

July 12, 2020 update:

Hello, internet!

Previously <https://logic.camp> hosted a small Hometown/Mastodon instance, which was intended to be a fediverse home for [Logic](#) & friends. After running it myself for about a half a year, I decided to decommission the instance.

There's a handful of reasons:

- After [talking with Darius about why to run a small online social media site for your friends](#) (which you should definitely read!), I realized just how many hours go into creating an instance I'd like to be a part of, even for a small amount of people. I couldn't commit to building a community, knowing that I'd want to put in that amount of effort to get it right. So, I didn't work to grow the community.
- The fediverse doesn't work particularly well for single-user instances. Finding new accounts you want to follow isn't easy, and growing a network of interesting people relies a lot on organic connections through people you follow or who are on your instance. So, it's pretty lonely if you're flying solo.
- To get moving quickly, I stood up the instance on Amazon Web Services. It ended up being more expensive than I anticipated (\$70/month [!!!], mostly for their ElasticCache service) and also I wanted to move away from using AWS services for moral reasons. I could've worked to make this less costly, but didn't seem worth my time.
- I already have a fediverse account I love that works for me—on [friend.camp](#) (see below).

All of these reasons went into deciding to just shut down [logic.camp](#). I'm still looking for a good instance to host the official Logic account (previously <https://logic.camp/@logic>), and would still be interested in intentional online community building for Logic folks in the future. Reach out to me at the links below if you have any ideas about either!

Thanks for reading and being a part of this experiment! The user guide I wrote when anticipating onboarding more folks is still available below—and I still can't keep straight private vs unlisted vs unlisted posts. Enjoy!

-- Christa

[@christa on friend.camp](#)

[@_hartsick on Twitter](#)

Logic Camp: A User's Guide

Last updated: Fri Jan 17, 2020

Hi! Welcome to [logic.camp](#), a little nascent online community of folks brought together by *Logic*. We're keeping it intentionally small. It's kind of like Twitter in practice, but decentralized and customized in ways intended to foster intimate conversation.

Before we dive into Logic-specific stuff, I recommend reading the following things for some context:

1. Darius Kazemi, "[Run your own social](#): How to run a small social network site for your friends."
2. Noelle Anthony, [An Increasingly Less Brief Guide to Mastodon](#)

Have any questions (technical, moderation, whatever!)? Let me know at <https://logic.camp/@christa>!

Table of Contents

[Some of the how and why](#)

[Some non-obvious privacy stuff](#)

[Replies](#)

[Mobile apps](#)

[Post Privacy](#)

[Changing account and post defaults](#)

[Inviting new folks](#)

Some of the how and why

Logic Camp is mostly run on [Mastodon](#), an open source piece of software that is basically a decentralized Twitter. More specifically, Logic Camp runs on a modification of Mastodon called [Hometown](#), maintained by Darius Kazemi, that's geared toward small communities.

I'd like to give a huge thanks to Darius, who runs Friend Camp and wrote Run your own social (linked above). I highly recommend reading it! I think it explains a good amount of what I'm trying to do with the side project that is Logic Camp—create a close though not closed community of like-minded folks centered around *Logic*—and how it's different than creating community on a centralized service like Twitter.

And, codewise, I maintain our own fork of Hometown—[here's the code](#), in case you're interested in submitting any modifications or are curious about the specific software powering the site.

A no-nines disclaimer: I maintain Logic Camp as a hobby, on top of some other time-intensive hobbies (including helping put out *Logic!*)—so, the site may be janky at times. I'm really interested in helping cultivate a safe and fun space for conversation, though, so feel free to reach out with any questions (technical, moderation, whatever!). I'm <https://logic.camp/@christa>.

Some non-obvious privacy stuff

Unlike Twitter, which controls permissions on the account level (think locking your account on Twitter, and having non-followers not able to see any of your tweets), Mastodon controls permissions on the post level.

This means any changes you make to your default settings do not apply retroactively to your posts. **To change visibility of past posts, your only option is to delete them** (or delete and re-draft).

