Blackboard Wikis

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What is a Wiki?
A Wiki is a website or a similar online resource which allows registered users to add and edit content collectively. The best known example is Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/

Other examples from Higher Education include
- JISC InfoNet Organisational Experience Wiki https://jiscinfonetcasestudies.pbworks.com/
- Media Enhanced Learning Special Interest Group wiki https://ppp.chester.ac.uk/

Why use a Wiki?
There are many possible uses for Wikis in education:
- for staff and/or students to collaborate on online projects
- for staff and/or students to share resources
- to enable students and staff to create simple websites
- for staff to enable, track and assess student group work

How do I create a Wiki?
Within a Blackboard course or organisation you can create a wiki:
- for the whole course
- within one or more course Groups

To create a Course Wiki
Go to Control Panel > Course Tools > Wikis
Click on **Create Wiki**

On the next screen, enter a title and instructions.

Other options should be self-explanatory but for further help click on **More Help** at the top of the page. Note that you can make the Wiki a gradable item, if appropriate.

Click **Submit** and the Wiki will be created and ready for users to add content.

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**To create a Group Wiki**

If you have Groups set up on your course, you can create a Wiki for use by the members of each Group.

You can specify the tools you want to be available when setting up a Group.

If you have already set up your Groups but did not enable Wikis, go to **Control Panel > Users and Groups > Groups**

Click on the editing chevrons next to the Group name, and choose **Edit Group**.

Scroll down to **Section 2 Tool Availability**, tick the box next to **Wikis** and then **Submit**.


Group Wikis are only visible to members of the Group and can only be edited by members of the specific Group.
Viewing and editing Wikis

If you go to Control Panel > Course Tools > Wikis at any time, you will see a list of all the Wikis which exist on the course. To enter a Wiki, simply click on its name.

To edit a Wiki's settings, click the chevrons to the right of the name and choose Edit Properties.

Making your Wiki accessible to students

To access a Wiki, students need to click on Tools on the course menu, and then choose Wikis. However you can make a Wiki more readily accessible by linking to it from within a content area (e.g. Course Documents) or by adding a link to the course menu.

Add a link to the course menu

With Edit Mode turned ON, click on the + sign at the top of the menu and choose Tool Link.
Enter a name for the new menu item and from the ‘Type’ drop-down list select Wikis.

Remember to tick the box next to Available to users, otherwise students will not be able to see the link.

The new Wikis link appears at the bottom of your menu. You can drag it to any position on the menu by using the up-down arrow icon to the left of the button.

As an instructor, if you click on the menu item, it will display a list of all of the Wikis which exist within the course.

Students will also see all available Wikis when they click on the Wikis link.
Add a link to a specific Wiki through a course content area

You can create a link to a specific Wiki from any content area e.g. Course Documents.

To do this, go into the content area and select Tools > Wikis

You can then

- link to a list of all Wikis
- link to a specific Wiki
- create and link to a new Wiki

When you create links in this way, students will see them as shown.

How do you edit a Wiki?

The first thing that you need to do when building a Wiki is to create a home page. Go into the Wiki and click on the Create Wiki Page button. Once you click on that, you see the standard Blackboard editing toolbar, enabling you to format text, and upload images and other media to display within Wiki pages.

Click Submit when you have finished creating the home page.
Once you have done this, you can add further pages by clicking Create Wiki Page, or edit existing pages by clicking Edit Wiki Content.

Within a page you can link to other Wiki pages by clicking on the Link icon.

A small window opens, select the page to link to from the drop-down list.

Then Submit.

Further Help

Please see:


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