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Climate and Eco

Home Page

Welcome to the digital garden of James Ravenscroft. This site is where I keep my notes in progress, some of the material is not fully fleshed out and some of the fleshed out work may be a bit rough around the edges. More polished work can be found on my main blog site.

Topics:

- Software Engineering
- AI and ML
- ☕ Coffee
- Gaming
- Music
- Learning, Knowledge and Mental Health
- IndieWeb & Federation

☕ Coffee

Good UK Coffee Merchants

Hayling Island Coffee Society (HICS), Portsmouth

A local (to me), independent coffee roaster on Hayling Island just north of Portsmouth, Hampshire

Notable Blend: HICS Volcano Island - a strong dark roast similar to Taylors Hot Java Lava

Wonky Coffee Company, London/Online

An online retailer selling coffee salvaged from coffee shops + houses in London. They sell beans and aluminium pods (the latter of which can be recycled with a Dualit ecopress)

The Mecca, Aberystwyth, Wales

An independent Tea & Coffee trader in Aberystwyth, Wales where I did my undergrad degree.

Music

I have a very ecclectic and general interest in music, from jazz to rap metal and from synthwave to cuban folk music.

Personal Stats

Whilst I still scrobble to Last.FM, I also maintain my own maloja instance

For Coding and Concentrating

I'm a massive fan of the Simcity 4 soundtrack by Jerry Martin and I've been on a yearslong quest to find similar music. Some of the recommendations in this reddit thread [mirror] are reasonably good.

One of my favourite tracks from the SimCity 4 soundtrack is EpiCenter by The Humble Brothers which is not available on the official soundtrack via spotify but various bootleg versions of it can be found on youtube.

Recommendations

Pop/Rock

The Last Dinner Party - 2020s, Modern Rock

an all female rock band who made big waves in 2023. I first encountered their breakout hit Nothing Matters via spotify's AI dj and I'm glad I did, they are probably the most exciting modern band that I've encountered in about 10 years (the last being Haim whose debut album was the sound of my 2013). Every song they've released so far (at the time of writing - Dec 2023) has been absolute gold. I think My Lady of Mercy and Sinner are in tight contention for second and third favourite.

Funk and Soul

Jungle - 2010s and 2020s, neo-soul, pop

Although Jungle are probably tangential to mainstream at this point, they've been around for a while and you've more than likely heard their music in adverts or as background in restaurants. I've been following Jungle since a friend shared them on instagram around 2014. I am a huge fan of their blend of modern dancy sound with a funk/soul influence.As an entrypoint I highly recommend Keep Moving (if you don't do slow intros, skip to 1m30s in the youtube link) which has a very clear disco funk influence. When I saw them in Brighton in 2022 they even gave a nod to their disco influence by playing a couple of choruses of the Bee Gees "Stayin' Alive" during an extended jam. I would also recommend their first album in its entirety but, if pressed, Time is an excellent runner up point for getting into this band.

Dirty Loops - Swedish Funk Outfit

Dirty Loops are a trio of incredibly talented musicians who take leaves out of the books of funk, disco and pop greats. In particular, I have to recommend their Follow the Light album which they recorded in collaboration with Vulfpecker and funk guitar extraordinaire, Cory Wong. The titular song on the album is uplifting and fun and funky and Jonah channels Michael Jackson in the best way possible. In fact, in a nod to his sound-a-like, Jonah leads the vocals on an excellent cover of Thriller later on that album. Henrik's bass-lines are cool and crisp

Jazz and Jazz Fusion

Synthwave

Carpenter Brut - Synthwave, 80s Horror Aesthetic

One of the more mainstream Synthwave acts but one of the first acts that really lured me into the genre. I remember listening to Roller Mobster off the EPII album and being captivated by the wall of sound that hit me. It was like someone took the backing tracks to films from my childhood and turned them up to 11. I think it is the unique blend of 80s style with modern sound engineering techniques that gives it that effect. (NB: EPI, EPII and EPIII have since been re-released as "The Trilogy"). CB's subsequent albums have also been pretty solid offerings. I'm a big fan of Beware The Beast with Mat McNerney's vocals adding a certain je nais se quois to the whole track.

[Jonny Fallout](#) - Synthwave, Cyberpunk

I found Jonny Fallout by chance on Mastodon - he was giving away free downloads for one of his albums on bandcamp. He tends to mix his sound up - managing to land somewhere between between gentle chilled music "Night Drive" music and more aggressive fast-paced melodies that

you could run or jog to. The titular track on ["Awake in a Garden of Stars"](#) is a great example of this kind of fusion.

Personal Knowledge Management

Fediverse

I am a member over at Fosstodon.

New to the Fediverse?

This guide written by Axbom has got you covered: https://axbom.com/mastodon-guide/

Who should I follow?

https://fedi.directory/ is a really cool list of interesting accounts that you could follow.

What tools are there?

