There is a lot of need for technical improvement throughout the wikis. But: there don't seem to be enough development resources to make these improvements happen, especially, it seems, those improvements that are most wanted by contributors with specific or local needs.

"DIVERSITY, COLLABORATION, FUTURE" IN TECHNOLOGY:
A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY-CENTERED SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

THE TECHNICAL WISHES TEAM

at Wikimedia Deutschland, a Wikimedia Chapter, has successfully established a community-centered approach to MediaWiki software development.

Originating from a survey called "Technical Wishes," set up by User:Raymond on German Wikipedia at the end of 2013, the Technical Wishes project has always been more than just that. It's an approach to collect and prioritize technical needs in a collaborative way and to support diverse groups of users through technological improvements.

The defining feature of Technical Wishes isn't the survey, it's the community-centered process we apply, including: transparent and continuous communication, extensive research, participatory design and decision-making, as well as iterative changes, learning from failure, and finding sustainable, long-term solutions.

Over the years the Technical Wishes approach has inspired others to start similar formats, including the Wikimedia Foundation's Community Tech team [1] running the International Community Wishlist [2] on an annual basis.

Learn more about the Technical Wishes Project:
https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WMDE_Technical_Wishes

EMPOWERING MORE COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE OUR SOFTWARE

What if we created and empowered more teams to work on technical improvements within the Wikimedia movement, all over the world?

CAN WE BUILD AND SCALE A NETWORK

of affiliates (chapters or user groups) with community-centered software development skills and projects?

Individual communities are more able to **solve their most acute needs,** by having local teams with the know-how and resources to implement changes.

As the capacity to contribute to the software, MediaWiki, from a local perspective grows, **more of MediaWiki is fixed and improved** for more people, benefiting the global community.

The **Wikimedia movement is strengthened** by supporting affiliates to develop capacity in community-centered software development and growing the number of affiliates that know how to and can contribute to MediaWiki.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

- What would need to be considered for this to become a viable reality?
- What is important to you when it comes to building this kind of global collaboration?
- Are you interested in collaborating with us?

Contact us:
lena.meintrup@wikimedia.de
johanna.strodt@wikimedia.de

WIKIMEDIA
DEUTSCHLAND