

# MEZA

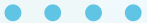
## Sweet!

MediaWiki E-Z Administration

Project founded by great people at NASA  
Johnson Space Center (JSC)

Now led by Rich Evans  
NASA  
Armstrong Test Facility (ATF)  
Goddard Research Center (GRC)

Greg Rundlett





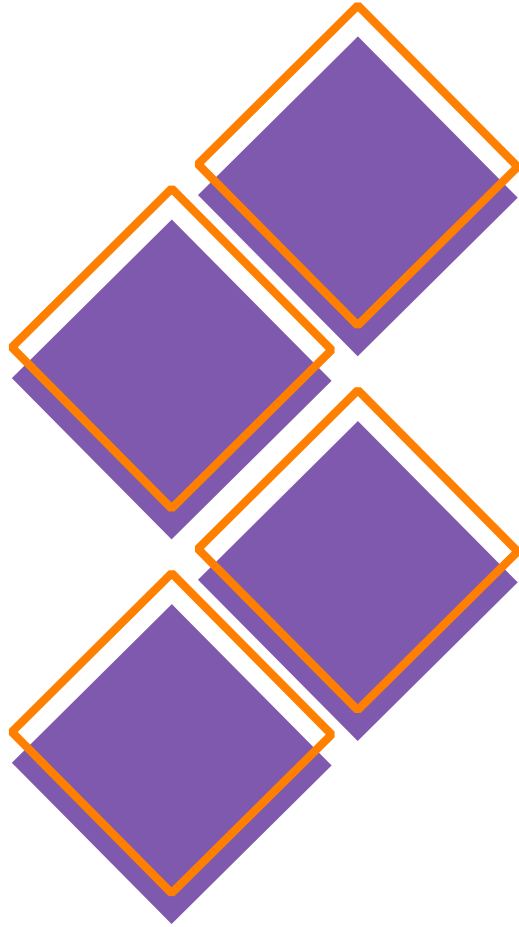
1 MEZA what?

MEZA who? 2

3 MEZA why?

Current Status 4

5 Future



# MEZA is

an Ansible-driven,  
Infrastructure as Code (IaC)  
complete platform for Wiki  
farms.

Meza is a push-button solution  
to Knowledge Management.



The entire  
MediaWiki  
ecosystem in  
convenient spill-  
proof packaging



Work by: Falia Vicky

Language	Files	Lines	Blanks	Comments	Code	Complexity
YAML	125	9594	1272	1775	6547	0
Jinja	74	7832	1492	22	6318	280
Shell	26	1901	376	542	983	132
Alex	18	20	0	0	20	0
Plain Text	15	1366	244	0	1122	0
PHP	10	3747	636	486	2625	242
Markdown	7	942	249	0	693	0
Dockerfile	4	167	16	9	142	58
JavaScript	4	22950	1971	1307	19672	3170
SQL	3	913	114	4	795	0
JSON	2	218	0	0	218	0
Python	2	1841	26	100	1715	26
CSS	1	641	129	30	482	0
INI	1	1	0	0	1	0
License	1	22	5	0	17	0
gitignore	1	17	5	5	7	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>52172</b>	<b>6535</b>	<b>4280</b>	<b>41357</b>	<b>3908</b>

Estimated Cost to Develop (organic) **\$2,783,081**

Estimated Schedule Effort (organic) 15.40 months

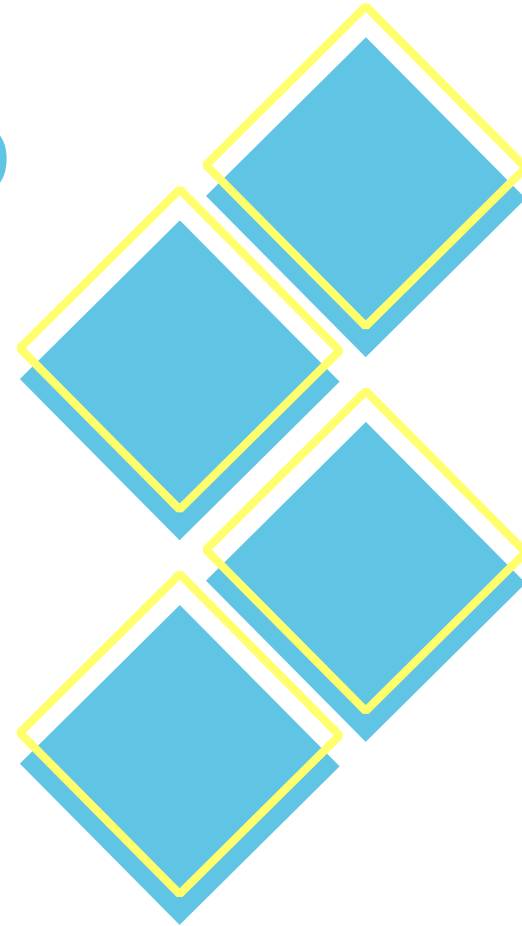
Estimated People Required (organic) 7.77

2

# Meza Who

Whether you are a  
MediaWiki consultant,  
hoster, or SysAdmin, Meza  
is a healthy part of your  
balanced diet.

Meza is for you.



3

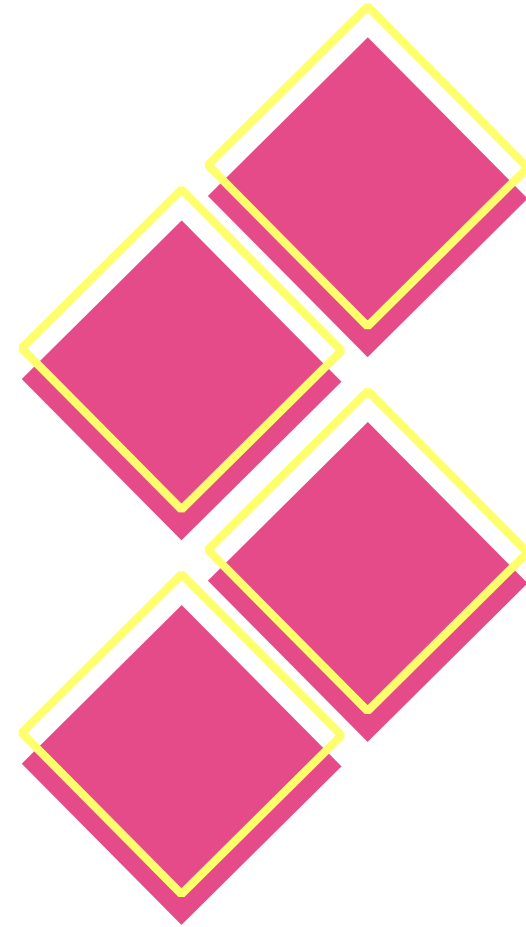
# Why

Wholesome ingredients:

