

interview

a TiddlySpace



HelloThere

last modified on 28 February 2011



Welcome to the great **TiddlyWiki** viral interview project.

For many people that use it there is a distinct [discovery moment](#) when **TiddlyWiki** explodes in their brain. For others, it is a challenge to get their heads around **TiddlyWiki** at all.

This project explores how people think about **TiddlyWiki** by collecting together responses to a set of questions about it.

To Add Your Own Response

- Sign up for [TiddlySpace](#) if you haven't done so already
- Click the "Reply to this tiddler" link on a question you wish to answer
- Your home space will open in a new window or tab with the appropriate question tiddler presented
- Double click on the question tiddler and add your answer (make sure to make it public)

no tags



How did you first discover TiddlyWiki?

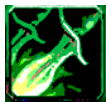
last modified on 16 November 2010



[gjrobert](#) on 16 September 2013

Around mid-2004, when I was searching for ideal wiki engines. I forgot actually

how I find TW, either via Google or via some introduction on blog posts.



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

Honestly, I sort of stream of consciousness surf/research and just stumbled across the original baby TW. I liked the idea of it but really couldn't get into it. It was a little too.. unframed for me *LOL*. But I would keep checking it and when I saw the mGTD version, then I became a full-blown enthusiast. Not only has that helped me organize (or at least track) my web wanderings, but I've picked up an understanding of programming that's helped me advance at work. So thanks Jeremy & Simon ;D !



[dickon](#) on 18 March 2012

I have known and loved Jeremy Ruston for many years, so it was word of (horse's) mouth.

It is strange when you have known someone for many years; suddenly to discover how something so excellent has been going on in their work (that had always seemed so far away from your own) - and that it absolutely answers what you are after... kerrr-ching!

I got curious about what this Tiddly stuff was about in conversation, and Jeremy sent me a link, which I started looking at in about 2005 I think. As a total non-techy I commend my own bravery in trying to get past the somewhat opaque documentation, but there was a fairly sudden "lights came on" moment when I saw massive potential in what was on offer, that I had seen nowhere else.



[pmario](#) on 6 April 2011

I was looking for a browser notebook, with the possibility to work online and/or offline. And if possible with good syncing. I found <http://leucid.org/2009/02/03/a-busy-year-and-a-student-notebook/>

Some more reading lead to a very active **TiddlyWiki** user group, and some specs about an alpha *TiddlyWeb* (mother of all server sides.) So I thought, let's see how fast the development is going on. That's it.



[poulstaugaard](#) on 6 March 2011

I am quite a veteran TW addict. The wiki idea first caught my fancy when I stumbled on *FlexWiki* in 2003. Initially I hung out at *MeatBallWiki* for inspiration while scanning the landscape and finding my direction. This is how i discovered TW while it was still a baby. Coming from the Microsoft/IT services world, with a wide interest in web technology, my first serious effort was a .NET (C# + SQL) based serverside that I called iewiki (spelled like that not to be misread as

LeWiki). It was built on unmodified TW 2.0.6 client-side, and I used it myself on the web for a few years (as *iewiki.net*, now defunct). I was never quite happy with the end product though, and it never quite made it past beta status - partly due to the rather high cost of quality hosting for .NET. So when I found Google's App engine, I decided to start again from scratch, an effort which I have called *giewiki* for natural reasons. By this time (late 2008), I figured TW had reached a level of maturity (2.4.1) that made branching a good strategy for a hosted derivative.



[smandoli](#) on 24 December 2010

I spent 2009 in a part-time and solitary obsession with knowledge-management tools, trying to figure out how to harness my chaotic, distracted, eclectic and adventurous thought life. This was encouraged by a re-read of the famous 1946 "Memex" proposal, discovery of the "*TheBrain*" online demo. and personally productive work in mind mapping. (More at <http://themanthursday.com/wiki-first-taste/>.) I would run google searches that returned nothing, but eventually I lined up the right keywords and landed at **TiddlyWiki**.



[calmo](#) on 16 December 2010

In 2004 I was researching use of wikis for collaborative content development within IBM. I found tiddlywiki. But I really didn't "discover" it until I realized how it actually works - what makes it different from standard wikis.



[climatechange3](#) on 1 December 2010

I first heard about TW on a Moodle group in the fall of 2006, in the process of trying, without much success, to use the wiki feature in Moodle. I loved TW - and the TW Google Group - right away.



[ubi](#) on 29 November 2010

I was searching the net for a personal wiki software and found *WoaS* and **TiddlyWiki**. I started with *WoaS*, because it's traditional website look-and-feel met my habits more than TW, still playing around with **TiddlyWiki** occasionally. After digging the core concepts and discovering the wealth of plugins, I switched to TW.



[passingby](#) on 27 November 2010

It was a long time ago, while searching for free and open source softwares



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

I saw a mention of it while I was looking for a simple personal wiki. The single file and easy portability of it intrigued me.



[yakov](#) on 16 November 2010

I write loads of things and some time ago I realized that hypertext is the only form that would be flexible enough for me. Next I get the idea that since there are quite limited tools for creating hypertext on my handheld it would be good to create one based on web-technologies since they are totally cross-platform and imply hypertext. Then I realized that JavaScript has far too limited access to the file system (usually no access at all), so I asked about this thing in [google.questions](#). Few answers contained mentioning of Java and flash and also there was one with "see TiddlyWiki". And so, that was it.



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

i was looking for a simple wiki to use for note keeping, action tracking and the like - I think I was reading "Getting Things Done" at the time. I came across **TiddlyWiki** and decided to give it a try. I liked the idea of not needing to be online - which at the time was less frequent than now. I then discovered that the guys involved worked for the same company as I do - and that made me really interested in using it for work as well as private applications.

Then server side became more important - ability to share info and access. I used cctiddly for a while and am now starting to use the BT green side implementation of *TiddlySpace* for work related projects - as well as the usual [tiddlyspace.com](#).



