

# Infomaker 6-month update - February 2019

## First 6 month as a Newscycle company

During the last 6 month we have worked intensively meeting new customers and colleagues, to understand the needs of the global media market and to set the roadmap ahead. We are also working hard on strengthen our development teams in Sweden with more resources within development, UX and test / quality.

As an important part of the whole Newscycle family, we still have the Infomaker spirit!

During last year, Newscycle has been really successful in their effort of adding new pieces to the solution portfolio. In december, the US company Marketing G2 was acquired. MG2 is developing solutions within audience engagement, data management and subscriber revenue growth and they really complement our presentation solutions.

This is the first bi-annual update for 2019. The goal is to give you an understanding of our universe, what we are doing and what you can expect from us during the first half of 2019.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your ordinary Infomaker / Newscycle contact or send a mail to me, Karin, Joakim or Olof - you'll find our emails in this document.

All the best // Peter Månsson, CTO  
peter.mansson@infomaker.se

## Our general objectives

Our goal is to support customer to grow their business and reduce their costs. As a part of that we want to help customers reduce their costs for hosting, maintenance and support. We will do that by offer software as a service.

That means that our solutions going forward will be hosted by Infomaker or will run in the cloud. Today we already have Digital Writer and Infomaker Dashboard as well as a lot of Open Content solutions delivered as a service.

Open Content was initially used as an archive, installed on premise. Today the on premise installations are a limitation for improvements we need to do in Open Content. Within twelve months we will no longer offer Open Content as an on premise solution. More information about this if you continue to read and in upcoming newsletters.

Running solutions in the cloud hosted by Infomaker adds value to the service. It makes it easier to monitorize and support. The goal is to be able to solve issues before they are even noticed by the customer or end user. It makes it possible for us to simplify the architecture providing a stable environment which will be easier and less time consuming to troubleshoot.

Newspilot is still an on premise solution, but parts of the system support we have in Newspilot are moving over to our new solutions. One important piece is Newsroom Planner for editorial planning. We are developing this together with the Swedish news agency TT Nyhetsbyrå.

We have during the last years moved from working feature first towards user experience first. We do not only need a feature, we need features that are easy to use and adds great value to the workflow. More features is not the right way to go, simplify and streamlining functionality is the way forward. Streamlining functionality means that we need to focus on features that makes a huge difference in everyday work. We are continuously improving existing features from an UX perspective to improve efficiency.

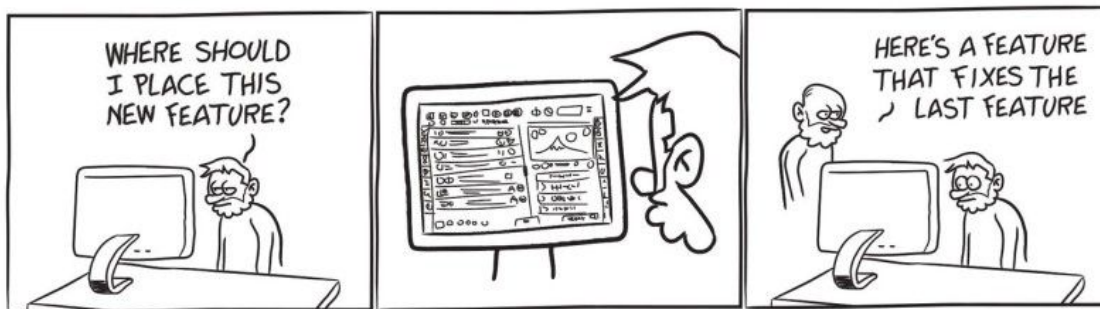
We are of course also exploring possible solutions for achieving a more efficient print workflows. One important decision when discussing this is that all future print improvements will be developed in our new digital solutions, meaning they will be web based, cloud based and hosted by Infomaker. This is a long term goal and we will continue to support Newspilot on premise in the future until we have a solution that is better than what we have today.

One part of that is to automate the creation of pages and let the layout automatically adapt to the content, we call it Elastic Layouts. Page planning is also discussed and evaluated how it can be automated. What would be the minimum requirements if you would do a new web based solution? If you have ideas, input or want to join our discussions, please let us know.

