It's alive! It's alive!

The *Joy* of Real-Time Collaboration

Erik Moeller and C. Scott Ananian / Designs by Pau Giner - Wikimania 2014
With thanks to Dario Taraborelli, Ori Livneh, and Erik Zachte

Real-time editing today

Example article: "2014 pro-Russian unrest in Ukraine" on English Wikipedia

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Real-time chat today

Excerpt from **https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/IRC/Channels**

#wikipedia-af^{connect}	Afrikaans	Afrikaans.
#wikipedia-als^{connect}	Alemannisch	Alemannic, may be logged if necessary.
#wikipedia-ar^{connect}	العربية	Arabic.
#wikipedia-as^{connect}		
#wikipedia-ay^{connect}		
#wikipedia-balkan^{connect}	Balkan	Balkan, publicly logged, UTF-8/ASCII encoding.
#wikipedia-be^{connect}		
#wikipedia-bn^{connect}	বাংলা	This is primarily for Wikipedia, but other Bengali projects are also welcome.
#wikipedia-be-tarask^{connect}	Беларуская (тарашкевіца)	Belarusian (Taraškievica).
#wikipedia-bg^{connect}	Български	Bulgarian.
#wikipedia-br^{connect}		
#wikipedia-bs^{connect}	Bosanski	Bosanski.
#wikipedia-ca^{connect}	Català	Catalan.
#wikipedia-ca-vandalisme^{connect}		
#wikipedia-ch^{connect}		
#wikipedia-ckb^{connect}		
#cs.wikipedia^{connect}		
#wikipedia-cs-rc^{connect}		
#wikipedia-cs-social^{connect}		
#wikipedia-ce^{connect}	Нохчийн	Chechen.
#wikipedia-cs^{connect}	Česky	Czech, public logging prohibited.

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#wikipedia-ca^{connect}	Català	Catalan.
#wikipedia-ca-vandalisme^{connect}		
#wikipedia-ch^{connect}		
#wikipedia-ckb^{connect}		
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Pop quiz time!

Which kinds of articles are most frequently subject to high velocity editing?

A. Controversial topics
B. Crime
C. Deaths
D. Disasters
E. Entertainment
F. Politics/War

E. Entertainment

Top 50 high velocity articles

(English Wikipedia, ranked by frequency of adjacent edits, May 2014)

Entertainment - 32 articles
> *Movies and TV shows:* 13 articles
> *Sports:* 12 articles
> *Music:* 6 articles
> *Video games:* 1 article

Politics/War - 11 articles

Disasters - 4 articles

Controversial topics - 1 article

Crime - 1 article

Deaths - 1 article

Article   Talk

Read   Edit source   Edit   View history   More   Search

Edit conflict: Red Randall Series

Page notice

Someone else has changed this page since you started editing it, resulting in an **edit conflict**.

- The **upper text area** contains the page text **as it currently exists** (without your changes).
- **Your version** of the page (with your changes) is shown in the **lower text area**.

You will have to **merge** your changes into the existing text in the upper text area to incorporate your edits. Only the text in the **upper text area will be saved** when you press "Save page", all other changes in the **lower text area will be lost**.

Please do not just copy the text from the lower text area into the upper, unless you're *sure* that you want to undo all other changes made while you were editing this page. Rather, please try to compare the two versions and combine them into one text that preserves both your edits and any improvements made by others.

An easy way to resolve an edit conflict without losing your work is to open another tab in your browser, and edit the page in that tab copying your changes from the section at the bottom of this page.

Content that violates any copyrights will be deleted. Encyclopedic content must be verifiable. Work submitted to Wikipedia can be edited, used, and redistributed—by anyone—subject to certain terms and conditions.

