

Draft: as a safe space



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C. Scott Ananian, Wikimedia Foundation
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Safe space

“does not tolerate violence, harassment, or hate speech, thereby creating a safe place for women and minorities.” [\[:en:Safe space\]](#)

A place where members of our community can be protected.

1. Tempering conflict
2. Managing change
3. Protecting the vulnerable
4. Containing the fallout



Part 1: Tempering Conflict



Immediate gratification

Today most edits on Wikimedia projects are done directly to the most recent revision, and are immediately visible to the entire world as soon as they are completed.

- Incredibly motivating!
- Escalates consequences!
- Escalates conflict!

Slowing things down

Many collaborative projects (especially software projects, especially github) use a “fork/merge” model. Changes are initially private (“fork”); publication is a separate step (“merge”).

- De-escalates conflict!
- Beware the merge backlog :(

Hybrid example

Modern western square dance
File Edit View Insert Format Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive



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Suggesting

Modern western square dance

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Modern western square dance (also called **western square dance**, **contemporary western square dance**, **modern American square dance** or **modern square dance**) is one of two American types of [square dancing](#), along with [traditional square dance](#). ~~Modern western square dance is danced all over the world, by folks young and old. As a dance form, modern western square dance grew out of traditional square dance in the American West.~~ The term *western square dance*, for some, is synonymous with "cowboy dance" or traditional western square dance. Therefore this article uses the term "modern western square dance" to describe the contemporary non-historical dance which grew out of the traditional dance.

Modern western square dance, like traditional square dance, is directed by a [caller](#). In modern western square dance the caller strings together a sequence of individual [square dance calls](#) to make a figure or sequence. The calls may be spoken (in a "patter dance") or sung (in a "singing call"). These calls are the building blocks of the [choreography](#) that is danced by the individuals – square dancers – in the squares. There are eight people (four pairs of males and females, traditionally) in each square; at a dance there may be many squares. Generally



C. Scott Ananian
1:00 AM Today



Replace: "As a dance form, modern western square dance grew out of traditional square dance in the American We..." with "Modern western square dance is danced all over the world, by folks young and old."



Anonymous
1:06 AM Today



Add: "The calls may be spoken (in a "patter dance") or sung (in a "singing call")."

Reply...



The Draft: namespace

Introduced in 2013: [\[\[:mw:Draft namespace\]\]](#) ([T59569](#))

“New Page Reviewers may unilaterally draftify new articles, a practice seen as a softer alternative to deletion and less likely to [bite the newcomers](#).”

from [Drafts are broken](#)



[[Draft:Foo/cscott]] or [[User:cscott/Foo]]

“Since drafts are segregated into their own namespace, most readers and editors will not come across drafts unless they actively seek out to locate them. This makes it much less likely that someone will come by to fix issues with a problematic draft, compared to an article.”

from [Drafts are broken](#)



“Draftspace has become a huge mess”

“Since drafts are neither linked to nor categorised, it is difficult to locate and identify drafts relevant to an editor's field of interest, even when one actively tries to do so. This further fails the purpose of incubation/draftification.”

from [Drafts are broken](#)

What's needed?

- Better merge/update tools (“rebase”)
- Better visibility (but deliberately not indexed!)
- Notifications, better workflow
- Collaboration!

Bottom line: feature exists and works, but we need to improve the tools.

Part 3: Protecting the Vulnerable



How does this help?

