Table of Contents

Foswiki Plugins **1**
Overview 1

Installed Plugins **2**

Failed Plugins **4**
Installing Plugins 6
On-Site Pretesting 7
Some Notes on Plugin Performance 7
Managing Installed Plugins 7
Listing Active Plugins 7
Enabling Plugins 8
Plugin Evaluation Order 8
Plugin-Specific Settings 8
Installing Plugins 8
On-Site Pretesting 9
Some Notes on Plugin Performance 9
The Foswiki Perl Application Programming Interface 9

Foswiki Plugins

Add functionality to Foswiki with plugins

Overview

You can add plugins to extend Foswiki functionality without altering the core code. A plug-in approach lets you:

- add virtually unlimited features while keeping the main Foswiki code compact and efficient;
- heavily customize an installation and still do clean updates to new versions of Foswiki;
- rapidly develop new Foswiki functions in Perl using the plugin API.

Everything to do with Foswiki plugins - demos, new releases, downloads, development, general discussion - is available at Foswiki.org, in the web.

Foswiki plugins are developed and contributed by interested members of the community. Plugins are provided on an 'as is' basis; they are not a part of Foswiki, but are independently developed and maintained.

Most TWiki® plugins can also be used with Foswiki if the TWikiCompatibilityPlugin is installed (it is by default).

See other types of extensions: Contribs, Skins

Installed Plugins

- TWikiCompatibilityPlugin (Foswiki-1.0.9, $Rev: 6017 (2010-01-11) $): add TWiki personality to Foswiki
- SpreadSheetPlugin (10 Nov 2009, $Rev: 5484 (2009-11-10) $): Add spreadsheet calculations like "$SUM($ABOVE())" to Foswiki tables and other topic text
- AutoViewTemplatePlugin (2009-09-06, $Rev: 5221 (2009-10-06) $): Automatically sets VIEW_TEMPLATE and EDIT_TEMPLATE
- BreadCrumbsPlugin (v2.42, 4694): A flexible way to display breadcrumbs navigation
- CalendarPlugin (2.000, $Rev: 8058 (2010-07-07) $): Show a monthly calendar with highlighted events
- ChartPlugin (13 Mar 2010, $Rev: 6743 (2010-03-14) $): Create PNG or GIF charts to visualize Foswiki tables
- CommentPlugin (24 Feb 2010, $Rev: 6512 (2010-02-24) $): Quickly post comments to a page without an edit/save cycle
- DBCachePlugin (3.50, $Rev: 8342 (2010-07-28) $): Lightweighted frontend to the DBCacheContrib
- EditChapterPlugin (2.12, $Rev: 6337 (2010-02-15) $): An easy sectional edit facility
- EditTablePlugin (4.34, $Rev: 5854 (2009-12-23) $): Edit tables using edit fields, date pickers and drop down boxes
- ExplicitNumberingPlugin (1.6, $Rev: 6482 (2010-02-23) $): Use the `##.`, `##..` etc. notation to insert outline numbering sequences (1, 1.1, 2, 2.1) in topic's text. Also support numbered headings.
- ExternalLinkPlugin (1.21, $Rev: 5906 (2009-12-31) $): Adds a visual indicator to outgoing links
- FilterPlugin (2.03, $Rev: 8284 (2010-07-23) $): Substitute and extract information from content by using regular expressions
- FlexWebListPlugin (v1.51, $Rev: 5698 (2009-12-02) $): Flexible way to display hierarchical weblists
- GluePlugin (2.20, $Rev: 4420 (2009-07-03) $): Enable markup to span multiple lines
- HeadlinesPlugin (2.21.2, $Rev: 6822 (2010-03-21) $): Show headline news in Foswiki pages based on RSS and ATOM news feeds from external sites
- IfDefinedPlugin (v2.00, $Rev: 4422 (2009-07-03) $): Render content conditionally
- ImagePlugin (2.31, $Rev: 6307 (2010-02-12) $): Control the display and alignment of images using an easy syntax
- InterwikiPlugin (20 Sep 2009, $Rev: 5022 (2009-09-20) $): Link ExternalSite?:Page text to external sites based on aliases defined in a rules topic
- JQueryLibPlugin (v1.0, $Rev: 3729 (2009-04-28) $): Provides you with the jQuery javascript library
- JQueryPlugin (3.51, $Rev: 20090710 (2009-07-10) $): jQuery JavaScript library for Foswiki
- LatexModePlugin (4.0, $Rev: 4721 (2009-08-28) $): Enables LaTeX markup (mathematics and more) in Foswiki topics
- LdapNgPlugin (v3.00, $Rev: 3726 (2009-04-27) $): Query and display data from an LDAP directory
- MathModePlugin (4.01, $Rev: 3649 (2009-04-23) $): Include LaTeX formatted math in your Foswiki pages
- NatEditPlugin (v4.21, $Rev: 6336 (2010-02-15) $): A Wikiwyg Editor
- NatSkinPlugin (3.96, $Rev: 6287 (2010-02-12) $): Theming engine for NatSkin
- NewUserPlugin (v2.00, $Rev: 3642 (2009-04-23) $): Create a user topic if it does not exist yet
- PreferencesPlugin (20 Sep 2009, $Rev: 5037 (2009-09-20) $): Allows editing of preferences using fields predefined in a form
- RedirectPlugin (1.1, $Rev: 7923 (2010-06-26) $): Create a redirect to another topic or website.
- RenderListPlugin (2.2, $Rev: 5042 (2009-09-20) $): Render bullet lists in a variety of formats
- RenderPlugin (3.0, 4818): Render WikiApplications asynchronously
- SendEmailPlugin (1.5.1, $Rev: 6581 (2010-02-28) $): Allows to send e-mails through an e-mail form.
- SetVariablePlugin (1.00, $Rev: 4287 (2009-06-23) $): Flexible handling of topic variables
- SlideShowPlugin (02 Aug 2008, $Rev: 2742 (2009-02-26) $): Create web based presentations based on topics with headings.
- SmiliesPlugin (20 Sep 2009, $Rev: 5046 (2009-09-20) $): Render smilies like :) as icons
- SubscribePlugin (03 Dec 2008, $Rev: 13787 (18 May 2007) $): Subscribe to web notification

