# External Attachments for Confluence

1.5.1

INTRODUCTION

External Attachments plugin for Confluence allows to attach and embed files from remote sources via url. All attached remote files will be automatically synchronized in the background and without any action required by user.

ADMINISTRATION GUIDE

INSTALLATION

The process of installing is as same as for other plugins and documentation to it is provided by Atlassian.
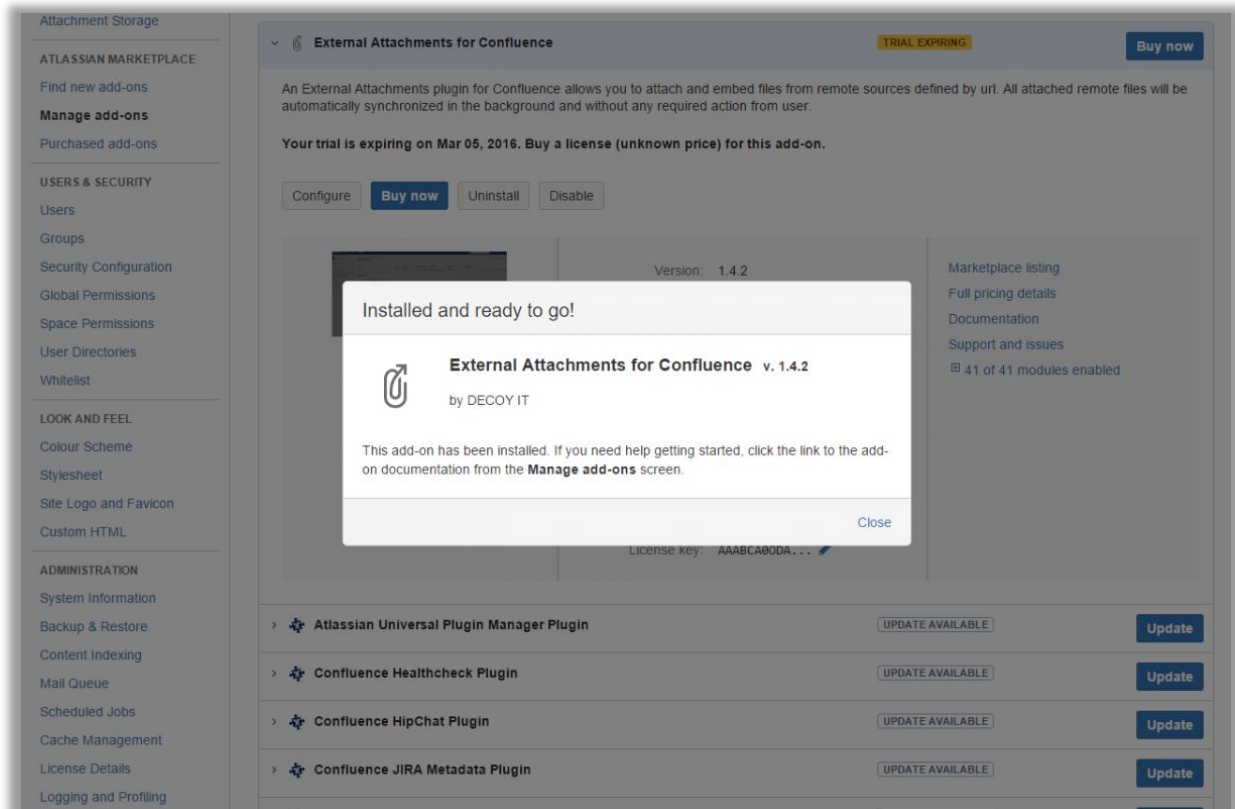
Image 1 Installation

EDIT LICENSE

After plugin is successfully installed into Confluence the valid license key has to be inserted into license field otherwise plugin will not work properly.
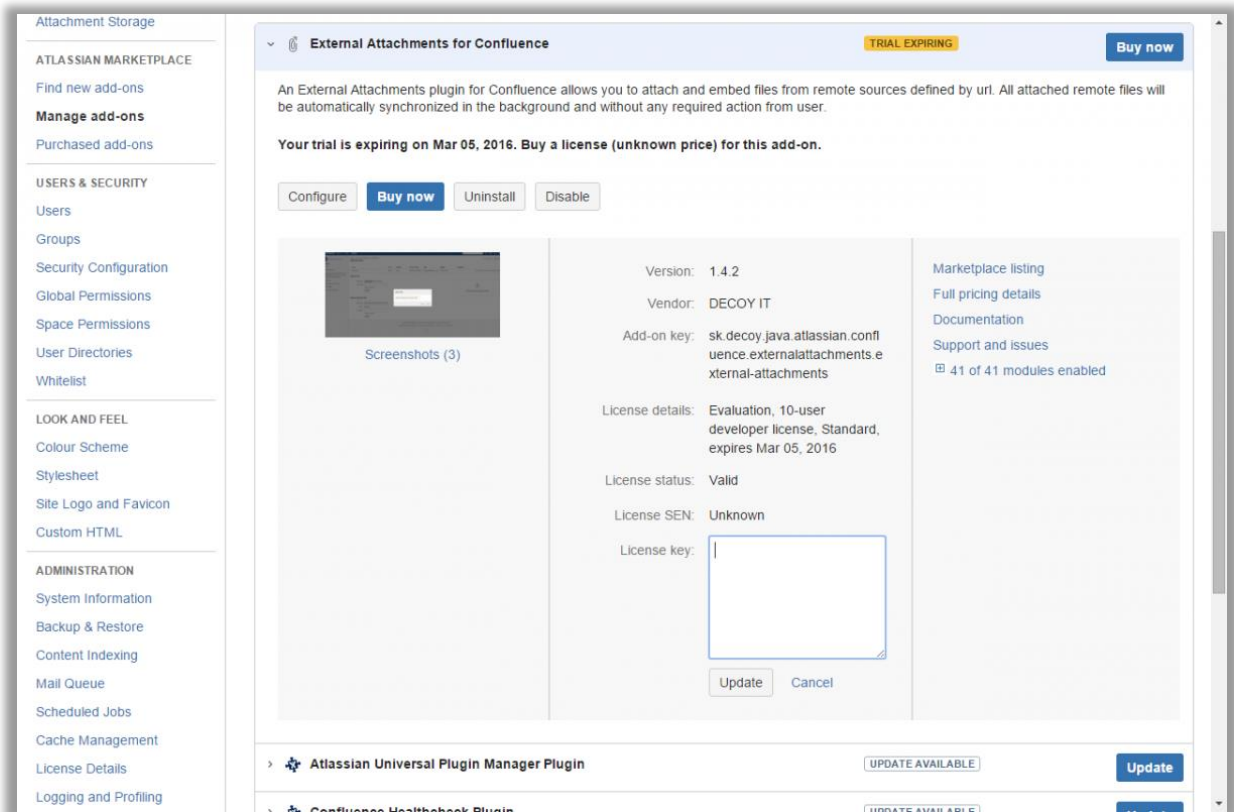
Image 2 Edit License

Configuration can be accessed when the Configure button is pressed or after click on External Attachments link in the left navigation panel at the Administration page of Confluence.

