

Include remote files

amusewiki.org

Include remote files

It was asked if it would be possible to include (possibly remote) files at markup level, something like:

[[include file.txt]]

This idea of external resources embedded at markup level is bad because it just goes against the whole amusewiki architecture, which tries and keep the archive as a whole and the texts as self-contained units.

However, the problem is fixable in another way, which looks saner and more secure (because of course, this feature would open up a whole set of vulnerabilities: think e.g. about an URL as http://localhost/path/which/is/supposed/to/be/served/only/to/loc which could be possibly get embedded on a public wiki).

Instead, you could have a script which does the following:

- 1. Read a user provided file with an identifier and an URL. Which at this point could be very well file:///etc/passwd as it's under the user control and out of the app.
- In the muse file, leave some comments, like; START INCLUDE file and; STOP INCLUDE (which are invisible in the generated formats)
- 3. Fetch the application git and do forced update to keep it in sync using the freshest version.
- 4. Scan the archive and replace with the content between the comments with the LWP->decoded_content stuff the script pulls

- from the identifiers, and commit the changes, if any. Bonus point: you actually keep track of the changes not just display the content at some random time. I see this as feature, of course.
- 5. Add a cronjob to the application which pulls this cloned git every hour or so. The applications will refuse to pull non-fast-forward anyway, so it's safe.

See script/sync-remote-archive.pl for an example of a script which automatically pulls the content from a remote archive.