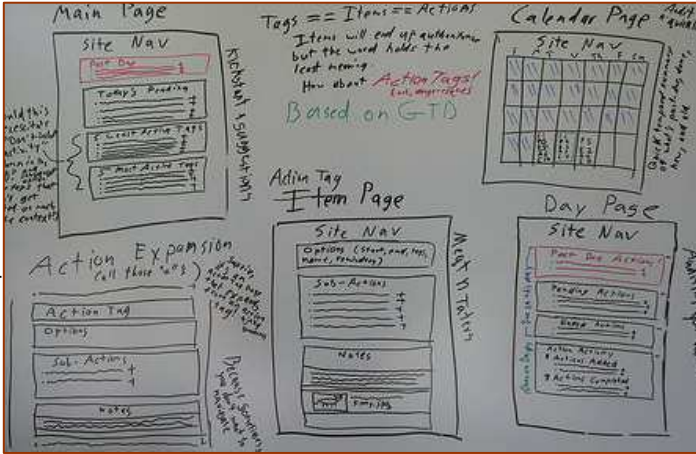


# Introducing wikis

“Wiki wiki” means quick in Hawaiian. A wiki is a website that can be quickly edited by visitors – creating a collaborative, organically developed, online resource”

Image: 'Application Mockup Pages' www.flickr.com/photos/39897684@N00/39207474



A **wiki page** is a bit like a whiteboard. All you need is a marker pen and you can change the content of the whiteboard. On a wiki page, just search for the edit link and **you can change the page contents** directly from your web browser.

Unlike a whiteboard, however, a wiki will store a **history of page changes** so you can see how a page has changed over time, and can bring back an old version if you want to.

A **wiki website** is build up of **interlinked wiki pages**. It is easy to create new pages.

Wiki pages are usually created in plain text with **special ‘markup’ to indicate links and formatting**.

## Getting started: Wikipedia

Probably the best known example of a wiki is Wikipedia – a collaborative encyclopedia covering a wealth of topics.

1. Visit [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) in your language and use the search feature to **find an article of interest to you**.
2. If you think you can add something to this page (perhaps just by suggesting a new reference or tidying up the information that is already there) then **click the ‘edit this page’ link** at the top of the screen. (If you don’t think you can add anything, find another article.)

article discussion **edit this page** history

3. **Update the page text** taking care to keep the special wiki markup intact. To make a word into a link to another Wikipedia entry, place the word in **[[double square brackets]]**.
4. You can view a **preview** of your changes, and when you are happy with them, **save the page**.
5. The changes you have made are **instantly available** for the benefit of other wikipedia users.
6. You can see the changes other have made (and revert the page to an older version) using the **‘history’** link at the top of the page.

You can **get your own free wiki** from [wikispaces.com](http://wikispaces.com) or [pbwiki.com](http://pbwiki.com). Just **sign up** and start using it.

You might use a wiki to **share information, to draft a document, to organize an event** or to **collaborate with team members** across the world.

### Join Now!

1. Pick a username

2. Set your password

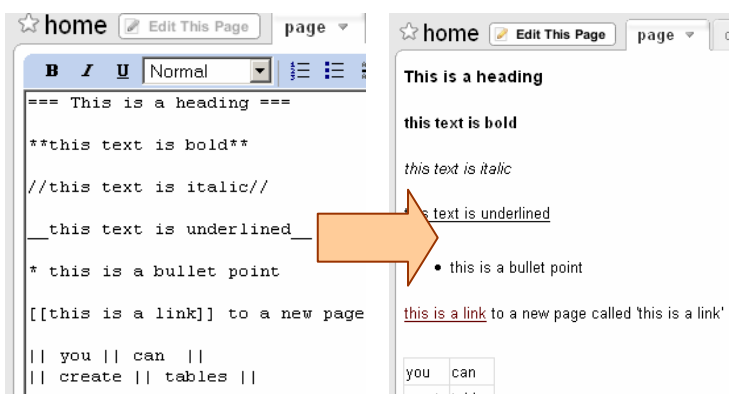
3. Enter your email address

We don't spam or share your email address.

4. Space name (optional)

 .wikispaces.com

[Terms of Use](#)



The screenshot shows a side-by-side comparison of a wiki page. On the left is the raw wiki markup, and on the right is the rendered preview. An orange arrow points from the markup to the preview, illustrating how the markup is interpreted. The markup includes:
 

```

    === This is a heading ===
    **this text is bold**
    //this text is italic//
    _this text is underlined_
    * this is a bullet point
    [[this is a link]] to a new page
    || you || can ||
    || create || tables ||
    
```

 The preview shows:
 

- A heading: "This is a heading"
- Bold text: "this text is bold"
- Italic text: "this text is italic"
- Underlined text: "this text is underlined"
- Bullet point: "• this is a bullet point"
- Link: "this is a link to a new page called this is a link"
- Table: A simple table with two columns: "you" and "can".

**Wiki markup makes it easy to create formatted pages**



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