ADMINISTRATION

If files are located on external servers which require basic authentication then credentials need to be prompted before the file is accessed. To avoid that action administration page allows allows to set up external servers which can be selected

when adding external attachments to a Confluence page. After that proper credentials will be used to download files in the background.
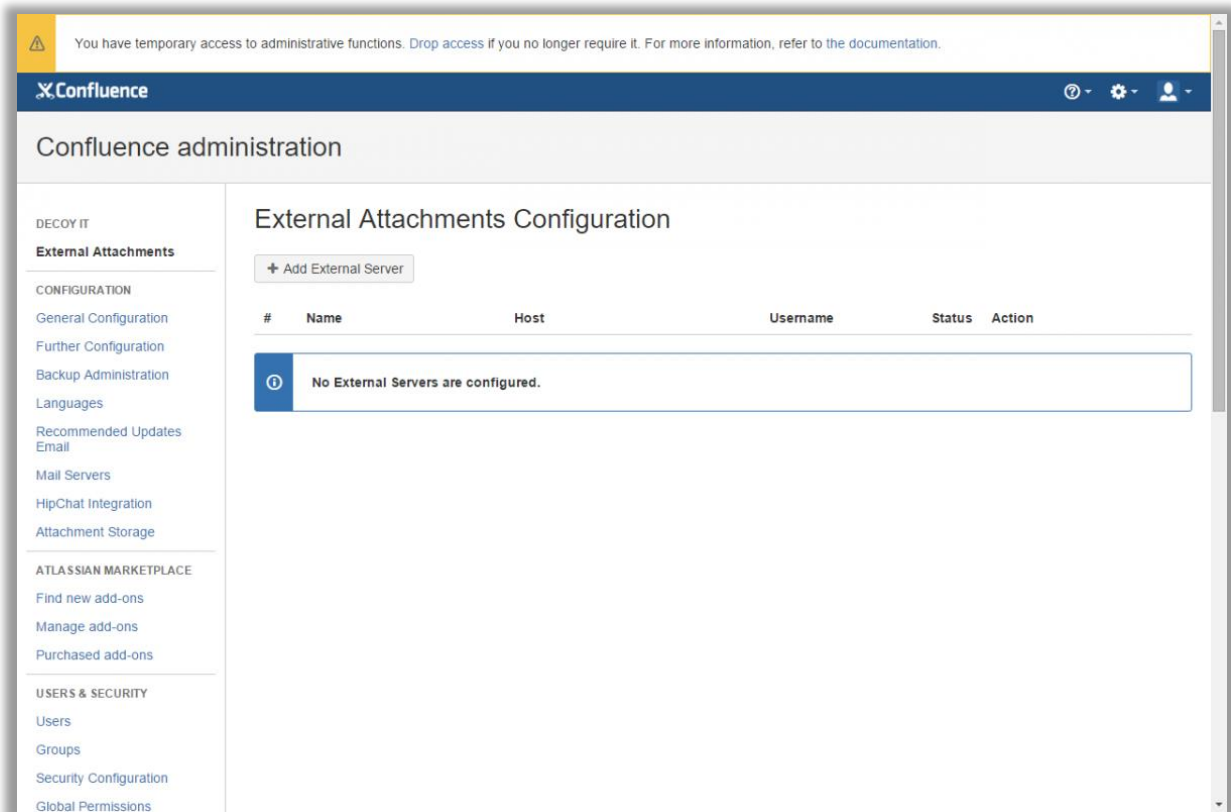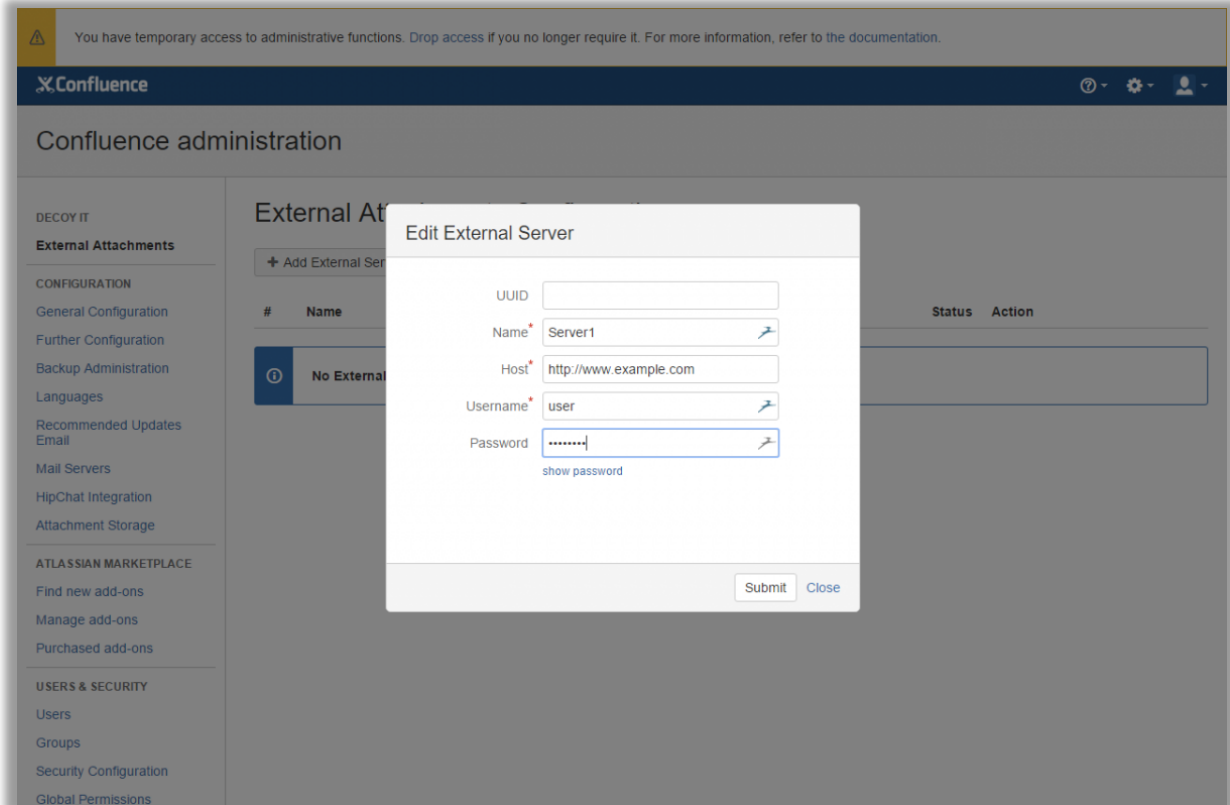

Image 3 Configuration

ADD EXTERNAL SERVER

Press Add External Server button above the table an external server can be configured and stored into database.

