Time	Speaker	Topic
00:00	Mimi	• **Preliminaries**

- **Preliminaries**
  - Welcome to the Wiki Workshop
  - Who the three of us are
  - Workshop goals
    - You'll learn what it's all about
      - What wikis are
      - How they can be used
    - You'll learn the basic functions of a wiki
      - Editing pages
      - Creating links between pages
      - Creating new pages
      - Formatting conventions
    - You'll have some idea of what to do next
      - Set up a new wiki
      - Keep it going strong
    - You'll begin to understand the very wikiness of wikis
    - Above all, *you will not fear the wiki!*
  - How the workshop will be structured
    - 1. Paul will talk for a bit about what wikis are, where they came from, and how they work
    - 2. Dave will get you started in the wiki he set up just for this workshop
    - 3. Paul will add a few words on building wiki communities, the future of wikis, and other such stuff
    - 4. Free play time
  - Did everybody get the handouts?
    [Ideas: Syntax quick guide, URL for the workshop wiki, URLs for further information. —Paul.]

| 00:05 | Paul | • **Introduction** |

- **Introduction**
  - Terminology
    - Wiki vs. Wiki-wiki
      Either form is OK, but wiki *is more common*
    - Origin of the word
      - Hawai'ian *wiki, wikiwiki* 'to hurry, hasten; quick, fast, speedy' – better than the alternative 'Quick Web'
        Ward Cunningham, the inventor of the first wiki, thought of calling it a 'Quick Web' but that sounded boring, and he remembered the 'Wiki Wiki' shuttle buses at Honolulu airport and called it WikiWikiWeb instead.

      - Pronunciation
        WEE-kee is closest to the Hawai'ian pronunciation, but lots of people say WICK-ee
    - Wiki syntax / Wiki text
      The text markup rules for a particular wiki – e.g., *this* means this.
  - What is a wiki?
    - A web site that anyone can edit

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- What is a wiki?
  - You've all probably used Wikipedia
    The best-known wiki, but not at all typical
  - A web site built by *its users*
    - – using ordinary web browsers
      no special software required
    - – as they use it
      making and using become one activity
    - – without having to know HTML
      no special skills required
  - A community collaboration
  - A personal scratchpad
  - The simplest online database that could possibly work
    — Ward Cunningham

  - And many other things
- Where does it come from?
  - http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?WikiHistory
    First wiki – 1995
- How does it work?
  - The everyday routine
    - As you write, make links out of things that should (eventually) have a page in the wiki
      Whether they actually do or not is not important at this point
    - Go back and see what links are dead ends, and put in stubs so they're not dead ends any more
      Links to non-existent pages look different, so it's obvious what pages don't exist.
    - Later, flesh out the dead ends
    - Repeat *ad infinitum*
  - Linking conventions:
    - WikiWords
      Also known as CamelCase. People who build wikis that use this convention quickly get used to it, but it can look funny to people who aren't used to it.
    - [[Free links]]
      It takes a little more effort, but the results look more like normal text.
  - Access models:
    - Totally open
    - Mostly open
    - Access tightly controlled by administrators and page creators
  - Two editing models:
    - Plain <textarea/> with Wiki text and (maybe) some buttons to insert markup
      The original and norm
    - WYSIWYG-like editing 'widget'
      Can be pretty sophisticated
- Wiki principles
  Adapted from http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?WikiDesignPrinciples
  - Open
    Anyone can edit any page and create new pages
  - Incremental
    Pages can have links to pages that haven't even been written yet.
  - Organic
    The structure and text content of the site are open to editing and evolution.
  - Mundane
    A few simple text conventions provide access to the most useful page markup.
  - Universal
    The mechanisms of editing and organizing are the same as those of writing, so any writer is automatically an editor and organizer.
  - Overt
    The formatted (and printed) output will suggest the input required to reproduce it.

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- Overt
  The formatted (and printed) output will suggest the input required to reproduce it.
- Unified
  Page names will be drawn from a flat space so that no additional context is required to interpret them. [Not the case in some wikis.]
- Precise
  The title of a page will indicate its content, and will be constructed to avoid most name clashes, typically by forming noun phrases.
- Tolerant
  Interpretable (even if undesirable) behavior is preferred to error messages.
- Observable
  Activity within the site can be watched and reviewed by any visitor to the site.
- Convergent
  Duplication can be discouraged or removed by finding and citing similar or related content.

00:15 David

- **Hands-on wiki**
  - Introduction
    Go to the wiki for our workshop – the URL is on your handout (http://tinyurl.com/fosvw) [this leads to http://gslis.simmons.edu/mw/sandbox/Wiki_Training]
  - Register yourself as a user
  - Edit your user page, adding a link to the main page for the workshop
    Use a free link: [[Wiki training]]
  - Follow the link to that page
    Don't edit this page
  - Go back to your user page
  - Edit it, adding a link to a wiki page (which doesn't exist yet) about a hobby or interest of yours
    E.g., "I like to go [[water skiing]] in the winter."
    You can put in anthing you want – a favorite poem saying or poem, a sentence or two about yourself, **anything.** *Just try to keep it clean…*
  - Click on the link to your hobby page and write something there.
    Try experimenting with the formatting.

