

Raw results survey Feeds/Migrate - january 2017

Introduction

In january 2017 we started a survey about usage and functionality for Feeds and Migrate modules for Drupal 8.
288 people took the time to respond. Almost 2 months later we present you the results here.

Methodology

We created the survey on the Dutch global sprint day end of January 2017. We did this with about 10 Drupal developers.

The survey asked about how and why people are using import/export in Drupal. Every question had one of 3 options: yes / no, not-important / nice-to-have / important / must-have and one question was open (free text input).

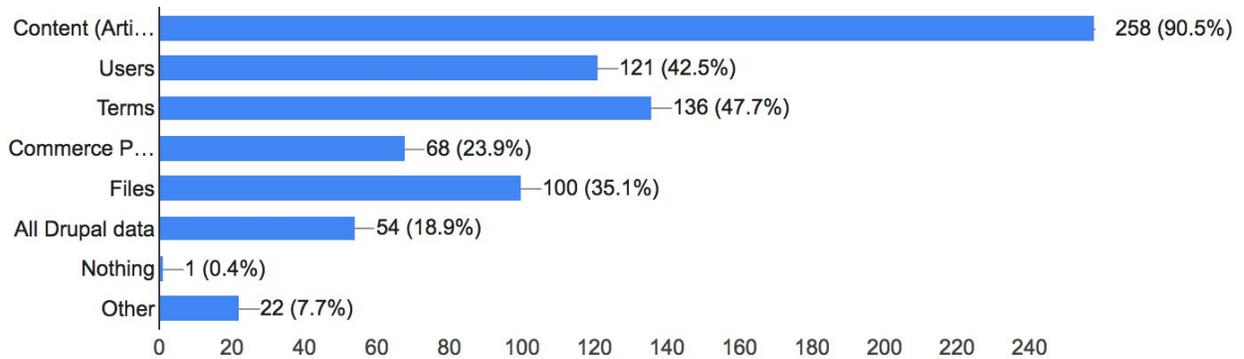
Considerations

We think that about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the respondents find out about the survey on the Feeds project-page. The other $\frac{1}{4}$ of the respondents from other sources (Twitter, Drupal planet, via-via). Therefore the survey results tend to be Feeds-focussed both in expected functionality as in usage.

Raw results

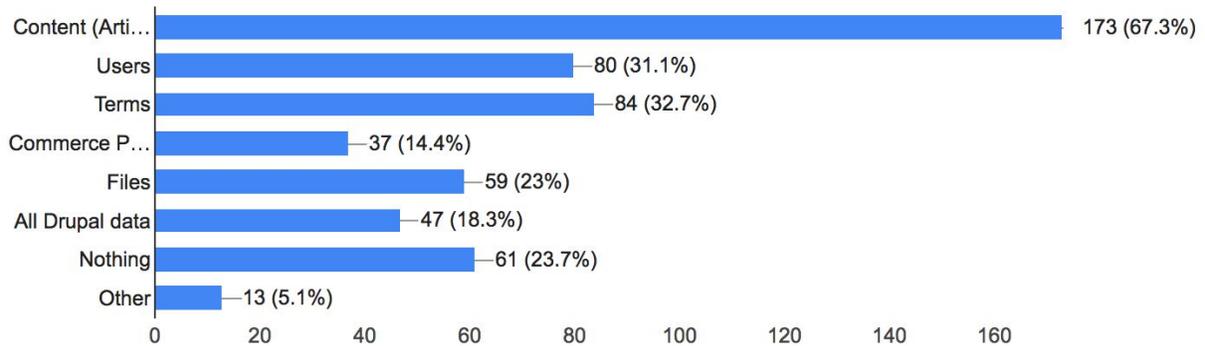
Question group 1: Why do u use Feeds and Migrate?

What data do you IMPORT?



