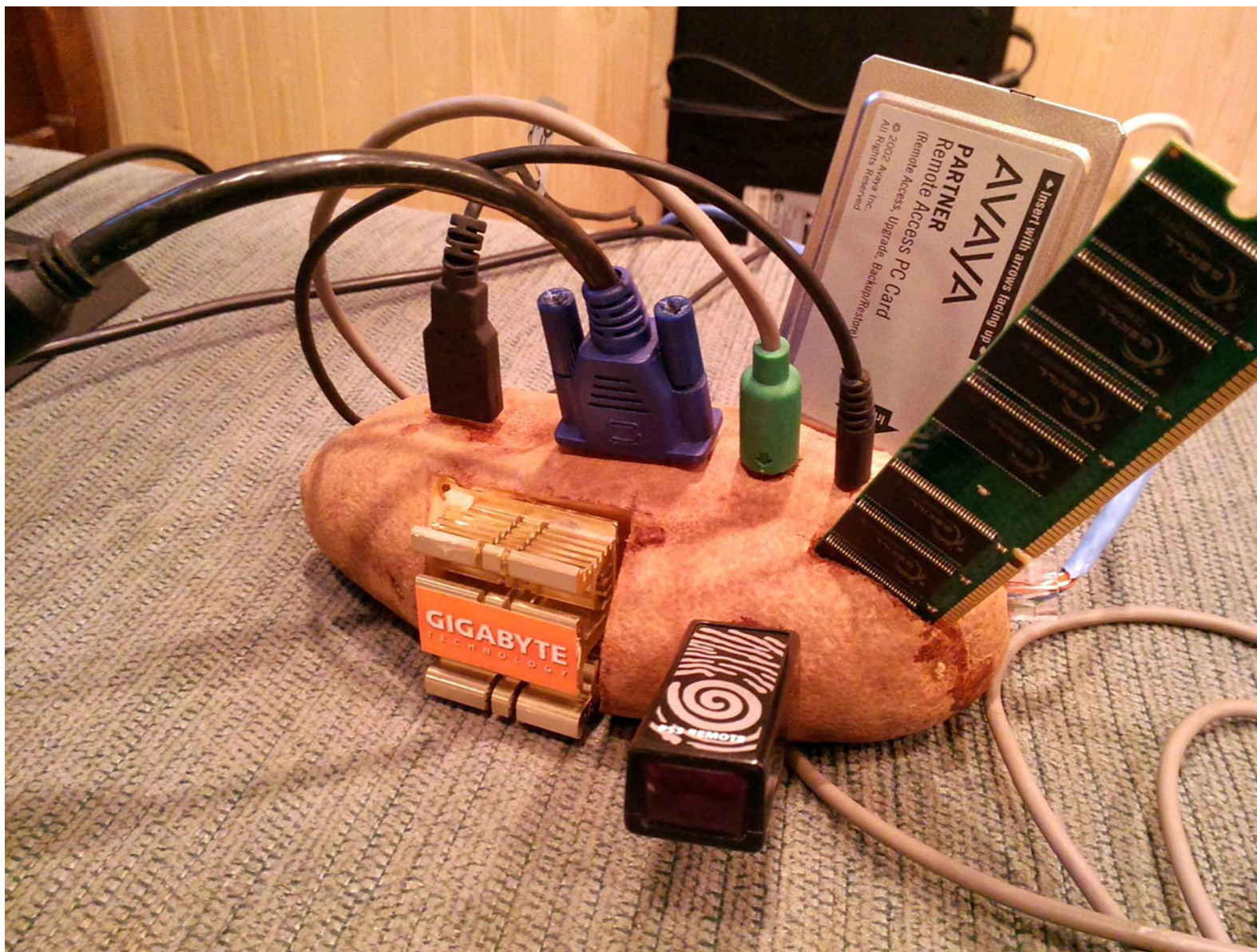


Where's your website?

How to have a proper *small web* website within minutes; free, lightweight, easy.



