



**What is it? What's changed lately? What's next?**

**@benpa:matrix.org**

benp@matrix.org

@matrixdotorg

# What is Matrix?

## What is Matrix?

Matrix is an open standard for *interoperable, decentralised, real-time* communication over the Internet.

## What is Matrix?

Matrix provides a standard HTTP API for publishing and subscribing to real-time data in specified channels...

## What is Matrix?

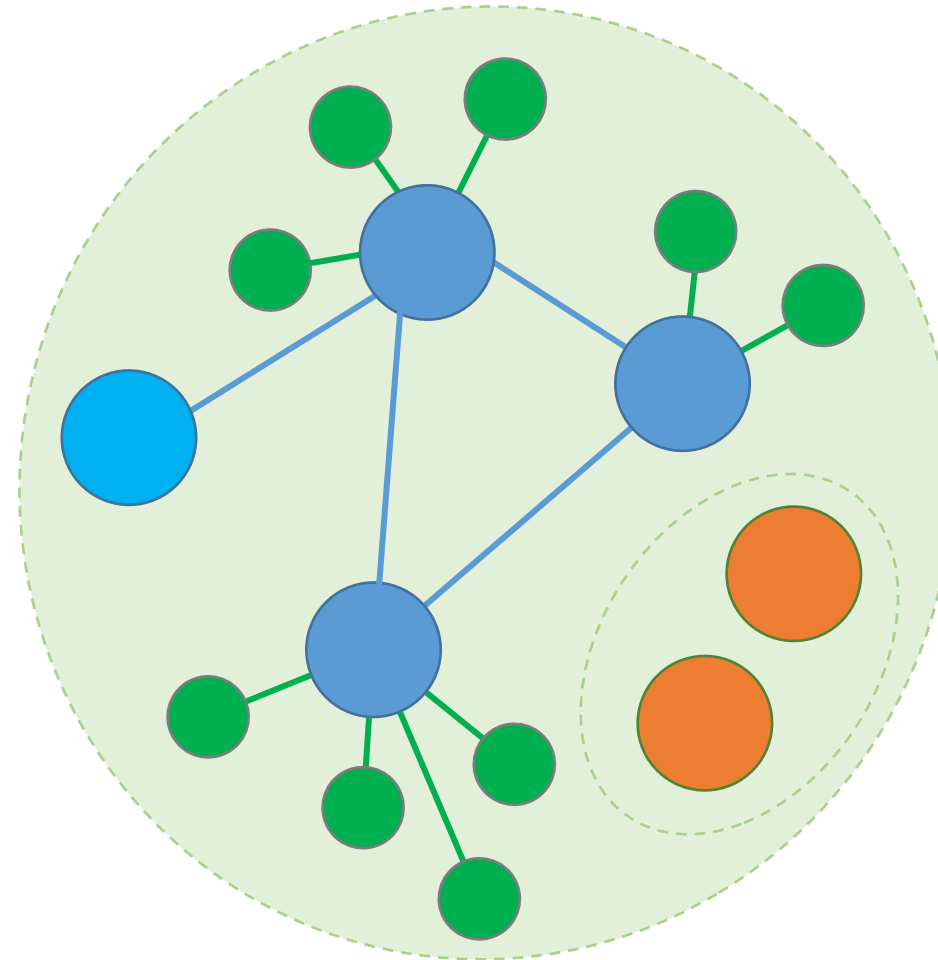
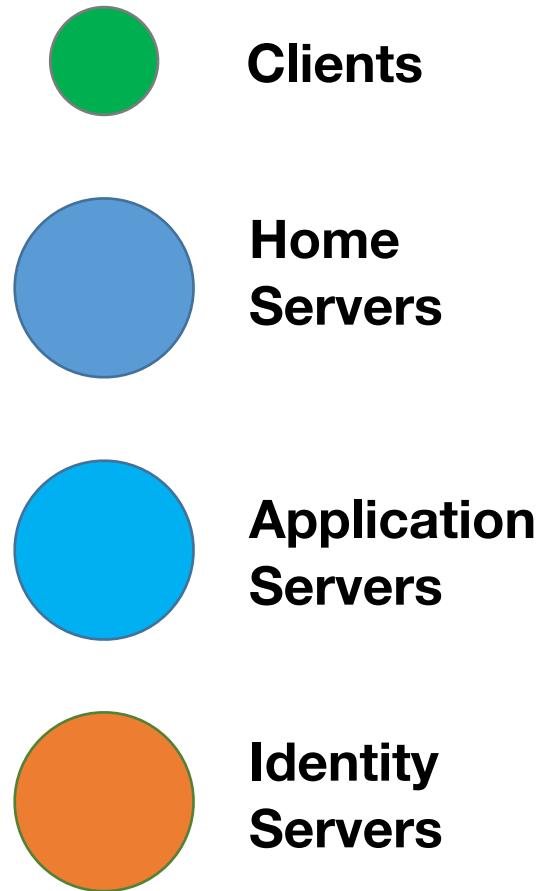
...which means it can be used to power IM, VoIP/WebRTC signalling, IoT communication...

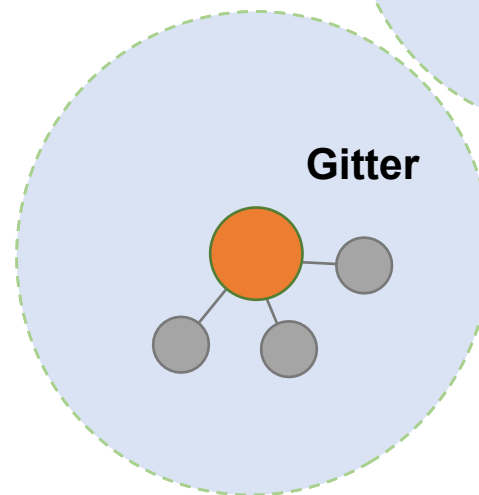
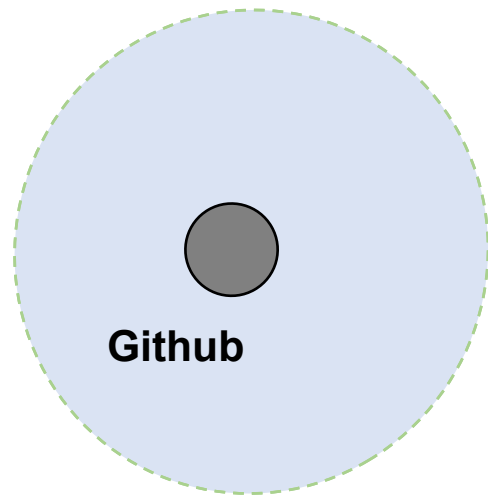
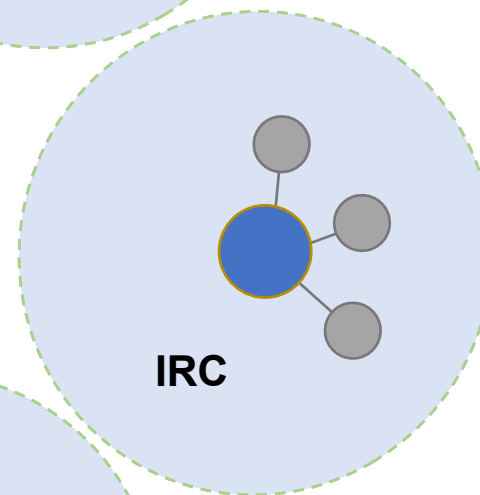
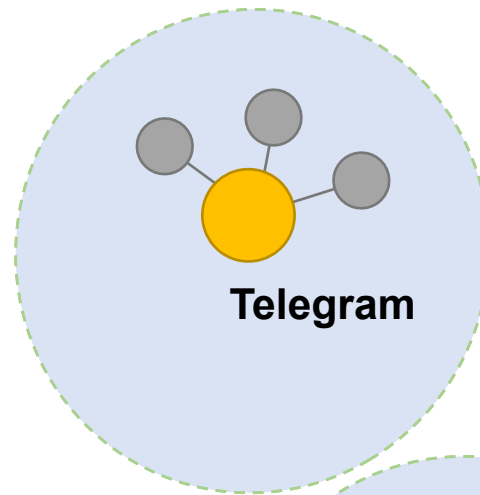
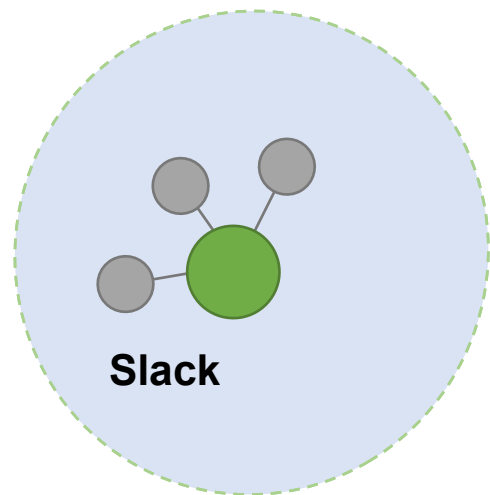
## What is Matrix?

