Engaging AP Computer Science A Students Using a Class Wiki

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Poll: Are you a AP Comp Sci A Teacher?

No (107550)

Yes, first time (107555)

Yes, taught it before(107556)

Overview

1. What is a Wiki?
2. Wikis for Demos & Starter Code
3. Wikis to Submit Assingments
4. Wikis for Collaboration
5. Possible Starting Points

Wiki= Hawaiian for "fast"

a website that lets itself be edited
First was WikiWikiWeb by Ward Cunningham
invites the reader to become part of the development of the site

Helpful? How?

collaborative, unlike email
evolves, rather than diffuse, unlike blogs
easy to edit and update, unlike a website

more readable = easy to edit

MediaWiki syntax	Equivalent HTML	Rendered output
"Take some more [[tea]]," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly. "I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone: "so I can't take more." "You mean you can't take ''less'',' said the Hatter: "it's very easy to take ''more'' than nothing."	"Take some more tea," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly. "I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone: "so I can't take more." "You mean you can't take less," said the Hatter: "it's very easy to take more than nothing."	"Take some more tea," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly. "I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone: "so I can't take more." "You mean you can't take *less*," said the Hatter: "it's very easy to take *more* than nothing."

We know its wonderful, but what is it good for?

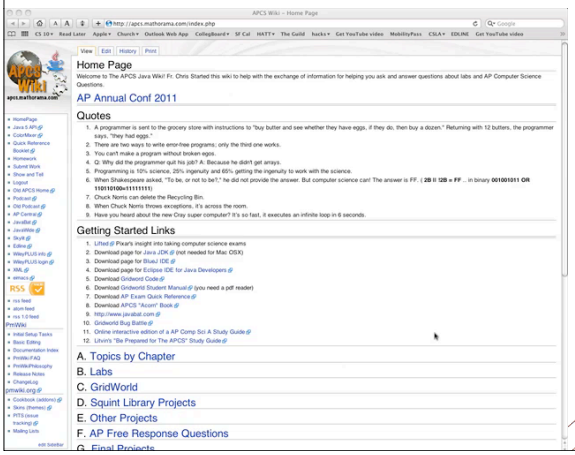
Wiki's for Demos & Starter Code

sandbox.javawide.org

sandbox.javawide.org

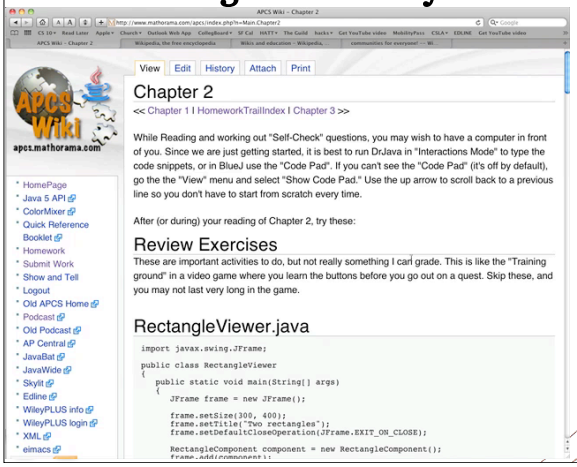
But where to start?

Demo Code on a Wiki



Humble beginnings ...greater ends

Change on the Fly



http://xkcd.com/894/

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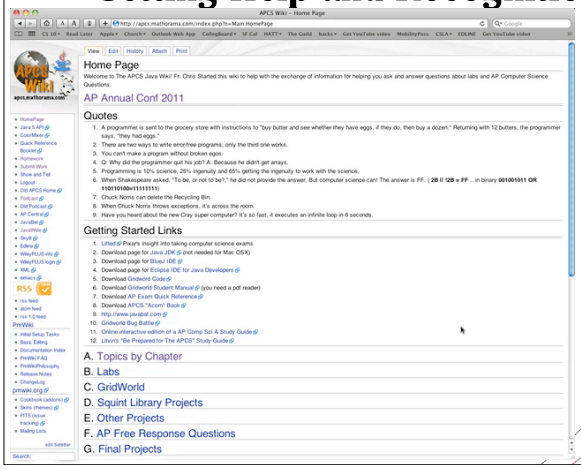
Getting Help and Recognition



How to Keep Students Attention?

