



Golden Dragon

GD Star Rating

A WordPress Rating System: Plug-in User Guide

Plugin Version: 1.5.0

Release Date: 3.july 2009.

Written by: Milan Petrovic

Official Website:

<http://www.gdstarrating.com/>

Dev4Press:

<http://www.dev4press.com/>

Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/gdstarrating>

Golden Dragon:

<http://www.gdragon.info/>

Support Forum:

<http://forum.gdragon.info/viewforum.php?f=9>

Google Code Development:

<http://code.google.com/p/gd-star-rating/>

Google Groups Discussion:

<http://groups.google.com/group/gd-star-rating>

Table Of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Requirements.....	4
Features.....	4
Planned Features	5
Included Translations	5
Included Graphics	6
Stars Styles.....	6
Supported stars sizes:	6
Included stars styles.....	6
Trend Icons	6
Included icons	6
Custom generated images and Cache	7
Rating Types	8
Implemented:	8
To be implemented:	8
Website Resources	9
Solving Problems.....	9
Optimization	9
Customization	9
T2 Customizations.....	9
How to.....	9
Graphics.....	9
Widgets.....	10
Debugging.....	11
Debug tab on settings panel	11
Inline Debug Info	11
Debug Into File	11
Setting Debug Environment.....	11
Using the Plugin	13
Intro.....	13
Rating block	13
Rating Header.....	13
Stars.....	13
Rating Text	13
Rendering of rating block	13
Automatic rendering.....	13
Shortcode rendering.....	14
Function in theme template file rendering	14
Post/Page Edit: Sidebar Widget	14
Shortcodes.....	15
Shortcode: STARREVIEW	15
Shortcode: STARRATER / STARRATINGBLOCK.....	15
Shortcode: STARRATING.....	15

Shortcode: STARRATINGMULTI.....	15
Shortcode: STARREVIEWMULTI	15
Custom Hooks.....	16
Actions.....	16
gdsr_init.....	16
gdsr_init_save_review.....	16
gdsr_admin_menu.....	16
gdsr_admin_head.....	16
gdsr_wp_head.....	16
Filters.....	16
gdsr_widget_data_prepare.....	16
Articles Panel	17
IP's	18
Ban New IP's	18
Ban Single IP's	18
Ban IP Range	18
Ban IP Masked.....	18
Banned	18
Tools	19
Graphics.....	19
Stars and Trends Graphics.....	19
Database.....	19
Upgrade	19
Cleanup.....	19
Bulk.....	19
Date Based Post Locking	19
Global Voting Rules Update	19
Cache	19
Cleanup.....	19
Advanced Features	20
Moderation.....	20
Vote Rules.....	20
Time Restrictions.....	20
Graphics Sets	21
Stars.....	21
Trends.....	21
Appendix	23
1. Elements for StarRating shortcode, manual function & Widget	23
User Guide change log	25

Introduction

GD Star Rating is WordPress plugin that can be used to add rating capabilities to posts, pages and comments on your blog. But, there is a lot more to this plugin compared to any other similar plugin.

Since the official website contains a lot of resources also, including tutorials I will include all the links to that resources here and avoid double contents.

Requirements

1. PHP: 4.4.x or 5.x.x
2. mySQL: 4.0, 4.1 or 5.x
3. WordPress: 2.5.0 or newer

Features

The following list contains full list of features:

1. Rating of posts and pages
2. Rating of comments
3. Multi ratings of posts and pages
4. Review rating of posts and pages
5. Review rating of comments
6. Ajax rating support using jQuery
7. Voting rules on post/page base
8. Voting rules based on categories
9. Auto inserting rating code
10. Moderation of votes
11. Multi language support
12. Advanced templates support
13. Charting support with pChart library
14. Administration dashboard widget
15. Post and comments based votes administration
16. User based votes administrations
17. Saving of voting data for registered users and regular visitors
18. Calculation of voting trend data for each post, page and comment
19. Different trend and star styles and sizes
20. Saving cookies with votes
21. Saving IP and user agent data for each vote
22. Widget with list of ratings
23. Widget with top blog rating
24. Widgets with multi instance support
25. Widgets support templates
26. WordPress shortcode support
27. Preview stars and trends image sets
28. Various additional tools for maintenance and bulk operations
29. WordPress editor button and tinyMCE3 plugin for shortcode
30. Manual placement functions of the rating code and template integration
31. Alternative rendering to generate rating stars as static images
32. Banning IP's, IP ranges and masked IP's
33. Filtering out search bots
34. Import data from other rating plugins

