The Technical Wishes Project: Stories from the heart of community centered software development

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Goat User Story:

As a goat, I would like goats to replace cats as the lingua franca of the internet
Community centered Software Development and Engineering
Back to the future

# How a technical wishes poll became the starting point for the Technical Wishes Project

# How we created a concept on the road

# How this became a model for the international wishlist approach
A poll initiated by the German-speaking community

First prototype of the technical wishlist process
Voting for option to watch changes in category membership
Key elements:

# Initiative and discussion of technical requests by the community

# Priorization/voting by the community and estimation/priorization by the WMDE Team (what is feasible, what not, what can be addressed when and how)

# Continuous support by WMDE’s Software Development Department (estimation, communication, coordination, development)

# Close collaboration, transparent development and communication process
Improving a process on the road

# Getting to know each other
# Discussing technical needs
# Reviewing the first technical wishes
   poll
# Collecting ideas for a good process
# Explaining workflows in software development
Key learnings and findings
Wikipedia is a hobby.

Collaboration (with employees) should be fun!
Views of editors on software development in the Wikimedia world

# Too much information in too many locations

# Some informations are passed on, others not

# Often no clearly defined contact, no consistent responsibilities

# Complicated technical language, mostly in English

# Confusion about who is developing what (WMF teams, volunteer developers)

# Often no information what is feasible in software development and what isn’t
Communication and collaboration framework

# Provide information and use information channels that are accessible to a high number of editors

# Build language bridges

# Clearly communicate what resources are available, and why not every technical request is feasible

# Clearly communicate who is the contact for which area and the areas where there are no contacts and/or resources

# Stimulate and facilitate cooperation and an exchange of information between volunteers, chapter and WMF employees
How to identify technical needs

# Polling is a (very) good method to collect and prioritize technical requests

# Onwiki is the best place to conduct a survey, to gather feedback, to communicate about product status (“Phabricator is not home”)

# A survey might exclude editors without any technical knowledge

# Workshops could provide a more comfortable and supporting atmosphere

# Workshops could be useful to identify technical needs of specific users or smaller Wikimedia project communities

# Introduction to the German speaking community and discussion of the concept @WikiCon

# Sharing of main learnings and findings with the Community Tech Team
The technical wishlist approach in (global) practice
German community wishlist survey:  https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Umfragen/Technische_W%C3%BCnsche_2015
(September/October 2015)

Local and international survey process

German community wishlist survey: ~ 235 participants, 132 wishes
International community wishlist survey: ~ 630 participants, 107 wishes

Specific challenges of the international survey: Location to conduct the survey, communication channels, language barriers, expectation management

1. Collection and discussion of feature requests (2 weeks)
2. Sorting of requests (1 week)
3. Voting (2 weeks)
4. Analysis and first estimation of the top 10 wishes/top wishes
5. Communication/discussion of results
Improve the "copy and paste detection" bot

Currently we have a bot that analyses "all" new edits to en WP for copyright concerns. The output is here. And there is the potential for it to work in a number of other languages.

Problems is that it is not up as reliably as it should be. Also presentation of the concerns could be improved. Would love to see the output turned into an extension and formatted similar to the en:Special:NewPagesFeed

Currently the output is sort-able by WikiProject. It would be nice to create WikiProject specific modules to go on individual project pages. Doc James (talk · contribs · email) 03:45, 4 November 2015 (UTC)

Earlier discussion and endorsements

- **Endorsed** -- Tobias1984 (talk) 19:12, 7 November 2015 (UTC)
- **Oppose** -- not all sites have copyright, some have GNU, also some edit include specific "quotations" which may be a valid use. Yosr (talk) 02:29, 10 November 2015 (UTC)
- **Endorsed** would love to see this bot on other Wikipedia projects, including RTL wikis, but not as an extension. 4nn12 (talk) 09:04, 10 November 2015 (UTC)
- **Oppose** as Wikipedia specific. Yes, copyvio is a serious problem, but MediaWiki has painful shortcomings that should be a higher priority. Improving blocking tools will also reduce the copyvio problem -- when a big chunk of copyvios come from India, we need to be able to effectively block repeated copyvio editors from that part of the world. We can't. MER-C (talk) 14:47, 10 November 2015 (UTC)

Votes

1. **Support** 4nn12 (talk) 03:00, 30 November 2015 (UTC)
2. **Support** -- Tobias1984 (talk) 11:17, 30 November 2015 (UTC)
3. **Support** Lugnuts (talk) 12:00, 30 November 2015 (UTC)
4. **Support** This is one of the most amazing and Wikipedia-changing automated tools to come to editor attention in some years. Having automated copyright detection should be a priority because of the time that it saves experienced editors and the credibility that it gives to Wikimedia projects. Blue Raspberry (talk) 16:34, 30 November 2015 (UTC)
5. **Support** Great idea which is going to save a lot of time. Bharatiya29 (talk) 17:37, 30 November 2015 (UTC)
6. **Support** This is very important. Tryptofish (talk) 18:15, 30 November 2015 (UTC)
7. **Support** Armbrust (talk) 22:29, 30 November 2015 (UTC)
## Top Community Tech wishlist results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Ticket</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Migrate dead external links to archives</td>
<td>Bots and gadgets</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>T120433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Improved diff compare screen</td>
<td>Editing</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>T121469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Central Global Repository for Templates, Lua modules, and Gadgets</td>
<td>Templates</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>T121470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cross-wiki watchlist</td>
<td>Watchlists</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>T5525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Numerical sorting</td>
<td>Categories</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>T8948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Allow categories in Commons in all languages</td>
<td>Commons</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>T120451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pageview Stats tool</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>T120497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Global (cross-wiki) user talk page</td>
<td>Talk pages</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>T88416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Improve the plagiarism detection bot</td>
<td>Bots and gadgets</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>T120435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Add a user watchlist</td>
<td>Watchlists</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>T2470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3D models on Wikimedia Commons</td>
<td>Commons</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>T3790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Watchlist timed expiry</td>
<td>Watchlists</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>T100508</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

107 wishes, in order of support votes

The WMF Community Tech team is responsible for evaluating and addressing the top 10.