// Karin Söderlund, CEO  
karin.soderlund@infomaker.se

## Moving from feature to experience

Infomaker has always been working with close collaboration with their customers, which assured that we never built something in vain. About three years ago, still in the Dark Age of UX, Infomaker started a new big leap; to transform our editorial system to a cloud solution. The design decisions were still made with features in first mind, and even if it sometimes included the users in the process, the focus on the development was to create a product with the minimal demand the customer had – **a minimum viable product (MVP)**.



Since then, we have invested a lot in changing our mindset, and we are now close to the **UX maturity stage**, and now with far greater awareness of UX than ever before.

Everybody within the organization now talks about UX on a more profound way. We have also recruited one new interaction designer and one new UX designer. The culture is changing, and now I have the authority to actually take action; to be able to rush the organization towards the UX as a service maturity stage, and then eventually break The Barrier. And most importantly, designing a lovable experience.

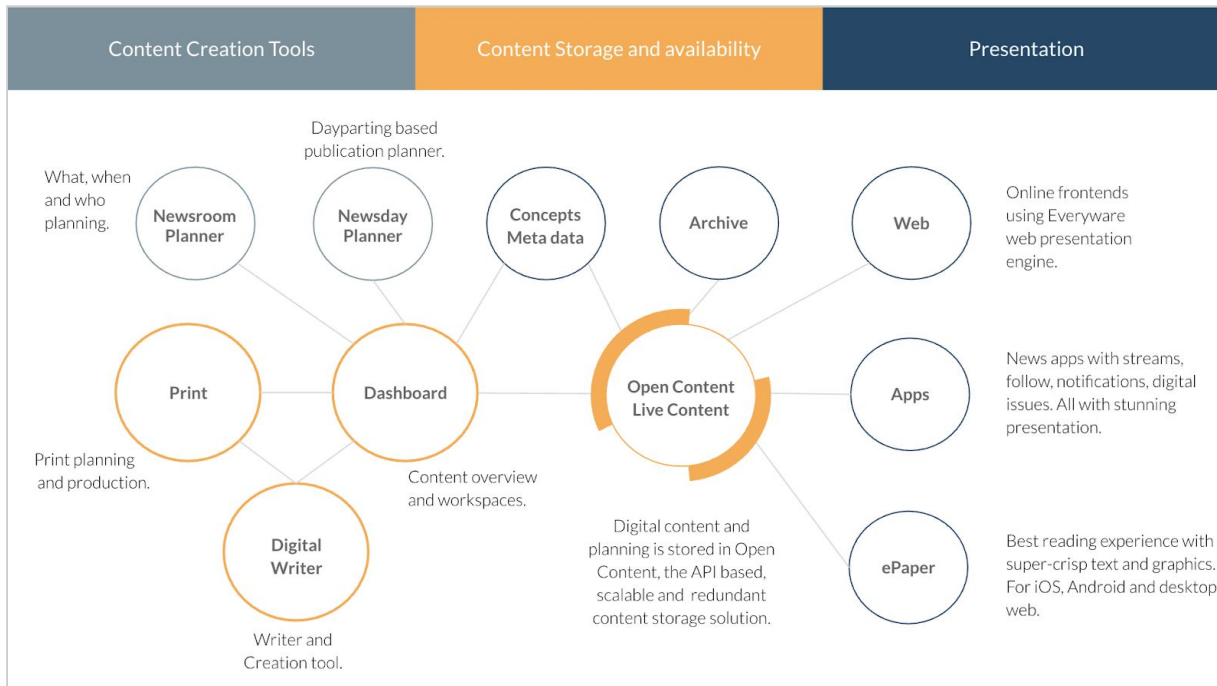
### Read the whole article:

<https://www.infomaker.io/article/evolving-the-tech-company-moving-from-feature-to-experience/>

I need coffee // Joakim Holmevi, head of UX  
joakim.holmevi@infomaker.se

# The Infomaker Universe

Let's continue with a recap our universe:



*The Infomaker Universe.*

**Decoupled.** We really love the decoupled approach. Decoupled means freedom, both for you and for us. Instead of building a large, old-fashioned “system-that-manages-everything”, the decoupled approach enables us to create smaller, best-in-class pieces that works together. That also opens up for you to add other, smart solutions to your stack.

**Smooth.** For the user it's super important that the experience of the solutions are seamless. The last 6 month we have continued the work with creating **standard setups** that simplifies things. We now have standards for metadata and setups for the Digital Writer, Dashboard, App Platform and Everyware. That means shorter implementation time and smoother upgrades.

