

Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects



What is Wikipedia?



"Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge. That's our commitment."

Jimmy "Jimbo" Wales – founder of Wikipedia

As defined by itself:

Wikipedia is a free multilingual, open content encyclopedia project operated by the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation. Its name is a blend of the words wiki (a technology for creating collaborative websites) and encyclopedia. Launched in January 2001 by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger, it is the largest, fastest-growing and most popular general reference work currently available on the Internet.





Open and free content



Richard Stallman definition of free software:

"The word "free" in our name does not refer to price; it refers to freedom. First, the freedom to copy a program and redistribute it to your neighbors, so that they can use it as well as you. Second, the freedom to change a program, so that you can control it instead of it controlling you; for this, the source code must be made available to you."



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Wiki

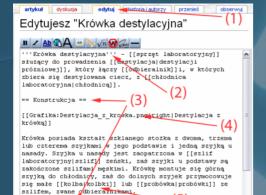


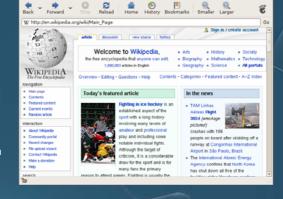




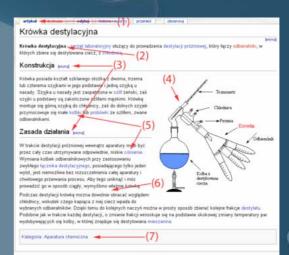
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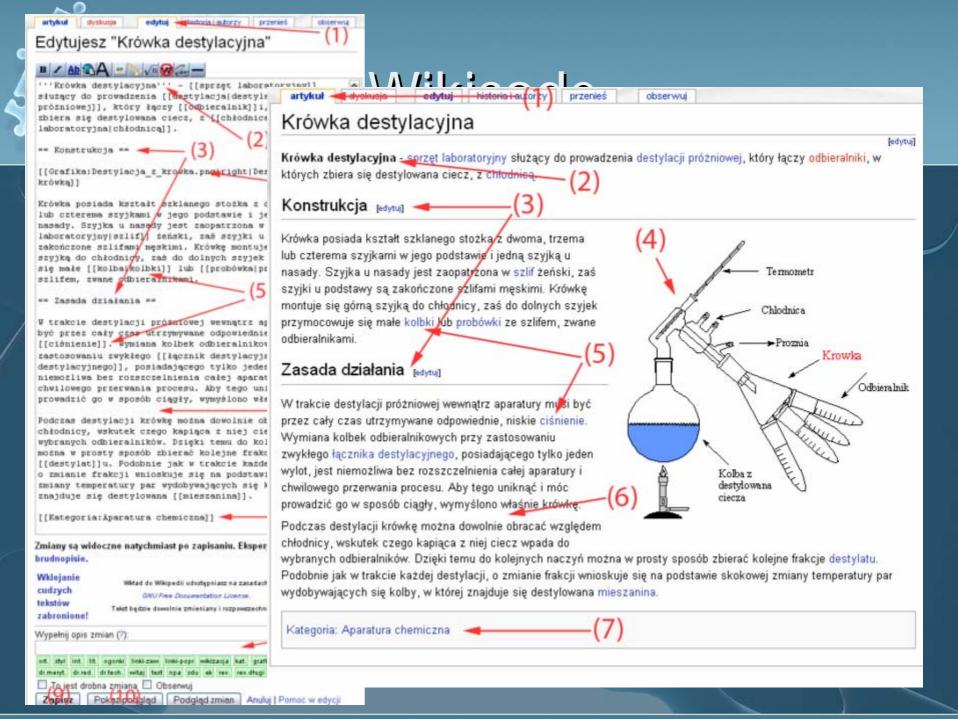


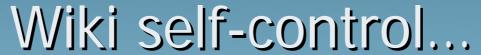




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History of Wikipedia



March 2000 Jimmy Wales i Larry Sanger launched Nupedia

prior art.: Interpedia, Everything2, h2g2;

written by experts only, 7-level peer-review system, results: 24 accepted articles, 74 in progress,; project closed in 2003 r.; Richard Stallman from FSF established GNUpedia, first encyclopedia that everyone can edit, but not in wiki style

15 January 2001 Wikipedia launched

first launched as a some sort of sandbox for Nupedia that everyone can edit. No need to log-in even, just go and write. It was based on

Modwiki software

12 December 2002 Wiktionary created

the first multilingual dictionary based on wiki software – other projects: Wikinews, Wikibooks, Wikiquote, Wikisources 2003,

