

EE Help Chat — Today, October 8

	Oct 8 8:10 PM
Ryan I.	has entered the room
	8:45 PM
Ryan I.	turned on guest access
	8:50 PM
Oli S.	has entered the room
Oli S.	Hey Ryan. Looks like I'm early again
	8:55 PM
Ryan I.	Hi Oli. How are you?
	9:00 PM
Oli S.	Pretty good thanks. What about you?
	9:00 PM
Ryan I.	Doing great, thanks.
Oli S.	so... where is everyone? :D
Ryan I.	Not sure. Let's see what kind of crowd we get tonight.
	Maybe everyone is already EE experts! :)
Casey R.	has entered the room
Oli S.	eh!? I'm jealous!
	aah here we go
Ryan I.	Hi Casey
Casey R.	Hey Ryan. Hows things going?
Ryan I.	Going great.
Tristan B.	has entered the room
Ryan I.	Hi, Tristan.
Casey R.	Have you messed with the new Structure module yet? I have a pretty static site Im building right now and debating on giving it a try. Do you use the pages module often?
Ryan I.	I haven't had a chance yet to use Structure, but I do use the Pages module for almost every project.
	Some people don't like the Pages module, but I think it's a great addition to EE.
	The interface could be improved, but much easier for clients to use, especially if you set up a Pages custom tab for them.
Oli S.	hi everyone
	9:05 PM
Casey R.	I used it sparingly as I always seem to end up creating a static pages weblog on its own, but it definitely makes it easier on clients

Ryan I.	Casey, how do you handle URIs? My favorite part of the module is that I can create a specific URI.
Deron S.	has entered the room
Ryan I.	Hi, Deron.
Deron S.	Hello everyone
	Hi Ryan. Thought I'd drop by and hang out a while
Oli S.	Hi Deron
Ryan I.	Great. Welcome, welcome.
	Pull up a chair.
	Seems to be a smaller crowd tonight, so we can chit chat about anything EE.
Casey R.	Ryan: Sometimes I'll create separate templates groups for various sections to handle the URI, but it can be overkill too. Problem I find with EE is there are so many ways to do things, a lot of times I go overboard.
Ryan I.	:)
	I can relate to that.
	9:10 PM
Ryan I.	Whenever we're creating an EE site, I always try to focus us on implementing it in a way that will make managing the website the easiest for our client.
Deron S.	Casey Reid: same thing I do.
Ryan I.	Because you can definitely do some convoluted stuff with EE!
Casey R.	With pages you can still use categories and related_categories_mode right?
Ryan I.	I believe a Page functions just like an entry, but just with some extra frills. I'm not sure that I've ever tried using categories with Pages, though. Anyone else?
Casey R.	Yea I've gotten pretty crazy with the template groups as structure before. But good point on building the site in a way that is easiest for the client to update
	So how do you handle pages belonging to sections when using the pages module and wanting to show related nav. For examples a Contact Us page and a Driving Directions page. How would you dynamically link to the Contact Us page or other pages in the Contact Us sections?
Tristan B.	Hi Ryan, I've been trying to play with what file structure to use. I am never sure when to leave it as a template and when to make a template group and index file
Ryan I.	Casey Reid: I wouldn't dynamically link them in a typical set up.
Tristan B.	Casey for stuff as always there as that I would often do it statically
Casey R.	To build on what I said sometimes I'll use categories as a basis for structure. So all pages in the Contact Us section would have a category of "Contact Us". Then I'd use related_categories_mode to provide the sub nav for those related pages
Tristan B.	Don't ask for DB calls for any menus you don't need to
	9:15 PM
Ryan I.	Casey Reid: I'm just the opposite. I generally try to shy away from using categories for structure. I've gotten into too many messy situations. We do use them sometimes if the site needs to be dynamically updated.
Casey R.	Doing it statically works sometimes, but if clients want to add new pages its nice if that new link just shows up in the right sub nav for the right section



