Intro to Wiki (Activity)

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| **Overview** | Provides an overview of wikis and teaches basic skills for creating and editing wiki pages. |
| **Prerequisites** | None. |
| **Learning Objectives** | After successfully completing this activity, the learner should be able to:   1. Describe typical uses of wikis. 2. Create and edit a wiki page. 3. Discuss use of wikis in FOSS projects. |

**Background**

According to Wikipedia: "A wiki is a website which allows its users to add, modify, or delete its content via a web browser usually using a simplified markup language or a rich-text editor. Wikis are powered by wiki software. Most are created collaboratively." [[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki)

**The Need for Web publishing**

* Quick publication via the Web
* Decentralized control
  + But room for recovery
* Web page creation without HTML knowledge

**The Solution - Wikis**

* Access via a Web browser
* Simple text editor
* Character based formatting
* Built-in change tracking and roll-back

**Wiki History**

* Predecessors
  + Memex, hypertext, hypercards
* Wiki Wiki Web - 1994
  + Ward Cunningham
* Today: Lots of Wiki systems
  + Major platforms include: Media Wiki, Docuwiki, Tikiwiki, MoinMoin
  + Wiki text syntax is generally similar across platforms but with enough variation to be confusing
  + Wiki Creole attempts to provide a standard but has not been completely adopted

For our learning activity we will focus on Media Wiki, the wiki software that powers Wikipedia.

**Directions**

**Part 1 - Introduction to Wikis**

1. Read the [Wiki article (Wikipedia)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki). (After all, what starting point can there be for wikis other than the Wikipedia article?)
   * In particular, read sections 1-4: Characteristics, History, Definitions, Implementations
2. Read the [MediaWiki](http://www.mediawiki.org/) pages on how to [edit](http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Contents) and [create](http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Starting_a_new_page) pages.

**Part 2 - Create a Wiki Page**

As part of your introduction to other classmates, please create a short bio page for yourself in Moodle wiki page for this term. Do the following:

1. Go to <https://cs435.miraheze.org/wiki/Main_Page> .
2. Create a new "User" page in the wiki using your first name and last initial.
3. You can see an example of a page that I created under BeckaM, however you will need to write a bio, not provide information about something else.
4. Formatting guidelines can be found at the MediaWiki pages in Part 1.
5. Edit the Main page, add your own name, and link your name to the User page you just created. Please keep the names in alphabetic order by last name.
6. In later activities, you will continue to edit your user page. For example, you might create a blog and have you user page link to your blog.

**Part 3 - Browse Wiki Examples**

1. Browse several example wikis and try to define the role that they play. Starting points:
   * [**Wikipedia**](https://wikipedia.org/) is most widely known and used wiki. With over 5 million articles in English, it can be overwhelming. On the other hand, it contains lots of material about writing wiki pages, organizing wikis, managing large wikis, and using advanced features of MediaWiki. You might start at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:About>.
   * [**The Fedora Project Wiki**](https://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Fedora_Project_Wiki) is an example of a relatively large wiki used to support a FOSS project. The wiki provides a home for much of the technical documentation, and other materials related to operation of the Fedora project.

**Deliverables**

A user wiki page created with brief bio.