"**Assigning permissions**" means granting users extra rights within the wiki software (or revoking these rights). This is done by going to the Special:UserRights page, and adding users into a "group" which has specific rights. The first thing to note however, is that this action requires special permissions itself!

Bureaucrats

By default, you will need to be a 'Bureaucrat' (in the 'Bureaucrat' group) before you can access the Special:UserRights page. The first user created when setting up a MediaWiki installation is a bureaucrat. Other users can always contact one of the bureaucrats to request a change of permissions. Find out who these people are at Special:ListUsers/bureaucrat. In a small wiki there might typically be only one such user or maybe two.

Promoting users to Sysops and Bureaucrats

The Special:UserRights page allows you (if you have access) to set which groups a user is in. A common task would be to put a user into the 'Sysop' group. This will grant the user various extra rights, such as deleting pages, and blocking users. See Help:Sysops and permissions for more details.

Obviously giving a user such rights implies that you **trust** the user, both in terms of being non-malicious, and also as somebody with sufficient competence in using the wiki software, and in dealing with the wiki community. People hoping to become sysops should read Help:Sysops and permissions. However it should be noted that actions of a sysop user are (almost) entirely reversible, by other sysop users, and so it can be a good idea to dish out these extra permissions to a number of users in order to

- spread the workload of day-to-day sysop operations such as blocking vandals and deleting pages.
- make things more democratic, and decrease any perception of a single dictator running the community
- allow competent users the power they need to make progress with wiki refactoring.
- reward valued contributors/community members

Processes

If you have many sysops, you may start to need documented processes governing their actions. e.g. when should a page be protected versus leaving it unprotected? You may even reach the point where you need a documented procedure for deciding who gets to be a sysop, and who should have their sysop rights revoked. To manage all of this, you may wish to promote several users into the 'Bureaucrat' group (a smaller number of your most trusted users) to spread the workload managing the promoting/demoting of sysops. On some large wikis, users are voted in by other users before they are granted extra permissions, and sysops have their rights revoked by a committee who investigate accusations of misconduct. Such processes are unlikely to be necessary in anything but the largest of wiki communities.

Other permissions

Beyond promoting/demoting of Sysops and Bureaucrats, you can also allow a user to operate as a 'bot', meaning their edits do not show up on recent changes.

See also

- Manual:User rights management

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1 Help:Blocking users

Blocking users is an action that sysops can perform upon users or IP addresses to prevent them from editing the wiki.

1.1 Blocking

Blocking users is fairly straightforward, visit Special:BlockIP and follow these steps:

1. **IP Address or username**: Enter in the username, IP address, or IP range to block in the "User" field. If blocking a username, make sure to check the spelling since nonexistent users can be blocked as well. Instead of typing this information in manually, it is also possible to click on a "block" link in recent changes, contributions pages, or history pages, which will automatically fill in this field with the appropriate username or IP address. A "Block this user" link is also present in the toolbox when viewing User and User talk pages.
2. **Expiration**: Select when the block should expire from the drop-down, or manually type in an expiration time of the block. When manually typing in a time, follow the GNU standard format. The default options in the drop-down may be modified at MediaWiki:Ipboptions.
3. **Reason (optional)**: The reason selected from the drop-down combined with the other/additional reason specified will be used as the message displayed to the blocked user when they try to edit. The default reasons in the drop-down may be modified at MediaWiki:Ipbreason-dropdown.
4. **Select additional block options (optional)**: Depending on if a username or IP is being blocked and other options that may have been enabled, some or all of these options will be displayed on the form. Please see Manual:Block and unblock#Configuration settings related to blocking for information of how to enable or disable some of the following options.
    - *Block anonymous users only*: This option is only available when blocking an IP address. When selected, registered users who try to edit using a blocked IP address will still be able to edit. Otherwise, they will be unable to edit as well.
    - *Prevent account creation*: Selecting this option will prevent the blocked username or IP address from creating new accounts.
    - *Automatically block the last IP address used by this user, and any subsequent IPs they try to edit from*: This option is only available when blocking a username. When selected, the user's IP will become "autoblocked" (these show up as numbers such as #17 on the active block list) for a short period of time and any other IP addresses that the blocked user tries to edit from will be blocked as well.
    - *Prevent user from sending e-mail*: This option is only available when blocking a username. When this option is selected, the user will be unable to use the Special:EmailUser interface.
    - *Hide username from the block log, active block list and user list*: When selected, the blocked username or IP address will not be added to the block log, the active block list, or the user list. Other users with the ability to view these hidden entries will still be able to see and unblock the username or IP address. This option is not enabled in a default installation of MediaWiki; the person putting the block in place must have the *hideuser* permission. See Manual:User rights.
    - *Watch this user's user and talk pages*: When selected, this adds the blocked user's user page and user talk page to your watchlist.
5. Double-check everything you entered and click on **Block this user**. A message should appear saying if the block was successful or unsuccessful.

1.2 Unblocking

To unblock a username or IP address, go to the active block list and click on the (unblock) link next to the user or IP you wish to unblock. Then, enter in an optional reason and click on the unblock button. A message should appear saying if the unblock was successful or unsuccessful.

1.3 What it means to be blocked

Blocked users are unable to edit pages, upload files, move pages, and perform other actions that additional user rights would grant. Effectively, this makes the wiki read only for those users. Sysops or others with access to the blocking and unblocking interface may still block and unblock others (including themselves) while blocked.

1.4 See Also

- Manual:Block and unblock

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2 Help:Bots

A **bot** is a computer program that automatically retrieves or updates wiki pages when it is executed. In general, bots are used for repetitive maintenance tasks, whose volume and characteristics are too large to be performed manually by users.

Developing and executing bots is normally outside the role of normal users, requires programming experience and must be done in coordination with the wiki's admins.

By default, bot edits are hidden in Special:Recent changes.

2.1 Framework and interface for bot development

Bots do not access the wiki through the normal graphical user interface. MediaWiki has an API (Application Programming Interface) available for this purpose. An API is a protocol for standardised communication between two computer programs. Check API:Client code for more information.

To access a wiki through the API a bot must have a user account, which has been granted 'bot' permissions.

2.1.1 pywikipediabot

meta:pywikipediabot provides a framework for the development of bots, which are commonly used to perform maintenance tasks such as adding a footer to some categorized pages (add_text.py), adding some wikilinks (replace.py), moving old contents of talk pages to subpages (archivebot.py), editing categories (category.py), or managing templates (template.py).

2.2 The MassEditRegex extension

Extension:MassEditRegex provides an alternative way to perform mass edits using regular expressions, through a special page in the wiki. Only admins can normally use this extension.

2.3 See also

- meta:Bot

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3 Help:Categories

Categories, a software feature of MediaWiki, provide automatic indexes that are useful as tables of contents.

You can categorize pages and files by adding one or more **Category** tags to the content text. These tags create links at the bottom of the page that take you to the list of all pages in that category, which makes it easy to browse related articles.

3.1 Summary

Each of the pages in the **Category** namespace represents a so-called **category**, a grouping of related pages, and contains an index for the pages of its category. For example, this page belongs to "Category:Help". If you open the "Category:Help" page, you will see a link to this page there.

When a page belongs to one or more categories, these categories appears at the bottom of the page (or in the upper-right corner, depending on the skin being used).

The category pages themselves contain 2 parts :

- at their beginning, an optional part may contain text that can be edited, like any other page,
- at their end, an ever present, automatically generated, alphabetical list of all pages in that category, in the form of links. (In fact, in ASCII order. See Help:Special page).

To assign a category to a page, simply add the link "[[Category:*Category name*]]" to the page's wikitext. The usual place to add it is at the bottom of the page.

To link a category page within a page as a normal wiki link (without adding the page to the category), prefix the link name with a colon. For example: [[:Category:Not in this category]]

New categories can be created before assigning any page to it, in the same way as any other regular page.

Individual wikis may have their own top-level categories, such as wikipedia:Category:Contents in Wikipedia.

For a complete list of all categories which have at least one page, see Special:Categories.

For a complete list of all categories, including the ones that don't have any page, see Special:Allpages/Category: (note the colon at the end).

3.2 Adding a page to a category

To add a page or uploaded file to a category, simply edit the page and add the following text (where ***Name*** is the name of the category you want to add it to).

```
[[Category:Name]]
```

Any number of Category tags may be added to the page and the page will be listed in all of them. Category tags are usually added at the very bottom of the page for the convenience of other editors.

3.2.1 Sort key

By default, a page is sorted under the first letter of its full name *including the namespace*. Also, MediaWiki groups accented characters separately from their unaccented version, so pages starting by À, Á, Ä, will be listed under separate headings, instead of under heading A.

A *sort key* specifies under which letter heading, and where in the category list, the page will appear. You can add a sort key by placing it inside the tag after a pipe character. For example, the tag below will add the page under heading "S".

```
[[Category:Name|Sort]]
```

Sort keys are case-sensitive, and spaces and other characters are also valid. The order of the sections within a category follows the Unicode sort order. The sort key does not change the page title displayed in the category.

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3.3 Creating a category page

Categories exist even if their page has not been created, but these categories are isolated from others and serve little purpose for organization or navigation.

A category is created by creating a page in the ***Category:*** namespace. A category page can be created the same way as other wiki pages (see Help:Starting a new page); just add "`Category:`" before the page title.

To avoid extra work, try searching within your wiki before creating a new category. The list of all categories can be found in "Special pages" in the "tools" box of the sidebar.

Unlike other wiki pages, it is not possible to rename (move) a category. It is necessary to create a new category and change the Category tag on every page. The new category will not have the older category's page history, which is undesirable if there are many revisions.

3.4 Managing the category hierarchy

Categories may belong to other categories in a hierarchy. Since category pages are much like any other page, a Category tag may be added to the bottom of a category page.

It is a good idea to organize all categories into a hierarchy with a single top level category. The category structure can take the form of a tree with separate branches, but more often will have a graph structure. Generally, there should be a contiguous chain of parent-child links between each category and the top level category.

3.5 Hidden categories

The categories that a page is in are normally listed at the bottom of the page. A category can be hidden from this list by adding the magic word "`__HIDDENCAT__`" to the category page. Hidden categories are not hidden from category pages (bug 15550).

Users can choose to see hidden categories in a separate "Hidden categories" list, by checking "Show hidden categories" in the "Appearance" section of Special:Preferences.

Hidden categories are automatically added to Category:Hidden categories. This category is specified in the system message MediaWiki:Hidden-category-category.

3.6 Linking to a category

To create a link to a category, use a leading colon before the category name (without this colon, the current page would be added to the category):

```
[[:Category:Help]]
```
→ **Category:Help**

To change the link text, write the text inside the link tag after a pipe:

```
[[:Category:Help|Help category]]
```
→ **Help category**

Redirect pages that redirect to categories must also use the colon, otherwise they will be added to the category instead of redirecting.

3.7 Redirecting a category

Like normal wiki pages, category pages can be redirected to other normal or category pages.

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4 Help:Contents

4.1 OBSL Help

The following pages are specific to OBS Logistics Ltd.

- Creating articles for inclusion in a PDF Book
- Creating new pages from templates

4.2 Editing Help

Editing
- Editing pages
- Starting a new page
- Formatting
- Links
- User pages
- Talk pages

Advanced Editing
- Images
- Tables
- Categories
- Templates
- Variables
- Managing files
- Moving a page
- Redirects
- Deleting a page

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5 Help:Deleting a page

5.1 When not to delete a page

Typically you would delete a page if the contents are entirely inappropriate and do not match the purposes of the Wiki. In other situations, you would take a less extreme course of action, for example:

- The page should have a different title -- See Help:Moving a page
- The contents should have been placed on a different page -- Add the contents to the other page, and then supply a redirect. See Help:Redirects
- The contents are already on a different page -- Delete the duplicate content and leave a redirect. That way, the page title, which made sense to somebody, will helpfully redirect to the information. See Help:Redirects
- The page is out-of-date -- Re-word sentences to be in the past tense, to make the page an historical record. Alternatively, label the information as out-of-date, with a warning notice.

An actual delete is generally necessary only if the *title* of the page is inappropriate. In other situations, a merge and redirect is more appropriate.

5.1.1 Proposing changes

Deciding on appropriate content/page titles can be a difficult aspect of Wiki organization, and one which can often provoke debates. If the merge or deletion you have in mind is one which might cause upset, you should propose the change first. Do this by leaving a note to give your reasons on the talk page. You might also establish a system for labeling the page with a delete/merge proposal template, to make everybody aware of your intentions.

5.1.2 Unlinking a page

The 'What links here' toolbox feature (bottom of left sidebar) will tell you which other Wiki pages link to the current page. Always use this feature to check before proceeding with deleting. These related pages will need to be edited for their links to reflect the change.

5.2 Deletion itself

Normal users cannot permanently delete a Wiki page. This is a deliberate design feature, and is an important part of why wikis work. Every kind of editing operation can be reverted by any other user, and that includes resurrecting deleted content. It doesn't cause significant wasted space; and with nothing but a 'delete' label, the page is effectively deleted anyway.

'Sysop' users *are* able to delete a page semi-permanently. See Help:Sysop deleting and undeleting. Typically 'sysops' might look for delete labels, and do a proper delete on these pages, after a period of time. If for some reason you need a page to be deleted more quickly than that, you will need to contact a 'sysop' to request this.

5.3 See also

- Help:Sysops and permissions

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6 Help:Editing

Editing
- Editing pages
- Starting a new page
- Formatting
- Links
- User pages
- Talk pages

Advanced Editing
- Images
- Tables
- Categories
- Templates
- Variables
- Managing files
- Moving a page
- Redirects
- Deleting a page

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7 Help:Editing pages

It's very easy to edit the contents of a wiki. It only takes a few clicks.

1. Click the "**Edit**" page tab at the top of the page.
2. Make changes to the text.
3. Click the "**Save page**" button.

Simple as that!

7.1 Editing rules, editing conventions, and formatting

The number one rule of wiki editing, is to *be bold*. Dive in and make changes. Other people can correct mistakes later, so have confidence, and give it a try! There can be all kinds of editing conventions, rules, and philosophy governing the editing of wiki pages, but the "be bold" rule overrides these!

In general try to write clearly and concisely and make sure you are always aiming to do something which improves the wiki contents. An edit might be to contribute whole paragraphs or pages full of information, or it could be as simple as fixing a typo or spelling mistake.

When you need to use some type of formatting e.g. new headings or bold text, you do this using wiki syntax. See Help:Formatting for some of the common types of formatting used.

7.2 Edit Summary

Before you save a change, you can enter a short note in the **Summary:** box describing your changes. Don't worry too much about this, or spend too much time thinking about it, but try to give a little description of what you just changed e.g. "*fixed typo*" or "*added more information about sunflowers*".

The summary gets stored alongside your edit, and allows people to track changes in the wiki more effectively.

7.3 Preview

It's a good idea to use the "**Show preview**" button to see what your change will look like, before you save it. This is also related to tracking changes because every time you save, this is displayed to others as a separate change. This isn't something to worry about too much, but it's good to get into the habit of eliminating mistakes in your own work, by using a preview before saving, rather than saving several minor corrections afterwards.

7.4 Show changes

Another option is the "**Show changes**" button which allows you to see the differences between the current version and your edited version.

7.5 Other types of editing

With wiki edits you can start a new page, move (or rename) a page, or even delete a page:

- Help:Starting a new page
- Help:Moving a page
- Help:Deleting a page

Remember you should always aim to improve the overall contents of the wiki with your edits.

7.6 Discussion

Every article has its own ?talk page? where you can ask questions, make suggestions, or discuss corrections. See Help:Talk pages

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8 Help:External searches

It is possible to create an external searches of a topic using key words using a template.

For example, this is something that would work for Google:

```
<span style="border: 1px solid #CCD5DB;">[[Image:GoogleIcon.PNG]] [http://www.google.com/search?safe=off&q=
<noinclude>
==Usage==
Allows to establish a link to a search query at the Google search engine:
<div style="display:table; width:auto;"><pre>
{{Google|Term1+Term2+Term3}}
</pre></div>
[[Category:Template|Google]]
</noinclude>
```

The usage is very simple and easy to use. {{Google|firstTerm+Second+etc}}

It is also possible to do phrases by using %22Term1+Term2+etc%22

- External searches are useful where an article requires certain keywords to make an effective search.
- For the editor it allows making searches of web more quickly and painlessly.

Other applications of the template include searching Forums, for bug reports of the same type for software development wikis where the wiki and forum work together.

Note: Wikipedia has an interwiki prefix with a similar effect, so you can link to google results with [[Google:firstTerm+Second+etc]], although templates are still useful for linking other search engines.

For a clear advantage of implementing a template over the default Google interwiki prefix, consider the following, modified example:

```
<span style="border: 1px solid #CCD5DB;">[[Image:GoogleIcon.PNG]] [http://www.google.com/search?safe=off&q=
<noinclude>
==Usage==
Allows to establish a link to a search query at the Google search engine:
* <code>{{Google|Term1 Term2 Term3}}</code>
* <code>{{Google|"a phrase"}}</code>
[[Category:Template|Google]]
</noinclude>
```

Note the application of MediaWiki magic word `urlencode`. This grants us the convenience and elegance of entering the query string in a Wikipedia article in the same literal form we would enter it in Google search box, including spaces and quotation marks instead of representing them indirectly with + and `%20`.

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9 Help:Formatting

You can format your text using wiki markup. This consists of normal characters like asterisks, single quotes or equal signs which have a special function in the wiki, sometimes depending on their position. For example, to format a word in *italic*, you include it in two pairs of single quotes like `''this''`.

9.1 Text formatting markup

Description	You type	You get
	character (inline) formatting - *applies anywhere*	
Italic text	`''italic''`	*italic*
Bold text	`'''bold'''`	**bold**
Bold and italic	`'''''bold & italic'''''`	***bold & italic***
Escape wiki markup	`<nowiki>no ''markup''</nowiki>`	no ''markup''
	section formatting - *only at the beginning of the line*	

Headings of different levels	`== Level 2 ==`
	`=== Level 3 ===`
	`==== Level 4 ====`
	`===== Level 5 =====`
	`====== Level 6 ======`
		9.2 Level 2
		9.2.1 Level 3
		9.2.1.1 Level 4
		9.2.1.1.1 Level 5
		9.2.1.1.1.1 Level 6

	Note: • Skip Level 1, it is page name level. • An article with 4 or more headings automatically creates a table of contents.	

Horizontal rule	`Text above`
	`----`
	`Text below`
		Text above
		Text below

Bullet list	`* Start each line` `* with an [[Wikipedia:asterisk|asterisk]] (*).` `** More asterisks gives deeper` `*** and deeper levels.` `* Line breaks don't break levels.` `*** But jumping levels creates empty space.` `Any other start ends the list.`	• Start each line • with an asterisk (*). ♦ More asterisks gives deeper ◊ and deeper levels. • Line breaks don't break levels. ♦ ◊ But jumping levels creates empty space. Any other start ends the list.
Numbered list	`# Start each line` `# with a [[Wikipedia:Number_sign|number sign]] (#).` `## More number signs gives deeper` `### and deeper` `### levels.` `# Line breaks don't break levels.` `### But jumping levels creates empty space.` `# Blank lines` `# end the list and start another.` `Any other start also` `ends the list.`	1. Start each line 2. with a number sign (#). 1. More number signs gives deeper 1. and deeper 2. levels. 3. Line breaks don't break levels. 1. 1. But jumping levels creates empty space. 4. Blank lines 1. end the list and start another. Any other start also ends the list.

Definition list	`;item 1`
	`: definition 1`
	`;item 2`
	`: definition 2-1`
	`: definition 2-2`
		item 1
		definition 1
		item 2
		definition 2-1

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Description	You type	You get

Adopting definition list to indent text	`: Single indent`
	`:: Double indent`
	`::::: Multiple indent`
	
	Note: This workaround may be controversial from the viewpoint of accessibility.
		definition 2-2
		
		Single indent
		
		Double indent
		
		Multiple indent

Mixture of different types of list	`# one` `# two` `#* two point one` `#* two point two` `# three` `#; three item one` `#: three def one` `# four` `#: four def one` `#: this looks like a continuation` `#: and is often used` `#: instead of <nowiki> </nowiki>` `# five` `## five sub 1` `### five sub 1 sub 1` `## five sub 2` **Note:** The usage of `#:` and `*:` for breaking a line within an item may also be controversial.	1. one 2. two ♦ two point one ♦ two point two 3. three three item one three def one 4. four four def one this looks like a continuation and is often used instead of 5. five 1. five sub 1 1. five sub 1 sub 1 2. five sub 2

Preformatted text	`Start each line with a space.`
	`Text is '''preformatted''' and`
	`''markups'' '''''can''''' be done`
	
	Note: This way of preformatting only applies to section formatting. Character formatting markups are still effective.
		`Start each line with a space.`
		`Text is **preformatted** and`
		`*markups **can*** be done`

Preformatted text blocks	`<nowiki>Start with a space in the first column,`
	`(before the <nowiki>).`
	
	`Then your block format will be`
	`maintained.`
	
	`This is good for copying in code blocks:`
	
	`def function():`
	`"""documentation string"""`
	
	`if True:`
	`print True`
	`else:`
	`print False</nowiki>`
		`Start with a space in the first column.`
		`(before the <nowiki>).`
		
		`Then your block format will be`
		`maintained.`
		
		`This is good for copying in code blocks:`
		
		`def function():`
		`"""documentation string"""`
		
		`if True:`
		`print True`
		`else:`
		`print False`

9.3 Paragraphs

MediaWiki ignores single line breaks. To start a new paragraph, leave an empty line. You can force a line break within a paragraph with the HTML tags `<br />`.