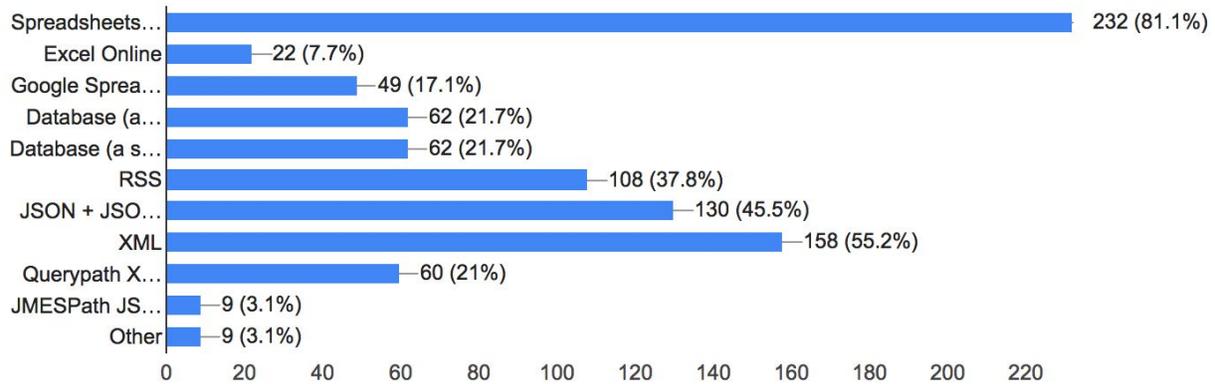
285 out of 288 people answered this question.

What data do you EXPORT?



257 out of 288 people answered this question.

Which data formats do you (want to) use?

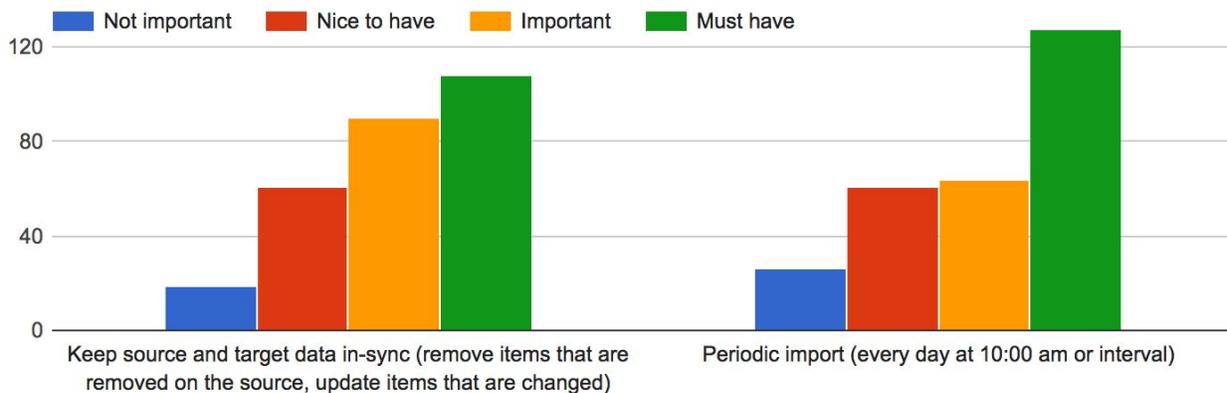


286 out of 288 people answered this question.

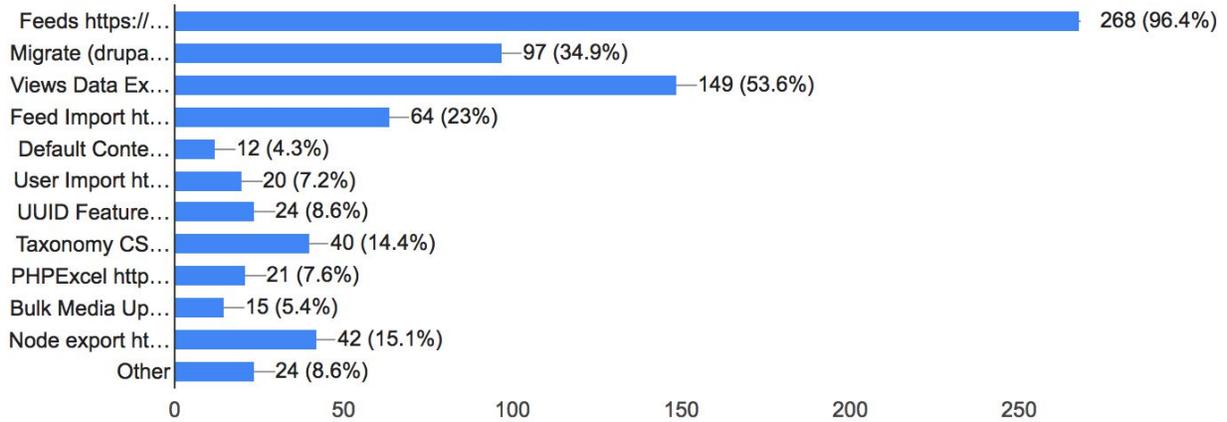
Question group 2: How do you use Feeds and Migrate?

