5.9 Extension/BlueSpiceVisualDiff

BlueSpiceVisualDiff enables users to easily compare two versions of a wiki page.

Comparing page versions

VisualDiff is integrated in the history page of every content page. Users with reading rights can access the version comparison by clicking on Page > History at the top of the content area.

Once in history view, select two versions (revisions) to compare (by marking the radio button in front of every revision) and click “Compare selected revisions”.

![Selecting revisions](image-url)
This opens the compare view, with several modes of comparison available:

- **VisualDiff** - mode that this page describes.
- **WikiText** - shows difference in underlying wikitext.
- **Classic** - shows basic visual difference with old version on the left and new on the right. It highlights which lines were added or removed.

**VisualDiff color coding**

**Reading the diff**

A change can be “added”, “deleted”, “changed”, or be marked as “conflict” content. Due to the nature of wiki articles, “changed” and “conflict” are very rare. “Changed” will be shown, for example, if a word was linked subsequently. All other changes (although being “changed” as well) are shown as “added” or “deleted”.

**Color code for text changes:**

- Light blue: additions to the text.
- Orange and crossed-out: deletions from the text.
- Blue dashed lines: Changes in the structure of the article. This is usually the case when a word has been linked subsequently, or a header has been changed.

**Color code for image changes:**

- Light blue frame: added picture, or the current format of a changed image.
- Red frame: deleted picture, or the former format of a changed image.

**Related info**

- Reference: BlueSpiceVisualDiff
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## Contents

1 Usage / features .................................................................................................................................................. 3  
2 Technical information ........................................................................................................................................ 4  
   2.1 Configuration ........................................................................................................................................... 4  
   2.2 Rights (permissions) ................................................................................................................................ 4  
   2.3 Requirements ............................................................................................................................................. 4  
3 More info .............................................................................................................................................................. 4  
4 Demo ................................................................................................................................................................... 4  

### Usage / features

There are three diff views:

1. **Visual**: The differences are shown in the flow text. Changes are highlighted in color.

2. **WikiText**: The output is shown in WikiCode in an integrated view. Changes are highlighted in color.

3. **Classic**: The output is in WikiCode. Old and new text face each other in two columns.

   - You can switch between the views via tabs.
The Java command-line tool DaisyDiff creates a unified diff from two revisions rendered in HTML. This is displayed on a SpecialPage.

- Additional information is displayed, e.g., the compared revisions.
- A navigation to the previous difference is displayed. The behavior is similar to that of MediaWiki.
- You can jump from one change to the next via flyout.

Technical information

The extension VisualDiff is based on the HTML-Diff tool DaisyDiff and shall give a quick and visually appealing overview of the changes in revisions of a wiki article. The changes are displayed in a so called Unified-Diff and therefore in a document and not like usual in two columns. The normal link to the diff view of MediaWiki is overwritten by a link to a special page. The article revision (oldid) works as a basis for the comparison. This also defines the changes like "added" and "deleted".

Configuration

There are no configuration options.

Rights (permissions)

To use VisualDiff, the user needs to have read rights.

Requirements

VisualDiff requires BlueSpiceFoundation.

More info

For detailed description and usage, visit our help page.

Demo

You can test the VisualDiff functionality in our BlueSpiceDemo.