

eFed Management Suite Forum Addon

Version 1.0

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This is the initial stable release of the eFed Management Suite forums addon. This addon will allow you to add a new forum system to your installation of the eFed Management Suite that integrates with and can be managed by eMS.

Please note this is the very first release and will have additional features added in future updates. Also in development, a standalone version of eMS Forums. Follow <https://efedmanagementsuite.com> for future updates

This addon requires eFed Management Suite v2.0+

Install

1. Run the SQL command in your SQL database located in SQL/SQL.txt OR import SQL/SQL.sql into your database which you have the eFed Management Suite installed
2. Upload the contents of UPLOAD_FILES into your main eMS install directory.
3. Ensure that the files in your user_content folder has read/write permissions
4. Ensure the routing included in htaccess.txt is placed into your .htaccess file
5. Edit your uploaded css/forum.css to make your template color scheme
6. Edit your EMS_ROOT_URL/admin/sidebar.php file, including the snippet of code from sidebar.txt into the navigation list. We suggest placing it under the Fed Admin section.
7. Log into eMS as ad Admin or Webmaster user
8. Click on your new Manage Forums navigation link
9. Click on Manage Usergroup Permissions
10. Add permissions to fan, alumni, and handler usergroups (This is important as the forums will not be available until initial permissions are set)
11. IF you are using a template other than the default one, click on Content Pages in your eMS navigation list. Otherwise, skip to step 13.
12. For each of the following, new, content pages click edit and select your desired theme, clicking save after: edit_user, edit-topic-post, flogout, forum-registration, forums, new_topic, post_reply, view_category, view_topic, and view_user.
13. Navigate to <https://YOURDOMAIN.com/forums> and observe an empty forum page.

From here, you should return to the forum admin page, click manage categories and add your first category. Your forums are now installed.

Admin Area

1.1 Manage Categories

Access: Admin Dashboard → Forums → Manage Categories

1. **View Categories:** Lists all forum categories with options to *Edit*, *Delete*, or *View Topics*.
2. **Add New Category:**
 - Fill in **Name**, **Description**, and **Parent Category** (optional).
 - Click **Add Category** to create.
3. **Edit Category:**
 - **Edit** info inline.
 - Update fields and click **Save**.
4. **Delete Category:**
 - Click the **Delete** icon.
 - Confirm deletion (soft delete).
5. **Sort:**
 - Drag and drop to sort categories.

1.2 Moderate Topics

Access: Admin Dashboard → Forums → Moderate Topics

1. **Delete Topic:**
 - Click **Delete**.
 - Confirm to remove (soft delete).
1. **Lock / Unlock Topics:**
 - Click the lock icon to toggle.
 - Locked topics prevent further replies.

1.4 Moderate Posts

Access: Admin Dashboard → Forums → Moderate Posts

1. **Actions:**
 - **Edit Post:** Correct content or remove offending text.
 - **Delete Post:** Soft delete the post.

1.5 Manage Usergroups

Access: Admin Dashboard → Forums → Usergroups

1. **Add New Usergroup:**
 - Click **Add Group**.
 - Enter **Name**.
 - Click **Save**.
2. **Edit Usergroup:**
 - Click **Edit** next to the group.
 - Update name.
 - Click **Save**.

1.6 Manage Usergroup Permissions

Access: Admin Dashboard → Forums → Manage Usergroup Permissions

1. **Select Usergroup:** Use the dropdown to choose a group.
2. **Permission Grid:** Check/uncheck permissions such as *Can View*, *Post Topics*, *Reply to Topics*, *Edit Own Posts*, *Edit Others' Posts*, *Delete Posts*, *Lock Topics*, etc.
3. **Save Changes:** Click **Update Permissions** to apply.

Front-End User

2.1 Register & Login

1. **Register:** Click **Register** in the header. Provide *Username*, *Email*, and *Password*. Confirm via email link.
2. **Login:** Click **Login**, enter credentials, and click **Sign In**.

2.2 Posting a New Topic

1. Navigate to the desired **Category**.
2. Click **New Topic**.

3. Enter **Title** and **Message** using the editor.
4. (Optional) Add **Tags** or **Attach Files**.
5. Click **Submit** to post.

2.3 Replying to a Topic

1. Open a **Topic**.
2. Scroll to the bottom and use the **Reply** box.
3. Type your response and click **Post Reply**.

2.4 Editing Your Post

1. Click the **Edit** icon on your post.
2. Update content in the editor.
3. Click **Save** to apply changes.

2.5 Quoting a Post

1. Click the **Quote** button on the target post.
2. The quoted text appears in the reply editor.
3. Add your commentary below and **Post Reply**.

2.6 Viewing a User Profile

1. Click a **Username** anywhere in the forum.
2. View profile details such as *Join Date*, *Posts*, *Usergroup*, and *Signature*.

2.7 Editing a User Profile

1. View your own profile.
2. Click **Edit Profile** button.
3. Edit fields and click save.

2.8 Sticking & Locking

1. **Stick a Topic**: When editing the topic, you have the option to **Pin** it.
2. **Lock a Topic**: When editing the topic, you have the option to **Lock** it.

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