**Metadata.** Using the IPTC NewsML-G2 Concept Standard, we have defined a set of standardized metadata types, like authors, category trees, geo data, entity tags, channels etc. All of our solutions are moving to use those standards, minimizing migration and conversion hiccups, and simplifies metadata usage.

High-quality metadata is a foundation for AI production assistance/automation as well as for personalisation of content. We have developed the **OC Concept Admin Tool** to administer the metadata.

Concept Admin is available in the **Dashboard**.

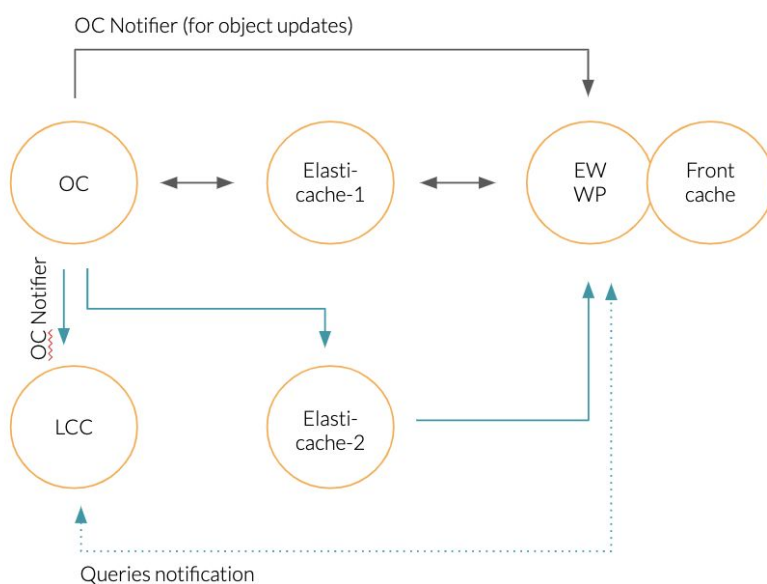
## The Everyware web presentation platform

We had a goal to minimize the time from hitting the publish button until the content was published on the front page of a web site. In december, we officially released our new **near real time cache** for Everyware.

Instead of waiting for the time-to-live-based cache, the front cache is updated in seconds. A few customers are already in production and up and running with the new cache solution.

The near-real-time-cache knows when something that affects a front page occurs, and immediately updates the front cache. The result is a near real time updated web site. EW Cache Invalidator is a Wordpress plugin that identifies queries and content used on the site, like the widgets on your front pages. Our Live Content Cloud Service takes care of the logic to understand when a new content item affects a specific front page.

To enable the new cache mechanism, the minimum required version of Everyware is 1.7.2 and the minimum required version of Everyboard is 1.6.7.



*The Cache solution in Everyware.*

**We have started up two new implementation teams for Everyware**, one in Denmark and one in the US, serving their respective markets. To shorten the time and resources needed for implementation of a new web project we are also working on an **Everyware Starter Kit, EW Kit**. The first version of EW Kit was released at the end of december.

The EW Kit is a set of versioned packages built on top of Everyware. Using the EW Kit as the foundation of a news site delivers a lot of stuff available as standard, out of the box. And as a versioned package, it allows us to fix bugs, add functions and other enhancements and get that out in an easy way.

And on top of EW Kit, the teams are also developing a set of standard site themes. If the standard theme fits you needs, the time from project start to go live is really short.

**We have also started to look into** possibilities with the **MarketingG2 products** integrated with Everyware, adding valuable solutions within customer engagements like targeting, paywall, user tracking and marketing campaigns.

## The content backend: Open Content

Open Content, OC is really the heart of our universe. We are focusing on building an even better Open Content. During the autumn, we have added two new senior developers to the Open Content team.

### In the middle of February, we will release version 2.3 of Open Content:

**Built-in content cache.** We have added an (optional) cache layer to the OC API. The cache protects your Public OC from burst traffic, like a push to the today's morning edition. The OC cache helps you to lower the costs to run your backend.

The cache is based on Ledge (<https://github.com/ledgedev/ledge>), the same technology we use in Everyware.

**Java and other 3rd party components have** been updated to their latest versions. Open Content is now running Solr 7.6. You also **need openjdk 11** (from Adopt openjdk or other source). Wildfly is updated to version 15. The API:s are updated to Swagger Open API 3.0.

**We are also adding SolrCloud multi-node setup** as a standard installation to add even more redundancy, scalability as well as high availability.

