OPEN
KNOWLEDGE
FOUNDATION
DEUTSCHLAND

Squarelet

Cooperative Learning

Who We Are

The Open Knowledge Foundation Germany (OKFN.de) is a nonprofit organization that advocates open knowledge, open data, transparency, and civil participation.

Current education projects:

edu;labs

edulabs.de

DEMOKRATIE LABORE

demokratielabore.de

JUGEND HACKT

jugendhackt.org

Our Vision

Squarelet is a free, accessible tool to empower digital co-creation and self-directed learning.

It provides an easy way to discover, create, remix and share new ideas.

New Culture of Learning: Co-Creation and Sharing

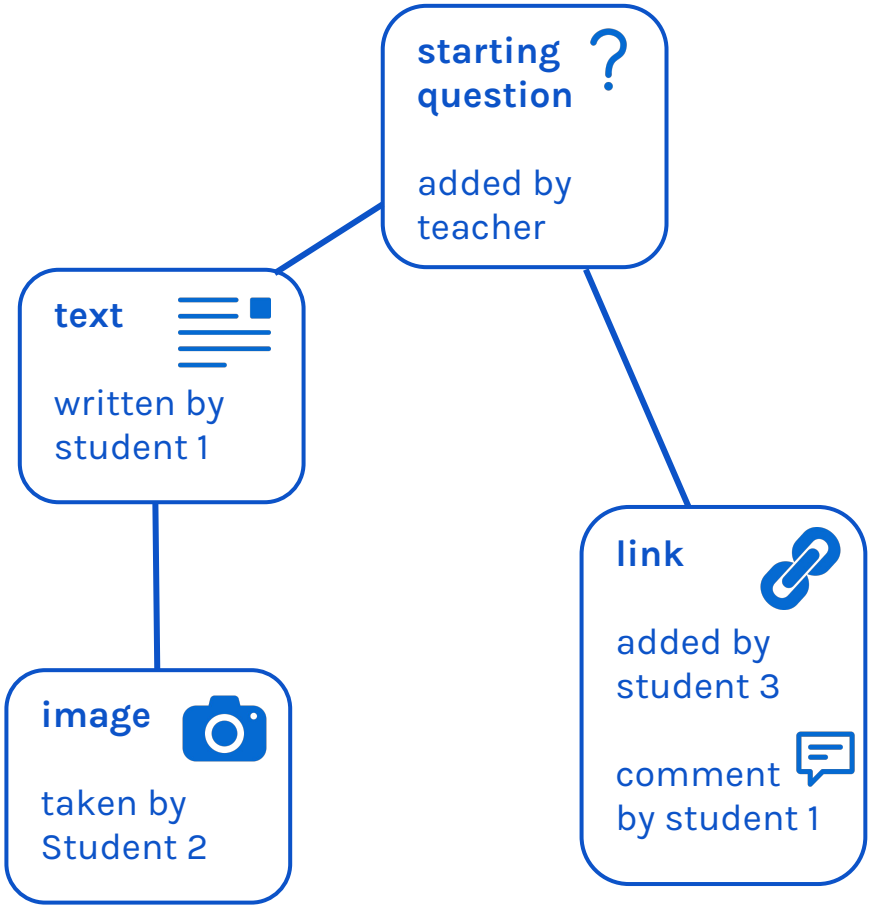
Source: Jugend hackt, Foto: Leonard Wolf. CC-BY 4.0

Existing Solutions: Expensive Silos

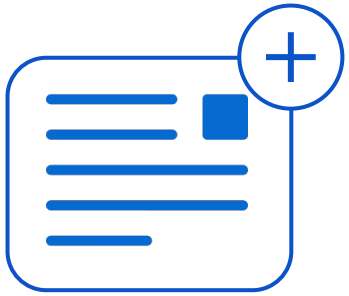
- too expensive for schools (>10$ / month per student)
- not Open Source = not extendable
- rigid structure (e.g. Trello: content organized in columns)
- no offline editing on shared content
- often tied to specific devices (e.g. popplet.com – only works on iPad)

Squarelet Basics

- users add/edit content as squares on a canvas
- structure & organize the squares using connections
- easy user interface
- offline editing + sync
- changes appear in real time
- open source



