

# WP Symposium

# Admin Guide [English edition]

Covers up to Version: 0.41

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# Installation

#### **Automatic installation**

WP Symposium is best installed from "within" your current WordPress installation.

Login as the administrator and click on Plugins -> Add New.

This will present you with a screen that allows you to search WordPress plugins.



Note: you must be connected to the internet when you do this!

To install WP Symposium, type "wp symposium" in the search box and click on Search Plugins.

This will show you a list of plugins that match, or mention, WP Symposium - look for the plugin that is simply called "WP Symposium".

When you hover your mouse of that row of the results, and Install link will appear, click on it and WP Symposium will be downloaded and installed.

### Manual installation/upgrade

If you are doing a manual installation, or manually upgrading, then download the ZIP file from with the WordPress website at <a href="http://www.wordpress.org/plugins/wp-symposium">http://www.wordpress.org/plugins/wp-symposium</a>.

If you are happy to accept the risks of doing so, at times a pre-release of the next public release is available from the download page on <a href="https://www.wpsymposium.com">www.wpsymposium.com</a>.

Extract the contents of the ZIP file over the top at wp-content/plugins/wp-symposium (your exact path may differ depending on your installation).

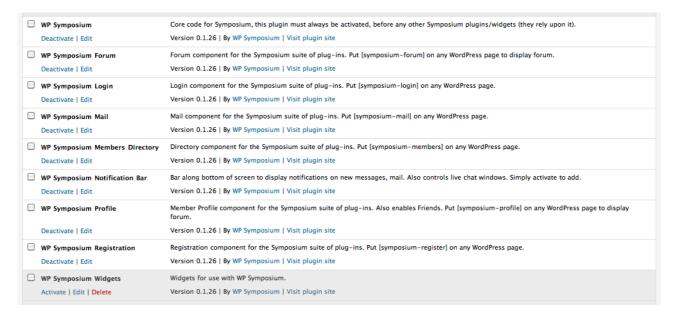
Important! De-activate and re-activate the WP Symposium Core plugin after doing a manual installation/upgrade.

# Activating WP Symposium

Once WP Symposium is installed, click on Plugins in the menu and you will see a number of WP Symposium plugins. There are several, each that provide functionality that you can choose to activate, or not.

For now, the assumption is that you may want all the plugins, so if any are not activated, click on the activate link for each one.

Below shows all plugins activated, apart from the last one (which will be activated when the "Activate" link is clicked on):



### What is each plugin for?

The plugins included, each provide certain functionality. If you do not want a particular plugin it is best to deactivate it, keeping WordPress as efficient as possible.

Although within each plugin options can be changed and activated/deactivated, in general the plugins that are provided in the latest release provide the following:

Plugin	Function
WP Symposium	Core code, this must be activated at all times.
WP Symposium Forum	A forum/message board for online discussion.
WP Symposium Profile	Provides extended "member" features:  • a member "home page" • a "wall" for posting messages and replying • allows "friends" to be requested and accepted • additional member information • personal preferences for the site
WP Symposium Avatar	Allows members to upload a profile picture within your site (not available by default in WordPress)
WP Symposium Mail	Allows members to send and receive mail within the site.
WP Symposium Members Directory	A searchable list of members.
WP Symposium Panel	<ul> <li>Live information on mail and friends requests</li> <li>Notifications on received mail, friends requests and friends activity</li> <li>Live chatting with other members</li> <li>Chat room for all site members</li> </ul>
WP Symposium Widgets	A growing number of widgets that provide features and functionality for WordPress sidebars (or other places that accept Widgets).

# Setting up for the first time

After installing and activating all the WP Symposium plugins, you should see a new set of menu items in your WordPress admin area.

These menu items will vary, but if you have all the plugins activated you will see all those shown to the right.

Each of the menu items will now be covered individually.

You will probably see the following at the top of the admin screen after installation:



Important! Please set URLs in WP Symposium Options immediately (set to none if you are not using a particular plugin).

For WP Symposium to operate correctly, you have to tell it on which WordPress pages you have each plugin installed. You can actually put each plugin on more than one page, but you have to have at least a single main page.