When you sign up for a new account, these are your default settings:

- **Locked account:** You'll need to approve any followers. Followers are relevant only when making unlisted and followers-only posts, and to know who is receiving your public posts most directly—it doesn't lock down your account like Twitter. See the chart below for more detail.
- **Posts do not leave the instance** (local-only, non-federated): Any posts you make, regardless whether they're public, unlisted, or to followers-only, will only be sent to other Logic Campers.
- **Posts are public:** Your posts will be shown on any "public" timelines. What this means in practice depends on whether your post is local-only or federated:
 - If you leave the default setting and post "local-only", that means your posts will show on only the local timeline—not any people who follow you on other instances, not your (publicly accessible) profile. This is the default for new accounts.
 - If you de-select "local-only" and post as "federated" instead, this means that your post will be shown on all public timelines (including other instances), the local timeline, and on your (publicly accessible) profile.

These default settings intended to foster local conversation, and give posters relative protection from posts being sent to unintended places (like, say, the rest of the internet).

With that being said, **do not think of these communications as secure**, regardless of the setting you post as. They aren't encrypted and, if I wanted as the admin, I could look at them. I

won't unless there's an explicit moderation request, but I say that to impress the fact that **you should use Signal or other encrypted messaging apps for actually sensitive information.**

Sometimes the two post settings interact with each other in confusing ways. Here's my attempt at describing how post settings interact with one another. This may or may not be accurate, so please let me know if you see something that differs from this:

Replies

By default, replies tend to take on the settings of the original post they're responding to—both in terms of federated or not, and whether they're public or unlisted.

Mobile apps

Mobile apps may not support local-only posting, since it's a custom feature. I have an iPhone and created a bookmark for logic.camp on my homescreen, and it functions pretty similarly to a native app while obeying the rules of our instance.

As I learn more about Android stuff, I'll post it here!

Post Privacy

Okay, first some terminology:

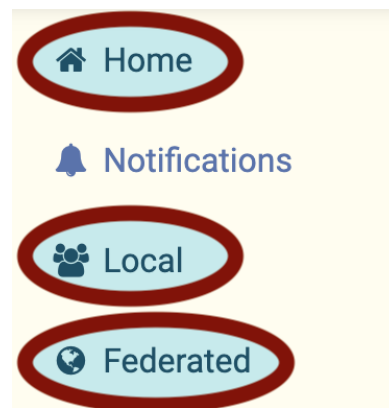
1. Home feed



2. Local timeline



3. Federated timeline



4. Profile: What you see when you visit <https://logic.camp/@yourusername>

	Federated	Local-only (no one outside instance can see posts)
Public	• Home feed: Any followers	• Home feed: Logic Campers

	<p>can see your post in their home feed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines: Anyone can see your post in their timelines (local, federated) • Profile: Anyone can see post on your profile 	<p>can see post in home feed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines: Logic Campers can see post in local timeline • Profile: Logic Campers can see post on your profile
Unlisted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home feed: Any followers can see your post in their home feed • Timelines: No one will see your post in their timelines (local, federated) • Profile: Anyone can see post on your profile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home feed: Logic Campers can see post in home feed • Timelines: No one will see your post in their timelines • Profile: Logic Campers can see post on your profile
Followers-only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home feed: Any followers can see your post in their home feed • Timelines: Followers will see your post in their timelines (local, federated); Any non-followers will not see your post • Profile: Followers will see your post on your profile??? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home feed: Logic Camp followers will see your post in their home feed • Timelines: Logic Camp followers will see your post in local timeline • Profile: Logic Campers will see your post on your profile
Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only people tagged in post will see 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fuckin' idea

Changing account and post defaults

You can change the default settings at any time. Defaults can be modified in your account settings, and each post can be changed on a per-post level. Here's how you do it:

At an account level

Lock and unlock your account:

Logic Camp

[← Back home](#)

[Profile](#)

[Appearance](#)

[# Featured hashtags](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Follows and followers](#)

[Filters](#)

[Account](#)

[Import and export](#)

[Invite people](#)

[Development](#)


[Moderation](#)