How important is?

1. Keep source and target data in-sync (remove items that are removed on the source, update items that are changed)
2. Periodic import (every day at 10:00 am or interval)



Which modules do you use for importing and exporting data?

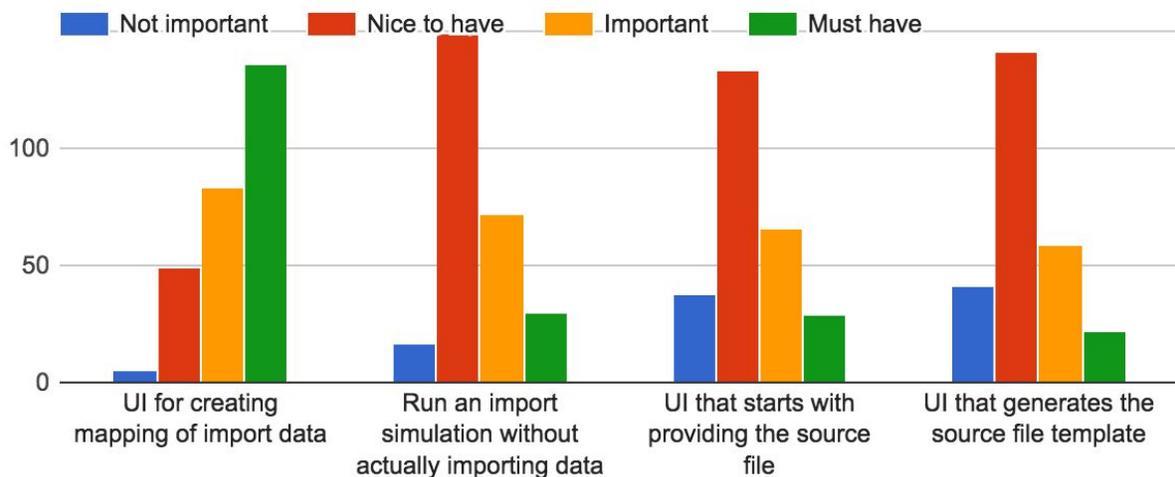


286 out of 288 people answered this question.

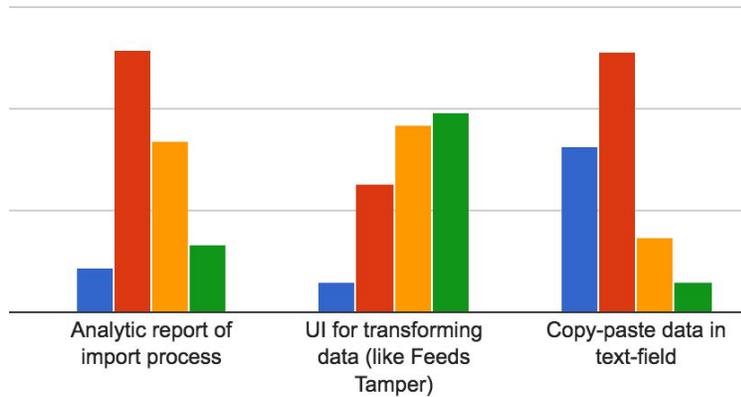
Question group 3: Developer and User experience improvements

How important is?

1. UI for creating mapping of import data
2. Run an import simulation without actually importing data
3. UI that starts with providing the source file
4. UI that generates the source file template