B *I* ᴬᴮ 🔗 🖼   ▸ Advanced   ▸ Special characters   ▸ Help   ▸ Cite

```
The '''Red Randall series''' was a 1940s, boys war adventure series by [[R. Sidney Bowen]]. Like the [[Dave Dawson War Adventure Series]] the series pertained to [[World
War II]] specifically the [[Pacific War|Pacific Theatre]] of the war. The main character, Red Randall serves throughout the book series as a military aviator. The books
contain frequent deviation from history, such as a [[Fifth Column]] Japanese base on the [[Hawaiian Islands]], during the air raid on [[Pearl Harbor]].
==Red Randall Series==
{| border="1" cellpadding="2" class="wikitable"
!width="50"|Year
!width="250"|Title
|-
|1944 || Red Randall at Pearl Harbor
|-
|1944 || Red Randall on Active Duty
|-
|1944 || Red Randall over Tokyo
|-
|1944 || Red Randall at Midway
|1944 || Red Randall on New Guinea
|-
|1945 || Red Randall in the Aleutians
|1945 || Red Randall in Burma
|-
|1946 || Red Randall's One-Man War
|-
```

Edit summary (Briefly describe the changes you have made)

☐ This is a minor edit   ☐ Watch this page

By clicking the "Save page" button, you agree to the Terms of Use and you irrevocably agree to release your contribution under the CC BY-SA 3.0 License and the GFDL, with the understanding that a hyperlink or URL is sufficient for CC BY-SA 3.0 attribution.

Save page   Show preview   Show changes   Cancel

▾ Pages transcluded onto the current version of this page:

- Template:Asbox (edit) (template protected)
- Template:Child-novel-stub (edit) (semi-protected)
- Template:Navbar (edit) (template protected)
- Template:Transclude (edit) (protected)
- Template:War-novel-stub (edit)

▸ This page is a member of 1 hidden category:

Differences

	Your text			Stored revision	
Line 1:			**Line 1:**		
	The "Red Randall series" was a 1940s, boys war adventure series by [[R. Sidney Bowen]]. Like the [[Dave Dawson War Adventure Series]] the series pertained to [[World War II]] specifically the [[Pacific War|Pacific Theatre]] of the war. The main character, Red Randall serves throughout the book series as a military aviator. The books contain frequent deviation from history, such as a [[Fifth Column]] Japanese base on the [[Hawaiian Islands]], during the air raid on [[Pearl Harbor]].			The "Red Randall series" was a 1940s, boys war adventure series by [[R. Sidney Bowen]]. Like the [[Dave Dawson War Adventure Series]] the series pertained to [[World War II]] specifically the [[Pacific War|Pacific Theatre]] of the war. The main character, Red Randall serves throughout the book series as a military aviator. The books contain frequent deviation from history, such as a [[Fifth Column]] Japanese base on the [[Hawaiian Islands]], during the air raid on [[Pearl Harbor]].	
	==Red Randall Series==			==Red Randall Series==	
	{| border="1" cellpadding="2" class="**prettytable**"	+	{| border="1" cellpadding="2" class="**wikitable**"	
	!width="50"|Year			!width="50"|Year	
	!width="250"|Title			!width="250"|Title	

