RENDER

Deliverable D6.2.1

Community Web site for extending collaboration platforms

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Abbreviations

e.g.	exempli gratia – for example
i.e.	id est – that means
KIT	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
LOD	Linked Open Data
MS	Microsoft
SMW	SemanticMediaWiki
UIBK	University of Innsbruck

1   Introduction

For the different extensions of the Web2.0 platforms developed in RENDER, we created sub sites for the respective developer and user communities to be formed. These sites are supposed to accumulate all information and support channels for external developers who plan to extend their own platform into diversity awareness. The goal is to support the community building efforts of task 6.2 and provide a starting point and updated collection containing all relevant information for users and developers interested to use or contribute to one of the extensions.

2   Community and extension sub sites

We set up a dedicated sub-page for each of the extensions we are developing. The pages can be reached via clicking the respective logos on the lower left part of the navigation (See Figure 1: Extension sub site (MediaWiki example)). This part of the Web site is considered as very visible from an interface design point of view. Also, in order to the usability of the logos explicit, we decided to add the text "Development Resources & Discussion: Click on the representative logo". The reason for not setting up one unified information and community site for all extensions is that the target groups are very different. A dedicated landing page with content relevant to the visitor guarantees a lower dropout rate and a higher chance of the visitor actually reading and eventually participating in the discourse, because the information presented is very much tailored to her interest. The communities of Drupal and MediaWiki for example have little in common and therefore a common site would mix up information and always present a large percentage of information that is not relevant to one of the user communities. A specialized site is also easier to link to from external sites, e.g. an external discussion forum specialized in Drupal extensions.

The general site structure is as follows, as you can see in Figure 1: Extension sub site (MediaWiki example):

The left hand side is focused on *information*. A short explanation is provided about the intent of the extension and it's relation to knowledge diversity. Below, we present the current development progress. This will be updated continuously. On the bottom, a news-stream with RSS feed is provided. This will be interesting especially for returning visitors. Upcoming events like presentations at mayor community gatherings will be announced here.

The right hand side focuses on *participation*. On top a general note explains how to get involved and reminds of the possibilities of reusing RENDER technology for developing own extensions. The "Resources" box lists all links, communications channels and code repositories useful for cooperation. As this section will be growing, we will split it up into subsections. For more complicated code available in the future, we will link to explaining sub-sites. The forum on the bottom is the prime communication channel on this site. It will be used for discussion, question answering and idea generation. We will also list topics of discussion here that have been or are currently discussed in external forums and link to them, to give the visitors and easy overview about all relevant information.

As the cooperation with the existing communities of the Web2.0 platforms advances, the subsites will be adapted to changing needs and become more and more of a information and resource collection instead of a place for active collaboration, as the main cooperation efforts will take place inside the respective communities of the platforms to be extended.[1]

MediaWiki

For MediaWiki and Semantic MediaWiki, we included the code used to build Shortipedia and linked to the respective communities. We also listed all the past and future talks and presentations given about Shortipedia, so community members can retrieve the past talks when available or can attend an upcoming event.[2]

Drupal

The Drupal site includes a description of what the first prototype will contain and links to resources.[3]

Twitter and Microsoft Pivot Viewer

The planned tool for analyzing Twitter data will receive a similar site to address the Silverlight community on which MS Pivot Viewer is based. We will set up this site as soon as we have a clear development roadmap for the prototype to be developed in the second project year.

General landing page

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[1] As for the community building strategy, see D6.2.2
[2] http://render-project.eu/render-extensions-mediawiki/
[3] http://render-project.eu/render-extensions-drupal/

To be found more easily by search engines, we set up a separate landing page that shows which extensions we are developing, containing the respective keywords and links to the subsites. It also describes what developers should do who are interested to extend their own platforms, which are not featured by RENDER. They are pointed to the description of the technology to be developed and already available and encouraged to contact the RENDER team for inquires and help.
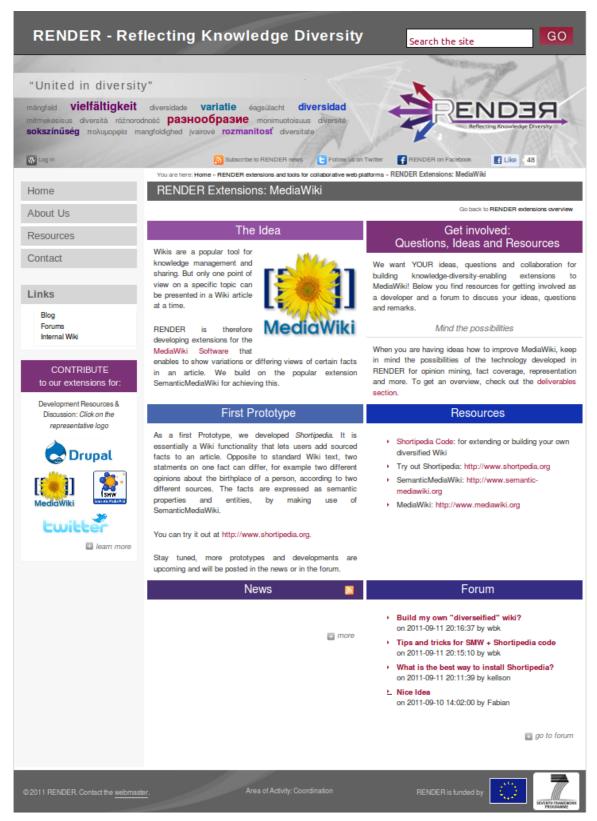

Figure 1: Extension sub site (MediaWiki example)