

A Tale of Language Support

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Wikimedia and MediaWiki

- MediaWiki is the software Wikipedias and sister projects run on
- 800 wikis
- 285 languages
- 23,000,000 content pages
- 500,000,000 readers
- 18,000,000,000 page views



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



Powered By
MediaWiki

What is language support about

Removing language related barriers

- ✦ Internationalisation - Allow localisation
- ✦ Localisation - Deliver a native language user experience
- ✦ Input - How can content be contributed in MediaWiki
- ✦ Output - How do users see content
- ✦ Translation - Facilitate making content available in multiple languages



Everyone is involved



http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wikimedia_Hackathon_Berlin_2011_group_photo.jpg
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- ✦ User: Report issues
- ✦ Translator: Content translation
- ✦ Translator: Localisation
- ✦ Language team: Describe language properties
- ✦ Developer: Use i18n best practices
- ✦ i18n developer: Provide i18n frameworks

Internationalisation

Make software ready for use in multiple languages

- ✦ Translatable messages
- ✦ Plural forms
- ✦ Gender
- ✦ Namespaces, magic words, URL of special pages
- ✦ Prefix and suffix for grammatical cases, number conversion, toolbar buttons, script conversion
- ✦ Many languages look a lot like English. In India that's very far from the truth



http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Petersburger_Platz.JPG
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Localisation

Translating a product for use in a language

- ✦ Translate MediaWiki in as many languages as possible
- ✦ Quality assurance: Review changes
 - ✦ Style, patchwork messages, <the things developers do>...
 - ✦ Supportgender and plural forms
 - ✦ Namespace names, magic words, special page URLs
 - ✦ Date and time notation, and more...



Logo translatewiki.net / © 2008 Danny B.

Input

Not every language and user are the same

- ✦ No or developing Unicode standards
- ✦ No keyboards
- ✦ Not always using the same computer

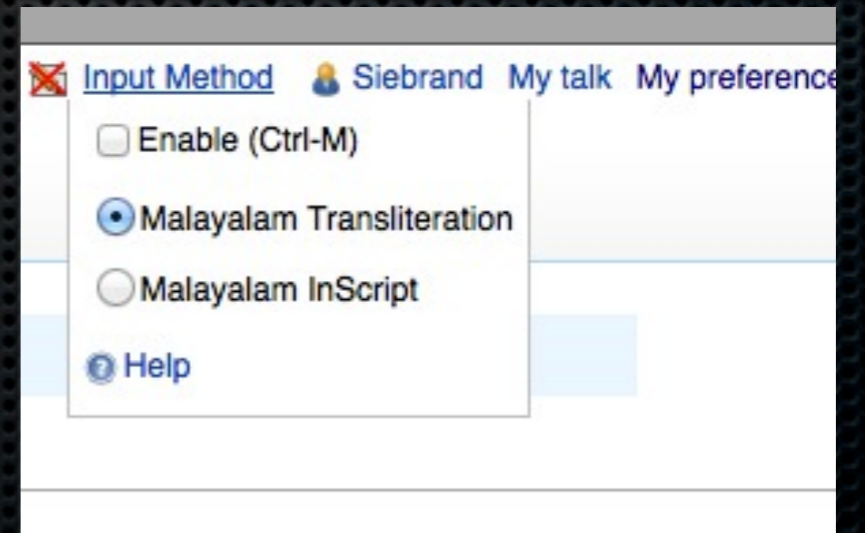


Tibetan keyboard / MIT license / [[en>User:EdC]]

Input

[[mw:Extension:Narayam]]

