MDN Contributor survey

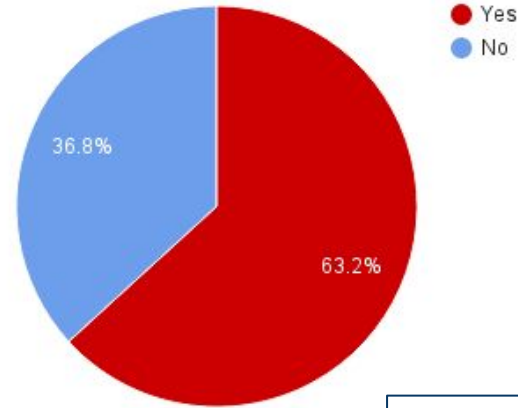*Survey run in September 2016*

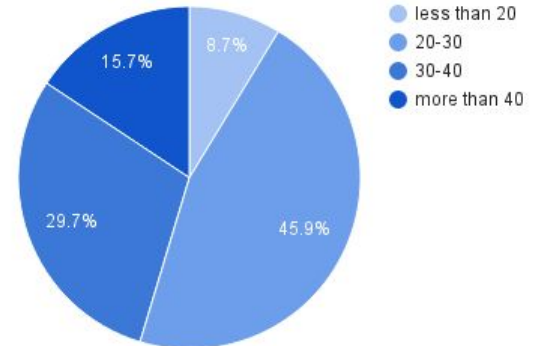# *Survey demographics*

Generic profile

This survey was run for 2 weeks in September 2016, getting answers from 174 MDN contributors.

Among the respondents, we get the following demographic breakdowns.
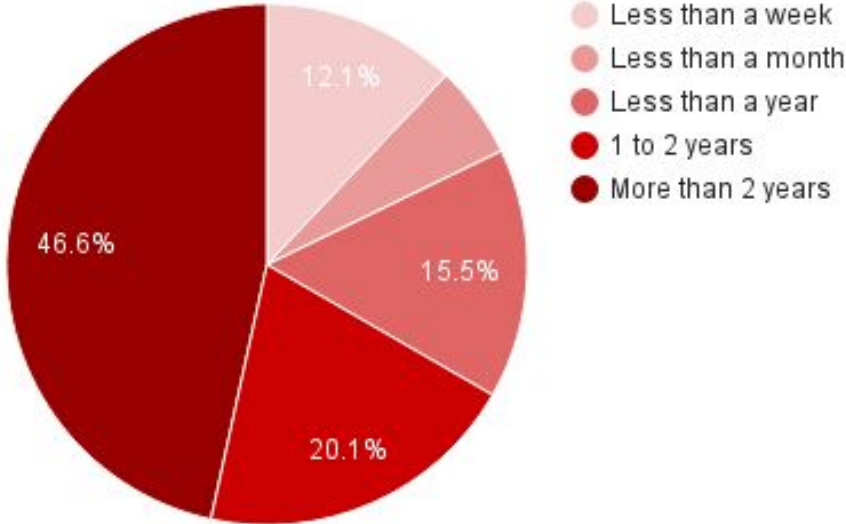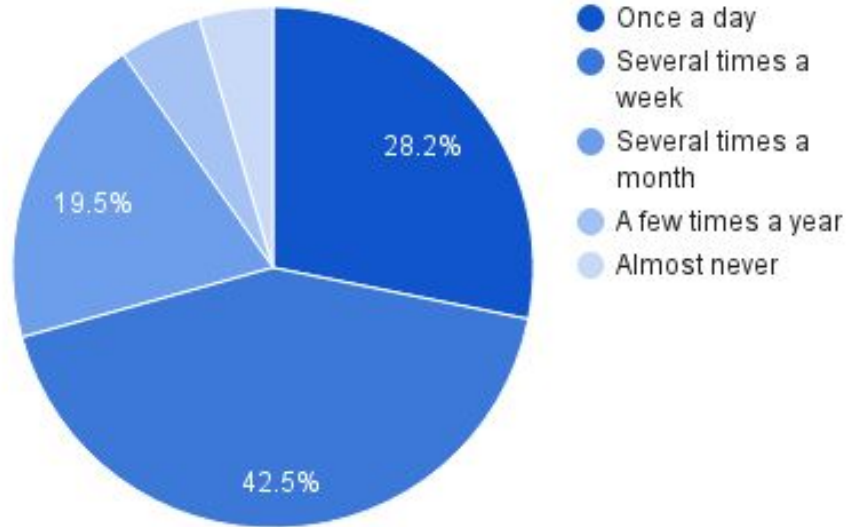

Is web development your job?

