

vBulletin Manual

This manual is based off vBulletin version 4.2.5

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System Requirements

Note:

vBulletin does not operate on your local computer without special software being installed. Please see a tutorial on [How to run vBulletin on your PC](#) for more information.

Minimum Requirements

vBulletin is a web-based application and as such has a few minimum requirements. To run vBulletin, you need a web hosting provider that includes the following things:

- PHP version 5.6.0 through PHP 7.1
- MySQL version 5.5.0 or greater
- A pre-registered domain name
- 200 Megabytes of hard drive space

Most hosting providers already have these applications on their servers. With the above requirements meant, the vBulletin software will run on any operating system using any modern web server software.

Recommended Requirements

The following settings and software packages are not required but will make your vBulletin experience more enjoyable. Your hosting provider can tell you whether these are available on your server.

- cURL or OpenSSL support – Allows secure connections to third-party services like Facebook Connect.
- MySQLi support – MySQLi is a more robust software library to connect to the database that vBulletin uses.
- Iconv support – A library that provides extra language and character set support.
- OpCode Cache – An OpCode Cache like APC or XCache will enhance the performance of your vBulletin software. An OpCode Cache is a caching mechanism that can significantly increase the performance of vBulletin by pre-parsing the PHP files and keeping commonly used data in memory for rapid retrieval.
- Rewrite Engine – A rewrite engine is needed to use Friendly URLs. Popular rewrite engines include mod_rewrite on Apache and URL Rewrite for IIS 7 or greater.

Once you have a web hosting package meeting the minimum requirements, you are ready to proceed with vBulletin. For help in finding an appropriate webhosting company, please view our [Hosting Options](#) forum.

Installing vBulletin

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The first step towards running vBulletin after you have purchased a license is to download the latest vBulletin package, upload it to your web server and run the installer script.

The following documents will take you through this process step-by-step.

Note:

Before installing vBulletin you will need to ensure that your webhost or webserver meet the [minimum system requirements](#) for the software.

Downloading the vBulletin Package

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The first thing you will need to do when installing vBulletin is to download the latest version from the Members' Area.

You will need to log-in to the Members' Area using the Customer Number and Customer Password that was emailed to you when you purchased your license.



Once logged in, you will see a list of **Current Licenses**. For each active license that you own, there will be a **Download vBulletin** link that you can click.

Click the link for the license you want to use and you will be taken to the download page, where you will be given options for how to download the latest vBulletin package.

By default compression is performed on the JavaScript files included within the clientscript directory in order to reduce the size of the files. [YUI Compressor](#) is used to do this but you can choose uncompressed JavaScript files using the option described below.

You can choose from the following options:

- **PHP File Extension**

As a general rule, web servers will use *.php* as the extension for PHP scripts, but some servers may use a different extension, or you may simply wish to use a different extension out of your own preference. Various extensions are available here for you to choose.

- **Download File Format**

This option allows you to choose the compression format of the package you are about to download. Most people will want to download the *.zip* package as Windows® has in-built support for zip files. However, if you are downloading the package directly to a Linux server you may prefer to use the tarball (*.tar.gz*) format.

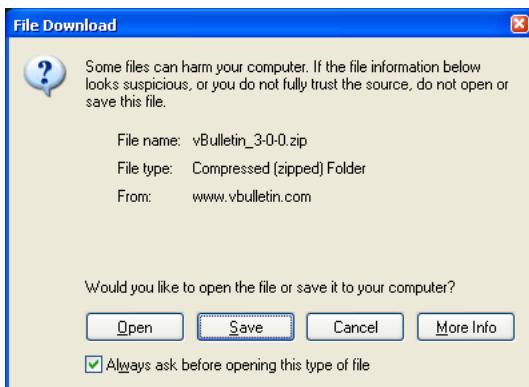
- **CGI Shebang**

This option will only be of use to you if your server runs PHP as a CGI rather than as a web server module. If your server runs PHP as a CGI and requires a shebang (such as *#!/usr/bin/php*) then you can enter the required text here and it will automatically be inserted into whichever PHP files in vBulletin require its use.

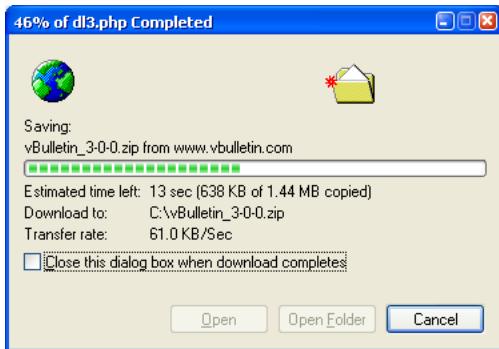
- **Download File**

Use this option to control the contents of the package you are about to download. For example, if you have previously installed vBulletin you will probably not need to download the images again, so you can use this control to specify that the package you download does not contain the images directory. You can also download the uncompressed JavaScript package with this option.

When you have set the download options you can click the **Download** button to start the download. When the download prompt window appears, you should choose the **Save** option and choose a directory on your computer in which to save the package.



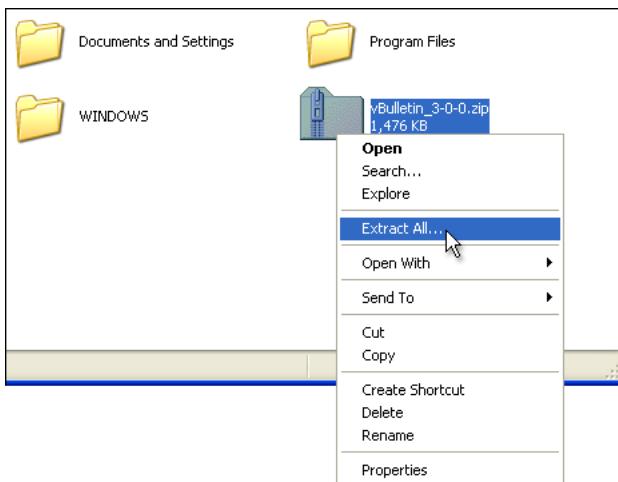
The package will then be downloaded and saved to the location you specified.



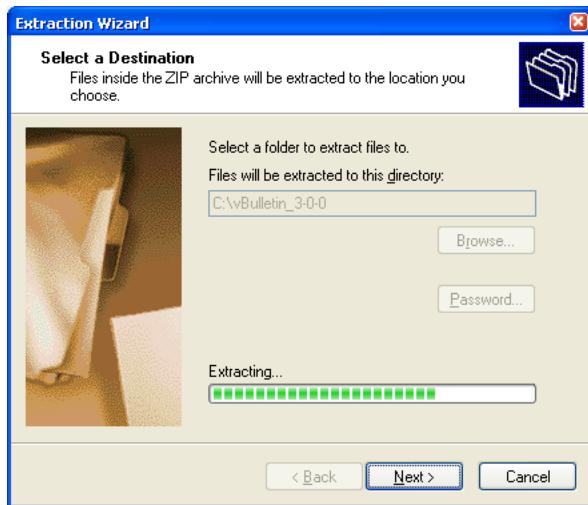
Preparing the vBulletin Files for Upload

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To extract the files from the package, open the folder on your computer where you saved the vBulletin package and right-click on its icon, then choose **Extract All** from the pop-up menu.



This will open a wizard to guide you through the unzipping process. Accept the default options suggested and the system will decompress the files from the zip package.

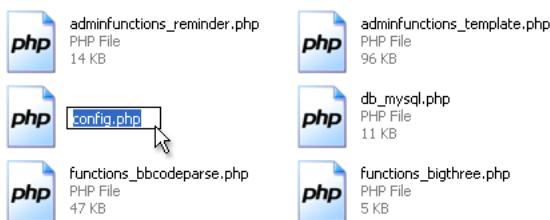


When the unzipping progress is complete, you will find that the process has created a new folder called **upload** and another called **do_not_upload**.

upload - This folder contains the vBulletin files that need to be uploaded to your web server.

However, before you upload the files you must make some changes to the vBulletin configuration file. This file is located in the **includes** folder (within the **upload** folder) and is called **config.php.new**.

The first thing you must do is to rename this file from **config.php.new** to **config.php** (removing the temporary *.new* extension).



The second folder is **do_not_upload** - This folder contains tools to perform various tasks on your board

- **searchshell.php** - This file will allow you to rebuild the search index.
- **vb_backup.sh** - This file will allow you to run a database backup via SSH/Telnet or a scheduled backup through cron.
- **tools.php** - This file must be uploaded to the admincp folder and allows you to perform certain tasks should your board go down or you accidentally lock yourself out of the Admin Control Panel. *This file must be deleted immediately after use or it will cause a SEVERE security problem.*

Creating your Database

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When you install vBulletin, you are asked what database to connect to. This is where all your information is actually stored. There are many different ways to create a database and which method you use depends on how your server is set up. We've provided some links to common methods.

cPanel

cPanel provides a MySQL Database Wizard and this is the easiest way to create a database. You can find the instructions for this in the cPanel Documentation here:

<http://docs.cpanel.net/twiki/bin/view/AllDocumentation/CpanelDocs/DatabaseWizard>

cPanel also has functionality for general care and maintenance of your database. You can find that documentation here:

<http://docs.cpanel.net/twiki/bin/view/AllDocumentation/CpanelDocs/MySQLDatabases>

Plesk

Another popular web hosting control panel, Plesk aims to provide all database management within a GUI style interface. To create a new database you would follow the instructions here:

<http://download1.parallels.com/Plesk/PP11/11.0/Doc/en-US/online/plesk-customer-guide/65157.htm>

Webmin

A third popular hosting control panel is Webmin. You can find basic instructions here:

<http://linuxconsultant.info/tutorials/webmin-tutorial/webmin.html#mysql>

GoDaddy

GoDaddy is a popular hosting service and they have their own unique control panel system. The current instructions on how to create a database on your website is located here:

<http://support.godaddy.com/help/article/36/creating-mysql-or-sql-server-databases-for-your-hosting-account>

Warning:

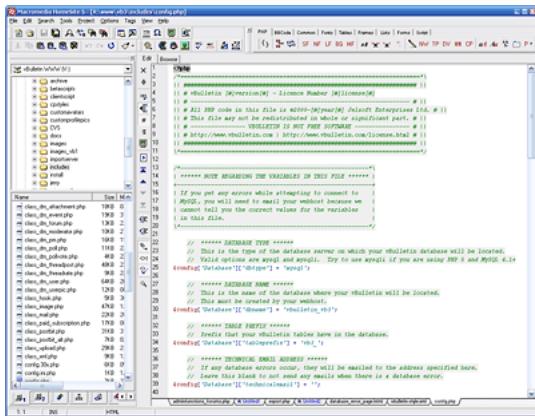
GoDaddy servers do not meet the minimum requirements for vBulletin 5 at this time. Also we recommend not using GoDaddy's Windows servers with vBulletin 5.

Editing the vBulletin Configuration Files

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Before uploading the vBulletin files to your web server, you must edit the vBulletin configuration file (*includes/config.php*) to tell vBulletin how to communicate with your database.

To edit the config.php file, you will need to open the file in a text editor such as Windows® WordPad. (Note that we do not recommend that you use Windows® Notepad to edit config.php, as Notepad has problems displaying the line breaks in some file types.)



Editing the config.php file is one of the few times in vBulletin where you will need to edit raw PHP code. The file is heavily commented in order to help you fill in the necessary information.

Of the settings in this file, only a few *need* to be edited in order to create a working vBulletin configuration file. These settings are:

`$config['Database']['dbname']` This value should be altered to state the name of the database that will contain your vBulletin installation on the database server.

`$config['Database']['technicalemail']` An email address should be entered here. All database error messages will be forwarded to the email address provided.

`$config['MasterServer']['servername']` This sets the address of your database server. On most installations the database server is located on the same computer as the web server, in which case the address should be set to '*localhost*', otherwise use the address of the database server as supplied by your web host.

`$config['MasterServer']['username']` This variable contains the username provided to you by your host for connecting to your database server.

`$config['MasterServer']['password']` The password that accompanies the database username should be entered here.

Note:

Please note that Jelsoft / vBulletin Support can not provide the values you require for `$config['Database']['dbname']`, `$config['MasterServer']['servername']`, `$config['MasterServer']['username']`, and `$config['MasterServer']['password']`. These variables are *only* available from the web host providing your web/database server.

If you need to create a new database for vBulletin to use, instructions for doing so in a variety of systems are available [here](#).

Also note that you only edit the info to the right of the equal sign. Do **NOT** edit the names in the brackets to the left of the equal sign. For instance in this line:

`$config['MasterServer']['username'] = 'root';`

You change 'root' to the appropriate database username and leave everything else as is.

This is correct:

`$config['MasterServer']['username'] = 'your_dbusername';`

This is **NOT** correct:

`$config['MasterServer']['your_dbusername'] = 'root';`

Never edit anything to the left of the equal sign.

On Yahoo Small Business Server, `$config['MasterServer']['servername']` should be set to '*mysql*'.

The remaining variables in config.php do not *need* to be edited in order to make a working vBulletin configuration. For most, it is recommended that you do not alter them until after the installation process is complete, unless you are confident that you know what you are doing beforehand. A description of these remaining variables follows.

`$config['Database']['dbtype']` If you are using PHP5 in combination with MySQL 4.1.x you may want to change this variable to '[mysqli](#)' to take advantage of the MySQL Improved engine

`$config['Database']['tableprefix']` In order to easily identify the tables related to vBulletin in your database, you may prefix the names of all tables with a few letters or a word. For example, if you specify the

`$config['Database']['tableprefix']` as `'vb_'` then all tables will be prefixed with `vb_`, making

If you choose to change your \$config['Database']['tableprefix'] at some point after you have installed your vBulletin, tools are provided to do this.

`$config['Database']['force_sql_mode']`

New versions of MySQL (4.1+) have introduced some behaviors that are incompatible with vBulletin. These behaviors are enabled by default with MySQL 5. Setting this value to "true" disables those behaviors. You only need to modify this value if vBulletin recommends it.

`$config['MasterServer']` Setting this variable to **1** will cause PHP to use [persistent connections](#) to the MySQL server. For very large vBulletin installations, using persistent connections may result in a slight performance boost but in most cases leaving it set to **0** (off) is the best option. If you are unsure, leave it set to **0**

Slave Database Configuration

These variables only apply if you have a Slave Database configured. If you are not sure, you should leave these variables alone. This is an advanced setting!

\$config['Misc']['admincpdir']

By default, vBulletin will install the files for the Administrators' Control Panel into a folder called *admincp*, but you may wish to rename this folder this for security purposes. If you rename the folder, enter the new name here. Note that you can only *rename* the folder, if you *move* the folder to a new location the system will be unable to function.

`$config['Misc']['modcpdir']`

This variable is similar to the `$admincpdir` setting, with the exception that `$modcpdir` refers to the Moderators' Control Panel rather than the Administrators' Control Panel.

When vBulletin sets cookies on users' computers they will all be prefixed with a few characters in order to be easily identified as cookies set by vBulletin. By default this prefix is *bb* but you can change it to be whatever you like. This option is particularly useful if you have many vBulletin installations running on the same domain.

`$config['Misc']['forumpath']` Some systems may require a full path to the forum files. If vBulletin does not tell you that you need this, leave this blank.

`$config['SpecialUsers']['canviewadminlog']` All actions performed in the vBulletin Administrators' Control Panel are logged in the database. This variable controls the permissions for which users are allowed to view this log. The variable takes the form of a list of user IDs separated by commas. For example, if you would like the users with user IDs 1, 15 and 16 to be able to view the Admin Log, this variable would be set like this:

```
$config['SpecialUsers']['canviewadminlog'] = '1,15,16';
```

`$config['SpecialUsers']['canpruneadminlog']` In the same way as `$config['SpecialUsers']['canviewadminlog']` controls which users can view the Admin Log, `$config['SpecialUsers']['canpruneadminlog']` controls which users are permitted to prune (delete items from) the Admin Log. Use the same user IDs separated with commas system as with the `$config['SpecialUsers']['canviewadminlog']` setting.

`$config['SpecialUsers']['canrunqueries']` The vBulletin Administrators' Control Panel contains a simple interface for running queries directly on the database. This variable contains the IDs of the users with permission to do this. For security reasons you may wish to leave this list totally empty.

`$config['SpecialUsers']` If your vBulletin installation is going to have multiple users with administrative privileges, you may wish to protect certain users from accidental (or even malicious) deletion or editing. Any user IDs entered into this list will not be editable or deletable from the Administrators' Control Panel by anybody.

`$config['SpecialUsers']['superadministrators']` Any users whose user IDs are specified within the `$config['SpecialUsers']['superadministrators']` setting will be automatically granted full access to all vBulletin features, including the ability to set the permission levels of other administrators.

`$config['Mysqli']['charset']` If you need to set the default connection charset because your database is using a charset other than latin1, you can set the charset here. If you don't set the charset to be the same as your database, you may receive collation errors. Ignore this setting unless you are sure you need to use it.

`$config['Mysqli']['ini_file']` PHP can be instructed to set connection parameters by reading from the file named in '`ini_file`'. Please use a full path to the file. This is generally used to set the connection's default character set. This setting should also be ignored unless you are sure you need to use it.

Note:

The variables \$config['SpecialUsers'][‘canviewadminlog’], \$config['SpecialUsers'][‘canpruneadminlog’], \$config['SpecialUsers'][‘canrunqueries’], \$config['SpecialUsers'][‘undeletableusers’] and \$config['SpecialUsers'][‘superadministrators’] should all contain a single userid number, a comma-separated list of user id numbers, or nothing at all. For example:

```
$config['SpecialUsers'][‘canviewadminlog’] = ‘1,15,16’;
$config[‘SpecialUsers’][‘canpruneadminlog’] = ‘1’;
$config[‘SpecialUsers’][‘canrunqueries’] = ‘’;
$config[‘SpecialUsers’][‘undeletableusers’] = ‘1,15’;
$config[‘SpecialUsers’][‘superadministrators’] = ‘1’;
```

Note: When editing config.php, make sure there is no whitespace or extra lines either before the <?php or after the ?>. If there are any extra lines or space, you will see an 'Unable to add headers' error when accessing your forums.

Note:

Later versions of vBulletin may not have the ?> at the end. This is to help prevent this kind of error from happening. Once you have finished editing your config.php file you should save it again and prepare to upload the file to your web server.

config.php

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```
|| # vBulletin 3.6.6 - Licence Number 1a2b3c4
|| # -----
|| # All PHP code in this file is ©2000-2007 Jelsoft Enterprises Ltd. #
|| # This file may not be redistributed in whole or significant part. #
|| # -----
|| # VBULLETIN IS NOT FREE SOFTWARE -----
|| # http://www.vbulletin.com | http://www.vbulletin.com/license.html #
|| #####
\*****
```

```
/*-----*
| ***** NOTE REGARDING THE VARIABLES IN THIS FILE ***** |
+-----+
| If you get any errors while attempting to connect to |
| MySQL, you will need to email your webhost because we |
| cannot tell you the correct values for the variables |
| in this file.
\-----*
```

```
// ***** DATABASE TYPE *****
// This is the type of the database server on which your vBulletin database will be located.
// Valid options are mysql and mysqli, for slave support add _slave. Try to use mysqli if you are using PHP 5 and MySQL 4.1+
// for slave options just append _slave to your preferred database type.
$config['Database']['dbtype'] = 'mysql';

// ***** DATABASE NAME *****
// This is the name of the database where your vBulletin will be located.
// This must be created by your webhost.
$config['Database']['dbname'] = 'forum';

// ***** TABLE PREFIX *****
// Prefix that your vBulletin tables have in the database.
$config['Database']['tableprefix'] = '';

// ***** TECHNICAL EMAIL ADDRESS *****
// If any database errors occur, they will be emailed to the address specified here.
// Leave this blank to not send any emails when there is a database error.
$config['Database']['technicalemail'] = 'dbmaster@example.com';

// ***** FORCE EMPTY SQL MODE *****
// New versions of MySQL (4.1+) have introduced some behaviors that are
// incompatible with vBulletin. Setting this value to "true" disables those
// behaviors. You only need to modify this value if vBulletin recommends it.
$config['Database']['force_sql_mode'] = false;

// ***** MASTER DATABASE SERVER NAME AND PORT *****
// This is the hostname or IP address and port of the database server.
// If you are unsure of what to put here, leave the default values.
$config['MasterServer']['servername'] = 'localhost';
$config['MasterServer']['port'] = 3306;

// ***** MASTER DATABASE USERNAME & PASSWORD *****
// This is the username and password you use to access MySQL.
// These must be obtained through your webhost.
$config['MasterServer']['username'] = 'root';
$config['MasterServer']['password'] = '';

// ***** MASTER DATABASE PERSISTENT CONNECTIONS *****
// This option allows you to turn persistent connections to MySQL on or off.
// The difference in performance is negligible for all but the largest boards.
// If you are unsure what this should be, leave it off. (0 = off; 1 = on)
$config['MasterServer']['usepconnect'] = 0;

// ***** SLAVE DATABASE CONFIGURATION *****
// If you have multiple database backends, this is the information for your slave
// server. If you are not 100% sure you need to fill in this information,
// do not change any of the values here.
$config['SlaveServer']['servername'] = '';
$config['SlaveServer']['port'] = 3306;
$config['SlaveServer']['username'] = '';
$config['SlaveServer']['password'] = '';
$config['SlaveServer']['usepconnect'] = 0;

// ***** PATH TO ADMIN & MODERATOR CONTROL PANELS *****
// This setting allows you to change the name of the folders that the admin and
// moderator control panels reside in. You may wish to do this for security purposes.
// Please note that if you change the name of the directory here, you will still need
// to manually change the name of the directory on the server.
$config['Misc']['admincpdir'] = 'admincp';
$config['Misc']['modcpdir'] = 'modcp';

// Prefix that all vBulletin cookies will have
// Keep this short and only use numbers and letters, i.e. 1-9 and a-Z
$config['Misc']['cookieprefix'] = 'bb';

// ***** FULL PATH TO FORUMS DIRECTORY *****
// On a few systems it may be necessary to input the full path to your forums directory
// for vBulletin to function normally. You can ignore this setting unless vBulletin
// tells you to fill this in. Do not include a trailing slash!
// Example Unix:
//     $config['Misc']['forumpath'] = '/home/users/public_html/forums';
// Example Win32:
//     $config['Misc']['forumpath'] = 'c:\program files\apache group\apache\htdocs\vb3';
```

```
$config['Misc']['forumpath'] = '';

// ***** USERS WITH ADMIN LOG VIEWING PERMISSIONS *****
// The users specified here will be allowed to view the admin log in the control panel.
// Users must be specified by *ID number* here. To obtain a user's ID number,
// view their profile via the control panel. If this is a new installation, leave
// the first user created will have a user ID of 1. Separate each userid with a comma.
$config['SpecialUsers']['canviewadminlog'] = '1';

// ***** USERS WITH ADMIN LOG PRUNING PERMISSIONS *****
// The users specified here will be allowed to remove ("prune") entries from the admin
// log. See the above entry for more information on the format.
$config['SpecialUsers']['canpruneadminlog'] = '1';

// ***** USERS WITH QUERY RUNNING PERMISSIONS *****
// The users specified here will be allowed to run queries from the control panel.
// See the above entries for more information on the format.
// Please note that the ability to run queries is quite powerful. You may wish
// to remove all user IDs from this list for security reasons.
$config['SpecialUsers']['canrunqueries'] = '';

// ***** UNDELETABLE / UNALTERABLE USERS *****
// The users specified here will not be deletable or alterable from the control panel by any users.
// To specify more than one user, separate userids with commas.
$config['SpecialUsers']['undeletableusers'] = '';

// ***** SUPER ADMINISTRATORS *****
// The users specified below will have permission to access the administrator permissions
// page, which controls the permissions of other administrators
$config['SpecialUsers']['superadministrators'] = '1';

// ***** DATASTORE CACHE CONFIGURATION *****
// Here you can configure different methods for caching datastore items.
// vB_Datastore_Filecache - for using a cache file
// $config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_Filecache';
// vB_Datastore_Memcached - for using a Memcache server
// It is also necessary to specify the hostname or IP address and the port the server is listening on
/*
$config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_Memcached';
$i = 0;
// First Server
$i++;
$config['Misc']['memcachesserver'][$i]      = '127.0.0.1';
$config['Misc']['memcacheport'][$i]           = 11211;
$config['Misc']['memcachepersistent'][$i]     = true;
$config['Misc']['memcacheweight'][$i]          = 1;
$config['Misc']['memcachetimeout'][$i]         = 1;
$config['Misc']['memcacheretry_interval'][$i] = 15;
*/
// ***** The following options are only needed in special cases *****
// ***** MySQLI OPTIONS *****
// When using MySQL 4.1+, MySQLi should be used to connect to the database.
// If you need to set the default connection charset because your database
// is using a charset other than latin1, you can set the charset here.
// If you don't set the charset to be the same as your database, you
// may receive collation errors. Ignore this setting unless you
// are sure you need to use it.
// $config['Mysqli']['charset'] = 'utf8';

// Optionally, PHP can be instructed to set connection parameters by reading from the
// file named in 'ini_file'. Please use a full path to the file.
// Example:
// $config['Mysqli']['ini_file'] = 'c:\program files\MySQL\MySQL Server 4.1\my.ini';
$config['Mysqli']['ini_file'] = '';

// Image Processing Options
// Images that exceed either dimension below will not be resized by vBulletin. If you need to resize larger images, alter these settings.
$config['Misc']['maxwidth'] = 2592;
$config['Misc']['maxheight'] = 1944;

/*=====
|| ##### Downloaded: 12:00, Sun Nov 26th 2007
|| # CVS: $RCStfile$ - $Revision$
|| #####
\=====
```

MySQLi

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MySQLi is an improved database layer for PHP 5 and MySQL 4.1+. It is strongly recommended that MySQLi be used if your MySQL server is at version 4.1 or higher.

To enable MySQLi, view [Editing the vBulletin Configuration File](#).

config.php contains two advanced settings that you may need when MySQLi is in use. These settings are to be ignored as long as you are not having issues of the following type:

MySQL Error : Illegal mix of collations (latin1_swedish_ci,COERCIBLE) and (utf8_general_ci,IMPLICIT) for operation

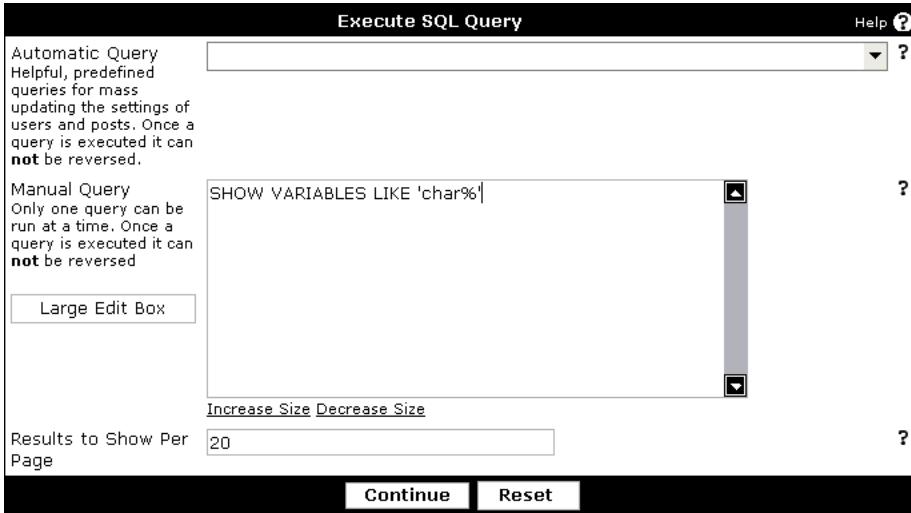
Generally, this error only happens when your database's character set has been changed from the default of latin1. To begin to resolve this problem, you must first determine what character set is being used for your database.

From the Administrator Control Panel, go to Admin CP->Maintenance->Execute SQL Query. If you receive a no permissions message, please refer back to [Editing the vBulletin Configuration File](#) on how to grant the appropriate

permissions so that you may execute queries.

Enter the following query in the Manual Query input box and press [Continue]

SHOW VARIABLES LIKE 'char%'



The results screen will show your current character set settings:

Results: 7, Page 1 of 1	
character_set_client	latin1
character_set_connection	latin1
character_set_database	utf8
character_set_results	latin1
character_set_server	latin1
character_set_system	utf8
character_sets_dir	C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 4.1\share\charsets/

If the values character_set_database and character_set_connection are different then this can be resolved by continuing this solution.

Note:

If the values are the same, then your problem will not be solved by this solution. Please contact vBulletin Support in this case. You may have tables in your database that are configured to use a different character set than your database is. All of your tables will need to be updated to use the same character set. This condition can be caused by changing the character set of your database after vBulletin has been installed. Upgrades may create tables that are in your new character set, which will cause problems.

Your character_set_connection needs to be updated to be the same as your character_set_database.

Create a new file in your forums include directory named mysqli.ini. Inside of this file place:

```
[client]
default-character-set=utf8
```

The value **utf8** will need to be the same value that appeared as your character_set_database in the previous step. Generally, this will be utf8 but you may have a special case that requires a different setting.

Edit the [vBulletin Configuration File](#) file by following the instructions in the previous section.

Uncomment the following line by removing the two slashes from the beginning

```
// $config['Mysqli']['ini_file'] = 'c:\program files\MySQL\MySQL Server 4.1\my.ini';
```

Change the line to point to the location of the mysqli.ini file that you created in the previous step. Example:

```
$config['Mysqli']['ini_file'] = 'c:\program files\apache group\apache\htdocs\forums\includes\mysqli.ini';
```

If you have enabled MySQLi and entered the correct path to your new mysqli.ini file, then this problem should be resolved.

Uploading vBulletin Scripts to Your Web Server

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After your config.php file has been edited and saved it is time to upload the vBulletin scripts to your web server ready for installation.

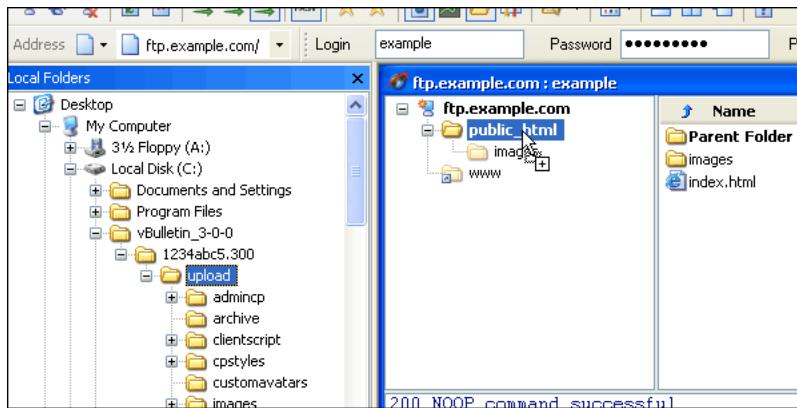
The uploading process should be familiar to anyone who has published pages to a web site before, but a brief description of the process is given here.

Although there are several methods available to transfer the vBulletin files from your computer to your web server, by far the most common method in use is transfer via FTP. Most operating systems have built-in tools for opening FTP

connections although they are often limited in their usefulness and many people opt to use a third party FTP client application. For this example we will use [Smart FTP](#).

Note:

We do not recommend using the built-in file transfer features in WYSIWYG editors such as Adobe Dreamweaver, Adobe GoLive!, Microsoft Frontpage, or Microsoft Expressions. These programs often add information to vBulletin's files or do not maintain their structure properly which will cause problems while installing or upgrading the software. We also do not recommend using any web-based file managers that your hosting service may provide as a solution. For best performance and reliability you are recommended to use a stand alone FTP client like SmartFTP or Filezilla. The easiest way to transfer the files is to upload the entire upload folder to the server. Using Smart FTP we do this by dragging the upload folder from its location on your computer's hard disk to the web publishing folder on the server.



Most FTP client applications will handle the file transfers automatically, but if for some reason your application does not, you should make a note of the following:

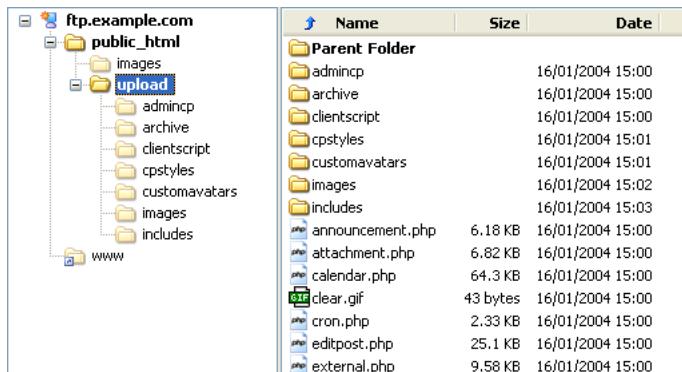
- All text files to be transferred in ASCII mode
- All non-text files to be transferred in Binary mode

The remaining files, which are mostly images, should be transferred to your web server in Binary mode.
Binary file types used in vBulletin include: .gif, .png, .jpg, .ico.

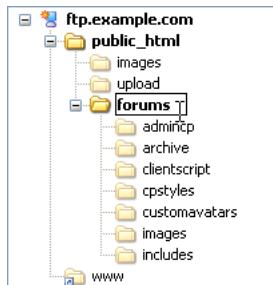
Note:

The web publishing folder is usually called public_html, www or htdocs and is located within your home directory. If you are unsure of where to find your own web publishing folder, your host will be able to help you.

Depending upon the speed of your internet connection, uploading all the files could take several minutes to complete. After completion, you should see that the web server now contains a folder called upload containing a perfect copy of the files in the upload folder on your computer's hard disk.



When all the files have been uploaded successfully you should rename the upload folder on the web server to the name you want to use for your forums directory. We will be calling it forums for the purposes of this manual.



If all has gone well, you are now ready to run the installation script to prepare your database to run vBulletin.

Running the vBulletin Install Script

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The installation wizard has been rewritten in vBulletin 4.0.9. The new installation process provides a more seamless experience without requiring as much intervention from the operator. Once all the vBulletin files have been successfully uploaded to your web server, you will need to run the vBulletin Installation Script in order to prepare

your database.

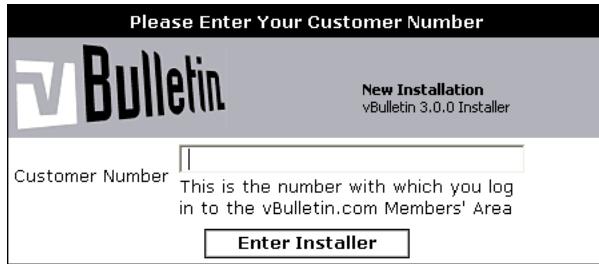
The Installer runs as a PHP script using your web browser. To start the installation process, open your browser and type the HTTP address of your forums directory, followed by `/install/install.php`, then hit the <Enter> key or press the [Go] button to open the script.



The first thing you will see from the install script is a log in prompt, asking you to enter your customer number. This is done to prevent other users from accidentally stumbling across your install script and running it. Only you should know your customer number.

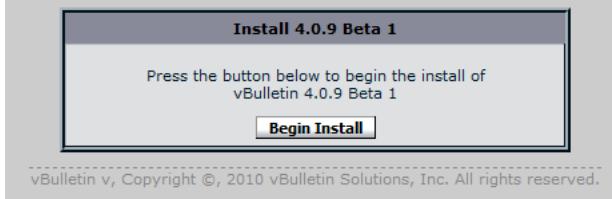
Note:

Your customer number is the string of numbers and letters used as the login user name for the vBulletin Members' Area. You should type your customer number carefully to avoid errors. Note that your customer number is *not* the same as your vBulletin license number.

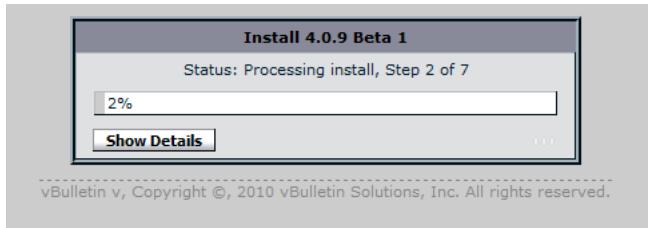


When you have entered your customer number, hit the [Enter Installer] button and you should be taken to the first step of the install script. If after hitting the [Enter Installer] button you are brought back to the customer number entry dialog, there was an error verifying your customer number. Please check for mistakes and try again.

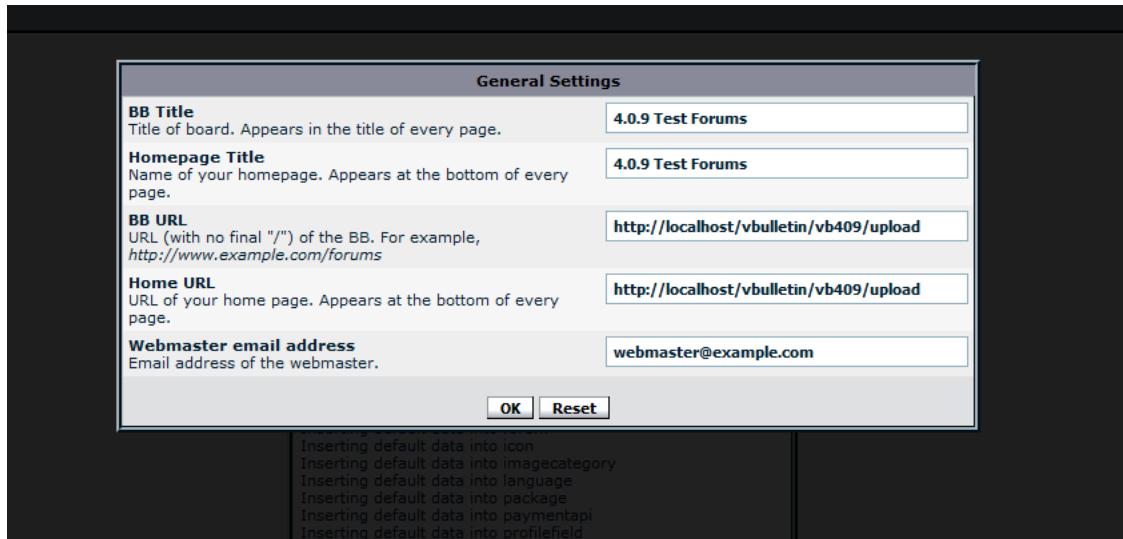
After entering your customer number, the install wizard will begin. Press Start Install to begin.



The installer from this point is mostly automatic. You will see the progress bar progress as it goes through the steps.



During the install process, the install script will require user input. At this point it will present you with a dialog box and ask for the information. It will ask for information up to four times. The first dialog box looks like the image below.



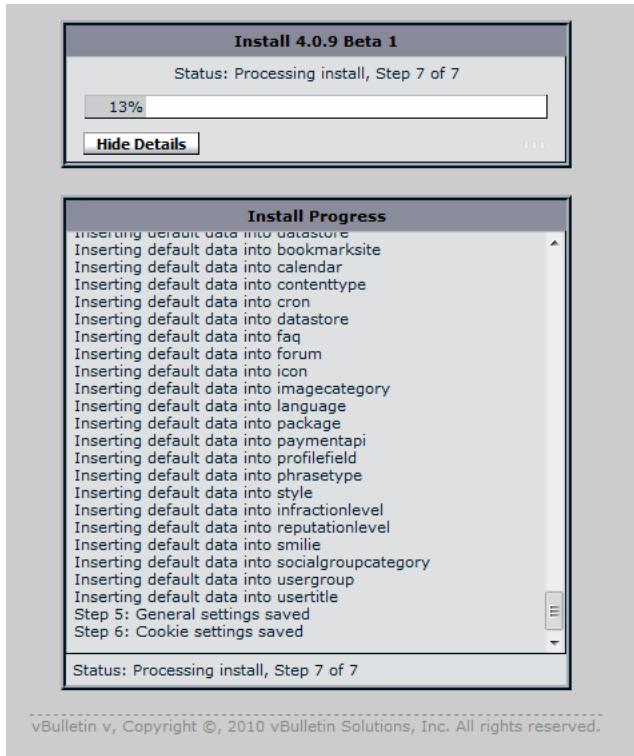
The first dialog box will ask you information about your forums. This includes the name of the forums, the name of your homepage and the URLs that you would like to use. It will also ask for the webmaster email address. The system will try to pre-fill some of this information for you based on the location of the script and the domain name it is accessed from.

The second dialog box will ask for your cookie path and cookie domain. These are advanced installation parameters. If you do not know what to enter here, leave them as the default suggestions and continue.

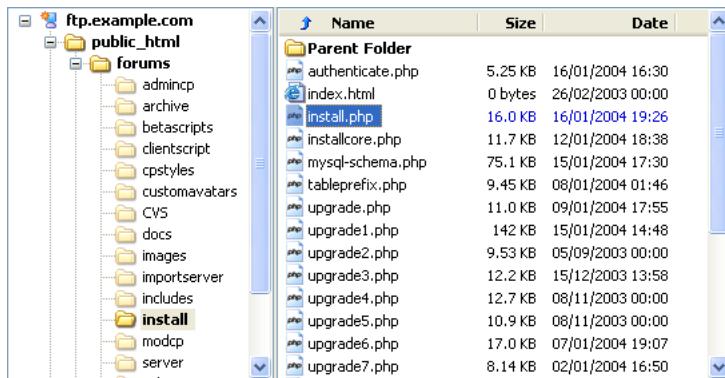
The third dialog box will ask for your administrator username, password, and email address. Make sure to keep record of these as there is no way to retrieve the password in the future.

The last dialog box will only occur if you are installing the vBulletin Publishing Suite. This will ask if you want to install the default data for the Content Management System. It is a good idea to do this if you are just getting started. You can delete the data later.

During the installation process, you may opt to have a more detailed output view. You can view each step as it processes by clicking the "Show Details" button while the install wizard is running. It will present you with a view like this:



Once the installation process is complete, and you will be presented with a link to your Admin Control Panel. Before clicking this link, you should open up your FTP client application again and browse to the **install** folder inside your forums directory.



You should *delete* the **install** directory, and all of its files now as a security precaution. Once you have deleted these files/folders you can return to the installer script and click the link to enter the Administrator Control Panel of your freshly installed vBulletin!

Note:

You will not be able to enter the Admin Control Panel until you have deleted the install folder.

[Installing the Mobile Style](#)

Cleaning up after the Install

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After a few pages the installation process will complete, and you will be presented with a link to your Admin Control Panel. Before clicking this link, you should open up your FTP client application again and browse to the **/install** folder inside your forums directory.

You should *delete* all files and subdirectories here as a security precaution. Doing so will not impact vBulletin's operation on your site. Once you have deleted these files you can return to the installer script and click the link to enter the Administrator Control Panel of your freshly installed vBulletin!

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Upgrading vBulletin

From time to time it will be necessary to upgrade your vBulletin installation to the latest version, either to gain new features or to fix newly discovered bugs in PHP, MySQL or vBulletin itself.

You can upgrade to the latest version of vBulletin 4 from the following vBulletin versions:

- Any previous version of vBulletin 4, from version 4.0.0 Beta 1 to the current version.
- Any version of vBulletin 3 from version 3.6.0 and newer. If your vBulletin version is older than 3.8.7, it is recommended that you upgrade to at least vBulletin 3.8.7 before you can upgrade to vBulletin 4.

The upgrade process differs depending upon the version of vBulletin currently installed on your web server.

When upgrading, the first step is always the same, in that you must log in to the [vBulletin Members' Area](#) and download the latest vBulletin package available, as described in the [installation instructions](#).

Warning:

We **strongly** recommend that you back up your database prior to any upgrade. This will allow you to restore your data should anything happen during the upgrade. The chance of a catastrophic failure is very remote but it can happen.

A document detailing how to back up your database is available in the *Technical Documents* section of the vBulletin Manual's Appendices, [here](#).

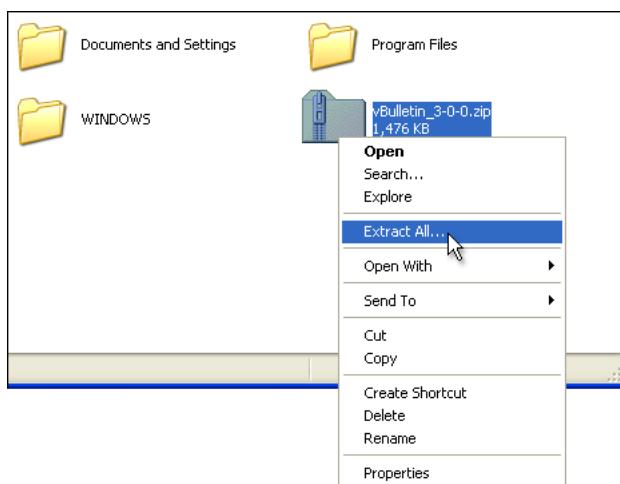
Preparing the vBulletin Files for Upload

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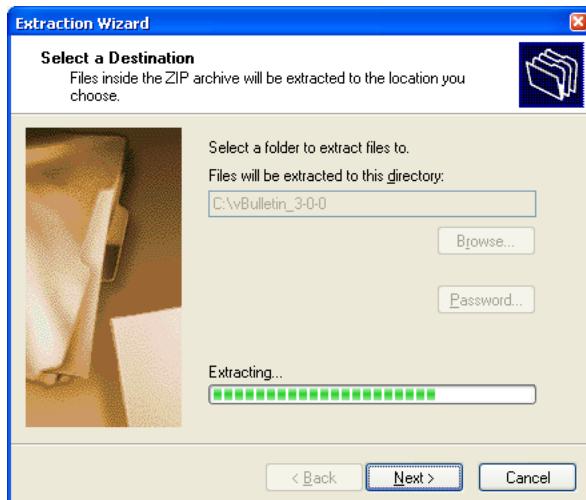
After you have successfully downloaded the vBulletin package to your computer you will need to prepare the scripts to be uploaded to your web server.

The first thing to do is to decompress the package into its constituent files. If you downloaded the *.zip* package and your computer is running a recent version of Windows® all the tools you need to do this are available as part of Windows®. This section will assume that you have downloaded the *.zip* package and that your computer is running Windows XP.

To extract the files from the package, open the folder on your computer where you saved the vBulletin package and right-click on its icon, then choose **Extract All** from the pop-up menu.



This will open a wizard to guide you through the unzipping progress. Accept the default options suggested and the system will decompress the files from the zip package.



When the unzipping progress is complete, you will find that the process has created a new folder called **upload** and another called **do_not_upload**.

upload - This folder contains the vBulletin files that need to be uploaded to your web server.

You should now **rename** the '*upload*' folder to match whatever name you gave to the directory containing your vBulletin files on your web server. In this example, the folder containing the vBulletin files is called '*forums*'.

NOTE: If you have changed the names of the 'admincp' and 'modcp' directories in your config.php file, be sure to make the same change to these subdirectories prior to uploading.



The second folder is **do_not_upload** - This folder contains tools to perform various tasks on your board

- **searchshell.php** - This file will allow you to rebuild the search index.
- **vb_backup.sh** - This file will allow you to run a database backup via SSH/Telnet or a scheduled backup through cron.
- **tools.php** - This file must be uploaded to the admincp folder and allows you to perform certain tasks should your board go down or you accidentally lock yourself out of the Admin Control Panel. ***This file must be deleted immediately after use or it will cause a SEVERE security problem.***

Note:

As you already have a vBulletin installation running on your web server, you should **delete** the *install.php* file in the *install* directory before you proceed to upload the files.

Note:

These instructions are for 3.5.0 and higher. If you are upgrading from vBulletin 3.0.x to 3.5.0, you will also need to recreate your includes/config.php file based on the new version of includes/config.php.new. Please see [this page](#) in the installation section on how to edit the config file. This step is not necessary for individual upgrades within the 3.0.x or 3.5.x series.

If you are upgrading from vBulletin 3.5.x to vBulletin 3.6.x or newer you do not need to edit the config.php file.

Updating the vBulletin Scripts on Your Web Server

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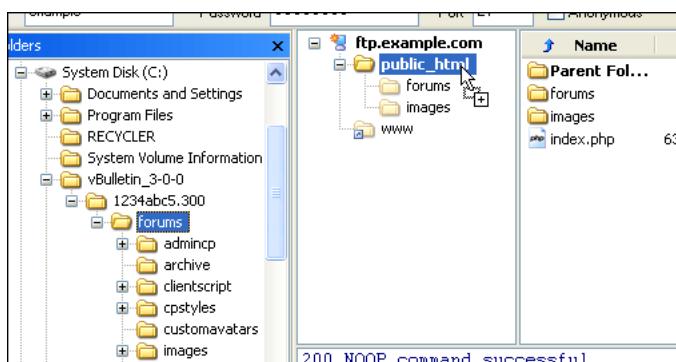
Having downloaded the latest vBulletin package and unzipped it to a folder, you must now prepare your web server to accept the updated files. Before you do this **you should close your forums**. This will help eliminate any potential db errors as people attempt to access your forums before the upgrade is complete.

For uploading there are two ways that this can be done.

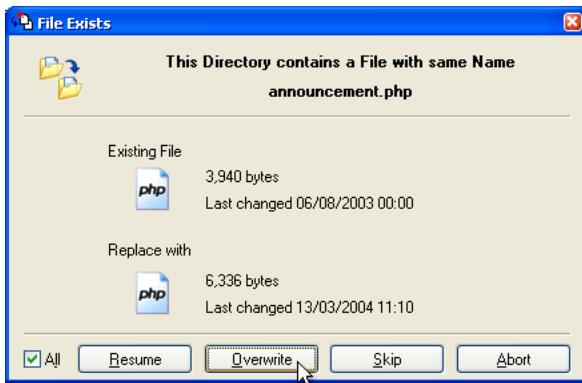
The first method involves *overwriting* all the files that were previously uploaded to your web server, while the second method involves *deleting* all the old files and directories, and then uploading the new scripts. In this tutorial we will use the *overwrite* method.

Having renamed the *upload* folder as specified in the [previous step](#), you should load up your FTP client of choice. In this example we will use [Smart FTP](#).

Connect to your FTP server and with the new vBulletin files in the local pane and the existing old files in the remote pane, drag the *forums* directory into the *parent directory* of your remote vBulletin installation as shown here:



You will most likely be prompted by the FTP client at this point to ask if you want to overwrite the existing files. You should confirm this prompt, telling the FTP client that yes, you do want to overwrite the existing files. If the prompt gives you the option to overwrite *all* existing files without prompting again, use this option.



Most FTP client applications will handle the file transfers automatically, but if for some reason your application does not, you should make a note of the following:

- **All text files to be transferred in ASCII mode**
All files containing plain text from the vBulletin package should be transferred in ASCII mode.
Text file types you will find in vBulletin are: *.html, .php, .js, .xml, .css*.
- **All non-text files to be transferred in Binary mode**
The remaining files, which are mostly images, should be transferred to your web server in Binary mode.
Binary file types used in vBulletin include: *.gif, .png, .jpg, .ico*.

Warning:

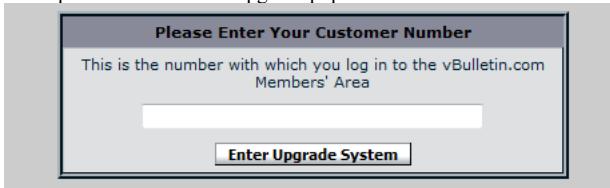
It is extremely important that you upload **all** the files from the latest vBulletin package, **including** the entire contents of the *install* directory.

Failure to upload all the files may result in the upgrade script being unable to successfully complete the upgrade process.

Running the vBulletin Upgrade Script

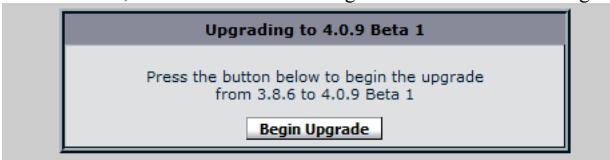
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Once you have uploaded the files to upgrade your vBulletin installation, point your browser to <http://www.yourdomain.com/pathtoforums/install/upgrade.php>. The screen will look like this:

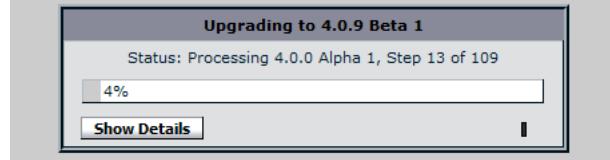


When you have entered your customer number, hit the [Enter Installer] button and you should be taken to the first step of the install script. If after hitting the [Enter Installer] button you are brought back to the customer number entry dialog, there was an error verifying your customer number. Please check for mistakes and try again.

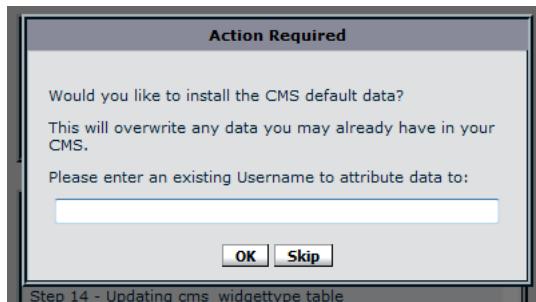
After entering your customer number, the install wizard will begin. Press Start Install to begin.



The installer from this point is almost automatic. You will see the progress bar progress as it goes through the steps.

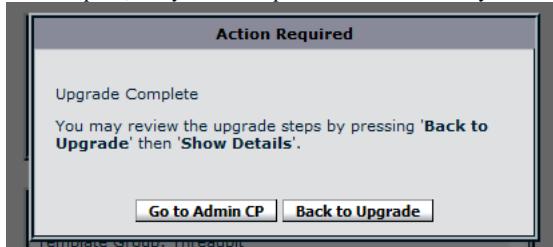


If the upgrade script needs to retrieve any information from you, it will stop and show a dialog box requesting the information. Follow the instructions on the screen. These dialog boxes will look similar to this -



During the installation process, you may opt to have a more detailed output view. You can view each step as it processes by clicking the "Show Details" button while the install wizard is running. It will present you with a view like this:

Once the installation process is complete, and you will be presented with a link to your Admin Control Panel.



Enter the Admin Control Panel to verify that your settings, content and other details are still correct.

[Installing the Mobile Style](#)

Using the Command Line Upgrade

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Starting with vBulletin 4.0.9, you can run the upgrade script from the command line and remove the overhead of your browser and HTTP calls. The command line interface is designed to specifically help big boards with the upgrade process and to eliminate the time caused by HTTP interaction. To run this interface go to your install directory and execute:

```
php -f upgrade.php
```

If you are logged in as the root user, you will need to run the upgrade as the user that the webserver runs under. This will prevent permission problems from occurring later if you store CSS as files. Use this command:

```
sudo -u <user> php -f upgrade.php
```

Where <user> is the user that the webserver is run with. On most systems, this is the user nobody.

Your CLI version of PHP may not have been compiled with or configured to use the same modules as your web version. If you encounter problems in command line mode, switching to the web mode should be able to process through them. You can see your command line configuration by typing:

```
php -i > phpinfo.txt
```

You can then review the output in any text editor. You should inspect this configuration to make sure that it has mysql and/or mysqli available so you can connect to the database. You would also need to make sure that the command line version of PHP has XML support. If it does not, then you would need to run the XML imports from the Browser.

Common Issues While Upgrading.

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Q. I tried to run the upgrade wizard from the command line and got an error that MySQLi is not installed.

A. Your CLI version of PHP may not have been compiled with the same modules as your web version. If you are missing mysqli and have set your config.php to use mysqli, you will receive an immediate error. Either add mysqli support to your CLI php or switch to mysql in config.php. You can switch back to mysqli after the upgrade process.

Q. When running the upgrade wizard from the command line, it will not import the standard XML files for the style and languages. What do I do?

A. Your version of PHP may have the default XML support disabled for some reason. Run the upgrade wizard in your browser. It will skip to the XML import steps and import your files for you and complete the upgrade.

Q. I have a lot of posts and rebuilding the search index takes forever. Is there a faster way?

It is recommended that large community sites use our [Sphinx Search](#) to index and search their content. This is a fast and robust search solution. If for some reason, you cannot use this search option, you can rebuild your search index from the command line using the searchindex.php in your Do Not Upload folder. You would run the searchindex.php file from the command line using this command:

```
php searchindex.php
```

Follow the steps on the screen.

Q. What is the Query Status button that appears in Browser Mode?

A. The "Query Status" button is something that appears after a step has taken more than 20 seconds. Its purpose is to send a query back to the server and retrieve the status of the executing query. It provides a method for the admin to see what is going on with big queries.

Q. I receive an error similar to the following how do I fix it?

```
Warning: chdir(): SAFE MODE Restriction in effect. The script whose uid is 0 is not allowed to access ./... owned by uid 10001 in /var/www/vhosts/domain.co
```

A. This can appear if the command line configuration of PHP is using safemode. Either disable safemode or run the upgrade wizard in browser mode.

Q. I previously used the Command Line Upgrade and now I receive an error when I try to save my CSS as files.

What is wrong?

The permissions on your clientscript/vbulletin_css folder are incorrect. They may be set to 0755 and should be set to 0777. Recursively update the permissions to 0777 using your FTP client or chmod.

Cleaning up after your Upgrade

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After the upgrade process is complete, you will be presented with a link to your Admin Control Panel. Before clicking this link, you should open up your FTP client application again and browse to the **installII** folder inside your forums directory.

You should *delete* all files and subdirectories here as a security precaution. Doing so will not impact vBulletin's operation on your site. Once you have deleted these files you can return to the installer script and click the link to enter the Administrator Control Panel of your freshly installed vBulletin!

Checking for Updated Templates

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If you have closed your forums for the upgrade you can now open them, or you can wait until you have gone through the next two steps checking for updated templates and phrases.

When a new version of vBulletin is released, it is common for some of the default [templates](#) to have been updated to accommodate new features or fix bugs.

If you have not customized any of your templates, this need not concern you, but if you *have* customized some of the default templates there are a few steps you will need to follow after you have finished running all the appropriate upgrade scripts.

Note:

When running vBulletin upgrade scripts, one of the final steps imports the newest version of the default style.

Any templates that you have *not* customized will automatically be updated to use the newest versions.

However, any templates that you have customized **will not** be altered or overwritten by importing the latest style, hence the need for the following steps.

- Firstly, you should visit the Styles & Templates > [Find Updated Templates](#) page to find out which (if any) of your customized templates may have updated default versions.

Custom Header / Footer	
footer	
Default Template Updated in 3.0.0 by Kier Your Custom Template Last Edited in 3.0.0 Release Candidate 4 by Administrator	[Edit Template] [Revert]
header	
Default Template Updated in 3.0.0 by Kier Your Custom Template Last Edited in 3.0.0 Release Candidate 4 by Administrator	[Edit Template] [Revert]
Red	
header	
Default Template Updated in 3.0.0 by Kier Your Custom Template Last Edited in 3.0.0 Release Candidate 4 by Administrator	[Edit Template] [Revert]

2 If you find that some of your customized templates **do** have updated default versions, you have three choices. You can either

- Do nothing and hope that your customized templates will still work properly with the new vBulletin version. This is often not a problem, but sometimes a variable may have been renamed or else some other change may have been made that will render your customized template dysfunctional.
- Click the [Revert] link for each template, removing your customizations to ensure that your templates are fully compatible with the new vBulletin version.
- Click on the [Edit Template] link for each template, and compare the contents of your customized template with the version available by clicking the [View Original] in order to manually update your customized templates to reflect the changes made in the default templates.

On the release of a new vBulletin version, the release announcement posted in the [Announcements Forum](#) at vBulletin.com will usually contain a list of updated templates.

This list will often tell you whether or not the changes made to each template were purely cosmetic, in which case you will have no need to perform the steps above for that template, or if the changes require you to revert or manually edit your customized templates to maintain full working order.

vBulletin Template Diff/Merge System

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One of the most common complaints about vBulletin's upgrade process is applying the template changes. While the template history feature helped a little bit, it didn't go far enough. vBulletin 4.0 will introduce a feature to make applying template changes much easier: automatic merging and 3-way comparison.

Whenever you upgrade, we will automatically look for templates that have changed and see if you customized those templates. If you have, we will automatically try to merge the changes in. If this succeeds, you won't have anything else to do (in most cases). If it fails, your customized template won't be updated--like in vBulletin 3--and you'll have to apply the changes yourself. However, that process is improved as well. More on that later.

Roughly, the merging process goes like this:

- [*]Find the differences between the old default and the new default. ("old-new")
- [*]Find the differences between the old default and your customized version. ("old-custom")
- [*]Start walking through the template. If we find a changed spot in old-new but it's not changed in old-custom, use the old-new version. If we find a change in old-custom but not old-new, use the old-custom version. If neither changed, use either. If both changed, that's a conflict and we can't do the merge.

Most of this happens behind the scenes. However, you'll see some changes to the "Find Update Templates" screen:

Default Style	
albumbit	[Edit Template] [View Highlighted Changes] [Revert]
Default Template Updated in vBulletin 4.0.0 Alpha 2 by Jelsoft Your Custom Template Last Edited in vBulletin 4.0.0 Alpha 1 by Admin	
The attempted merge failed due to conflicts	
album_addgroup_groupbit	[Edit Template] [View Highlighted Changes] [View Pre-Merge Version] [Revert]
Default Template Updated in vBulletin 4.0.0 Alpha 2 by Jelsoft Your Custom Template Last Edited in vBulletin 4.0.0 Alpha 2 by System Changes were automatically merged into this template	

The "View Highlighted Changes" link will take you to this page:

Display Options

[View Side by Side](#) [Disable Wrapping](#) [Edit Merged Text](#)

Comparing Versions of albumbit

```
<tr>
    $template_hook[albumbit_start]
    <td class="alt2" valign="middle" align="center">
        <if condition="$album['coverthumburl']">
            <a href="album.php?$session[sessionurl]albumid=$album[albumid]"></a>
        <else />
            &nbsp; <!-- change -->
        </if>
    </td>
<!-- add -->
    <td class="alt1" valign="middle">
        <if condition="$show['moderated']">$vbphrase[x_moderated_pictures]</phrase>">
        <float:$stylevar[right]" /></if>
        <a href="album.php?$session[sessionurl]albumid=$album[albumid]">
<strong>$album[title_html]</strong></a>
        <div class="smallfont">
            $album[description_html]
            <if condition="$show['personalalbum']"><span class="shade">$albumtype</span></if>
        </div>
    </td>

```

Your Customized Value
Old Default Value
New Default Value

```
<td class="alt2" valign="middle" align="center">$album[picturecount]</td>
```

This lets you view the 3-way merge results visually. The yellow lines indicate areas changed by merging, while the red blocks indicate conflicts. The conflicting areas show you the values in all 3 versions of the template (old, new, customized) to let you choose how to resolve it.

Of course, trying to do the edit from this page would be a challenge, so if you click the "Edit Merged Text" link, you'll be taken to a normal looking template editor:

You are editing the merged version of this template. If conflicts were encountered while merging, they will be shown in the template. [View a highlighted version of the merged template](#).

Template: albumbit (id: 4126) [Help](#)

Product	vBulletin
Style	Default Style
Title	albumbit
[View History]	
Template	<pre>1="\$album[moderatedcount]">\$vbphrase[x_moderated_pictures]</phrase> style="float:\$stylevar[right]" /></if> \$album[title_html] <div class="smallfont"> \$album[description_html] <if condition="\$show['personalalbum']">\$albumtype</if> </div> </td> <<<<< Your Customized Value <<<<< <!-- extra conflict --> ===== Old Default Value ===== <!-- extra --> ===== >>>> New Default Value >>>> <td class="alt2" valign="middle" align="center">\$album[picturecount]</td> <td class="alt1" valign="middle" nowrap="nowrap"> <if condition="\$album['lastpicturedate']> \$album[picturedate] <if condition="!\$show['detailedtime']>\$album[picturetime] Increase Size Decrease Size </pre>
[Show Default]	
Large Edit Box	
<p>Search in Template <input type="text"/> Find Copy View QuickRef</p> <p>Save in Template History? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Comment <input type="text"/></p> <p>Save Save and Reload Reset</p>	

However, the text that you're editing is slightly different from the norm. Any unchanged or merged areas are as you'd expect, but the output from a conflict is very different. All 3 possible values for a conflict will be shown, so you can resolve it correctly. And don't worry, if you try to save it while there's still a conflict, it will warn you.

It should be noted that the automatic merging is pretty conservative. "Adjacent updates" (when a customized version adds a line immediately after a line that was changed) will trigger a conflict. In some cases, it'd be ok for this merge to go through, but there are other situations where things would break if the change were applied. Regardless, the new conflict management system should allow you to resolve the problem more quickly.

Checking for Updated Phrases

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When a new version of vBulletin is released, it is common for some of the default [phrases](#) to have been updated to accommodate new features or fix bugs.

If you have not customized any of your phrases, this need not concern you, but if you *have* customized some of the default phrases, there are a few steps you will need to follow after you have finished running all the appropriate upgrade scripts.

Note:

When running vBulletin upgrade scripts, one of the final steps imports the newest version of the default phrases.

Any phrases that you *have not* customized will automatically be updated to use the newest versions.

However, any phrases that you *have* customized **will not** be altered or overwritten by importing the latest phrases, hence the need for the following steps.

- Firstly, you should visit the Languages & Phrases > [Find Updated Phrases](#) page to find out which (if any) of your customized phrases may have updated default versions.

English (UK)	
digestforum (Email Body Text)	[Edit]
Default Phrase Updated in vBulletin 3.6.0 Beta 1 by Ed Sullivan	
Your Custom Phrase Last Edited in vBulletin 3.5.0 by Ed Sullivan	
post_new_announcement (Posting)	[Edit]
Default Phrase Updated in vBulletin 3.6.0 Beta 1 by Ed Sullivan	
Your Custom Phrase Last Edited in vBulletin 3.5.4 by Ed Sullivan	
German	
digestforum (Email Body Text)	[Edit]
Default Phrase Updated in vBulletin 3.6.0 Beta 1 by Ed Sullivan	
Your Custom Phrase Last Edited in vBulletin 3.5.3 by Ed Sullivan	

- If you find that some of your customized phrases **do** have updated default versions, you can either:

- Do nothing and hope that your customized phrases will still work properly with the new vBulletin version. This is often not a problem, but sometimes the phrase may have added text to describe new functionality or have made changes that break the values in the old version.
- Click on the [Edit] link for each phrases, and compare the contents of your customized phrase with the version available. From this page, you may either update your customized version or revert to the default version by emptying the translation field.

How to Patch Your Site

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What is a Patch Level? How does it differ from a full release?

A patch level release contains fixes for only the most critical issues in the previous release. In most cases, these are released to address a security issue. However they can be released for data integrity issues as well.

A patch level is designed to be installed directly over top of your existing installation, with *no other action*. You do *not* need to run any upgrade scripts.

How to Upgrade

This is not a full upgrade. You do not need to run any upgrade scripts to complete the upgrade.

Patch: Download a patch file discussed in this thread and upload them to your web server, overwriting the existing files. All patches are available from the [Members' Area patch page](#).

Patch Packages are cumulative so you only need the latest one available for your version. **You cannot use a Patch to upgrade your site.**

Full Package: Alternatively you can download the full package in the [vBulletin Members Area](#) and again upload the affected files mentioned in the release thread.

Note:

Patch Level Releases are only supported for their targeted version. If you are using a previous version, you will need to perform a complete upgrade for full functionality and support. Patch Levels will only be released for the latest version in an active vBulletin series.

The Admin Control Panel

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The Admin Control Panel is the area of your board that only administrators and super moderators can access. From here you can control almost all factors of your board.

Logging-in to the Control Panel

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The vBulletin Admin Control Panel can be accessed by pointing your browser at <http://www.example.com/forums/admincp/>.

The first thing you will see when you access the Control Panel is a prompt to log in. You will be presented with this login prompt even if you are already logged into the public area of the board. This is an additional level of security.

To log in, simply enter the username and password of a user account with administrator privileges, such as the one you created towards the end of the installation script process.

There are a couple of extra options that can be set on the login form. To see them, click the [Options] button to expand the form to its full size.

The two options you can set from the login form are:

- Style Choice**

vBulletin comes with a selection of styles in which you can view the control panel. Try them out and see which one you like best, or if you are feeling adventurous, create your own!

- Save Open Groups Automatically**

This option allows you to have the system automatically save your preferences for which options in the Admin CP navigation panel are opened and which are collapsed by default, without you having to manually save the preferences.

Clicking the [Log in] button will submit the login details and options you have set, and log you in to the board.

Note:

If you changed the value of \$admincpdir in the config.php file and have renamed the admincp directory, the location at which you access the control panel will have changed accordingly.

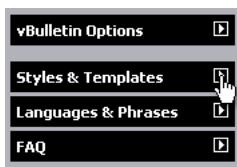
Getting Around the Admin Control Panel

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The first thing you will see when you log into the Admin Control Panel is the welcome page. This page contains a quick method to search for users, some useful links and the vBulletin credits.

You will notice that the Admin Control Panel is divided into three distinct areas. The first and most obvious of these is the main panel, which currently shows the welcome page. This area (the main panel) is where the majority of your attention will be focused when administering your board.

At the top of the page is a narrow strip that contains information about the vBulletin version you are currently running and the latest version available to download. To the right of the strip are links allowing you to click through to the Forum Home Page (the starting point of the public area of the board), and a link allowing you to log out of the control panel.



To the left of the page is the navigation panel. This long, thin area is the key to getting around the Admin CP. When you first visit the Admin CP, you will notice that all the sections of this panel are in a collapsed state.

You can click the gadget on each section to expand it and show its contents, and click the gadget again to collapse that section again. Double-clicking a section's title will also toggle its state and either expand or contract it.



You can expand and collapse any sections at any time. You are not limited to having just a single group expanded at any one time.

When you have a section or sections expanded, hovering your mouse over the included links will highlight that link. You can then click to open the corresponding page in the main panel.

You can use the expanding and contracting sections to build a customized control panel layout for yourself. For example, you may find that you regularly use the 'Styles & Templates' tools, but very infrequently use the FAQ manager.



When you have established a set of expanded and collapsed sections that suits your way of working, you can save the state of the sections by clicking the [Save Prefs] link.

When you reload the Admin CP, you will find that the sections in the left navigation panel will have automatically expanded and collapsed in the manner that they were when you clicked the [Save Prefs] link.

You can expand and collapse any section in your administration session, and at any time you can click the [Revert Prefs] link, which will revert the expanded/collapsed state of all the sections to how they were when you saved your preferences.

If at any time you want to return to the welcome page of the Admin CP, clicking the [Control Panel Home] link at the top of the navigation panel will do this.

Settings

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This part of the documentation will go over the individual options and settings in vBulletin section by section.

Options

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Turn Your vBulletin On and Off

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This setting group from the Settings > Options will allow the Administrator to close the forums to the public with a custom message or set it active. This is a useful feature when performing serious forum or database maintenance, version updates or bug fixing.

Only users in the Administrator usergroup will be able to browse the site, visitors will be presented with a closed message which you can set in this setting group.

- **Forum Active**

From time to time, you may want to turn your forum off to the public while you perform maintenance, update versions, etc.

Selecting 'Yes' will set the forum Active.

Selecting 'No' will set the forum Inactive (turns it off for the public).

When the forum is set Inactive users in the Administrator usergroup will be able to browse the forum. They will see a notice displayed in the header and footer of each page stating that the forum is closed. Visitors who browse any page on the forum will receive a message that states that the forum is temporarily unavailable. You could set a custom message.

Do not forget to set the forum active again when you are done with your maintenance.

- **Reason For Turning Forum Off**

When you have set your forum to inactive, this is the message that a visitor will receive when they browse any page on the forum.

Note:

This field expects the use of HTML code.

You can not use BBCode here.

Site Name / URL / Contact Details

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Settings > Options > Site Name / URL / Contact Details

After a fresh installation or upgrade, server or site move it is advised to walk through these site details setting group to ensure they are up to date.

- **Forum Name** - Name of your forum. This appears in the title of every page.

- **Forum URL** - URL of your forum.

Note: do not add a trailing slash. ("")

- **Homepage Name** - Name of your homepage. This appears at the bottom of every page.

- **Always use Forum URL as Base Path**

If this is set to 'Yes' the Forum URL will always be used for links instead of the current URL. This ensures that links are consistent but may not be desirable if you use multiple domains or a mix of http and https.

- **Show Forum Link in Menu**

If this is set to 'Yes' a link to the Forum will be displayed in the navigation menu on every page.

- **Homepage URL** - URL of your home page. This appears at the bottom of every page.

- **Contact Us Link** - Link for contacting the site admin. To use the built-in email form, specify sendmessage.php otherwise use something such as 'mailto:webmaster@example.com' or your own custom form. This appears at the bottom of every page.

- **Allow Unregistered Users to use 'Contact Us'** - The last option only applies if you specify 'sendmessage.php' in the previous option. You may require guests to pass Human Verification in order to use this form by enabling the option found in the [Human Verification Options](#).

- **Contact Us Options** - You may pre-define subjects (and corresponding recipients) for users to pick from when using the default Contact Us form listed above. Please place one subject per line. An 'Other' option will be automatically added to the end when the form is viewed. For more information on how to set this up, view the inline help within the Admin Control Panel

- **Webmaster's Email** - Email address of the webmaster. This can be different than the technical contact listed in includes/config.php. This is the person who will receive all emails from vBulletin itself except for database errors.

- **Privacy Statement URL** - Enter the URL of your privacy statement, if you have one.

For more information on Privacy Policies check out <http://www.truste.org>.

- **Copyright Text** - Copyright text to insert in the footer of the page.

- **Company Name** - The name of your company. This is required for COPPA compliance.

- **Company Fax** - Fax number for your company. COPPA forms will be faxed to this number.

You may wish to check out <http://www.efax.com>.

- **Company Address** - Address of your company. COPPA forms will be posted to this address.

Content Management

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Settings > Options > Content Management

Here you can set the values for the content management portion of your site. Please note that this section will only appear if you have the Publishing Suite installed.

- **CMS URL**

Optional URL for your CMS.

If this is specified it will override the Forum URL setting for CMS pages. You may specify an absolute URL or a URL relative to your Forum URL

Examples:

```
http://www.example.com
http://www.example.com/cms
../
```

Note:

This may be specified to change the base URL for all CMS links. This is useful if you run the CMS from a location that differs from your Forum URL.

You may specify an absolute URL such as `http://www.example.com/`, or a URL relative to your Forum URL. If your forum is in `/forum` and your CMS is at the root of your webserver then you may use `../`. If you use an absolute URL the option Always use Forum URL as Base Path will have no effect for CMS pages, and the CMS url specified will always be used. If you wish to run your CMS from a location other than your Forum URL then you must ensure that the appropriate entry scripts have been set up.

Create the following files. Be sure to replace '`your_forum_path`' with the actual path to your vBulletin installation. For example, if your CMS will be at `http://www.example.com/` and your forums at `http://www.example.com/forums/`, then replace '`your_forum_path`' with '`forums`'.

content.php

```
<?php
define('VB_RELATIVE_PATH', 'your_forum_path');
chdir('../' . VB_RELATIVE_PATH);
require('content.php');
```

editor.php

```
<?php
define('VB_RELATIVE_PATH', 'your_forum_path');
chdir('../' . VB_RELATIVE_PATH);
require('editor.php');
```

list.php

```
<?php
define('VB_RELATIVE_PATH', 'your_forum_path');
chdir('../' . VB_RELATIVE_PATH);
require('list.php');
```

widget.php

```
<?php
define('VB_RELATIVE_PATH', 'your_forum_path');
chdir('../' . VB_RELATIVE_PATH);
require('widget.php');
```

index.php PLEASE NOTE: The index.php file uses require('content.php'), not require('index.php')

```
<?php
define('VB_RELATIVE_PATH', 'your_forum_path');
chdir('../' . VB_RELATIVE_PATH);
require('content.php');
```

• Default Page

If a user visits your CMS site without specifying a page, they will view this page. It should consist of the page number, dash, then the seo url you assigned that page. For example: '1-home-page'. An incorrect value here can prevent CMS from functioning.

• CMS Name

Name of your CMS. This appears in the title of every CMS page.

• Site Tab URL

The URL used by the CMS Tab in the main navigation menu.

• Associated Forum for Comments

The forum to use for CMS item comment threads. Note, if you change this value to a different Forum then you will need to manually move any existing threads to the new forum.

General Settings

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Use the Settings > Options > General Settings setting group to control several general aspects of your board.

This ranges from meta tags to the use of forumjump, enabling access masks to the display of IM icons.

• Meta Keywords

Enter the meta keywords for all pages. These are used by search engines to index your pages with more relevance.

Meta Keywords are used by some search engines to determine what your pages are about and to rank them. Other search engines such as Google do not take keywords into account.

All keywords you enter here will be put in the keywords meta tag in the header of every page. Separate keywords or phrases with a single comma and no space.

Example: vbulletin,forum,bbs,discussion,jelsoft,bulletin board

• Meta Description

Enter the meta description for all pages. This is used by search engines to index your pages more relevantly.

The Meta Description is used by some search engines to determine what your pages are about and to rank them. Other search engines such as Google do not take the description into account.

Enter a short description of your site here and it will be placed in the meta description tag in the header of every page. Most engines will accept a maximum of 255 characters for the description.

Example: This is a discussion forum powered by vBulletin. To find out about vBulletin, go to <http://www.vbulletin.com/>.

- **Use Forum Jump Menu**

The Forum Jump menu appears by default on most pages and provides a quick jump to any of the forums on your forum as well as several other places (search, private messaging, etc.). While it can have a marginal impact on performance, typically you will only want to disable this if you have an extremely large number of forums as it will generate a large amount of HTML in that case, which will increase the size of pages and bandwidth usage.

Set this option to 'no' if you want to turn it off.

- **Number of Pages Visible in Page Navigator**

On thread and forum pages, as well as private messaging lists and other places, if there are multiple page number links to be displayed, this setting determines how many are shown on either side of the page currently being viewed. Setting this to 0 will cause all page links to be displayed.

Example: 3

- **Enable Access Masks**

Access masks allow you to enable or disable access to a particular forum for individual user(s). To use them, you must enable this option. This option also affects whether or not users will be able to see forums they do not have access to on forumhome and forumdisplay. (If this is off, they will see them in forum listings but not be able to enter them. If this is on, they will not see them at all.)

Set this option to 'no' if you want to turn it off.

- **Show Instant Messaging Program Icons**

Setting this option to yes will show the images for ICQ, AIM, MSN, and Yahoo! Messenger if the user has entered the correct information in his/her profile. These links are shown in various places through out the forum, on posts, who's online, memberlist, profile, etc. When set to no the information will be displayed in their profile in the form of text.

- **Add Template Name in HTML Comments**

Setting this to 'yes' will add the template name at the beginning and end of every template rendered on any page. This is useful for debugging and analyzing the HTML code, but turn it off to save bandwidth when running in a production environment.

When modifying templates, it is often helpful to have this setting enabled so you can view the source of a page to determine what template(s) control it. In the course of normal usage, however, you will usually want this disabled as it will increase your page sizes and therefore bandwidth usage.

When you are done, click the [Save] button to apply the changes.

Facebook Options

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vBulletin allows people to connect with your site and register using their Facebook credentials. This is called Facebook Connect. To set the options for this you would go to Settings > Options > Facebook Options

- **Enable Facebook Platform**

Enabling this option will allow users to connect their vBulletin account with their Facebook account. This will also populate your site with Open Graph meta data. Note: users must have Javascript enabled for this feature to work.

- **Facebook Application ID**

Enter the Application ID for your Application (see the [Facebook Developer page](#) for more information).

- **Facebook Secret**

Enter the Facebook Secret for your Application (see the [Facebook Developer page](#) for more information).

- **Facebook Usergroup**

If you want, you may specify a secondary usergroup for Facebook users. Note: All users who connect with facebook from this point on will be members of this usergroup. This will not be applied retroactively to users who have previously connected to facebook.

- **Enable Auto-Register**

Enabling this option will allow user to skip the registration form, and register through a simplified two-click process. Note: Using this feature will disable Forum Rules Agreement, Coppa registration, email verification, as well as any custom required fields from the registration form.

- **Image URL**

Specify a URL for an image that you want to represent your site. This image will appear next to published content in a user's newsfeed, as well as be used to represent your site in the Open Graph schema. Leave this blank if you do not want to have an image.

- **Publish to Facebook - New Thread**

Enabling this feature will allow users to publish a notification to their Facebook wall when they start a new thread.

- **Publish to Facebook - Post Reply**

Enabling this feature will allow users to publish a notification to their Facebook wall when they reply to a thread.

- **Publish to Facebook - Blog Entry**

Enabling this feature will allow users to publish a notification to their Facebook wall when they post a new blog entry.

- **Publish to Facebook - Blog Comment**

Enabling this feature will allow users to publish a notification to their Facebook wall when they comment on a blog post.

- **Publish to Facebook - New Article**

Enabling this feature will allow users to publish a notification to their Facebook wall when they publish a CMS article.

- Publish to Facebook - Article Comment**

Enabling this feature will allow users to publish a notification to their Facebook wall when they comment on a CMS article.

- Like Button - Threads**

Enabling this option will make a "Like" button appear on all threads. Users will then be able to "Like" individual threads. Note: users do not have to have Facebook linked accounts to use this feature.

- Like Button - Blog Entries**

Enabling this option will make a "Like" button appear on all blog entries. Users will then be able to "Like" individual blog posts. Note: users do not have to have Facebook linked accounts to use this feature.

- Like Button - CMS Articles**

Enabling this option will make a "Like" button appear on all CMS Articles. Users will then be able to "Like" individual CMS Articles. Note: users do not have to have Facebook linked accounts to use this feature.

Enabling Facebook

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Create new application on facebook.com (Required for each vB installation)

1. Goto: <http://developers.facebook.com/apps>, and login
2. Click "Create New App" (top-right)
3. Enter an appropriate App Name, click "Continue"
4. Do their Security Check, click "Submit"
5. On the page that comes up, click "Web Site" from the list on the bottom
6. In the "Site URL" input, enter the URL of the forum root for your vB installation. This should be exactly the same as your Forum URL setting in the Admin CP.
7. Click "Save Changes"
8. Make a note of the "Application ID," and "Application Secret," we will need these later.

Enable Facebook Connect on your vB installation

1. Goto your vB site, and login to the admincp
2. Goto "Settings" -> "Options" -> "Facebook Options" and click "Edit Settings"
3. Check "Yes" for "Enable Facebook Connect"
4. Enter "Application ID" and "Facebook Secret" from the Facebook Developer page
5. Click "Save"
6. Facebook should now be enabled and working

Image Settings

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The Settings > Options > Image Settings setting group allows you to control how vBulletin processes images for uploading and handles image verification.

- Allow Image Size Checking Failure**

On some servers, calls to getimagesize() to check image dimensions may fail for currently unknown reasons. If you are affected by this, you will want to set this option to 'Yes', otherwise you will not be able to upload images (avatars or attachments). However, users may be able to get around your image dimension limits!

- Image Processing Library**

vBulletin provides two options for manipulating attachment thumbnails, custom avatars, and profile pictures.

The first is GD, which is bundled with PHP 4.3.0 and later and often available with earlier releases. The GD v2+ library is preferable to the v1+ library so always choose v2 if you're given the opportunity by your host. GD supports the following file types: GIF, JPEG, and PNG.

Note:

The GD Libraries may have to be manually activated when using PHP installed on Windows.

The second supported library is ImageMagick v6 by ImageMagick Studio LLC. ImageMagick is an executable binary that must be installed at the server level to be called by PHP. Only the identify and convert binaries from ImageMagick are required by vBulletin. ImageMagick supports the following file types: GIF, JPEG, PNG, BMP, TIFF, and PSD. ImageMagick also has better support for handling animated GIF.

- Image Verification Library**

This is similar to the option above but it chooses the Image Manipulation Library for inline image verification. These verification images can be enabled for registration and the Contact Us forms. ImageMagick requires a valid font to be listed in the option below.

- GD Version**

Version of GD installed on your server. You can find the version by searching for 'GD' on your phpinfo() output.

- GD Font**

You can specify a true type font for the GD image verification to use. Use the full path to the file if you have problems, including the .ttf extension.

- ImageMagick Binary Path**

Path to the ImageMagick 6 binaries (convert and identify). Example:

Unix: /usr/local/bin/

Windows: C:\imagemagick\

- ImageMagick Font**

This shows a list of fonts that were identified on your system. Please choose one font for usage by the Image Verification system. If no fonts are listed, then a list of fonts could not be obtained. Please verify your ImageMagick path in this event.

Note: Not all listed fonts may work so keep choosing a font until you find one you like. ImageMagick must have freetype support compiled in.

- Generate PNG Thumbnails**

On some installations, the creation of PNG thumbnails (with GD) will fail due to incompatible libraries.

This only applies if GD is your chosen image library.

When you are done, click the [Save] button to apply the changes.

Human Verification Options

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Use the Settings > Options > Human Verification Options setting group to control where human verification is required on your forum in conjunction with the [Human Verification](#) configuration settings.

- **Verify at Registration**

New users will be required to pass the Human Verification test during registration.

- **Verify Guest Posts**

Guest posters will be required to pass the Human Verification test before their messages are posted.

- **Verify Guest Searches**

Searches by guests will be required to pass the Human Verification test before searching is executed.

- **Verify Guest Contact Us**

Guests will be required to pass the Human Verification test before leaving feedback. This only applies if sendmessage.php is being used as the Contact Us Link and Guests are allowed to use Contact Us in [Site Name / URL / Contact Details](#)

When you are done, click the [Save] button to apply the changes.

Date and Time Options

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The vBulletin Options > vBulletin Options > Date and Time Options setting group is used to define the way dates and times are displayed on certain sections of the board in what way and how they should behave.

- **Datetime Display Option**

This option controls the display of dates throughout your forum

'Normal' uses the date and time formats below this option.

'Yesterday / Today' will show 'Yesterday' and 'Today' for dates that fall in those periods.

'Detailed' will show times such as '1 Minute Ago', '1 Hour Ago', '1 Day Ago', and '1 Week Ago'.

- **Default Time Zone Offset**

Time zone offset for guests and new users. Do not take DST into consideration, rather use the next option to enable/disable DST.

- **Enable Daylight Savings**

If Daylight Savings Time is currently in effect for the above time zone, enable this option so that guests will see the correct times on posts and events. This has no effect on registered users as they control their DST options in the User CP. This setting is not automatic and it will need to be changed when the timezone changes twice a year.

- **Format For Date**

Format in which the date is presented on vBulletin pages.

Examples:

US Format (e.g., 04-25-98): m-d-y

Expanded US Format (e.g., April 25th, 1998): F jS, Y

European Format (e.g., 25-04-98): d-m-y

Expanded European Format (e.g., 25th April 1998): JS F Y

- **Format For Time**

Format in which the time is presented on all vBulletin pages.

Examples:

AM/PM Time Format (eg, 11:15 PM): h:i A

24-Hour Format Time (eg, 23:15): H:i

- **Format For Registration Date**

This is used to format dates shown with users' posts. In the left hand column of a topic display, under the username and title, there is some text showing when the user registered.

- **Format For Birthdays with Year Specified**

Format of date shown in profile when user gives their birth-year.

- **Format For Birthdays with Year Unspecified**

Format of user's birthday shown on profile when the user does not specify their birth-year. **DO NOT** put in a code for the year.

- **Log Date Format**

Format of dates shown in Control Panel logs.

Note:

Date and Time formats follow PHP formatting rules. You can find out more about these rules by visiting the PHP manual.

For information on date and time formats in PHP please visit the following page: <http://www.php.net/manual-lookup.php?function=date>

When you are done, click the [Save] button to apply the changes.

Cookie and HTTP Header Options

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The Settings > Options > Cookies and HTTP Header Options setting group allows you to control the cookie settings, gzip compression, HTTP headers and redirect messages options.

- **Time-Out for Cookie**

This is the time in seconds that a user must remain inactive before any unread posts are marked read. This setting also controls how long a user will remain on Who's Online after their last activity.

- **Path to Save Cookies**

The path to which the cookie is saved. If you run more than one forum on the same domain, it will be necessary to set this to the individual directories of the forums. Otherwise, just leave it as /.

Please note that your path should always end in a forward-slash; for example '/forums', '/vbulletin/' etc.

Warning:

Entering an invalid setting can leave you unable to login to your forum. Only change this setting if you absolutely need to do so.

- **Cookie Domain**

This option sets the domain on which the cookie is active. The most common reason to change this setting is that you have two different urls to your forum, i.e. example.com and forums.example.com. To allow users to

stay logged into the forum if they visit via either url, you would set this to .example.com (note the domain begins with a dot).

Warning:

You most likely want to leave this setting blank as entering an invalid setting can leave you unable to login to your forum.

- **GZIP HTML Output**

Selecting yes will enable vBulletin to GZIP compress the HTML output of pages, thus reducing bandwidth requirements. This will be only used on clients that support it, and are HTTP 1.1 compliant. There will be a small performance overhead.

Note:

This feature requires the ZLIB library.

If you are already using mod_gzip on your server, do not enable this option.

- **GZIP Compression Level**

Set the level of GZIP compression that will take place on the output. 0=none; 9=max.

We strongly recommend that you use level 1 for optimum results.

- **Add Standard HTTP Headers**

This option does not work with some combinations of web server, so is off by default. However, some IIS setups may need it turned on.

It will send the 200 OK HTTP headers if turned on.

- **Add No-Cache HTTP Headers**

Selecting yes will cause vBulletin to add no-cache HTTP headers. These are very effective, so adding them may cause server load to increase due to an increase in page requests.

- **Remove Redirection Message Pages**

Enabling this option will remove the update pages that are displayed after a user makes a post, starts a search, etc. These pages provide assurance to the user that their information has been processed by the forum. Disabling these pages will save you bandwidth and may lessen the load of the forum on your server.

Note:

Some pages will still use the redirection page when cookies are involved to prevent some potential problems.

When you are done, click the [Save] button to apply the changes.

Server Settings and Optimization Options

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The Settings > Options > Server Settings and Optimization Options setting group lets you control the server settings to optimize display of posts through post cache, your email sending options and several other options and settings that is definitely worth to walk through and setup.

- **Public phpinfo() Display Enabled**

If you enable this option, anyone can view your phpinfo() page by adding &do=phpinfo to a forum URL. vBulletin Support may ask you to temporarily enable this to help diagnose problems if you request technical support. Otherwise, we recommend turning it off.

- **Cached Posts Lifespan**

Posts are normally stored with bbcode tags etc. in the same form as the user posted them with so that it may be edited later, and then parsed at display time. By caching them, they are parsed at post time (instead of display time) into the HTML they will be displayed in and stored separately from the pre-parsed posts. This results in a faster display on topics, since the posts do not have to be parsed at display time.

This option determines how long posts are stored. While a post is cached, it will take approximately twice as much storage space since it is essentially being stored twice. If you have a busy site, and topics typically don't last very long, you can probably set this to a lower value such as 10 days. If you have a slower site, and topics typically last longer, 20 to 30 days might be a better choice. If you have the disc space, you can set this to a higher value for better performance.

- **Update Thread Views Immediately**

If you enable this option, the thread view counter for a thread will be updated in realtime as threads are viewed. Otherwise, they will be stored and updated every hour (by default) en masse. We recommend disabling this option for larger or busier forums as updating them in realtime can have a performance impact.

- **Update Attachment Views Immediately**

If you enable this option, the attachment view counter for an attachment will be updated in realtime as attachments are viewed. Otherwise, they will be stored and updated every hour (by default) en masse. We recommend disabling this option for larger or busier forums as updating them in realtime can have a performance impact.

- **Simultaneous Sessions Limit**

Set this to the maximum number of simultaneous sessions that you want to be active at any one time. If this number is exceeded, new users are turned away until the server is less busy.

Set this to 0 to disable this option.

- ***NIX Server Load Limit**

vBulletin can read the overall load of the server on certain *NIX setups (including Linux).

This allows vBulletin to determine the load on the server and processor, and to turn away further users if the load becomes too high. If you do not want to use this option, set it to 0. A typical level would be 5.00 for a reasonable warning level.

- **Safe Mode Upload Enabled**

If your server has Safe Mode enabled, you should set this to Yes. You can determine if Safe Mode is enabled by viewing your phpinfo page and searching for Safe Mode.

- **Safe Mode Temporary Directory**

If your server is running in PHP Safe Mode, you'll need to specify a directory that is CHMOD to 777 that will act as a temporary directory for uploads. All files are removed from this directory after database insertion.

Note:

Do NOT include the trailing slash ('/') after the directory name.

- Duplicate Search Index Information on Topic Copy?**

It is not strictly necessary to index a copied topic since the original topic is already indexed. However, you may wish to index copied topics for the sake of completeness. Setting this option to yes will cause search index information to be copied with each post in the topic. This allows the copied version of the topic to be searchable as well. However, on larger boards, this may cause significant delays in copying a topic. If this is a problem for you, we recommend disabling this option.

When you are done, click the [Save] button to apply the changes.

Friendly URLs

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Enabling friendly URLs can increase your site's ranking in search engines and can be useful for users to understand the URL's that they follow.

URL Type

Type	Example
Standard URLs	showthread.php?t=12345
Basic Friendly URLs	showthread.php?1234-Thread-Title
Advanced Friendly URLs	showthread.php/1234-Thread-Title
Mod Rewrite Friendly URLs	threads/1234-Thread-Title

Note:

Note: In order to use the Mod Rewrite Friendly URLs the appropriate rewrite rules must be defined for your server. You can find a basic .htaccess file containing these rules for an Apache 2.X server in htaccess sub-folder within the the Do Not Upload folder of your download package. Upload this file to your forum root.

Default Value: Basic Friendly URLs

Enforce Canonical URL

This options defines how canonical URLs are enforced for guest users (including search engines).

If Standard is selected then guest users will be redirected to the correct URL if they request a page using the wrong Friendly URL format.

If Strict is selected then guest users will also be redirected to the correct URL if they request a page using the wrong text. This may also include requesting URLs in the wrong character set.

Default Value: Standard

Enforce Canonical URL for Registered Users

Setting this value to 'Yes' will set the 'Enforce Canonical URL' setting to also apply to registered users. Default Value: Yes

Friendly URL Unicode

This option determines how to handle unicode in URLs.

If your content generally differs from your language charset then converting to UTF-8 may provide the best results while ignoring unicode may result in the majority of your URLs displaying incorrectly.

If the majority of your content matches your language charset then stripping unicode may provide the best results. Ignoring unicode may cause some URLs to display incorrectly.

Default Value: Ignore

NCR Encode UTF-8 URLs for IE

This option determines whether to NCR encode URLs for Internet Explorer when Friendly URL Unicode is set to Convert to UTF-8.

This will ensure that UTF-8 URLs display correctly in Internet Explorer. However it will add some performance overhead and if Enforce Canonical URL is set to Strict may cause guest users to be redirected to a URL that cannot be displayed correctly in Internet Explorer's address bar.

Note: This option can only be used if the mbstring extension is enabled, or if your PCRE has unicode support.

Default Value: No

Standard URL Routing Variable

The variable to use in the URL when using Standard URLs. Ensure that this is not set to a variable used elsewhere by vBulletin. Default Value: r

Style and Language Settings

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The Settings > Options > Style & Language Settings setting group lets you set the default style and language for your site.

Here you can setup the behaviors for the CSS file (store as file), Popup menus (hide or show) and postbit (new or legacy).

Email Options

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Use the vBulletin Options > vBulletin Options > Email Options setting group to setup the behaviour of your email features throughout the board.

Here you can setup:

- Enable and Disable your Email Features as a global switch

- Allow users to Email other Members
- How Email addresses are displayed (public or private)
- Email Flood Control

Sending email via SMTP

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Relying on the PHP internal mail function has always caused problems with a few configurations. The PHP internal mail function is simply a wrapper for the systems own mail program such as sendmail or procmail. The problems occur when certain configurations have extra authentication settings or confusing with line endings. This has been resolved by the introduction of our mail class to correct any problems that may occur with the internal mail function and also to allow the use of SMTP which will completely bypass PHP's own internal mail function.

The SMTP server options can be edited via the Email Options in the vBulletin Options, this will be enabled via the SMTP Email switch and then the appropriate settings must be completed.

SMTP Email		[Edit] [Delete]
Set this option to yes to use a SMTP server rather than the internal PHP mail() function.		
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		?
SMTP Host		[Edit] [Delete]
If you've enabled SMTP mail, please specify the host here. You may find that specifying an IP Address rather than a domain name, results in better performance. Example: smtp.gmail.com		
<input type="text" value="192.168.1.10"/>		?
SMTP Port		[Edit] [Delete]
If you've enabled SMTP mail, please specify the port here.		
<input type="text" value="25"/>		?
SMTP Username		[Edit] [Delete]
If you've enabled SMTP mail and your server requires authentication, please specify your username here.		
<input type="text"/>		?
SMTP Password		[Edit] [Delete]
If you've enabled SMTP mail and your server requires authentication, please specify your password here.		
<input type="text"/>		?
SMTP Secure Connection		[Edit] [Delete]
If you've enabled SMTP mail and your server requires a TLS connection, please set this to yes. This requires OpenSSL support to be compiled into PHP.		
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		?

It should be noted that the majority of servers do not require a username and password to send SMTP as they are limited by IP address. Also the use of your ISP email is not recommended as this is usually limited to the network of the ISP and will result in a failure to send email.

SMTP Email		[Edit] [Delete]
Set this option to yes to use a SMTP server rather than the internal PHP mail() function.		
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		?
SMTP Host		[Edit] [Delete]
If you've enabled SMTP mail, please specify the host here. You may find that specifying an IP Address rather than a domain name, results in better performance. Example: smtp.gmail.com		
<input type="text" value="smtp.gmail.com"/>		?
SMTP Port		[Edit] [Delete]
If you've enabled SMTP mail, please specify the port here.		
<input type="text" value="465"/>		?
SMTP Username		[Edit] [Delete]
If you've enabled SMTP mail and your server requires authentication, please specify your username here.		
<input type="text" value="example@gmail.com"/>		?
SMTP Password		[Edit] [Delete]
If you've enabled SMTP mail and your server requires authentication, please specify your password here.		
<input type="text" value="password"/>		?
SMTP Secure Connection		[Edit] [Delete]
If you've enabled SMTP mail and your server requires a TLS connection, please set this to yes. This requires OpenSSL support to be compiled into PHP.		
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		?

Censorship Options

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Use the Settings > Options > Censorship Options setting group to manage the words you specify to be placed with characters.

All message titles and messages will be affected.

Note:

To use the censor feature on your site, don't forget to activate it!

User Registration Options

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These options allow you to control how new user registrations are handled on your forums.

Settings > Options > User Registration Options

- **Allow New User Registrations** - If you would like to temporarily (or permanently) prevent anyone new from registering, you can do so. Anyone attempting to register will be told that you are not accepting new registrations at this time.
- **Use COPPA Registration System** - Use the COPPA registration system. This complies with the COPPA laws and requires children under the age of 13 to get parental consent before they can post.

For more info about this law, see here: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/buspubs/coppa.htm>

- **COPPA Registration System Cookie Check** - This option will save a cookie onto the user's computer if an age under 13 is entered. Subsequent registration attempts will be failed, no matter what age is entered. This only applies if the previous option is set to either Enable COPPA or Deny registration for users under 13 years.
- **Moderate New Members** - Allows you to validate new members before they are classified as registered members and are allowed to post.
- **Send Welcome Email** - Enabling this option will send a welcome email to new users using the email body/subject phrases for 'welcomemail'.

Note: If you require emails to be verified, this email will be sent after the user has activated his or her account. If you moderate new memberships, no welcome mail will be sent as the user will already be receiving an email.

- **Welcome Private Message** - Enabling this option will send a welcome private message to new users. Please input the username of the user that this PM is to be sent from. To alter or translate this message, use the email body/subject phrases for 'welcomepm'.

Note: If you require emails to be verified, this message will be sent after the user has activated his or her account. Also ensure that Receive Private Messages is enabled in the Default Registration Options.

- **Email Address to Notify About New Members** - This email address will receive an email message when a new user signs up. Leave the option blank to disable this function.
- **Allow Multiple Registrations Per User** - Normally, vBulletin will stop users signing up for multiple names by checking for a cookie on the user's machine. If one exists, then the user may not sign up for additional names. Note: This does not stop users from logging out and then registering new accounts.

If you wish to allow your users to sign up for multiple names, then select yes for this option, and they will not be blocked from registering additional usernames.

- **Verify Email address in Registration** - If you set this option to 'Yes' new members will not be allowed to post messages until they visit a link that is sent to them in an email when they sign up.

If a user's account is not activated by the user visiting the link, it will remain in the 'Users Awaiting Activation' usergroup.

- **Require Unique Email Addresses** - The default option is to require unique email addresses for each registered user. This means that no two users can have the same email address. You can disable this requirement by setting this option to 'No'.
- **Minimum Username Length** - Enter the minimum number of characters in a valid username, for the purpose of ensuring that new members create valid usernames.
- **Maximum Username Length** - Enter the maximum number of characters in a valid username, for the purpose of ensuring that new members create valid usernames.
- **Illegal User Names** - Enter names in here that you do not want people to be able to register. If any of the names here are included within the username, the user will told that there is an error. For example, if you make the name John illegal, the name Johnathan will also be disallowed. Separate names by spaces.
- **Username Regular Expression** - You may require the username to match a regular expression (PCRE). The admin help provides some examples that may be useful. To disable this function leave the option blank.
- **User Referrer** - If you enable the User Referrer system, then a user who visits your forum through a link that contains 'referrerid=XXX' will give referral credit to the owner of the referrerid when they register (where XXX is the userid of the referring user).
- **Default Registration Options** - The user options on the New User creation form in the Admin Control Panel, as well as the New User registration form will default to the following settings.

You can control the following settings:

Receive Admin Emails
 Invisible Mode
 Display Email
 Receive Private Messages
 Send Notification Email When a Private Message is Received
 Pop up a Notification Box When a Private Message is Received
 Enable Visitor Messaging
 Limit usage of Visitor Messages to Contacts and Moderators
 Allow vCard Download
 Display Signatures
 Display Avatars
 Display Images
 Display Reputation
 Automatic Thread Subscription Mode
 Message Editor Interface
 Thread Display Mode
 Require Birthday

- **Username Reuse Delay** - When a username is changed, you may wish to prevent users from registering with that name for a certain length of time. Use this setting to determine the time before a deleted or previous username can be reused, or set it to 0 to disable this function.

User Refractions & Post Reporting Options

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Use the Settings > Options > User Infractions & Post Reporting Options setting group to manage user infraction and post reporting notifications.

- **User Infraction Discussion Forum**

A discussion thread can be created for each user infraction for moderators to discuss the infraction further. Choose a forum for the discussion threads to be created in.

If you do not wish a discussion thread to be created for user infractions, set this to Select Forum

- **Require Infraction Message**

This option requires that the user sending an infraction include a PM or Email, depending on your forum settings.

- **Post Reporting Discussion Forum**

A discussion thread can be created for each reported post for moderators to discuss the post further. Choose a forum for the discussion threads to be created in.

Note:

Reported Visitor Messages, Social Group Messages and Album Pictures & Messages also are posted in the forum set here.

If you do not wish a discussion thread to be created for reported items, set this to Select Forum

- **Post Reporting User**

Reported post discussion threads default to being posted under the username of the reporter. To have the threads reported under another username, enter an existing username.

- **Post Reporting Email**

This option sends an email to the specified users when a post is reported. It can be sent to moderators, super moderators and administrators, moderators only, or no email sent.

Note:

If the Post Reporting Email is set to **No Email** and the Post Reporting Discussion Forum is set to **Select Forum** then no notifications of any kind will be issued for reported items.

User Profile Options

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With these options you can control how the way your users edit their profile.

Settings > Options > User Profile Options

Enabled User Profile Features

Use this option to globally enable or disable the various user profile-related features. Additional options are available for each feature in their respective sections.

Require Date of Birth

Require users to provide a valid date of birth (1902 to current year).

[note]When this is set to Yes users cannot edit their date of birth once it has been set.

User Title Maximum Characters

This is the maximum number of characters allowed for a user's custom title.

Censored Words for Usertitle

Type all words you want censored in the Usertitle in the field below. Do not use commas to separate words, just use spaces. For example, type "dog cat boy", rather than "dog, cat, boy."

If you type "dog", all words containing the string "dog" would be censored (dogma, for instance, would appear as "***ma"). To censor more accurately, you can require that censors occur only for exact words. You can do this by placing a censor word in curly braces, as in {dog}. Signifying "dog" in the curly braces would mean that dogma would appear as dogma, but dog would appear as "***". Thus your censor list may appear as: cat {dog} {barn} barn

Do not use quotation marks and make sure you use curly braces, not parentheses, when specifying exact words.

Exempt Moderators From Censor

Do you want to exempt your forum Moderators from the censor words? You will want to set this to yes if you censor anything that is part of a moderator's title like 'moderator' as they have custom titles by default and will get censored.

Number of friends to display in the small friends block

The Number of Friends to display in the Small Friends Block on the Users' Profile Pages

Friends Per Page on Full Friends List[b]

The Amount of Friends to show "per page" on the large friends list.

[b]Maximum Visitors to Show on Profile Page

Set an upper limit for the number of recent visitors to show. Recent visitor records are cleaned out on a regular basis, so keep this to a reasonably small number. Somewhere between 5 to 30 is ideal.

Show Last Post on Profile Page

Showing the last post on a member profile can cause large table scans which leads to table locking. This may increase load time on your forums as well as the load of your server. This option should only be enabled for smaller forums.

Signature Soft-Linebreak Character Limit

When counting the number of lines in a signature, this setting controls the number of characters that can be displayed before text wraps in the browser and is displayed as multiple lines. Once this value is surpassed, the run of text will be counted as multiple lines.

The value in this setting should be based on the number of normal-sized characters. Other sized characters will be scaled appropriately to this setting.

Allow Users to 'Ignore' Moderators

Allow users to add Moderators and Administrators to their ignore list?

User Profile: Album Options

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With these options you can control the settings for User Albums.

Settings > Options > User Profile: Album Options

Albums Per Page

When listing multiple albums on one page, this controls how many will be displayed before pagination occurs.

Number of Albums to display in the Users Profile

The Maximum Number of Albums to Display on the Users' Profile Pages

Pictures Per Page

When viewing an album, this controls how many pictures are displayed before pagination occurs.

Picture Moderation

When enabled, all new pictures are placed into moderation. This can also be enabled in usergroup permissions.

Album Thumbnail Size

The maximum height and width of thumbnails in the album system. Each picture's aspect ratio will be maintained when it is thumbnailled.

Caption Preview Length

The amount of characters from a picture's caption that will be shown when a user hovers over the picture.

Number of Pictures that can be Uploaded Simultaneously

This controls the number of pictures users can upload simultaneously. They will not be able to violate any album- or usergroup-implied size limits if you set this value too large.

Maximum Pictures per Album

You may choose to limit the number of pictures that a user can have in one album. This is primarily useful for encouraging your users to have albums for smaller topics, but it does have minor performance considerations as well. Setting this to 0 disables the limit.

Enable Picture Comments

Set this option to yes if you would like to enable commenting on album and group pictures. Comments are associated with the picture itself, so comments will be shown anywhere the picture is shown.

Moderate Picture Comments

When enabled, all new picture comments are placed into moderation. This can also be enabled in usergroup permissions.

Default Picture Comments Per-Page

This setting allows you to define the default number of picture comments displayed per-page with a picture.

Maximum Picture Comments Per-Page

This setting allows you to limit the number of picture comments users may display per page with a picture.

Allowed BB Code Tags in Picture Comments

This setting allows you to enable and disable the use of various BB codes in picture comments.

User Profile: Style Customization Options

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With these options you can control the options for users customizing their profile page style.

Settings > Options > User Profile: Style Customization Options

Allowed Fonts

The list of allowed fonts for profile style customizations. Each font must be on its own line.

Allowed Font Sizes

The list of allowed fonts size for profile style customizations. Put each font size on its own line. You may use any size that is valid in CSS.

Allowed Border Widths

The list of allowed border width sizes for profile style customizations. Put each border width size on its own line.

Allowed Padding

The list of allowed padding sizes for profile style customizations. Put each padding size on its own line.

User Profile: Visitor Messaging Options

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With these options you can control visitor messages on users profiles.

Settings > Options > User Profile: Visitor Messaging Options

Maximum Characters Per Visitor Message

Maximum characters to allow in a visitor message. Set this to 0 for no limit.

Default Visitor Messages Per-Page

This setting allows you to define the default number of messages displayed per-page in the user profiles.

Maximum Visitor Messages Per-Page

This setting allows you to limit the number of messages users may display per page in the user profiles.

Visitor Message Moderation

When enabled, all new visitor messages are placed into moderation. This can also be enabled in usergroup

permissions.

Allowed BB Code Tags in Visitor Messages

This setting allows you to enable and disable the use of various BB codes in visitor messages.

Social Group Options

With these options you can control the use of social groups.

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Settings > Options > Social Group Options

Social Group Name Maximum Length

Enter the maximum number of characters allowed in social group names. Names longer than this limit will be rejected.

Social Group Message Moderation

When enabled, all new group messages are placed into moderation. This can also be enabled in usergroup permissions.

Enable Social Group Messages

If you select this option, members of each group will be able to post messages in the group. Users who are not part of the group will still be able to read the messages.

Allow Groups Owners to Force New Group Messages into Moderation Queue

This option allows a group owner (with the Manage Own Social Groups' Content Permission) to set the group so that all Group Messages are automatically sent to the moderation queue.

Enable Social Group Pictures

If this option is selected, any users with albums will be able to add pictures from an album to groups they belong to.

Allow Join-to-View Groups

When set, this allows the creator of a group the option to only show contents (messages, pictures) of the group to members of that group (or Administrators and Moderators).

Allowed BB Code Tags in Social Group Messages

This setting allows you to enable and disable the use of various BB codes in group messages.

Allow Owners to Delete Social Group if Empty

This option will allow any group owner to delete a Social Group if they are the only member of that group (even if they lack the "Can Delete Own Social Groups" permission)

User Picture Options

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Use the Settings > Options > User Picture Options setting group to manage the settings for the avatars and profile pictures.

Note:

This is the section for the global switch, use the usergroup permissions to setup the permissions on a usergroup basis.

User Picture Options		Help
Avatars Enabled		
Use this option to enable/disable the overall use of avatars. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
Avatars are small images chosen by the user and displayed under usernames in thread display and user info pages.		
Avatar Display Width		
How many columns of avatars do you wish to display to the user when selecting a pre-defined avatar? <input type="text" value="5"/>		
Avatars Per-Page		
How many avatars do you want to display per-page on the 'Edit Avatar' page within the profile editor? <input type="text" value="10"/>		
Profile Pictures Enabled		
Use this option to enable/disable the overall use of profile pictures. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
Profile pictures are small images (although usually larger than avatars) that users can upload to their profile pages.		
Save Reset		

- **Avatars Enabled**

Use this option to enable/disable the overall use of avatars.

Avatars are small images chosen by the user and displayed under usernames in thread display and user info pages.

You can enable/disable avatars on a per-usergroup level by disabling their ability to use any avatar categories under Avatars > Avatar Manager. You can enable/disable custom avatars in Usergroups > Usergroup Manager. Set this option to 'no' to turn it off.

- **Avatar Display Width**

How many columns of avatars do you wish to display of pre-defined avatars in the User Control Panel to the

user when selecting a pre-defined avatar?

Example: 5

- **Avatars Per-Page**

How many avatars do you want to display per-page on the 'Edit Avatar' page within the profile editor, broken into columns by the Avatar Display Width setting above?

Example: 10

- **Profile Pictures Enabled**

Use this option to enable/disable the overall use of profile pictures.

Profile pictures are small images (although usually larger than avatars) that users can upload to their profile pages. You can set this per-usergroup with the Can Upload Profile Pictures setting in Usergroup Manager. Set this option to 'no' to turn it off.

When you are done, click the [Save] button to apply the changes.

Note:

To manage your pre-defined avatars, or to control the storage of avatars, go to the [Avatars](#) section.

User Reputation Options

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This section contains many settings that dictate how users of your forum are able to affect each other's reputation score.

- **Enable User Reputation system**

This is the global switch for the reputation system. If you disable this, users will not be able to rate each other nor will their scores be visible.

- **Default Reputation**

This is the reputation score that new users will start out with.

- **Number of Reputation Levels to Display**

When a user enters their User CP, they will see a list of their most recent reputation ratings. This affects how many of the latest ratings to display.

- **Administrator's Reputation Power**

If you wish to have administrator's wield a certain reputation power independent of their calculated score, enter it here. Otherwise, set this to 0 and they will use the same calculations as everyone else.

- **Register Date Factor**

The number of reputation points that a user is able to give or take is dependant on several factors, with the length they have been registered as one of them. A user's power is first initialized at 1 and then this factor and the factors that follow are used to increase it. For example if you set this to 365, every 365 days that the user has been a member of your forum, they would gain one point. So if they have been a member for five years, they would gain 5 points of power for a total of 6.

- **Post Count Factor**

The amount of posts that a user has can also affect their reputation power. Set this to number of posts that you want to award one point for. For example, set this to 50 and for a user with 500 posts, they would gain 10 points of power.

- **Reputation Point Factor**

The users current reputation score can also affect their reputation power. Set this to 100 and a user with a reputation of 1000 would gain 10 points of reputation power. If you set any of the power factors to 0, that will effectively remove that factor from having an effect on the user's reputation power.

- **Minimum Post Count**

If the reputation system is enabled, anyone will be able to rate a post but only users with a post count above the level you set here will be able to actually give points or take points from another user.

- **Minimum Reputation Count**

As with the post count above, a user must have a reputation above this level to be able to give or take points from another user's score.

- **Daily Reputation Clicks Limit**

This sets how many unique members that a forum user will be able to rate in any 24 hour period. Administrators can rate as many people as they wish.

- **Reputation User Spread**

This setting dictates how many unique members that a user must rate before they are able to rate the same member twice. The goal of this setting is to stop a member from either artificially bumping or dropping a user by repeatedly rating their posts.

User Notes Options

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Users with permission to read / write usernotes are now able to go to a profile of a member and leave usernotes about this person. This feature is intended to allow staff members to discuss members and keep the information organized rather than having a variety of threads in a staff forum.

The Settings > Options > User Notes Options setting group allows you to set up the parsing for a usernote. You can turn on or off the use of BB Code, Smilies, [IMG] tags and usage of HTML.

Note:

The ability to use usernotes, read them, read your own, allow others to reply or manage them is a usergroup setting. Do not forget to walk through each usergroup to set the use and permissions of usernotes correctly.

User Notes Options

Allow vB Code in User Notes
Allow vB Code to be used in user notes? (Such as [b], [i] etc.) Yes No ?

Allow Smilies in User Notes
Allow smilies to be used in user notes? Yes No ?

Allow [IMG] Code in User Notes
Allow [IMG] code to be used in user notes? Yes No ?

Allow HTML in User Notes
Allow raw HTML code to be used in user notes? Yes No ?
(Strongly not recommended.)

Save **Reset**

Basically the usernotes are plain-text entries that hold comments from other (staff) members. Turn on these options to allow markup of text and insertion of smilies / images or even HTML

- **Allow vB Code in User Notes**

If you want to markup the text with BOLD or ITALIC or other common vBulletin BB Code tags, set this option to Yes.

- **Allow Smilies in User Notes**

If you want a smilie like :) parsed to an image, set this option to Yes.

- **Allow [IMG] Code in User Notes**

If you want to allow insertion of images into the usernotes, set this option to Yes.

- **Allow HTML in User Notes**

If you even want to allow HTML to be used, set this option to Yes.

Warning! If you allow HTML to be inserted, you are open for risks of abuse - it is strongly not recommended.

User Listing Options

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Settingss > Options > User Listing Options

This section of the Admin Control Panel allows you to set options for the Member List including:

- **Members List Enabled**

This allows users to view all users who belong to those usergroups that have "Viewable on Memberlist" enabled (See [Usergroups & Permissions](#)).

- **Minimum Posts**

You can define a minimum post count that a user must reach before they are displayed on the memberlist.

- **Member List Field Options**

Allows you to select which User Profile fields are viewable on the memberlist.

- **Members Per Page**

The number of records per page that will be shown by default in the members list before the results are split over multiple pages.

- **Allow Advanced Searches**

Allow the use of the advanced search tool for the Member List. If turned off, members will only be able to search by username.

User Banning Options

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Settings > Options > User Banning Options

This section of the Admin Control Panel allows you to set the Banning Options for your forum along with IP bans.

- **Enable Banning Options**

Banning allows you to stop certain IP addresses and email addresses from registering and posting to the forum.

- **Banned IP Addresses**

Use this option to prevent certain IP addresses from accessing any part of your board.

If you enter a complete IP address (242.21.11.7), only that IP will be banned.

If you enter a partial IP (243.21.11. or 243.21.11), any IPs that begin with the partial IP will be banned. For example, banning 243.21.11 will prevent 243.21.11.7 from accessing your board. However, 243.21.115.7 would still be able to access your board.

You may also use an '*' as a wildcard for increased flexibility. For example, if you enter 243.21.11*, many IPs will be banned including: 243.21.11.7, 243.21.115.7, 243.21.119.225.

Warning:

Use this option with caution. Entering an incorrect IP can result in banning yourself or other genuine users from your forums.

- **Banned Email Addresses**

Email address ban lists: You may ban any email addresses from registering and posting. Type in the complete email address (user@example.com), or use a partial email address (as in @example.com).

Note that partial email addresses are matched from the end of the address unless you enable 'Aggressive Email Banning' below. Therefore if you ban @example.com you will ban user@example.com, but if you ban @example that user will not be banned. If you enable 'Aggressive Email Banning', user@example.com would

be banned by @example.

If the email address of a user attempting to register or change their email address matches any of the addresses you specify here will see a no-permission error. For example, if you have banned 'example.com' then a user attempting to use 'someone@example.com' will be rejected.

- **Aggressive Email Banning**

If this option is enabled, when checking for banned emails, incomplete addresses are matched anywhere in the email address, not just the end.

For example, if this option is enabled 'yahoo' will block any email address with 'yahoo' in it. If this option is disabled, no emails will be banned unless the ban was changed to 'yahoo.com'.

- **Allow User to Keep Banned Email Addresses**

If you ban an email address and a user already uses that address, a problem will occur. Using this option, you can specify whether the user will have to enter a new email address in their profile when they next modify their email address, or whether the user can just keep the email address which you have banned.

- **Global Ignore**

This option allows you to effectively add a user or users to every member's 'Ignore List'. However, users in this list can still see their own posts and threads...

Enter a list of userid numbers, separated by spaces (for example: 4 12 68 102).

Note:

If you change this option, you need to rebuild thread and then forum information in [Maintenance > Update Counters](#).

BBCode Options

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vBulletin Options > vBulletin Options > BB Code Settings

- **Enabled Built-in BB Code Tags**

This setting allows you to enable and disable various built-in BB code tags in vBulletin. The BB Codes that can be enabled or disabled here are:

Basic BB Code (Bold, Italic, Underline)
 Color BB Code
 Size BB Code
 Font BB Code
 Alignment BB Code
 List BB Code
 Link BB Code
 Code BB Code
 PHP BB Code
 HTML BB Code

Note:

Disabling a BB code tag will prevent it from working anywhere on the forum, including signatures, private messages, user notes etc.

- **Maximum [CODE] Lines**

When a user posts a block of [CODE], [PHP] or [HTML] in one of their messages, the system will place it in a box, which expands to contain their message.

This value controls the number of lines at which the box stops adding height and inserts a scrollbar.

- **Allow BB Code in Non Forum Specific Areas**

Allow users to include BB code in non-forum-specific areas? (Such as [b], [i] etc.)

- **Allow Smilies in Non Forum Specific Areas**

Allow users to include smilies in Non Forum Specific Areas?

- **Allow [IMG] Code in Non Forum Specific Areas**

Allow users to include [IMG] codes in Non Forum Specific Areas?

- **Allow HTML in Non Forum Specific Areas**

Allow users to include raw HTML code in Non Forum Specific Areas?

Warning:

Enabling this setting is strongly not recommended.

Message Posting and Editing Options

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Settings > Options > Message Posting and Editing Options

- **Quick Reply**

If you enable Quick Reply, a box will appear on the showthread.php page allowing users to reply to the current thread without needing to load the full newreply.php page.

When Quick Reply is enabled, you may specify whether or not users must click the Quick Reply icon in order to start typing in the Quick Reply editor.

If you choose not to require a click, the system will not know to which post a user is replying, making both the threaded and hybrid display modes nonsensical.

Note:

We strongly recommend that you set the option to require a click if you use Quick Reply and have Threaded Mode available on your forums.

- **Quick Edit**

By enabling Quick Edit, a click on the Edit button in a post will open an editor within that post via AJAX if the visitor's browser is compatible.

Users may use the full editor by clicking the 'Go Advanced' button in the inline editor.

- **Multi-Quote Enabled**

If this option is enabled, an additional button will appear on posts. A user may click as many of these buttons as they wish. Once they click a reply button, the content of each of the selected posts will be quoted and shown in the reply window.

- **Multi-Quote Quote Limit**

Enter a value to limit the number of quotes that can be created with Multi-Quote, once this limit is reached the user will be unable to add any more quotes.

Note:

The Quote BB code can still be entered manually, this is not a limit on the number of quotes in a post.

- **Minimum Characters Per Post**

If this number is set to a value greater than 0, users must enter at least that number of characters in each new post.

Note:

Setting this to 0 will not completely disable the minimum characters per post check. Users must always enter at least 1 character.

- **Maximum Characters Per Post**

Posts that contain more characters than the value specified here will be rejected with a message telling the user to shorten their post.

Set the value to 0 to disable this function.

- **Maximum Characters Per Thread/Post Title**

Thread and post titles will be limited to this number of characters. Please choose a value larger than 0 and less than 251.

- **Ignore Words in [QUOTE] Tags For Min Chars Check**

Setting this option to 'YES' will cause the system to not count words in [QUOTE] tags towards the total number of characters posted.

The primary use for this is to prevent users posting messages with enormous quotes and a single short word of their own.

- **Automatically Quote Post / Thread Title**

Setting this to 'Yes' will automatically fill the title field of new posts with either the thread or the parent post title, prefixed by 'Re: '.

The user may specify their own title if they want to do so.

- **Maximum Images Per Post**

When a new post is submitted or edited vBulletin will check the number of images and smilies in the text and reject it if the number is greater than the value specified here.

Set the value to 0 to disable this function.

- **Prevent 'SHOUTING'**

Prevent your users 'shouting' in their thread titles/message text by changing all-uppercase titles with at least this many characters to capitalization only on the first letters of some words.

Set the value to 0 to disable this function.

Note:

Disable this for some international forums with different character sets, as this may cause problems.

- **Minimum Time Between Posts**

You may prevent your users from flooding your forum with posts by activating this feature.

By enabling floodcheck, you disallow users from making another post within a given time span of their last posting. In other words, if you set a floodcheck time span of 30 seconds, a user may not post again within 30 seconds of making his last post.

Note:

Administrators and moderators are exempt from floodcheck.

Recommended: 30 seconds. Type the number of seconds only. Enter 0 to disable this function.

- **Time Limit on Editing of Thread Title**

Specify the time-limit (in minutes) within which the thread title may be edited by the user whom started the thread.

- **Time Limit on Adding a Poll to a Thread**

Specify the time-limit (in minutes) within which the thread may have a poll added to it.

- **Time Limit on Editing of Posts**

Time limit (in minutes) to impose on editing of messages. After this time limit only moderators will be able edit or delete the message. 1 day is 1440 minutes.

Set the value to 0 to allow users to edit their posts indefinitely.

- **Time to Wait Before Starting to Display 'Last Edited by...'**

Time limit (in minutes) to allow user to edit the post without the "Last edited by..." message appearing at the bottom of the edited post.

- **Log IP Addresses**

For security reasons, you may wish to display the IP address of the person posting a message.

- **Post Edit History**

Enable this option to log the previous versions of posts when they are edited.

Edits will not be logged if an 'edited by' notice is not displayed or updated. This occurs in the following situations:

1. The editing user is in a group that does not show edited by notices and no reason for editing is specified.
2. The post is edited quickly enough after being posted to trigger the Time to Wait Before Starting to Display 'Last Edited by...' option.

Note:

This will increase the amount of disk space used by vBulletin for database storage.

Message Posting Interface Options[Back to Top](#)

Settings > Options > Message Posting Interface Options

• Enable Clickable Message Formatting Controls

This global switch allows you to set the available message formatting toolbar and clickable smilies for the Full Editor, Quick Reply and Quick Edit individually. The option set for each one here is the maximum toolbar level available for each area.

• Smiliebox Total Smilies

How many smilies should be displayed in the smiliebox before the user is prompted to click for the more smilies popup window?

Set this value to 0 if you would like to hide the clickable smiliebox completely.

• Smiliebox Smilies Per Row

If the smiliebox is enabled, how many smilies should be shown per row of the box?

• Smilie Menu Total Smilies

Use this option to set the number of smilies that will appear in the WYSIWYG popup smilie menu before the 'show all smilies' link is displayed.

Set this value to 0 if you would like to hide the popup smilie menu completely.

Poll and Thread Rating Options[Back to Top](#)

Settings > Options > Poll and Thread Rating Options

• Maximum Poll Options

Maximum number of options a user can select for the poll.

Set this option to 0 to allow any number of options.

• Poll Option Length

Maximum length that a poll option can be.

• Update Thread Last Post on Poll Vote

If you set this option to 'Yes' the thread's last post time will be updated when a vote is placed, thereby returning it to the top of its parent forum listing.

Note:

This option can cause confusion. The last post time of a thread will be changed with no visible post.

• Required Thread Rating Votes to Show Rating

This option specifies the number of thread rating votes that must be cast of a particular thread before the current rating is displayed on forumdisplay.php and showthread.php.

• Allow Thread Rating Vote Changes

Allow users to change their original rating of a thread

Message Searching Options[Back to Top](#)

Settings > Options > Message Searching Options

• Search Engine Enabled

Allow searching for posts and threads within the forums. This is a relatively server-intensive process so you may want to disable it if you have problems.

• Minimum Time Between Searches

The minimum time (in seconds) that must expire before the user can perform a new search.

Set this to 0 to allow users to search as frequently as they want.

• Search Results Posts Per Page

Number of successful search results to display per page.

• Maximum Search Results to Return

Any search results over this number will be discarded.

• Search Index Minimum Word Length

When using the vBulletin default search, this option limits the size of indexed words. The smaller this number is, the larger your search index, and conversely your database is going to be.

Note:

When using the Fulltext search, this option limits the size of words that may be searched for. Smaller words take longer to search for as they are more common. MySQL Fulltext has its own minimum word length as well that must be changed at the server level.

• Automatic Similar Thread Search

Setting this option will cause a search for similar threads to be automatically done when a new thread is posted. These similar threads are then linked to from the newly posted thread's page. This can have an effect on performance.

• Search Result Sharing

In order to conserve resources, vBulletin will allow search results to be shared among users for one hour. The downside of this is that search results can appear out of order if a thread is updated in the interim.

• Similar Threads Relevance Threshold

For a post to be matched in a search for similar threads, it must have a score of this number or greater, per searchable word. For more information on how post scores are determined, see the Search Algorithms section.

• Words to be excluded from search

If there are special words that are very common for your forum, you may wish to remove them from being searchable. Searching for very common words on a large forum can be server intensive. Separate each word with a space.

Tagging Options[Back to Top](#)

Settings > Options > Tagging Options

• Enable Thread Tagging

This is a global option to enable or disable the thread tagging system. You may choose which usergroups can

apply tags to threads in the usergroup permissions section.

- **Tag Minimum Length**

The minimum number of characters in a tag name. This can be between 1 and 100.

- **Tag Maximum Length**

The maximum number of characters in a tag name. This can be between 0 and 100.

- **Thread Tag Banned Words**

These words will be checked in addition to those listed in includes/searchwords.php to form a list of words whose use is banned in tagging.

Separate each word with a space or carriage return.

- **Thread Tag Allowed Words**

Words entered here will be allowed as tags, regardless of whether or not their use would be otherwise disallowed due to length, censorship, commonality etc.

If a word is specified in the 'Banned' words group and here, it will be allowed.

Separate each word with a space or carriage return.

- **Tag Separators**

This option allows you to specify additional tag separators. Regardless of the value here, a comma will always be used as a separator.

Separate each tag separators with a space. If you would like to use a space in a tag separator, click the "?" for information on the advanced separator syntax.

- **Maximum Tags per Thread**

The maximum total tags per thread. No users may add more tags than this to an individual thread.

0 disables this.

- **Maximum Tags Applied by Thread Starter**

The maximum number of tags the thread starter can apply. Even if this setting allows it, the number of tags in a thread cannot exceed the "Maximum Tags per Thread" setting.

0 disables this limit. To prevent a user from tagging a thread, use user group permissions.

- **Maximum Tags Applied by Other Users**

The maximum number of tags the users other than the thread starter can apply. Even if this setting allows it, the number of tags in a thread cannot exceed the "Maximum Tags per Thread" setting.

0 disables this limit. To prevent a user from tagging a thread, use user group permissions.

- **Force Tags to be Lower Case**

If you enable this option, "A" through "Z" will be replaced with "a" through "z" in tag names. Other characters will not be changed.

- **Tag Cloud: Number of Tags**

The maximum number of tags to display in the tag cloud.

- **Tag Cloud: Number of Levels**

The number of levels to be shown in the tag cloud.

By default, there are 5 levels named level1 to level5, with the font size growing from its smallest size at level 1 to its largest at level 5.

Increasing this value above 5 requires a template change.

- **Tag Cloud: Cache Time**

Amount of time in minutes before the tag cloud data cache is regenerated.

A value of 0 will generate the tag cloud on each view.

- **Tag Cloud: Usage History (Days)**

The number of days worth of data that should be used to generate the usage-based tag cloud here.

Tags added more than this many days ago will not change the size of the link in the cloud.

- **Tag Cloud: Build Usergroup**

The tag cloud pulls together data from threads in many forums. Users may not be able to see all the threads that make up the tag cloud results. With this option, you can force the tag cloud to be built as if it were viewed by a particular usergroup.

Live permission checking is the most accurate, but disables the above specified caching.

- **Enable Search Tag Cloud**

This option controls whether a tag cloud relating to the frequency of tag searches is shown at the bottom of the advanced search.

A usage-based tag cloud is always shown here.

- **Search Tag Cloud: History (Days)**

Amount of days that the system will keep a record of tag searches for use in the search tag cloud.

0 means to use all data available.

Forum Home Page Options

Settings > Options > Forums Home Page Options

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- **Script Name for Forum Home Page**

This option allows you to set the script name of the page that acts as your forum home page. By default this will be 'index' (meaning index.php but you may want to call it 'forum' or whatever else you like for your own purposes).

Note:

- If you change this value you must manually rename the forumhome PHP script to match the new value.
- Display Logged in Users?**
Displays those users that have been active in the last XXX seconds on the home page, where XXX is the value specified by your Cookie Time-Out option (Default is last 15 minutes). Not recommended for sites with hundreds of simultaneous users. The Alphabetical option requires more resources than the random option.
- Display Today's Birthdays?**
Displays today's birthdays for those usergroups that have birthday display enabled (see [User Groups->Usergroup Manager](#)).
- Display Calendar Events?**
Choose the number of upcoming days that you wish to display upcoming events from.

Set to 0 to disable upcoming events.
- Display Custom Holidays**
Display upcoming custom holidays in the above events list?
- Upcoming Event Type**
Choose the method by which you wish to display the upcoming events if the "Display Calendar Events" option is enabled.
- Active Members Time Cut-Off**
Enter a number of days here that represents a threshold for 'active' members. If a user has visited the board within the past number of days you specify, they are considered 'active'.

Enter '0' to treat all members as 'active'.
- Active Members Options**
Using the boxes here, you can choose to show only birthdays for those members considered 'active', and to show or hide the total number of 'active' members.

A member is considered 'active' if they have visited the board within the number of days specified in 'Active Members Time Cut-Off'.

Forum Listings Display Options

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Settings > Options > Forum Listings Display Options

- Depth of Forums - Forum Home**
Depth to show forums on forum home forum listings. If you set this value to '2', forum listings will show the current forum level and any child forums one level below (etc.)
- Depth of Forums - Forum Display**
This setting does the same job as the setting above, but this time for forumdisplay.php pages, rather than forum home.
- Depth of Sub-Forums**
If you have forums below the depth specified in the 'Depth of Forums' settings above, you can display them as sub-forum links in each forum's display area.

Set this value to 0 if you want to display no sub-forums.

- Show Forum Descriptions in Forum Listings**
Show forum descriptions below forum titles in forum listings?
- Show Private Forums**
Select 'No' here will hide private forums from users who are not allowed to access them. Users who do have permission to access them will have to log in before they can see these forums too.

This option applies to any forum listing, including the Forum Jump menu, and Search Results.

- Show Lock Icons to Users**
Do you wish to have the new post indicators shown on the index page (on.gif and off.gif) be shown with locks to guests and other members who have no permission to post?
- Last Thread Title Maximum Displayed Characters**
This value will chop the title of the last thread posted down to a specific number of characters for its display on a forum listing.

A value of 0 will not trim the titles at all.

- Show Moderator Column**
Turns the moderator column on and off for forumhome, forumdisplay and usercp.
- Show Thread Prefix in Last Post Column?**
You may choose to show a thread's prefix in the last post column, along with the title. This will increase the size of the data included in that column, however.

Forum Display Options (forumdisplay)

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Settings > Options > Forum Display Options (forumdisplay)

- Enable Forum Description**
This option displays the forum description in the navbar. Helps visitors to know what the topic of a forum is, as well as possibly increasing search engine rankings.
- Show Users Browsing Forums**
Enabling this option will show the current users browsing a particular forum on forumdisplay.php while adding one query. This can have an effect on performance. The Alphabetical option requires more resources than the random option.
- Maximum Displayed Threads Before Page Split**
The number of threads to display on a forum page before splitting it over multiple pages.

Note: This number must be at least 1.

- Show Sticky Threads on All Pages**
Select 'Yes' to show sticky threads on every forumdisplay.php page, regardless of page number. Set 'No' to only display them on page one.

- Highlight Threads in Which User Has Posted**

When this feature is enabled, a logged in user will see an 'arrow' (or whatever graphic you choose) on the folder icons (hot folders, new folders, etc.) next to the threads that they have posted in.

- Hot Threads Enabled**

Hot threads indicate threads with a lot of activity.

- Hot Threads Qualifying Views**

If 'Hot Threads' are enabled, threads with the specified number of views or more will be shown as hot.

- Hot Threads Qualifying Posts**

If 'Hot Threads' are enabled, threads with the specified number of posts or more will be shown as hot.

- Multi-Page Thread Links Enabled**

Link to individual pages of a thread spanning multiple pages on the forum listing?

- Multi-Page Thread Maximum Links**

When linking to multiple pages in the forum display, this allows you to set the cut-off point on which long posts stop adding more page numbers and are replaced by 'more...'

- Length of Thread Preview Text**

This setting allows you to specify how many characters of the first post in a thread to display in the 'title' tag of the thread title on the forumdisplay page.

Set this value to 0 to disable thread previews.

- Group Announcements**

Combine a forum's announcements into one listing, where the newest announcement is displayed?

Setting this to No lists all active announcements individually in their applicable forums

Thread Display Options

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Settings > Options > Thread Display Options (showthread)

- Show Users Browsing Threads**

Enabling this option will show the current users browsing a particular thread on showthread.php while adding one query. This can have an effect on performance. The Alphabetical option requires more resources than the Random option.

- Maximum Displayed Posts Before Page Split**

The number of posts to display on a thread page in linear or hybrid mode before splitting it over multiple pages.

Note: This number must be at least 1.

- User-Settable Maximum Displayed Posts**

If you would like to allow the user to set their own maximum posts per thread then give the options separated by commas. Leave this option blank to force users to use the 'Maximum Displayed Posts Before Page Split' setting above this option.

Example setting: 10,20,30,40

- Show Default Post Icon**

If you would like to use a default icon for messages without an icon, enter the path to the image here.

- Number of Characters Before Wrapping Text**

If you want posts to automatically insert spaces into long words to make them wrap after a certain number of characters, set the number of characters in the box above.

If you do not want this to occur, enter 0.

Note:

This should be set to 0 with some language sets

- Check Thread Rating**

If enabled, this option will check if a user voted on a thread and show their vote if they have. Otherwise, they will see the voting options even if they are not able to vote again. This can have an effect on performance.

- Check Thread Subscription**

If enabled, this option will notify the user that they are subscribed to a thread by displaying a small icon when viewing forumdisplay and search results. It will also change the "Subscribe to this thread" text on showthread to "Unsubscribe from this thread". This can have an effect on performance.

- Show Similar Threads?**

Set this value to 'Yes' if you would like to see 'similar threads' displayed on the show thread page.

Note:

This setting will only work if you have 'Automatic Similar Thread Search' enabled in the message searching options section.

- Post Elements**

There is optional user information that you may display on each post. These options require a bit of processing time to calculate. This information includes Age, Reputation Power and Infractions

- Enable Social Bookmarking**

Use this switch to quickly disable the display of the bookmarks section of the page, on which links to social bookmarking sites (set up through the Social Bookmarking Manager) are shown.

Note:

Social bookmarking links will only be displayed in guest-viewable threads.

Threaded / Hybrid Mode Options (showthread)

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Settings > Options > Threaded / Hybrid Mode Options (showthread)

- Enable Threaded / Hybrid Mode**

Use this setting to enable or completely disable the Threaded and Hybrid thread display modes.

- Use Threaded Mode by Default**

Set this value to 'Yes' if you would like users (who have not explicitly set a preference) to view threads in the threaded display mode.

Note:

This setting will have no effect if 'Enable Threaded / Hybrid Mode' is set to 'No'.

- Threaded Mode: Posts Depth**

When in the threaded display mode, a list of posts within the current thread is displayed at the bottom of the page. This option allows you to set how 'deep' this list displays beyond the currently selected post.

- Threaded Mode: Maximum Cached Posts**

When in the threaded display mode, a list of posts within the current thread is displayed at the bottom of the page. This option allows you to set how 'deep' into the tree of posts that vBulletin uses the Javascript 'caching' mechanism. This makes the initial download larger, but means that the page does not have to be reloaded for every post that is viewed.

- Threaded Mode: Trim Titles**

This value will chop the title of the thread titles in the viewing pane down to a specific number of characters. A value of 0 will not trim the titles at all.

Private Messaging Options

Settings > Options > Private Messaging Options

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Private Messaging Enabled (*yes/no*)

Turns the entire private messaging system on and off.

Instant Messaging Support - Check for New Private Messages (*yes/no*)

Selecting 'Yes' for this option will cause the system to check the private message database every time a user loads a page, and will display a visible prompt if a new message has just been saved.

Maximum Characters Per Private Message (*default: 5000*)

Maximum characters to allow in a private message.

Set this to 0 for no limit.

Floodcheck - Minimum Time Between Messages (*default: 60*)

Private Message Flood Checking. Select the minimum time that must pass before a user can send another private message. This is to prevent a single user 'spamming' by sending lots of messages very quickly.

Set this to 0 to disable the option.

Default Messages Per-Page (*default: 50*)

This setting allows you to define the default number of messages displayed per-page on the private messages listings pages.

Maximum Messages Per-Page (*default: 100*)

This setting allows you to limit the number of messages users may display per page on the private messages folder view pages.

Allow Message Icons for Private Messages (*yes/no*)

Allow the use of the standard message icons for private messages.

Allow vB Code in Private Messages (*yes/no*)

Allow users to include vB Code in their Private Messages? (Such as [b], [i] etc.)

Allow Smilies in Private Messages (*yes/no*)

Allows users to include smilies in their Private Messages.

Allow [IMG] Code in Private Messages (*yes/no*)

Allows users to include [IMG] codes in their Private Messages.

Allow HTML in Private Messages (*yes/no*)

Allow users to include raw HTML code in their Private Messages?

(**Strongly not recommended.**)

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Who's Online Options

The Settings > Options > Who's Online Option allows you to control the display of <http://www.example.com/forums/online.php>.

- Who's Online Enabled**

This is the master switch for the Who's Online page. If you select no, anyone who tries to access the page will be shown a no permission page.

If you select yes, you may still control usergroup permissions for Who's Online via Usergroups > Usergroup Manager.

- Who's Online Refresh Period**

If you set this to a value greater than 0, after that many seconds of being on the same page in Who's Online, your browser will automatically refresh the page.

- Who's Online Display Guests**

Controls whether guests are shown on Who's Online. Browsing registered users are always shown.

- Who's Online Resolve IP Addresses**

If you have permission to view IP addresses on Who's Online, this controls whether you will be shown a raw IP address or something that has been resolved to a name-based host. The name-based host cannot always be resolved, but when it can additional information about the browsing user can be more easily determined (for example, his or her Internet Service Provider).

Resolving IP addresses to names is a very slow process. If you have problems displaying Who's Online, you should disable this option.

- Enable Spider Display**

Controls whether spiders are shown as spiders instead of guests on Who's Online. Identification of spiders is controlled via an XML file, which is discussed [here](#).

Identifying Spiders in Who's Online

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If you have set the "[Enable Spider Display](#)" to yes, the file includes/xml/spiders_vbulletin.xml is used to determine how a spider is identified.

The file looks similar to this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>

<searchspiders>
    <spider ident="http://www.almaden.ibm.com/cs/crawler">
        <name>Almaden Crawler</name>
        <info>http://www.almaden.ibm.com/cs/crawler/</info>
        <email>crawler@us.ibm.com</email>
    </spider>
    <spider ident="Ask Jeeves">
        <name>AskJeeves</name>
    </spider>
    <spider ident="Googlebot">
        <name>Google</name>
    </spider>
    <spider ident="Mediapartners-Google">
        <name>Google AdSense</name>
        <info>https://www.google.com/adsense/faq</info>
        <email>adsense-support@google.com</email>
    </spider>
    Place additional spiders here!
</searchspiders>
```