9.4 HTML tags

Some HTML tags are allowed in MediaWiki, for example `<code>`, `<div>`, `<span>` and `<font>`. These apply anywhere you insert them.

Description	You type	You get
Underline	`<u>Underline</u>`	Underline

Strikethrough	`<del>Strikethrough</del>`
	
	`or`
	
	`<s>Strikethrough</s>`
		~~Strikethrough~~
		
		or

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Description	You type	You get
	`~~Strikethrough~~` or `<strike>Strikethrough</strike>`	~~Strikethrough~~ or ~~Strikethrough~~
Fixed width text	`<code>Source code</code>` or `<tt>Fixed width text</tt>`	`Source code` or `Fixed width text`

Blockquotes	`text above`
	`text above`
	`<blockquote>blockquote</blockquote>`
	`text below`
	`text below`
		text above text above
		blockquote
		text below text below

Comment	`Comments are only visible in the edit window.`	Comments are only visible in the edit window.
Completely preformatted text	`<pre> Text is '''preformatted''' and ''markups'' '''''cannot''''' be done</pre>`	`Text is '''preformatted''' and ''markups'' '''''cannot''''' be done`

Customized preformatted text	`<pre style="color:red">`
	`Text is '''preformatted'''`
	`with a style and`
	`''markups'' '''''cannot''''' be done`
	`</pre>`
		`Text is '''preformatted'''`
		`with a style and`
		`''markups'' '''''cannot''''' be done`

Note: For marking up of preformatted text, check the "Preformatted text" entry at the bottom of the previous table.

Note: A CSS style can be named within the `style` property.

9.5 HTML symbols

An HTML symbol entity is a sequence of characters that produces one particular character. For example, `→` produces a right arrow "→" and `—` produces an em dash "—". HTML symbol entities are allowed in MediaWiki and are sometimes used in advanced editing for two main reasons: to insert characters not normally available on keyboards:

```
&copy; → ©
&delta; → δ
```

and to prevent the parser from interpreting and displaying HTML tags and symbols:

```
&amp;euro; &euro;
&euro; → €

&lt;span style="color:green;">Green&lt;/span> <span
style="color:green;">Green</span>
<span style="color:green;">Green</span> Green
```

The following is a list of characters that can be produced using HTML symbols. Hover any character to find out the symbol that produces it. Some symbols not available in the current font will appear as empty squares.

HTML Symbol Entities

□	A	α	&	□	□	Å	å	≈	Ã	ã	Ä	ä	„
†	‡	↓	□	°	Δ	δ	♦	÷	É	é	Ê	ê	È
¼	¾	⁄	Γ	γ	≥	>	↔	⇔	♥	…	Í	í	Î
216;	«	←	⇐	⌈	“	≤	⌊	∗	◊	‎	‹	‘	<	¯
57;	Ó	ó	Ô	ô	Œ	œ	Ò	ò	‾	Ω	ω	Ο	ο	⊕	&#8
60;	ϖ	±	£	′	″	∏	∝	Ψ	ψ	"	√	⟩	»	→	&#8
31;	σ	ς	∼	♠	⊂	⊆	∑	⊃	¹	²	³	⊇	ß	Τ	&#9
	ù	¨	ϒ	Υ	υ	Ü	ü	℘	Ξ	ξ	Ý	ý	¥	ÿ	&#9

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9.6 Other formatting

Beyond the text formatting markup shown above, here are some other formatting references:

- Links
- Images
- Tables

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10 Help:Images

This page explains the **image** syntax when editing the wiki. You or another user must usually upload an image before you can use it on a page.

Images that are stored on a MediaWiki server are usually rendered by using the `File:` namespace prefix (but the legacy `Image:` namespace prefix is still supported as a synonym) as the target of a MediaWiki link. The alternate `Media:` namespace prefix is also usable to reference the original media file content (for rendering or downloading it separately, out of any MediaWiki page).

10.1 Supported media types for images

The following file formats are supported by Mediawiki by default:

- .jpg or .jpeg : bitmap image compressed in the standard JPEG format (this lossy format is most suitable for photographs).
- .png : bitmap image in the *Portable Network Graphics* format (specified by the *W3 Consortium*).
- .gif : bitmap image in the legacy *Graphics Interchange Format*.

Other formats used on Wikimedia, and commonly enabled elsewhere (These may require extra set up beyond what is enabled by default):

- .svg : scalable image in the *Scalable Vector Graphics* format (specified by the *W3 Consortium*). See Manual:Image_Administration#SVG.
- .tiff : Tagged image format. Often used for high-resolution archival photographs. Often used with Extension:PagedTiffHandler.
- .ogg, .oga, .ogv : Ogg multimedia (audio or video) Not an image format, but treated similarly. Often used with Extension:OggHandler
- .pdf : multipaged documents in the *Portable Document Format* (initially specified by *Adobe*). Often used in conjunction with Extension:PdfHandler
- .djvu : multipaged bitmap documents in the *DejaVu* format (most often, scans of books). See Manual:How to use DjVu with MediaWiki
  Only a single page of a .pdf or .djvu file is shown at one time.

Other media types may be supported depending on how Mediawiki is set up. Typically they can be uploaded but not displayed inline unless a helper extension is installed.

10.2 Rendering a single image

10.2.1 Syntax

The full syntax for displaying an image is:

```
[[File:filename.extension|options|caption]]
```

where *options* can be zero or more of the following, separated by pipes (**|**):

- *Format* option: one of **border** and/or **frameless**, **frame**, **thumb** (or **thumbnail**);
  Controls how the rendered image is formatted and embedded in the rest of the page.
- *Resizing* option: one of
  - *{width}***px** ? Resizes the image to fit within the given maximum width in pixels, without restricting its height;
  - **x***{height}***px** ? Resizes the image to fit within the given maximum height in pixels, without restricting its width;
  - *{width}***x***{height}***px** ? Resizes the image to fit within the given width and height in pixels;
  - **upright** ? Resizes an image to fit within reasonable dimensions, according to user preferences (suitable for images whose height is larger than width).
    Note that the image will always retain its aspect ratio, and can only be reduced (not increased) in size unless it's in a scalable media type (bitmap images cannot be scaled up).
    The default maximum size depends on the *format* and the internal image dimensions (according to its media type).
- *Horizontal alignment* option: one of **left**, **right**, **center**, **none**;
  Controls the horizontal alignment (and inline/block or floating styles) of the image within a text (no default

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value).
- *Vertical alignment option*: one of **baseline**, **sub**, **super**, **top**, **text-top**, **middle**, **bottom**, **text-bottom**;
  Controls the vertical alignment of a non-floating inline image with the text before or after the image, and in the same block (the default vertical alignment is **middle**).
- *Link option*: one of
  - **link=***{target}* ? Allows to change the target (to an arbitrary page title, or URL) of the generated link, activable on the rendered image surface;
  - **link=** (with an empty value) ? (MediaWiki 1.14+) Displays an image without any activable link; e.g. `[[File:Example.jpg|20px|link=]]` renders as .

! Link does **not** work with thumb, thumbnail or frame.

- Other specific options:
  - **alt=***{alternative text}* ? (MediaWiki 1.14+) Defines the alternative text (maps to the HTML attribute `alt="..."` of the generated `<image />` element) of an image that will be rendered if either the referenced image cannot be downloaded and embedded, or if the support media must use the alternative description text (e.g. when using a Braille reader or with accessibility options set by the user in its browser).
  - **page=***{number}* ? Renders the specified page number (currently only applicable when showing a .djvu or .pdf file).

The options can be given in any order. If the given *options* conflict each other, the latter is applied, except for the *format* options, where the options take the priority in the order of: **frame**; **thumb** (or **thumbnail**); **frameless** and/or **border**.

If a parameter does not match any of the other possibilities, it is assumed to be the caption text. Caption text shows below the image in **thumb** and **frame** formats, or as mouseover text in **border**, **frameless** formats or when the format is omitted. Caption text displayed in the **thumb** and **frame** formats may contain wiki links and other formatting. In the other options, wiki-formatting will not work though transclusion will.

If no caption text is supplied, a caption is automatically created showing the file name. To completely remove the caption, set it to `<span title=""></span>`. For example, `[[File:Example.jpg|20px|<span title=""></span>]]` renders as .

10.2.2 Format

The following table shows the effect of all available formats.

Description	You type	You get
no format specified Rendered as a floating block: no Rendered inline: yes	`... text text text [[File:example.jpg|caption]] text text text ...`	wwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww text text text text text text text text text text text text text text tex text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text tex wwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww text text text text text text text text text text text text text text tex
border results in a very small gray border Rendered as a floating block: no Rendered inline: yes	`... text text text [[File:example.jpg|**border**|caption]] text text text ...`	

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Description	You type	You get
frameless, like thumbnail, respect user preferences for image width, but without border and no right float Rendered as a floating block: no Rendered inline: yes	`... text text text [[File:example.jpg|frameless|caption]] text text text ...`	text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text tex wwww

Description	You type	You get

thumb or **thumbnail**
Rendered as a floating block: yes
Rendered inline: no
	`... text text text`
	`[[File:example.jpg|thumb|caption]]`
	`text text text ...`
		text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text
		wwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww
		
		text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text
		
		caption
		text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text text

When the height of an image in thumbnail is bigger than its width (i.e. in portrait orientation rather than landscape) and you find it too large, you may try the option `upright`, which will try to adjust its size to more desirable size by reducing the height instead the width. The alternative is to specify the desired maximum height (in pixels) explicitly.

Note that by writing `thumb={filename}`, you can use a different image for the thumbnail.

10.2.3 Size and Frame

Among different formats, the effect of the size parameter may be different, as shown below.

- For how it appears when its size is not specified, see Format section above.
- When the format is not specified, or only `bordered`, the size can be both reduced and enlarged to any specified size.
- In the examples below, the original size of the image is 400 × 267 pixels.
- An image with `frame` always ignores the size specification, the original image will be reduced if it exceeds the maximum size defined in user preferences.
- The size of an image with `thumb` can be reduced, but can not be enlarged beyond the original size of the image.

Format	Reduced	Enlarged
(not specified)	`[[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|50px]]` [[File:MediaWiki:Image sample||50px]]	`[[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|500px]]` [[File:MediaWiki:Image sample||500px]]
border	`[[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|border|50px]]` [[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|border|50px]]	`[[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|border|500px]]` [[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|border|500px]]
frame	`[[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|frame|50px]]` [[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|frame|50px]]	`[[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|frame|500px]]` [[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|frame|500px]]
thumb	`[[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|thumb|50px]]` [[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|thumb|50px]]	`[[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|thumb|500px]]` [[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|thumb|500px]]
frameless	`[[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|frameless|50px]]` [[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|frameless|50px]]	`[[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|frameless|500px]]` [[File:MediaWiki:Image sample|frameless|500px]]

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10.2.4 Horizontal alignment

Note that when using the `frame` or `thumb[nail]` formats, the default horizontal alignment will be `right`.

Description	You type	You get

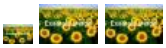
no horizontal alignment specified, or default alignment
Rendered as a floating block: no
Rendered inline: yes
	`... text text text`
	`[[File:example.jpg|`**`100px`**`|caption]]`
	`text text text ...`
		wwww

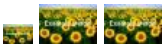
spans of text with variable font sizes, or with superscripts and subscripts) to allow the image height to be fully displayed with this alignment constraint.

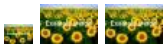
Toggle source code view

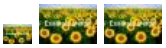
```
<p style="border:1px solid #AAA;background:#FF0;padding:0;font-size:150%;line-height:2">
<span style="background:#FFF;color:#000;text-decoration:overline"><u><del>text</del>
'''top:''' [[File:Example.jpg|20px|top]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|top]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|border|top]]
<del>text</del></u></span></p>

<p style="border:1px solid #AAA;background:#FF0;padding:0;font-size:150%;line-height:2">
<span style="background:#FFF;color:#000;text-decoration:overline"><u><del>text</del>
'''text-top:''' [[File:Example.jpg|20px|text-top]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|text-top]] [[File:Example.jpg|40
<del>text</del></u></span></p>

<p style="border:1px solid #AAA;background:#FF0;padding:0;font-size:150%;line-height:2">
<span style="background:#FFF;color:#000;text-decoration:overline"><u><del>text</del>
<sup>super:</sup> [[File:Example.jpg|20px|super]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|super]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|b
<del>text</del></u></span></p>

<p style="border:1px solid #AAA;background:#FF0;padding:0;font-size:150%;line-height:2">
<span style="background:#FFF;color:#000;text-decoration:overline"><u><del>text</del>
'''baseline:''' [[File:Example.jpg|20px|baseline]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|baseline]] [[File:Example.jpg|40
<del>text</del></u></span></p>

<p style="border:1px solid #AAA;background:#FF0;padding:0;font-size:150%;line-height:2">
<span style="background:#FFF;color:#000;text-decoration:overline"><u><del>text</del>
<sub>'''sub:'''</sub> [[File:Example.jpg|20px|sub]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|sub]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|b
<del>text</del></u></span></p>

<p style="border:1px solid #AAA;background:#FF0;padding:0;font-size:150%;line-height:2">
<span style="background:#FFF;color:#000;text-decoration:overline"><u><del>text</del>
'''default:''' [[File:Example.jpg|20px]][[File:Example.jpg|40px]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|border]]
<del>text</del></u></span></p>

<p style="border:1px solid #AAA;background:#FF0;padding:0;font-size:150%;line-height:2">
<span style="background:#FFF;color:#000;text-decoration:overline"><u><del>text</del>
'''middle:''' [[File:Example.jpg|20px|middle]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|middle]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|bor
<del>text</del></u></span></p>

<p style="border:1px solid #AAA;background:#FF0;padding:0;font-size:150%;line-height:2">
<span style="background:#FFF;color:#000;text-decoration:overline"><u><del>text</del>
'''text-bottom:''' [[File:Example.jpg|20px|text-bottom]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|text-bottom]] [[File:Examp
<del>text</del></u></span></p>

<p style="border:1px solid #AAA;background:#FF0;padding:0;font-size:150%;line-height:2">
<span style="background:#FFF;color:#000;text-decoration:overline"><u><del>text</del>
'''bottom:'' [[File:Example.jpg|20px|bottom]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|bottom]] [[File:Example.jpg|40px|bord
<del>text</del></u></span></p>
```

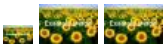
To show the alignment result more clearly, the text spans are overlined and underlined, the line-height is increased to 200% of the font-height, the font-height is emphasized with a yellow background covering the line margins, and the full line-height is shown with a dark gray border; additionally images of different sizes are aligned, including one with an additional border that adds some pixels to its specified dimensions and slightly changes its vertical alignment:

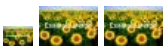
~~text~~ **top:**  ~~text~~

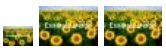
~~text~~ **text-top:**  ~~text~~

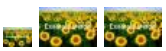
~~text~~ super:  ~~text~~

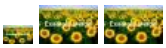
~~text~~ **baseline:**  ~~text~~

~~text~~ sub:  ~~text~~

~~text~~ **default:**  ~~text~~

~~text~~ **middle:**  ~~text~~

~~text~~ **text-bottom:**  ~~text~~

~~text~~ **bottom:**  ~~text~~

Notes:

1. The "middle" vertical alignment position of the image (which is also the default) usually refers to the middle between the x-height and the baseline of the text (on which the vertical middle of the image will be aligned, and on which usually the text may be overstroke), but not to the middle of the line-height of the font-height that refers to the space between the "text-top" and "text-bottom" positions ; the font-height excludes:
    - the additional line separation spacing normally divided equally into two line-margins (here 0.5em, according to line-height set to 200%) above and below the font-height).
    - the additional line spacing which may be added by superscripts and subscripts.
2. However, if the image height causes its top or bottom position to go above or below the normal full line-height of text, the middle position will be adjusted after the increasing the top and/or bottom line-margins so that the image can fit and align properly, and all images (including those with smaller heights) will be vertically centered on the adjusted middle position (for computing the effective line-height, the text of each rendered row with the larger font-height will be considered).
3. The "text-top" and "text-bottom" alignment positions also excludes the extra line spacing added by superscripts and subscripts, but not the additional line-spacing defined by the line-height.
4. The "top" and "bottom" alignment positions take into account all these extra line spacings (including superscripts and subscripts, if they are present in a rendered line span). When the image alignment constrains the image to grow above or below the normal line-spacing, and the image is not absolutely positioned, the image will cause the "top" and "bottom" positions to be adjusted (just like superscripts and subscripts), so the effective line-height between rendered lines of text will be higher.
5. The "underline", "overline" and "overstrike" text-decoration positions should be somewhere within these two limits and *may* depend on the type and height of fonts used (the superscript and subscript styles may be taken into account in some browsers, but usually these styles are ignored and the position of these decorations may not be adjusted); so these decorations normally don't affect the vertical position of images, relatively to the text.

10.2.6 Stopping the text flow

On occasion it is desirable to stop text (or other inline non-floating images) from flowing around a floating image. Depending on the web browser's screen resolution and such, text flow on the right side of an image may cause a section header (for instance, == My Header ==) to appear to the right of the image, instead of below it, as a user may expect. The text flow can be stopped by placing **<br style="clear: both" />** before the text that should start below the floating image.

All images rendered as blocks (including non-floating **center**ed images, **left**- or **right**-floating images, as well as **framed** or **thumbnail**ed floating images) are implicitly breaking the surrounding lines of text (terminating the current block of text before the image, and creating a new paragraph for the text after them). They will then stack vertically along their left or right alignment margin (or along the center line between these margins for **center**ed images).

10.2.7 Altering the default link target

The following table shows how to alter the link target (whose default is the image description page) or how to remove it. Changing the link does not alter the format described in the previous sections.

Description	You type	You g

internal link	`... text text text`
	`[[File:example.jpg|link=Main Page|caption]]`
	`text text text ...`
		wwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww
		
		text text text text text text text text text text text te
		
		text text
		text text text text text text text text text text text te

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Description	You type	You g
external link	... text text text [[File:example.jpg|**link=http://wikipedia.org**|caption]] text text text ...	wwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww text text text text text text text text text text text te text text text text text text text text text text text text text te wwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww text text text text text text text text text text text te
no link (external or file page)	... text text text [[File:example.jpg|**link=**|caption]] text text text ...	 text text text text text text text text text text text text text te

Warning :

The licencing requirements on your wiki may not allow you to remove all links to the description page that displays the required authors attributions, the copyrights statements, the applicable licencing terms, or a more complete description of the rendered image (including its history of modifications).
If you change or remove the target link of an image, you will then have to provide somewhere else on your page an explicit link to this description page, or to display the copyright and author statement and a link to the applicable licence, if they are different from the elements applicable to the embedding page itself.
Your wiki policy may restrict the use of the alternate link parameter, or may even enforce a prohibition of alternate link parameters for embedded media files (in which case, the link parameter will be ignored), or may only accept to them after validation by authorized users or administrators.

10.3 Rendering a gallery of images

10.3.1 Gallery syntax

It's easy to make a gallery of **thumbnails only**, not other images, with the `<gallery>` tag. The syntax is:

```
<gallery>
Image:file_name.ext|caption
Image:file_name.ext|caption
{...}
</gallery>
```

Note that the image code is not enclosed in brackets when enclosed in gallery tags.