—Image: computer with a bread motherboard. Source uncertain,^[1] but undoubtedly a funny person.

“Oh I use Instagram.”

There's so many people I've come across whose thoughts and creations I would consume with pleasure. Yet most of them don't have their own blog/website and instead resort to the infinite scrolling slot machines whose plentiful issues and scandals require a distinct essay; . Aside from all that, these sites are ugly, slow, soulless, and force readers to sign up. No thanks.

Unrealistically but ideally one buys a domain name, codes their own site, and uses [Codeberg](#) and/or [statichost](#) to host it so that one ensures full control and safety of their content, e.g., easy migration if need be—[this is what I do](#). However, considering how lazy/complacent/inept corporate social media has made the populace, or how scarce spare time is while working full-time, or the frequency of poorly written documentation, then not making one's own website is understandable. Below, three solutions. None of them *Wix*, *Medium*, nor *Substack*.

Read on if one wishes to trade in their excuses for a *small web* website that would run on a potato.^[2] A cozy cobweb that reflects your personality.

Free hosting options

With the *small web* in mind I found these three options, sorted according to a fickle preference:

1. [Mataroa.blog](#)
2. [Pagecord.com](#)
3. [Bearblog.dev](#)

Big Spider 🕷️ ❤️ 🕸️ Small Web



Wasp Spider © Angelino Desmet

Alternatives

- [Pagecord.com homepage test.](#)
- [Bearblog.dev homepage test.](#)

Back to the essay: https://www.arscyni.cc/file/warez_your_website.html

Posts

[Second post test](#) — August 1, 2026

[Video embed test](#) — July 29, 2026

Big Spider 🕷️ ❤️



Wasp Spider ©

Alternatives

- [Mataroa.blog homepage test](#)
- [Bearblog.dev homepage test](#)

Back to the essay: https://www.arscyni.cc/file/warez_your_website.html

—Image: side by side comparison of *Mataroa*, *Pagecord*, and *Bear*.

I'm a bit disappointed because without hesitation I would use all of them had I not become accustomed to having full control of aesthetics and functionality of my own website. However, a simple place to write is fine for most. Below are the links to my three quick example homepages with the same content, and some first impressions. They all support [Markdown syntax](#); to the non-geeks, this simply means it's easy to create titles, embed images, create bold fonts, et cetera.

Reach out if there's missing proper alternatives. I've already seen [Pika.page](#) but consider a free account post limit of 50 too harsh.

🦋 Mataroa

"Naked blogging platform, for minimalists. *Just write.*"

- Cost: free & \$9/year
- Features: <https://mataroa.blog > features>
- Example homepage: <https://arscynic.mataroa.blog>

+ *Mataroa* gets my preference because it natively supports comments, and while free, the price for premium is commendably hard to beat.

- Annoying is that posts appear on the homepage by default, with large margins, and which cannot be disabled.

🦋 Pagecord

"No lock-in, no AI*, no bloat. Just your words, written your way, on your own corner of the web."

- Cost: free & \$39/year
- Features: <https://pagecord.com/#features>
- Example homepage: <https://arscynic.pagecord.com>

+ On *Pagecord* one can natively click embedded images to enlarge them. Another difference is that it's the only one that renders *YouTube* videos.

± It's the most feature rich option, but also the least straightforward and slowest. My gripe is that *Pagecord*'s text editor immediately converts *Markdown* syntax into its graphical representation within the text editor, which I find intolerable, but I'm sure others would prefer.



What does this mean?

* “[...]” The “no AI” means no AI features. [...]” The developer uses *Claude* to speed up the grunt work. I reached out and there's zero malicious ambiguity present. Since *LLM* use can be a deciding factor and is a quite divisive topic, I thought I'd mention it.

 Bear

“A privacy-first, no-nonsense, super-fast blogging platform. No trackers, no javascript, no stylesheets. Just your words.”