If you want to add spiders to the list, you should add them in place of the red text (just before "</searchspiders>").

At the minimum, you should provide the ident attribute and the name tag. Other tags are simply for your information and not used. The ident attribute is used to distinguish a regular guest from a spider. The value of this attribute is looked up in the browsing user's user agent (what the user's browser identifies him/her as). If a match is found, the value of the name tag is displayed on Who's Online.

Search Engine Friendly Archive

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Settings > Options > Search Engine Friendly Archive

Forum Archive Enabled (yes/no)

The Search-Friendly Archive works only under the Apache web server with PHP compiled as a module.

It provides a basic structure that search engines can spider to grab all the content on your site.

Display Simple View of Threads (yes/no)

By default, threads in the Archive are displayed in a simple manner. Set this to no to have the real threads linked from the archive.

Forum Archive Threads Per Page (default: 250)

The number of threads to display per page in the threads listing.
This is done on a per-forum basis.

Forum Archive Posts Per Page (default: 250)

The number of posts to display per page in the thread listing.

Note:

On your own forum you can find the Archive here: <http://www.yourforum.com/forumdir/archive/>
(live example: <http://www.vbulletin.com/forum/archive/>)

Admin Control Panel Options

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Settings > Options > Admin Control Panel Options

Control Panel Style Folder

This setting allows you to specify an alternative style for the Admin / Moderator Control Panels, based on a folder contained within the 'cpstyles/' folder. The style you select here will be displayed to all Moderators, and any Administrators who have not expressed their own preference.

Comes default with 5 different Admin Control Panel Styles to choose from. You can set a default here, but upon login one could select the style they prefer.

Folders in the 'cpstyles' folder must contain at least the following:

- controlpanel.css
- cp_logo.gif
- cp_help.gif

Timeout Admin Login (yes/no)

After a period of inactivity, Administrators are logged out of the Admin Control Panel. If this option is set to yes, the inactivity period will be the same as the Cookie Timeout setting found in vBulletin Options -> Help Cookies and HTTP Header Options (defaults to 15 minutes). If this option is disabled, then the period will be one hour.

Logins to the admincp are more secure with this enabled.

Control Panel Quick Statistics (yes/no)

Displays the 'Quick Stats' on the main index page of the Admin Control Panel.

Forum Manager Display

There are three options for the display of the Forum Manager:

- **Default** - Displays all of the forums on one page but may not work on all browsers, especially if you have a large number of forums.
- **Collapsible** - Allows collapsing/expansion of certain forums within the forum manager. This may reduce the ease of usability of the forum manager, but will prevent rendering problems with the dropdown menus with certain browsers/operating systems.
- **Single** - Display a single dropdown from which you may choose the forum you wish to modify. This is most useful if you have a large number of forums.

User Editor Columns

Number of columns to display in user editor. Smaller resolutions will probably want to set this to 1.

External Data Provider

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Besides the main forums, the search friendly archive and the printable version of a thread, you can also choose to turn on the external data provider. (Settings > Options > External Data Provider)

Here you can select which type can be turned on/off. You can choose between javascript, rss and/or xml.

External Data Provider		Help 
Enable External Javascript		
This setting allows you to enable/disable the Javascript content syndication system that allows you to embed vBulletin data in HTML pages.		
<input type="radio"/> Yes		<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Enable RSS Syndication		
This setting allows you to enable/disable the RSS content syndication system.		
<input type="radio"/> Yes		<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Enable XML Syndication		
This setting allows you to enable/disable the XML content syndication system.		
<input type="radio"/> Yes		<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

- **Enable External Javascript**

This setting allows you to enable/disable the Javascript content syndication system that allows you to embed vBulletin data in HTML pages.

If you set this option to 'yes', you can call it by going to:
<http://www.example.com/forum/external.php?type=js>

You could use javascript directly in your html pages to control the returned data.

- **Enable RSS Syndication**

This setting allows you to enable/disable the RSS content syndication system.

If you set this option to 'yes', you can call it by going to:
<http://www.example.com/forum/external.php?type=rss>

(example) There is a news-plugin for Trillian which lets you use RSS feeds to get the latest information posted in your Trillian program.

- **Enable XML Syndication**

This setting allows you to enable/disable the XML content syndication system.

If you set this option to 'yes', you can call it by going to:
<http://www.example.com/forum/external.php?type=xml>

When you are done, click the [Save] button to apply the changes.

Implementing the External Data Provider

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The External Data Provider is used to syndicate this information to external websites. This feature uses the permissions for the Unregistered / Not Logged In usergroup. If that usergroup doesn't have permissions to view the forum, the feeds will not work.

Below are examples on how you can control what is shown on these websites.

To syndicate in a Javascript format you would call the following URL from your external site. This will require additional javascript on the external site (an example is listed below).
www.yourdomain.com/forumpath/external.php?type=js

Example Code:

```
<script src="http://www.yourdomain.com/forumpath/external.php?type=js" type="text/javascript"></script>
<script type="text/javascript">
<!--
for (i in threads)
{
document.writeln(threads[i].title + " (" + threads[i].poster + ")<br />");
}
//-->
</script>
```

The External Data Provider also gives alternative feeds in commonly used formats. These are useful if you have external readers or a script to read them already. These feeds are available in XML, RSS and RSS2 so it should fit a wide variety of readers. The system defaults to RSS so if you leave off the type, that is what you get.

The URLs to access these feeds are:

XML - www.yourdomain.com/forumpath/external.php?type=xml
RSS - www.yourdomain.com/forumpath/external.php?type=rss
RSS 2.0 - www.yourdomain.com/forumpath/external.php?type=rss2

You can refine the listings by specifying forumids in the path. For multiple forums separate them with a comma. This will limit the feed to the specified forums only. (*Below example uses xml as type, but it works with rss, rss2, and js too*)

<http://www.vbulletin.com/forum/external.php?type=xml&forumids=1,2,3,4>

Error Handling & Logging

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Settings > Options > Error Handling & Logging

Log Database Errors to a File

If you would like to log all database errors to a file, enter the path to the file here. The file will be saved as {filename}.log.

Note:

Please note that the directory in which this file is to be created **must** be writable by the web server.

Log Failed Admin Control Panel Logins to a File

If you would like to log all failed Admin Control Panel login attempts to a file, enter the path to the file here. The file will be saved as {filename}.log

Note:

Please note that the directory in which this file is to be created **must** be writable by the web server.

Log PHP Errors to a File

If you would like to log all PHP fatal errors to a file, enter the path to the file here. The file will be saved as {filename}.log.

Note:

Please note that the directory in which this file is to be created **must** be writable by the web server.

Maximum File Size of Error Logs (default: 1048576)

If you would like your vBulletin error logs to be rotated when they reach a certain size, enter the maximum file size in bytes here.

1048576 bytes = 1 megabyte.

When a log file reaches this size, it will be renamed as {filename} {unix timestamp}.log and a new file will be created.

Set this value to 0 to disable log rotation.

Disable Database Error Email Sending (yes/no)

If you would like to prevent vBulletin from sending email to the \$config['Database']['technicalemail'] address you specified in config.php, set this value to 'Yes'.

- Error reports about database connection errors will still be sent.
- It is not recommended that you set this value to 'Yes' unless you are logging database errors to a file. (see above)

Paid Subscriptions

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Settings > Options > Paid Subscriptions

Paid Subscription Email Notification

An email will be sent to this email address when a paid subscription is purchased or reversed.

Note:

The main Paid Subscription settings are found at Paid Subscriptions > Paid Subscription Manager. The main manual section relating to Paid Subscriptions can be found [here](#)

Plugin/Hook System

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Settings > Options > Plugin/Hook System

Enable Plugin/Hook System (yes/no)

This setting allows you to globally enable or disable the plugin/hook system.

The plugin/hook systems allows for insertion of arbitrary code into specific locations in the PHP files without having to edit the files (see [Plugin Manager](#)). This can be used to extend the functionality of vBulletin without hacking. When upgrading to future versions you do not have to re-apply these modifications to the original vBulletin files, making upgrading an easier task.

By switching the system off, only vBulletin-native code will be run, so it can be used to establish whether errors exist within vBulletin itself or in plugin code.

Note:

You can code these plugins yourself or download existing ones from the official resource community at <http://www.vbulletin.org/>. Please note that these plugins are unofficial and are not supported by Jelsoft.

Warning:

If you have attempted to import a product or a plugin and run into the problem of being unable to navigate/work with your forum or control panel you might require to update the config.php file with this variable, which will force-disable the hook system. Allowing you to restore your forum and uninstall the bad code/plugin.

```
define('DISABLE_HOOKS', true);
```

(Remove from the config.php file when done.)

Spam Management

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Settings > Options > Spam Management

Anti-Spam Service

Controls the service that is used for scanning supported data. The corresponding API key for the service has to be entered. The current options are [Akismet](#) and [Typepad Anti-spam](#).

vBulletin Anti-Spam Key

Enter a vBulletin Anti-Spam service key to enable scanning of user data where supported. You obtain your key from the service selected in the option above. Entering a key, enables this functionality.

Spam Scanning Post Threshold

This setting controls how many of a user's posts will be scanned by the Anti-Spam Service. Once a user's post count exceeds this threshold, his or her posts will not be scanned for spam content. To always scan posts set this value to 0.

Anti-Spam Data Storage Length (Days)

Whenever a post is made, extra anti-spam data is stored. This allows details about false positives and false negatives to be submitted to the chosen anti-spam system to improve it.

This value controls the length of time (in days) for which this data is stored.

XML Sitemap

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vBulletin allows you to create and submit an XML sitemap to your favorite search engines and website management tools. This facilitates easier indexing of your site and with various tools can even tell you if there are problems with the content on your site. You can find the options for this here: Settings > Options > XML Sitemap

Enable Automatic Sitemap Generation

When enabled this tells vBulletin to generate your sitemaps automatically via the Scheduled Task Manager. If you have a large forum, you may want to leave this disabled as it can be a time consuming task. Even if this is enabled, you can always generate your sitemap files manually by clicking on Rebuild Sitemap. Default Value: No

Automatic Sitemap Generation Frequency (Days)

If automatic sitemap generation is enabled, this option controls the number of days between automatic builds. Default Value: 14

Default Sitemap Priority

The default priority for content in the XML Sitemap. This may be configured on a per-content basis in the XML Sitemap group. Only a limited amount of content should be listed in the sitemap as a high priority, so you shouldn't set this value too high. Default Value: 0.5

Automatic Sitemap Search Engine Submission

Allows you to select one or more search engines to submit your sitemap to. Options include Google, Yahoo!, Bing!/Live Search, Ask.com, and Moreover. Default Value: All selected.

Sitemap File Path

XML sitemap data must be written to the filesystem to function. Enter the full path to the directory the files should be written to. Do not include a trailing slash. This directory must be writable by the webserver. It also must be accessible via a web browser. Default Value: <blank>

URLs Per Page

Enter the number of URLs that will be processed per page (and placed in each sitemap file). Note that only one type of content will be written to a file, so it is possible that there will be files that have less URLs than the number specified here.

Enter a value no larger than 50,000. Larger values may cause more performance impact while the sitemap is being generated. Default Value: 30000

Search Type

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This section will show the different search engines installed in vBulletin and allow you to switch between them.

In a new installation, there is only one type of search installed. This is called "DB Search" and is an indexed implementation of Fulltext Search allowing you to search all content types marked as "Searchable" when they are created/installed in your system.

You can find alternative search engines from third-party vendors or possibly at <http://www.vbulletin.org>.

Note:

Changing search implementations will require you to rebuild the search index before the search function will return results. This can be done via Maintenance > Update Counters. Reindex can take a long time for large boards. Some high performance search engines may provide a faster alternate method of doing a full reindex, consult the documentation provided with your search type.

Changing Minimum Search Characters

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The minimum and maximum length of words to be indexed is defined by the `ft_min_word_len` and `ft_max_word_len` system variables (available as of MySQL 4.0.0). The default minimum value is four characters. The default maximum depends on your version of MySQL. If you change either value, you must rebuild your FULLTEXT indexes. For example, if you want three-character words to be searchable, you can set the `ft_min_word_len` variable by putting the following lines in an option file:

```
[mysqld]
ft_min_word_len=3
```

To ensure that myisamchk and the server use the same values for full-text parameters, place each one in both the [mysqld] and [myisamchk] sections of an option file:

```
[mysqld]
ft_min_word_len=3
```

```
[myisamchk]
ft_min_word_len=3
```

Then restart the server and rebuild your FULLTEXT indexes. To rebuild your indexes, you need to run the following queries in sequence:

Emptying your search tables will speed up this process. The queries to empty the tables are:

```
truncate searchcore;
truncate searchcore_text;
truncate searchgroup;
truncate searchgroup_text;
```

Next you need to drop the old indexes off the tables. To drop the indexes you would do:

```
drop index text on searchcore_text;
drop index grouptitle on searchgroup_text;
```

Finally, you need to build new indexes. To recreate the indexes you would do:

```
CREATE FULLTEXT INDEX text ON searchcore_text (title, keywordtext);
CREATE FULLTEXT INDEX grouptitle ON searchgroup_text (title);
```

If you have a table prefix defined in your config.php you would need to add it to the beginning of each table name in every query. To rebuild your search indexes after this, you will need to go to the Update Counters section of Maintenance in your Admin CP. Rebuilding the search indexes can be a time and processor intensive process.

For more on Fulltext Search from MySQL please visit:

<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/fulltext-fine-tuning.html>

You can also empty these indices in the Update Counters section of Maintenance.

You may want to optimize the postindex and word tables afterwards by going to the Repair / Optimize Tables section of Maintenance.

Changing MySQL's Stopwords.

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In order to make sure that fulltext searches are more efficient, common words won't be indexes. These are called Stop Words. You can see the default stop words here:

<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/fulltext-stopwords.html>

However on your site, you might have words that are common enough to cause a problem that aren't on the list. For instance if your site is about florists, then flower might be a very common word that you want to restrict searching on. To add to the stop list, you would follow these steps

Create File: e.g. /etc/stopword.txt

* Change permission of this file, so that MySQL can read it.

* Don't put stopword file in /root, because mysql doesn't have permission to access it there.

Edit /etc/my.cnf file

Search for `ft_stopword_file`

Change Line `ft_stopword_file=/etc/stopword.txt`

Then run following command to restart MySQL.

`service mysqld restart`

Run these queries command for immediate effect of this action on the vBulletin search tables.

`REPAIR TABLE searchcore_text QUICK;`

`REPAIR TABLE searchgroup_text QUICK;`

You should include the default words in your stopword list for optimal performance.

Human Verification Manager

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Question & Answer Verification Options					
Question	Answers	Regex	Date	Controls	
What is 1 + 1?	4	No	12:55, 16th Oct 2007	[Edit] <input type="button" value="▼"/> [Go]	
Who is the president of the USA?	1	Yes	14:14, 16th Oct 2007	[Edit] <input type="button" value="▼"/> [Go]	
What color is black?	1	No	14:25, 16th Oct 2007	[Edit] <input type="button" value="▼"/> [Go]	

[Add New Question](#)

Question & Answer Options

An unlimited amount of questions may be specified and each question may have an unspecified amount of answers.

To add a new question, select the [Add New Question] button. Existing questions may be deleted, modified or have answers modified by selecting the controls on the right of the question.

Social Bookmarking Manager

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Social bookmarking is a way for users to store and organise bookmarks of web pages. In a social bookmarking system, a user will save a link to web pages that they want to remember and/or share. There are a number of third party services offering social bookmarking facilities, vBulletin provides the ability to link directly to an add page and pre-populate the data.

When a user views a publicly accessible thread they will be presented with a set of links at the bottom which allow the addition of the page to admin defined social bookmarking sites.

The Social Bookmarking Manager

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The first thing you need to do is make sure that this option is enabled. To do that, go here:

Admin CP -> Settings -> Options -> Thread Display Options (showthread) -> Enable Social Bookmarking -> Yes

The social bookmarking manager is where you create new and edit bookmark sites. Bookmark sites are shown in the order they will actually display in; you can quickly change this order by clicking the arrows next to the text fields or changing the numbers in the fields and clicking "Save".

Social Bookmarking Manager			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toggle Active Status for All			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="text" value="10"/> <input type="button" value="▼"/>	Reddit	[Edit] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="text" value="20"/> <input type="button" value="▼"/>	del.icio.us	[Edit] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="text" value="30"/> <input type="button" value="▼"/>	Digg	[Edit] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="text" value="40"/> <input type="button" value="▼"/>	StumbleUpon	[Edit] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="text" value="50"/> <input type="button" value="▼"/>	Google	[Edit] [Delete]
Save	Reset	Add New Social Bookmarking Site	

Adding or Editing a Social Bookmarking Site

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When you are adding or editing a new social bookmark site you will be presented with the following editor, further explanation about each of these fields is listed below.

Add New Social Bookmarking Site		Help 
Title	<input type="text"/>	
Icon	<input type="text"/> ?	
Filename for Icon. This must be placed in your misc image directory (default: images/misc).		
Link	<input type="text"/> ?	
Replacement variables: {URL} is the given page url, {TITLE} is the given page title.		
Display Order	<input type="text" value="60"/>	
Active	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Save	Reset	

- **Title** - Title of the Social Bookmarking Site
- **Icon** - A 16 x 16 icon that will be used to link to the social bookmarking site, this image should be in the miscellaneous images directory which by default is *images/misc*.
- **Link** - Link to the add page of the social bookmarking site, you can use *{TITLE}* and *{URL}* as replacements for the current page title and link.
- **Display Order** - The sort order for this social bookmarking site. Lower values will be displayed first.
- **Active** - If this is set to 'Yes' then the icon will appear at the bottom of the thread template.

vBulletin Blog

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Blog Moderators

To add a new moderator, go to vBulletin Blog > Blog Moderators > *Add New Moderator* at the bottom table, if you wish to edit on the same page just click *edit* next to the username of the moderator.

Add New Moderator to vBulletin Blog	
Moderator Username	<input type="text"/>
Blog Permissions	
Can Edit Blog Entries	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can Delete Blog Entries	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can Remove Blog Entries	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can Moderate Blog Entries	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can Edit Blog Comments	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can Delete Blog Comments	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can Remove Blog Comments	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can Moderate Blog Comments	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can View IP Addresses	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

- **Moderator Username** – the name of the user that will become the moderator.
- **Can Edit Blog Entries** – allow blog entries to be edited.
- **Can Delete Blog Entries** – allow blog entries to be soft deleted.
- **Can Remove Blog Entries** – allow blog entries to be physically removed from the database.
- **Can Moderate Blog Entries** – allow blog entries to be approved as well as moderated.
- **Can Edit Blog Comments** – allow blog comments to be edited.
- **Can Delete Blog Comments** – allow blog comments to be soft deleted.
- **Can Remove Blog Comments** – allow blog comments to be physically removed from the database.
- **Can Moderate Blog Comments** – allow blog comments to be approved as well as moderated.
- **Can View IP Addresses** – allow IP addresses of blog entries and comments to be viewed.

Update Counters

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The update counters section lets you ensure that counters such as number of replies in an issue or the number of issues in a project are correct. This is a maintenance section. You do not need to run either of the options here unless you suspect that the counters are incorrect. They should remain correct during day-to-day use.

There are five counters that can be rebuilt:

- **Rebuild Blog Post Information** - this will rebuild the total comments, trackbacks and last post information for each blog entry.
- **Rebuild Blog User Information** - this will rebuild the total entry count for categories as well as the total entries, comments, trackbacks and last post information for each blog.
- **Rebuild Blog Counters** - this will rebuild the total entry count for categories, total attachments and trackbacks for a blog entry.
- **Clear Parsed Text Cache** - this will clear the contents of the cached parsed text. Run this if you've added a new custom BBCODE or changed BBCODE settings and don't want to wait for it to clear in time.
- **Rebuild thumbnails** - this will rebuild the thumbnails of image attachments. Run this if you did not (or could not) have thumbnails enabled in the past but wish to now or have changed thumbnail dimensions..

Permissions

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Permissions for the Blog can be found in the standard usergroup permission page, the default install attempts to create a set of permissions that are based on the permission to create new threads / posts.

When adding / editing a usergroup at Usergroups > Usergroup Manager > *Edit Usergroup* in the right column you will find the following permissions:

Blog General Permissions		Help 
Can Manage Comments within Own Blog	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Can Send Pingback/Trackback	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Can Receive Pingback/Trackback	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Can Search Blogs	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Can View Own Blog	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Can View Other's Blog	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	

- **Can Manage Comments within Own Blog** - provides the ability for users to manage their own blog comments, allowing them to both delete, edit and moderate them as they see fit.
- **Can Send Pingback/Trackback** - allows blog entries to ping other documents.
- **Can Receive Pingback/Trackback** - allows entries to receive external pingbacks / trackbacks.
- **Can Search Blogs** - allow blog entries and comments to be searched.
- **Can View Own Blog** - allow the viewing of a user's own blog.

- **Can View Other's Blog** - allow the viewing of other user's blog.

Blog Entry Permissions		Help ?
Can Post New Blog Entries	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Can Edit Own Blog Entries	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Can Delete Own Blog Entries	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Can Remove Own Blog Entries	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Can Upload Attachments	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Can View Attachments	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Follow Blog Moderation Setting If no, posts are always placed into moderation queue	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Allow Smilies	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Allow BB Code	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Allow [IMG] Code	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Allow HTML	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	

- **Can Post New Blog Entries** - allow users to post new blog entries, the can view own blog permission is required as well.
- **Can Edit Own Blog Entries** - allow users to edit their own blog entries.
- **Can Delete Own Blog Entries** - allow entries to be soft deleted.
- **Can Remove Own Blog Entries** - allow entries to be permanently removed from the database.
- **Can Upload Attachments** - allow uploading of attachments to entries.
- **Can View Attachments** - allow the viewing of attachments.
- **Follow Blog Moderation Setting** - if set to yes all blog entries will follow the global settings, if set to No then all entries will be moderated.
- **Allow Smilies** - allow entries to contain smilies.
- **Allow BB Code** - allow entries to contain bbcode.
- **Allow [IMG] Code** - allow entries to contain the IMG bbcode.
- **Allow HTML** - allow entries to contain HTML, though this isn't recommended.

Blog Comment Permissions		Help ?
Can Post Comments to Own Blog	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Can Post Comments to Others' Blog	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Can Edit Own Comments	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Can Delete Own Comments	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Follow Blog Comment Setting If no, comments are always placed into moderation queue	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Allow Smilies	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Allow BB Code	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Allow [IMG] Code	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Allow HTML	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	

- **Can Post Comments to Own Blog** - allow users to make comments to their own blog entries.
- **Can Post Comments to Others' Blog** - allow users to make comments to blogs that are not their own.
- **Can Edit Own Comments** - allow users to edit their own comments after they have been posted.
- **Can Delete Own Comments** - allow users to delete their own comments.
- **Follow Blog Comment Setting** - if set to yes the moderation policy will follow the current blog setting, else all comments will be moderated.
- **Allow Smilies** - allow comments to contain smilies.
- **Allow BB Code** - allow comments to contain bbcode.
- **Allow [IMG] Code** - allow comments to contain the IMG bbcode.
- **Allow HTML** - allow comments to contain HTML, though this isn't recommended.

The other permissions are self explanatory and are closely linked to their Thread / Post counterparts which can be read at [this manual entry](#).

vBulletin CMS

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The vBulletin CMS allows you and your users to create, edit and publish articles directly to your site. It combines a simple to use content manager with a unique organizational system that lets you control the smallest detail of the site from the number of sections, to the overall layout, to the placement of widgets and displays on each page.

Content Manager

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Within the content manager you can perform bulk actions on your articles and other content types within the CMS. There are more options to manage individual articles in the publicly viewable front-end of the CMS. Edit the article to view them.

The checkbox to the left of each article name is used to select an article. You can use this to apply a single action to multiple articles at the same time.

Publishing an article will make it viewable to users. To publish an article, select the checkbox beside the article and click the <Published> button.

Un-publishing an article will make it invisible to users. To un-publish an article, select the checkbox beside the article and click the <Un-publish> button.

To save a number of different changes to different articles, click on the <Save Changes> button.

To move an article from one section to another, select the checkbox beside the article you want to move and click the <Move> button. A popup appears with a list of sections you can move the article to. Click the section you want the article moved to. The article appears in the new section.

To delete an article, select the checkbox beside the article you want to delete and click the <Delete> button. A popup confirmation appears. Click the <Ok> button.

To edit an article and its contents, click on the name of the article. This opens the article form where you can make and save your changes to the article.

To change the order the articles appear in on the main page, select a number from the dropdown menu in the “Order” column.

- The author of the article appears in the “by” column.
 - The date the article was originally written appears in the “Date” column.
 - The number of views the article has received appears in the “Views” column.
 - The number of comments the articles has received appears in the “Comments” column.
 - To allow any user, regardless of individual section permissions, to see previews, select the “Permission Preview” checkbox.

Section Manager

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You can create, publish and order your sections here.

All Content in Section:									Front Page	Change Section	Add New Section
#	Title	Published	Content Columns	Display Order	Content per page	Sub sections	Content	Views			
1	Front Page		Published	1x2 column	Manual Only	5	15	102			
2	Big Section		Published	1 column	Newest First	7	0	0			
3	Movies		Published	2x1 column	Newest First	7	4	8			
4	Baseball		Published	1 column	Newest First	7	0	5			
5	Quantum Physics		Published	1 column	Newest First	7	0	4			
6	SOME NAME		Published	2 column	Newest First	7	0	5			
7	Image tests		Not Published	2 column	Newest First	7	6	26			
8	Test articles		Published	1 column	Newest First	7	1	27			

The numbers to the left indicate the order of the sections. To change the order of the sections, click on the up and down order buttons.

To navigate to a specific section, click on the name of the section.

To add a new section, click on the green icon with a white plus sign in the middle.

To edit an existing section, click on the pencil icon to the right of the section name.

To make the section visible to users, select the “Published” option from the published dropdown list.

To make a section invisible to users, select the “Unpublish” option from the published dropdown list.

To change the display format of the article previews, select an option from the “Content Columns” dropdown lists.

The options you can choose from are:

- 1 column – article previews appear in a single column
- 2 column – article previews appear in two columns
- 3 columns – article previews appear in three columns
- 1x2 columns – a single article appears at the top of the page with two columns beneath
- 2x1 columns – two articles appear side by side at the top of the page with a single column beneath them

To change the display order of article previews, select an option from the “Display Order” dropdown list. The options you can choose from are:

- Manual - a moderator sets the order in which the articles appear
- Newest First – the newest articles appears first on a page
- Newest per Section – the newest articles in each sub-section will appear first.

Note:

Note: To set the manual order of your articles, you need to edit the section on the front-end by clicking the yellow pencil icon.

To change the number of article previews that appear per section, enter a different number in the “Content per Page” text field.

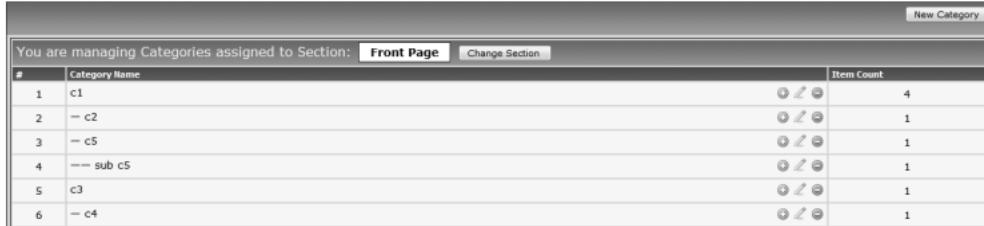
The number of subsections (in a section) is displayed in the “Subsection” column.

The number of articles (in a section) is displayed in the “Content” column.

The number of views each section has received appears in the “View” column.

Category Manager

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The screenshot shows a table titled "You are managing Categories assigned to Section: [Front Page] [Change Section]". The table has columns for #, Category Name, and Item Count. The data is as follows:

#	Category Name	Item Count
1	c1	4
2	— c2	1
3	— c5	1
4	--- sub c5	1
5	c3	1
6	— c4	1

You can manage your categories here. Categories are used as admin level tags to organize sections. Categories can be used to manage content across multiple sections.

To edit the category, click on the pencil icon to the right of the category name.

To add a new category, click on the new category button at the top of the page or the plus icon to the right of the category name. Clicking the plus sign to the right of the category name will create the new category as a subcategory of the selected category.

To delete a category, click on the red minus icon to the right of the category name.

The number of articles assigned to the category is listed in the item count column.

Grid Manager

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You can manage and edit grids here.

Grids control the overall appearance of individual sections, like the number and width of the columns that content is displayed in. To change the location of the different types of content within the grid, click on the “Layout Manager”.

To add a new grid, click on the “Add New Grid” button at the bottom of the list.

To download an existing grid, click on the <Download/Upload Grids> button at the bottom of the list. This takes you a different form.

To upload a grid from your computer, click on the <Download/Upload Grids> button at the bottom of the list. This takes you to a different form.

To edit the properties of a grid, select the “Edit” option from the “Controls” dropdown list to the right of a grid and click the <Go> button.

To edit the grid as CSS, click on the “Flatten Grid” option in the “Controls” dropdown list to the right of a grid. This takes you to a confirmation screen. Click <Yes>. This takes you to the CSS form for the selected grid. You cannot unflatten a grid once this had been done.

To delete an existing grid, select the “Delete” option from the “Controls” dropdown list to the right of a grid and click the <Go> button.

To create a layout for the grid, select the “Create a Layout” option from the “Controls” dropdown list to the right a grid and click the <Go> button

Download/Upload Grids

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You can upload and download grids to and from your vBulletin here.

To download a grid to your computer, enter the name of the grid in the “Filename” text field and click the <Download> button.

To clear the “Filename” field, click on the <Reset> button at the bottom of the form.

To import the XML file from your computer, click on the <Choose File> button to the right of the “Either upload the XML file from your computer” text and click on the <Import> button.

To import the XML file from your server, enter the location of the file to the right of the “OR import the XML file from your server” text and click on the <Import> button.

To overwrite an existing grid with an uploaded grid, select the “Yes” radio button to the right of the “Allow overwriting of exiting grids with same name?” text.

To clear the import field, click on the <Reset> button at the bottom of the form.

Note:

-- When you upload a file it must be in XML format.

Clear CMS Cache

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To clear the CMS Cache, go to Maintenance -> Clear System Cache in the Admin CP.

The link to the CMS Cache was removed and the Cache expanded to an overall system cache for better performance.

Layout Manager

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You can manage and create layouts here.

A layout controls the location of different types of content within a grid. The overall structure of a layout is dependent on the grid it's created for.

The name of the layout is displayed to the left.

The grid the layout is created for is listed in the “Grid” column.

To edit a chosen layout, select the “Edit” option from the “Controls” dropdown list and click the <Go> button. This opens a form containing the selected layout.

To delete a chosen layout, select the “Delete” option from the “Controls” dropdown list and click the <Go> button. This opens a popup confirmation. Click <Ok>. This deletes the selected layout.

Layout Form

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You can create layouts and manage the placement of content within a grid here.

The title of the layout goes in the “Title” text field.

To change the grid the layout is using, select a new grid from the grid dropdown menu.

To add a widget to the grid, select a widget from the scrolling list beneath the “Widget” header and click the >> button to the right. The widget appears in the grid.

To change the position of a widget or the content, click and hold your mouse over the widget or content you want to move. Drag the box to its new location and click <Save>.

Widget Manager

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What are widgets?

Widgets are the smaller applications that fill in the layout content. Where the layout content organizes the widgets and orders how they appear, it's the individual widgets that define what sorts of data are displayed. Widgets can be added, deleted, and edited through the Widget Manager.

You can view, manage and create new widgets here.

The name of the widget appears in the left most column.

The type of widget appears beneath the “Widget Type” column.

To edit a widget, select the <Edit> option in the “Controls” dropdown list and click the <Go>. This opens the widget form. You can only change the name of the widget and the kind of widget it is in this form.

To delete a widget, select the <Delete> option in the “Controls” dropdown list and click the <Go> button. This opens a popup confirmation.

To configure a widget, click on the <Configure> link to the right of the widget you wish to change.

To create a new widget, click on the <Create New Widget> button at the bottom of the list of widgets. Creating a widget only allows you to name a widget and select the kind of widget it is. If you want to define what content the widget displays, you must configure the widget.

Add Widgets

You can manage and create new widgets here.

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To change or select the widget type, select an option from the “Widget Type” dropdown list.

To add a description to the widget, enter text in the text field to the right of the “Description” header.

To increase the size of the “Description” text field, click on either the <Large Edit Box> button or the <Increase Size> link beneath the text field.

To decrease the size of the “Description” text field, click on the <Decrease Size> link beneath the text field.

To save your changes, click the <Save> button at the bottom of the form.

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Widget Types

What are the basic types of widgets?

- Category Navigation Widget

The Category Navigation Widget controls how the category menu is formatted.

- General Search

The General Search Widget displays the most recent results for a specific set of search terms that you set.

- My Friends Widget

The My Friends Widget is a general search widget that displays the most recent results for a specific set of search terms that you set made by members of a user’s friendslist.

- Poll Widget

The poll widget allows you to add polls and or poll results to the main page.

- Recent Activity

The Recent Activity Widget displays the most recent activity on your website. You can select what sort of activity you want displayed. This can range from forum posts, to new blog posts, to the latest published articles.

- RSS Feed

The RSS Feed allows you to stream and RSS feed from an off-site location on to your site page.

- Section Navigation Widget

The Section Navigation Widget controls how the section menu is formatted.

- Static HTML

The Static HTML Widget allows you to create a widget that displays a piece of text with HTML markups.

- Static BBcode

The StaticBB code Widget allows you to create a widget that display a piece of text with BBCode markups.

Configure Widgets

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To configure individual widgets after saving them, click on the Configure link to the right of the widget information.

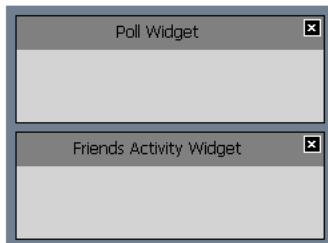
This will cause an overlay to open that has the widget’s specific options in it. Set the options as you desire and click the save button. The configuration will save and the overlay will close. Repeat this for all widgets that you have created.

Example: Configuring the General Search widget

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Click on the <Widgets> link.

In the [Widget Manager] select the general search widget you want to edit and click the <Configure> button.



In the popup form that appears, make the changes you want to modify the search.

Click on the <Save> button.

Permissions

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You can manage permissions here.

[Save Permission Changes](#) [Reset](#) [Remove Permissions](#)

User Group	Can Read	Create Content	Edit Others' Content	Can Publish	Can Use HTML in CMS Content
(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administrators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Admins #2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Banned	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Banned by Moderators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can See Deletion Notices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Permissions allow you to control what a group of users can and can not do in a section. This includes things like who can see a section, who can contribute articles to the section, who can edit content in the section and who can publish articles. Permissions for a section can be set and changed at any time. You can choose to modify the overall permission for your CMS module or set different permissions for each section.

The name of the section you are managing appears in the text field to the right of the “Permissions assigned for section” header.

To give a group the permission to do something, check the appropriate checkbox beneath the permission you want to give them.

The dropdown list beneath the permissions allows you to make mass changes for that permission. You can select all the checkboxes, uncheck all the checkboxes, or invert the selection of checkboxes.

To change the section you are setting permissions for, click on the name of the section in the box beneath the form.

Advertising

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From this section of the Admin Control Panel, you can manage advertisements that show up in your community. It will allow you to create new ads, edit them, or publish Google AdSense across your community quickly and easily.

Google Adsense Integration

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As of vBulletin 3.8, we have partnered with Google AdSense to make it easy for you to sign up with AdSense and make money with your online community! More information is available about Google AdSense on their [website](#).

To get started, you must create an AdSense account or associate an existing account via the [vBulletin Members' Area](#). Once your account is associated with us, Google AdSense will automatically be available to your forum the next time you download vBulletin.

Warning:

If you have not associated or created an AdSense account with us, the below options will not be shown in your administrator's control panel!

After you have downloaded vBulletin with Google AdSense integrated, you should follow the standard [upgrade instructions](#). After logging into your administrator's control panel, you will see an Advertising block in the left-hand navigation panel.



Now you must choose the type of integration you want:

Google AdSense Advertising

This screen will allow you to quickly roll-out Google AdSense advertising units into your vBulletin forum advertising templates, based on your Google AdSense account settings defined in the members' area at vBulletin.com.

There are two different advertising options available, Low and High, and an option to control the type of ad that is displayed. Please choose the option that you would prefer for your community.

Please note that utilizing Google AdSense code within your site or community is subject to the [Google AdSense terms and conditions](#).

To further configure your Google AdSense account, please visit the [Google AdSense website](#).

You are not running any Google AdSense ads on your forum.

Google AdSense pub-1234567890987654
Publisher ID

Change Google AdSense Package

No Google AdSense Ads
 Low - one small text-only advertising unit under the navbar and one small unit in the footer
 High - one medium advertising unit under the navbar, one unit before the footer, and one unit for guests in the first post of a thread

Type of Ads to Show

Text ads only
 Text and image ads

Change Google AdSense Package

- **Google AdSense Publisher ID** - the AdSense publisher ID that is currently being used. If you ever wish to change the AdSense account that is associated, you can use this value to confirm the publisher ID that is currently in use.
- **Change Google AdSense Package** - this controls the position of the ads that are shown. Choose No Google AdSense Ads to remove all ads. See below for more details on each specific package.
- **Type of Ads to Show** - this is used in conjunction with the package to configure the type of ads that are shown. Text ads are less invasive to your users but not as effective. We recommend you select Text and image ads.

The available Google AdSense packages are defined as:

Low

1. A small 5-link advertising unit under the navigation bar. *This location only shows text ads in the Low package.*
2. A small advertising unit at the footer of the page.



High

1. A medium advertising unit under the navigation bar.



2. A nearly-square advertising unit within the first post of a thread. This only shows for guests.
3. A medium advertising unit at the footer of the page.

Note: It has been reported that some ad blockers can interfere with setting up Adsense via these instructions. If you have a problem try temporarily disabling your ad blockers.

Manage Ads

This screen provides a list of your current advertisements. From here you can edit advertisements or toggle whether they are active or not.

Ad Type	Status	Order	Action
Global "above footer" ad	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	10	[Edit] [Delete]
Header Ad	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	20	[Edit] [Delete]
sdggda	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	30	[Edit] [Delete]
pogos test ad	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	40	[Edit] [Delete]
Header Ad 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	50	[Edit] [Delete]
Archive Pos #1 Ad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	60	[Edit] [Delete]
Ad Date test	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	70	[Edit] [Delete]
Header AD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	80	[Edit] [Delete]
Ugly Below-navbar Ad.	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	90	[Edit] [Delete]

To create a new advertisement click on "Add New Ad"

Add New Ad

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Clicking on "Add New Ad" launches a wizard to create new advertisements for your community. You can select where they are shown on the page, include the HTML for the advertisements and set conditions on who sees the advertisements.

The first step is to choose the location. You will see a screen like the one below.



Simply click on the highlighted ad location where you want it to show. To change the area, select a new area at the top of the screen. Current areas include Global (Header, Navbar, and Footer), Board (Forum Home), Forum (Forum Display), and Thread (Showthread). Additional areas will come later.

After selecting the location for your advertisement you will be presented with this screen:

This will allow you to create a new advertisement. You must fill in the following fields:

- Title - A descriptive title that will allow you to recognize the advertisement on the Manage Ads screen. This will not be shown to users.

- Ad Location - This should be pre-filled with the location you chose in the Ad Selector. If necessary you can change this.
- Ad HTML - The HTML for your advertisement. You cannot use BBCODE here but you can use Template Conditionals and vBulletin variables. If you don't know the HTML for an advertisement, contact the advertiser and have them provide it to you.
- Display Order - Sets the advertisement's display order if you have multiple ads in the same location.
- Active - Determines whether the advertisement is shown or not.

Underneath the ad options, you can see several conditions. You can set these to restrict the viewing of advertisements to specific locales, usergroups and restrict ads by dates. If your specific condition doesn't exist then you will need to create custom conditions using Plugins or Template Conditionals within the advertising HTML.

The screenshot shows a configuration interface for displaying an advertisement based on user conditions. At the top right is a [AddHelp] button. Below it is a list of checkboxes and dropdown menus:

- User belongs to usergroup: Registered Users
- User does not belong to usergroup: Administrators
- User is browsing a Non-Content page.
- User is browsing forum New & Events
- User is browsing forum New & Events or one of its child forums
- User is browsing using style Kevin Test
- User has not visited for 30 days or more
- User has not posted for 30 days or more (but has posted previously)
- User's post-count is between _____ and _____ posts
- User has never posted
- User has between 100 and 200 reputation points
- User's private message storage is between 90 % and 100 % full
- User landed on this page via search engine
- The date is 10-03-2010 User's Timezone (Use dd-mm-yyyy format)
- The time is between 07:05 and 08:05 User's Timezone (Use hh:mm 24 hour format) - This checkbox is checked.
- Criteria for ad Global "above footer" ad are not met

At the bottom are Save and Reset buttons.

Google AdSense Integration

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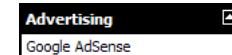
We have partnered with Google AdSense to make it easy for you to sign up with AdSense and make money with your online community! More information is available about Google AdSense on their [website](#).

To get started, you must create an AdSense account or associate an existing account via the [vBulletin Members' Area](#). Once your account is associated with us, Google AdSense will automatically be available to your forum the next time you download vBulletin.

Warning:

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There are two different advertising options available, Low and High, and an option to control the type of ad that is displayed. Please choose the option that you would prefer for your community.

Please note that utilizing Google AdSense code within your site or community is subject to the [Google AdSense terms and conditions](#).

To further configure your Google AdSense account, please visit the [Google AdSense website](#).

You are not running any Google AdSense ads on your forum.

Google AdSense pub-1234567890987654
Publisher ID

Change Google AdSense Package **No Google AdSense Ads** **Low** - one small text-only advertising unit under the navbar and one small unit in the footer **High** - one medium advertising unit under the navbar, one unit before the footer, and one unit for guests in the first post of a thread

Type of Ads to Show Text ads only Text and image ads

Change Google AdSense Package

- **Google AdSense Publisher ID** - the AdSense publisher ID that is currently being used. If you ever wish to change the AdSense account that is associated, you can use this value to confirm the publisher ID that is currently in use.
- **Change Google AdSense Package** - this controls the position of the ads that are shown. Choose No Google AdSense Ads to remove all ads. See below for more details on each specific package.
- **Type of Ads to Show** - this is used in conjunction with the package to configure the type of ads that are shown. Text ads are less invasive to your users but not as effective. We recommend you select Text and image ads.

The available Google AdSense packages are defined as:



Low

1. A small 5-link advertising unit under the navigation bar. *This location only shows text ads in the Low package.*
2. A small advertising unit at the footer of the page.

High

1. A medium advertising unit under the navigation bar.
2. A nearly-square advertising unit within the first post of a thread. This only shows for guests.
3. A medium advertising unit at the footer of the page.



Note: It has been reported that some ad blockers can interfere with setting up Adsense via these instructions. If you have a problem try temporarily disabling your ad blockers.

Styles & Templates

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The Styles & Templates section allows you to change the fonts, colors or the html of any section of the board to your preference.

The first part of this section of the vBulletin Manual deals with how the vBulletin style system actually works, and includes a reference guide for various important elements.

[vBulletin Style Reference](#)

The second part deals with using the tools provided to you in the Style & Templates area of the Admin CP.

[The Style Manager](#)

Note:

To modify the look and feel of your vBulletin forums, a knowledge of [XHTML 1.0](#) and [CSS 1.0](#) is required. To learn the basics of these markup languages please visit [W3schools.com](#). If you have questions please visit our [community forums](#).

vBulletin Style Reference

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The vBulletin Styles system is the interface through which you can configure the way that your visitors see your board.

A variety of controls are available for your use, allowing you to make both minor changes, such as the font used for the interface, right through to changing the underlying HTML used to generate the board's individual pages.

The look of your board can be altered to your own custom preferences through a simple-to-use interface that allows you to change fonts, colors and images etc. If you want to get down and dirty with the underlying HTML of the board, you can also do this by editing individual templates via the Style Manager.

A vBulletin style comprises several elements that work together to create a complete look for your board.

Those components are as follows:

- [Templates](#)
- [CSS](#)
- [StyleVars](#)
- [Replacement Variables](#)

Templates

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How do Templates Work?

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The pages you see making up the user-side of vBulletin are generated using a number of templates. Templates are fragments of XHTML code interspersed with PHP variables. These combine together to form complete XHTML pages that are served up to visitors.

A simple example template might look like this:

```
<table class="tborder">
<tr>
  <td class="tcat" colspan="2">My Table</td>
</tr>
$tablebits
</table>
```

The \$tablebits PHP variable represents an area of the template that will be replaced with either some data, or additional template contents.

For example, we may have another template that looks like this:

```
<tr>
  <td class="alt1">$username</td>
  <td class="alt2">$message</td>
</tr>
```

This template would have the \$username and \$message variables substituted with the appropriate username and message.

```
<tr>
  <td class="alt1">Mister User</td>
  <td class="alt2">This is my message</td>
</tr>
```

The template would then be repeated as many times as necessary, replacing the variables with the username and message for each repetition. Finally, this completed block of XHTML would be inserted into the first template, replacing the \$tablebits variable, resulting in a complete block of code like this:

```
<table class="tborder">
<tr>
  <td class="tcat" colspan="2">My Table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td class="alt1">Mister User</td>
  <td class="alt2">This is my message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td class="alt1">Another Person</td>
  <td class="alt2">This message is in reply to that posted above.</td>
```

```
</tr>
<tr>
    <td class="alt1">Mister User</td>
    <td class="alt2">Hey, thanks for responding to my message!</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

This resulting code can then be passed on to the visitor's web browser for display.

Here is the header template from a current version of vBulletin. This shows how a typical template is built in vBulletin.

```
<div class="above_body"> <!-- closing tag is in template navbar -->
<div id="header" class="floatcontainer doc_header">
    <vb:if condition="$stylevar['titleimage']"><div><a name="top" href="{vb:link forumhome}" class="logo-image"></a></div>
    <div id="toplinks" class="toplinks">
        <vb:if condition="$show['member']">
            <ul class="isuser">
                <li><a href="login.php?{vb:raw session.sessionurl}do=logout&logouthash={vb:raw bbuserinfo.logouthash}" onclick="return log_out('{vb:raw bbuserinfo.logouthash}')">Logout</a></li>
                <vb:if condition="$show['registerbutton']">
                    <li><a href="register.php?{vb:raw session.sessionurl_q}" rel="nofollow">Register</a></li>
                </vb:if>
                <li><a href="usercp.php?{vb:raw session.sessionurl_q}">User Control Panel</a></li>
                <li><a href="{vb:link member, {vb:raw bbuserinfo}}">Your Profile</a></li>
            </vb:if>
            <li class="popupmenu notifications" id="notifications">
                <a class="popupctrl" href="usercp.php?{vb:raw session.sessionurl_q}">Your Notifications</a>
                <ul class="popupbody popuhover">
                    <li><vb:raw notifications_menubits></li>
                </ul>
            </li>
        </vb:else />
        <li class="popupmenu nonotifications" id="nonotifications">
            <a class="popupctrl" href="usercp.php?{vb:raw session.sessionurl_q}">Your Notifications</a>
            <ul class="popupbody popuhover">
                <li><vb:rawphrase no_new_messages></li>
                <vb:if condition="$show['pmmainlink']"><li><a href="private.php?{vb:raw session.sessionurl_q}">Inbox</a></li></vb:if>
            </ul>
        </li>
    </vb:if>
    <li class="welcomelink"><vb:rawphrase welcome_x_link_y, {vb:raw bbuserinfo.username}, {vb:link member, {vb:raw bbuserinfo}}></li>
    <vb:if condition="$vboptions['enablefacebookconnect']">
        <li><vb:raw facebook_header></li>
    </vb:if>
    </ul>
    <{vb:raw template_hook.header_userinfo}>
    <vb:comment><p><vb:rawphrase last_visited_x_at_y, {vb:raw pmbox.lastvisitdate}, {vb:raw pmbox.lastvisittime}></p></vb:comment>
    <vb:else />
    <ul class="nouser">
        <vb:if condition="$show['registerbutton']">
            <li><a href="register.php?{vb:raw session.sessionurl_q}" rel="nofollow">Register</a></li>
        </vb:if>
        <li><a href="faq.php?{vb:raw session.sessionurl_q}">Help</a></li>
        <li><script type="text/javascript" src="clientscript/vbulletin_md5.js?v={vb:raw vboptions.simpleversion}"></script>
            <form id="navbar_loginform" action="login.php?{vb:raw session.sessionurl}do=login" method="post" onsubmit="md5hash(vb_login_password, vb_login_md5password)">
                <fieldset id="logindetails" class="logindetails">
                    <div>
                        <input type="text" class="textbox" name="vb_login_username" id="navbar_username" size="10" value=""/>
                        <input type="password" class="textbox" tabindex="102" name="vb_login_password" id="navbar_password" size="10" value=""/>
                        <input type="text" class="textbox" default-value="" tabindex="102" name="vb_login_password_hint" id="navbar_password_hint" size="10" value=""/>
                        <input type="submit" class="loginbutton" tabindex="104" value="Log In" title="Enter Username To Login Or Click Here To Log In" type="button" value="Log In" />
                    </div>
                </fieldset>
                <div id="remember" class="remember">
                    <label for="cb_cookieuser_navbar"><input type="checkbox" name="cookieuser" value="1" id="cb_cookieuser_navbar" class="cb_cookieuser_navbar" checked="checked" /></label>
                </div>
                <input type="hidden" name="s" value="{vb:raw session.sessionhash}" />
                <input type="hidden" name="securitytoken" value="{vb:raw bbuserinfo.securitytoken}" />
                <input type="hidden" name="do" value="login" />
                <input type="hidden" name="vb_login_md5password" />
                <input type="hidden" name="vb_login_md5password_utf" />
            </form>
            <script type="text/javascript">
YAHOO.util.Dom.setStyle('navbar_password_hint', 'display', 'inline');
YAHOO.util.Dom.setStyle('navbar_password', 'display', 'none');
vB_XHTML_Ready.subscribe(function()
{
    // YAHOO.util.Event.on('navbar_username', 'focus', navbar_username_focus);
    YAHOO.util.Event.on('navbar_username', 'blur', navbar_username.blur);
    YAHOO.util.Event.on('navbar_password_hint', 'focus', navbar_password_hint);
    YAHOO.util.Event.on('navbar_password', 'blur', navbar_password);
});

function navbar_username_focus(e)
{
    var textbox = YAHOO.util.Event.getTarget(e);
    if (textbox.value == '<vb:if condition="$username">{vb:raw username}<vb:else />{vb:rawphrase username}</vb:if>')
    {
        // textbox.value='';
        textbox.style.color='{vb:stylevar input_color}';
    }
}
```

```

        }
    }

    function navbar_username.blur(e)
    {
    // 
        var textbox = YAHOO.util.Event.getTarget(e);
        if (textbox.value == '')
        {
        //
            textbox.value='<vb:if condition="$username">{vb:raw username}<vb:else />{vb:rawphrase username}</vb:if>';
            textbox.style.color='{vb:stylevar shade_color}';
        }
    }

    function navbar_password_hint(e)
    {
    //
        var textbox = YAHOO.util.Event.getTarget(e);

        YAHOO.util.Dom.setStyle('navbar_password_hint', "display", "none");
        YAHOO.util.Dom.setStyle('navbar_password', "display", "inline");
        YAHOO.util.Dom.get('navbar_password').focus();
    }

    function navbar_password(e)
    {
    //
        var textbox = YAHOO.util.Event.getTarget(e);

        if (textbox.value == '')
        {
        //
            YAHOO.util.Dom.setStyle('navbar_password_hint', "display", "inline");
            YAHOO.util.Dom.setStyle('navbar_password', "display", "none");
        }
    }
</script>
</li>
<vb:if condition="$vboptions['enablefacebookconnect']">
    {vb:raw facebook_header}
</vb:if>
</ul>
</vb:if>
</div>
<div class="ad_global_header">
    {vb:raw ad_location.global_header1}
    {vb:raw ad_location.global_header2}
</div>
<hr />
</div>

```

Template Syntax

vBulletin 4.0 introduces a rich new syntax for marking-up templates, reducing the need for formatting and escaping to be performed in .php files.

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Variable Access

Variables should be referenced in templates wherever possible using the following syntax:

```
{vb:var variable}
```

Variables accessed in this manner are 'made safe' by being run through htmlspecialchars as they are output.

To access array elements, use a dot operator, rather than standard PHP square brackets:

```
{vb:var variable.foo} // accesses htmlspecialchars($variable['foo'])
{vb:var variable.$varkey} // accesses htmlspecialchars($variable[$varkey])
```

Raw Variables

To access variables in the normal, pre-vB4 fashion, use the following syntax:

```
{vb:raw variable}
```

This is equivalent to simply accessing \$variable in the pre-vB4 syntax. No treatment is applied to the variable. The same dot operator is used to access array elements.

Curly-Brace Syntax

The general syntax here is

```
{vb:method arg1[, arg2...]}
```

Inside curly braces, variables can be accessed without using a separate set of surrounding braces. For example,

```
{vb:method {variable}} // unnecessary extra braces
{vb:method variable}
```

Built-in Methods

phrase

{vb:phrase phrase_name[, arguments for phrase...]}

Inserts the specified phrase. If arguments are provided, they will be run through htmlspecialchars.

Example:

{vb:phrase welcome}

rawphrase

{vb:rawphrase phrase_name[, arguments for phrase...]}

As above, though arguments bypass htmlspecialchars.

Example:

{vb:rawphrase message_by_x_on_y_at_z, {vb:link member, {vb:raw postinfo}}, {vb:raw postinfo.username}, {vb:raw postinfo.postdate}, {vb:raw postinfo.posttime}}

date

{vb:date timestamp[, format]}

Formats a UNIX timestamp using the default date format for the active language. A format may also be explicitly specified. Timezone will be corrected for the viewing user.

time

{vb:time timestamp[, format]}

As above, though uses the default time format instead of date format.

number

{vb:number number[, decimals]}

Outputs a number having run through vb_number_format for correct locale formatting. Number of decimal places to display can be optionally specified.

raw

{vb:raw variable}

Outputs the variable raw, without any formatting or escaping.

escapejs

{vb:escapejs variable}

Returns the variable prepared for use as a Javascript single-quoted string instead of running htmlspecialchars.

urlencode

{vb:urlencode variable}

Escapes the variable using urlencode.

if

{vb:if condition, true[, false]}

Use this in instances where the full <vb:if> tag can not be used, such as within HTML tags.

Example:

<div class=" {vb:if \$forumid==1, forum1, forum}>...</div>

link

{vb:link type, info[, extra-info]}

Used to build a hyperlink URL of the specified type and into the correct 'friendly' format.

For more information see: [Link Syntax](#)**math**

{vb:math expression}

Primarily used within CSS, this is used to evaluate the result of the mathematical expression specified.

stylevar

{vb:stylevar name[.sub-part]}

Used to output a style variable from the style system. No escaping is performed.

Tags

All tags make use of the vb namespace for ease of identification and parsing.

The following tags are available:

literal

<vb:literal>misc code</vb:literal>

Any code inside vb:literal tags will be treated as plain HTML. No curly-brace syntax or vb:tag markup will be evaluated.

if

<vb:if condition="condition">true result</vb:if>

If the expression specified in condition is true, the contents of the vb:if tags will be output, otherwise nothing will be output.

elseif

<vb:elseif condition="condition" />true result

Used in conjunction with vb:if, this allows a secondary condition to be checked and the true result to be output if the condition is met.

else

<vb:else />true result

Used in conjunction with vb:if, the true result will be output if the vb:if condition failed, and so did any vb:elseif checks.

comment

<vb:comment>a comment</vb:comment>

In cases where a comment is necessary but the usual <!-- comment --> syntax is undesirable, the vb:comment tag allows its contents to be completely removed upon compiling, so they will not be delivered to the browser. Useful for internal commenting.

each

<vb:each from="array" key="key" value="value"></vb:each>

This tag will iterate through an existing array, in a similar manner to foreach. See the example use below.

Example Use of vb:each

Array:

```
// We have an array of users available in PHP.  
// It looks like this:  
// $users = array(  
//     1 => array('username' => 'Adam', 'email' => 'adam@adam.com'),  
//     2 => array('username' => 'Ben', 'email' => 'ben@ben.com'),  
//     3 => array('username' => 'Chris', 'email' => 'chris@chris.com')  
// );
```

Template:

```
<!-- our template code... -->  
<vb:each from="users" key="userid" value="userinfo">  
    <li><a href="member.php?u={vb:var userid}">{vb:var userinfo.username}</a></li>  
</vb:each>
```

Output:

```
<!-- will output... -->  
<li><a href="member.php?u=1">Adam</a></li>  
<li><a href="member.php?u=2">Ben</a></li>  
<li><a href="member.php?u=3">Chris</a></li>
```

Link Syntax

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Creating Links in Templates

When you wish to use a url in a template the format is as follows:

```
{vb:link string, array[], array[], string, string}  
{vb:link [thread|member|forum|blog], {vb:raw threadinfo}[], {vb:raw pageinfo}[], 'id', 'title'}
```

The first argument is a string that notifies the system which type of URL is to be output. The valid types are thread, forum, and member

The second argument is an array that contains the id and title, as the minimum requirements, of the link to be generated. For thread, this would be threadid and title. For forum this would be forumid and title. For member this would be userid and username.

The third argument is an optional array that contains any arguments that are required to be sent along, such as perpage (pp), page (pagenumber), order, and so on.

The simplest forms are:

```
{vb:link thread, {vb:raw threadinfo}}  
{vb:link forum, {vb:raw foruminfo}}  
{vb:link member, {vb:raw userinfo}}
```

If you have an array containing the id and title but they do not follow the conventional naming conventions, then you may specify their names with the fifth and sixth options. Both must be specified for them to be recognized. For example, you have \$post[threadid] and \$post[threadtitle] and wish to output a thread url. You would use:

```
{vb:link thread, {vb:raw post}, null, 'threadid', 'threadtitle'}
```

null was specified for the \$pageinfo argument array since this example had no arguments.

If you wish to output a url that uses & instead of & e.g.: to be used within javascript, append "js" to your type argument so that thread becomes threadjs, member becomes memberjs. If you wish to not output a sessionhash, in any instance, say for a url to be used within an email, append nosession to the type argument, so that thread becomes thread|nosession

Examples:

To output a link to a post, you could use

```
<a href="{link thread, {vb:raw threadinfo}, {vb:raw
pageinfo_lastpost}}#post$lastpostinfo[lastpostid]">{$threadinfo[title]}</a>
```

\$pageinfo_lastpost would appear like:

```
$pageinfo_lastpost = array('p' => 1234);
```

Creating Links in PHP

When creating a link in the code, use the `fetch_seo_url` function, which accepts the same arguments.

```
function fetch_seo_url(string, array, array, string, string)
```

In fact the `{vb:link thread, {vb:raw threadinfo}, {vb:raw pageinfo}}` syntax is just replaced with `fetch_seo_url()` when a template is compiled.

Examples:

Infractions tab of a user's profile

```
$linkinfo = array('postuserid' => 123, 'postusername' => 'freddie');
$pageinfo = array('tab' => 'infractions');
$memberurl = fetch_seo_url('member', $linkinfo, $pageinfo, 'postuserid', 'postusername');
```

Using the mod rewrite output, \$memberurl would be /members/123-freddie?tab=infractions

Please refer to the code for exact examples.

Template Conditionals

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Template Conditionals are a powerful tool for controlling the XHTML output from your templates. They allow you to create simple if/else branches within your templates, in order to display different content depending on the condition you specify.

For example you may want to show a different welcome message on the front page of your board to registered users and to guests. The way to know whether or not the person visiting a page is a guest, or a logged-in user is to check the value of `$bbuserinfo[userid]`. If the value is 0, the visitor is a guest (or not logged-in), otherwise the visitor is a registered member.

This is a simple conditional to show a welcome message to guests *only*.

```
<vb:if condition="$bbuserinfo['userid'] == 0">
    <p>Welcome to the forum!<br />
    If this is your first visit, we hope you enjoy your stay!</p>
</vb:if>
```

The previous example used a simple 'if' condition. We can extend that to include an 'else' condition, which will be used if the 'if' condition is not fulfilled.

This example extends the previous conditional to show a different message to registered members from that shown to guests.

```
<vb:if condition="$bbuserinfo['userid'] == 0">
    <p>Welcome to the forum!<br />
    If this is your first visit, we hope you enjoy your stay!</p>
<vb:else />
    <p>Welcome back, $bbuserinfo[username].<br />
    <a href="search.php?do=getnew">Click here to view new posts</a>.
</vb:if>
```

Starting in vBulletin 4.0 template conditionals natively support 'else if' as well.

```
<vb:if condition="$my_variable == 1">
    <p>My variable is equal to one.</p>
<vb:elseif condition="$my_variable == 2" />
    <p>My variable is equal to two.</p>
<vb:else />
    <p>My variable is equal to neither one nor two.</p>
</vb:if>
```

The actual syntax of vBulletin template conditionals is fairly straight forward. To begin a conditional, you simply start an `<vb:if>` tag. The `<vb:if>` tag accepts a single attribute, that being 'condition'. The value of the condition attribute contains an expression written in PHP. After the opening `<vb:if>` tag comes the HTML that should be expressed if the condition is met. The conditional terminates with a closing `</vb:if>` tag.

Perhaps the easiest way to illustrate this is to demonstrate a simple example of PHP code being embedded as a template conditional.

Let us assume for the purposes of this example that we want to have the equivalent of this PHP code in our template:

```
if ($my_variable == 1)
{
    echo "<p>My variable is equal to one.</p>";
}
```

This could be expressed as a template conditional in the following way:

```
<vb:if condition="$my_variable == 1">
    <p>My variable is equal to one.</p>
```

</vb:if>

If we were to extend our PHP code to include an 'else' condition as follows...

```
if ($my_variable == 1)
{
    echo "<p>My variable is equal to one.</p>";
}
else
{
    echo "<p>My variable is not equal to one.</p>";
}
```

... then our template conditional would be extended thus:

```
<vb:if condition="$my_variable == 1">
    <p>My variable is equal to one.</p>
<vb:else />
    <p>My variable is not equal to one.</p>
</vb:if>
```

Furthermore, we may want to extend our PHP with an 'else if' condition:

```
if ($my_variable == 1)
{
    echo "<p>My variable is equal to one.</p>";
}
else if ($my_variable == 2)
{
    echo "<p>My variable is equal to two.</p>";
}
else
{
    echo "<p>My variable is equal to neither one nor two.</p>";
}

<vb:if condition="$my_variable == 1">
    <p>My variable is equal to one.</p>
<vb:elseif condition="$my_variable == 2" />
    <p>My variable is equal to two.</p>
<vb:else />
    <p>My variable is equal to neither one nor two.</p>
</vb:if>
```

Using PHP Functions in Template Conditionals

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As a security precaution, to prevent malicious damage to either your database or your server itself, most PHP functions are disallowed in template conditionals.

This, for example, would be disallowed by the vBulletin template system, as it contains a call to a 'forbidden' function: `mysql_query`.

```
<vb:if condition="$my_variable = mysql_query('SELECT * FROM mytable')">
    <!-- naughty naughty... -->
</vb:if>
```

At the time of writing, the list of allowed 'safe' functions is as follows:

- [in_array](#)
- [is_array](#)
- [is_numeric](#)
- [isset](#)
- [empty](#)
- [defined](#)
- [array](#)
- [can_moderate*](#)
- [can_moderate_calendar*](#)
- [exec_switch_bg*](#)
- [is_browser*](#)
- [is_member_of*](#)

Note:

Functions marked * are custom functions defined by vBulletin itself. Each function name is a link that will take you to the documentation for that function. Use of these functions requires knowledge of PHP

This is an example of 'safe' functions being used in a template conditional:

```
<vb:if condition="isset($my_variable) AND is_browser('ie')">
    <!-- $my_variable is set and the browser is Internet Explorer -->
</vb:if>
```

The Legacy Postbit Template

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The template in which most messages are displayed is called *postbit*. With the release of vBulletin 3, the layout of the *postbit* template was altered radically, changing from a system of two columns with user information in the left column and the message in the right to a system of two rows, with user information displayed above the message.

[New Postbit](#)

This screenshot shows the new-style postbit template. At the top, it displays the date and time (02-17-2004, 01:33 PM), the post number (#1), and the user's profile information (Administrator, Join Date: Jan 2004, Posts: 6). Below this, the thread title 'This is a new thread' is shown. The main content area contains the message 'Hello there!' and two buttons at the bottom: 'Edit' and 'Quote'.

Old (Legacy) Postbit

This screenshot shows the old-style postbit template. It has a horizontal layout where the user information (Administrator, Join Date: Jan 2004, Posts: 6) is on the left, and the message 'Hello there!' is on the right. A vertical line separates the two sections. At the bottom, there are 'Edit' and 'Quote' buttons.

While most people prefer the new layout of the *postbit* template after using it for a short time, there are others who are less willing to make the change.

If you would like to run your board using the old-style *postbit* template, you can do so by going to vBulletin Options > Style & Language Settings and switching the Use Legacy (Vertical) Postbit Template? setting to Yes.

This screenshot shows the 'Use Legacy (Vertical) Postbit Template' settings page. It includes a note about switching back to the old-style postbit if you prefer it. A radio button labeled 'Yes' is selected, indicating the choice to use the legacy template. A note below states: 'Please note that if you enable this option and wish to customize the template, you should edit the 'postbit_legacy' template rather than the 'postbit'.'

After clicking the [Save] button, all your styles will use the Legacy (old style) Postbit.

Note:

If your board is set to use the Legacy Postbit template you should be aware that you will need to make any postbit-related template customizations to the *postbit_legacy* template instead of the *postbit* template.

Including External Files

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Warning:

This is considered modifying the code. To get further help and support with including external files you will need to visit <http://www.vbulletin.org/>.

If you have a PHP or HTML file that you want to include in your vBulletin forum, create a plugin that references that file. Then add a variable to the template of your choice where that file's contents should appear.

Note:

The Plugin system must be enabled in vBulletin Options -> Plugin System for plugins to work. It is disabled by default.

Including an HTML file:

1. Create a Plugin for `global_start` with this code:

```
$includedhtml = implode('', file('path/to/this/file/myfile.html'));
```

Replace the path and filename with the correct path and filename of the HTML file you want to include. The contents of `myfile.html` will be copied to the variable `$includedhtml`.

2. Place `{vb:raw includedhtml}` in one of your templates, such as header, navbar, FORUMHOME, depending upon where you want the contents of your HTML file to appear.

Including a PHP file:

1. Create a Plug-in for `global_start` with these contents:

```
ob_start();
include('path/to/this/file/myfile.php');
$includedphp = ob_get_contents();
ob_end_clean();
```

Replace the path and filename with the correct path and filename of the PHP file you want to include. The code in `myfile.php` will execute and any output generated by this script will be stored in `$includedphp`.

2. Place `{vb:raw includedphp}` in one of your templates, such as header, navbar, FORUMHOME, depending upon where you want the contents of your PHP file to appear.

Warning:

Plugins that contain invalid or malicious code may cause your forum to stop functioning or even lead to data loss. Using Plugins is not supported and you'll be asked to disable them in the event that you request tech support. If a Plugin has made your forum inaccessible, please disable plugins. Troubleshooting errant plugins and products is handled at our sister site, <http://www.vBulletin.org>.

What is Output Buffering?

Most PHP files that you might wish to include in your forum contain echo or other output statements in your PHP file, it will break vBulletin because it is still in the process of initializing when it loads your PHP file. All echo and other output commands must be output buffered using `ob_start`, `ob_clean`, etc. commands. The output of your PHP script

will be buffered for later use and inserted into a variable. All other statements in the PHP script will execute normally.

A word about variables.

It is very important that any variables initialized in your PHP script do not overlap built-in vBulletin variables or you will get unpredictable results. It may be advisable to create a PHP script just for inclusion in your forum rather than including a larger script used by another part of your website.

Variables are also subject to scope. You may need to access your variable out of the \$global array like {vb:raw global.variablename} instead of simply {vb:raw variablename}. You may also need work with a hook location that is more accessible to the template that you wish to alter.

Please see the PHP documentation for more information on variable scope:

<http://www.php.net/manual/en/language.variables.scope.php>

Registering Variables

In vBulletin 4+, you need to register variables for them to be available in specific templates and usable. You would do this with code like this:

```
vB_Template::preRegister('FORUMHOME',array('includedphp' => $includedphp));
```

Replace FORUMHOME with the template you want to include your value in.

Which hook should I use?

The hook used above (global_start) makes your HTML or PHP file available in almost every template on your vBulletin forum. You may wish to include a PHP file or HTML file only on certain pages or parts of your forum. You'll need to select the correct hook where your code should be loaded. To determine which hook you should use, turn on Debug and then make this change to the appropriate functions.php file.

How do I turn on debug mode?

Please note that you should not turn on debug mode in a live environment.

Open the config.php file.

At the top, on a new line below <?php
add: \$config['Misc']['debug'] = true;

Note:

If you wish to include() multiple PHP files, make sure you use ob_clean() before each include() to reset the buffer.

CSS

Not to be confused with [XSS](#), CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets.

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For the most part, vBulletin hides the nitty-gritty of editing CSS from you, instead presenting you with a user-friendly interface in the [Style Manager](#) in which to enter values to control the styling of your board. However, in the interest of a knowledge of what is going on behind the scenes in the vBulletin style system, we'll talk a little about CSS here.

CSS is a system designed to allow the *style* of a web site to be separated from the content itself.

Before CSS, web sites had to include HTML code defining how to display content along with the content itself. For example, to display a page of text using a bold, red, medium-sized font, it was necessary to include tags in the actual content:

```
<p><font size="2" face="verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif" color="red">
  <b>This is my first paragraph.</b>
</font></p>

<p><font size="2" face="verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif" color="red">
  <b>This is my second paragraph.</b>
</font></p>

<p><font size="2" face="verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif" color="red">
  <b>This is my third paragraph.</b>
</font></p>
```

As is clearly demonstrated by the previous example, the HTML code has two problems. Firstly, the display code actually represents more HTML than the content itself, and secondly, it is necessary to repeat the same display code over and over.

The net result is HTML code that is bloated by display-related code. Worse still, if we decided at a later date that we wanted to change all the text on our site to use an italic, blue font rather than a bold, red font, we would have to edit the HTML code of every page on the site.

CSS allows us to get away from this far-from-ideal situation by allowing us to define style rules, known as **classes**.

We could set up a class wherein all content with the class applied would appear with our bold, red, medium-sized font. For now, we'll call this 'myclass'.

```
<p class="myclass">This is my first paragraph.</p>
<p class="myclass">This is my second paragraph.</p>
<p class="myclass">This is my third paragraph.</p>
```

You can see from this example that there is now significantly less HTML code needed, and that there is no inherent display-related code visible.

The CSS code that defines 'myclass' looks like this:

```
<style type="text/css">
<!--
.myclass
{
    font: bold 10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif;
    color: red;
}
-->
</style>
```

With this system, were we to decide that we wanted to change all our text to use the italic, blue font, we would not need to edit our HTML content at all. Rather, we would simply change the style rules defined in 'myclass', and all the text with 'myclass' applied would automatically reflect the change.

Better still, the class definitions can be kept entirely separate from the HTML code by putting them into a .css file and linking to the file from each HTML page. Therefore, updating a single .css file can change the style of an *entire web site*, without having to edit a single HTML file.

To demonstrate the extent of use of CSS in vBulletin, here is a comparison of a page from the vBulletin.com web site shown with and without CSS.



For a more complete discussion of exactly what CSS is, and how to use it, visit the following sites:

- [CSS Tutorial at W3Schools.com](#)
- [CSS 2 Reference Guide at W3Schools.com](#)
- [CSS 2 Specification at W3C.org](#)

The following sections list and explain all the CSS classes and definitions used by vBulletin, so you can edit them with confidence, knowing exactly what they control, where to use them, and how your edits will affect the look of the system.

CSS Templates

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vBulletin stores all of its CSS in templates within the Style Manager. You can edit these templates in the same way that you edit any other template. To get to them follow this process:

Styles & Templates > Style Manager > Edit Templates (on All Style Options Dropdown)

Once in the template list, double-click on CSS Templates. Then double-click on the template that you want to edit.

Additional.css

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Additional.css is a special blank template that you can use for your own customizations. It will not be overwritten or merged on subsequent upgrades. You can also use this template to override the default CSS in the system. additional.css is called on every page in the headinclude_bottom template.

Style Variables

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StyleVars (short for *Style Variables*) are PHP variables that contain a single value used for controlling the appearance of some aspect of a vBulletin style. Stylevars are used in conjunction with CSS and Templates to control the look and feel of your vBulletin site.

StyleVars are incorporated into CSS and Templates using the [{stylevar} syntax](#). While Stylevars are primarily used within CSS in vBulletin 4, they can be used in XHTML templates as well.

How Style Variables Interact with CSS

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vBulletin uses Style Variables to dynamically build your CSS during rendering either during page load or when the files are written to the server, if you have enabled that option. This allows you to quickly and easily build different styles that your users can choose from.

When you look at the CSS templates you will see code like this:

```
.postbit, .postbitlegacy, .eventbit {
    margin-bottom: {vb:stylevar padding};
    display: block;
    width: 100%;
    clear: both;
    position: relative;
    float: {vb:stylevar left};
```

```
color: {vb:stylevar body_color};
border: {vb:stylevar postbit_border};
}
```

This code contains several style variables as denoted by the {vb:stylevar} tags. The vBulletin template engine will retrieve the values of those style variables and insert them directly into the CSS as it is rendered.

CSS Math

Primarily used within CSS, this is used to evaluate the result of the mathematical expression specified.

```
{vb:math expression}
```

An example of this might look like:

```
height:{vb:math 8px + {vb:math {vb:stylevar font.fontSize}-1}};
```

This determines the height of an element based on the font size specified in the font style variable and an extra value of 8 pixels.

Types of Stylevars

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There are different types of stylevars in the vBulletin 4.X system. The type of stylevar controls how it appears.

Simple Stylevars

Simple stylevars usually have a single option to set. These include strings, numbers, image paths, image names, colors, and others.

- String - Allows you to specify any string value
- Numeric - Allows you to specify any numeric value
- Url - These stylevars require a valid URL
- Path - Simple relative path here i.e. ./images/
- Color - Allows any valid CSS color value including named colors, RGB, and Hex Values. Provides a color palette tool.
- Image Directory - Allows you to specify a directory where images are located. This will be relative to the directory the software is installed in.
- Image - Allows you to specify a valid image type
- Font List - Specify a list of fonts in comma delimited format for typography
- Size - Set the size of elements. Includes a dropdown for the unit type (pt, px, em, etc...)

Complex Stylevars

Complex Stylevars have a variety of options usually denoting the complex nature of the setting. These stylevars include backgrounds, fonts, text decoration, dimensions, borders, padding and margins.

- Background - Specify the different attributes of a background. This includes image url, color, horizontal/vertical offsets and repeat values.
- Font - Specify the font for elements. Includes font family, size, weight, and transformation.
- Text Decoration - Specify the text decoration of an element, e.g. underline, strike-through, overline.
- Dimension - Sets the dimension of an element. Both horizontal and vertical be set.
- Border - Sets the border of an element including left, right, top, bottom, width, variation and color.
- Padding - Sets the padding around the contents of a block element.
- Margin - Sets the margins of a block element. Note: To automatically center the contents of an element horizontally, set the values for the left and right margins to auto.

Adding Stylevars

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Note:

This is a developer feature

If you are creating your own custom style, you can also add custom stylevars as of version 4.0.0. In order to do this, your forums must be in debug mode.

To add a new stylevar, click the "Add New Stylevar" button on the Stylevar Manager. You will be able to define the name, description, variable, group and type of stylevar. You can also assign your stylevar to a specific product for export in a product.xml file.

Stylevar Dictionary

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The StyleVar Dictionary gives you the name and definition of every style variable in the system organized by the area they affect.

Ads

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These style variables help control the layout and design of your ads.

Name	Description
ad_margin	This stylevar controls the margin of ads.
ad_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of ads.
ad_post_maxWidth	This stylevar controls the maximum width of ads in forum posts.
Album	
	These stylevars allow you to control the layout and design of the user photo albums and their contents.
Name	Description
album_content_width	This stylevar controls the width of the user's album column on the main album page.
albumedit_blockrow_border	This stylevar controls the border of block rows in the edit album picture page.
albumedit_maineditor_background	This stylevar controls the background of the caption textbox in the edit album picture page.
albumedit_maineditor_border	This stylevar controls the border of the caption textbox in the edit album

albumedit_maineditor_width	picture page.
albumlist_blockbody_background	This stylevar controls the width of the caption textbox in the edit album picture page.
albumlist_entry_background	This stylevar controls the background of the album list.
albumlist_entry_border	This stylevar controls the background of the album covers in the album list.
albumlist_image_shadow_color	This stylevar controls the border of the album covers in the album list.
albumtop_margin	This stylevar controls the shadow color of the album cover pictures in the album list.
picture_background	This stylevar controls the width of the Picture URL and BB Code fields in the album picture page.
picture_border	This stylevar controls the background of pictures.
picturelink_img_shadow_color	This stylevar controls the border of pictures.

AssetManager

These stylevars control aspects of the Asset Manager window when you are uploading file attachments.

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Name	Description
assetmanager_attachment_background	This stylevar controls the background of attachments in the asset manager.
assetmanager_attachment_background_selected	This stylevar controls the background of selected attachments in the asset manager.
assetmanager_attachment_border	This stylevar controls the border of attachments in the asset manager.
assetmanager_attachment_color	This stylevar controls the text color of attachments in the asset manager.
assetmanager_border	This stylevar controls the border of the asset manager.
assetmanager_panel_background	This stylevar controls the background of panels in the asset manager.
assetmanager_panel_color	This stylevar controls the text color of panels in the asset manager.
assetmanager_panel_footer_background	This stylevar controls the background of panel footers in the asset manager.
assetmanager_panel_footer_color	This stylevar controls the text color of panel footers in the asset manager.
assetmanager_panel_header_background	This stylevar controls the background of panel headers in the asset manager.
assetmanager_panel_header_color	This stylevar controls the text color of panel headers in the asset manager.
assetmanager_resize_background	This stylevar controls the background of the area between the different panels in the asset manager.
assetmanager_upload_background	This stylevar controls the background of the file list in the advanced uploader. If enabled, the advanced uploader is used in the asset manager and in the Insert Image popup of the editor.
assetmanager_upload_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the file list in the advanced uploader. If enabled, the advanced uploader is used in the asset manager and in the Insert Image popup of the editor.

Attachments

These stylevars control the layout and display of attachments as it is displayed within content.

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Name	Description
attachment_box_background	This stylevar controls the background of the box that contains attachments in content that supports them.
attachment_box_border	This stylevar controls the border of the box that contains attachments in content that supports them.
attachment_box_fontsize	This stylevar controls the font size of the box that contains attachments in content that supports them.
attachment_box_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of the box that contains attachments in content that supports them.
attachment_image_large_max	This stylevar controls the maximum size of inline attached images whose size is set to "Large" in their Image Settings.
attachment_image_medium_max	This stylevar controls the maximum size of inline attached images whose size is set to "Medium" in their Image Settings.
attachment_image_thumbnail_max	This stylevar controls the maximum size of inline attached images whose size is set to "Thumbnail" in their Image Settings.

BBCODE[Back to Top](#)

Allows you to control the design of block level BBCODE like QUOTE, PHP, HTML, and CODE

Name	Description
bbcode_code_background	This stylevar controls the background of the [code], [html] and [php] BB code blocks.
bbcode_quote_background	This stylevar controls the background of quotes.
bbcode_quote_border	This stylevar controls the border of quotes.
bbcode_quote_font	This stylevar controls the font of quotes.
bbcode_quote_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of quotes.
bbcode_quote_postedby_font	This stylevar controls the font of the "Originally Posted by" text of quotes.
bbcode_table_border	This stylevar controls the border of tables created with BB code.
Blocks	The basic building blocks of many display elements in vBulletin.
Name	Description
blockbody_background	This stylevar controls the background of the block body. A block body is the central part of a block, which usually contains one or more block rows.
blockbody_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of the block body. A block body is the central part of a block, which usually contains one or more block rows.
blockfoot_background	This stylevar controls the background of block footers. A block footer is the bottom part of a block, which usually contains action buttons.
blockfoot_border	This stylevar controls the border of block footers. A block footer is the bottom part of a block, which usually contains action buttons.
blockfoot_color	This stylevar controls the text color of block footers. A block footer is the bottom part of a block, which usually contains action buttons.
blockfoot_font	This stylevar controls the font of block footers. A block footer is the bottom part of a block, which usually contains action buttons.
blockfoot_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of block footers. A block footer is the bottom part of a block, which usually contains action buttons.
blockfoot_linkhover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of block footers. A block footer is the bottom part of a block, which usually contains action buttons.
blockfoot_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of block footers. A block footer is the bottom part of a block, which usually contains action buttons.
blockhead_background	This stylevar controls the background of block headers. A block header is the upper part of a block, which usually contains a title for the block.
blockhead_border	This stylevar controls the border of block headers. A block header is the upper part of a block, which usually contains a title for the block.
blockhead_color	This stylevar controls the text color of block headers. A block header is the upper part of a block, which usually contains a title for the block.
blockhead_font	This stylevar controls the font of block headers. A block header is the upper part of a block, which usually contains a title for the block.
blockhead_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of block headers. A block header is the upper part of a block, which usually contains a title for the block.
blockhead_linkhover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of block headers. A block header is the upper part of a block, which usually contains a title for the block.
blockhead_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of block headers. A block header is the upper part of a block, which usually contains a title for the block.
blockrow_background	This stylevar controls the background of block rows. A block contains one or more rows, in which data are displayed.
blockrow_border	This stylevar controls the border of block rows. A block contains one or more rows, in which data are displayed.
blockrow_color	This stylevar controls the text color of block rows. A block contains one or more rows, in which data are displayed.
blockrow_font	This stylevar controls the font of block rows. A block contains one or more rows, in which data are displayed.
blockrow_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of block rows. A block contains one or more rows, in which data are displayed.
blockrow_linkhover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of block rows. A block contains one or more rows, in which data are displayed.
blockrow_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of block rows. A block contains one or more rows, in which data are displayed.
blocksubhead_background	This stylevar controls the background of block sub-headers. A block sub-header is usually located below the block header, containing a descriptive sub-title for the block, or is used to separate multiple block rows within the same block.
blocksubhead_border	This stylevar controls the border of block sub-headers. A block sub-header is

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usually located below the block header, containing a descriptive sub-title for the block, or is used to separate multiple block rows within the same block.

blocksubhead_color	This stylevar controls the text color of block sub-headers. A block sub-header is usually located below the block header, containing a descriptive sub-title for the block, or is used to separate multiple block rows within the same block.
blocksubhead_font	This stylevar controls the font of block sub-headers. A block sub-header is usually located below the block header, containing a descriptive sub-title for the block, or is used to separate multiple block rows within the same block.
blocksubhead_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of block sub-headers. A block sub-header is usually located below the block header, containing a descriptive sub-title for the block, or is used to separate multiple block rows within the same block.
blocksubhead_linkhover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of block sub-headers. A block sub-header is usually located below the block header, containing a descriptive sub-title for the block, or is used to separate multiple block rows within the same block.
blocksubhead_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of block sub-headers. A block sub-header is usually located below the block header, containing a descriptive sub-title for the block, or is used to separate multiple block rows within the same block.

Global

Style Variables that are used Globally throughout the vBulletin System

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Name	Description
body_background	This stylevar controls the background of the body. The body is the area below the header, which contains all other elements.
body_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the body. The body is the area below the header, which contains all other elements.
body_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of the body. The body is the area below the header, which contains all other elements.
border_radius	This stylevar controls the radius of borders.
doc_background	This stylevar controls the background of the document. The document is the outer area, that contains all other elements.
doc_margin	This stylevar controls the margin of the document. The document is the outer area, that contains all other elements.
doc_maxWidth	This stylevar controls the maximum width of the document. The document is the outer area, that contains all other elements.
doc_minWidth	This stylevar controls the minimum width of the document. The document is the outer area, that contains all other elements.
doc_width	This stylevar controls the width of the document. The document is the outer area, that contains all other elements.
font	This stylevar controls the font of any element.
htmldoctype	This stylevar controls the type of the HTML document.
link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of any element.
link_textDecoration	This stylevar controls the link text decoration of any element.
linkhover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of any element.
linkhover_textDecoration	This stylevar controls the link hover text decoration of any element.
padding	This stylevar controls the padding of any element.
shade_color	This stylevar controls the text color of shaded text. Shaded text is usually used for option and input field descriptions.
shadow_color	This stylevar controls the shadow color of any element.
time_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the time.

Buttons

Define the look and feel of your Form Buttons and Action Controls with these stylevars

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Name	Description
control_background	This stylevar controls the background of buttons.
control_border	This stylevar controls the border of buttons.
control_color	This stylevar controls the text color of buttons.
control_content_background	This stylevar controls the background of content buttons. A content button is a button used to create new content (such as Post New Thread, Reply to Thread, etc.).
control_content_border	This stylevar controls the border of content buttons. A content button is a button used to create new content (such as Post New Thread, Reply to Thread, etc.).
control_content_color	This stylevar controls the text color of content buttons. A content button is a button used to create new content (such as Post New Thread, Reply to Thread, etc.).

control_content_font

This stylevar controls the font of content buttons. A content button is a button used to create new content (such as Post New Thread, Reply to Thread, etc.).

control_content_hover_background

This stylevar controls the background of hover content buttons. A content button is a button used to create new content (such as Post New Thread, Reply to Thread, etc.).

control_content_hover_color

This stylevar controls the text color of hover content buttons. A content button is a button used to create new content (such as Post New Thread, Reply to Thread, etc.).

control_content_padding

This stylevar controls the padding of content buttons. A content button is a button used to create new content (such as Post New Thread, Reply to Thread, etc.).

control_content_radius

This stylevar controls the radius of content button borders. A content button is a button used to create new content (such as Post New Thread, Reply to Thread, etc.).

control_content_shadow_color

This stylevar controls the shadow color of content buttons. A content button is a button used to create new content (such as Post New Thread, Reply to Thread, etc.).

control_font

This stylevar controls the font of buttons.

control_hover_background

This stylevar controls the background of hover buttons.

control_hover_color

This stylevar controls the text color of hover buttons.

Calendar

These style variables control the look of your Calendar and Event pages.

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Name**Description****calendar_addnewcontrols_dt_margin**

This stylevar controls the margin of the calendar Add New Event button.

calendar_events_a_daynum_color

This stylevar controls the link color of day numbers in the calendar monthly view.

calendar_events_a_daynum_color_hover

This stylevar controls the link hover color of day numbers in the calendar monthly view.

calendar_events_border

This stylevar controls the border of days in the calendar monthly and weekly views.

calendar_events_height

This stylevar controls the minimum height of day cells in the calendar monthly view.

calendar_events ol_list_margin

This stylevar controls the margin of day cells in the calendar monthly view.

calendar_events ol_list_width

This stylevar controls the width of day cells in the calendar monthly view.

calendar_mini_othermonth_a_border

This stylevar controls the border of other month days in the calendar.

calendar_othermonth_a_color

This stylevar controls the text color of other month days in the calendar.

calendar_othermonth_background_color

This stylevar controls the background of other month days in the calendar.

calendar_sidebar_width

This stylevar controls the width of the calendar sidebar.

calendar_today_border_color

This stylevar controls the border of the current day cell in the calendar monthly view.

calendar_week_daynum_font_color

This stylevar controls the text color of day numbers in the calendar weekly view.

calendar_week_daynum_font_size

This stylevar controls the font size of day numbers in the calendar weekly view.

calendar_week_eventlist_birthdays_background

This stylevar controls the background of the birthday area in the calendar weekly view.

calendar_week_eventlist_birthdays_border

This stylevar controls the border of the birthday area in the calendar weekly view.

calendar_week_eventlist_birthdays_width

This stylevar controls the width of the birthday area in the calendar weekly view.

eventbit_dl_customfield_color

This stylevar controls the text color of custom field names in calendar events.

Comments

These style variables affect the look of the different comments around your site. Comments are seen in the CMS, Blog, Visitor Messages, Groups, and Albums.

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Name**Description****postbit_lite_background**

This stylevar controls the background of comments. A comment is a smaller-looking type of message, such as group messages, visitor messages, etc.

postbitlite_header_background	This stylevar controls the background of comment headers. A comment is a smaller-looking type of message, such as group messages, visitor messages, etc.
postbitlite_header_border	This stylevar controls the border of comment headers. A comment is a smaller-looking type of message, such as group messages, visitor messages, etc.
postbitlite_header_color	This stylevar controls the text color of comment headers. A comment is a smaller-looking type of message, such as group messages, visitor messages, etc.
postbitlite_header_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of comment headers. A comment is a smaller-looking type of message, such as group messages, visitor messages, etc.

Common

Common Elements used through out vBulletin includes your global font definitions

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Name	Description
big_fontSize	This stylevar controls the size of big font.
content_msg_font	This stylevar controls the font of non post content types. A non post content type is any content except forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
general_hilite_color	This stylevar controls the background of general highlighted elements.
giant_fontSize	This stylevar controls the size of giant font.
heavy_border	This stylevar controls the border of any element that does not have a specific border defined and that needs a border that stands out against nearby elements.
highlight_background	This stylevar controls the background of highlighted text. The text is usually highlighted by either using the [highlight] BB code or when it matches search keyword(s).
highlight_color	This stylevar controls the text color of highlighted text. The text is usually highlighted by either using the [highlight] BB code or when it matches search keyword(s).
image_max_size	This stylevar controls the maximum size of images.
imodhilite_backgroundColor	This stylevar controls the background of the content selected with inline moderation.
light_border	This stylevar controls the border of any element that does not have a specific border defined and that needs a border that doesn't stand out against nearby elements.
line_height	This stylevar controls the height of the lines of most elements. The value of this stylevar is always and only used as part of calculations, and not directly.
mid_border	This stylevar controls the border of any element that does not have a specific border defined.
mid_fontSize	This stylevar controls the size of mid font.
navlinks_background	This stylevar controls the background of the navigation links.
navlinks_border_top	This stylevar controls the top border of the navigation links.
navlinks_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the navigation links.
restore	This stylevar controls the border of table cells.
restore_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of table cells.
small_fontSize	This stylevar controls the size of small font.
tabslight_border	This stylevar controls the border of tabs. This is used by the calendar tabs only.
tabslight_selected_background	This stylevar controls the background of the selected tab. This is used by the calendar tabs only.
tabslight_size	This stylevar controls the size of tabs. This is used by the calendar tabs and profile tabs only.
tiny_fontSize	This stylevar controls the size of tiny font.

Editor

Control the look of your Editor and its toolbars.

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Name	Description
editor_autosave_notice_background	This stylevar controls the background of the editor auto-save notice.
editor_background	This stylevar controls the background of the editor.
editor_button_background	This stylevar controls the background of editor buttons.
editor_button_background_hover	This stylevar controls the background of hover editor buttons.
editor_button_disabled_opacity	This stylevar controls the opacity of disabled editor buttons. The entered value should be between 0 and 1.
editor_button_enabled_opacity	This stylevar controls the opacity of enabled editor buttons. The entered value should be between 0 and 1.
editor_button_selected_background	This stylevar controls the background of selected editor buttons.
editor_button_selected_background_hover	This stylevar controls the background of hover selected editor

editor_popupbody_background	buttons.
editor_popupbody_color	This stylevar controls the background of the editor popups.
editor_popupbody_frame_background	This stylevar controls the text color of the editor popups.
editor_popupbody_frame_color	This stylevar controls the background of the editor popup frame.
editor_popupbody_tab_background_hover	This stylevar controls the text color of the editor popup frame.
editor_popupbody_tab_color_hover	This stylevar controls the background of the editor popup hover tabs.
editor_smiliebox_smiliesize	This stylevar controls the text color of the editor popup hover tabs.
editor_text_color	This stylevar controls the maximum size of smilies in the editor smiliebox.
editor_toolbar_background	This stylevar controls the text color of the editor.
editor_wysiwyg_table_border	This stylevar controls the background of the editor toolbar.

Footer

Controls the look and feel of the Footer elements at the bottom of every vBulletin Page.

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Name	Description
footer_background	This stylevar controls the background of the footer. The footer is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the bottom of every page.
footer_border	This stylevar controls the border of the footer. The footer is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the bottom of every page.
footer_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the footer. The footer is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the bottom of every page.
footer_copyright_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the footer copyright notice. The footer is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the bottom of every page.
footer_copyright_font	This stylevar controls the font of the footer copyright notice. The footer is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the bottom of every page.
footer_font	This stylevar controls the font of the footer. The footer is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the bottom of every page.
footer_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of the footer. The footer is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the bottom of every page.
footer_linkhover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of the footer. The footer is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the bottom of every page.
footer_moz_shadow_color	This stylevar controls the shadow color of the footer. The footer is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the bottom of every page.
footer_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of the footer. The footer is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the bottom of every page.
footer_time_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the footer time. The footer is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the bottom of every page.

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Name	Description
form_columnleft_width	This stylevar controls the width of the left column in forms. The left column of forms usually contains option and input field names.
form_columnright_width	This stylevar controls the width of the right column in forms. The right column of forms usually contains option descriptions, the available option settings and input fields.
form_maxWidth	This stylevar controls the maximum width of forms in new content creation pages. A form is usually contained in a block, and it contains the block body and/or one or more block rows.
formrow_background	This stylevar controls the background of forms. A form is usually contained in a block body, and may contain one or more block rows.
formrow_border	This stylevar controls the border of forms. A form is usually contained in a block body, and may contain one or more block rows.
input_background	This stylevar controls the background of input fields.
input_border	This stylevar controls the border of input fields.
input_color	This stylevar controls the text color of input fields.
input_focus_background	This stylevar controls the background of input fields when they have focus.
input_font	This stylevar controls the font of input fields.
input_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of input fields.

Forums[Back to Top](#)

Use these stylevars to determine how your forum lists look. Forum lists are shown on the Forum Home and Forum Display pages.

Name	Description
announcement_background	This stylevar controls the background of forum announcements. Announcements are displayed at the top of forumdisplay pages.

forum_sidebar_width	This stylevar controls the width of the forum sidebar.
forumbits_border	This stylevar controls the border of forum rows in forum lists.
forumbits_shadow_color	This stylevar controls the shadow color of forum rows in forum lists.
forumbits_text_color	This stylevar controls the text color of forum rows in forum lists.
forumhead_background	This stylevar controls the background of forum list headers.
forumhead_border	This stylevar controls the border of forum list headers.
forumhead_color	This stylevar controls the text color of forum list headers.
forumhead_font	This stylevar controls the font of forum list headers.
forumhead_top_corner_radius	This stylevar controls the radius of the top corners of forum list headers.
forumicon_size	This stylevar controls the size of the space forum icons can take in forum lists.
forumrow_background	This stylevar controls the background of forum rows in forum lists.
forumrow_firstentry_background	This stylevar controls the background of the first forum row in forum lists.

To customize your "What's Going On" box on the Forum Home page, please see [SecondaryContent](#)

Groups

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Name	Description
groups_row_background	This stylevar controls the background of group rows.
icon_background	This stylevar controls the background of group icons in the group main page.

Header

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This controls the look and feel of the header at the top of each page within vBulletin.

Name	Description
header_background	This stylevar controls the background of the header. The header is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the top of every page, which contains the logo.
header_border	This stylevar controls the border of the header. The header is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the top of every page, which contains the logo.
header_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the header. The header is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the top of every page, which contains the logo.
header_font	This stylevar controls the text font of the header. The header is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the top of every page, which contains the logo.
header_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of the header. The header is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the top of every page, which contains the logo.
header_linkhover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of the header. The header is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the top of every page, which contains the logo.
header_margin	This stylevar controls the margin of the header. The header is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the top of every page, which contains the logo.
header_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of the header. The header is the horizontal bar that is displayed at the top of every page, which contains the logo.
toplinks_background	This stylevar controls the background of the links in the top right corner of the header.
toplinks_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the links in the top right corner of the header.
toplinks_hilite_background	This stylevar controls the highlighted background of the links in the top right corner of the header.
toplinks_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of the links in the top right corner of the header.
toplinks_linkhover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of the links in the top right corner of the header.

ImagePaths

Tell vBulletin where to find the different images used to build the look and feel of the site.

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Name	Description
imgdir_attach	This stylevar controls the path of the attachment image directory. This folder contains the various icons used to represent different attachment file types.
imgdir_button	This stylevar controls the path of the button image directory. This folder contains the various images of the buttons that can be clicked to perform actions.
imgdir_cms	This stylevar controls the path of the CMS image directory. This folder contains the various images used in the vBulletin CMS.
imgdir_editor	This stylevar controls the path of the editor image directory. This folder contains the button and interface images for the editor.
imgdir_misc	This stylevar controls the path of the miscellaneous image directory. This folder contains the various images that do not fit into other image categories.
imgdir_pagination	This stylevar controls the path of the pagination image directory. This folder contains the various images used by the pagination.
imgdir_rating	This stylevar controls the path of the rating image directory. This folder contains the various images used to illustrate the rating applied to a content (such as threads).

imgdir_reputation	This stylevar controls the path of the reputation image directory. This folder contains the various images used to display a user's current reputation.
imgdir_searchresults	This stylevar controls the path of the search result image directory. This folder contains the various images used by different content showed in search results.
imgdir_siteicons	This stylevar controls the path of the site icon image directory. This folder contains the various common icons used across all the site.
imgdir_statusicon	This stylevar controls the path of the status icon image directory. This folder contains the various icons representing the status of content (such as forums, threads, etc.).
titleimage	This stylevar controls the file path of the logo. The logo is the image that is displayed on every page in the top left corner of the header.
titleimage_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of the logo. The logo is the image that is displayed on every page in the top left corner of the header.
favicon	This stylevar controls the file path of the favicon. The favicon is the small image displayed in the browser address bar and near browser page title.
unknownsgicon	This stylevar controls the file path of the icon used as group icon by groups that do not have an icon specified.

Navbar**Navbar**

These style variables control the navigation tabs and submenus shown under the Header on every page.

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Name	Description
navbar_background	This stylevar controls the background of the navigation bar.
navbar_border	This stylevar controls the border of the navigation bar.
navbar_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the navigation bar.
navbar_font	This stylevar controls the font of the navigation bar.
navbar_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of the navigation bar.
navbar_linkhover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of the navigation bar.
navbar_margin	This stylevar controls the margin of the navigation bar.
navbar_menu_height	This stylevar controls the height of the navigation bar menu.
navbar_popupmenu_link_background	This stylevar controls the background of the navigation bar popup menu rows.
navbar_popupmenu_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of the navigation bar popup menu rows.
navbar_popupmenu_link_hover_background	This stylevar controls the background of the navigation bar popup menu hover rows.
navbar_popupmenu_link_hover_color	This stylevar controls the link color of the navigation bar popup menu hover rows.
navbar_tab_background	This stylevar controls the background of the navigation bar tabs.
navbar_tab_bevel	This stylevar controls the inner top border of the navigation bar tabs.
navbar_tab_border	This stylevar controls the border of the navigation bar tabs.
navbar_tab_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the navigation bar tabs.
navbar_tab_font	This stylevar controls the font of the navigation bar tabs.
navbar_tab_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of the navigation bar tabs.
navbar_tab_selected_background	This stylevar controls the background of the selected navigation bar tabs.
navbar_tab_selected_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the selected navigation bar tabs.
navbar_tab_selected_top_height	This stylevar controls the height of the selected navigation bar tabs. This is an extra height added to the normal height of the navigation bar tabs.
navbar_tab_size	This stylevar controls the size of the navigation bar tabs.

Notices

Notices are announcements you can conditionally place on pages. This controls the appearance of those announcements.

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Name	Description
notices_background	This stylevar controls the background of notices. Notices appear at the top of every page, if their conditions are met.
notices_shadow_color	This stylevar controls the shadow color of notices. Notices appear at the top of every page, if their conditions are met.

Mobile**Mobile**

These style variables only appear in the vBulletin Mobile Style

[table]**Name****Description****padding_mobile**This stylevar controls the padding of any element.**titleimage_mobile**This

stylevar controls the file path of the logo. The logo is the image that is displayed on every page in the top left corner of the header.
htmldoctype_mobile This stylevar controls the type of the HTML document.
imgdir_button_mobile This stylevar controls the path of the button image directory. This folder contains the various images of the buttons that can be clicked to perform actions.
imgdir_cms_mobile This stylevar controls the path of the CMS image directory. This folder contains the various images used in the vBulletin CMS.
imgdir_misce_mobile This stylevar controls the path of the miscellaneous image directory. This folder contains the various images that do not fit into other image categories.
imgdir_mobile This stylevar controls the path of the mobile style image directory. This folder contains the various images used in the mobile style.
imgdir_mobile_mobile This stylevar controls the path of the mobile style image directory. This folder contains the various images used in the mobile style.
imgdir_rating_mobile This stylevar controls the path of the rating image directory. This folder contains the various images used to illustrate the rating applied to a content (such as threads).
imgdir_searchresults_mobile This stylevar controls the path of the search result image directory. This folder contains the various images used by different content showed in search results.
imgdir_siteicons_mobile This stylevar controls the path of the site icon image directory. This folder contains the various common icons used across all the site.
imgdir_statusicon_mobile This stylevar controls the path of the status icon image directory. This folder contains the various icons representing the status of content (such as forums, threads, etc.).

Page Title[Back to Top](#)

Controls the look and feel of the page title on each vBulletin Page.

Name	Description
pagetitle_background	This stylevar controls the background of the page title.
pagetitle_border	This stylevar controls the border of the page title.
pagetitle_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the page title.
pagetitle_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the page title description.
pagetitle_font	This stylevar controls the font of the page title.
pagetitle_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of the page title.
pagetitle_linkhover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of the page title.
pagetitle_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of the page title.

Pagination[Back to Top](#)

These stylevars control the look and feel of the Page Navigation controls.

Name	Description
pagination_background	This stylevar controls the background of the page navigation.
pagination_border	This stylevar controls the border of the page navigation.
pagination_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the page navigation.
pagination_current_background	This stylevar controls the background of the selected page in the page navigation.
pagination_current_border	This stylevar controls the border of the selected page in the page navigation.
pagination_current_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the selected page in the page navigation.
pagination_font	This stylevar controls the font of the page navigation.
pagination_hover_border	This stylevar controls the border of the hover pages in the page navigation.

Polls[Back to Top](#)

Controls the look and feel of the poll result output within threads.

Name	Description
poll_background	This stylevar controls the background of polls.
pollbar1_background	This stylevar controls the first background of the poll bars. This background will be used once every six poll options.
pollbar2_background	This stylevar controls the second background of the poll bars. This background will be used once every six poll options.
pollbar3_background	This stylevar controls the third background of the poll bars. This background will be used once every six poll options.
pollbar4_background	This stylevar controls the fourth background of the poll bars. This background will be used once every six poll options.
pollbar5_background	This stylevar controls the fifth background of the poll bars. This background will be used once every six poll options.
pollbar6_background	This stylevar controls the sixth background of the poll bars. This background will be used once every six poll options.
pollbar_border	This stylevar controls the border of the poll bars.
pollbar_height	This stylevar controls the height of the poll bars.
pollbars_margin_size	This stylevar controls the margin of the poll bars.
pollbars_result_bit_width	This stylevar controls the width of the poll result area.

PopupMenu[Back to Top](#)

Controls the look and feel of various popup menus used in tools through a vBulletin Site. For the Navbar, see the [Navbar Stylevars](#)

Name	Description
popup_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of popups.

popupmenu_background	This stylevar controls the background of popup menu.
popupmenu_border	This stylevar controls the border of popup menu.
popupmenu_border_radius	This stylevar controls the radius of popup menu borders.
popupmenu_color	This stylevar controls the text color of popup menu.
popupmenu_font	This stylevar controls the font of popup menu.
popupmenu_height	This stylevar controls the height of popup menu rows.
popupmenu_link_background	This stylevar controls the background of popup menu rows.
popupmenu_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of popup menu rows.
popupmenu_link_hover_background	This stylevar controls the background of popup menu hover rows.
popupmenu_link_hover_color	This stylevar controls the link color of popup menu hover rows.
popupmenu_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of popup menu.

Postbit

This controls the various aspects of the postbit templates. The postbit is the code for each post within a thread. If you're looking for the stylevars to edit CMS Comments, Blog Comments, Group Comments, see [Comments](#)

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Name	Description
diff_add_background	This stylevar controls the background of added text in the post edit history.
diff_remove_background	This stylevar controls the background of removed text in the post edit history.
diffadd_color	This stylevar controls the text color of added text in the post edit history.
diffremove_color	This stylevar controls the text color of removed text in the post edit history.
post_title_font	This stylevar controls the font of post titles. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_background	This stylevar controls the background of posts. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_border	This stylevar controls the border of posts. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_color	This stylevar controls the text color of posts. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_control_background	This stylevar controls the background of the post buttons. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_control_border	This stylevar controls the border of the post buttons. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_control_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the post buttons. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_control_font	This stylevar controls the font of the post buttons. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_control_hover_background	This stylevar controls the background of the hover post buttons. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_control_hover_border	This stylevar controls the border of the hover post buttons. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_control_hover_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the hover post buttons. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_control_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of the post buttons. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_deleted_background	This stylevar controls the background of soft deleted posts.
postbit_font	This stylevar controls the font of posts. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_foot_background	This stylevar controls the background of post footers. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_foot_separator	This stylevar controls the line between different buttons in post footers. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbit_userinfo_background	This stylevar controls the background of the user information area in posts. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.

postbit_userinfo_border	This stylevar controls the border of the user information area in posts. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbithead_background	This stylevar controls the background of post headers. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbithead_border	This stylevar controls the border of post headers. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbithead_color	This stylevar controls the text color of post headers. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbithead_font	This stylevar controls the font of post headers. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbitlegacy_userinfo_width	This stylevar controls the width of the user information area in posts when using the vertical (two column) post model. This includes forums posts, private messages, forum announcements, calendar events and user notes.
postbittitle_border	This stylevar controls the line between the post title and the post content. This includes forum posts, forum announcements and private messages.
signature_border	This stylevar controls the line between the signature and the post content. This includes forum posts, forum announcements and private messages.

Profile

These stylevars control the default user profile style and colors[td]

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Name	Description
profile_content_subsection_border	This stylevar controls the line between each infraction in the user profile infraction tab.
profile_sidebar_avatar_backgroundColor	This stylevar controls the background of profile pictures in user profiles.
profile_sidebar_avatar_border	This stylevar controls the border of images in the profile sidebar. This includes profile picture, avatar, friends' avatars, group icons and album covers.
profile_sidebar_avatar_maxWidth	This stylevar controls the width of images in the profile sidebar. This includes group icons and album covers.
profile_sidebar_width	This stylevar controls the width of the profile sidebar.
profile_tiny_avatar	This stylevar controls the size of avatars in the profile sidebar friend block.
postbit_lite_background	This stylevar controls the background of the left column. Warning: this stylevar also controls the background of Comment areas.

SecondaryContent

Secondary Content appears at the bottom of the Forum Home page. This is commonly referred to as the "What's Going On" box.

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Name	Description
secondarycontent_background	This stylevar controls the background of the "What's Going On?" block on the forum home page and of the blocks at the bottom of forumdisplay and showthread pages.
secondarycontent_border	This stylevar controls the border of the "What's Going On?" block on the forum home page and of the blocks at the bottom of forumdisplay and showthread pages.
secondarycontent_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the "What's Going On?" block on the forum home page and of the blocks at the bottom of forumdisplay and showthread pages.
secondarycontent_font	This stylevar controls the font of the "What's Going On?" block on the forum home page and of the blocks at the bottom of forumdisplay and showthread pages.
secondarycontent_header_background	This stylevar controls the background of the header of the "What's Going On?" block on the forum home page and of the blocks at the bottom of forumdisplay and showthread pages.
secondarycontent_header_border	This stylevar controls the border of the header of the "What's Going On?" block on the forum home page and of the blocks at the bottom of forumdisplay and showthread pages.
secondarycontent_header_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the header of the "What's Going On?" block on the forum home page and of the blocks at the bottom of forumdisplay and showthread pages.
secondarycontent_header_font	This stylevar controls the font of the header of the "What's Going On?" block on the forum home page and of the blocks at the bottom of forumdisplay and showthread pages.
secondarycontent_subheader_fontSize	This stylevar controls the font size of the sub-header of the "What's Going On?" block on the forum home page and of the blocks at the bottom of forumdisplay and showthread pages.

[Back to Top](#)**Sidebar**

Sidebars are shown in the CMS, Forums and Blogs. These style variables control the global aspects of these sidebars. CMS Widgets also take their formatting from the Sidebar Style Variables.

Name	Description
sidebar_background	This stylevar controls the background of sidebars.
sidebar_border	This stylevar controls the border of sidebars.
sidebar_content_background	This stylevar controls the background of sidebar contents.
sidebar_content_bevel	This stylevar controls the inner top border of sidebar contents.
sidebar_content_border	This stylevar controls the border of sidebar contents.
sidebar_content_color	This stylevar controls the text color of sidebar contents.
sidebar_content_fontSize	This stylevar controls the font size of sidebar contents.
sidebar_content_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of sidebar contents.
sidebar_content_link_hover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of sidebar contents.
sidebar_content_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of sidebar contents.
sidebar_contentavatar_width	This stylevar controls the width of sidebar content avatars.
sidebar_contentlist_separator	This stylevar controls the line between different sidebar contents in the same block.
sidebar_contentseparator_background	This stylevar controls the background of the sidebar block separator.
sidebar_contentseparator_height	This stylevar controls the height of the sidebar block separator.
sidebar_header_color	This stylevar controls the text color of sidebar block headers.
sidebar_header_fontSize	This stylevar controls the font size of sidebar block headers.
sidebar_header_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of sidebar block headers.
sidebar_postbit_header_font	This stylevar controls the font of sidebar content titles.
sidebar_postbit_small_fontSize	This stylevar controls the font size of sidebar content details.

ThreadBit

The Threadbit controls how your threads or discussions appear in the Forum Display and Search Pages.

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Name	Description
threadbit_alt_background	This stylevar controls the alternating background of thread rows in thread lists.
threadbit_background	This stylevar controls the background of thread rows in thread lists.
threadbit_border	This stylevar controls the border of thread rows in thread lists.
threadbit_deleted_background	This stylevar controls the background of soft deleted thread rows in thread lists.
threadbit_hilite_background	This stylevar controls the background of sticky thread rows in thread lists.
threadbit_iconszie	This stylevar controls the size of the space thread icons can take in thread lists.
threadlisthead_background	This stylevar controls the background of thread list headers.
threadlisthead_border	This stylevar controls the border of thread list headers.
threadlisthead_color	This stylevar controls the text color of thread list headers.
threadlisthead_font	This stylevar controls the font of thread list headers.
threadlisthead_top_corner_radius	This stylevar controls the radius of the top corners of thread list headers.

ToolsMenu

The tools menu contains different drop downs and controls to maintain or select actions throughout the site. An example of this is the toolbar about the posts when viewing a thread.

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Name	Description
toolsmenu_background	This stylevar controls the background of tool menu.
toolsmenu_border	This stylevar controls the border of tool menu.
toolsmenu_color	This stylevar controls the text color of tool menu.
toolsmenu_fontSize	This stylevar controls the font size of tool menu.
toolsmenu_link_color	This stylevar controls the link color of tool menu.
toolsmenu_linkhover_color	This stylevar controls the link hover color of tool menu.

UserCP

These are unique Style Variables for the Setting or User Control Panel Pages.

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Name	Description
usercp_hr_seperator	This stylevar controls the line between private message/subscription folders and the other private message/subscription links in the navigation column in the setting pages.
usercp_nav_blockbody_background	This stylevar controls the background of the block body in the navigation column in the setting pages.
usercp_nav_blockbody_border	This stylevar controls the border of the block body in the navigation column

in the setting pages.

Blog

These elements control the dominant elements of the Blog layout and Blog Entries. Other aspects are controlled by the [Comments](#) and [Sidebar](#) Style Variables.

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Name	Description
vbblog_bloglist_avatar_width	This stylevar controls the width of avatars in blog entry lists.
vbblog_bloglist_avatar_width_mobile	This stylevar controls the width of avatars in blog entry lists.
vbblog_bloglist_avatar_width_name_mobile	Blog Entry List Avatar Width
vbblog_bloglist_border	This stylevar controls the line between different blog entries in blog entry lists.
vbblog_bloglist_header_color	This stylevar controls the text color of blog entry titles.
vbblog_body_background	This stylevar controls the background of the blog body. The body is the area below the header, which contains all other elements.
vbblog_entry_background	This stylevar controls the background of blog entries.
vbblog_featured_background	This stylevar controls the background of featured blog entries in blog entry lists.
vbblog_featured_border	This stylevar controls the border of featured blog entries in blog entry lists.
vbblog_featured_header_background	This stylevar controls the background of featured blog entry headers in blog entry lists.
vbblog_featured_header_color	This stylevar controls the text color of featured blog entry headers in blog entry lists.
vbblog_listrow_background	This stylevar controls the background of rows in blog lists and in blog category lists.
vbblog_pagetitle_border	This stylevar controls the line between the page title and the rest of the page content in the blog.
vbblog_pagetitle_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the page title in the blog.
vbblog_pagetitle_color	This stylevar controls the text color of the page title description in the blog.
vbblog_pagetitle_font	This stylevar controls the font of the page title description in the blog.
vbblog_pagetitle_font	This stylevar controls the font of the page title in the blog.
vbblog_sidebar_avatar_border	This stylevar controls the border of the blog owner avatar in the blog sidebar.
vbblog_sidebar_tabs_background	This stylevar controls the background of the blog sidebar tabs.
vbblog_sidebar_tabs_border	This stylevar controls the border of the blog sidebar tabs.
vbblog_sidebar_tabs_color	This stylevar controls the link color of the blog sidebar tabs.
vbblog_sidebar_tabs_font	This stylevar controls the font of the blog sidebar tabs.
vbblog_sidebar_tabs_height	This stylevar controls the height of the blog sidebar tabs.
vbblog_sidebar_tabs_selected_background	This stylevar controls the background of the selected blog sidebar tab.
vbblog_sidebar_width	This stylevar controls the width of the blog sidebar.

vbcms

Controls many parts of the CMS layout. For configuring widgets and sidebars see [Sidebar](#) Style Variables. To control the look of comments see [Comments](#).

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Name	Description
vbcms_article_background	This stylevar controls the background of CMS content.
vbcms_article_preview_header_font	This stylevar controls the font of titles in CMS content previews.
vbcms_article_preview_image_border	This stylevar controls the border of CMS content preview images.
vbcms_article_preview_image_margin	This stylevar controls the margin of CMS content preview images.
vbcms_article_preview_image_outline	This stylevar controls the outer line of CMS content preview images.
vbcms_article_preview_object_size	This stylevar controls the maximum size of video in CMS content previews.
vbcms_body_background	This stylevar controls the background of the CMS body. The body is the area below the header, which contains all other elements.
vbcms_calendarwidget_day_font	This stylevar controls the font of days in the CMS calendar widget.

vbcms_calendarwidget_monthnav_background	This stylevar controls the background of the month navigation in the CMS calendar widget.
vbcms_calendarwidget_monthnav_font	This stylevar controls the font of the month navigation in the CMS calendar widget.
vbcms_calendarwidget_weekdays_background	This stylevar controls the background of week days in the CMS calendar widget.
vbcms_calendarwidget_weekdays_border	This stylevar controls the border of week days in the CMS calendar widget.
vbcms_calendarwidget_weekdays_font	This stylevar controls the font of week days in the CMS calendar widget.
vbcms_content_separator	This stylevar controls the line between different CMS content in CMS content lists.
vbcms_header_borderBottom	This stylevar controls the bottom border of CMS content headers.
vbcms_header_borderTop	This stylevar controls the top border of CMS content headers.
vbcms_header_color	This stylevar controls the text color of CMS content headers.
vbcms_header_font	This stylevar controls the font of CMS content headers.
vbcms_header_margin	This stylevar controls the margin of CMS content headers.
vbcms_header_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of CMS content headers.
vbcms_navwidget_menuitem_background	This stylevar controls the background of rows in the CMS navigation widgets.
vbcms_navwidget_menuitem_bevel	This stylevar controls the inner top border of rows in the CMS navigation widgets.
vbcms_navwidget_menuitem_border	This stylevar controls the border of rows in the CMS navigation widgets.
vbcms_navwidget_menuitem_color	This stylevar controls the text color of rows in the CMS navigation widgets.
vbcms_navwidget_menuitem_font	This stylevar controls the font of rows in the CMS navigation widgets.
vbcms_navwidget_menuitem_hover_background	This stylevar controls the background of hover rows in the CMS navigation widgets.
vbcms_navwidget_menuitem_hover_bevel	This stylevar controls the inner top border of hover rows in the CMS navigation widgets.
vbcms_navwidget_menuitem_hover_border	This stylevar controls the border of hover rows in the CMS navigation widgets.
vbcms_navwidget_menuitem_hover_color	This stylevar controls the text color of hover rows in the CMS navigation widgets.
vbcms_widget_block_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of CMS widgets.
vbcms_widget_header_padding	This stylevar controls the padding of CMS widget headers.
vbcms_widget_margin	This stylevar controls the margin of CMS widgets.

Widgets

The look and feel of CMS Widgets and Forum Blocks are controlled by the [Sidebar](#) Style Variables.

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Replacement Variables

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Replacement Variables are chunks of text that will be replaced with alternative text by the system before being displayed on screen.

Their uses are many and when used correctly they can be very powerful. A common use for replacement variables is to correct annoying spelling mistakes. For example, on the [vBulletin Community Forums](#) a replacement variable exists to replace all instances of the incorrect abbreviation for vBulletin **VBB** with the correct abbreviation **VB**.

Another use for replacement variables is to insert commonly-used blocks of HTML. For example, a replacement variable could be set up to replace <tablestart> with <table class="tborder" cellpadding="6" cellspacing="1" border="0" width="100%" align="center">.

Therefore, your templates could have blocks of code like this:

```
<tablestart>
<tr>
  <td class="alt1">Cell contents...</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

And before being displayed in a visitor's browser, the replacement variable system would identify the <tablestart> replacement variable and replace it accordingly, resulting in this:

```
<table class="tborder" cellpadding="6" cellspacing="1" border="0" width="100%" align="center">
<tr>
  <td class="alt1">Cell contents...</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

Replacement variables in vBulletin 3 are **case insensitive** meaning that a replacement variable set to search for *word* will also match *Word*, *wOrD* and *WORD* etc.

The replacement variable system is activated in the last stages of page processing before the HTML is delivered to a visitor's browser. The system searches for target text in the completed, parsed templates. In some ways this can be very useful, but there are caveats of which you should be aware.

Warning:

While powerful, replacement variables can also break the functionality of your board if used incorrectly.

For example, creating a replacement variable to search for 'html' and replace it with 'HTML', any hyperlinks pointing to files with a *.html* suffix will have those links replaced with *.HTML*, which is not the same file as far as Unix web servers are concerned.

Worse still, you might choose to use a replacement variable to turn every instance of the word *home* into a hyperlink pointing to your home page: home.

While this will work, you will have the situation where the word *'home'* is used in locations where creating a hyperlink would cause invalid HTML, such as this:

```

```

...which would end up being delivered to the browser as

```
<img src=<a href="home.html">home</a>.gif" alt="" />
```

...which is obviously invalid HTML and will not function correctly.

Preventing Visitors from Activating Replacement Variables

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In many cases you will want to prevent your users from being able to activate replacement variables by posting trigger text in their messages.

For this reason, it is recommended that you set any replacement variables that should be used in templates only to appear as HTML tags, such as <myreplacement>.

This is done because most forums do not allow visitors to post raw HTML in their messages (this is seen as a serious security risk). In forums where HTML posting is disallowed, any special HTML characters such as the < and > characters are replaced with their equivalent HTML character entities to prevent the HTML code from being interpreted as HTML rather than printed text.

For example, the < character is replaced with < and the > character is replaced with >. This replacing of special HTML characters makes it impossible for a user to post <myreplacement> in their messages, as it would be translated into <myreplacement>, which does not match the trigger text. It will therefore not be replaced with the replacement text for your <myreplacement> variable.

Where are the Replacement Vars from vB2?

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If you have upgraded to vBulletin 3 from a previous installation of vBulletin 2, you will probably know that in vBulletin 2, replacement variables were used extensively in the default vBulletin style to control various facets of the style, such as colors and fonts. In vBulletin 3 however, there are *no* replacement variables used in the default style.

Where did they all go?

The answer is that all of the replacement variables from vBulletin 2 have been translated into [CSS classes](#), or have been migrated to the new [StyleVars](#) system.

The new systems are less processor-intensive (easier on your server's resources) than using replacement variables, and offer a lot more flexibility in the way that they can be used.

The following table lists all the default vBulletin 2 replacement variables, and shows how they have been translated for use in vBulletin 3.

Item Name	Replacement Text	vBulletin 3	Description
		Equivalent	
HTML Doctype	{htmldoctype}	StyleVar: HTML Doctype	The HTML Doctype replacement variable has been migrated directly to the HTML Doctype StyleVar.
Body Tag	<body>	CSS: Body class	All attributes controlled by the <body> tag replacement variable in vBulletin 2 are now managed by the Body CSS class.
Main Table Width	{tablewidth}	StyleVar: Main Table Width	The width of vBulletin tables; controlled by the {tablewidth} replacement variable in vBulletin 2, is now controlled by the Main Table Width StyleVar.
Content Table Width	{contenttablewidth}	StyleVar: Spacer Size	The width of tables inside the main page body; previously controlled by the {contenttablewidth} replacement variable, is now handled in a different way by the Spacer Size StyleVar.
Outer Borders Width	{tableouterborderwidth}	CSS: Table Border class	The width of the border around tables in vBulletin is now controlled via CSS as part of the Table Border class.
Inner Borders Width	{tableinnerborderwidth}	StyleVar: Inner	Control of the amount of spacing between table cells has been transferred to the Inner Border Width StyleVar.

		<u>Border Width</u>	
'Extra' Table Attributes	{tableouterextra} {tableinnerextra} {tableinvisibleextra}	n/a	In vBulletin 2 these replacement variables were used to allow arbitrary code to be inserted into <table> tags. This functionality is no longer necessary, as any code that might have been inserted here can now be emulated using CSS.
Page Background / Text Colors	{pagebgcolor} {pagetextcolor}	CSS: Page Background class	The background color and text color of the main page body is now controlled by the Page Background CSS class.
Table Border Color	{tablebordercolor}	CSS: Table Border class	The {tablebordercolor} replacement variable was used to set the color of all borders around and inside <table> tags in vBulletin 2. This functionality is now managed by CSS in the Table Border class.
Category Strip Background / Text Colors	{categorybackcolor} {categoryfontcolor}	CSS: Category Strips class	The background and text colors used in category strips and main table title bars is now controlled by the Category Strips CSS class.
Table Heading Background / Text Colors	{tableheadbgcolor} {tableheadtextcolor}	CSS: Table Header class	Previously controlled by the {tableheadbgcolor} and {tableheadtextcolor} replacement variables, the style of column headings is now a part of the Table Header CSS class.
First Alternating Table Background Color	{firstaltcolor}	CSS: First Alternating Color class	In vBulletin 2, only the background color of elements using the First Alternating Color could be specified. In vBulletin 3 the First Alternating Color CSS class allows significantly more control.
Second Alternating Table Background Color	{secondaltcolor}	CSS: Second Alternating Color class	Partnering the First Alternating Color CSS class, the Second Alternating Color CSS class defines the style of elements previously colored with the {secondaltcolor} replacement variable.
Hyperlink Normal / Hover Colors	{linkcolor} {hovercolor}	CSS: Body and Page Background classes	vBulletin 2 allowed administrators to control the color of standard hyperlinks, and to also specify a color for those links when a mouse pointer is hovered over them. In vBulletin 3, almost every individual CSS class can define its own settings for hyperlink styling, although it is often the case that only the Body CSS class will have link styles defined, in which case this class will control all hyperlinks.
Time Color	{timecolor}	CSS: Time Color class	In order to control the color of times shown on vBulletin pages, it is now necessary to look at the Time Color class, which allows not only the color but a variety of other attributes to be controlled for the styling of time displays.
Calendar Colors	{calbgcolor} {calbirthdaycolor} {caldaycolor} {calprivatecolor} {calpubliccolor} {caltodaycolor}	n/a	The various colors defined by the calendar color replacement variables in vBulletin 2 have become redundant with the new calendar system in vBulletin 3.
Image Folder Path	{imagesfolder}	StyleVar: Image Directory Paths	While vBulletin 2 defined a single images directory with the {imagesfolder} replacement variable, vBulletin 3 defines a variety of folders to serve different purposes. These are controlled by the Image Directory Paths StyleVars.
Title Image Path	{titleimage}	StyleVar: Title Image	The path controlled by the Title Image Path replacement variable is now controlled by the Title Image StyleVar in vBulletin 3.
New Thread / Reply / Closed Image Paths	{newthreadimage} {replyimage} {closedthreadimage}	n/a	While vBulletin 2 specified replacement variables for three button images relating to posting new threads and replying to posts, all of these images are now found in the \$stylevar[imgdir_button] StyleVar, one of the Image Directory Path StyleVars.
Main Font	<normalfont>	CSS: Body and <td>, <th>, <p>, classes	In vBulletin 2 it was necessary to surround all text with <normalfont> tags in order to have it use the fonts and sizes specified. In vBulletin 3 this is no longer the case, and text display is controlled by the Body and <td>, <th>, <p>, CSS classes.
Small Font	<smallfont>	CSS: Small Font class	When a smaller-than-normal font size is required in vBulletin 3, it is a simple matter of applying the Small Font CSS class to an HTML tag surrounding the text to be made small.

Large Font	<largefont>	n/a	The <largefont> replacement variable was used so infrequently in vBulletin 2 that it was decided not to waste resources on replicating it in vBulletin 3, so it is no longer available.
Highlighted Font	<highlight>	CSS: Highlighted Font class	In vBulletin 2 the color of highlighted text was controlled by the <highlight> replacement variable, but much more control is afforded by the vBulletin 3 Highlighted Font CSS class that replaces it.
Textarea Column Settings	{textareacols_IE}; {textareacols_NS4}; {textareacols_NS6}	n/a	In the <i>bad old days</i> before CSS was widely supported by browsers it was necessary to rely on the cols="x" attribute of <textarea> tags to specify the width of a <textarea>. Different browsers interpreted this value with a different resultant width, resulting in the need for a set of replacement variables in order to achieve roughly the same width for <textarea> tags in all browsers. With CSS the 'width' style attribute can be used to control the width more precisely, rendering these three replacement variables obsolete.

With the information in this table, your transition from the vBulletin 2 styles system to the vBulletin 3 system should be as painless as possible.

Style Inheritance

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Like so many other systems in vBulletin, the vBulletin Styles system works around the concept of inheritance.

In essence, this means that you can create an unlimited number of styles in which your board can be viewed, and customizations made in one style will be inherited by all of its 'child' styles.

Inheritance Example

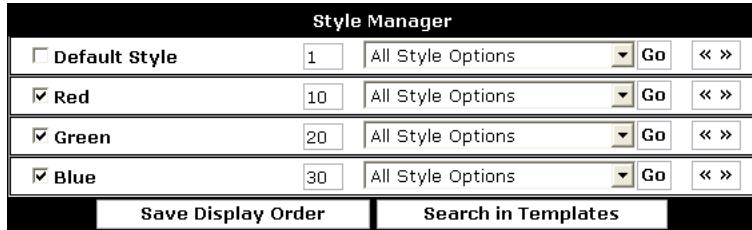
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The concept of inheritance as used by vBulletin 3 styles is best illustrated with an example of a common use for the system.

Many site owners will want to customize the look of their vBulletin installation so that it fits in with the style of the rest of the site. This is normally done by editing the colors used by vBulletin, and by editing the *header* and *footer* templates.

Let us imagine that we want to customize your *header* and *footer* templates, but we also want to offer three different color schemes for our visitors to choose between. For argument's sake, we'll call these the 'Red', 'Green' and 'Blue' styles.

We could create three new styles, calling one 'Blue', one 'Green' and one 'Red', then customize the *header* and *footer* templates in each style. That would be a perfectly valid solution, but has one serious disadvantage, in that should we decide that we want to alter the HTML in the customized *header* template, we would need to go through and edit the template in each of our three styles individually.



A much more manageable solution would be to create a single new style, which we will call 'Custom Header / Footer' and customize the *header* and *footer* templates within this style.



Now in order to offer site visitors the three color variants we want, we create the 'Red', 'Green' and 'Blue' styles as **child styles** of the 'Custom Header / Footer' style.

Each of these child styles will inherit the customized *header* and *footer* templates from the 'Custom Header / Footer' parent style, so we will not need to edit that template in the child styles, and if we choose to change the HTML of either the *header* or *footer* templates at some point in the future, we need only edit those templates in the parent style, and the changes will be automatically inherited by the three child styles.



While this is a very simple example, involving only the site color scheme and the *header* and *footer* templates, the vBulletin styles system allows you to individually customize every template and every CSS attribute of a style, and each of those customized attributes can be inherited by all child styles.

In the next section we will look into the mechanics behind this system in order to gain a good understanding of how to use vBulletin styles most effectively.

Inheritance Mechanics

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In the vBulletin styles system, each element of a style can be customized from the vBulletin default value, and each customization will be inherited by any child styles of the style in which the customization was made, unless the value is further customized in the child style.

In order to explain this in simple terms, let us assume that a vBulletin style consists of [x] individual elements, those being a background color, a text color, a font style and a few templates. For the purposes of this example, we will represent the contents of a style like this:

Background Color	Text Color	Font Style	Header Template	Footer Template
vBulletin Default	#FFFFFF	#000000	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is the default 'header' template!</p>

Using the example of the customized *header* and *footer* templates we used in our [first look at style inheritance](#), we can imagine that we could represent the 'Custom Header / Footer' style like this:

Background Color	Text Color	Font Style	Header Template	Footer Template
vBulletin Default	#FFFFFF	#000000	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is the default 'header' template!</p>
Custom Header / Footer	#FFFFFF	#000000	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my custom 'header' template!</p>

In this example, items that have been customized in a style are shown in **red**. You can see that the background color, text color and font style values are all shown in **black**, meaning that they are unchanged from the default values, while both the *header* and *footer* templates are shown in **red**, meaning that they have been customized, and therefore override their default contents.

We will now add the final branch of the style tree from our previous example, namely the 'Blue' style.

Background Color	Text Color	Font Style	Header Template	Footer Template
vBulletin Default	#FFFFFF	#000000	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is the default 'header' template!</p>
Custom Header / Footer	#FFFFFF	#000000	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my custom 'header' template!</p>
Blue	#0000FF	#FFFFFF	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my custom 'header' template!</p>

Here we can see that both the background and text color values have been customized, and are therefore shown in **red**, while the font style value has not been changed and therefore is being inherited from the vBulletin default values. However, both the *header* and *footer* templates have been customized in the parent 'Custom Header / Footer' style, and so those custom versions are inherited by the 'Blue' style. This inheritance is shown as an **orange** value.

Furthermore, if we now decided to customize the *header* template in the 'Blue' style, we would have something like this:

Background Color	Text Color	Font Style	Header Template	Footer Template
vBulletin Default	#FFFFFF	#000000	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is the default 'header' template!</p>
Custom Header / Footer	#FFFFFF	#000000	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my custom 'header' template!</p>
Blue	#0000FF	#FFFF00	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my special BLUE 'header' template!</p>

Here we can see that the customized (**red**) *header* template in the 'Blue' style overrides not only the default vBulletin *header* template, but also the customized *header* template from its parent 'Custom Header / Footer' style, while the *Footer* template is still inherited from its parent.

To illustrate the ability of vBulletin's style system to allow a theoretically infinite level of parent/child relationships between styles, we will now add a child style to the 'Blue' style, in which we will set the font size to be extra large. We will call this style 'Big Font Blue'.

Style Manager

<input type="checkbox"/> Default Style	1	All Style Options	Go	<< >>
<input type="checkbox"/> Custom Header / Footer	10	All Style Options	Go	<< >>
-- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red	100	All Style Options	Go	<< >>
-- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green	200	All Style Options	Go	<< >>
-- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blue	300	All Style Options	Go	<< >>
-- - - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Big Font Blue	1	All Style Options	Go	<< >>

Save Display Order **Search in Templates**

In this style, we will customize the font size attribute to be larger than normal, which will result in a style inheritance diagram like this:

	Background Color	Text Color	Font Style	Header Template	Footer Template
vBulletin Default	#FFFFFF	#000000	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is the default 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is the default 'footer' template!</div>
Custom Header / Footer	#FFFFFF	#000000	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my custom 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is my custom 'footer' template!</div>
Blue	#0000FF	#FFFF00	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my special BLUE 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is my custom 'footer' template!</div>
Big Font Blue	#0000FF	#FFFF00	14pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my special BLUE 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is my custom 'footer' template!</div>

Here you can see that the vBulletin default font style is inherited by the 'Custom Header / Footer' style and the 'Blue' style, but is overridden by the customized version in the 'Big Font Blue' style.

Were we to now customize the font style in the 'Custom Header / Footer' style, the change would automatically be inherited by the 'Blue' style, but would not be inherited by the 'Big Font Blue' style, as it has its own customized version.

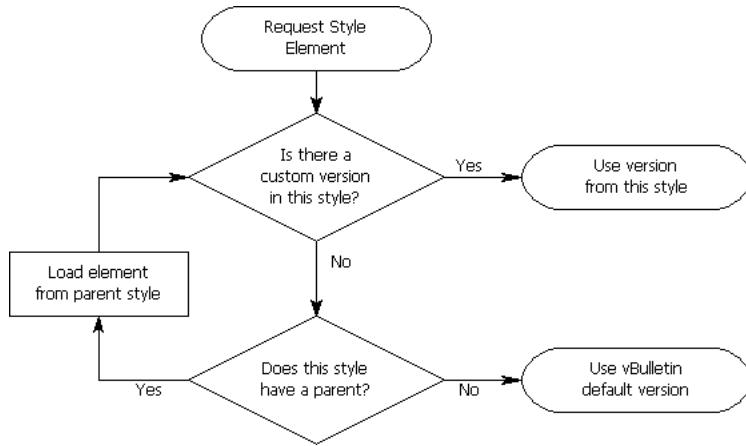
	Background Color	Text Color	Font Style	Header Template	Footer Template
vBulletin Default	#FFFFFF	#000000	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is the default 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is the default 'footer' template!</div>
Custom Header / Footer	#FFFFFF	#000000	12pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my custom 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is my custom 'footer' template!</div>
Blue	#0000FF	#FFFF00	12pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my special BLUE 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is my custom 'footer' template!</div>
Big Font Blue	#0000FF	#FFFF00	14pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my special BLUE 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is my custom 'footer' template!</div>

Additionally, were we now to **revert** the customized footer template in the 'Custom Header / Footer' style, its child styles would automatically inherit the vBulletin default value.

	Background Color	Text Color	Font Style	Header Template	Footer Template
vBulletin Default	#FFFFFF	#000000	10pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is the default 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is the default 'footer' template!</div>
Custom Header / Footer	#FFFFFF	#000000	12pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my custom 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is the default 'footer' template!</div>
Blue	#0000FF	#FFFF00	12pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my special BLUE 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is the default 'footer' template!</div>
Big Font Blue	#0000FF	#FFFF00	14pt verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif	<p>This is my special BLUE 'header' template!</p>	<div>This is the default 'footer' template!</div>

The system does not allow you to alter the vBulletin default value for any item, so you can revert any of your customizations at any time to their original contents.

This diagram illustrates the decision system used by vBulletin when loading each element from a style.



The Style Manager

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The Style Manager is the central hub for editing and creating vBulletin styles and their constituents. From here you can control every aspect of the way your vBulletin installation appears to your visitors, from simple color and font changes right through to fundamentally altering the layout of the board by editing templates.



The image above shows the Style Manager as it would appear immediately after a new vBulletin installation. Looking at the Style Manager from left to right, various controls are visible.

- **The 'Allow User Selection' Checkbox**

This checkbox controls whether or not the style will be available for non-administrators to use. If the checkbox for a style is cleared, only administrators will be able to use that style.

- **The Style Title Hyperlink**

The style title is also a hyperlink. Clicking it will open a new window and show the public area of your vBulletin using the style you clicked, even if the public are not able to use that particular style.

- **The Display Order Text Box**

The small text box containing a number controls the *display order* of a style. Higher numbers will be displayed later in the listing. This value makes absolutely no difference to the content of the style, and is used solely for convenience of display.

- **The Style Options Menu**

This popup menu contains links to make alterations to the style such as changing its title, downloading the style as a style.xml file etc.

- **The Expand/Collapse Templates List Button**

Clicking the [« »] button will open or close the list of templates for the current style.

Note:

- Examples of (modified) vBulletin boards: <http://www.vBulletin.com/links.php>
- Examples of vBulletin style and template modifications here: <http://www.vBulletin.org/forum/>

Creating New Styles

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To create a new style, click the [Add New Style] link underneath the main body of the Style Manager.

This will bring up the *Add New Style* interface.

Add New Style	
Parent Style	No Parent Style
Title	Custom Header / Footer
Allow User Selection	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display Order	10
Save Reset	

The controls on this form are as follows:

Parent Style This menu controls the way that this new style will inherit attributes from other styles that you may have defined.

For a complete discussion of vBulletin 3 style inheritance principles, see [Style Inheritance](#).

Title Here you should enter the name you have chosen for your new style

Allow User Selection This Yes/No choice corresponds to the checkbox next to each style on the main [Style Manager](#) interface, and affects whether or not your visitors will be able to use this style to view the board.

Display This text box expects you to enter a whole number (0, 15, 99, 1007 etc) to affect the position at which

Order this style will appear in any style lists. It corresponds to the display order text box on the main [Style Manager](#) interface.

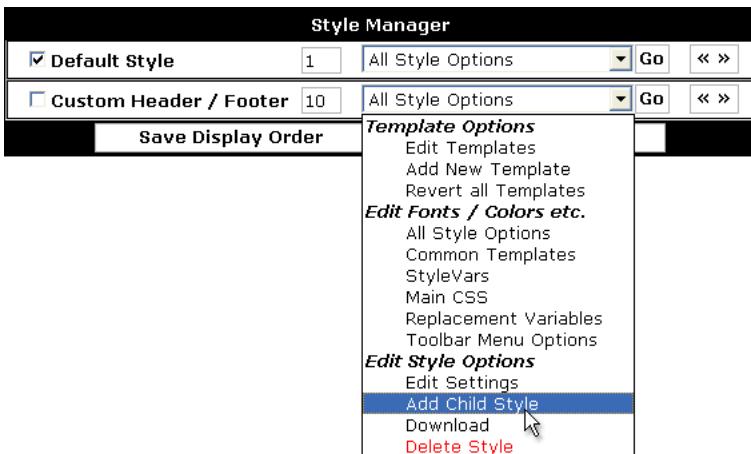
When you have filled in the forum, hit the [Save] and you will be returned to the Style Manager, where your new style will be shown.



Creating Child Styles

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To create a child style of an existing style, click on the style options menu for the style of which the new style will be a child, and pick Add Child Style from the popup menu.



This will take you to the [Add New Style](#) interface, with the correct parent style already selected in the form.

You may continue to add further child styles to child styles in order to satisfy any inheritance criteria you may require.

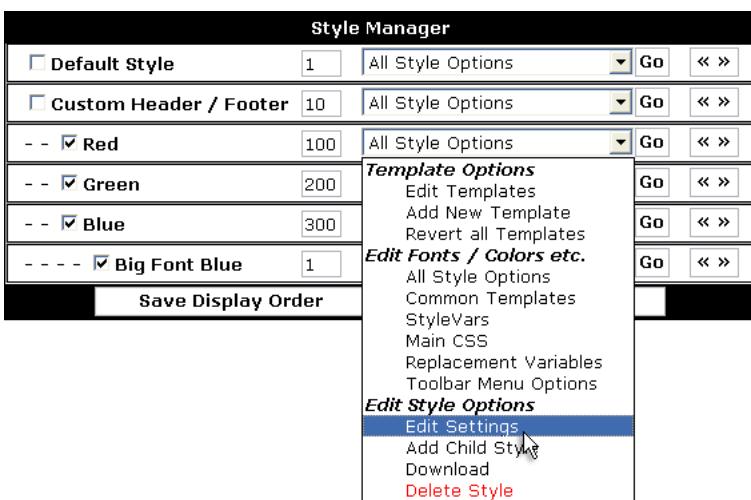


The image above illustrates the style layout as described in the reference guide to [Style Inheritance](#).

Editing Style Settings

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If you decide at any time that you need to rename a style, alter its display order or perhaps even change its parent/inheritance arrangement, you will need to select Edit Settings from the style options menu for the style you want to edit.



This will load the *Edit Style Settings* interface, which appears almost identical to the [Add New Style](#) form previously described.

Style: Red (id: 3)	
Parent Style	-- Custom Header / Footer
Title	Red
Allow User Selection	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display Order	100
Save Reset	

Using this form you can easily rename the selected style, change its display order or change the ability of users to choose this style.

Note:

If you choose to change the parent style, you should bear in mind the changes to your styles that this alteration will make.

For example, if we were to change the parent of the 'Red' style to 'No Parent', any templates, CSS or StyleVars currently being inherited from the 'Custom Header / Footer' style would no longer be inherited. In practice, this would mean that the customized *header* and *footer* templates defined by the 'Custom Header / Footer' style would no longer be used by the 'Red' style.

Consider changes such as this before changing the parent of an existing style.

Deleting a Style

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To delete a style, click on the style options menu in the Style Manager and choose Delete Style.

Style Manager	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Default Style	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Custom Header / Footer	10
-- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red	100
-- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green	200
-- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blue	300
---- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Big Font Blue	1
Save Display Order	

Template Options

Go <>

Edit Fonts / Colors etc.

Go <>

Go <>

Go <>

Edit Style Options

Go <>

Delete Style

Note:

When you delete a style, any customized templates, CSS, StyleVars or replacement variables belonging to that style will be deleted along with the style.

If the style you choose to delete has **no** child styles, a confirmation dialog will be displayed, informing you of exactly what is to be deleted and asking if you are sure. If you confirm the deletion, the style will be irrevocably deleted, along with any customizations made within it.

On the other hand, if the style you choose to delete has **one or more** child styles, an extra step will be added into the deletion process should you choose to continue with the deletion.

Any child styles of the style you delete will not be deleted, but rather they will be attached to the parent style of the style you have deleted.

For example, if you have a style arrangement of

```
Custom Header / Footer
-- Red
-- Green
-- Blue
---- Big Font Blue
```

... and you chose to delete the 'Blue' style, then the child style of 'Blue' will be attached to the parent style of 'Blue', resulting in this:

```
Custom Header / Footer
-- Red
-- Green
-- Big Font Blue
```

Note:

When deleting styles that have child styles, be aware that any customizations made in the style to be deleted will no longer appear in the child styles after the style has been deleted.

Editing the Templates

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To edit any of vBulletin's templates directly, select [Edit Templates] from the style options dropdown or click the [« »] button.



Other template related options in the drop down include:

- **Add New Template** – this takes you to the form to add a new template not based on any existing template.
- **Revert all Templates** – this will automatically remove all templates that have been customized in this style. The templates in this style will become equivalent to the templates of its parent style.

The template list will look similar to this:

The screenshot shows the 'Style Manager' interface with a more detailed view. The left sidebar lists numerous templates and template groups, some with black backgrounds (e.g., Default Style Templates, BB Code Layout Templates) and some with white backgrounds (e.g., activateform, activate_requestemail). The right panel contains a 'Controls' section with buttons for 'Customize', 'Expand/Collapse', 'Edit', 'View Original', and 'Revert'. Below this is a 'Default Style Templates' section with a 'All Template Groups' button. At the bottom is a 'Color Key' section that maps colors to template status: Black for Unchanged, Orange for Inherited from a Parent Style, and Red for Customized in this Style.

On the left, you will see a list of templates (white background) and template groups (black background). On the right, you will see 5 buttons. Any buttons you cannot use will be grayed out.

- **Customize** – if a template has yet to be edited in this style, click this button to edit it.
- **Expand/Collapse** – this button expands or collapses a specific template group.
- **Edit** – if a template has already been edited in this style, click this button to edit it further. This is effectively the same action as *Customize*.
- **View Original** – if the selected template has been edited in this style, clicking this button will show you the original version of the template.
- **Revert** – this button allows you to revert a template to the version that is being used in the parent style (or the original if there is no parent style). If the template being reverted is a custom template with no corresponding original/default then it will be deleted.

You may also double click the template or template group name on the left and the appropriate action will be executed; templates will be *Customized* or *Edited* and template groups will be *Expanded/Collapsed*.

Templates are color coded as follows:

- **Black** – this template is unmodified in this style or any parent styles. The version included with vBulletin will be used.
- **Orange** – this template has been modified in a parent style, but not in this style. The modified template will be used.
- **Red** – this template has been modified in this style. The customized version will be used.

You may modify this color scheme by editing your control panel styles.

Note:

The template manager will look significantly different in browsers other than Internet Explorer. However, the functionality is the same.

Adding or Editing a Single Template

Editing a template is simply like editing regular HTML. Each template represents XHTML bits with PHP-style (\$varname) variable names. For more information on what you can use in the templates, see the [Templates Introduction](#).

- **Product** - the name of the product which introduced this template. By default this will be vBulletin.
- **Style** – the name of the style that this template is in or will be inserted into.
- **Title** – the title of the template. This is what is used to identify a template, so it must be unique. Generally, only a-z, A-Z, 0-9, and _ are used. If there is more than one template revision stored an additional link of [View History] will be shown. This link will allow you to compare the current template with previous versions.
- **Template** – this is the actual body of the template. The [Show Default] link will show you the unmodified version of the template.
- **Search in Template** – the text box and [Find] allow you to search within the template text. Please note that this is not available in all browsers.

This row also contains several additional options:

Copy – this automatically copies the context of the *Template* box to your clipboard.

View QuickRef – this displays the language [quick reference](#).

- **Save in Template History** - This row allows you to save your template revision for future comparison if needed. You can add a comment to help you remember what was changed.

Comparing Templates

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vBulletin allows you to store multiple historical versions of a template. You can use these to compare template changes across versions and to keep track of your edits. The feature lets you quickly and easily see the differences between two versions of the template. This feature is accessed by clicking the [View History] in the template editor.

History of Template header							Help ?
Delete	Type	Last Modified	Version	View	Old	New	
	Current Version	09-24-2005 01:11 AM / Administrator	3.5.0	[View]	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historical*	09-24-2005 01:11 AM / Administrator	3.5.0	[View]	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historical	09-24-2005 01:11 AM / Administrator	3.5.0	[View]	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historical*	09-24-2005 01:11 AM / Administrator	3.5.0	[View]	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Current Default		06-28-2005 05:47 PM / freddie	3.5.0 Beta 4	[View]	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Delete				Compare Versions			

* - Entry has a comment. Hover over the type to view it.

When you first enter it will give you a list of all the template revisions stored. Each row will give you the following information:

- Status** - This will tell you if the template is the currently active template, a historical revision or the current default.
- Last Modified** - When the template was last modified and who edited it.
- Version** - The version of vBulletin in which the template was modified.
- View** - Simply allows you to view the template by itself.
- Old/New** - Allows you to select the template revisions for comparison. Old is showed on the left side of the resulting screen and New is shown on the right.

Each historical revision will also provide a delete checkbox so that you can remove it from the database if you wish.

Once you select two templates to compare, click on the **Compare Versions** button. The result will be similar to the image below and show where differences between the two versions occur using color highlights and using **View Side-By-Side** mode

Comparing Versions of header		Help ?
Old Version	New Version	
<pre><!-- logo --> <table border="0" width="\$stylevar [outerTablewidth]" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" align="center"> <tr> <td align="\$stylevar[left]"></td> <td align="\$stylevar[right]"> &nbsp; </td> </tr> </table> <!-- /logo --></pre>	<pre><!-- logo --> <table border="0" width="\$stylevar [outerTablewidth]" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" align="center"> <tr> <td align="\$stylevar[left]"></td> <td align="\$stylevar[right]"> &nbsp; </td> </tr> </table> <!-- /logo --></pre>	
<!-- content I have removed -->		
<pre><!-- content table / content I have changed --></pre>		<pre><!-- content table / content I have changed again --></pre>
\$spacer_open		\$spacer_open
<!-- content I have added -->		
<pre>\$_phpincludefile_output</pre>		<pre>\$_phpincludefile_output</pre>
Disable Wrapping		

The default mode is a diff format (or View Inline mode) which will look similar to the image below

Comparing Versions of header		
Old	New	Content
8	8	</tr>
9	9	</table>
10	10	<!-- /logo -->
	11	
11	12	<!-- some added content -->
12		<!-- some changed content - its been changed! -->
	13	
	14	
	15	<!-- some changed content - its been changed! -->
	16	
	17	
	18	
13	19	
14	20	<!-- content table -->
15	21	\$spacer_open
Display Options		
View Side by Side Disable Wrapping <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Lines around each diff Update		

Mobile Style

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In vBulletin 4.1.2, a mobile style was introduced. This is a streamlined style that allows easier browsing on smartphones and other small screen devices. The Mobile Style is meant to be complementary to your vBulletin installation and simplify access for your users.

Installing the vBulletin Mobile Style

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Mobile Style Install

If you're doing a new install, or are upgrading an existing install that didn't have a mobile style, a "Default Mobile Style" will be created in the mobile style list, and it will be automatically set as both 'Default Style for Old Mobile Browsers' and 'Default Style for Modern Mobile Browsers' (in Admin CP -> Settings -> Options -> Style & Language Settings).

Mobile Style Upgrade

If you're upgrading an existing install, that had a mobile style, from 4.1.10 (or lower) to 4.1.11 (or higher), a "Default Mobile Style" will be created in the mobile style list, and any style that was set as either Default Style for Old Mobile Browsers or Default Style for Modern Mobile Browsers (in Admin CP -> Settings -> Options -> Style & Language Settings) will be moved to the mobile style list, effectively becoming a mobile style.

Note: that if you were previously using the normal Mobile Style provided by vBulletin, you need to revert all its templates after it is moved to the mobile style list, or they will all show as customized and never be updated automatically during upgrades.

Rather than the above, you may also just delete the Mobile Style you had since before the upgrade, and use instead the "Default Mobile Style" added by the upgrade (also setting it as 'Default Style for Old Mobile Browsers' and 'Default Style for Modern Mobile Browsers'), but it is not recommended to do so as it may cause some oddities to your mobile users until they clear their cookies.

Any upgrade from 4.1.11 to an higher version will not require any intervention on your part for the mobile style upgrade.

Disabling the Mobile Style

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If you do not wish to use the mobile style, you can disable it following these steps:

1. Admin CP -> Settings -> Options -> Style & Language Settings -> Default Style for Old Mobile Browsers. Set 'None'.
2. Admin CP -> Settings -> Options -> Style & Language Settings -> Default Style for Modern Mobile Browsers. Set 'None'.
3. Admin CP -> Styles & Templates -> Style Manager. Edit any style in the mobile style list and set "Allow User Selection" to No.

Admins will always be able to use the mobile style, as they can always use any existing style and because it is not possible to delete the last mobile style.

Enabling the Mobile Style

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If you do wish to use the mobile style, you can enable it following these steps:

- Admin CP -> Settings -> Options -> Style & Language Settings -> Default Style for Old Mobile Browsers. Select 'None' from the Dropdown menu.
- Admin CP -> Settings -> Options -> Style & Language Settings -> Default Style for Modern Mobile Browsers. Set 'Default Mobile Style' from the dropdown menu.
- Admin CP -> Styles & Templates -> Style Manager. Edit any style in the mobile style list and set "Allow User Selection" to Yes.

Note:

Note: Not all Old Mobile Browsers will be able to use the Default Mobile Style. For the purposes of these older browsers, you may be able to find a style available at www.vbulletin.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

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Why does the Mobile Style have its own Style Manager?

This is because it is based off a secondary Master Style.

What are the benefits of basing the Mobile Style off a secondary Master Style?

It allows the Mobile Style to work like the Default Style. This helps with installation, upgrades and customizations. Plus you can create multiple mobile styles and save customization between versions and upgrades.

My users are saying the Mobile Style doesn't work properly

The Mobile Style is based on the jQuery Mobile Module. As such it requires that Javascript and Cookies are enabled on the device. If they are using an iOS Device, they will either need to turn off Private Browsing or delete their cache due to issues with the Safari Browser.

What devices are supported by the Mobile Browser?

The vBulletin Mobile Browser is based on the jQuery Mobile module. It should support all devices that jQuery Mobile supports. You can see a list of devices here:

<http://jqm.demos.jquerymobile.com/about/platforms.html>

Are you going to add more devices?

We do not intend to add devices not on the above list at this time.

Does the mobile browser support RTL languages like Hebrew or Arabic?

No, it does not at this time.

Search in Templates

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The Styles & Templates > Search in Templates group lets you search for strings in templates from the style(s). Additionally you can run a "find and replace" search which allows you to replace all instances of a certain string with another string.

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Search Templates

When you do not know which template resides in which style, or which template to modify, than use the Styles & Templates > Search in Templates > Search Templates system to find the template in one or more styles.

- Search in Style**

Select the style in which you want to search. You can select to search in all the styles or just one.

- Search for Text**

Enter the string of text you want to search for. This search string is case sensitive. The search will find any words / phrases containing the string you enter here. For example, if you search for "bullet" the search will find "vbulletin", "bullets", etc.

Additionally you could select the [Large Edit Box] if you have a chunk of text which you would like to have an overview on while entering.

- Search Titles Only**

Select yes if you want to search only through the template titles and not through the actual content of the templates.

Note:

Use the Styles & Templates > Search in Templates > Find and Replace in Templates feature if you have a lot of templates in one or more styles that has text that you wish to have replaced. This could save you quite some time.

Find and Replace in Templates

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Use the Styles & Templates > Search in Templates > Find and Replace in Templates feature if you have a lot of templates in one or more styles that has text that you wish to have replaced. This could save you quite some time.

Warning:

Replacing strings in templates could result in errors if you do not know what you are doing. This is an action that can not be undone, so please be aware that you should look twice before applying a find and replace on templates.

Advised is to run a test first.

- Search in Style**

Select the style in which you want to search. You can select to search in all the styles or just one.

- Search for Text**

Enter the string of text you want to search for. This search string is case sensitive. The search will find any words / phrases containing the string you enter here. For example, if you search for "bullet" the search will find "vbulletin", "bullets", etc.

- Replace with Text**

Enter a replacement string here. This string will be substituted in for all instances of the search string above. For example, if you search for "bullet" and your replacement string is "carrot" then "vbulletin" would become "vcarrotin".

- Test Replacement Only**

Select no if you are really sure you wish to replace found strings in a template. It is advised to run a test replacement first. Running a test replacement first will show the result of doing this find/replace, without actually updating the templates.

- Use Regular Expressions**

The regular expression option is for advanced users only! Setting this option to 'yes' will use preg_replace() instead of str_replace() for your find/replace operation. Do not use this option if you are not sure how to use PCRE regular expressions!

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Replacement Variable Manager

Replacement variables are useful in representing commonly used values in templates. Use the Styles & Templates > Replacement Variable Manager group to add / modify / delete replacement variables.

Note:

To learn more about Replacement Variables, please read the [Replacement Variables Introduction](#)

The Replacement Variable Manager lists all of your styles, together with any replacement variables defined within them. This allows you to see at a glance the way in which any replacement variables you have defined are being inherited by child styles.

The screenshot shows the 'Replacement Variables' page. At the top, there's a section for 'Default Style' with a link to 'Add New Replacement Variable'. Below it, there's a list of styles under 'Custom Header / Footer': 'Red', 'Green', 'Blue', and 'Big Font Blue'. Each style has a link to 'Add New Replacement Variable' and a 'vbb [Edit] [Delete]' button. Under each style, there's a 'vbb [Customize]' link.

Refer to the **Color Key** at the top of the Replacement Variable Manager page to see how colors are used to indicate whether a replacement variable is customized in a particular style, or inherited from a parent style.

Add New Replacement Variable

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To add a new replacement variable, click the [Add New Replacement Variable] link next to any style listed on the Replacement Variable Manager main page.

On the Add New Replacement Variable page, you will find a form in which you can specify the style to which you want to add a new replacement variable, along with two text fields.

The screenshot shows the 'Add New Replacement Variable' dialog box. It has three main sections: 'Style' (dropdown menu set to '-- Blue'), 'Search for Text (Case-Insensitive)' (text input field containing 'teh'), and 'Replace with Text' (text input field containing 'the'). Below these fields is a large text area labeled 'Large Edit Box'. At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons.

The first text field is for the text you want the replacement variable to *find*, and the second field should contain the text with which to replace the find text.

Note:

The *find* text is not case sensitive, meaning that dog will match DOG, DoG, dOG etc.

When you click the [Save] button, any child styles of the style to which you added the new replacement variable will automatically inherit the new variable, while parent styles will be unaffected. This is the principle of [inheritance](#) in action.

Replacement Variables

- **Default Style** [Add New Replacement Variable]
 - No replacement variables are defined for this style

- **Custom Header / Footer** [Add New Replacement Variable]
 - vbb [Edit] [Delete]
 - **Red** [Add New Replacement Variable]
 - vbb [Customize]
 - **Green** [Add New Replacement Variable]
 - vbb [Customize]
 - **Blue** [Add New Replacement Variable]
 - teh [Edit] [Delete]
 - vbb [Customize]
 - **Big Font Blue** [Add New Replacement Variable]
 - teh [Customize]
 - vbb [Customize]

Customizing a Replacement Variable

When a replacement variable is inherited by a style, you may customize it in that style and have the changes automatically appear in any of its child styles.

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To customize a replacement variable, simply click the [Customize] link next to any replacement variable on the main page.

This will load the Replacement Variable Customization form, which looks almost identical to the [Add New Replacement Variable](#) interface, and works in exactly the same way.

Customize Replacement Variable: vbb

Style	Green
Search for Text (Case-Insensitive)	vbb
Replace with Text	vB
<input type="button" value="Large Edit Box"/>	
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

After making your changes, the new value will be automatically inherited by any child styles.

Download / Upload Styles

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This section covers how to download and upload styles.

Downloading styles is handy when you want to make a backup of your templates and options, or share your work with other forum administrators.

Uploading styles is handy to revert to a backup or applying the same style to several boards. You can use this option to import a style that someone has given you.

Make sure you read and understand all the options to avoid incomplete style downloads / uploads.

Note:

When you upload or download a style, the process will not transfer any image files. Your image files should be managed with an FTP client.

Downloading a Style

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If you have created a style of which you are proud, you may want to share it with other vBulletin administrators.

Alternatively, you may simply want to back up all your templates and style settings to a file on your computer.

Both of these actions are catered for by the Style Download system, which allows you to download all the customized StyleVars, CSS, Replacement Variables and Templates into a single XML file.

Download

Style	Custom Header / Footer
Title	Custom Header / Footer
Filename	vbulletin-style.xml
Options	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Get customizations made only in this style <input type="radio"/> Get customizations made in this style and all parent styles
<input type="button" value="Download"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

The Style Download form is relatively simple, with only a few controls to manipulate.

Style Use this menu to pick the style you want to download

Title By default, the downloaded XML file will contain the title of the style as it exists on your web server. If you would like the XML file to store a different name for the style you are downloading, enter it here.

Filename This field allows you to specify the name of the XML file vBulletin will send to your web browser when you click the [Download] button. However, most browsers allow you to rename a file as you download it, so this field may be irrelevant to you.

Options The options give you a choice of two types of style download.

If you choose to Get customizations made only in this style, then the style XML file you download will contain **only** items that are customized specifically in the style you are downloading. Items that are inherited from parent styles will **not** be included.

On the other hand, if you choose to Get customizations made in this style and all parent styles, the style XML file will contain not only items customized specifically in the style you are downloading, but also any items that have been customized in a parent style.

Clicking the [Download] button will instruct vBulletin to package your style up into an XML file and start downloading it to your web browser.

Note:

The XML file you download can **not** contain any image files. If your style includes custom images, you should download these separately using an FTP client.

Uploading a Style

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If you have downloaded a vBulletin 3 XML style file from another vBulletin installation, or if you want to restore a style backup that you made yourself, you will have need of the vBulletin 3 Style Importer.

This system will read an XML file, convert the data inside it into StyleVars, CSS, Replacement Variables and Templates and write the data into your database.

EITHER upload the XML file from your computer

OR import the XML file from your server

Overwrite Style
(Selecting a style here will cause the imported style to overwrite an existing style. Leave blank to create a new style)

Ignore Style Version Yes No
Use style file **even** if it was created by a different version of vBulletin?

The following options apply only if you are creating a new style, rather than overwriting an existing style

Title for Uploaded Style (Leave blank to use the style title specified in the style file)

Parent Style

Display Order

Allow User Selection Yes No

Import **Reset**

Either If the XML style file you want to import is located on your own computer, use this control to find the file and upload it.

XML File from your computer

Or If the XML style file you want to import is located on your web server, enter the file path to the file here.

Import XML file from your server

Merge Into Style If you are restoring a style backup, you will probably want to import the XML file over the top of the style of which it is a backup. To do this, select the style you want to merge into from the list provided. If no style is chosen from the list, a new style will be created and the data in the XML file will be imported into this style.

Ignore Style Version When a style file is downloaded from vBulletin, the version number of the vBulletin exporting the file is included. If the version number included in the style file you are importing does not match the version number of the vBulletin doing the import a warning will be shown to alert you to possible incompatibilities. If you are confident that no errors will occur as a result of importing a style from a different version of vBulletin, use this control to force vBulletin to accept the file regardless of the stored version number.

Title for If you chose to create a new style rather than overwrite an existing style, vBulletin will use the style title

Uploaded Style included in the XML file as the title for the new style unless you specify an alternative title using this control.

Parent Style / These controls are only applicable when creating a new style rather than overwriting an existing style. Their function is identical to that described in the section dealing with [adding a new style](#).

Display Order /
Allow
User
Selection

Note:

XML style files can not contain image files, so no images will be imported when using this system. If the style you are importing requires special images, you will need to upload them to your web server using an FTP client.

Find Updated Templates

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vBulletin's default templates are often updated during upgrades. This page shows you what customized templates may need to be reverted and recustomized as a result of the default templates changing.

Custom Header / Footer	
footer	
Default Template Updated in 3.0.0 by Kier	[Edit Template]
Your Custom Template Last Edited in 3.0.0 Release Candidate 4 by Administrator	[Revert]
header	
Default Template Updated in 3.0.0 by Kier	[Edit Template]
Your Custom Template Last Edited in 3.0.0 Release Candidate 4 by Administrator	[Revert]
Red	
header	
Default Template Updated in 3.0.0 by Kier	[Edit Template]
Your Custom Template Last Edited in 3.0.0 Release Candidate 4 by Administrator	[Revert]

If the page displays no modified templates then all your templates are up to date.

You can choose to modify or revert a template if it is listed.

Note:

The Find Updated Templates system is primarily of use to [check for modified templates](#) after running an upgrade script.

Languages and Phrases

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In vBulletin 3, any language-dependent text is kept separately from the HTML layout code.

This enables you the administrator to create (or download) versions of the user interface translated into multiple languages other than US English, making your board truly multinational and language-independent.

An Introduction to Languages and Phrases

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vBulletin 3 has introduced the ability to translate your board or modify the text displayed via the control panel, all without having to delve into the templates and HTML. This section will cover everything you need to know to translate your board, edit existing phrases, and add new phrases

Languages vs. Phrases

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A language contains a collection of phrases. Specifically, a language contains all the phrases that vBulletin has, broken down into various groups of phrases. For example, there is a *Polls* group that only contains phrases dealing with polls. You can specify the default language that guests will see; once a user is registered, he or she may change the language the board is displayed in.

Note:

Language settings apply to both the front-end and the control panels.

A phrase represents a single string containing text that could be translated. This may vary from a single word used on a button to an entire error message or email. Significant effort has been made to make phrases as gender-independent as possible, but there are still some problem areas. If you are trying to translate a phrase and having problems because of a language difference (such as a gender conflict), you may report it to us.

Note:

Some gender issues may not be addressable because vBulletin does not include a method to determine if a user is male or female. We recommend working around this by including both translations simultaneously. This is similar to saying "him or her" or "forum(s)" in English.

The 'Master Language' and 'Custom Master Language'

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Beyond any user-created languages, there are 2 that always exist. These are master languages and are generally hidden from being directly edited.

The *Master Language* is where all of vBulletin's untranslated, default phrases exist. This allows an original copy of a phrase to exist at all times for reference purposes. You will never be able to edit this language directly.

The *Custom Master Language* is similar to the Master Language. However, the only phrases that will be inserted here are any custom phrases that you have created. This allows every language to have access to the phrase as if it were in the Master Language.

Phrase Syntax

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When editing phrases, you will notice strings such as {1} or {2}. These represent variables, and will be replaced with specific examples at runtime.

Let's consider an example. Suppose you are working with phrase showing_avatars_x_to_y_of_z. By default, its text is:

Showing Avatars {1} to {2} of {3}

At run time, this may take on a value such as:

Showing Avatars 10 to 20 of 24

Notice that {1}, {2}, and {3} have been replaced with specific values.

Now, suppose you wanted the output to look like this:

24 Avatars Total. Displaying 10 – 20.

You could accomplish this by changing the phrase text to:

{3} Avatars Total. Displaying {1} – {2}.

The order of the numbers does not matter. All that matters is that you reference the correct number for what you want.

Using Phrases in Templates

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Phrases are generally straightforward to use in templates. Simple phrases (without any variable portions) can be referenced like regular \$variables; complex phrases are referenced similarly to template conditionals.

When referencing a phrase in a template, there are two things you have to know.

1. **The phrase name (*phrase_name*)** – this is what uniquely identifies a phrase and how phrases are referenced. Generally, the phrase name reflects the phrase text directly; for example, the phrase with variable name poll_timeout has the text of *Poll Timeout*.
2. **The phrase group** – if the phrase is in a group, you will only be able to access it on pages that load that group. For example, the *Polls* group is only loaded in poll.php, so if you try to reference poll_timeout in a template that's loaded on another page, you won't get any output.

To use a phrase in a template, you need to use the following constructs -

phrase

{vb:phrase phrase_name[, arguments for phrase...]}

Inserts the specified phrase. If arguments are provided, they will be run through htmlspecialchars.

Example:

{vb:phrase welcome}

rawphrase

{vb:rawphrase phrase_name[, arguments for phrase...]}

As above, though arguments bypass htmlspecialchars.

Example:

```
{vb:rawphrase message_by_x_on_y_at_z, {vb:link member, {vb:raw postinfo}}, {vb:raw postinfo.username}, {vb:raw postinfo.postdate}, {vb:raw postinfo.posttime}}
```

For more information on the template syntax please see: [Template Syntax](#)

Managing Languages

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To manage your languages, go to Languages & Phrases > Language Manager in the admin control panel. You will be presented with this:

Language Manager		Help ?
Language	Default	
English (US)	Edit / Translate English (US) Phrases	[Edit Settings] [Delete] [Download]
[Search Phrases] [View QuickRef] [Rebuild All Languages]		
Add New Language		Download / Upload Language

Here you can add or edit existing languages, change the default language, view a language quick reference, or rebuild all languages.

Adding or Editing a Language

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To reach this page, visit Languages & Phrases > Language Manager > click [Add New Language] or [Edit Settings].

Add New Language

General Settings	
Title	<input type="text"/>
Allow User Selection	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Text Direction	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Left to Right <input type="radio"/> Right to Left
Language Code	<input type="text" value="en"/>
This is the abbreviation your language uses, such as "en" or "en-US". See here for more information.	
HTML Character Set	<input type="text" value="ISO-8859-1"/>
This is the value of the 'charset' attribute for the HTML content type setting in the 'headinclude' template. <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1" />	
Image Folder Override	<input type="text"/>
Use this to override the images folder associated with the style being used. You may use <#> to represent the style ID the user is currently using	
Date / Time Formatting	
If a locale is defined, you must use the formatting found here , otherwise use the formatting found here	
Locale	<input type="text"/>
You can define a locale so that dates are properly translated. The setting for your locale will depend on your server OS and not all locales are supported on all systems. Windows servers need to look here and everyone else needs to look here and here . You must fill in all of the override fields below and use the formatting found here .	
Examples for windows are 'Chinese' and 'deu'. Examples for Linux are 'deu' and 'fre'.	
Date Format Override	<input type="text"/>
See: http://www.php.net/manual-lookup.php?function=strftime	
Examples:	
European Format (e.g., 25-04-98): %d-%m-%y	
Default Date Format for this Locale: %x	
Time Format Override	<input type="text"/>
See: http://www.php.net/manual-lookup.php?function=strftime	
Examples:	
AM/PM Time Format (eg, 11:15 PM): %I:%M %p	
24-Hour Format Time (eg, 23:15): %H:%M	
Default Time Format for this Locale: %X	
Registration Date Format Override	<input type="text"/>
Use this to override the default registration date format	
Birthday Date Format Override	<input type="text"/>
Use this to override the default birthday (with Year) date format	
Birthday Date Format Override	<input type="text"/>
Use this to override the default birthday (without Year) date format <i>DO NOT put in a code for the year</i>	
Log Date Format Override	<input type="text"/>
Use this to override the default Admin CP Log format	
Number Formatting	
Decimal Separator	<input type="text" value="."/>
(The character used to separate integers from floating point number components, such as the . used in 0.01. To specify a space, please use the underscore _)	
Thousands Separator	<input type="text" value=""/> ,
(The character used to separate thousands in formatted numbers, such as the , used in 1,024. To specify a space, please use the underscore _)	
Save Reset	

The form to add or edit a language contains many settings that are specific to a locale. For example, some people might prefer the mm/dd/yy date format, while others prefer dd/mm/yy.

General Settings

- **Title** – the name of your language. This will be displayed to users when they are selecting a language.
- **Allow User Selection** – determines whether users can select the language. If this is set to no, the language is effectively disabled.
- **Text Direction** – direction of the text in the language. English is left to right, while Hebrew is right to left.
- **Language Code** – the abbreviation for the language. This will not have any effect on the displayed text, but it may be used by programs such as screen readers.
- **HTML Character Set** – this indicates the encoding of the characters that are displayed on the page. Setting this to an incorrect value may prevent some characters from being displayed. If you are unsure what to put here, enter UTF-8, as it will likely contain the characters you need.
- **Image Folder Override** – this allows you to specify the path to button images, relative to the main forum directory, that contains translated text. This will replace the button images folder, which defaults to images/buttons. If you wish to specify a specific button directory for each style, you may use <#>. At runtime, this will be replaced with the ID number of the style that the user is using.

Date / Time Formatting

This section allows you to specify specific date and time options. **Locale** represents a special code that allows dates and times to be automatically translated into a specific language. All the other settings in this group allow you to override the default date and time formatting with one that is more appropriate for your language. For example, *English (US)* would use the mm/dd/yy format, while *English (UK)* would use the dd/mm/yy format. These formats are represented by %m/%d/%y and %d/%m/%y, respectively.

Number Formatting

- **Decimal Separator** – represents the character that separates the integer and decimal parts of a number.
- **Thousands Separator** – represents the character that separates and groups thousands in a number.

Translating a Language

To begin translating a language, click Languages & Phrases > Language Manager > click [Edit / Translate <language name> Phrases]. This will take you to a page that looks like this:

Varname	Text
1_day_ago	1 Day Ago 1 Day Ago
1_hour_ago	1 Hour Ago 1 Hour Ago
1_minute_ago	1 Minute Ago 1 Minute Ago
1_week_ago	1 Week Ago 1 Week Ago
a_closed_forum	A Closed Forum A Closed Forum
accept	Accept <input type="checkbox"/> Revert Accept

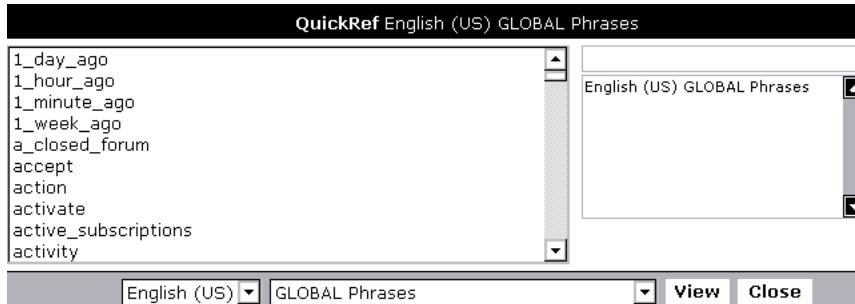
Save **Reset**

This page contains a list of phrases for the language. On the left is the phrase's variable name; on the right are the default value (top) and the translated value (bottom). If a phrase has not been translated yet, the default value will be in the bottom as well.

Once you have translated a page, simply click [Save]. Any phrases which have changed will be saved and used in this language. To do a complete translation, repeat this process for each page of every phrase group.

Language Quick Reference

The language quick reference can be reached by going to Languages & Phrases > Language Manager > click [View QuickRef]. This will popup a window like this:



On the left, you will see a list of phrase variable names. Once you click one, the code to use in a template will appear on the right, along with the phrase's text.

At the bottom, you can change the language and phrase group being viewed.

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Rebuilding All Languages

Rebuilding all languages can be accomplished by going to Languages & Phrases > Language Manager > click [Rebuild All Languages]. This option will regenerate all cached language data. Generally, this is not necessary. However, if you have edited the language information in the database directly, you will need to run this setting for your changes to take effect.

Note:

Running this option, even when unnecessary, will **not** harm your forum.

Managing Phrases

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The phrase manager is generally just another interface for doing translations. Data is just grouped by phrase instead of by language.

Clicking Languages & Phrases > Phrase Manager will lead you to a page that looks like this:

GLOBAL Phrases (phrasetypeid = 1)		Help ?
Varname	English (US)	
1_day_ago	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
1_hour_ago	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
1_minute_ago	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
1_week_ago	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
a_closed_forum	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
accept	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[Edit]
action	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
activate	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
active_subscriptions	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
activity	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
add_new_folders	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
add_subscription	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
add_x_to_buddy_list	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
add_x_to_your_ignorelist	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]
admin	<input type="radio"/>	[Edit]

[Search in Phrases](#)

[Add New Phrase](#)

[Find Orphan Phrases](#)

Phrases that are checked have a translation in that language; unchecked, empty circles are using the default value.

From here, you can add or edit and search for orphaned phrases.

Adding or Editing a Phrase

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Add New Phrase

Phrase Type	GLOBAL	Help ?
Varname	<input type="text"/>	?
Text	<input type="text"/>	?
Translations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When inserting a custom phrase, you may also specify the translations into whatever languages you have installed. If you do leave a translation box blank, it will inherit the text from the 'Text to insert' box You may customize the translations further at any time. 		
English (US) Translation (Optional)	<input type="text"/>	?
<input type="button" value="Copy Default Text"/>		?
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

Adding a phrase is straight forward.

- Phrase Type** – the type (or group) that this phrase will be put it. It will only be loaded by pages that load that group.
- Varname** – the variable name of the phrase that will be used to identify the phrase in code. You may only use a-z, A-Z, 0-9, and _ in the name.
- Text** – the default text of the phrase. You may use {1}, {2}, etc to represent variable parts of a phrase.

Note:

When editing a phrase, the options listed above may not be available. You will have to delete and recreate the phrase and translations to change these values.

Below this is a text area for each language on the board. Here you may create any translations necessary; if you leave the box blank, the value from the *Text* box will be used. You may specify a translation at any point.

Note:

To delete a translation, simply remove the text in the translation box.

Orphan Phrases

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Orphan phrases are phrases that exist in the database but don't have a default value in the *Master Language* or the *Custom Master Language*. This is most commonly caused by phrases becoming obsolete and being removed by an upgrade. In most cases, these phrases will no longer be used, but if you need to edit or delete these phrases, you should search for orphan phrases.

When you search for orphan phrases, you will see a screen like this:

Find Orphan Phrases			
Varname	English (US)	Keep All	Delete All
orphan_demo	GLOBAL Phrases	<input type="radio"/> Keep	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Delete

Continue Reset

Note:

If you do not have any orphaned phrases, you will see a message stating this.

You may *Keep* the phrase, which will allow you to designate a translation as the default version to be moved into the *Custom Master Language*, or *Delete* the phrase, which remove all translations of it from the database.

Search in Phrases

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Search in Phrases		Help ?
Search for Text	<input type="text"/>	?
Search in ...	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Phrase Text Only <input type="radio"/> Phrase Variable Name Only <input type="radio"/> Phrase Text AND Phrase Variable Name	?
Case-Sensitive	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Find Reset		

The phrase search page (Languages & Phrases > Search in Phrases) allows you to search through the phrases used in all languages.

- **Search for Text** – the text used to do the search. It will search for this string exactly; what comes before and after it does not matter. Therefore, a search for *I* will return every phrase with an *I* in it, not just those with the word *I*.
- **Search in ...** – allows you to select where to search. In most cases, *Phrase Text Only* will be the most useful option.
- **Case-Sensitive** – allows you to choose whether the search is case sensitive.

Downloading and Uploading Languages

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Languages can be downloaded (exported) and uploaded (imported) like styles. This allows you to share your translations with others or use someone else's translation to save time. To upload or download a language, go to Languages & Phrases > Download / Upload Languages.

Download		Help ?
Language	<input type="button" value="English (US) ▾"/>	?
Filename	<input type="text" value="vbulletin-language.xml"/>	?
Download Reset		

To download a language, simply select it and an appropriate filename and click [Download].

Note:

Only translated phrases will be in a downloaded language.

Import Language XML File		Help ?
EITHER upload the XML file from your computer		
<input type="button" value="Browse..."/>		
OR import the XML file from your server <input type="text" value="./install/vbulletin-language.xml"/>		
Overwrite Language <input type="button" value="(Create New Language) ▾"/>		
Title for Uploaded Language <input type="text"/>		
Ignore Language Version <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Import Reset		

- **Language Source** – the first two options represent the source of the language, a file you upload or a file that is already on the server. If you do not specify a file to upload, it will assume that you are importing the file off the server.
- **Overwrite Language** – if you select a language here, that language will be overwritten with the uploaded language. Otherwise, a new language will be created. This is useful if you are importing a newer version of an

existing language.

- **Title for Uploaded Language** – if you are creating a new language, you may specify a title for it here. You may leave this option blank to use the title in the language file.
- **Ignore Language Version** – if you leave this at *no*, then an error message will be displayed and the language will not be imported if it was created for a different version of vBulletin. Set this to *yes* to disable this error checking.

Warning:

Language data generally changes from version to version. Thus, if you are importing a language from an older version, these differences may cause problems.

Data Format

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Languages are downloaded in XML. The XML for a language contains a <language> tag that provides information about the language, multiple <phrasetype> tags that denote each phrase type/group, and many <phrase> tags that describe the individual phrases.

Note:

The <phrase> tags here are very different from the <phrase> tags used in templates.

An example language XML file looks like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>

<language name="English (US)" vbversion="3.0.0">

  <phrasetype name="GLOBAL">
    <phrase name="1_day_ago"><![CDATA[1 Day Ago]]></phrase>
    <phrase name="1_hour_ago"><![CDATA[1 Hour Ago]]></phrase>
  </phrasetype>

  <phrasetype name="Control Panel Global">
    <phrase name="access"><![CDATA[Access]]></phrase>
    <phrase name="access_masks"><![CDATA[Access Masks]]></phrase>
    <phrase name="add"><![CDATA[Add]]></phrase>
  </phrasetype>

</language>
```

Find Updated Phrases

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vBulletin's default phrases are sometimes updated during upgrades. This page shows you what customized phrases may need to be edited or retranslated as a result of the default phrases changing.

English (UK)	
digestforum (Email Body Text)	[Edit]
Default Phrase Updated in vBulletin 3.6.0 Beta 1 by Ed Sullivan Your Custom Phrase Last Edited in vBulletin 3.5.0 by Ed Sullivan	
post_new_announcement (Posting)	
Default Phrase Updated in vBulletin 3.6.0 Beta 1 by Ed Sullivan Your Custom Phrase Last Edited in vBulletin 3.5.4 by Ed Sullivan	[Edit]
German	
digestforum (Email Body Text)	[Edit]
Default Phrase Updated in vBulletin 3.6.0 Beta 1 by Ed Sullivan Your Custom Phrase Last Edited in vBulletin 3.5.3 by Ed Sullivan	

If the page displays no modified phrases, then all your phrases are up to date.

You can choose to modify a phrase if it is listed by clicking the "Edit" link. From this page, you may also remove your customized version.

Note:

The Find Updated Phrases system is primarily of use to [check for modified phrases](#) after running an upgrade script.

Frequently Asked Questions

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The vBulletin FAQ manager allows you to create and maintain a dynamic and searchable document resource, which can be used for any purpose you see fit.

By default, vBulletin populates the FAQ with various helpful documents to instruct your users in how to use vBulletin, but you can edit these documents or create entirely new content if you wish.

Each entry for a FAQ-item can be translated into other languages that are installed on your board.

Introduction to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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vBulletin includes a fully-dynamic Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) system. This system allows you to expand and edit the FAQ located at <http://www.example.com/forums/faq.php> via the admin control panel. You may cover generic vBulletin questions and even site-specific questions.

FAQ entries can have an infinite amount of nesting, similar to regular forums.

FAQ Manager

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The FAQ manager can be found at FAQ > FAQ Manager.

FAQ Manager			Help ?
FAQ			
Title	Display Order	Controls	
User Maintenance	10	[Edit] [Add Child FAQ Item]	[Delete]
Why should I register?	1	[Edit] [Add Child FAQ Item]	[Delete]
Does this forum use cookies?	2	[Edit] [Add Child FAQ Item]	[Delete]
How do I clear my cookies?	3	[Edit] [Add Child FAQ Item]	[Delete]
How can I change the information in my profile?	4	[Edit] [Add Child FAQ Item]	[Delete]
What is the signature for?	5	[Edit] [Add Child FAQ Item]	[Delete]
I lost my password, what can I do?	6	[Edit] [Add Child FAQ Item]	[Delete]
How do I add a custom status to my profile?	7	[Edit] [Add Child FAQ Item]	[Delete]
How do I get a picture under my username?	8	[Edit] [Add Child FAQ Item]	[Delete]
What are the buddy and ignore lists?	9	[Edit] [Add Child FAQ Item]	[Delete]

Save Display Order

Two levels of FAQ entries will be displayed at a time. If the title of an entry is linked, then you may click it to display any child entries; if the title is not linked, then the entry does not have any children.

To edit an entry's text and translations, click [Edit].

To add a child entry with a specific FAQ entry as its parent, click [Add Child FAQ Item].

To delete an entry and any child entries, click [Delete].

Like forums, FAQ entries also have a display order; the lowest display orders within a level are displayed first.

Adding or Editing a FAQ Item

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To add a FAQ item, click FAQ > Add New FAQ Item. You will be presented with a screen like this:

Add New FAQ Item

Varname: new_faq_item

Parent FAQ Item: No Parent FAQ Item

Title:

Text:
Large Edit Box

Display Order: 1

Translations

Title (English (US) Translation):

Text (English (US) Translation):

Save Reset

The screenshot shows a web-based form titled "Add New FAQ Item". The "Varname" field contains "new_faq_item". The "Parent FAQ Item" dropdown is set to "No Parent FAQ Item". The "Title" and "Text" fields are empty. A "Large Edit Box" is present. The "Display Order" is set to "1". Below this, there is a "Translations" section with two entries: "Title (English (US) Translation)" and "Text (English (US) Translation)", both of which are empty. At the bottom are "Save" and "Reset" buttons.

- **Varname** – the variable name of the FAQ entry. This is used to uniquely identify an entry and can be linked to directly. You may only use a-z, A-Z, 0-9, and _.
- **Parent FAQ Item** – parent FAQ entry. This item will be displayed under its parent.
- **Title** – FAQ title. This is often the question it answers.
- **Text** – the actual text of the FAQ entry. You may use HTML and \$variables.
- **Display Order** – controls when an entry is displayed within a level.

Below this, there will be a title and text box for each language. If you leave a box blank, the default text specified above will be used.

Notices

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Notices are a system that allows the administrator to create messages that will be displayed to forum users when specific criteria are matched.

The criteria available make this a powerful system for notifying users about a variety of conditions.

Notices appear by default in the navbar template, in a box underneath the main board links.

Each notice is displayed wrapped in the **navbar_noticebit** template, which allows the administrator to change the way notices are displayed.

A screenshot of the vBulletin 3.7 Forums homepage. At the top, there's a banner with the vBulletin logo and the text "Welcome, admin. You last visited: 5 Days Ago at 08:15pm Private Messages: Unread 0, Total 3.". Below the banner is the main navigation bar with links for User CP, Register, FAQ, Members List, Search, Quick Links, and Log Out. A blue sidebar on the left is titled "Notices" and contains the message: "You have less than one-hundred posts, talk more! We have not seen you here for a few days, **admin**. Welcome back!". At the bottom of the page, there are links for Forum, Last Post, Threads, Posts, and Core Planning.

They are shown on every page that includes the navbar, with the exception of error pages.

The Notices Manager

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Admin CP > Notices > Notices Manager

The Notices Manager is the central interface for working with notices. It lists all notices created by administrators for your board, and allows you to see at a glance the active status and display order of all notices.

A screenshot of the Notices Manager interface. The title bar says "Notices Manager". There is a "Help" button with a question mark icon. Below the title bar is a button labeled "Add New Notice". The main area shows a single notice entry:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent	<input type="text" value="10"/>	Happy Birthday	Edit	Delete
--	--	---------------------------------	----------------	----------------------	------------------------

To [add a new notice](#), click the [Add New Notice] button.

When you have one or more notices defined in your system, you will see each of them listed in the manager.

A screenshot of the Notices Manager interface. The title bar says "Notices Manager". There is a "Help" button with a question mark icon. Below the title bar are buttons for "Save" and "Reset". To the right of these buttons is a "Add New Notice" button. The main area lists six notices:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent	<input type="text" value="10"/>	Happy Birthday	Edit	Delete
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent	<input type="text" value="20"/>	Welcome back after a year away	Edit	Delete
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent	<input type="text" value="30"/>	No posts yet	Edit	Delete
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent	<input type="text" value="40"/>	Congratulations on 1,000th post	Edit	Delete
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent	<input type="text" value="50"/>	Happy Christmas	Edit	Delete
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent	<input type="text" value="60"/>	PM storage > 90% full	Edit	Delete

At the top of the list is a Toggle Active Status for All checkbox that allows you to toggle the 'Active' status of all notices with one click.

To edit a notice, click its title. To delete a notice, there is a 'Delete' link at the end of each notice's row in the manager.

Each notice is displayed with two checkboxes and a text box containing a number. These represent the Active status, the Persistent nature of the notice, and the notice's Display Order.

If a notice is not active, it will not be displayed to visitors under any circumstances.

A notice that is not persistent will be displayed the first time a user visits the board and will then disappear until they visit again (it is displayed once per browser-session).

The display order text box controls the order in which the notice is shown, both in the notices manager and to visitors. Display order also controls the order in which notices are checked, so it's important for the 'Notice x has not already been displayed' condition.

After using the Active, Persistent and Display Order controls, you need to click the 'Save' button to commit your changes.

You may make quick changes to display orders by using the arrow buttons either side of the display order text boxes.

A screenshot of a dropdown menu with four items. Each item consists of a small icon followed by the word 'Persistent' and a numeric value in a text box. To the right of each text box is a small arrow button. The values are 30, 40, 50, and 60. A mouse cursor is positioned over the arrow button to the right of the value 50.

e	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent	30
e	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent	40
e	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent	50
e	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent	60

Reset

Adding and Editing Notices

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Admin CP > Notices > Notices Manager > Add / Edit

The notice editor provides controls to create and edit notices for your board, and to set up criteria for when each notice should appear.

The top part of the editor deals primarily with the actual HTML of the notice, while the bottom of the editor sets up display criteria.

A screenshot of the 'Edit Notice' dialog box. The title is 'Congratulations on 1,000th post'. The 'Title' field contains 'Congratulations on 1,000th post'. The 'Notice HTML' field contains 'You now have 1,000 posts, congratulations!'. The 'Display Order' field is set to 40. The 'Active' section shows 'Yes' selected. The 'Persistent' section shows 'Yes' selected. There are also sections for 'Translations' and 'Increase Size Decrease Size'.

- **Title** - This is a convenience for management only. The title is used only on the notices manager to assist in identifying notices. It is never shown to visiting users. You can add multiple translations of the title text using the [Translations](#) link.
- **Notice HTML** - The notice HTML textbox contains the raw HTML of the notice that will be displayed on the front-end to users when criteria are met.

Warning:

You may use any HTML so be careful about potentially breaking your layout or including code that can be abused.

In addition, you may use the special variables {userid}, {username}, {musername} and {sessionurl} in the HTML to personalize the notice text. For example,

Hello, {username}, how are you?

will be replaced with

Hello, John Doe, how are you?

when John Doe is viewing the notice.

A more complex example, making use of the {sessionurl} variable to make links within the board work properly follows:

```
Hello, {musername}.<br />
<a href="member.php?{sessionurl}u={userid}">View Your Profile</a>
```

- **Display Order** - The display order text box controls the order in which the notice is shown, both in the notices manager and to visitors. Display order also controls the order in which notices are checked, so it's important for the 'Notice x has not already been displayed' condition.
- **Active** - If a notice is not active, it will not be displayed to visitors under any circumstances. It is a useful control to use when you want to temporarily disable a notice without actually deleting it completely.
- **Persistent** - A notice that is not persistent will be displayed the first time a user visits the board and will then disappear until they visit again (it is displayed once per browser-session).

The lower part of the form contains controls to set up display criteria.

Display this notice if...

User belongs to usergroup

User does not belong to usergroup

User is browsing forum

User is browsing forum or one of its child forums

User is browsing using style

User has not visited for days or more

User has not posted for days or more (but has posted previously)

User's post-count is between and posts

User has never posted

User has between and reputation points

User has between and infraction points

User's private message storage is between % and % full

User's username is

User's birthday is today

User is in Coventry (global ignore)

The date is (dd-mm-yyyy)

Notice has not already been displayed on the page

To activate a criterion, put a tick in the box next to the criteria text, then fill in any controls that are part of that criterion.

You may activate as many criteria as you like, but if **any** of the active criteria are not satisfied, the notice will **not** show.

Value is between [x] and [y] criteria

These criteria, such as *User has between [x] and [y] reputation points* or *User's private message storage is between [x]% and [y]% full* can be used in several ways.

- **x = number, y = greater number** - This is the standard use of the fields. If the value is equal to or greater than the lower number, but equal to or less than the higher number, the criteria are fulfilled.

Example: x = 10, y = 100

- **x = number, y = number** - This method can be used to specify an *exact* number for which to check. If you wanted to check for a value of *exactly* 10, enter 10 into both boxes.

Example: x = 10, y = 10

- **x = number, y = (empty)** - This configuration is used to set up a greater-than-or-equal-to check. By leaving the second box empty, only the first box is checked, so you can set up checks such as *value is greater than or equal to 10*, with no upper limit.

Example: x = 10, y = (empty)

- **x = (empty), y = number** - The inverse of the previous configuration, by leaving the first box empty it is possible to set up a less-than-or-equal-to-check, with no lower limit.

Example: x = (empty), y = 100

Announcements

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If you need to inform your members of some news, or otherwise want to post something important on the board, you have the option to post it as an announcement.

Announcements differ from threads in that they can appear in multiple forums simultaneously, and have a time period in which they are visible, then they disappear from view.

The latest announcement will be listed when there are multiple announcements. Clicking on one to read it will also list any other announcement for that forum.

Announcement Manager

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Announcements are a method of distributing news and updates to your users. Announcements may be forum-specific or board-wide (global). The title of each announcement is displayed above all threads in a forum for as long as the announcement is active.

To edit existing announcements, go to the announcement manager at Announcements > Announcement Manager.

The screenshot shows the 'Announcement Manager' interface. At the top, under 'Global Announcements', there is a single entry: 'Board Wide Announcement! (Administrator) [Edit] [Delete]' (03-04-2004 to 04-04-2004), with a 'New' button. Below this, under 'Forum-Specific Announcements', there are two entries: 'Main Category' and 'Main Forum'. 'Main Category' has a 'New' button. 'Main Forum' has a 'Forum-Specific Announcement' entry with 'Edit' and 'Delete' links, and a date range (03-04-2004 to 04-04-2004), also with a 'New' button. A third section for 'Testing' is shown with a 'New' button. The interface uses a standard web-based design with tabs and buttons.

This page is divided up into two sections. At the top you will see **Global Announcements**, if you have any. These announcements will be displayed at the top of every forum. Click [New] to add a global announcement.

Below this, you will see a list of each forum. If you have any **Forum-Specific Announcements**, they will be displayed next to the appropriate forum. These announcements will be displayed in this forum and its child forums. Click [New] to create an announcement for just this forum.

The information displayed with each announcement is its title, the user who posted it, edit/delete controls, and the timeframe that it will be displayed for.

Adding or Editing an Announcement

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To add an announcement, go to Announcements > Add New Announcement. This form will be displayed:

The screenshot shows the 'Add New Announcement' form. It includes fields for 'Forum' (set to 'All Forums'), 'Title' (empty), 'Start Date' (set to March 4, 2004), 'End Date' (set to April 4, 2004), 'Text' (a large text area labeled 'Large Edit Box'), and three checkboxes for 'Allow BB Code', 'Allow Smilies', and 'Allow HTML' (all set to 'Yes'). At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons. The form has a clean, modern look with clear labels and input fields.

- Forum** – the forum which this announcement will be displayed in. *All Forums* makes this a global announcement. Note that if you select a specific forum, the announcement will also be displayed in its child forums.
- Title** – the title of the announcement. This will be displayed on the thread listing and is what users will see before they are displayed the text of the announcement.
- Start Date** – the date when the announcement will begin to be displayed.
- End Date** – the date when the announcement will stop being displayed.
- Text** – the body of the announcement. You may use smilies, BB code, and HTML, provided you have set the appropriate option below.

- **Reset Read Status** – The read status determines if an announcement is displayed on the "New Posts" and "Today's Posts" searches. Once an active announcement is viewed, it no longer will display on these searches for the user. When this option is set to yes, it resets the status of the announcement for all users so that they will see it as a new announcement again. This option is only available when editing an existing announcement.
- **Allow BB Code** – set this to yes if you want your announcement to be parsed similar to posts. Not only will this allow you to use BB code tags such as [b] and [img], but all line breaks will automatically be converted to HTML line breaks. If you set this to no, then you must enable HTML and use
 for line breaks.
- **Allow Smilies** – setting this to yes will cause smilies such as :) to be parsed into the appropriate images.
- **Allow HTML** – setting this to yes will allow you to use any HTML in your announcement. Note that if you have set *Allow BB Code* to yes, then any line breaks (even within HTML markup) will be automatically replaced with
. If you enable this option, it is recommended that you disable *Allow BB Code* and simply use straight HTML.

Forums & Moderators

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The forum and moderator managers are where you create and edit the various forums that make up your board.

The tools here allow you to set up your forums, control user access to each forum at a usergroup level and give specific users Moderator permissions, allowing them to act on your behalf to keep the peace and ensure that your visitors behave themselves in their posts.

You can also view a summary of all moderators, and of all permission levels for forum access.

An Introduction to Forums

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Creating a usable forum structure is one of the integral parts of running a successful bulletin board. vBulletin allows you to create an infinite depth of forums and configure numerous settings related to the forum.

Some of the most common ways to setup individual forums include:

- **Category** – this is a forum that people cannot post in; it is just used for grouping other forums. *Act as Forum* must be set to no.
- **'Normal' Forum** – this is simply a regular forum that people can post in. You will need *Act as Forum*, *Forum is Active*, and *Forum is Open* set to yes.
- **'Sub' Forum** – this is a regular forum that people can post in and is a subset of a 'Normal' Forum. You will need *Parent Forum* set to the name of the Forum this will fall under, *Act as Forum*, *Forum is Active*, and *Forum is Open* set to yes.
- **Link Forum** – this really is not a forum at all. It is just a link to another web page; it could be another forum, or it could be an entirely different site. To create this type of forum, specify a URL in the *Forum Link* option.
- **Archive Forum** – this forum was once a 'Normal Forum', but is now just used as an archive for old information. Set *Forum is Open* to no.

Forum Manager

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The forum manager, accessible via Forums & Moderators > Forum Manager, is where you will do the majority of forum management. When you enter this section, you will be presented with a screen similar to this:

Forum Manager				Help ?
Title	Controls	Display Order	Moderators	
Main Category	Edit Forum ▾ Go	1	Moderators (1) ▾ Go	
-- Main Forum	Edit Forum ▾ Go	1	Moderators (0) ▾ Go	
Title	Controls	Display Order	Moderators	
Testing	Edit Forum ▾ Go	1	Moderators (0) ▾ Go	
Save Display Order		Add New Forum		

Each row in the table is a forum in the database. In the first column, **Title**, you will see the name of the forum; clicking the name will allow you to edit the forum's information.

The next column, **Controls**, allows you to:

- **Edit Forum** – this takes you to a page where you can edit each of this forum's settings.
- **View Forum** – this displays the forum on the front end, allowing you to see threads that have been posted in it.
- **Delete Forum** – this allows you to remove the forum from the database. If this forum has any child forums, they will also be removed.
- **Add Child Forum** – takes you to the *Add New Forum* page with this forum automatically selected as the new forum's parent.
- **Add Moderator** – allows you to specify a new moderator for this forum.
- **Add Announcement** – allows you to create a new announcement to be displayed at the top of the forum.
- **View Permissions** – displays the *Forum Permissions Manager* and scrolls to this forum
- **Podcast Settings** – configure podcast settings for this forum when used via the [External Data Provider](#).
- **Moderators (x)** – this simply displays the number of moderators for this forum. It is not a clickable link.
- **List of Current Moderators** – following this will be a list of the forum's current moderators. Selecting one allows you to edit him or her.

Adding or Editing a Moderator

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To add a new moderator, go to Forums & Moderators > Forum Manager > *Add Moderator* in the *Moderators* column.

Add New Moderator to Forum Main Category

Forum
(Also applies to child forums)

Moderator Usernames
Separate each username with a semicolon

Usergroup Options

Change Moderator's Primary Usergroup to DO NOT CHANGE USERGROUP

Make Moderator a Member of

(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation
 Administrators
 Banned Users
 Moderators

Registered Users
 Super Moderators
 Unregistered / Not Logged In
 Users Awaiting Email Confirmation

- **Forum** – the forum that this user will moderate. He or she will also be able to moderate any child forums.
- **Moderator Username** – the name of the user that will become the moderator.
- **Change Moderator's Primary Usergroup to** – if you wish to change the user's usergroup when they become a moderator, you may do so here. The most common setup is to put all moderators into a *Moderators* usergroup that will then have access to a special forum.
- **Make Moderator a Member of** – if you do not wish to move the moderator to a different usergroup but instead wish to add that user to one or more groups, making them a secondary user in those groups, you may do so here.

All other settings should be self explanatory. If you are unsure of an option, simply click the inline help icon for a further explanation.

Adding or Editing a Forum

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To add a new forum, go to Forums & Moderators > Add New Forum. You will be presented with numerous settings. These settings are detailed below

Add New Forum

Title

Description

Forum Link
(Entering a URL here will cause anyone clicking the forum link to be redirected to that URL)

Display Order
Set to '0' to not display this item

Parent Forum

Default View Age
(Default date cut-off for thread display)

Default Sort Field

Default Sort Order

Show Private Forum
(Select 'No' here to hide this forum from users who are not allowed to access it. Users who do have permission to access it will have to log in before they can see this forum.)
This option applies to the any forum listing, including the Forum Jump menu, and Search Results.
Selecting 'Use default' will use the system default as defined in Forum Listings Display Options.)

- **Title** – the title of the forum. This will be displayed on the forum list, in the nav bar, and in the forum jump.
- **Description** – the description of the forum that will be displayed below the forum title in the forum list.
- **Forum Link** – if you want this forum to be a link to somewhere else, enter that URL here. Be sure to include *http://* at the beginning!
- **Display Order** – the ordering of the forums within a level. Lower numbers are displayed first and a display order of 0 causes the forum to not be displayed in the forum list. However, it is still accessible if the direct URL is known.
- **Parent Forum** – the name of this forum's parent. Use this to group forums into logical groups.
- **Default View Age** – default amount of time that threads are shown for when a user views the forum. Users may manually override this in their profile or by clicking on the drop down when viewing the forum.
- **Default Sort Field** – the default field to sort on. This will be used unless a user explicitly overrides the sort order using the controls at the bottom of a list of threads. You may sort on a number of fields, including thread title and number of replies. This is set to last post time by default.
- **Default Sort Order** – the default direction a list of threads is sorted using.
- **Show Private Forum** – this controls the behavior of this forum when a user does not have permission to it. The options have the following meaning:
 - *Use Default* – uses the value of the global setting 'Show Private Forums'.
 - *No* – users without permission to view this forum will not see it anywhere. This is often useful for forums that only administrators and moderators can see.
 - *Yes - Hide Post Counts* – users without permission to view this forum will see it in the forum list, but they will not be able to see the number of posts in the forum.
 - *Yes - Display Post Counts* – users without permission to view this forum will see it in the forum list and will even see the number of posts in the forum. However, they will not see the last post information until

they have permission to view the forum. This is useful if have a forum that only paying users can access and you wish to entice users to purchase a subscription.

Moderation Options		Help ?
Email Addresses to Notify When there is a New Post (Separate each address with a SPACE)	<input type="text"/>	?
Email Addresses to Notify When there is a New Thread (Separate each address with a SPACE)	<input type="text"/>	?
Moderate Posts (Require moderator validation before new posts are displayed)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Moderate Threads (Require moderator validation before new threads are displayed)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Moderate Attachments (Require moderator validation before new attachments are displayed)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Warn Administrators (By default, the post warning system will only notify the moderators of a forum. If you would also like to notify the forum administrators and super moderators, then enable this option)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?

- **Email Addresses to Notify When there is a New Post** – a list of email addresses to send an email to when a new post is made in this forum; this includes new threads. Separate each with a space. Any email addresses you enter here will also receive emails when a new post is made in a subforum.
- **Email Addresses to Notify When there is a New Thread** – a list of email addresses to send an email to when a new thread is made in this forum. Separate each with a space. Any email addresses you enter here will also receive emails when a new post is made in a subforum.
- **Moderate Posts** – requires an admin or moderator to validate posts before they are displayed. This refers only to replies to threads.
- **Moderate Threads** – requires an admin or moderator to validate new threads before they are displayed.
- **Moderate Attachments** – requires an admin or moderator to validate attachments before they are displayed.
- **Warn Administrators** – causes the 'report post' feature to send its messages to administrators in addition to moderators of the forum.

Style Options		Help ?
Custom Style for this Forum	<input type="button" value="Use Default Style"/>	?
Override Users' Style Choice (If this forum uses a custom style, this will force users with a different style choice to see the forum with the style you specified)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Prefix for Forum Status Images	<input type="text"/>	?

- **Custom Style for this Forum** – use this to specify a specific style for the forum. If a user has not specified a custom style in his or her profile or cookies, he or she will always see this style.
- **Override Users' Style Choice** – if you have specified a custom style for the forum and wish to ensure that all users see this style, regardless of the style set in their profile or cookies, set this to yes.
- **Prefix for Forum Status Images** - Forum Status images are usually shown alongside the forum in the forum listings. This allows you to specify a prefix for the status images on a per-forum basis, allowing you to have a custom set of status images for each forum

Access Options		Help ?
Forum Password (Optional: This acts in addition to any other permissions set for this forum)	<input type="text"/>	?
Can Have Password (Setting this to no will prevent a password from being inherited and from being set by moderators) (Note: You may still set a password manually)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?

- **Forum Password** – if you wish to password protect this forum, specify the password here. Administrators, super moderators, and moderators of the forum in question will not be prompted for a password. Passwords are not automatically applied to child forums; use *Apply This Password to Child Forums* to emulate this function.
- **Apply This Password to Child Forums** – if you have changed the password for this forum, setting this to yes will apply the specified password to all child forums. This can be used to emulate inheritance of passwords.
Note:
This option is only displayed when editing a forum.

Posting Options		Help 
Act as Forum (Will act as category if no)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Forum is Active (Will not appear if set to no, but remains accessible if the forum's URL is known)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Forum is Open (Set this to 'No' to prevent any new posts being made in this forum)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Index New Posts in Search Engine (Setting this to 'No' will prevent anyone from being able to search in this forum)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?

- **Can Have Password** – this function prevents a forum from inheriting a password with *Apply This Password to Child Forums* and prevents a moderator from specifying a password in the moderators' control panel. As an administrator, you may still specify a password for the forum.
- **Act as Forum** – setting this to no causes the forum to behave as if it were a category. This prevents posting in the forum and changes the template used to display the forum in the forum list.
Note:
If this is no, the template used will contain a *_nopostr* suffix, as opposed to a *_post* suffix.
- **Forum is Active** – setting this to no prevents the forum from being displayed in the forum list. If a user still knows the forum's URL, he or she may still access the forum.
- **Forum is Open** – setting this to no prevents users from posting to the forum. This setting has no effect if *Act as Forum* is no.
- **Index New Posts in Search Engine** – setting this to no prevents posts from being indexed for searching.
Therefore, posts from this forum will not be found when a search is run.

Enable / Disable Features		Help 
Allow HTML	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Allow BB Code	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Allow [IMG] Code	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Allow Smilies	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Allow Post Icons	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Allow Thread Ratings in this Forum	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Count Posts Made in this Forum Towards User Post Counts	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Show this Forum and Child Forums on the Forum Jump Menu	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?

Save **Reset**

- **Allow HTML** – setting this to yes allows users to use arbitrary HTML in their posts. This is **NOT** recommended except when all users who may post in the forum are trusted.
Warning:
Setting this to yes in a situation where users may not be trusted may compromise account security! Users may also inadvertently ruin your layout.
- **Allow BB Code** – this allows users to use default and custom BB codes to add markup and formatting to their posts. This is much preferred over allowing HTML.
Note:
Disabling BB Code will disable the editor toolbar for posting in the forum.
- **Allow [IMG] Code** – if you have enabled BB codes with *Allow BB Code*, this setting allows you to control whether users may display images inline with their posts. If this is set to no, images will be displayed as links.
- **Allow Smilies** – if this is set to yes, when a user types a smilie, such as :), it will be automatically translated into an image.
- **Allow Post Icons** – if this is set to yes, users may specify an icon to go with their post. In new threads, this icon will be displayed on the thread list; in posts, it will be displayed at the top of the post, next to the title.
- **Allow Thread Ratings in this Forum** – this setting allows users to rate threads from a scale of one (worst) to five (best).
- **Count Posts Made in this Forum Towards User Post Counts** – allows you to control whether new posts in this forum increase a users post counts. For example, if you have a testing forum, you may not want users' posts there to increase their post count.
- **Show this Forum and Child Forums on the Forum Jump Menu** – this setting allows you to prevent a specific forum (and child forums) from being displayed on the forum jump. This allows you to remove clutter and rarely accessed forums from the forum jump.

Forum Permissions

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This page (Forums & Moderators > Forum Permissions) is simply a link to the *Forum Permission Manager*. That section is detailed [here](#).

Show All Moderators

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To quickly view all moderators and each forum they moderate, go to Forums & Moderators > Show All Moderators, this also shows any super moderators and allows permissions to be edited accordingly.

The screenshot shows a list of super moderators. At the top, it says "Super Moderators" and "Help ?". Below that is a list of users:

- [Boxy](#) ([Edit Permissions]) - Last Online 05-30-2006 04:12 PM
- [Ed Sullivan](#) ([Edit Permissions]) - Last Online 05-30-2006 04:52 PM

Each moderator listed is in a group which has super moderator permissions. To edit these permissions click [Edit Permissions].

Note:

Super moderator permissions can be combined with regular moderator permissions for a more granular approach.

The screenshot shows a list of moderators. At the top, it says "Moderators" and "Help ?". Below that is a list of users:

- [Administrator](#) - Last Online
Forums ([Remove this Moderator from All Forums])
Main Category ([Edit] [Delete])

Moderators: 1

Each moderator will be listed on this page, with each forum he or she moderates listed below. If you wish to remove this person from moderating all forums, click [Remove this Moderator from All Forums]. To edit or delete a moderator from a specific forum, click [Edit] or [Delete] next to the appropriate forum.

View Permissions

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The View Permissions (Forums & Moderators > View Permissions) section allows you to view what permissions a specific usergroup will have in a forum. This allows you to check that you have setup your forum-permission structure correctly.

The screenshot shows the "View Forum Permissions" page. At the top, it says "View Forum Permissions" and "Help ?". Below that are dropdown menus for "Forum" (set to "(Forum)") and "Usergroup" (set to "(Usergroup)"). There is also a "Check All" checkbox.

Forum Permissions	Value
Can View Forum	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can View Thread Content	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can View Others' Threads	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Search Forum	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Use Email to Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Post Threads	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Reply to Own Threads	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Reply to Others' Threads	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Edit Own Posts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Delete Own Posts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Delete Own Threads	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Open / Close Own Threads	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Move Own Threads	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can View Attachments	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Post Attachments	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Post Polls	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Vote on Polls	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Rate Threads	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Follow Forum Moderation Rules If no, posts are always placed into moderation queue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can See Deletion Notices	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Tag Own Threads	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Tag Others' Threads	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can Delete Tags on Own Threads	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can See Thumbnails	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Find Reset

Select the **Forum** and **Usergroup** you want to test. Now choose the individual permissions you want to check; if you are not sure what to select, click [Check All]. Now click [Find] and you will be presented with a screen like this:

Administrators / Main Forum		Help 
Can View Forum	Yes	
Can View Thread Content	Yes	
Can View Others' Threads	Yes	
Can Search Forum	Yes	
Can Use Email to Friend	Yes	
Can Post Threads	Yes	
Can Reply to Own Threads	Yes	
Can Reply to Others' Threads	Yes	
Can Edit Own Posts	Yes	
Can Delete Own Posts	Yes	
Can Delete Own Threads	Yes	
Can Open / Close Own Threads	Yes	
Can Move Own Threads	Yes	
Can View Attachments	Yes	
Can Post Attachments	Yes	
Can Post Polls	Yes	
Can Vote on Polls	Yes	
Can Rate Threads	Yes	
Follow Forum Moderation Rules If no, posts are always placed into moderation queue	Yes	
Can See Deletion Notices	Yes	
Can Tag Own Threads	Yes	
Can Tag Others' Threads	Yes	
Can Delete Tags on Own Threads	Yes	
Can See Thumbnails	Yes	

This displays what each permission you selected is set to. In this example, the *Administrators* group has full permissions in the *Main Forum*.

Podcast Settings [Back to Top](#)

The Podcast Settings (Forums & Moderators > Forum Manager > Podcast Settings) section allows you to configure iTunes specific settings for your forums.

Podcast feeds will work inside of iTunes (and other aggregates that support enclosures) without any information on this page being filled in. These settings are used when you wish to submit one of your forums as a podcast to iTunes as a podcast that can be searched for and seen from within iTunes.

Podcast Settings: Main Forum (id: 2)		Help 
Enabled	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Category	<input type="text"/>	?
Media Author	<input type="text"/>	?
Maximum Chars: 255		
Owner Name	<input type="text"/>	?
Maximum Chars: 255		
Owner Email	<input type="text"/>	?
Maximum Chars: 255		
Image URL	<input type="text"/>	?
Minimum 300x300. Must be .jpg or .png		
Subtitle	<input type="text"/>	?
Maximum Chars: 255		
Keywords	<input type="text"/>	?
Separate with commas		
Maximum Chars: 255		
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Large Edit Box		
Summary	<input type="text"/>	?
Maximum Chars: 4000		
Large Edit Box		
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Explicit	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Save Reset		

- Enabled**

This setting enables the output of the information entered on this page.

- Category**

This setting corresponds to categories defined within iTunes. This list is subject to being updated by Apple and the latest list can be found at [Apple - iTunes - Podcasts](#). You can update the categories that you are able to choose from by modifying a file in your forums directory that contains the categories that vBulletin displays for

your choosing. The file is located on your server in your forums directory at
/includes/xml/podcast_vbulletin.xml

- **Media Author**

This is shown in the Artist column in iTunes.

- **Owner Name**

Your name, or the name of the person to be associated with control of this podcast.

- **Owner Email**

Your email, or the email of the person to be associated with control of this podcast.

- **Image URL**

This tag specifies the artwork for your podcast. iTunes prefers square .jpg or .png images that are at least 300 x 300 pixels.

- **Subtitle**

The contents of this tag are shown in the Description column in iTunes. The subtitle displays best if it is only a few words long. If this is left blank, the Summary will be used.

- **Keywords**

This tag allows users to search on text keywords within iTunes. Use commas to separate keywords.

