Joomla! Unpacked

Roadmap, Strategy & What's Actually Happening

Sigrid Gramlinger, Joomla! Production Department Coordinator



Sigrid Gramlinger

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  volunteers.joomla.org/board-of-directors
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  In Austria and D-A-CH region
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  webgras.at



What's the plan?



Part 1

Roadmap

Timed Releases & Release Managers

Timed releases

Since Joomla! 4.0

October and April since 4.4

Fixed rhythm

Major: 2 years

Minor: 6 months

Patch: 6 weeks, Tuesdays

2 release managers

Per version, since Joomla! 4.2

manual.joomla.org/docs/development-strategy

Joomla! 6.2

- TinyMCE: Read More, media, links
- CSS classes for images and figures
- Language fallback chains
- OAuth2 SMTP authentication
- Security flag for extension updates
- New Help page, accessibility fixes
- Web Services: intro and full text
- MariaDB support, tested with MySQL 9

Joomla! 5.4: security fixes only

Thank you, release managers!

Joomla! 6.1 · done


Harald Leithner


Stefan Wendhausen

Joomla! 5.4 · one more year


Heiko Lübbe


Richard Fath

Joomla! 6.2 · just started


Martin Kopp


Viviana Menzel

Release Managers Wanted

Joomla! 6.3

Release managers wanted

? ?

Joomla! 6.4

Release managers wanted

? ?

Joomla! 7.0

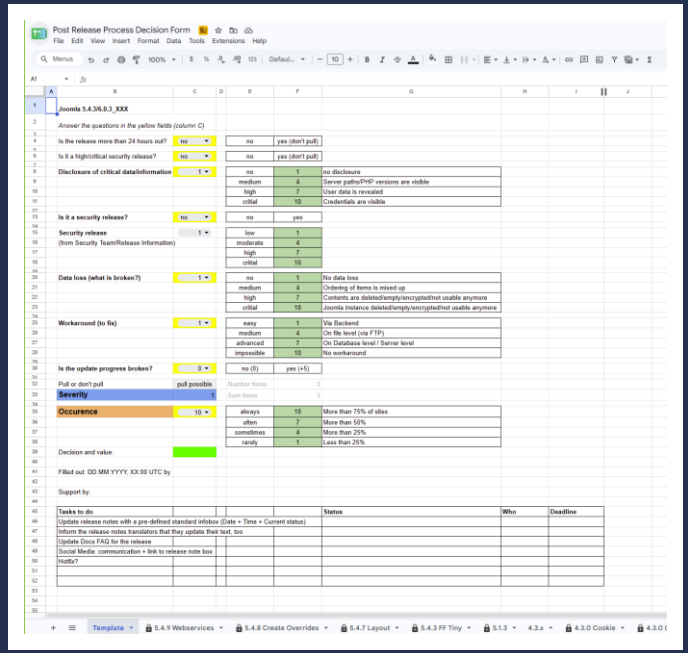
Elected: Harald Leithner and Stefan Wendhausen




Post Release Process

Prepare → Monitor → Analyse → Decide → Communicate → Pull? → Fix → Release

- **One shared decision sheet**
  Filled in together
- **Decided by at least three**
  Release manager · Production lead · Maintainer



Predictable. Reliable. Stable.

