

Central Web Hosting - Governance for MediaWiki Skins and Extensions

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Responsibility for the Governance document and its operation as described in this plan is accepted by:

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Contents

Process for Approving a requested Theme or Plugin	3
Technical Review	3
Fundamental Requirements	3
Technical Restrictions	3
Functionality Restrictions	4
Documentation	4

Process for Approving a requested Skin or Extension

When you submit a request to have a new Skin or Extension installed to your MediaWiki SaaS website, the request to add the software is not automatically approved. The software must go through a review process to see if it is compatible with our infrastructure.

The requirements laid out in this document count for all Extensions and Skins, including those that are created in-house by Fermilab personnel.

Where the requirements or restrictions address only a Skin or Extension, only that word will be used. When the requirement or restrictions applies to both a Extension and Skin, the word “software” will be used.

The process overview consists of the following phases. The software must “pass” each phase before moving on to the next. It can be rejected at any one of the phases, with cause.

- Technical Review
- Documentation
- Change Request & Installation

Technical Review

This phase combines both the efforts of the Requestor and the Central Web Hosting group. The Requestor is responsible for performing some basic tests on `wiki-sandbox.fnal.gov` to ensure the software works as expected, before making the formal request for the software. The Central Web Hosting group then takes over and performs a more in-depth check of the software to ensure it meets the rest of the requirements.

Fundamental Requirements

The software must meet all the following requirements. If it does not, it will be rejected with cause.

1. The software must be packaged as a single file and only require extracting to the extensions or skins directory.
2. The software must not modify access control or other security functionality. For example, extensions that add per-page permissions will be rejected.

Technical Restrictions

These restrictions are a bit more difficult to detect by a non-administrator. The Central Web Hosting group will go over each plugin request to identify if these situations exist, and if they do, reject the software with cause.

1. The software must be compatible with the current version of MediaWiki. Updates to the core MediaWiki software always take precedence over skin and extension compatibility. If your skin or extension is not compatible with the newest version of the core software during patching, it will be uninstalled.

Central Web Hosting – Governance for MediaWiki Themes and Plugins

2. The software must be compatible with the InnoDB database engine. This is a requirement of the database configuration, which requires the use of InnoDB over MyISAM to replace itself within the Galera multi-master configuration. Any plugin that uses tables or other SQL constructions incompatible with InnoDB will not be accepted.

Functionality Restrictions

These restrictions are put in place to keep the MediaWiki SaaS offering from extending beyond its original intent; a simple wiki system for Fermilab staff and collaborators to use.

1. A Extension or Skin cannot extend the function of MediaWiki beyond its original “wiki” design. In other words, Plugins that attempt to turn MediaWiki into a document database, file repository or anything else that is better handled by other service offerings will be rejected.
2. The software must not create or require the use of extraneous Roles for it to function. The number of Roles within the MediaWiki SaaS offering is fixed and we do not allow anything new to be created.

Documentation

Before installation to the Production website, the software needs to be installed to the showcase site, wiki.fnal.gov.

For Extensions, (if possible) a demo page will established to showcase how the Extension works. When available, a link will be created to any online documentation that might exist to help the Site Owner determine how to use the software.

A Minor Change request will be created to document to addition of the newly approved software to the MediaWiki SaaS offering. The support level will also be documented at that time (Core, Paid, Unsupported.)