JAMWiki

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Current development on JAMWiki is primarily focused on maintenance rather than new features due to a lack of developer availability. If you are interested in working on JAMWiki please join the jamwiki-devel mailing list.

Help:Templates

This documentation of JAMWiki functionality is based on Mediawiki's reference at mediawiki:Help:Templates. Original content licensed in the public domain.

JAMWiki implements the majority of the Mediawiki template syntax. If you have standard texts you want to include on several pages, the MediaWiki template feature comes into play.

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Creation [edit]

Templates are standard wiki pages whose content is designed to be (embedded) inside other pages. Templates follow a convention that the name is prefixed with "`Template:`", assigning it to that namespace. Therefore you can create them like any other wiki page.

Usage [edit]

Templates are wiki pages which can be used in other pages in two ways:

- `{{Name}}` 'transcludes' (i.e. includes a copy of) the content of the template (stored in the page [[Template:Name]]) whenever the page containing the template transclusion is fetched and displayed; i.e. if the template is later changed, the displayed transcluding page will automatically change too
- `{{subst:Name}}` replaces that string with the contents of the template, in the source of the transcluding page, when you save that page; the copy of the template contents can then be edited normally (and separately from the original in the template page). To *Note*: don't use this if you are looking to continually propagate changes from the source template to the page(s) that references it.
- ~~`{{safesubst:Name}}` was introduced in rev:61710 to allow for substitution that doesn't break transclusion, see .~~ *Not currently implemented for JAMWiki.*

- ~~{{msgnw:Name}} includes the template in a form that displays it as raw wiki syntax (the way <nowiki> does) when the page containing it is fetched.~~ *Not currently implemented for JAMWiki*.

In fact, an ordinary wiki page can also be used as a template, simply by specifying the namespace it resides in, so:

- {{Template:Pagename}} includes [[Template:Pagename]]
- {{Foo:Pagename}} includes [[Foo:Pagename]]
- {{:Pagename}} includes [[Pagename]]
  - {{subst::Pagename}} replaces itself with the contents of [[Pagename]]

If no such namespace exists, the full title is assumed to be a template:

- {{Foo:Bar}} includes [[Template:Foo:Bar]]

Parameters [edit]

Template with numbered parameters
`'''A little thank you...''' ` `<small>for {{{1}}}. ` `hugs, {{{2}}}</small>`

You type	You get
{{Thankyou|all your hard work|Joe}}	**A little thank you...** for all your hard work. hugs, Joe

with named parameters
`'''A little thank you...''' ` `<small>for {{{reason}}}. ` `hugs, {{{signature}}}</small>`

You type	You get
{{Thankyou |reason=all your hard work |signature=Joe}}	**A little thank you...** for all your hard work. hugs, Joe

You can define parameters in templates either numbered as {{{1}}} or named {{{param}}}. Please note that there are a set of three curly braces ({{{ and }}}) around each parameter. This is different than normal template name usage.

Example: You want a little thank you note you can put on the talk page of other users. It will contain a reason and your signature. You could create Template:Thankyou to enter your text, as in the example in the table.

When using the template on a page, you fill in the parameter values, separated by a pipe char (|): {{Thankyou|all your hard work|Joe}}. For named parameters use "name=value" pairs separated by a pipe char: {{Thankyou|reason=all your hard work|signature=Joe}}. The advantage of using named parameters in your template is that they are flexible in order. It also makes the template easier to understand if you

have many parameters. If you want to change the order of numbered parameters, you have to mention them explicitly: `{{Thankyou|2=Joe|1=all your hard work}}`.

You can also provide default values for parameters, i.e. values that are going to be used if no value is provided for a parameter. For example, `{{{reason|all your hard work}}}` would result in *"all your hard work"* if no value was provided for the parameter `reason`.

Control template inclusion [edit]

You can control template inclusion by the use of `<noinclude>` and `<includeonly>` tags.

Anything between `<noinclude>` and `</noinclude>` will be processed and displayed only when the template's page is being viewed directly.

Possible applications are:

- Categorising templates
- Interlanguage links to similar templates in other languages
- Explanatory text about how to use the template

The converse is `<includeonly>`. Text between `<includeonly>` and `</includeonly>` will be processed and displayed only when the page is being included. The obvious application is to add all pages containing a given template to a category, without putting the template itself into that category.

Organizing templates [edit]

For templates to be effective, users need to find them and be able to use them. A simple technique is to include an example on the template page. For example:

```
<noinclude>
== Usage ==
Allows to establish a link to a subject:
{{NameOfTemplate|Term1+Term2+Term3}}
</noinclude>
```

Then, an editor can simply copy and paste the example to create a similar page.

Copying from one wiki to another [edit]

These steps are only partially applicable with JAMWiki since the list of templates used on a page is not (yet) displayed while editing.

Templates often require CSS or other templates, so users frequently have trouble copying templates from one wiki to another. The steps below should work for most templates:

If you have import rights on the new wiki [edit]

1. Go to Special:Export on the original wiki. Enter the name of the template in the big text box, check "Include templates" and click Export. This will download a .xml file.
2. Go to Special:Import on the new wiki and upload the .xml file.
3. Look for CSS classes (like class="foobar") in the template text. If those classes appear in "MediaWiki:Common.css" or "MediaWiki:Monobook.css" on the original wiki, copy them to "MediaWiki:Common.css" on the new wiki.

If you don't have import rights on the new wiki [edit]

1. Copy the template text to the new wiki; link to the original page in the edit summary for attribution.
2. Edit the template on the new wiki, and look through the list of templates at the bottom. The ones in red will also need to be copied from the original wiki to the new wiki. You may have to repeat this process multiple times before all dependency templates have been recognized and copied.
3. Look for CSS classes (like class="foobar") in the template text. If those classes appear in "MediaWiki:Common.css" or "MediaWiki:Monobook.css" on the original wiki, copy them to "MediaWiki:Common.css" on the new wiki.

See also [edit]

- Help:External searches – a template special use case example
- Help:Magic words – fancy stuff you may find in some templates
- Help:Parser functions - functions such as #if and #switch that can be used for advanced template functionality
- metawikipedia:Help:Template – contains a much more thorough manual on how exactly templates function
- metawikipedia:Help:Embed page – embedding pages from namespaces other than `Template:`.

Categories: User Documentation

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