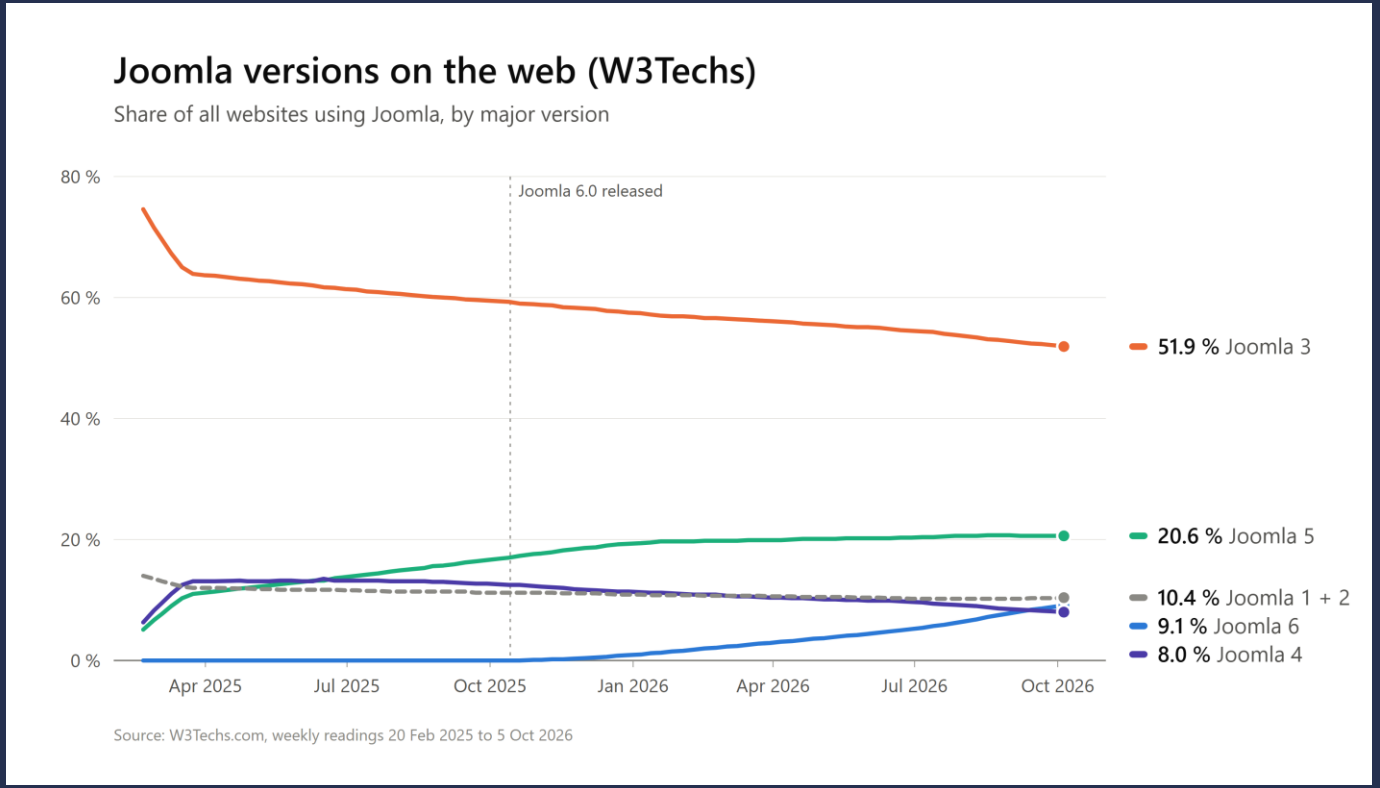


October 16, 2029

Joomla! 8.0

What the Web Sees: W3Techs

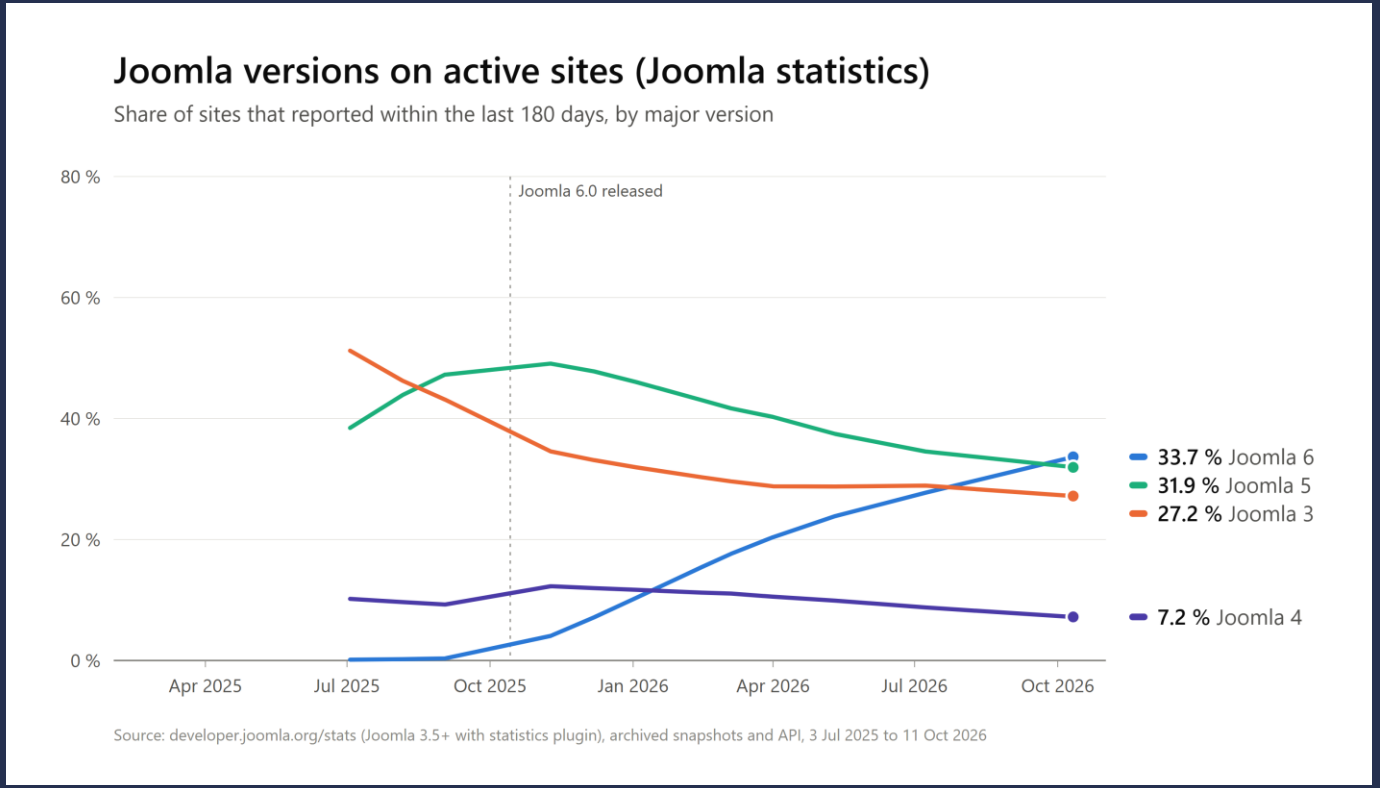
- **Web information**
  Crawled from the outside
- **Joomla! 3: 51.9%**
  Still the largest share
- **Joomla! 6: 9.1%**
  One year after release