Yes
No

36.8%
63.2%

How old are you?

less than 20
20-30
30-40
more than 40

8.7%
15.7%
29.7%
45.9%

When reading MDN

For how long have you been an MDN reader?

How often do you read MDN?

What makes MDN a useful resource for you?

When asked for the main reason MDN is useful the most common answers circle around three points:

1. MDN's completeness, accuracy and trustworthiness
2. MDN as their main point of reference for web technologies, especially JavaScript
3. The fact MDN is simple and concise in tone with great examples, good both for beginners and advanced users

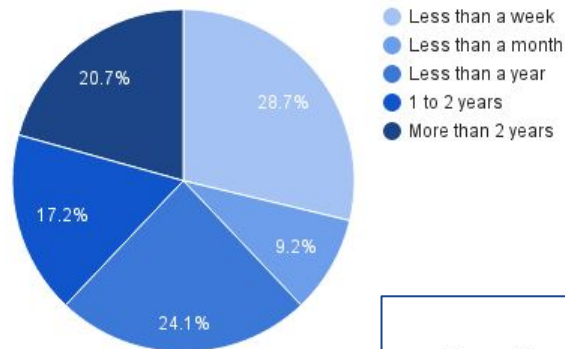# What would make MDN an even better resource for you?

1. More examples
   (*Preferably interactive*)
2. More content
   (*Either for beginners or advanced users*)
3. Better content architecture
   (*Increase findability at both site level or content level*)
4. Better site search
5. More up to date content and more l10n content

6. Video content
   (*Especially tutorials*)
7. Offline support
8. More browser compatibility data
9. Quiz and assessment tools
10. Comment and discussion on pages
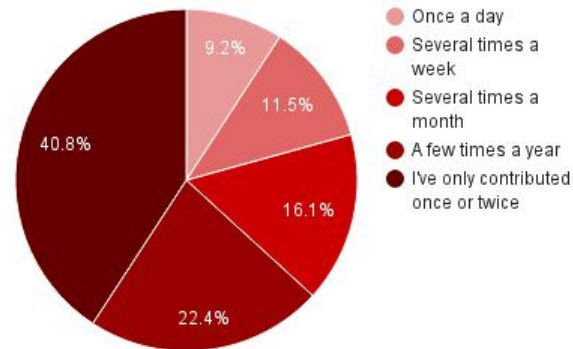
A journey as contributor

Contributor profile

The information we get here tends to match our own data about contribution (even if there is a small bias in favor of core contributors) indicating that the relevance of our contributor sample can be considered accurate.

For how long have you been an MDN contributor?

- Less than a week
- Less than a month
- Less than a year
- 1 to 2 years
- More than 2 years

28.7%
9.2%
24.1%
17.2%
20.7%

How often do you contribute to MDN?

- Once a day
- Several times a week
- Several times a month
- A few times a year
- I've only contributed once or twice
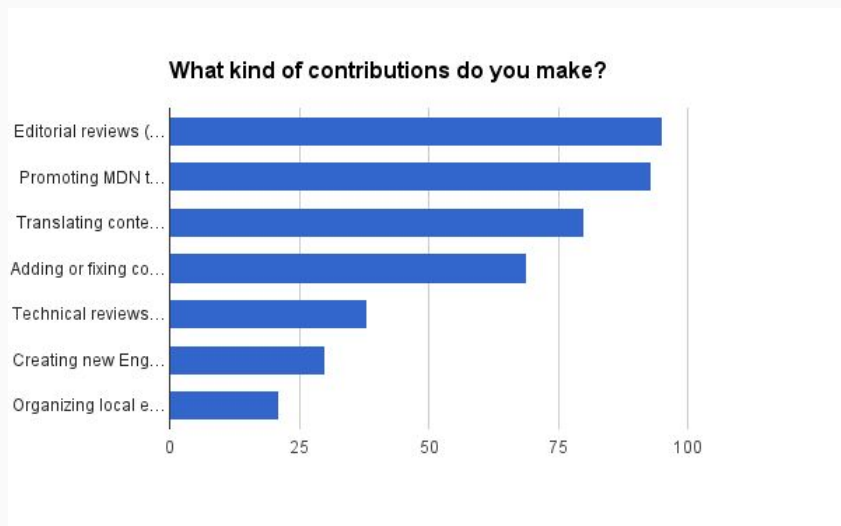
9.2%
11.5%
16.1%
22.4%
40.8%

What is the main reason you contribute to MDN?

