Working Within Wikipedia: Infrastructures of Knowing and Knowledge Production

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The Call for Participation for Wikimania 2009 has been released. Submit your presentations before April 15.

Welcome to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.

2,813,855 articles in English Overview · Editing · Questions · Help

Today's featured article



Ge and atomic number 32. It is a lustrous, hard, greyish-white metalloid in the carbon group, chemically similar to its group neighbors tin and silicon. Germanium has five naturally occurring isotopes ranging in atomic mass number from 70 to 76. It forms a large

Germanium is a chemical element with the symbol

number of organometallic compounds, including tetraethylgermane and isobutylgermane. Germanium was discovered relatively late despite the fact that it is relatively abundant in the Earth's crust. In 1869, Dmitri Mendeleev predicted its existence and some of its properties based on its position on his periodic table and called the element ekasilicon. In 1886,

Staeiou

page

observations agreed with Mendeleev's predictions and he named the element after his country, Germany. Germanium is an important semiconductor material used in transistors and various electronic devices. Its major end uses are fiber-optic systems and infrared optics, but is also used for polymerization catalysts, in electronics and in solar electric

Clemens Winkler found it in the mineral argyrodite. His experimental

compounds, such as germanium chloride and germane, can irritate the eyes, skin, lungs, and throat. (more...) Recently featured: Peter Jones - Nathu La - Hellingly Hospital Railway

applications. Germanium is mined primarily from sphalerite, though it is

also recovered from silver, lead, and copper ores. Some germanium

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Did you know...

Contents · Categories · Featured content · A-Z index

Arts

Biography

Geography

In the news

 A <u>suicide attack</u> kills at least 48 people at a mosque in Khyber Agency, Pakistan. Situ Gintung, a dam in Tangerang,

History

Science

Mathematics

Indonesia, fails, flooding hundreds of homes and killing at least 77 people.

my talk my preferences my watchlist my contributions log out

 Mirek Topolánek (pictured) tenders his resignation as the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic following his government's loss of a parliamentary confidence vote.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India decides to

relocate the 2009 Indian Premier League from India to South Africa due to security concerns. Mount Redoubt, a stratovolcano in Alaska, undergoes

a series of explosive eruptions.

 Michael Misick resigns as Premier of the British Overseas Territory of Turks and Caicos Islands after self-government was suspended during a corruption investigation.

Wikinews - Recent deaths - More current events...

On this day...

