

Sonic Boom Wiki Candidates

The current Sonic Boom wiki is difficult to use and under-powered. This document covers some candidates to replace it. I recommend MediaWiki, as it is well developed, is used extensively on the Internet (for example, Wikipedia and the numerous wikis at wikia.com), and some of the staff are likely to already know how to use it. Dokuwiki is also a good choice. I recommend against Twiki, as it is less able than the other two.

MediaWiki

<http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/MediaWiki>

MediaWiki's best known use is for Wikipedia. Anyone who's ever used or written for Wikipedia already knows what MediaWiki can do for Sonic. It's got good searching, a format most everyone is familiar with because of Wikipedia, and an active open source community developing the software. MediaWiki allows multiple wikis to be set up on the same server, so Sonic could have confidential-information wikis as well as a company-wide one.

MediaWiki also has a blog extension that can be added, see http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:My_blog. From their documentation: "My Blog is a MediaWiki extension that allows a blogger to the user's menu. It allows each user to have the capabilities to create blog entries and to have their blog entries listed under the 'Most Recent Blogs' from the Navigation Menu."

Here's a screenshot of a sample page I did in the public sandbox in less than 10 minutes:

Testing Area

Sonic Boom Projects

- [Name That Tune!](#)
- [Hot America Pageant](#)
- [Graffiti Artist](#)
- [VideoMaker](#)

Another Topic

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah

And a Subtopic

blah blah blah **blah blah blah** *blah blah blah* blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah

Yet Another

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah

Inserting Pictures

I'm using the public sandbox, which doesn't allow pictures. I've done it on other MediaWiki sites; they're easy to add. Just click a button, find the pic on the PC, and upload it. You can set so positioning/formatting features or just go with the defaults.

Advance stuff lets you do things like picture galleries.

One important feature Sonic will need is the ability to create tables on the wiki. MediaWiki supports good looking tables quite simply: just use `class="wikitable"` at the start of the

table and options like `cellspacing` and `border` need not be specified. See http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/MediaWiki_User%27s_Guide:_Using_tables#Style_classes. This makes specifying tables as easy in MediaWiki as in Dokuwiki.

MediaWiki tables can be simple or complex. Here's a simple example:

```
{| border="1" cellpadding="5" cellspacing="0"
! Good
! Neutral
! Evil
|-
| Valar
| Dwarves
| Morgoth
|-
| Elves
| Eagles
| Orcs
|-
| Gandalf
| Beorn
| Sauron
|}
```

It looks like:

Good	Neutral	Evil
Valar	Dwarves	Morgoth
Elves	Eagles	Orcs
Gandalf	Beorn	Sauron

There's lots of whitespace in the above code to make it very readable, but whitespace doesn't matter. Tables can be written compactly, like:

```
{| border="1" cellpadding="5" cellspacing="0"
! Good ! Neutral ! Evil
|- | Valar | Dwarves | Morgoth
|- | Elves | Eagles | Orcs
|- | Gandalf | Beorn | Sauron |}
```

or:

```
{| border="1" cellpadding="5" cellspacing="0"
! Good ! Neutral ! Evil
|- | Valar | Dwarves | Morgoth
|- | Elves | Eagles | Orcs
|- | Gandalf | Beorn | Sauron |}
```

or even more compactly. It just depends how much whitespace you use to make it readable in the source.

Dokuwiki

<http://www.dokuwiki.org/dokuwiki>

Dokuwiki is about as powerful as MediaWiki and can be extended to do blogs. The search function is a bit more flexible than MediaWiki's, which is good. The syntax people use to add material to the wiki seems a bit more complicated and less user friendly, but not significantly worse. For example, these are equivalent to using HTML `<h2></h2>` tags:

Dokuwiki: `==== Level 2 Header =====`

MediaWiki: `== Section Header ==`

Here's a comparison of the two wikis:

<http://www.wikimatrix.org/compare/DokuWiki+MediaWiki>

The syntax listing is probably the most important thing to look at, as that is what most people editing the wiki will encounter.

Dokuwiki tables are even simpler than MediaWiki's:

Heading 1	Heading 2	Heading 3
Row 1 Col 1	Row 1 Col 2	Row 1 Col 3
Row 2 Col 1	some colspan (note the double pipe)	
Row 3 Col 1	Row 2 Col 2	Row 2 Col 3

Table rows have to start and end with a `|` for normal rows or a `^` for headers.

<code>^ Heading 1</code>	<code>^ Heading 2</code>	<code>^ Heading 3</code>	<code>^</code>
<code> Row 1 Col 1</code>	<code> Row 1 Col 2</code>	<code> Row 1 Col 3</code>	<code> </code>
<code> Row 2 Col 1</code>	<code> some colspan (note the double pipe) </code>		
<code> Row 3 Col 1</code>	<code> Row 2 Col 2</code>	<code> Row 2 Col 3</code>	<code> </code>

Overall, either Dokuwiki or MediaWiki look like they would do what we want.

Twiki

A few years ago, I set up, maintained, and contributed to a wiki for a game studio. It was based on Twiki v3, so I've had experience with this wiki. I briefly examined Twiki v4, which is not in my opinion significantly different from v3. Twiki is very similar to Sonic's current, frustrating wiki. I think either of the two above wikis would be much better.

Twiki does use "CamelCase" (aka WikiWords), which some people like. Just put a mixed case word with two separated capitals in a Twiki-based wiki and it tries to link to a wiki page of that name. However, a single word that starts with a capital won't auto link.

Some people like this auto linking for its convenience, some people dislike it for its annoyances. I tend toward the latter. "VideoMaker," a current Sonic project, would be a link on its own. "Tattoo Shop," a top-selling Sonic app, would not; you'd have to remember to write it as "TattooShop." "Projects" wouldn't auto link; you'd have to come up with something like "ProjectPages" to get auto linking. JavaScript is likely to be mentioned in the

wiki, but the wiki would set up a link every time you wrote it correctly. Overall, just trying to handle all this seems more work in the long run than just enclosing "[[]]" around what you want as a link, like "[[Tattoo Shop]]."