Impact Report of Turning Off IP Editing on Portuguese Wikipedia

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Agenda

- **Background**
- **Key takeaways**
- **Impacts: editors**
- **Impacts: edits**
- **Impacts: administrations**
- **Historical trends**
- **Community feedback**
- **Recap**

Background

- Portuguese Wikipedia community decided to turn off IP editing based on the voting result, and implemented on October 4th 2020.
- Product analytics team built a [dashboard](#) to track the related metrics on Portuguese Wikipedia,
- Goal is to monitor the impact, provide quantitative information for decision making.

Wikipedia: Voting / Need to register to edit Lusophone Wikipedia

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

< Wikipedia: Polls

Voting **closed** .

Summary : Need to register to edit the Portuguese

- speaking Wikipedia **Voting period** : 12:00 noon on September 4, 2020 (UTC) - 12:00 noon on October 4, 2020

Conclusion :

Question	In favor	% In favor	Against	% Against	Al
1.1. To edit the Lusophone Wikipedia pages, the user must be registered	169	71%	69	29%	
1.2. Once the proposal for question 1.1 is approved, it will not apply on the pages of the discussion domains	88	60.3%	58	39.7%	
1.3. Once the proposal in question 1.1 is approved, it will not apply on the pages of the Help domain	110	86.6%	17	13.4%	
1.4. To create articles on Wikipedia Lusophone in the main domain, the user must be registered	130	82.8%	27	17.2%	
2.1. Range blocks	77	87.5%	11	12.5%	
2.2. Script	84	96.6%	3	3.4%	
2.3. Edit filter	76	96.2%	3	3.8%	
2.4. Protections	83	93.3%	6	6.7%	

Question	Immediately	% Immediately	Gradually	% Gradua
3. Pace of implantation	84	63.3%	48	36.4%

Key takeaways

- Turning off IP editing does not appear to have had a significant negative impact on Portuguese WP, and we found positive impact in some areas.

- The number of registrations went up, and retention remained solid.

- The number of reverts, blocks and protected pages declined considerably.

- The total number of edits declined when bot edits and reverts are included. Without bot edits and reverted edits, the number of edits was down in Q2 and Q3 compared to last year, and was up in Q4.

- Qualitative feedback from the volunteers showed that most remain in favor of the ban.

Recommendations

- Allow Portuguese Wikipedia to continue with their current practice for now, if the volunteers want to continue.

- Validate these findings by running a similar experiment on 2 more language WPs where the volunteers are interested in trying this out. The experience of a single wiki should not be used as decisive evidence.

- Publish these findings, to help inform continued discussions across the movement about the role of IP editing.

Note: Growth features

- Portuguese WP turned on the Newcomer homepage/Suggested edits features 4 days before the wiki blocked IP editing.

- These features are presented to new editors when they register an account, and offer encouragement and mentorship to help them to make their first edits.

- On some of the following slides, we've taken the estimated impact of the Growth features into account.
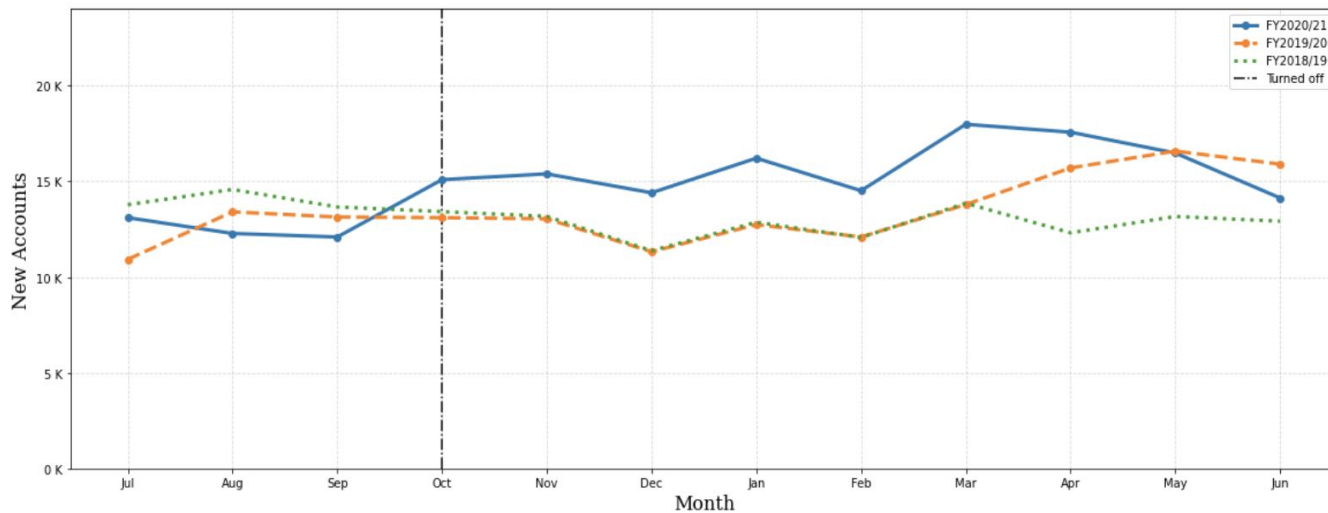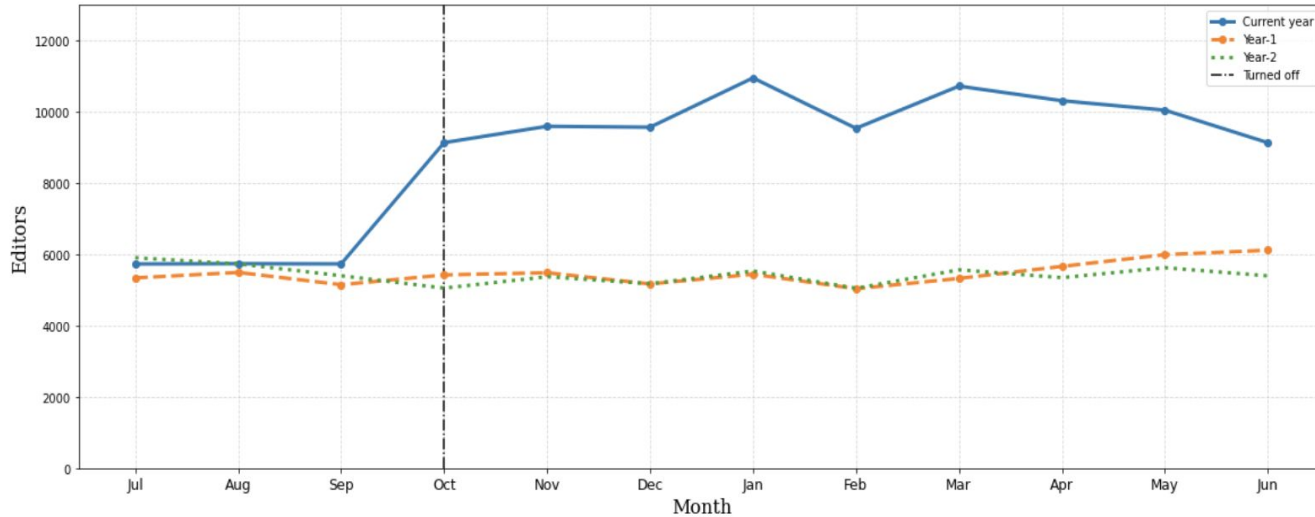
Impacts: Editors