Image 4 Add External Server

EDIT EXTERNAL SERVER

To edit configured external server it is required to click on the edit button at the end of particular row.

In the Edit dialog following fields can be changed:
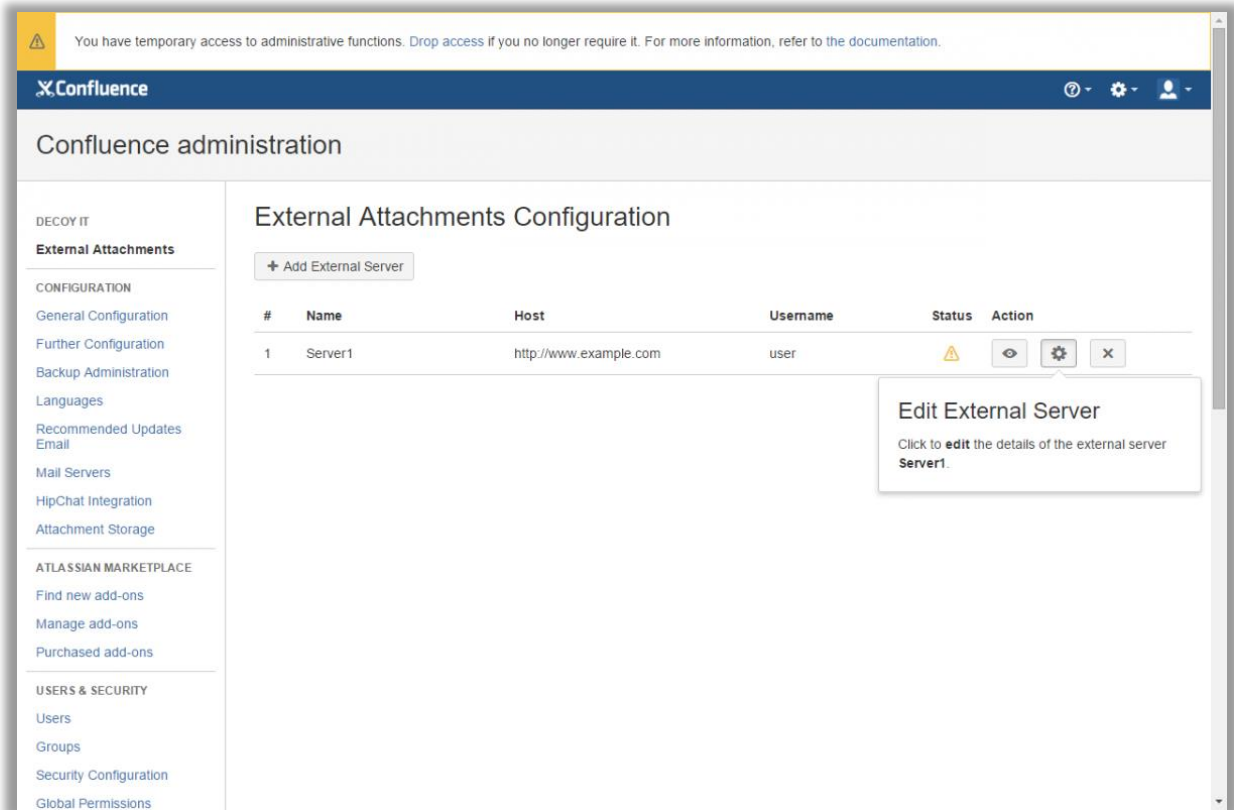
- Name
- Host
- Username
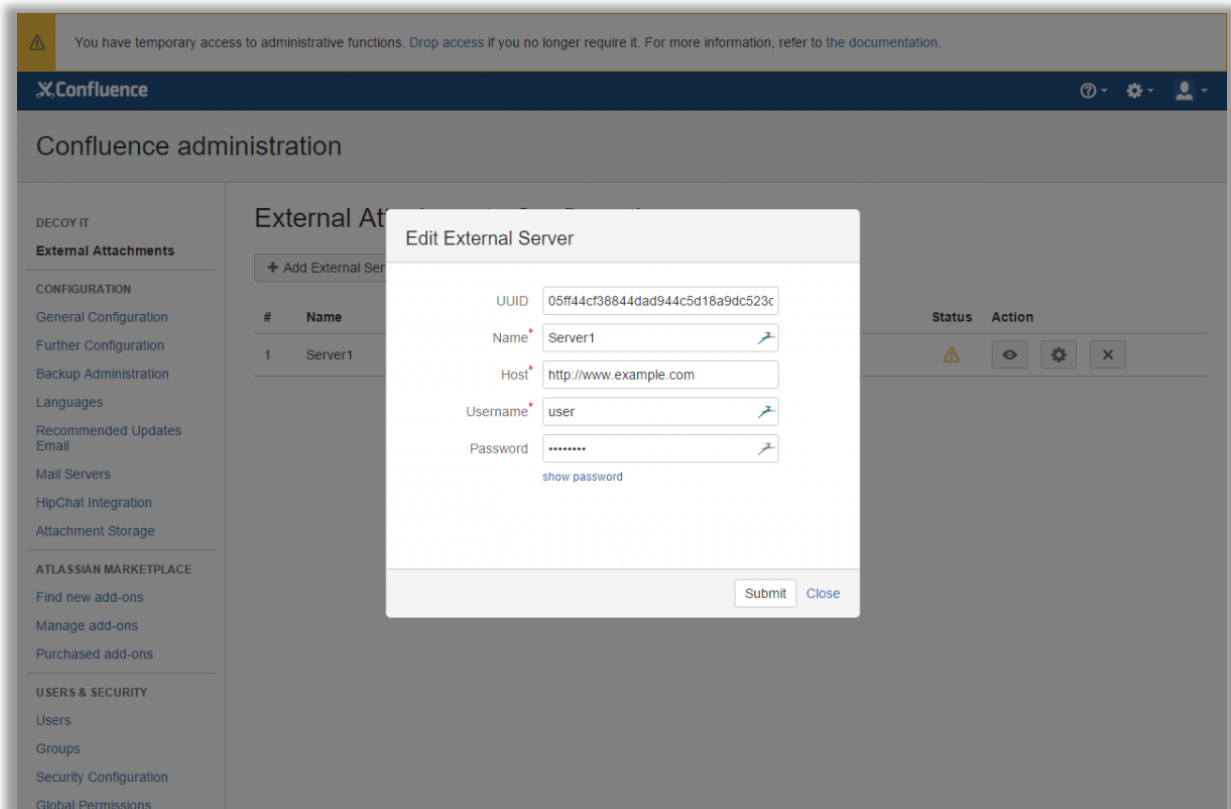- Password

Image 5 Edit External Server

Image 6 Edit External Server Dialog

ACTIVE/INACTIVE SERVER

Each configured external server can be active or inactive. Only active external servers are listed and accessible in the dropdown when adding external attachment to a Confluence page.