28 March: Earth Hour (20:30 local time in various areas, 2009); Teachers' Day in the Czech Republic

193 – Praetorian Guards assassinated

Roman Emperor Pertinax and sold the

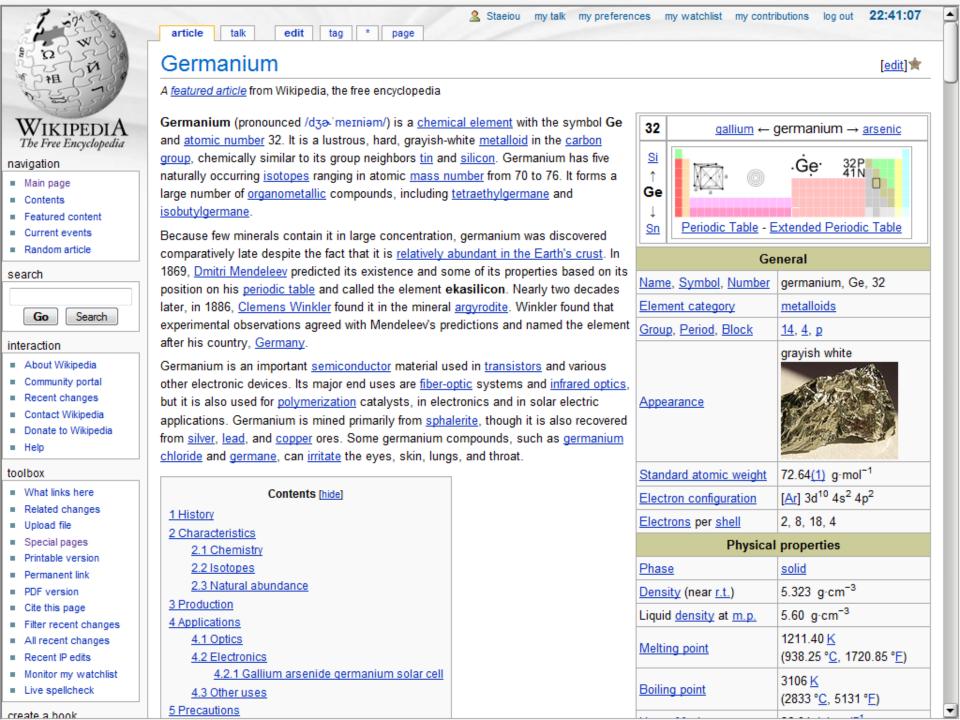


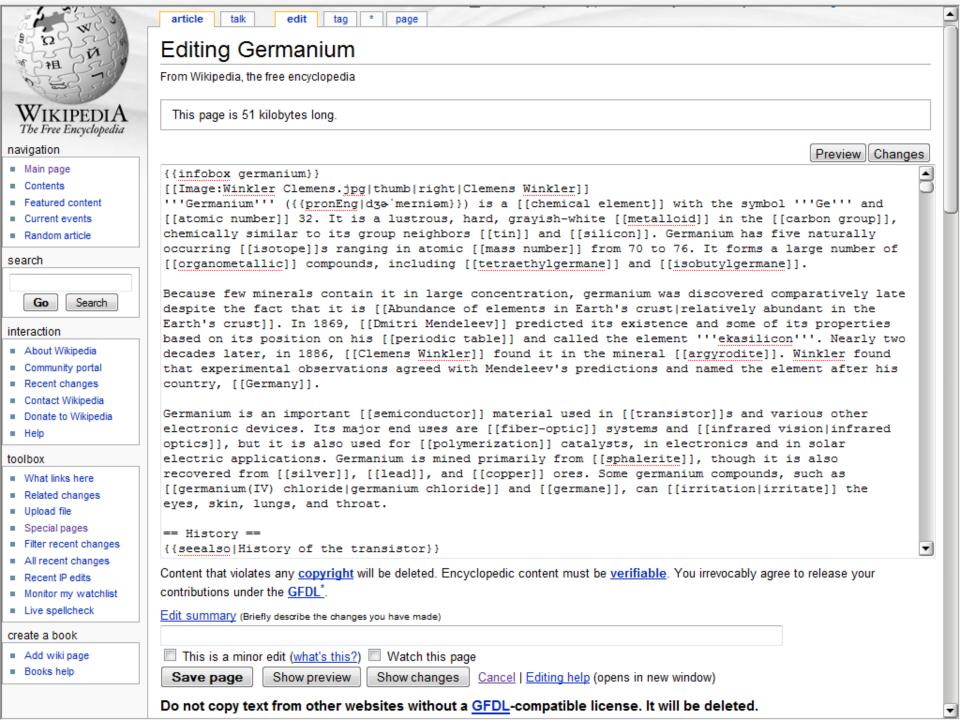
[Help us with translations!]

Society

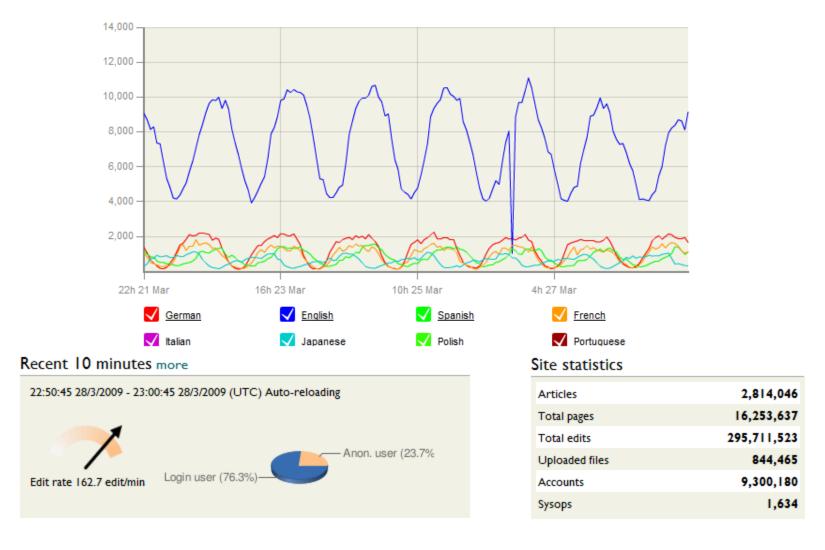
Technology

All portals





Wikipedia Statistics: Edits



Source: en.wikichecker.org, potentially under copyright

Wikipedia Statistics: Edits

- Significant number of unique editors
 - 600k to 900k per month
 - Most users are anonymous, make few edits
- How does Wikipedia handle these users?
 - Ignorant of standard practices, policies, rules
 - Potentially malevolent intent
- Are these users part of the "collective intelligence" or "the wisdom of crowds" ?

