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What is a WikiWord?

A WikiWord consists of two or more words with initial capitals, run together. **WikiWords are topic names.** A Foswiki topic name always has a fixed format: two or more words with initial capitals, run together. Like the name of the current topic: **WikiWord**. When you type the name of a topic, you create a link to that topic. You type `WebHome` and on saving the page this becomes WebHome. It's as easy as that.

When you type a WikiWord, you establish a hyperlink. It's as easy as that.

WikiWord linking is easy to use:

- You don't have to know the full path to where the topic is stored - you just type the name
- You don't need to write HTML
- Without HTML, the topic text is easier to read when editing
- Easy linking leads to interesting texts with links placed in context

WikiWords are styled like this because:

- It makes Wiki hyperlinks instantly recognizable
- It leads to interesting Wiki topics
- It avoids the need to fiddle with HTML tags
- It avoids over-general topics because at least two words are required

Syntax of a WikiWord

- Uppercase letter(s)
- Lowercase letter(s) or numbers(s)
- Uppercase letter(s)
- Optional lowercase or uppercase letter(s) or number(s)

WikiWord syntax in Extended Backus.Naur form (EBNF):

```
wikiWord        = upperLetters , lowerNumLetters , upperLetters , { alphaNum } ;
upperLetters    = upperCase , { upperCase } ;
lowerNumLetters = lowerNum , { lowerNum } ;
alphaNum        = upperCase | lowerCase | digit ;
lowerNum        = lowerCase | digit ;
lowerCase       = "a" | "b" | "c" | "d" | "e" | "f" | "g" | "h" | "i"
                | "j" | "k" | "l" | "m" | "n" | "o" | "p" | "q" | "r"
                | "s" | "t" | "u" | "v" | "w" | "x" | "y" | "z" ;
upperCase       = "A" | "B" | "C" | "D" | "E" | "F" | "G" | "H" | "I"
                | "J" | "K" | "L" | "M" | "N" | "O" | "P" | "Q" | "R"
                | "S" | "T" | "U" | "V" | "W" | "X" | "Y" | "Z" ;
digit           = "0" | "1" | "2" | "3" | "4" | "5" | "6" | "7" | "8" | "9" ;
```

Good examples of WikiWords

- WikiWord
- GoodStyle
- VersionFiveDotThree?
- ReleaseVersion5dot3?
- AVeryLongWikiTopicNameIsAlsoPossible?: wherever an uppercase or lowercase letter is allowed, a group of letters of the same case is allowed
- YearTwoThousand?
- Nine2Five?: Note that numbers are considered to be lowercase letters in WikiWords

Bad examples of WikiWords:

- Web: Name without the uppercase letter(s), lowercase letter(s), uppercase letter(s) sequence
- 5Alive: Name beginning with a number
- Know-How: Name with dashes in between

Variations in linking

When you write the name of a topic, it becomes a link. There are more ways

- To write a custom **link label**, use bracket notation: `[[AccessControl][access control]]` - this becomes: access control
- To link to a topic in **another web**, write: `Sandbox.WebSearch` - this becomes: WebSearch
- To link to a topic in **another subweb** write: `Sandbox.Subweb.WebSearch`.
- To show the web name in the link use bracket notation: `[[Sandbox.WebHome]]` - this becomes: Sandbox.WebHome
- To link to a topic on **another Wiki site**, use: `Foswiki:Main/WebHome` - this becomes: Foswiki:Main/WebHome (sites are defined in the InterwikiPlugin)
- To link to a part on the **same page**, write a "#" followed by the name of an anchor. The anchor is a "#" followed by a name which must be a WikiName. Example `#MyAnchor`. You can also link to an anchor on another page: `System.WebHome#MyAnchor`.
- To link to a header on the **same page**, write a "#" followed by the header text, with spaces replaced by underscores (and `!` removed): `[[#Good_examples_of_WikiWords]]` becomes: #Good_examples_of_WikiWords. You can also link to a header on another page: `System.WebHome#Disclaimer` becomes: WebHome#Disclaimer.

Hints

- Insert WikiWords wherever you can. Rich linking helps to make a Wiki successful.
- Be specific. All topics in a web share one name space. For example, instead of `FunctionalSpec` write `BreadSlicerFunctionalSpec` because other projects might also have a functional spec topic.
- To stop a WikiWord from being turned into a hyperlink, insert an exclamation point immediately before the WikiWord. For example, write `!SunOS` to get SunOS.
- Create topics with singular names. Plural WikiWords are automatically linked to the singular topic, i.e. the link WikiWords links to the topic WikiWord (works only in English).
- Sometimes you have to be creative to find a good WikiName. Examples:
  - To create a topic about the the **Bread Slicer 1.2** product, use `BreadSlicer1dot2` or `BreadSlicer1pt2`, but not `BreadSlicer1.2`.
  - Numbers are considered lowercase which makes `Year2K` and `Y2K` WikiWords but not `Y2000` and `Y2k`.
- Turn acronyms into WikiWords, i.e. take `FaqIndex` for a "FAQ index" topic.
- It is possible to turn off the auto-linking of WikiWords and to rely only on the bracket notation using the NOAUTOLINK preference setting.
- ⚠ When linking to a WebHome topic *in another web*, the link will be rendered as the name of the web, e.g. `Sandbox.WebHome` becomes Sandbox.
- ⚠ Dots (.) are used as seperators between webs, subwebs, and topics. It is not possible to use dots in topic names. Foswiki does not attempt to guess if a dot could be part of a topic name.

Related Topics: WikiSyntax, TextFormattingRules

Edit | Attach | Print version | History: %REVISIONS% | Backlinks | Raw View | More topic actions

Topic revision: r1 - 12 Sep 2009 - 04:01:58 - ProjectContributor

- System

- Log In

- **Toolbox**
- Users
- Groups
- Index
- Search
- Changes
- Notifications
- RSS Feed
- Statistics
- Preferences

- **User Reference**
- BeginnersStartHere
- TextFormattingRules
- Macros
- FormattedSearch
- QuerySearch
- DocumentGraphics
- SkinBrowser
- InstalledPlugins

- **Admin Maintenance**
- Reference Manual
- AdminToolsCategory
- InterWikis
- ManagingWebs
- SiteTools
- DefaultPreferences
- WebPreferences

- **Categories**
- Admin Documentation
- Admin Tools
- Developer Doc
- User Documentation
- User Tools

- **Webs**
- Public
- System

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