Semantic MediaWiki

Documentation in the 21st century

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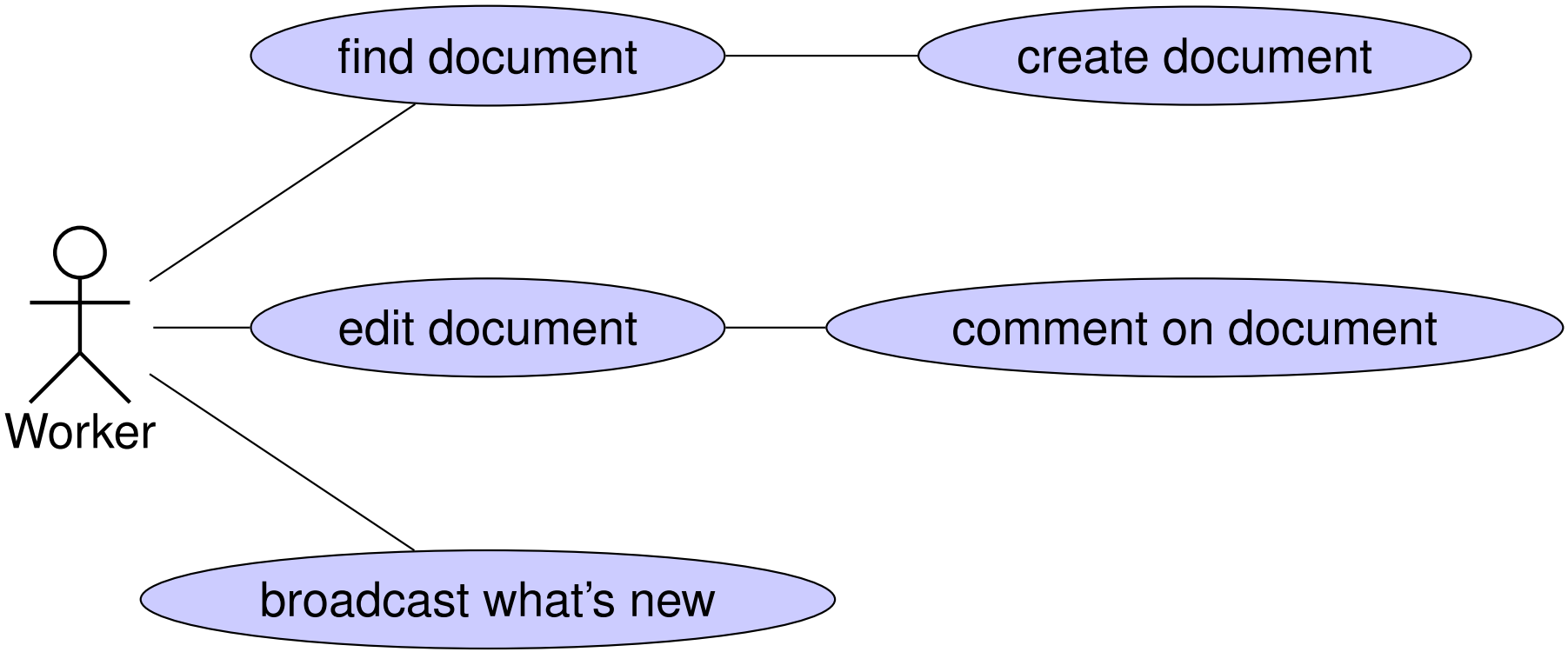
Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

MediaWiki

- Not new - made for Wikipedia
- Accessed though a browser
- Free, libre, open-source
- Extended by Semantic MediaWiki

1. Documents
   - Sharing documents
2. Find
   - By title, content, editor
3. Edit
   - Flexibility, control, re-use
4. Comment
   - Talk pages
5. Broadcast
   - What's new and who's it from
6. Requirements
   - Skills, permissions

What we do all day (share documents)



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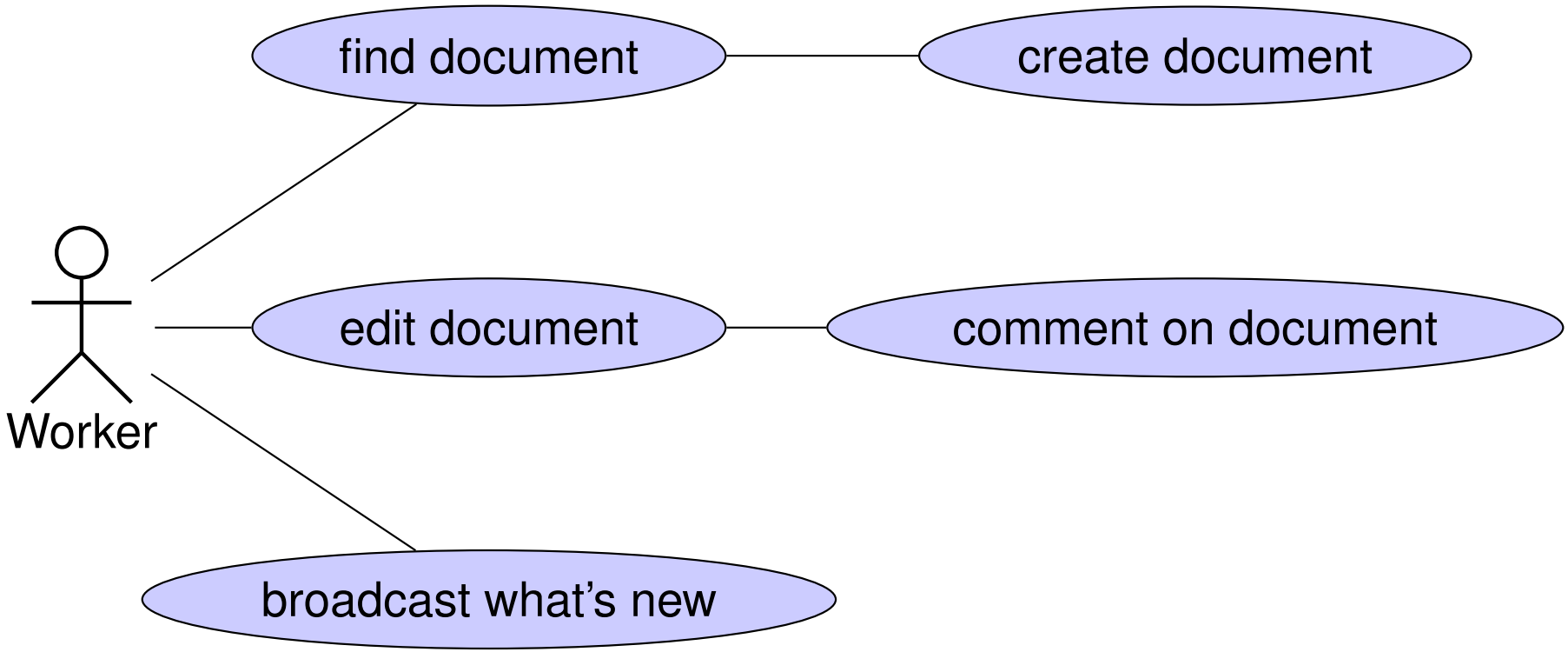
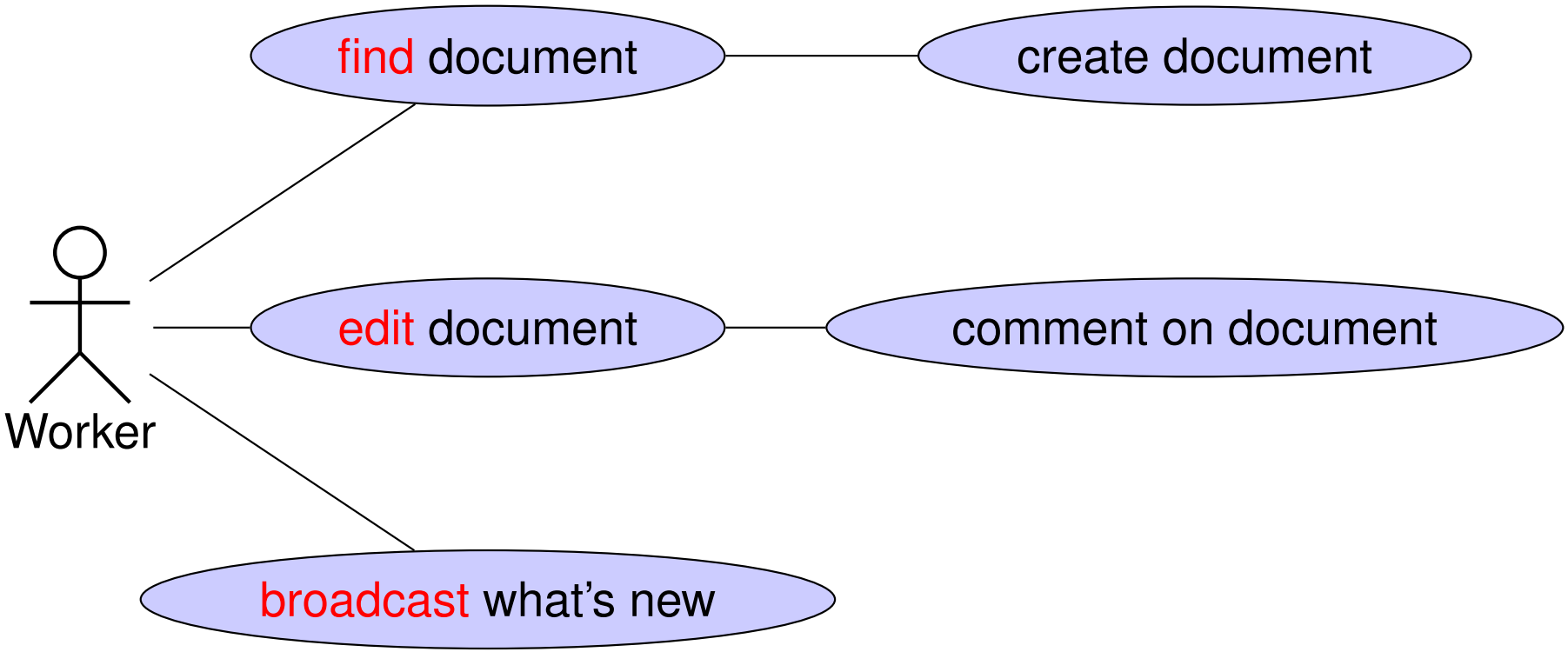