To make external server inactive it is required to click on the Make External Server inactive button at the end of particular row.
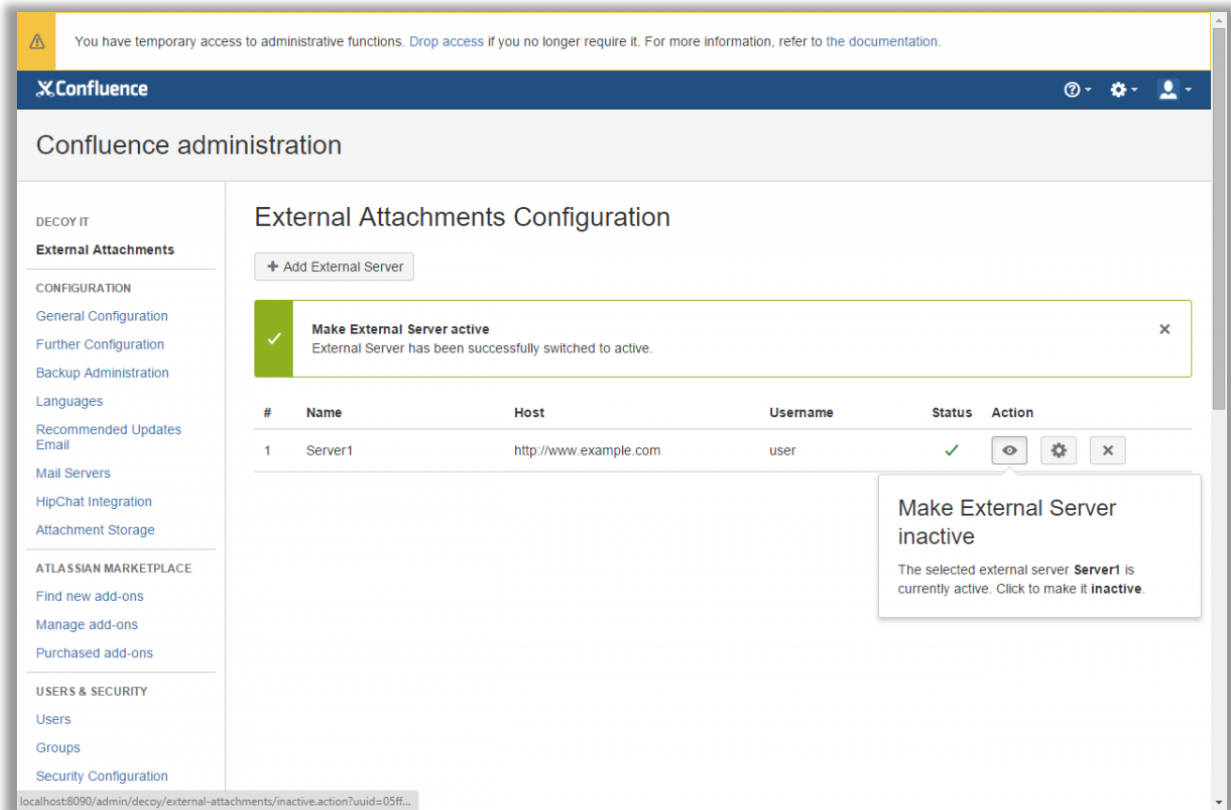

Image 7 Make External Server inactive

To make external server active it is required to click on the Make External Server active button at the end of particular row.
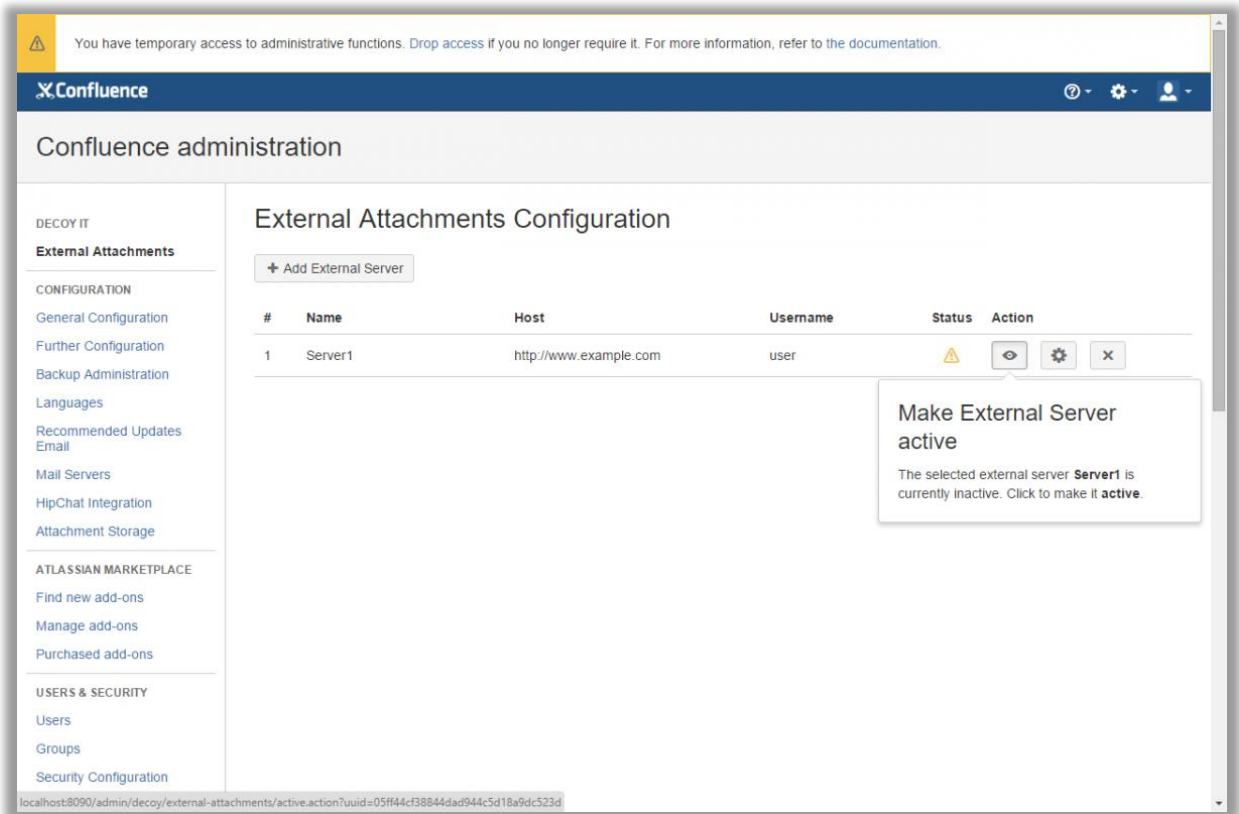
Image 8 Make External Server active

