Social Computing and Wikipedia
Wikis

- Original vision / implementation
  - See /c2.com/cgi/wiki?WikiWikiWeb
- Idea: open editing of web content
- Lots of instances, lots of tools
Wikipedia

- Anyone can edit
- Recent changes
- Watchlists
- Massive amounts of discussion and **massive** social conventions
Editing Robert Penn Warren (section)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

You are not currently logged in. While you are free to edit without logging in, your IP address (viewable here) will be recorded in this page's edit history. Creating an account will conceal your IP address and provide you with many other benefits.

Life:
Warren was born in [[Guthrie, Kentucky]], graduated from Clarksville High School (TN), [[Vanderbilt University]] in 1925 and the [[University of California, Berkeley]] in 1926. He later attended [[Yale University]] and obtained his B. Lit. as a [[Rhodes Scholar]] from [[New College, Oxford]], in [[England]] in 1930. That same year he married Emma Srescia, from whom he divorced in 1951. He then married [[Eleanor Clark]] in 1952. They had two children, Rosanna Phelps Warren (b. July 1953) and Gabriel Penn Warren (b. July 1955). Though his works strongly reflect Southern themes and mindset, Warren published his most famous work [[All the King's Men]] while a professor at [[The University of Minnesota]] and lived the latter part of his life in [[Fairfield, Connecticut]], and [[Stratton, Vermont]]. He also received a [[Guggenheim Fellowship]] to study in [[Italy]] during the reign of [[Benito Mussolini]]. He died in 1989 of complications from bone cancer.
The English-language Wikipedia currently contains 1,617,880 articles.

Users have made 109,147,764 edits, with an average of 14.75 per page, since July 2002. This includes edits by unregistered users.

User statistics

- 3,444,306 registered user accounts, of which 1,104 (or 0.03%) belong to administrators.
Interesting wikipedia urls

Studying Cooperation and Conflict between Authors with history flow Visualizations

Fernanda Viegas, Martin Wattenberg, and Kushal Dave
Summary

- Developed history flow visualization
- Applied it to a (presumably) hand-selected sample of 70 or so Wikipedia pages
- Identified some interesting patterns
  - Contribution of different authors
  - Vandalism + repair
  - Edit wars
- Did some statistical analysis
  - Mean/median time to repair one type of vandalism
history flow

Issues

- history flow visualizations – useful?
- Does the paper tell us just about controversial topics?
- What do we know about fixing “vandalism” on Wikipedia after reading this article?
  - Why do users watch?
  - How many users have to be watching?
  - How many users have to be beneficent?
  - Metrics? (see Reid’s work)
- Computational definitions of “edit wars”, “vandalism”, etc.?
Issues

- How to achieve consensus
  - Limited privileges vs.
  - Open privileges + social conventions
- How to avoid “vandalism”
  - Technical approaches vs. limited privileges vs. social norms (aided by mechanisms)
- Why do edit wars die out?
- Social approaches require scale to work?
- Large vs. small wikis
Issues

- Tyranny of the first (editor)
  - Do the history flows give any evidence about this?
- Wikipedia and adversarial collaboration
- NPOV == POV-X + POV-Y?
Issues

- Other mechanisms
  - Slashdot mass moderation
  - ???

- Scenarios – what high-level tool would you choose for...
Content Management Systems and Drupal

“Publish” web sites without (much) programming (required)
Content separated from presentation
Templates
Workflow
Administrative interfaces
Database backend
Modular architecture
Can program as necessary
CHIPlace example
Drupal – a powerful CMS

- Blogging
- Syndication: RSS
- Forums
- “Books”
- News + comments
- Polls
- User roles + permissions
- Web-based administration
Drupal requirements

- Web server (Apache)
- PHP
- Database server (MySQL)
- Installation not trivial(?)
  - Already installed on ITLabs machines
  - Mukesh is working on a guide and examples
Drupal information

- http://drupal.org/
- http://drupal.org/about (etc.)
Drupal examples

- communitylab.org
- Grouplens.org
- glaros.dtc.umn.edu/
- volunteermatch.com
- civicrm.org
- www.defectivebydesign.org/en/node
- Mukesh’s demo