Codeathon round-up

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http://techblog.wikimedia.org/

Codeathon!

We had a little less structure for the first planning day than we did at the April developer meeting; next time maybe target somewhere in the middle. Having the room available throughout the conference was very valuable, providing a workspace and meeting space for techies as well as a quieter place to hang out for folks to get a break from the busier rooms upstairs.

¡Muchas gracias!

Facilities came together great .... it's not a Wikimania without wifi failures, but it works more than it doesn't work and they've fed us well ;)

Code review!

Select	▲Revision	Status	Notes	Tests	Path	Commit summary	Author	Date
☐	55034	fixme	2	558/558	/trunk/phase3/includes/HttpFun...	* added curl option support for get requests	dale	11:01, 14 August 2009
☐	54472	fixme	1	558/558	/trunk/phase3/docs/export-0.4....	Updates for: per-revision delete flags, log exports, and a per-page redirect fla...	tomasz	11:35, 5 August 2009
☐	53613	fixme	3		/trunk/extensions/Translate	* Forgot MessageGroups.php	nikerabbit	11:00, 21 July 2009
☐	53361	fixme	2		/trunk/phase3/includes/special...	fixed unset partname	dale	08:28, 16 July 2009
☐	53194	fixme	2		/trunk/phase3	(bug 19528 🔒) Added XSLT parameter to API queries in format=xml	btongminh	14:37, 13 July 2009
☐	52669	fixme	1		/trunk/phase3	Fix background color of the searchbox and "did you mean" link table... since thi...	rainman	17:25, 1 July 2009
☐	52494	fixme	1		/trunk/phase3	(bug 19157 🔒) createAndPromote error on bad password	demon	09:53, 27 June 2009
☐	52158	fixme	2		/trunk/phase3/includes/DjVuIma...	encode string to utf8 before converting to xml	thomasv	02:51, 19 June 2009
☐	52083	fixme	3		/trunk/phase3	* Add autopromote condition APCOND_BLOCKED to autopromote blocked users to vario...	skizzerz	19:50, 17 June 2009

We've caught up on back review to the last branch point in June and have cleaned up most of the blocking issues -- expect updated code before you get home. :)