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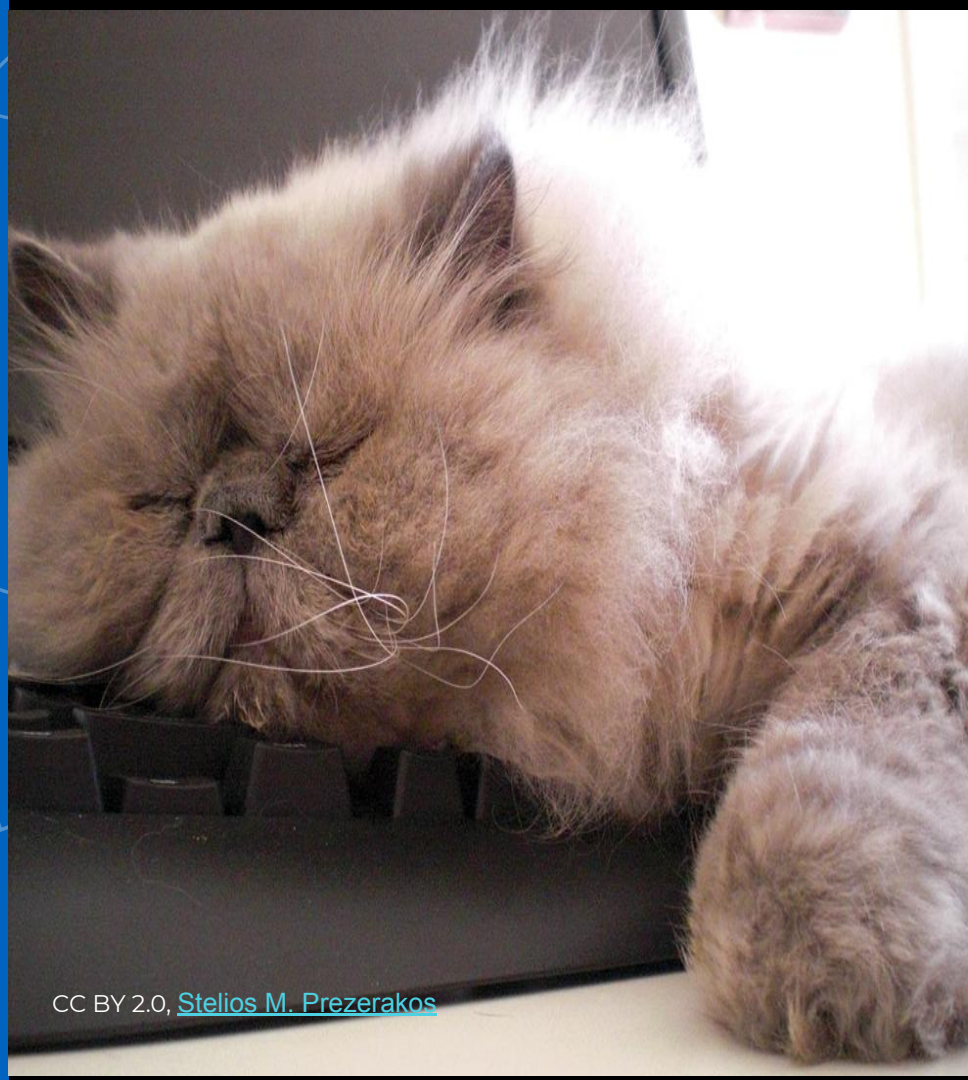
New accounts

Ptwiki New Accounts

	Q2	Q3	Q4
Monthly Avg	15k	16k	16k
YoY Diff	+2.5k	+3.4k	0
YoY (%)	+20%	+26%	0%

Active Registered Editors

Ptwiki Monthly User Editors

	Q2	Q3	Q4
Monthly Avg	9.4k	10.4k	9.8k
YoY Diff	+4.1k	+5.1k	+3.9k
YoY (%)	+76%	+98%	+66%

