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# IfDefinedPlugin

Render content conditionally

## Description

This plugin adds a couple of tags that allow to render content conditionally. There are two different ways to do that: either by using the inline `%IFDEFINED{"string" then="..." else="..."}` tag that returns the `then` or `else` argument depending on the `string` being defined, that is non-empty. There are no other ways to decide the condition but rendering the `test` string being a TWikiML expression, for example by embedding a `%CALC{}` expression. This simplifies this plugin alot and allows a rather flexible way to generate the condition.

The other way is to use blocks of content surrounded by expressions like this:

```
%IFDEFINEDTHEN{"test"}%  
...  
%ELSIDEFINED{"test"}%  
...  
%ELSEDEFINED%  
...  
%FIDDEFINED%
```

This way the conditioned content is not limited to fit into a the argument position of a `%IFDEFINED{...}` expression. Blocks can be nested and are evaluated starting from the outside, contrary to standard TWikiML being evaluated left-to-right-inside-out.

## Related work

Similar extensions have been done before but are either only available as an integral part of TWiki-4.0 (see [TWiki:TWiki/IfStatements](#)) or unmaintained (see [TWiki:Plugins/ConditionalPlugin](#)). Especially these two alternatives are rather similar as they defined the same tag (`%IF`). The main differences between those and this plugin here is that they have a more elaborated condition parser that allows to evaluate more complex boolean expressions. Some of the expressions in `%IF` of TWiki-4.0 are specific to that platform and make only sense there (context). The other difference is that the `IFDEFINED` tag family allows nested blocks of conditional content and `%IF` is an inline tag only.

The advantage of this plugin is that you get a simpler mechanism for checking the condition which is however more flexible as the string can be generated arbitrarily using TWikiML. Furthermore, and possibly more important, this plugin is backwards compatible and may be used on a TWiki/Beijing, TWiki/Cairo and TWiki/Dakar engine.

This plugin has been externalized from the [TWiki:Plugins/NatSkinPlugin](#).

## Syntax Rules

### IFDEFINED

**Syntax:**

```
%IFDEFINED{"test"  
  [action="view,edit,preview,..."]?  
  [as="..."]  
  then="..."
```

```
else="..."
glue="on,off"}%
```

returns the "then or "else" content depending on the "test" expression expanding to the empty string or matching the string given in "as". Optionally the current topic action is checked to match the one given in "action". Normally, all surrounding whitespaces are removed, that is the resulting content is glued together in a way. You may switch that off by setting "glue" to "off" thus preventing all whitespace as it is.

The "then" and "else" strings may contain the following pseudo-variables:

- `$n`: substituted with a newline character (`\n`)
- `$percent`: substituted with a percent character (`%`)
- `$dollar`: substituted with a dollar character (`$`)
- `$test` or `$variable`: substituted with the "test" string
- `$value`: substituted with the "as" string

## IFDEFINEDTHEN, ELSIFDEFINED, ELSEDEFINED, FIDDEFINED

### Syntax:

```
%IFDEFINEDTHEN{"test" [action="view,edit,preview,..."]?}%
  <then content>
[%ELSIFDEFINED{...}%
  <elseif content>]*
[%ELSEDEFINED%
  <else content>]?
%FIDDEFINED%
```

This is the multi-line version of `IFSDEFINED`. `IFDEFINEDTHEN` expressions can be nested safely. Within a single `IFDEFINEDTHEN` the `ELSIFDEFINED` parts can be repeated arbitrarily. Before rendering the `<then|elseif|else condition>` any `$nop` string will be removed first. Thereby nested TWikiML expressions can be prevented from being expanded in advance.

