



METROPOLIS METAVERSUM

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE GRID CONVERSION
ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2019
[ENGLISH VERSION]

Important Information about Grid conversion on 24th February 2019

Dear Metros!

Here we go at last! After more than 10 years of existence it is necessary for METRO to prepare itself for new technologies and new requirements. We have chosen the 24th of February 2019 (around 04:00 a.m. German time) as this is the time when METRO has been online uninterruptedly for an incredible 20,000 hours. And that without any data loss!

On 24th of February 2019, a new "parallel METRO" will go online, which will exist next to the "old Metro" for some time. Switching to the "new METRO" will be incredibly simple. The steps necessary for this will be announced separately on the target date.

1 What will change now?

First, we will convert the new METRO grid services to OpenSim version 0.9.1. At the same time, the Mainlands and the METRO rental regions will be converted to OS 0.9.1. Owners of self-hosted regions can then download the new METRO version of OpenSim and use it.

In addition to the switch of version, the database will also be reduced in size. This is necessary to clean the database of assets that are no longer needed. We estimate that only 10% of the old database will be transferred to the new database. This cleanup will result in improved DB performance and improved data security. It also enables METRO to plan and manage server costs more flexibly. But we will come to this point later.

With the parallel operation of the "old METRO" and the "new METRO", we make sure that we can ensure a smooth transition from the old to the new METRO without grid shutdown. This parallel operation is expected to continue until the end of March 2019. This period should be sufficient to verify the completeness of the transmitted data and the functionality of the regions.

The parallel operation will burden METRO with approx. 30% higher server costs. Therefore, please again support our efforts with a donation.

Link to the donation page:

<https://hypergrid.org/metropolis/wiki/en/index.php?title=Spenden>

2 What happens to my avatar?

The 1st way: You are a tenant of a METRO region

If you are a tenant of a METRO region, you don't have to worry about anything. Your avatar (Estate Manager) and your regions will automatically be transferred to the "new METRO". For each additional avatar, however, you must choose one of the following ways to transfer data.

The 2nd way: Data transfer through the grid

This way all your avatar data including inventory will be transferred from the "old METRO" to the "new METRO". All entries keep their old identifiers (UUID), so that all links (incl. appearance) will also work in the "new METRO" without adjustments. No IAR saving is necessary. We recommend this automated data transfer. The automated data transfer will then be carried out from 24.02.2019 (in the order of receipt). The execution of the automated data transfer can be booked with the following link:

<https://metropolis.hypergrid.org/avatrans.php>

When booking the data transfer, you will be connected to PayPal to pay a **one-time fee of 5.00 Euros**. Another payment method is unfortunately not possible.

The 3rd Way: Inventory Backup and Restore by Users

If you have your own self-hosted region, you can create an Inventory Backup (IAR) using a specific console feature. You can then restore this IAR file after connecting your region to the "new METRO" using a specific console function.

More information about creating an IAR backup can be found here:

http://opensimulator.org/wiki/Inventory_Archives

Important: Creation of the IAR backup file must be done before 24th of February 2019!

If you do not have your own region, it is advisable to ask another user in the circle of your friends to create an IAR file for you.

Every avatar who has not already been transferred to the "new METRO" via the 1st or 2nd way must register again in the "new METRO". A **one-time, symbolic fee of 1.00 Euro** will be charged upon registration as of 24th February 2019. This fee will then be charged for each newly registered avatar. Unless the 1st or 2nd way applies.

The 4th way: Do nothing!

If none of the 3 ways mentioned above applies to you and you do nothing, your avatar data (inventory, groups, appearance, state settings, etc.) will not be transferred to the "new METRO" and will be completely deleted with the "old METRO" at the end of March 2019.

3 What happens to my self-hosted regions?

If not already done so, you should make a backup (OAR file) of your region(s) in the "old METRO" before 24th of February 2019. After this date, a data backup will no longer be possible.

A tutorial for connecting remotely hosted regions to the "new METRO" will be available on 24th of February 2019.

You should consider already now that in the future a cost sharing of **1.50 Euro per month/region** will be charged for the connection of a region to the "new METRO".

A new, scalable server concept will enable us to cover the server costs incurred in the future through this cost sharing. The regulated financing of the grid is thus secured.

4 What else is changing?

Browser-based web solution

Starting in summer 2019, tenants of METRO regions will be provided with a web variant of their region in addition to their "normal" OpenSim region. This web solution will be the exact conversion of the OpenSim region into an HTML5/Javascript variant. It will run in all common browsers without plugins, router settings, viewers, etc. and will be compatible with most VR glasses. Initially, a walk-in browser-based web variant of the rental region will be made available by summer 2019. Further development will include avatars, multi-users, physics, particles, scripting, animations, etc. The project will be launched in April 2019 as a METRO project with RoadMap.

Conversion of the websites

Following the conversion of the database, the websites of METRO and the Hypergrid Association will also be redesigned.

Use of sandbox regions

In future, the building rights in the "new METRO" on over 100 free regions with sandbox functions (DUNE and other sandboxes) will be limited to registered METRO avatars. Here, too, we want to increase data security

5 How will METRO finance itself in the future?

After the shutdown of the "old METRO", the server costs will only be financed via a cost sharing per connected region. But donations will also be welcome in the future, e.g. to support the development of the METRO browser solution.

6 Still questions?

If you still have questions about the Grid conversion, please post them in the forum so that all other METROs can benefit from it as well.

Metropolis, 27th of January 2019

Your METRO-Team