

MXNet Weekly Digest

Background:

MXNet is an actively contributed library/framework. There are lots of moving parts. It's a dynamic environment and hence for a user or any individual in community (especially outside Amazon) it is very easy to be overwhelmed and left confused. The website provides information about what the framework is known to provide. But what about the updates. May it be the new tutorials written, new mentions in conferences, new papers published or features added. It's a long wait for the next version release to tell me the new features. Moreover, it doesn't really give me as a user a snapshot of MXNet library progress.

Motivation:

UPDATE / TOUCH BASE

What's going on with MXNet? What are those guys upto? Just like we have a responsibility to deliver features week over week, it would be great to let the people know what we are upto. Such a weekly digest could serve that purpose.

DRIVER OF USER ADOPTION

A weekly digest takes stock of all things MXNet. It enables users to get a feel for weekly progress and thus get more involved and hopefully that will spur **Increased community involvement and engagement.**

UNIQUENESS

Weekly updates, weekly newsletter for Deep Learning frameworks isn't currently in place. (Tensorflow, MXNet, PyTorch doesn't have one). At the same time, it might prove to be beneficial for keeping the community, developers, users and MXNet org on the same page.

Features:

- Quick snapshot
 - Akin to Medium blog posts that calculate “time-to-read”
 - Ideally be a 1 minute (maximum capped at 3mins)
 - Less verbose, More data driven, Visual and Annotated with links
- Segmented
- Convenient
 - Delivered right to your mailbox
- Timely
 - Weekly digest seems to be scalable and meaningful option
 - Case against Daily
 - Making it daily would seem like “bombarded with info”
 - Besides there are only “finite” updates for the day (even for a large evolving framework like MXNet)
 - Case against Monthly
 - Too infrequent

- Critical at this moment, to ensure “Engagement”, “Involvement”

Example:

[@weeklyDigest.pdf](#)



Week In Review

Latest Updates

1. MXNet Horovod Integration - MXNet can now leverage Uber's open source distributed training framework
2. FP 32 support - New addition to the MXNet as we continue to improve the framework
3. Gluon NLP, Gluon CV - User requests for NLP and CV frameworks now answered - Gluon to the rescue.
4. Updated documentation and richer interface of the official website - Visit <http://mxnet.incubator.apache.org/>

Special Mentions

1. Xilinx Developer Conference
 1. Xilinx Day 1 VP address
 2. Day 2 Keynote
2. Amazon All Hands



Noteworthy Contributions



1. @abcde
2. @xyz
3. @1234
4. @qwer
5. @asdf

First Applause

1. @poi
2. @lkj
3. @mnb
4. @fghtb

Recent Blog Posts

- [What is reinforcement learning anyways?](#)
- [Amazon Sage Maker](#)
- [Using Apache MXNet with Amazon SageMaker](#)
- [MXNet Gluon in 60-minutes](#)

New Partners



MXNet v1.3

Avg Downloads 2422 (8% ↑)
Avg. Installs 1652 (5% ↑)

Keras MXNet v2.2.2

Avg Downloads 709 (5% ↓)
Avg. Installs 721 (2% ↑)



Community 709 (5% ↓)
Commits 721 (2% ↑)

PR 709 (5% ↓)
Issues 721 (2% ↑)

To keep up-to-date with what's new in the world of MXNet, follow us at

Twitter: [@ApacheMXNet](#)

Medium: [apache-mxnet](#)

Youtube: [apachemxnet](#)

Reddit: [r/mxnet](#)

Slideshare: [Slideshare Apache MXNet](#)

Meetup: [Deep Learning With Apache MXNet](#)

Latest Updates

- Foremost reason why this weekly digest idea came to my mind.

- *I want to know what big, important, relevant features/updates were made in MXNet*

Special Mentions

- These are all the places where MXNet was being talked about. It lets the community know our *work is being acknowledged* and we are *making the real difference*.
 - E.g. recent mentions at Xilinx Developer Conference, All Hands

Github contributions

- It helps encourage *existing community members* (committers) to contribute more towards the library (Although measuring the “noteworthiness” is a topic of discussion)

Applause

- How many *new members* added to the community? What's the barrier for entry? Who has joined in the last week?
- *“I'd love to see my name on a framework for the first contribution I make towards the community”*

Recent Blog Posts

- Tonnes of content being generated. But how to stay on top of all that?

BESIDES, THERE SHOULD BE 1 STOP SHOP FOR ALL THE TUTORIALS CATEGORIZED BY DATE AND SUBJECT

New Partners

- Lets the community know that the aim of MXNet framework is to be a state-of-the-art ML framework.
- Industry wide adoption is the holy grail. But every step taken towards it should be broadcasted to the community.
- *Seeing this, users might ask their own companies, or acquaintances to adopt MXNet.*

MXNet in Numbers

- Everyone loves data. One way to truly get a sense of “involvement” and “membership” is to be shared the details.
- The truth lies in details and the numbers would serve as an indicator of the same.
- *Transparency, Accountability* and feeling of *Involvement* would be achieved through this.

Social Media

- MXNet needs more engagement on social media and this weekly digest would serve as another stream for user interaction

Open questions

1. How should the weekly digest be drafted?
 - a. Fully Automated vs Semi-Automated vs Manual drafting
 - b. Content privacy/IP considerations
2. What about Ownership and Verification?
 - a. Is it going to be done by single person or a team? Answering any potential questions based on the choice taken.
 - b. Who all needs to be involved to verify the data that's being posted is correct?
3. What do you mean by Noteworthiness of a contribution?
 - a. Quantity vs Quality
4. Ordering of various aspects of the weekly digest.

- a. Should Github contributions be top most? Or the blog posts?
 - b. Experiments could be run to find out what appeals to the users and if it makes sense or not.
5. Is weekly way too much? What about monthly?