"Home of the largest host of business and educational wikis."

Purpose of PBwiki

Why was PBwiki created?
PBwiki was created for many different uses, such as business, academic, and personal. For the business aspect, PBwiki helps free up time to increase productivity and improve organization. PBwiki is also a helpful tool in the classroom. If students have a group project, a wiki is a great place for them to collaborate. It allows them to continue adding work, changing work, and easily undo something that someone changed but should not have. It connects teachers, students, and parents as well as gets everyone involved. It is also a way to keep students engaged outside of the classroom and provide them with a different kind of school work that they may be more interested in. Through personal use, you can share files and documents, let your page be private or public, or anywhere in between, and if you receive any e-mails it notifies you to keep you up-to-date. Note PBwiki was renamed to Pbworks by the developers of the program.

What does PBwiki allows users to do?

Using PBwiki in a business allows employees to work with customers more efficiently and provides information protection better than e-mailing. Also, the information will be directed to the correct audience. It allows users to share documents and files online rather than sending an electronic e-mail to everyone. This saves a lot of time and reduces the amount of e-mails going in and out, which gives people more time to do productive work. It also enables people to reverse any changes instantly because PBwiki keeps a record of any changes made.

PBwiki is ideal for teachers to use in the classroom especially when they are assigning their students a group project. One feature of PBwiki that makes this ideal is that it is easy to embed video and audio into the site. This way, if the teacher needs to demonstrate something to the group or if the group had a question, the teacher can easily record a video or an audio clip for them explaining what they are to do or give them the answer to their question. Using PBwiki also gives a teacher accurate feedback on how much work each member of the group is doing. Every time something is edited on the wiki it documents who made the change and also sends an email to the teacher about it if that feature is set up. One other helpful feature of PBwiki is that it is a great alternative resource for teachers. Featured on PBwiki are educational examples, a support center, and even personal help via email that can directly connect the teacher with thousands of other educators.

The following is a great description of how PBwiki can benefit its users. It shows several people who describe what PBwiki is and the many ways in which they use it.

Source of video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmByB0sIPog

The following is a screen cap of the program in use which can provide a visual incentive to try out the program. It shows the main page of the program and what to expect from it.

Source of screen capture: eszarnych.pbworks.com

History and Development

Who developed PBwiki and when?

The developers of this site were three graduates of Stanford University by the names of David Weekly, Ramit Sethi, and Nathan Schmidt. They launched PBwiki in May 2005. Weekly and Schmidt are still with the company and serve as the current chairman and CTO respectively. Sethi left the company and is currently working full time on his own personal finance site entitled IWillTeachYouToBeRich.com.

Below, the three founders are pictured with several PBwiki staff members.

Source of picture: http://meetinnovators.com/2008/06/19/david-weekly-from-pbwiki

What were their goals in creating it?

In 2005, most wiki's were very complicated to setup and required a Linux server, along with the arduous task of installing software onto it before any type of wiki could be accessed. Founder David Weekly, realized that most people who could benefit from the use of a wiki were unable to gain access to them due to the painstaking measures they had to go through. Therefore, Weekly created PBwiki and issued this statement to Adrian Bye of Meet Innovators (TM), "[People] want something they can just click and sign up for in a couple of seconds and not worry about any of those servers. In other words, they want to be able to have their own private hosted wiki in about as much time as it takes to make a peanut butter sandwich."

Why were the name "PBwiki" and the sandwich logo chosen?

PBwiki got its name because setting up an account takes less time than making a peanut butter sandwich. It is also very easy to use and lets its users do things such as insert videos and photos, have chat rooms, voice that, and set up community calendars among many other features.

Current status of PBwiki, and how has it changed/evolved?
David Weekly, Founder, Chairman, and Chief Product Officer was unsure of the direction of PBwiki and how popular it would be when it was first introduced. Yet, to his own admitted surprise, he did not expect for PBwiki to be so popular within library sciences and education. He states in an interview with Adrian Bye of Meet Innovators (TM), "Wikis have taken off like wildfire within the library communities where their job is collecting, organizing, and disseminating information. That's precisely what a wiki lets you do in an easy and lightweight fashion."

Weekly also states that since educators and libraries were not exactly the target consumers he was expecting, he must constantly be morphing PBwiki in order to service their needs. With every new edition and update of PBwiki, Weekly and others on the PBwiki team are molding their product to help its users be successful in whatever particular way that they choose to use it.

