IP Masking:
Big Change to Protect Editor Privacy

Niharika Kohli / NKohli (WMF)
Madi Moss / MMoss (WMF)
Speakers

Niharika Kohli
In the Wikimedia movement since 2014
I worked as a software engineer in the Community Tech team for three years.
Now, as a product manager, I’m leading the Anti-Harassment Tools team, building IP Masking.

Madi Moss
Editing since 2010/2017, I joined the Foundation as a privacy attorney in 2021.
I went to law school specifically because I was interested in the intersection of law and the Wikimedia movement.
Talk to me about templates!
Agenda

Rationale
Our approach
Design mockups
Work with us
Roadmap
Rationale
What is the problem we are trying to solve?

For editors who are not logged into an account:

- IP addresses are stored forever, and
- IP addresses are publicly available

Whereas the IP addresses of editors who are logged into an account are only stored for 90 days and not shared publicly.

For more information, see our Privacy policy and Data retention guidelines.
What is the problem we are trying to solve?
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- IP addresses are personal data.
- How we collect, use, and share personal data is subject to various laws.
- Our current status quo presents various risks:
  - Surveillance risks for our users
  - Legal risks
  - Falling short of user expectations
What is the problem we are trying to solve?

While addressing those risks, we also have to consider what our users need to protect the projects. IP addresses are invaluable tools when dealing with harassment, abuse, and vandalism.

We don’t want to make changes without giving the communities appropriate mechanisms to handle the impact.
Our approach
Our approach

We have divided the work into these phases:

1. Build tools to **reduce our reliance** on IP addresses (directly)
2. **Mask IP addresses** and replace them with an anonymous identifier
3. Work with communities to **migrate existing software**
How does this address the problem?

For editors who are not logged into an account:

- IP addresses will not be stored forever, and
- IP addresses will not be publicly available
1. Reducing reliance on IP addresses

We built the **IP Info feature** to allow users who need access to critical data for anti-vandalism to do so without requiring access to the IP address itself.

We are adding a more reliable data source (Spur) to have better detection for proxies.
2. Replacing IPs with a new identifier

IP editors will receive a new identity: a temporary account.

Temporary accounts will be tied to their browser and last as long as the cookie does (up to 12 months).

Rather than each edit attributed to an IP address, multiple IP addresses can be linked to a given temporary account.
Who can see IP addresses?

Temporary account IP addresses will be accessible to the following users:

- Stewards and checkusers (by default)
- Admins who opt-in
- Patrollers who opt-in and have:
  - ≥ 300 edits,
  - ≥ 6 months old account, and
  - ≤ 1 project block

Communities are also encouraged to create more restrictive guidelines for patrollers.

For more information, see the policy at [[wmf:Access to temporary account IP addresses]]
Who can see IP addresses?

IP addresses will **ONLY** be accessible to users who meet those requirements.

This does not include:

- Public access

Users who do not qualify can still use the IP Info feature as long as they are at least autoconfirmed.
3. Migrating tools

- Several tools also need IP address access to gather data about potential for abuse.
- These **tools will need to be updated** so that they can function after IP Masking deployment.
- We will **ask volunteers** to update tools maintained by them.
- We will **provide technical support** throughout this process, as needed.
IP Masking rollout will be slow. We will closely work with the communities to minimize disruption to existing workflows.

We will also focus on gathering community feedback with each rollout.
Mockups
Key design principles

Parity with legacy IP editor experience

Temporary accounts should feel ephemeral

Highlight incentives for creating an account and nudge user towards it

Clarity that anyone can edit

Guidance and education incorporated in the new experience
Kouign-amann (pronounced [kœ̃j aˈman]; pl. kouignou̯-amann) is a sweet Breton cake, made with laminated dough made with bread dough (nowadays sometimes viennoiserie dough), containing layers of butter and incorporated sugar, similar to some a shortcrust pastry, resulting in its layered structure. A smaller version, "kouignette", is similar to a muffin-shaped, caramelized croissant. A specialty of the town of Douarnenez in Finistère, Brittany, where it originated around 1860, the pastry is attributed to the name comes from the Breton language words for cake (kouign) and butter (amann), and in 2011 the New York Times described it as "the best pastry in all of Europe."[6]

Recipe  [ edit ]

The strict original Douarnenez recipe requires a ratio of 40 percent dough, 30 percent butter, and 30 percent sugar.[6]

