

EE Help Chat — Wednesday, September 24

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| Sep 24 | 7:15 PM |
| Ryan I. | has entered the room |
| | 7:50 PM |
| Ryan I. | has left the room |
| | 8:35 PM |
| Ryan I. | has entered the room |
| Ryan I. | turned on guest access |
| | 8:55 PM |
| Pieter | has entered the room |
| Ryan I. | Hi Pieter. |
| Pieter | Hi Ryan! |
| Ryan I. | How's it going? |
| rockthenroll | has entered the room |
| Pieter | Great, thanks. You? |
| Ryan I. | Going well, thanks. |
| Pieter | Just watched Scarface. Love that movie. |
| Ryan I. | Nice. I just finished up an episode of The Wire, Season 5. |
| rockthenroll | yo guys |
| Ryan I. | Hey there. How's it going? |
| rockthenroll | I keep hearing about that show. It's working its way u on my netflix. |
| | Pretty good, thanks for doing this again |
| Ryan I. | You bet. |
| | 9:00 PM |
| rockthenroll | so i guess if no one's here yet ill ask a random question |
| Ryan I. | Go for it |
| rockthenroll | i saw on a fellow airbagger site that you passed him the link to our structure module |
| | i emailed it to Ethan because i knew you were ee guys. anyway, have you got to check it out? |
| Ryan I. | Ah, yes. I'm looking forward to trying the module out on a project. |
| | Not yet, but I want to. |
| rockthenroll | cool |
| Ryan I. | I was telling Drew (also an Airbagger) about it when we were discussing an upcoming project. |
| rockthenroll | awesome |
| | shoot me feedback in the forum if you have any or travis@ngenworks.com |
| Ryan I. | Thanks, Travis, I will. |

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| vinnyio | has entered the room |
| Ryan I. | Thanks for releasing it. |
| | Hi vinnyio |
| vinnyio | Hi there |
| ryan b. | has entered the room |
| rockthenroll | yeah im excited to give something back with all the free tools and help i've used |
| ryan b. | hey dudes |
| vinnyio | just came to say hi before hitting the sack as 2am here |
| rockthenroll | yo |
| Ryan I. | Hey ryan |
| | anyone have a question or problem they want to share? |
| Kev R. | has entered the room |
| Ryan I. | Hi Kev. Welcome, welcome. |
| Kev R. | Hello. |
| | 9:05 PM |
| Ryan I. | Travis, will you be re-writing the Structure module for EE 2.0? |
| rockthenroll | oh yeah |
| | we're talking about what the next features will b right now too |
| Ryan I. | Good news. |
| rockthenroll | right now theres no way to add "non page" content |
| | EVERY entry is in the sitemap system |
| | tings like that to refine |
| | *things |
| Ryan I. | Ah, ok. |
| ryan b. | do you guys ever use the Leevi Graham EE addons at all? |
| Ryan I. | I have. |
| | I think his stuff is great. |
| rockthenroll | we've used his newest data matrix extension – super tight |
| vinnyio | I recently have started to get quite a bit of comment and member sign up spam. What would be your recommendations for to minimise this? |
| Ryan I. | http://leevigraham.com/cms-customisation/e... |
| vinnyio | I use quite a few of Leevi's addons. The man is a machine |
| ryan b. | yeah.. I was playing around with the social bookmarks extension today.. |
| Ryan I. | vinnyio, have you tried Akismet? It's a WordPress service, but there's a EE plugin available. |
| Charles P. | has entered the room |
| rockthenroll | whats the deal there? is there a free API key? or don't you ave to buy a commercial one? |
| vinnyio | Ryan I had tried Akismet just over a year ago but I found it blocked certain people from seeing my site at all |

