

# The MediaWiki bot API

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## Outline

- About me
- What the API is
- How to use the API
- What the API provides
- What the API is used for
- Extending the API
- The API of the future
- How you can contribute
- Credits
- Useful links
- Demonstration

- 1 About me
- 2 What the API is
- 3 How to use the API
- 4 What the API provides
- 5 What the API is used for
- 6 Extending the API
- 7 The API of the future
- 8 How you can contribute
- 9 Credits
- 10 Useful links
- 11 Demonstration

## About me

- Roan Kattouw (nickname Catrope)
- In second year of BSc Computer Science
- Volunteer MediaWiki developer since July 2007
- API maintainer since September 2007
- Hired as a part-time contractor by the Usability Initiative in May 2009
  - *The Usability Initiative*, Naoko Komura, Thursday, Room 3

## What the bot API is

- Communication layer between MediaWiki and client applications
- Eliminates the need for screenscraping HTML
- Returns results in a variety of formats (XML, JSON, PHP, ...)

## How to use the API

- Send HTTP requests to `en.wikipedia.org/w/api.php`
- Both GET and POST requests accepted; write modules require POST
- Pass parameters in query string or POST data
  - Separate values with | (pipe)
- Keep the number of reqs/s down to a sane level

## What the API provides

- Information about the wiki (*meta*)
  - Namespaces
  - Interwiki table
  - Database lag
  - ...
- Information about pages (*prop*)
- List of ... (*list*)
- Write operations

## What the API provides

- Information about the wiki (*meta*)
- Information about pages (*prop*)
  - History
  - Content
  - Links, templates, categories, images
  - ...
- List of ... (*list*)
- Write operations

## What the API provides

- Information about the wiki (*meta*)
- Information about pages (*prop*)
- List of ... (*list*)
  - all pages with a certain prefix
  - all pages using a certain template/image/category
  - all revisions (contributions) by a certain user
  - ...
- Write operations



## What the API provides

- Information about the wiki (*meta*)
- Information about pages (*prop*)
- List of ... (*list*)
- Write operations
  - Editing pages (*edit*)
  - Moving pages (*move*)
  - Deleting pages (*delete*)
  - ...

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## What the API is used for

- AutoWikiBrowser, a wiki editor that automates tedious tasks

## What the API is used for

- AutoWikiBrowser
- Twinkle, a script that assists users in maintenance tasks

## What the API is used for

- AutoWikiBrowser
- Twinkle
- ClueBot, a vandalism fighting bot that automatically detects and reverts vandalism

## What the API is used for

- AutoWikiBrowser
- Twinkle
- ClueBot
- pywikipediabot, a generic framework for building wiki bots in Python

## What the API is used for

- AutoWikiBrowser
- Twinkle
- ClueBot
- pywikipediabot
- Search suggestions as you type, both on the search form and in the browser plugins

## What the API is used for

- AutoWikiBrowser
- Twinkle
- ClueBot
- pywikipediabot
- Search suggestions
- CodeReview, a tool MediaWiki developers use to keep track of code changes

## What the API is used for

- AutoWikiBrowser
- Twinkle
- ClueBot
- pywikipediabot
- Search suggestions
- CodeReview
- ... and many more, less well-known tools



## Extending the API

- Extensions can extend the API by:
  - Adding new modules
  - Overriding core modules
  - Hooking into core modules (limited support)
- Extensions that extend the API:
  - FlaggedRevs
  - AbuseFilter
  - CodeReview
  - ...

## The API of the future

- Uploading files
- Request throttling
- Changing preferences
- Auto-generated XML schema

## How you can contribute

- Use the API
- Report bugs
- Request features
- Submit patches
- Write documentation
- Become an API developer (we need you!)

## Credits

Special thanks to:

- Yuri Astrakhan for writing most of the code
- All other volunteer developers who have contributed
- The Vodafone developers who helped develop the edit module

## Useful links

- API help: [en.wikipedia.org/w/api.php](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/api.php)
- Documentation: [mediawiki.org/wiki/API](http://mediawiki.org/wiki/API)
- Bugs and feature requests: [bugzilla.wikimedia.org](http://bugzilla.wikimedia.org)
- Mailing list: [mediawiki-api@lists.wikimedia.org](mailto:mediawiki-api@lists.wikimedia.org)
- Low-traffic announcement list: [mediawiki-api-announce](mailto:mediawiki-api-announce)
- Me on IRC: RoanKattouw in #mediawiki on [irc.freenode.net](http://irc.freenode.net)
- This presentation:  
[mediawiki.org/wiki/User:Catrope/Wikimania](http://mediawiki.org/wiki/User:Catrope/Wikimania)

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# Demonstration