Ramit Sethi, the Co-founder of PBworks, joined PBworks as its first time employee in November 2005 and served as the VP community/marketing where he helped build the PBworks brand name, developed the website, authored newsletters, offered support, built and managed the support team, and recruited people to come work for the company. Paraphrased from http://pbworks.com/content/about.

On April 28, 2009, PBwiki changed its name to PBworks (at the same time launching a new Legal Edition). "As we’ve added additional functionality, such as Access Controls, Document Management, Mobile support, and now our new Legal Edition, we've gone well beyond traditional wiki functionality," said Jim Groff, CEO of PBworks. "As a result, the name 'PBwiki' no longer reflected how we think of ourselves, and even more importantly, how our users think of us." Taken from PBwiki Changes Name.

### How does PBwiki work?

#### How do you create an account?

Creating a PB wiki account is fast and easy. Navigate to the PBwiki home page (http://pbworks.com) scroll over to, "For Education" and click “Sign up now.” This will now bring you to the page showing the various options of PBwiki. Choose the basic "free" plan and hit select your desired choice. Next, choose a url for your wiki. An example of an url is http://yourname.pbwiki.com. After that you have to type in information such as: your name, email, and password to create an account. Then you will recieve a confirmation email and after you have submitted your information to confirm your account. Finally your wiki will be created and you being using it a wide variety of ways to benefit your needs.

Source of screen capture: eszarnych.pbworks.com

#### What are the types of accounts?

Within PBwiki there are many different types of accounts to choose from.

**Basic Plan**

The least complex is the Basic plan. The website states that this is ideal for hobbyists, personal use, and productivity. This plan does not include backups or SSL encryption (which is basic security and data integrity for communication over the internet). It includes one wiki, 2 gigabyte storage, and basic email support. This version is free and can be updated at anytime.
Professional Plan

The second type of account is Professional. This plan includes full backups and SSL, custom security, an unlimited amount of wikis and storage, full customization and single sign-on. Also with this package you receive primary email support and a less than 4 hour response from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday through Friday. This Professional plan costs $8.99 per user per month but it is free if you only have 1-3 users. You also have the option for a free trial!

Professional Plus

The Professional Plus package is the plan designed for enterprises, mission critical projects, and support 24 hours a day 7 days a week. With this plan you get everything that is included in the Professional package PLUS you get live chat! It costs $11.99 per user per month to buy the Professional Plus PBwiki.

If none of these types of accounts fit your preference then you have the option of choosing an academic designed PBwiki. Within this option there are three types of accounts. The first is the Basic academic which includes 1 wiki for up to 100 users with 2 GB storage and limited customization. This is mainly for hobbyists and clubs, personal use, and productivity, just as in the other Basic package. For this classroom account there is basic email support and it is free and able to be updated at anytime!

Classroom Package

The Classroom package is designed for K-12 classrooms, college classes, and libraries. With this one wiki, and up to 100 users there is 40 GB storage and full customization. For this classroom account there is primary email support as well as zip backups for your information. This package costs $99 per year.

Campus Version

For the last academic account type there is the Campus version of PBwiki. This is primarily for school districts, college campuses, and library systems. This package includes unlimited wikis and up to 1000 users with the full customization and 40 GB storage space. Also, like with the Classroom account, there is primary email support and zip backups. This plan costs $799 per year.

Public Edition

If none of these match what you are looking for than you can choose the Public edition. This plan is designed for publishing, open communities, and public wikis. Unlimited users, 40 GB storage, and full customization are all included in this one wiki.

So as you can see there are very many options to choose from. PBwiki offers many types for the many different things people are looking for!

Pricing

Here is an extensive visual representation of the pricing details for PBwiki so you can view all of the options in one area and decide which edition will suit your needs.

Professional Editions
## Academic Editions

### Professional Plus
**Enterprise**
Mission Critical Projects
24 x 7 Support

- Full backups & SSL
- Custom security
- Unlimited wikis & storage
- Full customization
- Single sign-on

- Priority email support
- Less than 2 hour response
- 24 x 7 x 365 support
- Live chat 24 x 7

$11 per user per month

[BUY NOW](#)

### Professional
**Client Management**
Intranet & Extranet
Knowledge Base

- Full backups & SSL
- Custom security
- Unlimited wikis & storage
- Full customization
- Single sign-on

- Priority email support
- Less than 4 hour response
- 7am-7pm Sun-Fri support
- No live chat

$8 per user per month

[BUY NOW](#)

