Accept, decline, postpone
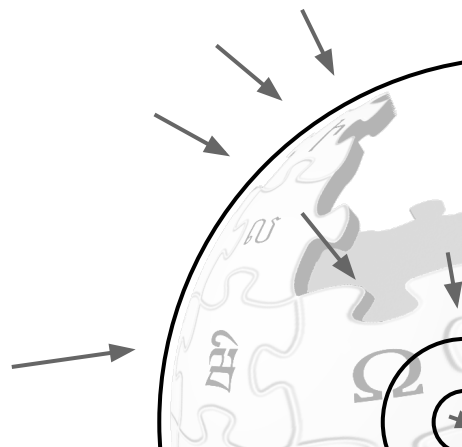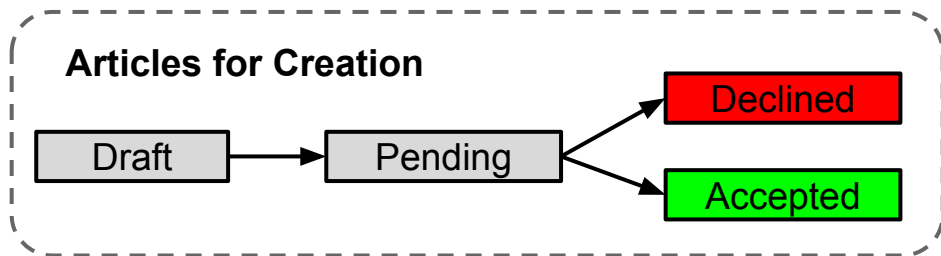
An exploration of Article for Creation efficiency

Aaron Halfaker
WMF

Jodi Schneider
INRIA

Bluma Gelley
NYU

Articles for Creation

Draft → Pending → Declined

Pending → Accepted

Whoami

Name: Aaron Halfaker

Occupation: Research Scientist @ WMF

Contact: `halfak` in #wikimedia-research

Outline

1. **Recap:** Wikipedia article creation
2. **Problem:** AfC → Decreased productivity
3. **Results:**
   - ~~Pre-publication review is too slow~~
   - Linus' Law breaks down (no collaborators)
4. **Implications:** Draft namespace & Process literacy

How to create an article

How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia

How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. *Find* an article that doesn't exist

How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. *Find* an article that doesn't exist

How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. *Find* an article that doesn't exist

How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. *Find* an article that doesn't exist
3. Add some content

How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. *Find* an article that doesn't exist
3. Add some content
4. Hit "save"
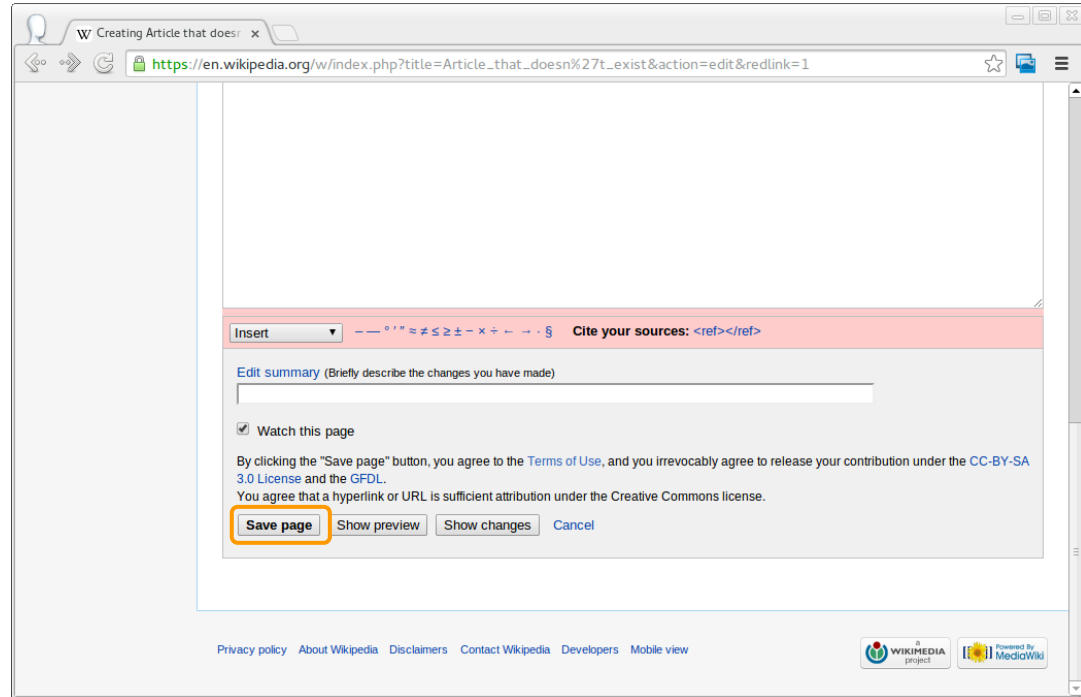
How to create an article

Done!

Workflows

"Direct to Main"
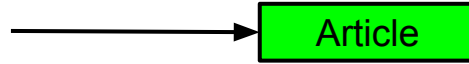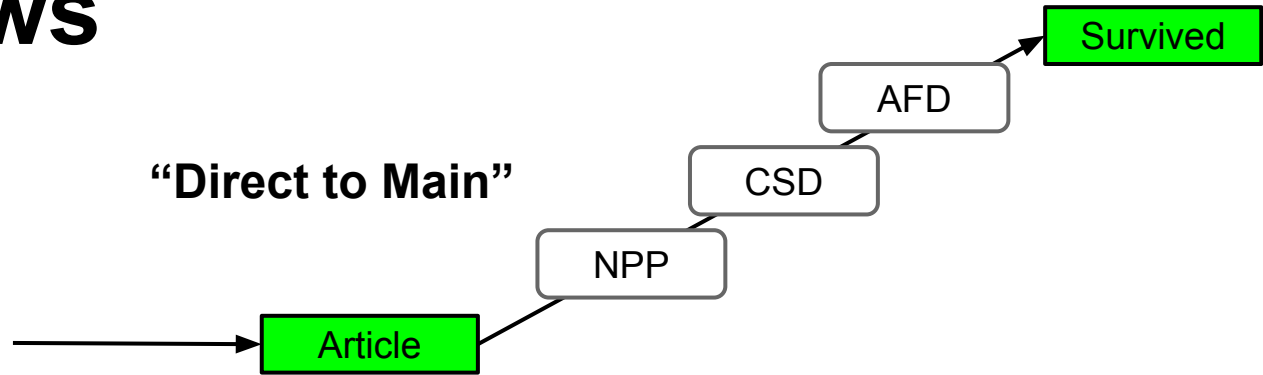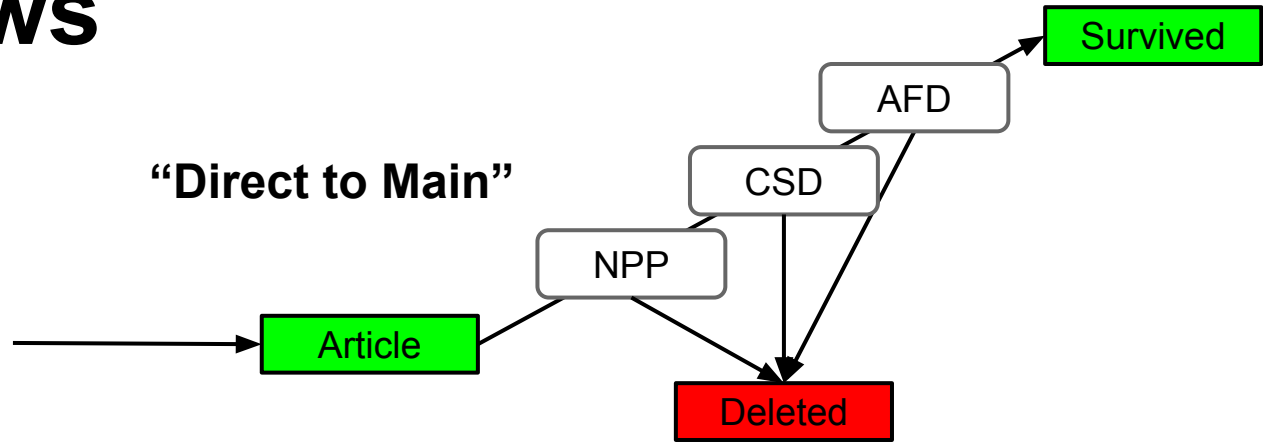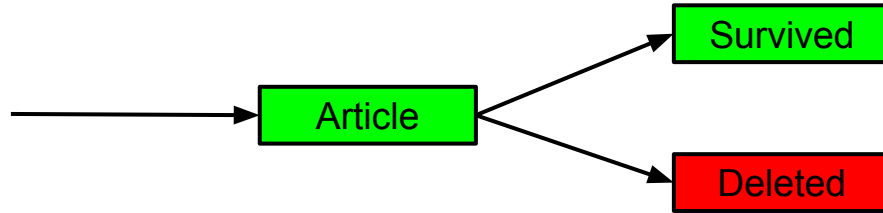
Workflows

"Direct to Main"

Article → NPP → CSD → AFD → Survived

Workflows

"Direct to Main"

Article → NPP → CSD → AFD → Survived

NPP, CSD, AFD → Deleted

Workflows

"Direct to Main"

Workflows

"Direct to Main"

