

## From EULER Project

# PmWiki: Access Keys

Access keys (See also [Wikipedia:access keys](#)) are keyboard shortcuts for tasks that would otherwise require a mouse. They are part of markup that may exist on any webpage. On PmWiki steps have been taken to make it easier to use access keys throughout a site, and to make it possible to adjust key assignments to accommodate different languages and preferences.

## Using access keys in different operating systems and browsers

Access keys require you to hold down two or more keys.

- on Windows with Internet Explorer, press ALT + the access key
- with Firefox, press SHIFT + ALT + the access key
- on a Macintosh, press Ctrl + the access key (applies to Firefox, Safari, Omniweb, Internet Explorer)
- with Opera([approve sites](#)) press Shift+Esc to enter (or exit) access-key mode.

Exceptions exist for specific browsers, and specific versions. For example,

- Internet Explorer requires that the Enter key be pressed at the end of the sequence for versions 5 and up under Windows, but not under Macintosh (where access keys were not supported until after version 4.5).
- Firefox versions 1.5 and earlier simply use Alt, while Firefox version 2.0 uses Shift+Alt.

Note, in cases of conflicts between the keyboard shortcuts assigned by browsers and access keys assigned by links and other markup on webpages, many browsers, including Mozilla, Netscape and Internet Explorer, allow access keys to override the browser defaults and require a different sequence to continue using overridden browser assignments (typically, by pressing and releasing the Alt key, instead of holding it down).

## Access key assignments in this PmWiki installation

The following is a list of the currently defined access keys for built-in actions. Remember that the letters identified below must be used together with the combination listed above (depending on your operating system and browser). Note that some actions do not have a corresponding access key by default.

| Key | Function       |
|-----|----------------|
| e   | edit           |
| h   | history        |
| c   | recent changes |
| s   | save page      |
|     | save and       |
| u   | keep editing   |

d      save draft  
 p      preview  
       page  
       print  
       view  
       *emphasized*  
       text  
       **text**  
       jump to  
       edit  
 ak\_textedit    textarea  
               (when in  
               edit  
               modes)  
 admins (intermediate)

## Customizing access keys

PmWiki uses the same "phrase translation" methods for access key mappings as it does for [internationalization](#). This makes it possible for administrators, skins, language translators, and visitors to all influence the way that specific keys are mapped to actions.

See [SitePreferences](#) and [Site.Preferences](#) for more information and a template.

Note that some skins (e.g., [Lean](#)) don't use the translation mechanism. In this case one must edit the template file itself in order to change the access keys.

By convention, the translation phrases for all of the access key actions start with the characters "ak\_", so that the page variable "\$[ak\_edit]" is replaced by the access key for editing as defined by the current preferences, language, skin default, or site default.

## Implementation of access keys

Access keys are implemented in html as optional parameters that can be added to links and many other types of markup.

**Example:** `<a href="http://example.com" accesskey="x">Example</a>` would create a link to example.com that could be triggered by clicking on the linked word "example" or using the access key Akey+x. That same action key link could be created in PmWiki markup by typing `%item accesskey="x"%[http://example.com|Example]`, like this: [Example](#). Try it and see if it works. Note that this Akey+x access key only works this way on this page, because it is simply a shortcut for accessing the link that exists only on this page.

The list of access key assignments in default PmWiki installations generally work throughout a site because links have been created in PmWiki skins and editing screens that incorporate access key parameters using the access key translation phrases. One location where those links can be viewed is [Site.PageActions](#). That page contains the links that the default PmWiki skin, and many other skins, use to generate links such as "View" "Edit" and "History" that appear on most pages (other than editing screens). Each of the links in that page also

has an `%accesskey=$[ak_xxx]` declaration in front of it, which enables a specific access key for that link.

How can I change the keyboard shortcuts for editing and saving a page?

See [Customizing access keys](#).

I have a Wikisite Site.Sidebar which is embedded in the skin template. The use of `%itemaccesskey="x"%[Groupname/Sitename]` doesn't work here. Has anyone an idea why, and what I could do?

Use just `%accesskey="x"%[PmWiki.PmWiki]` (no "item", closed with `%%`).

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