

User Guide

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Introduction

This user guide provides comprehensive instructions on using the Blog Web Application, a feature-rich platform designed for content creators and readers. Version 2.3.0 introduces several new features and improvements over the previous version.

System Requirements

The application is compatible with:

- Desktop: Chrome 90+, Firefox 88+, Safari 14+, Edge 90+
- Mobile: iOS Safari 14+, Android Chrome 90+
- Minimum screen resolution: 320px width (responsive design)
- JavaScript must be enabled
- Cookies must be enabled for authentication

Getting Started

To begin using the Blog Web Application, you need to create an account or log in with an existing one. The application supports both standard email/password authentication and social login options.

Creating an Account

To create a new account:

- Navigate to <https://blogapp.com/signup> or tap the "Sign Up" button on the login screen.
- Enter your username (3-20 characters, alphanumeric only).
- Enter your email address (will require verification).
- Create a strong password (minimum 8 characters with at least one uppercase letter, one number, and one special character).
- Review and accept the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.
- Optional: Enable two-factor authentication for enhanced security.
- Click the "Create Account" button.
- Check your email for a verification link and click it to activate your account.

Refer to Figure 1 in the Appendix for a screenshot of the sign-up form.

Logging In

To log in to your account:

- Navigate to <https://blogapp.com/login> or click "Log In" on the homepage.
- Enter your username or email address.
- Enter your password.
- Optional: Check "Remember me" to stay logged in for 30 days.
- Click the "Log In" button.
- If you have two-factor authentication enabled, enter the verification code from your authenticator app.

Alternative login methods:

- Click "Continue with Google" to log in with your Google account.
- Click "Continue with Apple" to log in with your Apple ID.
- Click "Continue with Twitter" to log in with your Twitter account.

Dashboard

After logging in, you'll be directed to your personalized dashboard, which displays:

- Recommended blog posts based on your reading history and preferences
- Latest posts from authors you follow
- Your reading list (saved articles)
- Your draft posts (if you are a content creator)
- Notifications (comments, likes, new followers)
- Quick access to popular categories

To customize your dashboard:

- Click the "Customize" button in the top-right corner of the dashboard.
- Select which widgets to show/hide and drag to rearrange them.
- Choose your preferred layout (grid, list, or compact).
- Click "Save Changes" to apply your customizations.

Reading Content

Browsing Articles

To discover and read blog posts:

- Use the search bar at the top to find specific content (supports advanced filters).
- Browse categories by clicking on the category tabs in the navigation menu.
- Explore trending topics in the "Trending Now" section.
- View personalized recommendations in the "For You" section.
- Check the "New" section for the latest publications across all categories.

Reading Experience

While reading an article, you can:

- Adjust text size using the "A-" and "A+" buttons in the reading toolbar.
- Switch between light and dark mode using the theme toggle in the top-right corner.
- Save articles to your reading list by clicking the bookmark icon.
- Share articles via email, social media, or copy the link using the share button.
- Highlight text by selecting it and clicking the highlight icon in the popup menu.
- Add private notes to highlighted sections for your reference.
- Enable "Focus Mode" by clicking the distraction-free icon to hide sidebars and comments.

Creating Content

Writing a Blog Post

To create and publish a new blog post:

- Click the "Write" button in the navigation bar.
- Enter a compelling title (10-150 characters).
- Use the rich text editor to write and format your content:
 - Format text using the toolbar (bold, italic, headings, etc.).
 - Insert images by clicking the image icon or drag-and-drop.
 - Add links by selecting text and clicking the link icon.

- • Insert code snippets using the code block option.
- • Add tables, quotes, and horizontal rules as needed.
- Add relevant tags (up to 5) to help readers discover your content.
- Select a category that best fits your post.
- Upload a cover image (recommended size: 1200x630 pixels).
- Write a brief excerpt (max 300 characters) to appear in previews.
- Preview your post by clicking the "Preview" button.
- Click "Save as Draft" to save without publishing.
- Click "Publish" when you're ready to make it live.

Managing Your Account

Profile Settings

To update your profile information:

- Click your profile picture in the top-right corner.
- Select "Settings" from the dropdown menu.
- In the "Profile" tab, you can:
 - Update your profile picture and cover image
 - Edit your display name and username
 - Update your bio and social media links
 - Set your location and preferred language
- Click "Save Changes" to apply your updates.

Notification Settings

To customize your notification preferences:

- Go to Settings > Notifications.
- Choose which notifications to receive via email and/or in-app:
 - New followers
 - Comments on your posts
 - Likes and shares
 - Replies to your comments
 - Posts from followed authors
 - Newsletter and digest emails
- Set your preferred notification frequency (immediate, daily digest, weekly digest).
- Click "Save Preferences" to apply your settings.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter any issues while using the application:

- Clear your browser cache and cookies.
- Try using a different supported browser.
- Check your internet connection.
- Ensure you're using the latest version of the application.
- For login issues, use the "Forgot Password" feature to reset your credentials.
- Contact support at support@blogapp.com or use the in-app chat support.

Common Issues and Solutions

Issue: Unable to log in

Solutions:

- Ensure your username/email and password are correct
- Check if Caps Lock is enabled
- Reset your password if you've forgotten it

- Clear browser cookies and try again
- Check if your account has been verified (new accounts)

Issue: Images not uploading

Solutions:

- Check that your image is in a supported format (JPG, PNG, GIF, WebP)
- Ensure the file size is under 5MB
- Try compressing the image first
- Check your internet connection
- Try a different browser or device