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Namespaces

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What is a namespace?

A **namespace** defines an area in a wiki. You can recognize a namespace by the namespace prefix in the page title:

```
<namespace>:Page title
```

Explainer video on Youtube: Namespaces (Length: 4: 33 min.)

We sometimes use shelves and closets as an example to make the principle of namespaces clear. There are shelves that everyone can access. Then there are glass cabinets with locks that everyone can look into, but not everyone can edit everything. There are also closed wooden cabinets with a lock, so only selected people can look into that space and work. And every closet can look different.

In a wiki, you will find predefined namespaces. In addition, wiki administrators can create custom namespaces as needed.

There are certain aspects of namespaces that are important to consider before creating a namespace. It is therefore important to understand the characteristics of namespaces and the reasons for using a custom namespace.

Characteristics of a namespace

- **Rights management**: Each namespace can contain its own user rights/roles assignments. However, we recommend flat user hierarchies for wikis.
- **Activation of features:** Different functions can be activated in each namespace (e.g., page approvals or read confirmations).
- **Search function**: Search can be limited to individual namespaces (namespace filter).
- **One namespace per page**: The same page name in a different namespace creates a new page.
- **Flat structure**:Namespaces cannot contain other namespaces.
- **File associations:** Uploaded files can be assigned to a namespace to apply namespace permissions to files.
- **Design**: Namespaces can be styled differently.

BlueSpice standard namespaces

BlueSpice uses, among others, the 15 standard and the two so-called pseudo namespaces from MediaWiki:

ID	Namespace	Function
	Media	Pseudo-namespace for uploaded images and files. Will be replaced by path of the files.
	special	Pseudo-namespace for special pages.

ID	Namespace	Function
0	(pages)	These are given without a prefix.
1	Talk	talk page. Is created in addition to each article (also in the following namespaces) to speak about its contents. Additional tab (+).
2	User	User page. Will be created for every logged in user.
3	User talk	Cf. talk
4	[Wiki-Name]	Information about the wiki or the current project. Here: BlueSpice.
5	[Wiki-Name] _Talk	Cf. talk
6	Image	Description of a picture and other files. Is automatically supplemented with version information and information about the occurrence of the file
7	File_Talk	Cf. talk
8	MediaWiki	system messages. A complete list can be found under Special: AllMessages. Can only be changed by registered users.
9	MediaWiki_Talk	Cf. talk
10	Template	Templates can be integrated into other pages.
11	Template_talk	Cf. talk
12	Help	Help pages describe how to perform actions in the wiki. No clear separation from the [wiki name] namespace.
13	Help_talk	Cf. talk
14	Category	Pages can be assigned to categories, which are then accessible in this namespace.
15	Category_talk	Cf. talk

Standard namespace: A page is assigned to the "Main" namespace, as long as no other namespace is specified.

Pseudo namespaces: The two pseudo namespaces (Media, Special) are used like normal namespaces, but you cannot edit them or add pages to them.

Most pages in the namespaces are created automatically:

- Special pages are generated by the system during installation.

- Media and image pages are created during file uplad.
- User pages are created whenever a user acts on the wiki.
- Discussion pages are also created with the corresponding pages.

This leaves only the default namespaces *(Main)*, *[wiki name]*, *Template*, *Help* and *Category* namespaces where pages can be freely created.

Creating a new namespace

You can create additional namespaces by using the Namespace manager under Global actions > Management > Namespace manager. The menu item "Category manager" loads the page `Special:NamespaceManager`.

Namespace "MediaWiki"

Pages in the MediaWiki namespace can be created and edited by users with "editinterface" permission. By default, these are users whose group is assigned the *structuremanager, admin,* or *maintenanceadmin* role.

Important uses are:

- **System Messages:** Each message has a wiki page with the message key as the name of the page. A list of all announcement pages can be found on Special:AllAnnouncements.
- **Localizations via *{{int:messagname}}*:** An element of the user interface or within a wiki page can be translated into the user language via . Syntax: *Mediawiki:message name/ISO language code*.
- **MediaWiki:Common.js**: Contains JavaScript that is loaded for all pages and users.
- **MediaWiki:Common.css**: Stylesheet that is loaded after the stylesheet of the active skin in the wiki. It applies to all wiki pages.

Accessing pages in a namespace

To access or create a page in a specific namespace, its name is simply placed in front of the page title and separated by a colon:

```
[[Setup:Installation|]]
```

In the example, the pipe symbol (straight line) was also added. It has the effect that the namespace won't be displayed for the link label.

If you provide a namespace that is not known to the wiki, the page is created in the standard namespace Main. The portion of the reference specified as the namespace is then added to the title of the item instead and is not recognized as a namespace label.

Organizing content without namespaces

If you simply want to group pages in your wiki without the need for controlling access rights, you can use the syntax of the namespaces to **simulate a namespace in the namespace Main**. Simply prefix the pages that belong to a group with a name and a colon. If no namespace with this name exists, the prefix simply becomes part of the page name.

That way, it is possible to use pages with the same name in the main namespace and thus let different groups work on content "sets". Since these own "namespace" prefixes are part of the page name, you can now display all pages in a simulated namespace by searching for the prefix in the search field.

Since you can also organize pages with categories and subpages, you should start by planning how you would like to organize the content in your wiki.

After installing your wiki, you can visualize this with the BlueSpice draw.io Plugin directly in your wiki and discuss it with your team.

Viewing all pages of a namespace

You can view all pages in a namespace:

1. **Go** to the Special page "All Pages"
2. **Leave** the input field empty
3. **Select** a namespace from the Namespace drop-down menu
4. **Click** *Go*

Related info

- Namespace CSS manager
- Namespace manager

Namespace CSS manager

is available up to BlueSpice 4.1.

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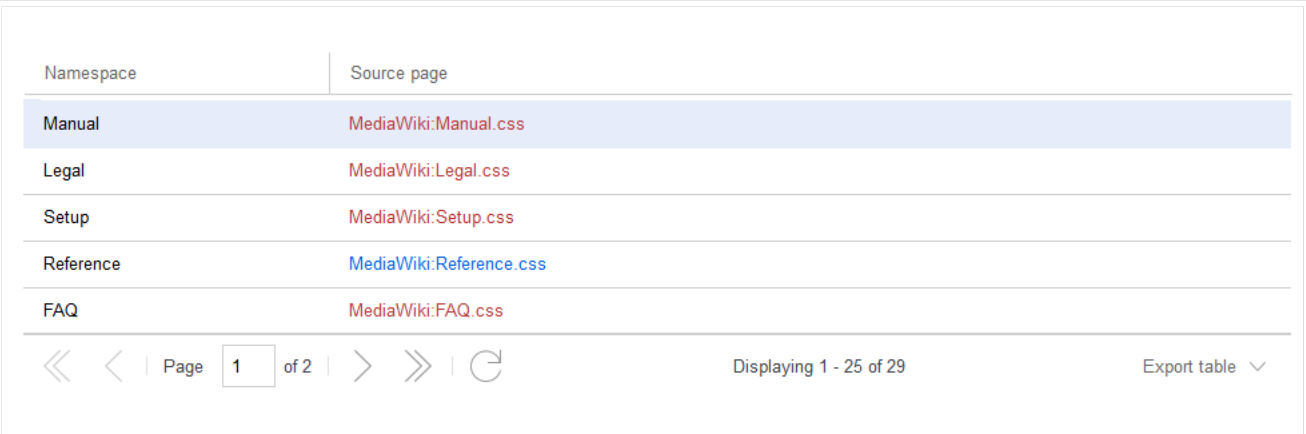
Creating the styles for a namespace

The link *Namesapce-CSS Manager* in the menu *Global actions > Management* opens the page *Special:NamespaceCSSManager*. This page lists all namespaces and the link to their associated CSS page.



Namespace-CSS Manager

To add or overwrite the styles for a namesapce:

1. **Click** on the source page link for the namespace.
2. **Enter** your CSS-code directly in this page. Example: *MediaWiki:User_css* affects all pages in the namespace *User*.
3. **Save** the page and review your changes on the pages in the affected namespace.

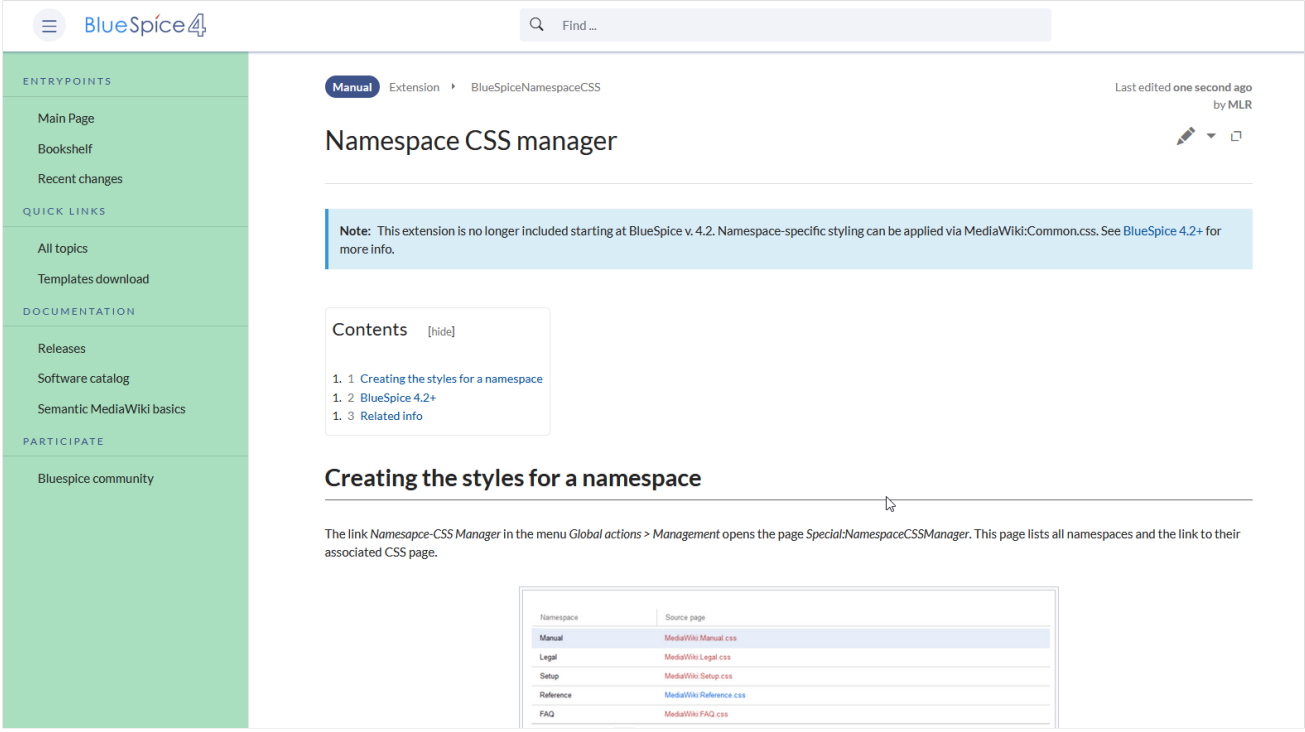
BlueSpice 4.2+

To apply specific styling to a namespace, you have to apply it directly in the page *MediaWiki:Common.css*.

For example, to apply a different navigation background color to the namespace Manual:

1. Go to the Namespace manager page, to find the id of the namespace:
2. Go to *MediaWiki:Common.css* and add the namespace id as a css class to your style:

```
.ns-3002 #sb-pri-cnt {background: #A9DFBF} /* give the namespace 3002 a green
navigation background*/
```



Namespace-specific styling

Related info

- Reference:BlueSpiceNamespaceCSS
- Reference:BlueSpiceNamespaceManager
- https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Namespaces

Technical Reference: BlueSpiceNamespaceCSS

Namespace manager

The Namespace manager allows a user with *administrative* rights to create,edit, and delete namespaces and to change the settings of these namespaces.

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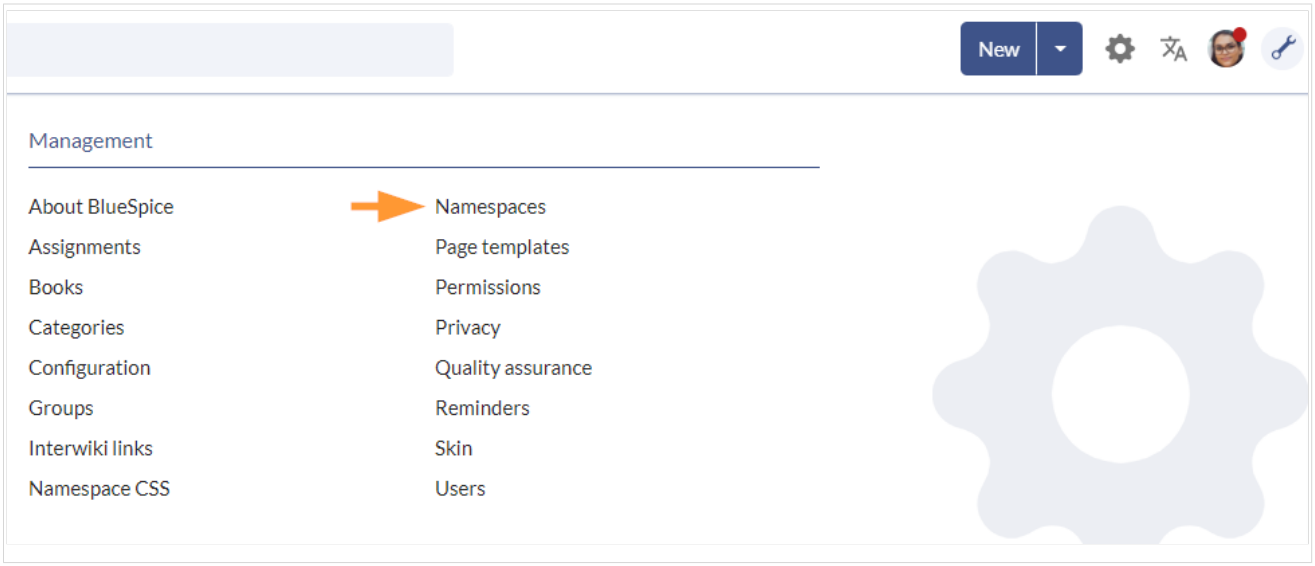
Where to find the namespace manager

The navigation link to the Namespace manager is located under *Global actions > Management > Namespaces*. This link opens the page *Special:NamespaceManager.*

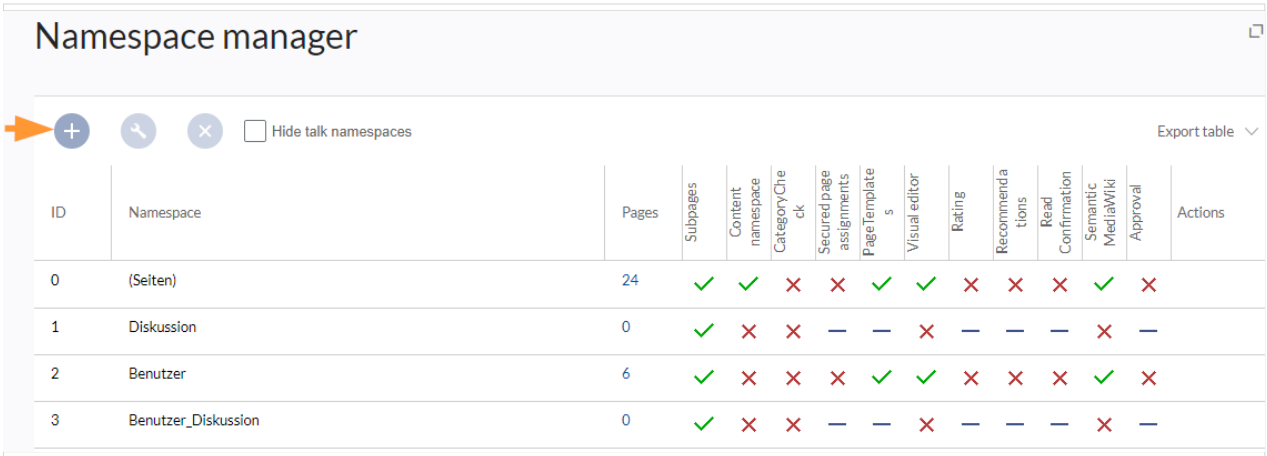


Creating a namespace

Note: If you haven't created namespaces before, familiarize yourself with the concept of namespaces first to understand when it makes sense to set up a namespace. Although it is theoretically possible to create a large number of namespaces, the BlueSpice user interface supports at best a number of 10-30 user-created additional namespaces. If you need more namespaces, consider using several individual wikis or a wiki farm.

To create a namespace:

1. **Click** the "Plus" icon at the top of the page. A dialog opens.



Create a namespace

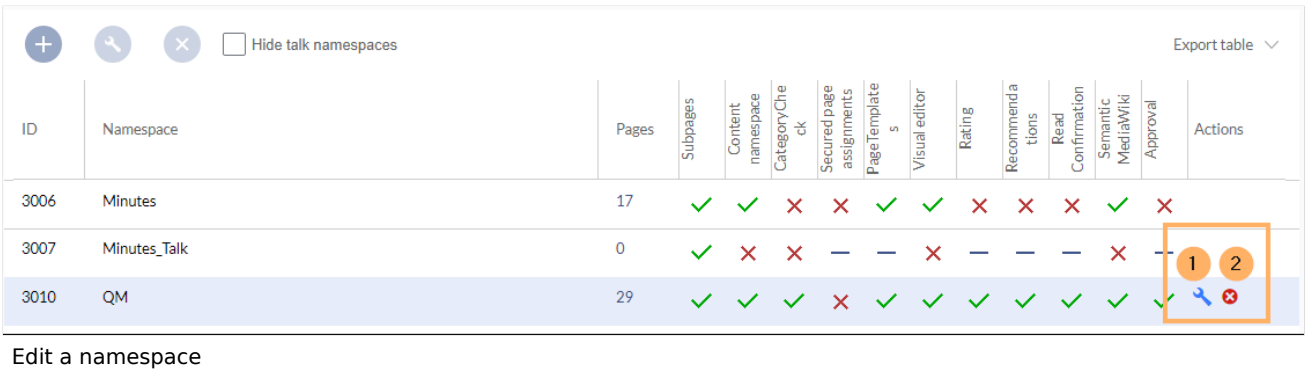
2. **Enter** the name for the new namespace and select the namespace options. Make sure that the name for the namespace is as short as possible, since the name becomes part of the page name of the pages in this namespace. This makes it easier to type in page names, e.g. using search fields in the wiki. Search results and all types of page lists are also displayed more clearly in this way. Examples: QM (for the namespace "Quality Management"), RM (for "Risk Management). Optionally, an alias can also be specified for the namespace. This name can then be used at any time in the wiki instead of the actual name.
3. **Choose** the features you want to activate.
   Usually, the following features are activated: Subpages, Content namespace, PageTemplates, VisualEditor, Semantic MediaWiki.

   Description of the available features:
   - **Subpages:** It is possible to create subpages. If this feature is deactivated the syntax Pagename /withslash does not produce a subpage in the wiki.
   - **Content namespace:** This function determines that a namespace is considered by specific extensions:
     - **Popups:** Popups only appear in content namespaces.
     - **BlueSpiceFoundation:** API for watchlist list is only displayed in content namespaces.
     - **BlueSpiceExtendedSearch:** Content namespaces get a boost and are placed preferentially in the results list.
     - **HitCounters:** Entire function is restricted to content namespaces. Other pages are counted as "0".
     - **ContentTransfer:** Can optionally be restricted to use in content namespaces.
     - **BlueSpiceExtendedStatistics:** Certain namespace selection filters are restricted to this content namespace.
     - **PageForms** (see also:mediawiki.org/wiki/Manual:ContentHandler)
   - **CategoryCheck:** Each time the user saves a page, the save-dialog shows a checkbox to confirm that the users reviewed the categories on the page. This applies to all pages in this namespace and makes sense when a wiki is organized primarily through manual categorization of pages by users.
   - **Secured page assignments:** Only assigned users can edit the page.
   - **PageTemplates**
   - **Visual editor**: Activation of the extension VisualEditor. If this is not activated, the pages can only be edited in source editing mode. If this setting is activated after pages already exist in the namespace, it will take a few minutes for the visual editor to work on the pages.
   - **Rating**: Allows users to rate each page from 1 to 5 stars. An overview page in the wiki shows rated pages sorted by rating.
   - **Recommendations**: Allows users to recommend a page. An overview page in the wiki shows recommended pages by number of recommendations.
   - **Read Confirmation**: Assigned users must mark a checkbox to confirm that they have read the changes to a page.
   - **Semantic MediaWiki**: Activates the link to the page Special:Browse/*<pagename>* in the page tools.
   - **Approval**: New versions of a page are created as drafts. These remain in place until a user with approval rights reviews and approves the page.
4. **Click** *Done*. The namespace is now ready to use.

> **Note:** The corresponding talk namespace for the new namespace is automatically created. This namespace allows users to discuss a page in the wiki on an associated discussions page.

Editing a namespace

A namespace can be edited by clicking on the "wrench"-icon in the table row or above the table when a namespace is selected.



Edit a namespace

When renaming a namespace, all pages in the namespace are automatically renamed as well.

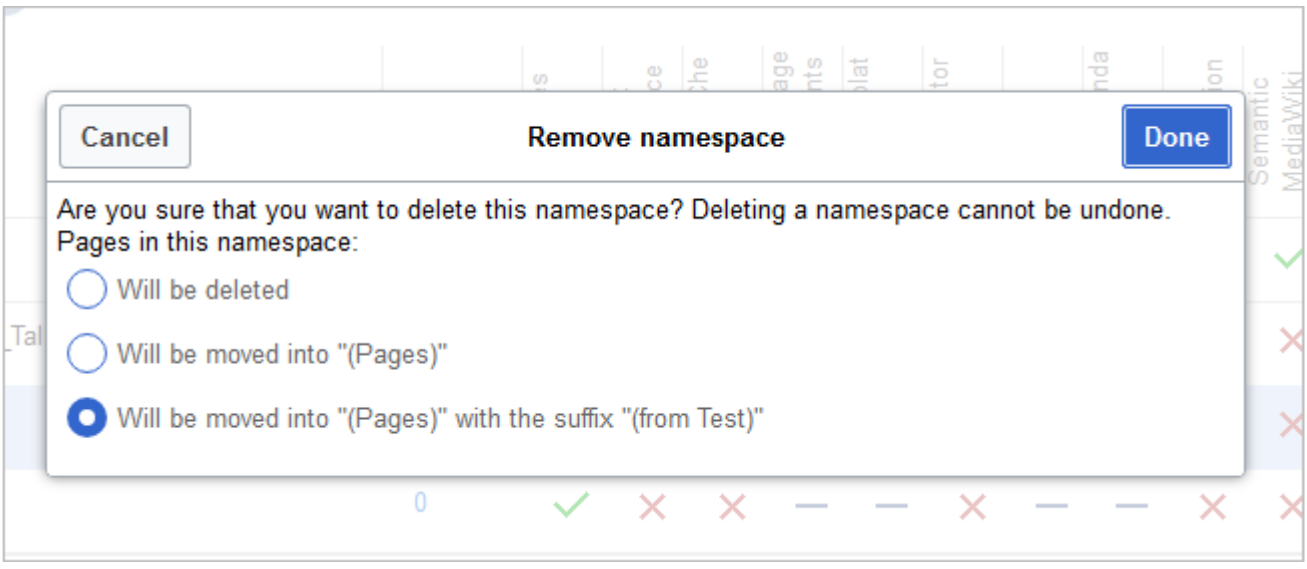
Links to the renamed pages as well as page lists that filter by the original namespace designation are **not** renamed and therefore no longer work.

Discussion namespace names and system namespace names (File, MediaWiki, etc. cannot be changed manually.

Deleting a namespace

Only namespaces created by users can be deleted. The corresponding button (2) is only displayed in such namespaces.

After clicking the delete icon, a dialog box opens.



Deleting a namespace

- *Will be deleted:* deletes the pages in this namespace together with the namespace
- *Will be moved into "(Pages)":* moves the pages of this namespace into the main namespace
- *Will be moved into "(Pages)" with the suffix "(from [namespace name])":* moves and appends the pages with "from [namespace]"

Talk namespaces are deleted with their corresponding namespace and cannot be deleted separately.

Related info

- Reference:BlueSpiceNamespaceManager
- https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Namespaces/de
- The concept of namespaces

Technical Reference: BlueSpiceNamespaceManager

Technical Reference: BlueSpiceNamespaceManager