

Real-Time Collaborative Editing

<https://etherpad.wikimedia.org/p/Collab15>

C. Scott Ananian <cscott@cscott.net>

Wikimedia Foundation

With thanks to Dario Taraborelli, Ori Livneh, and Erik Zachte.
Slides from Erik Moeller. Designs by Pau Giner.

Wikimania 2015
July 17, 2015

What are we doing here?

What are we doing here?

- Lots of talk among developers about technical mechanisms for real-time collaboration.
- Very little talk about the social aspects or impact on community.
- Not much dialog between developers and editors and readers.
- Let's start to fix that!

First!

**Real Time Collaboration
already happens on
wikimedia projects.**

Real-time editing today

Example article: “2014 pro-Russian unrest in Ukraine” on English Wikipedia

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- (cur | prev) 20:56, 9 May 2014 RGloucester (talk | contribs | block) . . (153,736 bytes) **(-874)** . . *(→Attacks on journalists: "VoR reported that Interfax mentioned that Lifenews reported" - Hearsay to the extreme, and absolutely ridiculous.)* (undo | thank)
- (cur | prev) 20:53, 9 May 2014 RGloucester (talk | contribs | block) **m** . . (154,610 bytes) **(-1)** . . *(General formatting, date formats per WP:MOSNUM by script)* (undo | thank)
- (cur | prev) 20:34, 9 May 2014 EkoGraf (talk | contribs | block) . . (154,611 bytes) **(+298)** . . (undo | thank)
- (cur | prev) 20:32, 9 May 2014 EkoGraf (talk | contribs | block) . . (154,313 bytes) **(+656)** . . *(Please be carefull, you reverted my whole edit)* (undo | thank)
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Real-time chat today

Excerpt from <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/IRC/Channels>

#wikipedia-af ^{connect}	Afrikaans	Afrikaans.
#wikipedia-als ^{connect}	Alemannisch	Alemannic, may be logged if necessary.
#wikipedia-ar ^{connect}	العربية	Arabic.
#wikipedia-as ^{connect}		
#wikipedia-ay ^{connect}		
#wikipedia-balkan ^{connect}	Balkan	Balkan, publicly logged, UTF-8/ASCII encoding.
#wikipedia-be ^{connect}		
#wikipedia-bn ^{connect}	বাংলা	This is primarily for Wikipedia, but other Bengali projects are also welcome.
#wikipedia-be-tarask ^{connect}	Беларуская (тарашкевіца)	Belarusian (Taraškievica).
#wikipedia-bg ^{connect}	Български	Bulgarian.
#wikipedia-br ^{connect}		
#wikipedia-bs ^{connect}	Bosanski	Bosanski.
#wikipedia-ca ^{connect}	Català	Catalan.
#wikipedia-ca-vandalisme ^{connect}		
#wikipedia-ch ^{connect}		
#wikipedia-ckb ^{connect}		
#cs.wikipedia ^{connect}		
#wikipedia-cs-rc ^{connect}		
#wikipedia-cs-social ^{connect}		
#wikipedia-ce ^{connect}	Нохчийн	Chechen.
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#wikipedia-ckb ^{connect}		
#cs.wikipedia ^{connect}		
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Edit conflicts

English Wikipedia, July 2014

- >120,000 edit conflicts
- 23,000 registered users encountered a conflict
- Top conflicting articles:
 - Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 - 289 conflicts
 - Twitch (website) - 207 conflicts
 - Operation Protective Edge - 102 conflicts
 - Germany national football team - 72 conflicts
 - FIFA World Cup records - 71 conflicts



WIKIPEDIA The Free Encyclopedia

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Language

Edit conflict: Red Randall Series

Page notice

Someone else has changed this page since you started editing it, resulting in an edit conflict.

- The upper text area contains the page text as it currently exists (without your changes).
Your version of the page (with your changes) is shown in the lower text area.
You will have to merge your changes into the existing text in the upper text area to incorporate your edits. Only the text in the upper text area will be saved when you press "Save page"; all other changes in the lower text area will be lost.

