





# Difficulties Introducing MediaWiki to Technical and Non-technical Audiences

(and a story... about a button)

# Who Are We?

	<b>Tina</b> 	<b>Mark</b> 
Education	B.Sci in Comp Sci, Masters in Mechatronics	Diploma in Computer Engineering Technology
Specialties	MediaWiki, process automation, efficiency	Servers, storage, VM, DR/BC, electronics
MediaWiki Experience	~15 years	no
SQL	yes	none
PHP	yes	nope
Cargo	yes	pants or ships?
Linux on SBCs	ehh... maybe?	yes
Problem-Solving Style	"I think I brought enough tools"	"Let me find the datasheet"

# Why Are We Here?

- We've been friends for 30 years.
- Tina is a MediaWiki advocate and has been telling Mark about it for a decade.
- An opportunity came up to build a small MediaWiki kiosk for a local museum and Tina wrangled Mark into helping.
- We spent the next four months about ready to strangle each other.
- We were both surprised at how differently we saw/approached MediaWiki.
- But it worked out, worked well, we are still friends, and other museums have signalled interest in setting up a wiki.
- Tina thought it would be a good idea to share our experience.

# Mark: To do...

Rewrite the whole presentation this evening because of all the stuff I learned yesterday.

Stayed up too late, rewrite most of the presentation tomorrow morning

Woke up too late, try to fix stuff at breakfast.

# Mark: To do...

~~Rewrite the whole presentation this evening because of all the stuff I learned yesterday.~~

~~Stayed up too late, rewrite most of the presentation tomorrow morning~~

~~Woke up too late, try to fix stuff at breakfast.~~

# The Task...

- A small kiosk so the public could browse the museum's collections of photos, information about the photos, as well as stories, documents, and potentially video.
- Able to arrange the content into "collections" while showing the relationships between the containers and items.
- No network connection available.
- Must be small, inexpensive, and reliable.
- The museum is staffed by volunteers, mainly retirees with different backgrounds but with comprehensive knowledge of the stories behind the photos and artifacts in the museum.
- More information about the build provided in our previous chat.

This is EXACTLY what a wiki is for.  
It's a perfect fit!



WordPress would work, some nice themes out there.

Can you put MediaWiki on a Pi?



It'll be offline, mostly static... what about writing something custom?

MediaWiki, Mark. You have to finally try MediaWiki.



Okay, okay. Mediawiki.

CARGO! 🤪



What?

# MediaWiki: Amazing, Yet Frustrating

The power, flexibility, and usefulness of the Wikimedia platform is not in dispute:

- Wikipedia
- Fan wikis
- Product wikis
- Business wikis
- Wikis... about wikis

But unless you're already immersed in the environment, it can be difficult to get into or even understand how it may be the best tool for the job.

And saying, "You know, Wikipedia? It's like that" does **not** help.



# Why?

- It's a different way of thinking about information than traditional websites or blogs (Tina will touch on this in her upcoming talk).
- It requires a suite of other software (and the expectation of some knowledge with that software)
- Editing (particularly long entries) can be taxing.
- It's involved enough that you can't spend an hour on it and then come back a month later.
- Functionality that casual office software users expect is not part of the base install.
- Configuration files can be dead ends, red herrings, and long trips down a rabbit hole.
- Documentation isn't particularly helpful for the casual or beginning user.

# The Installation...

Alright, I've got a Pi set up. Ready to wiki it up. 👍



It's easy to install, I've done a lot.

What do you need me for, then? 🤔



You're the Pi guy. Look at [mediawiki.org](https://mediawiki.org), instructions are there.

Ok

Hey, it's a wiki 😊



Right?

# The Installation...

## ⚙️ Set up and run MediaWiki

- [Download](#), [install](#) and [configure](#) MediaWiki
- Add functionality by installing [extensions](#)
- Problems? See [errors and symptoms](#) and [FAQ](#)
- Don't own a server? Find [hosting services](#)
- Get professional development and consulting
- Join [MediaWiki Stakeholders](#) user group

## Alternatives to manual installation

Some users may prefer to skip manual installation by using a pre-integrated MediaWiki [software appliance](#) or [hosting services](#). Repositories of some [Linux distributions](#) also increasingly offer packages for MediaWiki, with different degrees of frequency and extensions coverage (e.g. Debian, Ubuntu, Fedora, Gentoo).

```
mark@testpi: ~  
  
libwww-mediawiki-client-perl/stable,stable 0.31-2.2 all  
  simple CVS-like interface for editing MediaWiki websites  
  
libzim-dev/stable 8.1.1-0.2 arm64  
  library implementation of ZIM specifications (development)  
  
libzim8/stable 8.1.1-0.2 arm64  
  library implementation of ZIM specifications  
  
mediawiki/stable,stable,stable-security,stable-security 1:1.39.5-1~deb12ul all  
  website engine for collaborative work  
  
mediawiki-classes/stable,stable,stable-security,stable-security 1:1.39.5-1~deb12  
ul all  
  website engine for collaborative work - standalone classes  
  
mediawiki-extension-codemirror/stable,stable 4.0.0~git20221204.b897975-1 all  
  Syntax highlighting in MediaWiki's wikitext editor  
  
mediawiki-extension-youtube/stable,stable 1.9.3~git20221020.e005c0b-1 all  
  Embed YouTube and other videos into MediaWiki pages  
  
mediawiki-skin-greystuff/stable,stable 1.2.5~git20220922.60bda8c-2 all
```

# The Installation...

## ⚙️ Set up and run MediaWiki

- [Download](#), [install](#) and [configure](#) MediaWiki
- Add functionality by installing [extensions](#)

```
mediawiki/stable,stable,stable-security,stable-security 1:1.39.5-1~deb12u1 all  
website engine for collaborative work WOOHOO!
```

- Don't own a server? Find [hosting services](#)
- Get professional development and consulting
- Join [MediaWiki Stakeholders](#) user group

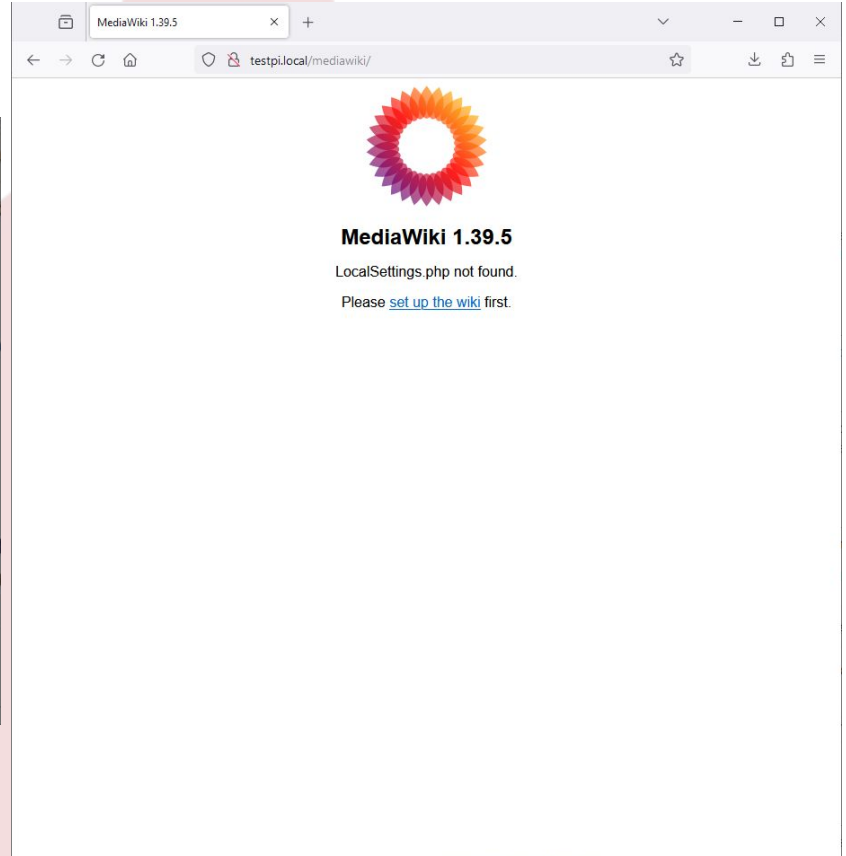
## Alternatives to manual installation

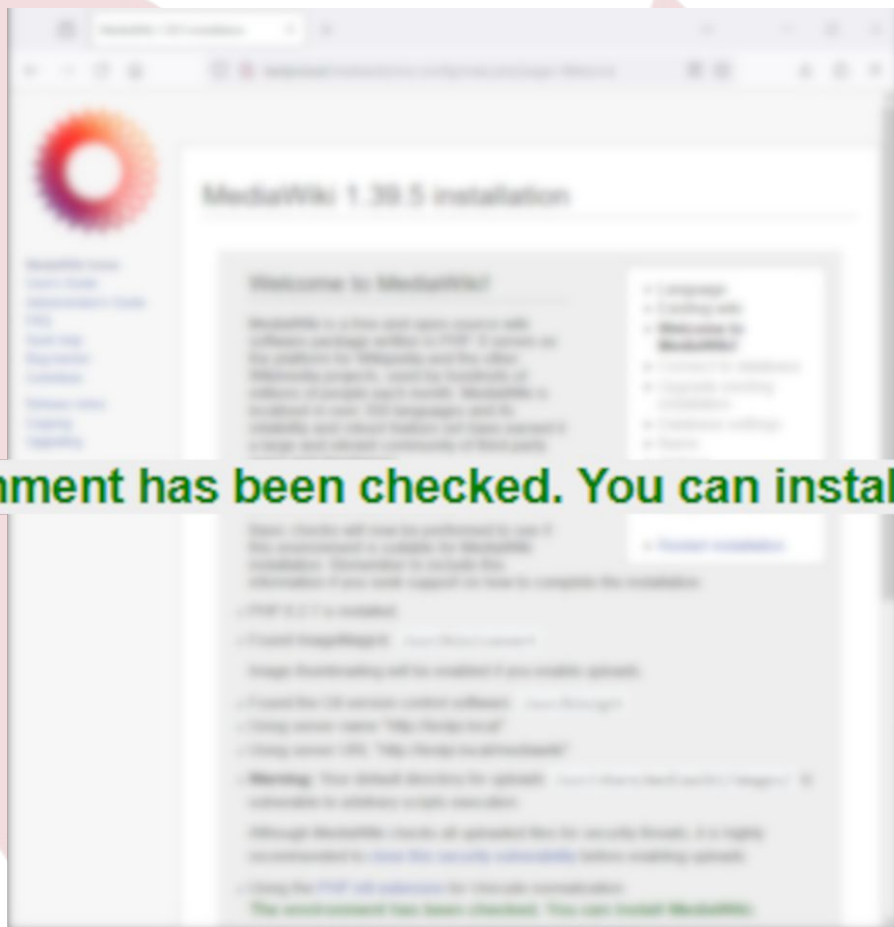
Some users may prefer to skip manual installation by using a pre-integrated MediaWiki [software appliance](#) or [hosting services](#). Repositories of some [Linux distributions](#) also increasingly offer packages for MediaWiki, with different degrees of frequency and extensions coverage (e.g. Debian, Ubuntu, Fedora, Gentoo).

```
mark@testpi: ~  
libwww-mediawiki-client-perl/stable,stable 0.31-2.2 all  
simple CVS-like interface for editing MediaWiki websites  
libzim-dev/stable 8.1.1-0.2_arm64  
mediawiki/stable,stable,stable-security,stable-security 1:1.39.5-1~deb12u1 all  
website engine for collaborative work  
mediawiki-classes/stable,stable,stable-security,stable-security 1:1.39.5-1~deb12  
u1 all  
website engine for collaborative work - standalone classes  
mediawiki-extension-codemirror/stable,stable 4.0.0~git20221204.b897975-1 all  
Syntax highlighting in MediaWiki's wikitext editor  
mediawiki-extension-youtube/stable,stable 1.9.3~git20221020.e005c0b-1 all  
Embed YouTube and other videos into MediaWiki pages  
mediawiki-skin-greystuff/stable,stable 1.2.5~git20220922.60bda8c-2 all
```

