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TWiki CGI and Command Line Scripts

Programs on the TWiki server performing actions such as rendering, saving and renaming topics.

The TWiki scripts are located in the `twiki/bin` and `twiki/tools` directories. This topic describes the interfaces to some of those scripts. All scripts in the `twiki/bin` directory can be called from the CGI (Common Gateway Interface) environment or from the command line. The scripts in the `twiki/tools` directory can only be called from the command line.

CGI Scripts

Details on CGI scripts located in the `twiki/bin` directory.

General Information

CGI environment

In the CGI environment parameters are passed to the scripts via the URL and URL parameters. Environment variables are also used to determine the user performing the action. If the environment is not set up, the default TWiki user is used (usually `guest`).

Command-line

You **must** be have the `twiki/bin` directory on the perl path to run the scripts from the command line. To avoid issues with file permissions, run the scripts as the web server user such as `nobody` or `www`.

Parameters are passed on the command line using '-name' - for example,

```
$ cd /usr/local/twiki/bin
$ save -topic MyWeb.MyTopic -user admin -action save -text "New text of the topic"
```

All parameters require a value, even if that is the empty string.

Common parameters

All the scripts accept a number of common parameters. The first two components of the URL after the script name are taken as the web and the topic, respectively. Standard URL parameters are:

Parameter	Description	Default
<code>topic</code>	If this is set to a URL, TWiki will immediately redirect to that URL. Otherwise it overrides the URL and is taken as the topic name (you can pass <code>Web.TopicName</code>)	
<code>user</code>	Command-line only; set the name of the user performing the action. Note: this usage is inherently insecure, as it bypasses webserver login constraints. For this reason only authorised users should be allowed to execute scripts from the command line.	
<code>skin</code>	Overrides the default skin path (see <code>TWikiSkins</code>)	
<code>cover</code>	Specifies temporary skin path to prepend to the skin path for this script only (see <code>TWikiSkins</code>)	

attach

Despite the name, this script doesn't actually attach a file to a topic - for that, use `upload`. This script is part of the transactions sequence executed when a file is uploaded from the browser. it just generates the "new attachment" page for a topic.

Parameter	Description	Default
filename	Name of existing attachment (if provided, this is a "manage attachment" action)	none (in which case this is a "new attachment" action)

changes

Shows all the changes in the given web.

The changes script can receive one parameter:

Parameter	Description	Default
minor	If 0, show only major changes. If 1, show all the changes (both minor and major)	0

The main difference between invoking this script and using WebChanges is that WebChanges is based on a %SEARCH%, while this script reads the changes file in each web, making it much faster.

Note: The result from changes script and the topic WebChanges can be different, if the changes file is deleted from a web. In particular, in new installations the changes script will return no results while the WebChanges topic will.

configure

configure is the browser script used for inspection and configuration of the TWiki configuration. None of the parameters to this script are useable for any purpose except configure. See configure.

edit

The edit script understands the following parameters, typically supplied by HTML input fields:

Parameter	Description	Default
action	Optional. Use the editaction template instead of the standard edit. If action=text, then hide the form. If action=form hide the normal text area and only edit the form. You can change the Edit/Edit Raw buttons to always append the action parameter in skins like Pattern and Classic by setting the topic or preference variable EDITACTION to the value text or form. To edit the topic once the EDITACTION is defined as form simply remove the action=form from the browser URL of the edit script and reload the edit window	
onlynewtopic	If set, error if topic already exists	
onlywikiname	If set, error if topic name is not a WikiWord	
templatetopic	The name of the template topic, copied to get the initial content (new topic <i>only</i>)	
text	Initial text for the topic	
topicparent	The parent topic	
formtemplate	Name of the form to instantiate in the topic. Overrides the form set in the templatetopic if defined. (will remove the form is set to 'none')	
contenttype	Optional parameter that defines the application type to write into the CGI header. Defaults to text/html. May be used to invoke alternative client applications	
anyname	Any parameter can be passed to the new topic; if the template topic contains %URLPARAM{ "anyname" }%, it will be replaced by its value	
breaklock	If set, any lease conflicts will be ignored, and the edit will proceed even if someone is already editing the topic.	
redirectto		

	If the user continues from edit to save, and if the save (or cancels the edit) process is successful, save will redirect to this topic or URL. The parameter value can be a <code>TopicName</code> , a <code>Web.TopicName</code> , or a URL. <i>Note:</i> Redirect to a URL only works if it is enabled in <code>configure (Miscellaneous {AllowRedirectUrl})</code> .	
t	Provide a unique URL each time a topic is edited, typically specifying parameter <code>t=%SERVERTIME{\$epoch}%</code> in an edit link. This is done to prevent browsers from caching an edit session, which could result in editing outdated content. The parameter name and value is arbitrary, but must be unique each time.	