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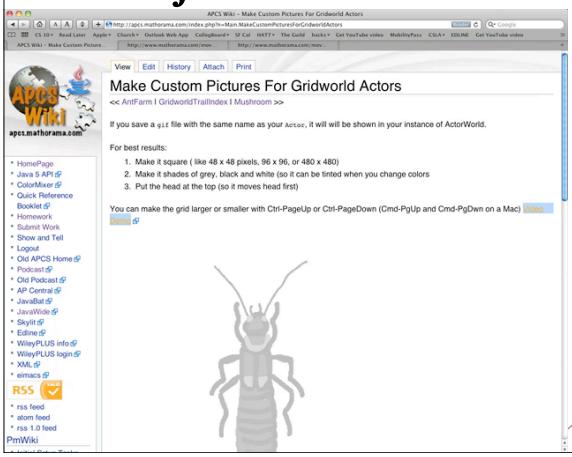
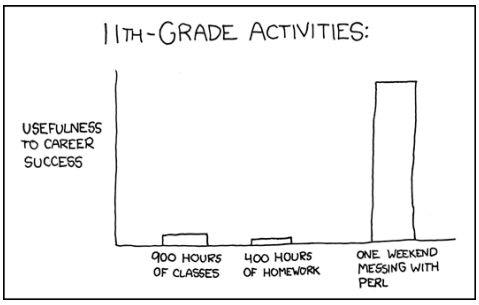
Project Based Learning

Projects and Collaboration





xkcd.com/519

So where to start?

Various Kinds of Wikis

Javawide - IDE, FANG engine
PmWiki,MediaWiki,... - on your site
keytoschool.com, ninehub.com,... -Moodle with Wiki Module
Wikia,SeedWiki, wikidot,... -hosted wiki farm

Resources

http://apcsjava.blogspot.com/
My APCS Video Webcast (click here fo subscribe with iTunes)

www.piazza.com
"The new way to Q&A" While not quite a wiki, or a blog, or a Class Managment Tool, this hybrid has a great way for having students answer and ask questions where you can track hot topics. Instructors can condone or "bless" students' answers to other students' questions.

Adding a Wiki to a Class Moodle
Many teachers use the moodle Class Management or learning environment system for their classes. There is a Wiki module for moodle you can add to your course's moodle

http://www.pmwiki.org/
PmWiki is a popular open source wiki you can install on your own website (This is the one I'm using at http://apcs.mathorama.com

http://www.mediawiki.org
This open source wiki can also be installed on your website. This is the one http://www.javawide.org and http://www.wikipedia.org/ uses

http://www.javawide.org
You dont have to install anything, to have not only working Java IDE, but also a way to have students work on the same file. You can get your own javawiki site for free (for the asking)

http://codingbat.com/java
Formerly known as javabat. While not a wiki, this too wonderful for me to leave out, just in case you don't know about it already. Various programming exercises can be answered online and evaluated with something like a JUnit test for each question.

http://www.000webhost.com/
A place that offers anyone a free website (they make their money by having you need more space, but the first 1500MB is free)

http://installingmoodle.blogspot.com/
A tutorial for installing moodle on a 000webhost.com website, but helpful for tips on installing a wiki like pmwiki or mediawiki or moodle on any website.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikis_and_education
Wikis in software article

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_wiki_software
Comparison of wiki software

http://www.wikia.com/Wikia
Offers free wikis on their wiki farm, so you dont have to install anything or have you own website. This can be handy if you want your students to host a wiki for their group project.

Using the Internet to Teach APCS

Links are found at apcs.mathorama.com (Click on AP Annual Conf 2011)

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