DELETE SERVER

To delete external server it is required to click on Delete External Server button at the end of particular row.
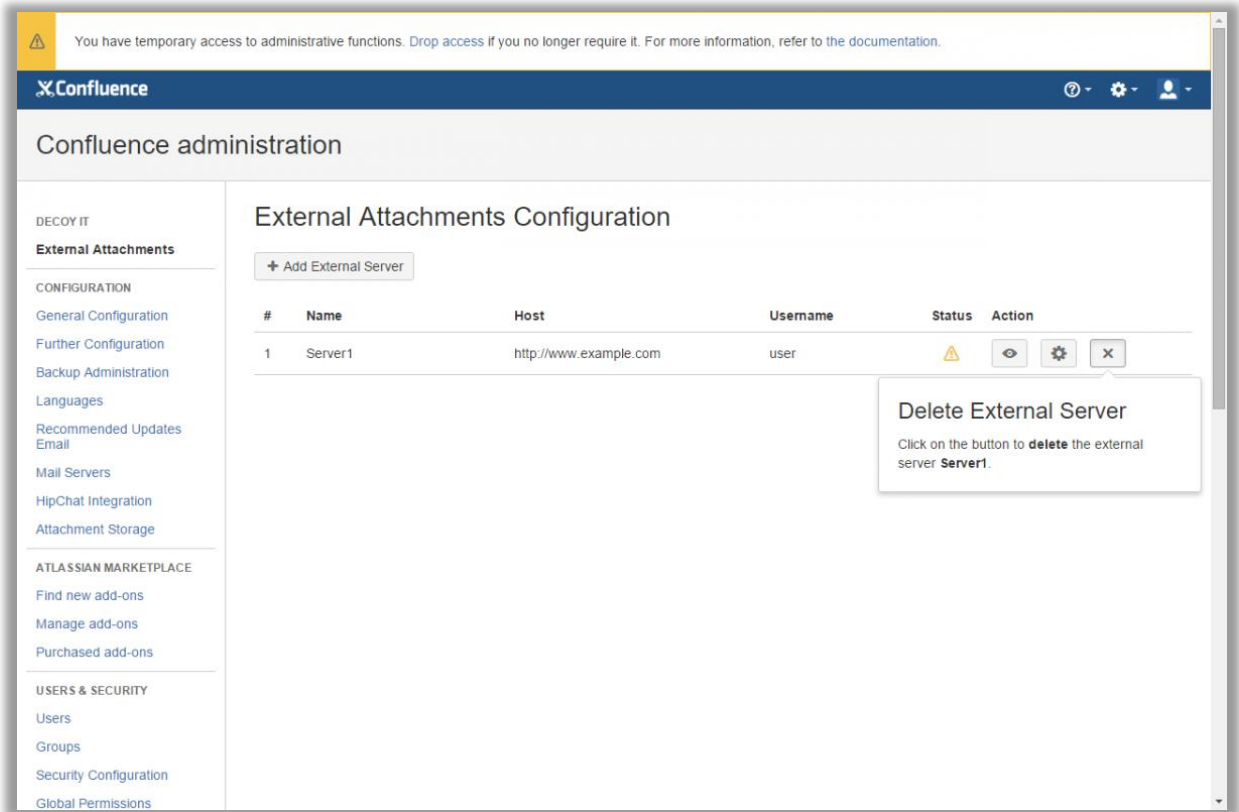
Image 9 Delete External Server

Further it is required to confirm the deletion of external server. After that an external server will be permanently deleted from the database.
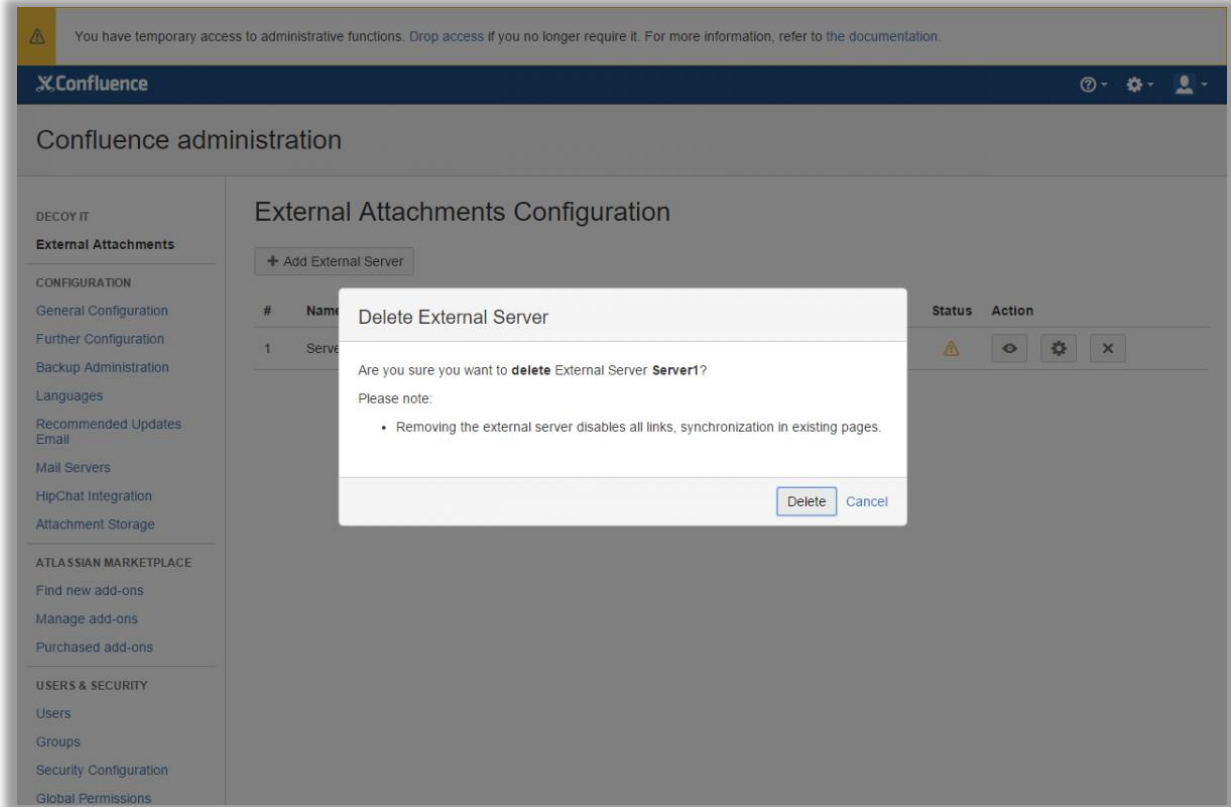
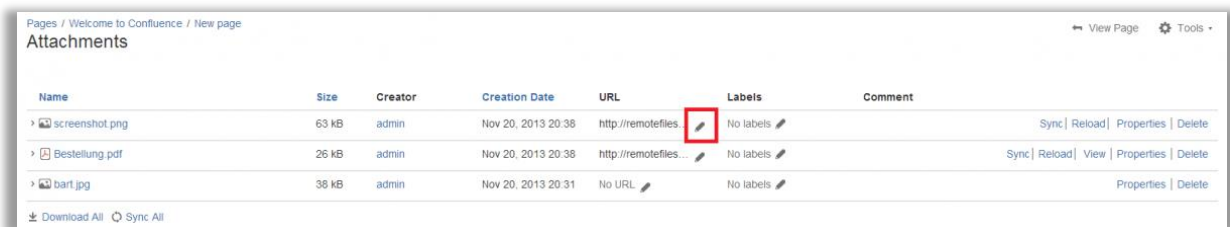*Image 10 Delete External Server dialog*