Form field values are passed in parameters named 'field' - for example, if I have a field `Status` the parameter name is `Status`.

1. The first sequence of ten or more X characters in the topic name will be converted on save to a number such that the resulting topic name is unique in the target web.

Note: Most skins support the definition of `EDIT_SKIN`, which is used as the value of the `cover` parameter in edit URLs. This allows you to override the default edit skin on a web, topic or user basis.

login

Used for logging in when TWiki login is being used (e.g `TemplateLoginManager`).

Parameter	Description	Default
<code>origurl</code>	URL that was being accessed when an access violation occurred. the login process will redirect to this URL if it is successful	none
<code>username</code>	username of user logging in	none
<code>password</code>	password of user logging in	none

logon

Used for logging in when Web Server authentication is being used (e.g. `ApacheLoginManager`). The script does nothing; it is purely a placeholder for triggering the login process. The webserver will be set up to require a valid user to access this script, thus triggering the webserver login process.

manage

Performs a range of management functions.

Parameter	Description	Default
<code>action</code>	One of <code>createweb</code> , <code>renameweb</code> , <code>deleteUserAccount</code> , <code>editSettings</code> or <code>saveSettings</code>	none

Note: The `manage` script can only be called via http POST method for `createweb` `renameweb`, and `deleteUserAccount`.

action=createweb

Parameter	Description	Default
<code>newweb</code>	Name of the new web	"
<code>baseweb</code>	Name of the web to copy to create the new web	"
<code>webbgcolor</code>	value for <code>WEBBGOLOR</code>	"
<code>sitemapwhat</code>	Value for <code>SITEMAPWHAT</code>	"

nosearchall	Value for NOSEARCHALL	"
-------------	-----------------------	---

action=renameweb

Parameter	Description	Default
newsubweb	Name of the web after move	"
newparentweb	New parent web name	"
confirm	If defined, requires a second level of confirmation. Supported values are "getlock", "continue", and "cancel"	"

action=editSettings

No parameters

action=saveSettings

Parameter	Description	Default
text	Text of the topic	"
originalrev	Revision that the edit started on	Most recent revision
redirectto	If the savesettings process is successful, save will redirect to this topic or URL. The parameter value can be a TopicName, a Web.TopicName, or a URL. <i>Note:</i> Redirect to a URL only works if it is enabled in configure (Miscellaneous {AllowRedirectUrl}).	

All other parameters may be interpreted as form fields, depending on the current form definition in the topic.

action=bulkRegister

See BulkRegistration.

Parameter	Description	Default
OverwriteHomeTopics	Whether to overwrite existing home topics or not	false
EmailUsersWithDetails	Whether to mail registered users or not	false
LogTopic	Topic to save the log in	Same as topic name, with 'Result' appended.

action=changePassword

Change password, email address, or both, of a user.

Parameter	Description	Default
username	god alone knows	<i>none</i>
oldpassword	current password	<i>none</i>
password	new password	<i>none</i>
passwordA	new password confirmation	<i>none</i>
email	new email address	<i>none</i>

password, =passwordA and email are optional. If neither or password and passwordA is set, then the user password is left unchanged. If email is unset, their email is left unchanged.

action=createweb

action=resetPassword

Reset the password for a single or multiple users

Parameter	Description	Default
LoginName	list of usernames to reset	none - error if not set
Introduction	message to be sent alongside the reset, most often used to announce to the user that they have been given an account.	"

This is used by BulkResetPassword and ResetPassword. Only administrators can provide a list of LoginNames, non-admins can only provide a single LoginName.

BulkRegistration provides the means to create multiple accounts but it does not announce those accounts to the users who own them. BulkResetPassword is used to assign the passwords, the Introduction is used to explain why they are receiving the mail.

action=deleteUserAccount

Unregisters (removes) the currently logged-in user.