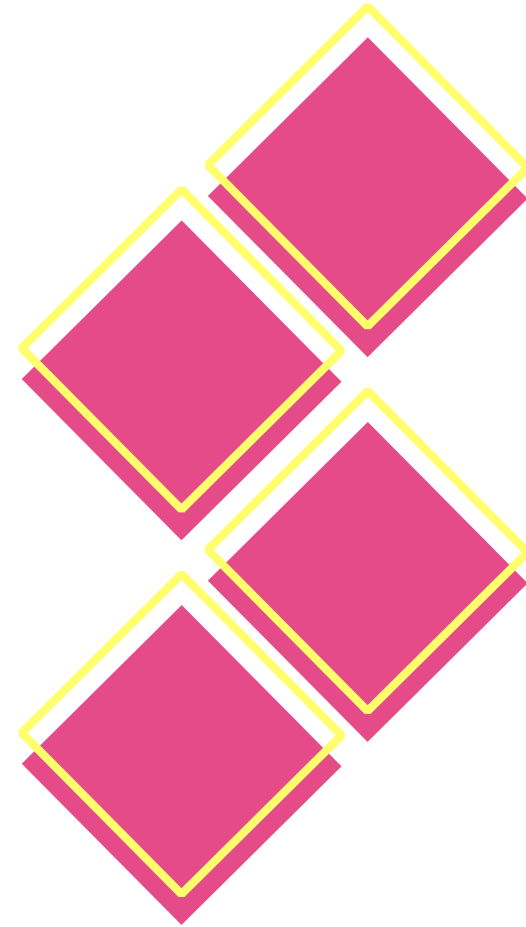
- Sugar free
- Caffeine free
- Alcohol free

And no fees!

(I'm looking at you Confluence and SharePoint)











## Network

Load Balancer  
TLS termination  
Firewall



## Services

Web  
Java  
Elasticsearch  
MediaWiki



## Data

Database  
Replication  
Backups



## Operations

Security  
Monitoring  
Alerting

---

# Tasks / Responsibilities

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operating System</li><li>• Apache + modules</li><li>• PHP + modules</li><li>• Composer +</li><li>• Python</li><li>• Automation</li><li>• Backups</li><li>• MediaWiki</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Code updates</li><li>- Database updates</li><li>• Configure wikis</li><li>• Create new wikis</li><li>• Delete wikis</li><li>• Task runner</li><li>• Elasticsearch</li><li>• Firewall</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distributed filesystem</li><li>• Proxy</li><li>• Web Content</li><li>• Image processing</li><li>• Security</li><li>• Lua</li><li>• Cache</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Logging</li><li>• Monitoring</li><li>• Cluster sync</li><li>• SAML / Auth</li></ul> |
|--|--|--|---|



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# Extensions

AdminLinks  
AdvancedSearch  
Arrays  
Bootstrap  
CharInsert  
CirrusSearch  
Cite  
CodeEditor  
CodeMirror  
CollapsibleVector  
CommentStreams  
ContributionScores

CreateUserPage  
CSS  
DataTransfer  
DeleteBatch  
DismissableSiteNotice  
DisplayTitle  
DynamicSidebar  
Echo  
Elastica  
ExternalData  
FlexDiagrams  
Flow

Graph  
HeaderFooter  
HeaderTabs  
ImageMap  
InputBox  
Interwiki  
LabeledSectionTransclusion  
Lockdown  
Maps  
MediaFunctions  
Mermaid

ModernTimeline  
MultimediaViewer  
MyVariables  
Network  
NumerAlpha  
OpenLayers  
(continued)



