

What Should an Entity Look Like?

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Unknown macro: "

1. Sakai Entities



The UX group also refer to these as "vignettes". A list of potential vignettes is available on this page: [Potential Vignette Use Cases](#).

One of the cornerstones of the Content Authoring idea is that entities (or resources or items or parts or fragments or ...) should be URL addressable. Currently many Sakai tools only allow access from a single, top-level URL, and the user has to manually navigate to specific views or items within the tool. In some conversations the work that needs to be done to enable such direct access to tool content has been called "entification", but in more standard web 2.0-speak, we are referring to REST (REpresentational State Transfer), or, in other words, talking about enabling RESTful access to tool content.

Anthony Whyte et al. have prepared a "how-to" [document on entifying Sakai tools](#).

Entities could be generated by the following tools:

Tools	Type	Entities	Variations	Who's Working on Entifying it?
Announcements	Core	Announcements	Title, description, most recent	(SAK-15425 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Assignments	Core	Assignment	Title, description, date, countdown, submission box (Description here may be a composite object including attachments, assessment criteria or how many points, etc.), opening date, closing date, due date , notification setting, grade scale, list of attachments, assignment instructions, meta tags (text field)	(SAK-15426 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Assignments	Core	Submission	Author, Content, Status in workflow, Feedback (with or without grade), Assignment description	<i>see above</i>
Blogger	Provisional	Blog post	Blog post title, summary, complete post, recent activity, comments	(SAK-15427 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
BlogWow	Contrib	?	?	Stuart Freeman (BW-83 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Chat	Core	Chat room	Name, summary of activity, recent activity	(SAK-15428 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Citation Collections	Core	One or more citations	Link to a list of citations or a set of citations expanded inline in the document	Jim Eng (SAK-15429 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Citation	Core	Individual citation	access to individual citation (not a list)	<i>see above</i>
Comments	?	?	Comments, summary, thread (Re.: Nico's demo at the Authoring Summit)	<i>What tool/project is this?</i>
Forums	Core	Forum, Topic, Thread	Name, summary of activity, recent activity, presentation (flat/threaded/chat)	Louis Majanja (SAK-15430 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)

Gradebook	Core	Gradebook item	Could replace an assignment/test/quiz after grade is released	(SAK-15431 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Gradebook	Core	My Grade	Title of GB item, Description (if any), Score/Mark, Feedback	<i>see above</i>
Gradebook2	Contrib	?	?	Gradebook2 already being built with this in mind.
Messages	Core	Mailbox	Summary of activity, recent activity, filter by keyword, search, message form for targeted user	(SAK-15432 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Podcasts	Provisional	Podcast	Podcast title, description, embedded object, recent activity, date added	(SAK-15433 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Polls	Provisional	Poll	Link, title, poll, results, graph of results	<i>Already done?</i>
Portfolio (OSP)	Core	Portfolio Form	Form content used in matrices, wizards, portfolios	OSP team is still working on figuring out what this really means in the context of current portfolio-related tools.
Post'Em	Core	Post'Em item	Individual comment to user	(SAK-15434 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Resources	Core	Any resource or listing of resources in a folder	Title, description, date added, file size, content type, meta tags (text field ?)	(SAK-15435 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
RWiki	Provisional	Wiki page	Point to a page, section, embed of content of a page, section, direct edit	(SAK-15436 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Samigo (Tests and Quizzes)	Core	Test, Quiz	Title, description, actual test, date, countdown	(SAK-15437 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Schedule	Core	Calendar Item	Title, description, type, date, countdown	(SAK-15438 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Schedule	Core	Calendar Period	Show a week, a series of days, a month, etc, with the events in that period (possibly filtered in some way)	<i>see above</i>
Syllabus	Core	Syllabus section	Entire syllabus, section of a syllabus	(SAK-15439 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)
Search	Provisional	Search result	Link to search tool with a key word, search box, filter (preloaded search result)	(SAK-15440 - Getting issue details... <input type="button" value="STATUS"/>)

???		Tracking of users on entities/completion of activities	?
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Source:
[Claude Coulombe](#)

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2. Outside Entities

Outside entities may

- not need to know anything about the user
- may need to know who the user is in an insecure way
- may need to know who the user is in a secure way
- may store information about the user or contributed by the user that Sakai **does not** need to access /store
- may store information about the user or contributed by the user that Sakai **does** need to access /store