draft? → Article

Article → Survived

Article → Deleted

Workflows

Draft space

Main space

Direct to Main

User space *drafts*

Draft

Article

Survived

Deleted
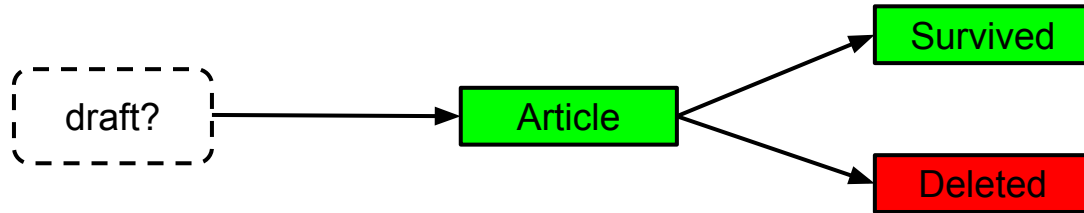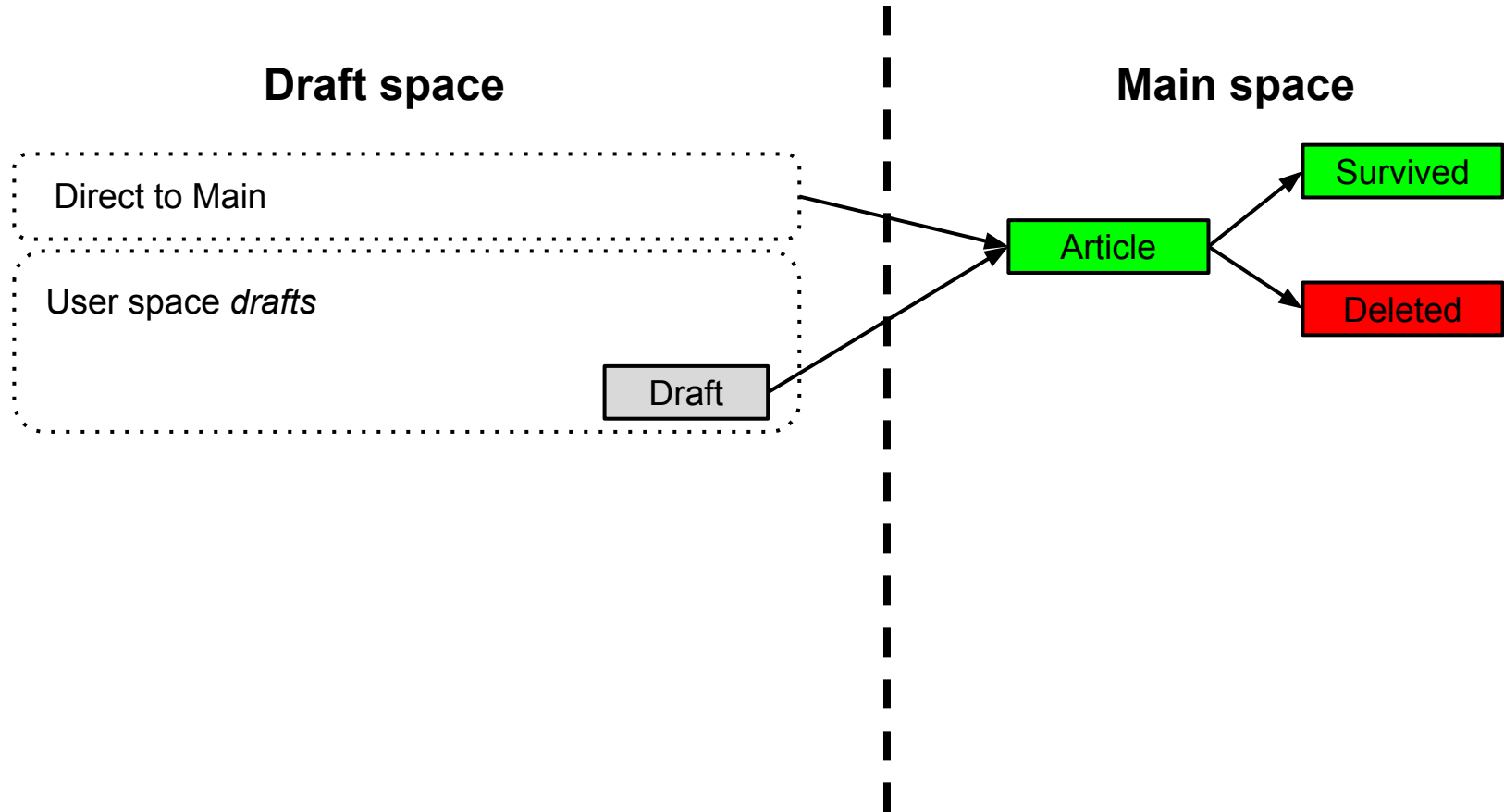
User space draft

1. **User:EpochFail**/Article that doesn't exist

User space draft

1. **User:EpochFail**/Article that doesn't exist

2. *iterate, make mistakes and fix them*

User space draft

1. **User:EpochFail**/Article that doesn't exist

2. *iterate, make mistakes and fix them*

3. Move to Main when you're ready

User space draft

1. **User:EpochFail**/Article that doesn't exist

2. *iterate, make mistakes and fix them*

3. Move to Main when you're ready

Cool! Right?

Workflows

Draft space

Main space

Direct to Main

User space drafts

Draft

safe space

Article

Survived

Deleted

Workflows

Draft space

Main space

Scrutiny!

Direct to Main

User space drafts

Draft

safe space

Article

Survived

Deleted
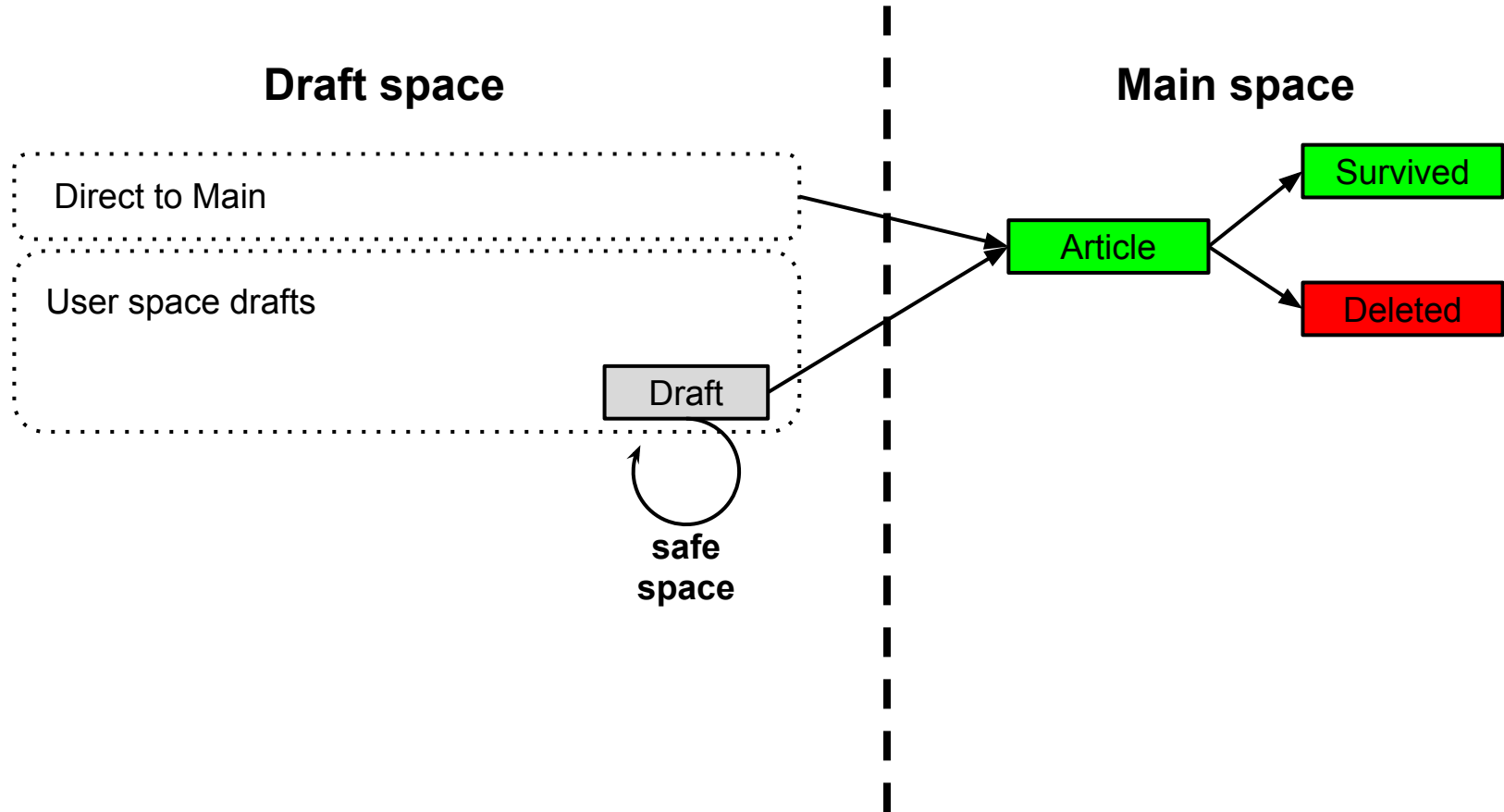
Articles for Creation

Never mind. I just did the whole thing manually. --Khoikhoi 05:08, 10 December 2005 (UTC)

Anon page creation restriction   [edit]

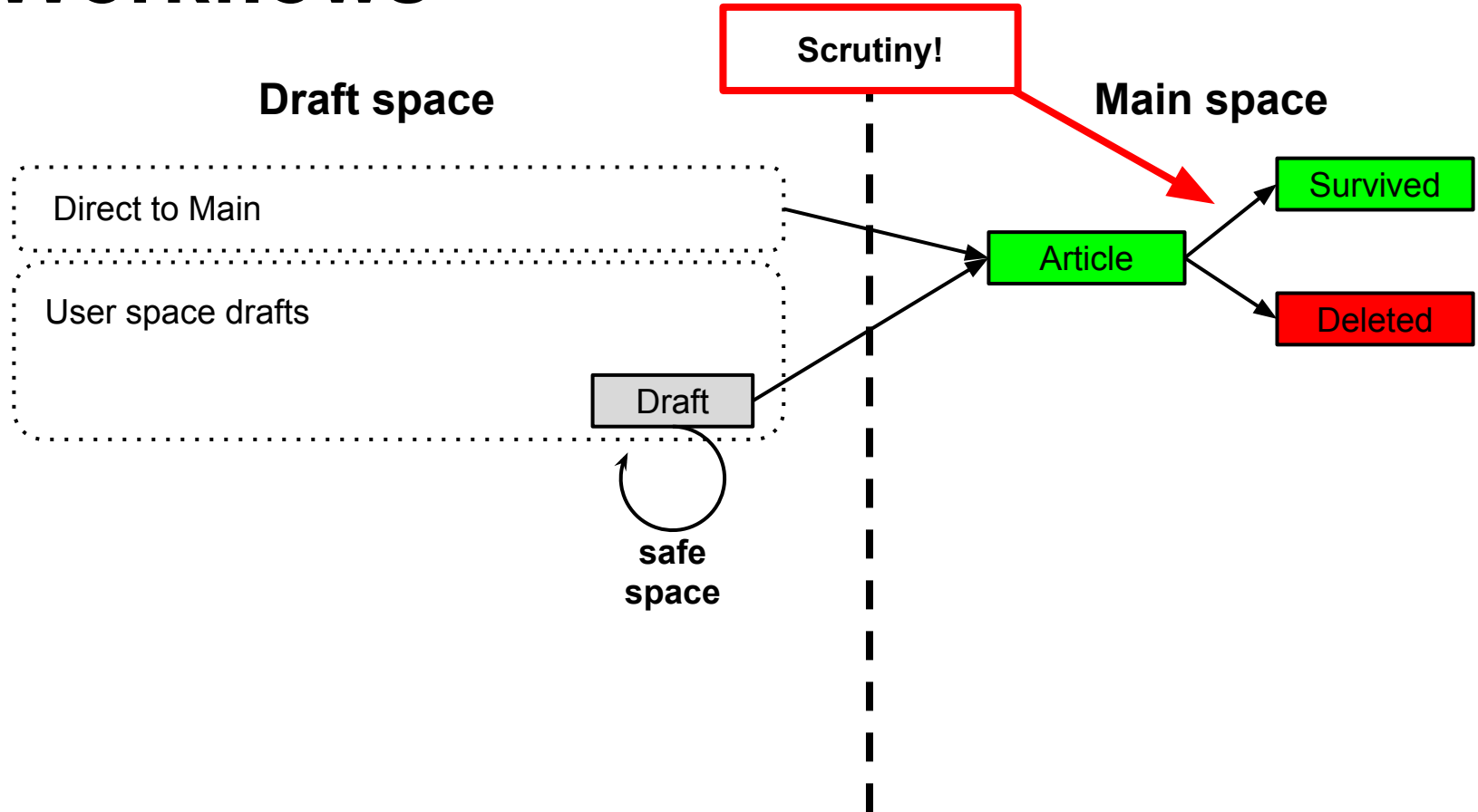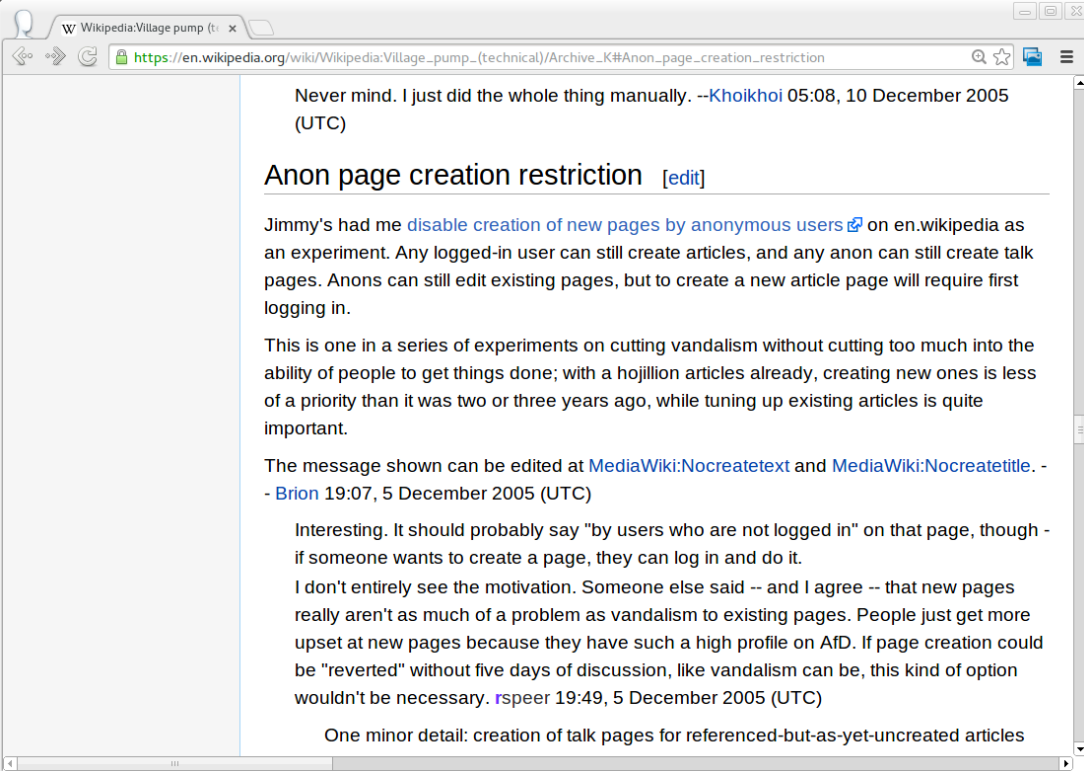Jimmy's had me disable creation of new pages by anonymous users ⬀ on en.wikipedia as an experiment. Any logged-in user can still create articles, and any anon can still create talk pages. Anons can still edit existing pages, but to create a new article page will require first logging in.

