

wiki

idea to institution

Ward Cunningham

UW/MSR Summer Institute 2007

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = r N \left(1 - \frac{N}{K} \right)$$

the **population** of ideas

In r/K selection theory, selective pressures are hypothesised to drive evolution in one of two stereotyped directions: r- or K-selection. These terms, r and K, are derived from standard ecological algebra, as illustrated in the simple Verhulst equation of population dynamics.

Richard Dawkins, Lewis Thomas

He **won** the argument.

Your claims are **undefensible**.

He **shot down** all my arguments.

His criticisms were right **on target**.

If you use that **strategy**, he'll **wipe you out**.

For Lakoff, the development of thought has been the process of developing better metaphors. The application of one domain of knowledge to another domain of knowledge offers new perceptions and understandings.

George Lakoff, Mark Johnson

Try to get your thoughts **into words**.

His words were **empty** and 'devoid' of feeling.

His promises were **hollow**.

How do I get it **across** to you that ...

I **got** the message.

Reddy estimates that fully 70% of the language we use to talk about the English language is based on the **conduit metaphor**. While recognizing the prominence of this metaphor, Reddy is deeply troubled by it. He thinks of it as erroneous, misleading, and dehumanizing.

Michael Reddy



conversation while programming

Computers became fast enough and visual enough that creative people could share the **complete programming experience** without getting bored.

Tools and methods must at least acknowledge and hopefully promote human **accumulation of knowledge**.

conversation while authoring

Wikipedians discussed three times as many topics as they eventually allowed into the breaking news article.



Contents [hide]

- 1 New sections
- 2 Breaking crisis
- 3 Needing its own article
- 4 Better title
- 5 Semi-protection
- 6 Deaths and Injuries
- 7 Not a news source
- 8 Content removal
- 9 Traffic of bridge
- 10 Red cross info header
- 11 Article Misinformation
- 12 Old fashioned editing complain
- 13 Facts
- 14 Capitalisation of title
- 15 2001 Mn/DOT-commissioned r
- 16 Category: Engineering Failure
- 17 Full Fatigue Report
- 18 School bus
- 19 I-35W Mississippi River Bridge
- 20 CNN footage of the collapse
- 21 Silver Bridge collapse
- 22 Bridge name
 - 22.1 Interstate Hwy. 35W brid
- 23 Search and Rescue now Sear
- 24 Wide image
- 25 Minor Edit Requests by Non-A
- 26 Location incorrect
- 27 Unprotect
- 28 I sure wish we had the license
- 29 Destruction date
- 30 Footnote snafu
- 31 bridge type
- 32 EL
- 33 Coast guard & river closing
- 34 Please use PAST TENSE verb...
- 35 "Cause" section
- 36 The alternate routes section is problematic
- 37 Crossings
- 38 Jargon
- 39 NY Times article for your consideration
- 40 St. Anthony Bridge
- 41 Organization
- 42 Reliable source information for article
- 43 Video of bridge collapse
- 44 Lead section, time phrasing, and mirrors
- 45 Victim Names are filtering in...
- 46 number of lanes in use at the time of collapse
- 47 Casualty numbers not making sense
- 48 economic impact
- 49 Height
- 50 Images
- 51 more trivia removed
- 52 Train Wreck Seen...
- 53 Other disasters
- 54 Saint Anthony Falls
- 55 Collapse source material

