

This readme file was last updated on *March 17th, 2008*

The Easy PHP Guestbook, Enhanced Version, v0.56



- An application written in PHP by Andrea Cabibbo
- Support e-mail address, reserved to people who made a donation for the enhanced version: andrea.cabibbo@fastwebnet.it
- Software official web page: http://www.cellbiol.com/scripts/free_php_guestbook/free_php_guestbook.html
- Support forum: http://www.cellbiol.com/scripts/free_php_guestbook/guestbook/free_php_guestbook_test.html

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1) LICENCE

You can freely use and modify this code to set up one or more web guestbooks for yourself or your clients if you are a webmaster.

You may not redistribute this code in any way or produce derivative software with commercial purposes.

We very much appreciate the inclusion of this line in your guestbook html, however this is not strictly required if you made a donation to download the enhanced version:

Powered by The Easy PHP Guestbook

Redistribution of the software is strictly forbidden and will be actively prosecuted by legal means.

2) DISCLAIMER

The use of the software is at your own risk. Make a backup of your important files before installing and using the software.

If you use the software to turn an existing html page into a guestbook, please make a backup of this page before proceeding.

3) NEW FEATURES

- "Configure guestbook" page now available in the admin section. All the important variables and configuration options can be now edited online in this page.
- Post deletion: the deletion of unwanted posts is now done by accessing an admin section through the form on the 'admin.html' file. The HTML for this form can also be placed on the guestbook page itself
- Post editing
- Post editing can now be performed from the admin section
- Language files

The language files are located in the include/lang folder. At the moment 3 languages are available: english (eng), french (fra), italian (ita).

You can select the language to use in the web admin section, in the "configure guestbook" page.

You can make additional language files as required. Just create a new folder for your language (for example a "de" folder for german) and put a copy of a translated lang.php file inside. Place this folder in the "include/lang" folder.

Then look for the following line in php_guestbook.php file (it's toward the end of the file):

```
<OPTION VALUE=include/lang/ita/lang.php>Italian
```

and add a new line after this for your new language.

Then go to the admin section on the web, select configure, select your new language and save configuration.

- **Pagination:** decide how many messages you want per page and let the guestbook build and update the pages automatically at any post. For example if you configure the software to have 10 posts per page (this is the default), when the 11th post is made a new page will be generated by the script, with the same header and footer (look and feel) of the main guestbook page. You can set the number of posts per page by editing the \$posts_per_page variable in the configuration file (include/conf.php)
- **Users can now choose to make their e-mail or message private.** Private data are only visible by the owner of the guestbook and require the admin password to be accessed
- **Moderation mode.** In moderation mode messages need to be reviewed and approved by admin before being actually posted on the guestbook. When a new message is posted admin gets a notification e-mail with a link to login to the pending messages tab in the admin section, where pending messages can be approved or deleted

4) HOW TO ACCESS THE ADMIN SECTION THAT ALLOWS TO CONFIGURE THE GUESTBOOK AND DELETING OR EDITING THE POSTS

The default password for the administrator is "pass" (without quotes)

To access the admin section you can visit the admin.html file.

After the first login you can change this password in the "configure guestbook" page

You can also place an admin login box in the guestbook html file for example, here is the code:

```
##### START ADMIN FORM HTML #####  
  
<form action="php_guestbook.php" method="post">  
Password: <input text name="adpass"><P>  
<input type="hidden" name="task" value="show">  
<input type="submit" value="Go to admin section">  
  
##### END ADMIN FORM HTML #####
```

5) CAPTCHAS

The script now support user verification by captchas.

This feature can be turned off in the "configure guestbook" page of the web admin section.

6) PROTECTION OF THE ADMIN IDENTITY

You can now set the protection for a particular name to be used on the board, for example 'admin' or your own selected username.

Again, see the "configure guestbook" page in the admin section for details.

7) REQUIREMENTS

Tested with PHP 4.3 or higher, in a linux environment. Requires a version of PHP compiled with GD image library support, most PHP installations will have this. GD is required in particular for the generation of the captcha image. The guestbook will work fine with no GD if image validation is turned off in the admin section.

We have no direct experience of windows servers but we know about several users who successfully installed the guestbook on a windows server environment without problems.

Should you experience any issue during the installation feel free to contact the developer.

8) INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS: upload files and set permissions - configure guestbook in the admin section - make a test post

- **UPLOAD FILES AND SET PERMISSIONS – if not using the provided template, add some html to your html guestbook page**

- Drop ALL the files and folders included in the distro IN THE SAME DIRECTORY (we will refer to this as the 'main' folder) where the html page you wish your visitors to comment on is located.

If you are building a guestbook ex-novo we suggest that you create a dedicated folder (we will refer to this as the 'main' folder) for the guestbook and drop all the files and folders in this 'main' folder.

