

This readme file was last updated on *February 27th, 2008*

The Easy PHP Guestbook, Free Version, v-free-0.55

- An application written in PHP by Andrea Cabibbo
- E-mail: a.cabibbo@cellbiol.com. E-mail support guaranteed to contributors only. If you need e-mail support, please [get the enhanced version or the Website Comments System](#)
- 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

Other scripts currently available at <http://www.cellbiol.com>:

Easy PHP Guestbook, Enhanced version

- Avoid copyright notices on your static pages
- Set a password-protected reserved name for posting as administrator
- Enable/disable posts moderation mode in which messages have to be approved by the administrator before being posted
- Pagination: set the number of posts per page and let the script create and update the new pages for you
- Private messages: give users the option to make their message visible to the administrator only
- Get fast and accurate e-mail support for any issue you might have while installing or using the software

HTML Website Comments System

- Plugging comments feature to an unlimited number of pages on your website
- For each single page, control the graphic appearance of the posts, the number of post per page the moderation mode and many other parameters in the individual guestbook configuration section
- Centralised parameters, valid for all pages with comments enabled: badwords and bad html tags list, banned IPS, admin e-mail and password and more
- Edit the default parameter to be applied to newly created guestbooks
- Guestbook manager: create, edit, block, delete guestbooks from an easy and intuitive interface.
- For each individual guestbook, customize the header and footer of the pages generated by the script when the number of posts exceeds the maximum posts per page value set in admin.
- Get fast and accurate e-mail support for any issue you might have while installing or using the software

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1) LICENCE AND TERMS OF USE

You are hereby granted a licence to use the Easy PHP Guestbook software, free version. You can use and modify this code to set up one or more web guestbooks for yourself or your clients if you are a webmaster. You can charge your clients for installation and customization of the software, provided that the installation preserves the link back to us from the guestbook page.

The copyright of the script remains in all cases property of cellbiol.com.

You may not redistribute this code in any way or produce derivative software with commercial purposes. Any attempt to redistribute this software will be actively investigated prosecuted by legal means.

You may not modify the powered by line, credits lines and copyright lines within the source code, nor alter the display of such information in the 'service' pages of the script such as the administration, the login pages and any other page directly outputted by the script. Attempts to do so might prevent the software from working correctly and might have legal consequences.

We do require the inclusion of the following line in the page where the messages are posted.

Powered by The Easy PHP Guestbook

To avoid linking to us from your static pages, please get the [enhanced version](#) of the software. Or consider the [Website Comments System](#), that will allow you to easily set up comments on unlimited pages on your web site.

2) DISCLAIMER

Although we strive to produce and distribute the best possible comments software, the use of the software is entirely 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 and any other important page(s) before proceeding.

We may not be held responsible for any damage, direct or indirect, resulting from the use of this software. If you do not accept to take full responsibility for your use of the software, please do not install it.

3) REQUIREMENTS

Tested with PHP 4.3 or higher, in linux and windows environments. 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.

4) INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

- a) Upload files and set permissions
- b) Configure guestbook in the admin section
- c) Make a test post

a) 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). Some windows servers require this permission to be set to 755 instead

- Set the permissions of the "posts" folder to writable (777). Some windows servers require this permission to be set to 755 instead

- 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

The provided easy_php_guestbook.html page already contains this code, plus the code for the smilies and edit buttons

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

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

[illegible]

<P>Guestbook powered by The Easy PHP Guestbook

If you want to add the smilies features present in the cellbiol.com site, you should copy ALL the javascript code, from the head and the body sections, from the included sample html file (easy_php_guestbook.html). An even better option is that you setup your guestbook by directly customizing the included sample html file as messing up with the javascript is quite easy unfortunately.

- Upload the html guestbook file and grant write permissions (chmod 666)
- The php_guestbook.php file and all the other php files should have at least 644 permission (read by all, write by owner - usually the default for php file, you should not need to edit those permissions)

Login to the admin section (visit `admin.html`) with the default administrator password "pass" (without quotes), go to the "configure guestbook" page and edit the essential variables at the top. The other variables can be changed at any time. Each time you modify the guestbook configuration the guestbook pages are rebuilt according to the new settings.

This is the html for the login form. You can also put it in your guestbook page if you wish:

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

c) Make a test post

5) SUPPORT AND CONTACT INFO

If you have problems feel free to post here:

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

E-mail support is reserved to contributors who made a donation for either the Enhanced version or the Website Comments System

6) 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 loose anything. Upgrading is at your own risk.

- 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 version.

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.

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

- save a copy of your 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.** Using this procedure is at your own risk.

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 v-free-0.55 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 (easy_php_guestbook.html) provided in the latest distribution, or the form html included in this file.

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 post to the support forum.