

General Assembly of BeVolunteer 2025

8th and 9th of November 2025 in person in Mössingen, Germany, and online

Moderator: thorgal67

Minutes: gbenouville

Attendees:

13 Voting members, 1 Honorary member, 1 Guest

Present live: thorgal67, duesseldorf, Marstr, gbenouville, BillNZ, wind (partly), Sunoneleon (guest)

Present online: polyglot, Saleme, subaculture, corazondeviaje, chagai95, Alex_W, peterburk, blackfalconx, wind (partly)

====SATURDAY 8th November 2025====

09:00 - 09:30 - Meeting of participants

09:30 - 09:40 - Official Welcome

Marstr welcomes the people online

6 people present in Mössingen, including 1 guest, a long-time BW member from Malaysia
Some of the online attendees will come and go depending on their availability.

09:40 - 11:15 - Financial Report + Budget + Annual Report

The annual report was reviewed.

Presented by Marstr with interventions from gbenouville, subaculture, polyglot and corazondeviaje about feedback from the teams

Comments from members:

- about the app not being available anymore:

Suggestion from BillNZ: make it more visible how to use BW on a phone (i.e. how to set up a homescreen shortcut).

A "mobile" link could be added in the footer, linking to the related FAQ.

It could be included in a next newsletter.

- about social media accounts:

Question: does BW have a Tiktok account? -> yes, but mainly created to reserve the name.
Barely any content or activity.

The financial report and budget were reviewed.

Presented by thorgal67

Outstanding points:

- we had a net gain of 382€ for financial year 2024-25
- no big donation this year but many small ones
- newsletters are very effective in triggering donations, especially the last one
- high server costs are still budgeted for next year considering the uncertainty about server migration
- there is a budget for promotional material, to be updated with the new logo

Comments from members:

- Is the Wero payment system (European online payment system) available with our bank? -> to be confirmed
- An issue is reported with the display of the donations bar on the homepage, depending if www or https is used. -> to be investigated
- Suggestion to make it clearer on the site (donations bar and donations page) that the campaign ends in September. Members seeing that we are at 50% of our budget in August think we'll make it to 100% by the end of the year, while there is only 1 month left. The last newsletter pointed out that our financial year ends in September, and triggered many donations.

11:15 - 11:30 - Coffee break (or buffer time in case of delays)

11:30 - 12:15 - TOPIC 1: using Google Analytics

LINK : (in group BV members)

https://www.bewelcome.org/group/94/forum/s32508-_GA2025TOPIC_1Using_Google_Analytics

Subaculture: now we are using Matomo for statistics, but the information we gather with it is very limited and doesn't enable us to track Google Adwords results.

If we use Google Analytics instead, it has built-in support to track Adwords results so it would be easy to use it. There is ready-made code to generate the server logs we need and analyse them with Google Analytics.

It could be possible to do the same on Matomo, but sever logs currently have to be uploaded manually. It could be automated, and Matomo can theoretically (according to their support) be used to track Google Adwords results. But technical skill/knowledge of the system is required. We don't have volunteers proficient with Matomo.

Question: is Google Analytics GDPR-compliant?

No clear answer, it is basically not compliant but can be made compliant. For sure it can be made compliant, because it's used all over EU sites. Maybe the free version is not compliant and there is a paid version to be compliant? To be investigated before using it: we have to be GDPR-compliant.

If we want to gather more data for analytics, we must update our privacy policy. This applies to Matomo as well as Google Analytics. The current policy says:

"BeWelcome does not set any cookies to obtain or transmit marketing or other information. The only cookies set are for the essential purpose of user authentication and to display preference settings. Use of the site will be deemed consent to these essential cookies."

Proposal of new wording:

"BeWelcome uses cookies:

- *for the essential purpose of user authentication and to display preference settings. Use of the site will be deemed consent to these essential cookies.*
- *for the purpose of gathering use statistics. These cookies are optional."*

This means we must also have a cookie consent popup allowing to choose which cookies are allowed.

Nearly every site has this kind of cookie consent popup, there must be some ready-made code available to do it. Probably not a very difficult task for developers. It just needs to be adjusted to the BW design.

The efficiency may be limited because many people use ad blockers. Google Analytics cookies would be blocked. But less people use ad blockers on phone.

Objection: Google Analytics sends data to a third party (Google). If we use it, we must add this to our privacy policy. This was the main argument for Matomo vs GA when it was set up, because Matomo is on our own servers and doesn't send data to any third party. GA can be configured to decide which data is sent to Google. No marketing/tracking data. This would have to be checked exactly, because history of browsing must be recorded in order to track the Adwords campaign.