**Faster.** The 2.3 version is in general about 10% faster than previous versions.

IMID is now a part of the Content Creation Tools, and Open Content will be IMID-aware in the next-coming release, after the 2.3 release, enabling single-sign-on across the whole Content Creation Universe.

**Focus on performance and scaling.** OC is scalable as-is, but we really want to increase or remove the limitations.

We want OC to be able to **index "unlimited" amount of objects**. Media houses are growing and are also consolidating. That means larger amount of content. And the global market has bigger players with even larger needs. Several companies are being consolidated.

We want OC to be able to **serve almost unlimited amount of requests**. The trend is more personalisation, more front ends and apps, more readers, more real time.

We want **a High Availability OC without any single-point-of-failure**. Digital readers are online 24x7, expecting everything to be available.

We are re-designing and optimizing both the Open Content Core as well as the setup. As standard, Open Content will support SolrCloud setups with one or many SolrCloud nodes - enabling you to run Open Content with high availability. You will see continuous upgrades to OC during the first half of 2019.

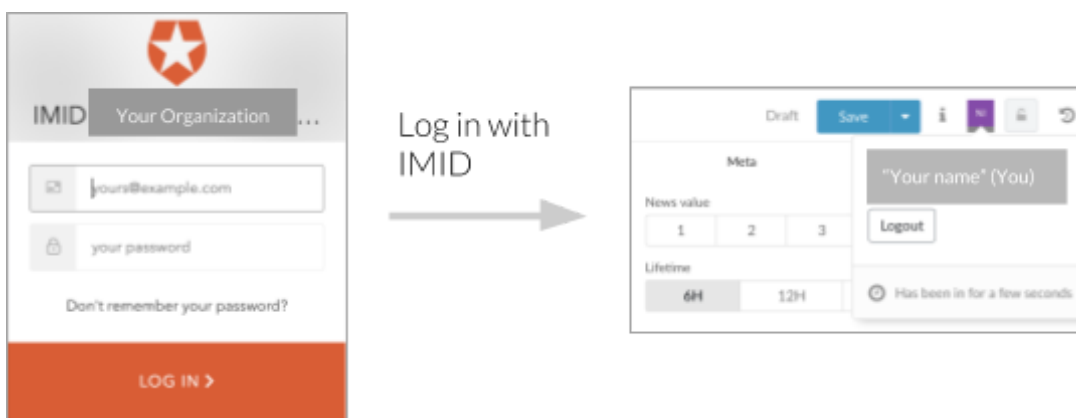
As a result of redundancy, performance, scalability and security we are using more and more cloud-based technology. Today, you can deploy Open Content on premise as well as in the cloud, but **we are successively moving to cloud-only deployment. For versions released after august 2019, deployment will require Amazon AWS deployment.**

## Login and authentication

**IMID** is our new login solution, that enables a seamless single-sign-on experience for users of our web based content creation tools. Built on the industry standard of JSON Web Tokens (JWT), IMID integrates with organization's existing identity provider using OpenID Connect (<https://openid.net/connect/>). OpenID Connect ensures compatibility with all major identity providers such as Auth0, Google, Facebook, Azure AD and many more providers.

The Digital Writer and the Dashboard are now integrated with IMID, and **we will release an IMID-enabled set of Creation tools in the middle of February.**

When upgrading to the next release of the Digital Writer and Dashboard we will discuss the best approach for your organization. You can choose between integrating your existing identity provider with IMID, or manage your Creation Tools users in a separate solution like auth0. Please contact your ordinary contact person at Infomaker/Newsycle to discuss the best approach for your organisation and setup.



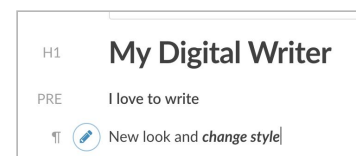
*Log in to the Digital Writer.*

## Digital Creation Tools - the Writer

**IMID** is now integrated with the Digital Writer.

There is now a **partial update function** in place, enabling other applications to change metadata of an article, even if the article is opened in the Writer. The changes are automatically distributed to all Writer-users that has the article open. The Dashboard app Publication Planner is updates to support the new update mechanism.

In the upcoming Writer release, we have also fixed a lot of small, annoying bugs and issues in the Writer. The result is a smoother and better user experience. And it's finally possible to set paragraph- and character styles for many paragraphs at the same time. We have also minimized the loading time of both the Writer itself as well as for the articles.