Many of us share documents via email and Microsoft Office.

Semantic MediaWiki enables sharing



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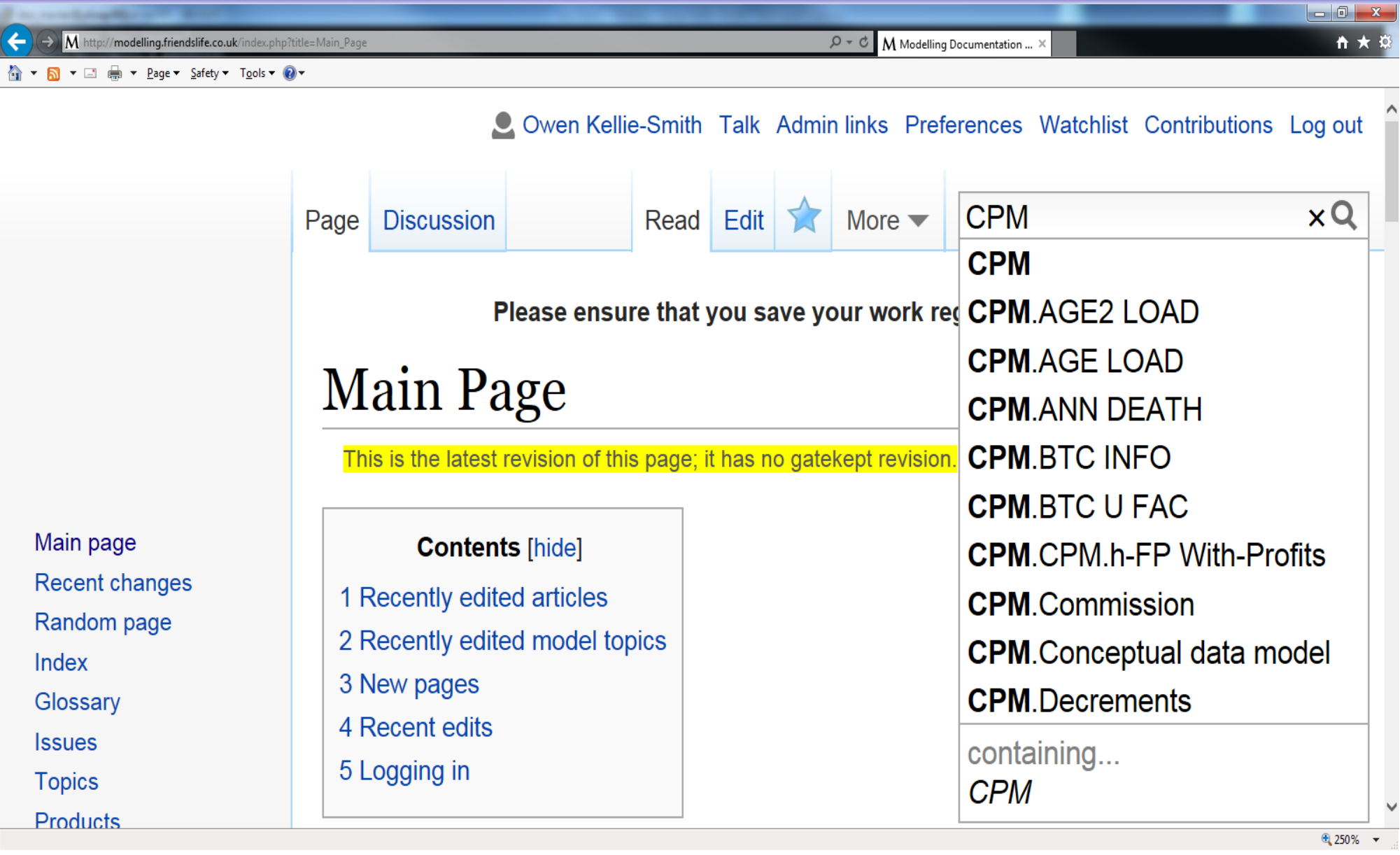
Finding documents

- Do we have anything about subject-X?
- Where is that thing person-Y was working on a while ago?

Do we have anything about CPM?