Proposal of wording for the privacy policy:

"BeWelcome uses Google Analytics 4 (GA4), a web analytics service provided by Google Ireland Limited ("Google"), to understand how visitors engage with our website. This helps us improve our website's functionality and user experience. Data Collected: GA4 collects data about your interactions with our website, such as pages visited, duration of visit, referring sources, and general location (city level). Importantly, GA4 does not log or store individual IP addresses for users in the EU by default. Legal Basis for Processing: We process this data based on your explicit, affirmative consent. You can withdraw your consent at any time through our [Link to your Cookie Settings/Consent Management options]. Data Sharing and Transfers: Information generated by the cookies about your use of the website may be transmitted to and stored by Google on servers in the U.S. and other countries. Google is certified under the EU-U.S. Data Privacy Framework, which helps ensure an adequate level of data protection for data transfers. Your Rights: Under the GDPR, you have the right to access, rectify, or erase your personal data. You can also object to processing or request data portability. To exercise these rights or for any privacy concerns, please contact us at privacy@bewelcome.org. Data Retention: We retain user-level data (data associated with cookies, user IDs, event identifiers) for a maximum of [Choose between 2 or 14] months before it is automatically deleted, as configured in our GA4 settings."

Question: does the privacy policy have to be approved by the GA?

-> No, BoD approval is enough. So it doesn't have to be decided now.

But we have to send members a message about the change 1 month before it takes effect. Since we plan to send a message for the update of the ToU, it would be best to combine it with the privacy policy update.

We should already update the privacy policy, even if we don't know if we'll use Google Analytics or Matomo, to give us the possibility to use them when we decide. So we don't have to send an information message to members again.

Then the wording should not be about Google Analytics specifically, it should say we may use "analytical tools" to collect statistical data about the use of the site.

Other possible tool proposed by Saleme: plausible.io

Objection: will Google Analytics (or Matomo) still be efficient when more and more searches will be made through AI instead of search engines?

No clear idea about that, the keywords may not be so easy to identify. Especially if people are using ChatGPT or others instead of Google's own AI tools. But for sure Google are working on it and will find ways to track ad efficiency with AI searches.

12:15 - 13:45 - Lunch break

13:45 - 14:00 - TOPIC 2: Exclusion of BV honorary member Platschi

https://www.bewelcome.org/group/94/forum/s28856-_GA2025TOPIC_2Exclusion_of_BV_honorary_member_Platschi

gbenouville: this member has no BW account anymore and has been unreachable (email not working) for 2 years. There is nothing in the statutes saying how an honorary member can be excluded from BV, so it should be voted by the GA.

BillNZ: on Hitchwiki it says he passed away. It is definitely the same person.

As a consequence no vote is needed, he is just no longer a member.

Question: Should we still update the statutes to plan for this case (if an honorary member becomes unreachable) in the future? Or just vote about it every time? We don't want to keep forever members who aren't interested anymore.

BillNZ: doesn't "honorary" member mean just that? That someone is honoured by being given permanent membership, because of past services? Maybe even after death? Like a place being given a name in someone's honour.

-> No, it means retaining membership even after stepping down from active volunteering, but it makes no sense to keep people who aren't interested. It's a way for former volunteers to still be able to follow BeVolunteer's activity.

Update of the statutes needs an extraordinary GA with a higher quorum: no need to do it just to add this point, but if we update the statutes for some other reason it can be added at the same time.

14:00 - 15:00 - TOPIC 3: SysAdmin team feedback and server issues

https://www.bewelcome.org/group/94/forum/s32511-_GA2025TOPIC_3Sysadmin_team_feedback_and_server_issues

Some members of the sysadmin team started getting active last year and already turned inactive. So the migration couldn't be complete last year as we had hoped.

New members joined this year. But mainly junior volunteers are joining, which is more work to introduce them to the system. And they can't start working on critical systems right away.

Migration of OTRS: it will be a difficult process because we are many versions behind, and it must be migrated version by version. Old versions can still be found so it's possible to do it, but time-consuming. And there may be issues with our configuration and the data structure, like we had when we tried to transfer the data to Zammad.

Question: OTRS 6 is no longer opensource?

-> there was a fork, opensource versions are still available (maybe under a different name)

Another option is to change to a new software completely, and we must check how to

transfer the data. This kind of software evolve quickly, we have to check what is the best option when we start working on it.

The current data could be kept just as an archive. But better if it can be transferred, because it will be additional work for volunteers who need access to old tickets if they have to check in a separate archive every time.

OTRS is not a priority, it's obsolete but works fine for now. The priority is to migrate the main BW site.

Status update by Blackfalconx:

Migration was started with the mail server. It's used for testing the transfer process before doing it with the main servers. Once the work is done for the mail server, it will be easier to do for next ones.

The process is 80% complete for the mail server. There is a lot of clean-up to do, so it has to be started from scratch in order not to build something on top of systems that are not working properly. For example, the DNS record had to be cleaned before setting the new mail server, otherwise it causes delivery issues. This work will also improve deliverability of BW mails with the current server.

The workflow is being properly documented in Github, so new volunteers joining later should be able to better understand how the servers work. A staging process is also implemented, so changes can be tested before going live. Lack of such a process has caused many issues in the past.

