COMPSCI 111 / 111G

Mastering Cyberspace:
An introduction to practical computing

Publishing online
• **Blogs, Wikis**

Publishing online

Information is made available to the public
• Target audience
• Content

Technology
• Channel for dissemination
• Different possibilities of presentation

Social and legal issues
• Copyright
• Privacy
• Cultural issues
• Concern with your own safety

Free Speech Online

Blue Ribbon Campaign

Blog

Web log
• Website
• Posts are made in chronological order
• Very easy to use
• Estimated blogs worldwide: more than 50 million
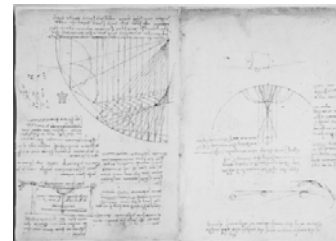
Leonardo da Vinci's journal

Uses
• Online Diary
• Commentary
• Political, cultural, economical, personal, technical, …

Different Types
• Photoblog, videoblog, audioblogs (podcasts)

Terminology
• Blogger - person that posts entries to a blog
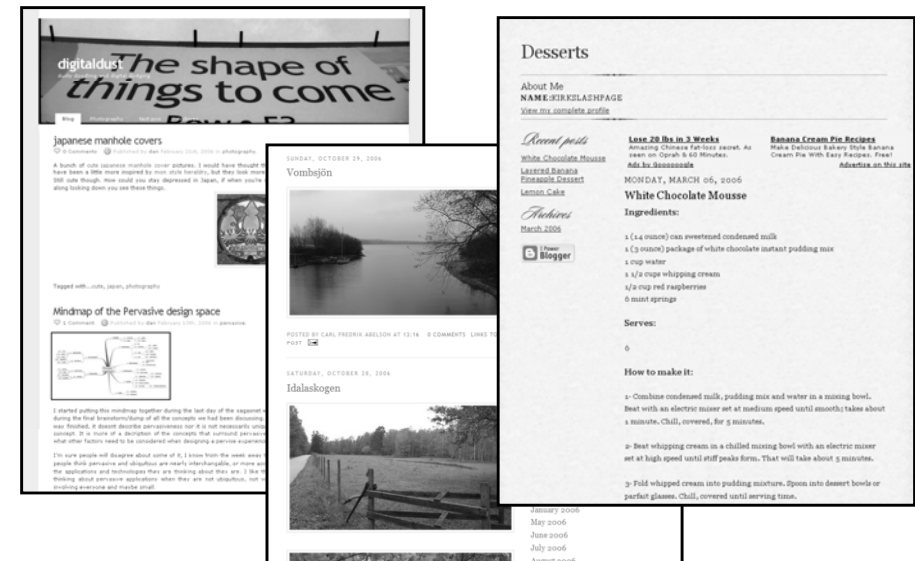• Blogging - writing posts to a blog

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blog

Examples

Social Issues

Political movements
- E.g. during war on Iraq
- Many viewpoints
- Editorial style
- But: political censorship is also done online

Advantages
- Gives people a voice
- Enabling technology for grassroots movements

Dangers
- Providing too much information
- Children inviting wrong kind of attention

Free Speech Online

Blue Ribbon Campaign

Wiki

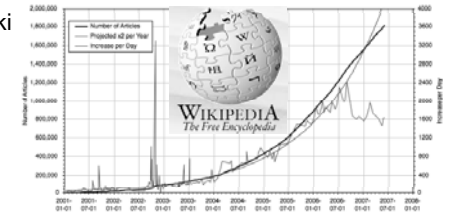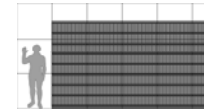**Created by Ward Cunningham in 1995 to discuss programming patterns**

Description
- Simplest online database that could possibly work
- A content pool that can be easily edited
- Anyone with appropriate access can edit any page

Wiki Wiki bus in Hawaii

Wikipedia
- Launched 2001, worlds biggest wiki
- About 2.9 million articles
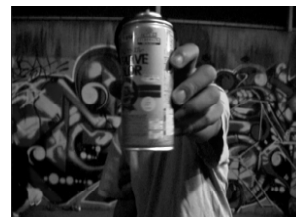- 10,000 - 30,000 requests per sec
- More than 100 servers

