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TWiki Site Tools

Utilities for searching, navigation, and monitoring site activity

TWiki Site Tools include utilities for navigating, searching and keeping up with site activity. Preferences can be configured by web or site-wide. You are currently in the **TWiki** web. In particular, TWiki provides two highly configurable, automated site monitoring tools, **WebNotify**, to e-mail alerts when topics are edited, and **WebStatistics**, to generate detailed activity reports.

WebNotify - recent changes alert

Each TWiki web has an automatic e-mail alert service that sends a list of recent changes on a preset schedule, like once a day. Users can subscribe and unsubscribe using WebNotify in each web. The Perl script `mailnotify` is called by a background process at regular intervals. The script sends an automated e-mail to subscribed users if topics were changed in a web since the script was last run.

- You can create a WebNotify link using TWikiVariables with `%NOTIFYTOPIC%`

Web Changes Notification Service

Each TWiki web has an automatic e-mail notification service that sends you an e-mail with links to all of the topics modified since the last alert.

Users subscribe to email notifications using their WikiName or an alternative email address, and can specify the webs/topics they wish to track, Whole groups of users can also be subscribed for notification.

The general format of a subscription is:

three spaces * *subscriber* [: *topics*]

Where *subscriber* can be a WikiName, an E-mail address, or a group name. If *subscriber* contains any characters that are not legal in an email address, then it must be enclosed in 'single' or "double" quotes. Please note that the guest user TWikiGuest does not have an email address mapped to it, and will never receive email regardless of the configuration of that user.

topics is an optional space-separated list of topics:

- ... **without** a *Web.* prefix
- ...that exist in this web.

Users may further customize the specific content they will receive using the following controls:

- **Using wild-card character in topic names** - You can use `*` in a topic name, where it is treated as a wildcard character . A `*` will match zero or more other characters - so, for example, `Fred*` will match all topic names starting with `Fred`, `*Fred` will match all topic names *ending* with `Fred`, and `*` will match *all* topic names.
- **Unsubscribing to specific topics** - Each topic may optionally be preceded by a '+' or '-' sign. The '+' sign means "subscribe to this topic". The '-' sign means "unsubscribe" or "don't send notifications regarding this particular topic". This allows users to elect to filter out certain topics. Topic filters ('-') take precedence over topic includes ('+') i.e. if you unsubscribe from a topic it will cancel out any subscriptions to that topic.

- **Including child-topics in subscription** - Each topic may optionally be followed by an integer in parentheses, indicating the depth of the tree of children below that topic. Changes in all these children will be detected and reported along with changes to the topic itself. *Note* This uses the TWiki "Topic parent" feature.
- **Subscribing to entire topic ("news mode")** - Each topic may optionally be immediately followed by an exclamation mark ! and/or a question mark ? with no intervening spaces, indicating that the topic (and children if there is a tree depth specifier as well) should be mailed out as **complete topics** instead of change summaries. ! causes the full topic to be mailed every time *even if there have been no changes*, and ? will mail the full topic only if there have been changes. One can limit the content of the subscribed topic to send out by inserting %STARTPUBLISH% and %STOPPUBLISH% markers within the topic. Note that "news mode" subscriptions require a corresponding cron job that includes the "-news" option (see details).

Examples: Subscribe Daisy to all changes to topics in this web.

```
  * daisy.cutter@flowers.com
```

Subscribe Daisy to all changes to topics that start with `Web`.

```
  * daisy.cutter@flowers.com : Web*
```

Subscribe Daisy to changes to topics starting with `Petal`, and their immediate children, WeedKillers and children to a depth of 3, and all topics that match start with `Pretty` and end with `Flowers` e.g. `PrettyPinkFlowers`

```
  * DaisyCutter: Petal* (1) WeedKillers (3) Pretty*Flowers
```

Subscribe StarTrekFan to changes to all topics that start with `Star` **except** those that end in `Wars`, `sInTheirEyes` or `shipTroopers`.

```
  * StarTrekFan: Star* – *Wars – *sInTheirEyes – *shipTroopers
```

Subscribe Daisy to the full content of NewsLetter whenever it has changed

```
  * daisy@flowers.com: NewsLetter?
```

Subscribe buttercup to NewsLetter and its immediate children, even if it hasn't changed.

```
  * buttercup@flowers.com: NewsLetter! (1)
```

Subscribe GardenGroup (which includes Petunia) to all changed topics under AllnewsLetters to a depth of 3. Then unsubscribe Petunia from the ManureNewsLetter, which she would normally get as a member of GardenGroup:

```
  * GardenGroup: AllNewsLetters? (3)
  * petunia@flowers.com: – ManureNewsLetter
```

Subscribe `IT:admins` (a non-TWiki group defined by an alternate user mapping) to all changes to Web* topics.

```
  * 'IT:admins' : Web*
```

A user may be listed many times in the WebNotify topic. Where a user has several lines in WebNotify that all match the same topic, they will only be notified about *changes* that topic *once* (though they will still receive individual mails for news topics).

