

VARpedia Senior

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1.0 Introduction

Welcome to VARpedia Senior. This user manual will help you find out more about your VARpedia, and how to use its features. We recommend you have a quick read through at least section 1 before beginning to use your VARpedia!

1.1 Terminology

Here we will briefly explain some terms that you may be unfamiliar with

- *Snippet*: A short piece of audio generated by text-to-speech
- *Slideshow*: A combination of images based on your search term
- *Creation*: Several Snippets combined with a Slideshow, and (optional) background music
- *Wikipedia*: An online encyclopedia which will be used to search for information
- *Selected*: When you click on an item

2.0 Creation Process

2.1 Welcome screen

Here we will give you a quick breakdown of the first screen you will see:

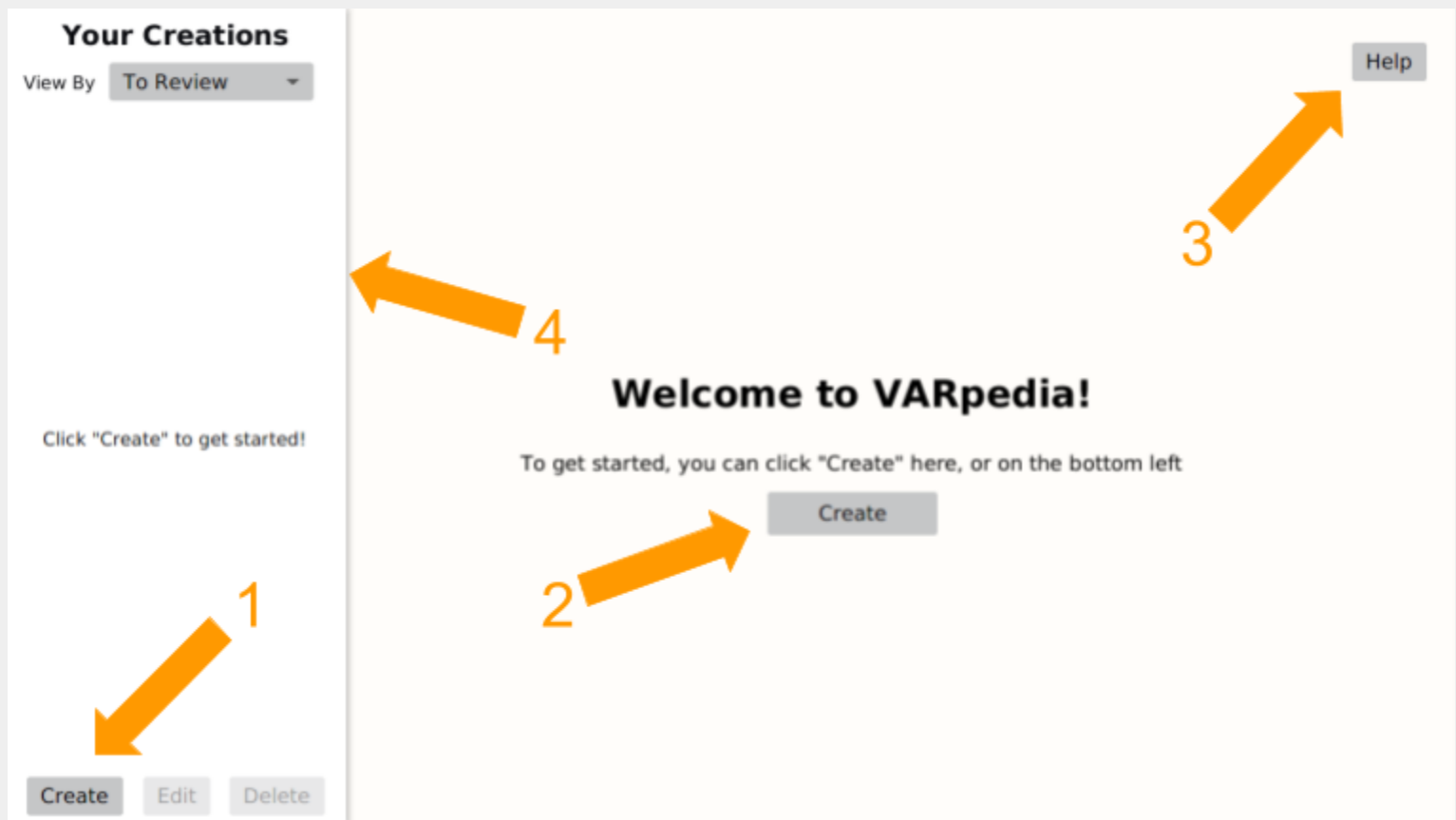


Figure 1 - welcome screen

When you first open up the application, you will have no creations. To begin with creating a Creation, you can press either 1 or 2 as shown in fig. 1 above.

