

PBworks

pbworks.com

Build knowledge collaboratively

what is it?

Everyone knows about Wikipedia--the collaborative, online encyclopedia written and edited by anyone with the time to help out. PBworks (formerly known as pbWiki) is one of a number of commercially hosted wiki sites that gives you Wikipedia-like functionality in an easy-to-use format.

Define your users, set up the basic structure, and invite people to contribute and create. Share pages with individual users or the public at large.

educational use?

A wiki is a perfect tool for coordinating and monitoring group work. Likewise, a growing number of faculty have begun to use wiki sites to collaborate with colleagues on research and papers. Building a repository of knowledge on a specific topic across multiple semesters is another job perfect for a wiki.

pros & cons?

While PBworks is only one of a wide range of wiki solutions, its easy-to-use interface and dedicated support make it a popular option for educators. While the free version limits access to some of the features, it allows you to easily get a taste for how a wiki works.

what's it cost?

There is a free and a paid version of PBworks. The paid version currently runs \$100 per year per classroom.

alternatives?

When PBworks doesn't provide the tools you need, consider a MediaWiki (<http://www.mediawiki.org>) installation. But beware: MediaWiki is the software behind the Wikipedia, and it is as powerful as it is complicated to use! Other easy-to-use Wikis are Wikispaces (<http://www.wikispaces.com>) or Wetpaint (<http://www.wetpaint.com>).

resources?

What can PBworks do for you?
<http://pbworks.com/content/viewdemo/>

7 Things You Should Know About Wikis
<http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7034.pdf>

Wikis in Plain English
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dnL00TdmLY>