

WMF and W3C



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Everything You Need To Know

- What is the W3C?
- Why did we join?
- What do we get?
- How does it work?
- What is it like?



What is the W3C?



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World
Wide
Web
Consortium

} **W x 3**

*“The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an international community that develops open **standards** to ensure the long-term growth of the Web.”*



What's a “standard”?

It's a defined file format or network protocol that we agree on to let different software operate together.



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W3C Greatest Hits

HTML

CSS

XML

RDF

SVG

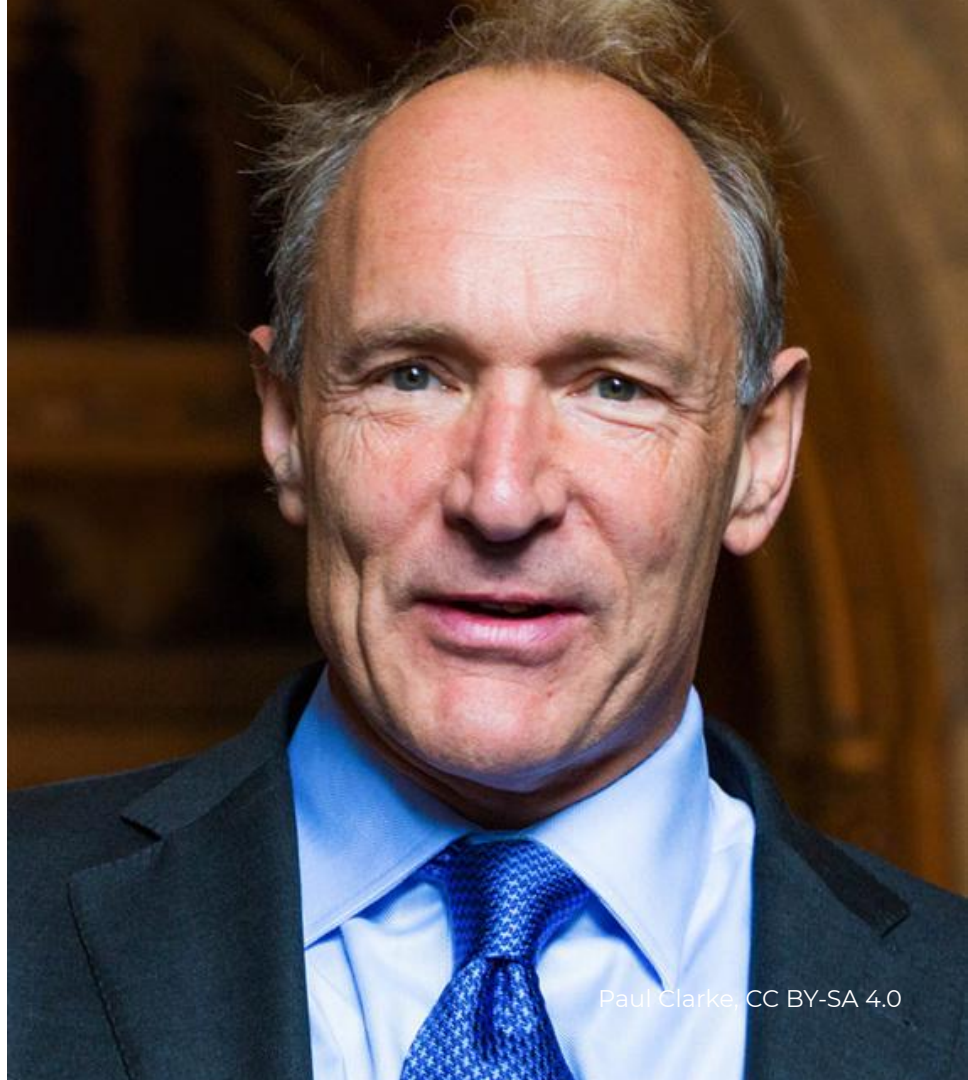
EPUB

HTTP



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- Founded by **Sir Tim Berners-Lee** in 1994
- Joint operation: MIT, ERCIM, Keio, Beihang
- Offices in Cambridge, Nice, Fujisawa, Beijing
- 59 staff members
- 445 member organizations



Paul Clarke, CC BY-SA 4.0

consortium (n.)

1. An association or combination of businesses, financial institutions, or investors, for the purpose of engaging in a joint venture.
2. A similar arrangement among non-commercial institutions or organizations.

