

# SimplePHPBlog

---

## User Manual

Updated: Sunday, July 15, 2007

Written By: Bill Bateman

Version: 0.5.0 Alpha

## Table of Contents

<b>WHAT IS SIMPLEPHPBLOG?</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>REQUIREMENTS / PRE-REQUISITES</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>INSTALLATION</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>A TOUR OF SIMPLEPHPBLOG</b> .....	<b>6</b>
VIEWING BLOG ENTRIES .....	6
MENU BAR OPTIONS .....	7
<b>SECURITY</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>PREFERENCES</b> .....	<b>13</b>
CATEGORIES .....	13
BLOCKS .....	13
SETUP / PREFERENCES .....	13
EMOTICONS.....	17
THEMES .....	17
COLORS .....	17
DATE AND TIME .....	17
META TAGS .....	18
WORD/IP MODERATION .....	18
UNMODDED COMMENTS .....	18
USER MANAGER .....	18
<b>SIMPLEPHPBLOG FAQ</b> .....	<b>20</b>

## What is SimplePHPBlog?

Well...it's a easy to use and install blog. Wikipedia says: "A **weblog**, which is usually shortened to **blog**, is a type of website where entries are made (such as in a journal or diary), displayed in a reverse chronological order.

Blogs often provide commentary or news and information on a particular subject, such as food, politics, or local news; some function as more personal online diaries. A typical blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, web pages, and other media related to its topic. Most blogs are primarily textual although some focus on photographs, video, or audio, and are part of a wider network of social media."

SimplePHPBlog was started by **Alexander Palmo** in early 2004 when he was looking for blog software that didn't require a lot of complicated things to be installed on a server in order to run. Other developers were brought into the team over the subsequent years, but Alex is still one of the major contributors to the code base.

SimplePHPBlog only requires PHP5 and a properly configured web server to run in its most basic form. Most ISP's can provide this functionality for very cheap making SimplePHPBlog very cost effective.

## Requirements / Pre-requisites

No web based software is completely without configuration. If you have a web host or ISP, you may already have the tools you need to run SimplePHPBlog. Nonetheless, below is a listing of requirements:

- 1) **A web server on an internet connection.** If you are running this at home, this step is important to you. The software has been tested on such server mainstays as Apache (free; \*Nix/Windows) and Internet information Server (Windows) as well as some lesser know servers like Xitami. We've also been able to run SimplePHPBlog effectively with 20MB allocated to the server but this all depends on the number of entries that you accumulate.

If you need additional help with configuring your home web server and PHP, please consult the many resources found around the internet for this matter. We cannot possibly answer all of the SimplePHPBlog questions we receive on a daily basis; never mind getting PHP/Apache/IIS/ETC questions on top of that.

Note: Some servers (and ISPs) run the web software in Safe Mode (or some other name meaning the same thing). Users have reported numerous issues when running in this mode and you should confirm that your ISP/Web Host supports this.)

- 2) **PHP 5.** You can get PHP 5 for free at [www.php.net](http://www.php.net). It is completely free and runs with most servers using the accompanying installation process. Configuration of this process is quite specific, so read your instructions carefully.

PHP 5 Configuration Notes:

- a) Do not run your blog in Apache/PHP with Safe Mode = On. This will cause all sorts of problems and this setting is most predominant in web hosts that do not want to configure their servers properly.
- b) Make sure REGISTER\_GLOBALS are turned off. If on, this can cause problems attempting to log in to the blog. An on setting

That's all to run the software for most people. Certain features may require PHP options to be changed, but those will be explained later in this document.

Originally, Alex had quoted that only PHP4 was required but you can only get PHP 5 right now. All of the developers have the current version running on PHP 4.4.

## Installation

First of all, make sure that you have the most up-to-date version of SimplePHPBlog. Unzip the files locally (you cannot normally unzip files on your web server). Upload the files to your FTP in the exact same directory structure as they are after unzipping. Once completed, you should be able to go to the web directory (<http://myhost/mybloglocation>) and it will run a wizard for you.