Captions are optional, and may contain wiki links or other formatting.

for example:

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```
<gallery>
File:Example.jpg|Item 1
File:Example.jpg|a link to [[Help:Contents]]
File:Example.jpg
File:Example.jpg
File:Example.jpg| ''italic caption''
File:Example.jpg|on page "{{PAGENAME}}"
</gallery>
```

is formatted as:

Item 1

a link to Help:Contents

italic caption

on page "Images"

10.3.2 Optional gallery attributes

The gallery tag itself takes several additional parameters, specified as attribute name-value pairs:

```
<gallery {parameters}>
{images}
</gallery>
```

- `caption={caption}`: sets a caption on the gallery.
- `widths={width}px`: sets the widths of the images, default 120px. *Note the plural, width**s***
- `heights={heights}px`: sets the (max) heights of the images.
- `perrow={integer}`: sets the number of images per row.
- `showfilename={anything}`: Show the filenames of the images in the individual captions for each image (1.17+)

Example:

Coding:

```
<gallery widths=60px heights=60px perrow=7 caption="sunflowers are groovy">
File:Example.jpg
File:Example.jpg
File:Example.jpg
File:Example.jpg
File:Example.jpg
File:Example.jpg
File:Example.jpg
File:Example.jpg
File:Example.jpg
```


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```
File:Example.jpg
</gallery>
```

Result:

- sunflowers are groovy
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

10.4 Linking to an image without displaying it

10.4.1 Link to description page

If you put a colon (`:`) before `File:`, the image will not be embedded and the link will lead to the description page of the file.

```
[[:File:MediaWiki:Image sample]]
[[:File:MediaWiki:Image sample|Sunflowers]]
```

results in

[[:File:MediaWiki:Image sample]] [[:File:MediaWiki:Image sample|Sunflowers]]

10.4.2 Link to another page

Note: link **does not work with** thumb **or** frame.
This will make a 50px width picture with a link to the page MediaWiki:

```
[[File:Wiki.png|50px|link=MediaWiki]]
```

10.4.3 Link directly to the media file

You can use the pseudo-namespace ?Media? to link directly to a file without rendering it, bypassing the description page.

```
[[Media:MediaWiki:Image sample]]
[[Media:MediaWiki:Image sample|Sunflowers]]
```

results in

[[Media:MediaWiki:Image sample]] [[Media:MediaWiki:Image sample|Sunflowers]]

The same result can be achieved by adding a colon before the namespace (works with categories too):

```
[[:File:MediaWiki:Image sample]]
```


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You can also use:

```
[[Special:FilePath/MediaWiki:Image sample]]
```

which can be used to link to a potential file, even if it doesn't exist. You can also use:

```
{{FILEPATH:MediaWiki:Image sample}}
```

which generates an external URL to the file inline:

10.5 Requisites

Before using images in your page, the system administrator of your wiki must have enabled file uploads and a user has to upload the file. System administrators may also set the wiki to accept files from foreign repositories, such as the Wikimedia Commons. For server side image resizing it is necessary to have a scaler configured (such as GD2, ImageMagick, etc.).

10.6 Files at other websites

You can link to an external file available online using the same syntax used for linking to an external web page. With these syntaxes, the image will not be rendered, but only the text of the link to this image will be displayed.

```
[http://url.for/some/image.png]
```

Or with a different displayed text:

```
[http://url.for/some/image.png link text here]
```

Additional MediaWiki markup or HTML/CSS formatting (for inline elements) is permitted in this displayed text (with the exception of embedded links that would break the surrounding link):

```
[http://www.example.com/some/image.png Example '''<del>rich</del>''' ''<ins>link text</ins>'' here.]
```

which renders as: Example ~~**rich**~~ *link text* here.

If it is enabled on your wiki (see Manual:$wgAllowExternalImages), you can also embed external images. To do that, simply insert the image's url:

```
http://url.for/some/image.png
```

Currently, embedded images cannot be resized, but they may be formatted by surrounding MediaWiki markup or HTML/CSS code.

If this wiki option is not enabled, the image will not be embedded but rendered as a textual link to the external site, just like above.

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11 Help:Links

There are four sorts of links in MediaWiki:

1. **internal links** to other pages in the wiki
2. **external links** to other websites
3. **interwiki links** to other websites registered to the wiki in advance
4. **Interlanguage links** to other websites registered as other language versions of the wiki

11.1 Internal links

To add an internal link, enclose the name of the page you want to link to in double square brackets. When you save the page, you'll see the new link pointing to your page. If the page exists already it is displayed in blue, if it does not, in red. Selflinks to the current page are not transformed in URLs but displayed in bold. (If you really want to link to the current page, use an anchor (see below), or [[#top|current page]] which always links to the top.)

The first letter of the target page is automatically capitalized, unless otherwise set by the admins, and spaces are represented as underscores (typing an underscore in the link will have a similar effect as typing a space, but is not recommended, since the underscore will also be shown in the text).

Description	You type	You get
Internal link	`[[Main Page]]`	Main Page
Piped link	`[[Main Page|different text]]` See also Meta:Help:Piped link	different text
Hide namespace shortcut	`[[Help:Contents|]]` Short for [[Help:Contents|Contents]]	Contents

Word-ending links	`[[Help]]s`
	`[[Help]]ing`
	`[[Help]]ers`
	`[[Help]]anylettersyoulikehere`
		Helps
		Helping
		Helpers
		Helpanylettersyoulikehere

Avoiding word-ending links	`[[Help]]<nowiki />less situation` `[[wikipedia:GNU General Public License|GPL]]<nowiki />v3`	Helpless situation GPL v3
Redirect	`#REDIRECT [[Main Page]]` See also Help:Redirects	→ Main Page
Internal link to an anchor	`[[#See also]]` Section headings and the top of the page are automatically anchored.	#See also
Internal link to an anchor from different text	`[[#See also|different text]]`	different text
Setting an internal link anchor	`<div id="NameOfAnchorHere">optional text</div>` Omit the "optional text" for invisible anchor.	optional text
Internal link to an anchor at another page	`[[Help:Images#See also]]`	Help:Images#See also
Internal link to the current page's talk page	`[[{{TALKPAGENAME}}|Discussion]]` See also Help:Magic_words#Page_names	Discussion
Internal link to the current page's edit page	`[{{fullurl:{{PAGENAME}}|action=edit}} Edit]` See also Help:Magic_words#URL_data and #External links	Edit
Internal link to a subpage	`[[/example]]` Shortcut for [[Help:Links/example]]. See also Help:Subpages.	/example
	`[[/example/]]`	example

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Description	You type	You get
Internal link to a subpage without the leading slash	Shortcut for [[Help:Links/example|example]].	
Internal link to a category page	`[[:Category:Help]]` See also Help:Categories	Category:Help

Internal link to an image or a file of other types	`[[media:example.jpg]]`
	`[[media:example.pdf]]`
	See also Help:Images
		media:example.jpg
		media:example.pdf

Internal link to the user's user page	`[[Special:MyPage]]`	Special:MyPage

11.2 External links

Description	You type	
External link	`http://mediawiki.org`	http://mediawiki
External link with different label	`[http://mediawiki.org MediaWiki]`	MediaWiki
Numbered external link	`[http://mediawiki.org]`	[1]

External links with file icons	`[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.avi video]`
	`[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.ogg sound]`
	`[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.pdf document]`
	See #External links icons for currently supported icons and extensions.
		video
		sound
		document

External link to the same host	`http://{{SERVERNAME}}/pagename`	http://calidusass
External link to other host passing the pagename	`http://google.com/search?q={{PAGENAMEE}}`	http://google.co
Mailto link	`[mailto:info@example.org email me]`	email me
Mailto named with subject line and body	`[mailto:info@example.org?Subject=URL%20Encoded%20Subject&body=Body%20Text info]`	info

11.3 External link icons

Test link	Icon	Trigger
[2]	external-link-ltr-icon.png	`.external`, `http://`, `gopher://`
[3]	lock-icon.png	`https://`
[4]	mail-icon.png	`mailto:`
[5]	news-icon.png	`news://`
[6]	file-icon.png	`ftp://`
[7]	talk-icon.png	`irc://`
[8]	audio-icon.png	`.ogg`, `.mid`, `.midi`, `.mp3`, `.wav`, `.wma`
[9]	video-icon.png	`.ogm`, `.avi`, `.mpeg`, `.mpg`
[10]	document-icon.png	`.pdf`, `.pdf#`, `.pdf?`

11.3.1 How to avoid auto-links

By default, when you write a URL as is, it will be transformed to an external link.

To avoid that effect, put the URL between `<nowiki>` tags as in:

```
<nowiki>http://mediawiki.org</nowiki>
```


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11.4 Interwiki links

Interwiki links are links with the internal link markup to a website registered in advance. For example, you can link to the Sunflower article on http://en.wikipedia.org by typing `[[wikipedia:Sunflower]]`, which will result in a link wikipedia:Sunflower. This is because `http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/` is registered to your wiki by default with the prefix of `wikipedia`. *This link may not work properly, if the admin of your wiki has changed the setting.* Unlike internal links, interwiki links do not use page existence detection, so an interwiki link will appear blue even if the page does not exist on the remote wiki.

Similar to internal page links, you can create piped links, with alternate link label, e.g. `[[wikipedia:Sunflower|big yellow flower]]`.

Basically this is an abbreviation for longer URLs. A very similar link could be created as a normal external link by typing `[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunflower big yellow flower]`, but interwiki links allow you to type out an easy and compact link, almost as if you are linking to a page on your own wiki.

To edit the interwiki table on your site, see the InterWiki extension.

11.4.1 Interlanguage links

If your wiki has other language versions, you may find ?interlanguage links? in the sidebar, just below toolbox in the box named ?in other languages.?

Interlanguage links behave similarly to interwiki links, except that they are listed in the sidebar. To create an interlanguage link from a page, just type `[[`*`language prefix`*`:pagename]]` wherever you like in the page; the language prefix is the prefix specified at your wiki for the other language version (typically the ISO language code).

If you want to make the interlanguage link appear in the content of the page, you can add a colon before the language prefix:

`[[:en:Sunflower]]` **~~en:~~Sunflower**

11.5 See also

- Linked images
- meta:Help:Links

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12 example

Important note: When you edit this page, you agree to release your contribution into the public domain. If you don't want this or can't do this because of license restrictions, please don't edit. This page is one of the Public Domain Help Pages, which can be freely copied into fresh wiki installations and/or distributed with MediaWiki software; see Help:Contents for an overview of all pages.

This is an example subpage.

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13 Help:Magic words

Magic words are strings of text that MediaWiki associates with a return value or function, such as time, site details, or page names. This page is about usage of standard magic words; for a technical reference, see Manual:Magic words.

There are three general types of magic words:

- **Behavior switches**: these are uppercase words surrounded by double underscores, *e.g.* __**FOO**__
- **Variables**: these are uppercase words surrounded by double braces, *e.g.* **{{F00}}**. As such, they look a lot like templates.
- **Parser functions**: these take parameters and are either of the form **{{foo:...}}** or **{{#foo:...}}**. See also Help:Extension:ParserFunctions.

Page-dependent magic words will affect or return data about the *current* page (by default), even if the word is added through a transcluded template or included system message.

13.1 Behavior switches

A behavior switch controls the layout or behaviour of the page and can often be used to specify desired omissions and inclusions in the content.

Word	Description	Versions
	Table of contents	
__NOTOC__	Hides the table of contents (TOC).	
__FORCETOC__	Forces the table of content to appear at its normal position (above the first header).	
__TOC__	Places a table of contents at the word's current position (overriding __NOTOC__). If this is used multiple times, the table of contents will appear at the first word's position.	
	Editing	
__NOEDITSECTION__	Hides the section edit links beside headings.	
__NEWSECTIONLINK__	Adds a link ("+" by default) beside the "edit" tab for adding a new section on a non-talk page (see Adding a section to the end).	1.7+
__NONEWSECTIONLINK__	Removes the link beside the "edit" tab on pages in talk namespaces.	1.15+
	Categories	
__NOGALLERY__	Used on a category page, replaces thumbnails in the category view with normal links.	1.7+
__HIDDENCAT__	Used on a category page, hides the category from the lists of categories in its members and parent categories (there is an option in the user preferences to show them).	1.13+
	Language conversion	
__NOCONTENTCONVERT__ __NOCC__	On wikis with language variants, don't perform any content language conversion (character and phase) in article display; for example, only show Chinese (zh) instead of variants like zh_cn, zh_tw, zh_sg, or zh_hk.	
__NOTITLECONVERT__ __NOTC__	On wikis with language variants, don't perform language conversion on the title (all other content is converted).	
	Other	
__START__	No effect.	
__END__	Explicitly marks the end of the article, to prevent MediaWiki from removing trailing whitespace. Removed in 19213.	1.1-1.8
__INDEX__	Tell search engines to index the page (overrides $wgArticleRobotPolicies, but not robots.txt).	1.14+
__NOINDEX__	Tell search engines not to index the page (ie, do not list in search engines' results).	1.14+
__STATICREDIRECT__	On redirect pages, don't allow MediaWiki to automatically update the link when someone moves a page and checks "Update any redirects that point to the original title".	1.13+

13.2 Variables

Variables return information about the current page, wiki, or date. Their syntax is similar to templates. Variables marked as "**[expensive]**" are tracked by the software, and the number that can be included on a page is limited.

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If a template name conflicts with a variable, the variable will be used (so to transclude the template Template:PAGENAME you would need to write {{Template:PAGENAME}}). In some cases, adding parameters will force the parser to invoke a template; for example, {{CURRENTDAYNAME|x}} transcludes Template:CURRENTDAYNAME *not* the variable.

13.2.1 Date and time

The following variables return the current date and time in UTC.

Due to MediaWiki and browser caching, these variables frequently show when the page was *cached* rather than the current time.

Variable	Output	Description	Versions
		Year	
{{CURRENTYEAR}}	2026	Year	
		Month	
{{CURRENTMONTH}}	03	Month (zero-padded number)	
{{CURRENTMONTHNAME}}	March	Month (name)	
{{CURRENTMONTHNAMEGEN}}	March	Month (genitive form)	
{{CURRENTMONTHABBREV}}	Mar	Month (abbreviation)	1.5+
		Day	
{{CURRENTDAY}}	30	Day of the month (unpadded number)	
{{CURRENTDAY2}}	30	Day of the month (zero-padded number)	1.6+
{{CURRENTDOW}}	1	Day of the week (unpadded number)	
{{CURRENTDAYNAME}}	Monday	Day of the week (name)	
		Time	
{{CURRENTTIME}}	11:44	Time (24-hour HH:mm format)	
{{CURRENTHOUR}}	11	Hour (24-hour zero-padded number)	
		Other	
{{CURRENTWEEK}}	14	Week (number)	
{{CURRENTTIMESTAMP}}	20260330114448	YYYYMMDDHHmmss timestamp	1.7+

The following variables do the same as the above, but using the site's server config or $wgLocaltimezone.

- {{LOCALYEAR}}
- {{LOCALMONTH}}
- {{LOCALMONTHNAME}}
- {{LOCALMONTHNAMEGEN}}
- {{LOCALMONTHABBREV}}
- {{LOCALDAY}}
- {{LOCALDAY2}}
- {{LOCALDOW}}
- {{LOCALDAYNAME}}
- {{LOCALTIME}}
- {{LOCALHOUR}}
- {{LOCALWEEK}}
- {{LOCALTIMESTAMP}}

For more thorough time formatting, you may want to install Extension:ParserFunctions to use the #time parser function

13.2.2 Technical metadata

Note: Revision variables return data about the **latest edit to the current page**, even if viewing an older version of the page.

Variable	Output	Description	Versio
	Site		
{{SITENAME}}	CTLTMS	The wiki's site name ($wgSitename).	
{{SERVER}}	https://calidusassist.adcservices.apteancloud.com	domain URL ($wgServer)	

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Variable	Output	Description	Versio
{{SERVERNAME}}	calidusassist.adcservices.apteancloud.com	domain name (No longer dependent on $wgServerName as of version 1.17)	
{{DIRMARK}} {{DIRECTIONMARK}}	? ?	Outputs a unicode-directional mark that matches the wiki's default language's direction (‎ on left-to-right wikis, ‏ on right-to-left wikis), useful in text with multi-directional text.	1.7+
{{SCRIPTPATH}}	/calidus-assist/CTLTMS	relative script path ($wgScriptPath)	
{{STYLEPATH}}	/calidus-assist/CTLTMS/skins	relative style path ($wgStylePath)	1.16+
{{CURRENTVERSION}}	1.39.8	The wiki's MediaWiki version.	1.7+
{{CONTENTLANGUAGE}} {{CONTENTLANG}}	en en	The wiki's default interface language ($wgLanguageCode)	1.7+
	Latest revision to current page		
{{REVISIONID}}		Unique revision ID	1.5+
{{REVISIONDAY}}	30	Day edit was made (unpadded number)	1.8+
{{REVISIONDAY2}}	30	Day edit was made (zero-padded number)	1.8+
{{REVISIONMONTH}}	03	Month edit was made (zero-padded number as of 1.17+, unpadded number in prior versions)	1.8+
{{REVISIONYEAR}}	2026	Year edit was made	1.8+
{{REVISIONTIMESTAMP}}	20260330134448	Timestamp as of time of edit	1.8+
{{REVISIONUSER}}		The username of the user who made the most recent edit to the page, or the current user when previewing an edit	1.15+
{{PAGESIZE:*page name*}} {{PAGESIZE:*page name*|R}}	36,827 36827	**[expensive]** Returns the byte size of the specified page. Use "|R" to get raw numbers.	1.13+
{{PROTECTIONLEVEL:*action*}}	protection level	Outputs the protection level (e.g. 'autoconfirm', 'sysop') for a given action (e.g. 'edit', 'move') on the current page or an empty string if not protected.	1.15+
	Affects page content		
{{DISPLAYTITLE:*title*}}		Format the current page's title header. The value must be equivalent to the default title: only capitalization changes and replacing spaces with underscores. It can be disabled or enabled by $wgAllowDisplayTitle;	1.7+

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Variable	Output	Description	Versio
{{DEFAULTSORT:*sortkey*}} {{DEFAULTSORTKEY:*sortkey*}} {{DEFAULTCATEGORYSORT:*sortkey*}}		disabled by default before 1.10+, enabled by default thereafter. Used for categorizing pages, sets a default category sort key. For example if you put {{DEFAULTSORT:Smith, John}} at the end of a 'John Smith' page, the page would be sorted under "S" by default in categories.	1.10+

13.2.3 Statistics

Numbers returned by these variables normally contain separators (commas or spaces, depending on the local language), but can return raw numbers with the ":R" flag (for example, {{NUMBEROFPAGES}} → 470 and {{NUMBEROFPAGES:R}} → 470). Use "|R" for magic words that require a parameter like PAGESINCATEGORY (for example {{PAGESINCATEGORY:Help}} and {{PAGESINCATEGORY:Help|R}}). Also applicable to {{PAGESIZE:*page name*}} above.

Variable	Output Entire wiki	Description	Versions
{{NUMBEROFPAGES}}	470	Number of wiki pages.	1.7+
{{NUMBEROFARTICLES}}	99	Number of pages in content namespaces.	
{{NUMBEROFFILES}}	194	Number of uploaded files.	1.5+
{{NUMBEROFEDITS}}	1,247	Number of page edits.	1.10+
{{NUMBEROFVIEWS}}	Template:NUMBEROFVIEWS	Number of page views. Usually useless on a wiki using caching.	1.14+
{{NUMBEROFUSERS}}	17	Number of registered users.	1.7+
{{NUMBEROFADMINS}}	3	Number of users in the *sysop* group.	1.7+
{{NUMBEROFACTIVEUSERS}}	1	Number of active users, based on the criteria used in Special:Statistics.	1.15+
{{PAGESINCATEGORY:*categoryname*}} {{PAGESINCAT:Help}}	45 45	**[expensive]** Number of pages in the given category.	1.13+
{{NUMBERINGROUP:*groupname*}} {{NUMINGROUP:*groupname*}}	3 3 ({{NUMBERINGROUP:bureaucrat}} used here)	Number of users in a specific group.	1.14+
{{PAGESINNS:*index*}} {{PAGESINNAMESPACE:*index*}}	*not enabled*	Number of pages in the given namespace (replace *index* with the relevant namespace index). For instance, {{PAGESINNAMESPACE:*14*}} will output the number of category pages. {{PAGESINNS:0}} differs from {{NUMBEROFARTICLES}} in that the former includes redirects and disambiguation pages. Disabled by default, enable with $wgAllowSlowParserFunctions.	1.7+

13.2.4 Page names

Variable	Output	Description	Versions
{{FULLPAGENAME}}	Help:Magic words	Namespace and page title.	1.6+
{{PAGENAME}}	Magic words	Page title.	
{{BASEPAGENAME}}	Magic words	Page title excluding the current subpage and namespace	1.7+

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Variable	Output	Description	Versions
		("Title/foo" on "Title/foo/bar"). For more complex splitting, use {{#titleparts:}} from ParserFunctions extension.	
{{SUBPAGENAME}}	Magic words	The subpage title ("foo" on "Title/foo").	1.6+
{{SUBJECTPAGENAME}}	Help:Magic words	The namespace and title of the associated content page.	1.7+
{{TALKPAGENAME}}	Help talk:Magic words	The namespace and title of the associated talk page.	1.7+

The {{BASEPAGENAME}} and {{SUBPAGENAME}} magic words only work in namespaces that have subpages enabled. See Manual:$wgNamespacesWithSubpages for information on enabling subpages.