To get to this user manual, you can press the "Help" button as indicated at 3 in fig. 1

2.1.1 Creation List

The Creation List is the area pointed to by 4 in fig. 1. We'll quickly go over what this does and why it's here.

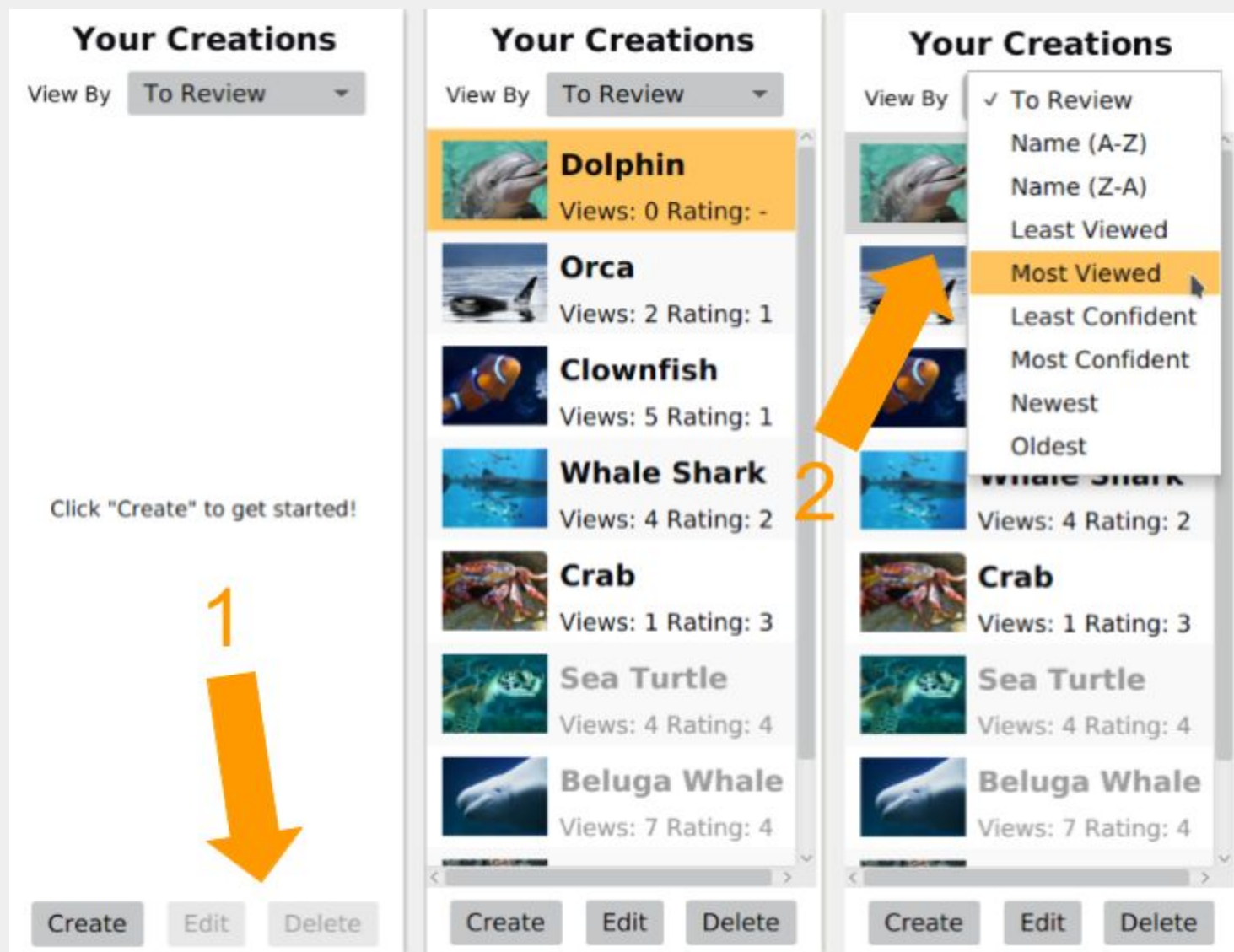


Figure 2 - Creation List, from left to right: Empty List, Full List, List Sorting

The Creation List is a list of your Creations that is present throughout the application, which allows you to keep track of which Creations you have. You can only select Creations in the list when you are not in the middle of building a Creation. When you select a Creation, you will go to the Media Player (see section 2.6), which allows you to play your Creation.

