Reader module

Purpose

The Reader module allows you to display multiple newsfeeds (RSS, Atom) on your site.

Features

The index page displays a summary list of feed descriptions, plus logos if available. Each feed has its own dedicated content page with a select box that allows easy movement between feeds. Feeds may be toggled on or offline, the number of items displayed is configurable and the title can be overridden. A configurable caching mechanism is available to reduce page load times associated with looking up external sites.

Two blocks are available, 'Newsfeeds', which is a simple list of available feeds, and 'Recent posts', which displays the latest content from one feed, or from all feeds.

Requirements

Reader requires:

- ImpressCMS version 1.3.x or 2.0 (it will not work on the 1.2.x series).
- The SimplePie library version 1.2.1 **production release** or higher (you must manually update this library in ImpressCMS 1.3.1 or lower, as it ships with an earlier development version).

Installation

Reader follows the standard ImpressCMS module installation procedure, with one exception as described below:

1. If you are using ImpressCMS version 1.3.1 or lower, you must manually update the SimplePie library, as it contains some bugs. Simply download SimplePie 1.2.1 from the website below, unzip it and drop it in the /libraries folder of your site, after removing the original. Failure to do this will result in feeds failing to parse correctly, if they have parameters in their URL. The SimplePie library is slated to be updated in ImpressCMS version 1.3.2.
2. Copy the 'reader' folder to the /modules directory.
3. Go to administration => modules and press the install icon for the Reader module. The module is now ready for use.

Configuration (preferences)

Help text is provided for every configuration option in the Reader module preferences. Those worthy of note are:

- Feed timeout: This is how long the module will try to retrieve the content of a feed before giving up.

- Enable cache: Retrieving feeds takes time. If you have a lot of feeds, it can take ages. This option dramatically reduces page load times by storing feed data locally for a configurable period. Strongly recommend to enable it.
- Cache duration: How long feeds will be cached before doing another lookup. The default is one day.
- Feed logo width: The size at which feed logos will be displayed. They will be automatically scaled.
- Date format: Dates will be formatted according to this template, see the date() function in the PHP manual for details on the formatting options.
- Display navigation select box: Shows a drop down on available feeds, which helps users to navigate between them.

Use

To add a feed, simply enter its URL in the feed submission form. You can leave the title field blank if you wish and it will be automatically populated from the feed data, or you can enter a title manually (this will override that given in the feed).

The 'Newsfeeds' and 'Recent posts' blocks are largely self-explanatory. To configure them, visit the blocks administration page and click on the edit links. The Newsfeeds block can be configured to display an arbitrary number of feeds, while the Recent posts block allows you to restrict content to a particular feed if you wish (otherwise it will display the latest content across all feeds).

Support

Please direct all support questions to the ImpressCMS Module Support Forum, where everyone can help you and others can benefit from solutions. Enquiries for customisation and further development can be sent to simon@isengard.biz.

Support forum:

http://community.impresscms.org/modules/newbb/viewforum.php?forum=9

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