A Walk Through A Wiki

Brief History of Wikis

- 1995 – developed by Ward Cunningham, a software engineer, and posted on the Web

- 2002 – "Wiki Farms" developed and wikis become more common

Purpose of a Wiki

- Wikis are used as a:
  - composition site
  - resource site
  - discussion forum
  - repository of information
  - mail system
  - tool for collaboration
  - And much more.

Definition of a Wiki!

Wikipedia defines a wiki as:

"A **wiki** is a page or collection of web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content, using a simplified markup language (WYSIWYG). Wikis are often used to create collaborative websites and to power community websites. The collaborative encyclopedia Wikipedia is one of the best-known wikis. Wikis are used in business to provide intranets and knowledge management systems."

More Wiki Definitions

- "Wiki" is the Hawaiian word for "quick" or "fast"

- Wiki Page = one wiki web page

- Wiki = a collection of wiki pages connected by hyperlinks

Public vs Private Wikis

- Public vs. Private:

  - Public wikis are free and, in general, anyone can contribute or edit material

  - Private wikis are limited so that only "invited persons" can contribute and edit material

Categories of Wikis

- There are three general categories of wikis, whether public or private:

  - Content Wikis
  - Process Wikis
  - Community Wikis

How To Build a Wiki: Getting Started

- Develop a business plan

- Set up an account with wiki host

How To Build a Wiki: Functionality

- Front Page
- Editing (WYSIWYG)
- Settings
- Adding pages and links
- Uploading documents
- Page History
- Setting Preferences

Building a Wiki: Adding Content

- Build content
  - Determine the organization for the content
  - Add pages and links for:
    - topics or
    - projects

How To Build a Wiki: Disclaimer and Rules

Post a disclaimer and rules for the wiki

http://himsseprescribingwiki.pbwiki.com

How To Build a Wiki: Security

- Vandalism:
  - Public wikis are subject to tampering and vandalism
  - Monitoring of email updates is necessary to ensure people are not leaving inappropriate messages
- Editing – visitors subscribe to wiki in order to make edits

How To Build a Wiki: Invite Users

- Invite users

- Levels of Participation:
  - Readers
  - Writers
  - Editors
  - Administrators

How To Build a Wiki: The Launch

- Develop a marketing plan

    – Determine the best time for launch

    – Place news articles online and in publications

    – Advise interested communities regarding the new site

Pros and Cons of Wikis

Pros

- Flexible
- Collaborative
- Centralized information

Cons

- Culture change
- Another site to check
- New technology

Lessons Learned

- Allow about a month to build the content
- Need more time on the front end
- Wait to invite users when the site is built
- Participant preferences set
- Provide training for participants for using wiki
- Keep front page clean and clear about the purpose of the wiki

Other Helpful Sources

- *Wikis for Dummies,* by Dan Woods & Peter Thoeny; Wiley Publishing, Inc.;
- *Wikonomics,* by Don Tapscott and Anthony D. Williams; Penguin Group (USA) Inc.;
- *Wikipedia – www.wikipedia.com*
- *PBwiki web site www.pbwiki.com*
- *YouTube videos*

  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A204JcGQiY0

Conclusion

- Collaboration through wikis can help:
  - Simplify communication
  - Organize projects
  - Build collaboration within HIMSS community and outside
  - Educate community through share information, knowledge and new learning
  - Provide a resource to the community