Media and dynamic content:

Type	Variations
Video	Link, icon, thumbnail, embedded with player, description, tags
Audio	Link, icon, embedded with player, description, tags
Image	Link, icon, thumbnail, description, tags
RSS feed	Title, date, user, content, embedded media, summary, tags
Javascript widget	Sakai must allow pasted HTML code from trusted sources
URL (bookmark)	Link, icon, thumbnail, iframe?, user, description, comments, tags, relative and absolute

For the following entities, do we want to be able to create them from scratch in the workspace, create them in another web application, or simply link to them?

Type	Variations
Structured Vector Graphics (SVG)	Link, icon, thumbnail, embedded
CML - Chemistry	Link, icon, thumbnail, embedded
MathML - Mathematics	Link, icon, thumbnail, embedded
MusicML - Music	Link, icon, thumbnail, embedded
VRML - 3D Graphics Viewer	Link, icon, thumbnail, embedded
OML and OPML - Outline markup language	Link, icon, thumbnail, embedded
Spreadsheet	Link, graph, diagram, tabular view

Formatting entities:

- **Sections** (like with this wiki)
- **Columns**
- **Floating containers** with wrap-around text (div-like)
- **CSS link/in-line editing**
- **Reusable content units** (somewhat pre-constructed objects that could be replicated elsewhere)
- **Templates**

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3. Entity States

- **Listed:** Entity has not been placed on page. Depending on the selected design (drag and drop from sidebar, insert button with wizard, etc.), this listed entity might look totally different.
- **Placed:**

- **Linked to:** Entity has been placed on page and is simply linking to the real thing. Looks like a simple URL.
- **Embedded:** Entity has been placed on page and has different visualization options or trigger zones.
- **Popped-up:** Hovering a placed entity shows more info about it.
- **Broken:** Target entity is not available anymore.
- **Conditional:**
 - **Denied:** Target entity is not available to current user.
 - **Hidden:** Target entity is not available to current user and hidden from him/her.
 - **Granted:** Target entity is available to user because user has satisfied a/multiple condition(s) for the revealing of the entity (by completing a quiz, being a part of a certain group/section, date driven, Gradebook, Post'Em, Assignment entry satisfactory, etc.).
- **Edit mode:** User is changing the behavior of an entity through a menu.

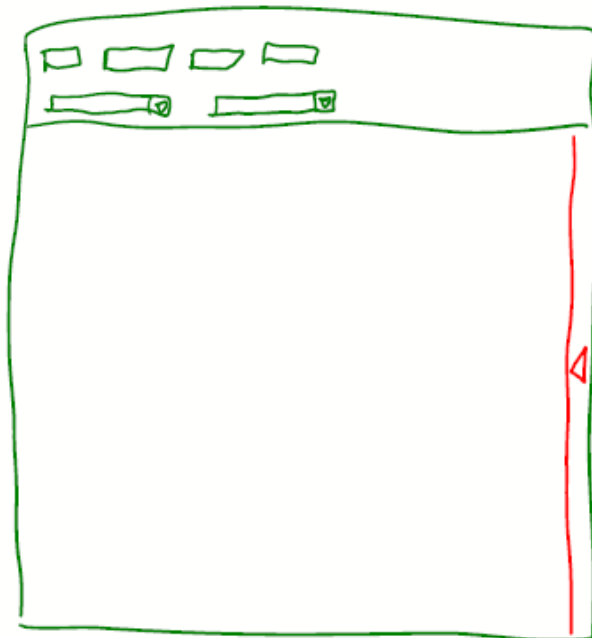
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4. Entity Picking Scenarios

