

MediaWiki: a free platform for collaboration



MediaWiki

Because ideas want to be free.

A quick look behind the button...



A free platform for collaboration

Examples of collaborative works:

- community websites;
- corporate intranets;
- knowledge management systems; and
- note services.

Source:

<http://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Wiki>

What is MediaWiki?

“MediaWiki is a free software wiki package written in PHP, originally for use on Wikipedia. It is now used by several other projects of the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation and by many other wikis.”

Source: <http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/MediaWiki>

Licence: GNU GPL (General Public License)

More details:

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/licenses.html>

MediaWiki is free software

Think free as in freedom, not beer. Free software gives users 4 freedoms:

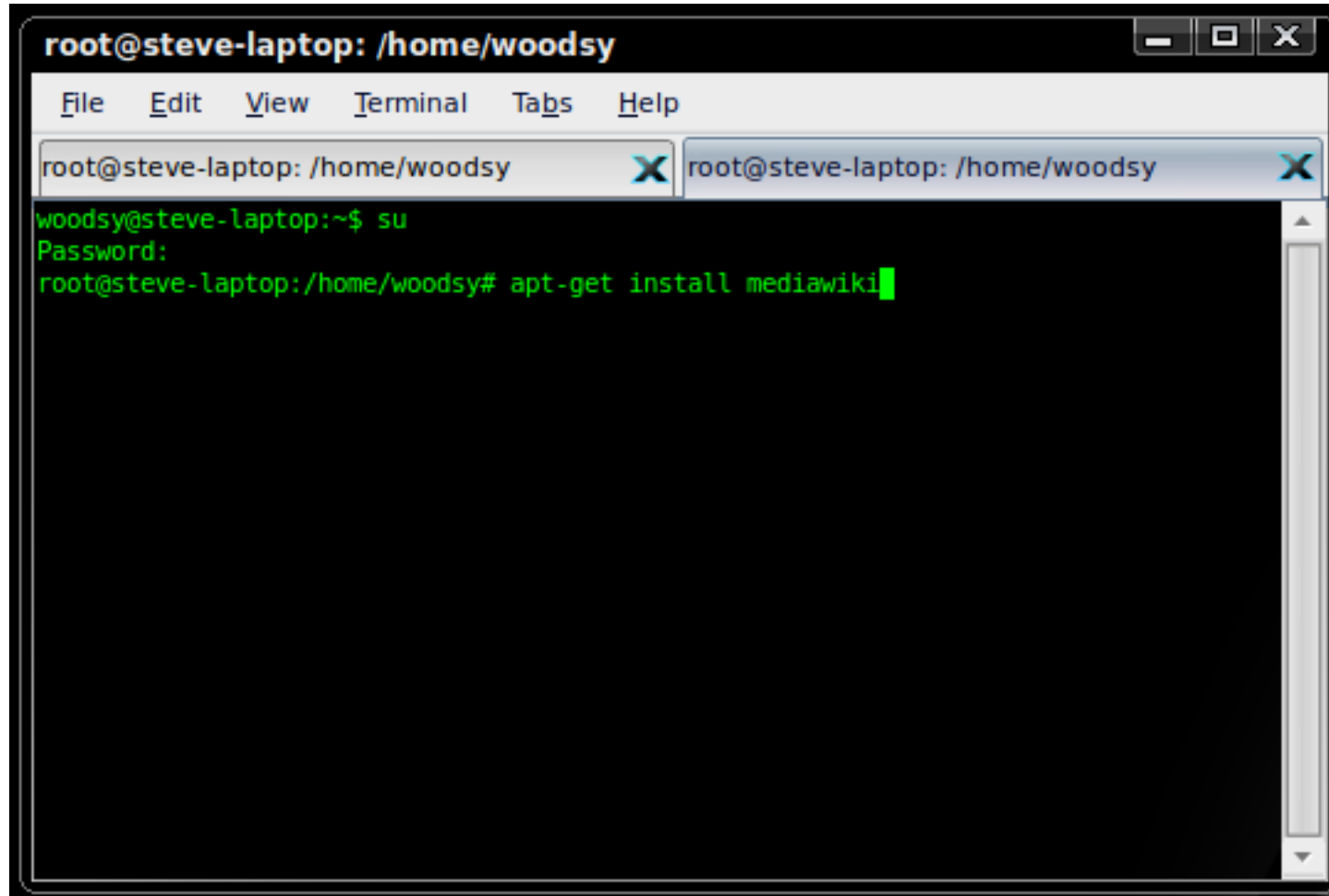
0. The freedom to run the program, for any purpose;
1. The freedom to study how the program works & change it to make it do what you wish;
2. The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbour;
3. The freedom to distribute copies of your modified versions to others.

