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# Developing a Distance Learning Faculty Wiki

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# DEVELOPING A DISTANCE LEARNING FACULTY WIKI

SIDLIT 2008

Aug. 1, 2008

## A WIKI WHAT?

- Group-edited site with tracking of user postings
- May be reversible by the wiki master / may be edited over by users
- May be controlled in terms of access (for posting, for reading)
- May include text, sound files, image files, video files, interactive elements, and other digital media
- May be widely searchable
- May be easily archivable

# TECHNOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Internal or external (in-house or external) wiki technology
- In-house server or external public server
- Accessibility builds for all contents
- Backup of materials

The left screenshot shows the pbwiki website with a 'Plans and Pricing' section. The right screenshot shows a detailed 'Plans and Pricing' table for wbspaces.

	Basic Free	Plus \$3 / month or \$30 / year	Super \$25 / month or \$250 / year	Private Label \$150 / month or \$1500 / year
Users, Pages, Messages	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Wiki Domain	One	One	One	Unlimited
Used File Storage	2 GB	2 GB	5 GB	40 GB
Unused File Size	10 MB	20 MB	50 MB	50 MB
WYSIWYG Editing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Standard Features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ad-Free	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full Privacy	-	✓	✓	✓
SSL Security	-	✓	✓	✓
Custom Themes	-	✓	✓	✓
Your Domain Name	-	✓	✓	✓
Call Support	-	✓	✓	✓
Support	-	✓	✓	✓
Customization	-	✓	✓	✓
Site Setup	-	✓	✓	✓
Administration	-	✓	✓	✓

## ROLE DEFINITIONS

- A wiki master? (anonymous or not, faculty ranks or not)? Pay structure? Place in the university hierarchy?
- Invitations to various faculty, administrators and staff for various branches of the wiki? Multiple branches?

## SOME LEGALITIES

- Intellectual property (Released to authors? Owned solely by the university? Creative Commons copyright release / sharing?)
- Federal, state and university Web accessibility standards
- Disclaimers, and indemnification of the university by those posting to the wiki

# BRANDING

- Links to the Division of Continuing Education (DCE)
- Links to K-State Salina's DCE?
- Links to K-State
- Uses of logos, taglines and identifiers

## PUBLICATION RANGE

- Private (just among invited and active DL faculty who are authenticated in through the ISIS system)
- Semi-Private (just among faculty, administrators and staff at K-State)
- Public (WWW access for reading / WWW access for reading and posting – editing, without authentication)



## BRAINSTORMED CONTENT AREAS

- Curricular Design
- Going Global
- General E-Learning Technos
- New Technos
- Automated Learning
- Instructor Community
- Online Learner Supports
- Reusability and Open Sharing
- Online Teaching
- Regulatory Concerns
- Accessibility
- Educational Resources
- Professional Development Events and Opportunities



DE Faculty Wiki Contents Idea (Draft)  
(DE Goal 2008)

**BRAINSTORMED CONTENT AREAS (GRAPHIC)**

- Topical Range
- Pedagogical Value
- Points of Professional Conversation
- Timely Issues
- Local Value
- Global Value
- Technologically Savvy
- Accuracy
- Perspective Diversity

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

- **Edutech Wiki**

[http://edutechwiki.unige.ch/en/Instructional\\_design](http://edutechwiki.unige.ch/en/Instructional_design)

- **E-Learning Tools Wiki**

<http://phlesig.pbwiki.com/>

- **Lack of E-Learning Wikis**

<http://elearningtech.blogspot.com/2006/09/wikis-public-vs-controlled-why-theres.html>

- **Teaching with Technology**

<http://twt.wikispaces.com/eLearning>

## DEFINING VALUE-ADDED

- Fresh on-ground insights, researchable ideas
- Evolving wiki structure and development
- Timely updates
- Colloquial tones and collegial sharing, constructive synergistic exchange of ideas
- Cross-fertilization of ideas across domain fields
- Local, regional, national and international value

## FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMIN **BUY-IN**

- Risk reduction (through policies, training, professional oversight—but without editorial decision-making)
- Supportive user interface and wiki database structure
- Controlled costs with in-house technologies and databases (if possible)
- Clear design and branding
- Strategic partnering with entities on campus
- Regular public relations outreach to in-organization entities
- Defined human contacts for mediation and updates

## SOME THOUGHTS ON GETTING STARTED

- Article solicitations based on topics and areas of interest?
- Starting private and going public?
- Soft launch early on and then a grand opening and hard launch?

# PROS AND CONS

## PROS:

- A sharing of expertise among practitioners in the field (from various academic fields)
- Potential positive publicity
- A community-building endeavor
- Clear branding for quality e-learning at the university

## CONS:

- Investments: technology, costs, faculty and staff time
- Potential negative publicity risks
- Overlap with other wiki endeavors in higher education
- A non-starter

## CONTACT AND CONCLUSION

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