

# COMPSCI 111 / 111G

*An introduction to practical computing*

Publishing online

Blogs, Wikis

# Publishing online

## Information is made available to the public

- target audience?

## Technology

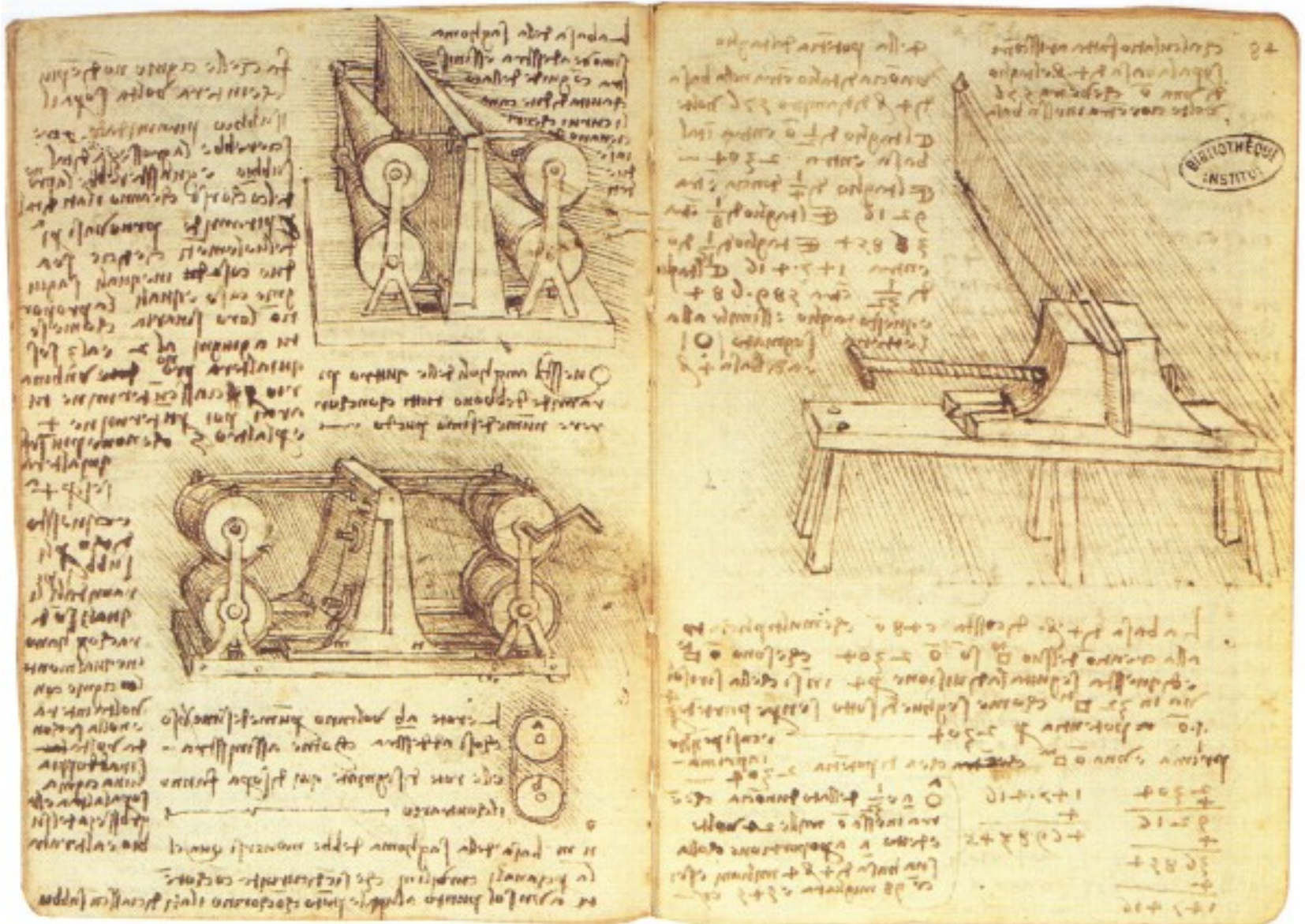
- Yields new channels for dissemination
- Different possibilities of presentation

## Social and legal issues

- Copyright
- Privacy
- Cultural issues (can be read anywhere world)
- Concern with your own safety
- durability/archiving