As this toot says there are a huge number of apps that work on the Fediverse:

#Friendica - better #Facebook

#Funkwhale - like #Spotify and #SoundCloud

#Lemmy - like #Reddit

#PixelFed and #PeerPx - better #Instagram

#PeerTube - like #YouTube and #Vimeo

#Mastodon and #Pleroma - better #Twitter

#BookWyrm and #Inventaire - like #Goodreads

#distbin - like #Pastebin

#MissKey - better #Twitter and #Facebook combined

#Nextcloud - better #Dropbox, #Onebox, #GoogleDrive

#Owncast - live streaming

#WriteAs and #Plume - #Medium and hosted #WordPress on steroids

BulletTrain - Handwritten BuJo Companion App

Building the App

It's a mobile app powered by react native. I'm collecting my thoughts on how to build stuff with react native [here](#)

Storage

Books can be synced to/from remote storage systems. I will target webdav first because that's my personal itch but I guess theoretically I could also allow syncing with Google, Dropbox and maybe even something like S3.

Handwriting Recognition

Looks like [CRAFT + TrOCR](#) is likely to yield the kind of thing we want for recognising handwriting

Bookmarks

- Clickbait Challenge at SemEval 2023 - Clickbait Spoiling (retrieved at: 02/11/2022, 07:56:18)
- Crate List - Blessed.rs (retrieved at: 04/11/2022, 18:52:22)
- conversationbot.py - python-telegram-bot v20.0a4 (retrieved at: 06/11/2022, 17:38:32)
- You Aren't Learning If You Don't Close the Loops - Commoncog (retrieved at: 07/11/2022, 07:48:45)
- Sophia: "Alt text is a lot easier when you know how to wri..." - glitterkitten (retrieved at: 07/11/2022, 08:40:55)
- Enhanced support for citations on GitHub | The GitHub Blog (retrieved at: 07/11/2022, 14:29:09)
- PyScript | Run Python in your HTML (retrieved at: 07/11/2022, 22:55:53)
- The God Endpoints will continue until morale improves (retrieved at: 08/11/2022, 08:00:01)
- Getting Senpai To Notice You (retrieved at: 08/11/2022, 08:00:52)
- Exploratory Data Alex: "The train-test split thing is for predictive mode..." - Mastodon (retrieved at: 09/11/2022, 06:38:37)
- A curated list of command-line utilities written in Rust · GitHub (retrieved at: 09/11/2022, 08:03:29)
- Flows - BullMQ (retrieved at: 10/11/2022, 07:52:29)
- Datasette: An open source multi-tool for exploring and publishing data (retrieved at: 11/11/2022, 07:38:39)
- Pricing | Railway (retrieved at: 17/11/2022, 07:43:47)
- Writing a Tufte-book in Markdown | Brain Baking (retrieved at: 17/11/2022, 23:22:45)
- Today I Learned / Lee Byron (retrieved at: 19/11/2022, 16:09:55)
- Learn In Public (retrieved at: 19/11/2022, 16:14:43)
- Nutella Christmas Tree! - Jane's Patisserie (retrieved at: 19/11/2022, 17:04:09)
- GitHub - illacloud/illa-builder: An open-source low-code Platform for Developers. (retrieved at: 20/11/2022, 09:39:08)
- Home - Made With ML (retrieved at: 21/11/2022, 08:24:08)
- Making the IndieWeb more approachable – Tracy Durnell (retrieved at: 27/11/2022, 21:57:44)

Gaming

One of my hobbies is video gaming. I recently got my hands on a Steam Deck which I would describe as a "Nintendo Switch Pro". I've been very impressed with the capabilities of the system.

Watch List

- [The Store is Closed: Infinite Furniture Store Survival Game](#) - this game looks really interesting - I often feel like IKEA is some kind of supernatural Eldritch place IRL anyway.

Webmentions

Webmentions are a way for IndieWeb folks to notify each other that something has happened, they use microformats internally.

WebMention.App provides an API for sending web mentions automatically but you have to know which page you want to send them from. I will probably add a module to Microcosm to check pages and use webmention.app to send mentions.

Steam Deck

Proton

Use ProtonUp to install custom versions of proton on the deck. You can find this in the Software store on the deck's KDE desktop (open up Discover and search `protonup-qt`)

Heroic Game Launcher

Heroic is a GUI that wraps both Epic and GOG allowing installation of games from both stores. Install Heroic through discover. Heroic can be added as a non-steam game so that it can be used to launch games from other stores in entertainment mode.

Running Rockstar Launcher on SD

This article explains how to run Rockstar Launcher on Steam Deck

IndieWeb

I've been interested in [IndieWeb](#) since I encountered the concept and owning your own data for a long time. My own site [Brainsteam](#) uses [micropub](#) and [microsub](#) and can receive [webmentions](#). I use [my own hand-rolled micropub endpoint](#) in combination with the [Hugo static site generation framework](#) to manage my web content.

Making your site Indieweb compliant

I recently discovered [IndieWebify.me](#) which provides a bunch of tools for validating that your site is indie-web ready. I use [Micropub.Rocks](#) to ensure that my publication endpoint is up to par.