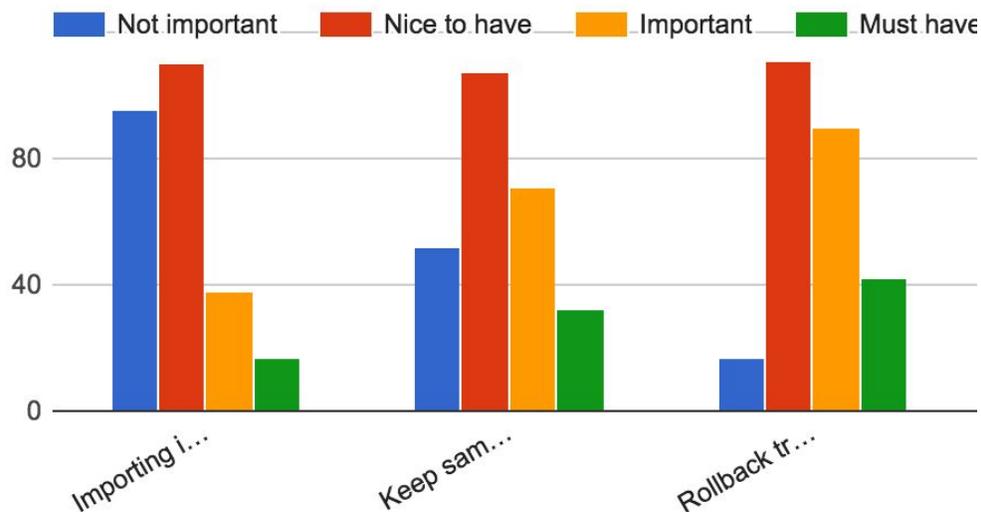
5. Analytic report of import process
6. UI for transforming data (like Feeds Tamper)
7. Copy-paste data in text-field



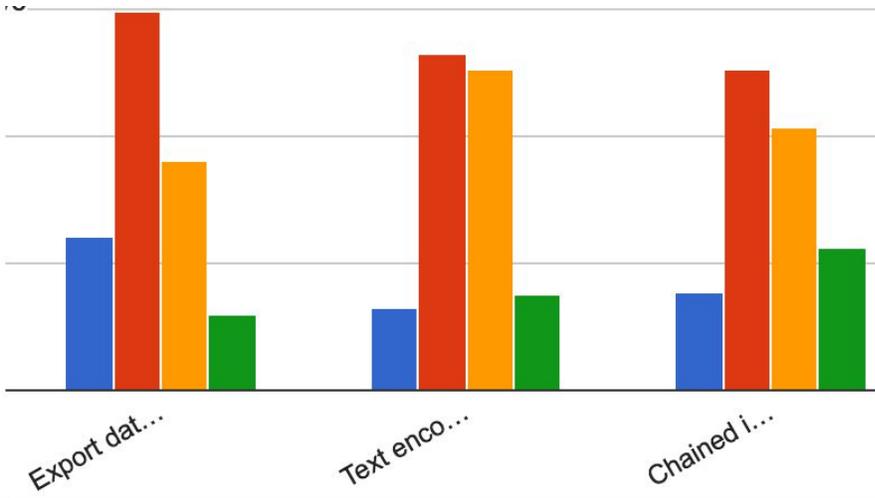
Question group 4: Advanced functionality

How important is?

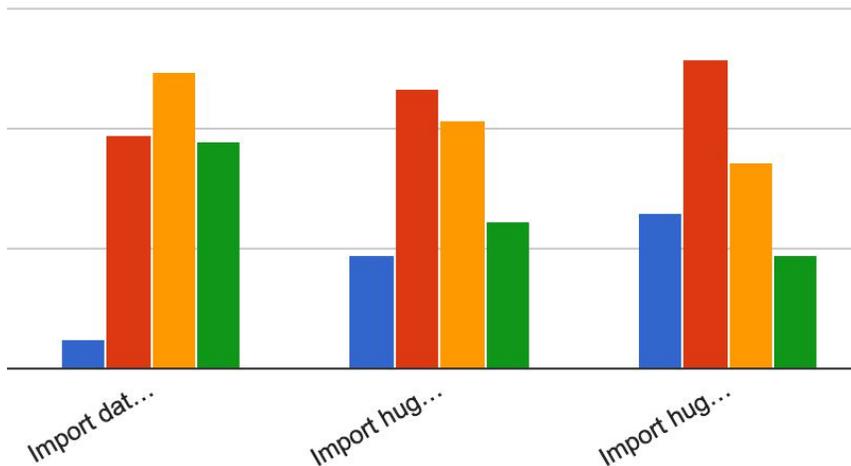
1. Importing into different machine from the one feeds runs on
2. Keep same content ids as in the source
3. Rollback transactions / imports



4. Export data from Drupal to any format
5. Text encoding and line-ending conversion
6. Chained imports (article + paragraphs, commerce product + commerce display, article + author + tags + images)



7. Import data in batches
8. Import huge data-sets (100.000+ items)
9. Import huge source-file (100+ Mb)



Question group 5: At last

Free text, what do you want to add/miss?

