

# KIWIX



---

ANNUAL REPORT

# 2021

# DO WHAT YOU CAN'T

---

As of January 2021, the average medium-range Android phone's storage capacity was 128 GB. This is enough to store the entirety of Wikipedia 6.3 million articles (87 GB), and then some.

Access to online content, on the other hand, plateaued for the first time. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to keep millions of people at home, including kids that couldn't access online material because, well, they could not afford it.

This is where Kiwix can help. In West Africa, in the Himalayas, and in the Middle East and countless other places we have made more content available to more people.

To our supporters,

To our doubters,

To this guy who told us in 2017 that offline access would be solved by satellites and balloons within 5 years,

This yearly annual report is for you.



## OUR NUMBERS

---

Measuring offline audiences is notoriously hard.

Besides direct server connections, we ask every organisation we work with to tell us how many people they served over the past year. Lateral distribution (people sharing Kiwix with their neighbours and friends) is therefore not accounted for.

---

# 6M

## USERS IN 200+ COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

---

Ranking, number of direct downloads:

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. China         | ...          |
| 2. Cuba          | 223. Nauru   |
| 3. United States | 224. Samoa   |
|                  | 225. Vatican |

We had in 2021 three downloads from machines based in Antarctica, and two from North Korea.

## NEW SCRAPERS...

---

A scraper is a piece of software that is written to identify a particular website's structure and reproduce it in an offline compatible format. Once it has been written, a scraper can often work for other websites using the same technology.

This year we expanded our portfolio with several new or fully revamped scrapers

### ...MORE CONTENT

#### **WikiHow**

The other wiki, but for a much more hands-on approach to things : this collection of how-to guides is now available in 19 languages thanks to support from the **Endless Foundation**.

#### **Wikipedia for Schools**

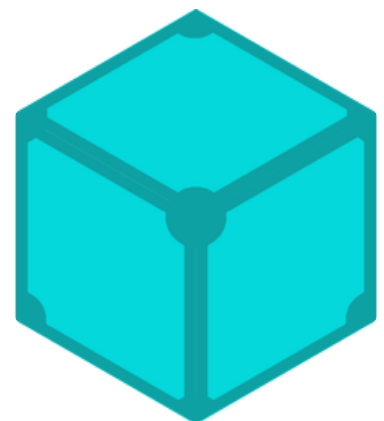
Wikipedia is great, but do schools really want their students fall through this rabbit hole of knowledge, starting at Algebra and ending up six clicks later at the 1954 rugby league world cup? A partnership with **Arizona State University** allows us to offer a selection of 10,000 hand-picked articles fit for school audiences.

#### **Interplanetary File System**

Work with **Protocol Labs** has allowed us to offer an updated and censorship-proof distributed version of Wikipedia in seven languages (ar, en, fa, my, ru, tr, zh), up from two previously.

#### **New languages**

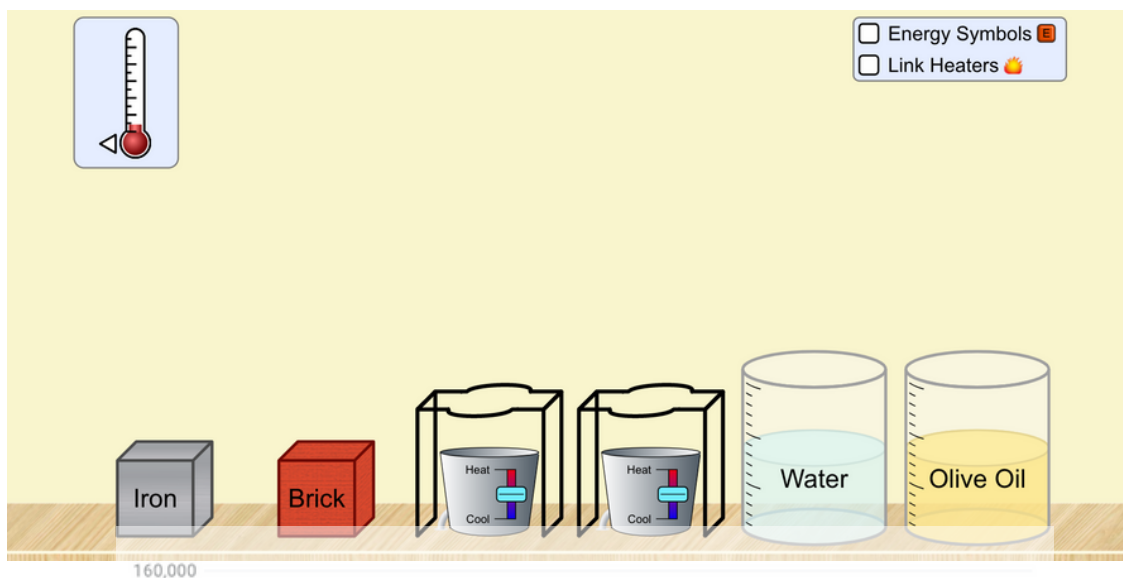
The zimfarm has been updated to now include content in Zangskari (a Ladakhi language) and Dagbani (Northern Ghana).



