



MediaWiki 1.39 LTS is coming

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[MediaWiki-2020-large-icon.svg](#) by [Serrho Magpie](#), [CC-BY-SA 4.0](#)

Who are we?

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James Forrester

MediaWiki user since 2002; dev since 2004
Wikimedia Foundation staff since 2012



[Forrester, James March 2018.jpg](#) by Myleen Hollero, [CC-BY-SA 3.0](#)

Sam Reed

MediaWiki user since 2005; MW and AWB dev
Wikimedia Foundation staff since 2010



[Sam - Wikimedia 2011 hackathon in Berlin 058.jpg](#) by Guillaume Paumier, [CC-BY 3.0](#)



MediaWiki release process

Process is not strongly "owned"

- MediaWiki has no "product owner"
- MW Stake and other stakeholders lobby
- We hope this will improve in time
- We do this in semi-volunteer capacities



MediaWiki releases

- MediaWiki alphas run Wikimedia Foundation sites
- New stable releases for third parties made every six months
- Stable releases are supported with security fixes for a year
- Security releases come out quarterly (except for emergencies)



MediaWiki LTS releases

- Every fourth stable release is a Long Term Support release
- LTS releases are supported with security fixes for three years
- Staggered so direct & packaged LTS users have a year to switch



MediaWiki 1.39 LTS release

- It's coming in November 2022
- Will be a Long Term Support release
- Its End Of Life will be in November 2025
- Replaces MediaWiki 1.35 LTS from 2020, EOL in November 2023



What's new since 1.35?

Lots of minor improvements

- New MediaWiki logo

We replaced the old sunflower with a more modern one following a vote.

- Experimental "farm" support for sysadmins

Multi-tenant "wiki farm" configuration support is being developed.

- JPEG2000

New limited support for this image format for wavelet fans.

- 30 new languages

bci, kea, rmc, dag, gur, fon, gaa, guw, sjd, mad, vmw, ms-arab, mrh, gld, nmz,
yrl, nia, nyn, nod, ojb, blk, pwn, rsk, sje, ksw, sms, kcg, wls, guc, hsn



Newly-bundled extensions/skins

- AbuseFilter

Anti-abuse feature for privileged users to set regex- & rules-based responses to actions, blocking or tagging them, or warning the user for their behaviour.

- Math

Content feature provides for mathematical formulæ using LaTeX, in MathML with SVG fallback. Rendered on Wikimedia's mathoid service by default.

- Minerva

Simple, light-weight, scalable skin particularly optimised for mobile use, this integrates well with the MobileFrontend extension (not bundled).



What's gone since 1.35?

Direct changes

- The "auto-number headings" feature
This was removed for performance reasons, following a consultation.
- Pre-CSRF methods to fetch API tokens
Pre-MW 1.24 API auth was dropped, so bots/integrations may need updating.
- Hundreds of minor changes, as ever

Upgrade process

- MW now only supports direct upgrades from the last two LTS releases (& stable)
- 1.39 is the first LTS to which this applies
- For 1.39, this means 1.31 or later
- If on older than 1.31, upgrade in stages



Environmental requirements

PHP version

- 1.39 requires PHP 7.4, up from 7.3
- PHP 7.3 went EOL end of 2021
- PHP 7.4 will be EOL end of 2022
- Debian provide extended support
- PHP 8.0 support not final, but coming!
- We now require the Intl PHP extension



Database support

- MariaDB: 10.3.0+, from 10.1.0 (EOL 2021)
- MySQL: 5.7.0+, from 5.5.8 (EOL 2010)
- PostgreSQL: 10+, from 9.4 (EOL 2014)
- SQLite: 3+ (no change)



Browser support

- Chrome: "Last two" (moving target)
- Firefox: "Last two" (moving target)
- Safari: 9.1+ (up from 5.1, non-JS for 3+)
- iOS Safari: 9+ (up from 6.1, non-JS 5+)
- MSIE: 11+ (dropped non-JS for 8+)

**What's to
come later?**

Future plans

- One parser, Parsoid
- Modernised default skin (Vector)
- Vue.js user interfaces
- API consolidation
- Perhaps MediaWiki "2.0"?



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Summary

- MediaWiki 1.39 LTS is coming very soon
- Migration from 1.35 should be do-able
- If you have concerns, do express them!



Contact us

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