Ryan I.	Casey Reid: Totally agree.
Deron S.	Tristan Bailey: For me, I always create a new template group when there is a new section of the site. So if I have a photo gallery section, that will be a new template group. Or if I have a blog section that isn't the main focal point of the site, that will be a new template group
Casey R.	The other structure solution I use for bigger sites is to create weblog for "Site Sections". And add each main section as an entry. Then in my content weblog I'll use Playa and choose what section to relate the page too
Ryan I.	Deron Sizemore: I work pretty much the same way. I usually ask myself a few questions about what I'm doing before creating a new template group. Mostly: Will this group serve more than just one template and one page?
	Playa is a great extension. I'm planning on using it for an upcoming project.
	http://brandon-kelly.com/apps/playa/
Tristan B.	Thanks Deron, I have the issue with 2nd level pages english/ english/resources/ and then french/ french/resources/ now i have a view/ single article page for each level so do not want to end up with 4 view/ tpls
Casey R.	yes it is awesome. I seem to use it on almost every project
Deron S.	Ryan Irelan: Yeah, Playa is nice indeed
Tristan B.	Speaking of related things is there a plugin that would do related articles (not just same category) or most viewed/also viewed?
Oli S.	Ryan: going back to your question about what's needed from last week, pros and cons of different ways to structure a site or a section would be a great article
	9:20 PM
Deron S.	Tristan Bailey: If I understand you correctly, I would create an "English" and "French" template_group and then in each of those template_groups I would have a template called "resources." So the URL structure would look like: mydomain.com/english/resources/my-entry-title
Tristan B.	Oli, I second that
Ryan I.	Tristan Bailey: I don't think such a add-on exists yet. Anyone else know of one?
Deron S.	No, I don't know of one. I always just relate an article to another article based on categories although i'm not a huge fan of it but that's all I've got. ;)
Ryan I.	Oli Studholme: Awesome. Thanks for the suggestion. Maybe I'll talk a little about my fear of using categories for structure. ;)
Tristan B.	Deron yes thats right but i also have english/courses/ english/feedback/ and did not want a separate article page template for each though i do in the url
	I guess I could include it from one place to all the others, just need to stop the articles appearing under all the urls as they are in 1 weblog with categories
Deron S.	Tristan Bailey: I'm not sure how you would go about that without creating a separate template for each of your "courses" and "feedback" pages. I would find it easiest to create two more templates
Ryan I.	Tristan: What about making "courses" and "feedback" entries and using the index.php template inside of the english group to display them?
Deron S.	Well, yeah, that's a good idea too Ryan
Ryan I.	You'll need to add some logic in the template based on the url segment, but that's not too hard.

Tristan B.	not sure I understand ryan?
Oli S.	From my experience so far, I've spent by far the most time trying to work out how to get around <code>template_group/template</code> being the URI, ie how to get non-crufty URIs that I have control over. Knowing what the de facto ways to structure a site are would be great (hadn't heard of the Playa method mentioned above)
	9:25 PM
Tristan B.	so courses in in the weblog, and then php calls the real page from the db?
Deron S.	What are the added benefits of the cruft URL's? I had someone ask me the other day how to do them and to be honest I never have or see a need too? I know they are "friendlier" but EE's URL structure is already friendly, can it really make that much of a difference cutting out the <code>template_group</code> name?
Ryan I.	I try to keep my URLs as semantic as possible, but I don't let semantics ruin user experience when managing the site.
	Deron, I don't think there is much to gain. I tend not to fight EE in that regard and focus more on structuring my site in a way that makes it as easy as possible to maintain. But, I know there are other approaches.
Oli S.	hehe
Tristan B.	Oli I some times think that too. would like not to have the 'category' name too. more of a category page template set by me more like WordPress. though 'category' can be useful some times just looks bad in urls often
Ryan I.	Yeah, I agree that with categories it can get a bit messy. :)
Casey R.	Tristan you can change the word "category" to something more to your liking if you like. Maybe "Section" or "Pages", etc.
Tristan B.	Hi Casey, I know but I want it more than one word on one site ;)
Casey R.	Aw, gotcha.
Oli S.	It's possible EllisLabs might have something up their sleeves for EE 2 re: this, seeing how many people it confuses <code></rampant_speculation></code>
Tristan B.	I want it courses in one place and countries in another
	9:30 PM
rockthenroll	has entered the room
Tristan B.	Is there any formal EE2 requests place you have seen Oli or just the forum
Ryan I.	Hello.
rockthenroll	hey everybody
Casey R.	Tristan: Yea that is where I've just created a seperate weblog to handle the main structure. Then used Playa to relate pages to sections.
Deron S.	I'm be interested to know how everyone creates a sidebar on their site? Or if you have a three column site or whatever, how you create your two sidebars? For me, I generally just create a "sidebar" template in which I embed in every other template and in the "sidebar" template I just use conditionals based on what is in the URL segments to specify what content to show for each page. Is that a common approach?
Casey R.	hello rockthenroll
	Deron: That is generally how I always handle it.
Tristan B.	Deron yes, I do that with a mix of categories and url parts
Ryan I.	Deron, I do something similar.

