

"State of the Movement"

A personal perspective
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CEE Meeting 2015

Why the scare quotes?

- SotM is a pretentious title for anything but a serious multi-person-month study.
- I was asked to prepare this approximately 48 hours ago.
- It is only my personal perspective. I do have a good vantage point, but there are still other ways to assess the SotM.

State of the Movement -- The Good

- More of a movement; more self-perception
- More maturity -- governance, partnerships
- More discipline -- reports, sharing, documentation
- More diversity -- geography, gender, language
- More opportunity -- partnerships, media, tech
- More participation -- editorship rising or decline slowing; board elections turnout
- More resources -- funds, tools, programs, docs

State of the Movement -- The Bad

- Increasing capacity gap ("rich get richer")
- Wheels still being reinvented
- Participation in global governance weak
- Meta RFCs still mostly ineffectual
- *Applying* learning still sporadic and undisciplined
- WMF seems (and sometimes is) erratic, capricious, insensitive, tyrannical, dumb.
- I could go on... :)

State of the Movement -- The Ugly

- Harassment and newbie-biting still non-negligible
- International politics encroaching on wikilife
- WMF schizophrenia: part expert in wikinorms and part riding roughshod over them
- WMF hypocrisy: false choice; *pro forma* consultations; ad hoc promises with no backing
- No WMF strategy; shooting from the hip

{{citation needed}}

Thanks for Listening

Now let's disagree! :)

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