- Cost: free & \$49/year or \$189 once
- Features: <https://docs.bearblog.dev>
- Example homepage: <https://arscynic.bearblog.dev>

+ *Bear* has the most straightforward user experience and its default homepage design pleases me on par and sometimes more than *Pagecord*'s. A surprisingly cool feature is that one can easily use an emoji or image as a favicon, and it natively supports *LaTeX*—yay math!

An indirect feature ~~disadvantage~~ of *Bear* is that *free* accounts are hidden from search engines and its own discovery feed. ~~The former I find weird as it limits the reach of the small web and Bear's own success.~~ The developer's response after reaching out:

“Free blogs can be unhidden from the discovery feed and search engines, they just need to go through a manual review process (<https://docs.bearblog.dev/not-seeing-your-post/>). This is because 30% of all new blogs are spam, and it turns out that upgrading is a good filter, as is opting in for a review.”

Verdict

One can't go wrong with any of them. The medals above can be dismissed as ornamental.

Embedding images

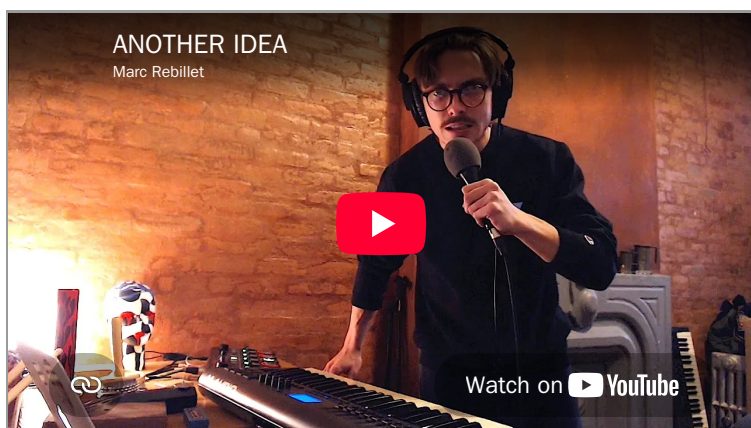
While uploading images to the above websites is supported, understandably a premium feature in *Pagecord* and *Bear*—[software is not free, consider paying](#)—I do suggest using a dedicated image hosting platform to simply embed its pictures instead. Why? It takes a load off their back and chiropractors make for bad dentists.

[PixelUnion.eu](#) is what I use, pay for, and strongly recommend. It uses [Immich](#), which supports non-destructive image cropping! Moreover, *PixelUnion* is free below 15GB of storage.

► How to embed an image hosted on *PixelUnion*?

“Not worth sharing.”

Nonsense. For the umpteenth time—unless posting food pics, then stay at *Instagram*—let this exquisite simulation of fireflies change your perspective: <https://ncase.me/fireflies>*. Your ideas matter. Just *make* something:



—Music video: *ANOTHER IDEA* - Marc Rebillet.

* The ambient sound only works in *Chromium*-based browsers.

POSSE

As opposed to governments—seriously 🧑—it's reluctantly understandable that some social media has become indispensable to a fair amount of one-person projects to network and find an audience, but that doesn't mean having to hold oneself hostage to the greed-driven whims of big corporations.

Now, with your own website, one can “Publish (on your) Own Site, Syndicate Elsewhere”.^[3] Create the original content on your own platform of choice and share *that* on all other social media. POSSE reduces risk, increases agency, stimulates creativity, and makes happy the increasing amount of people sick of parasitic billionaires and their brain rot platforms.

—Angelino Desmet; 31 July 2026.

► Latest edit: 2 August 2026.



Sources

1. The earliest *TinEye* trace leads back to a Polish website [maluetar.soup.io](#) of a user named [Maluetar](#), but the original page seems forever lost.
2.
 - Vladimir Prelovac, Kagi.com: [small web](#).
 - Antony Lawn, The Paper Pilot: [small web](#).
 - Viktor Lofgren: [About Marginalia Search](#).
3. Indieweb.org: [POSSE](#).

Comment

Replies on [Lobsters](#).

Replies on [Mastodon](#) appear below.

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