COMPSCI 111 / 111G

Mastering Cyberspace:
An introduction to practical computing

Publishing online
• Blogs, Wikis

Publishing online

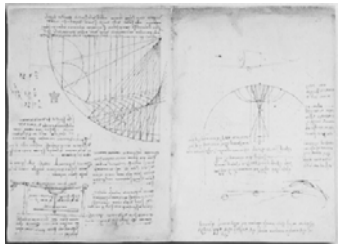
Information is made available to the public
- Target audience
- Content

Technology
- Channel for dissemination
- Different possibilities of presentation

Social and legal issues
- Copyright
- Privacy
- Cultural issues
- Concern with your own safety

Blog

Web log
- Website
- Posts are made in chronological order
- Very easy to use
- Estimated blogs worldwide: more than 50 million


Leonardo da Vinci's journal

Uses
- Online Diary
- Commentary
- Political, cultural, economical, personal, technical, …

Different Types
- Photoblog, videoblog, audioblogs (podcasts)

Terminology
- Blogger - person that posts entries to a blog
- Blogging - writing posts to a blog

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blog

Examples

Social Issues

Political movements

- E.g. during war on Iraq
- Many viewpoints
- Editorial style
- But: political censorship is also done online

Advantages

- Gives people a voice
- Enabling technology for grassroots movements

Dangers

- Providing too much information
- Children inviting wrong kind of attention

Wiki

Created by Ward Cunningham in 1995 to discuss programming patterns

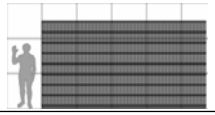
Description

- Simplest online database that could possibly work
- A content pool that can be easily edited
- Anyone with appropriate access can edit any page

Wiki Wiki bus in Hawaii

Wikipedia

- Launched 2001, worlds biggest wiki
- About 1.8 million articles
- 10,000 - 30,000 requests per sec
- More than 100 servers



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki

Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages

- Creates a central pool of content
- Everyone can contribute
- Easy to use
- Quick to develop material

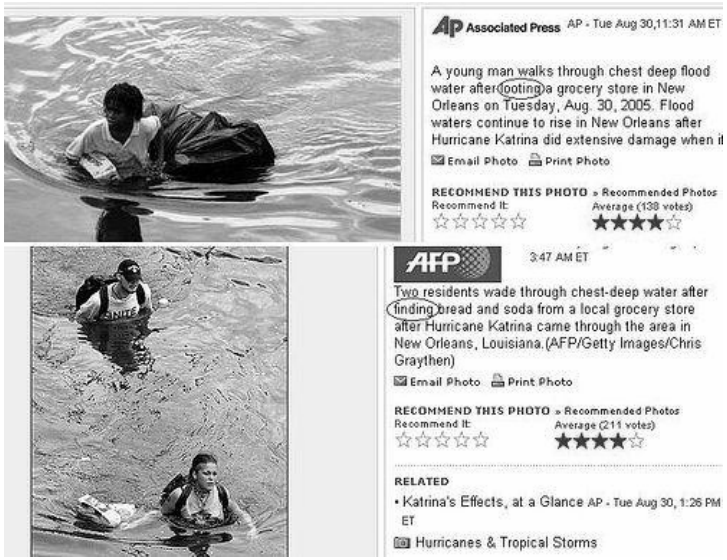
Disadvantages

- No quality control
- Anyone can contribute
- Information changes rapidly
- Vandalism a possibility

Making it work

- Everyone who adds content also takes responsibility
- Self-moderating:
  develop consensus policy, cooperate to ensure high quality
- Use change management tools

Media is never objective



Media "accuracy"

Analysis of polls conducted in the US June 03 - Sept 03 about common misconceptions about the war in Iraq

- **48% - evidence of links between Iraq and al Qaeda had been found**
- **22% - weapons of mass destruction had been found in Iraq**
- **25% - world public opinion favoured the US going to war with Iraq**

The news sources the interviewees were using:

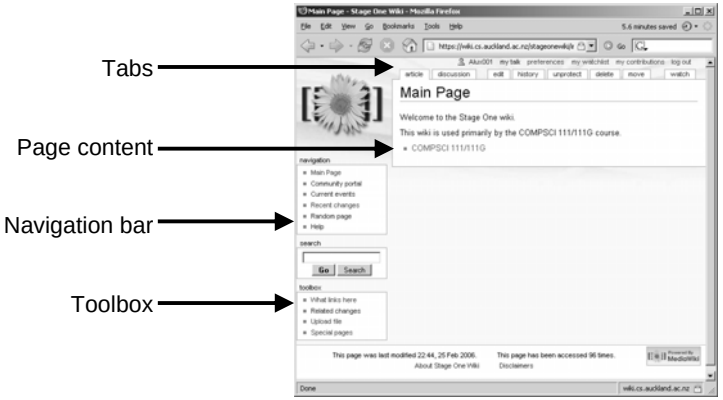
Misconceptions (of 3 listed)		FOX	CBS	ABC	NBS	CNN	Print	PBS
None		20%	30%	39%	45%	45%	53%	77%
1 or more		80%	71%	61%	55%	55%	47%	23%

http://www.pipa.org/OnlineReports/Iraq/IraqMedia_Oct03/IraqMedia_Oct03_pr.pdf

MediaWiki

Free Wiki software

- Simple security model
- Used for Wikipedia, CS Dept, …



Stage one wiki

Set up for COMPSCI 111 / 111G

- Anyone can read the wiki
- Must log in before editing
- Main pages are protected

Purpose

- Students can collaborate
- Create / compile resources for the COMPSCI 111 course
- Tool for the COMPSCI 111 community

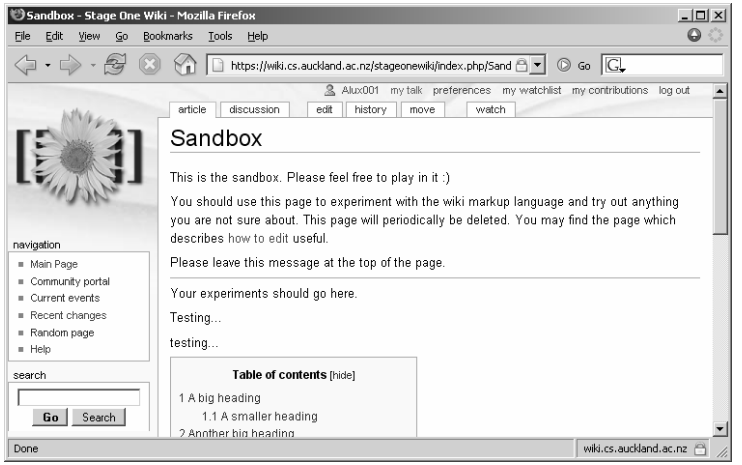
Use

- Encouraged to contribute
- Not required to contribute (after Lab 02)

Sandbox

An area to experiment and play

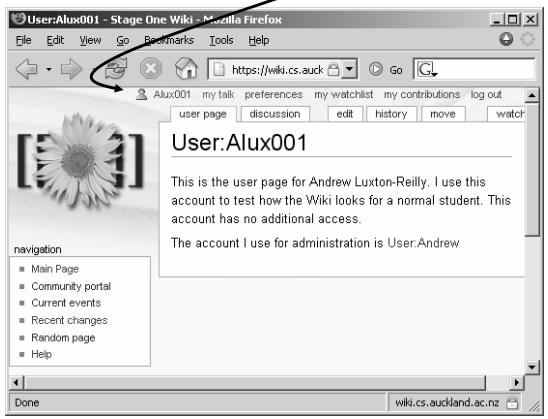
- Can test out things in the Sandbox



User page

A page is set aside for each user

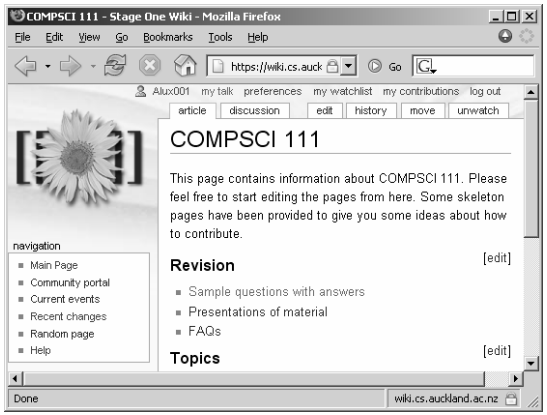
- Click on user name to access the user page
- Same as any other page in the wiki