If a *group* is listed for notification, the group will be recursively expanded to the e-mail addresses of all members.

⚠ *Warning:* Because an email address is not linked to a user name, there is no way for TWiki to check access controls for subscribers identified by email addresses. A subscriber identified by an email address alone will only be sent change notifications if the topic they are subscribed to is readable by guest users. You can limit what email addresses can be used in %NOTIFYTOPIC%, or even block use of emails altogether, using the `{MailerContrib}{EmailFilterIn}` setting in =configure.

💡 *Tip:* List names in alphabetical order to make it easier to find the names.

Note for System Administrators: Notification is supported by an add-on to the TWiki kernel called the MailerContrib. See the MailerContrib topic for details of how to set up this service.

Note: If you prefer a news feed, point your reader to WebRss (for RSS 1.0 feeds) or WebAtom (for ATOM 1.0 feeds). Learn more at WebRssBase and WebAtomBase, respectively.

You can also use `%USERSWEB%` instead of `Main`, but this is not necessary even if you have renamed the main web by configuring `{MainWebName}` in configure.

WebSearch - search TWiki site

WebSearch is an extremely fast and flexible search facility, part of the core TWiki feature set. WebSearchAdvanced offers more options, including:

- topic title or full-text search
- regular expressions
- search within web or site-wide
- index-style A-Z alphabetical listing sorted topic title
- many more

See also: SearchHelp for help; TWikiVariables and FormattedSearch for including hard-coded searches in text.

WebChanges - what's new

To check for the most recently edited topics while on-site, use the WebChanges link, usually located in the toolbar. It lists the most recently modified topics, newest first, along with the first couple of lines of the page content.

This is simply a preset `SEARCH`. The number of topics listed by the `limit` parameter.:

```
%SEARCH{ ".*" web="TWiki21Nov" type="regex" nosearch="on" order="modified"
 reverse="on"
limit="50" }%
```

WebRss and WebAtom - news feeds on recent changes

You can point your news reader at WebRss and WebAtom to find out what is new in a TWiki web. WebRssBase and WebAtomBase have the details. Like WebChanges, this is based on a `%SEARCH{}%`.

WebIndex - list of topics

WebIndex lists all web topics in alphabetical order, with the first couple of lines of text. This is simply a preset `SEARCH`:

```
%SEARCH{ "\.*" scope="topic" type="regex" nosearch="on" }%
```

WebStatistics - site statistics

You can generate a listing manually, or on an automated schedule, of visits to individual pages, on a per web basis. Compiled as a running total on a monthly basis. Includes totals for Topic Views, Topic Saves, Attachment Uploads, Most Popular Topics with number of views, and Top Contributors showing total of saves and attachment uploads. Previous months are saved.

💡 You can create a WebStatistics link using TWikiVariables with **`%STATISTICSTOPIC%`**

TWiki also generates overall site usage statistics in Main.SiteStatistics (do not create that page, it is created automatically based on SiteStatisticsTemplate). On a monthly basis, the following items are recorded using system data and TWiki log data across all webs: Number of webs, number of topics, number of attachments, number of topic views, number of topic updates, number of files uploads, data size, pub size, disk use, number of users, number of groups, number of plugins installed compared to total number of plugins available, and the 10 top contributors.

Configuring for automatic operation

- You can automatically generate usage statistics for the whole site and all webs. To enable this:
    - Make sure variable `{Log}{view}`, `{Log}{save}` and `{Log}{upload}` are set in configure. This will generate log file entries (see below).
    - Call the `twiki/bin/statistics` script from a cron job - once a day is recommended. This will update the SiteStatistics and the WebStatistics topics in all webs.
    - *Attention:* The script must run as the same user as the CGI scripts are running, such as user `nobody` or `www-data`. Example crontab entry:
      ```
      0 0 * * * (cd /path/to/twiki/bin; ./statistics >/dev/null 2>&1)
      ```
    - There is a workaround in case you can't run the script as user `nobody` : Run the utility `twiki/tools/geturl.pl` in your cron job and specify the URL of the `twiki/bin/statistics` script as a parameter. Example:
      ```
      0 0 * * * (cd /path/to/twiki/tools; ./geturl.pl mydomain.com
      /urlpath/to/twiki/bin/statistics >/dev/null 2>&1)
      ```
    - *NOTE:* `geturl.pl` will do a TWiki CGI request as the TWikiGuest user, so if you use this workaround, the WebStatistics topics you are updating will have to be writable by TWikiGuest.

