

Title of Session: SIGTC What's a Wiki and why should I care?

Moderator: Karen Connaghan

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KarenConna: Welcome to SIGTC's Monthly "Live" Chat.

LoriBu waves back

MichellGst5: thank you

KarenConna: Tonight's Topic is Wikis.

KathyGst19 joined the room.

KarenConna: This is an introduction to wikis session and will cover what wikis are, examples of wikis, wiki software, wiki hosting sites, and some possible educational uses of wikis.

KuanChinL: What is Wiki?

KarenConna: Good ? KuanChin, we'll get to that question in a minute....

KarenConna: Let's get started by Please take a moment and introduce yourself to the group and tell us your role in your workplace. I'll start: I'm Karen Connaghan, an Educational Technology and Enrichment Consultant at an Intermediate Unit in Southeastern PA.

LoriBu: I'm Lori Burch. I'm an instructional technology specialist in Hilton, NY

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

KuanChinL: ok

JulieLi: I'm Julie Lindsay, Head of Technology at International School Dhaka, Bangladesh

KarenConna: Welcome Lori

KarenConna: Welcome Julie

MichellGst5: I'm a 1st and 2nd grade reading teacher in Ohio, I just got married 7 months ago and just found out that I'm pregnant

LoriBu: Hilton is in upstate NY, near Lake Ontario, between Rochester and Buffalo

KathyGst19: I teach High School Math and Computers.

KathyGst19: In Bridgeport, WV

LoriBu: Congrats, Michelle!!!

LoriBu: I'm about to become a grandma for the first time and I can't wait!

KuanChinL: I come from Taiwan, now I am a graduate student in USA.

BillCon: Hello everyone I'm a Network Admin at Cornwall-Lebanon SD Lebanon PA

KarenConna: Congrats KuanChin

KuanChinL: thank you

KarenConna: Congrats Michelle

ChuanYuC: I am a student in WV. My major is Education Technology.

MichellGst5: thanks

KarenL joined the room.

BJB2: we're just doing introductions, Karen

EmilyW joined the room.

KathyGst19: I think several of us are in the same grad class in WV.

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm a Tapped In HelpDesk volunteer and I lead the Math Education and Technology discussion here. I'm in New Jersey

MichellGst5: Telecommunications for educators at Salem IU

KathyGst19: Yes

MichellGst5: that's what I thought

KarenConna: Great - Welcome All!

KarenL: Okay. I'm Karen Lemmons, library media specialist in an elementary school in Detroit.

MichellGst5: what are wikis?

EmilyW: I am Emily and I am a helpdesk volunteer on Tapped In

KarenConna: If you are brand new to wikis, type yes

MichellGst5: yes

KathyGst19: Yes

KarenL: yes.

ChuanYuC: yes

KuanChinL: yes

JulieLi: yes

LoriBu: a beginner of sorts, but not brand new

KarenConna: If you feel comfortable with wikis, type comfortable

LoriBu: comfortable, I guess

EmilyW: comfortable

JulieLi: comfortable using them, not making them

LoriBu: me too, Julie

MichellGst5: what are wikis?

KarenConna: We'll start out with an overview of what a wiki is, take a wiki tour, wiki farms and wiki software, and we'll end our session with a discussion on wikis in education.

KarenConna: I'll start my overview wikis with this quote: "Making the simple complicated is commonplace; making the complicated simple, awesomely simple, that's creativity."

KarenConna: In a nutshell, that's the idea behind wikis. A wiki is a server program that allows a visitor to a web page to edit the content of the site from their own computer without html or programming knowledge. ...

KarenConna: Wikis also allow visitors to create new content, new pages, and change the organization of the existing content without any specialized skills.

KarenConna: The idea behind wiki was created by Ward Cunningham in 1995. He set out to create “the simplest database that would work.”

KarenConna: The characteristic that set wikis apart from other Web-based forums and discussions is that wikis have multiple contributors. The wiki may be authored and edited by a number of people.

KarenConna: Wiki follows the a wide-open ethic that contrasts vividly with traditional approaches of groupware and collaborative systems. Basically, a Wiki Web site operates on a principle of collaborative trust.

KarenConna: A truly unique feature of wiki is that users define for themselves how their processes and groups will develop, not some software or system.

