
Subject: ANNOUNCEMENT: the PARIS Wiki is born!

Posted by [kerryg](#) on Fri, 11 Apr 2008 21:33:57 GMT

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Greetings all!

Technology sure changes fast. A piece of technology became available to me a while back that finally allowed me to build what I used to just dream about.

Namely - there is now a PARISWiki where PARIS aficionados can compile all existing data concerning PARIS. I've started the ball rolling by beginning the process of converting and compiling the varied and valuable information found amongst the various official and unofficial FAQs.

You might want to read the rest of the email before you click, but the site is linked at the bottom if you're not a "manuals" type.

For those unfamiliar with the term - a "Wiki" is a collaborative, community-driven encyclopedia. You don't complain to someone when you spot something wrong or incomplete or missing - you *fix it yourself*. To do this is trivially easy - once you're registered and logged in, double-click directly on the page you're reading and an editor opens. You can begin entering/editing text right there. If you want to create a new page, you just type a "CamelCase" word as you're editing (any word with an initial cap and another capital within it, like AppMessage) and when you "store" the page the cunning macros behind the Wiki turn it into a hyperlink with dashes under it. Click on this and a new page with that name is created and saved (before you do that, you might want to look at the page index to make sure you aren't creating a duplicate). Yeah - you read that right - essentially creating a hyperlink to a non-existing page, and then clicking on it, actually creates the page.

Now some important info.

This site is *free*. By *free*, I mean - I am donating the time to build and maintain it; donating the bandwidth and server space to serve it; there are no "gotchas", no "enter your credit card", no "donate" buttons and no ads; I will never sell, trade, share or knowingly make your email addresses available to others. In short, this is a "labour of love". Unless the bandwidth goes absolutely insane, I can't see ever needing to "pass the hat" for donations; if that ever happened (I doubt it, I have up to three terabytes of bandwidth on the account it's served on) I'd talk it through with the community before doing that in case someone in the community simply wanted to serve it elsewhere. Failing those sort of unforeseen and unlikely circumstances, I am happy to continue serving this for at least the next eighteen months. If things go well, I have no problem keeping it going for as long after that as I can foresee (ask me if you want to mirror it elsewhere - assuming you don't want to mirror it on some white supremacist

hate site I'll almost certainly say yes, but let's make it a real mirror and not a copy so multiple sites don't develop different content).

What I *would* ask for in return, however is participation. If I wanted my own Private PARIS Manual, I could have done it on my own hard drive easily without the hassle of maintaining it on a site. This Wiki is meant to be a community service - and it is also intended to be nearly entirely community-driven. As long as the community continues to participate, not merely by reading but by *contributing information*, I'll continue to do my part by running the back office. I hope that seems fair.

Aside from that, the conditions of use are largely common sense (I think everyone's smart enough not to kill it instantly by posting illegal or offensive material; arguments stay offsite; let's keep it focused; etc) and are printed on the front page. Registration is automatic (ie open to any PARIS user, past or present, no matter how casual a user) and takes all of about thirty seconds.

A further note on registration - it's open for all. The technology exists to take it private, to require admin approval for who registers, etc etc; it can be made very secure. However I'd like to start by assuming "if I need to secure it, I'll secure it, but until then, welcome one and all!". So registration is automatic, nobody "approves it".

Plans for this Wiki are fairly ambitious, but I'd hope realistic and sustainable. For example - amongst other developments, Aaron Allen and Chuck Duffy have graciously given their consent for the Wiki to serve the Brian Tankersley video, which (pending confirmation from BT), I'd like to see broken into chapters and inserted in the relevant topics. I'd do this pretty much ASAP pending hearing back from BT (anyone got a current contact email, shoot it to me privately).

In addition, it's "skinnable" so the plain vanilla interface will go away at some point (when I get time) and be replaced by a slicker custom "look". I will be investigating the ins-and-outs of posting whole sections from the actual manual inline so they can be woven in with practical observations. The technologies behind this thing are incredible; there are so many things you can do with this data once you've got it entered, it's amazing. Sortable plugin databases so you can find all compressors or all delays and choose one by feature or applicability (hey, don't laugh; you may not think you need this now, but look at how fast Mike Audet is developing new ones now he's hitting his stride!); key commands databased so you can pull up all the editing modifiers in a hurry - I have hopes that as this grows it can become a "leave open in the background" quick reference/help file. It's also going to be a place to collect some of the history and "back-story" of the platform, its developers and designers.

I want to take a second here and express my gratitude to some particular

people for their support, enthusiasm and cooperation in advance of rollout; Aaron Allen, Chuck Duffy, "Hiddensounds" Kim, Steve "artguy", Mike Arnao and Mike Audet.

For their invaluable work as PARIS' "de facto" maintainers of the Archives, Steve "artguy" (whose last name I now commit to spelling correctly), John Bercik and Doug Wellington - and Kim for hist maintenance of the NG, essentially the "collective memory" of the community - and last but not least those many whose contributed insights form the backbone of the Wiki.

An extremely quick tutorial is available linked to the front page, followed by detailed documentation afterwards. You aren't going to believe how easy - and even fun - it is when you get the hang of it. But there's a test area called the SandBox where you can mess around without hurting anything.

Okidoki. More to come, but I'll shut up now. Kim's kindly made the "theproject" NG available for Wiki business, so if you want to talk technical specifics, ie formatting, skins, concept, data organization, that'd be a great place to keep it grouped and threaded together.

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And now, the Wiki. I hope you enjoy it. (watch out for bad line wraps in the URLs)

Home page -

<http://www.kerrygalloway.com/WikiPARIS/wikka.php?wakka=HomePage>

Some pages are more fleshed in than others:

<http://www.kerrygalloway.com/WikiPARIS/wikka.php?wakka=BugsTroubleshooting>

<http://www.kerrygalloway.com/WikiPARIS/wikka.php?wakka=SessionTracking>

Some are "getting there":

<http://www.kerrygalloway.com/WikiPARIS/wikka.php?wakka=WindowPatchBay>

<http://www.kerrygalloway.com/WikiPARIS/wikka.php?wakka=AccessWin>

<http://www.kerrygalloway.com/WikiPARIS/wikka.php?wakka=ParisNoNos>

Sample plugin page:

<http://www.kerrygalloway.com/WikiPARIS/wikka.php?wakka=NoLim> it

And remember - if you see bad info there, or something missing - don't complain, log in and fix it! If I missed your contribution - sorry! Log in and fix it! If I... well, you get the picture.

Welcome, and enjoy.

- Kerry