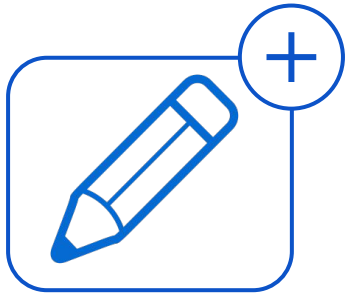
Multiple Content Types



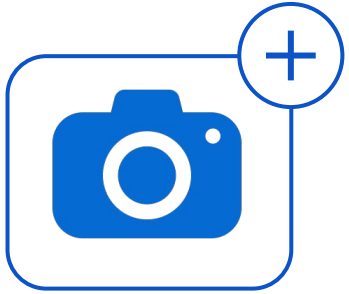
text (markdown)

recordings

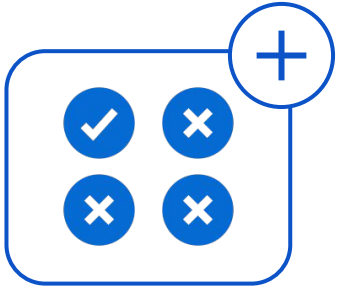
external content (via iframes)



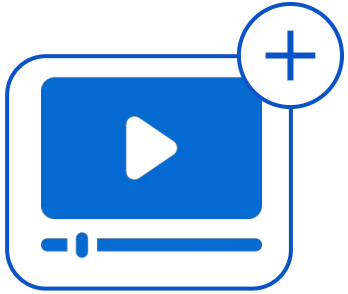
drawings



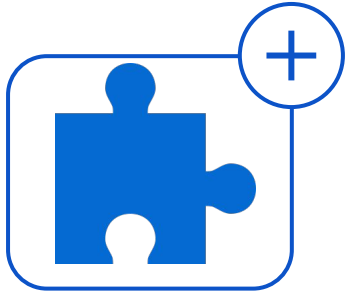
images (also added by smartphone)



exercises and interactive content (e.g. H5P)

