flow

Imagine a world in which our discussion system is a force for good.

The Problem

- Talk pages are too flexible. There are no sane workflows.
- It takes a new user an average of 15 minutes to understand the basics of talk pages
- "I'm just kind of feeling like an idiot now."

What is Flow?

- It's an activity feed
- Discussions flow into it
- Workflows flow into it
- Watchlist activity flows into it
- Project activity flows into it
- Everything, really, will flow into it

Engagement

- We want the editor community deeply involved in designing the product
- Give invitations to the conversation
- Explain our thinking and proposed solutions
- Ask about the "unknown unknowns"
- Multiple portals for conversation
  - Mediawiki.org
  - Meta
  - English Wikipedia

Discussions

- Many kinds of discussion
  - User-to-User
  - Article Improvement
  - !votes (AFD, RFA, etc.)
  - Policy discussion, RFCs
  - Administrator Notices, Arbcom cases, SPI
  - Endless list
- We are focusing on User-to-User discussion at first
- We will take what we learn and apply to other conversations
- Lots of hurdles to overcome

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☑3 **7 comments (3 unread)**   Tagged: lorem, dolor, ipsum   **Last updated XX time ago**

Jorm (discussions · contributions)   **XX time ago**

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Werdna (discussions · contributions)   **XX time ago**

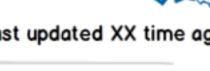XYZ edits since 14 August 9999 · userright · sysop · reviewer

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Tagging

| Enter search or filter terms (tags allowed) | 🔍 | Go |

- Genesis from "multiple watchlist" requests
- Natural language search/filter
  - No messy pull downs; the search should be smart
- #hashtag syntax that people already understand
- Tags are easier to use than categories
- They can be intersected (*#vandals AND #blocked*)
- And *subscribed* to

Subscriptions

- Like "watching" only they apply to every kind of object
- "Watching" users is creepy
- Types of subscriptions:
  - Article changes
  - Article discussions
  - Discussion topics
  - Users
  - Categories
  - Wikiprojects (indicates membership)
  - #hashtags

Process Modules

- Each wiki has its own special ways of doing things
  - Unblock requests, checkuser requests, renames
- We need to support these processes out of the gate
- But we can do it way better and give them power
- A simple language that hooks into Flow
- Similar to gadgets

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