Representations of Wikipedia

- Intentionally anarchistic and disorderly
- Unreliable, prone to vandalism, bias, and error

Wikipedia
Celebrates 750
Years Of
American
Independence
Founding Fathers,
Patriots, Mr. T.
Honored

July 26, 2006 Issue 42•30



Source: The Onion, Copyright 2006

Representations of Wikipedia

- Populist, relativist, collectivist
- Anti-expert, anti-academic
- "Cult of the amateur"



Source: 20th Century Fox, Copyright 2007

Wikipedia and Science

- "This 'wisdom of the crowds' and 'hive mind' mentality is a direct assault on the tradition of individualism in scholarship that has been paramount in Western societies" (Goldman 2007)
- "Wikipedia has redefined the commonly accepted use of the word 'truth.' ... truth is received truth: the consensus view of a subject" (Garfinkel 2008)
- "Wikipedia has created a community of inquirers that are governed by norms very different from those that govern scientists ... [Wikipedians] lack the sorts of incentives that keep science in good working order"" (Wray 2009)

Policies and Procedures in Wikipedia

- Social norms and epistemic standards exist
- Numerous and well-articulated
- Are they enforced? How could they be?

⊻ · d · e Key Wikipedia policies and guidelines [hide]	
Overview	Policies and guidelines List of policies • List of guidelines
Global principles	What Wikipedia is not • Consensus • Dispute resolution • Ignore all rules
Article standards policies	Neutral point of view • Verifiability • No original research • Biographies of living persons • Deletion
Behavioral policies	<u>Civility • Edit warring • No personal attacks • No legal threats • Ownership of articles • Three-revert rule • Sock-puppetry</u>
Behavioral guidelines	Assume good faith • Etiquette • Do not disrupt Wikipedia to illustrate a point • Please do not bite the newcomers • Gaming the system
Classification guidelines	Subpages • Categories, lists, and navigation templates • Lists • Categorization • Template namespace
Content guidelines	Conflict of interest • Do not include copies of primary sources • Disambiquation • Do not create hoaxes • Notability • Patent nonsense
Editing guidelines	Be bold • Build the web • Edit summary • Editing policy • Linking • Signatures • <u>Talk page quidelines • User page</u>
Style conventions	Article size • Manual of Style • Naming conventions

Knowing and Knowledge Production

- Infrastructures of Knowing
 - Required to evaluate validity/truth of beliefs
 - Epistemic standards, practices, enforcers
- Infrastructures of Knowledge Production
 - Required to make new beliefs with claims to truth/validity
 - Translating reality into statements
- Distinction influenced by F. Blackler (1995) and C. Hutchins (1995)

Knowing and Knowledge Production

- Non-Encyclopedic knowledge production required for knowing encyclopedically
 - Edit [x] is vandalism/inappropriate has been or needs to be reverted
 - User [x] is a vandal or problem user is or needs to be banned
 - Article [x] is disputed or unencyclopedic needs attention or debate
 - Statement [x] is vague or needs citation

Laboratory Studies

- Highly empirical studies of science
 - Ethnographic study of laboratories, field sites
 - Historical study of scientific practice
 - Close attention to detail, context, action, situation, and material practices involved in science
 - Question: How are controversies settled?
- Three canonical works:
 - Latour and Woolgar (1979), Laboratory Life
 - Shapin and Schaeffer (1985), Leviathan and the Air-Pump
 - Latour (1988), The Pasteurization of France

Laboratory Studies

- Question: How is scientific knowledge as a social practice made possible?
 - Not just looking for undue influence from social actors (e.g. politicization of science)

- Epistemic order is produced out of disorder using techniques, practices, and machines
 - Settled controversies are blackboxed, literally:
 - Laboratory machinery stabilizes and reifies theories

Example: Boyle vs. Hobbes

- Controversy detailed in Leviathan and the Air-Pump, S. Shapin and S. Schaeffer (1985)
- Dispute over the nature of air and vacuums
- Opponents had different epistemologies:
 - Hobbes: A priori philosophical reasoning trumps empirical observations
 - Boyle: Experiments can overturn logical propositions without counter-explanations