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki

Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages
- Creates a central pool of content
- Everyone can contribute
- Easy to use
- Quick to develop material

Disadvantages
- No quality control
- Anyone can contribute
- Information changes rapidly
- Vandalism a possibility

Making it work
- Everyone who adds content also takes responsibility
- Self-moderating:
  develop consensus policy, cooperate to ensure high quality
- Use change management tools

Media is never objective

AP Associated Press AP - Tue Aug 30,11:31 AM ET

A young man walks through chest deep flood water after looting a grocery store in New Orleans on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005. Flood waters continue to rise in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina did extensive damage when it
Email Photo Print Photo

RECOMMEND THIS PHOTO » Recommended Photos
Recommend It: Average (138 votes)

AFP 3:47 AM ET

Two residents wade through chest-deep water after finding bread and soda from a local grocery store after Hurricane Katrina came through the area in New Orleans, Louisiana.(AFP/Getty Images/Chris Graythen)
Email Photo Print Photo

RECOMMEND THIS PHOTO » Recommended Photos
Recommend It: Average (211 votes)

RELATED
- Katrina's Effects, at a Glance AP - Tue Aug 30, 1:26 PM ET

Hurricanes & Tropical Storms

Media "accuracy"

Analysis of polls conducted in the US June 03 - Sept 03 about common misconceptions about the war in Iraq

- **48% - evidence of links between Iraq and al Qaeda had been found**
- **22% - weapons of mass destruction had been found in Iraq**
- **25% - world public opinion favoured the US going to war with Iraq**
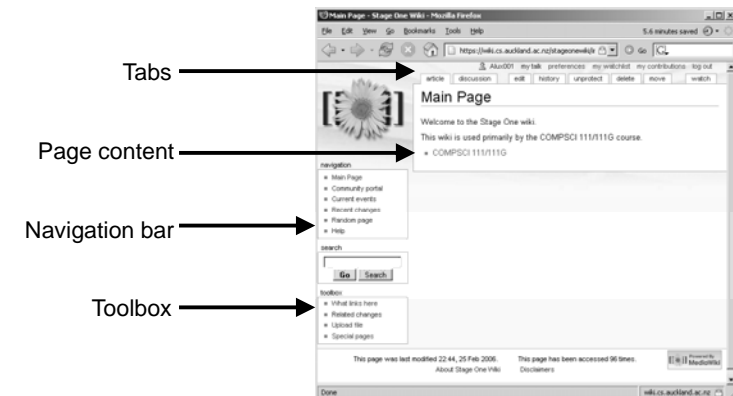
The news sources the interviewees were using:

Misconceptions (of 3 listed)	FOX	CBS	ABC	NBS	CNN	Print	PBS
None	20%	30%	39%	45%	45%	53%	77%
1 or more	80%	71%	61%	55%	55%	47%	23%

http://www.pipa.org/OnlineReports/Iraq/IraqMedia_Oct03/IraqMedia_Oct03 _pr.pdf

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MediaWiki

Free Wiki software

- Simple security model
- Used for Wikipedia, CS Dept, …

Tabs

Page content

Navigation bar

Toolbox

Stage one wiki

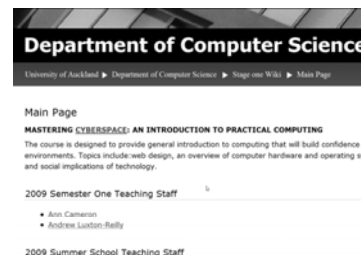**Set up for COMPSCI 111 / 111G**

- Anyone can read the wiki
- Must log in before editing
- Main pages are protected

