

EE Help Chat — Yesterday, October 1

Oct 1	8:10 PM
Ryan I.	has entered the room
	8:50 PM
Ryan I.	turned on guest access
Oli S.	has entered the room
Kevin A.	has entered the room
Oli S.	haha, I'm gatecrashing the party early I see
	8:55 PM
Kevin A.	I guess I am too!
	Hello Oli
Oli S.	Hey Kevin. That or we both clicked the link just after Ryan opened the room
	brb – getting some tea
Kevin A.	:)
Renato C.	has entered the room
Marc	has entered the room
Bridget S.	has entered the room
Renato C.	has left the room
Anton Z.	has entered the room
Anton Z.	Hello, again.
Kevin A.	Hello
Oli S.	wow, it looks like we just had great timing. Hi all
Anton Z.	At the moment, I'm searching EE KB for how I can change CSS for a wiki. Any ideas? I'm using one of the default wiki templates, but I want to fiddle with the CSS.
Jason H.	has entered the room
Nicolas E.	has entered the room
	9:00 PM
Ryan I.	Evening, everyone.
Bridget S.	hello
Nicolas E.	Hello!
Jason H.	how's it goin?
Oli S.	Hi Ryan
Nicolas E.	Thanks for having us!
Kevin A.	Hello Ryan and eveyone
Ryan I.	You bet. Glad to do it.
Kevin A.	Yeah – thanks!
Ryan I.	Looks like Anton needs help with wiki CSS. I haven't altered the wiki CSS before. Anyone else have experience?
Bridget S.	My questions will be very, very noobish. :)


Ryan I.	Noobish is goodish!
Anton Z.	My question boils down to: where do I find azure.php css?
Bridget S.	I'm wondering if anyone knows of a good tutorial for making use of EE for a site that is primarily static with a few sections that behave like blogs. (without purchasing Pages)
Kevin A.	The only thing I can think is to get the web dev firefox plugin and use the css tools to see where the styles are located
Bridget S.	it's for a non profit and they want to stick with the free cms version
Anton Z.	Thanks, Kevin.
Jason H.	try CSSEdit from Macrabbit (if you're a Mac user) You can get a free trial and it has X-Ray mode, very useful
Nicolas E.	Anton you can get CSSEdit and extract the CSS, changing it in real time, it's really cool.
	Yes!
Lisa E.	has entered the room
Anton Z.	Found it. I'm using multisite, so found it in my main site themes folder.
	Will use Transmit to edit.
Kevin A.	Very cool Anton!
Jason H.	I have that same problem Bridget... But I think it will be a pain in the butt to find those posts and edit them
	9:05 PM
Bob S.	has entered the room
Ryan I.	Glad you found it, Anton. Thanks everyone.
Jason H.	I believe you can call the page uri to show a certain post am I correct?
Oli S.	Bridget—it would be a pain to maintain, but you could put the static pages into templates (one template per page)
Ryan I.	Bridget, there is also a free module from Mark Huot called Tome: http://docs.markhuot.com/ee/modules/tome/
Oli S.	Bridget—this would give you two levels of URL hierarchy (template_group and template_group/template_name)
Ryan I.	It's actually a renamed version of the Pages module that was out before EE had that functionality.
Oli S.	aah that'd probably be better
Ryan I.	I haven't used Tome before, but Mark has always produced quality stuff, so it's worth trying out, I think.
Bridget S.	thanks, guys! this is why i came here. to get pointed in the correct direction. :)
	i felt i was making a gazillion templates and wondered if there was an easier way.
Ryan I.	Yeah, if you're making one template for each page, then at some point it becomes a static site! :)
Bridget S.	hehe. that's the only thing i could think to do on my noobesque own. ;)
3Easy	has entered the room
Jason H.	Ryan I am trying to make a choice between CI and EE for a web app...
Ryan I.	ok
	What will the app do?
Jason H.	it's going to be a simple data collection with memberships.. but I haven't found a good membership library for CI people will be able to register for free and store their information there.
	9:10 PM
Marc	has left the room
Jonathan S.	has entered the room

