

Operations - 2019-2020 Update

The year has been both busy and progressive for the Operations department. Like the whole Joomla! Project, Operations has been hampered to an extent with a small team of active volunteers, however much has been achieved thanks to some very dedicated individuals and their focused efforts.

Community Magazine

An attempt was made to relaunch the magazine which saw a lot of work moving the content into a new website where all articles were managed in core. Sadly whilst this effort made great progress there was a lack of resources and the project stalled, thanks are due to Nicky Veitch and her team for all of the effort. There is however good news on the horizon with our Secretary Luca now driving a relaunch of the magazine over the coming quarter.

Joomla Extensions Directory

The Extensions directory team have had a very busy and productive year under the leadership of Anibal Sanchez. A lot of work has been undertaken to improve the site with the addition of a new search facility which greatly improves the usability of the site. In parallel to this, Jaz Parkyn led a sprint of developers who have made significant progress in the development of JED4, the next generation of the JED site. Huge thanks are due to Sander Potjer and his team from PWT for their continued support of this development. Finally, a new ticketing system has been implemented within the JED with further enhancements planned.

Joomla Forum

The Forum is the first point of call for many Joomla users and as ever, the number of volunteers who give their time to assist others is greatly appreciated by all. The Forum continues to be run by Olaf Offick and his dedicated team of forum moderators. A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes to keep the core software of the forum up to date and secure as well as pruning through old accounts and reviewing the moditorial team with additions and deletions. The Forum continues to go from strength to strength thanks to this team and continues to provide real help and assistance to all those who use it.

The Resources Directory

Following the election of Brian Mitchell as treasurer during the year, Deb Cinkus has taken over as team lead with the able and active assistance of Karen Dunne, I am pleased to report that the efficient and effective team that Brian setup continues to run in a similar manner. The Resources directory continues to expand with a growing list of companies promoting their services to the Joomla community. The whole team works tirelessly to ensure that new entries are validated and published efficiently and that the whole directory is kept up to date.

The Showcase Directory

The Showcase directory provides a useful opportunity for site integrators and Joomla users to promote their work to the wider community. The directory continues to grow under the leadership of Sebastien Lapoux.

The Template Directory

The Template Directory is a project designed to bring a directory of templates and template providers to the community. This is a vital project which could potentially provide an additional revenue stream for the project. Sadly owing to other pressures, little progress has been made of the last year and there is now a real urgency to breathe some new life into this and get it started, one of the challenges and priorities for 2020.

The Volunteers Portal

The Volunteers Portal provides access to the various team reports and acts as a members gateway for volunteers with vacant positions advertised and calls for assistance where needed. The department is run by Sander Potjer who has also been responsible for the development of the Single Sign On facility where by it will be possible to login to any .joomla.org site and have the login recognised across the other sites. This has represented a significant development and a huge effort which is now in testing and approaching deployment. It will take us a major step forward in terms of usability and greatly assist the access to the project websites by those who use them.

Webmasters Team

The Webmasters team is manned by each of the webmasters of the various .joomla.org websites and until recently was led by Michael Babker. A huge vote of thanks is due to Michael

for the unending assistance he has given over many years to both the project as a whole, but also within the webmasters team in keeping various sites running securely. With Michael's assistance and input from a great number of other volunteers, we have published the Webmasters' handbook this year. This is a guide to the running of a .joomla.org website and serves as a repository for all of the information about each site as well as giving guidance on best practice. The webmasters' handbook is designed as a fluid document that will over time continue to be developed as other technologies become relevant.

Overall

This has been an active and productive year for the Operations department, like the rest of the project, we could most certainly do with more assistance across all areas. The operations department and its volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that everything continues to run. We have a great team, working on a magnificent project, thank you all, let's continue to progress through 2020.

Hugh Douglas-Smith
Operations Department Coordinator