[mama](#) on 16 November 2010

I was searching for a possible "wiki on a stick" program, to have a portable wiki. I found Woas <http://stickwiki.sourceforge.net/> . I used Woas for a little while, but never really got the hang of it...

Maybe I read the Acknowledgement section on Woas' homepage, which mentions **TiddlyWiki** and Jeremy Ruston.

I downloaded an empty tiddlywiki and tried to use it - for some reason I thought it was much more simple to use than Woas..

tags: question



What was it about TiddlyWiki that captured your interest?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

Being non-linear and taggable.



[dickon](#) on 18 March 2012

It was the fact that it was a *document*, but that it had certain aspects that seemed extraordinarily "three-dimensional": pages (tiddlers) have *depth* insofar as each chunk of content that you write has what I think of as both *centrifugal* force (stimulating interest to go and explore links and tags that offered related material) balanced by *centripetal* force (the intrinsic interest of what is here on this page/tiddler, that holds my attention and delivers what I want/need.)

But more than that, **TiddlyWiki** has EDGES; this is like other documents I know about (chiefly paper based), and is reassuring in relation to the scary 'anarchy of limitlessness' that, say, Wikipedia has. As a TW could be a thing - downloaded, uploaded - so it was a *definable entity*; there could be a balance of authorial control with the wiki-like sharing and co-construction.

I was writing a large treatment manual at the time (with a great group of co-authors based around the [Anna Freud Centre](#)) at the time, and we were trying to integrate a whole range of "schools" of thinking and practising into a concentrated, integrated set of principles and practices that could 'steer' workers in the field towards more effective practice in doing therapy with some of the most vulnerable, complex, troubled youth around. The "eureka" moment (and it was something like that) was the recognition of a number of things almost simultaneously:

'Integrative' format

1. That the way to mount all this information was in a **TiddlyWiki**: this format could emphasise underlying links/commonalities/shared concepts between disparate schools (that had often, in my view, wasted precious energy on "turf wars"... this seemed to me to be a radically *integrative format*, insofar as any tiddler that I wrote automatically begged the questions: "*How does my content fit in with the rest of what is written? How are you going to tag me? What links are you going to place in me, and to me?*"

Funkier than a book

2. The format (with its promise of embedded video, downloadable documents, clickable links...) offered a much more tempting "front door" to what is conventionally a massively boring kind of book. (Research demonstrates that the "treatment manual" is frequently despised by therapists, who find them rigid, condescending, crushing of creativity and spontaneity, and often ill-fitting to their local setting and cultural context.) Most treatment manuals are not inviting to the casual browser!

Open source works for therapy, too

3. The whole "open source" ethos that Tiddlywiki abounds with, absolutely fitted with the slant on human behaviour/psychology that we were using as the "integrating principle" in our treatment approach, which is "*Mentalization*". The motto of open source programmers ("Release Early, Release Often") fits the mentalization-based therapist's assumption that "I only see with partial vision" and his or her willingness to mark their *best guesses* as just that - hypotheses, to be built on and improved...

Multiple iterations around a developing shared core

4. The final "Bingo!" moment was the realisation that with **TiddlyWiki** it was possible to conceive of multiple locally-adapted versions of a centrally-curated 'basic core' offering. Thus local teams (the "small trusted groups" that *TiddlySpace* refers to) can work out *place- and population-specific iterations* of "Practice-based Evidence" - that fit the more rarefied/less 'attuned' "Evidence-based Practice" into *local settings, local populations*. I think of it as being like adapting a basic car for use in different parts of the world - some places need air-con, others need 4 wheel drive and a good in-cabin heater, still others need an excellent paint job, etc... but all rely on a basic car that basically runs.

With the development of *TiddlyWeb* and *TiddlySpace* this vision (no. 4 above) has become increasingly possible, so that now the [ambit](#) core manual is **included** in the local versions of just under 20 teams across the UK (see [tiddlymanuals](#) and follow the links for AMBIT), working with diverse populations, and in diverse ways, with "hard to reach" young people.

These teams are beginning to build their own locally-attuned versions of a treatment manual, building on (and often improving on) the ambit 'core'. As time goes on, and evidence is gathered about what works for whom, we hope to bring excellent local adaptations that would have more general relevance into the core, so that they are automatically available to all other local teams including this core.



[pmario](#) on 6 April 2011

The extensibility



[poulstaugaard](#) on 12 March 2011

The page architecture, which I have adopted, finding little reason to change anything just for the sake of difference, nor for any other reason. Everything, even the animations, serves a purpose and does it just right, including the omission of sidebar space for 'ads by Google'.



[smandoli](#) on 24 December 2010

Portability. I didn't want to have to be on-line, and I wanted to shuttle between Linux at home and Windows at work. And I had recently become attached to my USB drive.



[climatechange3](#) on 2 December 2010

Its versatility, built-in macros, the wonderful & creative 3rd party plugins, a diversity of ways to present and organize content and layout and the responsiveness of the TW Google Group. In examining the structure of tiddlers, I became aware of the possibility of generating sets of tiddlers from the extensive body of information I have gathered in a set of *DataPerfect* databases.



[passingby](#) on 27 November 2010

That it was:

Single file software

It opened in a browser

It was kind of a closet, you could stash away things in it

You could 'own' it, for free, have as many copies as you want

It had a world of fascinating plugins



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

Saq's use in the education realm and the ease of transport/sharing.



[mama](#) on 20 November 2010

I'm sure that it was the "tiddler-approach" which caught my attention... Other wikis I tried in the past, always made me a little uneasy because of the "one article one page" layout. I quickly understood that **TiddlyWiki** could be tweaked to my own liking - and when I eventually overcame my reluctance to enroll in a community, the googlegroup convinced me that even I, could create/modify a copy to my own liking, a total noob, with no education or knowledge whatsoever about html, css or javascript.

As far as I remember, I tried to figure things out for myself for about six months until I finally gave up - and posted a question on the usergroup. At that time I was trying to create a tiddlywikiapp to be used on a mobile phone for administration of students at my school. <http://himmerlands-ungdomsskole.dk>. I even purchased an old HTC (tytn II) to be able to test the thing....



