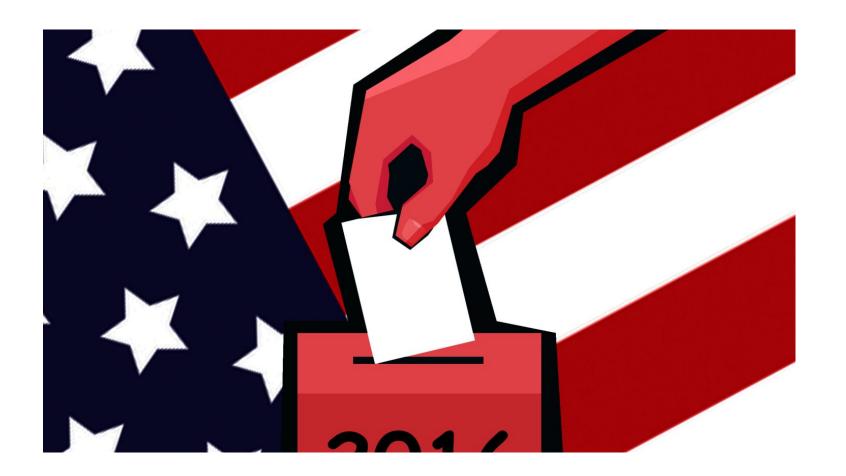
# Deliberation and Resolution on Wikipedia: A Case Study of Requests for Comment

Jane Im\*, University of Michigan Amy Zhang, MIT CSAIL Christopher Schilling, Wikimedia Foundation David Karger, MIT CSAIL

Jonathan Morgan, Wikimedia Foundation

\* Work was done while at Korea University 1

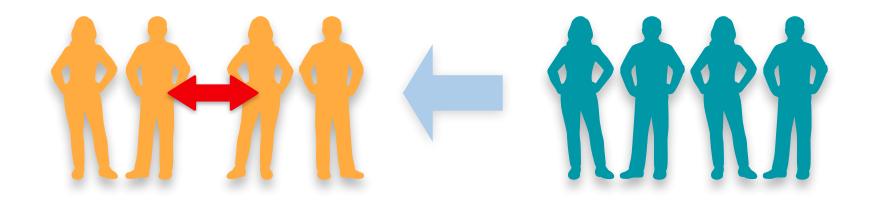


# Content related disputes arise on Wikipedia





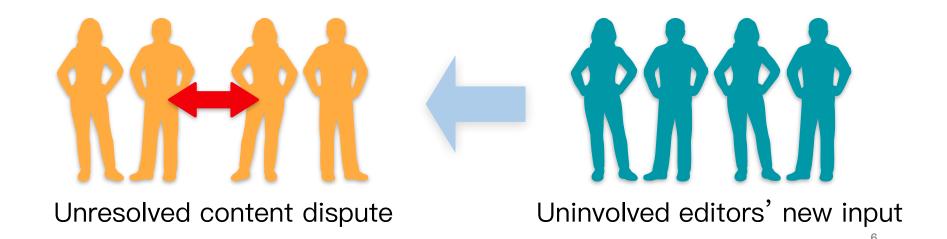




Help from uninvolved editors

## Requests for Comment (RfC)

Process used by Wikipedia editors for requesting input from uninvolved editors concerning content disputes



# Initiator opens Request for Comment

Request for comments (RFC) about whether the lead paragraph should say he's the current president

An editor has requested comments from other editors for this discussion. Within 24 hours, this page



Please consider joining the feedback request service.



will be added to the following lists:

- Biographies
- Politics, government, and law

When discussion has ended, remove this tag and it will be removed from the list. If this page is on additional lists, they will be noted below.

