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4.3 UserManual:Template

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What is a template?

A template is a type of reusable content that can be integrated into other pages of the wiki. It can be content-based (text template) or structure-based (layout template) or a combination of both.

A simple example is a notification box that looks identical on all pages, but contains different content on each page where it is used (layout template).

Tip: Message goes here

A template can also be used as the source for a [page template](#).

Characteristics of a template

- allows inserting reusable content with a placeholder
- is usually located in the namespace "Template"
- can have parameters
- often contains logic
- used to maintain a "look and feel"

[

Creating and including a template

A new template is created like a regular page, but in the namespace **Template**.

Example: [Simple template for a notification box](#)

A template is then included in a page by putting the name of the template (i.e., the title of the template page without the namespace prefix "Template:") in two curly brackets:

```
{{NotificationBox}}
```

Note: Template names are case-sensitive.

Editing a template

Changes to a template affect all pages that include this template. Before existing templates are changed, it is recommended that you check which pages use the template. To find these pages, you can go to Page tools > Toolbox > What links here.

Built-in variables

Each MediaWiki has a number of [built-in variables](#) that are not pages in the "template:" namespace, but are still used as templates.

For example, the variable `{{CURRENTTIME}}` returns the the current UTC time.

Further notes

- The use of a template is basically a [transclusion](#). It is also possible to use pages as templates that are not in the *Template* namespace. However, this is to be done wisely, since some functions require that the pages are in the template namespace.
- Templates can also be used to define the output of [semantic query](#). For more information, go to [Semantic MediaWiki](#). (This is an example where the pages must necessarily be in the template namespace.)
- The complete list of all pages of the wiki that are located in this namespace can be found on the page Special:Templates.

Related info

- meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help:Template

4.3.1 Notification Box

To emphasize text passages, it is common to use a type of notification box. In this example, we create a notification box that can be used to show a warning, a tip or a note.

Note: Sie können eine Infobox-Vorlage auch direkt in ihr Wiki importieren. Hierzu gibt es eine [Download-Datei](#).

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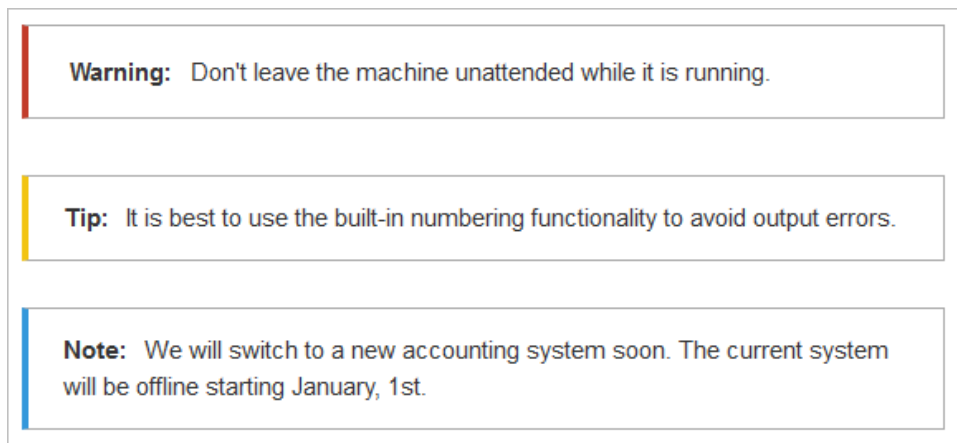
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Template example: Notification box



The color of the box and the box label change automatically depending on the type of box a user selects.