As you can see at 1 in fig. 2, the "Edit" and "Delete" buttons are disabled when you have not selected anything. "Edit" is discussed more in section 3.0. "Delete" will show you a popup and ask if you really want to delete the Creation as deletion cannot be undone (see section 2.7.2)

At 2 in fig. 2, you can see the sorting options for the list. Each Creation has four attributes that you can sort the Creation List by, in addition to the "To Review" sorting option (see section 4.0):

- Name: A-Z and Z-A alphabetical reordering
- Views: How many times you've viewed it - from least to most viewed and vice versa
- Confidence Rating: How confident you feel about the creation. See section 4.0
- Date Created: You can sort by "Newest" and "Oldest" in terms of when a Creation was made

2.2 Search screen

When you click “Create” or “Create New” you will reach the search screen.



Figure 3 - Search Screen

The prominent feature on this page is pointed to by 1 in fig. 3. This is the search bar, where you enter the term you would like to search Wikipedia for.

There are a couple of things to note about the search bar:

- You can click “Search” OR press the Enter key on your keyboard to initiate the search once you have entered your search term
- Images will begin downloading as you search. This and searching will require an internet connection
- As shown by 2 in fig. 3, there is a search suggestion to help you in choosing what you want to search for. You can click or press enter on your keyboard to select something in the suggestion, and navigate up and down with the up and down arrows on your keyboard, or with your mouse.

The area shown at 3 in fig. 3 shows you how far along the Creation building process you are. There are 4 steps.

The cancel button at 4 in fig. 3 will return you to the welcome page.

The Creation List is greyed out because you can't play/edit/delete a creation while making a new one. This is persistent across all screens of the Creation building screens.

2.3 Snippet editor

Once the search has been completed, the text that was retrieved from Wikipedia will be placed into the Snippet Editor screen (below)