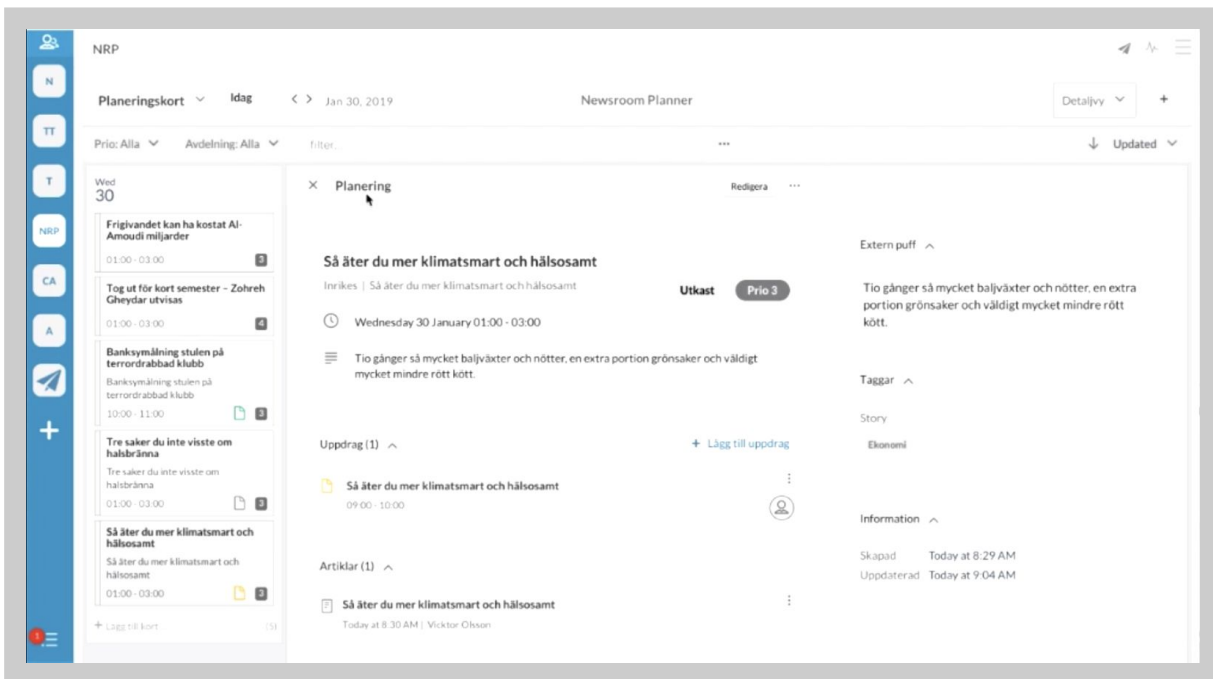
There are also a lot of smaller functions in the final stage of development, like embeddable maps and improved image search plugin that will be released in the near future. The IMID integration also adds better document traceability and it will (finally...) add your byline to the article.

We are also moving to a more multi-tenant world, simplifying setup, operation, maintenance and upgrades. A first step is a new, streamlined Plugin Deployment Workflow.

## Digital Creation Tools - the Dashboard

Dashboard is the platform that keeps all Newsroom applications together. **IMID** is now integrated with the Dashboard, enabling single-sign-on within the Creation Universe.

We have been working on the **Newsroom Planner**. It's about who is doing what and when and keep things together. In Newsroom Planner there are views for Calendar events, Planning cards and Assignments.

