Archived:Syndication service in WidSets

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The article is believed to be still valid for the original topic scope.

The Service

The syndication service gives a common interface to RSS and ATOM type online feed content.

The syndication service supports polling. This means that if a syndication service is marked as *pollable*, the WidSets server can poll the external feed on behalf of the client and notify the client when new content is available.

A client uses the syndication service actions `getItems` and `getPage` to retrieve the actual content.

The feed content is returned to the client as a structured and tagged list format. The feed item description part is represented as a list of text and image url elements. The image url elements represent the images embedded in the feed item description text or in separate enclosures. The order of the text and image url elements represent their order in the original feed.

Service Parameters

The XML configuration file of a syndication service can define several service parameters that define and control the service. Normally only the `feedurl` and `polltype` service parameters are defined. Other parameters are optional and are used for specifying poll period limits and token authentication.

Service parameter	Type	Meaning
`feedurl`	mandatory	The URL to the RSS or ATOM feed to be fetched.
`polltype`	optional	Marks the service as pollable. The value of this parameter defines how the server will poll the feed defined by the `feedurl` parameter. Currently the only valid value for this parameter is `auto`.
`minpollperiod`	optional	Defines the lower limit for the poll period value for a pollable service. Default value is "2m".
`maxpollperiod`	optional	Defines the upper limit for the poll period value for a pollable service. Default value is "3h".
`authtoken`	optional	TOKEN to be used in signing the URL when Token authentication is used. (See Archived:Token authentication in WidSets.)
`userid`	optional	UserID to be used when performing Token authentication. (See Archived:Token authentication in WidSets.)
`partnerid`	optional	Id of the partner in question when using Token authentication.
`useapiurl`	optional	If the value is true, the URL specified in the partner's information is used. Otherwise the URL specified by *feedurl* service parameter will be used.

Service Actions

The service has four actions the client script can call:

Action	Generic	Function
`getItems`	No	Retrive feed items list.
`getPage`	No	Retrieve the value of the content-field page by page. The value of the content field of a feed item can be rather long. Therefore the value is retrieved one page at the time. The default page length is 500 characters.
`bookmark`	No	Save the link associated with a feed item into the bookmarks.
`senditem`	No	Send the link associated with a feed item to a friend by email.

Below are the specifications of the service actions:

Definitions

```
TitleField    = (bind (const title)   (choice (null noData)
                                              (string titleVal)))

LinkField     = (bind (const "link")  (choice (null noData)
```


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```
                                            (string linkVal)))

CreatedField  = (bind (const created) (choice (null noData)
                                              (int createdTimestamp)))

AuthorField   = (bind (const author)  (choice (null noData)
                                              (string authorVal)))

ContentField  = (bind (const content) (choice (null noData)
                                              (use PagedFieldVal)))

PagedFieldVal = (list (bag (bind (const type) (const page))
                               (bind (const pg)   (int pageNum))
                               (bind (const left) (int pagesLeft))
                               (bind (const val)  (use PageVal))))

PageVal       = (choice (null noData)
                        (use ElemList))

ElemList      = (list (repeat (use Elem)))

Elem          = (choice (string stringElem)
                        (use ImageUrlElem))

ImageUrlElem  = (list (bag (required (bind (const type)   (const image)))
                           (required (bind (const url)    (string imageUrl)))
                           (optional (bind (const width)  (int imageWidth)))
                           (optional (bind (const height) (int imageHeight)))))
```

Action `getItems`

Retrive feed items list.

```
input  = (list (bag (optional (bind (const ts)      (int timestamp)))
                    (optional (bind (const refresh) (boolean refreshVal)))
                    (optional (bind (const max)     (int maxCount)))
                    (optional (bind (const len)     (choice (int pageLength)
                                                            (const all))))))

output = (choice (null noData)
                 (list (repeat (use Item))))

Item   = (list (bag (bind (const iid) (string itemId))
                    (repeat (use Field))))

Field  = (choice (use TitleField)
                 (use LinkField)
                 (use CreatedField)
                 (use AuthorField)
                 (use ContentField))
```

Arguments

Name	Type	Description
`ts`	int	Return only items that are newer than the value of this argument. The timestamp value is in milliseconds since the 1st of January, 1970, and interpreted as UTF/GMT timestamp.
`refresh`	boolean	If true, return fresh content fetched from the feedurl. Otherwise, return content from server side cache, if available.
`max`	int	The maximum number of items to return. Default is 20.
`len`	int | `all`	The [first] page length (in characters) for the content field value. Default is 500. The special constant value `all` returns all content.

Sample Output

