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Proceedings

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Welcome to WikiSym 2008

Welcome to the 4th International Symposium on Wikis, Porto, Portugal. The Faculty of Engineering from University of Porto (FEUP) is honoured to host on its campus this year’s WikiSym - the premier conference devoted to research and practice on wikis.

Once again, WikiSym will gather researchers, professionals, writers, scholars and users to share knowledge and experiences on many topics related to wikis and wiki philosophy, ranging from wiki linguistics to graphic visualization in wikis, and from the vast Wikipedia to tiny location-based wikis.

A large and diverse program committee exhaustively reviewed more than fifty technical papers, from which the best high quality ones were selected. During a meeting at Porto, the final structure of the conference program was defined, and later consolidated with workshops, panels, tutorials, posters and demos. For the first time, there will be a Doctoral Space, for young researchers, and the WikiFest, devoted for practitioners. More than twenty hours of OpenSpace will be available for you to fill in.

After the conference, WikiWalk will take the symposium out into the streetscape, as investigators and users walk along the city of Porto, joined by citizens, journalists, and other leaders. Casual and spontaneous discussions will allow the users to share their experiences, concerns and challenges with wiki experts and researchers.

Such a diverse conference program reflects the nature of wikis, the tremendous vitality of the wiki spirit, and its ever-widening community.

In the organization of WikiSym 2008 many people were involved, providing ideas, coordinating and getting things done, and most importantly, giving a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the event. The conference chair and the program chair relied on their respective committees, local organization members, and sponsors, to whom we would like to acknowledge for their precious help.

Thank you so much for making WikiSym 2008 a memorable experience!

We wish you all a good conference!

Ademar Aguiar and Mark Bernstein, Conference and Program Chairs
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“ShyWiki-A Spatial Hypertext Wiki”, Carlos Solis and Nour Ali

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Session “Wiki and Language”

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“Enabling Community Creation of Linguistic Data”, A.Kumaran and K. Saravanan

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“WikiMob Interaction”. Rosana Anglés, Raquel Frisa


“WikiSim: Simulating Knowledge Curation in Structured Wikis”, Luna De Ferrari, Stuart Aitken, Jano van Hemert, Igor Goryanin

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“Wikis4SE - Wikis For Software Engineering”, Ademar Aguiar, Paulo Merson, Uri Dekel

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Committees

Symposium Committee

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DoctoralSpace: Robert Biddle, Carleton University, Canada
WikiFest: Stewart Mader, WikiPatterns.org, Atlassian, Australia; Uri Dekel, Carnegie Mellon University, USA
WikiWalk: Gabriel David, INESC Porto, FEUP, University of Porto, Portugal
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Frank Shipman, Texas A&M, USA
Ingy döt Net, SocialText, USA
Keynotes & Invited Talks

Three inspiring talks from our invited speakers will be strong points of the conference. They are aimed to provide us three different perspectives and insights that can challenge our thinking and how we decide, our interests, and our passions.

**Keynote: “When a Wiki is not a Wiki: Twenty Years of the Victorian Web”, George P. Landow, Brown University**

All the chatter and puffery about Web 2.0 reminds those who have worked several decades in related fields of computing that the World Wide Web is essentially Hypertext 0.5: Ted Nelson, Vannevar Bush, Douglas Englebart, Andries van Dam, and other pioneering hypertext theorists all emphasized that true hypertext has to have to allow readers to write and link. Fortunately, with the coming of blogs and now wikis, the Web has at last begun to approach the vision of the hypertext pioneers. Therefore, after a brief look at the most useful paradigms for wikis — that is, the best way for readers and writers to think about them — we shall look at The Victorian Web, a site containing more than 38,000 documents and images, some of which date from 1988 — long before the WWW took its present form. The four pre-web versions of the site used both full and partial read-write systems, and as the site took form, its webmaster and editors tried to employ the lessons learned from the earlier hypermedia systems to the WWW. We shall therefore look at how portions of the site have turned out to function much like a proto-wiki — a dynamic hypermedia corpus that contributors continually grow — and what kind of lessons the experience of working with the site has for owners and contributors of wikis.

