

Codeathon round-up

Brion Vibber - Wikimedia Foundation
Wikimania - Buenos Aires - 28 de agosto 2009
<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 ;)

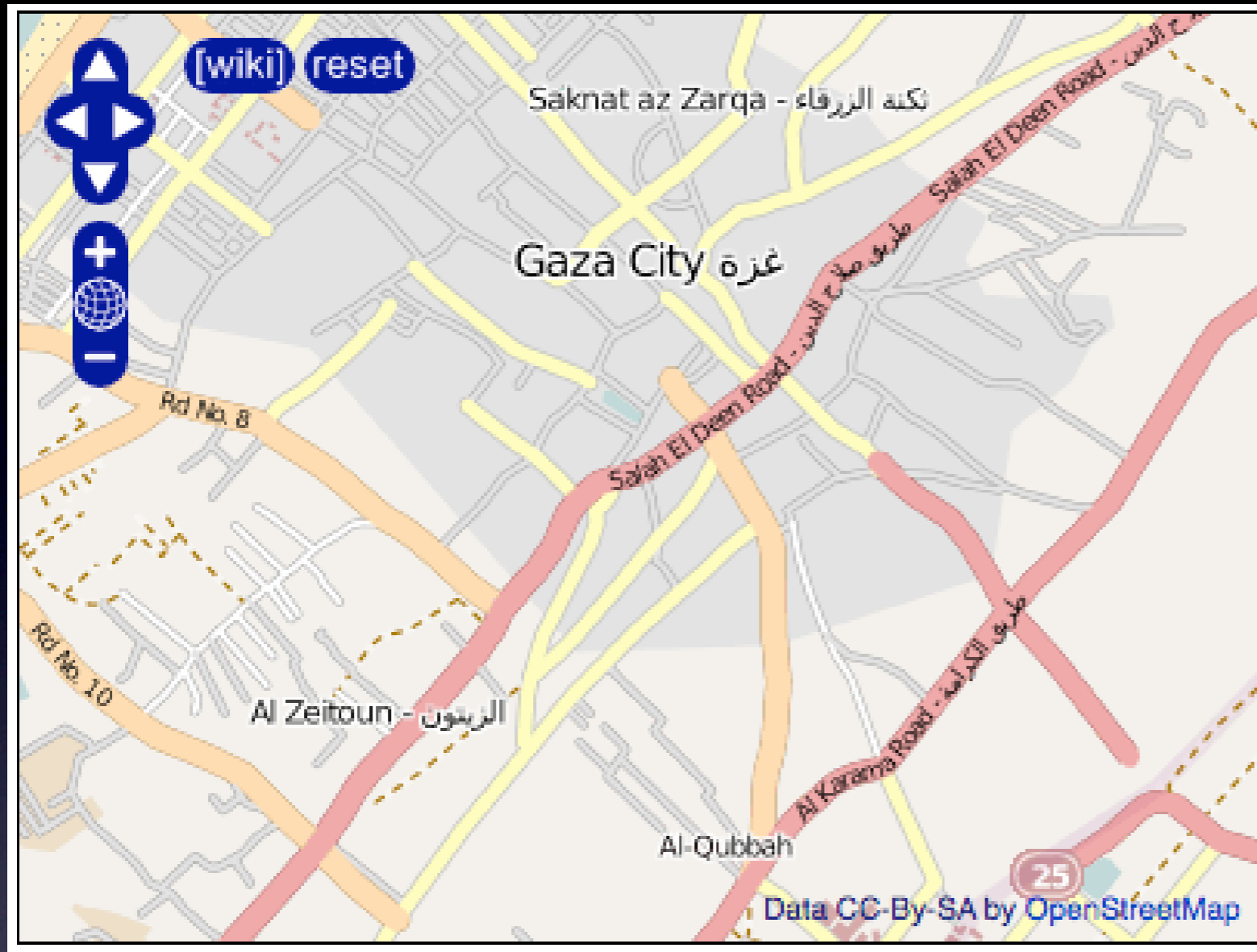
Code review!

