MacSites: 2023 Year in Review Report

Total MacSites (2023) 329

MacSites by Partner (2023) 172

Total Live MacSites Growth (January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)

MacSites AODA Scorecard (January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)

https://macsites.mcmaster.ca
AODA Scorecard

Page increase, density decrease

In 2023 the MPS Web Team completed the FHS Sitefinity migrations to MacSites. We also launched a new partnership with the Faculty of Science. These partnerships generated a significant increase in total pages across all sites. Also, groups outside our team populated the content on these sites. Even with the increase in page count and new content managers, our AODA error density decreased significantly for the year (Figure/Tab 1 & 2). Throughout 2023, MacSites maintained its status of having the lowest density of errors across all groups. This statistic is generated in PopeTech. PopeTech is the enterprise-level AODA scanning software for all McMaster websites. Our team prioritizes AODA bug fixes and improvements and will continue to do so in 2024.

Automating removal of empty headings

The MPS Web Team routinely consults PopeTech to identify high-occurrence AODA errors and alerts. As much as possible, solutions are implemented in an automated way to alleviate the workload for content managers. In 2023, the team identified a high occurrence of empty headings across many pages and sites. These were largely occurring due to user error and were difficult for non-technical managers to find and remediate. As a solution, our team implemented code-based detection and removal of empty headings across all pages. This automated remediation resulted in a significant reduction of these errors across all MacSites. This solution remains in place to catch any future errors.

Table builder (a new flexible element)

One of the most challenging AODA-compliant elements to create or code is a web-based table. The learning required for non-technical content managers to create this element is significant. Our team identified a need for a solution to build tables without the requirement of understanding them at code level. As a result, in 2023 the MPS Web Team built and shipped the Table Builder element as a solution. This is a new flexible element where data is entered by a content manager into the editor and a table is generated automatically. It is a feature our team will continue to expand and improve.

Top 5 New Features Launched

- Team Administrator Role
- Thumbnail Card Updates
- Table Builder
- Resources - Searchable Keywords
- Pre-filtered Dynamic Search Pages

Top 3 Wins

70% Completion of the Server Migration Project

Improving and updating the MacSites infrastructure was one of the goals for 2023. Our servers reached the 5-year mark and were beyond small patches. Our team planned and executed a server migration project for all sites. The sites migrated from our old servers to new servers with updated configurations. The new servers are set up in a way that updates and maintenance can be executed more easily. This project started late in the year and by year’s end, 70% of all sites were successfully migrated. This project is scheduled for completion by the end of March 2024.

Completion of the Faculty of Health Sciences MacSites Project

October 2023 marked the end of the Faculty of Health Sciences MacSites Project. Over 18 months, 100+ Faculty of Health Sciences websites running Sitefinity migrated to MacSites. This project was a joint effort between the Faculty of Health Sciences and the MPS Web Team. This project allowed the Faculty of Health Sciences to refine its communication strategy, web content policies and workflows. It proved that MacSites is a cost-effective in-house solution that can scale. The Faculty of Health Sciences has been an exceptional partner to work with. The MPS Web team looks forward to the continued partnership.

New Partnership with the Faculty of Science

In early 2023, MacSites signed a new partnership with the Faculty of Science. The faculty’s existing sites were using a CMS that was approaching end of life. MacSites proved its value as a solution with the 2023 completion of the Faculty of Health Sciences MacSites Project. MacSites can migrate large portfolios of sites in a quick, cost-efficient, and user-friendly way. The Faculty of Science websites were no different. By the end of the summer of 2023, the Faculty of Science websites became MacSites through this successful partnership.

What’s Next for MacSites?

Server Migrations - Complete (March 31st 2024)

In 2024, the MPS Web Team plans to complete the migration of all MacSites to new servers. This project will complete by the end of March 2024. Phase 2 of this project will explore and execute infrastructure improvements and workflows.

Brand

In 2024 McMaster central marketing will release new brand guidelines for the organization. The MPS Web Team will ingest these guidelines and continue to provide MacSites as a platform where the brand can be presented on websites in a cost-effective and scalable way.

AODA

In 2024, AODA compliance will present another set of web goals for the organization. The MPS Web Team will continue to uphold its high standard when it comes to AODA compliance. Our team will work closely with accessibility groups on campus to assist in meeting these goals for our clients and the organization.