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| Ryan I. | really? |
| | hmmm. |
| | Give it another shot. I've been using it on a few sites for a while without issue. |
| | 9:10 PM |
| Ryan I. | Otherwise, try the CAPTCHAs. I personally don't like them, but that might do the trick. |
| vinnyio | One of the people it actually blocked was EE's Robin but we never did find a solution so I turned it off |
| Ches | has entered the room |
| ryan b. | There is a comment spam prevention extension, as well as the blacklist/whitelist module |
| Charles P. | has left the room |
| Charles P. | has entered the room |
| Ryan I. | rockthenroll: there is a free API key. you should need to sign up for a wordpress.com account. |
| vinnyio | I use CAPTCHAs and the blacklist/whitelist module |
| Ryan I. | Hi,Charles. Welcome, welcome. |
| vinnyio | will revisit the Akismet plugin again. Thanks for the reminder |
| Charles P. | Hey there Ryan. New to EE here....and actually hoping to pick up on it for some freelance work and also get our company to use it on smaller projects |
| Ryan I. | Charles Plath: Great! |
| | Welcome to EE. |
| Charles P. | Follow ya on Twitter and saw your plug about this tonight...ok, so here is my newbie question:) People at our company were trying to find something for smaller sites.....sites where they would spend 10k or less but still need a cms they wanted to go with Drupal...I said EE just because of the other designers I know:)).... Have you found the learning curve with EE to be a lot faster than with products like Drupal, etc? |
| Kev R. | I'm not a web developer or site designer. I'm just a geek who likes to tinker around. I have been using EE to setup my personal site. I'm stuck with a question about how to setup the permalinks for entries and for archived entries. |
| Ches | has left the room |
| | 9:15 PM |
| Ryan I. | Charles Plath: I think there is a learning curve to EE but there is a good amount of support and documentation to help you get started. I can't speak to EE vs. Drupal (maybe someone else can). The thing about EE is that it is commercial software, so if you buy a license you get full technical support in the forums--and it's good support by dedicated staff. |
| rockthenroll | good point. great documentation really helps. |
| Charles P. | Ah, thats actually a good point |
| vinnyio | What's your question Kev or are you looking for a step-by-step? |
| rockthenroll | ive tried drupal and hated it. the templating and system didn't make sense to me. i know a lot of programmers love it because it's like a framework |
| Ryan I. | There are also third-party materials (screencast plug here) from some community experts. :) |
| rockthenroll | but i found it was TOO much control and setup for some things |
| Kev R. | The template structure I setup for entries is /blog/entry/{title} |
| | And /entry follows the same basic structure as my index template except it uses the limit="1". |

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| | Does this read like a good way to structure the templates? |
| | 9:20 PM |
| Ryan I. | Kev Rodgers: This is how I would set it up. |
| Pieter | Coming from WordPress, what could be a major pitfall when laying out a complex site structure in EE? Is it important to draw this out beforehand, or do I just go about creating weblogs and then see how I link everything together while I go along? |
| vinnyio | Kev yeah thats the way I would do it too. I use {comment_url_title_auto_path}to link to the entry page |
| Ryan I. | Pieter: I list everything out on paper before I start (actually I do it early in the project before design even begins) so I know what to expect and can make the best choices, e.g. use categories or not, set up relationships, etc. |
| Kev R. | Very well. I guess I didn't have a question as much as I was looking for reassurance about how I was proceeding. |
| Ryan I. | You're on the right track! :) |
| | My personal site uses that exact pattern: http://www.ryanirelan.com/blog/entry/what-... |
| Kev R. | I know - I've been clicking around trying to figure out how you had it setup. |
| | 9:25 PM |
| ryan b. | so /entry/ instead of the commonly used /comments/ basically? |
| vinnyio | My site uses that method but I use a bit of php to get rid of the default name like comments, entry or more http://www.5pieces.com/blog/10-expressione... |
| Ryan I. | nice, vinny |
| vinnyio | But that is a personal preference I suppose |
| ryan b. | check this post for a similar tutorial on how to remove /comments/ http://www.viget.com/inspire/building-vige... |
| Ryan I. | Since there's a lull here, I want to post a coupon code that the nice people at Pragmatic Programmers created for you all. It's "eechat" and good for 20% off the screencasts. |
| | Nice link, ryan b. |
| | 9:30 PM |
| Kev R. | Great, thank you. I still need to purchase the last 3 in the series. |
| Anton Z. | has entered the room |
| Ryan I. | Hi, Anton. Welcome, welcome. |
| Anton Z. | Hello. |
| | I'm late, I see. |
| Pieter | Great Ryan, thanks! How long's that voucher coder valid for? |
| Kev R. | One of the coolest aspects of the screencasts for me was seeing how Ryan has his workstation setup and getting a peek at the workflow. |
| vinnyio | http://expressionengine.com/wiki/Cruft_Free_URLs/ the php method I used to remove /comments/ is listed here |
| Ryan I. | Pieter: It'll work for awhile. :) |
| | Thanks, Kev |
| | What do you all use for developing EE? |

