

MATRIX WIDGETS: ROOMS with APPS.

The Matrix Widgets Working Group — why we started it, what we found, how to join.

WIDGETS HAVE EXISTED FOR YEARS. BUT...



WHAT IS A WIDGET?

No shared definition,
taxonomy or specification.

WHERE DO I FIND ONE?

Little discoverability, no
trusted catalogue.

WHICH CLIENT RUNS IT? WHAT IS THE SPEC?

A few web client supports
it.
Mobile: mostly none.
No clear spec.

SO WE STARTED A WORKING GROUP.

Matrix Widgets Working Group of the Matrix Foundation · founded at Matrix Summit 2026



ALIGN

on a definition and
taxonomy of widgets.

MAP

real user needs and use
cases.

BUILD

the foundation for an app
ecosystem across all
clients. Define the spec.

WHAT IS A WIDGET? A WORKING DEFINITION.



“A widget is a web app that runs inside a Matrix client, in the context of a room or a user, and talks to Matrix only through its host (the client): via the Widget API and the capabilities the user grants.”

TAXONOMY (DRAFT):

INLINE APP

ROOM APP

ACCOUNT APP

MODULE (CLIENT-SPECIFIC)

MATRIX APP

EMBEDDED WEB APP

HYBRID APP

FROM SUMMIT TO OFFICIAL WG.

A Working Group of the Matrix.org Foundation's Community Committee



MAY 2026

Founded at the
Matrix Community
Summit, c-base
Berlin.

OCTOBER

The Community
Committee agrees to
adopt the WG.

8 – 22 OCT

The Governing Board
votes on our charter.

TODAY

Approved by vote –
set-up done.

WHO DOES WHAT.

Hosted by the Community Committee · membership open to anyone in the Matrix community



CHAIR

Hato Nordeck –
meetings, results,
contact to the
sponsor.

VICE CHAIR

Timo Kandra –
backup for the chair.

GB SPONSOR

Richard van der Hoff
– link to the
Governing Board.

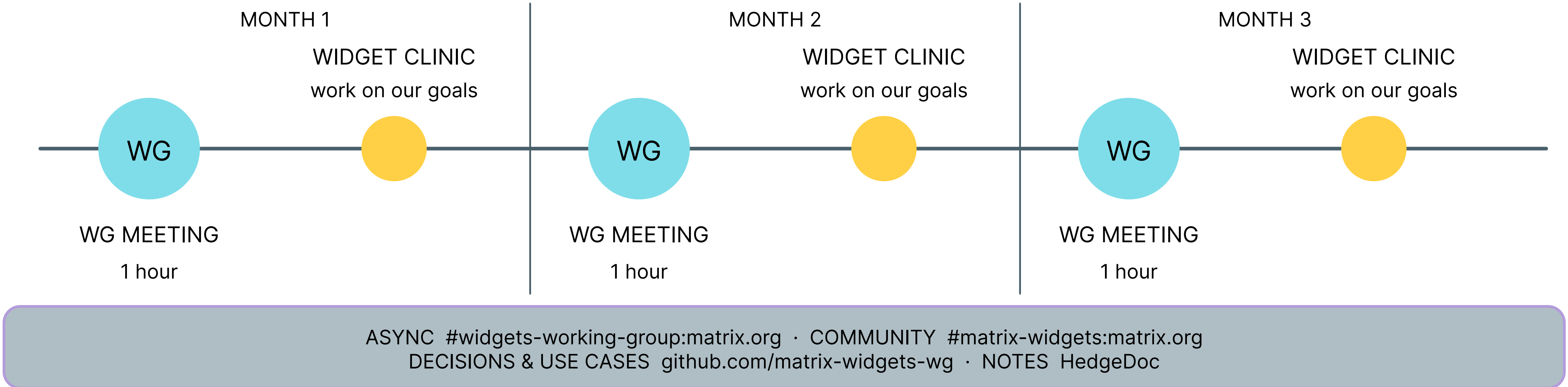
MEMBERS

12 to start, from
Element, Nordeck,
Datanauten, FITKO &
more.

