Golden Dragon

GD Star Rating

WordPress Plug-in User Guide

User Guide Version: **0.6.0**
Widget Version: **0.9.5**
Release Date: **15.september 2008.**

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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.

Requirements

Plugin is developed and tested only for WordPress 2.5.0 or newer. There is no plan to add support for older versions. Current WordPress 2.6 is also supported, but some of the features could be a problem. As long as you don't change location of your wp-content folder, things will work just fine. If you move this folder, then tinyMCE3 editor button will not work, and you must created shortcode manually.

Features

The following list contains full list of features:

1. Rating of posts and pages
2. Rating of comments
3. Review Rating
4. Voting rules on post/page base
5. Moderation of votes on post/page base
6. Different star styles and sizes
7. Separate saving of voting data for registered users and regular visitors
8. Logging of each vote
9. Saving cookies with votes
10. Calculation of voting trend data for each post, page and comment
11. Rating multi instance support widget
12. WordPress shortcode support
13. WordPress editor button and tinyMCE3 plugin for shortcode
14. Multi language support
15. Setting number of stars for voting (up to 20)
16. Control Panel
17. Manual placement functions of the rating code
18. Category support for posts
19. User Guide

Planned Features

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

1. AJAX supported voting
2. More options for shortcode
3. More options for widget
4. Widget for comments votes
5. New methods of rating

Stars Styles

Each stars style comes in different sizes.

Supported stars sizes:

Currently 4 sizes are supported:

- **Mini**: 12px
- **Small**: 20px
- **Medium**: 30px
- **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.

- **0**: Oxygen (32bit PNG)
- **1**: Crystal (32bit PNG)
- **2**: Quiet (32bit PNG)
- **3**: Shiny (32bit PNG)
- **4**: Aero (32bit PNG)
- **5**: Inspire (32bit PNG)
- **6**: Nuvola (32bit PNG)
- **7**: Starscape (32bit PNG)
- **8**: Starscape on White (8bit GIF)
- **9**: Milky (32bit PNG)
- **10**: Ruby (32bit PNG)
- **11**: Fatty (32bit PNG)
- **12**: Aeon (32bit PNG)
- **13**: Soft (32bit PNG)

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.

To be implemented:

1. Multiple Rating (v1.1.0)
2. Recommend Article Rating (v1.2.0)
3. Recommend Comments Rating (v1.2.0)

Shortcodes

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

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.

Attributes

Each attribute can have different values, and for each one there is a default value defined. In this list, every attribute allowed values are also listed. Default value is in red.

Here is the list of attributes:

1. **rows**: number of posts to display in the table
   10: can be any number
2. **header**: table header row
   1: render header row,
   0: don't render header row
3. **links**: item titles are also links to actual posts or pages
   1: links active,
   0: no links
4. **select**: what articles should table contain.
   post: only posts
   page: only pages
   postpage: both pages and posts
5. **votes**: column with number of votes
   1: column included
   0: column not shown
6. **review**: review rating column
   1: column included
   0: column not shown
7. **rating**: rating column
   1: column included
   0: column not shown
8. **sort**: column for sorting table data
   post_id: post or page id
   post_title: post or page title
   votes: number of votes
   review: review rating
   rating: post/page rating
9. **order**: sorting order
   DESC: descending rating
   ASC: ascending rating
10. **class**: CSS class used to render table
    starratting

starsimple

11. **rating_style**: rendering of rating column
    number: value will be displayed with number
    stars: value will be displayed using stars
12. **rating_stars**: number for the stars style to use for rendering rating column
    0
13. **rating_ size:** size of stars to be used for rendering rating column
    12
    20
    30
    46
14. **review_style**: rendering of review column
    number: value will be displayed with number
    stars: value will be displayed using stars
15. **review _stars**: number for the stars style to use for rendering review column
    0
16. **review _ size:** size of stars to be used for rendering review column
    12
    20
    30
    46
17. **category:** id number of category of posts. Only posts from this category will be displayed. If you choose to display posts and pages (select attribute) and category is not 0, then no pages will be shown.
    0: all categories
18. **show:** used to calculate rating. Tells the plugin if it should use only visitor or user ratings or their combined value.
    total: sum of visitors and users ratings
    visitors: only visitor ratings
    users: only registered users ratings
19. **hide_empty:** if post has no rating recorded it will be displayed or not.
    0: show all posts even empty ones until number of posts from rows attribute is reached
    1: hide posts with no recorded ratings

Examples

Minimal shortcode example can have only shortcode name. All other attributes will take default values.

```
[starrating]
```

Here is the example with smaller stars and different style for table. Also, table will be sorted in ascending order.

```
[starrating order='asc'
class='starsimple' style='stars'
show='total' stars_size=12
stars=4]
```

CSS Class for table

To render table, plugin uses CSS styles that are defined for a base class. This base class is actual value for the class attribute. Plugin has few styles build in so you can look at them as an example on how your own styles should be defined. These styles you create must have exactly the same structure as the ones build in. You can include your own styles in any CSS files loaded by WordPress (your theme CSS for example). Then you only need to define shortcode with your own CSS class and everything is set.