### Basic
**Hobbyists & Clubs**
Personal Use
Productivity

- No backups
- No SSL encryption
- 1 wiki
- Limited customization
- 2GB storage

[SELECT](#)

No credit card required

Upgrade any time

### Campus
**School Districts**
College Campuses
Library Systems

- Unlimited wikis
- 1000 users
- 40GB storage
- Full customization

- Classroom Accounts
- Priority email support
- Zip backups

$799 per year

[BUY NOW](#)

### Classroom
**K-12 Classrooms**
College Classrooms
Libraries

- 1 wiki
- 100 users
- 40GB storage
- Full customization

- Classroom Accounts
- Priority email support
- Zip backups

$99 per year

[BUY NOW](#)

### Basic
**Hobbyists & Clubs**
Personal Use
Productivity

- Classroom accounts
- Basic email support
- No backups

[SELECT](#)

Upgrade any time

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**How do you post documents and other files?**
Once you click the edit button on your main PBwiki homepage, the "Insert" tab will become available on the top of the toolbar (See above). Upon clicking this tool, the options of inserting a link, a table, a horizontal line, table of contents, video, calendar, and more are available to you. The process is very easy and PBwiki allows you to actually preview what your new application is going to look like and gives you the option of cancelling its insertion before you make the final decision to add it to your page. Yet, if you do not like the new plugin, it is just as easy to delete it as it is to create it.

In the upper right corner of your PBwiki homepage, the option is given to "Upload files" (See Below). When you click on this link, it takes you to a new page of your wiki where you can easily upload any file that you have saved on your computer. The file quickly uploads and is posted for all to see. The viewers of your PBwiki simply have to click on the "Pages and Files" link located just to the right of the "Upload files," and they may view any file that you have posted and may post files of their own if they are allowed that option.

Can the language settings be changed?

The default language for PBwiki cannot be anything other than English. However, it is possible to type in or copy and paste other sources into PBwiki. Also PBwiki does include the ability to use Unicode, which is universal character set. This means that whatever language you are typing on your computer can be displayed on the wiki. You can also change the settings to read from right to left instead of left to right. But PBwiki is not designed to change its complete default language.

These are some websites and software from PBwiki that may help with language barriers:

http://www.annoyances.org/exec/show/article02-022
Public Edition

This package is for general public use to share and look at different wikis with premium features with an unlimited amount of users.

Unlimited users= $499/year

Source of screen captures: http://pbwiki.com/pricing.wiki

Upgrades are available at any time!

How is PBwiki related to other applications?

PBwiki is very similar to Wikipedia, Wikispaces, and Wetpaint. All of these sites are regular wikis where people can view, post, and edit wiki pages. PBwiki, however, offers some things that these other sites do not. Firstly, PBwiki offers a high level security that other sites cannot offer. PBworks (previously pbwiki). Also, PBwiki has a unique plan for educators and the education program. Many of these other sites are primarily for individual or business use, both of which PBwiki offers along with the education plan. PBworks (previously pbwiki).

Great Features of PBwiki

Wikis have many different types of features. The layout of the features varies, but generally they are similar. PBwiki has many features that set it apart from others and make it unique.

Insert Video:

Most wiki's have the ability to insert "widgets" or "google gadgets" that make it possible to link to videos on youtube etc. This is a good tool; however, it's disadvantage is that you have to work in a number of different platforms to make it all come together if there is a specific video file you have that is related to the wiki. PBwiki works with a website called "fliqz" and it effectively hosts the videos that you want that is specific to your wiki website. You have the option when you are inserting a video, to upload it directly to the wiki page without affecting your upload limit of 2 Gigabites in the case of a free site.

Folders:

This wiki has a feature that many others have not made available to free or premium uses of their wiki's. To be able to place shared files in folders and have these folders listed in a navigation bar on the side is an excellent tool to assist in coordinating work among colleagues. The files that are in these folders can be renamed and even moved between folders. Links to these files can be placed on the pages as well.

Indefinitely Private if needed:

Another feature that makes PBwiki attractive to nonprofit organizations and volunteer groups, is the fact that it can be setup for a tight working group without the concern that the site will go public. Other wiki's like "wikispaces" are able to be set up as "nonsearchable" for a short length of time and then they go public. Only members are able to edit the site but it is now public. PBwiki guarantees that if you choose to set up the site in a private mode, with invitation only members, they will never make the site public. PBwiki states, "If you mark your wiki private, we'll keep it private". This makes it a great option for a family or small group wanting to use it to organize a trip away or a special function. PBworks (previously pbwiki).
**Educational applications of PBwiki**

PBwiki is a wonderful application for teachers, students, and parents alike. The following paragraphs highlight how this program can be used and why it is worth investing in for your classroom.