Comons, Wikispecies 2004, Wikiversity 2006

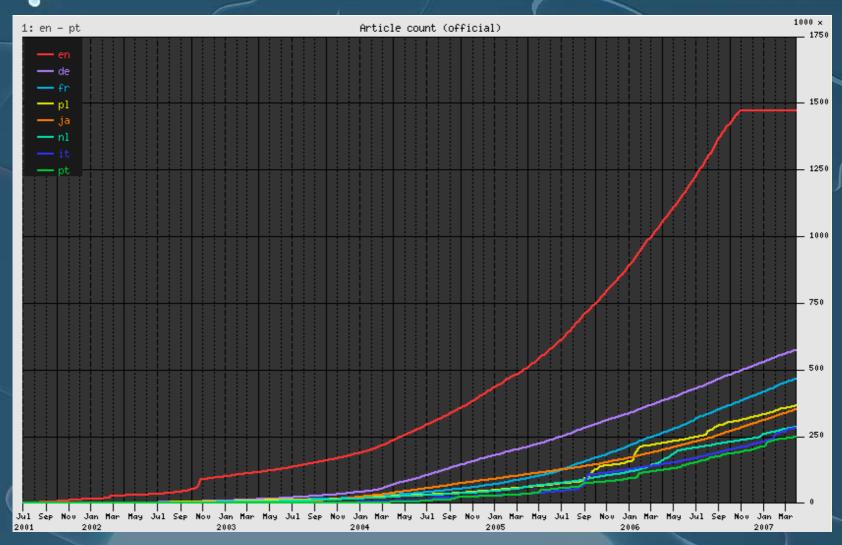
20 June 2003 Wikimedia Foundation established

Jimmy Wales donated servers and brand name of Wikipedia, formerly belonging to his and Tim Shell's company "Bomis".



Progress over time







Current Wikipedia



- Over 2.3 million articles in English Wikipedia
- 250 language versions
- More than 10 million articles in all versions
- Over 2.5 million files in Wikimedia Commons
- Database size: around 2.5 TB
- 8-10. most popular website in the world (Alexa)
- 80 000 100 000 unique visits per day
- Around 10 000 20 000 regular editors
- Around 2 million irregular editors
- Polish Wikipedia: 480 000 articles, 4-th largest



5 pillars



- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia all articles must follow no original research policy, and strive for verifiable accuracy.
- Wikipedia has a <u>neutral point of view</u>, which means we strive for articles that advocate no single point of view.
- Wikipedia is free content that anyone may edit. Articles can be changed by anyone and no individual controls any specific article.
- Wikipedia has a <u>code of conduct</u>: Respect your fellow Wikipedians even when you may not agree with them.
- Wikipedia does not have firm rules besides the five general principles presented here. Be bold in editing, moving, and modifying articles. Although it should be aimed for, perfection is not required.

Wikipedia: A Million Monkeys Typing?



Workers Vanguard nr 888, 16 March 2007:

"In the period of its revolutionary ascent, the bourgeoisie fought for knowledge as crucial for economic progress and as a weapon against feudalist clerical tyranny. Diderot's Encyclopedists helped to ideologically arm the Great French Revolution of 1789-93. Today, capitalism in its death agony creates a barrier to the expansion of the means of production while dragging culture back into a new dark age. What quality education the U.S. bourgeoisie maintains is increasingly restricted to elite universities. The growth and influence of Wikipedia occurs in a period when public education is in tatters and masses of ghetto and barrio youth rot in today's Bastilles."





So, who really edits?



Aaron Swartz, Who Writes Wikipedia?, Raw Thought, 2006-09-04

"When you put it all together, the story become clear: an outsider makes one edit to add a chunk of information, then insiders make several edits tweaking and reformatting it. In addition, insiders rack up thousands of edits doing things like changing the name of a category across the entire site — the kind of thing only insiders deeply care about. As a result, insiders account for the vast majority of the edits. But it's the outsiders who provide nearly all of the content."

Comment: Most of the editors start as "outsiders" to become "insiders" after writing a substantial number of articles



Wikimania 2006 - Harvard Law School

Polish Wikipedia editors profile







Wikipedia community

Everyone can edit, and every user has the same right to decide the final shape of articles, however some users have access to technical features that help with maintenance of the projects:

- Unloged users and freshly logged users can edit existing articles but cannot upload files and start new articles
- Loged users can do everything except deleting and blocking articles and banning other users
- Sysops can delete and block articles, can ban users, can fast-revert articles, can edit blocked articles – they are elected by local community and have to follow all rules and policies.
- <u>Bureaucrats</u> can give sysop status but must follow the results of elections. They are usually elected by local community but in new or small projects they can get their status "by granted".
- Stewards can nominate bureaucrats. They are choosen by all Wikimedia community – they take care of small and new projects – they cannot use their power in their mother projects.