Parameter	Description	Default
password	Users' password	none

oops

This script is mainly used for rendering pages containing error messages, though it is also used for some functional actions such as manage pages (move topic etc).

oops templates are used with the oops script to generate system messages. This is done to make internationalisation or other local customisations simple.

The oops script supports the following parameters:

Parameter	Description	Default
template	Name of the template file to display	
def	Optional, can be set to the name of a single definition within template. This definition will be instantiated in the template wherever %INSTANTIATE% is seen. This lets you use a single template file for many messages. For an example, see oopsmanagebad.tmpl.	
paramN	Where N is an integer from 1 upwards. These values will be substituted into template for %PARAM1% etc.	

preview

This script is *deprecated*. Its functions are covered by the save script.

rdiff

Renders the differences between version of a TWiki topic

Parameter	Description	Default
rev1	the higher revision	
rev2	the lower revision	

render	the rendering style {sequential, sidebyside, raw, debug}	DIFFRENDERSTYLE, sequential
type	{history, diff, last} history diff, version to version, last version to previous	diff
context	number of lines of context	

TODO:

- add a {word} render style

register

Parameter	Description	Default
action	register or verify or resetPassword or approve	
topicparent	The parent topic of the new user profile page	{UsersTopicName} configure setting

Note: The register script can only be called via http POST method, not GET. Make sure to specify the "post" method if you call the register script via a form action.

rename

Used for renaming topics and attachments.

Parameter	Description	Default
skin	skin(s) to use	
newweb	new web name	
newtopic	new topic name	
breaklock		
attachment		
confirm	if defined, requires a second level of confirmation	
currentwebonly	if defined, searches current web only for links to this topic	
nonwikiword	if defined, a non-wikiword is acceptable for the new topic name	
redirectto	If the rename process is successful, rename will redirect to this topic or URL. The parameter value can be a TopicName, a Web.TopicName, or a URL. Note: Redirect to a URL only works if it is enabled in configure (Miscellaneous {AllowRedirectUrl}).	

Note: The rename script can only be called via http POST method, not GET. Make sure you specify method="post" if you call the rename script via a form action.

rest

This REST (Representational State Transfer) script can be invoked via http in the same way as the other TWiki scripts (see **Invocation Examples**, below) to execute a function that is associated to a "subject" and a "verb" (see below). These functions are usually registered by plugins using the TWiki::Func::registerREStHandler method. The rest script will print the result directly to the browser unless the endPoint parameter is specified, in which case it will output a redirect to the given topic.

The rest script supports the following parameters:

username	If TemplateLogin, or a similar login manager not embedded in the web server, is used, then you need to pass a username and password to the server. The username and password
----------	--

	parameters are used for this purpose.
password	See username
topic	If defined as the full name (including web) of a topic, then when the script starts up plugins will be passed this as the "current" topic. If not defined, then Main.WebHome will be passed to plugins.
endPoint	Where to redirect the response once the request is served, in the form "Web.Topic"

The function is free to use any other query parameters for its own purposes.

Note: The `rest` script should **always** require authentication in any TWiki that has logins. Otherwise there is a risk of opening up major security holes. So make sure you add it to the list of authenticated scripts if you are using `ApacheLogin`.

Invocation Examples

The `rest` script assumes that it will be called with URL in the form:

```
http://my.host/bin/rest/<subject>/<verb>
```

where `<subject>` must be the WikiWord name of one of the installed `TWikiPlugins`, and the `<verb>` is the alias for the function registered using the `TWiki::Func::registerRESTHandler` method. The `<subject>` and `<verb>` are then used to lookup and call the registered function.

`<subject>` and `<verb>` are checked for illegal characters exactly in the same way as the web and topic names.

As an example, the `EmptyPlugin` has registered a function to be used with the `rest` script under the subject **EmptyPlugin** and the verb **example**. Click below to see the `rest` script in action (run as `TWikiGuest`).

Call the Plugin

Note that for Plugins to register REST handlers, they must be enabled in `configure`.

save

The `save` script performs a range of save-related functions, as selected by the `action` parameter.