Assuming that the hatnote is edited to remove that he is the current ("incumbent") president, should the lead paragraph be edited to say that he is the current president?15:58, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

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Assuming that the hatnote is edited to remove that he is the current ("incumbent") president, should the lead paragraph be edited to say that he is the current president 715.58, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

NOTE: The RFC question is not proposing any particular language, and is flexible regarding "current" vs. "incumbent" vs. "serving since", etc. You may indicate which specific language indicating that Trump is now president constitutes support for this RFC Anythingyouwant (talk) 17:34, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

#### Survey about saying he's the current president

- Support as proposer. This is a sensitive subject, in view of the North wy president and Not My Presidents Day proviments. If the lead paragraph men's says that his is the 5th president, and control to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and CBS News of, and and the United States, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and the United States," According to the Washington Post of, and the United States, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the United States, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the United States, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the United States," According to the United States, "Limmy Cuter's tall the 3th president of the Unit Timore officul to change any consensus. The list of consensuses includes the list of consensuses includes the list of consensus to the list of the list of
- . Support. Defining characteristic. Current, incumbent, serving all good... or put brackets round (45th). Siventi (talk) 16:06, 27 March 2017 (UTC)
- Oppose as unmocessary and superfusous. "Is' is a present tense word, regardless of how some sources choose to use it (ii) on thirth WPV applies to grammary. The roofen that this is needed because of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use that word very sparingly in discussion. And the first sentence has already excessed under the source of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use that word very sparingly in discussion. And the first sentence has already excessed under the source of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use that word very sparingly in discussion. And the first sentence has already excessed under the source of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use that word very sparingly in discussion. And the first sentence has already excessed under the source of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about, and use of a "not my president" controversy approaches the about,
- Support It seems to me that it's common practice on Wikipedia, and a good one, to identify officeholders as "current" during their term of office. This is how previous presidents were described when they served, and it provides clarity, "Devicies clarity, "Devicies clarity, "Devicies clarity," Devicies clarity, "Devicies clarity,

• Oppose Common practice on Wikipedia often violates the Manual of Style. MOS:CURRENT frowns on the use of time-sensitive words like "current". Yes I realize this page is updated, but saying "Trump is President" is clear that he's incumbent. Obama's page doesn't say "Obama is President" any longer. – Muboshgu (talk) 16:46, 27 March 2017 (UTC) No. but it said "current" when he was president, --MelanieN (talk) 00:00, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

- WP:OSE should not be our guiding light here. JFG talk 07:15, 28 March 2017 (UTC)
- Neutral The real problem is the current wording of the full sentence in the Current wording of the Current wording of
- Oppose per Mandruss and Muboshgu.- MrX 16:50, 27 March 2017 (UTC)
- . Support, as we can remove the word 'after' Trump leaves office. GoodDay (talk) 20:54, 27 March 2017 (UTC)
- . Support per my comment below and plain good sense.--John Cline (talk) 23:11, 27 March 2017 (UTC)
- Support Most such articles, including articles about presidents, have put "current" in the lede sentence, as noted above by Anythingyouward and DavidKRS. I don't like "serving as" because it seems like a kind of attempt to distance ourselves from saying (admitting?) that he IS the president as opposed to just "serving as" the president—MelanieN (listk) 23-42, 27 March 2017 (UTC)
- . Support 100% that it needs to say Donald J. Trump is the current President of the United States of America in one way or another simply because...well. he is!-DisneyWetaihead (falk) 00:52, 28 March 2017 (UTC) . Support the what waive ninne with Bush and Otherse and should be ninne with Trumn. He will always he "is the 48th President" but now he is the current Bresident. Six Insent (IRX) 09:15, 29 March 2017 (ITT)
- Support per analogous FA Barack Obama (19 January 2017) ("...is an American politician who is the 44th and current President of the United States..."); WP.CCC policy; and MOS.SEAOFBLUE. --Dervorguilla (talk) 05:51, 28 March 2017 (UTC)
- Support My preferred formulation would be Donald John Trump is an American businessman, television personality and politician, serving as the 45th President of the United States since January 2017. JFG <sup>108</sup> 07.08, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

#### Discussion about saving he's the current president

- . Comment. Possible redundancy here. The infobox already says "incumbent", so it isn't exactly necessary that it be included anywhere else. Just sayin'. Scjessey (talk) 17:03, 27 March 2017 (UTC)
- Comment. User/Muboshgu, not only is this page frequently updated (as you say), but also the FPC question allows "since 2017" which is a formulation explicitly (severed by WP Current. As I already said, this FPC is not about how it should be phrased. If we said "Trump is precident" then that would take care of the problem, but we don't say that, do we?Anythingyouward (talk) 17-18, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

I would support adding "serving since 2017" to the end of the first sentence of the lead as a way of demonstrating that he is the incumbent. My point is to not use the word "current". - Muboshou (falls) 17.21, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

That suspession would be fine with me, I think you could to change your horse from 'coppose' to 'support', and say why. This RFC is not about how so change this stuff. The RFC used to say that he is the current oresident?' (rembasis added). I explained this in my vote: 'This RFC is not about how exactly it should be chrased (current ve. incumber' vs. incumber vs. incumber

Comment could you change the word "say" to "clarify" in the proposal so it's clear the specific wording is flexible? Swent (talk) 17:31-27 March 2017 (LTC).