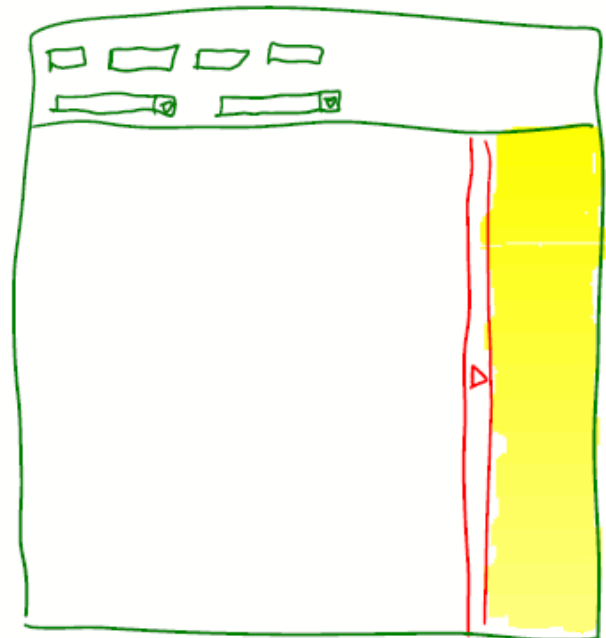
[Mathieu's original mockup from the Paris conference.](#)

Scenario 1: Sidebar

Hidden state



Revealed state

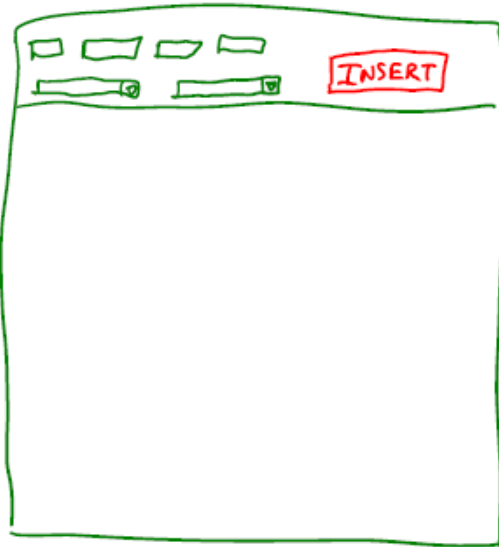


In this scenario, the entities can be revealed/hidden by clicking or dragging a sidebar. Afterward, entities will be dragged and dropped on the work area. When an entity is dropped, a menu will pop up to offer visualization and permissions options.

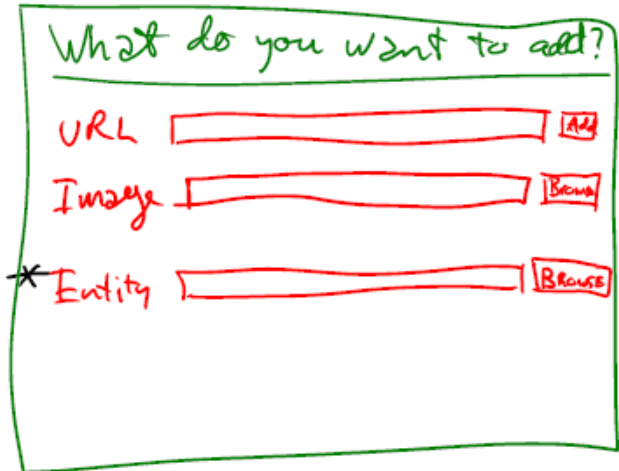
Advantages	Inconvenients
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be hidden easily. - Easy access to entities to drag and drop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uses prime editing real estate.

Scenario 2: Insert Button

Basic state



Wizard state



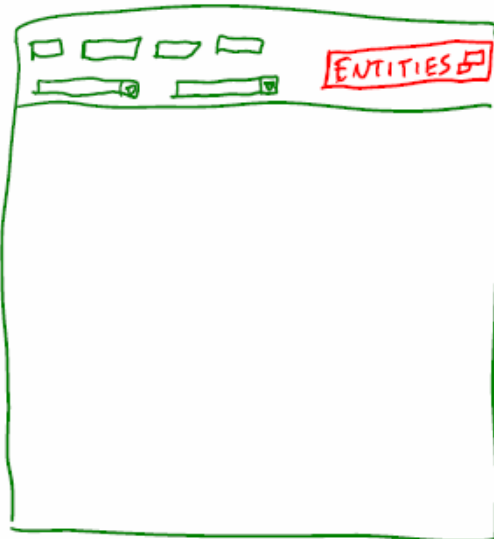
* Need a name that makes sense to user. For entities, there would be a second wizard screen to pick one and select the options.

