Manual:Interface/Sidebar

< Manual:Interface

> This page documents a system message, a wiki page that defines part of the MediaWiki interface. See also the default documentation.

MediaWiki:Sidebar defines the navigation bar, which provides links to the most important locations in the wiki and supplies site administrators with a place to add a persistent collection of links. For instance, most wikis will link to their community discussion page and some useful tools.

The Monobook and Vector skins place the navigation bar on the top-left (top-right for right-to-left languages) along with the search bar and toolbox, but the placement may be different in other skins. This sidebar is **not shown to users of the Mobile site**.

navigation
- Accueil
- Recent changes

new heading
- Forums
- MediaWiki home

Sidebar example

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Customize the sidebar

To customize the MediaWiki:Sidebar on a wiki, you need first to be logged in with a user that has the *editinterface* permission - for administrators this is enabled by default. (For information on assigning a permission to groups or users, see Manual:User rights.)

Then, use a link to a page on your wiki, but replace your wiki page's title (e.g. `Main_Page`) in the URL/Address bar with `MediaWiki:Sidebar` and load that page - you should now see the current content of the sidebar. (You may need to use the syntax *//yourdomain/yourwiki/index.php?title=MediaWiki:Sidebar&action=edit* if you use long URLs.)
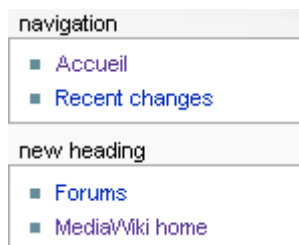
If the content of the sidebar has already been modified, you can simply click on the *Edit* or *Edit source* link, otherwise you may need to create the page first by clicking on *Create* or *Create source*.

Note: If you have to create a new page, you will be presented with the default content for the sidebar in the editor. In order to successfully create a MediaWiki:Sidebar page, you need to change the content before saving.

Here is an example code for a sidebar:

```
* navigation
** mainpage|mainpage
** Special:RecentChanges|Recent changes
* new heading
** portal-url|portal
** http://www.mediawiki.org|MediaWiki home
```

This example will result in the following sidebar:

Sidebar example

Headings

The navigation bar can be split into sections, each with a heading of its own. The heading for each section is taken from the first-level list element ("navigation" and "new heading" in the example above).

If this text corresponds to the name of an interface message (an existing page of that title in the MediaWiki namespace), then the text of that page is used as a label; otherwise, the header title is used as-is.

Links

Second-level list elements are links ("mainpage|mainpage" in the example above), where the format is:

```
** target|link text
```

target
> The link target can be the name of an interface message (page in the MediaWiki namespace) or wiki page, or an external link. In either case, the link can be internal, interwiki, or external. In some cases (such as links with the "&" character), an interface message is necessary. The link target cannot be made dependent on the interface language set in the preferences.
>
> Algorithm followed:
>
> 1. Get the target text.