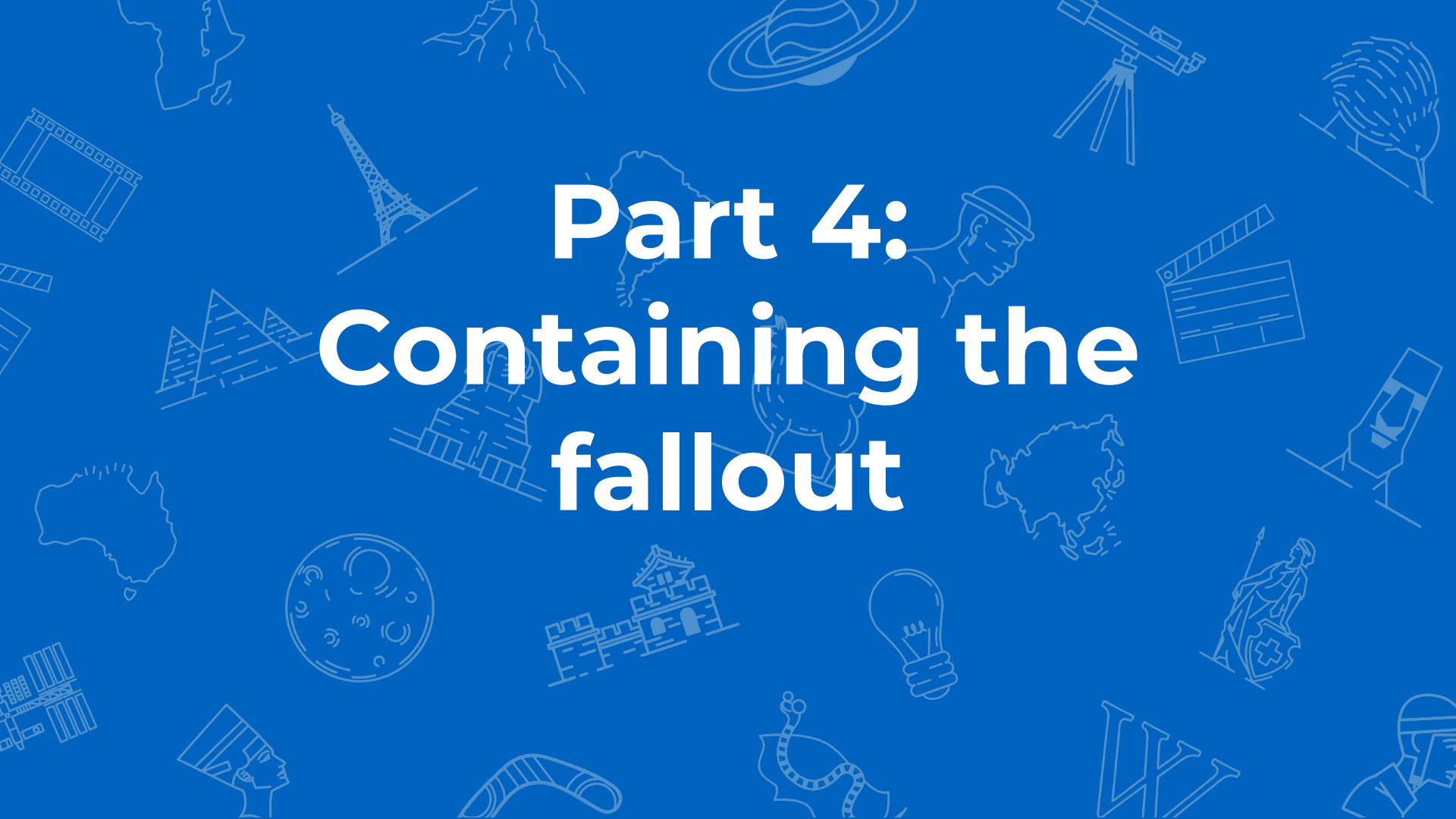
- “My userspace, my rules”: [WP:UP#OWN](#)
- Limited participation draft / limited visibility draft
 - Shield/hide participants
 - Invite-only
 - Not indexed (but we still need collaboration tools!)
- Ally vouches for content, interfaces w/ broader community during merge



Retroactive protections

- Is the draft space a fix too late?
- How do I know that my edit will be controversial before I make it?
- Is it possible to “draftify” retroactively, to protect the editor?

Part 4: Containing the fallout



We've broken everything.

- “All edits are public” part of core social structure
- Privacy can be abused!
 - Paid editors? What about checkuser? Sockpuppets?
 - Anti-vax (etc) forks
- Seems to require user groups... but maybe task-focused groups can work

What is a safe space?

- A “safe space” is a place of **emotional safety**
- A “safe space” is a place of **intellectual safety**

from [Tackling the Term: What is a Safe Space?](#)



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THANK YOU

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[[User:cscott]]



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