

Community configuration

Letting communities take control
by JSON configuration

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GROWTH

The word "GROWTH" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a stylized plant sprout icon, featuring a central stem with two leaves and a small circular seed or bud at the top.

Agenda

1. **What Community configuration is?**
2. **Where can Community configuration help?**
3. **Future plans**
4. **Discussion**

01

What Community configuration is?

Martin Urbanec

GROWTH

The word "GROWTH" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "W" is stylized to incorporate a plant sprout icon, featuring two leaves and a stem.

What Community configuration is?

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Live demo**
- 3. Implementation**
- 4. Limitations**

Introduction

- **Special:EditGrowthConfig**
- Special page that allows each community to easily configure Growth features
- Simple format **usable by less tech-savvy folks**
- **Empowers** each community to customise features to fit their culture and needs



More at [MW:Community_configuration](https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Special:Community_configuration).

Special page

Edit Growth configuration

MediaWiki:GrowthExperimentsConfig.json: Last updated by [MMiller Test 01](#) 12 days, 18 hours, 32 minutes and 20 seconds ago.

MediaWiki:NewcomerTasks.json: Last updated by [Tgr](#) 33 days, 21 hours, 6 minutes and 32 seconds ago.

This page allows you to edit configuration of Growth team features. It will edit MediaWiki:GrowthExperimentsConfig.json and MediaWiki:NewcomerTasks.json on your behalf. You can see your changes in the page history of that page.

Help panel

Namespaces with Help Panel enabled in reading mode

Namespaces with Help Panel disabled

Help desk page title (if any)

Where to post questions on help desk?

Top of page

Bottom of page

View more links displayed in the help panel

Filling out the above form and submitting then edit different JSON config files (below).

MediaWiki:GrowthExperimentsConfig.json

From Wikipedia

Note: After saving, you have to bypass your browser's cache to see the changes. **Internet Explorer:** hold down the Ctrl key and click the Refresh or Reload button. **Firefox:** hold down the Shift key while clicking Reload (or press Ctrl-Shift-R). **Google Chrome** and **Safari** users can just click the Reload button. For details and instructions about other browsers, see [Wikipedia:Bypass your cache](#).

GEHelpPanelAskMentor	false
GEHelpPanelExcludedNamespaces	<input type="text" value="Empty array"/>
GEHelpPanelHelpDeskPostOnTop	false
GEHelpPanelHelpDeskTitle	"Hello World "
GEHelpPanelReadingModeNamespaces	<input type="text" value="2"/> <input type="text" value="4"/> <input type="text" value="12"/> <input type="text" value="3"/>
GEHelpPanelSearchNamespaces	<input type="text" value="4"/>

Short demo

Implementation

The JSON file(s)

- Normal **wiki pages** as Community configuration's backend
 - Several configuration pages
- Used on (almost) every pageview
- Configuration is cached (except errors)
- Manual changes are encouraged



MediaWiki:GrowthExperimentsConfig.json

From Wikipedia

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GEHelpPanelAskMentor	false
GEHelpPanelExcludedNamespaces	Empty array
GEHelpPanelHelpDeskPostOnTop	false
GEHelpPanelHelpDeskTitle	"Hello World "
GEHelpPanelReadingModeNamespaces	2

MediaWiki:NewcomerTasks.json

Interface page [Talk](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

GEHel

Note: After saving, you have to bypass your browser's cache to see the changes. **Google Chrome**, **Firefox**, **Microsoft** key and click the *Reload* toolbar button. For details and instructions about other browsers, see [Wikipedia:By](#)

copyedit

disabled	false
templates	<div><div>"Awkward"</div><div>"Inappropriate person"</div><div>"In-universe"</div><div>"Tone"</div><div>"Advert"</div><div>"Peacock"</div></div>
excludedTemplates	Empty array
excludedCategories	Empty array
type	"template-based"

Implementation

Validation

- **What is validated:** data types, authorized config keys
 - Each on-wiki JSON config file is validated separately
- Runs on every change of the file
- Possible (but difficult) to work around
- Intended to prevent accidental changes



Invalid config is **fully ignored**.