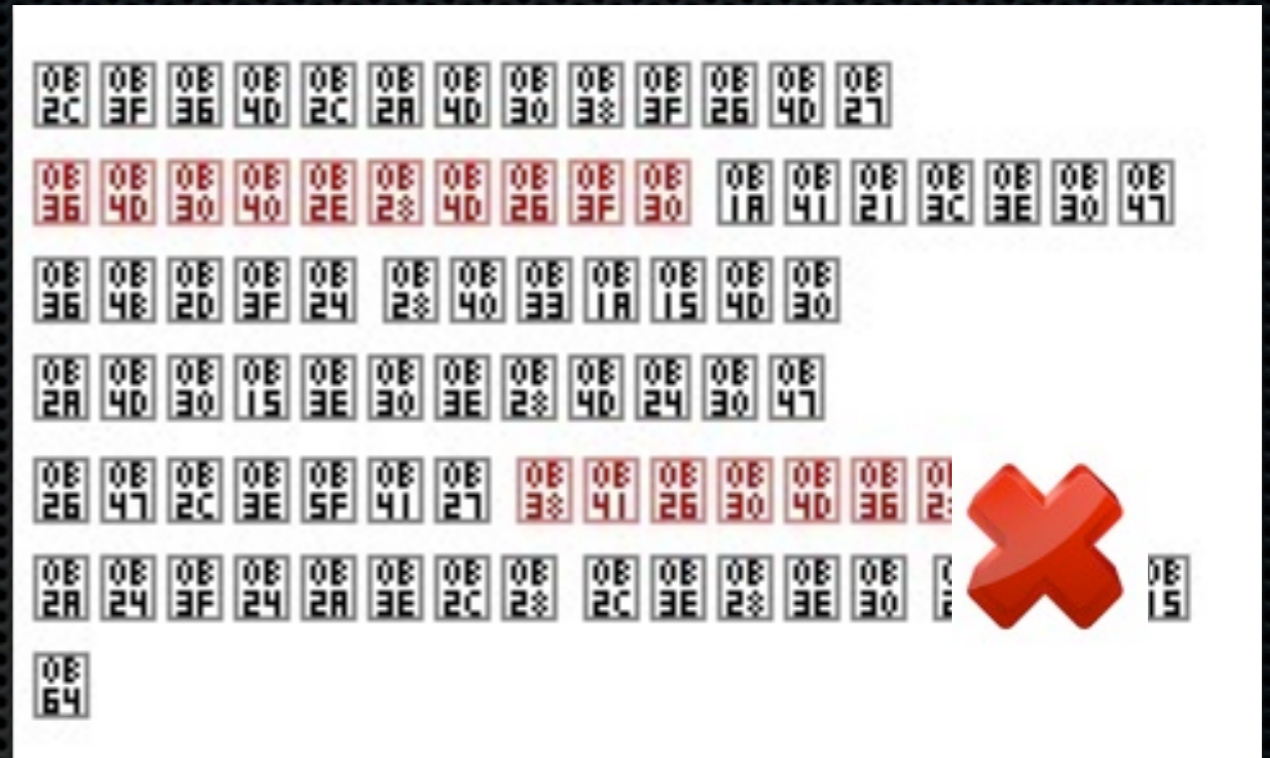
- ✦ Choose your keyboard layout in MediaWiki
- ✦ Future: on-screen keyboard for even better accessibility



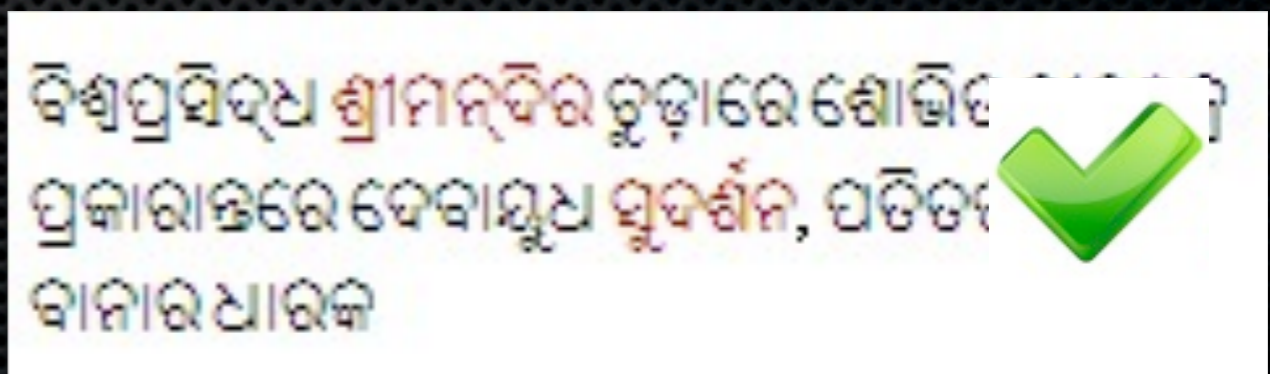
Output

Fonts are key

- ✦ `[[mw:Extension:WebFonts]]`
- ✦ Embed fonts
 - ✦ The website supplies fonts



Text in Odiya script
without a font installed



Text in Odiya script
with WebFonts installed

Future developments

Adapt and improve

- ✦ Universal Language Selector

- ✦ Ease of use

- ✦ Accept language

- ✦ Persistence

Select a language
< Back to display settings

Worldwide North America Latin America South America Europe Middle East Africa Asia Australia Pacific

Language search

America

Albaamo innaafilka	Français cadien	Patois	GWY
Araona	Guadeloupean Creole	Português do Brasil	ᐃᓂᐅᐅᐅᐅ
Avañe'ë	French	Runa shimi	
Aymar aru	Hawai'i	Runa Simi	
Canadian English	Inuktitut	Sranantongo	
Deutsch	Kalaallisut		
Diné bizaad	Kreyòl ayisyen		
English	Mapudungun		
Español	Mi'kmaq		
Español de America Latina	Nāhuatl		
	Papiamentu		

