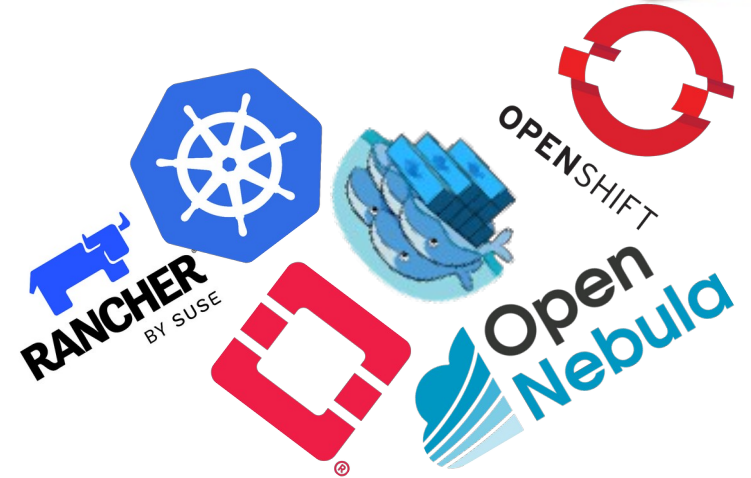
Keeping things simple

- There are many super great configuration management solutions out there.
 - But they also one more system to manage.
- I don't think the overhead is worth it. (for a small number of servers)
- Can easily be done later if necessary.



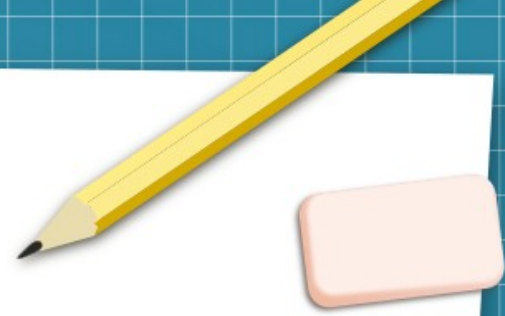
Keeping things simple

- Many amazing pieces of software to manage whole infrastructures.
 - For our purposes we don't need it.



Keeping things simple

- To be clear; all these projects are great.
- Please don't @ me.



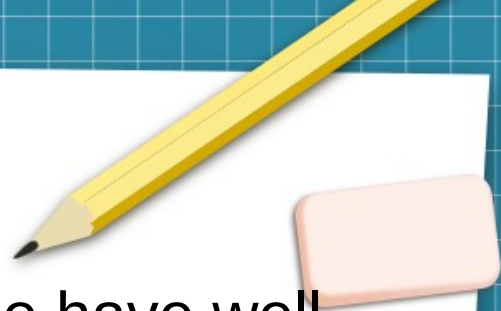
Use simple software

- Use what is supplied by the OS:
 - Podman / Podman-compose.
 - Systemd.
 - Wireguard.
 - Git.
- Use a recent OS
 - LTS/Enterprise Oses are great for large deployments.
 - Upgrading your servers every 12 – 18 months isn't that big of a deal.



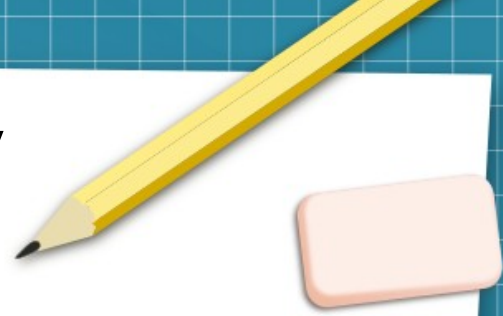
Use preexisting containers

- The vast majority of projects you might want to use have well-supported containers.
- Upstream often **prefers** their containers for support purposes.



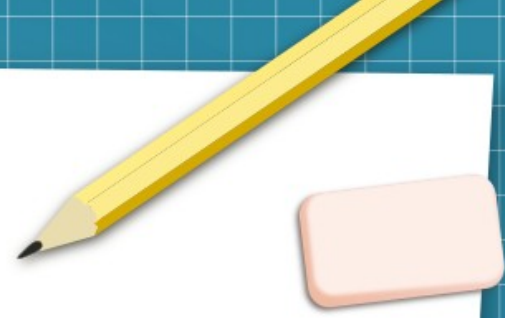
Backup / Disaster Recovery

- There's very little configuration on each host.
- All data is in /var/lib/containers and /etc.
- Borg backup to the rescue!
- Downtime for a catastrophe about as long as the length of your DNS TTL and copying of the old data.
- Could be an hour or two but is a rare occurrence.
(has not happened to me at all)
- We're talking small business here, if it goes down in the middle of the night nobody will be working.