Sister projects



WIKIMEDIA

Wikisłownik m. D. -a, N ~iem, blm: wolny słownik dziatający w technologii wiki

WikipediA



Wikimedia Commons



http://commons.wikimedia.org/

- Launched: 7 September 2004
- repository of free content images, sound and other multimedia files
- Established by Eric Moller to reduce duplication of effort across the Wikimedia projects and languages, as the same file had to be uploaded to many different wikis separately before the Commons was created.
- Actually contains over 2,6 million, well described and categorized files – all of them free and open
- Grows 3 times faster than Wikipedia



Wikimedia Foundation



- non-profit charitable organization headquartered in San Francisco, California, USA, and organized under the laws of the state of Florida.
- managed by international Board of Trustees (7 people, 5 of them choosen by Wikimedia project's community) and 12 employees
- budget: USD: 56 000 (2004), 283 000 (2005), 1 066 000 (2006), around 3 000 000 (2007)
- local chapters (or rather "partners"): Germany, France, Italy, Poland, Serbia, Switzerland, Sweden, UK, Israel, Netherlands, Taiwan, Hong-Kong, Australia, Argentina – mainly assocations of local editors













Fundrising



- Individual donations are collected via "sitenotice" of Wikimedia's projects.
- Corporate donations are collected via individual links of staff and members of Board of Trustees, especially Jimmy Wales.
- Donations in 2007: 2 112 251,73 USD
- 2008: Sloan Foundation: 3 000 000 USD, Vinod and Neeru Khosla:
 500 000 USD, Virgin Inc. 1 000 000 over next 3 years, etc.
- Some income from selling trademark's licences (Answer.com, Babylon, TomRider, Nokia etc.)



Spending 2007-2008

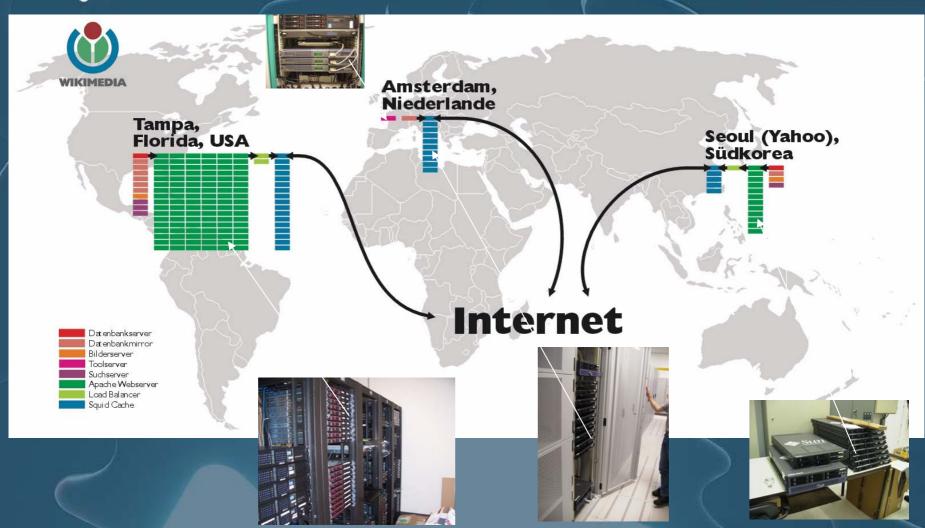


Area of Spending	\$'000's	Percentage
Technology	2,573	57%
Finance and Administration	699	15%
Office of the Executive Director	509	11%
Program Services	185	4%
Legal	182	4%
Board of Trustees	201	4%
Wikimania Conference	150	3%
Communications	113	2%
TOTAL:	\$4,611	100%



Servers





Servers – more details



- Around 350 servers expected demands for first half of 2008: 500 000 USD – by the end of the year: USD 2,5 million.
- Network: Tampa: 200-350 Mbps, 1000-3000 connections per minute – around 50 000 USD/month + Paris, Seul, Amsterdam – next 50 000 USD/month.
- Database size: roughly 2,5 TB hosting of database in a minor cost – vast majority of servers are squids and apache's servers distributing data to users.



Theoretical value



Theoretical value of potential adds space:

around 50 million USD/year

Theoretical value of Foundation's projects as it was a company:

from 500 million till 5 billion USD !!!!

... but we are not for sale...

but others can do bussiness on us.



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- CD/DVD in Germany, Poland, France and UK in cooperation with local chapters



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