What is the need of **VISUAL EDITOR**

User tests, direct feedback and anecdotal evidence suggest need for WYSIWYG

HTML editing is the biggest barrier to make the 1st edit

New users find it difficult to learn Wiki markup

It is the biggest and most important change on MediaWiki ever since project’s inception.
What is **Visual Editor**

**Software**
- Developed by WMF
- Let people edit without learning wikimarkup

**What VE can do**
- Basic content
- Text, links, headings, bold/italics, media files, adding categories, adding templates

**What VE cannot do**
- Complex edits
- Edit - templates, references, categories, tables

**Opt-in editor**
- > 1,500 user accounts have it enabled
- > 1,700 edits with VE have been saved
Current Deployment of VisualEditor

Switched off by default

Only on English Wikipedia

"VisualEditor" - shows up as a tag in history

12 Dec 2012: Opt-in Alpha version

"Edit" tab - WYSIWYG

Has bugs and areas of improvements

For logged in users only

"Edit Source" - traditional wikitext editor

Behind the scenes, VE relies on Parsoid – new software component for MediaWiki
# Benefits & Challenges of *visual* editor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFITS</th>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• No need to learn Wiki syntax</td>
<td>• Slow to load</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• VE makes editing easy</td>
<td>• Odd looking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• VE will increase early productivity of newly registered editors</td>
<td>• Incomplete editing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• VE will increase retention of good newcomers</td>
<td>• Limited browser support</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Namespace and Userpage only</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; VE-only namespace on MediaWiki.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2012</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; VE on namespace and userspace on en.wikipedia; opt-in function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; June 2013</td>
<td><strong>A/B test on the English Wikipedia</strong>. VE is released by default to 50% of newly registered accounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 July 2013</td>
<td>VE on English Wikipedia for all logged-in users. (default)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 July 2013</td>
<td>VE on English Wikipedia for anonymous and logged-in users. (default)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 July 2013</td>
<td>VE on first-tier Wikipedias. Definitely include Wikipedia in German, French and Italian, for all users. (Maybe Hindi too)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 July 2013</td>
<td>Deployment of the VE to almost all other Wikipedia wikis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2013</td>
<td>Currently, the plan is to deploy to Wikipedia sites first, and to deploy it to sister projects by end of December 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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How to enable visual editor

1. Go to your "Preferences" screen
2. Click into the “Editing” section
3. It will have an option labelled “Enable VisualEditor”. Check that option.
How to use visual editor

Once visual editor is enabled, you’ll have 2 options to make an edit:
1. "Edit" tab will take you the VisualEditor,
2. "Edit Source" tab which takes you to the traditional wikitext editor.
The VisualEditor toolbar appears at the top of the screen when you begin editing through VisualEditor. It includes some familiar icons that we’ll see in the following slides.
Toolbar (1)

**Undo and Redo** the changes you've made.

**Headings** pull-down menu: allows you to change the header level of text. The standard section headings are "Heading 2".
Toolbar (2)

**Formatting:** The "B" turns selected text bold, and the "I" italicizes it. The chain is the linking tool. The last icon ("clear formatting") removes whatever formatting is currently applied to selected text.

**Lists & indentation:** The first two icons allow you to make numbered or bullet lists, respectively. The last two allow you to increase or decrease the indentation level of content.

**Media, references & transclusions:** Each icon opens a dedicated dialog:
- The "Media" icon (a picture of mountains) opens the media dialog.
- The "Reference" icon (a bookmark) opens a dialog to edit references.
- The "References list" icon (three books) opens a dialog to display references.
- The "Transclusion" icon (a puzzle piece) allows you to edit templates.
Page settings currently allows you to edit categories and list language links.

Cancel or save your changes. When you're done editing click the green "Save page" button in the toolbar. The green button can't be clicked if no changes were made.

Pressing the green "Save page" button opens a small dialog into which you can enter a brief summary of your actions, mark your edit as minor, and choose to watch future edits to the page. The number indicates how much space is left in your edit summary. You can also review your changes to be sure they work as intended before saving your changes.
Important Links

- VE Feedback On [Wikidata](#)
- VE bugs On [Bugzilla](#)
- Feedback On [MediaWiki](#)
- VisualEditor: Welcome
- VisualEditor/June 2012 release FAQs