USER'S GUIDE

CREATING EXTERNAL ATTACHMENTS

There are several ways how to create an external attachment:

1. **Add url to the existing attachment**

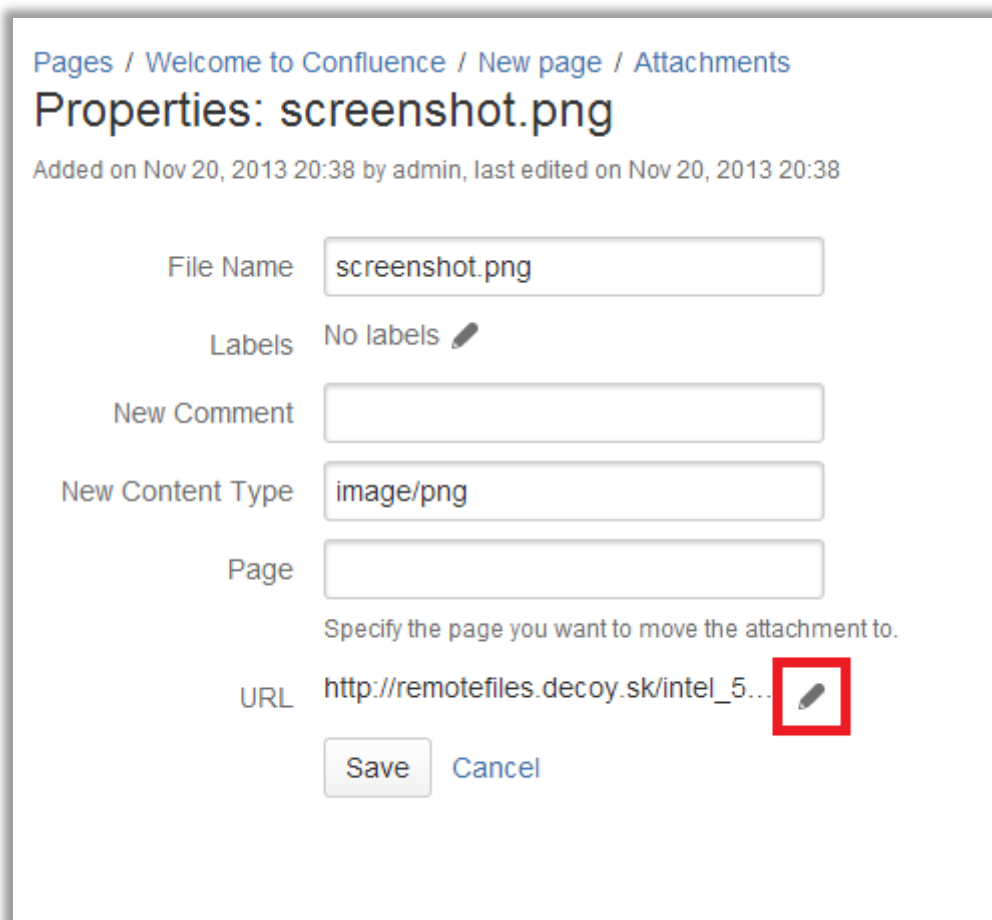This action can be done on the Attachments page - in the table of the attachments or on the edit page of the attachment.

Image 11 Add url to the existing attachment

Image 12 Edit url in attachment detail

After click on the pencil button the popup with input field for url will be shown and an url of the remote source can be entered.
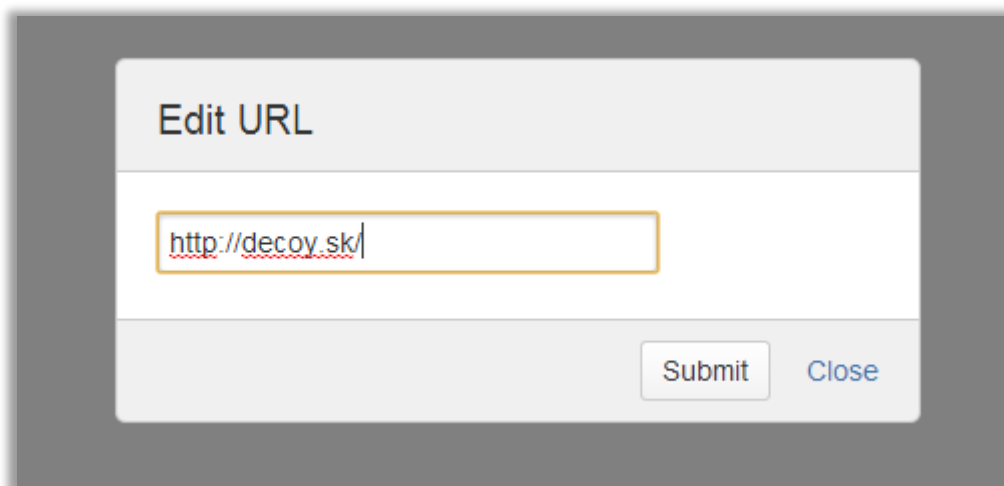
Image 13 Edit Attachment URL dialog

2. **Upload remote file from url**

Using a form "Attach Remote File" below the table with list of attachments on Attachments page.

