

VisualEditor Translathon

2nd edition, July 15-19 2015

A “translathon” is a *translation marathon*

- The focus is on two categories of content: interface messages (hosted at translatewiki.net*), and user guides/how-to pages (hosted at mediawiki.org);
- translators are asked to add new translations or update outdated ones during Wikimania days;
- top translators win a prize from the Wikipedia Store.

*translatewiki.net is not a WMF wiki, and SUL doesn't work there.

Project:VisualEditor/2015 Translathon:

90 people signed up
to translate in 62 languages

90 people/62 languages:

- Last year, 10 people had signed up to translate into a dozen languages;
- only 15 out of the 90 editors in this edition are known translators for VE, and all of the winners were “unknown” to us;
- 5 of them learned about the VE newsletter via the translathon announcement and immediately subscribed

Translathon session at Wikimania

- More than 20 people came to the dedicated session during the Hackathon in Mexico City;
- we answered questions and helped with account creation/signup;
- we were asked to award more prizes... wish granted!

Why a project page at translatewiki.net?

1. Interface messages are a priority (they're essential for a satisfactory experience with the product);
2. via the sign up, we can make sure that people create an account there and are able to use it before the translathon starts;
3. the site's newsletter was used as the main tool to reach a wide community of translators, not only Wikimedians

