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Semantic MediaWiki Basics

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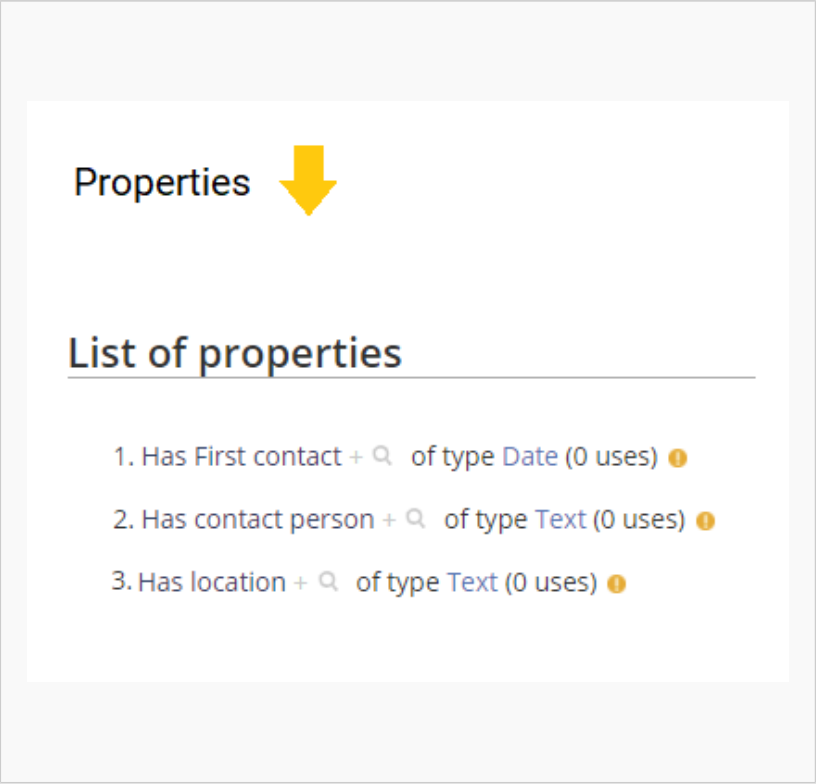
Scope and terminology

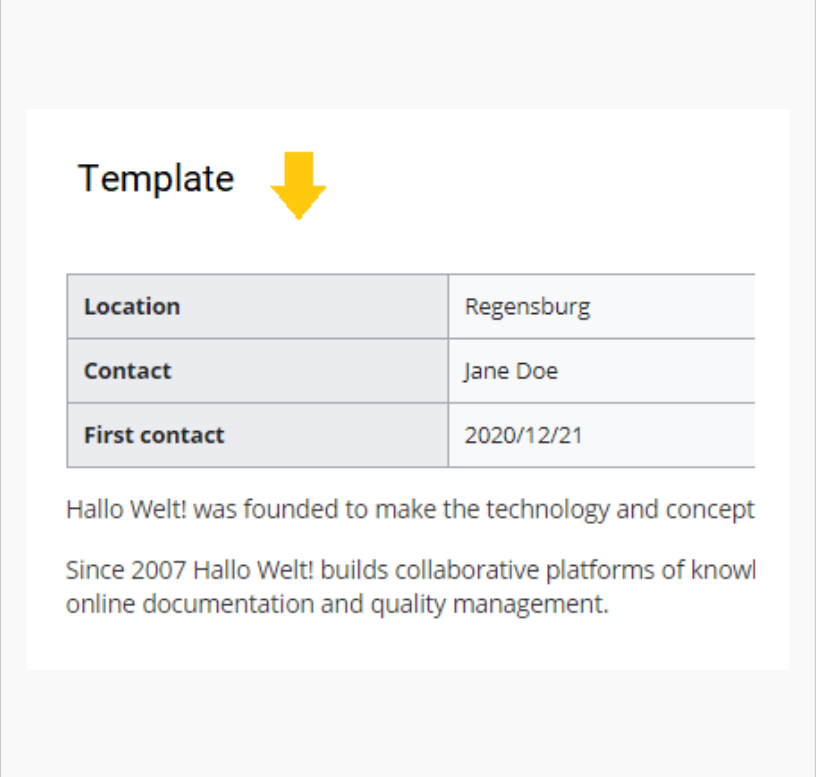
Semantic MediaWiki (SMW) is a MediaWiki extension that enables you to define and query data on a wiki page.