Example: Boyle vs. Hobbes

- Today, we think Boyle was obviously right
- Yet in order to defeat Hobbes, Boyle had to make experimental science possible:
 - Social technology: Royal Society
 - Reviewed experiments and issued reports, allowing science to circulate in the same way as philosophy
 - Literary technology: laboratory reports
 - Enabled controlled, independent replication of experiments and verification of findings

Knowing in Wikipedia

- Broad research question: How is knowledge production made possible in Wikipedia?
 - Pay close attention to the material practices and technologies at work
 - Not just an explanation of bias or manipulation
- Specific research question: How are epistemic standards maintained in the face of vandals, dissidents, and contradicting interpretations?
 - How is encyclopedic knowing made possible by non-encyclopedic knowledge production?

Case Study: Blocking a Vandal

- Anonymous users contribute a significant portion (80% to 95%) of all vandalism
- Strong resistance to blocking all anonymous editing
 - Consensus on software features is difficult to produce
- Result: temporary blocking of IP addresses who persistently and knowingly violate policies and procedures
 - Blocks are frequent: 500 to 1000 a day

Diffs

The Mirror (album)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (Difference between revisions)

Revision as of 21:32, 19 February 2009 (edit)

72.68.228.176 (Talk) (→The Atkins Files Vol. 1) ← Previous edit

Line 31:

In an interview with SOHH, Ja Rule commented on the album:

{{cquote|"The whole industry is so focused on beefin' with each other — it's like the WWE of rap right now. I'm stepping out of the arena. I don't want to be a wrestlin' rapper. Somebody's got to come in and make it positive. You have to make records that make people feel like having a - good time. This record is like my confessions, I'm shedding my skins. "The Mirror" is your only real moment of truth. It's the place where everybody can go and be honest with themselves."<ref name=SOHH>
[http://www.sohh.com/articles/article.php/12396 Ja Rule CD Pushed Back, Rapper Teams Up With Game]

==The Atkins Files Vol. 1==

Revision as of 21:33, 19 February 2009 (edit) (undo)

72.68.228.176 (Talk) (→Background) Next edit →

Line 31:

In an interview with SOHH, Ja Rule commented on the album:

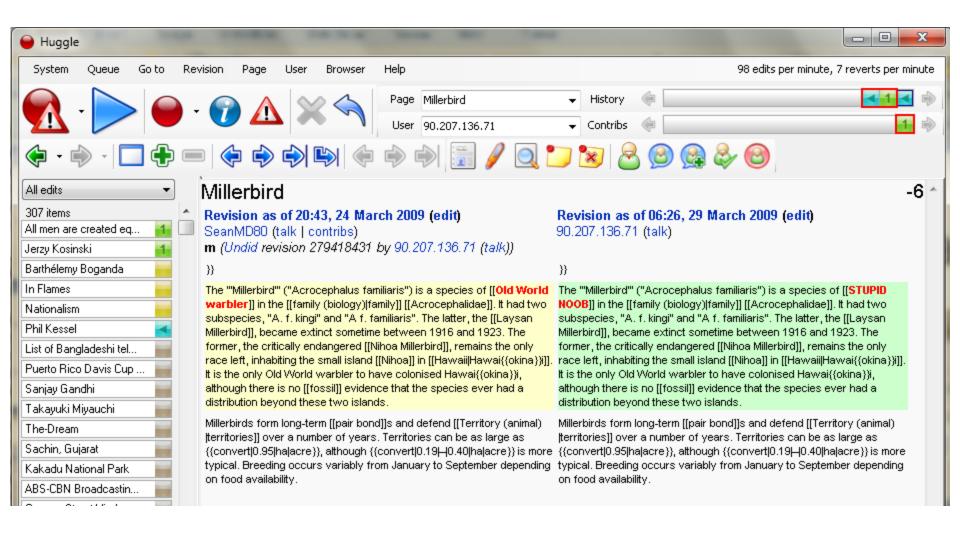
{{cquote|| hate 50 cent. He's so mean"<ref name=SOHH>
[http://www.sohh.com/articles/article.php/12396 Ja Rule CD Pushed
Back, Rapper Teams Up With Game]</re>