Creating the template

1. **Create** the page *Template:Box Note*
2. **Add** the template content **and save** the page:

```
<div class="infobox notification-{{{boxtype}}}">
<span class="boxlabel">
  {{#switch: {{{boxtype}}}}
  | note = Hinweis:
  | tip = Tipp:
  | warning = Achtung:
  | example = Beispiel:
  | important = Wichtig!
  | backgroundbox =
  | #default = Hinweis:
  }}
</span>{{{Note text}}}
</div>
```

What this code does:

- The container (`<div>...</div>`) is used for styling the box. It has the style classes *infobox* and `{{{boxtype}}}`. The *boxtype* parameter provides the actual value the user chooses when using the template.
- The `<span>...</span>` contains the label for the box. It displays the label for the box type the user chooses. It has the style class *boxlabel* which is used to format the label.
- `{{{Note text}}}` is the placeholder for the actual text the user creates on a particular page.

To make it easy for users to insert and use this template in visual editing mode, we include a *<templatedata>* section in the template. It is wrapped in a `<nowiki><nowiki>` tag to ensure that this part of the template is not transcluded in the target page that uses the actual template. This template sections function is to describe the parameters of the template. It also populates the form for visual editing:

```
<div class="infobox notification-{{{boxtype}}}">
<span class="boxlabel">
{{{#switch: {{{boxtype}}}}
| note = Note:
| tip = Tip:
| warning = Warning:
| example = Example:
| important = Important!
| backgroundbox =
| #default = Note:
}}
</span>{{{Note text}}}
</div>

<noinclude>
<templatedata>
{
    "params": {
        "boxtype": {
            "description": "Possible values: note, tip, warning,example,
important, backgroundbox",
            "example": "note",
            "type": "string",
            "default": "note",
            "required": true
        },
        "Note text": {}
    },
    "description": "To add standard info boxes such as notes or warnings to a page"
}
</templatedata>
</noinclude>
```

What this code does:

- It lists the two parameters (*boxtype* and *Note text*), separated by a comma.
- It lists the parameter objects (optional): description, example, type, etc. For a full list of template data objects, see www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:TemplateData#Param_object
- It describes the purpose of the template (*description*) so that users can distinguish it from similar templates.

Creating the template styles

To style the notification box, we have assigned three style classes:

- infobox: Container for the infobox. We can specify layout properties such as border, background or padding
- notification-{{{boxtype}}}: Used for color-coding the box based on what type of box a user wants to insert on a page.
- boxlabel: Styling of the box label.

Since we want to load the styles only when this template is used on a page, we create the stylesheet page as a subpage of the template.

To create the styleheet:

1. **Create** the stylesheet page: *Template:Box Note/styles.css*
2. **Add** the styles **and save** the page:

```
/* Box Note*/
.infobox {
    padding: 1em;
    margin: 2em 0;
    border:1px solid #ccc;
}
.infobox p {
    padding: 0;
    margin: 0;
}
.boxlabel {
    font-weight:bold;
    padding-right:0.5em;
}
.notification-note {
border-left: solid 4px #3498db;
}
.notification-tip {
border-left: solid 4px #f2c412;
}
.notification-warning {
border-left: solid 4px #c23c2b;
}
.notification-backgroundbox {
background:#ffd67f;
padding:12px;
}
.notification-backgroundbox .boxlabel {
display:none;
}
```

Now, add the reference to the stylesheet at the top of the template page (*Template:Box Note*) and save the template again:

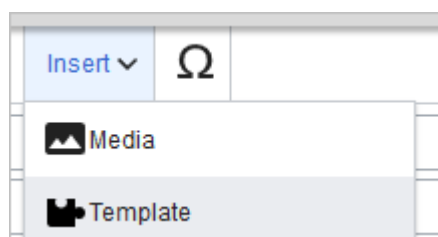
```
<templatestyles src="Template:Box Note/styles.css" />
<div class="infobox notification-{{{boxtype}}}">
    ....
```

Your template is now ready to use.