Your text

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|-
|1945 || Red Randall in Burma
|-
```

Edit conflicts

English Wikipedia, July 2014

- >120,000 edit conflicts
- 23,000 registered users encountered a conflict
- Top conflicting articles:
  - Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 - 289 conflicts
  - Twitch (website) - 207 conflicts
  - Operation Protective Edge - 102 conflicts
  - Germany national football team - 72 conflicts
  - FIFA World Cup records - 71 conflicts

Wikimania real-time collaboration session

Structure

Wikipedia is already a real-time collaboration tool

Possible data to get

Edit conflict instrumentation would be useful to show hot spots

Near-collaborative edits. Histogram? # articles/day getting >X edits?

IRC usage

How we currently collaborate: etherpads, talk pages, irc channels, etc

How can we reduce friction of this process?

But: Maintaining focus

(possible UX exploration) "Find collaborators"

Directory

Advertising via Flow boards

Metadata about sessions

"We're collaborating on the military history topic of the day"

Issues to work on

Mentorship ("Teahouse")

Real-time notifications

Focus / collaboration mode

Edit conflict/merge UI

(possible UX exploration)

Chat: On-the-record vs. off-the-record

Erik Moeller
2:24 AM Today   Resolve

Although not a very good one!

N.Agas starts a new article and asks other members of the Astronomy WikiProject to join editing together.

Search Wikipedia

WikiProject

Astronomy

Welcome to the astronomy WikiProject! If you enjoy gazing at the night sky, watching the Moon, stars and planets, or reading about the latest astronomical discoveries, then this is the project for you.

+ New activity

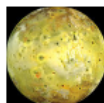📢 Activity   ⚙ New articles   🔧 Tools

Today
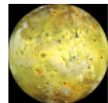
Io (Moon)
Galilean moon of Jupiter
👥 5 editors woking on it   💬 Join the session

12 March
Curiosity → **Curiosity (Rover)**
Car-sized robotic rover exploring Gale Crater on Mars.
↩ Redirect   💬 Discussion

15 March
Pillars of Creation
astrophotograph
🗑 Proposed deletion   💬 Discussion

👤 120 Members

N.Agas
✏ 2743 Wikipedia   2 min. ago

Wayne Milk
✏ Callisto (moon)   3 hours ago

Hal Nine K
✏ Callisto (moon)   5 days ago

⌄

Mentoring

Carl
✏ Io (moon)   2 min. ago

Anna Wong
✏ Io (moon)   4 days. ago

Jules-Tr
✏ Curiosity (rover)   15 days ago

N.Agas starts a new article and asks other members of the Astronomy WikiProject to join editing together.

Search Wikipedia

👤 WikiProject

Astronomy

Welcome to the astronomy WikiProject! If you enjoy gazing at the night sky, watching the Moon, stars and planets, or reading about the latest astronomical discoveries, then this is the project for you.

+ New activity

