



adaptTo()

EUROPE'S LEADING AEM DEVELOPER CONFERENCE
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Spiritually-Succeeding AEM: Advanced Author Customization in Experience Workspace

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About Us



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Let's talk AUTHOR CUSTOMIZATION

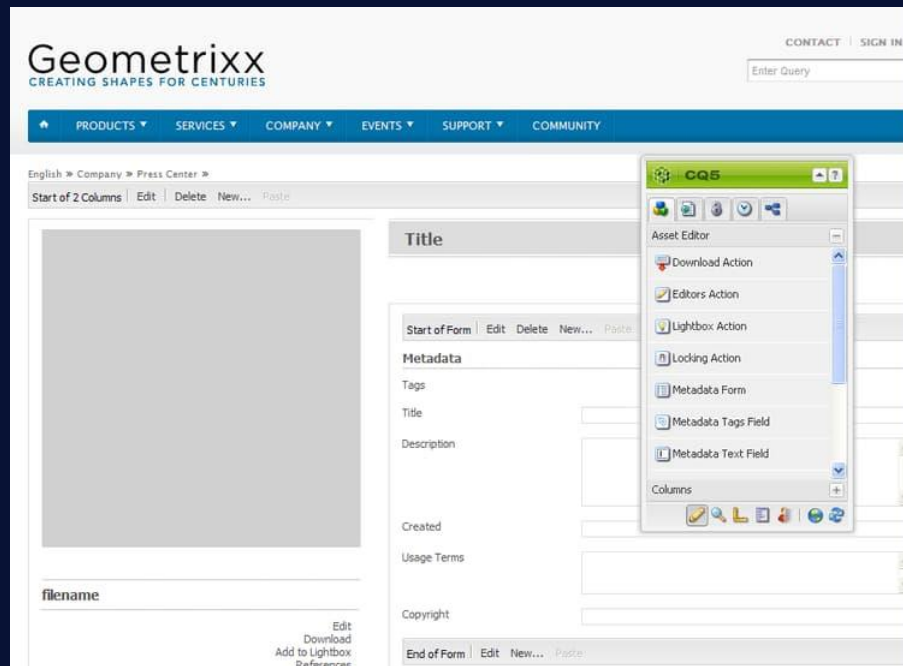
Possibly-controversial take: Chat isn't the right modality for all CMS interactions.

- Chat is great for a lot of use cases, especially where you can clearly visualize beforehand the goal that you have in mind.
- A lot of the time your authors don't KNOW what they should have in mind, and what their guardrails are
- Bespoke, guided interfaces absolutely have a place in the world of the enterprise CMS

We All ❤️ AEM for a Reason

Nearly-Infinite Author Customization has always been one of AEM's greatest strengths

- Recall the CQ5 page editor circa 2010
- Rich authoring combined with a massively-customizable UI totally changed what people expected from a CMS



Authoring UI's Still Needs Mega Customization

There are a lot of CMS tasks that still are best done VISUALLY and INTENTIONALLY by Authors