Select	▲ Revision	Status	Notes	Tests	Path	Commit summary	Author	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	55034	fixme	2	558/558	/trunk/phase3/includes/HttpFun...	* added curl option support for get requests	dale	11:01, 14 August 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	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
<input type="checkbox"/>	53613	fixme	3		/trunk/extensions/Translate	* Forgot MessageGroups.php	nikerabbit	11:00, 21 July 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	53361	fixme	2		/trunk/phase3/includes/special...	fixed unset partname	dale	08:28, 16 July 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	53194	fixme	2		/trunk/phase3	(bug 19528 🐛) Added XSLT parameter to API queries in format=xml	btongminh	14:37, 13 July 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	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
<input type="checkbox"/>	52494	fixme	1		/trunk/phase3	(bug 19157 🐛) createAndPromote error on bad password	demon	09:53, 27 June 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	52158	fixme	2		/trunk/phase3/includes/DjVulma...	encode string to utf8 before converting to xml	thomasv	02:51, 19 June 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	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!

Page

Discussion

Configuration database

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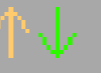
- 1 Problems to solve
- 2 Requirements
- 3 Data types
- 4 Internal interface
- 5 User interface
- 6 Bugs that could be solved / New features
- 7 See also

Problems to solve

- .php config files are fragile
 - easy to break by mistake
 - no edit history unless you explicit do extensions
- Editing config files is difficult/inconvenient for admins
 - requires shell access
 - can't easily expose limited settings to administrators
- Handling config for multi-wiki farms right now
 - SiteConfig/InitialiseSettings stuff is weirdly inconsistent
 - querying settings from a sister site (even if it's the same wiki) 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

```
# 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	Övdalska	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	ཨོག་མོ་སྐད་	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

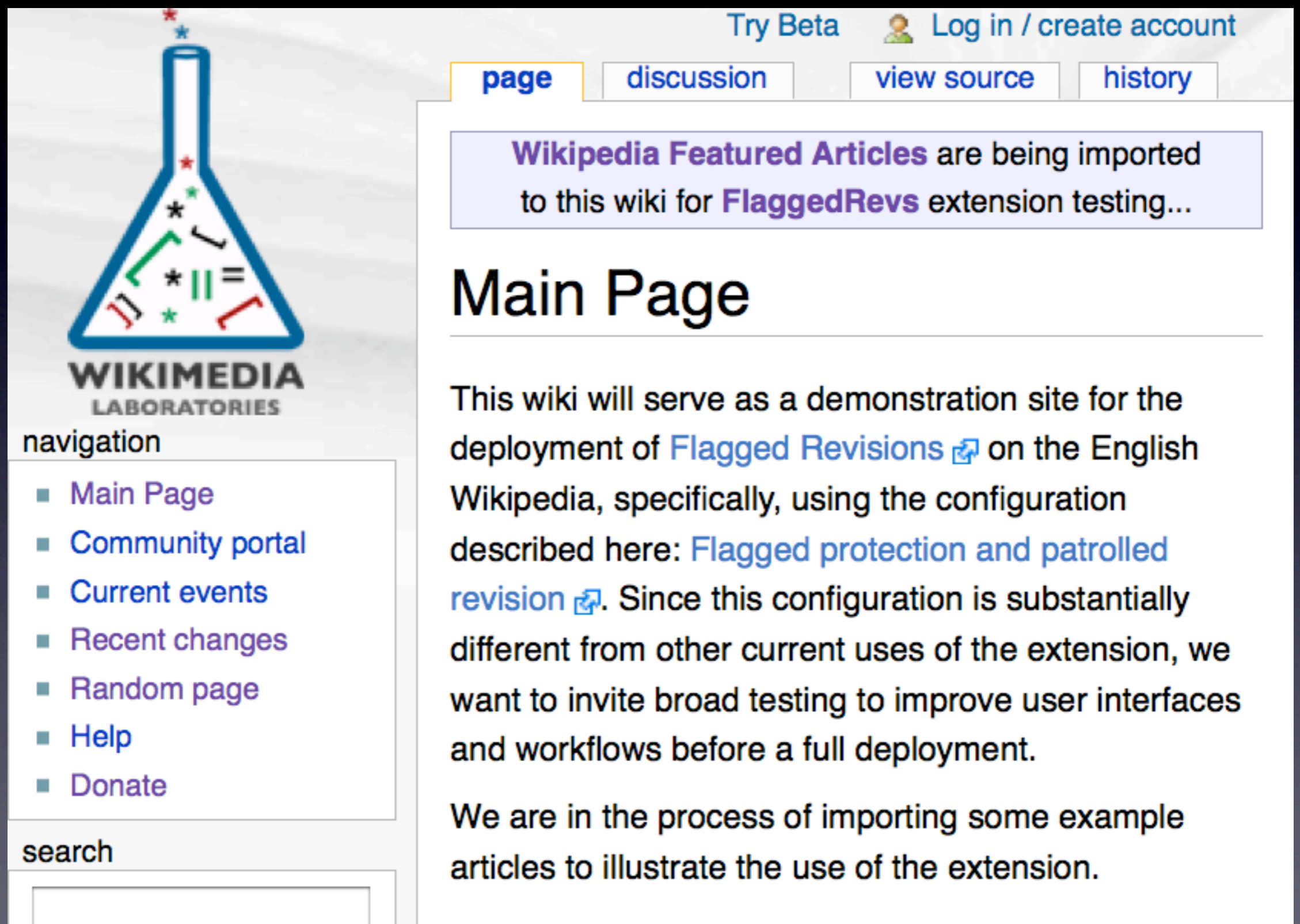
Actually enabled on test.wikipedia but doesn't quite work yet. ;) Should be ready to roll when the code push comes in a couple days.

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




