



Development of a dynamic web site (DWD)

Class 09

The comments

Allowing comments is a good way to create interaction with users and it is also a good way to easily generate content, which is excellent from an SEO perspective. This feature make it possible for the users to comment to a post, to react, or to ask questions.

The comments list

The comments list follows a post. Users may comment the post itself or reply to an existing comment using a form. Each comment is dated and identified with the user's name and avatar.

The comments form

The form offers different field so users may supply their: comment, name, e-mail address and URL (optional). Although, once users are connected, only the comment field is showing (other informations are filed automatically) and «Modify» buttons appear beneath each of the comments. The modify option is used to moderate comments.

Discussion settings panel

Managing comments can be done different ways with different results on the overall web site. To show the discussion settings panel, from the dashboard, select **Settings > Discussion**.

Discussion Settings

Default post settings

- ☐ Attempt to notify any blogs linked to from the post
- ☒ Allow link notifications from other blogs (pingbacks and trackbacks) on new posts
- ☒ Allow people to submit comments on new posts

(These settings may be overridden for individual posts.)

Other comment settings

- ☒ Comment author must fill out name and email
- ☐ Users must be registered and logged in to comment
- ☐ Automatically close comments on posts older than days
- ☒ Show comments cookies opt-in checkbox, allowing comment author cookies to be set
- ☒ Enable threaded (nested) comments levels deep
- ☐ Break comments into pages with top level comments per page and the page displayed by default

Comments should be displayed with the comments at the top of each page

Email me whenever

- ☒ Anyone posts a comment
- ☒ A comment is held for moderation

Before a comment appears

- ☐ Comment must be manually approved
- ☒ Comment author must have a previously approved comment

Comment Moderation

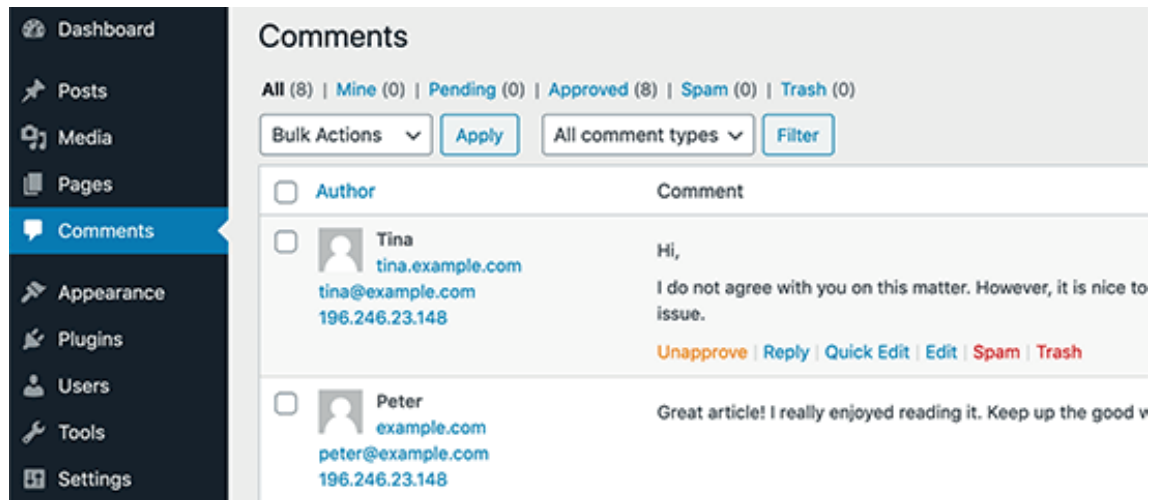
Hold a comment in the queue if it contains or more links. (A common characteristic of comment spam is a large number of

This panel's options allow you to: allow commenting only to connected users, stop accepting comments for a post after a certain period of time, limit the possible comments levels, e-mail notification when a comment is made, split comments on multiple pages, request admin approval before displaying a comment.

Comments moderation

Depending of the options chosen in the Discussion panel, you will may have to review comments before they are displayed. In order to moderate comments, you will need to go to the dashboard and select the **Comments** tab.

You will be able to approve, edit, delete or reply to comments as well as defining them as spam.