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Retention rate

Ptwiki Retention Rate
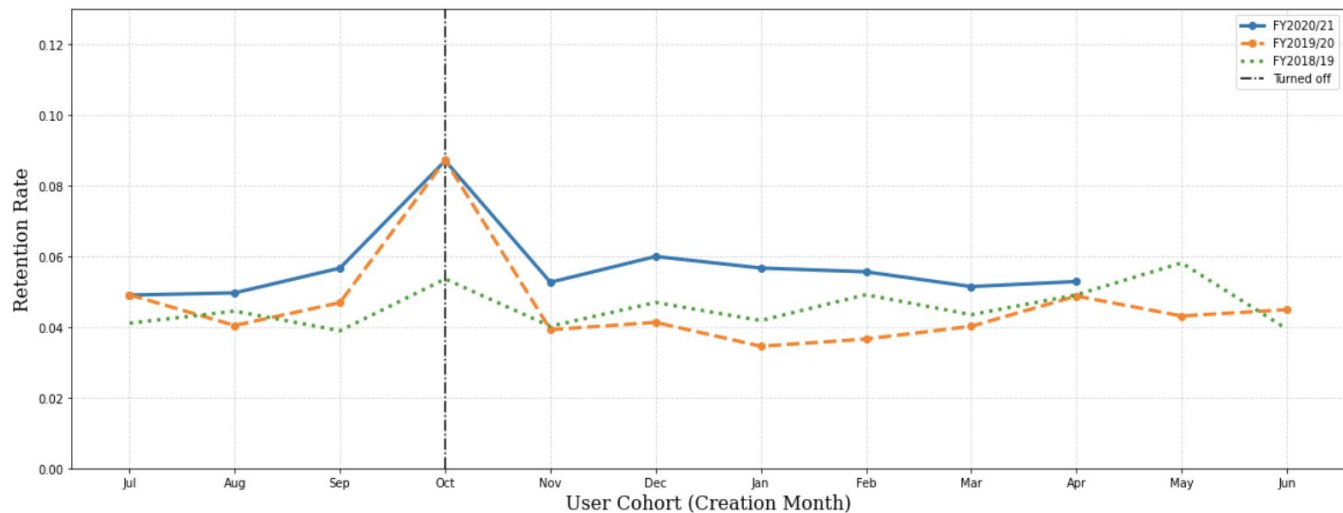
	Q2	Q3
Monthly Avg	6.7%	5.5%
YoY Diff	+1.1%	1.7%
Growth Features	+0.3%	+0.3%
Estimated Impact	+0.8%	+1.4%

Impacts: Edits

Total edits

Ptwiki Monthly Edits
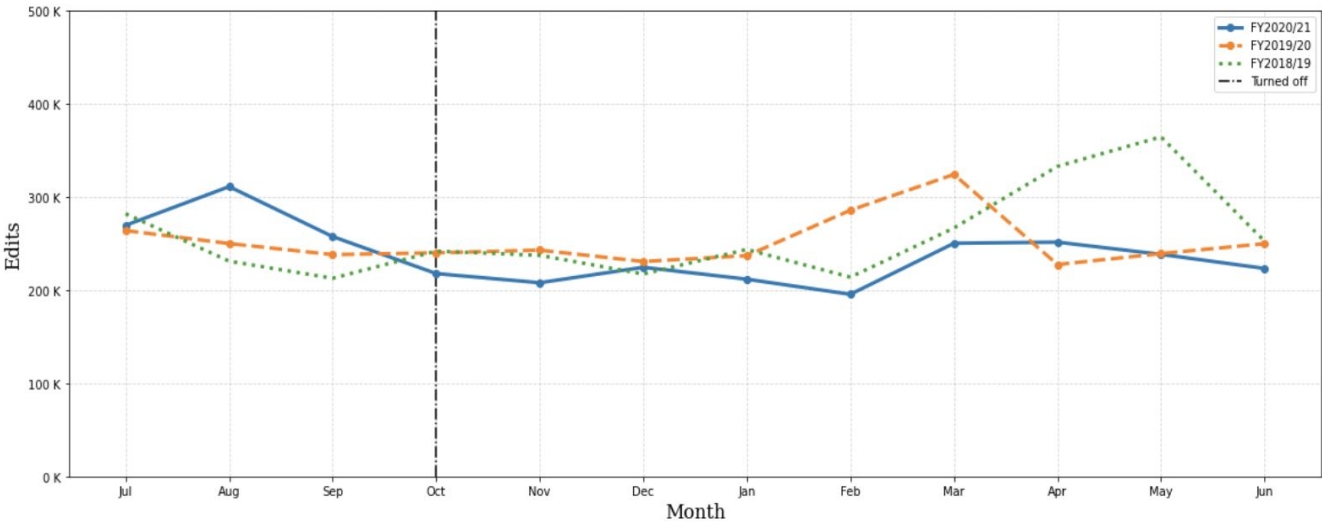
	Q2	Q3	Q4
Monthly Avg	217k	219k	238k
YoY Diff	-21k	-63k	-1.2k
YoY (%)	-9%	-22%	-0.5%

