Proposal to organize Control Panel Features into Sections

(originally introduced by Mike Finko, '@mikeua')

**Purpose**

(open for discussion)

- Difficulty in using the current (as of Tiki 22.x) Control Panels due to so many widely varying types of Features which are all uncategorized, e.g. unstructured
  - Configurations can be enabled/disabled in multiple locations, adding to this confusion
- Difficulty in understanding the 'level of importance' of individual Features
- Difficulty in understanding 'what Tiki does' or 'where do I start' for new users due to the unstructured nature of the Control Panels

**Goals**

(open for discussion)

- Increase Control Panels ease of use for new users as well as long time users of Tiki
- Categorize, e.g. group in sections, all Features for easier 'on-boarding' of new users
- Allow for a faster learning curve for new users and higher retention rates of new users
- Increase future uniformity when adding new Features
- Create a central focus for Tiki on 'Core Modules' (as roughly stated here: [https://info.tiki.org/Features](https://info.tiki.org/Features)) to improve marketability of Tiki as a product

**Notes**

- I know we discussed this before (most likely a TRM) but could not find any info about this on the Dev or Community sites - if I missed it somewhere, we can combine the pages.
- It was designed for 'full screen width' so doesn't look so great, here, sorry. Toggle the right module to 'Closed' and it will make viewing easier
  - in any case, the Control Panel page looks custom coded page, so the html/css specialist that will be doing the actual re-vamp can make sure it looks perfect
  - Icon - WebServices: since it is a 'cog' like General, I changed it to 'cloud-upload', since it involves the 'cloud', there is no 'cloud-upload-download' yet, and a Google search does not seem to indicate consensus, and no specific symbol in Font Awesome
  - Icons Polls and Video: both slightly different, that's the closest I could find on Font Awesome
- I believe I included all the current Features, maybe only some experimental or deprecated ones are left out, two that I know I left out:
  - Image Galleries - since this is listed as 'deprecated', I recommend we do not have the icon in the Control Panel as this just confuses users
  - FAQ - in the 'Warning' it says "...there has been discussion about retiring this feature..." so let's retire it. Or, add it to the 'Deprecated' filter (e.g. Basic, Advanced, Experimental, etc.)
- I categorized them to the best of my abilities, I'm sure I overlooked a lot of things, please give your
feedback for improvement.

- although the last few (Integration, Security, Miscellaneous) don't have many in them, my thinking was to leave room for expansion.
- After feedback and general consensus, we will need to update this page [https://doc.tiki.org/Admin-Home](https://doc.tiki.org/Admin-Home)
  - we will need to limit the time for feedback, it cannot be 'forever' as no feedback should be considered a vote of 'approval'

There was a long and interesting discussion during the February 2021 TRM (see for more details: [https://tiki.org/Roundtable-Meeting-2021-02](https://tiki.org/Roundtable-Meeting-2021-02))

In conclusion we agreed that if the interface was to be improved Tiki has most of the components needed to do (or start) it smoothly.

**First step**

( luciash d' being [], Bernard Sfez / Tiki Specialist, katy, ...)

In Tiki we already have an "Admin theme" feature that make it easy to create a definitive solution or a proof of concept quickly and it is totally optional.

*A future install option in Tiki was also mentioned (for admin choose Tiki classic theme or Tiki modern admin (naming?))*

We are working on first design proposal for the "Admin" theme and will put it here for review.

**Design Proposal**

![Design Proposal](image-url)

for all designs click here
Suggested Features

- While browsing the admin pages the Admin theme will be applied using the existing preference (which will be enabled on default installs)
  - I request making this optional. I like using the site theme on admin pages also.
    - No worries, it will be optional, just on fresh installs it will be enabled for newbies. We boomers can always switch it off with our luxury profiles or good ol' manual way ;)
  - About color styling, I suggest using the Bootstrap .navbar-dark and .navbar-light classes to set the background, text, and link colors (as well as the dark/light switch option currently available for navbars). This way the coloring automatically works with whatever theme is used, and any new admin theme(s) can take advantage of existing classes, etc.
    - Yes, as I wrote yesterday in one of the email messages on the devel list "Regarding the top bar we prefer to keep it in the dark gray color for dark navbar selection and maybe light gray for the light one" so we will do it like that (and if not you will be able to fix that for sure ;))
- The admin navbar stays always visible at the top
- Removal of the admin anchors (small icons) from the top of the admin-include files and put the icons to the left sidebar (see the collapsible sliding left col below)
- Addition of a sliding left col (based on the existing left col behavior we agreed that we will create special <aside> zone for it instead). That will display all the main features activated (based on the actual) and disabled ones with disabled class.
  It was suggested this sliding menu to be always accessible (outside admins pages) for admins (optional)
    - Other links to be displayed
      - Home (dashboard)
      - Additional features (to access the disabled features) the links to panels for disabled features will be always visible but in disabled look
      - Users management
        - Users
        - Groups
        - Permissions
        - ....
      - System
        - Logs (tiki, actions)
        - Tiki-check
        - Security
        - Performance
        - ....

Notes

- This area should be customizable with a "reset page" button
- Some charts would be nice (see the next step below)
- Modules page needs some work to adapt (for the new aside zone)
Q&A

- Question: what happens to the Quickadmin module — no changes for this, or is it redundant with this admin reorganization? Also, does this make the enhanced Quickadmin feature created by Bilal and Amna redundant? (Sorry, I forgot its name — it’s the horizontal scrolling panel that slides down from the page top, containing admin icons, etc.) I’m in favor of simplifying if possible.
  - No, nothing happens with these modules with this reorganization. Maybe we could include the quickadmin one in the top bar though if there will be enough space?

Feature Links Grouping Suggestion

[+] Second step

* TBD once the first step is done

Preliminary next step is revamp of the dashboard page:

- Dashboard / New Home for admin
  - Using existing data we have:
    - At glance (Tiki statistics)
      - How many pages
      - Files
      - Items
      - Last admin log (5 last users?)
    - ...
    - Activity, last added content
    - Get started (conditional)
      - TBD (newbie tips closable for ever)
    - Tiki communication
      - Version, updates
      - Important communication from Tiki Community

Third step

* TBD once the first step is done

For Inspiration

How other FLOSS projects do it?

PrestaShop

See their demo here: https://demo.prestashop.com/#/en/back
Open Project
(https://docs.openproject.org/system-admin-guide/) they are smaller, limited to 'project management' so only have 17 Features - yet they have a left side panel that assists in navigation:

Obsolete Stuff

previous comments and sections