

Wiki status update

What has been done in the past year?

Taco Hoekwater

This is a status report on the ongoing work to the ConT_EXt wiki. Most of the work in the past year has been related to software updates.

The wiki resides at <https://wiki.contextgarden.net>.

Mailing list

The wiki development has its own mailing list now:

```
wiki@contextgarden.net
https://lists.contextgarden.net/
mailman/listinfo/wiki
```

Everyone who wants to help improve the wiki is invited to join that mailing list.

Software updates

We implemented secure connections (https) for the wiki, and an automatic redirect from plain http (actually this is now the case for all group-related websites).

The Mediawiki software is now at version 1.31, and will hopefully be kept up-to-date from now on.

Our private plugins were fixed to work with new Mediawiki software.

The <context> extension

The (already present) <context> extension allows the use of ConT_EXt input on the wiki to demonstrate suggested usage as well as showing the resulting output. It does this by running ConT_EXt on the wiki snippet and then converting

it into a PNG image. The PNG image is cached based on the checksum of the snippet content.

The <context> extension now uses the same ConT_EXt release as live.contextgarden.net; 20190824 MkIV at the time of this presentation.

MkIV is now the only accepted ConT_EXt mode. Old MkII examples should be removed from the wiki, because they cannot be reprocessed.

Some tweaks were made to the ConT_EXt setup for the snippets so that the output PNG has a better size.

New <syntax> extension

The wiki has a gained new extension:

```
<syntax>setuplayout</syntax>
```

This extension is meant to be used in /Command/XXX pages as an easy way to produce the official syntax of a ConT_EXt command.

Syntax extension implementation

The data source for this extension is generated by processing `context-en.xml` using a ConT_EXt environment file that generates an SQL file, that is then imported into the wiki database as a separate database table. The visible output of the <syntax> tag is stored as pre-generated HTML with CSS styling using Mediawiki's `Common.css`.

A tiny wiki extension then fetches the information from the database when requested.

The update process for the data source is currently run by hand, but this could be automated in the future.

Syntax extension pros and cons

On the good side: the result is ‘always’ up to date and correct, and much easier to type in than the current manually formatted wiki tables.

On the bad side: there is no way to have user-supplied clarifications as part of the syntax specification. All extra explanations have to be added in a separate table. This is not *more* work than the current situation, but it is a little less clear for the reader. We have not yet figured out an easy way to add such information to the database itself.

Also still to be solved is the problem that copying the wiki skeleton template for new /Command/XXX pages is tedious, so creating a new wiki page for a previously non-documented ConT_EXt command is not as user-friendly as we would like.

New logo

The wiki has a new logo, by Paul Schalck:



Alternative proposals are still welcome, but for now we are pleased with the nice colourful image.

Test wiki

There is now also a test wiki installation:

<https://wikitest.contextgarden.net/>

which has its own database and software. The plan is to use that to test big changes to the wiki before they become visible to every user.