Number of reverted edits

Ptwiki Monthly Reverts Within 48 Hours of Editing
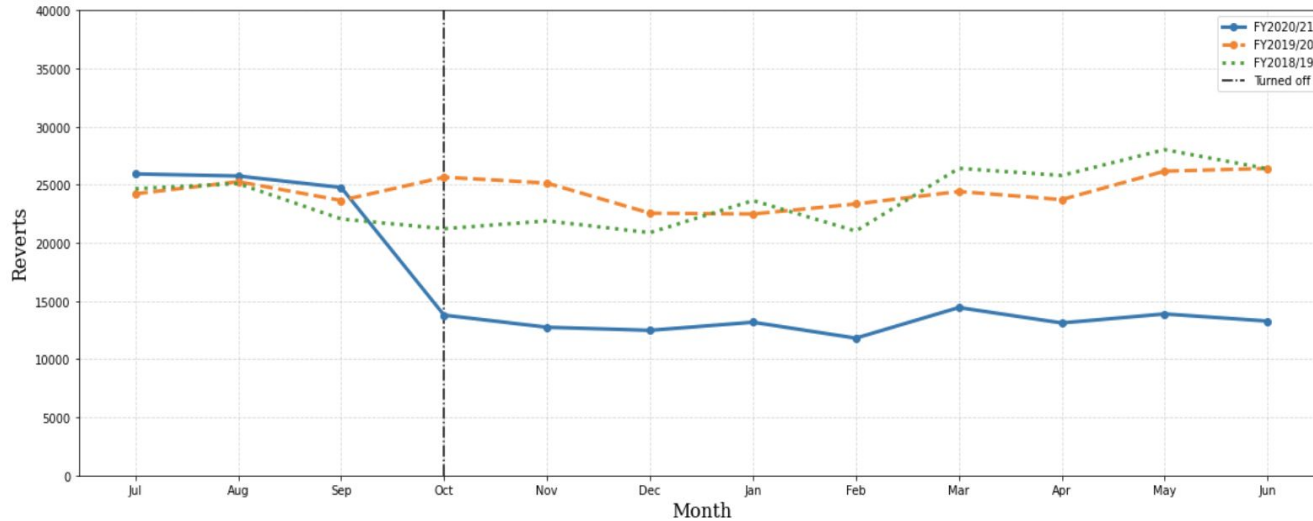
	Q2	Q3	Q4
Monthly Avg	13.0k	13.1k	13.4k
YoY Diff	-11.4k	-10.3k	-12k
YoY (%)	-47%	-44%	-47%

Net content edits

-- Non-reverted & non-bot & non-revert edits

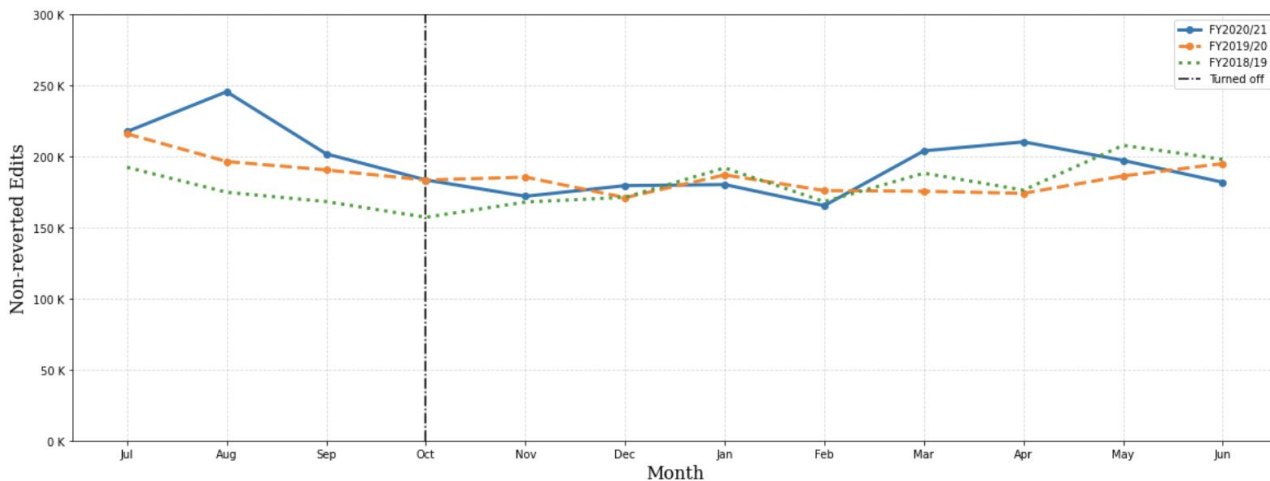Ptwiki Monthly Content Edits Which Were Not Reverted in 48 Hours (Excluding Bot And Revert Edits)
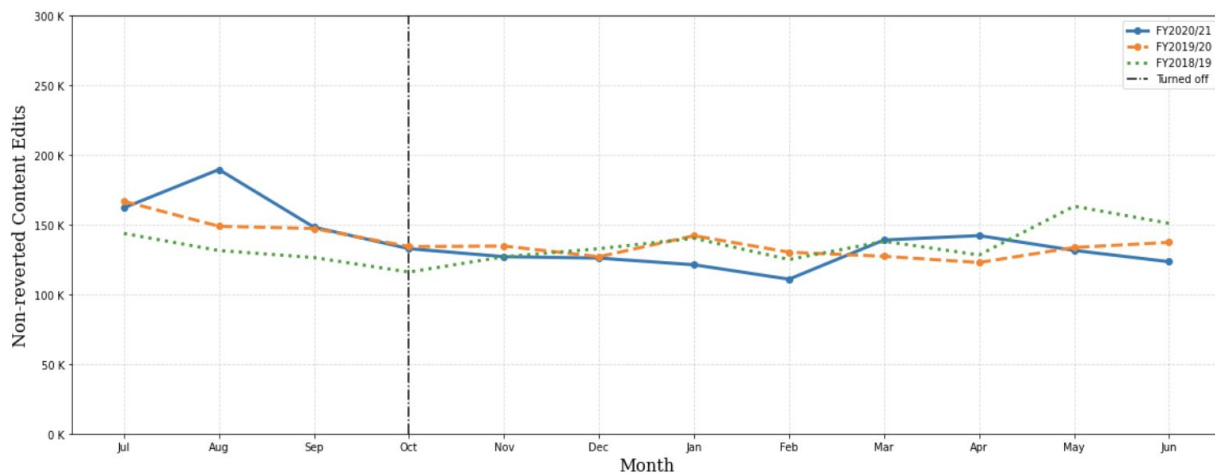
	Q2	Q3	Q4
Monthly Avg	128.7k	123.7k	132.5k
YoY Diff	-3.3k	-9.6k	+1.1k
YoY (%)	-2.5%	-7.2%	+0.9%
Growth Features	+0.5%	+0.5%	+0.5%
Estimated Impact	-3.0%	-7.7%	+0.4%