- **Summary**

The contents of this tag are shown in a separate iTunes window that appears when the "circled i" in the Description column is clicked. It also appears on the iTunes page for your podcast. This field can be up to 4000 characters. If this field is left blank, your forum description will be used.

- **Explicit**

Set this to *Yes* if your podcast contains Explicit material. Not setting this properly can result in your podcast being banned from iTunes.

Warning:

There are several caveats that you must be aware of for this process to be successful.

Requirements:

1. vBulletin Options > External Data Provider > Enable RSS Syndication must be enabled.
2. vBulletin Options > External Data Provider > Enable Podcasting must be enabled.
3. The forum in question must be viewable by guests.
4. You must set Enabled to *Yes* and select a Category.
5. The feed to your podcast must be called with the forumid of the forum. You can not combine multiple forums into podcast that includes iTunes specific information.
Ex: <http://www.example.com/forums/external.php?forumids=2>
6. iTunes only support six filetypes: *.m4a*, *.m4v*, *.mp3*, *.mp4*, *.mov*, and *.pdf*

There are two options to add the enclosure to the podcast. The first option is to add an attachment to the first post of the thread. This option is limited in that:

1. Attachments in the forum must be viewable by guests.
2. Due to the decision of Apple to limit valid enclosure urls to those that end with the extensions listed above, podcasting via iTunes will not work on IIS servers and possibly others. If you need help verifying that podcasting will work on your server, please contact vBulletin support. Hopefully, Apple will come to realize that there are better ways to determine valid urls and will lift this restriction in the future.

The second option is to enter a URL in the *Podcast URL* field when submitting a new thread in the podcast forum.

Thread Prefixes

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This page (Forums & Moderators > Thread Prefixes) is simply a link to the *Thread Prefix Manager*. That section is detailed [here](#).

Calendars

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vBulletin includes a powerful calendar system that can act in many ways, from a personal diary for individual board members to a schedule for forthcoming board events.

Using the Calendar Manager you can create a number of different calendars, add specific holidays and events, and create Calendar Moderators to oversee the use of each calendar.

In the same way as you can set permissions for forums, you can use the Calendar Manager to set permissions at a usergroup level for individual calendars and calendar types.

An Introduction to Calendars

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The vBulletin Calendar system is a full featured system, comparable to many stand alone calendar packages on the market today.

The basic premise of the Calendar system is that it follows the same design as the forums in its approach. You create multiple calendars, as you do forums, in order to categorize your subject matter.

Real world examples would be:

- **Birthday Calendar** - A calendar that only displays your forum members' birthdays.
- **Holiday Calendar** - A calendar that only shows upcoming holidays, either those you define or the included holidays.
- **Private Calendar** - A calendar that allows members to keep track of their own private events.
- **Event Calendar** - A calendar that lists upcoming forum events.

The choice is up to you and don't think you are limited to just these examples. You can create a calendar that displays holidays, birthdays and events, all at the same time!

Managing Calendars

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The first step in managing calendars is the Calendar Manager (found at Calendars & Moderators -> Calendar Manager).

From here you can add, delete and modify your calendars, modify calendar permissions, and manage calendar moderators. Yes, calendars can have moderators also!

Creating a New Calendar

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After pressing the [Add New Calendar] button, you are presented with the following options:

Title - Choose what you want to call this calendar. This will appear at the top of the calendar as well as in the calendar jump menu at the bottom of the calendar.

Display Order - Order in which the calendars appear in the calendar jump menu. Also the calendar with the lowest order, that the user has access to view, will be the default calendar for the user.

Custom Fields - See Below.

Email Addresses to Notify When There is a New Event - An email detailing the event details will be sent to any email address listed in this section. If you moderate events, you will probably want to put the email addresses of your calendar moderators in here so they will be notified about new events.

Moderate Events - If enabled, this will cause all new events to be placed into moderation. They will not appear on the calendar until a calendar moderator approves them through the Moderator Control Panel. Events posted by any of the following users will appear directly on the calendar, bypassing moderation.

- Forum Administrators
- Forum Super Moderators
- Calendar Moderator (of this calendar)

Options		Help ?
Date Range Beginning and ending years in the format of: Example: 2001-2007	2001-2007	?
Start year must be greater than 1969. End Year must be less than 2038.		
Default View View the user is presented with when they enter the calendar.	Monthly	?
Start of the Week (Sets the default first day for the calendar, which will be shown to guests with no start of week preference)	Sunday	?
Event Title Cutoff (Sets the maximum number of characters of an event title that are shown on the monthly view. To disable the cutoff, enter '0')	40	?
Event Count (Sets the maximum number of events to be listed on a single day in the monthly view before a single link to all that day's Events is shown instead)	4	?
Birthday Count (Sets the maximum number of birthdays to be listed on a single day in the monthly view before a single link to all that day's Birthdays is shown instead)	4	?

Date Range - Sets the minimum and maximum years that the calendar supports. Due to limitations of various operating systems, the choices are 1970 - 2038.

Default View - Sets whether the calendar is first displayed in a weekly or monthly view.

Start of the Week - If the user does not choose a Start of Week option in their User CP then this setting will be used.

Event Title Cutoff - In monthly view, long event titles can wreck havoc with the layout of the calendar cells. In order to control this, you should set a reasonable maximum number of characters to display on the monthly view. The event title will be displayed up to the character count and then followed with (...).

Event Count - If a day contains an excessive number of events, it can begin to appear unwieldy. If a day exceeds the allotted number of events, a single link will be displayed instead that takes the user to the daily view for that particular day.

Birthday Count - Just as with the previous option, a large number of birthdays can cause problems. This option also replaces multiple birthdays with a single link to the daily view for this particular day.

Enable / Disable Features		Help ?
Show Birthdays on this Calendar	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Show admin defined holidays on this Calendar	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Show predefined holidays on this Calendar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Easter <input type="checkbox"/> Good Friday <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Palm Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Ash Wednesday <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pentecost <input type="checkbox"/> Mardi Gras <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corpus Christi	?
Show Saturday / Sunday on this Calendar (Setting this to 'No' forces the calendar to display only Monday to Friday, ignoring the user's start of week option)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Show upcoming event from this Calendar on the forum index	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Allow HTML	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Allow BB Code	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Allow [IMG] Code	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Allow Smilies	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Save Reset		

Show Birthdays on this Calendar - This one is obvious as it simply enables or disables birthdays from appearing on the calendar.

Show predefined holidays on this Calendar - Enables or disables the display of any holidays that you create in the Holiday Manager.

Show admin defined holidays on this Calendar - There are many holidays that can not be strictly defined by a recurring pattern. We still support some holidays of this fashion and you can choose which of these holidays that you wish to display on this calendar.

Show Saturday / Sunday on this Calendar - If disabled, this option will remove Saturday and Sunday from the calendar.

Show upcoming event from this Calendar on the forum index - This option allows you to display upcoming events

from this calendar on the forum home page. This option requires that the Display Calendar Events option under Forums Home Page Options in the vBulletin Options be enabled.

Allow HTML / BBCODE / IMG CODE / SMILIES - These choices simply enable or disable the listed options as you will find elsewhere in vBulletin.

Custom Fields

vBulletin Calendars give you the option of adding your own custom fields to events. These fields allow you to ask for specific information that pertains to your type of events. While you could expect the user to give this information in the event description, you can bring more attention to what you expect by adding custom fields.

For example, you could ask for any of the following:

- Concert Venue
- Location of Event
- Choose from a list of options

To add custom fields, you press the [Add New Custom Field] link found on the Add/Edit screen of the Calendar Manager.

Note:

When creating a new calendar, you must first save it before you can add custom fields to it

Title - This is displayed on the Event add/edit screen.

Description - Tell the user how you expect them to answer this choice.

Options - There are two types of field that you may create:

- Single Input Text Box
- Select List

To create a simple text box for the user to enter some information into, leave this field blank and select <Yes> for the next option. To create a menu of choices, enter each choice into this area, placing each on a new line. If you wish to also allow the user to enter their own text instead of choosing one of your options, select <Yes> for the next option.

Note:

If you leave this option empty and select <No> for the next option, you will not be able to save this custom field. You must either allow the user to enter their own text or give them options to choose from, or both.

Max length of allowed user input - This option limits the amount of text the user can enter if the previous option is set to <Yes>.

Field Required - Enabling this will require the user to either enter text or choose an option, depending on the type of field you create.

Modifying Existing Calendars

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If you wish to modify an existing calendar, select <Edit> from the dropdown menu to the right of the Calendar name. Please refer to the option descriptions in the Creating a New Calendar section above.

To delete an existing calendar select <Delete> from the dropdown menu to the right of the calendar name.

Warning:

Removing a calendar will also remove all events associated with it.

Calendar Moderators

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You can specify moderators for your calendars in the same way you can have moderators for forums. Calendar moderators have fewer tasks to perform than a forum moderator does but they are just as important to the operation of your forum. Tasks include:

- Approve events for display if you have moderation enabled
- Ability to edit all events on their calendar
- Delete events
- Move events to different calendars

You would want to add moderators to any calendars of the following types:

- A calendar that you have moderation enabled for
- A calendar that allows some usergroups to post public events and you do not implicitly trust the content that they will post

You wouldn't add any moderators to a private calendar as the moderators would only be able to see their own events.

Adding a New Moderator

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To add a moderator to a calendar, you select the <Add> option in the moderator dropdown at the far right of the calendar you are working with.

The screenshot shows the 'Calendar Manager' interface. In the 'Moderators' dropdown menu, the 'Add' option is highlighted with a red circle. Other options like 'Moderators (0)' and 'Moderators (1)' are also visible.

You will then be presented with the following screen:

The screenshot shows the 'Add New Moderator to Calendar' form. It includes fields for 'Calendar' (set to 'Default Calendar'), 'Moderator Username' (empty), and a section for 'Calendar Permissions' with five checkboxes: 'Can Edit Events' (Yes), 'Can Delete Events' (Yes), 'Can Move Events' (Yes), 'Can Moderate Events' (Yes), and 'Can View IP Addresses' (Yes). At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons.

Moderator Username - Enter the name of the moderator you are adding to this calendar. This name must match a user who is currently registered on your forum.

Can Edit Events - Allows the moderator to edit all events posted on this calendar.

Can Delete Events - Allows the moderator to delete all events posted on this calendar.

Can Move Events - Allows the moderator to move events to any other calendar that they have Can View access to.

Can Moderate Events - Allows the moderator to approve new events through the Moderator Control Panel.

Can View IP Addresses - Allows the moderator to view the IP Address of the event poster.

Note:

If the calendar permission Can View Others' Events is disabled, the only user who can view/edit/delete an event is the user who posted it and this is assuming the user has permission to edit/delete their own events.

Modifying Calendar Moderators

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If you wish to modify an existing Moderator, select the <moderator's name> from the dropdown menu to the far right of the Calendar name. Please refer to the option descriptions in the Adding a New Moderator section above.

The screenshot shows the 'Calendar Manager' interface. In the 'Moderators' dropdown menu, the '> Administrator' option is highlighted with a red rectangle. Other options like 'Moderators (1)' are also visible.

To delete an existing moderator click the <Delete Moderator> button, found at the top of the screen that is displayed after you select the moderator's name as instructed above.

The screenshot shows a confirmation dialog with the text 'If You Would Like to Remove this Moderator' and a 'Delete Moderator' button.

Calendar Permissions

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Calendar permissions follow forum permissions in that inheritance and multiple group membership are supported. In simplest terms, this means that a user can belong to multiple groups at once which gives them the combined permissions of all of their groups. There are also global calendar permissions specifiable at the usergroup level (Usergroups->Usergroup Manager->Edit->Calendar Permissions). You can then override any usergroup permission for a specific calendar by creating custom permissions for just this calendar.

Please refer to the Usergroup Permissions' section if you need further clarification on what is meant by inheritance and multiple group membership.

Usergroup Level Calendar Permissions

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The first level of calendar permissions is at the Usergroup Level.

By default, all calendars that you create will follow the permissions that are defined in the calendar permissions section of the Usergroup Manager. If you wish to define specific permissions for each calendar, you will use the Calendar Permissions to do so, which will be explained in the next section.

To modify the default calendar permissions for any usergroup, navigate your way to the usergroup manager at Usergroups->Usergroup Manager. Select the usergroup you wish to modify by selecting <Edit Usergroup> from the drop down menu on the right.

Calendar Permissions	
Can View Calendar	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can Post Events	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can Edit Own Events	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can Delete Own Events	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Can View Others' Events	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Scroll down to the section labelled *Calendar Permissions* near the bottom of the page. A breakdown of what each permission does follows:

Can View Calendar - This is the global on/off switch for each calendar. If this is disabled the user will receive permission denied if they attempt to access this calendar. It will not be displayed as a choice for them in the calendar jump menu.

Can Post Events - This setting allows users to post events on the calendar.

Can Edit Own Events - Allows a user to edit their own events. There is no time limit on editing events if this is enabled.

Can Delete Own Events - Allows a user to delete their own events. There is no time limit on allowing event deletion if this is enabled.

Can View Others' Events - You set the option to <No> to set up a private calendar as this will allow users to only see events that they post.

Calendar Level Permissions

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The second level of Calendar permissions is at the calendar level. With these permissions you can override the usergroup permissions for any specific calendar.

The calendar permissions manager is found at Calendars & Moderators->Calendar Permissions

Calendar Permissions		Help 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color Key • Standard: Using default usergroup permissions • Customised: Using custom permissions for this usergroup 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Default Calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ [Edit] (COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation ○ [Edit] Administrators ○ [Edit] Banned Users ○ [Edit] Example Joinable Group ○ [Edit] Moderators ○ [Edit] Registered Users ○ [Edit] Super Moderators ○ [Edit] Unregistered / Not Logged In ○ [Edit] Users Awaiting Email Confirmation 		

You will see a listing of each of your calendars, with each of your usergroups below each calendar. All usergroups in **black** are using the permissions specified at the usergroup level while any listings in **red** are using permissions specifically set for that calendar.

To modify permissions for any usergroup, select the <Edit> link next to the usergroup, beneath the calendar you wish to edit.

Custom Calendar Permissions	All Yes	All No	
Can View Calendar	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Post Events	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Edit Own Events	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Delete Own Events	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can View Others' Events	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	

Save **Reset**

The permissions that you see here, are the same permissions that you see at the usergroup level for the calendar. Please refer to the previous section for their description and usage.

The section you will want to take note is at the top of the screen and appears as:

Edit Calendar Permissions For Usergroup: Administrators in Calendar Default Calendar

Use Usergroup Default Permissions (Note: this will delete any previous custom permissions set)
 Use Custom Permissions

If you have edited an usergroup that is using custom permissions then the Use Custom Permissions option will be selected. To delete the custom permissions for this group, you simply select Use Usergroup Default Permissions and then press [Save].

If you have edited a group that is using the default usergroup permissions then you will want to make sure that Use Custom Permissions is selected before you press [Save], otherwise the group will continue to use the default usergroup permissions for this calendar.

Holiday Manager

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The only holidays that vBulletin Calendars contain by default are the built in holidays that you enable/disable in the Calendar Manager. We leave it up to the admin to add any holidays that they find important for their calendars. Since vBulletin is a global product, we could not possibly cover all cultural differences that apply to holidays.

Note:

Any holidays that you add through the Holiday Manager can be enabled/disabled per calendar in the Calendar Manager.

Holidays Help ?

Title	Recurring Option	Controls
New Year's Day	Every January 1	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>

Add New Holiday

Adding a New Holiday

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To add a new holiday, select the [Add New Holiday] button on the main Holiday Manager screen.

Add New Holiday Help ?

Varname	<input type="text"/>	?
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Description	<input type="text"/>	?
Recurring Option	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Every <input type="button" value="January"/> <input type="button" value="1"/> <input type="radio"/> The <input type="button" value="First"/> <input type="button" value="Sunday"/> of <input type="button" value="January"/>	?
Allow Smilies	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?

Save **Reset**

Varname - This field is an unique identifier for the holiday. You will most likely want to call this something similar to the holiday title. You may only use a-z, A-Z, 0-9, and _ (underscore) in this field.

Title - What you wish to call this holiday.

Description - Describe the holiday.

Recurring Option - There are two types of holidays that you can setup.

- Holiday that occurs on the same day every year, i.e. Jan 1st
- Holiday that occurs on the same day of the week every year, i.e. 4th Thursday in November

Allow Smilies - This controls whether or not any smilies that you enter into the description will be converted into their graphical representations.

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Modifying Existing Holidays

If you wish to modify an existing holiday, select <Edit> from the dropdown menu to the right of the holiday name. Please refer to the option descriptions in the Creating a New Holiday section above.

To delete an existing holiday select <Delete> from the dropdown menu to the right of the holiday name.

Practical Examples of Calendar Permissions

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This section will detail a few examples of setting up various calendars.

A Birthdays Only Calendar

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To keep your calendars from becoming cluttered with events and birthdays, you may wish to setup one calendar for just displaying birthdays.

- 1 Click Calendars & Moderators->Calendar Manager.
- 2 Click [Edit] next to the calendar you wish to setup this way.
- 3 Click <Yes> next to Show Birthdays on this Calendar.
- 4 Click [Save]
- 5 Click Calendars & Moderators->Calendar Permissions.
- 6 Find the calendar you wish to modify and choose the usergroup you wish to deny posting events for (probably the *Registered Users* group) by clicking [Edit]
- 7 Make sure Can Post Events is set to <No>.
- 8 If it is not, select Use Custom Permissions, then select <No> next to Can Post Events.
- 9 Click [Save]

Note:

If you have any events on this calendar you will need to move them to another calendar or they will still appear.

A Private Events Calendar

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A private calendar allows your users to post events for themselves that no other users can view.

- 1 Click Calendars & Moderators->Calendar Permissions.
- 2 Find the calendar you wish to modify. You need to complete the next step for each usergroup by pressing [Edit].
- 3 If you want this group to be able to post private events, make sure Can Post Events is set to <Yes>.
- 4 If it is not, select Use Custom Permissions, then select <Yes> next to Can Post Events.
- 5 Make sure Can View Others' Events is set to <No>.
- 6 If it is not, select Use Custom Permissions, then select <No> next to Can View Others' Events.
- 7 Click [Save]

Warning:

If you fail to select <No> for Can View Others' Events for every usergroup of your Calendar, then the missed groups **will** be able to see other user's private events

Threads & Posts

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The threads and posts section contains tools that enable you to manage large groups of threads and posts.

You can delete (prune) threads, or move them from forum to forum based on search parameters you specify. You can also remove polls from specified threads, find out who voted in otherwise private polls, and remove all thread subscriptions to a specific thread.

Mass Prune Threads

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If you wish to delete (prune) a large amount of threads based on various criteria, go to Threads & Posts. You will be presented with two options for pruning.

The first prunes by threads matching the following criteria:

Prune Threads Manager	
Pruning many threads is a server intensive process because of the amount of data that must be removed. Use with care!	
Date Options	
Original post date is at least X days ago	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Original post date is at most X days ago - Note: leave this at 0 to specify no limit.	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Last post date is at least X days ago	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Last post date is at most X days ago - Note: leave this at 0 to specify no limit.	<input type="text" value="0"/>
View Options	
Thread has at Least X Replies	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Thread has at Most X Replies - Note: leave this at -1 to specify no limit.	<input type="text" value="-1"/>
Thread has at Least X Views	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Thread has at Most X Views - Note: leave this at -1 to specify no limit.	<input type="text" value="-1"/>
Status Options	
Thread is sticky: Thread remains at top of list thread listings	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Either
Thread is Deleted (Has a deletion notice)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Either
Thread is open: Users can post in this thread	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Either
Thread is visible: Un-check this box to send this thread to the moderation queue	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Either
Thread is a redirect	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Either
Other Options	
User Name	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text"/>
Forum	<input type="button" value="Select Forum"/>
Include Child Forums	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Prune Threads Reset	

These include date-related, view-/reply-related, status-related, and miscellaneous criteria.

The second prunes by username. The most common use for this is to delete all posts by a specific user.

Prune by Username	
Note: This includes individual posts made by the specified user.	
User Name	<input type="text"/>
Forum	<input type="button" value="Select Forum"/>
Include Child Forums	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Prune Threads Reset	

Note:

This option will also prune individual posts. The first option only searches for entire threads.

Once you have searched for threads/posts, you will be told the number of threads and posts that match your criteria.

At this point you may select to prune all matching threads/posts automatically or prune selectively.

Warning:

You may not undo a prune. Make sure you only prune exactly what you want to!

If you chose to prune selectively, you will be presented with a screen like this:

Prune Threads Selectively				
	Title	User	Replies	Last Post
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This is a new thread	Administrator	0	02-17-2004 01:33 PM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Need some attachments!	Administrator	0	03-02-2004 11:11 PM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A Test Thread with Poll	Administrator	0	03-03-2004 12:06 AM

Go

This lists each of the threads that matched your criteria. Use the checkbox on the left to select whether or not the thread is pruned. Once you are ready, click [Go].

Once the pruning is complete, you should run *Rebuild Forum Information* in [Update Counters](#). If you are pruning by username, you should run *Rebuild Thread Information* first!

Mass Move Threads

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The Move Threads (Threads & Posts > Move) section is similar to the Prune Threads section, but instead of deleting the threads, they are simply moved to a different forum.

Move Threads				
Destination Forum	<input type="button" value="Main Category (No Posting)"/>			
Date Options				
Original post date is at least X days ago	<input type="text" value="0"/>			
Original post date is at most X days ago - Note: leave this at 0 to specify no limit.	<input type="text" value="0"/>			
Last post date is at least X days ago	<input type="text" value="0"/>			
Last post date is at most X days ago - Note: leave this at 0 to specify no limit.	<input type="text" value="0"/>			
View Options				
Thread has at Least X Replies	<input type="text" value="0"/>			
Thread has at Most X Replies - Note: leave this at -1 to specify no limit.	<input type="text" value="-1"/>			
Thread has at Least X Views	<input type="text" value="0"/>			
Thread has at Most X Views - Note: leave this at -1 to specify no limit.	<input type="text" value="-1"/>			
Status Options				
Thread is sticky: Thread remains at top of list thread listings	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Either	
Thread is Deleted (Has a deletion notice)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Either	
Thread is open: Users can post in this thread	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Either	
Thread is visible: Un-check this box to send this thread to the moderation queue	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Either	
Thread is a redirect	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Either	
Other Options				
User Name	<input type="text"/>			
Title	<input type="text"/>			
Forum	<input type="button" value="Select Forum"/>			
Include Child Forums	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
Move Threads		Reset		

The search criteria are the same as pruning.

Once you submit the search form, you will be asked whether you wish to move all threads that match your criteria or want to move threads selectively. If you chose to move selectively, you will be shown a page similar to this:

Move Threads Selectively				
	Title	User	Replies	Last Post
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This is a new thread	Administrator	0	02-17-2004 01:33 PM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Need some attachments!	Administrator	0	03-02-2004 11:11 PM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A Test Thread with Poll	Administrator	0	03-03-2004 12:06 AM

Go

This lists each of the threads that matched your criteria. Use the checkbox on the left to select whether or not the thread is moved. Once you are ready, click [Go].

Once the moving is complete, you should run *Rebuild Forum Information* in [Update Counters](#).

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Unsubscribe Threads

To quickly manage thread subscriptions for specific users or specific threads, go to Threads & Posts > Unsubscribe. Here you will be presented with two options.

Unsubscribe All Users from Specific Threads

Enter the threadid(s) of the threads from which you want to unsubscribe users. (separate ids with spaces - eg: 1 2 6 9)

Unsubscribe All Users from Specific Threads allows you to quickly remove all thread subscriptions from specific threads. Enter the thread *IDs* of the threads you wish to unsubscribe all users from; separate each with a space.

To obtain the thread ID, find the thread you want to remove. The link to the thread should look like <http://www.example.com/forums/showthread.php?t=####>. The ##### part is the ID number that you need to enter here.

Unsubscribe All Threads from Specific Users

User Name
Leave this blank to remove **ALL** thread subscriptions.

Find All Threads Older Than X Days

Forum

Unsubscribe All Threads from Specific Users allows you to quickly remove all of a user's thread subscriptions. One reason you might do this is if the user's email has been bouncing recently. However, this is not a temporary removal; you will not be able to restore the subscriptions in the future.

Here, you specify:

- **User Name** – name of the user whose subscriptions you wish to remove.
- **Find All Threads Older Than X Days** – allows you to only remove subscriptions to threads that are more than this number of days old.
- **Forum** – allows you to only remove subscriptions to threads in specific forums.

Strip Poll from Thread

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If you wish to remove a poll from a thread, go to Threads & Posts > Strip Poll. You will be presented with a simple form:

Delete Poll

Enter the threadid of the thread which contains the poll you wish to delete

To remove the poll from a thread, you simply need to enter the thread *ID* that the poll is contained in. To obtain the thread ID, find the thread you want to remove the poll from. The link to the thread should look like <http://www.example.com/forums/showthread.php?t=####>. The ##### part is the ID number that you need to enter here.

Once you have found this, submit the form. You will receive a screen where you can confirm that this is the correct poll. Simply submit that to remove the poll.

Who Voted in Poll

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If you wish to find out who voted on a particular poll, you can do this by going to Threads & Posts > Who Voted. Here, you will be presented with a list of polls:

Who Voted

Poll	<input type="text" value="1] Is this a good test?"/>
Thread	<input type="text" value="A Test Thread with Poll"/>
<input type="button" value="Who Voted"/>	

The dropdown contains the poll's ID and name; the text box is the name of the thread that contains that poll. Once you have found the poll you want to view, click [Who Voted]. You will now see a results screen such as this:

Poll 'Is this a good test?' in thread 'A Test Thread with Poll'	
Is this a good test?	
Yes, quite.	Administrator

This page displays each poll option that has at least one vote, along with each person who voted for it.

Tags

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Thread tagging is a system that allows user to apply their own keywords (tags) to threads. See [Wikipedia](#) for more information on the ideas behind tagging. This can allow users to categorize threads based on the actual content. As such, if used consistently, could be a better way to find a specific topic than a full-text search.

Tags can contain any character except a comma, which is used to separate multiple tags. Additionally, you may not create tags which:

- Have less than an admin-specified amount of characters. The default is 3.
- Have over 25 characters. (This is the default value. You may change it by changing the "Tag Maximum Length" option.)
- Contain any censored words.
- Are in a list of common words.

This page allows you to manage the existing tags:

The screenshot shows a 'Tag List' interface. At the top, there's a 'Help ?' link. Below it, a section titled 'Display Newest' lists four tags: 'bbc', 'core', 'nasa', and 'test tag'. At the bottom of this list is a dark button labeled 'Delete Selected'.

By default, tags are shown alphabetically and paginated. If you wish to see what tags have been added recently, you can click the Display Newest link.

Below this, you can add a new tag:

The screenshot shows an 'Add Tag' form. It has a text input field for 'Add Tag', a question mark icon for help, and two buttons at the bottom: 'Save' and 'Reset'.

You may not add any invalid tags, as people will not be able to assign them to threads. See above for the tag rules.

Front-End Inline Moderation Tools

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Inline Moderation gives Administrators and moderators the ability to moderate multiple threads and posts without the need to enter the Moderator Control Panel. This is achieved by selecting individual threads from forumdisplay or posts from showthread. Threads or posts from multiple pages can be selected if the moderator has [Javascript](#) support enabled. Selected threads or posts will display highlighted in a yellow color as well.

At the bottom of the page, a moderation drop down box shows the available actions. Next to the moderation drop down box is a [Go] button that maintains a count of the selected threads or posts. Checking a checkbox will increase the number by one, unchecking a checkbox will decrease the number by one.

Note:

Inline Moderation is a feature of the front-end of vBulletin. It is accessed from forumdisplay or showthread.

Inline Thread Moderation

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On the forumdisplay.php pages where threads are listed each thread will have a checkbox at the end of the row.

Checking the checkbox will add the thread to the list of threads to be moderated. The row color will also change to yellow to signify that the thread has been chosen.

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TETRIS Anyone? Dude111	Yesterday 10:50pm by LEAD WEIGHT	3	53	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Favourite Rock Bands? limp bizkit fan	Yesterday 8:03pm by taillespie	6	52	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pixel Advertising? speedpro50	Yesterday 6:53pm by speedpro50	0	24	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IP Range Advice Needed Gary Bolton	Yesterday 6:50pm by Gary Bolton	2	36	<input type="checkbox"/>

Above all the listed threads there is a dropdown quick-selection box with various options to choose from, which apply only to that page. These options allow you to quickly choose multiple threads that match the selected criteria without having to manually click each thread.

The screenshot shows a 'Forum Tools' dropdown menu. It includes options for 'Post', 'Replies', and 'Views'. Below these are several selection options: 'Select All', 'Deselect All', 'Invert Selection', 'Select Closed Threads', 'Select Unapproved Threads', 'Select Deleted Threads', 'Select Sticky Threads', 'Select Threads with Polls', and 'Select Threads with Attachments'. The 'Select All' option is currently highlighted.

- **Select All**

Selecting 'Select All' will highlight all the threads on the current page, including sticky, soft-deleted, unapproved and closed threads.

- **Deselect All**

Selecting 'Deselect All' will reset all the highlighted threads on the current page, including sticky, soft-deleted, unapproved and closed threads.

- **Invert Selection**

Selecting 'Invert Selection' will highlight all the unselected threads, and reset all the highlighted threads on the current page, including sticky, soft-deleted, unapproved and closed threads.

- **Select Closed Threads**

Selecting 'Select Closed Threads' will highlight all the threads that are not open for posting on the current page, including closed threads that are sticky, soft-deleted, and/or unapproved.

- **Select Unapproved Threads**

Selecting 'Select Unapproved Threads' will highlight all the threads that are not visible to members (in moderator queue) on the current page, including unapproved threads that are sticky, soft-deleted, and/or closed.

- **Select Deleted Threads**

Selecting 'Select Deleted Threads' will highlight all the threads that are marked as soft-deleted on the current page, including deleted threads that are sticky, unapproved, and/or closed.

- **Select Sticky Threads**

Selecting 'Select Sticky Threads' will highlight all the threads that are marked as important (sticky at the top of the page) on the current page, including sticky threads that are soft-deleted, unapproved, and/or closed.

- **Select Threads with Polls**

Selecting 'Select Threads with Polls' will highlight all the threads that have polls added to them on the current page, including threads with poll that are soft-deleted, sticky, unapproved, and/or closed.

- **Select Threads with Attachments**

Selecting 'Select Threads with Attachments' will highlight all the threads that have attachments added to them on the current page, including threads with attachments that are soft-deleted, sticky, unapproved, and/or closed.

If there are threads on other pages, that you would like to add to the list, you can go to those pages and add the threads as well. Your browser must have [Javascript](#) enabled for this to work. You are limited to working with just the threads on one page if Javascript is disabled.

Once threads have been chosen, the Moderation drop down at the bottom of the page is used to perform the desired action.



- **Delete Threads**

This option will bring up the delete threads interface that allows you to choose between Soft and Hard deletion (depending on permission level).

- **Undelete Threads**

This option will restore Soft deleted threads.

- **Open Threads**

This option will open closed threads.

- **Close Threads**

This option will close open threads.

- **Approve Threads**

This option will approve moderated threads.

- **Unapprove Threads**

This option will unapprove threads, sending them back to moderation.

- **Stick Threads**

This option will stick threads.

- **Unstick Threads**

This option will unstick threads.

- **Move Threads**

This option will bring up the move threads interface.

- **Merge Threads**

This option will merge the selected threads into a new thread.

- **View Selected Threads**

This option will list the threads that have been selected for Inline Moderation. This is most useful when you've selected threads on multiple pages and need to recall them.

- **Deselect All Threads**

This option will clear the list of checked threads, resetting the value in the [Go] to 0. This is most useful when you've selected threads on multiple pages and wish to start over.

Note:

The number of chosen threads will be listed in parenthesis inside the [Go] button. If this number exceeds the number of threads that you have chosen, you may have clicked on other threads by mistake.

After successfully completing one of the above options, the value in the [Go] will be reset to 0. All selected threads will also now be unselected.

Note:

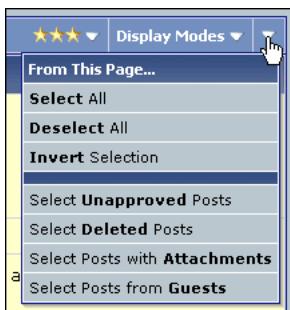
This interface is also available when searching for threads via search.php. One could search for all threads containing a common word or posted by the same user and then perform Inline Moderation upon them.

Inline Post Moderation

On the showthread.php pages, where posts are listed, each post will have a checkbox at the top right. Checking the checkbox will add the post to the list of posts to be moderated. The post color will also change to yellow to signify that the post has been chosen.

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Above all the posts is a dropdown quick-selection box with various options to choose from, which apply only to that page. These options allow you to quickly choose multiple posts that match the selected criteria without having to manually click each post.



- **Select All**

Selecting 'Select All' will highlight all the posts on the current page, including soft-deleted and unapproved, posts with attachments and posts by guests.

- **Deselect All**

Selecting 'Deselect All' will reset all the highlighted posts on the current page, including soft-deleted and unapproved, posts with attachments and posts by guests.

- **Invert Selection**

Selecting 'Invert Selection' will highlight all the unselected posts, and reset all the highlighted posts on the current page, including soft-deleted and unapproved, posts with attachments and posts by guests.

- **Select Unapproved Posts**

Selecting 'Select Unapproved Posts' will highlight all the posts that are not visible to members (in moderator queue) on the current page, including unapproved posts that are soft-deleted.

- **Select Deleted Posts**

Selecting 'Select Deleted Posts' will highlight all the posts that are marked as soft-deleted on the current page, including deleted posts that are unapproved.

- **Select Posts with Attachments**

Selecting 'Select Posts with Attachments' will highlight all the posts that have attachments added to them on the current page, including posts with attachments that are soft-deleted and unapproved.

- **Select Posts from Guests**

Selecting 'Select Posts from Guests' will highlight all the posts that are made by guests (unregistered members) on the current page, including posts by guests with attachments, that are soft-deleted and unapproved.

If there are posts on other pages, that you would like to add to the list, you can go to those pages and add the posts as well. Your browser must have [Javascript](#) enabled for this to work. You are limited to working with just the posts on one page if Javascript is disabled.

Once posts have been chosen, the Moderation drop down at the bottom of the page is used to perform the desired action.

- Merge Posts**

This option will bring up the merge posts interface where you may combine multiple posts into one new post.

- Move Posts**

This option will bring up the move posts interface where you can either move posts to a new thread or merge them into an existing thread.

- Copy Posts**

This option will bring up the copy posts interface where you can either copy posts to a new thread or merge them into an existing thread.

- Delete Posts**

This option will bring up the delete posts interface that allows you to choose between Soft and Hard deletion (depending on permission level)

- Undelete Posts**

This option will restore soft deleted posts.

- Approve Posts**

This option will approve moderated posts.

- Unapprove Posts**

This option will unapprove posts, sending them back to moderation.

- Approve Attachments**

This option will approve moderated attachments.

- Unapprove Attachments**

This option will unapprove attachments, sending them back to moderation.

- View Selected Posts**

This option will display a list of the posts that have been selected for inline moderation. This is most useful when you've selected posts on multiple pages and need to recall them.

- Deselect All Posts**

This option will clear the list of checked posts, resetting the value in the [Go] to 0. This is most useful when you've selected posts on multiple pages and wish to start over.

Note:

The number of chosen threads will be listed in parenthesis inside the [Go] button. If this number exceeds the number of posts that you have chosen, you may have clicked on other posts by mistake.

After successfully completing one of the above options, the value in the [Go] will be reset to 0. All selected posts will also now be unselected.

Note:

This interface is also available when searching for posts via search.php. One could search for all post containing a common word or posted by the same user and then perform Inline Moderation upon them.

Prune Post Edit History

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If you wish to prune the Post Edit History for one or more forums, go to Threads and Posts > Prune Post Edit History
You will be presented with the options for pruning this.

Prune Post Edit History Manager	
Pruning many post edit histories is a server intensive process because of the amount of data that must be removed. Use with care!	
Date Options	
Last post edit is at least X days old	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Last post edit is at most X days old	<input type="text" value="0"/>
- Note: leave this at 0 to specify no limit.	
Last post in thread is at least X days ago	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Last post in thread is at most X days ago	<input type="text" value="0"/>
- Note: leave this at 0 to specify no limit.	
Other Options	
Thread Title	<input type="text"/>
Forum	<input type="button" value="Select Forum"/>
Include Child Forums	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Prune Post Edit History <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Once you have completed the options and clicked [Prune Post Edit History] you will then be told the number of posts with edit histories which have been selected

2 Post With Edit History Matches Found	
Prune All Post Edit Histories	

Clicking [Prune All Post Edit Histories] will remove all post edit histories for all selected posts.

Warning:

You may not undo a prune. Make sure you want to do this!

Thread Prefixes

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Thread prefixes are a structured way to specify how certain topics are discussed within a forum. You create prefix sets which contain many prefixes and can be tied to any number of forums.

When a user creates a thread, he or she will have the option of specifying a prefix to the thread title. This prefix can be used to filter threads within the forum or searched on.

For example, you may wish to use prefixes in a marketplace forum, where people post "Wanted" and "For Sale" entries. Alternatively, if you have multiple products and only one announcement forum, you could have prefix threads in that forum depending on the product they relate to.

Users will then see the selected prefix where ever the thread title is shown:

Threads in Forum : Example Forum		Forum Tools ▾	Search this Forum		
	Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Last Post	Replies	Views
	Wanted Your Product Example User		Today 05:10am by Example User	0	1
	For Sale My Product Example User		Today 05:09am by Example User	0	1

The Thread Prefix Manager

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The thread prefix manager is where you create new and edit prefixes or edit your existing prefix sets. Prefixes and prefix sets are shown in the order they will actually display in; you can quickly change this order by changing the numbers in the text boxes and clicking "Save Display Order".

Thread Prefixes		Help ?
Marketplace	10	[Add Prefix] [Edit] [Delete]
[For Sale]	10	[Edit] [Delete]
[Wanted]	20	[Edit] [Delete]
Example Set	100	[Add Prefix] [Edit] [Delete]
Example 1:	10	[Edit] [Delete]
Example 2:	20	[Edit] [Delete]
Example 3:	30	[Edit] [Delete]
Save Display Order		

Adding or Editing a Prefix Set

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Before you can create any prefixes, you must create one or more prefix sets. Prefix sets are simply a way of tying together related prefixes. When you select which forums will allow prefixes, you will enable one or more prefix sets for the forum.

Adding Prefix Set		Help ?
Prefix Set ID A-Z, a-z, 0-9, and _ only	<input type="text"/>	?
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Display Order	<input type="text" value="10"/>	?
Use Prefix Set in These Forums	<input type="checkbox"/> None -- RSS Feed Forum -- 0123 ---- VBULLETIN STAFF FORUM ---- Main Forum ----- visible? ----- Child of Visible... ----- brother of visible ----- Testing... ----- Mister Forum	
Save		Reset

- Prefix Set ID** - This is the unique identifier for this prefix set. Only one set can have this value and the value may only contain A-Z, a-z, 0-9, and _ (underscores) only.
- Title** - This is the title of this prefix set. You should not use any special HTML markup. It will be shown when administering thread prefixes or if a user must choose between prefixes in more than one set.
- Use Prefix Set in These Forums** - Prefix sets must be attached to forums before they can be used. Select the forum or forums this prefix set will be available in using this field. Once you do this, when a user creates a new thread in a selected forum, he or she will be able to select a prefix from this set.
- Display Order** - The sorting order for sets. Sets with lower values will be shown before sets with higher values. Note that the display order setting for individual prefixes only controls their order within the set.

Adding or Editing a Prefix

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Once you have created a prefix set, you may add any number of prefixes to that set. If a thread has a prefix applied to it, the prefix will show anywhere the thread title shows. For that reason, you must define two versions of the prefix: a plain text version and a rich text version. See below for more information.

Adding Prefix		Help ?
Prefix ID A-Z, a-z, 0-9, and _ only	<input type="text"/>	?
Prefix Set	Example Set <input type="button" value="▼"/>	?
Title (Plain Text)	<input type="text"/>	?
Title (Rich Text)	<input type="text"/>	?
Display Order	<input type="text" value="10"/>	?
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

- Prefix ID** - This is the unique identifier for this prefix. Only one prefix can have this value and the value may only contain A-Z, a-z, 0-9, and _ (underscores) only.
- Prefix Set** - The set this prefix is to be placed in. This prefix will only be selectable in forums that have this set enabled. If you change this set, threads that can no longer use this prefix will have it removed!
- Title (Plain Text)** - This is the title of the prefix, using no special markup. This will be shown in the prefix list menu, when the thread title is shown in the navigation bar, or when the thread title is used in an email.
- Title (Rich Text)** - This is also the title of the prefix, but you may use HTML to add additional markup to the title. This version of the prefix will be shown in a list of threads and within the thread itself.
- Display Order** - The sort order for this prefix. Lower values will be displayed first within the selected prefix set.

If the thread title is a link to view the thread, the prefix will generally not be linked. However, the prefix will be included in the link if the thread title is used in the navigation bar.

Prefixes will also be placed directly before a thread title, with only a space separating them. For this reason, you will probably want to include something to make the prefix stand out from the title. In the rich text value, this could be color, italics, or an image (**For Sale**). However, in the plain text version, you may need to include a colon or square brackets ("For Sale:" or "[For Sale]").

Moderation

The Moderation section is where you will find tools for you or your moderators to check on the various moderation queues that exist in vBulletin.

For example, if you have chosen to moderate all posts before they are viewable, the 'Moderate Posts' link will show you the Post Moderation List, where you can approve or reject posts that have been made by your members.

Moderate Threads / Posts

If you have enabled moderation of new threads or posts in one or more forums, go to [Moderation > Moderate Threads](#) or [Moderation > Moderate Posts](#) to view the threads and posts in the moderation queue. Each link leads to the same page but different spots on the page, so they will both be described in this section.

At the top of this page, you will see the moderate threads section.

- **Posted By** – the user who posted the thread. This is not editable.
 - **Forum** – the forum in which the thread was posted. This is not editable.
 - **Title** – the title of the thread.
 - **Message** – the body of the first post in the thread.
 - **Notes** – any additional notes you wish to specify about the thread. These will be accessible on the *Edit Thread* page when viewing the thread.
 - **Action** – what you wish to do with the thread. *Validate* will display the thread as normal, *Delete* will remove the thread from the database, and *Ignore* will leave the thread here.

Below this is the moderate posts section.

Posts Awaiting Moderation	
	<input type="button" value="Validate"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/> <input type="button" value="Ignore"/>
Posted By	Example User
Thread	This is a new thread
Forum	Main Forum
Title	<input type="text"/>
Message	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"><p>This is a moderated reply.</p><div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; width: 100%; height: 10px;"></div></div>
Action	<input type="radio"/> Validate <input type="radio"/> Delete <input checked="" type="radio"/> Ignore
	<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>

The options in the section are similar to the moderate threads section. Specific changes include an additional **Thread** field, which tells you which thread this post came from, and the lack of the **Notes** field.

Moderate Attachments

If you have chosen to moderate attachments anywhere, you may view the attachment moderation queue at [Moderation > Moderate Attachments](#). A screen such as this will be displayed:

Attachments Awaiting Moderation	
	Validate Delete Ignore
Attachment	vbulletin3_logo_white.gif (11.3 KB)
Thumbnail	
Posted By	Example User [View Post]
Action	<input type="radio"/> Validate <input type="radio"/> Delete <input checked="" type="radio"/> Ignore
Save Reset	

- **Attachment** – the file name and file size of the attachment. Click the file name to view the attachment.
 - **Thumbnail** – if a thumbnail can be created for the attachment, it will be displayed here.
 - **Posted By** – the name of the user who posted this attachment, and the post which it has been attached to.
 - **Action** – like the *Moderate Threads / Posts* section, you may *Validate* (display), *Delete*, or *Ignore* (do nothing to) each attachment in the queue.

Moderate Events

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In addition to moderating threads, posts, and attachments, you may also moderate new calendar events. To do this, go to Moderation > Moderate Events.

- **Posted By** – the user that posted this event. This is not editable.
 - **Calendar** – the calendar this event was posted to. This is not editable.
 - **Subject** – the title of the event.
 - **Date** – the date(s) which the event is active for. This is not editable.
 - **Event** – the body of the event.
 - **Action** – like the other moderation sections, you may *Validate* (display), *Delete*, or *Ignore* (do nothing to) each event in the queue.

Moderate Visitor Messages

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In addition to moderating threads, posts, and attachments, you may also moderate new visitor messages. To do this, go to Moderation > Moderate Visitor Messages.

- **Posted By** – the user that posted this message. This is not editable.
 - **User Profile** – the profile that the message is posted on. This is not editable.
 - **Message** – the body of the event.
 - **Action** – like the other moderation sections, you may *Validate* (display), *Delete*, or *Ignore* (do nothing to) each event in the queue.

Attachments

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vBulletin has the ability to allow your visitors to attach files to their messages, uploading the files to your server.

The Attachments Manager allows you to search for attached files, view statistics about all the attachments stored on your server, and configure the parameters for what file types you would like to allow to be posted.

An Introduction to Attachments

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One of the more popular features of vBulletin is its attachment system. Some of the many features are:

- Allow multiple attachments per post
- Generate thumbnails for image attachments
- Allow multiple attachments to be uploaded at once
- Moderation of attachments
- Full control over allowed file types, file size, and image dimensions
- Users can manage attachments from their User CP
- Attachments can be searched and sorted via the AdminCP.
- Attachments can be stored in the database or the filesystem

General Attachment Settings

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There are three sections in the Admin CP that are relevant to controlling how attachments function on your forum.

- Message Attachment Options in the vBulletin Options section
- Can Upload Attachments / Can Download Attachments permissions in the Forum Permissions
- Attachments Section
 - Attachment Manager
 - Attachment Permissions
 - Search
 - Moderate Attachments
 - Attachment Statistics
 - Attachment Storage Type

Message Attachment Options

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Follows is a listing of the options, to view details on their usage, please view the descriptions for each or view the inline help.

- Limit Space Taken Up By Attachments (Total)
- Attachments Per Post
- Attachment Inputs
- Allow Deletion of Attachments Beyond Edit Time Limit
- Allow Duplicate Attached Images
- View Attached Images Inline
- Enable Thumbnails
- Thumbnail Size
- Thumbnails Per Row

Attachment Manager

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As an administrator, you have the ability to specify what types of attachments you wish to allow, as well as the maximum filesize. In regards to images, you can specify the maximum dimensions for popular image formats.

Navigate to Attachments->Attachment Manager.

You will be presented with the current file types that your forum allows for message attachment.

Attachment Manager							Help ?
Extension	Maximum Filesize	Max Width	Max Height	Enabled	Thumb	New Win	Controls
bmp	4000000	1200	1024	Yes	Yes	Yes	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
doc	40000			Yes	No	No	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
gif	None	None	None	Yes	Yes	No	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
jpe	40000	1024	768	Yes	Yes	No	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
jpeg	None	None	None	Yes	Yes	No	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
jpg	None	400	300	Yes	Yes	No	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
pdf	None			Yes	Yes	No	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
png	None	None	None	Yes	Yes	No	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
psd	4000000	None	None	Yes	Yes	No	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
txt	40000			Yes	Yes	No	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
zip	None			Yes	No	No	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
<input type="button" value="Add New Extension"/>							

To add a new extension for message attachment, press the [Add New Extension] button.

To edit an existing extension, select the Edit option to the right of the extension.

To specify usergroup permissions for an extension, select the View Permissions option to the right of the extension.

Managing Extensions

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Add New Extension

Extension:

Max Filesize (in bytes):

There are several configuration options that limit the maximum size of uploaded files. Consult the Quick Start on the your main admin cp page for your current settings.

Maximum Width (in pixels, 800 for example):

This only applies to image files of the extensions: bmp, gif, jpe, jpg, jpeg, png, psd, tif and tiff.

Maximum Height (in pixels, 600 for example):

This only applies to image files of the extensions: bmp, gif, jpe, jpg, jpeg, png, psd, tif and tiff.

Mime Type: ?

This controls what your browser does with the attachment. Leave blank if you don't know what to put here and the user will generally be prompted to download the attachment.

Display thumbnail for this type?: Yes No ?

This only applies to image files of the extensions: bmp, gif, jpe, jpg, jpeg, png, psd, tif and tiff. The creation of a thumbnail for any image type is not guaranteed.

Open this attachment in a new browser window?: Yes No ?

Enabled: Yes No ?

Save **Reset**

Extension - This is the extension of the allowed file. An example would be "jpg" for JPEG image files. Specify the extension of the file **without** the period.

Max File size - This is the maximum file size you wish to allow attached files of this extension to be. Each attachment that is uploaded is going to consume space on your hosting account. You need to take your storage limits into consideration when deciding what size files to allow. There are also several MySQL and PHP settings that affect the maximum file size that you will be able to upload. Generally you will be able to upload files up to a megabyte. If you need larger files and find yourself not able to post them, you'll need to ask for support via our ticket system or on the support forums.

Maximum Width - The maximum width in pixels that an uploaded image can be. This setting only applies for some image types. By default we include all image types that support this option.

Maximum Height - The maximum height in pixels that an uploaded image can be. This setting only applies for some image types. By default we include all image types that support this option.

Mime Type - The mime type dictates how the browser is supposed to handle the files when the attachment is opened. General mime-type lists are available on the Internet but if you choose to leave this option blank, often your browser will simply prompt you to save the attachment.

Display thumbnail for this type - This option generates a thumbnail, a small image, of uploaded images. The thumbnail will be displayed instead of the fullsize image. The fullsize image can be viewed by clicking on the thumbnail. Thumbnails must also be enabled in vBulletin Options -> Message Attachment Options.

Open this attachment in a new browser window - This option will open the attachment in a new window. Some users prefer to have control over how attachments open.

Enabled - Controls whether or not this attachment type is allowed to be uploaded.

Press [Save] when you have finalized your new attachment file type.

Attachment Permissions

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There are two usergroup permissions that pertain to attachments.

- Ability to Post Attachments
- Ability to View Attachments

Both of the permissions are controllable at the forum and usergroup level, meaning you can allow viewing of permissions by specific usergroups in specific forums and view versa.

Please view the Forum Permissions and Usergroups section of the admincp for usage.

Each extension also has usergroup level permissions that allow you to control which usergroups can upload which extensions.

Managing Attachment Permissions

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Managing your attachment permissions is similar to editing global usergroup permissions, but allows more control. If you click Attachments > Attachment Permissions, you will see a screen similar to this:

The screenshot shows a section titled "Attachment Permissions". At the top left is a "Color Key" icon. Below it, under the heading "Standard", there is a list of usergroups with edit links: "Edit COPPA Users Awaiting Moderation", "Edit Administrators", "Edit Admins #2", "Edit Banned", "Edit Banned by Moderators", and "Edit Blue".

The screenshot shows a list of usergroups for the "bmp" extension. The usergroups listed are: "Edit COPPA Users Awaiting Moderation", "Edit Administrators", "Edit Admins #2", "Edit Banned", "Edit Banned by Moderators", and "Edit Blue".

Here, you will see each attachment extension on your forum with a list of all usergroups under each extension. Notice the color key at the top. In this example, red indicates that a usergroup has a custom attachment permission specified for this forum. No attachment permission has been specified, so the group will be using the default attachment extension permissions.

Next to each extension, you will see 2 links:

- **Reset** – this will automatically delete any custom permissions that were set for this extension.
- **Deny All** – this will automatically deny every usergroup access to upload this extension. This is helpful if you want to deny access to an extension for most groups

To edit or add an attachment permission, simply find the appropriate extension and usergroup, and click *[Edit]*. This will lead you to this screen:

The screenshot shows the "Edit Attachment Permissions For Usergroup: Blue in Extension bmp" page. At the top, there are two radio buttons: "Use Default Permissions for this extension (Note: this will delete any previous custom permissions set)" (selected) and "Use Custom Permissions". Below this is a "Custom Attachment Permissions" section. It includes fields for "Can use this extension" (radio buttons for Yes and No, with "Yes" selected), "Max Filesize (in bytes)" (text input field containing "4000000"), "Maximum Width (in pixels, 800 for example)" (text input field containing "1200"), and "Maximum Height (in pixels, 600 for example)" (text input field containing "1024"). There are also notes about file size and extensions. At the bottom are "Save" and "Reset" buttons.

If you are unsure of what a specific option does, click the inline help icon for more information.

Note:

Make sure *Use Custom Permissions* is selected at the top of the page if you want your changes to be saved.

Attachment Storage Type

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vBulletin allows you the choice of storing attachments in either your database or in your file system. You are able to change your storage method at any time by navigating to Attachments->Attachment Storage Type.

There are several factors you need to consider before choosing which method you wish to use. By default, vBulletin stores attachments in the database since every server that supports vBulletin will work with this method. Not every server will be able to store attachments in the file system.

Storing in Database:

- Pro
 - Backing up your database, also backs up your attachments

- Does not consume any of your file system storage limits (unless mysql storage counts)
- Con
 - Can increase server load on large forums

Storing in File system:

- Pro
 - Better performance for large forums
 - Easier to backup your database
- Con
 - Does not work if SAFE MODE is enabled on your server.
 - Need to backup attachments separately from database
 - Consumes space on your file system

Moving Attachments to the Filesystem

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By default vBulletin stores attachments in the database for maximum compatibility. In order to store attachments in the file system, your server will need to have SAFE_MODE disabled. This is something that only your host can do.

You will be presented with the following screen if you have attachments in the database:

Storage Type: Attachments Help ?

Attachments are currently being stored in the database

Action Move Items from Database into File System

Go

To begin the process of moving attachments to the database, press [Go]

You will then be presented with the following:

Move Items from Database into File System Help ?

Attachments are currently being stored in the database

Attachment File Path ?

This file path should be readable AND writeable by your web server (usually chmod 0777)

Go **Reset**

Note:

vBulletin tries to determine if you have SAFE_MODE enabled and may display an error message instead of the above screen. If this happens, you will need to contact your host about disabling SAFE_MODE for your site or choose to leave attachments in the database.

The attachment file path is the location on your server that you wish to store attachments in. We suggest you create a path that is above your web root, which means a directory that is not below public_html. If you wish to create the directory in your web root, we then suggest you place a .htaccess file to block people from accessing it directly. If you do not do this, then anyone will be able to open your attachments directly by navigating this directory in their browser.

This directory must be writable by PHP, which generally means it must either be owned by the same user that your web server is running under or set to permissions 0777 or Global Read/Write on Windows Systems. Please refer to your system documents to find out how to set these permissions.

Please use the full qualified path name to this directory.

Press [Go] when you have entered a valid directory. vBulletin will test the directory for proper permissions and inform you if the permissions are not set properly.

Edit Storage Type

We are ready to attempt to move your Attachments from the Database to the Filesystem.

It is possible that you might not have enough disk space in the supplied path or space in the database but we are unable to determine that ahead of time.

We will not finalize the move until the end of the process.

If the process aborts before the end, you will need to free up space before trying again.

Number of attachments to process per cycle

Go **Reset**

The above screen is the final step before the actual moving begins. After pressing [Go] on this page, the moving of files from the database will begin.

After you press [Go], the attachments will be copied from the database to the file system. At the end of the process

you will have attachments in both locations and will be presented with the following screen as confirmation that you wish to finalize the process by deleting all attachments from the database.

Confirm Attachment Removal

We have completed moving attachments to the filesystem. Presently, the attachments still remain in the database and are being read from there. If you are sure that the process completed without incident, go ahead and select yes below to remove the attachments from the database. This step can not be reversed and may take a few minutes depending on the size of your database. Please be patient.

Attachments in Database: 0
Total Attachments Processed: 0

The above two values should be the same!

Number of Attachments that were 0 bytes: 0
Number of Attachments that could not be created: 0

Finalize Yes No

Go **Reset**

Pay close attention to the **Attachments in Database** and **Total Attachments Processed** totals. If these totals do not match up then you could possibly lose attachments. If **Total Attachments processed** is 0 then something is configured wrong and blocking attachments from being written to the file system.

If you feel, all is well, select the <Yes> option to the right of Finalize and press [Go]. At the point all attachments will be removed from the database. The attachment table will then be optimized to recover file space. This step can take an exceedingly long time to complete so please be patient.

Moving Attachments to the Database

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Moving attachments from the file system to the database follows the same process as moving from the database to the file system except for the first step.

If you have attachments stored in the file system, you will be presented with two options rather than the one listed above for moving to the file system.

Storage Type: Attachments Help ?

Attachments are currently being stored in the filesystem at **./customavatars**

Action Move Items from File System into Database
 Move Items to a Different Directory

Go

You can either **Move attachments back to the database** or **Move attachments to a new directory**.

If you are moving attachments back to the database, review the steps listed in the previous section as they are the same for the most part. The only difference is that at the end of the process, you will not be asked to confirm the move.

If you wish to move attachments to a new directory, choose the Move Items to a Different Directory option and press [Go]. You will be presented with a screen asking your for a pathname, displaying the current attachment directory. Enter your new directory and press [Ok].

Note:

This step **does not** create the new directory, nor does it actually move the attachments. It simply changes the directory that vBulletin looks for attachments in. You must create the directory, give it proper permissions (as detailed in the previous section), and then move the attachments manually.

Users

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The User Manager contains all the tools required for managing individual users of your board.

Tools here include the ability to search for users based on information in their user profile, a form to manually add a new user, a system to send an email to selected users or generate a mailing list and set user-specific forum permissions amongst other functions.

You can track down trouble-making users by searching on the IP address that is logged when they make a post, then ban a mischievous user from the board. You can then search for other banned users to manage their ban periods or restore their access to the board.

Adding or Editing a User

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To add a new user, go to Users > Add New User. You will be presented with a form like this:

Profile	
User Name	<input type="text"/>
Password	<input type="password"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Language	<input type="button" value="Use Forum Default"/>
User Title	<input type="text"/>
Custom User Title	<input type="button" value="No"/>
Home Page	<input type="text"/>
Birthday	Month <input type="button"/> Day <input type="button"/> Year <input type="text"/>
Signature	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Large Edit Box"/>	
ICQ UIN	<input type="text"/>
AIM Screen Name	<input type="text"/>
Yahoo! ID	<input type="text"/>
MSN ID	<input type="text"/>
COPPA User	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Parent Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Post Count	<input type="text"/>
Referrer	<input type="text"/>
IP Address	<input type="text"/>

Image Options	
Avatar	<input type="button" value="Change Avatar"/>
Profile Picture	<input type="button" value="Change Profile Picture"/>

User Profile Fields	
Biography	<input type="text"/>
Location	<input type="text"/>
Interests	<input type="text"/>
Occupation	<input type="text"/>

Usergroup Options	
Primary Usergroup	<input type="button" value="Registered Users"/>
Additional Usergroups	<input type="checkbox"/> (COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation <input type="checkbox"/> Administrators <input type="checkbox"/> Banned Users <input type="checkbox"/> Example Joinable Group <input type="checkbox"/> Moderators <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Users <input type="checkbox"/> Super Moderators <input type="checkbox"/> Unregistered / Not Logged In <input type="checkbox"/> Users Awaiting Email Confirmation

Reputation	
Display Reputation	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Reputation Level	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Current Reputation Power	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Browsing Options	
Receive Admin Emails	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display Email	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Invisible Mode	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Allow vCard Download	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Receive Private Messages	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Send Notification Email When a Private Message is Received	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Pop up a Notification Box When a Private Message is Received	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display Signatures	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display Avatars	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display Images	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Automatic Thread Subscription Mode	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Do not subscribe <input type="radio"/> Subscribe with no notification <input type="radio"/> Instant email notification <input type="radio"/> Instant ICQ notification <input type="radio"/> Daily email notification <input type="radio"/> Weekly email notification
Thread Display Mode	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Linear - Oldest First <input type="radio"/> Linear - Newest First <input type="radio"/> Hybrid <input type="radio"/> Threaded
Message Editor Interface	<input type="radio"/> Do Not Show Editor Toolbar <input checked="" type="radio"/> Show Standard Editor Toolbar <input type="radio"/> Show Enhanced (WYSIWYG) Editor Toolbar
Style	<input type="button" value="Use Forum Default"/>

Time Options											
Timezone	<input type="button" value="(GMT) Western Europe Time, London, Lisbon, Casablanca"/>										
Automatically detect DST settings	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No										
Is DST currently in effect	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No										
Default View Age (Default date cut-off for thread display)	<input type="button" value="Show all threads"/>										
Join Date	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Month</td> <td>Day</td> <td>Year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March</td> <td>1</td> <td>2004</td> </tr> </table>	Month	Day	Year	March	1	2004				
Month	Day	Year									
March	1	2004									
Last Visit	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Month</td> <td>Day</td> <td>Year</td> <td>Hour</td> <td>Minute</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March</td> <td>1</td> <td>2004</td> <td>5</td> <td>09</td> </tr> </table>	Month	Day	Year	Hour	Minute	March	1	2004	5	09
Month	Day	Year	Hour	Minute							
March	1	2004	5	09							
Last Activity	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Month</td> <td>Day</td> <td>Year</td> <td>Hour</td> <td>Minute</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March</td> <td>1</td> <td>2004</td> <td>5</td> <td>09</td> </tr> </table>	Month	Day	Year	Hour	Minute	March	1	2004	5	09
Month	Day	Year	Hour	Minute							
March	1	2004	5	09							
Last Post	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Month</td> <td>Day</td> <td>Year</td> <td>Hour</td> <td>Minute</td> </tr> <tr> <td>---</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Month	Day	Year	Hour	Minute	---				
Month	Day	Year	Hour	Minute							

Profile

- **User Name** – the name that will identify the user.
- **Password** – the password this user will use to login.
Note:
If you are editing a user, you will not be able to see this user's password. Leave this field blank to keep the password as is.
- **Email** – the email address of the user.
- **Language** – the language the user will see the board in.
- **User Title** – the title that will be displayed under this user's name in posts. If you wish to set a custom title here, be sure to change the *Custom User Title* option below as well.
- **Custom User Title** – the settings in effect for the *User Title* option. If this is set to no, the user will receive the default title for his or her usergroup; otherwise this user will receive the title specified above.
- **Home Page** – the user's home page. This will be linked to from his or her profile and posts.
- **Birthday** – the user's birthday. You may specify only the month and day.

- **Signature** – the user's signature. HTML, vB code, and smilies are parsed according to your settings on the *vBulletin Options* page.
- **ICQ UIN** – the user's ICQ number, if he or she has one.
- **AIM Screen Name** – the user's AIM screen name, if he or she has one.
- **Yahoo! ID** – the user's Yahoo! handle.
- **MSN ID** – the user's MSN handle.
- **COPPA User** – determines whether the user is a COPPA user. If the user is under 13 and you are using the COPPA system, this should be set to yes.
- **Parent Email Address** – if the user is a COPPA user, then this address will receive an email every time this user changes his or her profile.
- **Post Count** – the user's post count.
- **Referrer** – user name that referred this user.
- **IP Address** – this user's IP address at registration.

Image Options

- **Avatar** – allows you to edit or remove this user's avatar.
- **Profile Picture** – allows you to edit or remove this user's profile picture.

Warning:

Choosing one of these options will automatically submit any changes.

User Profile Fields

Allows you to set the values for any custom profile fields.

Usergroup Options

- **Primary Usergroup** – the user's primary usergroup. See the *Usergroup and Permissions* section for more information.
- **Additional Usergroups** – the user's secondary usergroups. See the *Usergroups and Permissions* section for more information.

Reputation

- **Display Reputation** – determines whether or not to display the user's reputation score with his or her posts.
- **Reputation Level** – the user's actual reputation score. Higher is better.
- **Current Reputation Power** – the user's calculated reputation power. You may not change this directly.

Browsing Options

- **Receive Admin Emails** – determines whether the user receives emails sent by the administrator through the control panel.
- **Display Email** – controls whether the user's email button is displayed, allowing members to send email to him or her.
- **Invisible Mode** – determines whether the user is invisible. This prevents the user's current activity status from being displayed to everyone.
- **Receive Private Messages** – determines whether the user has enabled private messaging.
- **Send Notification Email When a Private Message is Received** – controls whether the user receives an email when he or she receives a private message.
- **Pop up a Notification Box When a Private Message is Received** – manages whether the user receives a popup window when he or she has received a private message.
- **Display Signatures** – controls whether the user sees signatures after posts.
- **Display Avatars** – determines whether the user sees avatars.
- **Display Images** – controls whether the user sees attachments and IMG tags inline.
- **Automatic Thread Subscription Mode** – controls the user's default thread subscription mode. This can vary from no subscription to instant emails to weekly digests.
- **Thread Display Mode** – determines how the user views threads by default. The user may select linear, along with post ordering; hybrid; or threaded.
- **Message Editor Interface** – determines the type of editor that the user sees. Choices include no toolbar; the standard editor toolbar, which has buttons to include vB code; and the WYSIWYG editor, which will show users what their post will actually look like (e.g., red text will actually be red in the editor).
- **Style** – the default style that this user uses to browse the forums.

Time Options

- **Timezone** – the time zone that all times will be displayed for this user.
- **Automatically detect DST settings** – determines whether automatic daylight savings time (DST) detection is used.
- **Is DST current in effect** – sets whether DST is currently in effect, essentially changing the user's time zone by one hour.
- **Default View Age** – default cutoff date for threads on the forum display page.
- **Join Date** – the day the user registered.
- **Last Visit** – the time of the user's last visit. This is the time used to determine what posts are new.
- **Last Activity** – the time the user was last active. This is the time the user last loaded a page.
- **Last Post** – the time of the user's latest post.

Quick User Links

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If you are editing a user, you will be presented with a *Quick User Links* section:

User: Administrator (id: 1) Help ?

Quick User Links	Edit Forum Permissions (Access Masks) <input type="button" value="Go"/>
------------------	---

This allows you to:

- **Edit Forum Permissions (Access Masks)** – allows you to edit this user's access masks. See below for more information.
- **View Forum Permissions** – shows what permissions this user has in each forum.
- **Send Email to User** – allows you to email this user directly using your default email program.
- **Email Password Reminder to User** – sends a password change request to this user.
- **Send Private Message to User** – brings up the form to send a private message to this user (if it is enabled).
- **Private Message Statistics** – displays the number of private messages this user has in each folder.
- **Delete All User's Private Messages** – deletes all of this user's received private messages.
- **Delete Private Messages Sent by User** – deletes all private messages this user has sent.
- **Delete Subscriptions** – deletes all of this user's thread subscriptions.
- **View IP Addresses** – displays all IP addresses that are logged for this user. Aside from the IP logged at registration, IPs are only logged during posting.
- **View Profile** – displays this user's public profile on the board front end.
- **Find Posts by User** – searches for posts made by this user.
- **Ban User** – allows you to ban this user from accessing the board for various time frames.
- **Delete User** – allows you to remove this user from the database.
- **Edit Administrator Permissions** – allows you to edit the sections of the admin control panel that this user has access to. This will only be displayed if this user is an administrator.

Editing Access Masks

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Note:

General information on access masks is available [here](#).

To edit a user's access masks, go to Users > Search for Users > enter criteria that will find this user. From the search results page, select [Edit Access Masks] from the user's profile page, select [Edit Forum Permissions (Access Masks)]. A page similar to this will be displayed:

Edit Access Masks: Administrator Help ?

Here you may edit forum access on a user-by-user basis.

Selecting "Yes" will allow the user access to the forum. Selecting "No" will deny the user access to the forum. Any changes made to one user's account will override the default permission settings in their usergroup.

Selecting "Default" will revert the user to the default permissions settings for their usergroup.

(Please note that the permission inheritance system still works here.)

(Ensure that you have access masks enabled before attempting to use these!)

Forum	Allow Access to Forum
	<input type="button" value="All Yes"/> <input type="button" value="All No"/> <input type="button" value="All Default"/>
Main Category	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Default
- - Main Forum	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Default
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Each forum will be listed on this page. There are three possible access masks for each forum:

- **Yes** – this user will be granted access to the forum user his or her global usergroup permissions, regardless of any forum-level usergroup permissions.
- **No** – this user will be denied any access to this forum regardless of forum-level usergroup permissions.
- **Default** – no special access mask specified; user will receive access to the forum as per forum-level or global usergroup permissions.

Note:

Inheritance of permissions still works here. Therefore, if you specify yes in a parent forum, that will carry over to any child forums.

Warning:

These settings will have no effect unless you have enabled access masks in the *vBulletin Options* section.

User Change History

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The user change history allows you to see the previous values of several pieces of user data. These include:

- User names
- Emails
- User group membership

To access the user change history, go to the standard "User Edit" page and click the View Change History link:

Profile [\[View change history\]](#) Help ?

User Name	test2
-----------	-------

You will then be taken to a page that looks like this:

<u>View change history test2</u>		
Oct 1st 2007; Ed Sullivan Old Value	New Value	
Primary Usergroup	Registered Users	Banned
Oct 1st 2007; Ed Sullivan Old Value	New Value	
User Name	test	test2
Email	example@example.com	example2@example2.com
Oct 1st 2007; Ed Sullivan Old Value	New Value	
Email	example@example.com	

This shows what data has been changed, by whom, and when.

Search for Users

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To search for users with advanced criteria, go to Users > Search for Users. You will be presented with a screen containing two options, quick search and advanced search.

Quick Search

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Quick Search	Help ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show All Users List Top Posters List Visitors in the Last 24 Hours List New Registrations List Users Awaiting Moderation Show All COPPA Users 	

Quick search provides you with several commonly-used, canned searches. These options include:

- Show All Users** – lists all users in alphabetical order.
- List Top Posters** – lists all users, ordered by post count (descending).
- List Visitors in the Last 24 Hours** – only lists users who have visited the board in the last 24 hours.
- List New Registrations** – lists all users with newest registrations first.
- List Users Awaiting Moderation** – shows all users who are in the moderation queue. This will generally be empty unless you have enabled user moderation.
- Show All COPPA Users** – displays all users waiting to be approved because of COPPA.

Advanced Search

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Advanced Search	Help ?		
If you leave a field blank it will be ignored			
User Name	<input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exact Match ?		
Primary Usergroup	<input type="text" value="-- All Usergroups --"/> ?		
Additional Usergroups	<input type="checkbox"/> (COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation <input type="checkbox"/> Administrators <input type="checkbox"/> Banned Users <input type="checkbox"/> Example Joinable Group <input type="checkbox"/> Moderators	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered Users <input type="checkbox"/> Super Moderators <input type="checkbox"/> Unregistered / Not Logged In <input type="checkbox"/> Users Awaiting Email Confirmation	?
	<input type="button" value="Find"/>		
Email	<input type="text"/> ?		
Parent Email Address	<input type="text"/> ?		
COPPA User	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Either ?		
Home Page	<input type="text"/> ?		
ICQ UIN	<input type="text"/> ?		
AIM Screen Name	<input type="text"/> ?		
Yahoo! ID	<input type="text"/> ?		
MSN ID	<input type="text"/> ?		
Signature	<input type="text"/> ?		
User Title	<input type="text"/> ?		
Join Date is After (yyyy-mm-dd)	<input type="text"/> ?		
Join Date is Before (yyyy-mm-dd)	<input type="text"/> ?		
Last Visit is After (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	<input type="text"/> ?		
Last Visit is Before (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	<input type="text"/> ?		
Last Post is After (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	<input type="text"/> ?		

Last Post is Before (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	<input type="text"/>	?
Birthday is After (mm-dd-yyyy)	<input type="text"/>	?
Birthday is Before (mm-dd-yyyy)	<input type="text"/>	?
Posts are greater than	<input type="text"/>	?
Posts are less than	<input type="text"/>	?
Reputation is greater than	<input type="text"/>	?
Reputation is less than	<input type="text"/>	?
Registration IP Address	<input type="text"/>	?
		<input type="button" value="Find"/>
User Profile Fields		
Help ?		
Biography	<input type="text"/>	
Location	<input type="text"/>	
Interests	<input type="text"/>	
Occupation	<input type="text"/>	
		<input type="button" value="Find"/>

Display Options		Help ?
Display User Name	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Display Options	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Display Usergroup	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display Email	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Display Parent Email Address	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display COPPA User	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display Home Page	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display ICQ UIN	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display AIM Screen Name	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display Yahoo! ID	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display MSN ID	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display Signature	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display User Title	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display Join Date	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Display Last Visit	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Display Last Post	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display Post Count	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Display Reputation	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display IP Address	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display Birthday	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
		<input type="button" value="Find"/>
User Profile Field Options		
Help ?		
Display Biography	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Display Location	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Display Interests	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Display Occupation	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
		<input type="button" value="Find"/>

Sorting Options		Help ?
Order By	<input type="button" value="User Name"/> <input type="button" value="Ascending"/>	?
Starting at Result	<input type="text" value="1"/>	?
Max Results	<input type="text" value="300"/>	?
<input type="button" value="Find"/> <input type="button" value="Exact Match"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

Advanced search allows you to search for users using almost any profile field as search criteria. If you do not enter a value for a field, it will be ignored.

Additionally, you may choose to display most fields inline on the search results page.

Search Results

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The search results page will display the users who match your search criteria. The columns that are displayed depend on what you chose on the advanced search screen. By default, user name, email, join date, last visit, and post count are displayed. In addition, the *Options* column contains links to manage a user. These links include:

- **View / Edit User** – displays this user's information. See the *Adding or Editing a User* section for more information.
- **Send Password to User** – redirects you to the lost password form, allowing you to send a new password to this user.
- **Edit Access Masks** – allows you to edit this user's access masks. See the *Editing Access Masks* section above for more information.
- **Delete User** – removes this user from the database. You will be asked what you want to do with his or her posts.

Merge Users

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If you wish to merge two users' accounts into one, perhaps because one user registered twice, go to Users > Merge Users.

Merge Users

Merge allows you to join two user accounts into one single account. The source account will be combined into the destination account.

Posts, threads, calendar events, private messages, post count, reputation, buddylist and ignorelist will be combined.

The combined user will still have the same permissions that the destination user had to begin with. Any access masks or moderator ability that the source user had will not be transferred.

This process can not be reversed.

Source Username

Destination Username

Continue **Reset**

Simply specify the source and destination users. Posts, threads, calendar events, and private messages of the source user will be changed to appear to have come from the destination user. The source user's post count, reputation, buddies, and ignored users will be added to the destination user.

Permissions will not be changed and moderator status will not be transferred; these must be respecified.

Ban User

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To prevent a user from viewing any page of your board, go to Users > Ban User.

Ban User

User Name

Move User to Usergroup

Lift Ban After...

Select the length of the ban here.
The ban will be lifted at the time specified

Ban User **Reset**

To ban a user, specify:

- **User Name** – the name of the user to ban.
 - **Move User to Usergroup** – the usergroup to move this user to. This usergroup should have reduced permissions, if any at all.
- Note:
Only usergroups that are specified as banned groups will be displayed here.
- **Life Ban After...** – the ban's length. This ranges from 1 day to 2 years to permanent.

View Banned Users

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The View Banned Users panel, accessible via Users > View Banned Users, allows you to view and modify the status of all currently banned users on your site.

<<<screenshot of the View Banned Users panel>>>

There are two tables in the View Banned User panel: **Temporary Ban** and **Permanent Ban**. Both tables have the following columns:

- **User Name**
The username of the user who has been banned. Clicking the username will open the **Edit User** form for that user. For more information on this form, see the [Adding or Editing a User](#) article.
- **Banned By**
The username of the user who banned the specified user. Clicking the username will open the **Edit User** form for this user. For more information on this form, see the [Adding or Editing a User](#) article.

- **Banned On**
The date the specified user was banned.
- **Ban Period**
The length of the ban, in days. In the **Permanent Ban** table, this column displays “Permanent”.
- **Ban Will Be Lifted On**
The date and time the ban will be lifted. In the **Permanent Ban** table, this column displays “Never”.
- **Ban Time Remaining**
The amount of time the specified user has left on their ban, in days and hours. In the **Permanent Ban** table, this column displays “Forever”.
- **Lift Ban**
Use this option to lift the ban on the specified user before the end of the ban period. Clicking the [Lift Ban] link opens a new page asking if you are sure you want to lift the ban for the specified user. Clicking the [Yes] button will remove the user from the banned usergroup and placed back into the usergroup they were a member of before their banning. They will also be removed from the **View Banned Users** panel. Clicking the [No] button will cancel the action and return you to the **View Banned Users** panel.
- **Ban Reason**
This column displays the text entered into the “Reason to show the user” field on the **Ban User** form. Clicking this link will open a new page with the following fields:

<<<Screenshot of the new form!>>>

- **User Name**
The username of the specified banned user.
 - **Reason to show the user**
This message will be shown to the user every time they visit the site while the ban is in effect.
- Click the [Ban User] button to save the changes and return to the **View Banned Users** panel or click the [Reset] button to clear any changes you've made.

Below each table is a [Ban User] button. Click this button to go to the **[Ban User]** form to ban a new user. For more information about this form, see the [Ban Users](#) article.

Prune / Move Users

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If you wish to delete multiple users or move a number of users to a different usergroup, [Users > Prune / Move Users](#) allows you to do this.

User Moving/Pruning System

This system allows you to mass-move users to a different usergroup, or prune away inactive members.

Use the form below to select users matching your search conditions. You will then be given the option to individually move or prune away the matched users.

Usergroup	All Usergroups	?
Has not logged on for x days	365	?
Join Date is Before	Month --- Day Year	?
Posts is less than	0	?
Order By	User Name	?
<input type="button" value="Find"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

You may search for users based on the following criteria:

- **Usergroup** – the usergroup matching users must belong to.
- **Has not logged on for x days** – the number of days since the user has visited the board. Set this to 0 to ignore.
- **Join Date is Before** – the user must have joined before the date you specify here.
- **Posts is less than** – the user must have less than this number of posts (based on post count stored with the user).
- **Order By** – field to order matching users by.

Once you submit the search page, you will see a results page like this:

Showing Users 1 to 1 of 1					
Userid	User Name	Email	Post Count	Last Visit	Join Date
2	Example User	example@example.com	0	02-25-2004	02-25-2004 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action: Delete Move

Each user that matched your search criteria will be shown here. On the right, you will see a check box; this allows you to select whether or not this user will be moved or deleted. At the end of the form, you may select whether you want to move the selected users to a different usergroup or delete them.

Note:

If you choose to move the selected users, only their primary usergroup will be changed. Secondary usergroups will remain the same.

Private Message Statistics

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Private message statistics allows you to view what users have the most private messages stored. You will not be able to view the actual messages though. To view these statistics, go to [Users > Private Message Statistics](#). A screen such

as this will be displayed:

Private Message Statistics		
Number of Messages	Number of Users	Controls
3	1	[List Users with 3 Messages]
1	1	[List Users with 1 Messages]

This is the summary screen. It groups users by the number of private messages they have stored. To see details about a specific group, click the link on the right. That will take you to a detailed screen, showing you every user with that amount of private messages:

Users with 3 Private Messages Stored		
User Name	Last Visit	Options
Administrator	02-29-2004, 09:27 PM	View Private Message Statistics <input type="button" value="Go"/>

Options for each user include:

- **View Private Message Statistics** – displays detailed specifics for this user, listing how many messages he or she has in each folder.
- **Edit User** – takes you to the user's profile screen, where you can edit the user's information.
- **Send Email to User** – allows you to email the user using your default email client.
- **Send Private Message to User** – takes you to the private message compose screen, allowing you to compose a private message to this user.
- **Delete All User's Private Messages** – allows you to delete all of this user's private messages.

Referrals

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If you have enabled the referral system, you can see what users have the most referrals over a specific time frame. To access this page, go to Users > Referrals.

Referrals					
Please input the dates that you would like the report run for or leave them blank for a report covering everything.					
Start Date	Month	Day	Year	Hour	Minute
	<input type="button" value="January"/>	<input type="text" value="30"/>	<input type="text" value="2004"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="02"/>
End Date	Month	Day	Year	Hour	Minute
	<input type="button" value="March"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2004"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="02"/>
<input type="button" value="Find"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>					

This form allows you to specify the time frame to search over. Results will look like this:

Referrals - 01-30-2004 06:02 AM to 03-01-2004 06:02 AM				
User Name	Total			
Administrator	1			

Users with referrals over this time frame will be displayed here. Users with the most referrals will be displayed first. To see detailed information about a user's referrals, click his or her username:

Referrals for Administrator - 01-30-2004 06:02 AM to 03-01-2004 06:02 AM				
User Name	Post Count	Email	Join Date	Last Visit
Example User	0	example@example.com	02-25-2004, 12:00 PM	02-25-2004, 12:57 AM

Search IP Addresses

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To search for the users who have had a specific IP address or to list what IP addresses a user has had, go to Users > Search IP Addresses.

Search IP Addresses		
Find Users by IP Address You may enter a partial IP Address	<input type="text"/>	
Find IP Addresses for user Enter Username	<input type="text"/>	
Depth to Search	<input type="button" value="1"/>	
<input type="button" value="Find"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

This form presents three options:

- **Find Users by IP Address** – if you have an IP and wish to see what users have posted with that IP, enter the address here. You may enter part of an IP. For example, if you wish to see what users have had 192.168.1.0 to 192.168.1.255, then enter 192.168.1. (Note the period after the final 1.)
- **Find IP Addresses for User** – if you wish to see what IPs a user has posted with, enter his or her username here.
- **Depth to Search** – if this option is set to 2, the opposite search will automatically be run on any results. For example, if you search for users by IP address, all IP addresses of each matching user will be displayed; if you

search for IP addresses for a user, all other users that have used each IP address will be displayed.

Send Email to Users

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To send mass emails to your users, go to Users > Send Email to Users. You will be presented with a page that looks like this:

The screenshot shows the 'Email Manager' interface. At the top, there's a 'Test Email Only?' checkbox with '(Will not send any email out)' next to it, followed by radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No'. Below that is a 'Email to send at once:' input field containing '500'. Under 'From', the value 'webmaster@example.com' is entered. In the 'Subject' field, there is a large empty text area labeled 'Large Edit Box'. The 'Message:' section contains a note about using variables like \$userid, \$username, \$email, \$activateid, and \$activatelink. It also specifies that \$activateid is the activation number and \$activatelink is the URL for activation. A note states that these variables are only defined for users in the 'Users Awaiting Email Confirmation' group. At the bottom, a note says you can't send passwords using this form because they are encrypted in the database, and it suggests linking to the 'lost password' form instead.

The options are:

- **Test Email Only?** – allows you to simply test the email, ensuring that you have selected the correct users.
- **Email to send at once** – the number of emails to send out per page. If this is set too high, you may receive page timeouts and the emails may not be sent properly.
- **From** – the address which the emails will be sent from.
- **Subject** – the subject line of the email.
- **Message** – the body of the email. You may use the following variables that will be replaced with the appropriate values when the email is sent:
`$userid` – the user's ID number.
`$username` – the user's name.
`$email` – the user's email address.

The following will only be defined if the user is in the *Users Awaiting Email Confirmation* usergroup:

`$activateid` – the ID number the user will use to active his or her account.

`$activatelink` – the full URL that the user can use to active his or her account automatically.

Note:

It is impossible to send a user his or her password. They are encrypted before being stored.

Below this you will see a list of search criteria. The section behaves similarly to the form on the *Search for Users* page:

Search Criteria		
User Name	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exact Match
All Usergroups	<input type="checkbox"/> All Usergroups	
Primary Usergroup	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrators <input type="checkbox"/> Banned Users <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Example Joinable Group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderators	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Users <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Super Moderators <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unregistered / Not Logged In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Users Awaiting Email Confirmation	
Include users that have declined admin emails?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	
Email	<input type="text"/>	
Parent Email Address	<input type="text"/>	
COPPA User	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Either	
Home Page	<input type="text"/>	
ICQ UIN	<input type="text"/>	
AIM Screen Name	<input type="text"/>	
Yahoo! ID	<input type="text"/>	
MSN ID	<input type="text"/>	
Signature	<input type="text"/>	
User Title	<input type="text"/>	
Join Date is After (yyyy-mm-dd)	<input type="text"/>	
Join Date is Before (yyyy-mm-dd)	<input type="text"/>	
Last Visit is After (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	<input type="text"/>	
Last Visit is Before	<input type="text"/>	
Last Post is After (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	<input type="text"/>	
Last Post is Before (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	<input type="text"/>	
Birthday is After (mm-dd-yyyy)	<input type="text"/>	
Birthday is Before (mm-dd-yyyy)	<input type="text"/>	
Posts are greater than	<input type="text"/>	
Posts are less than	<input type="text"/>	
Reputation is greater than	<input type="text"/>	
Reputation is less than	<input type="text"/>	
Registration IP Address	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	
User Profile Fields		
Biography	<input type="text"/>	
Location	<input type="text"/>	
Interests	<input type="text"/>	
Occupation	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

Generate Mailing List

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If you simply wish to gather a list of email address based on search criteria, but don't wish to send out emails now, go to Users > Generate Mailing List. At the top of this section, you will see this:

Generate Mailing List		Help 
Text to separate addresses by: This is a space by default, but you may wish to produce, CSV (in this case use a comma) or quoted CSV (use: " " in this case, including the quotes), so both of these are possible.		
<input type="text"/>		
<input type="button" value="Large Edit Box"/>		

The only option available here is the **Text to separate addresses by** option. The text that you specify here will be used to separate each email address. For example, if you use ',', the mailing list will look like this:

example1@example.com, example2@example.com

Below this is the standard search criteria form. This is the same form as is used on the *Send Email to Users* page.

Access Masks

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Note:

General information on access masks is available [here](#).

This section allows you to edit or remove existing access masks more quickly. It is accessible through *Users > Access Masks*.

Additional Functions		Help ?
Delete All Access Masks Access Masks Quick Editor		

At the top, you will see this *Additional Functions* table; these options are detailed in the following section.

Below this is a forum-by-forum view of your existing access masks.

Access Masks		Help ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color Key • Access Granted • Access Denied 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main Category ([Reset]) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Access Mask(s) set [Display All Users] • Access Granted: 1 User(s) [Display Users] ▪ Main Forum ([Reset]) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Access Mask(s) set [Display All Users] • Access Denied: 1 User(s) [Display Users]
--

For each forum with access masks you will have the following options:

- **Reset** – this automatically deletes all access masks for the specified forum.
- **Display All Users / Display Users** – these options display a page that lists all users that have an access mask or only the users that have a specific access mask setting in that forum, allowing you to quickly edit or delete these access masks:

User Forum Access for Main Category	
Here you may edit forum access on a user-by-user basis.	
<p>Selecting "Yes" will allow the user access to the forum. Selecting "No" will deny the user access to the forum. Any changes made to one user's account will override the default permission settings in their usergroup.</p> <p>Selecting "Default" will revert the user to the default permissions settings for their usergroup.</p> <p>(Please note that the permission inheritance system still works here.)</p> <p>(Ensure that you have access masks enabled before attempting to use these!)</p>	
Users	
Administrator	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Default
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Additional Functions

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Two additional functions are provided to manage access masks:

- **Delete All Access Masks** – this automatically deletes every access mask. This will cause all users' forum access to be based off of their forum- and global-level usergroup permissions.
- **Access Masks Quick Editor** – this provides a way to quickly edit all access masks. It will display the username, forum, and setting for each access mask specified. You can then edit or remove these access masks.

Access Masks Quick Editor			Help ?	
User Name	Forum	All Yes	All No	All Default
Administrator	Main Category	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Default		
Administrator	Main Forum	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Default		
		<input type="button" value="Update"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Usergroups and Permissions

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vBulletin organizes permissions for various functions with a usergroup system. By default there are seven usergroups including Administrators, Super Moderators, Moderators, Registered Users and Guests.

You can use the Usergroup Manager to edit the various permissions for each group, or even add new usergroups to create a specialized permissions system unique to your own board.

Also under the usergroups section, you will find the necessary tools for setting specific usergroup-based permissions for individual forums, and the all-important Administrator Permissions tool, which allows Super Administrators to limit the powers of their co-administrators.

An Introduction to Usergroups and Permissions

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Access to various parts of your vBulletin installation is controlled by a rich and flexible permissions system. The basic unit which controls permissions is a usergroup. As you would expect, a usergroup is really just a group of any number of users.

Through this, you may control what this group of users is allowed to do on your board.

For example, perhaps you want only administrators to be able to post in a specific forum? Or only certain users to be able to attach files with their posts? Or maybe even allow a group of users to have their own *user titles*? These are all possible with usergroup permissions!

Basic Concept: Inheritance

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The most important concept in vBulletin's permission system is inheritance. There are several levels at which you may specify usergroup permissions.

The first is at a *global* level. These permissions can be edited by going to Usergroups > Usergroup Manager > Edit Usergroup.

The permissions you specify here will be used everywhere on the board unless you override them at the *forum* level. Forum-level permissions can be edited by going to Usergroup > Forum Permissions. Permissions you specify for a forum will also automatically inherit to any child forums, unless overridden there and so on.

Each of these areas will be discussed in detail in the following sections.

Basic Concept: Membership to Multiple Groups

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Users in vBulletin may also belong to multiple usergroups. This is one method of creating exceptions to your permission scheme.

For example, you may have a user who belongs to group X, but needs to have access to the few extra options (such as attaching files to posts) given by group Y. You can make X this user's primary group and make Y a secondary group.

The basic idea here is that if a user is in multiple groups and they specify conflicting permissions, the greater permission overrides. Thus, a *yes* will always override a *no* and a larger number will override a smaller number.

Note:

There is a slight exception to this rule. If 0 represents *unlimited* or *no restriction*, then it will override any other setting; it really is the *greater permission*.

Warning:

Be careful when putting a user in a secondary group that you also use as a primary group. You may edit the group and inadvertently give the secondary user more permissions than you originally meant to!

Access Masks: The Overriding Permission and Another Method for Creating Exceptions

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While membership to multiple groups is a very handy tool for creating exceptions to the rules setup by usergroup permissions, they may be too powerful for some situations. In the cases where you simply want to give a specific user access to a forum that he or she wouldn't normally have access to, you can use access masks.

Access masks will override any forum-level usergroup permissions for this user.

To edit access masks for a specific user, go to Users > Search for Users > searching for the user you want to edit > clicking [Edit Forum Permissions] or [Edit Access Masks]. You can quickly view existing access masks by going to Users > Access Masks.

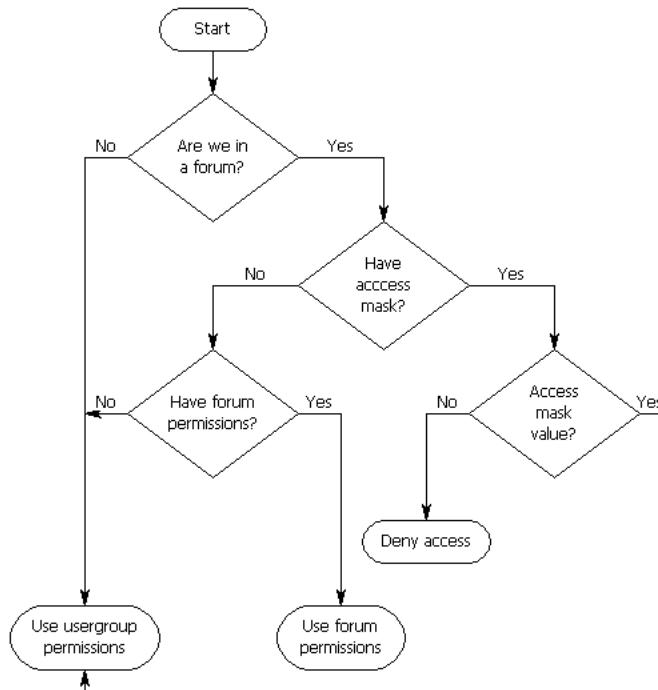
Access masks work similarly to forum-level usergroup permissions; inheritance to child forums still occurs. However, you will not have as many options as with a forum permission:

- Setting a user's access mask to *yes* for a forum gives them the same permissions in that forum as they have at the global level, regardless of any forum-level usergroup permissions specified.
- Setting the mask to *no* denies them access to the forum completely, as if each individual permission were set to *no*.
- *Default* simply means no special access mask is specified; forum-level usergroup permissions are used.

How Permissions are Applied (in a Nutshell)

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Permissions are applied with a flow-chart-like structure:



Managing Usergroups

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Usergroups can be managed in the admin control panel by going to Usergroups > Usergroup Manager. This will bring you to a page that looks similar to this:

Default Usergroups			
Title	Primary Users	Additional Users	Controls
(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation	-	-	Edit Usergroup (id: 4) <input type="button" value="Go"/>
Administrators	1	-	Edit Usergroup (id: 6) <input type="button" value="Go"/>
Moderators	-	-	Edit Usergroup (id: 7) <input type="button" value="Go"/>
Registered Users	1	-	Edit Usergroup (id: 2) <input type="button" value="Go"/>
Super Moderators	-	-	Edit Usergroup (id: 5) <input type="button" value="Go"/>
Unregistered / Not Logged In	-	-	Edit Usergroup (id: 1) <input type="button" value="Go"/>
Users Awaiting Email Confirmation	-	-	Edit Usergroup (id: 3) <input type="button" value="Go"/>

Custom Usergroups			
Title	Primary Users	Additional Users	Controls
Banned Users	-	-	Edit Usergroup (id: 8) <input type="button" value="Go"/>

In the top table, you'll see the usergroups that vBulletin automatically creates. These 7 groups are:

- **(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation** – if you have enabled moderation of new registrations, any users who have yet to be approved will go here. Additionally, if you are using the COPPA system, all COPPA members will go here before being approved.
- **Administrators** – this group will contain your administrators. By default, they have full access to the board.
- **Moderators** – this is the group that you will most likely put your moderators into, although you are not required to.
- **Registered Users** – after a newly registered user is approved/confirmed, he or she will be put here. This is likely where most of your users will be.
- **Super Moderators** – this group contains users who are not quite administrators (they don't have access to the admin control panel), but have full moderator abilities in all forums.
- **Unregistered / Not Logged In** – all guests or people who have not logged in will be treated as if they were in this group.
- **Users Awaiting Email Confirmation** – if you have required users to confirm their email address before posting, those who have registered but not clicked the link in the email that is automatically sent to them will be placed here. Once they click the link, the will be moved to the appropriate group.

Next, you will notice the *Primary Users* and *Additional Users* columns. This simply counts the number of users who have this group as their main usergroup or are a secondary member of this group, respectively.

Finally, you will see the controls column. This column provides the following options:

- **Edit Usergroup** – this allows you to edit this group's information and global permissions. Additionally, the ID number of the usergroup is displayed, should you need to know it for another operation.
- **Edit Promotions** – displays any promotions that are setup for this usergroup. See the promotions section for more information.
- **Show All Primary Users** – displays a list of the users who have this group as their primary group.
- **Show All Secondary Users** – displays a list of the users who have this group as their secondary group.
- **View Reputation** – displays a list of the users in this group, ordered by their reputation scores. See the reputation section for more information on what this score means.

Below this, you will see a table for any custom usergroups. Everything in this table is the same as the *Default Usergroups* table, except there is an additional **Delete Usergroup** control. If you choose to delete a usergroup, any members of the group will be moved back to *Registered Users*.

Finally, if you have any public usergroups, they will be displayed in a third table. Public usergroups are groups that users may join. These usergroups may be moderated if you name one or more usergroup leaders or unmoderated if you do not name any.

Public (Joinable) Custom Usergroups					
Title	Primary Users	Additional Users	Join Requests	Usergroup Leader	Controls
Example Joinable Group A group which users can join	-	1	1	Administrator [Delete]	<input type="button" value="Edit Usergroup (id: 9)"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
Note: Groups marked with a * can be selected by their members to override the username markup and user title from their primary usergroup.					

When a user joins a public usergroup, he or she will become a secondary member in the group and his or her permissions will change according to the rules of membership in multiple groups.

Beyond the options that are available in the previous two tables, with public usergroups, you can:

- **Add Usergroup Leader** – this allows you to specify the username of a user who will become a moderator of the group. He or she will be able to approve and deny requests to join the group.
- **View Join Requests** – as an administrator, you also have the ability to moderate each public usergroup. This page allows you to perform these moderation duties; see below for detailed information on this page.

Adding or Editing a Usergroup

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To add a usergroup, click *Usergroups > Add New Usergroup*. To edit an existing group, click *Usergroups > Usergroup Manager > Edit Usergroup* for the group you wish to edit. Both links will take you to a similar page:

Add New Usergroup	
Title	<input type="text"/>
Description	<input type="text"/>
User Title (Use this to override the default 'ladder' of user titles)	<input type="text"/>
Username HTML Markup (Specify an opening and closing HTML tag with which to display the names of users in this group. This applies to names that appear on Logged-in Users, Who's Online, Users Browsing Forum, Users Browsing Thread, Posts, Member List etc.)	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Password Expiry (If you specify a number of days here, users will be required to change their password when this amount of time elapsed since they last changed)	<input type="text"/>
Password History (If you specify a number of days here, users will not be allowed to change their password to a value that they have used in the past x days. Note: this setting has no effect if password expiry is set to 0 days)	<input type="text"/>

This is part of the form to add a new usergroup. If you are editing a usergroup, the form will already be filled out for you.

The only difference between the add- and edit-pages is that, when adding a new group, you have the ability to create a usergroup based off of an existing usergroup:

Create Usergroup Based off of Usergroup:	<input type="button" value="COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
--	---

If you use this option, all the fields will be populated with the values specified for the group you selected. Simply change whatever fields you wish to change and submit.

Most settings should be self explanatory. If you are unsure of an option, simply click the inline help icon for a further explanation.

Join Requests

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This page is used to manage join requests for moderated, public usergroups. If you enter directly (*Usergroups > Join Requests*), you will be prompted to select a usergroup to view requests for. If you enter through *Usergroups > Usergroup Manager > [View Join Requests]* link, then you will be taken directly to the join requests for a group.

Once you have selected a usergroup, you will be presented with a screen that looks similar to this:

Example Joinable Group - (Join Requests: 1)					
(Usergroup Leader: Administrator)					
User Name	Reason	Date	Accept	Deny	Ignore
Example User	Example reason	02-25-2004 12:57 AM	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<input type="button" value="Process"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>					

Each outstanding join request will be listed here. Selecting *Accept* will add this user to the group; *Deny* will remove the request, preventing the user from joining the group; and *Ignore* will simply leave the request as-is. Additionally, you can click the [*Accept*], [*Deny*], and [*Ignore*] buttons to quick select an option for each request.

Usergroup Promotions

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vBulletin also allows you to setup automatic usergroup promotions, so that users who meet specific criteria are moved into or become a secondary member of another usergroup, generally with greater permissions. By default, promotions are checked hourly.

Once you enter this section (Usergroups > Promotions), you will see a screen similar to this:

Promotions: (COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation [Add New Promotion]						
Usergroup	Promotion Type	Promotion Strategy	Reputation Level	Days Registered	Posts	Controls
Registered Users	Primary Usergroup	Reputation	1000	30	100	[Edit] [Delete]
Add New Promotion						

Here you can edit or delete existing promotions or add a new one. The section below will discuss adding and editing a promotion.

Adding or Editing a Promotion

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Add New Promotion	
Usergroup	(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation ▼
Reputation Comparison Type	Greater or Equal to ▼
Reputation Level	<input type="text" value="1000"/>
Days Registered	<input type="text" value="30"/>
Posts	<input type="text" value="100"/>
Promotion Strategy	Reputation ▼
Choose the way that you wish the above values to be evaluated	
Promotion Type	Primary Usergroup ▼
Type of promotion that the user is to receive. Select ' Primary Usergroup ' to change the user's main usergroup to this group or select ' Additional Usergroups ' to add this group to the user's additional usergroups	
Move User to Usergroup	▼
Jumping is evaluated based on the time period defined in the Scheduled Tasks section (Default: Every 1 Hour)	
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Note:

This section will detail adding a promotion. Almost all of the information in this section applies to editing a promotion as well.

This is the page where you detail specifics of your promotion. The fields are used as follows:

- **Usergroup** – this defines the primary usergroup which users must be in to be affected by this permission.
 Note:
 This is not available when editing a promotion. If you need to change a promotion's source usergroup, create a new promotion and delete the old one.
- **Reputation Comparison Type** – while the *Days Registered* and *Posts* criteria always refer to a *Greater of Equal to* scheme, reputation promotions may be specified with a *Greater or Equal to* or *Less Than* scheme. This allows you to setup negative reputation promotions. For example, users with a reputation of less than -100 may be demoted into a usergroup with less permissions.
- **Reputation Level** – the threshold point for the user's reputation score.
- **Days Registered** – threshold point for number of days a user has been registered. This always refers to a *Greater or Equal to* scheme.
- **Posts** – threshold point for number of posts a user has. This always refers to a *Greater of Equal to* scheme.
- **Promotion Strategy** – allows you to select which combination of criteria a user must meet before being promoted. This ranges from having to have at least a certain amount of posts to meeting one of the three criteria to meeting all three.
- **Promotion Type** – allows you to select whether the promoted users become primary or secondary users in the group.
- **Move User to Usergroup** – this is the usergroup that users who meet the criteria you specified above will be moved to.

Managing Forum Permissions

Managing your forum permissions is similar to editing global usergroup permissions, but allows more control. If you click Usergroups > Forum Permissions, you will see a screen similar to this:

The screenshot shows the 'Forum Permissions' interface. At the top, there's a color key with four entries: 'Color Key' (grey), 'Standard' (green), 'Customized' (red), and 'Inherited' (orange). Below this, there are two main sections: 'Main Category' and 'Main Forum'. Each section contains a list of usergroups with edit links. In the 'Main Category' section, the 'Registered Users' group is red ('Customized'). In the 'Main Forum' section, the 'Registered Users' group is orange ('Inherited').

Usergroup	Category
(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation	Standard
Administrators	Standard
Banned Users	Inherited
Moderators	Standard
Promotion Finish Usergroup	Standard
Registered Users	Customized
Super Moderators	Standard
Unregistered / Not Logged In	Standard
Users Awaiting Email Confirmation	Standard

Usergroup	Category
(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation	Standard
Administrators	Standard
Banned Users	Inherited
Moderators	Standard
Promotion Finish Usergroup	Standard
Registered Users	Inherited
Super Moderators	Standard
Unregistered / Not Logged In	Standard
Users Awaiting Email Confirmation	Standard

Here, you will see each forum on your board with a list of all usergroups under each forum. Notice the color key at the top. In this example, red indicates that a usergroup has a custom forum permission specified for this forum, while orange indicates that the group is inheriting a permission from a parent forum. Otherwise, no forum permission has been specified, so the group will be using its global usergroup permissions.

Next to each forum title, you will see 2 links:

- **Reset** – this will automatically delete any custom permissions that were set for this forum. It will not change any permissions that are being inherited from a parent forum.
- **Deny All** – this will automatically remove deny every usergroup access to this forum (every individual permission will be set to no for each usergroup). This is helpful if you want to deny access to a forum for most groups

To edit or add a forum permission, simply find the appropriate forum and usergroup, and click *[Edit]*. This will lead you to this screen:

Edit Forum Permissions For Usergroup: Moderators in Forum Main Category [Help ?](#)

Use Usergroup Default Permissions (Note: this will delete any previous custom permissions set)
 Use Custom Permissions

Edit Forum Permissions		All Yes	All No
Forum Viewing Permissions			
Can View Forum	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can View Others' Threads	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can See Deletion Notices	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Search Forum	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Use Email to Friend	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Download Attachments	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Post Permissions			
Can Post Threads	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Reply to Own Threads	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Reply to Others' Threads	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Always Moderate This Group's Posts	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Upload Attachments	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Rate Threads	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Post / Thread Permissions			
Can Edit Own Posts	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Delete Own Posts	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Move Own Threads	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Open / Close Own Threads	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Delete Own Threads	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Poll Permissions			
Can Post Polls	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Can Vote on Polls	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?	
Save		Reset	

These permissions will likely look familiar to you because they are a subset of the options you can specify when editing global usergroup permissions. If you are unsure of what a specific option does, click the inline help icon for more information.

Note:

To delete a forum permission from this screen, make sure *Use Usergroup Default Permissions* is selected at the top of the page.

Additional Forum Permission Tools

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At the top of the forum permissions page (Usergroups > Forum Permissions), you will see a box that looks like this:

Additional Functions [Help ?](#)

[Permission Duplication Tools](#) | [Permissions Quick Editor](#) | [Quick Forum Permission Setup](#)

This section will describe each of these options in detail.

Permission Duplication Tools

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User Group-Based Permission Duplicator

Copy Permissions from User Group	<input type="button" value="Registered Users"/>
Copy Permissions to User Groups	<input type="checkbox"/> (COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation <input type="checkbox"/> Administrators <input type="checkbox"/> Banned Users <input type="checkbox"/> Moderators <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion Finish Usergroup <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Users <input type="checkbox"/> Super Moderators <input type="checkbox"/> Unregistered / Not Logged In <input type="checkbox"/> Users Awaiting Email Confirmation
Only Copy Permissions from Forum (Includes sub-forums)	<input type="button" value="All Forums"/>
Overwrite Duplicate Entries	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Overwrite Inherited Entries	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
<input type="button" value="Go"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Forum-Based Permission Duplicator

Copy Permissions from Forum (Does not include sub-forums)	<input type="button" value="Main Category (No Posting)"/>
Copy Permissions to Forums	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Category <input type="checkbox"/> -- Main Forum
Overwrite Duplicate Entries	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Overwrite Inherited Entries	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
<input type="button" value="Go"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

This page allows you to quickly duplicate existing permissions, both by usergroup and by forum. This is helpful if you are setting up a usergroup or forum that is similar to an existing entry.

The usergroup-based permission duplicator will copy permissions from a usergroup into one or more groups. You can limit this to specific forums with the *Only Copy Permissions from Forum* option. Additionally, to prevent accidentally overwriting, there are the *Overwrite Duplicate Entries* and *Overwrite Inherited Entries* settings. Overwrite Duplicate Entries prevents you from overwriting any existing permissions set for a forum (that is, they're in red) for one of the usergroups you are copying to. Overwrite Inherited Entries is similar, except it refers to cases where permissions aren't directly specified for a forum but a parent forum (orange entries).

The forum-based permission duplicator works similarly, except that it copies all permissions in a forum to another forum. Overwrite Duplicate Entries and Overwrite Inherited Entries behave the same way.

Permissions Quick Editor

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Permissions Quick Editor			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forum	Usergroup	Controls
<input type="checkbox"/>	Main Category	Registered Users	[Edit]
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="button" value="Delete Selected Permissions"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

The permissions quick editor is simply another interface to view existing permissions and quickly edit or delete them. You can sort the page by forum or usergroup by clicking the *Forum* and *Usergroup* links at the top, respectively. The checkbox on the left can be used to delete many permissions at once. Finally, the *[Edit]* link takes you to the same page as the *[Edit]* link in the forum permission manager.

Quick Forum Permission Setup

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Permissions Quick Editor			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forum	Usergroup	Controls
<input type="checkbox"/>	Main Category	Registered Users	[Edit]
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="button" value="Delete Selected Permissions"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

The quick forum permission setup page allows you to specify one set of permissions in a forum for multiple usergroups simultaneously. This is useful in situations such as setting up a private forum where you are denying several groups access to the forum (that is, all permissions are set to no).

The permissions you can set here are the same as you can elsewhere in the forum permissions system.

Warning:

As the page mentions, permissions set with this will automatically overwrite any existing permissions set for this forum if there is a conflict. There is no *Overwrite <Some Type of> Entries* option, as it is assumed that you know which groups already have permissions specified.

Practical Examples of Permission Schemes

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The section will cover a few examples of things commonly done with vBulletin's permission system.

An Announcement Forum

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This forum will be viewable by all, but only administrators will be able to post new threads (the announcements). To allow discussion, any user will be able to respond to the announcements.

- 1 Click Usergroups > Forum Permissions > find the forum you want to setup this way > click *Edit* next a usergroup other than *Administrators*.
- 2 Set *Can Post Threads* to no, *Can Reply to Own Threads* to yes, and *Can Reply to Others' Threads* to yes. How you set the rest of the permissions is up to you.
- 3 Click [Save].
- 4 Repeat this process for each group other than *Administrators*.

A Private Forum

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This forum will only be accessible by administrators and moderators. This could be used to discuss internal board affairs.

- 1 Click Usergroups > Forum Permissions > find the forum you want to setup this way > click *Edit* next a usergroup other than *Administrators* or *Moderators*.
- 2 Click [All No].
- 3 Click [Save].
- 4 Repeat this process for each group other than *Administrators* and *Moderators*.

Registration-Required Board

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This will setup your board so that only users who have been registered may view it. This is helpful for tracking users more efficiently, but may stifle the forum's growth because of the additional effort required for new users to become involved.

- 1 Click Usergroups > Usergroup Manager > *Edit Usergroup* next to (*COPPA*) *Users Awaiting Moderation*.
- 2 Change *Can View Forum* to no; you can set any other setting as you like.
- 3 Click [Update].
- 4 Repeat this process for *Unregistered / Not Logged In* and *Users Awaiting Email Confirmation*.

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User Titles

The user title manager allows you to set up a 'ladder' of titles that can be applied to users based on the number of posts they have made.

For example, when a user registers he may be given the title 'Junior Member', then when that user has made 100 posts he could be granted the user title 'Senior Member'.

The numbers of posts required to climb each 'rung' of the ladder, and the actual titles given are entirely up to you.

An Introduction to User Titles

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User titles are the descriptions of a user that are displayed under his or her username in a post. These titles will often refer to one of three things:

- The user's amount of activity on the board (Junior Member, Senior Member).*
This is usually set through the default user title ladder that will be described in this section.
- The user's relationship to the board (Administrator, Moderator).* This is usually set through a usergroup-specific user title that overrides the default user title ladder.
- A custom title, specified by the user; this can refer to anything the user desires.*
The user may not have permission to set their own user title; it is controlled by a usergroup permission.



User Title Manager

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To edit existing user titles, go to User Titles > User Title Manager. You will be presented with a screen similar to this:

User Title	Minimum Posts	Controls
Junior Member	0	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
Member	30	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
Senior Member	100	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>

Add New User Title

The columns represent the following:

- User Title** – the title that users will receive once that have the *Minimum Posts* number of posts or more.
 - Minimum Posts** – the minimum number of posts for a user to receive this title. He or she will have this title until he or she makes enough posts to be moved to the title with the next highest *Minimum Posts* value.
- Note:
The post count checked against the *Minimum Posts* value is the value stored with the user. Therefore, posts in forums that do not count posts will not have an effect.

- Controls** – the dropdown in this column allows you to edit or delete this user title.

Adding or Editing a User Title

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Adding a new user title is a simple process. Go to User Titles > Add New User Title and you will be presented with a form that looks like this:

Add New User Title		Help ?
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Minimum Posts	<input type="text"/>	?
Save Reset		

- Title** – the user title that each user who meets the *Minimum Posts* criteria will receive.
 - Minimum Posts** – the minimum number of posts that a user needs to receive this title.
- Note:
If a user has enough posts to receive a title with a higher *Minimum Posts* value, he or she will receive that title instead.

User Infractions

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The User Infraction system is designed to automate the management of misbehaving users.

Infractions carry a point total that is awarded to users. When a user reaches pre-determined point levels, the user is given infraction groups. Infraction groups are set up to restrict the permissions of users.

The system can also be configured to institute automatic bans based on points or number of infractions received.

An Introduction to User Infractions

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The User Infraction system is designed to automate the management of misbehaving users.

The first step in the system is the creation of Infraction Levels. These levels will vary based on the content of your forum and the scale of the system that you wish to create. You can create just a few levels or can get very detailed with many levels covering a myriad of forum infractions.

When creating levels, keep in mind a point total at which you wish to start penalizing users by taking away permissions. If you envision taking away a certain permission when a user accumulates 10 infraction points then you need to consider how many points will be given for each infraction and how quickly the user can get to 10 points.

Each infraction level has an expiration time. When the infraction expires, the associated points are removed from the user's point total and the user's infraction groups are recalculated.

Infraction levels can also be allowed to be given as warnings. A warning does not add any infraction points to the user's point total. Warnings serve as a method to remind user's of your forum's rules and encourage them to be followed without awarding infraction points. Moderators have the ability to give an infraction or a warning for those levels that have the warning ability enabled. Moderators will be forced to send a message to the user that details why the infraction is being given. This message will use the Private Messaging System if it is enabled. Otherwise an email will be sent if your forum has Email enabled. At the same time, a new thread for discussion of the infraction will be created in a pre-determined forum. This forum is setup in the vBulletin Options > User Infractions Options section.

There are two methods in which you may penalize users. The first method is utilizing infraction groups to gradually remove permissions.

Normal permissions work by combining all of a user's usergroup permissions and granting a permission for any that have a yes. Infraction group permissions work in the reverse as all infraction group permissions are combined and any permission with a No is taken from the user. You should set up your infraction usergroups (in the Usergroup Manager) by setting all permissions to Yes and then setting those that you wish to take away to No.

Any permissions set to No will effect all forums. If you only wish to penalize a user in certain forums, set all permissions to Yes and then set up custom permissions at Usergroups > Forum Permissions for the forum in question using the infraction group.

A user can have multiple infraction groups as they will gain all groups that apply to their primary usergroupid and accumulated points.

The second method by which you may penalize users is by setting up automatic bans. You may set up bans that only apply to specific usergroups as well as apply to all users. Bans may be triggered either by points or by the number of infractions that the user has received. An example setup would be to ban a user for one week for receiving their third infraction and then banning them permanently for receiving their sixth infraction.

Infraction groups and automatic bans may be utilized at the same time but managing a system utilizing both can be tricky.

Navigate to User Infractions > User Infraction Manager to view your current infraction levels, groups and bans. If you have none set up, you can easily add either from this screen.

User Infraction Levels						Help 
Title	Points	Expires	Warning	Extend	Controls	
Spammed Advertisements	1	1 Hour(s)	Yes	Yes	Edit  Go 	
Insulted Other Member(s)	1	10 Day(s)	Yes	Yes	Edit  Go 	
Signature Rule Violation	1	10 Day(s)	Yes	No	Edit  Go 	
Inappropriate Language	1	10 Day(s)	Yes	No	Edit  Go 	
Expire Test	1	1 Day(s)	Yes	No	Edit  Go 	

[Add New User Infraction Level](#)

User Infraction Groups					Help 
Primary Usergroup	Override Usergroup	Override Display	Points	Controls	
Registered Users	Blue	Yes	2	Edit  Go 	
All Usergroups	My New Group	Yes	10	Edit  Go 	

[Add New User Infraction Group](#)

Automatic Ban					Help 
Primary Usergroup	Ban Usergroup	Amount	Method	Ban Period	Controls
All Usergroups	Banned	5	Points	3 Day(s)	Edit  Go 
All Usergroups	Banned	10	Points	5 Day(s)	Edit  Go 
All Usergroups	Banned	3	Infractions	Permanent	Edit  Go 

[Add New Automatic Ban](#)

To add a new level, navigate to User Infractions > Add New User Infraction Level.

To add a new group, navigate to User Infractions > Add New User Infraction Group.

To add a new automatic ban, navigate to User Infractions > Add New Automatic Ban.

Modifying User Infraction Levels

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The following screen is presented to you after navigating to User Infractions->Add New User Infraction Level.

Add New User Infraction Level		Help 
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Expires	<input type="text" value="10"/> Days 	?
Points	<input type="text" value="1"/>	?
Warning	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Extend	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

Title - This is the title of the infraction. Translations can be entered after the infraction level is created by editing the infraction level and selecting [Translations].

Expires - This is the timeframe for which the infraction level will be active. When the infraction expires, the associated points will be removed from the user's infraction total. If a value of **Never** is chosen, then this infraction will never expire.

Points - This is number of infraction points that this infraction level will penalize for. A value of at least 1 must be entered.

Warning - Setting this option to **Yes** will allow a warning to be given for this infraction level. A warning carries no points as it only serves to remind an user of your forum rules.

Extend - When this option is enabled a user will receive extended expiration times if given a second (or more) infraction that matches an existing active infraction. For example, a user is given an infraction for spamming posts that expires in 1 day. An hour later this user is given another spamming posts infraction. Since the user already had an active spamming posts infraction, this new infraction's expiration time is added to the end time of the previous infraction. Effectively, this new infraction will now end 1 day and 23 hours later instead of the default of 1 day. If the user was given a third infraction, it would be added to the end of the second infraction as well.

To modify an existing infraction level, select the <Edit> option to the right of the level in the User Infraction Manager. Editing an User Infraction Level presents you with the same options as adding a new level.

To remove a level, select the <Delete> option to the right of the infraction level in the User Infraction Manager.

Modifying User Infraction Groups

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The following screen is presented to you after navigating to User Infractions->Add New User Infraction Group.

Add New User Infraction Group

Points	<input type="text"/>	?
Primary Usergroup	-- All Usergroups --	?
Override with Permissions from Usergroup	(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation	?
Override Display	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

Points - This is the number of points that will be added to the user's infraction points.

Primary Usergroup - This infraction group will only apply to user's who have this usergroup as their primary usergroup. Selecting -- All Usergroups -- will apply this infraction group to all users.

Override with Permissions from Usergroup - This usergroup will be used to penalize the user. Any permission that is set to No will be taken from the user.

Override Display - This overrides the user's username markup and user title with the settings from the infraction usergroup.

To modify an existing infraction group, select the <Edit> option to the right of the infraction group in the User Infraction Manager. Editing an User Infraction Group presents you with the same options as adding a new group.

To remove a group, select the <Delete> option to the right of the infraction group in the User Infraction Manager.

Modifying Automatic Bans

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The following screen is presented to you after navigating to User Infractions->Add New Automatic Ban.

Add New Automatic Ban

Amount	<input type="text"/>
Method	Points
Primary Usergroup	-- All Usergroups --
Move User to Usergroup	Banned
Lift Ban After...	1 Day(s)
Select the length of the ban here. The ban will be lifted at the time specified	
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Amount - This is the number of points or the number of infractions that will trigger this ban. This trigger will happen any time that the user goes from being below this points/infractions to over it.

Method - The ban can either be triggered by accumulated points or infractions.

Primary Usergroup - This ban will only apply to user's who have this usergroup as their primary usergroup. Selecting -- All Usergroups -- will apply this ban to all users.

Move User to Usergroup – the usergroup to move this user to. This usergroup should have reduced permissions, if any at all.

Note:

Only usergroups that are specified as banned groups will be displayed here.

Lift Ban After... – the ban's length. This ranges from 1 day to 2 years to permanent.

