Title of Session: WikiSpaces
Moderator: Adam Frey
Title of File: 20061206wikispaces
Date: December 6, 2006

Room: After School Online Conference

BJB2: Welcome, everyone, to tonight's discussion on WikiSpaces. Adam Frey is our discussion leader and I understand he knows a little about WikiSpaces

GinaDM: Hi, I'm a technologist from Lubbock, TX

FredK: tutor for literacy in SE Oklahoma

BJB2: As some of you know, we start all the Tapped In discussions with introductions. Please let Adam know where you are located, what you teach, and if you have wiki experience

TracieA: I do not have any wiki experience, so that's why I am here!

KrystalI: I teach Kindergarten in Liberty, Missouri. No wiki experience.

DanWo: I am in St. Louis and I teach Technology courses at ITT, no wiki experience

FredK: Very limited

GinaDM: Hi Adam, I just started my 1st wiki to do vertical and team planning in my building...

DominicS: Hello, I am teaching in New Brighton PA. I am not familiar with Wiki

RobertBar: I am enrolled at the Univ. of Missouri through distance education and I work at Job Corps. Used Wiki only.

EnriqueGst10: No wiki experience, Special Education (math/English) San Antonio, TX

BJB2: Hi, Jeff and Joey. We've just started intros

LeslieYS: preservice teacher in Katy TX, lovin it all

JeffC: I'm Jeff Cooper on Helpdesk here, and have notated on several wikis, but admit it's not part of my regular online routine.

MichaelM: I'm the Founder of a non profit at helpingstudents.org

KathyBr: I don't have any Wiki experience. I am seeking certification as a school library media specialist

LeslieYS: I won't talk much this session, feeding a baby, but I'll contribute as much as I can

RenaL: I am in Houston and I just completed student teaching in 2nd grade. I have no idea what wikis is.

JoeyGst19: I am a Health and PE teacher in Alpharetta, GA. (Middle Grades)

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler, a HelpDesk volunteer for Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

SherylM: My area of emphasis is science, elem ed, and professional development. I am a parent of a HS freshman, and I have no experience.

RobertBar: How do I enlarge the window?

BJB2: to make the chat window larger...

KarenConna: Karen Connaghan - Vice Presiden SIGTC, Ed Tech Consultant at an Intermediate Unit in PA

BJB2: go to actions in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

BJB2 looks around the room...everyone introduce themselves?

SusanR: Hi from Canada. K to 8 OT (Occasional Teacher) (grade 6 and Kindergarten today). I have been exploring existing wikis and playing in the sandbox areas of my own wiki.

RobertBar: Thank you. Much better.

JenniferR: Hi all! This is Jennifer Ragan-Fore from ISTE.

GinaDM: I teach k-5 technology in Lubbock, TX

BJB2: Adam, I know you have a lot to share, so we better get started. I'm going to ask everyone to hold questions until Adam asks for them since we have such a large group.

DominicS: I teach 9th and 12th grade social studies just north of Pittsburgh

ValerieC: Is this the WIKI WIKI session?

KarenConna: Yes Valerie

LeslieYS: I have not used wiki... ready to learn

BJB2 turns over the virtual floor to Adam Frey

BJB2 listens to the loud applause

AdamFr: Hi Everyone

LeslieYS smiles

DavidWe cheers and makes noises

AdamFr: I'm Adam Frey, I'm one of the founders of Wikispaces.com

AdamFr: I'll be talking through a few points today

AdamFr: 1) What is a wiki?

AdamFr: 2) Why should I use a wiki in education?

AdamFr: 3) How do I get started and use a wiki?

AdamFr: and I'll mention some special information for teachers.

LeslieYS: thanks

AdamFr: I learned last time that these sessions go more quickly than one expects so I'll stick to those topics

AdamFr: I encourage you all to ask questions as we go as I want to answer the questions you want answered

AdamFr: also, it will be interactive, so have a web browser handy and be prepared to play around

AdamFr: Everyone ready? Any prelim questions?

