

Google Searchwiki being Tested


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There's been a few mentions in the recent blog posts about Google readying 'Searchwiki'. It appears this may now be either live, or gradually being rolled out to users.

Searchwiki is a feature that allows searchers to comment, promote and remove results from search engine results pages.



For example, take a look at the search engine results page below:

Promote

This option is identified by the following icon: . On clicking this result you can re-order your results, for example if you often search on a particular phrase but the site you're looking for always ranks 2nd, you can choose to promote this within your personalised results.

For example a search on 'statcounter' shows the official statcounter.com site at position 1, however I can promote the result at position 3 (www.goingup.com) so that it appears in first position. Using a brand term like 'statcounter' isn't a great example, however for more generic terms this could be really useful. Especially if you make a lot of recurring searches.


Remove

Remove is fairly obvious and is identified by the following icon: . On clicking this the chosen result will disappear (in an animated puff of smoke). It will however appear at the bottom of the results page along with a Restore icon , in case you change your mind in the future.

You have removed results from this page. [Hide them](#)

[FREE Web Stats, Analytics, Page Rank, SEO Optimization, Website ...](#)  Restore
Free Web Analytic, tracking, SEO and ranking tools. Start GoingUp! Free!
[www.goingup.com/](#) - 15k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#) - [Note this](#) - 

Comment

Comments can be added to each result and will be made public, the comment text box appears when you click on the icon:  A text box then appears below the result and allows you to enter text.

Saved comments then appear below the result with a timestamp:

As the comment function states "make a public comment" I'm assuming eventually you'll have an expandable list of comments below the results, currently due to the limited number of people seeing Searchwiki pages I haven't seen any other comments yet.

The effect of other people's "remove" & "promote" choices is yet unknown, whether this just appears in your results or if this is able to bias regular results isn't something entirely clear. I haven't personally opted into the Searchwiki feature so whether people will be able to opt-in or out will also be interesting to see in the near future. It's definitely a feature that could be open to abuse by spammers, but I'm sure Google has thought this through. The effect of it will be difficult to tell until more searchers are exposed to the feature.