Bugs & Wish list

Helper icons, buttons and short labels should be kept on the same line as the setting widget being edited (don't do wrapping), to avoid looking broken and having uneven row heights | Tiki Wiki CMS Groupware :: Development
Helper icons, buttons and short labels should be kept on the same line as the setting widget being edited (don't do wrapping), to avoid looking broken and having uneven row heights

Status
        ● Open

Subject
        Helper icons, buttons and short labels should be kept on the same line as the setting widget being edited (don't do wrapping), to avoid looking broken and having uneven row heights

Version
        25.x

Category
        • Usability

Feature
        Trackers
        Admin Interface (UI)
        Inline edition for trackers

Resolution status
        New

Submitted by
        Jeff

Lastmod by
        Jeff

Rating
        ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (1) ❓

Description
        The current (as of 25.x) way the form UIs (whether for settings or trackers fields or whatever) lets the tiki help icons "after the setting widget" wrap onto the next line when the widget is full-width, is problematic for a number of reasons, including:

        • It creates visual confusion as the beginning of each line is different, and since all those elements are very colorful (ex: in the default theme both the checkboxes and the info icons are blue, which makes it harder to tell them apart quickly when scanning the page);
        • It causes row heights to vary needlessly, which is unpleasant;
        • It eats more precious vertical space than it should, which causes needless scrolling, with pages up to twice as long;
        • It looks and "feels" broken (or "dangling"), visually, which impacts the first impression people[1] get of the software.

        My guess is that Tiki lets those things wrap when it shouldn't (maybe using some sort of non-breaking space character, or a div containing both the form field and the related things?)

        The only exception I can envision is long explanation labels, those make sense to have on a separate line.

Please see the attached screenshots (and mockups), this will make the problem self-explanatory; compare image no1 vs no2, and particularly no3 vs no4 which illustrate very well the change in the "global feeling" and compactness of the layout when you do this for many fields.

Tiki Setting End Of Line Icons 1 Current

Tiki Setting End Of Line Icons 2 Proposed

Tiki Setting End Of Line Icons 3 Current

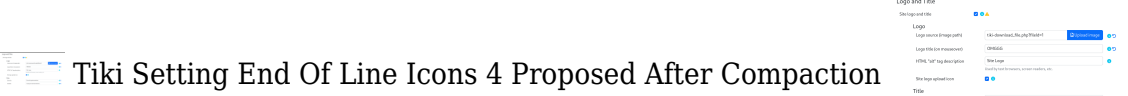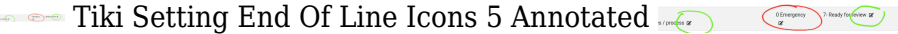Tiki Setting End Of Line Icons 4 Proposed After Compaction

Image no5 shows how this problem also affects Tiki Tracker list tables and such where there are editable cells with clickable icons/buttons in those cells. Those shouldn't wrap either, they should stay on the last line of the contents (or maybe vertically centered in the cell, or top-aligned?) :

Tiki Setting End Of Line Icons 5 Annotated

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[1]: Humans don't like things that are "dangling" in general... this is exactly why Batman asked Robin to hand him the shark-repellent bat-spray to get rid of a dangling shark.

Importance
5
Easy to solve?
7
Priority
35
Demonstrate Bug (Tiki 19+)
Please demonstrate your bug on show2.tiki.org

Version: trunk ▼

Demonstrate Bug (older Tiki versions)
Please demonstrate your bug on show.tikiwiki.org

Version: 18.x ▼

Ticket ID
8364

Created
     Sunday 19 March, 2023 00:41:08 GMT-0000
     by Jeff
LastModif
     Sunday 19 March, 2023 01:30:46 GMT-0000

Comments

Gary Cunningham-Lee 19 Mar 23 03:51 GMT-0000

Putting these icons on a new row was an intentional decision rather than a wrapping issue, judging from the HTML. I imagine the idea (although I don't recall specific discussions about this) was for these icons to display in a consistent position aligned with the start of the form inputs rather than being at various positions depending on the width of the input or checkbox, etc. But I think it would be fairly easy to move them, benefiting from new Bootstrap form layout methods, if that's the consensus on this.