The Technical Collaboration team is helping volunteers work on wishes #11-on.

[https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/2015_Community_Wishlist_Survey/Results](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/2015_Community_Wishlist_Survey/Results)
Top German community wishlist results

The German TCB team is responsible for evaluating and addressing the top 20.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stimmen (1039)</th>
<th>Wünsche (132)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Bessere Lösung von Bearbeitungskonflikten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Änderungen im Text bei Abschnittsverschiebung anzeigen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Globale Echo-Benachrichtigungen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Beobachten einzelner Abschnitte, weniger Formatierungsaufwand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Schriftgröße mathematischer Formeln vereinheitlichen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>OSM-Verknüpfungen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Halbgeschützte Seite soll nach kurzem Volkszut gesetz automatisch in vorherigen Zustand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Identische Formatierung mehrerer Zellen oder Spalten vereinfachen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Danksfunktion für IPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Bei Speichern Hinweis über abgegebene Benachrichtigungen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Tabellen in PDFs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Sortierung mehrerer Spalten in Tabellen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Permanenten Seiten-IDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Benachrichtigung über die Einbindung selbst hochgeladener Fotos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Aufrufstatistik überarbeiten</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

132 wishes, in order of support votes

Requirements

This is a draft of requirements for the new interface; this needs discussion. Come join the discussion on the talk page.

In this description: "Editor" is the person who made the suspected edit; "user" is the person who's using the EranBot interface to evaluate edits.

Page structure

- User can sign in using OAuth, connected to their wiki account. (T132081)
- User can easily browse and select from a list of all of the WikiProjects with edits that need to be checked, in order to filter the items shown on the page. (T132350)
- User can filter items based on triage state (unchecked, Page Fixed, No Action Needed, Requires 2nd Opinion, all items) ([[phab:T132352|T132352]])
- User can sort by oldest/newest. (T132349)
- User has access to all unchecked items in the system, using infinite scroll. (T132348)
- User can see a chronological log (history) of all actions taken using the interface, which can be sorted and filtered by time, editor's name, user's name, and WikiProject. (T132830)
- User can see a brief set of instructions near the top of the page, with a link to more detailed instructions.

Item structure

- User has easy access to the following links: (T132831)
  - Article title
  - Article history
  - Diff of the suspected edit

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Tech/Improve_the_plagiarism_detection_bot
Technical Wishes in international collaboration
Community Tech Team and WMDE’s TCB Team

Feature requests of both wishlists benefit Wikimedia projects of all languages

# Regular sync meetings and exchange
# Quarterly planning
# Shared tasks
# Code review support
"Brot" [[Mischbrei]] (nicht ausgetrocknet) ist ein traditionelles Nahrungsmittel in [[Afghanistan]], aus [[Grieß]] und [[Wasser]]. Es kann auch als [[Zwieback]] oder [[Brötchen]] gekocht werden. Die meisten Brote können auch in Form kleinerer, etwa handtellergroßer Portionen als [[Brotzeit]] gebacken werden.
Not the hacky way: How a feature request led to essential groundwork and why this is necessary

Starting point:

“Possibility to remove articles from watchlist after a custom timeframe”  
(German community wishlist, International wishlist #12)

Related requests:

# Crosswiki-watchlist (international wishlist, German community wishlist),

# User-watchlist (international wishlist)
The watchlist code is one of the oldest parts of the Mediawiki Software.
Focus on technical wishes: The Jerusalem Hackathon
[https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Hackathon_2016]
Next steps

# 2 User-specific workshops until end of 2016 (WMDE Team)

# Get together on hacking on technical wishes of the international communities @Wikimania Hackathon (Volunteer developers, WMDE Team, Community Tech Team)

# Continue working on technical requests of both, the German community wishlist and the international community wishlist (Community Tech Team, WMDE Team)

# Continue foster our collaboration and enhance our networks and relations with volunteer developers and other development teams (Community Tech Team, WMDE Team, Technical Collaboration team)

# Figure out how to include the top technical wishes of smaller communities
Building better networks between volunteers, chapters and WMF staff
by learning about other perspectives and taking them into account
Thank you!

Danny, Birgit, Ryan, Leszek

Community Tech Team: https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Tech

WMDE Team: https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/WMDE_Engineering
Credits


WMDE Technical Wishes by Henning (WMDE), ,cc-by SA 3.0 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WMDE_Technical_Wishes_Collaboration_and_Communication.svg

Tech on Tour by Birgit Müller (WMDE), cc-by SA 3.0 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tech_on_Tour_1.jpg

A boy riding a bicycle with training wheels by Dawn Endico, cc-by SA 2.0 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Helmeted_boy_on_training_wheels.jpg


Spielendes Kätzchen by Loliloli, PD https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Spielendes_K%C3%A4tzchen.JPG

Irrgarten Schönbrunn by Robot B, cc-by SA 2.0 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Irrgarten_Schoenbrunn_2729741482_5937032d56.jpg

Ruined house Altenbeichlingen by Aschroet, cc-0 1.0 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ruined_house_Alteneichlingen.JPG

Wikimedia Hackathon Jerusalem Participants, Jerusalem, Israel 2016 by Deror_avi, cc-by SA 4.0 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jerusalem_Hackathon_IMG_8550.JPG