Lots of big changes coming internally:
* js2 branch merge
* major maintenance scripts cleanup
* redone upload backend (supports background fetches of large files, pretty new interface)
* new localization caching framework (better support for LocalisationUpdate)
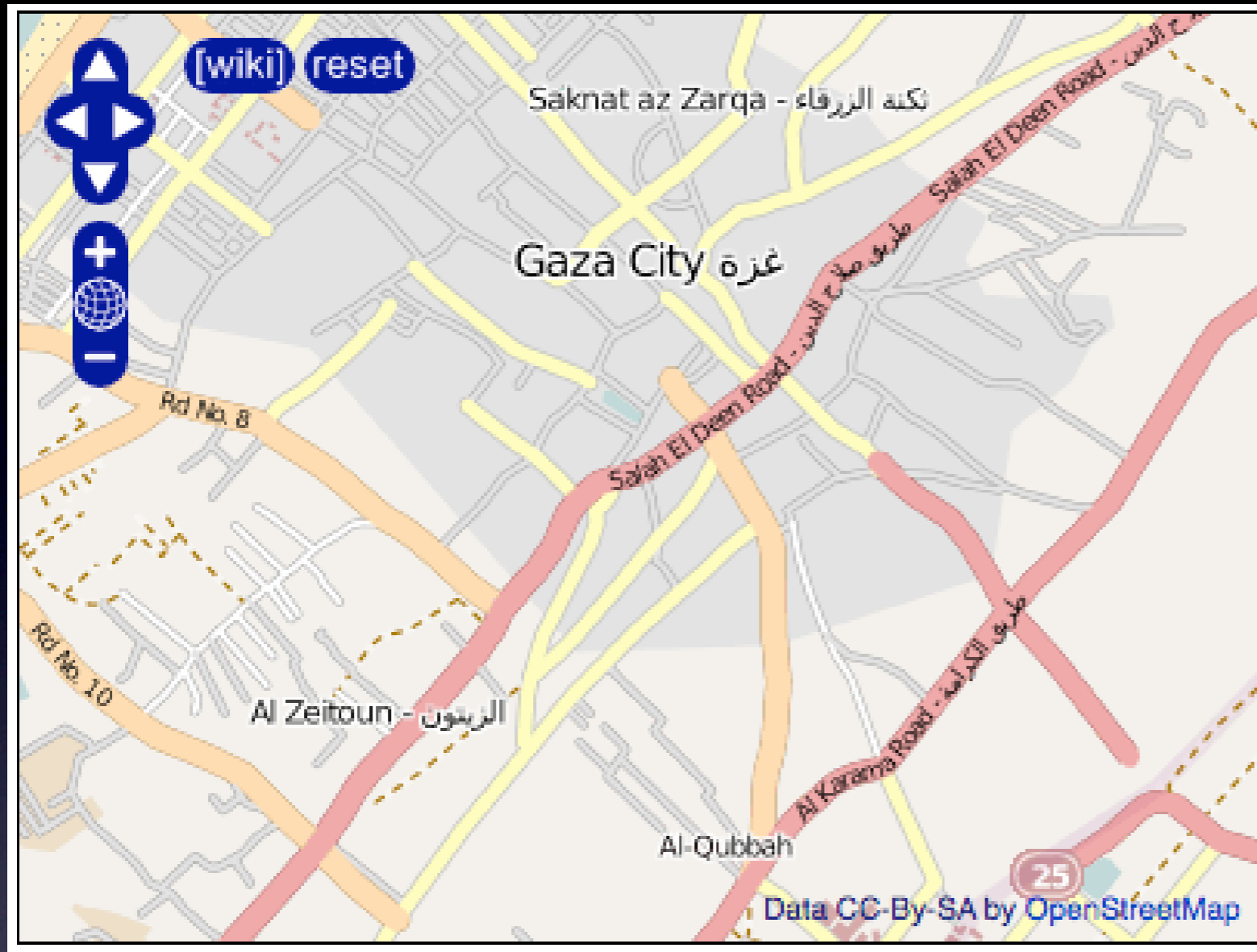
Maps!

Got the OSM integration dev team talking with the ops team; we should have the server situation sorted out shortly and be ready for test deployments of SlippyMap soon. Toolserver experimentation has been going for some time with good results; once the first set of official servers are happy we've got additional servers for the US data centers budgeted.

Configuration database!
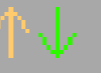
Configuration database

Contents [hide]

Problems to solve

- .php config files are fragile
  - easy to break by mistake
  - no edit history unless you explicit do exte
- Editing config files is difficult/inconvenient fo
  - requires shell access
  - can't easily expose limited settings to adr
- Handling config for multi-wiki farms right now
  - SiteConfig/InitaliseSettings stuff is weirdl
  - querying settings from a sister site (even
    and not show up in the config arrays)

Worked out some basic specs for a configuration database, which will let us migrate to a cleaner way of handling single-wiki and multi-wiki configurations. More minor updates will be possible for admins and stewards on the wiki, reducing bottlenecks where Wikimedia ops techs are required to tweak things.

Migration and backwards-compatibility for old settings are definitely a concern: we'll want to make sure that when a setting is overridden by a LocalSettings.php variable that this is indicated clearly in the config UI.