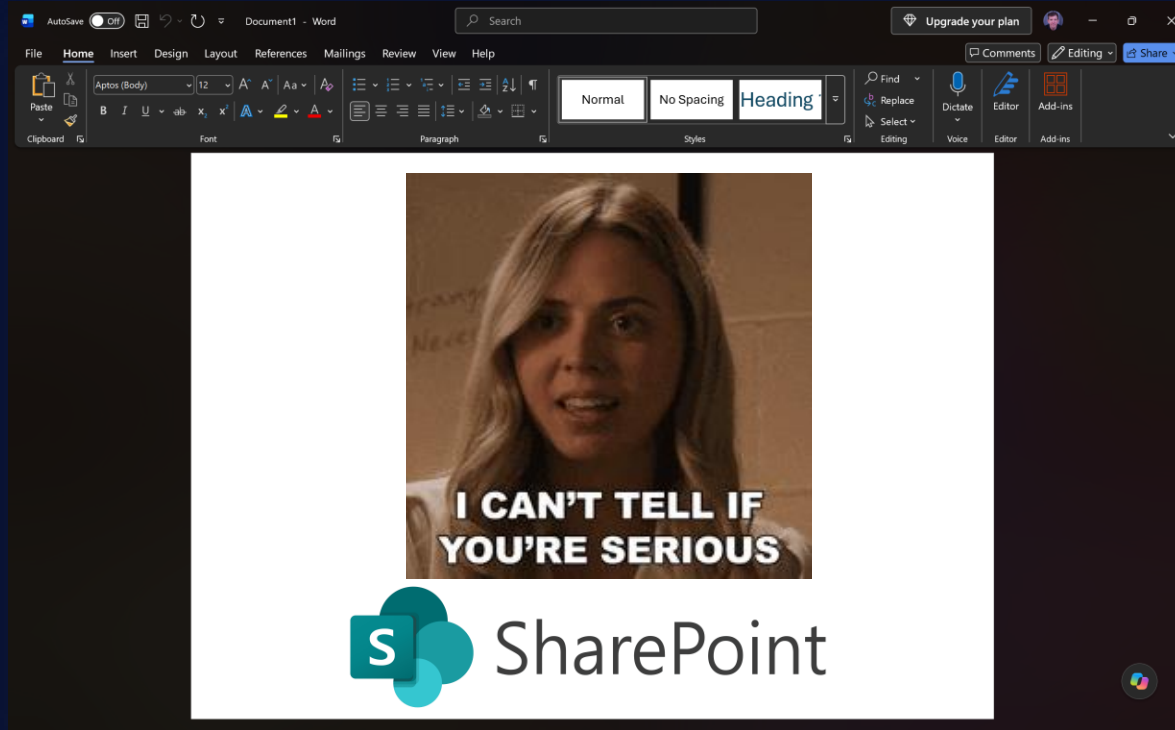
Content Authors

- Integrations with external systems
- Taxonomy management & enforcement
- Custom UI's for Specific Content Types

CMS Admins & Power Users

- Bulk tooling
- Complicated content operations (Groovy Console / ACM Tool)
- Mechanisms for handling structured data

This doesn't cut it as an Author UI



Edge Delivery $\neq$ "AEM Replacement"

You May REALLY still want to use AEM (and a lot of other things)

- Edge Delivery is a delivery strategy and page compositing & development framework, NOT A CMS
- Enterprises are complicated beasts with a LOT OF TOOLS
- Some of these tools may not be publicly available to your web frontend
- FYI it isn't 2008

DA.LIVE: Assumption vs. Reality

WHAT I'VE HEARD



A glorified static site generator

Assumption is that all of Edge Delivery (DA included) is just a glorified text editor, and that any serious use case requires AEM-JCR