... and anything else that can be expressed as JSON and needs to be transmitted in real-time over HTTP.

# Matrix: Distributed Architecture

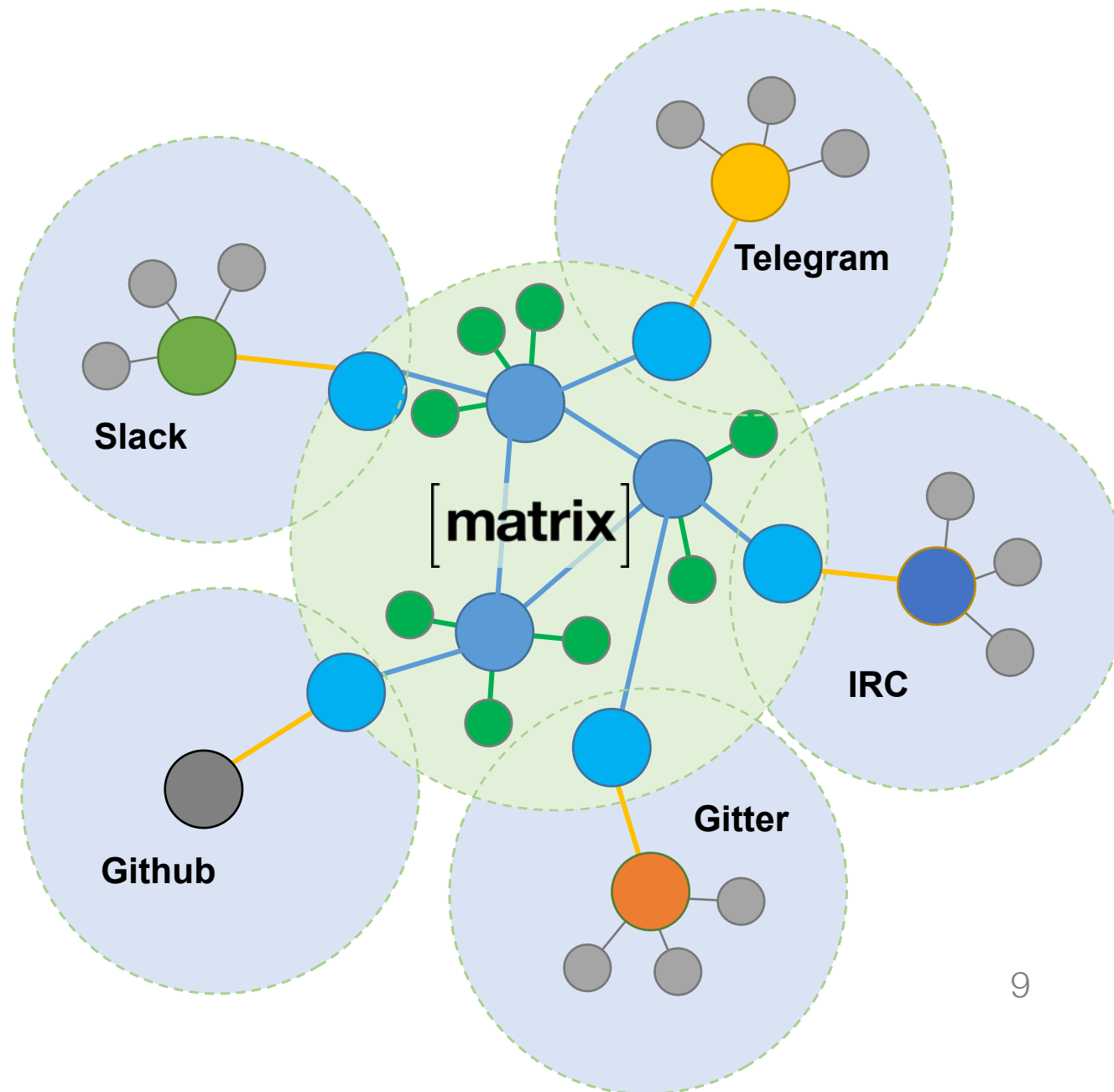
[matrix]







[matrix]



**No single party owns your  
conversations.**

**Conversations are shared  
over all participants.**

# End to End Crypto with Olm and Megolm

- Without end-to-end encryption, Matrix's replicated conversation history is a privacy problem.
  - → Two years spent building decentralised E2E crypto into the heart of Matrix.
- Security Assessment
  - libolm 1.3.0 assessed by NCC Group in Sept 2016
  - Public results! Findings fixed in libolm or the Matrix Client SDKs.
  - No issues found in libolm since the audit!

# Olm + E2E: What's next?

- Turning it on by default!
- Improved UX for managing device trust
- Cross-signing device keys
- Better device verification
- Better push notification UX for E2E rooms
- Matrix daemon support
- Negotiating E2E with legacy clients

# The Matrix APIs

- **Client-Server API**
- **Server-Server API**
- **Application Service API**
- **Identity Server API**

# The Client-Server API

To send a message:

```
curl -XPOST -d '{"msgtype":"m.text", "body":"hello"}' "https://  
alice.com:8448/_matrix/client/api/v1/rooms/ROOM_ID/send/  
m.room.message?access_token=ACCESS_TOKEN"
```

```
{  
  "event_id": "YUwRidLecu"  
}
```

# The Client-Server API

To control a Hue light:

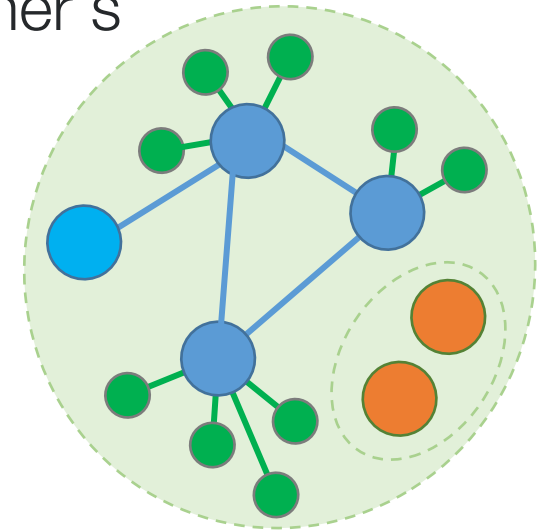
```
curl -XPOST -d '{\n  "room": "1",\n  "light": 2,\n  "brightness": 0.5,\n}' "https://alice.com:8448/_matrix/client/api/v1/rooms/ROOM_ID/send/\norg.matrix.midi?access_token=ACCESS_TOKEN"\n\n{ "event_id": "ORzcZn2" }
```

## Server-Sever API

- Synchronises messages and room state between servers, in real-time
- Can retrieve historic messages from each other
- Query profile and presence information about users on each other's servers

## Application Services API

- Have privileged access to the server
- Can subscribe to server traffic to provide custom application logic
- They can masquerade as 'virtual users'.





What happened  
in 2018?

# Goals for 2018

- Get the specification to r0
- Update reference implementations to the specification
- Get everything out of beta and call it v1.0

# Adoption

- Rate of adoption has been greater than we expected
- Time has been dedicated to improving stability and performance on [matrix.org](https://matrix.org)

# Hosted Homeservers

# Modular.im Launched

- Hosted Homeservers: paid hosting from the creators of Matrix
- Matrix as a SaaS (“MaaS”? “MaaSaaS”?)
- web3.foundation using it internally
- Other adopters not yet announced... soon!