Step 1: Welcome – Thank You for choosing Simple PHP Blog! Choose the language for your blog then click Submit.

Step 2: Welcome Part 2. Explains what the process does. Read it and click the Begin Setup link at the end.

Step 3: Setup – Trying to create Config, content and images folders. If the folders can be created (or already exists), then you will be notified as such and you can click the continue link.

If not, you may get a ton of errors. For example: **Warning:** mkdir(config) [function.mkdir]: Permission Denied in //blog/install02.php in line xx. **Whoops! Could Not Create Folder...**

This may mean a whole bunch of things and generally those things should be rectified before anything else is done. You may have to get help from your web host for these if you do not know what to do. There are instructions on the error page to help you to solve the problem.

Step 4: Create Username and Password – This page allows the user to create the password.php file needed to log into the system securely. At the top of the page, you will be shown a listing of supported encryptions. At least one of these must be supported to continue (even a basic install of PHP/Apache will support Standard and Extended DES). The blog wizard will pick the best one automatically and ask for a username and password. Once you have entered this information, click Submit.

Step 5: Create Password File – The instructions are provided to create the password.php file and where the file needs to be put. Once the file is in place, your blog will run in “live” mode. Make sure that when you paste the code into the password.php file that there are no spaces/lines before the `<?php` or after the `?>`. Otherwise you will get session errors.

Step 6: Login – Once you have all of the files in place, you will do a login to make sure everything works. If this works, you will be congratulated and be directed to Setup your blog.

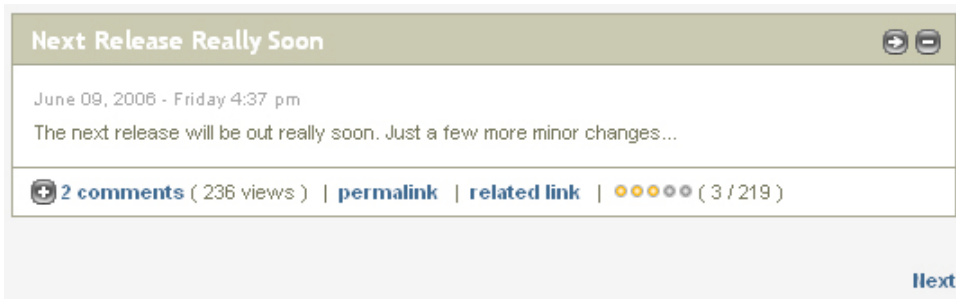
## A Tour of SimplePHPBlog

Depending on what theme you are running, some of these options could be in different places. We will use the modern/default type layout for the demonstration so users will be able to see where the option is on a theme that is shipped with the release.

---

### Viewing Blog Entries

The main functionality of the blog is to present other people with the text and opinions that you would like to share. For this reason, the blog entries are shown on the very first page they visit.



Each entry consists of four main parts: the title, date entered, blog entry text and options specific to the entry.

There are two types of blog entry options: General and Moderator (logged in only). General options can be used by the anonymous viewing audience to interact with your blog. Moderator options are only seen when you are logged into your blog and cannot be access by the public.

**Comment Entry/Count (General):** This is shown in the example above as " 2 comments (236 views)." Clicking on this link would take the user to the page that allows for comments to be entered into the blog for that entry. If there has been no comments entered for this entry, the text will say "Add Comments." If comments are turned off in the preferences, this is not available nor can the user enter comments for your blog.

**Permalink (General):** This is a bookmarking link that moves these current entry to the top of the list, only showing those entries that have happened before it. This option may be turned off in Preferences.

**Trackbacks (General):** See the section below on trackbacks. This option may be turned off in Preferences.

**Related Link (General):** This link shows if you have entered a web link in the Related Link field in the blog entry editor. If the related link field is empty, this option is not available.

**Ratings (General):** Usually showing some sort of graphical representation of the rating out of a possible 5, the user may click on any of the 5 indicators to add their rating of the entry. This option may be turned off in Preferences.

