A CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE FOR THE PLANARIAN LABS COMMUNITY
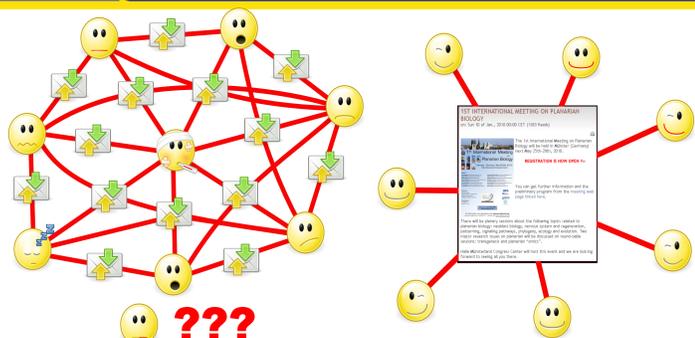
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SUMMARY

EuroPlanNet web site is powered by a Contents Management System (CMS). This tool integrates many features that can facilitate knowledge, in a wide sense, broadcast among the members of the planarian community, but also the dissemination of this community achievements. Here, we want to highlight some of its features, most of them sharing a common interface and a simple markup wiki syntax for improving usability. Among its components, one can list: a wiki to work on collaborative documents; file and image galleries for data-sharing; an integrated calendar, a news and events system. On top of that, an authentication system controls the access level to any content stored in the CMS, both at user and group levels, yet with a rich granularity from a page element, i.e. a paragraph, to a set of documents. The system keeps track of changes as well a the contributions made by the users too. The modular design of the components makes easy to add, modify or remove, specific features, including discussion forums, links directories, project trackers, surveys and polls, and so on. A part from its style-customization capabilities, it also allows for automated generation of contents from files or databases---via a template-based programming interface---, embedding data from external sources, or even raw purpose-specific HTML code.

WEB INFORMATION FLOW

Email Document Nightmare

Document Centric Solutions

In the late years, wiki technology has been adopted by many communities to share data through the Internet. A wiki ['wi:ki:] is a website that allows visitors to add, remove, and edit content. The word wiki is a Hawaiian word meaning "quick". Wiki systems are therefore designed so that their content can be made available in a quick and uncomplicated manner. Wikis allow for linking among any number of pages. This ease of interaction and operation makes a wiki an effective tool for mass collaborative authoring.
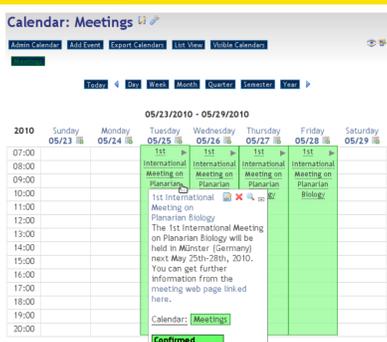
MANAGING FILES

There are many systems already available to share files, like DropBox or GoogleDocs, however, the wiki has the capability to add meta-data to the uploaded files. Meta-data can help to find related documents, including wiki pages as well as files or images, when doing whole site searches.

Furthermore, this wiki engine can store image files into a separate set of galleries. Those image galleries can be browsed like the file galleries, but also via a thumbnails slide-show panel (see rightmost box).

