

# 5<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Wikis for Software Engineering

Ademar Aguiar

INESC Porto, Departamento de Engenharia Informática

Faculdade de Engenharia, Universidade do Porto

ademar.aguiar@fe.up.pt

Paulo Merson

Software Engineering Institute

Carnegie Mellon University

pfm@sei.cmu.edu

## ABSTRACT

Using a wiki in software engineering settings dates back to its first usage in 1995. In fact, that was the motivation for Ward Cunningham to create the first wiki. Due to its simplicity, attractiveness and effectiveness for collaborative authoring and knowledge management, wikis are now massively disseminated and used in different domains. This workshop focuses on wikis for the specific domain of software engineering. It aims at bringing together researchers, practitioners, and enthusiasts interested on researching, exploring and learning how wikis can be improved, customized and used to better support software projects. Based on lessons learned and obstacles identified, a research agenda will be defined with key opportunities and challenges.

## Categories and Subject Descriptors

D.2.6 [Software Engineering]: Programming Environments;  
I.7.2 [Document And Text Processing]: Document Preparation—Hypertext/Hypermedia, Markup Languages

## General Terms

Wikis for software engineering

## Keywords

Wikis, software development, collaboration, documentation.

## 1. MAIN THEME

Wikis are appealing collaboration tools capable of effectively presenting and editing web-based information, using a very simple markup language, a powerful dynamic-linking mechanism based on lexical conventions, and supporting the notion of adaptive web pages.

As a result, wiki documents are usually open, can evolve in an incremental and organic way, are easy to edit and organize, promote consistency of terms and contents, and are tolerant and easily observable by other users. Due to these characteristics, wikis are now widely spread on the web, especially in the software community [1]. They run on many different platforms, and are used to publish pages of different knowledge domains.

Although it's known that good documentation benefits every software development project, it is commonly accepted that

producing and maintaining the documentation consume a high proportion of the software development costs, especially when done without appropriate tools and methods. A large amount of the software documentation produced today is web-based. Since wikis provide a nice environment for collaborative authoring of web-based documents, at a minimum, wikis can be used as a tool to support the edition, organization and storage of software documentation. But wikis can do more. They can also be used to support other software engineering activities, such as: project management, project communication, defect tracking, configuration management, requirements engineering, test-case management, and project portals.

This workshop focuses precisely on the usage of wikis to support software engineering activities, and to improve team collaboration and communication in software projects. In this specific domain, there are many wikis being used to cooperatively develop software documentation (drafts of designs and implementations, design tradeoff discussions, requirements specifications, user guides, etc.). However there are still several open issues requiring research and development to yield an even wider usage and better integration of wikis with other software engineering tools and infrastructures.

## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The workshop aims at bringing together researchers and practitioners interested in exploring wikis as a cost-effective tool to support software engineering activities, and the production, organization and publication of software artifacts.

The goal is to learn from the knowledge and experience gained on using wikis in software projects, and based on that to identify best practices, issues, obstacles, key opportunities and challenges that could lead to the definition of an agenda and collaborations for future research in order to advance the state of the art on wikis to support software engineering specificities.

Interesting topics for contribution are essential features of wikis for software engineering, demonstrations of integrating wikis with other software engineering tools (IDE's, test tools, Q&A tools, version-control systems, project management tools, communication tools, workflow systems, etc.); and knowledge management for software projects using wikis.

Particularly interesting for this workshop are short papers reporting research work, experiences, positions or new ideas focusing on the usage of wikis as a supporting tool to gather, relate, develop, maintain, or present software artifacts that are input or output to software engineering activities (e.g., requirements elicitation, architecture design, programming,

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quality assurance), possibly combining multiple kinds of contents (e.g., source code, models, structured text, free text), manually or automatically produced with software engineering tools.

Interesting contributions would be for example: report of experiences using wikis to support software engineering activities; surveys of key features already provided, or to be provided by wikis for software engineering; specific features to integrate software engineering artifacts (code, UML, XML, etc.); demonstrations of integrating wikis with other software engineering tools (IDE's, test tools, Q&A tools, version-control systems, project management tools, communication tools, workflow systems, etc.); wiki engines with specialized support for software projects; knowledge management for software projects using wikis; report of examples of using wikis as a foundation for knowledge bases for software projects.

#### **4. PROGRAM**

The workshop will have the duration of one half-day and will follow an open format to promote discussion and wide

participation [2]. The workshop will start by welcoming the participants and providing them with an overview of the workshop's objectives. An opening talk will motivate for the main workshop's theme.

After a series of speed-talks (5min), group discussions will be promoted about the current state-of-the-art on wikis for software engineering, and new ways of using them; a workshop wrap-up will summarize the results and define research actions and participants.

#### **References**

[1] WikiSym - The International Symposium on Wikis and Open Collaboration, available at <http://www.wikisym.org>.

[2] Wikis for Software Engineering, available at <http://www.wikis4s>