For example, if you are going to let members access their mail via <a href="http://www.example.com/mail">http://www.example.com/mail</a> then, in the options page you will need to fill in the appropriate field with <a href="http://www.example.com/mail">http://www.example.com/mail</a>.

In other words, you need to do a little bit of planning when first setting up WP Symposium, although you can change these at any time. You will probably start by adding some pages to your WordPress website for WP Symposium features and functionality.

### Adding Pages to WordPress for WP Symposium

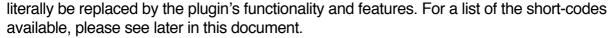
This isn't a WordPress user guide (visit <a href="www.wpsymposium.com/download">www.wpsymposium.com/download</a> for a free guide to using WordPress). However, briefly, WordPress can be set up to have a number of pages that represent your web pages on your website.

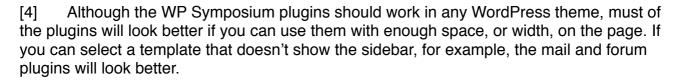
To add pages, use the Pages -> Add New menu item and add at least the following information as a minimum:

- [1] The title of your new page.
- [2] This is important, it's the "permalink", or "URL" of your webpage, what visitors to your site will type or what you'll put in any hyperlinks to go to this particular page.

# You'll also need this when you set up your options in the next section!

[3] On your page you need to put in a "short-code". This short-code will





Alternatively, you can use theme templates that allow the user to have width - right across the browser - rather than limited to a fixed width template.

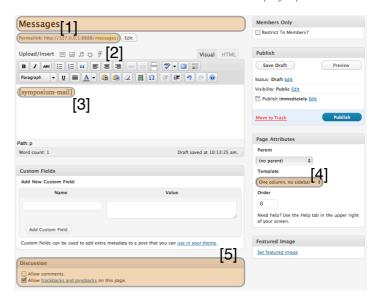
[5] It's up to you whether you allow comments on your page, but more often than not it would probably be best not to. A forum with comments at the bottom of it, would look rather odd!

## Setting the URLs

With your page created, and your plugin on the page (i.e. the short-code), you can now tell WP Symposium where to find it.

On the admin menu, click on Symposium -> Options, then the Settings tab (all the tabs will be explained in full in the next section).

You will see a series of fields that you need to change, at the moment they are probably all set as "Important: Please update!".



Very Important! You must set the URL	's of the components you are using, eg: http://www	example.com/forum - enter none if not being used
Forum URL	http://www.example.com/support	Full URL of the page that includes [symposium-forum]
Mail URL	http://www.example.com/mail	Full URL of the page that includes [symposium-mail]
Profile URL	http://www.example.com/profile	Full URL of the page that includes [symposium-profile]
Avatar URL	http://www.example.com/profile-photo	Full URL of the page that includes [symposium-avatar]
Members Directory URL	http://www.example.com/members	Full URL of the page that includes [symposium-members]

In our example, we put the short-code [symposium-mail] on our page that members will use to access mail messages and/or send mail to other members.

Remember point [2] where we set the permalink or "URL"? It's that value that you will put in the fields beside Mail URL. So for our page we would put <a href="http://www.example.com/messages">http://www.example.com/messages</a>.

For your website it may be something like <a href="http://www.example.com/mail">http://www.example.com/mail</a> (depending on how you set up the page). Remember it can be anything you want, all the following are reasonable examples:

- http://www.example.com/privatemail
- <a href="http://www.example.com/messages">http://www.example.com/messages</a>
- http://www.example/com/mail

If you were using other plugins, on other pages, you would following the same process.

For example, if you have a page for your forum, which has a permalink set as <a href="http://www.example.com/forum">http://www.example.com/forum</a> - this is what you would put beside the Forum URL.

This URL is the main page on which your members will access these plugins.

You can actually have them on more than one page, but you must enter at least one of them here.

## Setting the URL for a plugin you're not using

If you are not using a particular plugin - let's say the login URL, for the sake of an example - you would enter **none** instead of Important: Please update!

