Colouring Cities Core Platform Updates

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As we move from the Colouring London prototype to the expanding Colouring Cities Research Programme (CCRP), we have decided to make several changes to the [colouring-cities organisation](https://github.com/colouring-cities/) on GitHub to enable better collaboration between the various projects.

We do not expect these changes to significantly impact the existing “Colouring...” projects. However, we have detailed the changes in this document to minimise confusion and explain our vision for the CCRP moving forward.

# Colouring Core

The idea behind creating the ‘colouring core’ platform is to have a single base repository from which all other Colouring Cities projects are forked. That way, developers on all projects can share their features and innovations with the rest of the CCRP by folding those changes back into the Core platform.

# Colouring London transition

The problem was that several projects were already forked from the Colouring London repository. For example, the two projects shown in the diagram below.

Colouring London (Prototype)

Colouring
Australia

Colouring
Columbia

Introducing a new ‘core’ repository into this organisation structure would have led to additional work for the Colouring London team, and all the projects forked from Colouring London.

Instead, we decided to go with a new structure, which involved renaming some of the Colouring Cities Repositories:

* We renamed the ‘colouring-london’ repository to ‘colouring-core’.
* A new ‘colouring-london’ repository has been created, forked from ‘colouring-core’.

We appreciate that this may cause some confusion, but we decided it was the best way to move the project forward.

The new organisation structure looks like this:

Colouring Core Platform

Colouring
Australia

Colouring
Columbia

Colouring London (New)

This change puts the onus on us to make changes to the Core and London platforms, rather than on our partners to have to adapt to fit in with this new structure.

# Moving Forward

The new structure is intended to make easier to customize local platforms while minimising the divergence in codebases between project and allowing certain new features to be merged back into the core platform. Ideally, all CCRP projects should be forked from the new Core repository and should contribute any useful features back to the Core Platform.

We encourage all Colouring Cities projects to implement new city-specific things by modifying the colouring-core repository via pull requests and configuring it locally, rather than making changes locally and diverging from the core repository, where possible. The aim of the restructure is to minimise the amount of duplicate effort and city-speicifc code in each project, and to ensure that new developments and features can be shared with all CCRP members.

*Please report and/or submit Pull Resuests about any London-specific things that you find in the code, so that they can be moved into the new configuration file system (see other document attached to this email for details).*

# Possible Problems

We do not expect these changes to cause any technical problems, beyond some minor confusion. Projects previously forked from Colouring London automatically update on GitHub, and their relationship with the core repository will be preserved.

There may be some issues, however. For example, you may have cloned the old ‘colouring-london’ repository using GitHub Desktop. In that case, the application may now point to the new ‘colouring-london’ repository instead of automatically updating to point to ‘colouring-core’.

Please ensure that any links and references in your code, documentation and applications are updated to reflect this new structure. Also, please double-check that you are using the correct repository before checking in any code.

# Feedback

If you experience any issues with the new organisation structure, feel free to give us feedback using the discussion features on GitHub or create an issue.