The following steps are usually taken to work with data-based content in your wiki :

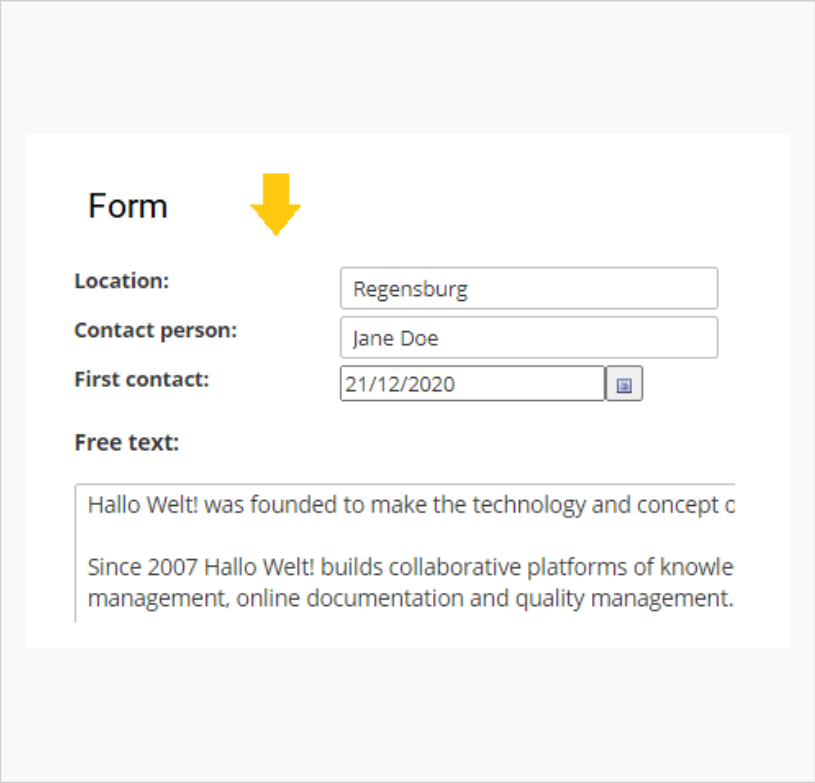
1. **Define properties:** Properties determine which values can be queried in the wiki.
2. **Create a template:** This creates the output format of the data set on the wiki pages.
3. **Create a form:** Using this form, Wiki users can comfortably enter their data.
4. **Assign a category:** Each page that contains a semantic query is usually tagged with a category that was created for this purpose. This, in addition to the attributes, provides an important means of querying and filtering the pages. It also creates a form editing mode for the wiki pages that contain this category.



