Quarterly Review

Editing Department

Q4 - 2014/15

Approximate team size during this quarter: 30 FTE

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Collaboration team
**Q4 - Collaboration team, Editing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Measure of success</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Make Flow a discussion system that can handle all of the core Discussion use cases, to a level that can be used on active project and article talk pages</strong></td>
<td><strong>One Wikipedia language using Flow on every talk page in the project and/or article talk namespace, enabled with the active support of the community on that language, by the end of June 2015 – T99117</strong></td>
<td><strong>Catalan Wikipedia is using Flow on all talk pages in the project namespace (Viquipèdia Discussió), as of June 30. Catalan is also using Flow on the five Viquipèdia:La taverna (village pump) pages.</strong> Example link: <a href="https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viquip%C3%A8dia:La_taverna/Propostes">https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viquip%C3%A8dia:La_taverna/Propostes</a>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Team members involved: 9 (+ 1 from other departments)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Q4 - Collaboration team, Editing

This quarter we converted a namespace on an active wiki to use Flow instead of wikitext talk pages. We worked with the community at Catalan Viquipèdia to make sure we addressed all of their use cases, and we built several features -- Mark as resolved, edit patrolling and moving a Flow board.

We built a new side rail feature to hold the metadata templates (aka “the yellow boxes”) common on talk pages. The side rail can be collapsed to allow full-width viewing of Flow pages, a much-requested feature.

We began conducting generative research with experienced editors to plan our approach to Workflows, an important feature set for our most active users.
Q4 - Collaboration team, Editing

**Quarterly Objectives Successes**

Screenshot from Catalan, showing new features requested by the community -- marking a discussion as resolved, and the side rail for template boxes. Not pictured: Clicking the X at the top right of the side rail collapses the rail, making the page full-width.

**Viquipèdia:La taverna/Tecnicismes**

- **Start a new topic**

  - **Enrique Rambal Sacia (junior)**
    - 2 comments • 4 hours ago
    - resolt

- **D'infotaules a Wikidata**
  - 22 comments • a day ago

  *Hola, estic inicint el d:wikidata:WikiProject Modernisme i entre les operacions que m'han passat pel cap per engreixar Wikidata hi ha la de passar les dades que ara tenim en local a les infotaules cap allà. Segur que ja s'ha parlat algun cop, però vaix una mica perduda en aquests assumptes i potser estic ficant la pata. Què en peneu? És viable / interessant / prudent? Gràcies!*

Screenshot: [https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viquip%C3%A8dia:La_taverna/Tecnicismes](https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viquip%C3%A8dia:La_taverna/Tecnicismes) of GPL and MIT software, and content used under CC-BY-SA

Template image: [https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fitxer:Icona_de_la_Cafetera_de_la_Viquip%C3%A8dia.png](https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fitxer:Icona_de_la_Cafetera_de_la_Viquip%C3%A8dia.png) used under LGPL.
We’re in the process of converting LiquidThreads pages to Flow boards on MediaWiki.org, an important step towards retiring a previous discussion system that we’re not working on anymore. MediaWiki.org is our first large conversion, with 1700 LQT pages. As we’ve been converting pages, we’ve found bugs in the process that have slowed down completion of this task. We’ve made good progress (250 pages converted), but we’d hoped to be done by now.
Language team
### Q4 - Language team, Editing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen the Content Translation infrastructure</td>
<td>Facilitate the creation of more types of links in a reliable way – <strong>T76455</strong></td>
<td>Core improvements done. Advanced cases planned for next quarter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Team members involved: 6</strong></td>
<td>Add [[Special:CXStats]] with selected article publishing statistics – <strong>T99230</strong></td>
<td>Done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make Content Translation available to more users and maintain a high quality of service availability</td>
<td>Deployed on all Wikipedias as a beta-feature – <strong>T88408</strong></td>
<td>Complete; all done in-quarter except English (done on 7th July).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Team members involved: 6</strong></td>
<td>Prep. release from beta to production on one Wikipedia – <strong>T102107</strong></td>
<td>We compiled the Catalan needs for graduation without major blockers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Design CX integration into the editing workflow and provide entry points to involve readers – <strong>T87867, T99071</strong></td>
<td>Done — Effectiveness measured and positive impact on metrics.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q4 - Language team, Editing

- Content Translation was made available in 266 further Wikipedias this quarter. All Wikipedias now have CX.

- 8000 total articles have been created with CX. At present, 1000 new translations are created per week (last quarter: 100), after CX was enabled on the top 10 Wikipedias in the last few weeks. Deletion rate for the tool’s articles at 7% (down from 8% in May) is favourable.

- Notification system was introduced, for increased interaction with users. Community interactions throughout this period have been positive, constructive and participatory.

- We partnered with the Research team about article suggestions; article suggestion is an intended way users can begin translations and results from this experiment will guide the development of this feature.
Q4 - Language team, Editing

- Last mile experience for users can be even better; sporadic publishing failures (working with Parsing team on this) and other issues (like local scripts, gadgets etc.) that get in the way of CX are a challenge.