**George P. Landow**, Professor of English and the History of Art at Brown University, has taught at Columbia, the University of Chicago, Brasenose College, Oxford, and Brown Universities. He has been a Fulbright Scholar (1963-1964), twice a Guggenheim Fellow (1973, 1978), and a Fellow of the Society for the Humanities at Cornell University (1968-1969), and he has received numerous grants and awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has been British Academy Visiting Professor at the University of Lancaster, Visiting Research Fellow in the University of Southampton, Visiting Professor at the University of Zimbabwe, Visiting Professor at the Catholic University of Sao Palo, and Distinguished Visiting Professor, National University of Singapore (NUS). He served as the founding dean of the University Scholars Programme, NUS, 1999-2001. His books on hypertext and digital culture include Hypermedia and Literary Studies (MIT, 1991), and The Digital Word: Text-Based Computing in the Humanities (MIT, 1993) both of which he edited with Paul Delany, and Hypertext: The Convergence of Contemporary Critical Theory and Technology (Hopkins UP, 1992), which has appeared in various European and Asian languages and electronically as Hypertext in Hypertext (Hopkins UP, 1994). In 1997, he published a much-expanded, completely revised version as Hypertext 2.0 and Hypertext 2.0: Critical Theory and New Media in an Era of Globalization appeared in 2006. He has also edited Hyper/Text/Theory (Hopkins UP, 1994) and published chapters in three dozens books. His fields of interest — in addition to new media, hypertext theory, and computer literature and art — include nineteenth-century literature, art, and religion, with many books published.
Invited Talk: “The Lively Kernel: A Wiki of Active Objects”
Dan Ingalls, Sun Microsystems

The Lively Kernel is a complete platform for Web programming written in JavaScript using graphics available in leading browsers. A widget set built from these elements provides a user interface kit, and the widget set is also extensible. A window-based IDE allows users to edit their applications and even the system itself.

When a user visits the Lively Kernel page, the kernel loads and runs with no installation whatsoever. The user can immediately construct new objects or applications and manipulate the environment.

The Lively Kernel is able to save its creations, and even clone itself, onto Web pages. In so doing, it defines a new form of dynamic content on the Web. Moreover, since it can run in today’s browsers, it promises that wherever there is the Internet, there can be authoring of Web content.

Beyond its utility, the simplicity and completeness of the Lively Kernel make it a practical benchmark of system complexity, and a flexible laboratory for exploring new approaches to security, simplified graphics, and Web technologies in general.

Dan Ingalls is a Distinguished Engineer at Sun Microsystems Laboratories. He is interested in dynamic languages, graphics and kernel software. He is Principal Investigator of the Lively Kernel project, a project to rethink web programming and the web itself.

Dan Ingalls is the principal architect of five generations of Smalltalk environments. He designed the byte-coded virtual machine that made Smalltalk practical in 1976. More recently, he conceived a Smalltalk written in itself and made portable and efficient by a Smalltalk-to-C translator, now known as the Squeak open-source Smalltalk.

Dan invented pop-up menus and also BitBlt, the general-purpose graphical operation that underlies most bitmap graphics systems today. As part of his work on Squeak, he designed generalizations of BitBlt to arbitrary color depth, with built-in scaling, rotation, and anti-aliasing.

Dan comes to Sun from Hewlett Packard Labs where he designed a module architecture for Squeak. He received his B.A. in Physics from Harvard University, and his M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University. He has also received the ACM Grace Hopper Award, and the ACM Software Systems Award.
Keynote: “Application Wikis to Mashup Makers to Next Generation Mashups”, Stewart Nickolas, IBM

In this session we'll discuss our experiences and lessons learned over the past couple years from developing and validating a technology called QEDWiki which is an application wiki (see video). We will also discuss our vision of the web beyond the technologies, uses and concepts attributed to Web 2.0. We'll discuss the importance of the ecosystem at the heart of the mashup/application wiki ecosystem, specifically, opensource, commercial and community efforts. Looking forward, we'll explore ways to derive new value from web consumables such as text, video and audio using semantic analysis and the inspection and repurposing of huge amounts of data within “massive” mashups.

Stewart Nickolas is a Distinguished Engineer in the Emerging Internet Technologies Group within IBM. Stew's recent responsibilities include chairing the OpenAjax Gadget Taskforce, leading the QEDWiki project within IBM, and defining and shaping IBM's Web 2.0 and Situational Application strategies. The Gadgets Taskforce is focused on defining a shared set of metadata that provides seamless integration among the gadgets providers and consumers.