MichellGst5: this sounds interesting

BJB2: good job, Julie and Jill

BeckyGst6: What is this chat about, I have to attend it for school

JulieVF: thank you for your help

KarenConna: Becky, this chat is about wikis

JillBa: thanx

KarenConna: BTW, the term Wiki comes from the word “wikiwiki” meaning quick in Hawaiian.

KarenConna: and wikis are fast ways to put content on the Web without any special knowledge or skill

KarenConna: In many ways, wikis simply represent the latest advance in online interaction—a cost-effective and readily adopted knowledge management tool.

KarenConna: Let’s all hop on the Wiki-Tour Bus and visit some famous and not-so-famous Wikis. We’ll spend just a few minutes at each stop. Be sure to keep your eye on this chat window so you know when to “hop back on the bus” ...

LoriBu: can you remind us how to click on links so we don't get lost

KarenConna: Our First Stop: The best knowledge Wiki on the web.... Any guesses?

KarenConna: Yes, I will Lori

LoriBu: thanks, Karen

JillBa: How do you set one up?

BJB2 . o O (wikapedia?)

KarenL: wikipedia?

LoriBu: wikipedia?

KarenConna: Excellent - yes wikipedia

BJB2 high fives Karen and Lori

LoriBu smiles

KarenL laughs

KarenConna: Jill-we'll talk about setting one up after visiting a few to help those new to wikis understand what they are all about.

KarenConna: Wikipedia—a collaborative online encyclopedia written by users all over the world. When I type the link to Wikipedia, I'd like you to go to the site and take a brief look around. Use the search feature on the main page to search for a topic in the encyclopedia...

KarenConna: Just a reminder....Be sure to hold down the control key (PC) or Command key (Mac) on your computer before clicking this link...

KarenConna: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

KarenConna: Use the control key to click the link...check out the page, do a search...

KarenConna: Be sure to keep an eye on this page

KarenConna: Notice that once you leave the main page and go to your topic page, you'll get an edit tab at the top. This is where you could edit or add to the content on the page. Feel free to click the edit tab---but don't make any changes to the page.....

MichellGst5: this is neat

KarenConna: The tour bus is leaving, please return.

JulieVF: no wonder there has been controversy over it lately. Who monitors the content?

MichellGst5: I'm back

KarenConna: everyone monitors it Julie - it's called soft security

JillBa left the room.

MichellGst5: interesting

JulieVF: very interesting

KarenConna: and surprisingly, most of the time, it works quite well

KathyGst19: so anyone can put anything in there even if it's incorrect?

JulieVF: how often is misinformation found?

KarenConna: yes Kathy

JulieVF: hmmm...

MichellGst5: how many people do this just to mess with people

KathyGst19: How can you trust the information?

KarenConna: How can you trust any information on the net? By cross referencing

DavidWe . o O (any information in general, I would say)

LoriBu: validating by finding other sources that confer

KarenConna: our next stop....

KarenConna: WikiTravel. This is a project to create a free, complete, up-to-date and reliable world-wide travel guide....

BJB2: how cool!

KarenConna: Again take two or three minutes to check it out -- don't actually edit anything though...

JulieVF: also soft security monitored?

KarenL: interesting!

KarenConna: yes Julie

KarenConna: http://wikitravel.org/en/Main_Page

KarenConna: Remember to press control or command before clicking

KathyGst19: It's not working for me.

JulieVF: the link isn't working for me either

KarenConna: It is working for me, I just checked it

BJB2: worked fine for me

KarenConna: try again Julie

MichellGst5: mine worked after a while

BJB2: make sure you don't have another window minimized where the site may be opening

LoriBu: what browser are you using? I had trouble last time with Firefox so I switched to Internet Explorer this time

JillBa: I ended up creating a second window - mine didn't work either

KarenConna nods

JulieVF: got it now

LoriBu: links are working fine for me in IE

BillCon: Example of trust was tested a few weeks ago when wikipedia blocked access to wiki info about congressmen and senators because staffers were beefing up their bosses profile to try to influence voters

KathyGst19: I had another window open. It worked when I closed it.

KarenConna: The tour bus is leaving, please return.

MichellGst5: that's funny that the staff did that

LoriBu smirks about politicians

JulieVF: lol

KarenConna: All of you will get a transcript with these links so you can return at your leisure

MichellGst5: thanks

KarenConna: Welcome back, our next stop....