Status ↑↓	Last Check ↑↓	Duration ↑↓
WARNING	08-28-2009 16:09:04	1d 0h 56m 8s
WARNING	08-28-2009 16:09:02	28d 4h 6m 38s
CRITICAL	08-28-2009 16:09:10	4d 18h 35m 44s
WARNING	08-28-2009 16:09:04	5d 18h 2m 47s
CRITICAL	08-28-2009 16:09:10	6d 3h 35m 47s
WARNING	08-28-2009 16:09:03	16d 15h 16m 39s
WARNING	08-28-2009 16:09:08	14d 13h 39m 27s
CRITICAL	08-28-2009 16:09:14	65d 21h 20m 2s
CRITICAL	08-28-2009 16:09:12	65d 18h 10m 22s
CRITICAL	08-28-2009 16:09:14	65d 18h 11m 2s
CRITICAL	08-28-2009 16:09:02	65d 21h 19m 59s
CRITICAL	08-28-2009 16:09:03	65d 21h 19m 39s
CRITICAL	08-28-2009 16:09:04	45d 21h 51m 29s

MediaWiki application monitoring

Good talk w/ Domas, Mark & Tim about profiling and monitoring infrastructure and some things we can plug in -- integrating profiling into PHP, building an aggregator of currently running requests and functions, better detection of PHP failures

```php
# UTF-8 substr function based on a PHP manual comment
if ( !function_exists( 'mb_substr' ) ) {
    function mb_substr( $str, $start ) {
        $ar = array();
        preg_match_all( '/./us', $str, $ar );

        if( func_num_args() >= 3 ) {
            $end = func_get_arg( 2 );
            return join( '', array_slice( $ar[0], $start, $end ) );
        } else {
            return join( '', array_slice( $ar[0], $start ) );
        }
    }
}
```

mbstring wtf

Domas complained about the mb_string compatibility functions being incredibly slow and this causing serious problems for some users. mb_substr implementation was insane; now has been replaced. :)

TranslateWiki

cy	Cymraeg	99.79%	98.14%	24.38%	9.41%	0.37%
da	Dansk	100.00%	99.96%	59.39%	25.36%	3.35%
de	Deutsch	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	96.86%	100.00%
diq	Zazaki	99.15%	27.72%	0.31%	0.16%	0.37%
dlc	Övdalską	44.07%	10.58%	0.10%	0.03%	0.00%
dsb	Dolnoserbski	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	86.17%	100.00%
dv	ދިވެހިބަސް	34.11%	12.36%	0.10%	0.03%	0.00%
dz	རྫོང་ཁ	74.15%	19.42%	0.10%	0.03%	0.00%
ee	Eʋegbe	53.81%	15.36%	1.18%	0.81%	0.00%
el	Ελληνικά	99.79%	99.58%	99.79%	64.75%	71.75%
eml	Emiliàn e rumagnòl	13.14%	4.02%	0.05%	0.01%	0.00%
en	English	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
eo	Esperanto	99.79%	99.58%	94.92%	71.10%	95.91%
es	Español	100.00%	100.00%	95.84%	85.03%	100.00%
et	Eesti	100.00%	94.58%	62.68%	23.83%	3.72%
eu	Euskara	100.00%	98.60%	49.54%	37.86%	17.47%

More and more tools coming into TranslateWiki -- now supports localizations for XUL apps thanks to the okawix team. One current issue is performance on completion status reports -- needs to be made faster so localization teams can organize more actively.

Friday, August 14, 2009

LocalisationUpdate update

I received this e-mail from Roan Kattouw with some great news ....
He is part of the Usability Initiative team..

> Just now I've enabled the LocalisationUpdate on the prototype
> sandbox
> so we have a staging area for it. Sandbox is running r54813
> (others:
> please don't update the core code on sandbox for a while, kthx).
> You
> can see that a bunch of Afrikaans localizations for the toolbar was
> added in r54979 [1] but are visible on sandbox [2], even though it's
> running r54813 [3]. The toolbar on Wikipedia is not translated to
> Afrikaans at all right now [4].
>
> Roan Kattouw (Catrope)

