Disroot.org
Annual Report
2019

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We could never have imagined how the Disroot.org project would grow and develop in 5 years. It feels like it was only yesterday when we sent our first "Hello World!" post on Diaspora. From an innocent attempt to share some server resources with people that would find it useful, to a full blown platform run by a non-profit foundation. Seems like each year is topping up the previous one and unsurprisingly 2019 was no different. As always, full of hard work, surprises, accomplishments but also stress, doubts, failures and of course lots of love to the project and all the Disrooters making use of it.

This year - though not so exciting and spectacular for an external observer - was a very important milestone and a basis for years to come.

Disroot Core Team

One of the biggest changes in 2019 was the fact that Disroot is no longer in the sole care of **Muppeth** and **Antilopa**. For the past two years a group of fanatically dedicated Disrooters was helping out in all sorts of ways. Starting from translations, writing howto's, creating Hubzilla and Disroot apps, debugging issues, testing things and much more. The natural outcome for us was to ask them if they would like to officially carry the project with us. And so, in July 2019 **Fede** and **Meaz** joined the newly created Core Team while **Massimiliano** and **Maryjane**, due to other personal obligations, became part of the crew as support team.

It is a new experience for all of us and a start of a new chapter for the project. During the year, we focused on trying to find the best way to coordinate and plan work, share knowledge and tasks,

develop optimal decision making process and tons of other processes we were not even aware were crucial to the daily operation of the project.

We chose to work with a consensus based decision model. This means we don't make choices based on majority vote but rather debate and discuss issue at hand until everyone agrees with the decision. Although it is a relatively long process that consumes more energy from everyone participating in it, we believe everyone's opinion can contribute important value to the decision, therefore it is important that everybody is heard and can influence the debates.

We have started looking into the distribution of responsibilities, dividing the work into "departments". This might sound silly for such a small team, however without good division of tasks it is easy to run into chaos or endless debates. We therefore define the departments within the Disroot project and assign coordinators to those departments. Coordinator's role is to keep an overview on the tasks and needs of their department.

This has also enabled us to spread more tasks among all of us and to develop new ways of coordinating the work. Since the team currently covers both hemispheres we make a lot of use of the Disroot services in order to collaborate (we use Nextcloud talk to commence weekly meetings, use and learn how-to-better-use taiga, git and other collaborative services).

Mission statement

We finally got around to it. Since the moment we officially registered our non-profit foundation, we wanted to write a mission statement defining our ideas. After two years we have finally created such document. Our mission statement defines our ideas as Disroot.org Project, its principals, our view on funding, decision making process and our ambitions for the future. You can read it at https://disroot.org/en/mission-statement .

Changes in email and Nextcloud storage

After much debating we decided it is necessary to lower the amount of storage offered to new users in order to keep the platform available for no charge. As of January 1st, we've decided to cut the free storage quota in half for all new users (now it is 1GB for mailbox storage and 2GB for cloud).

User experience improvements

One of the first tasks we took upon us with the new team was improving the initial access and the overall user experience. As long time users (especially on the more experienced side) we became detached from the days when things were new and fresh. We must keep looking at the platform with the eyes of a person that does not know much about FLOSS software, federation, decentralization and encryption,. And this is what we set to do. Although such task is never really finished, and we will be continuing the work in 2020 and beyond, we are already very pleased to have created a pleasant and easy environment.

New website theme, new Howto theme

Our website experienced new face lift as well as some extra and updated information. We hope you like it because we do a lot. The website's theme can be found at https://git.disroot.org/Disroot/grav-theme-disroot .

Our https://howto.disroot.org/ tutorials website has been re-worked and re-organized to make it easier to find informations and follow tutorials. A while back we noticed that the old theme was not suitable for our needs. The information became harder to find as the number of tutorials grew. The effect as always, is pretty great. The content and the theme can be found at https://git.disroot.org/Disroot/Howto for anyone interested in improving it or using it for their needs.