---

# Extensions

PageForms

PageImages

ParserFunctions

PipeEscape

ReplaceText

RevisionSlider

Scribunto

CompoundQueries

SemanticDrilldown

ExtraSpecialProperti  
es

Semantic MediaWiki

Semantic Result  
Formats

Semantic Scribunto

SimpleBatchUpload

SimpleMathJax

SubpageFun

SubPageList

SyntaxHighlight\_Ge

SHi

TemplateData

TextExtracts

Thanks

LanguageSelector

Variables

VEForAll

VisualEditor

WatchAnalytics

WhitelistPages

WhoIsWatching

WhosOnline

Widgets

WikiEditor

YouTube

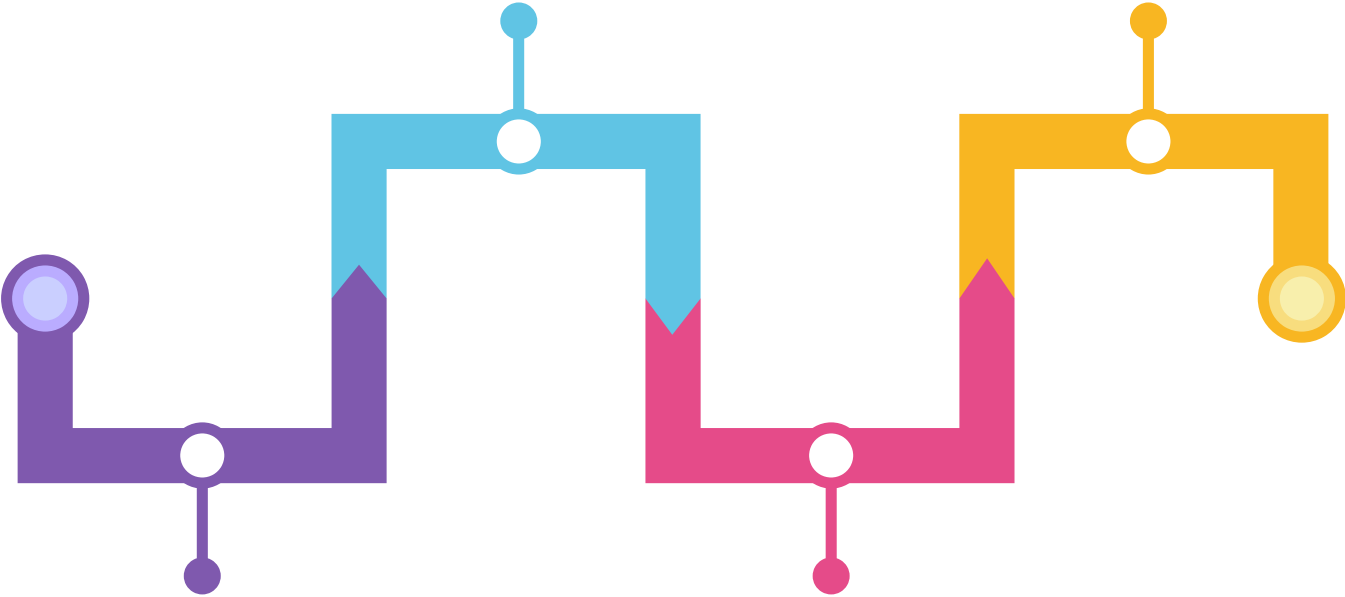
---



meza deploy

meza deploy

**Install**

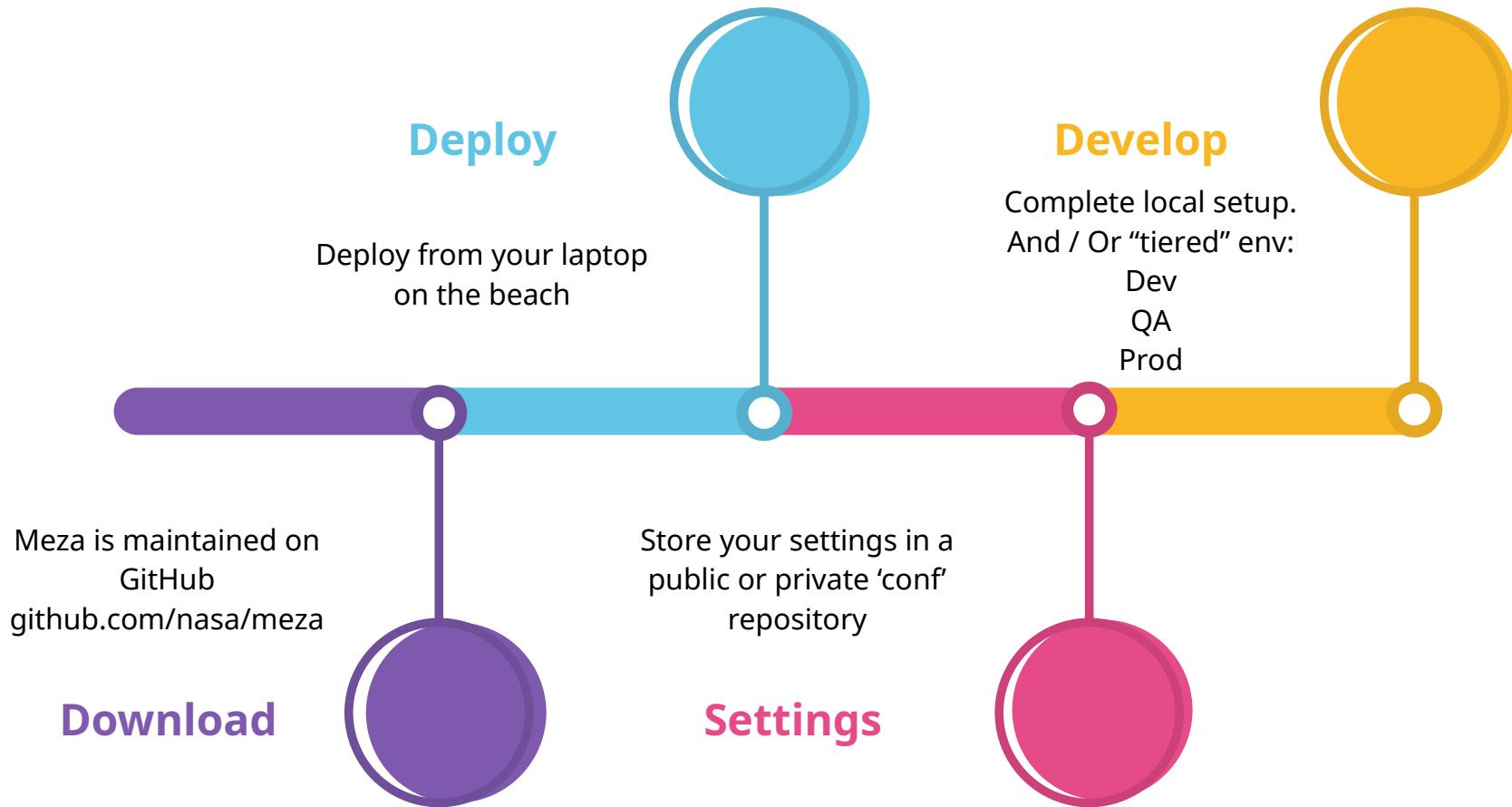