- SyntaxHighlightingPlugin (1.2, $Rev: 4052 (2009-06-07) $): Highlights code fragments for many languages using **`enscript`**.
- TablePlugin (1.046, $Rev: 6733 (2010-03-13) $): Control attributes of tables and sorting of table columns
- TagMePlugin (02 Mar 2010, $Rev: 6613 (2010-03-02) $): Tag wiki content collectively to find content by keywords
- TwistyPlugin (1.5.4, $Rev: 6281 (2010-02-12) $): Twisty section Javascript library to open/close content dynamically
- UploadPlugin (1.11, $Rev: 20090703 (2009-07-03) $): Attach multiple files to a topic in one go
- VarCachePlugin (29 Jan 2009, $Rev: 2215 (29 Jan 2009) $): Cache Foswiki macros in selected topics for faster page rendering
- VotePlugin (1.33, $Rev: 5560 (2009-11-17) $): Simple way to count votes
- ZonePlugin (2.1, $Rev: 6966 (2010-03-28) $): Gather content of a page in named zones while rendering it

Failed Plugins

Plugin	Errors
TWikiCompatibilityPlugin	none
SpreadSheetPlugin	none
AutoViewTemplatePlugin	none
BreadCrumbsPlugin	none
CalendarPlugin	none
ChartPlugin	none
CommentPlugin	none
DBCachePlugin	none
EditChapterPlugin	none
EditTablePlugin	none
ExplicitNumberingPlugin	none
ExternalLinkPlugin	none
FilterPlugin	none
FlexWebListPlugin	none
GluePlugin	none
HeadlinesPlugin	none
IfDefinedPlugin	none
ImagePlugin	none
InterwikiPlugin	none
JQueryLibPlugin	none
JQueryPlugin	none
LatexModePlugin	none
LdapNgPlugin	none
MathModePlugin	none
NatEditPlugin	none
NatSkinPlugin	none
NewUserPlugin	none
PreferencesPlugin	none
RedirectPlugin	none
RenderListPlugin	none
RenderPlugin	none
SendEmailPlugin	none
SetVariablePlugin	none
SlideShowPlugin	none
SmiliesPlugin	none
SubscribePlugin	none
SyntaxHighlightingPlugin	none
TablePlugin	none
TagMePlugin	none
TwistyPlugin	none
UploadPlugin	none
VarCachePlugin	none
VotePlugin	none

Plugin	Errors
ZonePlugin	none

Handler	Plugins
afterAttachmentSaveHandler	DBCachePlugin
afterCommonTagsHandler	LatexModePlugin VarCachePlugin
afterRenameHandler	DBCachePlugin
afterSaveHandler	DBCachePlugin TagMePlugin
beforeCommonTagsHandler	EditTablePlugin NewUserPlugin PreferencesPlugin VarCachePlugin
beforeSaveHandler	CommentPlugin NatEditPlugin SetVariablePlugin
commonTagsHandler	SpreadSheetPlugin ChartPlugin CommentPlugin EditChapterPlugin EditTablePlugin ExplicitNumberingPlugin ExternalLinkPlugin FilterPlugin GluePlugin HeadlinesPlugin IfDefinedPlugin LatexModePlugin MathModePlugin SlideShowPlugin SmiliesPlugin SyntaxHighlightingPlugin
completePageHandler	NatSkinPlugin ZonePlugin
earlyInitPlugin	TWikiCompatibilityPlugin
initPlugin	TWikiCompatibilityPlugin SpreadSheetPlugin AutoViewTemplatePlugin BreadCrumbsPlugin CalendarPlugin ChartPlugin CommentPlugin DBCachePlugin EditChapterPlugin EditTablePlugin ExplicitNumberingPlugin ExternalLinkPlugin FilterPlugin FlexWebListPlugin GluePlugin HeadlinesPlugin IfDefinedPlugin