JulieVF: thank you

KathyGst19: Great!

KarenConna: Wikibooks. A collection of free, open-content textbooks that you can edit. Notice that there is a link to WikiJunior.

JulieVF: very interesting

KarenConna: So be sure to check out WikiJunior while we are at this stop

MichellGst5: sounds interesting

KarenConna: http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page

KarenConna: you'll also notice a link to wikiversity there too!

BillCon: What's interesting is the community of wiki'rs were watching and noticed the changes.

MichellGst5: cool

KarenConna: you can see the edit link in each section and also the edit tab at the top. If we wanted to , we could edit the pages

KarenConna: The tour bus is leaving, please return.

LoriBu: I was just looking at a Solar System book in wikijunior and like that it has guiding questions to use when you add content

KarenConna: Cool Lori!

KarenConna: The tour bus is leaving, please return

MichellGst5: I liked that feature as well

KathyGst19: This could prove very useful for additional resources.

KarenConna: Our final stop will be the Wiki Sandbox....

KathyGst19: Best yet, it's free.

LoriBu: Free is almost always good!

KarenConna: where you get to play and edit.....but before we go there I thought we'd pause for some any comments you might want to make

MichellGst5: sure is

KarenL: yes it is!

LoriBu: how powerful it can be to have the collective knowledge of many

KarenConna nods

LoriBu: and more up to date information than in a book that has to go through the publishing process

BJB2: a reminder that all urls will be in your transcript

JulieVF: how do we access the transcript?

BJB2: you will automatically be emailed your transcript when you log out

KarenConna: I imagine that students will feel empowered to be an author on one of these wikis

JulieVF: agrees

LoriBu: for sure!

KarenConna: Final tour bus stop.....

KathyGst19: This would be great for my computer class.

KarenConna: The Wiki Sandbox. This is a wiki where you can feel free to play and try out the editing features. There are many wiki sandbox sites available.

MichellGst5: sounds interesting

KarenConna: Because we will all be editing the wiki sandbox at the exact same time, the results may be unpredictable.

LoriBu: cool

KarenConna: When you arrive at the sandbox page, you'll want to look for the word edit. Click edit to begin your wiki experience. We'll come back together in about 5 minutes.

KarenConna: Again, feel free to really play around - these sites are designed for this purpose

KarenConna: <http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?WikiWikiSandbox>

KarenConna: I'll call you back when we're ready to begin again

KarenConna: Go all the way to the bottom of the page to find the edit link

JulieLi: Karen, how do I find the code word to save edit?

KarenConna: it's 567 - they do that to avoid being spammed

MichellGst5: this is neat

KarenConna: It is, it takes a bit to get use to. This sandbox is one of the original ones -- newer software works a little easier.

KarenConna: The tour bus is leaving, please return

JulieLi: 567 does not seem to be working

LoriBu: That's my only concern about using wikis with younger kids. It's a little cumbersome to learn the correct formatting "code" to get it to do what you want it to.

KarenConna: yes, that is true, however, if they have time to just play, they usually work it out

KarenConna: You were just using the original "first ever" wiki that was created by Ward Cunningham

MichellGst5: neat

JillBa: What a great learning tool!

KarenConna: as I mentioned earlier, there are newer versions that are a bit easier. All wikis work on the same premise--the edit link

KarenConna: so on any wiki, that is what you are looking for

KarenConna: Often when people first encounter wikis, they simply append what they want to the end

KarenConna: in reality you are suppose to help edit, and revise and improve any of the writing

KarenConna: so that takes a bit to get use to. Many people feel awkward editing and changing others work, but that's what a wiki is about. Everyone working together to make the best ever content.

KarenConna: Now, where can you create a wiki for yourself.....

KarenL: interesting. Most people don't mind their work being edited?

KarenConna: Karen, some people mind very much, but then they probably shouldn't be in a wiki it that's the case

JillBa: I am guessing if you know what the purpose is - you are giving permission to edit...

KarenL: true. . .interesting.

KarenConna: You might have to deal with that issue with some students also. They may become angry or hurt if something changes something they wrote

KarenConna: so the learning is more than just academic

KarenConna: Right Jill

LoriBu: important to understand the nature of the tool before using it

KarenL: yes, this process takes learning to another level.

JillBa: Is there any lag time - so that someone can monitor?