**Done**

getMeza.sh

add your settings  
and selections







# 32 Flavors

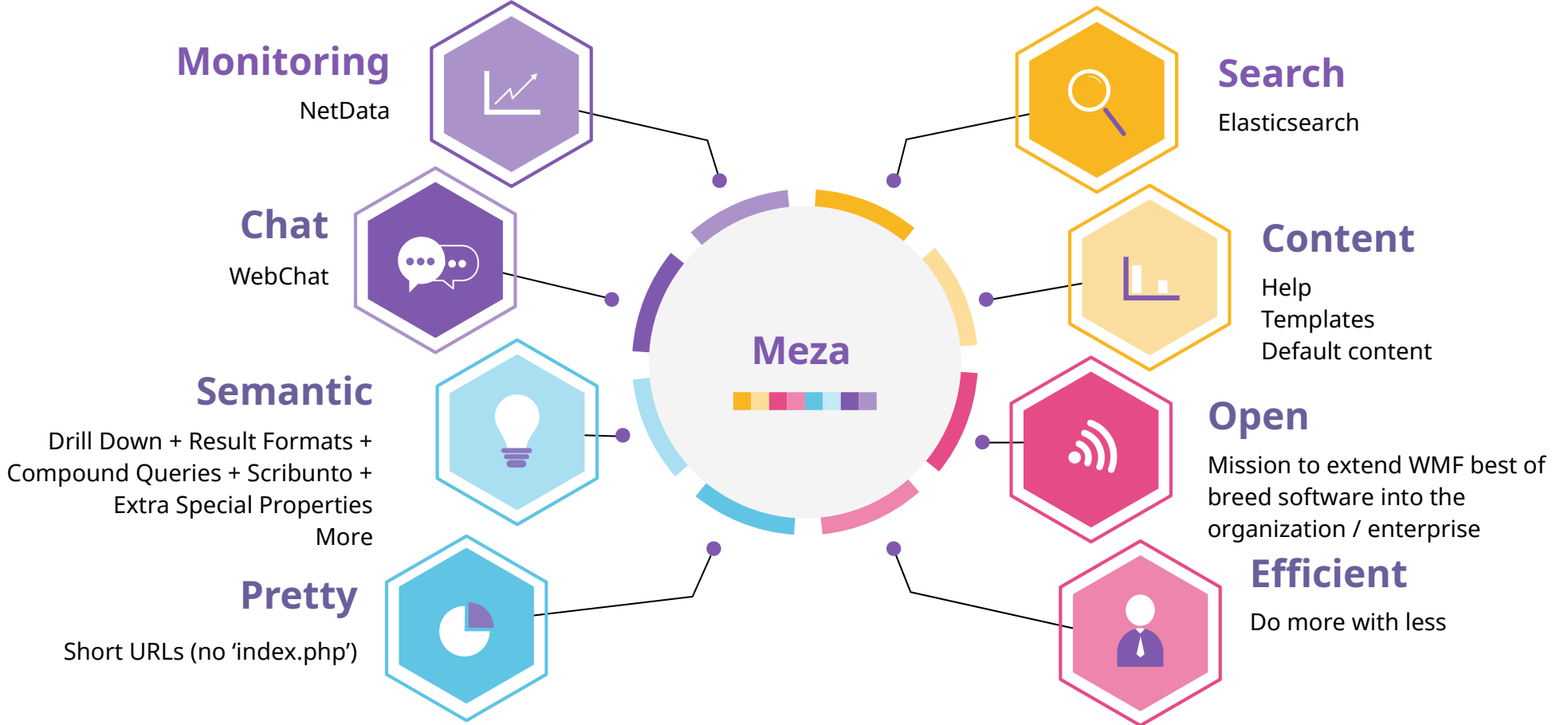
Multiple branches for platform  
versions and modules

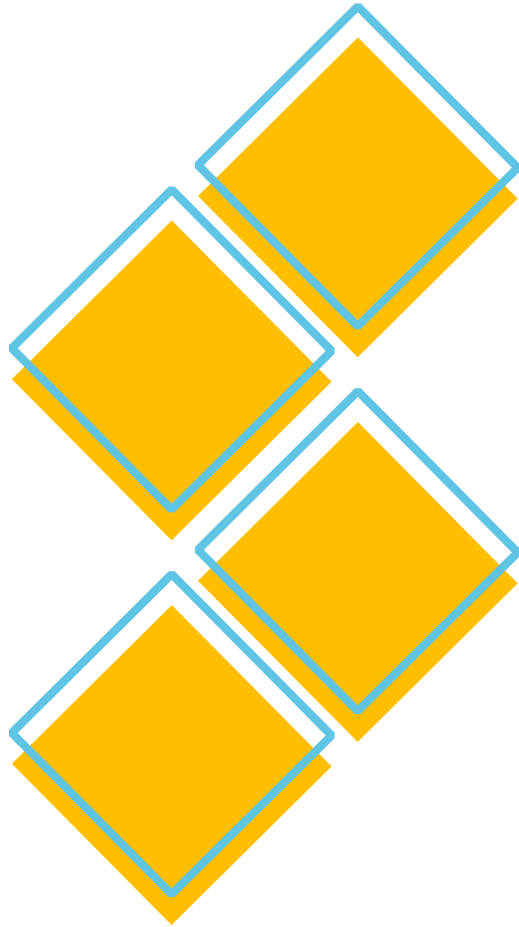
X

configurations for each farm  
member

Work by: Muhammad Aria





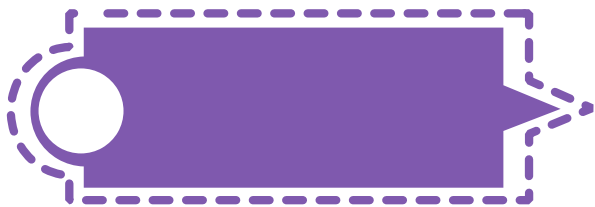


# Status

Hot, out of the oven

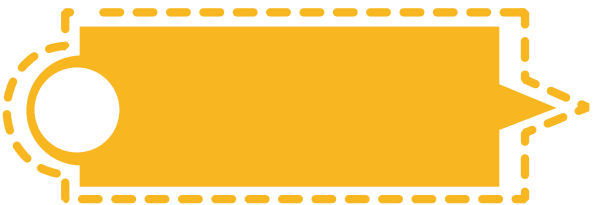
RELEASE NOTES





## 39.x

MediaWiki 1.39.7 (LTS)



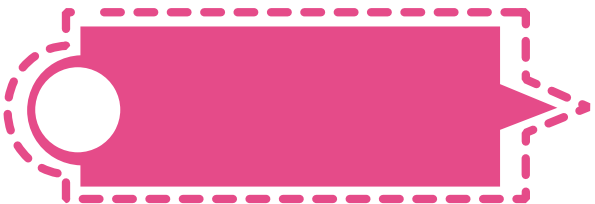
## PHP 8.1.28

Fpm-fcgi module of Apache



## MariaDB 10.3.39

Release date: [2023-05-10](#)



