

## **SIMPLE FORUM**

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the perfect solution for private forums. It offers secure and customizable spaces for businesses to engage with their clients. It can also be used as a general-purpose forum or bulletin board.

# User Guide

# Installation

*Requirements:*

*PHP8.1+ (**PHP8.2** default)*

*MySQL 5.7.10+ (**MySQL 8** recommended)*

## Installation steps

Please follow the installation steps below

1. Please upload all the files & folders to your server.
2. Set your domain/subdomain path to **`public`** folder in uploaded files.
3. You can access the installer by adding **`/install`** at the end of your domain  
**`https://yourdomain.com/install`**  
**`https://subdomain.yourdomain.com/install`**
4. Please prepare these details (mentioned at installation step 1)
5. If installer give any server error, please fix those (step 2) and re-check. If you are not sure, you can check with your server admin
6. Please provide the details of your purchase, database, mail and user account (step 3). For purchase verification, the username is Envato username that you use to login to codecanyon.net and themeforest.net The purchase code is in your license file, please download the license to get purchase code.
7. Finalize the installation (final step 4).

**If you want to install the item in subfolder, then you have to redirect all traffic to that subfolder to **`public`** folder.** If you have any question or require further information, you should ask support question at support portal <https://tecdiary.net/support>

## Update Guide

*Requirements:*

*PHP8.1+ (**PHP8.2** default)*

*MySQL 5.7.10+ (**MySQL 8** recommended)*

We are sorry but the version 2 is not completable with version 1, so please install version 2 and add categories and update settings to use the new version.

### TO UPDATE VERSION 2 (beta) TO LATEST VERSION

Please backup `.env` file and `assets` folder inside `public` folder (to save your uploads) then upload the latest files & folders to replace the old. Lastly you need to run the migration command as following

```
# cd /path/to/install/folder  
php artisan migrate --force
```

If you are not sure about commands, then you can open `/run/migration` in browser like  
`http://yourforumdomain.tld/run/migration`  
`http://subdomain.yourforumdomain.tld/run/migration`

Only 5 requests are allowed in an hour.

Your uploads are in the `public/assets/` folder. Please save them and don't replace the full folder as it will replace everything. You just need to replace the modified files. If you have any question or require further information, you should ask support question at support portal <https://tecdiary.net/support>

## User Manual

### Simple Forum is the perfect solution for private forums.

Version 2 is rewritten using Laravel and Livewire. We have tried to follow the same simple design. It is responsive and has dark/light mode that you can switch from top bar.

**As version 2 is still beta so there could be errors or some missing options. We will update it to match the current version.**

**The major enhancement in version 2 is Knowledge Base and FAQs.** You can add custom fields under settings and those will be added to the forms. This will help you to have extra inputs to collect the information as your business requires.

## Home page

The home page lists the threads of the forum. The design is very simple, and the top bar has the logo, links for knowledge base, FAQs and Pages (You can enable/disable these in settings), approval and review threads icon (if any), search icon, notifications icon, theme mode, manage/admin menu, and user menu for profile and logout.

The main contents list the threads from forum and sorting options. The thread overview design is little changed. It doesn't show the meta at right but at bottom with share button. The sidebar has the menus for add thread, my threads, my favorites threads. category links, top users, and trending threads. Who to follow and trending threads can be disabled from settings.

The footer has links, social links and copyright information.

## Thread page

The thread page is same as home, just the contents area will display the thread with replies and form to reply to the thread. If you enable guest replies, then system will send the email to user for verification of their reply. The register user's reply will be added to the thread without any review. However, user can flag any thread or reply for review my team.

## **Add thread form**

Add thread is no more a modal but full page with title, slug, description (meta seo), category selection, the thread body, customer fields and thread options.

In start only markdown editor is available. We will add more editors in future upon request.

## **Search**

The search icon from top bar will open a modal with input to search for threads, knowledge base and FAQs. The modal backdrop close can be disabled/enable in settings.

## **Administration/Manage**

The manage menu in the top bar has the option to manage categories, pages, knowledge base, FAQs, badges, custom fields, users, roles and settings.

## **Users, Roles, Badges & Profile**

You can add roles under manage menu and roles page. Please set permissions as you need. Add/Edit users with roles so they can access the management portal.

The profile has the option to update user data by themselves, change password, enable/disable two-factor authentication, logout from other browser sessions and to delete the account. The delete option will delete all the user data including any threads and replies.

## **Settings**

The settings page has all the option to manage the forum including ads, analytics script and social links etc.

## **Notifications**

The notifications are display in top bar and are only on the forum. We have plan to allow user to get email notifications, but the option is not yet added, and we will add in the next beta update.

## **Feature Request**

If we have missed any feature or you have suggestion, please let us know by be opening a feature request at support portal.

## Developer Guide

### Adding language

You can add language by following these steps.

1. Duplicate `lang/en.json` and `lang/en/` to your language and translate
2. Edit `lang/languages.json` and add your language entry

### Modifying the code

The simple forum is developed using **Laravel** and **Livewire**. You can modify the code as you need.

For development, you can use `npm run dev` and after dependencies are installed `npm i` and the production version with `npm run build` and deploy to your server.