Micropub & Sub Clients

- I use [Together](#) for reading my feeds and liking/reposting/replying on my desktop/in-browser
- I use [Indigenous for android](#) when I'm out and about if I want to make a quick post

Who is on the IndieWeb?

- [ooh.directory](#) has a fantastic list of blogs that subscribe partially or wholly to indieweb concepts across a large number of subject matters!

OpenGraph

- OpenGraph is a stnadard for sharing metadata about web content across different sites, popularised by Twitter.
- In order to test whether your opengraph metadata is rendering correctly you can use this site: https://www.opengraph.xyz/

Hypothes.is

Hypothesis is a web annotation tool - you can annotate any page and your comments are then public for others to see (or you can privately annotate stuff)

Data Ownership

Hypothes.is is an open source project run by a non-profit. They consider all annotations made in public on their platform to be creative commons public domain so it seems like they're unlikely to try and do a runner with public data. However, I still have concerns leaving all my annotations in their silo (What if their service goes down and all my annotations disappear overnight?)

Annotating Archived Content

It's been pointed out in a couple of places that hypothes.is can be used to annotate data in the internet web archive but what about in my own archive?

Using via.hypothes.is with my own archivebox instance doesn't work but it seems that both the official chrome plugin and the unofficial firefox plugin do work with archivebox if you click through to the single page html you want to view before you activate them.

Active Hypothes.is Users

Ton Zylstra keeps a list of active and semi active h users

Interacting with annotations from other sources

Matthias 'x23' Melcher has built a drag and drop thinking/note mapping tool which he calls Condensr. Condensr has import and export functionality from a number of sources including hypothes.is, Kindle and Zotero.

The easiest way to get hypothes.is annotations into Condensr is via Jon Udell's export tool

Plumbing

odds and sods about plumbing maintenance

Water Hammer

Water hammer is the noise/shockwave generated when water is suddenly stopped/cut off.

Over time it can damage your system doe to the shockwaves along the pipes.

Source

https://piperepair.co.uk/2020/07/06/water-hammer-what-it-is-and-how-you-can-stop-it/ (mirror)

Power Flush

A procedure during which your central heating system is drained and cleaning solution is pumped around to displace and sludge which has been generated by corrosion within the system. The procedure should cost between £300-£500 to be done as of Q4 2022. A GasSafe engineer is required to carry out this maintenance procedure in the UK.

Source

https://www.diyplumbing.co.uk/power-flush-what-is-it-why-do-i-need-it-how-much-is-it/ (mirror)

Free Open Source Software and Open Culture

Free Open Source Software and Open Culture

Delightful Software

A curated list of FOSS software that is delightful

https://delightful.club/

Flipping the Bozo Bit

Flipping the bozo bit on someone is a mental trap/antipattern/shortcut whereby we assume the person is a bozo. This could mean that you assume all of their opinions are useless going forward and/or that you treat them like an idiot.

This is an expression I first encountered on Scott Hanselman's Hanselminutes podcast episode with Kris Nova in which they discuss fostering an atmosphere of psychological safety at work. Hanselman and Nova give the example of "there's no such thing as a stupid question" as a place where one might fall into this trap. You should assume that people don't know stuff that might seem obvious to you and that that's ok. We can't know everything. Preventing people from asking stupid questions can result in them having imposter syndrome.

There is an extensive page on this phenomenon over at the c2 wiki which suggests that the usage of the term bozo bit in this context was originally coined by Jim McCarthy in Dynamics of Software Development. It is thought to originate from a copy protection system in early macOS.

Proton Mail Bridge

Proton Mail Bridge is a tool that allows end users of Proton Mail to send and receive email using traditional protocols (i.e. SMTP and IMAP).

It can be installed and run on a desktop machine but there is an unofficial docker image which you can use to run it as a service for applications that need to send automated emails.

In order to use it I created a simple Docker Compose file:

```
version: "2.0"
services:
  bridge:
    image: shenxn/protonmail-bridge:latest
    restart: unless-stopped
    volumes:
      - /mnt/user/Docker/protonbridge/data:/root
    ports:
      - 1025:25
      - 1143:143
```

1. On first run I did `docker-compose run -i bridge init` which displays a terminal.
2. Enter `login` and use your proton login info
3. now enter `info` and you should be given some credentials for logging in to SMTP and IMAP locally. You can use these for web apps that need to send emails or devices on the same network as your docker host that need IMAP access. Remember to replace the IP address `127.0.0.1` with whatever your docker host's address is.

TLS Certificate Warnings

You will probably find that downstream applications complain about the TLS certificates on your bridge server being funny when you try to connect. Certificate verification is very useful and should not be turned off if in doubt. I am using both the bridge and the things connecting to the bridge are on my home LAN and I am reasonably confident that there is very limited risk of a man-in-the-middle attack from inside the network so I've turned off TLS verification. If you're connecting to a

bridge over the open net I would strongly recommend doing this properly (get the certificates from the vault and add it to your application's trust store properly).