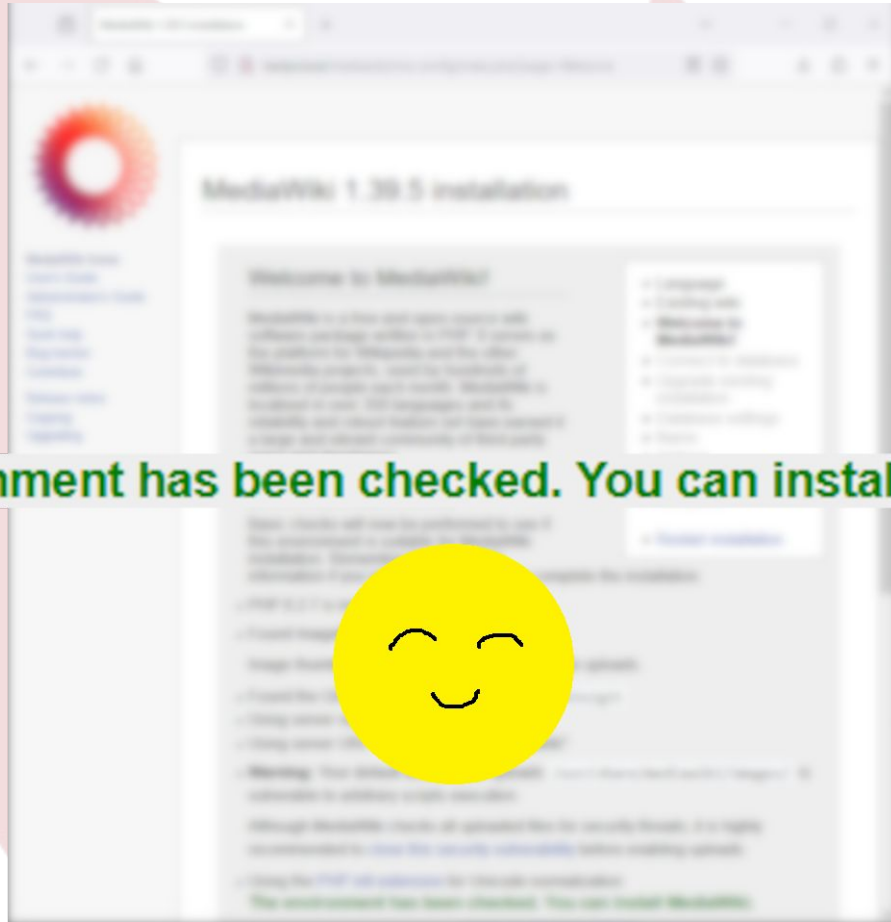
# Doesn't Get Much Easier Than This...

```
mark@testpi: ~  
fastest pure-Python PEG parser  
  
python3-wikitrans/stable,stable 1.3-2 all  
MediaWiki markup translator (python3 library)  
  
r-cran-wikipedir/stable,stable 1.5.0-3 all  
GNU R MediaWiki API Wrapper  
  
ruby-github-markup/stable,stable 1.7.0+dfsg-6 all  
GitHub Markup rendering  
  
ruby-wikicloth/stable,stable 0.8.1+dfsg-4.1 all  
MediaWiki markup language parser for Ruby  
  
texlive-latex-extra/stable,stable 2022.20230122-4 all  
TeX Live: LaTeX additional packages  
  
vim-voom/stable,stable 5.3-8 all  
Vim two-pane outliner  
  
wikitrans/stable,stable 1.3-2 all  
MediaWiki markup translator (utility)  
  
mark@testpi:~ $ sudo apt install mediawiki
```

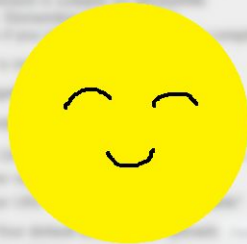




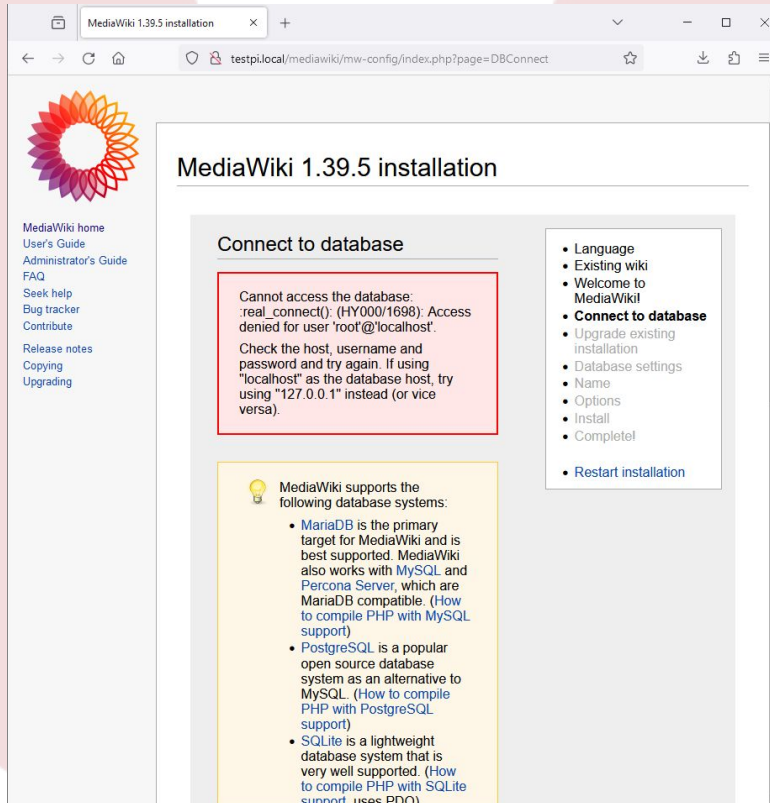
The environment has been checked. You can install MediaWiki.



The environment has been checked. You can install MediaWiki.



# So... I've Never Been a DBA



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `testpi.local/mediawiki/mw-config/index.php?page=DBConnect`. The page title is "MediaWiki 1.39.5 installation". On the left, there is a navigation menu with links like "MediaWiki home", "User's Guide", "Administrator's Guide", "FAQ", "Seek help", "Bug tracker", "Contribute", "Release notes", "Copying", and "Upgrading". The main content area is titled "Connect to database" and contains a red-bordered error box with the following text:

```
Cannot access the database:
real_connect(): (HY000/1698): Access
denied for user 'root'@'localhost'.

Check the host, username and
password and try again. If using
"localhost" as the database host, try
using "127.0.0.1" instead (or vice
versa).
```

Below the error box, there is a lightbulb icon and the text "MediaWiki supports the following database systems:" followed by a list of supported databases:

- [MariaDB](#) is the primary target for MediaWiki and is best supported. MediaWiki also works with [MySQL](#) and [Percona Server](#), which are MariaDB compatible. ([How to compile PHP with MySQL support](#))
- [PostgreSQL](#) is a popular open source database system as an alternative to [MySQL](#). ([How to compile PHP with PostgreSQL support](#))
- [SQLite](#) is a lightweight database system that is very well supported. ([How to compile PHP with SQLite support](#), [uses PDO](#))

On the right side of the "Connect to database" section, there is a list of installation options:

- [Language](#)
- [Existing wiki](#)
- [Welcome to MediaWiki!](#)
- **Connect to database**
- [Upgrade existing installation](#)
- [Database settings](#)
- [Name](#)
- [Options](#)
- [Install](#)
- [Completer](#)

At the bottom of this list, there is a link: [Restart installation](#)





Hey Tina?

Hey Mark!



What's up?

How often do you install SQL?



Which one? You should be using MariaDB

Okay, MariaDB.



Every time I make a new wiki.  
Why?

You have to provide individual installs for every wiki? 😬



No, just create a DB. SQL is handled by the shared hosting.

So you *\*don't\** do a lot of SQL installs?

