CUNY Academic Commons
Development Specs & Priorities for 2018-2019
V.2 (link to V.1)
Spring 2018

Redesign of the Site Launch Process

A redesign of the site launch process would include
1. new fields to collect metadata that would be stored for indexing (and display via a filterable view on a "sites" page) and customizing site at launch
2. the opportunity to learn about purpose of and launch a connected group
3. a "Next Steps" Page or Module to link out common next steps for site setup

Page 1: Site Information

During the site creation process, in addition to specifying site domain, site title, and privacy settings, the user will supply metadata about their site

Current Fields

> **Site Domain:** [field]
> **Site Title:** [field]
> **Privacy Options**
> > [Radio buttons]

Proposed New Fields

Site Information
All stored and editable via Settings menu on individual sites

1. CUNY Campus(es)
    a. [Drop down w/radio button to select campuses, can select multiple]
2. Purpose of site?
    a. Personal Site
    b. Conference/Event
    c. Course Site
    d. OER Project
    e. Publication
    f. Department Site
    g. Research Project
    h. Other

3. Will this site be used for teaching? [Radio buttons]

        i.   Yes
        ii.   No

[Questions below appear if answer "yes" to #3]

3a. What subject?
- [Drop down w/all departments]

3b. Will this class be a Zero-textbook course and/or use Open Educational Resources?
        i.   Yes [Radio buttons]
        ii.   No

3c. How will you be incorporating zero-cost and OER materials? (select all that apply)
    [Checklist]
- Open Text book
- Open Access peer-reviewed literature
- Library E-reserves literature
- Periodicals and journalistic sources
- Videos
- Digital resources and archives
- Self-created materials
- What else?
- Other

Page 2: Connect a Group

1. **a short explanation of the difference in functionality for a Site and a Group.**
   Currently the site-group difference information is only found in the "help" pages, which if someone doesn't know to look here or doesn't need help, they are never going to stumble upon this important explanation.
2. **Do you want to create a linked group?**
   a. yes/no
      i. If no, proceed to Page 3
      ii. If yes, then...
3. **group creation fields appear.**
   a. https://commons.gc.cuny.edu/groups/create/step/group-details/
   b. Site is prepopulated in Step 3

Page 3: Complete Site Setup

Text: Congratulations! Your site has been created. Below are some options to help you set up your site, drawn from common uses. Feel free to select from these packages, invite users now, or log in to your site here.

1. Options for Site Starter Templates (with descriptions)
    a. Teaching Template
    b. OER Publication Template
    c. Portfolio Template
    d. Department Site Template
    e. Personal Blog Template
2. Options for Site Plugin Packages (with descriptions)
    a. Teaching Package
    b. OER Package
    c. Multimedia Package
    d. Social
3. **a link to the new invitation system** to begin adding people to the new site.

Plugin packages

Locations:

Plugin Packages could be visible installation in two places: on page 3 of the site creation process, and in a submenu under "Plugins" on the dashboard menu.

During Site Creation: On Page 3 users will have the option to activate "Plugin Packages" where packages are described and activatable in bulk.

Dashboard Submenu: In the Dashboard, a new submenu under "Plugins" called "Plugin Packages" would be created to review and select a plugin package. This will be similar (if not identical) to the interface for viewing the packages at site creation. Packages will be briefly described and included plugins will be linked. Active packages will be indicated as such. More than one package may be activated.

To consider: assuming packaged plugins will be individually accessible via current plugins page, will there be any option from the "Plugins Packages" page to interact with the component plugins? Will there be an indication on the Plugins page that a plugin is part of a package?

Plugin Packages & Contents

Teaching Plugin Package
The "Teaching Plugin Package" contains plugins teachers commonly use to streamline organization and management on their course site.

- Authors Widget (*Student List*)
  - Creates a widget to list users designated as "authors" (students) in the sidebar of the site; when "author name" is clicked, it links to a list of all posts by that author
- Category Sticky Post (*Post Organization*)
  - Allows a single post from a category to "stick" to the top of the category archive
- Google Docs Shortcode (*Document integration*)
  - Allows Administrators to embed and display Google Drive contents such as docs, sheets, and slides directly on their Commons site
- Imsanity (*Media Maintenance*)
  - Limits the file size for uploaded photos, preserving space on your site
- Reckoning (*Student work summary*)
  - Organizes, counts, and displays student posts and comments for assessment

Multimedia Package

- NextGEN Gallery (*Image Gallery*)
  - Allows users to collect and display images in a gallery (thumbnail, slideshow, list)
- GoogleMaps Embed (*Map Embed*)
  - Allows users to display maps created using "My Maps" in Google Maps
- Imsanity (*Media Maintenance*)
  - Limits the file size for uploaded photos, preserving space on your site
- Knight Lab TimelineJS (*Timeline Building*)
  - Allows users to embed Timeline JS timelines into a post on the Commons (must have free but separate TimelineJS/Google account)
- Twitter?
- RSS?
- Youtube* (*Enhanced embedding*)
  - The YouTube Embed plugin allows users to embed a responsive video, YouTube channel, playlist gallery, or live stream
  - *Any Youtube URL will display directly on a Commons site

Digital Tool Package

The "Digital Tool Package" adds a suite of commonly used digital tools to your course site. See below for tool descriptions.

