

Custom Sidebar Link How-To
Current Version: 1.5.2

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Introduction:

Welcome to Custom Sidebar Link for the Lussumo Vanilla Forum Software.

Let's get started! (If you are wondering how to install this extension, please read the ReadMe.txt file)

Open default.php in a basic word editor, such as NotePad or WordPad.

Section 1: Titles

Search for and find the following text:

```
$Context->Dictionary["TITLE"] = "Section Title";
```

To give your sidebar section, (the heading above the links,) edit the text "Section Title" to, in this example, "My other sites". With this done you should have the following:

```
$Context->Dictionary["TITLE"] = "My Other Sites";
```

Section 2: What your link says

Search for and find the following text:

```
$Context->Dictionary["LINK"] = "Link Name";
```

To give your links their text you would edit "Link Name" to, in this example, "MySpace". With this done, you should have the following:

```
$Context->Dictionary["LINK"] = "MySpace";
```

Section 3: Where your link is going

Search for and find the following text:

```
$link_to='http://example.com/whatever/page.html';
```

To give your links the link you would edit the Web Address to, in this example, "http://myspace.com/1234". With this done, you should have the following:

```
$link_to= 'http://myspace.com/1234';
```

Section 4: What pages you want your links/link bar on

Search for and find the following text:

```
if(in_array($Context->SelfUrl, array("page.php", "page.php")))
```

Here you will specify which pages you want your sidebar on. These are the options

comments.php -- The post/topics page

index.php -- the homepage

discussions.php -- the page used to create topics or posts

categories.php -- page of Categories

search.php -- page used to search forum

account.php -- a person's personal page

You will change "page.php" to the page you want your sidebar to show up on. For example, I want my side bar on only the search page and account page, I would then have:

```
if(in_array($Context->SelfUrl, array("search.php", "account.php")))
```

If you want to have your sidebar to show up on every page, you will have to encase this specific line of text in specific brackets:

```
/* if(in_array($Context->SelfUrl, array("page.php", "page.php")) */
```

Section 5: Link target and icon

Search for and find the following text:

```
target="_blank"
```

```
style="padding-left: 27px;
```

```
background:url(http://example.com/image.jpg)
```

```
no-repeat 5px center;" "');
```

Changing how your page opens:

If you want your page to open in a NEW window, leave the following text without editing:

```
target="_blank"
```

If you want your page to open in THE SAME window, edit "blank" to "self":

```
target="_self"
```

Changing your link icon:

If you want an image to the left of your link insert the link's url. **The image MUST be 16 pixels by 16 pixels, if you are looking for some nice 16x16 icons, check out: <http://iconfinder.net>**

```
background:url(http://example.com/image.jpg)
```

would become, for example,

```
background:url(http://i220.photobucket.com/albums/dd124/username/16x16.jpg)
```

Section 6: MULTIPLE LINKS!

This is where it gets a little tricky, so be extra careful as to what you copy.

In default.php there are two tags you will have to locate in order to make your 2nd link:

"Being Link" and "End Link"

To make your second link copy everything between these tags, including the tags themselves. This is what you will be copying

```
/* Begin Link */
```

```
CODE
/* End Link */
```

Then paste it directly below, giving:

```
/* Begin Link */
CODE
/* End Link */
/* Begin Link */
CODE
/* End Link */
```

Here comes the important part.

In your newly copied link body, you will need to search for and find the following lines of text:

```
$Context->Dictionary["LINK"] = "Link Name";
$link_to='http://example.net/';
$Panel->AddListItem($ListName, $Context->GetDefinition("LINK"), $link_to .
```

You will now need to add in some numbers showing that this is link number 2:

```
$Context->Dictionary["LINK2"] = "Link Name";
$link_to2='http://example.net/';
$Panel->AddListItem($ListName, $Context->GetDefinition("LINK2"), $link_to2 .
```

When you copy your link body for your 3rd link you will do the same, only adding **3** to show that this is your 3rd link, and then you will do the same for the 4th link, and so on and so on.

Section 7: Multiple side bars

If you need more than one sidebar, for example one on your search page and one on your categories page do the following:

- Copy the ENTIRE “CustomSideBarLink” folder to your desktop, rename it “CustomSideBarLink2”
- Open default.php and in the very top section of the file find and edit

```
Extension Name: CustomSideBarLink
To
Extension Name: CustomSideBarLink2
```
- Now add links as you wish and upload as an entirely new extension.

Please note that since this extension is now named as *CustomSideBarLink2*, Vanilla Forums will not notify you of an update to the extension because as far as Vanilla and Lussumo know, this extension does not exist on their add-on database. You will only be notified for updates of your original, no-number, extension.

In the case that there is an update you will have to download the new update as “CustomSideBarLink”, re-copy and rename “CustomSideBarLink2”, and then re-edit your second sidebar.

Come to think of it, every time you download an update for the original *CustomSideBarLink*, you are given a fresh start. Nevertheless, I thought I would just throw that out there.

Section 8: Notes

If something goes wrong what do you do? The *CustomSideBarLink* Extension has been thoroughly tested and is completely stable, but if something were to go wrong, it would be (most likely) because as you were editing you could have accidentally deleted a "(" or ";". This extension is really picky about that.

If something goes wrong, such as: inability to log in or view "people.php," there are odd strings of text at the top of your page containing *CustomSideBarLink*, just follow these seven steps

Step One: Open your FTP program and load your forum.

Step Two: Open the folder "conf"

Step Three: Download the file "extensions.php"

Step Four: Open that file in NotePad or WordPad

Step Five: Search for and find this line of code:

```
include($Configuration['EXTENSIONS_PATH']."CustomSideBarLink/default.php");
```

Step Six: Delete that line entirely, leaving no space.

Step Seven: Delete the "CustomSideBarLink" folder from your extensions folder

If you complete this, the extension is completely erased from your forum and will no longer cause harm. Now just head back to the extension page at Lussumo and re-download the extension.

Thank you for downloading the *CustomSideBarLink* Extension!

Dayne Lyons

<http://daynelyons.com>

If you wish to donate please email dayne.lyons@gmail.com