==The Atkins Files Vol. 1==

Diffs

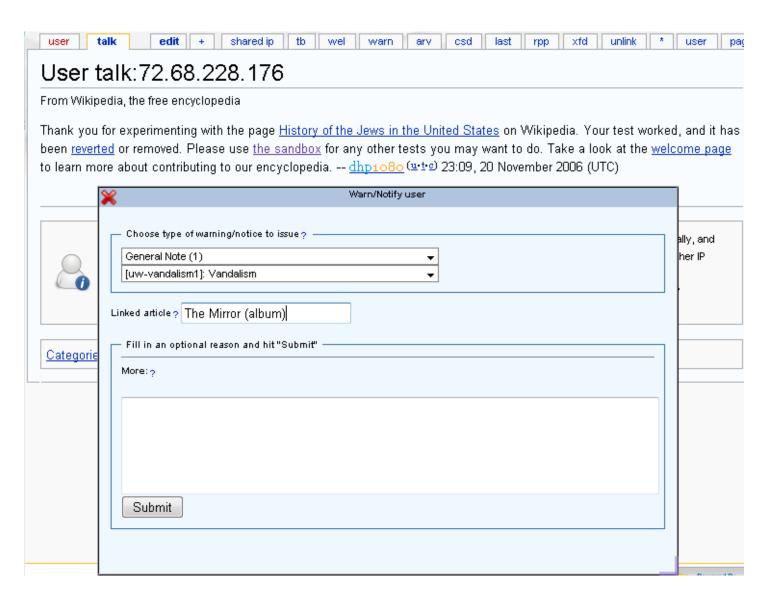
- Unique record of a specific edit
 - Before/after information:
 - Username
 - Date and time
 - Article name
 - Highlights changes made
- Accessible via specific hyperlink
 - Able to be circulated and reproduced
 - Can be used as evidence

Vandal Fighting Programs



Vandal Fighting Programs

- Allows users to review edits as they happen
- One click revert, advances to next edit
- Queue ranks edits according to:
 - Obscenities, capital letters, gibberish, etc.
 - Massive removal or addition of text or links
 - Previously reverted, warned, or blocked users
 - Misspellings, capitalization and grammatical errors
- Automatically warns users using templated messages



User talk:72.68.228.176

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Thank you for experimenting with the page <u>History of the Jews in the United States</u> on Wikipedia. Your test worked, and it has been <u>reverted</u> or removed. Please use <u>the sandbox</u> for any other tests you may want to do. Take a look at the <u>welcome page</u> to learn more about contributing to our encyclopedia. -- <u>dhp1080</u> (<u>w.t.o.</u>) 23:09, 20 November 2006 (UTC)

February 2009

Welcome to Wikipedia. Although everyone is welcome to make constructive contributions to Wikipedia, at least one of your recent edits, such as the one you made to The Mirror (album), did not appear to be constructive and has been reverted. Please use the sandbox for any test edits you would like to make, and read the welcome page to learn more about contributing constructively to this encyclopedia. Thank you. DiverseMentality 21:37, 19 February 2009 (UTC)

If this is a shared <u>IP address</u>, and you didn't make the edit, consider <u>creating an account</u> for yourself so you can avoid further irrelevant notices.



This is the discussion page for an IP user, identified by the user's numerical IP address. Some IP addresses change periodically, and may be shared by several users. If you are an IP user, you may <u>create an account or log in</u> to avoid future confusion with other IP users. Registering also hides your IP address.

[WHOIS • RBLs • Traceroute • Geolocate • Tor check • Rangeblock finder • Global Blocks] • [RIRs: America • Europe • Africa • Asia-Pacific • Latin America/Caribbean]

February 2009 [edit]

Welcome to Wikipedia. Although everyone is welcome to make constructive contributions to Wikipedia, at least one of your recent edits, such as the one you made to <a href="https://doi.org/10.10/10.20-10.2

If this is a shared <u>IP address</u>, and you didn't make the edit, consider <u>creating an account</u> for yourself so you can avoid further irrelevant notices.

The <u>recent edit</u> you made to the page <u>808s & Heartbreak</u> constitutes <u>vandalism</u>, and has been reverted. Please do not continue to make unconstructive edits to pages; use the <u>sandbox</u> for testing. Thank you. <u>J.delanoy gabs</u> 21:43, 19 February 2009 (UTC)

Please stop. If you continue to <u>vandalize</u> Wikipedia, as you did to <u>808s & Heartbreak</u>, you will be <u>blocked</u> from editing. Your edits have been **automatically** marked as <u>vandalism</u> and have been **automatically** <u>reverted</u>. If you believe there has been a mistake and would like to report a false positive, please <u>report it here</u> and then remove this warning from your talk page. If your edit was not vandalism, please feel free to make your edit again after reporting it. The following is the log entry regarding this vandalism: <u>808s & Heartbreak</u> was <u>changed</u> by <u>72.68.228.176</u> (u) (t) making a minor change with obscenities on 2009-02-19T21:45:51+00:00. Thank you. <u>ClueBot</u> (talk) 21:46, 19 February 2009 (UTC)