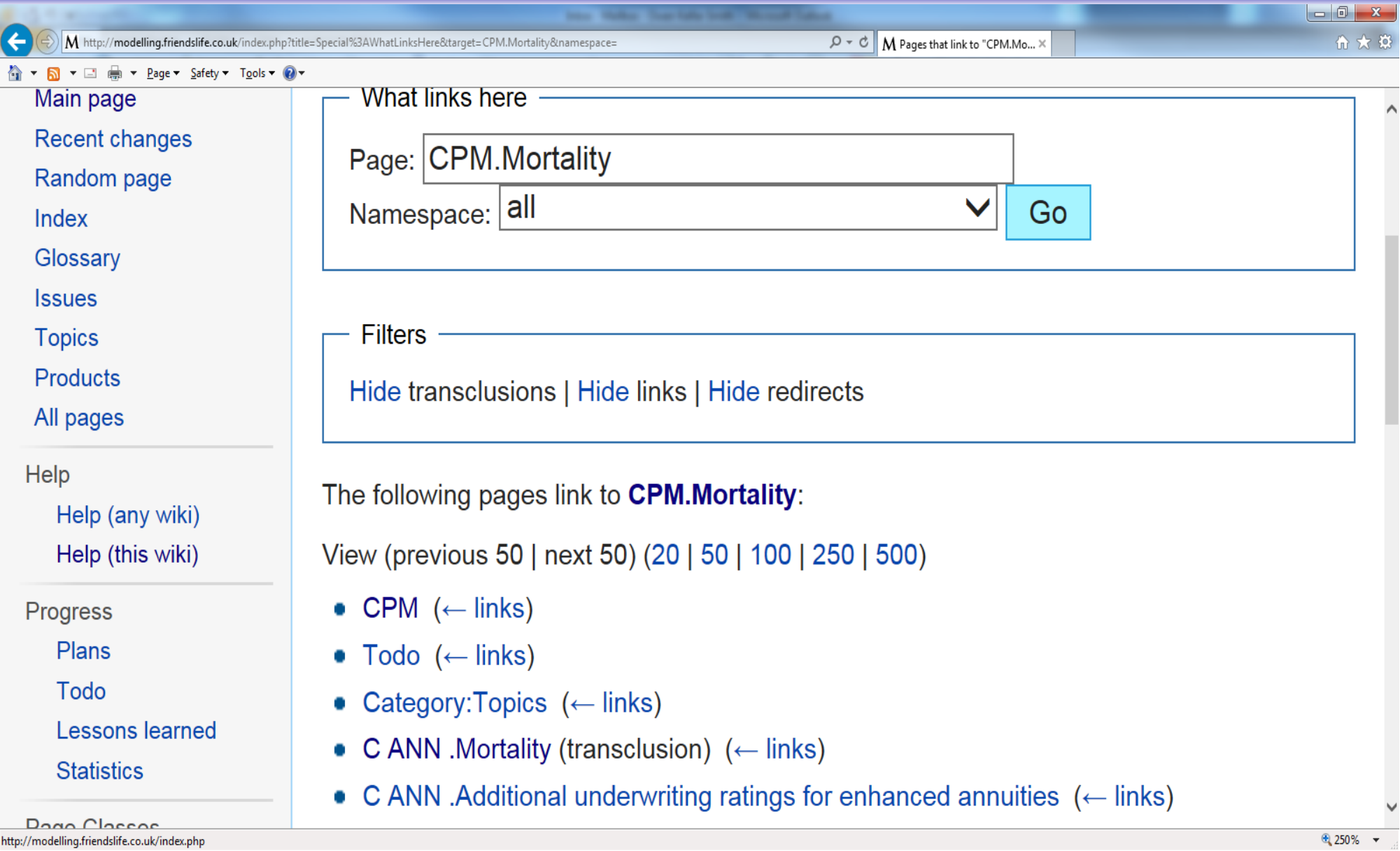


Where is that thing Will was working on?

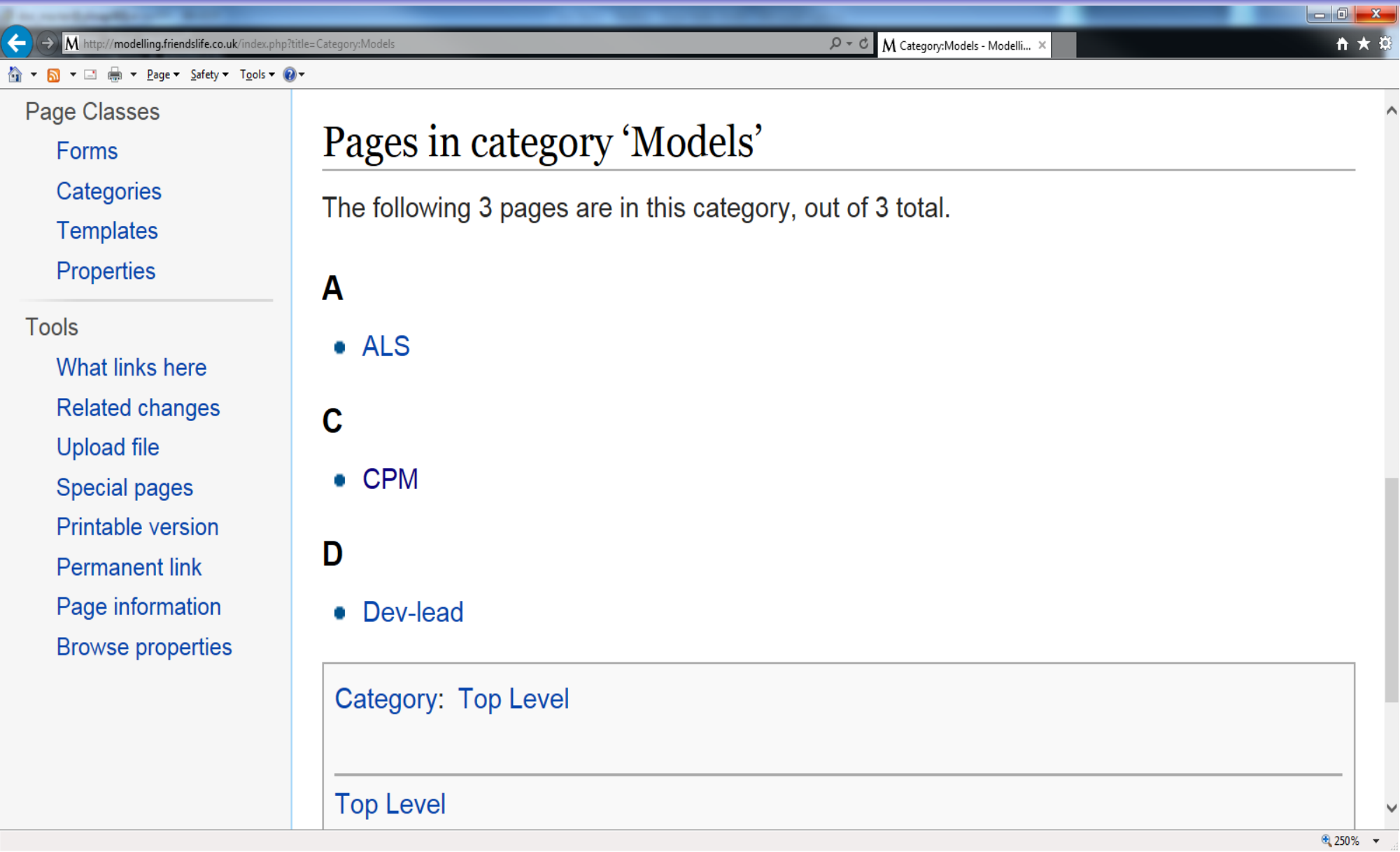
Finding related documents

- What can put this in context?
- What links to this?