Opt-in password reset email

One of the most common user questions is about resetting the passwords. As we do not have a way to verify in any way whether the user is the legit owner of the account, **we have no way to reset password**. As much as we did not want to store third party information, we made it possible for anyone who chooses to, to use their third party email address as a reset password feature. This can be achieved by editing your account at http://user.disroot.org . You can also setup security questions in case you want to have the possibility to reset password but don't want to use 3rd party email provider.

FAQ

Yup. We finally created a FAQ page that answers most of the questions we're asked on regular basis. We hope some of the workload has been lowered thanks to this though we don't have any statistics to prove that (the feeling it might, is already good enough). We will be of course updating the list of questions and answers as we see fit. So please check https://disroot.org/en/faq before you ask us "How to reset your password".

New Services

We have been a little conservative with adding new services because we do not want to waste resources on redundant tools. We also chose to avoid any more services that encourage littering, base on our experience with Nextcloud News spam, that allows storing thousand of item, of which 90% of all feeds are never even read by

users - that has quite an impact on server resources while the people who use it are rarely aware of it.

However, despite being weary about new services, we did add few new apps to our platform in 2019:

New nextcloud apps

Circles - Is a Cloud (Nextcloud) app that allows you to create your own groups. Private, public or secret. It makes it easier to share files collaborate or simply chat within your groups.

Deck - Is a Cloud (Nextcloud) app that allows you to handle simple project management app.You can create todo boards for your individual use or your project or friends. It allows for board sharing where you can invite people over, and it also offers a mobile app.

Gitea Instance

We have been hosting our git repositories for quite a while at our friends' at **fosscommunity.in** . Recently we started thinking that perhaps self-hosting our own git instance could be the most beneficial for us, our translation/howto crew and actually anyone within the community who is looking for home for their code. We have decided to choose Gitea as a frontend for it's simplicity and speed, and decided that you would need to create separate account for this service. The reason given is that we understand that not everyone wants to create a Disroot account to just collaborate, or send feedback to your project.

The Disroot git instance can be reached via https://git.disroot.org .

Finances

We would like to start by thanking all of you who decided to donate in 2019 to Disroot. We are very grateful for all the money we have received. It shows that a different business model might be possible and that we might be able to make our dream come true and turn Disroot into our main occupation one day. That said, the light at the end of the tunnel is still dim and this is just the beginning of the journey. For those who believed in us, and threw your hard earned money in our direction, kudos from the bottom of our hearts.

FLOSS Donations

Since our platform depends on the work of Open/Libre Source software developers and their amazing creations, we want to share our financial success with the developers, without whom internet as we know it, and therefore Disroot and Fediverse, would not exist. And so, we're very proud and happy, that we have transferred 1323 euros in donations to several projects. We shared 15% of donation surplus throughout the year with following projects:

Conversejs
Conversations
DavX5
Debian
Dino
Etherpad
Framasoft
Hubzilla
Nextcloud bounty
Searx

We are very happy we could donate even those small amounts to the projects that have been supporting our virtual lifes for years. To all the projects we sent donations and to the entire Free/Open/Libre Software community, thank you for all the work you do, for better, more fair and free internet!

The Phenomenal End of the Year Bonus Alias Challenge

We ended 2019 with a fundraising campaign in the form of an Alias Challenge. Everyone donating in the last week of 2019 could vote for one of three domains to choose from. The goal of 1500€ was reached before the 1st of January and as a reward, all disroot users - current and future - got an additional email alias: **your_username@getgoogleoff.me**