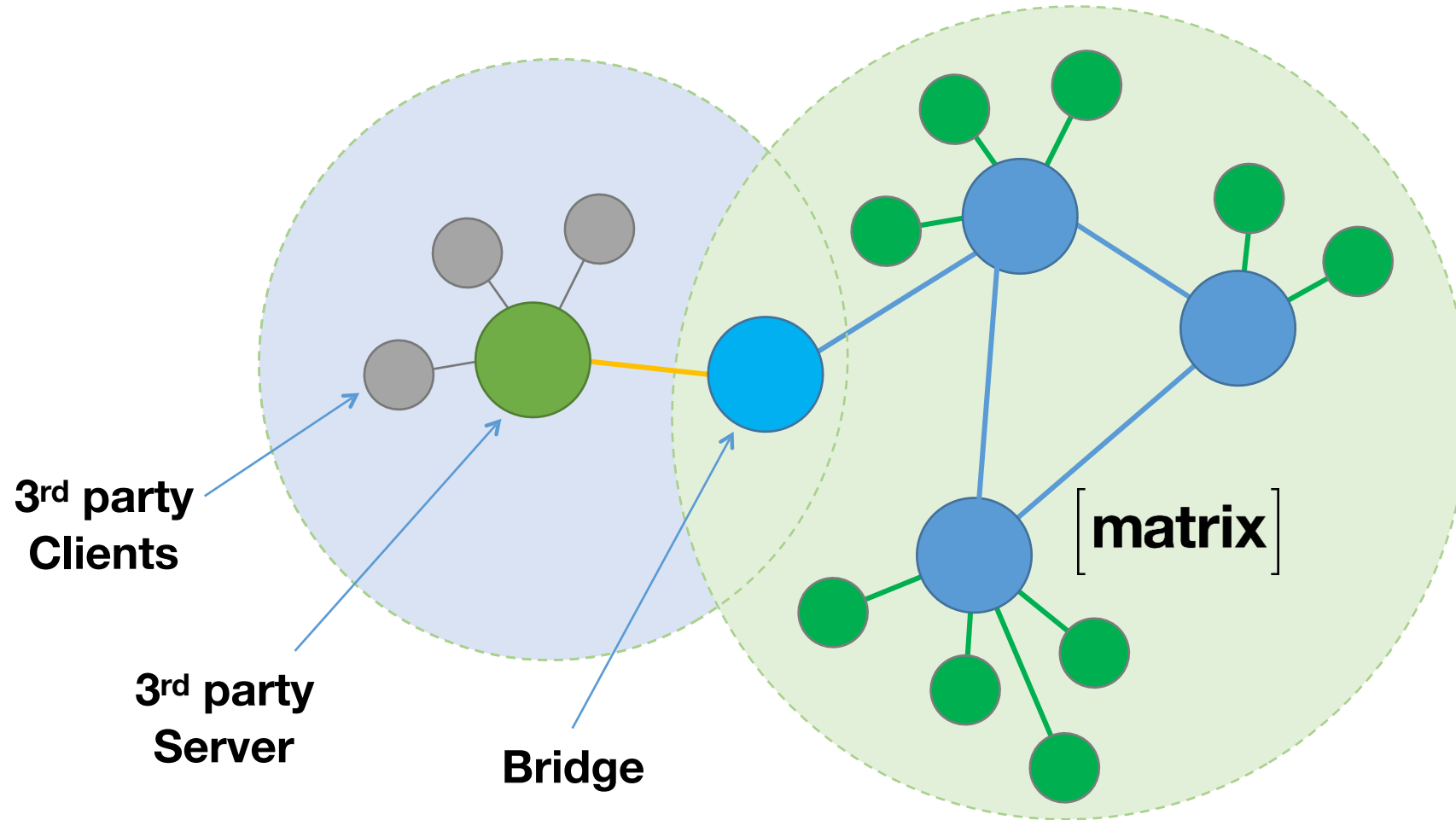
## Modular.im: Next steps

- Smaller servers for individuals
- Custom DNS
- Migration path for existing home servers



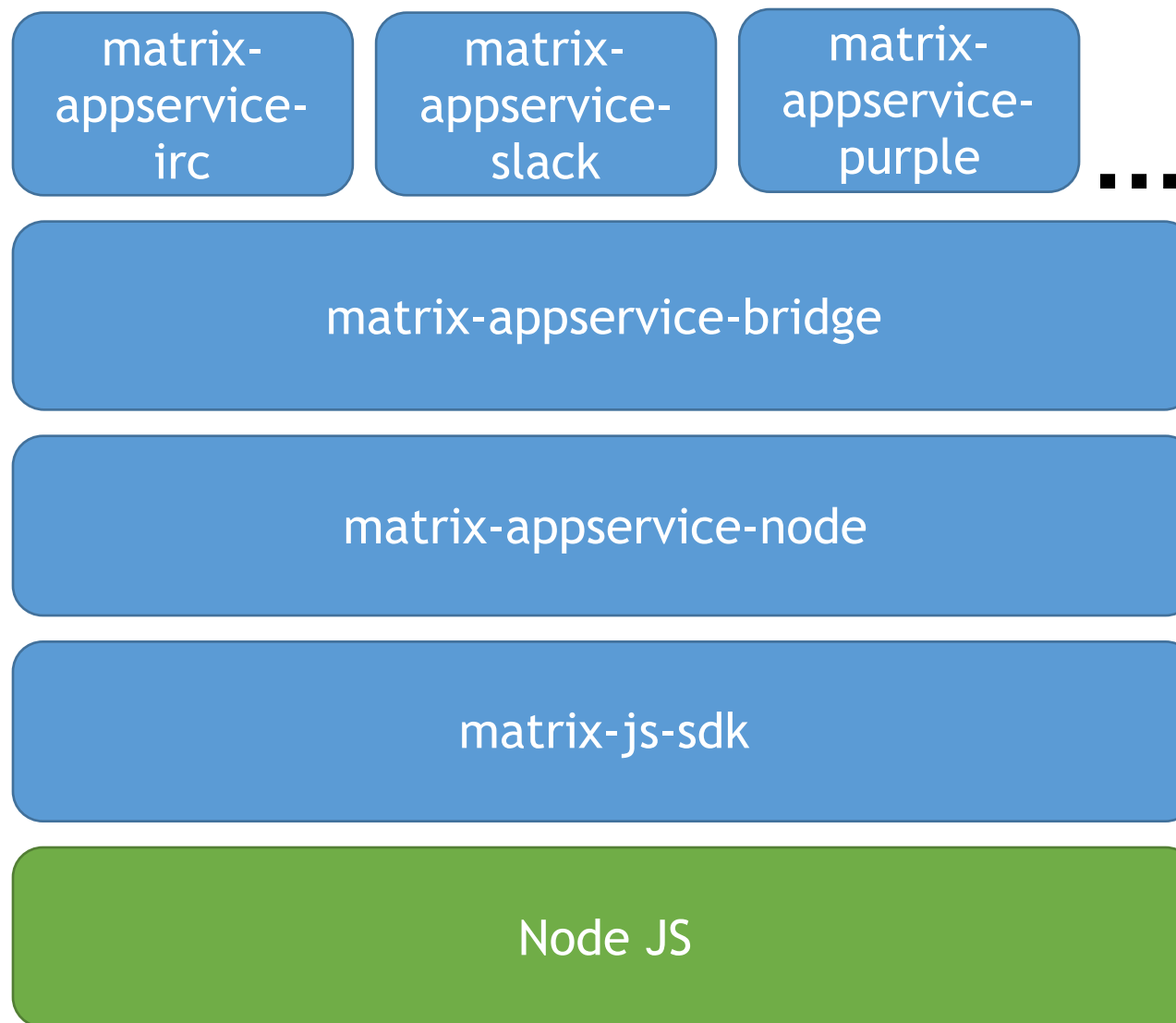
Bridges, improved

# Building Bridges





# Typical Bridging Stack



## IRC Bridging

### Performance

Message sending is consistently fast

### Stability

No more mass rejoining

New feature: replies

## **libpurple**

New library created to support protocols available through libpurple

## Discord Bridge

New maintainer

Many, many fixes for perf

Now version 0.3

## Slack bridging

Now using event bridging

One-click setup on riot.im

# Gitter Bridging

Lots of performance  
improvements

## XMPP Bridging

Yes this is a real thing now  
(TODO talk to HS)

## More new Bridges

WhatsApp

Mastodon

more...



# The Matrix Foundation

# The Matrix.org Foundation

- A UK non-profit company
- Guardians (five total, including some not from the Matrix community)
- In progress:
  - Property being transferred
  - Articles of Association

# Specification

# Spec Progress

- A known bottleneck
- Permanent Core Team member focused on driving this forwards
- So close.....
  - Client Server API is ready
  - Application Service (bots & bridges) API is ready

# Spec r0 release

- Stable release of Matrix Spec
- We are so close!
  - Client Server API is ready
  - Application Service (bots & bridges) API is ready
  - Federation API expected in January
- <https://github.com/matrix-org/matrix-doc/projects/1>

17 To do: proposals (not overly prioritized)

- Proposal for clarifying and improving review process for MSCs #1426 opened by ara4n [proposal] [proposal-in-review]
- Add new Read Marker API to docs #910 opened by lukebarnard1 [proposal] [spec-omission] [spec-pr-missing]
- Spec @mentions #1067 opened by ara4n [proposal] [spec-omission] [spec-pr-missing]
- Rich Replies format #1234 opened by ara4n [proposal] [spec-pr-missing]
- Temporary mitigation for depth parameter abuse #1230 opened by benparsons [proposal] [s2s] [spec-pr-missing]
- Proposal for ACLing servers from rooms #1383 opened by ara4n [proposal] [s2s] [spec-pr-missing]
- Room version upgrades #1501 opened by richvdh [proposal] [proposal-wip]
- Capabilities support in the CS API #1497 opened by ara4n [proposal] [proposal-ready-for-...]
- A way for HSEs to remove bindings from ISes (aka unbind) #1194 opened by dbkr [proposal] [proposal-in-review]
- Homeserver Warning Messages #1452 opened by dbkr [proposal] [proposal-in-review]
- Homeserver resource limiting error codes #1504 opened by neilisfragile [proposal] [proposal-ready-for-...]
- spec lazy\_load\_members and include\_redundant\_members #1287 opened by ara4n [proposal] [proposal-wip]
- Changes approved
- Spec M\_MAU\_LIMIT\_EXCEEDED #1470 opened by dbkr

