

# Empowering Non-Profits: Self-Hosting with Free Software



*sflc.in*

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# Introduction

- Enhancing non-profit operations and data security with self-hosting.
- Importance of aligning digital infrastructure with ethical principles.
- Introduction to free software as a cost-effective, secure alternative.

# Intro to Sflc.in and our projects

**SFLC.IN** is a donor supported legal services non-profit organization that brings together lawyers, policy analysts, students, and technologists to protect freedom in the digital world. SFLC.IN promotes innovation and open access to knowledge by helping developers make great Free and Open Source Software.

# Our Projects

Internet shutdowns tracker

Digital Security Training

Free Speech Tracker

Digital Defenders Network

Litigation Tracker

OGBV (Online Gender Based Violence)

# The Need for Self-Hosting in Non-Profits

# Challenges Faced by Non-Profits:

- Limited budgets for infrastructure.
- Reliance on third-party services.
- Concerns over data privacy and security.
- Dependence on Proprietary Software.
- Financial Constraints.

# Why Self-Hosting?

- Greater control over data.
- Improved security.
- Ethical Alignment.
- Resilient Infrastructures.

# Benefits of Self-Hosting

- **Data Ownership and Privacy**

Retain full ownership and control of sensitive information.  
Protect against data breaches and third-party access.

- **Cost Savings**

Reduce or eliminate subscription fees for commercial services.  
Reallocate resources to mission-critical activities.

- **Customization and Flexibility**

Tailor digital tools to specific organizational needs.  
Innovate by adding or removing features as required.



**Running cost and basic plan of  
Workspace, Slack and Jira for a year  
for 15 employees**

<b>Service</b>	<b>One month</b>	<b>One year</b>	<b>For 15 employees</b>
<b>Google Workspace</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>2760</b>	<b>41430</b>
<b>Slack</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>6540</b>	<b>98100</b>
<b>Jira</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>7200</b>	<b>108000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1375</b>	<b>16500</b>	<b>247500</b>

# Key Free Software Solutions for Non-Profits

- Nextcloud
- Matrix
- Zulip
- Mail server
- Taiga
- Additional tools - Jitsi, Etherpad, Only Office in Nextcloud

# Nextcloud

- A self-hosted platform for file sharing, calendar management, and collaboration.
- Alternatives to Google Drive, Dropbox, and Office 365.
- Case Study: A small non-profit replaces Google Workspace, saving on costs and enhancing data security.

# Regain control over your data

Remote collaboration made easy

- ✓ On-premises or cloud
- ✓ Customizable and scalable
- ✓ No data leaks to third parties

Try Nextcloud now >

 Download



# Matrix

- An open-source protocol for secure, decentralized communication.
- Alternatives to Slack and Microsoft Teams.
- Case Study: An advocacy group uses Matrix for secure internal communication.

**[matrix]**

**An open network for secure,  
decentralised communication**

# Zulip

- Zulip is an open-source team chat platform that organizes conversations into threaded topics, making collaboration more structured and efficient.
- Available on web, desktop, and mobile.
- With Zulip, you can keep discussions focused by creating specific topics within channels, preventing clutter and keeping conversations clear.



# Organized team chat

For distributed teams of all sizes.

The screenshot displays the Zulip web interface for a chat channel named '# general'. The interface is dark-themed. On the left, a sidebar shows navigation options: 'VIEWS', 'DIRECT MESSAGES', and 'CHANNELS'. Under 'CHANNELS', there are 11 channels listed, including 'announcements', 'general' (3 members), 'moving to Zulip' (selected), 'onboarding buddies' (2 members), 'planning timeline' (1 member), 'happy hour', 'mentorship program', and 'ALL TOPICS'. Below these are several topic channels: '# engineering', '# innovation team', '# innovation team leads' (3 members), '# project lightning' (4 members), and '# R&D org' (1 member). The main chat area shows a message history for the '# general' channel. A header bar at the top of the chat area says '# general' and includes a search bar and user avatars. The messages are as follows:

- Maxy Stert** (11:07 AM): Welcome to everybody who just joined!
- Maxy Stert** (11:08 AM): I recommend [this quick guide](#) on how Zulip is organized with topics.
- Bo Williams** (11:21 AM): We've transferred our Slack integrations and imported the message history. (5 thumbs up)
- Bo Williams** (11:28 AM): I also set up a "linkifier" to auto-link to issues, like this: [JIRA-2743](#).
- Ariella Drake** (11:40 AM): Thank you [@Maxy Stert](#) for running the evaluation process! (Reaction: Bo Williams, Kevin Lin)
- Kevin Lin** (11:46 AM): `print("Maxy rocks!😄")`
- Maxy Stert** (11:47 AM): I've marked [#general > ✓ Zulip evaluation](#) as resolved. 😊

See it in use  
in an open organization

Create organization  
in 1 minute for free

Get a demo  
request a call

# Taiga

- Taiga is an open-source platform to manage tasks.
- A good alternative to Jira.
- You can create task, sprints, epics, issues assign to your team members.



TAIGA

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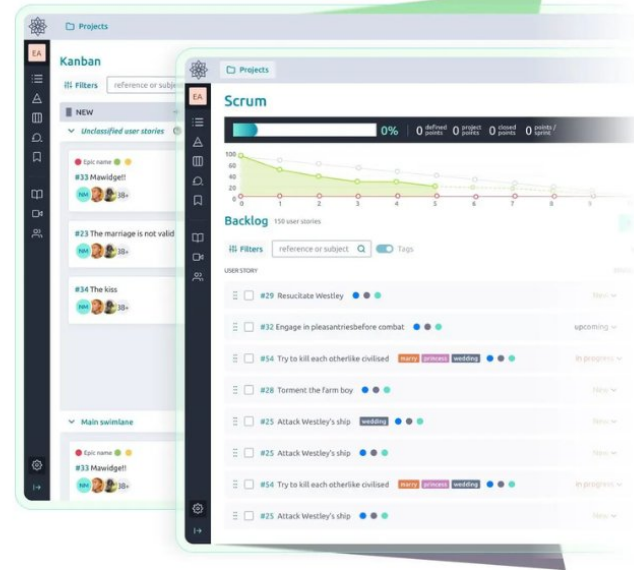
# Taiga: *The* free and open-source project management tool

For cross-functional agile teams to work effectively

A featured-rich software that offers a very simple start through its intuitive user interface.

[Get Taiga](#)[Self hosted](#)

*Millions enjoy agile with Taiga already. Join them!*



# Challenges of Self-Hosting

- **Technical Expertise:**

Need for IT skills to set up and maintain self-hosted solutions.

Solutions: Engage volunteers, seek pro bono IT support, or invest in staff training.

- **Scalability:**

Planning for future growth and resource needs.

Solutions: Start small and choose scalable tools that grow with your organization.

- **Ongoing Maintenance:**

Ensuring regular updates and security patches.

Solutions: Engage with open-source communities for support and knowledge sharing.

# Conclusion and Call to Action

- **Empowerment Through Self-Hosting:**

Greater autonomy and control over digital operations.

Enhanced security, privacy, and alignment with organizational values.

- **Start Small, Think Big:**

Begin with a single tool like Nextcloud or Matrix.

Gradually build a comprehensive, self-hosted infrastructure.

- **Engage and Collaborate:**

Join open-source communities.

Collaborate with other non-profits for shared success and innovation.

# Thank you!

*sflc.in*



DIGITAL  
SECURITY  
TRAINING



INTERNET SHUTDOWNS  
TRACKER



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