This is one in a series of experiments on cutting vandalism without cutting too much into the ability of people to get things done; with a hojillion articles already, creating new ones is less of a priority than it was two or three years ago, while tuning up existing articles is quite important.

The message shown can be edited at MediaWiki:Nocreatetext and MediaWiki:Nocreatetitle. -- Brion 19:07, 5 December 2005 (UTC)

Interesting. It should probably say "by users who are not logged in" on that page, though - if someone wants to create a page, they can log in and do it.

I don't entirely see the motivation. Someone else said -- and I agree -- that new pages really aren't as much of a problem as vandalism to existing pages. People just get more upset at new pages because they have such a high profile on AfD. If page creation could be "reverted" without five days of discussion, like vandalism can be, this kind of option wouldn't be necessary. rspeer 19:49, 5 December 2005 (UTC)

One minor detail: creation of talk pages for referenced-but-as-yet-uncreated articles

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Wikipedia:Articles_for_creation&oldid=104723418

Project page | Talk   Read | Edit | View history

Search

Amending our Terms of Use:
Please comment on a proposed amendment regarding undisclosed paid editing.

[Help with translations!]

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The Free Encyclopedia

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  About Wik
  Communi
  Recent ch
  Contact p

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  Português
  Română
  Русский
  ✎Edit links

This page allows *unregistered* and new users to create new articles with the assistance of experienced Wikipedians.

Shortcut:
[[WP:AFC]]

February, 2007

ernatively, if you

Read Wikipedia:Your first article before writing your article, to learn how to write it well and read below to avoid some common mistakes other people make.

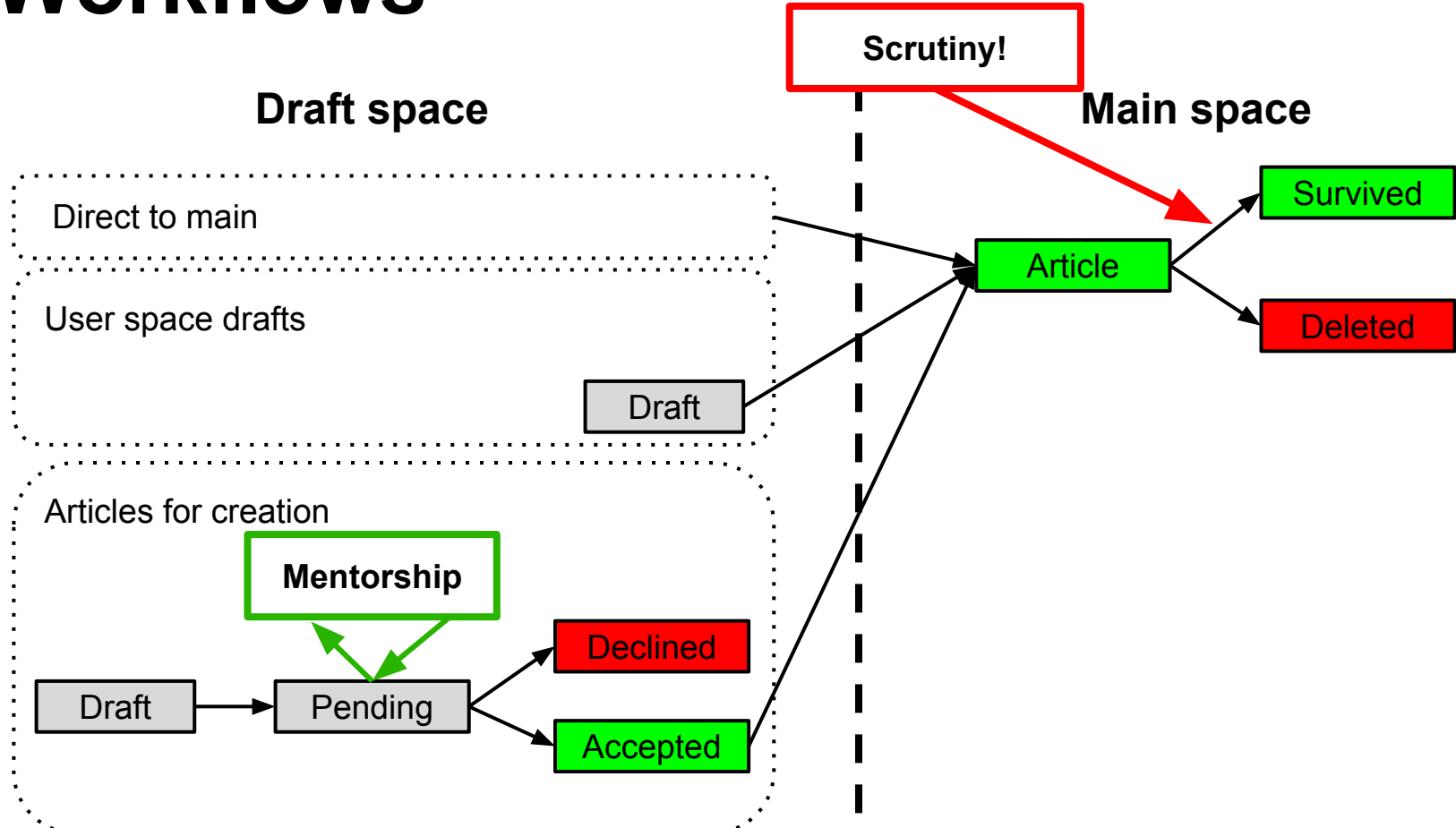| Unregistered users: Submitting an article	Registered users: Reviewing submissions
Follow these directions to submit an article for creation.	Registered Wikipedians should follow these directions to review submitted text and create new articles.

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Wikipedia:Articles_for_creation&oldid=104723418

Halfak (WMF)   0   Talk   Sandbox   Preferences   Beta   Watchlist   Contributions   Log out

Project page   Talk   Read   Edit   View history   Search

Amending our Terms of Use:
Please comment on a proposed amendment regarding undisclosed paid editing.

[Help with translations!]

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The Free Encyclopedia

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  Português
  Română
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  ✎Edit links

This page allows ***unregistered*** and new users to create new articles with the assistance of experienced Wikipedians.

February, 2007

Shortcut:
[[WP:AFC]]

ernatively, if you

Read Wikipedia:Your first article before writing your article, to learn how to write it well and read below to avoid some common mistakes other people make.

Unregistered users: Submitting an article	Registered users: Reviewing submissions
Follow these directions to submit an article for creation.	Registered Wikipedians should follow these directions to review submitted text and create new articles.

Workflows

Draft space

Main space

Direct to main

Survived

User space drafts

Article

Deleted

Draft

Articles for creation

Draft → Pending

Declined

Accepted

Workflows

Draft space

Main space

Direct to main

User space drafts

Draft

Articles for creation

Mentorship

Draft → Pending

Declined

Accepted

Article

Survived

Deleted

Workflows

Draft space

Main space

Scrutiny!

Direct to main

Survived

Article

Deleted

User space drafts

Draft

Articles for creation

Mentorship

Declined

Draft → Pending

Accepted

The problem

AfC leads to decreased newcomer productivity

What's productivity?

Assumptions:
- Wikipedia needs new articles
- Articles that *survive review* are desirable

What's productivity?

Assumptions:

- Wikipedia needs new articles
- Articles that *survive review* are desirable
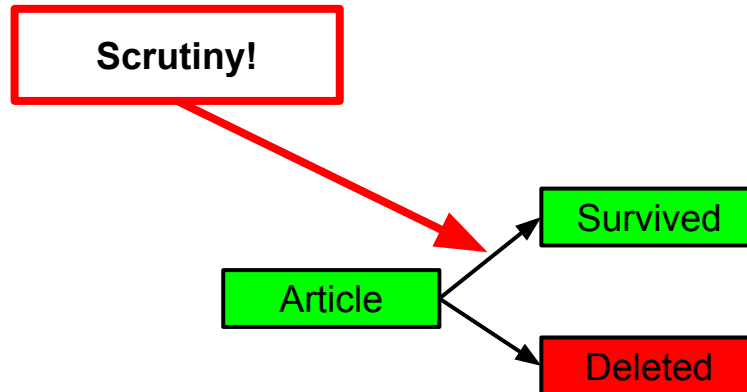
What's productivity?

