Drupal 8 Media Initiative

Making a major milestone happen.

Intro

Drupal 8 is a modern framework that was overhauled from the ground up, shipping with many features that previously needed extra "contrib" modules. Additionally, the contrib ecosystem is well prepared with many modules ported and ready for release. However, media handling did not significantly improve in core and modules of the media initiative are progressing very slowly.

The lack of mature media handling modules is widely criticised and a blocker for many projects.

MD Systems, Ringier and Südostschweiz have founded a program led by maintainer Janez Urevc to unblock the **Media Initiative** with a dedicated team of developers and **together with you**.

An exceptional base funding of 40'000 CHF has already been provided by the initiators, while we are looking to reach a goal of 50'000 CHF to **guarantee a major milestone of the media module is ready shortly after the first stable release of Drupal 8.**

Additionally, **we invite you and your team** to join a **full week sprint** in the offices of MD Systems from **Monday 30.11. to Friday 4.12.** or parts of it.

Connect with us if you're interested in joining the team or help funding.

Background about the Media Initiative

The media project was opened in 2005 with its own initiative group started in 2012. Multiple maintainers have pushed the project forward with current active leads Janez Urevc and Dave Reid.

In the Drupal 7 lifecycle (2011) the Media initiative failed to create enough momentum to push for an early release with the original goals. Right when many modules started to integrate, a 1.x branch was abandoned and an incompatible 2.x branch that is still in progress became the main development subject. Many sub modules overlap with different approaches (e.g. file browsers, cropping tools) and as a result even completely alternative systems exist today. The resulting uncertainty in module selection leads to a wide variation between setups and high maintenance costs.

For Drupal 8, the Media Initiative started to draw an extensible architecture with enough flexibility to cover the known use cases and develop a strategy for the individual modules. The maintainers are working hard with long term contributors from the community to push the goals forward, but the amount of work is so huge that only slow progress is visible.

n July 2014, MD Systems organised a first full-week Media Sprint with more than 19 participants from the community that delivered a solid and extensible media storage among many other improvements in the ecosystem.

The Media initiative leads hold presentation on all major Drupal events with a most recent status update at DrupalCon Barcelona (Sept 2015): http://drupal-media.github.io/d8-status-update/
To reach all the goals of the current initiative scope, a total of remaining ~2 man years are projected.

Meanwhile, Janez Urevc, one of the Media Initiative leads, joined the team at MD Systems.

Strategy: Reduced goals with a dedicated team

MD Systems identified common key items in Media Management that are highly valuable and achievable for everyone from discussions with customers, stakeholders and many community participants.

MD Systems operates a leading internship program with currently 6 skilled juniors. We gained 2 years experience in creating a maximum value from juniors in contrib development.

A first major milestone can be reached with about 6 man months of work with a dedicated team containing the maintainer (30%), an architect (20%), a senior (50%), 2 juniors (2*100%). With 2 months dedication of this team, we are able to ship 6 man months of work to reach the goals at minimum cost until end of this year.

The market value of the work delivered is far above 100'000 CHF. MD Systems will commit itself to reach the goals with a minimum funding of 50'000 CHF. If progress and funds permit, goals will be extended. The initial funding deadline is 30.10.2015 with a latest team start on 2.11.2015.

Goal: Ready and usable out of the box

We strongly believe that a successful media initiative needs to ship tools that are ready and following best practices of media management out of the box. Right after installation, typical use cases need to be covered with great usability. Advanced use cases might need reconfiguration.

Join the community sprint

After a month of preparation and base work in November, a community sprint is the best way to open participation and maximise progress with everyone who wants to join. We will be able to involve you on any kind of experience level.

The sprint will take place in the whole week from Monday 30.11. to Friday 4.12. at the offices of MD Systems.

People who are expecting to join:
- Janez Urevc   Media Initiative Maintainer
- Tom Schneider   Lead Developer, Südostschweiz
- Ivo Marques   Project Manager, Le Temps / Ringier
- Josef Dabernig   Deputy Head Technology, Amazee Labs
- Sascha Grossenbacher   Development Lead, MD Systems
- Miro Dietiker   CEO, MD Systems
- All parties from the dedicated team
- 4 additional Students by MD Systems
- **You**

And many many more!

Due to the weekend DrupalCamp Vienna shortly before, weekends are not possible. A sprint later in December is not an option either.

Please also connect with us if you like to join our dedicated media team for a different time frame.

Priorities identified

These are the top priority deliverables:
- Major usability enhancement for editors in media management
- A media browser
  - With image preview
  - With folder like categories and free tagging
  - Title search
- Collecting and editing metadata
- A cropping UI
  - To crop an image per placement
  - For each relevant image style

Additionally, we will work on
- Third party provider support
  - Youtube
- WYSIWYG Integration
  - Improved embedding usability (browser)
  - Placing images from fields in neighborhood (fields)
  - Entity usage tracking
  - Embedding API to easily support custom embed dialogs
- Drag and drop support
- Documentation

Deliveries in more specificity will be developed during the sprints.

We kindly offer to consider specific focus topics of major donors.