I have added a note Anythingyouwant (talk) 17:35, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

Comment. (8 Anything-youwant: 15kg to differ. This REC is about using the voted current. You cannot that and switch here. You RPC is now set and you cannot change it. Editors have incled in changing the language is disruptive. Especially as the prior discussion is all about using the vote current president... This is what the prior discussion is about. That's what my local is a prior discussion is about. That's what my local is a prior discussion is about. That's what my local is a prior discussion is about. That's what my local is a prior discussion is a life. This is what the prior discussion is a bout. That's what my local is a prior discussion is a bout which is a prior discussion is a bout. That's what my local is a prior discussion is a bout whit is a prior discussion is a bout white a prior discussion is a bout. That's what my local i

I did not change the PFC question one iota. The only thing in quotes in the PFC question is the word "incumbent" which is given this way as an example of what is meant by the word current. "current (incumbent)". Feel free to change your hote if you want. It I say "Mary said that she doesn't want to ride in the car" that obviously does not preduce that Mary said, "I would prefer to not ride in the audomobile". Anything/requirent (talk) 18.00, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

Comment#NotMvPresident, ThatGirfTayler (talk) 18:06, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

• Comment - is serving as the 45th President of the United States of America since 2017 is an unambiguous neutral introduction of fact. While it can be said that he is serving in that capacity, Only one can serve and it is a distinction due this man since January 2017, — Processing unsigned comment added by John Cline took contribution.

That would be fine, User-John Cline, Why not support the RFC proposal which allows this language you've proposed? Anythingyouwant (talk) 22:35, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

I do support the proposal, and have made this more clear above --John Cline (talk) 23:11, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

- (8 John Cline: If you want that specific language you need to mention that in your krote. Please read the notes above under the RIC cycestion. The OP's question is misleading. He wants the word, incumbent if He's never going to say, "serving as." If you want that choice, this is not that RIC. SW3 5DL (talk) 23:52, 27 March 2017 (UTC)
- Utter rubbish. I have said repeatedly that I will be glad with any language indicating Trump is now in office. Anythingyouwant (talk) 00:17, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

(out control) have no justification to assume bad faith of the OP; believe the RFC is to determine if Donald Trump should be mentioned in the present tense without prescribing the exact prose that will be used if the RFC gains consersus. It is not a question of what "he's rever going to say", but what we will collaborate to say if such mention is preferred. I appreciate you mentioning your corrown, though I believe it is misplaced—whom Oline (table) 00.01, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

(B) Unit Clins: The previous discussions never meritored using to be larguage in a PIC, and current, previous discussions of what it represed in a PIC, and current, previous discussions of what it is represed to that, or there is a pool in it having because we're right back where we stated, I recorded using to be larguage, this PIC will be used to the use of the previous discussion of what it is record to that, or there is a pool in it having because we're right back where we stated, I recorded using to the use of the use choice, the rest of us should as well, SW3 5DL (talk) 00:40, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

John Cline is entirely correct. In contrast, it is incorrect to say "This RHC must do that, or there is no point in having it because we're right back where we started." If the RFC wins enough support then we are emphatically not back where we started, because a successful RFC will rule out having a halmote and lead that both omit the fact that the President of the United States is Donald Trump. Anythingyouwant (talk) 00.45, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

You should have used the specific language that editors in the previous discussion worked so hard to namow down, You supported and participated, but you laided to discuss the RPC and the language eBEFORE you went alread. This is NOT at all what was discussed previously, and certainty this in NOT at all what was discussed previously and certainty this in NOT at all what was discussed previously and certainty this in NOT at all what was discussed previously and certainty this in NOT at all what was discussed previously and certainty this in NOT at all what was discussed . Comment - See this RfC for specific choices on the precise language here @. SW3 5DL (talk) 03:47, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

Except on pages updated regularly (e.g., the "Current events" portal, terms such as now, currently, to date, so far, soon, and recently should usually be avoided in favor of phrases such as during the 1990s, since 2010, and in August 1969. For current and future events, use phrases like as of March 2017 or since the beginning of 2017 to sinnal the time-dependence of the information.

