

BLOGO.NET



CONQUER THE WEB.

Blogo.NET is open source ASP.NET-based blogging and CMS software, designed around simplicity, quality and the latest web standards.



BLOGO.NET Manual



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1. Introduction

This manual describes how to install, setup, use and customize Blogo.NET.

1.1 What is s3maphor3?

S3maphor3 is a small software brand founded by [Ferdy Christant](#) in 2004. The brand mission is to deliver fun, innovative, open, honest, high quality products and services to the open source community.

A dedicated site for the brand is available at:

<http://www.s3maphor3.org/>

1.2 What is Blogo.NET?

Blogo.NET is open source weblog software based on the ASP.NET 3.5 platform. It allows you to easily run a weblog of your own, using an intuitive administration panel, high performance standards-compliant output and many ways to extend the basic functionality.

1.3 Licensing

Although the Blogo.NET software is free, and the source code is available for free as well, there still are some conditions for using it. By using it, you will agree to:

- Not make any commercial attempt with the software.
- Not discredit the author of the software in any reasonable way.
- Keep the branding in the footer of the pages intact.
- Not distribute copies of this software by anything else but the official s3maphor3 site.

You are not required, but urged to:

- Send your feedback as a user of the software to this author.
- Send possible improvements for the software to this author, so everybody can benefit.
- Keep this author updated about your online activity regarding the use of this software.

You are allowed to:

- Use the software for free without a time limit.
- Alter the software, under the conditions mentioned above.
- Deploy multiple copies, under the conditions mentioned above.
- Use techniques learned from the source code in the software in a commercial setting.



2. Installation & Setup

2.1 Installation

There are many different deployment scenarios possible to run Blogo.NET. You may want to just run Blogo.NET from Visual Studio in order to check out the source code. Or, you may want to deploy the application to a production scenario, being either your own host or a shared ISP host. This manual cannot possibly cover for any situation, but will explain the two common scenarios: running Blogo.NET within Visual Studio, and deploying it to a production host that runs Windows Server 2008 and SQL Server 2005. Before you start the installation, please consider the following system requirements:

- Whether you run Blogo.NET within Visual Studio or on a production host, you are required to have the .NET framework 3.5 installed on the target machine.
- To run Blogo.NET from Visual Studio, Visual Studio 2008 is required.
- Blogo.NET uses SQL Server 2005 to store the blog content. It is required to have this installed on the target machine. You are free to use the Express or Professional edition, both will work. It is recommended to install SQL Server 2005 Management Studio as well.

If you have not done so already, go ahead and [download](#) the latest copy of Blogo.NET.

2.1.1 Running Blogo.NET inside Visual Studio 2008.

To run Blogo.NET inside Visual Studio 2008, follow the steps below:

- Extract the download package to the directory of your choice.
- As stated in the system requirements, make sure you have Visual Studio 2008, .NET framework 3.5, SQL Server 2005, and SQL Server 2005 Management Studio installed.
- Open the directory you extracted and open the "Blogo.NET.sln" solution file in Visual Studio 2008
- Browse to the scripts directory of the Blogo.DB project within the Solution in Visual Studio, open the file "blogonet.1.00.sql" and copy its full content to your clipboard
- Open up SQL Server Management Studio and create a new database named "Blogo".
- Create a new query in SQL Server Management Studio, paste the content of your clipboard in it, and execute it.
- Go back to Visual Studio, open the web.config file from the Blogo.NET web project and alter the connection string value to fit your setting:

```
<connectionStrings>
<add name="BlogoConnectionString" connectionString="Data
Source=SQLHost;Initial Catalog=Blogo;Integrated Security=True"
providerName="System.Data.SqlClient"/>
</connectionStrings>
```

- Be sure to replace "SQLHost" with the host/instance name of your SQL Server 2005. Note that this connection uses Windows Integrated Security to access SQL Server. This means that you need to grant your current Windows user proper access to SQL Server. You may also need to enable remote connection on SQL Server.
- Save the web.config file and run Blogo.NET from the "Debug->Start Debugging" menu option in Visual Studio. After a while, Blogo.NET should open up on the homepage. Continue to paragraph 2.2 to continue setting up Blogo.NET.