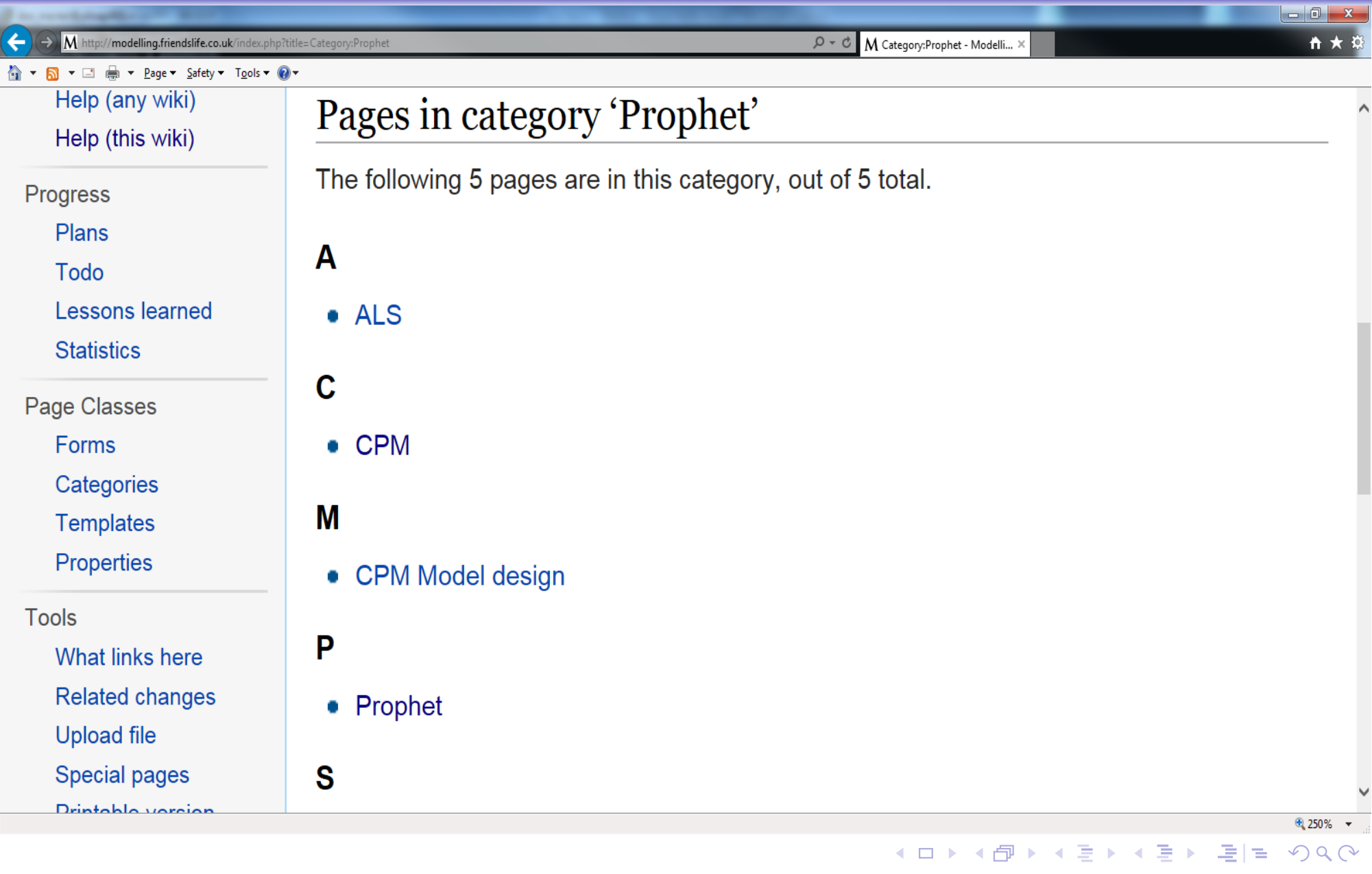
What links here



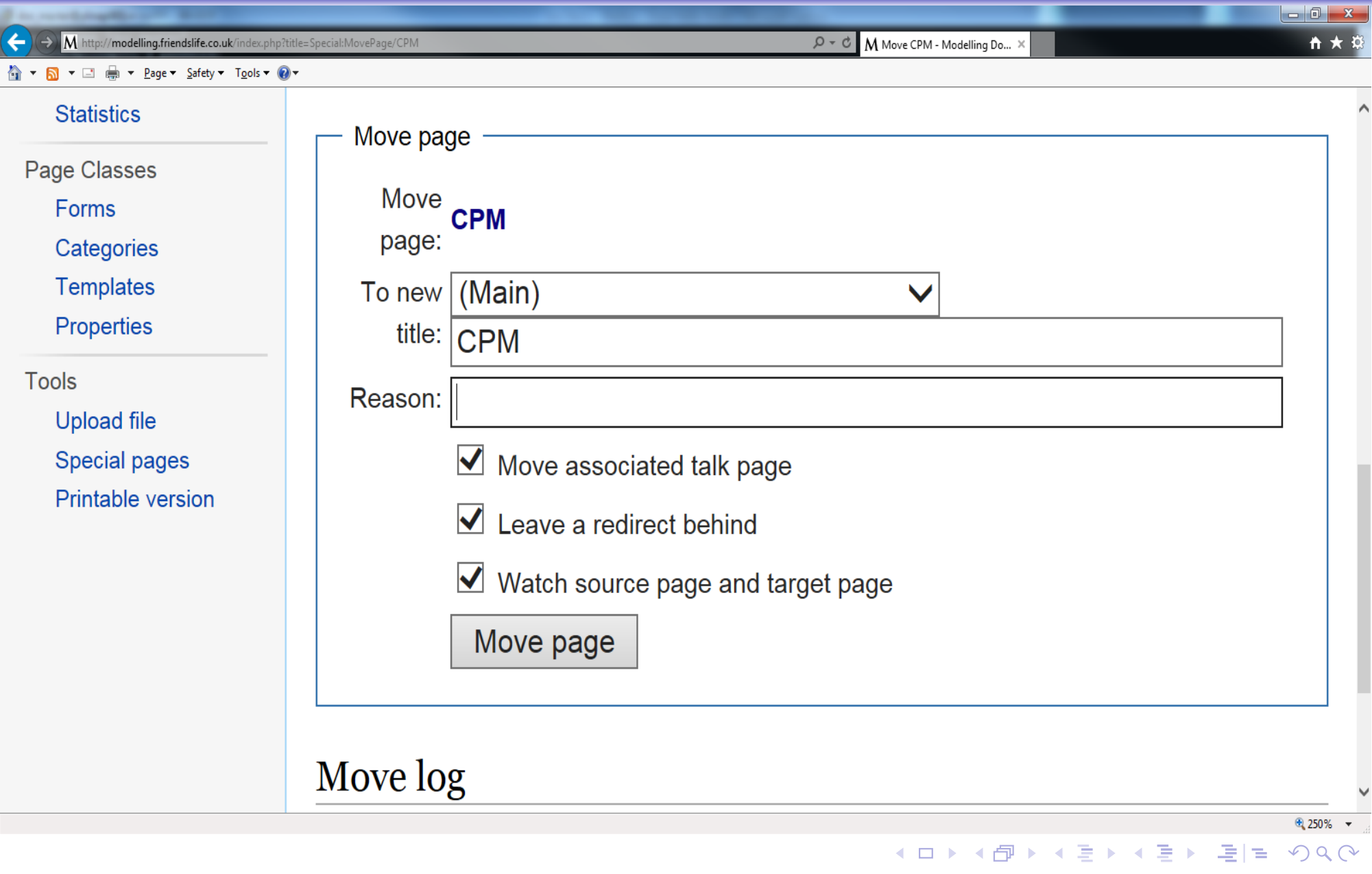
Context from category



Context from category



Renaming doesn't break links



Compare features for finding

	Windows	Share-Point	MediaWiki
Find by string or user	✗	✔	✔
Find by category	✔	✔	✔
See links in	✗	✔	✔
Rename safely	✗	✔	✔
Recategorise safely	✗	✗	✔