## GOING VIRAL IN PERU

Among the many fine pieces of content that we re-distribute, a couple have made their way to a dedicated Android App. Basically the zim files are directly appended to the Kiwix backend, making easy to use apps (as opposite to the more generic Kiwix app, which works more like a library).

Wikivoyage and Wikimed come to mind, but also PhET, a suite of very simple chemistry and physics games that allow students to run visual experiments on their phone:



Turns out that because of COVID many kids ended up being stuck at home and unable to do lab work. What's the alternative, then? Well simply download the PhET app and use it instead.

In Peru, downloads of the app suddenly skyrocketed to 8,000 new installations per day between March and May of this year, to about 230,000 active users by the end of the school year.



## KIWIX AT 4,000M ABOVE SEA LEVEL

---

In villages of the Indian Himalayas of Ladakh, over 75% of students and adult learners have had no access to learning since the start of the COVID-19 crisis. Many places don't have 3G towers in their villages. Most can't afford the high data charges anyway.

Other areas have been disrupted by border disputes: the border with China has been closed since the 1960's, and the one with Pakistan is... complicated.



The Yountan Yargyas (“New School”) Project aims to bridge this by creating a meshnet in these remote villages (so any learner of any age can access the service from their homes, schools and offices). They load 1TB SD cards with the best quality, open-source learning materials that will help students keep up with their curricular learning and adults gain skills directly applicable to income generation and staying healthy.

## KIWIX AT 4,000M ABOVE SEA LEVEL

---

This includes a “radio station” (ability to broadcast and livestream) as well as a “Ladakhipedia”. Both constitute a way for young people to gain 21st century skills and to keep traditions alive.

The local Ladakhi language is losing ground because of the pressure on learning the English language, so they use it to create entries about their home villages and cultures in their mother tongue. Kiwix also provides them with copies of YouTube video classes in Ladakhi that they can play offline, as well as a full copy of the local Department of Education's online resources.

The Health, Environment and Literacy Partnerships (HELP) fund does this with Kiwix-serve, which they can use and deploy for free.

## TECH UPDATES

---

Kiwix' code is stored in more than 40 repositories which we maintain continuously. Here are the really big changes for this year.



3.0

### ZIM TOOLS

Zim-tools is the Swiss-army knife for manipulating ZIM files. As a suite of command line tools, this new release is an important milestone in our global QA effort around ZIM files.



7.0

### LIBZIM 7

One year of effort, 15,000 lines of code changed (out of 23,000). Hard to describe but if Kiwix were a car, this would be the valve, turning gas into energy: search, indexing, browsing from one entry to the other are managed there.



GFDL

### FREE LICENSE

All of Kiwix remains free to use, share, look into and modify as granted by the GFDL license. Source code is hosted at [github.com/kiwix](https://github.com/kiwix) and [github.com/openzim](https://github.com/openzim)



METRICS

### METRICS.KIWIX.ORG

As always, you can monitor our work and progress (or lack thereof) at [metrics.kiwix.org](https://metrics.kiwix.org)

## FEELING APPRECIATED

---

Recognition is always nice – Kiwix made it this year to the final shortlist of projects for two of the largest EdTech prizes in the world: the WISE awards from the Qatar Foundation, and MIT Solve (whose previous winners already included projects running Kiwix).



In both cases, Kiwix came out on top of several hundred other competitors.



Kiwix was also offered a fully-paid design sprint by the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland, where we are located.

During five days of design and prototyping, we and the Yverdon engineering school worked on improving the hotspot cardshop user experience.

The new installer interface has very little in common with the old one, as we revisited (and changed) most of our initial assumptions. Stay tuned for a 2022 public release that will allow more people to build their own Kiwix-hotspot, more easily.

## 2021 FINANCIALS

---



Just as much as 2020 was a very bad, not good year, 2021 saw us turn this around thanks to a slight increase in the absolute volume of grants, but also because we have been able to provide (paid) services to partners who use Kiwix to support their own programs.

Going forward this will help us make Kiwix sustainable, and in the short term the objective is to replenish our rainy-day fund that proved so helpful in weathering external shocks.

### Revenue

Donations	3'432.-
Grants	331'430.-
Sale of services	74'686.-
	<hr/>
	409'548.-

### Spending

Staff & Contractors	(261'694.-)
Rent, T&E	(11'302.-)
Marketing (incl. goodies for volunteers)	(19'056.-)
IT and other charges	(18'989.-)
Bank fees	(374.-)
	<hr/>
	311'415.-

Accounting revaluation	1'022.-
Taxes	0.-
	<hr/>

**Net revenue (loss) after taxes** **97'111.-**

All amounts in CHF. Kiwix is a registered not-for-profit with tax-exempt status.



Demonstrating Kiwix in Benin

# Thanks to our partners and supporters

---



Support our mission with a donation at <https://support.kiwix.org>  
or via direct bank transfer via IBAN : CH26 0900 0000 1454 0229 0  
BIC : POFICHBEXX

**And thanks to you!**