Question: is there a need for external help (through paid services) to complete the migration?

- the cost would probably be an issue, because an external sysadmin will also need quite some time to understand the system before he can actually help.
- the best is if we can make new volunteers stay, keep them engaged and interested in the system. Recruitment and management of the volunteers is actually taking a lot of time at the moment, but if we can have some of them involved in the long-term and able to work independently, it's a good investment.
- the cost to hire someone to help with the whole migration process would be very high, but there may be some special technical point where none of the volunteers has very good skills and external help could be considered (for example, the replacement of OTRS). The BoD will need feedback from sysadmins if there is such a need, otherwise BoD members don't know what is necessary.

Question: when would we be able to close some of the old servers and save money for BeWelcome?

-> the Wordpress server (BeVolunteer) could be closed quickly, and the BV site started from scratch on a new server. There is a sysadmin with Wordpress experience. Support from the BoD or BV members would be needed to know what to keep and define the contents of the new site.

-> duesseldorf and thorgal67 volunteer to help with defining the contents of the new BV site

-> other servers could probably be closed for now because they're not used, like the one where Zammad was tried or Tiger which was used as mail server.

Question: should we also buy services like a managed database?

-> a managed database would make sense in the future, because of volunteers coming and going. But it's not a priority. It's also not yet available on Hetzner, it will probably come in the next years.

Question: which services to keep and to drop on the new servers?

- basic services are OTRS (or other ticketing system), mail server, Wordpress or other app for the BV site, and the main BW site.
- a communication system like Mattermost would be useful. Now Telegram is used, but not very convenient for everyone.
- we need a storage system like Nextcloud. Now we have some storage on Wordpress, but it's not really meant as a storage management software, it lacks proper tools. We can use Nextcloud or something else, but such a tool is definitely needed, and we would need to recover the data we had in Nextcloud.
- A Nextcloud server can be rented for 5 euros a month, 1TB storage, to have it away from our own servers. It may be a good idea to have one service hosted externally, as a backup. To be decided by the next BoD.

15:00 - 15:15 - Coffee break (or buffer time in case of delays)

15:15 - 16:30 - TOPIC 4: The impact of AI on BW

https://www.bewelcome.org/group/94/forum/s32430-_GA2025TOPIC_4the_impact_of_AI_on_BW_and_how_we_can_use_it

The discussion can be very wide and include any kind of impact the development of artificial intelligence could have on BeWelcome: how we could use it ourselves, how our members can use it (in good or bad ways), how we can adapt to it. Presently, the main use already seen is members using AI to write hosting requests or messages (mostly spam) on the forum.

Question: is there a way to detect AI-generated contents? That could be used to warn people if they send or receive a message written by AI.

- Objection: the question is rather to detect spam or fake profiles, whether they're AI-generated or not. AI can also be used to send legitimate messages. Setting up instructions for a proper hosting process (maybe do a video call or conversation, to make sure a request is legit) would work better than detecting AI.
- AI detection is anyway not very efficient at the moment.

Feedback from the Safety Team: there are more and more bad quality requests, obviously written by AI, even sometimes including the prompts. People are just putting the contents of a member's profile into the AI and asking to send a nice message.

It's a problem because AI-generated messages don't reflect the sender's character. Then the Safety Team get complaints about "fake profiles".

This would be very difficult to stop, especially for younger people. It's considered normal to use AI to write anything.

Is this use of AI allowed by our current terms of use?

Copying someone's profile into an AI, asking to write a message catered to that person, means sharing private data with a third party. This is forbidden by our ToU.

Objection: is there any difference with copying a profile into Google Translate?

-> yes, because translation tools don't save what you write. With AI, in most cases, anything you input can be used for their training.

Objection: someone could use their own self-hosted LLM, and there would be no data sharing with a third party. So AI as a whole can't be prohibited on this basis.

-> it's a very rare case, 99% of people use public tools by big tech companies who do use

the data you input.

The problem is actually not AI itself, it's taking data from the site and sharing it outside it. Whether AI or another method is used to do that is irrelevant, so targeting only AI is a wrong approach.

Also, complaints from members about AI-written messages are not because of their data being shared. What they complain about is receiving "automatic" messages, so they can't know if the sender has actually read their profile. This is the real problem, not the data sharing. If we try to forbid the use of AI on the grounds of data sharing, it would just be an excuse to target AI, but the real reason why it bothers us is spam/bad quality requests. But when we receive complaints about this kind of requests, there is nothing in the terms of use for us to tell people they shouldn't do it.

So if the Terms of Use are to be updated, it shouldn't specifically target AI. AI is not the root problem, it's only a tool used by people causing problems (data sharing, spamming, copy-pasted requests...). Each problem could be addressed without setting specific rules against AI.