8 To do: server-server (prioritized)

- Federation API r0 megathread #1464 opened by turt2live [epic] [s2s] [spec-omission]
- State Resolution: Reloaded #1442 opened by erikjohnston [proposal] [proposal-in-review]
- The spec'ed algorithm for choosing of auth events is subtly wrong #1430 opened by erikjohnston [spec-bug]
- spec @mxid state\_key restriction on state events #1305 opened by richvdh [spec-omission]
- Spec federation /user/\* endpoints #1438 opened by turt2live [s2s] [spec-omission]
- Need to specify how federation rejects and handles invalid events (SPEC-26) #462 opened by matrixbot [p2] [s2s] [spec-bug]
- Do we stop people from spoofing event IDs? (SPEC-103) #418 opened by matrixbot [p2] [s2s] [spec-bug]
- Decide how to handle HSEs which break the power level rules (SPEC-2) #454 opened by matrixbot [feature] [s2s]

36 To do: client-server (prioritized)

- Push rules #1460 opened by turt2live [epic]
- Push rules: confusing priorities for rules #1165 opened by turt2live [clarification]
- Default push rules that aren't specced #1163 opened by turt2live [spec-omission]
- "device" push rules in m.push\_rules account data? #1164 opened by turt2live [question] [spec-omission]
- specify that a newly created push rule must be enabled (SPEC-400) #676 opened by matrixbot [spec-bug]
- Spec that unrecognised pushrule conditions should not match #1034 opened by dbkr [spec-omission]
- 'Pagination' section of the spec is basically a lie #1523 opened by richvdh [spec-bug]
- Document body param 'third\_party\_instance\_id' on POST /publicRooms #1248 opened by Half-Shot [spec-omission]
- Need to spec "validated\_at" and "added\_at" fields in account/3pid (SPEC-379) #661 opened by matrixbot [p2] [spec-omission]
- Document the /account/3pid/delete route #985 opened by babolivier [spec-omission]
- invite\_room\_state outside m.room.member event content #1350 opened by njouanin [clarification]
- Specification for determining which OIm Session to use if multiple are present

6 To do: appservices (prioritized)

- [WIP] r0 for the Application Services API #1515 opened by anoadragon453 [application services] [epic]
- Document Appservice Directories #1272 opened by Half-Shot [application services] [spec-omission]
- Spec per AS publicRooms list #869 opened by erikjohnston [application services] [spec-omission]
- AppServices: Why do events sent to AS's use "user\_id", whereas events use "sender" #1269 opened by anoadragon453 [application services] [wart]
- 'age' field should be in unsigned #1294 opened by anoadragon453 [application services]
- Misc improvements to the appservice API layout #1532 opened by turt2live [application services] [tools]

18 To do: cross-cutting/misc (prioritized)

- list of event keys to preserve on redactions is incomplete #839 opened by richvdh [spec-bug]
- Spec Include\_all\_networks and third\_party\_instance\_id on federation and c2s/publicRooms #1476 opened by turt2live [application services] [s2s] [spec-omission]
- Common identity server errors are undocumented #1407 opened by uhoreg [identity server] [spec-omission]
- Grammar #1514 opened by turt2live [epic]
- Document grammar for device IDs #1257 opened by jimmycuadra [clarification]
- Grammar and disambiguation of display names (SPEC-392) #669 opened by matrixbot [feature]
- Grammar for room aliases (SPEC-391) #668 opened by matrixbot [feature]
- Grammar for room IDs and event IDs (SPEC-389) #667 opened by matrixbot [feature] [p1]
- Formally spec Content Security Policy for media repo #1066 opened by ara4n [spec-omission]
- Grammar for completely opaque IDs (SPEC-388) #666 opened by matrixbot [feature]
- Spec that event/room IDs must not exceed 255 characters (including sigil and domain) #1190 opened by turt2live [spec-omission]
- Timestamp time zone? #1468 opened by alphapapa [clarification]

45 In review

- AppServices: We need to specify the API endpoints under Querying #1325 opened by anoadragon453 [application services] [clarification]
- Remove lies from AS API spec about /\_matrix/app/r0/aliases and /\_matrix/app/r0/user #800 opened by ara4n [application services] [spec-bug]
- Clean up user and alias querying for application services #1537 opened by turt2live
- Recommend that application services use an underscore for namespacing #1536 opened by turt2live
- Spec that AS virtual users & aliases should begin with a \_ (SPEC-426) #689 opened by matrixbot [application services] [spec-omission]
- Add a note that application services cannot /sync normally #1535 opened by turt2live
- Mention that /sync and /events is special for AS user #1144 opened by erikjohnston [application services] [clarification]
- AppServices: Document client-server requests omitting user\_id param #1296 opened by anoadragon453 [application services] [spec-omission]
- Appservice spec doesn't say you can use the Auth header #1424 opened by turt2live [spec-omission]
- Encourage appservices to use the Authorization header #1534 opened by turt2live
- General/small improvements to the application service API specification #1533 opened by turt2live
- In AS API, PUT /transactions/\* endpoint, document how to distinguish state event from timeline event #1014 opened by uhoreg [application services] [clarification]
- AppServices: Document how filterings events work #1307 opened by anoadragon453

Automated as In progress Manage

1 Reviewer approved

- Document missing parts of E2E #1284 opened by Zl10
- Changes approved

Automated as In progress Manage

17 Done (this list will be incomplete)

- spec mlsdn request token APIs #856 opened by dbkr [spec-omission]
- spec phone numbers 3PID lookup #863 opened by maxidor [identity server] [spec-omission]
- Need to spec mlsdn login API #829 opened by richvdh [merged] [proposal] [spec-omission]
- document mlsdn-related endpoint in IS #1507 opened by uhoreg
- Changes approved
- kill off intro.rst #1500 opened by turt2live [tools]
- Document how read receipts work over federation #1 of 1 #1484 opened by turt2live
- Changes approved
- Identity server spec says /validate takes form-encoding #830 opened by richvdh [identity server] [spec-omission]
- Require the push gateway URL to be of a specific path #1522 opened by turt2live
- Define authorization requirements federation swagger APIs #1481 opened by turt2live
- Changes approved
- spec openid API #857 opened by dbkr [spec-omission]
- Document OpenID in the client-server and server-server APIs #1494 opened by turt2live
- Changes approved
- Fix header in server-server API #1520 opened by turt2live
- Changes approved

Automated as Done

# Synapse

# Synapse improvements

- Reference implementation and 99.999% of active home servers
- Regular incremental performance and security improvements
- Noticeable improvement in responsiveness on [matrix.org](https://matrix.org)
- **It's now Python 3**
- Installation streamlined and docs improved, new docker and ansible methods



# Riot

# Riot Redesign

- Current Riot is not always attractive
- The colours are not .... right
- Messaging software ecosystem is mature, there are things which users are known to like (...Slack)
  - Riot will be a glossy client, with other clients available to taste

## Riot Redesign Progress

Big progress on the web:

<https://riot.im/experimental>



FAVOURITES

New Arxiv papers

DIRECT MESSAGES

Daniel Moreno

Nuno Fernandez

Jonathan Newman

Mark Simpson

Marie Keller

Michael Stephens

PRIVATE GROUPS

NIPS dinner

London ML meetup

Su, John, Markus...

ROOMS

Introductions

Development

General

Random

Announcements

Need help



Yesterday



Marie Keller 19:47  
yeah, the logic of what components can be committed in relation to async siblings is a little opaque to me. Not sure how it works just yet



Michael Stephens 22:45  
Yay.. getting pretty good FPS with quantised weights on mobile!

Today



Nuno 16:49  
`deeplab_model = Deeplabv3((512, 512, 3))` The two first params are image size right? Any point re-training with larger images?  
<https://github.com/bonlime/keras-deeplab-v3-plus>

GitHub  
[bonlime/keras-deeplab-v3-plus](https://github.com/bonlime/keras-deeplab-v3-plus)  
keras-deeplab-v3-plus - Keras implementation of Deeplab v3+ with pretrained weights



Michael Stephens 16:50  
Depends on your training images and segmentation accuracy needs



Marie Keller 16:52  
Michael Stephens  
Kind of stuck debugging this... any ideas?