[yakov](#) on 16 November 2010

More I discovered TW, more I get excited because my wishes got implemented one by one. TW happen to be extremely powerful, close to WYSIWYM-based and, well... the only thing I've got to do is to discover it carefully (although some things are now distinct to be not achieved yet the plugin system promises almost everything to be doable).



[martinlindner](#) on 16 November 2010

initially: i think i was fascinated by the idea of having a "page" made of dynamic paragraphs, back then. i'm still interested in the (abandoned?) TW project of importing docs, transforming paragraphs to tiddlers, and back again.

the other concept i have been obsessed with since 2004 is "microcontent": to play with small units of meaning, meme-like chunks. like the microweb that exploded after that, with twitter & any kind of 'microformatted' apps (for questions, for trips, for reviews, for nearly anything).



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

I could create simple notepad applications, very quickly and easily - but also the more I used it, the more I realized I could change the way it looked and worked. This has been both liberating, and frustrating.

tags: question



Which aspects of TiddlyWiki do you find most valuable?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

tagging, simple link creation syntax, its general simplicity making it easy to teach/share with non-technical people, the different flavors, the extensive plugins for adaptability



[pmario](#) on 6 April 2011

For most people its new. They haven't seen something like this. It's easy. It's usefull. It's a WOW.
It's flexibility
TagglyTagging



[smandoli](#) on 24 December 2010

Easy and Quick

I can capture my thought or preserve a good quotation without a lot of hassle or time.

I don't have to decide if the idea is "important" or how it fits in with everything else. Paste, save, apply a tag if I can think of one — that's it.

Portable

In a strange library? Not sure what kind of computer is in front of me?
Can't get the Internet to work? NO MATTER — if it's got a USB port, I'm in.

Non-linear association of ideas

It may not look like a mind map (yet), but it feels like one.
This is one of my few activities in life where it doesn't seem to matter if I'm in ADHD mode or not. Or putting it from another angle, managing a TW seems to put my ADHD to some sort of actual good use.

Non-proprietary Text Format

Whatever the next step is in knowledge management, I can get there.
Migrating my voluminous notes from word-processor documents to TW was tedious, but nothing will ever be that hard again.

Sheer elegance

... 'Nuff said.



[alexhough](#) on 8 December 2010

Facilitating Group Work

During the design stages of the *OMM*, **TiddlyWiki** was used to capture the requirements from the group. We projected the TW on the wall.



[passingby](#) on 27 November 2010

- Tiddler concept
- Tagging ability
- The Paradigm, every thing is a tiddler
- Plethora of plugins
- Versatility, programmable using inlinejavascript plugin and the other plugins
- Best software around for storing personal data



[mama](#) on 24 November 2010

Ownership and a great amount of control. You can keep your work offline or go public, even the different publishing options are "hackable" - its "all inclusive" instead of "some exclusive".

I think that **TiddlyWiki** is THE good example of what *OpenSource* is all about - The communiti(es) are full of great/generous people, you want to follow or help out in any way you can. I think this incitement (to do good...) comes from a deep feeling of gratitude toward those who helped you when you needed it, and the fact that **TiddlyWiki** is *OpenSource* software, maintained by great developers - who demonstrate accountability at all times, makes you feel safe, - and that **TiddlyWiki** is a serious project.



[yakov](#) on 16 November 2010

- transclusion system
- cross-platformity
- extansibility
- great community and many already implemented important things

tags: question

How many TiddlyWikis have you created and do you use regularly?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

Over the years, probably 10, but regularly using 2 of the mGSD flavor and 1 here as a work notebook.



[dickon](#) on 18 March 2012

At least 20

Some I use all the time (the [ambit](#) manual is probably my peak!)

My NHS team uses an offline TW (securely stored) to track and document all the clients we treat, documenting team discussion in the TW, and printing out these tiddlers for pasting into the conventional paper notes. The TW is projected and edited during every team meeting, and the act of typing into it has become part of our efforts towards "transparent practice"...

I use TW's for major literature reviews - fantastic for cross referencing, tagging, ensuring that I have integrated a disparate body of literature.

I use TW's in management meetings to make wikified minutes - people get intrigued and want to understand and that often deepens the discussion - what are the underlying themes (Tags) that we are REALLY trying to crack in this meeting?

etc...



[yakov](#) on 21 February 2011

My answer won't be very interesting since I'm only studying TW now. I've already created 3 TW for some science and one for making a deep TW tutorial (with many practical aspects).

However, I'm going to make much more *TWs* for different purposes from questions aggregating to making a site.

UPD: As for now, I use 9 tw-documents. 3 of them very often and others from time to time. I feel that an offline analogue of *TiddlyWeb* becomes more more desirable thing.



[smandoli](#) on 24 December 2010

Summary of Materials Resource Planning (MRP) functions for my work place.

Getting Things Done (GTD) organizer for personal and work use.

Notes about my study of the Bible (topical as well as passage-specific).

Computer information such as code snippets in a variety of languages.

A personal information manager for everything else.

If I can find the right tools to overcome a sense of content overload, I will combine #3 and #5.



[colmbritton](#) on 21 December 2010

All in all I have created a fair few, however I have 3 main ones (or used to until Tiddlyspace came around). They are one for general notes, one for recording info and ideas about the projects I was working on and a third, which was a test TW that I used to try out new plugins and combinations of plugins. Now that I am on Tiddlyspace I have a lot!



[andrewbarbour](#) on 28 November 2010

I created 15-20 different ones to try different configurations /concepts for organization. Once that was over with... I am down to three:

In Use

Day-to-day note taking and task tracking

Project Notebook for storing all of my notes

Active Development

Help file for business procedures and system documentation



[passingby](#) on 27 November 2010

I have created many. I have a bad habit of starting a new Tiddlywiki whenever I get excited about a topic but I usually never complete a project 100%.