Please do not just copy the text from the lower text area into the upper, unless you're sure that you want to undo all other changes made while you were editing this page. Rather, please try to compare the two versions and combine them into one text that preserves both your edits and any improvements made by others.

An easy way to resolve an edit conflict without losing your work is to open another tab in your browser, and edit the page in that tab copying your changes from the section at the bottom of the page.

Content that violates any copyrights will be deleted. Encyclopedic content must be verifiable. Work submitted to Wikipedia can be edited, used, and redistributed—by anyone—subject to certain terms and conditions.

Help | About | Advanced | Special characters | Help | Data

The ""Red Randall series"" was a 1940s, boys war adventure series by [[R. Sidney Bowen]]. Like the [[Dave Dawson War Adventure Series]] the series pertained to [[World War II]] specifically the [[Pacific War|Pacific Theatre]] of the war. The main character, Red Randall serves throughout the book series as a military aviator. The books contain frequent deviation from history, such as a [[Fifth Column]] Japanese base on the [[Hawaii Islands]], during the air raid on [[Pearl Harbor]].

==Red Randall Series==
{{ border="1" | cellpadding="2" | class="wikitable" |width="50%" | |
|width="25%" |title

- 1944 {{ Red Randall at Pearl Harbor
|-
|1944 {{ Red Randall on Active Duty
|-
|1944 {{ Red Randall over Tokyo
|-
|1944 {{ Red Randall at Midway
|-
|1944 {{ Red Randall on New Guinea
|-
|1945 {{ Red Randall in the Aleutians
|-
|1945 {{ Red Randall in Burma
|-
|1946 {{ Red Randall's One-Man War

[[Edit summary (briefly describe the changes you have made)]]

This is a minor edit Watch this page

By clicking the "Save page" button, you agree to the Terms of Use and you irrevocably agree to release your contribution under the CC BY-SA 3.0 License and the GFDL with the understanding that a hypertext or URL is sufficient for CC BY-SA 3.0 attribution.

Save page Show preview Show changes Cancel

Pages transcluded onto the current version of this page:

- Template:Abbox (edit) (template protected)
Template:Child-novel-stub (edit) (semi-protected)
Template:Navbar (edit) (template protected)
Template:Transclude (edit) (protected)
Template:War-novel-stub (edit)

This page is a member of 1 hidden category:

Differences

Table with 2 columns: Your text and Stored revision. Line 1: Comparison of the series description and the character Red Randall across different versions.

Your text

The ""Red Randall series"" was a 1940s, boys war adventure series by [[R. Sidney Bowen]]. Like the [[Dave Dawson War Adventure Series]] the series pertained to [[World War II]] specifically the [[Pacific War|Pacific Theatre]] of the war. The main character, Red Randall serves throughout the book series as a military aviator. The books contain frequent deviation from history, such as a [[Fifth Column]] Japanese base on the [[Hawaii Islands]], during the air raid on [[Pearl Harbor]].

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What's next.

- We'll discuss what we do now, and what we'd like to do.
- We'll present some designs and ideas.
- We'll discuss some more!
- If we run over time, perhaps we'll go over to Don Diego 4 and continue the discussion with the WMF Collaboration team.

Let's discuss (#1)

What we do now:

- How we find collaborators.
- How we find out about new stuff.
- How we coordinate.
- What works well, and...
- What we'd like to fix.

Some designs and ideas

Google Docs



100%

Normal text

Arial

11

B*I*U**A**

More



Wikimania real-time collaboration session

Structure

Wikipedia is already a real-time collaboration tool

Possible data to get

 Edit conflict instrumentation would be useful to show hot spots

 Near-collaborative edits. Histogram? # articles/day getting >X edits?

 IRC usage

How we currently collaborate: etherpads, talk pages, irc channels, etc

How can we reduce friction of this process?

