

System Web Preferences

Appearance

- Set WEBBGCOLOR = #B9DAFF
- Set SITEMAPLIST = on
- Set WEBSUMMARY = Discover the details, and how to start your own site with Foswiki - The Free and Open Source Wiki.
- Set NOAUTOLINK = off

TOC settings

- Set TOC_HIDE_IF_INCLUDED = on
 - ◆ Hide Table of Contents if the topic is included
- Set TOC_TITLE = On this page:
 - ◆ Set default Table of Contents title
- Set TOC_MIN_DEPTH = 2
 - ◆ The first header level to appear in the TOC:

Wiki application settings

- WebTopicEditTemplate
 - ◆ default template for new topics in this web, if this topic does not exist, site-level default template will be used
- Set WEBFORMS = DefaultPreferencesForm, FAQForm
 - ◆ Comma separated list of **forms** that can be attached to topics in this web. See DataForms for more information.

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Access control

Users or groups who are allowed to view, change and rename topics in the System web. Public sites should consider denying WikiGuest view access on the System web to minimize search bot activity. Remove the comment # character to enable a setting. Use * to indicate everyone including the guest users.

- #Set DENYWEBVIEW = WikiGuest
- #Set ALLOWWEBVIEW =
- Set ALLOWWEBCHANGE = AdminGroup
- Set ALLOWWEBRENAME = AdminGroup

Users or groups allowed to change or rename this WebPreferences topic

- Set ALLOWTOPICCHANGE = AdminGroup

Nicks Variables

-  Set GENPDFLINK=

Tools

- Rename, move or delete this web

Show help Hide help

Preference Settings

A *preference setting* lets you define a simple macro that will be expanded in your output. In addition:

- preference settings are used by Plugins to control their features,
- preference settings are used for Access Control.

A preference setting looks like this:

```
[multiple of 3 spaces] * [space] Set [space] MACRONAME [space] = [space] value
```

Example:

```
* Set WEBBGCOLOR = #FFFFC0
```

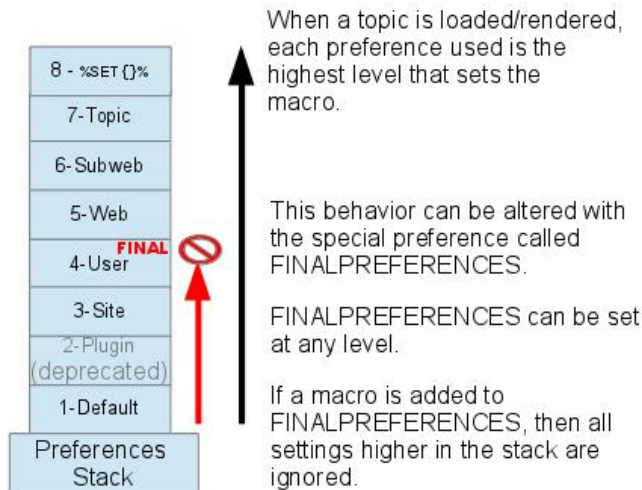
Macros defined using preference settings are expanded by enclosing their name in percent signs. So when you write `%WEBBGCOLOR%`, it gets expanded to `#B9DAFF`

Preferences can also be set dynamically by using the `%SET{"setting" value="value"}% Macro`. With the exception of these dynamic preference settings, preferences are always taken from the most current topic revision, *even when accessing previous revisions of a topic*.

Preferences can be defined in a number of places:

1. DefaultPreferences (Foswiki upgrades overwrite this topic)
2. In (some) plugin documentation topics. (Deprecated)
3. SitePreferences
4. In user topics, if the user has one (yours is Main.WikiGuest)
5. WebPreferences in each web.
6. Sub-webs inherit the WebPreferences of their parent
7. In the topic when it is loaded from the Store
8. In SET macros for run-time preferences

Set statements which occur at numerically higher locations override macros of the same name defined at lower numbered levels, *unless the macro was listed in a finalpreferences setting (finalised) at a lower-numbered level*. When a preference is *finalized*, the macro is locked to the value at that level; SET statements at higher-numbered levels are ignored. Looking at it graphically:



Access Control rules (ACLs) are also written as preference settings. **ACLs cannot be dynamically modified by the %SET{}% macro.**

Writing preference settings

Preference settings are written as a simple bullet. In TopicMarkupLanguage (TML) they are written as 3-spaces, asterisk, equals, value

```
* Set MYSETTING = My setting value
```

When using the Wysiwyg editor, click the "Bullet" button and write the setting as a simple bullet. Don't include the asterisk or the leading spaces.

Spaces between the = sign and the value will be ignored. You can split a value over several lines by indenting following lines with spaces - as long as you don't try to use * as the first character on the following line. (Not when using the Wysiwyg editor.)

Example:

```
* Set MACRONAME = value starts here
  and continues here
```

💡 preference settings can easily be disabled with a # sign. Example:

```
* #Set DENYWEBCHANGE = %USERSWEB%.UnknownUser
```

Whatever you include in your bullet style setting will be expanded on display, exactly as if it had been entered directly (though see Parameters, below). (%SET{}%) settings are expanded during the set process. See VarSET for further information.