**Edit (Moderator):** A link to the blog entry editing screen for the current blog entry.

**Delete (Moderator):** Clicking on this link will delete the currently selected blog entry, along with all ratings and comments accrued to that time. A deletion cannot be undone and is permanent.

## Footer

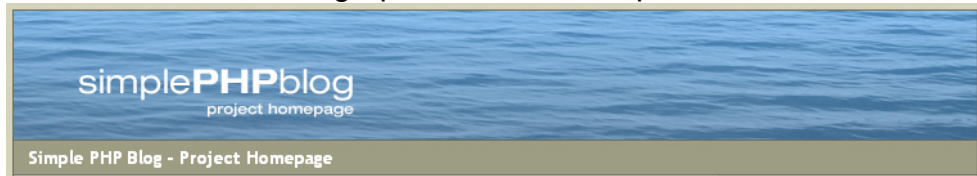
The footer contains any information you wish (entered in Preferences) as well as the page generation time and unique site hit counter. The counter's visibility can be toggled in the Preferences as well.



Copyright © 2004-2006, Alexander Palmo - Page Generated in 0.1749 seconds | Site Views: 5656

## Header

The header contains a graphic and/or text representation of the idea of your



blog. The text contained there can be configured/toggled in Preferences. The header graphic is currently defined as part of the theme. This document does not include theme editing information. Please see the Sourceforge forums for more information.

---

## Menu Bar Options

The menu is located on the right or left of the blog entries column (it may be somewhere else if the theme writer got really tricky!). It contains all of the main options available when either logged in or a non logged in user.

### Logged In Indicator

When a user is logged in, the blog indicates



#### Links

**You are currently logged in.**

**You have 21 comment(s)  
that require approval.**

that by telling the user “You are currently logged in” above all other menu items. If comment moderation is turned on in preferences, then the user, once logged in, will be told if there are any comments that require approval.

### **Home**

This link takes any user back to the root of the blog.

### **Contact Me**

Sometimes users need to contact the administrator without the publication of that email address. This page is specifically for that. This option’s visibility can be toggled in Preferences.

### **Stats**

This page will show the users useful information such as the highest rated entries, most voted entries, most viewed entries, most commented entries, as well as some basic stats about the number of entries in the system now. This option’s visibility can be toggled in Preferences.

### **Custom Links**

This section is where the custom links that were added using the [ + link ] option are displayed to the user.

### **Custom Blocks**

If added by the administrator, custom blocks are shown in this area. See the section on custom blocks later in this document on how to use this feature.

### **Calendar**

This is a basic calendar for selecting the viewing day for blog entries. Days that have blog entries attached are shown with an underline/bold/both. These days can be clicked on and the user will be shown entries on that date backward.

The +/- beside the word calendar allows for show/hide functionality. Then the page is exited, this state is saved in a cookie.



The calendar visibility can be set in the blog preferences.

### **Archives**

The archives are another way to access blog entries in a specific timeframe. Instead of taking you directly to the date (like the calendar),



when you click on a specific month, the list expands to show all entries for that month. The user may, at that point, click on a specific blog entry.

The +/- beside the word Archives allows for show/hide functionality. Then the page is exited, this state is saved in a cookie.

The Archives visibility can be set in the blog preferences.

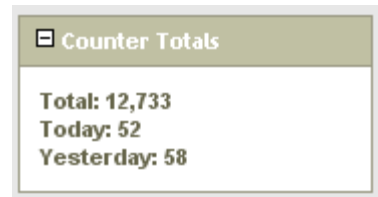
### Search

When the user enters search criteria into the form and clicks the “Go” button, the system gathers all occurrences of the criteria and presents it to the users on a separate page.

A screenshot of a search form. It has a title bar that says "Search" with a small square icon to its left. Below the title bar is a text input field and a "Go" button to its right.

### Counter Totals

Page hit tracking of unique hits (unique to a specific ip within a time frame set in preferences) for all time, today and yesterday. The counter's visibility can be toggled in the preferences.