- Most users published less than 5 articles. This is expected from a newly introduced tool, but we need to continue the momentum on developing features that engage users early and retain interest.

- No clarity on analytics support; more so after the reorg.

- Team members are overworked, especially with the hiring cuts and removal of existing positions. Non-CX projects are now included in sprints but actual execution of maintenance work is far from reality (small maintenance OK, bigger is not).
Q4 - Language team, Editing

7392 translations this quarter
Increasing creation rate (~10x):
175 on first week → 1161 on last week

Highlights

2566 Total number of translators

323 Highest number of articles created by one user

572 Highest number of translators for a Wikipedia (Spanish)
Multimedia team
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<tr>
<td>Make uploading media an easy, integrated process</td>
<td>Users can upload media to Commons by clicking upload or using drag-and-drop inside VisualEditor and the wikitext editor whilst they edit, by end September 2015 – <a href="#">T40030</a></td>
<td>Underway, on track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Team members involved: 4*
We are on track with our work. This quarter, we made solid progress on the modernisation of UploadWizard in planned incremental improvements. Our focus is on code quality and architecture, paying down our technical debt.

We decided to concentrate more on the ‘core’ product by generalising our approach. We are designing, planning, and making some code progress on a new MediaWiki upload API and modernised UX for the core upload tool.

This will replace parts of our uploading process, so that official uploading integrations into VisualEditor and mobile, and community tools like campaigns, can be served more flexibly and simply.
Getting UploadWizard fully refactored was more of an effort than anyone initially imagined, so there is still work to do there. We expected this to be done by the end of the coming quarter (two quarters’ work), but it may slip. Some of the projected effort will be obviated by the new upload APIs which we took on as part of this effort.

Outside our objectives, work on the longer-term priority of structured data (Wikibase) on Commons is not currently possible, though there is a plan in the works. We have yet to solidly establish the barriers or deliverables and thus a timeline.
Parsing team
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top goal:</strong> Identify &amp; fix the most prominent remaining semantic roundtripping diffs</td>
<td>At least 99.95% of the ~160K test pages roundtrip (wikitext → HTML → wikitext) without semantic errors in full roundtrip testing, by end June 2015. – <a href="https://example.com">T92643</a></td>
<td>Met goal as of June 23rd, 2015. We were at 99.82% at start of quarter, and 99.75% end-June, 2014. <a href="https://example.com">Announcement on wikitech-l</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implicit objective</strong> Fix VE Q4 blocker bugs</td>
<td>VisualEditor 2014/15 Q4 blockers tasks depending on Parsoid are resolved.</td>
<td>Met goal. There is currently one unclosed task that requires more discussion and clarification -- moved to FY15-16 Q1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve Parsoid performance</td>
<td>Handle large / pathological pages on which Parsoid is currently timing out (<a href="https://example.com">T75412</a>, <a href="https://example.com">T88915</a>)</td>
<td>Minimal work identifying reasons for timeouts on some pages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q4 - Parsing team, Editing

Based on gradual progress over the last year, at the start of the quarter, we expected we would be able to meet 99.95% semantically accurate round-tripping goal. But, it was not as easy as anticipated.

We hand coded ~100 test failures in terms of what caused the failure. This was critical to identify non-edge case failures that would be most useful to fix.

We had a lot of false semantic failure reports because our error classification algorithm was 2+ year old code and was overly complex and buggy in parts. It required a rewrite of pieces of that code to fix this.
We were primarily focused on meeting our top goal and fixing VE blocker bugs (Arlo, Scott, Subbu, Marc). In addition, we undertook a lot of unplanned, but necessary, code cleanup (Arlo, Scott, Subbu). We also wanted to get some other longstanding work (CSS-based customization of Cite) finished which we did (Marc).

All the above, in combination with the reorg, some team changes, and a small team meant that we did not have any bandwidth to work on fixing problems with pages that were timing out, but we made progress improving perf. of the PEG tokenizer (Tim).

As for other sub-goals listed in T92643 that were dependent on VE’s goals and priorities, we made some progress towards supporting section editing (Arlo). That requires additional engineering work in VE, Parsoid, and RESTBase and is deferred for later in FY2015/16. Same with switching between HTML / wikitext editing modes in VE.
Ongoing deploys (up to 2 times a week)
  ○ 0.6 developer months of our time per quarter

Code maintenance, cleanup, easing technical debt, documentation
  ○ This quarter, we focused on this part more than usual and spent up to 3 developer months of our time doing maintenance and easing technical debt.