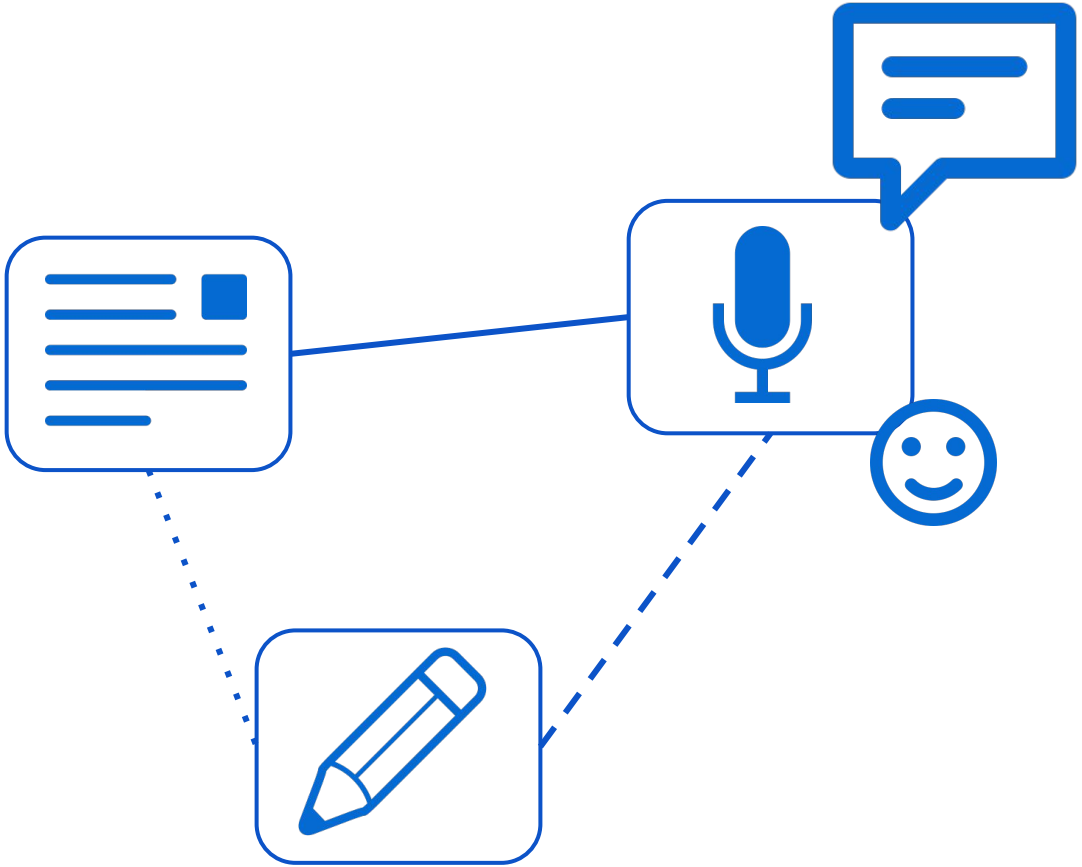


videos (Youtube / Vimeo / added by smartphone)



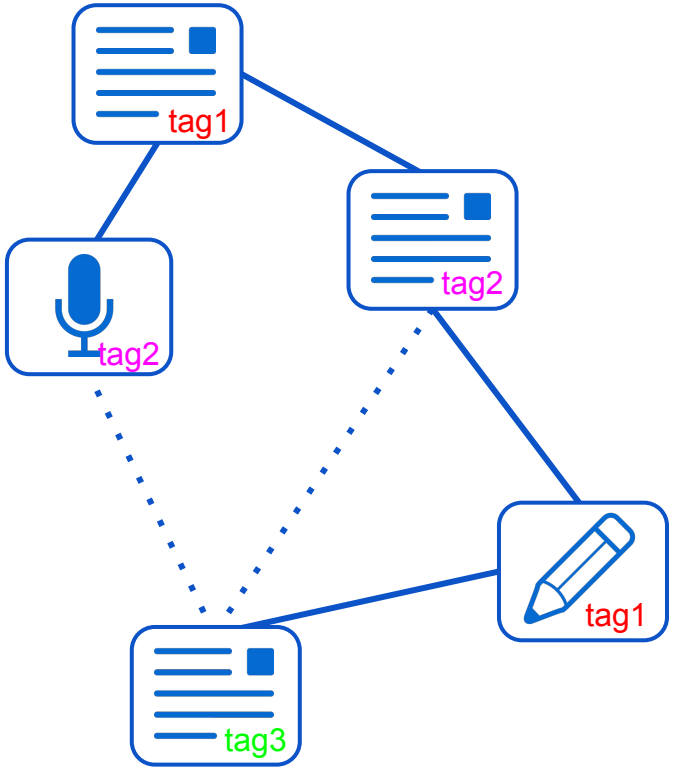
custom extensions (modular system)

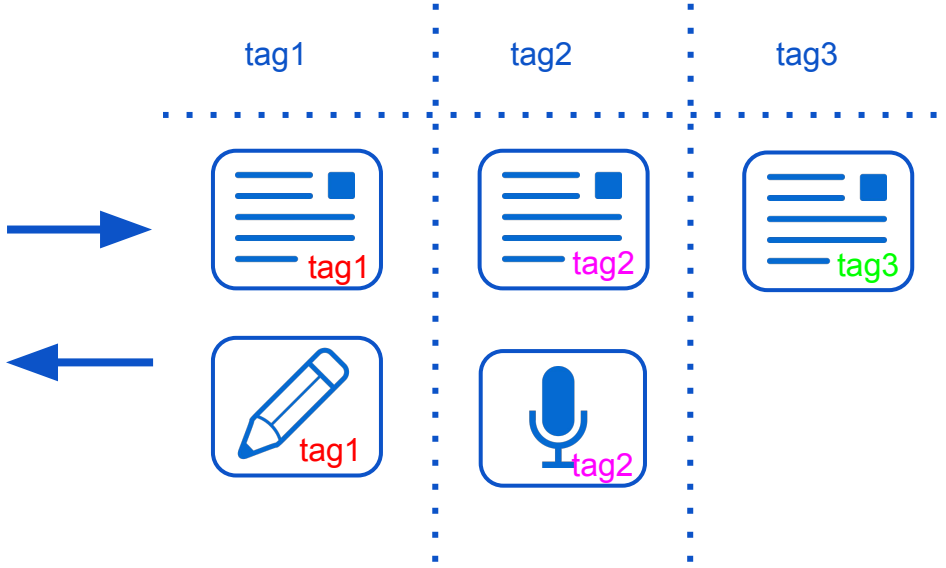
Interaction



- comments
- emoticons 👍 □
- connections between nodes
- custom squarelet design
- simultaneous editing
- chat in sidebar