HOW WE WORK.



Our starting cadence – the WG adapts it to the needs of the group



WHAT WE AIM FOR.



Six goals, built bottom-up: shared names and a spec → tooling and hosting → widgets everywhere

OUTCOME what people get	ADOPTION Widespread client support – easy access for everyone.	COMMUNITY A healthy and active community around widgets.
	DEVELOPER EXPERIENCE A thriving developer ecosystem for building widgets.	MONETISATION & HOSTING Monetisation, decentralised hosting, trusted distribution.
	SHARED TAXONOMY Clear names for every type of embeddable app in Matrix.	SPECIFICATION Widget MSCs cleared up, finalised, part of the spec.

WHY WIDGETS, WHY NOW?



AI CAN CREATE APPS

Small apps get cheap to build. They need a safe, sandboxed home with explicit permissions.

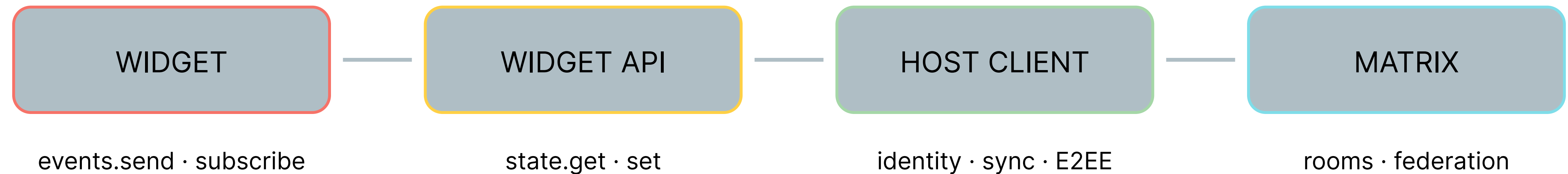
MATRIX CLIENTS GET COMPLEX

E2EE, sliding sync, MatrixRTC. Widgets keep features out of the client core.

MINI-APPS ARE SOCIAL

Telegram, Discord, WeChat, webxdc: apps live where conversations happen.

THE APP ASKS. THE HOST DECIDES.



A POLL IN THE DECK.

NeoChoice, a poll widget from the store, embedded in this frame.

The deck itself is a NeoBoard — also a widget.

NeoChoice poll
<https://marcade.store/apps/net.nordeck.poll/1.6.2-1/>

A BOARD IN THE BOARD.

NeoBoardception: an inner board as an embedded widget, with its own event namespace and its own consent.

Inside: this deck again — without the live widgets.

Nested NeoBoard
<https://neo-board-ception-nested.widgets.marcade.store/0.1.1/>

THE WORK AHEAD OF US.

And more: security & trust · spec work (MSCs) · accessibility



DISCOVERY & DISTRIBUTION

How do people find, trust and add widgets?

DEVELOPER EXPERIENCE

Toolkits, docs, test harnesses. One API that behaves the same in every client.

MOBILE SUPPORT

Widgets in mobile clients, not only on desktop and web.

DON'T REBUILD AN APP STORE.

Make discovery part of the network: catalogues anyone can publish, apps shared in rooms and spaces.

WHERE WE ARE TODAY.



DEFINITION

A draft working definition and taxonomy.

USE CASES

Collected from the community, still growing.

CATALOGUE

A store experiment: [marcade.store](#).

PROTOTYPES

Widgets in widgets: [NeoBoardception](#).

OPEN QUESTIONS.



CURATION

Who curates catalogues, and who is responsible for them?

MOBILE

How do mobile clients host widgets?

CONSENT

Permission prompts that people understand.

E2EE & SPEC

Encryption, identity, and which MSCs come first?

MATRIX BECOMES AN APPLICATION NETWORK.

Open · Federated · Extensible · Social

GET INVOLVED.

Client developers · widget builders · the curious — this is for you.



JOIN

the Matrix Widgets
Working Group.

SHARE

your use case.

BUILD

or port a widget.

TEST

widgets in your
client.