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# IfDefinedPlugin

## Description



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This plugin adds a couple of tags that allow to render content conditionally. There are two different ways to do that: either by using the inline `%IFDEFINED{ "string" then="..." else="..." }%` tag that returns the `then` or `else` argument depending on the `string` being defined, that is non-empty. There are no other ways to decide the condition but rendering the `test` string being a TopicMarkup expression, for example by embedding a `%CALC{ }%` expression. This simplifies this plugin alot and allows a rather flexible way to generate the condition.

The other way is to use blocks of content surrounded by expressions like this:

```
%IFDEFINEDTHEN{ "test" }%  
...  
%ELSIFDEFINED{ "test" }%  
...  
%ELSEDEFINED%  
...  
%FIDDEFINED%
```

This way the conditioned content is not limited to fit into a the argument position of a `%IFDEFINED{ ... }%` expression. Blocks can be nested and are evaluated starting from the outside, contrary to standard TopicMarkup being evaluated left-to-right-inside-out.

## Related work

An `%IF` conditional is part of Foswiki as well. See `Foswiki:System.IfStatements`. The main differences between `IF` and `IFDEFINED` are

1. `IF` comes with a fullfledged boolean expression parser whereas `IFDEFINED` only checks if a test expression expands to a non-empty string.
2. This plugin comes with separate conditionals `IFEXISTS` and `IFACCESS` to implement some of the most commonly used tests in WikiApplications
3. `IFDEFINED`'s sister `IFDEFINEDTHEN` also provides a section-oriented conditional
4. `IFDEFINED` comes with a "glue" feature to remov whitesapce before and after the conditional statement (can be switched off optionally)

## Syntax Rules

### IFDEFINED

**Syntax:**

```
%IFDEFINED{ "test"  
  [action="view,edit,preview,..."]?  
  [as="..."]  
  then="..."  
  else="..."  
  glue="on,off"}%
```

returns the "then or "else" content depending on the "test" expression expanding to the empty string or matching the string given in "as". Optionally the current topic action is checked to match the one given in "action". Normally, all surrounding whitespaces are removed, that is the resulting content is glued together in a way. You may switch that off by setting "glue" to "off" thus preventing all whitespace as it is.

The "then" and "else" strings may contain the following pseudo-variables:

- `$n`: substituted with a newline character (`\n`)
- `$percent`: substituted with a percent character (`%`)
- `$dollar`: substituted with a dollar character (`$`)
- `$test` or `$variable`: substituted with the "test" string
- `$value`: substituted with the "as" string

## IFDEFEDTHEN, ELSIFDEFINED, ELSEDEFINED, FIDDEFINED

**Syntax:**

```
%IFDEFEDTHEN{"test" [action="view,edit,preview,..."]?}%  
  <then content>  
[%ELSIFDEFINED{...}%  
  <elsif content>]*  
[%ELSEDEFINED%  
  <else content>]?  
%FIDDEFINED%
```

This is the multi-line version of `IFSDEFINED`. `IFDEFEDTHEN` expressions can be nested safely. Within a single `IFDEFEDTHEN` the `ELSIFDEFINED` parts can be repeated arbitrarily. Before rendering the `<then|elsif|else condition>` any `$nop` string will be removed first. Thereby nested `TopicMarkup` expressions can be prevented from being expanded in advance.

## IFACCESS

**Syntax:**

```
%IFACCESS%  
  
%IFACCESS{"<webtopic>"  
  [type="view|change"]  
  [user="<WikiName>"]  
  [then="<then-clause>"]  
  [else="<else-clause>"]  
  [glue="on|off"]}%
```

This checks the access permissions a user has on a given topic and then renders the `<then-clause>` if access is granted and `<else-clause>` otherwise. By default, the current user's view access will be checked on the current topic (`%IFACCESS%`). The other parameters are:

- `<webtopic>`: the name of the topic to be checked, defaults to current
- `user="<WikiName>":` the name of the user to be checked, defaults to the current user
- `type="view|change":` the type of access to be checked, either view access or change/edit access, defaults to "view"
- `then="<then-clause>":` the string to be returned on granted access, defaults to "1"
- `else="<else-clause>":` the string to be returned if no access is granted, defaults to "0"
- `glue="on|off":` apply glue around the `IFACCESS` tag or not, defaults to "on"

# IFEXISTS

## Syntax:

```
%IFEXISTS{ "<webtopic>"
  [then="<then-clause>"]
  [else="<else-clause>"]
  [glue="on|off"]} %
```

This tag checks if `webtopic` exists and expands `then-clause` or `else-clause` as needed. A similar functionality is available using

`%CALC{ "$IF ($EXIST(<webtopic>,<then-clause>),<else-clause>)" }` of the `SpreadSheetPlugin`. This is still preferable if you need more computation based on `CALC` in the `then/else` branches. The `IFEXISTS` version however is more lightweight, comes with a much simpler syntax and allows more complex `TopicMarkup` in the `then/else` branches.

## Demo

- Set `FOO = foo`
- `FOO` is defined.
- `FOO` is not defined as `"bar"`.
- `BAR` is not defined.
- `WikiGuest` has no write access to `IfDefinedPlugin`
- `WikiGuest` has no write access to `IfDefinedPlugin`

## Plugin Installation Instructions

You do not need to install anything in the browser to use this extension. The following instructions are for the administrator who installs the extension on the server.

Open `configure`, and open the "Extensions" section. Use "Find More Extensions" to get a list of available extensions. Select "Install".










If you have any problems, or if the extension isn't available in `configure`, then you can still install manually from the command-line. See <http://foswiki.org/Support/ManuallyInstallingExtensions> for more help.

## Plugin Info

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Copyright ©:	2006-2009, Michael Daum <a href="http://michaeldaumconsulting.com">http://michaeldaumconsulting.com</a>
License:	GPL (GNU General Public License)
Release:	v2.00
Version:	4422 (2009-07-03)
Change History:	
23 Apr 2009:	converted to foswiki plugin
07 Jan 2009:	certified for foswiki/compat
03 Jul 2008:	more rookie perl errors
05 Oct 2007:	fixed a rookie perl error
20 Jun 2007:	added IFEXISTS ; make use of TWiki-4 APIs for speed improvements
18 Dec 2006:	removed support for cairo and beijing; added IFACCESS tag: checks access of some user on a topic
18 Sep 2006:	allow multiline values to be checked

31 Aug 2006:	added NO_PREFS_IN_TOPIC
15 Aug 2006:	added \$test and \$value
07 Aug 2006:	be smarter to detect the cgi action wrt to different apache setups
10 Mar 2006:	added as parameter; added escape parameters and recursive variable expansion to the condition argument which helps to circumvent problems due to different plugin orders
21 Feb 2006:	Initial version
CPAN Dependencies:	none
Other Dependencies:	none
Perl Version:	5.8
Plugin Home:	Foswiki:Extensions/IfDefinedPlugin
Feedback:	Foswiki:Support/IfDefinedPlugin

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 Topic revision: [r2](#) - 16 Sep 2009 - 22:12:26 - AdminUser

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