

# *Getlets* – extending interwikis

## **Workshop:**

### **Getlets: extending the interwiki concept beyond any limits**

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<http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Wikimania05/Workshop-TG3>

## Abstract

Getlets extend the "Interwiki technology" to allow users the access of other servers' data such as google, sourceforge, national telephonbooks, wikipedia and many more, merely limited by copyright restrictions. They can be best seen as "shortcuts" with a simplified syntax for queries. Parts of the "Getlet" are translated on the wiki server to perform a predetermined action on a foreign server.

"Getlets" are designed to fetch and integrate data into the wiki page, but hide the technical details at the same time: the wiki server may use complicated "wget" or "curl" actions to retrieve the foreign contents, but the user only has to write "get:server:item" . These contents can "dynamically" - or as an alternative (user option -p for permanent) - "statically" be added to the wiki page bearing the "Getlet".

As an option for the whole wiki, the content delivering foreign servers are advertised by so-called "Interwikilcons" (Intersitelcons): "favicons" of the target servers are shown in front of the "Getlets" or with the delivered contents in order to indicate the information source and link target.

Copyrights and intellectual property rights need to be respected when using "Getlet technology", Interwikilcons and content copying from other servers.

# *Getlets* – extending interwikis

## ■ Interwiki links (known)

- in Wikipedia, to Wikipedia:  
inserting an in-line link to an article in a different language

Example:            [[[:en:Spaceflights]]]

- in Wikipedia, to Wikipedia:  
inserting *one* link to corresponding article in different language  
in the navigation menu (Wikipedia *automatic interlanguage links*)

Example:            [[en:Spaceflights]] [[de:Raumflug]]

- in wikis in general, to *others sites*:  
a shorthand notation (shortcut) for non-wiki sites

Example:            [[google:Spaceflights]]

# Getlets – extending interwikis

## ■ Interwiki links (known)

- Implementation is based on an intermap (interwiki map) table usually on the source wiki

Example: [http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Interwiki\\_map](http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Interwiki_map)

GlossaryWiki	<a href="http://glossary.fh-augsburg.de/\$1">http://glossary.fh-augsburg.de/\$1</a>
GmailWiki	<a href="http://www.gmailwiki.com/index.php/\$1">http://www.gmailwiki.com/index.php/\$1</a>
Google	<a href="http://www.google.com/search?q=\$1">http://www.google.com/search?q=\$1</a>
GoogleGroups	<a href="http://groups.google.com/groups?q=\$1">http://groups.google.com/groups?q=\$1</a>
GotAMac	<a href="http://www.got-a-mac.org/\$1">http://www.got-a-mac.org/\$1</a>
GreenCheese	<a href="http://www.greencheese.org/\$1">http://www.greencheese.org/\$1</a>
H2Wiki	<a href="http://halowiki.net/h2wiki?\$1">http://halowiki.net/h2wiki?\$1</a>

The map translates user shortcuts into corresponding URLs and querystrings:

Example: `[[google:Spaceflights | manned space flights]]`  
is translated to <http://www.google.com/search?q=Spaceflights>  
is rendered as link to that URL on the wiki  
page where the interwiki is written

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Example: [http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Interwiki\\_map](http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Interwiki_map)

GlossaryWiki	<a href="http://glossary.fh-augsburg.de/\$1">http://glossary.fh-augsburg.de/\$1</a>
GmailWiki	<a href="http://www.gmailwiki.com/index.php/\$1">http://www.gmailwiki.com/index.php/\$1</a>
Google	<a href="http://www.google.com/search?q=\$1">http://www.google.com/search?q=\$1</a>
GoogleGroups	<a href="http://groups.google.com/groups?q=\$1">http://groups.google.com/groups?q=\$1</a>
GotAMac	<a href="http://www.got-a-mac.org/\$1">http://www.got-a-mac.org/\$1</a>
GreenCheese	<a href="http://www.greencheese.org/\$1">http://www.greencheese.org/\$1</a>
H2Wiki	<a href="http://halowiki.net/h2wiki?\$1">http://halowiki.net/h2wiki?\$1</a>

Obviously (in safe environments):

the interwiki map could be realised as an ordinary wiki page, which is read in real-time or cached for processing;



anyone could be entitled to edit that page based on wiki principle (concept known as „FileReplacement“ → see Annex)

