How does the Glossary of IT Terms work?

Q: How does the Glossary of IT Terms work?

- How does the glossary work?
- What's behind the IT glossary in the Knowledge base?

Context

- This knowledge base and help system
- Glossary of IT Terms

Answer

Overview

- The IT glossary lives in a separate space on the Knowledge Base called "glossary"
- A special theme is applied to provide an alphabet navigation bar across the top of pages
- A special embedded form to add new pages (terms) to the glossary is available from the index pages; it is visible only to those users able to create pages in the "glossary" space
- A special sidebar module is displayed allowing definition look-up in Google and Wikipedia
- The page hierarchy is used in the special glossary space to organize and browse definition pages by their first letter

Space layout

The "glossary" space is laid out as follows:

- The space home page is called Glossary
- The space home page has 27 child pages with the names:
  - Glossary - 0..9 and symbols
  - Glossary - A
  - Glossary - B
  - ...
  - Glossary - Z
- Each "letter" child page has in turn definition pages for terms beginning with that letter as children
- The (children) macro is used to display the full glossary on the home page, and the letter subset on each letter index page
- The (children) macro is used with the excerpt option to display definitions on the index pages
- Pages in the glossary will typically have the "glossary" label applied
- Index pages in the glossary have the "index" label applied; this is important as it affects the behavior of the sidebar glossary macro

User macros related to glossary

- glossary-panel
  - The glossary-panel macro is used in the glossary theme's sidebar
  - It displays a panel and constructs links to look up the currently viewed term in Google and Wikipedia
  - It uses the "index" label to determine whether it is on a definition page or an index page
  - If the "index" label is present it will assume it is on an index page and will display generic links to Wikipedia and Google definitions search
  - If the "index" label is not present it will assume it is on a definition page and that the page title is the term being defined; it will construct links to search for that term in Google and Wikipedia
- edit
  - The edit macro is used in the glossary theme to provide edit controls at the top of each page
  - This macro is displayed only to users with the permissions to edit and create pages in the glossary space
  - There's a bit of a risk here because index pages can also be easily edited, but it is manageable
- show-to
  - The show-to macro is used on index pages to hide author information from non-authors
  - It is used to hide the "Tips for authors" section at the top of the page
  - It is used to hide the create-glossary-term form at the bottom of the page
- create-glossary-term
  - The create-glossary-term macro inserts a simple text box into a glossary index page to allow users with author permissions to
enter a term and create a new page for it using the glossary template

**Templates**

The glossary uses a single global template for its definition pages called “Glossary term”. It suggested a layout similar to other content pages with the term to be defined pulled into the level one major heading, and will apply the “glossary” label to the page by default.

**Adding new definitions**

Please see the page [How do I add a new term to the glossary?](#) for more information.