It's very difficult to decide if a message written by AI is acceptable or not. A message can be completely written by AI, or only enhanced, or only translated. Some people wouldn't care at all, some would complain about it. It's not so different from copy-pasted requests that can be sent without AI. Some members will accept a one-line request, others will reject even a customized request if there isn't a specific keyword from their profile. Trying to set rules in the terms of use about what a "good" request is looks unrealistic.

AI can also be used to generate fake profile pictures. But again, AI itself is not the problem. Such pictures could be made before with Photoshop or Snapchat filters. The problem is that AI makes it so much easier to spam. But the problem of fake profiles can't be addressed just by taking measures against AI.

People also use AI to answer on the forum.

Sometimes you ask a question on the forum, and someone just puts your question into an AI and posts the answer. When you post a question about a place you expect answers from people who have actually been there and can share personal experience, but some members don't realize it.

It's the same issue as with messages, to assess if a forum post is spam or not. The problem is not just because of AI. We can't forbid using AI on the forum.

Can AI be used to help us in programming?

Chagai95 offers to use AI web tokens he has for free to code for some small site improvements (especially UI since the result can be tested easily).

AI-generated code tends to contain mistakes and must be checked by a skilled developer. It can't be used as it is. AI is just a way to improve efficiency, help the developers for some tasks. Depending on cases, sometimes it will take more time to correct AI-generated code than to write it from scratch.

Could AI be used to translate our legacy code into modern code?

-> Again, you'll always need someone who understands how the code works to correct what the AI does. It's not a magic tool which can automatically do the job. It would just be used to save time and generate small bits of code instead of writing everything by hand.

Could AI tools improve in the future to be able to do it?

-> with AI based on LLMs, there is little chance they can evolve to do this kind of tasks (generating code for a global project with a god quality).

Coming back to the problem of spam (or more generally, "unwanted messages"): there has

been an increase of reports, and it's additional work for the Safety Team.

-> should the Safety Team be in charge of this? They could take charge of more serious cases, and let the Support Team handle complaints about copy-pasted or AI-generated messages.

But we shouldn't make the reporting process more complicated, by asking people why they report something or how serious it is. Already the rate of reporting is low, and people are confused between reporting a profile or a message.

The role of the Safety Team is not just for the most serious cases, it starts whenever there is a report from one member complaining about another.

The Safety Team wouldn't do anything if a member sends a few "bad quality" requests, but if there are 100 requests and some get reported they would try to "educate" the member about sending better requests.

Objection: as long as people are contacted in the purpose of hosting, they shouldn't complain about bad quality requests. They can just ignore them. BW shouldn't be telling people how to write their requests: we can give advice, but shouldn't enforce what we think is the right way to write a request. Other people may have a different view.

Suggestion: adding a profile checkbox to say "no copy-pasted messages" or "personalized messages only". That would give leverage to the Safety Team to reply to people who get reported. However, members can already write about it on their profiles without the checkbox.

And it's difficult to define what is a copy-pasted message or a personalized message.

Does "copy-pasted" mean absolutely identical? Is it personalized if the message is identical but with the username? Some parts will always be identical (giving your name, your travel dates, etc) but when hosts want a customized message it usually means they want some part referring to their own profile and why the guest contacted them specifically.

16:30 - 17:00 - Who wants to be a candidate for the BoD? Explain the BoD job more in detail.

Currently thorgal67, Marstr and Saleme have entered their candidacy.

gbenouville decided not to apply again for personal reasons (busy year coming).

Other attendees are encouraged to apply, because a BoD with more than 3 people would be better.

Alex_W offers to join, but says he will need support because of being relatively new to BeVolunteer.

gbenouville will help with onboarding and with French administrative proceedings.

====SUNDAY 9th November 2025====

09:30 - 11:30 - TOPIC 5: Terms of Use updates

https://www.bewelcome.org/group/94/forum/s32207-_GA2025TOPIC_5Terms_of_Use_updates

3 updates to the Terms of Use have been suggested by the Safety Team considering their feedback.

Update#1: multiple accounts

Update requested by the ST for clarification, to avoid long discussions with banned members who claim they can open a new account because they don't have one anymore. The current text about having only 1 account in point 1 of the ToU would be replaced by the following:

You are only allowed to have one account (profile) on BeWelcome. If you create more than one account, or create a new account without authorization by BeWelcome after the deactivation of your original account, all accounts created may be removed along with their content.

Question: if people have an account, then delete it (or if it gets deleted for inactivity), does it mean they can't create a new one later?

- if people have deleted their account and their data, we will not be aware that there was an account before, so nothing prevents them from creating a new one.

The idea is that people can't have 2 accounts active at the same time, and that if one account was closed by BeWelcome because of serious issues it is not allowed to create a new one.

If someone tries to delete their account because they have received a bad comment, and want to open a new one, it should not be allowed. If the Safety Team becomes aware of it they will ban the second account.