2.1.2 Running Blogo.NET in production

There are multiple ways to deploy Blogo.NET in production, depending on your hosting scenario:

- XCOPY deployments
- Publishing (FTP, IIS, etc)
- Pre-compilation

This manual does not cover all situations. However, in all scenarios you have to consider the following:

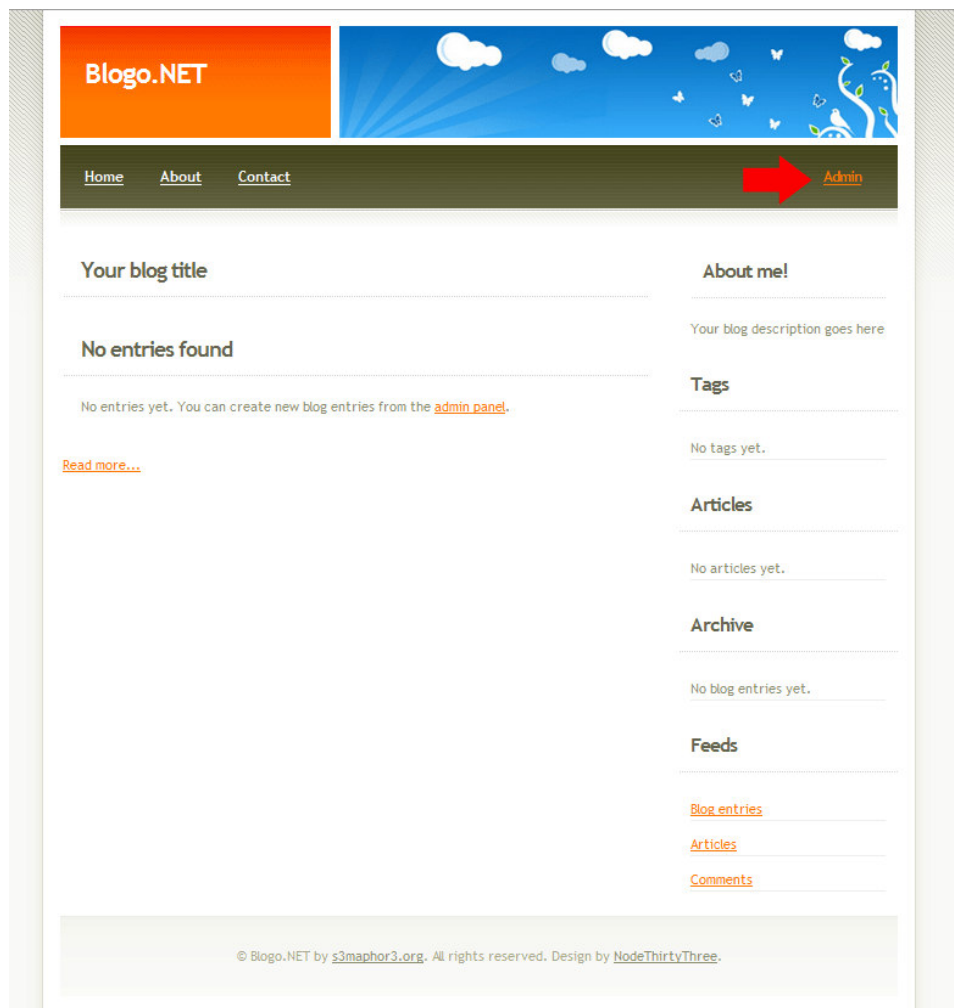
- You need to create a database named "Blogo" inside SQL Server 2005 and run the "blogonet.1.00.sql" script against it. This script can be found inside the Blogo.DB/scripts directory.



