Feedback

This page documents the method used starting with Tiki16 to provide feedback to users on the page, for example to indicate an action was successfully completed, to give a warning, a note, or indicate an error has occurred. Previously a variety of methods have been used, including use of ErrorReportLib for some errors. Starting with Tiki16, the Feedback class is used (at lib/core/Feedback.php) to centralize and standardize the coding used for providing feedback to the user.

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Server side

Adding Feedback

Typically, all that a developer needs to do is add a command in the PHP file where the feedback is generated. For example:

```
Feedback::success(tr('Your action was successful.'));
```

The feedback will then be automatically be displayed at the top of the page when displayed.

Feedback types

Below are the standard feedback types available along with default settings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Icon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>error</td>
<td>Error</td>
<td>⚠️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>note</td>
<td>Note</td>
<td>⚠️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>success</td>
<td>Success</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warning</td>
<td>Warning</td>
<td>⚠️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each one of these is a function (e.g., `Feedback::error($feedback)`). The generic function `add` can also be used if customization is needed. The `{remarksbox}` smarty function is used to add the alert formatting, icons and colors.

Feedback options

The above functions require at least a string message as a parameter, but an array can also be used to
provide multiple messages and other parameters. If an array is used, the message or messages must be in the array key `mes`. Other parameters that can be set in the array are `type`, `title`, and `icon` (each of these being the array key that must be used).

The `tpl` option can be set to specify a Smarty template other than the default one (at `templates/feedback/default.tpl`). The value used for this array key needs to be the same as the name of the template file in the feedback directory. For example, `'tpl' => 'pref'`, will cause `templates/feedback/pref.tpl` to be used.

**Display options**

A second parameter with the value `session` can also be added if the feedback needs to be added through the PHP global `$SESSION` variable instead of through a Smarty template variable. This may be necessary if the page is redirected from the file where the feedback originated.

**Feedback through ajax**

Use the `send_headers` function right after adding feedback to send feedback using ajax. For example:

```php
Feedback::warning(tr('Your input may not be valid'), 'session');
Feedback::send_headers();
```

**Retrieving and displaying feedback (non-ajax)**

This part works automatically as follows:

- The base `layout_view.tpl` templates used to display tiki pages contain the `{feedback}` Smarty function
- This function does the following:
  - Retrieves the feedback from the `$SESSION['tikifeedback']` PHP global variable or the Smarty `{$tikifeedback}` template variable.
  - Assigns or reassigns the feedback to the Smarty `{$tikifeedback}` variable
    - Note that there is no need for a developer to set the `{$tikifeedback}` Smarty variable - this is done automatically in this step
  - Fetches the feedback display template for display

**Client side**

A javascript `feedback` function (in `lib/jquery_tiki/tiki-jquery.js`) can be used if a pure client-side method is needed. It has the same parameters as described above for the server side method, plus a `modal` parameter that sets whether the feedback is sent to a popup modal or is sent to the `div#tikifeedback` element that is on every page.

**Areas where Feedback has not been implemented**

Below are areas where this Feedback could possibly be used but where it has not yet been implemented, usually because of additional complexities.

- `$SESSION[tiki_importer_errors]`
- `$SESSION[tiki_importer_feedback]`
- `$SESSION[tiki_importer_log]`
- `footer.tpl`
• module errors
• messu-broadcast.php
• tiki-accounting*.php
• tiki-share.php
• $page_badchars_display in a few templates (eg, tiki-copypage.tpl and tiki-rename_page.tpl)