

Week 9: Wild About Wikis

Many businesses are finding new ways to collaborate. Review the slide show at: http://images.businessweek.com/ss/07/03/0312_wikiguide/index_01.htm

Answer the following questions on the discussion board:

- 1) How could you use a wiki to collaborate with fellow students to improve this course?**
- 2) What security and ethical concerns would you have to consider if you implemented this classroom wiki?**

As always, you are encouraged to respond to other's postings.

A wiki is a fantastic medium for conducting an initial brainstorming session on a topic, and then refine it collaboratively. As the proverb goes, “None of us is as smart as all of us,” and everyone will bring a unique perspective and level of familiarity to each topic.

As a research paper showed last year, it’s the misunderstandings of those ignorant on a topic that show the educated members of the group what needs to be clarified and fleshed out in a curriculum. The uneducated members of a group ask the questions that challenge educated members and make them work out the details and fill in the gaps in the knowledge base. In this way, using a wiki as a collaborative tool for improving a course ensures that everyone’s needs are met.

The main concern that I could see with implementing a classroom wiki is making sure that answers to assignments aren’t posted and that misinformation is corrected quickly. With a wiki, users have the ability to wipe out entire articles and replace them with their own versions. If a user was to wipe out an article and replace it with bad information, then any student accessing that article would be misinformed until the teacher or another watchdog saw the change and reverted it. With busy schedules, such bad data could stay on the wiki for hours or days, misinforming students and impacting their grades.