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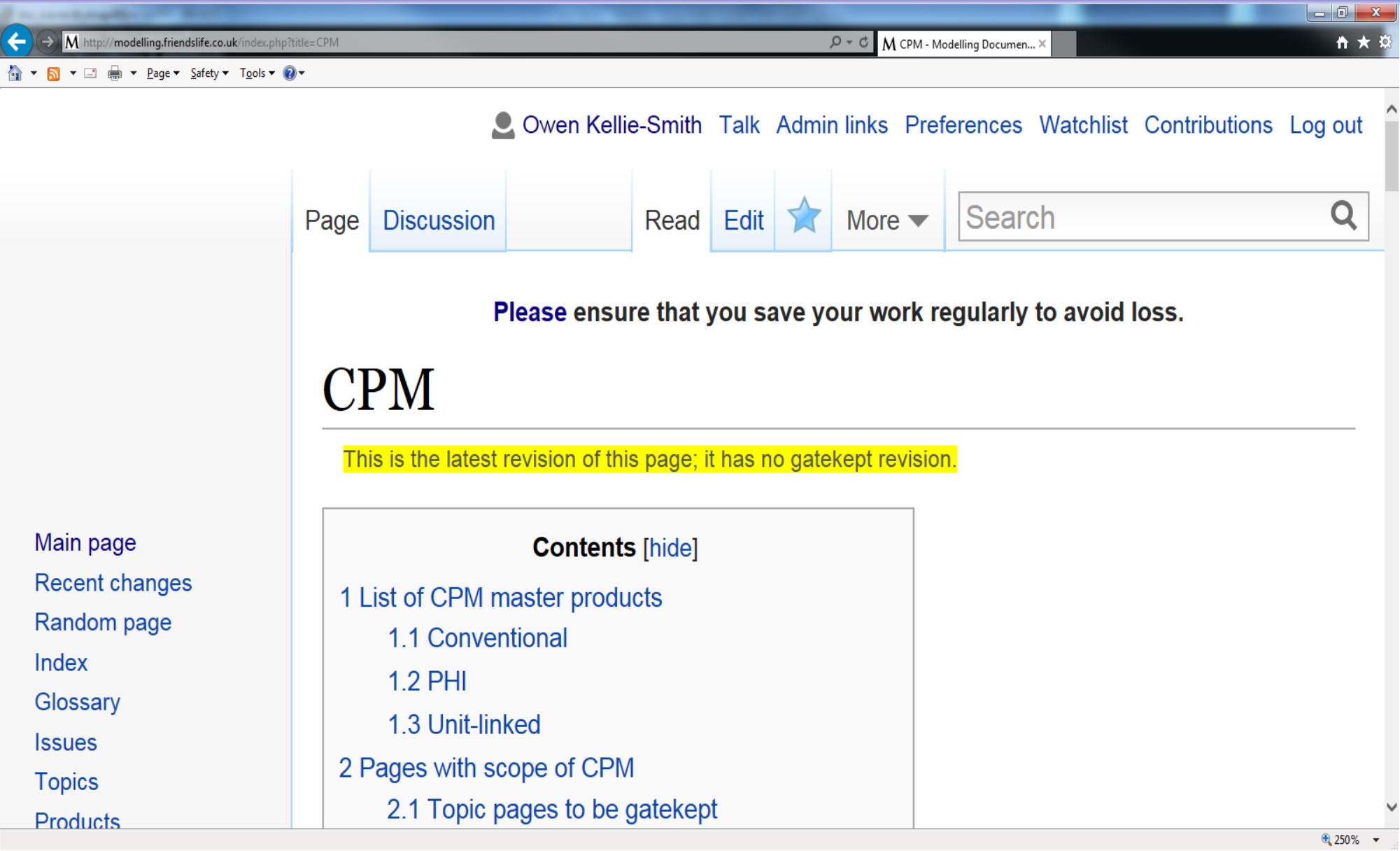
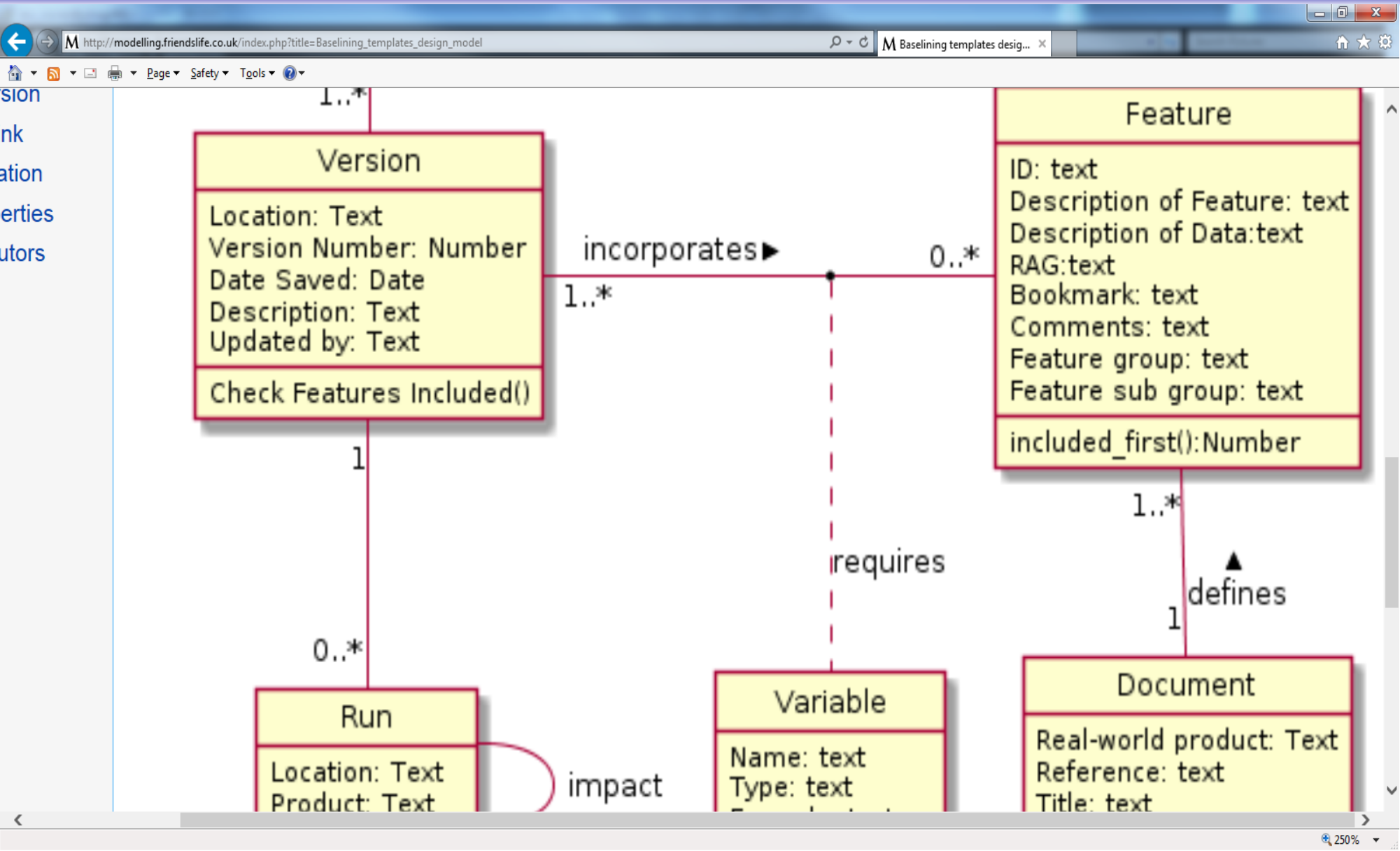
Editing documents

- What version control is there?
- How much flexibility is allowed?
- How can flexibility be contained?