LocalisationUpdate
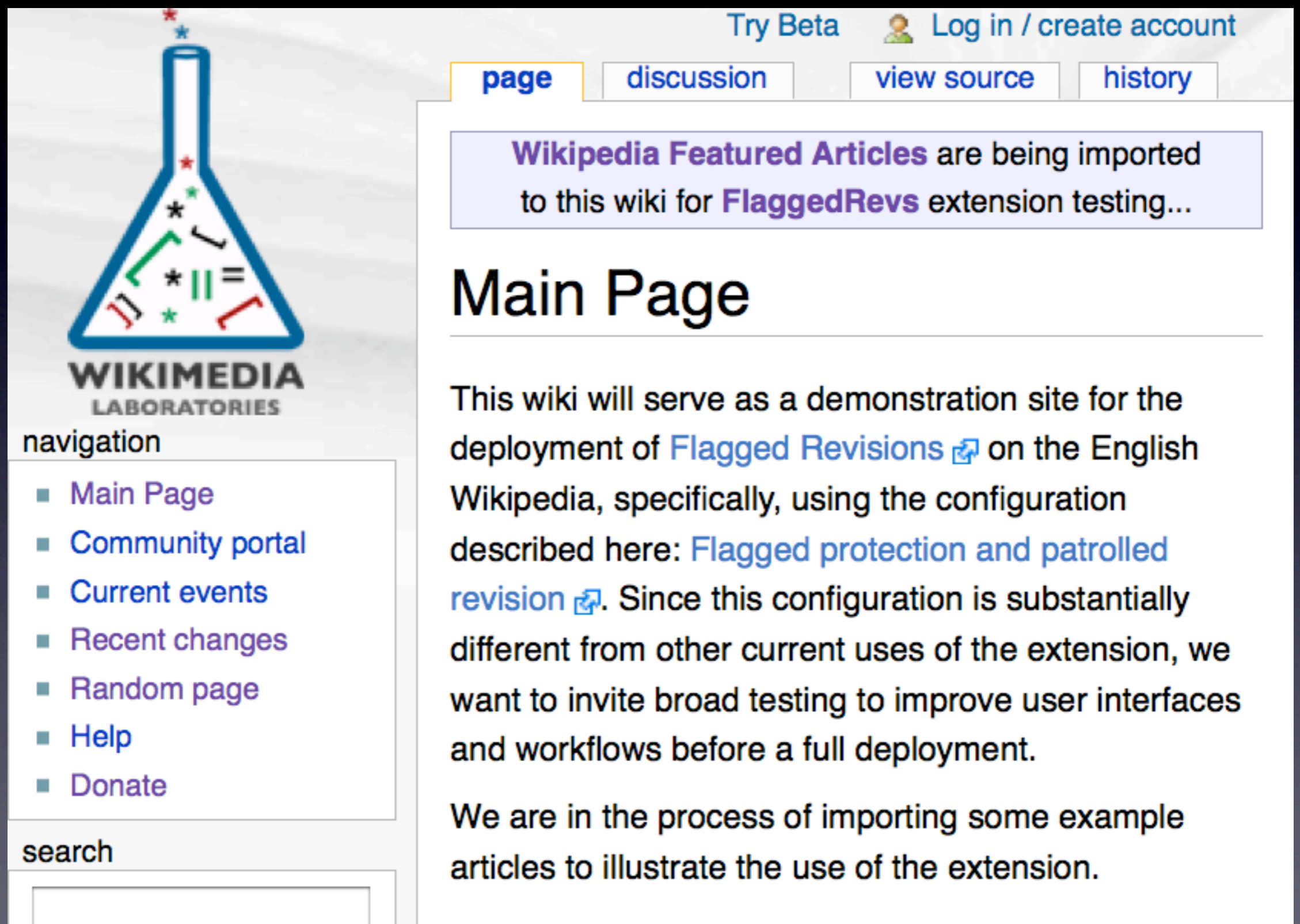
Actually enabled on test.wikipedia but doesn't quite work yet. ;) Should be ready to roll when the code push comes in a couple days.

Wikimania videos!