Try changing your decision (click to load A, wait a second, click to B, B loads)  
Basically kills race conditions. Nuno also had some ideas regarding this

USERS MATCHING @m



Marie Keller @mariek:matrix.org



Mark Simpson @marksimpson78:matrix.org

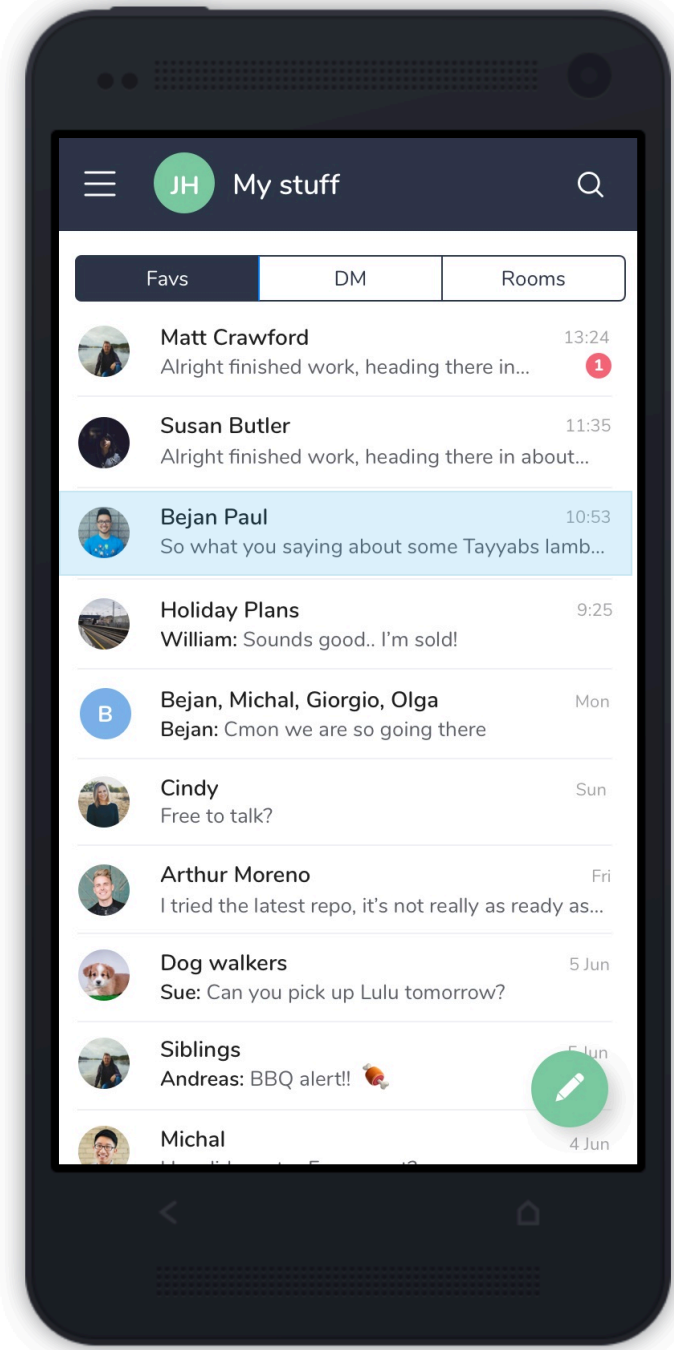
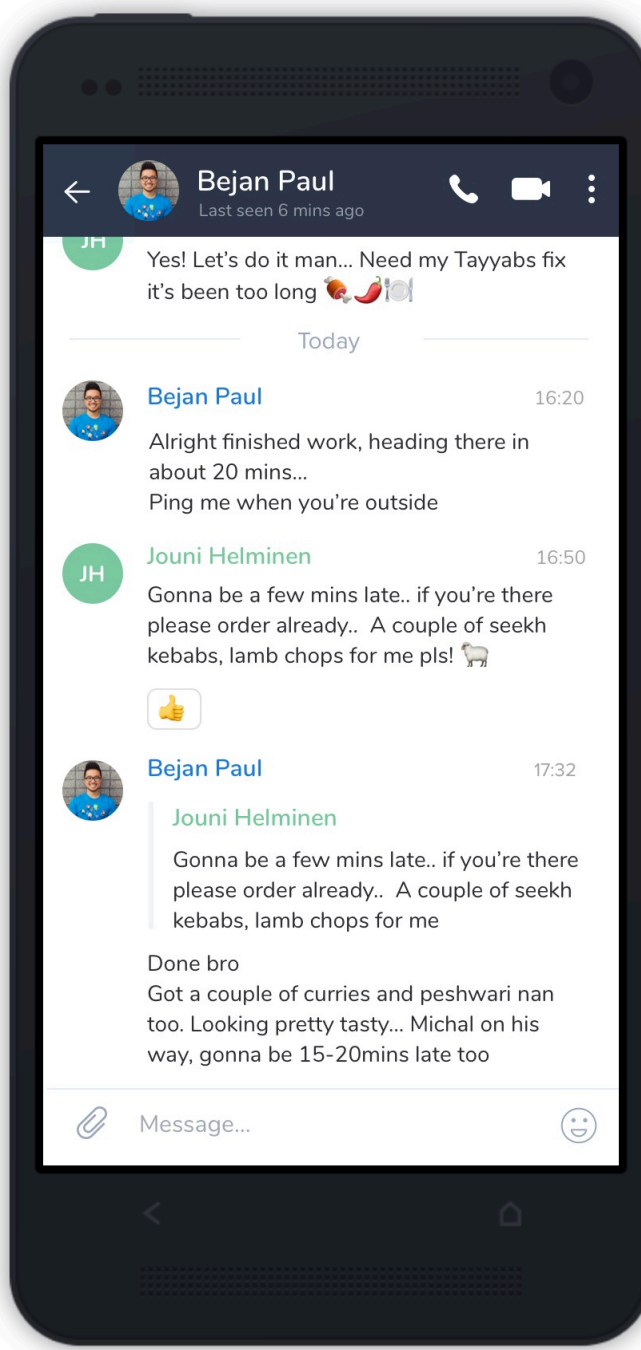
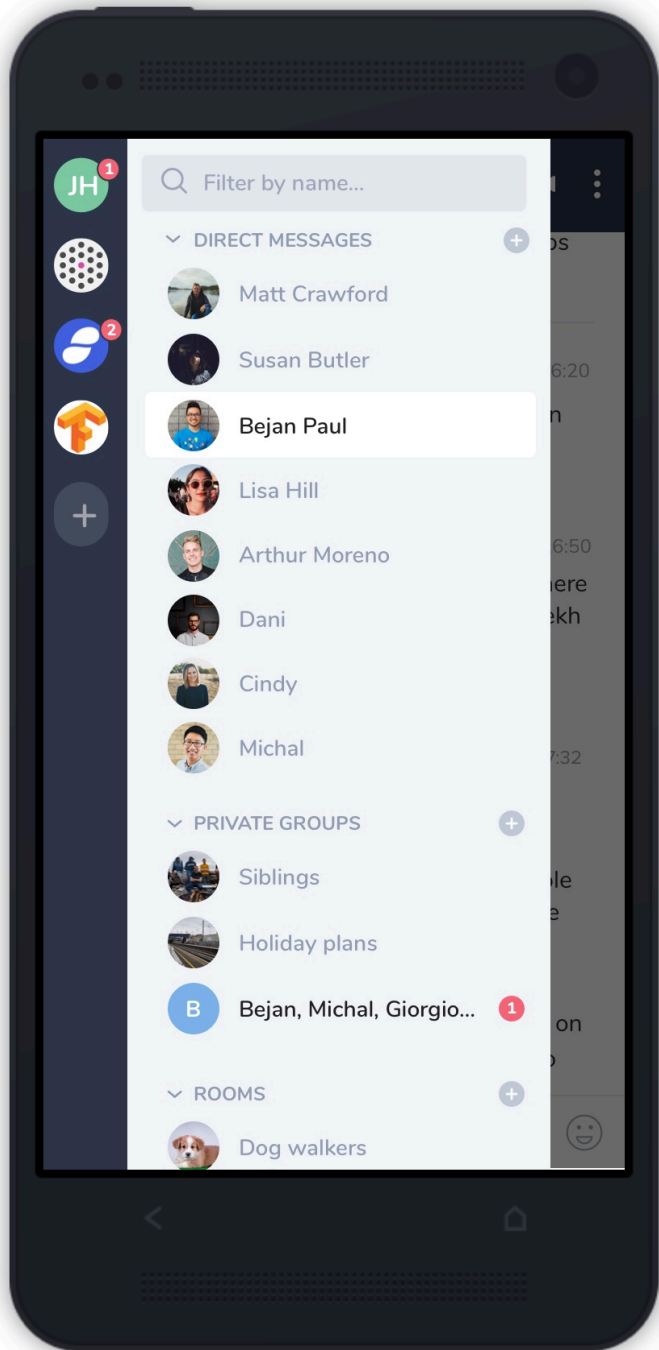


Michael Stephens @mikestephens2001:matrix.org



@m|





## **E2E UX rework**

Much work has been done to improve the UX of key-signing  
Look for this in Riot soon

**Riot-android rework coming**

New Kotlin SDK

“RiotX”, an implementation of Riot using the new SDK will be available soon

Soooo fast!