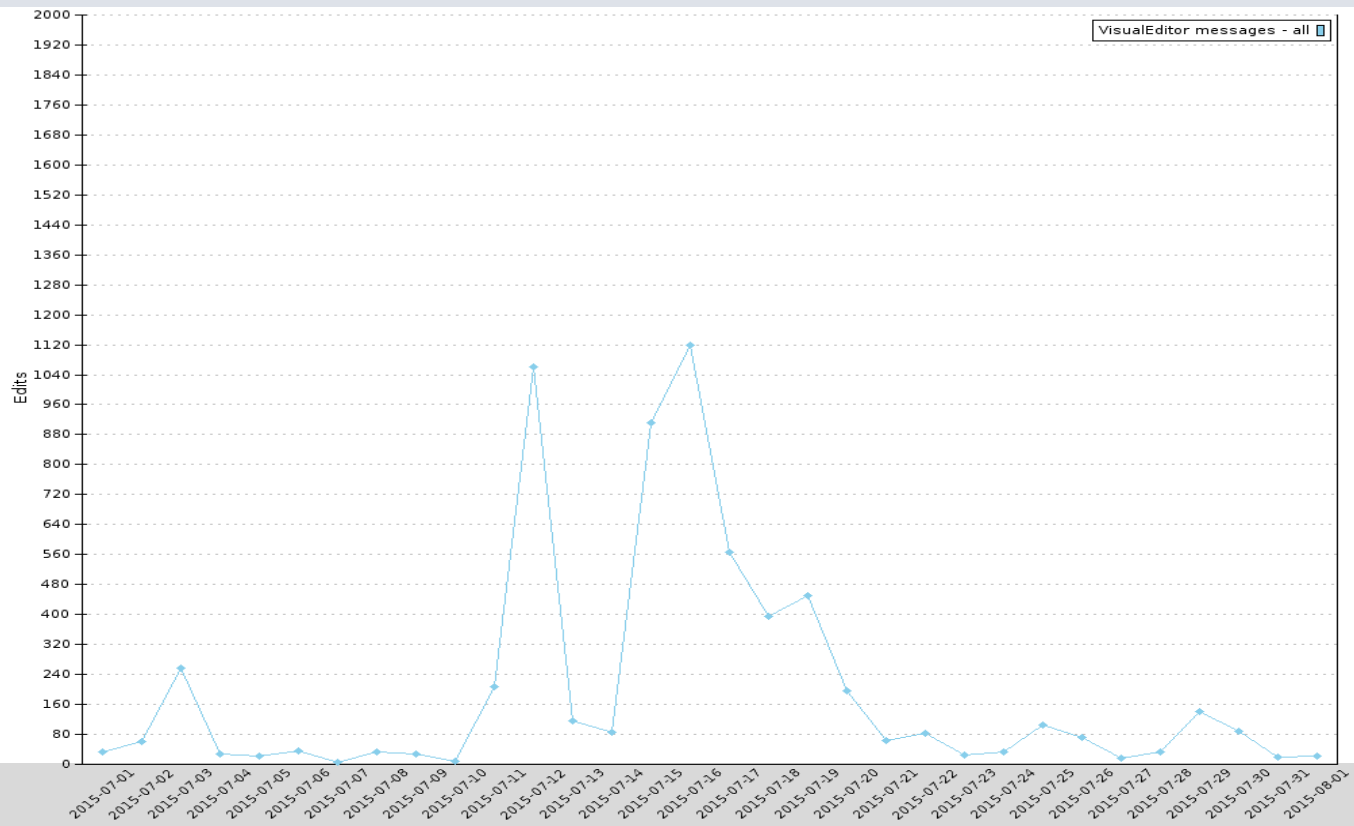
Communications

1. translatewiki newsletter (reach: over 9k people)
2. VE translators (79 people)
3. translators, wikitech and wikitech-ambassadors mailing lists (~2k people)
4. Village Pumps for Wikipedias with complex languages/where VE isn't the default editor yet (132 wikis)
5. Phabricator task [T91108](#)