35. Export data into csv file
36. Expanding support based on WordPress actions
37. Support for QTranslate plugin
38. RSS Integration for powered by button
39. RSS Integration for post ratings
40. Extensive PDF User Guide
41. Cache support for storing rendered images

Planned Features

Beside the implemented (or in work) features, there are still some things that will be added later:

1. Comments Widget
2. Recommendation ratings
3. WP Super Cache support
4. Support for custom modules
5. Expanding export features
6. More charts
7. Chart caching
8. Customization of BOT filter

Included Translations

1. English
2. Serbian
3. Spanish
4. French
5. Polish
6. Italian

Included Graphics

Stars Styles

Each stars style comes in different sizes.

Supported stars sizes:

Currently 4 sizes are supported:

1. **Mini:** 12px
2. **Standard:** 16px
3. **Small:** 20px
4. **Normal:** 24px
5. **Medium:** 30px
6. **Big:** 46px

Included stars styles

Stars can be in PNG, JPG or GIF format. PNG can be with full transparency (32bit PNG). GIF supports only 1 bit for transparency, just like 8bit PNG.

1. Oxygen (32bit PNG)
2. Oxygen_GIF (8bit GIF)
3. Crystal (32bit PNG)
4. Darkness (32bit PNG)
5. Starscape (32bit PNG)
6. Soft (32bit PNG)
7. Pumpkin (32bit PNG)
8. Christmas (32bit PNG)
9. Starrating (32bit PNG)
10. Plain (32bit PNG)

Additional sets can be downloaded from official blog download page.

Trend Icons

Trend icons are used to represent post rating and voting trends. Each set has three icons for rise, fall and no change. Trend icons have no preset sizes, but included will be 16x16 px.

Included icons

Icons types are the same as for the stars.

1. Fam Fam Fam (32bit PNG)
2. Fam Fam Fam Arrows (32bit PNG)
3. Fam Fam Fam Mini (32bit PNG)

Additional sets can be downloaded from official blog download page.

Custom generated images and Cache

To be able to add rating stars to RSS, and later to render rating stars in widgets, I had to create new system for rendering. Plugin now can render static images with rating. And to avoid constant regenerating same images over and over again, plugin can work with a cache.

On the settings panel there is a Cache tab where you can enable cache and set automatic deleting of cached files. If plugin can't create and use cache folder you will get a warning notice with instructions on how to solve the problem.

Also, on Tools panel you can find cleanup tool that will clean this cache manually.

Rating Types

Currently plugin supports 3 types of ratings, and 3 more will be implement in the future.

Implemented:

1. **Article Rating (Posts and Pages):** This is the main type of rating. It's used on posts and pages (articles from now on). One article can have one rating. Rating is recorded for users (registered blog users logged in) and visitors (not logged in).
2. **Article Review Rating:** Review rating is no-votes rating. Rating is set only through admin panel (plugins control pages) or on edit screen for each post or page (sidebar control). This value represents rating added by the article author or editor.
3. **Comments Rating:** This is the rating for comments. Each comment can have rating block active. Rules for comments are not per comment but per post. So, all comments for one post have the same rules.
4. **Comments Review Rating:** This is single rating value added by the comment author and is not connected to any other rating value. With this author can rate the post. This type of rating needs to be integrated into the theme.
5. **Multiple Rating:** This method of rating allows you to set up rating system with more than one rating block. Each set can have up to 10 elements, and these elements can have different weights used to calculate average score.
6. **Multiple Review Rating:** Similar to article review rating, only using multiple sets for saving review rating.