OTHER FEATURES

EuroPlanNet wiki has a complete calendar system, which can contain events stored into different subcalendars. Users can have also their own calendars, which can be integrated or not into the main display. Events on the calendar can be announced through the "*Upcoming events*" panel.
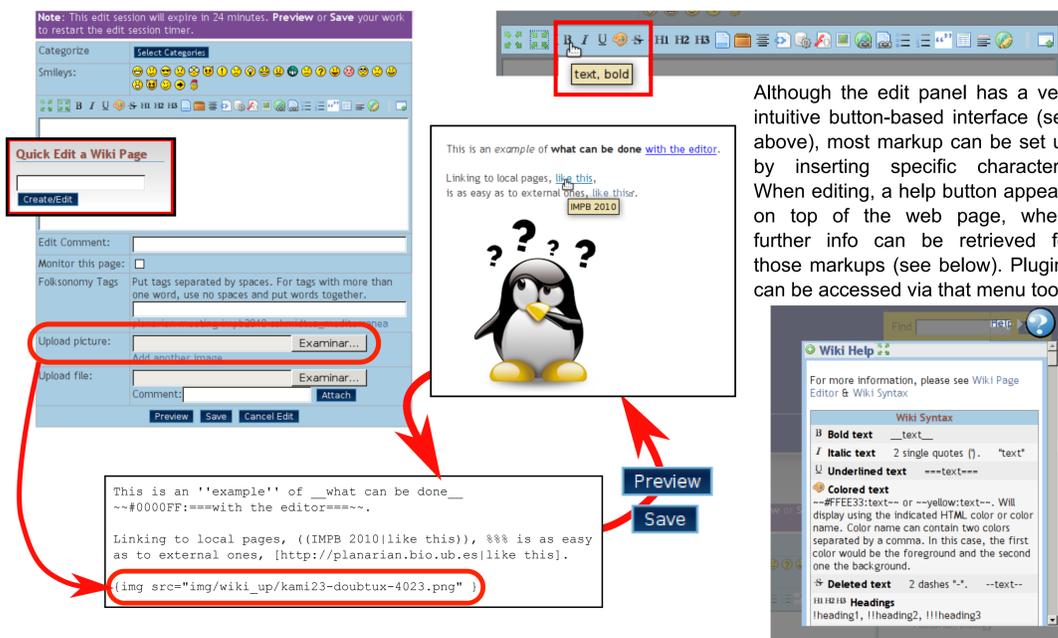
Among other features available from the TikiWiki engine, one can cite the *Articles* system, which can be used to post news (and to publish them via RSS), discussion forums, trackers, polls and statistics, categories and structures over the wiki pages, plugins, embed SQL queries, and so forth...

EDITING FEATURES

One of the main characteristics of a contents management system based on a wiki engine, is that starting from scratch, as the contributors feed more and more contents, a complex relationship of web pages emerges, facilitating the navigation through them. One can create a completely new page, encode links for external or internal pages, embed images or point to files already uploaded into the system. Those internal links which do not exist yet, will be marked with a question mark; the users can create the corresponding pages the first time they click on those links.

Although the edit panel has a very intuitive button-based interface (see above), most markup can be set up by inserting specific characters. When editing, a help button appears on top of the web page, where further info can be retrieved for those markups (see below). Plugins can be accessed via that menu too.
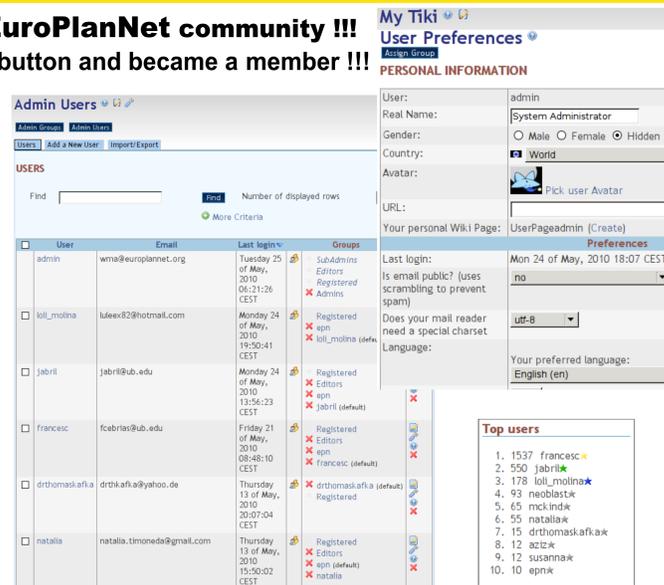
USERS & GROUPS

You can easily join the EuroPlanNet community !!!
Just click over the Register button and became a member !!!

Wikis can help to crystallize Communities by providing a common space where to share and discuss ideas that can benefit other groups on the Internet. This is not incompatible with having private spaces where to develop those ideas or to define specific work-groups.

TikiWiki has a built-in permissions system that allows fine-grained control access to a page, a class of pages or even the whole web, for a user or a group of users. Group permissions are hierarchical, ranging from the anonymous visitor, having access only to the public menus and pages, to the admin users, who take care of keeping the site going on.
The groups currently defined at **EuroPlanNet** are, in order of relevance:

Anonymous < Registered < epn < Editors < Admins

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS