

# WHY ARE WE HERE?

How Wikipedia Builds Authority

Lars Wessman  
April 16th, 2010  
Academia Wikipédia



*What is Authority?*



au•thor•i•ty |ə'θ ôritē; ô'θ är-| (abbr.: **auth.**)

noun ( pl. **-ties**)

**1** the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience  
: *he had absolute **authority over** his subordinates* | *positions of authority* | *they acted **under the authority** of the UN Security Council* | *a rebellion against those **in authority***. See note at JURISDICTION .

- [often with infinitive] the right to act in a specified way, delegated from one person or organization to another : *military forces have the legal authority to arrest drug traffickers*.
- official permission; sanction : *the money was spent without congressional authority*.

**2** (often **authorities**) a person or organization having power or control in a particular, **typically** political or administrative, sphere : *the health authorities* | *the Chicago Transit Authority* | *the authorities ordered all foreign embassies to close* | *she wasn't used to dealing with authority*.

**3** the power to influence others, esp. because of one's commanding manner or one's recognized knowledge about something : *he has the natural authority of one who is used to being obeyed* | *he spoke **with authority** on the subject*.

- the confidence resulting from personal expertise : *he hit the ball with authority*.
- a person with extensive or specialized knowledge about a subject; an expert : *she was **an authority on** the stockmarket*.
- a book or other source able to supply reliable information or evidence, typically to settle a dispute : *the court cited a series of authorities supporting their decision*.

*What is Reliability?*



**re•li•a•ble** |riˈliəbəl|

adjective

consistently good in quality or performance; able to be trusted : *a reliable source of information.*

noun

a person or thing with such trustworthy qualities : *the supporting cast includes old reliables like Mitchell.*

#### DERIVATIVES

**re•li•a•bil•i•ty** |riˌliəˈbilətē| noun

**re•li•a•ble•ness** noun

**re•li•a•bly** |-blē| adverb

- ❖ Because of vandalism and inclusiveness, Wikipedia is not “consistently good in quality or performance” — it’s not reliable for citing or making decisions.
- ❖ Wikipedia has no control of anything, nor is it widely reputable (would you cite it in court with millions on the line?)

*Wikipedia is neither reliable nor  
authoritative.*

*Why are We Here, Then?*



- ❖ Authority was needed when the cost of reading, writing and research was high.
- ❖ Books were expensive to write, produce and transport.
- ❖ The people writing had to be the good and their output was precious.
- ❖ The Internet drastically reduces the cost of the production and distribution of knowledge.



## *Some Facts*

*Iron-clad authority and reliability are necessary in a fewer and fewer written interactions today.*

*Authority and reliability are “built” on the Internet the way they are built in a conversation.*

- ❖ Authority and reliability are not assumed when going into a conversation.
- ❖ They are more like “feelings” that grow in the course of interaction.
- ❖ Good behavior and past performance does count.



- ✿ Wikipedia pages are like discussions.
- ✿ Discussions have participants and have histories.
- ✿ Wikipedia has ways of allowing you to examine both the history of the discussion and the activity of the participants to the discussion.

# WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE ON A WIKIPEDIA PAGE?

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## Francesinha

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**Francesinha** (meaning *Little Frenchie* or simply *Franchie* in Portuguese) is a Portuguese sandwich originally from Porto, made with bread, wet-cured ham, linguica, fresh sausage like chipolata, steak or roast meat and covered with molten cheese and a hot thick tomato and beer sauce served with french fries.

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- Variations
- Where to find it
- Francesinha Poveira
- Pica-pau
- See also
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### History

It is said that the **Francesinha** was an invention in the 1960s. Daniel da Silva, a returned emigrant from France and Belgium, tried to adapt the *croque-monsieur* to Portuguese taste. Other versions date the Francesinha to the 19th century.

### Sauce

**Francesinha** sauce is a secret, with each house having its variation. The only common ingredient is beer. Most, though not all, sauces are tomato based. The color is usually red or orange. There are some sauces that can be bought in supermarkets.

### Variations



Francesinha



Francesinha

<http://en.wikipedia.com/wiki/Francesinha>





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# Francesinha

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History

Discussion



Francesinha



## History

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[\[edit\]](#)

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Francesinha







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- [\(cur | prev\)](#) 18:53, 11 June 2009 XLinkBot [\(talk | contribs\)](#) (4,080 bytes) (*BOT-Reverting link addition(s) by Ruimiguelneiva to revision 295829974 (http://maisumafrancesinha.blogspot.com/, http://francesinhasecompanhia.blogspot.com/, http://asmelhoresfrancesinhas.blogspot.com/)*) [\(undo\)](#)

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213.22.76.91 (talk)

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Revision as of 10:15, 14 April 2010 (edit) (undo)

213.22.76.91 (talk)

Next edit →

Line 1:

```

{{No footnotes|date=April 2009}}
[[Image:Francesinha (Porto).jpg|thumb|right|300px|Francesinha]]
"Francesinha" (meaning "Little Frenchie" in [[Portuguese language|Portuguese]]) is a [[Portugal|Portuguese]] [[sandwich]] originally from - [[Porto]], made with bread, wet-cured [[ham]], [[linguiça]], fresh sausage like [[chipolata]], steak or roast meat and covered with molten cheese and a hot thick [[tomato]] and [[beer]] sauce served with [[french fries]].