Topic	🔖 274301 Wikipedia ✕	🕐
Work on	Let's expand this aricle	
Invite	👤 Astronomy ✕ 👤 YuriGgr ✕	

Start editing session

🔧 Tools

Join the session

12 March — Curiosity → **Curiosity (Rover)**
Car-sized robotic rover exploring Gale Crater on Mars.
↩ Redirect   💬 Discussion

15 March — **Pillars of Creation**
astrophotograph
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+ New activity

📣 Activity   ❋ New articles   🔧 Tools

Today

274301 Wikipedia
Main belt asteroid · Let's expand this article

ⵙ New edit session   ✏ Join the session

Io (Moon)
Galilean moon of Jupiter

ⵙ 5 editors woking on it   ✏ Join the session

12 March

Curiosity → Curiosity (Rover)
Car-sized robotic rover exploring Gale Crater on Mars.

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Jules-Tr
✏ Curiosity (rover)   15 days ago

Jane joins the session to edit "274301 Wikipedia" (asteroid) in real-time mode

B *I* U

274301 Wikipedia

274301 Wikipedia (provisional designations: **2008 QH$_{24}$**, **2007 FK$_{34}$**, **1997 RO$_4$**) is a main belt asteroid. It was discovered by the Andrushivka Astronomical Observatory in August 2008. The asteroid was named after the online encyclopedia Wikipedia in January 2013.

D

Other users add content to the article at the same time.
Jane wants to find out who they are ..

B *I* U̲ :≡ 1≡2

One new edit by **WayneMilk**   View recent edits   ‖ Pause live updates

274301 Wikipedia

274301 Wikipedia (provisional designations: **2008 QH$_{24}$**, **2007 FK$_{34}$**, **1997 RO$_4$**) is a main belt asteroid. It was discovered by the Andrushivka Astronomical Observatory in August 2008. The asteroid was named after the online encyclopedia Wikipedia in January 2013.

Discovery

The asteroid was discovered by astronomers from the Andrushivka Astronomical Observatory (A50) in Ukraine.

It was also observed on the next night and it |received provisional designation 2008 QH24| Carl

Jules-Tr

Jane can view who is participating in the article...

274301 Wikipedia

274301 Wikipedia (provisional designations: **2008 QH$_{24}$**, **2007 FK$_{34}$**, **1997 RO$_4$**) is a [main belt asteroid](link). It was discovered by the [Andrushivka Astro-nomical Observatory](link) in August 2008. The asteroid was named after the online encyclopedia [Wikipedia](link) in January 2013.

Discovery

The asteroid was discovered by astronomers from the Andrushivka Astro-nomical Observatory (A50) in Ukraine. It was also observed on the next night and it received provisional designation 2008 QH24.

Last edited 2 days ago by **N.Agas**

👤 12 Editors

N.Agas
Astronomy   21 edits

Wayne Milk
Spaceflight   Blades   ...   15 edits

Hal Nine K
Spaceflight   15 edits

➕ Invite collaborators

Quick conversation

...and what are they working on.

Editing 274301 Wikipedia

