Koha development report fall 2021

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Our achievements

- Our "KK-Koha" build based on the latest Koha Community, on all our customers since Jan'21

- Did successful first full "together with the Community" release in Jun'21

- Now ongoing the next "together with the Community" release. We're working on pre-release with piloting library (thanks 3AMK team!), the stable build will be deployed to all on 29 Nov

- Improvements in such cycles get good feedback from both the Community and the customers

- Switched to JIRA as the main planning, bugs, features and requests tracking tool. Created our add-ons to link Community Bugzilla (Suomi Redmine too) tickets and get their statuses in JIRA

- Except JIRA Improved our customer communication efficiency in other ways ("Development hour" meetings, newsletters from the dev-team). Planned post-covid on-site workshops

- Features and fixes needed by our customers are now consolidated, supported and improved in the worldwide Koha for us. But also, those features/fixes available to other libraries worldwide

Koha community and open-source contribution

- Noticeable mutual benefits with the Global Open-Source Koha Community: what we code goes worldwide, and what world codes come in fresh for our customers (libraries)

- Our department inside the community QA team, the core of just a dozen of main Koha developers. We have a voice there because of daily contributions and active feedback

- We take frontiers with the freshest community code to make community worldwide version release solid and stable: regular alpha builds and pre-testing with our libraries experts, doing final tests with piloting libraries

- Our customers (libraries experts) taking a very important part in development! Huge feedback made to the community from our customers: feature requests, located bugs, testing and even signoff-ing by our customers makes global Koha better and helps us

- We are happy to do the real Open-Source development for the world, which at the same time is beneficial for our customers!

Plans

- Get closer to "continuous deployment" by establishing a new release process. Make currently untested aspects tested before the live pilot library update, by adding more automated testing and by launching a shadow server for piloting libraries

- Separate our KK-Koha builds into two streams and repositories: preproduction and production. This as well will allow launching new customers any time with current stable version everyone uses

- Non-developer comprehensible "Status" site for our Koha servers/services for all customers

- Developer-aimed tech "Status" site (graphs, monitoring, instant alerts, slack/other integrations)

- Further JIRA advantage absorption: new workflows, agile planning, integrations. Making it "The single source and center of truth". Sharing our experience for teams in the library and around

- R&D: Koha and servers architecture improvements for stability, security, speed and monitoring

- Drills and rehearsals to withstand for critical situations. Scenarios and instructions development

- Improve architecture to make expansion (new customers) possible without linear team-load growth

Call for collaboration: message us,

- It's great to **make Koha more useful for any libraries**, thus we open for proposals and feature requests which we can escort as the global version updates, or as local plugins

- It's great to improve **cross-departments and cross-structures data-collaboration**
  - We can and want to help, explain, adopt, expand this for others to use and benefit
  - There are several services Koha provides (OAI-PMH, SRU server, JSON reports, RESTful API): https://koha-community.org/manual/21.05/en/html/webservices.html and API is extendable by plugins, and core Koha changes by us are possible in the worldwide community code to implement features and data exchange you need

- Contact us, the KK-Koha team, to discuss and collaborate on this topic. We are interested to increase Koha's spread and usefulness in Finland. The global worldwide Open-Source community will benefit from this too

- Unique 20 years product in active development! We ♡ Koha! (and Perl) (and Linux) (and Git)

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