- Anthologize (*Post Exporting/Publishing*)
  - Allow users to "export" (by tag or category) and "publish" posts in a book-like format as a PDFs, ePub and other file formats
- FeedWordpress (*Post Aggregation*)
  - Allows Admins to collect posts from other sites on the Commons into a singular "motherblog" roll
- GoogleMaps Embed (Map Embed)
  - Allows users to display maps created using "My Maps" in Google Maps
- Hypothesis (*Social Annotation*)
  - Allows users to annotate posts, pages, PDFs (on public sites) or articles on the live web via an annotation sidebar
-

Other options:

- Leaflet Maps Marker

- PressForward (*Web Content Aggregation*)
  - Collects content from the live web into a Commons site
- Github Embed (*Project/Document Integration*)
  - Pulls GitHub project information to display in pages and posts on Commons sites

OER Package

- Hypothesis (*Social Annotation*)
  - Create an annotation sidebar on posts, pages, and PDFs (on public sites)
- Anthologize (*Post Exporting/Publishing*)
  - Allow users to "export" and "publish posts (by tag or category) to PDFs, ePub and other file formats
- ZotPress

Social Media/Outreach Package

- TBD

~~Theme~~ Site Templates

Teaching Template: https://templatesite.commons.gc.cuny.edu/

Site template would be pre-populated with pages, post categories, widgets in main sidebar, main menu, pre-installed plugins, and several other site customizations (permalinks, privacy, static home page, CC widget).

Pre-populated pages:
- Home (static front page)
- Syllabus
- Course/Week Schedule
- Blog/Posts (Posts Page)

Pre-populated Categories:
- Assignments
- Announcements
- Resources

Pre-populated menu Items:
- Home (static front page)
- Syllabus
- Course Schedule
- Posts (Posts Page)
- Announcements (category archive)
- Resources/Slides (category archive)
- Group (link to linked group, to be filled in by professor)

Pre-installed plugins:
- Add Users Sidebar Widget
- Authors Widget
- Reckoning
- A CC License Widget (see below)

Pre-populated Widgets:
- Add Users Sidebar
- Text Widget with course info (to be filled in by professor)
- Recent Posts
- Site Authors

- Tag Cloud
- A CC License Widget (see below)

Other Customizations:
- Static Home page (home) and Post page (posts)
- Main Menu specified in "Menu>Manage Locations"
- Permalinks set to "Post Name"
- Privacy set to "visible only to registered users of CUNY Academic Commons"

CAC License, CUNY College Branding, and OneSearch Widgets

Plugin or plugins activated sitewide that would introduce the following widgets

License Widget

After dragging widget to widgetized area, user can select from seven licenses, listed in a drop down menu. Link would be included in the interface to https://creativecommons.org/licenses/ so users could make informed decision.

- CC-BY
- CC-BY-SA
- CC-BY-ND
- CC-BY-NC
- CC BY-NC-SA
- CC BY-NC-ND
- CC-0

Widget would them display CC-license.

n.b. some OER advocates argue that CC-BY is the only OER license

CUNY College Branding WIdget

After dragging widget to widgetized area, user can select their CUNY campus from a drop down menu. Widget will then display that campuses' name and logo, with a link to the campus homepage. Multiple instances of this widget could be displayed per site.

OneSearch Widget

A widget to interact with the OneSearch tool, which allows global search of the CUNY library. (We realize thinking through return of results will be a challenge).

Site Cloning

We know some prior work has been done on this, so won't go into too much detail pending review of existing functionality on CAC and the Open Lab. Ultimate goal is to allow site administrators to duplicate a site and select which content is transported and which is not.

- Pages
- Posts
- Users (will be automatically ported to new site if their content is)
- Categories
- Tags
- Media
- Settings (including activity related to themes and plugin)
- Accompanying Group

Use Cases

Use Case 1: Reusing The Bulk of a Course Site
Who: Professor
Why: To re-use site content, removing past students' work

Details: Each semester, Professor Smith teaches Principles of New Media with a site on the Commons. At the beginning of each semester, Smith clones her previous semester's site's structure, settings, and selected content, without copying over student-produced work. In the past, she's done this using WordPress's export/import tool, but the Commons cloning tool would make this easier by combining the site launch/theme selection/download/upload processes into a single workflow that would allow her to duplicate the theme/plugin/settings selections on the original site and all taxonomies to a new url, and then to select which pages and posts (either individually or by category) are migrated over.

Use Case 2: Annotation Refresh
Who: Professor/Student/Staff
Why: Faculty member wants fresh version of annotatable text

Each semester, Professor Jones teaches an OER that he's developed on the Commons, and has students annotate that OER. He wants students to have a fresh text each semester, and to do so he simply clones his OER to a new URL.

Use Case 3: Students Takeover as Admins
Who: Professor + Students
Why: Site building/admin as learning tool

In Professor Smith's Principles of New Media class students are responsible for learning how to customize a Commons site. Professor Smith builds a bare bones version of the project site ("Group Project Site") that students will be responsible for customizing. The "Group Project Site" includes installed plugins (w/designated settings), site taxonomy (pages, categories), and settings. Through the cloning workflow, Smith is able to clone the "Group Project Site" several times and add students to each site iteration to complete their site customization group project.

Use Case 4: Site as Ongoing Project/Knowledge Creation
Who: Professor
Why: Rolling over/continuing to use a site each semester but creating a time capsule to delineate between students and semesters

Professor Kraft reuses the same course site each semester. Doing this, students are able to read through past students' posts/work, learning from and building on their ideas. However, Kraft would like to create an instance of each site before the new students add their work so each semester he clones the site, making the new URL reflect the current semester. This way, he can go back and view the site through each iteration, tracing student work through time and easily viewing past instances of the site.

Integrations

Much more discovery is needed here, but we have discussed deeper integrations with external tools such as Hypothesis and Manifold. Will hold of on additional details for now.