WHAT DA.LIVE ACTUALLY IS



A modern, FAST plugin host

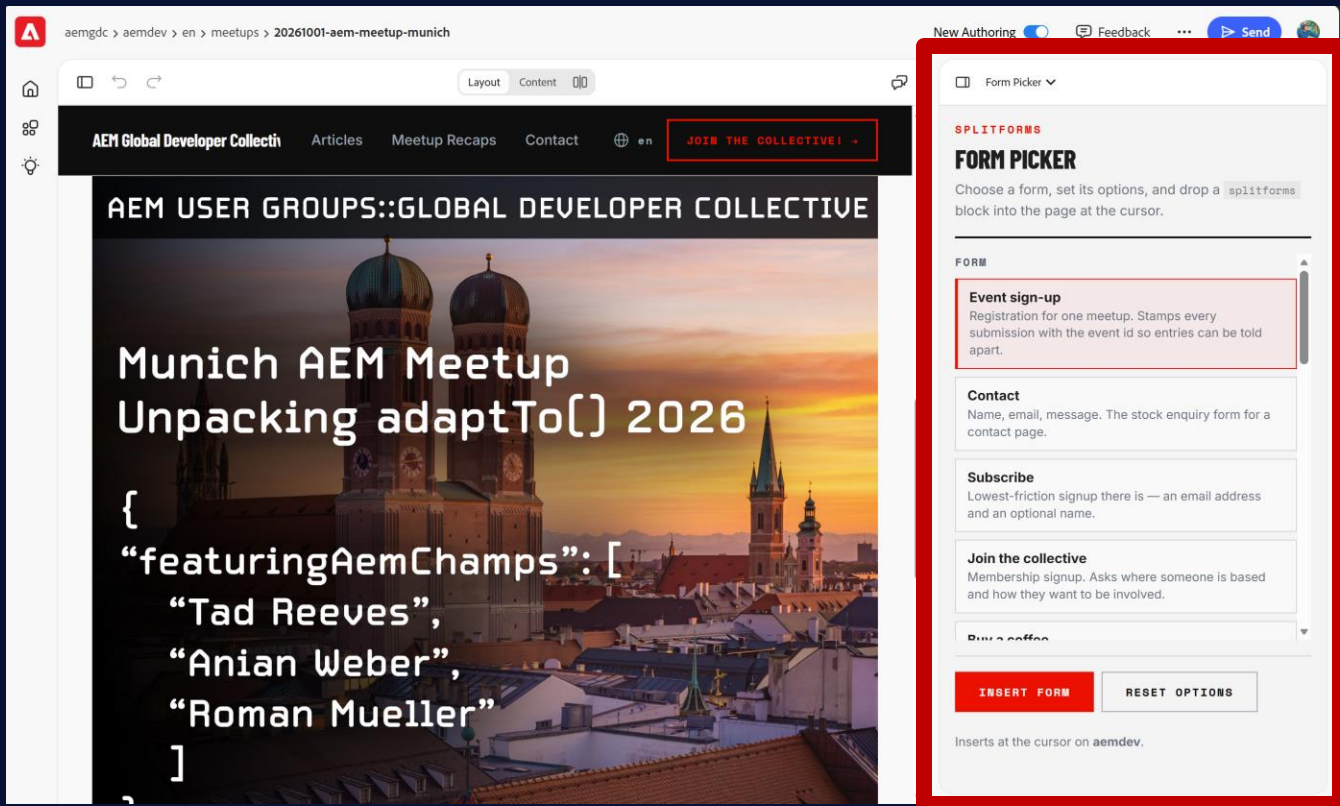
`DA editor ↔ DA_SDK ↔ your static app on aem.live ↔ anything`

AEM publish · Forms CS · DAM · sheets · your own APIs.

A plugin gets page context and an auth token, and can write back. No Java, no OSGi, no deploy pipeline, no dispatcher flush.

Customizable Surfaces in Experience Workspace

Library Plugin



The screenshot shows the AEM Global Developer Collective website. The main content area features a large image of a city skyline at sunset with the text: "Munich AEM Meetup Unpacking adaptTo() 2026 { 'featuringAemChamps': ['Tad Reeves', 'Anian Weber', 'Roman Mueller'] }".

On the right, the "FORM PICKER" interface is visible. It includes a search bar, a list of forms, and buttons to insert or reset options.

FORM PICKER

Choose a form, set its options, and drop a `splitforms` block into the page at the cursor.

FORM

- Event sign-up**
Registration for one meetup. Stamps every submission with the event id so entries can be told apart.
- Contact**
Name, email, message. The stock enquiry form for a contact page.
- Subscribe**
Lowest-friction signup there is — an email address and an optional name.
- Join the collective**
Membership signup. Asks where someone is based and how they want to be involved.
- Buy a coffee**