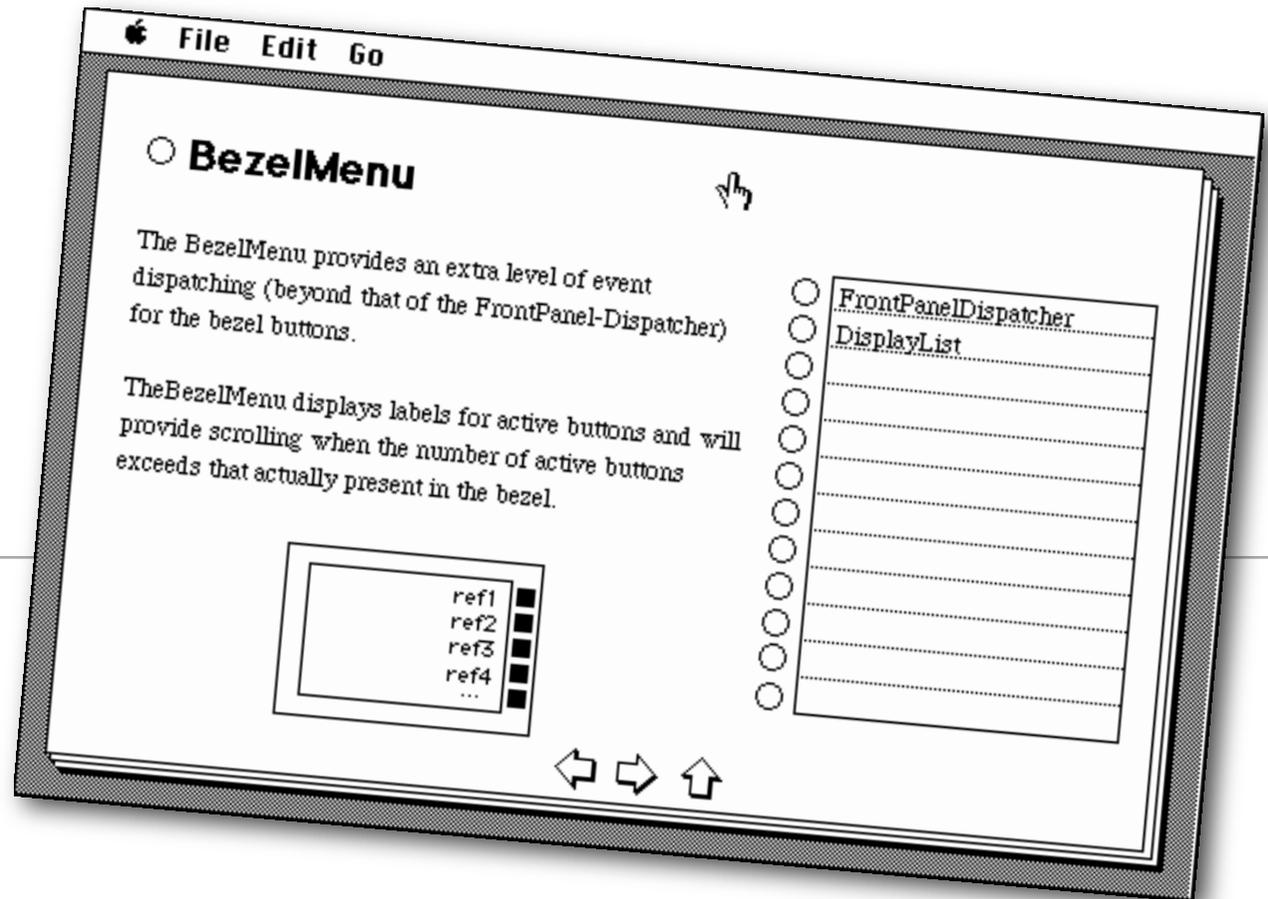
Contents [hide]

- 1 Location
- 2 Structure and operation
 - 2.1 Toxic waste
 - 2.2 Black ice
 - 2.3 Structural reviews
- 3 Collapse
 - 3.1 Consequences
 - 3.1.1 Reactions
 - 3.1.2 Effect on sporting events
 - 3.1.3 Effect on navigation and traffic
- 4 Proposed new bridge
- 5 Gallery
- 6 See also
 - 6.1 Related infrastructure
 - 6.2 Other bridge and overpass disasters
- 7 Notes
- 8 References
- 9 External links