# French Government (DINSIC)



## DINSIC (French Government usage)

- Deploying a private federation of Matrix homeservers
- Decentralised organisations (such as govt and academia) appreciate the decentralised design of matrix, they can have separate servers linked
  - they can have different settings for many things, event security - eg. AV severity

## DINSIC (French Government usage)

- Developed a fork of Riot for use as their official secure communications client
  - Now ready on iOS, Android, Web
- Now live with 15 servers, one per ministry
- Security Audit (with involvement from ANSSI, govt Computer Security Service) happening in January!
  - We expect an increase in rollout speed after this

# Client Ecosystem Explosion

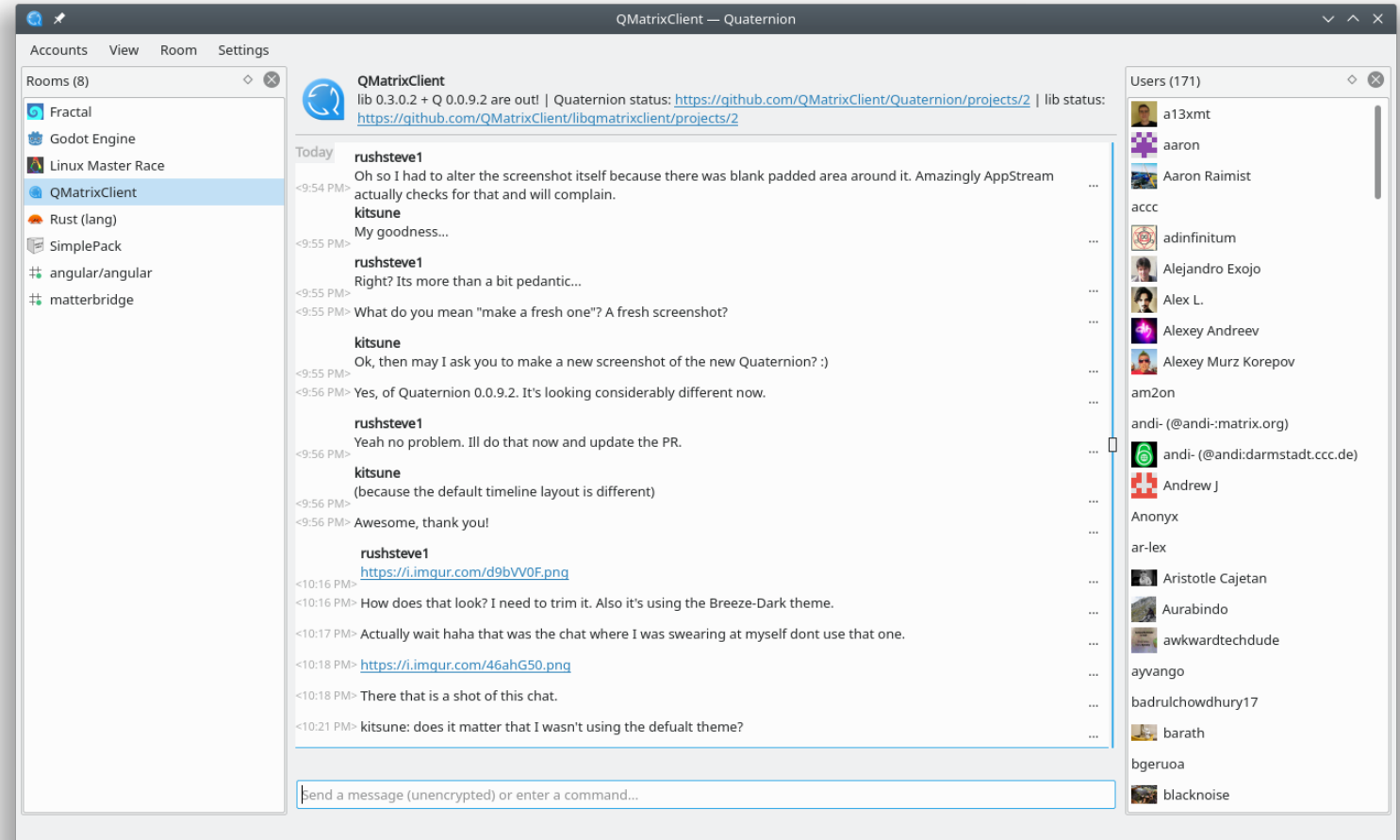
# Client Ecosystem explosion

There were a lot of clients 12 months ago, but now there is a genuine choice of clients for day-to-day use

Not all of these were first released in the last year, but still, an “explosion” of work and client development is fair to claim!

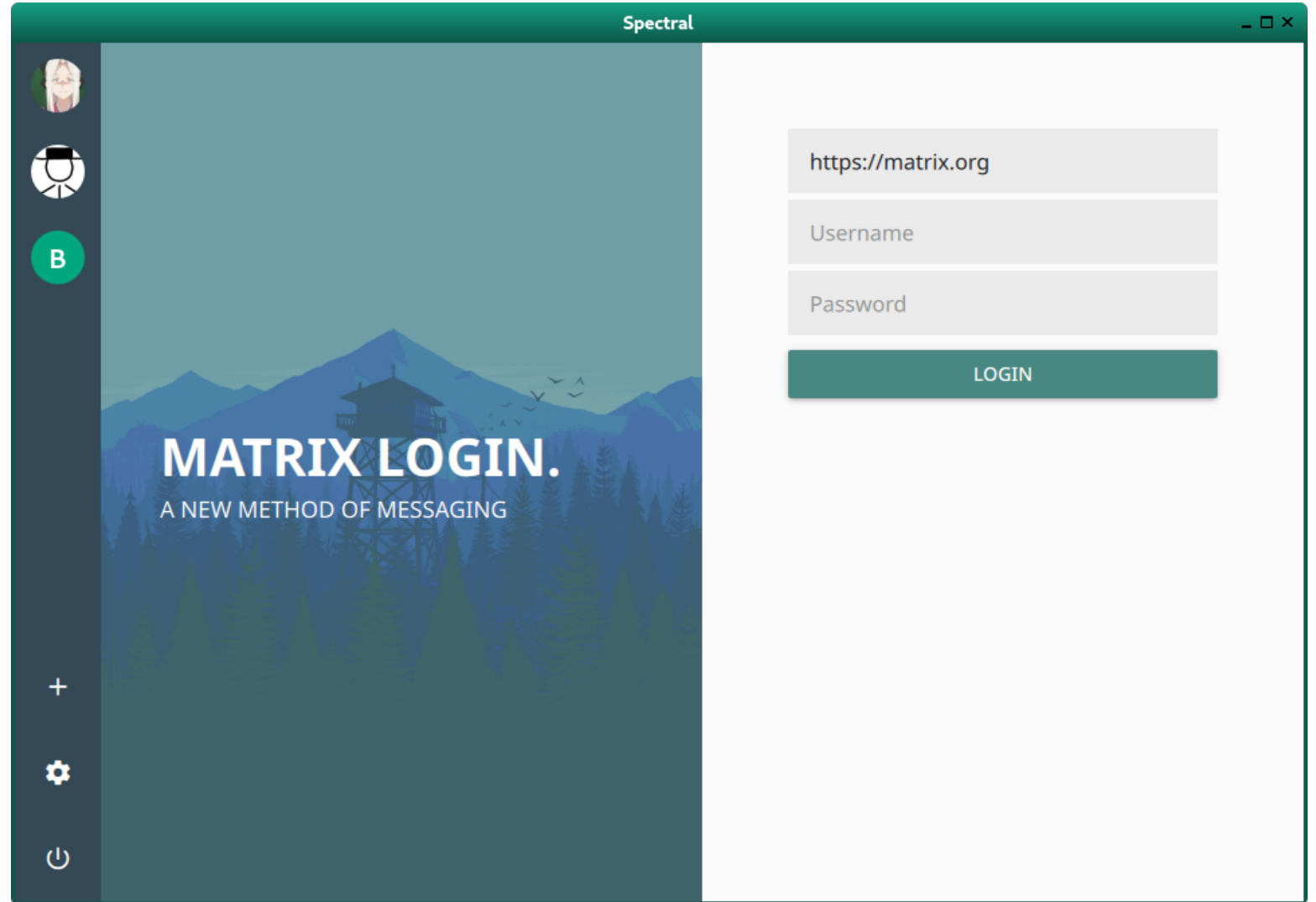
# Quaternion

- Qt, looks like a Qt app
  - Creator is also creator of libQMatrixClient, which supports many projects