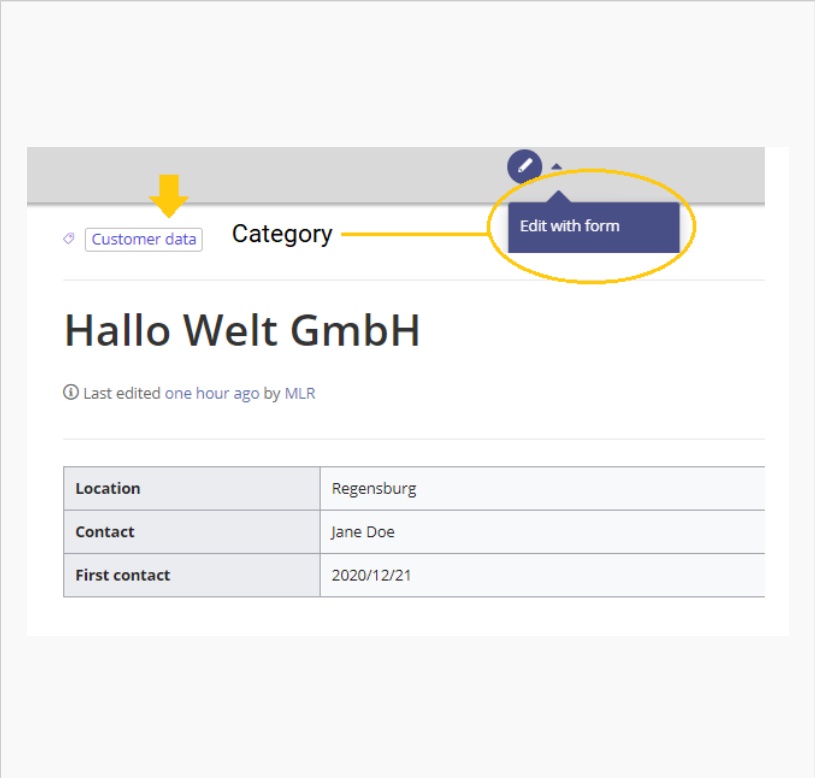
Semantic properties



Semantic template



Data entry form



Category to organize data

Define properties

To make information available as data on a wiki page, we create so-called **properties**. For example, if we want to semantically record customer data, we create a wiki page for each customer. We collect customer data such as location on every customer page. To do this, we create a property that records the location of the customer.

```
[[Has location::Regensburg]]
```

Afterwards I can list all customers at a certain location or all customers with their associated locations in the wiki.

Create a template

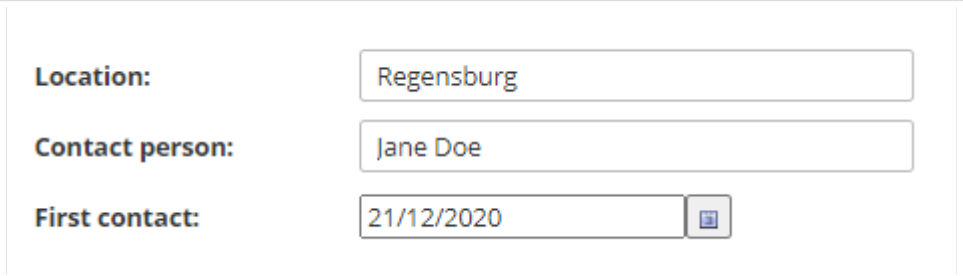
Since we often want to display several such properties and their values on one page at the same time, we format a special area that clearly shows the collected page attributes. This requires a (data) template, which can then be used on any wiki page.

Location	Regensburg
Contact	Jane Doe
First contact	2020/12/21

Data template

Create a form

To support our users with data entry tasks, we create an input form. The input form is shown when users switch to the edit mode of a wiki page that has the semantic template included.



Data entry form

Assign a category

Wiki pages that use semantic templates are tagged with a category. This category enables the assignment of the input form to the wiki page. The category is also used to query the data collected via the template and display it anywhere in the wiki.

Example

On the following pages, we will create an example that collects and displays customer data it in the wiki.

Example: Collect customer data

Example: Customer data

In this exampla for SMW, we create a query for customer data. The collected information is shown at the beginning of each customer page.

Location	Regensburg
Contact	Jane Doe
First contact	2020/12/21

Example: Customer data

This requires 4 steps:

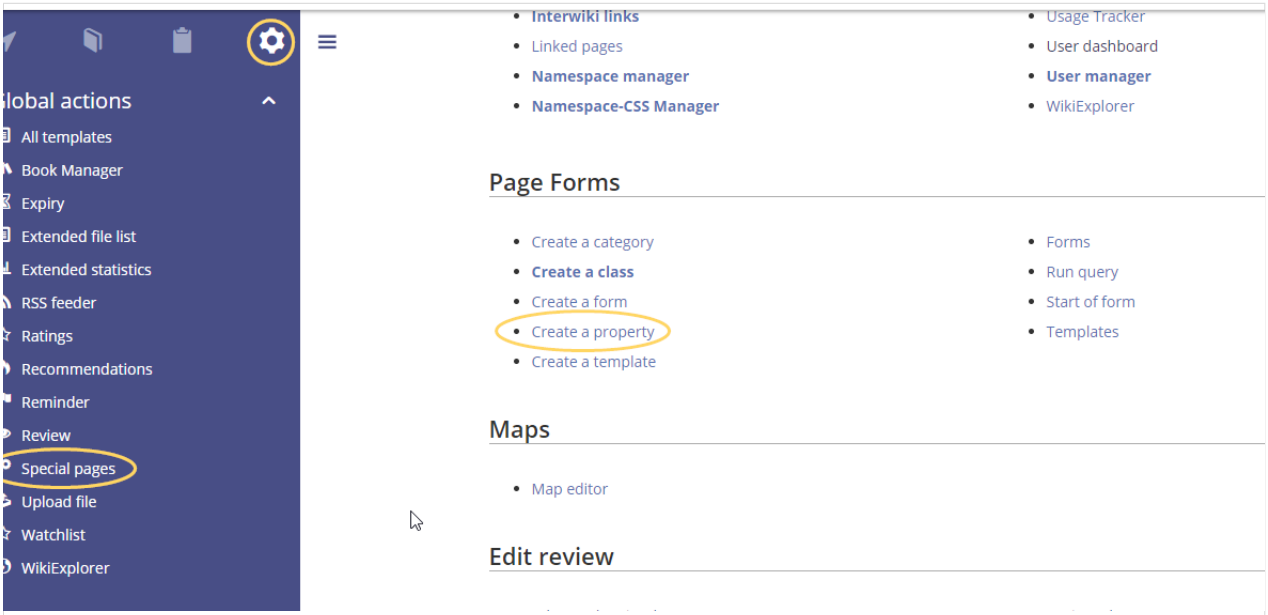
1. Defining properties
2. Creating a template
3. Creating a form
4. Creating a category