Ryan I.	Well, the EE definitely gives you all of the membership stuff you need, so that's one re you'd probably not use the other 90% of the EE functionality.
Jason H.	I have everything working with CI but I can't figure out the membership portion
Ryan I.	Have you looked at FreakAuth?
Jason H.	well the member will be able to have their own RSS feed from their information I did look at freakauth but it's for an older CI version
Ryan I.	Don't wanna get too far into CI stuff in this chat but here's a good rundown of stuff: http://codeigniter.com/wiki/Summary_of_Res...
	ah
	Hi, Jonathan. How's it going?
Kevin A.	How would I search a specific category for a keyword?
Jason H.	ok, then my EE question is how do I display a members entries (only that members) via RSS feed?
Bridget S.	here's my last question so i don't hog the whole chat. :P anyone know of a Coda plugin/extension that aides EE syntax highlighting? err, colors?
Jonathan S.	Hey, it's going good. I'm hear to absorb. Don't mind me hiding here in the corner stealing all your secrets. hear/here.
Ryan I.	Kevin, have you looked at a slightly modified version of the Advanced Search Form? You can choose from a category: http://expressionengine.com/docs/modules/s...
Kevin A.	yeah, I saw that on your screencast and tried it out but my needs area little different
Ryan I.	Jason, you can query by username in the RSS module: http://expressionengine.com/docs/modules/r...
	9:15 PM
Ryan I.	You could dynamically pull it in using the logged in member.
Jason H.	what about dynamically.
3Easy	[Sorry for the intrusion] Bridget S. there is this thread you should look at for Coda Syntax http://expressionengine.com/forums/viewthr...
Jason H.	you just answered it
Ryan I.	Jason, do this View paste username="CURRENT_USER"
Bridget S.	Thanks, 3Easy!
Nicolas E.	Ryan, is there an efficient way to manage the content with EE (logos, backgrounds, texts, etc.) of a Rails app. UI (erb files) using EE to generate them? am I making sense...
Ryan I.	Kevin, you don't think you could strip the advanced search form down to suit your needs? I guess I don't really know enough about what you're trying to build.
Jason H.	Bridget, here are the tags for Coda Clips: http://expressionengine.com/forums/viewthr... thanks Ryan
Bob	has entered the room
Ryan I.	Nicolas, I'm not certain I understand what you're asking.
	9:20 PM
Nicolas E.	Is there a way to use ee tags to manage the user interface components of a Ruby on Rails application? So a basic

	user can manage its appearance via the EE Control Panel
Ryan I.	OK, I understand now.
Nicolas E.	Great!
Ryan I.	My unhelpful answer is that I don't think so, but I've never tried mixing a Rails app and EE. I've done both, but never together.
	Anyone mixed Rails and EE?
Jonathan S.	Ryan: Can EE be used to manage static files?
Nicolas E.	In fact is very helpful -> not easy!
Ryan I.	:)
Oli S.	What are the advantages over Multisite Manager vs the wiki version, apart from support?
Nicolas E.	Thanks Ryan.
Ryan I.	Jonathan, it can manage files, but I don't find the current file browser adequate. EE 2.0 is supposed to have major improvements there.
	Jonathan, you may want to look at this: http://loweblog.com/freelance/article/ee-f...
Oli S.	s/over/of the/
Ryan I.	The file upload functionality is actually fairly robust, but the UI is not all that great, currently. I think 2.0 will be much better. Is that helpful?
	9:25 PM
Ryan I.	Oli, it's just a better experience for your client or whoever will be managing the websites. There is a Sites tab and from there you can seamlessly toggle between sites. You also get other settings and preferences.
	I built a network of 17 sites with the MSM and it would be a nightmare for the client to manage with the wiki way. MSM made it much more usable.
Kevin A.	Ryan - I am making directory of contractors in my area. I have a weblog with a category group assigned to it. The category group has the types of services (asphalt, concrete, flooring, etc...). The weblog also has custom field drop down with all the cities in my area. I ant users to be able to search each city by discipline. Like search 'Phoenix' for 'florrying'
Jonathan S.	thanks Ryan, indeed, the upload UI isn't great. I didn't notice until I was stepping a client through it and realized that code insertion was different depending if you had uploaded a file or selected an already uploaded file.
	I'm looking forward to 2.0. Any idea when that'll be?
Kevin A.	or better 0 search the category 'flooring' for 'phoenix'
	9:30 PM
Oli S.	Ryan—aah ok, thanks. I'm wanting to do a 'link log' style site with a main homepage (everything recent), then six section homepages (content categories basically) plus yearly/monthly archive pages. I'd ideally like http://section.domain.name/2008/06/article-title style URLs for individual articles. I'm thinking to use section=template_group, template=index for everything, and map to sub-domain. Am I on the right track?
Ryan I.	Kevin, I don't think that's possible "out-of-the-box". I'm trying to find something to me otherwise, but I would approach that as a custom solution.
	9:35 PM
Jason H.	has left the room
Ryan I.	Oli, that will work if you can get EE to recognize the subdomain as a template group. EE keys off the URL. What did you have in mind for that?
Casey R.	has entered the room
Ryan I.	Jonathan, they're saying EE 2.0 will be available this Fall, so I guess that means before Christmas.
	Hi Casey. Welcome, welcome.

