

How to install MediaWiki on Ubuntu 10.04LTS VPS Server Tutorial

Install MediaWiki (Wikipedia base platform) on a VPS.NET VPS server

Just last week I was called to do a small project of installing **MediaWiki** on a small VPS server. The Client needed the site for general information about very specific topics, and was going to be the sole content creator/editor. He chose this platform as he was extremely familiar with wikis in general (Working as a research scientist at the **University of Michigan**), and preferred MediaWiki to the more conventional blogging platform, **WordPress**.

What is MediaWiki?

MediaWiki is free server-based software which is licensed under the **GNU General Public License (GPL)**. It's designed to be run on a large server farm for a website that gets millions of hits per day. MediaWiki is an extremely powerful, scalable software and a feature-rich wiki implementation, that uses PHP to process and display data stored in a database, such as MySQL. MediaWiki is the particular wiki engine developed for and used by **Wikipedia** and the other Wikimedia projects.

What are the differences between MediaWiki, Wikimedia, Wikipedia and wiki?

~ wiki is a generic term which is used to describe a certain kind of collaborative website that can be edited by any user and/or visitor.

wiki (as an adjective), the Wiki Way, and the antonym un-wiki are also used to describe the community-oriented philosophy that goes with such a system (e.g. "that's not a very wiki way of doing things").

~ Wiki (with a capital 'W') and WikiWikiWeb are used to refer to the Portland Pattern Repository, which was the first wiki to be created.

~ wiki software and wiki engine are terms referring to pieces of software that power wiki-based websites. There are many different types of wiki software; some very simple, others enhanced with specific advanced features. See also: Wikipedia's entry on "wiki software" or the Portland Pattern Repository's "canonical" list of wiki engines.

~ From **MediaWiki's** website

In this quick tutorial, we will be installing MediaWiki on the Free VPS from VPS.NET. I did the client's install on a VPS.NET server setup exactly the same as this tutorial. This kind of deployment is excellent for sub-niches and collaboration within very specific groups.

Some things I like about MediaWiki:

- Although it is designed for anyone to create and make edits, you can restrict these permissions to only specific users.
- You can upload images and attachments
- It has a basic WYSIWYG editor
- Page interlinking is really easy
- Its extremely optimized for SEO
- Low memory consumption
- Low disk space consumption
- Versital usage – use as a wiki or blog
... and the list goes on...

Some things that I like about VPS.NET:

- Fast initial deployment
- Instant Scalability – Great for when the Wiki grows, the hosting can be scaled up as well instantly!
- Premium Grade Servers
- Fast Helpdesk support (under 1 hour)

One of the best uses of a wiki is for support pages for a product or for general help with something.

My server setup:

I used a **Free VPS from VPS.NET** listed in this promo offer.

I ran **Ubuntu 10.04LTS**

Installed Virtualmin on Ubuntu 10.04LTS

I set up the hosting space (virtual server) in Virtualmin after pointing the Domain Name
Used puTTY to SSH into the new virtual server to run the following commands:

Installing MediaWiki on Ubuntu 10.04LTS

```
# wget http://download.wikimedia.org/mediawiki/1.19/mediawiki-1.19.1.tar.gz
# tar xvzf mediawiki-*.tar.gz
# mv mediawiki-1.19.1/* /home/wiki/public_html
```

Open a browser window and go to [http://\(yourdomain\).com/](http://(yourdomain).com/)
You will now setup MediaWiki through the browser.

Installation Start Screen:



MediaWiki 1.19.1

LocalSettings.php not found.

Please [set up the wiki](#) first.

Select Language:

MediaWiki 1.19.1 installation

Language

Your language: [help](#)
en - English

Wiki language: [help](#)
en - English

Continue >>

- Language
- Existing wiki
- Welcome to MediaWiki!
- Connect to database
- Upgrade existing installation
- Database settings
- Name
- Options
- Install
- Complete!
- Restart installation

Environmental Checks:



[MediaWiki home](#)
[User's Guide](#)
[Administrator's Guide](#)
[FAQ](#)

[Read me](#)
[Release notes](#)
[Copying](#)
[Upgrading](#)

MediaWiki 1.19.1 installation

Welcome to MediaWiki!