INSERT FORM **RESET OPTIONS**

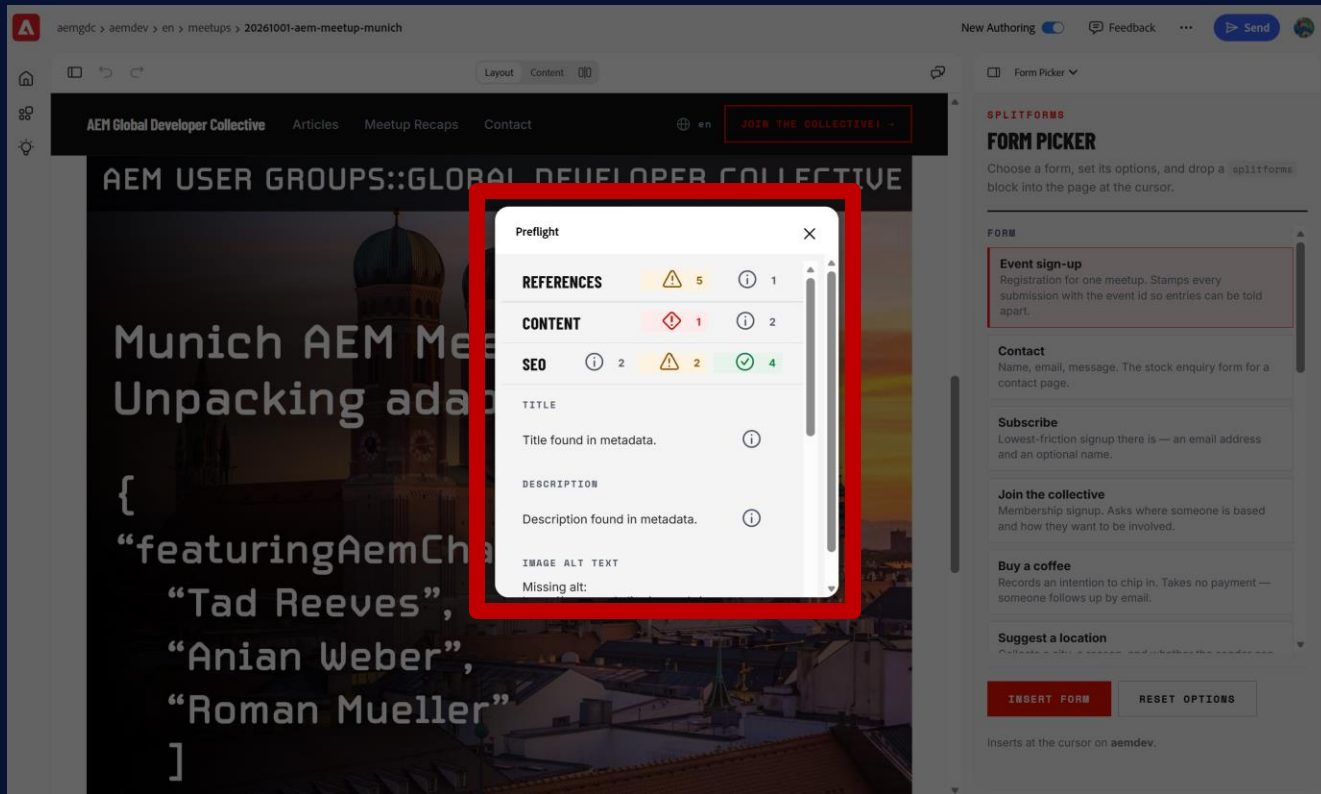
Inserts at the cursor on `aemdev`.



Full-Screen Application

11

Prepare Menu / Preflight



The screenshot shows the AEM Global Developer Collective website. A red box highlights the Preflight modal, which displays the following information:

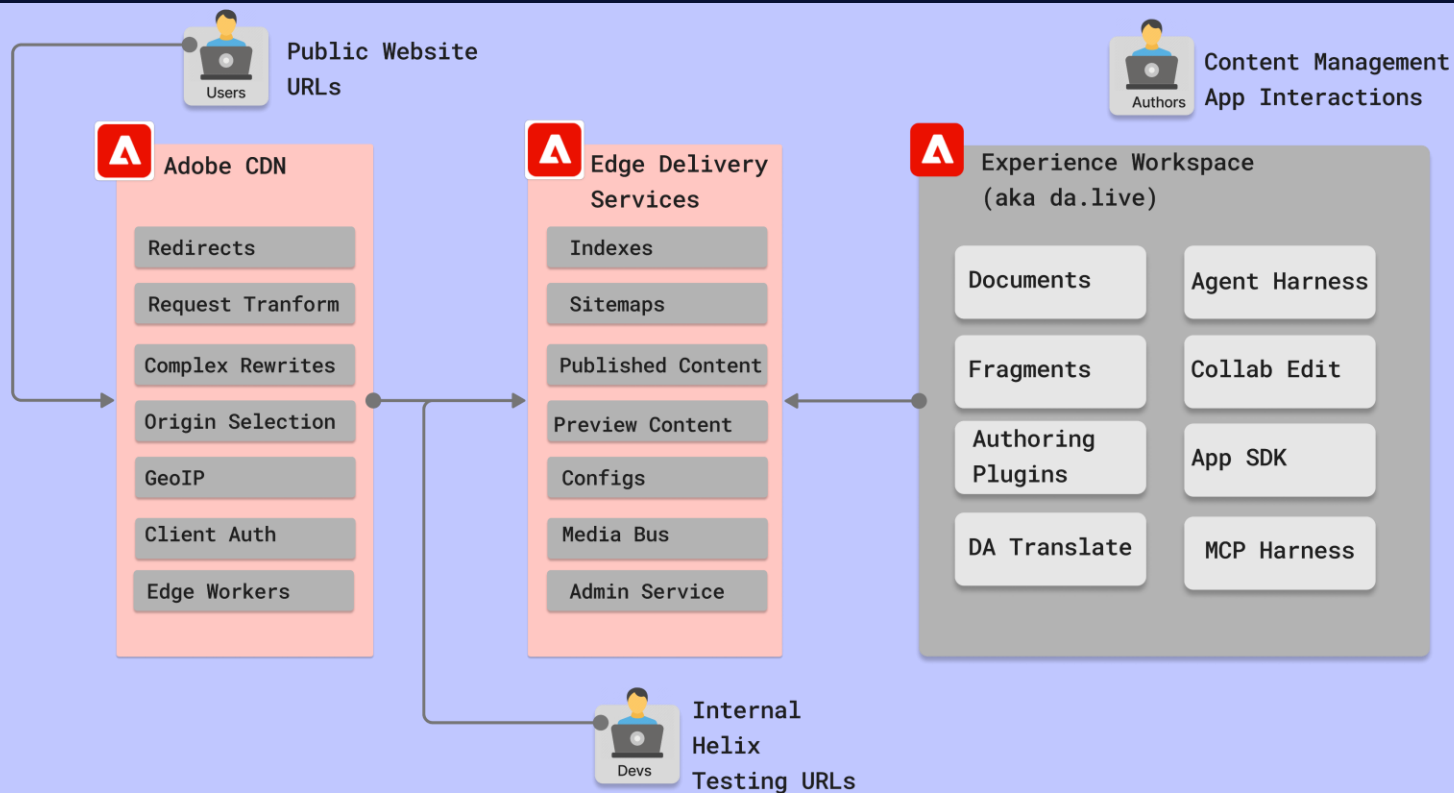
Category	Count	Icon
REFERENCES	5	Warning icon
CONTENT	1	Error icon
SEO	2	Warning icon
TITLE	2	Info icon
DESCRIPTION	2	Warning icon
IMAGE ALT TEXT	4	Checkmark icon

The modal also lists the following items:

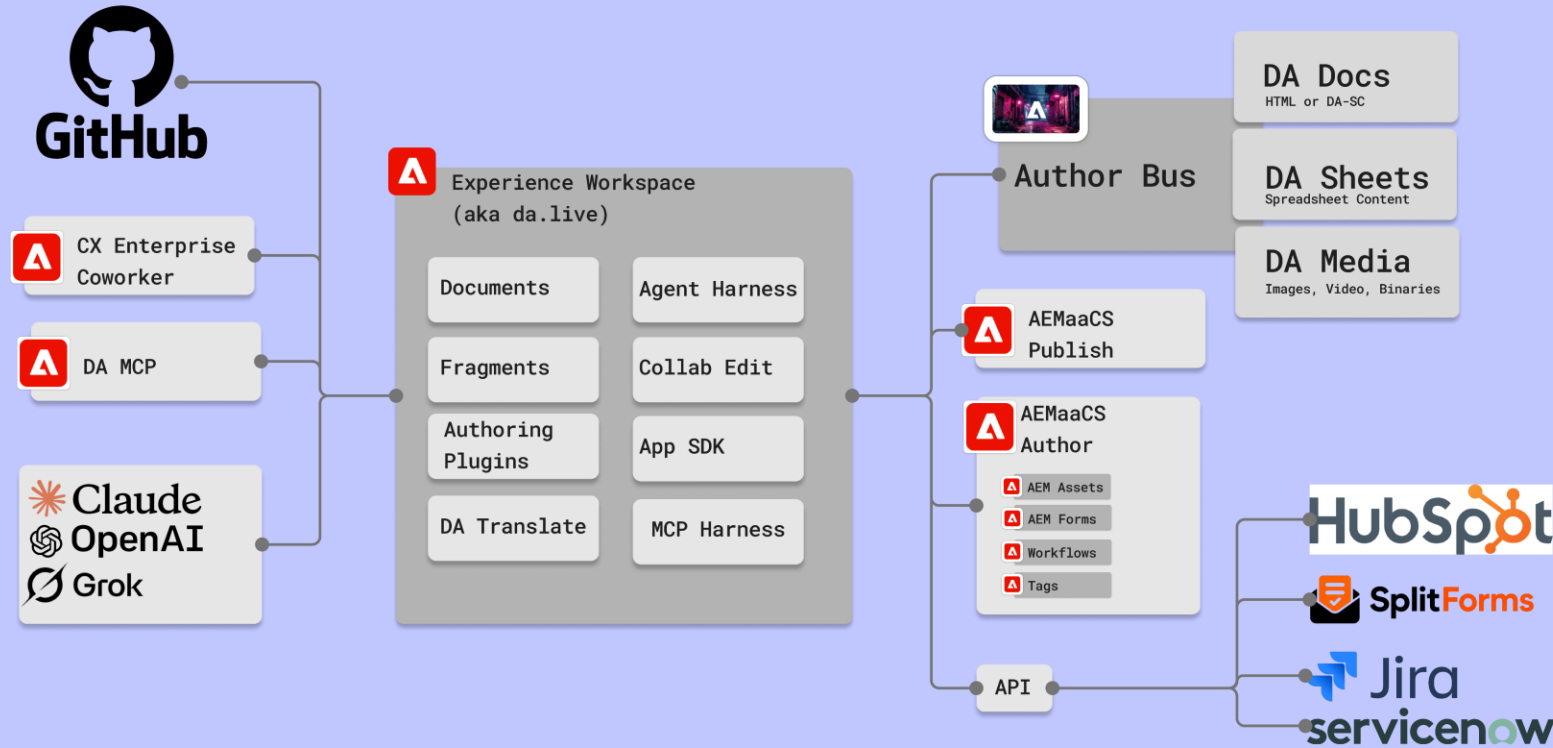
- Title found in metadata.
- Description found in metadata.
- Missing alt:

The background of the modal shows a blurred image of a city skyline with the text "Munich AEM Meetup" and "Unpacking adaptTo()".

Where EW Fits in the New AEM World



Ingredients a DA Plugin Can Work With



The Anatomy of a Plugin

```
tools/plugin/index.js

import DA_SDK from '../sdk.js';

const { context, token, actions } =
  await DA_SDK;

// read page context
const page = await fetch(url, {
  headers: { authorization: token }
});

// call your API -> Insert your logic

// write back into the document
actions.sendHTML(result);
```

da.live/config#/org/repo

title	description	image	path	ref
Plugin	What it does	Icon url	/tools/plugin/index.html	

~15 lines of JS

Along with a simple html file makes for a complete plugin. Served from the same repo as the site; there's no separate deploy.