Purpose

- Students can collaborate
- Create / compile resources for the COMPSCI 111 course
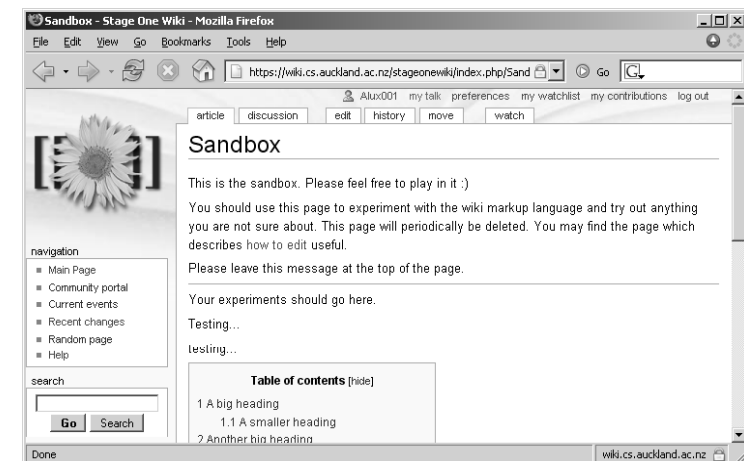- Tool for the COMPSCI 111 community

Use

- Encouraged to contribute
- Not required to contribute (after Lab 02)

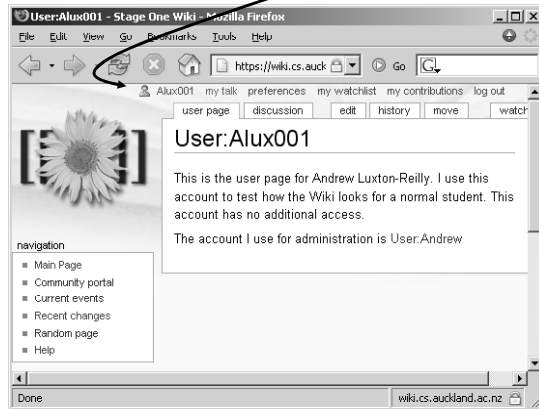
Sandbox

An area to experiment and play

- Can test out things in the Sandbox

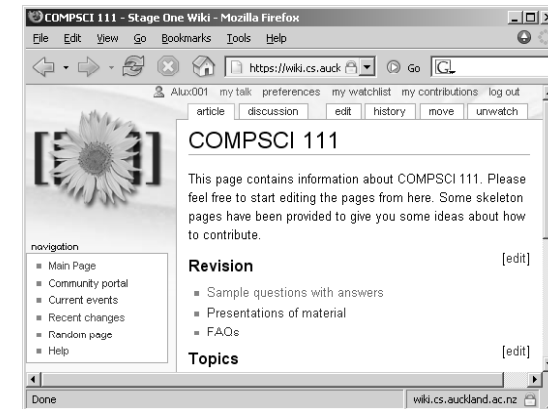# User page

A page is set aside for each user
- Click on user name to access the user page
- Same as any other page in the wiki
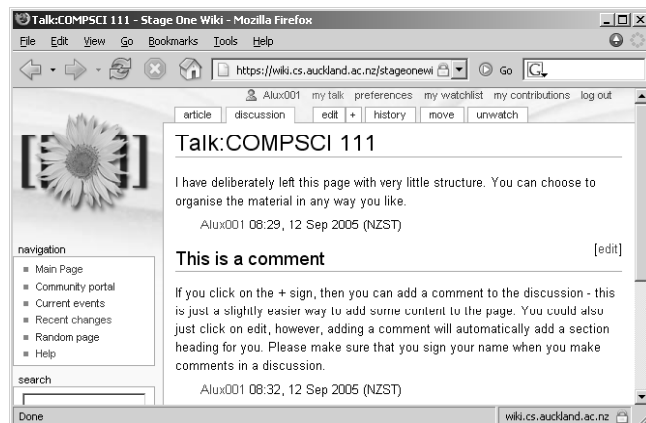
Articles