Shortcode: STARREVIEW

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

Shortcode: STARRATER

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

Shortcode: STARRATERCOMMENT

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

Using manual functions

Automatic rendering is controlled by plugin. But in many cases you might need to do things 'your own way'. For this I have created few functions, and more will come.

Render Article: wp_gdsr_render_article()

This method will display rendering stars for post or page. This must be used in a post loop or will not work. This is the same as using STARRATER shortcode.

Render Article: wp_gdsr_render_comment()

This method will display rendering stars for comment. This must be used in a comment loop or will not work. This is the same as using STARRATERCOMMENT shortcode.

Render Review Rating: wp_gdsr_render_review()

This method will render stars for post review rating. This is the same as using STARREVIEW shortcode.

Render Widget: wp_gdsr_render_widget($widget)

This method will render widget like content. This method requires a number of parameters. If no parameters are passed, then the default widget parameters will be used. Parameters are in the form of array.

For rendering items you can specify exact template you want to use for header of the widget, each item and footer. Template strings can be HTML encoded or not. For this use, I recommend decoded HTML strings. Template can contain specific strings that will be replaced with actual values (hence the template). List of all supported template strings can be found in the next chapter.

Elements

Here is the list of settings with possible values, and the default values in red:

1. **rows**: number of posts to display in the table
   10: can be any number
2. **select**: what articles should table contain.
   post: only posts
   page: only pages
   postpage: both pages and posts
3. **column**: column for sorting table data
   post_id: post or page id
   post_title: post or page title
   votes: number of votes
   review: review rating
   rating: post/page rating
4. **order**: sorting order
   DESC: descending rating
   ASC: ascending rating
5. **category**: id of the category to limit posts to
   0: all categories

6. **show:** used to calculate rating. Tells the plugin if it should use only visitor or user ratings or their combined value.
   total: sum of visitors and users ratings
   visitors: only visitor ratings
   users: only registered users ratings
7. **hide_empty:** if post has no rating recorded it will be displayed or not.
   0: show all posts even empty ones until number of posts from rows attribute is reached
   1: hide posts with no recorded ratings
8. **hide_noreview:** if post has no review set it will be displayed or not.
   0: show all posts
   1: hide posts with no review rating
9. **publish_date**: used to determine the publishing date of the posts. Based on this one of three date filters will be used.
   lastd: last number of days will be used
   month: specific month will be used
   range: date range will be used
10. **publish_days**: this is used if **publish_date** is set to **lastd**. You need to set this to a last number of days you want to display articles from.
    0: all posts will be used
11. **publish_month**: this is used if **publish_date** is set to **month**. Month needs to be in the format YYYYMM: year and month.
    200808: august 2008
12. **publish_range_from**: this is used if **publish_date** is set to **range**. Start date for filtering posts. In format YYYYMMDD: year, month and day.
13. **publish_range_to**: this is used if **publish_date** is set to **range**. End date for filtering posts. In format YYYYMMDD: year, month and day.
14. **tpl_encoded**: template strings can be HTML encoded or decoded
    0: strings are decoded
    1: strings are encoded
15. **tpl_header**: header html, rendered first
    <UL>
16. **tpl_footer**: footer html, rendered last
    </UL>
17. **tpl_item**: main template element. Each post will be rendered using this template.
    <li>%RATING% : <a href="%PERMALINK%">%TITLE%</a> (%VOTES% votes)</li>
18. **tpl_title_length**: lenght of the post title. If the length is greater than this value, post title will be shortened and **...** will be added.
    0: post title will remain as it is

When you create your own array of parameters for the rendering, you MUST include all the parameters (except date filtering ones) or the rendering might fail.

Example

Here is the example call:

```
wp_gdsr_render_widget(array("rows" => 10, "select" => "postpage", "column" =>
"review", "order" => "desc", "category" => 0, "show" => "total", "display" => "all",
"hide_empty" => 0, "hide_noreview" => 0, "tpl_header" => '<ul>', "tpl_item" =>
```

```
'<li><strong>%RATING%</strong> : <a href="%PERMALINK%">%TITLE%</a> (%VOTES%
votes)</li>', "tpl_footer" => '</ul>', "tpl_title_length" => 20, "tpl_encoded" => 0,
"publish_date" => 'lastd', "publish_days" => 30));
```

Template Strings

Here is the list of template strings you can use in this method call. Table contains template name and description.