Assumptions:
- Wikipedia needs new articles
- Articles that *survive review* are desirable

Productivity:
- The rate of production of *surviving articles*

Workflows

Newcomers → AfC → Lower productivity

Newcomer drafts → AfC

Workflows

Newcomers → AfC → Lower productivity

Newcomer drafts → AfC

Workflows

Newcomers → AfC → Lower productivity

Newcomer drafts → AfC

Articles for Creation →

Direct to Main →

Workflows
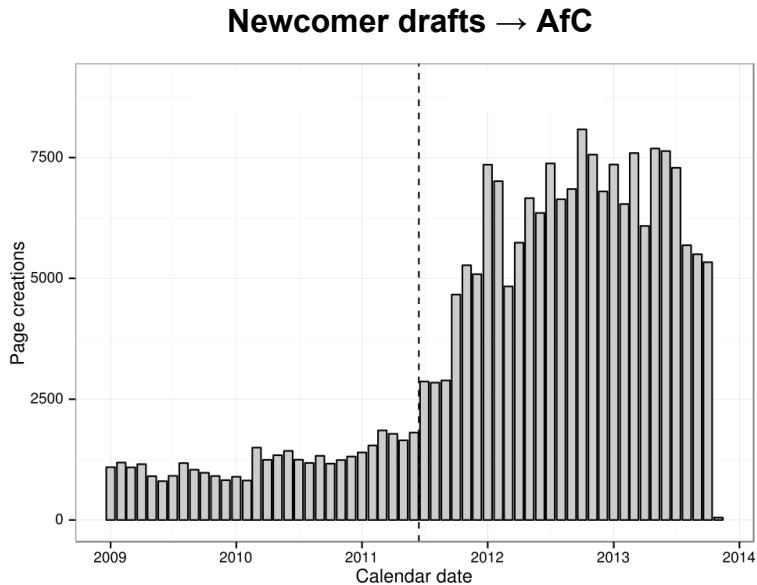
Newcomers → AfC → Lower productivity

Newcomer drafts → AfC

Articles for Creation →
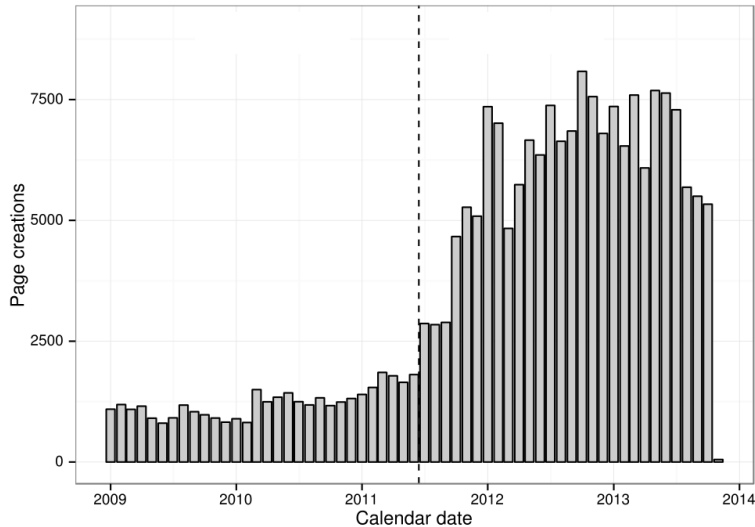
Introduction | Subject | Notability | Sources | Content | **End**

You're ready to go!

Shortcuts:
WP:WIZA
WP:WIZGO

Your article will first be created as a draft stored in Articles for creation. When you finish, you'll be able to submit it to be reviewed by our volunteers. After a successful review, it will be moved to the article namespace.

Enter your draft's title here
Create new article draft

Main

We strongly recommend that you use Articles for Creation.

Workflows

Newcomers → AfC → Lower productivity

Newcomer drafts → AfC
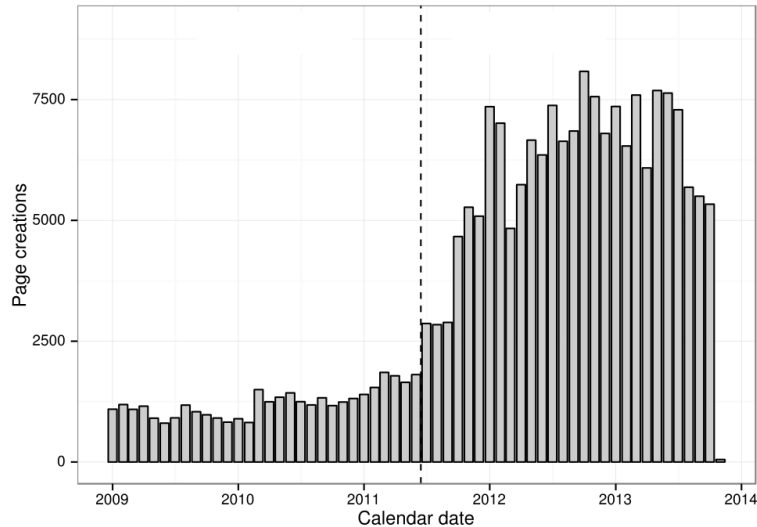
AfC → Lower productivity
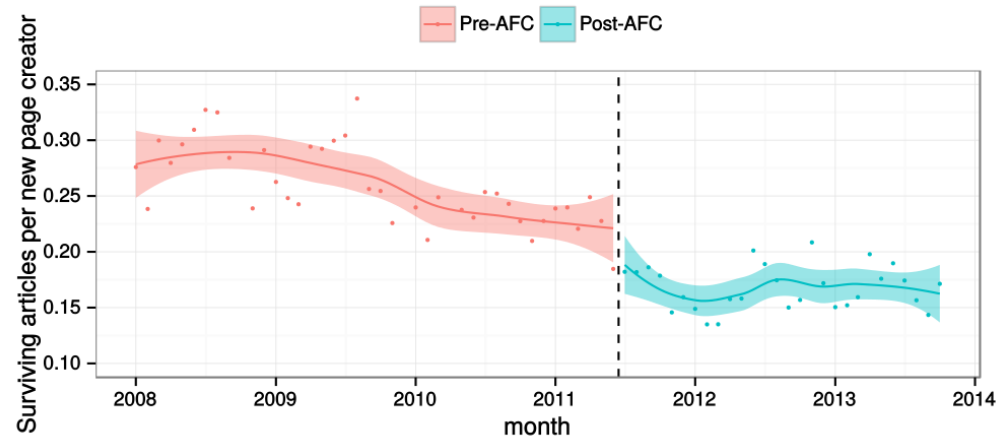
Why?

Where's the breakdown?
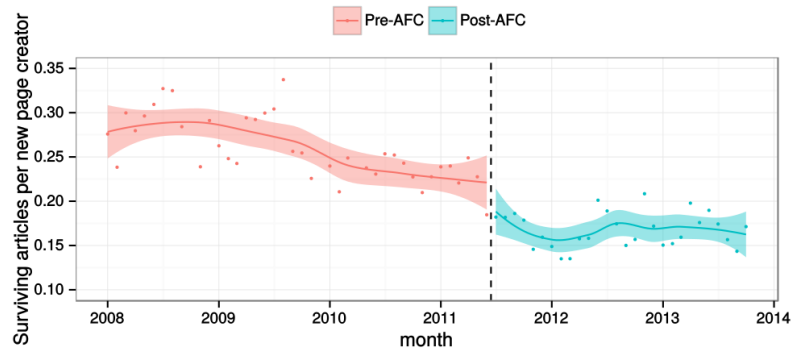
Hypotheses

1. AfC's review process is too slow

2. No collaboration (Linus' Law)

Methods!

Methods!

AfC uses templates to track status

Methods!

AfC uses templates to track status

Methods!

AfC uses templates to track status

Draft   Pending   Accepted   Declined

"T"   "”   "A"   "D"

{{AFC submission|??}}
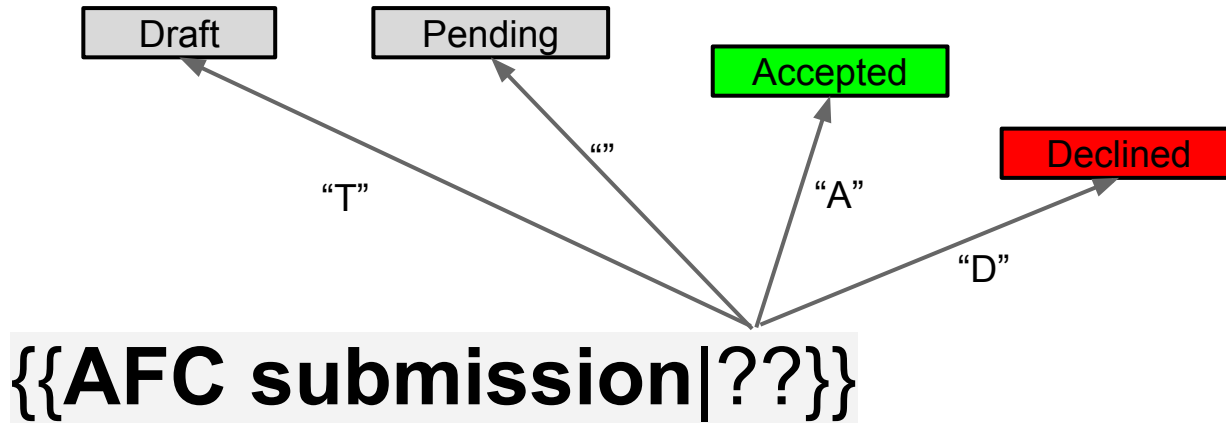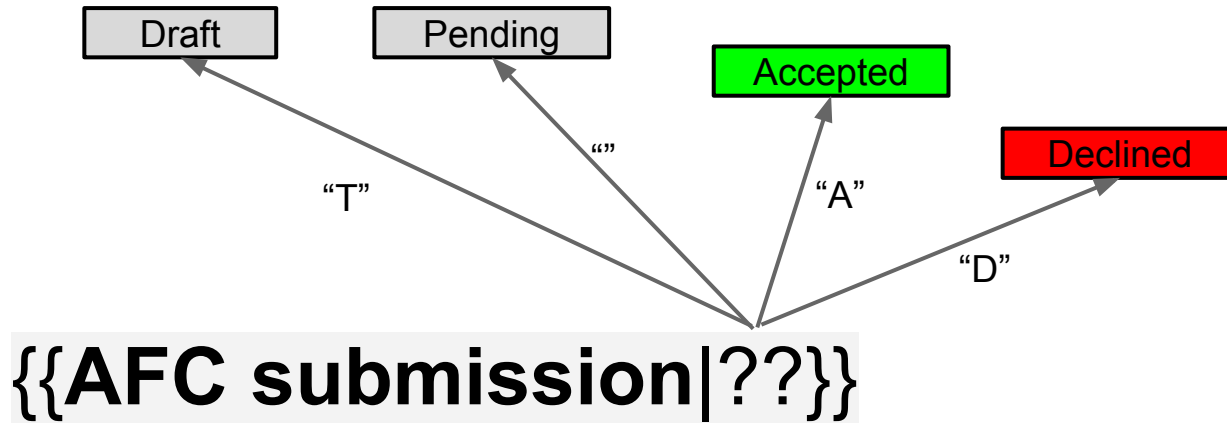
Find AfC drafts:
MySQL Database

Parse templates:
XML Dump &
API (deleted pages)

Methods!