TracieA: Ready!

RenaL: ready!

DominicS: ready

AmandaGst8: ready

AdamFr: OK, first thing, exactly what is a wiki?

LeslieYS: ready

AdamFr: A wiki, at its very simplest, is a website with an edit button

AdamFr: That's a simple concept but powerful when you think about how it applies to groups

AdamFr: A website that can be edited very easily is like a whiteboard that can be accessed from anywhere

AdamFr: Open your web browser to this address: http://tappedin.wikispaces.com/

LeslieYS: k

AdamFr: Let me know if you have any trouble with the instructions, otherwise I'll assume you're all following along

AdamFr: This is a wiki, called tappedin that has been created on Wikispaces.

AdamFr: Have a look at the button at the top that says "Edit This Page".

AdamFr: I'm going to click that button and type Hello on the page and click save

AdamFr: Now, everyone reload that page by clicking the little plant in the top left corner

LeslieYS: heh

RenaL: wow that

BJB2 . o O (a reminder that you might want to hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click on a url)

AdamFr: That, in short, is a wiki.

AdamFr: A question we get asked often is, what's the difference between a blog and a wiki?

SherylM: I was wondering???

AdamFr: A blog, is like a journal, or a diary. It's sequential, you post new entries every day or week or whenever, and the people reading the blog see those new entries as they show up.

LeslieYS: is it that many people can alter it?

AdamFr: A wiki isn't like that. A wiki is more about a group working on a piece of content together.

LeslieYS smiles

AdamFr: So for example, if you have a group of kids working on a study guide for a history class, each student can add information that they have and build up the guide together

GinaDM: I started my wiki to do vertical planning in our building...I can't wait to have teachers collaborate on it...

SherylM: So they can access this wiki simultaneously?

AdamFr: they aren't making new diary entries in a linear fashion, they are improving the one document together over time, so that at the end, they have a comprehensive study guide that they built together

AdamFr: Sheryl, that's right, they can.

DominicS: can you limit access, or is it fully open access?

KatherinSm: How does one indicate that a wiki is closed or not? So that maybe only your students can access? or update?

SusanR: oops ..does not like Safari

AdamFr: Let's do a little experiment. I'm going to call out names, and each person is going to add a word to our page here

LeslieYS: ...hmm…interesting

SherylM: Yes! Finally!

AdamFr: Dominic, you can limit access

DominicS: okay

LeslieYS: k

LeslieYS: I already added a phrase... sorry

AmandaGst8: I can't get the page to come up

AdamFr: that's fine. Now everyone reload the page

LeslieYS sits low in seat

SherylM: I am done

TracieA: heh

AdamFr: awesome.

GinaDM: see it...

AdamFr: http://tappedin.wikispaces.com/

AdamFr: Who wants to try next?

GinaDM: epicurious?

TracieA: I will!

AdamFr: go ahead Tracie

AdamFr: Amanda, what happens when you try to load that page?

TracieA: Done

AdamFr: Great, nicely done.

RobertBar: I don't want to waste other's time but how do I access the wikispaces without losing this chat?

KarenConna: Hi Gordon

BJB2: overlap your screens, Robert

AdamFr: So the point of this little exercise is to point out that a wiki is really simple. And that's important because the last thing you want to have to do is to teach people how to use yet another tool

GinaDM: take off your pop up blocker

GordonKD: Took a long detour...sorry

TracieA: Hold down control when you click the link

AdamFr: Let's have a look at one other ready important thing

SherylM: I am hungry!

AmandaGst8: I've got it now, I had to click allow popups

KarenConna nods to Gordon and smiles

AdamFr: Everyone click on the "history" tab at the top of the page

AdamFr: What we're looking at now is the complete history of every version of this page

LeslieYS: we're all guests...

DominicS: nice, it tracks the changes

AdamFr: Right, if you have an account, your name shows up

KathyBr: So it saves the previous version if you want to see it?

KatherinSm: Wow--would this mean we could track students--maybe see if someone added something not so nice?