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/consortium>

Who are the members?

Role	Examples
Browser vendors	Google, Mozilla, Microsoft, Apple, Opera, ...
Hardware makers	Samsung, Huawei, Panasonic, Sony, Cisco, Dolby, Fujitsu, Hitachi, Intel, ...
Network operators	Verizon, Viacom, Comcast, AT&T, Orange, ...
Software vendors	Apache, IBM, Salesforce, Stripe, Paypal, Oracle, Magic Leap, ...
Publishers	Facebook, Baidu, Alibaba, Wiley, Disney, RIAA...
Universities	Oxford, Stanford, MIT, Illinois, Michigan, Shenzhen...

Why did we join?



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“That would be nice, but...”

“...the Web doesn't work that way.”

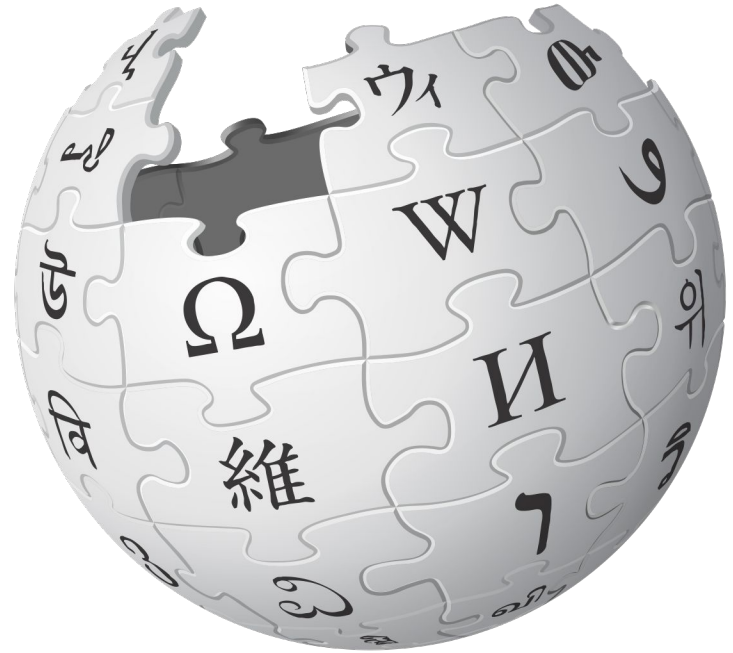
“...not all browsers support it.”

“...it's too slow.”



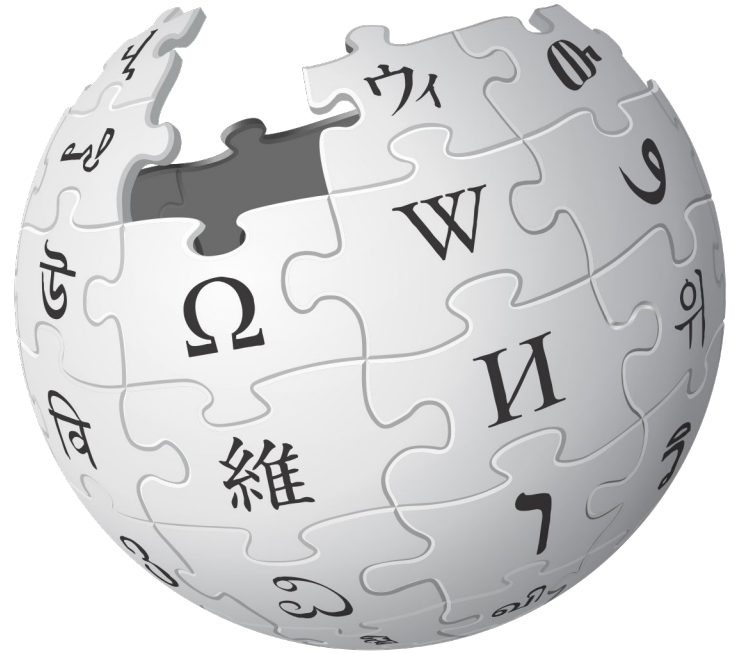
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**Our projects are
some of the
biggest
publications on
the Web.**



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**Our software is
some of the
most-used
software on the
Web.**



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We are too big to be passive participants.

We owe it to our communities to take our seat at the table and make the Web work for them.