Defining properties

For our customer query, we define 3 properties:

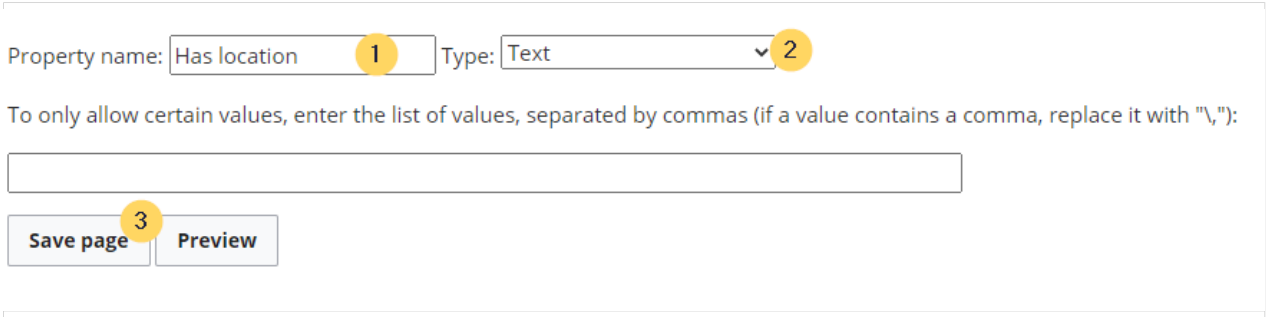
- Location
- Contact person
- Date of first contact

1. Switch to *Special pages* in the navigation menu *Global Actions*. Scroll down to section **Page Forms**.



Create a property

2. Click *Create a property*. In the form, enter the name and data type for the first property Has location:: - Property name (1): Hat Location - Data type (2): Text



Create the first property

Click *Save page* (3). A message box appears that shows you that the property is now being processed in the wiki. You can ignore this message.

Property "Has location" was altered and requires assigned entities to be reevaluated using a change propagation process. The property page has been locked until the primary specification update is completed to prevent intermediary interruptions or contradictory specifications. The process may take moment before the page can be unlocked as it depends on the size and frequency of the job queue scheduler.

Property gets processed

For each property, a page is created in the namespace Property in the wiki. This page contains the information about the data type.

3. Switch back to the page Wechseln Sie erneut zur Seite *Spezial:CreateProperty*. Create the property ***Has contact person*** with data type ***Text*** as shown before.
4. Switch back to *Special:CreateProperty*. Create the property ***Has First contact*** with data type ***Date***.

Tip: In your personal navigation, you can create a quick link to the Page Forms section of the special pages main page. Just enter the following link: **[[Special:SpecialPages#Page_Forms]]

You can review the properties in your wiki by going to the page *Special:Properties*.

SpecialPages: Properties

Properties

This page lists properties and their usage counts available for this wiki. For up-to-date count statistics it is recommended that the property statistics maintenance script is run on a regular basis. For a differentiated view, see the unused or wanted properties special pages.

Options

Showing below up to **9** results starting with #**1**.

View (previous 50 | next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)

Display properties that contain:

Has

Go

List of properties

1. Has First contact + of type Date (0 uses)
2. Has contact person + of type Text (0 uses)
3. Has location + of type Text (0 uses)

Special page: Properties

The necessary properties for data collection are now available. In the next step, we create the template that will be included in our customer pages to display the customer data.

Create the template

Related info

- https://www.semantic-mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Properties_and_types