- we should can choose between uuid, nid, or other unique field as key for feeds. - feeds tamper is very essential and should be upgraded is feature like changing eof, iso code... remember that CSV

<p>is iso-latin-15 so when we choose "import CSV" translation from iso-latin-15 to utf8 should be automated or need feeds tamper with the appropriate plugin.</p> <p>- we need an easier way to manage references between many files. A node from a content type come from a file. Another node from an other content type referencing the first one come from another file.</p> <p>thank you</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Data validation before import + and error reporting * Data transforming before import.
<p>A really simple UI for managers (end users, not tech folks) to import files (mostly CSV) would be great. It would also be nice for them to get a preview of the import before it creates any new entries, and allow them to customize / alter the results. Feeds is great, hugely important, but if it does something unexpected (mostly due to user error), it is a mess to clean up. Thank you for your hard work and soliciting community feedback.</p>
<p>Ability to re-import revised data after change in import config.</p>
<p>Authentication / password protection of data sources.</p>
<p>Bacon & Eggs</p>
<p>Basic stability in the D8 module would be good! :) Thanks for the work guys</p>
<p>Being able to use a entity node in the feed item for the feed being used, making an important end user seen connection between the two. Ex. Import a slashdot feed and the feed item having an entity reference field to the slashdot feed. This would allow for filtering of multiple feed itmes that been imported form different sources.</p>
<p>clarity in multiple feed importers and sources configuration setups -- which feed id tied to which importer / tamper and labelling imported items based on configuration</p>
<p>Commerce stuff...but then Commerce isn't that stable in D8 yet anyway.</p>
<p>CSV import similar to D7 for starters would be most useful to start. Also taxonomy hiearchy import would be extremely helpful with Parent & Child terms e.g. Cars > Honda > Civic</p>
<p>CSV!!!!!!!!!!</p>
<p>desperately needed for Drupal 8</p>
<p>Drush integration (improved where exists) : Important!</p>
<p>Export to Wordpress ?</p>
<p>Faster feeds processing</p>
<p>Feeds is great! Let's have it stable and full of functionality in Drupal 8. Cheers for all your work!</p>
<p>Feeds XML parser, CSV import</p>
<p>For me the thing i need the most when working with importing/exporting data it to either sync data from Drupal to Drupal or import data from an external API.</p>
<p>The current implementation of feeds seems more geared towards aggregating RSS and the interface is a bit clunky and tedious to use/navigate.</p>

So for my needs when i build Drupal sites i want a solid platform for syncing data between Drupal sites and importing data from API:s.

One thing that is very important is support for UUID:s.

I do believe that migrate might fill this need tough and I'm not sure if the feeds module would be required when the ecosystem that exists around migrate grows stronger.

But a bit of competition never hurt anyone :)

I wish you all the luck in developing feeds, thanks for all the hard work!

For the non developers, the feeds module is more accesible than Migrate. The Migrate module seems to be powerful but without an developped UI, it is more complex to use (drush, custom modules...). If in the future we have a simply interface with Migrate, Feeds and Migrate could be duplicates. For the moment I prefer tu use Feeds module for this reason.....In the functionalities of Feeds don't forget the translation options... thanks for yours developments !

Goed bezig, Joeri :-)

gotta have twistor... must have... dude's a beast

Haven't used Feeds or Migrate yet, but looking into using it for migrating MovableType content into Drupal.

I can adapt, but give me some import for drupal 8

I had always wondered if there was a way to have "UI that starts with providing the source file." This would be fantastic! However, just the basics would be essential in my mind. Thank you so much!!!

I maintain contacts and products (separate db's). Each system requires updates every month. I need to be able to push the new CSVs and mass update the contacts/products.

I miss a stable Drupal 8 feeds version. We have Drupal 8 now but we miss a lot of modules we have in Drupal 7

I prefer to use feeds because I want data to be fed in regularly where as migrate is built to migrate data once.

I sure wish the user interface for D8 CSV imports was done. Thanks guys!

I think feeds tamper needs to definitely be integrated as a sub module. It was very important to have in prior projects. Plus still have the ability to attach custom (php) tampers in a secure way.