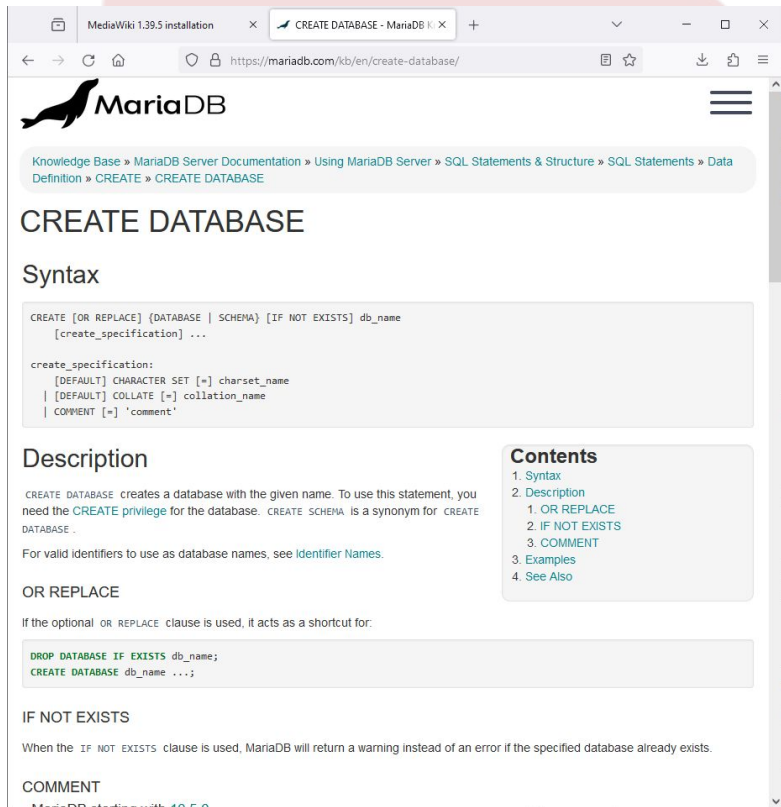
No



Why?



# MariaDB, MySQL Shenanigans



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `https://mariadb.com/kb/en/create-database/`. The page title is "CREATE DATABASE" and the sub-header is "Syntax". The main content area contains the following text:

```
CREATE [OR REPLACE] (DATABASE | SCHEMA) [IF NOT EXISTS] db_name
[create_specification] ...
```

create\_specification:

- [DEFAULT] CHARACTER SET [=] charset\_name
- [DEFAULT] COLLATE [=] collation\_name
- COMMENT [=] 'comment'

**Description**

CREATE DATABASE creates a database with the given name. To use this statement, you need the [CREATE privilege](#) for the database. CREATE SCHEMA is a synonym for CREATE DATABASE.

For valid identifiers to use as database names, see [Identifier Names](#).

**OR REPLACE**

If the optional OR REPLACE clause is used, it acts as a shortcut for:

```
DROP DATABASE IF EXISTS db_name;
CREATE DATABASE db_name ...;
```

**IF NOT EXISTS**

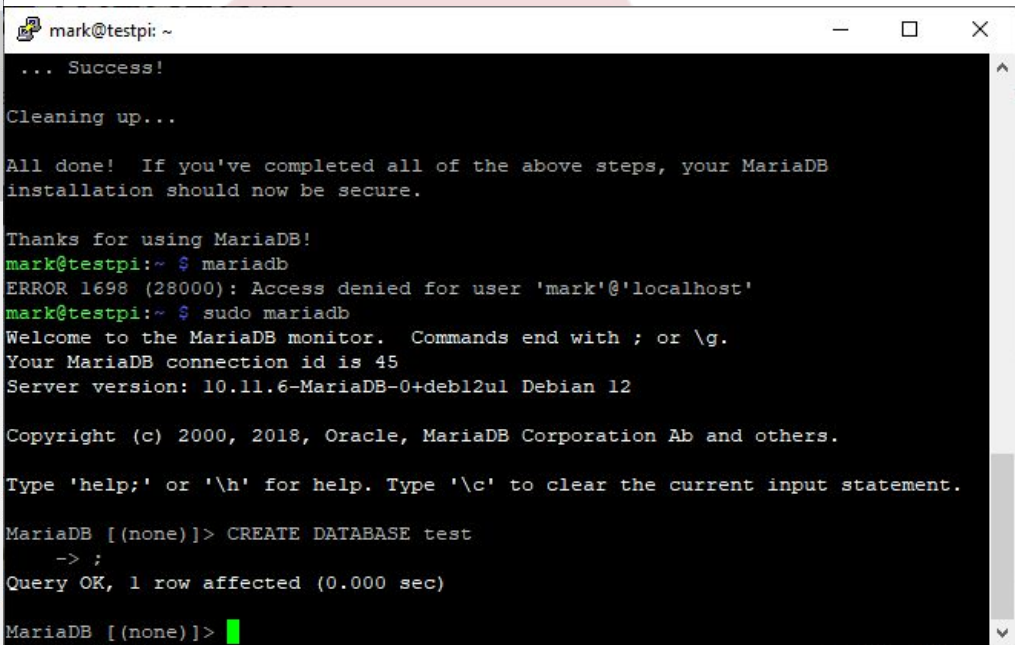
When the IF NOT EXISTS clause is used, MariaDB will return a warning instead of an error if the specified database already exists.

**COMMENT**

MariaDB starts with 10.5.0

**Contents**

1. Syntax
2. Description
  - 1. OR REPLACE
  - 2. IF NOT EXISTS
  - 3. COMMENT
3. Examples
4. See Also



```
mark@testpi: ~
... Success!
Cleaning up...

All done! If you've completed all of the above steps, your MariaDB
installation should now be secure.

Thanks for using MariaDB!
mark@testpi:~ $ mariadb
ERROR 1698 (28000): Access denied for user 'mark'@'localhost'
mark@testpi:~ $ sudo mariadb
Welcome to the MariaDB monitor.  Commands end with ; or \g.
Your MariaDB connection id is 45
Server version: 10.11.6-MariaDB-0+deb12ul Debian 12

Copyright (c) 2000, 2018, Oracle, MariaDB Corporation Ab and others.

Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement.

MariaDB [(none)]> CREATE DATABASE test
-> ;
Query OK, 1 row affected (0.000 sec)

MariaDB [(none)]>
```

Tina?

Tina Tina Tina

TINA!!!



Yesssss?

I can't access the database during the install.

Access denied for root. Root login is disabled by default. I'd rather not enable it...



Is mariadb installed?

Yes, it's part of the MW distribution package.



Ok, you need to set it up. Grab phpMyAdmin, makes it easier.

Ok no sweat.



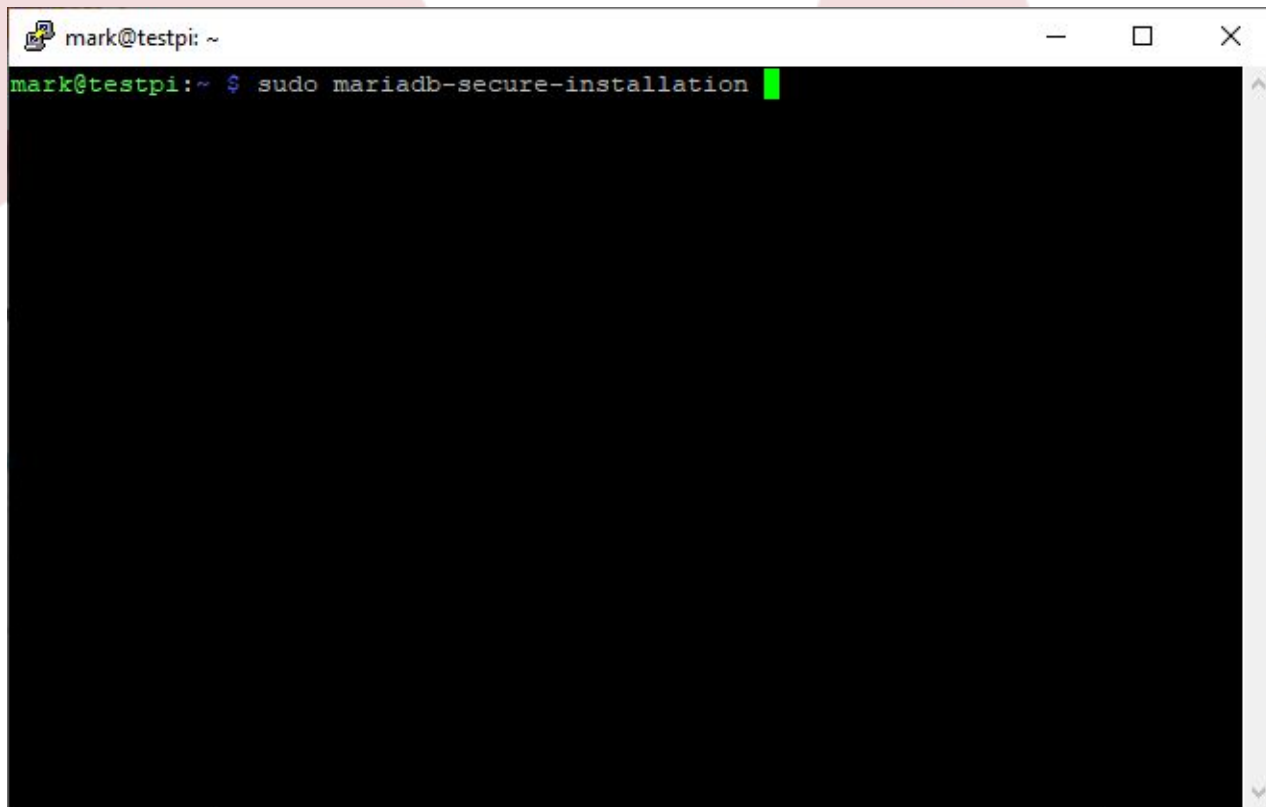
How's it going?



You've never worked with SQL?

NO I HAVE NOT 😡

# Fumbling Around...

A terminal window with a title bar that reads "mark@testpi: ~". The window contains a single line of text: "mark@testpi:~ \$ sudo mariadb-secure-installation" followed by a green cursor. The rest of the terminal area is black. The window has standard minimize, maximize, and close buttons in the top right corner.

```
mark@testpi: ~  
mark@testpi:~ $ sudo mariadb-secure-installation
```

# Woohoo!

The screenshot shows the 'Database settings' step of the MediaWiki 1.39.5 installation. The browser address bar is 'testpi.local/mediawiki/mw-config/index.php?page=DBSettings'. The page features the MediaWiki logo and a sidebar with navigation links. The main content area is titled 'Database settings' and contains a section for 'Database account for web access' with a checked option 'Use the same account as for installation'. A 'Restart installation' link is visible in the right-hand menu.

MediaWiki 1.39.5 installation

Database settings

Database account for web access

Use the same account as for installation

← Back   Continue →

- Language
- Existing wiki
- Welcome to MediaWiki
- Connect to database
- Upgrade existing installation
- **Database settings**
- Name
- Options
- Install
- Complete!
- Restart installation

The screenshot shows the 'Name' step of the MediaWiki 1.39.5 installation. The browser address bar is 'testpi.local/mediawiki/mw-config/index.php?page=Name'. The page features the MediaWiki logo and a sidebar with navigation links. The main content area is titled 'Name' and contains fields for 'Name of wiki' (testpi-wiki) and 'Project namespace' (Same as the wiki name: Testpi-wiki). Below this is the 'Administrator account' section with fields for 'Your username' (markadmin), 'Password', and 'Password again'. An 'Email address' field is also present at the bottom.