# Da Vinci's "Blog"



# Blog

## Web log

- Website
- Posts are made in chronological order, displayed in reverse chronological order (newest first).
- Very easy to use
- Estimated blogs worldwide: more than 100 million
- **Example:** [Computer Science Department/Ian Watson's Blog](#)

## Uses

- Online Diary (now supplanted by facebook, twitter etc)
- 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

# Successful blogs and bloggers

Some of the most popular blogs:

- Mashable - News (24 million visitors/month)
- Gizmodo- Design/Technology (15 million visitors/month)
- TMZ - Entertainment (30 million visitors/month)
- Business Insider – Business/Technology (25.5 million visitors/month)

Only start a blog if you have something to say.

# Social Issues

## Political movements

- E.g. during Arab spring
- Many personal viewpoints
- difficult for repressive governments to clamp down on free media
- 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 (e.g. MySpace)



# Microblogging

- Microblogging is a broadcast medium that exists in the form of blogging.
- A microblog differs from a traditional blog in that posts are smaller:
  - Twitter posts, called tweets, are limited to 140 characters.
- Microblogs "allow users to exchange small elements of content such as short sentences, individual images, or video links", which may be the major reason for their popularity.
- Among the most notable services are
  - Twitter,
  - Tumblr,
  - FriendFeed,
  - Cif2.net,
  - Plurk, Jaiku and identi.ca.





# Wiki

**Created by Ward Cunningham in 1995.**

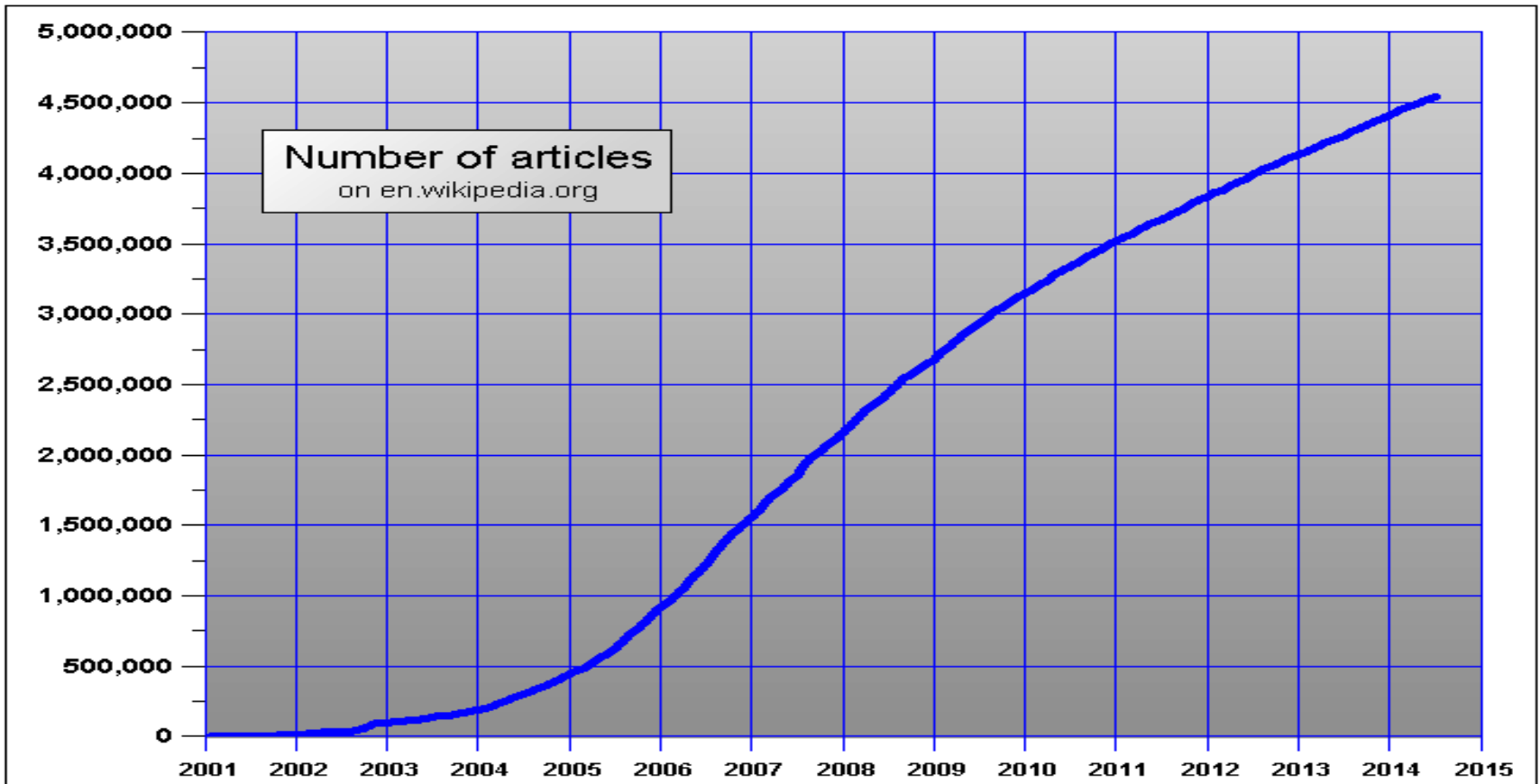
- Introduced to discuss programming tricks
- Simplest online database that could possibly work
- Anyone with appropriate access can edit any page