Costs vs. Donations
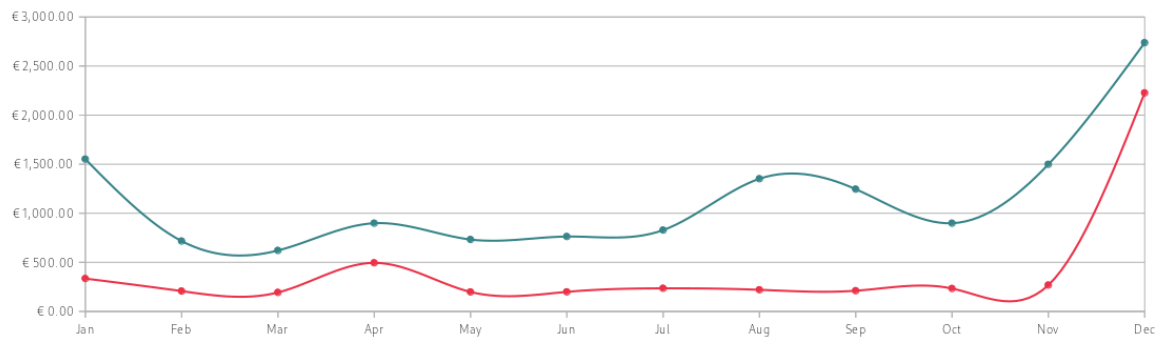
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Expenses	€ 334.51	€ 206.81	€ 193.17	€ 494.70	€ 198.24	€ 199.07	€ 235.27	€ 220.27	€ 210.66	€ 233.32	€ 268.05	€ 2,226.44
Donations	€ 1,551.14	€ 716.55	€ 620.77	€ 898.59	€ 732.17	€ 762.68	€ 828.20	€ 1,351.37	€ 1,245.21	€ 898.45	€ 1,498.46	€ 2,737.32
Subtotal	€ 1,216.63	€ 509.74	€ 427.60	€ 403.89	€ 533.93	€ 563.61	€ 592.93	€ 1,131.10	€ 1,034.55	€ 665.13	€ 1,230.41	€ 510.88
Donated to FOSS	€ 182.49-	€ 76.46-	€ 64.14-	€ 60.58-	€ 80.09-	€ 84.54-	€ 88.94-	€ 169.66-	€ 155.18-	€ 99.77-	€ 184.56-	€ 76.63-
Monthly total	€ 1,034.13	€ 433.28	€ 363.46	€ 343.31	€ 453.84	€ 479.06	€ 503.99	€ 961.43	€ 879.37	€ 565.36	€ 1,045.85	€ 434.25

Current funds: € 8,568.5

2019 Expense overview

Infrastructure -

Servers and domains costs	**€ 2261.33**
Hardware	**€ 237.77**

Other costs -

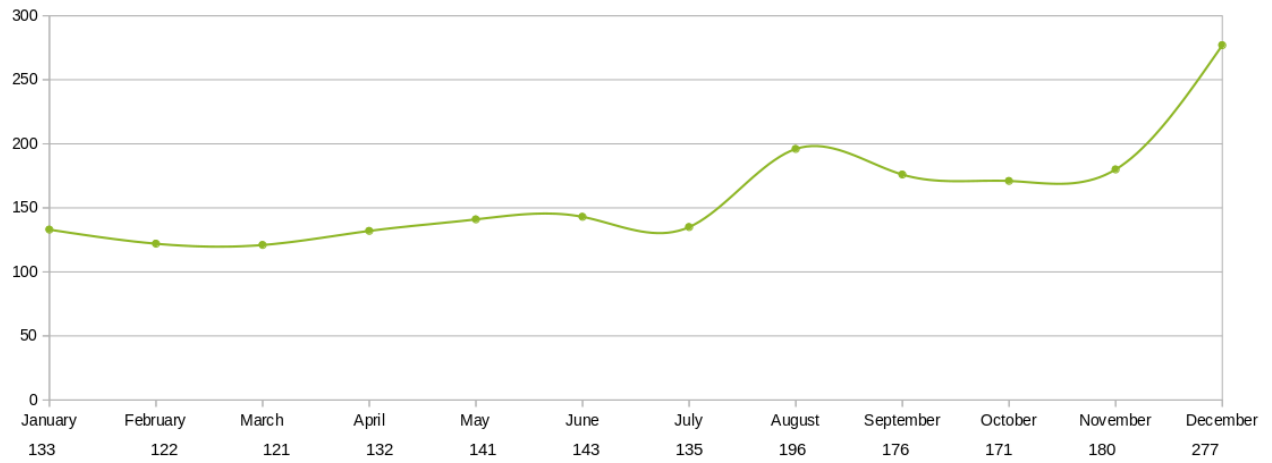|	
Used laptop for new team member	**€ 200.00**
Disroot stickers	**€ 60.75**
Challenge reward shipping costs (transferred in 2020)	**€ 57.00**