Environmental checks

Basic checks are performed to see if this environment is suitable for MediaWiki installation. You should provide the results of these checks if you need help during installation.

- PHP 5.3.2-1ubuntu4.17 is installed.
- **Warning:** Could not find APC [♂](#), XCache [♂](#) or WinCache [♂](#).
Object caching is not enabled.
- Found ImageMagick: `/usr/bin/convert`.
Image thumbnailling will be enabled if you enable uploads.
- Using server name "<http://wiki.vps-hostings.com>".
- Using server URL "<http://wiki.vps-hostings.com>".
- **Warning:** Your default directory for uploads `/home/wiki/public_html/images/` is vulnerable to arbitrary scripts execution.
Although MediaWiki checks all uploaded files for security threats, it is highly recommended to [close this security vulnerability](#) [♂](#) before enabling uploads.
- **Warning:** The `ini` PECL extension [♂](#) is not available to handle Unicode normalization, falling back to slow pure-PHP implementation.
If you run a high-traffic site, you should read a little on [Unicode normalization](#) [♂](#).

The environment has been checked. You can [Install MediaWiki](#).

Copyright and Terms

This wiki is powered by [MediaWiki](#) [♂](#), copyright © 2001-2012 Magnus Manske, Brion Vibber, Lee Daniel Crocker, Tim Starling, Erik Möller, Gabriel Wicke, Ævar Arnfjörð Bjarmason, Niklas Laxström, Domas Mituzas, Rob Church, Yuri Astrakhan, Anyeh Gregor, Aaron Schulz, Andrew Garrett, Raimond Spekking, Alexandre Emsenhuber, Siebrand Mazeland, Chad Horohoe, Roan Kattouw, Trevor Parscal, Bryan Tong Minh, Sam Reed, Victor Vasiliev, Rotem Liss, Platonides, Antoine Musso and others.

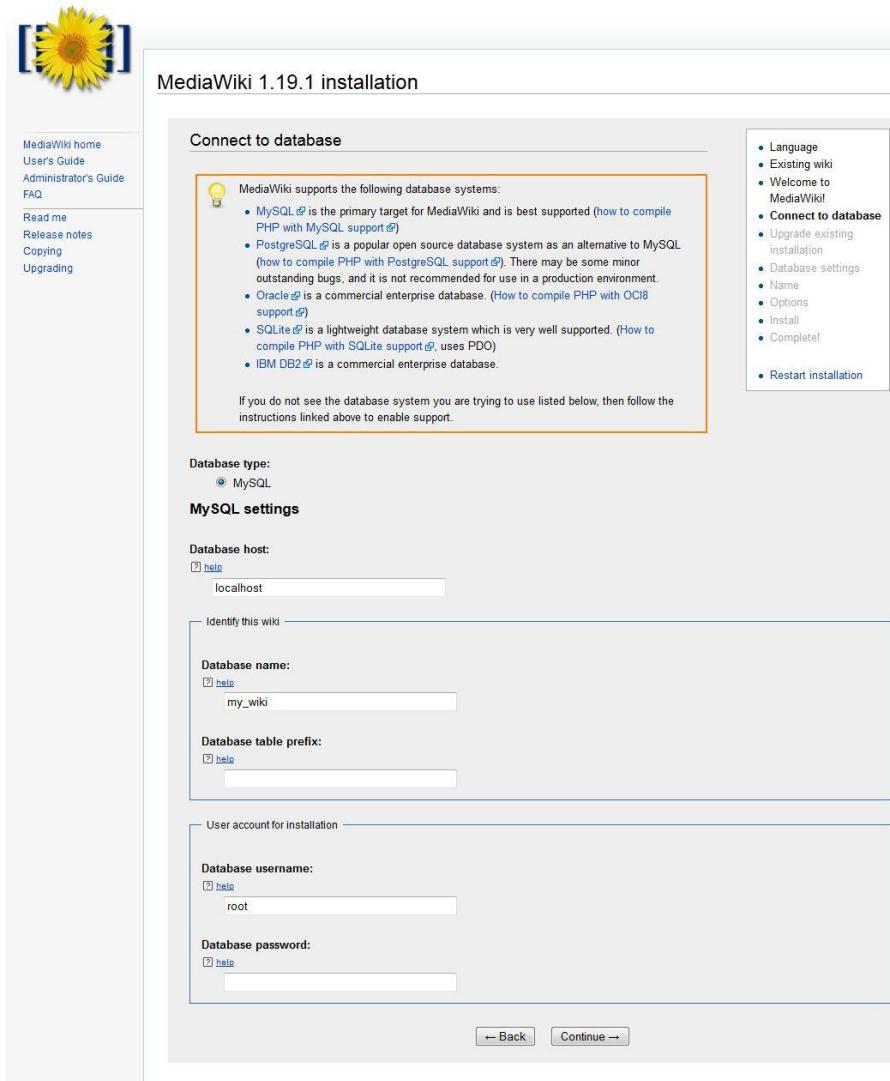
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Connect to Database:



MediaWiki 1.19.1 installation

Connect to database

MediaWiki supports the following database systems:

- MySQL is the primary target for MediaWiki and is best supported (how to compile PHP with MySQL support)
- PostgreSQL is a popular open source database system as an alternative to MySQL (how to compile PHP with PostgreSQL support). There may be some minor outstanding bugs, and it is not recommended for use in a production environment.
- Oracle is a commercial enterprise database. (How to compile PHP with OCI8 support)
- SQLite is a lightweight database system which is very well supported. (How to compile PHP with SQLite support, uses PDO)
- IBM DB2 is a commercial enterprise database.

If you do not see the database system you are trying to use listed below, then follow the instructions linked above to enable support.

Database type: MySQL

MySQL settings

Database host:

Identify this wiki

Database name:

Database table prefix:

User account for installation

Database username:

Database password:

Choose Database Settings (usually InnoDB):



MediaWiki 1.19.1 installation

Database settings

Database account for web access Use the same account as for installation

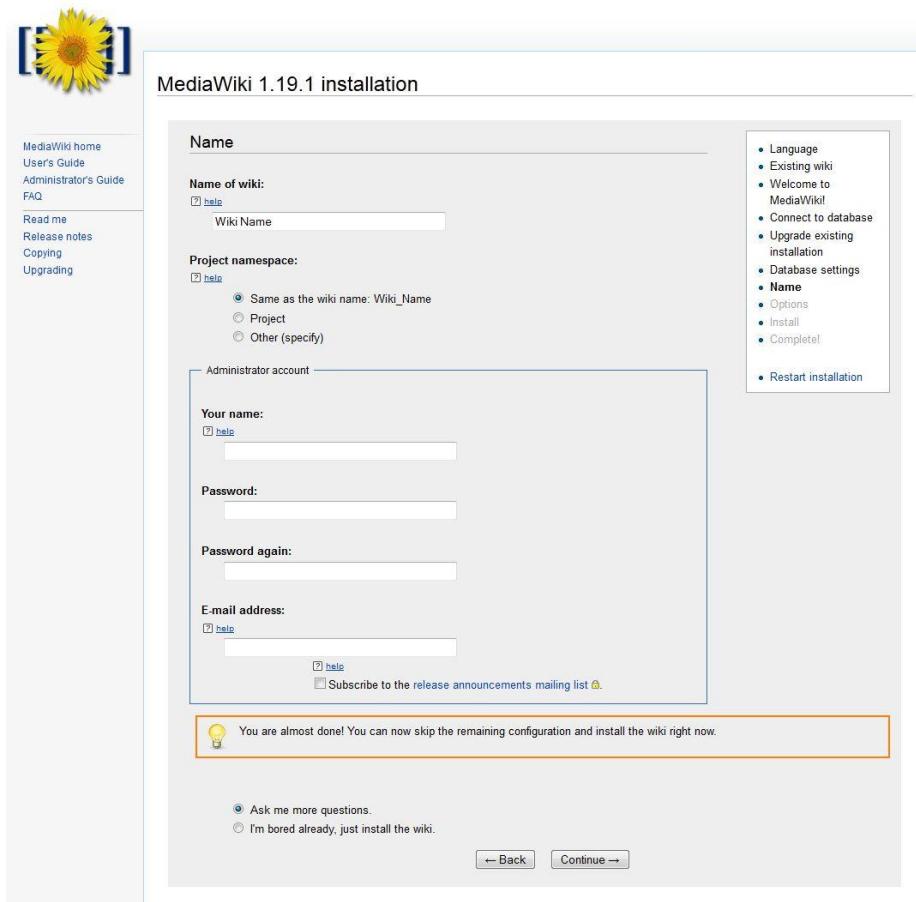
Storage engine: InnoDB MyISAM [? help](#)