Parameter	Description	Default
<code>action_save=1</code>	default ; save, return to view, <code>dontnotify</code> is off	
<code>action_quietsave=1</code>	save, and return to view, <code>dontnotify</code> is on	
<code>action_checkpoint</code>	save and redirect to the edit script, <code>dontnotify</code> is on	
<code>action_cancel</code>	exit without save, return to view	
<code>action_preview</code>	preview edited text	
<code>action_addform</code>	Redirect to the "change form" page.	
<code>action_replaceform...</code>	Redirect to the "change form" page.	
<code>action_delRev</code>	Administrators only delete the most recent revision of the topic - all other parameters are ignored. You have to be an administrator to use this, and not all store implementations will support it.	
<code>action_repRev</code>	Administrators only replace the text of the most recent revision of the topic with the text in the <code>text</code> parameter. <code>text</code> must include embedded meta-data tags. All other parameters are ignored. You have to be an administrator to use this, and not all store implementations will support it.	

<code>onlynewtopic</code>	If set, error if topic already exists	
<code>onlywikiname</code>	If set, error if topic name is not a WikiWord	
<code>dontnotify</code>	if defined, suppress change notification	
<code>templatetopic</code>	Name of a topic to use as a template for the text and form (new topic <i>only</i>)	
<code>text</code>	New text of the topic	
<code>forcenewrevision</code>	if set, forces a revision even if TWiki thinks one isn't needed	
<code>topicparent</code>	If 'none' remove any current topic parent. If the name of a topic, set the topic parent to this.	
<code>formtemplate</code>	if defined, use the named template for the form (will remove the form is set to 'none')	
<code>editaction</code>	When action is <code>checkpoint</code> , add form or replace form. . . , this is used as the <code>action</code> parameter to the edit script that is redirected to after the save is complete.	
<code>originalrev</code>	Revision on which the edit started.	
<code>edit</code>	The script to use to edit the topic when action is <code>checkpoint</code>	<code>edit</code>
<code>editparams</code>	The parameter string to use to edit the topic	
<code>redirectto</code>	The save process will redirect to this topic or URL if it is successful. (Typically this would be the URL that was being viewed when edit was invoked). The parameter value can be a <code>TopicName</code> , a <code>Web.TopicName</code> , or a URL. Note: Redirect to a URL only works if it is enabled in <code>configure (Miscellaneous {AllowRedirectUrl})</code> .	view topic being edited

Any errors will cause a redirect to an oops page.

The parameters are interpreted in according to the following rules.

1. The first sequence of ten or more X characters in the topic name will be converted to a number such that the resulting topic name is unique in the target web.
2. When the action is `save`, `checkpoint`, `quiesave`, or `preview`:
 1. The new text is taken from the `text` parameter, if it is defined,
 - ◇ otherwise it is taken from the `templatetopic`, if it is defined, (new topic *only*)
 - ◇ otherwise it is taken from the previous version of the topic, if any,
 2. The name of the new form is taken from the `formtemplate`, if defined
 - ◇ otherwise it is taken from the `templatetopic`, if defined, (new topic *only*)
 - ◇ otherwise it is taken from the previous version of the topic, if any,
 - ◇ otherwise no form is attached.
 3. The value for each field in the form is taken from the query, if it is defined
 - ◇ otherwise it is taken from the `templatetopic`, if defined, (new topic *only*)
 - ◇ otherwise it is taken from the previous version of the topic, if any,
 - ◇ otherwise it defaults to the empty string.

Merging is only enabled if the topic text comes from `text` and `originalrev` is `> 0` and is not the same as the revision number of the most recent revision. If merging is enabled both the topic and the meta-data are merged.

Form field values are passed in parameters named 'field' - for example, if I have a field `Status` the parameter name is `Status`.

Note: The `save` script can only be called via http POST method, not GET. Make sure to specify the "post" method if you call the `save` script via a form action. Example:

```
<form name="new" action="%SCRIPTURLPATH{save}%/Sandbox/" method="post">
...