Stew has also spearheaded IBM's technical strategy and implementation in the emerging area of Web 2.0 Enterprise Mash-up Makers. Additionally Stew works with customers to validate new technologies and with IBM product teams to develop the appropriate products.

Stew has been recognized by IBM with Outstanding Technical Achievement Awards in the area of Situational Applications and Rich Internet Applications.
Panel

“End-User Programming with Application Wikis”, Ludovic Dubost, Stewart Nickolas, and Peter Thoeny, moderated by Dirk Riehle

Wikis empower users to collaborate with each other using prose. Users imprint data structures and processes onto wiki pages using social and technical conventions.

Application wikis enhance wiki engines with lightweight programming features that aid in making data structures and processes explicit. Using these features, end-users can program a wiki to better support them in their collaborative processes and integrate their work into the overall IT infrastructure.

Application wikis make database access and business process integration easy from within the wiki while maintaining the wiki-style of collaborative work. The panellists of this panel, together with the audience and the moderator, will review existing work and explore future research directions in application wikis.
OpenSpace

OpenSpace is the energy of a good coffee break, with the flexible structure of wiki, where last minute, new creative ideas that otherwise wouldn't be on the WikiSym program to be worked on by all types of wiki enthusiasts, in a format that allows deeper consideration of an issue than can be achieved with a 20 minute presentation.

As a point of reference, many unconferences are organized with OpenSpace or a variant.

History

In 1985, Harrison Owen organized The Third Annual International Symposium on Organization Transformation in a very different way. Harrison claims people have been meeting this way as long as there have been people on earth, though many would say that the minimal structure Harrison added is essential, just the minimal structure provided by a wiki is essential. In a wiki, automatic linking is one of those pieces of structure, for example. In Open Space, the time grid on the wall is perhaps essential.

The Four Principles

- Whenever is starts is the right time.
- Whoever comes is the right people.
- Whatever happens is the only thing that could have.
- When it's over, it's over.
- The One Law
- The Law of Two Feet (or the Law of Mobility)

See also

- http://www.openspaceworld.com/ - Harrison Owen's site
- http://www.openspaceworld.org/ - worldwide practitioner's site
- Chris Corrigan's Open Space Resources
- Amazon listing for Open Space Technology: A User's Guide
- http://www.openingspace.net/ - Lisa Heft's site
- http://www.openspaceworldmap.org/ - find a facilitator near you
DoctoralSpace

The DoctoralSpace is an interactive forum for doctoral students to provide guidance on their doctoral work. Students close to their dissertation completion submitted their work and will discuss it in the forum. Students beginning their research are especially invited to attend.

- “Wikipedia as social interaction rooms and collaborative-writing processes”, Carlos F. d'Andréa, Federal University of Viçosa, Arts and Humanities Department
- “Exploring the Use of Wikis for Information Sharing in Interdisciplinary Design”, Ammy Jiranida Phuwanartnurak, Information School, University of Washington
- “A study on the Cooperation in Emergent and Distributed Cognition of Socio-Technological Networks through the case of the Wiki(pedia) article”, Rut Jesus, Center for Philosophy of Nature and Science Studies, University of Copenhagen
- “Affordances of Organizational Wikis for Internal Communication and Knowledge Sharing”, Katja Hilska, Department of Information Studies Tampere University
- “Wiki as a part of Knowledge Management within an International Corporation”, Iris Hackermeier, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich
- “Towards a Fully Decentralized and Collaborative Hosting Infrastructure for Wikipedia”, Guido Urdaneta, Guillaume Pierre, Maarten van Steen, VU University, Amsterdam
WikiFest

WikiFest is a conference session devoted to helping you start and grow a successful wiki.

Topics

- Choose the right wiki software for your needs
- Run a pilot to start use on a small scale and establish a core group of users
- Steps to a successful wiki pilot
- How to get it widely used throughout your organization, project, or group?
- Avoid the potential obstacles to wiki success: What are they, and how can you avoid or fix them?

Speakers

Soobaek Jang and Brian D. Goodman – IBM

Soobaek Jang and Brian D. Goodman are responsible for IBM’s internal wiki adoption. Over the past three years, they have supported over community of over 300,000 registered users working with over 20,000 wiki instances containing over 380,000 pages. After sharing high-level background, they will discuss three key lessons in managing wiki deployments and adoption in large-scale enterprises.