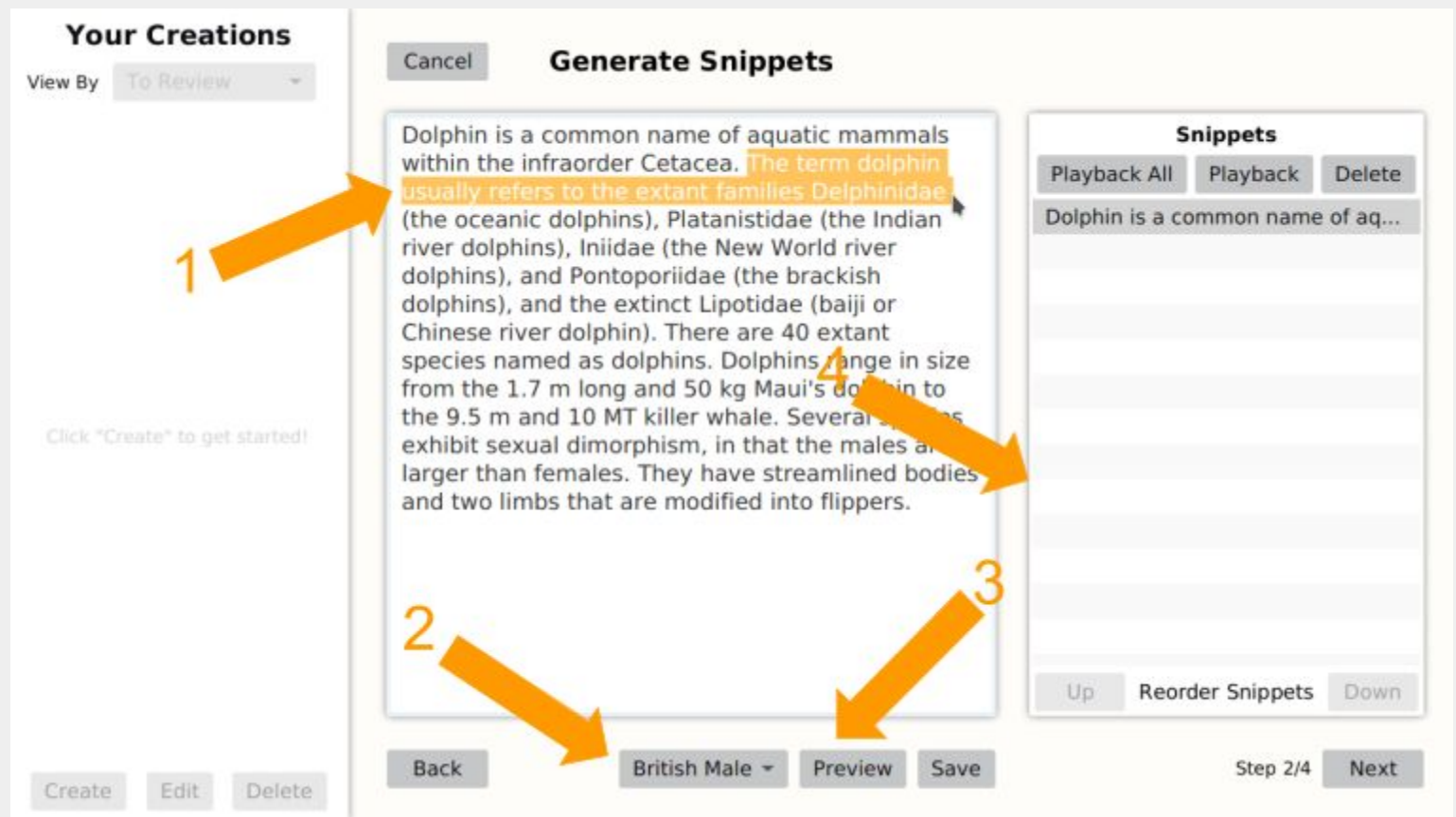


Figure 4 - Snippet Editor

The Snippet Editor is where you have the most control over the Creation Building process.

- As shown at 1 in fig. 4, you can highlight text to make a Snippet
 - You can highlight up to 40 words per Snippet (see section 2.3.2)
 - You are able to edit the text in this text area, adding and removing the text that appears there
- Then, you can choose a voice for the Snippet (shown at 2, and in section 2.3.1 below)
- You can then click "Preview" to preview the Snippet (as of 3) with the selected voice
- Click "Save" to save it, where it will appear in the Snippet List in (as of 4)
- In the Snippet List, you can:
 - Click "Playback All" to automatically playback multiple audio Snippets in order
 - Click "Playback" to playback the selected Snippet
 - Click "Delete" to remove the selected Snippet
 - Click "Up" or "Down" to change the order of the selected Snippet
 - Click and drag the selected Snippet over another Snippet to change the Snippet order

Note: "Preview", "Playback", and "Playback All" can be pressed again to stop audio playback

There are three more important buttons:

- The "Back" button will return you to the Search screen (see section 2.2)
- The "Cancel" button will show you a popup (see section 2.7.1), and if you confirm, it will discard all your changes and bring you back to the Welcome screen (see section 2.1)
- The "Next" button will take you to the Image Previewing screen (see section 2.4)

2.3.1 Voice Selection

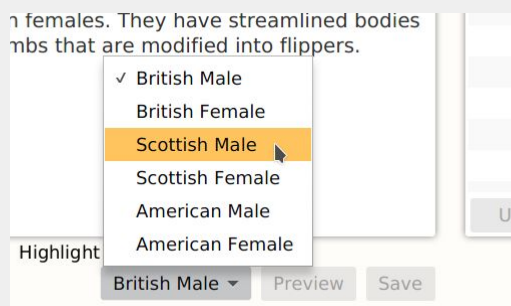


Figure 5 - Voice Selection

When making a Snippet you need to choose a voice for the text-to-speech. There are 3 accents available, with female and male variants, as seen in fig. 5:

- British
- Scottish
- American

You can change the voice for a Snippet only before you save it.

2.3.2 Word Highlighting limit

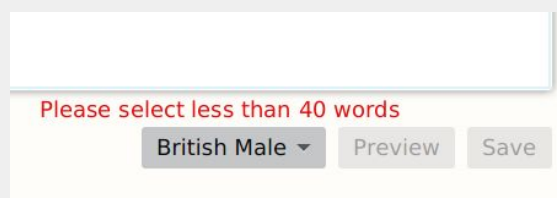


Figure 6 - Highlighting Limit

Due to restrictions with the text-to-speech synthesizer, synthesizing more than 40 words is disallowed. As a result, when attempting to preview or save a Snippet of greater than 40 words you'll see an error message as in fig. 4.2

Simply reduce the number of words you want to turn into a Snippet or make multiple Snippets for that sequence

2.4 Image previewer

The Image Previewer allows you to preview and rearrange the images used for Slideshow for the Creation. It will initially show 10 images, and you can delete up to 9 of the images.

