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VotePlugin

Simple way to count votes

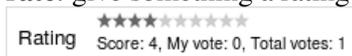
Introduction

This plugin can be used to build an online-voting system, or *poll*. There are two ways to vote for an item:

- **select:** vote for a given choice from a selection



- **rate:** give something a rating (a number of stars)



A single poll can mix and match the different vote types.

Polls can be *open* or *closed*. You don't have to log in to vote in an open poll, but you are restricted to one vote per poll per user per calendar date. You have to log in to vote on a closed vote, but you are restricted to one vote per user. You can change your vote in either open or closed votes, though if you do that on a different date in an open vote, it will count as a new vote. Polls are *open* by default.

The results of a poll can be held in *secret*. If a poll is secret, no records are kept of who voted for what. Polls are *secret* by default.

You can choose whether to save the results of the vote in a *topic* or in a *secret place*. If you choose to save the results in a topic, you can protect that topic using the normal TWiki access control mechanisms, and the vote will still work. Saving in a topic has the advantage that you can easily post-process the results in TWiki, but it's a bit more work to set up so polls are saved in a *secret place* by default.

Polls are either *local* to the topic they are defined in, or are *global* to the entire TWiki. Each poll has an *ID* which distinguishes it from other polls. These IDs are local to the topic for local polls, but can be shared between topics if the poll is made *global*.

The result of a poll is displayed in the polling form.

Vote plugin can convert old result file to a compatible format automatically. If you don't have old vote result files, you can turn off this feature by setting "\$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{VotePlugin}{OldVoteFileAutoConvert} = 0" to save some performance.

Example

You create a poll using the %VOTE twiki variable. For example,

```
%VOTE{id="FavouriteMeal" select1="Drink" options1="Beer,Wine,Milk,Water" select2="Food" options2="Steak,Bread,Pasta,Pizza"}%
```

displays as (if the plugin is installed and enabled)

Drink			Beer 60% (3)
			Wine 40% (2)
Food			Bread 50% (1)
			Steak 50% (1)

and

```
%VOTE{id="Jazzers" stars1="Herbie Mann" stars2="Horace Silver" stars3="Thelonious Monk"}%
```

displays as

Herbie Mann	12345 Score: 1.38, My vote: 0, Total votes: 5
Horace Silver	12345 Score: 2.5, My vote: 0, Total votes: 5
Thelonious Monk	12345 Score: 0.5, My vote: 0, Total votes: 5

How it behaves on a mirror web and read-only web

If you don't know what is a mirror web and read-only web, please read this [?](#).

This page is on a read-only web. As you can see above, selections for polls are disabled. And you don't see the "OK" buttons to submit your votes. This is the case on a mirror web as well.

In short, you can view vote results on a mirror web, but cannot vote. This is primarily because vote parameters might be changed on the primary web. If so, voting based on a mirrored page would cause unexpected voting - e.g. voting to non existing candidate.

So you may find it useful to have the following lines on a vote page. The message is displayed on on mirror webs.

```
%IF{"'%CONTENTMODE%' = 'slave'"
  then="You are on a read-only mirror of this web and you cannot vote here.
  To vote, please go to [[%MASTERWEBSRIPTURL%.%TOPIC%][here]]."%}
```

Who can vote

If the `saveTo` parameter is specified, only users who can change the topic specified by the parameter can vote. Otherwise, anybody who can read the page having a vote can vote.

Syntax Rules

Vote Form

- **Syntax:** `%VOTE{ id="..." select1="..., ..., ..." }%`
- **Parameters:**

Parameter	Description	Example
<code>id</code>	The identifier of the poll. You can have multiple independent votes in the same topic.	<code>id="Dining"</code>
<code>selectN</code>	Defines the name of a select vote, where you select one from a ranges of options. <code>N</code> is a number that identifies this item within the poll e.g. <code>select1</code> , <code>select2</code> etc. You must number all <code>select</code> and <code>stars</code> parameters uniquely and sequentially (e.g. <code>select1 stars2 select3</code>)	<code>select1="Drink"</code>
<code>optionsN</code>	Each <code>selectN</code> must have a corresponding <code>optionsN</code> that defines a comma-separated list of the options that can be	<code>options1="Beer,Wine,Milk"</code>