00:30 Paul

- **More about wikis**
  - More terminology
    - Pages vs. topics vs. articles vs. nodes
      Sometimes pages in a wiki are called topics *or* articles *or, to be really abstract and computer sciency,* nodes.
    - Web
      Sometimes a collection of wiki pages is called a web. *Confusing, but true!*
    - Interwiki
      Refers to the ability to make links from one wiki to another.
  - Wiki etiquette
    - We all own it
      User pages are an exception
    - Sign what you say
      And don't change others' signed contributions without explanation
    - Don't be rude
    - Do fix obvious mistakes
      Like typos and bad grammar
      But don't complain about other people's mistakes
    - Know who you're writing for
    - Explain controversial changes (if such a facility exists)
    - Have fun
    - Don't be afraid to break it
    - Most important: Don't try to be perfect
      A wiki is a living, growing organism. You can always make it perfect later. For now, just make it good enough.
  - What are wikis good for?
    - Collaboration
    - Personal notetaking
    - Bookmarks
    - Easy, piecemeal web site construction
      Start simple, add more whenever you have time and the inclination
  - What are they bad for?
    - Large-scale databases
    - Any web site that you want to keep tightly controlled

- What are they bad for?

- Kinds of wikis
  - Boring but useful
    - Home page
    - Blog
  - Interesting
    - Knowledge repository
    - [More?]
- Kinds of wiki *pages*
  Think of these as prototypes. [I'll show one example of each. —Paul.]
  - Definitional
    http://gslis.simmons.edu/mw/sandbox/Rutabaga
  - Encyclopedic
    http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamster
  - Discussion
    Discussion about what belongs in a specific wiki page is generally kept in a separate ('meta') page
    http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Hamster
    - 'Thread mode'
      a.k.a. 'Chat mode' – not wikis' strength(?)
  - Table of contents
    http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?StartingPoints
  - Guide
    Like annotated tables of contents, narrative in form
    http://www.usemod.com/cgi-bin/mb.pl?StartingPoints (more so at the beginning than the end)
  - User page
  - Magical
    RecentChanges, AllTopics, etc.
    http://
  - Categories
    Show how to 'tag' pages with a category, then follow the link to the category page and folow the backlink to see other pages in that category. [Do categories work this way in MediaWiki, or is there some shortcut?]
  - Sandbox
- What makes a wiki succeed?
  - Not these things:
    - Not the technology
    - Not the number of users
  - But these things:
    - Common interest
    - Inclusion, not exclusion
    - Barn raising
      BarnRaising occurs when a community actively decides to come to the same place at the same time to help achieve some specific goal. ... BarnRaising is part of the difference between SlashDot and wiki. With SlashDot the barn is already raised – the OpeningStatement already written – before you start, and everyone just sits around bitchin' about it.
      — http://www.usemod.com/cgi-bin/mb.pl?BarnRaising
    - Most important: the wiki must be about something that matters to its users and to which they feel they have something to contribute
- What makes a wiki fail?
  - Not these things:
    - Not spam
    - Not users who don't contribute
    - Not controversy
    - Not bad writing
    - Not difference in opinion on details
  - But these things:
    - Lack of focus – going in too many directions at once
      But that can be OK – just split the wiki – think of it as a large-scale refactoring
    - Bickering to the point where users are turned off
    - Mismatched expectations
      http://www.usemod.com/cgi-bin/mb.pl?CommunityExpectation

- But these things:

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- Mismatched expectations
  http://www.usemod.com/cgi-bin/mb.pl?CommunityExpectation
- Edit wars
  http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?EditWar
- People just lose interest
  It happens, and it's no big deal.
  - Challenges
    http://www.usemod.com/cgi-bin/mb.pl?GreatChallengesToWikis
- Case studies
  [These are experiences I had setting up two wikis at work several years ago. —Paul.]
  - JIOng
    Project management – design and implementation notes, diary
    - Why it worked
  - TP wiki
    Office documentation
    - Why it failed

David
  - dwiggipedia
- Wikis, wikis everywhere
  [Mention that there are many different wiki implementations, and give a couple of examples]
  - TiddlyWiki – a wiki all in one Web page
    This is when you stop thinking of wiki pages and start thinking in terms of nodes.
  - http://www.wikimatrix.org/wizard.php
    It's a wiki itself, of course!
    - Sample questions:
      - Would you like to install your own wiki software or put your wiki on a server hosted by someone else?
      - Do you want pages stored in files or a database?

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00:40	—	**Play time**
00:55	**Mimi**	**Wrap-up**

- Get your own wiki through the GSLIS MediaWiki server
  http://gslis.simmons.edu/mw
- Lots of other wiki sites and installations to choose from
- Further reading
  - Cunningham, W. (2001). *The Wiki way: quick collaboration on the Web*. Boston: Addison-Wesley.