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Report on Community Building Activities Y3

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Executive Summary

Efforts on building communities around outcomes of the RENDER project in the thirds project year are the focus of this document. Communities are not only an important channel for dissemination but also play a main role for ensuring the reuse and further development of artefacts, data, applications and further results developed within the project. Interested communities may use and integrate results or even overtake the whole further maintenance and development of outcomes, if these fit the goals and interests of the community members.

Project partners who have been interested in building up communities are Mediawiki, with the Wikipedia and Wikimedia community, STI Innsbruck, with the Drupal community and Ontotext with their own community. Different types of communities are distinguished, in particular user communities, developer communities and research communities. These different types may not be completely disjunct but serve as a categorization of the different activities.

Mediawiki has the closest contact to its communities and the most diverse activities to build up and further maintain these connections. Several communication channels have been used to contact users. For example, outreach is established through regular blog posts about the project status, several additional blog posts about developments, events, feedback requests, etc. News updates have been published to the broad public by news portals, articles in magazines or through website updates. Further the personal contact to community members was handled by the use of mailing lists or by the participation of Mediawiki at several community events.

Beside the users, Mediawiki also approaches the developer community. In the third project year major critical changes appeared in the commonly used infrastructure. These changes of the infrastructure have been applied to all software artefacts developed by Mediawiki. The knowledge about the process, pitfalls and best practices were shared with other third party developers, while introducing at the same time the software artefacts.

In a research context Mediawiki presented the results of the project on specific conferences and engaged researchers to apply further research in the same area.

STI Innsbruck has developed prototypical Drupal modules and fostered in the third project year the contact to the Drupal community by moving the software to the Drupal infrastructure. Further the stabilization of the modules was pushed in close interaction and collaboration with the community.

Ontotext as a commercial partner in the project is also interested in building up a research community around their products. Products with potential use in research have been presented on specific conferences. Thereby a direct contact to interested researchers has been maintained.

Overall not all partners of the project are interested in or have potential communities, but those partners with communities have conducted several activities to establish, maintain or extend the collaboration with these communities also in the third project year.

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1 Introduction

This deliverable reports on the community building activities by members of the RENDER project. The efforts of the first two projects years in building communities around outcomes of the projects have been continued and contact to communities intensified. In particular the Wikipedia community, the Drupal community and the Ontotext community have been contacted and encouraged to use, integrate and further develop outcomes of the project.

Feedback of the communities has been integrated in respective software artefacts and considered in related decisions within the project. Whenever possible different sub-communities have been approach individual, e.g. users, developers and researchers.

After this introductory section 1, the following section 2 will give an overview on community building activities on different related communities. Subsection 2.1 describes the community building activities of the project member Wikimedia in the Wikipedia community. Subsection 2.2 describes the community building activities by the project partner STI in the Drupal community. Subsection 2.3 describes the efforts of Ontotext on building a community around their products. The last section 3 summarises and concludes the deliverable.

2 Community Building

In the following the activities to approach communities related to the project are described. Whenever possible the activities have been classified by one of the sub-communities users, developers or researchers.

2.1 Wikipedia/Wikimedia Community

The Wikipedia community and Wikimedia have a long history of collaboration, a tradition which has been maintained also in the RENDER project. Continuing the efforts of the first two project years Wikimedia has conducted several building activities in the last project year. Different sub-communities have been approached through several communication channels, events or by personal contact with community members. The goal of all these activities is to inform about the RENDER project and in particular about the Wikipedia related developments and to increase the interest and participation in the RENDER project within the related communities.

2.1.1 Users

Wikipedia is a community-driven encyclopaedia. All content and the majority of third party tools to ease the reading, editing and maintenance of the Wikipedia are created by volunteers. A major concern of every project that develops software artefacts for the Wikipedia is to attract this community and encourage users to use these artefacts in their daily work. This community-driven process does not only include content generation but also largely the donation-based funding of the Wikipedia and related projects. Thereby the public transparent reporting of donation funded activities is self-evident. The promotion of developments of the RENDER project to users, editors and developers as well as the public reporting of all donation funded activities have been done intensively through diverse communication channels, in particular with official blog entries, through community information websites and face-to-face at several community events.