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| Kev R. | I flip between Coda and Textmate/Transmit. |
| Anton Z. | skEdit and Transmit. |
| Ryan I. | I tried Coda but it slowed me down, so I went back to TextMate. |
| | What do people use on Windows? |
| vinnyio | I have used numerous editing programs (PC) and always come back to Dreamweaver with file list on the left and code view on the right |
| Ryan I. | Nice. I haven't used Dreamweaver in a while but I've heard it's a really nice app now. |
| | 9:35 PM |
| vinnyio | Pile of stuff included that I will never use and even more now with CS4 but does the job |
| Ryan I. | Anyone have an EE question or issue they want to share? |
| | It's an open mic, so step right up. :) |
| Kev R. | What about dynamic titles? |
| vinnyio | K I'm off to bed. Thanks for the chat. I don't want to be hogging a spot if people are trying to login |
| Mathieu C. | has entered the room |
| Pieter | Not that many questions yet, I still have my big EE adventure ahead. All I do now is read, read, read. |
| Ryan I. | Thanks for stopping by Vinnyio! |
| Kev R. | I think you covered this in the screencasts, but I don't remember. |
| Ryan I. | Kev Rodgers: Do you mean title tags? |
| Kev R. | Yes. |
| Jason H. | has entered the room |
| Ryan I. | If it's a entry view, just do the standard entry tag pair, limit it to one and just print the {title} |
| | Hi Jason. Welcome, welcome. |
| | Hi Mathieu. |
| vinnyio | No probs. Check out Leevi Graham's Meta Tag module for another method of doing dynamic page titles. Bye folks |
| vinnyio | has left the room |
| Kev R. | What if I have the page header as an include? |
| | Do I need to remove that from the entry template? |
| Ryan I. | Kev Rodgers: Then you'll need to use embed variables to pass the embed the title |
| | Here's the docs on it: http://expressionengine.com/docs/templates... |
| zar | has entered the room |
| Jason H. | Ryan you helped me with a this issue and I had a question about it: <li {if segment_3 == "blah"}class="active"{/if}>Page Name |
| Pieter | Trivia q: any really popular, heavy-traffic sites you know that run on EE? |
| Ryan I. | Hi zar |
| ryan b. | sometimes I use this, coupled with {if} conditionals based on segment_X values |
| | http://loweblog.com/freelance/article/ee-t... |
| Ryan I. | Jason Hudnutt: Sure, go for it. |
| Kev R. | Thank you for all the help. I must be going. I look forward to reviewing this transcript later. Good night |

