Regrouping the General Admin page

At the AdminUIRevamp meeting on 12/11/2007, we discussed going for "low-hanging fruit" — making small changes that will have large impact.

Updated: Feb 4, 2009

Been playing with Tiki 3.x. Basically, I replaced the tables with DIVs and moved the options to the left of the label. IMHO, this presents a much nicer/cleaner UI.

You can download my attempted TPL, here.

Feb 18, 2009 merged and committed to trunk, thank you 😊 — luci

General Preferences

Basically I grouped similar options into 3 blocks. Sub-items (such as the "Log SQL queries longer than XXX seconds" are hidden until the parent is enabled. Likewise, if the "Use URL as home page" option is enabled, the "Use TikiWiki feature as home page" option becomes hidden.

General Settings

Can anyone explain the difference between the General Preferences and Settings? The Contact user should be a droplist of current (validated) users.

Here, too, I grouped the items into fieldset blocks.

Release Check

Perhaps this should really be named Check for Updates?

Date and Time Formats

I added a sample of what the entered code will produce.

Other

I think these options should really be moved to either the Preferences or Settings tabs.

Password

Made it clearer that you are changing the Admin password.

Updated: July 18

This is probably too late for 2.0, but I’ve attached a new version that includes some of the new 2.0 items. It is simpler (doesn’t use any tabs), but does include some (IMHO) better organization
One idea was to reorganize the options on the General Admin page to make it easier for a new Admin to see exactly what needs to be done first.

Updated: Dec. 19

I've attached a new version of my proposed General: Admin page (based on my completely unscientific usability study with my 11-year-old daughter).

- It now uses tabs to separate the sections.
- The Admin password is now it's own tab (rather than always visible on the page).
- Better alignment of the options in the tabs
- The time/date options now show a sample, based on your current selection
- Error checking (for example, if you select to use a proxy but don't enter a port or URL).

Please tell me what you think. Next is the Wiki Admin page.....

Required

Here's my attempt at the Required tab:

Some cool things:

- Includes a link/reminder to check for updates.
- The URL Field for the home page is hidden (since the Use URI... option is not selected.
- Fields that are required (such as Sender email) that are blank, have an alert icon.

Recommended

And here's the Recommended tab:

Some items of note:

- As before, the alert icon for missing/required information.
- As before, hidden fields for items not selected (Disallow access....).
- Shows how your selected date/time options will appear.

Optional

And here's the Recommended tab:

Password

I decided to move the Admin Password to a separate tab:

And it includes a note about setting your admin email address (so the REMIND PASSWORD will work for admins).

What do you think?

Required vs. Recommended vs. Optional

It may be helpful to re-organize the General: Admin page, based on:

- **Required**: Tiki won't work (or won't work as expected) if these are not completed
- **Recommended**: Not required, but recommended to make your Tiki as usable as possible.
- **Optional**: Probably not necessary unless you have a specialized purpose.
My (ricks99) first stab at reorganizing all the **General Admin** options:

- I have attached a new TPL file to this page. It features:
  - Reorged options, as listed below.
  - "Hide-able" secondary options (using JS, although Ajax might be better)

Please let me know what you think. Should this approach be carried to the other admin pages?

**Required**

- Home
  - Tiki feature or URI
- Browser Title
- Temporary Directory
  - Add note that it must be writable
- Email
  - Sender Email
  - Add note that it will be used for all out-going Tiki-generated messages
  - Default Character set
  - Mail end-of-line
- OS
- Default timezone
- Favicon
  - Filename
  - Type

**Recommended**

- Authentication Method
  - Block method forms that are not used
  - *Where is this option? I don't see it in my 1.10.* (ricks99)
- Contact Us
  - Add note if feature is currently disabled
  - Contact User
  - Allow anonymous access
- Close site when sever load exceeds threshold
  - Note that users with permission can still access
  - Max threshold
  - Message to display
- Cache
  - Use cache for external pages
  - Use cache for external images
- Use gzipped output
- Use Tiki Help System
  - Help URL

  - Add note about using non-doc.tw.o sites
- Time format
  - Long date
  - Short date
  - Long time
- Short time
  - Display order
- Separators
  - Locations
  - Choices
- Display menus as folders

Optional
- Show user's real name instead of login (when possible)
- Use direct pagination
  - Instead of next/prev links
- Close site
  - Note that users with permissions can still access
    - Message to display
- Group Home
  - Go to Group Home only if...
- Error Reporting
  - Visible to Admin only
  - Include Smarty Notices
- Log SQL
  - Add note, where does this get logged?
- Use Proxy
  - Proxy Host
  - Proxy Port
- Session
  - Store session data in database
  - Session lifetime in minutes

Add note, what does 0 mean?
- Count Admin page views
- Preference Syntax
  - Add note that useful for backwards compatibility