A screenshot of a counter widget. It has a title bar that says "Counter Totals" with a small square icon to its left. Below the title bar, the following statistics are displayed:  
Total: 12,733  
Today: 52  
Yesterday: 58

### Most Recent Entries

A list of links to the most recent blog entries made in the system. This will only list entries with a date that is current (or in the past). This feature's visibility can be toggles in the preferences.

### Most Recent Comments

A list of links to the most recent comments entered by users into the blog system. If Comment Moderation is turned on, this will only show comments that have already been moderated unless the user is logged in.

### Menu

These options are only available when the user is logged in.

**Add Entry** – Create a new blog entry

**Add Static Page** – Create a page that doesn't show as a blog entry and is not dated nor allow comments.

**Upload Image** – Add an image to the local repository for use in blog entries, comments, etc.

### Preferences

These options are only available when the administrator is logged in. Regular users do not see these options. See the Preferences section below for more information.

## Security

In past versions, SPHPBlog was hacked, cracked and polluted just like most other early projects. Most of this was because of the “simple” way that the user was allowed to maintain his/her login. Because of these “exploits” (community term for security holes) the development team had to come up with a drastic way of slowing security problems with the blog software itself.

---

### The Basics

The main administrator account for the blog system is created manually by the user when the initial setup wizard is run. This file is created as a php file so the php server side protects it from prying eyes (if there is no recognizable code in a php file, then if the file is opened in a browser directly, there is nothing available to the client). This is a minor nuisance that has protects SPHPBlog users for quite some time and has proven quite effective.

Note: This does not stop users from being hacked or exploited because of operating system or server setup issues. That’s just so far out of our control. If you have issues where you are hacked that way – talked to you systems administrator/ISP. If that is YOU, check out the PHP websites or our forums for help.

---

### User Manager

As of 0.5.0 the blog system supports secondary security accounts better known as User Accounts. These accounts are setup by the administrator to those who do not need to be full administrators, but do need to create blog entries and moderate those entries that already exist. All user entries are stored in a file called configusers.php.

Note: This option is only available to the main administrator account. This is an attempt to protect against user accounts that get “exploited.” Those users do not have full access and cannot do much damage.

Add, Modify, or Delete users that are not administrators but have the ability to create blog entries and/or moderate the comments.

Create New User

<i>User Listing</i>			
Login	Email	Avatar	Active?
<b>Test User 1</b>		Modify   Delete	
user1	test1@email.com	/themes/light/images/blogpic.jpg	Y
<b>Test User 2</b>		Modify   Delete	
testuser2	test2@test.com	/themes/light/images/blogpic.jpg	Y

The initial screen is quite simple: a link at the top allowing new users to be created and a list of all previously created users. Each users contains basic information about the account and includes links to Delete the user (no warning is given) or Modify. The modify link utilizes the same editing screen as a New User entry.

The sections of this screen are as follows:

**Display Name:**  
The name that is shown on the blog entry to identify the user that created the entry.

**Username:** Editable only when adding a new user, this is a single word with no spaces that uniquely identifies the user in the system.


**Password:** The password for the user. The password is encrypted in the save file and shows only as dots here on the editing screen.

**Email:** The email address of the user.

**Avatar URL:** The address to find an image to identify the user on each blog posting. Leave blank if no image is to show. Will accept local paths (like /themes/images/blah.jpg) or remote images (<http://www.imageguy.com/blah.jpg>). An avatar can show as below in the GLight theme:

Add, Modify, or Delete users that are not administrators but have the ability to create blog entries and/or moderate the comments.

Property	Value
Display Name:	<input type="text" value="Test User 1"/>
Password:	<input type="password" value="....."/>
Email:	<input type="text" value="test1@email.com"/>
Avatar URL:	<input type="text" value="/themes/light/images/blogpic.jpg"/>
Active?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moderate Comments?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delete Blog Entries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Edit Any Entry?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	<b>Blog Definition from Wikipedia</b>
	Wednesday, July 4, 2007, 12:44 AM - Test Posted by Test User 1
	<p>A blog (a portmanteau of web log) is a website where entries are written in chronological order and displayed in reverse chronological order. "Blog" can also be used as a verb, meaning to maintain or add content to a blog.</p>
	<p>Blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject such as food, politics, or local news; some function as more personal online diaries. A typical blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, web pages, and other media related to its topic. The ability for readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important part of many blogs. Most blogs are primarily textual, although some focus on art (artlog), photographs (photoblog), sketchblog, videos (vlog), music (MP3 blog), or audio (podcasting), and are part of a wider network of social media.</p>
	<p>In May 2007, blog search engine Technorati was tracking more than 71 million blogs.</p>

