

## phpbb activity - joomla mod

Last Updated Monday, 10 September 2007

What is mod\_phpbb\_activity?

mod\_phpbb\_activity is a joomla module that displays the last posts/topics made/updated from a phpbb2 message board. It has quite a large range of features for such a small plugin and allows you to configure almost everything comfortably from within the joomla module configurator. If you are looking for a way to display what's going on in your phpbb board on your joomla site, give this baby a try. Are there screenshots?

If you want to see the module in action, look at the mainpage of this site. If you want to see a configuration example, look here What is the latest version and where can I get it?

The latest version is 0.2.1 and you can get it in the Downloads Section How do I install it?

- Download the zip file from the downloads section and install it from within the joomla module installer.
- Go to Modules -> Site Modules and edit the phpbb\_activity module
- If your phpbb installation is sharing a database with your joomla installation you should be pretty much ready to go. Proceed with step 5

- If your phpbb install is on a different database (maybe even a different host), make sure you set the right values in the fields for host, db name, user and password. The password unfortunately is in plain text in the configuration screen (and on the disk I suppose). I haven't found a way to store that value in a safe way with joomla. If you know how please give me a shout via mail or in the forums.

- Make sure your table prefix is configured properly (In most cases it should be phpbb\_) and be sure to set the URL to your phpbb installation.

- Publish the module and see what happens

What's all the configuration stuff for?

mode

Controls the main behaviour of the module.

- LAT (Last Active Topics) retrieves topics, which contain the newest posts. (I guess this will be the most commonly used mode of operation)
- LCT (Last Created Topics) retrieves topics, which were most recently created. It does not pay any attention to whether there are recent postings in one of those topics. Topic creation time is all that counts.
- LCP (Last Created Posts) retrieves no topics but the most up-to-date single postings. These can share the same topics.

Display body instead of subject

Defines what to do if the module encounters an empty subject. This is sort of impossible for topics but pretty much regular for a posted message inside a topic. Question is: Do you want the body (or part of it) to be displayed?

- Only if subject is empty If we encounter an empty subject, use the body text instead. Otherwise stick to the subject.
- Only if using LCP mode In LCP mode, the chance that you encounter subjectless postings is quite high of course. This option always displays the body instead of the subject, but ONLY if you are using LCP mode.

- Always Doesn't matter whether we have a subject or not. Always use message body instead!

- Never Don't even think about using the message body Attention: If you configure the module in a way, that there are empty subjects in use, the module will write a <no subject> string instead of the subject.

LAT/LCT subject/body display

Defines whether to display the subject or body from the last (most recent) posting or from the topic itself. Only works in LAT/LCT mode.

LAT/LCT User display

Defines which username to choose for display. The one that posted the last (most recent) posting or the one that created the topic.

LAT/LCT Date

Defines whether to use the topic creation or the last (most recent) post date.

Toggle from which forum to display stuff

Define from which type(s) of forum you want to display posts/topics. For example, if you select "Public only", topics/posts

from registered, private and moderator forums won't show up.

Forum (id's) to use

Here you can specify a range of forum ids the module should include in his search run. It is written as a comma separated list, for example 1,4,7 tells the module to use forums with the ids 1, 4 and 7 when searching for posts. Leaving this field blank results in all forums being included in the search.

You can find out a forum id, by hovering your mouse pointer over the forum name on the main phpbb page. In your browsers status bar it should say something like: <http://yourdomain.com/phpbb/viewforum.php?f=2> , now notice the f=2 at the end of the url, f stands for forum id, and the 2 is the actual id number you want.

Display character limit

Limits the number of characters the module tries to display. If there are more characters to write than allowed by this configuration value, the text will be cut off after reaching the character limit and a "..." will be appended.

Results

Number of results (postings/topics) to fetch and display. Default value is 5 which is a good start I guess. Change according to your needs.

Custom date format string

If you leave this field empty, the module will use the `_DATE_FORMAT_LC2` definition from within joomla. If you want something else instead, customize it to your liking using format switches according to the `php strftime()` function.

Custom timezone offset

This option lets you set a timezone offset in hours from your phpbb mysql server time. For example of you are GMT+1 and your server is GMT, enter "1". If you and the server share the same timezone set this to 0.

Result order

Sort the resulting lines ASCending or DESCending

Show date

Show or hide the date-/time-strings of the topics/postings

Show user

Show or hide the usernames of topics/postings

Username link type

Display the poster username as a link to his/her phpbb profile How do I donate to this project?

If you would like to send a donation, you can do this by using paypal.

There is a donation form to the left below the menu, feel free to use it and let me thank you in advance, but remember, it's completely optional. My projects will never go closed source or shareware or whatever...

Open Source is the way to go! Changelogv0.2.1 - 10.09.2007

Fixed a bug that caused a malfunction for registered users v0.2.0 - 09.07.2007

Added an option to link a username to his/hers phpbb profile and the ability to select forums by their ID v0.1.9 - 19.06.2007

Added the option to specify a timezone offset in the configuration v0.1.8 - 27.04.2007

Fixed a bug that caused foreign character entities to not being displayed correctly v0.1.7 - 23.04.2007

Added option to choose which types of posts to display. See option reference above for details. v0.1.6 - 18.04.2007

Removed default entry for phbb table prefix from configuration and fixed the php so you can leave the prefix field empty if your phbb tables are not using any prefix at all. v0.1.5 - 15.04.2007

First public release.