The following are equivalents encoded for use in MediaWiki URLs (i.e. spaces replaced with underscores and some characters percent-encoded):

- {{FULLPAGENAMEE}}
- {{PAGENAMEE}}
- {{BASEPAGENAMEE}}
- {{SUBPAGENAMEE}}
- {{SUBJECTPAGENAMEE}}
- {{TALKPAGENAMEE}}

As of 1.15+, these can all take a parameter, allowing specification of the page to be operated on, instead of just the current page:

- {{PAGENAME:Template:Main Page}} → **Main Page**

Warning: Page titles containing certain characters, such as single quotes (') or asterisks *, may produce unexpected results when handled with these magic words, e.g. {{PAGESINCATEGORY:{{PAGENAME}}}}. See bugs 14779, 16474.

Note that PAGENAME, PAGENAMEE and urlencode have distinct implementations. See Manual:PAGENAMEE encoding for details.

13.2.5 Namespaces

Variable	Output	Description	Versions
{{NAMESPACE}}	Help	Name of the page's namespace	
{{SUBJECTSPACE}} {{ARTICLESPACE}}	Help Help	Name of the associated content namespace	1.7+
{{TALKSPACE}}	Help talk	Name of the associated talk namespace	1.7+

The following are equivalents encoded for use in MediaWiki URLs (spaces replaced with underscores and some characters percent-encoded):

- {{NAMESPACEE}}
- {{SUBJECTSPACEE}}
- {{TALKSPACEE}}

As of 1.15+, these can take a page name parameter and will return the namespace of the page name parameter, instead of the current page's:

- {{NAMESPACE:Template:Main Page}} → **Template**
- {{SUBJECTSPACE:Template:Main Page}} → **Template**
- {{TALKSPACE:Template:Main Page}} → **Template talk**

13.3 Parser functions

Parser functions are very similar to variables, but take one or more parameters (technically, any magic word that takes a parameter is a parser function), and the name is sometimes prefixed with a hash to distinguish them from templates.

This page only describes parser functions that are integral to the MediaWiki software. Other parser functions may be added by MediaWiki extensions such as the ParserFunctions extension. For those see Help:Extension:ParserFunctions.

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13.3.1 URL data

Parser function	Input ? Output
{{localurl:*page name*}} {{localurl:*page name*|*query_string*}}	{{localurl:MediaWiki}} ? https://calidusassist.adcservices.apteancloud.com/calidus-assist/CTLTMS/index.php/Medi {{localurl:MediaWiki|printable=yes}} ? https://calidusassist.adcservices.apteancloud.com/calidus-assist/CTLTMS/index.php?title=
{{fullurl:*page name*}} {{fullurl:*page name*|*query_string*}}	{{fullurl:Category:Top level}} ? https://calidusassist.adcservices.apteancloud.com/calidus-assist/CTLTMS/index.php/Cate
{{fullurl:*interwiki:remote page name*|*query_string*}}	{{fullurl:Category:Top level|action=edit}} ? https://calidusassist.adcservices.apteancloud.com/calidus-assist/CTLTMS/index.php?title=
{{filepath:*file name*}} {{filepath:*file name*|nowiki}}	{{filepath:Wiki.png}} ? https://calidusassist.adcservices.apteancloud.com/calidus-assist/CTLTMS/images/b/bc/Wi {{filepath:Wiki.png|nowiki}} ? https://calidusassist.adcservices.apteancloud.com/calidus-assist/CTLTMS/images/b/bc/Wi {{filepath:Example.svg|300}} ? http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/84/Example.svg/300px-Example.
{{urlencode:*string*}} (or {{urlencode:*string*|QUERY}}) {{urlencode:*string*|WIKI}} {{urlencode:*string*|PATH}}	{{urlencode:x y z á é}} (or {{urlencode:x y z á é|QUERY}}) ? x+y+z+%C {{urlencode:x y z á é|WIKI}} ? x_y_z_%C3%A1_%C3%A9 {{urlencode:x y z á é|PATH}} ? x%20y%20z%20%C3%A1%20%C3%A9 Note that the default changed from |WIKI to |QUERY in 1.17; this may break templates th
{{anchorencode:*string*}}	{{anchorencode:x y z á é}} ? x_y_z_á_é

13.3.2 Namespaces

{{ns:}} returns the localized name for the namespace with that index. {{nse:}} is the equivalent encoded for MediaWiki URLs. It does the same, but it replaces spaces with underscores, making it usable in external links.

Content namespaces		Talk namespaces	
Usage	**Output**	**Usage**	**Output**
{{ns:-2}} or {{ns:Media}}	Media		
{{ns:-1}} or {{ns:Special}}	Special		
{{ns:0}} or {{ns:}}		{{ns:1}} or {{ns:Talk}}	Talk
{{ns:2}} or {{ns:User}}	User	{{ns:3}} or {{ns:User talk}}	User talk
{{ns:4}} or {{ns:Project}}	CTLTMS	{{ns:5}} or {{ns:Project talk}}	CTLTMS talk
{{ns:6}} or {{ns:File}} or {{ns:Image}}	File	{{ns:7}} or {{ns:File talk}} or {{ns:Image talk}}	File talk
{{ns:8}} or {{ns:MediaWiki}}	MediaWiki	{{ns:9}} or {{ns:MediaWiki talk}}	MediaWiki talk
{{ns:10}} or {{ns:Template}}	Template	{{ns:11}} or {{ns:Template talk}}	Template talk
{{ns:12}} or {{ns:Help}}	Help	{{ns:13}} or {{ns:Help talk}}	Help talk
{{ns:14}} or {{ns:Category}}	Category	{{ns:15}} or {{ns:Category talk}}	Category talk

13.3.3 Formatting

Usage	Input ? Output	Description	Versi
{{lc:*string*}}	{{lc:DATA CENTER}} ? data center	The lowercase input.	1.5+
{{lcfirst:*string*}}	{{lcfirst:DATA center}} ? dATA center	The input with the very first character lowercase.	1.5+
{{uc:*string*}}		The uppercase input.	1.5+

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Usage	Input ? Output	Description	Versi
	{{uc:text transform}} ? TEXT TRANSFORM		
{{ucfirst:*string*}}	{{ucfirst:text TRANSFORM}} ? Text TRANSFORM	The input with the very first character uppercase.	1.5+
{{formatnum:*unformatted num*}} {{formatnum:*formatted num*|R}}	{{formatnum:987654321.654321}} ? 987,654,321.654321 {{formatnum:987,654,321.654321|R}} ? 987654321.654321 {{formatnum:00001}} ? 00,001	The input with decimal and decimal group separators, and localized digit script, according to the wiki's default locale. The |R parameter can be used to unformat a number, for use in mathematical situations. **Warning**: Leading zeroes are not removed, you can use {{#expr:00001}} instead if you have Extension:ParserFunctions installed	1.7+ 1.13+
{{#dateformat:*date*}} {{#formatdate:*date*}} {{#dateformat:*date*|*format*}} {{#formatdate:*date*|*format*}}	{{#dateformat:25 deC 2009|ymd}} ? 2009 December 25 (your pref), 2009 DeC 25 (default) {{#formatdate:dec 25,2009|dmy}} ? 25 December 2009 (your pref), 25 Dec 2009 (default) {{#dateformat:2009-12-25|mdy}} ? December 25, 2009 (your pref), December 25, 2009 (default) {{#formatdate:2009 dec 25|ISO 8601}} ? 2009-12-25 (your pref), 2009-12-25 (default) {{#dateformat:25 decEmber|mdy}} ? December 25 (your pref), DecEmber 25 (default) Note: In the example above, "your pref" refers to your date preference on the current MediaWiki wiki only.	Formats an unlinked date based on user "Date format" preference, and adds metadata tagging it as a formatted date. For logged-out users and those who have not set a date format in their preferences, dates can be given a default: mdy, dmy, ymd, ISO 8601 (all case sensitive). If only the month and day are given, only mdy and dmy are valid. If a format is not specified or is invalid, the input format is used as a default. If the supplied date is not recognized as a valid date (specifically, if it contains any metadata such as from a nested use of these or similar templates), it is rendered unchanged, and no (additional) metadata is generated. **Warning**: Although the ISO 8601 standard requires that dates be in the Gregorian calendar, the ISO parameter in this function will still format dates that fall outside the usual Gregorian range (e.g. dates prior to 1583). Also, the magic word cannot properly convert between negative years (used with ISO 8601) and years BC or years BCE (used in general writing).	1.15+
{{padleft:xyz|*stringlength*}} {{padleft:xyz|*strlen*|*char*}} {{padleft:xyz|*strlen*|*string*}}	{{padleft:xyz|5}} ? 00xyz {{padleft:xyz|5|_}} ? __xyz {{padleft:xyz|5|abc}} ? abxyz {{padleft:xyz|2}} ? xyz {{padleft:|1|xyz}} ? x (first character of the string)	Inserts a string of padding characters (character chosen in third parameter; default '0') of a specified length (second parameter) next to a chosen base character or variable (first parameter). The final digits or characters in the base replace the final characters in the padding; i.e. {{padleft:44|3|0}} produces 044. The padding string may be truncated if its length does not evenly divide the required number of characters. **bug (fixed in r45734):**	1.8+

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Usage	Input ? Output	Description	Versi
		multibyte characters are interpreted as two characters, which can skew width. These also cannot be used as padding characters.	
	{{padright:xyz|5}} ? xyz00		
{{padright:xyz|*stringlength*}} {{padright:xyz|*strlen*|*char*}} {{padright:xyz|*strlen*|*string*}}	{{padright:xyz|5|_}} ? xyz__ {{padright:xyz|5|abc}} ? xyzab {{padright:xyz|2}} ? xyz {{padright:|1|xyz}} ? x	Identical to padleft, but adds padding characters to the right side.	
{{plural:2|*is*|*are*}}	{{plural:0|is|are}} ? are {{plural:1*1|is|are}} ? is {{plural:21 mod 10|is|are}} ? are {{plural:{{#expr:21 mod 10}}|is|are}} ? is {{plural:1|is|are}} ? is {{plural:2|is|are}} ? are (for Polish): {{plural:2|milion|miliony|milionów}} ? miliony	Outputs the singular form (second parameter) if the first parameter is an expression equalling one; the plural form (third parameter) otherwise. Plural transformations are used for languages like Russian based on "count mod 10". You should not expect this to handle fractions (like 44.5) ? see bug 28128.	
{{grammar:N|*noun*}}		Outputs the correct inflected form of the given word described by the inflection code after the colon (language-dependent). Grammar transformations are used for inflected languages like Polish. See also Manual:$wgGrammarForms.	1.7+

13.3.4 Miscellaneous

Usage	Output	Description	Versio
{{int:*message name*}}	{{int:edit}} → **Edit** *(depends on user language, try: fr •ja)*	Internationalizes (translates) the given **int**erface (MediaWiki namespace) message into the user language. *Note that this can damage/confuse cache consistency, see bug 14404.*	
{{#language:*language code*}} {{#language:ar}} {{#language:th}}	language code ??????? ???	The native name for the given language code, in accordance with ISO 639.	1.7+
{{#special:*special page name*}} {{#special:userlogin}}	Special:Special page name Special:UserLogin	The localized name for the given canonical Special: page.	1.9+
{{#tag:*tagname* |*content* |*parameter1=value1* |*parameter2=value2* }}	*(depends on parser tag)*	Alias for XML-style parser or extension tags, but parsing wiki code. Inner content can be passed as first parameter, and attributes as subsequent ones: <*tagname attribute1*="*value1*" *attribute2*="*value2*"> *content* </*tagname*> → {{#tag:*tagname*|*content*|*attribute1=value1*|*attribute2=value2*}} **Warning** : You must write {{#tag:*tagname*||*attribute1=value1*|*attribute2=value2*}} to pass an empty content.	1.12+
{{gender:*username* |*return text if user is male* |*return text if user is female* |*return text if user hasn't defined their*	*(depends on the named user's gender)*	A switch for the gender set in Special:Preferences Note: If 3rd parameter is omitted and user hasn't defined his/her gender, then *text if user is male* is returned.	1.15+

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Usage	Output	Description	Versio

gender}}

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14 Help:Managing files

If file uploads are enabled, you can upload certain types of files to the wiki. This is particularly useful for uploading images, which you want to place on an article, but you can also upload other types of files.

14.1 Upload a file

1. Prepare the file for upload. Make sure the file is exactly as you want it.
2. In the sidebar, under ?tools?, click ?**Upload file**.?
3. Click ?**Browse**? next to the ?**Source filename:**? to locate the file on your computer (the name of the ?browse? button depends on your web browser).
4. Change the ?**Destination filename:**? to something descriptive, if necessary.
5. Fill in the ?**Summary**,? if necessary.
6. Click the ?**Upload file**? button.

If it is a large file, you may need to wait several seconds for the upload to complete.

14.2 Using images and file description pages

After you've uploaded a file, you can use it in an article, with some special wiki syntax to create the link. See Help:Images.

Your file gets its very own ?file description page? within the File namespace of the wiki. You should edit this page to provide more information about the file. For example, many public wiki projects are quite sensitive to copyright issues, and so you should explain where you got the file from, and what its copyright status is, on the description page. Any other useful descriptive notes could also be added there.

14.3 List of files in the wiki

There are a number of special pages to help you view and manage files which have been uploaded. Go to ?Special pages? (in the tools on the left) and then see...

- Gallery of new files - If you just uploaded one, you will see it here.
- File list - Shows all of the files.
- Unused files - Helps you track down files which might not be needed.

See Help:Special pages for details of the other information available here.

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15 Help:Moving a page

Moving (renaming) a page means giving it another name. This is done by using the "move" tab at the top. The tab is not visible if you are not logged in. Then simply enter the new name and click "Move page". Normally you would want to leave the "Move associated talk page" option ticked.

If you move page "A" to a new title "B", this operation will do the following:

- Renames the title of page "A" as "B"
- Renames all the editing history of page "A" as of page "B" as well
- Creates a new page "A", whose content is a redirect to page "B"

The second point is important. By using the "Move" feature, you also **move the editing history**, which is desirable in most situations. The editing history allows people to see how the contents of the page were built up, and who contributed what. If you move contents around by copying and pasting (not using the move feature), you do not achieve this (see also Help:Tracking changes).

Because the move operation **leaves behind a redirect** (see Help:Redirects), it should not result in any broken links, however you might want to hunt down pages or other redirects which link in to the redirect, and change their text to link directly to the new title. The "What links here" feature, which can be used through the link in the Tools (at bottom of the sidebar on the left) is useful when doing this.

15.1 Proposing a move

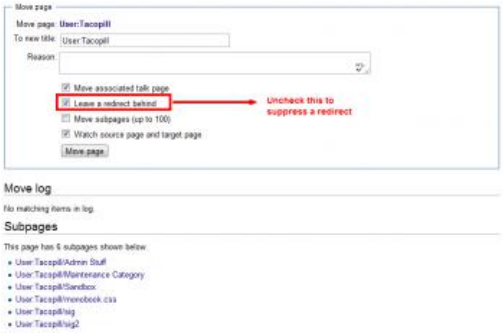
Deciding on a page title can be a difficult aspect of wiki organization, and one which can often provoke debates. If the move you have in mind is one which might cause upset or could be considered controversial, you should propose the move first. Do this by leaving a note to give your reasons on the talk page. You might also establish a system for labeling the page itself, with a move proposal template, to make everybody aware of your intentions.

15.2 Undo a move

As with all wiki editing, a move operation can be reversed (by any user). To reverse a move operation, simply move the page back, e.g. move page "B" back to "A".

The page title "B" will still be left behind, as a redirect from "B" to "A". Any user can remove the redirect and propose that the page be deleted. However the final deletion will require sysop privileges (see Help:Deleting a page).

15.3 Moving a page without creating a redirect



Relevant option highlighted
Users with the *suppressredirect* user right can optionally move a page without creating a redirect. This is particularly useful when undoing a move.

When the right is enabled, one additional check box will appear when one needs to move a page (see picture at right).

See also:

- Help:Redirects#Supressing a redirect
- Manual:User rights

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15.4 See also

- Help:Copying a page

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16 Help:Namespaces

Pages on a MediaWiki wiki are grouped into collections called "**namespaces**", which differentiate between the purpose of the pages at a high level. Pages in certain namespaces can also have special properties or behave differently when they interact with other pages.

Namespaces are indicated in page titles by prefixing the page name with "`namespace:`", so the prefix "`Help:`" in this page's title ("Help:Namespaces") indicates that this page is in the Help namespace. Note, however, that colons and prefixes can also appear in page titles *without* indicating a namespace: The page Foo:Namespaces is a page located in the mainspace because the namespace "Foo" does not exist. Similarly the page Help:Foo:Namespaces is in the "Help" namespace.

16.1 Standard namespaces

The standard MediaWiki installation has sixteen namespaces which can contain user-generated content; there are also two special namespaces which contain pages created 'on the fly' by the MediaWiki software. The standard namespaces are organised in pairs, with each pair containing a 'subject namespace' and a 'discussion namespace'. The namespaces are numbered from zero such that all subject namespaces have even indices, and all talk namespaces have odd indices.

16.1.1 -2: Media

This namespace is an alias used for direct linking to media files: the link Media:Wiki.png links to just the image rather than the image description page, which would be File:Wiki.png.

16.1.1.1 -1: Special

This namespace is used to group special pages, reports and interfaces that are generated 'on demand' by MediaWiki and which are not directly editable. It is not possible to create pages in this namespace except by modifying or extending the MediaWiki software.

16.1.1.2 0: (Main)

Namespace zero is the 'null' namespace, commonly called the "main namespace" or "mainspace". This namespace typically contains the bulk of the content pages in a wiki. This namespace generally has no special properties.

16.1.1.3 1: Talk

The "Talk" namespace is the discussion namespace attached to the mainspace. It has no special properties.

16.1.1.4 2: User

Each user has a corresponding page in the User namespace, which is linked to from edit histories, watchlists, recent changes, etc; wherever an individual user is uniquely identified. This page, and subpages of it, can be used by users to record information about themselves or to test and draft new content. Pages of the form "`User:`*`UserName`*`/Foo.js`" or "`User:`*`UserName`*`/Foo.css`" can only be edited by the user themselves or by administrators.

16.1.1.5 3: User talk

This namespace is the talkspace associated with the User namespace. Pages in this namespace are mainly used to leave messages for particular users or inform them of discussions that may be of interest to them. To facilitate this, when a page User talk:UserName is edited, whenever the user 'UserName' loads a page, a notice is displayed at the top of the page informing them of the edit:

You have [[User talk:UserName|MediaWiki:Newmessageslink]] (MediaWiki:Newmessagesdifflink).
This notice continues to appear until the user loads their user talk page to read the message.

16.1.1.6 4: CTLTMS

This is a content namespace that is normally used for meta-discussions related to the operation and development of the wiki. It has no special properties.

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16.1.1.7 5: CTLTMS talk

This is a talk namespace that is normally used for discussions related to the associated content pages. It has no special properties.

16.1.1.8 6: File

The File namespace is used to store metadata for images, videos, sound files and other media accessed via the Media namespace. Each file has a corresponding page in the File namespace which is often used to hold licensing data. Linking *directly* to a page in this namespace instead includes the media file inline in the page: `[[File:Wiki.png|right]]` produces the image to the right. See Help:Images for more details of this link syntax. To create an internal link to the file page, you need to add a colon to the front of the namespace: `[[:File:Wiki.png|right]]` produces File:Wiki.png. The standard MediaWiki installation has alias "Image" for File namespace - See Namespace aliases.

16.1.1.9 7: File talk

This is a talk namespace that is normally used for discussions related to the associated media files. It has no special properties.

16.1.1.10 8: MediaWiki

The MediaWiki namespace is used to hold system messages and other important content. For instance, the page MediaWiki:Edit (or MediaWiki:Vector-view-edit in the default "Vector" skin) contains the text that fills the "Edit" tab at the top of every page. If that page exists, it overrides the default content, which is "edit this page". Similarly, MediaWiki:Common.css is the system message which holds the CSS code that is loaded for all users for each page. It has the special property that the entire namespace is fully protected and can only be edited by administrators.

16.1.1.11 9: MediaWiki talk

This is a talk namespace that is normally used for discussions related to the associated system messages. It has no special properties.

16.1.1.12 10: Template

The Template namespace is used to hold templates, blocks of text or wikicode that are intended to be transcluded into several other pages. To facilitate this it has the special property that it is the *default* namespace for transclusions: the wikicode `{{Foo}}` is equivalent to `{{Template:Foo}}`.