MediaWiki 1.39.5 installation

Name

Name of wiki:  
 [help](#)  
testpi-wiki

Project namespace:  
 [help](#)  
 Same as the wiki name: Testpi-wiki  
 Project  
 Other (specify)

Administrator account

Your username:  
 [help](#)  
markadmin

Password:  
\*\*\*\*\*


Password again:  
\*\*\*\*\*

Email address:

- Language
- Existing wiki
- Welcome to MediaWiki
- Connect to database
- Upgrade existing installation
- Database settings
- **Name**
- Options
- Install
- Complete!
- Restart installation

MediaWiki 1.39.5 installat: x CREATE DATABASE - Mari x phpMyAdmin

testpi.local/mediawiki/mw-config/index.php?page=Complete




MediaWiki home  
User's Guide  
Administrator's Guide  
FAQ  
Seek help  
Bug tracker  
Contribute

Release notes  
Copying  
Upgrading

## MediaWiki 1.39.5 installation


### Complete!

 **Congratulations!** You have installed MediaWiki.

The installer has generated a `LocalSettings.php` file. It contains all your configuration.

You will need to download it and put it at `/etc/mediawiki/LocalSettings.php`. The download should have started automatically.

If the download was not offered, or if you cancelled it, you can restart the download by clicking the link below.

 [Download LocalSettings.php](#)

**Note:** If you do not do this now, this generated configuration file will not be available to you later if you exit the installation without downloading it.

When that has been done, you can [enter your wiki](#).

- Language
- Existing wiki
- Welcome to MediaWiki
- Connect to database
- Upgrade existing installation
- Database settings
- Name
- Options
- Install
- **Complete!**
- [Restart installation](#)

testpi-wiki

testpi.local/mediawiki/index.php/Main\_Page

Not logged in [Talk](#) [Contributions](#) [Create account](#) [Log in](#)

Main Page [Discussion](#) [Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#)

# Main Page

**MediaWiki has been installed.**



Consult the [User's Guide](#) for information on using the wiki software.

## Getting started [\[edit\]](#)

- [Configuration settings list](#)
- [MediaWiki FAQ](#)
- [MediaWiki release mailing list](#)
- [Localise MediaWiki for your language](#)
- [Learn how to combat spam on your wiki](#)

This page was last edited on 14 March 2024, at 02:53.

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Powered by  MediaWiki  powered by **debian**

Set \$wgLogos with the URL path to your own logo image

Main page  
Recent changes  
Random page  
Help about MediaWiki

Tools

What links here  
Related changes  
Special pages  
Printable version  
Permanent link  
Page information





Editing Firstpage - testpi-wiki | Help:Starting a new page - Me | x +

testpi.local/mediawiki/index.php?title=Firstpage&action=edit

Not logged in | Talk | Contributions | Create account | Log in

Page: Discussion | Read | Edit | View history | Search testpi-wiki

## Editing Firstpage

**Warning:** You are not logged in. Your IP address will be publicly visible if you make any edits. If you [log in](#) or [create an account](#), your edits will be attributed to your username, along with other benefits.

Finally made it, got it installed and everything!  
This is going to be great!  
Now I just need to add some stuff and maybe a few pictures.  
Can't wait to see what it looks like!

Maybe some photos of:

- ships
- planes
- electronics
- food

Summary:

changed the page a bit

Please note that all contributions to testpi-wiki may be edited, altered, or removed by other contributors. If you do not want your writing to be edited mercilessly, then do not submit it here.  
You are also promising us that you wrote this yourself, or copied it from a public domain or similar free resource (see [Testpi-wiki:Copyrights](#) for details). **Do not submit copyrighted work without permission!**

[Save changes](#) | [Show preview](#) | [Show changes](#) | [Cancel](#)

[Editing help](#) (opens in new window)

**Set \$wgLogos with the URL path to your own logo image**

Main page | Recent changes | Random page | Help about MediaWiki

Tools

What links here | Related changes | Special pages | Page information

Firstpage - testpi-wiki | Help:Starting a new page - Me | x +

testpi.local/mediawiki/index.php/Firstpage

Not logged in | Talk | Contributions | Create account | Log in

Page: Discussion | Read | Edit | View history | Search testpi-wiki

## Firstpage

Finally made it, got it installed and everything! This is going to be great! Now I just need to add some stuff and maybe a few pictures. Can't wait to see what it looks like!

Maybe some photos of: - ships - planes - electronics - food

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Powered by MediaWiki | prepared by [debian](#)

**Set \$wgLogos with the URL path to your own logo image**

Main page | Recent changes | Random page | Help about MediaWiki

Tools

What links here | Related changes | Special pages | Printable version | Permanent link | Page information

# My Wife Is a Librarian

- She speaks many different kinds of descriptive tags and languages:
  - 620.12 CAR 2008
  - KE1232|b.O83 2020
  - `<a href="foo.html"></a>`
  - 008 191217p20192014nyu004 o v\$eng d
- Then I showed her the [Help:Formatting](#) page.
- She had... questions.



So some HTML will work in here.

Yes.



It says "for example". Where's the full list?

Not sure 🤔



What happens when you mix them?

I don't know. Probably not something people would normally try.



The tags don't behave the same way. 😞

What?

This is going to be a nightmare for any new person trying to fix or figure out why formatting in a long document is wrong 😞



Or someone else trying to figure out what some new person did

It's a popular platform. Lots of people use it.



You're thinking about retrieving information. It's not friendly for putting information INTO it.

# HTML vs. MediaWiki Markup

This is a test with no formatting.

This is a test with no formatting.

# HTML vs. MediaWiki Markup

Opened with HTML, closed with HTML:

This is a test with `<b>`this part in bold.`</b>` This part should be plain.

Opened with HTML, closed with HTML:

This is a test with **this part in bold.** This part should be plain.

# HTML vs. MediaWiki Markup

Opened with MW markup, closed with MW markup:

This is a test with '''this part in bold.''' This part should be plain.

Opened with MW markup, closed with MW markup:

This is a test with **this part in bold.** This part should be plain.

# HTML vs. MediaWiki Markup

Opened with MW markup, closed with HTML:

This is a test with '''this part in bold.</b> This part should be plain.

Opened with MW markup, closed with HTML:

This is a test with **this part in bold.** This part should be plain.

# HTML vs. MediaWiki Markup

Opened with HTML, closed with MW markup:

This is a test with `<b>`this part in bold. ''' This part should be plain.

Opened with HTML, closed with MW markup:

This is a test with **this part in bold. This part should be plain.**



# HTML vs. MediaWiki Markup

```
'''This is a test with bold using MW markup.
```

```
It ends at the end of the paragraph even without closing it, right?
```

```
This is a test with bold using MW markup.
```

```
It ends at the end of the paragraph even without closing it, right?
```

# HTML vs. MediaWiki Markup

```
<b>This is a test with bold using HTML.
```

It ends at the end of the paragraph even without closing it, right?

**This is a test with bold using HTML.**

**It ends at the end of the paragraph even without closing it, right?**

# Visual Editor

Can we make this look and act more like a word processor?



That would be Visual Editor. I don't think we should use it. A wiki isn't a Word document.

I really think it's going to be easier to show people how to use this if the interface is more familiar.



I can enable it if you want but it's not going to behave the way you think.

Please do, I think it's going to make everyone's lives a little easier.



Done. Now you can click "Edit" instead of "Edit Source"

THANK YOU THIS IS AWESOME



You're welcome 😊

# Foo

Here's a test page. It has some text:

1. UPPER CASE
2. lower case
3. **bold**
4. underlined

```
t = 0
```

```
while (t <= 55):
```

```
  print("hello")
```

```
  t = t + 1
```

Here is an image:



My oldest TTL chip that still works

Here's another image:



Nothing special

And one more because what the heck:



It's a squirrel! With a nut!

And that's about it.

# Foo

Here's a test page. It has some text:

1. UPPER CASE
2. lower case
3. **bold**
4. underlined

```
t = 0
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```
while (t <= 55):
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while (t <= 55):  
    print("hello")  
    t = t + 1
```

Here is an image:



My oldest TTL chip that still works

- a
- b
- c
- d
- e
- fj

Here's another image:



Nothing special

And one more because what the heck:



It's a squirrel! With a nut!

And that's about it.

# Foo

Here's a test page. It has some text:

1. UPPER CASE
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3. **bold**
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```
t = 0
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```
while (t <= 55):  
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```

Here is an image:

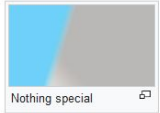


My oldest TTL chip that still works

- a
- b
- c

- d
- e
- f

Here's another image:



Nothing special

And one more because what the heck:



It's a squirrel! With a nut!

And that's about it.

Hey Tina?



Hey Mark!

Okay, so things aren't lining up on the page the way I expected.



This is why I warned you. Have you tried turning off wrap text for each image?

No. I figured that the editor would do that because I had a blank line above and below each image.



Visual Editor is not a word processor.

I don't think this is going to work.



Editing source gives you better control and you can see what's going on.



# File Uploads and Page Creation

The museums we've spoken with already have a lot of data:

- Existing web presence
- Word documents
- PDFs
- Image files
- A lot of paper to scan/OCR/convert
- Artifacts to photograph and document

For people with average computer skills but no familiarity with MediaWiki, it takes over five minutes to upload one image and copy/paste to create a simple page - even more if there is formatting involved.

As you get used to it you can find timesaving tricks, but it can be frustrating at first.

# And What if They Have 1000 Images?



Hey Tina?

Hey Mark?



Good news, I've got things to where I can upload files no sweat.

Excellent! I told you this wasn't that difficult 😊



But what if I have 10 or 50 or 1000 files? Doing them one at a time seems... tedious.

You can write a script to do that. There are also extensions that will help.



I suspect what little I remember of FORTRAN or Z80 assembler will not help me here.

It will not.

But it's another opportunity to learn something new!