Editing

MediaWiki:GrowthExperimentsConfig.json


 Add languages ▼

Interface page [Talk](#)

Tools ▼

Warning: You are editing a [MediaWiki](#) page, which is used to provide interface text for the software. It may be documented on [MediaWiki.org](#) or [translatewiki.net](#). Changes to this page will affect the appearance of the user interface for other users. When editing this page, please ensure that your revision reflects consensus. When in doubt, discuss first on the talk page. Any pages or images transcluded here should be [protected](#). Make sure to use valid [HTML](#) in all system messages.

`GEHelpPanelAskMentor` is expected to be `bool`, but is `string`

 *Content that [violates any copyrights](#) will be deleted. Encyclopedic content must be verifiable through [citations to reliable sources](#).*

Error message displayed by MediaWiki upon saving an invalid edit.

Implementation

Access

- Two different `Config` objects
 - One accesses PHP globals only
 - One accesses on-wiki JSON pages, falling back to PHP globals on failure.
- Community configuration will fall back to PHP configuration on error (PHP-provided configuration must provide sensible defaults).

```
$loggingEnabled =  
$this->getConfig()->get(  
    'GEHomepageLoggingEnabled'  
);  
  
[...]  
  
'mentorship' =>  
$this->wikiConfig->get(  
    'GEMentorshipEnabled' ),
```



Current limitations

- **Discoverability:** Administrators often do not know they're in fact able to customize many aspects of Growth features.
- **No external access:** While the JSON pages *can* be accessed outside of MediaWiki, their format is not stable. In addition to that, presence of a config key does not guarantee that it is used.
- **Limited to Growth:** Community configuration is fully implemented in GrowthExperiments. In its current state, it cannot be reused by non-Growth developers.



wiki	arwiki	arywiki	azwiki	bnwiki	cswiki	dawiki	dewiki	elwiki	enwiki	eswiki	etwiki	fawiki
date												
2020-01-12	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020-04-08	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020-05-27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020-06-21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2020-08-01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2020-08-30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020-12-20	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021-02-03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021-02-05	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021-02-22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021-02-23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Changes made via Community configuration (excluding changes made by WMF staff)
Available from
https://martin-urbanec.toolforge.org/growth-reports/community_configuration_usage/

Questions?

02

Where can Community configuration help?

Jon Harald Soby

Extensions

- Citoid
- PageTriage
- Babel
- ProofreadPage
- Wikimedia Incubator
- [your extension here]



Core?

- Simple config changes that don't need to be passed by developers, such as:
 - Changing the logo (celebratory logos)
 - Extra user groups?
 - Sitename?
 - Various other things from `InitialiseSettings.php/LocalSettings.php`



Questions?

03

Future plans

Martin Urbanec



Factor Community configuration out of GrowthExperiments!

If editors with extended rights can transparently and **easily configure** important **on-wiki functionality** for all users, communities will have control over how features function on their wikis, and WMF teams will be able to **ship new functionality quickly**.

Source: <https://w.wiki/6j7W>



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Future plans

Open questions #1

- What are the use cases? What level of flexibility is needed?
- Should communities be able to add their own fields to Community configuration (gadgets, user scripts, etc.)?
- How to improve the discoverability of the feature?
- Should all configuration be present in one place (like Special:Preferences) or one config per featureset (like Special:EditGrowthConfig)?



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Future plans

Open questions #2

- Should config changes be supervised by WMF/stewards/...? How can problematic changes be avoided?
 - Example: `checkuser`, `userrights`
- Should we use Vue for a more modern admin form experience?
- How to ensure config is always loaded from the correct storage?
- What should be exposed by the API about the configuration?



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04 Discussion