Maintenance of the OCG PDF backend (primarily Scott’s responsibility)
  ○ Up to 1 developer month of work spent doing this.
VisualEditor team
## Q4 - VisualEditor team, Editing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Measure of success</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve the editing experience for new and anonymous users on the English Wikipedia</td>
<td>Maintain VisualEditor production service at our quality criteria.</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– <a href="#">Project 1113</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Run test of availability for new accounts on the English Wikipedia.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– <a href="#">T90666</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gradual ramp-up of availability on the English Wikipedia for new users, from 5% to 100%.</td>
<td>Delayed by result 2. Have begun community discussion; on track for next quarter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– <a href="#">T90664</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Make VisualEditor available on the English Wikipedia for anonymous users.</td>
<td>Delayed by result 3. Will begin once result 3 is secured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– <a href="#">T90663</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Team members involved: 7 (+ 5 from other departments)*
Q4 - VisualEditor team, Editing

We met our on-going principal task of maintaining the quality of our production editing service against our quality criteria whilst suffering a significant reduction in resourcing.

We made significant alterations to the workflow of citations and link editing based on user research. These usability improvements have notably simplified and enhanced the user experience.

We continued to trial new ways of working to involve the editing and developer communities more deeply in our planning and prioritisation of our work to be aligned with their wants and needs.
User research uncovered big usability misses in some of the new functionality added last quarter, as well as in existing areas of focus. This led to significant proposed re-designs of these features being generated. Most of these were accepted as blockers which could cause the A/B test to fail if unaddressed. The time taken to build, re-test & deploy these, albeit rapid, collectively delayed the A/B test by two months. This had consequent impacts on the post-test tasks.

**Action**: We in Editing have set up processes to involve User Research more consistently and earlier in the design and development process. We expect that this change will avoid a recurrence of this kind of rapid re-re-design in future.
Performance indicators
Q4 - Performance indicators, Editing

“We build collaborative, inclusive tools for creating and editing free knowledge.”

How do we measure this?
Q4 - Performance indicators, Editing

Some possibilities
Q4 - **Performance indicators, Editing**

Core workflows and metrics

Global monthly **active editors**
Q4 - *Performance indicators, Editing*

Global monthly **contributor births** (“new editors”)
Q4 - Performance indicators, Editing

Global monthly content edits (here, Wikipedia only)

Core workflows and metrics
Q4 - Performance indicators, Editing

Global monthly mobile edits

Core workflows and metrics
Q4 - **Performance indicators, Editing**

**Issues**

- How do we weight for diversity?
  - What about collaboration? Quality?
- Are metrics this broad really actionable?
  - “The best windmill looks terrible if the wind isn’t blowing”
- These are lagging indicators
In the short term, consolidate tactical indicators, e.g. shown here, global edit save rates for the wikitext editor vs. the visual editor.
Q4 - Performance indicators, Editing

Approach

- Carefully evaluate options for strategic metrics
  - Funnel rates?
  - Defining active editors based on sessions?
  - Synthetic metrics?

\[
\text{Depth} = \frac{\text{Edits}}{\text{Articles}} \cdot \frac{\text{NonArticles}}{\text{Articles}} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{\text{Articles}}{\text{Total}}\right)
\]
Appendices
Q4 - Collaboration team, Editing

Global active Flow boards, 2014-15

http://flow-reportcard.wmflabs.org/
Q4 - Collaboration team, Editing

Global active Flow topics, 2014-15

http://flow-reportcard.wmflabs.org/#
Q4 - Collaboration team, Editing

Global Flow messages posted, 2014-15

http://flow-reportcard.wmflabs.org/#
Q4 - Collaboration team, Editing

Global Flow unique users, 2014-15

http://flow-reportcard.wmflabs.org/#
## Q4 - Language team, Editing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total articles</th>
<th>Users with 1...4 tr.</th>
<th>Users with ≥ 5 tr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-15 Q3</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>204 (88%)</td>
<td>27 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 wikis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15 Q4</td>
<td>8100</td>
<td>2453 (90%)</td>
<td>275 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>289 wikis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Date</td>
<td>8933</td>
<td>2740 (90%)</td>
<td>292 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Wikipedias</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Articles deleted (Q4)**
  - April 6%
  - May 8%
  - June 7%
  - Total deletions: 492/7392 (includes testing and QA articles)

### More info
- [Live statistics dashboard](#)
- Q4 reports: [June 2015](#); [May 2015](#)
- [Release board](#) for the quarter
- [2015-16 Q1 Goals](#)

### Appendix
Q4 - Language team, Editing

1811 users with just one translation (71%)

1tr. 2tr. 3tr. 4tr. 5-20tr. >20tr
314 users (12%) 136 users (5%) 56 users (2%) 201 users (8%) 47 users (2%)
Q4 - Parsing team, Editing


We have run roundtrip-tests on 158909 articles, of which

- 100% parsed without errors,
- 99.95% round-tripped without semantic differences, and
- 85.22% round-tripped with no character differences at all.

Latest revision:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Git SHA1</th>
<th>aa5804ca89dc644f744af24c474cbc736f2edbe1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Results</td>
<td>157740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crashers</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixes</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regressions</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RT selser errors</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>