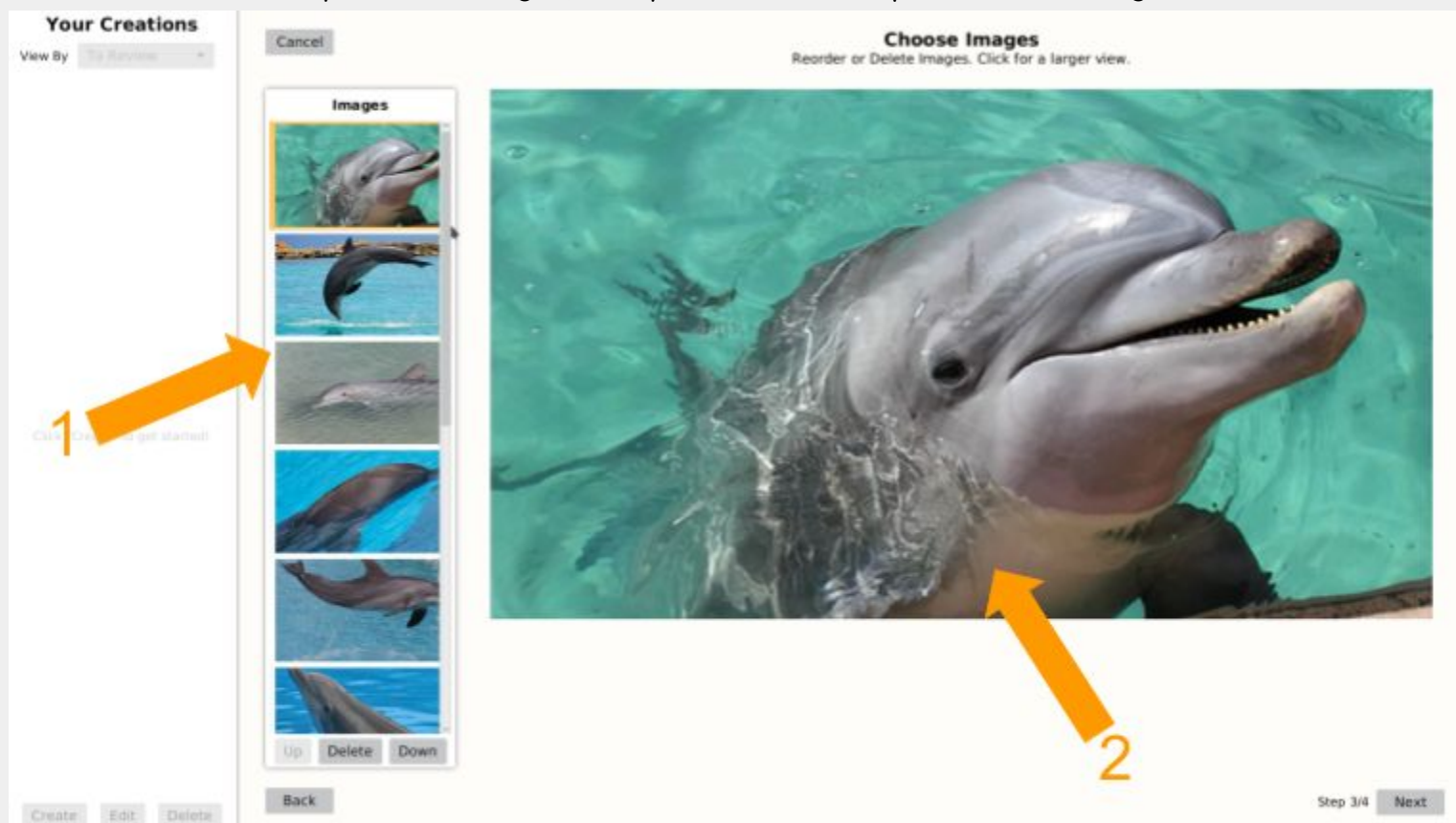


Figure 7 - Image Previewer

In the Image Previewer, there are two main components: the image list (shown at 1 in fig. 7), and the image display at 2 in fig. 7 shown in the centre of the Image Previewer. The image at the top of the list will become the first image in the Slideshow and your Creation thumbnail.

To interact with the image list, you need to select an image. From there you can:

- View the image in the image display & decide if you like it
- Click the “Up” or “Down” button to swap the image with the one above/below it
- Click the “Delete” button to delete the image from the list. This cannot be undone
- Click and drag a selected image over another image to change the image order

There are three other buttons on this screen that are important:

- The “Back” button will return you to the Snippet Editor screen (see section 2.3) with all your changes from previously
- The “Cancel” button will show you a popup (see section 2.7.1), and if you confirm, it will discard all your changes, and bring you back to the Welcome screen (see section 2.1)
- The “Next” button will take you to the Naming screen (see section 2.5)

2.5 Naming & Background music selection

This screen is the final part of the Creation building process, where you name the creation and choose whether you want background music to play alongside the Snippets you’ve selected

The screenshot shows the 'Your Creations' screen. On the left, there's a sidebar with 'View By' set to 'To Review' and a 'Cancel' button. The main area has a 'Name' field with 'Dolphin' entered, a 'Background Music' dropdown set to 'None', and a 'Preview' button. A large orange arrow labeled '1' points to the 'Name' field. Another large orange arrow labeled '2' points to the 'Preview' button. Below these is a 'CREATE' button. At the bottom, there are 'Create', 'Edit', and 'Delete' buttons, and a 'Back' button. The text 'Click "Create" to get started!' is visible. The bottom right corner shows 'Step 4/4'.