The screenshot shows a Wikimedia Labs page. At the top right, there are links for "Try Beta" and "Log in / create account". Below these are navigation tabs for "page", "discussion", "view source", and "history". A purple banner at the top of the main content area reads: "Wikipedia Featured Articles are being imported to this wiki for **FlaggedRevs** extension testing...". The main heading is "Main Page". The text below the heading explains that the wiki is a demonstration site for the deployment of **Flagged Revisions** on the English Wikipedia, using a specific configuration: **Flagged protection and patrolled revision**. It notes that this configuration is substantially different from other current uses and that the site is inviting broad testing to improve user interfaces and workflows before a full deployment. The text concludes by stating that example articles are being imported to illustrate the use of the extension.

WIKIMEDIA LABORATORIES

navigation

- [Main Page](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Random page](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Donate](#)

search

Try Beta  Log in / create account

[page](#) [discussion](#) [view source](#) [history](#)

Wikipedia Featured Articles are being imported to this wiki for **FlaggedRevs** extension testing...

Main Page

This wiki will serve as a demonstration site for the deployment of **Flagged Revisions** [↗](#) on the English Wikipedia, specifically, using the configuration described here: **Flagged protection and patrolled revision** [↗](#). Since this configuration is substantially different from other current uses of the extension, we want to invite broad testing to improve user interfaces and workflows before a full deployment.

We are in the process of importing some example articles to illustrate the use of the extension.

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.

Pulldown has display issues

[History](#) [Summarize](#)

This thread has been summarized as follows:

[\[Link to this\]](#) [\[Edit\]](#)

21:26, 15 August 2009

baajanada

The pulldown menu for the comments (with Edit, History, Merge, etc.) does not confine itself to my native screen resolution, but instead turn the page into a horizontal scrolling monstrosity.

— [76.23.236.215](#) ([Talk](#))

Can confirm display issues on Firefox 3.5 - it pops up to the right side of the screen, exceeding the available screen resolution and thereby a) triggering a horizontal scrollbar, b) not being fully readable.

00:38, 18 August 2009

— [Eloquence](#) ([Talk](#) | [contribs](#))

What happens when you edit someone else's comments?