To modify an existing automatic ban, select the <Edit> option to the right of the ban in the User Infraction Manager. Editing a ban presents you with the same options as adding a new ban.

To remove a ban, select the <Delete> option to the right of the automatic ban in the User Infraction Manager.

Viewing User Infractions

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If you wish to see which users have received infractions, you may navigate to User Infractions > View Infractions. You will be presented with a form, allowing you to search based on criteria such as the user the infraction was left for or by (optional) and a range of dates to search across.

View Infractions

Left For	<input type="text"/>
Left By	<input type="text"/>
Status	All
Infraction Level	All
Start Date	Month: February Day: 11 Year: 2006
End Date	Month: March Day: 13 Year: 2006
<input type="button" value="Go"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Once you submit this form you will receive results in a table like this:

Infraction Viewer (page 1/1) There are 1 total entries.							
User Name	Left By	Date	Type	Points	Expires	Post	Controls
Craig Antill	freddie	16:24, 13th Mar 2006	Infraction	1	16:24, 23rd Mar 2006	[Post] [View] [Delete]	[Reverse]

This shows:

- The user that received the infraction
- The user that left the infraction
- The date and time the infraction was left
- The type of Infraction
- The number of points that was given for the infraction
- The expiration time of the infraction
- The post that the infraction was left for

You may also delete or reverse the infraction that was left.

Issuing User Infractions

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There are two ways to issue infractions to a user after you have completed the setup in the Admin Control Panel. You can give a general infraction or a per post infraction.

General Infractions are given by visiting the User's Profile and clicking on the Infractions tab. Here you can see a history of the infractions that a user has received and issue a new one. Clicking on a user's name anywhere in the front-end part of the system will provide access to their user profile.

To give an infraction for a particular offending post, you would need to click on the "Yellow Card / Red Card" icon. The location of the icon can varies depending on the Postbit layout that you use and your style. By default it looks like this .

After selecting to give a new infraction, you will see the infraction screen. Here you can choose the infraction to issue, add an administrative note and send a message to the user.

User Ranks

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User Ranks are similar to User Titles in that they allow users to progress through a number of classes depending upon the number of posts they have made.

However, User Ranks are more flexible than User Titles because they can (if desired) be applied to specific usergroups, and can contain images and HTML in the titles.

An Introduction to User Ranks

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User ranks are images or text that are assigned to your users based on their post count. The most common usage of ranks is that of **stars** that increase or change color based on the user's post count and usergroup.

User's ranks generally appear beneath their username on posts, private messages, announcements, usernotes and in their profile.

Ranks can be assigned to specific usergroups or they can be assigned to cover all groups who don't have a rank specifically assigned to them.

As of vBulletin 3.5, it is possible for a user to display multiple ranks by being a member of multiple user groups, each with specific ranks. vBulletin 3.0 only allowed a single set of ranks to be displayed for a user. This is covered in more detail when editing a rank is discussed.

Navigate to User Ranks > User Rank Manager to view your current ranks. If you have none set up, you will only see the small notice that defines user ranks.

User Rank Manager Help ?

User ranks are images that appear beneath your user's names on their posts. Ranks assigned to All Usergroups appear for everyone.

It is recommended that you [update user titles and ranks](#) after adding, editing, and deleting user titles or ranks.

User Rank	Minimum Posts	Display Type	Stack Rank	Controls
:::Newbie:::	10	Always	No	[Edit] [Delete]

All Usergroups Help ?

User Rank	Minimum Posts	Display Type	Stack Rank	Controls
:::Newbie:::	10	Always	No	[Edit] [Delete]

Administrators Help ?

User Rank	Minimum Posts	Display Type	Stack Rank	Controls
:::Administrator:::	1	Displaygroup	No	[Edit] [Delete]

The figure above demonstrates a simple rank scheme. In this setup, members of the Administrator group who have at least 1 post would have the rank of three smilies. Since we have also set up a rank to cover All Usergroups, all members, including the Administrator group, with at least 10 posts would have a rank of :::Newbie:::.

To add a new rank, navigate to User Ranks > Add New User Rank.

Modifying User Ranks

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The following screen is presented to you after navigating to User Ranks->Add New User Rank.

User Rank: (id: 0) Help ?

Number of times to repeat rank:	<input type="text" value="1"/>	?
Usergroup	<input type="text" value="All Usergroups"/>	?
Minimum Posts	<input type="text" value="10"/>	?
Stack Rank	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Display Type	<input type="text" value="Always"/>	?

Rank Type Help ?

User Rank File Path	<input type="text" value="images/"/>	?
OR you may enter text	<input type="text"/>	?
HTML is allowed		

Save **Reset**

Number of Times to Repeat Rank - This generally applies to ranks that are images. This is the number of time the image will be repeated. If you wanted 4 stars to appear, you would either create an image of 4 stars and set this to 1 or you would create an image of 1 star and set this to 4.

Usergroup - This is the usergroup that this rank applies to. If you want it to apply to all groups then leave it set to *All Usergroups*.

Note:

When this is set to *All Usergroups*, **Display Type** controls an important feature. If **Display Type** is set to 'always', then this rank will display for every user, no matter what other ranks you may have defined for their usergroups. When set to 'if displaygroup = this group', then this rank will only display if the user has no other ranks explicitly defined for their usergroup. You use this setup to create a generic rank for everyone but keep it from displaying for other groups that have a special rank (Admin, Moderator, etc)

Minimum Posts - This is the minimum number of posts that the user must have to obtain this rank. If you set this to 20 and then created a second rank for the same usergroup that had a minimum posts of 30 then this rank would be shown only for users in this usergroup that have from 20 to 29 posts.

Stack Rank - This allows you to control how ranks are displayed in case a user has multiple ranks displayed. If you set this yes, this rank will be displayed on its own line. If you set this to no, this rank will follow the previous rank on the same line.

Display Type - This option controls who the rank will be shown for. If you select 'always', the rank will be displayed for any user that has this user group as a primary or secondary group. If you select 'if displaygroup = this group', then this rank will only be shown if the user is currently being identified as this group. If you are not using multiple-group membership, this option does not have any effect.

Note:

Remember, the rank will apply to the users **Primary Usergroup** unless the user has chosen to be identified by a **Secondary Usergroup** through Public Groups.

User Rank File Path - This is the file path to the image you wish to use. It is relative to your forum directory, i.e. images/smilies/bigggrin.gif.

OR you may enter text - If you wish to use text instead of an image, you would put in this field.

To modify an existing rank, press <Edit> to the right of the rank in the User Rank Manager. Editing a User Rank presents you with the same options as adding a new rank.

To remove a rank, select the <Delete> option to the right of the user rank in the User Rank Manager.

User Ranks Example 1

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This example will demonstrate how you would setup a group of ranks for all users, based on post count. Administrators will get a special rank and will not have the rank that everyone else has.

All Usergroups					Help ?
User Rank	Minimum Posts	Display Type	Stack Rank	Controls	
★	10	Displaygroup	No	[Edit] [Delete]	
★★	20	Displaygroup	No	[Edit] [Delete]	
★★★	30	Displaygroup	No	[Edit] [Delete]	
★★★★	40	Displaygroup	No	[Edit] [Delete]	

Administrators					Help ?
User Rank	Minimum Posts	Display Type	Stack Rank	Controls	
ADMIN	10	Always	No	[Edit] [Delete]	

Since we have set the **Display Type** of the All Usergroups ranks to *Displaygroup*, we have invoked the special setting mentioned in [Modifying User Ranks](#). The All Usergroups ranks will display for everyone except for those in the Administrator group since that group has a rank explicitly defined, the ADMIN rank. Since we have set **Stack Rank** to **No** for both ranks, that means that the rank will appear all on one line.

Ranks are evaluated by usergroupid in reverse order. This means that the All Usergroups rank will appear last. If you wish to have ADMIN appear on one line, and the All Usergroups rank on another, you would set the **Stack Rank** option of the Administrator group to **Yes**. This will result in an html
 being placed after ADMIN. The All Usergroups rank would then follow, displaying on a new line.

The ADMIN rank would only display for users that had the Administrator group as their primary Usergroup or as a Secondary group. If the **Display Type** of the Administrator group's rank was changed to *Displaygroup*, then this rank would only show for those user's who have set the Administrator group as their displaygroup. That would be accomplished either by the user only being in the Administrator group, being a member of multiple groups assigned by the admin and having the Admin group as their displaygroup, or by having used Public Groups to to join the Admin group and choosing that as their display group.

The last scenario is quite silly since you would not allow members to join the Admin group on their own choosing but the logic can be applied to other groups. You could use paid subscriptions to assign a user to a group with a rank defined as above.

User Reputation

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The User Reputation system allows your board members to leave comments about one another's posts, and thereby contribute to their overall 'reputation'.

Using the User Reputation manager, you can create titles for a variety of reputation levels, so that users are given a reputation title when they reach a certain reputation level.

An Introduction to User Reputation

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User Reputation in its simplest form is a ranking of your user's benefit to your forum. Its basis comes from the opinions of all of your forum users that choose take part in it.

Users gain and lose reputation based on how their posts are scored by other forum participants. Users with the ability to affect reputation, will either give or take away points by approving or disapproving with a post's content.

User reputation can be a divisive element of your forum so great care should be taken before a decision is made to enable it.

All of the factors that affect a user's reputation score are found in the User Reputation section of the vBulletin Options. Please view that section of the manual for more information on controlling how users are able to affect another user's reputation.

Modifying User Reputation Levels

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As users, gain and lose reputation, they are associated with a moniker that describes their current level. These levels are modifiable by navigating to User Reputations->User Reputation Manager.

User Reputation Manager	Help ?	
Reputation Level	Minimum Reputation Level	Controls
User is infamous around these parts	-99999	[Edit] [Delete]
User can only hope to improve	-50	[Edit] [Delete]
User has a little shameless behaviour in the past	-10	[Edit] [Delete]
User is an unknown quantity at this point	0	[Edit] [Delete]
User is on a distinguished road	10	[Edit] [Delete]
User will become famous soon enough	50	[Edit] [Delete]
User has a spectacular aura about	150	[Edit] [Delete]
User is a jewel in the rough	250	[Edit] [Delete]
User is just really nice	350	[Edit] [Delete]
User is a glorious beacon of light	450	[Edit] [Delete]
User is a name known to all	550	[Edit] [Delete]
User is a splendid one to behold	650	[Edit] [Delete]
User has much to be proud of	1000	[Edit] [Delete]
User has a brilliant future	1500	[Edit] [Delete]
User has a reputation beyond repute	2000	[Edit] [Delete]
<input type="button" value="Update"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

In the above example, we have all of the levels that users on this forum can achieve. For example, a user with a reputation of **55** would have the level of *will become famous soon enough*. A user with a reputation of **-5** would have a level of *has a little shameless behaviour in the past*. Since the lowest level in this example is **-99999**, any user with a reputation lower than this would use the default undefined level that is set in the reputation section of the vBulletin Options.

From this screen you can choose to edit a level description, change a level minimum or remove a level. If you wanted to change the minimum level of *has a reputation beyond repute* from **2000** to **3000** you would enter **3000** in the input field where **2000** is currently and press [Update]

If you wished to change the text of *has a reputation beyond repute*, you would press the <Edit> link.

Reputation Level: has a reputation beyond repute (id: 2000) [Help](#) ?

Description	has a reputation beyond repute	?
Minimum Reputation Level	2000	?
Update Reset		

From this screen you can also change the minimum level as you can from the previous screen. Enter the new level text in the *Description* field but take care as you can not use HTML in this field. Press [Update] when finished.

Adding a new reputation level presents you with the same screen, but only empty. Make sure to choose a reputation level that is not the same as a level that already exists as levels must be unique. You will not be allowed to save the field if you duplicate a minimum level.

Viewing Reputation Comments

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If you wish to see which users are leaving reputation for others and the comments they are making, you may navigate to User Reputation > View Reputation Comments. You will be presented with a form, allowing you to search based on criteria such as the user the reputation was left for or by (optional) and a range of dates to search across.

View Reputation Comments [Help](#) ?

Left For				?
Left By				?
Start Date	Month	Day	Year	?
	August	28	2005	
End Date	Month	Day	Year	?
	September	27	2005	
Go Reset				

Once you submit this form you will receive results in a table like this:

1 Reputation Comments (Page 1/1)							Help ?
Left By	Left For	Date	Reputation	Reason	Post	Controls	
Administrator	Example User	00:15, 27th Sep 2005	10	this is my comment	[Post] [Edit] [Delete]		

This shows:

- The user that left the reputation
- The user that received the reputation
- The date and time the reputation was left
- The amount of reputation this user received
- The reason or comment the user giving the reputation left
- The post that prompted this user to leave reputation

You may also edit or delete the reputation that was left.

User Albums

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Album Picture Storage Type

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Starting with vBulletin 4.0, the user album storage is controlled by your [Attachment Storage](#) option. There is no longer a separate option for this.

Rebuild Thumbnails

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If you change any thumbnail settings, you will want to rebuild your existing thumbnails so they are consistent with newly uploaded thumbnails.

To rebuild your user album thumbnails, you would want to rebuild all attachment thumbnails under [Maintenance -> Update Counters](#)

Custom Profile Fields

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In addition to the default information you have users enter when they register to be members of your board, you can also define additional profile fields to suit your own board subject.

Commonly-used custom fields include 'Location', 'Occupation', 'Interests' etc.

An Introduction to Custom Profile Fields

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vBulletin features a wide array of input options for you to gather information from your members through the creation of custom profile fields. With these fields you can present a list of options for the user to choose from or you can ask the user to give their own input. You can even combine the two options for maximum usability.

There are six input options for you to choose from to tailor your required data collection method.

- **Single-Line Text Box** - This is a textbox that allows the user to enter a response.
- **Multiple-Line Text Box** - This is also a textbox (textarea), except it consists of multiple lines,
- **Single-Selection Radio Buttons** - This option offers the user a choice of multiple answers, allowing them to make one selection.
- **Single-Selection Menu** - This option also offers the user a choice of multiple answers except that it is presented as a dropdown menu. It also allows the user to make one selection.
- **Multiple-Selection Menu** - This option offers multiple choices to the user, allowing multiple selections to be made. This is presented as a drop down menu plus a selection box.
- **Multiple-Selection Checkbox** - This option also offers multiple choices to the user, allowing multiple selections to be made. This is presented as checkboxes.

These fields can be required at registration or you can have them be shown after registration via the user's profile and options in the User CP. Administrators can make profile fields able to be edited only during registration or anytime.

Adding a New Custom Profile Field

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To add a new profile field, navigate to User Profile Fields->Add New User Profile Field

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled 'Add New User Profile Field'. Under 'Profile Field Type', a dropdown menu is set to 'Single-Selection Menu'. At the bottom is a 'Continue' button.

At this screen you pick which of the six types of input that you wish to use.

Depending on which type of input field you choose to create, you will be presented with varying configuration options.

Single-Line Text Box

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The screenshot shows the configuration options for a Single-Line Text Box. The fields include:

- Title:** Text input field.
- Description:** Large text area with scroll bars and size controls (Increase Size, Decrease Size).
- Default Value:** Text input field with a note: "You may specify a default value that is entered into this field at the time of registration."
- Max length of allowed user input:** Text input field set to 100.
- Field Length:** Text input field set to 2.
- Display Order:** Text input field set to 10.
- Field Required:** Dropdown menu set to 'No'.
- Field Editable by User:** Dropdown menu set to 'Yes'.
- Private Field:** Radio buttons: Yes (selected) and No.
- Field Searchable on Members List:** Radio buttons: Yes (selected) and No.
- Show on Members List:** Radio buttons: Yes (selected) and No.
- Regular Expression:** Text input field with a note: "You may require the input field to match a regular expression (PCRE)."

Title - The name of your profile field.

Description - Explain to the member what you want them to answer in this field.

Default Value - If the member doesn't change this field, then this will be the value stored in their profile.

Max length of allowed user input - The maximum number of characters that the member will be allowed to input.

Field Length - The HTML width of the input box on the screen.

Display Order - The order of the field in relation to any other custom profile fields.

Field Required - You can require the user to answer this field at registration. If you add it after the user registers, then they will need to answer it before they can update their profile. If set to *Yes, always* then the user will be forced to complete this field before doing anything else on the forum. If you wish to display this field at registration but not have it required, select *No, but display at registration*.

Field Editable by User - If disabled, this field will not appear to user when they edit their profile. *Only at registration* allows the user to only edit this field at registration or if the field is blank and set to be required.

Private Field - This field will only be visible to other users who have usergroup permission to view private profile fields.

Field Searchable on Members List - If enabled, this field is searchable via the Advanced Member's Search. If this field is hidden, then only Admins and Moderators will be able to search on this field.

Show on Members List - If enabled, field will appear on the member's list and if it is hidden only Administrators and Moderators will see it.

Regular Expression - Expressions allow you to filter the data you allow the user to input in the field. Regex can be rather complicated so ask for assistance if you have trouble getting this to work properly. For example, the following regex would only accept a number in the range of 1 to 50:

`^([1-9]$|[1-4][0-9]|50)$`

The following regex would only accept a 7 or 8 digit number:

`^(0-9){7,8}$`

Multiple-Line Text Box

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The screenshot shows the configuration interface for a 'Multiple-Line Text Box' profile field. The fields include:

- Title:** A text input field.
- Description:** A large text area with scroll bars, labeled 'Large Edit Box'.
- Default Value:** A text area with placeholder text: 'You may specify a default value that is entered into this field at the time of registration.'
- Max length of allowed user input:** A text input field containing '100'.
- Field Length:** A text input field containing '2'.
- Text Area Height:** A text input field containing '4'.
- Display Order:** A text input field containing '10'.
- Field Required:** A dropdown menu showing 'No'.
- Field Editable by User:** A dropdown menu showing 'Yes'.
- Private Field:** Radio buttons for 'Yes' (selected) and 'No'.
- Field Searchable on Members List:** Radio buttons for 'Yes' (selected) and 'No'.
- Regular Expression:** A text input field with placeholder text: 'You may require the input field to match a regular expression (PCRE)'.

Title - The name of your profile field.

Description - Explain to the member what you want them to answer in this field.

Default Value - If the member doesn't change this field, then this will be the value stored in their profile.

Max length of allowed user input - The maximum number of characters that the member will be allowed to input.

Field Length - The HTML width of the input box on the screen.

Text Area Height - Sets how many line tall the box is.

Display Order - The order of the field in relation to any other custom profile fields.

Field Required - You can require the user to answer this field at registration. If you add it after the user registers, then they will need to answer it before they can update their profile. If set to *Yes, always* then the user will be forced to complete this field before doing anything else on the forum. If you wish to display this field at registration but not have it required, select *No, but display at registration*.

Field Editable by User - If disabled, this field will not appear to user when they edit their profile. *Only at registration* allows the user to only edit this field at registration or if the field is blank and set to be required.

Private Field - This field will only be visible to other users who have usergroup permission to view private profile fields.

Field Searchable on Members List - If enabled, this field is search able via the Advanced Member's Search. If this field is hidden, then only Admins and Moderators will be able to search on this field.

Regular Expression - Expressions allow you to filter the data you allow the user to input in the field. Regex can be rather complicated so ask for assistance if you have trouble getting this to work properly. For example, the following regex would only accept a number in the range of 1 to 50:

`^([1-9]| [1-4][0-9]|50)$`

The following regex would only accept a 7 or 8 digit number:

`^(0-9){7,8}$`

Note:

Multiple-Line Text box fields can not be listed on the memberlist.

Single-Selection Radio Buttons

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Add New User Profile Field Single-Selection Radio Buttons	
Title	<input type="text"/>
Description	<input type="text"/>
Large Edit Box	<input type="text"/>
Increase Size Decrease Size	
Items Per Line	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Input 0 to display all of the controls on the same line unless they wrap due to the user's browser.	
Options	<input type="text"/>
Enter the options that the user can choose from. Separate each option with a new-line (carriage return).	
Increase Size Decrease Size	
Set Default	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Will set the first option as the default.	
Display Order	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Field Required	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Field Editable by User	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Private Field	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Field Searchable on Members List	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Show on Members List	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Title - The name of your profile field.

Description - Explain to the member what you want them to answer in this field.

Items Per Line - This is the number of radio buttons that will appear on one line in the user's browser. Set to 0 to have all of the choices appear on one line.

Options - Enter each of the options that the user can choose from. You need to enter each option on its own line.

Set Default - If this is set to <Yes> then the first option from above will be chose by default when the user registers.

Display Order - The order of the field in relation to any other custom profile fields.

Field Required - You can require the user to answer this field at registration. If you add it after the user registers, then they will need to answer it before they can update their profile. If set to *Yes*, *always* then the user will be forced to complete this field before doing anything else on the forum. If you wish to display this field at registration but not have it required, select *No*, *but display at registration*.

Field Editable by User - If disabled, this field will not appear to user when they edit their profile. *Only at registration* allows the user to only edit this field at registration or if the field is blank and set to be required.

Private Field - This field will only be visible to other users who have usergroup permission to view private profile fields.

Field Searchable on Members List - If enabled, this field is searchable via the Advanced Member's Search. If this field is hidden, then only Admins and Moderators will be able to search on this field.

Show on Members List - If enabled, field will appear on the member's list and if it is hidden only Administrators and Moderators will see it.

Optional Input		Help ?
Allow user to input their own value for this option	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Max length of allowed user input	100	?
Display Size	25	?
Regular Expression	You may require the input field to match a regular expression (PCRE).	

If you would like to also allow the choose the option of entering their own choice in addition to choosing one your yours, set *Allow user to input their own value for this option* to <Yes>.

Max length of allowed user input - The maximum number of characters that the member will be allowed to input.

Field Length - The HTML width of the input box on the screen.

Regular Expression - Expressions allow you to filter the data you allow the user to input in the field. Regex can be rather complicated so ask for assistance if you have trouble getting this to work properly. For example, the following regex would only accept a number in the range of 1 to 50:

`^(1-9$|[1-4][0-9]|50)$`

The following regex would only accept a 7 or 8 digit number:

`^([0-9]{7,8})$`

Single-Selection Menu

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Add New User Profile Field Single-Selection Menu		Help ?
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Description	<input type="text"/>	?
Large Edit Box	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Options	<input type="text"/>	
Enter the options that the user can choose from. Separate each option with a new-line (carriage return).		
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Set Default	<input type="text" value="Yes, Including a First Blank Option"/>	?
Will set the first option as the default.		
Display Order	<input type="text" value="10"/>	?
Field Required	<input type="text" value="No"/>	?
Field Editable by User	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	?
Private Field	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Field Searchable on Members List	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Show on Members List	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?

Title - The name of your profile field.

Description - Explain to the member what you want them to answer in this field.

Options - Enter each of the options that the user can choose from. You need to enter each option on its own line.

Set Default - There are three options:

- **None** - The selected option will be a blank field. If you require this field, this will force the user to make a choice.
- **Yes, Including a First Blank Option** - This sets the first option above as selected but also creates a blank option allowing the user to choose nothing if this field isn't required.
- **Yes, but No First Blank Option** - This also sets the first option above as selected but doesn't allow the user to choose a nothing since there is no empty option to choose from.

Display Order - The order of the field in relation to any other custom profile fields.

Field Required - You can require the user to answer this field at registration. If you add it after the user registers, then they will need to answer it before they can update their profile. If set to *Yes, always* then the user will be forced to

complete this field before doing anything else on the forum. If you wish to display this field at registration but not have it required, select *No, but display at registration*.

Field Editable by User - If disabled, this field will not appear to user when they edit their profile. *Only at registration* allows the user to only edit this field at registration or if the field is blank and set to be required.

Private Field - This field will only be visible to other users who have usergroup permission to view private profile fields.

Field Searchable on Members List - If enabled, this field is searchable via the Advanced Member's Search. If this field is hidden, then only Admins and Moderators will be able to search on this field.

Show on Members List - If enabled, field will appear on the member's list and if it is hidden only Administrators and Moderators will see it.

Optional Input		Help ?
Allow user to input their own value for this option	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Max length of allowed user input	100	?
Display Size	25	?
Regular Expression		?
You may require the input field to match a regular expression (PCRE).		

If you would like to also allow the choose the option of entering their own choice in addition to choosing one yours, set *Allow user to input their own value for this option* to <Yes>.

Max length of allowed user input - The maximum number of characters that the member will be allowed to input.

Field Length - The HTML width of the input box on the screen.

Regular Expression - Expressions allow you to filter the data you allow the user to input in the field. Regex can be rather complicated so ask for assistance if you have trouble getting this to work properly. For example, the following regex would only accept a number in the range of 1 to 50:

`^([1-9]|[1-4][0-9]|50)$`

The following regex would only accept a 7 or 8 digit number:

`^(0-9){7,8}$`

Multiple-Selection Menu

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Add New User Profile Field Multiple-Selection Menu		Help ?
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Description	<input type="text"/>	?
Large Edit Box	<input type="checkbox"/>	?
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Limit Selection	<input type="text" value="0"/>	?
Maximum number of options the user may select. Enter 0 to allow them to choose all of the options.		
Box Height	<input type="text" value="0"/>	?
Number of options to display simultaneously. 0 will display them all.		
Options	<input type="text"/>	?
Enter the options that the user can choose from. Separate each option with a new-line (carriage return).		
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Display Order	<input type="text" value="10"/>	?
Field Required	<input type="dropdown" value="No"/>	?
Field Editable by User	<input type="dropdown" value="Yes"/>	?
Private Field	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Field Searchable on Members List	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Show on Members List	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?

Title - The name of your profile field.

Description - Explain to the member what you want them to answer in this field.

Limit Selection - Limits the number of choices that the user may make. If you want to allow them to select all of the choices you offer, set this to **0**.

Box Height - Sets how many of the choices to display on the screen. If this number is smaller than the number of choices than the first X choices will be shown with the rest accessible to the user by scrolling.

Options - Enter each of the options that the user can choose from. You need to enter each option on its own line. You can enter a maximum of 32 options.

Display Order - The order of the field in relation to any other custom profile fields.

Field Required - You can require the user to answer this field at registration. If you add it after the user registers, then they will need to answer it before they can update their profile. If set to *Yes*, *always* then the user will be forced to complete this field before doing anything else on the forum. If you wish to display this field at registration but not have it required, select *No*, *but display at registration*.

Field Editable by User - If disabled, this field will not appear to user when they edit their profile. *Only at registration* allows the user to only edit this field at registration or if the field is blank and set to be required.

Private Field - This field will only be visible to other users who have usergroup permission to view private profile fields.

Field Searchable on Members List - If enabled, this field is searchable via the Advanced Member's Search. If this field is hidden, then only Admins and Moderators will be able to search on this field.

Show on Members List - If enabled, field will appear on the member's list and if it is hidden only Administrators and Moderators will see it.

Multiple-Selection Checkbox

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Add New User Profile Field Multiple-Selection Checkbox		Help ?
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Description	<input type="text"/>	?
If you choose to limit the number of choices in the next option, please add that information to the description.		
<input type="button" value="Large Edit Box"/>		<input type="button" value="Increase Size"/> <input type="button" value="Decrease Size"/>
Limit Selection	<input type="text" value="0"/>	?
Maximum number of options the user may select. Enter 0 to allow them to choose all of the options.		
Items Per Line	<input type="text" value="0"/>	?
Input 0 to display all of the controls on the same line unless they wrap due to the user's browser.		
Options	<input type="text"/>	
Enter the options that the user can choose from. Separate each option with a new-line (carriage return).		
<input type="button" value="Increase Size"/> <input type="button" value="Decrease Size"/>		?
Display Order	<input type="text" value="10"/>	?
Field Required	<input type="text" value="No"/>	?
Field Editable by User	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	?
Private Field	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Field Searchable on Members List	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Show on Members List	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?

Title - The name of your profile field.

Description - Explain to the member what you want them to answer in this field.

Limit Selection - Limits the number of choices that the user may make. If you want to allow them to select all of the choices you offer, set this to **0**.

Items Per Line - Sets how many of the choices to display on one line.

Options - Enter each of the options that the user can choose from. You need to enter each option on its own line. You can enter a maximum of 32 options.

Display Order - The order of the field in relation to any other custom profile fields.

Field Required - You can require the user to answer this field at registration. If you add it after the user registers, then they will need to answer it before they can update their profile. If set to *Yes, always* then the user will be forced to complete this field before doing anything else on the forum. If you wish to display this field at registration but not have it required, select *No, but display at registration*.

Field Editable by User - If disabled, this field will not appear to user when they edit their profile. *Only at registration* allows the user to only edit this field at registration or if the field is blank and set to be required.

Private Field - This field will only be visible to other users who have usergroup permission to view private profile fields.

Field Searchable on Members List - If enabled, this field is searchable via the Advanced Member's Search. If this field is hidden, then only Admins and Moderators will be able to search on this field.

Show on Members List - If enabled, field will appear on the member's list and if it is hidden only Administrators and Moderators will see it.

Modifying Existing Custom Profile Fields

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Editing a profile field follows the same procedures as adding a profile field. Navigate to User Profile Fields->User Profile Field Manager and select <Edit> next to the field you wish to edit.

There are a few points that you must consider when modifying an existing custom profile field.

The first is that profile fields are limited in what other field types that they can be converted to.

- Single-Line Text box can be converted to a Multiple-Line Text box and vice versa
- Multi-Selection Checkbox can be converted to a Multi-Selection Menu and Vice Versa

Any other conversions are not supported.

Secondly, a special form is required when modifying the user choices in the two Multi-Selection fields.

If you wish to add, delete or change the order of the options of a *Multiple-Selection Menu* or a *Multiple-Selection Checkbox* you will see the option Fields with a button labeled [Modify]. Pressing the [Modify] will present you with a screen like the following:

The screenshot shows a 'Modify' interface for managing options. At the top is a black header bar with the word 'Modify'. Below it is a table with a white background and a thin gray border. The table has one column and five rows. Each row contains a checkbox followed by a number (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), a link labeled '[Rename]', and a link labeled '[Delete]'. The checkboxes for items 1 through 4 are checked, while the one for item 5 is unchecked.

Move Option
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 [Rename] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 [Rename] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 [Rename] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 [Rename] [Delete]
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 [Rename] [Delete]

The screenshot shows an 'Add' interface for a new option. At the top is a black header bar with the word 'Add'. Below it is a table with a white background and a thin gray border. The table has two rows. The first row has two columns: 'Name' with a text input field containing a placeholder and 'Position' with a dropdown menu showing 'After '5''. The second row contains two buttons: 'Add New Option' and 'Reset'.

Add
Name <input type="text"/>
Position <input type="button" value="After '5'"/>
<input type="button" value="Add New Option"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>

To move an item up in the list, press the up arrow to the left of the item and to move an item down press the down arrow to the left of the item.

To rename or delete an item, choose the appropriate <link> to the right of the item.

To add a new choice to the list, enter the name of the choice in the box labeled *Name* and select where you want the new item to appear by changing the value of *Position*.

Paid Subscriptions

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The vBulletin Subscriptions system allows you to charge your visitors for access to specific areas and services that you may offer.

In general, this is achieved by temporarily making a subscribed user into a member of one or more specific usergroups, which have access to the site areas or services for which they have paid.

An Introduction to Subscriptions

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The Subscriptions system present in vBulletin allows the owner of the board the opportunity to create income via the forums.

Payment is processed automatically via the various online processors that support a call back to a user defined script, this allows the system to be virtually maintenance free.

Note:

If you run vBulletin with any sort of HTTP authentication system then the callback by the online processors will be subject to the same conditions and the subscription will not go through.

Payment API Manager

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This section will explain how to setup the appropriate variables to integrate with external Payment Gateways.

Paid Subscriptions > Payment API Manager will present you with the following screen, the Payment API Manager allows you to change the appropriate variables regarding payment as well as enable and disable a particular gateway.

Payment API Manager			Help ?
Title	Active	Controls	
Paypal	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>	
NOCHEX	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>	
Authorize.Net	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>	
Worldpay	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>	
2Checkout	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>	
CCBill	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>	

Within debug mode further Payment API's can be added, please refer to the Developer Documentation on how to create a Payment API.

PayPal

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- 1 Log in to your [PayPal](#) account
- 2 Click on the Profile subtab
- 3 Click on the Instant Payment Notification Preferences link in the 'Selling Preferences' column
- 4 Click Edit

You should now be presented with a screen containing the following:

Instant Payment Notification Preferences

Instant Payment Notification (IPN)

Instant Payment Notification integrates PayPal payment notification and authentication with your website's back-end operations. Check this box to activate Instant Payment Notification, and enter the URL at which you will receive the payment notifications below. This URL should be a URL which you own and at which you receive HTML posts.

Note: Before activating Instant Payment Notification, please [read the instructions](#) to ensure that you can support the notification and authentication system.

Note:

If the Instant Payment Notification link is not present you will need to apply for Premier Account or a Business Account from PayPal.

Check the checkbox to activate Instant Payment Notification and enter the following URL below the checkbox.

http://www.example.com/forums/payment_gateway.php?method=paypal

Click [Save]

- 5 Go to Paid Subscriptions > Payment API Manager > PayPal in your AdminCP where you will be presented with the following screen:

Payment API: Paypal (Id: 1)

Title	Paypal	Help ?
Active	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes	?
Classname	paypal	
Supported Currency	usd,gbp,eur,aud,cad	
Supports Recurring Payments	Yes	
PayPal Email		
Please enter your PayPal email, all references to the subscription service will use this email.		
PayPal Primary Account Email		
Your PayPal primary account email that corresponds to the address above, this is required for recurring subscription verification.		
Update Reset		

- 6 Enter your PayPal email address in the PayPal email field. This does not need to be the primary email address for your PayPal account and can be any email address associated with your PayPal account that you wish to use for payments received from your forum.
- 7 If you wish to use recurring subscriptions, you also need to enter your primary email address for your PayPal account in the PayPal Primary Account Email field.

Your completed PayPal page will then look like either

PayPal Email
Please enter your PayPal email, all references to the subscription service will use this email.
<input type="text" value="payments@example.com"/>
PayPal Primary Account Email
Your PayPal primary account email that corresponds to the address above, this is required for recurring subscription verification.
<input type="text" value="payments@example.com"/>

where the PayPal email address used for your forum is the same as the primary email address for your PayPal account, or

PayPal Email
Please enter your PayPal email, all references to the subscription service will use this email.
<input type="text" value="vb@bulletin@example.com"/>
PayPal Primary Account Email
Your PayPal primary account email that corresponds to the address above, this is required for recurring subscription verification.
<input type="text" value="payments@example.com"/>

where the PayPal email address is different to the primary email address for your PayPal account.

- 8 Finally, to activate the PayPal API for paid subscriptions, change the Active setting to Yes.

NOCHEX

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- 1 Log in to your [NOCHEX](#) account
- 2 Click on the 'Edit Automatic Payment Confirmation Details' link

You should now be presented with a screen containing the following:

Enter the URL of the page you want confirmations to be sent to:
<input type="text"/>
Save Changes

Note:

If the 'Edit Automatic Payment Confirmation Details' link is not present you will need to contact NOCHEX support and request that your account have this feature activated.

Enter the following URL in the input box:

http://www.example.com/forums/payment_gateway.php?method=nochex

Click [Save Changes]

- 3 Go to Paid Subscriptions > Payment API Manager > NOCHEX in your vBulletin AdminCP where you will be presented with the following screen:

Payment API: NOCHEX (Id: 2)

Title	NOCHEX	Help ?
Active	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes	?
Classname	nocheck	
Supported Currency	gbp	
Supports Recurring Payments	No	
NoChex Email		
Please enter your NoChex email, all references to the subscription service will use this email.		
Update Reset		

and enter your NOCHEX email address in the NOCHEX email field.

- 4 Finally, change the active setting to Yes to activate payments via NOCHEX in vBulletin

Note:

NOCHEX does NOT support recurring payments.

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Worldpay

- 1 Log in to the [WorldPay CMS](#)

You should now be presented with a screen containing the following:

Installations		
Installation ID	Payment Page Editor	Configuration options
1234 (Select Junior)		
12345 - WorldAccess (WorldAccess)		

- 2 Click Configuration Options next to the Installation which has (Select Junior). This will lead you to the configuration screen which should look like the following:

Merchant's shop URL:

Store-builder used: 1AutomationWiz

store-builder: if other - please specify:

Callback URL: rums/subscriptions/worldpay.php

Callback enabled?:

FuturePay callback Enabled?:

Use callback response?:

Callback suspended?:

Callback failure count: 0

Callback Failure Alert email address: webmaster@example.com

FuturePay daily reports?:

Info servlet password: Confirm:

Callback password: Confirm:

MD5 secret for transactions: Confirm:

SAVE CHANGES

- 3 Enter the following URL in the 'Callback URL' field:

http://www.example.com/forums/payment_gateway.php?method=worldpay

- 4 Check the 'Callback enabled?' checkbox.
- 5 Within the 'Callback password' field enter an appropriately secure password, this will be used for verifying transactions.

Click [Save Changes]

- 6 Go to Paid Subscriptions > Payment API Manager > Worldpay in your vBulletin AdminCP where you will be presented with the following screen:

Payment API: Worldpay (Id: 3) [Help ?](#)

Title: Worldpay [?](#)

Active: No Yes [?](#)

Classname: worldpay

Supported Currency: usd,gbp,eur

Supports Recurring Payments: No

WorldPay Installation ID
The Install ID that is generated by the WorldPay CMS for the subscription callback.
Please read the manual for instructions on how to change the password.

WorldPay Callback Password
The password entered during the creation of the subscription callback within the WorldPay CMS.

Update **Reset**

- 7 Enter your Installation ID that was displayed in the initial login to the WorldPay CMS and the password you setup within the CMS in the relevant fields on this page.

- 8 To activate WorldPay payments in your forum, change the Active setting to Yes

Note:

WorldPay does NOT support recurring payments.

Authorize.Net

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- 1 Log in to [Authorize.Net](#) merchant account

- 2 Click Settings on the left menu

- 3 Under the 'Transaction Response' group click Relay Response

You should now be presented with a screen containing the following:

Default Relay Response URL
Specify the default URL to which the Payment Gateway should return the relay response. If no Relay Response URL is passed in with the transaction, the following default URL will be used.
URL <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>

- 4 You should now enter the following URL, adjusted to your forum:

http://www.example.com/forums/payment_gateway.php?method=authorizenet

Click [Submit]

- 5 You should now be on the main Settings screen again, click 'Obtain Transaction Key' under the Security group. Enter the appropriate secret information and a new key will be generated for you.

Note:

If you already know your transaction key you dont need to generate a new one.

- 6 To set the Login ID and transaction key go to Paid Subscriptions > Payment API Manager > Authorize.Net in your vBulletin AdminCP where you will presented with the following page:

- 7 Complete the Authorize.Net Login ID and Authorize.Net Transaction Key with your login for Authorize.net and the transaction key that you have generated in the relevant fields.

- 8 If you have a MD5 Hash Security Key for your Authorize.net account, then you can enter it in the MD5 Hash Security Key field. This is not a required field, so if this field is not completed then it will not affect the operation of the paid subscriptions.

- 9 Finally, to activate Authorize.Net payments, change the Active setting to Yes.

Note:

Authorize.Net does NOT support recurring payments.

2Checkout

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- 1 Log in to your [2CO](#) account
- 2 Click on "Account"
- 3 Click on "Site Management".
- 4 Find the option labeled "Direct Return". Set this option to "Header Redirect".
- 5 Find the option "Approval URL", place the URL to your gateway.php. Example:
http://www.yourforum.com/payment_gateway.php?method=2checkout
- 6 Save these options
- 7 Locate and click the "Products" link to go to your "Products List" page.
- 8 Choose an existing product or create a new one. Note Your Product ID for the product that you wish to add a subscription for within vBulletin.
- 9 Next you need to associate the subscriptions that you have in your 2CO account with your vBulletin subscriptions. Go to Paid Subscriptions > Subscription Manager. Choose an existing subscription or create a new one. You must enter the Product ID from the previous step into the 2CO Prod ID field. If you create multiple 2CO subscriptions you can enter them all into one vBulletin subscription or you can create multiple vBulletin subscriptions for each 2CO subscription. You should match the cost to the value you chose for your 2CO subscription.

Cost										Help ?
U.S. Dollars	Pounds Sterling	Euros	Australian Dollars	Canadian Dollars	Subscription Length	Recurring	CCBill SubID	2CO ProdID	Options	
5.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="button" value="Days"/>
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="button" value="Days"/>
<input type="button" value="Update"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>										

- 10 Go to Paid Subscriptions > Payment API Manager > 2Checkout where you will be presented with the following page:

Payment API: 2Checkout (id: 5)		Help ?
Title	2Checkout	?
Active	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes	?
Classname	2checkout	
Supported Currency	usd	
Supports Recurring Payments	No	
2Checkout Vendor ID Number	Your numerical vendor ID.	
2Checkout Secret Word	The secret word as set within the Look and Feel page of your 2Checkout account.	
<input type="button" value="Update"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

- 11 Enter your 2Checkout Vendor ID Number and 2Checkout Secret Word in the fields provided.

- 12 To activate payments using 2CO change the Active setting to Yes.

Note:

2Checkout does NOT support recurring payments.

CCBill

Setting up CCBill to work properly with vBulletin can be moderately difficult to accomplish. CCBill is designed to manage the user accounts of payments it receives. This conflicts with vBulletin since vBulletin needs to handle its own user accounts. Still, this can be worked around for the most part to allow CCBill to successfully work as a payment processor with vBulletin.

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- 1 Login to your [CCBill](#) account.

- 2 Go to CCBill Admin > Account Setup > Choose Subaccount

Choose Subaccount	
<p>The Account Setup Wizard provides you with a quick and easy way to setup a subaccount for a website, including pricing options and create a standard Signup Form for CCBill accounts. After completing the wizard and posting your standard form code, you can setup and customize additional Signup Forms for this subaccount by simply clicking on Account Admin, selecting this subaccount, and then using the Form Admin link located in the Selection Pane.</p>	
New Subaccount #:	<input type="text" value="0002"/>
<input type="button" value="Next >>"/>	

In this example our Subaccount will be 0002. Write this number down under the label **CCBill Client Sub Account Number**. Later you will need to enter it into the Payment API Manager in the vBulletin Admin Control Panel. Press [Next >>] when this page is completed.

- 3 CCBill Admin > Account Setup > Website Info

Approval URL	
<p>CCBill will link the consumer to this web location after a successful signup. This is typically the members area or a purchase receipt. The Approval URL must be specified, if the subaccount will be processing transactions through CCBill.</p>	
Denial URL	
<p>The URL for the webpage to be displayed after a consumer's purchase has been declined. Typically this is an alternate billing method such as a dialer or secondary credit card processor, which gives consumers a different way to pay for their memberships. CCBill will automatically redirect your customers to this URL address after an unsuccessful signup.</p>	

This screen has several options, with only two options pertaining to vBulletin. You need to set the Approval URL and Denial URL. These are the locations that your clients will be directed to go to after a purchase or denial. This can be any URL, but you probably want to use the URL to your forum. Fill this information out along with the other options and press [Next >>].

- 4 CCBill Admin > Account Setup > User Management

User Management <http://www.example.com>

User Management refers to the criteria that controls and secures your members/ consumer authentication data. Usernames and passwords control the access to the members area of the website. Below are the default criterion you previously setup for your Account's User Management.

If you would like to continue to utilize this type of User Management for the subaccount, click the **Next >>** button. If you would like to utilize a different type of User Management for this subaccount, click the **Modify** button.

User Management:	UNIX CGI
Collect Username/Password:	Show Username and Password Text Fields
Username Type:	USER DEFINED
Email User Management Errors:	

[<< Prev](#) | [Modify](#) | [Next >>](#) |

vBulletin manages user accounts so we need to disable user management within CCBill for this sub account. Press [Modify].

5 CCBill Admin > Account Setup > User Management - Modify

User Management - Modify <http://www.example.com>

Displayed below are the default settings for your Account's User Management. Use the predefined settings to change this subaccount's User Management criteria.

User Management Type:	<input type="button" value="None"/>
The operating system, which allows CCBill to administer the authentication system. Choosing None allows you to administer the user management system, instead of CCBill.	
Username Type:	<input type="button" value="USER DEFINED"/>
This specifies the system to use for authentication of the members/ subscribers.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> User Defined - You enter the authentication data. Your subscribers choose unique usernames and passwords for their individual use. CCBill ensures that no identical usernames and passwords are issued. Stored - You upload a library of specific usernames and passwords. CCBill assigns them individually to your subscribers. CCBill needs to have an email address to communicate when to upload additional authentication data. For example, if the library is down to 2000 names/passwords, CCBill will relay a message via email informing you that it is time for the authentication data upload. Random - CCBill automatically generates unique usernames and passwords for the subscribers. 	
Collect Username/Password:	<input type="button" value="Hide both Username and Password"/>
If CCBill is administering the user management, this provides the preferred method to give the authentication data to the subscribers.	
Min. Username Length:	<input type="button" value="10"/>
Specify the minimum number of characters for the username.	
Max. Username Length:	<input type="button" value="10"/>
Specify the maximum number of characters for the password.	
Min. Password Length:	<input type="button" value="10"/>
Specify the minimum number of characters for the password.	
Max. Password Length:	<input type="button" value="10"/>
Specify the maximum number of characters for the password.	
Email User Management Errors:	<input type="button" value=""/>
The email address to receive the user management error information from CCBill. This occurs when consumers try to sign up and CCBill is unable to add them to the authentication system.	

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User Management Type - Select None

Collect Username/Password - Select Hide both Username and Password

Min. Username Length - Change to 10

Max. Username Length - Change to 10

Min. Password Length - Change to 10

Max. Password Length - Change to 10

Complete the other options to your liking and then click [Next >>].

6 CCBill Admin > Account Setup > Server Info

As alluded to previously, CCBill was designed to manage the user accounts of your members. Since you will not be using CCBill in this capacity, choose Other for the **SystemType** option. CCBill will not need to have access

to your server as nothing will be installed on it. You will need to complete the non FTP options so that CCBill support can verify your website is acceptable. Press [Next >>].

7 CCBill Admin > Account Setup > Pricing Options

Only one time billing is supported by CCBill with vBulletin. For the **Select Pricing Option Type** option, select Single Billing Type. CCBill does not support the necessary callback routines to notify vBulletin when a recurring billing type is re billed. Press [Next >>].

8 CCBill Admin > Account Setup > New Single Pricing Option

New Single Pricing Option http://www.example.com

Setup the one time billing options. CCBill charges the consumer the amount only once.

Price: \$. (**\$2.95 to \$100.00**)

Enter the amount to bill the consumer. The cost for the one time subscription is in U.S. dollars.

Period: day(s) (2 to 365)

The duration or length of the subscription is measured in days.

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Choose a price for your subscription and a period in days. You will need to write this information down since you will need to duplicate it in the [vBulletin Subscription Manager](#). Unlike the other payment processors, CCBill must have each subscription setup within its Admin Center as well as within vBulletin. Press [Next >>]

9 CCBill Admin > Account Setup > Pricing Options Overview

This screen will display the subscription that you just created. Next to the subscription will be a number under the label of ID. Write this number down next to the payment and length of this subscription. You may choose to add more subscriptions at this point by selecting Create New Pricing Option. Ensure that you write down the ID number for each subscription that you create.

Note:

You may also retrieve these numbers later if you forget.
When done, press [Next >>].

10 CCBill Admin > Account Setup > Standard Form Layout

You must now choose the style of form that will be shown to your members when they are paying for your CCBill subscriptions. Choose the form that appeals to you and click [Next >>].

11 CCBill Admin > Account Setup > Standard Form Theme

You must now choose a theme for your form. Choose the theme that appeals to you and click [Next >>].

Note:

You may customize your form in greater detail later

12 CCBill Admin > Account Setup > Standard Index Page

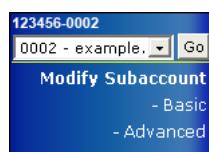
This page is not used by vBulletin so click [Next >>].

13 CCBill Admin > Account Setup > Final Instructions

Click [Finish].

14 CCBill Admin > Modify Subaccount > Advanced > Background Post Information

Your sub account and at least one subscription has now been completed. On the left side of the screen click on Advanced.



You now need to enter urls that point back to your forum. In this example, our forums' url is <http://www.example.com/vb3>.

Background Post Information

The Advanced page allows you to set up the Background Post info, Cancel info, etc, for a subaccount.

CCBill can optionally post the customer's data (minus credit card and checking details) when a transaction is finished. Additionally, this includes information you send to CCBill by way of specific URLs.

Approval Post URL

The URL that CCBill will send basic form data, via an HTTP Post, for new sign up attempts that are approved.

Denial Post URL

The URL that CCBill will send basic form data, via an HTTP Post, for new sign up attempts that are declined.

Approval Post URL - Enter http://www.example.com/vb3/payment_gateway.php?method=ccbill

Denial Post URL- Enter http://www.example.com/vb3/payment_gateway.php?method=c

You may increase the security of your CCBill transactions by including a secret word. If you wish to do this, instead of the above enter:

Approval Post URL - Enter [http://www.example.com/vb3/payment_gateway.php?](http://www.example.com/vb3/payment_gateway.php?method=ccbill&secretword=ABCDEF)

method=ccbill&secretword=ABCDEF

Denial Post URL- Enter [http://www.example.com/vb3/payment_gateway.php?](http://www.example.com/vb3/payment_gateway.php?method=ccbill&secretword=ABCDEF)

method=ccbill&secretword=ABCDEF

Replace **ABCDEF** with your own secret word. Make note of this secret word as you will need to enter it into the [vBulletin Subscription Manager](#) later. Press [Update].

15 Click View Subaccount Info on the left side of the menu.

16 CCBill Admin > Subaccount

On the right side of the screen, find the box that contains your form. It will appear similar to

Name	Type	Description
74cc	CREDIT	Red Theme
74ck	CHECK	Red Theme More...

Write down the name of the CREDIT form. In our example, the name is **74cc**. You will need to enter it into the [vBulletin Subscription Manager](#) later.

17 At this point vBulletin is ready to accept your CCBill options. Log into your vBulletin Admin Control Panel and go to Paid Subscriptions > Payment API Manager. Edit the **CCBill API**.

CCBill Client Main Account Number
This is the main account number for your CCBill account. <input type="text" value="123456"/>
CCBill Client Sub Account Number
This is the four digit code that corresponds to the sub account that you have created within CCBill for use with vBulletin. <input type="text" value="0002"/>
CCBill Form Character Code
The Form Name Code corresponds to the 3 (or more) digit code that you have created within CCBill for this sub account. <input type="text" value="74cc"/>
CCBill Secret Word
A secret word can be used to increase the security of accepting CCBill transactions. This is not required. <input type="text" value="ABCDEF"/>
Datalink Username
This is the username to access the CCBill Datalink server. This is not required to utilize CCBill as a payment processor but it is required if you want to subscriptions to be updated when a payment is refunded, voided, or charged back. <input type="text" value="larke1"/>
Datalink Password
This is the password to access the CCBill Datalink server. This is not required to utilize CCBill as a payment processor but it is required if you want to subscriptions to be updated when a payment is refunded, voided, or charged back. <input type="text" value="lilie1"/>
Update Reset

You have six options to complete.

CCBill Client Main Account Number - This is your main CCBill account number. It is used to login to your account.

CCBill Client Sub Account Number - You wrote this number down in Step 2 and it was 0002 in our example. Make sure to include any leading zeroes that are included as the number should be four digits.

CCBill Form Character Code - You wrote this down in the previous step, 16. It was 74cc in our example.

CCBill Secret Word - This is optional but if you chose a secret word in step 14 then enter it here exactly the same. Our example was ABCDEF.

Datalink Username - This is a 6-8 character alphanumeric name. It must contain at least one number and one letter. Choose an username now for usage later when Datalink is configured.

Datalink Password - This is a 6-8 character alphanumeric password. It must contain at least 1 number and one letter. Choose a password now for usage later when Datalink is configured.

Press [Update].

- 18 Next you need to associate the subscriptions that you created in the CCBill admin with your vBulletin subscriptions. Go to Paid Subscriptions > Subscription Manager. Choose an existing subscription or create a new one. You must enter the subscription ID from Step 9 into the CCBill SubID field. If you create multiple CCBill subscriptions you can enter them all into one vBulletin subscription or you can create multiple vBulletin subscriptions for each CCBill subscription. You should match the U.S. Dollars amount and the Subscription Length to the values you chose for your CCBill subscription(s). CCBill only accepts payments in US Dollars.

Cost										Help ?
U.S. Dollars	Pounds Sterling	Euros	Australian Dollars	Canadian Dollars	Subscription Length	Recurring	CCBill SubID	Options		
1.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	12448	Delete	Weeks	
0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	<input type="checkbox"/>		Delete	Days	
1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	1	<input type="checkbox"/>		Delete	Days	
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	<input type="checkbox"/>		Delete	Days	
Update Reset										

vBulletin and CCBill should now be configured properly to process payments together. The next step is configuring CCBill and vBulletin so that vBulletin can be notified when a CCBill payment is refunded, voided, or charged back. This is necessary so that these subscriptions can be ended on the vBulletin side. Most payment processors will contact vBulletin when this situation occurs but CCBill works in the opposite direction. vBulletin must contact the CCBill server on an ongoing basis and ask for a list of reversed transactions.

CCBill offers their Data Link Services Suite to facilitate this interaction. You should have already chosen an username and password for Data Link in step 17. Now you must go back to your CCBill Admin so that an accompanying account can be created to allow vBulletin access.

Note:

CCBill requires the connection to Data Link to be done via SSL (https) which means that your PHP installation will require openSSL support to be included. Please contact your host if you need openSSL support installed

1 CCBill Admin

Click on the Premium Features link at the top of the CCBill Admin screen

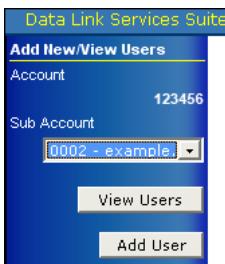
2 CCBill Admin > Premium Features

Click on Value Added Features link on the upper left side of the screen.

3 CCBill Admin > Value Added Features

Click on Data Link Services Suite at the bottom of the page.

4 CCBill Admin > Value Added Features > Data Link Services Suite



Under Sub Account select the account that you previously setup for vBulletin in step 2 at the beginning of this document. Click [Add User].

5 CCBill Admin > Value Added Features > Data Link Services Suite > Add New User

Add New User

Use the Add New User screen to create a new user for the Data Link Extract and the SMS Services. Once you have created a user, you cannot delete their information. You can only modify the user's password and IP address or ranges.*
 *Username, Password, Retype Password and Valid IP.s are all required fields. You must have at least one valid IP or range.

Account :	123456-0002
Username :	<input type="text" value="larke1"/>
** Password :	<input type="password" value="*****"/>
Retype Password :	<input type="password" value="*****"/>
Subsystem :	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Datalink Extract
** : Password must be 6-8 alphanumeric characters	
Valid IPs :	<input type="text" value="Enter IP Range"/> <input type="text" value="192"/> . <input type="text" value="168"/> . <input type="text"/> . <input type="text" value="100"/> <input type="button" value="Add To Valid IP's"/>
<input type="button" value="Store User"/>	

Enter the username and password that you created in step 17 for Data Link. If your chosen username or password is not accepted, you'll need to remember to update vBulletin with your new username and password as well. Enter your server's ip address in the IP Address field. If you have a multi-server setup, enter every server's ip address. Press [Store User].

Note:

CCBill does NOT support recurring payments.

Moneybookers

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- 1 Log into your MoneyBookers account and set up a secret word
- 2 Go to Paid Subscriptions > Payment API Manager > MoneyBookers where you will get the following screen:

Payment API: Moneybookers (Id: 6)

Title	<input type="text" value="Moneybookers"/>	Help ?
Active	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes	?
Classname	moneybookers	?
Supported Currency	usd,gbp,eur,aud,cad	?
Supports Recurring Payments	No	?
MoneyBookers Email		
Please enter your MoneyBookers email, all references to the subscription service will use this email.		
Moneybookers Secret Word		
Secret Word in lowercase as typed into your Moneybookers Profile		
<input type="button" value="Update"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

- 3 Enter your MoneyBookers Email and Moneybookers Secret Word in the fields provided.

Note:

The Moneybookers Secret Word must be entered in lowercase.

- 4 To activate payments using MoneyBookers, set the Active setting to Yes.

Note:

MoneyBookers does NOT support recurring payments.

Adding or Editing a Paid Subscription

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To add a Subscription, click Subscriptions > Add New Subscriptions. You will be presented with a screen like this:

Add New Subscription		Help ?
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Description	<input type="text"/>	?
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	?
Tax	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	?
Shipping Address	<input type="text" value="None"/>	?
Display Order	<input type="text" value="1"/>	?
Usergroup Options		
Primary Usergroup	<input type="text" value="No Change"/>	
Additional Usergroups	<input type="checkbox"/> (COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation <input type="checkbox"/> Administrators <input type="checkbox"/> Banned Users <input type="checkbox"/> Example Joinable Group <input type="checkbox"/> Moderators <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Users <input type="checkbox"/> Super Moderators <input type="checkbox"/> Unregistered / Not Logged In <input type="checkbox"/> Users Awaiting Email Confirmation	

- **Title** – Subscription title.
- **Description** – a short description which can be used to describe what the subscription offers.
- **Active** – if checked users will be able to subscribe to this Subscription.
- **Tax** – if checked tax will apply to a payment made to the user, this is mainly for Paypal.

- **Shipping** – if checked shipping information will be required with the payment information.
- **Primary Usergroup** – the primary usergroup that the subscription should change, this is not always required.
- **Additional Usergroups** – the secondary usergroups that the user joins on subscription.

The access masks for a user may also be changed so that the user may gain access to a private forum.

Forums

Here you can select which forums the user will be able to access once subscribed.

Selecting "yes" will allow this user access to the forum.

Selecting "default" will use default permissions settings for their usergroup.

(Please note that the permission inheritance system still works here)

(Ensure that you have access masks enabled before attempting to use these!)

Main Category	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Default
- - Main Forum	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Default
Testing	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Default

Save **Reset**

Please read the [permission](#) system section for further information regarding access masks and usergroups.

Cost and length are now a separate entity within the Subscription Manager so that a single Subscription can have multiple lengths and payment amounts, there is also the ability to add a recurring subscription.

The screen is as follows:

Cost

U.S. Dollars	Pounds Sterling	Euros	Australian Dollars	Canadian Dollars	Subscription Length	Recurring	Options
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Days	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Days	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete

Update **Reset**

- **Subscription Length** – the length before the subscription lapses, note PayPal has a limit of 100 days for recurring subscriptions.
- **Recurring** – if checked any future subscriptions created will be recurring.

Warning:

Do not change the cost of a Subscription if a recurring payment is currently in use, these payments will fail to update.

Warning:

Do not set a Paypal subscription to greater than 100 days. Use the *months* or *years* options to set subscriptions greater than 100 days.

Practical Example of a Paid Subscription

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We will assume that the appropriate payment gateways have been setup and that one of them is enabled within the Settings section of the Admin Control Panel.

The subscription will offer some benefits over our a regular user such as increased attachment space, large avatars and more private messaging space.

Creating the new Usergroup

- 1 Login to the Admin Control Panel
- 2 Open the Usergroups menu and click "Add New Usergroup"
- 3 At the top of the screen choose "Registered Users" from the Create usergroups Based off of Usergroup menu and click [Go]
- 4 Adjust usergroup permissions appropriately, increasing attachment space, avatar dimensions and private messaging space
- 5 Click [Save]

Create Usergroup Based off of Usergroup:

Add New Usergroup

Title	<input type="text" value="Example Paid Group"/>
Description	<input type="text"/>
User Title (Use this to override the default 'ladder' of user titles)	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Username HTML Markup (Specify an opening and closing HTML tag with which to display the names of users in this group. This applies to names that appear on Logged-in Users, Who's Online, Users Browsing Forum, Users Browsing Thread, Posts, Member List etc.)	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Password Expiry (If you specify a number of days here, users will be required to change their password when this amount of time elapsed since they last changed)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Password History (If you specify a number of days here, users will not be allowed to change their password to a value that they have used in the past x days. Note: this setting has no effect if password expiry is set to 0 days)	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Creating the subscription

- 1 Open the Subscriptions menu and click "Add New Subscription"
- 2 Enter the appropriate title, description, length and cost for your subscriptions
- 3 On the right of the screen there will be a Usergroup Options table, under Additional Usergroups check the Usergroup that you created earlier in this example
- 4 Click [Save]

Add New Subscription

Title	<input type="text" value="Extra Access"/>	?
Description	<input type="text" value="Improve your access"/>	?
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	?
Tax	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	?
Shipping Address	<input type="text" value="None"/>	?
Display Order	<input type="text" value="1"/>	

Usergroup Options

Primary Usergroup	<input type="text" value="No Change"/>
Additional Usergroups	<input type="checkbox"/> (COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation <input type="checkbox"/> Administrators <input type="checkbox"/> Banned Users <input type="checkbox"/> Example Joinable Group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Example Paid Group <input type="checkbox"/> Moderators <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Users <input type="checkbox"/> Super Moderators <input type="checkbox"/> Unregistered / Not Logged In <input type="checkbox"/> Users Awaiting Email Confirmation

Cost

U.S. Dollars	Pounds Sterling	Euros	Australian Dollars	Canadian Dollars	Subscription Length	Recurring	Options
<input type="text" value="5.00"/>	<input type="text" value="4.00"/>	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="14"/> <input type="button" value="Days"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Save Reset							

Visible within the User Control Panel should be the Paid Subscriptions which should display the following:

Available Subscriptions

Extra Access	Validity Period: 14 Days
Extra Access Improve your access	Cost: \$5.00
<input type="button" value="Order"/>	
Validity periods marked * indicate that purchasing this subscription will extend your existing subscription of that type.	

Subscription Manager

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To edit existing subscriptions or to perform any management on subscription users, go to Subscriptions > Subscription Manager. This will display all subscriptions setup in the system with the number of currently active subscriptions and those which are inactive.

Subscription Manager					
Title	Cost	Active	Completed	Total	Controls
Extra Access	\$5.00	0	0	0	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
Add New Subscription					

- **Title** – the title of your Subscription.
- **Active** – the number of users with active subscriptions.
- **Completed** – the number of users with completed subscriptions.
- **Total** – the total number of users with active or completed subscriptions.
- **Display Order** – the order in which subscriptions will be displayed on the forum, a lower value will appear above a higher value.
- **Controls** – these options allow you to edit a subscriptions, manage users with a subscriptions or manually add a user to a subscription.

Manually Adding A Subscribed User

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A user can be manually added to a subscription in the case that they have transferred funds in another way. From the [Subscription Manager](#) select Add User from the Controls menu.

You will be presented with a screen containing the following:

Add User

User Name	<input type="text"/>				
Start Date	Month	Day	Year	Hour	Minute
	<input type="button" value="March"/>	<input type="button" value="4"/>	<input type="button" value="2004"/>	<input type="button" value="19"/>	<input type="button" value="56"/>
Expiry Date	Month	Day	Year	Hour	Minute
	<input type="button" value="March"/>	<input type="button" value="18"/>	<input type="button" value="2004"/>	<input type="button" value="19"/>	<input type="button" value="56"/>
Active	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes				
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>					

You should enter the username that this subscription applies to and adjust the dates if appropriate, by default these are the lengths for the subscription.

Transaction Log

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The Transaction Log is where all successful payment transaction posted to your forum can be viewed. This log is the actual history of transactions posted to your forum by the payment processors. These transactions are comprised of successful charges and reversals.

This log offers several search options that enable you to narrow down searches to specific criteria.

Transaction Log

Start Date	Month	Day	Year
	May	8	2005
End Date	Month	Day	Year
	May	8	2006
Subscription	All Subscriptions		
Processor	All Processors		
Currency	All Currency		
Type	All Types		
User Name	<input type="text"/>		
Order By	Date		
Go Reset			

Transaction Lookup

Transaction ID	<input type="text"/>
Exact Match	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Go Reset	

Start Date - Date to limit the oldest transactions to.

End Date - Date to limit the newest transaction to.

Subscription - Include transactions that pertain to all subscriptions or limit transactions to those that pertain to a specific subscription.

Processor - Include transactions that pertain to all payment processors or limit transactions to those that pertain to a specific payment processor.

Currency - Include transactions that pertain to all currencies or limit transactions to those that pertain to a specific currency.

Type - Include failure, charged and reversed transactions or limit to either one.

Note:

Failed transactions are those that could not be matched up with a subscription. This generally happens when there is a misconfiguration. Click on Failure when viewing these transactions to see raw output of what was sent by the payment processor. This information can be used by support to help you troubleshoot problems.

User Name - Include transactions that pertain to all users or limit transactions to those that pertain to a specific user.

Order By - Control the order of the resulting log. The order can also be changed when viewing the log by clicking the column headers.

Note:

Transactions completed before vBulletin 3.6.0 Beta 1 will contain incomplete information.

From this screen you may also directly look up a transaction. The transaction lookup accepts the transaction id that pertains to the transaction performed on the payment processor side. You can often find this ID in any email that is sent you when a signup is received or in the admin center of your payment processor.

Transaction Stats

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Transaction Stats allows you to track how many transactions are being performed.

Stats offers several search options that enable you to narrow down searches to specific criteria.

Transaction Stats

Start Date	Month	Day	Year
	May	8	2005
End Date	Month	Day	Year
	May	8	2006
Subscription	All Subscriptions		
Processor	All Processors		
Currency	All Currency		
Type	All Types		
Scope	Daily		
Order By	Date Descending		
Go Reset			

Start Date - Date to limit the oldest transactions to.

End Date - Date to limit the newest transaction to.

Subscription - Include transactions that pertain to all subscriptions or limit transactions to those that pertain to a specific subscription.

Processor - Include transactions that pertain to all payment processors or limit transactions to those that pertain to a specific payment processor.

Currency - Include transactions that pertain to all currencies or limit transactions to those that pertain to a specific currency.

Type - Include charged and reversed transactions or limit to either one.

Order By - Control the order of the resulting stats. List the stats in order of most transaction or in order of date.

Scope - Groups transactions into the chosen option. Example, selecting *Monthly* would show you how many transaction were performed each month.

Note:

Transactions completed before vBulletin 3.6.0 Beta 1 will contain incomplete information.

Subscription Permissions

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Managing your subscription permissions is done by simply selecting yes or no for usergroup access. If you click Paid Subscriptions > Subscription Permissions, you will see a screen similar to this:

The screenshot shows a 'Subscription Permissions' interface. At the top, there's a color key with three items: 'Color Key' (black), 'Allowed: Usergroup can access this subscription' (black), and 'Denied: Usergroup can not access this subscription' (red). Below this, a section for '\$5 Donation' lists several usergroups with their access status: (COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation (black), Administrators (black), Admins #2 (black), Banned (black), Banned by Moderators (black), Blue (red), Can See Deletion Notices (black), Can Use Sigs/Titles/Avatars (black), foo (black), Green (red), and jake's test group omg (black).

Here, you will see each subscription on your forum with a list of all usergroups under each forum. Notice the color key at the top. In this example, red indicates that a usergroup does not have permission to purchase the subscription. Otherwise, usergroups listed in black have access to purchase the subscription.

To edit a subscription, simply find the appropriate subscription and usergroup, and click [*Edit*]. This will lead you to this screen:

The screenshot shows an 'Edit Subscription Permissions For Usergroup' dialog for the 'Blue' usergroup under the '\$5 Donation' subscription. It has a 'Can Use Subscription' field with 'Yes' selected, two radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No', and a question mark icon. At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons.

To deny access to purchase a subscription, choose No, otherwise choose Yes to allow permission.

Avatars

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Avatars are small pictures that appear next to or underneath your members' names on their posts etc.

Using the Avatar Manager, you can pre-define groups of avatars from which your members can choose one as their own avatar.

Also under this section is a tool to control the storage of your members' custom avatars (those which they have uploaded themselves). You may choose to store custom avatars in the database, or as files on the server's file system.

An Introduction to Avatars

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Avatars are small images which can be assigned to a members' profile. When a member selects or uploads an avatar the image will be displayed on every message the members' post on the bulletin board.

Implementing Avatars on vBulletin

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The administrator can choose to implement avatars a number of ways, they can opt to disable avatars completely, allow users to select from a list of predefined avatars or allow users to upload their own custom avatars. The administrator can assign the avatar permissions on a per-usergroup basis.

To configure avatars on your bulletin board first open the vBulletin Options menu in the Admin CP. Select User Picture Options.

User Picture Options

Avatars Enabled
Use this option to enable/disable Yes No ?

Avatars are small images chosen by the user and displayed under usernames in thread display and user info pages.

Avatar Display Width
How many columns of avatars do you wish to display to the user when selecting a pre-defined avatar? ?

Avatars Per-Page
How many avatars do you want to display per-page on the 'Edit Avatar' page within the profile editor? ?

Profile Pictures Enabled
Use this option to enable/disable the overall use of profile pictures. Yes No ?

Profile pictures are small images (although usually larger than avatars) that users can upload to their profile pages.

Save **Reset**

In this section you can set the following options:

- **Avatars Enabled** - Use this to enable/disable the overall use of avatars
- **Avatar Display Width** - This option defines the number of columns of avatars displayed to the user via the user control panel avatar selection page.
- **Avatars Per-Page** - This option defines the number of pages the avatars will be displayed over in the user control panel avatar selection page.
- **Profile Pictures Enabled** - This option relates to the use of profile pictures which if enabled will allow members to upload small images, usually larger than avatars, that can be displayed on the member's profile in the members' list.

If avatars are enabled the administrator can also choose to include avatars in the registration options. This will set the defaults for new members during the registration process.

To enable avatars for member registrations:

AdminCP > vBulletin Options > User Registration Options > Default Registration Options > Display Avatars > Tick the box

Adding Avatars

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vBulletin offers two ways off adding avatars to you bulletin boards:

- **Add New Avatars** - allows you to add one or multiple avatars that have already been uploaded to your webserver
- **Upload Avatar** - enables you to upload an avatar from your local hard disk

Add New Avatar

When you select the Add New Avatar link in the Avatar menu you are presented with the add avatar option screen. You have the option to either add a single avatar or to add multiple avatars.

Adding a Single Avatar

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To add a single avatar enter the following details and click the Add Avatars button:

Add a Single Avatar

Title	<input type="text"/>	Help 
Minimum Posts	<input type="text" value="0"/>	?
Avatar File Path	<input type="text"/>	?
Avatar Category	<input type="button" value="Generic Avatars"/>	?
Display Order	<input type="text" value="1"/>	?
<input type="button" value="Add Avatar"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

- **Title** - enter the name or title you want to apply to the avatar. This will be the title of the image that is displayed in the Avatar Options in the User Control Panel
- **Minimum Posts** - enter the minimum number of posts a member needs before they are entitled to use this avatar. If you want to make this avatar available to all users, enter 0 or leave blank
- **Avatar File Path** - this can either be an URL of an image (e.g. <http://www.example.com/images/avatar.gif>) or a path on your web server (e.g. "/www/sites/htdocs/images/avatar.gif").
- **Avatar Category** - select the category you want to assign the avatar to
- **Display Order** - This determines the order in which the avatars are shown. By default the next display order is assigned and can be changed at a later date.

Adding Multiple Avatars

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This option allows you to add more than one avatar in one operation. Enter the following information and click the Add Avatars button:

Add Multiple Avatars

Avatar Category	<input type="button" value="Generic Avatars"/>	Help 
Avatars File Path	<input type="text" value="images/avatars"/>	?
Avatars to Show Per Page	<input type="text" value="10"/>	?
<input type="button" value="Add Avatars"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

- **Avatar Category** - select the category you want to assign the avatars to
- **Avatars File Path** - this can either be an URL of an image (e.g. <http://www.example.com/images/avatar.gif>) or a path on your web server (e.g. "/www/sites/htdocs/images/avatar.gif").
- **Avatars to show per page** - this figure set the number of avatars to be shown on each page.

The next screen will display all the avatars from the location specified in the previous form.

Adding Multiple Avatars Reading from http://www.example.com/forums/images/avatars		
Image	Title	Minimum Posts
	vB3 Avatar	<input type="text" value="0"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

It will apply a title to each of the images using the filename which you may change if required and show the selected category.

Additionally, and if required you should enter the minimum number of post the members are required to have before they are entitled to use these avatars. You may enter different values for each of the listed avatars.

Once all the details have been entered and checked you need to tick the check boxes against each avatar that you want to add. If you want to add all of them, click 'Check All' box in the header. Then click the 'Add Avatars' button.

Avatar Management

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Avatars and their associated permissions are maintained via the Avatar Manager.

There are also further avatar settings in the Usergroup Manager. You may specify, per usergroup, the height, width and file size of avatars that the selected usergroup may use. You can also set whether or not the usergroup can upload their own custom avatars.

Note:

For further information regarding usergroups and permissions please refer to the [Usergroups & Permissions](#) section of this manual

Avatar Manager

Expand the Avatars menu option in the Admin CP and click on the Avatar Manager.

Edit Avatar Categories			Help ?
Title	Contains	Display Order	Controls
Generic Avatars	1 Avatars	<input type="text" value="1"/>	[Mass Move] [View] [Edit] [Delete] [Avatar Permissions]
Special Avatars	0 Avatars	<input type="text" value="2"/>	[Mass Move] [View] [Edit] [Delete] [Avatar Permissions]

Save Display Order

The avatars can be arranged in categories and you may restrict access to any avatars either by post count or usergroup. Usergroup restrictions are set at the category level where as post count restrictions are set at the individual avatar level.

The Avatar Manager displays the category title, number of avatars assigned to the category, the list display order of the category and the category controls.

Category Controls

- **Mass Move** - Enables you to move any or all the avatars from one category to another
- **View** - Allows you to see the avatar images assigned to a specific category. There are two further options under this, Edit and Delete which allows you to edit the details of any of the avatars listed in the category or delete them.
- **Edit** - Allows you to modify the category details
- **Delete** - This will delete the category. You be presented with additional options to either move the avatars assigned to this category to another category or delete all the avatars as well as the category.
- **Avatar Permissions** Enables you to set the permissions as to which usergroup or usergroups may have access to the avatars in a specific category.

Avatar Mass Move

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Selecting the Mass Move option will display all the avatars from the selected category.

Each Avatar has a drop down menu containing all the other available categories. You can opt to move some or all the avatars in the selected category and you can move different avatars to different categories in one action.

Avatar Manager Generic Avatars - Page 1 of 1

Minimum Posts: 0

[Smaller Vb3 Avatar](#)



Per Page

You can specify the category for each individual avatar, or if all the avatars are moving to the same category there is a separate global menu for you to select the category from.

Avatar Category View

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The View option displays all the avatars from the selected category. Within the view page you can change the order in which the avatars are displayed in the UserCP Edit Avatar screens.

Avatar Manager Generic Avatars - Page 1 of 1

Minimum Posts: 0

[Smaller Vb3 Avatar](#)



Per Page

The View screen also allows gives you further options to Edit or Delete each individual avatar.

Avatar Category Edit

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The Edit option enables you to change the category title and the display order.

Avatar Category: Generic Avatars (id: 3)

Help ?

Title	<input type="text" value="Generic Avatars"/>	?
Display Order	<input type="text" value="1"/>	?

Note:

The display order is for the category only, it determines the order in which the categories are displayed in the Avatar Manager in the AdminCP

Avatar Category Delete[Back to Top](#)

The delete option allows you to remove an entire category. You can choose to either delete the category and all of its contents or move the avatars to another category before deleting the selected category.

Confirm Deletion of Avatar Category: Generic Avatars

Are you sure you want to delete the avatar category called: 'Generic Avatars'?

Delete all Avatars from this category? Yes No

If you do not want to delete all Avatars from this category, they will all be moved to the category selected below.

Destination Category: Special Avatars

Delete **Go Back**

To move the avatars in the selected category ensure that the 'Delete all avatars from this category?' option is set to **No**. Then from the drop down menu select the category that the avatars should be moved to. Then click the 'Delete' button. If you do not wish to keep the avatars that are included in the selected category set the 'Delete all avatars from this category?' option to **Yes**.

Avatar Category Permissions[Back to Top](#)

Avatars Permissions are defined at the usergroup level.

Permissions For Avatar Category Generic Avatars

Usergroup	Can Use This Avatar Category
(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Administrators	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Banned Users	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Example Joinable Group	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Moderators	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Registered Users	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Super Moderators	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Unregistered / Not Logged In	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Users Awaiting Email Confirmation	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

Save **Reset**

When the Avatar Permission option is selected a list of all the defined usergroups will be displayed. Select **Yes** for each usergroup you want to be able to use this avatar.

Uploading Avatars[Back to Top](#)

This option allows you to upload avatars from your local machine to your webserver.

Upload Avatar

Help ?	
Filename	<input type="text"/> Browse... ?
Title	<input type="text"/> ?
Minimum Posts	<input type="text"/> ?
Avatar File Path This file path should be readable AND writeable by your web server (usually chmod 0777)	<input type="text"/> ?
Avatar Category	<select>Generic Avatars</select> ?
Display Order	<input type="text"/> ?

Upload **Reset**

The following detailed should entered:

- **Filename** - enter the url or path for the avatar or use the **Browse** button to navigate to the required image
- **Title** - enter a name for the avatar that is to be uploaded
- **Minimum Posts** - enter the minimum number of posts a member needs before they are entitled to use this avatar. If you want to make this avatar available to all users, enter 0 or leave blank
- **Avatar File Path** - enter the location where the avatar should be upload to on you webserver. The file path should be both readable and writeable by your webserver
- **Avatar Category** - lists all the available categories. Select a category that the avatar will be assigned to

- **Display Order** - This determines the order in which the avatars are shown. By default the next display order is assigned and can be changed at a later date

Once all the information has been entered and checked click the 'Upload' button. The avatar will then be uploaded to the specified folder.

User Picture Storage Type

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vBulletin allows you to choose which storage type you want to use for your user picture images (avatars and profile pictures). You can either opt to have the user pictures stored in the database or in a file system on your server. You can change the storage type at anytime.

Database vs File System

There are no real advantages or disadvantages to using one of these storage types over the other. Both require disk space, keeping items in the database provide an easier backup method, using a file system may be slightly more efficient as there are less queries that need to be run and both are easy to manage via the AdminCP.

At the end of the day it comes down to your own preference on how you want to manage your user picture images and how you want to store them.

Note:

The default storage type is to store the images in the database.

Move User Pictures from Database to File System

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Moving items from the database to a file system

Selecting the User Picture Storage Type option will display the current storage type and enable you to change it.

Warning:

The transfer process will only be successful if there is sufficient disk space to store your images and that the specified directory exists and is fully readable and writable (usually chmod 777)

Move Items from Database into File System Help ?

Images are currently being served from the database

Avatar File Path
This file path should be readable AND writeable by your web server (usually chmod 0777)
./customavatars ?

URL to avatars
(Relative to your forums home page)
customavatars ?

Profile Picture Path
This file path should be readable AND writeable by your web server (usually chmod 0777)
./customprofilepics ?

URL to Profile Pictures
(Relative to your forums home page)
customprofilepics ?

Go **Reset**

The page requires you to enter the following details:

- **Avatar File Path** - enter the location where the avatars will be stored on your webserver. The path to the directory where your images will be stored. This should be both readable and writeable by your webserver and relative to your forums root directory
- **URL to Avatars** - enter the url of where the avatars will be stored. This should be relative to your forums home page
- **Profile Picture Path** - enter the location where the profile pictures will be stored on your webserver. The path to the directory where your images will be stored. This should be both readable and writeable by your webserver and relative to your forums root directory
- **URL to Profile Pictures** - enter the url of where the profile pictures will be stored. This should be relative to your forums home page

Once the details have been entered click the 'Go' button.

Edit Storage Type

We are ready to attempt to move your Images from the Database to the Filesystem.

It is possible that you might not have enough disk space in the supplied path or space in the database but we are unable to determine that ahead of time.

We will not finalize the move until the end of the process.

If the process aborts before the end, you will need to free up space before trying again.

Number of Users to process per cycle 300

Go **Reset**

Before the images are transferred to the file system, you may specify the number of users to be processed for each cycle. Enter the number of users to process and click the 'Go' button.

Move User Pictures in a file system to the database

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If you are currently storing your user picture images in a file system, you can either choose to move them back into the database or move them to a different directories on your server.

Storage Type: User Pictures	
Avatars are currently being served from the filesystem at ./customavatars	
Profile pictures are currently being served from the filesystem at ./customprofilepics	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Move Items from File System into Database <input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/> Move Avatars to a Different Directory <input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/> Move Profile Pictures to a Different Directory <input type="radio"/>	
Go	

The process is same whether you are moving user pictures from a database to a file system or vice versa.

Move Avatars to a Different Directory

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Selecting the Move Avatars to a Different Directory option will display the current storage location for your avatars and allow you to change it.

Move Avatars to a Different Directory	
Avatars are currently being served from the filesystem at ./customavatars	
Avatar File Path	<input type="text" value="./customavatars"/> ?
This file path should be readable AND writeable by your web server (usually chmod 0777)	
URL to avatars (Relative to your forums home page)	<input type="text" value="customavatars"/> ?
Go Reset	

- **Avatar File Path** - enter the new location where the avatars will be stored on your webserver. This is the path to the directory where your images will be stored. This should be both readable and writeable by your webserver and relative to your forums root directory
- **URL to Avatars** - enter the new url of where the avatars will be stored. This should be relative to your forums home page

Once the new location details have been entered click the 'Go' button.

The settings for the new location of the avatars will have been updated.

vBulletin Message	
<p>Your vBulletin settings have now been updated to store images in ./avatartmp rather than ./customavatars.</p> <p>You must now manually move all avatars to the new folder, using an FTP client or a shell command such as:</p> <pre>mv -rf ./customavatars/* ./avatartmp/</pre>	

Note:

You must now manually move all avatars to the new folder, using an FTP client or a shell command such as:

```
mv -rf ./customavatars/* ./avatartmp/
```

Move Profile Pictures to a Different Directory

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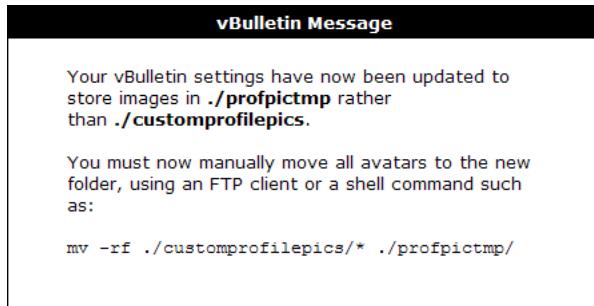
Selecting the Move Profile Pictures to a Different Directory option will display the current storage location for your avatars and allow you to change it.

Move Profile Pictures to a Different Directory	
Profile pictures are currently being served from the filesystem at ./customprofilepics	
Profile Picture Path	<input type="text" value="./customprofilepics"/> ?
This file path should be readable AND writeable by your web server (usually chmod 0777)	
URL to Profile Pictures (Relative to your forums home page)	<input type="text" value="customprofilepics"/> ?
Go Reset	

- **Profile Picture Path** - enter the new location where the avatars will be stored on your webserver. This is the path to the directory where your images will be stored. This should be both readable and writeable by your webserver and relative to your forums root directory
- **URL to Profile Pictures** - enter the new URL of where the avatars will be stored. This should be relative to your forums home page

Once the new location details have been entered click the 'Go' button.

The settings for the new location of the profile pictures will have been updated.



Note:

You must now manually move all profile pictures to the new folder, using an FTP client or a shell command such as:

```
mv -rf ./customprofilepics/* ./profpictmp/
```

Post Icons

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When your members post new threads, posts or private messages, you may also allow them to assign an icon to their message for quick visual identification.

The Post Icon manager contains all the tools you will need to upload and modify icons for your members to use.

Introduction to Post Icons

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A post icon is a small image file that appears next to the post title and in the post icon column of the main forum page.

Implementing Post Icons on vBulletin

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The administrator can choose to enable or disable Post Icons for at the forum level and can also choose which Post Icons can be used by which usergroups if Post Icons are enabled.

To enable Post Icons on your bulletin board you need to edit the forum permissions for each forum that you wish to allow Post Icons. Forums & Moderators > Forum Manager > Edit Forum > Enable/Disable Features

Enable / Disable Features		Help ?
Allow HTML	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Allow BB Code	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Allow [IMG] Code	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Allow Smilies	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Allow Post Icons	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Allow Thread Ratings in this Forum	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Count Posts Made in this Forum Towards User Post Counts	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Show this Forum and Child Forums on the Forum Jump Menu	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Save Reset		

Set Allow Post Icons to Yes. Repeat these steps for each forum.

The administrator can also choose to enable or disable Post Icons in Private Messages too. vBulletin Options > Private Messaging Options > Allow Message Icons for Private Messages

Allow Message Icons for Private Messages	
Allow the use of the standard message icons for private messages.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Adding Post Icons

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vBulletin offers two ways off adding Post Icons to you bulletin boards:

- **Add New Post Icon** - allows you to add one or multiple Post Icons that have already been uploaded to your webserver
- **Upload Post Icons** - enables you to upload an Post Icons from your local hard disk

Add New Post Icon

When you select the Add New Post Icon link in the Post Icon menu you are presented with the add Post Icon option screen. You have the option to either add a single Post Icon or to add multiple Post Icons.

Adding a Single Post Icon

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To add a single Post Icon enter the following details and click the Add Post Icon button:

Add a Single Post Icon		Help ?
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Post Icon File Path	<input type="text"/>	?
Post Icon Category	<input type="text" value="Generic Icons"/>	?
Display Order	<input type="text" value="1"/>	?
Add Post Icon Reset		

- **Title** - enter the name or title you want to apply to the Post Icon.
- **Post Icon File Path** - this can either be an URL of an image (e.g. <http://www.example.com/images/icons/posticon.gif>) or a path on your web server (e.g. ["/www/sites/htdocs/images/icons/posticon.gif"](#)).
- **Post Icon Category** - select the category you want to assign the Post Icon to
- **Display Order** - This determines the order in which the post icons are shown. By default the next display order is assigned and can be changed at a later date.

Adding Multiple Post Icons

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This option allows you to add more than one Post Icon in one operation. Enter the following information and click the Add Post Icons button:

Add Multiple Post Icons			Help ?
Post Icon Category	Generic Icons	?	
Post Icons File Path	images/icons	?	
Post Icons to Show Per Page	10	?	
<input type="button" value="Add Post Icons"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>			

- **Post Icon Category** - select the category you want to assign the Post Icons to
- **Post Icon File Path** - this can either be an URL of an image (e.g. <http://www.example.com/images/icons/posticon.gif>) or a path on your web server (e.g. ["/www/sites/htdocs/images/icons"](#)).
- **Post Icons to show per page** - this figure set the number of Post Icons to be shown on each page.

The next screen will display all the Post Icons from the location specified in the previous form.

Adding Multiple Post Icons Reading from http://www.example.com/forums/images/icons			
Image	Title	Category	
icon1.gif	Icon1	Generic Icons	<input type="checkbox"/>
icon2.gif	Icon2	Generic Icons	<input type="checkbox"/>
icon3.gif	Icon3	Generic Icons	<input type="checkbox"/>
icon4.gif	Icon4	Generic Icons	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="button" value="Add Post Icons"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>			

A title is applied to each of the Post Icons that are to be added using the images' filename which you may change if required and shows the selected category.

Once all the details have been entered and checked you need to tick the check boxes against each Post Icon that you want to add. If you want to add all of them, click 'Check All' box in the header. Then click the 'Add Post Icons' button.

Post Icon Management

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Post Icons and their associated permissions are maintained via the Post Icon Manager.

There are also further Post Icon settings in the Forum Manager. You may opt to allow or disallow, per forum. You can also enable or disable Post Icons in Private Messages.

Note:

For further information regarding forums and permissions please refer to the [Forums Permission](#) section of this manual

Post Icon Manager

Admin Control Panel > Post Icons > Post Icon Manager

Edit Post Icon Categories				Help ?
Title	Contains	Display Order	Controls	
Generic Icons	10 Post Icons	1	[Mass Move] [View] [Edit] [Delete] [Post Icon Permissions]	
<input type="button" value="Save Display Order"/>				

The Post Icons can be arranged in categories and you may restrict the use of Post Icons at a usergroup level.

The Post Icon Manager displays the category title, number of Post Icons assigned to the category, the list display order of the category and the category controls.

Category Controls

- **Mass Move** - Enables you to move any or all the Post Icons from one category to another
- **View** - Allows you to see the Post Icons images assigned to a specific category. There are two further options under this, Edit and Delete which allows you to edit the details of any of the Post Icon listed in the category or delete them.
- **Edit** - Allows you to modify the category details
- **Delete** - This will delete the category. You will be presented with additional options to either move the Post Icons assigned to this category to another category or delete all the Post Icons as well as the category.
- **Post Icon Permissions** - Enables you to set the permissions as to which usergroup or usergroups may have access to the Post Icons in a specific category.

Post Icon Mass Move

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Selecting the Mass Move option will display all the Post Icons from the selected category.

Each Post Icon has a drop down menu containing all the other available categories. You can opt to move some or all the Post Icons in the selected category and you can move different Post Icons to different categories in one action.

You can specify the category for each individual Post Icon, or if all the Post Icons are moving to the same category there is a separate global menu for you to select the category from.

Post Icon Category View

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The View option displays all the Post Icons from the selected category. Within the view page you can change the order in which the Post Icons are displayed in posts and the Private Message screens.

The View screen also allows gives you further options to Edit or Delete each individual Post Icon.

Post Icon Category Edit

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The Edit option enables you to change the category title and the display order.

Note:

The display order is for the category only, it determines the order in which the categories are displayed in the Post Icon Manager in the AdminCP

Post Icon Category Delete

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The delete option allows you remove an entire category. You can choose to either delete the category and its contents or move the Post Icons to another category before deleting the selected category.

To move the Post Icons in the selected category ensure that the 'Delete all Post Icons from this category?' option is set to **No**. Then from the drop down menu select the category that the Post Icons should be moved to. Then click the

'Delete' button. If you do not wish to keep the Post Icons that are included in the selected category set the 'Delete all Post Icons from this category?' option to Yes.

Post Icon Category Permissions

Post Icon permissions are defined at the usergroup level.

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Permissions For Post Icon Category Generic Icons	
Usergroup	Can Use This Post Icon Category
(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Administrators	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Banned Users	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Example Joinable Group	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Example Paid Group	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Moderators	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Registered Users	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Super Moderators	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Unregistered / Not Logged In	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Users Awaiting Email Confirmation	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Save **Reset**

When the Post Icon Permission option is selected a list of all the defined usergroups will be displayed. Select Yes for each usergroup you want to be able to use Post Icons included in this category.

For example, if you have a selection of post icons that you want only administrators, moderators and super moderators to use. You would first need to create a category to contain these post icons, upload or move the specially selected post icons to the new category then set the permissions for that category so that only the Administrator, Moderators and Super Moderators usergroups can use the post icons in this category.

Uploading Post Icons

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This option allows you to upload Post Icons from your local machine to your webserver.

Upload Post Icon		Help
Filename	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Browse..."/> ?
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Post Icon File Path This file path should be readable AND writeable by your web server (usually chmod 0777)	<input type="text" value="images/icons"/>	?
Post Icon Category	<input type="button" value="Generic Icons"/>	?
Display Order	<input type="text" value="1"/>	?

Upload **Reset**

The following details should be entered:

- **Filename** - enter the url or path for the Post Icon or use the **Browse** button to navigate to the required image
- **Title** - enter a name for the Post Icon that is to be uploaded
- **Post Icon File Path** - enter the location where the Post Icon should be uploaded to on your webserver. The file path should be both readable and writeable by your webserver
- **Post Icon Category** - list all the available categories. Select a category that the Post Icon will be assigned to
- **Display Order** - This determines the order in which the Post Icons are shown. By default the next display order is assigned and can be changed at a later date

Once all the information has been entered and checked click the 'Upload' button. The Post Icons will then be uploaded to the specified folder.

Smilies

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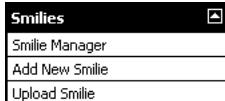
The Smilies group allows you to manage the smilies on your board.

Smilies (also called emoticons in some quarters) are small images used to convey some form of emotion in messages.

Example

What you type: Hi there! :)

Will get parsed as: Hi there! 😊



This section will show you how the smilies can be arranged in categories. It will also show you how you can process one or more smilies that you have uploaded to your web server or how to manually upload one through the smilie upload manager.

Note:

Don't forget to go through the settings of the vBulletin Options > vBulletin Options > Message Posting and Editing Options where you can control the 'Maximum Images Per Post/Signature'.

Smilie Manager

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You can manage your smilies here. The smilie images can be arranged in categories.

Edit Smilie Categories			Help ?
Title	Contains	Display Order	Controls
Generic Smilies 12 Smilies	1		[Mass Move] [View] [Edit] [Delete]
Save Display Order			

The above image shows a list of your smilie categories.

- **Title**

This column tells you the name of each category. You can click on the category name to view which smilies are in it, after which you can edit or delete a smilie and update its display order.

- **Contains**

This column tells you how many images are in the corresponding category.

- **Display Order**

This column tells you the display order of each smilie category. The display order is used to order the smilie category listing in this Smilie Manager as well as how it is displayed on your forums. You can update the display orders shown on this page by changing the number values and clicking the [Save Display Order] button.

- **Controls**

On the right side you will find several options for each smilie category.

The [**Mass Move**] link takes you to a page where you can select a new category for each smilie in the corresponding category and submit the changes all at once.

The [**View**] link does the same thing as clicking on the category name to the left, it takes you to a page where you can view all smilies in the corresponding category.

The [**Edit**] link allows you to edit the title and display order of the corresponding category.

The [**Delete**] link takes you to a page where you can delete the corresponding category and all of its smilies or mass move the categories smilies to another category and then delete the original category.

At the bottom of the page (see above figure) you will see two additional links which allows you to add a new smilie category and to display all the smilies from all categories.

Click on the [**Add New Smilie Category**] link to load a page from where you can enter a 'title' for the new category and the display order. If you don't know the number for the display order than you can leave this empty. Then press the [**Save**] button to add this new smilie category. You will then return to the initial overview of all the smilie categories.

Click on the [**Show All Smilies**] link to load a page from where it will display all the smilies from all the categories. On this page you can also edit and delete a smilie.

Add New Smilie

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This screen allows you to add one or more images at a time. These images must already reside on the server, having been uploaded Using the [Upload Smilie](#) option or by FTP prior to doing this.

You can either add a single image or add multiple images at the same time.

Note:

Don't forget to upload the smilies to your images/smilies directory first before using this feature. If you don't know how to do that you can also use the alternative feature to manually [upload a smilie](#).

Adding a single new Smilie (Admin Control Panel > Smilies > Add New Smilie > Add a Single Smilie)

Add a Single Smilie

Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Text to Replace	<input type="text"/>	?
Smilie File Path	<input type="text"/>	?
Smilie Category	Generic Smilies <input type="button" value="▼"/>	?
Display Order	<input type="text" value="1"/>	?

Add Smilie **Reset**

- Title**

This is the title you want to give to describe your smilie.

- Text to Replace**

This is the replacement text for the smilie. When a user types this text in a post, it will get replaced with the smilie image.

- Smilie File Path**

Type the path and filename of the smilie you want to add. An example would be images/smilies/happy.gif

- Smilie Category**

This drop down box will have all the possible smilies categories - select one to add this smilie to this category.

- Display Order**

If you know which order you'd like to give to your smilie you can enter it here. This is an optional field, if you don't know what the display order should be you can leave this field empty. You can always change it later.

When these details are entered press the [Add Smilie] button to add the smilie to the selected smilies category.

Adding Multiple Smilies (Admin Control Panel > Smilies > Add New Smilie > Add Multiple Smilies)

Add Multiple Smilies

Smilie Category	Generic Smilies <input type="button" value="▼"/>	?
Smilies File Path	<input type="text" value="images/smilies"/>	?
Smilies to Show Per Page	<input type="text" value="10"/>	?

Add Smilies **Reset**

- Smilie Category**

This drop down box will have all the possible smilies categories - select one to add all the smilies to.

- Smilies File Path**

Type the path and not filename of the smilies directory you want to add. An example would be images/smilies/newones/ (if you have uploaded your smilies to the newones/ directory)

- Smilies to Show Per Page**

This is the number of images to display per page while adding them.

When these details are entered press the [Add Smilies] button to add the smilie to the selected smilies category which will load a page where you can select and deselect smilies.

Smilie Display Order

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Unlike many other items in vBulletin, the display order of a smilie actually affects the final HTML output generated by your board.

Consider this example where you have two smilies:

Smilie Name	Smilie Text	Smilie Image
Smilie 1	:o	😊
Smilie 2	:o)	😊

The smilie display order controls the order in which smilies will be parsed. If Smilie 1 were to be parsed first, not only would all instances of :o be converted to 😊, but also the first two characters of Smilie 2 would be matched and converted, leaving you with 😊).

To make these smilies parse correctly, Smilie 2 should have a smaller display order than Smilie 1, so that it is parsed first and is not picked up in the search for Smilie 1.

Upload Smilie

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On this screen, you can upload one image at a time through your browser for use on your forum. To do this, both your web server and PHP must have permission to write files to disk. If they do not, this will fail.

Note:

The directory that you are trying to put the file in must be CHMODed 777. Consult your [FTP](#) program documentation for how to do this.

If you don't know how to do that you can also use the alternative feature to add one or more smilies through the [Add New Smilie](#) manager.

Uploading a single new Smilie (Smilies > Upload Smilie)

Upload Smilie

Help ?

Filename	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Browse..."/>	?
Title	<input type="text"/>	?	
Text to Replace	<input type="text"/>	?	
Smilie File Path	<input type="text" value="images/smilies"/>	?	
This file path should be readable AND writable by your web server (usually chmod 0777)			
Smilie Category	<input type="button" value="Generic Smilies"/>	?	
Display Order	<input type="text" value="1"/>	?	

Upload **Reset**

- **Filename**

Click on the [Browse..] button and select from your hard drive the smilie you want to upload.

- **Title**

This is the title you want to give to describe your smilie.

- **Text to Replace**

This is the replacement text for the smilie. When a user types this text in a post, it will get replaced with the smilie image.

- **Smilie File Path**

Type the path of the smilie directory. An example would be *images/smilies*. This directory should be readable and writable by the webserver (usually CHMOD 777).

- **Smilie Category**

This drop down box will have all the possible smilies categories - select one to add this smilie to this category.

- **Display Order**

If you know which order you'd like to give to your smilie you can enter it here, this is an optional field. If you don't know what the display order should be you can leave this field empty, you can always change it later.

When these details are entered press the [Upload] button to add the smilie to the selected smilies category.

Custom BB Codes

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BB Code (or vB Code) is a method by which your members can format their messages. Its syntax is similar to HTML, but it has the benefit that you (the administrator) can define exactly what codes are allowable in order to prevent unwanted formatting or malicious use. It is also less prone to break the layout of your forums than raw HTML.

The Custom BBCode manager allows you to define new bbcode tags in order to extend the range of formatting available to your members.

Here is a list of all the default BBcode, <http://www.vbulletin.com/forum/misc.php?do=bbcde>

An Introduction to BB Codes

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BB (Bulletin Board) codes, sometimes referred to as vB codes, are meant to replace HTML for providing formatting such as bold, italics, and images in posts. Additionally, you may map multiple HTML tags to a single BB code to provide more complex formatting without forcing your members to include many tags.

Many BB code tags are included by default in vBulletin. Some of these include [b] for bold, [i] for italics, and [url] for inserting hyperlinks. Their output is not directly modifiable. However, you can disable specific tags in the *vBulletin Options* section.

BB codes may take one of two formats: with an *option* or without. An example BB code with an option is [url=http://www.vbulletin.com]vBulletin[/url]; [url]http://www.vbulletin.com[/url] is an example of a BB code that does not have an option. Essentially, an option allows you to specify two values per BB code reference. It is not possible to have more than one option in a BB code.

Things to keep in mind when creating BB codes:

- *BB codes must not be empty.* Empty tag usage, such as [i][/i], will be removed before parsing and there for nothing will be displayed in its place, even if something normally would.
- *BB codes must have a closing tag.* [i] will not be parsed alone; it needs the [/i] to be parsed.
- *If you wish to have a tag that accepts both an option and non-option version, such as [url], you must create both.* Simply create one tag with *Use {option}* set to yes and the other set to no.

BB Code Manager

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To edit your existing BB codes or perform tests to ensure they function correctly, go to Custom BB Codes > BB Code Manager. At the top of this page you will see a list of your custom BB codes.

BB Code Manager				
Title	BB Code	HTML	Replacement	Button Controls
Image				
Test Tag	[test]Look at me![/test]	<i>Just testing: Look at me!</i>	Just testing: Look at me!	N/A [Edit] [Delete]
Add New BB Code				

- **Title** – the title of your BB code.
- **BB Code** – an example of the BB code.
- **HTML** – the HTML output of the example.
- **Replacement** – an HTML rendering of the example
- **Button Image** – the button being displayed with the editors, if you have specified one.
- **Controls** – these options allow you to edit or delete this BB code.

Below this you will see an area to test your BB codes.

Test your BB Code	
Enter text with BB code(s): <input type="text" value="Large Edit Box"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; height: 200px;">  </div>
<input type="button" value="Go"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

This is equivalent to making a test post on the board to ensure that everything works correctly. However, you do not actually have to make the post public!

Adding or Editing a BB Code

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To add a new BB code, go to Custom BB Codes > Add New BB Code. The form will look similar to this:

Help ?

Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Tag	<input type="text"/>	?
Replacement	<input type="text"/>	?
<input type="button" value="Large Edit Box"/>		
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Example	<input type="text"/>	?
Description	<input type="text"/>	?
<input type="button" value="Large Edit Box"/>		
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Use {option}	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Button Image (<i>Optional</i>)	<input type="text"/>	?
If you would like this bbcode to appear as a clickable button on the message editor toolbar, enter the URL of an image 21 x 20 pixels in size that will act as the button to insert this bbcode.		
Remove Tag If Empty?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Disable BB Code Within This BB Code?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Disable Smilies Within This BB Code?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Disable Word Wrapping Within This BB Code?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?

Save **Reset**

- **Title** – the title of your tag, which will be used to generate the BB code list.
- **Tag** – this is the text for the BB code, which goes inside the square brackets. For example, you would use 'b' for [b] tags and 'url' (without quotes) for [url] tags.
- **Replacement** – this is the HTML code for the BB code replacement. Make sure that you include '{param}' (without the quotes) to insert the text between the opening and closing BB code tags, and '{option}' for the parameter within the BB code tag. You can only use {option} if 'Use Option' is set to yes.

For example, you would use {param} for [b] tags and {param} for [url=xxx]. You will always use '{param}', but you will only use '{option}' when *Use Option*? is yes.

- **Example** – this is a sample piece of BB code to use as an example for this particular BB code. For example, you would use [b]Bold[/b] for [b] tags, [url=http://www.vbulletin.com]vBulletin[/url] for [url] tags.
- **Description** – this is a piece of text to describe the BB code tag. This can include HTML tags if you wish.
- **Use Option** – setting this option to yes will allow you to create a [tag=option][/tag] style tag, rather than just a [tag][/tag] style tag.
- **Button Image** – this is the URL to an image that will be displayed when a user is making a new post. Clicking the image will allow a user to quickly insert this tag. The image should be 21-pixels-wide by 20-pixels-high and the path should be specified relative to the main vBulletin directory.
- **Remove Tag If Empty?** – setting this option to yes will remove this BB Code from your text if there is nothing within it. For example, if this option is set, [tag][/tag] will not be displayed, whereas [tag]text here[/tag] will be displayed. Set this option to no if you wish the BB Code's replacements to be shown no matter what.
- **Disable BB Code Within This BB Code?** – setting this option disables the parsing of any BB Code within this BB Code, displaying them as plain text.
- **Disable Smilies Within This BB Code?** – setting this option disables smilies within the BB Code, displaying them as plain text.
- **Disable Word Wrapping Within This BB Code?** – setting this option disables word-wrapping within this BB Code.

RSS Feed Posting Robot

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vBulletin includes a system through which RSS feeds from remote sources can be imported into your own board as threads or announcements.

Many sites now offer RSS feeds, which provide a means of providing their content to other parties in a standardized format.

The RSS posting robot in vBulletin allows administrators to import a wealth of third party data into their forums, such as live news feeds or even posts and threads from other forums.

Managing RSS Feeds

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To access the RSS feed manager, navigate to RSS Feeds > RSS Feed Manager.

RSS Feed Manager			
RSS Feed	Forum / User Name	Last Checked	Controls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BBC Arabic newsrss.bbc.co.uk	RSS Feed Forum Scott	Yesterday, 03:04pm	[Edit] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BBC News Front Page newsrss.bbc.co.uk	RSS Feed Forum Kier	Yesterday, 03:04pm	[Edit] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DPReview Test www.dpreview.com	RSS Feed Forum Kier	Yesterday, 03:04pm	[Edit] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Register www.theregister.co.uk	RSS Feed Forum Scott	Yesterday, 03:04pm	[Edit] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vBulletin 3.5 Bugs www.vbulletin.com	RSS Feed Forum Kier	Yesterday, 03:04pm	[Edit] [Delete]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vBulletin Announcements www.vbulletin.com	RSS Feed Forum Kier	Yesterday, 03:04pm	[Edit] [Delete]
Save Enabled Status	Run Scheduled Task Now		Add New RSS Feed

From here, you will find a list of any RSS feeds that have already been added to the board, together with controls to manage those feeds. There is also a control to add a new RSS feed to the board if you wish to do so.

Next to each feed is a checkbox which can be used as a quick means of disabling feeds without actually deleting them. To use this feature, simply tick or un-tick as many feeds as you want then hit the [Save Enabled Status] button to save your preference.

To add or edit an RSS feed from which your board can fetch data, navigate to RSS Feeds > RSS Feed Manager and either click the name of the RSS feed you want to edit, or else click the [Add New RSS Feed] button to add a new one.

Each RSS feed listed in the manager can be edited by clicking either on its name or on the [Edit] link. Also shown is the host name of the server on which the RSS feed is located. Clicking on this host name (such as www.example.com) will allow you to view the raw feed source, which may be shown as plain XML or else might be formatted using XSLT by the feed owner.

Additionally, each feed shows the last time at which the source was checked for updates.

Editing RSS Feeds

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To add a new RSS feed, or edit an existing one, either click the name of the existing feed on the [RSS Feed Manager](#) page, or click the [Add New RSS Feed] button to add a new feed.

The RSS Feed Editor will then load, presenting you with a detailed form to complete in order to instruct vBulletin how to treat the RSS feed to which you are pointing it.

Edit RSS Feed

Reset Last Checked Time	<input type="checkbox"/> Reset	?
Feed is Enabled	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Title	BBC News Front Page	?
URL of Feed	http://newsrss.bbc.co.uk/rss/newsone_uk_edition/fr	?
Check Feed Every...	10 Minutes	?
Maximum Items to Fetch Any items above this number found in the feed will be ignored.	5	?
Search Items for Words Only insert items if they contain one or more of these words. Put a space or a new line between each search word.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search Titles Only <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; height: 100px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>	
User Name	Kier	?
Forum	RSS Feed Forum	?
Allow Smilies	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Display Signature	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Convert HTML to BB Code. If this is enabled then the setting "Allow HTML in Announcements" will be ignored	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?

- **Reset Last Checked Time**

This control is related to the *Check Feed Every...* control (see below) and allows you to have vBulletin check the feed the next time the robot checks any feeds, instead of waiting for the next scheduled time.

- **Feed is Enabled**

If this control is set to 'No', the feed will be ignored. The enabled switch is an easy way to temporarily disable a feed without actually deleting the record from the database.

- **Title**

Enter a title for your feed here. This will be used solely for identification purposes within the Admin Control Panel.

- **URL of Feed**

This is the most important control on the page. Enter the full URL to the feed here, including the port number if it is non-standard.

A few examples:

- http://www.example.com/feed.rss
- https://www.example.com/secure_feed.xml
- http://www.example.com:8080/another_feed.rdf

- **Check Feed Every...**

Use this control to specify how frequently vBulletin should query the feed specified to check for new items.

Warning:

Bear in mind that checking a feed too frequently *could* get your server blacklisted by the site hosting the feed.

- **Maximum Items to Fetch**

Some feeds may contain many items. To prevent your forum being flooded with messages, specify a number here to limit the messages posted from the feed to the first few items.

- **Search Items for Words**

When a feed is checked you may optionally have vBulletin search each item for key words and only post the item if one or more of those key words is found. Enter any number of words into the text box, separating each word with a space or new line.

By ticking and unticking the **Search Titles Only** control you may specify whether the system should search the title feed only, or both the title feed **and** the description field from each item in the feed.

- **User Name**

Enter the name of the user who to whom items posted from this feed will be attributed. Usually this would be an administrator, or a special user created solely as the poster of RSS items.

- **Forum**

Select a forum into which messages posted from the feed will be placed. Ensure that the forum you choose can accept posts!

- **Allow Smilies**

If any smilie codes are found in the RSS items to be posted, having this option set to 'Yes' will convert those smilie codes into their corresponding smilie images.

- **Display Signature**

Set this option to 'Yes' if you would like items posted by the RSS feed robot to include the signature of the user to whom they are attributed (see *User Name* above).

- **Convert HTML to BB Code**

Some RSS feeds contain HTML formatting. If you would like vBulletin to attempt to convert HTML into BB Code, set this option to 'Yes'.

Note:

Note that the later setting 'Allow HTML in Announcements' will be ignored if this option is enabled.

Templates Help ?

The two templates listed here are used for the title (title template) and body (body template) of messages posted by the RSS poster.

You can specify exactly how these items appear and any item from a feed can be inserted by using {feed:fieldname} where 'fieldname' corresponds to one of the following: title, description, link, id, date, enclosure_href and content:encoded.

Title Template	BBC News: {feed:title}	?
Body Template	{feed:description}	?
<input type="button" value="Large Edit Box"/> <small>[url={feed:link}]More...[/url]</small>		

[Increase Size](#) [Decrease Size](#)

RSS feeds can contain a lot of information, and in order to be as flexible as possible, vBulletin provides two simple template fields in which you can specify exactly what information you would like extracted from each RSS item, and how to format it.

Within vBulletin, we allow you to access only specific parts of the RSS. The fields you can use are title, description, link, id, date, enclosure_href and content:encoded

These fields of information can be included in the templates using the simple format {feed:fieldname} where 'fieldname' is the name of the field whose contents you want to insert.

Here is an example of a template that will include the item title, description and link:

```
[b]{feed:title}[/b]
{feed:description}
[url={feed:link}]More...[/url]
```

There are two templates to complete - one for the title of the item to be posted, and one for the message body.

The vBulletin RSS Feed posting robot has the ability to post RSS items either as threads or as announcements, with different options for each posting type. The options for each type are described in the following pages.

- [Posting RSS Items as Threads](#)
- [Posting RSS Items as Announcements](#)

Posting RSS Items as Threads

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To post RSS items for the current feed as threads, first select the radio button labelled **Post Items as Threads**. The options below will then apply to the posted items.

Post Items as Threads ?

Post Icons	<input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/>  <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <img alt="Icon 274" data-bbox="11148 628 1116
------------	--

- Moderate Thread**

If you would like to give your moderation staff the opportunity to check the content of items posted by the RSS robot before they

- Thread Action Delay (Hours)**

This special option allows the system to perform an action on a thread posted by the RSS robot after a number of hours has elapsed.

If you would like an action to be performed on a thread after a time delay, enter a number of hours in the box provided, otherwise leave the value as 0 to disable the option.

- Unstick Sticky Thread After Delay**

Select this option if you would like sticky threads to be unstuck after the number of hours you specified. This can be useful for drawing attention to new items for a limited time, before allowing them to drop off the first page of thread results.

- Close Thread After Delay**

This option allows you to have threads posted by the RSS robot to be automatically closed after a delay specified by you (above).

Posting RSS Items as Announcements

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To post RSS items for the current feed as announcements, you must first select the radio button labelled **Post Items as Announcements**, which will allow the options below to be set.

<input type="radio"/> Post Items as Announcements	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	?
Allow HTML in Announcements		?
Strongly not recommended - see Help		
Days for Announcement to Remain Active	10	?

- Allow HTML in Announcements**

If this option is set to 'Yes', any HTML included in RSS items will be posted verbatim in items posted on your board.

Warning:

Allowing raw HTML means that any malicious HTML or Javascript code included in the RSS feed will appear uncensored on your board. **Do not** enable this option unless you fully trust the RSS source to not include such exploit code, or all sorts of bad things could happen...

- Days for Announcements to Remain Active**

Announcements posted by the RSS robot will remain visible to board visitors for a limited time. You can set the amount of days they will remain active using this control.

Note:

Once an announcement has been posted by the RSS robot, you can manually change the expiry date of any individual announcement by editing it directly via the Admin CP > Announcements > Announcement Manager > Edit system.

Saving and Previewing RSS Feeds

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After setting all the options for an RSS feed, you can either choose to save it straight away using the [Save] button...

Save **Preview Feed** **Reset**

...or you can preview the results of the options you have set by pressing the [Preview Feed] button.

Preview Feed **Help ?**

Scorpions deployed in cancer battle

Venom holds hope for sufferers

A protein found in scorpion venom could lead to a new treatment for a particularly aggressive type of brain cancer, according to new research....

[More...](#)

ISS inhabitants plan space stroll

Popping out for a breath of fresh...er...

ESA astronaut Thomas Reiter is gearing up for a spacewalk around the International Space Station along with his NASA colleague, Jeff Williams....

[More...](#)

The preview function allows you to quickly see how your templates are working, whether the feed URL is correct, etc.

Occasionally, the preview may also give you useful information about the feed, such as suggestions for options.

Preview Feed **Help** 

This feed supports `content:encoded`. Your imported feeds may appear nicer if you use `{rss:content:encoded}` in your bodytemplate instead of `{rss:description}` and enable the *Convert HTML to BB Code* option.

Scheduled Tasks

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The vBulletin Scheduled Task Manager allows you to add tasks that will be executed at specific intervals, much like the Unix Cron system.

You will find a number of tasks already set to run at specific times, and you can edit the intervals for those tasks, or add your own if you have something specific you need done.

Introduction to Scheduled Tasks

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Scheduled tasks allow you to run scripts at specific intervals. It is essentially equivalent to ‘cron jobs’ in Unix and ‘scheduled tasks’ in Windows®.

Examples of things you might use scheduled tasks for include daily and weekly email digests and automatic, happy-birthday emails.

Warning:

vBulletin’s scheduled tasks system does not constantly run on the server like cron and scheduled tasks in Windows®. Tasks are automatically run when a user browses your board, so if your board does not have any traffic at a given time, tasks scheduled to run then will not run until later.

vBulletin’s scheduled tasks also will not run when your board is turned off.

Managing Scheduled Tasks

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When going to Scheduled Tasks > Scheduled Task Manager, you will be presented with a screen like this:

Scheduled Task Manager		Help ?	
m h D M Dow	Title	Next Time	Controls
05 * * * *	Hourly Cleanup	02-25-2004 01:05 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now
10 * * * *	Attachment Views	02-25-2004 01:10 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now
15 * * * *	Restore Temporarily Banned Users	02-25-2004 01:15 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now
20 * * * *	Hourly Cleanup #2	02-25-2004 01:20 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now
25 * * * *	User Promotions	02-25-2004 01:25 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now
56 * * * *	Thread Views	02-25-2004 01:56 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now
00 0 * * *	Daily Statistics Log	02-26-2004 12:00 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now
01 0 * * *	Birthdays	02-26-2004 12:01 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now
02 0 * * *	Daily Digest	02-26-2004 12:02 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now
02 0 * * *	Subscriptions	02-26-2004 12:02 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now
03 0 * * *	Activation Reminder Email	02-26-2004 12:03 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now
30 0 * * Mon	Weekly Digest	03-02-2004 12:30 AM	Edit ▾ Go Run Now

All times are GMT. The time now is 09:57 PM.

[Add New Scheduled Task](#)

The columns mean the following:

- **m** – this stands for minute. This is the minute of the hour when the task will run. * means it runs every minute.
- **h** – this stands for hour, the hour of the day when the task will run. * means it will run every hour.
- **D** – this stands for day. If a number is specified, this is the day of the month when the task will run; * means it will run every day.
- **M** – this stands for month. This is the month of the year when the task will run. As you may expect, * means it will run each month.
- **DoW** – this stands for day of the week. If specified, the task will only run on this day of the week, ignoring the day of month setting; if * is selected here, control is passed to the day of month setting.
- **Title** – the name of the scheduled task.
- **Next Time** – the next time that the task is scheduled to run.
- **Controls** – contains controls to edit or delete the task (in the drop down) or run the task right now.

Adding or Editing a Scheduled Task

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To add a new scheduled task, go to Scheduled Tasks > Add New Scheduled Task. You will be presented with a screen like this:

Add New Scheduled Task

Varname	<input type="text"/>	Help
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Description	<input type="text"/>	?
Large Edit Box		
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Log Phrase	<input type="text"/>	?
Large Edit Box		
Increase Size Decrease Size		
Day of the Week (Note: this overrides the 'day of the month' option)	<input type="text" value="*"/>	?
Day of the Month	<input type="text" value="*"/>	?
Hour	<input type="text" value="*"/>	?
Minute	<input type="text" value="*"/> - - - -	?
Active	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Log Entries	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Filename	<input type="text" value="./includes/cron/.php"/>	?
Product	<input type="text" value="vBulletin"/>	?
Save Reset		

- **Varname** – An unique identifier for the task. You will most likely want to call this something similar to the task's title. You may only use a-z, A-Z, 0-9, and _ (underscore) in this field.
- **Title** – the title of the scheduled task. This is used for identifying the task in the scheduled task manager and log.
- **Description** – the description of the scheduled task. This is used for describing the task in the scheduled task manager.
- **Log Phrase** - this controls the format of the phrase that will be used when logging successful runs of this task. If the code that logs this task provides more specific information about what was performed, you may use text placeholders such as {I}.
- **Day of the Week** – the specific day of the week that the task should run on. If this is set to a day, then the *Day of the Month* setting will not have any effect.
- **Day of the Month** – if *Day of the Week* is set to *, then this indicates the specific day of the month that the task should run on. Set this to * to run the task daily.
- **Hour** – the hour of the day when the task is run. Set this to * to run the task every hour.
- **Minute** – the minute of the hour when the task is run. Set this to * to run the task every minute.
- **Active** – The task will only execute when this option is enabled.
- **Log Entries** – allows you to specify whether results from the task are logged.
- **Filename** – the path to the PHP script which contains the code to be run. This should be specified relative to the main forums directory.
- **Product** - this is the product that this task is associated with. You do not need to change this value unless you are developing an addon to be released.

