

JiNN FAQ Database Administration

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Abstract

This tutorial learns to create a small admin interface for an external F.A.Q. database using JiNN.

1 Introduction

In this tutorial we're going to create an administration back-end using JiNN. The front-end of the F.A.Q. Application can not be created with JiNN. This should be written from scratch or using other tools. JiNN's purpose is to quickly give normal user access to a database without the need of writing code. Creating a complete full featured F.A.Q. application is outside the scope of this tutorial.

The intended audience are web-developers who make extensive use of databases. Basic knowledge of eGroupWare and MySQL is required. You need administrator access to an eGroupWare environment with JiNN installed.

2 Words you need to understand

You need to understand two important words used in JiNN.

1. *JiNN-sites* or just *sites* do NOT mean website but. A JiNN-site contains database connection information and it contains JiNN-objects. A JiNN-site can be seen as a single application in a framework containing more applications, or as a single database next to other databases.
2. *JiNN-objects* are assigned to table. A JiNN object automatically contains a *form view* and a *list view*. JiNN-objects can be seen as sections in an application or as tables in a database.

3 Setup the database

Before we can create a JiNN-site a database with tables must exist. We create a database for the F.A.Q. application in MySQL using the following schema:

```
CREATE TABLE 'category' (  
  'id_cat' int(4) NOT NULL auto_increment,  
  'cat_name' varchar(30) NOT NULL default '',  
  PRIMARY KEY ('id_cat')  
) ENGINE=MyISAM DEFAULT CHARSET=latin1 AUTO_INCREMENT=1 ;
```

```
CREATE TABLE 'questions_answers' (
  'id' int(4) NOT NULL auto_increment,
  'cat_id' int(4) NOT NULL default '0',
  'question' varchar(250) NOT NULL default '',
  'answer' longtext NOT NULL,
  PRIMARY KEY ('id')
) ENGINE=MyISAM DEFAULT CHARSET=latin1 AUTO_INCREMENT=1 ;
```

As you can see the question can be put into categories using a foreign key.

4 Creating the JiNN-Site

Log into your eGroupWare environment and open JiNN. Make sure your are administrator. You may have to give yourself permission to use JiNN in the eGroupWare Admin Application. Because you are an administrator you have an extra *admin site box menu* in JiNN's sidebar.



Figure 1: JiNN Sidebox menu with Administration box

Click on the link *Add Site* from the sidebar menu. You must now define the database connection and the name of your JiNN-site. Do at as in the image below.

Before saving you can test your connection by clicking on the button test database and paths. In our example the database connection must succeed but the path and URL will give errors. This is nothing to worry about for this tutorial. When database connection was successful you can save the site, else check the database connection settings.

5 Adding Objects

When the JiNN-site is saved, the database connection is working and there are tables in the database, we can setup the JiNN-objects. After saving a new site the Site Settings Page is still opened. At the bottom of this page the site objects are displayed. We haven't made any yet, so lets add an object: click the button *New Object*.

Figure 2: JiNN-Site settings containing database connection information

The object properties window will open. You must give this object a name and assign a database table from the dropdown list. We will name the first object 'Categories' and assign this to the categories table. Repeat this steps for the object 'Questions & Answers'.

6 Adding the first content

Though we're not finished yet we can already use these objects for maintaining content. Lets have a look at the categories first. Before we can access our object we open our JiNN-site. Select the Site in the JiNN Nagivation in the Sidebox.

When the site is opened the active objects are listed in the JiNN Navigator. We will now select the object 'Categories'.

JiNN will now open the categories in the Listview showing no records. Lets create a new record by clicking on Add new record.

Add a category and click on save.

After the record is saved we will return in the last added record and on top of the page the message 'Record was succesfully saved' is displayed. Lets add another by clicking on new record(s) from sidebox menu.

When you're done click on Save and finish. You will now return to the list view which will show your records. Every record can be viewed, edited, copied or deleted by using these small icons.

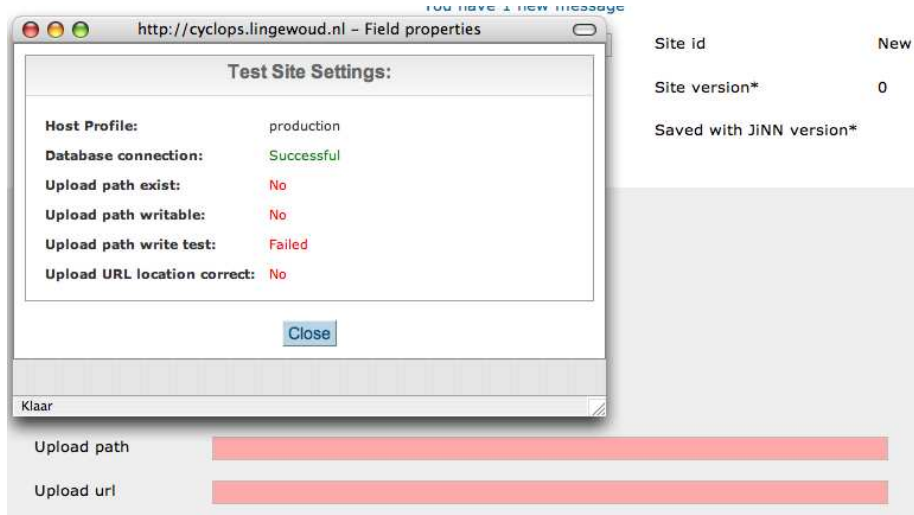


Figure 3: Testing the database connection

Database password

Upload path

Upload url

[save](#) [test database and paths](#) [Save Site to XML*](#) [Save XML to eGroupWare App](#)

Objects in this site*

[New object](#) [Import Object from Object-File*](#) [Import Objects From Site-File*](#)

Site Objects in FAQ DB					
Actions	Name	Table	relations	In Menu	Max. records
No objects found for this site.					