Oli S.	Tristian: Not that I know of. I read in a EE blog post (by Lisa) that the way <code>template(_group)</code> mapped to URI was the thing she saw the most questions on, tis all Hi rockthenroll
Casey R.	Ryan: How do you typically handle sub nav links or related page links for pages you are on. Especially using the Pages module. Do you handle those statically?
Tristan B.	Is there a way of in a side menu not showing parent categories? i see something the other way round cheers Oli
Casey R.	rockthenroll: So the <code>{exp:structure:nav_sub}</code> tag in Structure will return all links for the sub-pages of a main page?
rockthenroll	Casey: yep, it's self aware and has some login built in to change levels based on whether child exists
inferno	has entered the room
rockthenroll	login=logic
Casey R.	rockthenroll: So if I'm on the About Us page it will return all sub pages where About Us is the parent?
Oli S.	Casey: do you know of any articles/guides on how to use Playa for site structure?
Ryan I.	Casey: I'll be using Structure. :)
Oli S.	hey inferno
Ryan I.	Hi, inferno.
inferno	has left the room
rockthenroll	it will only return a single level underneath
rockthenroll	9:35 PM and show it's children once youre on that appropriate page there will probably be more parameters down the road, but we built it to work with how we generally build and expect subnav to work
Casey R.	rockthenroll: ok awesome. I would only need it to show one level deep at this point
Deron S.	Ryan Irelan: What's the deal with Structure? I glimpsed at it the other day but didn't have time to dig. Just an upgrade to the pages module?
Oli S.	How should I call an <code>{assign_variable}</code> global variable in an <code>{if}</code> statement? <code>{if "{my_assign_variable}" == "yes"}</code> works, but I read that using quoted variables in <code>{if}</code> statements was bad (although the example used a field name)
Ryan I.	I'll let rockthenroll answer that. :)
Oli S.	heh
Casey R.	Oli: I dont know of any guides but I'd be happy to help you in that regard if you email me sometime. I can explain how I set it up on a recent project casey@clearfirestudios.com
Oli S.	rockthenroll: is Structure set up to be localized?
Ryan I.	You do have to disable the Pages module, so I guess you could say it's Pages module on steroids. I have a small-ish site coming up on which I'll be using it.
rockthenroll	Structure is based on the same premise of "static" pages, but brings the ability to mix list-based content under the same roof. It also is intended for an entire site and not just certain areas.

localized? language-wise?

Ryan I. <http://www.ngenworks.com/software/ee/structure/>

Oli S. Casey: thanks! If my current strategy doesn't work I'll definitely c

Ryan I. (for the transcript readers, who may not know about Structure)

Casey R. Oli: sounds good

rockthenroll thanks, Ryan

Tristan B. thanks ryan, do you use structure, i saw it last week, was not sure when to use it

Casey R. rockthenroll. Can I setup existing entries with Structure

Ryan I. Tristan: I have not yet used it for a project, but will soon.

Oli S. rockthenroll: yep, I'd need to have the interface in Japanese, which would be things like "add page", "Entries add/edit" etc

9:40 PM

rockthenroll got you. not fully yet.

i know bad form we'll work on it :) I swear it's on the list

Ryan I. haha

Oli S. hey np—i18n is always last on the list :D

rockthenroll haha

Michel D. has entered the room

Oli S. AFTER ALL, it'd be no fun if i18n was easy now huh ;-)

Ryan I. Hi Michel

Michel D. Hi Ryan

Oli S. woops with the capslock

Ryan I. Oli have you done a lot of sites with multiple languages?