Kevin A.	Thanks Ryan... I am searching too but I am really new to EE and still learning how to s documentation
Casey R.	Thanks. A little late to the party, but the rooms been busy it would seem. Whats the current topic?
Oli S.	Ryan—my host does automatic root-level folder to subdomain mapping, but all I can think of so far is .htaccess voodoo, and I dunno if that will fly with EE. That's why I'm wondering about MSM, as it supposedly makes subdomains easy (but maybe I still need something between the domain name and /2008...?)
	Hi Casey
	9:40 PM
Ryan I.	Oli, I think EE will freak out because it doesn't know what the template group is. I haven't tried it, but taht's my guess. I think MSM would be a cleaner approach, but you do have to license every site you add using the MSM.
Oli S.	(as an aside I get the power of EE's nodes vs pages, but overloading the template group and template names for URIs still seems somehow wrong—maybe I don't 'get it' enough yet? :)
Nicolas E.	Thanks a lot Ryan, I'll leave so someone else can come in.
Ryan I.	Casey, to answer you question on Twitter, I am considering bumping up the chatroom slots. I have a hard time knowing how many people are trying to get in.
Bob S.	has left the room
Lisa E.	Quick question -- is there a way in EE 1.6 or will there be a way in EE 2.0 to have a dynamic top level navigation? I'd like my clients to have the ability to change the top level nav if need be.
Casey R.	Aw cool. I imagine its hard to gauge the right number of spots.
Nicolas E.	has left the room
Anton Z.	Ryan et al., thanks for your help tonight. It's been interesting watching the conversation. Good night.
Ryan I.	Thanks, Anton! Take care.
	Lisa, I don't know about EE 2.0 on that but we've used the Navigator module before, if that's any help.
Lisa E.	Thanks -- I'll look that up!
Ryan I.	I share your frustration about a simple approach to top-level navigation.
Lisa E.	I'm glad it's not just me :) Thank you, Ryan
Oli S.	Ryan—ok, that's good to know.
Casey R.	Lisa: Another approach may be the Selected Items module
Ryan I.	Anyone have good navigation tricks?
Kevin A.	I heard something about making a dummy weblog and using a category group for navigation??
Ryan I.	Ah, good one, Casey.
	9:45 PM
Casey R.	That Selected Items module at least allows you to reorder the links and add/remove as desired
Ryan I.	Another good, idea Kevin. You could use a custom category field for the URI and any related information.
Kevin A.	Never done it, but heard about it
Ryan I.	Selected Items module: http://www.brandnewbox.co.uk/docs/Home/Mod...
Lisa E.	many thanks!
Ryan I.	Let me ask everyone a question.
Casey R.	Another option could be to have a weblog for navigation, where each entry is a navigation item. Then have another weblog for content or pages, using Playa to chosse what main nav entry to relate it to. Might be overkill though