```
((iid = "961e023e1a7652d59a1e50237325310d"
```


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```
  title = "California hopes for slowing winds\n(AP)"
  link =
"http://us.rd.yahoo.com/dailynews/rss/topstories/*http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071024/
          ap_on_re_us/california_wildfires"
  created = 1193222693000
  author = ""
  content = (type = page
             pg = 1
             left = 0
             val = ((type = image
                  url =
"http://d.yimg.com/us.yimg.com/p/ap/20071024/capt.b42703c3b236406dbd6c704f7c78bf89
                        .california_wildfires_carie101.jpg?
x=91&y=130&sig=C8HUxcstv4ibFxXoT9ZgEw--"
                      width = 91
                      height = 130)
                     "AP - After three days of a vicious firestorm, exhausted
firefighters and weary residents
                      looked forward Wednesday to a break — an expected slackening of the
gale force winds that
                      have ignited the state\'s largest complex of wildland blazes.")))
 (iid = a971fe9d92d0dd6a5c2032b5bf4e66a9
  title = "Turkey masses more troops, raids in Iraq confirmed\n(Reuters)"
  link =
"http://us.rd.yahoo.com/dailynews/rss/topstories/*http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071024/ts_nm/turkey_iraq_dc"

  created = 1193222613000
  author = ""
  content = (type = page
             pg = 1
             left = 0
             val = ((type = image
                      url =
"http://d.yimg.com/us.yimg.com/p/nm/20071024/2007_10_23t101515_450x235_us_turkey_
                             iraq.jpg?x=130&y=67&sig=8fnRtMRr6856ashQCH4kJA--"
                      width = 130
                      height = 67)
                     "Reuters - Turkish warplanes and troops have\nattacked Kurdish
rebels inside Iraq and
                      forces were being built\nup on the border, but Ankara was holding
back from any major\nstrike
                      for now, military sources said on Wednesday.")))
 (iid = "635886e9387a951b294c6cb4cbe0fe89"
  title = "China aims for moon with patriotic blast\n(Reuters)"
  link =
"http://us.rd.yahoo.com/dailynews/rss/topstories/*http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071024/ts_nm/china_space_launch_dc"

  created = 1193222529000
  author = ""
  content = (type = page
             pg = 1
             left = 0
             val = ("Reuters - China launched its first moon\norbiter on Wednesday
accompanied by a blaze of
                      live-to-air\npatriotic propaganda celebrating the country\'s space
ambitions\nand
                      technological prowess.")))

...)
```

Action `getPage`

Retrieve the value of the content field page by page.

```
input  = (list (bag (required (bind (const iid) (string itemId)))
                    (required (bind (const pg)  (int pageNum)))
                    (optional (bind (const len) (choice (int pageLength)
                                                        (const all))))))
```


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```
output = (list (bag (bind (const iid) (string itemId))
                    (use ContentField)))
```

Arguments

Name	Type	Description
`iid`	string	The ID of the item.
`pg`	int	The number of the page to return. Page numbers start from 1.
`len`	int | `all`	The page length (in characters). Default is 500. The special constant value `all` returns all content. (If `len` is `all` then `pg` must be 1.)

Action `bookmark`

Save the link associated with a feed item into the bookmarks.

```
input  = (list (bag (required (bind (const type) (choice (const default)
                                                         (const custom))))
                    (optional (bind (const iid)  (string itemId)))))

output = (const true)
```

Arguments

Name	Type	Description
`type`	`default` | `custom`	Type of the bookmark, normally `default`.
`iid`	string	The ID of the item to bookmark.

Action `senditem`

Send the link associated with a feed item to a friend by email.

```
input  = (list (bag (required (bind (const iid) (string itemId)))
                    (required (bind (const to)  (string to)))))

output = (const true)
```

Arguments

Name	Type	Description
`iid`	string	The ID of the item to send.
`to`	string	The recipient's email address.

Code Example

Retrieving the newest feed items from server (fetcher)

Archived:Example Syndication Service in WidSets

See also

- Archived:WidSets - Getting content with Services
- Archived:Available content fetching services
  - **Archived:Syndication service in WidSets**
  - Archived:Webfeed service in WidSets
  - Archived:HTTP service in WidSets
- Archived:Fetcher details in WidSets
  - Archived:Feed formats in WidSets
  - Archived:HTTP authentication in WidSets
- Archived:Advanced filters
  - Archived:WidSets Filter expressions reference

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