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Incident documentation/20170721-Train-Wikidata

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Summary

Several bugs in wikidata (which began with the MediaWiki Train deployment for 1.30.0-wmf.10) resulted in holding back wikidatawiki deployments for multiple weeks. This remained unresolved until 1.30.0-wmf.14 on 2017-08-16.

Timeline

Multiple related issues:

- 1st: [phab:T164173](#): jobs causing db replag lag
 - First reported on *April 30th* and after some investigation it was eventually closed with the assumption that it was a one-time fluke caused by an api user's activity. This appears to have been a reasonable assumption given the limited information available at the time.
 - jcespo reopened on *May 19* saying *"This just happened again on s4."*
 - Krinkle spotted this again on *July 21* *"This caused an error spike in Logstash: <https://logstash.wikimedia.org/goto/709280746172b68115f62db346b06201>"*
 - <https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/T164173>: Cache invalidations coming from the JobQueue are causing lag on several wikis
- 2nd: attempt to fix 1 causing [phab:T171370](#)
 - July 21* Krinkle filed a related task, saying *"Started with wmf.10. Presumably caused by <https://gerrit.wikimedia.org/r/364094>"*
 - <https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/T171370>: ERROR: "LBFactory::getEmptyTransactionTicket: WikiPageUpdater::injectRCRecords does not have outer scope"
- 3rd: attempt to fix 2 causing [phab:T172320](#)
 - August 2* - mmodell discovered a new error during routine monitoring of the wmf.12 train deployment.
 - <https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/T172320>: Error in Wikibase/client/includes/Changes/InjectRCRecordsJob.php line 120: Bad value for parameter \$params: \$params['change'] not set.
 - August 3* - A hot fix was written and deployed, but apparently did not work (unclear, maybe Aude knows) <https://gerrit.wikimedia.org/r/#/c/369847/>
 - A full fix was written and merged into Wikibase master <https://gerrit.wikimedia.org/r/#/c/369881/>
 - As an additional complication, the Wikidata Build had been broken, so changes merged into Wikibase master would not be deployed. See [phab:T172616](#) for one reason the build was delayed.
 - The Wikidata build was fixed on August 15 (or so - ask Aude), a wikidata wmf.14 branch was cut including the fix, and got deployed with core wmf.14. This seems to have fixed the issue.



- <https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/T171370>

Conclusions

- Wikimedia Release Engineering lacks visibility and understanding necessary for a swift response to release-critical issues in Wikidata.
 - For future reference, see [How to determine the deployed Wikidata version](#) and [How to deploy Wikidata code](#).
- Wikidata's build process is complex & opaque.
 - This adds complexity and delays the deployment of hot-fixes.
- The Wikidata release cadence is out of sync with the MediaWiki Train.
 - Compatibility of the Wikidata build with MediaWiki core is ensured only on a snapshot-by-snapshot basis. There is no way to know whether a wmf6 build of Wikidata is compatible with the wmf5 or wmf7 branch of core.
 - This leads to uncertainty and confusion when branching and more importantly, when rolling back a deployment due to errors.

Actionables

- [Epic] Kill the Wikidata build step: [phab:T173818](#)
- Make sure we notice errors in the logs of the beta cluster; for this case specifically, errors related to the Wikidata change notification mechanism.

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