# Getlets – extending interwikis

## ■ Interwiki links

- **Interwiki-Icons** (Intersite-Icons; new proposal)  
filed as [http://bugzilla.wikipedia.org/show\\_bug.cgi?id=1254](http://bugzilla.wikipedia.org/show_bug.cgi?id=1254)

The *favicon* (small icon) of the content delivering server (the non-wiki site) is shown to indicate who delivered the content

 google:tombo  
 leo:gift  
 dico:gift  
 dict:gift  
 QS:Administration  
 wd:Marlene\_Dietrich

 tombo  
 gift  
 gift  
 gift  
 Administration  
 Marlene\_Dietrich

# Getlets – extending interwikis

## ■ Interwiki links (known):

- in Wikipedia, to Wikipedia: `[[en:Spaceflights]]`
- in Wikipedia, to Wikipedia: `[[en:Spaceflights]] [[de:Raumflug]]`
- in wikis in general, to *others sites*:  
shorthand (shortcuts) for non-wiki sites  
`[[google:Spaceflights]]`
- based on an interwiki map (table)
- [\*jump to the target site\*](#) and browsing continues there

## ■ **Getlets** (new proposal)

- *Getlets import contents from target site(s)*
- dynamic content display or static content integration to wiki page
- for non-wiki sites (google:, RFC:, weatherforecast:, bugzilla: )
- akin to *RSS integration* (MediaWiki extension)
- akin to *googlemap integration* (MediaWiki extension)
- akin to MediaWiki Template *substitution* `{{subst:something}}`

# Getlets – extending interwikis

- **Getlets** (new proposal cont.)
  - **import contents** from target site(s)
  - are indicated by keyword **get:** in front of the interwiki: `get:RFC:2822`
  - *dynamic* content display or *static* content integration to wiki page: `-p`
  - **extend** the established interwiki shorthand concept
  - need in most of the cases **special handlers** on the wiki server
  - need **wget/curl** on the wiki server
  - need a dedicated **caching system** on the wiki server
  - can add further functionality to the wiki:
    - permanently adding (integrating) contents of other wiki pages
    - e.g. wiki pages where page names match a regular expression
  - copyrights and intellectual property rights of foreign servers:
    - need to be observed

# Getlets – extending interwikis

## ■ *Getlets*

### ■ *Getlet syntax*

1. `get:shortcut`
2. `get:shortcut:searchitem -p` ( -p optional )
3. `[[get:shortcut:searchitem -p ]]`
4. `[[get:shortcut:searchitem -p | alternate text ]]`

### ■ *Getlet examples*

- a) `get:en = get:http://en.wikipedia.org`
- b) `get:RFC:2822 -p`  
get content of RFC 2822 and integrate it in the wiki page source for later editing; replace/comment the *getlet* `<!-- ... -->`
- c) `get:heise:62398`  
get Heise Newsticker page and render it instead of the *getlet*  
`http://www.heise.de/newsticker/meldung/62398`
- d) `[[get:heise:62398]]` similar to b) but additionally rendered as a link



# *Getlets* – extending interwikis

## ■ *Getlets: summary*

Instead of only linking to foreign servers,  
*getlets* extend the known interwiki concept links

in that

- they dynamically show the foreign server's contents or
- permanently integrate foreign contents into the wiki page source
- copyrights of foreign sources need to be observed

# Getlets – extending interwikis

*Annex: references and further reading*

- Interwiki:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interwiki>

- Intermap (Interwiki map):

[http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Interwiki\\_map](http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Interwiki_map)

- *Editable* Interwiki map (MeatBall):

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FileReplacement>

Wibisa/QS/QuickSource disclosure <http://sourceforge.net/projects/wibisa>

- Intersitelcons:

<http://www.usemod.com/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?WikiPatches/InterSitelcons>

[http://bugzilla.wikipedia.org/show\\_bug.cgi?id=1254](http://bugzilla.wikipedia.org/show_bug.cgi?id=1254)

- MediaWiki extensions:

<http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Mafs/RSS>

<http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Mafs/GoogleMapExtension>

- MediaWiki Template Substitution `{{subst:something}}`

<http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help:Template#subst>