But: Maintaining focus

(possible UX exploration) "Find collaborators"

 Directory

 Advertising via Flow boards

 Metadata about sessions

 "We're collaborating on the military history topic of the day"

 Issues to work on

 Mentorship ("Teahouse")

Real-time notifications

Focus / collaboration mode

Edit conflict/merge UI

(possible UX exploration)

 Chat: On-the-record vs. off-the-record



Erik Moeller

2:24 AM Today

Resolve



Although not a very good one!

FaceWiki

<https://jsfiddle.net/cscottnet/z6otfreq/embedded/result/>

Friends



C. Scott Ananian

Just logged on!



Arlo Breault

Edited [\[\[Montreal\]\]](#)



Subbu Sastry

Reverted a change to [\[\[Cricket\]\]](#)

Groups

[WikiProject:Astronomy](#)

[Parsing Fiends](#)

[enwiki Welcome Committee](#)

What's Happening



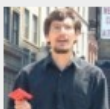
[\[\[Cricket\]\]](#) became a featured article!

With the big 2015 cricket matches just getting underway, it's no surprise that [Cricket](#) is one of our top hits for the month. [Subbu](#) and [Mark](#) have been hard at work: this is their third jointly-edited feature article.



Arlo just got a barnstar!

Arlo has been an active member of the community for over a decade. He's being recognized for his exemplary work sheparding newcomers at the 2015 Mexico Hackathon



C. Scott started a new article on [\[\[Llamas\]\]](#)

I've got a herd of great ideas for this one.



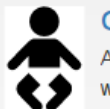
[WikiProject:Astronomy](#) gained a new member: [Fran](#)

Let's all say hi to [Fran](#) and make them feel welcome!



[WikiProject:Astronomy](#) editathon!

To welcome [Fran](#) to the group, we're going to have a [group collaborative editathon](#) all day today! Click the link to join in the fun!



C. Scott had a kid!

A beautiful baby girl, born Aug 30, weighs 7lb7oz. Mom's doing well and we're all very happy.

Name suggestions welcome!

Chat



Hey, who's up for some editing tonight?



Not me. I'm burned out by the [revert war](#) on [\[\[Cricket\]\]](#)



I was thinking about updating some Canada infoboxes.



The 2014 census data just came out.



Oh, cool! I'll help you out.



You take the western provinces, I'll take the east?



Sure, that will work.



Congratulations on your barnstar, by the way!

Who's online

- C. Scott Ananian
- Arlo Breault
- Subbu Sastry

TogetherJS

<https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:TogetherJS>

...but at the moment requires a patched copy of Visual Editor.
...and it's not actually deployed on Wikipedia.

Alternatively, add:

```
importScript( 'User:cscott/TogetherJS-demo.js' );
```

to [\[\[Special:MyPage/common.js\]\]](#) on your favorite wiki (and have your friends do the same).

N.Agas starts a new article and asks other members of the Astronomy WikiProject to join editing together.



WikiProject

Astronomy

Welcome to the astronomy WikiProject! If you enjoy gazing at the night sky, watching the Moon, stars and planets, or reading about the latest astronomical discoveries, then this is the project for you.

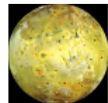
+ New activity

Activity

New articles

Tools

Today



Io (Moon)

Galilean moon of Jupiter

5 editors woking on it

Join the session

12 March



Curiosity → Curiosity (Rover)

Car-sized robotic rover exploring Gale Crater on Mars.

Redirect

Discussion

15 March



Pillars of Creation

astrophotograph

Proposed deletion

Discussion

120 Members

N.Agas

2743 Wikipedia

2 min. ago



Wayne Milk

Callisto (moon)

3 hours ago



Hal Nine K

Callisto (moon)

5 days ago



Mentoring

Carl

Io (moon)

2 min. ago



Anna Wong

Io (moon)

4 days. ago



Jules-Tr

Curiosity (rover)

15 days ago



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WikiProject Astronomy

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+ New activity


Topic 274301 Wikipedia Tools


Work on Let's expand this article




Invite Astronomy YuriGgr

[Start editing session](#) Join the session

12 March  [Curiosity](#) → [Curiosity \(Rover\)](#)
Car-sized robotic rover exploring Gale Crater on Mars.
Redirect Discussion




