Fun with Numbers

Quick tidbits from comScore data

Stu West January 11, 2009

Why care about comScore?

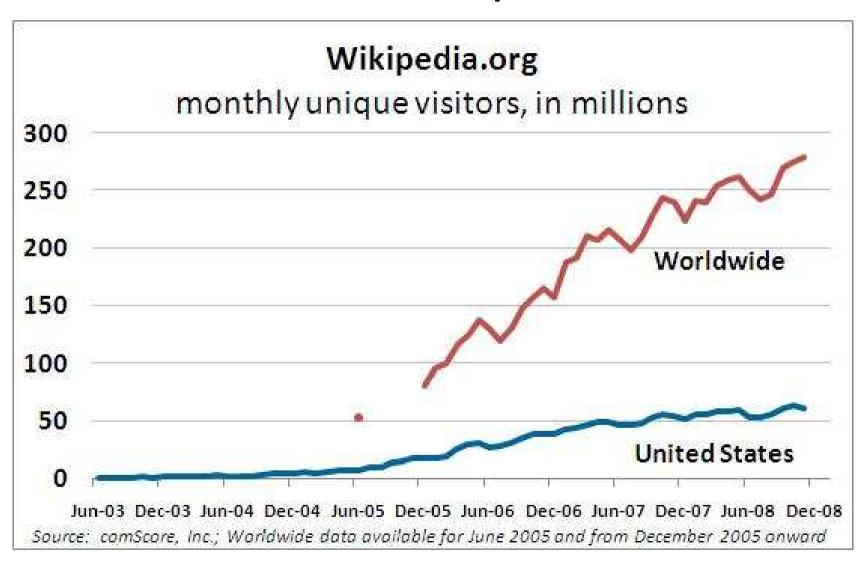
- Industry-standard methodology for unique visitors, which has more personal impact than IP addresses, cookies, or UIDs
- Can compare to other sites to understand relative performance
- Demographic data
- Easy categorization of different URL patterns (e.g. language breakdown)
- Easy geographic analysis
- Despite issues (only PC usage, smaller panels internationally, doesn't capture usage in schools or internet cafés), can be valuable

Lots of new analysis possible

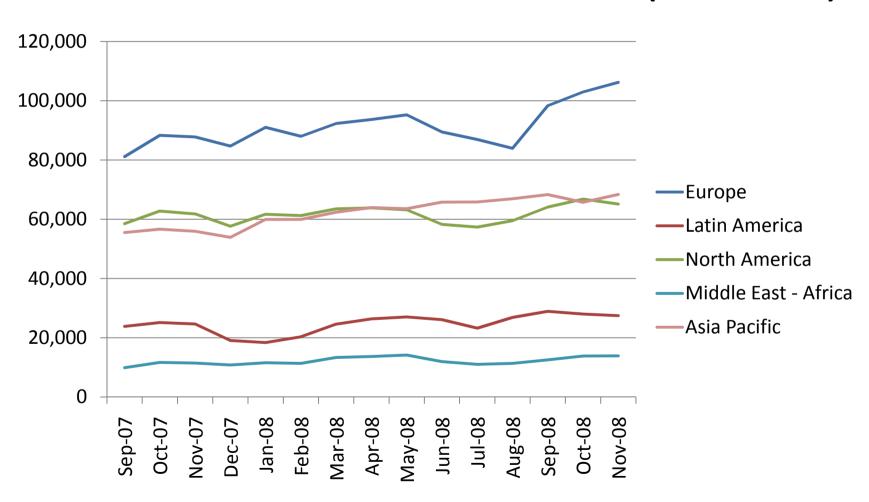
For example, three questions I wanted to answer

- How many <u>people</u> use our sites?
- What is our "reach", e.g. what % of internet users use our sites?
 - How does that vary internationally?
 - Where are we weakest (and should we focus)?
- What is our reliance on Google compared to other sites?

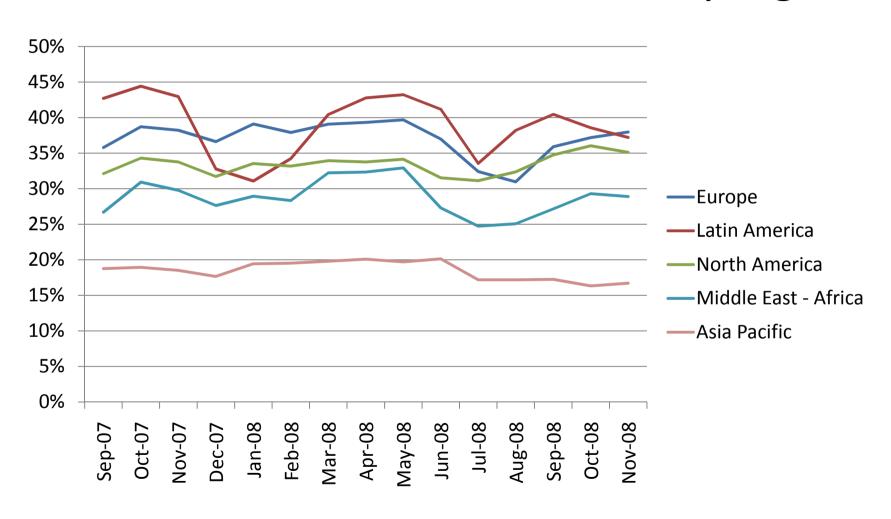
Worldwide Unique Visitors



Monthly unique visitors to Wikimedia Foundation Sites (in '000s)

