Publishing Online

LECTURE 6 – COMPSCI111/111G S1 2017

“For this week’s blog, I’m writing about the best techniques for chewing a sofa so nobody will notice. I’m also doing a taste comparison between the TV remote, DVD remote and universal remote.”
Today’s lecture

- Blogs
- Wikis
- Social issues around online publishing
Blogs

Short for web log, a website where posts are displayed in reverse chronological order (ie. newest posts first)

Around 150 million blogs worldwide on a range of topics from personal to political

Range of uses for a blog:
- Personal, eg. Ian Watson’s blog
- Provide commentary on an issue; eg. Kiwiblog
- Keep followers up to date, eg. Office blog
Blogs

Different kinds of blogs: photo blog, video blog (vlog), audio blogs (podcasts)

Online blogging platforms include Blogger, Wordpress, Silvrback
  ◦ You can even host your own blog using Ghost, Wordpress, Joomla
Blogs - advantages

Blogs can also be sources of news (eg. TMZ, Gizmodo)

Blogs gave people a voice during political unrest

- Eg. blogs were an important means of communication during the Arab Spring
- Can be difficult for governments to censor bloggers. Some governments have even gone as far as shutting down their country’s Internet access
Blogs - disadvantages

Can provide too much information about yourself
  ◦ Extremely difficult to erase any information that has been placed on the Internet because information is easily duplicated

Blogs can contain incorrect information or personal opinion, so can be unreliable sources of information

Some people use blogs or the comments section on blog posts to harass or insult other people
Microblogging

A form of broadcast communication that is similar to blogging

The key difference is that smaller portions of content are shared on microblogs

Well-known microblogging platforms include:
- Twitter
- Tumblr
- Pinterest
- Instagram
Wikis

A set of public webpages that can be edited by anyone, which encourages collaboration

- Can also have private wikis that can only be edited by authorised people


Wiki pages are written in plain text, with wiki markup used to add formatting (italicise text, add links etc.)
Wikipedia

Wikipedia is the best known wiki. Launched in 2001 by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger

Today, it has over 5.3 million English articles with around 20,000 articles added each month

Funded by grants and public donations

Wikipedia runs on the MediaWiki software platform and is hosted on around 400 servers

Number of Wikipedia articles
Wikipedia

Advantages:
- Everyone can access and contribute to Wikipedia
- Easy to use
- Quick to develop material
- Enormous amount of topics and information available

Disadvantages:
- No direct quality control
- Bias in some articles
- Information changes rapidly
- Vandalism is a real problem
Wikipedia - vandalism

Wikipedia has a number of automated and manual systems for addressing vandalism

**Bots:** vandalism is automatically detected and reverted by a bot called ClueBot NG

**Recent change patrol:** a group of people monitor the [Recent Changes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:RecentChanges) page to modify or remove vandalism

- Can also modify or remove edits that don’t meet Wikipedia’s standards
Wikipedia - vandalism

**Watchlists:** registered users can watch a page that they have created/edited or are interested in, allowing them to watch for vandalism

**Reader-reported vandalism:** readers can address vandalism by:
- Reverting to an older version of the page
- Warning the vandal that their actions have been noted
- Report the vandal to Wikipedia administration
Wikipedia’s reliability

2005 study in Nature: experts analysed 42 articles, found the articles had the same error rate as Encyclopedia Britannica
  ◦ A summary of other studies can be found on Wikipedia

Generally, Wikipedia articles on academic topics are more accurate than articles on pop culture and politics
  ◦ Maybe because these articles are more subjective or opinion-based?

Wikipedia should be a starting point for research rather than a definitive source of information
Encyclopedia Britannica

This popular printed encyclopedia now only exists online.

Articles have generally been checked for accuracy and correctness:
- Users can’t directly edit the articles but can suggest changes.

Britannica runs a Publishing Program, which allows people with expertise in their field to publish articles on Britannica.
Other wikis

WikiVoyage
- Travel guide with entries for countries, cities, areas, sights

Wikia
- Collection of Wikis, anybody can create wiki on any topic
- Focus on gaming and entertainment topics
- ~10 million entries altogether

WikiMapia
- Combination of Google Maps and an extra layer of polygons that mark interesting areas, buildings etc.
- ~13 million entries

WikiHow
- Extensive collection of how-to guides
- Articles often include media such as photos and videos
Computer Science wiki

The CS Department hosts a number of Wikis, which use the MediaWiki software.

Anyone can read the wiki but only CS students can edit the wiki when the log in.

You’ll get to contribute to the [Stage One Wiki](#) in the labs.
Content

Navigation bar

Link to my user page

Computer Science wiki
Navigation bar

- Edit the current page
- View the page’s edit history
- View recent changes in the wiki
- Add page to your watchlist
Wiki markup

A special language used to format wiki pages

Some wikis accept wiki markup and HTML tags (which we’ll see later in the course)

Chapter 4 of the online reference manual contains a helpful guide to wiki markup
Wiki markup - paragraphs

A new line is ignored while a blank line creates a new paragraph

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Pellentesque condimentum. Maecenas scelerisque, risus id bibendum tempor, mi nisi viverra sapien.

Donec consectetur blandit semper. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia nostra, per inceptos himenaeos. Vivamus varius rutrum sapien.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Pellentesque condimentum. Maecenas scelerisque, risus id bibendum tempor, mi nisi viverra sapien.

Donec consectetur blandit semper. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia nostra, per inceptos himenaeos. Vivamus varius rutrum sapien.
Wiki markup - headings

Four levels of headings:
=Main heading=
==Section heading==
===Subsection heading===
====Sub-subsection heading====

Main heading
This is some text

Section heading
This is some text

Subsection heading
This is some text

Sub-subsection heading
This is some text

Contents [hide]
1 Main heading
  1.1 Section heading
    1.1.1 Subsection heading
      1.1.1.1 Sub-subsection heading
Wiki markup - formatting

Emphasis
''Emphasised Text''

Strong
''''Strong text''''

Very Strong
''''''Emphasised and strong'''':''
Wiki markup - links

Two kinds of links:
- Internal links: used to link to other pages in the wiki
- External links: used to link to other webpages

Internal link:
- [[name of page]]
- [[User:Dazh001]]

External link:
- URL
  http://www.auckland.ac.nz
- I attend [http://www.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.auckland.ac.nz)
Wiki markup - links

You can add labels to links so they’re easier for readers to understand.

Internal links:
- [[name of page | label]]
- [[User:Dazh001 | Damir]]

Another CompSci111 lecturer is Damir.

Another CompSci111 lecturer is [[User:Dazh001 | Damir]].
Wiki markup - links

External links

- [URL label]
  [http://www.auckland.ac.nz UoA]

  I attend the UoA.

- Note only one pair of square brackets and a space instead of a bar character
Wiki markup - lists

Two kinds of lists

Unordered lists:
- Uses the * character in front of each list item
- Use multiple * to create sub-lists
Wiki markup - lists

Ordered lists:
- Uses the # character in front of each list item
- Use multiple # to create sub-lists

1. Act One
   1. First scene
   2. Second scene
2. Act Two
3. Act Three

#Act One
##First scene
##Second scene
#Act Two
#Act Three
Summary

Blogs

- Overview, uses
- Advantages and disadvantages

Wikis

- An overview of Wikipedia
- Wiki markup: paragraphs, headings, formatting, links, lists