Last edited 2 days ago by **N.Agas**

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Discussion

A reference is missing

The NASA references don't work for me, and I cannot find a reference for...

JohnS   8   6

Redirects

"Wikipedia Asteroid" and "Asteroid Wikipedia" should redirect to this...

CosminAunt   8   6

+ New topic

Quick conversation

With the live history view, Jane can see changes as they happen, and navigate a timeline of changes.

Curiosity (rover)

Curiosity is a car-sized robotic rover exploring Gale Crater on Mars as part of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission (MSL).[3]

Curiosity was launched from Cape Canaveral on November 26, 2011, at 10:02 EST aboard the MSL spacecraft and successfully landed on Aeolis Palus in Gale Crater on Mars on August 6, 2012, 05:17 UTC.[1][11] The Bradbury Landing site[8] was less than 2.4 km (1.5 mi) from the center of the rover's touchdown target after a 563,000,000 km (350,000,000 mi) journey.[12]

On June 24, 2014, Curiosity completed a Martian year—687 Earth days—after finding that Mars once had environmental conditions favorable for microbial life.[16]

Goals and objectives

As established by the Mars Exploration Program, the main scientific goals of the MSL mission are to find martians help determine whether Mars could ever have supported life, as well as determining the role of water, and to study the climate and geology of Mars.[13][14] The mission will also help prepare for human exploration.[14]

Last edited 2 days ago by **N.Agas**

📋 History

1m	Current new news		-5 +20
	👤 6 Astronomy		
2h	Details on the name		+22
	Cronopio		
3h	Discovery info		-8 +20
	👤 Wayne Milk		
4h	Correct style		-9 +3
	👤 4 Astronomy		
6h	More details		-2 +5
	👤 4 Astronomy		

✏️ Current new news

👤 6 editors   💬 view conversation

N.Agas	🟩
Wayne Milk	💬
Hal Nine K	💬

📄 View this version   🔧 Revert

Quick conversation   💬 1

Jane can focus on a given paragraph to view authorship...

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Last edited 2 days ago by **N.Agas**

🗨 **History**

1m	Current new news		
	👤 6	Astronomy	-5 +20
2h	Details on the name		
	👤 Cronopio		+22
3h	Discovery info		
	👤 Wayne Milk		-8 +20
4h	Correct style		
	👤 4	Astronomy	-9 +3
6h	More details		
	👤 4	Astronomy	-2 +5

✏ **Current new news**

👤 6 editors   🔷 view conversation

N.Agas		🟩
Wayne Milk		🗨
Hal Nine K		🗨

📄 View this version   🔧 Revert

Quick conversation   🗨 1

..or on given authors to view how much they contributed.

Curiosity (rover)

Curiosity is a car-sized robotic rover exploring Gale Crater on Mars as part of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission (MSL).[3]

