

Teaching with Wikis

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Collaborative Software

- Assists a group to achieve a goal
- A mechanism for computer supported cooperative work
- Examples
 - Teleconferencing
 - Email
 - Chat
 - Wiki
- Social software is a more general term

Wiki software

- A web site that can be updated
- Introduced in 1995; entered the OED in March, 2007
- Very well suited for distributed, collaborative authoring
- Best known example is Wikipedia
- Enormous variety of types of wikis.

Wiki Features

- Individual pages can be edited.
- New pages are introduced by naming them.
- Links are easily added.
- Wikis have been integrated with other tools
 - Integrated Development Environment
 - Configuration Management
 - Issue Tracking Software
 - Project Planning Software
 - RSS Feeds
 - Secure Access
 - Tagging

Wikis as a teaching and research tool

- Well suited for team projects
 - Members can collaborate without face-to-face meetings.
 - Members can contribute from many locations.
- Also appropriate for individual projects
 - One can access the project from multiple locations
 - Faculty supervision is more convenient
- Can be made fully secure and private by using certificates.
- The class as a whole as well as every team and individual can be given its own wiki.

Wiki Demo

Issues with using wikis

- Simply providing a wiki environment does not automatically result in beneficial outcomes.
- Previous experience with wiki based communities is useful.
- The integrated tools can be more important than the wiki.