

Bugs & Wish list

Trackers; Avoiding silent duplication of "children" items when duplicating a single item | Tiki Wiki CMS Groupware :: Development
Trackers; Avoiding silent duplication of "children" items when duplicating a single item

Status

Closed

Subject

Trackers; Avoiding silent duplication of "children" items when duplicating a single item

Version

24.x
25.x
26.x

Category

- Support request
- Bug

Feature

Trackers

Resolution status

Fixed or Solved

Submitted by

Bernard Sfez / Tiki Specialist

Keep informed

Victor Emanouilov

Lastmod by

Bernard Sfez / Tiki Specialist

Rating

(0)

Description

Note that the "Clone tracker items" option name has been changed for "Duplicate tracker items" in Tiki25.

On tracker control panel it is possible to enable the option "Duplicate tracker items (Allow copying tracker item information to a new tracker item.) "

When duplicating an item, if this item is used in another tracker through an item link the "children" items will be duplicate too. Victor ? ported to my attention that this code/feature is here since 2012. While it was added 10 years ago and trackers or tracker usage complexity has greatly improved and changed, other people may be using it this feature as is. (so it need to be preserved)

The code is shared and used by the clone_tracker_item of the pluginListExecute.

I see several issues;

1. This is transparent and the user is not aware of this silent multiplication of items .
2. Some information are not added to the duplication (like the category)
3. Fields with automatic value assignment may received an unwanted (or unexpected) value. (user-selector creator or last editor will be filled automatically).

Here an video to illustrate the issue;

On tracker A I have a product.

On tracker B I have 12 orders with an item link to the products in the tracker A.

After I duplicate a single product in tracker A, it will create also a duplicate for each item it is link to so now I have 24 new product items and as the tracker use a user selector field set to creator, admin is now the value of the field.



Duplicate Trackeritem Create Children

To answer the problem we need to discuss and have a consensus.

- We need a new option for the user to select if only the targeted item should be duplicated (new behaviour) or if the targeted items + all children should be duplicated (as it is today).

-- Where the option selection should be set ?

- Option1: As it is related to the Duplicate tracker items it should be a child preference of the option on the control panel : `tiki-admin.php?page=trackers` but then it will be trackers wide
- Option2: As it related to the item-link field, an option to allow duplication if parent item is duplicated. This will allow to have some tracker behaving one way and other trackers the other way.
- Option3: When duplicating an item a check if children exist and if yes a modal/option/selection screen with a checkbox: "Do you want to duplicate also this item children" (y/n checkbox)

- What should be the default ?

- The clone action in the plugin ListExecute ?

Solution

Reminder: This code/feature is here since 2012 so people may use it as is.

- I added some documentation to

- <https://doc.tiki.org/Tracker-Settings>
- <https://doc.tiki.org/PluginListExecute>

Importance

5

Easy to solve?

5

Priority

25

Demonstrate Bug (Tiki 19+)

This bug has been demonstrated on show2.tiki.org

Demonstrate Bug (older Tiki versions)

Please demonstrate your bug on show.tikiwiki.org

Version: 18.x ▼

Ticket ID

8169

Created

Friday 05 August, 2022 14:13:18 GMT-0000
by Bernard Sfez / Tiki Specialist

LastModif

Saturday 11 February, 2023 19:49:01 GMT-0000

Comments



Bernard Sfez / Tiki Specialist 20 Sep 22 06:43 GMT-0000

While we want a better Tiki ?, we need to be aware of the "how many people use this" as It doesn't make sense to create extra work and extra complexity for a handful of people.

I would really have preferred a per action selection (which allow awareness of an existing option to the admin without having to read the documentation), but it look to me like a lot of work and maintenance.

A option on the item-link options is ok as it allow more granularity (per case). However the item-link option a really crowded.

(?... by the way, shouldn't the "Cascade" be a way to allow or disallow children duplication ?)

A global option (a child preference of the Duplicate option) is an easy win and includes the ListExecute case.

IMO the default should be off, "don't duplicate children items" to avoid a silent creation of items.



Jean-Marc Libs 28 Sep 22 23:39 GMT-0000

One big complex site I work on uses item cloning and they are very happy that all children trackeritems are duplicated together with the one which they duplicate. Except for one particular itemlink which they did not want to create duplicates and I needed some ugly code workaround for it.

So, I like the idea of « Option2: As it related to the item-link field, an option to allow duplication if parent item is duplicated. This will allow to have some tracker behaving one way and other trackers the other way. » because we need the granularity.

I disagree with adding this to "cascade" because cascade has all combinations of cascade options. There are 8 combinations and this would add 5 more!!! So I suggest a checkbox just above the cascade because it is related to cascading. IMO the default should be "duplicate items if parent item is duplicated" for backwards compatibility. Otherwise people who upgrade will have issues. Since the config is done on the child, the message should not mention children but parent (viewpoint issue).

Also, I agree the feedback could be improved with some message mentioning exactly how many items were just created.

Maybe option 3 would also make sense but then the end user cloning the item makes the decisions instead of the admin who configures Tiki. I can't make up my mind : It could be nice or it could be annoying extra work with possibility for mistakes if you need to do a lot of cloning.

The use case is people doing complex tracker items with child items (and children of child items). The

next year they mostly do the same things so cloning everything with a different value in the "year" and "title" fields makes sense. Then they switch status to "pending" so it's invisible to non-admins, they review everything and make changes as appropriate and then they switch status to "open" so everybody sees it. Et voilà, all done ! (Yes, status is cascaded.)



Bernard Sfez / Tiki Specialist 29 Sep 22 04:44 GMT-0000

Thank you for your feedback.

I mostly agree with your comment. (but the option should be below Cascade and not above as you suggest ;-))

- Like you, I'm not sure about option 3 (nicer or annoying) and the safe way is an additional option near "Cascade".
- I also wish we improve the help and tooltip (add your salt please ;-))

Also, I agree the feedback could be improved with some message mentioning exactly how many items were just created.

- That would be awesome !

We need a second cascade action or option.

Improving Cascade tooltip:

Cascade actions include the value of the field and the status. When the master/parent field value (in the other tracker) is updated or deleted the slave/child is affected and it is the same for the item status.

Categories may conflict if multiple item links are used to different items attempting to manage the same categories. <= What the hell does that mean... pretty hard to understand for the end-user. ?

A new checkbox;

Duplicate cascade action (checked by default so we keep the previous behaviour):

When the master/parent is duplicated (see Duplicate tracker items settings), a duplicated slave/child will be silently created in the "other" tracker (Tracker to link to).

On the Trackers admin: tiki-admin.php?page=trackers

Duplicate tracker items

Info : Duplicate tracker item information to a new tracker item. If a (parent) item has an item-link linked to another tracker, a new child item will be automatically created . This last can be turned on and off per case on the item-link tracker fields options of the parent item.

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I wonder about backporting... As principle, it will be good it is on our Tiki24 as it is LTS.



Bernard Sfez / Tiki Specialist 22 Jan 23 08:32 GMT-0000
Merge request on the way: https://gitlab.com/tikiwiki/tiki/-/merge_requests/2170



Bernard Sfez / Tiki Specialist 11 Feb 23 19:49 GMT-0000
Fixed with an addition of an option to deactivate the item duplication when using item link tracker field : https://gitlab.com/tikiwiki/tiki/-/merge_requests/2170

Attachments

filename	created	hits	comment	version	filetype
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No attachments for this item

The original document is available at <https://dev.tiki.org/item8169-Trackers-Avoiding-silent-duplication-of-children-items-when-duplicating-a-single-item>