Articles

Main content of the wiki

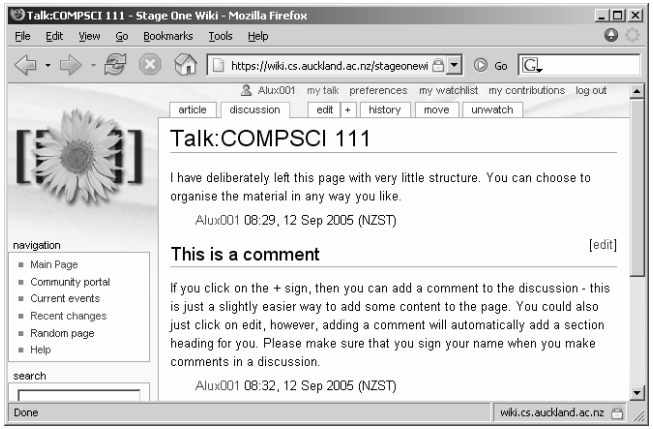
- A single page is an article about a topic



Discussion page

Each page in the wiki has an associated "talk" page

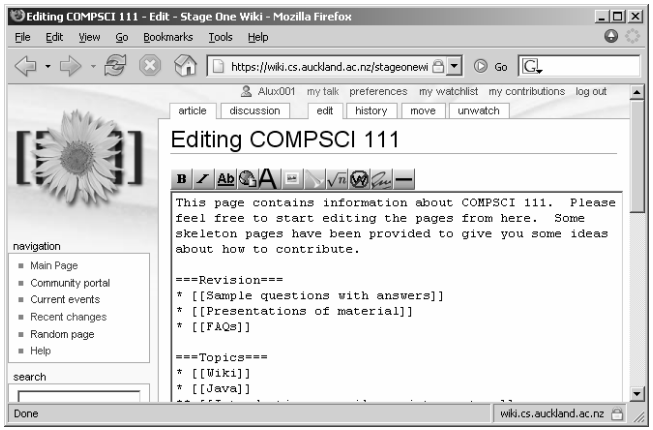
- Allows users to discuss content of a page
- Can write comments, ask questions etc. without disrupting article



Editing a page

Simply click the edit button and start making changes.

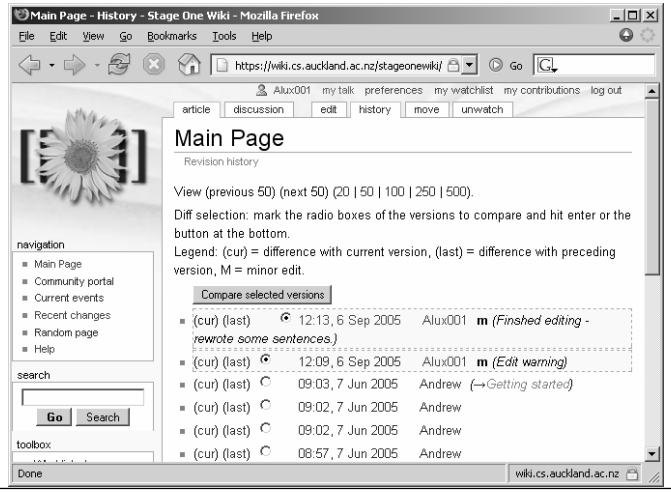
- Always preview and read the page before you save changes



