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### 3 Wiki architecture concepts

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#### The wiki page model

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Each installed instance of a wiki is made up of different types of pages. Each page type serves a specific role in the wiki and, therefore, contains different elements which are described here.

#### Wiki instance

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A wiki instance has the following main characteristics:

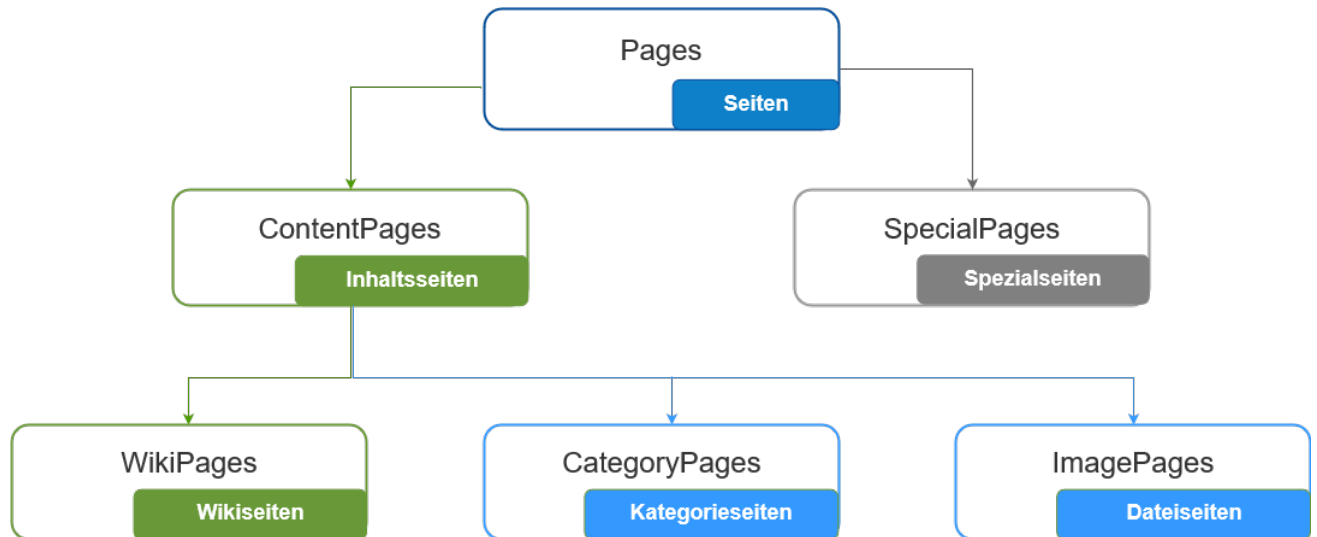
- it has its own configuration
- it has its own data storage with
  - its own database (for pages, users, user<->groups, user settings, ...)
  - its own file repo (for uploaded files)
- it can be part of a wiki farm

## Wiki pages

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### The pages modell

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### Page types

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#### Special page

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Each wiki instance contains a large number of special pages. These pages are built-in and not directly editable like other pages. All special pages are located in the pseudo-namespace "Special" and are listed on the page Special:

SpecialPages:

- **Maintenance reports** (e.g., broken redirects, uncategorized pages, wanted pages)
- **Lists of pages** (e.g., all pages, categories, forms, templates, high-use pages)
- **User admin pages** (e.g., active users list, blocked users, user rights)
- **BlueSpice special pages** (e.g., category manager, namespace manager, privacy admin)
- and many others

If you want to create your own special page, you can find the necessary information at [Mediawiki.org](https://mediawiki.org).

## Content page

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Content pages are all editable wiki pages. They can be **wiki pages** that are created by all users with the goal to share information on the wiki. **Category pages** are created when a page was added to a category and a user subsequently saves the necessary category page. A **file description page** is created when a file is uploaded to the wiki.

All three types of content pages have these commonalities:

- they contain user-generated content
- they contain mainly Wikitext (but not exclusively)
- they are revisioned and have a version history
- they have an associated "Talk page"

## Wiki page

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Wiki pages are normally the reason why you would install a wiki in the first place. These are the actual "content pages" that users create when they add information to a wiki. They can be "blank" at the beginning or based on a page template that already contains some content with a predefined structure.

