



## Hosting your wiki in a wiki farm



Setting up a wiki requires to think about various requirements (price, confidentiality, simplicity, tolerance to advertisement, license of the content etc.). Aside from the choice of the software, wiki initiators need to decide whether to implement a stand alone wiki or whether to use a wiki hosting service. A wiki hosting service or wiki farm is a server or an array of servers that offer users tools to simplify the creation and development of individual, independent wikis. With a wiki farm, the farm's administration installs the core wiki code once on its own servers, centrally maintains the servers, and, on demand from customers, establishes unique space on the servers for the content of each individual wiki with the shared core code executing the functions of each wiki.

Wiki farm name	Goal of service	Reference organization	Technology	Languages	Additional notes	Link
Wikia	Free web hosting	Wikia Inc. Based in San Francisco (USA)	MediaWiki	>50	In 2012, it is the largest wiki farm in the world with over 300 000 wikis and over 60 million unique visitors. The economical model is advertisement. It is possible to remove external advertisements for small wikis against a fee. All contents published on Wikia must be under a copyleft licence.	<a href="http://wikia.com">wikia.com</a>
Wikispaces	Hosting service	Tangient LLC. Based in San Francisco (USA)	Proprietary software	8	For for businesses, non-profits and educators for an annual fee. Free and ad free wikis for the education sector unless/until upgrading to a complete wiki environment. The content may be under any licence. Space can be public or private.	<a href="http://wikispaces.com/">wikispaces.com/</a>
PBWorks	A free/premium hosted workspace service	PBWorks. Based in San Mateo (USA)	proprietary software	English	The company's original name stems from their belief that "making a wiki is as easy as making a peanut butter sandwich". No advertisement. Any licence can be used for the content. Small to medium size workgroups. PBworks appears to be primarily focused on the United States (no toll free number for international calls, no consultant listed for support outside of the USA) and is not localized (only available in English).	<a href="http://pbworks.com">pbworks.com</a>
Wikidot	Free and Pro Wiki Hosting service	Wikidot Inc. Based in Toruń, Poland	an open source modified	2	One of a few wiki farms which use a free software wiki farm engine.	<a href="http://wikidot.com">wikidot.com</a>

Referata	A free/premium hosting of public and private hosting.	WikiWorks. Based in ?	MediaWiki & Semantic MediaWiki	>140	uses Mediawiki as its wiki engine. It specializes in Semantic Mediawiki and some of the related Mediawiki extensions.	<a href="http://referata.com">referata.com</a>
Wikis by Wetpaint	A free/premium hosting	Wetpaint. Based in Washington	proprietary	English	Provide customers with free wikis. Wetpaint places ads on pages which are contextually relevant to the content of the page. Premium service: Ads can be removed by paying a monthly fee	<a href="http://wetpaintcentral.com">wetpaintcentral.com</a>
XWiki Cloud	Free and premium	XWiki SAS, based in Paris (France) and in Iasi (Romania)	XWiki	26	Services mainly aimed for enterprises, workgroups and developers	<a href="http://xwiki.com">xwiki.com</a>
Socialtext	Social software to enterprises	Socialtext incorporated, based in Palo Alto (USA)	derived from kWiki	9	provides hosting solutions but set up requires to contact sales department	<a href="http://socialtext.com">socialtext.com</a>
	Hosting services	Most hosting companies	MediaWiki	>140	It should be noted that many hosting companies do provide wikifarms service using MediaWiki (for example OVH or 1&1)	

**PROs**      **Reasons for choosing a wiki farm solution over a stand-alone wiki can be that the wiki initiators and users ...**

- are satisfied with a standard solution and do not have any special technical extra requirements
- want a cheap wiki
- want to start a wiki fast
- lack technical knowledge and resources to implement and maintain a wiki in a professional and secure way
- want to test the wiki software which the farm is offering

**CONs**      **Reasons for choosing a stand-alone wiki over a wiki farm are that the initiator and users ...**

- want features which are not included in the offer by the wiki farm
- do not want outsiders (wiki farm employees etc) to be able to access content or technical architecture.
- want to integrate the wiki with existing IT-infrastructure, for example allow unified login to the wiki and to other services etc
- want own identity and a generic URL