**Active?:** If checked, the user is allowed to log into the system. When unchecked, the user is told their account has been locked out by the administrator.

**Moderate Comments?:** When checked, allows this user to ban or delete comments in the preview/comment screens. This options will not be available without this option.

**Delete Blog Entries?:** When checked, allows the user to delete blog entries themselves and all comments associated with them.

**Edit Any Entry?:** When checked, the user can edit anyone's blog entries. When unchecked, only entries created by this user can be edited. The edit link will only be shown for those entries that the current user can modify.

## Preferences

The preferences sidebar menu is available to Administrators only. The sidebar or this menu may be located in other locations on the screen depending on your theme. The default themes put them in the sidebar.

---

### Categories

Categories in a blog allow for classification of specific types of entries making organization of said entries much cleaner and easier to organize. Currently the management of categories is a manual process. Entry of each category is done in a memo-type box as a list. Each category must contain a category name, a space and an index number in brackets. Sub categories are below each category in the list and have spaces preceding the name (one more space than the previous root entry). For example:

```
General (1)
  News (2)
    Announcements (6)
    Events (5)
    Misc (7)
  Technology (2)
```

As indicated by the example: the index number need not be in order.

Clicking Submit will save your changes and clicking Validate will check to make sure you entered the categories correctly. It is generally good practice to click Validate before submit if you have many categories.

---

### Blocks

A “block” is a sidebar section that is completely defined by the user (ie, not part of the default blog system). It can contain anything that a regular blog entry can contain.

At the top of the block edit screen are the current blocks already defined in the system. Under the name of the block is four options: up (move the block up in the order), down (move the block down in the order), edit (change the content of a block), and delete (remove a block from the sidebar).

At the bottom of the block edit screen is the generic content editing section. Clicking Add Block save the block content.

---

### Setup / Preferences

The screen, accessible via the option in the sidebar called Preferences (only available when logged in), allows for the basic configuration of the blog software.

## Language

The only option here is the selection of your blog's displayed language from all the language files installed on your server (in the \language\ directory).

## General

**Blog Name:** This identifies the blog in the <title> tags and if the text is turned on in the header this is shown.

**Author:** This is the person who is the administrator of the blog.

**Email:** The email address(es) defined here are used with the Contact Me feature. Multiple email addresses can be defined by separating each with a comma (no spaces). If no email address is defined (the field is blank) then the Contact Me function is not available to users.

**Avatar URL:** This is the url for the administrator's URL.

**Footer:** The text that shows in the footer of your blog.

## Entries

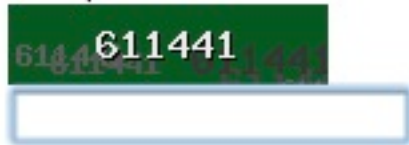
**Enable Users to Rate Entries:** Toggles the star system of rating blog entries.

**Enable Permalink on Blog Entries:** Toggles the Permalink link on the blog entries.

**Enable Anti-Spam:** Toggles a number entry system designed to foil automated "bots" or programs that place spam or other nuisances in the comments.

**Anti-spam Images:** By default (unchecked) the text only version of the anti-spam is shown. When checked this box turns on a graphical representation of the number to enter which is harder for automated spammers to handle. Note: If this box cannot be checked, this means that the GD library is not installed on your server.

Anti-Spam: Enter



611441

Anti-Spam: Enter 703506

**Enable Blog Entry Cache:** This option creates a text file that may speed up the display of blog entries on some servers.