### **Adding Short-codes to pages**

Short-codes are small pieces of text that you put on a WordPress page that will be "replaced" with content and functionality from a plug-in.

The short-codes that you have available as part of WP Symposium is as per the following table.

Please note that:

- there are no spaces
- they are square brackets at the start and end
- it is a hyphen in the middle, not an underscore

#### **Full Functionality Short-codes**

Plugin	Short-code
WP Symposium Forum	[symposium-forum]
WP Symposium Profile (Wall)	[symposium-profile]
WP Symposium Profile (Extended info)	[symposium-extended]
WP Symposium Profile (Friends Activity)	[symposium-activity]
WP Symposium Profile (All Activity)	[symposium-all]
WP Symposium Profile (Settings)	[symposium-settings]
WP Symposium Profile (Personal)	[symposium-personal]
WP Symposium Profile (Friends)	[symposium-friends]
WP Symposium Profile Photo (please read the Troubleshooting section if you are having problems uploading images)	[symposium-avatar]
WP Symposium Mail	[symposium-mail]
WP Symposium Members Directory	[symposium-members]

#### **Partial Functionality Short-codes**

This short-codes are for use by those more advanced site admin's who want to create page with partial functionality.

Plugin	Short-code
Show the "Profile page" menu	[symposium-menu]
Show the "Profile page" member header	[symposium-member-header]

For example, on <a href="https://www.wpsymposium.com">www.wpsymposium.com</a> the forum page in WordPress is like this:

# Adding Features to pages

In addition to short-codes, you can add certain functionality to your templates, by inserting the following code:

PHP	Provides
symposium_members('bar')	small member search bar

For example, the following is a snippet from the header.php in the theme used on the <a href="https://www.wpsymposium.com">www.wpsymposium.com</a> website:

# WordPress Multi-Site (WPMS)

Core to WordPress since v3.0 is the ability to add as many sites as you want, from the same installation. From v0.37, WP Symposium is compatible with WPMS.

#### How WPS works in a multi-site environment

WordPress uses the same set of users across all sites within a multi-site setup.

Therefore, it makes sense for the "personal" features of WP Symposium to be "global", i.e. across the whole installation, and others to be specific to individual sites.

### Which WPS modules are global?

The following table shows which features of WP Symposium are global, and which are site-specific.

Global	Site-Specific
Mail	Forum
Friends online	
Chat windows	
Chat room	
Personal information	
Preferences (settings)	
Profile photo	
Wall / Activity	

# WP Symposium Options

Clicking on the Symposium -> Options menu item will bring up a series of tabs. The number of tabs, and which tabs are displayed, depends on which WP Symposium plugins you have activated.

#### **Notes**

A information only screen - informing you of the version number you have installed, which plugins are activated and a personal note from Simon Goodchild - the creator of WP Symposium.

If the version displayed (in the "Version Numbers" box to the right) is different to that shown on the plugins page, try deactivating and then re-activating the WP Symposium Core plugin. This should synchronise the versions, and apply the latest database changes.

## **Settings**

Label	Purpose
Forum URL	The full web address (URL) of the WordPress page on which you have put the [symposium-forum] short-code.
Mail URL	The full web address (URL) of the WordPress page on which you have put the [symposium-mail] short-code.
Profile URL	The full web address (URL) of the WordPress page on which you have put the [symposium-profile] short-code.
Members Directory URL	The full web address (URL) of the WordPress page on which you have put the [symposium-members] shortcode.
Email Notifications	The text that is automatically added to the bottom of every email generated by WP Symposium.
Width	As a percentage (eg: 99%) or in pixels (eg: 500px), the width applied to all WP Symposium plugins.

Label	Purpose
Alignment	Whether WP Symposium plugins align on the page to the left, in the centre or to the right.

If you are having problems with plugin "clashes", i.e. errors that are appearing because a WP Symposium plugin is activated along with another plugin, the following settings should all be disabled, and then enabled one at a time until the clash is identified.

