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# Incident documentation/20160721-LocalRenameUserJob

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## Summary

MediaWiki [1.28.0-wmf.11](#) included changes to the jobs for CentralAuth's global renaming process which left local accounts of renamed user unattached on some wikis while the Wikimedia production cluster was running mixed versions of MediaWiki. At 2016-07-20T20:06Z the group1 wikis were [updated to 1.28.0-wmf.11](#) [↗](#). Group1 includes meta which is the wiki where stewards and global renamers approve rename requests. The 1.28.0-wmf.11 version of this process starts by detaching the local wiki accounts for the user being renamed as part of the mitigation for [task T119736](#). The accounts are reattached at the end of each associated LocalRenameUserJob. Between 2016-07-20T20:06Z and 2016-07-21T19:09Z ([when all wikis changed to 1.28.0-wmf.11](#) [↗](#)), the local jobs run on group2 wikis (functionally the Wikipedia family) did not include the new code needed to reattach the local accounts to the renamed central account.

## Timeline

- 2016-07-15T07:49Z [297946](#) merged to master
- 2016-07-15T19:21Z [bd808](#) asks about consequences of new job introduced in related patch [297936](#) and mixed cluster state. This turns out to be ok, but the changes to the existing job in [297946](#) were not discussed.
- 2016-07-20T20:06Z [group1 to 1.28.0-wmf.11](#) [↗](#)
- 2016-07-20T20:06Z Global renames start leaving group2 wikis unattached after rename.
- 2016-07-21T17:47Z [task T141020](#) opened by [Steinsplitter](#) to examine and correct six renamed users with unattached accounts.
- 2016-07-21T19:09Z [group2 to 1.28.0-wmf.11](#) [↗](#)
- 2016-07-21T19:09Z Global renames stop leaving unattached local users.
- 2016-07-21T19:23Z [legoktm](#) pings [bd808](#) on irc to look at [task T141020](#).
- 2016-07-21T19:35Z [bd808](#) determines likely root cause of mismatched MW versions and starts trying to find all affected users in logs.
- 2016-07-21T19:44Z Priority of [task T141020](#) raised to UBN! by [MarcoAurelio](#) due to potentially severe end user impact.
- 2016-07-21T20:27Z [bd808](#) finds 54 renames that may have been affected.
- 2016-07-21T23:19Z [bd808](#) runs [custom maintenance script](#) to reattach any unattached local accounts for the 54 renames. The script finds and fixes 18 accounts.
- 2016-07-21T23:23Z [bd808](#) lowers priority of [task T141020](#) to High.
- 2016-07-22T20:53Z [bd808](#) follows up by grepping all renames done in July from logs on fluorine and running them through the cleanup script. Of the 748 accounts checked, 3 more were found with unattached local accounts. Only one of the three was due to the same root cause and happened during the previously identified time period.
- 2016-07-22T22:34Z [bd808](#) writes up incident and closes [task T141020](#) as resolved!

## Conclusions

- Letting changes to existing jobs ride the train is potentially dangerous if the job runs on the local wiki rather

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than the submitting wiki. More care should be taken when writing and merging such changes to ensure that they are rolled out to all wikis in a very short time window.

## Actionables

- Do we still track "scap traps" somewhere?

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