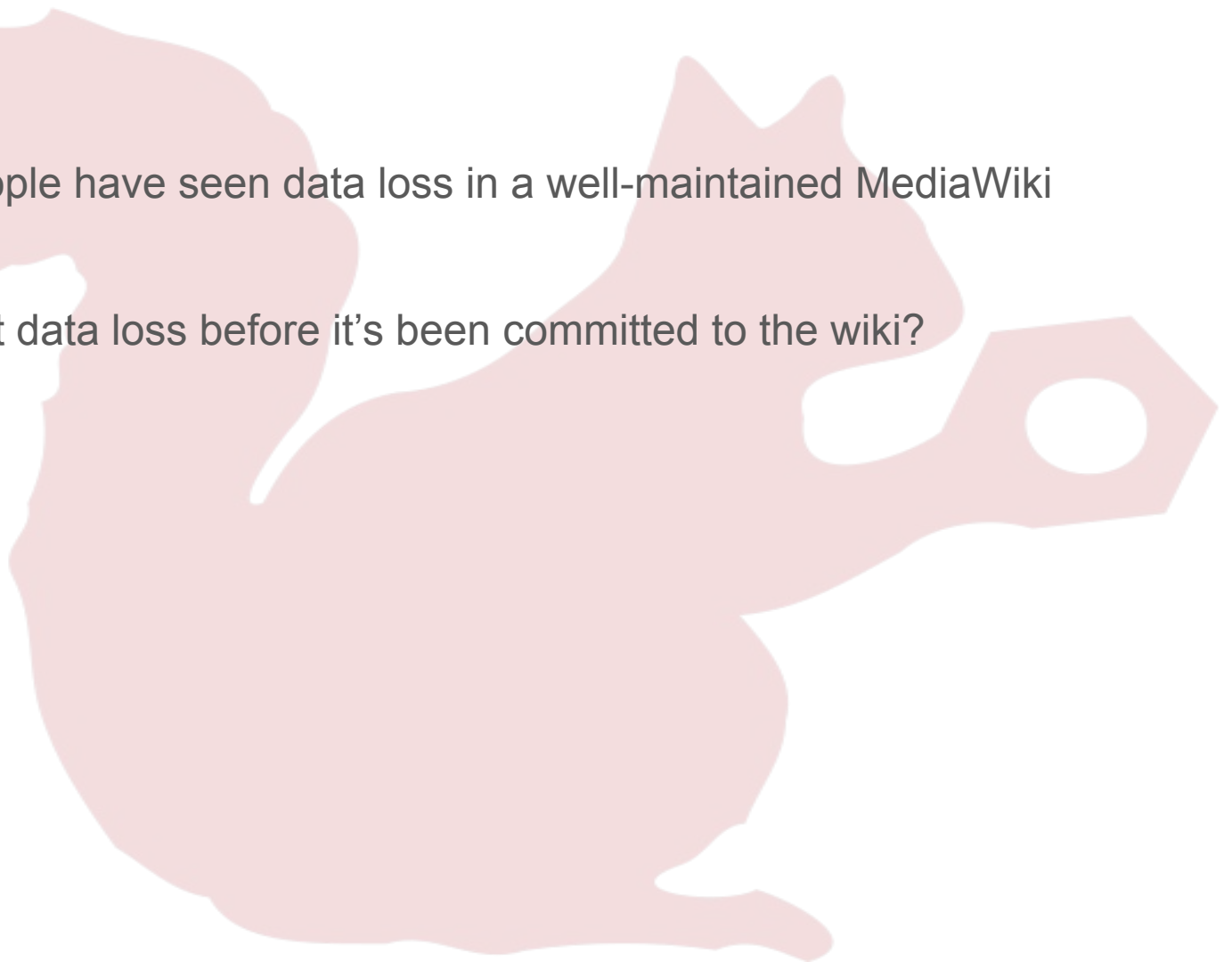




# Data Loss

How many people have seen data loss in a well-maintained MediaWiki installation?

But what about data loss before it's been committed to the wiki?



I got 500 Internal Server Error after I tried to edit a page.



This is on shared hosting? What did you put in there?

Yes. Lots of MicroPython stuff.



Did you wrap it with nowiki?



Just go back in and take it out.

I searched the whole MW directory structure and can't find it.



That's not how MW works. Your text is in the DB. Use the page editor.

But... 500 Internal Server Editor 😞

MARK.



Ok, I'll take a look.

That was TWO HOURS of work 😞



There are MediaWiki extensions for everything you're complaining about. 😊

That doesn't help me when I'm in the basement of a steel building with no network...

And how am I supposed to know which extensions exist, which ones work, and what they do?



That can be a problem. But you'll learn what's out there.

It's 2024. Why do I need to find, install, and test an add-on for functionality that was available in word processors 30 years ago? 🙄



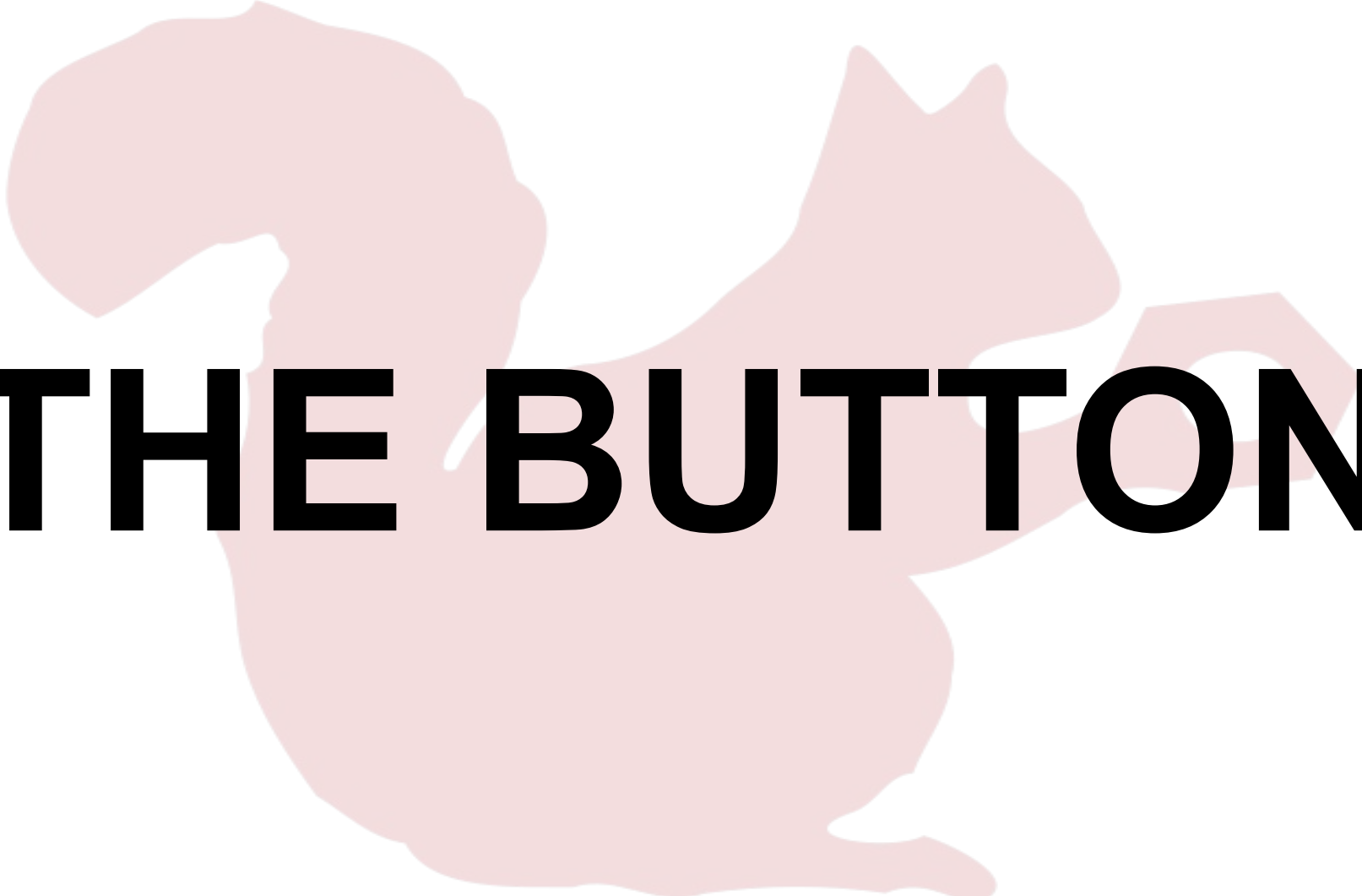
It's open source, you could always contribute or fork it and change it yourself.

TINA.



Yesssss?

I AM GOING FOR A NAP



**THE BUTTON**



Powered by  
**MediaWiki**



Powered by  
**MediaWiki**



powered by  
**debian**

# Why remove those buttons?

- Offline wiki.
- Nowhere for the links to go
- Don't want people to get errors or stuck
- Less work and should be easier to maintain than editing DNS or hosts, plus makes more sense than DNS or hosts just pointing back to the wiki.
  - Or, it should've been...

# Poweredby MediaWiki button is easy to find

```
mark@testpi: /usr/share/mediawiki/includes
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki/includes $ grep -r oweredby_media *
MainConfigSchema.php: // "$wgResourceBasePath/resources/assets/poweredby_mediawiki_88x31.png"
SetupDynamicConfig.php: "$wgResourceBasePath/resources/assets/poweredby_mediawiki_88x31.png";
SetupDynamicConfig.php: "$wgResourceBasePath/resources/assets/poweredby_mediawiki_132x47.png 1.5x, " .
SetupDynamicConfig.php: "$wgResourceBasePath/resources/assets/poweredby_mediawiki_176x62.png 2x";
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki/includes $ █
```

MainConfigSchema.php: Commenting it out: no change

SetupDynamicConfig.php: Commenting the block out: removed the button/link

But wait. Maybe there's an easier way to do this...