16.1.1.13 11: Template talk

This is a talk namespace that is normally used for discussions related to the associated template pages. It has no special properties.

16.1.1.14 12: Help

The Help namespace is usually used to hold help files, instructions and 'how-to' guides. It has no special properties.

16.1.1.15 13: Help talk

This is a talk namespace that is normally used for discussions related to the associated help pages. It has no special properties.

16.1.1.16 14: Category

The Category namespace contains categories, dynamic lists of other pages. To facilitate this, linking *directly* to a category page does not output an inline link, but instead includes the page into the associated category page. So the code `[[Category:Help]]` causes a category link to appear at the bottom of the page (at the bottom in the box marked "Categories"). Clicking on that link takes you to the category page, where this page is visible in the category list. To create an inline link to a category page, you need to add a colon to the front of the namespace: `[[:Category:Help]]`

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produces Category:Help. See Help:Categories for more details on category link syntax.

16.1.1.17 15: Category talk

This is a talk namespace that is normally used for discussions related to the associated category pages. It has no special properties.

16.2 Localisation

Namespace names and aliases can be localized in TranslateWiki.net, using the special page AdvancedTranslate. To get started, visit translatewiki:Special:FirstSteps.

16.2.1 Renaming namespaces

Canonical name	Localized name
Media	Media
Special	Special
(Main)	
Talk	Talk
User	User
User talk	User talk
Project	CTLTMS
Project talk	CTLTMS talk
File	File
File talk	File talk
MediaWiki	MediaWiki
MediaWiki talk	MediaWiki talk
Template	Template
Template talk	Template talk
Help	Help
Help talk	Help talk
Category	Category
Category talk	Category talk

Namespace names can be translated into languages other than English and individual namespaces can be renamed, as set by a wiki's system admins. These names are known as the 'localized' namespace names. However, all namespaces have a 'canonical name', the original English name which will work on any installation of MediaWiki. So linking to User:Foo will always locate the user page for the user foo, whether the wiki is in French (where the localized name would be Utilisateur:Foo), Russian (????????:Foo), or Hindi (?????:Foo). The canonical namespace names are given in the table to the right along with their localized names on this wiki.

16.2.2 Namespace aliases

On some wikis there are also namespace *aliases*: alternative names that will also be resolved to the localised names. For instance, a wiki might define "T" as an alias for Template, such that typing T:Foo is equivalent to Template:Foo, saving a few characters and seconds. An actual example would be on the English Wikipedia, where "WP" is an alias for CTLTMS, which is the namespace "Wikipedia". By default, "Image" is an alias for File, so `[[Image:Wiki.png]]` is equivalent to `[[File:Wiki.png]]`.

16.2.3 Custom namespaces

> *See Manual:Using custom namespaces for more information.*

Some wikis may wish to organise their content in ways that do not fit into this standard set of namespaces. A wiki may define additional namespaces to facilitate this; these namespaces behave exactly like normal namespaces, and generally have indices greater than or equal to 100. These custom namespaces generally have no special properties.

16.3 Identifying namespaces

There are a number of ways by which the namespace of a particular page can be identified:

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Magic words

The magic word `{{NAMESPACE}}` returns the value of the namespace the page is in.

JavaScript

The JavaScript variable `wgCanonicalNamespace` contains the full namespace name. The variable `wgNamespaceNumber` contains the numerical index of the namespace.

CSS

The `<body>` tag of the HTML page output is given two CSS classes that vary by namespace: A class `ns-#`, where # is the index of the namespace, and `ns-XXX`, where XXX is "`subject`" for all content namespaces, "`special`" for pages in the Special namespace, and "`talk`" for talk namespaces. So CSS code such as the following can be used to change the appearance of an object based on its namespace:

```
.ns-subject a
{   /* Almost all links on content pages to be green. */
    color: #00FF00;
}
.ns-talk a
{       /* Links on talk pages to be blue. */
    color: #0000FF;
}
.ns-3 a
{         /* and links on user talk pages to be red */
    color: #FF0000;
}
```

API

You can get a complete list of all the namespaces used on this wiki from the API:

https://calidusassist.adcservices.apteancloud.com/w/api.php?action=query&meta=siteinfo&siprop=namespaces

16.4 See also

- Manual:Namespace
- Manual:Using custom namespaces

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17 Help:Navigation

When viewing any page on a MediaWiki wiki, you'll find three main navigation elements:

1. The sidebar on the left gives you access to important pages in the wiki such as Recent changes or Upload file.
2. At the top of the page are links (often called tabs) which relate to the page currently displayed: its associated discussion page, the version history, and—most notably—the edit link.
3. In the top right corner you'll find user links; as an anonymous user, you'll see a link to create an account or log in (they are the same page). As a logged-in user you have a collection of personal links, including ones to your user page and preferences.

17.1 Sidebar

Example sidebar, shown on the left of the page
The sidebar is displayed on the left edge of the page below the site logo (if using the default MonoBook skin). This sidebar gives you access to important pages in the wiki such as Recent changes or Upload file.

17.1.1 Navigation

Clicking on the logo brings you back to the main page of the wiki. The links in the navigation section just below will take you to important pages of the wiki. These links can be configured by site administrators.

17.1.2 Toolbox

The tools contains a selection of links which change depending on what type of page you are viewing.

On all pages (except special pages)

- ◊ ?What links here? takes you to a special page that lists the pages on this wiki which contain a link to the current page. This is helpful when you are looking for pages of related information. The ?what links here? information can also be useful when you are refactoring wiki pages and need to check whether links to this page are still relevant after changes in the current page.
- ◊ The ?related changes? tool lists all recent changes in the pages linked to from the current page. Recent changes to all relevant template pages are included in the resulting page list. The "Hide minor edits" option that can be set in the user preferences applies, among other things, to ?related changes?.

On all pages (including special pages)

- ◊ ?Upload file? displays a special page that allows logged-in users to upload images and other files to the wiki. Uploaded files can be linked from or embedded in wiki pages. *Uploading files, viewing files on the server, including them in wiki pages and managing the uploaded files is discussed in the managing files section of this manual.* This is not displayed if file uploading is not enabled.
- ◊ The ?special pages? tool lists the MediaWiki special pages. In MediaWiki terminology, a special page is one that presents information about the Wiki and/or allows access to administration activities for the wiki. For example, a list of users registered with the wiki, statistics about the wiki such as the number of pages and number of page edits, system logs, a list of orphaned pages, and so on. These special pages are commonly generated when the special page is loaded rather than being stored in the wiki database. *The function and use of the default special pages can be found in the special pages section of this*

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manual.

17.2 Page Tabs

Default page tabs at the top of the page
The page tabs are displayed at the top of the page to the right of the site logo (if using the default MonoBook skin). These tabs allow you to perform actions or view pages that are related to the current page. The available default actions include: viewing, editing, and discussing the current page. The specific tabs displayed on your pages depend on whether or not you are logged into the wiki and whether you have sysop (administrator) privileges on the wiki. On special pages only the namespace tab is displayed.

Default for all users
- ◊ ?namespace? (page, help, special page, template, user page etc.)
- ◊ ?discussion?
- ◊ ?edit? (may read ?view source? if anonymous editing is disabled, the page is in the MediaWiki: namespace, or the page is protected)
- ◊ ?history?

Extra tabs for logged-in users
- ◊ ?move?
- ◊ ?watch?

Extra tabs for sysops
- ◊ ?protect?
- ◊ ?delete?

Administrators can add or remove tabs by using JavaScript or installing extensions, so the tabs you see may be different depending on which wiki you are using.

17.3 User Links

Default user links at the top right of the page
The user links are displayed at the top far right of the page (if using the default MonoBook skin). These tabs allow the logged-in user to view and edit their user page and wiki preferences. Additionally, the user links allow the user to quickly access their contributions to the wiki and logout.

For anonymous users the user links is replaced by a link to the wiki login page or, if enabled, a link to your IP address and your IP address's talk page.

?<username>?
: This links to your user page which is where you can put information about yourself, store bits of information you want to remember or whatever else you fancy.

?talk?
: This links to your discussion page, where people can leave messages for you.

?preferences?
: Allows you to change your personal site preferences.

?watchlist?
: A list of all pages that you are watching. Pages can be added to this list by clicking ?watch? at the top of the page.

?contributions?
: A list of all contributions you have made to the wiki.

?log out?
: Click this link to log out of the wiki.

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18 Help:New images

New images is a special page that lists recently added files as a gallery in reverse order, with creation date and time, current size, user who uploaded the file, and name of the uploaded file.

This feature is accessible at Special:NewImages. The page results are **not** adjustable using settings in Preferences.

This special page can be transcluded, with the first unnamed parameter specifying how many entries should be displayed.

```
{{Special:NewImages/50}}
```

This special page does not accept additional parameters, yet.

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19 Help:New pages

New pages is a special page that lists recently created pages in reverse order of creation, with creation date and time, current size, user who created the page, and first edit summary. It also provides links to patrol these new pages when that feature is enabled.

This feature is accessible at Special:NewPages. The page results are not adjustable in the Preferences.

The ability to filter by user was added in bugzilla:6448.

19.1 Transclusion

This special page can be transcluded, with the first unnamed parameter specifying how many entries should be displayed.

```
{{Special:NewPages/50}}
```

Additional parameters may be used in a comma separated list such as:

```
{{Special:Newpages/limit=5,shownav,offset=20081210,namespace=Template}}
```

parameter	value type	description
limit	integer	Number of entries to display
offset	date	Date to begin the list of entries
namespace	string	Restrict the results to the named namespace
hideliu		Hide logged in users (LIU)
hidepatrolled		Only show pages which have not been patrolled.
hidebots		Hide Bots
showredirs		Show Redirects
shownav		Display result navigation links above and beneath the results, i.e, "(Latest | Earliest) View (newer 5) (older 5) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)"

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20 Help:Patrolled edits

Important note: When you edit this page, you agree to release your contribution into the public domain. If you don't want this or can't do this because of license restrictions, please don't edit. This page is one of the Public Domain Help Pages, which can be freely copied into fresh wiki installations and/or distributed with MediaWiki software; see Help:Contents for an overview of all pages.

Patrolled edits are a feature which allows specific users to mark items in recent changes as having been "patrolled" or "approved". By default this is only available if you have sysop permissions.

This feature is useful when reviewing recent changes for undesirable edits, link spam and vandalism. This allows people (with permission to do so) to coordinate their patrolling activity, such that edits get checked over once, with less wasted effort (different people checking the same edit).

20.1 Marking edits as patrolled

To mark an edit as patrolled

1. Access Special:RecentChanges
   Changes which are not patrolled will be indicated with a red exclamation mark
2. Click the (diff) link next to an edit
3. To mark the edit as patrolled, click the *mark as patrolled* link

20.2 Hiding patrolled edits from recent changes

Patrolled edits can be hidden from recent changes by adding `&hidepatrolled=1` to the URL in the following form:

```
https://calidusassist.adcservices.apteancloud.com/calidus-assist/CTLTMS/index.php?title=Special:RecentChang
```

20.3 Customization

20.3.1 Enabling/disabling

Patrolled edits are enabled by default in MediaWiki 1.4 and later. To disable this, set **$wgUseRCPatrol** in LocalSettings.php to `false`.

```
$wgUseRCPatrol = false;
```

20.3.2 Permissions

20.3.2.1 1.4

In MediaWiki 1.4, patrolled edits are enabled for all users. To restrict this to sysops, set **$wgOnlySysopsCanPatrol** in LocalSettings.php to `true`.

```
$wgOnlySysopsCanPatrol = true;
```

20.3.2.2 1.5+

In MediaWiki 1.5 and later, patrolled edits are enabled for sysops. Use the **$wgGroupPermissions** configuration variable to assign this to new or existing user groups. See Manual:User rights management.

For instance, to create a *patrollers* group:

```
$wgGroupPermissions['patrollers']['patrol'] = true;
```

20.3.3 Automatic patrolling

In MediaWiki 1.6 through 1.8, there is a user preference available to users who are able to mark edits as patrolled. When set, this causes their edits to be patrolled automatically.

This option is not available if the patrolled edits feature is switched off.

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In MediaWiki 1.9 this user preference has been removed and replaced by a new "autopatrol" right, assigned only to sysops by default. Also, users cannot mark their own edits as patrolled.

20.3.4 Marker

The formatting of the unpatrolled edit marker can be altered using CSS. The exclamation mark displayed on the Recent changes log is styled using the `span.unpatrolled` class.

20.4 See also

- Further reading on the Meta-Wiki
- Extension:FlaggedRevs

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21 Help:Preferences

Clicking on the my preferences link in the upper right while logged in allows you to change your preferences. You will be presented with the User profile section, as well as a bar of tabs across the top for changing other types of settings.

21.1 User profile

21.1.1 User profile

- *Username*: Your user name. Only bureaucrats can change your username, and the wiki must also have the Renameuser extension installed.
- *User ID*: A number assigned to your account when you created it (for example, if your number is 42 you are the 42nd user to sign up at this particular wiki). This number is used for internal purposes.
- *Number of edits*: How many edits you have made. Not all wikis will have this.
- *Real name*: If provided, this will be used for attribution (rather than using your username). Providing your real name is entirely optional. Some wikis do not have this option.
- *E-mail*: Your email address, if you have supplied one. You can also change or remove your address here.
- *Nickname*: When you sign your name (using ~~~~), what you enter here will be used at the start instead of a simple link to your user page. By default, anything you enter here will be wrapped with `[[ ]]`; if you want to use special linking, enable *Raw signatures (without automatic link)*.
- *Language*: This controls what language the interface is displayed in. MediaWiki's default interface includes localisations for all supported languages, but this is not necessarily the case with extensions or custom skins. Page text will **not** be translated, nor will templates (unless the templates integrate text localisation).

21.1.2 Change password

To change your password, enter your old password in the first box and your new password in the last two. If you want this site to remember your login, check *Remember my login on this computer*. Note that this function requires you to have cookies enabled in your browser, and if your cookie is cleared or expires you will no longer be remembered.

21.1.3 E-mail

If you have supplied an email address, you will need to click the *verify address* button in order to use these functions. You will receive an email; simply open it and follow the link to enable the following functions.

- *E-mail me when a page I'm watching is changed*
- *E-mail me when my user talk page is changed*
- *E-mail me also for minor edits of pages*
- *Enable e-mail from other users*
- *Send me copies of emails I send to other users*

21.1.4 Languages

From your preferences you can select what language you would like the interface to be in. Only the buttons like 'edit' and 'talk', in addition to a few pages in the sidebar, will be affected. The main text of the pages will not be changed by this for the vast majority of pages, although there are a few pages where it will, like some in the Wikimedia Meta Wiki.

21.2 Skin

Here you can choose the skin you want to use. You can preview the available skins before choosing them, by clicking on the (Preview) link next to each skin. Please refer to Help:Skins for more details.

21.3 Math

Here you can control how mathematical equations described using the `<math>` tag will be displayed. Mathematical formulae uploaded as images or written outside the math tag will not be affected by this setting.

- *Always render PNG*
- *HTML if very simple or else PNG*
- *HTML if possible or else PNG*
- *Leave it as TeX (for text browsers)*

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- *Recommended for modern browsers*
- *MathML if possible (experimental)*

21.4 Files

Here you can determine how images will be displayed. Images displayed by direct pasting of a URL (if the wiki has it enabled) will not be affected by this setting.

- *Limit images on image description pages to*: This setting lets you choose how big image previews will be on the Image: pages. If you know what your current screen resolution is you may like to set this to one or two sizes smaller than your own screen. If you have a slow connection (such as dial-up) you may want to limit them to 320×240.
- *Thumbnail size*: Define how big you want thumbnails to appear. This setting will not affect thumbnails with dimensions determined by an editor, nor can it increase images beyond their original dimensions.

21.5 Date and time

The following is normally rendered depending on preferences:

```
[[2001-01-05]] (or [[2001]]-[[01-05]]) (with leading zeros)
[[2001]] [[January 5]] ([[2001]] [[January 05]])
[[January 5]], [[2001]] ([[January 05]], [[2001]])
[[5 January]] [[2001]] ([[05 January]] [[2001]])
[[January 5]] ([[January 05]])
[[5 January]] ([[05 January]])
```

21.6 Editing

Settings to control editing pages, including the size of the edit box displayed and whether to watch pages that you have edited or created automatically.

21.7 Recent changes

- *Days to show in recent changes*: Here you can specify how far back the recent changes pages will go. Note that the list will stop prematurely if the number of edits is exceeded (see below)
- *Number of edits to show in recent changes*: Here you can specify how many edits should be displayed.
- *Hide minor edits in recent changes*: This enables you to hide edits marked as minor (see Help:Editing pages). Since some users will rapidly make a lot of tiny tweaks to update templates or fix spelling errors you may find enabling this to be useful. You can also turn this on temporarily from the recent changes page (see Help:Tracking changes).
- *Enhanced recent changes (JavaScript)*: Enhanced recent changes condenses edits into a per-page list. As indicated, this requires JavaScript to be enabled. See Help:Tracking changes for more information on this feature.

21.8 Watchlist

Setting to control the behaviour of the watchlist (See Help:Watchlist) Most of these options are also available on the watchlist display itself, but by setting them in your preferences you control the default behaviour i.e. Every time you visit the watchlist it will do the same.

21.9 Search

Default settings for searches including how many results to display and how much context to show for each result. Check the boxes next to the namespaces which you want to show up, the first time that you search for something. You can override this when doing an actual search, by checking or unchecking the boxes at the bottom of the search results screen.

21.10 Misc

Other settings such as numbering and justification.

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21.11 See also

- MetaWiki:Help:Preferences
- Help:Skins

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22 Help:Protected pages

A **protected page** is a page where normal users are prevented from editing and/or moving at all. Only a user with sysop permissions can edit or move a protected page. Likewise only sysop users can protect a page in the first place, or unprotect the page to lift the restriction.

There are several reasons why a particular page might be protected:

- On public wikis, pages may be protected because they have been repeatedly targeted with vandalism or moved to bad titles, or where it is believed that vandalism or page moves would have a unusually severe impact.
- On corporate wikis, pages may be protected when they contain statements which have been approved by management, and policy dictates that those statements can't be changed without following a certain approval process.

Page protection limits collaboration on the wiki content, and should be avoided where possible.

For sysop information see Help:Protecting and unprotecting pages

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23 Help:Protecting and unprotecting pages

Protecting and unprotecting pages is very straightforward, but these operations require sysop permissions.

You can designate a page as a protected page by clicking the 'Protect page' tab, and supplying a comment (a brief textual description of why you are protecting the page).

There are several reasons why a particular page might be protected. On public wikis, a protected page is usually one which has been repeatedly targeted with vandalism, or where it is believed that any vandalism would have an unusually severe impact. On corporate wikis, a page may be protected when the content has been frozen via an approval process. However there are also many good reasons for *not* protecting pages. As a sysop you must make this choice, and wield your power responsibly.

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24 Help:Random page

The default sidebar on the left, see the fifth link from top
The **random page** feature allows users to view a wiki page at random. The default, and most convenient use is to show a random page in the main namespace, and is accessed through the Special:Random page. Users will be redirected to the selection.

Special:Randompage is an alias for the feature and works in the same manner.

24.1 Namespace selection

Users can also opt to view a random page in a namespace of their choice. This is achieved by specifying a namespace as a parameter to the page, i.e. Special:Random/Help will select a random page in the Help namespace; Special:Random/Category will show the contents of a random category, etc.

24.2 Settings

- Manual:$wgContentNamespaces - this will set what namespaces should be counted as article content and included in Special:Random function
- Manual:$wgExtraRandompageSQL - this settings allows for filtering of content from the Special:Random function

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25 Help:Range blocks

Range blocks are technical restrictions applied through Special:Block to a group of IP addresses that prevent them from editing, creating new accounts, sending email through the wiki interface, et cetera. Registered accounts editing from these IP addresses will also be blocked, unless you check the box to only block anonymous editors.

Range blocking is enabled on all Wikimedia wikis; to enable it on other wikis, add "`$wgSysopRangeBans = true;`" in `LocalSettings.php`.

To block an IP range from Special:Block, enter the first IP address in the range followed by a forward slash and a Classless inter-domain routing (CIDR) suffix. **You should avoid performing range blocks unless you understand what you are doing, or you may end up blocking tens of thousands of people who are not the problem!**

25.1 Non-technical explanation

IP address are broken up into blocks of numbers. The most common block is 256 numbers. An example of this would be `148.20.57.0` through to `148.20.57.255`. Once it reaches `255` the next number is `148.20.58.0`.

IP addresses can be broken up in to smaller or larger blocks. The smallest practical block is a block of 4. This could be one of the following:

`148.20.57.0 - 148.20.57.3`, or
`148.20.57.4 - 148.20.57.7`, or
`148.20.57.8 - 148.20.57.11`, etc.