This rule will be enforced on a case-by-case basis, with some flexibility. If there is a good reason why they need to open a new account after closing one, it will be allowed. But most people try that when the first account was banned or got a negative comment. This update of the ToU is not a change of policy, we actually already apply it. It's only a clarification.

Update#2: external contact information

The proposal is to add a point 4.15 in the ToU, to ask members to have at least an exchange of messages through BeWelcome before sharing external contact details.

The text proposed on the forum was reworked by polyglot just before the GA, so the new proposal submitted to the GA would be to have a short text in point 4.15, linking to a longer explanation on the Safety page.

The proposal for point 4.15 is as follows:

4.15 attempt to take communication outside of BeWelcome before a first exchange on the site. For privacy and safety reasons, the first exchange must be conducted on BeWelcome, and it should continue on BeWelcome as long as possible. Initial messages and requests may not contain or direct to external contact information such as phone numbers, email addresses or messenger usernames. More about what is prohibited here [link to Safety page].

The text on the Safety page would be as follows (this doesn't need to be voted at the GA):
External Contact Information

For privacy and safety reasons, the first exchange with a member must be conducted on BeWelcome, and it should continue on BeWelcome as long as possible. Initial messages and requests may not contain or direct to external contact information such as phone numbers, email addresses or messenger usernames. We understand that a voice or video call or instant messaging can be useful ways to communicate and get to know each other. We encourage members to do so, and to exchange alternative contact details once a hosting agreement has been made, but only after at least one first exchange (1 message

or request + 1 reply) on BeWelcome. This allows us to inform you in case we become aware of an issue with a member with whom you have communicated and perhaps made hosting arrangements. It also protects against phishing and other scams. Initial messages and requests may therefore not contain phone numbers, email addresses or messenger usernames. Links to social media accounts are tolerated if they are openly accessible without following the account and their content doesn't violate the terms of use of BeWelcome. They may not be used to conduct a first exchange instead of on BeWelcome. We therefore also discourage such links or information on member profiles. All information needed in order to decide on hosting or staying with another member should be available directly on the BeWelcome profile, or in the hosting request.

The Safety Team explain their reasons for asking this:

- when a problem with a member is detected, they must warn other members who have been contacted by this person. They can only see messages exchanged on BW.
- when contact is through messaging apps, in case of a problem it's easy for one person to block the other one and delete the discussion, erasing proof.
- social media handles linking to a private account (that you can't see without being a follower) are often sent as a way to gain followers.
- spammers usually ask to take communication out of BW.
- currently, people who share contact details in the first message and are detected by the antispam filter have their message delayed and manually released by spam checkers. They have to be told not to share contact details directly, but without a basis from the ToU, lengthy explanations have to be given and some people are arguing. It takes a lot of time for the spam checkers.

Objection: the BW messaging system is very limited and impractical in some cases, especially since there are no push notifications. Many people ask to communicate through instant messaging apps for legitimate reasons, just because they find it more practical. We can make them aware of the increased safety risk, but should not forbid it.

-> the new rule would only be for the first 2 messages, then people can communicate out of BW if they wish. It's not a big effort compared to the safety benefit.

-> then it won't change anything about the conversation being erased and proof being lost.

Objection: the real issue is people giving contact details directly on their profile, because then we really can't know who they have been in contact with. If they send a BW message giving their contact details, we can already know who they contacted.

-> the new profile pages won't contain fields with contact details, which should reduce the number of people displaying them.

-> it's currently not considered to forbid members to write contact details on their profile, though we recommend not to.

-> if a spammer sends requests to 100 people with contact details, the Safety Team need to know who answered in order to warn only these people. It would take a lot more time to contact 100 people than to contact only the few who actually answered, and receiving a spam warning would be additional annoyance for those who already didn't reply.

Objection: the antispam filter was set up 1 year ago in the purpose of stopping 1 particular spammer. Before that we were not aware of all the members who sent contact details or social media handles, and we didn't have a problem with it. This filter was never meant to forbid everyone to do so. As a consequence, spam checkers could just release the legitimate messages without trying to educate people. The time they are taking for this could be saved.

-> if people are not told to stop doing it, they will continue and spam checkers will get more

messages to release.

-> the filter has proved very efficient for detecting spam, it shouldn't be discontinued even if we got rid of the spammer who made us implement it.

The Safety Team would only enforce this rule in case of problems, they don't plan to take on additional work by chasing members who share contact details when there is no issue and no report. But if there is a problem, the new ToU will be an additional lever to stop people from doing it, without an endless discussion. And it's a safeguard for BW from a legal point of view: so if a safety problem arises after external communication, and people complain, we can tell them they didn't respect the ToU.

Objection: currently, the spam filter doesn't detect all the cases of sharing contact details. If it is meant to be used to enforce the new ToU, it should be modified to detect every infringement. That will be a very high workload for spam checkers, so the ToU update won't achieve its target of decreasing the workload.

