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Publish Web Plugin

Utility to publish a TWiki web to static HTML pages. Useful to maintain a static website collaboratively in an access restricted TWiki.

Description and Syntax Rules

Topics in a publish web serve as the source of static HTML pages of an external website. A TWiki web is considered a publish web if a `PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_PUBLISHWEBNAME` preferences setting is set to the name of the web. The plugin generates an HTML page every time a user saves a topic in a publish web. The static HTML files are based on a TWiki skin of choice. All referenced attachments (images etc) are copied to a publish directory.

Topics and Links

- The home topic is assumed to be `Index`
- Topic names: For clarity, use capitalized words and underscores (WikiWord names are possible too)
- All links should be defined as double square bracket links, e.g. `[[Topic]]` or `[[Topic][label]]` (do not use WikiWord links)

Publish process

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- A static HTML page is generated for every topic saved in a publish web defined by the `PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_PUBLISHWEBNAME` setting.
- A topic is excluded from publishing if it, or any of its ancestors (parent, grandparent, ...) is listed in the `PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_EXCLUDETOPIC` setting.
- A topic is also excluded from publishing if the `{RequirePublishVariable}` configure flag is set, and if the topic has no `%STARTPUBLISH%` and/or `%STOPPUBLISH%` variable.
- If the `{RequirePublishVariable}` configure flag is set, the publish area of a topic is indicated by a green dotted line at the left page margin (as with this bullet list).
- Topic names get converted to a lowercase filename, e.g. `Index` to `index.html`, `AboutUs` to `aboutus.html`, and `Customer_Support` to `customer_support.html`.
- Only text between `%STARTPUBLISH%` and `%STOPPUBLISH%` is used (the whole text if missing).
- WikiWord links are ignored, also across webs.
- Page layout is based on the skin defined in the `PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_PUBLISHSKIN` setting.
- Visit `WebPublish` in a publish web to re-publish topics without an edit/save cycle.
- It is possible to conditionally show one thing when viewing a topic, and another thing when publishing a topic. For example, it may be desirable to show a different header in published pages. The `publish_topic` context can be used for this. This example shows how to include `ClassHeader` for normal topic view, and include `ClassHeaderPublish` instead when publishing the topic:

```
%IF{
  "context 'publish_topic'"
  then="$percentINCLUDE{ClassHeader}$percent"
  else="$percentINCLUDE{ClassHeaderPublish}$percent"
}%
```

Variables

- `%STARTPUBLISH%` - place in topic text where to start publishing

- ◆ Optional, start from top if missing
- %STOPPUBLISH% - place in topic text where to stop publishing
 - ◆ Optional, publish to end of topic if missing
- %PUBLISHWEB{"nicetopic"}% - nice topic name
 - ◆ Shows a "nice" topic name of the current topic: Underscores in topic names are rendered as space; the Index topic is rendered with the HOMELABEL Plugin setting
 - ◆ Example: Topic Customer_Support turns into Customer Support
- %PUBLISHWEB{"breadcrumb"}% - nice breadcrumb
 - ◆ The breadcrumb is based on the parent child relationship of topics, starting at the Index topic
 - ◆ The breadcrumb does *not* include the current topic, append %PUBLISHWEB{"nicetopic"}% to get the complete breadcrumb
 - ◆ The skin may contain a %PUBLISHWEB{"breadcrumb"}% variable to show the breadcrumb
 - ◆ Underscores in topic names are rendered as space
 - ◆ Example: You are here: Home > Customer Support >
- %PUBLISHWEB{"publish" topic="Name"}% - re-publish topic(s) without edit/save cycle
 - ◆ Useful to refresh all HTML pages if the skin has been modified
 - ◆ A topic="all" publishes all topics in the Publish web except for the excluded ones
 - ◆ A topic="Any_Topic" publishes a specific topics

Plugin Settings

Show details ☐ Hide details ☒

Plugin settings are stored as preferences settings. Do *not* change the settings here, they are here only for illustration purposes showing the default values. Define the settings in the publish web's WebPreferences or in Main.TWikiPreferences. For example, to customize the PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_PUBLISHSKIN setting, add a * Set PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_PUBLISHSKIN = mypublish bullet in the preferences topic.

- Web to publish, must be defined in each publish web:
 - ◆ Set PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_PUBLISHWEBNAME = DemoWebsite
- Optional sub-directory below {Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{PublishPath} to publish content to:
 - ◆ Set PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_PUBLISHSUBDIR =
- Skin used for publishing:
 - ◆ Set PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_PUBLISHSKIN = demo_website
 - ◆ **Note:** It is also possible to specify a publish skin on a per page basis. Define a TWiki Form with a form field called PublishSkin. It can be of any type, but a select dropdown box is probably most convenient.
- Exclude topics from publishing:
 - ◆ Set PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_EXCLUDETOPIC = WebAtom, WebChanges, WebCreateNewTopic, WebHome, WebIndex, WebLeftBar, WebNotify, WebPublish, WebPreferences, WebRss, WebSearchAdvanced, WebSearch, WebStatistics, WebTopicList, WebTopMenu, WebTopicCreator, WebTopicEditTemplate
- Home label, used by %PUBLISHWEB{"breadcrumb"}%:
 - ◆ Set PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_HOMELABEL = Home
- Breadcrumb item separator, used by %PUBLISHWEB{"breadcrumb"}%:
 - ◆ Set PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_HOMESEPARATOR = »

Plugin Installation Instructions

Note: You do not need to install anything on the browser to use this plugin. The following instructions are for the administrator who installs the plugin on the TWiki server.