Net edits

-- Non-reverted & non-bot & non-revert edits

Ptwiki Monthly Edits Which Were Not Reverted in 48 Hours (Excluding Bot And Revert Edits)

	Q2	Q3	Q4
Monthly Avg	**178k**	**183k**	**197k**
YoY Diff	**-1.6k**	**+3.7k**	**+11k**
YoY (%)	**-0.9%**	**+2%**	**+6%**
Growth Features	**+0.3%**	**+0.3%**	**+0.3%**
Estimated Impact	**-1.2%**	**+1.7%**	**+5.7%**

Intervention Impact Analysis

Prediction of edits without turning off IP editing
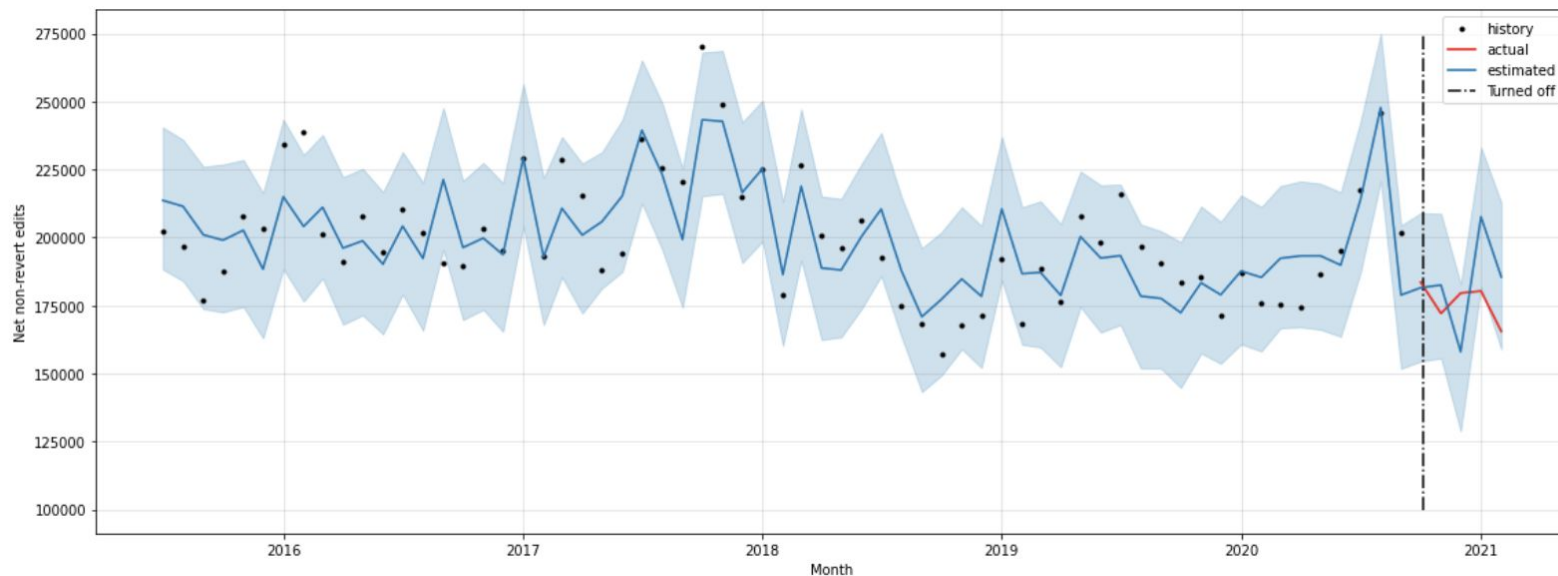
* Metric: Non-reverted nonbot edits
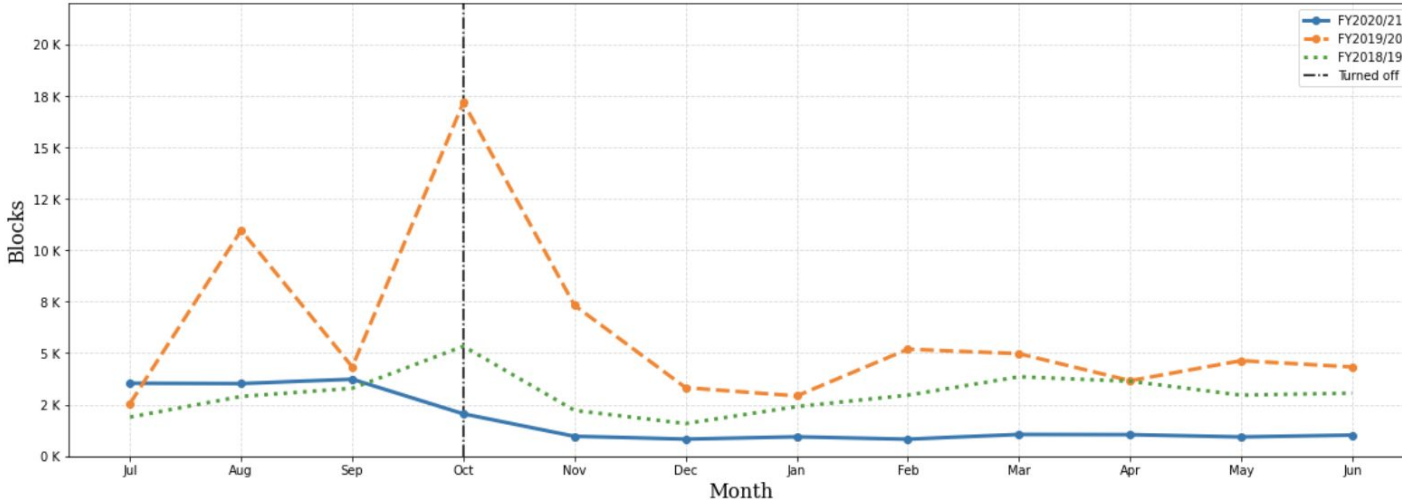
Impacts: Administrative actions

