Abstract
======

I'm a big fan of TikiWiki and I think that a phpBB and MediaWiki importer to Tiki might be a good feature to incentive more people to join the community.

My plan is to create an importer interface with native support to phpBB and MediaWiki. The importer should be as generic as possible, so it will be easier to develop support for other softwares in the future. If I'm able to finish the project before the deadline I'm interested in developing the importers from other wiki based softwares to Tiki.

About me
=======

Rodrigo Sampaio Primo
rodrigosprimo@gmail.com

I'm 23 years old and I have a graduation in pedagogy from São Paulo University. I live in São Paulo, Brazil. Five years ago, by chance during my graduation, I discovered free software (before that I had almost no contact with technology). I started as a free software user and in a few months later I started coding.

Since 2005, I work with free software development. In the same year I discovered Tikiwiki thanks to Luis Fagundes (aka batawata), a former member of the Tikiwiki development community, and I became an eventual developer, mainly helping with translation to Brazilian Portuguese and some minor fixes and changes. What I enjoy in the Tiki community, and that is why I like to be part of it in first place, is the wiki philosophy applied to the development process.

I'm comfortable with the 3 Rules and with the idea of committing directly to the core as I have already done that several times :-)

In the last four years I developed several sites using Tikiwiki. For a year I worked in the development team of a project of the Brazilian Ministry of Culture, where we developed two systems based on Tiki: http://estudiolivre.org and http://mapsys.utopia.com.br. Other sites I developed with Tiki as a freelancer include: http://livreacesso.net/ and http://cavc.com.br.

At the moment I'm working full time at Hacklab, a group created six months ago with four friends (including Luis Fagundes) with focus on free software development, as PHP developer. As free software enthusiasts we chatted and decided not involving me in any projects during GSoC project and also they offered me physical infra-structure. This means I can put a lot of effort to this project as I will not have any other work obligations. Besides Luis Fagundes, who have a good knowledge of TikiWiki and importing scripts, is available to help me during the project as some short of unofficial mentor.

I also give volunteer technological support for some Brazilian NGOs and social movements, mainly using Tiki, including: http://bicicletada.org (Brazilian Critical Mass), http://cappf.org.br, http://alfausp.org.br (adult education NGO), http://amorimlima.org.br (Brazilian Democratic Public School).

I've never publish a software by my own, although in my profile at Ohloh.net you can found my contributions to a few free software projects: https://www.ohloh.net/accounts/rodrigosprimo

If this proposal is accepted I can work 30hrs/week.

Project
=====

I would like to work with the "Official PHP-BB forum and MediaWiki-TikiWiki importer" because I feel this could be a good tool to increase the use of TikiWiki and because I like doing parsing scripts and SQL related stuff.

MediaWiki is probably the most popular open source wiki engine and therefore in general is the first choice for a wiki site. But it's development is mainly lead by Wikipedia needs and it lack some important features for who want a little bit more than just a wiki. In this scenario is common that people start a site using MediaWiki but after sometime they start looking for other softwares with more features. A migration script would be great incentive those people to join the TikiWiki community. The same might apply to phpBB.

In december 2007 I started to prototype by myself a script to import MediaWiki to TikiWiki motivated by an email send by Marc Laporte to the devel list. Unfortunately I didn't have time to continue this script and it never evolved to some deliverable. In the subsequent month I was glad to see a first importer script as one of the results of the CodeFest2008 (http://wiki.facil.qc.ca/CodeFest2008).

My plan is to use the first two weeks of the project to study the database structure of MediaWiki and phpBB (there is no need to study TikiWiki database as I'm already familiar with it), the script made in CodeFest2008, the Text_Wiki pear package and other import scripts made by the TikiWiki community, looking for the best solution to implement the new importer script.

Also I would like to use those first two weeks to get some feedback from the TikiWiki community about the script features. What should be considered? What should be left behind?

The third week will be to plan the structure of the script based on the information collected. To me at this moment using the Text_Wiki seems to be a good idea for the wiki parsing stuff, but my plan is to not limit the script to the wiki pages, in MediaWiki, and to the forum posts, in phpBB. It would be great if the script was also able to import other information like users, permissions and general site configurations, but this depends on a deeper analysis to figure out what we can import.

The script also needs to be as modular as possible. The user should be able to choose what informations the script will import. Also it must offer a easy way to developers code their own scripts to import data from other softwares.

The remaining weeks (most of the time) I plan to write code. My idea is to start with MediaWiki as I already have a little experience with this software as a developer (two years ago I helped to solve some technical issues in a MediaWiki installation) and a good experience as a MediaWiki user, mainly editing Wikipedia pages. I don't have any experience as a developer with phpBB, although I have experience as user.

The expected results are:
- Create a generic import interface for TikiWiki with support for phpBB and MediaWiki
- With MediaWiki the script must import the wiki page content, the wiki page history and users
- With phpBB the script must import all the forums, topics, messages and users (depending on the initial analysis of the data structure of MediaWiki and phpBB we can add more items to the import list)
- Documentation on how to use the script
- Tech documentation on how to code importers for other softwares using the same structure