

Semantic MediaWiki Basics

Contents

1 Scope and terminology	2
2 Define properties	5
3 Create a template	5
4 Create a form	5
5 Assign a category	6
6 Example	6

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.

Properties



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) 

Semantic properties

Template



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

Hallo Welt! was founded to make the technology and concept

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online documentation and quality management.

Semantic template

Form



Location:

Contact person:

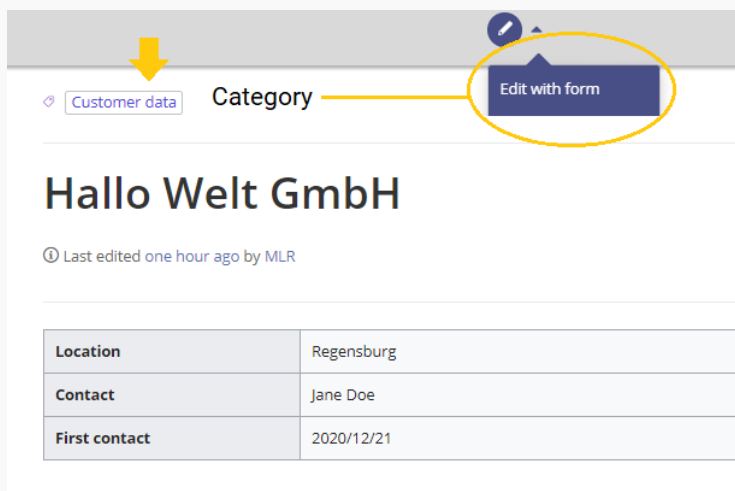
First contact: 

Free text:

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Data entry form



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with a yellow arrow pointing to the 'Customer data' category link. A yellow circle highlights the 'Edit with form' button, with a line connecting it to the 'Category' label. Below the navigation bar, the title 'Hallo Welt GmbH' is displayed, followed by a note 'Last edited one hour ago by MLR'. A table below contains the data entry form fields:

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

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.

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

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