



**GROWING THE MEDIAWIKI  
TECHNICAL COMMUNITY**

*The infrastructure for open: We will **empower individuals** and **institutions** to **participate and share**, through open standards, platforms, and datasets. We will host, broker, share, and exchange free knowledge **across institutions** and **communities**. We will be a **leading advocate and partner** for increasing the creation, curation, and dissemination in free and open knowledge.*

*[https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Wikimedia\\_Developer\\_Summit/2018/Thematic\\_Overview](https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Developer_Summit/2018/Thematic_Overview)*

***We will welcome people from every background to build strong and diverse communities.***

*We will create a culture of hospitality where contributing is enjoyable and rewarding. We will support anyone who wants to contribute in good faith. We will practice respectful collaboration and healthy debate. We will welcome people into our movement from a wide variety of backgrounds, across language, geography, ethnicity, income, education, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, and more.*

[https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Strategy/Wikimedia\\_movement/2017/Direction#Knowledge\\_equity:\\_Knowledge\\_and\\_communities\\_that\\_have\\_been\\_left\\_out\\_by\\_structures\\_of\\_power\\_and\\_privilege](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Strategy/Wikimedia_movement/2017/Direction#Knowledge_equity:_Knowledge_and_communities_that_have_been_left_out_by_structures_of_power_and_privilege)



# Technical debt

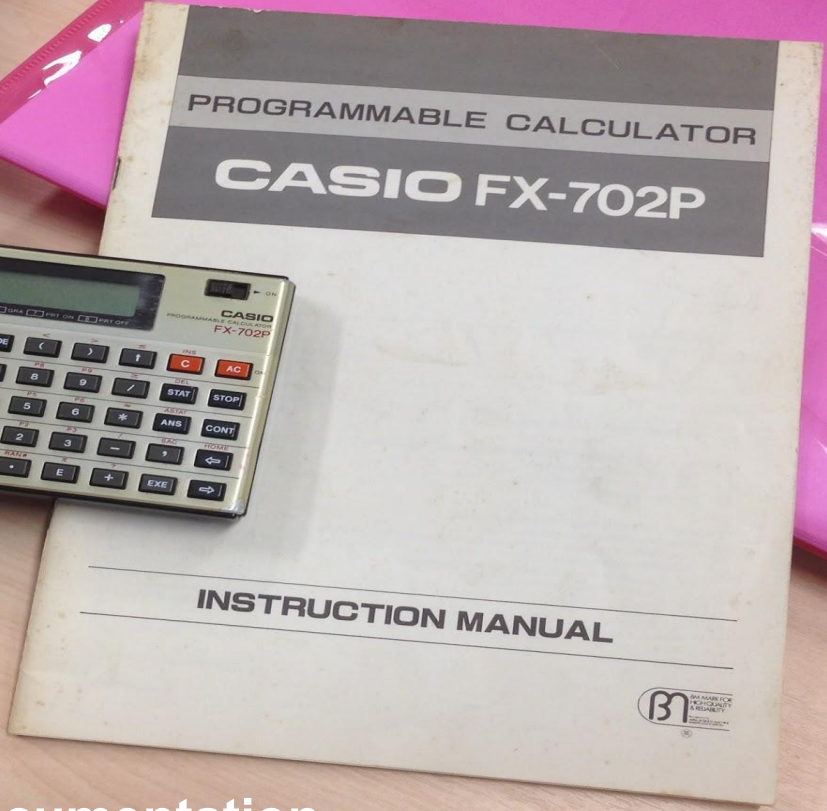
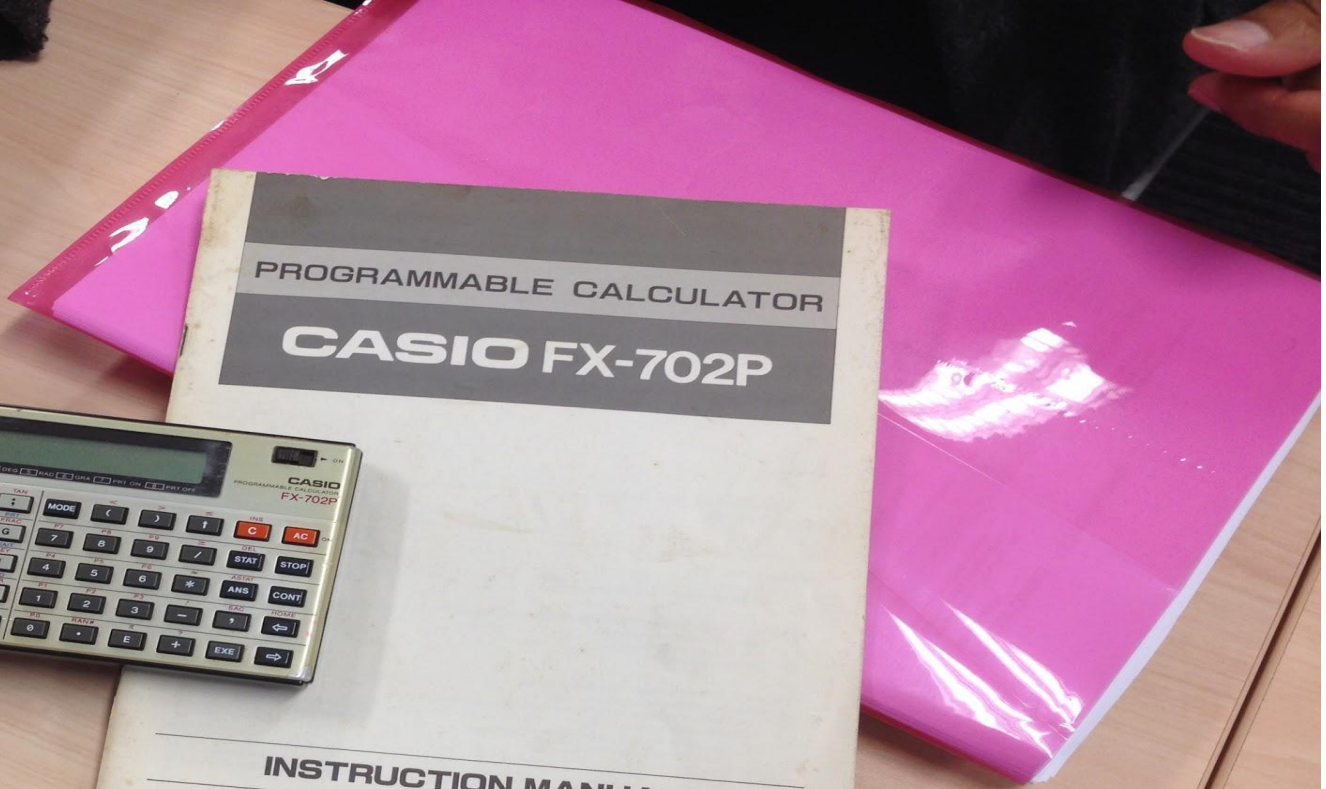







