



JForum Customization Guide

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Templates and styles

- All JForum templates are stored in the directory *templates*, where each sub-directory is a template name, being the default template name called *default*. There you will find all HTML files, as well Javascripts, images and CSS files.

The table below describes the main templates:

Filename	Description
header.htm	Header for all other templates
bottom.htm	Footer contents for all other templates
forum_list.htm	Used in forums/list.page
forum_show.htm	Used in forums/show.page
post_show.htm	used in posts/show.page
forum_login.htm	Used in forums/login.page
uset_new.htm	Used in user/insert.page
pm_list.htm	Used in pm/inbox.page
post_form.htm	Used in the Post insertion / editing pages
search.htm	Used in search/filters.page
search_result.htm	The search results page
user_profile.htm	Used in user/profile.page

- Note that there are lot more of templates, many of them being referenced by other templates - *includes*.

The template engine

- JForum uses [Freemarker](#) as template engine. This means that you don't need to use any Java / JSP code to create the layouts for JForum. It is interesting to take a good look at the [freemarker manual](#) to learn more about it. In the following section you will find a brief overview of the most common used directives, which should be a good start for starters.
- A Freemarker directive starts with `<#`, and all variables are enclosed by `${}`. Inside a directive, you don't use `${}` - for example, to output a variable value, you write `${variableName}`, but if you want to use *variableName* in an `<#if>` statement, you simply do '`<#if variableName == "someValue">`'.

Assign a variable

- To create / change a variable in Freemarker, use the `<#assign>` directive:
- 1 `<#assign name = "My name"/>`
2 `<#assign lastName = "Last name"/>`
3 `<#assign fullName = name + lastName/>`

Conditionals

- Conditionals in Freemarker are `<#if>`, `<#elseif>` and ended by `<#/if>`. You always have to end an `<#if>` statement with one `</#if>` statement.
- - 1 `<#if someConditional>`
 - 2 code code
 - 3 `<#elseif anotherConditional>`
 - 4 code code code
 - 5 `<#else>`
 - 6 more code
 - 7 `</#if>`

Loops

- You use the `<#list>` directive to iterate over any kind of collection - Lists or arrays.
- ```
1 <#list collectionName as variableName>
2 ${variableName.someProperty}
3 </#list>
```
- where *collectionName* is any kind of array of `java.util.Collection`, and *variableName* is the local variable you will use inside the block.



# Calling properties and methods

- To call any property or method, just use the dot notation.
- ```
1 ${aObject.aProperty}  
2 ${aObject.someMethod()}  
3 ${aObject.anotherMethod("arg1", 2, "arg3",  
someFreemarkerVariable)}  
4 <#assign result = someObject.myMethod()/  
>
```

Configuring JForum Single Sign-On

- JForum provides a simple SSO facility which allows JForum to be easily integrated with existing web applications. SSO has built in support for:
 - using a login cookie
 - authentication frameworks that support the *request.getRemoteUser()* method
- These can be simply configured via properties in the *SystemGlobals.properties* file.
- You can also implement your own SSO class to support your particular situation, which is described with an example.
- When using SSO the login,logout,register and password retrieval options are removed from the JForum menus.

How SSO works

- JForum uses an SSO interface which provides two methods, *authenticateUser()* and *isSessionValid()*.
- when a user visits JForum, SSO calls the *authenticateUser()* method, which simply returns the username or null.
- if a username is returned JForum will check to see if there is a matching JForum userid.
- if a matching JForum userid is not found, one is created on the fly.
- the user is then logged in to JForum.
- if null was returned the user will be set as 'Anonymous'.
- if an 'Anonymous' user attempts to access a restricted area on the forum they will be redirected to your login page, with a return path parameter to send the user to the correct forum page once logged in.
- SSO manages various use case scenarios, such as user changing id etc, using the *isSessionValid()* method.

SystemGlobals.properties entries for configuring SSO

property name	Description	Default value
authentication.type	can be default or SSO	default
sso.implementation	a class that implements SSO. available classes are CookieUserSSO and RemoteUserSSO	net.jforum.sso.CookieUserSSO
sso.password.attribute	the name of the session attribute used for updateing jforum password during auto-registration	password
sso.email.attribute	the name of the session parameter used for updateing jforum email adress	email
sso.redirect.parameter	the name of the request parameter that contains the url encoded return path for jforum	jforum_redirect

property name	Description	Default value
sso.redirect.message	a message to display on your login page	please login to use the forum
sso.default.email	used when no session attribute found	sso@user.com
sso.default.password	ditto	sso
sso.redirect	a url that points to a login page	http//mysite.com/login.jsp
cookie.name.data	the name of a cookie that contains the jforum username	JforumSSO
sso.cookie.path	the pathName of the cookie. for using when you specify your own cookie name if its not in the root path.	/

- SSO sets the email address in the forum profile to the value of `_sso.default.email_` when registering a new user. If you would like to pass your users email address and password you should implement your own SSO class, the approach in the examples can be applied to both forms of SSO.

Attention to the Admin User

- When you're using SSO to authenticate users on a different datasource (like LDAP), you lost the default "Admin" user of JForum. To fix that, you have to manually associate the user you want to be the Admin to the "Administrators" group, using the table *jforum_user_groups*.
- For example, the following set of SQL (MySQL schema) commands fetch a specific user id and associate it to the Administrators group. **Please note that the user should try to login first, in order to have his record on the jforum_users table:**

- mysql> SELECT user_id FROM jforum_users
WHERE username = 'username_of_your_admin';
mysql> 5; *(suppose it returned 5 here)*
mysql> SELECT group_id FROM jforum_groups
WHERE group_name = 'Administrators';
mysql> 3; *(suppose the id of the Administrators
group is 3)*
mysql> INSERT INTO jforum_user_groups
(user_id, group_id) VALUES (5, 3);