w3techs.com/technologies/details/cm-joomla

What Joomla! Sites Report

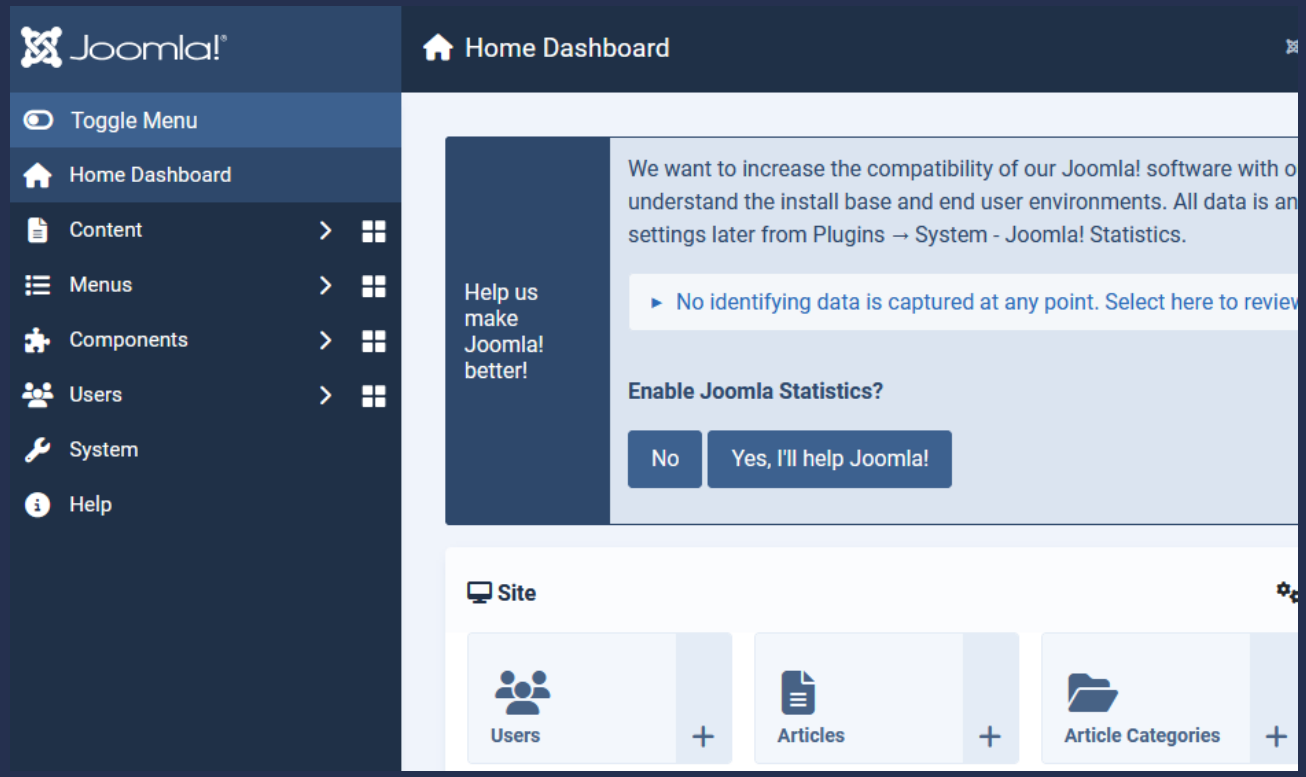
- **Directly from Joomla! sites**
  Statistics plugin, last 180 days
- **Joomla! 6: 33.7%**
  Already the most used version
- **Maintained sites follow fast**
  The roadmap works