Send Weblog “pings”: Updates a Weblog logging server when there are changes to your blog. The field below this allows for the definition of a weblogs services like Verisign’s Weblogs.com service which is currently free.

Maximum Entries to Display: An integer value designating how many blog entries to show on each page.

Entry Order: Toggles whether to show blog entries Newest First or Oldest First. Defaults to Newest First.

Comment Order: Toggles whether to show Comments Newest First or Oldest First. Defaults to Newest First.

### **Sidebar**

The list below are all items that may be toggled in the Sidebar preferences:

- Login link
- Stats
- Most Recent Comments
- Most Recent Entries
- Archives
- Counter (Footer and Sidebar)
- Calendar

Number of hours to delay before hits are counted again: The number of hours before a specific IP address is counted again.

Calendar Week Start Day: Toggles between Sunday and Monday.

Show Search in Entries (New in 0.5.0): Toggles whether the search functionality shows in the sidebar or in a search bar at the top of the blog.

Show a defined block as the first entry... (New in 0.5.0): When checked, a specific pre-created block (see Blocks in Preferences section) will be shown before the first blog entry. The options are to select the specific block and to select whether it needs a border (like normal blog entries) or no border (completely clear). The no border option is available for those people who want to use an advertisement or graphic as their very first entry. Note: The blocks are located based on the title. If the title changes on the block, you will have to come back into this screen and re-define it otherwise nothing will show on the blog entries screens. Selecting this functionality will also exclude the block from showing in the sidebar.

## Trackbacks

Trackback provides a method of notification between blogs. Let another blog know that you are linking to them by sending them a trackback ping. See who is linking to your blog by receiving trackback pings. You can either enter the URIs to ping manually, or try to do it automatically through Auto-Discovery.

Enable Trackback in my blog: Toggle the trackback feature and links.

Enable Auto-discovery: Attempts to register trackbacks for each link that is placed in a blog posting.

## Comments

Enable User Comments: Toggles whether users can enter comments on any blog entry.

Send email notifications when comments are posted: Sends the administrative listing an email detailing the comment's contents.

Open Comments in Pop-up Window: Uses a new window to show the comments. Warning: most browsers do not allow pop-ups by default.

Comments Allowed For How Many Days: Defines how many days after the initial posting that comments can be posted. A value of 0 means there is no expiry.

Tags to Allow in Comments: Toggle which tags can be used in comments (and will show in the selection list)

Require comment entries to be approved...: If checked, comments are not immediately posted for all to see. They are available in a list for the administrator only to approve or delete.

## Compression

Since PHP 4.0.4, PHP has had the ability to read and write gzip (.gz) compressed files, thus saving disk-space. It can also transparently compress pages that are sent to browsers which support gzip compression, thus saving bandwidth. Zlib support in PHP is not enabled by default. If the checkboxes are disabled, then your installation of PHP does not support the Zlib extension.

Compression can be enabled for the Database Files and for the HTTP output.



---

## Emoticons

Also called a "smiley" or "smiley face," it is an expression of emotion typed into a message using standard keyboard characters and represented by the blog system when viewed for reading as an image.

Each uploaded emoticon is defined in the list already (we've provided some default ones). Each emoticon can be toggled using the checkbox on the left of the graphic. To the right of the graphic is the physical location of the graphic and the character representation that will be recognized and re-represented as the graphic.

New graphics can be uploaded by clicking Choose File and then Upload. To save your settings, click Save Emoticons.

---

## Themes

The very simple interface displays a drop down listing of all themes currently installed in the system. To select another theme, select it from the list and click Submit.

Warning: Do not delete the current selected theme from your system. The interface current cannot handle that situation gracefully and you will have to edit your config files to revert to another theme. Always select another theme before deleting the current theme.

---

## Colors

Most colors on blog themes can be modified to your own tastes. There is a color selector that allows for easy selection of blog colors. Click the radio button beside the color you want to change in the list below the selector and click on the selector to make changes.

Additionally, you can pick from the predefined color schemes that come with each theme.

Note: Some themes are specially designed for a color scheme and cannot be edited. In these cases, a message will show in this screen and no color options will be shown.

