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SetVariablePlugin

Flexible handling of topic variables

The main purpose of this plugin is to allow to set topic variables when saving a topic. Url parameters posted to `save` will be parsed and stored into the current topic.

Parameters must have the form:

```
http://...?[Local|Set|Unset|Default]+<key>=<value>
```

Which means:

- `Local+<key>=<value>` will create a local topic variable called `key` with value `=value`
- `Set+<key>=<value>` will create a normal topic variable called `key` with value `=value` (note if stored in a user topic these take effect on all of the site for this user; see the Foswiki documentation for a more in depth explanation)
- `Unset+<key>=<value>` will remove a topic variable called `key` from the topic
- `Default+<key>=<value>` defines the default values for a variable `key`; if `key` is set to this value, it will actually be remove from the topic as it is being set to a *default* value

In addition to setting topic variables via url parameters of a `save` action, this plugin provides means to read and write topic variables in WikiApplications. Among other use cases these can be used to create appropriate html forms for topic variables as far as the function is not provided by standard TML part of the Foswiki core.

When SETVAR and UNSERVER are parsed during the discourse of creating the current page they don't set the topic variable immediately. Instead they create a *definition rule*. All definition rules are collected and applied to the topic at the end of the parsing process. That way multiple SETVAR and UNSERVER - that potentially contradict each other - stack up. The last rule on the stack wins and decides whether a variable is set or deleted. This allows to create more extensive rule sets.

Syntax Rules

SETVAR

```
%SETVAR{
  "<key>"
  value="<value>"
  field="<fieldname>"
  regex="<pattern>"
}%
```

This sets topic variable `key` to value `value` if the formfield `fieldname` of the current topic matches `pattern`. This allows to set topic variables based on the value of a formfield value. For example, that's useful to create access control settings automatically.

UNSETVAR

```
%UNSETVAR{
  "<key>"
  field="<fieldname>"
}
```

```

    regex="<pattern>"
}%

```

This unsets topic variable `key` when `formfield formfield fieldname` of the current topic matches `pattern`

GETVAR

```

%GETVAR{
    "<key|pattern>"
    web="<web>"
    topic="<topic>"
    format="<format>"
    header="<header>"
    footer="<footer>"
    separator="<separator>"
    type="PREFERENCE|FIELD|TOPICINFO|..."
    sort="on|off"
    default="<default>"
    scope="topic|web|user|session"
}%

```

This displays a variable `key` as stored in `topic web.topic` and formats it using the given `format`. It's type can be any of the known Foswiki meta data specifies like `PREFERENCE`, `FIELD`, `TOPICINFO` etc. When no definition of `key` was found the `default` value is returned. Instead of extracting a variable from `web.topic` it can also be extracted from a specific scope.

Normally all scopes are layered above each other and only the value defined in the scope with highest precedence is returned. So when ever a variable is set in a topic, it will potentially override its definition on web level or user level. You may use the `scope` parameter to bypass this logic and extract a specific value from the given scope specifier.

Multiple variables can be returned by one call if you use a `pattern` instead of a `key` holding a regular expression. `GETVAR` will return all variable values of the given `type` where the `pattern` matches on the variable name. The list of variables will be displayed using `format` preceded by `header` and appended by `footer`. The `header` and `footer` will be omitted when no matching variable was found.

The `format` string may contain the standard escape parameters

- `$percent`,
- `$dollar`,
- `$nop` and
- `$n` as well as
- `$value` - the value of the current variable
- `$name` - the name of the current variable
- `$title` - the title and the
- `$type` - which is `Set`, `Local`, `=Web` or `=Session` depending on the type and scope of the variable

DEBUGRULES

Display a table of all definition rules as far as collected by `SETVAR` and `UNSERVAR`.

Installation Instructions

You do not need to install anything in the browser to use this extension. The following instructions are for the administrator who installs the extension on the server.

Open configure, and open the "Extensions" section. Use "Find More Extensions" to get a list of available extensions. Select "Install".

If you have any problems, or if the extension isn't available in configure, then you can still install manually from the command-line. See <http://foswiki.org/Support/ManuallyInstallingExtensions> for more help.

Plugin Info

Plugin Author:	Foswiki:Main.MichaelDaum
Copyright:	© 2007-2009 Michael Daum http://michaeldaumconsulting.com
License:	GPL (GNU General Public License)
Plugin Version:	1.00
Change History:	
23 Jun 2009:	initial release
Dependencies:	None
Plugin Home:	Foswiki:Extensions/SetVariablePlugin
Feedback:	Foswiki:Extensions/SetVariablePluginDev

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Topic revision: r4 - 16 Sep 2009 - 22:12:44 - AdminUser

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