- The database you created in production needs to be accessible by the account under which IIS runs your site. By default, this is the "NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE" account. Giving this account access to SQL Server makes sure that Blogo.NET can interact with the database.
- You will need to create a site named "Blogo" in IIS. The following site settings are important:
 - Anonymous access must be enabled
 - The ASP.NET version must be set to 2.0.x
 - You must alter the web.config setting to fit your SQL host information
 - The "NETWORK SERVICE" account must have full access to the Blogo directory, this is needed to make sure that Blogo.NET can write to the web.config file during runtime.
- Next, you can open up Blogo.NET by browsing to "http://yourdomain/Blogo/View/Pages/Home.aspx"

2.2 Setup

With the deployment in place, it is now time to setup Blogo.NET. This will work similar whether you run it from Visual Studio or in a production scenario. If the deployment was successful, you should now have Blogo.NET open on the homepage:



Next, click the "Admin" link on the top right, as indicated by the red arrow in the screenshot above. This will launch the login page:"



Blogo.NET

[Home](#) [About](#) [Contact](#) [Admin](#)

Log in to access the administration panel

Log In

User Name:

Password:

[Log In](#)

You have not yet defined a blog user. You can create new blog users from the 'manage users' option in the administration panel. For now, you can use username: admin, password: admin to access the administration panel. Once you have created a blog user, the admin account will automatically be disabled and the administration panel protected by your newly defined username and password.

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Blogo.NET allows multiple blog authors. However, since we have not yet defined one, you can log in using username "admin", password "admin" to access the administration panel. From within the administration panel, click on "Manage users" to open the overview of current users:

Blogo.NET

[Home](#) [About](#) [Contact](#) [Admin](#)

Manage users

[New User...](#)

Admin panel

- [Manage blogs..](#)
- [Manage comments..](#)
- [Manage tags..](#)
- [Manage users..](#)
- [Manage files..](#)
- [Manage log..](#)
- [Setup..](#)

Logged in as admin
([Logout](#))

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Within the users overview, click "New User":



The screenshot shows the Blog.NET administration interface. At the top, there is a header with the Blog.NET logo and a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Contact, and Admin. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'New user', contains a form with fields for 'Username *' (containing 'fchristant') and 'Password *' (containing '*****'). Below the form are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons. The right column, titled 'Admin panel', contains a list of links: 'Manage blogs..', 'Manage comments..', 'Manage tags..', 'Manage users..', 'Manage files..', 'Manage log..', and 'Setup..'. At the bottom of the right column, it says 'Logged in as admin' with a '(Logout)' link. The footer contains the copyright notice: '© Blog.NET by s3maphor3.org. All rights reserved. Design by NodeThirtyThree.'

After creating your new user, log out from Blog.NET using the logout option in the bottom right. Next, log in using the user name and password of the new user we defined. The administration panel should now display that you are logged in as the new user.

The screenshot shows the Blog.NET administration interface after logging out and logging in as the new user 'fchristant'. The header and navigation bar are the same. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Manage blog entries', contains a link 'New Blog entry...'. The right column, titled 'Admin panel', contains the same list of links as before. At the bottom of the right column, it says 'Logged in as fchristant' with a '(Logout)' link. A red arrow points to the '(Logout)' link. The footer contains the copyright notice: '© Blog.NET by s3maphor3.org. All rights reserved. Design by NodeThirtyThree.'

We have now secured Blog.NET, the initial "admin" account has automatically been disabled and only you, and other users you may create, can now access the administration panel.

Next in the setup process is to set a number of configuration settings. You can open the current settings from the "Setup.." link the administration panel:



The following table explains these settings:

Setting	Description
Blog title	The title of your blog. This text will appear on the home page below the header logo
Blog description	A description of your blog or about you, this will appear on top of the sidebar on every page within your blog. HTML is allowed.
Root path	The hostname and application path combined, this is required to form absolute links to your RSS feed and feed entries. Example value: http://www.mydomain.com/Blogo
RSS page size	The maximum amount of latest blog entries to include in your RSS feeds
Max file upload size	The maximum amount of bytes of files that you upload to Blogo.NET

Save your settings. Congratulations! You are now ready to start blogging!

2.3 Troubleshooting the deployment

If you are unable to get Blogo.NET running as described above, consider the trouble shooting instructions below.

First, verify that you adhere to the system requirements as described in paragraph 2.1. Verify also that you have set the correct deployment settings and permission levels. If this does not resolve your problem, open the "logs" table in the Blogo database. This will contain any errors encountered by Blogo.NET.