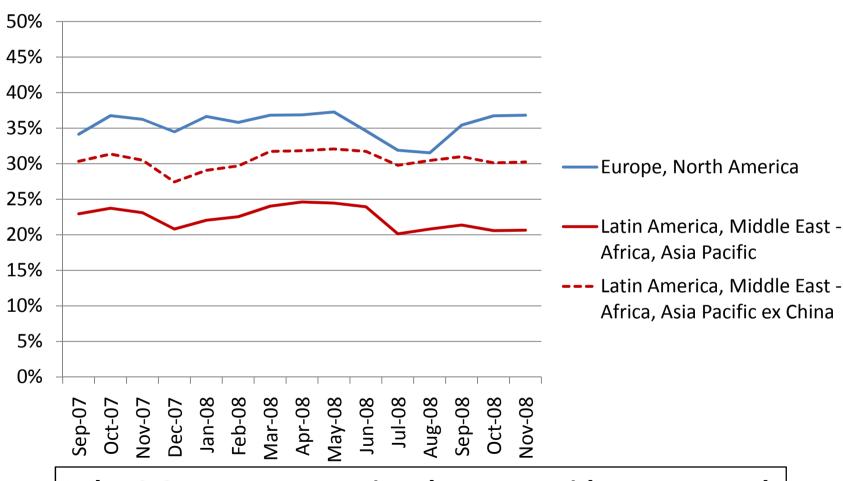


% of internet users who accessed one of the Wikimedia Foundation Sites, by region



Reach: Eur/NA v. rest of world

dotted line excludes China to eliminate impact of blocking issues

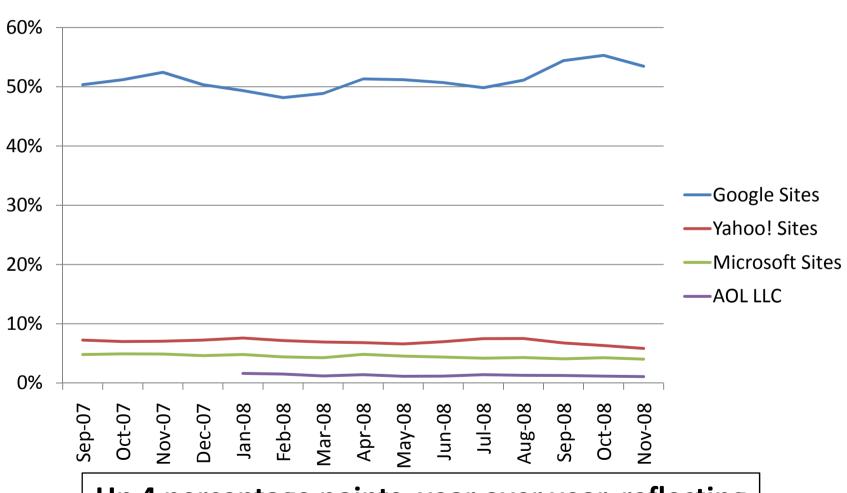


Why 6-8 percentage points lower outside Europe and North America? Should we focus on closing that gap?

% of entries which came from Google, for top sites, November 2008

- YouTube 16%
- eBay 13%
- Facebook 10%
- Amazon 22%
- MySpace 9%
- Wikimedia Foundation Sites 54%

Trends in Wikimedia Foundation Sites % entries from top referrers



Up 4 percentage points, year over year, reflecting declines in other search engines

Source of Wikimedia Foundation Sites traffic, by region

Source of incoming traffic in	Micro-				
November 2008	Google '	Yahoo!	soft	AOL	Ask
Europe	63%	1%	3%	1%	0%
Latin America	64%	2%	7%	0%	0%
North America	46%	7%	4%	2%	1%
Middle East - Africa	56%	3%	6%	0%	0%
Asia Pacific	40%	14%	4%	0%	0%
	54%	6%	4%	1%	0%

Seems to reflect regional strengths of different search engines

Lots more possible

- http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Stu/comScore data on Wikimedia
 - Includes breakdown by project, language, China, India analysis
 - Pros & Cons of comScore
 - Updated every two months (or so)
- We're updating comScore's definition of our sites
 - Aug: project breakdown, int'l portals, Wikipedia languages
 - Sep: Edit pages (not sure this one is useful)
 - Nov: Portal
 - Feb: Wikipedia Language Main pages in February
 - What else? Suggestions to me or on Talk page.

Thanks to comScore for donating data they typically charge thousands of dollars to access