Wikimedia Blog Entries

Beside detailed annual reports Wikimedia Deutschland publishes monthly blog posts¹ summarizing the efforts of Wikimedia and sub-projects. The RENDER project has used this opportunity to inform the public and users about current activities, request feedback or point at events with RENDER participation. Particular blog entries of third project year are listed in the following:

- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2012/09/03/monatsbericht-august-2012/>
- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2012/10/01/monatsbericht-september-2012/>
- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2012/11/02/monatsbericht-oktober-2012/>
- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2012/12/03/monatsbericht-november-2012/>
- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/01/07/monatsbericht-dezember-2012/>
- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/02/01/monatsbericht-januar-2013/>
- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/03/01/monatsbericht-februar-2013/>
- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/04/02/monatsbericht-marz-2013/>
- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/06/03/monatsbericht-mai-2013/>
- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/07/03/monatsbericht-juni-2013/>
- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/08/01/monatsbericht-juli-2013/>

In addition, several blog entries related to RENDER events have been published, for example:

- Blog post about the Review Meeting in Luxemburg

¹ <http://blog.wikimedia.de/monatsberichte/>

- <https://blog.wikimedia.de/2012/11/23/das-render-projekt-hat-das-zweites-projektjahr-erfolgreich-bestanden/>
- Blog post about the RENDER Tour
 - <https://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/02/18/render-und-team-communitys-auf-deutschland-tour/>
- Blog post about the release of the final versions of the Supporting Tools
 - <https://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/06/21/die-finalen-versionen-der-render-tools-sind-da/>

Websites

Beside the information on the project website and the regular blog posts, we maintain informative websites about the RENDER project and the Wikipedia use case on respective platforms visited by the community. In particular a page in the Meta Wiki² and a page in the German Wikipedia³ inform the community about the progresses, news and software releases.

Mailing Lists

We used several mailing lists to communicate directly with users and request feedback or answer questions, for example the “WikiDE” and “VereinDE” lists for the German community.

News Portals and Newspapers

The German Wikipedia and Wikimedia Deutschland use both a newspaper and a news portal to inform the community about recent news. RENDER related topics have been included in the quarterly newspaper “Wikimedium” published by Wikimedia Deutschland:

- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2012/11/27/die-neue-wikimedium-ist-da/>
- http://wikimedia.de/wiki/Spezial:Dateipfad/Wikimedium_04_2012_WEB.pdf

The wiki-based news portal “Wikipedia:Kurier” of the German Wikipedia featured several times the Wikipedia use case of the RENDER project, in the third project year for example in:

- http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Kurier/Ausgabe_10_2012
- http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Kurier/Ausgabe_11_2012
- http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Kurier/Ausgabe_12_2012
- http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Kurier/Ausgabe_1_2013
- http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Kurier/Ausgabe_3_2013
- http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Kurier/Ausgabe_6_2013

Community Events

While preceding channels for community building are rather indirect and asynchrony, the Wikimedia RENDER team hosted or participated in several events for or by the community.

Additionally, we presented and discussed the project at several conferences, local events and community meetings

- Open Sunday: Workshop "Presentation of the supporting tools and discussion about further improvement", Open Sunday Day at WMDE, Berlin, Nov 25
 - <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2012/11/22/reminder-offener-sonntag-bei-wikimedia-deutschland/>

² <http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/RENDER>

³ <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:RENDER>

- RENDER-Tour: In February and March, we presented the Supporting Tools to Wikipedians during local events in six German cities: Nürnberg, Stuttgart, München, Dresden, Köln und Essen. Additionally, we discussed the functionalities of the tools and the needs of the users to expand the tools.
- Wikidata trifft Archäologie⁴: This symposium took place in March the 16 th. We gave a short introduction in RENDER and presented the limes map which was build up in cooperation with the German Archaeological Institute, WikiData and the Wikipedia Limesprojekt.
 - <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/03/28/die-digitalen-romer-wikidata-trifft-archaologie/>
 - <http://toolserver.org/~render/limes/web/>
- Wikimania 2013: The Wikimania is the annual international conference of the Wikimedia community. In 2013, it took place from August 09th to 11th in Hong Kong, China. There, we presented the final versions of the tools during a meet-up session. We discussed the possibilities to expand the tools to further language versions.

2.1.2 Developers

To be able to attract third party developers Mediwiki focuses on the deployment of all software artefacts on the same infrastructure commonly used by all third party developers in the area of Wikipedia. In the third project year this infrastructure changed fundamentally and the opportunity was taken to foster connection to and share knowledge with other developers in the community while moving the software artefacts to the new infrastructure.