To be implemented:

1. Recommend Article Rating (v1.4.0)
2. Recommend Comments Rating (v1.4.0)

Website Resources

Here is the list of resources available on official website.

Solving Problems

Most important posts are about solving problems that can cause the plugin not to work. So far, these posts cover all the problems that can happen:

- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/01/30/wordpress-related-problems/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/02/03/human-factor-problems/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/02/13/the-excerpt-problems/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/03/10/database-problems/>

Optimization

Posts with tips on plugin optimization techniques:

- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/06/18/optimization-guide-1/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/06/22/optimization-guide-2/>

Customization

Posts with explained settings and visual customization instructions:

- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/02/17/customization-css-intro/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/02/18/customization-multi-ratings/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/03/05/settings-explained-part-1/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/03/08/settings-explained-part-2/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/04/14/settings-explained-part-3/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/04/22/settings-explained-part-4/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/05/20/settings-explained-part-5/>

T2 Customizations

Posts explaining T2 templates system:

- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/04/24/templates-types/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/04/25/t2-system-basics/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/04/26/t2-standard-templates/>

How to...

Practical step-by-step instructions:

- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/02/08/how-to-multi-ratings/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/06/24/categories-management/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/05/27/comments-integration-1/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/05/28/comments-integration-2/>

Graphics

So far there are not many articles here, but hopefully that will change:

- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/01/21/installing-additional-sets/>

Widgets

There are two articles for main GD Star Rating widget and one more for Top Blog Rating:

- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/03/04/widget-gd-star-rating/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/04/21/widget-gd-star-rating-2/>
- <http://www.gdstarrating.com/2009/03/05/widget-gd-blog-rating/>

Debugging

Debug tab on settings panel

This tab contains options for debugging the plugin. There are two debug systems in place right now.

Inline Debug Info	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add a small block with essential debug info into each rating block.
Important: I strongly recommend leaving this option active. It doesn't disrupt the page, it's hidden and very small.	
Log Into File	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Log into file various debug information
Important: Plugin must have write access to a text file. Path to this file needs to be set in <code>gd-star-config.php</code> file.	

Inline Debug Info

I strongly recommend leaving this option active. It doesn't disrupt the page; it's hidden and very small. In many cases this can help to discover potential problems you might have with the voting on your blog. This contains only plugin version and reasons why the stars allow or don't allow voting for posts or comments.

Debug Into File

This is more advanced debugging that needs a file to be set to write various info: SQL queries, query results and errors. This can help finding more serious bugs and problems and eventually fixing them.

Setting Debug Environment

In some cases, there are some very strange bugs that are very hard to reproduce. The only way to find these bugs and fix them is to see what happens on the backend and what queries are executed against the database. So, if you have such bug, you can enable and set debugging, and when the problem occurs, you need to send me debug file so I can check the queries and whatever happens with the plugin.

Default plugin file is saved within the plugin folder and plugin installation includes empty 'debug.txt' file. You need only to set it be writeable and to enable debug.

Plugin has built in class and function for easier debugging of the live blog. Debug system needs one writeable text file, and it needs to be activated from Settings panels' general tab. So, here are the step by step instructions for that:

1. Create empty text file anywhere on your server. Path to that file must be accessible by web server. If you use Windows, you can set this file wherever you want. And if you name your file **debug.txt**, than path could be **c:\debug.txt**. On Linux servers things are slightly different, but more or less the same. Easiest is to create this debug file in WordPress installation 'wp-content' folder.
2. This file must be writeable. On Windows this is default behavior, but on Linux servers you need to set access rights.
3. Change plugin config file **gd-star-config.php**, and on line 11 for define command set the value for **STARRATING_LOG_PATH** to the path of your debug file.

4. Enable debug from the settings panel. On the general tab you have **Debugging** section, and you need to check only checkbox there.

If everything is set right, debug file will start filling with debug data. If not, then file is either non writeable or you have set path wrong. You can send me debug file once the error you have encountered occurs and I will try to fix the problem. You can send this file to my email address.

Notice:

Blog performance could be lowered when the debug mode is active, so don't leave it active too long, only when you are sure that you have found the bug, and you try to reproduce it so the file can get the necessary data to fix the bug.