3. Blogging

Now that we have set up Blogo.NET, it is time to start blogging! Doing so is very easy by using the administration panel.

3.1 Managing tags

We will first define a set of tags that we can use later to assign blog entries to. Log in to the administration panel, and open the "Manage tags" link. Next, use the "New tag" button to create tags. You can also use this overview to edit existing tags and delete them. Deleting a tag will not delete blog entries associated with the tag.

The screenshot shows the Blogo.NET administration interface. At the top, there's a header with the 'Blogo.NET' logo on the left and a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'About', 'Contact', and 'Admin'. Below the header, the main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'Manage tags' and contains a 'New Tag...' button and a table of existing tags. The right column is titled 'Admin panel' and lists various management links. At the bottom, it shows the user is logged in as 'fchristant' with a 'Logout' link. A footer at the very bottom contains copyright information.

Manage tags		
New Tag...		
Tag	Edit	Delete
General	Edit	Delete
Travel	Edit	Delete
Web development	Edit	Delete

Admin panel	
Manage blogs..	
Manage comments..	
Manage tags..	
Manage users..	
Manage files..	
Manage log..	
Setup..	

Logged in as fchristant
[Logout](#)

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3.2 Managing files

Blogo.NET allows you to upload files to enrich your blog content. Files can be of any type, but image files are particularly useful to include in your blog entries. You can manage and upload files from the "Manage files" link in the administration section. The files that you upload cannot be larger than the threshold set in the Blogo.NET settings form.



Blogo.NET

[Home](#) [About](#) [Contact](#) [Admin](#)

Manage files

[Upload File...](#)

File	Mime type	
b01.gif	image/gif	Delete
b07.gif	image/gif	Delete

Admin panel

[Manage blogs..](#)
[Manage comments..](#)
[Manage tags..](#)
[Manage users..](#)
[Manage files..](#)
[Manage log..](#)
[Setup..](#)

Logged in as fchristant
([Logout](#))

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3.3 Managing users

Blogo allows multiple blog authors to post entries in the same blog. You can maintain these users in the "Manage users.." section. Simply create the users that you want there. When writing a blog entry, you can specify who its author is. By default, it will be the currently logged on user.

Blogo.NET

[Home](#) [About](#) [Contact](#) [Admin](#)

Manage users

[New User...](#)

Username	
fchristant	Edit Delete
henriette	Edit Delete

Admin panel

[Manage blogs..](#)
[Manage comments..](#)
[Manage tags..](#)
[Manage users..](#)
[Manage files..](#)
[Manage log..](#)
[Setup..](#)

Logged in as fchristant
([Logout](#))

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3.4 Managing blog entries

The core of feature of weblog software is to of course write blog entries. You can do this in Blogo.NET by opening up the "Manage blogs.." section in the administration panel. From this section you can created, edit and delete blog entries. To create a blog entry, click the "New Blog Entry.." button:

The screenshot displays the Blogo.NET administration interface. At the top, there is a header with the 'Blogo.NET' logo on an orange background and a decorative blue banner with clouds and butterflies. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'About', 'Contact', and 'Admin'.

The main content area is divided into two sections:

- New blog entry:** This section contains a form for creating a new blog entry. It includes fields for 'Author' (a dropdown menu showing 'fchristant'), 'Title', and 'Description'. There are checkboxes for 'Tags' (General, Travel, Web development) and 'Type' (Article, Blog entry). There are also checkboxes for 'Allow comments' and 'Mark private'. At the bottom of this section is a large text area for the 'Body' of the entry, equipped with a rich text editor toolbar containing various formatting options like bold, italic, underline, and links.
- Admin panel:** This sidebar contains a list of administrative links: 'Manage blogs..', 'Manage comments..', 'Manage tags..', 'Manage users..', 'Manage files..', 'Manage log..', and 'Setup..'. At the bottom of the sidebar, it shows the user is 'Logged in as fchristant' with a '(Logout)' link.

At the bottom of the 'New blog entry' form, there are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.