Database character set: Binary UTF-8 [? help](#)

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- Language
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 - Complete!
- Restart installation

Wiki Name and administrative user:



MediaWiki 1.19.1 installation

Name

Name of wiki: [? help](#) Wiki Name

Project namespace: [? help](#) Same as the wiki name: Wiki_Name Project Other (specify)

Administrator account

Your name: [? help](#)

Password: [? help](#)

Password again: [? help](#)

E-mail address: [? help](#) Subscribe to the release announcements mailing list [? help](#)

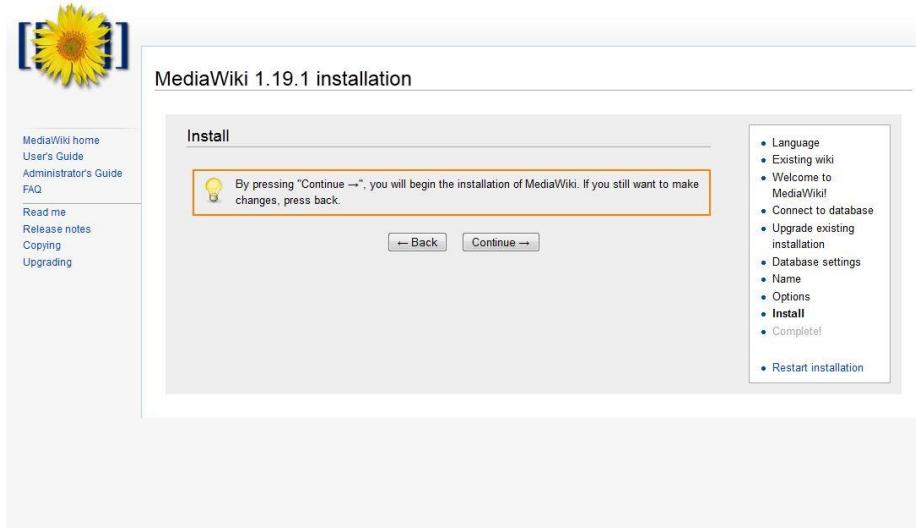
You are almost done! You can now skip the remaining configuration and install the wiki right now.

Ask me more questions. I'm bored already, just install the wiki.

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- Language
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This is the end of the basic install, but if you chose "ask me more questions", you'll be taken to the next screen.



MediaWiki 1.19.1 installation

Install

By pressing "Continue →", you will begin the installation of MediaWiki. If you still want to make changes, press back.

— Back Continue →

- Language
- Existing wiki
- Welcome to MediaWiki!
- Connect to database
- Upgrade existing installation
- Database settings
- Name
- Options
- **Install**
- Complete!
- Restart installation

Extra Options Screen - this is important because you can define how the Wiki is used here:

Wikis work best when you let as many people edit them as possible. In MediaWiki, it is easy to review the recent changes, and to revert any damage that is done by naive or malicious users.

However, many have found MediaWiki to be useful in a wide variety of roles, and sometimes it is not easy to convince everyone of the benefits of the wiki way. So you have the choice.

A **Traditional** wiki allows anyone to edit, without even logging in.

A wiki with **Account creation required** provides extra accountability, but may deter casual contributors.

The **Authorized editors only** scenario allows approved users to edit, but the public can view the pages, including history.

A **Private wiki** only allows approved users to view pages, with the same group allowed to edit.



MediaWiki home
User's Guide
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MediaWiki 1.19.1 installation

Options

User rights profile:

- Traditional wiki
- Account creation required
- Authorized editors only
- Private wiki

 Wikis work best when you let as many people edit them as possible. In MediaWiki, it is easy to review the recent changes, and to revert any damage that is done by naïve or malicious users. However, many have found MediaWiki to be useful in a wide variety of roles, and sometimes it is not easy to convince everyone of the benefits of the wiki way. So you have the choice. A **Traditional wiki** allows anyone to edit, without even logging in. A wiki with **Account creation required** provides extra accountability, but may deter casual contributors. The **Authorized editors only** scenario allows approved users to edit, but the public can view the pages, including history. A **Private wiki** only allows approved users to view pages, with the same group allowed to edit. More complex user rights configurations are available after installation, see the relevant manual entry [\[edit\]](#).