16:39, 19 August 2009

Edited by other users

— [87.194.58.136](#) ([Talk](#))

How do sigs work?

— [^demon](#) ([Talk](#) | [contribs](#))

[Reply](#)   
[Edit](#)
[History](#)
[Split to new thread](#)
[Merge into another thread](#)

Resolved with the latest version :)

11:10, 21 August 2009

— [Andrew](#) ([Talk](#) | [contribs](#))

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

Categories: Undefined  | My Category  | Another category  | A third category  | My category name  | Foo  | YA CAT 

[+ Add Category](#)

Add

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.

[special](#)

Book mode

From the Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia that anyone can change

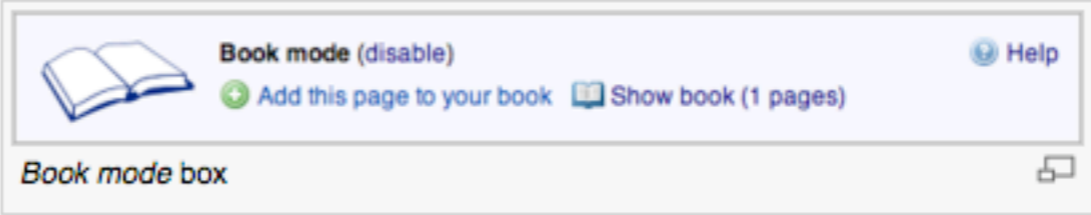
With the *book mode* you can create a book containing wiki pages of your choice. You can export the book in different formats (for example PDF or ODF) or order a printed copy.

[Start book mode](#) [Cancel](#)

Quick help

See [books help](#) for more information.

After the *book mode* has been enabled, the box as seen on the right is shown above each wiki page.




Book mode (disable) [Help](#)
[Add this page to your book](#) [Show book \(1 pages\)](#)

Book mode box

Step 1: Collecting wiki pages

By clicking on the *Add this page to your book* link in the *Book mode* box, the current page is added to your book.