MediaWiki installation requirements

To run MediaWiki, you will need;

- Web server such as Apache or IIS
- PHP version 5.1 or later
- Database Server
 - MySQL 4.0 or later
 - or PostgreSQL 8.1 or later

Linux installation via command line



```
root@steve-laptop: /home/woody  
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help  
root@steve-laptop: /home/woody X root@steve-laptop: /home/woody X  
woody@steve-laptop:~$ su  
Password:  
root@steve-laptop:/home/woody# apt-get install mediawiki
```

Windows sysadmins: grab this file!

<http://download.wikimedia.org/mediawiki/1.16/mediawiki-1.16.2.tar.gz>

Customising MediaWiki - skinning

WikiSysop my talk preferences my watchlist my contributions log out

Rounded Sassy Edition MediaWiki Skin
Your tagline here

search this site

GO SEARCH

navigation

- Main Page
- Community portal
- Current events
- Recent changes
- Random page
- Help
- Donations

toolbox

- What links here
- Related changes
- Upload file
- Special pages
- Printable version
- Permanent link

[article](#) [discussion](#) [edit](#) [history](#) [unprotect](#) [delete](#) [move](#) [unwatch](#)

Main Page

Welcome to the Living Philosophy Wiki!

You have arrived at a website about philosophy that anybody can edit, including you. Bring your notes, bring your arguments, bring your nebulous musings, bring your honest perceptions.

What's This About?

Other websites already catalogue existing philosophers. This wiki is not intended to duplicate those efforts, valuable though they are. It is meant to create a philosophy-in-progress by and for we the living.

How Do I Get Started?

You can start by jumping into one of the big questions and then going from there. You can also create your own page on your own topic by searching for a word. If your search term does not exist, and if you are logged in, you will be presented with a blank page, and you can start typing right away. Here are some questions that may help get you started:

[How do we know what we know?](#)

[What is the ultimate nature of the Kosmos we live in?](#)

Extending MediaWiki

You can use extensions to:

- extend the wiki mark-up used to write articles;
- add new reporting/administrative capabilities;
- change the look and feel of MediaWiki;
- enhance security via custom authentication.

Editing MediaWiki

Option 1: wiki mark-up

log in / create account

article discussion edit page-history (xml)

Editing First test page

Preview

This is just some simple markup I added quickly to do a basic test of wikizilla's parsing.

Some lists

Things I like:

- * video games
- * programming for the web
- * Linux (especially Ubuntu)
- * walking:
 - * on the beach that I used to live near
 - * and getting lost in Oxford

Things I dislike:

- * Code that is not beautiful
- * Getting the bus to work when the roads are busy
- * ways of [\[http://example.com working\]](http://example.com) that are not suitably agile
- * Long meetings that don't really go anywhere

Some tables

Heading 1	Heading 2	Heading 3
Cell 1	Cell 2 (blue)	Cell 3 w00t!
List cell	hello	goodbye
Cell B1	Cell B2 (red)	

nested
table

type a summary of your edit here

move preview with cursor realtime preview

preview cancel save

Editing MediaWiki

Option 2: WYSIWYG editor

The screenshot shows the MediaWiki WYSIWYG editor interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'page', 'discussion', 'edit', 'history', 'delete', 'move', 'protect', 'prefer', 'watch', 'my watchlist', and 'my contributions'. The 'edit' tab is selected. Below the navigation bar, the page title 'Editing Main Page' is displayed. A rich text editor toolbar is visible, containing various icons for text formatting (bold, italic, underline, text color, background color), list creation, indentation, and other editing functions. The main content area contains the following text:

Welcome to the Sales wiki.
Please consult the [MediaWiki User's Guide](#) for information on using wiki software.

Sections

- [PAWS](#)
- [Competitive Intelligence](#)
- [Sales Best Practices](#)

At the bottom of the editor, there is a disclaimer:

Please note that all contributions to Sales may be edited, altered, or removed by other contributors. If you do not want your writing to be edited mercilessly, then do not submit it here.
You are also promising us that you wrote this yourself, or copied it from a public domain or similar free resource (see

On the left side of the editor, there are three sidebar sections:

- navigation**
 - Main Page
 - Community portal
 - Current events
 - Recent changes
 - Random page
 - Help
- search**
 -
 -
- toolbox**
 - What links here
 - Related changes
 - Upload file
 - Special pages

What do you need to edit in MediaWiki?

An internet connection

A web browser

A log-in for the wiki you wish to edit

Erm, that's it!

Thank you!

Steve Woods

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