Main content of the wiki
- A single page is an article about a topic

Discussion page

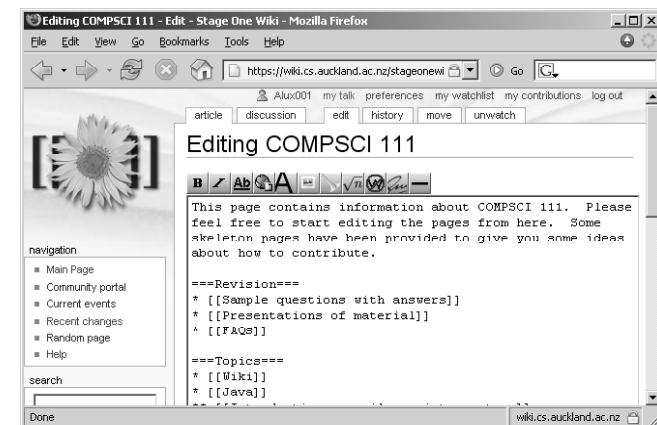**Each page in the wiki has an associated "talk" page**
- Allows users to discuss content of a page
- Can write comments, ask questions etc. without disrupting article

Editing a page

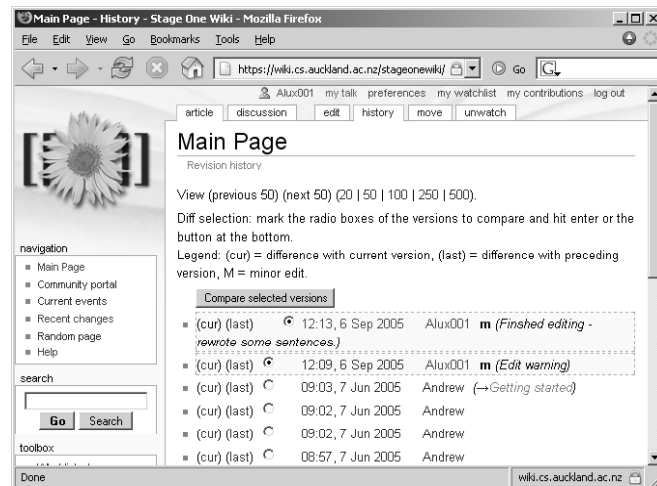**Simply click the edit button and start making changes.**
- Always preview and read the page before you save changes

Tools: History of a page

Use this to compare different versions
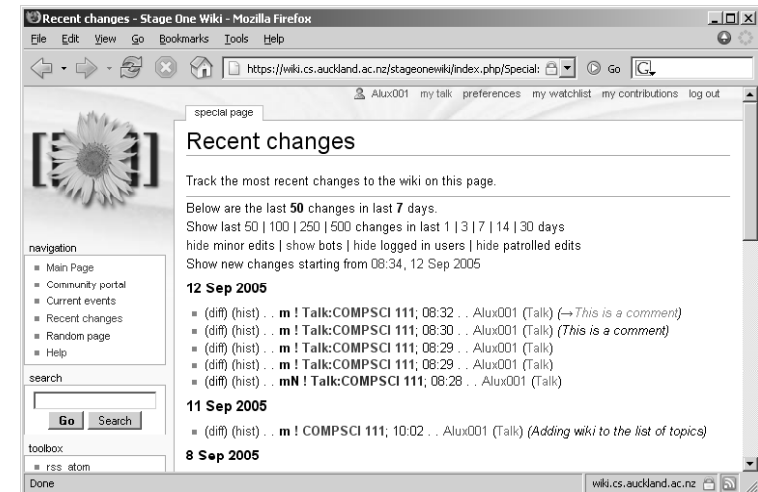- Easy to see what has been added/removed/changed

Tools: Recent Changes

A list of all the recent changes made to the wiki
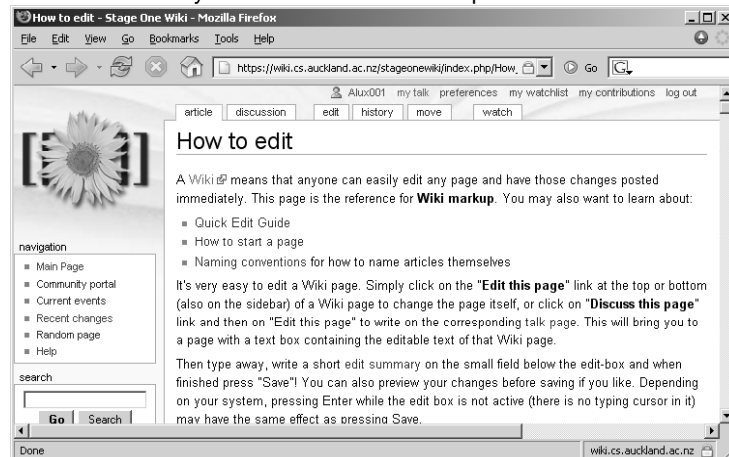
Markup