Roan set up a temporary upload space for the Wikimania videos with the awesome local team have recorded and encoded as Ogg Theora for us, yay! We should have them transferred to Commons soon. (Michael Dale's upcoming improvements to large uploads will make this easier shortly, though we're still looking at the possibilities for sftp batch uploads too.)

Flagged Revs

Test site up with planned enwiki configuration -- we hope to push into limited usage within a few weeks. Also being used in similar configuration on MediaWiki site for manual and extension pages, which is helping to get more developer buy-in.

LiquidThreads

Andrew has been doing amazing things fixing up the old LiquidThreads project providing a cleaner way to handle threaded discussion pages. Now working on the front end, making it AWESOME and inviting to use.

AJAX editing helpers

Andrew and Roan have also been poking at other fun things, including a very cool experiment with AJAX section editing. New work is using jQuery as base library, to much happiness. Many related tools to examine and integrate or adapt.

Semantic MediaWiki testing?

Chatted a little with Markus & Danny -- we're talking about the possibility of setting up an official test using a shared SMW data store. See what the performance and workflow really looks like at Wikipedia scale!

WikiTrust testing?

Planning to get this going soon (unfortunately just haven't had a chance to run into Luca yet this week ;)

Offline readers

Tomasz – work on OpenZIM common format & reader library, etc. Much interest in using WikiTrust data to aid in selecting good revisions to push out for offline use.

Collection/PediaPress

Fixed a bug in Croatian localization. :) Some cool updates to the UI are coming soon...