Using the Plugin

I will try to explain in details how the plugin works and how you can use it and set it to fit your needs.

Intro

When you first install plugin it should work right away and it should display stars for all posts/pages and comments. Rating displayed with both comments and posts/pages basically looks the same, but it can be set differently, so the rating for comments and articles can have different number of stars, different styles, text and anything else.

Rating block

The rating block you see is called exactly like that RATING BLOCK. Here is the example of how typical block looks like:



Rating Header

In the above picture, rating header is a text: “Please, rate this post:” This is the text, always rendered above the stars. You can add custom CSS class to this element, and you can change its position, color and other properties. Rating text supports html markup.

Stars

This is the main part of the rating block and contains the actual stars. All visitors will see current rating displayed by the block, and if the visitor/user can vote, then when hovers over the stars, a new (usually red) stars will appear as a selected rating. When visitor/user clicks on the desired rating value, vote is recorded by the plugin.

Rating Text

Third part of the block is a description of current rating, and this text supports templates to format it. Also, this text can be rendered left, right, top or bottom to the stars. How the templates work, we will see later. Rating text, like header supports adding custom CSS class.

Rendering of rating block

For rating block to appear, plugin must know where to render it. There are three types of rendering stars:

Automatic rendering

This rendering is controlled by the plugin, and is more or less the same for articles and comments. With this, block is always rendered at the end of the article or comment.

For article, plugin can insert rating code in individual posts or pages, for posts in the archives and on the front page. This is controlled on the settings page in the admin control panel. By default all 4 options are checked and active. For comments this is much simpler, and either rating is rendered automatically or is not.

For comments, rating block can be inserted only at the end of the comment. This is controlled by the setting in the control panel comments tab.

Shortcode rendering

If you don't like where the rating block is placed automatically by the plugin, you can turn off these options and you can add shortcode in your posts, and with that you can determine the place where plugin places the block.

Shortcodes for this are **[STARRATER]** or **[STARRATINGBLOCK]**.

Shortcode rendering can't be used for comments.

Function in theme template file rendering

This last method is here for the theme designers or advanced user and this method requires changes to the theme files and calling the function that will render the block. It's very important that this call must be made from inside the post/page loop. Function name for this:

wp_gdsr_render_article().

For comments function name is: **wp_gdsr_render_comment()**.

If you don't use any of this, then the rating block and stars will not be rendered. You can even have multiple rating blocks in the same article, but they will act the same, so there is no point in that.

Post/Page Edit: Sidebar Widget

For each post or page, WordPress edit page have sidebar widget with rating/review settings for that post or page.

You can set review, vote and moderation rules and time restrictions for voting. This goes for all the restrictions and rules one post or posts comments can have. If you are creating new post, default values from settings will be used to fill in the widget controls.

The screenshot shows the 'GD Star Rating' sidebar widget. It is divided into four sections: 'Post Review:', 'Post Rating:', 'Comments Rating:', and 'Time Restriction:'. Each section contains controls for setting review rules, vote rules, moderation, and time restrictions. The 'Post Review:' section has a 'Value:' field with two dropdown menus. The 'Post Rating:', 'Comments Rating:', and 'Time Restriction:' sections each have a 'Vote Rule:' dropdown menu and a 'Moderate:' dropdown menu. The 'Time Restriction:' section has a 'Restriction:' dropdown menu.

GD Star Rating	
Post Review:	
Value:	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>
Post Rating:	
Vote Rule:	<input type="text" value="Everyone can v"/>
Moderate:	<input type="text" value="No moderation"/>
Comments Rating:	
Vote Rule:	<input type="text" value="Everyone can v"/>
Moderate:	<input type="text" value="No moderation"/>
Time Restriction:	
Restriction:	<input type="text" value="No timer"/>

Shortcodes

Current version has only one shortcode implemented. Bellow you can see shortcode details and all options for the shortcode explained.

Shortcode: STARREVIEW

This shortcode is used to render post review rating stars. This shortcode has no attributes.