# Wikipedia

- Launched 2001, worlds biggest wiki. Runs on MediaWiki.
- July 2014: 32.4 million articles in 287 languages; 4.5 million in English, 800 new articles per day
- 10,000 - 30,000 requests per sec; about 400 web servers



# Advantages and Disadvantages of Wikipedia

## Advantages

- Everyone can contribute
- Easy to use
- Quick to develop material
- Enormous amount of available topics and information

## Disadvantages

- No direct quality control
- Management bias
- Information changes rapidly
- Vandalism a ~~possibility~~ practically guaranteed



# Dealing with Vandalism

**Bots:** In most cases, the vandalism is automatically detected and reverted by a bot, called ClueBot NG. The vandal is always warned with no human intervention.

**Recent change patrol:** Wikipedia has a special page that lists all the most recent changes. Some editors will monitor these changes for possible vandalism.

**Watchlists:** Any registered user can watch a page that they have created or edited or that they otherwise have an interest in. This functionality also enables users to monitor a page for vandalism.

**Incidental discovery:** A reader who comes across the vandalism by chance can revert it.

# Exercises

**Exercise 1: What is a blog ?**

**Exercise 2: What are some of the possible benefits of blogs?**

**Exercise 3: Should you trust the information on a blog? Why?**

**Exercise 4: Should you trust the information on a wiki? Why?**

# Reliability of Wikipedia

**IBM research (2003) showed vandalism repaired rapidly**

**Early study reported in Nature (2005)**

- Wikipedia scientific articles were generally accurate
- Rate of serious errors similar to Encyclopedia Britannica

**More accurate for academic topics than for pop culture**

E.g. “Dark energy” article 95% correct, but

[Article](#) on Indie pop band "Passion Pit" has 10 serious errors, according to its former drummer, Nate Donmoyer.

**Making it work**

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

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reliability\\_of\\_Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reliability_of_Wikipedia)



# Encyclopedia Britannica

Has stopped to publish paper edition.

Readers can now contribute to articles.

Fewer articles than in Wikipedia.

A sample of an article in Encyclopedia Britannica:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/1055698/dark-energy>