In this scenario, clicking on the Insert button will trigger a wizard that will take over the screen (could fade the background, like in Nathan's designs). It could also replace the URL icon since it serves the same purpose: adding something to the page.

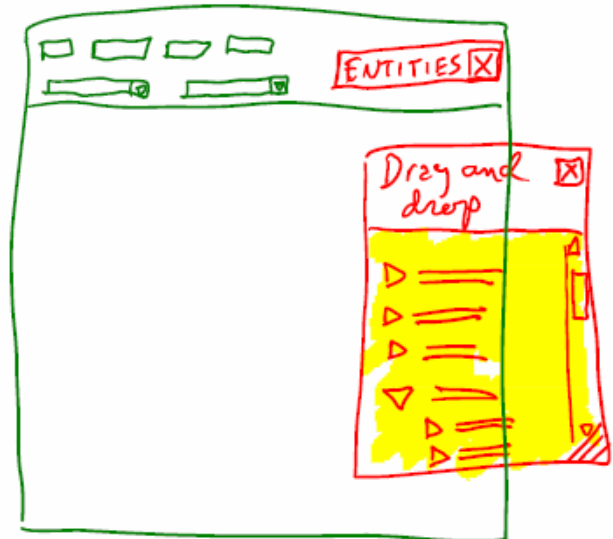
Advantages	Inconvenients
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-intrusive, apart of the toolbar. - Can be merged with other processes (add and image, a URL, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extra clicks to get to the entities.

Scenario 3: Floating Widget

Basic state



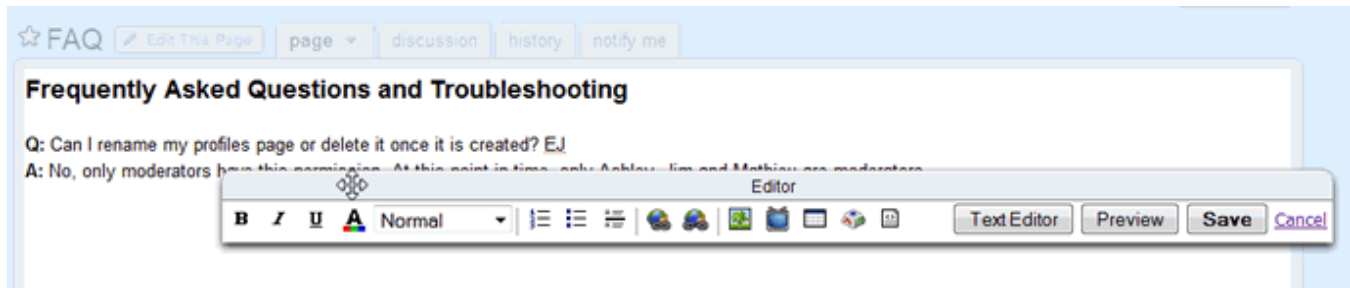
Floating state



In this scenario, a button in the WYSIWYG editor could toggle on and off a floating widget from which entities could be picked and dropped in the work area. Like the first scenario, when an entity is dropped, a menu will pop up to offer visualization and permissions options.

Advantages	Inconvenients
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be hidden easily. - Easy access to entities to drag and drop. - Can be placed in an unused area of the screen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can get lost if too far away from the work area.

Here is an example of a floating WYSIWYG widget from **Wikispaces**:



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5. Listing/Adding/Editing Entities

- Scenarios 1 and 3: [Drag and Drop](#)
- Scenario 2: [Simple Entity Linking](#) (Most probable scenario)

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6. Permissions and Tracking

Depending on the user type, some features or tools might be unavailable. At the page level, we could make a page trackable for two reasons: 1) to trigger a release/hide [condition](#), and 2) to keep track of the users who viewed the page, in a SCORM-like fashion.

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7. Wiki Considerations

Question: Do we still need a wiki tool if we get a nice WYSIWYG editor up and running?

A key functionality of a wiki is the ability to add a page (by clicking on a button, or by linking to nowhere). Other than that, it's a way to author content. If we include the page creation behavior in our project, we might not need the wiki anymore, or we might leave it there to let the users decide if they want to use it. Adding versioning is another important feature.

Another point of view would be to offer a wiki editing mode for regular HTML pages.



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