I use Feeds a lot for managing content in spreadsheets, then importing it into Drupal. I've used this to create commerce products and then create product displays to link them to. I've also found the Feeds SQL module really good for migrating data from another database, since I can finetune my SQL queries until they're just right and then hit go - and it doesn't matter which other database it is. However, my first D8 use case will be to pull in an XML feed from a travel broker and create nodes (including unpublishing nodes when they disappear from the feed). Haven't got that far yet, but found this survey when starting to review whether it's viable with the module in its current state. If not I may have to revert to D7 (boo!). Appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts. I should

also note that I'm mainly an advanced site builder but I can generally hack enough code/SQL to get the job done when I need to.
I would like to use feeds to sync a source with custom entities (for example a weather feed)
If the interface can be simple enough an editor can check on status and update/roll back batches, untold years of work could be saved. Thanks!
Import media files
Import process when we don't have a data with target template, so we can map it in the setup
In D7 I've mostly used it for product import from a csv file, and I've been very satisfied. So I guess I'm looking for the same kind of functionality.
It will be very cool if we can export and import any entity type with Feeds and not only nodes, terms, users or files. At least those that respect Drupal APIs (Field API, ...)
It would be great if this module could configure real web service connections, where the data is always real time in sync with its source. Also the current D7 version has troubles with cron tasks, many times the import fails in a job while a manual import succeeds.
Just want to thank you for the time spent on Feeds module. This module is a must have on Drupal 7 and is really missing on Drupal 8.
Let's port feeds, feeds-related, feeds derivative modules to D8
Migrate is for advanced users, Feeds should be an easier option to import data from UI
morteza
Niceworks along!
nothing; this module is absolutely brilliant. life saver. thank you!
Olivier
Priority should be XML import as is the best way to import large body fields with rich content
Really we just need a working module without the advanced stuff and UI goodies, because to be really frank this is holding up a lot of dev on D8, we're still building on D7 which is something we want to get out of sooner than later. Sorry for the whinge, no disrespect, I know you've worked bloody hard on Drupal projects.
Run specific feeds import at specific times (e.g. individually).
Selective two-way sync between two systems (with the possibility of having one of them a non-Drupal site, or even a backend information source like a Google sheet)
Simple file-based import (CSV/Excel/XML)
Simple, clear and usable help docs
Thank you for this awesome module!
thank you so much! very valuable work you do.
Thank you.
Thanks very much. Feeds available on D8 would be a game changer !
Thanks!

thanks!
THANKS! anxiously wating for drupal 8 with CSV!
The ability to map the image alt and title text is so badly needed that without we cannot syndicate nodes or import nodes from other sites.
The funcionality of "feed aggregator" in D6
The functionality of yahoo pipes which has been discontinued by Yahoo
The fundamental difference I see between migrate and feeds, at least in my use of the two features, is that migrate is one time and feeds in ongoing.
The most important functionality is getting the cron working for feeds. The feeds module in d8 already works for the most part.
The UI is very helpful so that we can set up jobs and provide documentation for content editors so they can run it without having command line access.
This is really cool drupal module, take a look please https://github.com/xandeadx/parser
Urgently need to have working csv importing and mapping feature. Otherwise people will give up on this module.
We developed d7 feeds based solution to exchange e-commerce data with stocking and erp systems. We need XML +xpath +tamper + the way to run feed batches programmatically and override feeds UI settings from code to port our solution to d8. We usually import feed items guides to match external IDs. We sometimes use hash checking to speedup import.
We use feeds on many news sites to import BIng News API data in csv format mutiple times per day via the Drush feeds import command. Mapping to the source/destination with all available source fields is important as is continued Drush support.. Feeds as it was/is in 7 was just fine with us. Wish we could do more to support this great module. It's why we chose Drupal.
What is important / interesting is to have to framework to plug a custom important into the workflow. Having predefined import is interesting but most of the time, we required custom code. Having a reusable UI to track imports, start them manually, provide file,.. is really useful.
Will be nice to interoperate with other ecosystems, so developer resources for plugins development can be shared. e.g.: Rules has huge plugins ecosystem for data writing, so Feeds processor can be implemented as a Rule set. Views has ability to connect to other backends than Drupal database (JSON feed, other Drupal, XML feed), so if plugin interface for Views backend and Feeds fetcher/parser will be the same, than community will not have to maintain same module for two APIs (e.g. Feeds ex and Views JSON/XML Query) The same with Feeds Tamper and Migrate transform plugins.
Ask me on Slack if you have some questions: ----
Will be very nice to have easy API for extending import via code and some overview page with monitoring of each import.

Wish Migrate made it easier to have parent/child sites - remove node/entity content of a specific type that no longer exists on the parent.

Workflow integration so Feeds will ping me an email when an import is complete.

Ndf & MegaChriz
March 21 2017