```

</form>

It is not possible to call save from an link.

search

CGI gateway to the %SEARCH% functionality driven by the following CGI parameters:

Parameter:	Description:	Default:
"text "	Search term. Is a keyword search, literal search or regular expression search, depending on the type parameter. SearchHelp has more	required
search="text "	(Alternative to above)	N/A
web="Name " web="Main, Know " web="all "	Comma-separated list of webs to search. See TWikiVariables#VarSEARCH for more details.	Current web
topic="WebPreferences " topic="*Bug "	Limit search to topics: A topic, a topic with asterisk wildcards, or a list of topics separated by comma.	All topics in a web
excludetopic="Web* " excludetopic="WebHome, WebChanges "	Exclude topics from search: A topic, a topic with asterisk wildcards, or a list of topics separated by comma.	None
type="keyword " type="literal " type="regex "	Do a keyword search like soap "web service" -shampoo; a literal search like web service; or RegularExpression search like soap;web service;!shampoo	%SEARCHVAR-DEFAULTTYPE% preferences setting (literal)
scope="topic " scope="text " scope="all "	Search topic name (title); the text (body) of topic; or all (both)	"text "
order="topic " order="created " order="modified " order="editby " order="formfield(name) "	Sort the results of search by the topic names, topic creation time, last modified time, last editor, or named field of TWikiForms. The sorting is done web by web; in case you want to sort across webs, create a formatted table and sort it with TablePlugin's initsort	Sort by topic name
limit="all " limit="16 "	Limit the number of results returned. This is done after sorting if order is specified	All results
date="... "	limits the results to those pages with latest edit time in the given time interval.	All results
reverse="on "	Reverse the direction of the search	Ascending search
casesensitive="on "	Case sensitive search	Ignore case
bookview="on "	BookView search, e.g. show complete topic text	Show topic summary
nonoise="on "	Shorthand for nosummary="on " nosearch="on " nototal="on " zeroresults="off " noheader="on " noempty="on "	Off
nosummary="on "	Show topic title only	Show topic summary
nosearch="on "	Suppress search string	Show search string
noheader="on "	Suppress search header	Show search header
nototal="on "	Do not show number of topics found	Show number
zeroresults="off "	Suppress all output if there are no hits	

		zeroreresults="on", displays: "Number of topics: 0"
noempty="on"	Suppress results for webs that have no hits.	Show webs with no hits
header="..." format="..."	Custom format results: see FormattedSearch for usage, variables & examples	Results in table
expandvariables="on"	Expand variables before applying a FormattedSearch on a search hit. Useful to show the expanded text, e.g. to show the result of a SpreadsheetPlugin %CALC {}% instead of the formula	Raw text
multiple="on"	Multiple hits per topic. Each hit can be formatted. The last token is used in case of a regular expression ";" and search	Only one hit per topic
nofinalnewline="on"	If on, the search variable does not end in a line by itself. Any text continuing immediately after the search tag on the same line will be rendered as part of the table generated by the search, if appropriate.	off
separator=", "	Line separator between hits	Newline "\$n"

statistics

Refresh the WebStatistics topics in range of webs.

Parameter	Description	Default
webs	comma-separated list of webs to run stats on	all accessible webs
logdate	YYYYMM to generate statistics for	current month

For example:

1. from browser <https://wiki-igi.cnaf.infn.it/twiki/bin/statistics> updates *all user webs*
2. from browser <https://wiki-igi.cnaf.infn.it/twiki/bin/statistics?webs=TWiki,Main,Sandbox> updates *TWiki,Main,Sandbox*
3. from browser <https://wiki-igi.cnaf.infn.it/twiki/bin/statistics/TWiki> updates *TWiki*
4. from command line `twiki/bin/statistics` updates *all user webs*
5. from command line `twiki/bin/statistics -webs=TWiki,Main,Sandbox` updates *TWiki,Main,Sandbox*
6. from command line `twiki/bin/statistics TWiki.WebHome` updates *TWiki*

See [TWikiSiteTools#WebStatistics_site_statistics](#) for updating statistics using cron.

upload

Uploads an attachment to a topic. The HTTP request is expected to be in `multipart/form-data` format.

Parameter	Description	Default
hidefile	if defined, will not show file in attachment table	
filepath	local (client) path name of the file being uploaded. This is used to look up the data for the file in the HTTP query.	
filename	deprecated, do not use	
filecomment	Comment to associate with file in attachment table	
createlink	if defined, will create a link to file at end of topic	

changeproperties	if defined, this is a property change operation only - no file will be uploaded.	null
updatefield	If defined and if the value matches the name of a form field, it will update that form field with the name of the uploaded file.	