Shortcode: STARRATER / STARRATINGBLOCK

This shortcode is used to render rating stars for the post or page in custom location. This shortcode has no attributes.

Shortcode: STARRATING

This shortcode is used to render table with voting summary for post and/or pages. It has a lot of attributes that can be used to make table look exactly the way you want it. Best way to add shortcode is to use visual editor integrated plugin. Plugin is represented by red star button. Depending on the selected options, plugin will generate shortcode with all necessary parameters.

If you want to create shortcode by yourself, it's important to know that if you omit some of the parameters, default value for that parameter will be used. The list of all parameters and their default values is in the table in **Appendix 1**.

This shortcode also supports template rendering, but for now there can be only one template stored, and the template can't be passed as a parameter for a shortcode, because that will cause too much complications to store and to parse it in the post where you add shortcode. But, for that one template you can use pretty much all the template elements as you can use for the widget, plus some more. You can use template elements from *Appendix 2* and *Appendix 3*.

Shortcode: STARRATINGMULTI

This shortcode will insert multi rating set into the post. It has only one parameter (for now), and this parameter is ID of the multi set you want to use. It can be added through tinymce plugin like all the other shortcodes.

Shortcode: STARREVIEWMULTI

This shortcode will insert multi review rating result into the post.

Custom Hooks

Plugin support few custom actions as a mean for other plugins to modify some aspects of GD Star Rating. This is still more experimental feature. Currently there are few supported actions.

Actions

gdsr_init

This action is executed at the end of init block. This block itself is WordPress init action.

There are no more info about this at this time.

gdsr_init_save_review

This action is executed at the end of saving the multi rating review data.

There are no more info about this at this time.

gdsr_admin_menu

This action is executed within WordPress admin_menu action.

With this action you can add new panel on the GD Star Rating page.

gdsr_admin_head

This action is executed at the end of WordPress admin_head action.

You can use this to add your CSS or JavaScript at the end of the block added by this plugin.

gdsr_wp_head

This action is executed at the end of WordPress wp_head action.

You can use this to add your CSS or JavaScript at the end of the block added by this plugin.

Filters

gdsr_widget_data_prepare

Filter sends the final array of rows prepared to be displayed by the widget or custom functions that renders rating data into post.

Don't forget to return modified data after you finish additional filtering.

Articles Panel

Articles panel is main page for rating management. This page is made to be similar to WordPress posts and pages panel, and some elements are almost exactly the same. On top you have filter elements:











1. Search Posts
2. Post / Page filter
3. Categories and months filter
4. Pager

GD Star Rating: Articles

All Articles (75) | Posts (50) | Pages (17)

Show all dates | All categories | Filter

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75

ITEM	VIEW	MODERATION	TIME	VOTE RULES	CATEGORIES	RATINGS	FOOT	REVIEW
<input type="checkbox"/> TEST Title	 	0 articles: free 0 comments: free	countdown 10 Months	articles: everyone comments: everyone	Uncategorized	[0] visitors: 7 [1] users: 10.0	[1] ratings: 10.0 [7] views	7
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW Test	 	0 articles: free 0 comments: free	no limit	articles: everyone comments: everyone	Home, GD Star Rating	[1] visitors: 10.0 [0] users: 7	[1] ratings: 10.0 [1] views	7
<input type="checkbox"/> GD Star Rating 1.0.2	 	0 articles: free 0 comments: free	date limit 2009-01-27	articles: everyone comments: everyone	News, GD Star Rating	[2] visitors: 9.5 [1] users: 10.0	[5] ratings: 9.7 [55] views	7
<input type="checkbox"/> GD Star Rating 1.0.1	 	0 articles: free 0 comments: free	no limit	articles: everyone comments: everyone	News, GD Star Rating	[4] visitors: 10.0 [2] users: 9.0	[6] ratings: 9.7 [162] views	7
<input type="checkbox"/> GD Star Rating 1.0.0- LONGWINDY (BETA)	 	0 articles: free 0 comments: free	no limit	articles: everyone comments: everyone	Announcements, News, GD Star Rating	[10] visitors: 8.3 [2] users: 10.0	[62] ratings: 8.4 [105] views	7

Articles: Name: / Moderation: / Vote Rules: / Update

Review: / Reason: /

Comments: Name: / Moderation: / Vote Rules: /











Filtering:

Each row represents one post. First column contains checkboxes for selecting multiple posts. Second column called View has icons in it. First icon will open actual post or page. The second one will open popup with chart with votes.