Linked articles can easily be added by hovering over the respective article link and clicking the link in the popup that appears.



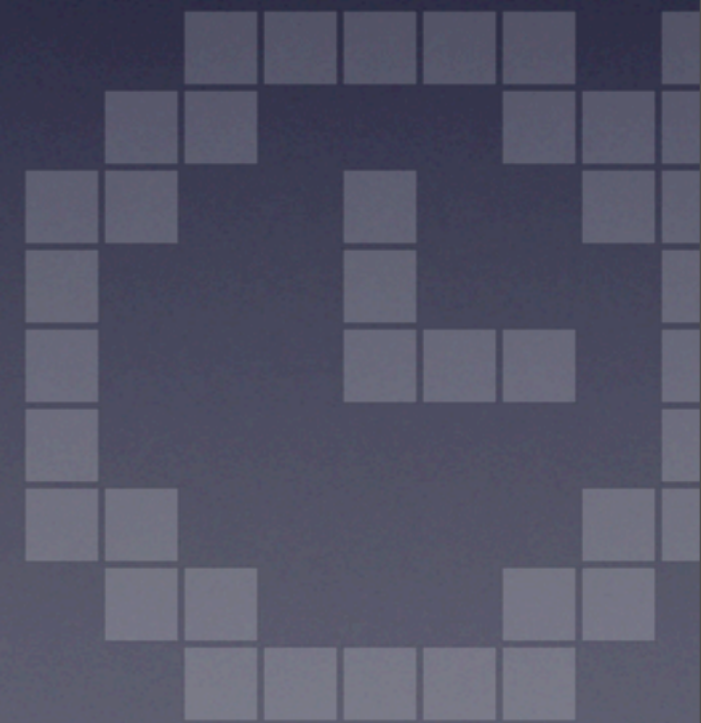
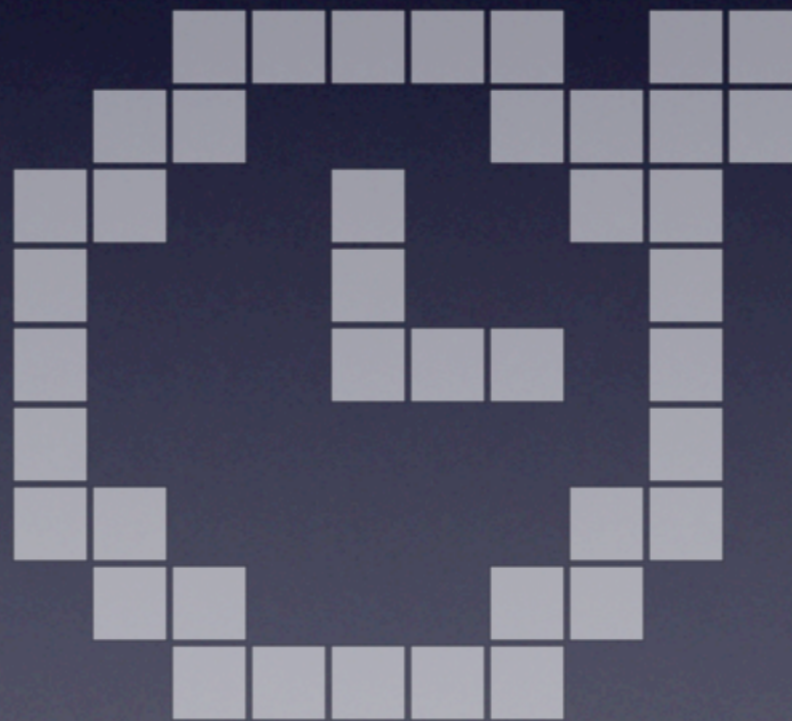
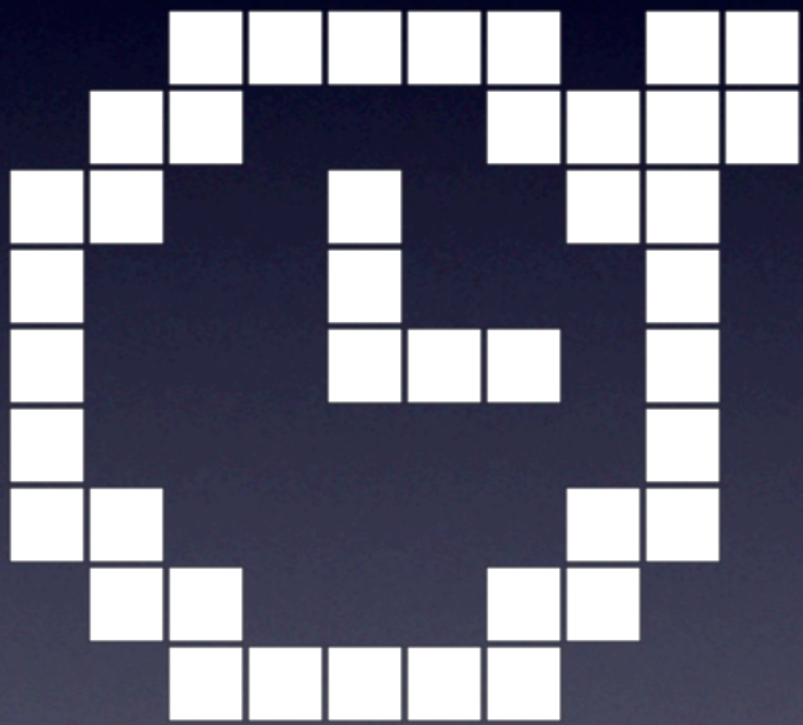
How to improve the layout or exports
How PediaPress Works
Let us know y [Add linked wiki page to your book](#)

Hovering over article link

Collection/PediaPress

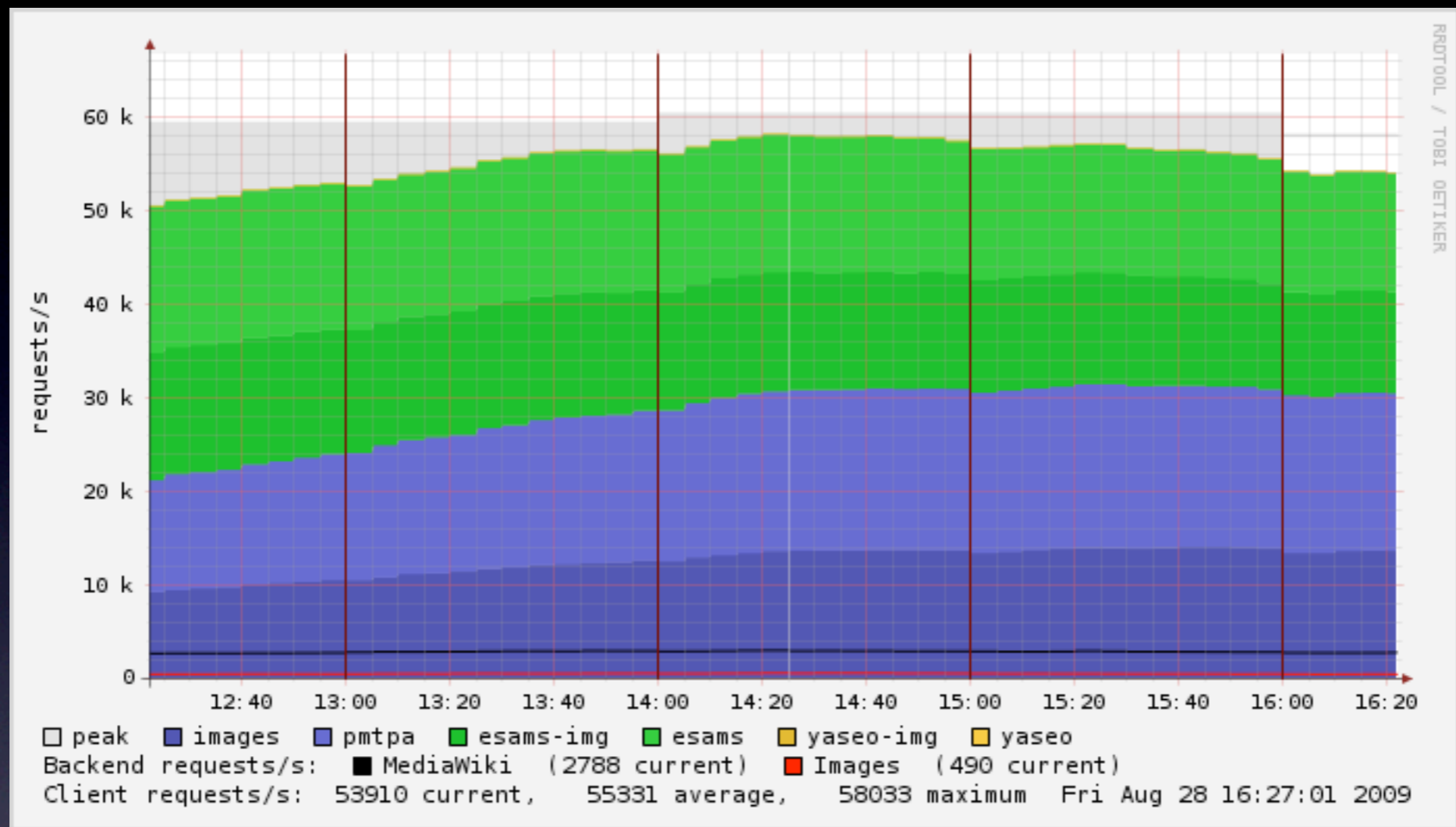
Fixed a bug in Croatian localization. :) Some cool updates to the UI are coming soon...

Replag & batch ops



http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_stopwatch_timer_is_running_in_the_background.PNG

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>