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

I use four on a regular basis:

tbGTD - for getting things done

twab - for an address book and I have extended it to allow tracking things like who gets christmas cards etc

coursebook - was created as a textbook/exercise-quiz/presentation tool/student notebook for a class I was teaching.

TiddlySnip - sadly this has been abandoned, but it is my primary mechanism for keeping bookmarks, research notes and how to's for the firefox browser.



[mama](#) on 24 November 2010

I've made so many *TiddlyWikis* that I've lost track of them... Some of them are floating in cyberspace, others were lost in broken or erased harddisks and some has gone into hibernation in some dropbox directory. Seriously - I think I've created hundreds of them - all very different *TiddlyWikis* for different uses.. *TiddlySpace* has helped me get a little more organized, as it provides an overview of created spaces.

At the moment I use 4 dedicated *TiddlyWikis* (spaces) for everyday tasks. All jobrelated. Two of them I share with my students (read only, except for embedded/iframed typewith.me-documents) and one of them I share with my colleagues (with writepermission, however I'm the only one contributing to it at the moment...). The last and most important one is working as my "controlcenter". Some of my tiddlers are loaded into the other spaces - so I don't have to edit them all directly to push content...

At least once or twice a week I visit some (ca. 4 or 5) of my other *TiddlyWikis*, which are hosted at *TiddlySpot* or at one of my own *TiddlyHome* services (I've got two working/customized installations of Bidix's *TiddlyHome* service).

The number of **TiddlyWiki**'s I use (just for reference or edits) in one week is 8 - 10 or more... I also checkout other people's *TiddlyWikis* - so I'm not sure.

Every year I prepare multiple *TWs* for exams (I have new students who graduate every summer). Some of those *TWs* contain notes for my students and other *TWs* contain or refer to material prepared for my censors. I print my *TiddlyWikis* to pdf-portefolios and mail links to online versions of both.

3 years ago I would use notepad/*OpenOffice* or *MsOffice* to write/create this sort of material. Today I prefer to use a customized **TiddlyWiki**.

When I occasionally use *MsOffice* programs at work, it's often just to be able to copy/paste material from a TW for printing - or work with tables in *MsExcel* - which I will often copy back into a **TiddlyWiki** :-)

At every meeting I attend, I use **TiddlyWiki** as a note/write tool, as a portefolio and as a working database containing data, images and notes about all my students, colleagues, calendar with notifications, workplans, ideas, iframed webmail etc ... I even use single local network *TWs* as Faq-documents which I prepare for my colleagues. TW is my swiss armyknife at my job, and it certainly

helps me to stay organized at all times... When I publish material for my students I use a TW. Sometimes I set it up as a presentation, which I use in education.

When I'm at home, I have small projects which also involve TW to some extent. *TWScrapbooks* with bookmarks, iframes etc.. I create private or public tutorials, embed images, make small or big changes to the layout, add plugins or scripts from other *TWs* I've made etc...

Today **TiddlyWiki** is my single most important tool for everything which involves using a computer.... and sometimes I think that all I need from an operating system is a browser, so I can use a TW....



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

I have a main notepad for private use at work, a website which is a static file, one or two standalone files and a current project on the BT greenside implementation, plus a new project on songs.tiddlyspace.com for song writing, collaboration and publishing.



[matt](#) on 16 November 2010

I've created a number of **TiddlyWiki**'s – the first was stored locally and I used it for capturing notes, lists and actions. I've now imported this into my [matt](#) space where the majority of the content remains private.

I plan to use [mattlucht](#) for capturing random thoughts that I'd like to make public. I've also used *TiddlySpace* to create a website for a music festival I organised, this I used the bring-your-own-domain function for <http://brixtonoxjam.com>

tags: question



Do you keep adding new features to your existing TiddlyWiki(s)?

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[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013



"Features" to me means plugins and I don't really change those up. I've really settled on one set at this point, but I tweak the way it looks or the way it shows me the information pretty regularly. I get bored with the same interface all the time ;) .



[dickon](#) on 18 March 2012

To some extent, but I find that it is a "marker" of where the task (that underlies the reason for setting up the TW in the first place) has got to when I *slow down* on the modifications! I hasten to add I only do pretty simple modifications, and tend to use the same small number of plugins or techniques again and again.



[pmario](#) on 7 April 2011

If they are nice and small in size: yes.



[climatechange3](#) on 1 December 2010

Yes, the ability to reorganize the presentation of my content through using new plugins, or making fuller use of plugins I have used for a while, is one of the joys of TiddlyWiki for me. This does pose a challenge, however, in that I have yet to develop or use a consistent process for integrating the new features into the steadily growing number of TiddlyWiki pages/sites that I maintain.



[passingby](#) on 27 November 2010

Since I do not use a tiddlywiki very regularly, most of the features are brought in in the first phase, when I am setting up a TW



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

With the exception of the Coursebook tiddlywiki, most of my TW's are static with a core set of plugins. I do update the plugins occasionally as well as the tw core but I don't need to add too many features.



[mama](#) on 24 November 2010

Oh yes :-)

I often create "forks" from my original *TWs* to see how far I can take it - or I reorganize all content with new tools and plugins - just to see if its better... Sometimes a new theme suggests a total rewrite or reorganization of content...



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

My standalone Tiddlywikis are pretty static now, although I find the odd plugin from time to time. Tiddlyspace is completely different as its changing all the time - so its still very much a learning as I go along experience, and adding in new features as I discover them. I still need to really think about how I want to use *TiddlySpace* - not there yet. the [songs.tiddlyspace.com](#) project is more geared to multiple people accessing the same site - and I want to get that working in a more collaborative fashion - so following / sharing information etc is important.

tags: question



Who is the target audience for your TiddlyWiki(s)?

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[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

Mine are all for me, but when I was volunteering as webmaster for a chapter of the national federation of the blind, I really wanted to set them up with one. The issue we had was finding someone to test how their reader software handled the tiddlywiki. In the end, we used extremely basic html-only code. One of the things in the charter was that a blind member had to maintain their website. It was agreed html would be easiest for their skill level until they could learn more.