Label	Purpose
Load jQuery	If activated, jQuery will be loaded on all non-admin pages.
Load jQuery UI	If activated, jQuery UI will be loaded on all non-admin pages. This is a custom version of the jQuery UI code, including only those features required by WP Symposium. If other plugins include a greater number of features, then you can deactivate the loading of jQuery UI.
SEO extended links	In the forum, links within automatically include the title of the forum post if this option is enabled. This is good for search engine rankings, but can caused problems if other SEO improvement plugins are also activated.
Smilies / Emoticons	Automatically replaces all smilies and emoticons with a graphical equivalent. For example:
	:) becomes <del>©</del>
	{{good}} becomes b
	For a full list, go to http://www.wpsymposium.com/ support/smilies-emoticons
Enable Redirects	By default, after logging in, or logging out, you will be taken to previous page you were at. However, if you enabled this option you can choose where the user will go after logging in, and after logging out.
	This is particularly useful if, for example, you want users to go straight to their wall, or personal settings after logging in.

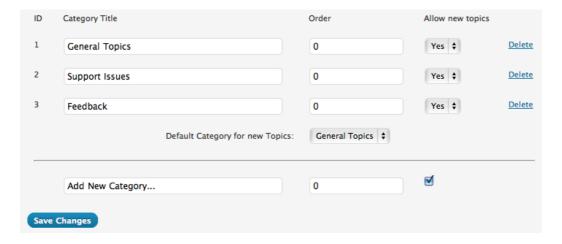
## **Forum**

Label	Purpose
Moderation	If activated, a site administrator has to approve (or reject) every new post or reply before it appears on the forum.
Symposium	The site administrator is sent an email when a post/reply is awaiting approval/rejection. The menu will also show how many are awaiting a decision, as show to the left (in the title, and beside "Forum Posts").
Health Check	The author of the post/reply will see it on the forum, but with [pending approval] after the title/text.
	When the post/reply is approved/rejected, the author receives an email informing them of the decision.
Daily Digest	If enabled will send a summary report of all forum activity each day (sent when the site is first accessed after midnight).
	Members can choose to disable receiving the daily digest email on their profile preferences page (requires profile plugin to be activated).
Categories	Enable to organise forum topics into categories.
	If enabled, categories are managed via the "Forum Categories" menu item, as shown to the left.
Styles  Forum Categories  Forum Posts (1)  Health Check	Categories can be arranged in order, and set to allow or disallow new topics by users. Not allowing new topics will allow the administrator to set up a category as a set of Frequently Asked Questions (for example).
Admin Views	Enable to include forum views when logged in as administrator in the total views count.
Order of Replies	Older first, or newest first in the list of replies shown for a topic.
Preview length	How many characters are shown in the preview text for forum topics, and forum replies.

Label	Purpose
View forum level	The minimum level a member has to be, to be able to view the forum.
	If you want your forum private for members only, don't select Guest.
Closed word	So that the forum can be used for support purposes, and show "closed" topics, you can set a word that, if it appears in the topic title, causes that topic to be opaque. For example, enter closed for [closed] to cause the effect.
Sharing icons included	At the top of an individual topic you can show as many of the "sharing" icons as you want by ticking them here. Un-tick them all not to allow forum topic sharing.
	Sharing allows your members to post a message on Facebook, for example - spreading links back to your forum on other common social networking sites.

#### **Managing Forum Categories**

Via the menu item, you can add categories, delete them and change their order:



You can also set whether a category allows new topics to be added by users, and what the default category will be for new forum topics.

If you start your forum, and then introduce categories at a later date, you will be shown a list of posts that need to have a category chosen for them.

It is highly recommended that you set your strategy early, or else you may end up with a lot of posts to categorise!