Tools: History of a page

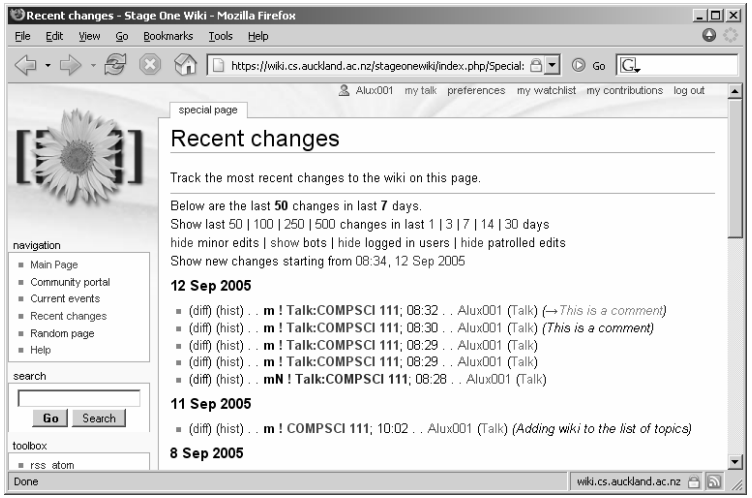
Use this to compare different versions

- Easy to see what has been added/removed/changed



Tools: Recent Changes

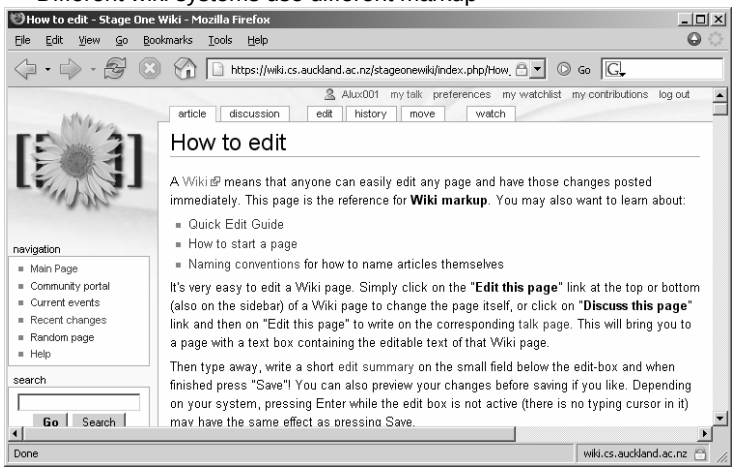
A list of all the recent changes made to the wiki



Markup

Wikis use their own markup language, sometimes called wikimark

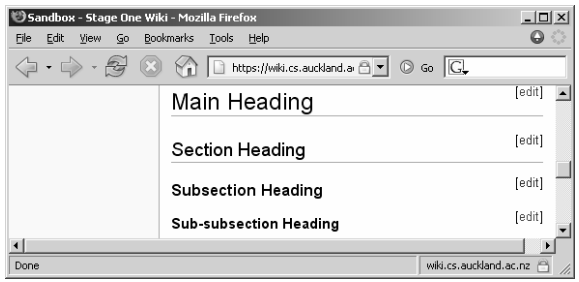
- Also accept some HTML markup
- Different wiki systems use different markup



Headings

Four different levels of heading

```
= Main heading=
== Section Heading ==
=== Subsection heading ===
==== Sub-subsection heading ====
```



Paragraphs

A single line break is ignored
A blank line starts a new paragraph

```
This is the sandbox.
Please feel free to play in it :)

You should use this page
to experiment with the wiki
markup language and try out
```

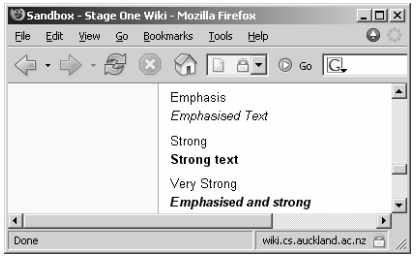
Character Styles

Emphasis

```
''Emphasised Text''
```

Strong

```
'''Strong text'''
```



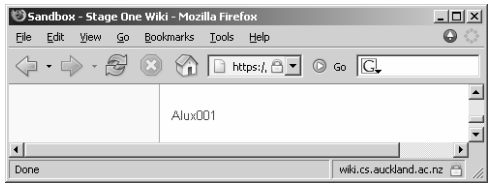
Very Strong

```
'''''Emphasised and strong'''''
```


Inserting a link to author

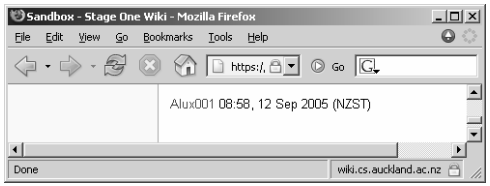
Using three tilde characters inserts the username

```
~~~
```



Using four tilde characters inserts the username and time/date

```
~~~~
```



Links

Adding an internal link (to another wiki page)

```
[[Name of Page]]
```

Adding an external link (to a page outside the wiki)

```
http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz
```

Adding an external link (to a page outside the wiki), but displaying text for the link

```
[http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz CS Dept]
```

Lists

Ordered List

```
# my item 1
## my item 1.1
# my item2
```

1. my item 1
    1. my item 1.1
2. my item2

Unordered List

```
* my item 1
** my item 1.1
* my item 2
```

- my item 1
    - my item 1.1
- my item 2

Summary

Blog = Web log

- Electronic journal with posts in chronological order
- Usually from a single author, editorial style
- Political, cultural, economical, personal, technical, …
- Photoblogs, videoblogs, audioblogs (podcasts)

Wiki = web pages that anyone (of a certain group) can edit

- Everyone can contribute to a central pool of content
- Prime example: Wikipedia
- Not always accurate, but nevertheless very useful
- Wiki systems have their own languages for writing pages
- Language overview for the MediaWiki system: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Cheatsheet

Thank you !!! :-)