



## Barnraisers beacon

The purpose of this document is to act as a guide for the 'beacon' project. Beacon is created and maintained by Barnraiser. Barnraiser is dedicated to giving people the tools they need to share knowledge and further society through social software.

You can find out more about Barnraiser and how to contribute to this project at <http://www.barnraiser.org/>

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# beacon

## License

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## Introducing beacon

Beacon is a very simple date and category driven web site publishing system. It looks like a Blog, but behaves like a Wiki.

Beacon features:

- Wiki article formatting and linking
- hierarchical categorisation of articles
- customisable menus
- file upload and inclusion in article content
- RSSfeed
- Article commenting
- Open or restricted editing
- Templated design
- Captcha security
- Database abstraction layer (works with many types of database)
- Multilingual (content and interface)
- Spellchecking
- Search [coming soon]
- Newsletter [coming soon]

## Terminology

### Wiki

The Hawaiian term wiki wiki, meaning "quick" or "informal".

Wiki is a piece of server software that allows users to freely create and edit Web page content using any Web browser. Wiki supports hyperlinks and has a simple text syntax for creating new pages and crosslinks between internal pages on the fly.

### RSS

RSS(Really Simple Syndication) is a format for syndicating articles from beacon to other web sites or news aggregators.

Email applications such as Moxilla's Thunderbird allow people to read about news articles on your site within their email environment making it easy for them to keep up to date with your sites articles.

### Captcha

'captcha' (Completely Automated Public Turing to tell Computers from Humans Apart) is a system to provide practical security for you as humans can read distorted text but current computer programs can't. Put simply it stops nasty machines from adding adverts and such like to your articles.

If you switch captcha on you need to provide a mechanism for visually impaired people to contact you (typically a contact email address).

## Prerequisites

See doc/install.txt

## Installation

See doc/install.txt

## Configuration

See doc/install.txt

## Categories

Beacon includes hierarchical categorisation. When you publish an article you can publish it to a category thus "grouping" your articles around themes or topics.

You can create hierarchical structures to your categories such as:

Blog

-technical

--PHP

--aroundme  
-diary  
-comment

Adventure  
-mountain biking  
--diving  
---Red sea  
---Caribbean

## Adding categories

Coming soon.

## Editing categories

Coming soon.

## Deleting categories

Coming soon.

## Menus

You can add category items, specific wiki pages or external links to the menus. Two menu's are supplied as standard in Beacon (left and bottom). Other menu's can be added simply by editing the default template

## Articles

Each item has an edit button. You can mark the item as open or secure. If secure, the user will need a password to edit the article (see configuration).

## Adding an article

Coming soon.

## Formatting an article

You can format articles using the Wiki formatting tools or by typing in the following syntax:

### Bold

You can make any text **bold** by putting three apostrophe's before and after the word(s) like:

```
''' words to bold '''
```

### Code

For technical manuals you may wish to write code examples by enclosing the code in `< code >a code tag </code>`. You can also specify at "type" as either "php" or "html".

```
<code type="php">
// comment
$variable = 'Hello world!';
echo($variable);
</code>
```

## Heading

How big you want your heading text. Just put a plus sign (+) in front of the text.

```
+ Heading Level 1
++ Heading Level 2
+++ Heading Level 3
++++ Heading Level 4
+++++ Heading Level 5
++++++ Heading Level 6
```

## Horizontal rule

On a line by itself at the beginning of the line put ---- to create a horizontal rule:

```
----
```

## Break

You may want to create an explicit line break (force a line break). You can use it in lists, tables, etc. to break lines without breaking the element. Any line ending with a space and an underscore will create a break.

```
The quick brown _
foxs jumps over
the lazy dog.
```

## Blockquote

any line starting with one or more > signs, followed by a space will create a blockquote:

```
> one > is one tab in (blockquote)
>> two>> is two tab in (blockquotes)
```

## Lists

Use this to create ordered lists with a # character, or unordered lists with a \* marker. Adding spaces before the marking indents the list items. You can mix ordered and unordered lists. If you put a blank line between list item lines, you will start a new list.

```
# one
# two

* three
```

\* four

## Table

|| at the beginning of a line, with || to separate cells, and || at the end of the line, with optional alignment character (< for left, = for center, > for right).

```
|| Cell 1 || Cell 2 ||  
|| Cell 3 || Cell 4 ||
```

You can span cells by using more than one set of || markers.

```
|| Cell 1 || Cell 2 ||  
||| Cell span ||
```

You can align the contents of a cell by including a <, =, or > character after the || marker.

```
||< left ||= center ||> right ||  
|| The quick brown || fox jumps over || the lazy dog. ||
```

If you include a blank line between table lines, you will start a new table.

```
|| cell 1 || cell 2 ||  
  
|| cell 3 || cell 4 ||
```

## Image

You can place an image in your document. You may optionally link to another page in the wiki, and you may optionally indicate HTML attributes for your image, such as 'align' and 'hspace'. There can be no spaces in the image file name, and the macro arguments must be of the form 'arg="value"'.