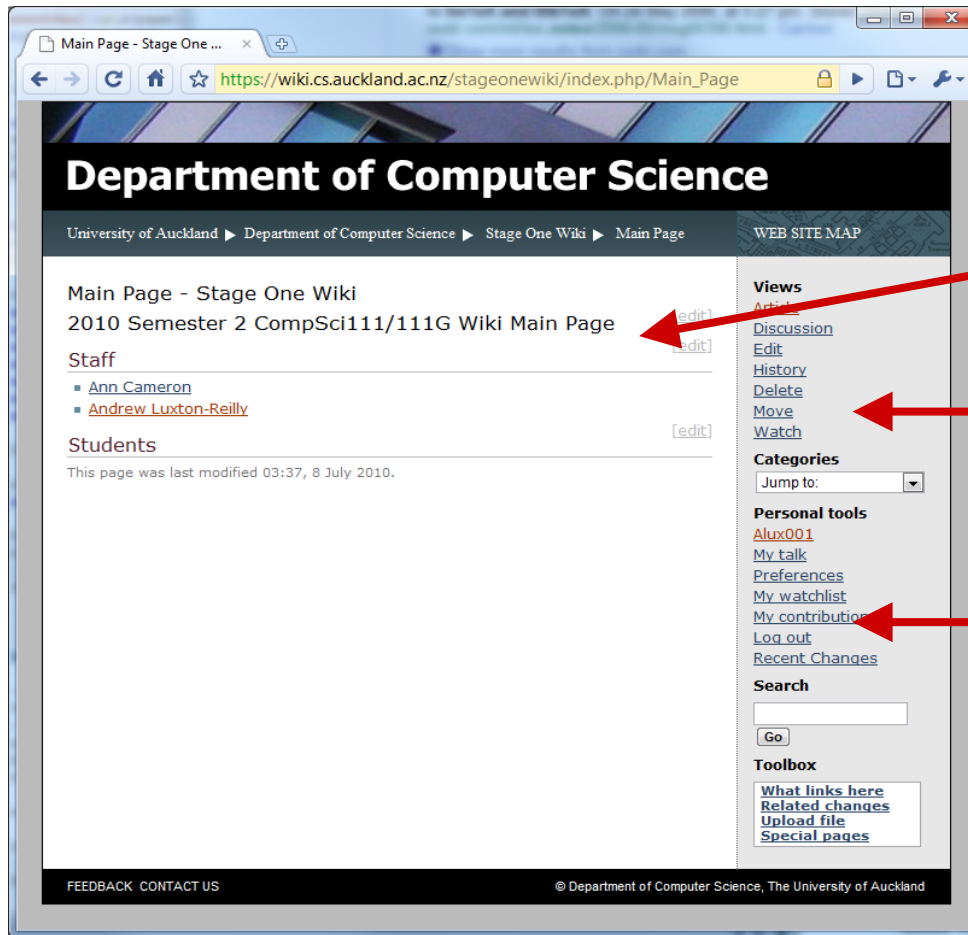
# Other Popular Wikis

- **WikiVoyage**
  - Travel guide with entries for countries, cities, areas, sights
  - Formerly WikiTravel
- **Wikia**
  - Collection of Wikis, anybody can create wiki on any topic
  - Focus on gaming and entertainment topics
  - ~10 million entries altogether
- **WikiMapia**
  - Combination of Google Maps and an extra layer of polygons that mark interesting areas, buildings etc.
  - ~13 million entries
- **WikiHow**
  - Extensive collection of how-to guides
  - Articles often include media such as photos and videos

# Computer Science Stage One Wiki

## Free Wiki software

- Simple security model, used for Wikipedia, CS Dept, ...