Of each block of 4 numbers, only two can be assigned to a computer. The first and last numbers of any block are reserved for network communication. These are level 30 blocks and can be expressed like this:

`148.20.57.0/30`, or
`148.20.57.4/30`, or
`148.20.57.8/30`, etc.

The next largest block is 8. They can be as follows:

`148.20.57.0 - 148.20.57.7`, or
`148.20.57.8 - 148.20.57.15`, or
`148.20.57.16 - 148.20.57.23`, etc.

In this block of 8 numbers only 6 can be assigned to a computer as, once again, the first and last numbers in a block are reserved for network communication. These can also be expressed as follows:

`148.20.57.0/29`, or
`148.20.57.8/29`, or
`148.20.57.16/29`, etc.

From this point on, the number of IP addresses in a block continue to double: 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, etc.

A block of 16 would start `148.20.57.0/28`.
A block of 32 would start `148.20.57.0/27`.
A block of 64 would start `148.20.57.0/26`.
A block of 128 would start `148.20.57.0/25`.
A block of 256 would start `148.20.57.0/24`.

So if you have an IP address and you want to block the range assigned how do you know which one to use? Let's say you have a problem with `148.20.57.34`. You can lookup who has this IP address at http://ws.arin.net/whois/?queryinput=148.20.57.34. Say this tells us that this IP address is assigned, along with a LOT of others in a `/17` range, to the Department of Defense. We certainly don't want to block a large block of the DoD! The rule of thumb is block as little as possible. Only block a range if there is a cluster of IP addresses giving a problem.

There's a calculator that is very useful for this: http://www.csgnetwork.com/ipinfocalc.html. Go to this site and enter `148.20.57.34` into the first set of blanks. Now select Network Prefix Length and enter `27` (this will give a block of 32 addresses) and click Calculate Network Information. This will show us a block of 32 IP addresses that include `148.20.57.34`. (The first - network - and the last - broadcast - addresses will be displayed along with the usable addresses in the range.) You can use this tool to test ranges to be sure they are what you want before entering the

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information to initiate the block.

25.2 Technical explanation

CIDR notation is written as the IP address, a slash, and the CIDR suffix (for example, the IPv4 "`10.2.3.41/24`" or IPv6 "`a3:b:c1:d:e:f:1:21/24`"). The CIDR suffix is the number of starting digits every IP address in the range have in common when written in binary.

For example: "`10.10.1.32`" is binary "`00001010.00001010.00000001.00100000`", so `10.10.1.32/27` will match the first 27 digits ("`00001010.00001010.00000001.001`00000"). The IP addresses `10.10.1.32`-`10.10.1.63`, when converted to binary, all have the same 27 first digits and will be blocked if `10.10.1.32/27` is blocked.

As the CIDR suffix increases, the block affects fewer IP addresses (see table of sample ranges). CIDR suffixes are not the same for IPv4 addresses as they are for IPv6 addresses.

25.3 Calculating the CIDR suffix

You can use the table of sample ranges below to guess the range, use a computer script, or manually calculate the range.

25.3.1 Conversion to binary

The first step in manually calculating a range is to convert the first and last IP address to binary representation. (This assumes you're not using a computer script, which can probably calculate the range for you anyway.) An IP address is composed of four groups of eight ones and zeros. Each group represents a number from 0 to 255. To convert a number to binary, you can use a reference table or know the value of each binary digit:

```
Binary digit:   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1
Value:        128  64  32  16   8   4   2   1
```

Proceeding from left to right, fill in `1` if the number is at least that value, and subtract that value (if it's not, fill in `0` and don't subtract). For example, to calculate 240:

1. 240 is at least 128, so place `1` and subtract 128.
2. 112 (240-128) is at least 64, so place `1` and subtract 64.
3. 48 (112-64) is at least 32, so place `1` and subtract 32.
4. 16 (48-32) is at least 16, so place `1` and subtract 16.
5. Since the remaining value is zero, all the remaining places are `0`.

Thus, 240 is `1111 0000` because it can be represented as 128+64+32+16+0+0+0+0.

25.3.2 Calculate range

1. Place both IP addresses one atop the other, and count how many starting digits are exactly alike. This is the CIDR suffix.
2. Double-check! Being off by one digit could extend your block by thousands of addresses.

The example below calculates the CIDR range between `69.208.0.0` and `69.208.0.255`. Note that this is a simple example; some groups of IP addresses do not so neatly fit CIDR suffixes, and need multiple different-sized blocks to block the exact range.

IP addresses:
```
69.208.0.0
69.208.0.255
```

Convert to binary:
```
0100 0101.1101 0000.0000 0000.0000 0000
0100 0101.1101 0000.0000 0000.1111 1111
```

Count identical first numbers:
```
0100 0101.1101 0000.0000 0000.0000 0000
0100 0101.1101 0000.0000 0000.1111 1111
|_____________________________|
          24 digits
```


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CIDR range:
`69.208.0.0/24`

25.3.3 Table of sample ranges

The table below shows the IP blocks each CIDR suffix affects. Note that MediaWiki only supports blocking CIDR suffixes 16–32.

CIDR	Start Range	End Range	Total addresses	Bits selected in IP address
69.208.0.0/**0**	0.0.0.0	255.255.255.255	4,294,967,296	********.********.********.********
69.208.0.0/**1**	0.0.0.0	127.255.255.255	2,147,483,648	0*******.********.********.********
69.208.0.0/**4**	64.0.0.0	79.255.255.255	268,435,456	0100****.********.********.********
69.208.0.0/**8**	69.0.0.0	69.255.255.255	16,777,216	01000101.********.********.********
69.208.0.0/**11**	69.192.0.0	69.223.255.255	2,097,152	01000101.110*****.********.********
69.208.0.0/**12**	69.208.0.0	69.223.255.255	1,048,576	01000101.1101****.********.********
69.208.0.0/**13**	69.208.0.0	69.215.255.255	524,288	01000101.11010***.********.********
69.208.0.0/**14**	69.208.0.0	69.211.255.255	262,144	01000101.110100**.********.********
69.208.0.0/**15**	69.208.0.0	69.209.255.255	131,072	01000101.1101000*.********.********
69.208.0.0/**16**	69.208.0.0	69.208.255.255	65,536	01000101.11010000.********.********
69.208.0.0/**17**	69.208.0.0	69.208.127.255	32,768	01000101.11010000.0*******.********
69.208.0.0/**18**	69.208.0.0	69.208.63.255	16,384	01000101.11010000.00******.********
69.208.0.0/**19**	69.208.0.0	69.208.31.255	8,192	01000101.11010000.000*****.********
69.208.0.0/**20**	69.208.0.0	69.208.15.255	4,096	01000101.11010000.0000****.********
69.208.0.0/**21**	69.208.0.0	69.208.7.255	2,048	01000101.11010000.00000***.********
69.208.0.0/**22**	69.208.0.0	69.208.3.255	1,024	01000101.11010000.000000**.********
69.208.0.0/**23**	69.208.0.0	69.208.1.255	512	01000101.11010000.0000000*.********
69.208.0.0/**24**	69.208.0.0	69.208.0.255	256	01000101.11010000.00000000.********
69.208.0.0/**25**	69.208.0.0	69.208.0.127	128	01000101.11010000.00000000.0*******
69.208.0.0/**26**	69.208.0.0	69.208.0.63	64	01000101.11010000.00000000.00******
69.208.0.0/**27**	69.208.0.0	69.208.0.31	32	01000101.11010000.00000000.000*****
69.208.0.0/**28**	69.208.0.0	69.208.0.15	16	01000101.11010000.00000000.0000****
69.208.0.0/**29**	69.208.0.0	69.208.0.7	8	01000101.11010000.00000000.00000***
69.208.0.0/**30**	69.208.0.0	69.208.0.3	4	01000101.11010000.00000000.000000**
69.208.0.0/**31**	69.208.0.0	69.208.0.1	2	01000101.11010000.00000000.0000000*
69.208.0.0/**32**	69.208.0.0	69.208.0.0	1	01000101.11010000.00000000.00000000

25.4 References

- Classless Inter-Domain Routing

25.5 External links

- IP Address Ranges Block gives you complete IP ranges for certain countries.
- Netmask calculator which helps in making the correct decision for range blocks.
- IP CIDR calculator
- Rangeblock-Calculator gives you the range you should use when blocking.

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26 Help:Recent changes

Important note: When you edit this page, you agree to release your contribution into the public domain. If you don't want this or can't do this because of license restrictions, please don't edit. This page is one of the Public Domain Help Pages, which can be freely copied into fresh wiki installations and/or distributed with MediaWiki software; see Help:Contents for an overview of all pages.

Recent changes is a special page that lists recent changes in reverse order, with creation date and time, change in the page size, user who created the page, and edit summary. It also provides links to patrol these new edits when that feature is enabled.

This feature is accessible at Special:RecentChanges. The page results are adjustable using settings the Preferences section "Recent changes".

This special page can be transcluded, with the first unnamed parameter specifying how many entries should be displayed.

```
{{Special:RecentChanges/50}}
```

Additional parameters may be used in a comma separated list such as:

```
{{Special:RecentChanges/days=5,limit=40}}
```

parameter	value type	description
days	integer	Maximum number of days to display
limit	integer	Maximum number of entries to display
hidebots		Hide bots
bots		Show bots
hideminor		Hide minor edits
minor		Show minor edits
hideliu		Hide logged in users (LIU)
hidepatrolled		Only show pages which have not been patrolled.
hideanons		Hide Anonymous users
hidemyself		Hide the logged in user's own changes

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27 Help:Redirects

Redirects are used to forward users from one page name to another. They can be useful if a particular article is referred to by multiple names, or has alternative punctuation, capitalization or spellings.

27.1 Creating a redirect

You may start a new page with the name you want to direct from (see Help:Starting a new page). You can also use an existing page that you are making inactive as a page by going to that page and using the "edit" tab at the top. In either case, you will be inserting the following code at the very first text position of the Edit window for the page:

```
#REDIRECT [[pagename]]
```

where *pagename* is the name of the destination page. The word "redirect" is not case-sensitive, but there must be no space before the "#" symbol. Any text before the code will disable the code and prevent a redirect. Any text or regular content code after the redirect code will be ignored (and should be deleted from an existing page). However, to put or keep the current page name listed in a Category, the usual tag for that category is entered or kept on a line after the redirect code entry.

You should use the 'preview' button below the Edit window, or Alt-P, to check that you have entered the correct destination page name. The preview page will not look like the resulting redirect page, it will look like a numbered list, with the destination page in blue:

```
1. REDIRECT  pagename
```

If the *pagename* as you typed it is not a valid page, it will show in red. Until there is a valid destination page, you should not make the redirect.

27.2 Viewing a redirect

After making a redirect at a page, you can no longer get to that page by using its name or by any link using that name; and they do not show up in wiki search results, either. However, near the top of the destination page, a notice that you have been forwarded appears, with the source pagename as an active link to it. Click this to get back to the redirected page, showing the large bent arrow symbol and the destination for the redirect.

By doing this, you can do all the things that any wiki page allows. You can go to the associated discussion page to discuss the redirect. You can view the history of the page, including a record of the redirect. You can edit the page if the redirect is wrong, and you can revert to an older version to remove the redirect.

27.3 Deleting a redirect

There's generally no need to delete redirects. They do not occupy a significant amount of database space. If a page name is vaguely meaningful, there's no harm (and some benefit) in having it as a redirect to the more relevant or current page.

If you do need to delete a redirect, e.g. if the page name is offensive, or you wish to discourage people from referring to a concept by that name, then you simply go to the redirect page as mentioned above, and follow the procedures at Help:Deleting a page.

27.4 Double redirects

A double redirect is a page redirecting to a page which is itself a redirect, and it will not work. Instead, people will be presented with a view of the next redirect page. This is a deliberate restriction, partly to prevent infinite loops, and partly to keep things simple.

However, you could look out for double redirects and eliminate them by changing them to be 1-step redirects instead. You are most likely to need to do this after a significant page move. Use the "what links here" toolbox link to find double redirects to a particular page, or use Special:DoubleRedirects to find them throughout the whole wiki.

27.5 A redirect to a page in the category namespace

To prevent a page that redirects to a category from appearing in the category, precede the word "Category" with a colon:

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```
#REDIRECT [[:Category:Glossary]]
```

27.6 Supressing a redirect

Users with the *suppressredirect* right may move a page without creating a redirect.

27.7 See also

- Template:softredirect
- Manual:Redirect table

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28 Help:Searching

> ***NB*** *This page summarizes the search function. More detailed information about available options can be found on the Search documentation page on English Wikipedia.*

The quickest way to find information in MediaWiki is to look it up directly. In the top right of your screen there is a **search** box with two buttons under it labeled "Go" and "Search".

Put your keyword in the searchbox.

- **Go** - (or *Enter* on keyboard) will take you automatically to the article, if it exists.
- **Search** - will search the text of all pages on the wiki (with some restrictions, see below).

If you clicked ?Go?, or you clicked ?Search? and the page you were looking for did not exist, you will be presented with a list of articles that matched your search criteria (or a message that no matches were found).

28.1 How it works

Here's how the search works:

- The article content is searched in its raw (wikitext) form - i.e., it searches the text that appears in the edit box when you click ?edit?, not the rendered page. This means that content coming from an included template will not be picked up, but the target of piped links will be.
- Even if you enclose a phrase in quotes, the search looks for each word individually. e.g., if you enter "world war 2" it will return pages that contain "world" and "war" and "2".
- The search is not case-sensitive, so "MediaWiki", "mediawiki" and "MEDIAWIKI" all give the same result.

28.2 Restricting the search

If you click the ?Search? button without filling in anything, you will be taken to ?Special:Search? which gives you extra searching options (also available from any search results list)

You may find it useful to restrict a search to pages within a particular namespace e.g., only search within the User pages. Check the namespaces you require for this search.

By default only the namespaces specified in your preferences will be searched. Logged-in users can change their preferences to specify the namespaces they want to search by default. This can be done by selecting and deselecting boxes in the ?search? section of user preferences.

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29 Help:Signatures

Users can easily **sign** their posts at the end of a comment. Signing is normally done on talk pages only, not on conjointly written articles.

29.1 Default signature options

There are three default options. Four tildes are standard (full signature). Typing three tildes results in a username-only signature (without timestamp). Typing five tildes results in a pure timestamp (without username).

Function	Wiki markup (replaced when saving)	Resulting wiki code	Resulting display
Signature plus timestamp	`~~~~`	`[[User:Username|Username]] 12:34, 1 February 2008 (UTC)`	Username 12:34, 1 February 2008 (UTC)
Signature alone	`~~~`	`[[User:Username|Username]]`	Username
Timestamp alone	`~~~~~`	`12:34, 1 February 2008 (UTC)`	12:34, 1 February 2008 (UTC)

If you edit without logging in, your IP address will take the place of a username. Usernames and IP addresses are also stored in page histories as a record of who wrote what, so others can always verify signatures.

The common format to type a signature - two hyphens (or a long dash) followed by four tildes (`-- ~~~~`) - is derived from the computer network Usenet, where two hyphens mark a signature block. Note that the hyphens or dash are not inserted automatically and have to be entered (unless you customize your signature to include them, see an example in the next section).

The actual signature string, the tildes, automatically get substituted with username (linked to the appropriate user page) and timestamp (time/date), when you save a signed edit. This helps other users to follow the chronological order of discussions, and to identify the author of a particular comment.

If you don't find the tilde on your keyboard, you can use the signature button of the default edit toolbar as a typing aid.

Signatures do not work in edit summaries (they do not translate from ~~~~ there).

Note that timestamps are currently formatted by default and saved according to the default locale conventions (language, script, date and time format) used on each wiki, and **not** according to the conventions of your current preferred language.

29.2 Customized signatures

Registered users can customize their signature (the part between the two hyphens and the timestamp) by changing the field "New signature:" in their preferences. By default, anything you enter there will be wrapped with `[[ ]]`. To use a special linking (without this automatic link), you have to enable ?Raw signatures.? Then you can add Wiki markup and also HTML (as far as allowed on the wiki) as you like, but the maximum length is 255 characters. Please note that striking signatures are often disliked by other users.

Note that if you customize your signature, you should avoid displaying the identity of another unrelated user account, unless you also own this account or are explicitly authorized by this user: the link should unambiguously point to **your** effective user page or talk page on the local wiki. However, changing your signature will **not** override the username that is recorded in page histories. Some wikis may also have defined a restricting policy about the usage of external links or images in signatures. Look at the policies documented and on enforced your local wiki about user accounts and identities.

If you enable ?Raw signatures? but don't add any customized signature string, you'll sign with your unlinked username.

The most common customizations are the following:

Purpose	Raw signature	Resulting signature display (generated by four tildes)
Embedding the dashes in the signature	`-- [[User:Username|Username]]`	-- Username 12:34, 1 February 2008 (UTC)
Adapting the displayed username to your convenience	`[[User:Username|Preferred User Name]]`	Preferred User Name 12:34, 1 February 2008 (UTC)
Adding a talk page link		

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Purpose	Raw signature	Resulting signature display (generated by four tildes)
	`[[User:Username|Username]] ([[User talk:Username|talk]])`	Username (talk) 12:34, 1 February 2008 (UTC)

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30 Help:Skins

A **skin** defines a look and feel for the MediaWiki interface. Although the look and feel varies between skins, in general all skins have the same interface components. Each skin can show the same interface component differently, by showing it in different colours or positioning it differently on the page.

To try out the available skins and change skin, click on the my preferences link while logged in, then click on the "Skin" tab. You can preview the available skins before choosing them, by clicking on the (Preview) link next to each skin.

30.1 Default skins

By default, MediaWiki includes the following skins:

- Chick
- Classic
- Cologne Blue
- Modern
- MonoBook
- MySkin
- Nostalgia
- Simple
- Vector (Image) (default)

While you can choose whichever skin you like, bear in mind that some wikis will incorporate templates or layout elements that will not display as intended in some of these skins. Generally speaking, sticking with MonoBook (or whatever the wiki's default skin is) will ensure you see pages as intended.

30.2 Customization

Users familiar with Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) can customize the current skin's file by creating a subpage of their userpage and naming it after the skin plus a .css postfix, "User:Yourname/monobook.css" for example. CSS placed in this sheet overrides the skin's CSS. This requires your site admin to have enabled this feature — if it is enabled, you will see advice text at the top of your custom CSS page about clearing your browser's cache.

30.3 See also

- Help:Preferences
- Manual:Gallery of user styles (no official skins)

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31 Help:Special pages

Special pages are pages that are created by the software on demand. They are located in their own namespace *Special:* and are not editable directly as other pages.

Some special pages depend on the preferences that have been set by a user, e.g. the number of titles which is displayed on a user's watchlist.

31.1 List of special pages

Clicking the link *Special:Specialpages* will take you to a list of all special pages on a wiki. Such a link is often accessible in the toolbox on the left hand panel. Some special pages can be transcluded.

- New images (includable)
- New pages (includable)
- Preferences
- Random page
- Recent changes (includable)
- Watchlist
- ...

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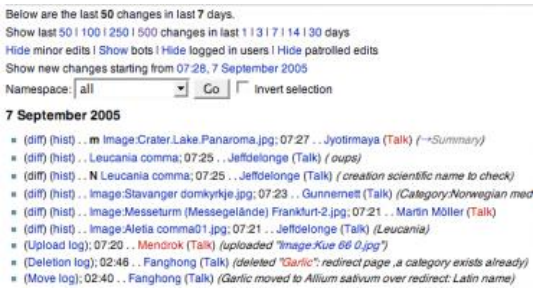
32 Help:Tracking changes


Below are the last 50 changes in last 7 days.
Show last 50 | 100 | 250 | 500 changes in last 1 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 30 days
Hide minor edits | Show bots | Hide logged in users | Hide patrolled edits
Show new changes starting from 07:28, 7 September 2005
Namespace: all Go Invert selection
7 September 2005
- (diff) (hist) . . m Image:Crater.Lake.Panaroma.jpg; 07:27 . . Jyotirmaya (Talk) (→Summary)
- (diff) (hist) . . Leucania comma; 07:25 . . Jeffdelonge (Talk) (oups)
- (diff) (hist) . . N Leucania comma; 07:25 . . Jeffdelonge (Talk) (creation scientific name to check)
- (diff) (hist) . . Image:Stavanger domkyrkje.jpg; 07:23 . . Gunnernett (Talk) (Category:Norwegian med
- (diff) (hist) . . Image:Messeturm (Messegelände) Frankfurt-2.jpg; 07:21 . . Martin Möller (Talk)
- (diff) (hist) . . Image:Aletia comma01.jpg; 07:21 . . Jeffdelonge (Talk) (Leucania)
- (Upload log); 07:20 . . Mendrok (Talk) (uploaded "Image:Kue 66 0.jpg")
- (Deletion log); 02:46 . . Fanghong (Talk) (deleted "Garlic": redirect page ,a category exists already)
- (Move log); 02:40 . . Fanghong (Talk) (Garlic moved to Allium sativum over redirect: Latin name)

Recent changes shows the latest changes to pages, file uploads, deletions and page moves
MediaWiki offers a collection of special pages and tools to keep track of what is going on in the wiki. So you can watch for example:

- recent changes to all pages
- the revision history: all changes made to one page
- the contributions of one specific user
- newly created pages

The most interesting special page is **Special:RecentChanges**. It displays all edits, file uploads, page moves, deletions and other actions done in the wiki. In the menu on top it offers a collection of links to customize your display: limit the number of changes shown, the number of days or restrict it to edits to a certain namespace. You can also hide edits marked as minor (don't forget that major changes can be flagged by a user as minor anyway).

One line in recent changes consists of several links:

- ?diff? displays the difference to the previous revision of the page,
- ?hist? links to the revision history of the page,
- the link with the full title of the page brings you to the current version. If the title is in bold, it indicates that it is on your watchlist.

Next is a flag describing the page modification type:

- ?N? denotes a new page,
- ?m? a minor edit,
- ?b? an edit made by a bot.

Following the timestamp, it shows the page size difference to the previous revision, then the user is mentioned, with a link to their user page and their talk page and contributions, or to their talk page only in the case of anonymous users.

Last but not least, there is an edit summary, appearing in italics, if the user submitted one when they made the edit.

32.1 Enhanced view

If you are logged in and have JavaScript enabled, you can also try the "enhanced" view. Simply go to your Preferences and enable "Group changes by page in recent changes and watchlist"; this will make recent changes show edits divided by page rather than being listed individually. You will now see entries like the following:

▶ 15:17 Main Page (4 changes | hist) .. (+236) .. [Some User? (2×); Some Other User (2×)]

Simply click the blue arrow to the left of the page name and timestamp to expand that page's recent edits just as they were on the normal style. You can turn this enhancement on and off at will, so feel free to try both to see which one you prefer.

32.1.1 See also

- Special:NewPages
- Related changes: Special:RecentChangesLinked/Pagename
- User contributions: Special:Contributions/User
- History
- Help:Watchlist

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33 Help:Starting a new page

There are several ways to start a new page. These can vary based on the type of page started, as well as the wiki and namespace.

33.1 Using Wikilinks

MediaWiki makes it very easy to link wiki pages using a standard syntax (see Links). If you (or anyone else) create a link to an article that doesn't exist yet, the link will be coloured red, like this.

Clicking a red link will take you to the edit page for the new article. Simply type your text, click save and the new page will be created.

Once the page has been created, the link will change from red to blue (purple for pages you've visited) indicating that the article now exists.

Usually this is the best way to create a new page, because it means that right from the start, the page will be linked from at least one other place on the wiki (and typically you will want to mesh it into other related pages later). If you are creating a new page without creating any link to it, you may need to ask yourself: Does this page really fit in with the topics already covered in the wiki? Also, how are you expecting visitors to find this page? Normally there is no reason to create a page without first creating a red link to it.

33.2 From the search page

If you search for a page that doesn't exist (using the search box and ?Go? button on the left of the page) then you will be provided with a link to create the new page.

33.3 Using the URL

You can use the wiki's URL for creating a new page. The URL to an article of the wiki is usually something like this:

- `http://www.example.net/index.php/`**`ARTICLE`** or
- `http://www.example.net/wiki/`**`ARTICLE`**

If you replace **`ARTICLE`** with the name of the page you wish to create, you will be taken to a blank page which indicates that no article of that name exists yet. Clicking the "Edit" page tab at the top of the page will take you to the edit page for that article, where you can create the new page by typing your text, and clicking submit.

33.4 Create redirects to your new page

Don't forget to set up redirects when you create a page. If you think another person may search for the page you've created by using a different name or spelling, please create the proper redirect(s). See Help:Redirects

33.5 Protecting your new page

Normally a new wiki page can be edited by other people (that is one of the main ideas of a wiki!) However, a sysop could 'protect' the page, if desired, to prevent normal users from editing it.

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34 Help:Subpages

Subpages introduce some hierarchical organization into wiki pages, with levels of the hierarchy separated by slashes (/).

34.1 Where it works

By default, MediaWiki's subpage feature is turned off in the main namespace, but can be used on talk pages and user pages. See Help:Namespaces. In namespaces where the feature is switched off, any slashes (/) within a page name are simply part of the page name and do nothing special. It's not possible to use slashes in the title of a page from a namespace where subpages are activated. However, as a crude hack, a character similar to the slash can be used instead, such as the "big solidus" (U+29F8), which results in Foo?bar (cf. a real slash: Foo/bar). Make sure to create a redirect from the title with a slash, so that linking and search will work correctly.

34.1.1 How it works

Slashes (/) within a page name break the page into parent and subpages, recursively, e.g.:

- Help:Subpages - this page
- Help:Subpages/subpage - child page
- Help:Subpages/subpage/sub-subpage - grandchild page

Note that the part of page names after a slash is case sensitive **including the first letter**.

In subpages, a link back to antecedent pages will automatically appear at the top. These links do not appear, however, if the antecedent pages have not yet been created.

34.1.2 Use of subpages

There are various uses for the subpage feature. Some of the typical usages of subpages are:

- to create archives of old discussions under a talk page
- to create scratchpad editing spaces under a user page
- to create other language versions of a document in multilingual wikis

Subpages are useful for organising information hierarchically. On the other hand, subpages tend to have a long name that is hard to remember, so it may be more user-friendly to use them as little as possible. You can also organize pages with the category feature, which is more suitable for creating a hierarchical network of information.

34.2 See also

- Manual:$wgNamespacesWithSubpages
- Meta:Help:Link#Subpage feature
- Help:Variables#Page names
- Special:PrefixIndex – Provides a list of subpages.

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35 subpage

This is a **subpage** of Help:Subpages, created as an example of the feature.

- Help:Subpages - parent page
- Help:Subpages/subpage - this page
- Help:Subpages/subpage/sub-subpage - child page

When the parent page actually exists, a link to the parent page automatically appears under the page name header at the top. If the subpage feature is turned off, this will not appear.

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36 sub-subpage

Important note: When you edit this page, you agree to release your contribution into the public domain. If you don't want this or can't do this because of license restrictions, please don't edit. This page is one of the Public Domain Help Pages, which can be freely copied into fresh wiki installations and/or distributed with MediaWiki software; see Help:Contents for an overview of all pages.

This is a **sub-subpage** of Help:Subpages, created as an example of the feature.

- Help:Subpages - grandparent page
- Help:Subpages/subpage - parent page
- Help:Subpages/subpage/sub-subpage - this page

When the antecedent pages actually exist, the links to antecedent pages automatically appear under the page name header at the top, creating a breadcrumb. If the subpage feature is turned off, this will not appear.

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37 Help:Sysop deleting and undeleting

Deleting a page is a straightforward operation for anyone with sysop permissions. Users without such permissions can still remove text from wiki pages, or propose/request that a page should be deleted. See Help:Deleting a page.

37.1 Before deleting

Sysops should also be aware of the general advice given on Help:Deleting a page. (It should be noted that, in particular, there are many situations where a deleting is too drastic. For example, a redirect is often more appropriate).

Before deleting you could perform various checks:

- Use the "What links here" tool. This gives an indication as to how important a page is, and what subjects it relates to. Perhaps the page is still linked to prominently from many places. All incoming links will become red links if you proceed with the delete. Ideally all incoming links should be changed/removed, if there is genuinely no need for this page to exist. You could do this work prior to deleting, or ask others in the wiki community to do it.
- Check the page history and the associated talk page. Who was proposing the deletion? Does anyone disagree? Has it been properly discussed? Did people have adequate time to raise objections? Did somebody vandalise a page, which then led to a deletion proposal?

The care taken over these things might depend on the size of the wiki community, and how clear-cut the case for deletion is. Remember that only sysop users can undo a delete action, so to a normal user the information appears to be lost forever.

37.2 Use the 'delete' tab

Sysops should see a 'delete' tab at the top of every page. Click this to delete the page. You will be asked to confirm, and to supply a "Reason for deletion". This is a short textual description of why the page is being deleted. Your action will appear on the recent changes display, and in the deletion log (Special:Log).

37.3 Undeleting

To undelete a page you must navigate to the exact page name of the page. You can find this in the deletion log (Special:Log) if you dont remember it.

You should then see a link to "View or restore n deleted edits". Tick the box next to the revision you wish to restore.

37.4 Configuring deletion reasons

The list of reasons in the dropdown box is maintained at MediaWiki:Deletereason-dropdown.

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38 Help:Sysops and permissions

The way **permissions** are set-up on different wikis can vary, but the default MediaWiki installation has several different permissions available; most notably the sysop and bureaucrat permissions.

38.1 Soft security - There *are* no permissions

Wikis are often set up to be freely and openly editable. This means anyone can edit the pages, often without even registering/logging in. This is only possible because wikis offer a unique kind of "soft security". By making it very simple to monitor edits, and revert changes to retrieve an older version of a page, a wiki doesn't need to be very restrictive at all.

There *are* no permissions. Everyone is an administrator. You don't need permission to edit, and you are encouraged to "be bold", go forth and edit!

...at least that is the theory. In practice MediaWiki software does offer many options related to permissions.

38.2 Sysops

By default MediaWiki provides extra functionality to a group of trusted users called 'sysops' (or known more generally as 'administrators') Most of the time this should go largely unnoticed by the normal users of a wiki community. Everyone can get involved in editing pages, and even undertaking drastic reorganisation of the wiki. The extra powers of a sysop user are intended for use in settling disputes and preventing repeated vandalism.

38.2.1 Who are the sysops?

You can find out who the sysops are at Special:ListUsers/sysop

38.2.2 What can a sysop do?

There are a number of extra features available to sysops. The key ones are as follows:

Protecting and unprotecting pages, and editing protected pages
: 'Protecting' a page prevents normal users from editing the page at all. There are several reasons why a particular page might be protected. For more information see Help:Protected pages. For sysop information see Help:Protecting and unprotecting pages

Deleting pages, and undeleting.
: A page can be deleted semi-permanently, such that it is no longer available (even in the page histories) for normal users. Normal users do not have this power. See Help:Deleting a page. For sysop information see Help:Sysop deleting and undeleting.

Blocking a user or IP address, and unblocking them.
: Users can be blocked from the wiki. This is a useful way of keeping out persistent vandals. Users are identified by their registered user name, or by I.P. address, and can be blocked permanently, or just short length of time to give them a "cooling off" period. See Help:Blocking users

Patrolling, and seeing patrolled edits.
: This is a way of coordinating with other sysops, to ensure that every edit of the wiki has been checked over by a trusted user. See Help:Patrolled edits

38.3 Bureaucrats

Another level of permissions within a default MediaWiki set-up, is the 'bureaucrat' group.

The main thing a bureaucrat can do, which 'sysop' cannot, is **promote users to be sysops** (and demote sysops to normal users). See Help:Assigning permissions

38.4 See Also

- Manual:Administrators

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39 Help:Tables

Tables may be authored in wiki pages using either XHTML table elements directly, or using wikicode formatting to define the table. XHTML table elements and their use are well described on various web pages and will not be discussed here. The benefit of wikicode is that the table is constructed of character symbols which tend to make it easier to perceive the table structure in the article editing view compared to XHTML table elements.

As a general rule, it is best to avoid using a table unless you need one. Table markup often complicates page editing.

39.1 Wiki table markup summary

	table start `{|`
	table **caption,** *optional;* only between **table start** and first **table row** `|+`
	table row, *optional on first row* -- wiki engine assumes the first row `|-`
	table header cell, *optional.* Consecutive **table header** cells may be added on same line separated by double marks (`!!`) or start on new lines, each with its own single mark (`!`).
	table data cell, *required!* Consecutive **table data** cells may be added on same line separated by double marks (`||`) or start on new lines, each with its own single mark (`|`).
	table end `|}`

- The above marks must **start on a new line** except the double `||` and `!!` for optionally adding consecutive cells to a line. However, blank spaces at the beginning of a line are ignored.
- **XHTML attributes.** Each mark, except table end, optionally accepts one or more XHTML attributes. Attributes must be on the same line as the mark. Separate attributes from each other with a single space.
  - Cells and caption (`|` or `||`, `!` or `!!`, and `|+`) hold content. So separate any attributes from content with a single pipe (`|`). Cell content may follow on same line or on following lines.
  - Table and row marks (`{|` and `|-`) do not directly hold content. Do *not* add pipe (`|`) after their optional attributes. If you erroneously add a pipe after attributes for the table mark or row mark the parser will delete it *and* your final attribute if it was touching the erroneous pipe!
- **Content** may (a) follow its cell mark on the same line after any optional XHTML attributes or (b) on lines below the cell mark. Content that uses wiki markup that itself needs to start on a new line, such as lists, headings, or nested tables, must be on its own new line.
  - **Pipe character as content.** To insert a pipe (`|`) character into a table use the <nowiki>|</nowiki> escaping markup

39.2 Basics

The following table lacks borders and good spacing but shows the simplest wiki markup table structure.

You type	You get

`{|`
`|Orange`
`|Apple`
`|-`
`|Bread`
`|Pie`
`|-`
`|Butter`
`|Ice cream`
`|}`
	Orange Apple
	Bread Pie
	Butter Ice cream

The cells in the same row can be listed on one line separated by `||` (two pipe symbols). If the text in the cell contains a line break, use `<br />` instead.

You type	You get

`{|`
`|Orange||Apple||more`
`|-`
`|Bread||Pie||more`
`|-`
	Orange Apple more
	Bread Pie more
	Butter

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You type	You get
`|Butter||Ice cream||and more|}`	Ice cream and more

Extra spaces within cells in the wiki markup, as in the wiki markup below, do not affect the actual table rendering.

You type	You get

`{|`
`|  Orange  ||  Apple  ||  more`
`|-`
`|  Bread  ||  Pie  ||  more`
`|-`
`|  Butter  || Ice cream ||  and more`
`|}`
	Orange Apple more
	Bread Pie more
	Butter Ice cream and more

You can have longer text or more complex wiki syntax inside table cells, too:

You type	You get

`{|`
`|Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,`
`consetetur sadipscing elitr,`
`sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt`
`ut labore et dolore magna aliquyam erat,`
`sed diam voluptua.`
 	
`At vero eos et accusam et justo duo dolores`
`et ea rebum. Stet clita kasd gubergren,`
`no sea takimata sanctus est Lorem ipsum`
`dolor sit amet.`
`|`
`* Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet`
`* consetetur sadipscing elitr`
`* sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt`
`|}`
	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consetetur sadipscing elitr, sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore magna aliquyam erat, sed diam voluptua.
	
	At vero eos et accusam et justo duo dolores et ea rebum. Stet clita kasd gubergren, no sea takimata sanctus est Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet.
	
	• Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet
	• consetetur sadipscing elitr
	• sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt

39.2.1 Table headers

Table headers can be created by using "!" (exclamation mark) instead of "|" (pipe symbol). Headers usually show up bold and centered by default.

You type	You get

`{|`
`! Item`
`! Amount`
`! Cost`
`|-`
`|Orange`
`|10`
`|7.00`
`|-`
`|Bread`
`|4`
`|3.00`
`|-`
`|Butter`
`|1`
`|5.00`
`|-`
`!Total`
`|`
`|15.00`
`|}`
	Item **Amount** **Cost**
	Orange 10 7.00
	Bread 4 3.00
	Butter 1 5.00
	Total 15.00

39.2.2 Caption

A **table caption** can be added to the top of any table as follows.

You type	You get

`{|`
`|+Food complements`
`|-`
`|Orange`
`|Apple`
`|-`
`|Bread`
	Food complements
	
	Orange Apple
	Bread Pie

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You type	You get

<pre>|Pie
|-
|Butter
|Ice cream
|}</pre>
	Butter Ice cream

39.3 XHTML attributes

You can add XHTML attributes to tables. For the authoritative source on these, see the W3C's HTML 4.01 Specification page on tables.

39.3.1 Attributes on tables

Placing attributes after the table start tag ({|) applies attributes to the entire table.

You type	You get

<pre>{| border="1" align="center" style="text-align:center;"
|Orange
|Apple
|12,333.00
|-
|Bread
|Pie
|500.00
|-
|Butter
|Ice cream
|1.00
|}</pre>
	Orange Apple 12,333.00
	Bread Pie 500.00
	Butter Ice cream 1.00

39.3.2 Attributes on cells

You can put attributes on individual **cells**. For example, numbers may look better aligned right.

You type	You get

<pre>{| border="1"
|Orange
|Apple
|align="right" | 12,333.00
|-
|Bread
|Pie
|align="right" | 500.00
|-
|Butter
|Ice cream
|align="right" | 1.00
|}</pre>
	Orange Apple 12,333.00
	Bread Pie 500.00
	Butter Ice cream 1.00

You can also use **cell** attributes when you are listing multiple **cells** on a single line. Note that the **cells** are separated by ||, and within each **cell** the attribute(s) and value are separated by |.

You type	You get

<pre>{| border="1"
| Orange || Apple || align="right" | 12,333.00
|-
| Bread || Pie || align="right" | 500.00
|-
| Butter || Ice cream || align="right" | 1.00
|}</pre>
	Orange Apple 12,333.00
	Bread Pie 500.00
	Butter Ice cream 1.00

39.3.3 Attributes on rows

You can put attributes on individual **rows**, too.

You type	You get

<pre>{| border="1"
|Orange
|Apple
|align="right"|12,333.00
|-
|Bread
|Pie</pre>
	Orange Apple 12,333.00
	Bread Pie 500.00
	Butter Ice cream 1.00

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You type	You get

<pre>|align="right"|500.00
|- style="font-style:italic; color:green;"
|Butter
|Ice cream
|align="right"|1.00
|}</pre>	

39.3.3.1 Simple one-pixel table border

The default table formatting uses the "border-collapse: separate" model, which adds table cell spacing (which also separates the table outer border from its content cells). Even with a zero cellspacing, the borders of consecutive cells (and of the overall table container) will add up, so to get a one-pixel separation between cells, you need to selectively remove one or more of the four borders of cells.

Such tables may be formatted more simply, using the "border-collapse: collapse" CSS property; in this table formatting model, the cellspacing attribute (or the CSS "border-spacing:" property) and the table's "padding:" CSS property is ignored and only the larger border of adjacent inner cells (or the table border for outer cells) will be used.

An example of the above for one-pixel table border, using each model (without need for external extensions):

You type

<pre>{|style="border-collapse: separate; border-spacing: 0; border-width: 1px; border-style: solid; border-colo
|-
!style="border-style: solid; border-width: 0 1px 1px 0"| Orange
!style="border-style: solid; border-width: 0 0 1px 0"| Apple
|-
|style="border-style: solid; border-width: 0 1px 0 0"| Bread
|style="border-style: solid; border-width: 0"| Pie
|}</pre>

<pre>{|style="border-collapse: collapse; border-width: 1px; border-style: solid; border-color: #000"
|-
!style="border-style: solid; border-width: 1px"| Orange
!style="border-style: solid; border-width: 1px"| Apple
|-
|style="border-style: solid; border-width: 1px"| Bread
|style="border-style: solid; border-width: 1px"| Pie
|}</pre>

Notes :

- When using the "border-width:" CSS shortcut property, the order of the four space-separated specified values is: top, right, bottom, left. As an example from above:

  "border-width: 0 1px 0 0"

  When there are fewer than 4 values, the value for left takes its default from the value for right, the value for bottom takes its default from the value for top, and the value for right takes its default from the value for top.

- The HTML attributes (such as "width=", "border=", "cellspacing=", "cellpadding=") do not need any length unit (the pixel unit is assumed). The CSS style properties (which override the HTML attributes) require an explicit length unit (if the value is not 0) such as "px" for the pixel.

39.3.4 HTML colspan and rowspan

You can use HTML **colspan** and **rowspan** attributes on cells for advanced layout.

You type	You get

<pre>{| border="1"
!colspan="6"|Shopping List
|-
|rowspan="2"|Bread & Butter
|Pie
|Buns
|Danish
|colspan="2"|Croissant
|-
|Cheese
|colspan="2"|Ice cream
|Butter
|Yoghurt
|}</pre>
	Shopping List
	Bread & Butter / Pie / Buns / Danish / Croissant
	Cheese / Ice cream / Butter / Yoghurt

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39.3.5 With HTML attributes and CSS styles

CSS style attributes can be added with or without other HTML attributes.

You type	You get

`{| style="color:green; background-color:#ffffcc;" cellpadding="10" cellspacing="0" border="1"`
`|Orange`
`|Apple`
`|-`
`|Bread`
`|Pie`
`|-`
`|Butter`
`|Ice cream`
`|}`
	Orange / Apple
	Bread / Pie
	Butter / Ice cream

Attributes can be added to the caption and headers as follows.

You type	You get

`{| border="1" cellpadding="20" cellspacing="0"`
`|+ align="bottom" style="color:#e76700;" |''Food complements''`
`|-`
`|Orange`
`|Apple`
`|-`
`|Bread`
`|Pie`
`|-`
`|Butter`
`|Ice cream`
`|}`
	Orange / Apple
	Bread / Pie
	Butter / Ice cream
	Food complements

39.3.6 Accessibility of table header cells

Table header cells do not explicitly specify which table data cells they apply to (those on their right on the same row, or those below them on the same column). When the table is rendered in a visual 2D environment, this is usually easy to infer.

However when tables are rendered on non-visual medias, you can help the browser to determine which table header cell applies to the description of any selected cell (in order to repeat its content in some accessibility helper) using a scope="row" or scope="col" attribute on table header cells. In most cases with simple tables, you'll use scope="col" on all header cells of the first row, and scope="row" on the first cell of the following rows:

You type	You get

`{| border="1" cellspacing="0" cellpadding="2"`
`|-`
`!scope="col"| Item`
`!scope="col"| Quantity`
`!scope="col"| Price`
`|-`
`!scope="row"| Bread`
`| 0.3 kg`
`| $0.65`
`|-`
`!scope="row"| Butter`
`| 0.125 kg`
`| $1.25`
`|-`
`!scope="row" colspan="2"| Total`
`| $1.90`
`|}`
	Item / **Quantity** / **Price**
	Bread / 0.3 kg / $0.65
	Butter / 0.125 kg / $1.25
	Total / $1.90

39.4 Caveats

39.4.1 Negative numbers

If you start a cell on a new line with a negative number with a minus sign (or a parameter that evaluates to a negative number), your table can get broken, because the characters `|-` will be parsed as the wiki markup for table row, not table cell. To avoid this, insert a space before the value (`| -6`) or use in-line cell markup (`|| -6`).

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39.4.2 CSS vs Attributes

Table borders specified through CSS rather than the border attribute will render incorrectly in a small subset of text browsers.

39.4.3 Common attributes for columns, column groups and row groups

The MediaWiki syntax for tables currently offers no support for specifying common attributes for columns (with the HTML element `<col />`), column groups (HTML element `<colgroup>...</colgroup>`) and row groups (HTML elements `<thead>...</thead>`, `<tbody>...</tbody>` and `<tfoot>...</tfoot>`). Those standard HTML elements are not accepted even in their HTML or XHTML syntax.

All the rows and cells (header or data) of the table are rendered within a single implicit row group (HTML element `<tbody>...</tbody>`) without any attributes or styles.

39.5 See also

- meta:Help:Sorting
- wikipedia:Help:Tables

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40 Help:Talk pages

Every wiki page has an associated talk page which can be used for discussion and communicating with other users. Talk pages can be accessed by clicking the ?discussion? tab at the top of the page. Simply edit the page as normal to add your comment.

A talk page is actually very similar to any other wiki page, but it is in the ?Talk? namespace, to keep it separate from the articles in the ?(Main)? namespace (See Help:namespaces). As with any wiki page, you can edit it, link to it, and view the editing history.

40.1 Editing conventions on talk pages

Having discussions on a free-form wiki page will seem strange at first. It helps if everyone follows some simple editing conventions:

- Always sign your name after your comments. Use the four tildes ?~~~~? wiki syntax (or the signature button in the toolbar above the editing textbox). For more information see Help:Signatures.
- Start a new discussion with a `==level 2 heading==` at the bottom of the page (or use the ?+? tab)
- Indent replies with colons (`:`) at the beginning of the line.

40.1.1 Example

Here is an example discussion, following the talk page conventions:

Wiki text