Example

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	selected between.	
stars N	Defines the name of a rate vote, where you rate something by giving it a number of stars. N is a number that identifies this item within the poll e.g. <code>select1</code> , <code>stars2</code> etc. You must number all <code>select</code> and <code>stars</code> parameters uniquely and sequentially (e.g. <code>select1 stars2 select3</code>)	<code>stars2="Usability"</code>
width N	Each <code>starsN</code> must have a corresponding <code>widthN</code> . This gives the number of stars to show e.g. <code>width1="5"</code> will show 5 stars.	<code>width2="10"</code>
format N	Defines the format of the results display. See formatting results, below.	<code>format="\$large"</code>
chart N	Defines the format of a single bar in the results bar chart generated for the corresponding <code>select</code> (for <code>select type</code> only). See formatting results, below.	<code>chart="<p>\$option \$score</p>"</code>
separator	Defines the string to be used to separate each row in the result.	<code>separator="
"</code>
global	If set to <code>"off"</code> , this makes the <code>id</code> local to this topic (the default). If set to <code>"on"</code> it will be a global poll that can be accessed from many topics.	<code>global="on"</code>
open	If set to <code>"off"</code> this is a closed vote. If set to <code>"on"</code> it is open (the default)	<code>open="on"</code>
secret	If set to <code>"off"</code> , then the database will record who voted. If set to <code>"on"</code> , votes are secret (the default)	<code>secret="on"</code>
saveto	If set to the name of a topic, the poll results will be appended to the end of that topic. The results are formatted as a TWiki table for easy post-processing.	<code>saveto="Main.VoteResults"</code>
bayesian	If set to <code>"on"</code> , rating averages will be computed using the Bayesian average of this item against all the other items <i>that have the same item in their stars field</i> . This requires all the participating <code>%VOTE</code> s to be <code>global</code> , or to save their results to the same place using <code>saveto</code> . See http://www.thebroth.com/blog/118/bayesian-rating for more information about Bayesian rating.	<code>bayesian="off"</code>
submit	If set to <code>"off"</code> , this makes the <code>%VOTE</code> display the results of the vote without prompting for any input. This is useful when - for example - you want to show the results of a global vote, without permitting more voting.	

 The `style` parameter has been *deprecated* and should not be used (though it still works). The `color` and `bgcolor` parameters have been removed.

You can change the defaults for any or all of the above parameters by defining the TWikiVariable `VOTEPLUGIN_DEFAULTS` to be a parameter string e.g.

```
* Set VOTEPLUGIN_DEFAULTS = open="on" global="on" bayesian="on"
```

You can do this in an individual topic, for an entire web (in WebPreferences), or for the whole TWiki (in Main.TWikiPreferences).

Formatting the Results of a Poll

Each item in the poll has a results display next to it (are as part of it in the case of stars). The `format` parameter is used to control how this is displayed. It is usually used to define a row in a TWiki table, and is expands once for each `stars` and once for each option in a `select`.

The `format` parameter is a string that can include the following formatting tokens:

<code>\$key</code>	Expands to the name of the item (e.g. the value of <code>select1</code>).
<code>\$prompt</code>	Expands to a drop-down selector that allows the user to pick the option they want to vote for (for <code>select items</code> only)
<code>\$bars</code>	Expands to a sorted list of bar charts showing the number of votes for this option. Each bar in the chart is formatted according to the format defined in the corresponding <code>chart</code> parameter.
<code>\$sum</code>	Expands to the total number of votes cast
<code>\$score</code>	Expands to the mean of all the ratings (for <code>stars</code>)
<code>\$perc</code>	Expands to $100 * \$score / \sum
<code>\$mylast</code>	Expands to my last rating (for <code>stars items</code> only)
<code>\$small</code>	Expands to the star rating bar, using small stars (mutually exclusive with <code>\$large</code>)
<code>\$large</code>	Expands to the star rating bar, using large stars (mutually exclusive with <code>\$small</code>)
<code>\$reset</code>	Expands to a reset button, if the viewer has reset rights (see Resetting a Poll, below). Without reset rights, expands to nothing.

