WordPress Developer Resources

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add_post_meta(int \$post_id, string \$meta_key, mixed \$meta_value, bool \$unique = false): int|false

Adds a meta field to the given post.

Description

Post meta data is called "Custom Fields" on the Administration Screen.

Parameters

\$post_idintrequired

Post ID.

\$meta_keystringrequired

Metadata name.

\$meta_valuemixedrequired

Metadata value. Must be serializable if non-scalar.

\$uniquebooloptional

Whether the same key should not be added.

Default: false

Return

int|false Meta ID on success, false on failure.

More Information

Note that if the given key already exists among custom fields of the specified post, another custom field with the same key is added unless the \$unique argument is set to true, in which case, no changes are made. If you want to update the value of an existing key, use the update_post_meta() function instead

Character Escaping

Because meta values are passed through the stripslashes() function, you need to be careful about content escaped with \ characters. You can read more about the behavior, and a workaround example, in the <u>update post meta()</u> documentation.

Source

```
function add_post_meta( $post_id, $meta_key, $meta_value, $unique = false ) {
    // Make sure meta is added to the post, not a revision.
    $the_post = wp_is_post_revision( $post_id );
    if ( $the_post ) {
        $post_id = $the_post;
    }
    return add_metadata( 'post', $post_id, $meta_key, $meta_value, $unique );
}
```

View all references · View on Trac · View on GitHub

Related

Uses

wp_is_post_revision()

wp-includes/revision.php

add_metadata()

wp-includes/meta.php

Used by

WP_REST_Font_Faces_Controller::create_item()

wp-includes/rest-api/endpoints/class-wp-rest-font-faces-controller.php

wp_check_for_changed_dates()

wp-includes/post.php

WP_Privacy_Policy_Content::get_suggested_policy_text()

wp-admin/includes/class-wp-privacy-policy-content.php

WP_Privacy_Policy_Content::_policy_page_updated()

wp-admin/includes/class-wp-privacy-policy-content.php

WP_Customize_Manager::trash_changeset_post()

wp-includes/class-wp-customize-manager.php

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Changelog

Version	Description
1.5.0	Introduced.

User Contributed Notes

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Hidden Custom Fields

If you are a plugin or theme developer and you are planning to use custom fields to store parameters related to your plugin or template, it is interesting to note that WordPress will not show custom fields which have keys starting with an "_" (underscore) in the custom fields list on the post edit screen or when using the used to show these custom fields in an unusual way by using the add_meta_box() function.

The following example:

```
copy

copy

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color', 'red', true ); ?>
```

will add a unique custom field with the key name _color and the value 'red' but this custom field will not display in the post edit screen.

In addition, if the <code>meta_value</code> argument is an array, it will not be displayed on the page edit screen, even if you don't prefix the key name with an underscore.

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```
Codex9 years ago ^ 3 v
```

Adding or Updating a Unique Custom Field

Adds a new custom field if the key does not already exist, or updates the value of the custom field with that key otherwise.

```
copy

<?php
if ( ! add_post_meta( 7, 'fruit', 'banana', true ) ) {
   update_post_meta ( 7, 'fruit', 'banana' );
}</pre>
```

Show feedback (2)Log in to add feedback

```
Codex9 years ago
```

Other Examples

Adds a new custom field only if a custom field with the given key does not already exists:

```
Copy

copy
<
```

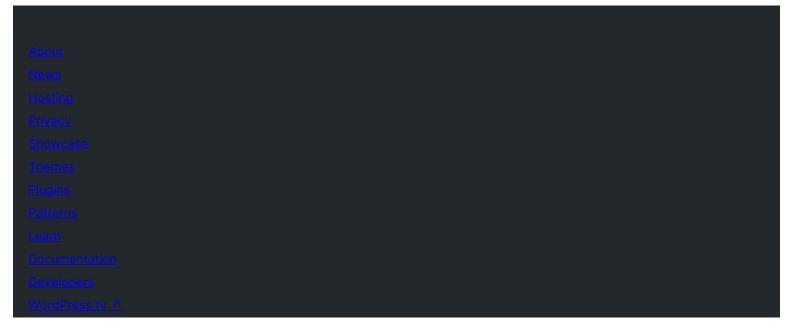
Adds several custom fields with different values but with the same key 'my_key':

```
copy

<?php add_post_meta( 68, 'my_key', '47' ); ?>
<?php add_post_meta( 68, 'my_key', '682' ); ?>
<?php add_post_meta( 68, 'my_key', 'The quick, brown fox jumped over the lazy dog.' ); ?>
```

```
For a more detailed example, see the post_meta Functions Examples page.
Log in to add feedback
                                                                                                              ^ O ~
  Codex9 years ago
Default Usage
                                                         Copy
<?php add_post_meta( 68, 'my_key', 47 ); ?>
Log in to add feedback
  capbussat2 years ago
                                                                                                              ~ O ~
I prefer a more complete solution which checks if is empty and deletes it:
function my_update_post_meta($post_id, $meta_key, $new_meta_value)
$meta_value = get_post_meta($post_id, $meta_key, true);
if ($new_meta_value && " === $meta_value)
add_post_meta($post_id, $meta_key, $new_meta_value, true); // unique
else if ($new_meta_value && $new_meta_value !== $meta_value)
update_post_meta($post_id, $meta_key, $new_meta_value, $meta_value);
// same prev_value
else if (" === $new_meta_value && $meta_value)
delete_post_meta($post_id, $meta_key, $meta_value); }
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```

You must <u>log in</u> before being able to contribute a note or feedback.



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