Number of blocks

Ptwiki Monthly Blocks

	Q2	Q3	Q4
Monthly Avg	1.3k	0.9k	0.9k
YoY Diff	-8k	-3.4k	-3.2k
YoY (%)	-86%	-79%	-76%

Number of blocks

Ptwiki Monthly Blocks
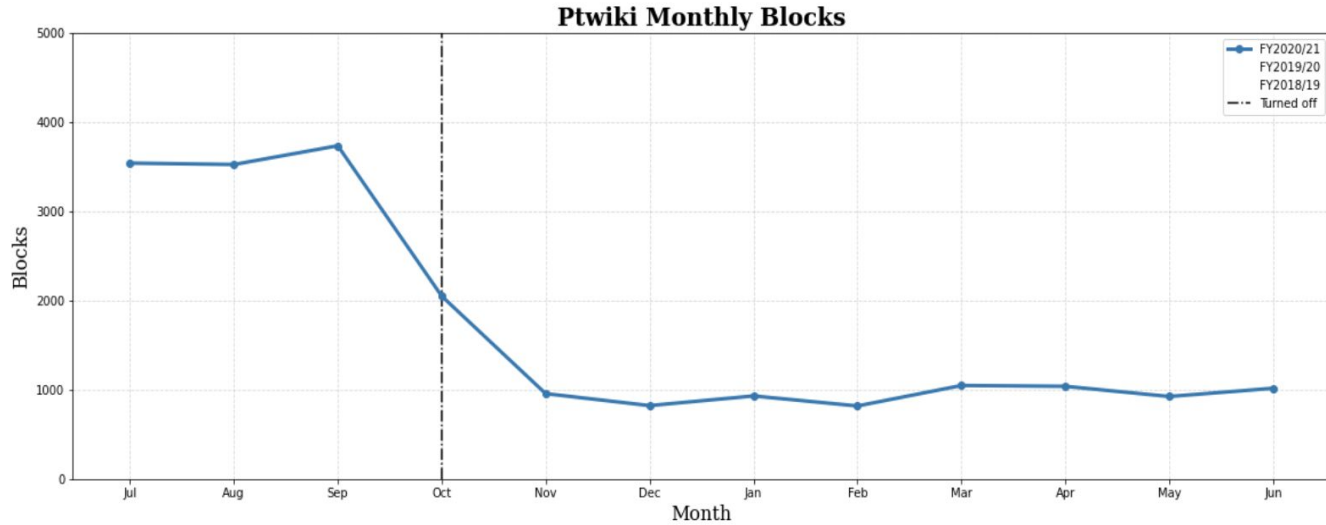
	Q2	Q3	Q4
Monthly Avg	1.3k	0.9k	0.9k
YoY Diff	-8k	-3.4k	-3.2k
YoY (%)	-86%	-79%	-76%

Number of protected pages

Ptwiki Protected Pages
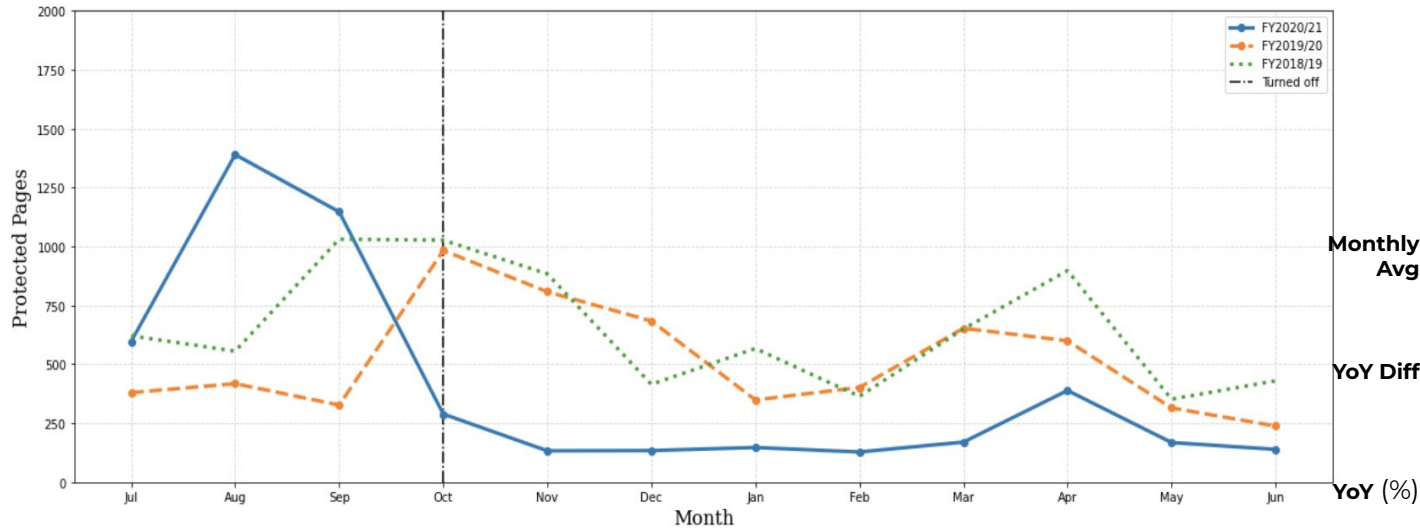
	Q2	Q3	Q4
Monthly Avg	185	148	232
YoY Diff	-640	-320	-152
YoY (%)	-78%	-68%	-40%

