

Manual:Wiki architecture concepts

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The wiki page model

Each installed instance of a wiki is made up of different types of pages. Each page type serves a specific role in the wiki and, therefore, contains different elements which are described here.

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Wiki instance

A wiki instance has the following main characteristics:

- it has its own configuration
- it has its own data storage with
 - its own database (for pages, users, user<->groups, user settings, ...)
 - its own file repo (for uploaded files)
- it can be part of a [wiki farm](#)

Wiki pages

Special page

Each wiki instance contains a large number of special pages. These pages are built-in and not directly editable like other pages. All special pages are located in the pseudo-namespace "Special" and are listed on the page `Special:SpecialPages`:

- **Maintenance reports** (e.g., broken redirects, uncategorized pages, wanted pages)
- **Lists of pages** (e.g., all pages, categories, forms, templates, high-use pages)

- **User admin pages** (e.g., active users list, blocked users, user rights)
- **BlueSpice special pages** (e.g., category manager, namespace manager, privacy admin)
- and many others

If you want to create your own special page, you can find the necessary information at [Mediawiki.org](https://mediawiki.org).

Content page

Content pages are all editable wiki pages. They can be **wiki pages** that are created by all users with the goal to share information on the wiki. **Category pages** are created when a page was added to a category and a user subsequently saves the necessary category page. A **file description page** is created when a file is uploaded to the wiki.

All three types of content pages have these commonalities:

- they contain user-generated content
- they contain mainly [Wikitext](#) (but not exclusively)
- they are revisioned and have a version history
- they have an associated "Talk page"

Wiki page

Wiki pages are normally the reason why you would install a wiki in the first place. These are the actual "content pages" that users create when they add information to a wiki. They can be "blank" at the beginning or based on a page template that already contains some content with a predefined structure.

- free-text page
- sometimes based on templates

Category page

To display all pages that share a category tag, a category page has to be created. Otherwise, users won't have a list of pages that are in a particular category. Its most important characteristics are:

- hybrid page (contains auto-generated content)
- contains a list of all pages that are in that particular category
- can be customized as needed
- located in the namespace "Category"

File (description) page

When a file (e.g. image or PDF) is uploaded to the wiki, a corresponding description page is created. This page shows all necessary file information and provides access to important file management tools. Its most important characteristics are:

- hybrid page
- contains a preview (if possible)
- contains a file version history
- contains file metadata
- located in the namespace "File"

Related information

- https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Manual:Special_pages