[passingby](#) on 27 November 2010

Some of *TWs* are just meant for myself. Others I have put up on Tiddlyspot, I don't think anybody visits them :-)



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

For most of TW's I am the primary audience.

The one TW I produced for others was a coursebook that was used to teach an event correlation tool to computer system administrators.

I am also occasionally playing with using a TW as a blogging platform which would again be geared toward items of interest to system administrators and people who are interested in lean/six sigma and its use in computing environments.



[mama](#) on 24 November 2010

My students, colleagues (teachers and other staffmembers at my school <http://himmerlands-ungdomsskole.dk/>).

Once a year I use **TiddlyWiki's** to publish material related to exams - for my students and censors.



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

Me; work colleagues; song writers; anyone whole hits a website

tags: question



What features of TiddlyWiki made it suitable for your target audience?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[pmario](#) on 7 April 2011

A very minimalistic presentation mode is possible.
Which keeps the focus of the audience at the basics.
But powerfull editing can be activated, which creates a WOW



[passingby](#) on 27 November 2010

Menus and lists and search abilities



[mama](#) on 24 November 2010

TiddlyWiki can be shared online as a normal website, work from a shared network folder or attached to an email - all very different delivery methods allowing for different levels/degrees of security and different levels/degrees of technological sawyness.

In my experience, people just see another webpage - One, if not the most, frequent complaint I get is: "Why can't I go back in my browser history - to find a recently opened page"..

[TiddlersBarPlugin](#), [HistoryPlugin](#) or [breadcrumbsPlugin](#), helps...

Features I use to enhance user experience are:

- Dropdown menus (sometimes from vertical mainmenu).

- Lists of different kinds

- tagged tiddlers

- fETs delivering some degree of preview (images, custom fields etc..)

Search engines:

- [YourSearch](#)

- [SimpleSearch](#) or

- [GoTo](#)

Optional hiding/showing sidepanels or fullscreen display of tiddler content..

Most of my jobrelated [TiddlyWikis](#) hide **SideBarOptions** when opened.

tags: question



How have you found training novice users to use and understand TiddlyWiki?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

I've shown it to a few technically knowledgeable people and they grasp it quickly. Some of them have gone on to use it and others just saw it as a neat app.

I've also shown it to some non-technical people, and they were more reluctant. They understood the concepts, but felt adrift without some form of clear manual to fall back to when I wasn't around. They eventually stopped using it or never really picked it up.



[smandoli](#) on 24 December 2010

It's reminiscent of entering the Linux world as a home user. The information is

there, but you may have to search. Advice is plenteous, but you must learn to sort through it for the bits that apply. Advisors are friendly, but you must be brave enough and interested enough to participate in a forum.

Suggested Question (related): What is your experience introducing TiddlyWiki to other people?

The hard part is convincing them it's useful and they should take it on. I start by explaining "personal information management" and then I check the eyes for any spark of interest.

The obvious solution is to present not TiddlyWiki but rather a largish wiki of interesting information, and then make them aware of the vehicle.



[passingby](#) on 27 November 2010

Uptil now I have found just one person in my circle who had a 'real need' for storing data. She was fellow teacher and was very new to computers so it was a bit difficult, but she succeeded in using it functionally and effectively.



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

The coursebook I created was well received by a couple of participants, but there were also three people who found it difficult to use and understand. They found it got in the way of learning the material compared to the pdf format that other teachers used for their classes.

Plus I had a couple of people with old version of firefox (1.x) that made it unusable.

If I could teach the course again, I think I would have to spend time teaching how to use tiddlywiki (and the coursebook) to even a technologically experienced audience.



[mama](#) on 25 November 2010

The most difficult part is to explain **TiddlyWiki** to tech-sawy people. They tend to see **TiddlyWiki** as alfa-software, because it's so transparent and customizable.

The fact that a user can delete a button is considered to be a serious bug.

When I started using **TiddlyWiki**, I made different tools for my students and colleagues, however crossbrowser problems stopped my work in this direction. Most of my students and colleagues use IE. My experience is that IE is the worst possible (almost...) browser for javascriptapplications, rendering of css and images etc....

I don't spend any time trying to make any of my students or colleagues understand how **TiddlyWiki** works anymore.

On the other hand colleagues and students often ask me to create lists, image galleries and faqs for quick delivery - and I get positive feedback. Sometimes some of them have a glimpse over my shoulder, and I always get outbursts like - "Wauw, I'd like to be able to do that" ... however nobody really wants to invest time in learning how to do it themselves..



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

More difficult than I would like

tags: question



How many tiddlers and how many megabytes in your largest TiddlyWiki?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

11.46 MB & 757 tiddlers. Still loads quickly and the save time isn't excruciating to me but I'm generally multi-tasking when it saves. Everyone else's is so small I feel like I should mention I'm whittling down attachment tiddlers (xl files, a few screenshots, & word docs) which bulked it considerably. Also, it's content goes back to 2009 due to some on-going projects.



[dickon](#) on 18 March 2012

The main [ambit](#) tiddlymanual (see [tiddlymanuals](#)) is over 2Mb now - still works fine!



[passingby](#) on 27 November 2010

Not very large I am afraid. But wait! I have a 'contactsbook' which probably has around 137 tiddlers containing basically names, address and phone numbers of people I know. Not much in MBs I am afraid



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

The coursebook is 2.1 MB and 441 tiddlers.

My Tiddlysnip tiddlywiki is 1.5MB and 661 tiddlers.



[yakov](#) on 16 November 2010

No big one yet. Just somewhat about 1Mb. But this is an issue: I still don't know if TW has some "limit" (would it get slower if become too big?) and this is why I'm not sure if it's proper to make only one TW for everything or I have to split the things mindfully.



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

2.6 MB - probably pretty modest I guess.

tags: question



How has TiddlyWiki saved time for you as an information publisher?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

I only use it to publish information once a year: my annual review. Frankly, my manager loves it because I can give him all my projects in detail with a single file and we both agree on my score. There's very little back and forth about what I deserve because I'm documenting everything as I do it.