work had to be **useful** before complete

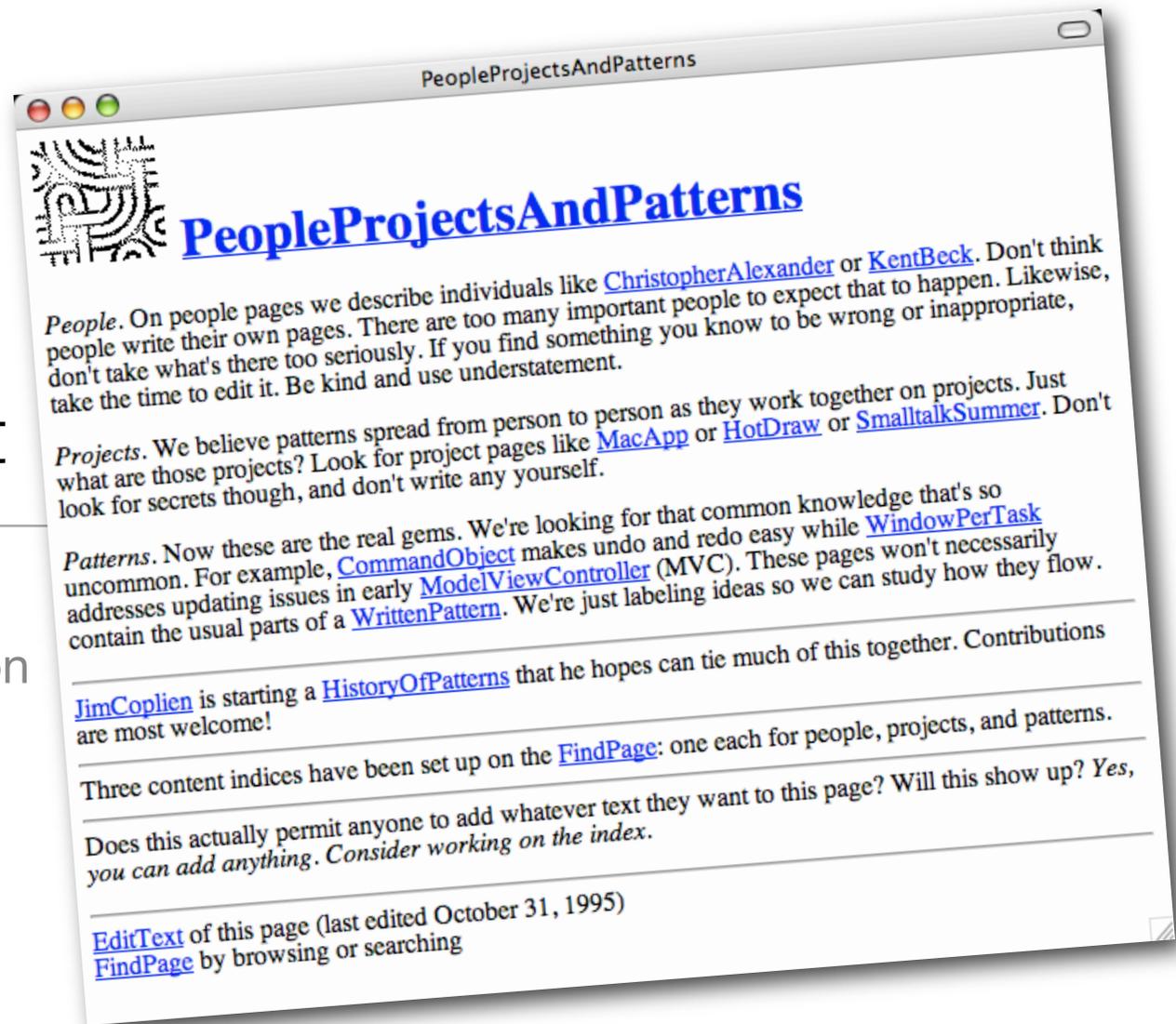
HyperCard expected one to identify the destination of links by first navigating to the destination.

I **replaced** hyperlinks with search.



launched wiki as
repeat of my idea
tracking experiment

Again, I replaced hyperlinks
with search, creating the notion
of an **internal** link.



email from the first year of wiki

From: ward
Subject: Re: WikiWikiGoesPublic
Date: November 1, 1995
To: marks@

From: ward@c2.com
Subject: New Web Database
Date: March 27, 1995 3:53:42 PM PST
To: hillside@cs.uiuc.edu

Friends -- I've opened a new section in the Portland Pattern Repository. It's a clone of a hypercard stack I wrote years ago and found to be a lot of fun. It's at least a clone of the picture-wall Ralph made at PLoP. It might be much more.