Edit profile

Display name

christa

Bio

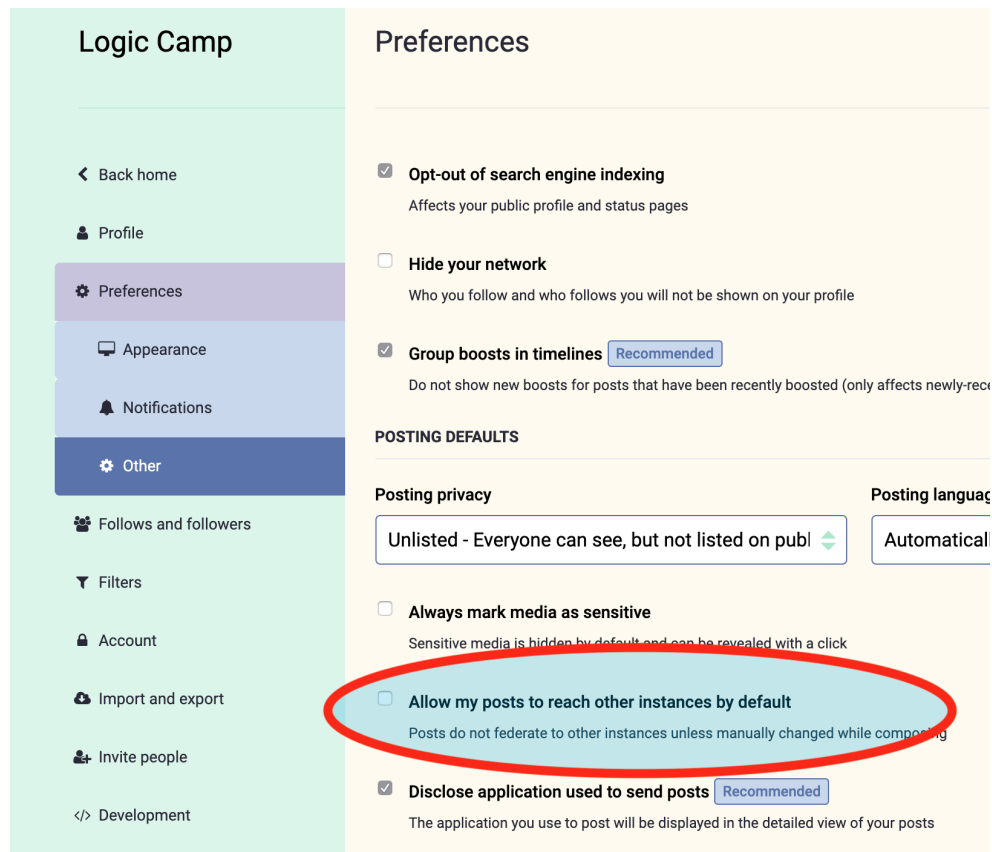




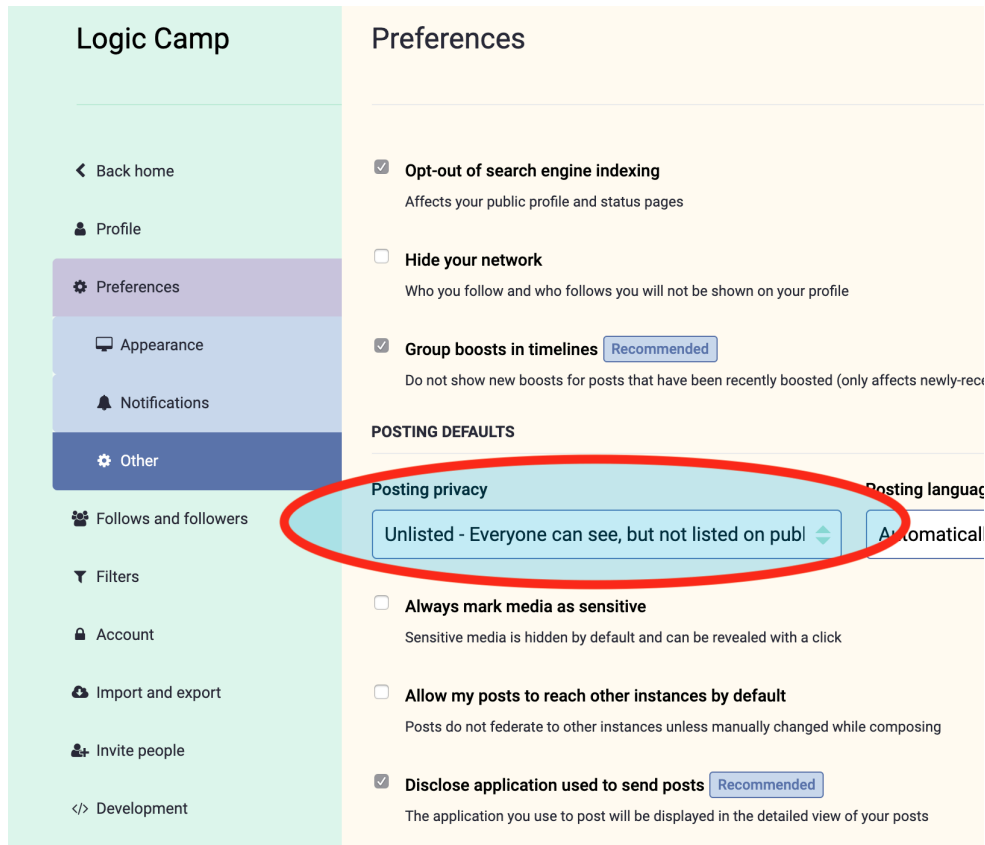
christa
@christa@logic.camp

☒ **Lock account**
Requires you to manually approve followers

Change whether posts are local-only or federated by default:

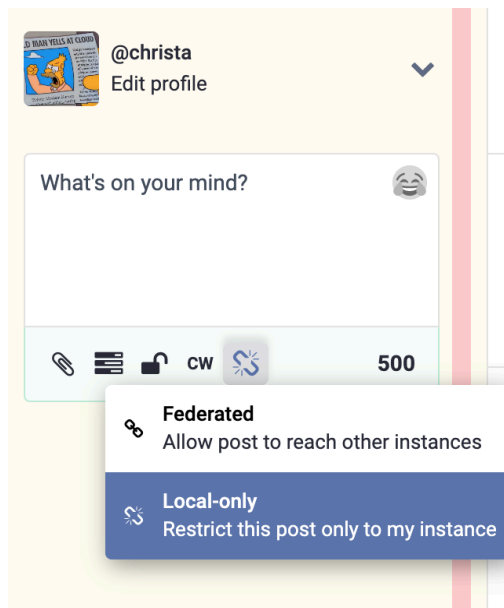


Change whether posts are public, unlisted, or followers-only by default:

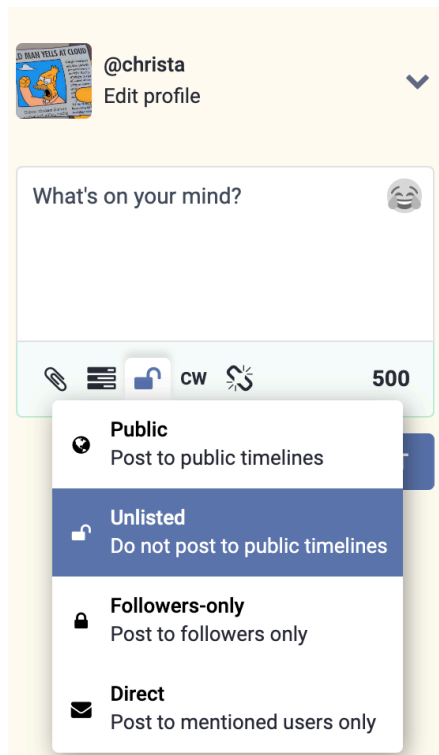


On a per-post basis

Change whether post is local-only or federated:



Change whether post is public, unlisted, or followers-only:



Inviting new folks

Want to invite someone new? Shoot me a message! We'll figure out the process.