

Tiddlywiki as an Open Publishing Tool

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Abstract

Tiddlywiki is a special wiki that can be used to create journal or use as an offline tool to develop an open publishing materials. The way it's organized enable us to post documents in hyperlinking rather than to read them sequentially. Tiddlywiki is available as an open source program that can be found here at this link www.tiddlywiki.com and downloaded a free copy from.

Information will be given on what is Tiddlywiki and explore the wiki based on own experience and to use it for documenting your research. The author of this paper wishes to explain on the usability of this wiki as a open publishing tool for documenting information.

1. Introduction

Tiddlywiki is an entry in [Wikipedia](#) [1] Tiddlywiki is a complete [wiki](#) in a single html file. It contains the entire text of the wiki, and let you read it, edit it or search it.

One of the neatest features of [TiddlyWiki](#) is that it is entirely self-contained in a single html file. Sometimes Tiddlywiki is tagged as "The portable self-contained Web notebook" or "even toddlers can write tiddlers".

Many are fascinated with the idea of Tiddlywiki user interface design and communication. Tiddlywiki is an easy to use on- or offline portable wiki.

2. Description

Tiddlywiki is a small program that can be saved as file or put in a flash disk to create wiki on a stick and can be brought anywhere. Access to Tiddlywiki is using modern browsers such as Firefox, Opera, or Internet explorer. And it does not need lot of time to prepare the wiki and operate as an open publishing tool.

Tiddlywiki is a variant of wiki-ing [2] originally developed by Jeremy Ruston in 2004 and available to download freely from <http://www.tiddlywiki.com> and available as an open source program under the BSD-style license [3] which is very liberal including for commercial purposes, as long as you keep the copyright notice.

Wiki-ing is one way to collaborate web pages and auto-linking the pages, also enable users to easily edit each page.

A feature that sets Tiddlywiki apart from a standard wiki implementation is its content presentation. The creator Jeremy Ruston had this to say about it:

"A Tiddlywiki is like a blog because it's divided up into neat little chunks (tiddlers), but it encourages you to read it by hyperlinking rather than sequentially: if you like, a non-linear blog analogue that binds the individual microcontent items into a cohesive whole. I think that TiddlyWiki represents a novel medium for writing, and will promote its own distinctive writing style."

[TiddlyWiki](#) is fundamentally different from a conventional Wiki because it is not based on separate, entire pages of content, but rather items of [Micro-Content](#) referred to as [Tiddlers](#) that live together on the same page.

Tiddlywiki can run on any modern browser such as Firefox, Opera, or Internet Explorer or even Safari for Apple Mac OS X. Once Tiddlywiki has been loaded in your browser then you can save it in your disk as a complete html file that can be re-opened and read off-line using any popular browser.

Tiddlywiki does not need to be put on any web-server and lets you to edit it offline. When it is uploaded to a web-server, it can be publicly viewed but it is not possible to edit it online. But there are server side Tiddlywiki types that will enable users to edit it online just like Mediawiki or other similar.

This means that it is trivial to host a [TiddlyWiki](#) on a website. It is also small except for images that Tiddlywiki html can be put in a flash disk for just one file only. The original size of empty Tiddlywiki file is only about 269kb. The file contains the actual

hypertext document, and the JavaScript, CSS ([CascadingStyleSheets](#)) and html necessary to both view and edit it.

Documents are put in so-called tiddlers that can be unfolded by clicking at the title of any tiddler just as in the usual wiki. You can add images to your journal as part of your documents or as embedded images.

There is also rss feed in xml built in Tiddlywiki that can be automatically generated when you save the file.

The simplicity has made Tiddlywiki so popular as you can see so many reference from the source site such as the heavily conversant mailing list at <http://groups.google.com/group/TiddlyWiki> [4] that make this simple wiki well supported by the community.

Not to forget this wiki has been translated to many languages including [Chinese](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#).

3. Uses of Tiddlywiki for open publishing

Uses of Tiddlywiki are numerous, some people use it for journalizing and others may use it as a personal blogging tool. The usefulness of Tiddlywiki is however far beyond blogging. You might call it a personal wiki.

The particular uses of this wiki are:

- for people to publish information, this tiddlywiki brings a new user interface that makes it easier to customise and give a great experience for readers while still having easy access.
- for people using TiddlyWiki as a personal tool, this release offers the beginnings of support for spreading tiddlers across multiple files, greatly increasing the overall storage capacity
- for people using TiddlyWiki as a collaboration tool, this release includes properly defined enabling server adaptations to be added.

You can use Tiddlywiki for simple to-do lists, project assignments, authoring books, recipes, post-it notes, price listings, event planners, manuals, et cetera. All use the hyperlinking feature of Tiddlywiki.

There are a lot of examples in the web. A showcase of what Tiddlywiki usability can be found here,

<http://giffmex.tiddlyspot.com/>

4. How to get started

To start using Tiddlywiki, you must get an empty sheet from this site <http://www.tiddlywiki.com> which is in the form of an empty.html file.

When you're ready to save your own TiddlyWiki on your local disk., follow the instructions in Download Software and Save Changes. Use Save As using the right click from your mouse or Save link instead of directly saving Tiddlywiki from your browser using File save.

When saving, the author uses Opera as best and Firefox for editing and saving Tiddlywiki file.

You can open this empty.html file from your local disk and start using your own Tiddlywiki right away from your browser. To run Tiddlywiki, the browsers need to have the JavaScript engine enabled.

You can rename this empty.html to your preferred filename and edit it offline, save it to a disk or upload it later to a hosted domain.

The easiest way to learn about TiddlyWiki is to use it! Try clicking on various links and see what happens, you cannot damage Tiddlywiki.

5. Conclusion

TiddlyWiki is a great way to organize your research notes. It allows you to organize your notes in as many ways as you want to. You can use Tiddlywiki for all kinds of academic notes. Others have their PhD notes online.

A true wiki (like Wikipedia) is a combination of a database and a number of editable document pages. TiddlyWiki is a wiki in that doesn't require a separate database, it is stand-alone file/application. Thus it doesn't need to be online. It is meant to be used offline (client-side). True wikis are meant more for online (server-side) use.

TiddlyWiki could suit your needs quite nicely; you won't need multi-user collaboration, and probably don't have immense amounts of data. In fact, a lot of people are using Tiddlywiki for very similar purposes.

References

- [1] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TiddlyWiki>
- [2] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>
- [3] http://www.tiddlywiki.org/wiki/TiddlyWiki_License
- [4] <http://groups.google.com/group/TiddlyWiki>