



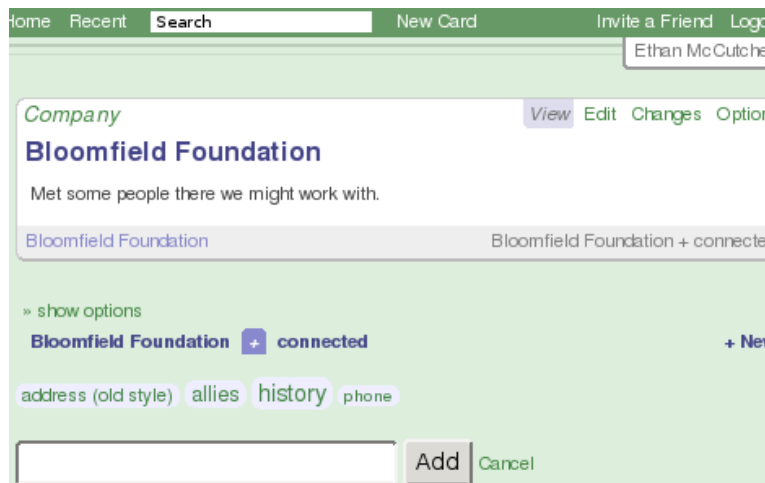
Wikis are a great way for people to write collaboratively and easily link ideas together. This is **sufficient for many tasks, but not when you're creating complex relationships** or working with detailed information such as numbers and dates, especially if you want to browse through or query it later. Suppose you want to know which companies make paper which is more than 50% post-consumer recycled? All the information may be in some inter-linked wiki pages, but the computer can't easily extract and present it, and it could take hours for a person to search, read and compile it all.

Wagn
Wagn is to database as wiki is to word processing.

The wiki spirit applied to knowledge management

Wagn is **open source software** which applies the wiki spirit to knowledge management. Each page - or card, as we call them - can have a data type: a date, currency, a calculation, etc.; and a card type: people, organizations, projects, etc. Our clean coding style makes it easy to add data types, and users can create new card types without any coding at all! From any card you can **create fields on the fly** - for example, if you're on a card about your organization, you can connect it to an "allies" card (created automatically) and start listing your organization's allies - even if no other organizations have an allies field.

Suggests connections from experience



Users **start entering data without pre-determining structure, which emerges organically** through their natural interaction with the data. For example, once several organization cards have lists of allies as described above, when a user creates a connection from a new organization card, the tag cloud of suggested connections will show allies prominently. This could later be formalized by creating a template for organization cards, so that users are prompted more explicitly to enter allies.

Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon's largest private foundation and one of Wagn's principal funders, is currently using Wagn as an organizational knowledge management tool, to keep track of its internal research.

To learn more e-mail us at info@grasscommons.org or see our own Wagn at <http://wagn.org/>

