Bugs & Wish list

Markdown support | Tiki Wiki CMS Groupware :: Development

Markdown support

Status

 Closed

Subject

Markdown support

Category

- Feature request

Feature

Wiki (page view, edit, history, rename, etc)

Wiki Plugin (extends basic syntax)

Resolution status

Fixed or Solved

Submitted by

Fabio Montefuscolo

Volunteered to solve

luciash d' being

Lastmod by

Fabio Montefuscolo

Rating

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ (3)

Related-to

- ● Tiki writer support for Pandoc
- ● Offline Tiki: add a way to save/view content offline

Description

Hello!

I'm wondering to know if it is possible to put Markdown support on TikiWiki roadmap. As many of you know, Markdown is a syntax widely supported by many CMS, text editors, JS and PHP libraries and other Wiki services.

There are even some e-mail plugins, like https://markdown-here.com/" class="wiki wikinew text-danger tips">Markdown Here, that allow users to write e-mails on Markdown language and the convert to HTML before sending emails.

Some ""competitors"" allow Markdown support as a plugin, like:

- WordPress - https://br.wordpress.org/plugins/wp-markdown/
- Joomla - https://extensions.joomla.org/extension/ace-x-markdown-editor/
- Drupal - https://www.drupal.org/project/markdown

- Plone - https://docs.plone.org/adapt-and-extend/config/markup.html
- Magento - https://github.com/SchumacherFM/Magento-Markdown
- Jekyll - https://jekyllrb.com/ (AFAIK, this one is used on Github pages)
- Octopress - http://octopress.org/ (I used this one for a long time)

Also, some other frameworks have extensions for markdown:

- Symphony - http://symphonyextensions.com/extensions/markdown/
- Django - https://github.com/agusmakmun/django-markdown-editor
- CodeIgniter - https://github.com/jonlabelle/ci-markdown
- Rails - https://github.com/vmg/redcarpet

So, as Markdown became familiar for a lot of non-technical users, I bet supporting Markdown is a good move for Tiki and also, it may turn easy migrating from other platform using Markdown to TikiWiki.

Solution

First basic working implementation done using a wiki-plugin (PluginMarkdown) for Tiki 20.

As per the decisions of the TikiFest Montreal 2018 we will use Commonmark Markdown flavor using this PHP lib:
https://commonmark.thephpleague.com/
Also see:

- https://github.com/thephpleague/commonmark
- https://packagist.org/packages/league/commonmark
- https://composer.tiki.org/#commonmark

Commits reference:

- http://sourceforge.net/p/tikiwiki/code/67958
- http://sourceforge.net/p/tikiwiki/code/70065
- http://sourceforge.net/p/tikiwiki/code/70066
- http://sourceforge.net/p/tikiwiki/code/70067
- http://sourceforge.net/p/tikiwiki/code/70068
- http://sourceforge.net/p/tikiwiki/code/70070

Importance
4

Easy to solve?
1 difficult

Priority
4

Demonstrate Bug (Tiki 19+)
This bug has been demonstrated on show2.tikiwiki.org

SVN update

Ticket ID
6697

Created
Tuesday 12 June, 2018 15:27:44 GMT-0000
by Fabio Montefuscolo

LastModif
Monday 20 January, 2020 13:36:09 GMT-0000

Comments

Gary Cunningham-Lee 13 Jun 18 08:38 GMT-0000

+1 to Markdown support. People have asked me if it's possible for the future.

drsassafras 14 Jun 18 04:16 GMT-0000

I've been thinking of a new syntax that could be implemented with little effort and is super fast. I was thinking of perhaps using plugin tags such as
or something like that. Then we could use the built-in DOM parser to parse all the plugins. No more plugin limit, and we would never have to call parse_plugin from inside a plugin again. Simple formatting plugins could simply be CSS rules, and not have any tiki parsing at all.

