

- By Jonny Bradley at [FOSDEM 2023](#)



Front end developer with Tiki Wiki CMS Groupware

## My Personal History with Text Markup Syntaxes

In the olden days...

- BBcode
  - MediaWiki
  - Tiki Wiki
  - Textile
  - Probably others... and then
  - Markdown
- (should i explain what Markdown is?)*

Who can remember all these syntaxes?

Imagine if there was only one?

- There can be only one...



## Previous Moves Towards Standardisation

- Wiki Creole

*Creole is a common wiki markup language to be used across different wikis*

  - Tiki Wiki (got as far as the wish list)
  - XWiki (experimental)
  - TiddlyWiki (no relation)
  - DokuWiki
  - MoinMoin
  - and various others
- PHP PEAR Text Wiki classes

*Transforms Wiki and BBCode markup into XHTML, LaTeX or plain text markup*

  - Text\_Wiki\_BBCode
  - Text\_Wiki\_Cowiki
  - Text\_Wiki\_Creole
  - Text\_Wiki\_Doku
  - Text\_Wiki\_Mediawiki
  - Text\_Wiki\_Tiki

Used in the [MediaWiki-Importer](#)

We Have To Include This Right?

- The obligatory XKCD cartoon

## HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE: (SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC.)



Thanks to xkcd <https://xkcd.com/927/>

Then when no one was looking...

- Here comes Markdown!



### A Brief History of Markdown

- 2004 Created by John Gruber and Aaron Swartz
- Divergence and duplication
- 2012/2014 CommonMark by Jeff Atwood, John MacFarlane and others
  - ( Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International)
- 2020 GitHub Flavored Markdown

### Widespread adoption

- Including:
  - GitLab
  - Stack Overflow
  - Reddit
  - Matrix
  - Nextcloud
  - Discord
  - Bugzilla
  - and even Microsoft Teams , WhatsApp and Facebook !

### Markdown in Tiki

- Markdown arrived in Tiki 25.0
- Markdown should become the default markup in Tiki 26 (maybe 27)
- Tiki wiki syntax should become legacy and read only in Tiki 27 (or maybe 28)
- We use Tiki Flavored Markdown
  - Of course we have a *flavour* because...

- CommonMark is deliberately simple - for instance, no way of centring text
- Tiki uses "wiki plugins" to extend functionality e.g. `{CENTER()}Some centred text{CENTER}`
- WYSIWYG
  - Tiki has previously used CKEditor customised to use Tiki wiki markup
  - We adopted Toast UI Editor for Markdown WYSIWYG



<https://ui.toast.com/tui-editor>

#### Some Links

- More info here <https://doc.tiki.org/Tiki-Flavored-Markdown>
- Other new features in Tiki 25 here <https://doc.tiki.org/tiki25>
- Demo <https://demo.tiki.org/25x/>
- <https://tiki.org/TikiFestFosdem2023>

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- [Moba Group](#)
- And a mysterious third anonymous benefactor

- by [jonny@tiki.org](mailto:jonny@tiki.org)



#### Addendum

There were persistent calls for more pictures of cats, specifically Mr Wilson



<https://mrwilson.cat/blogpost2-More-human-witchcraft>