The pages in this section of the web are about people, projects and patterns. I've included mechanisms for adding new information using ordinary (forms capable) web browsers. I'd like those of you that have web access to take a look and at least add your name to the list of RecentVisitors. I've already asked a few of you to take a sneak preview. Thanks for your efforts and suggestions. I hope you'll continue to add interesting material.

The pages are accessible from the first page of the repository,

<http://c2.com/ppr/>

There are around seventy pages in there now. Many I've written to explain the whole thing in more detail. I'd appreciate hearing your thoughts. Thanks and best regards. -- Ward

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wish for modularity

I'm looking for advice from someone experienced with joint development of larger perl programs that make effective use of modules.

From: ward
Subject: Re: WikiWikiGoesPublic
Date: November 1, 1995 12:02:44 PM PST
To: marks@halcyon.com

Peter -- Thanks for your interest in wiki. The script is a fairly dense five or six pages of perl. Thats fine for a one person project. But a public wiki is really a group development of a feature laden next generation wiki.

Perl has a module capability that I have never used. I'm looking for advice from someone experienced with joint development of larger perl programs that make effective use of modules. The goal would be to split the functionality into modules. I will know if this has been done well if ...

- o I can successfully organize contributions to wiki on the basis of the modules.
- o Users of wiki can pick and choose modules to get as many or as few features as they desire.

Do you have much experience with perl? How have you used modules? Do you think we could work together to get a module structure that would satisfy my needs? I'm in Portland, Oregon. Are you anywhere near here?

I've just put together another wiki style database for another web application. It was easy to do and fun too. I'd love to see a lot of special purpose wikis out there. -- Ward

wiki goes public

You ... will not yet have any permanent rights to the code. (I haven't done my license homework.)

From: ward@c2.com
Subject: **Re: WikiWikiGoesPublic**
Date: November 28, 1995 3:23:11 PM PST
To: marks@halcyon.com

Peter -- I've put together an initial distribution of the wiki implementation. I've written it as hypertext with a postprocessor to make the straight perl. See ...

<http://c2.com/cgi/wikibase>

I'm asking you and a few others to have a look at the code, try installing it, and send me comments. You would be doing this as a professional favor and will not yet have any permanent rights to the code. (I haven't done my license homework.) Thanks -- Ward

From: ward@c2.com
Subject: **Re: Wiki Technology**
Date: December 29, 1995 1:01:39 PM PST
To: ellen@syseng.ci.portland.or.us

Ellen -- Wiki is a solution to a rather specialized communication problem. It works best where ...

- * Ideas and information need to be organized
- * The information is spread among many individuals
- * The individuals may need to be prodded by reading others' ideas

And, of course, it addresses only that part of the community that is on the web.

If you think you have a communication problem like this then there are several ways I could help...

1. I am a consultant. You could hire me to help you any way that is appropriate.
2. I could give you the wiki program and leave it to you and your system administrators to put it up.
3. I could host a private version of wiki on my server just for you. You could use the wiki interface to make pages that might address your needs (i.e. experiment). This wouldn't rule out 1 or 2 later.

So, tell me more about your need. You may have told me something already. I've misplaced your original letter. Sorry.

Have a happy new year. -- Ward

pitching business

I could host a private version of wiki on my server just for you.

You could use the wiki interface to make pages that might address your needs (i.e. experiment).

wiki's days are numbered

There is something about it we call WikiNature that is in short supply on the net and in computers in general.

From: ward@c2.com
Subject: wiki
Date: May 22, 1996 11:23:10 AM PDT
To: jon_u@dev5.byte.com

Jon -- So what do you think of wiki? I put it up a year and a half ago when html authoring tools were in short supply. I think it has held up pretty well, though I suppose it's days are numbered. Still, there is something about it we call WikiNature that is in short supply on the net and in computers in general. Regards. -- Ward