## **Profile**

Label	Purpose
Show profile menu	By default a sub-menu is shown on the profile page. If you want to use your own navigation with the appropriate short-codes, then you can switch this off.
Profile info on wall	You can include the member's profile information and recently active friends down the right of the wall posts and replies.
	Sites with a narrow template, or those that show the sidebar, may prefer to disable this option.
Enable password change	Many WordPress site administrators have other plugins that they use to allow members to manage their passwords, or simply don't want members to be able to change their passwords.
	Disable to hide the change password option on the Profile Preferences page.
Inactivity Period	How many minutes, after which a member is assumed to be off-line (not an active user of the website) and logged out (not used the website for some time).
	These values are used with the WPS Panel plugin, to show the status of the members, and with the members directory plugin.
Extended Fields	To customise your members profile page, you can add extended "meta" information.
	For example, if you were running a website on scuba diving, you would probably want your members to list their level of qualification, how many dives they've done and so on. If you were running a dating website, then marital status and so on would be more appropriate.

#### **Extended Fields**

You can add as many extended fields as you like.

However, if you change a field name at a later date, your members will lose all previously entered information - plan your extended fields with care.

You can set default values for drop down lists, where you want to set the possible values yourself, enter all the



possible values in the default value field, separated by commas. The first item on your list will be the default value until another is selected.

Members do not have values stored against their extended fields until they save their profile.

Fields with no values are not shown on the profile page.

#### **Panel**

The panel is an area at the bottom-right of the screen where members are informed of unread mail, new friend requests, and how many friends are online, access to the chatroom and a logout icon.

Via the box that shows whether their friends are online or not, they can click on a friend's name and a live chat box will open up on their screen - and on their friends screen.

Label	Purpose
Show to Visitors	Enable to show the bar to visitors, on which a login and register link will be shown.
Label	Optional text shown to the left of the bar.
Default sound alert *	The sound that plays when new mail, a new friend request, etc arrives.
Enable chat windows	Whether to enable real-time live chat windows.
Enable chat room	Activate the site-wide chat room for all members. Not all chat is visible to all members.  Administrators can clear the chat using the link on chat room window title bar.
Chat room banned word	A comma separated list of words that are will be replaced by *** if used in the chat room.

Label	Purpose
Chat purge age	Every night a old chat messages are removed from the database. This setting is how many days should be kept.
Polling Intervals	1.How frequent in seconds the notification bar checks for new mail, new friend requests and friends' online status.
	2.How frequent in seconds the live chat checks for additional comments/replies
	It is very important to set the polling intervals to match your hosting server/environment. If you set them too frequent, you may get performance issues.
	It is recommended that you do not set the intervals less than 120/10.
Profile link	Should the members name link to the WordPress profile page (if disabled, and the profile plugin is activated, the link will go to the profile page - if not deactivated, then there will be no link.

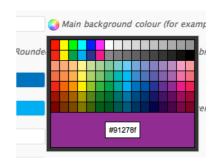
<sup>\*</sup> Members can change this on their profile preferences page (assuming profile plugin is activated).

# Styles Menu

You can modify a lot of the design of WP Symposium plugins through this menu item.

It allows you to match the overall style of your website without knowing about Stylesheets.

To pick a colour, click on the colourful circle as shown to the right.



### **Included Style Templates**

A number of styles are included which you can use to see how different styles may look, and maybe inspire you.

Simply select a template from the list at the bottom of the page, and click on "Apply Template".

At the moment there is no support for altering styles via a stylesheet. However, soon you will - if you want - be able to change every style used by WP Symposium.

### **Disabling the Styles**

Simply uncheck the option at the top of the styles page, and the WP Symposium stylesheet will be used (in the css folder, inside the WP Symposium plugin folder).

## **Changing the Styles**

Because the stylesheet is updated each time the plugin is upgraded, you shouldn't edit the stylesheet directly.

Instead, create a file called my-symposium.css and save it in your active theme folder (the root of the folder). This way, it won't be replaced.

WP Symposium looks for this file and will use and styles there in addition (or replacing) the default styles. You should deactivate styles on the Styles page if you are using your own stylesheet.

Back up my-symposium.css, If your theme is upgraded it may be removed!

# Health Check Menu

You can use this page to check that your WP Symposium installation is "healthy" - i.e. there are no problems.

After first installing WP Symposium, you should check this page that all is OK - and you can upload an image, and AJAX is working okay.

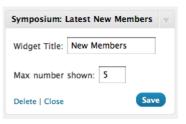
If WP Symposium is not working as expected, it is worth checking this page first.