The following table explains what the fields on the blog entry form mean:

Field	Description
Author	The author of the blog entry. The default value is the currently logged on user, but you can override this
Title	The title of the blog entry, this will appear on top of the blog entry, and in the RSS feeds
Description	A small summary of the blog entry, this will appear in the RSS feeds only
Tags	Select one or more tags to assign to the blog entry. The tags are displayed on every page, below each blog entry, and in the tag cloud
Type	The type of blog entry is either "Article", or "Blog entry". For normal chronological publishing, use "Blog entry". To publish content that will 'stick' on the homepage "articles" section, use "Article".
Allow comments	Choose whether or not it is allowed for others to comment on this blog entry
Mark private	When you enable this option, the blog entry will not be visible to blog visitors. You can use this to save a blog entry as draft
Body	Body is the actual content of the blog entry. You can author this content using the rich text editor. Note that the rich text editor also has a HTML button, enabling you to do low level markup editing. Furthermore, there is a fullscreen option that enables you to increase the size of the editor to fullscreen. Finally, you can use the Insert image button to insert images that you have previously uploaded in the files section

3.5 Managing comments

From the "Manage comments" section in the administration panel, you can edit and delete comments posted by visitors. Although Blog.NET has basic comment spam protection in place, you may still want to moderate comments.

Blog.NET

[Home](#) [About](#) [Contact](#) [Admin](#)

Manage comments

Date	Author	IP		
2008-03-30	fchristant	192.168.0.179	Edit	Delete

Admin panel

- [Manage blogs..](#)
- [Manage comments..](#)
- [Manage tags..](#)
- [Manage users..](#)
- [Manage files..](#)
- [Manage log..](#)
- [Setup..](#)

Logged in as [fchristant](#) ([Logout](#))

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3.6 Managing logs

When Blogo.NET encounters an error in the application (i.e. a user requesting a non-existent page), it is logged in the Blogo.NET database. You can access the log entries conveniently from the administration panel by opening the “Manage log..” section. From there, you can clear the log, inspect individual entries or delete them.

The screenshot shows the Blogo.NET Admin panel. The header has an orange 'Blogo.NET' logo and a navigation bar with links: Home, About, Contact, and Admin. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Manage log', contains a 'Clear Log...' button and a table of log entries. The right column, titled 'Admin panel', contains links for various administrative tasks.

Date	
3/30/2008 2:01:19 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:56:39 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:56:24 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:56:21 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:52:04 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:52:02 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:50:32 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:49:33 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:49:32 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:49:31 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:49:27 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:48:28 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:48:17 PM	Delete
3/30/2008 1:48:11 PM	Delete

Admin panel

- [Manage blogs..](#)
- [Manage comments..](#)
- [Manage tags..](#)
- [Manage users..](#)
- [Manage files..](#)
- [Manage log..](#)
- [Setup..](#)

Logged in as fchristant
([Logout](#))

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3.7 Managing the header menu

You may have noticed the header menu links “Home”, “About”, and “Contact”. These are in fact example links that you will want to customize. You can do so by manually tweaking the “Web.sitemap” file in the application root directory.

That’s it! You now know all you need to know to use Blogo.NET. Have fun!



4. Customization

This chapter explains how to customize Blogo.NET.

4.1 Look & Feel

The look & feel of Blogo.NET is determined by three aspects that you can customize:

- The stylesheet. The file default.css, located in the directory "View/CSS" determines the layout, style and graphics inside Blogo.NET. You can customize these if you know how to craft CSS.
- The graphics. The images used in Blogo.NET are located in the directory "View/Images". It is recommended that you replace images, instead of renaming them. If you rename an image, you have to update the references to that image in the stylesheet as well.
- The master pages. The master pages are located in the directory "View/Masters". These pages determine the content blocks and layout of all pages within Blogo.NET. It is not recommended to update the master pages, unless you know what you're doing.

4.2 Other

Blogo.NET is open source software, therefore you have full access to the source code and are free to modify what you like. It is beyond the scope of this manual to explain how to modify the source code. Also note that it is recommended to carefully document your changes, as a future release of Blogo.NET may overwrite your changes when you deploy it.

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