Image 14 Attach Remote File form

After the filling required fields and click on Attach button files from remote sources can be uploaded to the Confluence storage.

Note: Server field is not mandatory field. It can be used only when the file is located on a server protected by basic authentication.

3. Upload remote file in Link browser
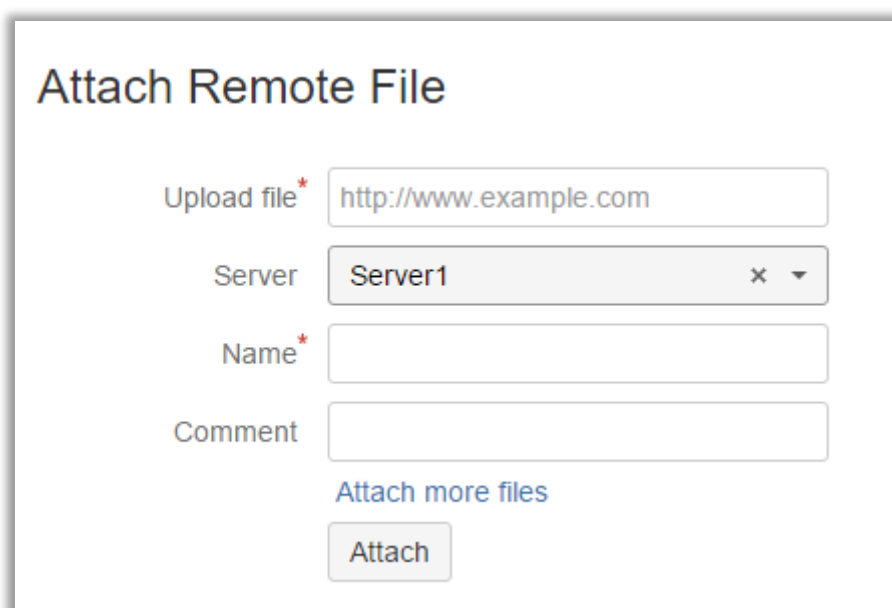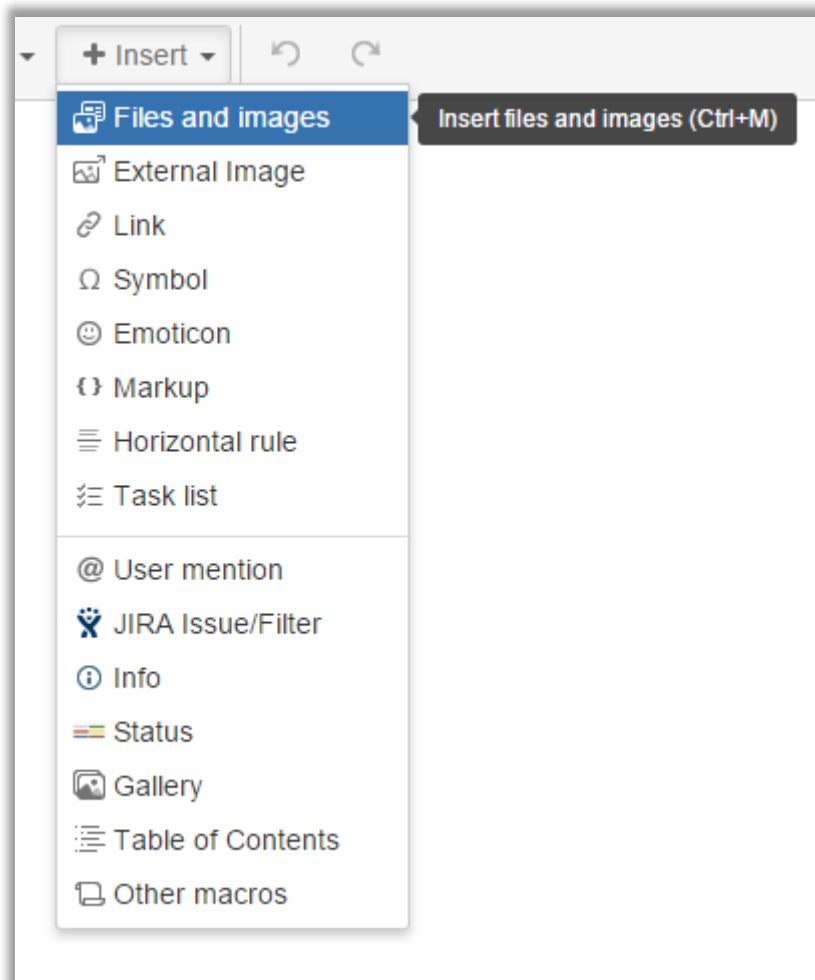
Note: Insert Menu can be different across Confluence versions
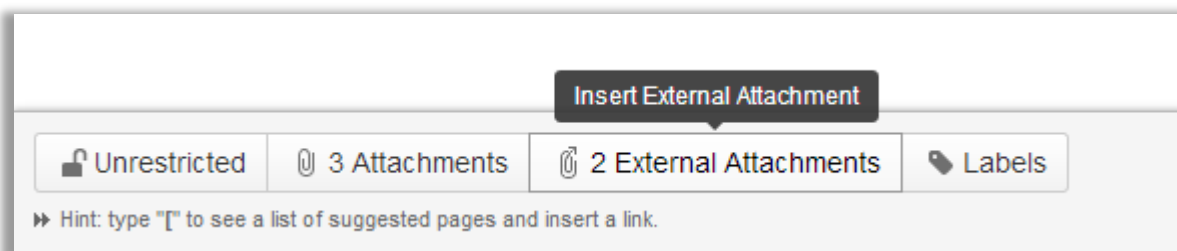
There are several possibilities how to show panel with External Attachment in the Link Browser:

- Click on the Files and images in the Editor's Insert Menu

Image 15 Image Dialog extension

- Click on the button External Attachments at the bottom of page below the Editor (Note: It is present in the old versions of Confluence)