Look in your profile images (for your scrapbook) or your group images (for the library) and see the filename of your image:

```
[[image yourfile.jpg]]  
  
[[image yourfile.jpg align="left" hspace="8"]]
```

You can make the image a link to a page in the wiki by adding a link="..." argument:

```
[[image yourfile.jpg link="FormatingFields"]]
```

You can put a picture in a page by typing the URL to the picture (it must end in gif, jpg, or png).

```
http://www.yourdomain.com/asset/ yourfile.jpg
```

You can use the described-reference URL markup to give the image an ALT tag. You should do this as it helps people with visual disabilities. It also means that when you roll over the image with your mouse you see the ALT tag:

[<http://www.yourdomain.com/asset/yourfile.jpg> my file]

## Table of contents

Looks through all the heading elements in the source text and creates a table of contents from them; each table of contents entry is linked to the appropriate heading, so you can click on it to go to the heading.

[[toc]]

## Centre

Any line starting with an = sign followed by a space will center a paragraph line:

= This line is centered.

## Raw

Use this when you want to mark text that should not be processed by the remaining Text\_Wiki rules (i.e., it should be displayed literally as it is).

**\*\*I'm strong!\*\***

## Links

You can make a link by simply typing some words together (called smashing words together) with a CAPS at the start of each word !LikeTheseWords. For instance this page name is called FormatingFields.

If you want to create a new page in the !ThenTypeSomethingNew and you will see a questionmark appear after it like !ThenTypeSomethingNew[?]. This means that the page has not been created yet, however if you then click on the link the page will be created and you can type information into it.

If you do not want the text to create a link up an exclamation mark in front of it:

!ThenTypeSomethingNew

You can create a "described" or "labeled" link to a wiki page by putting the page name in brackets, followed by some text.

[FormatingFields This is a link to this page]

## Uniform resource locators (urls)

Create a remote link by simply typing in it's url: <http://www.barnraiser.org/> .

Remember to include the whole url including the http: segment. You do not need to put the trailing slash, however it is good policy to do so.

If you like, enclose it in brackets to create a numbered reference and avoid cluttering the page; [<http://www.barnraiser.org/>].

Or you can have a described-reference instead of a numbered reference:

[<http://www.barnraiser.org/> Barnraiser is super cool]

## Textcolour

You can color text like this:

`##aqua`|This is aqua text, `##` but this is not.  
`##black`|This is black text, `##` but this is default browser text colour.  
`##blue`|This is blue text, `##` but this is not.  
`##fuchsia`|This is fuchsia text, `##` but this is not.  
`##gray`|This is gray text, `##` but this is not.  
`##green`|This is green text, `##` but this is not.  
`##lime`|This is lime text, `##` but this is not.  
`##maroon`|This is maroon text, `##` but this is not.  
`##olive`|This is olive text, `##` but this is not.  
`##purple`|This is purple text, `##` but this is not.  
`##red`|This is red text, `##` but this is not.  
`##silver`|This is silver text, `##` but this is not.  
`##teal`|This is teal text, `##` but this is not.  
`##yellow`|This is yellow text, `##` but this is not.

If you are familiar with hex code you can also use those:

More text, and then `##ff9933`|this is kind of orange.`##`

## Teletype text

To create teletype (monospace) text:

This is `{{teletype}}` text.

## Italic text

To create italic text:

This is *"italic"* text.

## beacon lists

In the wiki you can make lists including:

History, a list of the history of this article – shows previous and newer versions of this article.

Similar: lists other articles under this category

Contents: lists newest version of every article

Latest: last edited articles

[[Beaconlist limit="10" type="history"]]

## Comments

Coming soon

## Files

Coming soon

## RSS

Coming soon

## Templates

Coming soon

## Menus

You can add a menu by simply...

in template `<?php createMenu(1, "vertical");?>`

## Language

All language displayed in the beacon interface is stored in two file:

```
/language/en_common.lang.php
```

```
/language/en_admin.lang.php
```

The "en\_" section of the filename defines the language, in this example "English".

If you wish to create another language you can duplicate the files and change them to reflect the new language code, for example Swedish:

```
/language/sv_common.lang.php
```

```
/language/sv_admin.lang.php
```

Open the files and change all the variable values to be your language of choice then save the files. Please note that they should be saved in UTF-8 format.

In the config file you will see a Language section:

```
$_c_node['node']['language']['default'] = "1";  
$_c_node['node']['language']['pack'][1] = array('eng', null, 'en');
```

Make a new language var and place the Barnraiser\_id and Aspell language name in the var. Example of adding Swedish:

```
$_c_node['node']['language']['default'] = "1";
```

```
$c_node['node']['language']['pack'][1] = array('eng', null, 'en');  
$c_node['node']['language']['pack'][2] = array('swedish', null, 'sv');
```

Open up the common language file and add the language name:

```
$lang['language'][1] = "English";  
$lang['language'][2] = "Swedish";
```

Note: Ensure the array id is the same for both the pack id and the language id – In the case of the Swedish example, note that both the config and language values use [2].

## About Beacon

Beacon was created by Tom Calthrop, founder of Barnraiser and maintainer of Beacon (tom-at-barnraiser-dot-org).

Barnraiser is dedicated to giving people the tools they need to share knowledge and further society through social software. If you like our work please consider donating to us!