

Dear reader,

'Cobbler, stick to your last,' as the saying goes. But what if life has other plans? In a profile in the Schwäbisches Tagblatt newspaper, CEO Peter Gietz offers personal insights into his unusual career path – from Indologist to IT entrepreneur.

You can also learn more about AI expertise from Tübingen, how freedom through open source can look in practice, and what important impetus the NFDI is providing for the future. These and other topics await you in this issue.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

Jennifer Vosseler
Head of Marketing at DAASI International

News



From student assistant with no programming skills to champion of digital sovereignty

In the Schwäbisches Tagblatt's portrait of [Peter Gietz](#), Holger Weyhmüller describes how our CEO discovered his passion for programming through a chance job, founded an IT company as a trained Indologist, and now competes against profit maximisation and IT monopolies with unconventional principles.

You can read more about Gietz and how he combines technology, values and entrepreneurial action in the Tagblatt article (PayWall).

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Becoming confidently confident – with forking

Last year, a group of German universities took matters into their own hands and forked the established MFA solution privacyIDEA. In the process, urgently needed features were added and the project gained independence from the manufacturer's roadmap.

At [FrOSCon](#) last August, Peter Gietz presented the advantages and disadvantages of such a fork and described the resulting new software, [eduMFA](#).

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After leaving our Twitter/X account inactive for many months due to negative developments surrounding the platform, we finally had it removed from the platform entirely on 1st August.

You can still find our news about open source, digital sovereignty and, of course, us – DAASI International – on [Mastodon](#) and [LinkedIn](#). We cordially invite you to follow us there.

For automatic news updates delivered directly to your inbox, we would be delighted if you subscribed to our [newsletter](#).

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Industry



The future of NFDI: Setting the course for after 2028

The Science Council has published its report (German only) on the structural evaluation of the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI). It provides important recommendations for its future design, particularly in the areas of data and AI infrastructures and governance.

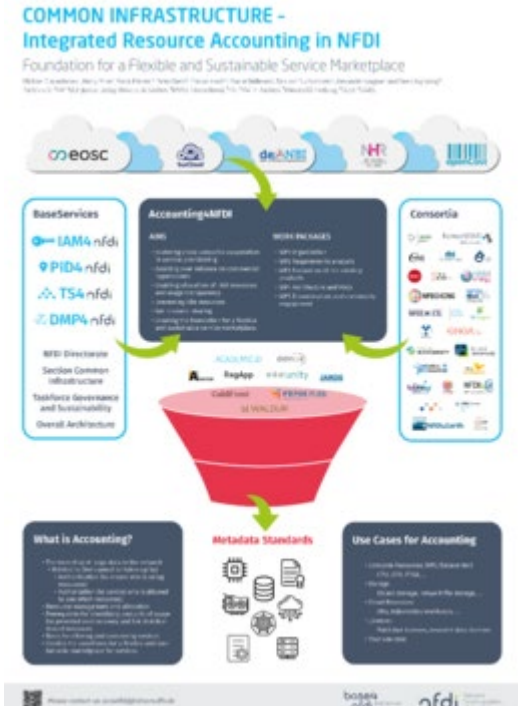
NFDI Director York Sure-Vetter welcomes the proposed changes as an opportunity to optimise these structures and strengthen the role of the NFDI in an international context.

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Who or what is FIM4R?

At the autumn meeting of the Identity and Access Management Working Group (17–18 September) in Konstanz, Peter Gietz presented the international initiative 'FIM4R' (Federated Identity Management for Research). Since 2011, FIM4R has been formulating requirements for research infrastructures, such as their architecture or federated identity management, thereby promoting the integration of further identity federations into eduGAIN and significantly inspiring the EU project [AARC](#). Gietz himself has been part of FIM4R since 2012 and helps organise the workshops.

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NFD initiative for federated accounting presented at CoRDI

In August, the second Conference on Research Data Infrastructure (CoRDI) took place at RWTH Aachen University.

In a lively mix of keynotes, presentations and poster sessions, Peter Gietz and his colleagues from the NFDI project IAM4NFDI also used the event to introduce the audience to the concept of an NFDI-wide federated accounting solution. The aim is to strengthen cooperation between the NFDI consortia, reduce dependencies on commercial providers and ensure fair and transparent use of resources.

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AI according to European standards: open, transparent, powerful

Researchers at the University of Tübingen have developed an open language model that aims to strengthen the foundation for powerful and transparent artificial intelligence in Europe through improved logical thinking. It is intended to promote European AI expertise by being based on open data and transparent processes.

The project is part of efforts to advance sovereign and ethically responsible AI development in Europe. (German only)

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Open source on the rise in Denmark

The Danish Ministry of Digital Affairs plans to replace all Microsoft products with open source alternatives such as Linux and LibreOffice by autumn 2025.

This step is part of a comprehensive digital strategy aimed at digital sovereignty and reducing dependence on US technology companies.

We think that's great!

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Did you know?

The first web browser in history was developed by [Tim Berners-Lee](#) at [CERN](#) in 1990. It was initially called WorldWideWeb and was later renamed Nexus. Nexus was not only a technical milestone, but also the cornerstone of the modern [World Wide Web](#). For the first time, it allowed users to navigate through a network of digital documents via hyperlinks – a revolutionary idea at the time.

What makes this browser so special is the access to the source code. Berners-Lee made it freely available i.e. open source at a time when proprietary software models were the norm. His vision: the web as an open system that could be used, understood and further developed by everyone. In this way, he wanted to ensure that the web could develop independently of economic or geopolitical interests.

This decision was groundbreaking. It not only enabled the rapid spread of the web, but also inspired an entire generation of developers. Without this philosophy, many of today's technologies would probably not have emerged in the form we know them: Linux, Firefox, Android, Apache – they are all based on the idea that collaborative software development in open structures promotes innovation.

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