## IFACCESS

### Syntax:

```
%IFACCESS%

%IFACCESS{"<webtopic>"
  [type="view|change"]
  [user="<WikiName>"]
  [then="<then-clause>"]
  [else="<else-clause>"]
  [glue="on|off"]}%
```

This checks the access permissions a user has on a given topic and then renders the `<then-clause>` if access is granted and `<else-clause>` otherwise. By default, the current user's view access will be checked on the current topic (`%IFACCESS%`). The other parameters are:

- `<webtopic>`: the name of the topic to be checked, defaults to current
- `user="<WikiName>":` the name of the user to be checked, defaults to the current user
- `type="view|change":` the type of access to be checked, either view access or change/edit access, defaults to "view"
- `then="<then-clause>":` the string to be returned on granted access, defaults to "1"
- `else="<else-clause>":` the string to be returned if no access is granted, defaults to "0"
- `glue="on|off":` apply glue around the `IFACCESS` tag or not, defaults to "on"

## IFEXISTS

### Syntax:

```
%IFEXISTS{ "<webtopic>"
  [then="<then-clause>"]
  [else="<else-clause>"]
  [glue="on|off"]}%
```

This tag checks if `webtopic` exists and expands `then-clause` or `else-clause` as needed. A similar functionality is available using `%CALC{"$IF($EXIST(<webtopic>,<then-clause>),<else-clause>)"}` of the `SpreadSheetPlugin`. This is still preferable if you need more computation based on `CALC` in the then/else branches. The `IFEXISTS` version however is more lightweighted, comes with a much simpler syntax and allows more complex `TWikiMarkup` in the then/else branches.

## Demo

- Set FOO = foo
- FOO is defined.
- FOO is not defined as "bar".
- BAR is not defined.
- TWikiGuest has no write access to IfDefinedPlugin
- TWikiGuest has no write access to IfDefinedPlugin

## Plugin Installation Instructions

- Download the ZIP file (see below)
- Unzip it in your twiki installation directory. Content:

File:	Description:
<code>data/TWiki/IfDefinedPlugin.txt</code>	Plugin topic
<code>lib/TWiki/Plugins/IfDefinedPlugin.pm</code>	Plugin Perl module

- Visit `configure` in your TWiki installation, and enable the plugin in the {Plugins} section.

## Plugin Info

Plugin Author:	TWiki:Main.MichaelDaum <a href="#">↗</a>
Copyright:	© 2006-2008, Michael Daum <a href="http://michaeldaumconsulting.com">http://michaeldaumconsulting.com</a> <a href="#">↗</a> © 2006-2010 TWiki:TWiki/TWikiContributor <a href="#">↗</a>
License:	GPL (GNU General Public License <a href="#">↗</a> )
Plugin Version:	v1.1
Change History:	
2010-04-29:	TWikibug:Item6433 <a href="#">↗</a> - doc improvements
03 Jul 2008:	more rookie perl errors
05 Oct 2007:	fixed a rookie perl error
20 Jun 2007:	added IFEXISTS ; make use of TWiki-4 APIs for speed improvements
18 Dec 2006:	removed support for cairo and beijing; added IFACCESS tag: checks access of some user on a topic
18 Sep 2006:	allow multinline values to be checked
31 Aug 2006:	added NO_PREFS_IN_TOPIC
15 Aug 2006:	added <code>\$test</code> and <code>\$value</code>
07 Aug 2006:	be smarter to detect the cgi action wrt to different apache setups
10 Mar 2006:	

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	added <code>as</code> parameter; added escape parameters and recursive variable expansion to the condition argument which helps to circumvent problems due to different plugin orders
21 Feb 2006:	Initial version
CPAN Dependencies:	none
Other Dependencies:	none
Perl Version:	5.8
TWiki:Plugins/Benchmark <a href="#">↗</a> :	GoodStyle nn%, FormattedSearch nn%, IfDefinedPlugin nn%
Plugin Home:	TWiki:Plugins/IfDefinedPlugin <a href="#">↗</a>
Feedback:	TWiki:Plugins/IfDefinedPluginDev <a href="#">↗</a>

**Related Topics:** VarIF, IfStatements, SpreadSheetPlugin, TWikiPlugins, DeveloperDocumentationCategory, AdminDocumentationCategory, TWikiPreferences

This topic: TWiki > IfDefinedPlugin

Topic revision: r0 - 2010-04-30 - TWikiContributor



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or Ideas, requests, problems regarding TWiki? use Discourse or Send feedback

**Note:** Please contribute updates to this topic on TWiki.org at TWiki:TWiki.IfDefinedPlugin