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Variable Cache Plugin

This Plugin caches Foswiki macros in selected topics for faster page rendering.

Most topics in a typical Foswiki installation are rendered within a small deviation in terms of speed. Exceptions are topics that contain a lot of dynamic content. This is mainly caused by CPU or I/O intensive Macros, such as `%SEARCH{}%` and `%INCLUDE{}%`.

This Plugin caches all `%VARIABLES%` located in a topic so that the topic can get rendered as quickly as one without variables. An outdated cache gets refreshed when a user is looking at a topic; in which case it will take longer to render the page. Time-based refresh can also be disabled in favor of an on-demand cache update.

The rendering of Foswiki topic markup to HTML is not cached. That is, user specific HTML rendering based on skin settings is not affected by the caching.

Syntax Rules and Cache Update Rules

- Add a `%VARCACHE{}%` variable to the topic you want to cache
  - It supports these parameters:

Parameter	Description	Default
`refresh="24"`	Cache refresh period in hours, e.g. maximum age of cache	`REFRESH` Plugin setting
`cachemsg="..."`	Message shown when looking at a cached topic ***Note:*** Use `$age` to indicate the age of cache, `$link` to indicate the refresh URL	`CACHEMSG` Plugin setting
`updatemsg="..."`	Message shown after a cache refresh ***Note:*** Use `$link` to indicate the refresh URL	`UPDATEMSG` Plugin setting

- The `%VARCACHE{}%` variable gets:
  - replaced with the `cachemsg` message when looking at a cached topic
  - replaced with the `updatemsg` message if the cache has just been updated
  - removed if caching is not active, e.g. when the topic gets rendered dynamically
- The cache gets updated on topic view if:
  - the cache does not exist (e.g. after adding the `%VARCACHE{}%` variable)
  - the cache is older then the cache refresh period (unless refresh if set to 0)
  - the cache is older then the topic (e.g. the topic has been updated)
  - the topic is accessed with a `?varcache=refresh` URL parameter (usually by following the refresh link in the cache message)
- The topic is rendered dynamically without caching when:
  - the topic has URL parameters other then `varcache` (e.g. to show dynamic content properly, such as table sorting, filtering, searching)
  - the topic is previewed after editing
- Limitations:
  - The cache is not user specific. For example, all users see the expanded `%WIKIUSERNAME%` of the person who refreshed the cache (on demand or by looking at a topic with an exired cache)

Plugin Settings

Plugin settings are stored as preferences variables. To reference a plugin setting write **`%<plugin>_<setting>%`**, i.e. **`%VARCACHEPLUGIN_SHORTDESCRIPTION%`**

- One line description, is shown in the TextFormattingRules topic:
  - Set SHORTDESCRIPTION = Cache Foswiki macros in selected topics for faster page rendering

- Debug plugin: (See output in `data/debug.txt`)
  - Set DEBUG = 0

- Default refresh period in hours. No automatic refresh: `0`, default: `24`
  - Set REFRESH = 24

- Cache help messages. Use `$age` to indicate age of cache, `$link` to indicate the refresh URL
  - Set CACHEMSG = This topic was cached $age ago ([[$link][refresh]])
  - Set UDATEMSG = This topic is now cached ([[$link][refresh]])
  - #Set CACHEMSG =
  - #Set UDATEMSG =

Plugin Installation Instructions

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

- Download the ZIP file from the Plugin web (see below)
- Unzip **`VarCachePlugin.zip`** in your Foswiki installation directory. Content:

File:	Description:
`data/System/VarCachePlugin.txt`	Plugin topic
`data/System/VarCachePlugin.txt,v`	Plugin topic repository
`data/System/VarCachePluginTest.txt`	Plugin test topic
`data/System/VarCachePluginTest.txt,v`	Plugin test topic repository
`lib/Foswiki/Plugins/VarCachePlugin.pm`	Plugin Perl module
`pub/System/VarCachePlugin/cachetopic.gif`	Cache icon 16x16

- Run the configure script to enable the Plugin
- Test if the installation was successful:
  - Visit the VarCachePluginTest topic, it contains a nested search
  - Click on the refresh link or append a `?varcache=refresh` parameter to the URL

Plugin Info

Plugin Author:	Original: TWiki:Main/PeterThoeny, In Foswiki context Foswiki:Main.KennethLavrsen

Copyright:	© 2004-2007, TWIKI.NET, © Foswiki Contributors
License:	GPL (GNU General Public License)
Plugin Version:	29 Jan 2009
Change History:	
29 Jan 2009:	Foswiki version
06 Jan 2006:	Small fix for TWiki 4.0
16 Jul 2004:	Doc improvements (no code change)
15 Jul 2004:	Initial version
Foswiki Dependency:	$Foswiki::Plugins::VERSION 1.024 (15 Jul 2004)
CPAN Dependencies:	none
Other Dependencies:	none
Perl Version:	5.008
Plugin Home:	http://foswiki.org/Extensions/VarCachePlugin
Feedback:	http://foswiki.org/Extensions/VarCachePluginDev

Related Topics: Plugins, DeveloperDocumentationCategory, AdminDocumentationCategory, DefaultPreferences, SitePreferences

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This topic: System > VarCachePlugin
Topic revision: r4 - 06 Mar 2006 - 19:32:32 - ProjectContributor

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