



## **Portability: a Fandom Town Hall**

**"Portability, Elements, and Articles" - with FishTank**

**"Best Practices with Portable Infobox Images" - with CzechOut**

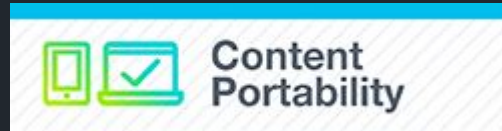
**"Looking Forward: Portability and Mobile" - with TwoTailedFox**

**Ask Me Anything Portability Roundtable - with special guests**

# Portability, Elements, and Articles

The essentials for making your content work everywhere

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# The fundamentals

Portability means content works in the best way on any platform (current and future); it does not mean "stripped down for mobile". The key is separating the content from how it's presented or decorated.

Portability affects overall organization, individual templates, and source in the original article. Keeping true portability in mind is equal parts philosophy and recipe. It's not only how you're crafting a thing, but also why.

Each article in the main article space (or "namespace") and custom content namespaces (for the wikis that have them) has a portability score; those articles that receive traffic produce a score for the whole community.



# Organization

**Mobile Main Pages** are meant to keep your wiki in order. In a way, they act as a dynamic map to your categorized articles. Desktop main pages aren't counted towards the portability score and are often ignored for portability purposes. Between search and category browsing, a reader should ideally be able to reach any article within three taps.

**Template Classification** identifies what a template is meant for, and how (or if) it displays beyond the desktop. However, having your templates in categories makes bulk classification much easier.

Keeping your articles readable and organized has an effect on portability also, even if it's not precisely measured. Making section breaks every few paragraphs and including thumbnail images interleaved in the text improves search engine rank and the experience for your readers.

# Infoboxes

Whether built from scratch (using source code or the graphical builder) or converted from older designs (using the migration tool or your own wits), Portable Infoboxes are the most visible single element in most articles. While not all articles require an infobox, they serve as a focal point and anchor in a portable sense.

The best infoboxes are those with good data organization as well. Mixing two variables into the same line, treating a list as a single line, and using an image to represent data or a label are all factors that impede portability.

However, beautiful results can almost always be achieved using site-wide CSS themes, with few to no compromises necessary when replicating original infobox designs.

House Tarth	
	
Sigil	Yellow suns on rose quartered with white crescents on azure.
Titles	Lord of Evenfall Hall
Seat	Evenfall Hall
Region	The Stormlands
Lord	Selwyn Tarth
Heir	Brienne of Tarth
Allegiance	Uncertain
Weapon	Oathkeeper (acquired from House Lannister)

## Gallery and References

The original portable elements may not be obvious, but they are important.

The `<gallery>` tag (2014 edition) is used to responsively and responsibly group and load images, making the page more bandwidth-efficient, which is a concern on mobile devices with limited data plans or speeds.

The `<ref>` and `<references>` tags also style the text in the best format for all devices.

Wrapping a gallery or references tag in another element or template may produce unstable results, but they can be styled in the desktop skin with site-wide CSS.



### References

1. ↑ Episode: Home Invasion
2. ↑ Episode: Piggy Piggy
3. ↑ Episode: Smoldering Children
4. ↑ Episode: Birth

## Beyond the basic elements: "holistic" portability

Avoid inline styles, especially where "block" elements are used. Make these in a template and classify it properly. Putting bare HTML elements directly into the article gives the platform no clue what to do portably. Using **class** or **style** instantly marks an article as "not portable" most of the time, unless these are inside a properly classified template. Using tables for layout is the fastest way to break code when used on mobile, and tables should really only be used for tabular data.

Templates that call templates (and so on) make less sense the deeper they nest. Avoid "template inception" by using one or two levels. Mixing templates together (like putting an infobox and a navbox in the same template) causes problems when the Fandom platform tries to understand what you're doing.

Some communities use convenience templates for styling special links, such as to external sites like Wikipedia, other wikis, or links to missing articles. They may be surprised to know that many of these functions are already available using site-wide CSS rules. Likewise, styling regular text is often possible using wikitext.

Using JavaScript and jQuery to alter content (even interactively) is not portable.





# Sneak peek: new and upcoming developments

- Per article customizations of Infoboxes
- Multiple themes in portable elements
- Higher quality images
- Source code improvements
- Additional portable elements?
- Your suggestions?



**Questions?**