Figure 8 - Naming & background music selection

The area indicated by 1 in fig. 8 is where you will type what you want to name your new Creation. The application will disable the “Create” button if you try to name it the same as an existing Creation or leave the name field blank.

The “Background Music” dropdown will be discussed below in section 2.5.1.

When you click the “Create” button, a progress bar & progress text will appear (see section 2.5.2)

2.5.1 Background Music

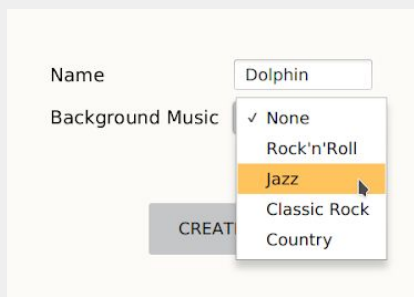


Figure 9 - Background music select

There are four different background tracks you can use in this VARpedia. The genres of the tracks are (as per fig. 9):

- Rock'n'Roll
- Jazz
- Classic Rock
- Country

Preview any of these tracks using the “Preview” button indicated by 2 in fig. 8

You can also choose to use no background music for your Creation

2.5.2 Progress Bar

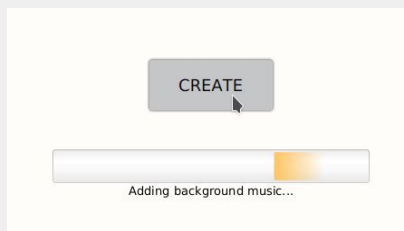


Figure 10 - Progress Bar

The Progress Bar as seen in fig. 10 appears once you have clicked “Create”. The text under the Progress Bar says what is happening within the application. The text you should expect is as follows:

- Combining Snippets...
- Calculating duration...
- Creating video...
- Creating thumbnail...
- Adding background music...
- Adding audio...
- Saving creation...

If the Creation building process fails, then a popup letting you know will appear (see section 2.7.3)

