Cargo and Page Forms: State of the Extensions

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Page Forms

• First released in 2007
• Known until 2016 as “Semantic Forms”
• Mostly written by me, though with important contributions by Stephan Gambke and > 30 others.
Cargo

• First released in 2015
• An alternative to Semantic MediaWiki
• Lets you store, query and browse template data (plus some page data, like date created and full text)
Brief thoughts on Cargo vs. Semantic MediaWiki

- Cargo uses tables, while SMW uses triples (often stored in tables)
- To the end user, they function pretty much the same – similar set of query formats
- Cargo: easier to set up and maintain, more powerful and faster querying (all in my opinion)
- SMW: better for linked data, more users.
Recent additions to Page Forms
(Since 2018)
Addition #1: support for VisualEditor, TinyMCE

- **VisualEditor**: Wikimedia Foundation’s WYSIWYG editor
- **TinyMCE**: WYSIWYG editor extension based on the old BlueSpice extension “VisualEditor”

Both can now be used in any Page Forms textarea.
Create Person: Bob

Nationality: 

Date of birth: 

Early life: 

Career: 

Free text: 
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Button</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Bold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Italic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>Underline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Strike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X₀</td>
<td>Superscript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X²</td>
<td>Subscript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Anchor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ω</td>
<td>Insert Table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¶</td>
<td>Insert Image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{;}</td>
<td>Insert Video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;&gt;</td>
<td>Insert Link</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Free text:

```
Hello
```
TinyMCE, VisualEditor support requirements

For TinyMCE within textareas:
• TinyMCE extension

For VisualEditor within textareas:
• VisualEditor extension
• VEForAll extension
Edit multiple pages

Select one of the following templates to edit all the pages containing it. New pages can also be created using the selected template.

Showing below up to 50 results in range #1 to #50.

View (previous 50 | next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)

1. A
2. ABC
3. Author
4. City
5. Country
6. Employee
7. Item
8. Magazine
## Edit multiple pages for template: Item

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A border solution that's chock-full of holes</td>
<td>Steve Chapman</td>
<td>Chicago Tribune</td>
<td>October 8, 2006</td>
<td><a href="http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2006/10/a_border_solution_chockfull_of_holes.html">http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2006/10/a_border_solution_chockfull_of_holes.html</a></td>
<td>&quot;deserts and mountains, paying human smugglers to shepherd them into the United States. Instead of snaring more illegal entrants, we're now arresting fewer.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Cease-Fire Reality: Dealing With Syria</td>
<td>Dennis Ross</td>
<td>The Washington Post</td>
<td>7/28/2006</td>
<td><a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">http://www.washingtonpost.com</a></td>
<td>&quot;History is littered with well-intentioned efforts to transform Lebanon. If the current effort is to be different, we will need a...&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pages: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 ... Next Last 1 of 20
Addition #3: auto-minimizing of multi-instance templates

(By default, kicks in at height of 800px)
Addition #4: editable calendars

Works on multiple-instance templates within a single page – doesn’t yet work on multiple pages.
Recent additions to Cargo

(Since 2018)
Addition #1: new data types

- Rating
- Start date (& “Start datetime”)  
- End date (& “End datet ime”)  

Hopefully these are self-explanatory.

SMW could benefit from some of these!
Addition #2: “Parent tables” within drilldown

Here, users drilling down on the “Opinions” table can also use filters from the “Items” table.

- **Position:**
  - Colombia-United States Free Trade Agreement / Agreement should be ratified (6)

- **Stance:**
  - for (6)

- **Author:**
  - Pete du Pont (1) · Robert J. Samuelson (1) · The Miami Herald editorial board (1) · The Wall Street Journal editorial board (1) · The Washington Post editorial board (1) · USA Today editorial board (1)
Addition #3: Overhaul of Special:CargoQuery

Looks a little more like Special:Ask now, with autocompletion and format parameter inputs.
Special thanks to Google

**Google Summer of Code**: a program that pays students around the world to work on open source projects. Responsible for 3.5 of the 6 new features mentioned before.
My overriding goal: Automate as much as possible of the display, forms, browsing and visualization based on the declared data structure.
Next planned task for that: “Automatic forms”

• It may not be necessary to create a form definition in order to have form-based editing.

• Maybe forms can be generated on the fly, just based on template definitions.

• If this can be done well for even 50% of forms, that would be great.
Previous attempt

• There was an extension that did this, called “Automatic Semantic Forms”

• Part of “SMW+”, with no involvement from me

• Limited functionality
Perhaps now the software is ready for this kind of automation.

Some of the previously-mentioned features can help.
Example #1

- If Cargo table “Ingredient rows” has parent table “Recipes”, then the form for the “Recipe” template should include “Ingredient row” as a multiple-instance template.
Example #2

- If a multiple-instance template contains fields of type “Date”, “Start date”, etc., there should be a calendar interface to edit it.
Cargo vs. SMW

• “Automatic forms” may be easier to implement with Cargo than SMW, because in Cargo the data structure is explicitly declared.

• Can still be done with SMW, though.

• SMW used to have a parser function called #declare – makes sense to bring it back?
Questions/comments