The `chart` parameter defines the format of each bar in the bar chart that is generated for each option in the corresponding `select`.

<code>\$bar(N)</code>	Expands to the coloured bar used to show the popularity of this option. <i>N</i> is the required total width of the bar in pixels.
<code>\$option</code>	Expands to the name of the option that this bar is for
<code>\$perc</code>	Expands to $100 * \$score / \sum
<code>\$score</code>	Expands to the total number of votes cast for this option

- The default format for a `select` is: `| $key | $prompt | $bars |`
- The default `chart` is `<div>$bar(300) $option $perc% ($score)</div>`
- The default format for `stars` is: `| $key | $small
<small>Score: $score, My vote: $mylast, Total votes: $sum</small> |`

The default `separator` is a newline.

`select`, `option`, `format` and `chart` can all use the standard formatting tokens `$percent`, `$dollar`, `$quot` and `$n` to render the respective characters.

The `%VOTE{ ... }%` will generate the selection box(es) and the poll results.

Weighting the vote

You can weight the vote results by setting the TWikiPreference `%VOTEPLUGIN_WEIGHTINGS%` to the name of a topic that is used to weight the votes of certain members of the community in the final result. For example,

```
| *Name* | *Weight* |
| AlbertCamus | 100 |
| SunTszu | 50 |
| NiccoloMachiavelli | 1000 |
```

The numbers are percentages. A user who isn't otherwise weighted has a weighting of 100. A weighting lower than 100 reduces their influence on the vote, and a weighting higher than 100 increases it. In the example

above,

- AlbertCamus has a weight of 100, as does AdamSmith (who gets the default)
- SunTszu's votes only count for half as much as AlbertCamus'
- NiccoloMachiavelli has ten times as much influence as AlbertCamus and AdamSmith, and twenty times as much as SunTszu.

The weighting topic applies to all votes in the scope of the `%VOTEPLUGIN_WEIGHTINGS%` setting.

#Reset

Resetting a Poll

Sometimes you want to be able to clear the results of a poll. Access to this feature is controlled using the `VOTEPLUGIN_RESETTERS` TWiki variable. This variable defines a (semicolon-separated) list of wiki names and a (comma-separated) list of the IDs of votes they are allowed to reset. You can use `*` as a wildcard in the vote IDs. For example, in a `WebPreferences` topic you can write

```
* Set VOTEPLUGIN_RESETTERS = GeorgeWBush(*);RobertMugabe(zimbabwe);SimonCowell(*Idol, XFactor)
* Set FINALPREFERENCES = VOTEPLUGIN_RESETTERS
```

to allow

- GeorgeWBush to reset any vote he likes,
- RobertMugabe to reset the results of any vote with the id `zimbabwe`,
- SimonCowell to reset the results of all votes with an ID ending in `Idol` and any vote with the ID `XFactor`.

If a user has sufficient rights to reset a vote, then a button will be generated in the vote prompt which, when clicked, will reset the results for that vote to initial conditions. If you have used a `format` parameters for the vote, then `$reset` will expand to the reset button.

Note that it is important to finalise the setting, otherwise it can be overridden in individual topics by anyone with `CHANGE` access. If you don't define `VOTEPLUGIN_RESETTERS` no-one can reset *any* votes.

Plugin Installation Instructions

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

- For an **automated installation**, run the configure script and follow "Find More Extensions" in the in the **Extensions** section.
 - ◆ See the installation supplement[?] on TWiki.org for more information.
- Or, follow these **manual installation** steps:
 - ◆ Download the ZIP file from the extension home on twiki.org (see below).
 - ◆ Unzip `VotePlugin.zip` in your twiki installation directory.
 - ◆ Set the ownership of the extracted directories and files to the webserver user.
 - ◆ Install the dependencies (if any).
- Plugin **configuration and testing**:
 - ◆ Run the configure script and enable the plugin in the **Plugins** section.
 - ◆ Configure additional plugin settings in the **Extensions** section if needed.
 - ◆ Test if the installation was successful using the examples provided.

▲ IMPORTANT If you don't want anyone to be able to reset votes on your site, then make sure you:

* Set `VOTEPLUGIN_RESETTERS = none`

in `Main.TWikiPreferences`, and add `VOTEPLUGIN_RESETTERS` to `FINALPREFERENCES`.