15 March  [Pillars of Creation](#)
astrophotograph
Proposed deletion Discussion

 120 Members

N.Agas 2743 Wikipedia 2 min. ago 
Wayne Milk Callisto (moon) 3 hours ago 
Hal Nine K Callisto (moon) 5 days ago 

▼

Mentoring

Carl lo (moon) 2 min. ago 
Anna Wong lo (moon) 4 days. ago 
Jules-Tr Curiosity (rover) 15 days ago 

Jane joins the session to edit “274301 Wikipedia” (asteroid) in real-time mode



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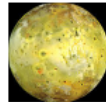


274301 Wikipedia

Main belt asteroid · Let's expand this article

New edit session

Join the session



Io (Moon)

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15 days ago












Jane joins the session to edit “274301 Wikipedia” (asteroid) in real-time mode

The screenshot shows a web browser interface for editing a Wikipedia article. At the top, a green header bar contains the text "One new edit by WayneMilk" on the left, "View recent edits" in the center, and "Pause live updates" on the right. Below the header, the article title "274301 Wikipedia" is displayed in a large, bold font. Underneath the title, a paragraph of text provides information about the asteroid: "274301 Wikipedia (provisional designations: 2008 QH₂₄, 2007 FK₃₄, 1997 RO₄) is a main belt asteroid. It was discovered by the Andrushivka Astronomical Observatory in August 2008. The asteroid was named after the online encyclopedia Wikipedia in January 2013." Below the text, a horizontal line is visible, and the letter "D" is partially visible at the bottom of the frame. The browser's address bar at the top shows "Editing 274301 Wikipedia" and various editing tools like bold, italic, underline, and link. On the right side of the page, there are icons for a user profile, a chat bubble, and a clock.

Other users add content to the article at the same time. Jane wants to find out who they are ..

The screenshot shows the top portion of a Wikipedia article in edit mode. The browser's address bar at the top indicates the page is titled "Editing 274301 Wikipedia". The editing toolbar includes icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, link, and image upload. A green notification bar at the top left says "One new edit by WayneMilk". On the top right, there are links for "View recent edits" and "Pause live updates". The article title "274301 Wikipedia" is displayed in a large font. Below the title, the main text reads: "274301 Wikipedia (provisional designations: 2008 QH₂₄, 2007 FK₃₄, 1997 RO₄) is a main belt asteroid. It was discovered by the Andrushivka Astronomical Observatory in August 2008. The asteroid was named after the online encyclopedia Wikipedia in January 2013." A section header "Discovery" is visible below the main text. The first sentence of the "Discovery" section is "The asteroid was discovered by astronomers from the Andrushivka Astronomical Observatory (A50) in Ukraine." The second sentence is "It was also observed on the next night and it received provisional designation 2008 QH24". Two grey callout boxes are present: one labeled "Carl" points to the end of the second sentence, and another labeled "Jules-Tr" points to the word "received" in the same sentence. On the right side of the page, there are icons for user profile, chat, and a clock.

Jane can view who is participating in the article...


 Editing 274301 Wikipedia        






274301 Wikipedia


274301 Wikipedia (provisional designations: **2008 QH₂₄**, **2007 FK₃₄**, **1997 RO₄**) is a [main belt asteroid](#). It was discovered by the [Andrushivka Astronomical Observatory](#) in August 2008. The asteroid was named after the online encyclopedia [Wikipedia](#) in January 2013.


Discovery

The asteroid was discovered by astronomers from the Andrushivka Astronomical Observatory (A50) in Ukraine. It was also observed on the next night and it received provisional designation 2008 QH24.

Last edited 2 days ago by N.Agas 

 12 Editors 
N.Agas Astronomy 21 edits 
Wayne Milk Spaceflight Blades ... 15 edits 
Hal Nine K Spaceflight 15 edits 



 Invite collaborators

Quick conversation

...and what are they working on.