AdamFr: And importantly, you can always go back to any version of the page at any time.

ValerieC: cool

DominicS: Students would need to be signed up to be tracked correct?

LeslieYS grins

AdamFr: So what teachers typically do is they "monitor" their spaces via email updates or via RSS, so they can see every change. If someone adds something they don't like, they can "revert" out the change

AdamFr: If you want to know who did what, yes, the students need to be signed up

KathyBr: What's RSS?

KarenConna: The monitor is a great feature

AdamFr: Importantly, we allow you to create student accounts without requiring them to have email addresses, and without any personal information

GinaDM: that sounds great...our district frowns about student email addresses.

AdamFr: Kathy, RSS is another word for a blog reader. You can "subscribe" to an RSS "feed" so that whenever there is a change you get notified

KatherinSm: Would our students access wikispaces via tapped in then, or would we set up our own wikispace?

LeslieYS: I'm glad I came to this session, this is useful at many levels

KatherinSm: Sorry--change of subject!

AdamFr: You're welcome to create your own wikispace. In fact, let me talk now about how you do that.

AdamFr: Wikispaces usually charges $5 a month for a private or advertising free wikispace, but for K-12 teachers, we have a special offer of 100,000 free spaces, and we have about 80,000 left

AdamFr: Make a note or bookmark of this page:
http://www.wikispaces.com/t/x/teachers100K

GinaDM: I have one of those...it's been great!

TracieA: Well, good for us teachers or soon to be teachers!

BJB2 . o O (the url will be in your transcripts)

LeslieYS: where do I sign up???

AdamFr: http://www.wikispaces.com/t/x/teachers100K is the page you want to use when you sign up

LeslieYS winks with huge grin

KatherinSm: Ooh-what about community college instructors? I'll stay along for the ride, regardless

LeslieYS: thanks!!!

AdamFr: Also, you will want to be familiar with this page:
http://www.wikispaces.com/help+Teachers

AdamFr: It answers some teacher specific questions and helps you get started

AdamFr: Lastly, we have some video tutorials here:
http://www.wikispaces.com/site/tour

AdamFr: so make a note of those and check them out later

AdamFr: So, before we move on, does anyone have any questions?

TracieA: Not so far...

KatherinSm: So far so good!

DominicS: good so far

SherylM: Probably will after I use it.

RenaL: this is really useful

AdamFr: ok. good. so let's move on to "How should I use a wiki in my classroom"

AdamFr: First, wikis are really good ways to "organize" the various online tools you might use in your classroom.

GordonKD: Adam...might remind the users they can convert a public ad-based account to teacher account.

AdamFr: Thanks Gordon, yes you can always move to the teacher plan by emailing us if you already have a wiki setup

SherylM: Adam, thanks for helping teachers have this access opportunity.

KarenConna: Great tip, I have several teachers who wondered how to do that. Thanks

AdamFr: Let's say you have a blog for your class, and maybe a myspace page, or some videos, a wiki is a great way to tie it all together and keep things central

GinaDM: It's like an interactive bookmark page...

AdamFr: Then of course, you can actually do work on a wiki. You might have students post their essays, and then have each student correct or improve other students work.

AdamFr: Or as we discussed before, you could have students work on group projects together, collaboratively.

SherylM: You can see the changes and work with them as they develop. Cool

AdamFr: And again, importantly, since you have a complete record you can track and then evaluate everyone's contributions

TracieA: That is awesome!

AdamFr: Most of us will be familiar with Wikipedia.

SherylM: Yes

ValerieC: yep

TracieA: Yes

AdamFr: Just like Wikipedia is a "general purpose" encyclopedia built with a wiki

DominicS: yes, just learned more in Sept. at a conference

KathyBr: That's the only thing I know about wikis

AdamFr: You may want to build your own classroom "encyclopedia" using a wiki.

KatherinSm: We have a very rudimentary one just for the librarians, but hope to expand it for student use, too. This makes me much less apprehensive about it!