Tags and Filter Views

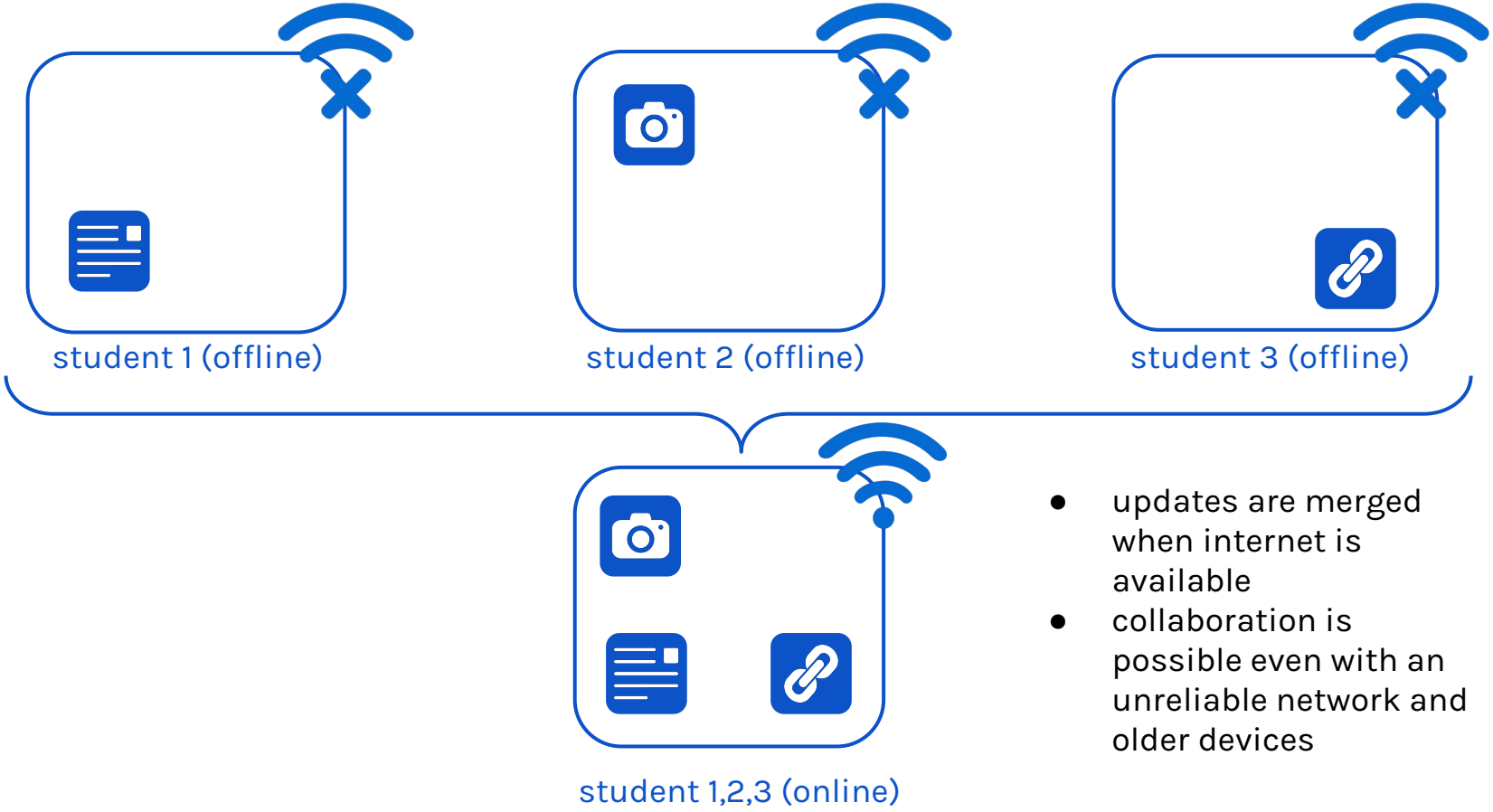




different views help to understand and organize squarelets:

- canvas view (freeform) can be switched to filter view (columns) and back
- in filter view, content is sorted by tags
- both views can be reordered manually

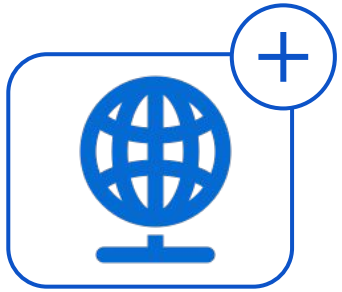
Offline Editing and Synchronization



- updates are merged when internet is available
- collaboration is possible even with an unreliable network and older devices

Discovery and Sharing

- external Creative Commons content can be added easily, e.g.
  - Wikipedia article previews
  - images with free license
    - Wikimedia Commons
    - flickr
- flexible privacy controls (e.g. private, shared in a group or public)
- advanced backend options (easy to organize, share and reuse squarelets)



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

flickr

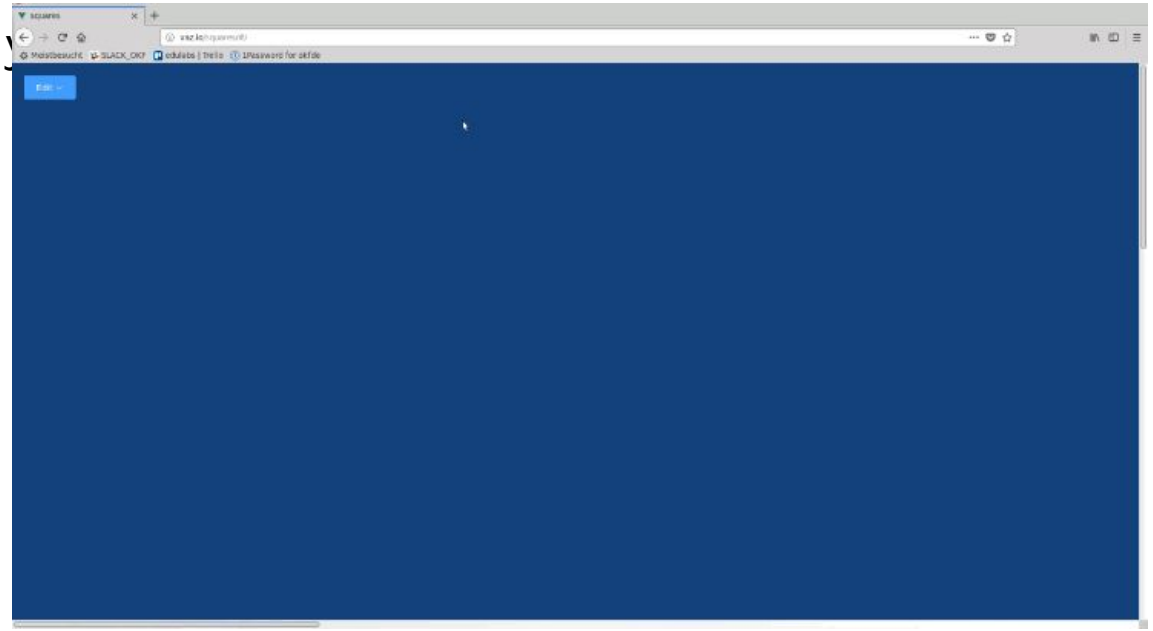
creative commons

europeana

Squarelet: Alpha Version

- text based input is already working
- easy to add external content (videos or HTML5 apps)
- supports only Firefox desktop so far