- Set the permissions of the main folder to writable (777) otherwise you will get an error

- Set the permissions of the "posts" folder to writable (777) otherwise you will get an error.

(After the first post is made you should be able to set the "posts" folder permission back to 644 without problems).

- Set the permission of the include/conf.php file to 666 (read and write permission by all) otherwise you be unable to edit the guestbook configuration

- Edit the html guestbook file as described below and then grant 666 permission to this file:

- You can customize the provided easy_php_guestbook.html file to create your guestbook (strongly recommended) or add the following code to your html page in the suitable position.

Messages will go right after the following line:

```
<!-- COMMENTS-START -->
```

so wherever you put this line, this is where the posts will be written

HTML TO BE ADDED TO THE PAGE YOU WISH TO TURN IN A GUESTBOOK

Place this in the <HEAD> tag:

```
<META HTTP-EQUIV="pragma" CONTENT="no-cache">  
<META HTTP-EQUIV="Expires" CONTENT="Tue, 26-Oct-1965 12:00:00">
```


http://www.cellbiol.com/scripts/free_php_guestbook/free_php_guestbook.html

or to send an e-mail to the developer at andrea.cabibbo@fastwebnet.it (reserved to people who sent a contribution for the enhanced version)

10) UPGRADING FROM AN OLDER VERSION

Please **MAKE A BACKUP** of your guestbook folder before upgrading the software so that if something goes wrong you will not lose anything.

- Upgrade from v-free-0.55

Proceed as follows:

Rename `php_guestbook.php` to `php_guestbook_bck.php` (or whatever name different from the original)

Rename the include folder to `include_bck`

From the enhanced version zip, upload the `php_guestbook.php` file and include folder.

Check that `include/conf.php` has a 666 permission or grant 666 permission.

Login as admin at the usual address with password "pass".

Set the guestbook URL and name to your current guestbook, review the other settings and save.

You should be set.

- Upgrade from a pre-flat file version

If your main folder do not contain a `posts.txt` file or a 'posts' folder, you have a version pre-flat file. In this case, all the old messages will be treated a part of the footer and will not be accessible in the admin section or deletion/editing.

In the new multipage version of the software (this distribution) this will create confusion.

To get a clean result, we suggest to proceed exactly as follows:

- save a copy of the guestbook html page with all the posts as `archive.html`. Remove the html for the posting form from `archive.html`.
- delete all messages from your html guestbook page (not from the `archive.html`!)
- In the html guestbook file, replace the html for the form with the one taken from this readme file (see above in the page). The html for the form **HAS CHANGED** with respect to previous versions.
- delete/rename the old `php_guestbook.php` file
- install the new software as described above in the installation instructions
- If you want, link to `archive.html` from your new html guestbook page (`old posts archive`)

- Upgrading from a flat file version. **READ CAREFULLY, MAKE A BACKUP OF THE MAIN FOLDER WITH ALL THE FILES BEFORE YOU PROCEED**

If your main folder (the one containing your guestbook) contains a file called posts.txt or a folder called 'posts' you are upgrading from a flatfile version.

In version 0.53 the format of the flat file and the posting form html in the guestbook have changed!!

Concerning the html for the form, be sure to use the template provided in the latest distribution, or the form html included in this file.

To disable the private message and private e-mail option, you can just delete the two radio buttons from the form html.

Concerning the flat file, we now provide a utility to convert the old flatfile format with the new one.

Proceed as follow:

- locate you posts.txt file. It could be in the main directory (free version and old enhanced versions) or in the "posts" folder. Make a backup of this file. The upgrading utility assumes that the name of this file is posts.txt. If you have choosen a different name, make a backup and rename to posts.txt.

- follow the normal installation instructions for this distribution (see section 9, installation instructions). **DO NOT LOGIN IN THE ADMIN SECTION UNTIL YOU RUN THE FILE FORMAT CONVERSION UTILITY** (see below). Put a copy of your old posts.txt file and if you want also of the old log file in the "posts" folder of the new distribution.

- be sure to check that the posts.txt file and the log file have at least a 666 permission.

- You should replace **ALL** the files including the old php_guestbook.php and the conf.php file with the new ones and **MODIFY THE HTML FOR THE FORM** in the html guestbook file by using the one provided above in this readme file.

The html for the form **HAS CHANGED** with respect to previous versions.

So at this point the upgrade utility assumes that your flatfile is in posts/posts.txt. Visit the php_guestbook.php file with your browser by including a special extension to the URL. Example (you should change the first part of this url to match your domain and settings:

http://www.yourdomain.com/guestbook/php_guestbook.php?task=update_posts_file

If your flatfile is in the old format, it will be updated to the new format.

Then login to the admin section and configure the guestbook as explained in the installation instructions above in this page.

You are now ready to make the first post. For any issue feel free to contact the developer by e-mail or to post to the support forum.