Development Infrastructure

In the first two project years all software artefact developed with in the Wikipedia case study have been deployed on the Wikimedia Toolserver⁵. The Toolserver infrastructure has and is been used by a huge amount of developers to host and integrate software tools. By using the same infrastructure for the case study software components a common understanding and foundation for discussions and collaboration with other developers has been ensured.

Meanwhile the Wikimedia Tool Labs⁶ have been established as a home for community-maintained external tools supporting Wikipedia projects and their users. The Wikimedia Tool Labs are maintained by the Wikimedia Foundation and are the successor of the Wikipedia Toolserver maintained by the Wikimedia Deutschland e.V., the German Wikimedia chapter. The Toolserver service will be discontinued after the end of 2014⁷.

Wikimedia as a member or the RENDER project has moved all software artefacts developed within the Wikipedia case study to the Wikipedia Labs infrastructure. This will ensure a continuation of the software sources and deployed systems after the end of the projects. Furthermore it enables other developers to review, use and integrate software components of the case study in the future.

Community Events

The migration of software from the old to the new infrastructure as well as the development of new software directly on the Wikipedia Tool Labs, are still unexplored areas. The migration of the case study software artefacts to the new infrastructure has generated valuable knowledge about the process, pitfalls and important design decisions. Wikimedia has used the opportunity to support other developers within the community by sharing the experiences. This has been a highly ranked topic during the Amsterdam

⁴ [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikidata trifft Archäologie 2013](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikidata_trifft_Archäologie_2013)

⁵ <http://toolserver.org/>

⁶ <http://tools.wmflabs.org/>

⁷ http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Future_of_Toolserver

Hackathon⁸ in Mai 2013. Additionally the Wikipedia supporting tools and further case study developments have been presented and explained by members of the Wikimedia RENDER team.

To foster a close collaboration with the Wikipedia developer community this and other events as well as requests for feedback have been disseminated through respective blog entries, for example:

- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/01/31/wikimediawoche-52013/>
- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/03/18/wikimedia-hackathon-in-amsterdam-am-24-26-mai-2013/>

2.1.3 Researchers

Wikipedia and related projects have been subject of several research activities in the past. Mediawiki is also committed to maintain the contact with researchers who may be interested in the outcomes of the project.

Community Events

WikiSym 2013⁹, the international symposium on wikis and collaboration, took place in Hong Kong, China. There we presented our short paper “Involve the users to increase their acceptance – An experience report” and discussed experiences and best practices in research projects related to Wikipedia with other researchers.

- <http://blog.wikimedia.de/2013/01/17/synchronisation-von-wikipedia-inhalten-einladung-zum-cosyne-prasentationstag/>

2.2 Drupal Community

Drupal has a very large and active developer driven community. The development of a module and the process of achieving full project status involve getting in touch with these developers. In the following subsection, we outline the efforts that were conducted by the project member STI in spreading the outcome of research to a broader community.

2.2.1 Developers

As in every community, there are active contributors and content consumers. The developer community was originally approached by one of our colleagues in a Drupal Semantic Web group forum¹⁰. The initial response by users was about hosting the project at the Drupal portal¹¹. In the following, the team strived for pursuing such a release (alpha and beta versions) by fixing bugs, testing, and code reviews.

In early May 2013 we moved our source code from Github¹² to the Drupal infrastructure. At the same time, the team started pursuing the full project status. Several, rather technical, discussions have followed¹³.

At the end of May 2013, the Innsbruck team attempted to reach out to the Drupal developer community with a session proposal at the Drupal Developer Days in Dublin. However, this community focuses on very Drupal-related sessions like code standards and new core modules. Thus the session proposal on “content linking, enrichment, and diversification” got rejected.

2.3 Ontotext Community

Ontotext as a company is interested in building communities around its products. In the context of the RENDER, the OWLIM repositories and products integrating OWLIM repositories are especially of interest. OWLIM 5.3 has been released in 2013, being partially funded by the RENDER project. It has been employed right away in several high profile commercial projects, in which OWLIM is the underlying infrastructure for

⁸ http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Amsterdam_Hackathon_2013

⁹ <http://www.wikisym.org/>

¹⁰ <https://groups.drupal.org/node/273928>

¹¹ <http://drupal.org>

¹² <http://github.com>

¹³ <https://drupal.org/node/1996206>

data and diversity intense solutions. OWLIM 5.3 is a pure Java implementation, compatible with Sesame 2, and JENA. Applications integrating OWLIM are for example LinkedLifeData¹⁴ and Factforge¹⁵ which have been visited by more than 1 million visitors per month. Factforge is co-developed within the RENDER project.