Page content

Navigation bar

Toolbox

# 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

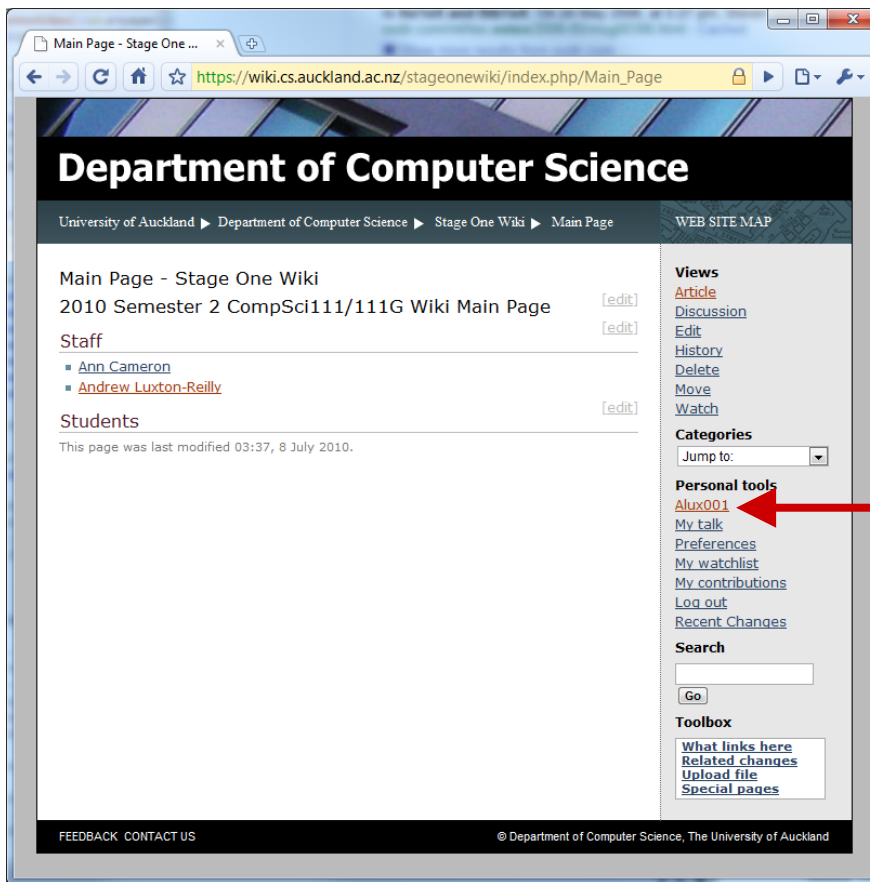
## Use

- Encouraged to contribute

# 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