(#MelanieN: it would be better to use the reply function and put your comments here and not under ivotes. Editors are coming here to give their comment/opinion. Use the discussion section for your comments about their ivote. SW3 5DL (talk) 00:07, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

- @Muboshgu: "is the President" is clear but "is the 45th President" is not, because he will continue to be the 45th President forever. Siuenti (talk) 00:16, 28 March 2017 (UTC)
- . Comment use whatever we used for Bush and Obama. It's as simple as that, Sir Joseph (talk) 03:01, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

User:Sir Joseph, that would be fine with me, and that's why I supported this RFC Anythinoyouwant (talk) 03:03, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

@Sir Joseph: This RfC is not for chosing specific words. Bush and Obama used, "is the current president." You can make that choice at this RfC here of Thanks. SW3 SDL (talk) 04:56, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

@UFG: Donald Trump is not a waiter. "... serving as the 45th President of the United States since January 2017." Sounds more like a diner advert, "Serving New Yorkers since 2017." Lot. SW3 5DL (talk) 14:50, 29 March 2017 (UTC)

#### Wikipedia:Manual of Style#Current Wikipedia:Manual of Style#Current says

the term "current" should be avoided. What is current today may not be termorrow; situations change over time. Instead, use date- and time-specific text. To help keep information updated use the {{as of}} template.

Incorrect: He is the current ambassador to ... Correct: As of March 2011, he is the ambassador to ...

Just FYI Sluenti (talk) 22:15, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

Another thing the MOS says is

The current president, Cristina Fernández, took office in 2007", or "Cristina Fernández has been president since 2007", is better rendered "Cristina Fernández became president in 2007

That's not what the actual BLP said @ while she was in office. Anythingyouwant (talk) 22:44, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

#### Another MOS section

Per Wikipedia:Manual of Style/Dates and numbers#Statements likely to become outdated (emphasis added)

Anythingyouwant (talk) 22:31, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

How would you feel about "became the 45th President in January 2017"? Sluenti (talk) 00:18, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

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Politics, government, and law

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- . Support it seems to me that it's common practice on Wikipedia, and a good one, to identify officeholders as "current" during their term of office. This is how previous presidents were described when they served, and it provides clarity. "DavidK93 (talk) 16.27, 27 March 2017 (UTC)
- Oppose Common practice on Wikipedia often violates the Manual of Style, MOS CURRENT frounce on the use of time-sensitive words like "current". Yes I resilize this page is undated, but saving "Trump is President" is clear that he's incumbent. Observis one desert is ay "Observis is President" any longer. Multiplication of the use of time-sensitive words like "current".

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- . Neutral The real problem is the current wording of the full sentence in the lede. Donald John Trump is an American busine . Oppose per Mandruss and Muboshgu.- MrX 16:50, 27 March 2017 (UTC)
- . Support, as we can remove the word 'after' Trump leaves office. GoodDay (talk) 20:54, 27 March 2017 (UTC)
- · Support nor my common below and plain conditions John Clina (talk) 99-11, 97 March 9017 II ITC
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#### Discussion about saving he's the

- . Comment. Possible redundancy here.

- Participants come in to the RfC to give input

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Utter rubbish. I have said repeatedly that I will be glad with any language indicating Trump is now in office. Anythingyouwant (talk) 00:17, 28 March 2017 (UTC)

## This sometimes leads to long thread of comments

@UFG: Donald Trump is not a waiter. "... serving as the 45th President of the United States since January 2017." Sounds more like a diner advert, "Serving New Yorkers since 2017." Lot. SW3 SDL (talk) 14:50, 29 March 2017 (UTC)

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rance, relevation personality and politicals, and the 4gth President of the United States. This PRIC will not solve that, it is ONLY suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is ONLY suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is ONLY suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that Trump's presidency be in the present sense. It is only suggesting that the present sense that the present sense that the p

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# Closer evaluates Request for Comment

Request for comments (RFC) about whether the lead paragraph should say he's the current president

The following discussion is closed. **Please do not modify it.**Subsequent comments should be made on the appropriate discussion page. No further edits should be made to this discussion.

