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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 An outdated cache gets refreshed when a user is looking at a topic; in which case it will take longer to render the page.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
<code>refresh="24"</code>	Cache refresh period in hours, e.g. maximum age of cache	REFRESH Plugin setting
<code>cachemsg="..."</code>	Message shown when looking at a cached topic <i>Note:</i> Use <code>\$age</code> to indicate the age of cache, <code>\$link</code> to indicate the refresh URL	CACHEMSG Plugin setting
<code>updatemsg="..."</code>	Message shown after a cache refresh <i>Note:</i> Use <code>\$link</code> 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 is 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 expired 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 CACHMSG = This topic was cached \$age ago ([[link]][refresh]])
  - ◆ Set UDATEMSG = This topic is now cached ([[link]][refresh]])
  - ◆ #Set CACHMSG = 
  - ◆ #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:	<a href="http://foswiki.org/Extensions/VarCachePlugin">http://foswiki.org/Extensions/VarCachePlugin</a>
Feedback:	<a href="http://foswiki.org/Extensions/VarCachePluginDev">http://foswiki.org/Extensions/VarCachePluginDev</a>

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

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Topic revision: r4 - 06 Mar 2006 - 19:32:32 - ProjectContributor

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