Teachers will find that PBwiki is a wonderful program that has numerous uses in today's classroom. It enables teachers to have projects that are more involved and interactive. The teacher can handle these bigger projects because of the comment feature on PBwiki. With this, a teacher can set up a wiki page devoted solely to a specific project and then he/she can comment to the students what needs to be done, how to do it, and answer any questions that arise during the project process.

PBwiki is also very useful to students. When doing projects that teachers have set up, they can talk to the teacher outside of the classroom and get answers more quickly. They can also use PBwiki when they are doing a group project and meeting in person is not an option. It frees up more of their time to focus on the actual project rather than worrying about meeting.

One of the more recent applications of this wiki page is for parents. Teachers can upload what students are working on in class and keep parents up to date. All the parent has to do is go the wiki and see exactly what is being done in the classroom. Also beneficial for parents is the chat feature, which enables teachers and parents to get together when a face-to-face meeting is not feasible. The chat feature is only available to parents and teachers.

The following short video briefly explains real life users of PBworks and the such ways it can be incorporated into education.

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**Elementary Lesson Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collecting and Organizing Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target Area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overview</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Time Required</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Materials</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Procedures</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Standards</strong></td>
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Posted By: Julie Warren
Adapted By: [http://www.oercommons.org/courses/collecting-and-organizing-data](http://www.oercommons.org/courses/collecting-and-organizing-data)

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**Secondary Lesson Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Studies</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lesson Plan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target Group</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Overview</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Describe benefits of civic participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Participate in civic life, politics, and government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Explain the distinction between personal and civic responsibilities and the tensions that may arise between them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Evaluate the importance of supporting, nurturing, and educating oneself in the United States society.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Demonstrate characteristics of effective citizenship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Describe examples of recurring public problems and issues.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials</th>
<th>- Reading guide/Textbook</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Class PBwiki page</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>1. The students will read the assigned material.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. The assessment questions about the readings should be answered.</td>
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<td>3. Class discussion about what was read and what the students would do if they had been living in that time.</td>
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<td>4. All students post on the PBwiki their opinions about civil duties and responsibilities of living in our free country.</td>
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<td>5. Have the students read each others ideas and make at least 3 responses to classmates' posts.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Indiana Standards</th>
<th>USH 3.6: Identify the contributions to American culture made by individuals and groups. (Individuals, Society and Culture)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>USH 9.4: Explain issues and problems of the past by analyzing the interests and viewpoints of those involved.</td>
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<td>USH 9.6: Formulate and present a position or course of action on an issue by examining the underlying factors contributing to that issue</td>
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<td>USG 1.1: Define civic life, political life and private life and describe the activities of individuals in each of these spheres. (Individuals, Society and Culture)</td>
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<td>USG 1.7: Explain how civil society contributes to the maintenance of limited government in a representative democracy or democratic republic, such as the United States. (Individuals, Society and Culture)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Posted By</th>
<th>Audie Bobillo</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adopted from:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oercommons.org/courses/material_types/lesson-plans">http://www.oercommons.org/courses/material_types/lesson-plans</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Post-Secondary Lesson Plan**

**Analyzing a Newspaper: Editorials and News for ESOL Learners**

**Overview:** Students will analyze a newspaper and examine the news section and the editorial section. They will take a close look at the type of language used when giving an opinion.

**Aim:** To have students identify the news section and the editorial section and to become aware of the language employed in editorials with the purpose of convincing readers.

**Objectives:** At the end of this session, students will be able to do the following:

- Identify and distinguish parts of newspapers: editorial section and news
- Differentiate between facts and opinions
- Recognize and produce the language of opinion
- Produce an editorial using the appropriate language

**Target Group:** For the purpose of this lesson, the target group levels range from 1-8:

1=beginners, 5=intermediate, 8=advanced. This lesson is level 6.

**Length:** Three one-hour class periods

**Materials:** One newspaper editorial and one news story on the same topic. Class PBwiki page.

**Activities-Day One:**

1. **News Story**
   - The teacher writes the topics of different news stories for each group on the board and elicits from the students all they know about each topic.
   - Teacher asks wh-questions in order to build schema about the topic. These questions are only meant to build schema and are not intended for an exhaustive discussion of the content. For example:
     - Who is ________?
     - What do you know about ________?
     - Where ________?
     - How ________?
     - When ________?