Assuming that the hatnote is edited to remove that he is the current ("incumbent") president, should the lead paragraph be edited to say that he is the current president?15:58, 27 March 2017 (UTC)

Consensus reached to include
"current", exact language
agreed elsewhere, see
Talk:Donald Trump#Current
consensus, item #17. — JFG
talk 20:00, 2 April 2017 (UTC)

## Who is the closer?

 Neutral editor that summarizes the RfC discussion and makes a resolution

Usually one closer per RfC

Closer evaluates this Request for Comment has a consensus.

The dispute is successfully resolved.

The ideal outcome is every dispute being resolved.

However it doesn't always happen to all RfCs.

# 1/3 of RfCs go stale.

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Left without any closure after the default period. Dispute is unresolved.

	Formally closed	Informally ended	Stale
Dispute is resolved			X
Ended by	Uninvolved editor (closer)	Participant, initiator, or uninvolved editor	None
Number of RfCs	4,086 (58%)	672 (9%)	2,329 (33%)

- Oppose. I think I have made my case against Ghostofnemos repeated and inherent C Saddhiyama (talk) 22:10, 17 April 2014 (UTC)
- Oppose. They are either fork of authoritarianism or WP:OR with WP:POV. "The Econore are not in this case. Both represent specific political positions. Sietecolores (talk) 22:50

### Another, sad Wikipedia fail. Ghostofnemo (talk) 01:00, 27 April 2014

No, this was a success ... material that did not refer to police states was correctly rejective state and "authoritarian regime" or "unfree state" as synonymous (they clearly your say-so would have been a failure. -- 184.189.217.91 (talk) 04:40, 23 April 2015

# Why are stale RfCs a problem?

Number of RfCs that have over 100 comments: 430

Highest number of comments on an RfC: 2,375

The section of the se Then holds following your reasoning frees are you suping that other the last sentence or the hallows your processor. — 200 500 0000, 25 Earth 2011 (CC). This is an apply \$10, and not work that present from \$100 and \$100 Count (as the set without the passage of the passag A moder DAB error, "Providing Delanor Recognilla CCA, persodour post-coupt", GMP DARMOT 1 The action is used in contract Processor of the Selection Segret register, 10 per contract, 10 per contract and the second per contract Processor of the Selection Segret register, 10 per contract per There exted for injust at Militarias labs Will Project Disentinguation Sturms (set) 18.16, 29 March 2017 (LTC) • Remain "Securities" it is lately unmoreously to have that word from, client had anything. We so meet the hadrest though because automate basing for the creatings, the relations, supplied to have the relation trial. — Missingly (all) 1822 28 Word 2017 (CCC).

Remain the relation for automatic consciously. 5 to a sold, it is bent bent over a power of the order to be considerably only the product of the form of the first of the bent in the proof to the first of the firs entires for among the property of property and property of property of property of the propert Survey about lead The fathore and trad paragraph: Support. This is fine. One-sentime paragraphs are tack tent. That seal, I also apport exempts "number?" in the faction if the lead paragraph continues to ont that his the current prescents representatively represent (Initial 2011 CCC).

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Why is "incumbent" necessary in the hatnote?

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A habite of Andrew Jackson might recording year, "This article is about the President of the United Dates. For other uses, see Andrew Jackson (Standingsaller)." This "Invanishers" is not superfluorables.—Blandward 122.06, 24 March 2017 (270). So people who one "Prescent of the Critical States" without household a going to be someting if they way of the wrong Prescent Contact Trump of the USAN Studie State (SET) (UTC).
Probably red. That does not make that "Investment is superflows are my consists account. — Management (2.25.0.2.4) March 2017 (UTC).