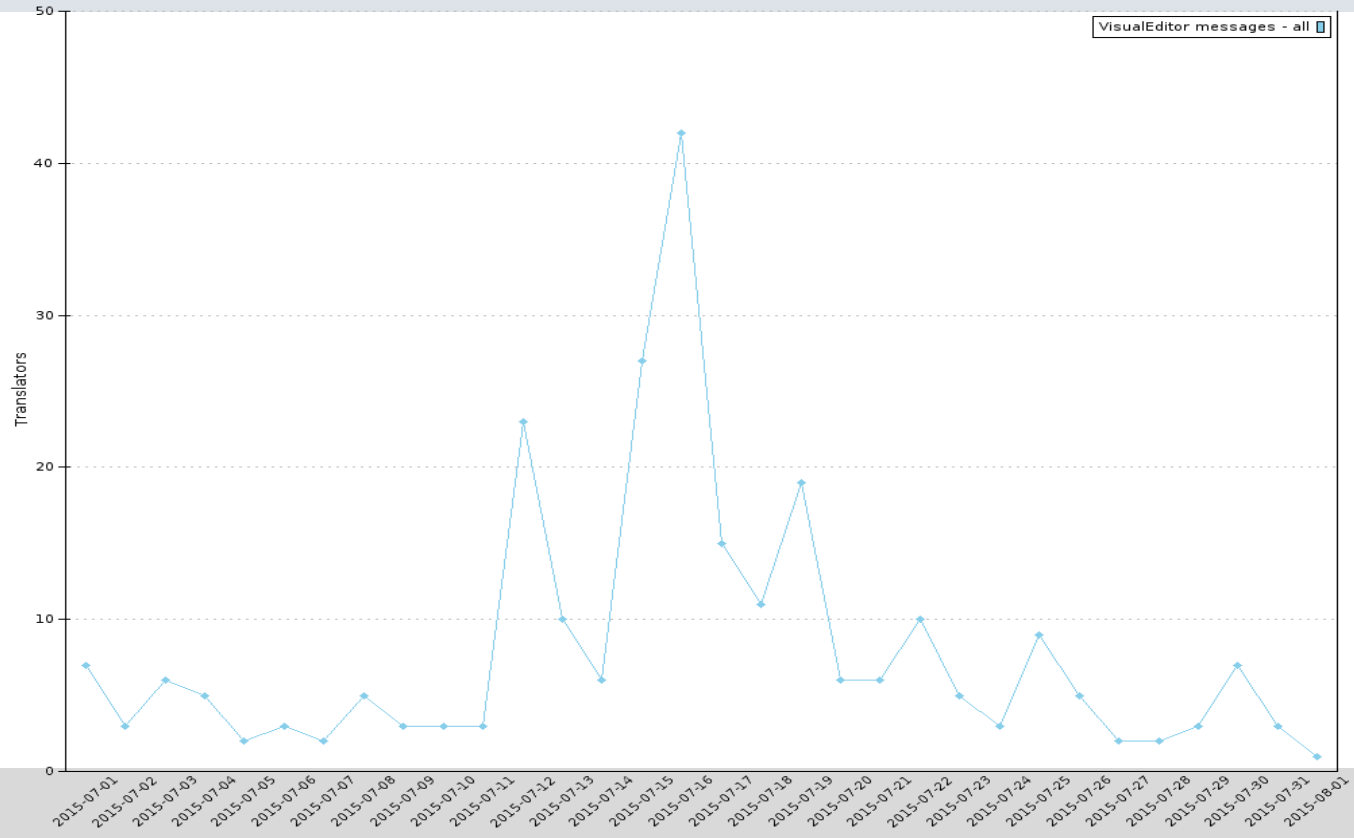
Lessons learned from communications

- Editors may react immediately to a translation request, without reading the instructions carefully (*takeaway: timing is important*)
- The translation request may activate people who will start working without actually signing up for the contest (*takeaway: plan a reward for these editors as well*)

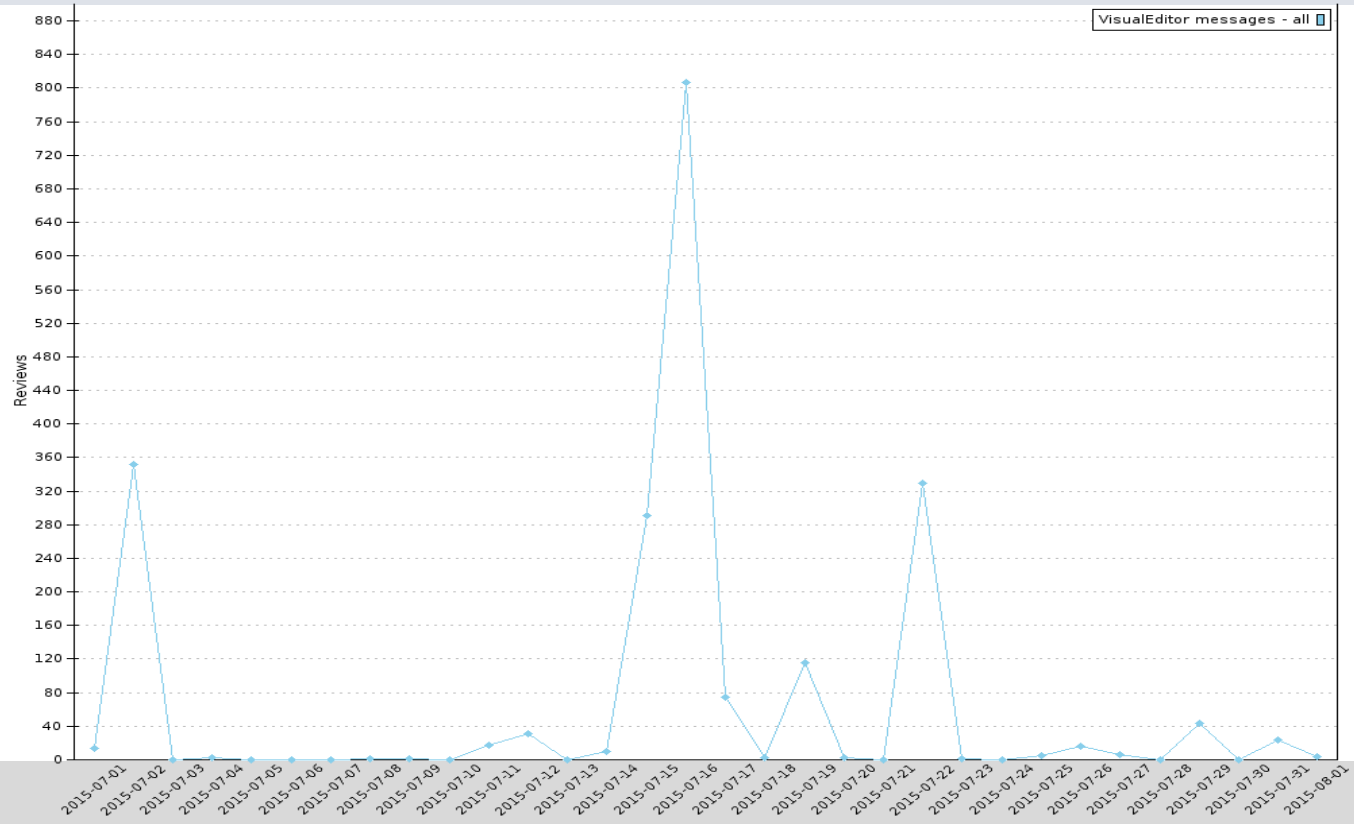
Edits to VE interface messages (translatewiki.net), July 2015



Active translators on VE interface messages, July 2015



Review activity on existing VE interface messages, July 2015 (*not a goal for the translathon!*)



Interface messages (translatewiki.net):

we estimate the initiative affected 42 languages, out of the 217 that the site supports.