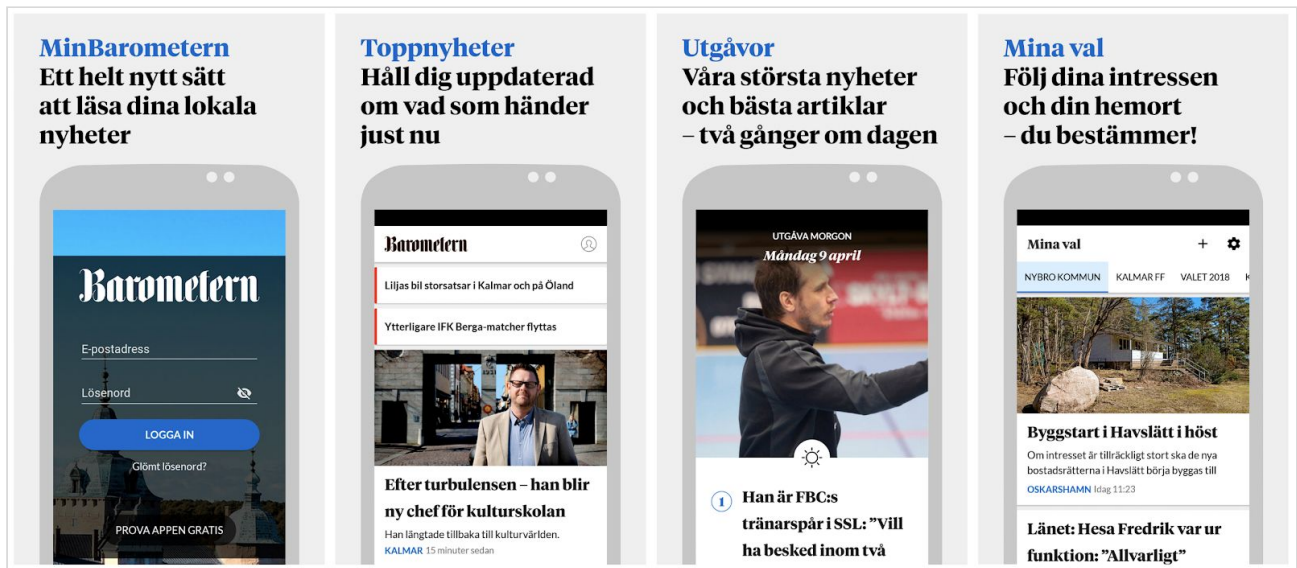


*A planning card in Newsroom Planner in Infomaker Dashboard. To the left is the planned items for one day shown. The planning card itself has different parts, such as assignments, planned article, external teaser and information.*

We develop the Newsroom Planner together with the TT Nyhetsbyrån, the Swedish News Agency. During February, a number of users at TT will test Newsroom Planner. The output of that will determine how close we are to a first public release. Candidates for next step with the Newsroom Planner are to add image support for assignments as well as implementing the Calendar view.

## ePaper and News Apps

Last year we released the updated App Platform. Gota Media was the first customer to go live with the new apps. We are so happy to see that their subscribers really love the apps! The ratings in App Store and Google Play are really amazing. We are continuing refining the platform, building an ever better experience.



*Login and authentication.*

*Top News List.*

*Digital Editions.*

*Personalized news flows.*

**Login and authentication.** The platform integrates with your digital subscription system at the backend. In the app, you are able to **configure** native views for your login workflow. In addition, we now offer single-sign-on for our news apps and ePaper.

**In-app-purchase.** On mobile, the easiest way for a user to buy something is to use the platform's in-app purchase mechanism. We have now added a really nice support for in-app-purchases for both iOS and Android. The ability to add in-app-purchases adds some important advantages:

- It's the easiest way for the user to buy a digital subscription
- It's safe - both for you and the user
- It increases the conversion from consuming your content for free to becoming a paying, recurring customer
- The in-app-purchase can be synchronized with own subscription system
- In-app-purchases open up the ability for free trial periods on iOS

You users can now buy a digital subscription just using the platform's built-in purchase mechanism. You'll get paid from Apple or Google, minus their fee. Both non-renewing and auto-renewing subscriptions are support.

In the backend, the App Platform has the ability to integrate your subscription system with the App Store and Google Play universe. The in-app-purchase is automatically communicated to and synchronized with your subscription system. To start with, that integration is available for Tulo Payway customers.

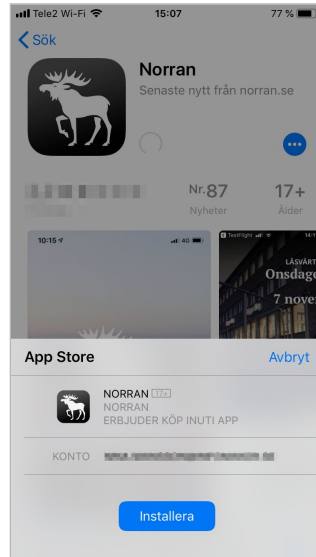
A user that has bought an digital subscription using in-app-purchase is automatically updated in your subscription system. And if the user terminates the subscription, that's synced to your system as well.