---

## Date and Time

These preferences allow for the user to regionalize their date and time display formats to either their region (specific to their language) or just personal preference. Each section contains a preview to show what the date and/or time will look like with the selected settings. The new settings will not be saved until Submit is clicked.

---

## Meta Tags

From Wikipedia: “Meta elements [or tags] provide information about a given webpage, most often to help search engines categorize them correctly. They are inserted into the HTML document, but are often not directly visible to a user visiting the site.

Major search engine robots are more likely to quantify such factors as the volume of incoming links from related websites, quantity and quality of content, technical precision of source code, spelling, functional v. broken hyperlinks, volume and consistency of searches and/or viewer traffic, time within website, page views, revisits, click-throughs, technical user-features, uniqueness, redundancy, relevance, advertising revenue yield, freshness, geography, language and other intrinsic characteristics.”

The blog system allows for three types of meta tags to be generated: Keywords (a list of single words separated by commas), Description (An abstract or free-text description of the site) and Rights (Copyright statement, or link to document containing information).

---

## Word/IP Moderation

This feature was added in 0.4.7 to combat the growing irritation of comment spam. If properly implemented by the user (ie populated) most of the spammers cannot enter the words required to create the comment successfully.

The top list is of specific IP address (not domain names). These IP addresses may NEVER successfully enter a comment into the system. There are two ways to enter an IP: 1) Enter it manually into this screen or 2) Click Ban IP link from the comments screen when logged in.

The second list is of specific words to ban. This list not only stops spammers from using certain words but it can also be used to make the blog more family friendly by blocking abusive terms and swearing. If your blog is a company with a product, you can also enter competitive products name in here to stop people from promoting those products. Very powerful indeed.

---

## Unmodded Comments

When the Moderate Comments option is on in the preferences, this is the list of comments that require the administrator’s approval. See Moderate Comments in Preferences / Setup for more information. The number of comments that required approval is shown in brackets.

---

## User Manager

See the Security section of this document for more information about this feature added in 0.5.0.



## SimplePHPBlog FAQ

**Q. I want to submit a bug report / feature request / get help with a problem?**

A. Go to <http://forums.simplephpblog.com/>. There are plenty of people there who know the blog quite well and are willing to help.

**Q. Why do I have to create the password.php file manually?**

A. Early on in the project, we found that the number of hacks and workarounds to get into a php application was getting out of control, and we had to find a way to secure people's site against attacks that we didn't know were coming. For this reason, the password file is stored in such a way that it is protected by the default functionality of the web server itself. Since the user must put it there manually, there is no way to hijack the blog and change the password, thus limiting access to the true user only.

This may be inconvenient; but it is also the most secure way for us to run the blog.

**Q. I still cannot get the folders to create automatically during the wizard!**

A. Simple PHP Blog stores all of your information in three separate folders.

These folders are dynamically created:

config/  
content/  
images/

The installation process will attempt to create these folders. However, if write permissions are disabled, you will have to manually create these folders and set the write permissions yourself.

**Q. I cannot get the username and password to save.**

A. If you are still having trouble saving your username and password, it is most likely due to a SAFE MODE issue. By default, PHP is set to run in SAFE MODE.

**Q. I cannot create new entries for my blog. Why?**

A. PHP does a UID (User ID) compare check when opening files. If the "sb\_functions.php" file has a different UID then the "config" directory, then it will not be able to write any files to it...

The solution is to change the UIDs of all the files and directories so that they are all the same. This will enable the PHP files to create files and directories. This can be accomplished with the CHOWN command, if you has access to the server. Otherwise, you will need to contact your service provider, and tell them to change the UID of the directory.

**Q: I get errors concerning "Call to undefined function." Can I fix this?**

A: This is usually caused by a version of PHP that is too old. Functions like

ob\_get\_clean and str\_word\_count require at least PHP 4.3.

**Q: I am using a theme other than what is distributed with the blog and I am having problems or would like a change.**

A: Please contact the theme writer for more information. That information is usually found in the themes/{name of theme}/themes.php file.