Replag & batch ops
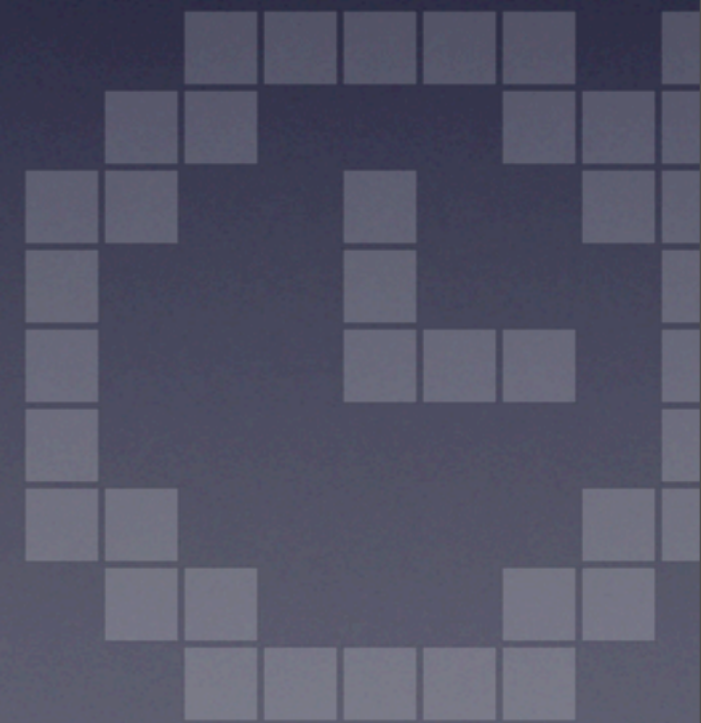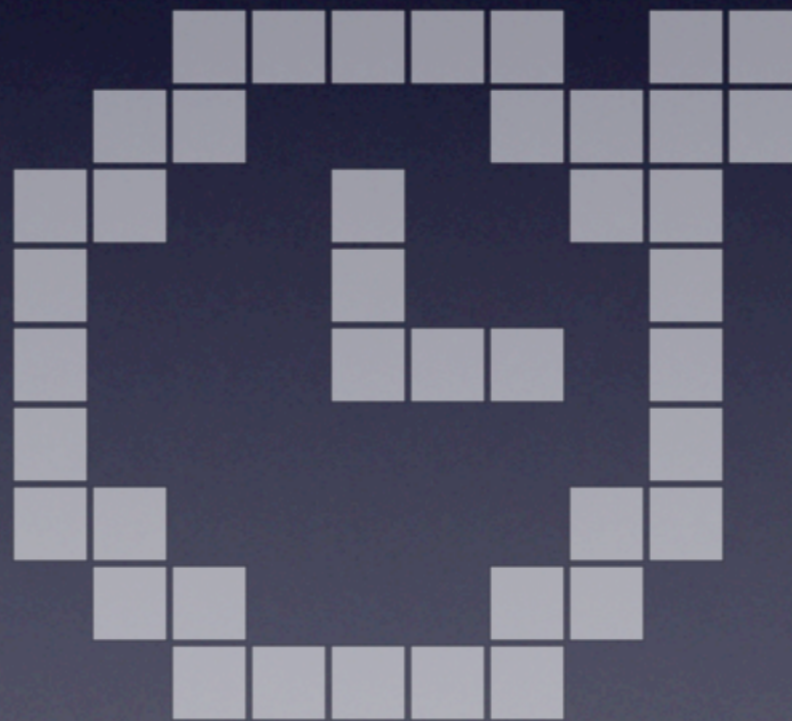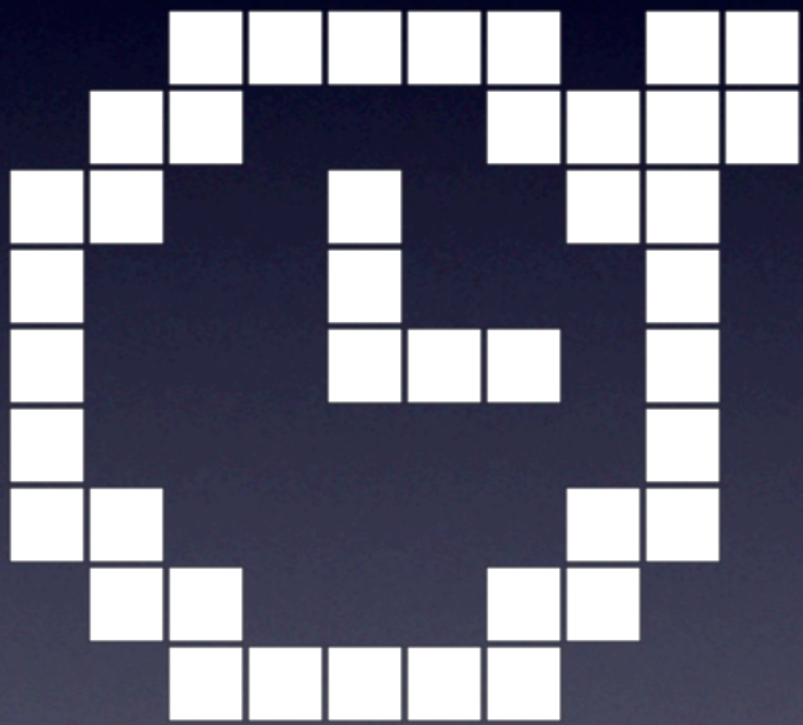
Domas and Tim have come up with a better way to handle MySQL replication lag monitoring for large batch operations. While not yet implemented, this should be super happy fun time! Now we just need to find a better way to break up the batch operations so we don't lag in the first place ;)
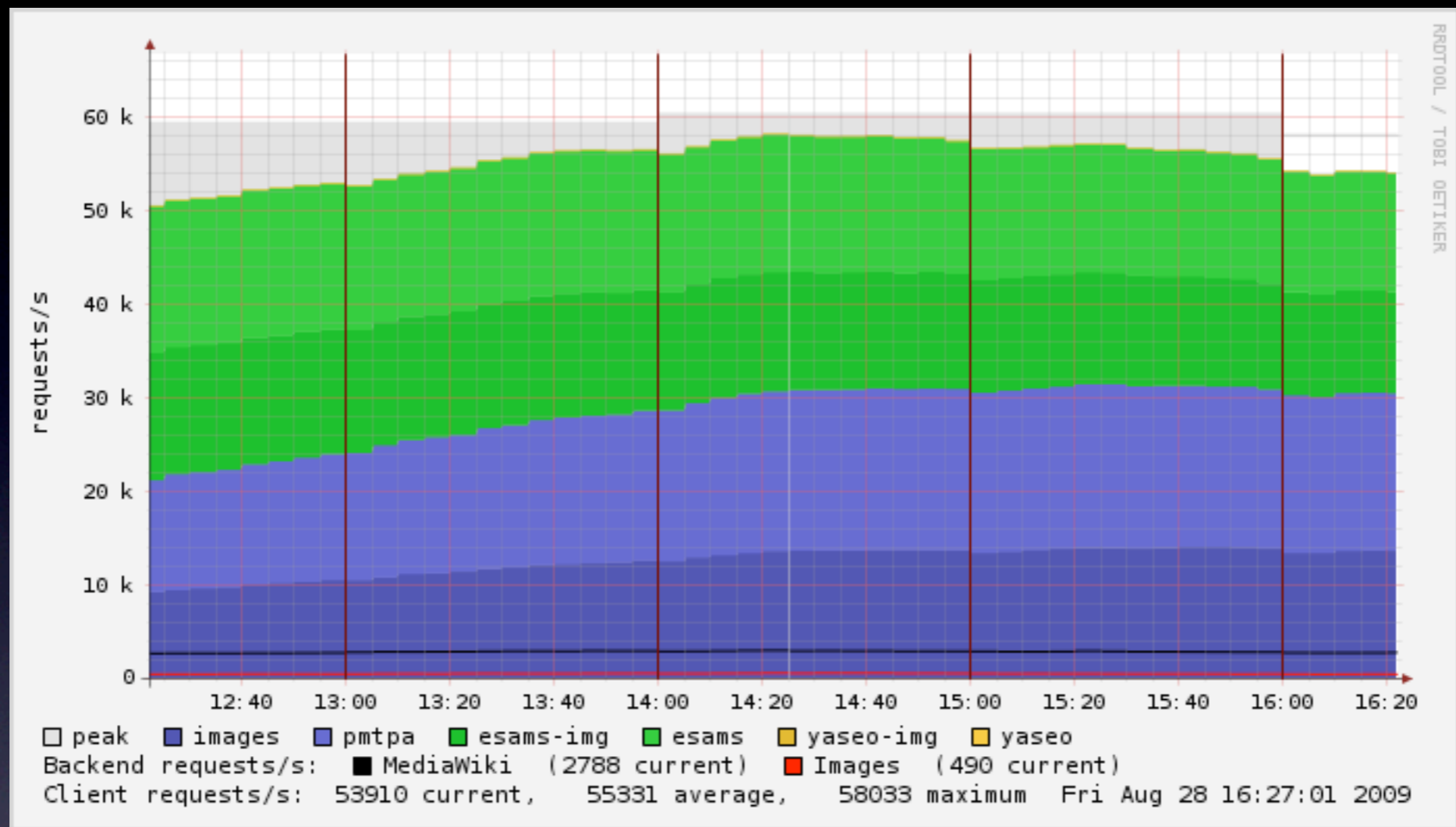
Bandwidth optimization

Mark & Domas are clearing out unnecessary debug headers from our HTTP stream and tuning our compression -- saving about 0.5 megabits/s. Ongoing work in dev trunk to trim down our HTML and JS as well...

Doc days?

This page desperately needs to be filled out or brought up to date. If you're familiar with the operations of this part of the site, please help!

On our ops side, Rob is suggesting a coordinated effort to clean up our ops documentation on wikitech.wikimedia.org. I for one welcome our new documentation overlords :D

http://techblog.wikimedia.org/

http://wikitech.wikimedia.org/view/Presentations