Image 16 Shortcut to External Attachments dialog

- Click on the link External Attachments in the menu of Link Browser

Note: Server field is not mandatory field. It can be used only when the file is located on a server protected by basic authentication.
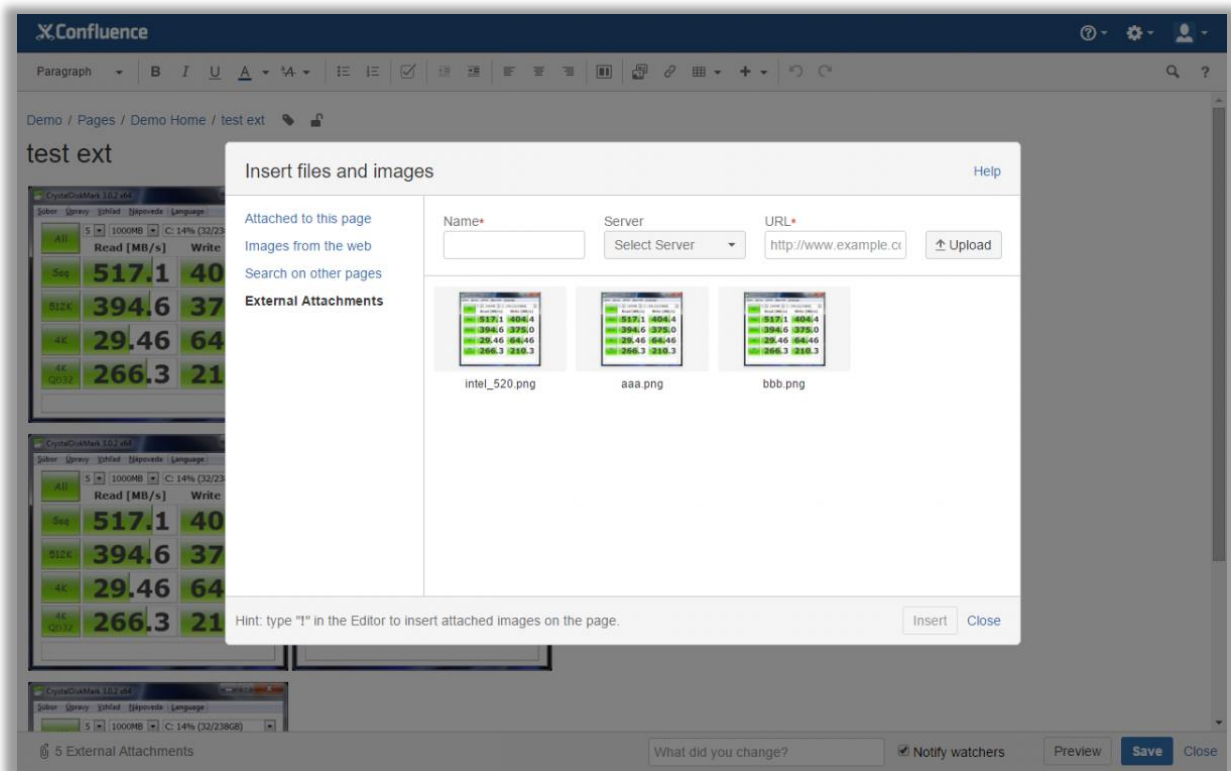

Image 17 Image Dialog extension

4. Upload remote file in Image Dialog

Note: Insert Menu can be different across Confluence versions

There are several possibilities how to show panel with External Images in the Image Dialog:

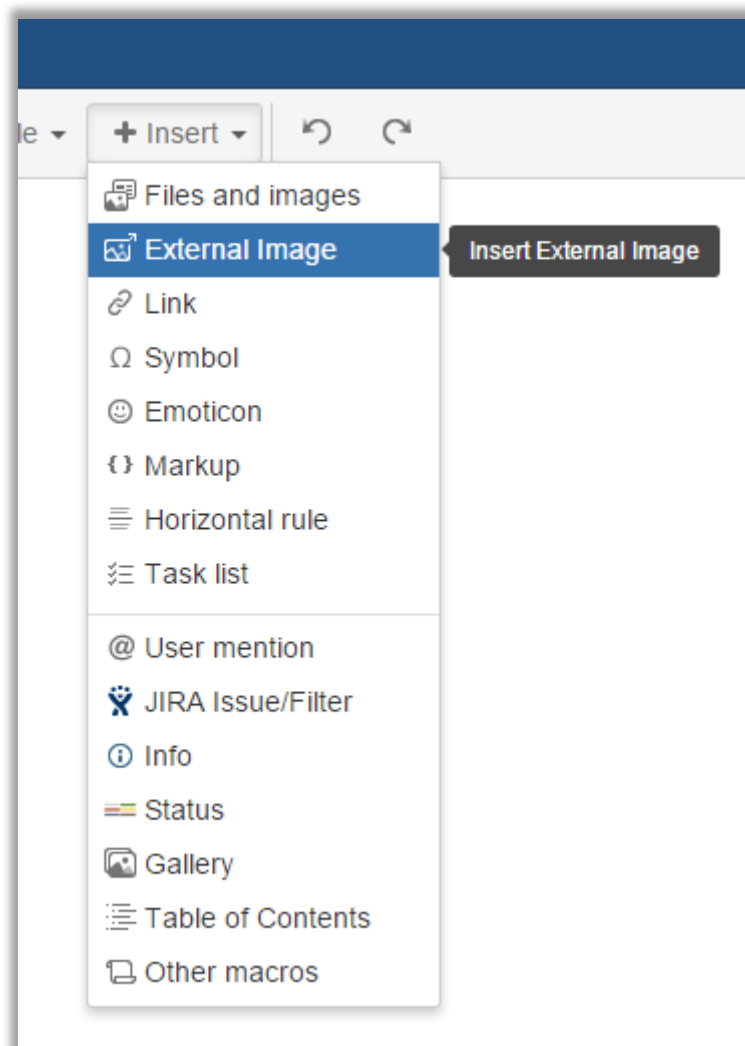- Click on the link in the Editor's Insert Menu

Image 18 Link Browser extension

- Click on the link External Attachments in the menu of Link Browser

SYNCHRONIZATION OF THE EXTERNAL ATTACHMENT

WITH REMOTE SOURCE

1. **Automatically** - The attachments are updated only when a page is shown. Add-on provides synchronization in the background and updates files if it is necessary. Then you will be informed about updated attachments.
2. **Manually** - External attachments can be manually synchronized/updated on the Attachments page.

SYNC ALL

It allows to synchronize all attachments of the page with their remote sources. Only changed files will be updated.

Image 19 Sync all attachments

SYNC

It allows to synchronize one attachment with its remote source. The file will be updated only when the file is changed in the remote source.

Image 20 Sync attachment

RELOAD

It allows to replace existing version of the attachment with file in remote source. The file will be overwrite every time you reload it (it doesn't matter whether the files are same or not).

Image 21 Reload attachment

USAGE NOTES

If you want to use existing functionality of the Confluence, then you need to use attachments, e.g. in macros. The attachments will be synchronized automatically anyway.

If you want to use direct links to the files in the remote sources then you need to use External Attachments in the Link Browser.

If you want to place to the page images that are pointed to the images in the remote sources then you need use External Images in the Image Dialog

SUPPORT

If you spot an incorrect behaviour of this add-on or need more detailed guidance how to use this plugin, please, contact at support@decoy.sk.

We are also looking for your feedback, opinions and ideas on how we can improve this add-on. So, feel free to contact us on above email address.