Traditionally, kouign-amann is baked as a large cake and served in slices, although recently, especially in North America, individual cupcake-sized pastries (kouignettes) have become more popular.[citation needed]

Popularity  [ edit ]

The kouign-amann has been a staple pastry at many Japanese bakeries after becoming popular in the late 1990s.[4][8]

In 2014, episode 7 of series 5 of the BBC's The Great British Bake Off featured the kouign-amann. In 2015, notable bakeries in New York, Washington D.C., Boston, Salt Lake City, and San Francisco began to sell the pastry. In Denver, several bakeries offer varieties; some shorten the name to "queen".[9]
Kouign-amann is a Breton cake, made with laminated dough. It is a round multi-layered cake, originally made with bread dough (nowadays sometimes viennoserie dough), containing layers of butter and incorporated sugar, similar in fashion to puff pastry, albeit with fewer layers. The cake is slowly baked until the sugar caramelizes and the recipe’s butter (in fact the steam of the 20 percent water in the butter) expands the dough, resulting in its layered structure. A smaller version, "kouignette", is similar to a muffin-shaped, caramelized croissant.

A specialty of the town of Douarnenez in Finistère, Brittany, where it originated around 1860, the pastry is attributed to Yves-René Scridia (1828–1878).[5] A specialty of the town of Douarnenez in Finistère, Brittany, where it originated around 1860, the pastry is attributed to Yves-René Scridia (1828–1878).[5] The name comes from the Breton language words for cake (kouign) and butter (amann), and in 2011 the New York Times described the kouign-amann as “the fattiest pastry in all of Europe.”[6]

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Popularity  [ edit ]
Admin workflow: Revealing IP addresses
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Admin workflow: Blocking temporary accounts

Block user

Use the form below to block write access from a specific IP address or username. This should be done only to prevent vandalism, and in accordance with policy. Fill in a specific reason below (for example, citing particular pages that were vandalized). You can block IP address ranges using the CIDR syntax; the largest allowed range is /16 for IPv4 and /19 for IPv6.

Username, IP address, or IP range

*1729

This is a temporary user using the following IPs: 103.125.51.171, 103.125.53.189, see 43 more

Block type

- Sitewide
  - Blocks editing on all pages and namespaces. Also blocks default actions (See help)

- Partial
  - Allows you to select pages and namespaces to block. Doesn’t block default actions but lets you block certain specific actions.

Pages

Add a page...

Namespaces

Add a namespace...
Work with us
The IP Masking Universe

Everything that IP Masking will impact

- Discoverable by Wikimedia Foundation
- Discoverable by volunteers

Wikimedia Foundation

Wikimania
Singapore
The IP Masking Universe

Things to do

Everything that IP Masking will break:
plan careful roll-out

Discoverable by
Wikimedia Foundation:
all teams audit and fix
their features

Discoverable by volunteers:
migrate tools that
will need to change
We need your help!

Help us track down volunteer tools that will need changing.

- File tasks for impacted tools on Phabricator.
  - Use the tag `#IP Masking`
- You can also drop a comment on `[[phab:T337012]]`
- When mentioning a tool please include:
  - A link to the tool
  - Brief description of what it does
  - The wiki(s) it is active on
We need your help!

- Help us expand technical documentation:
  [[mw:Help:Temporary accounts]]
  - You can help us expand this to include specific guidance for gadgets, templates, lua modules etc.
- Help us migrate tools that will need migrations to adapt to the upcoming changes.
Resources

- Project page on Meta-Wiki: [https://w.wiki/3V8N](https://w.wiki/3V8N)
- IP Masking work-in-progress is deployed on [German Beta Wikipedia](https://w.wikipedia.de) which can be used for testing purposes.
  - Note: Not all workflows have been implemented yet.
- Technical documentation on MediaWiki under [Help:Temporary Accounts](https://w.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Temporary_Accounts)
- IP Masking main task on Phabricator: [[phab:T324492]]
Timeline
## Estimated roadmap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Estimated completion time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First version of IP Masking in MediaWiki and deployed on test.wikipedia.org</td>
<td>End of 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMF teams update software they own</td>
<td>October 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot wiki test (on a small wiki without a lot of IP traffic)</td>
<td>March 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer-owned tools are updated</td>
<td>Until deployment on respective wikis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

Access this presentation at: <commons link>

Follow our project page for updates: https://w.wiki/3V8N
[[m:IP Editing: Privacy Enhancement and Abuse Mitigation]]

Let’s continue talking in Room 309

Don’t forget to grab some stickers on your way out!