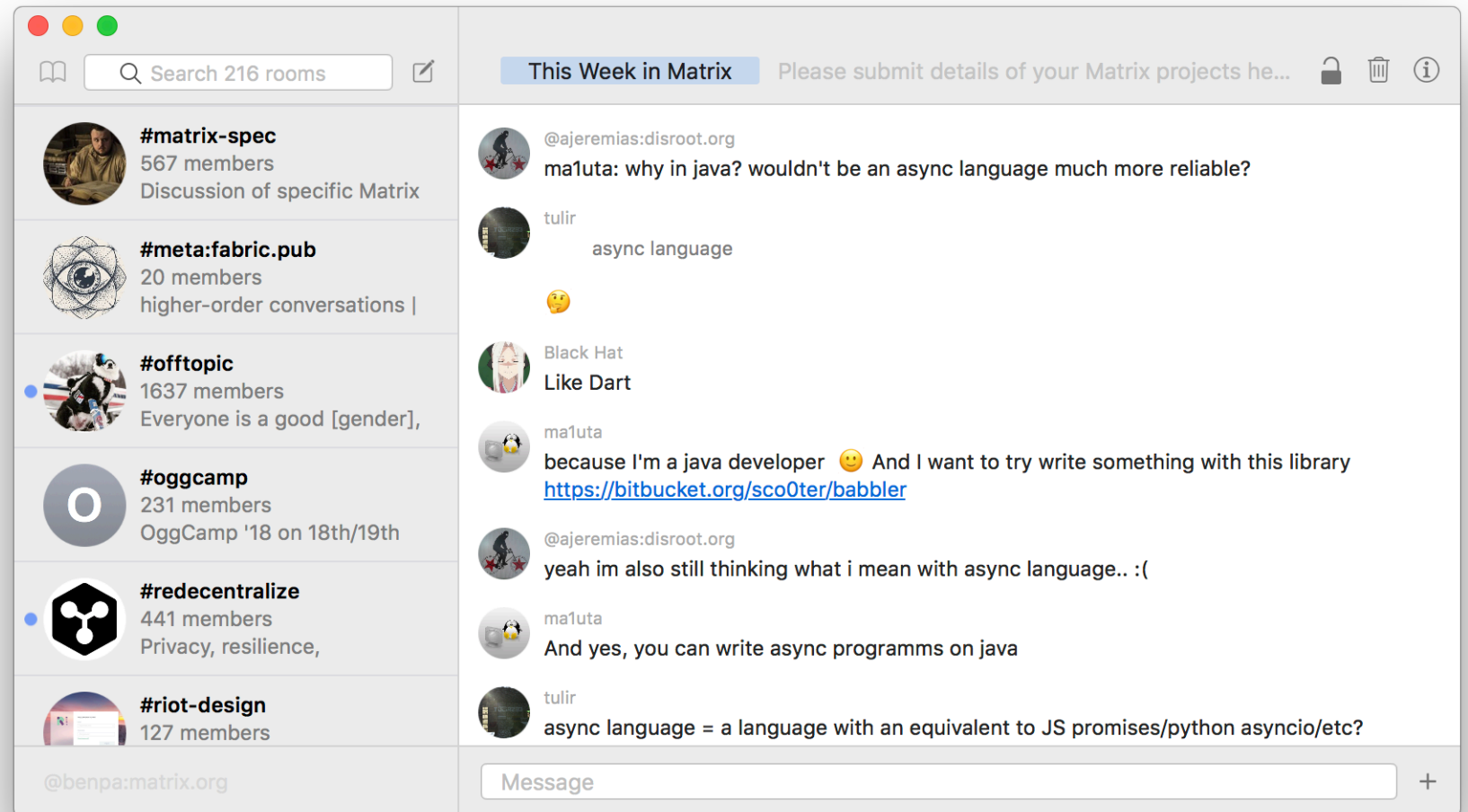
# Spectral

- Qt, uses libQMatrixClient
- Looks great



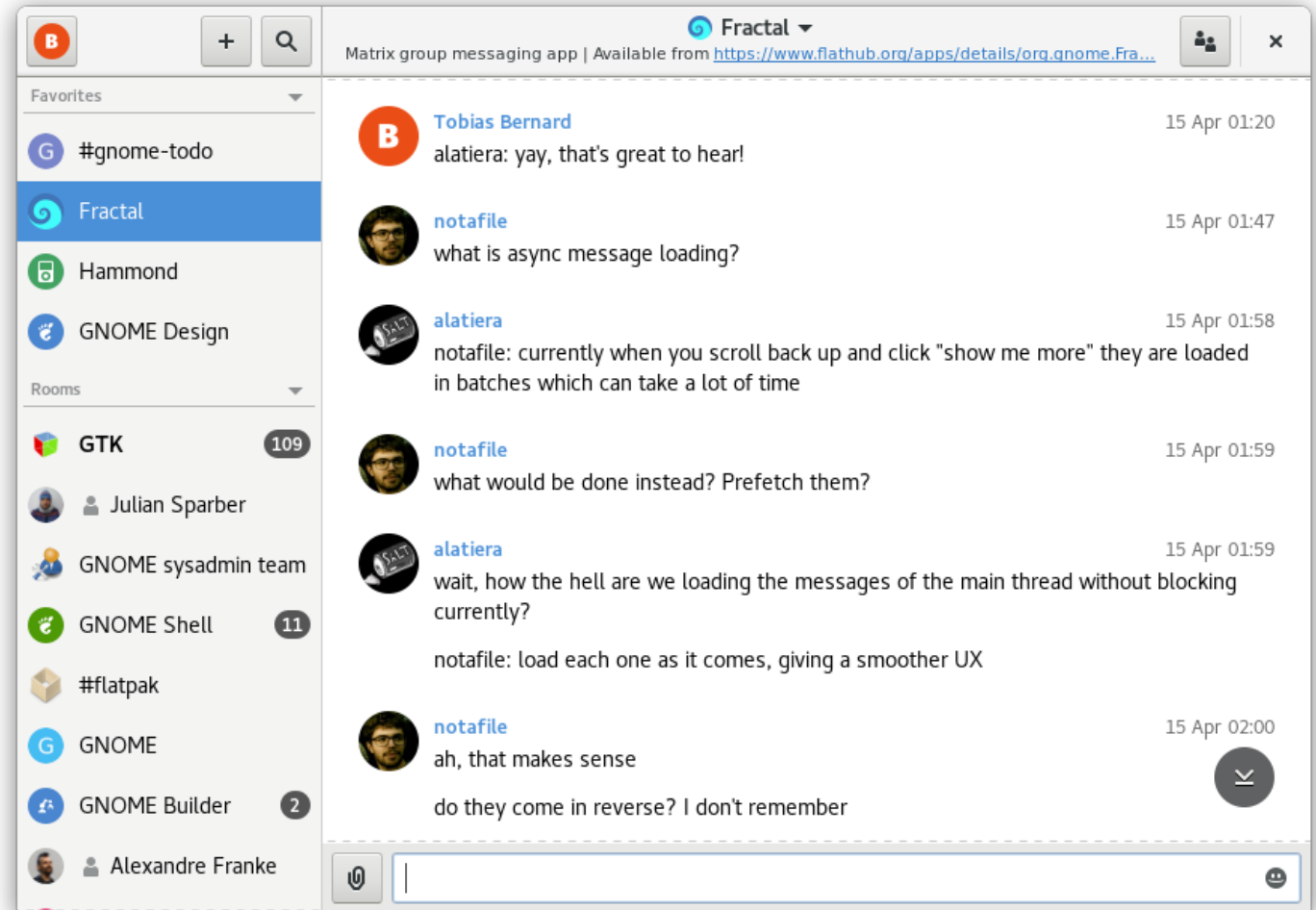
# Seaglass

- Native macOS app
- supports E2E
- looks great



# Fractal

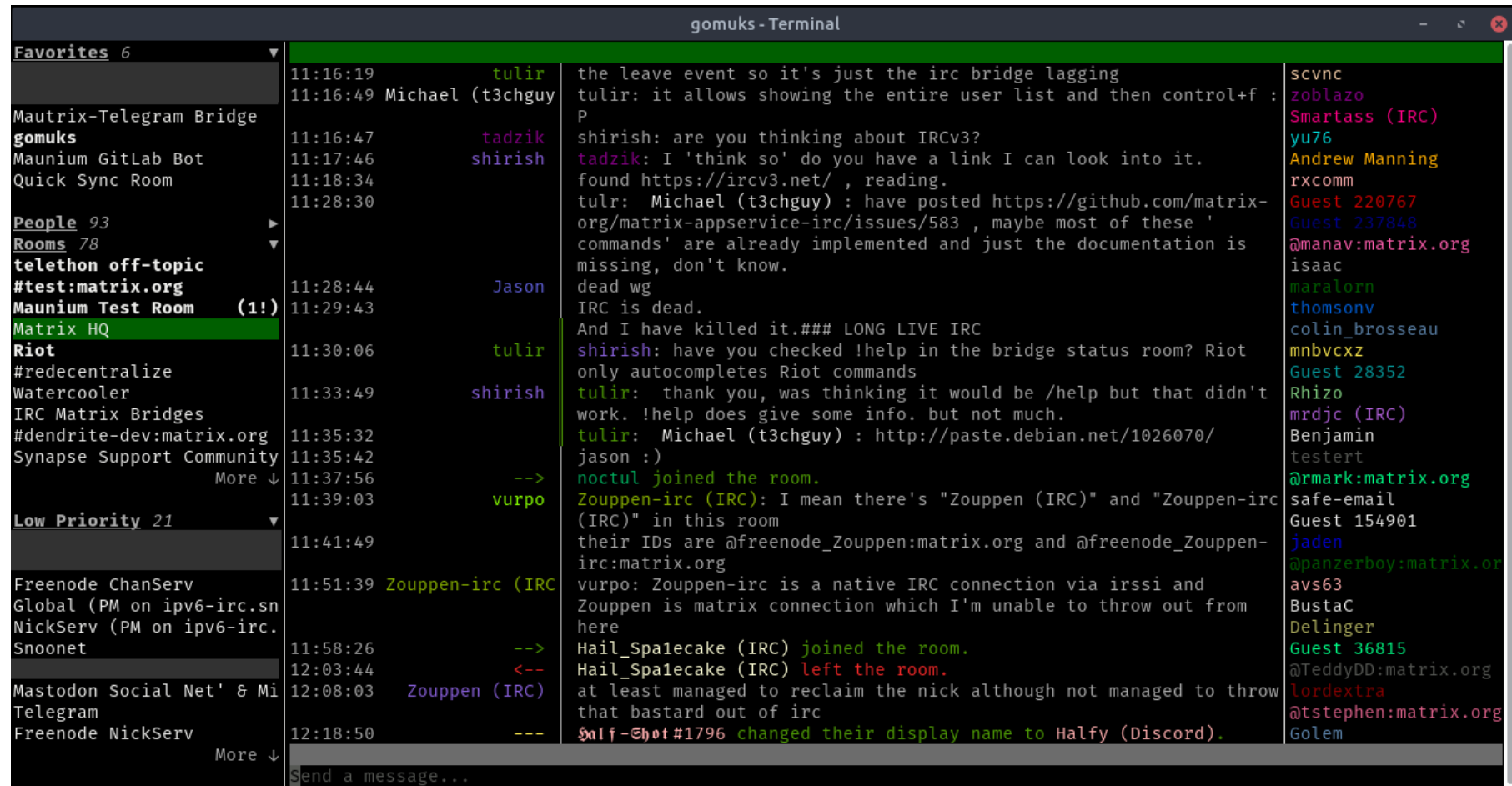
- Gnome/GTK
- Rust
- rapidly evolving
- strong community
- Adding E2E soon, at the Rust-level, so will be client agnostic
- Supported by Purism for librem5 device





