Overview of 7.x Release Process

Because of the complex nature of recreating an entirely new User Interface (and REST API), the DSpace v7.x will adopt a slightly different release plan (than seen in v6.x or v6.x).

- **Overview of 7.x Release Process**
- **7.x Release Goals**
- **How you can help**

### 7.x Release Goals

Below are the very rough 7.x Release Goals. Keep in mind, these timelines may shift (backwards or forwards) based on our available developer resources and/or community volunteers.

- **7.0 Beta 3** (released July 2, 2020): Beta release focusing on Account Profiles, Submission/Workflow enhancements. Administrative tools.
- **7.0 Beta 5** (goal: Nov? 2020): Theming enhancements. This beta is also an opportunity for general bug fixing & cleanup before the final release. Might include finishing up any unfinished features (e.g. Configurable Entities or OpenAIREv4). Might also include resolving outstanding major bugs, documentation, etc.
  - With the release of Beta 5, we will be running a Community-wide 7.0 Testathon (similar to v6.0 Testathon) to help locate any remaining major bugs that need to be resolved prior to 7.0 final.
- **7.0 Release**: Final, production ready release of 7.0. Will be released as soon as all above Betas have been completed & any outstanding major bugs have been resolved. Roughly estimated at 1-2 months after last Beta.
- **7.1 Release** (timeline TBD): Will include all features flagged as "7.1final" in Release Plan spreadsheet (see below) which were not completed in time for 7.0. Final timeline dependent on developer resources available after 7.0.
- **7.2 Release** (timeline TBD): Will include all features flagged as "7.2final" in Release Plan spreadsheet (see below) which were not completed in time for 7.1. Final timeline depends on development resources available after 7.1.

The final list of tasks to complete are listed in our DSpace 7 GitHub Project Boards.

### How you can help

- **Development**: If you are a developer & wish to get involved with the 7.x development process, get in touch with Tim Donohue or join one of our weekly DSpace 7 Working Group meetings.
  - We especially have a need for developers willing to help with testing Pull Requests and Code Reviews (Java or Angular). This is a good way to "get your feet wet" and better understand the platform before doing development.
- **Translations**: If you are interested in helping create translations of the new UI, see DSpace 7 Translation - Internationalization (i18n) - Localization (i10n).
- **Documentation**: If you are interested in helping us improve our documentation (especially user-facing documentation) for 7.x, we could use some volunteers to help "comb" through the old docs and update/improve examples based on the new User Interface. See DSpace 7 Documentation for more info, or contact Tim Donohue.
- **Try out DSpace 7 early!** As we move forward in the 7.0 Staged Beta Release process, we really need community testers! If you ever want to try out the latest & greatest code, we have a guide to do so at Try out DSpace 7. If you notice any issues or bugs, please feel free to report them to us! See the section on Reporting Issues on that same wiki page.