AdamFr: Build a reference for your class, with pages for each student, and each subject, and each activity, that everyone can keep up to date. You can even get parents, and others to be involved just by sharing the space with thtem

GinaDM: I've been working on my wiki for a couple of months and it's GROWING!

LeslieYS: cool!

SherylM: Can students work on the wiki anytime?

LeslieYS pats Gina on the back

AdamFr: Sheryl, yes students can work on the wiki at any time.

KatherinSm: Ahh, re the growing comment--can you at sometime delete earlier versions?

GinaDM: It's addicting in that you want to keep adding to it...

AdamFr: Wikis are also great for planning events and activities.

AdamFr: For example, a field trip, you can list details for the trip and make sure people RSVP on the wiki.

AdamFr: Or for a school club, you could keep minutes, post photos, etc. to keep the club active

KatherinSm: Sorry, Librarian questions--can earlier versions be deleted and can posts be categorized when the wiki becomes large?

GordonKD: If you are a multi-building district, you might consider curriculum or grade-level wikis for teacher to contribute resources, lesson plans, activities, "the last great idea."...

KatherinSm: Or would it just be searchable like wikipedia?

AdamFr: You can always delete or rename pages Katherin, you don't typically delete old versions but you could

GinaDM: that's what mine does...mcwhorter blog on wikispaces...

SherylM: I was wondering about content manipulation also

AdamFr: And yes, it's completely searchable

KathyBr: What grade levels are we talking? How do you handle the students who don't have Internet access outside of school? Any issues with making people feel left out?

AdamFr: Kathy, we have teachers from 3rd grade up using wikis.

GordonKD: Katy...the great thing about wikis are that they are asynchronous.

RobertBar: Does anyone have an example that can be accessed?

GinaDM: the website was blocked at my school, but I asked to have it unblocked...

LeslieYS: I just signed up...

GordonKD: Adam or Karen...I got in late...was there a specific wiki in wikispaces that is being modeled? (my bad)

GinaDM: http://mcwhorterblog.wikispaces.com/ This is my never ending wiki..

LeslieYS: https://classwithmisssmith.wikispaces.com/search/view/names that's what's in my window

RobertBar: Thank you. Applause

LeslieYS: neat!

AdamFr: So two options for what we can do now, we can either step everyone through signing up, and then do some collaborative work on our wiki to get a feel for the tool

AdamFr: or I can just step you through some of the other features of the wiki

AdamFr: which would you prefer?

KarenConna: I think it was http://tappedin.wikispaces.com

BillFr: features

KathyBr: I'd like to see the features

KatherinSm: I'd like to sign up and try some collaborative work, if okay

TracieA: I think signing up would be easy. I would prefer to go through some of the features

SherylM: We can't access them until we are members

AdamFr: That's right, we've been looking at: http://tappedin.wikispaces.com/

GinaDM: features...

RenaL: I prefer the features as well

RobertBar: Anything would be beneficial for me.

KatherinSm: Me, too--features is great, too

DanWo: features

AmandaGst8: Features

DominicS: features

AdamFr: OK, well, anyone who want to sign up, can go to www.wikispaces.com and do so, otherwise, I'm going to show some features

KrystalI: features

ValerieC: I will go with the crowd.

AdamFr: So, anyone who is looking at http://tappedin.wikispaces.com/ will see that I posted a little picture.

KathyBr: Dogbert?

AdamFr: I did that by clicking "Edit this Page" then by clicking the icon in the toolbar that looks like a tree, uploading my file, then adding it to the page.

GinaDM: see it...

AdamFr: yep, Dogbert

SherylM: features, I can sign up later

AdamFr: Another thing I can do is embed other web services on my page.

AdamFr: So for example....

AdamFr: I click "Edit this page" then I click the TV icon in the toolbar, and I paste in the HTML for a video on youtube

KathyBr: I don't see the toolbar or the tree

AdamFr: Kathy, did you click "Edit this Page"?

KathyBr: Got it

TracieA: This would also work with pictures stored on photobucket.com?

BillFr: So how many people can edit a page at once, and how do you handle conflicts?

SherylM: Good question

BillFr: Like when I edit some text and someone else deletes it.

LeslieYS making oops face...

AdamFr: Sorry for the delay.

AdamFr: Have a look at the page now, you'll see I put a video on there

KatherinSm: Cool!

DavidWe smiles

AdamFr: Bill, any number of people can edit the page at the same time, we warn you if someone else is editing, so you have the choice of waiting or going ahead.

TracieA: The new Rocky! Woo-hoo!

SherylM: Great

ValerieC: Is that Rocky?

RobertBar: Rocky on Geratol (sp?)

AdamFr: Yes, that's Rocky.

KatherinSm: Yo!

SherylM: Not the lost connection, but the warning when someone is editing

DominicS: What are the copyright issues? I have not used youtube before?

AdamFr: Now, if everyone can click "Manage Space"

AdamFr: on the left

GinaDM: okay...

AdamFr: This page is where you "Manage" your space. You can change from public to private, backup your space, change the look and feel of your space, etc.

KatherinSm: re copyright: I think if it is used for educational purposes and not altered it meets Fair Use

AdamFr: Importantly, you can also use the "Invite People" link at the bottom to invite people to participate in the space with you

AdamFr: Re: Copyright, the Rocky Video is intended to be used like this. It's a trailer so they want people to be able to see it

DominicS: Thank You.

KatherinSm: So, would students/parents, etc. need to be invited? Or could they sign up some other way?

AdamFr: Typically you would invite them. But they can also sign up and request membership in your space themselves

GinaDM: good question..

KathyBr: Is it an email invitation?

AdamFr: or if it's a public space, they can just come along and play

AdamFr: Yes, it's email invitation

SherylM: Can you keep track of them after you invite them with the space badges?

TracieA: Oh okay- that's what I was thinking.

LeslieYS: how do you search for different spaces?

AdamFr: Sheryl, I'm not sure what you mean

KatherinSm: With the Members and permissions, is this where it can be closed? Could one shut someone out if they didn't play nicely?

GinaDM: the robot icon things...

GordonKD: Adam...do the invitees need to create a wikispaces login?

AdamFr: to search for different spaces, go to http://www.wikispaces.com/ and use the search box at the top right

LeslieYS: thank you

KathyBr: Is there an "owner" of the space that has the rights to change from public to private, etc?

SherylM: I see Space Badges under the Invite People. Is that a way to name the invited?

AdamFr: Yes Katherin, you can kick people out who don't behave

RobertBar: Good question Gordon

AdamFr: Gordon, if your space is anything but public, invitees do need to create a Wikispaces account. They will be prompted to when they accept your invitation

AdamFr: Kathy, there are "Organizers" and "Members" in a space. Organizers can change settings and manage the space

GordonKD: Can they have a wikispace account w/o an e-mail address (not all students/parents have e-mail) and can they have an account without wanting a wiki "space?"

AdamFr: Gordon, yes they can.

AdamFr: If you have a look at http://www.wikispaces.com/help+Teachers

SherylM: I guess I have asked, in my convoluted manner, What is the Space Badge?

AdamFr: There's a section describing how to have accounts created without email addresses

AdamFr: Sheryl, a Space Badge is something you can put on other websites and blogs to promote your wiki

AdamFr: So I want to point out one other feature before we're out of time

SherylM: OOPS. I had no intuition on that one. HAHA

KatherinSm: Go for it!

AdamFr: If everyone goes back to here http://tappedin.wikispaces.com/

AdamFr: You'll see an area called "Navigation" on the left

AdamFr: That's like a header or footer on the page that's always there no matter what page you're on in your space. So you can use it to keep a navigation menu

AdamFr: to do that, I click "edit navigation"

AdamFr: then just edit the page like any other page, and click save

AdamFr: Reload the page and you'll see there are three links there now

GinaDM: The font size in the menu seems large on my wiki...is there a way to make it smaller than "normal"?

AdamFr: Click on one to go to that page

KathyBr: I don't see the links

AdamFr: Go to http://tappedin.wikispaces.com/

AdamFr: and look at the left under "Navigation"

AdamFr: It should say History, English, and Music

TracieA: I see it

DominicS: I see it too.

LeslieYS: me too

BillFr: Until u add them to the navigation, how r they accessed?

AdamFr: You'll note that when you go to the different pages, that navigation menu remains there

AdamFr: Bill, if you don't create a link to a page somewhere, the only way to find it is to click Manage Space, then List Pages

KathyBr: I see it

AdamFr: Anyway, we have 5 minutes left so thanks for hanging with us. I'll ask for any last questions before we're done

KatherinSm: How would you get back to the original page if it is not in the navigation?

GordonKD: Do you support CamelCase?

AdamFr: To get back to the homepage, click the flowerpot or the words TappedIn in the top left

LeslieYS: thanks! Chao!

ValerieC: Time flies

BillFr: Your default home page - if you edit it, that materials that u provide are erased. Why? There's useful stuff there...

KatherinSm: Thanks to Adam and BJ! You all are awesome!

DavidWe: Adam, excuse me if anyone has asked this, but how do school districts/administrators look at Wikis? Will they allow web space and access to teachers?

AdamFr: Gordon, no, we use double square brackets, as per our own wikitext http://www.wikispaces.com/wikitext

RobertBar: Thank you

AmandaGst8: Thanks Adam! This was pretty educational.

TracieA: Thank you so much Adam! This has been very helpful and insightful!

AdamFr: Bill, you can always get that info back by creating a new blank page

KrystalI: Thank you!

GordonKD: Kudos to your company for support K-12

RenaL: Thanks a lot! Now I know what a wiki is!

DominicS: Thank you. I would like to try this soon in my classes.

DavidWe smiles

GinaDM: Thanks a bunch!

AdamFr: David, districts have been supportive so far when teachers show that they get value out of wikis

BillFr: Not sure how - I just created one called test and it is blank

KathyBr: Can you create wikis on any website or just wikispaces?

DavidWe: I've generally felt there has been a tightening of access for teachers to put stuff on the web, but that's just my impression

JenniferR: Adam...do you have a moment before you leave?

GinaDM: http://mcwhorterblog.wikispaces.com/...you can explore my wiki and let me know what you think...

GordonKD: Thanks, Karen and SIGTC

DanWo: thanks

AdamFr: Kathy, there are other wiki hosting services out there

KarenConna waves goodnight to Gordon

AdamFr: Jennifer, sure

DominicS: good night everyone.

GinaDM: bye..

JenniferR: ISTE is actually in the process of sandbox testing wikispaces for our full membership, hopefully to launch officially in late winter

JenniferR: I'd love to talk to you about this a little more

AdamFr: yep, I'm familiar with it

KatherinSm: ISTE?

BJB2: Thanks so much, Adam...great job.

KarenConna: Thanks Adam

JenniferR: Yes, the group that SIGTC is a part of

ValerieC: Thank you.

GordonKD: Katherin: www.iste.org

AdamFr: Jennifer, why don't you drop me an email at help@wikispaces.com and we can find a time to chat

SherylM: Lots of info to implement. Can't wait. Thanks. Good night.

FredK: Adam, Thanks for moving the Wiki into a practical place to get projects online. This session was a great help.

JenniferR: That'd be great. There are some real natural affinities with what you're trying to do with your classroom wiki campaign and our members

KathyBr: Thanks; now to go submit my report.

KarenConna: Goodnight Jennifer

KarenConna: Thanks BJ

SherylM: Will there be a follow-up class?

JenniferR: bye Karen

KatherinSm: Thanks, Gordon!

KatherinSm: Thanks, this was my first class--Looking forward to more!

KatrinaS left the room (signed off).

MichaelM: Thanks Adam. Hope to see you in our Wiki

AdamFr: thanks everyone. Bye for now

JenniferR: Bye!