Handler	Plugins
	ImagePlugin InterwikiPlugin JQueryLibPlugin JQueryPlugin LatexModePlugin LdapNgPlugin MathModePlugin NatEditPlugin NatSkinPlugin NewUserPlugin PreferencesPlugin RedirectPlugin RenderListPlugin RenderPlugin SendEmailPlugin SetVariablePlugin SlideShowPlugin SmiliesPlugin SubscribePlugin SyntaxHighlightingPlugin TablePlugin TagMePlugin TwistyPlugin UploadPlugin VarCachePlugin VotePlugin ZonePlugin
modifyHeaderHandler	JQueryPlugin
postRenderingHandler	EditChapterPlugin EditTablePlugin MathModePlugin NatSkinPlugin PreferencesPlugin
preRenderingHandler	InterwikiPlugin NatSkinPlugin SmiliesPlugin TablePlugin
renderWikiWordHandler	DBCachePlugin
startRenderingHandler	RenderListPlugin ***This handler is deprecated*** - please check for updated versions of the plugins that use it!

44 plugins

Installing Plugins

Each Foswiki plugin comes with its own documentation: step-by-step installation instructions, a detailed description of any special requirements, version details, and a working example for testing. Many plugins have an install script that automates these steps for you.

Special Requirements: Some plugins need certain Perl modules to be preinstalled on the host system. Plugins may also use other resources, like graphics, other modules, applications, and templates. You should be able to find detailed instructions in the plugin's documentation.

Each plugin has a standard release topic, located in the web at Foswiki.org. There's usually a number of other related topics, such as a developers page, and an appraisal page.

On-Site Pretesting

The recommended approach to testing new plugins before making them public is to create a second local Foswiki installation, and test the plugin there. You can allow selected users access to the test area. Once you are satisfied that it won't compromise your main installation, you can install it there as well.

The plugins page shows which plugins are: 1) installed, 2) loading properly, and 3) what plugin handlers they invoke. Any failures are shown in the Errors section. The `%FAILEDPLUGINS%` macro can be used to debug failures. You may also want to check your webserver error log and the various Foswiki log files.

Some Notes on Plugin Performance

The performance of the system depends to some extent on the number of plugins installed and on the plugin implementation. Some plugins impose no measurable performance decrease, some do. For example, a Plugin might use many Perl libraries that need to be initialized with each page view (unless you run mod_perl). You can only really tell the performance impact by installing the plugin and by measuring the performance with and without the new plugin, on real data.

If you need to install an "expensive" plugin, but you only need its functionality only in a subset of your data, you can disable it elsewhere by defining the %DISABLEDPLUGINS% setting.

Define `DISABLEDPLUGINS` to be a comma-separated list of names of plugins to disable. Define it in Main.SitePreferences to disable those plugins everywhere, in the WebPreferences topic to disable them in an individual web, or in a topic to disable them in that topic. For example,

```
* Set DISABLEDPLUGINS = SpreadSheetPlugin, EditTablePlugin
```

Managing Installed Plugins

Some plugins require additional settings or offer extra options that you have to select. Also, you may want to make a plugin available only in certain webs, or temporarily disable it. And may want to list all available plugins in certain topics. You can handle all of these management tasks with simple procedures:

Listing Active Plugins

Plugin status macros let you list all active plugins wherever needed.

This site is running Foswiki version **Foswiki-1.0.9, Sun, 17 Jan 2010, build 6075**, plugin API version **2.0**

- `%ACTIVATEDPLUGINS%` - shows the activated plugins
- `%PLUGINVERSION%` - shows the plugins API version
- `%FAILEDPLUGINS%` - shows what plugins failed, and why

Enabling Plugins

Plugins can be enabled and disabled with the configure script. An installed plugin needs to be enabled before it can be used.

Plugin Evaluation Order

By default, plugins are executed in alphabetical order on plugin name. It is possible to change the order, for example to evaluate database macros before the spreadsheet CALCs. This can be done with `{PluginsOrder}` in the plugins section of configure.

Plugin-Specific Settings

Some plugins are configured with plugin preference settings, newer plugins with `configure` settings.

`configure` settings are accessible though the configure interface.

Plugin preference settings are defined in the plugin topic and can be overloaded. The SHORTDESCRIPTION setting is always present, it is needed for the automation in the extensions repository. Example preference settings defined in the TablePlugin topic:

- `Set SHORTDESCRIPTION = Control attributes of tables and sorting of table columns`

Preference settings of active plugins can be retrieved anywhere in Foswiki with `%<pluginname>_<var>%`, such as `%TABLEPLUGIN_SHORTDESCRIPTION%`. They can also be redefined with the `%<pluginname>_<var>%` setting at a lower level in the Main.SitePreferences or at the web level. For an easier upgrade it is recommended to customize plugin preference settings in Main.SitePreferences only.

Installing Plugins

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```
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```

The Foswiki Perl Application Programming Interface

Developing plugins provides a simple introduction to hooking into Foswiki code from your own Perl modules. is the starting point for more comprehensive documentation.

Related Topics: DeveloperDocumentationCategory, AdminDocumentationCategory
Edit | Attach | Print version | History: %REVISIONS% | Backlinks | Raw View | More topic actions
Topic revision: r1 - 09 Jan 2009 - 13:00:00 - 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
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