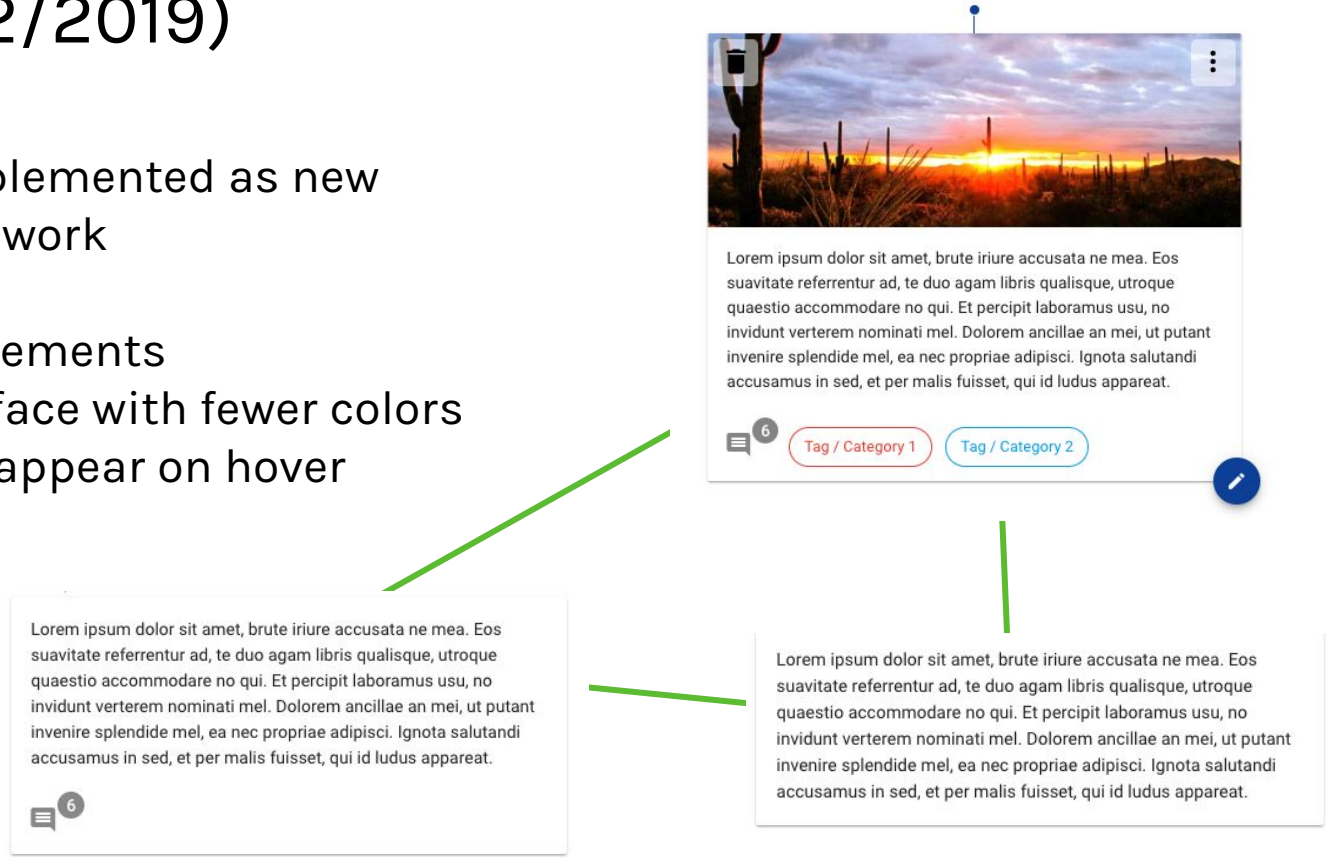
squarelet.org/#/about



video: Squarelet beta. https://youtu.be/O8-53_o9WGY

Redesign (12/2019)

- vuetify.js implemented as new design framework
- grid system
- responsive elements
- cleaner interface with fewer colors
- edit buttons appear on hover