Also, spam checkers currently don't have to tell people to stop sharing contact details in their first message. They may decide not to do it if they don't have time. Releasing messages is much faster than engaging in a discussion with a member. But if we write this in the ToU, it would become mandatory to warn people against it. People don't read the ToU so they won't change their behaviour without being told. And that won't happen only in case of problems, since legitimate messages are also detected.

Question: why do some people find it so difficult to send the first 2 messages through BW, is that such a big effort to ask?

-> it's not a question of effort, but it's just annoying because people want to use the channel they prefer. Some people use Whatsapp for everything, they don't read their emails or open BW regularly, and they don't want to be forced to go to another channel for one particular site. It's even worse because we have no push notifications. They may very well be aware of the additional risk and willing to take it.

This discussion shows a difference between 2 approaches of life, either being more on the safety side and trying to protect people, or letting them do as they wish and take risks. It's not a question of one side being right or wrong, it's more a philosophical point of view, so there won't be an agreement. In the end it just has to be decided by the vote which side has a majority.

If the changes are voted, then the privacy policy also has to be updated because it currently says we can read private messages "if they are reported". The way the spam filter works, it's not true: we also see unreported messages. The privacy policy has to say we can read messages suspected of being spam, or of not respecting the ToU, or some similar wording.

Update#3: nudism

Update proposed by the Safety Team to find a middle ground between accepting nudists on BW, because we aren't opposed to nudism per se, but limiting associated abuse.

Proposal to add the following text to point 4 of the Terms of Use:

BeWelcome does not encourage nudism during hosting, but tolerates its respectful practice among members under the following conditions:

To avoid unpleasant surprises, hosts who practice nudism in their home while hosting must state this clearly under the House Rules in the Accommodation section of their profile and ensure that their guests agree when making a hosting agreement. Hosts cannot require their guests to be nude. Guests may only practice nudism with the agreement of their host.

Would something more than just writing it on the profile be required? Like a checkbox for nudist hosts, and if it's selected the people contacting them would see a warning with a reminder about the ToU. Something like "be aware that this host is a nudist, but according to our ToU he can't force you to be nude." This could also apply to bed sharing.

"Ensure the guests agree" is a bit vague, maybe find some stronger wording like having consent from the guest?

-> changed to "obtain the explicit consent"

Writing that we "tolerate nudism" next to "does not encourage it" is kind of contradictory, and not a clear statement. "Unpleasant surprises" is also an understatement. Nudism causes a lot of trauma and bad situations, because it's taken as pretence to reach sexuality, and this wording doesn't make it clear enough that we are fighting against serious abuse. Without hurting the sentiments of the nudist community, it should be clear that the focus of what we want to do is preventing harassment.

-> changed to "to avoid conflicts or abuse"

It should be avoided to directly link nudism to abuse. What we want to do is preventing the abuse, but the wording should be neutral about nudism itself.

"tolerate" sounds offensive, it should be changed. It's not neutral, it means you're against it but you reluctantly accept it.

-> changed to "allows"

Final wording:

BeWelcome does not encourage nudism during hosting, but allows it to be practiced respectfully among members under the following conditions:

To avoid conflicts or abuse, hosts who practice nudism in their home while hosting must state this clearly under the House Rules in the Accommodation section of their profile.

They must obtain the explicit consent of their guests when making a hosting agreement.

Hosts cannot require their guests to be nude. Guests may only practice nudism with the agreement of their host.

11:30 - 11:45 - Coffee break (or buffer time in case of delays)

11:45 - 12:15 - Introduction of & Questions to BoD candidates / Ombudsperson

Pietsah agreed to remain Ombudsperson

thorgal67 would like to remain Treasurer, as it would be tedious to change the contact person with the bank.

marstr is willing to remain President.

Alex_W agrees to take any position where he's needed.

Question to BoD candidates: what do you think about cooperation with other hospitality networks?

-> marstr: I'm open to collaboration if it's done in the benefit of both parties. It shouldn't be a one-sided project, where we give access to our network and get nothing in return. It would need common management and shared targets.

-> thorgal67: I'm not against starting conversations with them, but it was tried in the past and never very successful. So I have doubts about it, but I won't oppose it if there looks to

be a good opportunity.

-> Alex_W: I'm still a member of other networks, so why not work together? We're not competing, we're all making the same efforts to give visitors a place to stay.

12:15 - 13:30 - Lunch break

13:30- 15:30 - TOPIC 6: Open discussion

A summary of the sysadmin team's status was made for members who weren't there on Saturday.

Information to BV members: after our latest newsletter asking for donations, we were contacted by someone from GEOMATIC AI. It's a company offering SEO services for AI searches. They offered us 1 year of free services. This offer looked serious, unlike many spam messages we receive with proposals to improve our SEO. Shevek is in contact with them to see what is technically required to implement their solution on BeWelcome.

Discussion about an additional Terms of Use update: should we add a point about misuse of our messaging system?