**Barriers to entry, no clear entry points**





Outdated/incomplete documentation

The image shows the interior of a large industrial silo. The walls are made of corrugated metal with a grid of rivets. The floor is concrete and has some pipes and debris. A dark opening is visible at the end of the silo. The text "Working in a silo" is overlaid in the center.

**Working in  
a silo**



**Home is where  
my gadget is**



**Lack of global standards, structures, processes for  
gadgets and scripts for the Wikimedia projects**

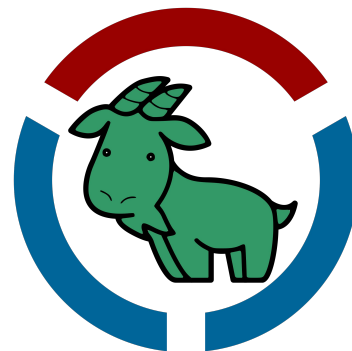


# What are we already doing (with room for improvement)

- Infrastructure for open source hosting and development (Cloud VPS and Toolforge)
- Mentorship programs (GSOC, Outreachy, Google Code-In)
- Pages documenting entry points for new developers; lots of them...
- Many ways to start (gadgets, Lua modules, extensions, core, ops, etc.)
- Events to retaining developer and welcome new ones (hackathons, etc.)
- Working to make our community respectful and collaborative
- Task and project recommendations
- Support channels and Technical Advice IRC Meeting
- Contributing upstream
- MediaWiki Stakeholders Group

# Best practices we could explore

- Training missions (e.g. OpenHatch)
- Structured practices for managing an open source project with differently-affiliated contributors (Apache)
- Consistent and accurate task recommendations with more types (e.g. Mozilla)
- Better code review processes
- Large scale software collaborations (e.g. WebKit)
- ....





# Focus I: Including all developers (65 min)

Making all developers (including third-party and volunteer) a key and efficient part of our software engineering

- What would allow you to develop and plan your software more efficiently?
- What would make software development more fun for you?
- Ideas for next/first steps (action items)

## Focus II: Build up Open Source partnerships (60 min)

Build up partnerships with other communities, other open source projects in areas that are important for us today and tomorrow

- What other Open Source communities do we share interests with?
- What are the main challenges?
- Ideas for next/first steps (action items)



# Focus III: Technical debt/fragility (30 min)

Growing the MediaWiki Technical Community by reducing technical debt and fragility

- How can we change our processes to take technical debt more seriously?

# Closing

- <https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/T185586> - Followup items



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