## RHEL 8 compatible

Enterprise Linux v8 Compatible  
Rocky Linux release 8.9 (Green Obsidian)



# New Features

- Only execute SMW Rebuild Data on demand
- Pretty URLs
- Deploy over local changes
- WebP image support
- Composer self-update
- Faster



# Other Changes

- Reduce git clone size of MediaWiki by 2+GB / improve speed
- Add .editorconfig
- Version lock Ansible and Python
- Disable (automatic) Elasticsearch upgrades for predictability
- Set PHP-FPM default port to 9000 avoiding surprises or conflicts
- Syntax cleanup
- Bug fixes in Python, PHP, YAML
- Documentation of all 50+ meza.py functions
- Improve testing scripts
- Create CHANGELOG
- Remove obsolete \$wgShellLocale
- Allow easier forking
- Enable Ansible debugger

# Continuous Integration

We embraced the concept of using and updating the existing Meza integration tests. Specifically, there are three tests:


- `image-check.sh`
- `server-check.sh`
- `wiki-check.sh`

These integration tests are in turn used in system-level scripts such as

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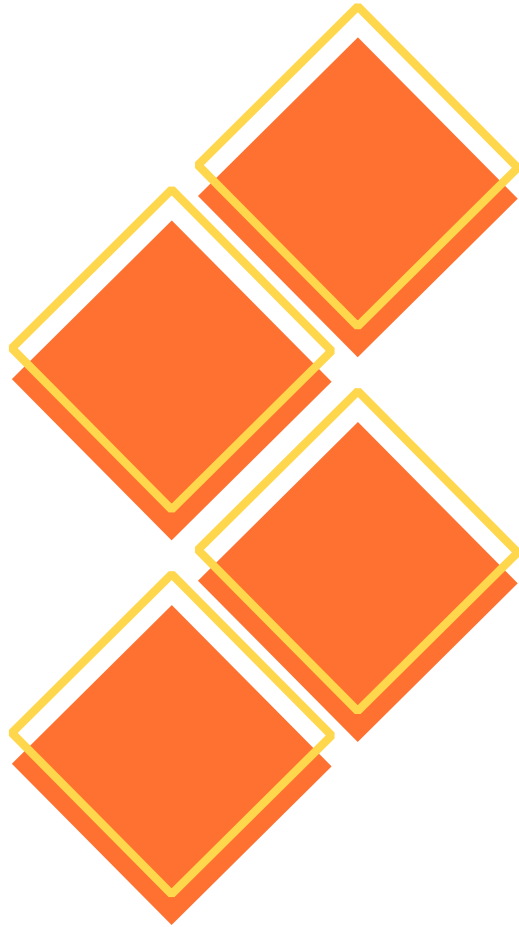
✓ This runs 70 tasks, including creating a new wiki.

# Tags and Releases



REL1_39 <i>freephile</i> freephile/bugfix-composer-install  39.7.0	Fix composer install...	12 Apr 2024 16:19	Greg Rundlett
39.6.3	Fix samesite cookie settings for a stubborn Chrome	3 Apr 2024 09:09	Greg Rundlett
origin/39.x	Merge pull request #51 from freephile/REL1_39	29 Mar 2024 19:33	Rich Evans
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	Fix default port for PHP-FPM	25 Mar 2024 10:34	Greg Rundlett





# Future

New Features  
New Users  
Updated Docs  
Your needs

5

---

# In the works

Live Stats  
package

Logstash  
Kibana

Auth examples

Platform  
upgrades

Wider OS  
support

TLS  
automation





# THANK YOU



*CREDIT BY:*

*@lken\_ @menggeling\_ @ealita.id @li\_orch @cahyaning\_asih*

BIDADARI GIMPSCAPE

# MEZA

## Sweet!

MediaWiki E-Z Administration

Project founded by great people at NASA  
Johnson Space Center (JSC)

Now led by Rich Evans  
NASA  
Armstrong Test Facility (ATF)  
Goddard Research Center (GRC)

Greg Rundlett



Welcome

My name is Greg Rundlett

I like to call myself a knowledge hacker

- someone at the intersection of free knowledge and free software.

Before I tell you about Meza, let me give you a little of the back-story and how I came to be here today.

I'm so thrilled to share the stage with Ward because my introduction to wikis was in 1999 using that first perl wiki as the backend at a startup company called Raging Bull

In 2013 after I lost my Mom to cancer and my job to outsourcing, I dared to start my own business called eQuality Technology offering free software solutions. By 2017, the business had pretty much focused on service and support of MediaWiki.

This happened because I [discovered Meza](#) and not only adopted it for my own use, but turned it into a product called [QualityBox](#). I used the QualityBox system to service and support customer wikis. But, I couldn't scale the business as a solopreneur so gave up on the business in 2020 after the pandemic hit to go back to being an employee. I joined a multi-national software company with HQ in Cambridge, MA leading their adoption of MediaWiki – working “side-by-side” with their vendor Wikibase Solutions in the Netherlands.

With that background, let me tell you more about Meza.

In this short presentation, I'll talk about WHAT  
Meza is

Who is Meza for?

Why should I care about Meza? (What's in it for  
me?)

What is the current status of Meza

And we'll close out with a look at what's next for  
Meza.

**Meza is  
an Ansible-driven, Infrastructure as Code (IaC) complete  
platform for Wiki farms.**

That's the buzz-word compliant description.

**Meza is a push-button solution to Knowledge Management.**

That's the sales & marketing description of what Meza is.

I like this visual description: The entire MediaWiki ecosystem in convenient spill-proof packaging.

That big planet in the middle is MediaWiki.

We've already heard about other MediaWiki "packages" or "MediaWiki+" like Canasta, BlueSpice, ProWiki or Fandom. I prefer the term "distribution" because these things are vendor-supplied, enhanced, and purpose-configured systems based on MediaWiki. I borrow the term distribution from the Drupal project

Meza is another distribution.