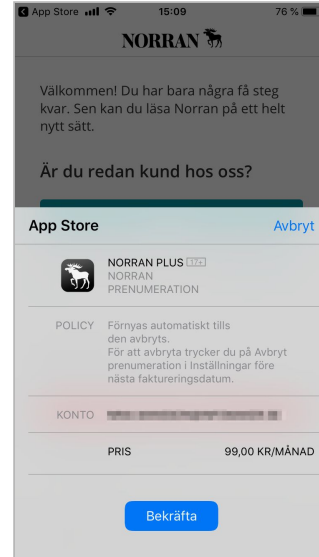
## In-app purchase example



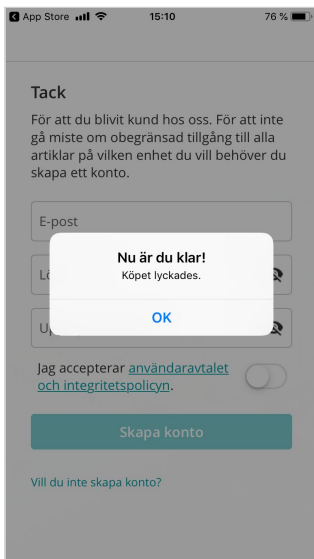
1. Download the News app.



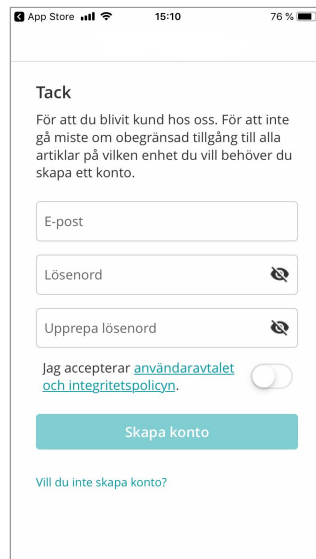
2. Start a subscription in the app.



3. Confirm the in-app-purchase.



4. In-app-purchase-success!



5. Sign in to the Customer system.



6. Manage the subscription.

The in-app-purchase workflow in the Norran example in App Store.

1. Download the News app.
2. Start a subscription in the app.
3. Confirm the in-app-purchase.
4. In-app-purchase-success!
5. Also sign in to the customer subscription system.
6. Manage the subscription/in-app-purchase in the News app.

# Print and Newspilot

## **Newspilot 4.9 supporting OpenJDK 8**

Newspilot 4.9.x and later is tested and works with OpenJDK 8. If you do not want to run Oracle JDK, uninstall it and install OpenJDK instead, <https://adoptopenjdk.net/>. For those who prefer to use Oracle JDK 8, it will be alright, with the reservation that there will be no more updates.

Earlier versions of Newspilot are not tested with OpenJDK. If you are using an older version of Newspilot, we recommend upgrading to the latest Newspilot 4.9 version.

Upcoming Newspilot 5 will require OpenJDK 11 or Oracle JDK 11. Newspilot 5 is scheduled for release in the first quarter of 2019. Possibly, OpenJDK 11 will be bundled in Newspilot 5, ie. that it will be included in the software package.

## **Enhanced integration with Digital Writer**

Many customers are using the integration. We are in the final stage of delivering some important enhancements:

- Images used in a Newspilot Print-article are now automatically added to the Digital Writer-article.
- Image Metadata added in Newspilot is automatically transferred to the images in Digital Writer.

**The upcoming Newspilot 5 is a more secure Newspilot Platform** enabling us to move parts of the work to web clients or automated processes. For you and your users this is an almost invisible part, but it means that you can trust on web browser-apps as well as AI/algorithms mechanisms connected to your print system. All access and restriction rules are applied at the server backend for all kind of clients. That work is finished and are a part of Newspilot 5 that will be released Q1 2019.

Please note, as said above, that Newspilot 5 also **requires Java 11**.

## **Newspilot InDesign CC plugins moving forward**

The latest released version is called Magenta, and a lot of effort has been made to stabilise it. Also a number of comfort issues has been solved to improve the overall experience. For example the handling of ad warnings, that now offers an option to show a warning dialog whenever ads are missing or has errors. Also the write back functionality now accept multi select that makes it possible to write back multiple articles.

In parallel with Magenta, the progress with the next release, Yellow, is moving forward. These are some of the new functions in Yellow:

- a state widget that will show status for Newspilot connection, Document and Ads very convenient in the InDesign toolbar.

- placing of coupled articles will use Newspilot setting to decide whether to decouple article or not
- show content in palettes depending on the user permissions in Newspilot.

Yellow will soon be available in a first beta version.