- Language
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- Creative Commons Attribution
- Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike
- Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Share Alike
- Creative Commons Zero (Public Domain)
- Public Domain
- GNU Free Documentation License 1.3 or later
- No license footer
- Select a custom Creative Commons license

[\[edit\]](#)

E-mail settings

Enable outbound e-mail

[\[edit\]](#)

Return e-mail address:

apache@wiki.vps-hostings.com

[\[edit\]](#)

Enable user-to-user e-mail

[\[edit\]](#)

Enable user talk page notification

[\[edit\]](#)

Enable watchlist notification

[\[edit\]](#)

Enable e-mail authentication

[\[edit\]](#)

Extensions

- ConfirmEdit
- Gadgets
- Nuke
- ParserFunctions
- Renameuser
- Vector
- WikiEditor

[\[edit\]](#)

Images and file uploads

[\[edit\]](#)

Enable file uploads

Logo URL:

[\[edit\]](#)

/wiki/skins/common/images/wiki.png

[\[edit\]](#)

Enable Instant Commons

Advanced configuration

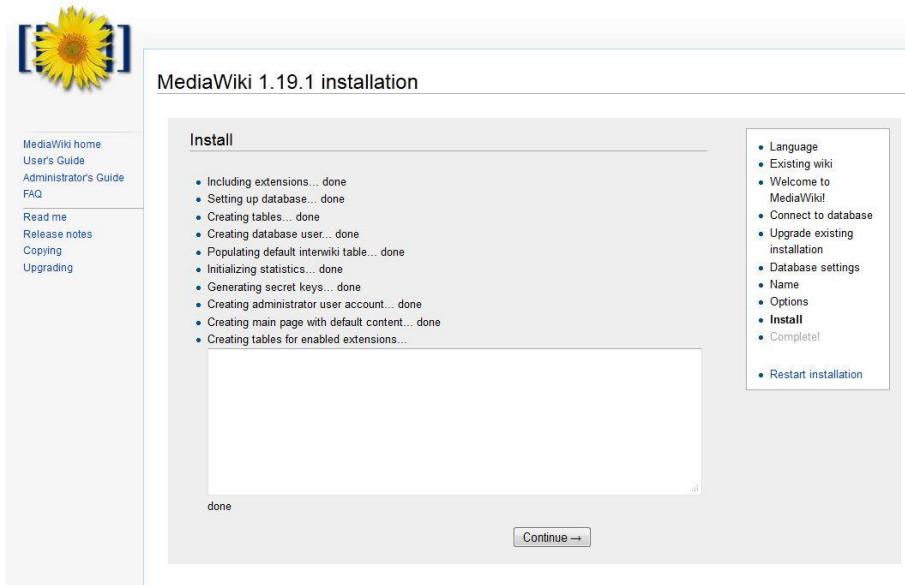
Settings for object caching:

- No caching (no functionality is removed, but speed may be impacted on larger wiki sites)
- Use Memcached (requires additional setup and configuration)

[\[edit\]](#)

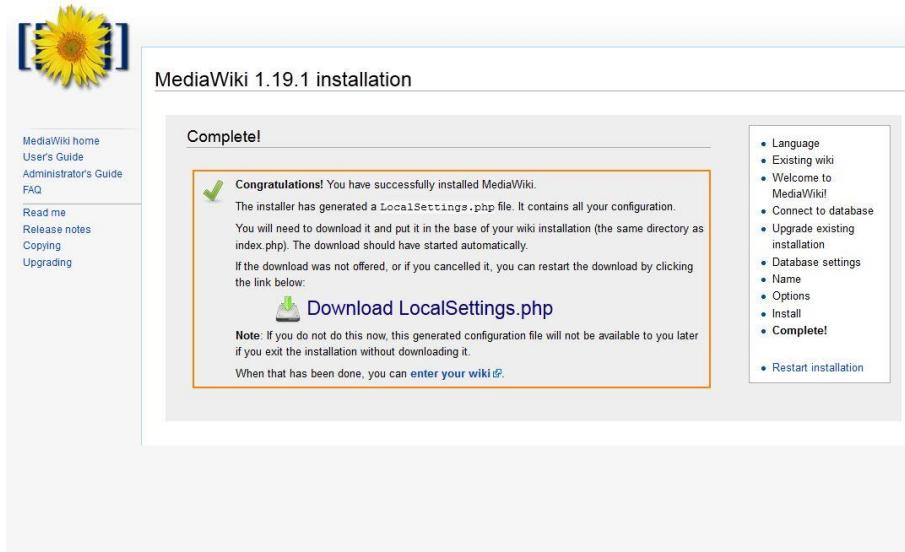
[\[edit\]](#) Back [\[edit\]](#) Continue [\[edit\]](#)