2. Students read the news article taking note of unknown vocabulary and references. The teacher elicits definitions from students. If no students can define a word or reference, the teacher will gloss the word to aid comprehension. The teacher posts the words that were put in the glossary on the class PBwiki site so the students will be able to work on those words from home.

3. Teacher asks and writes on the board, four Basic Media Literacy Questions:
   - What is the message?
   - Who made it?
   - Who is the target audience? How do you know?
   - Why was it created?

4. Teacher asks and writes on the board, four Basic Media Literacy Questions:
   - What is the message?
   - Who made it?
   - Who is the target audience? How do you know?
   - Why was it created?

5. Student groups of 3/4 decide on answers to these questions and report their answers back to the teacher on the class PBwiki site so that other groups will be able to see all the different groups articles.

**Example - Why was it created? Possible answer: to give information.**
Activities-Day Two:

1. Editorial
   Students read an editorial on the same topic as their news story. The teacher takes note of unknown vocabulary and references. The teacher elicits definitions from students. If no students can define a word or reference, the teacher will gloss the word to aid comprehension. And add those words to the class PBwiki page for those groups to study.
2. Teacher refers to the same four Basic Media Literacy Questions that are on the board:
   - What is the message?
   - Who made it?
   - Who is the target audience? How do you know?
   - Why was it created?
3. Student groups of 3/4 decide on answers to these questions and report their answers to the class PBwiki page to share with the rest of the class.
   Example - Why was it created? Possible answers: to give an opinion, make a judgment, convince the reader.
4. Teacher makes a new page on the class PBwiki title being "Opinion".
   Teacher elicits definitions of:
   - Opinion
   - Judgment
   - Convince
   Ask students what language the writer uses to convince readers, make judgments, give opinions. Teacher gives a sample answer, the introductory phrase, "I think."
5. Students re-read the editorial scanning for language the writer uses to convince readers, make judgments, give opinions. Students post their examples on the class PBwiki page.

Homework:
Student are to find newspaper articles on the web and post them on the class PBwiki site.

Activities-Day Three:

1. Students scan their newspaper articles. The teacher asks in what sections of the newspaper articles they find news and where they find opinions. Students find the news pages and the opinion/editorial page.
2. Students identify and underline language that shows opinion and as a class, make a list of words and phrases on the board.
3. Writing Activity
   Students in groups brainstorm current topics. Student groups write a one-paragraph editorial about a topic of their choice utilizing the language of opinion. The groups share their paragraphs through PBwiki page. The class decides on the most convincing argument.

Post by:
Kassie Smith
Adapted from: http://www.oercommons.org/courses/material_types/lesson-plans

Business/Industry Use

Objective
Effectively manage a project

Goal
Keep group members informed and increase the likelihood of successfully completing projects

Materials Needed
- Pre-made wiki page
- Computer
- Wiki account for each group member

Note to users: with the professional edition a chat feature is included, making communication easier

Procedure
1. The project manager
   - Set up the main wiki page as best works for your group
   - Post all relevant information
   - Update as needed
2. Group members
   - Set up your individual wiki page
   - Post opinions, facts, and other connected information
   - Keep in contact with other group members and get ready for the presentation

Evaluation
Your group project is considered a success by your supervisor

Additional Lesson Plans and Download Links

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elementary level lesson plans</th>
<th>PDF Files</th>
<th>Word 2007 Files</th>
<th>Word '93 Files</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>History, English, or Music Lesson Plan</td>
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Applications outside of education

One of the founders of PBwiki, Ramit Sethi, talks about how PBwiki helps businesses: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGOi42EpHno](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGOi42EpHno)

How does PBwiki benefit businesses?

PBwiki is growing its focus on business customers and has made many improvements to the company and its products to serve clients needs. Clients have benefited greatly in the area of cost effectiveness, having more direct contact, and after sales support services.

According to Chris Yeh, Vice President of Enterprise Marketing at PBwiki, in the area of pricing PBwiki offers a "freemium" pricing model where customers can start with a free wiki and then pay for upgrades as and when needed. Thus clients are able to try out new tools without immediate financial obligations. In terms of sales, clients now have the option to talk with a representative from PBwiki directly instead of just having all processes done through the web. In addition clients also benefit with the improvement in faster replies to queries by replying to clients within one business day for free accounts, and several hours for paying customers. [pbworks](http://www.pbworks.com) (previously [pbwiki](http://www.pbwiki.com))

PBwiki benefits business in terms of cost savings for administration, staffing and better services offered to clients. It improves efficiency and productivity.

