

Phorum 3 forums (READ ONLY) / Beta Mods and Plug-ins (READ ONLY)

make phorum spider friendly

Christian Springub / August 30, 2001 09:47PM

[make phorum spider friendly](#)

Hi,

this hack will make the articles in your forum spider friendly. The script doesn't change the phorum code, it generates a separate spider friendly index of all messages.

(For people how doesn't know, why spiders don't take phorum sites in their index should read this article: [\[www.zend.com\]](http://www.zend.com))

To use this script you need the mod_rewrite for apache (http://httpd.apache.org/docs/mod/mod_rewrite.html)

What this script does:

The script generate index of all your phorum messages. With the mod_rewrite it will transform the name of the files direct on the server, without possibility for the spider to notice that. An example: The index will generate a link like this one: topic-5-342-342.html. This is fine for a spider. The mod_rewrite will rewrite it to read.php?f=5&i=342&t=342.

That's it.

How to install it:

1) First you have to check, if you have the mod_rewrite installed. If not, ask your hoster.

2) Add the following lines to your .htaccess file. (if you haven't anyone, create a new one):

-- insert this into .htaccess

Start the rewrite engine

RewriteEngine on

Set the rule for rewriting like in the example

RewriteRule ^topic-(.*)-(.*)-(.*)\.html\$ read.php?f=\$1&i=\$2&t=\$3

Set the rule for rewrite the files of the index (for example: topics-20.html -> topics.php\$start=20)

RewriteRule ^topics-(.*)\.html\$ topics.php?start=\$1

--

3) Edit the configuration section in the script

4) create a file called topics.html (attention, not .php) and put the script into it.

4) Upload it. Open topics-0.html. Enjoy it.

5) I just write this hack and would be glad about any form of feedback. Please mail me, if you want to use this script. If enough people are interested, I will not hesitate to improve the script.

mailto: springub@dream-up.de

A working example:

[\[www.manic-depressive.de\]](http://www.manic-depressive.de) (pay attention at the links)

Greetings,

Christian Springub

Attachments:

- [topics.txt](#)

Christian Springub / August 30, 2001 09:53PM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

Phorum 3 forums (READ ONLY) / Beta Mods and Plug-ins (READ ONLY)

make phorum spider friendly

Hi,

sorry, I am new here. I just see that this phorum is for hacks, which don't work. This hack works, but I put it into Beta, because I think it is not yet completely finished.

ok, I wait for your feedbacks.

Greetings,
Christian Springub

Gary Miller / September 25, 2001 12:44PM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

Is there any where that I can see this hack in action?

Thanks,

Gary

Christian Springub / September 25, 2001 03:30PM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

Hi,

yes, there is an hack in action:

[\[www.manic-depressive.de\]](http://www.manic-depressive.de)

(pay attention to the links, there are only .html links without parameters like ?f=5)

Greetings,
Christian Springub

Clemens Schneider / September 30, 2001 01:08AM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

Hey,

I think, I'll use this on jugendserver.spinnenwerk.de but i had some troubles getting it running:

so i changed your line:

```
RewriteRule ^topic-(.*)-(.*)-(.*)\.html$ read.php?f=$1&i=2&t=$3
```

to:

```
RewriteRule ^topic-(.*)-(.*)-(.*)\.html$ read.php?f=$1&i=2&t=$3
```

the slashes do a good job now ;)

Otherwise apache takes them as regex I think...

Bye.

SurfSafely.com / May 09, 2002 05:40AM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

Christian,

If this works as you say it does, I will owe you a very big thanks!

Christian Springub / May 09, 2002 12:08PM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

Hi,

it works! I already have hits over search engines about this pages.

try it!

Christian

SurfSafely.com / May 11, 2002 10:12PM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

Christian, there are a few items not covered in your instructions.

1) Into which .htaccess file do we insert the Rewrite statements? There are .htaccess files scattered all over the place but none in the Phorum top level.