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<b>Total</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>52172</b>	<b>6535</b>	<b>4280</b>	<b>41357</b>	<b>3908</b>

Estimated Cost to Develop (organic) **\$2,783,081**

Estimated Schedule Effort (organic) 15.40 months

Estimated People Required (organic) 7.77

Technically speaking, Meza is a bunch of YAML, Jinja templates, shell scripts, Python, PHP, Markdown, and Docker files.

According to a reliable formula, using the average developer salary for 2023, **Meza is a complex and powerful software system worth approximately \$2.8 million dollars.**

average salary = \$116,393/year, overhead = 2.40 The table was generated using the Sloc, Cloc and Code (scc) tool <https://github.com/boyter/scc>

There are MediaWiki consultants here,  
System Administrators responsible for their organizations' wikis,  
Hosters who offer MediaWiki as a Service

Meza is for you.

Meza is not for hobbyist. Meza is not for beginners. Meza is complex.  
MediaWiki is complex.

Running your own MediaWiki because it's free software is like setting up your own Mail Server to do email. No amount of automation is going to eliminate the underlying fact that this is a tool to basically orchestrate the entire web.

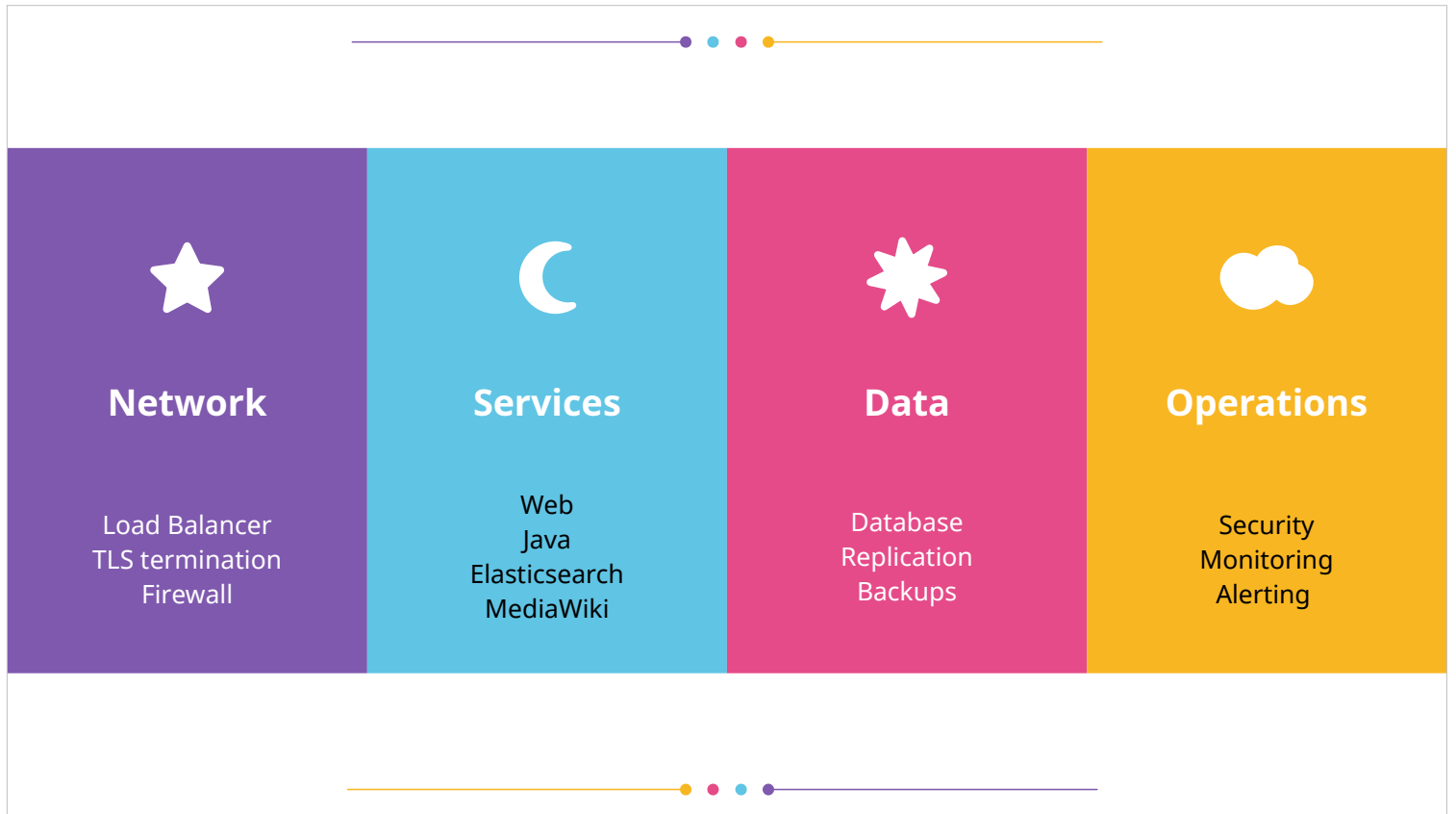
If you want a wiki, but don't do this stuff for a living, please seek professional help – where plans range from white glove service, to extremely affordable and even “free”.

But why?

“Because it’s good for ‘ya”

What do you mean it's good for me?

If it were a food product instead of a technical one, I'd put it like this:



From a technical perspective, Meza takes care of the full spectrum of needs:

Network  
Services  
Data  
and Operations

# Tasks / Responsibilities

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operating System</li><li>• Apache + modules</li><li>• PHP + modules</li><li>• Composer +</li><li>• Python</li><li>• Automation</li><li>• Backups</li><li>• MediaWiki</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Code updates</li><li>- Database updates</li><li>• Configure wikis</li><li>• Create new wikis</li><li>• Delete wikis</li><li>• Task runner</li><li>• Elasticsearch</li><li>• Firewall</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distributed filesystem</li><li>• Proxy</li><li>• Web Content</li><li>• Image processing</li><li>• Security</li><li>• Lua</li><li>• Cache</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Logging</li><li>• Monitoring</li><li>• Cluster sync</li><li>• SAML / Auth</li></ul> |
|--|--|--|---|

Really? Meza does all that? What responsibilities does it handle?