Full Screen vs Library Plugin



Full Screen App

- Standalone, iframe-based tools
- Designed for multi-page and site-wide workflows
- Own the workflow end-to-end
- Ideal for long-running or high-risk actions



Library Plugin

- Page-level enhancements
- Run in the context of a single page
- Lightweight and fast
- Best for inline helpers and small author assists

What We Built to Demonstrate



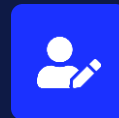
AEM Tag Picker

Your /content/cq:tags taxonomy, live, in DA



Icon Picker

Searchable SVG library



Bio Manager

Structured people-data editor



Form Picker

Forms Cloud Service, in the page



Preflight

Governance rules your governance team edits



Advanced Search

Block-aware bulk find/replace with undo



Translation Tracker

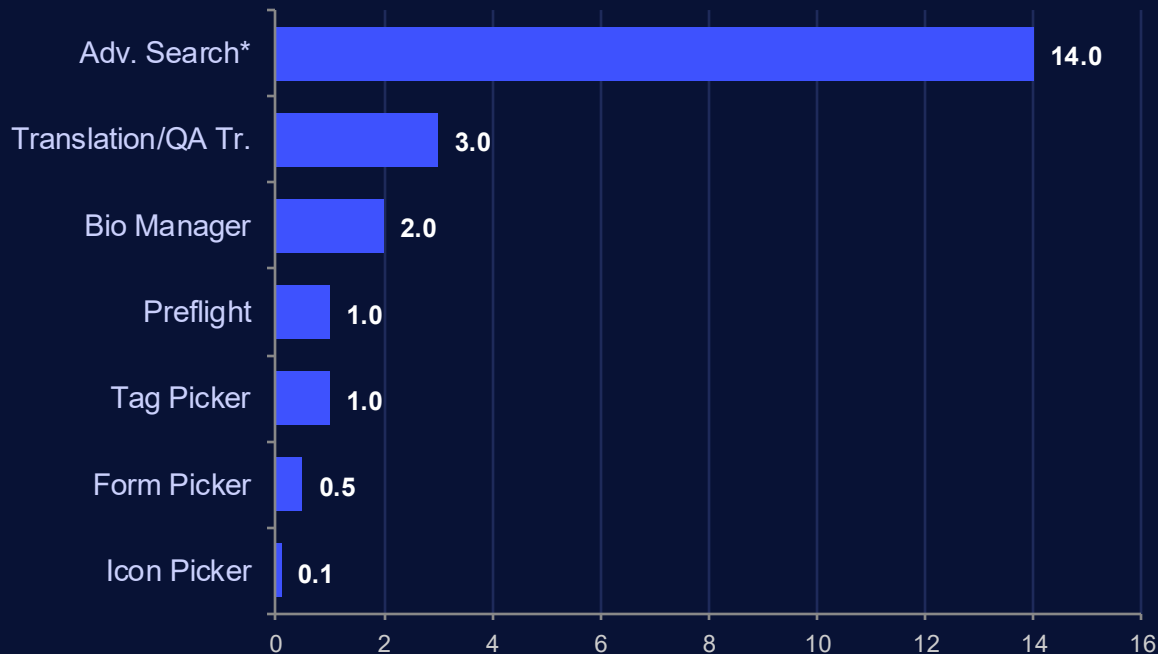
Status against source

THE DEMO

Authoring Use case:

"I need an invitation page for next week's Berlin meetup, it needs to be live, before I leave this stage."

The Honest Effort



Estimated Time

* Advanced Search
made by single dev w/o
AI

**A basic plugin is
hours of work with
AI. The complex
ones take a few
days.**

What Made This Possible



DA_SDK gives context + auth

Page context and an auth token in one import. IMS provides pass-through auth to Adobe services



Run out of your EDS repo

Same repo, same deploy & no separate lifecycle.



AEM stays VERY useful as an API

AEM does taxonomy, DAM, workflow, but doesn't get forced to be the delivery tier.



Config as content

Rules and lists in sheets, edited by the people who own them.



Develop Author UX Locally w/Prod Content

Branch & local development work uses production content for fully-accurate representation at all levels.

Please Take It

Content Repo

<https://da.live/#!/aemgdc/aemdev>

Plugins

<https://github.com/aemgdc/aemdev/tree/main/tools>

Block Party

<https://www.aem.live/developer/block-party/>



[github.com/
aemgdc/aemdev](https://github.com/aemgdc/aemdev)

Questions?