Installation Confirmation Screen:



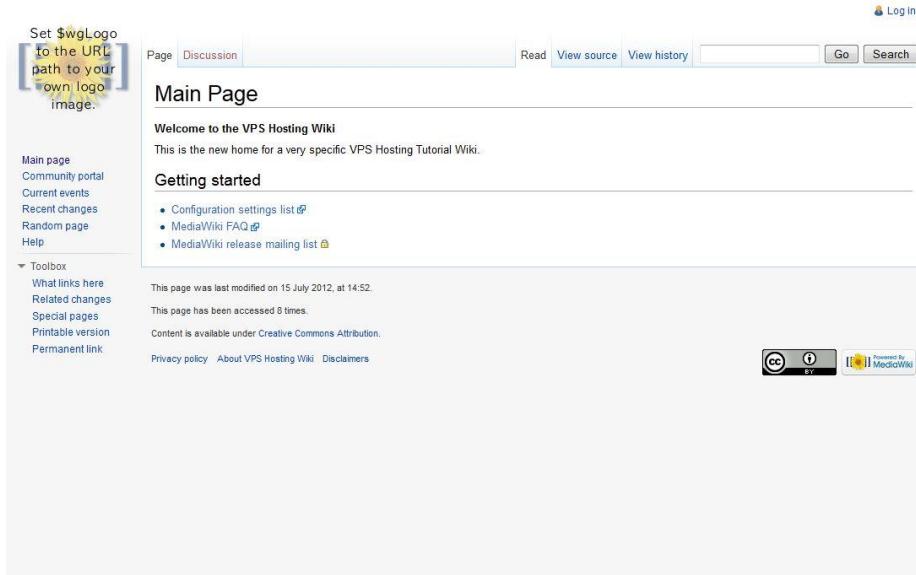
The screenshot shows the MediaWiki 1.19.1 installation process. The left sidebar includes links to MediaWiki home, User's Guide, Administrator's Guide, FAQ, Read me, Release notes, Copying, and Upgrading. The main content area is titled "MediaWiki 1.19.1 installation". A large yellow sunflower icon is in the top left. The "Install" step is selected in the sidebar. The main content shows a list of tasks completed: "Including extensions... done", "Setting up database... done", "Creating tables... done", "Creating database user... done", "Populating default interwiki table... done", "Initializing statistics... done", "Generating secret keys... done", "Creating administrator user account... done", "Creating main page with default content... done", and "Creating tables for enabled extensions...". A "done" message is displayed in a box. A "Continue →" button is at the bottom. A sidebar on the right lists the steps: Language, Existing wiki, Welcome to MediaWiki!, Connect to database, Upgrade existing installation, Database settings, Name, Options, **Install**, **Complete!**, and Restart installation.

FTP the LocalSettings.php file to the home directory (usually public_html or httpdocs):



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The completed installation's home page:



The screenshot shows a MediaWiki installation with a custom logo in the top-left corner. The logo is a blue square with the text "Set \$wgLogo to the URL path to your own logo image." The page title is "Main Page". The page content includes a welcome message, a "Getting started" section with links to configuration settings, MediaWiki FAQ, and the release mailing list, and a footer with copyright and license information. The sidebar on the left contains links for Main page, Community portal, Current events, Recent changes, Random page, Help, and a Toolbox with links for What links here, Related changes, Special pages, Printable version, and Permanent link.

Source: [How to install MediaWiki on Ubuntu 10.04LTS VPS Server Tutorial](#)

For more tutorials, head over to [CheapVPSreview.com](#)