Figure 4: JiNN-objects listed at the bottom of the Site Settings Page

http://cyclops.lingewoud.nl - Field properties

General Objects Settings: New object

Main Settings

Name:

Table name:

Max. records:

Hide from object menu:

Extra where sql filter:

Informative description*:

Enable Multiple Record Actions*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable Reports*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Enable Create Record*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable Simple Search*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Enable Delete Record*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable Filters*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Enable Edit Record*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable Exports*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Enable View Records*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable Imports*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Enable Copy Record*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Klaar

Figure 5: Creating a JiNN-object

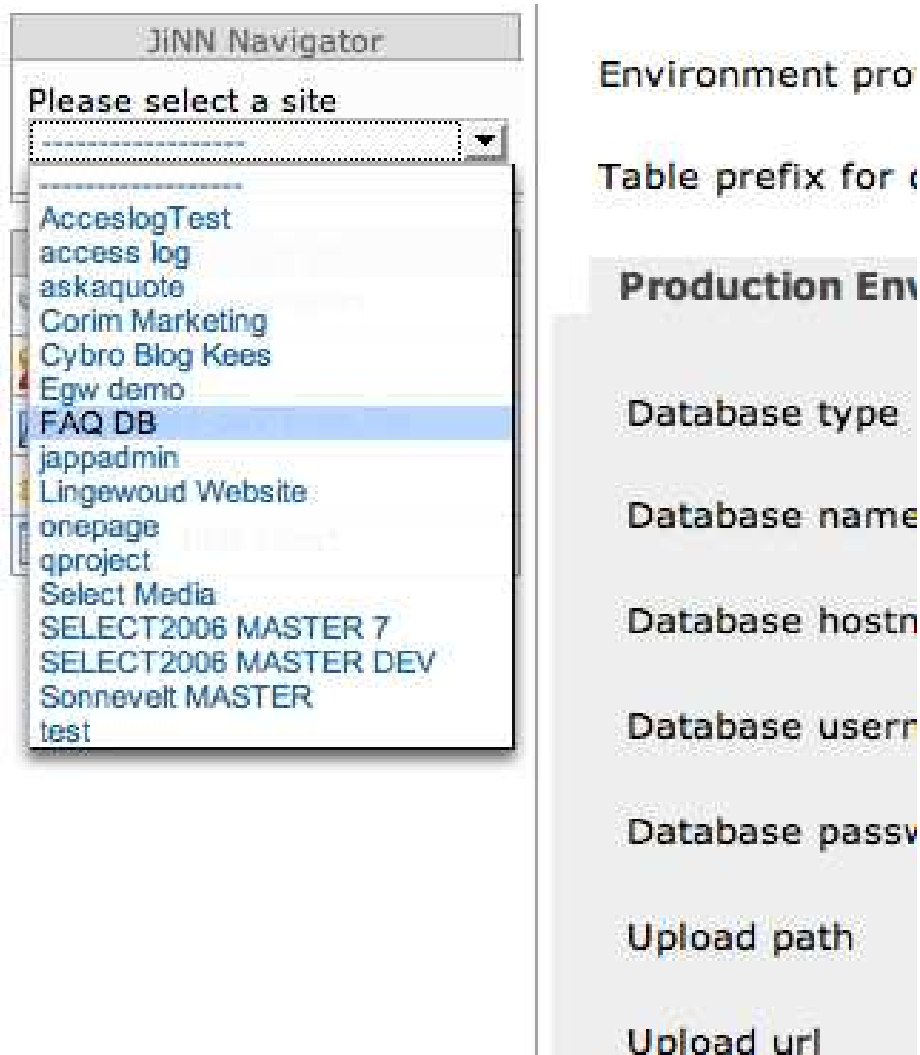


Figure 6: Opening a JiNN-site



Figure 7: Selecting an object

search for string

Search

You have 1 new

Remove Search Fil

Report's

Merge

edit

New Report

New from s

Add new Record*

Categories

This Object contains the categories of our FAQ database>

	id cat	
No records t		

Figure 8: List View of the newly create object Categories

Categories

This Object contains the categories of our FAQ database>

[change number of records](#)

Id cat

automatically incrementing

Cat name

[save](#) [save and finish](#) [finish, discard changes*](#)

Figure 9: Adding new record

General Menu

Home

Preferences

About JINN

Logout

JINN Navigator

Site
FAQ DB

FAQ DB

Categories

Questions and Answers

Categories

List records*

Import CSV*

Export CSV*

New record(s)

Record was succesfully saved.

Categories

This Object contains the categorie

Id cat

1

Cat name

Cars

save

save and finish

finish, discard

Figure 10: Record saved successfully