	But did something similar for a recent project that contained main sections
Ryan I.	What type of information on EE would be helpful to you? What's a big gaping void in EE info?
Kevin A.	Don't know where to look for info.
	9:50 PM
Ryan I.	OK. That's definitely a big problem.
	I assume you know about the wiki, forums and documentation on the EE site.
Kevin A.	Searching docs can be frustrating because there is the user guide, wiki, and documentation. Don't know the difference
Ryan I.	Ah, I see.
Casey R.	Would be nice if in the Docs there were links to related wiki or knowledge base articles
Ryan I.	I always search the User Guide (http://eedocs.expressionengine.com) first. I usually search for the module or functionality I'm using (Advanced Search, as an example).
	Then I move to the forums for more specific issues that the UG doesn't cover.
	Casey, there is the comments functionality in the User Guide now. Hopefully, over time that'll be built out.
Oli S.	Ryan—I'm just starting my first EE project, coming from experience with MT and recently Radiant. I found a *ton* of info on the EE site, but honestly it was overwhelming and often didn't feel edited. I requested a "differences between EE and other CMSs" article in the presales forum (URL structure, separation of templates and data, auto-date archive etc URL generation, et cetera)
Casey R.	yea, there are some good tips in the Doc comments. After it gets built up more I'm sure it will get more useful
Anton Z.	has left the room
Ryan I.	Oli, so maybe there's a need for a beginner guide that filters some information down for you? Like a EE Starter landing page.
Oli S.	Ryan—the other thing I'm looking for now are blog posts on how people set up their sites and advanced usage, to give me an idea of what's possible and how people have tackled problems. I've only found http://www.viget.com/inspire/building-vige... and 2 articles so far (any suggestions people?)
Ryan I.	I can see how a CMS comparison guide would be helpful.
	9:55 PM
Oli S.	Ryan—yeah, a single page that mentioned major conceptual differences with links to the docs would have helped me get my head around the differences much faster
Ryan I.	Thanks, Oli. I also find the "how i built this site" articles as well. We need more of those, for sure.
Bridget S.	has left the room
Ryan I.	Jambor-ee (http://jambor-ee.com , currently offline) is supposed to relaunch soon. That was always a solid resource for EE how-to articles. Unfortunately, it's been offline for almost a year.
Oli S.	it took me a forum post to hear about the auto-generated date archive urls for example. amazingly it's not even mentioned on http://expressionengine.com/docs/general/urls.html
???	has entered the room
Oli S.	and I'm a lot of posts away from being able to add it :-/
???	has left the room
Casey R.	The Boyink tutorials are pretty good for walking you through the site building process from the beginning.
Bob	has left the room
Casey R.	http://www.train-ee.com/ and http://www.boyink.com/splaat/weblog/catego...
Ryan I.	Yeah, Oli, the only mention I could find was in the developer documentation. Good point.
Kevin A.	devot-ee.com is supposed to be coing online soon with a bunch of stuff too. howtoee.com, truel-ee.com is also coming up

Ryan I.	lots good good stuff popping up
Lisa E.	I oftentimes its easier for me to search the forums to find answers rather than the official documents.
Casey R.	I imagine the more popular EE gets, the more resources will become available
???	has entered the room
???	has left the room
	10:00 PM
Oli S.	I'm gonna find the 100 post limit pretty frustrating I think :) I like improving documentation for some strange reason
???	has entered the room
Ryan I.	BTW, if you don't already have my screencasts, PragProg made a coupon code just for ya'll. Use the code "eechat" when you checkout to get 20% off.
Kevin A.	They are great screen casts
Oli S.	aaw man, you could have said that before I bought it :P
Ryan I.	http://eescreencasts.com
???	has left the room
Casey R.	For those that haven't watched Ryan's screencasts, they are great and I highly recommend them. Even for more advanced users, there are tips and tricks to be learned
mdesign	has entered the room
Ryan I.	Oli, you should create a forum post in the how-to section and record your additions or tips, linking to the documentation.
Oli S.	I agree. I'd normally read the manual but no time on this project. Watching at 2x speed is working well for me too ;-)
Kevin A.	ooh one quick question: can I just send mail to certain user groups?
Oli S.	Ryan—aah good idea
Jonathan S.	(thanks Ryan for putting this on)
Jonathan S.	has left the room
Ryan I.	Sure thing, Jonathan. Thanks for stopping by.
Oli S.	word. Thanks for answering our questions Ryan (and everyone)
Ryan I.	Kevin, do you mean sending an email from the Email screen in the CP?
Oli S.	Hope you'll be back next week so I can ask about i18n ;-)
Ryan I.	You bet. I plan to do this every week.
Kevin A.	yes.
Oli S.	rock
Ryan I.	Under the Communication tab, you can check the box next to the member group you'd like to send to.
	
Kevin A.	thanks! and thanks for the chat
Ryan I.	Sure thing.

Lisa E.	Thanks, Ryan!
Lisa E.	has left the room
Kevin A.	this will be great for MSM
Ryan I.	Thanks, everyone. Have a great night. See you next week!
mdesign	has left the room
3Easy	Thanks Ryan, and All. Awesome.
Oli S.	good night
Oli S.	has left the room
Kevin A.	'night - thnks ryan!
Kevin A.	has left the room
	10:05 PM
3Easy	[its Lunchtime!?!] in Orrstraliaa.
Casey R.	has left the room
3Easy	has left the room
Ryan I.	turned off guest access
	10:20 PM
Ryan I.	has left the room