VisualEditor
Helping users edit more easily
09.08.2014, Wikimania 2014, London
James Forrester and Trevor Parscal
Agenda

• What is VisualEditor? Why are we creating VisualEditor?

• Changes in the last year

• Changes in the year to come

• Other things on which we are working

• Possible longer-term changes
Overview
What is VisualEditor?

- “A rich Web editor for anyone”
- Stand-alone editor for creating and editing HTML documents
- MediaWiki extension uses VisualEditor to let you edit pages
- Available on all Wikipedias and some non-Wikipedias by community request
- Currently opt-out on 160 Wikipedias, opt-in on 127 (inc. English!)
Why are we creating VisualEditor?

• The drop in new contributors is a major issue for Wikimedia

• MediaWiki is based on the (very) rich “wikitext” syntax

• Wikitext stops people becoming contributors or staying

• Not an appropriate environment for the 21st Century

• Prevents us from providing other helpful editing tools
Foobar

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Not to be confused with FUBAR.

"Foo" redirects here. For other uses, see Foo (disambiguation).

The terms foobar (/ˈfʊbər/), fubar, or foo, bar, baz and qux (alternatively, quux) are sometimes used as placeholder names (also referred to as metasyntactic variables) in computer programming or computer-related documentation.[1] They have been used to name entities such as variables, functions, and commands whose purpose is unimportant and serve only to demonstrate a concept. The words themselves have no meaning in this usage. Foobar is sometimes used alone; foo, bar, and baz are sometimes used, when multiple entities are needed.

The usage in computer programming examples and pseudocode varies; in certain circles, it is used extensively, but many prefer descriptive names, while others prefer to use single letters. Eric S. Raymond has called it an "important hackerism" alongside kludge and cruft.[2]
Editing Foobar

{{Distinguish|FUBAR}}
{{Redirect|Foo|other uses|Foo (disambiguation)}}

The terms 'foober', 'FUBAR', 'fubar', 'Fub', 'Foo', 'Bar', 'baz' and 'qux' (alternatively, 'quux') are sometimes used as [placeholder name(s)] (also referred to as [meta-syntactic variable(s)] in [computer programming] or computer-related documentation.<ref name/rfc3092 />

They have been used to name entities such as [Variable (computer science)|variable|s], [Function (computer science)|function|s], and [command (computing)|command(s)] whose purpose is unimportant and serve only to demonstrate a concept. The words themselves have no meaning in this usage. 'FUBAR' is sometimes used alone; 'foo', 'bar', and 'baz' are sometimes used when multiple entities are needed.

The usage in [computer programming] examples and [pseudocode] varies; in certain circles, it is used extensively, but many prefer descriptive names, while others prefer to use single letters. [Eric S. Raymond] has called it an 'important hackeryism' alongside [[kludge]] and [[cruft]].<ref name=Raymond>{{cite book|url=http://books.google.com/books?id=g80P_4v4QbIC&pg=PP1&pg=PA3|title=The New Hacker's Dictionary|author=[[Eric S. Raymond]]|publisher=[[MIT Press]]|year=1996|isbn=0-262-68092-0}}</ref>

== History and etymology ==

The word 'foo' originated as a [[nonsense word]] from the 1930s, the military term ['FUBAR'] emerged in the 1940s, and the use of 'foo' in a programming context is generally credited to the [[Tech Model Railroad Club]] (TMRC) of [[Massachusetts Institute of Technology|MIT]] circa 1960.<ref name=TMRC>{{cite web|url=http://www.letfb.org/rfc/rfc3092.txt|title=Etymology of 'Foo'/}}</ref> However, the precise relationship

Cite your sources: <ref>\ref</ref>
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The terms **foobar (/fubar/)**, **fubar**, or **foo, bar, baz** and **dux** (alternatively, **quux**), are sometimes used as placeholder names (also referred to as metasyntactic variables) in computer programming or computer-related documentation. They have been used to name entities such as variables, functions, and commands whose purpose is unimportant and serve only to demonstrate a concept. The words themselves have no meaning in this usage. **Fubar** is sometimes used alone; **foo, bar, and baz** are sometimes used, when multiple entities are needed. The usage in computer programming examples and pseudocode varies; in certain circles, it is used extensively, but many prefer descriptive names, while others prefer to use single letters. Eric S. Raymond has called it an "important hackerism" alongside kludge and cruft.

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This template formats a citation to a book using the provided bibliographic information (such as author and title) as well as various formatting options.

**URL**

http://books.google.com/books?id=g80P_4v4QbiC&pg=PP1&pgs=PA5

**Title**

The New Hacker's Dictionary

**Publisher**

[MIT Press]

**Year of publication**

1996
Changes in the last year

• We make a new release every week; big improvements in many areas

• Easy insertion of template-based references (“citations”)

• Much better and simpler template editing and context
Adds a block quotation.

**text**

`Multiflush: stop all trains button. Next best thing to the red door button. Also called FOO. Displays “FOO” on the clock when used.`

Add more information
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Smokey Stover driving a "foomobile", with phoo visible on the sign. No italics, character's name.

Alternative text:

an addition borrowed from the military's FUBAR. The use of foo in hacker and eventually in programming context...
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• Much better and simpler template editing and context

• Mobile (tablet) support coming next week
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• Mobile (tablet) support coming next week

• Significantly better performance and stability
Changes in the year to come
Changes in the year to come

- Auto-inserting citations – paste in a URL, ISBN, DOI or more and get a cite!
- Table editing – inserting new and deleting existing rows and columns
- Editing templates’ parameters as rich content, not wikitext, with helper tools
- Simple uploading of media to Commons and insertion mid-edit
- Auto-save local-only drafts if your browser crashes/disconnects mid-edit
Changes in the year to come

• Improved browser support, including Internet Explorer
• Better language support – IMEs, character inserter and language variants
• Roll-out default deployment for remaining Wikipedias and sister projects
• Discuss default deployment for ‘big four’ opt-in Wikipedias with communities
• Continued improvements in performance and stability
Other things on which we are working
Other things on which we are working

• We are actually the Editing team — see [[mw:Editing/Roadmap]]

• Improving the footnotes system (<ref> etc.)

• Rationalising WikiEditor and the other wikitext editor in MediaWiki

• A proper edit notice system for pages and categories of pages

• Lots of code quality work

• We’ll help the Math volunteers’ plans — see [[mw:Extension:Math/Roadmap]]
Possible longer-term changes
Possible longer-term changes

- Real-time collaborative editing with discussion and chat
- Arbitrary annotated comments
- Mid-edit modification of Wikidata
- Structured references applied to selections of content
- Top-to-bottom language support
- Visual sheet music editing and playback
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