This would target people who send hundreds of requests, since there is currently no limit (or a very high one) on the number of requests.

The difficulty is to define what is spam and misuse. Commercial messages, or sending requests to members with their status on "not hosting", is definitely spam. This is already covered by the current ToU. But some cases are not so clearly spam, for example:

- sending hundreds of identical hosting requests, possibly even using automated tools to send them.

- sending requests for a 2-month stay to people with a limit of 2 days on their profile.

- sending a request for more people than offered on the profile.

Those cases are an abusive use of our site, but not really covered by the ToU.

It would probably be more efficient to implement additional checks in the code than to update the ToU.

A lower limit on requests could be applied, but it's difficult to find a balance between limiting mass sending and not inconveniencing real users who may be sending emergency requests. A limit on the rate of sending could also be applied.

Some additional automatic checks could be implemented, like checking the maximum number of days offered by the host with the length requested. But with the "flexible" option, some guests put the dates of their whole stay and in their message they ask for hosting only for a few days within the dates. There could be a "flexible" option for hosts too, so they can accept requests for a longer time than what is stated on their profile. The "maximum length of stay" on profiles would also have to be changed to a digit (currently it's a text field).

Discussion about BW merchandise: we need to update our merchandise with the new logo. We'd need new T-shirt designs, magnets, stickers...

We could make the logo available to anyone, so that people create their own merchandise, since anyway we earn no money with it. If we do that, it should come with the "logo guide" (currently being finalized by GlobalCitizen) to explain the proper use of it. It should be used

in the right proportions, the right alignment, and preferably not separating the symbol from the text. But if we make it publicly available, people will probably do whatever they want anyway.

What if the symbol from the logo is used to be integrated in a design? It may not work well with the text.

-> the logo is not supposed to be used that way, it's not decorative, it's just meant to identify our "brand".

Suggestion: calling for volunteers who would make new merchandise with the logo in the next newsletter.

In a general way, calling for volunteers for a specific task is likely to be more efficient than the general calls we usually do.

BeVolunteer logo: the easiest option would be to use the same symbol as for BW, and the same font, but in blue colour. It will also be clearer for people if we use the same symbol, because people are already confused about what is BeVolunteer.

Another proposal was to change the symbol to have more than 2 people around the Earth, to convey the idea of several volunteers working together.

Considering how little the BV logo is used, the simpler solution is probably the better.

BW presentation video:

We wanted to make presentation videos about how to use BW. The principle would be video screen capture, with comments.

The one about signup can't be done now, because a new process is being developed so the video would soon be out of date.

Other videos can be done: how to find hosts, how to write a good request...

We could ask for volunteers with video-editing skills to help us do it. But the one doing it must also know what we want to say in the video, so 2 people should ideally work together on it (one with design/video skills, and one with knowledge of BeWelcome).

Corazondeviaje volunteers to work on the presentation video, possibly with help from BillNZ for video editing. Some suggestions of free software to use were made, to be investigated.

The video should be about host search, since profiles and sign-up will soon evolve. If a real profile is shown in the video, the person's permission must be asked. The best would be someone from North America, to show we're not limited to Europe (and North America is a place where we also have enough members).

Reminder to BV members: a discussion in ongoing in the group about deletion of old inactive profiles.

Currently profiles are never deleted, only suspended. Since data has to be migrated for the new profile pages, the question arose if we should take this opportunity to delete some profile (and maybe set rules for automatic deletion in the future). Criteria for deletion must be decided.

Question: is there any obligation from GDPR to delete data after a given time?

-> likely not, as long as people don't ask for it. They created the account themselves, they are responsible for deleting it (or asking us to) if they don't want it anymore.

The Terms of Use allow us to delete profiles after 2 years of inactivity, but it's currently not enforced.

Discussion about nudist groups:

We currently have 5 or 6 groups related to nudism: Nudists, Naturists, Clothing optional, Naturism at home, Oh Naturist, Naked Sleepers. Forum moderators had it in mind for a long time to merge groups when there are duplicates (not only about nudism), but they lack manpower to do it. Now they are only in the process of identifying which groups should be merged.

Question: should the duplicate nudist groups, which are already identified, be merged at the same time as the ToU update? Or should we wait until we start the merge of all other duplicate groups (which will still take a lot of time)?

-> merging the groups together with the ToU update means we will deal with nudism issues for good. Having so many groups makes nudism very visible on BW and gives a bad impression to new members.

-> but nudist members may feel we're targeting them if we do both together.

We will keep one group, so nudists shouldn't think we push them out. There will probably be some protests, because all the groups were not exactly the same (for example, some required to have profile pictures while others didn't). But discontent should be limited.

The general merge has to start with some groups anyway, so the sooner the better.

Should the Naked Sleepers group be included? All members of this group aren't nudists.

-> definitely, there is no reason such a group should exist. We take this opportunity to delete it.

Objection: some members have good reasons to join it. For example, if they have to wake up in the night, informing guests that they may walk around naked.