1. **To help** my peers (or Mozilla)
2. To give back to MDN for the help provided
3. To quick fix typos and errors
4. To learn web technologies
5. To localize content
6. To support the Mozilla mission
7. To have fun
8. To feel part of a community
9. For my job or self-branding

How did you discover that it's possible to contribute to MDN?

1. I figured it out by digging into MDN
2. I saw the Edit button
3. I've been told
4. Through other Mozilla contribution points
5. I attended an event
6. Through my Mozilla l10n community

What kind of contributions do you make?
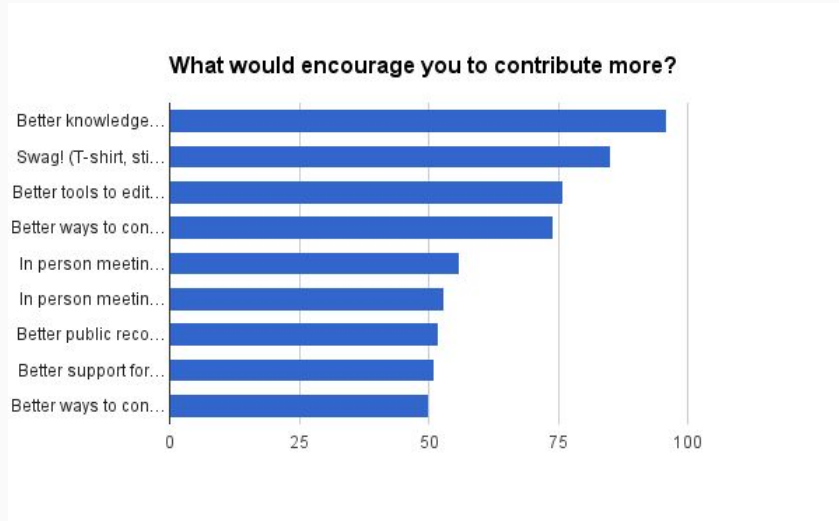

What kind of contributions do you make?

The top two contribution are *Editorial reviews* and *MDN promotion*.

As other possible contributions it is worth mentioning:

- Patching Kuma
- Editing MDN macros
- Updating compatibility tables

What would encourage you to contribute more?

The most important elements to encourage contribution are *a better knowledge of MDN content priorities*, some *swag giveaway*, *better editing tools*, and *better communication tools*.

When we look at the other sources of encouragement, they fit with the answer to the question on the next slide.

What could be added to MDN to encourage others to contribute?

1. Provide a formal public recognition mechanism (*Badges, Points system, etc.*) backup by special swag and people promotion.
2. Increase information about priorities and requirements on content
3. Add more contact points (*In page conversation, comments, discussion forum*)
4. Increase MDN promotion and emphasis editability
5. Work with third parties (*Github, stackoverflow, identity providers*)
6. Clearer and easier to use meta documentation

Verbatim comments

What would make MDN an even better resource for you?

"I prefer W3Schools as the examples are easy to understand and show the useful info on how to use the functions/methods at the very start. I try to use MDN, but more often than not I give in and go somewhere else where the examples and language make sense.

https://developer.mozilla.org/en/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global_Objects/Array/map (WTF?) vs http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref_map.asp (now I understand)"

What is the main reason you contribute to MDN?

"Gratitude, I've been given so much by the IT-community, and it's fun. I feel I'm making a valuable contribution and learning at the same time. Contributing by helping others on a forum makes me feel like a fool because I'm not yet the great authority I'd like to be."

What could be added to MDN to encourage others to contribute?

"The first email I got said "ask any questions you want, don't be shy". The friendly tone in that mail was important. I get warm and friendly feedback. I feel appreciated. So I'd work on the first steps. Make it easier for people to approach you and maybe try to make the site look less crowded."

Any other thought you wish to share with us?

"Keep up the good work."