KarenConna: Wiki Farms are one choice for creating your own wiki. This is a site that hosts many wikis on the same site. To find out what a wiki farm is, go here http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki_farm Remember to return here in just one minute!

KarenConna: Jill - no

KarenConna: This is where you can find get your own wiki, some are free some you pay for

JillBa: wow - empower ME!

KarenConna smiles

KarenConna: Okay, it's time to return

MichellGst5: ok

KarenConna: Seedwiki, wikicities, and wikispaces are some popular hosting sites. This page will provide you with a number of possible choices for hosting your own wiki <http://www.answers.com/topic/list-of-wiki-farms>

KarenConna: take a minute to check out the site

LoriBu: I've seen several people have "their own" wiki pages in what seems like the same look as Wikipedia. Can you create your own space in there?

KarenConna: Lori, they are probably using mediawiki which is the open source software that wikipedia uses

KarenConna: you have to install that on your own server

KarenConna: By far, using a hosting service is the easiest way to get started with wikis.

LoriBu: That's kind of what I was thinking.

KarenConna: Use one that is hosted for a bit and learn the "ropes" before turning one loose on your students

KarenConna: For those that want to try to install and run their own, locally hosted, wiki you have several choices.

LoriBu: you must be reading my mind, Karen

KarenConna smiles

LoriBu: have you ever looked at pbwiki?

KarenConna: Mediawiki <http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/MediaWiki> is the wiki engine that powers wikipedia. It requires PHP and runs on all platform.

KarenConna: Not pbwiki Lori, but pmwiki

LoriBu: pbwiki offers a certain amount of space free and then you can purchase more space if you want to

KarenConna: I'm going to post a number of links to different software so you all have the links in your transcripts

KarenConna: Lori, that sounds like a good choice for a start

KarenConna: PHPWiki <http://phpwiki.sourceforge.net/> this is phpwiki

JillBa: Our district is locked down - so the school server may be the only way to go for us.

LoriBu: you can also password protect your pages so that only those with the password can see them or edit them

KarenConna: PMWiki <http://www.pmwiki.org/>

LoriBu: I kind of liked that for starting maybe a school based wiki

LoriBu: has a little more control until you get your feet wet

KarenConna: yes, you can require a username and password and that is a good choice for wikis in use by students

KarenConna: Twiki <http://twiki.org/>

KarenConna: Swiki <http://minnow.cc.gatech.edu/swiki>

KathyGst19: Do we get a transcript even if we are just a guest?

KarenConna: Any of the above links would work for running your own wiki

BJB2: no, Kathy

LoriBu: Here's the link to pbwiki

LoriBu: <http://www.pbwiki.com/>

KarenConna: Anyone here as a guest, should send me an email and I'll send you the transcript. Okay?

LoriBu: p b stands for peanut butter :smiles

KathyGst19: Thanks!

KarenConna: Here's a new wiki just getting started.....

KarenConna: WikiWeb- is a free lesson plan archive that anyone can edit.

KarenConna: http://www.wikiweb.org/index.php/Main_Page

LoriBu: their motto is it's as easy as making a peanut butter sandwich

KarenConna: That's cute Lori

LoriBu: cool! I like the lesson plan wiki idea

KarenConna: Imagine a lesson wiki in your own district or county

KarenConna: lots of possibilities

MichellGst5: that would be wonderful

KarenConna: this site will be really cool if teachers from all over the world share lessons!!!

LoriBu: some instructional tech specialist in my area are trying to get a tech support wiki going

KarenConna: another good idea Lori

LoriBu: with instructions and how tos from staff development they do

LoriBu: their dream is to get it used by tech specialists all across the state

KarenConna: Collaborative writing is a starting point for student use

KarenConna: shared story-telling is another idea for using wikis

KathyGst19: Lori, what state are you from?

LoriBu: NY

KathyGst19: A forward thinking state

BillCon: Suggestions for those of you trying to get your school district to host or setup the wiki

LoriBu: well, some forward thinking people, anyway

KarenConna: I know a psychology professor who assignment to his students was to create their own textbook. they used a wiki

BillCon: Ask them to be patient

BillCon: Open minded

BillCon: Starting it as a pilot

KarenConna: wikis can be used to create simple websites

BillCon: Offer to monitor heavily

LoriBu: good idea, Bill

JulieLi: Karen, thanks for the presentation and resources. You have provided my lesson plan for my senior IT class today! I have to leave for work now. Bye all.

