

# Using Wikis to Foster Collaboration in Undergraduate and Graduate Courses

## What is a Wiki?

Wikis let work groups collaboratively develop a whole web site or individual pages.

Wiki technology is installed on the web server. Users create new content on the Wiki site using any web browser.

## Why use Wikis?

Wikis are great for small groups who trust each other and share a common goal.

Anyone in the group can log into the Wiki and add (or remove) content from any page in the site.

## What can you do with a Wiki?

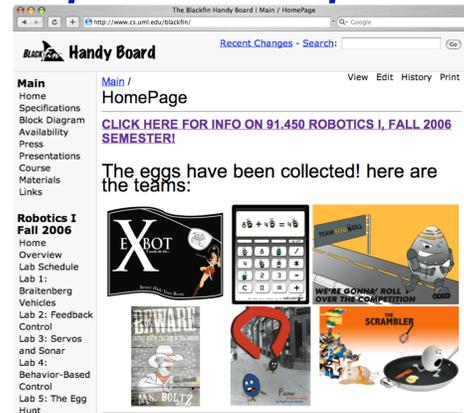
You can:

- collaborate with other faculty in building course content
- have students post their work to the web (and attach it to your assignment page for others to see)
- have student teams work together to post material
- update course curriculum and add readings during the semester
- just create an individual web site!

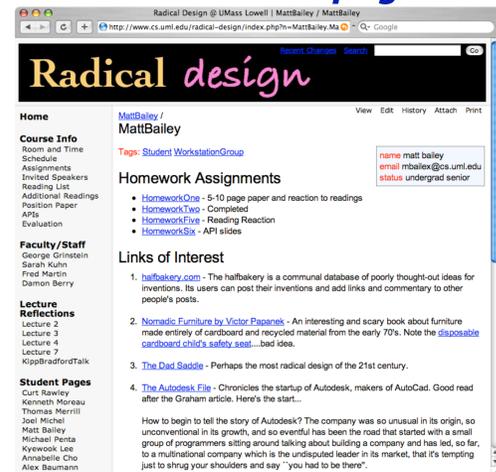
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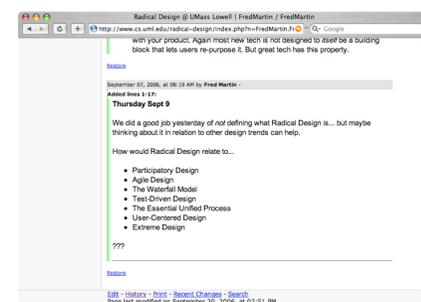
### Upload files and photos.



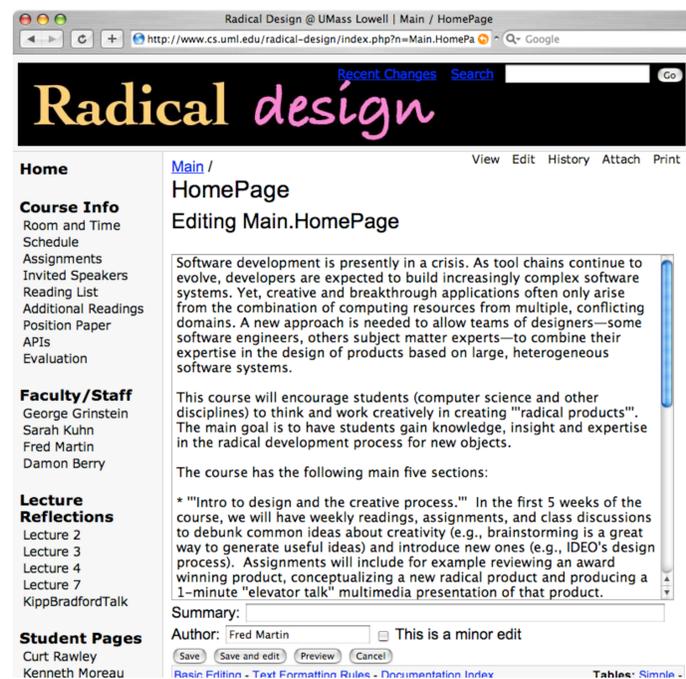
### A student-created page.



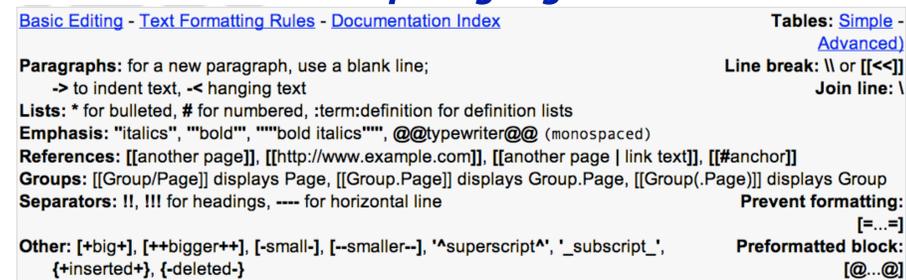
### Wiki "history" feature lets you see all changes made to each page.



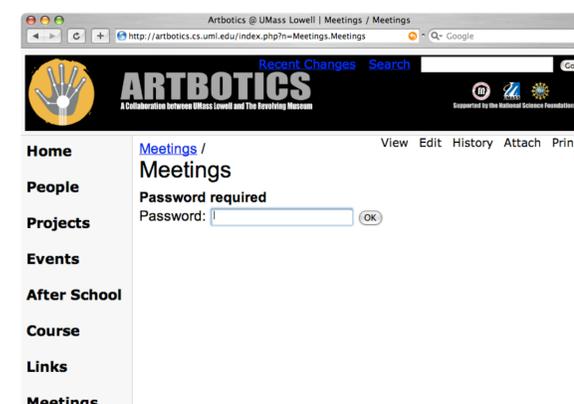
### Click on the "Edit" button, then just type into a text box on your web site.



### This is the Wiki markup language.



### All pages are password-protected.



## How does it work?

From any page on the Wiki site, you click "Edit this Page" and then type in your new content (or delete material you no longer want). There is a simple markup language for links, bullet lists, new pages, etc.

## What about security?

Many Wiki's have a simple scheme with one password for the whole site. You can make certain pages have other passwords. You need some protection so that hackers on the web won't deface your site.

## Can I upload images and files?

Yes! You simply put "Attach:" and the name of your file into your page. Then you save and upload your file.

## Which Wiki should I use?

There are many Wiki "engines" that can be installed on your web server. Most are free software that can be just downloaded and installed. I use "pmWiki," which has a good balance of features and usability.