aravenwood / November 06, 2009 06:12AM

Threading available in Phorum?

Hi I downloaded and played with phorum. Just what I was looking for. Great job guys! I did have one question: is there a way to have posts display as threaded? Am I missing something?

Thanks,
Michael

Thomas Seifert / November 06, 2009 12:19PM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

You missed the read view, list view settings for each forum.

Thomas Seifert

Phorum Development Team / Mysnip-Solutions.de

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az2000 / January 03, 2010 11:27PM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

> Quote
> **Thomas Seifert**
> You missed the read view, list view settings for each forum.

I'm also new to Phorum and found this topic using search. I haven't installed Phorum to try it yet.

1. Is it possible to switch from flat to threaded views when reading a topic? I'm getting the impression that a forum is locked into one or the other view when it is created by the administrator(?).

2. A little different topic: Does Phorum have nested forums? (The demo doesn't seem to demonstrate that capability. This board seems to demonstrate categories. But, I don't see any nested forums.).

Thanks.

Robert Angle / January 03, 2010 11:55PM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

> Quote
> **az2000**
> 1. Is it possible to switch from flat to threaded views when reading a topic? I'm getting the impression that a forum is locked into one or the other view when it is created by the administrator(?).

Not necessarily. The administrator can have the settings be so that each individual user can choose between

threaded display and flat display. Some users may want it one way while others do not. Even here on this forum, you can change your own view settings in the **Forum Settings** section of your **Control Center**.

In addition, there is a moduled called **Switchview** that Thomas wrote that you can install that let's a user switch between flat and threaded on the message list page without having to go to the Control Center to change it.

> Quote
>
> 2. A little different topic: Does Phorum have nested forums? (The demo doesn't seem to demonstrate that capability. This board seems to demonstrate categories. But, I don't see any nested forums.).

If you mean forums within forums, or subforums, then Phorum does not do that by default, but can be made to do that using a module called **Subforums** that Maurice wrote.

- Bob

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az2000 / January 04, 2010 12:51AM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

> Quote
> **Robert Angle**
> If you mean forums within forums, or subforums, then Phorum does not do that by default, but can be made to do that using a module called **Subforums** that Maurice wrote.

Thanks for the prompt response!

I noticed the subforum module doesn't handle nesting beyond one level. That may be a deal-breaker for me. I need to do something like:

==========
Category: Driving Forums
-- Forum: General Discussion (Forum about driving generally)
-- Category: US States (forums about driving in specific states)
-- -- Forum: AK (Forum about driving in Alaska)
-- -- -- Forum: Classified Ads (vehicles for sale in Alaska)
-- -- Forum: AL (Forum about driving in Alabama)
-- -- -- Forum: Classified Ads (vehicles for sale in Alabama)
-- -- [48 other states with subforums]
==========

I guess I could structure it differently. (A category for "Driving in US States," and a category for "Classified Ads"). But, I like the taxonomy of a state forum containing things specific to that state (instead of making the visitor go elsewhere).

I also noticed Maurice said in his announcement that Phorum developers don't see the value of nested forums. That worries me I'll be doing something that isn't deemed legitimate if I use Phorum.

I'm evaluating 3-4 boards. None meet my requirements perfectly. It's a balancing act. I'll have to play with Phorum.

Your answers helped me get a quick level set.

Thanks.

Maurice Makaay / January 04, 2010 10:59AM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

I can confirm that we don't see the use case for nested forums. We have a hard time understanding the need for subforums to start with, since all the Phorum developers think that folders with forums provide a much more logical approach to adding a taxonomy to a tree of forums. Folders are for classing categories. Forums are functional forums where you can post messages. Making forums act as folders is counter-intuitive in our opinion (intuitive to me is a system that does the same kind of thing that I do on my harddrive to organize my files into folders).

So, the subforums module does not provide more than one level of nesting, but Phorum as a whole certainly does, based on folders.

What you need to ask yourself, is if you really want this forums in forums in forums in ... etc. structure. If yes, then how would you see this represented in for example the index page? With one level of nesting, I can imagine a useful way to represent the forums, but with multiple levels it's hard for me to think of a representation that offers multi-level nesting *and* a useful user interface.

As a last remark: don't get too trigger happy on taxonomy. It's better to start out with only a few categories and start subclassing the moment that some topic becomes popular enough. Forums with a massive load of subcategories tend to stay empty and look deserted.