Reading draft histories and discussions

Results

One hypothesis at a time

1. AfC's process is to slow

1. AfC's process is to slow

1. AfC's process is to slow

1. AfC's process is to slow

density

Time between submission and review
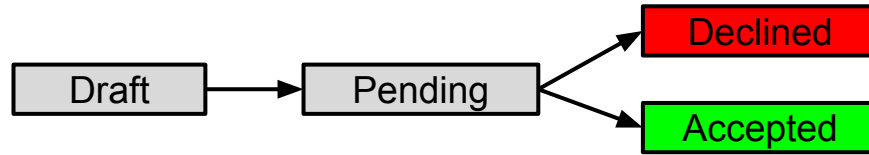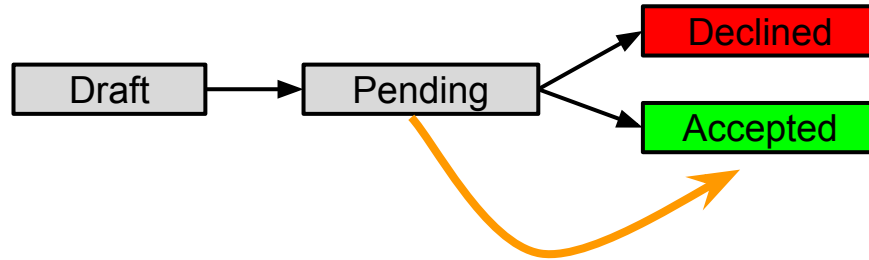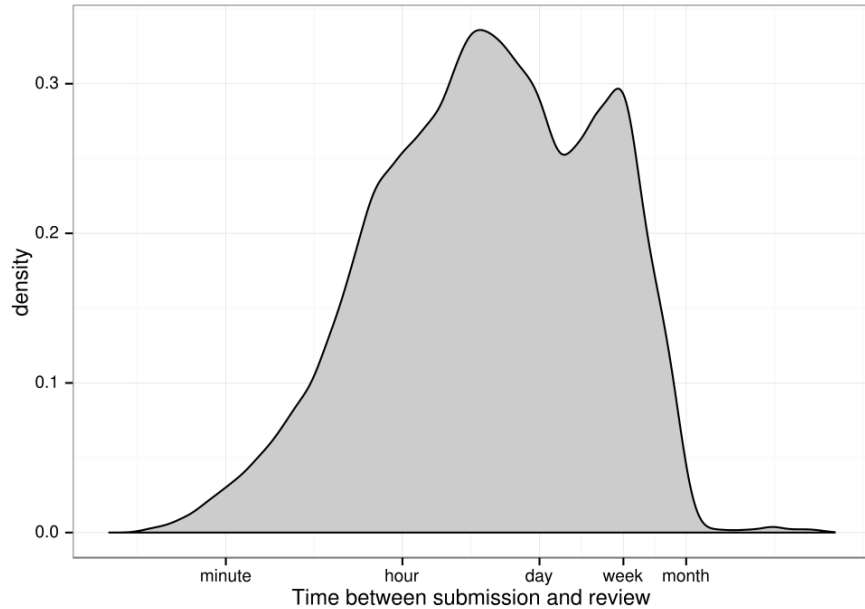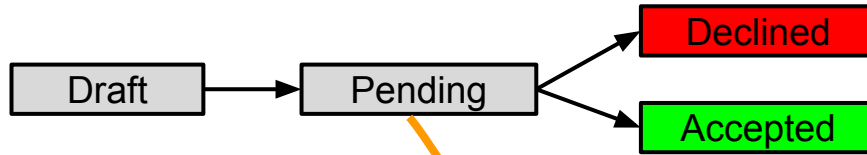
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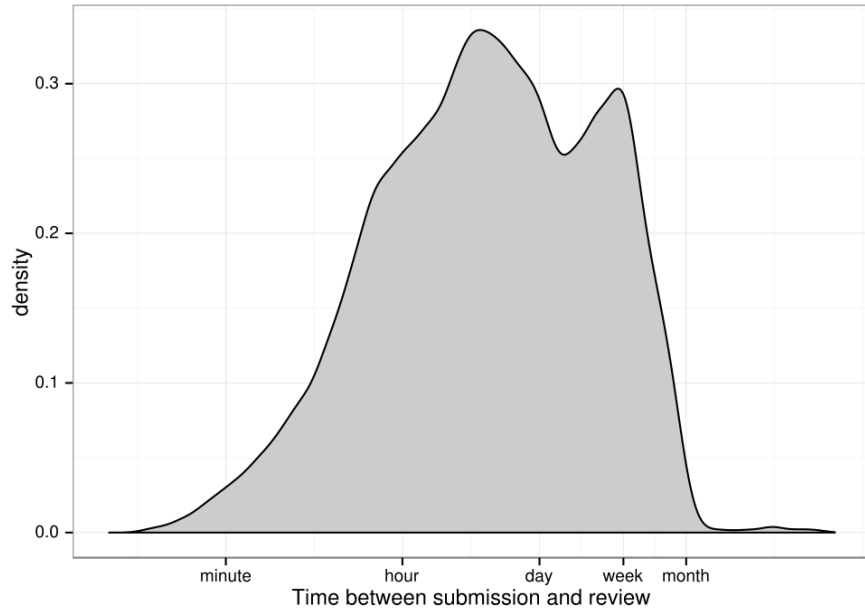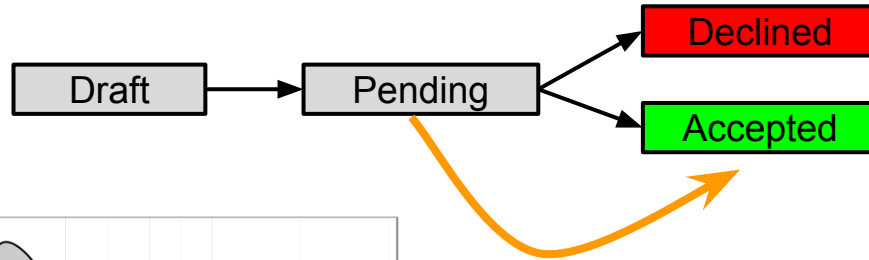
65.5% of reviews happen within 24 hours

1. AfC's process is to slow
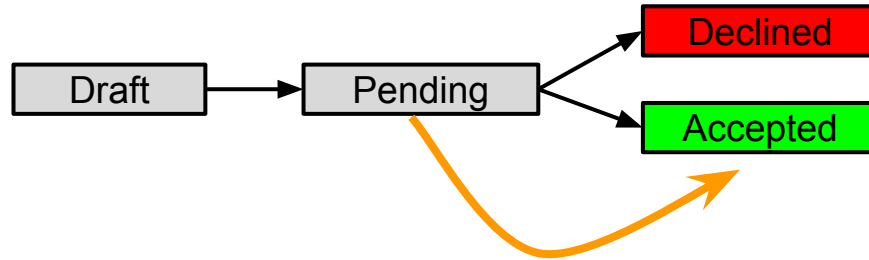
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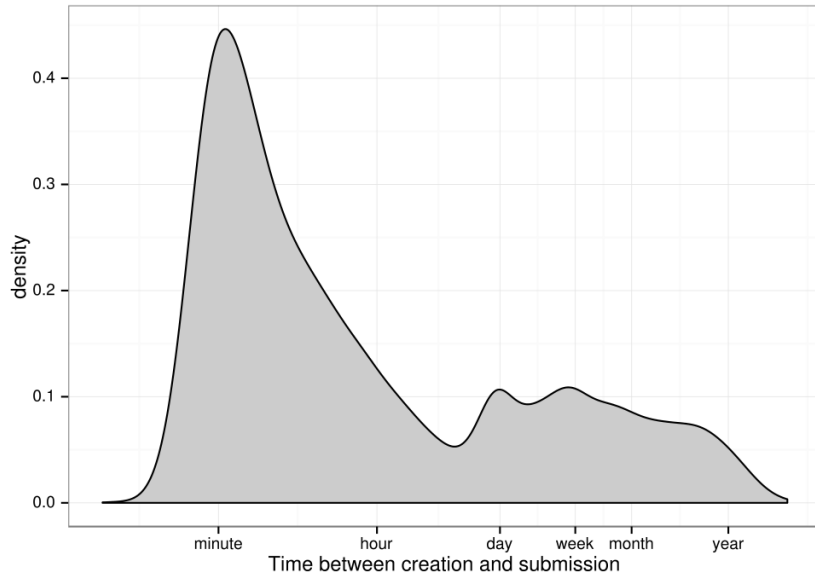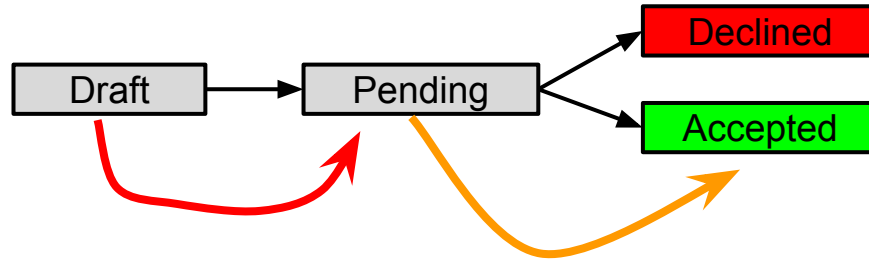
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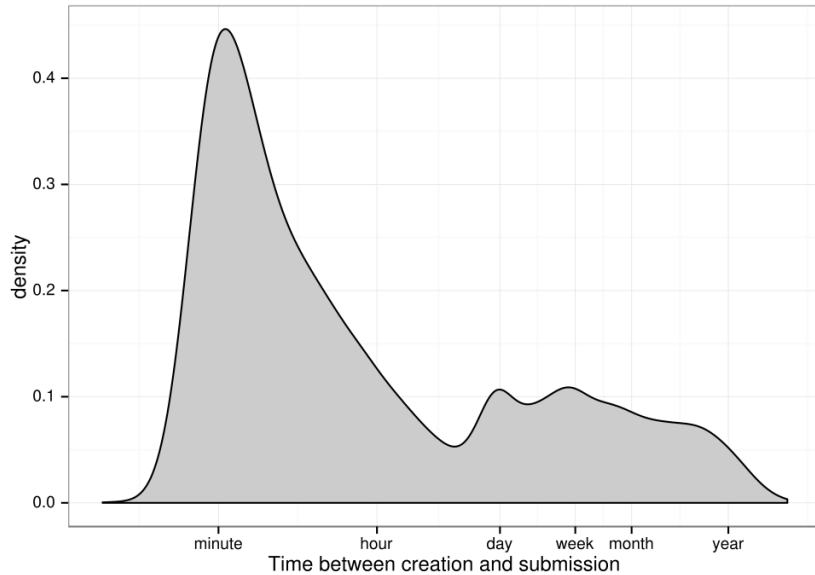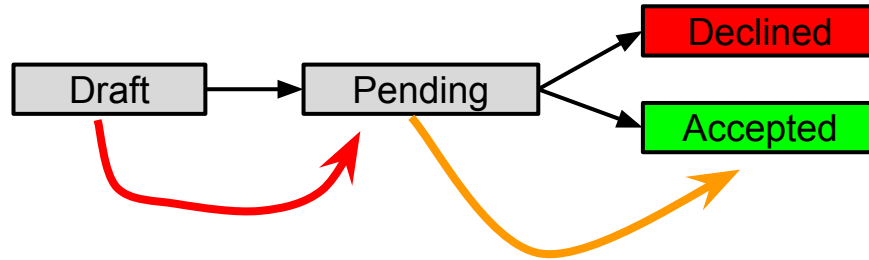
93% of reviews are submitted for review within one week of creation