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**Our mission is too
important to take
“no” for an answer.**

Movement Strategy

By 2030, Wikimedia will become the essential infrastructure of the ecosystem of free knowledge, and anyone who shares our vision will be able to join us.

What do we get?



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Make improvements

We can ask for, and get, changes to existing Web formats and protocols.

Fix problems

Things that don't work right can be altered.



Propose standards

We can start new initiatives within the W3C.



Stop breakage

We give 👍 or 👎 to every new standard that comes out.

Set direction

With other members, we approve W3C strategy.



How does it work?



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Groups

Groups of people focusing on areas of the Web.



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What do groups do?

- Write documents
- Meet regularly
- Mailing lists
- Collect requirements
- Implementations
- Answer questions
- Make decisions



Group participants

Representatives of member organizations* that are experts on, or interested in, the focus area.

* or invited experts.



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Working groups

Chartered by the member organizations to produce a standards document.

Working groups

32 working groups... and growing

- CSS Working Group
- HTML Working Group
- Web of Things Working Group
- Immersive Web Working Group
- Web Payments Working Group
- Web Authentication Working Group
- WebAssembly Working Group
- Web Fonts Working Group

Lifecycle

Note

Editor's Draft

Working Draft

Candidate Recommendation

Proposed Recommendation

W3C Recommendation



a. Provision of 1820
Cong. Clergyman
Sec. State 1812-20
Ed. Boston Gazette
Dist. Mass.
1764-1820

Resolved, that the Treasurer of the Commonwealth for the time being, be, and he is hereby directed, to receive the Interest on the Three per cent Stock, and upon the six per cent deferred Stock of the United States, which has been, or may be sold, and assigned, by order of the Legislature; and that he pay over the same to the Purchaser, or Purchasers, of the said Stocks, together with all the Reimbursement of Principal thereon — or that he give a Power of attorney as Treasurer of the State to the Purchaser or Purchasers of the said Stocks to receive the Interest thereon, and the said Reimbursement of Principal — at their option —

June 15th 1821

Approved by the Governor

Copy Alder Bradford
Secy of Comm. =
July 19th 1821. I certify that Daniel Argus
Esq. has been duly elected & qualified
as Treasurer of the State for the present
political year, commencing June 1st
1821 — Alder Bradford

Community groups

Exploring an important area before standardization.



Community Groups

342 Community Groups

- WebML Community Group
- Agriculture Community Group
- Augmented Reality Community Group
- Automotive Community Group
- Conversational Interfaces Group
- Social Web Incubator Group

Horizontal Groups

Improve *all* standards in a particular way.



Horizontal Groups

- Accessibility
- Internationalization
- Security and Privacy
- Positive Work Environment

Who should join?

- Anyone with **knowledge** of or **interest** in an area of Web technology
- Can afford 1-8H/month or more
- Trusted to represent the organization (staff definitely, maybe chapters...? Maybe volunteers...?)

Joining groups

1. Sign up for a W3C account with your wikimedia.org email address*.
2. Find the group you're interested in.
3. Ask to become a member.
4. Advisory Committee member (Evan) confirms it.
5. You're in!

* if you don't have one... let's talk.

Responsibilities

- Join mailing list
- Attend meetings (teleconference, IRC, in-person)
- Vote on proposals
- Review drafts
- Comment on issues on Github
- Create issues on Github
- Make pull requests on documents
- Create tests
- Implement standards early
- Edit documents
- Host a meeting
- Chair group

Less involved



More involved

Obligations

- [Code of Conduct](#)
- Open Source software under permissive [W3C license](#)
- Open Content under permissive [documentation license](#)
- Patent disclosure and royalty-free licenses
- Represent the best interests of WMF, our projects, and our community

What else?

- Membership in other standards groups (WHATWG, IEEE, ECMA, ...)
- Participation in Open Source projects (JS, PHP, MySQL, Cassandra, Kubernetes, ...)
- Bilateral relationships with platform providers (iOS, Android)
- Bilateral relationships with Web participants (browsers, carriers, hardware makers, ...)

Experience representing the WMF

- Meeting people face-to-face has made a huge difference. I recommend attending TPAC and/or a F2F meeting at least once, to establish trust with group participants
- Browser vendors are very eager to hear our opinion, because they mostly hear about internal needs
- In my first conversations I already influenced decisions, and since then my feedback has also changed the shape of some APIs to meet our needs
- My complimentary participation in Chrome Origin Trials has been very fruitful

THANK YOU



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