# Remember LocalSettings.php!

```
mark@testpi: /usr/share/mediawiki
$wgDiff3 = "/usr/bin/diff3";

## Default skin: you can change the default skin. Use the internal symbolic
## names, e.g. 'vector' or 'monobook':
$wgDefaultSkin = "vector";

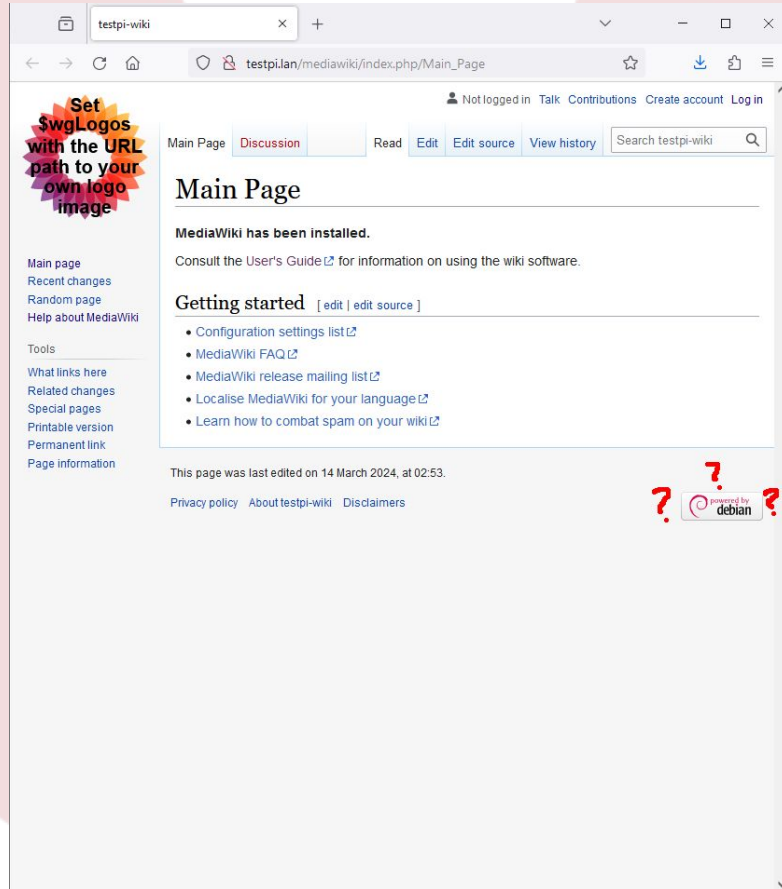
# Enabled skins.
# The following skins were automatically enabled:
wfLoadSkin( 'MinervaNeue' );
wfLoadSkin( 'MonoBook' );
wfLoadSkin( 'Timeless' );
wfLoadSkin( 'Vector' );

# End of automatically generated settings.
# Add more configuration options below.

wfLoadExtension( 'VisualEditor' );

unset( $wgFooterIcons[ 'poweredby' ] );
```

# That's... not quite right



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the main page of a MediaWiki installation. The browser's address bar shows the URL `testpi.lan/mediawiki/index.php/Main_Page`. The page content includes a navigation menu at the top with options like "Main Page", "Discussion", "Read", "Edit", "Edit source", and "View history". A search box is also present. The main heading is "Main Page", followed by the message "MediaWiki has been installed." and a link to the "User's Guide". Below this is a "Getting started" section with a list of links: "Configuration settings list", "MediaWiki FAQ", "MediaWiki release mailing list", "Localise MediaWiki for your language", and "Learn how to combat spam on your wiki". At the bottom, it states "This page was last edited on 14 March 2024, at 02:53." and provides links for "Privacy policy", "About testpi-wiki", and "Disclaimers".

Set \$wgLogos with the URL path to your own logo image

Not logged in | Talk | Contributions | Create account | Log in

Main Page | Discussion | Read | Edit | Edit source | View history | Search testpi-wiki

## Main Page

**MediaWiki has been installed.**

Consult the [User's Guide](#) for information on using the wiki software.

### Getting started

 [ edit | edit source ]

- [Configuration settings list](#)
- [MediaWiki FAQ](#)
- [MediaWiki release mailing list](#)
- [Localise MediaWiki for your language](#)
- [Learn how to combat spam on your wiki](#)

This page was last edited on 14 March 2024, at 02:53.

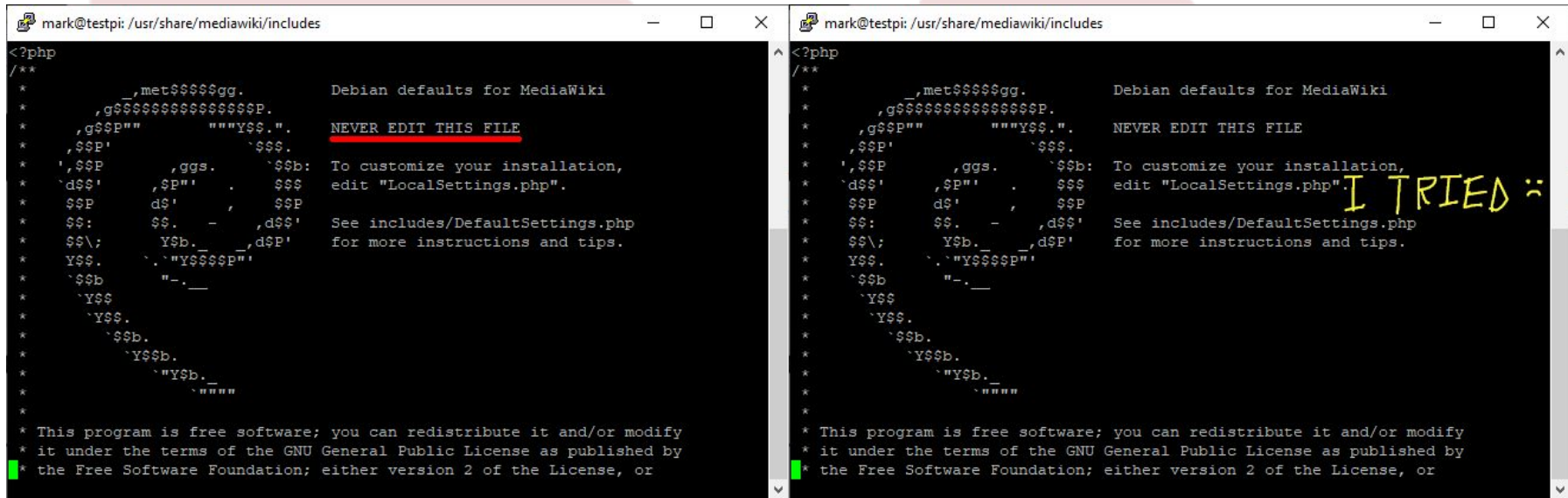
[Privacy policy](#) | [About testpi-wiki](#) | [Disclaimers](#)

powered by **debian**

# Next Step...

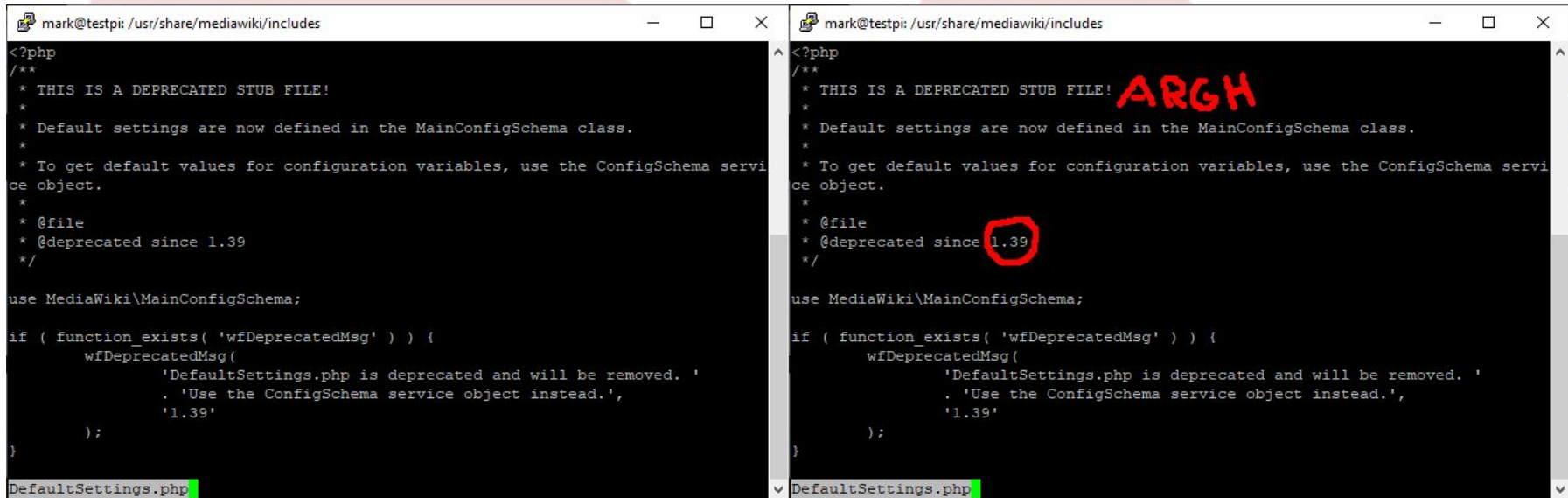
```
mark@testpi: /usr/share/mediawiki
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki $ grep -r weredby_deb *
grep: images: Permission denied
includes/PlatformSettings.php:      'src' => "$wgResourceBasePath/resources/assets/debian/poweredby_debian_1x.png",
includes/PlatformSettings.php:      "$wgResourceBasePath/resources/assets/debian/poweredby_debian_1_5x.png 1.5x, " .
includes/PlatformSettings.php:      "$wgResourceBasePath/resources/assets/debian/poweredby_debian_2x.png 2x",
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki $ █
```

# Finally! PlatformSettings.php! Makes sense! But...



```
<?php
/**
 *      _met$$$$$ggg.      Debian defaults for MediaWiki
 *      g$$$$$$$$$$$$$$P.
 *      ,g$$P"      ""Y$$.".      NEVER EDIT THIS FILE
 *      ,$$P'      `$$$'.
 *      '$$P      ,ggs.      `$$b: To customize your installation,
 *      `d$$'      ,P"      $$$      edit "LocalSettings.php".
 *      $$P      d$'      $$P
 *      $$:      $$:      -      ,d$$' See includes/DefaultSettings.php
 *      $$\;      Y$b._      ,d$P' for more instructions and tips.
 *      Y$$      `."Y$$$$$P"
 *      `$$b      "-.
 *      `Y$$
 *      `Y$$
 *      `$$b.
 *      `Y$$b.
 *      `Y$b._
 *      `."Y$b.
 *      `."
 *
 * This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify
 * it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by
 * the Free Software Foundation; either version 2 of the License, or
```