# Extensions

AdminLinks	CreateUserPage	Graph	ModernTimeline
AdvancedSearch	CSS	HeaderFooter	MultimediaViewer
Arrays	DataTransfer	HeaderTabs	MyVariables
Bootstrap	DeleteBatch	ImageMap	Network
CharInsert	DismissableSiteNotice	InputBox	NumerAlpha
CirrusSearch	DisplayTitle	Interwiki	OpenLayers
Cite	DynamicSidebar	LabeledSectionTransclusion	(continued)
CodeEditor	Echo	Lockdown	
CodeMirror	Elastica	Maps	
CollapsibleVector	ExternalData	MediaFunctions	
CommentStreams	FlexDiagrams	Mermaid	
ContributionScores	Flow		

And, as we saw in Yaron's talk about selecting quality extensions. Meza is opinionated about – and saves you the effort of – selecting the baseline extensions that you need to make a MediaWiki Plus

# Extensions

PageForms	ExtraSpecialProperties	SubPageList	VisualEditor
PageImages	Semantic MediaWiki	SyntaxHighlight_GeSHi	WatchAnalytics
ParserFunctions	Semantic Result Formats	TemplateData	WhitelistPages
PipeEscape	Semantic Scribunto	TextExtracts	WhoIsWatching
ReplaceText	SimpleBatchUpload	Thanks	WhosOnline
RevisionSlider	SimpleMathJax	LanguageSelector	Widgets
Scribunto	SubpageFun	Variables	WikiEditor
CompoundQueries		VEForAll	YouTube
SemanticDrilldown			

Plus

So Meza preinstalls curated MediaWiki extensions.

In a minute, I'll talk about how Meza give you extreme flexibility to add your own selections.



Here's what zero to 100 looks like with Meza

Here's a more linear view.

- 1)Download from GitHub
- 2)Deploy from your laptop on the beach
- 3)Create a 'conf' repo to store and track your customizations
- 4)Continuously deploy to any target:
  - 1)Local development (VirtualBox)
  - 2)Any tier in your Cloud / Onsite Infrastructure
    - 1)DEV
    - 2)QA / Staging
    - 3)PROD

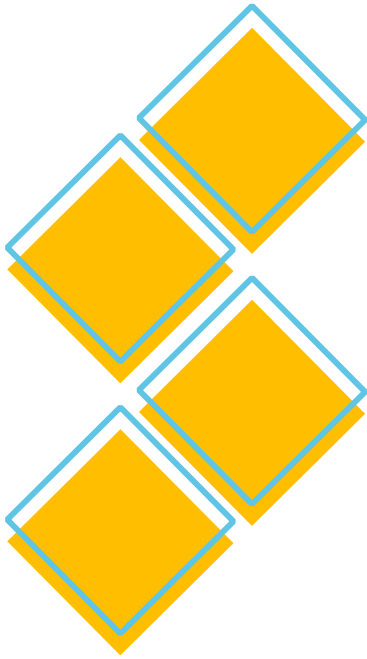
Like Ani DiFranco sings:

"I am 32 flavors and then some"

<https://youtu.be/vVg7mtgEqGY?t=172>

One of Meza's strongest features is that it allows for complete overrides and selections for each wiki in the farm. So, like going to Baskin Robbins for ice cream, everyone gets their own choices instead of the one carton of ice cream that Dad likes.

If I use another food metaphor, Meza has all the essential amino acids.



# Status

Hot, out of the oven

RELEASE NOTES



After a period of relative stagnation for the Meza originally developed at JSC in Houston, TX, the ATF/GRC facilities in Ohio hired me through affiliation with Bryan Hilderbrand and Yaron Koren to revive the project.

- MediaWiki REL1.39 upgrade from REL1\_35
- PHP 8.1 compatibility
- And pretty URLs



**39.x**

MediaWiki 1.39.7 (LTS)



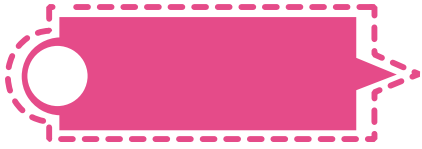
**PHP 8.1.28**

Fpm-fcgi module of Apache



**MariaDB 10.3.39**

Release date: 2023-05-10



**RHEL 8 compatible**

Enterprise Linux v8 Compatible  
Rocky Linux release 8.9 (Green Obsidian)



MediaWiki 1.39.6

Semantic MediaWiki 4.1.3

PHP 8.1 using the Remi repo

Elasticsearch 7.10.2

SAML Authentication

SimpleSAMLphp library to 2.2.1

Extension Pluggable Auth 7.0

Extension SimpleSAMLphp 7.0

Composer

# New Features

- Only execute SMW Rebuild Data on demand
- Pretty URLs
- Deploy over local changes
- WebP image support
- Composer self-update
- Faster

```
meza deploy monolith --tags smw-data
```

```
meza deploy monolith --tags smw-data,search-  
index
```

There is no index.php in URLs, just  
mysite.com/wiki/SomePage Easier to type, easier  
to read, easier to remember, shorter, and pretty!

```
overwrite_local_git_changes
```

# Other Changes

- Reduce git clone size of MediaWiki by 2+GB / improve speed
- Add .editorconfig
- Version lock Ansible and Python
- Disable (automatic) Elasticsearch upgrades for predictability
- Set PHP-FPM default port to 9000 avoiding surprises or conflicts
- Syntax cleanup
- Bug fixes in Python, PHP, YAML
- Documentation of all 50+ meza.py functions
- Improve testing scripts
- Create CHANGELOG
- Remove obsolete \$wgShellLocale
- Allow easier forking
- Enable Ansible debugger

Meza is not a WMF project, but we used WMF-style quality control and continuous integration techniques in the process (the kind you get when you do use Gerrit for your source code).

And used industry best practices in the Ansible Automation world.

We performed static analysis with PHPStan and Phan on 92 extensions (55 without phan config and 37 with).

Introduced  
Editor config  
Yamllint  
Ansible Lint



# Continuous Integration

We embraced the concept of using and updating the existing Meza integration tests. Specifically, there are three tests:

- `image-check.sh`
- `server-check.sh`
- `wiki-check.sh`

These integration tests are in turn used in system-level scripts such as

`./tests/deploys/backup-to-remote.controller.sh`

✓ This runs 70 tasks, including creating a new wiki.