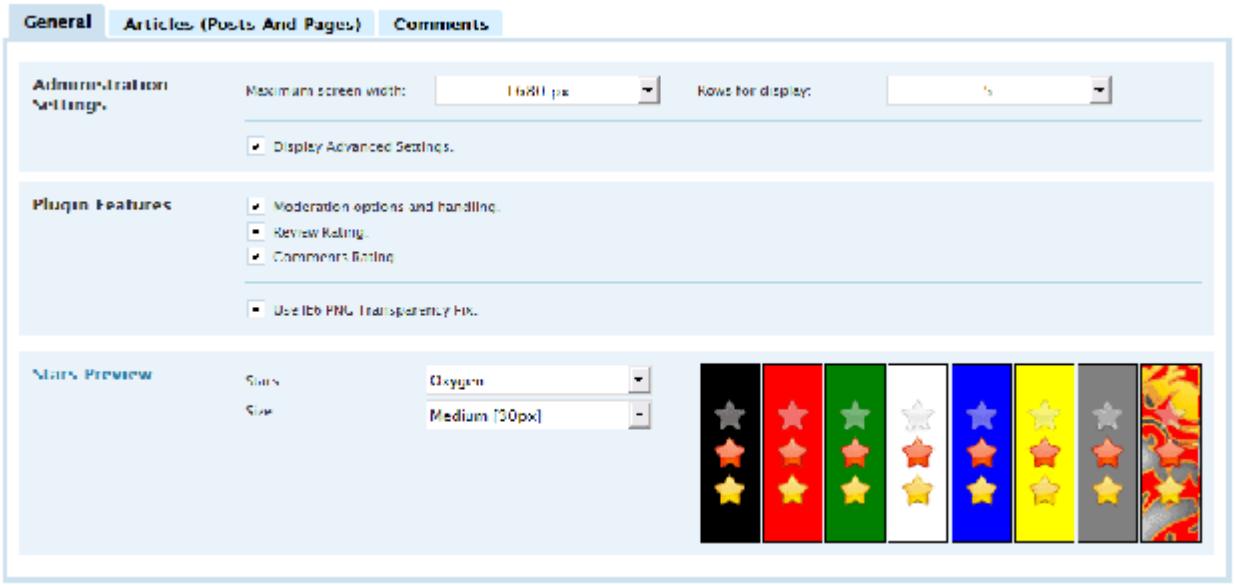
Template String	Description
%RATING%	Item rating value
%MAX_RATING%	Maximum rating value
%REVIEW%	Item review value
%MAX_REVIEW%	Maximum review value
%VOTES%	Total number of recorded votes
%TITLE%	Post or page title
%PERMALINK%	Url to a post or page

Plugin Settings

All the settings are divided into several tabs.

General

First tab contains administration pages settings, plugin features and stars preview.



Administration Settings

With this set of options you can control maximum screen width that will affect all the grids rendered by plugin and make them easier to read if you use large monitor resolutions. Also, you can set number of rows displayed on one page for grids.

Advanced settings are settings not too important for most users, so if you want them too, check this option.

Plugin Features

If you don't need all the plugin features, you can disable the one you don't use.

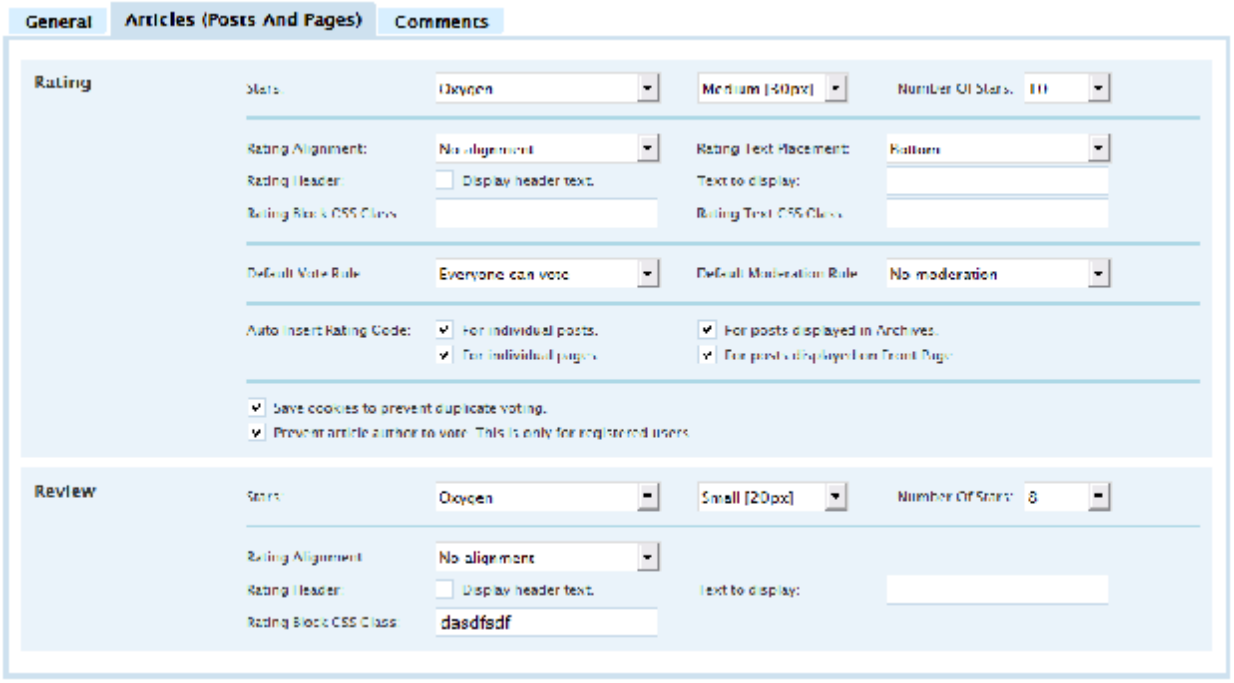
IE6 PNG Transparency Fix will only used on MS Internet Explorer 6 browsers and no matter if it's on or off will not affect any other browser.