Scheduled Task Log

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The scheduled task log is simply a way to see when tasks are run and what effect they had. When you go to Scheduled Tasks > Scheduled Task Log, you will be presented with a screen similar to this:

Scheduled Task Log Viewer

Log Entries to Show Per Page	<input type="text" value="15"/>	?
Show Only Entries Generated By	<input type="text" value="All Scheduled Tasks"/>	?
Order By	<input type="text" value="Date"/>	?
View		

Prune Scheduled Task Log

Remove Entries Relating to Action	<input type="text" value="All Scheduled Tasks"/>	?
Remove Entries Older Than (Days)	<input type="text" value="30"/>	?
Prune		

Here, you may view previous log entries or prune old entries.

To view log entries, select the criteria you want and click [View]. This will lead you to a screen that looks like this:

Scheduled Task Log Viewer (page 1/1) There are 7 total log entries.				[Restart]	Help ?
ID	Action	Date	Info		
7	Weekly Digest	00:52, 25th Feb 2004	Weekly Digests Sent		
6	Daily Digest	00:52, 25th Feb 2004	Daily Digests Sent		
5	Subscriptions	00:50, 25th Feb 2004	Subscriptions Updated		
4	Daily Digest	02:30, 19th Feb 2004	Daily Digests Sent		
3	Weekly Digest	13:33, 17th Feb 2004	Weekly Digests Sent		
2	Subscriptions	21:28, 5th Feb 2004	Subscriptions Updated		
1	Daily Digest	21:25, 5th Feb 2004	Daily Digests Sent		

- **ID** – ID number used to identify the log entry.
- **Action** – title of the scheduled task run.
- **Date** – date and time that the task was run.
- **Info** – information returned from the task. For some scripts, this information may include users affected.

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Plugin System

From version 3.5, vBulletin has an extensive plugin system, allowing new features to be added and functionality to be changed by third-party add-ons, without modifying the core vBulletin code.

The following sections detail some of the methods in which this can be done.

The Product Manager

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The product manager, found at Admin Control Panel > Plugin System > Manage Products, is a tool for dealing with the installation, removal, enabling and disabling of [products](#).

Each row of the product manager interface shows the details of a product you have installed into your vBulletin system.

Installed Products			
Title	Version	Description	Controls
vBulletin	3.5.0		
My Product	1.0	A test product	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
Your Product	0.57	Another test product	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/> <input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Disable"/> <input type="button" value="Export"/> <input type="button" value="Uninstall"/>

The image shown above lists two installed products - *My Product* and *Your Product*. You can see the description of each product, together with the version number of the currently installed version.

For the majority of users, the product manager will be the interface through which downloaded products are installed, upgraded or removed.

Installed products can be temporarily disabled or fully removed from the system using the corresponding popup menu for each product.

The product manager also acts as the packager for creating new products - this use is described fully in [Creating a Product](#).

Importing / Installing a Product

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Having downloaded a product from [vBulletin.com's Members Area](#) or [vBulletin.org](#), the product manager contains a link labelled [Add/Import Product].

Clicking this link will load the Add/Import Product interface, which contains two forms. In this instance, we will be using the **Import Product** form.

Import Product	
EITHER upload the XML file from your computer <input type="file"/> <input type="button" value="Browse..."/>	
OR import the XML file from your server <input type="text" value="./includes/xml/product.xml"/>	
Allow Overwrite <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No If you wish to upgrade a product, you must set this to yes.	
<input type="button" value="Import"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Importing a product is done in much the same way as importing a style, or a language pack. You simply need to click the [Browse] button and navigate with the file dialog to the product XML file you downloaded.

Alternatively, if you have uploaded the XML file to your server via [FTP](#), you can specify the relative path to the XML file from your forums directory instead of using the [Browse] button.

If you are installing a new product, you should leave the Allow Overwrite option set to **No**, but if you are installing a new version of a product you have previously installed (upgrading) then this option should be set to **Yes**.

When the form is complete, hit the [Import] button and the XML file will be imported, installing any templates, phrases, plugins etc. that are specified within that XML file.

Temporarily Deactivating a Product

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It is possible to temporarily disable / deactivate a product through the product manager *without* totally removing it. This makes debugging simpler, as problems can be isolated to specific products by disabling all products and then re-enabling them one by one until the problem reappears.

To disable a product, simply select Disable from the popup menu next to the product you want to deactivate.

Installed Products			
Title	Version	Description	Controls
vBulletin	3.5.0		Edit Go
My Product	1.0	A test product	Edit Go
Your Product	0.57	Another test product	Edit Go
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Edit Disable Export Uninstall </div>

Disabled products will not execute their plugin code, nor will their appear control panel navigation items be displayed and any defined bitfield permissions will not be shown in the usergroup permissions editor.

A disabled product shows with its name struck-through and will have the Disable option from the popup menu replaced by a Enable option. To re-enable a product, simply select this option.

Installed Products			
Title	Version	Description	Controls
vBulletin	3.5.0		Edit Go
My Product	1.0	A test product	Edit Go
Your Product	0.57	Another test product	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Edit Enable Export Uninstall </div>

Removing / Uninstalling a Product

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If you no longer have any need for a product you have previously installed, you can remove it from the system easily and cleanly.

Uninstalling a product will automatically and **permanently** remove the following:

- All plugin code attached to the product
- All master templates attached to the product
- All master phrases attached to the product
- All options attached to the product
- All admin help entries attached to the product

Any additional files uploaded as part of the product installation will need to be removed manually in the same manner as they were uploaded.

To uninstall a product, select the Uninstall option from the popup menu corresponding to the target product.

Installed Products			
Title	Version	Description	Controls
vBulletin	3.5.0		Edit Go
My Product	1.0	A test product	Edit Go
Your Product	0.57	Another test product	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Edit Disable Export Uninstall </div>

Note:

While the master versions of all templates and phrases belonging to a product will be deleted by the uninstall procedure, if any *customized* versions exist, they will be retained in the database and will appear as custom templates.

The Plugin Manager

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vBulletin contains a number of [hooks](#), to which can be attached chunks of code to extend or change the functionality of vBulletin. These chunks of code are called [plugins](#). The plugin manager is the system through which plugins can be added, modified and removed.

Plugin System			
Title	Product	Active	Controls
Save Active Status			
[Add New Plugin]			

Adding or Editing a Plugin

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To add a plugin, navigate to Plugin System > Add New Plugin. This will take you to the **Add New Plugin** form.

Edit Plugin Profile Update Logger

Product	<input type="button" value="Test Product"/>
Hook Location	<input type="text" value="profile_updateprofile"/>
This specifies the location within the vBulletin code of the hook that will fire this plugin function.	
Title	<input type="text" value="Profile Update Logger"/>
Enter a title that describes this plugin.	
Execution Order	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Use this field to enter the order in which code at the same hook will be executed.	
Plugin PHP Code	<pre>\$tmp_uid =& \$vbulletin->userinfo['userid']; \$db->query_write("INSERT INTO ". TABLE_PREFIX . "profilelog (userid, dateline) VALUES (\$tmp_uid, " . TIMENOW . ") ");</pre>
Increase Size Decrease Size	
Plugin is Active	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
If this plugin is marked as inactive, it will not be called by vBulletin. Use this to temporarily turn plugins on and off.	
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

The fields on the Add New Product form are **all** required for successful plugin operation. Each field is described here:

Product Use the Product field to attach this plugin to a product. This allows plugins to be grouped together and exported and installed as part of a product package through the [product manager](#).

Hook Location The [hook](#) location specifies *where* in the vBulletin system your plugin code should be executed.

To work out what hook would be appropriate to use, you will need to look through the vBulletin PHP scripts for hook locations, then identify the unique ID of hook you want to use.

In the example illustrated, we are attaching our code to the profile_updateprofile hook, which can be found in profile.php with this line:

```
($hook = vBulletinHook::fetch_hook('profile_updateprofile')) ? eval($hook) : false;
```

Title Use the title field to give your plugin a meaningful name to help you identify it at a later date.

Execution Order This field allows the execution order to be defined when multiple hooks are to be executed. A hook with a lower execution number will be executed first.

Plugin PHP Code Use this box to enter the PHP code you want to be executed at the specified hook location. Remember that the code runs in the context and scope of the hook line itself.

For more information about writing plugin code, there is a [section of this manual dedicated to this subject](#).

Warning:

Plugin code must be valid PHP or errors will ensue.

Plugin is Active You can use this control to disable an individual plugin without removing the code. This can be helpful in debugging.

Plugin Summary View

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When multiple plugins are added, they can all be viewed at a glance through the plugin manager. The manager's main page will display

- the title of each plugin
- the hook that executes the code (or the product the plugin belongs to)
- the active/inactive status of the plugin

Plugin System				
Title	Hook Location	Active	Controls	
Product : Test Product				
Test Code	announcement_start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[Edit] [Delete]	
User Code	userdata_start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[Edit] [Delete]	
Product : vBulletin				
My Modification	ajax_start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[Edit] [Delete]	
Save Active Status				

From here you can also activate or deactivate one or more plugins without having to visit the full editor page. To do this, simply change the status of one or more of the plugin checkboxes, then click the [Save Active Status] button at the bottom of the form. The plugins saved with the checkbox unchecked will now be disabled.

Plugin System				
Title	Hook Location	Active	Controls	
Product : Test Product				
Test Code	announcement_start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[Edit]	[Delete]
User Code	userdata_start	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Edit]	[Delete]
Product : vBulletin				
My Modification	ajax_start	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Edit]	[Delete]
Save Active Status				

Help! I've broken my board!

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Hopefully you'll never have the misfortune to break your board with a plugin containing an error, but if you do you could potentially find yourself unable to log into correct the problem because your plugin has broken the login system.

Thankfully, help is at hand. There is a global, code-level switch you can use to totally disable the plugin/hook system so that any plugins (including broken ones) do not run.

To disable the plugin/hook system completely without accessing the Admin CP options, you need to edit [includes/config.php](#) and add the following code:

```
define('DISABLE_HOOKS', true);
```

With this code in config.php, no plugins will run at all.

To re-enable the plugin system, remove the code again from config.php.

Creating a Product

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To create a vBulletin 'product' that can be downloaded and installed by others, there are several stages to be performed.

In summary, they are these:

1. Add a product record and title it accordingly
2. Add plugin code for the product
3. Add templates and phrases for the product
4. Add options for the product
5. Add control panel navigation entries for the product
6. Add bitfield permissions for the product
7. Export the product XML file

Adding a Product

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The first step when creating a product for others to install is to create the product record.

This will act as a grouping agent for all the items you add that go together to form your product.

To add a product record, navigate to Plugin System > Manage Products > Add/Import Product then use the Add New Product form.

Add New Product		Help ?
Product ID	<input type="text"/>	?
Title	<input type="text"/>	?
Version	<input type="text"/>	?
Description	<input type="text"/>	?
Product URL	<input type="text"/>	?
Version Check URL	<input type="text"/>	?
Save		Reset

The fields to complete are as follows:

Product ID This is the most important field of a product - all items added to the product such as templates, plugins, phrases etc. will all reference this value to indicate their attachment to the product.

Product IDs can contain lowercase letters, underscores and numbers but no other characters.

Note:

Please do **not** name your products with a 'vb' prefix, such as *vbelephant* or *vbsidewalk*. The 'vb' prefix is reserved for official vBulletin products released by Jelsoft or its affiliates.

Title The title field is used to give your product a recognizable name for the purposes of identification.

Version The version field is important as it is used in the product upgrade process. A version value of 2.0 is considered newer than 1.0 etc.

Description Fairly self-explanatory, the description field is used to give a little more detail about your product than the title field.

Product URL This is the location where users can get information and support for your product. If you provide this, the product title will be linked to this URL from the product list.

Version If you provide this URL, users will be able to automatically check to see if their version of the product

Check URL is up to date. Data returned by this page must be in this format:

```
<version productid="x">1.2.3</version>
```

Where x is the product ID, and 1.2.3 is the latest version of your product.

When all fields are complete, hit the [Save] button and your product record will be inserted and will be listed in the [product manager](#).

Writing Plugin Code

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Plugin code is regular PHP, and should be written as if editing the vBulletin scripts directly.

When adding code to a plugin, you should bear in mind that your code will have access to all variables and classes that are exposed at the point where the hook is placed.

For example, let us consider this hypothetical hook in a hypothetical script:

```
<?php
require_once('./global.php');

$foo = 1;
$bar = 2;

($hook = vBulletinHook::fetch_hook('hypothetical_hook')) ? eval($hook) : false;
eval('print_output("' . fetch_template('hypothetical_template') . '"');");
?>
```

Using this code, when the script terminates, \$foo will equal 1 and \$bar will equal 2.

We will now add a plugin to the *hypothetical_hook* hook, using this code:

```
if ($_SERVER['REMOTE_ADDR'] == '192.168.0.1')
{
    $foo = 10;
    $bar = 20;
}
```

When PHP runs the script now, the code will appear in effect as this, where the red code is the plugin code:

```
<?php
require_once('./global.php');

$foo = 1;
$bar = 2;

if ($_SERVER['REMOTE_ADDR'] == '192.168.0.1')
{
    $foo = 10;
    $bar = 20;
}

eval('print_output("' . fetch_template('hypothetical_template') . '"');");
?>
```

At the termination point of the script, if the IP address of the visiting browser is 192.168.0.1, \$foo will now equal 10 and \$bar will equal 20, though the original PHP code remains unmodified.

Optimizing Plugin Memory Usage

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The plugin system works by storing all plugin code for all scripts in memory, so you can quickly find your plugins using large amounts of memory if they contain a lot of code.

A simple way to avoid this problem is to use the plugin code simply to *call* an external script, which contains all the complex code. In this way the code is only loaded when it is actually required.

For example, a plugin could contain this:

```
$tmp_uid =& $vbulletin->userinfo['userid'];
```

```
$db->query_write("
    INSERT INTO " . TABLE_PREFIX . "profilelog
    (userid, dateline)
    VALUES
    ($tmp_uid, " . TIMENOW . ")
");
```

or alternatively, that code could be placed into a file called (for example) `plugins/my_script.php`, and the plugin itself would contain this:

```
include('./plugins/my_script.php');
```

Naturally, the second option will use up far less memory than the first, and this saving will become more and more beneficial as the amount of code to be run increases.

Product Dependencies

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If the product you are developing has specific requirements, such as PHP/MySQL/vBulletin versions or dependencies on other products, the new product dependencies system allows you to simply manage these checks.

Once you have created a product, you will be taken back to the main product manager page. From this page, select Edit from the dropdown for your product. Here, you can edit the existing product properties (see this page for more information), add/edit product dependencies, or add/edit install and uninstall codes. We will concentrate on the product dependencies section:

Add New Product Dependency

Dependency Type	<input type="radio"/> PHP Version <input type="radio"/> MySQL Version <input type="radio"/> vBulletin Version <input type="radio"/> Product ID <input type="text"/>	?
Compatibility Starts With Version	<input type="text"/>	?
Incompatible With Version (And newer versions)	<input type="text"/>	?
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

Dependency Type (mandatory) This is the type dependency you are creating. You may add requirements on specific versions of PHP, MySQL, and vBulletin. Additionally, you may add a dependency on a specific product, identified by product ID. If you are depending on a specific product, the user must have this product installed *and enabled!*

Compatibility Starts With Version (mandatory in some cases) This controls the minimum compatible version. You may leave this blank if you wish to have no minimum version; if you do this, you must enter a value into the *Incompatible With Version* field.

This version is included in the compatibility. For example, if you require PHP 5.0.0, 5.0.0 will qualify. However, 5.0.0 Beta 1 will not.

Incompatible With Version (mandatory in some cases) This is the first incompatible version. All versions newer than this are also incompatible. If you wish to only require a minimum version, you may leave this field blank.

This version is not considered compatible. For example, if you specify that your product is incompatible with PHP 5.0.0, a user with PHP 5.0.0 Beta 1 will be able to install your product, while a user with PHP 5.0.0 or 5.0.1 would not.

Installation & Uninstallation Code

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If the product you are developing requires additional code, such as database queries, to be run during installation or uninstallation, this section will cover how to accomplish this.

Once you have created a product, you will be taken back to the main product manager page. From this page, select Edit from the dropdown for your product. Here, you can edit the existing product properties (see this page for more information) or add/edit install and uninstall codes. We will concentrate on the install codes section:

Add New Install/Uninstall Code

Version	<input type="text"/>
Install Code	<input type="text"/>
Large Edit Box	<input type="text"/>
Increase Size Decrease Size	
Uninstall Code	<input type="text"/>
Large Edit Box	<input type="text"/>
Increase Size Decrease Size	
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Version (mandatory) The version of your product that this specific install/uninstall code pair corresponds to. This is used to control when the code is executed (see below).

Install Code (optional) This PHP code will be run only during installation of or while upgrading your product, starting with code attached to the oldest version. If the user is upgrading, only codes attached to newer versions will be run. Here is an example:

*You make several releases of your product, DemoProduct, versions 1.0, 1.1, 2.0, and 2.0.1. A user currently has version 2.0 installed. When he or she upgrades to 2.0.1, the **only** install code that will be run is code attached to the 2.0.1 release. However, when someone installs your product for the first time, code will be run from all versions in the order of 1.0, 1.1, 2.0, and finally 2.0.1.*

This system allows you to provide increment upgrades and first time installs in the same system.

Uninstall Code (optional) This PHP code is run only when your product is fully uninstalled. This should be used to clean up any tables or extra data that your product has created. Note that control panel options, phrases, templates, and plugins will automatically be cleaned up for you.

Multiple pieces of uninstall code are executed from the newest to oldest version. Using the example above, the uninstall codes will be run in this order: 2.0.1, 2.0, 1.1, 1.0. This allows you to couple install codes and uninstall codes together into a specific version, preventing some uninstallation errors from occurring.

Existing Install/Uninstall Code			
Version	Install Code	Uninstall Code	Delete
1.0	<pre>CREATE TABLE ".TABLE_PREFIX . "profilelog (userid INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL, dateline INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL, INDEX (userid)</pre>	<pre>\$db->query("DROP TABLE ".TABLE_PREFIX . "profilelog");</pre>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Warning:

You must handle errors that may occur in the install/uninstall code as there is no built in error checking beyond what PHP natively provides.

XML-based Control Panel Navigation

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In vBulletin 3.5, the navigation frame is built dynamically using XML files that define what links to show in what groups. This means that new links can be added without any modification of the stock vBulletin files.

When building the navigation frame, vBulletin searches the includes/xml directory for files called cpnav_product.xml, where 'product' is replaced with the unique identifier for a product, for example cpnav_myproduct.xml.

An example cpnav XML file might look like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<navgroups product="myproduct">
    <navgroup phrase="my_product" hr="true" permissions="canadminsettings" displayorder="1">
        <navoption displayorder="10">
            <phrase>my_product_manager</phrase>
            <link>myproduct.php?do=modify</link>
        </navoption>
        <navoption displayorder="20">
            <phrase>add_new_item</phrase>
            <link>myproduct.php?do=add</link>
        </navoption>
    </navgroup>
</navgroups>
```

This block of XML defines a navigation group containing two links, as seen here:



The root node in the XML file is `<navgroups>`, which also has an attribute of `product`, which should correspond to the name of the product in the filename - so for example, cpnav_myproduct.xml should have a root group of `<navgroups product="myproduct">`.

Within the `<navgroups>` node resides any number (greater than one) of `<navgroup>` nodes. Each `<navgroup>` node has a number of attributes, some of which are optional while others are mandatory. The attributes are as follows:

phrase The `phrase` attribute defines the name of the phrase used to display the text for the navigation group.
 (mandatory) This phrase should be a member of either the *GLOBAL*, *Control Panel Global*, or preferably the *Control Panel Home Pages* phrase group. The phrase should belong to the product being described.

displayorder The `displayorder` attribute is used to define the position of the navigation group relative to other navigation groups. A navigation group with a displayorder of 3 will appear before a group having displayorder 6 etc.

Note that display order is distributed between *all* products, so if one product has two navgroups, with display order values of 10 and 30 respectively, while another product has a two navgroups with display order values of 20 and 40, the navgroups of the two products will appear interleaved in the navigation panel.

text The `text` attribute will be shown if the defined phrase does not exist.
 (optional)

permissions If a navigation group should be displayed only to administrators with specific permissions, the `permissions` attribute can be used to achieve this.

As an example, if only administrators with *Can Administer Styles* permissions should be allowed to view a navigation group, you should add `permissions="canadminstyles"` to the `<navgroup>` tag.

hr If the `hr` attribute exists and has a value of *true*, an extra amount of space will be left underneath the navigation group in order to create logical groupings of navigation groups.

Within each <navgroup> node can be any number (greater than one) of <navoption> nodes. Each of these define a single link within the navigation group. A single <navoption> node looks like this:

```
<navoption displayorder="50">
    <phrase>phrase_varname</phrase>
    <link>product.php?do=action</link>
</navoption>
```

Much like the <navgroup> tag, the *displayorder* attribute here controls the order of the links within the navgroup. A link with displayorder = 10 will be displayed before a link with displayorder = 20.

Navigation options have two child nodes, <phrase> and <link>. These are very simple nodes and perform an equally simple task. The <phrase> node contains the name of the phrase whose text will be displayed. As with the phrase attribute of the <navgroup> tag, this phrase should be defined within either the *GLOBAL*, *Control Panel Global*, or preferably the *Control Panel Home Pages* phrase groups, and should belong to the appropriate product. Secondly, the <link> node contains the *relative URL* to the script to which the option links.

vBulletin can support an unlimited number of cpnav_product.xml files, in order to allow any product to add to the default list of navigation links in the admin control panel.

Note:

For a fully-featured control panel navigation XML file example, see includes/xml/cpnav_vbulletin.xml

XML-based Bitfield Definitions

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Prior to vBulletin 3.5, the bitfields used for systems such as usergroup forum permissions (database: usergroup.forumpermissions) and user options (database: user.options) were defined in includes/init.php. This meant that in order to define additional bitfields, a core file in vBulletin needed to be modified. Needless to say, this was not an ideal system, as the modifications would need to be re-applied after every vBulletin upgrade.

With 3.5, this problem has been resolved using XML files tied into the product system.

Every product can add a file called bitfield_[product].xml to the includes/xml directory. When bitfields are rebuilt, these files will be read by the system and will appear in the bitfield datastore cache.

An example bitfield XML file might look like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<bitfields product="myproduct">
    <bitfielddefs>
        <group name="ugp">
            <group name="myproductpermissions">
                <bitfield name="canfoo" group="myproduct_permissions" phrase="can_foo">1</bitfield>
                <bitfield name="canbar" group="myproduct_permissions" phrase="can_bar">2</bitfield>
            </group>
        </group>
    </bitfielddefs>
</bitfields>
```

In this example XML file, we define two bits for a new usergroup.myproductpermissions bitfield. After completing the following steps, vBulletin will be able to reference these two permission bitfields using \$vbulletin->bf_ugp_myproductpermissions['canfoo'] and \$vbulletin->bf_ugp_myproductpermissions['canbar'].

Within the <group name="ugp"> (usergroup permissions) node are definitions for groups of bitfield permissions. The <group name="myproductpermissions"> node defines a bitfield called *myproductpermissions*, which corresponds to an integer field in the *usergroup* table called *myproductpermissions*.

Inside this node are individual <bitfield> nodes, each of which defines a bit within the *myproductpermissions* bitfield. Each of these nodes has three important attributes:

name The name attribute defines the name of the bit for easy reference within vBulletin code.

For example, if your <group> node's name is *myproductpermissions*, and your bitfield's name is *canfoo*, you will be able to access the value of this bit using \$vbulletin->bf_ugp_myproductpermissions['canfoo'].

group The *group* attribute is important only for integration into the usergroup editor. You can either specify the name of an existing group (for reference, see includes/xml/bitfield_vbulletin.xml), in which case the yes/no radio buttons for this bit will appear within that group, or else you can define a new group, in which case the name of the group should correspond to the phrase name for the group you are creating.

In order to be able to use and edit these newly-defined permissions, we must first prepare the system.

1 The first thing to do is to [define the product](#) using the [product manager](#), if you have not done so already.

2 We must now alter the usergroup table in the database to include this new field. The query to support this particular field would be as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE usergroup ADD myproductpermissions INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL DEFAULT 0;
```

3 Now that we have a place in the database to store the permissions it is necessary to add all the phrases referenced by the bitfields XML. In our example, these phrases are called *myproduct_permissions*, *can_foo* and *can_bar*.

These phrases need to be added to the *Permissions* phrase group, and should belong to the *myproduct* product.

Add New Phrase

Insert into MASTER Yes No

LANGUAGE
(Developer Option)

Phrase Type: Permissions

Product: My Product

Varname: can_foo

Text: Can Foo

Translations

- 4 With the phrases and the database field in place, we can now perform the final step, which is to rebuild the vBulletin bitfield cache from the XML files. This can only be done in debug mode, and appears as a link in the **vBulletin Options** navigation group.

- My Product**
- My Product Manager
- Add New Item
- vBulletin Options**
- vBulletin Options
- Search Type
- Admin Help Manager
- Rebuild Bitfields
- Styles & Templates**
- Style Manager
- Search in Templates
- Darkenment Variable Manager

- 5 The newly-defined bitfield permissions will now appear within the [usergroup editor](#) and can be edited in the same way as the standard, predefined permissions for each usergroup.

My Product Permissions

Can Foo	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Can Bar	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

Exporting a Product

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When your product is complete (and fully tested of course!) the final step is to export it into a format that is easily usable by people who may want to install your product for themselves.

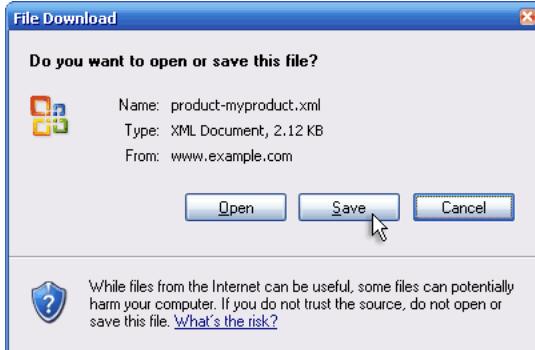
The vBulletin product manager includes a facility to do just this. Almost all the items you have added to your product can be exported in a single XML file. The following items are included in the exported product XML file:

- Product version, title, description etc.
- Plugins
- Templates
- Phrases
- Options

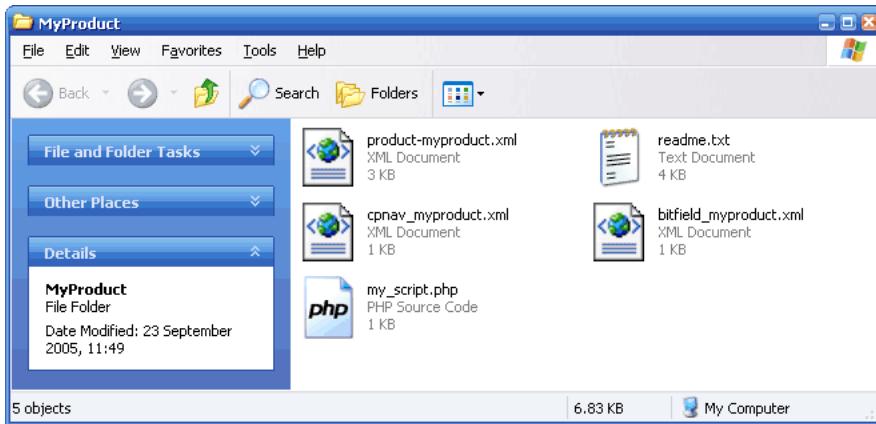
To export a product, simply select the Export option from the product's popup menu.

Installed Products			
Title	Version	Description	Controls
vBulletin	3.5.0		
My Product	1.0	A test product	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/> <input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Disable"/> <input type="button" value="Export"/> <input type="button" value="Uninstall"/>
Your Product	0.57	Another test product	

This will pop up a dialog asking if you would like to save an XML file. Click the [Save] button and save the XML file to a safe place on your computer's hard drive.



The resulting XML file can then be packaged up with any bitfield or cpnav XML files, additional PHP, Javascript and CSS scripts and zipped for distribution.



The following is an example of an exported product XML file containing a plugin, two templates and six phrases:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>

<product productid="myproduct" active="1">
    <title>My Product</title>
    <description>A test product</description>
    <version>1.0</version>
    <codes>
        <code version="1.0">
            <installcode><![CDATA[$db->query("CREATE TABLE ". TABLE_PREFIX . "profilelog (
                userid INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL,
                dateline INT NOT NULL,
                INDEX (userid)
            )");]]></installcode>
            <uninstallcode><![CDATA[$db->query("DROP TABLE ". TABLE_PREFIX . "profilelog
                ")]]></uninstallcode>
        </code>
        <code version="2.0">
            <installcode><![CDATA[$db->query("ALTER TABLE ". TABLE_PREFIX . "profilelog
                CHANGE dateline dateline INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL
            ")]]></installcode>
            <uninstallcode>//moo</uninstallcode>
        </code>
    </codes>
    <templates>
        <template name="profile_log"
            templatetype="template" date="1127469263" username="Administrator"
            version="3.5.0"><![CDATA[<div>
$profile_logbits
</div>]]></template>
        <template name="profile_logbit"
            templatetype="template" date="1127472467" username="Administrator"
            version="3.5.0"><![CDATA[<div>
$log[username] @ $log[date] <span class="time">$log[date]</span>
</div>]]></template>
    </templates>
    <plugins>
        <plugin active="1">
            <title>Profile Update Logger</title>
            <hookname>profile_updateprofile</hookname>
            <phpcode><![CDATA[$tmp_uid =& $vbulletin->userinfo['userid'];

$db->query_write(
    INSERT INTO ". TABLE_PREFIX . "profilelog
    (userid, dateline)
    VALUES
    ($tmp_uid, ". TIMENOW . ")</phpcode>
        </plugin>
    </plugins>
</product>
```

"]);]]></phpcode>
</plugin>
</plugins>
<phrases>
 <phrasetype name="Permissions" fieldname="cppermission">
 <phrase name="can_bar"><![CDATA[Can Bar]]></phrase>
 <phrase name="can_foo"><![CDATA[Can Foo]]></phrase>
 <phrase name="myproduct_permissions"><![CDATA[My Product Permissions]]></phrase>
 </phrasetype>
 <phrasetype name="Control Panel Home Pages" fieldname="cphome">
 <phrase name="add_new_item"><![CDATA[Add New Item]]></phrase>
 <phrase name="my_product"><![CDATA[My Product]]></phrase>
 <phrase name="my_product_manager"><![CDATA[My Product Manager]]></phrase>
 </phrasetype>
</phrases>
<options>
</options>
</product>

Statistics & Logs

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Statistics & Logs provides the storage point for any system generated messages and statistics regarding your forum

Statistics

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When going to Statistics & Logs > Statistics you will be presented with a screen like this:

The screenshot shows a dark-themed interface with a header labeled "Statistics". Below the header is a vertical list of five links: "[Top Statistics]", "[Registration Statistics]", "[User Activity Statistics]", "[New Thread Statistics]", and "[New Post Statistics]".

These links are used to display various statistics regarding your board, the descriptions are provided below:

- **Top Statistics** - A short list of various records on your board.
- **Registration Statistics** - The number of registrations on your board shown over a defined time frame.
- **User Activity Statistics** - The number of users that visited your board shown over a defined time frame.
- **New Thread Statistics** - The number of new threads on your board shown over a defined time frame.
- **New Post Statistics** - The number of new posts on your board shown over a defined time frame.

Note:

User Activity Statistics will show 0 for any entries prior to your upgrade to vBulletin 3

The statistics viewer allows both a range of dates to be defined for reporting, the scope in which they should be displayed and the order of the sorting on date.

The screenshot shows a form titled "New Post Statistics". It includes fields for "Start Date" (set to February 7, 2004), "Last Post" (set to March 8, 2004), "Scope" (set to Daily), and "Order By Date" (set to Ascending). At the bottom are "Go" and "Reset" buttons.

Control Panel Log

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The Control Panel Log is where all actions performed within the Admin Control Panel and the Moderator Control Panel can be viewed or deleted.

The screenshot shows a form titled "Control Panel Log Viewer". It includes dropdown menus for "Log Entries to Show Per Page" (set to 15), "Show Only Entries Relating to Script" (set to All Scripts), "Show Only Entries Generated By" (set to All Users), and "Order By" (set to Date). At the bottom is a "View" button.

The screenshot shows a form titled "Prune Control Panel Log". It includes dropdown menus for "Remove Entries Relating to Script" (set to All Scripts), "Remove Entries Logged by User" (set to All Users), and "Remove Entries Older Than (Days)" (set to 30). At the bottom is a "Prune Control Panel Log" button.

Control Panel Log Viewer

- **Log Entries to Show Per Page** - Number of entries to show on each page.
- **Show Only Entries Relating to Script** - Filter the logs viewed by the script that generated the log entry, this will still include files that may have been deleted after the logging.
- **Show Only Entries Generated By** - Filter the logs viewed by the user that generated the entry.
- **Order By** - The logs can be sorted based on Date, username or action performed.

Prune Control Panel Log

Pruning of the Control Panel Log should be performed to reduce the size of the database, alot of space can be consumed by this data.

- **Remove Entries Relating to Script** - The script to remove log entries for.
- **Remove Entries Logged by User** - The user to remove log entries for.

- **Remove Entries Older Than (days)** - Removes logs older than the length specified in days.

Note:

To access these parts of the Admin Control Panel you may need to edit your config.php please refer to [Editing the vBulletin Configuration File](#) for further instructions.

Moderator Log[Back to Top](#)

The Moderator Log is where all actions performed on threads on your board are stored. This does not include actions performed within the Admin Control Panel and Moderator Control Panel, these are logged within their respective sections.

Moderator Log Viewer	
Log Entries to Show Per Page	<input type="text" value="15"/>
Show Only Entries Generated By	<input type="button" value="All Log Entries"/>
Order By	<input type="button" value="Date"/>
View	

Prune Moderator Log	
Remove Entries Logged by User	<input type="button" value="All Log Entries"/>
Remove Entries Older Than (Days)	<input type="text" value="30"/>
Prune Log Entries	

Moderator Log Viewer

- **Log Entries to Show Per Page** - Number of entries to show on each page.
- **Show Only Entries Generated By** - Filter the logs viewed by the user that generated the entry.
- **Order By** - The logs can be sorted based on Date, username or action performed.

Prune Moderator Log

Pruning of the Moderator Log should be performed to reduce the size of the database, a lot of space can be consumed by this data.

- **Remove Entries Logged by User** - The user to remove log entries for.
- **Remove Entries Older Than (days)** - Removes logs older than the length specified in days.

Scheduled Task Log[Back to Top](#)

The [Scheduled Task Log](#) is covered in detail within the Scheduled Task section of this manual.

Maintenance

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This section of the Admin CP contains various tools for maintaining your board.

You will find tools for repairing and optimizing the tables in your database, along with various diagnostic tools useful in tracking down problems you may experience in the running of your board.

Repair / Optimize Tables

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If you are receiving strange errors or feel that your forum has recently become slightly more sluggish, go to Maintenance > Repair / Optimize Tables. You will be presented with a screen similar to this:

Table	Data Length	Index Length	Overhead	<input type="checkbox"/> Check All
vb3_access	0	1.0 KB	0	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
vb3_adminhelp	75.4 KB	57.0 KB	0	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
vb3_administrator	100 Bytes	2.0 KB	0	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
vb3_adminlog	142.8 KB	24.0 KB	0	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
vb3_userpromotion	29 Bytes	3.0 KB	0	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
vb3_usertextfield	40 Bytes	2.0 KB	0	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
vb3_usertitle	765 Bytes	2.0 KB	0	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
vb3_vbfields	70.3 KB	7.0 KB	0	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
vb3_word	1.9 KB	3.0 KB	0	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Options	Help ?
Optimize Tables <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Repair Tables <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	?
Continue Reset	

In the upper table, you select the tables to repair/optimize along with the amount of disk space used by each table. In the lower table, you may select:

- **Optimize Tables** – selecting this option defragments MySQL's data file for this table and reclaims lost space. For more information on this process, see [the MySQL manual](#). It is not necessary to optimize tables that are showing no overhead.
- **Repair Tables** – this option causes MySQL to attempt to repair any tables it thinks are crashed. MySQL generally reports this by issuing an error such as 'Got error ### from table handler'. Under normal conditions, this should not occur and this option should not need to be run. However, if something goes wrong, this option will generally restore all your data. For more information, see [the MySQL manual](#).

Update Counters

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Update Counters (Maintenance > Update Counters) is a page that allows you to rebuild some of vBulletin's caches should they become out of date (generally because of option changes). In normal, day-to-day operations, you do not need to run any of the functions on this page.

Most options on this page have one option that you may set, **Number of X to process per cycle**. This is the number of records that are processed on one page. Generally, the higher this number is, the faster the process will complete; however, the higher the chance of your browser timing out and the process not completing. In most cases, the default value should suffice.

The following functions are available:

- **Update User Titles**

Update User Titles	
Number of users to process per cycle	<input type="text" value="1000"/>
Update User Titles Reset	

This will update all users' user titles. Users with custom titles will not be affected.

Run this if you have changed the user title ladder and wish to see the changes reflected immediately for all users.

- **Rebuild Thread Information**

Rebuild Thread Information	
Number of threads to process per cycle	<input type="text" value="2000"/>
Rebuild Thread Information Reset	

This will rebuild thread counters such as replies and attachment counts. Also it will rebuild the cached first and last post information of a thread.

Run this if you have pruned specific posts from many threads or changed a user name and wish to see the change in the last post information of each thread.

- **Rebuild Forum Information**

Rebuild Forum Information

Number of forums to process per cycle

Rebuild Forum Information **Reset**

This will rebuild the post and thread count in each forum based on the number of posts/threads actually in the database. Additionally, it will rebuild the last post information for each forum.

Run this if you have mass-deleted a lot of threads or posts or have renamed a user and wish to see the changes reflected in the last post information of the forum. You may need to run *Rebuild Thread Information* first, though!

- **Fix Broken User Profiles**

Fix broken user profiles

Finds any users who do not have complete entries in the database. Sometimes the data is not inserted correctly and the user's profile becomes unusable. Running this should correct any incomplete profiles.

Fix broken user profiles **Reset**

This will fix any users that are missing records in the *userfield* or *usertextfield* tables. This generally only happens because of outside programs incorrectly interfacing with vBulletin.

You will generally not need to run this function unless you use an outside program to register users and it does not properly register this.

- **Rebuild Search Index**

Rebuild Search Index

Note: If you are reindexing, you may want to empty the indexes. [Click Here to do so!](#)

Number of posts to process per cycle

Post ID to start at

Total number of posts to process:
(0 for unlimited)

Include automatic JavaScript redirect to next page? Yes No

Note: This is a server intensive process.

Rebuild Search Index **Reset**

This will rebuild the index used to perform searches. This will allow you to take advantage of any improvements to the indexing algorithm or implement any changes to the indexing options on older posts.

Run this after a major upgrade (such as vBulletin 2 to vBulletin 3) or if you wish to apply changes to the indexing options to all posts.

Note:

The search index is automatically built for each post as it is posted. This is simply a batch function. If you have done a major upgrade, your search index will have been deleted. Your search engine will not function fully until the index has been rebuilt.

- **Rebuild Post Cache**

Note:

This option will not be displayed if you have not enabled post caching.

Rebuild Post Cache **Help ?**

Number of posts to process per cycle ?

Rebuild Post Cache **Reset**

This will rebuild cached post data.

Run this if you have changed a BB code template, BB code, or smilie and the changes are not being displayed on recent posts.

- **Rebuild Statistics**

Rebuild Statistics

Rebuilding statistics will cause the loss of the total forum view and active users data. Only run this if you believe you really need to! Once the data has been replaced there is no way to restoring your database.

Rebuild Statistics **Reset**

This will rebuild your board statistics (user registrations, threads, posts, and active users per day) from the first post on your board. Statistics will automatically be generated for new days.

Run this if you have done a major upgrade.

- **Rebuild Similar Threads**

Rebuild Similar Threads

Note: This will rebuild the similar thread list regardless of whether they are enabled or not. However, they will not be displayed until the option is enabled.

Number of threads to process per cycle

Rebuild Similar Threads **Reset**

This will rebuild the similar thread information for each thread. This allows the similar thread function to find threads that have been posted since the thread in question originally was.

Run this if you have changed the similar thread thresholds or wish to have the similar threads function display newer threads as well.

Note:

This will rebuild similar threads regardless of whether they are enabled. They must be enabled in order to be displayed in a thread.

- **Delete Duplicate Threads**

Delete Duplicate Threads

Note: Duplicate threads are threads that have the same title, post name, and post time and are posting in the same forum as another thread.

Number of threads to process per cycle

Delete Duplicate Threads **Reset**

This will remove all but one copy of threads that appear to have duplicates (same title, poster, time, and forum).

This rarely needs to be run; only run it if you see duplicate threads in your forums. The most common cause for this is multiple imports of the same data.

- **Rebuild Attachment Thumbnails**

Rebuild Attachment Thumbnails

This function rebuilds the attachment thumbnails. It is needed when you enable thumbnails or have changed the thumbnail dimensions.

Number of attachments to process per cycle

Rebuild Attachment Thumbnails **Reset**

This will rebuild the thumbnails of image attachments.

Run this if you did not (or could not) have thumbnails enabled in the past but wish to now or have changed thumbnail dimensions.

- **Rebuild User Reputation**

Rebuild User Reputation

This function recalculates user reputation using the value that you specify below then adds the total reputation the user has received so far. This will remove any custom reputation that has been given to the user through the user editor.

Base Reputation Value

Rebuild User Reputation **Reset**

This will rebuild your user reputation scores based on the information in the database and the new reputation base specified here.

Run this if you want to remove any custom reputations and specify a new reputation base.

- **Update User Names**

Update User Names

Number of users to process per cycle

Update User Names **Reset**

This will update all cached user names in the database.

Run this if you have manually changed a user name.

- **Update Post Counts**

Update Post Counts

This will recalculate all of your user's post counts based on their CURRENT posts in the database. Do not run this if you have pruned posts, manually changed post counts, or imported from another forum package and you wish to maintain your users' current counts. Your members' post counts will PROBABLY decrease so only run this if you believe you really need to! Once they decrease you can not bring them back up without restoring your database or manually editing each user. You have been warned!

Number of users to process per cycle

Update Post Counts **Reset**

This will update all users' post counts based on the actual contents of the database. If you have pruned or manually changed post counts, this function will likely lower your users' post counts.

Run this if you wish to regenerate post counts with your current data.

- **Rebuild Styles**

Rebuild Styles

This function allows you to completely rebuild all style information. This is necessary after a major upgrade, or if you have manually edited any of the 'special' templates.

Check For Styles With No Parent Yes No

Renumber all templates from 1 Yes No

Note: this option requires that your MySQL account has ALTER, CREATE and DROP privileges.
If you are not sure, do not use this option!

Rebuild Styles

This will rebuild your style information. Additionally, it can check for styles without a parent (pre-vBulletin 3 styles) to ensure they work properly and renumber your templates in the database. The latter is simply aesthetic; there is no advantage to having templates that begin at 1.

Run this if you have done a major upgrade or have edited your templates or styles manually.

- **Remove Orphan Threads**

Remove Orphan Threads

This function removes all threads that belong to forums that no longer exist.

Number of threads to process per cycle ?

Remove Orphan Threads **Reset**

This will search for any threads in non-existent forums and remove them. This is helpful if you deleted a forum and the process timed out before completing.

- **Remove Orphan Posts**

Remove Orphan Posts

This function removes all posts that belong to threads that no longer exist.

Number of posts to process per cycle ?

Remove Orphan Posts **Reset**

This will search for any posts in non-existent threads and remove them. This will generally not be needed, but could be helpful if your data was corrupted somehow.

Diagnostics

This section is designed to diagnose and help you resolve some of the most common problems. It is accessible via Maintenance > Diagnostics.

The diagnostic tests provided are:

- **Upload Test –**

Upload

This test's purpose is to determine if there are any vBulletin/PHP options you need to change for uploads to function correctly. To begin, simply attach a small file using the box below and submit the form. vBulletin will not save the attached file in anyway.

Filename ?

Upload **Reset**

This test attempts to determine if your upload settings are set properly for the server. Simply attach a file when submitting the form. If this test succeeds, then attachments and custom avatars should function properly.

- **Email Test –**

Email Help ?

The goal of this test is to determine whether any vBulletin or PHP settings must be changed to allow the sending of email through vb. To begin, simply enter an email address that you have the ability to access and click Send Email.

Email ?

Send **Reset**

This test attempts to determine if your email settings are correct and that your email server is functioning properly. Enter your email address and the test will attempt to email you a test mail. If you receive the email properly, email options on your board should function properly.

- **Suspect File Versions** –

Suspect File Versions Help ?

This function will list each of your vBulletin files that is tagged with a different version than your forum is currently at, which is **3.0.0**.

Submit **Reset**

This checks all vBulletin files used for this installation and attempts to determine which files, if any, were created for an older version. If any files are found, you should re-upload that file with the current version. If you can not find the file in the your version's download, you may simply delete the suspect file from your server.

This system will also check for any files that have been modified since they were downloaded as part of the vBulletin package, will alert you to any missing files and will inform you of any files that are not a standard part of vBulletin.

- **System Information** –

System Information Help ?

While not exactly a test, this function is helpful for tracking down server issues. Simply select the appropriate type of information and submit the form.

View ?

Submit **Reset**

This displays system information that is often useful in debugging problems.

Execute SQL Query

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This section allows you to run arbitrary queries on your database. This is often helpful for making many changes quickly or troubleshooting. It is accessible via Maintenance > Execute SQL Query.

Warning:

The ability to execute an arbitrary query is a powerful one. It can ease administration at times, but it has the potential of destroying your database. Be sure the query you are running is **exactly** what you want.

Upon entering this section, you will see a page like this:

Execute SQL Query Help ?

Automatic Query
Helpful, predefined queries for mass updating the settings of users and posts. Once a query is executed it can **not** be reversed.

Manual Query
Only one query can be run at a time. Once a query is executed it can **not** be reversed

Large Edit Box

Results to Show Per Page ?

Continue **Reset**

Note:

Your user ID must be in the \$config['SpecialUsers']['canrunqueries'] variable in config.php to access this page. See [Editing the vBulletin Configuration File](#).

- **Automatic Query** – these are predefined queries to accomplish commonly-used mass updates. These include setting specific options to a certain value for all users.
- **Manual Query** – if you wish to run your own query, you may enter it here. Ensure that no *Automatic Query* is selected. Additionally, you may only run one query at a time.
- **Results to Show Per Page** – if you have specified a query that returns results (generally *SELECT* queries), this is the number of results to display per page.

If your query returns a result set, you will see a page similar to this after running it:

Query	
SELECT * FROM vb3_avatar	Restart

Results: 1, Page 1 of 1					
avatarid	title	minimumposts	avatarpAth	imagecategoryid	displayorder
5	Smaller Vb3 Avatar	0	images/avatars/smaller- vb3-avatar.gif	3	1

At the top, you will see the query you ran. At the bottom, you will see the results of your query. Each column in the table is a column of data being returned by the query. Thus, in this example, *avatarid*, *title*, *minimumposts*, *avatarpAth*, *imagecategoryid*, and *displayorder* are columns in the *vb3_avatar* table.

View PHP Info

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This section (Maintenance > View PHP Info) provides information about your PHP installation, including version information and php.ini settings. In general, this information is only used for troubleshooting and values for specific settings will be asked for.

To obtain more information on the PHP function used to gather this information; `phpinfo()`, [click here](#).

Podcasting

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A podcast is a method for distributing media files over the internet using syndication feeds, such as RSS. Podcasting originated as a way for creators to push their audio files out to iPods. Podcasting is not limited to iPods, as users may download your media files to any player that supports your media as well as choose to play the media on their computer.

The term is also often used to simply describe any .mp3 audio file that is available for download from a website by clicking on a link. In regards to vBulletin, podcast media is only accessible from your RSS feeds.

Configuring vBulletin for Podcasting

- ## 1. Forums & Moderators > Forum Manager > Controls > Podcast Settings

Choose a forum that will host the podcast files and configure the iTunes settings. Podcast feeds will work inside of iTunes, and other clients that support [RSS Enclosures](#), without any information on this page being filled in. These settings are used when you wish to submit one of your forums as a podcast to iTunes as a podcast that can be searched for within iTunes.

1. Set Enabled to Yes
 2. Select a Category

You may ignore the rest of the settings if you like. If you would like to configure them so that iTunes works with your podcast, see [Podcast Settings](#) for detailed instructions of each option.

This forum must be viewable to guests so verify this by logging out of your forum and checking if you can view threads and attachments within this forum. If not, configure the [permissions](#) for this forum to allow guests to view.

2. vBulletin Options > External Data Provider > Enable RSS Syndication must be enabled.
 3. vBulletin Options > External Data Provider > Enable Podcasting must be enabled.

Setting up a Test Podcast

Browse to the forum that you setup for podcasting and click on New Thread. You will see a few new posting options that pertain to podcasting.

Additional Options

Podcast Options	
Podcast URL:	Filesize (bytes):
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Subtitle:	Explicit:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keywords:	Author:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

- **Podcast URL** - URL to your media file. Do not enter a value in this field if you are going to use the vBulletin attachment system to upload your media file.
 - **Filesize** - Size of media file. Do not enter a value in this field unless an error message asks you to do so after submitting the thread.
 - **Subtitle** - Subtitle of your media file, used by iTunes and can be ignored.
 - **Explicit** - Check if the media file contains explicit language, used by iTunes and can be ignored.
 - **Keywords** - Keywords for iTunes search, can be ignored.
 - **Author** - Author of the media file, used by iTunes and can be ignored.

You have two options for specifying your media file:

1. You may upload your media file to your website, or another website, via ftp and link to it directly. To use this method, specify the complete URL in the Podcast URL that appears on the New Thread screen. You do not need to specify the filesize unless you are prompted to after submitting the thread. If you want your media file to appear in the thread to those that are viewing the thread via your forums, you will need to place the link within your post, such as Download: <http://www.example.com/podcast.mp3> The handling of the media file will be handled automatically for those that view the podcast forum via RSS.
 2. The second option for specifying your media file is to use the vBulletin attachment system. You will be limited by the permissions of your usergroup. Only the first uploaded file will appear in the RSS feed as well. iTunes will not function with attachment uploads on IIS servers and some Apache servers. It is best to use the first method when possible.

Note:

You may specify any filetype that you wish, but take note that iTunes only supports six filetypes:

.m4a, .m4v, .mp3, .mp4, .mov, and .pdf

Testing Your Podcast

If you used the vBulletin attachment system, you should see a normal attachment link within the first post of the thread that you just created. If using the Podcast URL method (preferred) then you will only see a link if you manually placed a link within the first post.

For this example, we will use a forumid of 10 for our podcast forum. You can get the forumid of your podcast forum by hovering over any links to your podcast forum and looking for forumid=10.

The link to our example podcast forum is

<http://www.example.com/forums/external.php?forumids=10>

This is the URL that you would enter into iTunes and other RSS clients that support enclosures. Enclosure is the technical name for including a media file via RSS and is the preferred nomenclature for some clients.

Note:

Do not specify more than one forumid for your podcast URL

Further Details

Users that are subscribed to your podcast forum will make periodic queries to the podcast URL to check for updates. Some clients can be programmed to automatically download the media file when a new post is found.

You may post as many threads in your podcast forum as you wish, whereas the first post of each thread will be considered a podcast. You should include a media file with each thread but are not required to do so.

You may allow your users to respond to the podcast thread, as a normal thread, as it will not affect the viewing of the podcast by podcast clients.

Troubleshooting and Common Solutions

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Over the course of time there may be problems with your software. Proper maintenance and upgrades will help minimize these but they can still occur. This section of the manual will outline the most common problems that can occur and give the solution or workaround for them to get your site back up and running.

Solutions to Common Problems

When viewing my board, I get an error that says "Cannot add cookie information, headers already sent"

The most common reason for this is a blank or extra line in your config.php. You are not allowed to have anything outside the <?php and ?> delimiters. Not even a space. It is recommended to eliminate all extra lines and spaces before or after these delimiters.

I installed a new plugin and now my forum doesn't work. I can't login into the Admin Control Panel to fix this.

To temporarily disable the plugin system, edit config.php and add this line right under <?php

```
define('DISABLE_HOOKS', true);
```

This will allow your forum to work and you can then login and delete the plugin via the plugin manager.

I have several domains pointed to my forums. However when users login via one domain, they get an error that says "In order to accept POST request originating from this domain, the admin must add this domain to the whitelist".

That error can happen when you post to a vBulletin form from an external referrer that isn't on the white list:

Admin CP -> vBulletin Options -> General Settings -> Post Referrer Whitelist

Edit this list to include all referrers that you use.

I have tried the above but cannot log into my Admin Control Panel to make the changes.

You can temporarily disable the Whitelist by editing your config.php file. Open this file in wordpad and in a line above the ?> add the following code:

```
define('SKIP_REFERER_CHECK', true);
```

When viewing my board, it has an error that says "There has been a slight problem with the database."

Please view the source of the page and compare the error to those listed in the section on troubleshooting MySQL. If the error isn't listed there, please open a support ticket at <http://www.vbulletin.com/go/techsupport/>

Upgrade Issues

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Common Questions about Upgrading from 3.0.X to 3.5.X

Q. I receive the following error when trying to upgrade:

We have detected that you have already tried to run the upgrade script.

You will not be able to proceed unless you revert to a vB 2.2.x/2.3.x database.

This happens you do not upload all files, especially: install/upgrade.php

Upload all the files from the vBulletin .zip file again, making sure you upload them 100%, overwrite existing files (do not skip or resume). Then run that upgrade script again, at that step. You can skip install/install.php and includes/config.php.new and the whole images/ directory.

Q. My Postbit is no longer showing the avatar, its a broken image / its just text now!

As of vBulletin 3.5.0 beta 1 there were a lot of changes done to the postbit and postbit_legacy templates, you will either need to make the changes as outlined in the release threads (links to listed changed) or revert the template itself.

Q. The Quick Reply / Inline Moderation / Drop Down menus are not working.

vBulletin 3.5.0 has quite a few template changes, its recommended that you try using a stock style and seeing if this fixes the problems. Again as there have been many changes it may be easier to start fresh and re-customize.

(We recommend you go to the "Find Updated Templates" page of the "Styles & Templates" section of your control panel and revert all templates listed there!)

Q. After the upgrade I got a few database error emails, however I did not see these errors myself.

As of per the gold release announcement, if you are upgrading from 3.0.x to 3.5.0 you should totally close off your website, otherwise you may experience this. If you did not get anymore and are not seeing error messages now you should be fine.

Q. After upgrading from 3.0.x to 3.5.0 I run Admin Control Panel > Maintenance > Diagnostics > Suspect File Version and noticed that I was still running a few 3.0.x files; Can I remove those?

If you are 100% sure you have uploaded all the vBulletin 3.5.0 files, overwriting any file already on the server (not skipping or resuming them), you can remove the left-over files from 3.0.x.

Q. After upgrading from vBulletin 3.0.x to 3.5.0 Internet Explorer Says displays a popup that says it cannot display the page. "Internet Explorer Cannot Open Internet Site http://domain.com/forums/page.php=x"

You are an incompatible style from the vBulletin 3.0.x series and it needs to be reverted before it will work.

Email Issues

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Users say that they do not receive emails from my site. What do I do?

First, make sure that you actually have turned on the email functions here:

Admin CP -> vBulletin Options -> Email Options -> Enable Email features -> Yes

Then verify that the email system for your forum is working via the Admin Control Panel. You can do that under diagnostics.

Admin Control Panel -> Maintenance -> Diagnostics -> Email Diagnostics

If there is an error stated, you can look at the logs for your mailer daemon to find out what error is occurring. If there is no error and the email is sent to the supplied address, then the issue is on the ISP/mailbox end. Continue reading further down this page for other suggestions.

If there is no error and you didn't get the emails then make sure you have a valid webmaster's email address in your Admin CP settings and that there is only one address. In addition make sure the domain on the email address matches the domain for your site. Otherwise some ISPs may treat this as spam. Then try this:

Admin CP -> vBulletin Options -> Email Options -> Enable "-f" Parameter -> Yes

Then try the vB email functions again. If it still doesn't work, then this is either a server and/or mailbox issue. By default vB uses PHP's mail() function for all its email and uses the SMTP server specified in php.ini. If PHP and the mail server are configured correctly then email will work. You can view the details here: <http://us3.php.net/mail/>

To troubleshoot any email problems you will need to view the mail logs on the server to see what happened to those emails that don't work. Once vB sends it to PHP it's in the hands of the server. If you are on a shared server you may need to ask your host to look through the logs for you.

Many large service providers such as Verizon, AOL and MSN are implementing aggressive filtering. In many cases, the customers of these providers can place the email address you use for notification in their contact list and then your emails will be allowed through. If this doesn't work, you should contact the provider in question and ask to be placed on their whitelist. Some providers will charge a listing fee for this.

In addition, AOL (and possibly others) will not accept emails from domains that do not have reverse DNS setup. It's possible these emails are being placed into a spam folder or are being filtered.

The problem could also be caused by aggressive spam filters on the user's machine. In these cases their anti-spam software should be configured to allow emails from your domain name. Refer them to the documentation for the software they are using.

If all else fails you can switch to the SMTP mail option to see if this works better for you. These settings are here:

Admin CP -> vBulletin Options -> Email Options -> SMTP Email -> Yes

Then fill out the appropriate SMTP settings for your account and server.

My host only allows me to send a certain number of emails per hour to control spam. How can I make vBulletin get around this limitation?

You cannot circumvent hard limitations created by your hosting provider. However, you can use vBulletin's SMTP email processing to point the software to an off-site email provider with more privileges.

Admin Control Panel -> vBulletin Options -> Email Options

Email is sent as "nobody@domain.com"

You need to enable the "-f parameter" in vBulletin. This sends the email address specified in the Admin Control Panel to the email client.

Admin Control Panel -> vBulletin Options -> Email Options.

For more information please see:

<http://us3.php.net/manual/en/ref.mail.php>

Email from my forums is blocked

One of the reasons for email being blocked is if it is coming from a different domain than what is in the 'From' email address. To ensure a better chance of your email getting through, make sure the Webmaster's email address is using the same domain as your forums.

Error: unrouteable mail domain "**.com"**

This problem is caused by this option being checked in WebHost Manager for the server:

Prevent the user 'nobody' from sending out mail to remote addresses (php and cgi scripts generally run as nobody if you are not using phpsuexec and suexec respectively.)

Unchecking this option should stop this problem. You will of course need to have root access to the server to do this. If you don't, then you'll need to ask your web host to do this for you.

McAfee VirusScan Enterprise

McAfee VirusScan Enterprise blocks SMTP port 25 by default, which blocks all emails from being sent. Eliminating or changing that rule will allow emails to go through.

How can I send emails as HTML

vBulletin does not support HTML emails at this time.

Can I log Emails sent by vB?

Yes, in vB 3.6 you can log all sent emails to make sure that vB is sending these. You do this here:

Admin CP -> vBulletin Options -> Error Handling & Logging -> Log sent eMails to a File

Then if the emails appear in this log but they are not being received, then you will know this a problem with either the mail server or the recipient's mailbox. If the logs show 'FAILED' then this is a server problem. The server's email function returned a failure. Please see server configuration/logs for more details. You will need to consult your host if you are on a shared server.

SMTP Server Setup

If you are using SMTP for email, in some rare instances the SMTP server will require an additional field that is not part of the normal settings, namely this:

```
ini_set("SMTP","mail.yourdomain.com");
```

To add that setting, edit your config.php file and add this line right under <?php:

```
ini_set("SMTP","mail.yourdomain.com");
```

...changing "mail.yourdomain.com" with your specific mail domain, of course. If you do not have such a mail domain, then ask this host about this.

Invalid Webmaster's Email

Another possible cause of that problem is that you do not have a valid Webmaster's email address. You need to set this to a valid email address:

Admin CP -> vBulletin Options -> Site Name / URL / Contact Details -> Webmaster's Email

You cannot use more than one address in that field.

Note:

Please be aware that vB does not have it's own email application. It has to use either PHP or SMTP, and both of those are server applications. There is very little control vB has over these.

For the PHP option, you have the -f setting and the webmaster's email address. That's it. The rest is up to the server which needs to be setup correctly for PHP email to work.

For SMTP, the only options in vB for this are the SMTP settings. If those don't work, then this means either the settings are wrong, or there is a problem connecting to that SMTP server from your server. There is nothing vB can do about this.

Image Manipulation Issues

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No Fonts Appear with GD Library

This is caused by Freetype 2 support not being compiled into PHP and requires PHP to be recompiled.

Most likely the original PHP configure string contained --with-freetype but this usually only enables support for Freetype version 1, which does not support True Type fonts. To enable Freetype 2 support (assuming that the server has the Freetype 2 libraries installed), this part of the configure string needs to be removed and replaced with (normally) --with-freetype-dir=/usr

To find out if a Linux server has Freetype 2 support, run *locate freetype2* at the command line and look for some results, usually in /usr/include/freetype2.

Blank or 'White' Pages

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Here are the known causes of blank or 'white' pages:

1. You did not upload the vB files correctly. Reupload the vB non-image files and make sure you upload these in ASCII format and that you overwrite the ones on the server. Make sure you upload the Admin CP files to the admincp directory specified in your config.php file. Then, if you can access the Admin CP, run 'Suspect File Versions' in Diagnostics to make sure you have all the original files for your version:

Admin CP -> Maintenance -> Diagnostics -> Suspect File Versions

Do any show as 'File does not contain expected contents', 'version mismatch' or missing? If so, you need to reupload the original vB non-image files. Make sure you upload these in ASCII format and overwrite the ones on the server.

2. You have extra space or lines in your config.php file. Make sure there is no whitespace or extra lines in config.php either before the <?php or after the ?>. [Note: Beginning with 3.6.3 the trailing ?> was removed.]

3. If this is happening on the forum home page only, then you may have an empty index.html or index.htm file in that directory. Delete it.

4. You have a bad plugin installed. To disable the plugin system, edit config.php and add this line right under <?php

```
define('DISABLE_HOOKS', true);
```

Note: If you are running vBSEO or other add-ons that use .htaccess rewrite, you will need to remove those changes as well.

5. The servername setting in config.php is wrong. Doublecheck this setting. 99% of the time, 'localhost' is correct:

```
$config['MasterServer']/'servername' = 'localhost';
```

6. Your PHP has `magic_quotes_sybase` turned on. You have to turn this off. On *nix systems you can do this by creating an .htaccess file with this content and placing it in your main forum directory:

```
php_flag magic_quotes_sybase 0
```

7. [For multiple white pages] You have added code to your header, headinclude or phpinclude templates that is no longer functional.

[For white pages in a select area] You have added code to one of your templates that is causing this problem.

The quickest way to find out if a custom template is at fault is to create a new style with no parent style and try that:

Admin CP -> Styles & Templates -> Style Manager -> Add New Style

8. You have a corrupted template. Repairing the template table may help:

```
REPAIR TABLE template;
```

9. You have GZIP enabled. Try turning GZIP off here:

Admin CP -> vBulletin Options -> Cookies and HTTP Header Options -> GZIP HTML Output -> No

Or by running these queries in the SQL tab in phpMyAdmin:

```
UPDATE setting SET value = '0' WHERE varname = 'gzipoutput';
```

```
UPDATE datastore SET data=REPLACE(data,'s:10:"gzipoutput";i:1;','s:10:"gzipoutput";i:0;') WHERE title='options';
```

You can also edit config.php and add this right under the <?php line to disable GZIP:

```
DEFINE('NOZIP', 1);
```

Sometimes this problem is caused when your server is already using GZIP and by turning this on in vB you were double compressing. This causes problems with some pages but not others. It also happens to some people and not others.

10. Sometimes this can also be caused when PHP has the 'display_errors' function turned off. So instead of displaying the actual error so you can see what is wrong, you get a blank page. Look at your phpinfo page and if 'display_errors' is Off or '0', then add this line to your includes/config.php file right under <?php

```
ini_set("display_errors", true);
```

11. Check your phpinfo page to see if suhosin is installed as a module. If it is, this could be the cause of this problem. To fix this, add or edit an .htaccess file in your root forum directory and add these lines to it:

```
php_flag suhosin.cookie.encrypt Off
php_value suhosin.request.max_vars 2048
php_value suhosin.post.max_vars 2048
```

12. This can be caused by a bug in PHP 5.2.5:

<http://bugs.php.net/bug.php?id=43620>

13. This can also be caused by a `memory_limit` setting in `php.ini` that causes the server to time out before displaying the page. Edit config.php and add this right under the <?php line:

```
ini_set('memory_limit', -1);
```

14. If the script producing this problem is `showgroups.php`, then you may have too many usergroups for this. Make sure this is set to 'No' for any groups except Admins and Mods:

Admin CP -> Usergroups -> Usergroup Manager -> Edit Usergroup -> Viewable on Show Groups

15. Check the file and directory permissions. Although this can differ by server, in general the directories should be chmod'd to 755 (-rwxr-xr-x) and files to 644 (-rw-r--r--). If any are set to 777 (-rwxrwxrwx) then this could result in blank pages.

16. Check your .htaccess file for any rewrite rules that may be effecting the page(s) you are having the issue with. If your problem is only in one particular directory, you may need to exclude the rewrite rules from working in that directory.

17. There is a bug in PHP 5.3.5 that can cause white pages during search and possibly other functions. The link to this bug is here: <http://bugs.php.net/bug.php?id=51425>

Further info is here: <http://www.vbulletin.com/forum/showthread.php/371767-New-post-search-returning-blank-white-pages-%28no-errors-indicated%29?p=2108112#post2108112>

MySQL Issues

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This section will outline common issues with MySQL and their solutions. Most issues with MySQL are outside the control of vBulletin though and may require assistance from your hosting provider or server administrator to resolve.

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Common MySQL Error Messages

A comprehensive list of MySQL error codes can be found in the [MySQL Documentation](#). Here are some of the more common ones that can affect your vBulletin installation.

OS Error Code 11: Cannot create thread

This is an out of memory error. The operating system does not have enough memory to create a new process for MySQL to perform the query. You should increase the amount of memory available to MySQL by editing the MY.CNF file.

OS Error Code 13: Permission denied

You do not have permission to write to a directory. Most commonly the temporary files directory. Create a directory in your User Home directory on the server and chmod it 777. If this does not resolve the issue then you must contact your host and have them fix your permissions.

OS Error code 28: No space left on device

Either the swap, a partition, temp directory or hard drive on the web server is out of space or doesn't have enough space to complete the above operation.

This is a server issue, you need to contact your hosting provider to get more space to write to. I advise you to shut down your forum to prevent more errors or data loss. You can upload the tools.php file from the vbulletin .zip file do_not_upload/ folder into your forumdir/admincp/ directory and run it through the browser, there's a switch there to turn your forum on/off.

MySQL error code 126: Index file is crashed / Wrong file format**MySQL error code 127: Record-file is crashed****MySQL error code 132: Old database file****MySQL error code 134: Record was already deleted (or record file crashed)****MySQL error code 135: No more room in record file****MySQL error code 136: No more room in index file****MySQL error code 141: Duplicate unique key or constraint on write or update****MySQL error code 144: Table is crashed and last repair failed****MySQL error code 145: Table was marked as crashed and should be repaired**

These error codes all have the same solution. They specify that something has gone wrong with your data. You should run optimize & repair on your database tables. You can upload the tools.php file from the vbulletin .zip file do_not_upload/ folder into your forumdir/admincp/ directory and run it through the browser, there's a switch there to run optimize and repair. Run it a few times for best result.

For more information on repairing your database please view the MySQL documentation at:

<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/repair.html>

Socket Connection Error

This most commonly looks like this:

```
mysql_connect(): Can't connect to local MySQL server through socket '/var/lib/mysql/mysql.sock'
(2) /home/exampledomain/public_html/forums/includes/class_core.php on line 273
```

This error means either:

1. The info in your config.php file is wrong (in which case your forums wouldn't work at all), or
2. MySQL crashed, it's not running or it can't find the socket. You need to contact your host about this. Here is more info on this error:

http://dev.mysql.com/doc/mysql/en/Can_not_connect_to_server.html

mysql_connect(): Too many connections

The server has maxed out the number of MySQL connections it allows. You can try turning persistent connections off by adding this to your config.php:

```
$config['MasterServer'][]['usepconnect'] = 0;
```

But if you still have problems after that, you will need ask your host to raise the maximum number of connections they allow.

Here is more info on that error: <http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/too-many-connections.html>

Error code 1064: MySQL Parse Error (error in SQL syntax)

SQL parse errors are mostly caused by installed modifications. In order to test this temporarily disable all products and plugins by adding this line to your config.php file under <?php:

```
define('DISABLE_HOOKS', true);
```

Error code 1153: Got a packet bigger than 'max_allowed_packet' bytes

It means that a query is sent that is larger than your host allows for.

MySQL Error : Got a packet bigger than 'max_allowed_packet' bytes

You need to ask your host to increase the 'max_allowed_packet' variable in the my.cnf file and restart MySQL. The default is 1Mb, but most hosts run 8-16 Mb without problems.

More info here: <http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/packet-too-large.html>

Link ID == False

When I run my forum I get 'Link-ID == false, connect failed' error.

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This error could be caused by any of the following:

- The database information in your config.php file is wrong (in which case your forums won't work at all.)
- The user doesn't have permission to access the database specified in config.php.
- The database doesn't exist.
- MySQL isn't accepting new connections. (The server could either be down or has reached it's maximum connections limit.)

Almost all the problems that cause the Link-ID == false error are beyond our power to resolve, and must be dealt with by your host.

To find out which of these is the cause of the problem, you can copy the text below and save it into a file called 'connect.php', then upload it to your forums directory and run it with a web browser.

```
<?php
require_once('../includes/config.php');
$db = @mysql_connect($config['MasterServer']['servername'], $config['MasterServer'][
['username'], $config['MasterServer']['password']] or die(mysql_error());
mysql_select_db($config['Database']['dbname'], $db);
echo "Connected sucessfully." ;
?>
```

Failure to Connect

I keep getting 'The database has failed to connect' error.

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This error means either:

- One or more of the following is wrong in your config.php file:
`$config['MasterServer']['servername']` (except in rare cases, this should almost always be left as 'localhost' or '127.0.0.1')
`$config['MasterServer']['username']`
`$config['MasterServer']['password']`
`$config['Database']['dbname']`

If you are unsure of what the appropriate values are then you will need to ask your web host.

NOTE: Please note that you can NOT use the config.php file from version 2.x or 3.0.x on a 3.5.0 forum.

- Or that this db user is not assigned to that database or does not have permission to access MySQL to create or access a database. You may need to first manually create the database and assign the db user to it. Since each web host is different, if you do not know how to do this then contact your web host for help.
- Or you are running MySQL 4.1.x. As of MySQL 4.1.X there is a new password hashing system. PHP4 does not have builtin support for it as of yet, however PHP5 does. In order for your old PHP4 MySQL clients to be able to connect to the MySQL 4.1.X database you need to set an OLD_PASSWORD. You should be able to run the following Query to make it possible for PHP4 to access the MySQL 4.1.X database.
`SET PASSWORD FOR 'username'@'localhost' = OLD_PASSWORD('password');`

More info is here:

<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/mysql/en/password-hashing.html>
<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/mysql/en/upgrading-from-4-0.html>

Duplicate entry 'XXX'

MySQL Error : Duplicate entry 'XXX' for key 1

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This error is most commonly caused by plugins or addons that incorrectly set auto increment fields within vBulletin. Please remove your plugins or addons and verify that the database keys are set correctly.

It can also be caused by backing up a newer MySQL database with the "Compatibility Option" if this is the case, the MYSQL backup does not contain auto-increment information and the proper indexes are not created when the backup is restored.

Please run these queries to create the proper indexes in vBulletin.

```
ALTER TABLE `adminhelp` CHANGE `adminhelpid` `adminhelpid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `adminlog` CHANGE `adminlogid` `adminlogid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `adminmessage` CHANGE `adminmessageid` `adminmessageid` INT(10) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `announcement` CHANGE `announcementid` `announcementid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `attachment` CHANGE `attachmentid` `attachmentid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `attachmentpermission` CHANGE `attachmentpermissionid` `attachmentpermissionid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `avatar` CHANGE `avatrid` `avatrid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `bbcode` CHANGE `bbcodeid` `bbcodeid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `calendar` CHANGE `calendarid` `calendarid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `calendarcustomfield` CHANGE `calendarcustomfieldid` `calendarcustomfieldid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `calendarmoderator` CHANGE `calendarmoderatorid` `calendarmoderatorid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `calendarpermission` CHANGE `calendarpermissionid` `calendarpermissionid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `cron` CHANGE `cronid` `cronid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `cronlog` CHANGE `cronlogid` `cronlogid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `event` CHANGE `eventid` `eventid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `forum` CHANGE `forumid` `forumid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `groupmessage` CHANGE `forumpermissionid` `forumpermissionid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `holiday` CHANGE `holidayid` `holidayid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `icon` CHANGE `iconid` `iconid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `infraction` CHANGE `infractionid` `infractionid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `infractionban` CHANGE `infractionbanid` `infractionbanid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `infractiongroup` CHANGE `infractiongroupid` `infractiongroupid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `infractionlevel` CHANGE `infractionlevelid` `infractionlevelid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `imagecategory` CHANGE `imagecategoryid` `imagecategoryid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `language` CHANGE `languageid` `languageid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
```

```

ALTER TABLE `mailqueue` CHANGE `mailqueueid` `mailqueueid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `moderator` CHANGE `moderatorid` `moderatorid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `moderatorlog` CHANGE `moderatorlogid` `moderatorlogid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `paymentapi` CHANGE `paymentapiid` `paymentapiid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `paymentinfo` CHANGE `paymentinfoid` `paymentinfoid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `paymenttransaction` CHANGE `paymenttransactionid` `paymenttransactionid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `phrase` CHANGE `phraseid` `phraseid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `plugin` CHANGE `pluginid` `pluginid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `picture` CHANGE `pictureid` `pictureid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `picturecomment` CHANGE `commentid` `commentid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `pm` CHANGE `pmid` `pmid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `pmtext` CHANGE `pmtextid` `pmtextid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `poll` CHANGE `pollid` `pollid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `pollvote` CHANGE `pollvoteid` `pollvoteid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `post` CHANGE `postid` `postid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `postedithistory` CHANGE `postedithistoryid` `postedithistoryid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `productcode` CHANGE `productcodeid` `productcodeid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `productdependency` CHANGE `productdependencyid` `productdependencyid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `profilefield` CHANGE `profilefieldid` `profilefieldid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `ranks` CHANGE `rankid` `rankid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `reminder` CHANGE `reminderid` `reminderid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `reputation` CHANGE `reputationid` `reputationid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `reputationlevel` CHANGE `reputationlevelid` `reputationlevelid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `rssfeed` CHANGE `rssfeedid` `rssfeedid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `search` CHANGE `searchid` `searchid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `smilie` CHANGE `smilieid` `smilieid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `style` CHANGE `styleid` `styleid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `subscribeevent` CHANGE `subscribeeventid` `subscribeeventid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `subscribeforum` CHANGE `subscribeforumid` `subscribeforumid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `subscribethread` CHANGE `subscribethreadid` `subscribethreadid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `subscription` CHANGE `subscriptionid` `subscriptionid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `subscriptionlog` CHANGE `subscriptionlogid` `subscriptionlogid` MEDIUMINT( 8 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `subscriptionpermission` CHANGE `subscriptionpermissionid` `subscriptionpermissionid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `template` CHANGE `templatelid` `templatelid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `templatehistory` CHANGE `templatehistoryid` `templatehistoryid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `thread` CHANGE `threadid` `threadid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `threadrate` CHANGE `threadrateid` `threadrateid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `upgradelog` CHANGE `upgradelogid` `upgradelogid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `user` CHANGE `userid` `userid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `useractivation` CHANGE `useractivationid` `useractivationid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `userchangelog` CHANGE `changeid` `changeid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `usergroup` CHANGE `usergroupid` `usergroupid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `usergroupleader` CHANGE `usergroupleaderid` `usergroupleaderid` SMALLINT( 5 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `usergrouprequest` CHANGE `usergrouprequestid` `usergrouprequestid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `usernote` CHANGE `usernoteid` `usernoteid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `usertitle` CHANGE `usertitleid` `usertitleid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `userpromotion` CHANGE `userpromotionid` `userpromotionid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;
ALTER TABLE `word` CHANGE `wordid` `wordid` INT( 10 ) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT;

```

Lost connection to MySQL server during query

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The most common reasons for the MySQL server has gone away error are:

1. Is that the server timed out and closed the connection. By default, the server closes the connection after 8 hours or 28800 seconds if nothing has happened. You can change the time limit by setting the `wait_timeout` variable when you start mysqld via your server's /etc/my.cnf as well.
2. Another common reason to receive the MySQL server has gone away error is because you have issued a "close" on your MySQL connection and then tried to run a query on the closed connection. You can check that the MySQL hasn't died by executing mysqladmin version and examining the uptime.

i.e. to check mysql uptime, in shell as root user type:

`mysqladmin -u root -p version`

3. You can also get these errors if you send a query to the server that is incorrect or too large. If mysqld gets a packet that is too large or out of order, it assumes that something has gone wrong with the client and closes the connection. If you need big queries (for example, if you are working with big BLOB columns), you can increase the query limit by starting mysqld with the `-O max_allowed_packet=` option (default 1M) or via `max_allowed_packet` variable in your /etc/my.cnf file and restarting mysql after you edited your /etc/my.cnf file. The extra memory is allocated on demand, so mysqld will use more memory only when you issue a big query or when mysqld must return a big result row

4. Or simply your host restarted MySQL. I'd contact your web host and ask him to look into this.

Links to additional information:

<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/gone-away.html>
<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/common-errors.html>
<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/server-parameters.html>
[http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en option-files.html](http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en	option-files.html)
<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/show-variables.html>

Can't connect to local MySQL server through socket

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If you are getting this error, it means either:

1. The info in your config.php file is wrong (in which case your forums wouldn't work at all), or
2. MySQL crashed, it's not running or it can't find the socket. You need to contact your host about this. Here is more info on this error:

MySQL 5.1:

<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.1/en/can-not-connect-to-server.html>

MySQL 5.0:

<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/can-not-connect-to-server.html>

MySQL 3.23, 4.0, 4.1:

<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/4.1/en/can-not-connect-to-server.html>

In Windows:

<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.1/en/can-not-connect-to-server-on-windows.html>

<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/can-not-connect-to-server-on-windows.html>

3. In the rare instance that this server is not using the default MySQL port (3306) then you will need to edit config.php to change this to the port it is using:

```
$config['MasterServer']['port'] = xxxx;
```

...with 'xxxx' being the port number.

Branding Free Instructions

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Warning:

Please note that you are not permitted to remove the vBulletin branding / copyright unless you have purchased the branding-free option. The costs are \$170 on a per license basis and is a one time fee.

Removing the branding without permission will result in having your license being revoked.

If you have purchased the branding option after installing vB then you should not need to remove the branding manually. However if for some reason you need to do this manually here are the instructions.

Here are the steps to remove all the public branding from vB4:

1. Edit the footer template here:

Admin CP -> Styles & Templates -> Style Manager -> Edit Templates -> footer

And remove this section:

```
<div id="footer_copyright" class="shade footer_copyright">
    <!-- Do not remove this copyright notice -->
    {vb:rawphrase powered_by_vbulletin}
    <!-- Do not remove this copyright notice -->
</div>
```

NOTE: You need to edit the footer template this way:

Admin CP -> Styles & Templates -> Edit Templates -> footer

2. In your headinclude template remove this line:

```
<meta name="generator" content="vBulletin {vb:raw vboptions.templateversion}" />
```

3. And remove this from the printthread template:

```
<meta name="generator" content="vBulletin {vb:raw vboptions.templateversion}" />
```

And this:

```
<div id="footer_copyright" class="shade">
    <!-- Do not remove this copyright notice -->
    {vb:rawphrase powered_by_vbulletin}
    <!-- Do not remove this copyright notice -->
</div>
```

4. Change this phrase:

x_powered_by_vbulletin

From this:

{1} - powered by vBulletin

To this:

{1}

5. Then, edit the vbulletin_message phrase and change this:

vBulletin Message

...to whatever you want.

6. To change the default metatags in vBulletin, you would do so under the General Options

Admin CP -> Settings -> Options -> General Settings -> Meta Keywords and Meta Description

7. And finally, in the file /archive/index.php you need to remove this section:

```
<div id="copyright">$vbphrase[vbulletin_copyright]</div>
</div>
```

Notes:

A. To edit Templates:

Admin CP -> Styles & Templates -> Style Manager -> Edit Templates

B. To edit Phrases:

Admin CP -> Languages & Phrases -> Search in Phrases -> phrasename (Phrase Variable Name Only)

Click on edit, and place the new phrase in the available language text boxes.

Warning:

Please note that if you are not permitted to remove the vBulletin branding / copyright unless you have purchased the branding-free option. The costs are \$170 on a per license basis and is a one time fee.

Removing the branding without permission will result in having your license being revoked.

Restoring the Required Copyright Notice

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Missing Copyright Notice

The copyright notice must be clearly visible on all forum pages unless you have purchased the [Branding Free license](#) option.

Your footer must contain at least the following text and must not be masked by color or images:

Powered by vBulletin®
Copyright ©2000-2008 Jelsoft Enterprises Limited.

Restoring the copyright notice

If you have removed the copyright and need to add it back in you can do one of two things:

1. Revert the footer template.

AdminCP -> Styles & Templates -> Style Manager -> Edit Templates -> select the 'footer' template -> Click the 'Revert' button

2. Edit the footer template and add in the following text:

```
<!-- Do not remove this copyright notice -->  
$vbphrase[powered_by_vbulletin]  
<!-- Do not remove this copyright notice -->
```

3. Revert the 'powered_by_vbulletin' phrase

AdminCP -> Languages & Phrases -> Search in Phrases -> enter 'powered_by_vbulletin' -> select 'Phrase Variable Name Only' -> Click the 'Find' button -> Click the 'Copy Default Text' -> Save

Appendix: Terminology

vBulletin-Related Terms

Access Mask

An override for forum permissions based at the user level. You would change a user's access masks from within the User Editor.

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Admin Control Panel

The Admin Control Panel (AdminCP) is, as the title suggests, the area of your vBulletin installation where the administrator configures and sets up their board.

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Only administrators have access to the AdminCP.

Administrator

An administrator is person with permissions to access the AdminCP where he/she can control the configuration and settings of their forums and users.

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Avatar

An avatar is a small image that users can include in their profile and will be displayed on every post they make.

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There are two types of avatars, predefined and custom:

- **Predefined avatars** are images that the board administrator has made available to use.
- **Custom avatars** are images created by the user that can be uploaded to the board if the Adminstrator has granted that particular permission.

BB Code

BB Codes, sometimes referred to as vB Codes, are a used to replace the need for html tags when formatting text in posts.

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Examples:

In html to make text bold, italics or underlined you would use:

```
<b>Bold</b>
<i>Italic</i>
<u>Underlined</u>
```

With BB Code you use:

```
[b]Bold[/b]
[i]Italic[/i]
[u]Underlined[/u]
```

Buddy List

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This is a list of users you wish to identify as your Buddies. To add a user to your buddy list, go to your User CP and in the left Nav Panel under Miscellaneous, select [Buddy / Ignore Lists], type the username you wish to add in the **Buddy List** blank and click [Update Buddy List]

Alternately, you can click on their username in any post and, from the drop-down menu, click the [Add username to Your Buddy List] link.

Buddies will appear in the Users online list with a + sign following their username.

Bulletin Board

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A Bulletin Board is a software package designed to allow users to carry on conversations via the internet. Unlike chat software, the threads and messages are stored on the server and can be accessed by users until the board administrator deletes them, allowing the conversations to continue over long periods of time.

Category

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A Category is a heading used to group forums that are similar in content or theme.

Since vBulletin version 2.0, Categories have ceased to be separate entities from Forums - a category is simply a Forum that is configured to accept no posts.

Conditionals

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Conditionals are a comparison test that you can use to control how your templates work. See [Template Conditionals](#)

Customer Number

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A customer number is a unique number allocated to everyone who purachses a vBulletin license. The customer number, along with a password is required to access the vBulletin [Members' Area](#).

Customer Password

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See [Customer Number](#)

Data APIs

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Data APIs / Data Managers are object-oriented PHP classes that act to centralize the manipulation of object data within vBulletin.

For example, instead of having different code to update a user record from the Admin Control Panel and from the User Profile editor, both systems can now simply direct their data to the user data manager, which will deal with ensuring that the data is valid and complete, then save it to the database.

Forum

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A Forum is a heading used to group threads that are similar in content or theme.

Guest

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A 'guest' is any visitor to your board who is not logged-in as a member.

This could be because they have not yet registered, or because they are a registered member who has logged out.

Hook

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A hook is a location in the vBulletin [PHP](#) code that triggers events, which can be used to execute external scripts or code; such as for a [plugin](#). The code is executed within the context and scope of the location of the hook.

Hooks in the code look like this:

```
($hook = vBulletinHook::fetch_hook('unique_hook_id')) ? eval($hook) : false;
```

In this instance, the hook is called 'unique_hook_id'.

Ignore List

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This is a list of users you wish to ignore. To add a user to your ignore list, go to your User CP and in the left Nav Panel under Miscellaneous, select [Buddy / Ignore Lists], type the username you wish to ignore in the **Ignore List** blank and click [Update Ignore List]

Posts from users that you are ignoring are hidden from view when logged into the forums.

Inline Moderation

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Inline Moderation allows administrators and moderators to moderate the threads and posts in forums using inline moderation without having to login to a admin or moderator control panel. The inline moderation allows them to select individual threads or posts from one or multiple pages by checking a checkbox at the top-right of a thread or post. Selected threads or posts will display highlighted in a yellow color.

The following actions can be performed on threads with inline moderation from forumdisplay:

- Delete Threads
- Undelete Threads
- Open Threads
- Close Threads
- Approve Threads
- Unapprove Threads
- Stick Threads
- Unstick Threads
- Move Threads
- Merge Threads

The following actions can be performed on posts with inline moderation from showthread:

- Merge Posts
- Move Posts
- Delete Posts
- Undelete Posts
- Approve Posts
- Unapprove Posts
- Approve Attachments
- Unapprove Attachments

Member

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A member is a registered user on your board.

Members' Area

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The Members' Area is a private part of the vBulletin.com site for registered licensed customers. The area is security protected and requires members to enter their customer number and password to again access.

The Members' Area is where you can download vBulletin releases and updates as well as access to additional documentation and resources not publically available.

The Members' Area is currently located at <http://members.vbulletin.com>.

Moderator

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A Moderator is a user appointed by the Administrator who is put in charge of maintaining a forum or forums. The duties can include deleting offensive or inappropriate posts, pruning old threads and banning users from their particular forum(s).

Moderator Control Panel

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The Moderator Control Panel (ModCP) is an area of your vBulletin installation where board Moderators can administer certain aspects of board.

The ModCP is a vastly scaled down version of the AdminCP and allows Moderators to perform duties based on the permissions assigned to them by the Administrator.

Plugin

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A vBulletin plugin is a code snippet to be executed within a specific [hook](#).

Plugins allow code to be added to vBulletin without actually modifying the PHP files.

Post

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An individual message entered by a user, making up a part of a [thread](#).

Post Icon

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A post icon is a small image file that appears next to the post title and in the post icon column of the main forum page. An Administrator may choose to allow or disallow use of post icons for posts and or private messages in the Admin Control Panel.

Product

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A product is a downloadable package containing [code snippets \(plugins\)](#), templates, options, phrases, admin help, [control panel navigation entries](#) and [bitfields definitions](#).

vBulletin products are arranged in a such a way that they can be semi-automatically installed and uninstalled through

[the Product Manager.](#)

Products are used to extend or modify functionality in vBulletin.

Prune

Prune is to delete a large number of posts and/or threads from your message board. This is often used as a step in maintaining a small database. To prune messages you would do so through the Admin Control Panel under the Threads / Posts heading or from the Forum Tools menu within a particular forum. This option only shows up if you have permission to use it.

[Back to Top](#)**Replacement Variable**

Replacement Variables allow you to globally replace text with alternative text anywhere in your forum. See [Replacement Variables](#).

[Back to Top](#)**Smilies**

Smilies are small icons that can be used in posts that denote a persons emotional state, eg happy, mad, sad.

[Back to Top](#)**Sticky Thread**

A sticky thread is a thread that always shows at the top of the threads listed in a forum.

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Making a thread sticky is part of the Thread Tools that are available to Administrators and Moderators.

StyleVar

StyleVar is short for Style Variable. This is an array of variables created in the Style Manager. Stylevars control image paths, forum width and other aspects of your forum's look and feel. For more information see [StyleVars](#).

[Back to Top](#)**Super Administrator**

A superadministrator is essentially another [administrator](#) but with additional permissions. For example only a superadministrator can manage other admins.

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Superadministrators must be added to the vBulletin [config.php](#) file to enable their superadmin status:

```
// ***** SUPER ADMINISTRATORS *****
// The users specified below will have permission to access the administrator permissions
// page, which controls the permissions of other administrators
$config['SpecialUsers']['superadministrators'] = '1';
```

Super Moderator

A supermoderator is essentially another [moderator](#) but with additional permissions that the administrator has assigned in the [Usergroup](#) and [Forum](#) Permissions.

[Back to Top](#)**Thread**

A thread is a collection of posts usually with a common subject matter.

[Back to Top](#)**User**

A User is a registered member of the Forum.

[Back to Top](#)**User Control Panel**

The User Control Panel (UserCP) is the area of the forums where members can administer their own profile preferences, such as signatures, avatars.

[Back to Top](#)**Usergroup**

A usergroup is a means of grouping users together, all of whom will have the same permissions.

[Back to Top](#)**General Internet-Related Terms**[Back to Top](#)**AJAX**

AJAX (Asynchronous [Javascript](#) and [XML](#)) allows your browser to send data to and receive data from a server without reloading the current page. This technology, whose use is being pioneered by Google, allows developers to create rich, fast-responding interactive pages.

[Back to Top](#)**Cookie**[Back to Top](#)

A cookie is a file that is created and stored on a computer that contains information about a user or users' preferences when viewing certain web pages.

CSS[Back to Top](#)

CSS is short for Cascading Style Sheets. These are a means of controlling the display qualities of a webpage. vBulletin makes extensive use of CSS.

Domain[Back to Top](#)

A domain is a name leased to identify your website on the internet.

FTP[Back to Top](#)

FTP is short for File Transfer Protocol. This is a means of uploading files to your website.

HTML[Back to Top](#)

HTML stands for Hyper Text Markup Language. This is the language behind the World Wide Web. It defines how a page should look to visitors with a web browser.

HTTP[Back to Top](#)

HTTP stands for Hyper Text Transfer Protocol. This protocol defines how computers communicate with each other over the Internet when web pages are requested by a web browser.

IP Address[Back to Top](#)

An IP Address is a 4 section string of numbers used by the internet to locate a website. It is much like a telephone number for your site.

An example would be IP Address 66.135.192.87 is for ebay.com

Javascript[Back to Top](#)

Javascript is a web scripting language that interacts with HTML source code, allowing the browser to create dynamic content. vBulletin offers many enhancements that will only function when Javascript is enabled.

When JavaScript is combined with Cascading Style Sheets(CSS), and later versions of HTML (4.0 and later) the result is often called DHTML.

Search bot[Back to Top](#)

See [Spider](#)

[Back to Top](#)**Server**

A server is a computer that accepts connections from other computers for the purpose of exchanging information.

Spider

A spider is a program or script that systematically follows URLs on a page gathering information.

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Typically search engines use spiders to gather information from web sites to increase their search index.

example search engine spiders:

- Googlebot
- lycos
- ask jeeves
- scooter
- fast-webcrawler
- slurp@inktomi
- turnitinbot

Normally these spiders show on your board as guests. If you want to be able to see search engine spiders that are browsing your forum pages there is a setting under the vBulletin Options section in the [AdminCP](#).

[AdminCP > vBulletin Options > Who's Online Options](#)

- **Enable Spider Display** - Setting this to Yes will allow you to see the spiders you have specified in the Spider Identification Description
- **Spider Identification Strings** - Enter the unique identifier for the spider you want to see
- **Spider Identification Description** - the description of the spider to be displayed in the Who's Online section of your board

SSH[Back to Top](#)

SSH (Server Shell) is a secure server-side application that allows you to run command line functions on your website.

Telnet[Back to Top](#)

Telnet is a server-side application that allows you to run command line functions on your website.

You will need to check with your hosting company to see if it is available with your hosting package.

Note:

Telnet is generally considered to be *insecure*, as your login username and password is transferred using plain text.

To prevent this, it is preferable to use the [SSH](#) protocol.

URL[Back to Top](#)

URL stands for Uniform Resource Locator. This is the address of a server and it allows computers to route traffic between each other on the Internet.

XHTML[Back to Top](#)

XHTML stands for Extensible Hyper Text Markup Language. This is a language similar to HTML but with stricter rules. To find out more about XHTML please visit the [World Wide Web Consortium](#).

XSS[Back to Top](#)

XSS stands for Cross Site Scripting. Cross Site Scripting is usually a sign of vulnerability in a software application or script. This allows information to be exchanged with one or more computers without verifying the factuality of that information.

XML[Back to Top](#)

XML is an acronym of Extensible Markup Language. It is a markup language for documents containing structured information which enables the use of user defined tags. To find out more about XML please visit the [World Wide Web Consortium](#).

Miscellaneous Terms[Back to Top](#)**AIM**[Back to Top](#)

AOL Instant Messenger

[Back to Top](#)**ASCII**[Back to Top](#)

American Standard Code for Information Interchange

[Back to Top](#)**CGI Shebang**[Back to Top](#)

A CGI Shebang is the path to your PHP installation. If your server is running PHP as CGI you may be required to have this at the top of your website's php pages.

COPPA[Back to Top](#)

COPPA stands for Children's Online Privacy Protection Act.

vBulletin is compliant with the COPPA law and requires children under the age of 13 to get parental consent before they can [post](#).

For more info about this law, see: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/buspubs/coppa.htm>

DST[Back to Top](#)

Daylight Savings Time

[Back to Top](#)**FAQ**[Back to Top](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Firewall[Back to Top](#)

A firewall is an application running on a computer to prevent unwanted connections to be made to that computer. Firewalls protect both incoming and outgoing traffic on a computer.

ICQ[Back to Top](#)

I Seek You. It is a buddy chat program used by millions of people to communicate on the internet.

Import

The term **Import** can be applied in a few ways regarding vBulletin:

- **Conversion**

Importing is conversion of data from a different Bulletin Board program to vBulletin. Merging two forums together (users, forums, attachments, etc).

- **Admin Control Panel**

Importing of additional Style- or Language Packs. This allows you to update or include (additional) styles or languages on your board.

localhost

localhost is the default host address of a computer on which a service is running.

localhost uses the reserved loopback IP address 127.0.0.1.

In general a MySQL server runs on the same server as your web server. You can enter in the vBulletin includes/[config.php](#) file as host address for the MySQL server localhost. (See example below)

```
// ***** MASTER DATABASE SERVER NAME *****
// This is the hostname or IP address of the database server.
// It is in the format HOST:PORT. If no PORT is specified, 3306      is used.
// If you are unsure of what to put here, leave it at the default value.
```

```
$config['MasterServer']['servername'] = 'localhost';
```

MSN

MSN Instant Messenger. It is a buddy chat program used by millions of people to communicate on the internet owned by Microsoft.

MySQL

MySQL is a database management system that uses SQL. vBulletin uses this to store and retrieve all the data from your board.

Note:

More information about how to get and install MySQL can be found here [Technical Documents / Installing MySQL](#) or from <http://www.mysql.com>

PHP

PHP Hypertext Preprocessor

PHP is a script language and interpreter.

Note:

More information about how to get and install PHP can be found here [Technical Documents / Installing PHP and Apache](#) or from <http://www.php.net>

phpMyAdmin

Graphical User Interface (GUI) for MySQL available from <http://www.phpmyadmin.net>

RSS Enclosure

RSS enclosures are a method for including media files within RSS feeds. The media is not actually contained within the feed but rather is linked via a hyperlink to another source.

Thumbnail

A Thumbnail is a small preview image of an attachment in a post.

WYSIWYG

Acronym for: What You See Is What You Get

The vBulletin WYSIWYG editor is one that allows a user that creates a new post to see what the end result will look like while the post is being created. This is in contrast to editing a post in the vBulletin standard editor which requires you to understand BB Code tags like [b] for bold and [u] for underline.

Yahoo

Yahoo! Instant Messenger. It is a buddy chat program used by millions of people to communicate on the internet.

Appendix: Feature List

General Features

General Features

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- Scalable solution - database server and web servers can reside on separate machines.
- MySQL back-end database
- vBulletin can be run on any machine that can support PHP and MySQL (Solaris, BSD, Linux, Windows, Mac)
- Written in PHP which makes for a fast and efficient product
- Admin Control Panel
- Moderator Control Panel
- User Control Panel
- Compliant with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998. See this page for more information:
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/buspubs/coppa.htm>

General Forum Features

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Front-end Features

General

- Who's online
- Search

Threads

- Thread display options - sort by, sort order, from date
- Thread and forum subscription (notification by email optional)
- Thread preview on mouse-over (optional, via Admin CP)
- Active Users viewing thread shown
- New Post Indicator
- Printer Friendly versions on threads
- Admin tools for Threads - edit/delete/move/lock/Make sticky/ etc
- Email page to a friend option

Posts

- Linear, Threaded, Hybrid display views available
- Supports BB Code in posts
- Supports HTML in post
- Smilies
- Avatars
- Optional WYSIWYG or standard editors for posts and Private Messages
- Attachment images (.gif,.jpg, etc) are no longer in the database (optional, via Admin CP)
- Quick reply box (with optional "forced" click on post to quote)
- Preview post option
- Post rating
- User reputation
- Polls
- Post Reporting - report posts to moderators
- User post count
- Admin tools for Posts - edit/delete/move/ etc
- Preview safe attachments

Members

- Member List
- Member Search
- Member Birthdays shown on Forum home
- User Style picker
- Private Messaging
- Buddy list

Calendar Features

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Calendar Features

- Supports multiple private and public calendars
- Viewable public and private events (adminCP option)
- Weekly, monthly and yearly views
- Jump to Today option
- Add single, ranged or recurring events
- Add all day events
- Option to show calendar event on forum home page (adminCP option)
- Show events to specific usergroups (adminCP option)
- Calendar Moderation
- Private events reminder
- Ability to add custom fields

User Control Panel Features

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User Control Panel Features

Editable user profile - This information can be viewed by other members from the member list. Custom user title, URL home page, date of birth, instant messaging medium, location, occupation, biography, interests, VB version, plus any other custom user fields that may be defined by the administrator

Profile pictures - Allows members to upload pictures that can be viewed in the users' profile.

Private Messaging

- Pop-up notification when new PM received
- Private Message Tracking
- Private Message filing in custom folders

User Options

These include Daylight Savings options, forum style chooser, selection of notification types for PM, emails etc, thread display options, WYSIWYG editor options, language chooser, vCard downloads to allow the user profile to be placed into the address book

Calendar event reminders for subscribed events

Pop-up auto-refreshing buddylist with ICQ-style alerts when new buddies come online

Attachment Management

- View attachment statistics - shows limit and used space
- View the attachments you have posted (link or thumbnail views available)
- Remove attachments

Avatar Options

- Admin Defined Avatars
- Custom Avatars - upload from your own computer or specify a URL

View and manage subscribed threads and forums

Signature Editor

Email and password changes require current password

Joinable Public User Groups

Admin Control Panel Features

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Admin Control Panel Features

Styling & Templates

- Templated system
- Conditionals supported in the templates
- Ability to create multiple styles which can be applied to different forums and users
- Ability to upload / download styles and languages

Language & Phrase Management

- Language manager - allows you to easily translate your forums in any language
- Multiple languages supported
- Phrase manager

Users & Usergroups

- User registration options
- User banning (by name & IP)
- Global ignore user - when enabled all posts by the specified user will be ignored/unseen by other members. Automatically added to the all users ignore lists
- Unlimited Moderators and SuperModerators
- Permission system, based on user, usergroup or forums

Board Maintenance

- Task Scheduler
- Control Panel, Moderator & Task logs
- Board statistics
- Maintenance - Database backups, table repair
- Post Pruning

Moderation

- Moderation queues for user registration and posting
- Calendar moderation

Import Facility

- Import facility - import posts and members seamlessly upgrade from other bulletin board systems, including Infopop's Ultimate Bulletin Board, UBBThreads, OpenTopic, and Ikonboard

Attachments

- Multiple attachments and types (types defined by admin in CP)
- Attachment thumbnails (requires PHP to have GD enabled)
- Storage type options for attachments (database or file system)
- Attachment moderation

General

- Multiple calendars supported
- Paid Subscriptions (PayPal, NOCDEX, WorldPay & Authorize.net)
- Private forums
- COPPA compliant
- Server Settings and Optimisation options configurable via the adminCP
- Editable FAQ for your own boards
- Context sensitive help throughout the adminCP

Appendix: Technical Documents

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Securing Your vBulletin Installation

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vBulletin has many features built-in to help keep your data safe but if your server is not secure then your data can be jeopardized. There are several steps to secure your vBulletin Installation. Most of them involve server configuration and settings outside your the vBulletin Application. Securing your server will provide the foundation that your site security will be built on.

Securing Your Server

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Securing or "Hardening" your server is beyond the scope of this document but is an important step to creating a secure environment for your data.

Most hosting providers will provide this service if you have a dedicated machine so you should work with them to make sure your machine is as secure as possible. Below are some links that will help you.

[Linux Kernel Hardening](#)

[Installing and Securing IIS Servers](#)

[Securing Apache](#)

[Securing PHP](#)

[Securing MySQL](#)

Please note, that if you are on a shared server you must rely on your hosting provider to secure your server for you.

Accessing Your Server and Files

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How you access your server can undermine any security protocols you put into place. It is recommended that you use SFTP (SSH File Transfer Protocol) and SSH (Secure Shell) access to directly access your server and files. These are secure versions of the common FTP and Telnet protocols. SFTP and SSH will send passwords in an encrypted format whereas FTP and Telnet send them in plaintext.

You can find out more about these protocols at Wikipedia.com

SFTP: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SSH_file_transfer_protocol

SSH: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SSH>

Root Accounts

Root or Super User accounts are a necessity if you maintain your own server but they are a security nightmare. You should never access your server directly with a Root Account unless you can absolutely guarantee a secure tunnel between your access point and the server itself. You can do this with a Virtual Private Networking protocol on both your server and the computer you access the server with. Not all servers will support this though and your datacenter might not allow the installation of the software to allow it.

If you are using Linux or Unix, you can create a usergroup called a "Wheel Group". This is a group of users that once logged in through SSH, can issue a command to switch to a superuser. This is the only way you should access your superuser accounts without a VPN connection. You can find information on creating wheel account users in your operating system's documentation.

Restricting Access to Your Files

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Restricting unauthorized access to your files is one of the most important things you can do. If someone has access to your files, they can alter them to send data to them or they can access your database directly with the information given.

The most common method of authorizing someone is called "Basic Authorization. The Basic authentication method transmits user names and passwords across the network in plaintext or unencrypted form. A computer vandal could use a network monitoring tool to intercept this information. You can use your Web server's encryption features, in combination with Basic authentication, to secure user account information transmitted across the network.

.htaccess

.htaccess is how you can easily secure files in Apache. It allows you to use Apache's configuration directives without editing the default configuration file (httpd.conf). This makes it useful for communities on shared or virtual hosting or dedicated hosting.

There are a lot of things you can do with .htaccess but we are concerned with denying access to specific files and directories.

NTAUTH

Windows comes with a permissions system often referred to as NTAUTH. It is part of the NTFS file system and integrated into IIS and other server technologies in Windows. For instructions on how to use this to protect your server please see Microsoft's IIS Documentation:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/en/server/iis/default.asp?url=/windows2000/en/server/iis/htm/core/jiabasc.htm>

Alternatives to NTAUTH

[IISPassword](#) is a free utility that can be installed on your IIS server. IISPassword uses Basic HTTP Authentication for password protecting web sites on IIS, just like htaccess works on Apache. That makes your password protected Apache web site compatible with IIS, and vice versa.

CHMOD, or File Permissions on your Unix/Linux System

You can control who has access to files on your servers beyond whether a web browser can call them up and have the server execute them. This is based on file permissions and can help to protect your files if someone gains unauthorized access to another portion of the machine. File permissions will help protect your site more on a shared server which has many people accessing it than they will on a server that only you have access to. However it is a good practice to only give the minimum permissions that you need to give and allow your site to work properly.

In our case, the web server application needs to be able to read your vBulletin files as long as PHP is installed as an Apache or ISAPI Module. If you are using the CGI executable, then they will probably need Execute permissions as

well. In Linux and Unix, you change permissions using a tool called CHMOD which lets you set the permissions.

CHMOD can use either bitkeys, a series of numbers to designate permissions, or letters to represent the permissions. Both of these can be confusing to the uninitiated. Using the numbers results in more concise commands with the same number of control. You will see these commonly referred to in technical documents.

To set the permissions for your vBulletin files, with PHP as a Apache or ISAPI module, you would type the following in your command prompt on the server:

```
chmod 644 *
```

This tells the server that the owner of the file (you) has permission to read and write to the files but everyone else only has permission to read them.

If your hosting provider tells you that you need Read and Write permissions on your files then you would use this command:

```
chmod 755 *
```

A more indepth tutorial on CHMOD can be found here: <http://catcode.com/teachmod/index.html>

Most modern SFTP clients can handle this automatically though a properties dialog on the context menu. Refer to your client software for documentation on how to do this.

Please Note: If an attacker gets root access to your machine, there is no way to protect your files with permissions. They will be able to access everything. If this happens you will need a recent backup so you can recover your site.

Securing your Config.php File

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The config.php has several settings that can help protect your vBulletin installation. These settings are listed below. Since these are security features, less is more. Give out as few permissions as possible, otherwise your forum will not be as secure. Ultimately you should only include yourself as the owner in any of the settings. It is recommended to leave the "Users with Query Running Permissions" setting empty until you need to actually run a query. At that time, change the setting and reupload your config.php. The change will take effect immediately. When you are done running your queries, change the setting back to the default. With this one setting and your password, an attacker has complete control of your database.

```
// ***** USERS WITH ADMIN LOG VIEWING PERMISSIONS *****
// The users specified here will be allowed to view the admin log in the control panel.
// Users must be specified by *ID number* here. To obtain a user's ID number,
// view their profile via the control panel. If this is a new installation, leave
// the first user created will have a user ID of 1. Separate each userid with a comma.
$config['SpecialUsers']['canviewadminlog'] = '1';
// ***** USERS WITH ADMIN LOG PRUNING PERMISSIONS *****
// The users specified here will be allowed to remove ("prune") entries from the admin
// log. See the above entry for more information on the format.
$config['SpecialUsers']['canpruneadminlog'] = '1';
// ***** USERS WITH QUERY RUNNING PERMISSIONS *****
// The users specified here will be allowed to run queries from the control panel.
// See the above entries for more information on the format.
// Please note that the ability to run queries is quite powerful. You may wish
// to remove all user IDs from this list for security reasons.
$config['SpecialUsers']['canrunqueries'] = '';
// ***** UNDELETABLE / UNALTERABLE USERS *****
// The users specified here will not be deletable or alterable from the control panel by any users.
// To specify more than one user, separate userids with commas.
$config['SpecialUsers']['undeletableusers'] = '';
The section of code to look for is:
// ***** UNDELETABLE / UNALTERABLE USERS *****
// The users specified here will not be deletable or alterable from the control panel by any users.
// To specify more than one user, separate userids with commas.
$config['SpecialUsers']['undeletableusers'] = '';
```

Securing your config.php file

Making sure no one edits this file after you upload it to the server is a large priority. If an attacker can change the contents of this file they can easily take control of your community. The first thing you want to do is restrict access to this file via file permissions. Make sure no one can access this except you. Use the techniques described under Restricting Access to secure this file.

One thing you might consider doing is denying access via a Web Browser at all times. This file only needs to be read internally via PHP and should not be accessed with a Web Browser. On most installations, this would never occur. However should your version of PHP stop working for some reason, then the file can be served as plain text and any prying eyes can see it. You can counter this on the webserver level with tools like .htaccess and NTFS Permissions.

Here is an example .htaccess file that would prevent access to the config.php. You would place this file within your /includes directory.

```
<Files config.php>
order deny,allow
deny from all
</Files>
```

For details on securing this file in IIS on a Windows Server please see:
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/en/server/iis/htm/core/iidpsc.htm>

Moving Servers

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There are two major parts to successfully move your vBulletin forums from one server to another. These are:

1. The vBulletin files, including all the VB files currently on your server as well as any attachments, avatars and profile pics (if you store these in the file system instead of the database) along with any custom images.

2. The vBulletin database which contains the actual data itself, including the user info, posts, threads, forums, setting, styles, languages, etc.

This guide will help you move your vBulletin forum from one server to another. Please note that while you can move the files themselves with FTP, moving the database generally **requires** Telnet or SSH access to both servers. (Other methods are available but are less reliable.)

If you only have this access on one of the servers, you may need to ask your host to assist you with the steps you cannot perform.

Warning:

Specific cookie domains (*Cookie Domain*) and cookie paths (*Path to Save Cookies*) may cause problems if you are moving servers and changing the URL to your forums.

If you are unsure whether your cookie settings will cause problems after the move, we recommend resetting your cookie path to / and removing any cookie domain value **before** the move. An incorrectly set cookie domain or path will likely prevent you from accessing your control panel.

1) Backing Up and Moving the Files

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You can use FTP or your hosts' file manager to move your vB files from one server to another. You need to download all the appropriate vB files and directories (making sure to retain the current directory structure) then upload these files and directories to the new server. Make sure you transfer all the image files (.gif, .jpg, .png, .ico, .attach, .thumb) in Binary format and the non-image files in ASCII format. Most FTP programs are set to recognize the correct file types automatically but it does not hurt to double-check.

If you are storing attachments, avatars and user profile pictures in the file system instead of the database (the default storage method) then you will need to move those files and directories over as well. As with the old server these directories will need to be made world-readable and writable, (chmod -R 777 on *Nix systems.)

Also since the exact path to these directories will very likely be different on the new server, you will need to reset these paths in the Admin CP after the transfer is done and your forums are up and running on the new server. You do this here:

Admin CP -> Attachments -> Attachment Storage Type

Admin CP -> Avatars -> User Picture Storage Type

2) Backing-Up the Current Database

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1 Telnet/SSH into the server where your vBulletin is currently installed. We will call this machine1.

2 Type:

```
mysqldump --opt -Q -uUSERNAME -p DATABASENAME > /PATH/TO/DUMP.SQL
```

In this line, you should change the following:

- **USERNAME** – this is the username you use to access MySQL. It is specified in your config.php file.
- **DATABASENAME** – the name of the database which your vBulletin is installed into. It is specified in your config.php file.
- **/PATH/TO/DUMP.SQL** – this is the path to the file that will be outputted. If you are unsure what to put here, simply use *vb_backup.sql* or something similar.

Once you press enter, you will be prompted for the password you use to access MySQL. This is also specified in your config.php file.

3 Once it has returned to the prompt, verify that *DUMP.SQL* exists in the directory you specified. If you did not specify a full directory, the file will be in the directory you are currently in.

Note:

When moving servers you need to check the MySQL versions on both the old and new servers. It is always best if the new server is running the same or a newer version of MySQL.

If the new server is running an older version of MySQL it would be best to seek out a different host. If this is not possible, you will need to make a compatible dump of the database.

This only applies between major version number, ie MySQL 5.x to MySQL 4.x.

Add the following option to the mysqldump command:

--compatible=name

Produce output that is more compatible with other database systems or with older MySQL servers. The value of name can be ansi, mysql323, mysql40, postgresql, oracle, mssql, db2, maxdb, no_key_options, no_table_options, or no_field_options. To use several values, separate them by commas. These values have the same meaning as the corresponding options for setting the server SQL mode.

Please note that there may still be issues even using the --compatible option

[MySQL Manual](#)

3) Transferring to the New Server

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1 Telnet/SSH into machine1 if you have not already.

2 Type:

```
ftp MACHINE2
```

Replace **MACHINE2** with the host name (www.example.com) or IP address (192.168.1.1) of the new server.

You should be prompted for a username and password. This is the username and password that you use to login via FTP to your new server.

- 3 Type the following:

```
asc
cd /PATH/TO/NEW/DIRECTORY
put /PATH/TO/DUMP.SQL
```

Here you should change:

- **/PATH/TO/NEW/DIRECTORY** – this is the path to the directory in which you want to place the database backup. If you are unsure what to specify here, you can usually omit the entire `cd /PATH/TO/NEW/DIRECTORY/` command.
- **/PATH/TO/DUMP.SQL** – this is the same path that you specified in step 1.

- 4 Once these commands have finished, type:

```
close
quit
```

- 5 Verify that `DUMP.SQL` is in `/PATH/TO/NEW/DIRECTORY` on the new server.

4) Restoring the Database on the New Server

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- 1 On the new server, if necessary, create the database which your vBulletin will be installed in. Refer to your host for specific information on how this is done.

- 2 Telnet/SSH into machine2.

- 3 Type:

```
mysql -uUSERNAME -p NEWDBNAME < /PATH/TO/NEW/DUMP.SQL
```

You should change the following parts of this line:

- **USERNAME** - this is the new username which you will use to access MySQL. If you do not know this value, you should contact your host.
- **NEWDBNAME** - the name of the new database that you created in the first part of this step.
- **/PATH/TO/NEW/DUMP.SQL** - this is the path to the backup file that you transferred to this server in step 2.

Note:

We recommend you use the method described above to restore your database, as it is the most reliable. If you don't have access to SSH then there are alternate instructions on restoring your database available in the [technical section of the manual](#).

5) Bringing it Back Online

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- 1 Open up `includes/config.php` and edit `$config['MasterServer']['servername']`, `$config['MasterServer']['username']`, `$config['MasterServer']['password']`, and `$config['Database']['dbname']` with the values that correspond with the new server. If you are not sure what these values should be, please contact your new host.

- 2 Upload the new `config.php` and the rest of the files (if they still need to be uploaded).

- 3 Login to your admin control panel, go to the *vBulletin Options* section, and change your *BB URL*, if necessary.

Note:

If you are not using the default database cache in vBulletin, you will need to flush your cache and restore it on the new server. These means updating your Memcache settings in your `config.php` file. If you are using the filesystem to store your Datastore, you need to make sure that `includes/datastore/datastore.php` is chmod 0777 so vBulletin can write to it.

Installing PHP and Apache

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This section will cover installing [PHP](#) and Apache from source onto a Unix/Linux system. This **requires** SSH/Telnet and super user (e.g., root) access to your server.

This section will compile and perform a basic, generic install of Apache and PHP. If you need specific values, you will need to modify the configure lines to suit.

Note:

We will setup PHP with Apache 1.x in this section. Instructions may vary for Apache 2.x.

For more information on installing PHP, see <http://www.php.net/manual/en/installation.php>. For more information on installing Apache, see <http://httpd.apache.org/docs/install.html>.

1) Downloading PHP and Apache

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- 1 We need to download the latest versions of both Apache and PHP to the server. Go to <http://www.php.net> and download the source code of the latest version, `php-xxx.tar.gz` and place it in the `/usr/local/src` directory on your server.
- 2 Go to <http://www.apache.org> and download the source for the latest version of Apache 1.x, `apache_xxx.tar.gz`, and place this in the same location.

Note:

The file names will vary slightly as they will include the version number. You will need to replace `xxx` in the following steps with the appropriate value.

2) Preparing to Install Apache

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- 1 Telnet/SSH into your server if you have not already.

- 2 From the shell prompt, type the following:

```
cd /usr/local/src
tar xfz apache_xxx.tar.gz
tar xfz php-xxx.tar.gz
```

- 3 Now we need to figure out where Apache is currently running, so we can configure the new version for the same location. Type:

```
ps -ef
```

Look for a line like this:

```
nobody 32319 340 0 19:48 ? 00:00:00 /usr/local/etc/httpd/bin/httpd
```

This says Apache is installed in /usr/local/etc/httpd. This may be different on your system, if so, replace /usr/local/etc/httpd with your Apache location in the following steps.

- 4 Now type:

```
cd /usr/local/src/apache_xxx
./configure --prefix=/usr/local/etc/httpd
```

This will configure Apache and get ready for compiling in a later step.

3) Compiling and Installing PHP

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From the shell, type the following:

```
cd /usr/local/src/php-xxx
./configure --prefix=/usr/local/php --with-config-file-path=/usr/local/php --with-mysql --with-
apache=../apache_xxx
make
make install
```

Now PHP 4 is installed and we are ready to compile and install Apache.

4) Compiling and Installing Apache

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- 1 From the shell, type:

```
cd /usr/local/src/apache_xxx
./configure --prefix=/usr/local/etc/httpd --activate-module=src/modules/php4/libphp4.a
make
```

- 2 Now shut down Apache to install in new binaries:

```
/usr/local/etc/httpd/bin/apachectl stop
```

- 3 Now install Apache:

```
make install
```

5) Completing the Installation

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- 1 Now we just want to copy our PHP configuration file:

```
cd /usr/local/src/php-xxx
cp php.ini-optimized /usr/local/php/php.ini
```

If you have any modifications you wish to make to your php.ini file, you may make them now.

- 2 cd /usr/local/etc/httpd/conf

Edit your httpd.conf file and make sure the following line is added:
AddType application/x-httdp-php .php

- 3 You can now reboot your system, or simply re-start Apache with:

```
/usr/local/etc/httpd/bin/apachectl start
```

Installing PHP under IIS using FastCGI

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The recommended method to use PHP on an IIS server under Windows is using FastCGI. This method allows you to reuse resources similar to an ISAPI module but does not have the instabilities introduced through a multi-threaded PHP installation.