Camille Goksever - Chevron

Camille Goksever will present lessons learned deploying the first wiki at Chevron's Richmond, California refinery. Presentation will focus on how a wiki triggered cultural changes in an organization of non-technical users.

Antero Aunesluoma and Heikki Wilenius - University of Helsinki

The University of Helsinki's wiki service was opened in August 2007 - equally to staff and students. The adoption strategy has been strongly driven by the needs of users, all the way from selecting the software to formulating the rather liberal policy of use. At the moment there are more than 400 individually administered wiki spaces, supporting online collaboration on studies, research, and administration. In this session we will showcase how the University of Helsinki has adopted the wiki. Until this far the story has been a success but there are certain challenges already waiting for a solution.

Sean Munson - University of Michigan, The Boeing Company and Derek Hansen - University of Maryland

We discuss the results from two studies of the wiki deployment and adoption. In the first, we provided three online patient support mailing lists with wikis, help files, and suggestions for use based on study of the CSS-D mailing list and wiki. The second provided a Boeing
workgroup with a wiki to document and publicize their past work. In both cases, the social challenges were more difficult than technical challenges. In both instances, users were reluctant to edit others' content and were unsure of what (and how much detail) to add. Identifying a wiki team or wiki champion, encouraging a small group to initially seed the wiki with content, introducing the wiki concurrently to many potential members, and allowing and encouraging authors to take ownership of content helped to ease adoption issues.

**Martin Seibert - //SEIBERT/MEDIA**

//SEIBERT/MEDIA is a German web agency with over 60 employees and experience since 1996. We started to use our new wiki in July 2007 and have been experiencing a tremendous usage increase and a lot of successes, that I would like to share. Additionally we have collected a couple of good insights, on how to sell a wiki both from an economical perspective and an internal perspective to clients.

**Lex Slaghuis - wikiwise**

Lex Slaghuis of wikiwise will discuss observations and experiences on wiki concepts within a large local Dutch government agency. An analysis of current collaboration processes is presented with five recurring collaborative patterns. These patterns were identified by clustering the collaborative 'issues' of employees. The patterns are of interest as they seem to influence each other as well as they provide quick and easy overview of the organizational collaborative processes. Some of these patterns also appear to relate to typical wiki capabilities, such as RSS-feeds and link indexing.
Tutorials

A set of short tutorials (90 min/each), scheduled in a row on the first day, will offer you the chance to learn classic and cutting edge topics from the most experienced presenters worldwide on the topic.

“Getting started with XWiki”, Ludovic Dubost, Guillaume Lerouge, XWiki SAS

There are several wikis out there, from the widely popular MediaWiki to less-known alternatives such as GeboGebo or Sycamore. So many of them in fact, that most people cannot really distinguish one from another. While offering all the features wiki users have come to get used to (easy edition, page history, rich text editor), XWiki stands out as one of the few application wikis currently available. This tutorial will explain how one can go all the way from creating a simple XWiki-based website to writing small business applications right into the wiki.

Ludovic Dubost is the creator of the XWiki Open-Source wiki software and the founder & president of XWiki SAS, the company fuelling the development of and offering professional services for XWiki. He started working on XWiki in 2003 after he left NetValue, after the startup was bought by Nielse//NetRatings. He had worked as a software architect at Netscape earlier in his career.

Guillaume Lerouge is a product manager @ XWiki SAS. He discovered wikis while studying in London back in 2006 and quickly came to the realization that many enterprises would eventually want to take advantage of them. He started working as an intern for XWiki SAS soon thereafter, stepping into his current product management job 8 months afterwards.

“TikiWiki CMS/Groupware: when a Wiki is not enough”, Marc Laporte, TikiWiki.org

TikiWiki is a powerful, multilingual Wiki, Content Management System (CMS) and Groupware. Translated to 35 languages, and with an install base of tens of thousands, over 200 people have contributed to the source code and it provides hundreds of built-in features to create all sorts of web sites, intranets and extranets. The community eats its own DogFood and applies the "Wiki Way" to software development. Written in PHP, it is released as free software (LGPL).

Marc Laporte, one of the project admins, with over 100 implementations, will present the platform and a demonstration of the important functionality. Time will be reserved for a question period.

“Wikis for Publishing”, Stewart Mader, Grow Your Wiki