Bernard Sfez / Tiki Specialist 19 Mar 23 10:58 GMT-0000

Hello Jeff and Gary,

I like better the "proposed" versions because it mainly saves space... on desktop.
Curious on how it would look on mobile (or other devices).

Gary Cunningham-Lee 19 Mar 23 13:24 GMT-0000

It's interesting to me that you both mention saving (vertical) space. I agree that saving vertical space on the presentation pages of a website, like landing pages, etc., is important (which is why I moved the side column show/hide buttons, etc. recently) but in forms on an admin/configuration page, I would think people are accustomed to scrolling as necessary to get down through the form; I don't know what the difference is between a page that's 150% or 200% of the viewport height, from a UI standpoint. Just an observation; I'm not arguing one way or the other.

BTW, on mobile, the row would wrap as necessary, I imagine, so the icons would end up on their own line again in some cases, depending on the screen width.

Bernard Sfez / Tiki Specialist 20 Mar 23 06:39 GMT-0000

sylvie greverend wrote on 01 Jan 52:

> *The secret of being boring is to say everything.*
> *Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voltaire*

Or... typing on a comments field requires sometimes more details than time accorded to the answer

allows (this one is mine) ?????
(Tiki quote plugin change the replyto from "Voltaire" to "Sylvie" and display the date "01/01/1752" as "01/01/52") ??♂

Sort answer:
I agree. "Saving space" in the sense of reducing a page height from 200% to 150% wouldn't justify any headache <u>even if I still feel like a "prehistorical man"</u> when I have to scroll all over the place to find the "Apply" button. (I skip on real risk of errors on touch screen device) (*the author deeply respect our common ancestors and any religions* ?)

I meant (sorry for not detailing my previous answer) not only saving space but essentially improving time needed for our brain to process what's under its eyes.
This is not only choosing words in a sentence.

In my mind, a good UX should answer things like: help admin to take (quick) action, make him feel confident of his understanding, make him feel confident of his actions and move to his next action. (can be expanded of course)

A one line preference should help in most of the aspect when ever possible (they will be always exceptions and that's fine)
(raw and quick answer)

Long answer: (waited for a process to complete... it was long ?)

My "Saving space" means more than that and some of the details enters in of wider context, like lowering Tiki "impression of complexity" and having in mind UX.

It is important for our brain to perform faster through a process that include a lot of non-spoken sub-processes:

- Identification (is it what I'm looking for ?)
- Readability and comprehension
- Quick "triage", needed vs not-needed (is this what I'm looking for right now ?)
- Usage if possible instant (no re-reading and energy investment)
- Expected, respect our brain expectation. We need standards and they help us. (see how people expect a washing machine operative component to be placed - it is not only practical engineering)
- It feels so good (I saw, understood easily and I'm a powerful user that totally control its Tiki) ?

Among other advantages, grouping one idea (option/command + title/descriptions + links and visual helpers) into one line (block of text) help "scannability" and "force" textual improvement. (keeping text in a single line "helps" reducing too long text fragments). Short "paragraphs" always look more digestible and can be easier skipped in case the information is not valuable for the reader.

Process completed... ?

Jeff 20 Mar 23 22:46 GMT-0000

To me the space savings are just a happy side-effect. The primary impetus for my request here is that the current layout is visually confusing and chaotic, and subconsciously looks & feels broken.

Sidenote on your notion that this may have been intentionally done to align those secondary icons: to me, the info / reset / whatever thingies, are secondary to the field widget themselves, so they do not have to be aligned to the left of the column. When my eye does a quick scan, it wants to see the primary widgets aligned, not the secondary ones. If one cares that much about the "(ⓘ)" widgets being aligned, it would make more sense for them to be on the far left, before the descriptive name label of the property, but I'm not sure it would be much better to do that.

Attachments

filename	created	hits	comment	version	filetype

No attachments for this item

The original document is available at
https://dev.tiki.org/item8364-Helper-icons-buttons-and-short-labels-should-be-kept-on-the-same-line-as-the
-setting-widget-being-edited-don-t-do-wrapping-to-avoid-looking-broken-and-having-uneven-row-heights