Contain flexibility by gatekeeping



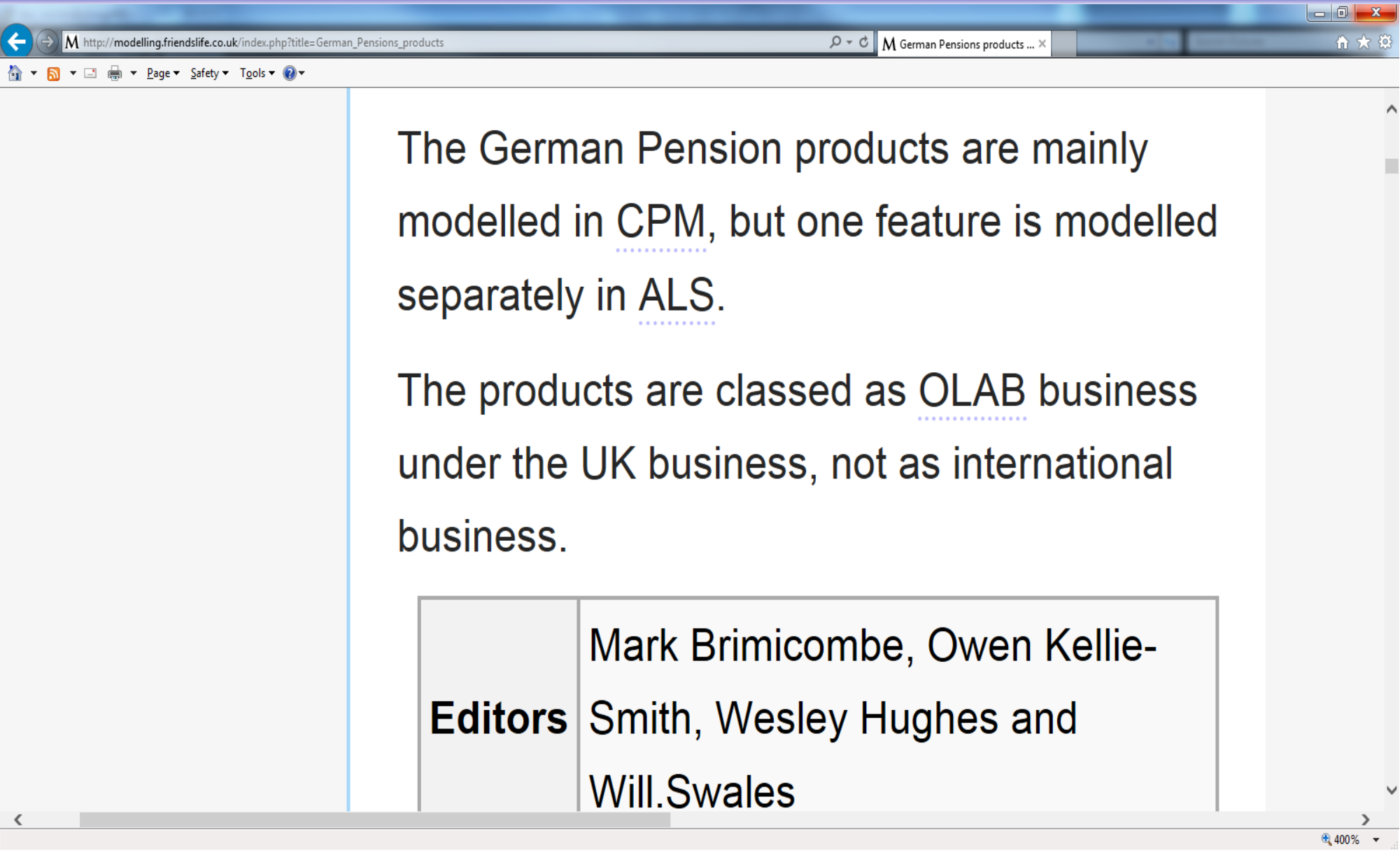
Provide flexibility for UML



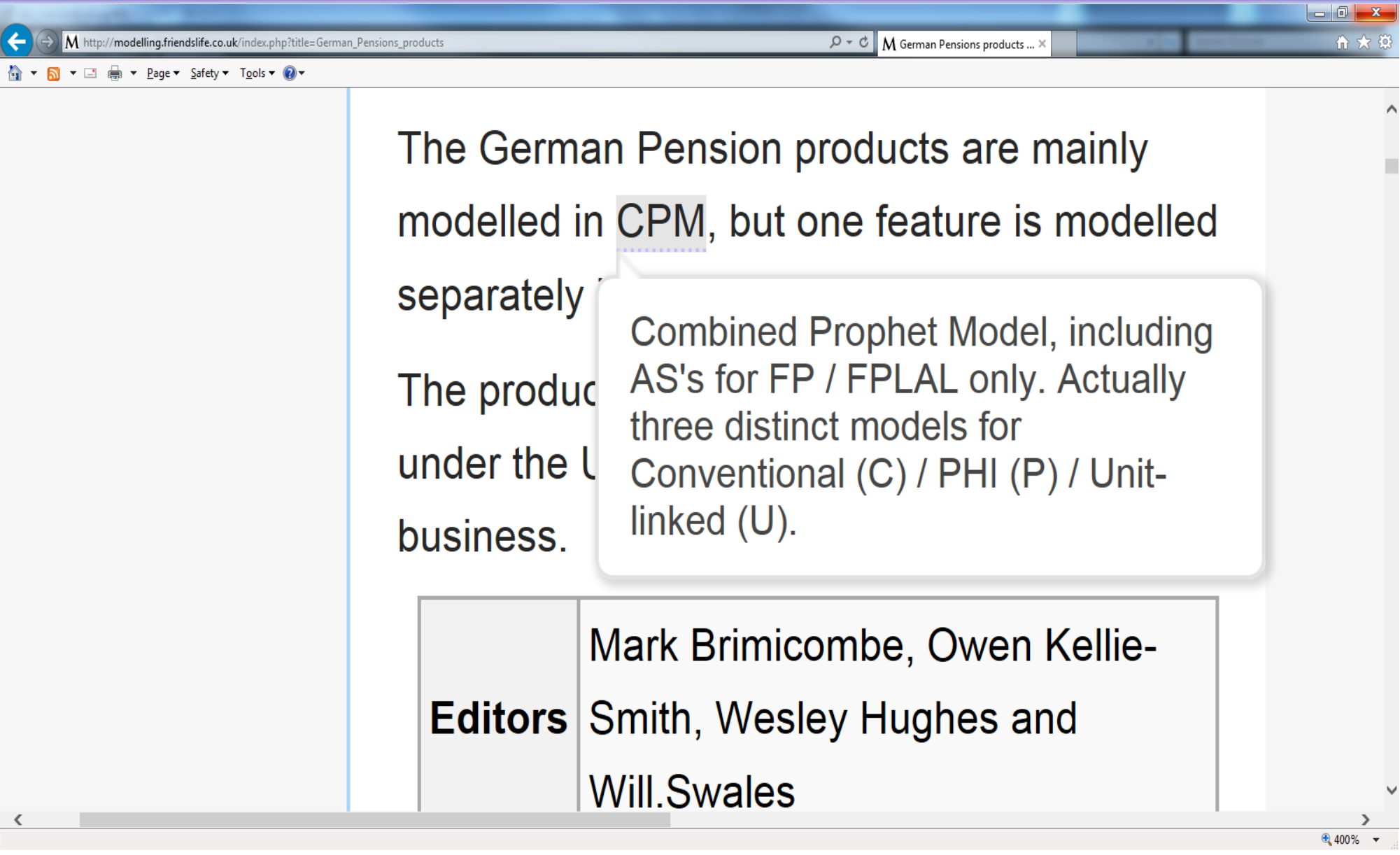
Editing documents

- How is earlier work re-used?