% of translation progress (avg):

56.5% before translathon, 78.2% after (+21.7% – 16 languages went above this value)

49.9% of the available messages were translated during the translathon

% of outdated translations (avg):

1.7% before translathon, 0.8% after (-0,9% – 14 languages did better than this)

47.1% of the outdated messages were updated during the translathon

Highlights from translathon participants (progress for interface):

Sakha went from 12.2% to 94.2%;

Brazilian Portuguese went from 50.6% to 100%;

Taraškievica went from 44.9% to 85.3%;

Doteli went from 1.3% to 41.2%

Documentation messages (mediawiki.org):

we estimate the initiative affected 24 languages, out of the 374 that the site supports.

% of translation progress (avg):

26.6% before translathon, 46.9% after (+20.3% – 9 languages went above this value)

31.8% of the available messages were translated during the translathon

% of outdated translations (avg):

8.4% before translathon, 4.8% after (-3.6% – 10 languages did better than this)

43% of the outdated messages were updated during the translathon

Highlights from translathon participants (progress for documentation):

Armenian went from 1% to 99%;

Swedish went from 21% to 99%;

Brazilian Portuguese went from 34% to 83%

Round of applause for the winners!

Halan-tul, Renaissance, जनक राज भट्ट (Janak Bhatta)

Vahe Gharakhanyan, Warrakkk, Eduardogobi

Challenges

- # of translatable/outdated messages isn't stable during the initiative;
- data is not reliable, it's difficult to get and to process;
- no [stats-making extension](#) on mediawiki.org;
- translatewiki.net not reachable via MassMessage;
- without a “campaign”-like system, manual check of contributions is cumbersome

Thanks to

- Staff at translatewiki.net for continuous, great support (Siebrand, Niklas);
- Trizek (WMF) for his help with data and session's logistic, and for yummy Brittany salted butter caramels;
- Editors at mediawiki.org (John Broughton, Whatamidoing (WMF) et al.) for their constant work in improving documentation.

Comments from the winners

- *Thanks a lot for "VisualEditor/2015 Translathon". Hope this type of activities will be held in future also. — Janak Bhatta*
- *What a great welcoming gift I got! It's one of my first months translating Wikimedia and its projects and I'm already proud of being a translator. [...] Keep up with the good work! —Eduardogobi*
- *Thank you for the organization of such an important event. I am editing wikipedia just for a year (BTW I use visualeditor a lot :)). During the translathon I really got acquainted with a lot of new ideas and projects related to the VE (TemplateData, Citoid...). I will try my best to include and use them in our wiki... [re: the translathon] Yeah, I am already ready for the next one :))) —Vahe Gharakhanyan*
- *I'm excited I made it on the list! I consider it a privilege to be able to help out, and with that in mind, is there any way to arrange that the value of a t-shirt [...] is donated to WMF on my behalf? While I would love to (proudly!) don Wikipedia garb, I think the money could be used better by WMF than me having another shirt :) [...] Thank you so much for all that you do for the community - it is much appreciated. [...] I try to translate whenever I have the time - it's a worthy cause IMHO. I think VE is a really good way to go. I haven't used it much myself (yet), but I whole-heartedly agreed with much of the sentiments in the translated text, i.e. that this is 2015 for Pete's sake - we need to move past a WordStar style user interface :) I hope VE will help remove that threshold and encourage more people to contribute now that it's essentially a WYSIWYG editor - or at the very least a lot more WYSIWYG than the Wikitext editor! [...] Thank you again, so much for your work and all that you and the WMF does for the world - in my opinion to the unquestionable benefit of mankind. —Warrakkk - [click to see his t-shirt in action!](#)*

Thanks!

[https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/User:Elitre_\(WMF\)](https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/User:Elitre_(WMF))

Feel free to contact me - elitrenta@wikimedia.org

Find current statistics for VE interface and documentation translations for all languages at https://translatewiki.net/wiki/Project:VisualEditor/2015_Translathon#Statistics