ECE297 Quick Start Guide

Wiki

“Problems are solved not by giving new information, but by arranging what we have always known.”
–Ludwig Wittgenstein

1 Intro: The ECE297 Wiki

Welcome to the ECE297 wiki. A wiki is an easy-to-use website that provides a simple way for users to edit pages and share information. To use a familiar example, Wikipedia is a wiki – virtually anyone can login and contribute to Wikipedia. In this course you will be given permissions to create and edit webpages on the ECE297 wiki that only your team and the course instructors (TAs and CIs) will be able to see. Throughout the course, you will use the wiki to update your weekly status and share information with your team members and course staff.

Although wikis come in different flavours, they all have a simple easy-to-use format for creating new pages, writing text, and uploading files. This document will take you through the steps of logging on to your team’s wiki, editing existing pages, creating new pages, and uploading pictures and files.

2 Your Wiki

The ECE297 wiki is located at

ug251.eecg.utoronto.ca/wiki297s

Although you can navigate to your team’s page from this link, an easier way is to directly type-in the URL to your team’s start page. For example, if your group was called cd000, you would use your browser to navigate to

ug251.eecg.utoronto.ca/wiki297s/doku.php?id=cd000:start

You and your group will have complete control over all files and pages on the wiki that are prefaced with “cd###:” where ### is your group number. In the case above, only group cd000 will be able to view and edit the cd000:start page.

2.1 Logging In

Having followed the link to the ECE297 wiki, you can login to your account by following the Login link at the top of any wiki page (see Figure 1).

An email should have been sent to your UofT account with your username and temporary password; check your spam folder if it is not in your inbox.
Figure 1: Wiki login. A link to the login screen can be found at the top right of any wiki page.

2.2 Changing Your Password

You should change your temporary password after logging in for the first time. As shown in Figure 2, changing your password can be done by following the “Update Profile” link at the top of any wiki page. This will take you to a “Change your account profile” page where you can change your personal info, including your password. You must confirm any changes by supplying your current password; the changes will take effect once you press Save.
3 Editing Your Wiki

The ECE297 wiki features a rich set of editing features. So long as you are editing content within your group’s space (everything that is preceded by “cd###:” where ### is your group number), you can write text, create new pages and upload files (recall that only your team and course instructors will be able to see your content). This section describes how to do these three tasks.

3.1 Editing Pages

An existing page is shown in Figure 3. You can edit any of your team’s pages by pressing the pencil icon (Edit this page) on the right. This will take you to the wiki editor where you will be able to see the page source. Content on a wiki is generated by typing simple and readable text into an embedded editor – no HTML, scripts, or complicated formatting necessary!

Figure 4 shows the embedded wiki editor. The ribbon of buttons on top of the editor is there to help you format your text. Clicking on the ribbon buttons or typing in special sequences of characters will allow you to create formatted text — headings, bold-face text, bullet-point lists, and so on. For example, typing “**text**” will generate text and typing “_text_” will generate text\(^1\). Use the formatting buttons on the ribbon to format your text for now; once you become comfortable you can switch to typing formatting characters directly into the editor if you find it faster.

Figure 5 shows the wiki editor after some edits were made. Once you have finished editing a page, you may wish to preview how your edits will look without actually saving it. Once you are happy with your edits you can save the page; your edits will now be visible to your team and the course instructors (TAs and CIs). Both the Preview and Save buttons can be found on the bottom of the editor. The effect of the formatted text entered in Figure 5 is shown in Figure 6.

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\(^1\)See [www.dokuwiki.org/wiki:syntax](http://www.dokuwiki.org/wiki:syntax) for a full list of the wiki syntax.
Figure 3: The edit button will allow you to edit pages.

Figure 4: The wiki editor. The ribbon of buttons at the top can help you format text.
Figure 5: Entering and saving text.

Figure 6: The saved edit is now displayed on the wiki page.
3.2 Creating New Pages

The concept of creating new pages on the wiki is quite simple. You can navigate to any page on the wiki (provided you have permissions to do so), even if it does not exist! As soon as you add content to a non-existent page using the wiki editor, the page will be created.

Below we will explore a two-step process for creating a new page. The steps are:

1. Make a link to the page that you wish to create
2. Follow the link to the non-existent page; create the page by adding content to it

Creating a link to a page on the wiki is simple. For example, if the group cd000 wants to create a link to a page called “cd000:m1_docs” they would link to it from an existing page by typing the following in the wiki editor:

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[[cd000:m1_docs|Important Documents]]
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The cd000:m1_docs part is the actual page name, while Important Documents is what will be shown as the link text. Recall that you only have permission to create pages that are prefaced with your group ID. Figures 7 and 8 show this process. Notice that the link to the page is red – that means the page does not exist yet.

![Image of a wiki page with a link to a page that does not exist yet.](image)

Figure 7: Creating a link to a page is the first step to creating a page.

Once the link to the page is created, the second step is to follow that link and create the actual page. Figure 9 shows what the wiki will display when you follow a link to a page that doesn’t yet exist. You can use the pencil icon on the right to add content, thereby creating the page. Once the page is created, any links to it will now display in green as in Figure 10.
Figure 8: A link to a non-existent page will be displayed in red font.

Figure 9: Content needs to be added to create the page.

Figure 10: A link to an existing page will be displayed in green font.
3.3 Uploading Files

Uploading files to your group’s page can also be done through the embedded wiki editor. Figures 11 through 15 detail this process.

Figure 11: Click on the circled “picture frame” icon in the wiki editor to begin uploading a file.

Figure 12: You can select multiple files to upload. Once you have selected the files, press Upload. Note that the files are automatically uploaded under your group’s name (here the group name is cd000 but in your case it will be cd### where ### is your group number).
Figure 13: To insert the file into the wiki editor, you can simply click on the file name (*a1.pdf* in this case).

Figure 14: A link to the file has been automatically inserted into the wiki editor. Note that the “Milestone 1 Assignment” text was added manually.
Figure 15: A link to the uploaded file has appeared after the page is saved in the wiki editor.
4 Further Info

ECE297 uses the open source DokuWiki to implement the course wiki. You can find more information about DokuWiki at

www.dokuwiki.org/dokuwiki

For a detailed discussion of DokuWiki topics including syntax, formatting and page revisions, visit

www.dokuwiki.org/manual