Wikimedia Commons Deletion Notification Bot

Hariharan M, Jamuthira R, Madhumitha D, Haritha G

B.E (CSE), Saranathan College of Engineering, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

Wikimedia Commons is an online media repository created and maintained by Wikimedia Foundation. All Wikimedia projects including Wikipedia can use files from the Commons as if they were available locally. The users may find some images in the Commons inappropriate and propose them for deletion, but the Wikipedia article or the Wikimedia Project associated with those images are unaware of this. That is when the images in Commons are proposed for deletion, the Wikipedia articles using those images are not intimated. It is proposed to develop a bot which alerts the Wikipedia articles when the images used in them are proposed for deletion, when they are deleted and when they are decided to be kept. The user who uploaded the image is also notified under above-mentioned conditions.

Keywords: Wikimedia Commons, Wikipedia, Commons deletion notification bot

I. INTRODUCTION

Wikipedia is an encyclopedia project funded by Wikimedia Foundation. Wikipedia is openly editable by anyone. It has more than twenty million articles that are jointly created by various people across the world who came forward to contribute to Wikipedia. The Wikipedia articles may use media files such as images, audios, and videos along with their textual contents. These media files are present in the Wikimedia Commons which is a media repository. The Wikipedia articles can use these media files from the Commons repository as if they were available locally. The users may propose some images in Commons for deletion for various reasons. When images in Commons are proposed for deletion, discussions happen whether the images should be kept or deleted. Once sufficient information are available for making decision, an administrator will close the deletion request and the image will be either kept or deleted.

II. PROBLEM DEFINITION

When images are proposed for deletion on Commons, the Wikipedia articles using those images are not notified. That is the Wikipedia articles using those image are unaware of the deletion nomination. Consequently when the images are deleted on commons, the images get removed from the articles too. But, the users of the Wikipedia article are unaware of this, which may make the article incomplete and unusable. The user who uploaded the respective image is also unaware of this. In order to overcome this problem we propose to develop a bot which notifies the Wikipedia articles when images associated with them are proposed for deletion on commons so that the person who maintains the article can take action to resolve the problem. In addition, the bot will notify the Wikipedia articles when the images associated with them are deleted or the images are decided to be kept after deletion nomination. The bot also alerts the user who uploaded the image in above-mentioned cases.

III. SYSTEM ENVIRONMENT

The bot keeps on parsing the categories containing images which are proposed for deletion on Commons. It gets the list of Wikipedia articles using those image and notify them indicating that the images associated with them are about to be deleted. The bot performs the similar operation when the image is deleted and when the image is decided to be kept after deletion nomination.
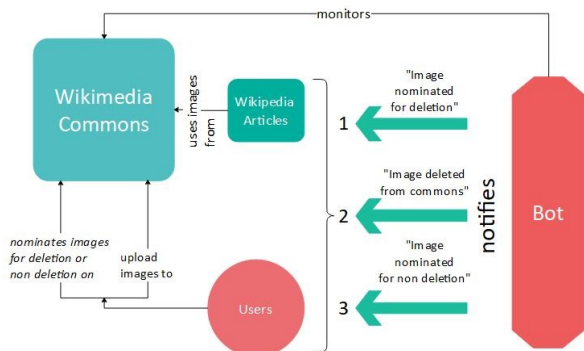

Figure 1. System block diagram

IV. NOTIFYING THAT IMAGES ARE NOMINATED FOR DELETION

The images proposed for deletion are kept in the Category called "Deletion requests". The bot gets the images in this category and finds the usage of those images in Wikipedia articles. Upon finding the usages in Wikipedia articles, the bot adds a new section in the "Talk Page" of the corresponding articles indicating that the images used in those articles are proposed for deletion on commons along with the reason for deletion nomination. Similarly, the bots adds a new section to the "Talk Page" of the user who uploaded the image.
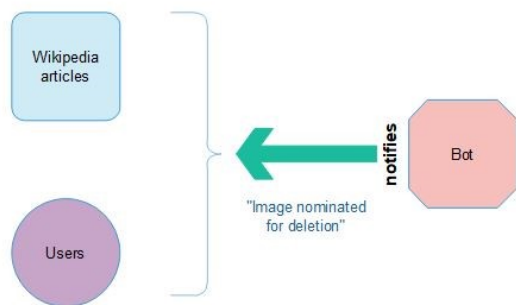

Figure 2. Notification for deletion nomination

File nominated for deletion on commons [edit source]

> The file *c:File:Berezhnycr s.png* has been nominated for deletion on Commons
> **Reason:** No source. No authorship information, unknown copyright situation.
> **Deletion request:** link

Message automatically deposited by a robot - -Harideepan (talk) 08:02, 3 March 2018 (UTC).

Figure 3. A screenshot of notification indicating that the image used in an article is proposed for deletion

File nominated for deletion on commons [edit source]

> The file *c:File:Andrew live.png* uploaded by you has been nominated for deletion on commons
> **Reason:** Low resolution, close-up concert photo with no metadata. Unlikely to be own work.
> **Deletion Request:** link

Message automatically deposited by a robot - -Harideepan (talk) 07:54, 3 March 2018 (UTC).

Figure 4. A screenshot of notification indicating that the image uploaded by a user is proposed for deletion

V. NOTIFYING THAT IMAGES ARE DELETED

Commons deletion log contains the details about various deletions performed in Commons. It includes deletion of categories, user pages, image files etc. The bot filters out the deletion information of image files and finds the usage of those images in Wikipedia articles and adds a section to the "Talk Page" of corresponding articles indicating that the images associated with are deleted.

Figure 5. Notification for deletion

File Deleted from Commons [edit source]

> The file *c:File:Gangneung Oval inside during the 2018 Winter Olympics.jpg* used in this article has been deleted from Commons

Message automatically deposited by a robot - -Harideepan (talk) 13:56, 21 February 2018 (UTC).

Figure 6. A screenshot of notification indicating that the image used in an article is deleted

VI. NOTIFYING THAT IMAGES ARE KEPT

The images which decided to be kept after deletion nomination are kept in the Category called "Deletion requests/kept". The bot gets the images in this category and finds the usage of those images in Wikipedia articles. Upon finding the usages in Wikipedia articles, the bot adds a new section in the "Talk Page" of the corresponding articles indicating that the images used in those articles are decided to be kept. Similarly, the bots adds a new section to the "Talk Page" of the user who uploaded the image.
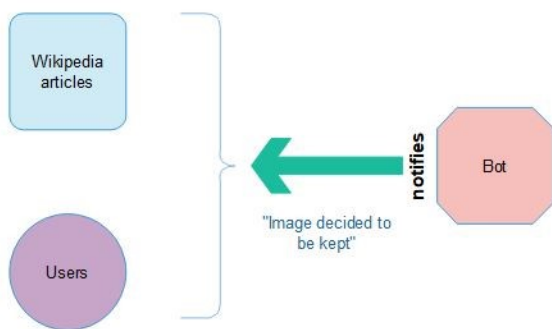

Figure 7. Notification for indicating that images are kept after deletion nomination

Figure 8. A screenshot of notification indicating that the image used in an article has been proposed for deletion but was kept

Figure 9. A screenshot of notification indicating that the image uploaded by a user has been proposed for deletion but was kept

VII. CONCLUSION

When the images are proposed for deletion on Commons, further when the images are deleted from Commons and also when the images are decided to be kept on Commons, the Wikipedia articles using those images and the respective users who uploaded those images are unaware of it. The bot helps them to get notified. Further it also improves the collaboration between the Wikimedia Commons and the Wikipedia articles.

VIII. REFERENCES

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