Phorum FAQ

Maurice Makaay, Brian Moon, Thomas Seifert, Andy Taylor, and Joe Curia

August 24, 2009

Contents

1 Modules **3**
- 1.1 How do I install a module? 3

2 Troubleshooting **4**
- 2.1 Why do I always end up at the top of a page when using the back button? 4
- 2.2 Help! I've deleted the admin user and can't log in! 4
- 2.3 Why do I get a database error about temporary tables when I search? . 4

3 Features **6**
- 3.1 Why do you show the number of messages and not the number of replies for a topic on the list page? 6
- 3.2 Does Phorum have avatars or user rankings like (insert UBB clone)? 6
- 3.3 Why do unregistered users not have new message indicators? 6
- 3.4 What are sticky topics? 7
- 3.5 Can I post announcements? 7
- 3.6 How do I stop spammers from signing up and posting on my forum? 7

Introduction

This is the Phorum FAQ for Phorum version 5.2.x and up. It is not intended for use with older versions of Phorum, although a lot of information will apply.

Please keep in mind that this manual is neither complete, nor final. If you have any remarks about it, please let us know in the development forum on our website. With your contribution, we hope to make this manual a useful tool for Phorum users in understanding and working with our software.

The Phorum development team
Phorum.org

Chapter 1

Modules

1.1 How do I install a module?

Check the admin-documentation about modules

Chapter 2

Troubleshooting

2.1 Why do I always end up at the top of a page when using the back button?

Your PHP setup is probably sending headers along with the reply, telling the browser to not cache the page. Therefore, when going to the previous page, it will be reloaded as if it were a new page. You can tweak the PHP settings to not have PHP sending these headers. Edit the php.ini and set the "session.cache_limiter" directive to have no value at all. So the line in php.ini would end up like this:

```
session.cache_limiter =
```

After editing the php.ini, restart the webserver. From then on, using the back button should work like expected.

If you do not have access to php.ini (you are using a hosting account), submit a request to your host asking that they change the aforementioned parameter for you. Most hosts should be willing to do this in the majority of cases.

2.2 Help! I've deleted the admin user and can't log in!

Create a new user using the registration form, and then set the admin parameter of the user to 1 in the database itself. This can be done using phpmyAdmin or a similar control panel, or the shell.

2.3 Why do I get a database error about temporary tables when I search?

If you get an access denied error about CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE when you search, the MySQL user assigned to your Phorum database does not have the rights to create temporary tables, which the search feature uses. To fix this, either grant your

user temporary table creation permissions through a tool like phpmyadmin, or if you cannot, then contact your host to see if they can enable it for you.

If you cannnot obtain permissions to create temporary tables, you can install the "Non-Temporary Search" module which you can find in our online list of modules

(warning: it will be a slow search on large data sets!)

Chapter 3

Features

3.1 Why do you show the number of messages and not the number of replies for a topic on the list page?

In short: the people writing the code liked it better. If you want to show the number of replies, you can modify your template by putting this line of code in your lists.tpl template file:

```
<?php $PHORUM['TMP']['MESSAGES']['thread_count']--;  ?>
```

Put that line right after the line that says:

```
{LOOP MESSAGES}
```

3.2 Does Phorum have avatars or user rankings like (insert UBB clone)?

Not by default. There are modules available to add this functionality. See the module list page for an overview of available modules: list of modules

3.3 Why do unregistered users not have new message indicators?

In Phorum 3, the data for the new message indicators was stored inside cookies. That way, both registered and unregistered users could see them. However, because of many cookie problems that plagued Phorum 3, we decided to store all user settings in the database for Phorum 5 instead. The down side of this is that users must be registered to show new messages. The up side is that the new indicators really work like they should in Phorum 5: messages that are read stay read when switching browser or computer.

3.4 What are sticky topics?

Sticky topics (a.k.a. "stickies") are topics that stay at the top of the forum they are posted in and do not get bumped down as new topics are posted. Often, sticky topics are used to post a forum FAQ or forum rules, so new users will always find these at the start of the forum topic list.

3.5 Can I post announcements?

For announcements, create a forum in which you will post announcement messages. Setup the permissions in such way that only the users who are allowed to create new announcements can post to this forum.

After this, go to the Modules page in the admin interface. There, you can enable the "Announcements" module and edit its settings to point it at the new announcement forum.

3.6 How do I stop spammers from signing up and posting on my forum?

From Phorum 5.2 onwards, the comprehensive Spam Hurdles module is included, which includes a number of spam prevention tools, including CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart). For more information on this and other modules, have a look at the Administrator Manual.