This is your last warning. You will be blocked from editing the next time you vandalize a page, as you did with this edit to 808s & Heartbreak. Eric Wester (talk · contribs · email) 21:47, 19 February 2009 (UTC)

You have been **temporarily <u>blocked</u>** from editing in accordance with <u>Wikipedia's blocking policy</u> for <u>abuse of editing privileges</u>. Once the block has expired, you are welcome to <u>make constructive contributions</u>. If you believe this block is unjustified, you may <u>contest the block</u> by adding the text {{<u>unblock</u>| Your reason here}} below, but you should read our <u>guide to appealing blocks</u> first.

<u>J.delanoy^{gabs} adds</u> 21:50, 19 February 2009 (UTC)

- Used to leave messages for users
- For vandal fighting, used to record previously confirmed incidents
 - Four levels of warnings, codes embedded in templated messages
 - Automatically escalated by most VF programs
 - Violation of a fourth-level warning necessary for a block
- Allows multiple users to centralize efforts without explicit coordination

AIV Queue



This page has a <u>backlog</u> that requires the attention of one or more administrators.

Please remove this notice when the backlog is cleared.

Alerts

Bot-reported

■ 68.43.144.211 (talk • contribs • deleted contribs • WHOIS • RDNS • trace • RBLs • http • block user • block log • Abuse Report) - Lisolette Gilcrest was changed ® by 68.43.144.211 (u) (t) making a minor change with obscenities on 2009-03-29T05:25:03+00:00 (Automated) ClueBot (talk) 05:25, 29 March 2009 (UTC)

User-reported

- 68.220.162.11 (talk contribs deleted contribs WHOIS RDNS trace RBLs http block user block log Abuse Report) . Obviously banned user User: Bambifan101. Indicators are editing childrens film and television articles, especially articles related to the Teletubbies, messing around with other users talk archives, and an IP address in the same range as many other blocked socks of this user. more info here: [1] & Beeblebrox (talk) 21:18, 19 February 2009 (UTC)
 - This noticeboard is for <u>persistent vandals and spammers only</u>. Consider taking this report to <u>WP:SPI</u>. —<u>Juliancolton</u> <u>Tropical</u> <u>Cyclone</u>
 21:21, 19 February 2009 (UTC)
- 69.19.14.38 (talk contribs deleted contribs WHOIS RDNS trace RBLs http block user block log Abuse Report) vandalism after final warning srushe (talk) 21:28, 19 February 2009 (UTC)
 - Note: User is in the category: <u>Shared IP addresses</u>. <u>HBC AIV helperbot3</u> (talk) 21:29, 19 February 2009 (UTC)
- 209.250.165.249 (talk contribs deleted contribs WHOIS RDNS trace RBLs http block user block log Abuse Report) new user, obvious vandal, but not persistant and hasn't been given warnings. This might not be the right page for me to report it. If not, then what is?
 Shaheenjim (talk) 21:39, 19 February 2009 (UTC)
 - Warned user. caknuck is a silly pudding 21:41, 19 February 2009 (UTC)
- 72.68.228.176 (talk contribs deleted contribs WHOIS RDNS trace RBLs http block user block log Abuse Report) vandalism, including 1, 2, 3, 3 Eric Wester (talk contribs email) 21:47, 19 February 2009 (UTC)

AIV Queue

- Reports of vandalism are issued and reviewed by administrators
- Automated editing programs remove requests that have been fulfilled or expired
 - Also issues reports if queue becomes backlogged
- Reports are frequently issued by VF programs
 - Includes diffs of previous vandalism, does not report unless user has violated level four warning

Infrastructures of Knowing

- Socio-epistemic order is not pre-existing, but must be built and constantly maintained
 - Standards, policies, guidelines, roles, norms, etc.
 exist, but only have force when they are enforced
 - No invisible hand or "wisdom of the crowd"
 manipulates Wikipedians in spite of themselves
- Construction of technologies and tools make standards concrete and enforceable
 - Enables distributed yet collective action

Implications for Web 2.0

- Technologies developed are not directly incorporated into the wiki software
 - Instead, programs are built on top of the existing functionality
- What are the implications when software reification is no longer limited to website developers?