

An “Enterprise MediaWiki Foundation”

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EMWCon Spring 2016

May 23, 2016

New York City

When we “use MediaWiki”, what kind of software are we using?

- 1) Software maintained by the Wikimedia Foundation (**core MediaWiki**, Vector skinn, VisualEditor, etc.)
- 2) Software maintained by other orgs (like Hallo Welt's **BlueSpice**)
- 3) Software maintained by individuals (like **Semantic Forms**)
- 4) Custom, internal software

Let's focus on #3: the “unfunded” software

Consists of hundreds of extensions, skins, etc.

Many are highly used.

Many are also precarious, with a very low “bus number”.

Low bus number = bad

Even in the best case, if no one leaves the project, a low bus number reduces confidence in the software, and thus reduces usage.

How do we make “unfunded” software
more stable?



Fund it.

My proposal:

An "Enterprise MediaWiki Foundation" whose main goal is to funnel money from the *users* of the "unfunded" software to its *developers*.

How would it work?

You must pay annually to be a member, and your "vote" on how to spend all the money is directly proportional to your investment.

(Essentially, everyone decides how their own money is spent.)

Why should organizations join, and pay?

Three main reasons:

- 1) To keep the software going
- 2) To increase confidence in the software
- 3) To have a say in future development

This "**pay to play**" model is, as far as I know, the standard one used for open-source software foundations.

Linux Foundation

Several tiers of membership, ranging from an annual contribution of \$5,000 to \$500,000

250 member orgs

(Of course, that's Linux.)