Maurice Makaay

Phorum Development Team

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az2000 / January 04, 2010 10:16PM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

> Quote
> **Maurice Makaay**
> ... Folders are for classing categories. Forums are functional forums where you can post messages. Making forums act as folders is counter-intuitive in our opinion (intuitive to me is a system that does the same kind of thing that I do on my harddrive to organize my files into folders).
>
> So, the subforums module does not provide more than one level of nesting, but Phorum as a whole certainly does, based on folders.

I'm sensing that this may be a matter of terminology. Are you saying Phorum can have nested folders, with subfolders containing forums?

Using my previous example, with sub-forums contained in nested categories:

==========
Category: Driving Forums

-- Forum: General Discussion (Forum about driving generally)
-- Category: US States (forums about driving in specific states)
-- -- Category: AK (forums about driving in Alaska)
-- -- -- Forum: AK (Forum about driving in Alaska)
-- -- -- Forum: Classified Ads (vehicles for sale in Alaska)
-- -- Category: AL (forum about driving in Alabama)
-- -- -- Forum: AL (Forum about driving in Alabama)
-- -- -- Forum: Classified Ads (vehicles for sale in Alabama)
-- -- [48 other categories, each containing two forums]
==========

Is that possible?

Thanks.

Maurice Makaay / January 04, 2010 10:17PM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

Most certainly. That's just folders (categories) and forums in them. What people normally consider subforums, is a-forum-inside-a-forum, so without having a folder level in between.

Maurice Makaay

Phorum Development Team

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az2000 / January 04, 2010 10:37PM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

I understand now. When I said "sub forums" I was thinking of nesting in a general sense, not specifically that a forum had to contain a forum. Just that things could be organized in a hierarchy.

I agree that using categories as containers is more orderly than using a forum as a container. I get a little confused phpbb's ability to have a forum in a category, or forum in a forum; or, category in a forum. (I guess flexibility has benefits. But, I agree it can be confusing. Forcing a strict category container keeps things straightforward.).

Suggestion: It would be beneficial if nesting were showcased in the demo forum. I tend to think of a demo representing major features like that. (Especially when a demo goes out of its way to demonstrate flat, threaded and mixed modes.). When I didn't see nesting of forums it made me believe it doesn't exist. And then when we were talking about the same thing, but not understanding each others' terminology (probably because I was using "subforums" to mean nesting generally, and I guess everyone else understands it to mean forums within forums.).

Anyway, if the demo showed Phorum's version of nesting/hierarchy, that would make it much more understandable. ("A picture worth a thousand words!").

Thanks.

Thomas Seifert / January 04, 2010 10:38PM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

well, whats wrong with the forum in folder 1 (in the demo) and these support forums with categories/folders?

Thomas Seifert

Phorum Development Team / Mysnip-Solutions.de

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Maurice Makaay / January 04, 2010 10:41PM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

I guess you found the weak spot in the demo. We could show off more features than we do now. Thanks for the reminder and have a lot of fun with Phorum's folder system! :-)

Maurice Makaay

Phorum Development Team

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az2000 / January 04, 2010 11:03PM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

> Quote
> **Thomas Seifert**
> well, whats wrong with the forum in folder 1 (in the demo) and these support forums with categories/folders?

Maybe it's just me. But, nesting wasn't conveyed to me with those examples.

I agree that the Phorum community page represents some containment and depth in the way I can click on the green headings and see just those forums. But, I didn't see any examples of going deeper. Like, a folder containing forums and folders (containing forums and folders, and...).

Maybe the Demo folder 1 is supposed to depict that. But, something about that demo is confusing. I try to click the green "Forums" bar and it doesn't drill down like it's a container. (Not like the green category bars in the "communities" page.). But, then the "Folder 1" title bar does drill down like it is a container. But, it's not clear how it's a different than the "Forums" bar (at the top of the demo.). They both look the same, with the same folder icon.

Then I get into "Folder 1's" containment, and see another green folder/category bar labeled "Folder 1." And it doesn't seem to go anywhere.

(ouch.). I probably should have downloaded Phorum and played with it. But, you guys have a demo so people can see features without doing that. So, I'm just saying that if the nesting feature is intended to be demonstrated there, it wasn't obvious to me (as a totally new visitor).

Not trying to be critical. Maybe I'm denser than the average visitor.

Thomas Seifert / January 05, 2010 04:40PM

Re: Threading available in Phorum?

"Forums" isn't a folder but just lists all forums put directly in the root folder.
When you go into "Folder 1" you see "Folder 1" as a header again.

Thomas Seifert

Phorum Development Team / Mysnip-Solutions.de

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