

Getlets – extending interwikis

Workshop:

Getlets: extending the interwiki concept beyond any limits

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05.08.2005 17:00 – 18:30 Room SR E12

<http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Wikimania05/Workshop-TG3>

Abstract

Getlets extend the "Interwiki technology" to allow users the access of other servers' data such as google, sourceforge, national telephonbooks, wikipedia and many more, merely limited by copyright restrictions. They can be best seen as "shortcuts" with a simplified syntax for queries. Parts of the "Getlet" are translated on the wiki server to perform a predetermined action on a foreign server. "Getlets" are designed to fetch and integrate data into the wiki page, but hide the technical details at the same time: the wiki server may use complicated "wget" or "curl" actions to retrieve the foreign contents, but the user only has to write `"get:server:item"`. These contents can `"dynamically"` - or as an alternative (user option -p for permanent) - `"statically"` be added to the wiki page bearing the "Getlet".

As an option for the whole wiki, the content delivering foreign servers are advertised by so-called `"Interwikicons"` (Intersitelcons): "favicons" of the target servers are shown in front of the "Getlets" or with the delivered contents in order to indicate the information source and link target.

Copyrights and intellectual property rights need to be respected when using "Getlet technology", Interwikicons and content copying from other servers.

Getlets – extending interwikis

■ Interwiki links (known)

- in Wikipedia, to Wikipedia:
inserting an in-line link to an article in a different language

Example: [[:en:Spaceflights]]

- in Wikipedia, to Wikipedia:
inserting *one* link to corresponding article in different language
in the navigation menu (Wikipedia *automatic interlanguage links*)

Example: [[en:Spaceflights]] [[de:Raumflug]]

- in wikis in general, to *others sites*:
a shorthand notation (shortcut) for non-wiki sites

Example: [[google:Spaceflights]]

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■ Interwiki links (known)

- Implementation is based on an intermap (interwiki map) table usually on the source wiki

Example: http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Interwiki_map

GlossaryWiki	http://glossary.fh-augsburg.de/\$1
GmailWiki	http://www.gmailwiki.com/index.php/\$1
Google	http://www.google.com/search?q=\$1
GoogleGroups	http://groups.google.com/groups?q=\$1
GotAMac	http://www.got-a-mac.org/\$1
GreenCheese	http://www.greencheese.org/\$1
H2Wiki	http://halowiki.net/h2wiki?\$1

The map translates user shortcuts into corresponding URLs and querystrings:

Example: `[[google:Spaceflights | manned space flights]]`
is translated to `http://www.google.com/search?q=Spaceflights`
is rendered as link to that URL on the wiki
page where the interwiki is written

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Example: http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Interwiki_map

GlossaryWiki	http://glossary.fh-augsburg.de/\$1
GmailWiki	http://www.gmailwiki.com/index.php/\$1
Google	http://www.google.com/search?q=\$1
GoogleGroups	http://groups.google.com/groups?q=\$1
GotAMac	http://www.got-a-mac.org/\$1
GreenCheese	http://www.greencheese.org/\$1
H2Wiki	http://halowiki.net/h2wiki?\$1

Obviously (in safe environments):

the interwiki map could be realised as an ordinary wiki page,
which is read in real-time or cached for processing;
anyone could be entitled to edit that page based on wiki
principle (concept known as „FileReplacement“ à see Annex)

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■ Interwiki links

■ *Interwiki-Icons* (Intersite-Icons; new proposal)

filed as http://bugzilla.wikipedia.org/show_bug.cgi?id=1254

The *favicon* (*small icon*) of the content delivering server (the non-wiki site) is shown to indicate who delivered the content

 google:tombo
 leo:gift
 dico:gift
 dict:gift
 QS:Administration
 wd:Marlene_Dietrich

 tombo
 gift
 gift
 gift
 Administration
 Marlene_Dietrich

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■ Interwiki links (known):

- in Wikipedia, to Wikipedia: `[[[:en:Spaceflights]]`
- in Wikipedia, to Wikipedia: `[[en:Spaceflights]] [[de:Raumflug]]`
- in wikis in general, to *others sites*:
shorthand (shortcuts) for non-wiki sites
`[[google:Spaceflights]]`
- based on an interwiki map (table)
- [jump to the target site](#) and browsing continues there

■ **Getlets** (new proposal)

- **Getlets import contents from target site(s)**
- dynamic content display or static content integration to wiki page
- for non-wiki sites (google:, RFC:, weatherforecast:, bugzilla:)
- akin to *RSS integration* (MediaWiki extension)
- akin to *googlemap integration* (MediaWiki extension)
- akin to MediaWiki Template *substitution* `{{subst:something}}`

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■ *Getlets* (new proposal cont.)

- **import contents** from target site(s)
- are indicated by keyword **get:** in front of the interwiki: *get:RFC:2822*
- *dynamic* content display or *static* content integration to wiki page: *-p*
- **extend** the established interwiki shorthand concept
- need in most of the cases **special handlers** on the wiki server
- need **wget/curl** on the wiki server
- need a dedicated **caching system** on the wiki server
- can add further functionality to the wiki:
 - permanently adding (integrating) contents of other wiki pages
 - e.g. wiki pages where page names match a regular expression
- copyrights and intellectual property rights of foreign servers:
 - need to be observed

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■ Getlets

■ Getlet syntax

1. `get:shortcut`
2. `get:shortcut:searchitem -p ( -p optional )`
3. `[[get:shortcut:searchitem -p ]]`
4. `[[get:shortcut:searchitem -p | alternate text ]]`

■ Getlet examples

- a) `get:en = get:http://en.wikipedia.org`
- b) `get:RFC:2822 -p`
get content of RFC 2822 and integrate it in the wiki page source for later editing; replace/comment the *getlet* `<!-- ... -->`
- c) `get:heise:62398`
get Heise Newsticker page and render it instead of the *getlet*
`http://www.heise.de/newsticker/meldung/62398`
- d) `[[get:heise:62398]]` similar to b) but additionally rendered as a link

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■ *Getlets*: summary

instead of linking to foreign servers,
getlets extend the known interwiki link concept

in that *getlets*

- dynamically show the foreign server's contents or
- permanently integrate foreign contents into the wiki page source.

Remark: copyrights of the foreign sources need to be respected.

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Annex: references and further reading

- Interwiki:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interwiki>
- Intermap (Interwiki map):
http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Interwiki_map
- *Editable* Interwiki map (MeatBall):
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FileReplacement>
Wibisa/QS/QuickSource disclosure <http://sourceforge.net/projects/wibisa>
- Intersitelcons:
<http://www.usemod.com/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?WikiPatches/InterSiteIcons>
http://bugzilla.wikipedia.org/show_bug.cgi?id=1254
- MediaWiki extensions:
<http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Mafs/RSS>
<http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Mafs/GoogleMapExtension>
- MediaWiki Template Substitution {{subst:something}}
<http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help:Template#subst>