developer.joomla.org/about/stats.html

Help Us Count

- **Statistics plugin**
  Anonymous: Joomla!, PHP and database versions
- **Always click “Yes”**
  Every site counts for the roadmap



developer.joomla.org/about/stats.html

What does the future look like?

Part 2

Do we have a strategy?

Development Strategy: Five Principles

- Stability
- Backward compatibility
- Predictable releases
- Security
- Open development

Mission: a flexible platform for digital publishing and collaboration

manual.joomla.org/docs/development-strategy

Joomla! 8 Sprint

- September 4–7, 2025
- Strategy paper
- Planned features



Joomla! Product Strategy

Defend & Expand

Protect and enhance what makes Joomla! strong

Increase Efficiency

Make Joomla! AI-ready

Simplify Onboarding

A real WOW effect for newcomers

Accessibility: Not Planned, but Now Strategy

Private application

Submitted by the former OSM president, little community discussion

Endorsed & aligned

OSM Board endorsement in March 2026, aligned with the Joomla! 8 roadmap

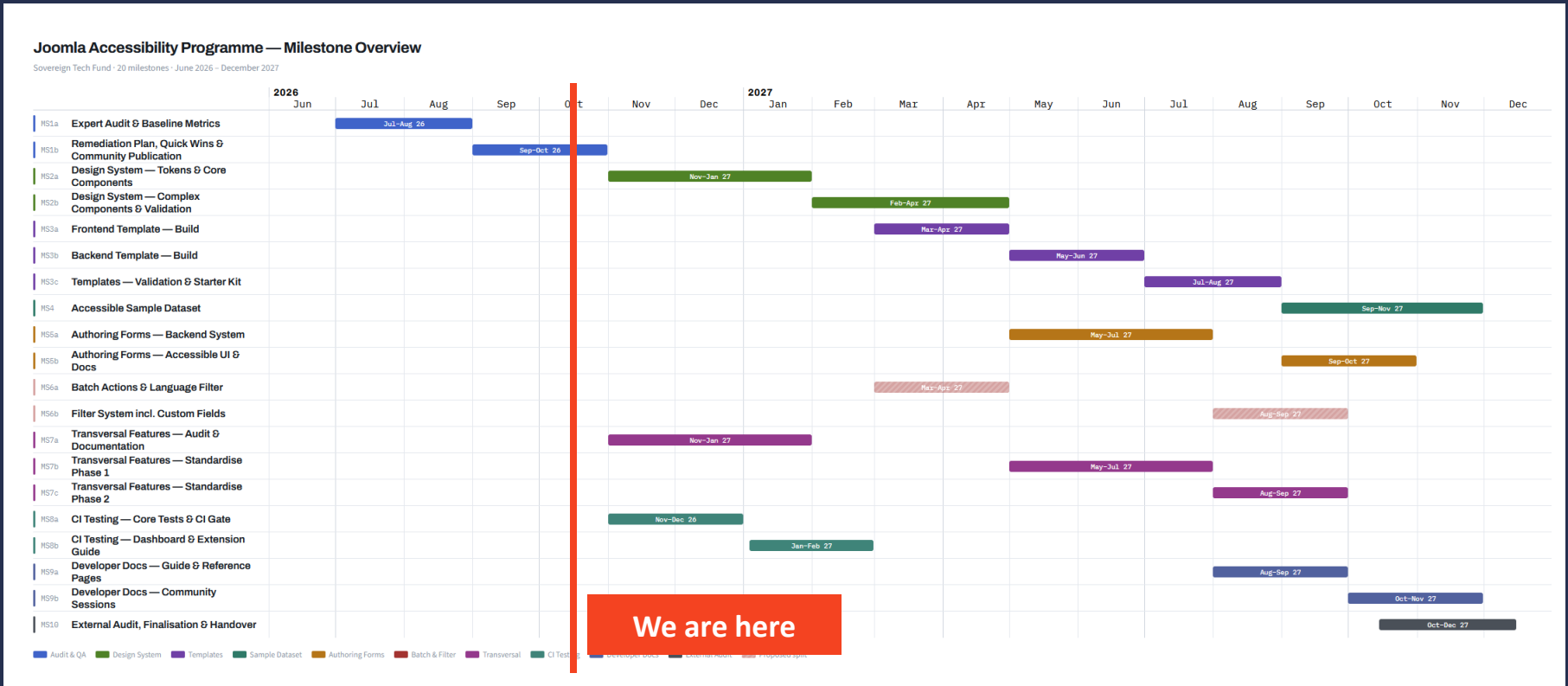
€500,000 · 20 months

Sovereign Tech Fund
June 2026 to December 2027
20 milestones

9 roadmap features

WCAG 2.2 AA, design system, templates, sample data, authoring forms

Accessibility Project: Where We Are



Part 3

What's actually happening

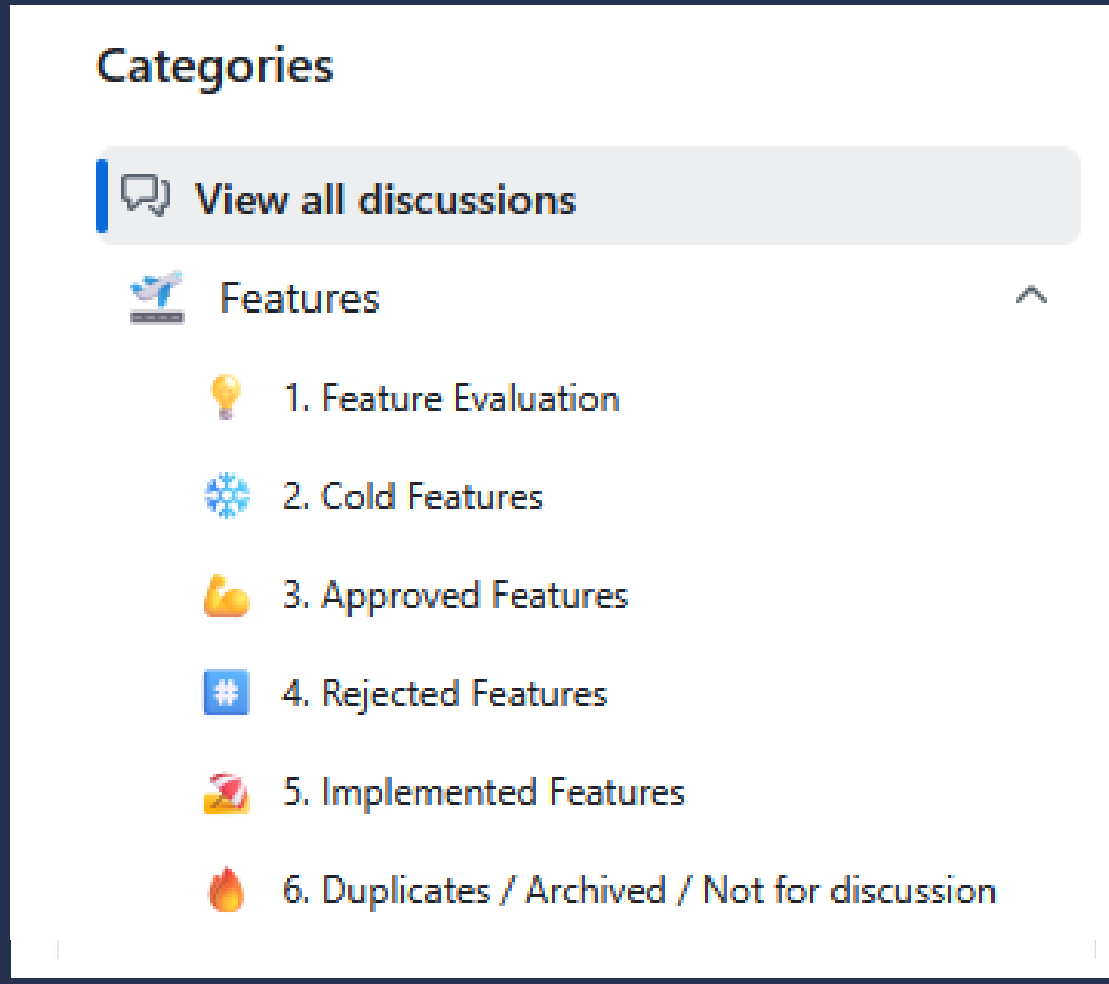


How Features Get into Joomla!

Issue or pull request first
Often lost work

Since February 2026

