

Concept - selectors

Implementation tracked in MAGNOLIA-3895@jira.

Intro

- A selector is the part between the first selector delimiter and the extension of an URI. I.e. given a URI like <http://myserver/mypage~x~foo=bar~.html?param=baz¶m2=qux> and the tilde character as the delimiter, the entire selector is `~x~foo=bar`. A selector can be split in turn into several selectors separated from each other by the same delimiter.

Rationale

- Selectors existed prior to Magnolia 4.5 and they use the `.` (dot) char as a delimiter. As Magnolia 4.5 introduces the possibility to have the dot character in the node names (as by JCR specification [see chapter 3 paragraph 2.2 of JCR 2.0 specs](#)) the delimiter character needs to be changed.

Delimiter

- `info.magnolia.cms.core.Path` has a `SELECTOR_DELIMITER` constant (a string) set as `~` (tilde).

Selector name-value pair

- a selector can now also be in the form `name=value`. I.e. given a URI <http://myserver/mypage~x~foo=bar~.html> `foo=bar` is name value selector. This kind of selector is exposed by `MgnlContext.getAttribute(selectorName)` and has a *"local"* scope (similar to *HttpServletRequest* *uest* scope). Thus, in the current example, `MgnlContext.getAttribute("foo")` will return the String *"bar"*, whereas `MgnlContext.getAttribute("foo", Context.SESSION_SCOPE)` or `MgnlContext.getAttribute("foo", Context.APPLICATION_SCOPE)` will return *null*.

AggregationState

- this class exposes some methods to set and get selectors.
 - `setSelector(String selector)` is currently used by `info.magnolia.cms.filters.RepositoryMappingFilter` where the request URI is parsed and the selector part extracted.
 - `String getSelector()` returns the whole selector. I.e. given the URI <http://myserver/mypage~x~foo=bar~.html> this method will return the String `x~foo=bar`
 - `String[] getSelectors()` returns the selector split into its discrete elements. I.e. given the URI <http://myserver/mypage~x~foo=bar~.html> this method will return an array of two elements containing the "x" and the "foo=bar" String(s)

SelectorUtil

- this is a utility class already existing before Magnolia 4.5. It provides two methods which are basically shortcuts to the getters in `AggregationState`:
 - `String getSelector()`
 - `String getSelector(int index)`