Adding comments functionality to pages

In order for comments to be available to users, the feature has to be integrated into pages through the various templates. There are two ways this can be done : using the predefined or custom approach.

Predefined approach

To add the comments feature, all there is to do is to add the function `comments_template()` after the content in the WordPress loop. This function displays the comments list as well as the comment form which can be styled with CSS.

```
<?php if( have_posts() ) : while( have_posts() ) : the_post(); ?>

    <div class="post">
        <h1 class="post__title"><?php the_title(); ?></h1>

        <div class="post__content">
            <?php the_content(); ?>
        </div>

        <?php comments_template(); ?>
    </div>

<?php endwhile; endif; ?>
```

Custom approach

Although the predefined approach is enough most of the time, it is possible to customize the comments building your own comments template. To do so, first create a file named **comments.php** at the root of your theme. As soon as detected by WordPress, this template will automatically be used instead of the default one.

```
<div id="comments" class="comments">                                // Container

    <?php if ( have_comments() ) : ?>
        <h2 class="comments__title">                                // Shows number of comments
            <?php echo get_comments_number(); ?> Comment(s)
        </h2>

        <ol class="comment__list">                                // Shows list of comments
            <?php wp_list_comments( array(
                'style' => 'ol',
                'short_ping' => true,
                'avatar_size' => 74,
            ) ); ?>
        </ol>

        <?php
            if ( ! comments_open() && get_comments_number() ) :    // If there are no comments
                ?>
                <p class="comments__none">No comments yet.</p>
            <?php endif; ?>

    <?php endif; ?>

    <?php comment_form(); ?>                                // Comments form
</div>
```

get_comments_number()

Retrieve and display the number of comments for each posts.

wp_list_comments()

Retrieves and display the comments associated to each posts.

comment_open()

Verifies if there are posts associated to each posts.

comment_form()

Displays the comments form.

For more information :

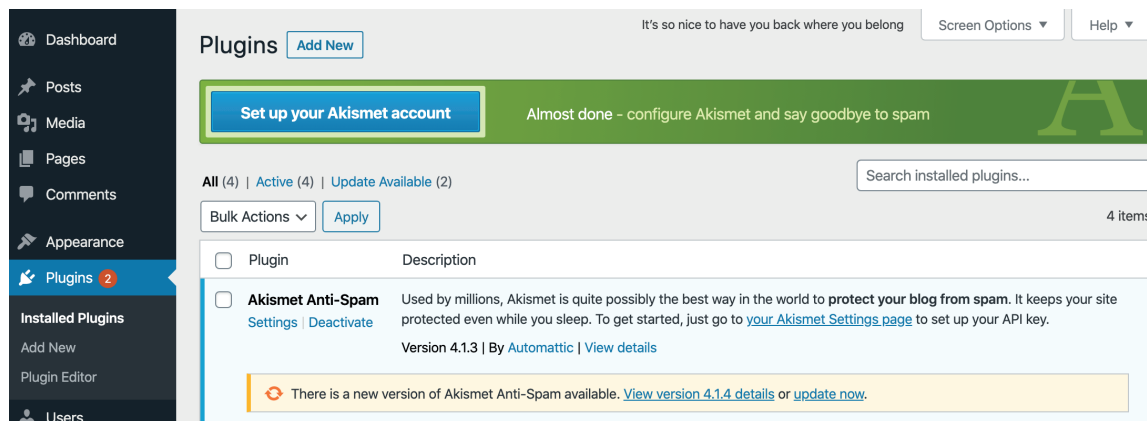
<https://developer.wordpress.org/themes/template-files-section/partial-and-miscellaneous-template-files/comment-template/>

Preventing spam

One thing is sure, as soon as you WordPress web site will gain in popularity, someone will try to use it to send spam. This affects considerably SEO and may have your site blacklisted. To prevent such a thing to happen, make sure to always perform the WordPress updates on your server and use an anti-spam plugin such as Akismet Anti-Spam.

Akismet Anti-Spam

This anti-spam software is installed by default in WordPress and its purpose is to filter all of the comments to detect spam. All there is to do is to activate the plugin in the dashboard.



Upon activation (or upon clicking *Settings*), you will be asked to create an Akismet account in order to get an API key.

