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
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 cke editor customised to use tiki wiki markup
  - we adopted toast ui editor for markdown wysiwyg

[toast ui editor](https://ui.toast.com/tui-editor)

some links

- more info here [https://doc.tiki.org/tiki-flavored-markdown](https://doc.tiki.org/tiki-flavored-markdown)
- demo [https://demo.tiki.org/25x/](https://demo.tiki.org/25x/)
- [https://tiki.org/tikifestfosdem2023](https://tiki.org/tikifestfosdem2023)

thanks to

- marc laporte of [evoludata](https://evolu.data) and victor emanouilov (m Arc or victor at tiki dot org)
- [moba group](https://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](https://mrwilson.cat/blogpost2-more-human-witchcraft)