[mama](#) on 25 November 2010

I'm not sure it has... I've found a new tool which let me explore things which were inaccessible (at least to me) until now..

Sometimes I use much more time preparing a *TWsetup*, than I would if I just used some office program, Notepad - or a piece of paper for that matter... However TW allows me to organize and reuse things in a way that no other software does - and It certainly helps me to fight a reoccurring writers block. On the other hand I setup simple *TWwebpages* for my students in no time, because I have readymade templates.

Its an incredible fast cms - I update lists and appointments on the fly. My students update their browsers and all is well.

When I want my pupils to focus on things, I give them links, iframes and popouts from a TW hosted on *TiddlySpace*, *TiddlySpot* or one of my own *TiddlyHome* installations.

I really like to be able to deliver pages without any commercials and other distracting factors.

I've even implemented a webversion of "*DarkRoom*" to help my students focus on their writing. A little pradox considering my personal strategy - I know, however my students like the seamless and simple integration of browserbased tools.



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

For standalone websites - its quick and easy to put up content. In the corporate world its about document control and sharing of information

tags: question



How has TiddlyWiki saved time for your target audience?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

Essentially, I can complete my review on the same day he tells me about it which is huge for him because he's got 12 other employees and two weeks to get reviews completed. He's told me that I'm his favorite review because of how well documented everything is and how quickly he gets it.



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

I'm not sure. For the people who used the coursebook and liked it during the class I think it saved them time. Also I have contacted one former student

who found it useful when he was actually working at implementing particular correlation patterns.



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

Great in the BT environment for document / content collaboration - No *LiveMeeting*, no version control problems, less storage issues, fewer Word documents flying around all out of date. Notepad also saves me time and keeps things "together" in my world.

tags: question



How has the TiddlyWiki community helped you?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

The TW community is awesome. I generally find whatever I've got a question about just doing a Google search because they're so responsive to changes in TW and its environments. I've never had to actually post a question myself.



[dickon](#) on 18 March 2012

Amazingly helpful and quick to respond - knowledgeably and creatively - via the Google Group.

I worry that as TW gets bigger as a "movement" (!?) there could be a loss of capacity from the small group of utterly dedicated 'evangelists' for TW who do seem to have an extraordinary capacity to be massively helpful almost instantaneously, whenever I have posted with a confusion or glitch...



[pmario](#) on 7 April 2011

Because of fast responses, to questions.

What I like: The friendly conversation in the forum, compared to other forums.



[climatechange3](#) on 1 December 2010

Countless ways. Whether in the responses to questions I have posed, or in offering insight and understanding through responses to questions from others in the community, the TW Google Group community has been consistently brilliant as a source of help.



[andrewbarbour](#) on 28 November 2010

The TW community is incredible. I have never been exposed to a group of folks that have more passion and are so willing to give of their time and expertise.

I was looking for a tool to pull back search results for individual lines in tiddlers so I posted on the google groups page.... I had a large number of direct responses with ideas as well as postings to the forum. The input invaluable - and the outcome entirely satisfactory - someone had already written the code (Thanks Eric!) and I was able to integrate it into my tiddlywiki within minutes.

Everyone is incredibly friendly and helpful!



[passingby](#) on 27 November 2010

Its the Best community. People help out each other like nowhere else. Infact Eric whips out code like magic.



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

The coursebook wouldn't have been possible without the help of a number of TW regulars including: Eric L. Shulman and Paulo Soares.

They modified plugins to suit my needs and provided extensive debugging and other help.



[mama](#) on 26 November 2010

I don't think I would use (or be able to use) TW today if it hadn't been for the **TiddlyWiki** googlegroup.

People on the discussionboard, has always been very kind and helpfull - and sometimes I have learned a lesson or two about discipline as well :-)

There's a lot to learn from the threads, and its great to ask a question and get (almost) immediate response.

For a newbie it's a fantastic and inspiring experience to get help from a gifted programmer, who explains things in a way that is enlightening and

thoughtprovoking... It's a joy, when someone steps into a thread with a snippet of code, which solves everything :-)

It's communication at a level, I don't find many other places, and it's certainly an oasis, a sanctuary to find in a web which is mostly a marketplace where everyone is considered to be a potential customer...

The generosity of really great programmers like Eric Shulmann (on the other hand, Eric MUST be one of a kind...), the Osmosoftteam and several/many individuals who invest their sparetime, helping other people to use **TiddlyWiki**, is an outstanding example of a meltingpot of ressources, that you simply NEED to follow, because it's unique, magic and active.

You don't know for how long it will last - and I sometimes think that the community survives/thrives because different "teams" of really enthusiastic people choose to discuss matters that could be discussed in the privacy of their own mailboxes :-)

That's ok - and certainly gives you a window to a world of things, you wouldn't know existed elsewhere....

If it wasn't for the community I don't think there would be a **TiddlyWiki** - on the other hand I'm not sure if **TiddlyWiki** would be considered to be a serious project if it wasn't for the Osmosoft Team - so congratulations to everybody :-)

It's an inspiring meltingpot of users, programmers and enthusiasts - communicating and helping each other to achieve both practical and magic stuff with a onepage html/javascript application



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

The Osmosoft guys have been very helpful in sorting out problems and questions. The Google group is a good place to find others sharing the same problems - and also getting answers.

tags: question



How have you been able to contribute back to the TiddlyWiki community?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

I haven't until now. Hopefully my views are useful. TW's given me so much and

continues to be a such a useful tool.



[smandoli](#) on 25 December 2010

I haven't yet. I am looking forward to answering questions from complete newbies ... after I'm not one myself. I am a communicator, and I'd like to develop tutorial pieces. I'm not a coder and I'm not very tech (my tutorial would not be a video). I wouldn't mind sending some money but I feel it's not appropriate with my finances.



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

I put up a copy of the coursebook at coursebook.tiddlyspot.com but it's not yet complete. Also I have answered a few questions in google groups.