When running from the command line or a cron job, you can pass parameters to the script like this:

```
cd twiki/bin; ./statistics -logdate 2011-05 -webs TWiki,Sandbox
```

Generating statistics manually by URL

- The `twiki/bin/statistics` script can also be executed as a CGI script - just enter the URL in your browser. Examples:
    - Update current month for all webs you have access to:
      ```
      /twiki/bin/statistics
      ```

- ♦ Update current month for Main web only:
  `/twiki/bin/statistics/Main`
- ♦ Update Jan 2022 for Main web:
  `/twiki/bin/statistics/Main?logdate=2022-01`
- ♦ Update Jan 2022 for the ProjectX, ProjectY and ProjectZ webs:
  `/twiki/bin/statistics?logdate=2022-01;webs=ProjectX,ProjectY,ProjectZ`

Log Files

TWiki generates monthly log files which are used by the statistics script

- The log file is defined by the **{LogFileName}** setting in configure
- The file name is `log<year><month>.txt`
- Example path name: `twiki/logs/log202201.txt`
- Each access gets logged as:
  `| <time> | <wikiusername> | <action> | <web>.<topic> | <extra info> | <IP address> |`
- Example log entry:
  `| 28 Jan 2022 - 01:31 | TWikiGuest | view | WebRss | | 66.124.232.02 |`
- Actions are logged if enabled in configure by the **{Log}{action}** flags
- Logged actions:

Script	Action name	Extra info
attach	`attach`	when viewing attach screen of previous uploaded attachment: `filename`
changes	`changes`	
edit	`edit`	when editing non-existing topic: `(not exist)`
login, logon, attach, edit, register, rest, view, vewfile	`sudologin`, `sudologout`	Login name of administrator user who is logging in or out
manage	`changepasswd`	Login name of user who's password is changed
rdiff	`rdiff`	higher and lower revision numbers: `4 3`
register	`regstart`	WikiUserName, e-Mail address, LoginName: `user attempts to register`
register	`register`	E-mail address: `user successfully registers`
register	`bulkregister`	WikiUserName of new, e-mail address, admin ID
rename	`rename`	when moving topic: `moved to Newweb.NewTopic`
rename	`renameweb`	when renaming a web: `moved to Newweb`
rename	`move`	when moving attachment: `Attachment filename moved to Newweb.NewTopic`
resetpasswd	`resetpasswd`	Login name of user who's password is reset
save	`save`	when replacing existing revision: `repRev 3` when user checks the minor changes box: `dontNotify` when user changes attributes to an exising attachment: `filename.ext`
save	`cmd`	special admin parameter used when saving
search	`search`	search string
upload	`upload`	filename
view	`view`	when viewing non-existing topic: `(not exist)` when viewing previous topic revision: `r3`
viewfile	`viewfile`	Attachment name and revision: `File.txt, r3`

E-mail

Configuring outgoing mail

Outgoing mail is required for TWikiRegistration and for recent changes alert.

TWiki will use the **Net::SMTP** module if it is installed on your system. Set this with the **SMTPMAILHOST** variable in TWikiPreferences.

The notify e-mail uses the default `changes.tmpl` template, or a skin if activated in the TWikiPreferences.

mailnotify also relies on two hidden files in each `twiki/data/Web` directory: `.changes` and `.mailnotify`. Make sure both are writable by your web server process. `.changes` contains a list of changes; go ahead and make this empty. `.mailnotify` contains a timestamp of the last time notification was done.

You can use an external mail program, such as **sendmail**, if the `Net::SMTP` module is not installed. Set the program path in **{MailProgram}** in configure.

- 🛈 Net::SMTP can be easily disabled (if there is an installation error) by setting **SMTPMAILHOST** in TWikiPreferences to an empty value.

- 💡 You can set a separate **SMTPSENDERHOST** variable to define the mail sender host (some SMTP installations require this).

Setting the automatic e-mail schedule

For Unix platforms: Edit the `cron` table so that `mailnotify` is called in an interval of your choice. Please consult `man crontab` of how to modify the table that schedules program execution at certain intervals. Example:

```
% crontab -e
0 1 * * * (cd /path/to/twiki; perl -I bin tools/mailnotify -q)
```

The above line will run mailnotify nightly at 01:00. The `-q` switch suppresses all normal output. Details at MailerContrib.

For ISP installations: Many ISPs don't allow hosted accounts direct cron access, as it's often used for things that can heavily load the server. Workaround scripts are available.

On Windows: You can use a scheduled task if you have administrative privileges. TWiki:Codev/CronTabWin🗗 is a free scheduler for Windows.

Site Permissions

- TWikiAccessControl describes how to restrict read and write access to topics and webs, by users and groups
- SitePermissions lists the permissions settings of the webs on this TWiki site

Backup and Restore

TWiki has a solution to backup, restore and upgrade TWiki sites. It can be used via browser and on the command line. The BackupRestorePlugin is pre-installed in TWiki-5.1 and later releases; it can be installed in older TWiki releases as low as TWiki-2001-09-01 (Athens Release) to easily create a backup that can be

restored on a new TWiki release. This offers an easy upgrade path for TWiki. See also TWikiUpgradeGuide.

Help with crontab

The crontab command is used to schedule commands to be executed periodically.

- Wikipedia.org:Crontab - crontab documentation
- pycron - crontab for Windows

Related Topics: AdminDocumentationCategory, AdminToolsCategory

-- *Contributors:* TWiki:Main.MikeMannix, TWiki:Main.PeterThoeny, TWiki:Main.CrawfordCurrie, TWiki:Main.KennethLavrsen, TWiki:Main.SvenDowideit

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