Real-time collaborative editing

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Agenda

1. What and why
2. A short history of real-time collaborative editing in MediaWiki
3. Challenges
4. Use cases
5. DEMO
What and why

- Work on the same document (wikipage) with multiple users from different browsers and locations at the same time
- Very flexible/agile way to creating content in a group of people
- Direct interaction with the content created by others
- Perfect for remote teams
- It’s fun
A short history of real-time collaborative editing in MediaWiki

- First discussions date back to 2011
  - Initial work on VisualEditor
  - Attempts to integrate Etherpad
- 2012: Further work with Etherpad; Still no real „integration“
- 2013/2014: New attempts with TogetherJS facilitated by a MediaWiki Gadget
- 2017: With VisualEditor in MediaWiki 1.30 first versions of „CollabPad“ implementation
- 2018: Main development phase
- Stale since ~2019
Challenges

- Who contributed what?
- Who owns the final work?
- Who is in control (saving)?
- How to deal with undetected changes?
- How to deal with edit conflicts?

This is [[WikiText]]!

It is
* 'simple' plaintext
* ''easily'' comparable
* {{CurrentlyDominantSpecies}} readable
Use cases

- Prevent edit conflicts
- Meeting minutes
- Drafting sessions / Brainstorming
DEMO