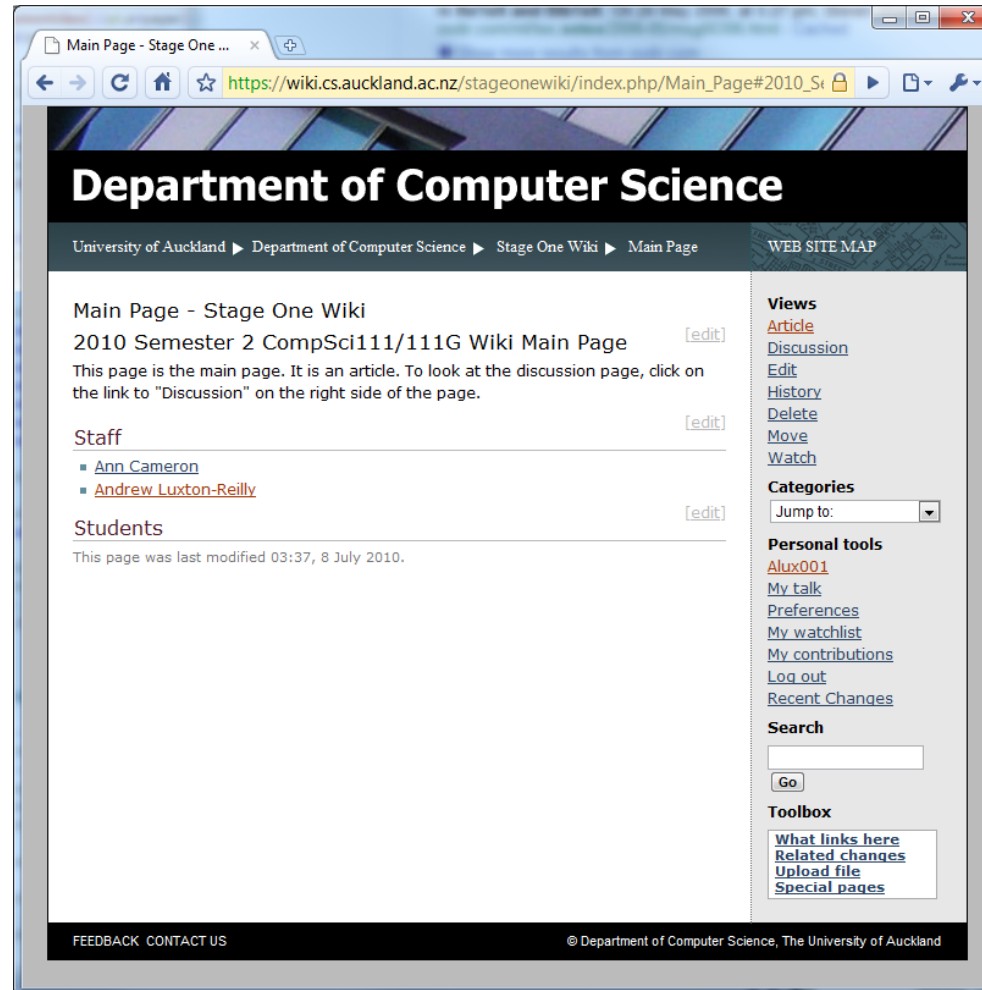
Link to user page



# Articles

## Main content of the wiki

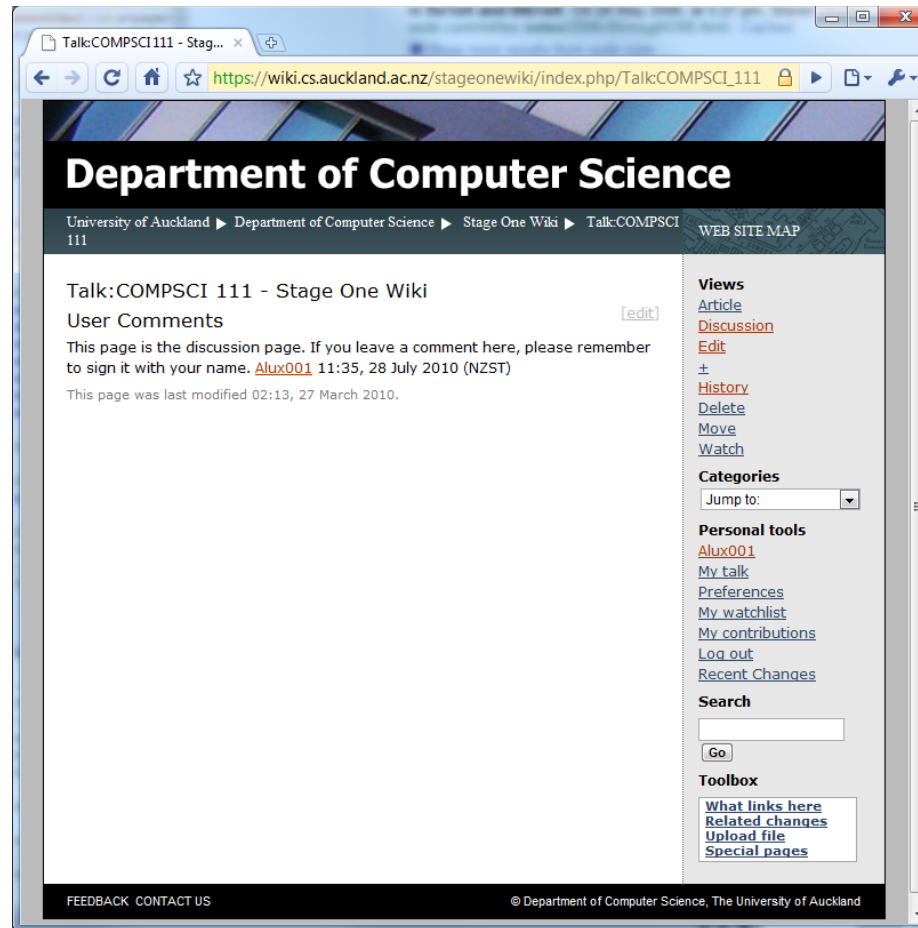
- A single page is an article about a topic