Oli S. hey Michel

rockthenroll anyone have a recommendation for allowing clients to edit small bits of text, but not using entries for it? Something like GeeVar, but not entries
<http://studio625.com/ee/geevar/>

Michel D. Greetings ;-)

Oli S. Ryan: none on EE, but several (mainly using MT, and one using Radiant)

pain, every time

Ryan I. rockthenroll: I use Global Variables.


Oli S. Ryan: actually I wanted to ask if you'd had any i18n using EE experience/recommendations

rockthenroll Ryan: and just let users access all of them? do you tend to keep all code out of those then?

Ryan I. Oli: I've done a site with Radiant that has 2 languages (chinese and english).

rockthenroll I tend to keep static bits in there, like <head> contents etc

Casey R. I have a multi-language project coming up. Was trying to figure out the best approach for it. Wondering if this will work: <http://leevigraham.com/cms-customisation/e...>

Ryan I.	Oli: All of my i18n experience with EE has been custom code I wrote that displayed the site based on browser user agent.
Oli S.	aah
	9:45 PM
Oli S.	Ryan: did you then have different weblogs (sections) for each language?
Ryan I.	rockthenroll: I just let users access them. There can be markup in there (but no EE code allowed)>
rockthenroll	right, just worried about them messing things up :)
Casey R.	rockthenroll: Would fresh variables be an option or better solution then Global Variables, or about the same
Ryan I.	True.
Tristan B.	GeeVee looks interesting
Ryan I.	I actually have a new screencast in production that covers just this thing! :D
Michel D.	Ahhhh, a new one!
Tristan B.	Ryan Oli, I'd be interested too. We are doing multi language with 2 sets of entry fields in same weblog
Ryan I.	The nice thing about Fresh Variables is that it works with the MSM.
rockthenroll	Casey: that looks cool too. Those are seperate from standard global variables then?
Tristan B.	We need diff languages of the same urls
Casey R.	rockthenroll: Is GeeVar not providing a good solution for your needs?
Ryan I.	What I did is create multiple custom fields for each language.
	So an entry would have a en field, a zh field, etc
	I did it this way because the content was going to be the same and I didn't want to create multiple entries.
rockthenroll	Casey: since Structure currently manages ALL entries we can't use it for additional items like that. Since GeeVar uses entries I'm imagining we'll run into conflicts (without looking at the code, but makes sense)
Oli S.	aah nice. that also means generating the links to the different language version of the page is easy huh
Tristan B.	Ryan we did similar. Just the url and title had to be the same which will become a problem
Ryan I.	Tristan, I think I also created language-specific title fields.
Oli S.	oh, is using a quoted {assign_variable} in an {if} statement bad? eg {if "{my_assign_variable}" == "yes"}
rockthenroll	View paste
	<p>.....</p> <p>Ryan I.: that's a great multi language solution. I'm doing that for diffe</p>  <p>.....</p>
Ryan I.	The URI had to be the same, tho, correct.
	9:50 PM
Oli S.	or, how should I call an {assign_vavriable} global variable in an {if} statement?

Tristan B.	Ryan but don't some of the functions only call title, so you could not have a second?
Casey R.	rockthenroll; Aw I see. Fresh Variables may work, but it allows for code and EE tags in there so that may not be the type of content you want clients entering
Deron S.	Ohhh! Got a couple questions I've been struggling with for a few days: 1) We have an events section. We used the entry_date to specify when the event shows up on the live site. We use expiration_date to specify when the site is to come off the live site as well as the last day of the event if the event spans more than one day and I've created a custom field for the start day of the event. We have a "registration URL" custom field to which when a new event is created, our users have to enter in a registration URL that allows people to register for the event (this isn't a part of EE). What I need to do is remove the registration link from the live site so I'm trying to create some kind of conditional that tests if the current_time is >= the start day of the event, remove the registration URL. Forum thread if you're interested: http://expressionengine.com/forums/viewthr...
Shaun A.	has entered the room
Ryan I.	Hi, Shuan.
Oli S.	(Deron just realised there's only 10 min to go ;-)
Shaun A.	Hello there
Oli S.	hey Shaun
Deron S.	Dang! That hour went fast. Oh well. ;)
rockthenroll	Casey: that's cool. Thanks for the tip!
Oli S.	Tristian (and anyone else interested in i18n): please email me eescreencasts.com@boblet.net as it'd be good to have a posse to tackle i18n problems with
Ryan I.	Deron, that's pretty involved, so I'm going to read through the forum thread and see if I can help. It'll be easier to do it with some PHP than EE code, I think.
	9:55 PM
Tristan B.	this is the url we are working on for English and US english in case anyone would like to comment dev.cactuslanguagetraining.com/tailormade tristanbailey@yahoo.co.uk
Deron S.	That's what I was afraid of Ryan. Seriously, don't go to much trouble with it. I was just hoping for an easy built in EE solution. :)
rockthenroll	Deron: Could you match the expiration date vs current PHP time with conditionals?
Oli S.	(woops sorry s/Tristian/Tristan/)
Tristan B.	i can't give the url of the new site that will be in 5 languages but the design ;) http://www.cactuslanguage.com/hub
Ryan I.	rockthenroll: that's what i was thinking, too.
Tristan B.	oli ;P
Deron S.	Tristan Bailey: Nice looking design
Ryan I.	I'm not sure how many of you already have the screencasts, but PragProg was nice enough to create a coupon code you can use: 'eechat' and it'll give you 20% off. http://eescreencasts.com/
	Oli, I definitely agree that there needs to be a i18n EE posse! :)
Michel D.	Zut! I bought all of them.. ;-(
Casey R.	Deron: You tried {if current_time > events_date}...{/if} ?