2.3.1 Users

Ontotext hosts and actively supports the user community revolving around the Semantic Technologies and Ontotext's products.

Mailing Lists & Forum

Since many years multiple mailing lists have been hosted that served as a field for discussion and active user support. This year Ontotext prioritized the improvement of its support capabilities even more and started

- <http://answers.ontotext.com>

Answers.Ontotext.com is a Q&A type of forum that aims to replace the mailing lists and to upgrade the overall user experience. The many features provided by the platform will help the community to pin-point answers to specific issues, discuss and brainstorm on issues and concepts.

This forum feeds the frequently-asked-questions (FAQ) section of the OWLIM documentation with new additions constantly. The fact that the OWLIM Core Team members and other employees of Ontotext are actively supporting the community is enabling our users to always count on professional and optimal support.

Documentation

Ontotext's documentation is another constantly evolving information source that helps users to speed up the integration with the semantic technologies and Ontotext's products. The online documentation is constantly updated based on the new features of our products and the feedback from our users. You can take a look at the OWLIM Documentation at

- <http://owlim.ontotext.com>

Ontotext has devised training materials and courses that are regularly done in both US and UK. The variety of courses includes general SemTech intro, developer training, high level management training for the benefits of semantic technologies and also custom trainings for clients on specific topics. These courses are done per client, as general training seminars and as free courses as well.

Consulting

When it comes to supporting clients, partners and consultants, Ontotext has a training program for each target group and also compiles target specific training courses and materials when needed. Several on-site trainings have been done for companies like BBC, Financial Times, Wiley, TSO and others. Ontotext has a strong motivation to extend the courses and trainings.

The high-level management trainings are an exceptional example of tailored course targeted at stakeholders and non-technical management personal. These courses explain in detail the real business benefits of the semantic technologies and Ontotext's approach in particular. After such trainings many customers have committed to long-term investment in and adoption of semantic technologies. Given Ontotext's positioning in the publishing domain, training courses have been produced for journalist, annotators and curators as well.

Maintenance and Support Plans

As most customers are purchasing annual maintenance plans, Ontotext has automated the update delivery processes. As a result all customers' deployments are always kept up to date with more and more features

¹⁴ <http://linkedlifedata.com>

¹⁵ <http://factforge.net>

and stability improvements. On top of our consulting services, we provide professional annual support plans that are designed to tackle all our clients' incidents within reasonable time-frames and better pricing. There are several plans with different service level agreements including 24/7 phone support and urgent incident resolutions.

2.3.2 Researchers

Ontotext has participated in many conference and SemTech meet-ups all over the world. The company have a strong history of sponsoring all major conferences and is involved in the recent SemWeb Meetups in both US and EU. Ontotext contributed not only as a sponsor, but also organizational. Several workshops have been organized, sharing both experience of the company and the experience of the guest lecturers we invited. Most recent case was the free SemWeb Meetup in San Francisco where Ontotext invited the lead semantic architect of BBC.

Furthermore FactForge has been promoted in the research context to actively approach researcher who may use FactForge in their research. It has been presented at the following conferences within the third project year:

- SemTech San Francisco 2013: Demonstrations at the Ontotext's booth, a three hour workshop on FactForge and distribution of free marketing to the 400+ participants of the conference.
- ESWC 2013, Montpellier: Demonstration at the RENDER booth and dissemination of marketing material to the 300+ participants of the conference.

3 Conclusions

The communities related to the RENDER project and the approaches of different RENDER partners towards these communities haven been presented. Commercial partners, e.g. Ontotext, are primary focused on the dissemination of their products. Even though they are focused towards marketing and sales, they also try to promote their products in a research context to enable further innovation on the underlying models. On the contrary, research partners such as STI try to introduce prototypes as the outcome of their research to a particular community, in particular open source communities. In this case, the goal is to enable dissemination and further development of the research outcomes without building up a commercial scenario. Mediawiki as a non-profit organization has by far the most intense connection to its communities. Users, developers as well as researchers are contacted through several communication channels and personal contact is maintained on many events, often specific to particular communities. All the partners of the RENDER project having a specific interest in particular communities have either established or intensified their connection to these during the lifetime of the project.