Third column are comments counts. If you click on this you will get similar page with comments ratings for selected post like on the picture on the right. This page will allow you to moderate ratings, or to delete them.

GD Star Rating: Comments

Comments for: TEST Title

ITEM	VIEW	MODERATION	TIME	VOTE RULES	CATEGORIES	RATINGS	FOOT	REVIEW
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	 	0 articles: free 0 comments: free	countdown 10 Months	articles: everyone comments: everyone	Uncategorized	[0] visitors: 7 [1] users: 10.0	[1] ratings: 10.0 [7] views	7
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW COMMENT	 	0 articles: free 0 comments: free	no limit	articles: everyone comments: everyone	Home, GD Star Rating	[1] visitors: 10.0 [0] users: 7	[1] ratings: 10.0 [1] views	7
<input type="checkbox"/> GD Star Rating 1.0.2	 	0 articles: free 0 comments: free	date limit 2009-01-27	articles: everyone comments: everyone	News, GD Star Rating	[2] visitors: 9.5 [1] users: 10.0	[5] ratings: 9.7 [55] views	7
<input type="checkbox"/> GD Star Rating 1.0.1	 	0 articles: free 0 comments: free	no limit	articles: everyone comments: everyone	News, GD Star Rating	[4] visitors: 10.0 [2] users: 9.0	[6] ratings: 9.7 [162] views	7
<input type="checkbox"/> GD Star Rating 1.0.0- LONGWINDY (BETA)	 	0 articles: free 0 comments: free	no limit	articles: everyone comments: everyone	Announcements, News, GD Star Rating	[10] visitors: 8.3 [2] users: 10.0	[62] ratings: 8.4 [105] views	7

Comments: Name: / Moderation: / Vote Rules: / Update

Review: / Reason: /

Comments: Name: / Moderation: / Vote Rules: /

Filtering:

Moderation column shows you moderation status, and number of ratings waiting for moderation. If you click on this number (if not 0) than you will get to moderation page where you can approve or delete votes.

Time Restrictions column shows if the posts have limited voting time. Vote Rules shows who can vote for a post and for the comments belonging to that post. After that you can see post categories.

Voter's column shows number of votes and rating from visitors and users. Total column shows total rating and votes for the post and also number of views for that page or post. Last column is post review value.

Bellow the table you can find control panel that you can use to set options for posts you have selected (checked) in the table. You can select more than one parameter to change for both posts and comments.

IP's

With this panel you can control banning of IP addresses. All banned IP's will be filtered, and voting will not be allowed for any visitor or user coming from banned IP.

For now, this only works with regular IPv4 protocol addresses.

Ban New IP's

This tab contains three different segments for banning new IP's:

Ban Single IP's

You need to enter list of single IP's to ban, each one in one line of the textarea. If the IP is valid and not yet in the database, it will be added.

Ban IP Range

Here you can specify range of IP addresses to ban. Range is based only on last IP address element. If the range is not valid, it will be ignored. Also, for last ranged number, FROM must be lower than TO.

Ban IP Masked

This is very specific IP filtering, where you can set a mask for IP addresses. Masked element needs to be left blank or to have XXX instead of number.

Examples:

- 143.12.XXX.XXX: all addresses that start with 143.12 will be banned
- 143.XXX.56.123: addresses that start with 143 and ends with 56.123 will be banned

Banned

This is the list of all banned IP address, ranges and masks. You can delete IP's from this list.

Tools

This panel contains various tools you can use on their own.

Graphics

Stars and Trends Graphics

If you add new stars set, you need to let plugin know about it. To avoid constant scanning of folder for new sets, this option is here to activate scanning only when needed. You can see the last scan date and time.

