

9 Months of Cultivating an Online Community and Environment

- **Speaker:** Kasanwa-Solane Aster-Hope
- **Room:** CC 236
- **Time:** Sat 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm
- **Format:** Lecture (30 Min + Q&A)
- **Difficulty:** Introductory / Some experience required
- **Track:** Self-Hosting
- **Presenter Location:** In-person
- **Experience:** first time speaking
- **At:** at lfnw

Description:

This talk shares lessons learned from the first nine months of running **OctoFriends.Garden**, a small, community-focused collection of online services hosted out of the speaker's apartment.

At the time of writing, the community includes around 20 members and provides a variety of services: an email server, a Fediverse instance, a Matrix homeserver, a Git forge, file hosting, and several other tools. The session explores key decisions made from both technical and interpersonal perspectives — and how those decisions shaped the Garden's growth, culture, and sustainability.

Attendees will gain insight into what it takes to cultivate a healthy small-scale online community, the tradeoffs of self-hosting for others, and how technical choices intersect with human needs.

Target Audience:

- Anyone interested in self-hosting
- People building or maintaining small online communities
- Those curious about the social side of running infrastructure

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