- free-text page
- sometimes based on templates

## Category page

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To display all pages that share a category tag, a category page has to be created. Otherwise, users won't have a list of pages that are in a particular category. Its most important characteristics are:

- hybrid page (contains auto-generated content)
- contains a list of all pages that are in that particular category
- can be customized as needed
- located in the namespace "Category"

## File / image (description) page

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When a file (e.g. image or PDF) is uploaded to the wiki, a corresponding description page is created. This page shows all necessary file information and provides access to important file management tools. Its most important characteristics are:

- hybrid page
- contains a preview (if possible)
- contains a file version history
- contains file metadata
- located in the namespace "File"

## Related info

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- [mediawiki.org/wiki/Manual:Special\\_pages](https://mediawiki.org/wiki/Manual:Special_pages)

[UserManual:De:Handbuch:Wikiarchitektur](#)

[mediawikiwiki:Manual:Special pages](#)

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The page you are looking for does not exist.

Please take a look at our existing help topics.

If you are a contributor and want to create the page, simply log in now.

## Wikitext

### Contents

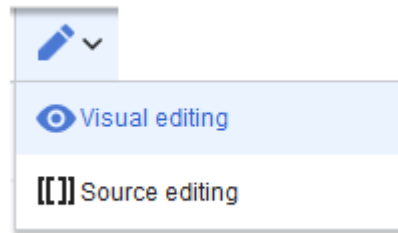
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## What is Wikitext?

Wikitext is a simplified markup language that is used to format and structure text and other data. While HTML is the most common markup language for web pages, Wikitext is used in wiki systems. Like HTML, it uses tags to mark parts of tags or other data.

## How do I use Wikitext?

When you edit a page, you can switch between visual editing and source editing:



Wikitext can be entered in source editing mode. When you are in visual editing mode, VisualEditor inserts Wikitext "behind the scenes". If VisualEditor doesn't format elements on a page correctly, you can always switch to source editing to correct the issues directly in Wikitext.

## Examples of Wikitext

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Here are some typical examples of Wikitext:

### Text formatting

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- This is `'''bold'''`
- This is `''italic''`
- This is `<u>underlined</u>`

### Structuring

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#### Headings

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- (1st level): *reserved for page title*
- 2nd level: `==Section heading==`
- 3rd level: `===Section sub-heading===`

#### Lists

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- ordered (numbered):

```
# One
## One-point-one
### One-point-one-point-one
# Two
```

- unordered (bulleted): \*
- definition list: ;Fire:provides energy and light

## Tables

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```
{| class="wikitable"
|-
!header 1
!header 2
|-
|row 1, cell 1
|row 1, cell 2
|-
|row 2, cell 1
|row 2, cell 2
|}
```

## Links

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### Wiki internal

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- `[[Page title]]`
- `[[Pancake | Best pancake]]`
- this creates a link to the page "Pancake" with the link description "Best pancake".
- see also the Mediawiki help page for links: [mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Links](https://mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Links) and the
- help section about external links to internal pages [mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Links#External\\_links\\_to\\_internal\\_pages](https://mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Links#External_links_to_internal_pages)
- links with parameters / links that open in a new tab: `<span class="plainlinks">[\[\[FULLPAGENAME\]\]|action=edit] Edit this page</span>`



## Wiki external

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- `[[http://www.hallowelt.com Hallo Welt!]]`
- `http://www.hallowelt.com`

## Files/Images

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- **Image link:** `[[Media:Someimage.png]]`
- **Embed an image:** `[[File:Someimage.png]]`
- This embeds the image *Someimage.png* on the page.
- embedding only happens when a link points to the "File" namespace
- the wiki checks if a preview/thumbnail can be created automatically (e.g. image formats like "png", "jpeg", "gif", "svg") and then embeds a preview into the page
- otherwise a link will be created to the wikipage in the "File" namespace (aka "file description page")
- **Embed a file:** `[[Media:SomePDF.pdf]]`
- can be embedded: PDF, Tiff (needs extension)
- cannot be embedded: Microsoft Office and Libre Office files; Shell-Scripts, ...

## Formatting example:

```
File:Someimage.png|thumb|50px|left|alt=Screenshot of the edit menu|
```

## Miscellaneous

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Type of wikiText	Example
Special character	<code>&amp;atilde;</code> → ã <code>&amp;ccedil;</code> → ç UTF-8 is possible
Comment	<code>&lt;!-- unnoticed --&gt;</code>

Type of wikiText	Example
No "wiki translation"	<code>&lt;nowiki&gt;</code> and <code>&lt;/pre&gt;</code>
Table of contents	<code>__TOC__</code> and <code>__NOTOC__</code>
Signature	<code>~~~~</code>
Redirect	<code>#REDIRECT [[targetpage]]</code>
Template	<code>{{template name}}</code>

#### Related info

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- [meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help:Wikitext\\_examples](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help:Wikitext_examples)
- Magic words