2) Within topics.txt, you forget to include the step which discusses creating topics.html. The script itself is saved *AS* topics.html?

3) To which directory does topics.html get uploaded?

Christian Springub / May 12, 2002 07:22PM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

Hi,

> 1) Into which .htaccess file do we insert the Rewrite
> statements? There are .htaccess files scattered all over the
> place but none in the Phorum top level.
Just create a new one in the directory you place the script.

> 2) Within topics.txt, you forget to include the step which
> discusses creating topics.html. The script itself is saved
> *AS* topics.html?

There ist nothing special. The topics.txt just generates the list with the links. You can take any html file and place the topics.txt (place <? at the beginning and ?> at the end :)) in it. See the example at:

[\[www.manic-depressive.de\]](http://www.manic-depressive.de)

The list is generated by the script.

> 3) To which directory does topics.html get uploaded?
that is your decision. Place it wherever you want.

Do you have any problems by using the script?

SurfSafely.com / May 12, 2002 08:05PM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

I'm sorry if this sounds dumb but I can't get it to work at all and I can't help but feel there's a missing piece to this

puzzle. All I have is your topics.txt file and the information contained in these message threads.

I know I must have a .htaccess in the same directory with the Rewrite rules in it. I did that. I pasted the script from topics.txt into a file named topics.html and uploaded it to that same directory. Browsing for topics-0.html returned 404, not found. Browsing topics.html returned the raw code from the script. Is there anything else?

I'm on a Rackspace server just like phorum.org. mod_rewrite is installed. I know it's working because I use Rewrite rules extensively in httpd.conf <virtualhost> containers.

I have examined [www.manic-depressive.de]. All I see is the output from your script, not the script itself. Nor can I see the syntax you used when building topics.html. Having that would be extremely helpful. In fact, you might want to consider including a complete example of the html file in topics.txt.

Christian Springub / May 12, 2002 08:16PM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

Hi,

oh, I think I see my mistake. You have to name the the topics file topic.php, not .html, because the rewrite rule changes that.

I just send you example files from my server.

Christian

SurfSafely.com / May 12, 2002 09:02PM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

AH HA! The REAL confusion came from this statement from your first post in this thread:

4) create a file called topics.html (attention, not .php) and put the script into it.

It's really the other way around:

3.5) create a file called topics.php (attention, not .html) and put the script into it.

I have to run out for a few hours but I'll try it again when I get back. I'll let you know.

Mark

SurfSafely.com / May 13, 2002 01:31AM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

IT WORKS!

[surfsafely.com]

Now I just need to finish off the page layout and link to it from the Phorum top menu so search engine spiders will find it.

Any chance we can get English translations for the German error codes? ;)

Mark

Christian Springub / May 13, 2002 08:36AM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

Hi,

> Any chance we can get English translations for the German
> error codes? ;)
yes :)

[...]

```
@mysql_connect($host,$user,$password)
or die("abort: no connection to '$host'");
```

```
// select database or die
```

```
@mysql_select_db($database)
or die("abort: database '$database' could not be selected"
."  
<br><br>MySQL says: ".mysql_error());
```

[...]

```
if ($start > 0) {
$newStart = ($start - $limit < 0) ? 0 : ($start-$limit);
echo "<a href='\"topics-\" . $newStart . \".html\"'><< back</a> ";
}
if ($start + $limit < $total) {
$newStart = $start + $limit;
echo "<a href='\"topics-\" . $newStart . \".html\"'>forward >></a>";
}
[...]
```

chris2000 / March 18, 2003 08:05PM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

Has anyone changed the list.php, that there are also displayed "nice" links without question-mark?

I think it shouldn't be a lot work to do this or am I wrong?

In which file (line?? :-)) are the links to the topics created?

Bye,
chris

chris2000 / March 20, 2003 03:55PM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

I've found the entries.

brianlmoon / June 26, 2003 06:51AM

[Re: make phorum spider friendly](#)

forget all this. use the hack I just posted in the finished hacks forum.