Stars Preview

Here you can see how the different stars will look on different backgrounds. This can help you decide what combination of stars and their size will be best for your blog.

Articles Rating (Posts and Pages)

Options here are divided into two groups, one for rating and the other for review.



First row contains options for setting the look of stars used for rating and their number (up to 20).

In the second row you control placement of rating text. To better understand the rendering, here is the image with complete rating block.

Rating Block

Rating block has 3 parts. First is the Header, always rendered at the top of the rating block. Bellow the header, you can see the rating stars and on bottom is rating text. Rating text can be rendered all around the rating stars, and it can be placed on top, bottom, left or right of the stars. It can also be hidden, or hidden if no votes are recorded for that post. Rating block can be aligned. Rating header text can contain full HTML code for formatting the text.

Also, complete rating block and rating header can have custom CSS class added to change the way they look. These CSS options are advanced settings and they are hidden if you don't activate advanced settings option on general tab.

Default Settings

Default settings for voting and moderation rules are automatically added to each new post or page. More details about the rules will be in the next chapter.

Rating block inserting

For articles, rating code can be inserted automatically. With 4 checkboxes you control where the rating block will be automatically inserted into the posts or pages.

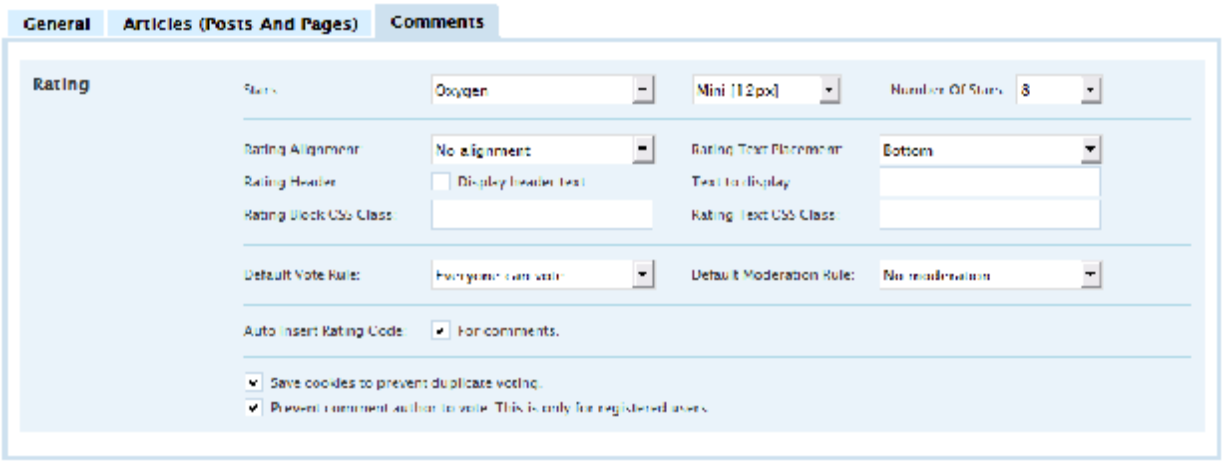
Other options

There are few more options you can set. You can use cookies to record votes and help to prevent multiple voting, and you can also prevent recording votes from author of the post or page. This way authors can rate their own posts.

Review Rating

Posts and pages support special type of rating, called review rating. Settings are pretty much the same as for the regular rating. Rating block for review rating can't be inserted automatically in the post, and you need to use shortcode to add rating code to the post.

Comments Rating



Basically, comments settings are very much the same as the settings for articles.

Voting and moderation rules