CONTENTdm March 2017 Release Notes

Release Date: March 16, 2017

Overview

This release further improves the newly redesigned end-user interface for CONTENTdm. This responsive website adapts to any screen size and has significant usability, performance and accessibility improvements. The responsive website is out of preview and is ready for production.

Several new features and improvements to the responsive website are included in this release. These include support for advanced customizations using custom CSS and JavaScript as well as significant improvements in the speed of compound objects and PDFs. This release is available to users hosted in an OCLC data center.

A note on the new responsive website

The responsive website exists alongside your current 6.x CONTENTdm website. Your public URL will default to your version 6.x website until you request to make the switch. Nothing in 6.x is changing in this release. When you are ready for your end users to start using the new responsive website, contact OCLC Support to schedule the upgrade.

OCLC is continuing to improve the responsive website over the next several months. You decide when there is enough improvement for you and your end users to make the switch. Please see the document *Upgrading to the CONTENTdm Responsive Website* for more details about what to consider before requesting your upgrade.

Features and enhancements

This release continues to add and improve features in the new CONTENTdm responsive website. These improvements are described below.

- Support for advanced customizations that make use of uploaded CSS
- Support for advanced customizations that make use of uploaded JavaScript
- Improved disaster recovery and backups
- Greatly improved speed when switching between items or pages in the compound object viewer
- Improved loading speed of large PDF files
- Several bug fixes

After you have configured your responsive website in the Website Configuration Tool and are ready to make the switch, contact OCLC Support and request that the responsive website be set as your default CONTENTdm homepage. There are several factors to consider before making the switch. Please see the document *Upgrading to the CONTENTdm Responsive Website* for details.

Support for advanced customizations (CSS and JavaScript)

Custom CSS

The responsive Website Configuration Tool now supports direct uploading of CSS files at the global and collection levels. Support for CSS brings two major benefits.

- It is often easier to share and manage UI settings across multiple websites using CSS files. If you already have a base CSS template from other websites you manage, you can adapt the CSS rules for CONTENTdm and upload to your site.
- You have more control over the UI with CSS rules. The Website Configuration Tool gives you a graphic interface to manage the look and feel of your CONTENTdm website, but it is limited in what you can control. Using CSS, you can change the style of specific elements or specific pages of your site.

Custom JavaScript

The responsive Website Configuration Tool now also supports direct uploading of a custom JavaScript file at the global level. JavaScript support gives you a great deal of power over the UI of your CONTENTdm website to create the interface you want to provide for your users. The capacities you have with a custom JavaScript file are well beyond what is possible with CSS alone.

Performance improvements

You will see a significant boost to the speed of compound objects in this release. The page load time as users navigate between pages is greatly improved, and the display will not refresh completely between clicks as it did in the version released in February. You will also see much better page load times for

PDFs in compound objects, which further enhances the end user experience. With the release of these improvements, we consider compound objects in the responsive website to be out of preview and ready for production use.

Improved disaster recovery and backups

As a result of our new infrastructure in the Dublin data center, we've made big improvements in disaster recovery and data backups. All CONTENTdm sites installed in the US are replicated offsite multiple times a day to ensure disaster recovery. In addition, we're performing incremental offsite backups of your CONTENTdm website each day so we can restore your site to prior end-of-day images if needed. As you build and grow your collections, you can feel secure that they are being protected.

Bug fixes

- Some HTML code stripped when saved in the Website Configuration Tool
- URL items sometimes did not display unless the page was refreshed
- Several issues with header and icon colors not rendering correctly
- Several accessibility and tab order issues
- Inability to add favicon in 6.x Website Configuration Tool

Looking ahead

We are currently working on all of the following for inclusion in the next release of the CONTENTdm responsive website:

- Support for fully custom pages at distinct URL paths
- More improvements to WCAG 2.0 AA accessibility compliance
- Better search results counting and highlighting in compound objects
- Several bug fixes