Technical Collaboration

Wikimedia Foundation

I'm Chris and I'd like to talk to you about the Technical Collaboration team at the Wikimedia Foundation

Wikimedia is a global movement whose mission is to bring free educational content to the world.

Through various projects, chapters, and the support structure of the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation, Wikimedia strives to bring about a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge.

Welcome to Wikimedia.

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Wiktionary
The free dictionary

Wikiquote

WIKIBOOKS

WIKISOURCE

WIKINEWS

WIKIVERSITY

WIKISPECIES
free species directory

MediaWiki

WIKIDATA

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

wiki voyage

WIKIMEDIA
META-WIKI

WIKIMEDIA
INCUBATOR

WIKIMEDIA
LABS

WIKIMEDIA
FOUNDATION

Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge. That's our commitment.

Terms of use   Privacy policy

"The Wikimedia Foundation provides critical support for the Wikimedia projects and communities. We maintain the technology that allows people to contribute and share free knowledge with the world. We provide tools and resources, both monetary and programmatic, to support the health of the Wikimedia community. We protect the independence of the Wikimedia projects and volunteers, and raise awareness for the importance of our movement, projects, and mission in the world." - https://meta. wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation_Annual_Plan/2016-2017/draft#Overview

I'm a nerd

Ego-boasting slide about me :p
New the foundation, started in Jan
Previously administered multiple MediaWiki wikis inside a large healthcare
organization
      That makes me a recovering MediaWiki admin
As a volunteer I'm also a member of the MediaWiki Stakeholders' Group
I really enjoy community building, particularly around tech

We act as liaisons between non-technical communities and developers, and we organize developer outreach programs and events.

Tl:dr; What does the immediate team I'm part of at the WMF do?

Introduction to Technical Collaboration

meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Technical_Collaboration

We have two parts
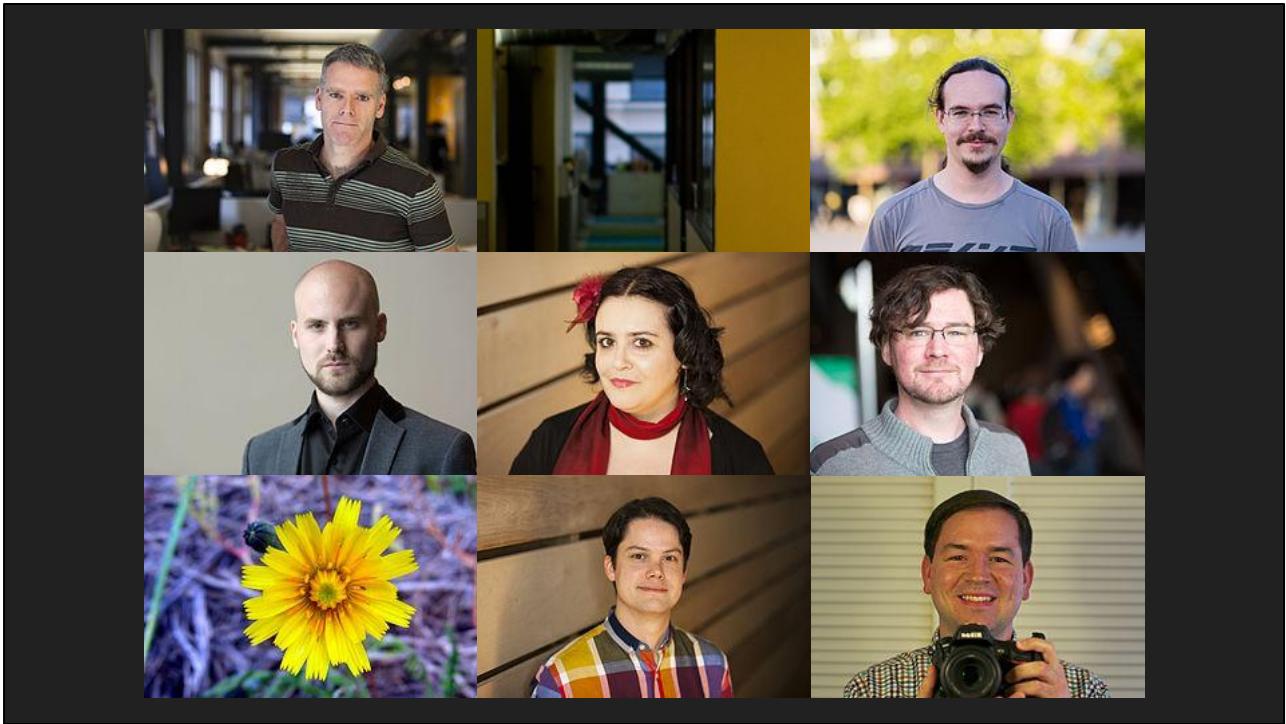
Community Liaisons - focus on editors
https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Liaisons
serve readers, contributors, and the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF) by supporting the WMF Product and Engineering departments in their collaboration with the communities of WMF-hosted sites. We inform the WMF of communities' views and particular needs about software products; and we inform the communities during the whole process of development of said software, and facilitate its adoption.