Some might object to using tags like this, but it does not bother me at all. It won't break pages, but if there is a consensus against it there could be a str_replace issued so all the < and >'s get replaced with { and }'s... but we would then need to escape those which adds a little complexity.

There would be the ability to enable any tag (disabled by default) either from the HTML standard or from our custom tiki code. I haven't thought much about attributes, but I'm assuming they would be mostly stripped.

Anyhow, I was hung up on what to do with simple things like lists where the HTML syntax does not lend its self to ease of use when it comes to them. I don't really want to create a second parser within Tiki, but there really is a need for such things as well. Markdown would be perfect for this, considering that a lot of people already know this language, there is already built-in support in may text editors for it and it's part of the Symphony core download, of which is already included in Tiki.

The idea would be to modify our existing plugins so that they could work with both the new and the old parser. I suppose both could be supported, or one migrated to the other, but initially, I was thinking of making it non-default and optional. Then people could

decide what they want to use.

This change would eliminate the need for allow_html option, allow for MUCH larger wiki pages, reduce server load, hopefully, reduce the effort expended in maintaining our existing parser (if migration ever happens), allow more control over what content is permitted and denied on pages, enhance security, and hopefully increase usability.

I wanted to use a slightly different syntax and not support legacy aspects of our current parser any longer (such as special character support) where in this case Unicode replaces it in a more graceful manner. So if someone wants to convert, there will need to be a conversion script, and little things like identical spacing might not transfer 100%, or a margin might be off by a pixel or two here and there.

It's a project kinda on the backburner right now. I've got other things I need to focus on right now, but something needs to happen to the way we parse wiki pages for my publishing project to come to life. (that needs to have pages much much much more complex than Tiki can support right now)

So thanks for bringing this to my attention. It may very well be a good option for moving forward.

drsassafras 14 Jun 18 04:21 GMT-0000

We might also be able to find existing converters to convert different common wiki syntax into markdown. So perhaps we could make it easier for people to migrate data from other wiki environments.

Xavier de Pedro 18 Jun 18 20:50 GMT-0000

See this one: Pandoc: a universal document converter (GPL'd, and thus, usable through packages in Tiki)
https://pandoc.org/

> *If you need to convert files from one markup format into another, pandoc is your swiss-army knife. Pandoc can convert documents in (several dialects of) Markdown, reStructuredText, textile, HTML, DocBook, LaTeX, MediaWiki markup, TWiki markup, TikiWiki markup, Creole 1.0, Vimwiki markup, OPML, Emacs Org-Mode, Emacs Muse, txt2tags, Microsoft Word docx, LibreOffice ODT, EPUB, or Haddock markup to*
>
> *HTML formats*
> *XHTML, HTML5, and HTML slide shows using Slidy, reveal.js,*

Slideous, S5, or DZSlides

Word processor formats
Microsoft Word docx, OpenOffice/LibreOffice ODT,
OpenDocument XML, Microsoft PowerPoint.

Ebooks
EPUB version 2 or 3, FictionBook2

Documentation formats
DocBook version 4 or 5, TEI Simple, GNU TexInfo, Groff man,
Groff ms, Haddock markup

Archival formats
JATS

Page layout formats
InDesign ICML

Outline formats
OPML

TeX formats
LaTeX, ConTeXt, LaTeX Beamer slides

PDF
via pdflatex, xelatex, lualatex, pdfroff, wkhtml2pdf, prince, or
weasyprint.

Lightweight markup formats
Markdown (including CommonMark and GitHub-flavored
Markdown), reStructuredText, AsciiDoc, Emacs Org-Mode, Emacs
Muse, Textile, txt2tags, MediaWiki markup, DokuWiki markup,
TikiWiki markup, TWiki markup, Vimwiki markup, and ZimWiki
markup.

Custom formats
custom writers can be written in lua.

