

## Bugs & Wish list

Create a system to aid in royalty collection | Tiki Wiki CMS Groupware :: Development

Create a system to aid in royalty collection

### Status

● Open

### Subject

Create a system to aid in royalty collection

### Version

25.x

26.x

### Category

- Feature request

### Feature

Article

Wiki Plugin (extends basic syntax)

### Resolution status

New

### Submitted by

hman

### Lastmod by

hman

### Rating

★★★★★ (0) ?

### Description

Tiki Wiki is a content management system. And it can be used to distribute text (but also images, music etc.) to the world.

In Germany, there is no copyright as it exists in the US. Instead, authors have inalienable rights to their works (which cannot be sold or transferred) and for the usage royalties apply.

There is a system of collecting those royalties like VG Wort. If a publishing house reprints text that are declared by the author, publishers pay to VG Wort, they pool all those royalties and pay their members on the basis of the amount published by an author.

For several years now, VG Wort has a system for online texts (METIS). In order to participate, web sites must include "count marks" together with the texts. The author requests (personal) count pixels from VG Wort, and the website must be programmed so that it delivers those pixels.

In essence, such a count pixel is just an img loaded from VG Wort's servers, a transparent GIF with 1x1 pixels in size. The author gets them in form of HTML lines like this, for example:



```

```

There is one specific pixel per text, not per author.

It would make things vastly easier if Tiki could automate the process. Pixels get handed out to authors either als a PDF or as a spreadsheet table (CSV...).

A system could be devised where a Tiki user would upload such a CSV, and a plugin could be integrated into a content page (article or wiki). Less sophisticated, the user would indicate a "text ID" to identify the text. A more sophisticated system would, when the plugin gets called, look up if the calling content already has a pixel assigned, and if not, assign one and track the relationship of pixels with contents and then playout the respective pixel alongside with the content.

This system could also inform the user if the amount of pixels is less than the amount needed by current online content and create nice reports 😊

Systems for collecting royalties ("copyright collectives") exist in every country, so this would not only be useful for German Tiki users, but for practically everyone that shells out copyrighted texts larger than 2K...

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copyright\\_collective](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copyright_collective)

Importance

6

Easy to solve?

4

Priority

24

Demonstrate Bug (Tiki 19+)

Please demonstrate your bug on [show2.tiki.org](https://show2.tiki.org)

Version: trunk ▼

Demonstrate Bug (older Tiki versions)

Ticket ID

8047

Created

Thursday 27 January, 2022 23:38:51 GMT-0000  
by hman

LastModif

Tuesday 08 February, 2022 16:25:45 GMT-0000

Comments



Carsten Aevermann 28 Jan 22 11:12 GMT-0000

Some questions: is this service (vgwort) comparable to GEMA? Are there other "collector" systems? How is shared authorship (more then one author) handled. How to avoid false placement of such "pixel" trackers? Does vgwort guarantee legitimate placement? Why not having an token or authentication snippet as many others do?

Could you utilize coil as described here <https://doc.tiki.org/Web-Monetization?>



hman 28 Jan 22 18:24 GMT-0000

- a) VG Wort serves the same purpose as GEMA, VG Bild-Kunst and others: Collecting royalties as a service to authors who are members of those organizations and who sign the contract to instruct them to collect (world-wide). This is to compensate authors for the reproduction of their works.
- b) The technicalities are VASTLY different.
- c) Shared authorship is handled by both (or more) authors reporting the same text, on the classical paper report there was a check-box to indicate co-authors. On the web I must suspect using two count pixels is correct, as there is no other mechanism.
- d) Count pixels effectively are tokens (by the number in their URL, not by the content which is just a 1x1 transparent GIF), but counting is done by VG Wort. They also guarantee correct counting.
- e) VG Wort does not guarantee legitimate placement, but fraudulent placement (or exaggerating counts) is punishable as a criminal act, and VG Wort does report to authorities when it suspects fraud.
- f) Count pixels is the only mechanism supported by VG Wort, and VG Wort is the only copyright collective for text. All publishing houses pay into VG Wort, and ALL (really!) owners of copying machines, and tens of thousands of authors are either members or have contracts.
- g) VG Wort is not a system for primary funding of authors, but to let authors participate in the revenue stream from the copying processes. Money comes mostly from publishing houses, but also, as mentioned, owners of copying machines and some other. For more information, visit [www.vgwort.de](http://www.vgwort.de)



hman 28 Jan 22 18:54 GMT-0000

Other sources of income for VG Wort are:

- For every photocopy made in Germany, VG Wort royalties are compulsory. Companies owning copying machines must regularly report the number of copied pages and pay the royalty, private owners have their royalties paid by the machine manufacturer (thus they are including in the retail price of the machine).
- For every storage device sold, royalties go to VG Wort. This means each and every hard disk, USB stick, memory card or CD/DVD blank etc.



hman 30 Jan 22 18:32 GMT-0000

VG Wort collects almost 210 million Euros a year (2010), and distributes that to more than 294 thousand authors and 9 thousand publishers. In addition to the ones stated above, royalties are also due for all kinds of printers.



hman 28 Jan 22 18:39 GMT-0000

Uploaded a sample CSV file with a count pixel (the one stated above). The number is counted up successively. It always starts at 1. Each downloaded CSV file starts with number 1! The identification code is personal, so I commented it out here. It is a 32 digit hex number that the author needs in order

to browse VG Wort's database for the counting result of this count pixel.




hman 28 Jan 22 18:47 GMT-0000

VG Wort does also offer other ways for web services to interact with them. Large publishing houses nowadays of course also republish the texts from their printed products on the web, these are HUGE CMS systems. They automate even further, making it even unnecessary for individual authors to request count pixels and have webmasters insert them (one way or the other). But those large systems use special APIs on VG Wort servers, and Tiki devs would need to contact VG Wort directly in order to implement those mechanisms.

But at first, the "small" solution with count pixels is needed here...

Attachments

filename	created	hits	comment	version	filetype
 VGWORT_Zaehlmarken_TIMESTAMP.csv	28 Jan 22 18:40 GMT-0000	0	Sample CSV file containing a count pixel		

The original document is available at  
<https://dev.tiki.org/item8047-Create-a-system-to-aid-in-royalty-collection>