Historical Trends

Edits & IP edits

Edits & IP Edits per Month
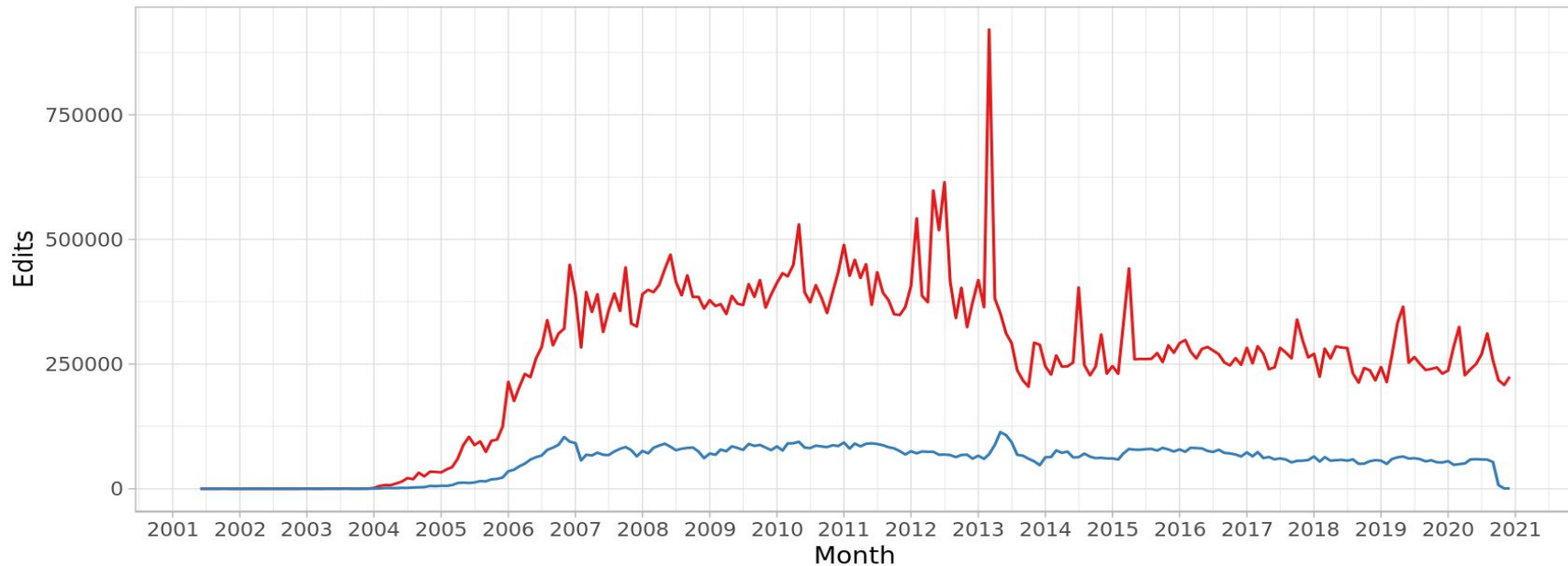
Bot & non-bot edits

