

# The iWHU Web Community Developer's Manual

July 19, 2003



# Chapter 1

## Overview

### 1.1 Development Mirror

We have a development group site at <http://iwhu.sf.net>. Please join the group first. Sourceforge.net does not work well because of its heavy load. Especially when you use `include` or `require` in your script (which is inevitable), it gives `Fatal Error` occasionally. So we only use the CVS functionality of sf.net and temporarily use the production server (iwhu.net) for testing. But of course we use another database so anything in the new code will not affect the running site. The development mirror is at <http://129.15.162.132/iwhu/new/>. Please send a message to [hjiangcs@yahoo.com](mailto:hjiangcs@yahoo.com) for username and password. Doing development on the production server is dangerous, of course. So every developer should be very careful. We will look for other possibilities. If you have a spare internet-available server, please contact [hjiangcs@yahoo.com](mailto:hjiangcs@yahoo.com).

Because we are on the initial stage of development, this document is far from complete. Please update your copy from time to time.



## Chapter 2

# The Database

### 2.1 Description of the Database Structure

The iWHU project uses MySQL in general. The following is the description of the database structure.

Name	Description
auth_user	Information about authenticated users
categories	Forums are divided into sections. This table stores information about the sections
forums	Information about the forums
threads	Posts are organized as information about threads
posts	Information about posts

Table 2.1: Tables in the Database

In the following table, primary keys are followed by a \*, and foreign keys are noted in the description column as *references field.table*.

Field	Type	Description
user_id*	varchar(32)	a unique user ID (generated using MD5), used internally.
username	varchar(32)	unique user name (public name), the maximum length is 30, enforced on registration
password	varchar(32)	MD5 harshed password

Table 2.2: Fields in *auth\_user*

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<sup>1</sup>Although we allow root forums, meaning forums that do not belong to any section (NULL in the *section\_name* field), we can ignore this scenario in the initial implementation.

Field	Type	Description
cat_id*	integer	unique category ID, auto-incremented.
name	varchar(20)	unique category name
description	varchar(40)	a brief description (could be NULL)
order_display	int	order of display (a smaller number denotes a higher priority.)

Table 2.3: Fields in *categories*

Field	Type	Description
forum_id*	integer	a unique ID, auto-incremented.
name	varchar(20)	a unique public name
description	varchar(40)	a brief description (could be NULL)
sid	integer	name of the section this forum belongs to (could be NULL) <sup>1</sup> references <i>sections.name</i>
order_display	integer	order of display

Table 2.4: Fields in *forums*

Field	Type	Description
thread_id*	varchar(32)	a unique ID. Generated using MD5
fid	integer	ID of the forum this thread belongs to (cannot be NULL, references <i>forums.name</i> )
first_pid	int	ID of the first post in this thread (references <i>posts.id</i> )
last_pid	int	ID of the last post in this thread (references <i>posts.id</i> )

Table 2.5: Fields in *threads*

Field	Type	Description
post_id*	varchar(32)	a unique ID generated with MD5
parent_id	varchar(32)	the parent of this post in the thread. If this post is the root of the thread, <i>parent_id</i> =NULL. (references <i>posts.id</i> , default NULL)
tid	varchar(32)	ID of the thread this post belongs to.
fid	int	ID of the forum this post belongs to. (This is redundant, but can save sometime avoiding to look up the threads table.)
author_id	varchar(32)	author of this post (references <i>auth_user.user_id</i> )
post_timestamp	int	a UNIX tempstamp of when the post was initially posted
subject	varchar(128)	subject of the post (default value "(no subject)")
body	text	body of the post (cannot be NULL)
attachment	tinytext	path of the attached file (default NULL)

Table 2.6: Fields in *posts*





## Chapter 3

# The program

### 3.1 The *PhpLib* Library

We use the *PHP Base Library* (*PHPLib*) to manage sessions, authentication and templates, as well as an abstraction layer of database functionalities.

*PHPLib* and its documentations are available at <http://phplib.sourceforge.net>.  
I will put something more readable here soon.