



COMPSCI 111 / 111G

An introduction to practical computing

Publishing online

Blogs, Wikis

Publishing online

Information is made available to the public

- target audience?

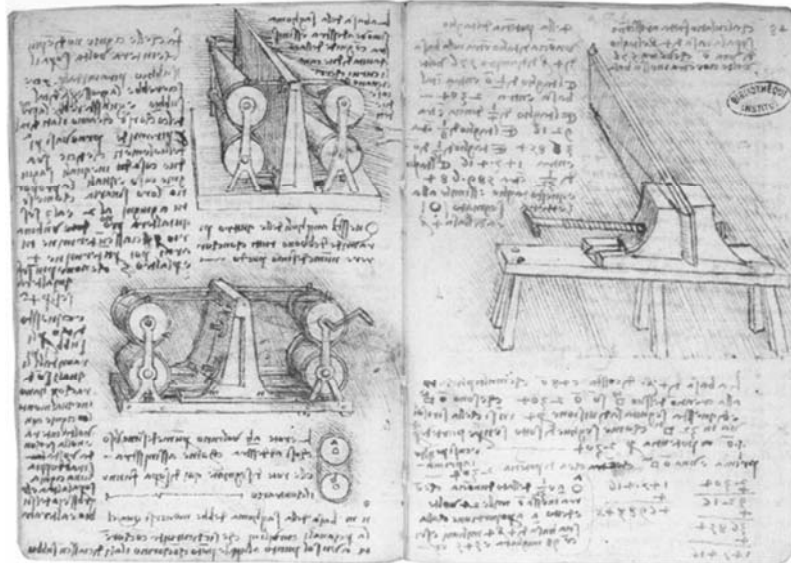
Technology

- 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

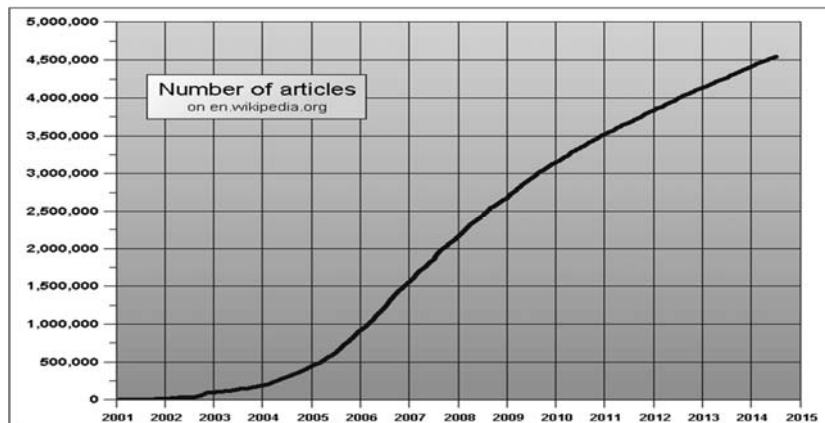
Created by Ward Cunningham in 1995.

- 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



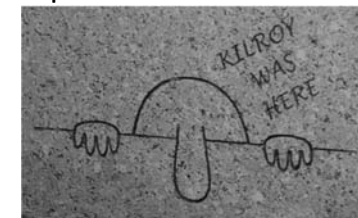
Advantages and Disadvantages of Wikipedia

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

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>

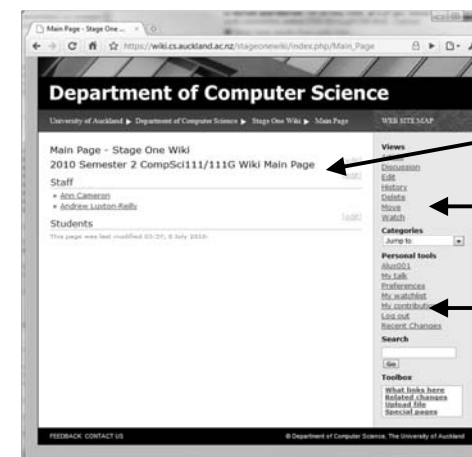
Other Popular Wikis

- **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

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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

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Articles

Main content of the wiki

- A single page is an article about a topic



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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



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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)



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Markup

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

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

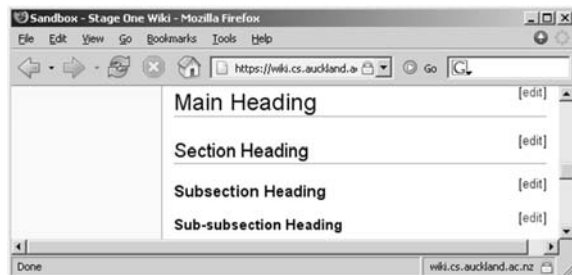
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Headings

Four different levels of heading

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



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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



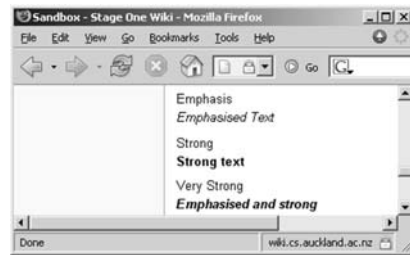
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Character Styles

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.