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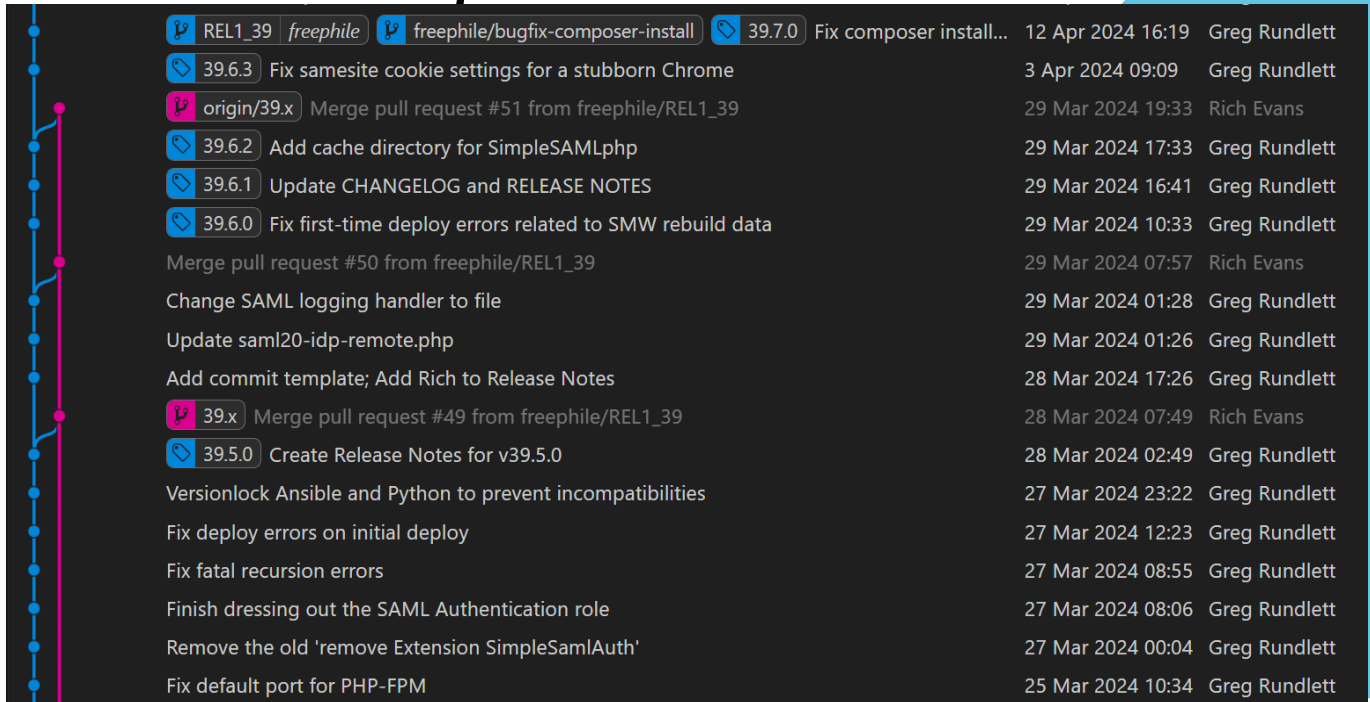
This script does a fairly good job of testing the whole system. In fact, all of these scripts were meant to emulate the Continuous Integration operations of Travis CI which was initially used by the project (when Travis CI was freely available to open source projects.)

After some development, we were able to run a successful

✓ `bash ./tests/deploys/backup-to-remote.controller.sh monolith`

(This runs 70 tasks, including creating a new wiki.)

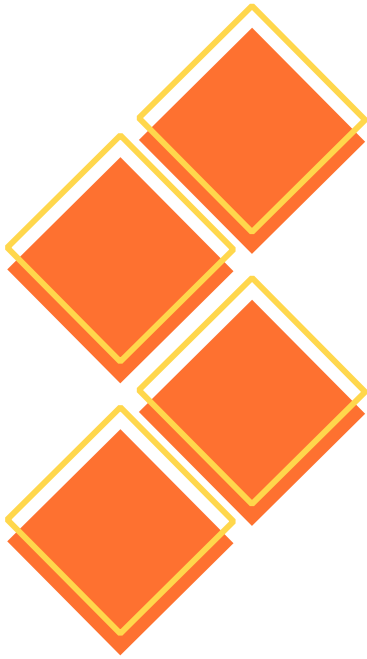
# Tags and Releases



The screenshot shows a Git commit history table with a branching diagram on the left. The diagram features a vertical line with blue dots representing commits, and a pink line branching off to the right, representing a feature branch. The table lists commits with their tags, descriptions, dates, and authors.

Tag	Description	Date	Author			
REL1_39	freephile	freephile/bugfix-composer-install	39.7.0	Fix composer install...	12 Apr 2024 16:19	Greg Rundlett
39.6.3	Fix samesite cookie settings for a stubborn Chrome	3 Apr 2024 09:09	Greg Rundlett			
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	Finish dressing out the SAML Authentication role	27 Mar 2024 08:06	Greg Rundlett			
	Remove the old 'remove Extension SimpleSamlAuth'	27 Mar 2024 00:04	Greg Rundlett			
	Fix default port for PHP-FPM	25 Mar 2024 10:34	Greg Rundlett			

This slide just shows that we use Semantic Versioning and Git tags in the development and release process.



# Future

New Features  
New Users  
Updated Docs  
Your needs



So, Meza is ready for immediate use if you want to enjoy a “push-button experience for Knowledge Management”

But, there’s a lot left to do.

If I'm lucky, someone (nudge nudge) will pay me to carry the mission forward.

My ideas about what Meza needs are in my fork <https://github.com/freephile/meza/issues> (59 issues)

The 31 closed issues dig deeper into what happened in the upgrade to REL1\_39

One thing I'd like to see is for continued consolidation and collaboration between "distributions" whether pure open source or from commercial vendors.

I especially want to thank Rich Evans at NASA for giving me the opportunity to carry the ball from REL1\_35 to REL1\_39

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/gregrundlett>