

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **[redacted]**

Date: [removed]

Subject: Re: Wikipedia interface design vote

To: [removed]

sorry for the double email — had to take the google doc down. pasting the contents below, feel free to make your own copy to pass around.

due to some political concerns we had to wipe the doc, pasting the content below. Feel free to make a copy to pass along to [professional network] folks!

Calling all designers & developers

Participate in discussion: Wikipedia interface design RfC

High-level context

On Wikipedia decisions are made democratically, but typically the people who vote (very experienced editors) are not representative of all the people who use Wikipedia. But everyone is welcome to have their say! We all own Wikipedia.

There is currently a vote happening about the recently updated Wikipedia interface. Before giving the new interface a chance and allowing for continued improvements to occur, some veteran editors have started a vote to roll it back to the 2010 design. ***To help broaden the participation and improve the quality of the discussion, it would be great if you as a designer, developer, tech professional and/or reader participate in the vote!***

[Updated interface](#) (Vector 2022), [previous interface](#) (Vector 2010)

How you can help:

Try the new interface, review the materials and background below about the design and implementation process.

Vote - however you see fit!

Share a link to this document with other folks who use Wikipedia (Slack, social media, etc.) — but remember, no [canvassing](#)

How to vote

1. (You must be on a desktop or laptop. You do not need an account)
2. Go to [this page](#)
3. If you think we should keep the new interface, you will vote to ***Oppose the rollback***, otherwise you will vote to ***Support the rollback***.
4. When you are ready to vote, go to either the [Oppose](#) or [Support](#) section:

Wikipedia:Requests for comment

Contents [hide]

(Top)

Background

▼ RFC: Should Wikipedia return to Vector 2010 as the default skin?

Support rolling back to Vector 2010

Oppose rolling back to Vector 2010

Neutral

Project page Talk

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

942 revisions since 2023-01-21 (+1 minute), 261 editors, 84 watchers, 8,1

< Wikipedia:Requests for comment

The following is a [Requests for Comment](#) (RFC) discussion on wh

English Wikipedia site. Please add your comments to the bottom

Jump to: Support

5. Click the [[edit source](#)] link at the top of the respective section:

Oppose rolling back to Vector 2010 [[edit source](#)] Support rolling back to Vector 2010 [[edit source](#)]

6. Scroll *all the way* to the bottom of the text box

7. Add your vote, formatted as follows:

'''Oppose''' – *your personal message here* ~~~~

'''Support''' – *your personal message here* ~~~~

'''Oppose''' – Vector 2022 is definitely an improvement from a navigation standpoint as it utilizes the breadcrumb approach, allows print seamlessly, & so on & so forth. [[User:Belypede|Belypede]] ([[User talk:Belypede|talk]]) 14:55, 24 January 2023 (UTC)

'''Oppose''' – The new design is easier to read and cleaner. The white space gives the eye more space to rest and easier to focus. [[Special:Contributions/68.42.76.109|68.42.76.109]] ([[User talk:68.42.76.109|talk]]) 15:15, 24 January 2023 (UTC)

Add your vote here!

Insert Sign your posts on talk pages: Cite your sources: <ref>

Edit summary (Briefly describe your changes)

P (anchorOppose) Oppose rolling back to Vector 2010 ~

By publishing changes, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#), and you irrevocably agree to release your contribution under the [CC BY-SA 3.0 License](#) and the [GFDL](#).

Publish changes Show preview Show changes Cancel

Additional context

The [Web Team](#) at the Wikimedia foundation has been working on usability improvements to the desktop interface for the past 3 years, and has been piloting the improvements for the past 2 years on French Wikipedia, Hebrew Wikipedia, Farsi Wikipedia, and many more.

87% of *logged-in* users who see the new interface decide to stick with it.

The new interface is far from perfect, but the team is committed to working to continuously improve it. If rolled back to 2010, the site may get stuck in the past.

The main changes are:

- Limited line-length (per [WCAG](#) and [readability research](#))
- Fixed/persistent table of contents (i.e. always available)
- Updated search
- More prominent placement of language switcher
- Collapsed sidebar/main menu

The main complaints are:

Too much empty/white space
The inability for logged-out people to opt-out
People dislike menus

[Notes on the design process](#)

[Notes on the development process](#)

Before & after image: [link to image](#)

On [removed], [redacted] wrote:

Hey [removed],

I hope you've been well, and I'm sorry to be reaching out with a favor to ask... 💎💎

The Wikipedia community recently approved the redesign our team has been working for the past 3 years, and now (post-launch) another part of the community is having a vote to try and roll it back. I'm trying to get the link below in front of as many [your profession] as possible asap, with the hope that they will participate in the vote. Any chance you could help spread it around to your [professional] team and any [professional] friends? Message to share:

Wikipedia is asking all [your profession] to participate in an important vote about the interface. [Learn more here.](#)

Any help is greatly appreciated !!

Cheers :)