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| | all. |
| Jason H. | if you are removing the index.php with the .htaccess is it stil segment 3? |
| | 9:40 PM |
| Ryan I. | Pieter: http://www.paidcontent.org/ , http://ilounge.com |
| Kev R. | has left the room |
| Ryan I. | @k Take it easy! Thanks for stopping by. |
| rockthenroll | Jason Hudnutt: H index.php is not considered a segment – everything after is |
| Ryan I. | Yep, exactly. |
| Jason H. | so if the template group is about (URL would be like this: index.php/about/index). So segment 1 is about? |
| rockthenroll | exactly |
| Jason H. | so seg 3 is incorrect to reference the template group? |
| Ryan I. | right, in that example you cited, the template group is segment_1 |
| rockthenroll | yeah /index.php/segment_1/segment_2/ |
| Charles P. | Thanks Ryan and RockThenRoll for your answers earlier....sorry, worked people called and had to walk away for a minute:) |
| zar | Hi all, does anyone use EE to store numerical data in a weblog/section, or is EE better suited for text? I played around with displaying numerical data in EE and there are issues with displaying/sorting data. |
| Jason H. | awesome, Ryan ca you update the post here (http://expressionengine.com/forums/viewthr...) so the community has that as well? |
| Charles P. | Looking forward to joining your next talk on here...goodnight all |
| | 9:45 PM |
| Ryan I. | See ya Charles! Thanks for hanging out with us. |
| | Jason: segment_3 was just an example. was that misleading? :/ |
| Jason H. | yes it was a little... but I honestly haven't had the time to test it either... that why I am here. |
| | I do have a oddball question for you guys though |
| Ryan I. | sure, go for it |
| Jason H. | is there a way to create a weblog and CRON (which I am not familiar with at all) so that in 24 hours if the status has not changed on the weblog it sends an email as a reminder? |
| | I am kind of working on a support/trouble ticketing system* |
| Ryan I. | Jason: That's certainly possible, but it would have to be completely custom. If I were doing that I would create it as an extension. |
| Jason H. | so an extension would be the best bet? |
| | 9:50 PM |
| Ryan I. | That's how I would do it, so you can take advantage of some of the classes and functions that come with EE. |
| Jason H. | thanks for the info Ryan and rockthenroll |
| ryan b. | has left the room |
| rockthenroll | that sounds like a cool idea Jason H |

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| Jason H. | we here is the full idea: |
| Ryan I. | I don't think it would be a particularly difficult extension to write from your d always in the details). :) |
| Jason H. | (im not concerned if someone makes it before me) The user can enter info into the SAEF and when it is entered it sends an email to support@domain.com and if it hasn't been closed/updated within 24 hours it will send another email |
| | 9:55 PM |
| Jason H. | I think after I convince our next client to switch to EE I am going to work on this... end of October most likely... |
| Charles P. | has left the room |
| Ryan I. | Nice. If you have the initial status set to something like Pending then you can just check for that and send an email accordingly. |
| Jason H. | any good ref on the classes and functions? |
| | Ryan, exactly! |
| Ryan I. | http://expressionengine.com/docs/developme... |
| | Everything is in there. |
| Jason H. | ok i know your are ready to wrap this up but i wanted to ask how it has been going for you |
| Ryan I. | In general? |
| | It's going great. |
| Jason H. | with the chat specifically but other than that sure |
| | lol |
| Ryan I. | Oh. I think the chat has been a lot of fun and hopefully very helpful. I plan to continue doing it weekly unless people stop showing up. :) |
| Jason H. | so far for me yes |
| Ryan I. | Great! |
| | General links: |
| | EE Screencasts: http://www.eescreencasts.com |
| Jason H. | well my business partner will be in here next week |
| Ryan I. | PragProg Forums: http://forums.pragprog.com/forums/71 |
| | Sweet! |
| Jason H. | when my site is done we will be linking to your chat and site |
| Ryan I. | Leevi Graham: http://leevigraham.com/cms-customisation/e... |
| Jason H. | anything to help the EE community |
| Ryan I. | EE Docs: http://expressionengine.com/docs/index.html |
| | Thanks, Jason. |
| | 10:00 PM |
| Pieter | Super useful links, thanks! |
| Ryan I. | EE Forums: http://expressionengine.com/forums/ |
| Jason H. | good luck and thanks for the tips! |

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| Ryan I. | Thanks, Jason. |
| Anton Z. | Ryan, thanks for hosting this chat. I got waylaid by a phone call from a brother iMac. I'll be deep into EE development this weekend, and will no doubt rely on your screencasts often. |
| Ryan I. | Thanks, everyone to stopping by tonight. I'm going to do the same chat again next week at the same time 9PM EDT (GMT -4). http://www.eescreencats.com/go-chat will get you there when the chat room opens shortly before 9 |
| | Thanks, Anton! |
| rockthenroll | Thanks again Ryan. Later everyone! |
| Ryan I. | Ciao! |
| Pieter | Thanks Ryan! Bye! Signing off... |
| Jason H. | has left the room |
| rockthenroll | has left the room |
| Pieter | has left the room |
| Anton Z. | has left the room |
| Mathieu C. | has left the room |
| zar | has left the room |
| Ryan I. | turned off guest access |
| | 10:40 PM |
| Ryan I. | has left the room |