Feature Evaluation → **Approved / Rejected** → **Implemented**



github.com/joomla/joomla-cms/discussions/46934

Who Decides?



Maintainer team

Every Wednesday



Release managers

Two per version



Production Department

Coordinates teams and releases



Sprints

Joomla! 8 Sprint 2025



Enhancement Team

Joomla! 6.x: Defend & Expand Status

- Built-in POW captcha — MERGED
- WCAG 2.2 AA for frontend and backend — STF PROJECT
- Content versioning with draft states — HELP WANTED
- New: Additional Categories — GSOC · UNDER REVIEW

Joomla! 7.x: Defend & Expand Status

- Automated Workflows — GSOC
- Framework-agnostic templates / design system — STF PROJECT
- Filter items by custom field values — ACADEMY + STF
- Rate Limiting Framework — IN PLANNING
- Multi-/Subsite Concept — NEEDS A SPRINT
- Configurable authoring forms — STF PROJECT

Where You Can Help

Pick a topic

Anything you care about: code, docs, testing, translation

Review warm features

On GitHub: is there one you want to implement?

Check the RFPs

On the OSM website: accessibility features to build

Any time

You don't have to wait for a sprint



Part 4

What's next?



Market

43.0% → 40.2%

WordPress, share of all websites, January to October 2026

1.1%

Joomla, share of all websites

SaaS builders like Shopify and Wix are gaining

73%

See open source as a tool for digital sovereignty (Bitkom)

EU Open Source Strategy, June 2026

w3techs.com · bitkom.org · EU Open Source Strategy COM(2026) 503

