DD&T — WEEKLY REPORT

Digital, Data & Technology · file no later than Sunday by 4:00 PM ET

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Group: Digital ☒ Data ☐ Technology ☐ Creative Pod ☐

Week ending: **November 1, 2026**

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1 · This week in one paragraph

This week I worked on search and on recovery mode while our tickets moved to the WC board. For search, I researched adding podcast and show episodes to Elasticsearch (WC-513) and wrote an initial plan, `ELASTIC_SEARCH_EPISODES_PLAN.md`, after which contest search was split into its own card (WC-180). I analysed 12 months of Mixpanel search data (about 95k searches) and wrote `SEARCH_ANALYSIS.md` for the team: 57% of searches are for a station's name or frequency, and fewer than 0.1% are for contests or events. Based on that, Ricky and I agreed to index contests by title and start/end dates only for now. The backend for Moments search (WC-512) is complete. For recovery mode (WC-176), I analysed the current AWS Lambda and, since the team can't change the response schema, updated it to return the current 25 stations with their stream settings and the thumbnail and portrait images the mobile apps need, with the artwork mirrored to S3. I deployed it to production and closed the card after Vico Iriarte and Carlos Jimenez tested it: the apps no longer crash in recovery mode, and they load the station list and play stations. I documented the project in a `README.md` (its AWS resources, how to switch recovery mode on and off, and how to update and deploy it), and the repo is now on Bitbucket. After Alberto flagged the AWS-hosted mobile config as a single point of failure, I wrote a plan for a config and recovery service that can fail over between DigitalOcean, AWS and GCP (`RECOVERY_CONFIG_SERVICE_PLAN.md`).

2 · Open items

- **WC-513 Search for Podcast & Show Episodes Improvements**: research and initial plan done (`ELASTIC_SEARCH_EPISODES_PLAN.md`). Now that contests have their own card, more research is needed before building.
- **WC-512 Search for Moments**: backend done, waiting on the client release before deploying.
- **WC-180 Search for Contests (weblink support) – API**: scope agreed with Ricky: index contests with title and start/end dates, then see whether people use it.

3 · Next week

- **WC-513**: research how episode results should be shaped: the response fields, how results are distributed across types (episodes would outnumber everything else in the index about 28 to 1), and the UI.
- **WC-513**: research the feasibility of getting and syncing Simplecast podcast episode data.
- **WC-180**: index contests by title and start/end dates.
- **WC-512**: deploy Moments search once the client release is out.

4 · Open issues

- **WC-176**: in recovery mode, the image in the radio player still doesn't load. A follow-up card will fix it.
- **WC-176**: the recovery Lambda runs on Node.js 18, which AWS no longer supports for Lambda. Moving it to Node.js 24 should only need a runtime change and a re-test.
- **WC-176**: the mobile remote config is hosted only on AWS, so an AWS outage stops both apps from starting. The multi-cloud approach in `RECOVERY_CONFIG_SERVICE_PLAN.md` needs a team decision, including which traffic-routing option to use.
- **WC-176**: open question from Alberto: should recovery mode also create Soundstack server-side sessions so programmatic ads keep serving? That would need iOS and Android changes.
- **Search**: decisions pending with the team from `SEARCH_ANALYSIS.md`: which record represents a show in search, whether the apps send the listener's DMA with each search, and whether to adopt a search success metric.
- **WC-520 Message Center Issues** and **WC-521 Podcast Subscription flow not working**: new bugs assigned Oct 30.

5 · Suggestions

- Make station search exact and local: add station nicknames, cities and missing frequencies, and rank stations by the listener's DMA. Station searches are 57% of all searches.
- Track search success as the share of searches that end in playback, and compare the top 100 queries before and after every search change, since episodes and contests are about to be added to the index.
- Make the mobile config and recovery mode portable across DigitalOcean, AWS and GCP, so a single provider outage can't take the apps down.

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