You can use a tool like `curl` to upload files from the command line using this script.

Note: The upload script can only be called via http POST method, not GET.

view

Used for viewing topics.

Parameter	Description	Default
raw=on	Shows the text of the topic in a scrollable textarea	
raw=debug	As raw=on, but also shows the metadata (forms etc) associated with the topic.	
raw=text	Shows only the source of the topic, as plain text (Content-type: text/plain). Only shows the body text, not the form or other meta-data.	
raw=all	Shows only the source of the topic, as plain text (Content-type: text/plain), with embedded meta-data . This may be useful if you want to extract the source of a topic to a local file on disc.	
section	Allows to view only a part of the topic delimited by a named section (see VarSTARTSECTION). If the given section is not present, no topic content is displayed.	
contenttype	Allows you to specify a different Content-Type : (e.g. contenttype=text/plain)	
rev	Revision to view (e.g. rev=45)	
template	Allows you to specify a different skin template, overriding the 'view' template the view script would normally use. The default template is view. For example, you could specify /twiki/bin/view/TWiki/TWikiScripts?template=edit. This is mainly useful when you have specialised templates for a TWiki Application.	
topic	redirects to show the specified Web.Topic, or, redirects to a URL, if allowed by {AllowRedirectUrl} and {PermittedRedirectHostUrls} configure settings	
createifnotexist	If createifnotexist is set to 1 and in case the topic does not exist, it is created automatically on view. Useful to create topics automatically based on a specific template (see example below). Behind the scene, the view script redirects first to the save script, passing along all URL parameters. Thus all URL parameters of the save script can be used, such as templatetopic, topicparent and redirectto. Next, the save script creates the topic and redirects back to the view script (or displays an error in case there were any issues creating the topic).	

Example use of createifnotexist to link to the bookmark page of a user, and to create the page on the fly if needed:

```
[ [%SCRIPTURL{view}%/%USERSWEB%/%WIKINAME%Bookmarks?createifnotexist=1&templ
```

Note: For historical reasons, the view script has a special interpretation of the text skin. In earlier TWiki versions the skin=text parameter was used like this:

`http://.../view/MyWeb/MyTopic?skin=text&contenttype=text/plain&raw=on` which shows the topic as plain text; useful for those who want to download plain text for the topic. Using skin=text this way is **DEPRECATED**, use raw=text instead.

viewfile

Used for viewing attachments. Normally, a site will publish the attachments (`pub`) directory using a URL. However if it contains sensitive information, you will want to protect attachments using TWikiAccessControls. In this case, you can use the `viewfile` script to give access to attachments while still checking access controls.

Parameter	Description	Default
<code>filename</code>	name of attachment	
<code>rev</code>	Revision to view	

Instead of using the `filename` parameter, you can append the attachment name to the end of the URL path (after the topic) e.g.

`https://wiki-igi.cnaf.infn.it/twiki/bin/viewfile/Webname/TopicName/Attachment.g`

Command Line Scripts

Details on command line scripts located in the `twiki/tools` directory.

geturl.pl

This is a very simple script to get the content of a web site. It is marked as *deprecated* and might be removed (or enhanced) in a future TWiki release. Its functions are covered by the standard `wget` and `curl` commands.

- Usage: `geturl.pl <host> <path> [<port> [<header>]]`
- Example: `geturl.pl some.domain /some/dir/file.html 80`
- Will get: `http://some.domain:80/some/dir/file.html`

rewriteshebang.pl

Simple script to rewrite the `#!/usr/bin/perl` shebang lines specific to your local Perl installation. It will rewrite the first line of all your TWiki cgi scripts so they use a different shebang line. Use it if your perl is in a non-standard location, or you want to use a different interpreter (such as 'speedy').

tick_twiki.pl

This script executes a number of non-essential regular administration tasks that will help keep your TWiki healthy and happy, such as removing expired sessions and lease files.

It is intended to be run as a cron job or a scheduled task once a week. Example crontab entry:

```
0 0 * * 0 cd /usr/twiki/bin && perl ../tools/tick_twiki.pl
```

Note: The script has to be run by a user who can write files created by the webserver user.

Related Topics: [AdminDocumentationCategory](#), [DeveloperDocumentationCategory](#)

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