 Discouraging to editors if an RfC never gets closed when they put effort into it

 Problem for productivity as editors involved in RfCs may wait on the outcome before further editing



# Why do many RfCs remain stale?

#### **OUTLINE**

- 1. Collection of data
- 2. Qualitative Reasons behind stale RfCs
- 3. Quantitative Model for predicting RfC's outcome

#### OUTLINE

#### 1. Collection of data

- 2. Qualitative Reasons behind stale RfCs
- 3. Quantitative Model for predicting RfC's outcome

- •Interviewed 10 frequent closers
- •Inspected 40 randomly chosen stale RfCs from the dataset

## Quantitative Study - Model for predicting RfC's outcome

- •7,316 RfCs from the English Wikipedia 2011~2017
- •Built models predicting RfCs' outcomes

#### **OUTLINE**

1. Collection of data

2.Qualitative - Reasons behind stale RfCs

3. Quantitative - Model for predicting RfC's outcome

## 1. Problems with initiators and initial proposals

I was randomly selected by RFCbot to comment here.
 This request is too vague to serve as the basis for any consensus. Please state the request explicitly (and neutrally). What is it you are asking for input about?
 Jojalozzo 20:22, 7 March 2013 (UTC)

#### 2. Behavior of participants: bickering & sock-puppeting

This is a meta-comment, about the dispute rather than the substance: Both Aprock and Mirade are spending too much time bickering over this. Both of them need to slow down and let other editors comment. Both of them would do well to stop responding to the other person's comments within minutes. If you've opened this RFC to get comments, rather than to get another place to argue with each other, then you need to make this forum more accessible to other people by *not* posting.

## 3. Lack of interest/expertise from uninvolved editors

"When no one cares enough because even if you get it wrong, you've affected one small part of one article that might get 15 views a day...passed on an RfC because I thought '... My time is better used elsewhere.'"

## 4. RfC is too complicated/contentious

"...a few that I avoid just because... anything with like 300 plus comments or where feelings are running very high. Eventually I think 'That needs one of Wikipedia's big names to close...'"

## 5. Interpersonal issues and "wikipolitics"

"... Now suppose people with whom I do not share a particularly good relationship has initiated the RfC, I don't generally close it."

#### **OUTLINE**

- 1. Collection of data
- 2. Qualitative Reasons behind stale RfCs
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# Goal of building models

- 1. Understand the features that can predict which RfC will go stale
- 2. Help initiator/participants take action to prevent stale RfCs

# Goal of building models

- 1. Understand the features that can predict which RfC will go stale
- 2. Help initiator/participants take action to prevent stale RfCs

Need to also build timely models to prevent in advance

#### 5 reasons of stale RfCs

Problems with initiators/initial proposals

Behavior of participants

Lack of interest from editors

RfC being complicated/long

RfC being contentious

#### 8 categories of features

Initiator's experience

Initial proposal tone & length

Participants' experience

Tone of participant discourse

Popularity of RfC and topic

Participants' interest

Size & shape of discussion

Contentiousness

#### Adaptive Boosted Decision Trees perform the best overall



#### 8.1% increase over the baseline performance of 67.2%

Algorithm	Precision	Recall	F1	AUC	Accuracy
ADT	0.79	0.86	0.82	0.69	0.753
Baseline (predicting close)	0.67	1	0.8	0.5	0.672