Introducing

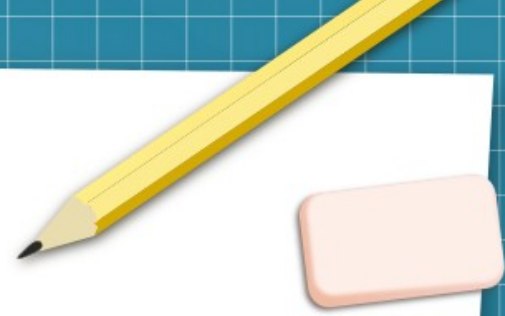
MEGACORP.ICU



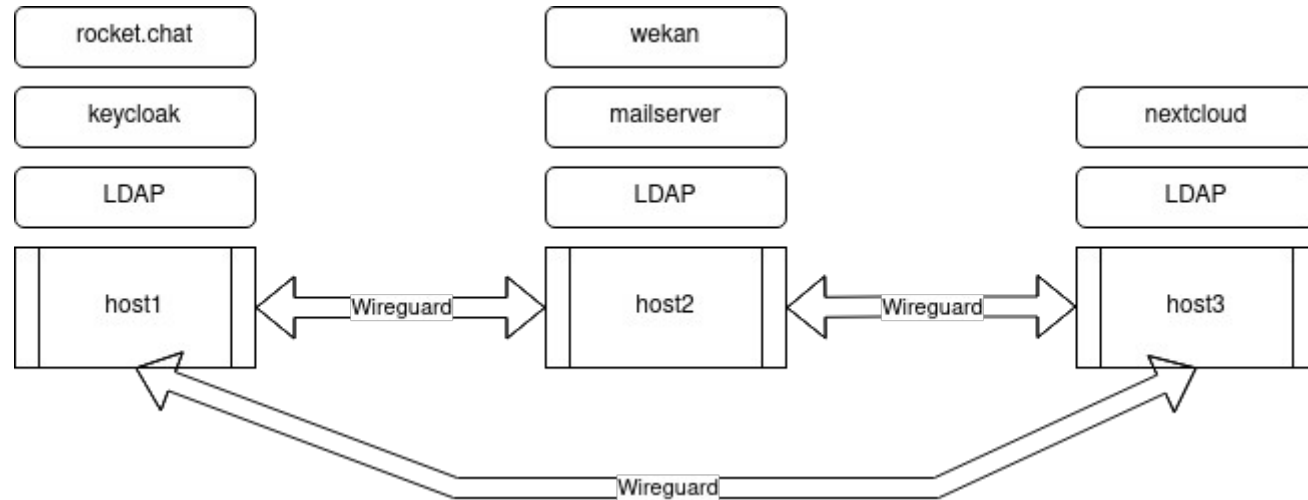


Introducing Megacorp.icu

- Just your garden variety non-evil company.
- They kindly let us demo their environment for you.
- Megacorp has 9 totally real employees that were not AI generated.



Basic architecture



And now... Hubris.

(Or demo, whichever term you prefer)



Conclusions, such as they are

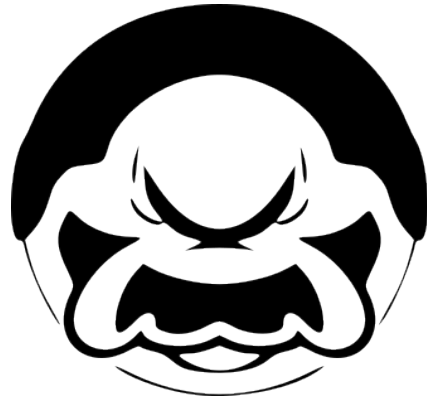


- I'm assuming the demo went like, *super* well so...
- Not only can you run a small(ish) business on FOSS, it makes sense to do so.
 - User experience consistency.
 - Predictable and controllable cost.
 - Significantly less time spent on access control.
 - Less time lost on wrong access control.

Megacorp.icu Github Project

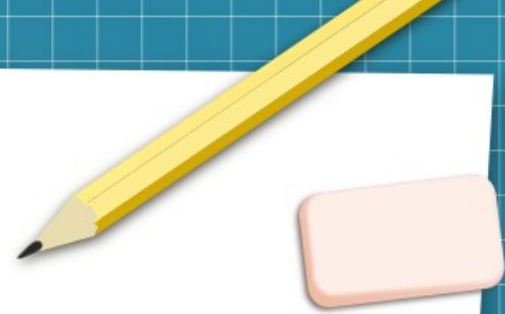
Maybe this could be a (non-evil) community?

<https://github.com/megacorp-icu>



Questions?

(and plug)



For access to the containers and configs see <https://github.com/megacorp-icu>

Ramatak is looking for developers experienced in any of the following:

- The Godot engine
- Mobile platforms (iOS, Android)
- Rendering APIs (Metal, OpenGL, Vulkan)



Is this is you? Send an email to jobs@ramatak.com!

Software used in the demo



- Cyrus SASL (<https://cyrusimap.org/sasl>)
- Fedora GNU/Linux (<https://getfedora.org>)
- Keycloak (<https://keycloak.org>)
- Kopano (<https://kopano.io>)
- MariaDB (<https://mariadb.org>)
- NextCloud (<https://nextcloud.com>)
- Nginx (<https://nginx.org>)
- ONLYOFFICE (<https://onlyoffice.com>)
- OpenDKIM (<http://www.opendkim.org>)
- OpenLDAP (<https://openldap.org>)
- Podman (<https://podman.io>)
- Postfix (<https://www.postfix.org>)
- PostgreSQL (<https://postgresql.org>)
- Redis (<https://redis.io>)
- Rocket.chat (<https://rocket.chat>)
- Spamassassin (<https://spamassassin.apache.org>)
- Systemd (<https://systemd.io>)
- Wekan (<https://wekan.github.io>)
- Wireguard (<https://wireguard.com>)

And many, many crucial infrastructure projects too numerous to mention.



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