Europe

Åarjelsaemien	British English	Emiliàn e rumagnòl	Gàidhlig	Italiano
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Future developments

Adapt and improve

- ✦ Project Milkshake
 - ✦ Imagine a world in which every single open source project can freely have great internationalisation
 - ✦ Dual licensed
 - ✦ Non-MediaWiki dependent
 - ✦ Reusable
 - ✦ Setting standards

Future developments

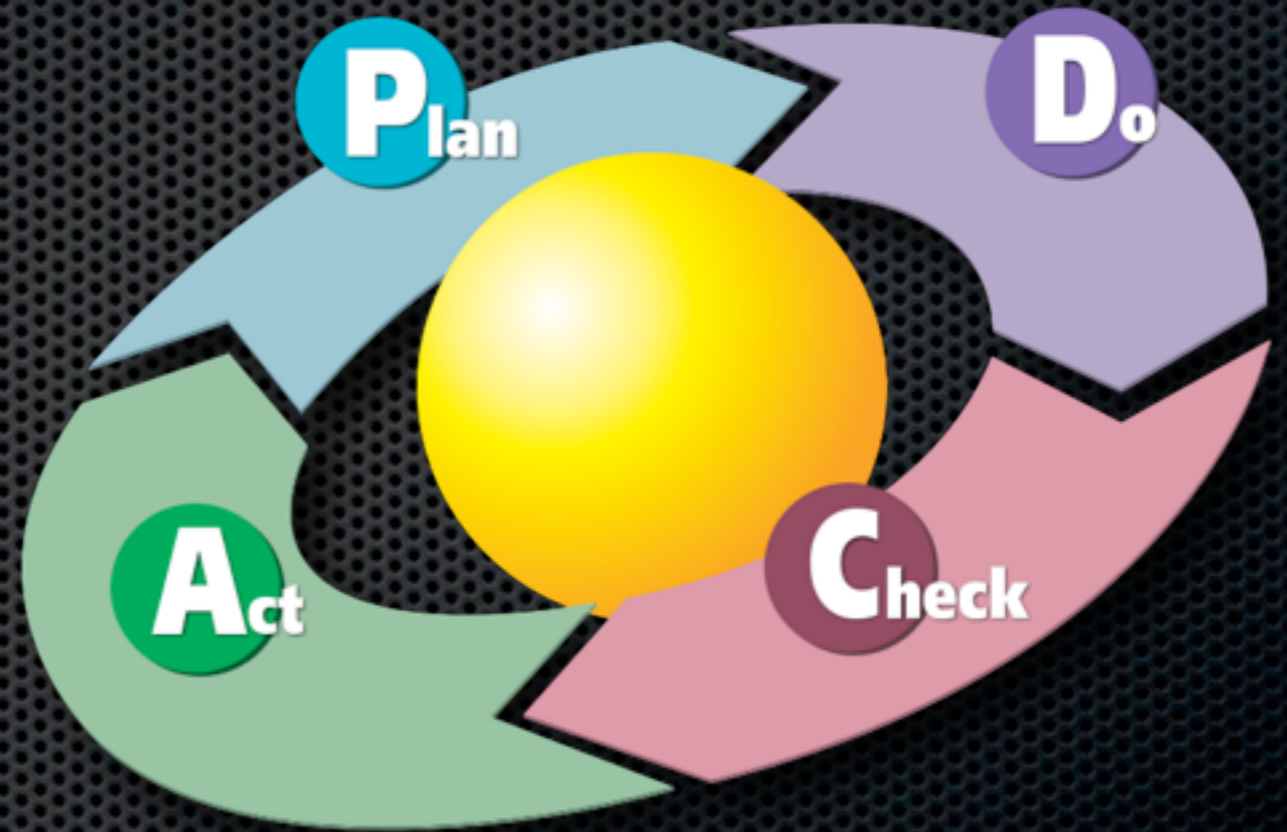
Streamline

- ✦ Project Milkshake modules
 - ✦ Feature rich internationalisation
 - ✦ Language selector
 - ✦ Input methods
 - ✦ Web fonts

Future developments

Streamline

- ✦ i18n awareness with developers
- ✦ i18n/L10n code review mandatory
- ✦ i18n for mobile
- ✦ i18n for visual editor



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:PDCA_Cycle.svg
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Questions and answers

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- ✦ Help with translations?
translatewiki.net

- ✦ Volunteer dev?
mediawiki.org/wiki/Development

- ✦ We need help
changing the world!
jobs.wikimedia.org