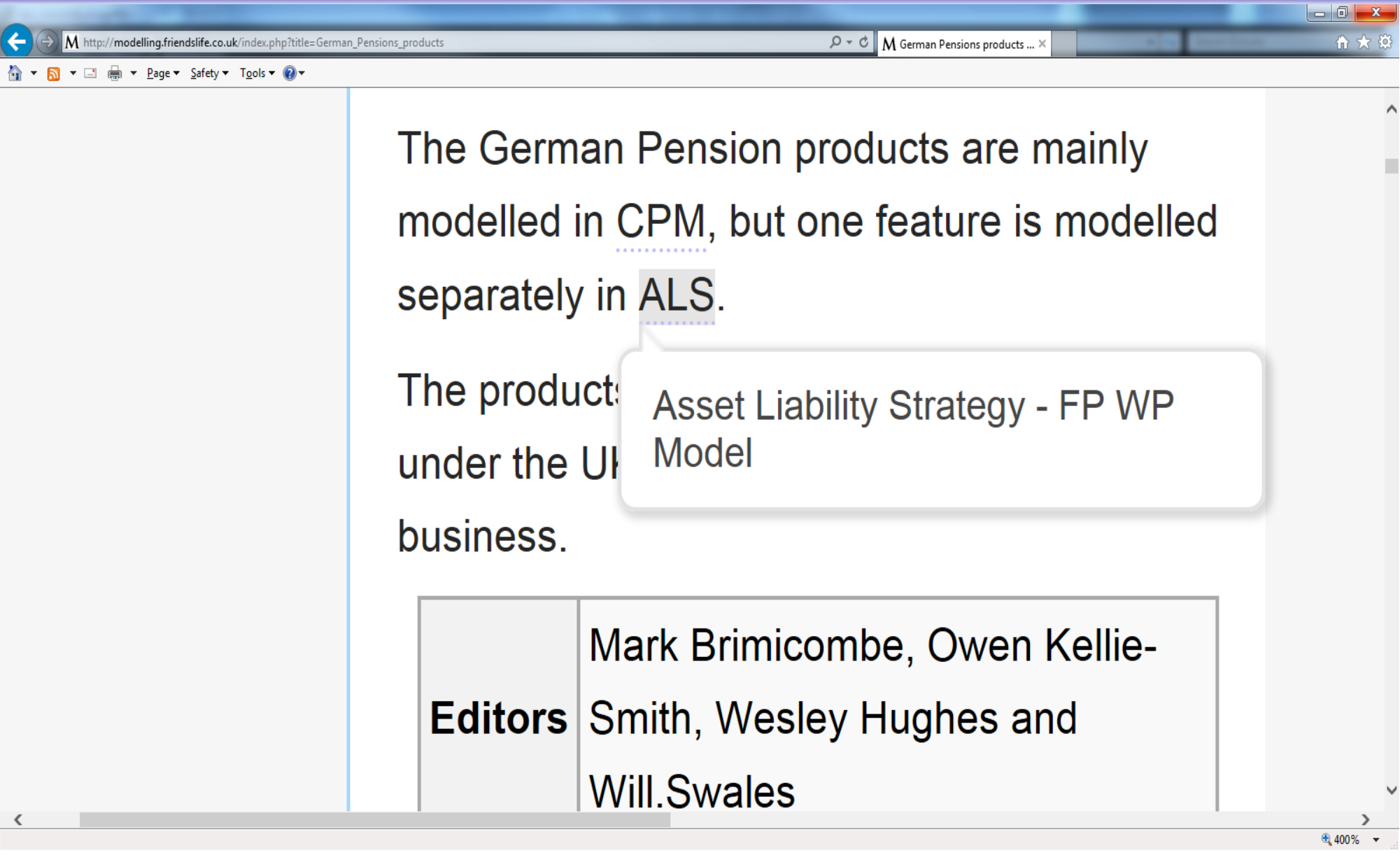
Re-use glossary (tooltips)



Re-use glossary (tooltips)



Re-use glossary (tooltips)



Compare features for editing

	Windows	Share-Point	MediaWiki
Forms	✔	✗	✔
Gatekeeping	✗	✗	✔
Glossary	✗	✗	✔
Parsable external data	✔	✗	✔
Templates	✗	✗	✔

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Commenting on documents

- What do people think of this document?

Thoughts in the Talk pages

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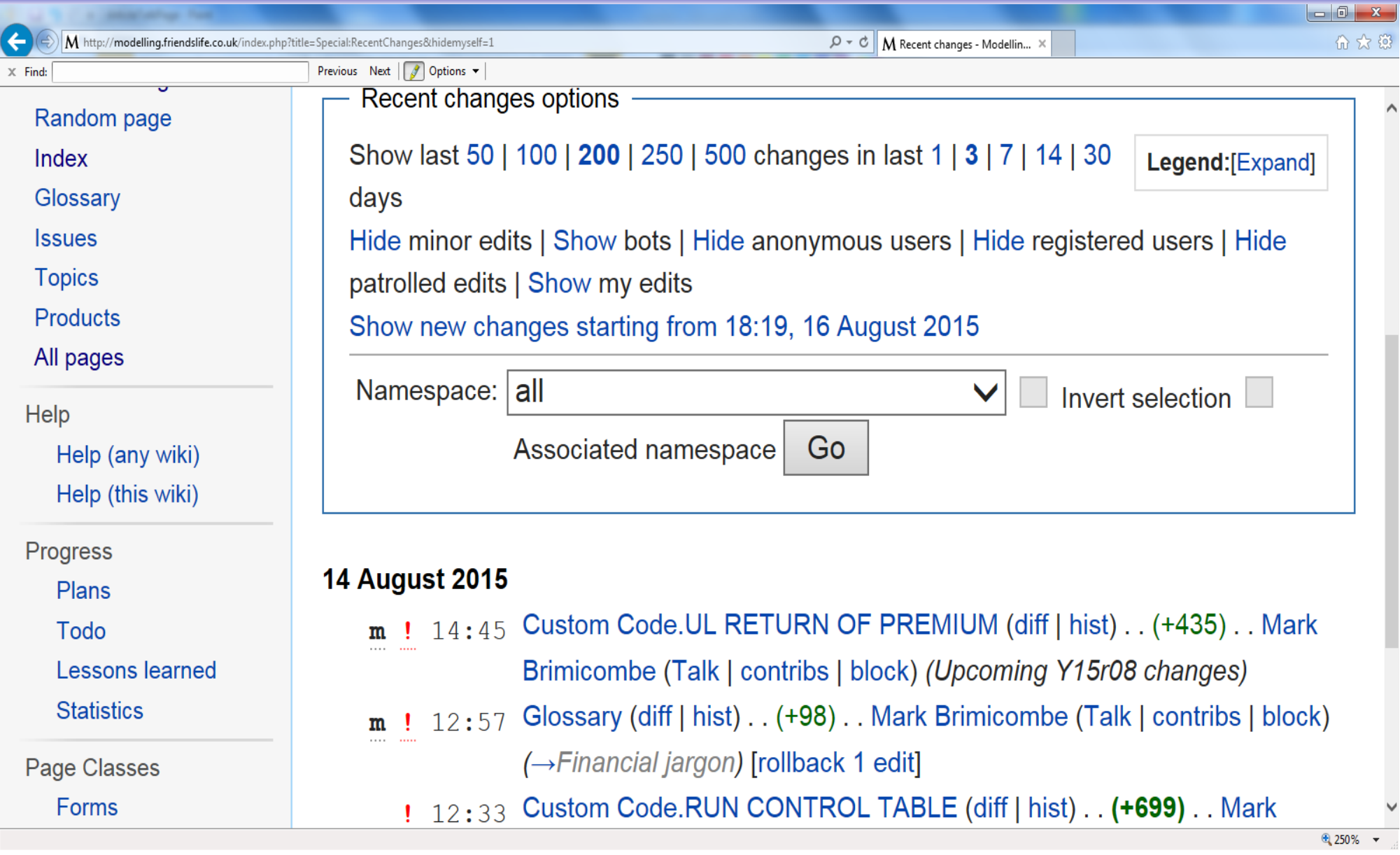
Alerting readers