Wikis use their own markup language, sometimes called wikimark
- Also accept some HTML markup
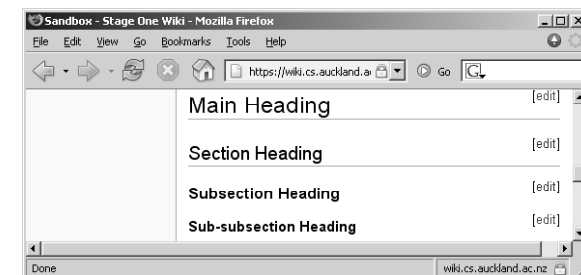- Different wiki systems use different markup

Headings

Four different levels of heading

```
= Main heading=
== Section Heading ==
=== Subsection heading ===
==== Sub-subsection heading ====
```
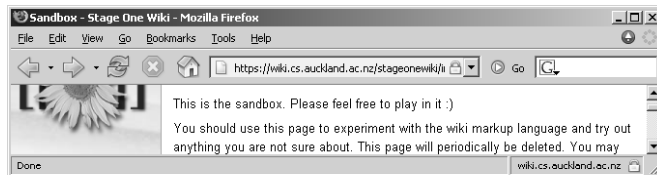
Paragraphs

A single line break is ignored

A blank line starts a new paragraph

```
This is the sandbox.
Please feel free to play in it :)


You should use this page
to experiment with the wiki
markup language and try out
```
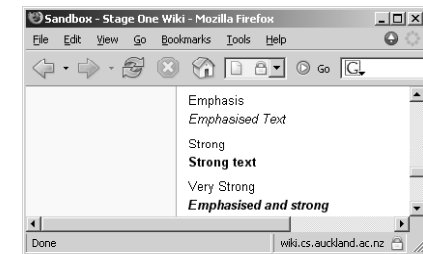
Character Styles

Emphasis

`''Emphasised Text''`

Strong

`'''Strong text'''`
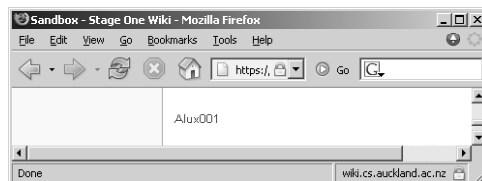
Very Strong

`'''''Emphasised and strong'''''`

Inserting a link to author

Using three tilde characters inserts the username

`~~~`

Using four tilde characters inserts the username and time/date

`~~~~`

Links

Adding an internal link (to another wiki page)

```
[[Name of Page]]
```

Adding an external link (to a page outside the wiki)

```
http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz
```

Adding an external link (to a page outside the wiki), but displaying text for the link

```
[http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz CS Dept]
```

Lists

Ordered List

```
# my item 1
## my item 1.1
# my item2
```

1. my item 1
    1. my item 1.1
2. my item2

Unordered List

```
* my item 1
** my item 1.1
* my item 2
```

- my item 1
    - my item 1.1
- my item 2

Summary

Blog = Web log
- Electronic journal with posts in chronological order
- Usually from a single author, editorial style
- Political, cultural, economical, personal, technical, …
- Photoblogs, videoblogs, audioblogs (podcasts)

Wiki = web pages that anyone (of a certain group) can edit
- Everyone can contribute to a central pool of content
- Prime example: Wikipedia
- Not always accurate, but nevertheless very useful
- Wiki systems have their own languages for writing pages
- Language overview for the MediaWiki system: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Cheatsheet