274301 Wikipedia

274301 Wikipedia (provisional designations: **2008 QH₂₄**, **2007 FK₃₄**, **1997 RO₄**) is a [main belt asteroid](#). It was discovered by the [Andrushivka Astronomical Observatory](#) in August 2008. The asteroid was named after the online encyclopedia [Wikipedia](#) in January 2013.

Discovery

The asteroid was discovered by astronomers from the Andrushivka Astronomical Observatory (A50) in Ukraine. It was also observed on the next night and it received provisional designation 2008 QH24.



Discussion

A reference is missing

The NASA references don't work for me, and I cannot find a reference for...

👤 JohnS

🗨️ 8 👤 6

Redirects

"Wikipedia Asteroid" and "Asteroid Wikipedia" should redirect to this...

👤 CosminAunt

🗨️ 8 👤 6



+ New topic

Quick conversation



With the live history view, Jane can see changes as they happen, and navigate a timeline of changes.

Curiosity (rover)

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Curiosity was launched from [Cape Canaveral](#) on November 26, 2011, at 10:02 EST aboard the MSL spacecraft and successfully landed on [Aeolis Palus](#) in Gale Crater on Mars on August 6, 2012, 05:17 UTC.^{[1][11]} The [Bradbury Landing site](#)^[8] was less than 2.4 km (1.5 mi) from the center of the rover's touchdown target after a 563,000,000 km (350,000,000 mi) journey.^[12]

On June 24, 2014, Curiosity completed a [Martian year](#)—687 Earth days—after finding that Mars once had [environmental conditions favorable for microbial life](#).^[16]

Goals and objectives

As established by the [Mars Exploration Program](#), the main scientific goals of the MSL mission are to [find martians](#) [help determine whether Mars could ever have supported life](#), as well as determining the [role of water](#), and to study the [climate](#) ^[13]^[14] and [geology of Mars](#).^[13]^[14] The mission will also help prepare for [human](#) ^[14] exploration.

Last edited 2 days ago by N.Agas

History

1m	Current new news	6 Astronomy	-5 +20
2h	Details on the name	Cronopio	+22
3h	Discovery info	Wayne Milk	-8 +20
4h	Correct style	4 Astronomy	-9 +3
6h	More details	4 Astronomy	-2 +5

Current new news

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Wayne Milk	
Hal Nine K	

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Quick conversation 1

Jane can focus on a given paragraph to view authorship...

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Quick conversation

1

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Current new news

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Wayne Milk	
Hal Nine K	

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Quick conversation

1

Let's discuss: Challenges

- One version - multiple authors
- One “version”?
- Real-time vandalism
- Co-existence of real-time and non-real-time
 - Focused writing
 - Unsupported browsers
 - Social reasons
- Chat misuse
- Wikitext itself

Let's discuss: Applications

- Current events
- Conflict resolution
- Mentoring
- Targeted collaborations
- Teahouse / new user walkthroughs
- Others?

Let's discuss: Questions

- How do we find other editors?
- Do we need “user groups”?
- How to record/display who wrote what in a collaborative session?
- When is a collaborative edit “done”?

Let's discuss: Social impact

- Will this encourage new editors? Readers?
- Will this encourage abuse?
- Do we become the next Facebook?
 - Should we?
- What happens when we make visible the community behind the wiki?
 - Should we?
 - Does that make us less “academic”?
 - Does that make us more biased?

Discuss!

C. Scott Ananian
cananian@wikipedia.org
[[User:cscott]]

The Graveyard of Unused Slides

OK, just make it work!

<https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:TogetherJS>

...but at the moment requires a patched copy of Visual Editor.

OK, just make it work!

<https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:TogetherJS>

...but at the moment requires a patched copy of Visual Editor.
...and it's not actually deployed on Wikipedia.

OK, just make it work!

<https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:TogetherJS>

...but at the moment requires a patched copy of Visual Editor.
...and it's not actually deployed on Wikipedia.

Alternatively, add:

```
importScript( 'User:cscott/TogetherJS-demo.js' );
```

to [\[\[Special:MyPage/common.js\]\]](#) on your favorite wiki (and have your friends do the same).