# So, off to DefaultSettings.php! But...



```
mark@testpi: /usr/share/mediawiki/includes
<?php
/**
 * THIS IS A DEPRECATED STUB FILE!
 *
 * Default settings are now defined in the MainConfigSchema class.
 *
 * To get default values for configuration variables, use the ConfigSchema service object.
 *
 * @file
 * @deprecated since 1.39
 */

use MediaWiki\MainConfigSchema;

if ( function_exists( 'wfDeprecatedMsg' ) ) {
    wfDeprecatedMsg(
        'DefaultSettings.php is deprecated and will be removed. '
        . 'Use the ConfigSchema service object instead.',
        '1.39'
    );
}

DefaultSettings.php
```

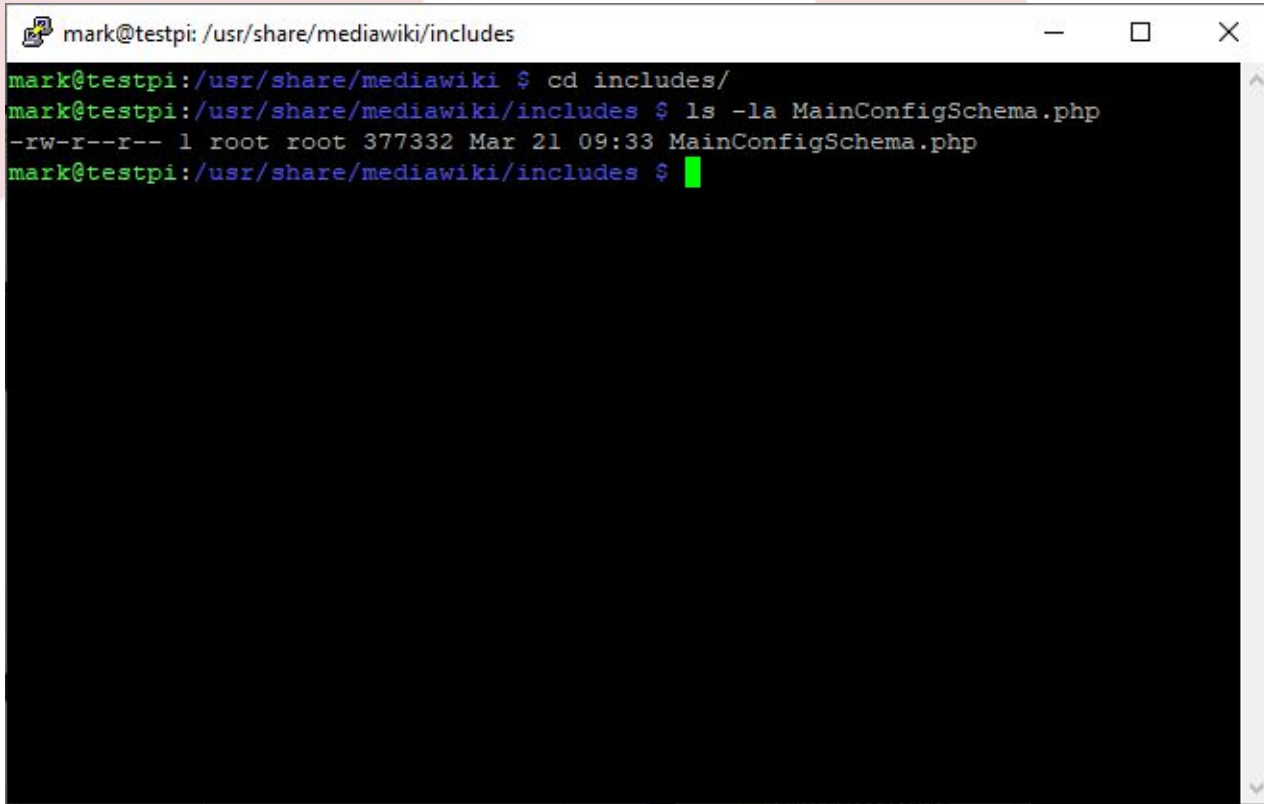
```
mark@testpi: /usr/share/mediawiki/includes
<?php
/**
 * THIS IS A DEPRECATED STUB FILE! ARGH
 *
 * Default settings are now defined in the MainConfigSchema class.
 *
 * To get default values for configuration variables, use the ConfigSchema service object.
 *
 * @file
 * @deprecated since 1.39
 */

use MediaWiki\MainConfigSchema;

if ( function_exists( 'wfDeprecatedMsg' ) ) {
    wfDeprecatedMsg(
        'DefaultSettings.php is deprecated and will be removed. '
        . 'Use the ConfigSchema service object instead.',
        '1.39'
    );
}

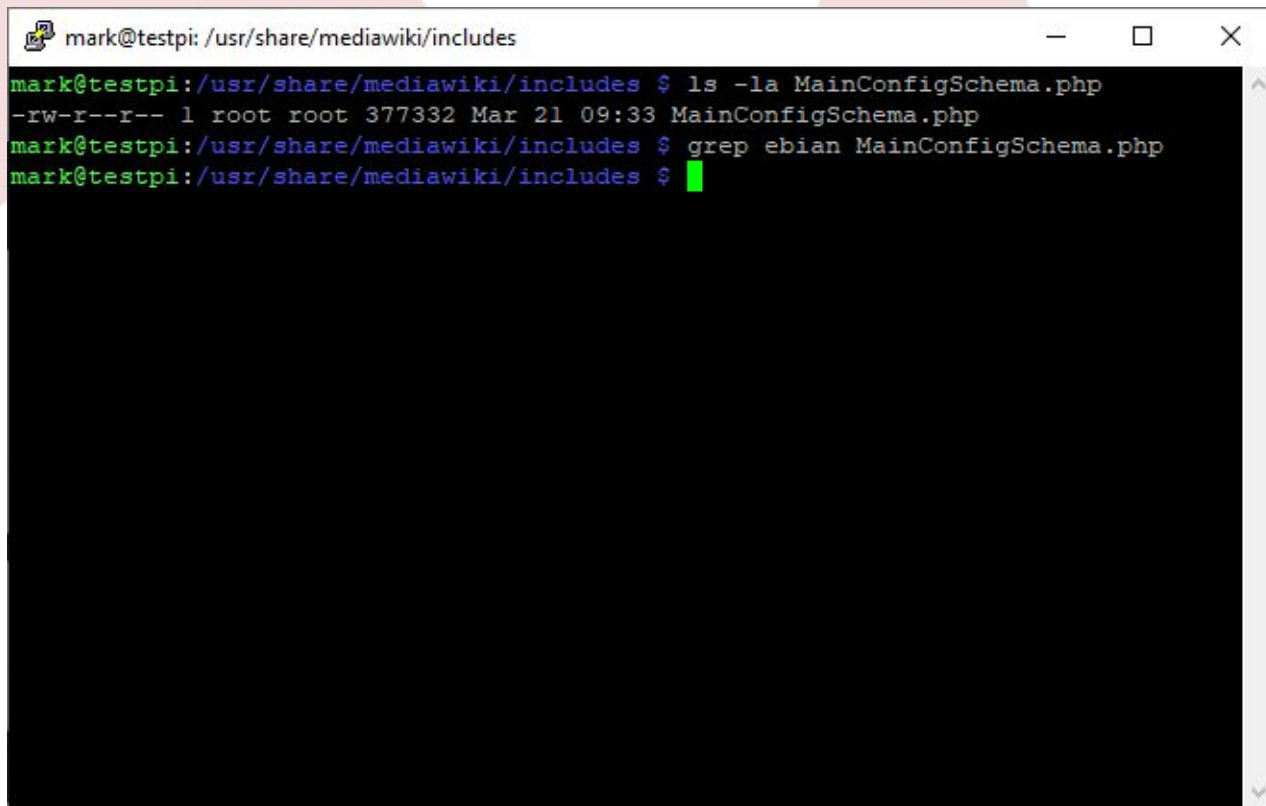
DefaultSettings.php
```

So... off to MainConfigSchema. It's large.

A terminal window titled 'mark@testpi: /usr/share/mediawiki/includes' with standard window controls. The terminal shows a sequence of commands and their output. The first command is 'cd includes/'. The second command is 'ls -la MainConfigSchema.php', which outputs '-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 377332 Mar 21 09:33 MainConfigSchema.php'. The prompt is currently at the end of the third line, 'mark@testpi: /usr/share/mediawiki/includes \$', with a green cursor.

```
mark@testpi: /usr/share/mediawiki/includes
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki $ cd includes/
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki/includes $ ls -la MainConfigSchema.php
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 377332 Mar 21 09:33 MainConfigSchema.php
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki/includes $ █
```

# And Doesn't Have "ebian" in it



```
mark@testpi: /usr/share/mediawiki/includes
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki/includes $ ls -la MainConfigSchema.php
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 377332 Mar 21 09:33 MainConfigSchema.php
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki/includes $ grep ebian MainConfigSchema.php
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki/includes $
```

But it *\*does\** have `poweredby_mediawiki` in it. So, uh...

```
mark@testpi: /usr/share/mediawiki/includes
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki/includes $ ls -la MainConfigSchema.php
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 377332 Mar 21 09:33 MainConfigSchema.php
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki/includes $ grep ebian MainConfigSchema.php
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki/includes $ grep oweredby MainConfigSchema.php
    * Abstract list of footer icons for skins in place of old copyrightico
and poweredbyico code
    * You can add new icons to the built in copyright or poweredby, or you
can create
    * by skin; Monobook and Vector will turn poweredby into f-poweredbyico
while Modern
    * turns it into mw_poweredby.
        "poweredby" => [
                                // "$wgResourceBasePath/resources/assets
/poweredby_mediawiki_88x31.png"
mark@testpi:/usr/share/mediawiki/includes $
```



I'm going to throw my computer through a window 🤬🤬🤬



I told you, it's the distribution.

LocalSettings, right?



Yes. Have you googled it?

🙄 Yes. No luck.



Ok, I'll take a look.

Thanks. I need some air.



Found an RFC from 2017 and it was on Gerrit in 2018, both resolved.

What's Gerrit? Does it say how to get rid of the link/button?



Doesn't look like it mentions that.