Microsoft has posted instructions on how to install PHP under FastCGI on their IIS.net website. You can see those instructions here:

To install PHP with FastCGI under IIS6 please follow these instructions:
<http://learn.iis.net/page.aspx/247/using-fastcgi-to-host-php-applications-on-iis-60/>

To install PHP with FASTCGI under IIS7 please follow these instructions:
<http://learn.iis.net/page.aspx/246/using-fastcgi-to-host-php-applications-on-iis-70/>

Installing MySQL

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[MySQL](http://www.mysql.com) is freely available for Linux from <http://www.mysql.com> on the downloads page at <http://www.mysql.com/downloads/index.html>. Download the latest stable release (listed as *recommended* on the download page). You should grab the *tarball source download* version, with filename mysql-version.tar.gz.

1) Compiling and Installing MySQL

With the program downloaded, you should make sure you're logged in as *root* before proceeding with the installation, unless you only want to install MySQL in your own home directory. Begin by unpacking the downloaded file and moving into the directory that is created:

```
tar xfz mysql-version.tar.gz
cd mysql-version
```

Next you need to configure the MySQL install. Unless you really know what you're doing, all you should have to do is tell it where to install. I recommend /usr/local/mysql:

```
./configure --prefix=/usr/local/mysql
```

After sitting through the screens and screens of configuration tests, you'll eventually get back to a command prompt. You're ready to compile MySQL:

```
make
```

After even more screens of compilation, you'll again be returned to the command prompt. You're now ready to install your newly compiled program:

```
make install
```

MySQL is now installed, but before it can do anything useful its database files need to be installed too. Still in the directory you installed from, type the following command:

```
scripts/mysql_install_db
```

With that done, you can delete the directory you've been working in, which just contains all the source files and temporary installation files. If you ever need to reinstall, you can just re-extract the mysql-version.tar.gz file.

2) Setting Up a New User for MySQL

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With MySQL installed and ready to store information, all that's left is to get the server running on your computer. While you can run the server as the root user, or even as yourself (if, for example, you installed the server in your own home directory), the best idea is to set up a special user on the system that can do nothing but run the MySQL server. This will remove any possibility of someone using the MySQL server as a way to break into the rest of your system. To create a special MySQL user, you'll need to log in as root and type the following commands:

```
/usr/sbin/groupadd mysqlgrp
/usr/sbin/useradd -g mysqlgrp mysqlusr
```

By default, MySQL stores all database information in the var subdirectory of the directory to which it was installed. We want to make it so that nobody can access that directory except our new MySQL user. The following commands will do this (I'm assuming you installed MySQL to the /usr/local/mysql directory):

```
cd /usr/local/mysql
chown -R mysqlusr.mysqlgrp var
chmod -R go-rwx var
```

3) Starting the MySQL Server

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Everything's set for you to try launching the MySQL server for the first time. From the MySQL directory, type the following command:

```
bin/safe_mysqld --user=mysqlusr &
```

The MySQL server has now been launched by the MySQL user and will stay running (just like your Web or FTP server) until your computer is shut down. To test that the server is running properly, type the following command:

```
bin/mysqladmin -u root status
```

A little blurb with some statistics about the MySQL server should be displayed. If you get an error message, something has gone wrong. If retracing your steps to make sure you did everything described above doesn't solve the problem, a post to the SitePoint.com Forums will probably help you pin it down in no time.

4) Making MySQL Start Up with Your Server

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If you want to set up your MySQL server to run automatically whenever the system is running (just like your Web server probably does), you'll have to set it up to do so. In the share/mysql subdirectory of the MySQL directory, you'll find a script called mysql.server that can be added to your system startup routines to do this.

Assuming you've set up a special MySQL user to run the MySQL server, you'll need to edit the mysql.server script before you use it. Open it in your favorite text editor and change the mysql_daemon_user setting to refer to the user you created above:

```
mysql_daemon_user=mysqlusr
```

Setting up the script to be run by your system at startup is a highly operating system-dependant task. If you're not using RedHat Linux and you're not sure of how to do this, you'd be best to ask someone who knows. In RedHat Linux, the following commands (starting in the MySQL directory) will do the trick:

```
cp share/mysql/mysql.server /etc/rc.d/init.d/
cd /etc/rc.d/init.d
chmod 500 mysql.server
```

```
cd /etc/rc.d/rc3.d
ln -s ./init.d/mysql.server S99mysql
cd /etc/rc.d/rc5.d
ln -s ./init.d/mysql.server S99mysql
```

That's it! To test that this works, you can reboot your system and request the status of the server as before to make sure it runs properly at startup.

Creating a New MySQL Database for vBulletin to Use

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Depending upon your web server, you may need to create a new MySQL database into which vBulletin can be installed.

The following pages describe the process needed to do this under a variety of systems.

Setting-up a MySQL Database on the Command Line

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If you have root access to your web server, you can set up a new database for vBulletin to use via the MySQL command line.

- 1 Firstly, you will need to log in to your server via SSH or Telnet as the root user, or some other user with permission to control MySQL at the root level. Windows users can use Command Prompt.

- 2 Next, you will need to start the MySQL command line tool by typing something along these lines:

```
/usr/local/mysql/bin/mysql -uroot -p
```

on Windows it will be similar to:

```
c:\mysql\bin\mysql -uroot -p
```

The system will then ask you to provide the MySQL root password to continue.

- 3 When you have completed the login to MySQL you will see a mysql> command prompt. To see the list of databases that already exist, type the following:

```
SHOW DATABASES;
```

You will then be given a list of the databases that already exist. The name you choose for your new database **must** be unique, so ensure that the name you want to give to your new database is not already in use.

- 4 After you have decided upon a name, you can run the query to create the new database. For this example, we will call the database *example_database*.

Type the following, replacing the name of the database with the name you have chosen:

```
CREATE DATABASE example_database;
```

- 5 Having created the database, we will now create a MySQL user account with permission to access the new database. Doing this is a security precaution, as it's never a good idea to have PHP scripts talking to MySQL with root privileges.

In this example, we will name our new user *example_user* and give the account a password of *p4ssw0rd*. Replace those values as appropriate when you type the following:

```
GRANT ALL ON example_database.*  
TO example_user@localhost IDENTIFIED BY 'p4ssw0rd';
```

Your new database and new user are ready to be used. Based on the example names given in this document, you should enter the following values into [config.php](#):

```
$config['Database'][‘dbname’] = ‘example_database’;  
$config[‘MasterServer’][‘servername’] = ‘localhost’;  
$config[‘MasterServer’][‘username’] = ‘example_user’;  
$config[‘MasterServer’][‘password’] = ‘p4ssw0rd’;
```

Setting-up a MySQL Database in cPanel

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For purposes of this manual, I am using screenshots from the cPanel X theme. Your cPanel theme may differ, but the instructions will remain virtually the same.

The only notable difference is if you are using the cPanel Advanced theme. If that's the case, click the [Advanced Tools] then the [MySQL Databases] and join us again at the next step.

For all others, you should see a screen something like the one in the figure below. Click the [MySQL Databases] icon.



On this screen, you will enter the database name you want in the blank next to [db:] then click [Add DB].

MySQL Account Maintenance

Databases:

User: Db:

Privileges: ALL ALTER CREATE TEMPORARY TABLES
 CREATE DELETE DROP SELECT INSERT UPDATE
 REFERENCES INDEX LOCK TABLES

Add User to Db

Db: forums

Once you have clicked [Add DB] you will be brought to a redirect screen confirming the creation of the database. Click the [back] or [Go Back] link to return to the main MySQL screen.

Now we have to create the database user and password. Scroll down the screen until you see this:

Users:

UserName: forums
 Password: secret.pswd

Enter the database username and password you want in the appropriate blanks and click the [Add User].

Once you have clicked [Add User] you will be brought to a redirect screen confirming the creation of the username and password. Click the [back] or [Go Back] link to return to the main MySQL screen.

Now you have to add the user to the database so they can have access and control. Scroll until you see this:

MySQL Account Maintenance

Databases:

example_forums

User: Db:
 Privileges: ALL ALTER CREATE TEMPORARY TABLES
 CREATE DELETE DROP SELECT INSERT UPDATE
 REFERENCES INDEX LOCK TABLES

Add User to Db

Using the drop-down menus, make sure you have selected the proper user and database, then click [Add User to DB].

Again, you will be sent to the redirect screen confirming the addition of the user to the database. Again, click the [back] or [Go Back] link to return to the main MySQL screen. You should see something like this:

Databases:

example_forums

Users in forums
 example_forums (Privileges: ALL PRIVILEGES)

Connection Strings

```
$dbb = DBI->connect
Perl ("DBI:mysql:example_forums:localhost", "example_forums", "<PASSWORD HERE>");
$dbb=mysql_connect ("localhost", "example_forums", "<PASSWORD HERE>") or die ('I cannot connect to the database because: ' . mysql_error ());
mysql_select_db ("example_forums");
```

These are the database name, username and password you will use in the config.php file.

Note:

cPanel will always preface the database name and database username with your main account username and an underscore.

If you chose the database name [forums] and the database username [user] your database will be [mainusername_forums] and your database username will be [mainusername_user]

Setting-up a MySQL Database in Plesk

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When you first log into Plesk, you will see this screen. Click the [DATABASES] button to begin setting up your database:

**Note:**

If the [DATABASES] button is greyed out, it means that your account does not have MySQL database access. Please contact your host to correct this.

This will bring you to the database create screen. Enter the name you want for your database and click the [ADD] button.

Add new database.
Database name: **ADD**
No Databases.

Now you must create your database user. Enter the database username you want and click the [ADD] button.

Database **testdb** for domain **UP LEVEL**
PHPMYADMIN
Database users
New user: **ADD**
No Database users.

Now you must create a password for the database username. Enter it in the first blank, reenter it in the second blank for confirmation and click the [UPDATE] button:

Database user name for **testdb** database **UP LEVEL**
New password:
Confirm Password: **UPDATE**

You have now created your database and will be redirected to this screen:

Database **testdb** for domain **UP LEVEL**
PHPMYADMIN
Database users
New user: **ADD**
SEARCH
Database users (1) **REMOVE SELECTED**
▲**Name** **Sel**
testuser

The database name, username and password you created here are what you input into your config.php file.

Setting-up a MySQL Database in Ensim

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There are 2 possible ways to set up a MySQL database in Ensim. In most Ensim configurations, you will have links on the left as well as icons on the main screen. Some hosts, however, don't use the icon set up, so I will cover both.

When you load your control panel you should see something resembling the screen in the following figure. Most people will click the [MySQL Admin Tool] link next to the icon. Others may have to click the [Services] link in the left side nav panel.



If you had to use the [Services] link in the left side nav panel, you will see the following screen:

VIEW SERVICES [? Help](#)

[View Services](#)

Service List
Following is the list of services available for the Site.

Status	Service	Actions
	Email	
	FTP	
	Majordomo	
	Modperl for Apache	
	MySQL	
	OpenSSH Secure Shell	
	POP3 + Imap Server	
	Telnet	
	Vacation Auto-Responder	
	Web Server	

Click the following button in the row labeled [MySQL]



This will bring up the following screen:

MYSQL [? Help](#)

[Manage Databases](#) [List Databases](#) [Create Database](#) [Change Password](#)

Create Database
For uniqueness, the database will be created with nephilim-x_com_- as a prefix.
The database name can have maximum length of 44 characters.
The maximum number of databases that can be created is 5

Database Name	yourdomain_com_- <input type="text" value="DB Name Here"/>
Database Admin	yourusername
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>	

Click the [Create Database] link.

This will bring the screen where you create the database:

Database Name	Space Consumed	Actions
yourdomain_com_-_db1	3870 Kb	
yourdomain_com_-_test	0 Kb	

Type the database name you want in the blank and click the [Save]. This will create your database and take you to the main database screen. You should see the database you created listed on the screen.

MYSQL [? Help](#)

[Manage Databases](#) [List Databases](#) [Create Database](#) [Change Password](#)

Configuration
Click the link to open the MySQL Administration Tool. It will open in a new window and you will need to enter your MySQL login and password to access it. Your MySQL login is the same as your Site Administrator Name. If you forgot your password, you can change it in the Change MySQL Password screen

[MySQL Administration Tool](#)

Note:

Most Ensim installations will prefix the database name with [yourdomain_com_-_] so if you choose [forums] as your database name, the actual name of the database may be [yourdomain_com_-_forums]

Also, Ensim will use the same username and password for the database username and password that you use for your main account login.

Backing-up your MySQL Database Manually

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Here you will find instruction for backing up your database.

Backing Up The Database via SSH/Telnet

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In order to back up your database via SSH or Telnet you will require 2 things:

- 1) [SSH](#) or [Telnet](#) access to your site. You will need to check with your hosting company to see if this is available.
- 2) An SSH/Telnet Client, such as PuTTY.

Open your SSH/Telnet client and log into your website. The command line prompt you will see will vary by OS. For most hosting companies, this will bring you into the FTP root folder.

Type in the following to create a backup in the current directory:

```
mysqldump --opt -Q -u dbusername -p databasename > backupname.sql
```

Or to create a backup in a separate directory (signified by /path/to/) type:

```
mysqldump --opt -Q -u dbusername -p databasename > /path/to/backupname.sql
```

You will be prompted for the database password. Enter it and the database will backup.

If your hosting company has you on a remote MySQL server, such as mysql.yourhost.com, you will need to add the servername to the command line. The servername will be the same as in your config.php. The command line will be:

Current directory:

```
mysqldump --opt -Q -h servername -u dbusername -p databasename > backupname.sql
```

Separate directory:

```
mysqldump --opt -Q -h servername -u dbusername -p databasename > /path/to/backupname.sql
```

You can then, if you wish, download the backup to your home computer.

Backing Up The Database via phpMyAdmin

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For purposes of this instruction,I am using phpMyAdmin version 2.5.6-rc1.

Go to phpMyAdmin in your web browser and select the database you wish to back up by clicking on the name. If you have multiple databases, you will need to select the name from the drop menu.

In the right-hand frame, you will see a row of links. Click [Export]

Now in the right-hand frame you will see three (3) areas. In the first area, called **Export** you select the table(s) you wish to back up by selecting them from the list. To select multiple tables, hold the Ctrl key and click the table names. To select all table, click the [Select All] link.

In the second area, called **SQL Options**, make sure you have the following boxes checked:

Structure

Add 'drop table'

Add AUTO_INCREMENT value

Enclose table and field names with backquotes

Data

In the third area, check **Save as file** and type a name for the backup in the **File name template** :

If your system supports it, you may also choose a compression type. **None** is selected by default.

Click [Go] and you will be prompted to save the backup on your local computer.

Restoring your MySQL Database Manually

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In this section we will cover methods to restore your database backup.

Note:

There is no Database Restore function built into vBulletin. If you cannot use either of the methods covered in the manual, you will need to ask your hosting company to restore the database for you.

Restoring The Database via SSH/Telnet

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In order to restore your database via SSH or Telnet you will require 2 things:

- 1) SSH or Telnet access to your site. You will need to check with your hosting company to see if this is available.
- 2) An SSH/Telnet Client, such as PuTTY.

Note:

If your database backup resides on your home computer, you will first have to upload it via FTP to your website. Open your SSH/Telnet client and log into your website. The command line prompt you will see will vary by OS. For most hosting companies, this will bring you into the FTP root folder.

You can either change directoties to wherever the backup is located and type in the following:

```
mysql -u dbusername -p databasename < backupname.sql
```

Or if you do not want to change directories and you know the path to where the backup is located, type in the following:

```
mysql -u dbusername -p databasename </path/to/backupname.sql
```

You will be prompted for the database password. Enter it and the database will backup.

If your hosting company has you on a remote MySQL server, such as mysql.yourhost.com, you will need to add the servername to the command line. The servername will be the same as in your config.php. The command line will be:

```
mysql -h servername -u dbusername -p databasename < backupname.sql
```

Or:

```
mysql -h servername -u dbusername -p databasename </path/to/backupname.sql
```

Restoring The Database via phpMyAdmin

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For purposes of this instruction, I am using phpMyAdmin version 2.5.6-rc1.

Go to phpMyAdmin in your web browser and select the database you wish to back up by clicking on the name. If you have multiple databases, you will need to select the name from the drop menu.

In the right-hand frame, you will see a row of links. Click [SQL]

You will see a large input box for queries and below that you will see a smaller box labeled **Browse**.

Click the [Browse] button, navigate to and select the backup file on your home computer and click the [Go].

Warning:

There are sometimes file size limitations on importing a database backup this way. If your database is too large, you might encounter PHP timeout errors. In that case, you will need to attempt to restore your database via SSH/Telnet.

The vBulletin Datastore

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To improve performance, vBulletin caches certain information which isn't updated often in the datastore, so that it doesn't have to be rebuilt every time it's needed.

Examples for this are

- forumcache - A serialized array with all the forums along with their options and permissions
- options - A serialized array with all the information set in the vBulletin Options
- profilefield - A serialized array of all the profile fields and their options.

The datastore data is stored in the datastore database table by default, but certain settings in the config.php file allow this to be saved in other places, to improve performance:

```
/* ##### DATASTORE CACHE CONFIGURATION #####
Here you can configure different methods for caching datastore items.
vB_Datastore_Filecache - to use includes/datastore/datastore_cache.php
vB_Datastore_APCu - to use APCu (which replaces APC)
vB_Datastore_XCache - to use XCache (not available for PHP 7+)
vB_Datastore_Memcache - to use one or more Memcache servers, more configuration below.
vB_Datastore_Redis - to use one or more Redis servers, more configuration options below. */
// $config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_Filecache';
In version 4.2.5, five options are available:
```

vB_Datastore_Filecache

This option saves the datastore data in the /includes/datastore/datastore_cache.php file. Reading from the filesystem is generally less load-intensive than querying the database.

To use this option, you'll need to make sure that the /includes/datastore/datastore_cache.php file is writable and readable by PHP. Usually this is chmod 777. Then, uncomment the following line in the config.php file.

```
// $config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_Filecache';
```

vB_Datastore_APCu

This option saves the datastore data in shared memory using [APCu](#) on a server. APCu is replacing APC.

To use this option, replace the following line:

```
// $config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_Filecache';
```

...with this one:

```
$config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_APCu';
```

vB_Datastore_Memcache

This option saves the datastore data on a [memcached](#) server. This is a fast memory caching system which can also be run on a different server to reduce load on the main server.

To use this option, a memcached server has to be set up first.

To use this option, replace the following line:

```
// $config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_Filecache';
```

...with this one:

```
$config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_Memcache';
```

Additionally, the following section of the config.php file has to be set up with the correct IP/Servername and Port respectively. All lines need to be uncommented.

```
/* ##### MEMCACHE SETTINGS ##### */
$config['Misc']['memcacheServers'] = array(
    array(
        'server' => '127.0.0.1',
        'port' => 11211
    ),
);
$config['Misc']['memcacheRetry'] = 15; // Retry time in seconds.
$config['Misc']['memcacheTimeout'] = 1; // Connect timeout in seconds.
$config['Misc']['memcachePersistent'] = true; // Persistent connections.
```

vB_Datastore_XCache

This option is not available for versions of PHP from 7+.

To use this option, replace the following line:

```
// $config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_Filecache';
...with this one:
$config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_XCache';
vB_Datastore_Redis
```

Redis is an open source (BSD licensed), in-memory data structure store.

To use this option, replace the following line:

```
// $config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_Filecache';
...with this one:
```

```
$config['Datastore']['class'] = 'vB_Datastore_Redis';
```

To configure this, the following section of the config.php file has to be set up with the correct IP/Servername and Port respectively. All lines need to be uncommented.

```
/* ##### REDIS SETTINGS ##### */
$config['Misc']['redisServers'] = array(
    array(
        'addr' => '127.0.0.1',
        'port' => 6379
    ),
);
$config['Misc']['redisRetry'] = 100; // Retry time in milliseconds.
$config['Misc']['redisTimeout'] = 3; // Connect timeout in seconds.
$config['Misc']['redisMaxDelay'] = 10; // Slave out of sync, timeout in seconds.
```

Using Forum, Blog or CMS in a Subdirectory.

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Running your forums in multiple directories.

With vBulletin 4.1.1, you have gained the ability to run your forum components in different directories. This includes subdirectories of your primary installation directory and sibling directories. However due to the way that the forums and blog are implemented, it is a little different than other software packages. Implementing this on your site is fairly straightforward though.

Components Supported

Currently vBulletin supports running the CMS, Forum, and Blogs in directories other than your primary installation directory.

Uploading the files.

In your 4.1.1 package there are a number of new files located within the Do Not Upload Folder to implement this functionality. You need to upload these files first. Go into your Do Not Upload folder and you will see four subfolders. These are named – blog, forum, cms and rewrite.

You need to upload the folders that correspond to the components that you want to run in a sub-directory on your website. For our example today, we're going to concentrate on the forum directory. Upload this to your forum root directory using your favorite file transfer tool.

Using Mod_Rewrite?

If you are using mod_rewrite friendly URLs, you need to upload the .htaccess for your components as well. These are in the rewrite directory and get uploaded to their corresponding directories on the server.

Note: Only .htaccess files are provided at this time. If you are using IIS 7 with the URL Rewrite addon, you can import the .htaccess files within IIS Manager to create the appropriate web.config files. Consult the help files in IIS Manager for instructions.

vBulletin Settings

Once you have the files uploaded, you need to update some settings in your Admin Control Panel. Log in to your Admin Control Panel and go to:

Settings → Options → Site Name / URL / Contact Details.

Here you will find new options for the URLs of your different components. They exist for Forums, CMS and Blogs. These need to be set to the same directories that you uploaded the files to earlier.

Forum Component URL

If this is specified it will override the Forum URL setting for Forum specific pages. You may specify an absolute URL or a URL relative to the main Forum URL

Examples:

If vBulletin is located at <http://example.com/vbulletin> then entering a value of "forum" will result in the forum being located at <http://example.com/vbulletin/forum>.

A value of "<http://www.example.com/forum>" will result in the forum being located at <http://www.example.com/forum>.

All vBulletin URLs must have the same host name.

Cookies

You need to set your cookie path so that it is inclusive of all your vBulletin directories. If your cookie path is the default of "/" then you don't need to change anything. However if you changed this for any reason, it may need to be updated. For example, if vBulletin is located at www.host.com/mysite/vbulletin but the forum is located at www.mysite.com/mysite/forum then a cookie path of "mysite" will work, but a cookie path of "mysite/vbulletin" will not work because the cookies will not be sent to pages in the mysite/forum directory.

Note: Changing the cookies for your site will invalidate all cookies for your users. They will be logged out and must log back in.

Debug Mode

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When developing for vBulletin or troubleshooting issues, you often have to enter Debug Mode. Debug Mode provides you with more information about how vBulletin runs some examples include: page generation times, templates used on a page, the memory used on a page and how many queries it took to generate the page. Debug Mode should not be used on a live production site unless absolutely necessary. It can expose information that could weaken security on your site.

Note:

The config file is located in your includes directory.

Entering Debug Mode

To do this, you need to edit your config.php file and add the following line:

```
$config['Misc']['debug'] = true;
```

This line of code can be anywhere in the file after the <?php and outside of a comment. Once done, save the file and overwrite the copy on your server.

Turning off Debug Mode

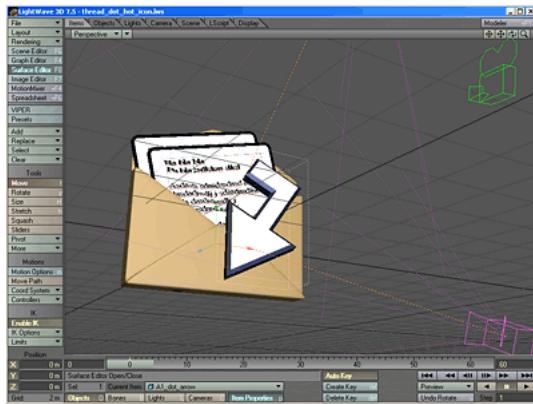
Edit your config.php file and remove the above line of code or comment it out by placing two slashes (//) in front of it. Save the file and overwrite the copy stored on your server.

Appendix: Developer Tools

Graphics Developer Kits

vBulletin 3 Graphics Kit

The standard vBulletin 3 graphics started life as 3D objects and scenes created in [Lightwave 3D](#). The resulting rendered images were then post-processed using [Adobe Photoshop](#).



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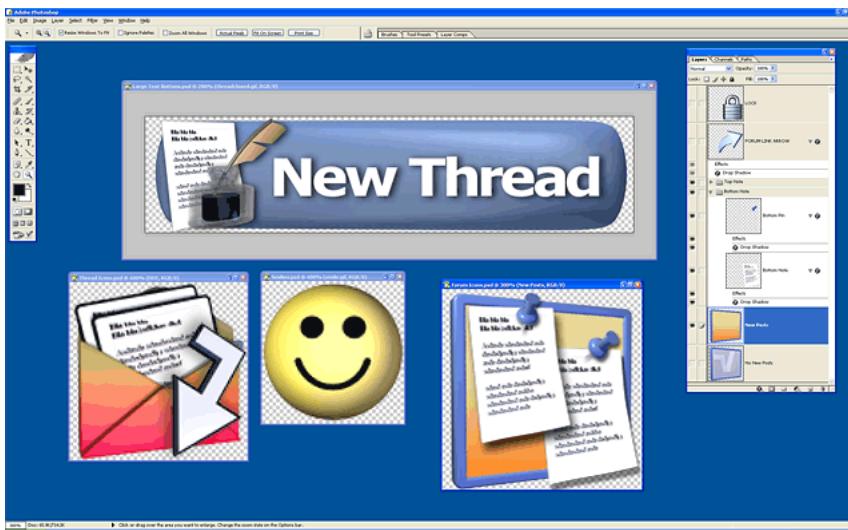
Due to the nature of 3D graphics, the edges of the images do not end in a sharply defined pixel border, but rather they are matted to a specific background color.

The colors to which the standard graphics are matted are based on the colors of the default vBulletin style, which is primarily white and pale blue. It may be that these colors do not suit your own customized styles, in which case you will need to use the vBulletin 3 Graphics Kit to produce a set of graphics matted to your own colors.

Two versions of the Graphics Developer Kit are available from the [vBulletin Members' Area](#). The first contains images that are fully prepared and require only that you choose the matte color and save the resulting images. The second version contains larger, layered images that allow you to make numerous changes to the look of the graphics before saving out the matted versions.

This document will explain the process of saving out images using the 'large, layered' version of the Graphics Developer Kit, as the steps required to achieve the same results with the 'instant matte' version are a subset of these.

After downloading the 'large, layered' version of the Graphics Developer Kit from the [vBulletin Members' Area](#), you should extract the files from the zip archive. You will be left with a directory structure that mirrors the directory structure from the 'images' directory of your vBulletin installation.

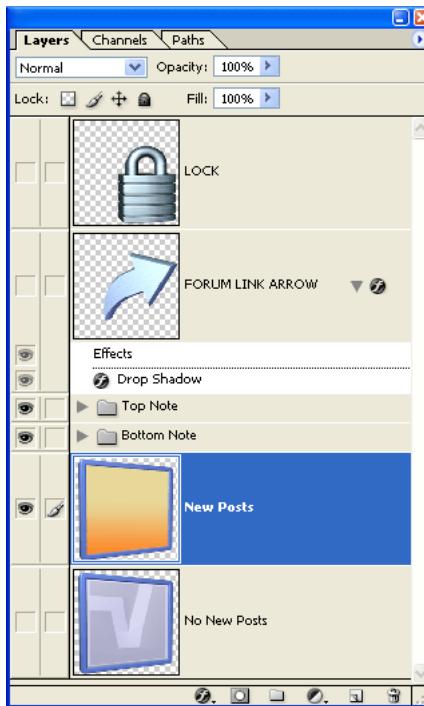


The images stored within the extracted directories are in Photoshop .psd format, in order to retain their layer information and facilitate editing. Opening an image into Photoshop (or an alternative application with PSD format support) will give you access to edit the individual graphic layers so that you can make whatever changes you need to make.

You will find that many of the PSD images are in fact used to build a number of the final graphics. For example, all the smilie graphics are generated from just two PSD files.

Here you can see a typical arrangement of image layers within one of the Graphics Kit files. This particular file (Forum Icons.psd) is used to build statusicon/forum_new.gif, statusicon/forum_old.gif, statusicon/forum_new_lock.gif, statusicon/forum_old_lock.gif and statusicon/forum_link.gif.

By switching on and off the icon next to each layer or layer



set you can change the visibility of each layer and hence build each individual image.

For example, to build the statusicon/forum_new.gif image, you would need to hide all layers with the exceptions of:

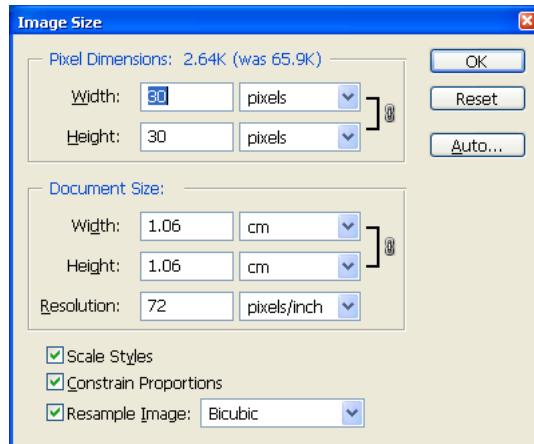
- New Posts
- Top Note
- Bottom Note

Meanwhile, to create the statusicon/forum_new_lock.gif image, all layers should be hidden apart from:

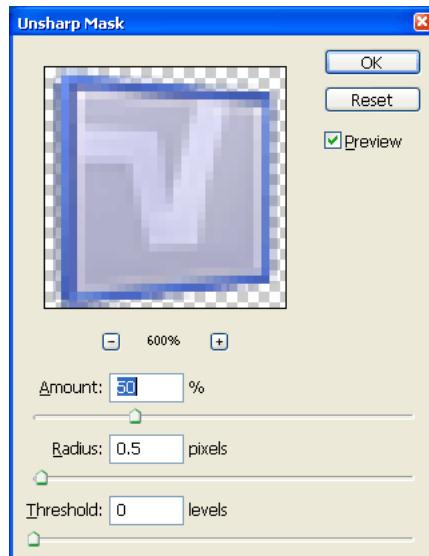
- No New Posts
- Bottom Note
- Top Note
- FORUM LINK ARROW

In order to create the matted versions of your graphics, you should follow the following steps.

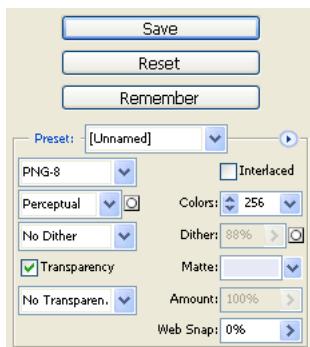
- 1 Firstly, resize the image to the desired size for the final graphic (see the [table of sizes and matte classes](#) for the correct size for each image). The resize command can be found by following Image > Image Size in Photoshop.



- 2 Secondly, selecting each *visible* layer in turn, apply a sharpening filter. We recommend that you use Filter > Sharpen > Unsharp Mask with the following settings:



3 Finally, after sharpening each layer, call up the File > Save for Web dialog. Here, set the number of colors to 256, the format to GIF and turn transparency on.



You should now click the **Matte** control, choose *Eyedropper Color* and then pick an appropriate color to use as the background for your image.

You can refer to the [table of sizes and matte classes](#) to find the name of the CSS class on which each graphic will be located, so that you can match that up to an appropriate color.

The Graphics Developer Kits can be downloaded from the [Members' Support Page](#).

Table of Sizes and Matte Classes

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Directory	Image Name	Width	Height	Matte Class
buttons				
buttons	newthread	110	26	page
buttons	reply	110	26	page
buttons	threadclosed	110	26	page
buttons	edit	70	22	alt2
buttons	reply_small	70	22	alt2
buttons	forward	70	22	alt2
buttons	quickreply	25	22	alt2
buttons	sendpm	70	22	alt2
buttons	email	70	22	alt2
buttons	home	70	22	alt2
buttons	find	70	22	alt2
buttons	mode_hybrid	16	16	vbmenu_option
buttons	mode_linear	16	16	vbmenu_option
buttons	mode_threaded	16	16	vbmenu_option
buttons	printer	21	17	vbmenu_option
buttons	sendtofriend	21	17	vbmenu_option
buttons	addpoll	21	17	vbmenu_option
buttons	subscribe	21	17	vbmenu_option
buttons	report	21	17	thead
buttons	reputation	21	17	thead
buttons	ip	18	17	thead
buttons	sortasc	12	12	thead
buttons	sortdesc	12	12	thead
buttons	firstnew	12	12	alt2
buttons	lastpost	12	12	alt1
buttons	collapse_alt	11	11	alt1
buttons	collapse_alt_collapsed	11	11	alt1
buttons	collapse_tcat	15	15	tcat
buttons	collapse_tcat_collapsed	15	15	tcat
buttons	collapse_thead	13	13	thead
buttons	collapse_thead_collapsed	13	13	thead
icons				

icons	icon1	16	16	alt1
icons	icon2	16	16	alt1
icons	icon3	14	16	alt1
icons	icon4	16	16	alt1
icons	icon5	16	16	alt1
icons	icon6	16	16	alt1
icons	icon7	16	16	alt1
icons	icon8	16	16	alt1
icons	icon9	16	16	alt1
icons	icon10	16	16	alt1
icons	icon11	16	16	alt1
icons	icon12	16	16	alt1
icons	icon13	16	16	alt1
icons	icon14	16	16	alt1
misc				
misc	birthday	30	30	alt1
misc	birthday_small	13	17	alt1
misc	calendar	30	30	alt1
misc	calendar_icon	13	17	vbulletin_option
misc	im_aim	17	17	alt1
misc	im_icq	17	17	alt1
misc	im_msn	17	17	alt1
misc	im_yahoo	17	17	alt1
misc	menu_open	11	7	vbulletin_control
misc	multipage	12	12	alt2
misc	navbits_start	15	15	alt2
misc	navbits_finallink	30	15	alt2
misc	paperclip	7	13	alt2
misc	poll_posticon	16	16	alt1
misc	question_icon	16	16	alt1
misc	stats	30	30	alt1
misc	sticky	12	12	alt2
misc	subscribed	12	12	alt2
misc	subscribed_event	17	17	alt1
misc	whos_online	30	30	alt1
rating				
rating	rating_0	60	12	vbulletin_control
rating	rating_1	60	12	vbulletin_control
rating	rating_2	60	12	vbulletin_control
rating	rating_3	60	12	vbulletin_control
rating	rating_4	60	12	vbulletin_control
rating	rating_5	60	12	vbulletin_control
reputation				
reputation	reputation_off	8	10	alt1
reputation	reputation_highpos	8	10	alt1
reputation	reputation_pos	8	10	alt1
reputation	reputation_balance	8	10	alt1
reputation	reputation_neg	8	10	alt1
reputation	reputation_highneg	8	10	alt1
smilies				
smilies	biggrin	16	16	alt2

smilies	confused	16	21	alt2
smilies	cool	16	16	alt2
smilies	eek	16	16	alt2
smilies	frown	16	16	alt2
smilies	mad	16	16	alt2
smilies	redface	16	16	alt2
smilies	rolleyes	16	16	alt2
smilies	smile	16	16	alt2
smilies	tongue	16	16	alt2
smilies	wink	16	16	alt2
statusicon				
statusicon	announcement_new	18	18	alt2
statusicon	announcement_old	18	18	alt2
statusicon	forum_old	29	30	alt1
statusicon	forum_new	29	30	alt1
statusicon	forum_old_lock	29	30	alt1
statusicon	forum_new_lock	29	30	alt1
statusicon	forum_link	29	30	alt1
statusicon	subforum_old	11	11	alt2
statusicon	subforum_new	11	11	alt2
statusicon	subforum_link	11	11	alt2
statusicon	pm_old	16	16	alt2
statusicon	pm_new	16	16	alt2
statusicon	pm_replied	16	16	alt2
statusicon	pm_forwarded	16	16	alt2
statusicon	post_old	10	11	thead
statusicon	post_new	10	11	thead
statusicon	user_offline	15	15	alt1
statusicon	user_online	15	15	alt1
statusicon	user_invisible	15	15	alt1
statusicon	thread	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_dot	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_dot_hot	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_dot_hot_lock	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_dot_hot_lock_new	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_dot_hot_new	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_dot_lock	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_dot_lock_new	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_dot_new	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_hot	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_hot_lock	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_hot_lock_new	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_hot_new	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_lock	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_lock_new	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_moved	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_moved_new	20	20	alt2
statusicon	thread_new	20	20	alt2
statusicon	wol_lockedout	17	17	alt1
statusicon	wol_nopermission	16	17	alt1

vBulletin 2 Graphics Kit

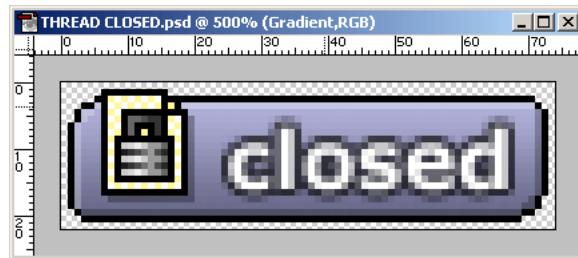
Welcome to the vBulletin Graphics Developer's Kit. This document will take you through the steps needed to get you started with customizing the vBulletin graphics to suit the colors of your own board.

All images in this kit are saved as Adobe Photoshop .psd files, in order to retain their layer information and facilitate editing. They were created in Photoshop 6.0 and ImageReady 3.0.



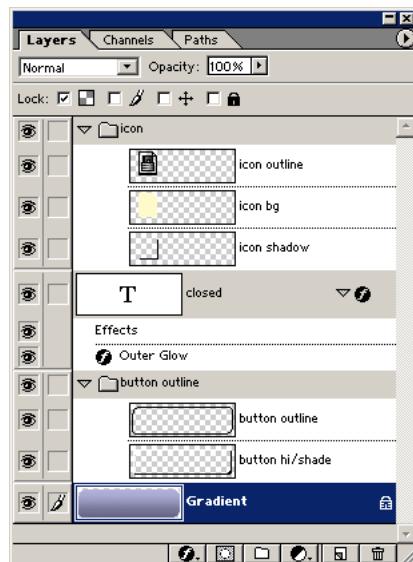
The PSD files included in the Graphics Developer's Kit are all that you will require to fully customize all the vBulletin buttons and icons to whatever extent you require.

When you open up a file into Photoshop, you will usually see a single image, but the file you opened may actually be used to create several images. Let's take a look at the file THREAD CLOSED.psd.



This file is only used to create one image (threadclosed.gif), but the PSD file still contains several layers in order to make it easier to recolor and edit.

Take a look at the Layers Palette in Photoshop and you will be able to see the individual layers that are used to create this image.

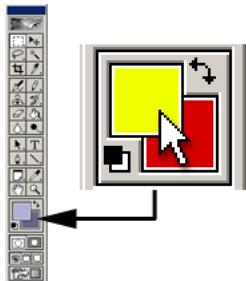


As you can see, the main constituent parts of the image are the Gradient background layer, the button outline layers, the text layer and the three layers used to create the small icon on the left-side of the button.

You can view individual layers by clicking the small icon next to each layer, in order to hide it, and then selectively turning the layers you want to see back to visible mode.

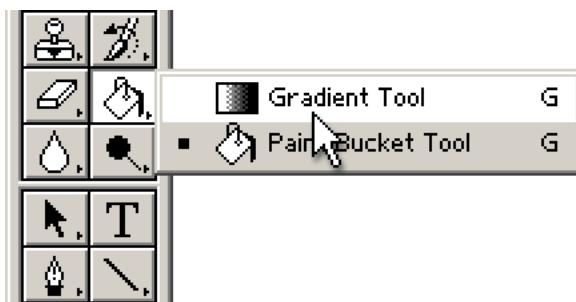
In order to recolor this image to suit your own site, you will need to recolor the Gradient and possibly the icon bg layers. This is how to do that.

Click on the Gradient layer in the Layers Palette, so that it becomes highlighted, as shown in the image above. You will now need to select a start and end color for your gradient. To do this, click on the colored boxes in the tools palette.

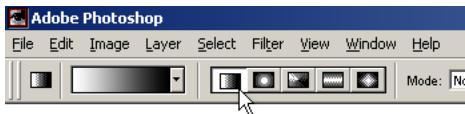


The color in the top-left box will be the starting color for your gradient, and the color in the bottom-right box will be the ending color for the gradient.

Next, you will need to select the gradient tool from the tools palette. To do this, press G on your keyboard until the gradient tool is selected.

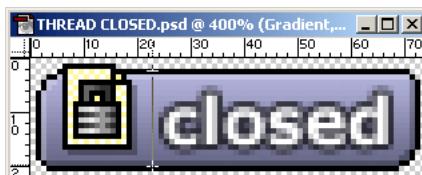


Ensure that the gradient type is linear by checking the tools options palette.

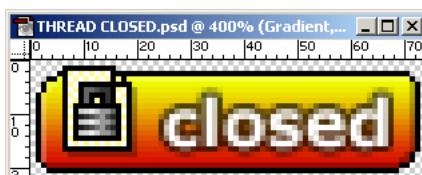


Now you will need to use the gradient tool to draw your new gradient over the existing one.

To do this, simply drag a line from the top of the image to the bottom of the image, then release the mouse button, and the gradient will be drawn. Don't worry about the gradient 'going over the edges' of the existing gradient - it has had its transparency locked, so the new gradient will not go anywhere it's not supposed to.

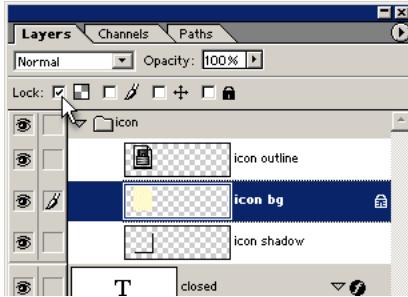


When you release the mouse button, the gradient will be drawn.

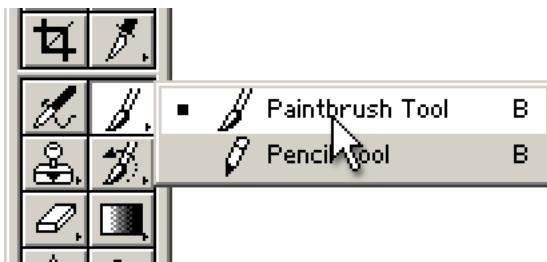


If you want to ensure that the line you draw with the gradient tool is perfectly top-to-bottom, without a slight angle, simply hold down the shift key while you draw the line.

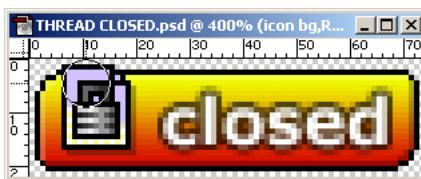
If you also want to recolor the icon, click on the layer called icon bg and then click the checkbox to lock the transparency of this layer, as shown here:



Now select the paintbrush tool from the tools palette by pressing B on the keyboard until the brush tool is selected.

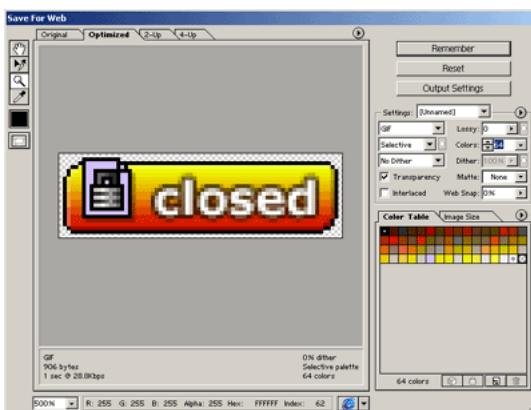


Now choose the color you would like to use, and paint all over the icon. Once again, don't worry about going over the edges, as the layer transparency has been locked:



The final step is to save out the GIF version of this image, for use on your board.

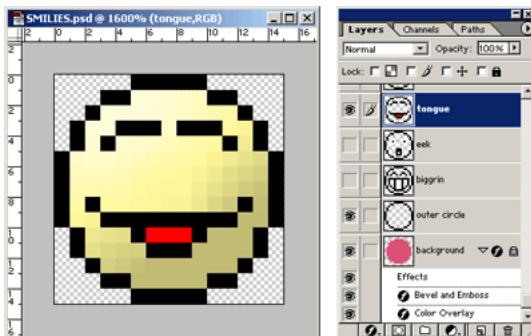
To do this, choose the Save for Web option from the File menu (or hold down Alt+Ctrl+Shift+S on the keyboard).



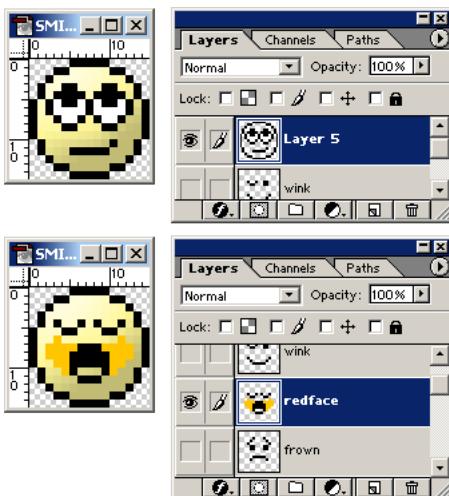
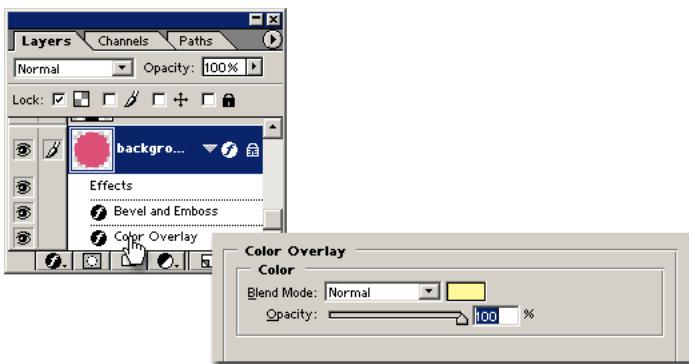
Probably the most important option that you will need to set is the color depth. This will directly affect the file size of the resulting image - the more colors you have, the larger the filesize. The file size is displayed in the bottom-left of the window. You will need to experiment to find the best compromise between image quality and file size. 64 colors will usually be sufficient.

When you are happy with the image, click the [Ok] button to save the image. This will pop up a file window, where you can specify an filename.

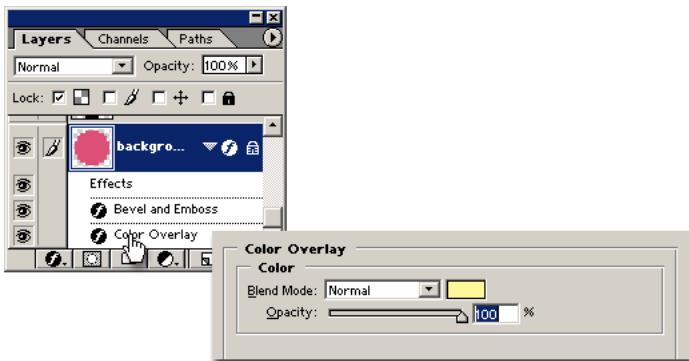
As was mentioned before, some of the PSD files are used to create two or more of the final GIF images. An example of this is the SMILIES.psd file, which is used to create all of the smiley GIFs with the exception of confused.gif.



Creating the various different smilies requires you to hide some layers and show others - for example, to create the eek smilie, you will need to hide all layers with the exception of eek, background and outer circle. To create the tongue smilie, hide the eek layer and show the tongue layer. Showing and hiding layers is done by clicking the small icon next to the appropriate layer.



To change the background color of the smilies, you simply need to double-click the 'Color Overlay' effect applied to the background layer, and set a new color.



When you have finished creating a smilie, simply pull up the Save for Web control as shown earlier.

vBulletin Code Standards

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The following documents are intended as a guide for people who are writing code to integrate with vBulletin.

Code Examples Color Key:

<https://www.vbulletin.com/docs/onepage/?manualversion=40205500>

```
$code = red_code($var); Don't code like this
$code = normal_code($var); Code like this
```

Braces

Braces should be placed on a new line in all cases.

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```
if ($condition_one)
{
    // do something
}
else if ($condition_two)
{
    // do something else
}
else
{
    // don't do anything
}
```

Always use braces, even for loops / branches that contain just a single line of code.

```
if ($condition_one)
    // do something
else
    if ($condition_two)
        // do something else
    else
        // don't do anything

if ($condition_one)
{
    // do something
}
else
{
    if ($condition_two)
    {
        // do something else
    }
    else
    {
        // don't do anything
    }
}
```

Indenting
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Always use a single tab for indenting.

```
function construct_something($var)
{
    global $vboptions;

    if ($vboptions['somevar'])
    {
        if ($var == 'something')
        {
            return true;
        }
        else
        {
            return false;
        }
    }
    else
    {
        return true;
    }
}
```

Loops and Branches
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Loop and branch commands (including foreach) should be followed by a space before the opening parenthesis.

```
for ($i = 0; $i < 10; $i++)
{
    // do something
}

while ($result = $db->fetch_array($results))
{
    // do something
}

if ($condition != 'something')
{
    // do something
}

foreach ($array AS $key => $val)
{
    // do something
}
```

'else if' should be used, rather than 'elseif'.

```
if ($condition)
{
    // do something
}
else if ($condition_two)
{
    // do something else
}
```

Use of Spaces

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Operators should always be surrounded by spaces with the exception of `++` and `--`.

```
$a = 1;
$b += $a;
$c = $a . $b;
$d = $b . 'something' . $c;
$e = $d * $b;
$f = $e / $a;
$g = ($f + $e) * $b;
$h++;
$i--;
```

Function calls and definitions should not have a space before the opening parentheses.

```
$x = htmlspecialchars($y);
$item = $DB_site->fetch_array($items);
```

Function arguments should have a space after each comma.

```
$x = fetch_something($a, $b, $c);
$i = construct_something(strtoupper('something') . ' ' . substr($var, 0, $b));
```

Unnecessary spaces around parentheses should not be used.

```
$var = addslashes( $var );
$str = fetch_something( strlen( $var ), strpos( $x , $y ) );
$x = construct_x(substr($string, 0, strlen($bla)) . '/' . ucfirst($string));
if ($x == 1 AND ($y == 2 OR $z == 3) AND ($a = fetch_x($x, $y) OR $a == 'bla'))
```

Quoting Strings

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Strings should be quoted with single quotes if they contain no variables or control characters, otherwise use double quotes.

```
$flat_string = 'Hello, this is a string';
$dynamic_one = "Hello,\nthis is a string.";
$dynamic_two = "Hello $username,\n this is a string.";
```

The choice between using string evaluations or string additions is yours to make, depending upon the circumstances.

```
$string_one = "The time is $timenow and the date is $datenow.";
$string_two = 'The time is ' . time() . ' and the date is ' . $datenow . '.'
```

SQL Queries should always be double-quoted.

```
$results = $DB_site->query("SELECT field FROM " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table AS table");
```

Variables should not be quoted if they do not need to be.

```
$var = "$x";
$result = strtoupper("$string");
$var = $x;
$result = strtoupper($string);
$string = fetch_something("something$var");
```

`Eval()` calls should be single-quoted if possible, to avoid unnecessary character escaping.

```
eval("\$template = \"\" . fetch_template('template') . '\";');
eval('$template = "' . fetch_template('template') . '"');
```

Quoting Array Keys

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Array keys should be quoted if they are strings or variables, even if you know that the variable evaluates to an integer. Quoting should follow the same rules as defined for string quoting. Note that `$var = $array[$key];` will cause a parse error if `$key` is not quoted and is a negative integer, and will cause a notice if `$key` is a string and is unquoted.

```
$a = $userinfo[12];
$b = $userinfo['username'];
$c = $userinfo["$field"];
```

Compound array keys should quote the outermost variable.

```
$a = $userinfo["$var[12]"];
$b = $userinfo["$var[username]"];
$c = $userinfo["$var[$field]"];
```

Compound arrays within strings should be avoided if possible by breaking out of the string with the dot operator, although if absolutely unavoidable, the {...} array syntax can be used.

```
$a = "Hello my name is $userinfo[12], how do you do?";
$b = "Hello my name is $userinfo[username], how do you do?";
$c = "Hello my name is $userinfo[$field], how do you do?";

$d = 'Hello my name is ' . $userinfo["$var[field]"] . ', how do you do?';
$e = "Hello my name is {$userinfo[$var[username]]}, how do you do?";
```

\$_GET / \$_POST / \$_REQUEST

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In order to insure that data is in the expected format, the following PHP Superglobal arrays are not to be accessed directly under most situations:

- `$_GET`
- `$_POST`
- `$_REQUEST`
- `$_COOKIE`
- `$_FILES`

The only direct access to these variables is with `$_POST['do']` and `$_GET['do']`, which is used as the controlling variable for deciding which branch of a script is executed. There may also exist very specific cases where direct access is required but should be avoided if at all possible. Do not use `$_GET` / `$_POST` / `$_REQUEST` etc. variables in templates.

clean_gpc() and **clean_array_gpc()**, members of the vBulletin input class are used to sanitize all user submitted data.

Valid data types are:

- `TYPE_BOOL` - Boolean
- `TYPE_INT` - Integer
- `TYPE_UINT` - Unsigned Integer
- `TYPE_NUM` - Floating Point Number
- `TYPE_UNUM` - Unsigned Floating Point Number
- `TYPE_UNIXTIME` - Unix Timestamp (Unsigned Integer)
- `TYPE_STR` - Trimmed String (No leading or trailing whitespace)
- `TYPE_NOTRIM` - String
- `TYPE_NOHTML` - Trimmed String sent through `htmlspecialchars_uni()`
- `TYPE_ARRAY` - Array
- `TYPE_FILE` - File
- `TYPE_NOCLEAN` - Unvalidated

Each of the data types other than `TYPE_NOCLEAN`, also have a corresponding Array data type that forces an array of that data type, e.g. `TYPE_ARRAY_BOOL`.

Sanitized values are accessed via the `$vbulletin->GPC` array using the value's field name as the array index, e.g. `$vbulletin->GPC['field1']`. You can be sure that the value in the `$vbulletin->GPC` array is of the type specified, no matter what may have originally been defined in the Superglobal array. For example, if you specify `TYPE_NOHTML`, you can display that variable directly in HTML without worrying about it being HTML safe.

The first parameter to both `clean_gpc()` and `clean_array_gpc()`, is the first letter initial of the Superglobal array that you are sanitizing the value from. You can only sanitize values from one Superglobal array with any single call to `clean_array_gpc()` or `clean_gpc()`. You can not clean values from `$_COOKIE` and `$_POST` with the same call, you have to make multiple calls. All of the values will end up in the same `$vbulletin->GPC` array so insure field names do not overlap.

Note:

`$_COOKIE` values must be accessed using the `COOKIE_PREFIX`:

```
$vbulletin->input->clean_gpc('c', COOKIE_PREFIX . 'forum_view', TYPE_STR);
$foo = $vbulletin->GPC[COOKIE_PREFIX . 'forum_view'];

$db->query_write("
    UPDATE " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table SET
        field_one = '" . $db->escape_string(trim($_POST['field_one'])) . '',
        field_two = '" . $db->escape_string(htmlspecialchars_uni(trim($_POST['field_two']))) . '
    WHERE key_field = " . intval($_POST['key_field']) . "
");

$vbulletin->input->clean_array_gpc('p', array(
    'field_one' => TYPE_STR,
    'field_two' => TYPE_NOHTML,
    'key_field' => TYPE_INT
));

/* This value can be accessed either by $cleanedvar or $vbulletin->GPC['field_one'] */
$cleanedvar =& $vbulletin->input->clean_gpc('p', 'field_one', TYPE_STR);

$db->query_write("
```

```
UPDATE " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table SET
    field_one = '" . $db->escape_string($vbulletin->GPC['field_one']) . "' ,
    field_two = '" . $db->escape_string($vbulletin->GPC['field_two']) . "' ,
WHERE key_field = " . $vbulletin->GPC['key_field'] . "
");
```

Boolean Function Return Values[Back to Top](#)

Unless there is a good reason to use 1/0, such as the possibility of a return value of 2, use true/false as return values for functions.

```
function is_three($var)
{
    if ($var == 3)
    {
        return 1;
    }
    else
    {
        return 0;
    }
}

function is_three($var)
{
    if ($var == 3)
    {
        return true;
    }
    else
    {
        return false;
    }
}
```

Use lower-case true/false rather than upper-case TRUE/FALSE. Reserve upper-case for custom constants.

```
if ($var === TRUE)
if ($var === true)
```

AND/and/&& OR/or/|| etc.[Back to Top](#)

Use 'AND' rather than 'and' or '&&', and 'OR' rather than 'or' or '||'.

```
if ($var1 && $var2 || $var3)
if ($var1 and $var2 or $var3)
if ($var1 AND $var2 OR $var3)
```

Capitalize 'AS' in foreach statements.

```
foreach($array AS $key => $val)
{
    // do something
}
```

Commenting Code[Back to Top](#)

Use the // comment type for single-line or short comments, and the /* */ syntax for large block comments.

```
// this is a single line comment

// this is a short comment that tells
// you something about the following code

/*
this is a long comment
and it
goes on
for several
lines...
*/
```

Comments should precede the code they describe, rather than following it.

```
$var = 0; // initialize $var
if ($var) // check $var

// initialize $var
$var = 0;

// check $var
if ($var)
```

When commenting loops and branches, it is acceptable to put the comment inside the braces.

```
if ($var)
{
    // $var is true so do the following code
    echo $var;
}
```

Separate 'do' branches and major code blocks with the comment string shown here. I suggest you copy this line and add it as an insertable code snippet in your PHP editor. If you want to insert a short definition of what the 'do' code will do, add it immediately following the separating comment line.

```

require_once('../global.php');

// #####
if (empty($_REQUEST['do']))
{
    $_REQUEST['do'] = 'modify';
}

// #####
if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'edit')
{
    // do edit code
}

// #####
// lists items in a table

if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'modify')
{
    // do modify code
}

```

Prefix PHP function definitions with the comment string shown here. Once again, you should create a code snippet with this string.

```

// ##### Start is_something #####
function is_something($var)
{
    return iif($var, true, false);
}

// ##### Start fetch_uppercase #####
function fetch_uppercase($var)
{
    return strtoupper($var);
}

```

Variable Comparison etc.

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The following standards should be followed:

```

if (empty($array)) // false if $array is populated

if ($string == '') // true if $string has no contents

if ($integer) // true if $integer is not 0
if (!$integer) // true if $integer is 0

if ($boolean) // true if $boolean is true
if (!$boolean) // true if $boolean is false

```

If data type is crucial, use === and !==.

```

if ($boolean === true) // true if $boolean is 'true', false if $boolean is a true integer
if ($integer !== 0) // true if $integer is not 0, false if $integer is 'true'

```

Note the following:

```

$integer = 0;
if ($integer == '') // will return true

$string = '';
if ($string == 0) // will return true

$string = '0';
if ($string == '') // will return false

```

SQL Query Syntax

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Always double-quote SQL queries, even if they contain no dynamic text.

```

$db->query_read('SELECT field FROM ' . TABLE_PREFIX . 'table ORDER BY field');

$db->query_read("SELECT field FROM " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table ORDER BY field");

```

SQL function calls should not be followed by a space.

```
$db->query_read("SELECT COUNT(*) AS records, SUM(field_one) AS total FROM " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table");
```

If a query string is long and would be better written on more than one line, separate it onto separate lines, putting the clause keyword at the start of the line in the following manner: double-quote, newline, indent, [query string], newline, outdent, double-quote.

```

$results = $db->query_read("SELECT field_one, field_two, field_three,
    IF(field_four = 'Yes', 1, 0) AS field_four,
    FROM " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table_one AS table_one
    LEFT JOIN " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table_two AS table_two USING(field_one)
    WHERE table_one.field_two IN('bla bla bla', 'moo moo moo')
    ORDER BY table_one.field_one DESC
    LIMIT 5,10");

$results = $db->query_read(
    SELECT field_one, field_two, field_three,
    IF(field_four = 'Yes', 1, 0) AS field_four,
    FROM " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table_one AS table_one

```

```
LEFT JOIN " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table_two AS table_two USING(field_one)
WHERE table_one.field_two IN('bla bla bla', 'moo moo moo')
ORDER BY table_one.field_one DESC
LIMIT 5,10
");
```

Additional 'AND' clauses for the 'WHERE' clause should be intented if the query spans multiple lines.

```
$results = $db->query_read("SELECT field_one, field_two
    FROM " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table AS table
    WHERE field_one IN(3,4,5)
        AND field_two <> ''
        AND field_three = 'something'
    ORDER BY field_one
");
```

Do not quote numeric values in SQL queries, use intval() or \$var += 0; to ensure that the variable is safe.

```
$db->query_first("SELECT something FROM table WHERE tableid = '$numericvar'");
$db->query_first("SELECT something FROM table WHERE tableid = '" . intval($numericvar) . "'");
$db->query_first("SELECT something FROM table WHERE tableid = " . intval($numericvar));

$numericvar = intval($numericvar);
$db->query_first("SELECT something FROM table WHERE tableid = $numericvar");
```

Do not specify a length for numeric fields unless you have specified 'UNSIGNED ZEROFILL'.

```
$db->query_write("ALTER TABLE " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table
    ADD field_four SMALLINT(5) UNSIGNED NOT NULL,
    ADD field_five INT(10) UNSIGNED NOT NULL
");
$db->query_write("ALTER TABLE " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table
    ADD field_four SMALLINT UNSIGNED NOT NULL,
    ADD field_five INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL
");
```

Do not use the 'AFTER' keyword in 'ALTER' statements. Some servers seem to have problems with 'AFTER' so it is best avoided.

```
$db->query_write("ALTER TABLE " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table
    ADD field_six INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL AFTER field_five
");
$db->query_write("ALTER TABLE " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table
    ADD field_six INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL
");
```

Format INSERT / REPLACE queries like this:

```
$db->query_write("INSERT INTO " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table
    (field_one, field_two, field_three)
VALUES
    (1, 2, 'moo'),
    (1, 2, 'baa'),
    (3, 5, 'quack')
");
```

Always list the field names in INSERT / REPLACE queries. Never assume that you are inserting all the fields into a table.

```
$db->query_write("INSERT INTO " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table
VALUES
    (1, 'one', 'some text')
");
$db->query_write("INSERT INTO " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table
    (field_one, field_two, field_three)
VALUES
    (1, 'one', 'some text')
");
```

If a field in an INSERT query is AUTO_INCREMENT, do not include it in the query.

```
$db->query_write("INSERT INTO " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table
    (auto_increment_field, field_two)
VALUES
    (NULL, 'texty bits')
");
$db->query_write("INSERT INTO " . TABLE_PREFIX . "table
    (field_two)
VALUES
    ('texty bits')
");
```

'Do' Branch Naming

Most vBulletin scripts contains 'do' branches. The following naming standards should be followed.

```

if (empty($_REQUEST['do']))
{
    // set default branch for this script
    $_REQUEST['do'] = 'modify';
}

// #####
if ($_POST['do'] == 'kill')
{
    // 'kill'
    // run code to remove item in database
}

// #####
if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'delete')
{
    // 'delete'
    // display delete confirmation message
}

// #####
if ($_POST['do'] == 'insert')
{
    // 'insert'
    // run code to insert new item into database
}

// #####
if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'add')
{
    // 'add'
    // display form to add new item
}

// #####
if ($_POST['do'] == 'update')
{
    // 'update'
    // run code to update item in database
}

// #####
if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'edit')
{
    // 'edit'
    // display form to edit item
}

// #####
if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'modify')
{
    // 'modify'
    // show default branch for this script
}

```

If possible, keep the branches in the order listed above, with 'modify' (the default action) at the very bottom of the script.

If a script contains branches to edit/add/delete more than a single item type (such as template.php containing script to modify both styles and templates), then you should suffix the kill/delete/insert/add/update/edit branch names with the item type.

```

if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'edittemplate')
{
    // show form to edit a template
}

// #####
if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'editstyle')
{
    // show form to edit a style
}

```

If a the functionality of a 'do' branch does not tally with edit, update, add, insert, delete or kill, give it a name that summarised the functionality of the branch.

```

if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'rebuildstylecache')
{
    // rebuild style cache
}

// #####
if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'updatetemplateparentlists')
{

```

```
// update template parent lists
}

Keep groups of branches applicable to a single item type together in the script.

// if (empty($_REQUEST['do']))

// if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'rebuildstylecache')
// if ($_POST['do'] == 'killstyle')
// if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'deletestyle')
// if ($_POST['do'] == 'insertstyle')
// if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'addstyle')
// if ($_POST['do'] == 'updatestyle')
// if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'editstyle')

// if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'updatetemplateparentlists')
// if ($_POST['do'] == 'killtemplate')
// if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'deletetemplate')
// if ($_POST['do'] == 'inserttemplate')
// if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'addtemplate')
// if ($_POST['do'] == 'updatetemplate')
// if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'edittemplate')

// if ($_REQUEST['do'] == 'modify')
```

Function Naming[Back to Top](#)

Custom function names should (as far as possible) describe what they are going to do, so that a person reading the code would have a good idea of how to use and what to expect from a function simply by looking at the name.

Custom function names should be all lower-case and should use underscores to separate words.

```
$var2 = issomething($var1);
$var2 = isSomething($var2);
$var2 = is_something($var1);
```

Custom function names should adhere to the following standards

Group Prefix	Group Explanation	Example Functions
print_	Functions that directly print out code to the browser or output buffer via echo or print statements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> print_input_row print_standard_error print_cp_header
construct_	Functions that return variables containing HTML for later printing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> construct_edit_toolbar construct_forum_jump
is_contains_	Functions that return true/false based on conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is_valid_email is_wysiwyg_compatible contains_bbcode_img_tags
can_	Functions that return true/false based on permissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> can_moderate can_administer can_announce
verify_	Functions that check conditions and directly drop out to an error message if certain conditions are met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> verify_ip_ban verify_post_errors verify_word_allowed
convert_	Functions that convert the input variable from one data format to another.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> convert_kb_to_mb convert_html_to_bbcode convert_bits_to_array
cache_	Functions that read data from the database (usually) and create PHP cache variables to lighten the SQL load.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cache_templates cache_forums cache_birthdays
fetch_	Functions that return arrays / strings / integers etc. If the data type to be returned is not explicit in the function name (such as fetch_template, fetch_userinfo etc.) then specify the type of data in the function name, such as fetch_template_update_sql, fetch_replaced_session_url, fetch_reminders_array etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fetch_template fetch_user_search_sql fetch_user_location_array
process_	Functions that perform actions upon an array in order to prepare it for later reference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> process_thread_array process_post_preview process_online_location

<code>build_</code>	Functions that save data back to the database for later retrieval, such as caching birthdays into the datastore, rebuilding the style table etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>build_bbcode_cache</code> <code>build_new_post</code> <code>build_attachment</code>
<code>delete_</code>	Functions that delete something from the database.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>delete_thread</code> <code>delete_post_index</code> <code>delete_user_pms</code>
<code>undelete_</code>	Functions that reverse a soft deletion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>undelete_thread</code> <code>undelete_post</code>
<code>import_</code>	Functions from the bbimport system that take an array of data and insert it as a post/thread/user (etc.) record into the database.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>import_thread</code> <code>import_post</code> <code>import_user</code>
<code>sanitize_</code>	Functions that make perform actions on the input parameters in order to make them safe for the next step, such as removing illegal characters, checking that a date is valid, that a \$perpage value makes sense etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>sanitize_perpage</code> <code>sanitize_url</code> <code>sanitize_reminder_date</code>
<code>parse_</code>	Functions that initialize the bbcode parsing process in some way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>parse_bbcode</code> <code>parse_usernote_bbcode</code> <code>parse_pm_bbcode</code>
<code>handle_</code>	Functions that are called by the bbcode parser to deal with a particular bbcode type.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>handle_bbcode_img</code> <code>handle_bbcode_list</code> <code>handle_bbcode_parameter</code>
<code>file_</code>	Functions that deal directly with the filesystem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>file_read</code> <code>file_download</code> <code>file_append</code>
<code>log_</code>	Functions that append to one of vBulletin's logs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>log_admin_action</code> <code>log_vbulletin_error</code> <code>log_upgrade_step</code>
<code>exec_</code>	Functions that actually perform an action rather than returning something.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>exec_shutdown</code> <code>exec_queries</code> <code>exec_cron</code>
<code>sort_</code>	Functions that sort data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>sort_search_items</code> <code>sort_threaded_posts</code>
<code>strip_</code>	Functions that strip elements from strings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>strip_bbcode</code> <code>strip_blank_ascii</code> <code>strip_empty_bbcode</code>
<code>xml_</code>	Functions that work to read or output XML.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>xml_import_style</code> <code>xml_parse_language_otag</code> <code>xml_escape_cdata</code>
<code>vb_</code>	Functions that replace built-in PHP functions with vBulletin replacements designed to extend functionality or otherwise alter the behavior of the built-in function. If the original function name contains underscores, prefix with 'vb_' otherwise prefix with 'vb'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>vbmail</code> <code>vb_number_format</code> <code>vbsetcookie</code>
<code>js_</code>	Javascript functions defined within the PHP code (rather than being in one of the .js files).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>js_dots</code> <code>js_confirm_clear_db</code> <code>js_forum_jump</code>

Data Managers

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Data Managers (DMs) are an interface to various data objects used within vBulletin. They enforce necessary constraints and administrator-set options on the data to ensure that the data is valid.

Data managers allow rapid integration of vBulletin-specific data structures and data constraints into additional code (such as used with the product manager) or third-party applications. With only a few lines of code, you can use the data managers to create new threads and posts, users, and more.

As of this writing, vBulletin has the following data managers:

- Administrators
- Attachments
- Calendar Events
- Forums
- Moderators
- Private Messages
- Polls
- Poll Votes
- Posts
- Threads
- Threads with a Post
- Thread Ratings
- Users
- User Pictures (Avatars/Profile Pictures)

This list may be expanded in future versions.

Programming with a Data Manager

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Programming with a data manager should make your code smaller, easier to read, and more bug proof as all the error checking and data validation is handled within the data manager itself.

Note:

PHP experience is assumed here. You should understand procedural programming as well as have a handle on object-oriented programming.

The general process for using a data manager from start to finish is as follows:

1. Create the data manager object.
2. If you are updating an existing record, set the existing data.
3. Set the values for the fields you wish to change.
4. Depending on the error handling method chosen, check for errors and abort the save if errors are found.
5. Save the updated/new data.

Most of these steps are handled via single line function calls. Each of these steps are detailed below.

Note:

The code snippets below assume you are within the vBulletin environment already. They will need access to various vBulletin files, such as includes/functions.php and includes/class_core.php, and vBulletin data, such as \$vbulletin.

1 Creating the data manager object

To create the data manager, you need to call the datamanager_init function, defined in functions.php.

```
datamanager_init($classtype, &$registry, $errtype = ERRTYPE_STANDARD, $forcefile = '')
```

Arguments are as follows:

1. **\$classtype** - the name of the data manager you want to create. This is only part of the class name. For example, if you wish to create VB_DataManager_User, you should send "User" as this value.
2. **\$registry** - the main registry object used by vBulletin to hold application-level data. In most cases, this will be the variable \$vbulletin.
3. **\$errtype** (optional) - the type of error handling the data manager will use. With certain types, execution will stop once an error occurs and a message will be displayed; other types allow more control over errors.

The following constants are valid values for this argument:

ERRTYPE_ARRAY - Execution continues after an error occurs as all errors are placed in the \$errors member of the data manager. Be sure to prevent saving if necessary, as calling the save method will cause a fatal error. A good example of this usage is when an error occurs while posting a new message.

ERRTYPE_STANDARD - Execution stops once an error occurs and the error message is displayed to the user using the front-end error page.

ERRTYPE_CP - This is the same as ERRTYPE_STANDARD, except that the error is displayed as a control panel error message.

ERRTYPE_SILENT - This is similar to ERRTYPE_ARRAY, except that if the save is called while there are errors will simply prevent the save from occurring instead of stopping execution. This is useful if placing a data manager within another data manager and you can't allow an error to be displayed if something goes wrong.

4. **\$forcefile** (optional) - this controls the name of the file that is read to retrieve the data manager class. If you do not specify this, the filename is based off the class type. If you specify this argument, the file that will be read is includes/class_dm_[forcefile].php. This argument is not needed for most classes.

This function will return a **reference** to the data manager object that was created. Be sure to use =& when you assign the value returned to a variable!

Example usage:

```
$dataman =& datamanager_init('Thread', $vbulletin, ERRTYPE_ARRAY, 'threadpost');

// or...

$dataman =& datamanager_init('User', $vbulletin);
```

2 Setting the existing data (if necessary)

If you are using the data managers to insert a new record into the database, you do not need to perform this step. However, if you are updating an existing record (eg, editing a post), this step is mandatory.

To set the existing data, you must call the `set_existing` method of the data manager object.

`set_existing(&$existing)`

The `$existing` is an array of data that is currently stored in the database. It should include all the fields this data manager handles as keys. For example, the array passed into the user data manager would have a structure similar to this:

```
$existing = array(
    'userid' => 1,
    'username' => 'Admin',
    'usergroupid' => 6,
    // ...and all the other fields related to a user
);
```

The data manager will automatically pick out the field or fields that uniquely identify a record and update it upon saving (instead of inserting a new record).

The data passed into this function often comes from functions such as `fetch_userinfo` or `fetch_threadinfo`.

This function does not return a value.

Example usage:

```
$dataman->set_existing($vbulletin->userinfo);
```

3 Setting the values for data you wish to change

Most of your time spent dealing with data managers will be spent in this step. Each piece of data that is known must be set individually via one of several method calls. These calls will verify the validity of the data before using it to save the changes.

```
set($fieldname, $value, $clean = true, $doverify = true)
setr($fieldname, &$value, $clean = true, $doverify = true)
```

The functions `set` and `setr` are identical except that the second argument is passed by-reference in `setr` and by-value in `set`.

1. **\$fieldname** - the name of the field you are updating (eg, `userid`, `username`). The list of fields a data manager can handle are listed in the `$validfields` member.
2. **\$value** - the value you are changing this field to. Unless you specify the `$clean` argument, this value will be type cleaned to the correct data type. For example, if you specify a new user ID, it will be forced to an integer before saving.
3. **\$clean** (optional) - this controls whether the data specified in `$value` is cleaned to the correct data type. Normally, you will want this to be true (cleaning performed), however if you want to perform something like a relative value update (`field = field + 3`), you will need to make this be false.
4. **\$doverify** (optional) - controls whether to verify the data is valid before saving. For example, if you normally had a minimum of 10 characters in a post and you wanted to avoid that (and the other checks on the post text), you would set this argument to false.

These functions will return true on success and false on failure. However, note that this is the first step where the selected error handling type applies. If verification of the data fails and you have selected an error handler that displays the error immediately, execution will stop before these functions return!

Example usage:

```
$dataman->set('username', 'Admin');
$usergroupid = 6;
$dataman->setr('usergroupid', $usergroupid);
```

Another method of setting fields applies to yes/no options stored in a bit field. A bit field is a way of storing 32 yes/no options in a 4-byte integer value. To set a bit field value, call this method:

`set_bitfield($fieldname, $bitname, $onoff)`

1. **\$fieldname** - the name of the entire bit field you are updating (eg, `userid`, `username`). The name of the bit fields managed by a data manager are specified in the `$bitfields` member.
2. **\$bitname** - the name of the specific bit in the bit field that you wish to update. The bit field associated with a specific piece of data is also listed in the `$bitfields` member. Each member is defined in the `includes/xml/bitfield_*.xml` files.
3. **\$onoff** - Whether to set the option to on/yes/1 or off/no/0.

This function returns true on success and false on failure. Bit fields do not use the verification functions used by the `set` and `setr` functions, so this function will return true unless you try to write to a field that is not a bit field.

Example usage:

```
$dataman->set_bitfield('options', 'receivepm', true);
$dataman->set_bitfield('options', 'emailonpm', false);
```

Note that some more complicated data managers have special functions to set specific fields as they require extra information that cannot be provided via `set` or `setr`. Documenting those functions is beyond the scope of this document.

4 Checking for errors before saving (if necessary)

If you are using an error handler which does not stop execution, you will likely want to ensure that there are no errors up until the exact point at which the saving occurs. If you are using the ERRTYPE_ARRAY error handler, this is almost required since if errors have occurred, a PHP fatal error will occur.

The first thing you need to do is call the pre_save method. This does any last minute data verification and anything else necessary before saving. This method can throw additional errors, so you **need** to call this explicitly if you are using an error handler that does not stop execution. The save method will call this automatically, so if you are using an execution-stopping error handler, you do not need to bother with this.

Once this method has been called, you need to check to see if the \$errors member is an empty array. If it is empty, then no errors have occurred and you may proceed with the save. If it is not empty, the array will consist of strings listing each of the errors; these are generally ready to be displayed to a user.

Example code would look like this:

```
$dataman->pre_save();
if (count($dataman->errors) > 0)
{
    // Errors occurred. Do not proceed with the save.
    // You may want to loop through $dataman->errors and
    // display the results to the user.
}
else
{
    // No errors occurred.
    // Proceed with the save (see the next step).
}
```

5 Saving the updated/new data

The final step is to save the data. This is simply done by calling the save method of the data manager object. The save method does not need any arguments.

The value this function returns varies depending on certain criteria:

- **All cases when the save fails** - returns 0 or false. Note that if you are using the ERRTYPE_ARRAY error handler, a fatal error may occur first.
- **Updating a record successfully** - returns true.
- **Inserting a new record when there is a unique identifier column** - this occurs when the main table for the data contains a column marked as AUTO_INCREMENT. The value returned is the value inserted into this column. Most data manager inserts will follow this.
- **Inserting a new record when there is no unique identifier column** - this occurs when the main table for the data does not contain a column marked as AUTO_INCREMENT. The value returned is -1. This does not occur very often.

Example usage:

```
// inserting a new user
$userid = $dataman->save();

// updating an existing record
$dataman->save();
```

Data Manager Example

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This is an example of an actual use of a data manager in vBulletin. It is a partial excerpt of the code used to register a new user.

```
// init user datamanager class
$userdata =& datamanager_init('User', $vbulletin, ERRTYPE_ARRAY);

// check for matching email addresses
if ($vbulletin->GPC['email'] != $vbulletin->GPC['emailconfirm'])
{
    $userdata->error('emailmismatch');
}
// set email
$userdata->set('email', $vbulletin->GPC['email']);

$userdata->set('username', $vbulletin->GPC['username']);

// check referrer
if ($vbulletin->GPC['referrername'] AND !$vbulletin->userinfo['userid'])
{
    $userdata->set('referrerid', $vbulletin->GPC['referrername']);
}

// Set specified options
if (!empty($vbulletin->GPC['options']))
{
    foreach ($vbulletin->GPC['options'] AS $optionname => $onoff)
    {
        $userdata->set_bitfield('options', $optionname, $onoff);
    }
}

// ... additional data setting ...

$userdata->pre_save();

// check for errors
if (!empty($userdata->errors))
{
    $errorlist = '';
    foreach ($userdata->errors AS $index => $error)
    {
```

```

        $errorlist .= "<li>$error</li>";
    }

    // ... additional code; $errorlist is outputted to the user
}
else
{
    // save the data
$bulletin->userinfo['userid']
    = $userid
    = $userdata->save();

    // ... additional processing code
}

```

Advanced Data Manager Techniques

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Data managers are very complex internally. They encompass a lot of functionality and options that aren't needed in many cases. This section will discuss some of the more advanced usages of data managers, including discussing how to extend them to include additional functionality.

Using set_info to modify certain behaviors

Each data manager has built in functionality that it provides and default checks that it makes. Some of these data checks do not apply in all cases. Consider a user making a new post very shortly after making another post (so he or she would be stopped by the flood check). The thread/post data manager includes the checks to prevent flooding, so normally it would throw an error here. However, if the user decided to preview the post instead of submitting it, they should see their post instead of an error about the flood check. Calling set_info allows you to set a value to bypass that check, allowing the user to see their post instead of an error.

```
set_info($fieldname, $value)
setr_info($fieldname, &$value)
```

The set functions, the only difference between set_info and setr_info is with how the second argument is passed (by-value versus by-reference).

- **\$fieldname** - the name of the info field you are setting. This is arbitrary and each data manager contains its own list of info fields it uses.
- **\$value** - the value that you are setting the field to. No verification is done on the data submitted.

These functions return nothing.

The info fields used by a data manager are unrelated to the data fields used by the set and setr functions. Values set by set_info will not be saved to the database.

Each data manager has a unique list of info fields that it uses. These can be found by looking for references to \$this->info within the data manager code. Info fields are generally used in two situations:

1. As a Boolean value, to control whether a certain section of code is run, such as the preview example discussed above. However, many sections of code do not have options attached to them; they will always be executed.
2. As an array of extra data that the data manager can use but does not need. A good example occurs in the thread data manager. It accepts an array of info about the forum that the thread is being posted in. If you provide this information, the forum's last post time and other data will be updated; if you do not provide this information, nothing will be updated at the forum level.

Example usage:

```
$dataman->set_info('preview', true);
$foruminfo = fetch_foruminfo(1);
$dataman->set_info('forum', $foruminfo);
```

Using error callbacks for advanced behavior if an error occurs

One rarely used data manager feature allows you to call any function you wish just as an error occurs. You can invoke this feature by calling the set_failure_callback method of a data manager. This function takes only one argument, a callback. A callback is either a string that is the name of the function to call, or an array with 2 entries: a reference to an object and a string naming the method to call. Please see the [PHP manual](#) for more information on callbacks.

The function or object-method pair passed to set_failure_callback will need to accept the following as its arguments:

1. **&\$dm** - a *reference* to the data manager that caused the error. This allows you to read data out of the data manager and do additional processing. Note that the last entry in \$dm->errors is the phrased version of the error that triggered this function call.
2. **\$errphrase** - this is the name of the phrase describing this error. It has not been changed into the browsing user's language.

Note that the names of the variables received by this function are up to you; these are simply recommendations.

While this functionality is not necessarily required, it can make it easier to perform certain operations. For example, you are doing some additional updates after you've inserted the main data, and these updates may fail but very rarely. If they fail, you want the newly inserted data to be removed. This is possible to

do with an error callback.

An example in vBulletin combines the moderator and user data managers. It is possible to use the moderator data manager to tell the user data manager to update a specific user's user group. However, if that user is the last administrator, the user group updates might fail. The code to do this follows.

```
// this takes place within the moderator data manager

function post_save_each()
{
    // ...

    $userdata =& datamanager_init('User', $this->registry, ERRTYPE_CP);
    // ...

    $userdata->set_failure_callback(array(&$this, 'update_user_failed_insert'));

    if ($update_userid)
    {
        $userdata->set('usergroupid', $this->info['usergroupid']);
        $userdata->set('displaygroupid', $this->info['usergroupid']);
    }

    // ...

    $userdata->save();
}

function update_user_failed_insert(&$user)
{
    $this->condition = 'moderatorid = ' . $this->fetch_field('moderatorid');
    $this->delete();
    $this->condition = '';

    $this->errors = array_merge($this->errors, $user->errors);
}

```

This code undoes the moderator insert if the user can't be updated and then displays an error.

Structure of the \$validfields member

The most important aspect of each data manager is the \$validfields member. This is an array that controls:

- What data the data manager accepts
- How important the data is (is it required? is it generated automatically?)
- The data's type (integer, string, etc)
- How the data is verified

The \$validfields array is structured very specifically. The **key** is the name of the field you are controlling (userid, username, etc). The **value** is another array, consisting of 2 to 4 values itself:

1. **Data's type** - this is the type the data will be cleaned to. This should be one of the constants defined for the input cleaner. Commonly used values are TYPE_STR (string), TYPE_INT (integer), and TYPE_UINT, though there are more types that you can use.
2. **Data required** - this controls whether this field must be set for the data to be valid and savable. If you make a field required and the code does not set it before inserting, an error will be thrown. There are 4 possible values:

REQ_YES - the field is required

REQ_NO - the field is not required

REQ_AUTO - the field can be automatically generated. This does not have any effect on code execution at this time. This is appropriate for things like post times that can be reasonably guessed before inserting the new data. (You will still need to write code to generate the appropriate value!)

REQ_INCR - this field is an AUTO_INCREMENT field in the database, and thus will be automatically generated upon insertion.

3. **Verification method** (optional) - this controls how the data is verified as being valid. This value can be used in three ways:

Not set - if you do not set this value in the array, no verification will be done on the data.

The constant VF_METHOD - if you set this value to VF_METHOD, a function will be called to verify the data. The name of that function depends on the fourth value in this array. If you do not specify the fourth value, the function that is called is \$this->verify_[fieldname](). (eg, \$this->verify_userid()). The fourth value of the array overrides the function name.

A string which will be evaluated as code - finally, if you set this field to any value other than VF_METHOD it will be treated as PHP code. Before your code completes, it should return true or false. The value being tested for validity is available in \$data and the data manager that called the code is available in \$dm.

4. **Verification method override** (optional) - this applies only if you set the third value to VF_METHOD. You may then use this value to override the name of the function called. The function called will be \$this->[value]().

Note that keys in this second array are not explicitly specified.

An example of a \$validfields array:

```
// ... this is within a data manager

var $validfields = array(
    'forumid'          => array(TYPE_UINT,      REQ_INCR, VF_METHOD, 'verify_nonzero'),
    'title'            => array(TYPE_STR,       REQ_YES,  VF_METHOD),
    'title_clean'     => array(TYPE_STR,       REQ_YES),
    'threadcount'     => array(TYPE_UINT,      REQ_NO),
    'daysprune'        => array(TYPE_INT,      REQ_AUTO, 'if ($data == 0) { $data = -1; } return true;'),
    // ...
);
```

The following section will describe how you can use hooks to add valid fields to the data manager without modifying the source code directly.

Using hooks to modify and extend existing data managers

One of the most exciting additions to vBulletin in version 3.5 is the idea of a plugin system and hooks. For more information on this system, please see [here](#).

Warning:

Using the plugin system to modify the default vBulletin code can cause significant problems with your board. Any modifications you make via the plugin system cannot be supported. Please turn off the plugin system before requesting support!

Hooks are provided at four distinct places in most data managers. Each location allows you to accomplish specific functionality that cannot easily be done by the other locations. The hooks are named in a consistent fashion. They prefixed by a short word representing the data managed, followed by "data_", followed by a suffix tying the hook to a specific location. Two examples of hooks are attachdata_start and userdata_presave.

- Constructor** (*data_start) - this is called when the data manager object is created. If you wish to modify \$validfields, this is the hook you'd use. Remember that you should append values onto the array to avoid overwriting the existing values.

If you need data verification and are only working with hooks, you will not be able to use the VF_METHOD constant. You will need to put all the verification code into a string as the third argument in the array or use a trick like the following code demonstrates. This code would be placed within the appropriate *data_start hook.

```
// adding a field without data verification
$this->validfields['myfield1'] = array(TYPE_STR, REQ_NO);

// adding a field with all data verification inline
$this->validfields['myfield2'] = array(
    TYPE_INT,
    REQ_YES,
    'if ($data % 2 == 0)
    {
        $dm->error("myfield2_is_even");
        return false;
    }
    else
    {
        return true;
    }
);

// adding a field with data verification outside
// note: instead of defining the function here,
//       you could put it in an outside file and include it
if (!function_exists('dm_verify_myfield3'))
{
    function dm_verify_myfield3(&$data, &$dm)
    {
        // remove anything but a-z
        $data = preg_replace('#[^a-z]#i', '', $data);

        if (strtolower($data[0]) != 'z')
        {
            $dm->error('myfield3_does_not_begin_with_z');
            return false;
        }
        else
        {
            // note that when this field gets saved,
            // it will be saved with everything but
            // a-z already removed
            return true;
        }
    }
}
$this-
>validfields['myfield3'] = array(TYPE_STR, REQ_NO, 'return dm_verify_myfield3($data, $dm);');
```

- Pre-save** (*data_presave) - this is called just before the data is saved, in the pre_save method. This allows you to do any last minute data checks (which is useful when you have two pieces of data which interact) or for generating fields which have not been but can be reasonably guessed.

Since the data has yet to be confirmed as valid, you should not save any changes into the database here.

- **Post-save** (*data_postsave) - this is called just after the data is saved, in the post_save_each method. This allows you to update any additional data based on the changes made.

For example, you may have created an additional table in the database which relies on the user name being correct. You could check if the username had changed and update your table appropriately:

```
if (!$this->condition)
{
    // inserting a new user, so insert into your table
}
else if ($this->user['username'])
{
    // changing the username, so update your table
}
```

- **Delete** (*data_delete) - this is called just after the data is deleted, in the post_delete method. This is similar to the hook called post-save, except it is called while deleting a record with the data manager. Continuing the example from post-save, when a user is deleted, you should remove the associated record from your table.

While most data managers have just these four hooks, some vary slightly. For example, some do not have the delete hook because they do not support deletion operations. Others are more complex and have additional hooks. Specific discussions of these variations are beyond the scope of this document.

Appendix: ImpEx Import System

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The ImpEx (Import / Export) system is the core system for importing from other forum software into vBulletin version 3.8.7 or higher. PHP 4.3.3 or higher are required to run ImpEx.

There are three tiers of importer systems within ImpEx, [check to see which one your system falls into](#)

Planning the import

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This section should be read fully before an import to understand the process and what steps should be taken to ensure a smooth transition. This is vital to performing a smooth import and minimizing the disruption to your community.

The three most important things to do now are:

Note:

1. **LEAVE THE ORIGINAL BOARD RUNNING UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THIS AND DONE SOME TEST IMPORTS.**
2. Back up your target database.
3. Read the rest of this manual for importing.
4. Testing an import before shutting down the source forum is the best way to go.
5. There will probably be some residual HTML from the content that will need cleaning up afterwards, which is part of the import task and process, not a function of the support team.
6. The links within the forum to other threads/posts/users will be imported, and link to the old board. A 301/404 solution will need to be put in place if that is a concern.

Before the import

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Once again

Warning:

LEAVE THE ORIGINAL BOARD RUNNING UNTLL YOU HAVE READ THIS AND DONE A FEW TEST IMPORTS

"I've turned my board off and done an import and it didn't work 100% correctly first time, my users are upset, fix it now"

Isn't really the best way of getting a board imported.

Right, on we go.

Make a back up of your source board and do the initial trial run import from that, not the live board.

ImpEx only ever reads from a source board it will **never alter source data**. Though running an import against source data that is being updated can have some strange outcomes for the import as well as the source board, also it will cause a lot of load on the source boards database and could impair the performance of your source boards community.

Setting up

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Set up a board for practicing an import into.

The vBulletin license allows you to have a development board installed for the purposes of development and testing. Practicing an import is a good use of this.

Copy your source data to the same machine that your development vBulletin is installed, be that a database (i.e. phpBB) or the files (i.e. ubb.classic).

This is so you can create a testing environment to run the importer and make a note of what needs to be done before during and after the real import.

From running test imports like this you can configure [the cleaner script](#) and measure your timings, both of these will speed up your final transition.

Attachments

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Prior to beginning the import, make sure that your attachment storage type is set to the database instead of the file system.

Installing ImpEx

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Before you can use the vBulletin Import / Export System for vBulletin version 3.5 you first have to download it to your hard drive, prepare the files for your import and upload it to your web server.

Downloading the ImpEx Package

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The first thing you will need to do when installing the vBulletin ImpEx system is to download the latest version from the Members' Area.

You will need to log-in to the Members' Area using the Customer Number and Customer Password that was emailed to you when you purchased your license.



Once logged in, you will see a list of **Current Licenses**. For each active license that you own, there will be a **Download vB3 Importers** link that you can click.

Click the link for the license you want to use and you will be taken to the download page, where you will be given options for how to download the latest ImpEx package.

You can choose from the following options:

- **PHP File Extension**

As a general rule, web servers will use *.php* as the extension for PHP scripts, but some servers may use a different extension, or you may simply wish to use a different extension out of your own preference. Various extensions are available here for you to choose.

- **Download File Format**

This option allows you to choose the compression format of the package you are about to download. Most people will want to download the *.zip* package as Windows® has in-built support for zip files. However, if you are downloading the package directly to a Linux server you may prefer to use the tarball (*.tar.gz*) format.

- **CGI Shebang**

This option will only be of use to you if your server runs PHP as a CGI rather than as a web server module. If your server runs PHP as a CGI and requires a shebang (such as *#!/usr/bin/php*) then you can enter the required text here and it will automatically be inserted into whichever PHP files in vBulletin require its use.

When you have set the download options you can click the **Download** button to start the download. When the download prompt window appears, you should choose the **Save** option and choose a directory on your computer in which to save the package.

The package will then be downloaded and saved to the location you specified.

Preparing the ImpEx files for upload

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After you have successfully downloaded the ImpEx package to your computer you will need to prepare the scripts to be uploaded to your web server.

The first thing to do is to decompress the package into its constituent files. If you downloaded the *.zip* package and your computer is running a recent version of Windows® all the tools you need to do this are available as part of Windows®. This section will assume that you have downloaded the *.zip* package and that your computer is running Windows XP.

To extract the files from the package, open the folder on your computer where you saved the ImpEx package and right-click on its icon, then choose **Extract All** from the pop-up menu.

This will open a wizard to guide you through the unzipping progress. Accept the default options suggested and the system will decompress the files from the zip package.

When the unzipping progress is complete, you will find that the process has created a new folder called **ImpEx_versionnum licensenum** (where *versionnum* is the version number of the package you have downloaded, and *licensenum* is the license number of your vBulletin license).

Within this folder you will find a further folder named **licensenum.impex**, and within this folder will be a collection of *readme* files and a folder called **upload**. This folder contains the ImpEx files that need to be uploaded to your web server.

However, before you upload the files you must make some changes to the ImpEx configuration file. This file is located in the **impex** folder (within the **upload** folder) and is called **ImpExConfig.php.new**.

The first thing you must do is to rename this file from **ImpExConfig.php.new** to **ImpExConfig.php** (removing the temporary *.new* extension).

It is also best to only upload the systems modules that you want to import from. There are over 70 importers and ImpEx will only use the systems that you need. In the *impex/systems* folder you will see many folders that contain the individual importers, if you are only importing from phpBB2, then only upload that folder.

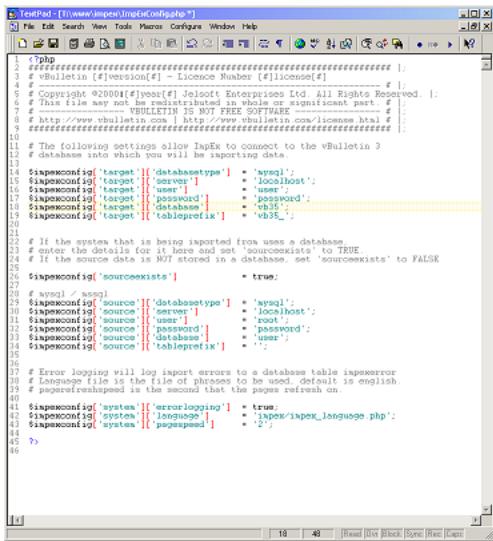
Editing the ImpEx Configuration File

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Before uploading the ImpEx files to your web server, you must edit the ImpEx configuration file (*upload/impex/ImpExConfig.php*) to tell ImpEx how to communicate with your database(s).

To edit the ImpExConfig.php file, you will need to open the file in a text editor such as Windows® WordPad. (Note

that we do not recommend that you use Windows® Notepad to edit ImpExConfig.php, as Notepad has problems displaying the line breaks in some file types.)



```

1 //*****[REDACTED]*****;
2 
3 $impexconfig['version'] = '1';
4 $impexconfig['license'] = 'vBulletin [REDACTED] - Licence Number [REDACTED]';
5 # Copyright ©2008 Jelsoft Enterprises Ltd. All Rights Reserved. [REDACTED];
6 # This file may not be redistributed in whole or significant part. [REDACTED];
7 # http://www.vbulletin.com [REDACTED] http://www.vbulletin.com/licenses.html [REDACTED];
8 #*****[REDACTED]*****;
9 
10 # The following settings allow ImpEx to connect to the vBulletin 3
11 # database when you are importing data.
12 
13 $impexconfig['target']['databasetype'] = 'mysql';
14 $impexconfig['target']['server'] = 'localhost';
15 $impexconfig['target']['user'] = 'root';
16 $impexconfig['target']['password'] = '';
17 $impexconfig['target']['database'] = 'vb35';
18 $impexconfig['target']['tableprefix'] = 'vb35_';
19 
20 # If the system that is being imported from uses a database
21 # enter the details for it here and set 'sourceexists' to TRUE
22 # If the source data is NOT stored in a database, set 'sourceexists' to FALSE
23 
24 $impexconfig['sourceexists'] = true;
25 
26 $impexconfig['source'] = [
27     'databasetype' => 'mysql',
28     'server' => 'localhost',
29     'user' => 'root',
30     'password' => '',
31     'database' => 'source',
32     'tableprefix' => ''
33 ];
34 
35 
36 # Logging will log import errors to a database table imperror
37 # Logging to the screen is disabled by default, default is english.
38 # pagespeedrefresh is the second the that pages refresh on.
39 
40 $impexconfig['system'] = [
41     'errorlogging' => true,
42     'language' => 'impex/impex_language.php',
43     'system' => [
44         'pagespeed' => 2
45     ]
46 ];

```

The settings in this file *need* to be edited in order to create a working configuration file. These settings are divided in two groups. The target* and the source*:

Target Database Information (Into which database do we import?)

If you have ImpEx installed correctly and are running it via the admincp, you can ignore the target settings go to the source. This is because ImpEx will read your vBulletin config file.

\$impexconfig['target'] Enter the type of database here, currently this can only be mysql
['databasetype']

\$impexconfig['target'] This sets the address of your database server. On most installations the database server is located on the same computer as the web server, in which case the address should be set to 'localhost', otherwise use the address of the database server as supplied by your web host.

\$impexconfig['target'] This variable contains the username provided to you by your host for connecting to your database server.

\$impexconfig['target'] The password that accompanies the database username should be entered here.
['password']

\$impexconfig['target'] This value should be altered to state the name of the database that will contain your vBulletin installation on the database server.

\$impexconfig['target'] If your vBulletin installation uses a prefix on the tables, set it here.
['tableprefix']

Source Database Information (From which database do we import?)

\$impexconfig['sourceexists'] If the system that is being imported from uses a database, enter the details for it here and set 'sourceexists' to TRUE. If the source data is NOT stored in a database, set 'sourceexists' to FALSE.

\$impexconfig['source'] Enter the type of database here, usually this is mysql. If you are importing from a MS-SQL database, you will need MS-SQL support in [PHP](#)

\$impexconfig['source'] ['server'] This sets the address of database server from which you want to import data from. On most installations the database server is located on the same computer as the web server, in which case the address should be set to 'localhost', if this database is hosted on another domain use the address of the database server as supplied by your web host. If you are attempting to import from a remote server (i.e. you have just moved hosts) ensure that the database will allow remote connections. Otherwise you will need to back up the source database and restore it on your new server so it is local.

\$impexconfig['source'] ['user'] This variable contains the username provided to you by your host for connecting to your database server.

\$impexconfig['source'] ['password'] The password that accompanies the database username should be entered here.

\$impexconfig['source'] ['database'] This value should be altered to state the name of the database that contains your other forum software data on the database server.

\$impexconfig['source'] ['tableprefix'] If that database uses a prefix for the tables, set it here.

Note:

Please note that Jelsoft / vBulletin Support can not provide the values you require for your database(s). These variables are *only* available from the web host providing your web/database server.

If you need to create a new database for vBulletin to use, instructions for doing so in a variety of systems are available [here](#).

The error logging can be used by the support or development team to understand an import issue or to gain clues during debug.

The language is the language file that is used for the display of text, English, German, etc.

The page speed is the seconds of wait between the page refresh when automatically refreshing. Setting a longer time will help with network lag and server load.

The defines are typical settings that are changed for problem imports :

Defines for special cases (What do we want to turn off/on ?)

impexdebug	Prints out to the screen any debug added to an install of ImpEx.
emailcasesensitive	When matching emails in the user module (user merge), this forces the matching to be case sensitive or not (following the RFC strictly, emails should be case sensitive, for the vast majority of the time, this isn't the case).
forcesqlmode	Some MySQL servers that have MYSQL_STRICT mode, will not accept a lot of the ImpEx SQL as it currently uses the database defaults and not a value for even field, this attempts to override that setting by passing the SQL 'set sql_mode = ''
skipparentids	The last set of updating post is setting the parent id's for the imported posts if they don't have one. This can be (and usually is) very intensive due to the amount of SQL used. The number of queries run is the number of threads times two, plus one. Though this is very effected by the number of posts as usually the post table has to be scanned (MySQL intensive).

Sometimes due to the load on larger boards the final page of the import posts can time out, setting this define to true will skip that all together. The load and bottle neck here is a known issue and being looked at.

When you have finished editing the ImpExConfig.php file you should save it again and prepare to upload the file to your web server.

ImpExConfig.php

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Note:

The config file has changed from an ini file to a PHP script in 3.5 the same as the standard vBulletin config file.

```
<?php
#####
# vBulletin [#]version[#] - Licence Number [#]license[#]
# ----- # ;
# Copyright @2000-[#]year[#] Jelsoft Enterprises Ltd. All Rights Reserved. |;
# This file may not be redistributed in whole or significant part. # |;
# ----- VBUCKET IS NOT FREE SOFTWARE ----- # ;
# http://www.vbulletin.com | http://www.vbulletin.com/license.html # |
#####

# The following settings allow ImpEx to connect to the vBulletin 3
# database into which you will be importing data.

# If impex is installed in vBulletin you can ignore the target details
# as includes/config.php

$impexconfig['target'][['databasetype']] = 'mysql';
$impexconfig['target'][['server']] = 'localhost';
$impexconfig['target'][['user']] = 'username';
$impexconfig['target'][['password']] = 'password';
$impexconfig['target'][['database']] = 'vbulletin_forum';
$impexconfig['target'][['tableprefix']] = '';

# If the system that is being imported from uses a database,
# enter the details for it here and set 'sourceexists' to TRUE.
# If the source data is NOT stored in a database, set 'sourceexists' to FALSE

$impexconfig['sourceexists'] = false;

# mysql / mssql
$impexconfig['source'][['databasetype']] = 'mysql';
$impexconfig['source'][['server']] = 'localhost';
$impexconfig['source'][['user']] = 'username';
$impexconfig['source'][['password']] = 'password';
$impexconfig['source'][['database']] = 'source';
$impexconfig['source'][['tableprefix']] = '';

# Error logging will log import errors to a database table impexerror
# for use with support.
# Language file is the file of phrases to be used, default is english.
# pagespeed is the second(s) wait before the page refreshes.

$impexconfig['system'][['errorlogging']] = true;
$impexconfig['system'][['language']] = 'impex/impex_language.php';
$impexconfig['system'][['pagespeed']] = 1;

define('impexdebug', false);
define('emailcasesensitive', false);
define('forcesqlmode', false);
define('skipparentids', false);
?>
```

Uploading ImpEx Scripts to Your Web Server

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After your ImpExConfig.php file has been edited and saved it is time to upload the ImpEx files to your web server ready for being run.

Note:

Installing ImpEx in vBulletin requires the `impex/` directory to be installed in the same directory as the `admincp` (i.e., your main forum directory) **and** the file `cnav_impex.xml` (which can be found in `upload/includes/xml`) to be placed in the `includes/xml` directory. This because the `admincp` is generated from XML and needs the ImpEx XML to display the import option.

The uploading process should be familiar to anyone who has published pages to a web site before, but a brief description of the process is given here.

Although there are several methods available to transfer the ImpEx files from your computer to your web server, by far the most common method in use is transfer via FTP. Most operating systems have built-in tools for opening FTP connections although they are often limited in their usefulness and many people opt to use a third party FTP client application.

The easiest way to transfer the files is to upload the entire `upload/` folder to the server. Using an FTP client we do this by selecting or dragging the `upload` folder from its location on your computer's hard disk to the web publishing folder on the server. If the transfer doesn't automatically start, click on the [transfer] button.

Note:

Only upload the folders in the `impex/systems` folder that you need, i.e. the system you are importing from. If you upload all of them, delete the ones you are not going to use/

Most FTP client applications will handle the file transfers automatically, but if for some reason your application does not, you should make a note of the following:

- **All text files to be transferred in ASCII mode**

All files containing plain text from the vBulletin package should be transferred in ASCII mode.

Text file types you will find in vBulletin/ImpEx are: `.html, .php, .js, .xml, .css`.

- **All non-text files to be transferred in Binary mode**

The remaining files, which are mostly images, should be transferred to your web server in Binary mode.

Binary file types used in vBulletin/ImpEx include: `.gif, .png, .jpg, .ico`.

Note:

The web publishing folder is usually called `public_html`, `www` or `htdocs` and is located within your home directory. If you are unsure of where to find your own web publishing folder, your host will be able to help you. Upload the `ImpEx` folder inside the installed vBulletin version 3 folder. Like `public_html/forum/impex/`

Depending upon the speed of your internet connection, uploading all the files could take several minutes to complete. After completion, you should see that the web server now contains a folder called `impex` containing a perfect copy of the files in the `upload` folder on your computer's hard disk.

Once you have uploaded the whole `impex/` directory, copy the `cnav_impex.xml` file found in `upload/impex/` to the `includes/xml` directory on your server.

If all has gone well, you are now ready to run the `impex` import script to prepare your third party forum software database import to vBulletin version 3.5.

Warning:

Before you do anything! Always make a 100% backup of your web files and database(s) to ensure you can revert to previous working version.

How to Use ImpEx

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From your Admin Control Panel (`admincp` by default), select Import > Import and select the system you wish to import, from the list.

Please note that the ImpEx system is written for version 3.5.0 and higher.

Now that you have installed ImpEx and selected the system to import from you are ready to do the actual import

Warning:

This is your last chance to back up your target database

Introduction to the ImpEx core System

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ImpEx is the import/export system for vBulletin.

It comprises of a set of core files, being all the ones in the `impex/` folder.

All the folders in the `impex/systems` folder are the individual systems that ImpEx can import from.

Importing a board

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Warning:

Make sure you have a 100% completed and working backup of your currently working forums (files and databases). If needed, you can revert back to your previously working version and start over again



From your Admin Control Panel (`admincp` by default), select Import > Import.

Select Source Board Format

Select the type of board you are importing from in the select box:

The installed importers:

2 . DCForum+ MySQL 1.x
 3 . Infopop Open Topic 0.0.1
 4 . Infopop eve 4.0x
 6 . Ikonboard (MySQL) 3.x
 7 . Invision Power Board 1.3
 9 . phpBB 2
 10 . Snitz Mysql 3.4.04
 12 . Infopop UBB classic 6.3 - 6.7
 13 . UBB_threads 6.x
 15 . vBulletin 3.0.x
 16 . WoltLab Burning Board 2
 17 . YaBB SE 1.5.5

Select the system you wish to import from the list and click on the [Begin Import] button to confirm your choice and start the import procedure.

vBulletin Import / Export				
Modules	Action	Imported	Failed	Time Taken
001 Check and update database	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
002 Associate Users	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
003 Import User Groups and Ranks	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
004 Import Users	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
005 Import Avatars	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
006 Import Custom Profile Pics	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
007 Import Forums	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
008 Import Threads	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
009 Import Posts	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
010 Import Polls	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
011 Import Private Messages	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
012 Import Moderators	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
013 Import Smilies	<input type="button" value="Start Module"/>	0	0	0 sec(s)
Totals:		0	0	0 sec(s)

001 - This module will check and alter the tables in the databases as well as the connections. After clicking on the [Start Module] button it checks the database for the tables it expects to find, you should see a green list of your source database tables, and tables listed in red are expected by the importer and missing, your import may still run as not all tables are used during an import, though if critical tables (i.e. the user table) are missing then this will break an import.

ImpEx will Alter the tables in the vB database (target) to include import id numbers. (This is needed during the import process for maintaining references between the tables during an import.) If you have large tables (i.e. lots of posts) this can take some time. They will also be left after the import if you need to link back to the original vBulletin userid.

002 - You only need to run this module if you have users existing in the vBulletin database that you wish to merge with users in the source database during the import **that have different email addresses**. If you are doing a clean import then skip this module.

Go through each module one by one (starting at 001) and let each page load 100% before clicking on any links, do not press the [back] button and don't move away from the screen when it is running. Read carefully what is on each screen and write down any error in full before contacting support.

To start the import click on the [Start Module] button and when that module has been completed, the statistics will update and the name of the button will change.

Note:

- [vBulletin ImpEx Support Forum](#)

Re-running modules

When you re-run a module, for whatever reason it will clean up any previous data imported of that type.

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For instance if you run the import post module for a phpBB import for the first time, it will import all the posts from the phpBB board and place them in the vBulletin database.

All the posts will have a importpostid which is the original post id of the post in the phpBB board. Any original post from the vBulletin board before the import will have no importpostid, as they are original.

So when the module is run for a second time (another practice run, you change some setting, updated a parser, got more posts, etc) it will delete all posts from the vBulletin board that have an importpostid.

This is useful for getting timings or re-running modules that had issues that you have changed or updated.

Warning:

If you have associated or merged users, the original vBulletin users will now have a importuserid, re-running the import user module will delete these users, if you don't have any associated users this isn't an issue.

Final Import Steps

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Warning:

An import will only ever get a certain amount of information from a source board into vBulletin.

Permissions

Always check the permissions of **moderators** and **forums** after an import as there may not be a one to one mapping from the source boards permissions to vBulletin's permissions system.

Admin CP -> Forums & Moderators -> Show All Moderators -> Edit

Admin CP -> Forums & Moderators -> Forum Permissions

Forum cache

To rebuild the forum cache so your imported forums appear, go to your forum manager and save the display.

Counters

Update the Threads and Forums counters after an import to reflect the true values for each forum and thread.

Admin CP -> Maintenance -> General Update Tools -> Rebuild Thread Information

Admin CP -> Maintenance -> General Update Tools -> Rebuild Forum Information

Default forum

If you are importing into a fresh install of vBulletin, you may want to delete the default forum, it is advised that you do this before the import, if you are doing it after the import make sure that the imported forums and threads are not contained with in the default forum as they will be removed also.

User groups

Most importers will import the usergroups or create a default import usergroup, this is so you can check the users being imported and manage them accordingly, to move users to the default *Registered Users* group in vBulletin, delete the import group they are in and all the users will be moved to the Registered Users group by default.

Even with a vBulletin to vBulletin import the groups are created again, this is so you can manage the new users accordingly, in some cases you will need to keep the new users separate depending on the nature of your community to manage them.

Be sure to double-check the main Usergroup permissions to make sure they match what you want:

Admin CP -> Usergroups -> Usergroup Manager -> Edit Usergroup

Search index

You will need to rebuild the search index if you want to be able to search on the imported posts.

Admin CP -> Maintenance -> General Update Tools -> Rebuild Search Index

Remove the ImpEx files

Once you have finished and completed an import and your site is up and running, delete all the ImpEx files, this will ensure that if you do another import in the future you will get the latest version, as you will have to download ImpEx again.

Secondly, its good house keeping to remove an application that has your database config details and direct access to your site from your server once you have finished using it.

Password

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Imported passwords

Not all systems can import the source board's passwords; this is due to the nature in which they are stored. The details for each importer should list if they can be imported or not.

If you import from a system where the passwords can not be imported or there was an error importing the passwords you can use the email all users and send them the link to your boards password reset page when you are ready to go live.

That will allow them to reset their passwords, though it relies on them having the correct email address in their source boards user profile.

Users > Send Email to Users

For example:

Hello \$username,

We have recently moved our forum to vBulletin, part of moving to this amazing software is that you are required to

<https://www.vbulletin.com/docs/onepage/?manualversion=40205500>

reset your password, if you follow this link and enter your email address you will be emailed directions to resetting your password.

[http://www.example.com/forum/login.php?do=lostpw&email=\\$email](http://www.example.com/forum/login.php?do=lostpw&email=$email)

Thanks,
Webmaster of example.com

Now what ?

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Now you have done an import, the main ImpEx page will give you an idea of how long it takes, plus you re-configuring and post install setup.

Try the import a few times to make sure you are happy with the process and know what to do when the time comes.

This is the time to ask question here about things that you don't understand or believe are going wrong, not when you do the final live import !!

Note:

- [vBulletin ImpEx Support Forum](#)

Have some of your trusted users or admin/moderators look around the test import boards to help with finding any issues and pointing out permissions that need to be updated etc.

This is a good time to configure [impex/tools/cleaner.php](#) if you need to remove HTML or incorrect links from your vBulletin posts.

If you wish to remove the importid's from the database read about [help.php](#).

Cleaner.php

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Note: The cleaner.php is located in the impex/tools/ directory. After modifying it as per the instructions below, you run it from your browser like this:

<http://www.yoursite.com/impex/tools/cleaner.php>

...using your forum URL of course.

ImpEx parses out as much HTML and incorrect BB code as it can find, though there can sometimes be unexpected HTML or codes in the posts.

To remove this you will need to use cleaner.php, the basic principle is that it matches one string and replaces it for another, or a blank to just delete the original string.

Once cleaner has been run successfully you must rebuild the *Rebuild Post Cache* in the AdminCP > Maintenance > Update Counters

The file itself has many comments and instructions though as an example, if I have the post :

Hi there, I was looking though the web and I found this site and I think it r0x0rs , its about pirates it must be good as they are the best.

advert

There are three errors there, the tags should be BB code, we want to remove the HTML completely and pirates should be ninjas, obviously.

In the script there is this code :

```
$replacer = array(
    "<img>" => "[img]",
    "" => "",
    "" => "",
    "" => "",
    "" => ""
);
```

This is where cleaner.php is configured on what to replace, in our example we will configure it like this :

```
$replacer = array(
    "<B>" => "[B]",
    "pirates" => "ninjas",
    '<a href="http://www.example.com/badpage.html">advert</a>' => ""
```

);

Note, where we have entered the HTML to find, because it contains double quotes, the quotes used in the array have been changed to single quotes, this is done or PHP will have a parse error as it will prematurely end the key variable value.

Help.php

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The *Database cleanup & restart* appears at the top of every ImpEx page, you can also browse to it directly if there is an error with ImpEx, by going to www.example.com/forum/impex/help.php , assuming that your board is installed in the directory forum/ on your web site.

There are four options on the help page.

Cancel

To cancel and return to the import, click here.

Clicking on this will send you back to the ImpEx main page.

Delete Session

To delete the import session and continue with the import, click here.

This will remove the import session. The import session contains the state of the import, the page values, paths, system selected etc. Deleting this will effectively reset the import though it will not alter any imported data in the target database.

Delete Session and all imported data

To delete the import session and all imported data for a clean retry, click here.

This will delete the session, as described above, also it will delete all imported data in the target database. This will also include any associated users, as an associated user will be assigned and importuserid and will effectively be treated as an imported user.

Remove importids

To delete the importid's in the database, click here, also removes the session. This will allow you to do consecutive imports

This will remove the importid's from the tables that have been imported into, see [this](#) section for more information.

Remove duplicate forums/threads/posts

On occasion when a browser stalls or a page fails to load you will have to refresh the page, this will mean that duplicate items will be imported, as the page will rerun the SQL from the last page load.

The duplicate items will have the same import<item>id but they will have different id's within vBulletin due to the auto_inc field, because of that ImpEx can find items that have the same import id, but a different vBulletin id, i.e. :

Thread A : threadid = 1 importthreadid = 5.
Thread B : threadid = 2 importthreadid = 5.

B must be a duplicate.

Running this function on a database that has had multi-imports which hasn't been finalised between imports could possibly remove a large percentage of the previous import, so ensure you finalise multi-imports before performing consecutive ones.

Medium / Large imports

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Database Index

Manually dropping the fulltext-index 'title' (title, 'pagetext') from the post table *before* the post module, then adding it after the import has been run can speed up the post module considerably.

```
ALTER TABLE `post` DROP INDEX `title`;
ALTER TABLE `post` ADD FULLTEXT `title` (`title` ,`pagetext`);
```

Also if you are adding and removing these it is advisable to add the indexes show below in "dupe_checking".

Display

Set the following in your ImpExConfig to lower the amount of display data sent to the browser.

