Wiki
Technology and
Community Culture

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Introduction – concept

A wiki is
• web pages
• anyone who accesses it can contribute or modify content
• a simplified markup language
Introduction – history

• World Wide
  – 1994:
    • Ward Cunningham, WikiWikiWeb
    • (1994?) Patrick Mueller, the first WikiWikiClone
  – 2000:
    • Sunir Shah, MeatballWiki
  – 2001:
    • January 15, Jimmy Wales, Wikipedia
Introduction – history cont.

• Mainland China
  - 2001-12-27:
    ● Softme Studio / 索秘软件工作室
    ● jWiki as a sub-project of WebPM
  - 2002 / 5:
    ● 中蟒大杂院
  - 2002 / 10
    ● Chinese Wikipedia
  - 2002 / 11
    ● 贸大 Wiki

• Taiwan
  - Schee / 徐子涵
  - hlb / 薛良斌
  - Newzilla

• Early Blogosphere
  - Cnblog.org
  - Chinese Blogger Conference / 中文网志年会
Introduction – jargons

• Basics
  - Sandbox
  - CamelCase
  - Wikify
  - RecentChanges
  - DocumentMode / ThreadMode
  - Namespace: Article / Talk / User / Category
  - Signature
  - BackLinks
  - InterWiki

• Community
  - EditWar
  - AGF
  - NPOV
  - Consensus / Vote
  - Deletionist / Inclusionism

• Copyright / Copyleft
  - PD
  - GFDL / Free
  - CC family
  - Fair use
Introduction – a simple classification

• Tech related sites
  - c2.com / wikiwikiweb
  - meatball / usemode

• Travel related sites
  - wikitravel
  - wikiMapia

• Other sites
  - wikiHow
  - etc. …

• Wikimedia Family
  - wikiversity
  - wiktionary
  - wikibooks
  - wikinews
  - wikiquote
  - wikisource
  - wikispecies
  - commons
Introduction – a simple classification cont.

• wiki farms
  - wikia.com
  - jotspot.com
  - pbwiki.com
  - wetpaint.com
  - wikidot.com
  - wikispaces.com

• Personal wiki
  - connectedText
  - didiWiki
  - tiddlyWiki
  - tomboy
  - wikidPad
  - etc. …
Introduction – organizations, companies

- Organizations
  - Wikimedia Foundation
  - All Its Local Chapters

- Companies:
  - Wikia.com
  - Jotspot (Google)
  - SocialText
  - Etc. …
Introduction – conferences

• Wikimania
  – 2005 : Frankfurt, Germany
  – 2006 : Cambridge, Massachusetts, US
  – 2007 : Taipei, Taiwan
  – 2008 : Alexandria, Egypt
  – 2009 : Buenos Aires, Argentina

• WikiSym
  – 2005 : San Diego, CA, US
  – 2006 : Odense, Denmark
  – 2007 : Montreal, Canada
  – 2008 : Porto, Portugal

• RecentChangesCamp
Technology – implementations

- **Java**:
  - clearspace / confluence / jamwiki / jspwiki / snipsnap / xwiki
- **Javascript**:  
  - tiddlywiki
- **Perl**:  
  - ikiwiki / socialtext / twiki / usemod
- **Php**:  
  - mediawiki / dokuwiki / wakkawiki / pmwiki
- **Python**:  
  - moinmoin / trac
- **Ruby**:  
  - instiki
- **Smalltalk**:  
  - swiki

Add your own implementation here ......
Technology – features

• Architectural choices:
  - Wiki syntax
  - Web-server
  - Data backend
  - Version control

• Basic features:
  - RecentChanges
  - BackLinks
  - Interwiki
  - Diff
  - Edit Conflict Resolution

• Other features:
  - Images / File uploading
  - Namespace
  - Category
  - Template
  - Page access control
  - Spam prevention
  - WYSIWYG editing
  - Extensibility
  - Etc. ...
Technology – principles

- open: almost editable
  - just click “edit”
- generative
  - click red link on any page to create a new page
- self-organized
  - hyper links / category tree
- observable
  - time-based
  - space-based
Technology – easy at first glance

- A unified and simple data model
  - page have links;
  - page have revisions;
  - no other structure above pages.
- Basic operations
  - view: raw to html
  - edit: load raw text
  - save: save raw text
  - delete
Technology – syntax & parser

- Lightweight markup
  - Textile
  - Markdown
  - reStructuredText
  - Etc. ...
- Mediawiki markup
  - Powerful
  - Complex
  - Very hard to parse
- WikiCreole
  - WikiSym 2006
  - As an endeavor for markup standardization
- Wiki Model
  - Wiki Event Model
    - SAX-like
  - Wiki Object Model
    - DOM-like
Technology – version control

• Develop this feature:
  – Storage Model
  – Editing Conflict Resolution
  – Diff
  – Merge

• Leverage it
  – CVS
  – SVN
  – Mercury
  – Git
Technology – wysiwyg

- Many small wiki implements this feature
- The Wysiwyg Editor for Mediawiki is still in vapour.
- Two approaches
  - Editor → Wikitext
  - Editor → HTML → Wikitext
Technology – adventure of ideas

- Semantic Wiki
- Git Wiki / Mercury Wiki
- Jabber Wiki
- P2P Wiki
- Another wildest idea from you? Try it!
- Question
  - How people cooperate together?
Community culture – openness & assume good faith

• Openness
  – Ability of anyone to edit articles without registering
• “It is impossible!”
  – The first reply when people get to know the idea of wiki
  – But the existence and growth of wikipedia prove that most people are in good faith.
• Conflict resolution
  – AGF is an good advice for both side
  – Humor: Assume the assumption of good faith
Community culture – npov

• A nature question:
  - how to handle controversial topics?
  • Creation-evolution controversy
  • Abortion

• Neutral point of view
  - Multiple or conflicting perspectives exist within a topic each should be presented fairly.
  - Let the facts speak for themselves.
  - Describing points of view.
  - Freedom of expression.

• A dialog open for every parts which is never finished
Community culture – consensus

- Wiki process
  - Before consensus
  - Loop: edit / revert / discuss
  - Reach consensus
- Consensus is Wikipedia's fundamental model for editorial decision-making.
Community culture – deletionism / inclusionism

• Please keep a sense of humor
• Deletionism:
  - a philosophy held by some Wikipedians that favors clear and relatively rigorous standards for accepting articles to the encyclopedia.
• Inclusionism:
  - a philosophy that information should be liberally added and retained on Wikipedia.
• Notability criteria for articles to be accepted
• Examples:
  - Small villages
  - Books / Films / Songs
Community culture – controversy

- 2007
  - Essjay controversy
  - Microsoft OOXML controversy
  - Wikiscanner
- All the controversy focus on creditability, trust, and neutrality.
- People should learn how to use Wikipedia and contribute to it properly.
Thanks