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SoftForge Newsletter

December Update

In our final newsletter of 2020, please note our Christmas Opening hours. Also a look at how we have used Progressive Web Apps, the new Google analytics 4, the release of PHP 8 and finally a preview of what is to expect from Joomla 4 being released hopefully in the first quarter of 2021.

Christmas Opening Hours



miTT PWA (Progressive Web App)



GET MITT PWA (PROGRESSIVE WEB AP...



Progressive web apps (PWA) have been around for a while and it is an idea that has caught on slowly. Phil at SoftForge built the companies first PWA almost five years ago. This was for a client who needed the ability for their clients to add a homepage icon to their iPhones for a conference. As browser technology has improved, so PWA have become a practical solution. They rely on the browser to cache and respond to a manifest file placed in the route of your website. miTT PWA is a good example of a commercial PWA that we are trialling. If you think your site could benefit from PWA technology then please do get in touch.

Google Analytics 4

Google Marketing Platform



ANALYTICS

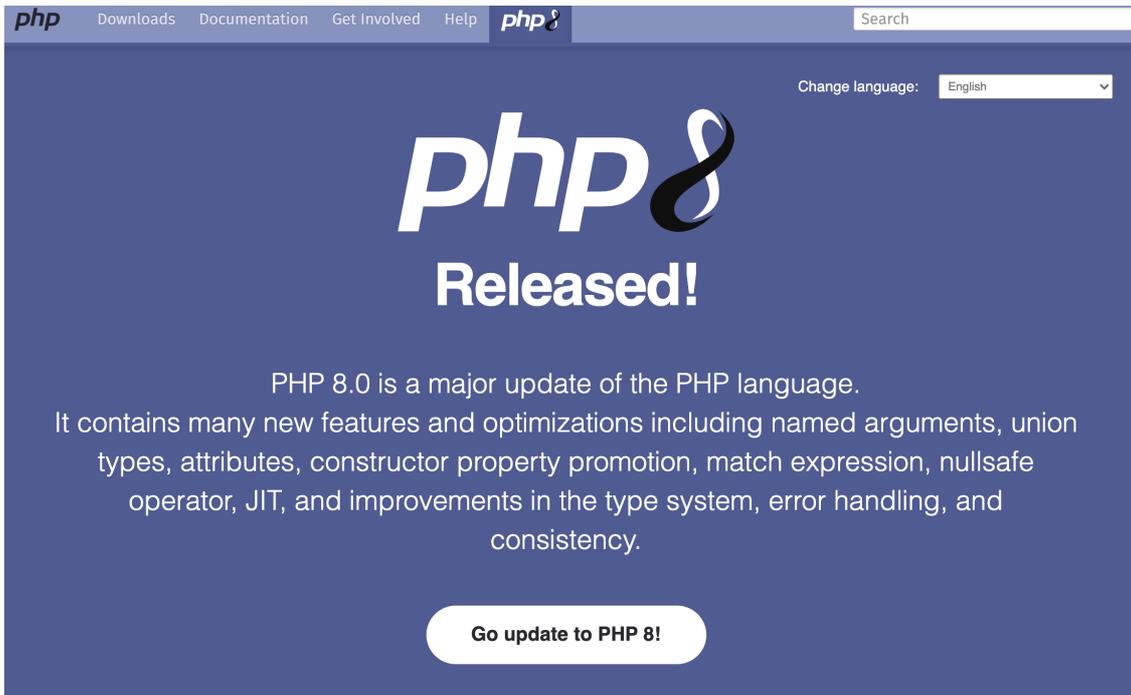
Introducing the new Google Analytics



Google Analytics 4 is the latest incarnation of Google Analytics. It brings together analytics for websites and analytics for apps into one analytics

Christmas period on the SoftForge site and a few client sites with a view to rolling it out in the first few months of the year for those who wish to upgrade to the new analytics.

PHP 8

A screenshot of the PHP 8.0 release announcement page. The page has a dark blue background. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'php', 'Downloads', 'Documentation', 'Get Involved', and 'Help'. A search bar is on the right. Below the navigation, the text 'php 8 Released!' is prominently displayed in white. Underneath, a paragraph describes PHP 8.0 as a major update with new features like named arguments, union types, and JIT. A white button at the bottom says 'Go update to PHP 8!'.

php 8 has arrived and with it comes some impressive speed enhancements for anything that relies heavily on calculations. For websites, the improvement will be small but there are many other efficiencies it brings, for example in ways that code can be written, as well as improved security. We already have this installed on all our servers and are testing its stability. The transition for clients will be seamless.

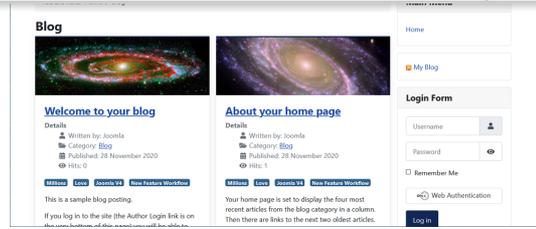
Joomla 4 Front End

With Joomla 4 very much on the horizon, many in the Joomla community have worked hard to produce a new standard Joomla template. You can see examples of the Cassiopeia template below. This follows the improvements recently made to the backend template. Joomla 4 has been through many rounds of refinement and looks to be close to release hopefully before Easter 2021.

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We wish you an amazing Christmas and a Happy New Year! We hope that 2021 will become both a safe, fun and prosperous year.
Phil and Stacey



SoftForge

Stacey Cox

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