first Volunteer fee	**€ 1700.00**
Donation to FOSS projects	**€ 1472.64**
Paypal and bank fees	**€ 541.24**
Total:	**€ 6530.73**

Supporters Overview

|	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
	133	122	121	132	141	143	135	196	176	171	180	277

FOSS Donations
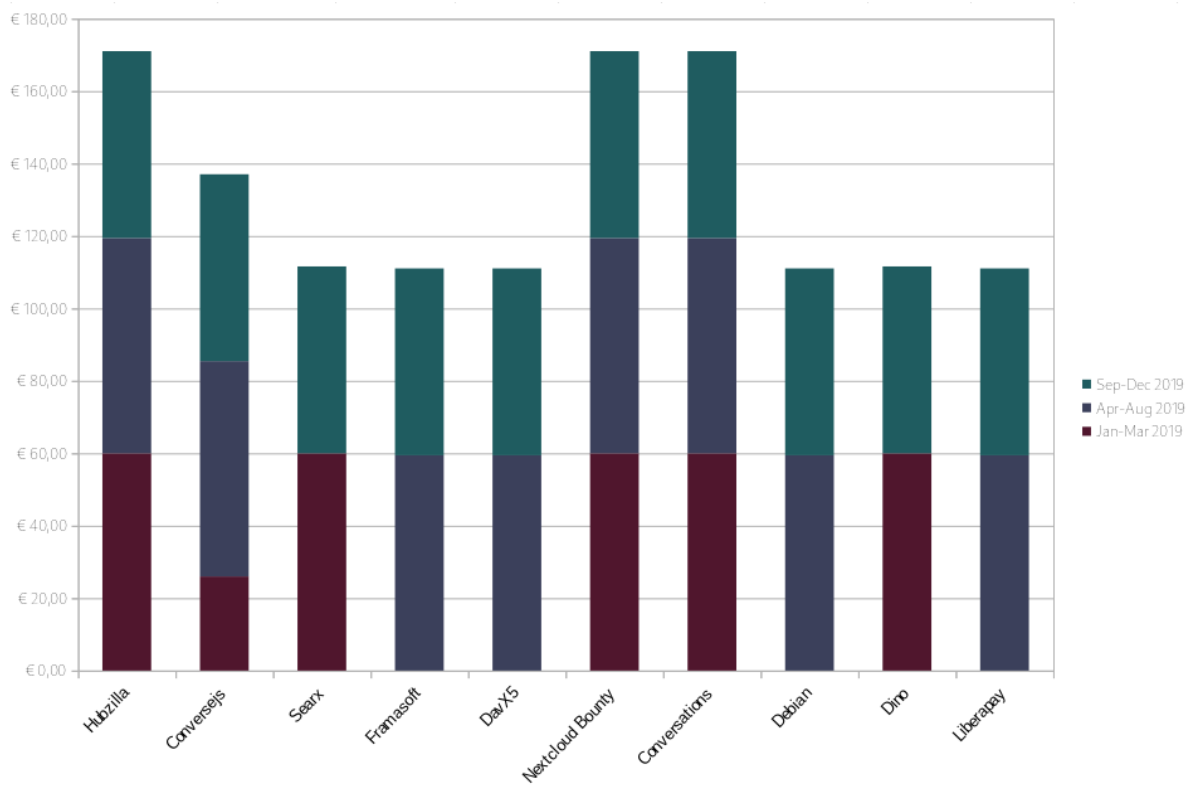
Work Hours

Running Disroot takes lots of work. For some of us, this year hours spent on Disroot exceeded the time we spent on our day jobs. As the users base grows, so do the issues, questions and help needed 24 hours 7 days a week. We therefore need to spend more time improving the platform, optimizing it, planning for the future, thinking of new services, getting more involved in co-development - all while having fun with it - and still do crazy stuff.