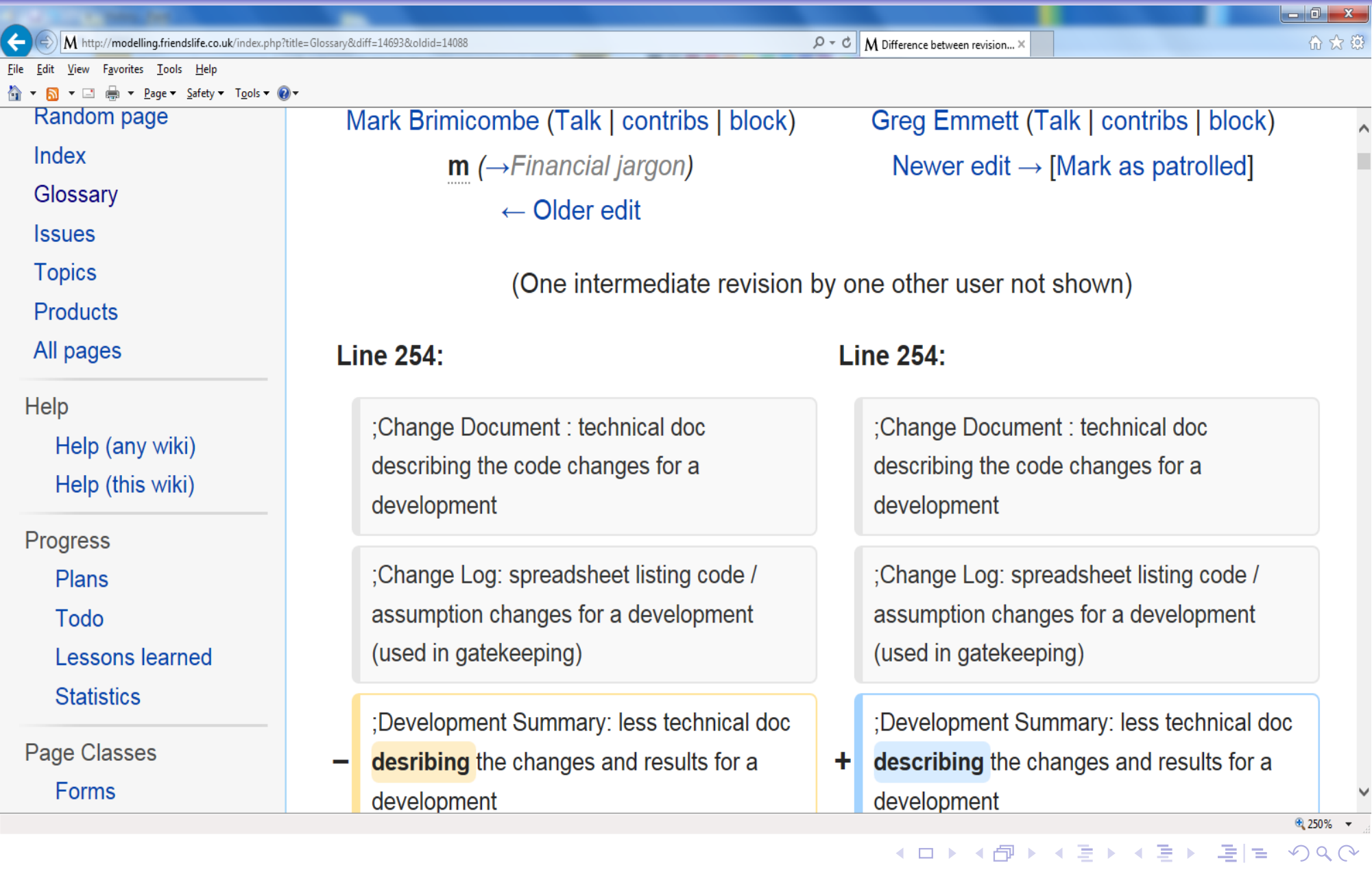
- What's new?
- What's been changed?
- What progress has been made?

What's new over all



Who's changed any document

What's new in any document



Compare features for broadcasting

	Windows	Share-Point	MediaWiki
Comments attached	✗	✗	✔
Version control	✗	✔	✔
Track changes (any pair)	✗	✔	✔

Compare features

	Windows	Share-Point	MediaWiki
Find by string or user	✗	✔	✔
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See links in	✗	✔	✔
Rename with impunity	✗	✔	✔
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Gatekeeping	✗	✗	✔
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Skills

- Writing pages (like writing in Word or entering data in Excel).
- Writing templates (like writing Excel formulae).
- Writing modules (like writing VBA).

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- Writing templates (like writing Excel formulae).
- Writing modules (like writing VBA).
- Configuring server (if setting up your own). Needs familiarity with PHP & e.g. Apache.

Resources

- Help page at e.g. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Contents
- mediawiki.org
- Working with Mediawiki by Yaron Koren [1]
- semantic-mediawiki.org
- webmasters.stackexchange.com

To set up your own wiki

External (public information):

- 15 mins on e.g. openshift.com.
- Example (with cloning instructions) at mediawiki-treaties.rhcloud.com/wiki.

In-house (confidential information):

- Agreement from IT Security, IT Architecture, Procurement etc. 27 contributors (that we know about). Thank you!

Summary

- Semantic MediaWiki - find everything in one place.

Beamer

- Slides were made with Beamer[2] using the Frankfurt theme.
- Screen shots are from modelling.friendslife.co.uk at 1600 x 900 resolution at 250% or 400% magnification.
- Text aims to follow Lucidity principles[3].

For Further Reading

- Yaron Koren.
  Working with MediaWiki.
  WikiWorks Press, 2012.
- Till Tantau.
  User Guide to the Beamer Class.
- Michael McIntyre
  Lucidity principles in brief.
  www.atm.damtp.cam.ac.uk/people/mem/lucidity-in-brief.