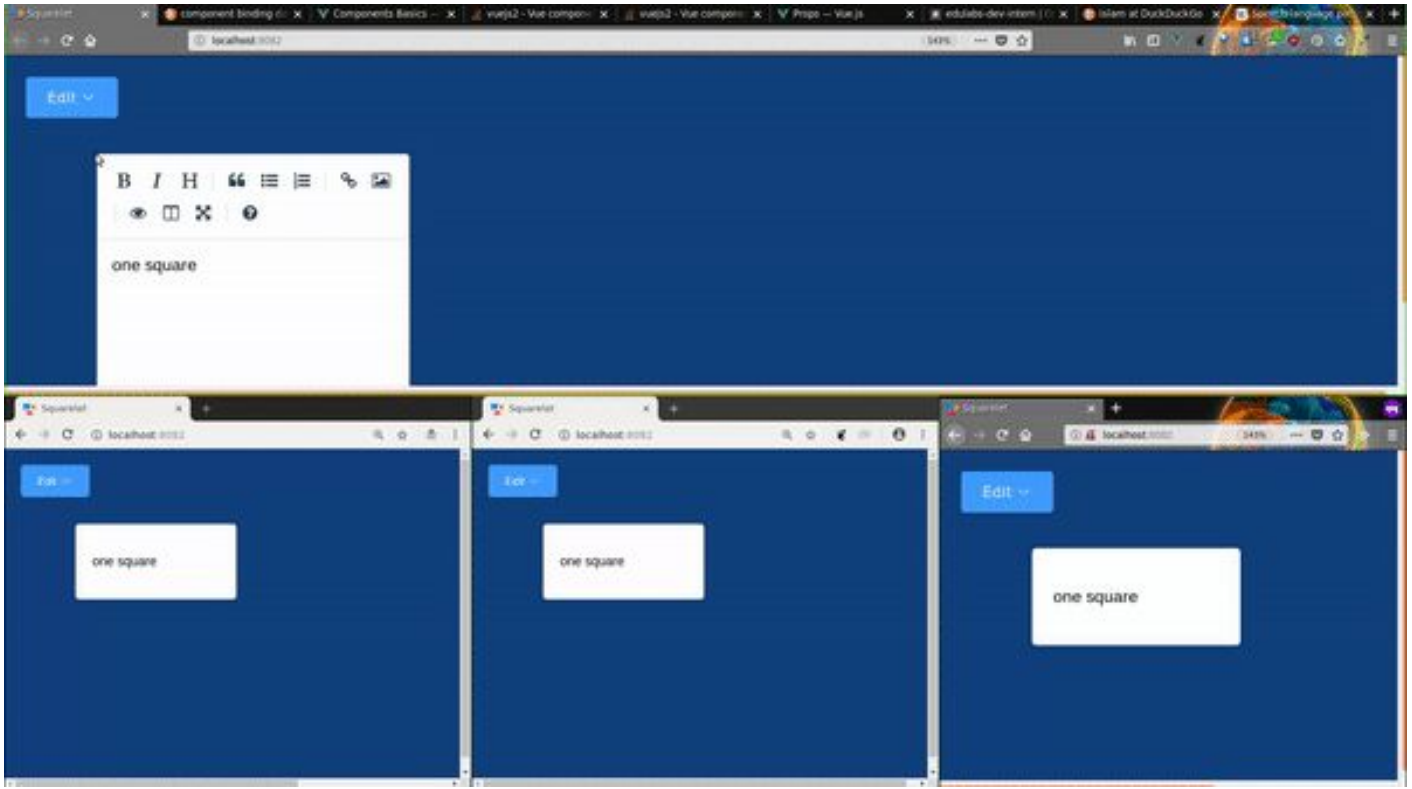
Next Step: A Working Beta

prototype development is currently funded until Dec. 2018

with additional funding we want to develop

- support for different browsers
- a mobile version
- improved sync for collaboration
- an improved user interface
- options to save and share squarelets

Currently Working on: Live Synchronisation



Features for the Final Version*

- different views and examples
- a community which is using and improving squarelet
- integration of third party content, like Wikimedia Commons
- more content types (e.g. drawing, recording, images from smartphones)
- presentation view (canva)
- multi-page content (lesson plans / content of a full course)
- ...

*(if we find funding and/or developer support)

Community Driven Development

- *content creation*
  with teachers and education experts
- *software development*
  with open source developers (via github)
- *testing*
  with a network of partner schools

Contact:

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Feature Requests / Issues:
https://github.com/Squarelet/squarelet/issues

About the project:
https://github.com/Squarelet/squarelet

Want to help with design, testing or code? Please contact us via github or info@edulabs.de