# Gomuks

- TUI
- written in Go



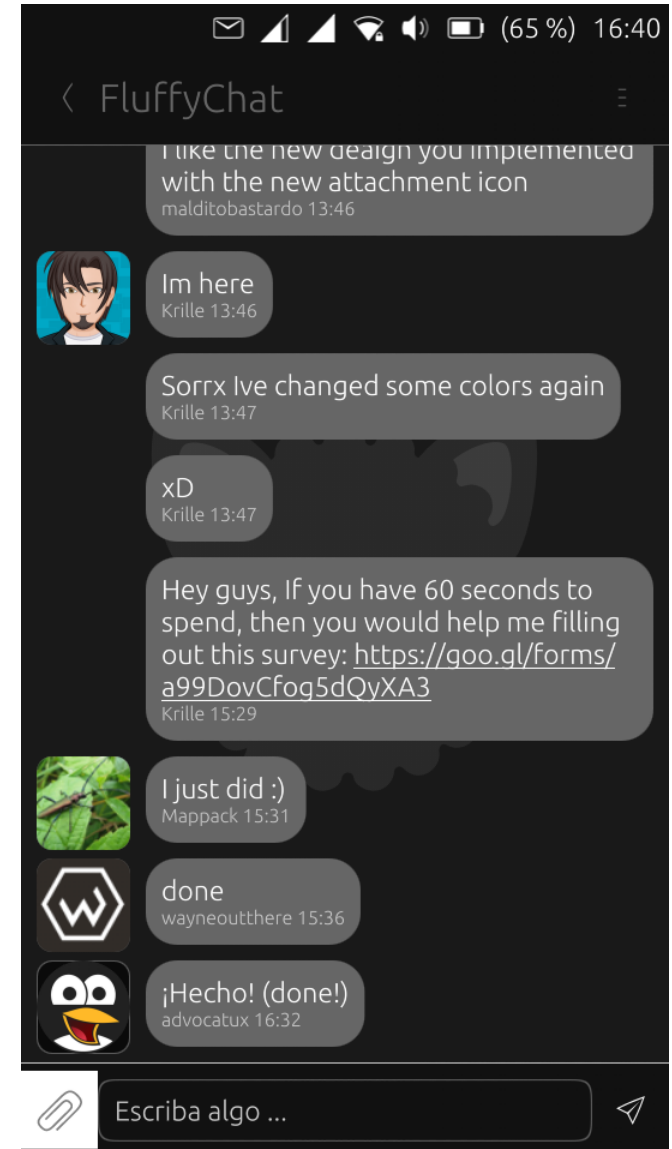
The screenshot shows the gomuks terminal interface with a chat log. The interface is divided into three main sections: a sidebar on the left, a central chat area, and a user list on the right. The sidebar contains sections for Favorites (6), Rooms (78), and Low Priority (21). The chat area shows a conversation between several users, including Michael (t3chguy), shirish, Jason, tulir, and Zouppen-irc (IRC). The user list on the right shows a scrollable list of users in the room, including scvnc, zoblazo, Smartass (IRC), and many others.

```
gomuks - Terminal
Favorites 6
Mautrix-Telegram Bridge
gomuks
Maunium GitLab Bot
Quick Sync Room
People 93
Rooms 78
telethon off-topic
#test:matrix.org
Maunium Test Room (1!)
Matrix HQ
Riot
#redecentralize
Watercooler
IRC Matrix Bridges
#dendrite-dev:matrix.org
Synapse Support Community
More ↓
Low Priority 21
Freenode ChanServ
Global (PM on ipv6-irc.sn
NickServ (PM on ipv6-irc.
Snoonet
Mastodon Social Net' & Mi
Telegram
Freenode NickServ
More ↓
11:16:19 tulir the leave event so it's just the irc bridge lagging
11:16:49 Michael (t3chguy) tulir: it allows showing the entire user list and then control+f :
P
shirish: are you thinking about IRCv3?
11:16:47 tadzik shirish: I 'think so' do you have a link I can look into it.
11:17:46 shirish tadzik: found https://ircv3.net/ , reading.
11:18:34 tulr: Michael (t3chguy) : have posted https://github.com/matrix-
11:28:30 org/matrix-appservice-irc/issues/583 , maybe most of these '
commands' are already implemented and just the documentation is
missing, don't know.
11:28:44 Jason dead wg
11:29:43 IRC is dead.
And I have killed it.### LONG LIVE IRC
11:30:06 tulir shirish: have you checked !help in the bridge status room? Riot
only autocompletes Riot commands
11:33:49 shirish tulir: thank you, was thinking it would be /help but that didn't
work. !help does give some info. but not much.
11:35:32 tulir: Michael (t3chguy) : http://paste.debian.net/1026070/
11:35:42 jason :)
11:37:56 --> noctul joined the room.
11:39:03 vurpo Zouppen-irc (IRC): I mean there's "Zouppen (IRC)" and "Zouppen-irc
(IRC)" in this room
11:41:49 their IDs are @freenode_Zouppen:matrix.org and @freenode_Zouppen-
irc:matrix.org
11:51:39 Zouppen-irc (IRC) vurpo: Zouppen-irc is a native IRC connection via irssi and
Zouppen is matrix connection which I'm unable to throw out from
here
11:58:26 --> Hail_Spa1ecake (IRC) joined the room.
12:03:44 <-- Hail_Spa1ecake (IRC) left the room.
12:08:03 Zouppen (IRC) at least managed to reclaim the nick although not managed to throw
that bastard out of irc
12:18:50 --- $nlf-ehot #1796 changed their display name to Halfy (Discord).
scvnc
zoblazo
Smartass (IRC)
yu76
Andrew Manning
rxcomm
Guest 220767
Guest 237848
@manav:matrix.org
isaac
maralorn
thomsonv
colin_brosseau
mnbvcxz
Guest 28352
Rhizo
mrdjc (IRC)
Benjamin
testert
@rmark:matrix.org
safe-email
Guest 154901
jaden
@panzerboy:matrix.or
avs63
BustaC
Delinger
Guest 36815
@TeddyDD:matrix.org
lordextra
@tstephen:matrix.org
Golem
Send a message...
```

# FluffyChat

- One of two clients for Ubuntu Touch\*
- Huge features progress this year

\*  $\frac{\text{[Number of Matrix Clients for Platform]}}{\text{[Number of users on Platform]}}$  gives Ubuntu Touch a great ranking



# Still more clients

- Koma
  - using JavaFX
- matrix-client-el
  - Rebirth of the inevitable emacs client
- SimpleMatrix
  - A new client in development for Android
- Scylla
  - Elm, new web app
- And more...

# What Else Is New?

# Google Summer of Code

- Two students working with the core team
  - One made huge progress adding E2E bindings for the Python SDK
  - Another helped push Dendrite toward feature-completeness
- Gnome Project had two students working on Fractal (Gtk Client)
  - Assisting with redesign and implementation of fundamental features like room config screen

# Lazy Loading

- Specifically Lazy Loading of member list for rooms
- A bottleneck for client performance but can be solved by the server.
- Current implementation suggests an initial RAM usage reduction of around 6x.

# State Resolution: Reloaded

- The state of a room at an event is built up and updated by sending state events into the room.
- View of the state of the room should be consistent across all servers.
- Problem: room graph forks and then merges again (e.g. if two servers send events at the same time). State has to be resolved from the state of the two branches: this is called the **state resolution algorithm**.
- Entirely new consensus algorithm
- Ideal algorithm should not allow malicious servers to avoid moderation action by forking and merging the room graph

What will  
come next?



# What's after that?

- Dendrite, with other home servers filling the ecosystem
- Aggregations
  - Emoji Reactions
  - Editable messages
- Threading - future idea
- Decentralised identity
- Cross-signing

**[matrix]**

**Thank You**

**@benpa:matrix.org**

benp@matrix.org

@matrixdotorg