

Comparison of browser-based WYSIWYG editors

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The rise of portals and content management systems (CMS) has enabled webmasters to create and to maintain websites without using expensive web tools and time-consuming file transfers. This comparison details the features and capabilities of these tools, which can be and, in some cases, already have been integrated into open-source applications like PHP-Nuke.

Name	FCKEditor	HTMLArea	SPAW	TinyMCE	Xinha
Version	2.1.1	3.0 RC1	1.1RC1	2.01	Not spe
License	LGPL	BSD	GPL	LGPL	BSD
Internet Explorer	5.5+	5.5+	5.5+	Yes, version??	Yes, ve
Gecko (Firefox / Mozilla / Netscape)	1.0+ / 1.3+ / 7+	1.3+	1.3+	Yes, version??	Yes, ve
Opera	No	No	No	Not working	No
Safari	No	No	No	"Buggy"	No
Edit					
Cut / Copy / Paste *	Yes, with Gecko	Yes	Yes, does not	Yes	Yes
Gecko requires security settings	workaround		indicate Gecko		
Undo / Redo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
HTML Cleanup / Paste from Word	Yes	No	IE only	Yes	Yes
Paste as text	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Edit source HTML (raw)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Preview	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Various sizes	No	No	No	IE Only	No
Find / Replace	Yes	No	No	Yes (replace all)	Yes
Select All (right click option in IE)	Yes	No	No	No	No
Insert Date / Time (use FireFox BBCode ext.)	No	No	No	Yes	No
Format					
Bold / Italic / Underline	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Subscript / Superscript	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Strikethrough	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Text Color	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Background Color	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fonts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Text Size	HTML size w/ examples	HTML Size w/ pt desc	Yes	Yes	HTML S pt desc

Indent / Unindent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Justify	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Left	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Right	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Full (Left & Right)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Direction (right / left)	Yes	No	No	No	No
Insert Page Break	Yes	??	??	Yes	??
CSS Classes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Document Properties	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Emoticons / Smileys	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Special characters	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Remove Format	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
HTML Objects					
Anchors	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Images (insert URL)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Upload	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Preview	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Select	Yes	??	Yes	Yes	Yes
Properties	Yes	??	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alternate Image on Mouseover	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Popup	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Flash	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Format (H1, etc.)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Form (create)	Yes	No	No	No	No
Text	Yes	No	No	No	No
Textarea	Yes	No	No	No	No
Checkbox	Yes	No	No	No	No
Radio Button	Yes	No	No	No	No
Button	Yes	No	No	No	No
Image Button	Yes	No	No	No	No
Hidden Field	Yes	No	No	No	No
Horizontal rule (line)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Height	No	No	No	Yes	No
Hyperlinks	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Remove	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
List bullet / Ordered	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Tables (create)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Modify table properties	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Modify row properties	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Modify cell properties	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Insert / delete rows	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Insert / delete columns	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Merge/split cells horizontally	Yes	Yes	IE Only	Yes	Yes
Merge/split cells vertically	No	Yes	IE Only	Yes	Yes
Toggle borders	No	No	IE Only	Yes	Yes
Background image	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Control					
Skins / Themes	Yes	No	Includes 4	Yes	No
Customizable Toolbars	Yes	Yes	Includes 4 preset	Yes	Yes
Horizontal and vertical toolbars	No	No	Yes	No	No
Same page, different config	Yes	??	Yes	Yes	??
Multiple language	Yes	??	almost 30 included	Yes	??
Auto Detect	Yes	No	No	No	No
Right to left support	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Universal keyboard / extra character support	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
General					
Tooltips	Yes	Yes	IE Only	Yes	Yes
Plugins	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, commercial	Yes
Spell	IE Only, SpellerPages integration available	Yes	No	IE Only	Yes
Print	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
XHTML 1.0 support	Yes	??	??	Yes	??
Online Help	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Right click context menus support	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Complete page editing (from to) or just contents.	Yes	No	No	No	No

Automatic browser detection and customization	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Administration					
Documentation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Examples	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Size					
Subjective					
Speed	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Ease of installation					
Ease of customization					
User friendliness					
Comments	Very nice visual table editor	Custom spell checker works in IE and Gecko	Some tools don't work under Firefox	Nice image manager, visual table editor almost as nice as FCK, nice recent compliance enhancements	Nice im function manage availabl plugin
Paste from Word Test	Some headings too large, included links correctly	N/A	Some headings too large, included links correctly	Some headings too large, included links correctly	Some h too larg include correctl