

Configuration database 2

[https://www.mediawiki.
org/wiki/Requests_for_comment/Configurati
on_database_2](https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Requests_for_comment/Configuration_database_2)

Why?

- requires shell access to make trivial changes
- no history unless you use some other version control
- settings cannot be seen by users unless exposed somewhere else
- Wiki farm configuration is....weird and confusing
- And more... https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Requests_for_comment/Configuration_databases#Problems_to_solve

Goal

- Site administrators should be able to configure various global settings via a web interface instead of editing a PHP file.
- ...

Requirements

- Doesn't make the site slow
- Supports individual wikis and large wiki farms (like WMF)
- Backwards-compatible: Should work with existing settings

Settings database

- Store settings in a central database table
- Settings are stored as serialized values, we can split more complicated settings (user groups, namespaces) into more specialized tables later

```
CREATE TABLE /*_*/config (  
  cf_id INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY AUTO_INCREMENT,  
  cf_family VARBINARY(255), -- family name, null if for all wikis  
  cf_name VARBINARY(255) NOT NULL, -- wgSitename  
  cf_value BLOB, -- serialized value of setting  
  cf_log_id INT, -- log id associated with the revision change  
  cf_deleted INT, -- for revdel integration, might not be needed  
  
) /*$wgDBTableOptions*/;
```

Organizing wiki farms

- Currently WMF uses dblists and \$wgConf
- Proposed: Use something similar to CentralAuth's wikisets

```
CREATE TABLE /*_*/wiki_set (  
    ws_child VARBINARY(255), -- name of wiki  
    ws_parent VARBINARY(255), -- family it belongs to  
    ws_priority INT -- priority of this relationship  
  
) /*$wgDBTableOptions*/;
```

Metadata

Store some kind of Preferences like metadata in DefaultSettings.php

```
$settings = array(  
    'site' => array( // category name  
        'wgSitename' => array(  
            'type' => 'text',  
            'default' => 'Awesome wiki',  
        ),  
    ),  
    'secrets' => array(  
        'wgSecretKey' => array(  
            'private' => true,  
            'type' => 'text',  
        ),  
    ),  
);
```

User interface

- Special page to create/edit Wikisets
- Special page to edit settings
 - Read-only view for unprivileged users
 - Settings grouped into categories
 - Provide help/documentation next to editing interface, links to mediawiki.org
 - Users choose which wikiset the setting applies to

History, logging

- config table stores full history, can be used to provide diffs and revision history
- Log entries for configuration setting changes

Why not ContentHandler?

- Can't store private settings in page text
- Editing pages already requires a lot of configuration to be set up