Product team: Discovery, Editing, Reading, Fundraising

Developer Relations - focus on developers
https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Developer_Relations

supports developers using Wikimedia web APIs and software projects to spread and improve free knowledge. Our primary focus is to help developers build and scale successful projects using Wikimedia web APIs.

The reality is that both parts of TC work with developers and editors - just with different approaches.

They, Us, We

Preemptive Apology

Joke about "us", "we", "they" - if you catch me using this language I mean all of us generally, but please ask to clarify.

Community Engagement   Product

Show how we work together and within product departments (this design is bad)

Discovery

Search

WQDS

Maps & Graphs

Wikipedia.org portal

Read | View source | View history | ☆ | Search | 🔍

- Arts
- Biography
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Science
- Society
- Technology
- **All portals**

| | In the news |

pical cyclone of
third tropical
n, Charley

In the news

- **An explosion** in Ankara, Turkey, kills 37 people and injures at least 125 others.

Some examples:
Search imporvements - completion suggester, textcat
Berlin Airports

Strategy Draft

- Recruit contributors to the development of the best educational content tools.
- Maintain excellent levels of technical collaboration.
- Provide growth paths for all types of volunteers.

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Technical_Collaboration/Strategy

Our strategy, or fancy way of saying our plan to do something, is currently a draft up on Meta.

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Technical_Collaboration/Strategy

What Technical Collaboration is not

- We are not developers
- We are not the sole community voice
- We are not tech support
- We are not sales people
- We are not able to give much direct attention to work outside of WMF supported projects.

Bad news/honesty slide

As you can tell by now we focus on Wikimedia supported projects. As a third-party user of Mediawiki this sounds like :sadtrombone:

Common Interests

But wait, we can work together in many areas!
There are many things that are beneficial to Wikimedia wikis and MediaWiki wikis.
Some examples...

Top 10 Community Wishlist

1. Migrate dead external links to archives
2. Improved diff compare screen
3. Central global repository for templates, gadgets and Lua modules
4. Cross-wiki watchlist
5. Numerical sorting in categories
6. Allow categories in Commons in all languages
7. Pageview Stats tool
8. Global cross-wiki user talk page
9. Improve the plagiarism detection bot
10. Add a user watchlist

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/2015_Community_Wishlist_Survey

Do you know about the Community wishlist?
Describe wishlist here
You, as a MediaWiki user, can influence this!
I can only speak for myself, but I took a look at the items on the list. There are some items that would be beneficial to all wikis! You can provide feedback, help set direction, etc.

Top 10 Community Wishlist

- Lots of things on the list that are being worked on will benefit all wikis
- In addition to the Top 10 tasks handled by Community Tech our team is looking at the next most voted tasks suitable for volunteer developers.
- A few that are relevant:
  - T120733: Improve date range searches on Special:Contributions (#15)
  - T112987: Separating infoboxes and navboxes from article content (#16)
  - T120746: Improve SVG rendering (#17)
  - T2738: Ability to watch section levels of pages (#18)
  - T15937: Correcting edit summaries (#19)

https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/T130095

Also, our team has been looking at items further down the list

https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/T130095

What bugs you

Find a bug? Reproducible on Wikimedia wikis? LET US KNOW!
I did this frequently when working at a previous employer.
IF you find a bug in MediaWiki or any extensions used by the WMF OH BOY (more eyes on a bug from WMF, core developers, popular WMF utalized extensions)

Events!

Dev Summit: more about discussions, long term wikimedia tech strategy, mostly only for longer term wikimedias who want to discuss the roadmap forward. Heavy focus on architecture. No connection to community wish-list.

Hackathons: more about being productive and working in small groups on projects, fixes, etc. Great for newcomer developers. Community wish-list progress.

Developer Summit

https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Developer_Summit_2016

This is an event
173 folks for the one this year in SF, next year in California Bay Area (city TBD) in early 2017
https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Developer_Summit_2016
The developer summit has a scholarship program available which you can apply for as you register for the event

Hackathons!

This is the 2016 Wikimedia Hackathon in Jerusalem.

https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Hackathon_2017

However attention to work outside WMF projects is exactly what hackathons are all about!