1. AfC's process is to slow

~~1. AfC's process is to slow~~

Nope
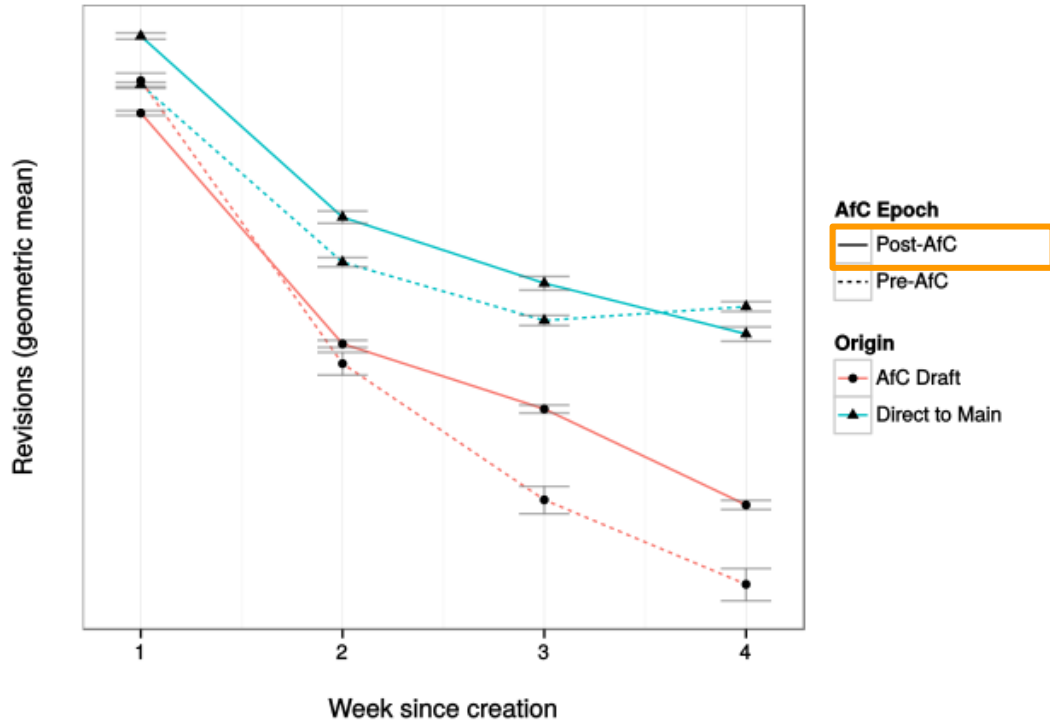
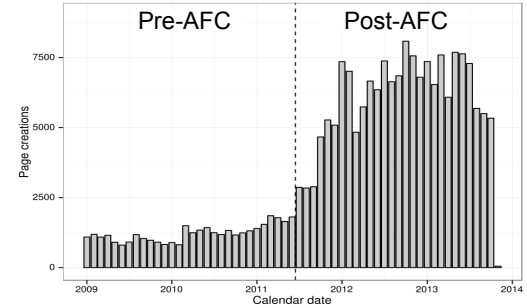**Qualitative work:**
Regular backlog drives keep review time short.

2. No collaborators (Linus' Law)
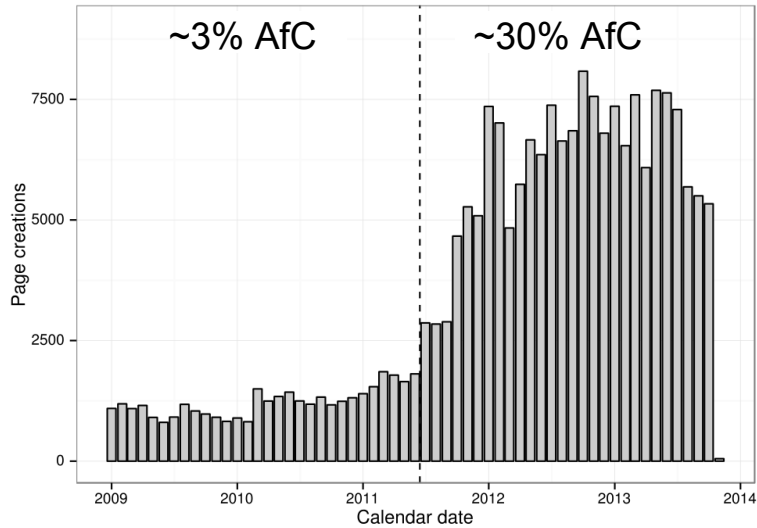
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**Contributions by non-creating editor**
- Revisions
- Bytes added
- Unique registered
- Unique anons