Although we did try to keep track of the work spend on Disroot by writing down the hours spent, the below graph is not exact representation and seems to be rather on the conservative side.

Work Hours Team Disroot
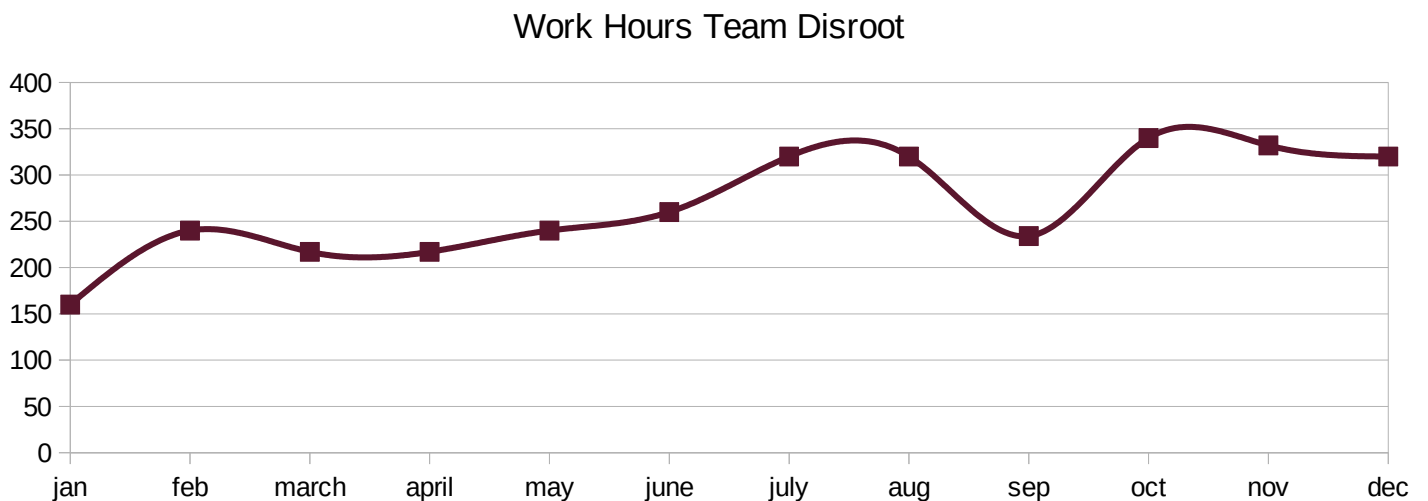
Total 2019 - 3040 hours

Disroot in 2020

2020 is going to be yet another milestone. We are planning to realize the mailbox encryption everyone is waiting for. We hope to document the setup so that other providers and individuals could make use of it. We want to focus on promoting inter-service email encryption by promoting PGP and things like Autocrypt.

We want to focus on onboarding the new Core members (**fede** and **meaz**), share more and more responsiblities between each other. We want to polish all procedures, roles within the organization to spread the workload more evenly.

2020 is going to be a year where we will try to reach milestone of paying volunteer fees to all core members as well as invest in more equipment. Especially the later seems to be an unavoidable consequence of Disroot's user base growth. We strongly believe we can achieve this financial goals, as it will open the way for total financial independence for us, the admins, where we can start working towards turning Disroot into our main occupation in the next few years.

Here are the different ways you can help the project as of now:

Yours truly,
The Disroot Team
Muppeth, Antilopa, Meaz & Fede   13 July 2020