```

=== History ===

Line 1:

```

{{No footnotes|date=April 2009}}
[[Image:Francesinha (Porto).jpg|thumb|right|300px|Francesinha]]
"Francesinha" (meaning "Little Frenchie" or simply "Frenchie" in [[Portuguese language|Portuguese]]) is a [[Portugal|Portuguese]] [[sandwich]] + originally from [[Porto]], made with bread, wet-cured [[ham]], [[linguiça]], fresh sausage like [[chipolata]], steak or roast meat and covered with molten cheese and a hot thick [[tomato]] and [[beer]] sauce served with [[french fries]].

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=== History ===

## Revision as of 10:15, 14 April 2010



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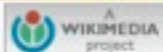
  
 

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## User:Tgeorgescu

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**drs. Tudor Georgescu**

or **T. Georgescu, M, BSc**<sup>[1]</sup>

ro:User:tgeorgescu nl:User:tgeorgescu fr:User:tgeorgescu

Romanian citizen by birth, Dutch subject by naturalization (double nationality, thus).

Diplomas:

- 1991 Baccalaureate<sup>[2]</sup> and Professional Qualification Certificate from [Informatics Lyceum no. 1 Bucharest](#) (now called National College of Informatics Tudor Vianu);
- 1999 License in Philosophy from [University of Bucharest](#) (comparable to Master of Arts);
- 2002 Magister in Metaphysics from Bucharest University for Metaphysical Studies (comparable to an MSc degree, but got from non-accredited institution, since metaphysics, as practiced by Romanian Society for Metaphysical Studies, the patron entity of B.U.M.S., falls outside of the activity object of Romanian Department of Education, Research and Innovation), see [diploma translation](#);
- 2004 Propedeutic diploma in Sociology from [University of Amsterdam](#);
- 2007 Bachelor of Science in Sociology (BSc), [University of Amsterdam](#). Specialization: work, organizations and policy sociology.
- 2008 Obtained permission to bear the title *drs.*<sup>[3]</sup> title from [Informatie Beheer Groep](#), the Dutch institution which recognizes foreign diplomas.

Member of the [Dutch Sociological Association](#)

Member of [Mensa Netherlands](#) and [Mensa Romania](#), which belong to [Mensa International, Ltd.](#)<sup>[4]</sup>

Member and friend of [File Threads Database](#).

Spoken languages: Romanian, English, French, Dutch (level 4, now called level B2, according to diploma NT2-II, do not confuse it with [Wikipedia:Babel](#) level 4, which would mean native or near-native speaker).

Reads and understands: Italian and a bit of Spanish. Able to read: Cyrillic characters.

### Wikipedia:Babel

<b>ro</b>	Acest utilizator este un vorbitor nativ al limbii române.
<b>en-3</b>	This user is able to contribute with an advanced level of English.
<b>nl-2</b>	Deze gebruiker heeft een middelmatige kennis van het Nederlands.
<b>fr-2</b>	Cet utilisateur peut contribuer avec un niveau intermédiaire en français.
<b>it-1</b>	Questo utente può contribuire con un livello semplice di italiano.
<b>de-0</b>	Dieser Benutzer hat keine Deutschkenntnisse.
<b>ru-0</b>	Этот участник не понимает по-русски.
	This user identifies with hacker culture.

[Search user languages](#)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Tgeorgescu>



**SOCIAL INTERACTION BUILDS  
AUTHORITY/RELIABILITY**





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## Eric S. Raymond

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Redirected from [Eric Raymond](#))

*"Eric Raymond" redirects here. For the animated television series villain, see [Eric Raymond \(Jem\)](#).*

**Eric Steven Raymond**<sup>[1]</sup> (born December 4, 1957), often referred to as **ESR**, is a [computer programmer](#), author and [open source software](#) advocate. His name became known within the [hacker culture](#) when he picked up maintenance of the "Jargon File" in 1990. After the 1997 publication of *"The Cathedral and the Bazaar"*, Raymond became, for a number of years, an unofficial spokesman of the open source movement.<sup>[2]</sup>

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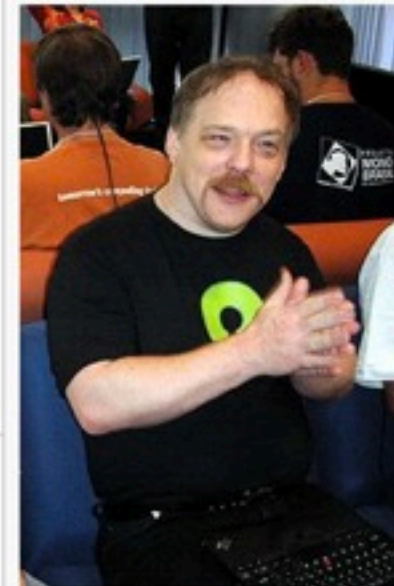
## Biography

[\[edit\]](#)

Born in [Boston, Massachusetts](#) in 1957, Raymond lived in [Venezuela](#) before settling in [Pennsylvania](#) in 1971.<sup>[3]</sup> Raymond says his congenital [cerebral palsy](#) motivated him to chase a future in computing.<sup>[4]</sup> his involvement with hacker culture began in 1976, and he contributed to his first [free and open source software](#) project in the late 1980s.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> His primary contributions to open source software have been maintaining the [fetchmail](#) email client for a certain time, and [gpsd](#). Other contributions have included [Emacs](#) editing modes and portions of libraries like [GNU ncurses](#), [glib/libungif](#), and [libpng](#).<sup>[citation needed]</sup> he also contributes code and content to [The Battle for Wesnoth](#).<sup>[5]</sup> He also wrote [CML2](#), a source code configuration system; while originally intended for the [Linux kernel](#), it was rejected by kernel developers.<sup>[6]</sup> Raymond attributed this rejection to "kernel list politics".<sup>[7]</sup>

Raymond is the author of a number of [How-to](#) documents and [FAQs](#), many of which are included in the [Linux Documentation Project](#) corpus.<sup>[8]</sup> Raymond's 2003 book *The Art of Unix Programming* covers Unix history and culture, and modern user tools available for programming and

Eric S. Raymond



Raymond at [Linucon 2005](#)

<b>Born</b>	December 4, 1957 (age 52) <a href="#">Boston, Massachusetts</a>
<b>Residence</b>	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>
<b>Nationality</b>	<a href="#">US American</a>
<b>Other names</b>	<a href="#">ESR</a>
<b>Occupation</b>	<a href="#">Software developer</a> , <a href="#">author</a>
	<a href="#">Website</a>

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## *Linus' Law*

*“With many eyes all bugs are shallow.”*



- ❖ Some parts of Wikipedia are reliable and high quality, and these usually have many and/or vigilant users.
- ❖ Those that are not reliable (e.g. the Seigenthaler case), usually have few users.

## *Linus' Law Restated for Wikipedia*

While one person (you, the user,) can't be watching all the time, you can count on there being someone who is there while you're not.



- ❖ Wikipedia is part of a larger Internet world.
- ❖ Wikipedia can be quickly verified against other and more “authoritative” sources.
- ❖ Wikipedia also leads you to those sources.
- ❖ It’s reason for existing is the conservation of and efficient distribution of information, not the certification or validation of information.

- ❖ It isn't reliable for a short (hit and run) consultation.
- ❖ Over time, it is reliable.
- ❖ You have access to the page's history (time), using that you can get an idea of how reliable the page is.
- ❖ You have access to the number of users making edits. The more users, the more likely it is that expert users will be editing.



# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- ❖ No one is going to guarantee the reliability of Wikipedia for you.
- ❖ You are responsible for making your own judgements about the reliability and authority of individual pages.
- ❖ If you go through the work of determining the reliability and authority of a page, why not contribute back when it's appropriate?
- ❖ Sounds a little like everything else in life, right?