In contrast to most existing tools for converting Markdown to
HTML, pandoc has a modular design: it consists of a set of
readers, which parse text in a given format and produce a native
representation of the document, and a set of writers, which
convert this native representation into a target format. Thus,
adding an input or output format requires only adding a reader
or writer.

Please note:
Pandoc seems to have some Tikiwiki support since 2017:

https://github.com/jgm/pandoc/pull/3800

And it's widely used by the whole R community to convert from markdown to anything:
https://blog.rstudio.com/tags/markdown

[drsassafras](#) 20 Jun 18 07:23 GMT-0000

That looks really interesting.

[luciash d' being]](#) 20 Jun 18 09:21 GMT-0000

Interesting indeed! A pity they do not have the Tiki syntax available in their online demo at http://pandoc.org/try/ - I was curious to test it quicky quick...

[Marc Laporte](#) 21 Jun 18 02:02 GMT-0000

I see TikiWiki on the left

[drsassafras](#) 21 Jun 18 02:10 GMT-0000

Right you are. I didn't see it the first time I checked.

[Saša Janiška](#) 06 Aug 18 08:41 GMT-0000

That's great to see, but I'd like to see TikiWiki on the right as well - reevaluating Tiki and seriously consider to using it after several years spent with rst/asciidoc(tor) markup and using Nikola/Hugo static-site-

generators...iow. I'd like to be able to easily create content offline (in some more standard markup like the ones mentioned above) and then paste it into Tiki if there is no possibility to do it differently.

Just wonder what has happened with [wiki Lingo](#)?

p.s.:Just posted on the pandoc list asking about Tiki writer support...

[drsassafras](#) 21 Jun 18 12:34 GMT-0000

The Tiki code is listed as alpha. It had some difficulty with a few examples I threw at it. I opened a bug report against the first issue I found, which occurred in the first line of Tiki wiki code I tried.

Could be good though, if they fix issues that are reported. They were quick to reply, so that's a plus.

https://github.com/jgm/pandoc/issues/4722#issuecomment-399085394

[drsassafras](#) 28 Jun 18 11:57 GMT-0000

They were quick to fix the bug, so it may be worth testing further so we can help work out any issues there might be.

Fabio Montefuscolo 28 Jun 18 16:08 GMT-0000

Oh God! It works!! I tried to convert a Tiki page to
Markdown page and it works like very well!!
If we can hook on parser and get structered data, we
could call plugins to make their stuff over this data.

Torsten Fabricius 21 Jun 18 02:32 GMT-0000

I am wondering how hard it would be to use Markdown and WikiPlugins, the same as we
use WikiSyntax and WikiPlugins and if that at all would be possible.

I have seen, that when using https://pandoc.org/try
the whole text of the converting WikiSytax of a page goes into the link:

https://pandoc.org/try/?text=all-the-content-of-a-wiki-page-plain-as-copy-paste

Marc Laporte 03 Jul 18 15:15 GMT-0000

1st step is to create an experimental PluginMarkdown

```
{MARKDOWN()}
# This is an <h1> tag
## This is an <h2> tag
###### This is an <h6> tag

*This text will be italic*
_This will also be italic_

**This text will be bold**
__This will also be bold__

_You **can** combine them_
{MARKDOWN}
```

Available libs: https://packagist.org/?query=markdown

We already use https://packagist.org/packages/michelf/php-smartypants

luciash d' being ⬜ 24 May 19 12:03 GMT-0000

Working on it ;)

luciash d' being ⬜ 24 May 19 14:57 GMT-0000

First basic working implementation done. See the demo here:
https://demo.luciash.eu/tikitrunk/tiki-index.php?page=PluginMarkdown

Marc Laporte 14 Oct 18 14:47 GMT-0000

Pàdé (XMPP client for WikiSuite) just added:
https://github.com/igniterealtime/Pade/issues/79

Attachments

filename	created	hits	comment	version	filetype

No attachments for this item

The original document is available at https://dev.tiki.org/item6697-Markdown-support

Show PHP error messages