Tristan B.	its Tarun Hari my design's design but my paper drawing of the design :) http://www.tarunhari.co.uk/
	thanks ryan, allways a good chat
Michel D.	*crying*
Oli S.	Ryan: feel free to email me then ;-) the more sheriff badges the better!
	10:00 PM
Deron S.	Casey Reid: Yep, tried that... well not exactly, but I tried {if current_time >= events-date}..{/if}. We need it to be greater than or equal too so that the reg. link comes off the site that morning of the event, or at least that's the idea. ;)
	10:00 PM
Oli S.	Thanks all—lots of good ideas as usual
	fewer people seems to equal faster conversation tho. strange
Ryan I.	Sorry, Michel, but thank you for picking them up. I hope they are/were helpful.
Oli S.	Michel: Ryan's got more in the pipeline
Deron S.	Yeah, I enjoyed it everyone. I plan on being back next week.
Michel D.	They were and they help me pretty much...Hope they re will be more
Ryan I.	Yep, more screencasts coming.
Michel D.	and I heard about a book... ;-)
Ryan I.	:)
Tristan B.	anyone got any of the EE books, Boynik one is ok
Michel D.	Rumours, rumours...
Tristan B.	Ryan you should :)
Casey R.	View paste Deron: Maybe something like this. <?php \$current_date = "{current_time format="%F %j"' }"; \$event-date = "{event-date format="%F %j"' }"; echo "\$current_date, \$event-date"; if (\$current_date > \$event-date) ?>
Tristan B.	Casey looks good , you would maybe need to pass the EE weblog var into the php for him?
Casey R.	yea. definitely more too add to it
Oli S.	Tristan: emailed you
Tristan B.	ta Oli
Oli S.	...and got your email. hah
Casey R.	Deron: similar forum thread, http://expressionengine.com/forums/viewthr...
	10:05 PM
Deron S.	Casey Reid: Hmm, I know zero PHP unfortunately so I'm not exactly sure what that says, but I'm copying it down to mess with.

Ryan I.	Deron: Don't forget to enable PHP for the template.
Deron S.	Casey Reid: Thanks for that thread link. Looks like a similar problem. Yeah, thanks Ryan, I always forget that
Tristan B.	and check if you need it pre or post EE code
Michel D.	Gotta go, i'll be here on time, next time
Michel D.	has left the room
Ryan I.	See ya, Michel.
	Time to wrap it up for this week.
	Thanks everyone. The i18n chat was nice. We should expand on that in a future chat.
Tristan B.	ok thanks everyone night, sleep is needed at 3am
rockthenroll	have a good night everyone! thanks for the help!
Oli S.	Ryan: I'd love that. next week eh
	waves
Oli S.	has left the room
Deron S.	Thanks everyone! C-ya next week
Casey R.	Thanks all. have a good night.
Casey R.	has left the room
rockthenroll	has left the room
Tristan B.	has left the room
Deron S.	has left the room
Shaun A.	has left the room
Ryan I.	turned off guest access