[yakov](#) on 16 November 2010

Just a tiny bit.. I know CSS to extent of 2d specification and other things like DOM so I'm capable to answer questions that are rather not about TW.. And so I did twice, perhaps)



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

Not much to date - I still have loads of questions, rather than good answers, and I'm more of a user than a coder. But I am happy to share ideas and solutions.

tags: question



How many other people have you introduced to TiddlyWiki?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

Like mama said, directly or indirectly? Directly, less than ten. Indirectly, every so often I link to tiddlywiki.com & sing praises on Facebook.



[dickon](#) on 18 March 2012

I get about 4-500 hits a month to my Tiddlymanuals at present, which compared to how many people regularly read treatment manuals is, in my book, quite good going for a new project.

There are about 17 teams starting to use and adapt their own local versions of a *TiddlyManual* around the UK, and these vary in size from about 4 or 5 up to about 25.



[mama](#) on 18 August 2011

Directly or indirectly??

Indirectly

Indirectly I have presented jobrelated material in *TWs* for about 5 or 600 people over a period of three years.

I have used *TWs* as container for all kinds of material for reference, when having mailcorrespondences. They are for the most part hosted by dropbox, sometimes attached..

Direct introduction:

One year ago the administrator of linux-abc.dk (Danish Linux community powered by *MyBB*) made me administrator of the forum **TiddlyWiki** (12 tutorials and a description) and a support forum...

There has been some hits 2 - 300, however there's been no activity for a long time.

I haven't bothered to fake questions/answers or setup fake members.

I recon there are not that many danes using **TiddlyWiki** therefore no demand for support in Danish...

Maybe my tutorials aren't good enough. Don't know really. Linux-abc's administrator has praised my work - though - even if he doesn't use **TiddlyWiki** himself.

When I attend groupdiscussions i.e puppy linux forums, I setup online *TiddlyWikis* to serve as Faq, tutorials and projectdescription. I've recieved positive feedback from developer in charge of the Puppy Studio project - however I have no idea how many hits my *TWs* have had...

Everytime I use a TW for this kind of work, I explain what **TiddlyWiki** is and that you can download it for personal use. I don't know if anyone has done that yet...

I have setup a Danish *FaceBook* group (*TiddlyWiki_da*), a posterous blog (<http://tiddlywiki-da.posterous.com>) and a hootcourse (<http://hootcourse.com/course/312/>) No activity except some hits....

A year ago a publisher of educational material ("Forlaget for ildsjæle" - "Imprint

for Enthusiasts") encouraged me to create tutorials on how to use **TiddlyWiki** in a classroomsetting... Alas I haven't reached a point where I've got the time needed to pursue this request - and I'm very busy working as an *IT-administrator*, teaching undergraduate students on a boarding school (<http://himmerlands-ungdomsskole.dk>). 4 kids, a cat and two turtles need my full attention - so I guess I just have to wait until I'm retired....



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

60 or so between teaching from the tiddlywiki as well as presenting on tiddlywiki.



[yakov](#) on 16 November 2010

For the moment just one philosopher) See, ragged (no offence; I'm not sure this word has same tinge as in russian) tutorials and very few possibilities for those who want to get russian interface, russian help and tutorials and complicity of TW.. As for now this is a tool for those who need it, not a comfortable platform for everything (at least for my friends).



[martinlindner](#) on 16 November 2010

hmm, 10 or so? (who got the idea, but i mentioned it more often.)

tags: question



What is the most challenging thing about using TiddlyWiki?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

The utter lack of a true user manual. Just forget the coding side, it takes me 15 minutes to remember how to change the filename without it throwing that "saved incorrectly" error whenever I download a new file to play with. I've also got *TiddlerToddler* and a couple other places saved as simple reference. Still, it would be nice not to have to hunt all over kingdom come for that information and yes, I've planned to do it myself but time hasn't allowed.



[smandoli](#) on 25 December 2010

Figuring out what plug-ins may help and how to use them. You can read my [blog entry](#) about this.

Suggest Other Question: What secondary software tool or application is most useful for you in working with TiddlyWiki? My answer is Notepad++ (for regex search-and-replace) and python (for converting a big notes document into a TW).



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

The horrible debugging environment. I have been trying to fix the Quiz plugin for a while but the debugging environment compared to other tools (perl, python, C) is primitive.



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

(1) Trying to work out how to do something when you have no clue. (2) Trying to keep up with the changes in *TiddlySpace*

tags: question

Which plugins do you rely on the most?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[pmario](#) on 7 April 2011

*GotoPlugin,
SearchOptionsPlugin,
TagglyTaggingPlugin,
HideWhenPlugin,
SelectThemePlugin,
StoryGlueMacro,
SelectStoryMacro,
NavigationMacro,*

Sorted by priority.



[climatechange3](#) on 1 December 2010

TwSearchPlugin, NestedSlidersPlugin, BreadCrumbsPlugin, ForEachTiddlerPlugin, fontSize plugin macro, SplashScreenPlugin, CustomLewcid - HoverMenuPlugin, SearchOptions plugin



[rouilj](#) on 27 November 2010

For the coursebook: *SlideShowPlugin, StorySaverPlugin, GotoPlugin, TiddlerNotesPlugin, TaggedTemplateTweak*

In general: *YourSearchPlugin, UnsavedChangesPlugin, ImportTiddlersPlugin, ExportTiddlersPlugin, TiddlyLockPlugin*



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

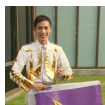
RSSReader, SimpleSearchPlugin; EasyEditPlugin; TiddlerListMarco; ActivityStreamPlugin plus all the usual ones

tags: question



What do you think of the name TiddlyWiki and the term "tiddler"?

last modified on 10 December 2010



[gjrobert](#) on 16 September 2013

"tiddler" was a whole new word to me at first (I'm no native English speaker).
 "**TiddlyWiki**" sounds impressive, bit funny and enjoyable.

I like the idea to store ideas and knowledge (like dictionary entries) as small chunks in tiddlers, while preserving the ability to transclude and organize them together into a big knowledge base or long articles or even an e-book.