```
== More spiders information needed ==
This page has a lot of detail about the web, but I
really dont understand a single word of it, and it
doesn't mention the spider once -- [[User:Example|Bob
Smith]] 18:07, 26 August 1991 (UTC)
: No no. This page is talking about the "world wide
web". I have added a clarification at the top -
[[User:Example|Simon Brown]] 11:21, 28 August 1991(UTC)
:: Oh I see... So what's the big deal about hyperlinked
documents? Seems like a stupid idea to me. --
[[User:Example|Bob Smith]] 14:11, 3 September 1991
(UTC)
::: Well I think we should have some information about
it here on our wiki, but you're probably right. It'll
never catch on. -- [[User:Example|Simon Brown]] 21:55,
3 September 1991 (UTC)
```

Rendered talk page

More spiders information needed
This page has a lot of detail about the web, but I really dont understand a single word of it, and it doesn't mention the spider once -- Bob Smith 18:07, 26 August 1991 (UTC)

> No no. This page is talking about the "world wide web". I have added a clarification at the top - Simon Brown 11:21, 28 August 1991(UTC)
>
> > Oh I see... So what's the big deal about hyperlinked documents? Seems like a stupid idea to me. -- Bob Smith 14:11, 3 September 1991 (UTC)
> >
> > > Well I think we should have some information about it here on our wiki, but you're probably right. It'll never catch on. -- Simon Brown 21:55, 3 September 1991 (UTC)

40.2 Editing discussions

Having discussions on a free-form wiki page will seem strange at first. It has some advantages over the conventional rigid forum format, but it can get a little messy. As with other wiki pages, anyone can help with tidying up discussions, to conform to the editing conventions e.g. add signatures and headings where they are missing.

Clearly we also have the opportunity to edit other people's comments. It is generally bad etiquette to modify somebody else's wording (Better to just add your own comment with your corrections) But it can be acceptable to...

Modify discussion headings

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Change wording or append words to the discussion headings, to better describe the topic of discussion. Note that good descriptive headings become important when many discussions start to fill the page.

Move discussions to a different page

If discussions are put in the wrong place on the wiki, and are better associated with different talk page, then you could just move the discussion by cut & paste. This is potentially confusing, for the people posting, but can be important for keeping things tidy. You could leave the discussion in the wrong place for a few days/weeks grace before tidying it. You could leave a link behind explaining that a discussion was moved, or if not, you should link within the edit summary.

Delete discussions when they are out-of-date

Discussions can often get left lying around on a talk page long after the issue is no longer relevant. It's usually a good idea to reply to saying "I think this is now resolved", but sooner or later it's time to just blow away the old discussions (they are of course preserved in the editing history).

Split a post into several discussions

It may be appropriate to do this, if somebody has raised several points which need to be answered separately. However you should always be respectful to other people's words. Does their post still make sense if you split it up?

40.3 Building articles - Discussing articles

It is usually best to keep focused on the task of building a wiki article, and use discussion pages only to support this process. The topic of conversation should generally revolve around what needs to be done to make the associated article better. Remember that editing the article itself is often a more effective means of communicating. It can be more difficult, requiring you to balance your views alongside those of others, but it can also be more rewarding. This is how the community of wiki editors will make progress. Often it will feel more natural to engage in heated debate on a talk page (or indeed any other contact channel) but in fact the wiki article itself can offer a powerful means of reaching middle-ground. Think about how to portray both sides of the argument (e.g. listing advantages and disadvantages) and you may find the debate evaporates.

40.4 User talk pages

A "User talk page" is a talk page associated with somebody's "User page" (See Help:User page). This is a place to leave messages for a particular wiki user.

This can function as a kind of messaging system. Users receive the following prominent notification when new messages have been left on their talk page:

You have ?newmessageslink? (?newmessagesdifflink?).
The message will continue to be displayed on all pages until users visit their talk page.

They may be notified by email as well, although this cannot always be relied upon (since the email notification feature must be activated by supplying a valid email address, and clicking a confirmation link). If you don't get a response to your user talk page message, try looking for other contact details which they may have supplied on their user page.

Note that the messages are not private, and others can join in the conversation.

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41 Help:Templates

If you have standard texts you want to include on several pages, the MediaWiki template feature comes into play.

41.1 Creation

Templates are standard wiki pages whose content is designed to be transcluded (embedded) inside other pages. Templates follow a convention that the name is prefixed with "`Template:`", assigning it to that namespace; besides this, you can create them like any other wiki page.

The simplest use of templates is as follows. If you create a page called "Template:Welcome" with contents:

```
Hello! Welcome to the wiki.
```

you'll have created your first template! If you then insert the code:

```
{{Welcome}}
```

in any other page, when that page is viewed the text "Hello! Welcome to the wiki." will appear instead of `{{Welcome}}`. The template content is "transcluded" into the other page, i.e. it is integrated in the page.

You can then insert `{{Welcome}}` at any point of any page where you wish to welcome someone. Suppose it is used in 100 pages. If you then change the template contents to:

```
Hi there! Welcome to this wonderful wiki.
```

and revisit any of the 100 pages where the template was used, you'll see the new text instead of the original one. In this way, you have changed the content of 100 pages without editing them, because the template is transcluded into these pages.

This is the basic mechanism. There are several additional features of transclusion that enrich this mechanism and make templates very useful.

41.2 Usage

Templates can be used in other pages in these ways:

- `{{Name}}`, described above, 'transcludes' (i.e. includes a copy of) the content of the template (stored in the page [[Template:Name]]) whenever the page containing the template transclusion is fetched and displayed; i.e. if the template is later changed, the displayed transcluding page will automatically change too
- `{{subst:Name}}` replaces that string with the contents of the template, in the source of the transcluding page, when you save that page; the copy of the template contents can then be edited normally (and separately from the original in the template page). *Note*: don't use this if you are looking to continually propagate changes from the source template to the page(s) that references it.
- `{{safesubst:Name}}` was introduced in rev:61710 to allow for substitution that doesn't break transclusion, see w:en:Help:Substitution#The safesubst: modifier.
- `{{msgnw:Name}}` includes the template in a form that displays it as raw wiki syntax (the way `<nowiki>` does) when the page containing it is fetched.

In fact, an ordinary wiki page can also be used as a template, simply by specifying the namespace it resides in, so:

- `{{Template:Pagename}}` includes `[[Template:Pagename]]`
- `{{Foo:Pagename}}` includes `[[Foo:Pagename]]`
- `{{:Pagename}}` includes `[[Pagename]]`
    - `{{subst::Pagename}}` replaces itself with the contents of `[[Pagename]]`

If no such namespace exists, the full title is assumed to be a template:

- `{{Foo:Bar}}` includes `[[Template:Foo:Bar]]`

41.3 Parameters

To enrich the mechanism of transclusion, MediaWiki allows parameters to be passed to a template when it is transcluded. Parameters allow the template to produce different contents or have different behaviors.

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Suppose you wish to insert a little thank you note in the talk page of other users, such as:

A little thank you...

for all your effort.
hugs, Me

The thank you note will have a reason (in this case, "all your effort") and a signature ("Me"). Your objective is that any user is able to thank any other user, for any reason whatsoever.

So that the note will look similar everywhere it is used, you can define a template called Template:Thankyou, for example. Although the note should look similar whenever a user thanks another user, its specific contents (i.e. the reason and the signature) will be different. For that reason, you should pass them as parameters. If we ignore the remaining elements to format the box and place the image, the core content of the template will be this:

```
'''A little thank you...'''
for {{{1}}}.
hugs, {{{2}}}
```

Notice the use of `{{{1}}}` and `{{{2}}}`. This is the way to identify, within templates, the parameters that will be passed in when the template is used. Note that, within the template, each parameter is surrounded by **three** braces: `{{{ }}}`. This is different from normal template name usage.

When using the template on a page, you fill in the parameter values, separated by a pipe char (`|`). MediaWiki allows parameters to be passed to the template in three ways.

41.3.1 Anonymous parameters

To pass in anonymous parameters, list the values of those parameters sequentially:

```
{{Thankyou|all your effort|Me}}
```

In this case, template `{{Thankyou}}` receives parameters `{{{1}}}=all your effort` and `{{{2}}}=Me` and produces:

A little thank you...

for all your effort.
hugs, Me

Inverting the order of the parameters:

```
{{Thankyou|Me|all your effort}}
```

causes template `{{Thankyou}}` to receive parameters `{{{1}}}=Me` and `{{{2}}}=all your effort` and inverts the result:

A little thank you...

for Me.
hugs, all your effort

So, the order in which anonymous parameters are passed in is crucial to its behaviour.

41.3.2 Numbered parameters

To pass in parameters by number, identify each parameter when passing it:

```
{{Thankyou|2=Me|1=your friendship}}
```

This time, template `{{Thankyou}}` receives parameters `{{{1}}}=your friendship` and `{{{2}}}=Me`, though they have been supplied in inverse order, and produces:

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A little thank you...

for your friendship.
hugs, Me

41.3.3 Named parameters

The third way of passing parameters is by name, instead of numbers. In this case, the template contents would be changed to:

```
'''A little thank you...'''
for {{{reason}}}.
hugs, {{{signature}}}
```

Within the template, we use `{{{reason}}}` and `{{{signature}}}` to identify each parameter, instead of a number. To pass these parameters by name, identify each parameter when passing it:

```
{{Thankyou|signature=Me|reason=being who you are}}
```

In this case, template `{{Thankyou}}` receives parameters `{{{reason}}}=being who you are` and `{{{signature}}}=Me` and produces:

A little thank you...

for being who you are.
hugs, Me

The advantage of using named parameters in your template, besides also being flexible in the order parameters can be passed, is that it makes the template code much easier to understand if there are many parameters.

41.3.4 Default values

If you transclude a template that expects parameters, but do not provide them, in this way:

```
{{Thankyou}}
```

in the numbered parameters example above you would get the following:

A little thank you...

for {{{1}}}.
hugs, {{{2}}}

Since no parameters were passed in, the template presents the parameters themselves, instead of their respective values. In these cases, it may be useful to define *default* values for the parameters, i.e. values that will be used if no value is passed in. For example, if the template contents are changed to:

```
'''A little thank you...'''
for {{{reason|everything}}}.
hugs, {{{signature|Me}}}
```

then `{{{reason|everything}}}` defines that if no parameter `{{{reason}}}` is provided, then the value `everything` will be used. Similarly, `{{{signature|Me}}}`, defaults parameter `{{{signature}}}` to value `Me`. Now, transcluding the template again without passing any parameter, results in the following:

A little thank you...

for everything.
hugs, Me

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41.3.5 Control template inclusion

You can control template inclusion by the use of <noinclude> and <includeonly> tags.

Anything between <noinclude> and </noinclude> will be processed and displayed only when the template's page is being viewed directly.

Possible applications are:

- Categorising templates
- Interlanguage links to similar templates in other languages
- Explanatory text about how to use the template

The converse is <includeonly>. Text between <includeonly> and </includeonly> will be processed and displayed only when the page is being included. The obvious application is to add all pages containing a given template to a category, without putting the template itself into that category.

Note: when you change the categories applied by a template, the categorization of the pages that use that template may not be updated until some time later: this is handled by the job queue.

41.3.6 Organizing templates

For templates to be effective, users need to find them, and find out how to use them.

To find them, users can:

1. Click **Special Pages > All Pages**
2. In the **Namespace** list, choose **Template** and click **Go**.

To give usage information, include an example like this one on the template page:

```
<noinclude>
== Usage ==
Welcome users:
{{Thankyou|reason=your reason|signature=your signature}}
</noinclude>
```

Then, an editor can simply copy and paste the example to use the template.

41.4 Copying from one wiki to another

Templates often require CSS or other templates, so users frequently have trouble copying templates from one wiki to another. The steps below should work for most templates:

41.4.1 If you have import rights on the new wiki

1. Go to Special:Export on the original wiki. Enter the name of the template in the big text box, check "Include templates" and click Export. This will download a .xml file.
2. Go to Special:Import on the new wiki and upload the .xml file.
3. Look for CSS classes (like class="foobar") in the template text. If those classes appear in "MediaWiki:Common.css" or "MediaWiki:Monobook.css" on the original wiki, copy them to "MediaWiki:Common.css" on the new wiki.
4. If the template uses ParserFunctions, you have to install the ParserFunctions extension.

41.4.2 If you don't have import rights on the new wiki

1. Copy the template text to the new wiki; link to the original page in the edit summary for attribution.
2. Edit the template on the new wiki, and look through the list of templates at the bottom. The ones in red will also need to be copied from the original wiki to the new wiki. You may have to repeat this process multiple times before all dependency templates have been recognized and copied.
3. Look for CSS classes (like class="foobar") in the template text. If those classes appear in "MediaWiki:Common.css" or "MediaWiki:Monobook.css" on the original wiki, copy them to "MediaWiki:Common.css" on the new wiki.
4. If the template uses ParserFunctions, you must install the ParserFunctions extension.

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41.5 See also

- Help:External searches - a template special use case example
- Help:Magic words - fancy stuff you may find in some templates
- Help:Parser functions in templates
- MetaWiki:Help:Template - contains a much more thorough manual on how exactly templates function
- MetaWiki:Help:Embed page - embedding pages from namespaces other than `Template:`.

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42 Help:User page

A **user page** is a page about a wiki user; someone who registered on the wiki, and is (most probably) a contributor.

If you have registered, you can create your own user page. Your user page is linked in the top right. More importantly, others will see links to your user page from various places which assist wiki collaboration. This includes the ?Recent changes? and ?page history? displays (See Help:Tracking changes). You can also link to your user page within text of a wiki page, which is mainly useful on talk pages when you sign your name.

42.1 What to put on your user page

User pages are just as flexible as any other wiki page, and it's a page all about you, so generally people will leave you to freely write your user page in whatever format you like. It's a feature to help other people know who you are, and to bring the online community closer together. Think of it as a ?profile? page. You might like to mention where you are from and what your job is. You can also state what your main areas of interest are in relation to the topic of the wiki, and describe contributions you have made or areas where you are interested in contributing.

42.1.1 User scratchpad / development area

You can use your user page as a scratchpad. An area for developing ideas without cluttering the main namespace (see Help:Namespaces). If subpages are enabled (see Help:Subpages), you may find them useful for creating sub pages under your user page. However you should avoid expending too much effort within your own area of the wiki. Be bold! Edit the main wiki articles! If your wiki has a shared Sandbox page, you can also use it for quick (non-permanent) wiki experimentation.

42.2 Other people's user pages

As mentioned above, you will see links to other people's user pages, in various places throughout the wiki.

42.2.1 User Contributions

When viewing another person's user page, an additional link ?user contributions" appears in the ?tools? of the sidebar. This takes you to a list of all of this user's wiki edits. Use this to get an idea of how prolific a contributor somebody is, or to track down edits made by a user who is causing trouble/making bad wiki edits.

42.2.2 Editing someone else's page

It's generally considered bad etiquette to rewrite or reword another person's user page. Editing is not disallowed, but you should avoid adding information (or especially opinions) which might be misinterpreted as coming from that user, in situations where this could potentially cause upset. Some types of edit are widely acceptable, and unlikely to cause upset:

- Fixing internal links, when a page has been moved or deleted
- Fixing broken external links
- Categorizing or fixing categories of user pages.

42.2.3 User talk pages

Every user page has an associated talk page; a "user talk page". This is a special kind of talk page, for leaving messages directed at a particular user. See Help:Talk pages#User talk pages.

42.2.4 Link to a user page

To create a link to the user page of the user that clicks that link, use Special:MyPage.

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43 Help:Variables

1. REDIRECT Help:Magic words

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44 Help:Watchlist

Your **watchlist** is a display for tracking changes, similar to the ?Recent changes? display, but limited to showing changes only across your set of ?watched? pages. You can see the watchlist display by clicking ?watchlist? link in the top right, however this is only available to users who have registered and logged in.

Before you see anything interesting here, you must add some pages to your watchlist. Do this by navigating to a page which interests you, and clicking the **star icon** or **?watch? tab**.

The watchlist feature is mainly useful on a very busy wiki where the ?Recent changes? display becomes too ?high traffic.? On a typical low traffic wiki, you can normally see all of the editing activity across the whole wiki without feeling overwhelmed. On a more busy wiki you will find that many edits are taking place on pages which you personally find less interesting. To help track changes which are more interesting, start watching pages!

Typically you would watch pages related to your interest areas, and also pages where your care most about the content. If you make a significant edit to a page, you might chose to watch the page, to see if there are any follow-up edits for example. Note that there is a ?Watch this page? tickbox provided on the editing screen for this purpose.

On the watchlist display, some page names appear in bold. This indicates whether or not you have visited the page to see the change. It's a bit like read/unread emails in an email inbox. The ?Recent changes? display will also have some new bold highlighting, but for a different reason. Here bold is just indicating edits to pages on your watchlist.

See also Help:Tracking changes.

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