```
define('shortoutput', true);
```

Memory

The estimates for a database based system, is that 200,000 is medium sized, over 750,000 posts is large.

The most important thing for ImpEx when dealing with medium or large imports is *memory* ImpEx needs to hold reference arrays when importing posts, i.e.

- userid to importuserid
- importthreadid to threadid

Possibly ;

- userid to username
- forumid to importforumid

All of these take up memory (PHP has a large overhead for arrays) and this is before its even tried to select any source data to process and import.

The bare minimum for a small import and running vBulletin is 8Meg, 16Meg is advised.

For a medium import 32-64Meg would be expected. For a large source board, its a sliding scale of how big your forum is, though 64Meg is a good setting to start with.

Changing the PHP memory limit requires access to your php.ini file and the ability to restart the webserver, if you do not have control of the webserver you may have to contact your ISP or find another server for the purposes of just doing the import.

dupe_checking

There is a setting in the ImpExConfig.php that enables and disables duplicate data checking, if you have a stable server and a fast connection where the pages are loading fine and there is no manual refreshing or back button use the setting this to false will increase the speed of the import.

Though if you need to or choose to run dupe checking, adding these indexes will help greatly :

```
ALTER TABLE `post` ADD INDEX `idx_importpostthread` ( `importpostid` , `importthreadid` )
ALTER TABLE `thread` ADD INDEX `idx_importthread` ( `importthreadid` )
```

Stand alone

ImpEx has the ability to run stand alone, i.e. not in the adminCP.

To do this, move the impex/ directory out of the forum/ folder i.e. If you are installed in

example.com/forum/

So you have :

example.com/forum/admincp/
example.com/forum/impex/
etc

Move ImpEx to the root folder so you have :

example.com/impex

Configure ImpExConfig.php for the target database information as it will not be able to read the vBulletin config file. Then browse to it directly e.g. www.example.com/impex/index.php.

This will lower the memory overhead as it won't have to load inside the adminCP, also it will not time out within the admincp and will load slightly faster.

Quick Guide

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This is the quick guide to running an import for people who are comfortable with vBulletin and have experience with technical administration of a web site.

This is the procedure for testing and importing, always run tests before doing an import.

Get ImpEx

Download ImpEx from the Members Area, [here](#).

Config the file

In the downloaded archive there is a file ImpExConfig.php.new. Rename that to ImpExConfig.php and edit its contents for the target and source details of the database. If the source is a file based system, just edit the target details.

Upload it

Upload the ImpEx folder with the newly edited ImpExConfig.php file to your webserver, into the same directory that the admincp is in, or in the webroot for [a stand alone import](#)

If you are running ImpEx installed you have to put the cpnav_impex.xml file in the includes/xml directory for ImpEx to show in the adminCP. The file is in upload/includes/xml in the download.

Browse to it

Select the Import from the adminCP nav bar, then the system you want to from the drop down list.

Do import

Run the first module to inspect the source and alter the target database. If you are doing a clean import or the users you want to merge will have the same email addresses ignore module 002, which is for manual user id association.

Update counters

In the maintenance section of the adminCP, run the Update counters for the threads, then the forums. Re-order the forums and delete the default Main Forum if need be, then save the display order to rebuild the forum cache.

Clean up usergroups and forums

Setup the permissions for the usergroups, or delete the imported usergroups to move the users in those groups to the default Registered group.

cleaner.php

If you have HTML or unparsed content in your posts, you may need to use [cleaner.php](#).

Review

Check over the board before opening it, get the help of some moderators or admins from the original site, to check users, posts, PM's etc.

Multiple imports.

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ImpEx relies on **import id's** during an import so that it can match one set of data to another.

For instance a user will have a **userid** and a **importuserid** once they are imported. The userid is the vBulletin assigned userid and will be what ever is next in the line and available as per the database.

The importuserid is the userid from the source board.

This is imported and used to match the user to their imported posts, attachments PM's etc.

The same goes for posts for instance **threadid** has a **importthreadid** so that ImpEx knows where to put the imported posts.

When you have done an import and are completely finished and wish to do another import you will have to set all these import id's to 0.

This is so that you finalized the data in the board, that is remove its legacy id's so that it permanently becomes part of the target board, after this is done, there is no way back (apart from restoring the back up you made before starting).

As you can import into an empty board or an existing one, this has some serious implications. e.g.

You have a source board and your vBulletin target board.

The vBulletin target board has a lot of content, once you have performed an import of the source board you can still reverse the operation as the source database has **importsomethingid's** for all the imported data, therefore ImpEx can tell what is original and what is imported data, this is needed for the re-running of modules also.

As soon as you finishing an import, the import id's are no longer needed and serve no purpose, with one exception, that being 3rd party applications.

If you have an application that uses the user data from your source board, it will no doubt be associated with the userid from the source board, if you wish to keep that, update the 3rd party application to use the **importuserid** in the vBulletin database. Though vBulletin will not update the importuserid only the userid for new users so its best to update the 3rd party software with the new userid's.

So with the exception of 3rd party applications there is no more use for the import id's.

They can be ignored for all purposes save **Importing consecutive boards** and general tidiness (also indexes are created that may slow down huge boards slightly).

You **MUST** remove the import id's before performing a 2nd import, this is because ImpEx will not know what is original imported data and what is just imported etc.

If you are importing boards that use the same user data, just use the auto-email associate to link up the userids automatically between board imports.

To remove the import id's use the **clean database** found at the top of the ImpEx page, as show in the attached images.

[Database cleanup & restart](#) || [Online manual](#)

Using ImpExConfig.php for target config

Terminology

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Clean import

Importing into an empty vBulletin, i.e. a fresh install.

Merge import

Importing into a board that contains data and users that exists on both boards. Most systems will have the ability to merge users on email address so the users in the target board gain ownership of the imported data.

Differential import

This is just terminology and not supported.

A differential import is when the source board is left open when imported into the target, and the user wishes to do a 2nd import at a later date to get the new data from the source board that has been created since the first import. i.e. the difference in the data.

Internal link parsing

This is currently under review for development.

Internal links are links that exists in posts in the source board, to threads and posts in the original source board i.e.

Note:

Check this link out ...

www.example.com/phpBB/viewtopic_84050.html

In the new board, topic 84050 will become importthreadid 84050 and will get a new thread id dependant on the state of the target database.

Internal link parsing, is finding all the links in posts that point to other posts and threads in the board being imported and updating them with the correct URL **and** postid/threadid, its not just the URL to change the id changes as well.

Source system

The system being imported from.

Target system

The system being imported to, vBulletin.

Stand alone

Running ImpEx outside of the adminCP.

ImpEx installed

Running ImpEx inside the adminCP.

Core

The core files that are needed for ImpEx to run :

ImpExConfig.php, ImpExController.php, ImpExData.php, ImpExDatabase.php, ImpExDisplay.php,
ImpExDisplayWrapper.php, ImpExFunction.php, ImpExModule.php, ImpExSession.php, cpnav_impexml.xml,
db_mysql.php, help.php, impex_language.php, index.php,
vbfields.php.

System

A group of files in a directory of the system name that you are using to import the source board from. i.e.
phpBB/000.php, phpBB/001.php ... etc

Module

The individual file of a system, i.e. impex/systems/ipb2/004.php , The IPB 2 user module.

Userid mapping

When importing a source board that has a 3rd party application, for instance a gallery, the gallery will usually use data from the user table based on the userid.

When a board is imported the userid's are assigned depending on the auto_inc value of the database, the existing number of users in the database, etc.

Basically regardless of what a 3rd party vendor will tell you, that you must force the user id's into vBulletin and that it can be done and that's the ideal way to proceed, the reality is :

Warning:

YOU CANNOT FORCE THE USER ID'S INTO VBULLETIN WITH OUT BREAKING IT

and that's all there is to it.

This is a big reoccurring issue with 3rd party products, the ideal way is to be able to remap the userid's in the 3rd party product to the new vBulletin userid.

ImpEx systems

These are the currently 3 tiers of import systems.

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Note : All MSSQL importers, or MSSQL within systems that also have MySQL support **are all classed as 3rd tier**

Tier 1

Tier one systems are fully supported by the support team and development, they are the most active and common imports that customers do.

These importers were either upgraded or have been recently developed as all new importers are tier one.

Tier 2

Systems in this tier are the less common imports and legacy systems. Tier 2 systems can be promoted to tier 1 if there is enough demand, or retired to tier 3 when the source system reaches end of life or demand falls below a level that makes their existence viable.

Tier 3

This is the graveyard of importers, these importers are **not** supported. There are three reasons imports make it here. Firstly is because their source system has reached it's end of life and the source data model isn't changing any more so there are going to be no future updates. Secondly, that demand for them is so low that it is not viable to offer support for them as it makes no business sense (though the importer is here for people who want to delve into it).

Thirdly, that the source system is such a challenge to import from that the time typically taken for each import far out weights any sensible decision to try to support each individual import that would take hours per client with customisations.

Tier systems list

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Tier 1

Eve 1.3.4 / Groupee 4.0.3 1.3.4 - 4.0.3

fusionBB 2 2.1

Ikonboard (MySQL) 3.x

Invision Board 3 3.0.3

Invision Board 2 2.3.0

Photopost 5.1

phpBB1 1.4.x

phpBB2 2.0.22

phpBB3 3.0.5

Simple Machines Forum 1.9

SMF 2.0

Snitz Mysql & MSSQL 3.4.04

Text file importer 0.0

Infopop UBB.threads 6.5

Infopop UBB.threads 7.2

vBulletin 3.7.x

WoltLab Burning Board 2.3.3

wbb3 3.0.3

YaBB 2 2.1

YaBB SE 1.5.5

Tier 2

ASPPlayground 2.5.5

DCForum+ MySQL 1.27

InstantForum 4.1.4

Invision Community Blog 1.2.4

MyBulletinBoard (MyBB) 1.4

Allaire	3.1
ASP-DEV	2.0
ASP-DEV	2.0
bbpress	0.9.0.1
beehive	0.5
Community Server	2.1
CuteCast	2.x
Discuz	2.5
dotnetBB	2.42
dotnetBB	2.42
dragonfly	9.2.1
Drupal	4.7.0
dzoic	3.5
eshare	0.0
ExpressionEngine	1.6.2
FUD Forum	2.x
FuseTalk	2.0
fusion BB	1.0.3
JForum	2.1.5
Jive	5.5
Jive Forums	4.0.0
megaBBS	1.69-2.2
Phpwind	3.3.1
Simple Board	1.0.4
vBulletin	3.0.* - 3.5.*
wowBB	1.63
YaBB Gold	1.3.1

Tier 3

CHC Forum	0.0
DiscusWare 4.x Pro tab file data	4.x
MxBoard	1.1.4
Infopop Open Topic	4.0
PNphpBB2 (Post Nuke)	2
Advanced Electron Forum	1.05
w-Agora	4.1.7
BuildACommunity	0.0
bbBoard	2
CFBB	1.3.1
Deluxe Portal	2.0
DigiPost	2.0
DiscusWare (file based)	4.00.6
Discuz	4.0.0
e107	0.7.8
Edge CMS	13-11-2005
EncoreII	2
fireboard	1.0.4
freethreads	0.0
Geeklog	1.3.10
Invision Power Board	1.3
Seditio (LDU)	121
Max Web Portal	0
mercuryboard	1.1.4
miniBB	2.0.1

mmforum	0.1.5
mvnforum	1.0.2
mysmartbb	1.50
MyTopix	1.3.0
openBB	1.0.7
Oxygen	1.1.3
Phorum 3	3.4.8
Phorum 5	5.0.16
phpMyForum	4.0.1
PHP Fusion	6.00.301
PunBB	1.2.10
SiteFrame	3.1.8
SiteNet BBS	2.0.3
ThWboard	3.00
Toast Forums	1.6
Tritanium BB2	2 Alpha 7
trollix XForum	2.0
TruBB	1.1
ttCMS	3.1
Infopop UBB classic	6.3 - 6.7
Ultraboard	2000
versatile Bulletin Board	1.0 RC 1
vBJournal	1.0.2
vBulletin Forum 2 Blog	3.6.8
vBlogetin	1.0 Beta 3
vanilla	1.1.4
vBulletin 2	2.3.10
vBulletin lite	1.0
vbzoom	1.1
webbbs	5.30
Webcrossing	5.0
Web Wiz Forums	9.08
WordPress	2.3.1
XMB forum	1.9
Xoops - Newbb	2.0
Xsorbit X5	x5
Yet Another Forum	1.9.0
Yahoo Groups access dB download	0.0
Yahoo groups (raw text)	0.0
zeroforum	2.1.0

EVE & Groupee[Back to Top](#)Version supported : **1.3.4 UBB.x forum module : 4.0.3****Users**

Majority of profile.

(username, email, usergroup, icq, joindate, homepage, Birthday, ipaddress, lastvisit, usertitle, posts, display_name, first_name, gender, parent_email, Occupation, Location, Interests, Bio, signature)

Forums and CategoriesBasic description information, parent ids and threading order. **No display order title, you will have to put that in** (this is due to the present changing database and may change in the future).**Threads**

All are currently imported as visible and open.

Posts

All are currently imported as visible with threading order.

Polls

Attached to threads and with current vote values.

Private Messages

Currently all PM's are stored as sent for each user.

Attachments

Need to be downloaded from infopop.

Development :

N/A.

IPB 1.3

Version supported : 1.3

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User groups

The IPB user groups and about 50% of the permissions setting, the users are still associated with the groups after import so just clean up the permissions after import.

Users

username, email, usergroup, password, icq, aim, joindate, homepage, ipaddress, lastvisit, Birthday, posts, gender, parent_email, Occupation, Location, Interests, avatar, signature

Forums and Categories

Basic title and description information and layout.

Threads

Nearly all thread information.

note : Importing Parents id's was changed for 1.3

Posts

All are currently imported as visible.

Posts

Attached to threads and with current vote values.

Private Messages

Sent and received are imported.

Buddy & Ignore Lists

For each user.

Moderators

Attached to forum and about 50% of permissions imported.

Attachments

Attachments are imported to the database and linked to the post.

Development :

N/A.

IPB 2

Version supported : 2.2.2

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Usergroup

Name and partial permissions mapped.

Users

Majority of profile.

Not passwords

This would require modification of the vB database and would break the principles of an import. User can very easily reset their passwords.

Forums and Categories

Basic title and description information, with layout and parent ids.

Threads

All are currently imported with open/closed settings.

Posts

All are currently imported as visible with IP addresses.

Polls

Attached to threads and with current vote values.

Private Messages

Imports pm text with sent and to pm for each user.

Moderator

Attached to forum with majority

Attachments

Imported to post.

Smilies

Imported into custom smilie group.

Development

N/A..

phpBB 1

Version supported : **1.4.x**

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Users

Majority of profile.

(username, email, icq, aim, yahoo, homepage, msn, joindate, joindate, homepage, password)

Forums and Categories

All are currently imported as visible and open.

Threads

All are currently imported as visible with open state.

Posts

All are currently imported as visible with IP.

Polls

Attached to threads and with current vote values.

Private Messages

Currently all PM's are stored as sent and received for each user.

Moderator

Attached to forums with default permissions.

phpBB2

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phpBB2 Importer 2.0.22 (MySQL & MSSQL)

Version supported : **2.0.4 - 2.0.21**

Usergroups

Default and custom usergroups.

Users

Majority of profile and avatars.

(username, email, usergroup, password, aim, icq, joindate, homepage, lastactivity, yahoo, msn, posts, Occupation, Location, Interests)

Ban Lists

Userid, IP and email.

Forums and Categories

Basic title and description information, with layout and parent ids.
category hierarchy mod

Threads

All are currently imported as visible and open.

Smilies

Imported into the smilie group, concatenated if longer than 10 characters.

Posts

All are currently imported as visable with IP addresses.

Polls

Attached to threads and with current vote values.

Private Messages

Imports pm text with sent and to pm for each user.

Ranks

Imported as usergroups.

Attachments

Imported to post with current storage setting type (i.e. database or file system).

In Development

N/A.

phpBB 3

Version supported : **3.0.5**

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Usergroups

Default permissions.

Users

Majority of profile.

Not passwords

(username, email, joindate, ipaddress last activity, lastvisit)

Forums and Categories

All are currently imported as visible and open.

Threads

All are currently imported as visible with open & sticky state.

Posts

All are currently imported as visible with IP.

Private Messages

Currently all PM's are stored as sent and received for each user.

Attachments

Imported and attached to posts.

Moderators

Imported and attached to forums.

SMF

Version supported : 2.0

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Usergroups

By name, no permissions.

Users

username, email, usergroup, aim, icq, joindate, homepage, yahoo, msn, ip address, birthday

Forums and Categories

Basic title and description information, with layout and parent ids.

Threads

All are currently imported as visible though with open settings.

Posts

All are currently imported as visable with IP addresses.

Polls

Attached to threads and without current vote values.

Private Messages

Imports pm text with sent and to pm for each user.

Moderators

Imported and attached to forums, though permissions will need to be reset.

Smilies

Imported to import smilie group.

Attachments

Imported to posts.

Development :

N/A.

Snitz

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Version supported : **3.4 MySQL & MSSQL**

Users

username, email, usergroup, aim, icq, joindate, homepage, lastactivity, yahoo, msn, posts.

Forums and Categories

Basic title and description information, with layout and parent ids.

Threads

All are currently imported as visible.

Smilies

Imported into the smilie group.

Posts

All are currently imported.

Polls

Attached to threads and with current vote values.

Private Messages

Imports pm text with sent and to pm for each user.

Moderators

Imported and attached to forums.

Development

N/A

ubb.threads 6.5

Version supported : **6.5**

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Usergroups

Title and users associated to group, reset details and permissions after import.

Users

username, email, usergroup, password, joindate, homepage, lastactivity, IP, postcount

Forums and Categories

Basic title and description information, with layout and parent ids.

Threads

All are currently with open settings, all visible.

Posts

All are currently imported as visible with IP addresses.

Polls

Attached to threads and with current vote values.

Private Messages

Imports pm text with sent and to pm for each user.

Moderators

Imported and linked to forum, reset permissions after import.

Attachments

Imported and linked to the post.

Development :

N/A.

ubb.threads 7

Version supported : **7.0.1**

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Usergroups

Title and default permissions.

Users

username OR display name, email, usergroup, homepage, yahoo, aim, icq, usertitle, posts, avatar, birthday, signature, occupation, location, interests.

Forums and Categories

Basic title and description information, with layout and parent ids.

Threads

All are currently imported with open and visible set to true, sticky setting imported.

Posts

All are currently imported as visible with IP addresses.

Attachments

Imported and linked to the post.

Moderators

Imported and linked to forum, reset permissions after import.

vBulletin 2.3.11

Version supported : **2.3.x**

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Usergroups

Permissions mapped.

Users

All information except avatars.

Forums and Categories

Most information and 75% of permissions, as always check after import.

Threads

All, rebuild after import as with forums.

Posts

All including attachments.

Polls

Imported to threads.

PM's

To and from.

Moderator's

To forum and with permissions.

Smilies

Text and image.

Development

Avatars.

Custom Avatars.

vBulletin 3.0.17

Version supported : 3.x.x

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ImpEx can have 3.0.9 and 3.5.0 as either a target or a source.

A special case importer, the data that is currently imported is :

- Users
- Usergroups
- Ranks
- Avatars
- Custom Profile Pics
- Forums
- Threads
- Posts
- Polls
- PM's
- Moderators
- Smilies
- Attachments

Development :

None.

vBulletin 3.6.4

Version supported : 3.x.x

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ImpEx can have 3.0.9 and 3.5.0 as either a target or a source.

A special case importer NOT to be used instead of an upgrade, the data that is currently imported is :

- Usergroups
- Users
- Forums
- Threads
- Posts
- Polls
- PM's
- Moderators
- Custom Profile Pics
- Attachments
- Subscription
- Smilies
- Avatars

WoltLab Burning Board 2.3.3

Version supported : 2.3.3

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Usergroups

Title and default permissions.

Users

username, email, usergroup, password, yahoo, aim, icq, homepage, joindate, last activity, lastvisit, usertitle, days prune, posts timezone offset, pmpopup avatarid, maxposts, birthday, avatar

Forums and Categories

Basic title and description information, with layout and parent ids.

Threads

All are currently imported with open and visable set to true, sticky setting imported.

Posts

All are currently imported as visable with IP addresses.

Polls

Attached to threads and with current vote values.

Private Messages

Imports pm text with sent and to pm for each user.

Moderators

Imported and linked to froum, reset permissions after import.

Attachments

Imported and linked to the post.

Ikonboard (MySQL) 3.x

Version supported : 3.1

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Usergroups

Title and default permissions.

Users

Majority of profile.

(username, email, usergroup, icq, joindate, homepage, password
Birthday, ipaddress, lastvisit, usertitle, posts, display_name, gender, Occupation, Location, Interests, , signature)

Forums and Categories

All are currently imported as visible and open.

Threads

All are currently imported as visible with open & sticky state.

Posts

All are currently imported as visible with IP and signature permissions.

Polls

Attached to threads and with current vote values.

Private Messages

Currently all PM's are stored as sent for each user.

Moderator

Attached to forums with default permissions.

Attachments

Attached to posts.

List of all systems modules

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Notes:

Tier 1 importers are supported and updated as needed.

Tier 2 importers are not supported and will be updated based on overall demand.
Tier 3 importers are no longer supported or updated.

ASPPlayground

Tier = 2

Source version support in ImpEx = **2.5.5**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private Mesages

CHC Forum

Tier = 3

Source version support in ImpEx = **0.0**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages

DCForum+ MySQL

Tier = 2

Source version support in ImpEx = **1.27**

- Import User Groups
- Import Users
- Import Forums
- Import Threads
- Import Posts
- Import Private Messages
- Import Polls
- Import Moderators

DiscusWare 4.x Pro tab file data

Tier = 3

Source version support in ImpEx = **4.x**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

InstantForum

Tier = 2

Source version support in ImpEx = **4.1.4**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import attachment

Invision Community Blog

Tier = 2

Source version support in ImpEx = **1.2.4**

- Import blog user
- Import blog category
- Import blog
- Import blog comments
- Import blog attachment
- Import blog moderator
- Import blog rate
- Import blog trackback

MxBoard

Tier = 3

Source version support in ImpEx = **1.1.4**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll

MyBulletinBoard (MyBB)**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.4**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private Messages
- Import Moderator
- Import Attachment
- Import Smilie

Infopop Open Topic**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **4.0**

- Import Users
- Import Forums and Categories
- Import Posts

PNphpBB2 (Post Nuke)**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Smilie
- Import Post
- Import Private Messages
- Import Attachments

Advanced Electron Forum**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.05**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import attachment
- Import moderator

w-Agora**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **4.1.7**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Threads
- Import Post
- Import Attachments

Allaire**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.1**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

ASP-DEV**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.0**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

ASP-DEV**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.0**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread

- Import post

BuildACommunity**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **0.0**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

bbBoard**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Smilie
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private Messages
- Import Attachment

bbpress**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **0.9.0.1**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

beehive**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **0.5**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

CFBB**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.3.1**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages

Community Server**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.1**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

CuteCast**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.x**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

Deluxe Portal**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.0**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forums and Categories
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Attachment
- Import Moderator

- Import Smilie

DigiPost**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.0**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

DiscusWare (file based)**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **4.00.6**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Categories
- Import Threads
- Import Posts

Discuz**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **4.0.0**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

Discuz**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.5**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import attachment
- Import smilie

dotnetBB**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.42**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

dotnetBB**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.42**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import attachment

dragonfly**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **9.2.1**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages

Drupal**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **4.7.0**

- Import user

- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

dzoic**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.5**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

e107**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **0.7.8**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private messages

Edge CMS**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **13-11-2005**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

EncoreII**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

eshare**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **0.0**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

Eve 1.3.4 / Groupee 4.0.3**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.3.4 - 4.0.3**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import attachment
- Import Private messages
- Import Private Messages
- Import Attachment

ExpressionEngine**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.6.2**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import attachment

fireboard**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.0.4**

- Import usergroup

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

freethreads**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **0.0**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

FUD Forum**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.x**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Smilie
- Import Poll
- Import Private Messages
- Import Moderator
- Import Attachment

FuseTalk**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.0**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private Messages
- Import Attachment

fusion BB**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.0.3**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import attachment
- Import poll
- Import Moderator

fusionBB 2**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.1**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import attachment
- Import moderator

Geeklog**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.3.10**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Moderator

Ikonboard (MySQL)**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.x**

- Import Usergroup

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private Messages
- Import Moderator
- Import Attachments

Invision Power Board**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.3**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import banlist
- Import moderator
- Import attachment
- Import Attachments

Invision Board 2**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.3.0**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import moderator
- Import attachment
- Import smilie

Invision Board 3**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.0.x**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import moderator
- Import attachment
- Import smilie

JForum**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.1.5**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import attachment

Jive**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **5.5**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages

Jive Forums**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **4.0.0**

- Import User

- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

Seditio (LDU)**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **121**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import poll

Max Web Portal**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **0**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private Message
- Import Moderator

megaBBS**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.69-2.2**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forums
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Smilie
- Import Poll
- Import Private Message
- Import attachment

mercuryboard**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.1.4**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Private Messages
- Import Attachments

miniBB**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.0.1**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

mmforum**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **0.1.5**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import poll
- Import attachment

mvnforum**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.0.2**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum

- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import attachment

mysmartbb**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.50**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import poll
- Import attachment
- Import moderator

MyTopix**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.3.0**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private message
- Import Attachment

openBB**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.0.7**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private Messages
- Import Moderator
- Import Smilie

Oxygen**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.1.3**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Smilie
- Import Private Message
- Import Attachment

Phorum 3**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.4.8**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import attachment

Phorum 5**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **5.0.16**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Pm

Photopost**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **5.1**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import attachment

phpBB1**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.4.x**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Smilie
- Import Poll
- Import Private messages
- Import Moderator

phpBB2**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.0.22**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import banlist
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import smilie
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import rank
- Import attachment

phpBB3**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.0.3**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import smilie
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import attachment
- Import moderator

phpMyForum**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **4.0.1**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import smilie
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import attachment

PHP Fusion**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **6.00.301**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import attachment

Phpwind**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.3.1**

- Import usergroup
- Import user

- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import smilie
- Import poll
- Import Private messages

PunBB**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.2.10**

- Import usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Moderator

Simple Board**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.0.4**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import attachment

SiteFrame**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.1.8**

- Import User
- Import Categories

SiteNet BBS**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.0.3**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

SMF**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.0**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import poll
- Import attachment
- Import moderator

Snitz Mysql**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.4.04**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import moderator
- Import smilie

ThWboard**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.00**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Ranks
- Import Private messages

Toast Forums**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.6**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

Titanium BB2**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2 Alpha 7**

- Import Usergroup
- Import Ranks
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private Messages
- Import Smilie

trollix XForum**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.0**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Smilie

TruBB**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.1**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Attachment

ttCMS**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.1**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

Text file importer**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **0.0**

- Import User

Infopop UBB classic**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **6.3 - 6.7**

- Import Users
- Import Ban List
- Import Forums
- Import Threads
- Import Posts
- Import Buddy List
- Import Ignore List
- Import Private Messages
- Import Poll
- Import Moderators

Infopop UBB.threads**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **6.5**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread

- Import post
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import moderator
- Import attachment

Infopop UBB.threads**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **7.2**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import attachment
- Import moderator
- Import Private messages

Ultraboard**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2000**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages

versatile Bulletin Board**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.0 RC 1**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Smilie
- Import Private Messages

vBJournal**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.0.2**

- Import blog user
- Import blog text
- Import blog comments

vBulletin Forum 2 Blog**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.6.8**

- Import blog user
- Import blog category
- Import blog
- Import blog text

vBlogetin**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.0 Beta 3**

- Import blog user
- Import blog category
- Import blog
- Import blog comments

vanilla**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.1.4**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

vBulletin 2**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.3.10**

- Import usergroup

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import moderator
- Import attachment
- Import smilie

vBulletin**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.0.* - 3.5.***

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import avatar
- Import Custom pictures
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import moderator
- Import smilie
- Import attachment

vBulletin**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **3.7.x**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import poll
- Import Private messages
- Import phrase
- Import moderator
- Import Custom pictures
- Import attachment
- Import subscription
- Import smilie
- Import avatar

vBulletin lite**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.0**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

vbzoom**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.1**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

WoltLab Burning Board**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.3.3**

- Import User Groups
- Import Users
- Import Ban List
- Import Forums and Categories
- Import Threads
- Import Smilies
- Import Posts
- Import Polls
- Import Private Messages
- Import Moderators
- Import Attachment

wbb3**Tier = 2**

Source version support in ImpEx = **3.0.3**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import attachment

webbbs

Tier = 3

Source version support in ImpEx = **5.30**

- Import forum

Webcrossing

Tier = 3

Source version support in ImpEx = **5.0**

- Import Forum

Web Wiz Forums

Tier = 3

Source version support in ImpEx = **9.08**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private message

WordPress

Tier = 3

Source version support in ImpEx = **2.3.1**

- Import blog user
- Import blog category
- Import blog
- Import blog comments

wowBB

Tier = 2

Source version support in ImpEx = **1.63**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Private message
- Import Moderators
- Import Attachment

XMB forum

Tier = 3

Source version support in ImpEx = **1.9**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Smilie
- Import Ranks
- Import Pm's
- Import attachment

Xoops - Newbb

Tier = 3

Source version support in ImpEx = **2.0**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

Xsorbit X5

Tier = 3

Source version support in ImpEx = **x5**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import smilie
- Import poll
- Import attachment
- Import Private messages

YaBB 2**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.1**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import attachment

YaBB Gold**Tier = 2**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.3.1**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Private Messages
- Import Attachments

YaBB SE**Tier = 1**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.5.5**

- Import Usergroup
- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post
- Import Poll
- Import Pm
- Import Attachments

Yet Another Forum**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **1.9.0**

- Import usergroup
- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post
- Import Private messages
- Import attachment

Yahoo Groups access dB download**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **0.0**

- Import user
- Import forum
- Import thread
- Import post

Yahoo groups (raw text)**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **0.0**

- Import User
- Import Forum
- Import Thread
- Import Post

zeroforum**Tier = 3**Source version support in ImpEx = **2.1.0**

- Import User
- Import Forums

CMS Importers

Currently all CMS Importers are considered to be Tier 2. Only the versions listed are supported. We are evaluating ongoing support for these import modules.

Drupal - CMS (6)

Joomla - CMS (1.5)

Wordpress - CMS (2.9.1)

Each system currently imports the users into a default usergroup, then bulk loads the source data types as articles.

ImpEx FAQ

What does ImpEx Stand for ?

Import Export.

The search function is only working on new thread, or not working at all.

After any import you need to rebuild the search index.

AdminCP > Maintenance > Update Counters > Rebuild Search Index

All my post dates are 12-31-1969, how do i fix this ?

After most imports you need to rebuild the thread info and forum info as well.

AdminCP > Maintenance > Update Counters > Rebuild Thread Information (this process could take a while)

AdminCP > Maintenance > Update Counters > Rebuild Forum Information

My member list says 1

Make sure you have moved the users to the correct group. Adding and removing a temporary user will force the members list to rebuild.

Can ninjas do my import any better ?

Probably, though they are too busy flipping out to do imports.

What is the green percentage number during the import ?

It's mostly unimportant as it's just a reflection of the closeness of the source data to the target.

It's a measure of how much of the source data was available and selected when populating the ImpEx data object (user/thread/post/etc).

If a data object has 10 variables for data being imported and 3 of them are mandatory we can use that for an example.

If 5 of the variables are filled, 3 of which are the mandatory fields, then the object is 50% full and valid (green percentage number and imported).

If 9 of them are filled though only two of the mandatory ones, then it's 90% full though a fail.

The missing % that isn't imported is typically filled by defaults (within ImpEx just before the object is saved) or rebuilt when the admin runs the update counters and profile rebuild etc.

The % is an observation of what is being selected from the source and *not* is being saved.

Appendix: vBulletin 2 Manual

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Installing vBulletin

The first step towards running vBulletin after you have purchased a license is to download the latest vBulletin package, upload it to your web server and run the installer script.

The following documents will take you through this process step-by-step.

Note:

These installation instructions only apply to version 2 of vBulletin.

Downloading the vBulletin Package

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The first thing you will need to do when installing vBulletin is to download the latest version from the Members' Area.

You will need to log-in to the Members' Area using the Customer Number and Customer Password that was emailed to you when you purchased your license.



Once logged in, you will see a list of **Current Licenses**. For each active license that you own, there will be a **Download vBulletin** link that you can click.

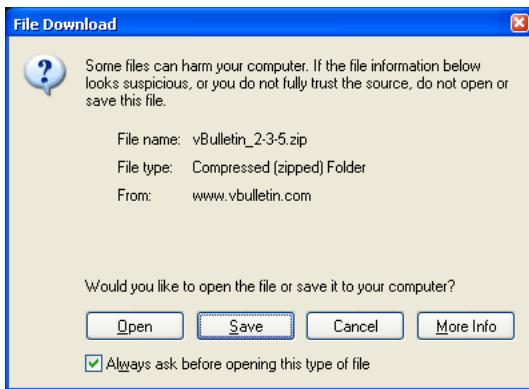
Click the link for the license you want to use and you will be taken to the download page, where you will be given options for how to download the latest vBulletin package.

You can choose from the following options:

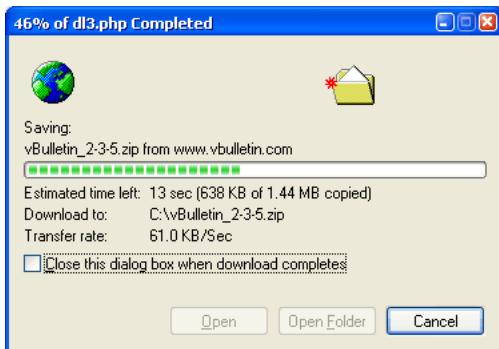
PHP File Extension

As a general rule, web servers will use *.php* as the extension for PHP scripts, but some servers may use a different extension, or you may simply wish to use a different extension out of your own preference. Various extensions are available here for you to choose.

When you have set the download options you can click the **Download** button to start the download. When the download prompt window appears, you should choose the **Save** option and choose a directory on your computer in which to save the package.



The package will then be downloaded and saved to the location you specified.



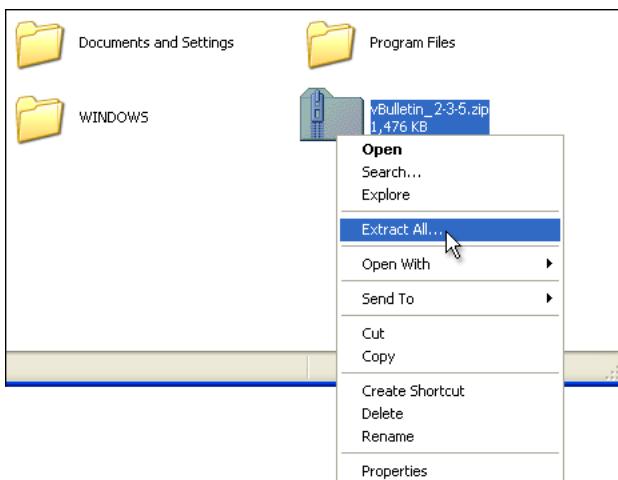
Preparing the vBulletin Files for Upload

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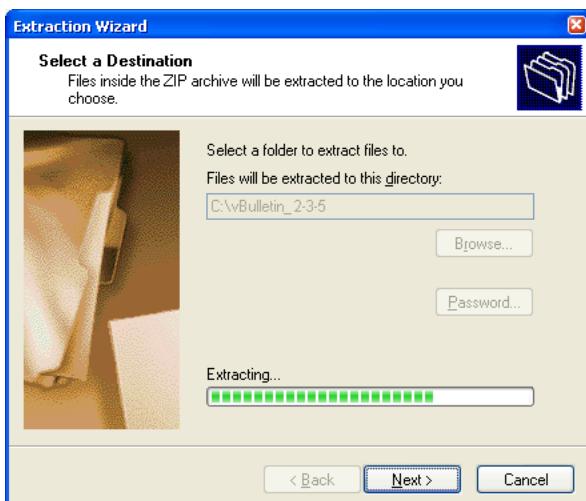
After you have successfully downloaded the vBulletin package to your computer you will need to prepare the scripts to be uploaded to your web server.

The first thing to do is to decompress the package into its constituent files. If you downloaded the *.zip* package and your computer is running a recent version of Windows® all the tools you need to do this are available as part of Windows®. This section will assume that you have downloaded the *.zip* package and that your computer is running Windows XP.

To extract the files from the package, open the folder on your computer where you saved the vBulletin package and right-click on its icon, then choose **Extract All** from the pop-up menu.



This will open a wizard to guide you through the unzipping progress. Accept the default options suggested and the system will decompress the files from the zip package.



When the unzipping progress is complete, you will find that the process has created a new folder called **vBulletin_versionnum licensenum** (where *versionnum* is the version number of the package you have downloaded, and *licensenum* is the license number of your vBulletin license).

Within this folder you will find a further folder named **versionnum.licensenum**, and within this folder will be a folder called **upload**. This folder contains the vBulletin files that need to be uploaded to your web server.

However, before you upload the files you must make some changes to the vBulletin configuration file. This file is

located in the **admin** folder (within the **upload** folder) and is called **config.php.new**.

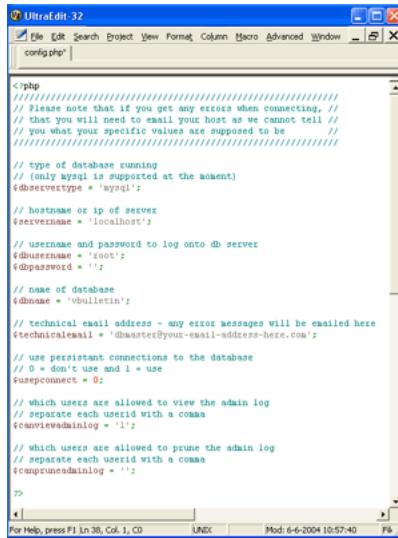
The first thing you must do is to rename this file from **config.php.new** to **config.php** (removing the temporary *.new* extension).

Editing the vBulletin Configuration File

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Before uploading the vBulletin files to your web server, you must edit the vBulletin configuration file (*admin/config.php*) to tell vBulletin how to communicate with your database.

To edit the config.php file, you will need to open the file in a text editor such as Windows® WordPad. (Note that we do not recommend that you use Windows® Notepad to edit config.php, as Notepad has problems displaying the line breaks in some file types.)



```

config.php
// Please note that if you get any errors when connecting,
// that you will need to email your host as we cannot tell
// you what your specific values are supposed to be

// type of database running
// (only MySQL is supported at the moment)
$dbtype = 'MySQL';

// hostname or ip of server
$servername = 'localhost';

// username and password to log onto db server
$dbusername = 'root';
$dbpassword = '';

// name of database
$dbname = 'vbulletin';

// technical email address - any error messages will be emailed here
$technicalemail = 'dbmaster@your-email-address-here.com';

// use persistent connections to the database
// 0 = don't use and 1 = use
$usepconnect = 0;

// which users are allowed to view the admin log
// separate each user id with a comma
$canviewadminlog = '1';

// which users are allowed to prune the admin log
// separate each user id with a comma
$canpruneadminlog = '';

>

```

For Help, press F1. In 38, Col. 1, CO UNDX Mod: 6-6-2004 10:57:40

Editing the config.php file is one of the few times in vBulletin where you will need to edit raw PHP code. The file is commented in order to help you fill in the necessary information.

Of the settings in this file, only the first few *need* to be edited in order to create a working vBulletin configuration file. These settings are:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| \$servername | This sets the address of your database server. On most installations the database server is located on the same computer as the web server, in which case the address should be set to ' <i>localhost</i> ', otherwise use the address of the database server as supplied by your web host. |
| \$dbusername | This variable contains the username provided to you by your host for connecting to your database server. |
| \$dbpassword | The password that accompanies the database username should be entered here. |
| \$dbname | This value should be altered to state the name of the database that will contain your vBulletin installation on the database server. |
| \$technicalemail | An email address should be entered here. All database error messages will be forwarded to the email address provided. |

Note:

Please note that Jelsoft / vBulletin Support can not provide the values you require for \$servername, \$dbusername, \$dbpassword and \$dbname. These variables are *only* available from the web host providing your web/database server.

If you need to create a new database for vBulletin to use, instructions for doing so in a variety of systems are available [here](#).

The remaining variables in config.php do not need to be edited in order to make a working vBulletin configuration and it is recommended that you do not alter them until after the installation process is complete unless you are confident that you know what you are doing beforehand. A description of these remaining variables follows.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| \$usepconnect | Setting this variable to 1 will cause PHP to use persistent connections to the MySQL server. For very large vBulletin installations, using persistent connections may result in a slight performance boost but in most cases leaving it set to 0 (off) is the best option. If you are unsure, leave it set to 0. |
| \$canviewadminlog | All actions performed in the vBulletin Administrators' Control Panel are logged in the database. This variable controls the permissions for which users are allowed to view this log. The variable takes the form of a list of user IDs separated by commas. For example, if you would like the users with user IDs 1, 15 and 16 to be able to view the Admin Log, this variable would be set like this:
<code>\$canviewadminlog = '1,15,16';</code> |
| \$canpruneadminlog | In the same way as \$canviewadminlog controls which users can <i>view</i> the Admin Log, \$canpruneadminlog controls which users are permitted to <i>prune</i> (delete items from) the Admin Log. Use the same user IDs separated with commas system as with the \$canviewadminlog setting.
<code>\$canpruneadminlog = '1,15,16';</code> |

Note:

The variables \$canviewadminlog, \$canpruneadminlog, should all contain a single user ID, a comma-separated list of user IDs or nothing at all. For example:

```
$canviewadminlog = '1,15,16';
$canpruneadminlog = '1';
$canpruneadminlog = '';
When you have finished editing your config.php file you should save it again and prepare to upload the file to your
web server.
config.php
<?php
////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
// Please note that if you get any errors when connecting, //
// that you will need to email your host as we cannot tell //
// you what your specific values are supposed to be      //
////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////

// type of database running
// (only mysql is supported at the moment)
$dbservertype = 'mysql';

// hostname or ip of server
$servername = 'localhost';

// username and password to log onto db server
$dbusername = 'root';
$dbpassword = '';

// name of database
$dbname = 'vbulletin';

// technical email address - any error messages will be emailed here
$technicalemail = 'dbmaster@your-email-address-here.com';

// use persistant connections to the database
// 0 = don't use
// 1 = use
$usepconnect = 0;

// which users are allowed to view the admin log
// separate each userid with a comma
$canviewadminlog = '1';

// which users are allowed to prune the admin log
// separate each userid with a comma
$canpruneadminlog = '';
```

?> Uploading vBulletin Scripts to Your Web Server

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After your config.php file has been edited and saved it is time to upload the vBulletin scripts to your web server ready for installation.

The uploading process should be familiar to anyone who has published pages to a web site before, but a brief description of the process is given here.

Although there are several methods available to transfer the vBulletin files from your computer to your web server, by far the most common method in use is transfer via FTP. Most operating systems have built-in tools for opening FTP connections although they are often limited in their usefulness and many people opt to use a third party FTP client application.

The easiest way to transfer the files is to upload the entire **upload** folder to the server. We do this by dragging or selecting the **upload** folder at its location on your computer's hard disk to the web publishing folder on the server. (If transfer doesn't automatically start, click on the transfer button.)

Most FTP client applications will handle the file transfers automatically, but if for some reason your application does not, you should make a note of the following:

- **All text files to be transferred in ASCII mode**

All files containing plain text from the vBulletin package should be transferred in ASCII mode.
Text file types you will find in vBulletin are: *.html, .php, .js, .xml, .css*.

- **All non-text files to be transferred in Binary mode**

The remaining files, which are mostly images, should be transferred to your web server in Binary mode.
Binary file types used in vBulletin include: *.gif, .png, .jpg, .ico*.

Note:

The web publishing folder is usually called *public_html*, *www* or *htdocs* and is located within your home directory. If you are unsure of where to find your own web publishing folder, your host will be able to help you.
Depending upon the speed of your internet connection, uploading all the files could take several minutes to complete.
After completion, you should see that the web server now contains a folder called *upload* containing a perfect copy of the files in the *upload* folder on your computer's hard disk.

When all the files have been uploaded successfully you should rename the *upload* folder on the web server to the name you want to use for your forums directory. We will be calling it *forums* for the purposes of this manual.

If all has gone well, you are now ready to run the installation script to prepare your database to run vBulletin.

Running the vBulletin Install Script

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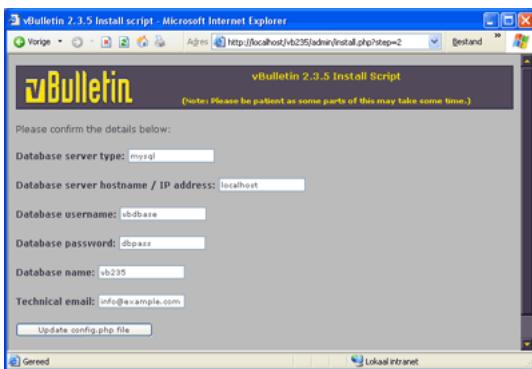
Once all the vBulletin files have been successfully uploaded to your web server, you will need to run the vBulletin Installation Script in order to prepare your database.

The Installer runs as a PHP script using your web browser. To start the installation process, open your browser and

type the HTTP address of your forums directory, followed by */install/install.php*, then hit the <Enter> key or press the [Go] button to open the script.



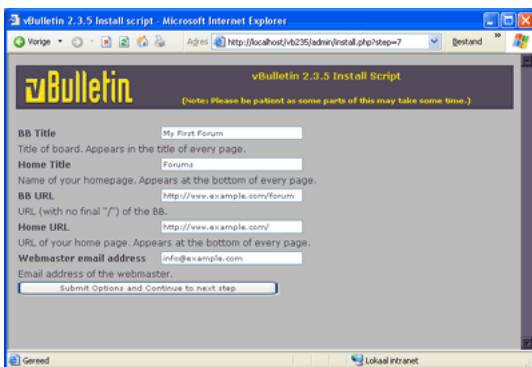
The first thing you will see from the install script is a welcome screen and a link to click on, click it to start the installation.



The next page will read out the config.php file details and give you the option to modify it if a setting is wrong. Click on the [update] button to confirm the settings.

The next pages are to confirm that the config.php details for the database are correct and the installer will attempt to establish a connection to the database. Click on the link **Click here to continue** to continue.

The next pages will be steps to setup the database tables for vBulletin and populate it with settings and options. Click **Next step** each time the page has completed loading.



After the database tables are populated you will be prompted to enter the forum details.

The settings required here are:

BB Title This is the title you will give to your vBulletin forums. It appears in the title of every page, and items such as notification emails sent from vBulletin to your members will identify the sender using this name. (BB Title is short for *bulletin board title*).

Homepage Title Less important than the BB Title, this setting is used for a link at the bottom of every page which points to the address specified in **Home URL** (see below). It represents the title of your web site.

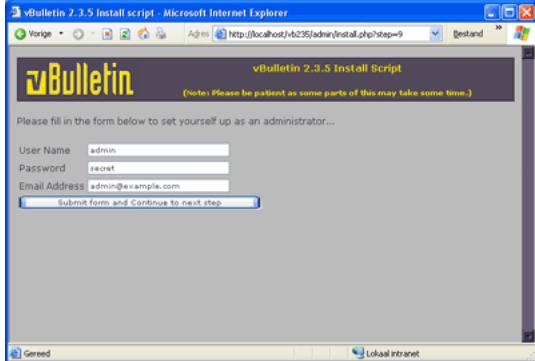
BB URL The BB URL setting is very important. It represents the URL that people should visit in order to find your vBulletin forums. The system will make a best-guess at filling-in this setting automatically, so you should only change it if the given value is definitely wrong. Note that this setting should **not** end with a slash (/) character.

Home URL This is the web address of your main web site, and is used in conjunction with the **Home Title** setting to create a link to your web site from the bottom of each forum page.

Note:

You can change these after installation through the Admin Control Panel.

Click on the [Submit options and continue] button to continue.



The final page is where you can enter the first board user. This user will be the administrator of the board. So pick your desired username, set your unique password and set your email address.

Note:

When choosing a password, we would suggest a combination of letters, numbers and punctuation characters in both upper and lower case, and a length of at least eight characters.

Click on the [Submit form and continue] button to finalize installation.

Warning:

You have now completed the install of vBulletin. Once you have deleted this install script you can proceed to the control panel. You will not be able to access the control panel until you delete this script for security reasons.

This is the file the you must delete: **install.php**

Note:

Certain browser plug-ins, most notably the popular *Google Toolbar* can have an adverse effect up the vBulletin installation and upgrade scripts. We recommend that all browser plugins be disabled while running install and upgrade scripts for vBulletin.

Introduction

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vBulletin is totally customizable through a web based control panel. This manual is designed to explain how to administrate and maintain your vBulletin bulletin board using this control panel.

There are certain terms used through out the documentation that you should understand:

- **Board** - your installation of vBulletin. This includes all of your categories, forums, threads, posts and users. You may run one board (installation of vBulletin) for each license you have purchased.
- **User / member** - someone who has registered or posted a message on your bulletin board. As an administrator, you are a user who has administrative priveledges.
- **Post** - an individual message posted by a user. It can be made up of plain text, or HTML code, depending on the options that you have set.
- **Thread** - a group of posts usually on a certain subject. On most boards, users can start new threads.
- **Forum** - a group of threads again usually on a certain subject.
- **Category** - forums can be grouped into categories
- Control panel / admin area - this is the area of your board that only administrators can access. From here you can control almost all factors of your board.

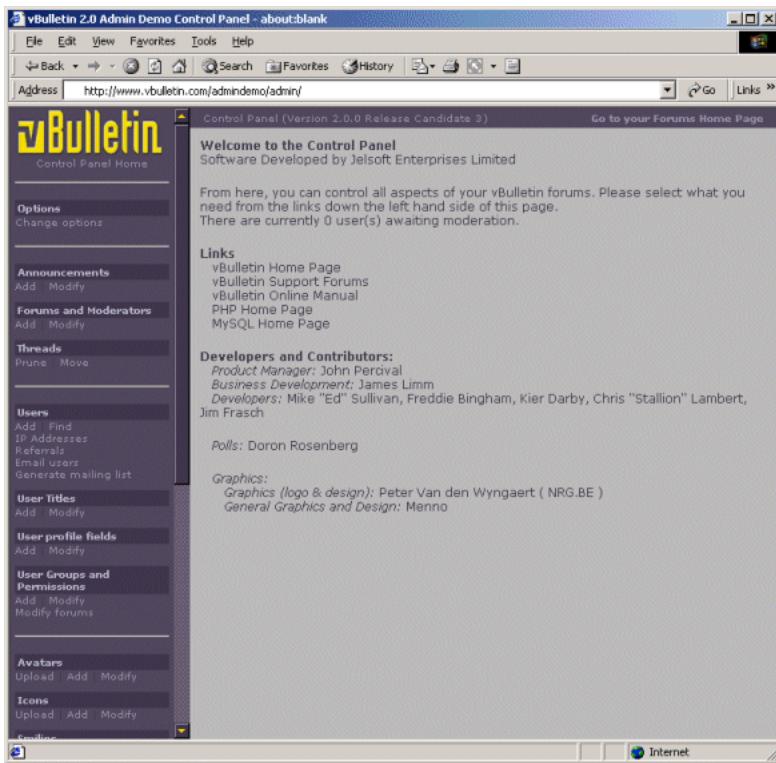
This documentation should be used as a reference manual - it is not designed to be read from start to finish.

The Control Panel

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After installing the vBulletin software on your server, the first main task is to log into the admin control panel - to do this, visit <http://www.yourwebsite.com/vbulletindirectory/admin/>. You will be presented with a log in form:

Type in the username and password you specified during the vBulletin installation procedure, and click the "Log In" button. All being well, you will be transported into the vBulletin admin control panel:



Take a moment now to familiarise yourself with the admin control panel interface. The screen is divided vertically into two sections... the section on the left hand side contains numerous links to functions within the control panel. The right hand side of the screen contains the "Welcome to the control panel" page by default. When you click on any of the links in the left hand section of the screen, the corresponding page will appear in the right hand side. Easy eh?

In the remainder of this document, we'll be examining in detail each of the admin function available via the left-hand links:

- Options
- Announcements
- Forums and Moderators
- Threads
- Users
- User Titles
- User profile fields
- User Groups and Permissions
- Avatars
- Icons
- Smilies
- Custom BB codes
- Backup database
- Import & Maintenance
- Stats
- Styles
- Replacement variables
- Templates

Control Panel Options

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One of the best features of vBulletin is that it puts you in total control. There are over 150 general setting options that allow you to control every aspect of your community, under the following sections:

- Turn Your vBulletin on and off
- General Settings
- Contact Details
- Posting Code allowances (vB code / HTML / etc)
- Forums Home Page Options
- User and registration options
- Memberlist options
- Thread display options
- Forum Display Options
- Search Options
- [Email Options
- Date / Time options
- Censorship Options
- Edit Options
- IP Logging Options
- Floodcheck Options
- Banning Options
- Language Options

- Private Messaging Options
- HTTP Headers and output
- Spell Check
- Templates
- Load limiting options
- Polls
- Avatars
- Attachments
- Custom User Titles
- Calendar
- Upload Options

To view the options page, log into the admin control panel and click on the "Options" link on the left hand side of the screen. You will then be able to view a complete description for each of the available options.

Forum Announcements

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Announcements are static posts that you can use to relay important information to your members. Announcements can be made on a per forum basis or globally. Only the latest announcement will be shown in a forum to conserve space but once a member opens the announcement they will be able to see all current announcements.

Once an attachment has been posted to a forum, it will appear at the top of the forum display page, above the listing of threads.

When you create an announcement you can specify a title, start and end date, attach it to a single forum or globally and your message. You can use HTML in announcements.

Forums and Moderators

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In this section of the control panel, the administrator can create and edit forums.

Adding Forums

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To add a new forum to the bulletin board, click on the "Add" link under the "Forums and Moderators" section in the left hand menu. A form will then appear in the right hand pane of the admin control panel (below), where you will be able to input all the parameters for the new forum:

Add New Forum

Title

Description
You may use HTML

Display Order
0=do not display

Default view age
'Select threads from last x days'
Recommended values: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30, 45, 60, 75, 100, 365, 1000
(ie all)

Forum Parent

Moderation Options

Emails addresses to notify when there is a new post
(Separate each with a SPACE)

Emails addresses to notify when there is a new thread
(Separate each with a SPACE)

Moderator Queue
(Require moderator validation before new posts are displayed) Yes No

Attachment Queue
(Require moderator validation before new attachment are displayed) Yes No

Style Options

Custom style set for this forum

Override users custom styles (will force this forums specified colors) Yes No

Posting Options

Private forum (Invisible to all except moderators and admins; user access masks must be on!) Yes No

Act as forum? (Will act as a category if no) Yes No

Is active? (Will not appear if not) Yes No

Open for new posts? (Will have lock if not, but still act as forum) Yes No

Enable/Disable Features

Allow HTML Code in posts Yes No

Allow BB Code in posts Yes No

Allow BB IMG Code in posts Yes No

Allow Smilies in posts Yes No

Allow Icons for posts Yes No

Allow thread ratings in this forum? Yes No

Count posts made in this forum towards user post counts? Yes No

Buttons

- **Title** - Type in the title of the forum. You are limited to 100 characters here.
- **Display Order** - Forums are displayed from lowest to highest and under their parents. Use 0 to not display a forum.
- **Default view age** - The number of days worth of threads to display by default in this forum.

- Forum Parent** - If you wish this forum to act as a **sub-forum**, select that forum that you wish to use as the "parent" forum. A sub-forum will then display under the parent forum.
- Email addresses to notify when there is a new post** - Specify any email addresses to notify when there is a new post in this forum.
- Emails addresses to notify when there is a new thread** - Specify any email addresses to notify when there is a new thread in this forum.
- Moderator Queue** - Turn on this option if you would like your moderators (or yourself) to validate all threads and posts before they appear publically on the forum. You can access the Moderator Queue through the Moderator Control Panel located at: <http://yourdomain.com/mod/> or direct using the **admin links** at the end of the forum display page.
- Attachment Queue** - Require moderator validation before new file attachments are displayed. You can access the Attachment Queue through the Moderator Control Panel located at: <http://yourdomain.com/mod/> or direct using the **admin links** at the end of the forum display page.
- Custom style set for this forum** - If you wish to set a certain style/design for this forum, select the styleset from this list.
- Private forum** - This allows you to create forums that are invisible to all users except moderators and administrators. These are good for those backstage areas needed to manage your forums!
- Act as forum?** - If you select **no** for this option, this forum will act as a category - i.e. a forum that doesn't contain threads or posts, but can act as a parent for other forums.
- Is active?** - If a forum is set as inactive, it will not be visible on the forum home page (even to administrators).
- Open for new posts?** - selecting **no** for this option will effectively close a forum to everyone. No users will be able to post new threads or replies to existing threads. You can use this option if you wish to set up an "archive" forum - where posts can be viewed but not replied to.
- Allow HTML Code in posts** - This will allow your members to use HTML code in their posts. We seriously recommend against turning this option on, as HTML may be used to break your page design, or insert malicious scripting into the page.
- Allow vB Code in posts** - An safer alternative to HTML, vBCode allows your members to format their messages using several different codes... i.e. enclosing a word inbetween **and** will cause the word be be emboldened.
- Allow vB IMG Code in posts** - One of the default vB Codes provided by vBulletin allows members to insert images into their posts. You can select this option for **off** if you would like to prevent users from including images in their posts.
- Allow Smilies in posts** - Smilies are small graphical icons used to show emotions or used to spice up a post. If you don't want to allow these in this forum, you can disable them here.
- Allow Icons for posts** - If this option is turned on, users can select an **icon** to display next to their post/thread. Icons associated with threads are displayed on the main forum browse page next to the title of the thread.
- Allow thread ratings in this forum?** - By enabling this option, users can rate each thread between 1 and 5, where 5 is the best score. Ratings for each of the threads are displayed by default in the forum thread listing page.
- Count posts made in this forum towards user post counts?** - By enabling this option, a user's post count will increase whenever he/she posts a thread or reply in this forum.

Modifying Forums

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If you would like to edit an existing forum, click on "Modify" under the "Forums and Moderators" section of the control panel. A "tree" display of all your current forums will appear in the right hand pane of the screen.

From here, you can now click on a link adjacent to the forum you wish to modify. The available links are:

- Edit** - Click this link to edit the forum parameters (for example, the forum title, description or parent).
- Remove** - Click this link to remove the forum from the bulletin board.
- Add Moderator** - Click this link to set up a user as a moderator of the forum. Once you click this link, a form will appear with the following options:

Moderator Permissions	
Can edit posts	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can delete posts	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can view IPs	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can manage threads (move,copy,split,etc)	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can open and close threads	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can edit thread information (subject,icon,notes,etc)	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can moderate new posts	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can moderate new attachments	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can modify styles (not implemented yet)	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can ban users from board	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can view whole user profile (but not edit)	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can post announcements	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can mass move threads	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can mass prune threads	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>

- Forum** - The user will become the moderator of the forum selected in this drop down list.
- User name** - The username specified in this field will be enabled as a moderator for the forum.

- **Receive email when there is a new post** - The moderator will receive an email for every new post if you turn on this option.
 - **Receive email when there is a new thread** - The moderator will receive an email for every new post if you turn on this option.
 - **an edit posts** - Select yes if you would like to give the moderator permission to edit posts in this forum.
 - **Can delete posts** - Select yes if you would like to give the moderator permission to delete posts in this forum.
 - **Can view IPs** - Select yes to allow moderator to view the IP address of users.
 - **Can manage threads (move,copy,split,etc)** - Select yes to allow moderator to move and copy threads to another forum, as well as allowing moderators to split and merge threads.
 - **Can open and close threads** - Select yes to allow moderator to close and open threads. It's not possible for users to post new messages to a closed thread.
 - **Can edit thread information** - Select yes to allow moderator to edit thread information.
 - **Can moderate new posts** - Select yes to allow moderator to validate threads/posts (via the moderator's control panel) that have been added to the **moderation queue**.
 - **Can moderate new attachments** - Select yes to allow moderator to validate file attachments (via the moderator's control panel) that have been added to the **moderation queue**.
 - **Can modify styles** - Select yes to allow moderator to edit bulletin board styles (not yet implemented).
 - **Can ban users from board** - Select yes to allow moderator to ban a user from the whole bulletin board.
 - **Can can view whole user profile** - Select yes to allow moderator to view complete information about the user (email address, etc). Please note that while moderators can view user information, only admins can edit the user account.
 - **Can post announcements** - Select yes to allow moderator to post announcements on this forum.
 - **Can mass move threads** - Select yes to allow moderators to mass move threads via the moderator's control panel.
 - **Can mass prune threads** - Select yes to allow moderators to mass move threads via the moderator's control panel.
- **Add Sub-Forum** - Click this link to create a new forum that will use this forum as its parent.

From the modify forums screen it's also possible to **Edit** and **Remove** existing moderators - simply by clicking on the relevant link adjacent to the moderator's name (under the forum that the moderator is assigned to).

Note:

If you assign a moderator to a parent forum, the moderator will be able to moderate all sub forums under the parent.

An Introduction to Threads

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The administrator can choose to **prune** (delete) and **move** (threads between forums) using the options under the **Threads** section in the admin control panel.

Pruning Threads

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If you would like to remove threads older than a certain date, or all threads/posts created by a certain user, click on the **Prune** link. You will be presented with the following screen on the right hand pane of the control panel:

The screenshot shows two stacked pruning forms. The top form is titled 'Prune by date' and has fields for 'Delete threads with last post older than x days:' (with a dropdown set to 0), 'Forum' (set to 'All forums'), and 'Include sub forums' (radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No', with 'Yes' selected). The bottom form is titled 'Prune by username' and has fields for 'Username' (empty), 'Forum' (set to 'All forums'), and 'Include sub forums' (radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No', with 'Yes' selected). Both forms have 'Prune' and 'Reset' buttons at the bottom.

The first form on this page will allow you to delete all threads from a forum (or all forums) that are older than a specified number of days.

The second form on this page will allow you to remove all threads/posts from a forum (on all forums) made by a specified user.

After selecting the options and pressing the button, you'll be taken to a confirmation screen, where you can either choose to prune *all* applicable threads, or you can select the ones you would like to prune.

Moving Threads

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If you would like to move threads from one forum to another that are older than a certain date, or have been posted by a certain user, click on the **Move** link under the **Threads** section of the control panel. Once you have clicked on the link, the following screen will appear:

Move by date

Move threads with last post older than x days:

Source Forum: All forums

Destination Forum: A place to test things out

Note: this will not move posts from sub forums!

Move by username

Username:

Source Forum: All forums

Destination Forum: A place to test things out

Note: this will not move posts from sub forums!

Submit **Reset**

The first form on the page will allow you to move all threads from one forum to another that are older than a specified number of days.

The second form on this page will allow you to move all threads that have been posted by a specified user from one forum to another.

After selecting the options and pressing the button, you'll be taken to a confirmation screen, where you can either choose to move **all** applicable threads, or you can select the ones you would like to move.

Note:

Moving and pruning threads are both fairly server intensive.

An introduction to User Management

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This section of the admin control panel allows you to add, edit, find and email your bulletin board users.

Adding Users

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If you would like to create a new user account in the vBulletin database, click on the **Add** link under the **Users** section of the admin control panel. The following form will then appear on the right hand side of the screen:

Add New User

User Group	Registered
User Name	<input type="text"/>
Password	<input type="password"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Style set	Default
Parent Email Address	<input type="text"/>
COPPA user	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Home Page	<input type="text"/> http://www.
ICQ Number	<input type="text"/>
AIM Handle	<input type="text"/>
Yahoo Messenger Handle	<input type="text"/>
 Signature <input type="text"/>	
Birthday (Format yyyy-mm-dd)	<input type="text"/>
Receive mailings from admins	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Show email address	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Invisible on 'Online users' list	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Receive PMs	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Email on PM	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
PM Popup	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Show Signatures	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Show Avatars	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Show Images	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Show VBcode	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Use email notification by default	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Remember Username and password	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Browse boards with cookies	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
User Title	<input type="text"/>
Use Custom Title (This forces the title that you put in the field above to be used)	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Join Date (Format yyyy-mm-dd, leave blank for today)	<input type="text"/>
Default view age 'Select threads from last x days' Recommended values: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30, -1 45, 60, 75, 100, 365, 1000 (ie all). -1 gives default forum selection	<input type="text"/> -1
Last Visit (Format yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss, leave blank for today)	<input type="text"/>
Last Activity (Format yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss, leave blank for today)	<input type="text"/>
Last Post (Format yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss, leave blank for today)	<input type="text"/>
Number of Posts	<input type="text"/> 0
Time Zone Offset (hours)	<input type="text"/> 0
IP Address	<input type="text"/>
Biography	<input type="text"/>
Location	<input type="text"/>
Interests	<input type="text"/>
Occupation	<input type="text"/>
Version of vBulletin	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

This form accepts the following parameters:

- **User Group** - The user group that this user is a member of.
- **User Name** - The user's username (or handle).
- **Password** - The user's password.
- **Email Address** - The email address of the user.
- **Style Set** - The style that the user has selected via the online user control panel.
- **Parent Email Address** - If this user is registered as a COPPA user, then the email address here receives an email every time the user updates their profile. This will be blank for all users except COPPA users.
- **COPPA User** - Is this a child under the age of 13? If it is, and you are set up to use the COPPA-compliant registration system, then this field should be set to yes.
- **Home Page** - The URL of the user's web site (including **http://**).
- **ICQ Number** - The ICQ number of the user. For more information, see: <http://www.icq.com/>. If they do not have an ICQ number, this field should be left empty.
- **AIM Handle** - The handle of the user for AOL's Instant Messenger. More information can be found here: <http://www.aol.com/aim/>
- **Yahoo Messenger Handle** - The handle of the user for Yahoo's instant messaging service.
- **Signature** - The user can use this field to add a uniform signature to the end of selected messages. You may be able to use HTML/vB code/smilies depending on settings in the control panel.
- **Receive mailings from administrators** - This option allows the user to opt out of administrator mailings.

- **Show email** - Also known as **privacy mode** to the user. When you select **no**, the email, icq, aim, yahoo fields will not be visible in the user profile.
- **Invisible on 'Online users' list** - If **yes** is selected for this option, the user will not be visible on the bulletin board home page **who's online** list. Note: The user **will** be visible to administrators, but the username will have an asterisk (*) next to it to denote that the user has opted to be invisible.
- **Receive PMs** - If **no**, the user will not receive any private messages.
- **Email on PM** - If **yes**, the user will receive an email whenever he/she receives a new private message.
- **PM Popup** - If **yes**, any new private messages will cause a message box to appear on the screen (regardless of what bulletin board page the user is viewing) that will give the user the chance to jump straight to the private messaging **inbox**.
- **Show Signatures** - If **no**, the user's signature will not appear on any of his/her posts.
- **Show Avatars** - If **[b]no**, all avatars will be invisible to this user.
- **Show Images** - If **no**, all images posted by other users will be invisible to this user.
- **Show vBcode** - If **no**, all vBcode posted by other users will be invisible to this user.
- **Use email notification by default** - If **yes**, the user will an email notification when another user replies to his/her post/thread.
- **Remember Username and password** - If **yes**, the software will remember the user's username and password so that he/she will not have to manually log in everytime he/she visits the bulletin board.
- **Browse boards with cookies** - If **yes**, the software will retain the user's session in a cookie, instead of passing the information between pages using the **s** variable on the URL.
- **User Title / Use Custom Title** - To give the user a customised "title", type the title in the **user title** field and select **yes** for the **user custom title** option.
- **Default view age** - The number of days worth of threads to show on the forum topic page. Recommended values: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30, 45, 60, 75, 100, 365, 1000 (ie all). -1 gives default forum selection.
- **Last Visit / Last Activity / Last Post** - date stamps in the form **yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss**.
- **Number of Posts** - The number of posts that this user has accumulated (this figure is incremented by one everytime the user posts in a forum that has the **Count posts made in this forum towards user post counts?** option selected to **yes**).
- **Time Zone Offset (hours)** - The user can specify this option to offset the server's time by a certain amount. This is used in addition to the offset that you can specify in the options area.
- **IP Address**

It's also possible for you to add an unlimited number of extra fields to the user account. In the example screen shot above, the administrator has added **Biography**, **Location**, **Interests**, **Occupation** and **Version of vBulletin** as extra fields. These **User Profile Fields** will be explained in more detail later on in the manual.

Finding Users

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To search for a particular user / range of users, click on the **Find** link under the **Users** section in the admin control panel. The following screen will then appear:

Quick Search:

- List all users
- List top posters
- List visitors in the last 24 hours
- List most recent registrations
- List users awaiting moderation and COPPA users awaiting moderation
- List all COPPA users

Advanced Search:

Find users where: (If you leave a field blank, it will be ignored)

User Name contains	<input type="text"/>
and usergroup is	<input type="text"/> Any
and email contains	<input type="text"/>
and parent's email contains	<input type="text"/>
and is coppa user (yes, no, blank for don't mind)	<input type="text"/>
and homepage contains	<input type="text"/>
and ICQ Number contains	<input type="text"/>
and AIM Handle contains	<input type="text"/>
and Yahoo Messenger Handle contains	<input type="text"/>
and Signature contains	<input type="text"/>
and User Title contains	<input type="text"/>
and Join Date is after (Format yyyy-mm-dd)	<input type="text"/>
and Join Date is before (Format yyyy-mm-dd)	<input type="text"/>
and Last Visit is after (Format yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	<input type="text"/>
and Last Visit is before (Format yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	<input type="text"/>
and Last Post is after (Format yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	<input type="text"/>
and Last Post is before (Format yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	<input type="text"/>
and Birthday is after (Format yyyy-mm-dd)	<input type="text"/>
and Birthday is before (Format yyyy-mm-dd)	<input type="text"/>
and Number of Posts is greater than	<input type="text"/>
and Number of Posts is less than	<input type="text"/>
and IP Address contains	<input type="text"/>
and Biography contains	<input type="text"/>
and Location contains	<input type="text"/>
and Interests contains	<input type="text"/>
and Occupation contains	<input type="text"/>
and Version of vBulletin contains	<input type="text"/>

Sorting & Count Options

Order by	<input type="text"/> username	<input type="checkbox"/> in ascending order
Show this many entries at most:	<input type="text"/> 300	
starting at row:	<input type="text"/> 1	

Display Options

Display username	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Display options	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Display user group	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display email address	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Display parent's email	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display whether a coppa user	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display homepage url	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display ICQ UIN	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display AIM ID	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display Yahoo ID	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display signature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display usertitle	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display joindate	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Display lastvisit	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Display lastpost	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display posts	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Display IP Address	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display Birthday	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display Biography	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display Location	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display Interests	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display Occupation	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display Version of vBulletin	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No

From here, you have two options - the first option is to click on one of the six links at the top of the page to run a standard search:

- List all users

- List top posters
- List visitors in the last 24 hours
- List most recent registrations
- List users awaiting moderation and COPPA users awaiting moderation
- List all COPPA users

Alternatively, you can form to search for a user (or users) matching a certain pattern. The form will allow you to restrict the search based on the following fields:

- User Name contains ...
- User Group is ...
- Email contains ... Parent's email contains ...
- Is coppa user ... (yes or no)
- Homepage contains ...
- ICQ Number contains ...
- AIM Handle contains ...
- Yahoo Messenger Handle contains ...
- Signature contains ...
- User Title contains ...
- Join Date is after ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Join Date is before ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Last Visit is after ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Last Visit is before ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Last Post is after ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Last Post is before ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Birthday is after ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Birthday is birthday ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Number of Posts is greater than ...
- Number of Posts is less than ...
- IP Address contains ...

Of course, all these fields are optional - so you can search for a user with whatever information you know. For example, if you ran a search on the vBulletin.com forums for all users with email address **vbulletin.com** and user title **developer**, the search script will return the following results:

Name	Options	Email	Join Date	Last Visit	Posts
John	[edit] [email password] [remove] [edit access masks]	john@vbulletin.com	2000-04-11 00:00:00	2001-05-17 17:09:43	1877

Let's take a look now at the functions of each of the links adjacent to the search result:

- **Edit** - Clicking this link will take you to a form where you can edit all the user fields (username, password, email address, etc).
- **Email Password** - Click this link to email the username and password to the user's email address.
- **Remove** - Click this link to remove the user from the database. Once you have removed a user, all messages posted by the user will now be credited to **Unregistered**.
- **Edit Access Masks** - Clicking this link will take you to a form where you can specify the user's forum permissions on a forum-by-forum basis:

User Forum Access for John

Here you may edit forum access on a user-by-user basis. Selecting "yes" will allow this user access to the forum. Selecting "no" will deny this user access to the forum. Any changes made to this user's account will override the default permission settings in their usergroup.

Selecting "default" will revert this user to the default permissions settings for their usergroup. (Please note that the permission inheritance system still works here.)

Forum List

Forum	Access
vBulletin Announcements	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Default
vBulletin 1.1.x Suggestions and Feedback	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Default
vBulletin Installation	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Default
vBulletin 1.1.x Bug Reports	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Default
Site Feedback	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Default
Chit Chat	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Default

Forum Access Settings

Save Changes | Reset

If you would like to give the user access to a forum, click the **yes** option box next to the relevant forum. If you would like to deny access to a certain forum, click the **no** option box next to the relevant forum. If the **default** option is selected, the user permissions are inherited from the user group that the user is a member of.

Find Users by IP Address

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The IP Addresses section of the admin control panel allows administrators to search for all users that have visited/posted to the bulletin board using a certain IP address (or vice versa). Click on the **IP Addresses** link (under the **Users** section), and you'll be presented with the following form:

Begin New Search

IP Address:
(Or partial address)

User name

Depth to search

Find | Reset

This form accepts the following parameters:

- **IP Address** - Type in the IP address (or partial IP address) here... the script will then return all users that have posted/visited the bulletin board with this IP address. An IP address consists of four sets of three numbers, each set separated with a full stop. (e.g. "123.456.789.876"). You can either search for users that exactly match a full IP address, or you can type in a partial IP address (e.g. "123.456") to find all users that access your forum from the same IP address range.
- **User Name** - If you would prefer to return all IP addresses assigned to a certain user, type in the username that you wish to search for in this field.
- **Depth To Search**

After pressing the [Find] button, you'll be taken to the search results page. From here, you'll be able to view which users have accessed the forum with the same IP address, and you'll even be able to click on the **Find more IP's by this user** link if you wish to narrow down the search to a particular username.

User Referrals

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vBulletin includes a feature that will allow your community members to be rewarded for recruiting new users to your bulletin board. A user can gain a referral by attracting a new user to the vBulletin forum via a special referral link. A typical referral link looks a bit like this:

[http://www.yourwebsite.com/vbulletindirectory/m/forum/index.php?referrerid=\\$userid](http://www.yourwebsite.com/vbulletindirectory/m/forum/index.php?referrerid=$userid)

(Where \$userid is the unique ID number of the user)

Note:

Your users can find out their specific referral URL by visiting your vBulletin board FAQ page (by clicking on the button at the top of the page). Once a user has found out their unique URL, they can then pass the URL on to their friends and colleagues. If any of these visitors register for an account on your bulletin board via this special link, the user will earn one referral.

In addition, a **Referrer** field will be included on the initial user registration screen that will allow visitors to grant a referral **point** to an existing user even if they haven't visited the bulletin board via the specially coded URL.

Note:

Before the vBulletin software will begin to track referrals, please make sure that the "Referrer - Enable the referrer system?" setting is turned on in the vBulletin control panel "options" screen. The administrator of the vBulletin software can use the "Referrals" control panel feature to find out which users have received referrals. In addition, the administrator can view a list of all the new usernames that the user has referred to the bulletin board. Once the administrator clicks on the "Referrals" link (under the "Users" section), the following form will appear on the right hand side of the screen:

User Referrals	
Start Date (Format: yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	2001-04-19
End Date (Format: yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	2001-05-20
Display	Reset

This form will allow you to return a list of all users who have earned referral points during the time period you define using the two form fields - the results form will also detail the number of points earned by each user.

Emailing Users

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vBulletin offers administrators the facility to send an email **newsletter** to all/certain users who are registered on the bulletin board. Click on the **Email Users** link (under the **Users** section), and the following form will appear:

Email Users

Messages to send at once:

From:

Subject:

Message:
In the message, you may use \$username, \$password and \$email.

Email to users where:

User Name contains

and usergroup is

and email contains

and parent's email contains

and is coppa user (yes, no, blank for don't mind)

and homepage contains

and ICQ Number contains

and AIM Handle contains

and Yahoo Messenger Handle contains

and Signature contains

and User Title contains

and Join Date is after
(Format: yyyy-mm-dd, leave blank for today)

and Join Date is before
(Format: yyyy-mm-dd, leave blank for today)

and Birthday is after
(Format: yyyy-mm-dd)

and Birthday is before
(Format: yyyy-mm-dd)

and Last Visit is after
(Format: yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss, leave blank for today)

and Last Visit is before
(Format: yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss, leave blank for today)

and Last Post is after
(Format: yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss, leave blank for today)

and Last Post is before
(Format: yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss, leave blank for today)

and Number of Posts is greater than

and Number of Posts is less than

Buttons:

This form accepts the following parameters:

- **Messages to send at once** - the number of email messages to send at any one time. Depending on the power of your server, you may wish to increase or decrease this number.
- **From** - email address to use as the **from** address on each email
- **Subject** - email subject.
- **Message** - email message body... i.e. the actual email message. You can include three variables in your message - \$username, \$password and \$email (corresponding to the user's username, password and email address respectively).

The remainder of the form fields are used to define a set of users that will receive the email message. If you leave all the fields empty, all your registered users will receive the email message - alternatively, you can specify the following parameters to narrow down the list of recipients:

- User Name contains ...
- User Group is ...
- Email contains ... Parent's email contains ...
- Is coppa user ... (yes or no)
- Homepage contains ...
- ICQ Number contains ...
- AIM Handle contains ...
- Yahoo Messenger Handle contains ...
- Signature contains ...
- User Title contains ...
- Join Date is after ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Join Date is before ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Birthday is after ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Birthday is birthday ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Last Visit is after ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Last Visit is before ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Last Post is after ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Last Post is before ... (yyyy-mm-dd)
- Number of Posts is greater than ...
- Number of Posts is less than ...

All these fields are optional.

Generate Mailing List

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This option is similar in concept to the **Email Users** feature, but instead of actually sending the emails, the **Generate mailing list** facility will simply output a list of email addresses. You can specify the text that will appear between each of the email addresses on the output.

An Introductions to User Titles

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In order to reward frequent posting of messages, it's possible for forum administrators to set up a number of **User Titles** that will be assigned to users based on the total number of messages that they have posted. The user title appears next to every message posted by the user, like so:

James
Your Friendly Administrator
Registered: Apr 2000
Location: UK
Posts: 261

In addition, the user title will be included as the **Status** on the user profile page (visible to all users of the bulletin board):

Profile For John	
Date Registered:	04-11-2000
Status:	vBulletin Developer
Total Posts:	1894 (4.68 posts per day)
Last Post:	05-20-2001 01:19 PM vBulletin 2.0.0 Final Gold Release - The final days
Contact John:	Click here to email John Click here to add John to your buddy list
Homepage:	http://www.vbulletin.com/
ICQ Number:	
AOL Instant Messenger Handle:	
Yahoo Instant Messenger Handle:	
Referrals	5
Birthday	April 6th
Biography	
Location	South of London, UK
Interests	
Occupation	Developing vBulletin
Version of vBulletin	2.0 RC 3

Adding User Titles

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To add a new user title to vBulletin click on the **Add** link under the **User Titles** section of the control panel. You will then be presented with the following form:

This form contains two fields:

- **Title** - The new user title.
- **Minimum posts required** - the minimum number of posts that the user must have accumulated in order to earn this title.

Modifying / Removing User Titles

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If you would like to modify/remove an existing user title, click on the **Modify** link under the **User Titles** control panel section. A screen will appear listing all the user titles running on the software:

- Junior Member (Minimum Posts: 0) [[edit](#)] [[remove](#)]
- Member (Minimum Posts: 30) [[edit](#)] [[remove](#)]
- Senior Member (Minimum Posts: 100) [[edit](#)] [[remove](#)]

In this case, three user titles have been set up - All members that have under 30 posts will have the **Junior Member** title. Users that have posted between 30 and 100 messages will be granted the **Member** title, and all users that have posted over 100 messages will earn the **Senior Member** title.

From this screen, you can choose to Remove or Edit a user title, by clicking on the relevant links. If you click on the **Edit** link, a form will appear that will allow you to change the actual user title, or the minimum number of posts.

User Profile Fields

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As an administrator, you may wish to collect extra information from your users (in addition to all the standard fields). With the new **user profile fields** feature, you can provide extra fields for the user to fill in when he/she registers for the bulletin board.

For example, we have created five user profile fields in the vBulletin.com/forums/ bulletin board:

- Biography
- Location
- Interests
- Occupation
- Version of vBulletin

Now, when a new user registers for the forum, they have the chance to fill in these fields:

Optional Information All information will be viewable by other vBulletin Community Forum members.	
Homepage:	<input type="text" value="http://"/>
ICQ Number:	<input type="text"/>
AOL Instant Messenger Handle:	<input type="text"/>
Yahoo Messenger Handle:	<input type="text"/>
Referrer Enter the username of the forum member who referred you to this forum.	<input type="text"/>
Birthdate: If you select your birthday then other forum members will be able to see your birthday on the forum calendar and in your profile. Adding your year of birth is also optional.	Month <input type="button" value="▼"/> Day <input type="button" value="▼"/> Year <input type="button" value="▼"/>
Biography: A few details about yourself	<input type="text"/> X
Location: Where you live	<input type="text"/> X
Interests: Your hobbies, etc	<input type="text"/> X
Occupation: Your job	<input type="text"/> X
Version of vBulletin: Please enter the version of vBulletin that you are using. We will use this for support purposes.	<input type="text"/> X

(The user profile fields are marked in this illustration with a red cross)

After registering, the user profile information will be visible to all users via the user profile page:

Profile For John		Search for all posts by this user.
Date Registered:	04-11-2000	
Status:	vBulletin Developer	
Total Posts:	1894 (4.68 posts per day)	
Last Post:	05-20-2001 01:19 PM vBulletin 2.0.0 Final Gold Release - The final days	
Contact John:	Click here to email John Click here to add John to your buddy list	
Homepage:	http://www.vbulletin.com/	
ICQ Number:		
AOL Instant Messenger Handle:		
Yahoo Instant Messenger Handle:		
Referrals	5	
Birthday	April 6th	
Biography		
Location	South of London, UK	
Interests		
Occupation	Developing vBulletin	
Version of vBulletin	2.0 RC 3	

The user can edit his/her user profile information via the user control panel **Edit Profile** setting:

Additional Information	
Biography: A few details about yourself	<input type="text"/> Occupation: Manager, Jels
Location: Where you live	<input type="text"/> UK
Interests: Your hobbies, etc	<input type="text"/>
Occupation: Your job	<input type="text"/>
Version of vBulletin: Please enter the version of vBulletin that you are using. We will use this for support purposes.	<input type="text"/>

[Submit Modifications](#)

[Reset Fields](#)

Adding User Profile Fields

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To add a user profile field to your vBulletin board, click on the **Add** link under the **User profile fields** section in the admin control panel. The following form will then appear:

Add new user profile field	
Title	- maximum 50 <input type="text"/>
Description	- indicate here for the user whether field is required/hidden <input type="text"/>
Maximum Input	- how many characters may a user enter into this field? <input type="text"/> 100 - maximum 250
Field Length	- how many characters long shall the input field appear on the form? <input type="text"/> 25 - maximum 250
Display Order	- Sets order of fields when displayed at registration or getinfo <input type="text"/>
Field required?	- Require field to be filled during registration <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Field hidden?	- Field only viewable by admins and mods <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
	- User will still be able to change it
Save	Reset

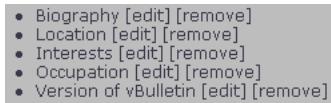
The form fields are as follows:

- **Title** - the title of the user profile field (e.g. Location)
- **Description** - description of the field (eg. Where do you live?).
- **Maximum Input** - this indicates the maximum number of characters/letters that the user can type into this field.
- **Field Length** - how many characters long shall the input field appear on the form? (default value = 25)
- **Display Order** - if you would like the profile fields to appear in a specific order, include a number in this field that corresponds to the order number of this profile field.
- **Field required** - tick the yes option if you would like to require the user to fill in this field.
- **Field hidden** - if you select yes for this option, only administrators and moderators will be able to view the contents of this field. The user will still be able to edit this information via the user control panel.

Modifying / Removing User Profile Fields

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If you would like to add a new profile field, or remove an existing profile field, click on the **Modify** link under the **User profile fields** section in the admin control panel. The following screen will then appear:



Now, you can choose to either **Remove** or **Edit** any of the existing user profile fields by clicking on the relevant link. If you click on the **Edit** link, you'll be taken to a form where you can edit any of the profile field options (as discussed above): Title, Description, Maximum Input, Field Length, Display Order, Field required and Field hidden.

User Groups and Permissions

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Do you want to set up a private forum that can only be viewed by your moderators? Would you like all users to have to register in order to view your bulletin board forums? Would you like to give two users access to a private forum?

It's possible to accomplish all of these tasks by harnessing the power of vBulletin's user groups and permissions system!

What is a User Group?

A user group is just what it sounds - a group of users. By default, the vBulletin software includes the following user groups:

- **(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation** - all users that have not been validated by an administrator or moderator will be included in this group (for bulletin boards that require user accounts to be validated by an administrator).
- **Administrator** - all vBulletin administrators are included in this group.
- **Moderators** - all vBulletin moderators are included in this group.
- **Registered** - this group is populated with all the standard users.
- **Super Moderator** - this group contains all the **super moderators**. A super moderator can moderate all forums on the bulletin board.
- **Unregistered / Not Logged In** - this group contains all visitors to the bulletin board who have not logged in, or haven't registered for a user account.
- **Users Awaiting Email Confirmation** - if you have configured your vBulletin forum to require email verification before the registration is completed, all users in this group have registered, but haven't yet activated their account.

In order to control user's access to your bulletin board, each group has a comprehensive set of options that influence exactly what a member of the group has permission to view/do on your bulletin board. For example, a user that belongs to the "Registered" user group has permission to view the board and post messages, but he/she can't access the control panel or post public events on the vBulletin calendar.

95% of all permissions-based configuration will be dealt with by editing the existing seven standard user groups. By editing a user group option, you can change the permissions for a particular set of users across the whole bulletin board. If you would like to alter a user groups options for a particular forum only, you can set up custom forum permissions. Let's take a look at three practical scenarios:

1. Jack would like to force all users to register for the bulletin board before they can view the forums.

In this case, Jack would need to turn off the **can view board** option for all user groups apart from **Registered**, **Moderators** and **Administrators**.

2. Jill would like to set up a private forum for administrators only.

Since these permissions changes affect just a single forum (not all forums), Jill can accomplish this configuration by turning off the **can view forum** and **can post new threads** options (for this forum only) for all user groups apart from the **Administrators**.

Now we've dealt with the theory behind setting up permissions on your vBulletin forums, let's take a look at the admin control panel options.

Modifying User Groups

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For permission changes that affect all of the forums, you can edit the actual user group (instead of using custom forum settings). Click on the **Modify** link (under the **User Groups and Permissions** section of the control panel. The following screen will appear:

Usergroup	# of Users	Edit	List Users
(COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation	1	[edit]	[list all users]
Administrator	1	[edit]	[list all users]
Moderators	0	[edit] [remove]	[list all users]
Registered	1	[edit]	[list all users]
Super Moderator	0	[edit]	[list all users]
Unregistered / Not Logged In	0	[edit]	[list all users]
Users Awaiting Email Confirmation	0	[edit]	[list all users]

From here, you can choose to **Edit** the user group options or **List All Users** assigned to the group. If you've created a custom user group (i.e. a group that isn't one of the core seven listed above) you can delete the group from this screen.

If you click on the **Edit** link next to a user group, you'll be presented with the following form:

Edit usergroup: Registered

User Status
Use this to override the default "ladder" of user status titles

Viewing Permissions

- Can view board: Yes No
- Can view members info (including other's profiles and members list): Yes No
- Can view others' threads: Yes No

Miscellaneous Permissions

- Can search: Yes No
- Can use 'email to friend' feature: Yes No
- Can modify profile: Yes No

Posting Permissions

- Can post new threads: Yes No
- Can reply to own threads: Yes No
- Can reply to other's threads: Yes No
- Can Rate threads if thread rating is enabled in the forum?: Yes No
- Can post attachments: Yes No

Post/Thread Editing Permissions

- Can edit own posts: Yes No
- Can delete own posts: Yes No
- Can move own threads to other forums: Yes No
- Can open / close own threads: Yes No
- Can delete own threads by deleting the first post: Yes No

Poll Permissions

- Can post polls: Yes No
- Can vote on polls: Yes No

Private Messaging Permissions

- Can use Private Messaging: Yes No
- Can Use Message Tracking?: Yes No
- Can Deny Private Message Read Receipt Request?: Yes No

Maximum Buddies to Send PMs at a time
Do not set this too high for performance reasons (set to 0 to disable):

Maximum PMs to Forward at a time
Do not set this too high for performance reasons (set to 0 to disable):

Calendar Permissions

- Can post Public events on Calendar: Yes No
- Can edit other's Public events on Calendar: Yes No

Administrative Permissions

- Is Super Moderator: Yes No
- Can access control panel: Yes No

Buttons: Save Changes | Reset

The options listed on this form affect all users that are assigned to the selected user groups. Let's take a look at each of the options in more detail:

- **User Status** - if you wish all users within this group to have a certain **user title**, fill in this field.
- **Can view board** - select **yes** for this option if you would like all users in this group to have access to the bulletin board. If you select **no**, the users will receive the standard vBulletin **log in** screen.
- **Can view members info** - select **yes** to allow the user to view other users' profiles.
- **Can view others' threads** - select **yes** to allow the user to view threads posted by all other users.
- **Can search** - select **yes** to allow the user to use the vBulletin search engine (to find relevant threads and posts).
- **Can use 'email to friend' feature** - select **yes** to allow the user to forward threads to friends via email.
- **Can modify profile** - select **yes** to allow the user to edit his/her's profile via the online **user control panel**.
- **Can post new threads** - select **yes** to allow the user to post new threads.
- **Can reply to own threads** - select **yes** to allow the user to reply to threads that he/she started.
- **Can reply to other's threads** - select **yes** to allow the user to reply to threads started by other users.
- **Can Rate threads if thread rating is enabled in the forum?** - each thread can be rated from 1-5 (where 5 is the best). This feature can be turned on/off on a forum-by-forum basis. If you would like to allow the users assigned to this user group to be able to rate threads on forums where the feature is enabled, select **yes**.
- **Can post attachments** - select **yes** to allow this user to post file attachments.
- **Can edit own posts** - select **yes** to allow the user to edit his/her own posts/messages.

- **Can delete own posts** - select **yes** to allow the user to delete his/her own posts/messages.
- **Can move own threads to other forums** - select **yes** to allow the user to move threads that he/she started into another forum.
- **Can open / close own threads** - select **yes** to allow the user to open/close threads that he/she started.
- **Can delete own threads by deleting the first post** - select **yes** to allow user to delete an entire thread that he/she started by deleting the first (original) post/message.
- **Can post polls** - select **yes** to allow the user to post polls.
- **Can vote on polls** - select **yes** to allow the user to vote on a poll (posted by any user).
- **Can use Private Messaging** - select **yes** to allow the user to send/receive private messages to/from other users.
- **Can Use Message Tracking?** - message tracking is a feature in the private messaging system that allows a user to request read receipts... i.e. a user can find out whether or not a user read his/her private message. To enable this feature for all users assigned to the user group, select **yes**.
- **Can Deny Private Message Read Receipt Request?** - to counteract the **message tracking** feature, select **yes** to allow users to prevent the software from sending back a **read receipt**.
- **Maximum Buddies to Send PMs at a time** - you can set a limit to the number of private messages that can be sent at once here.
- **Maximum PMs to Forward at a time** - you can set a limit to the number of private messages that can be forwarded at once here.
- **Can post Public events on Calendar** - select **yes** to allow the user to post an event on the calendar that can be viewed by all users.
- **Can edit other's Public events on Calendar** - select **yes** to allow the user to edit other users' public events.
- **Is Super Moderator** - select **yes** to allow the user to **moderate** all forums.
- **Can access control panel** - select **yes** to allow the user access to the vBulletin admin control panel.

Please remember that these options will affect the global permissions of all users assigned to this user group. If you wish to change the settings for a user group for a certain forum (i.e. to set up a private area for moderators and administrators), you can set up a custom setting for each forum affected.

Modifying Forum Permissions

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As stated above, if you wish to set a user groups' options for the whole of the bulletin board, you can modify the user group directly. If you would prefer to configure certain option differently for certain forums, you can set up custom forum permissions.

Click on the **Modify Forums** link (below the **User Groups and Permissions**) section of the vBulletin control panel. The following screen will appear:

Key:
 Black: use usergroup defaults
 Red: using custom permissions for this forum
 Blue: using custom permissions inherited from parent forum

- **vBulletin**
 - (COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation [edit]
 - Administrator [edit]
 - Banned [edit]
 - Banned by Moderators [edit]
 - Developers [edit]
 - Moderators [edit]
 - Registered [edit]
 - Super Moderator [edit]
 - Unregistered / Not Logged In [edit]
 - Users Awaiting Email Confirmation [edit]
 - **Announcements Discussions**
 - (COPPA) Users Awaiting Moderation [edit]
 - Administrator [edit]
 - Banned [edit]
 - Banned by Moderators [edit]
 - Developers [edit]
 - Moderators [edit]
 - **Registered** [edit]
 - Super Moderator [edit]
 - Unregistered / Not Logged In [edit]
 - Users Awaiting Email Confirmation [edit]

From this screen, it's possible to set up custom permissions for each user group on a forum-by-forum basis. In addition, you can see at a glance which forums have already had custom permissions enabled, as per the key at the top of the screen. In this case, we can see that the **Registered** user group has been configured with customised permissions for the **Announcements Discussions** forum.

To set up a new (or edit an existing) custom configuration, click on the **Edit** link adjacent to the relevant user group. Clicking on the **Registered** user group underneath the **Announcements Discussions** forum will cause the following form to appear:

The screenshot shows a configuration interface for user group permissions. At the top, there's a note about using the default usergroup settings or custom settings. Below that is a list of permissions with their current status (Yes or No) indicated by radio buttons.

Permission	Status
Can view board	Yes (radio button)
Can search	Yes (radio button)
Can use 'email to friend' feature	Yes (radio button)
Can post new threads	No (radio button)
Can post polls	Yes (radio button)
Can vote on polls	Yes (radio button)
Can post attachments	Yes (radio button)
Can move own threads to other forums	No (radio button)
Can open / close own threads	No (radio button)
Can delete own threads	Yes (radio button)
Can reply to own threads	Yes (radio button)
Can reply to other's threads	Yes (radio button)
Can view others' threads	Yes (radio button)
Can edit own posts	Yes (radio button)
Can delete own posts and threads	No (radio button)

At the bottom of the form are two buttons: 'Save Changes' and 'Reset'.

From here, you can choose to use the default user group options for this forum permission (by clicking on the **Use usergroup default** option) or you can opt to **Use custom settings** for this forum. You can set the following options:

- **Can view forum** - select yes to allow the users in this group from viewing this forum.
- **Can search** - select yes to allow the users in this group to search this forum.
- **Can use 'email to friend' feature** - select yes to allow users in this group to forward threads started in this forum using the **send to friend** feature.
- **Can post new threads** - select yes to allow the users in this group to start new threads in this forum.
- **Can post polls** - select yes to allow the users in this group to post polls in this forum.
- **Can vote on polls** - select yes to allow the users in this group to vote on polls posted in this forum.
- **Can post attachments** - select yes to allow the users to post file attachments in this forum.
- **Can move own threads to other forums** - select yes to allow a user in this group to move threads that he/she started to another forum.
- **Can open / close own threads** - select yes to allow a user in this group to open/close threads that he/she started.
- **Can delete own threads** - select yes to allow a user in this group to delete an entire thread that he/she started by deleting the first (original) post/message.
- **Can reply to own threads** - select yes to allow a user in this group to reply to threads that he/she started.
- **Can reply to other's threads** - select yes to allow a user in this group to reply to threads started by other users.
- **Can view others' threads** - select yes to allow a user in this group to view threads posted by all other users.
- **Can edit own posts** - select yes to allow a user in this group to edit his/her own posts/messages.
- **Can delete own posts and threads** - select yes to allow a user in this group to delete his/her own posts/messages.

As a practical example, please take another look at the screenshot above. In this example, the administrator has turned off the **Can post new threads** permission for the **Registered** user group in the **Announcements Discussions** forum. This will prevent all standard users from posting new messages in this particular forum.

Note:

All sub-forums will automatically inherit custom permissions from their parent forum. Custom settings that have been inherited will be formatted in blue text on the modify forums screen.

Adding User Groups

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Finally, let's take a look at how to add a new user group to vBulletin. If you wish to define a new group of users (i.e. several software developers), and grant them special permissions, you can use the control panel to create a new user group. Click on the **Add** link under the **User Groups and Permissions** section of the vBulletin control panel - the following screen will appear:

Add new usergroup

Title	<input type="text"/>
User Status	<input type="text"/>
Use this to override the default 'ladder' of user status titles	
Viewing Permissions	
Can view board	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can view members info (including other's profiles and members list)	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can view others' threads	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Miscellaneous Permissions	
Can search	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can use 'email to friend' feature	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can modify profile	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Posting Permissions	
Can post new threads	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can reply to own threads	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can reply to other's threads	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can Rate threads if thread rating is enabled in the forum?	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can post attachments	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Post/Thread Editing Permissions	
Can edit own posts	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can delete own posts	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can move own threads to other forums	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can open / close own threads	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can delete own threads by deleting the first post	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Poll Permissions	
Can post polls	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can vote on polls	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Private Messaging Permissions	
Can use Private Messaging	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Can Use Message Tracking?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can Deny Private Message Read Receipt Request?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Maximum Buddies to Send PMs at a time Do not set this too high for performance reasons (set to 0 to disable)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Maximum PMs to Forward at a time Do not set this too high for performance reasons (set to 0 to disable)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Calendar Permissions	
Can Post Public events on Calendar	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can Edit other's Public events	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Administrative Permissions	
Is Super Moderator	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can access control panel Be careful! Allowing CP access will allow a usergroup to change their own permissions!	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Avatars

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vBulletin now gives users the chance to assign a small image (an avatar) to their user account - after a user selects/uploads an avatar, the image will be displayed next to every message the user posts in the bulletin board. For example:



The administrator can choose to implement the avatar feature in a number of ways: he/she can choose to disable avatars completely, allow users to select an avatar from a list, or upload their own image to use as an avatar. To configure the avatars feature, click on the **Change Options** link under the **Options** section of the control panel, and then click on **Avatars** to move down the page to the relevant section:

Avatars	
Enable Avatars Use this option to enable/disable the overall use of avatars.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Avatars are small images displayed under usernames in thread display and user info pages.	
Minimum custom posts Minimum number of posts that a user required before they can specify a custom avatar for use.	0
Allow uploads Allow user to upload their own custom avatar if they have enough posts?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Allow website uploads Allow user to upload their own custom avatar from another website if they have enough posts?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Maximum Dimensions Maximum width and height (in pixels) that the custom avatar image can be.	64
Maximum File Size The maximum file size (in bytes) that an avatar can be. 1 KB = 1024 bytes 1 MB = 1048576 bytes	20000
Display Height How many columns of avatars do you wish to display to the user when selecting an avatar?	5
Display Width How many rows of avatars do you wish to display to the user when selecting an avatar?	5

From here, you can set the following options:

- **Enable Avatars** - Use this option to enable/disable the overall use of avatars.
- **Minimum custom posts** - Minimum number of posts that a user requires before they can choose an avatar.
- **Allow uploads** - Allow user to upload their own avatar if they have enough posts?
- **Allow website uploads** - Allow user to upload their own custom avatar from another website if they have enough posts?
- **Maximum Dimensions** - The maximum height and width of the avatar in pixels.
- **Maximum File Size** - The maximum file size (in bytes) that an avatar can be.
- **Display Height** - This option sets the number of columns of avatars displayed to the user via the user control panel avatar selection page.
- **Display Width** - This option sets the number of rows of avatars displayed to the user via the user control panel avatar selection page.

Once you have selected the options as required, scroll to the end of the page and click on the [Save Changes] button.

Adding Avatars

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vBulletin allows administrators to add a selection of avatars that users can choose from to vBulletin - once there are some avatars in the system, users will be able to select which avatar to use via their user control panel. There are many ways to add avatar(s) to vBulletin:

- **Upload** - Click on this link to upload an avatar from your local hard disk drive.
- **Add** - Click on this link to add an avatar (or many avatars) to vBulletin that have already been uploaded onto a web server (or internet site).

Let's take a look at these two options in a bit more detail.

Uploading Avatars

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Note:

Using this feature required your web server and PHP to have permission to write files to disk. If they do not have the necessary permissions, it will fail.

If you would like to upload an avatar from your local computer to your server, click on the **Upload** link under the **Avatars** section of the vBulletin control panel. You'll be presented with the following screen:

Upload New Avatar	
Avatar file	<input type="button" value="Browse..."/>
Name	<input type="text"/>
Minimum posts to use this avatar	<input type="text"/>
Path to image	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Upload Now"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

You'll be prompted to fill in the following fields:

- **Avatar File** - to upload an image from your hard disk, type in the local path to the avatar (i.e. c:\avatar.gif). You can also select an avatar using the **Choose file** dialog box by clicking on the [Browse] button.
- **Name** - type in a name for the avatar.
- **Minimum posts to use this avatar** - type in the minimum number of posts that a user must have accumulated to use this avatar in this box (or leave empty to offer this avatar to all users).
- **Path to image** - The absolute path on your server where this avatar should be stored (please contact your host if you are unsure about what this setting should be).

Once you've filled in all the fields, click on the [Upload Now] button. Your browser will take the image from your hard disk, and pass it to the vBulletin software, which will then save the image on your servers hard disk.

Note:

Technical - All avatars that are uploaded to vBulletin by the administrator are stored directly on the web server hard disk drive. Custom avatars uploaded by users are stored in the MySQL database.

Adding an Avatar

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By clicking on the **Add** link under the **Avatars** section of the control panel, you can import images that have already been uploaded onto a web server into vBulletin. After clicking the **Add** link, the following forms will appear:

Add a single avatar

Name:

Minimum posts to use this avatar:

Path to image:

Add Avatar **Reset**

Add multiple avatars

Path to images (relative to your forums directory): images/avatars

Number of avatars to display per page? 6

Add Avatars **Reset**

If you would like to import a single image from either a local or remote web server into vBulletin, fill in and submit the first form. This form accepts the following three fields:

- **Name** - type in a name for the avatar.
- **Minimum posts to use this avatar** - type in the minimum number of posts that a user must have accumulated to use this avatar in this box (or leave empty to offer this avatar to all users).
- **Path To Image** - this can either be an URL of an image (e.g. http://www.vbulletin.com/images/v_logo.gif) or a path on your web server (e.g. "/www/sites/htdocs.old/images/logo.gif").

If you would prefer to add multiple avatars to your vBulletin installation at once, you can use the second form on this page (**Add multiple avatars**). This form accepts the following two fields:

- **Path to images** - the path to the directory where the avatar images are uploaded (relative to your vBulletin forums directory on the server).
- **Number of avatars to display per page?** - once you click on the button at the end of the form, vBulletin will allow you to select which avatars to import into the system. You can adjust the number of avatars that are previewed on each page with this option.

On the next page, you'll be able to select which images to import into vBulletin:

Adding Multiple Avatars from <http://www.vbulletin.com/forum/images>

Image	Title (optional)	Minimum Posts
[go]	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
★★★★★	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
★★★★★	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
★★★★★	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
★★★★★	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
★★★★★	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Showing avatars 1 to 6 of 98

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 >

Save **Reset**

Tick the check box next to each image you wish to import into vBulletin. You can also type in a title for each of the images as well (although this is optional). After ticking all the images you wish to import, click the "Save" button at the end of the page. If there are more images in the directory that you haven't yet viewed or selected, they will now be shown. You can repeat the ticking and saving process until you have imported all the avatars that you wish to offer your users.

Modifying / Removing Avatars

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If you would like to modify or remove any of your existing avatars, click on the **Modify** link under the **Avatars** section of the vBulletin admin control panel. When you click the link, the following screen will appear:

Current Avatars

0 Posts

[go]	★★★★★	[edit] [remove]	[edit] [remove]
------	-------	-----------------	-----------------

Showing avatars 1 to 2 of 2 Perpage: 25 | 60

From this screen you can Edit or Remove any of your existing avatars. If you click on the **Edit** link, you'll be able to edit the following avatar properties:

- **Name** - type in a name for the avatar.
- **Minimum posts to use this avatar** - type in the minimum number of posts that a user must have accumulated to use this avatar in this box (or leave empty to offer this avatar to all users).
- **Path to images** - the path to the directory where the avatar images are uploaded (relative to your vBulletin forums directory on the server).

Styles & Templates

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What is a style set?

A Style Set is a particular look or appearance for your forums. It consists of a Template Set and a Replacement Set. Replacement sets control the colors, fonts, etc for your style, whereas template sets control everything else! You could use Style Sets to provide users of your forum with a choice as to which layout they prefer. One popular use is to provide a normal layout and a 'lite' layout, which contains less graphics and smaller file sizes. Each Style Set can look completely different from all of your other sets.

A good example of Style Sets can be found at vBulletin.org. You can choose there between the **default** dark blue style, or the **classic vBulletin** purple style.

Adding a Style Set

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When you click **Add Style** in the control panel, you will see the following form:

This form allows you to enter a name for your new style set, as well as choose which template and replacement sets to use for the style. You can also choose whether to let users choose to use this style set or not. If you'd like to use the same colors and fonts for your new template set, then you can change the option for **Replacement Set** to **Default**. You could also set the **Template Set** option to **Default**, which would allow you to use the exact same layout and design for your new template set, just with a new color scheme. I chose not to do either of these, so created both a new template set and replacement set. This will allow me to create a totally different design in my new style set.

Once you have done that, you will see a screen similar to this:

Style Sets	
Default	[fonts/colors/etc] [properties] [download]
Forums Lite	[fonts/colors/etc] [properties] [download] [remove]

The first thing you need to do with your template set is to set up the fonts and colors to your liking. So click the '[fonts/colors/etc]' link next to your new style set. You'll then see a long page that allows you to set the header, footer, table widths, fonts and colors, among other things, for your new style set. It's the exact same page to the one you used when you first set up your forum. Once you're happy with these settings, click the 'Save Changes' button at the bottom. You will then be taken back to the same page, which will this time have all of your custom values filled in. If you decided not to modify the colors (you wanted to use a different design with the same colors), then just leave the options exactly as they are.

The next step is to modify some templates for the new style. If you chose to just use new colors (not a different design) for your new style set, then you can skip this step. Click the '[edit templates]' link at the very top of the page to be taken to the template editor. You should see a screen which begins like this:

Your new template set will be expanded by default. This functions in exactly the same way as the main template editor, which you will probably already have used to customise your forum's layout. Any templates you change here will only take effect in your new style set, not the default style set which users are viewing at the moment.

Once you're happy with the changes, open a new browser window and visit your forums home page. Click on the **user cp** icon at the top, and go to Modify Options. Choose your new style set from the dropdown list on that page, and then click **Submit Modifications**. This will show you your forums, but in the new style set you have created. If you want to make any more changes, go back to the control panel and click either Styles > Modify > [fonts/colors/etc] to change the fonts or colors, or Templates > Modify to change the templates. Go back to your forums and hit **Refresh** to see how your latest changes look. When you're happy with the changes it's time to start telling users about the new style set!

You can also give users a direct link to see the new style set. The link will be in the form:

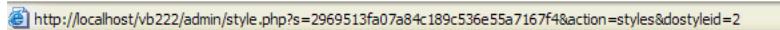
<http://www.example.com/forums/index.php?styleid=x>

You can get the styleid of your new style set by hovering your mouse cursor over the **[fonts/colors/etc]** button for your new style in the Modify Styles section of the control panel, and looking down in your browser's status bar to see the address it is pointing to. For example:

Hover your mouse cursor here:

Style Sets	
Default	[fonts/colors/etc] [properties] [download]
Forums Lite	[fonts/colors/etc] [properties] [download] [remove]

And then look in the Status Bar of your browser:



Look for the `dostyleid` section of that link - the last number in the line. In this case it is 2, so you would replace `x` with `2` on the web address above. Also remember to replace the URL with your forum URL!

Icons

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In order to spice up a message, a user can choose to assign a small graphical image (or Icon) to each post that he/she makes in the bulletin board. Icons assigned to the first posts in a thread are displayed next to the thread title in the forum threads list, like this:



Administrators can configure icons using a similar procedure to configuring [avatars](#) - such that you can add, upload, edit and remove them in the same way.

Smilies

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Smilies, sometimes known as emoticons, are small images that can be used to convey emotion in messages. Short strings of characters, such as `:)`, `:)`, `:P`, `:rolleyes`: are converted into a small face that represents the emotion or action.

Administrators can configure the smilies using a similar procedure to configuring avatars - such that you can add, upload, edit and remove them in the same way. However, as well as having a title, they also have a field called **text to replace**. In this field, you would place the text that a user would type in, such as `:`) for example. Please note that this text is case sensitive.

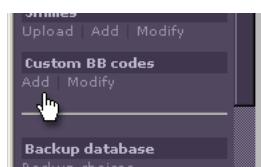
Custom BB Codes

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BB code is the system by which users can add basic formatting to their posts, without risking your forum layout by allowing them to use HTML.

By default, vBulletin installs with a set of BB code tags, such as `[b]` and `[u]`, which allow rudimentary text formatting and a few other functions, such as quoting other messages, and embedding code in a non-proportional font.

Should you find that you want to add additional BB codes, an interface is provided to allow you to do so. In the left-menu panel of the control panel, scroll down until you find the Custom BB codes section, and click the add link.



Single-Parameter BB Codes

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After clicking the **Add** link, the following page will appear showing four text input boxes, and a radio button option. The following steps will take you through an example of how to create a bbcode tag which will allow users to create center-aligned content.

- The first box should contain the name of the tag you are about to add. We will enter `center`. The name here is case-insensitive, so `center` is the same as `CENTER` and `cEnTeR`.
- The second box should contain the actual HTML code that will be used when the text is processed for bbcode tags. We will enter `<div align="center">{param}</div>`. The `{param}` part is short for `parameter` and will be replaced by the text that the user enters between the `[center]` and `[/center]` bbcode tags.
- In the third box, you should enter an example of the bbcode in use. We will enter this: `[/center]This text is centered[[color=black]][/center]`
- The final box should contain a meaningful description of what your custom bbcode will actually do. In this case, we will enter The `[center]` tag allows you to create center-aligned text and images.
- Finally, the radio button at the bottom of the form allows you to instruct vBulletin that this is a double-parameter tag. This one is not, so set this to `no`. We will look at double-parameter tags a little later.

Press the save button, and the new [center] tag will be added to your existing list of bbcode tags.

Modifying BB Codes

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After you have created some custom bbcodes, you can modify and test them.

In the left-panel, click the **modify** link under the **Custom bb codes** section. This will bring up a page that lists all the current bbcodes that you can modify, along with their example usage.

To modify any existing bbcode, simply click the [edit] link next to the tag, and you will be taken to a form much like the one where you add new tags, where you can edit the options and parameters for that bbcode.

You may remove any bbcode that you do not want by clicking the [remove] link next to the tag.

Testing BB Codes

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A form is provided on the **modify bbcodes** page, which allows you to enter bbcode, and then see how it will look when displayed on forum pages.

Simply enter a string of valid bbcode, and click the [test this text] button to see how it will appear in the forum.

Importing data into vBulletin 2

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vBulletin 2.0 has several import systems available in the [members area](#), which allow you to import members, forums, posts etc. from other bulletin boards. These scripts are not provided with vBulletin by default, but you can find a complete listing in the members area.

To begin an import, click the link in the left-panel labelled **BB Import Systems** (situated under the **Import & Maintenance** section):



Once you have clicked the link, the following form will appear:

Please choose a bulletin board system from which to import from the list below.

Once you have chosen a system, proceed through the import routine. **Do not** press your browser's 'back' button, or refresh any pages, as this can lead to items being imported twice, which would be bad...

vBulletin 2.0 Bulletin Board Import System

Choose a bulletin board system to import from.

[get more import scripts]

It is highly recommended the you **back up your database** before proceeding with this process.

This form will list all the forum importation scripts that are installed in your vBulletin installation. Select the script you would like to use, and click on the [begin import] button.

Note:

If you do not have any import scripts installed, this screen will include a link to the vBulletin members area.

The Import Process

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The instructions for the different import systems vary, but they all follow a common formula.

Firstly, you will be asked to enter some details about the bulletin board you are about to import. These will usually be file-paths to necessary files, or the name of a database. This screenshot shows the initial page for the UBB6 import script.

vBulletin 2.0 « Ultimate Bulletin Board 6.x Importer

Specify paths to your UBB6 folders. Do **not** add a trailing slash to filepaths.

Step 1: Initialize Database For UBB6 Import

Full Path to UBB (non-cgi) folder: /home/vbdev/public_html/ubb
 Full Path to UBB CGI variables folder: /home/vbdev/public_html/ubb-cgi
 Full Path to UBB Members folder: /home/vbdev/public_html/ubb-cgi/Members
 Relative Path from vBulletin folder to UBB non-cgi folder: ./ubb6

As you can see, the appropriate filepaths have been filled in. Once all the information is provided, click the [start import] button.

At some point during the import, you may reach a step where you can associate imported users with existing users. This is especially useful if you are importing another board into an existing, active vBulletin.

To view the list of existing vBulletin users, together with their userid, [click here].

Member Pages: Kier to end | Members per page: 25 | Go

[Click here when you have finished associating users]

UBB Member Number / Username	vBulletin User Id
00000001 > Kier	<input type="text" value="1"/>
00000002 > Isoeph	<input type="text"/>
00000003 > Ming	<input type="text"/>

The associate step allows you to make an association between a user from your vBulletin board, and the corresponding user from the board to be imported, so that duplicate users are not created.

For example, if I was importing a UBB board where I was also a member, I would associate the UBB member **Kier** with the vBulletin member **Kier** by entering Kier's vBulletin user id next to the name of **Kier** in the list of UBB members. A complete list of your vBulletin members, together with their user ids can be found by clicking the appropriate link on the association page.

- Click this link to show the complete list of your existing vBulletin members, together with their userid.
- The list of members for the imported bulletin board probably spans several pages - use this control to jump to different pages of the list.
- When all associations are done, click this link to proceed.
- The imported member **Kier** is the same person as the vBulletin member **Kier**, so the userid of the vBulletin member, Kier is inserted here. (When you have finished a page, click the **associate users** button at the bottom of the page).

The final step of the import process will be to clean up the database and update the counters.

Final Step: Clean up database & Rebuild Counters

Importing of your UBB is now complete. Clicking the button below will remove all temporary fields from the database, and forward you to the 'update counters' section, where you should run the maintenance scripts in the following order:

1. Rebuild search index
2. Update Thread Info
3. Update Forums Info
4. Update Users Info

This will finalize your UBB import.

Thank you for using vBulletin.

Please note: this is your LAST CHANCE to undo the import process. Do not press this button if you are unsure that the import has completed successfully.

[Clean up database](#)

For more information about updating counters, see the 'Maintenance' section of this manual.

Updating Counters

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You will not need to use this particular vBulletin admin control panel area much during normal operations. Exceptions to this are after completing an import or after completing a mass move or prune of threads. Click on the **Update counters...** link (under the **Import & Maintenance** section) in the control panel. The following forms will appear:

Update Users Info - updates user titles
Number of users to do per cycle:
[Update](#) [Reset](#)

Update Forums Info - update forum post counts
Number of forums to do per cycle:
[Update](#) [Reset](#)

Update Thread Info - update thread post counts, original posters, last post date, attachment totals
Number of threads to do per cycle:
[Update](#) [Reset](#)

Rebuild search index - (very intensive, but rarely needed)
Number of threads to do per cycle:
Thread number to start at:
Total number of threads to process:
(0 for unlimited)
Include automatic JavaScript redirect to next page? Yes No
If you are reindexing, you may want to empty the indexes. Click [Here to do so!](#)
[Re-index](#) [Reset](#)

Remove dupe threads - (relatively intensive, but useful after importing posts)
Number of threads to do per cycle:
[Remove](#) [Reset](#)

From this screen, you can complete the following tasks:

- **Update users** - Running this will update the user title and last post time for each user. You can choose the number of users to update on each cycle before starting. This process is not too intensive, so you can probably afford to have a fairly large value here.
- **Update Forums Info** - This function updates the post count, thread count, last post time and last post username fields for every forum. It is useful after you have rearranged forums and their parents, or if you have moved lots of threads.
- **Update threads info** - Running this will update the number of replies per thread, the original poster information, the last poster information and the attachment totals for each thread. This process is fairly server intensive, and you should not need to do it except after importing data from another board.
- **Build Search Index** - This process rebuilds specified parts of the search index of the threads. If you make a change to the search indexing options, you will want to empty the search index, and then rebuild it from scratch. Please note that this is a very slow and server intensive process, and it should not be undertaken lightly.
- **Remove dupe threads** - This option was created to tidy up after doing an import from another board. Often there will be duplicate threads created due to data corruption problems on the board which you have imported from. This process will go through and remove any duplicate threads that exist. It is quite server intensive, but just needs to be run once after importing.

Stats

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vBulletin allows you to retrieve statistical information about your online community from within the control panel - including the number of new user registrations, posts or threads per day, week or month. The information can be displayed to you within the vBulletin control panel, or you can download it into Microsoft Word.

When you select the **View** link in the control panel (available under the **Stats** section), you will be presented with the following screen:

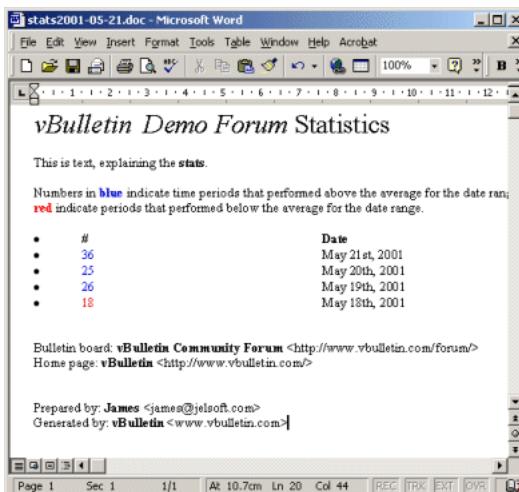
Type of Statistics: New Users
 Date From: February 20, 2001
 Date To: May 22, 2001
 Timeframe: Daily
 Sorting: Recent dates first Recent dates last
 Format: In-line HTML Word Document (RTF)

Display Stats **Reset**

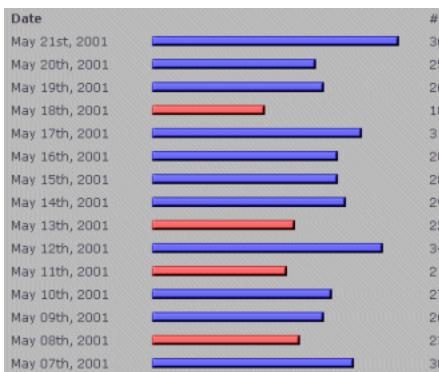
This form will allow you to specify the following parameters:

- **Type of stats** - Use this option to choose whether to look at the data for new posts, new threads or new user registrations
- **Date From and Date To** - you can opt to show all information between a certain range of dates with these options.
- **Time frame** - you can choose to group the data by day, week or month. This allows you to look for trends over the short, medium or long terms.
- **Sorting** - choose whether to display oldest dates first, or most recent dates first.
- **Format** - choose whether you want the results of the report to appear in the control panel (as HTML), or whether you would prefer to download a separate file in Microsoft Word Format (as RTF).

When you click the submit button, the report will be generated. Please note that this is a fairly intensive process, and so the report may take several seconds to be generated. If you chose to view your stats in a MS Word style report, you will be prompted to save the file to your hard disk, and you will then be able to open it from there into Microsoft Word. The document will look a little like this:



If you chose to view your stats in a HTML format, the following screen will appear:



The bars that are colored red are those which indicate a number of posts/users/threads that is below the date range average. Blue bars indicate an above average number of posts/users/threads.