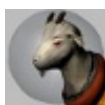
[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

Myself, I don't think about them one way or the other. I really hadn't dealt with wikis beyond Wikipedia before I found Tiddlywiki. However, have you ever heard of the game Tiddlywinks? Because everytime I mention my tiddlywikis out loud, someone invariably makes a joke. Which I've now started using as the metaphor to explain the app to new people. Hm, I suppose that says something about the generation I interact with that they would know the game at all. I will say the "silliness" makes it initially approachable and interesting.



[pmario](#) on 7 April 2011

TiddlyWiki for me is just a name for a wiki. The term tiddler, has to be explained, whenever you use it. For me "The smallest part of content in a **TiddlyWiki**" works best.



[kosmaton](#) on 10 March 2011

I think unfortunately the cons outweigh the pros.

Pros:

- non-stuffy
- unique (rare/peculiar word: gives it more of a story)
- rolls off the tongue easily

Cons:

- dealing with silly associations
- yet another half-childish sounding Web2.0 name?

Personally, I would love to use a "GrooveWiki" made up of a bunch of cool "grooves".

Or go for something meaningful and nice-sounding in Indo-European or [Lojban](#)...

I'd ultimately rather present this software saying "Folks, behold this GrooveWiki" than "Folks, behold this TiddlyWiki... yes... indeed... no... it's sticklebacks." First impressions, you know.



[poulstaugaard](#) on 6 March 2011

I agree with Andrew but I haven't found a better term, except perhaps 'item' or 'entry'. I've hesitated to drop 'tiddler' though, choosing to stick with the virtual village parlance.



[smandoli](#) on 24 December 2010

Those are good terms. I have nothing better. That said, I always introduce the terms with just a bit of anxiety! And i explain them with a big roll of the eyes and a chuckle. Once I'm past that, all is well. And it may be all for the good. Enough with haughty tech terms, with applications that impress the new user with fear before anything else.



[mama](#) on 2 December 2010

I like those words. For some reason they remind me of Puppy Linux and the penguin Linux Logo.... and I'm a fan of those.

I must admit that there a no Danish words that sounds like "**TiddlyWiki**" and "tiddler". They are very foreign words - and some times I just replace them with "Wiki" and "article" - however it depends on the context, and if the audience are people who already have a hunch of what a wiki is... If they don't I would most likely use grouping of words as "Instantly editable blog or homepage" and "editable posts".

The use of the words "**TiddlyWiki**" and "tiddler" implies originality and an entrance into a new terminology, which is very much what **TiddlyWiki** demands from new users anyway - so please keep the words, they make sense after a while..



[andrewbarbour](#) on 28 November 2010

"Tiddlywiki" - kind of 'folksy' and quaint. Has a bit of charm.

"Tiddler" - is a bit of a barrier to adoption. I have tried to give overviews to a few people and used the term 'tiddler' - at least 50% of the time there are chuckles and references to 'diddlers'. I would suggest calling them 'items' or 'posting'.



[yakov](#) on 16 November 2010

I use the term "tiddler" for communication in google.groups; I prefer a "tw-entry" ("tw-запись" in russian) since it looks closer to IT terms.. just more brief and exact. Yeap, I think this actually not important.

TiddlyWiki sound just as *Coca-Cola* - you never think of what it means, so it's ok, I think. Keep in mind however that english is not my native language.



[frankfurtkid](#) on 16 November 2010

I got used to it - but when introducing people to these terms for the first time, they have to get over the smiles. Usually the functionality wins over, but I've had feedback that it does not sound very professional - but hey what does Google or Twitter sound like ? Also sounds much better than Edit Conflict - which I just got saving this tiddler

None.

tags: question



How might you use TiddlyWiki in the future?

last modified on 15 November 2010



[amalfaro-wrk](#) on 2 July 2013

I'd like to use it for our report instructions at work. I think it would ease the current issue of updating in a timely manner and give the actual users some control on how it's presented. Some like screenshots and some just want to read quick directions.



[pmario](#) on 7 April 2011

As my main knowledge database (private)
and presentation platform. (private / public)



[mama](#) on 16 December 2010

I guess I'm waiting to implement some future version of *TiddlySpace* on our servers, for quick and easy delivery of personal spaces with preincluded plugins and theme tailored for intranetuse...
All students and colleagues already have a single loginname and password for network & wireless internetconnection, moodle, Zimbra (email), educational material services etc...
If *TiddlySpace* should be implemented - I would need a way to setup

users/spaces from a csv (or a shared database) and a way to add members to a new space template from a shared/known list of users.

I would need two versions of *TiddlySpace*, one for colleagues and another one for students, to run from our two seperate servers. ..

If *TiddlySpace* could interact with Moodle - I think it would be a seamless integration..



[yakov](#) on 16 November 2010

Aside those many writings including scientific ones, aggregation uses like GTD or question or news aggregation and possible use for site I'd like to mention the concept which TW allows to implement.

The IT world is very conservative in one thing: tree-based file systems. This just limits the mind. For instance, I used to sort music in my mobile phone by making folders so that I can accent the value of different tracks and this helps me to introduce some harmony in searching music that's proper for the moment. But eventually this came to too branched tree and tracks that has value in more than one sences became binded with this separation.

Such a thing happens sometimes with all other things: notes, books.. whatever. TW makes a breakthrough here and after some tweaking can reorganize things so that I can forget about the eclectic branched limits. I haven't dig in this direction yet but I know that there are already somewhat player plugins based on web-technologies.. So this may be of interest.

Hi-hi. Perhaps TW also will be usefull for organizing code for programming but this sounds rather fansy (as for now).



[martinlindner](#) on 16 November 2010

I'd love to have a fully working version of *TiddlyDocs*, all by myself, which would be able to import docs.

And I can imagine a lot uf uses as soon as i would be able to read/write/edit tiddlers from a client, (something like a twitter client where i could search for a thread of tiddlers, or subscribe to a tag).

tags: question