2. No collaborators (Linus' Law)

~3% AfC   ~30% AfC

Contributions by non-creating editor
- Revisions
- Bytes added
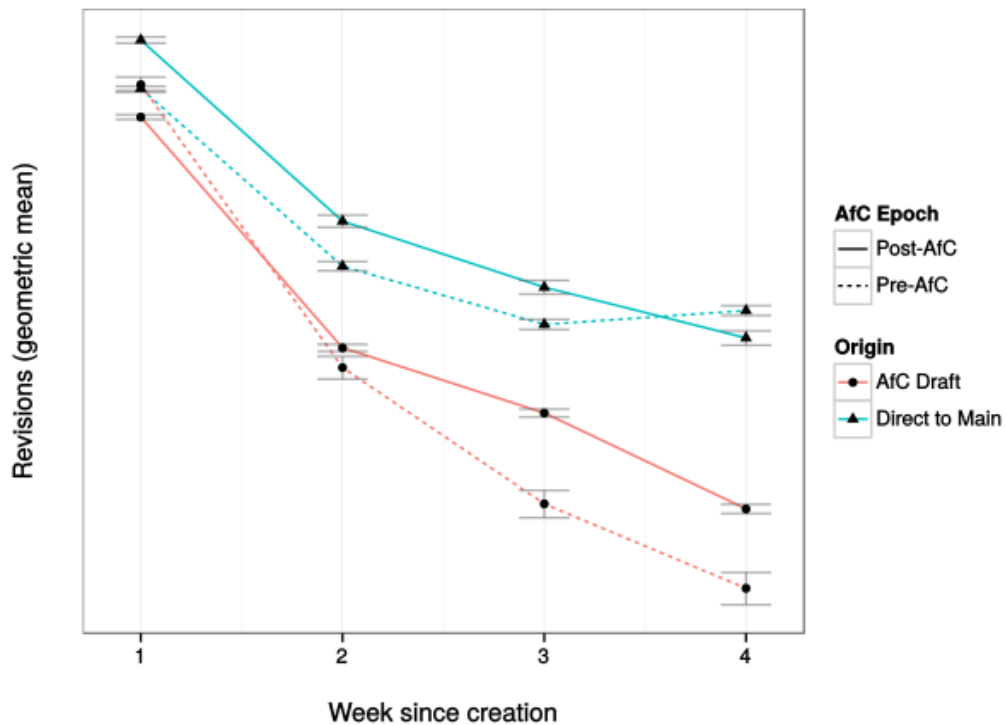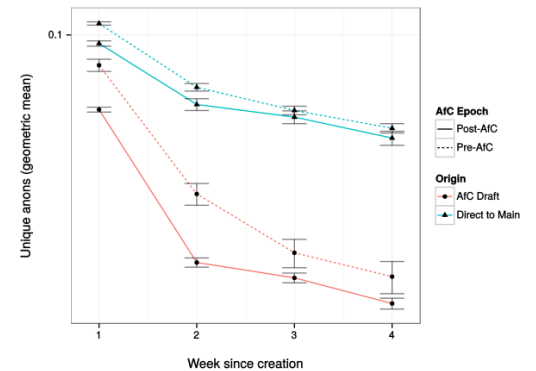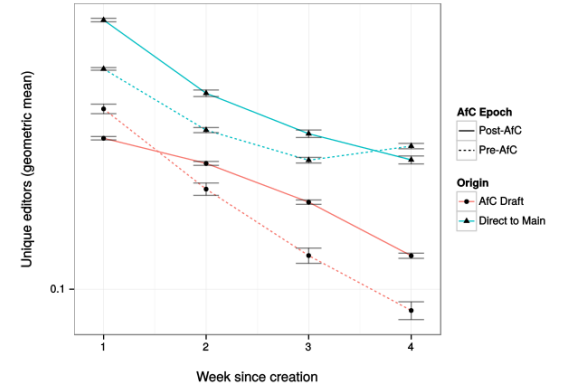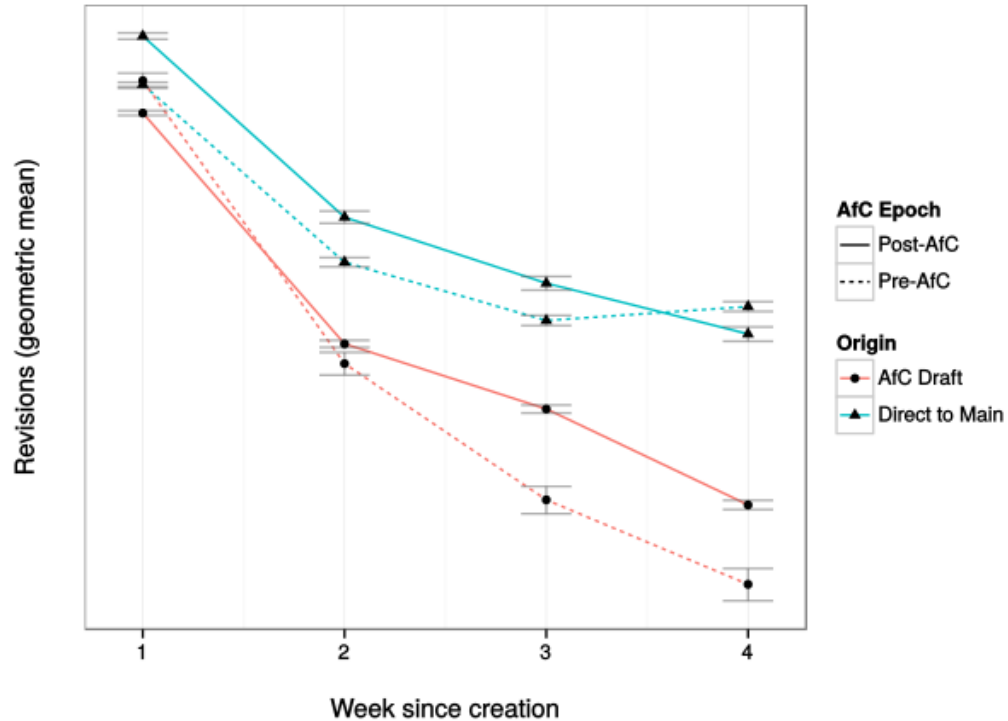- Unique registered
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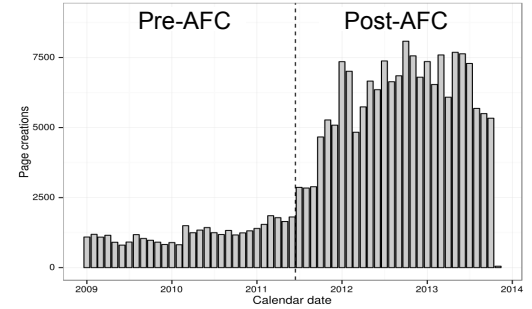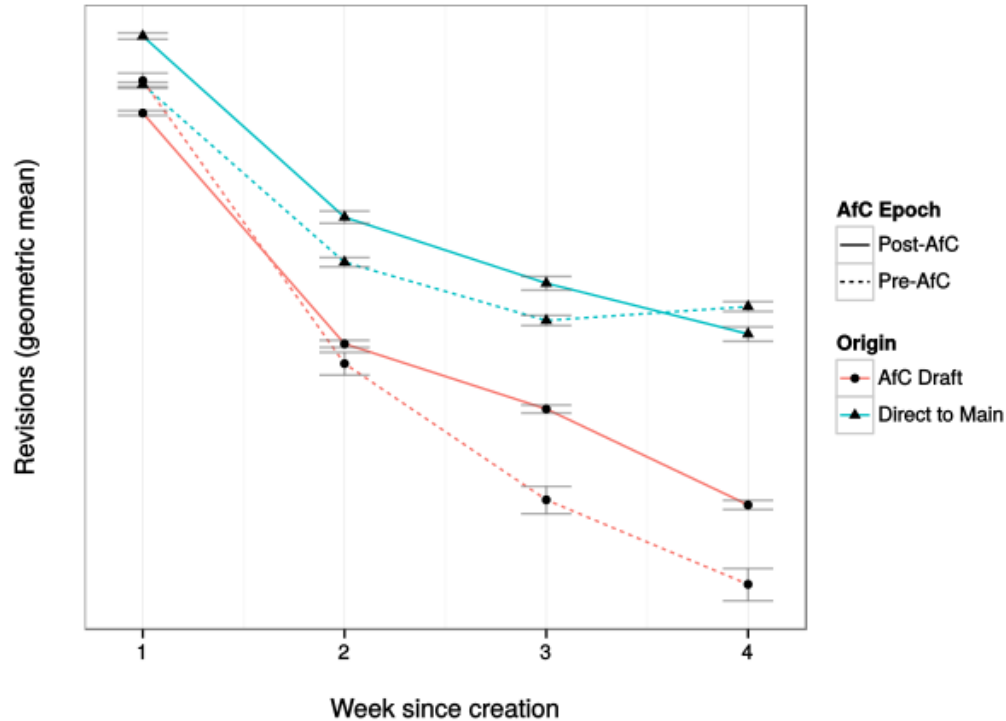
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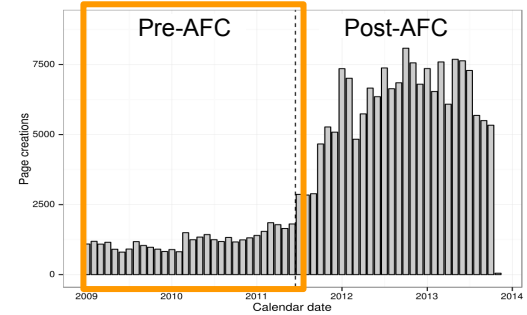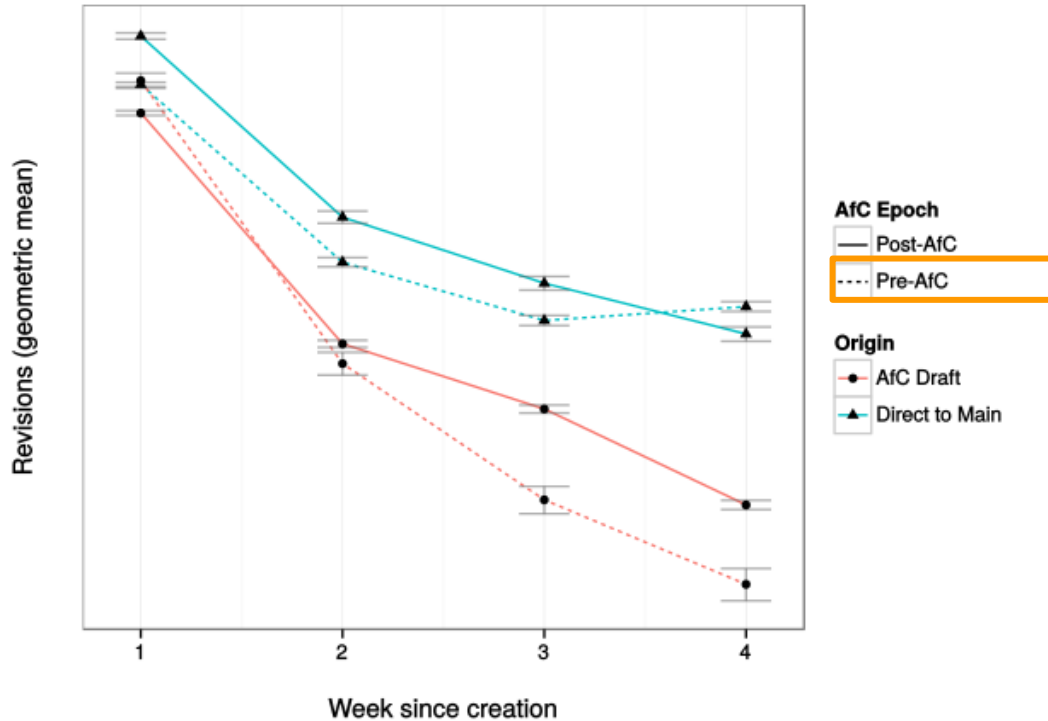
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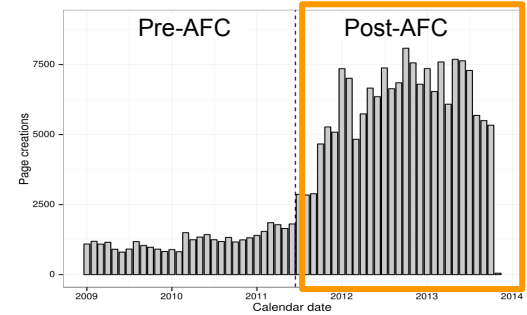
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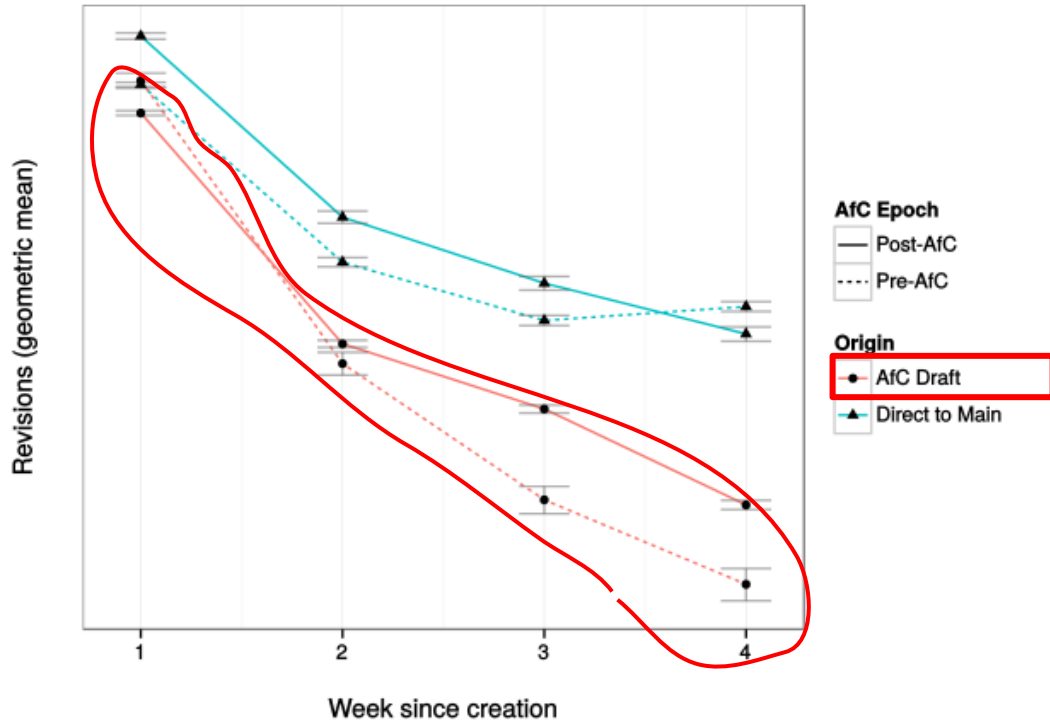
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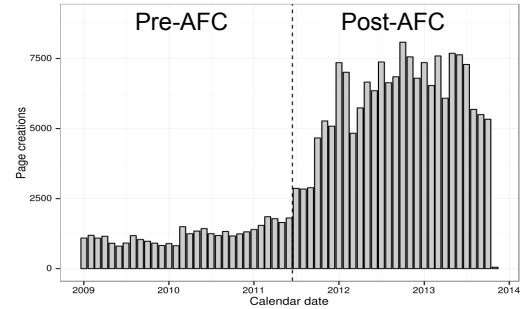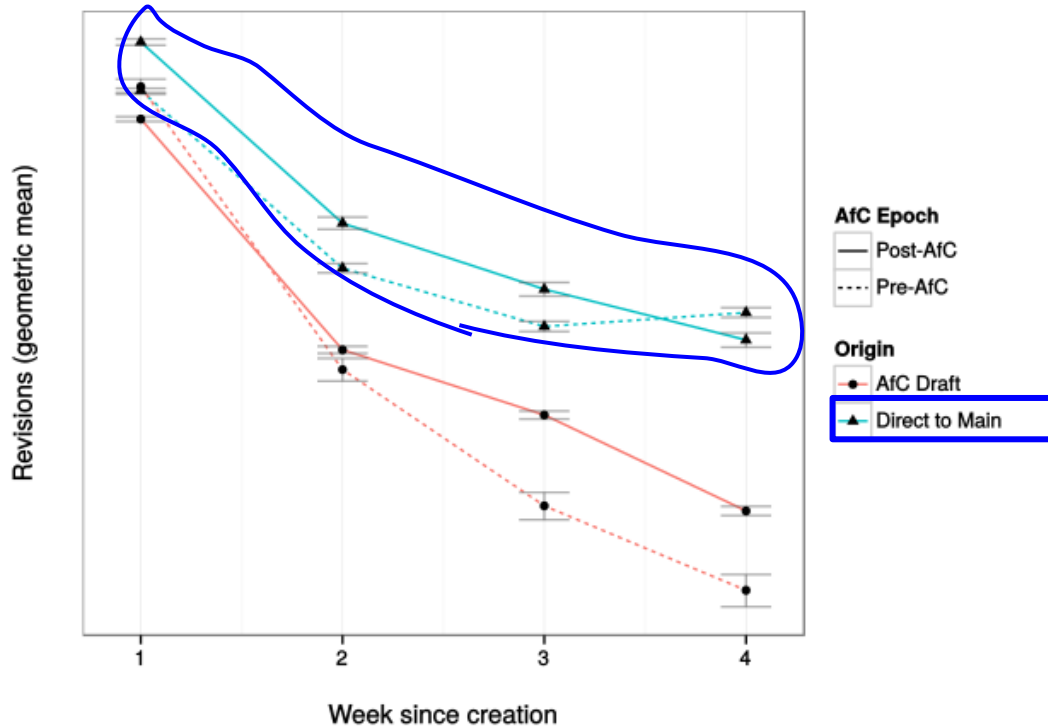
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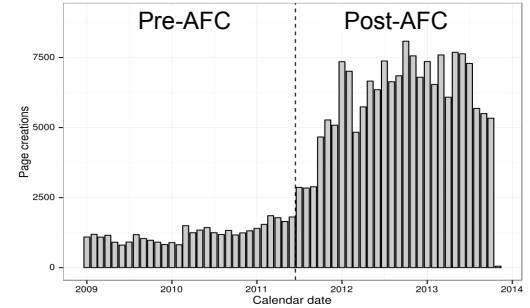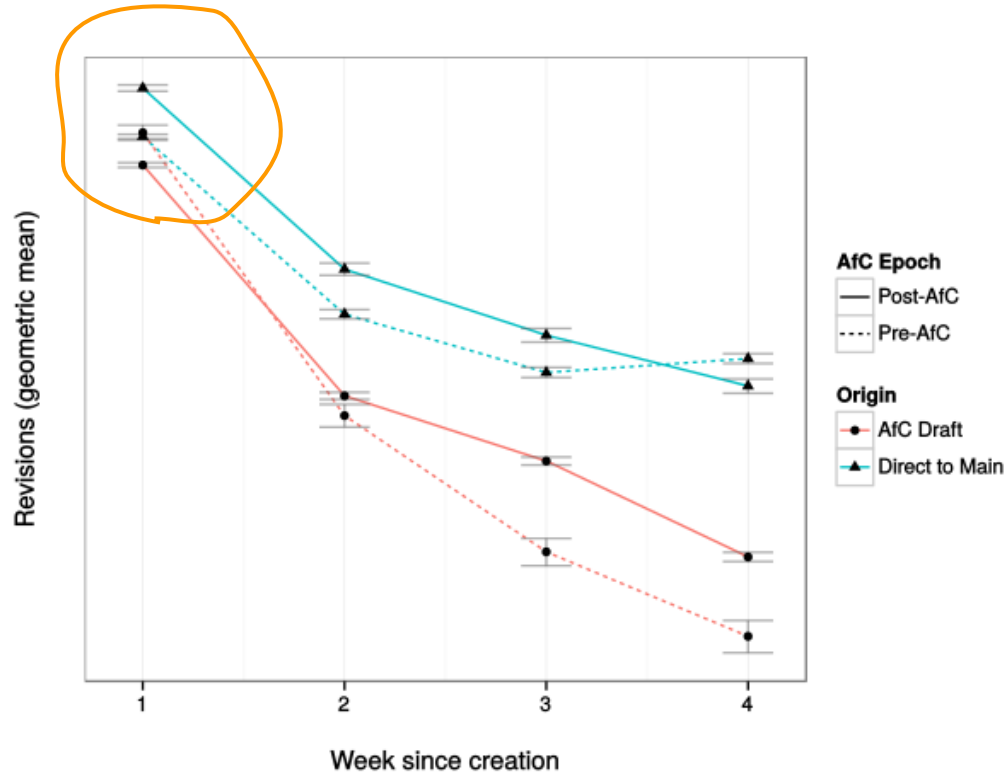
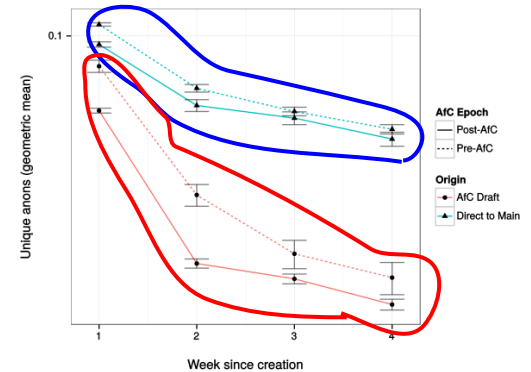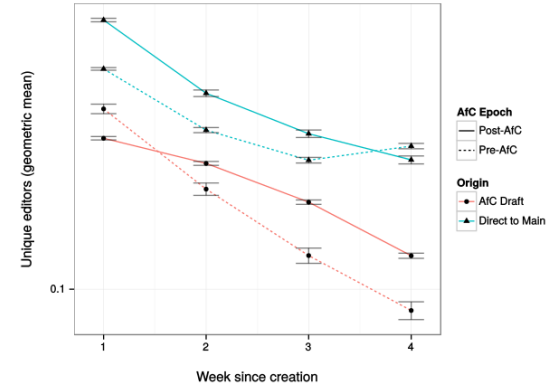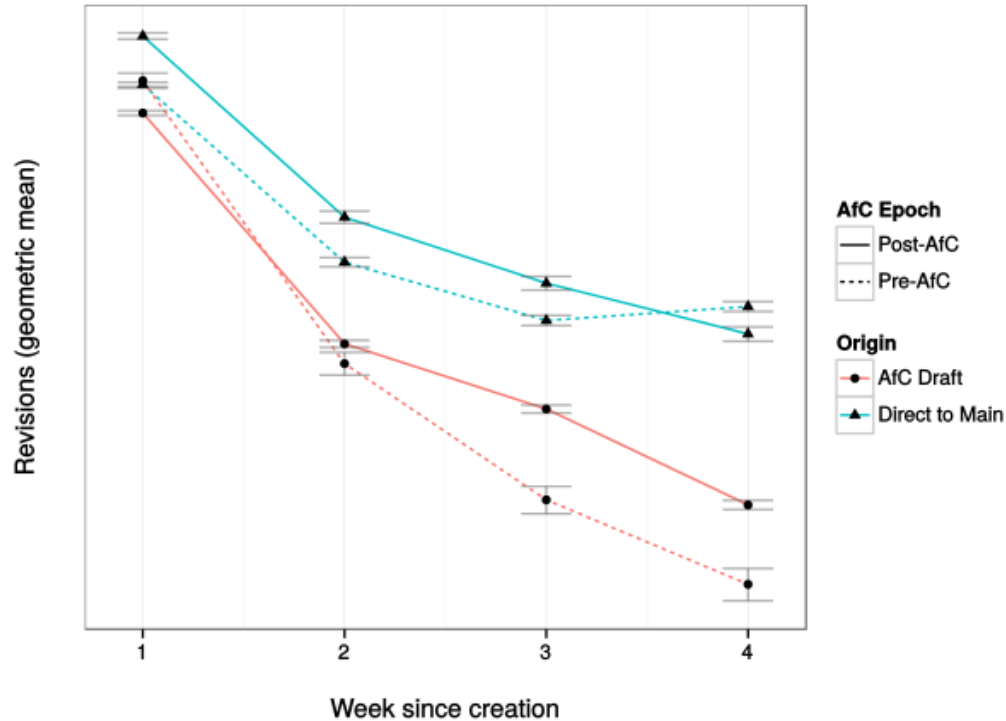# 2. No collaborators (Linus' Law)
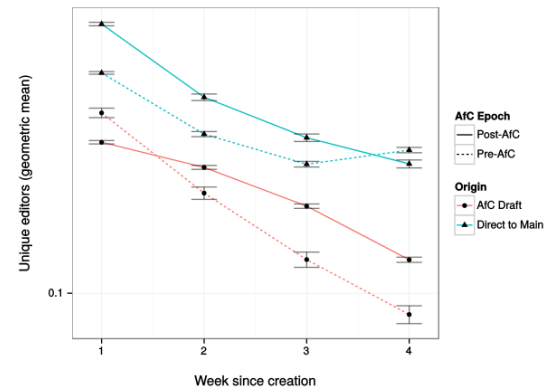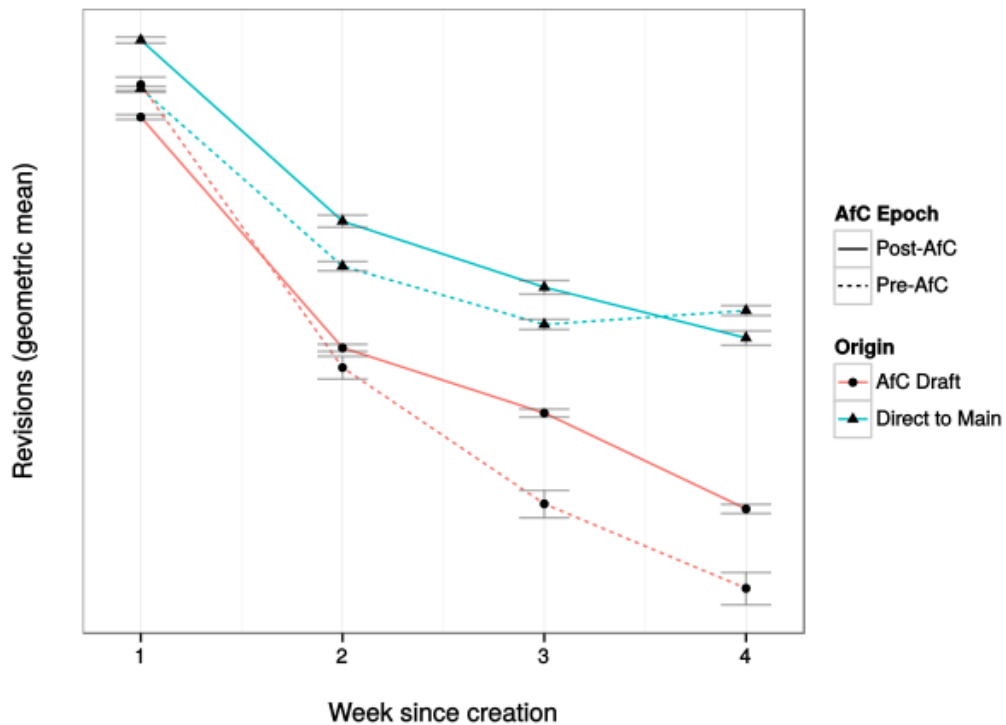
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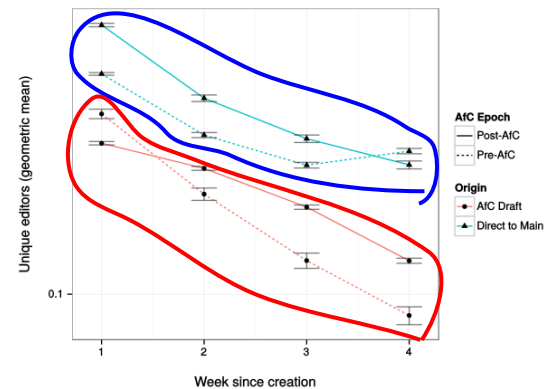
2. No collaborators (Linus' Law)