Considering all the recent discussions in the group, that is not the main purpose.

Discussions are only hosting offers and requests. Is there a good reason why someone would specifically look for a host or guest who sleeps naked?

The merging process is done manually, it consists in moving discussions to the destination group and posting in other groups to inform members. There is no way to automatically move the members to the destination group. It would have to be done manually by shevek.

This concluded the discussions of the General Assembly.

Vote 1:

Title: [GA2025-01] Annual Report 2024-2025

Content:

Please find the GA Annual Report 2024-2025 [HERE](#)

Question: Do you approve the Annual Report 2024-2025?

Option 1: YES [14 votes]

Option 2: NO [0 votes]

Option 3: I ABSTAIN [0 votes]

Vote 2:

Title: [GA2025-02] Financial Report 2024-2025

Content:

Please find the Financial Report 2024-2025 [HERE](#)

Question: Do you approve the Financial Report 2024-2025?

Option 1: YES [14 votes]

Option 2: NO [0 votes]

Option 3: I ABSTAIN [0 votes]

Vote 3:

[GA2025 -03] Budget 2024-2025

Content:

Please find the proposed BV Budget for 2025-2026 [HERE](#)

Question: Do you approve the BV budget for 2025-2026?

Option 1: YES [14 votes]

Option 2: NO [0 votes]

Option 3: I ABSTAIN [0 votes]

Vote 4:

[GA2025-04] Candidature of pietshah for ombudsperson

Content:

Question: Do you elect [pietshah](#) as ombudsperson?

Option 1: YES [14 votes]

Option 2: NO [0 votes]

Option 3: I ABSTAIN [0 vote]

Vote 5:

[GA2025-05] Candidature of marstr for the BoD

Content:

You can find his candidature here below:

Marstr - This is my candidature as Part of the BOD for 2025-2026. I have been the Las 2 Years in the bod. I will be available for monthly meetings and have this year more knowlege of the tasks which are needed and time to do them. I am a Program Developer and Project planner and hope to support new needed Projects. My personal goals are more activities and Communication in BV and BeWelcome and public/social presence.

Question: Do you elect [marstr](#) to the BoD?

Option 1: YES [14 votes]

Option 2: NO [0 votes]

Option 3: I ABSTAIN [0 vote]

Vote 6:

[GA2025-06] Candidature of thorgal67 for the BoD

Content:

You can find his candidature here below:

thorgal67 - I present my candidature for the position of treasurer. I have been the treasurer of BV in the past, including last term, and have some basic knowledge on bookkeeping and managing accounts. I will be available for monthly meetings and for routine tasks, and will do my best to help out with other administrative task.

Question: Do you elect [thorgal67](#) to the BoD?

Option 1: YES [14 votes]

Option 2: NO [0 votes]

Option 3: I ABSTAIN [0 votes]

Vote 7:

[GA2025-07] Candidature of Saleme for the BoD

Content:

Please find his candidature here below:

I served on the BoD in the 2023-2024 and I am glad to serve again and support BW at this time and the initiatives and priorities the board has pursued.

Question: Do you elect [Saleme](#) to the BoD?

Option 1: YES [14 votes]

Option 2: NO [0 votes]

Option 3: I ABSTAIN [0 votes]

Vote 8:

[GA2025-08] Candidature of Alex_W for the BoD

Content:

Please find his candidature here below:

So now I again try to put some Info 3rd time... Some of you might know me. I started my hospitality with Couchsurfing but early got into the dilemma of profit organisation. Which I will not support.

I am sure I can benefit our system with my knowledge and Expertise- and will be glad to do so no matter what Industries might do to interfere. I can attend weekly meetings if not too spacious.

Question: Do you elect [Alex_W](#) to the BoD?

Option 1: YES [14 votes]

Option 2: NO [0 votes]

Option 3: I ABSTAIN [0 votes]

Vote 9:

[GA2025-9] Terms of Use update 1: Multiple Accounts

Content:

The proposed update can be found [HERE](#)

Question: Do you agree to update the Terms of Use regarding Multiple Accounts?

Option 1: YES [12 votes]

Option 2: NO [1 vote]

Option 3: I ABSTAIN [1 vote]

Vote 10:

[GA2025-10] Terms of Use update 2: External Contact Information

Content:

The proposed update can be found [HERE](#)

Question: Do you agree to update the Terms of Use regarding the use of External Contact Information - Article 4 (Conduct) paragraph 15

Option 1: YES [11 votes]

Option 2: NO [3 votes]

Option 3: I ABSTAIN [0 votes]

Vote 11:

[GA2025-11] Terms of Use update 3: Nudism

Content:

The proposed update can be found [HERE](#)

Question: Do you agree to update the Terms of Use to include a section about Nudism?

Option 1: YES [13 votes]

Option 2: NO [1 vote]

Option 3: I ABSTAIN [0 votes]