Curiosity was launched from Cape Canaveral on November 26, 2011, at 10:02 EST aboard the MSL spacecraft and successfully landed on Aeolis Palus in Gale Crater on Mars on August 6, 2012, 05:17 UTC.[1][11] The Bradbury Landing site[8] was less than 2.4 km (1.5 mi) from the center of the rover's touchdown target after a 563,000,000 km (350,000,000 mi) journey.[12]

On June 24, 2014, Curiosity completed a Martian year—687 Earth days—after finding that Mars once had environmental conditions favorable for microbial life.[16]

Goals and objectives

As established by the Mars Exploration Program, the main scientific goals of the MSL mission are to find martians help determine whether Mars could ever have supported life, as well as determining the role of water, and to study the climate and geology of Mars.[13][14] The mission will also help prepare for human exploration.[14]

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	4 Astronomy	-2 +5

Current new news

6 editors   view conversation

N.Agas	
Wayne Milk	
Hal Nine K	

View this version   Revert

Quick conversation   1

Key challenges

- One version - multiple authors
- One "version"?
- Real-time vandalism
- Co-existence of real-time and non-real-time
  - Focused writing
  - Unsupported browsers
  - Social reasons
- Chat misuse
- Wikitext itself

Key applications

- Current events
- Conflict resolution
- Mentoring
- Targeted collaborations
- … and some we can't imagine

WGLNA S4 Playoffs Group Two

on WGLNA

🔴 LIVE

WGLNA
playing World of Tanks

WGLNA Season 4

Watch the top North American teams from World of Tanks go head to head as they fight for their share of a $100,000 prize.

Click here to watch and chat!

Medium

PR BALROG

WORLD OF TANKS
WGLNA

SOCIALTRON LIVE
CELEBRITY GAMING LOUNGE

camiwins

BATTLEGROUND OF THE GODS
SMITE

Real-time Collaborative Editing with TogetherJS

C. Scott Ananian <cananian@wikimedia.org>
[[User:cscott]]

Edit conflict! Someone else has changed this page since you started editing it.

Demo.

What the heck is this?

https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:TogetherJS[*]

...which is based on *TogetherJS* from Mozilla labs:

https://togetherjs.com/

You can install TogetherJS on an arbitrary webpage. The TogetherJS *extension* includes additional code to integrate **TogetherJS**, **Visual Editor**, and the **MediaWiki account system**.

How does it work?

How does it work?

magic

Fat client, thin hub

Client

Client

Client

Hub

The hub is a very small site-independent node.js server. It does exactly one thing: **order messages from the clients and rebroadcast them.**
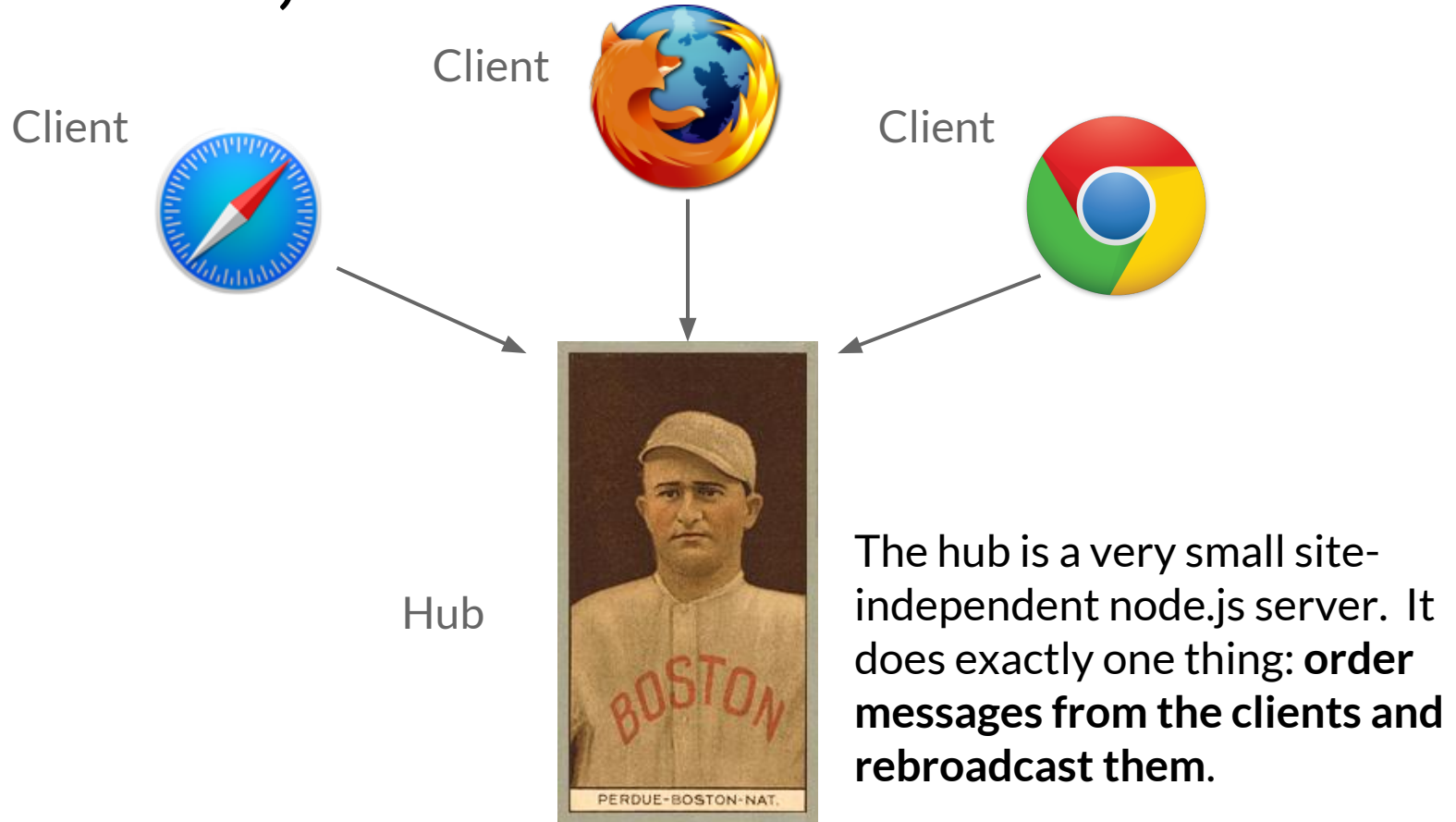
Operational Transformation (OT)

doc'

B'

A'

TRANSPOSE(A,B) ⇒ (A',B')

A

doc

B

Insert "foo"

Apply boldface
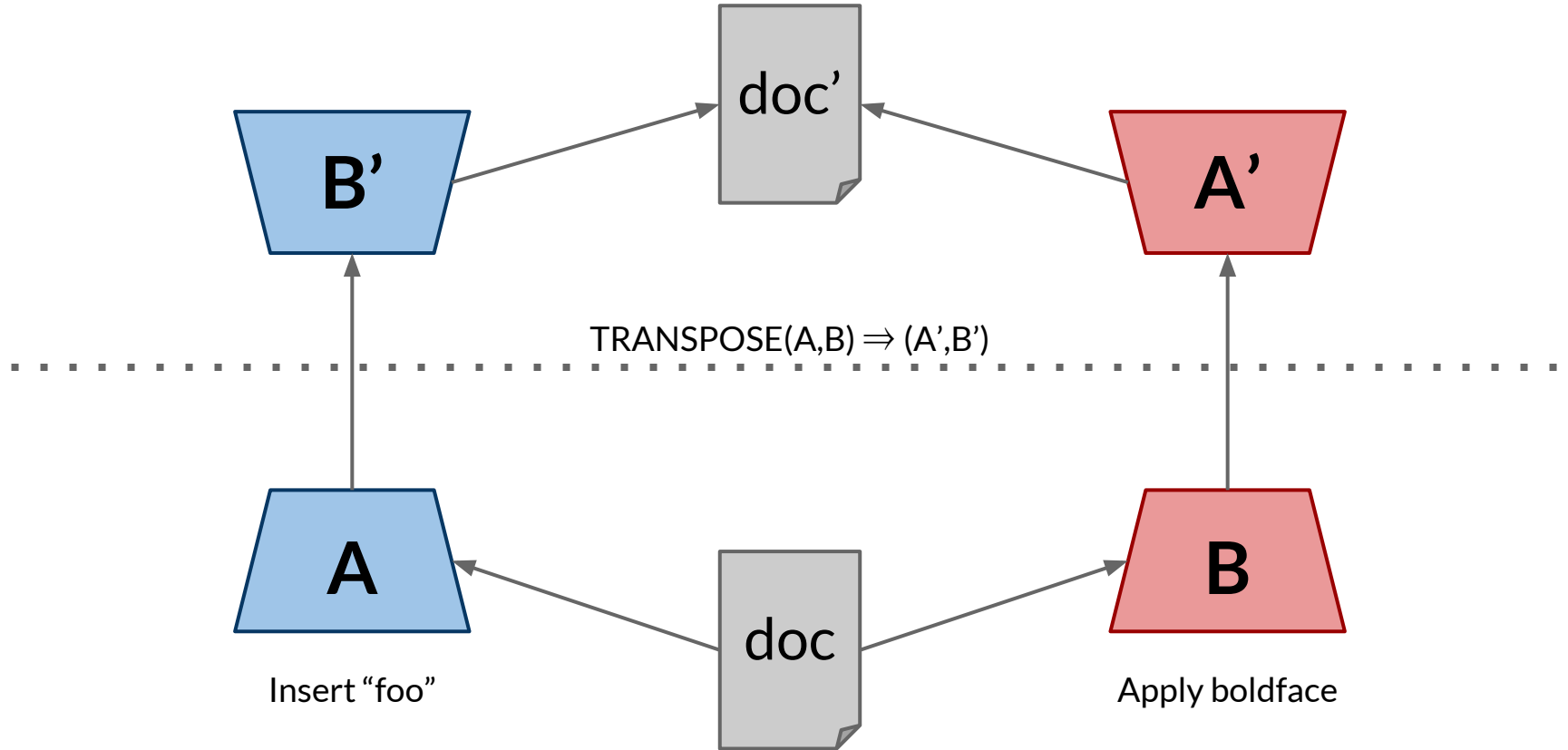
Hub is responsible for ordering

Everyone sees the same ordered stream of edits:

A_1 B_1 B_2 C_3 D_4 A_3 A_5 …

Subscript indicates the version of the document which the edit applies to.[*]

Hub is responsible for ordering

Everyone sees the same ordered stream of edits:

A_1 ~~X_1~~ B_2 C_3 D_4 ~~X_3~~ A_5 …

Subscript indicates the version of the document which the edit applies to.[*]

Everyone can see which of these are invalid.

When one of your edits is invalid, use the transpose algorithm to update it, and resend.

Transactions for Wikitext edits

1. Insert a string of characters
2. Delete a string of characters
3. Replace a string of characters with a different one.

Transactions for Wikitext edits

1. ~~Insert a string of characters~~
2. ~~Delete a string of characters~~
3. Replace a string of characters with a different one.

(really only one type)

Transactions for Visual Editor

Alternating metadata and data:

$$m_{0,0} \; m_{0,1} \; \mathbf{d_0} \; m_{1,0} \; \mathbf{d_1} \; \mathbf{d_2} \; m_{3,0} \; m_{3,1} \; \mathbf{d_3} \; m_{4,0}$$

HTML matching this sequence of metadata and data:

<!-- comment! -->

<meta … />

<p><!-- sigh -->**ab**<!--yes--><!--no-->**</p>**

<!-- eof -->

Transactions for Visual Editor

1. Replace elements from the linear model
   - Either squashing metadata or deleting it
2. Replace metadata from the linear model
3. Insert (a portion of a) document
4. Set/clear attributes on an element
   - For example, list style from 'bullet' to 'number'
5. Set/clear annotations on a range of elements
   - For example, "bold" or "italic"

OK, just make it work!

https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:TogetherJS

...but at the moment requires a patched copy of Visual Editor.

OK, just make it work!

https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:TogetherJS

…but at the moment requires a patched copy of Visual Editor.

…and it's not actually deployed on Wikipedia.

OK, just make it work!

https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:TogetherJS

...but at the moment requires a patched copy of Visual Editor.
...and it's not actually deployed on Wikipedia.

Alternatively, add:

```
importScript( 'User:cscott/TogetherJS-demo.js' );
```

to [[Special:MyPage/common.js]] on your favorite wiki (and have your friends do the same).

Some open questions (and unimplemented features)

- How do we find other editors?
- Do we need "user groups"?
- How to record/display who wrote what in a collaborative session?
- When is a collaborative edit "done"?

Social impact

Teahouse / new user walkthroughs

Do we need friends lists? "Circles"?
    (Do we become Facebook?)

Making visible the community behind the wiki.

    (Are we a social forum, or a sober & canonical reference?)

Discuss!

C. Scott Ananian
cananian@wikipedia.org
[[User:cscott]]