Example: Create a custom logo macro

- To place a logo anywhere in a web by typing %MYLOGO%, define the preference settings in the web's WebPreferences topic, and upload a logo file, ex: mylogo.gif. You can upload by attaching the file to WebPreferences, or, to avoid clutter, to any other topic in the same web, e.g. LogoTopic. Sample

preference setting in WebPreferences:

```
* Set MYLOGO = %PUBURL%/WEB%/LogoTopic/mylogo.gif
```

Preference settings are **case sensitive**. (Foswiki by convention always writes settings in upper case.)

```
* Set lower = This is LOWER
* Set LOWER = This is UPPER
* Set LoWeR = This is MIXED
Expand %lower%, %LOWER% and %LoWeR%
```

Expand %lower%, %LOWER% and %LoWeR%.

Hiding preference settings

You can hide preference settings in the output by enclosing them in HTML comments; for example,

```
<!--
* Set HIDDEN = This will be invisible in the output
-->
```

You can also set preference settings in a topic by clicking the link [Edit topic preference settings](#) under [More topic actions](#). Preferences set in this manner are known as 'meta' preferences and are not visible in the topic text, but take effect nevertheless. **If the same setting appears as both an inline setting, and in topic meta settings, the meta setting will override the inline setting!** There is no warning when the setting is duplicate. This should be avoided to prevent confusion.

⚠ Caution If your topic will be used in an INCLUDE, it is recommended to not use HTML comments. Instead, set preferences into the topic metadata by using the "Edit Settings for this topic" button on the "More topic actions" page. Settings in an included topic are always ignored, but nested comments will break the HTML.

Order of preference settings

If you are setting a preference and using it in the same topic, note that Foswiki reads all the bullet style preference settings from the saved version of the topic before it displays anything. This means you can use a setting anywhere in the topic, even if you set it at the very end. **But beware:** it also means that if you change the setting of a macro you are using in the same topic, **Preview** will show the wrong thing, and you must **Save** the topic to see it correctly. (%SET{}% style settings *are* assigned during the topic rendering, and their effect will be visible in the preview.)

Preference settings and topic revision history

Foswiki always reads the bullet style settings from the most current topic revision, so viewing older revisions of a topic can show unexpected results.

And especially important, **bullet style preference settings are never overridden or set in when a topic content is obtained by "%INCLUDE{".** However %SET{ style settings can be overridden when an INCLUDE is expanded. in the below example about weather conditions, note the difference in the CONDITIONS expansion

Parameters

The following block of code was read from PreferenceSettings, and the "Set" statements were defined in WebPreferences

Writing preference settings

Macros defined using preference settings can take parameters. These are symbols passed in the call to the macro to define local macros that will be expanded in the output. For example, Both `Macros` and `PreferenceSettings` have a `Set` statement that defines the `%CONDITIONS%` macro as shown here:

```
* Set CONDITIONS = According to [[%TOPIC%]] the %WHAT% is %STATE% today (Set in ...).
```

The `%TOPIC%` shows where the `CONDITIONS` macro is expanded, and the `...` shows where the `Set` statement was actually defined.

You can call this macro passing in values for `WHAT` and `STATE`. For example:

```
◆ %CONDITIONS{WHAT="sea" STATE="chopy"}%  
  ◇ expands to %CONDITIONS{WHAT="sea" STATE="chopy"}%
```

Note that `%CONDITIONS%` expands differently when this example is viewed in `Macros`. This is because `Set` statements are not active in included topics. The including topic's set statements are used.

Parameter defaults

- The special parameter name `DEFAULT` gets the value of any unnamed parameter in the macro call.
- Parameter macros can accept a `default` parameter so that they expand to something even when a value isn't passed for them in the call.

Example:

```
* Set WEATHER = It's %DEFAULT{default="raining"}%.
```

- `%WEATHER%` expands to `%WEATHER%`
- `%WEATHER{"sunny"}%` expands to `%WEATHER{"sunny"}%`

The standard formatting tokens can be used in parameters. They will be expanded immediately when the macro is instantiated.

⚠ Note that parameters **override** all other macros, including system defined macros, in the expansion of the macro where they are used.

Access Control Settings

These are special types of preference settings to control access to content. `AccessControl` explains these security settings in detail. Parameters are **not** available in access control settings. `AccessControl` settings cannot be set or changed by the `%SET{}%` macro.

Local values for preferences

Certain topics (user, plugin, web, site and default preferences topics) have a problem; macros defined in those topics can have two meanings. For example, consider a user topic. A user may want to use the wiki text editor, but **only** when editing their home topic. The rest of the time, they want to use the default Wysiwyg editor. This separation is achieved using `Local` in place of `Set` in the macro definition. For example, if the user sets the following in their home topic:

```
* Local NOWYSIWYG = 1
```

Then, when they are editing any other topic, they will get the Wysiwyg editor. However, when they are editing their home topic they will get the wikitext editor. `Local` can be used wherever a preference needs to

take a different value depending on where the current operation is being performed.

`%SHOWPREFERENCE%` can be used to get a listing of the values of all macros in their evaluation order, so you can see macro scope if you get confused.

```
%SHOWPREFERENCE{ "CONDITIONS" } %
```

expands into:

- Set `CONDITIONS = ""`

Related Topics

- `System.DefaultPreferences`, `Main.SitePreferences` - site-level preferences
- `WikiUsers` - list of user topics. User topics can have optional user preferences
- `Macros` - what macros are and how to use them, including a list of common macros
- `AccessControl` - explains how to restrict access by users or groups

This topic: [System](#) > [WebHome](#) > [WebPreferences](#)

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```
RENDERZONE{2}
```