**Scalability**

Integrating wiki technology into knowledge management and collaboration can bring many benefits. PBwiki's hosted solutions provide seamless, proven scalability.

In addition to the scalability of an organization's particular wiki, each client also benefits from PBwiki's overall scale. It is the largest on-demand host of business wikis. PBwiki supports:

- 600,000+ hosted wikis,
- More wiki pages than the English language version of the Wikipedia
- 2.2 million visitors to PBwiki hosted wiki
- 1,800 wiki edits per hour

With a large customer base, it creates the opportunities for members of the user community to collaborate and share best practices.

**Performance and Reliability**

Wiki technology can improve the productivity of enterprises. PBwiki has a long track record of superior performance, with page load times worldwide averaging less than 1.5 seconds. And by building in redundancy such as multiple Tier-1 backbone providers, PBwiki delivers 99.9% uptime to its many clients.

**Disaster Recovery**

Disaster recovery of important data and information is essential for enterprises.

PBwiki offers highly redundant data storage. Every single page edit that takes place is copied to three separate servers and all data is backed up with encrypted offsite storage, which allows full disaster recovery even in the event of a complete failure of the main production facility. PBwiki users are also able to schedule their own backups if they have standard corporate data backup policies.

PBwiki benefits businesses in terms of information security and privacy.

PBwiki utilizes Secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology to protect information using both server authentication and data encryption, ensuring that your data is safe, secure, and available only to authorized users. Clients must enter a unique user name and password to access the client user wiki. PBwiki does not use "cookies" to store other confidential user and session information, but uses more advanced security methods based on dynamic data and encoded session IDs.

World-class "defense-in-depth" security is included in every business wiki from PBwiki, including physical security, encryption, user authentication, and application security. [pbworks](http://www.pbworks.com) (previously [pbwiki](http://www.pbwiki.com))
Social Networking and Personal Use

PBwiki can be used for so much more than just business. People can use this wiki to plan trips and make certain that a group of people from different places can meet at the same time and place. People can also use it like Facebook to simply keep in touch with their friends and families across distances.

Non Profit Project Development

One of the applications of PBwiki is project development. With the variety of features that are available it becomes an excellent tool to coordinate specific events projects. If your organization is in a position to pay a fee of $10 a month then you have the added advantage of hiding folders that can only be seen by specific members of the wiki.

International Aspects of PBwiki

What are some advantages in using PBwiki as an international tool?

One way that PBwiki is useful all around the world is the new mobile aspect of it. Recently, PBwiki has come out with an edition that can be used on iPhones and Blackberrys. This makes it possible for people to access their PBwiki no matter where in the world you are! If you type in your PBwiki URL to your wireless mobile phone it will “automatically recognize this fact and display a mobile-optimized interface. This allows PBwiki to provide the same speed and ease-of-use for mobile users as it has for desktop users.” This can really make the whole wiki process of communication faster.

The PBwiki also works as a great international tool due to it’s ease and quickness. Email is slow and not as detailed as a wiki not to mention phone calls and faxes don’t always connect across the world. PBwiki’s ability to quickly relay information makes thousands of miles seem like mere inches whether it is a CEO in another country or a small business owner down the street! One of the ways PBwiki is used internationally is through workshops and conferences where there is a lot of information that needs to be read and dealt with.

Teachers can use the PBwiki to have their students communicate to students in other countries. Students can develop projects and do research together all around the world! Increased amounts learning can happen if there is input from a totally different culture. The PBwiki has a great plan for academic use that can be used anywhere from kindergarten classrooms to university campuses and school districts. This could communicate between school systems of different countries. Students and teachers can take advantage of the multimedia options of the wiki which can really be a good resource when communicating with international partners. Also with the PBwiki it is restricted to the people within it so it is safe for the students to work on with out people everywhere being able to access it.

What are some disadvantages to using PBwiki as an international tool?

One main problem with PBwiki pertaining to the international aspect is that it can only truly be viewed in English. Other languages cannot be set up as the default language. So one could type a message in Spanish to someone in Mexico but the wiki page would still be in English. If there was a way to develop the wiki for other languages then it would be a lot more beneficial to people in other countries. Another complication is the cost of internet around the world. And in other countries there is not as easy to access the internet.

References

6 PBwiki. (n.d.). “Meet the team!” Retrieved April 1, 2009, from PBwiki: http://pbwiki.com/content/team