KarenConna: some educators have reported better success when wikis are narrowly and specifically focused for a specific period of time...

KarenConna: Goodbye Julie

LoriBu: starting with 1 teacher or a small group is a nice way to start and learn and prove the value

KarenConna: Some educators have reported that it is helpful to construct wiki problems that offer multiple solutions, ensuring continued dialog among students....

BillCon: Did I mention patience

MichellGst5: thanks for all the information...very informative

DavidWe smiles

BillCon smiles

DavidWe . o O (is a virtue)

KarenConna: Many educators have found that they need to change how they interact with students in the wiki environment—they become facilitators...

BillCon: Keep working them

KarenConna: Wikis as a constructivist learning activity allow students to “own” their learning experiences.

JillBa: Our district is locked down tightly - 1:1 initiative - and so nervous of the first slip....

BillCon: Also pay attention to school policy

KarenConna: Anyone interested in working together on wikis, should contact me, we could start a Tapped In Wiki!!!!

DavidWe . o O (and the speed limit on the highway!)

LoriBu: great idea, Karen

LoriBu: I'd like to think about being part of that

BillCon: Jill I can guarantee a slip is coming

JillBa: a Tapped in "sand box" ???

BillCon: It's the nature of tech

DavidWe smiles

KarenConna: Terrific Lori! we'll get something going.

LoriBu: and sometimes "a slip" is a teachable moment

LoriBu smiles

BillCon: Nothing is gained if you dont even attempt

KarenConna: Questions?

JillBa: You're right - and I stand PROUD of the inventiveness of our students - they are making us hop!

BillCon: My hats off to Jill

BillCon: school

KarenConna: Wikis are disruptive technology....

LoriBu high fives Jill

KarenConna: they disruptive our traditional ways

JillBa: and some of the traditionalist need to get knocked off center...

LoriBu: and sometimes we so need to be disrupted, even if we don't think so~

KarenConna nods to Jill

KarenConna nods to Lori

JillBa: I looked forward to the transcript as it took me awhile to find the right spot in my kitchen to get the best wireless reception - Ha!

KarenConna: I encourage all of you to play with the wikis to get familiar with their power. Get in touch with me if you're interested in experimenting with Wikis and thinking about educational uses. I know Lori is interested.

JillBa: This was my first "event" - yes - I will get in touch!

LoriBu: and if we don't move forward, using the technology that our students use freely outside of school, we end up strengthening the disconnect between school and the real world

KarenConna smiles at Jill

DavidWe: Glad that you joined us tonight, Jill

KarenConna: We're glad you can Jill

KarenConna: Absolutely Lori

JillBa: Thanks for everything! bye

KathyGst19: Thanks Karen, I've enjoyed and learned a lot at my first online event.

DavidWe waves

KarenConna: Thank you Kathy

BillCon waves and says goodnight to everyone

LoriBu: Karen, definitely keep me in the loop if you want to explore the possibilities together

DavidWe: Thanks, Karen

KarenConna: I will Lori - it would be fun. Bill and I are working to get a wiki server up and running specifically for educators

LoriBu: Amazing how fast an hour goes by!

KarenConna: so I'll be in touch when that is finalized.

BillCon: Or maybe goodmorning from the location of some attendees

LoriBu: very cool, Karen. I'd love to play

KarenConna: That's true Bill! We appreciate those of you who stay up late or rise early to attend our events!

LoriBu: Do you need my email address, Karen or do you already have it somewhere?

KarenConna: Lori - I can send to you via tapped in

KarenConna: do you have your tapped in email set to forward to your home?

LoriBu: Okay, thanks! I'll try to remember to keep checking in

KarenConna: i think all mail through tapped in goes to your personal email

LoriBu: gosh, I can't remember, but I'll check, if I can remember to do that. Is that how you send the reminders about events

KarenConna: however, I posted my email in this transcript so you can just send me a message and I can get your email that way too

LoriBu: okay, thanks

KarenConna: no reminders are posted in the discussions

LoriBu waves goodbye to everyone

KarenConna: Bye Lori

LoriBu: thanks, Karen. This was great

ChuanYuC: bye

KarenConna: Goodnight everyone!