Database

Upgrade

Plugin will try to manually upgrade all database tables in case of changes between versions. You can see the date and time of last performed upgrade.

Cleanup

In most cases you will not need to use these options. They are here to clean the plugin tables in the database from wrong log entries or obsolete data.

- Remove all invalid votes from vote's log: this will remove all votes from log that are not connected to existing posts or have some other info invalid.
- Remove all invalid votes from trends log: this will do the same, but for trends log.
- Remove data for old and deleted posts: if you delete some of your posts that have votes data recorded, with this option you can purge rating tables from such obsolete posts.

Bulk

Date Based Post Locking

Select a date, and all posts older than this date will be locked from further voting. This goes for all posts and all comments associated to this posts.

Global Voting Rules Update

All posts and comments will be set to rules you want.

Cache

Cleanup

Delete all cached files from folder `'/wp-content/gd-star-rating/cache/'`. You can see current cache status.

Advanced Features

Moderation

For each post you can set if you want to moderate votes for user or visitors or both. They can vote once, and that vote is stored, but will not appear until you approve it. Articles panel contains all options needed for setting this, and to see how many votes are waiting.

Vote Rules

Vote rules are used to determine who can vote, and whether to show or hide rating for specific article. You can set that only visitors or only users can vote, you can lock voting, and you can lock and hide rating block for posts.

Time Restrictions

In many cases you need to limit voting by setting the total time available for voting after the publishing of post or you can set deadline date until the voting is allowed.

Countdown restriction lets you set the amount of time from the moment the post is published until the rating for that post is closed. You can specify the number of days, hours or minutes for countdown. Date restriction lets you set the date until the voting is valid. Date must be in the future, or rating will be automatically locked.

In both cases plugin will have recalculated values for both types of restrictions so you can use that as values for template.

Graphics Sets

Sets for trends and stars are stored in two places:

1. **Plugin folder:** this is the folder where the plugin is located, and there you have folders **stars** and **trends** where the default sets are located. I don't recommend adding anymore sets in these folders, because if you use WordPress plugin upgrade system, all that will be lost when you update to newer plugin version.
2. **Additional folder:** You need to create **gd-star-rating** folder in **wp-content** folder. And in this new folder create two more folders: **stars** and **trends**. Structure you need to have looks like this:
 - wp-content/gd-star-rating/stars
 - wp-content/gd-star-rating/trends

Each set must be in its own folder, and make sure not to use folder names like the folder names used for default icon sets.

Stars

Stars must be created in 4 sizes. Each size requires one image file. Also, you need to create additional description file with some info about the set. Here are the star sizes, image dimensions and file name (xxx in file name is extension):

1. 12 pixels (image size: 12x36) (file name: stars12.xxx)
2. 20 pixels (image size: 20x60) (file name: stars20.xxx)
3. 30 pixels (image size: 30x90) (file name: stars30.xxx)
4. 46 pixels (image size: 46x138) (file name: stars46.xxx)

Files can be in PNG, GIF or JPG format. PNG can be used for true 32bit format with real transparency. But this is not supported by some older browsers including MS Internet Explorer 6.

Each image contains three elements used to create rating stars. On the image on the right you have large version of the set with all 3 parts. Top element is rating star background image. Middle element is image used for hover effect when a user wants to vote. Bottom element is used to render actual rating value.

You need to use basically the same size and position of elements you want to use (stars, boxes, hearts...) so the transition of elements looks nice. I have included Photoshop PSD file with oxygen stars as a template. Also, images you use must have square dimensions. You can't use element with 46x50 size.

Description file is required, and this file must be named '**stars.gdsr**'. Use example I have included to create your own description for you sets. Only first two lines are **required**. All the other lines can be removed if you want. **Type** line must have set extension for the stars in your set.

Trends

Trends image is different than stars and it requires only one image that includes all 3 trend states. Also, one trend set is only for one size, you can't have one set with different sizes like stars have. File name must be **trend.xxx**, with xxx being extension. Top image in the set is for trend rising state, middle is for trend stagnation, and the



bottom is for trend falling.