#### Category

Size and Shape of Discussion

Participant Experience

Participant Interest

Contentiousness

Popularity of RfC and Topic

Tone of Discourse

Initiator Experience

Initial Proposal Tone and Length

Categories of features

#### Category

Size and Shape of Discussion

Participant Experience

Participant Interest

Contentiousness

Popularity of RfC and Topic

Tone of Discourse

Initiator Experience

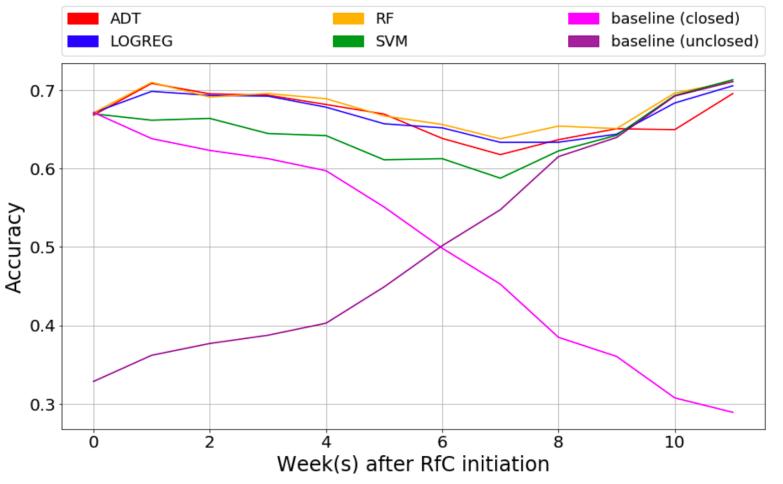
Initial Proposal Tone and Length

Categories of features

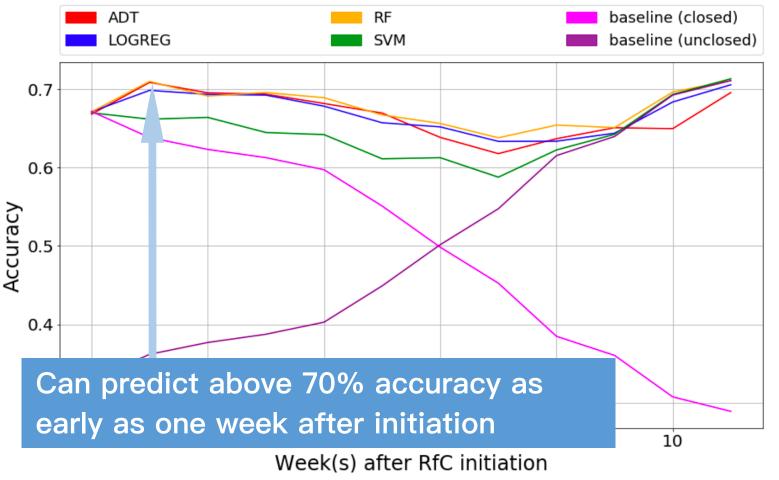
Features	$\rho$	р	
Maximum Wikipedia age of participants	0.12	12	
$\sigma$ of Wikipedia age of participants	0.215	< 0.0001	
Sum of edit counts of participants	0.147		
Average edit counts of participants	0.146		

Features related to participant experience within top 14 features

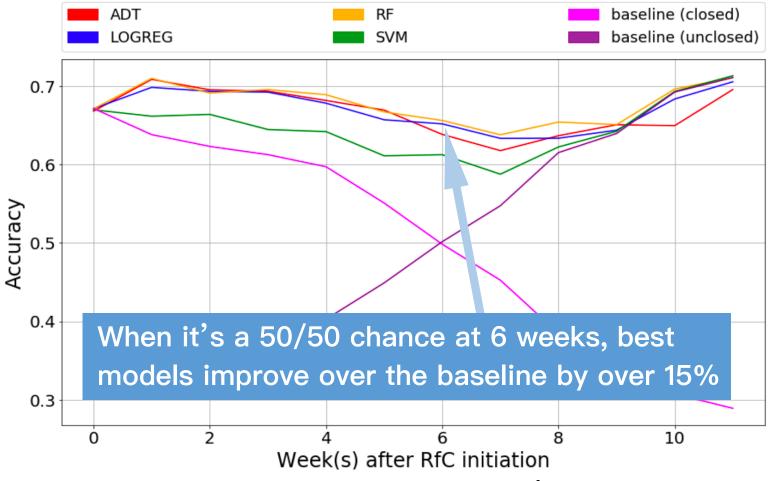
How soon after an RfC is initiated can we predict the likelihood of closure with reasonable accuracy?



Accuracy level of models predicting RfCs' outcomes over time 41



Accuracy level of models predicting RfCs' outcomes over time 42



Accuracy level of models predicting RfCs' outcomes over time

## Implication of timely models

2 weeks after the RfC initiation:

The models show participants' expertise level is crucial.



Participants invite experienced editors to the discussion.

### **Summary of Contributions**

- 1)1/3 of RfCs do not get closed at all and many do not get closed within time
- 2) Qualitative study showing insight from the closers as to why this is the case
- 3) New models to help predict which RfCs are likely to go stale

- Dataset of RfCs: <a href="https://figshare.com/articles/rfc\_sql/7038575">https://figshare.com/articles/rfc\_sql/7038575</a>
- Paper: trusttri.github.io/papers/wiki\_deliberation.pdf
- Contact: imjane@umich.edu