

MediaWiki Unleashed

A substantial, growing community of MediaWiki users and developers outside the Wikimedia movement has evolved, creating wikis that vary in topic, size, number of editors, number of readers, access restrictions, and activity. These wikis hold content that does not belong in Wikimedia wikis, but the goal of sharing knowledge is still fundamental in them. The non-Wikimedia MediaWiki community benefits from the Wikimedia movement's stewardship of MediaWiki as the foundational technology in support of Wikipedia and its sister projects. Similarly, the Wikimedia movement benefits from the non-Wikimedia MediaWiki community's contributions and innovation: more use of MediaWiki results in a larger pool of talented editors, more trained MediaWiki developers, more testing of the code base in different situations, and more innovative extensions and use cases.

Who is using MediaWiki?

SNPedia: genetic information database that powers Promethease to provide personal DNA reports
Wikifab.org/Dokit.io: supporting a large community of people sharing their creations and do-it-yourself projects
Wikia: free of charge, for-profit, advertising-supported hosting service for user-contributed content
Gamepedia/Hydra Wiki Platform: wiki farms for game-focused wikis that are performance tuned for sudden long spikes in traffic and content editing and scaled to work in cloud-based environments
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Clinic: documentation of a standard set of terminology and definitions
Genesys: documentation for software to create and manage call centers
Columbia University: collaborative research project on historical Tibetan newspapers
VistaPrint: over 10 years providing the global documentation wiki for its 10,000 employees with 8,000 readers, 1,000 active contributors over 30 days, 250,000 articles, and 2.5 million edits
Maryland Department of Transportation: an internal policy manual for 12,000 employees and an external resource for engineering and regulation management modeled after similar wikis in Missouri and Michigan
GCcollab Wiki: a public wiki hosted by the Government of Canada for collaboration and knowledge sharing
NASA: wikis providing hardware documentation, training materials, and collaborative operational products supporting the International Space Station and Exploration programs

Diplopedia: US Department of State wiki with 100,000 users
Statipedia: US government statistics agency wiki for scientific and administrative information and glossaries
UK Ministry of Defence: content management system for Information Systems and Services cluster
Intellipedia: the go to reference place in the United States intelligence community with more than 350 million page views since its inception
MITRE: 80+ wikis for standards recommendation, roadmapping, cataloging tools, task planning, process workflow, job placement, ontology development, capturing best practices, etc.
US Department of Energy, US Army Corps of Engineers, Los Alamos National Laboratory, General Electric, Safran Electrical Power, World Bank, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Folger Shakespeare Library, and University of Paderborn
Large oil and gas companies working together to discover improvements based on common business needs
Organizations using wikis to document business practices of service redesign in health care
Non-profits sharing historical information, e.g. families contributing information about members of Halls of Fame
And many more . . .

Key Issues

Difficult to install, configure, upgrade, and maintain
Lacking integrated extension catalog with search
Poor support for custom skins
Difficulty managing job queue
Documentation gaps and inconsistencies
Desired features:
- access control
- formal document review workflow with released versions
- global templates and template repositories
- collaborative editing
- structured data storage, query, and visualization