2.6 Media player

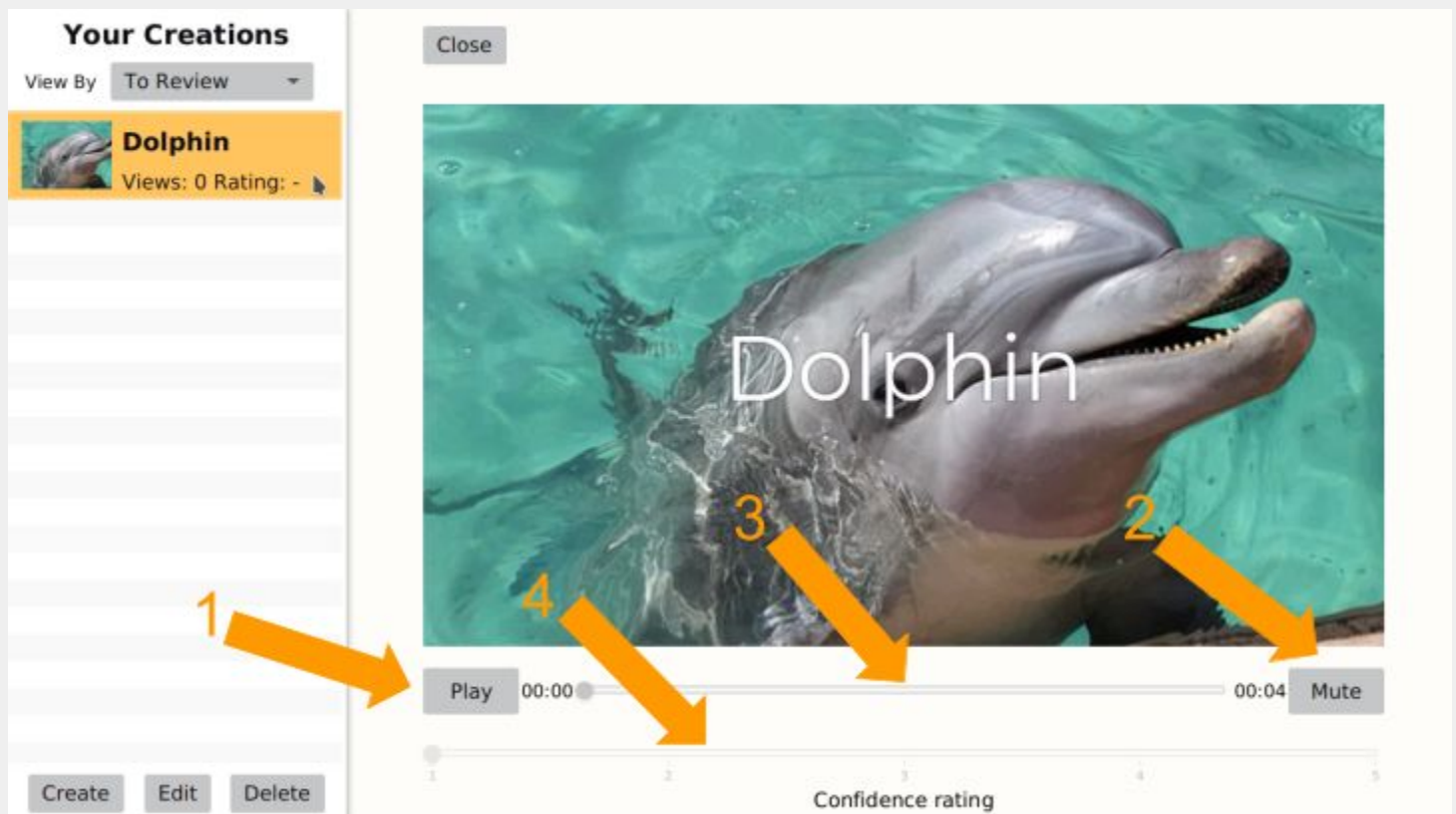


Figure 11 - Media player

The Media Player is the way that you are able to view your Creations. A breakdown of the controls follow:

- The “Play” button indicated at 1 in fig. 11 is what you will press to begin playing the Creation
 - “Play” will become “Pause” when you start playing
 - If you un-pause the video, the “Pause” button will become “Play” again
- The “Mute” button indicated at 2 in fig. 11 will mute the audio but the video will continue playing
 - “Mute” will become “Muted” when you mute the video
 - You can press the “Muted” button again to un-mute the video
- The Video Progress slider indicated by 3 in fig. 11 lets you “scrub” through the video
 - You can click on the grey dot, and drag it along the slider to move it back or forward
- The Confidence Rating slider indicated by 4 in fig. 11 goes between 1-5 to indicate your confidence level with that Creation. This will be discussed in section 4.0
 - You can click on the grey dot, and drag it along the slider, and when you drop it, it will snap to the closest number. This number is your confidence rating for the Creation. See fig. 2 for some examples. This can only be done once the Creation has been viewed.

2.7 Popups

There are a couple of popup windows that you might see while using VARpedia Senior

2.7.1 Cancel popup

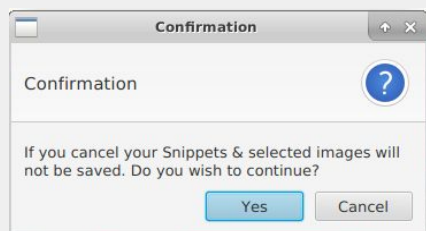


Figure 12 - Cancel popup

The popup you can see in fig. 12 is simply asking if you understand that pressing cancel will cause your current Creation building and all associated data (eg. edited text, Snippets, image ordering, name) to be discarded

2.7.2 Delete popup

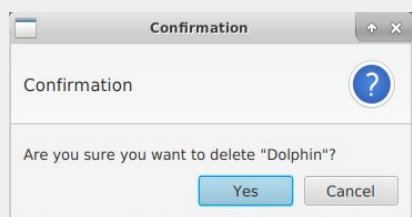


Figure 13 - Delete popup

The popup in fig. 13 is simply confirmation that you want to delete the Creation. Sometimes you may have put a lot of work into a Creation, and this popup prevents you from accidentally deleting the Creation.

2.7.3 Failed Creating popup



Figure 14 - Failed Creating popup

Sometimes the Creation you are trying to build fails to be created. This is unfortunate, and may just represent something going wrong with the application. In these cases, the popup in fig. 14 will occur.

If this happens, we suggest beginning the Creation process anew, restarting the application, or see section 5.1

3.0 Editing a creation

This VARpedia Senior application allows you to edit a Creation once it has been built. The process is fairly simple. Once a Creation has been created, you can simply press the “Edit” button in the Creation List (see section 2.1.1). This will skip the Search screen and take you into a slightly modified Creation process. The changes are described below:

3.1 Snippet Editor

The Snippet Editor screen (see section 2.3) will retain all your previously saved Snippets & your edits to the text area. The “Back” button is no longer present.

