How to update child slave menu items from parent

Posted by TonyGee - 2011/11/24 09:53

Hi Edwin,

I've been working with the shared menu item extension however I'm not sure it is designed to help me achieve my plans.

I would like to update the menu items in the slave sites however I don't want them to link to other sites outside of the slave site.

Example 1: I may want to change the name of a particular menu item for all the child slave sites under a parent slave so I need to change the name in the parent slave and then all the child slaves change automatically however the menu link must still point to the page within the slave site.

Example 2: I may want to unpublish a menu item on all the child slave sites under the parent slave.

Example 3: I may want to change the menu item link for a page or component for all the child slave sites within the parent (however the new menu item link is to a page within the slave and not in the parent slave).

Can you please explain if this is possible with Multisites or with the menu sharing extension?

Thanks for your assistance with this.

Best regards.

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Re: How to update child slave menu items from parent

Posted by edwin2win - 2011/11/24 18:01

Example 1: the "Multisites Menu Item" does NOT automatically update the label in the other site. Just the "action" that is shared.

Example 2: the "Multisites Menu Item" does NOT automatically enable/disable the menu item in all the slave site. It just help you to redirect on a "web link" that is compute dynamically. So does NOT do that.

Example 3: Yes the Multisites Menu Item can do that when you change a link in the "refenrenced" menu item , all the other menu item will be automatically updated as the link is computed dynamically.

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Re: How to update child slave menu items from parent

Posted by TonyGee - 2011/11/25 07:06

Would it be possible to create a plugin that would allow me to update, for each menu:

1) Add/remove/disable a menu item in the parent slave and propogate the change to the child slave sites

2) Change the name/order/image icon for each menu item in the parent slave and it will propogate to all the child slave sites.

3) Change the link for each menu item in the parent slave and it will propogate to all the child slave sites HOWEVER the link is RELATIVE to the slave site and does not link the user to another slave (or parent slave) site.

For the points 1) and 3) above I understand if there are inconsistent components or pages installed on the slave sites it could cause a problem so would JMS be able to deal with this issue?

If this is possible how many support hours would this incur?

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Re: How to update child slave menu items from parent

Posted by edwin2win - 2011/11/25 23:20

Create what you request at the "menu" level is almost impossible as the parameters of each menu item might have different content in each website.
In example, if you want to display an article with id 1 in website A, this could have a totally different meaning in website B.
To avoid that, we chosen to make a kind of redirection at the menu item as synchronizing menu level is very complex when the content of the different website can be different.

If you accept the problem of inconsistency, we can effectivelly analyze the creation of a specific extension that would do that but with totally unpredictable result.

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Re: How to update child slave menu items from parent

Posted by TonyGee - 2011/11/28 04:36

Hi Edwin,

Yes I do understand the issues you have highlighted.

I have 2 different kinds of menus': The first controls my components and the second controls article pages.

So I plan to create this plugin to update the menu that controls the components (primarily Jomsocial, Easyblog) and the other menu to control the article pages can be created using the current menu sharing and article sharing extensions.

Do you think there are any other side effects to consider from creating this special plugin?

Can you also please estimate how many support hours I should purchase to complete this task?

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Re: How to update child slave menu items from parent

Posted by edwin2win - 2011/11/28 16:04

I have sent you an estimate by email and remembered you the limitations and potential inconsistencies.

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Re: How to update child slave menu items from parent

Posted by TonyGee - 2011/12/07 04:38

Hi Edwin,

I've just discovered some strange behaviour with my slave site "Slave B" that has caused confusion with my query for this topic.

When I was testing the Multisites Menu Items yesterday I was creating menu items in the master site and they were updating with the exact changes in the Slave B site.

So I thought that the functionality was available that any changes in a Multisites menu item in the master are automatically carried through to the slave sites (after the slave site is re-saved in the 'manage sites' tab).

However today I have tested this functionality with a non-multisites menu item and it again did update the Slave B site menu item that I was testing yesterday.

So I tested this on a different Slave A site that was created with a different multisites template before Slave B and NO menu changes were carried from the master menu items to the Slave A site (no multisites menu item changes and no standard menu item changes were carried across).

So this now leads me to believe that the database is somehow shared for the menu items between the Master and Slave B that I was testing yesterday.

Lastly I changed a menu item name in the Slave B admin however this DID NOT change the menu item name in the Master. So how could the database be shared if they do not change both ways?

I've checked the templates used to create Slave A and Slave B and they are the same except that Slave B is using the dynamic new database creation script and Slave A is using the manual new database.

Please can you let me know what could be the reason for this?

Thanks and regards.

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Re: How to update child slave menu items from parent

Posted by edwin2win - 2011/12/07 10:51

There is no DB sharing for the menu.
So if you see an update perform in the Slave B that is reflected automatically in a Slave A, this mean that in fact you are not connected on the Slave B (as you imagine) but that you are connected on the Slave A.

So you have to verify that you are connected on the appropriate website.
I remember you that the domain name must be spelled exactly the same way as in the list of slave site.
Perhaps also check that you have WWW and without WWW definition.

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Re: How to update child slave menu items from parent

Posted by TonyGee - 2011/12/08 04:46

Hi Edwin,

You are right about this because I can see that the new database has 0kb size.

It seems that when I am trying to create a new database dynamically the new database and user is created however no data is copied to the new database.

In the multisites admin I can see all the settings are pointing to the new database so my questions are:

1) How do I copy the database information from the master across to the new slave database (after the database has been created)?

2) a. What database am I currently using for the slave? b. Is it possible that the slave is reading the master database but changes are being posted to the slave database? I ask this because when I change something in the master it changes on the slave but when I change it on the slave it does not change on the master.

3) All the settings on the slave site under 'manage sites' and 'tools > details' are pointing to the slave database. How do I change these settings to point to a different database?

Thanks and regards.

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Re: How to update child slave menu items from parent

Posted by edwin2win - 2011/12/08 10:07

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1) Create a JMS Template rule that replicate the master and that use your new DB name, ...
you can find in the forum "replicMaster" or similar the we have described several times.

2.a) Don't understand the question
2.b) No
If you have something that is change in several website, this is only when you share the content.

Otherwise, this is not as you described.
You are probably not connected on the website that you thing and that you are in fact connected on the master instead of the slave. Verify the domain name and that you have spelled it correctly. Exact matching.

3) The database connection is defined in the standard joomla "configuration.php" file.

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