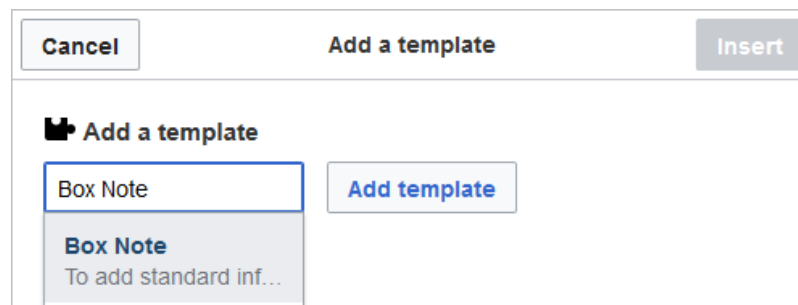
Using the template

To create a notification box on a page:

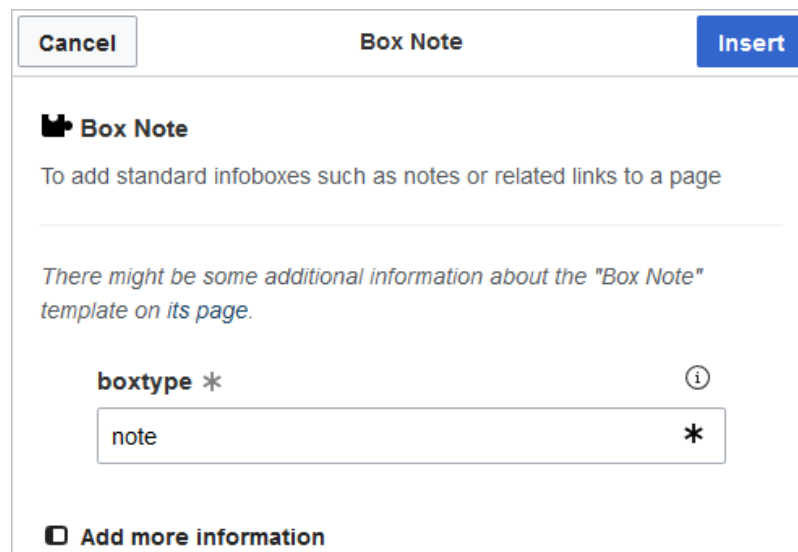
1. **Select** *Insert > Template* in visual editing mode:



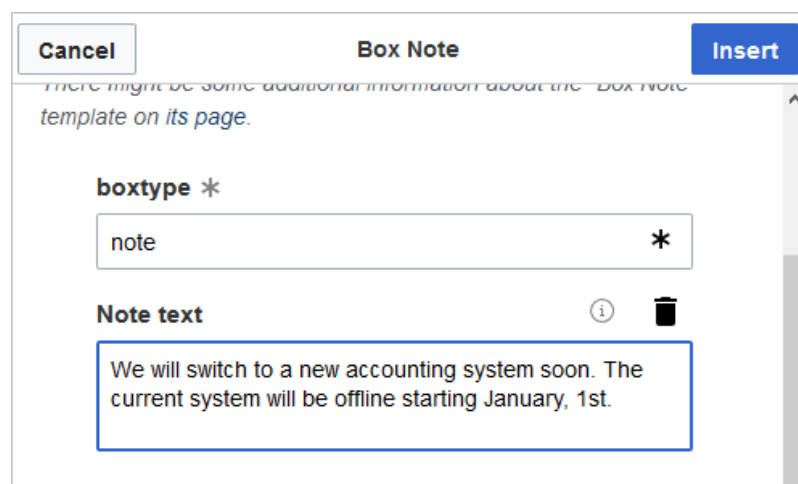
2. **Select** the template *Box Note* and click **Add template**:



3. **Enter the name** for the type of box you want to create, for example *note*:



4. **Click** *Add more information*
5. **Click** *Note text* and enter the text for your notification box:



6. **Click** *Insert*. The notification box is now included on your page:

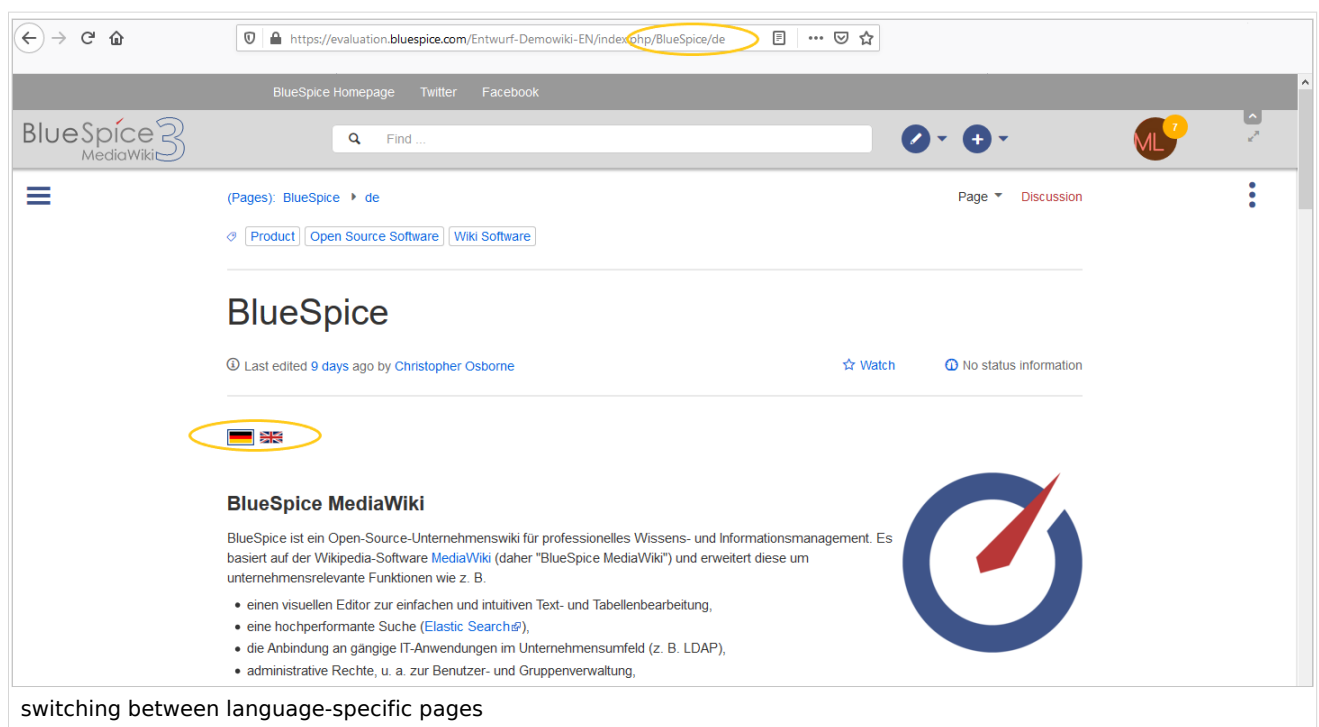
Note: We will switch to a new accounting system soon. The current system will be offline starting January, 1st.

Save the page if you have no further edits to make.

To later edit the notification in visual editing mode, simply double-click the notification and the template dialog window opens.

4.3.2 UserManual:Template/Example/Translate

If you maintain different language versions as subpages on a single wiki, you can use a template to show country flags anywhere on the page to switch between the different language versions.



To switch from an English main page to its German subpage, you can use the following template.

```
{{#if: {{1}} | {{DISPLAYTITLE:{{1}}} }} |}}
<div>
{{#switch: {{SUBPAGENAME}}
|de=[[File:De-active.png|link=]] [[File:En.png|link={{NAMESPACE}}:{{BASEPAGENAME}}}]]
|[[File:De.png|link={{ARTICLEPAGENAME}}/de]] [[File:En-active.png|link=]]
}}
</div>
<br /><br />
```

On the English main page and the German subpage, include the template reference with the main page name in source editing mode at the top of the pages:

```
{{Translate|Pagename_here}}
```

The page switch then inserts the links as language flags:

You can download the images here and upload them to the main namespace on your wiki:

- [File:De.png](#)
- [File:En.png](#)
- [File:De-active.png](#)
- [File:En-active.png](#)