# Widgets

#### **Latest New Members**

Shows members who have recently joined the site.

Change the maximum number shown to increase or decrease the number of new members listed.



#### **Latest Forum Posts**

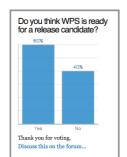
Displays recent new posts and replies on the forum.

You can change the number of posts/replies listed, along with the length of the text that is included as a link.



#### Yes/No Vote

Gives an attractive and simple question and yes/no answer to your members (who have to be logged in to vote).



Shows votes in a graphical bar chart.

Only allows one vote per site member.

Include a link to the forum - leave blank if you don't want to show a link.

(saving clears results)

Delete | Close Save

Symposium: Vote

Results so far

Yes: 0

No: 0

Do you like it?

**Ouestion:** 

Saving clears all the votes and the record of who has voted, do not resave once your question is "live".

# Troubleshooting

## Try this first

**Step 1:** De-activate and re-activate the core WPS plugin. This ensures that

- the tables are up to date
- the version numbers are updated
- the reference to the correct WPS Javascript file is updated

**Step 2:** Try accessing your website with Firefox and the Firebug add-in enabled to spot

Javascript errors

### Buttons don't work, can't post, etc..!

This is usually because of a clash with another plugin causing Javascript problems. And typically because the other plugin is loading jQuery or jQuery UI that isn't compatible with Symposium (meaning some features aren't loaded). If you use Firefox with Firebug, you may see an error like:

Query(".elastic").elastic is not a function [Break On This Error] jQuery('.elastic').elastic();

To confirm this is the problem, de-activate all your other plugins leaving just WP Symposium plugins active. If this cures the problem, re-activate each of the other plugins until the error re-occurs.

You then know the plugin that is loading an incompatible version of jQuery or jQuery UI. Contact the author of the plugin to ask them how to disable their version, or if you are comfortable editing PHP, see if you can remove the line that loads jQuery or jQuery UI.

### Avatar (profile photo) errors

Uploading files and changing permissions via a script on a server can cause problems, particularly if you are on a cheaper hosting service because they restrict certain "features" of PHP that allow the creation of files, folders and so on.

When WP Symposium tries to upload a file it puts it in a temporary area that the server doesn't allow, and so an error can occur.

However, you can force the directory into which the file is temporarily stored. Usually servers allow the /tmp directory to be used, although it may be different on your server.

So if you are getting errors when you upload your profile photo, read any information shown on the screen first (it may help).

But then also try adding the following line to the wp-config.php file that is found in the root of your WordPress installation.

You can change /tmp to any directory on your server.

# Other problems?

Problem	Suggestion
The login and registration plugins have disappeared	Before releasing the first stable version of WPS, it was decided to remove these and let WordPress handle authentication and registration. If you want to tailor the way this happens, have a look at the Theme-My-Login plugin, we use it on <a href="https://www.wpsymposium.com">www.wpsymposium.com</a>
I get lots of "errors" appear on screen	Check the Health Check page, more information is displayed there.
I try and post to a wall, or edit a forum post and nothing seems to happen	Sounds like AJAX, and in particular Javascript, isn't working as expected on your website, confirm on the Health Check page and try reading the section on the previous page.
The WP Symposium version on the plugin page is different to the health check page	De-activate and re-activate the WP Symposium Core plugin.
My site is running very slow	Try reducing the polling frequency of the panel. If you have a popular site you may need to consider upgrading your hosting arrangements.
I still need help	Use the support forum on www.wpsymposium.com
Can someone log in to my website and sort out the problems?	Certainly - please read the page at www.wpsymposium.com/profile/membership/ members-support

# **Legal Stuff**

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Although we love doing it, development of WP Symposium, and the hosting of <a href="https://www.wpsymposium.com">www.wpsymposium.com</a> takes time and costs money. Donations can be made via the WP Symposium website - any and all donations are received with gratitude, appreciation and thanks!

#### **Use WordPress**

We love WordPress - it rocks! Please do what you can to support it!