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2. No collaborators (Linus' Law)

Supported. AfC Drafts see less collaboration.

Qualitative work:
Onus on the creator alone to make productive changes to drafts.

Summary

1. AfC's review process is too slow
   Unsupported

2. Less collaboration (Linus' Law)
   Supported

Implications

for design of new features

Draft namespace

- Review can be fast (but there's other problems)
  - Reviewers lack subject expertise
  - Incentive to be restrictive

Draft namespace

- Review can be fast (but there's other problems)
  - Reviewers lack subject expertise
  - Incentive to be restrictive

Proposal: No publication review. Focus on "productive review".

Not just review, but contribution.

Draft namespace

- If drafts are hidden, Linus' Law breaks down

Draft namespace

- If drafts are hidden, Linus' Law breaks down.

Proposal: Make drafts visible

Draft namespace

- If drafts are hidden, Linus' Law breaks down.

Proposal: Make drafts visible

Thanks!

Aaron Halfaker
ahalfaker@wikimedia.org
"halfak" on IRC

SCIENCE

SCIENCE

SCIENCE

SCIENCE

SCIENCE

SCIENCE

SCIENCE

SCIENCE
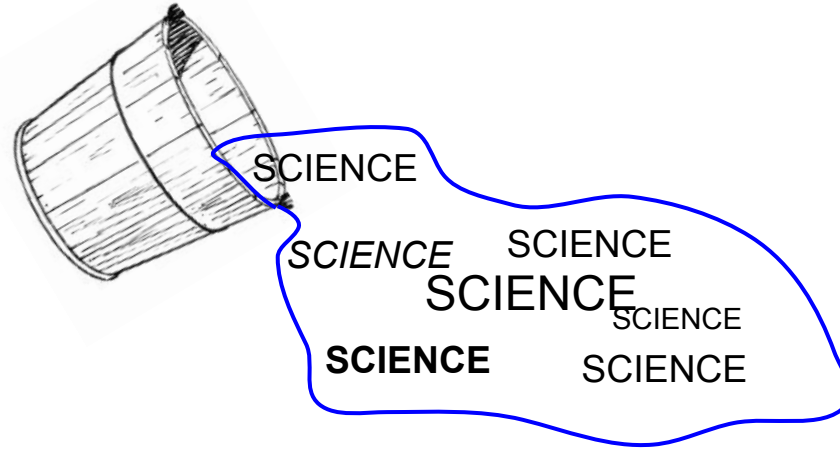
AfC Process

Summary (stub, sorry): https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research:AfC_processes_and_productivity
Work log: https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research_talk:AfC_processes_and_productivity