Plugin Info

- Set `SHORTDESCRIPTION` = Simple way to count votes

Plugin Author:	TWiki:Main/MichaelDaum ↗		
Copyright:	© 2005-2007 Michael Daum http://wikiring.de ↗ , © 2005-2012 TWiki:TWiki.TWikiContributor ↗		
License:	GPL (GNU General Public License ↗)		
Plugin Version:	2012-12-01		
Change History:			
2012-12-10:	TWikibug:Item7072 ↗ : VotePlugin doesn't support multiple disks.		
2012-12-01:	TWikibug:Item7020 ↗ : Categorize TWiki Variable VOTE		
2012-10-10:	TWikibug:Item6974 ↗ : Introduce a new configure \$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{VotePlugin}{OldVoteFileAutoConvert}		
2012-10-10:	TWikibug:Item6973 ↗ : Disable submit button when current site mode is read-only or slave.		
2011-03-01:	TWikibug:Item6638 ↗ : Fix 0% bug -- TWiki:Main.UlfJastrow ↗		
2010-07-30:	TWikibug:Item6530 ↗ : Doc fixes -- TWiki:Main.PeterThoeny ↗		
14 Oct 2008	TWikibug:Item6070 ↗ works for hierarchical webs now. - TWiki:Main/ColasNahaboo ↗		
10 Aug 2008	TWikibug:Item5768 ↗ suppress submission of individual ratings in a multi-row vote TWikibug:Item5769 ↗ correct default handling of transcluded rates TWikibug:Item5766 ↗ \$large is once again large TWikibug:Item5771 ↗ support for resetting votes.		
1 Jul 2007:	TWikibug:Item4310 ↗ : abstracted out TWiki:Plugins.RatingContrib ↗ , and modified the code to be tolerant of forms within forms - TWiki:Main/CrawfordCurrie ↗		
24 Jun 2007:	TWikibug:ItemItem4298 ↗ : fixed secret switch. Item4200: added VarVOTE. - TWiki:Main/CrawfordCurrie ↗		
11 Jun 2007:	TWikibug:Item4235 ↗ - removed excess newlines, fixed separator - TWiki:Main/CrawfordCurrie ↗		
8 Jun 2007:	Added <code>submit</code> - TWiki:Main/CrawfordCurrie ↗		
6 Jun 2007:	Added <code>global</code> , <code>open</code> , <code>secret</code> , <code>format</code> , <code>chart</code> , <code>saveto</code> , <code>VOTEPLUGIN_WEIGHTINGS</code> , <code>bayesian averaging</code> - TWiki:Main/CrawfordCurrie ↗		
31 Aug 2006:	added <code>NO_PREFS_IN_TOPIC</code>		
15 Aug 2006:	added "use strict" and fixed revealing errors		
27 Apr 2006:	added lazy compilation		
7 Dec 2005:	added gif bar; removed debug flag		
9 Oct 2005:	fixed invocation of <code>normalizeFileName</code>		
8 Oct 2005:	added added a little more style flexibility		
7 Oct 2005:	storing votes into <code>_Vote*.txt</code> now (was <code>Vote*.txt</code> before) ; fixed error messaging on empty argument lists		
14 Sep 2005:	fixes for dakar		
14 Apr 2005:	incorporated <code>getLocaldate()</code> function		
16 Mar 2005:	use Cache API only if its there; delayed use <code><package></code>		
7 Mar 2005:	Initial version		
Dependencies:	Name	Version	Description
	TWiki::Contrib::RatingContrib	>=0	Lines-of-stars rating module

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Plugin Home:	TWiki:Plugins/VotePlugin
Feedback:	TWiki:Plugins/VotePluginDev
Appraisal:	TWiki:Plugins/VotePluginAppraisal

Related Topics: [VarVOTE](#), [TWikiPlugins](#), [DeveloperDocumentationCategory](#), [UserDocumentationCategory](#)

This topic: TWiki > VotePlugin

Topic revision: r1 - 2012-12-10 - TWikiContributor



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Ideas, requests, problems regarding TWiki? Send feedback

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