Description file is required, and this file must be named '**trend.gdsr**'. Use example I have included to create your own description for you sets. Only first three lines are **required**. All the other lines can be removed if you want. **Type** line must have set extension for the stars in your set. **Size** line must have set width dimension of the image. Trend elements must be with square dimensions, you can't have 16x20 elements in the set.

I have included Photoshop PSD file template.

Appendix

There could be some inaccuracies with following info, but it will be improved.

1. Elements for StarRating shortcode, manual function & Widget

At this point some of the following parameters might not be supported by the widget rendering code. This goes for stars rendering but the widget will soon get support for that also.

Parameter	Description	Default
rows	number of posts (rows) to show	10
source	what data to show, from standard or multi rating standard multis	standard
source_set	id of multi rating set to use if source is multis	0
display	if used as a widget, determines how will be able to see it all visitors users	all
title	if used as a widget, this is the widget title	Rating
select	what to display: posts, pages or both postpage post page	postpage
column	what to use for sorting rating votes id post_title review count bayes	rating
order	sorting order asc desc	desc
category	id of the category for filtering results	0
show	use recorded votes from user, visitors or both total visitors users	total
min_votes	minimal number of votes required to include post this doesn't affect grouping values	5
hide_empty	exclude posts with no recorded votes 0: include all 1: exclude empty	1
hide_noreview	exclude posts with no review 0: include all 1: exclude empty	0
bayesian_calculation	exclude posts with no valid bayesian criteria rating 0: include all 1: exclude	0
publish_date	limit posts with date filter lastd: last number of days month range	lastd
publish_days	number of last day for filtering (publish_date is set to lastd) 0: no limit	0
publish_month	month to limit post filter in format YYYYMM (publish_date set to month)	200808
publish_range_from	start date for filter (publish_date set to range)	YYYYMMDD
publish_range_to	to date for filter (publish_date set to range)	YYYYMMDD
div_class	additional CSS class for table	
grouping	grouping posts by user or category, average value for posts post: no grouping user category	post
trends_rating	how to display rating trends, like text or image txt img	txt
trends_rating_rise	character for trend rising	+
trends_rating_same	character for trend stagnation	=
trends_rating_fall	character for trend falling	-
trends_rating_set	image set for trend	famfamfam

trends_voting	how to display voting trends, like text or image txt img	txt
trends_voting_rise	character for trend rising	+
trends_voting_same	character for trend stagnation	=
trends_voting_fall	character for trend falling	-
trends_voting_set	image set for trend	famfamfam
rating_stars	image stars set for rating	oxygen
rating_size	image stars size for rating 12: mini 20: small 30: normal 46: big	20
review_stars	image stars set for review	oxygen
review_size	image stars size for review 12: mini 20: small 30: normal 46: big	20
image_from	should the image from the post is used none custom content	none
image_custom	if the image is used from custom field, name of the field	image
last_voted_days	only posts with last vote recorded within the last number of days. use 0 to include all.	0

User Guide change log

1.5.0 [3.july 2009]

For plugin **1.5.0** release. Removed obsolete instructions. Added more tutorials links.

1.2.3 [30.april 2009]

For plugin **1.2.3** release. Custom functions and website references.

1.2.0 [22.april 2009]

For plugin **1.2.0** release. Many things removed due to a content available at official website.

1.1.6 [2.march 2009]

For plugin **1.1.6** release.

1.1.0 [5.february 2009]

For plugin **1.1.0** release. Updated settings, tools, appendix and few other things. Added cache, multi ratings, generated images and RSS.

1.0.8 [29.december 2008]

For plugin **1.0.8** release. Updated settings, widgets, appendix and manual functions. Added custom action hooks.

1.0.5 [7.december 2008]

For plugin **1.0.5** release. Added debug info and voting problems.

1.0.2 [10.november 2008]

For plugin **1.0.2** release. Contains new screenshots for settings panel, and is expanded with new settings options, comments review and theme integration.

1.0.0 [31.october 2008]

For plugin first stable **1.0.0 Halloween Edition** release.