Stand alone in Lyon, France last year, Jerusalem this year, and Vienna, Austria

https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Hackathon_2017

Wikimania

https://wikimania2016.wikimedia.org
https://wikimania2017.wikimedia.org

We also host hackathons at the Wikimania conference - Last year in Mexico City, next is in Italy in June, and Montreal in August of next year.

"Wikimania is the official annual conference of the Wikimedia Foundation. Topics of presentations and discussions include Wikimedia projects such as Wikipedia, other wikis, open-source software, free knowledge and free content, and social and technical aspects related to these topics." - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikimania

Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums, the cultural heritage institutions

With WikiConferences, these are events that are the most useful to meet users. And Technical Collaboration work is also about users. So even if you have zero interest, which by now I hope your realize you should have some interest!, these Wikimedia-focused events are also a great opportunity to meet and work with other wiki users. Not all MediaWikians are Wikimedians, but all Wikimedians are MediaWikians :)

Code review

Thursdays

3:00 PM PST

#wikimedia-codereview

https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/E179
Thursdays 3pm PST IRC #wikimedia-codereview
Again focused on WMF supported projects, but still many
Join us! Help review code from other folks. Help get your code reviewed!

Outreach Programs

- Google Summer of Code
- Outreachy
- Google Code-In

Google Code-In (for 14-17yr old)

Telling people about your neat MediaWiki thing

- Extensions
- Integrations with other tools
- Uses of our APIs
- Success stories about using MediaWiki

https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Project:Calendar/How_to_schedule_an_event
http://blog.wikimedia.org/2016/05/05/mediawiki-nasa/

There's an interest and opportunity to promote the work! We have CREDIT showcase once a month, volunteers are welcome! Come show us the cool stuff you're doing with MediaWiki
Sucessful use of MediaWiki - NASA blog post - http://blog.wikimedia.org/2016/05/05/mediawiki-nasa/
Tech Talks!
We also have the social media accounts for Mediawiki.
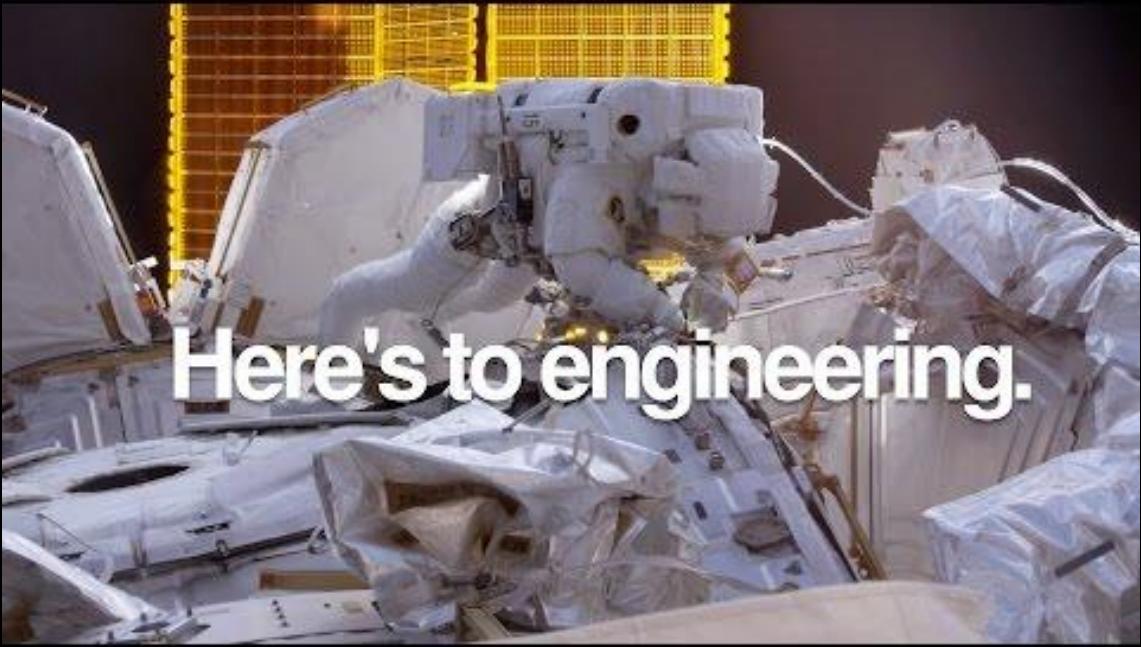
Here's to engineering.

A bit of an extreme example, but you know, spaceships!

Conclusions

- We want you!
- We sometimes have mutual goals
- In many cases we want the same things
- When we don't have aligned goals MediaWiki still has a healthy community

Bringing it back around, encouraging participation

Don't forget, all Wikimedian's are MediaWiki users - even if they don't know it! :)

Please get involved.

Easy tasks: https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/project/view/169/

Translations:

Events!

References

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