Forget it. I'm editing the NEVER EDIT THIS FILE file.

```
mark@testpi: /usr/share/mediawiki/includes

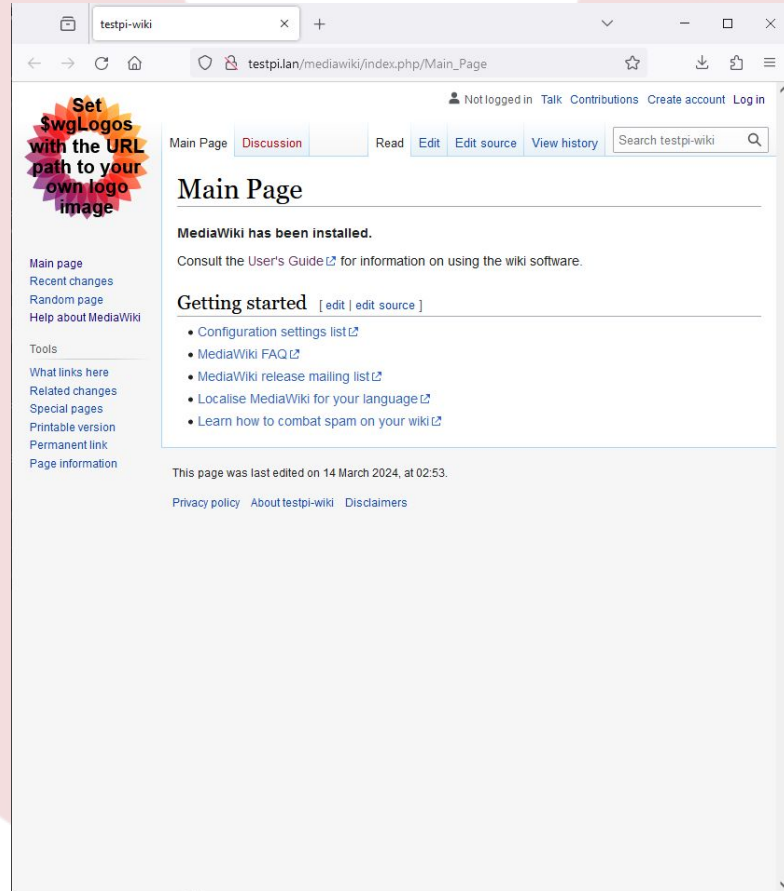
*
* You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License along
* with this program; if not, write to the Free Software Foundation, Inc.,
* 51 Franklin Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02110-1301 USA.
*/

# YES, I KNOW IT WILL BE OVERWRITTEN WHEN IT'S UPGRADED

# Add a "powered by Debian" footer icon
#$wgExtensionFunctions[] = function () {
#     global $wgFooterIcons, $wgResourceBasePath;
#     $wgFooterIcons['poweredby']['debian'] = [
#         'src' => "$wgResourceBasePath/resources/assets/debian/poweredby_debian_1x.png",
#         'url' => 'https://www.debian.org/',
#         'alt' => 'Powered by Debian',
#         'srcset' =>
#             "$wgResourceBasePath/resources/assets/debian/poweredby_debian_1_5x.png 1.5x, " .
#             "$wgResourceBasePath/resources/assets/debian/poweredby_debian_2x.png 2x",
#     ];
# };

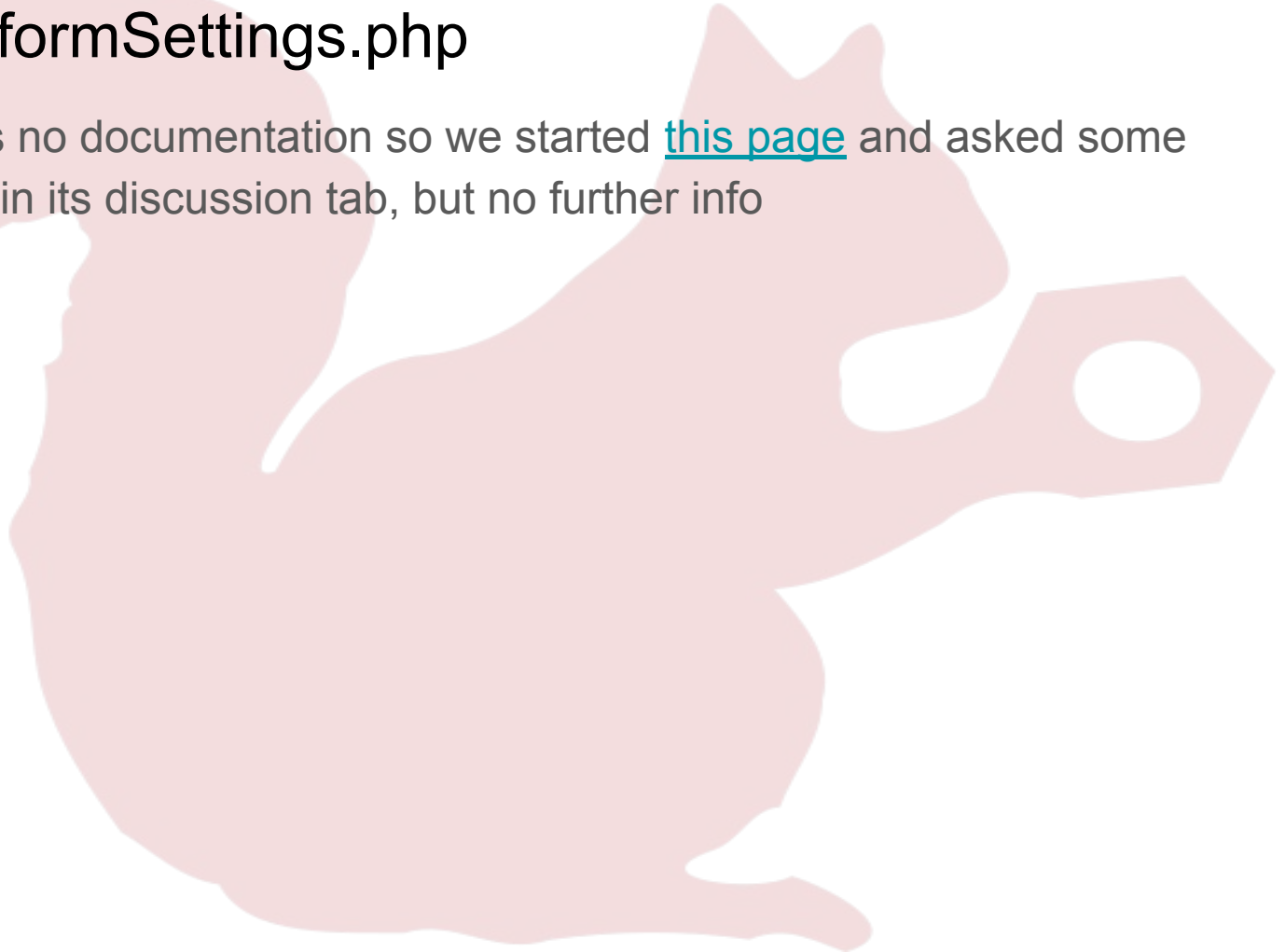
$wgCacheDirectory = '/var/cache/mediawiki';
```

At least it worked - icons are gone.



# About PlatformSettings.php

- There was no documentation so we started [this page](#) and asked some questions in its discussion tab, but no further info





So if I want to turn something off, I need to create a setting for it and then turn it off? 🤔

Don't blame MW, it's the distro that put that icon in there.



If you bought a car and a shop put square wheels on it, would you blame the manufacturer?



No, but the manual that comes with the car should tell me how to change the wheels without directing me to the middle of an abandoned airport, right?

You may have a point.

# From The Non-Wiki-Savvy Perspective...

Initial installation, configuration, and population has stumbling blocks but is not that difficult.

It's different enough from common software that without practice the skills are easily lost. Even more so for those who are not particularly comfortable with computers in the first place.

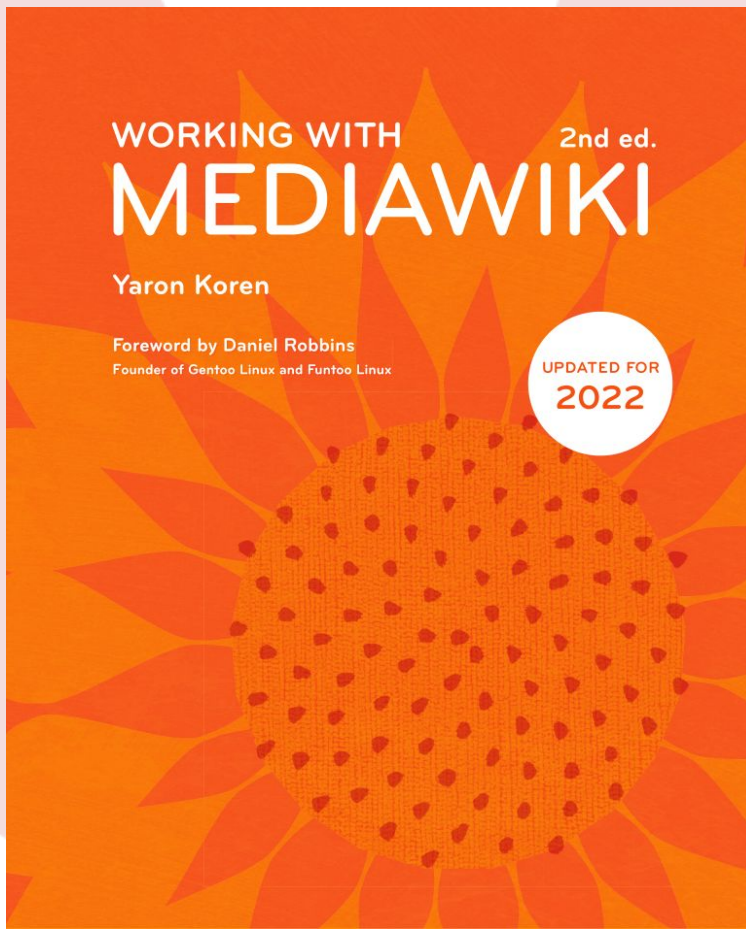
Creating new pages, updating existing pages, and removing dead pages tends to fall by the wayside.

People become frustrated with the stale data, knowledge is lost, and it becomes easier to just let it go instead of fighting with it.

# Is He Here Just To Complain?

- Initially this presentation was called “Tina Made Me Use Mediawiki and I Don’t Like It: Please Don’t Throw Things At Me”.
- But the thing is, I do like it. It’s powerful, useful, stable, has a remarkable community behind it, works for organizations and collections of any size, and once you’re used to it, it makes a lot more sense.
- It’s not easy to take those first few steps, though. Both of us have had the same discussions with other people: Tina at work (and with Mark), Mark with several... “test subjects”.
- Clear, accurate, complete documentation is the single best solution to address the problems we ran into.
- How can people help?

I Wish Someone Had Told Me About This Six Months Ago







# Questions?

(You can yell at us, too...)