What's Pushing on Joomla!

Regulation

What must websites do?

Technology

How are websites built?



Market

Who chooses which solution?

Technology: AI in Three Roles

1. AI as a tool - BUILDING
2. Vibe coding instead of a CMS? - REPLACING
3. Vibe coding in contributions - CONTRIBUTING

Regulation

Cyber Resilience Act

EU · reporting since September 2026

Full application December 2027

European Accessibility Act

EU · in force since June 2025

The STF project is our answer

Beyond the EU

USA · ADA Title II: WCAG 2.1 AA for public sector websites from April 2027

And more…

eur-lex.europa.eu · ada.gov

Current Challenges

Security

More vulnerability reports, partly AI-generated

Old sites stay unpatched

Extensions as attack surface

AI

Sites built without a CMS

AI search sends fewer visitors

AI pull requests need more review

Sustainability

Few people carry a lot, funding beyond single projects, passing on knowledge to new contributors

Our Strengths & How We Hold

Our strengths

- Reliable release process
- Rich core features
- Strong security team
- Funded accessibility project
- Open source
- Digital Public Good



How we hold

- Signed, automated updates
- Clear rules for AI contributions
- New contributors via GSoC and Academy
- Shared responsibility in teams
- A roadmap you can plan with

Go outside the Joomla! bubble

We have a solid digital basis.

Use it. Enhance it.

Talk about it.



Thank you!