

Decentralised Badges with BadgeFed: Implementing ActivityPub-based Credentials for Non Profits

- **Speaker:** Maho Pacheco
- **Room:** CC 234
- **Time:** Sun 11:20 am – 11:50 am
- **Format:** Lecture (30 Min + Q&A)
- **Difficulty:** Introductory
- **Track:** Sustainability & Funding
- **Additional Tags:** Education, Self-Hosting
- **Presenter Location:** In-person
- **Experience:** first time speaking
- **At:** at Ifnw

Description:

Mainstream digital badge platforms often fail nonprofits and volunteer-driven communities due to cost, vendor lock-in, and rigid workflows. **BadgeFed** was created to solve that problem: a fully open-source, self-hostable digital badge system built on the **Open Badges standard** and the **ActivityPub protocol**, running as a cross-platform .NET application on Linux.

This talk explores how digital credentials can move from closed ecosystems into the **federated social web**, enabling organizations to issue, share, and verify badges across the Fediverse. Using BadgeFed as a case study, Maho will walk through:

- Why traditional badge platforms are brittle and siloed
- How BadgeFed implements ActivityPub actors, badge issuance as federated objects, and cross-instance discovery
- Real-world usage through Community Credentials, empowering nonprofits and volunteer programs with self-hosted, standards-based recognition
- Current challenges: federation at scale, identity portability, moderation, and trust
- What's next for federated credentials and how organizations can deploy, extend, and contribute

Attendees will leave with a practical understanding of how to deploy a federated badge service on Linux, integrate it with existing tools, and participate in building a social-web-native credentialing ecosystem grounded in open standards and free software.

Target Audience:

- Nonprofits
- Game developers
- Educational institutions

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