API for Wikidata

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API for Wikidata

- Background and limitations
- Present structure
- Known problems
  - Cross domain requests (XHR)
  - Session failure

Background and limitations

- It supports the Wikibase extension, especially the user interface, not bots
- It is not a real alternative to existing props, query and generator modules
- It is not made for large bulk uploads, but it can be done
- It should not be necessary to do handshaking before transfer of values

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Present structure

- ■ Each core functionality is given its own module with some leeway
  - ○ wbsetitem - build an item
  - ○ wbgetitemid - get the item id given site and title
  - ○ wbgetitems - get filtered information about items
  - ○ wbgetsitelinks - get all sitellinks for an item
  - ○ wbsetlanguageattribute - set, add and update label and description
  - ○ wbdeletelanguageattribute - remove label and description
  - ○ wbsetaliases - set, add and remove aliases
  - ○ wblinksite - connect a client page

Documentation

- The API has an enbedded documentation (api.php) and a documentation page at [[mw: Extension:Wikibase/API]]

Known problems

- The call methods are not concistent and this makes it confusing to use (3x)
- Result sets can be very large, 284 projects („sites") and 424 translations („languages")
- Rights are not available before saving data
- Tokens does not use salting by page id
- Errors due to non-normalized database
- Messages are a mixture of English and localized messages

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Cross domain requests (write)

■ Browsers are connected to different sites inside Wikimedia („repo", „clients") and some alien ones

- ○ Script tricks can be made to work, but needs additional security
- ○ Document.domain works within Wikimedia
- ○ CORS is the future, but lacks support
- ○ Full-blown proxy („trusted proxy") in clients with forwarding of user credentials will work
- ○ Frames works if one site is read only

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Keeping the user logged in

- ■ Users are sometimes logged out, and this has consequences
  - ○ User don't reload the page
  - ○ API keeps on using an invalid token
  - ○ User will get error messages
  - ○ ...what to do?

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