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# Meta data

*Additional topic data, program-generated or from DataForms, is stored embedded in the topic text using META: tags*

## Overview

By default, topics are stored in files on disk, in a really simple and obvious directory structure. The big advantage of this approach is that it makes it really easy to manipulate topics from outside, and is also very safe; there are no complex binary indexes to maintain, and moving a topic from one installation to another is as simple as copying a couple of text files.

To keep everything together in one place, meta-data (program-generated or from DataForms) is embedded directly in topics. It does this using META: tags.

META: data includes program-generated info like FileAttachment, topic movement data and user-defined information from DataForms.

## Meta data syntax

- Format is the same as in macros, except all fields have a key.
  - ◆ %META:<type>{key1="value1" key2="value2" ...}%
- Order of fields within the meta-data is not defined, except that if there is a field with key name, this appears first for easier searching (note the order of the data themselves is defined).
- Each meta-datum is on one line.
- Values in meta-data are URL encoded so that characters such as \n can be stored.

### Example of Format

```
text of the topic
```

## Meta data specifications

The current version of Meta Data is 1.0, with support for the following syntax.

### META:TOPICINFO

| Key     | Comment             |
|---------|---------------------|
| version | Same as SVN version |

| Key    | Comment                                                            |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| date   | integer, unix time, seconds since start 1970                       |
| author | last to change topic, is the REMOTE_USER                           |
| format | Format of this topic, will be used for automatic format conversion |

## META:TOPICMOVED

This is optional, exists if topic has ever been moved. If a topic is moved more than once, only the most recent META:TOPICMOVED meta datum exists in the topic, older ones are to be found in the rcs history.

| Key  | Comment                                      |
|------|----------------------------------------------|
| from | Full name, i.e., web.topic                   |
| to   | Full name, i.e., web.topic                   |
| by   | Who did it, is the REMOTE_USER, not WikiName |
| date | integer, unix time, seconds since start 1970 |

Notes:

- at present version number is not supported directly, it can be inferred from the SVN history.
- there is only one META:TOPICMOVED in a topic, older move information can be found in the SVN history.

## META:TOPICPARENT

| Key  | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| name | The topic from which this was created, typically when clicking on a ? questionmark link, or by filling out a form. Normally just TopicName, but it can be a full Web.TopicName format if the parent is in a different Web. |

## META:FILEATTACHMENT

| Key     | Comment                                            |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------|
| name    | Name of file, no path. Must be unique within topic |
| version | Same as SVN revision                               |
| path    | Full path file was loaded from                     |
| size    | In bytes                                           |
| date    | integer, unix time, seconds since start 1970       |
| user    | the REMOTE_USER, not WikiName                      |
| comment | As supplied when file uploaded                     |
| attr    | h if hidden, optional                              |

Extra fields that are added if an attachment is moved:

| Key       | Comment                       |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| movedfrom | full topic name - web.topic   |
| movedby   | the REMOTE_USER, not WikiName |
| movedto   | full topic name - web.topic   |

## META:TOPICINFO

| Key       | Comment                                      |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|
| moveddate | integer, unix time, seconds since start 1970 |

## META:FORM

| Key  | Comment                                                                                                                               |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| name | A topic name - the topic represents one of the DataForms. Can optionally include the web name (i.e., web.topic), but doesn't normally |

## META:FIELD

Should only be present if there is a META:FORM entry. Note that this data is used when viewing a topic; the form definition is not read.

| Key   | Name                                                                                   |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| name  | Ties to entry in DataForms template, is title with all bar alphanumerics and . removed |
| title | Full text from DataForms template                                                      |
| value | Value user has supplied via form                                                       |

## Recommended sequence

There is no absolute need for Meta data to be listed in a specific order within a topic, but it makes sense to do so for a couple of good reasons:

- form fields remain in the order they are defined
- the `diff` function output appears in a logical order

The recommended sequence is:

- `META:TOPICINFO`
- `META:TOPICPARENT` (optional)
- text of topic
- `META:TOPICMOVED` (optional)
- `META:FILEATTACHMENT` (0 or more entries)
- `META:FORM` (optional)
- `META:FIELD` (0 or more entries; FORM required)

## Viewing meta data in page source

When viewing a topic the **[View raw text]** link can be clicked to show the text of a topic (i.e., as seen when editing). This is done by adding `raw=on` to URL. `raw=debug` shows the meta data as well as the topic data, ex: debug view for this topic

# Rendering meta data

Meta data is rendered with the `%META%` macro. This is mostly used in the view, preview and edit scripts.

You can render form fields in topic text by using the `FORMFIELD` macro. Example:

```
%FORMFIELD{"TopicClassification"}%
```

For details, see `VarFORMFIELD`.

Current support covers:

| Macro usage:                       | Comment:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>%META{"form"}%</code>        | Show form data, see <code>DataForms</code> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <code>%META{"formfield"}%</code>   | Show form field value. Parameter: <b>name="field_name"</b> . Example:<br><code>%META{"formfield" name="TopicClassification"}%</code>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <code>%META{"attachments"}%</code> | Show attachments, except for hidden ones. Options:<br><b>all="on"</b> : Show all attachments, including hidden ones.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <code>%META{"moved"}%</code>       | Details of any topic moves.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <code>%META{"parent"}%</code>      | Show topic parent. Options:<br><b>dontrecurse="on"</b> : By default recurses up tree, at some cost.<br><b>nowebhome="on"</b> : Suppress WebHome.<br><b>prefix="..."</b> : Prefix for parents, only if there are parents, default "".<br><b>suffix="..."</b> : Suffix, only appears if there are parents, default "".<br><b>separator="..."</b> : Separator between parents, default is " > ". |

SEARCH can also be used to render meta data, see examples in `FormattedSearch` and `SearchPatternCookbook`.

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**Related Topics:** `DeveloperDocumentationCategory`, `UserDocumentationCategory`

Edit | Attach | Print version | History: `%REVISIONS%` | Backlinks | View topic | More topic actions

Topic revision: r1 - 12 Sep 2009 - 04:07:24 - `ProjectContributor`

- `.System`

- `Log In`

- **Toolbox**

- `Users`
- `Groups`
- `Index`
- `Search`
- `Changes`
- `Notifications`
- `RSS Feed`
- `Statistics`
- `Preferences`

- **User Reference**

- `BeginnersStartHere`
- `TextFormattingRules`

- Macros
- FormattedSearch
- QuerySearch
- DocumentGraphics
- SkinBrowser
- InstalledPlugins

- **Admin Maintenance**
- Reference Manual
- AdminToolsCategory
- InterWikis
- ManagingWebs
- SiteTools
- DefaultPreferences
- WebPreferences

- **Categories**
- Admin Documentation
- Admin Tools
- Developer Doc
- User Documentation
- User Tools

- **Webs**
- Public
- System

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