Bot & Nonbot Edits per Month
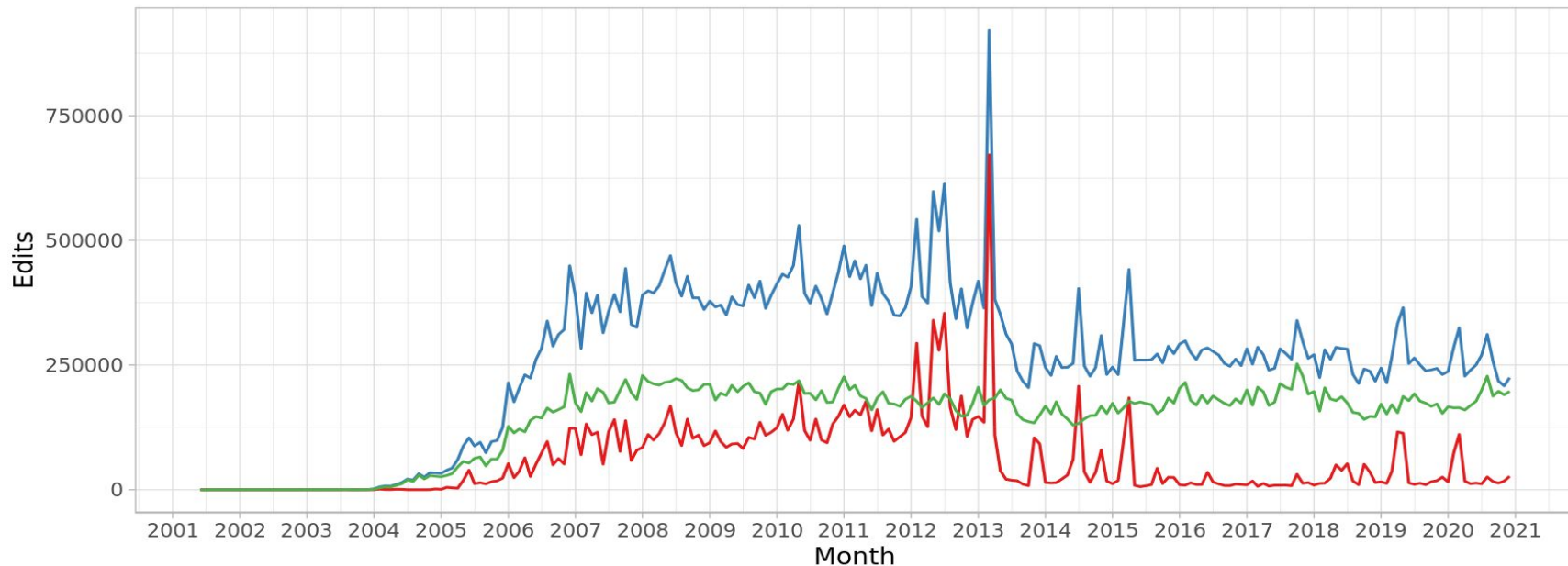
Active editors

Active Registered Editors per Month

Community Feedback

In support of the ban

After years of voting against it, at the end of last year I finally surrendered to the obvious ... Without them [vandals] our lives are much better, many articles that were blocked could be released, today we can leave a message to a newbie that the chance of being read is greater than for an IP.

It certainly wasn't a decision we were happy to make, but my watchlist has never been so peaceful.

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In support of the ban

My impression about the ip block, or I rather call it "obligation for account registration". It has been very positive for the community...

Blocking and reverting vandalism by registered accounts is much easier, we have a lot more context for their edits. We have even started unprotecting several long-term protected articles with little vandalism.

💬 **pt.wikipedia.org Community Feedback on IP Edit ban**

The editing became much more pleasant, much of the pressure caused by vandalism disappeared.

The level of hostility and conflict within the community has also dropped, and now I have more time to help newbies, and do what I really like about the project (editing, focused maintenance, etc.).

💬 **pt.wikipedia.org Community Feedback on IP Edit ban**

Against the ban

I do not agree with the ban on IPs. In my experience as a publisher, I notice that much of the vandalism on the wiki happens in plain sight, often by high users in the hierarchy, especially adm.

User bullying, gender bias, cultural and political intolerance should be considered vandalism on the wiki because it has repercussions on the pages as constant reversals, suggested elimination, etc. In addition, on the other hand, the use of IP can serve as a tool for someone who wants to contribute, but, because of these persecutions, prefer to preserve their privacy.

Finally, I do not see in a positive way a change that distances the wiki pt from the model of other wiki around the world.

pt.wikipedia.org Community Feedback on IP Edit ban

I think it's a mistake. A setback. We know that Wikipedia has grown precisely because it is completely open.

There are plenty of users with the power and time to control vandalism on Wikipedia in Portuguese. In addition to other tools. Thus closing the editing by IP is more to lose than to win.

pt.wikipedia.org Community Feedback on IP Edit ban

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Neutral about the ban

The restriction of IPs in the main domain was important, as the number of vandalism on these pages was reduced and in the control of recent changes and in the list of my watchmen.

On the other hand, we must not forget that the possibility of anonymous content developing in the entries has also fallen, [but] has not prevented the number of accounts created from increasing, and many users have understood that it is more worth editing as registered.

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Recap: 19 surveyed

14 👍
In support

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4 😒
Not in support

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1 😐
Neutral

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Recap

Pros

Active registered editors increased *by 76% (+4.1k) in Q2 ,+98% (+5.1k) in Q3, 66% (+3.9k) in Q4*

New account creations increased *by 20% (+2.5k) in Q2 , 26% (+3.4k) in Q3, 0% in Q4*

Reverts decreased *by 46.8% (-11.4k) in Q2, 43.9% (-10.3k) in Q3, 47% (-12k) in Q4.*

Blocks: *-86% (-8k) in Q2, -79% (-3.4k) in Q3, -76% (-3.2k) in Q4*

Protected pages: *-78%(-640) in Q2, -68% (-320) in Q3, -40% (-152) in Q4*

Retention rate: *+1.1% in Q2 , +1.7% in Q3 (+0.3% from Growth)*

Community sentiment from ptwiki has been welcoming. They say this has led to better governance for the wiki, guidance for newcomers and reduction in hostility and conflict on the wiki. Editors also say they now have more time to dedicate to improving article quality instead of vandalism fighting.

Inconclusive

Non-reverted content edits* decreased by 2.5% (-3.3k) in Q2 and 7.2% (-9.6k) in Q3, increased by +0.9% (+1.1k) in Q4 (+0.5% from Growth features)

Non-reverted edits* decreased *by 0.91% (-1.6k) in Q2 and increased by 2% (+3.7k)* in Q3, +6% (11k) in Q4 (+0.3% from Growth features)

Forecast modeling *shows post-intervention was not significantly lower than prediction without intervention.*
Therefore, we do not have statistical evidence of negative impact from turning off IP editing.

* Excluding bot edits

THANK YOU

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