# Discussion page

Each page in the wiki has an associated “talk” page

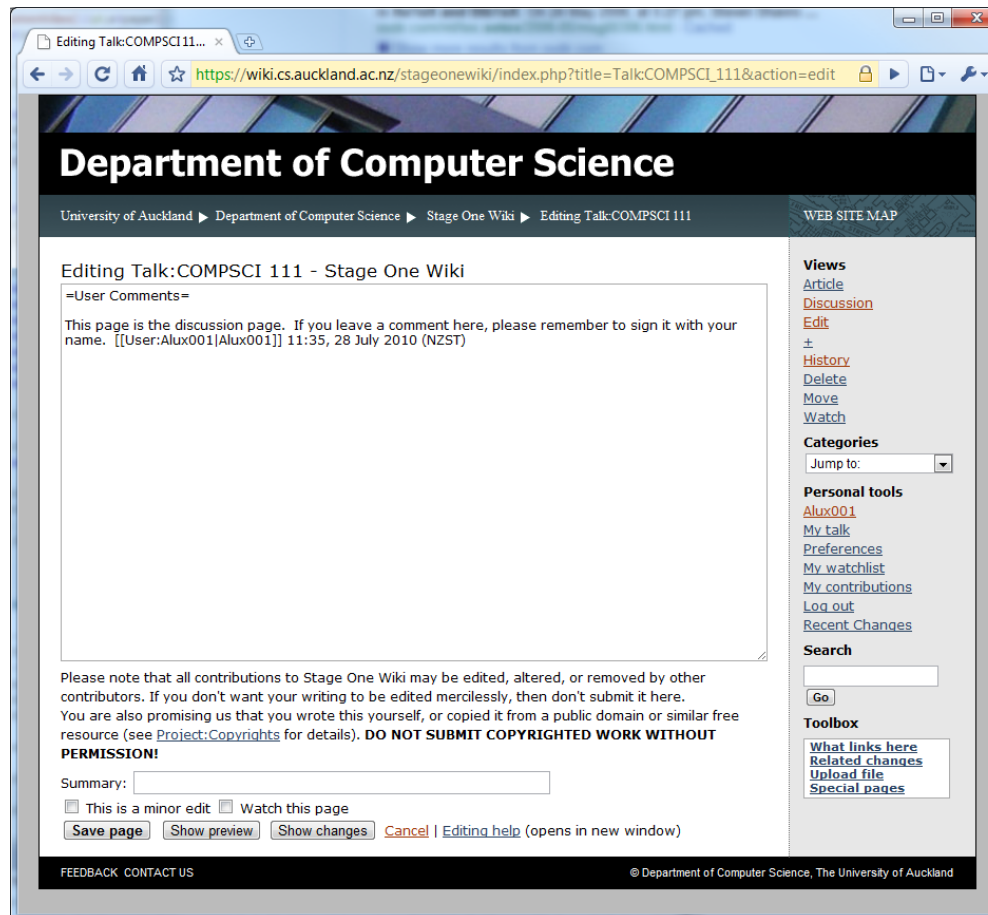
- Allows users to discuss content of a page
- Can write comments, ask questions etc. without disrupting article



# Editing a page

Simply click the edit button and start making changes.

- Always preview and read the page before you save changes
- Changes are tracked (as normal for wikis)