Show details  Hide details 

- Download the ZIP file from the Plugin web (see below)
- Unzip **PublishWebPlugin.zip** in your twiki installation directory. Content:

| File: | Description: |
|--|---|
| data/TWiki/PublishWebPlugin.txt | Plugin topic |
| data/DemoWebsite/*.txt | Demo web for website publishing (topics) |
| pub/DemoWebsite/WebPreferences/ | Demo web for website publishing (attachments) |
| lib/TWiki/Plugins/PublishWebPlugin.pm | Plugin Perl module |
| templates/view.demo_website.tmpl | Demo publish skin |

- Configure and test the installed Plugin:
 - ◆ Run the configure script:
 - ◇ Plugins section: Enable the Plugin.
 - ◇ Extensions section: Configure these settings:
 - {Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{TemplatePath}: Template path where skin files are located.
 - If empty or omitted: the twiki/templates directory is assumed; normal TWikiTemplates search path applies, e.g. for a PUBLISHSKIN = website setting, a twiki/templates/view.website.tmpl template file is assumed
 - If specified: Must be an absolute path; skin is assumed to be an html page at that location, e.g. for a PUBLISHSKIN = website setting, a \$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{TemplatePath} file is referenced
 - {Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{PublishPath}: Path where the plugin places the generated html files.
 - Specify an absolute or relative path
 - If relative, path is relative to twiki/pub, such as '../../html'
 - Example to publish to multiple virtual hosts, one for each publish web: '/var/www/vhosts/%LCWEB%/html'
 - {Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{AttachPath}: Path where the plugin places images and other topic attachments.
 - Must be relative to \$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{PublishPath}, default is '_publish'
 - {Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{PublishUrlPath}: URL path that corresponds to {PublishPath} directory. Leave empty if it is the HTML document root.
 - Note that all path settings may include these variables:
 - %WEB% - name of the publish web
 - %LCWEB% - lower case name of the publish web (preferred over mixed case)
 - %SKIN% - name of the publish skin
 - ◇ Manual setup: Instead of using the configure script you can add/customize these twiki/lib/LocalSite.cfg settings:

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```
$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{Enabled} = 1;
$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{TemplatePath} =
'';
$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{PublishPath} =
'/path/to/apache/html';
$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{AttachPath} =
'_publish';
$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{PublishUrlPath} =
'';
$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{RequirePublishVariable}
= 1;
$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{PublishAreaStyle}
= 'border-left: 4px #1b1 dotted; margin-left: -14px;
padding-left: 10px;';
$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{Debug} = 0;
```

- ◆ Configuration on shell level:
 - ◇ Create the directory indicated in the {PublishPath} setting if needed
 - ◇ Create the directory indicated in the {AttachPath} setting (relative to {PublishPath})
 - ◇ Change the permission of directories indicated by {PublishPath} and {AttachPath} to be writable by the webserver user (such as user nobody or apache on RedHat Linux)
- ◆ Test publishing using the DemoWebsite web:
 - ◇ Go to DemoWebsite web
 - ◇ Edit and save the Index topic
 - ◇ Check if directory
 - \$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{PublishWebPlugin}{PublishPath} has an index.html
 - ◇ Point your browser to that location to look at the generated index.html file
- Create your own publish web:
 - ◆ Create a new publish web based on the DemoWebsite web, or rename the DemoWebsite web to a memorable name
 - ◆ If you create a new web, make sure to set these settings in WebPreferences: Set the NOAUTOLINK setting to on, and set the PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_* settings as in the WebPreferences of the DemoWebsite web
- Create your own publish skin:
 - ◆ Create a skin that matches the look of your website. The TWiki skin can be derived from any twiki/templates/view.*.tmpl skin file, or can be created from scratch. This plugin contains a bare bone unstyled demo skin called demo_website located at twiki/templates/view.demo_website.tmpl
 - ◆ Omit any links to TWiki, such as edit and attach links
 - ◆ The skin can use plugin specific settings %PUBLISHWEB{"breadcrumb"}% and %PUBLISHWEB{"nicetopic"}%
 - ◆ The skin can introduce skin specific WebPreferences settings, such as %PUBLISH_SITE%, %PUBLISH_LOGO%, etc.
 - ◆ Activate the new skin with a WebPreferences settings, such as * Set PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_PUBLISHSKIN = mypublish
 - ◆ You can have multiple publish skins; see note in the PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_PUBLISHSKIN plugin setting above.

Known Limitations

- All attachments are copied into the same directory, e.g. attachments in different topics that sharing the same name will overwrite each other in the published space.

- ◆ Workaround: Make sure to use unique filenames across all topics in your publish web and in your skin

Plugin Info

- One line description, shown in the TextFormattingRules topic:
 - ◆ Set SHORTDESCRIPTION = TWiki CMS - maintain a static website collaboratively in a TWiki web

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Plugin Author: | TWiki:Main.PeterThoeny |
| Copyright: | © 2006-2016 Peter Thoeny, TWiki.org © 2008-2016 TWiki: TWiki.TWikiContributor © 2013 Wave Systems Corp. |
| Sponsor: | Wave Systems Corp. for 2013-04-25 enhancements |
| License: | GPL (GNU General Public License) |
| Plugin Version: | 2016-03-27 |

Show Change History [▶](#) Hide Change History [◀](#)

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 2016-03-27: | TWikibug:Item7738 : Add publish_topic context when publishing a topic |
| 2016-01-17: | TWikibug:Item7708 : Copyright update to 2016 |
| 2014-12-04: | TWikibug:Item7593 : Fix for TOC links not working properly -- TWiki:Main.MichaelSprague |
| 2014-10-26: | TWikibug:Item6968 : Fix for mangled HTML anchors on published pages -- TWiki:Main.MichaelSprague |
| 2014-05-22: | TWikibug:Item7368 : Fix for external https links not linking properly |
| 2013-08-08: | TWikibug:Item7313 : Convert links properly in DoxygenImportPlugin generated topics |
| 2013-05-14: | TWikibug:Item7154 : Show <input type="checkbox"/> box at the top of the green dotted line to better indicate the publish area |
| 2013-04-25: | TWikibug:Item7244 : New {RequirePublishVariable} configure flag to require STARTPUBLISH and/or STOPPUBLISH in topics that should be published; if flag is set, the publish area of a publish topic is indicated by a green dotted line at the left page margin; exclude topic from publishing if any of its ancestors (parents) is listed in the PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_EXCLUDETOPIC setting; after publishing show "TopicName" link label instead of "Web.TopicName"; hack fix to make TreeBrowserPlugin work in "re-publish all" mode |
| 2013-02-15: | TWikibug:Item7091 : New PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_PUBLISHSUBDIR preferences setting |
| 2013-02-07: | TWikibug:Item7091 : Configurable breadcrumb item separator |
| 2013-02-05: | TWikibug:Item7123 : Use TWISTY in installation instructions and change history |
| 2013-02-05: | TWikibug:Item7091 : Document that attachments share one and the same namespace |
| 2012-10-21: | TWikibug:Item6818 : Remove obsolete WEBFORMS preferences setting |
| 2012-06-12: | TWikibug:Item6837 : Small doc fix in configure settings -- TWiki:Main.RayMikkelsen |
| 2012-03-06: | TWikibug:Item6857 : Remove topic preferences, use only configure settings and PUBLISHWEBPLUGIN_* settings |
| 2012-03-05: | TWikibug:Item6856 : Publish multiple webs feature, useful for virtual host publishing -- TWiki:Main.JohnVestrum |
| 2012-02-28: | TWikibug:Item6853 : Add demo publishing web called DemoWebsite to plugin; add Config.spec for easier configuration |
| 2012-02-25: | TWikibug:Item6851 : Fix for re-publishing a topic using WebPublish uses WebPublish for topic name instead of actual topic name |
| 2011-07-23: | |

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| | TWiki bug:Item6808 : Fix for incorrect BASETOPIC used when topics are re-published; use registerTagHandler for PUBLISHWEB variable; hide topics specified in EXCLUDETOPIC from picklist in WebPublish |
| 2011-07-23: | TWiki bug:Item6773 : Move config settings to LocalSite.cfg; support multiple skins; support template path outside TWiki file path; add view.website.tmpl as a publish skin for demo; possible to publish into sub-directory of html doc root indicated by {PublishUrlPath} setting; change global package variables from "use vars" to "our"; remove URL parameters in links of published page to make TOC and other TWiki internal links work |
| 2006-02-15: | Added %PUBLISHWEB{"publish" topic="Name"}% |
| 2006-02-13: | Initial version |
| TWiki Dependency: | \$TWiki::Plugins::VERSION 1.1 |
| CPAN | none |
| Dependencies: | |
| Other Dependencies: | none |
| Perl Version: | 5.005 |
| Benchmarks | GoodStyle 100%, FormattedSearch 100%, PublishWebPlugin 99% |
| Plugin Home: | http://TWiki.org/cgi-bin/view/Plugins/PublishWebPlugin |
| Feedback: | http://TWiki.org/cgi-bin/view/Plugins/PublishWebPluginDev |
| Appraisal: | http://TWiki.org/cgi-bin/view/Plugins/PublishWebPluginAppraisal |

Related Topics: [TWikiPlugins](#), [DeveloperDocumentationCategory](#), [AdminDocumentationCategory](#), [TWikiPreferences](#)

This topic: [TWiki > PublishWebPlugin](#)

Topic revision: r0 - 2016-03-28 - [TWikiContributor](#)



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Note: Please contribute updates to this topic on TWiki.org at [TWiki:TWiki.PublishWebPlugin](#)