3.2 Image Previewer

The Image Previewer screen will not have changed from section 2.4 but will have redownloaded 10 images for the search term of the creation & you will be presented with a full 10 images to choose from and reorder. This is done in case you wanted to add more images to your Creation.

3.3 Naming & background music selection

This screen is basically the same as discussed in section 2.5. The name of the creation and the background music you selected will be auto-filled. The “Create” button is simply renamed to “Save” but serves the same functionality as previously.

If you change the name of your Creation, then that will be reflected on the final copy in the Creation List.

3.4 Post Edit

Your edited Creation will have its Views and Rating removed. It is likely that your Creation will have changed enough to significantly lower/raise its difficulty, and as such the clearing of stats reflects this.

4.0 Active learning component

This VARpedia comes with an active learning/memory retention component to aid in recall. Creations can be used to keep track of your grasp on a topic. The learning component of this VARpedia involves the Creation list, Confidence Rating slider (see section 2.6), and the “To Review” sorting option.

4.1 To Review sorting option

VARpedia opens by default on the “To Review” sorting option, in order to very clearly indicate which Creations need review. There are several things going on behind the scenes in order to sort the Creation List by the Creations most needing review.



Figure 15 - A Creation

A Creation has 5 attributes, 3 which are visible (see fig. 15), and 3 of which are used to give it weight for reviewing. The attributes are:

- Name
- View count (used for weighing)
- Confidence Rating (used for weighing)
- Date created (not visible)
- When it was last viewed (not visible, used for weighing)

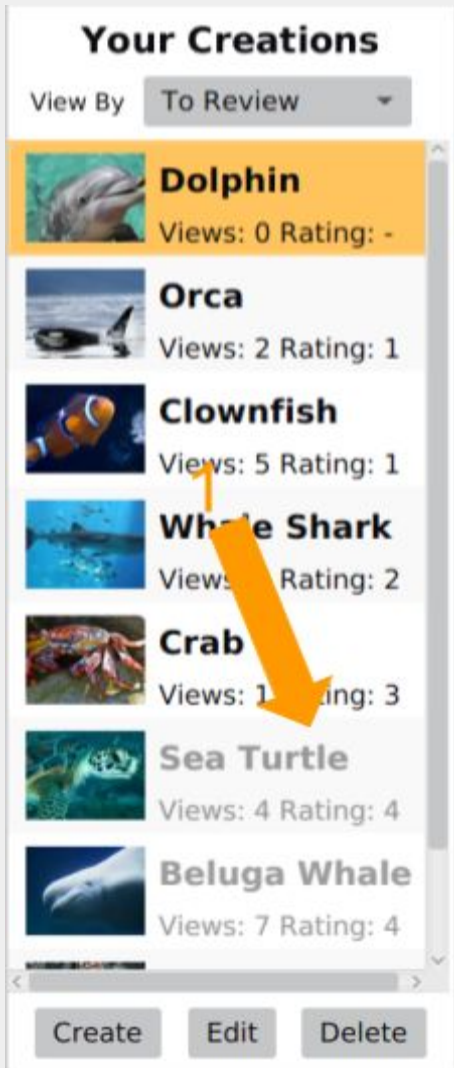


Figure 16 - Creation List sorted by "To Review"

4.1.1 Confidence Rating

The Confidence Rating is the primary factor that "To Review" takes into account. As it is a self-reported indicator of where you're at, it has the most impact compared to views.

Any review with a Confidence Rating of 4 or above will be greyed out so you aren't distracted by Creations you know well (see 1 in fig. 16). To play greyed out Creations, change "View By" to another option.

A Creation which hasn't yet been viewed or rated will appear at the top of the list

4.1.2 View Count

The view count of a Creation is used to indicate how much you've reviewed a Creation. If you've reviewed a Creation many times, then it shows that either you know it quite well, or you're really stuck on that Creation. This is taken into account when comparing two creations with the same confidence rating.

4.1.3 Last Viewed

The "last Viewed" attribute of a Creation simply serves as a marker of how recently the creation has been reviewed. This is used to determine whether a Creation with the same Confidence Rating and view count should be prioritised.

4.1.4 Name

Sometimes the name is used for simple alphabetical ordering if some of the other comparisons are the same.

5.0 Technical Issues

5.1 Contact your system administrator

If your VARpedia was configured, setup and installed by a system administrator, then we recommend getting in contact with them and asking them to take a look. There are several things you can do to make it easier for them:

1. Take thorough notes of what you have already tried
2. Make sure the files for the application are easy to locate
3. Let the system administrator know if you have deleted any files, and what files they are.