# Markup

**Wikis use their own markup language, sometimes called wikimark**

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

# Headings

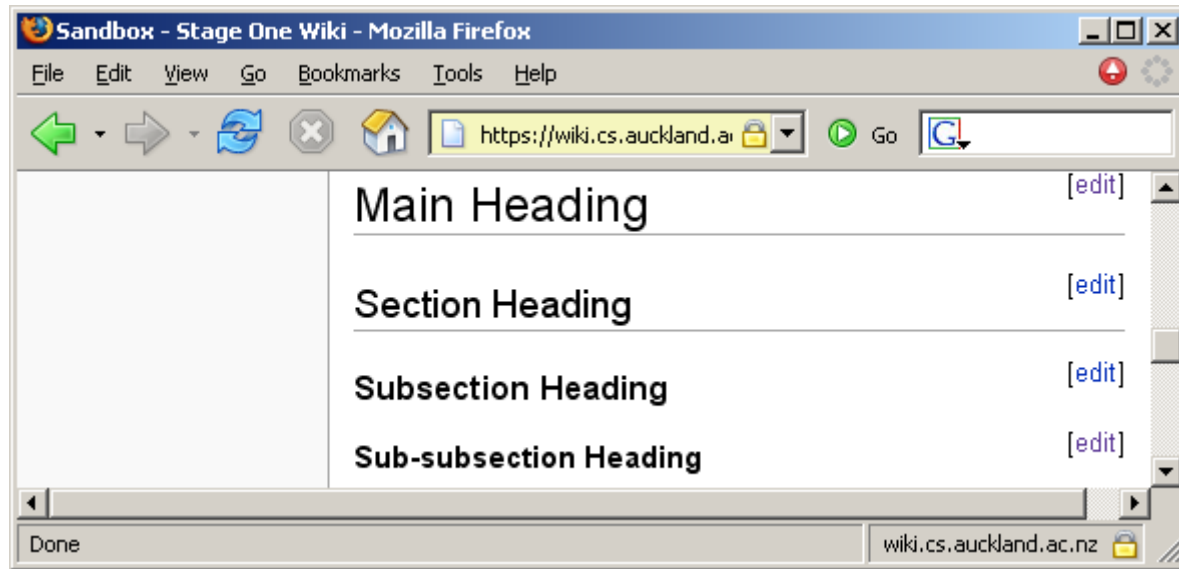
## Four different levels of heading

= Main heading=

== Section Heading ==

=== Subsection heading ===

==== Sub-subsection heading ====





# Paragraphs

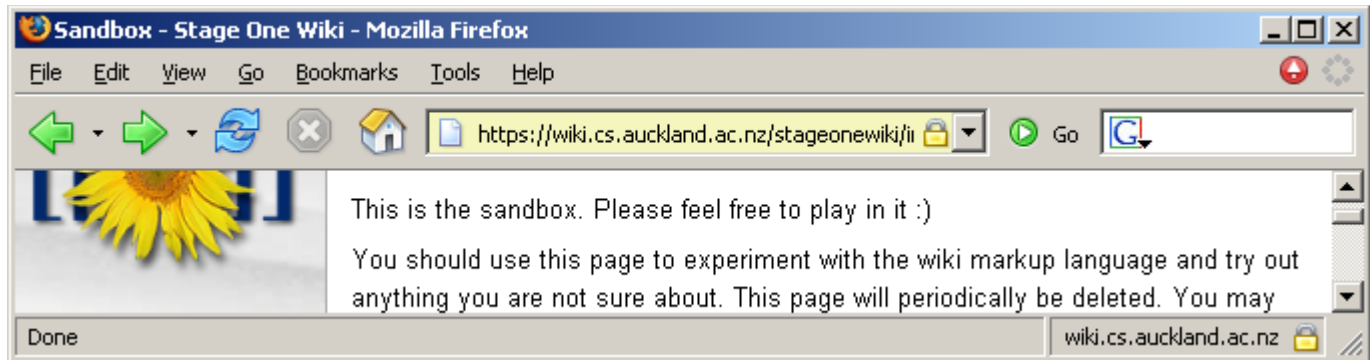
**A single line break is ignored**

**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

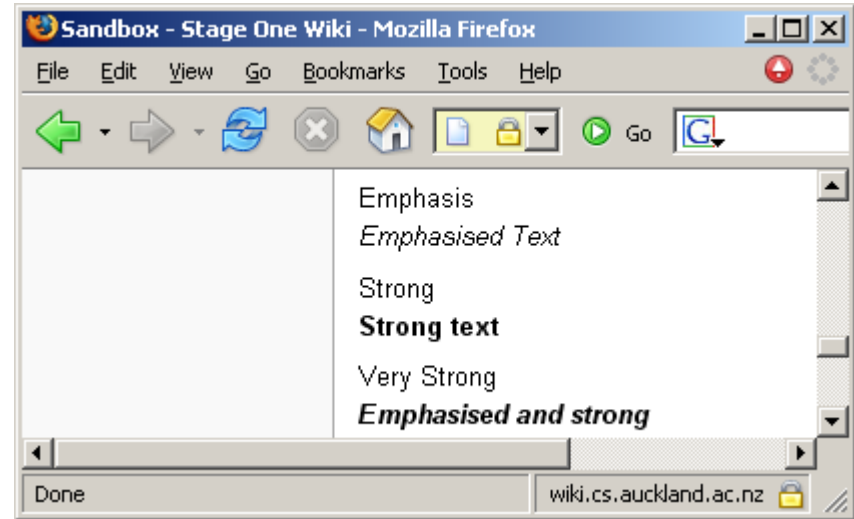
"Emphasised Text"

## Strong

""Strong text""

## Very Strong

""""Emphasised and strong""""



# 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]

Internet

[[Internet]]

<http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz>

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

CS Dept

`[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
```

# Other Ways to Publish Online

- **Online direct publishing**
  - Through Online Store (Amazon, Nook, Kobo)
  - Or simply as your own e-book
  - Whole books or just short stories or articles
    - The Martian was initially self published.
    - Andy Weir, the author put the book online on his website in serial format, a chapter at a time for free.
    - Eventually at the request of fans he released an Amazon Kindle version for 99 cents.
    - The book was picked up by publishers in 2013 and has since become a best seller and a popular film.

# Summary

## **Blog = Web log**

- Electronic journal with posts that are displayed in reverse 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>

**And many other, constantly evolving ways to publish content on the web.**