**Q: I get the error containing "Cannot modify header information - headers already sent by" when I try to use my blog. Why?**

A: This is usually because the password.php file has extra lines before or after the <?PHP ?> areas. Remove those and re-up the password file.

**Q: My blog takes a long time to load - the page loads, then the side bar comes up x time later...**

A: You probably have code in the side bar (or google Adsense) that is taking some extra time to load. Because the sidebar loads in order, the items after that block cannot load until the external code is done.

**Q: Is it possible to embed <whatever> in the blocks?**

A: Most things that use html to show on another page can be put into the blocks using the HTML tags.

**Q: Are there any Firefox plugins that cause issues with SimplePHPBlog?**

A: Yes. "Slogger" causes issues when trying to log in. "NoScript" obviously blocks Javascript so it would have an effect as well.

**Q: I get an error involving "stat failed for content/.htaccess/." How can I get around this?**

A: Users have reported that removing the htaccess file from that directory solves it. However, if you have serious security concerns, you should research a different solve for this.

**Q: I get errors involving "SAFE MODE Restriction in effect." What is going on?**

A: SAFE MODE is not a full running mode of PHP. The server needs to be running in normal mode. If you are paying for hosting, get the service provider to fix this.

**Q: How do I get PHP code to work with a block or entry?**

A: Many people have come up with ingenious ways to do this, but only one way to date has been confirmed: Using <iframe> to put PHP into posts. Please read the forums for more information and remember: *Inserting php code into your blog may introduce security risks.*

**Q: I've just installed the blog, but I can preview but not post. How do I fix this?**

A: Delete the config folder, recreate it manually, then re-run the wizard in the blog setup (without the password.php, you should get it automatically).

**Q: People send me a message using Contact Me, but the email is never received. What's up?**

A: It's been reported that some ISP provided web space does this in order to combat people who write PHP scripts specifically to send SPAM. We do not have support for smtp servers at this point in time.

This can also be because your local Apache/PHP server sendmail functions are not properly setup. For IIS users – make sure that you have the appropriate permissions set on executables, otherwise the sendmail command cannot be run in Windows.

**Q: My ratings seem to even out at the middle (3) even if I know they aren't being added by any of my users. What's up with that?**

A: Harald Sauff figured it out and explains it best on Source Forge:  
"Although my blog is nowhere announced, the number of ratings for the first articles were rising and rising - and all articles were rated 3. When I looked in the server-logs I found that Googlebot is calling every rating-link for every article - what yields in an average rating of "3". So I had 17 real votes, and 153 google-votes. I now created a robots.txt to exclude all spiders from accessing rate\_cgi.php - I hope, it helps."

Thanks Harald, it does help. So basically all you do is place a file called robots.txt in the root of your blog directory (so it would be accessible as <http://yourdomain.com/robots.txt>). Then edit the contents as follows:

```
User-agent: *  
Disallow: /<your path>/rate_cgi.php
```

Make sure that <yourpath is set to any sub directories that you have your blog under in your site. If rate\_cgi.php is in the root, just put /rate\_cgi.php. This should solve the problem.

**Q. Search engines are not picking up my blog. How can I improve this?**

A. The most important thing is to make sure that your Meta Tags are entered. People tend to forget that search engines are automated spiders and they are looking for information about your site – if they don't find it – they skip it unless you've been linked from many other sites.

**Q. Why do I need all of these language files on my site?**

A. You don't. The only languages you need in the languages folder is the ones you will be using. In the configuration screens for the languages, SimplePHPBlog is smart enough to know which languages are there and you can only select from those.

**Q. I can't find my language! How can I create my own language?**

A. Get the Language/Translation documentation from SourceForge. It explains in detail how to format the file.

**Q: When I attempt to login, I get an error saying I cannot login OR when posting/editing entries, I get a white screen.**

A: Several users have reported this – if you have access to the server running PHP, turn off REGISTER GLOBALS in the php.ini. If you cannot get into that, edit the .htaccess file to do the same thing as explained on PHP.net.