How to reduce blog and other SPAM on Elgg by adding meta name rel="nofollow, akismet and robots.txt

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As I'm playing with **Elgg - free social network** these days, I've been stuck with my newly established elgg based social network gets high amounts of spam via the elgg blog on http://mockateacher.com - my MockATeacher - Student Share Files network

  I've researched on how I can reduce the amounts of spam the site gets and I've found few ways for that, let me elaborate on that:

  First I've been reading for a while about **izap,izap-ecommerce, izap-videos**, however my experience with my tests with this ones were not good, thus i won't recommend this plugins to any elgg administrator.
Further on I've installed the **elgg Akismet** plugin which by the way is very easy to install (just place and unzip the plugin in elgg based website's **mod/ directory**).

  A quick elgg Akismet configuration is also necessary in order to config go to:

  Administration -> Tool Administration -> Akismet [Settings]

  All necessary to place in the Akismet [Settings] field is just an akismet, key. I personally have placed my old Akismet obtained key for my wordpress blog installation and therefore I skipped the long and time wasting process of issuing a new API key for Akismet.
Nevertheless if you don't have an Akismet API key already you will have to go *Akismet.com* and sign up for a new user and a key.
After installing the akismet.

  Moving on with the available anti-spam plugins for elgg, I've the *antispammer-for-elgg* plugin. The installation went smoothly, however I needed a special API key for the plugin which I couldn't issue. There were some instructions on how to obtain the antispammer-for-elgg API Key in order to start using the plugin by registering first to some forum called **stopforumspam.com** but even though I've registed in

the forum and followed the instructions the forum seems not to allow me to login and therefore I couldn't issue myself an API Key :(

The problem is not described on Elgg's website and I do suppose many other elgg enthusiasts have been stucked into the same **can't issue antispammer-for-elgg API key problem !**

Next I've stubmled upon some very nice suggestions on how to decrease the amount of spam by equipping the elgg based website installation with the following **robots.txt** file:

User-agent: *
Disallow: /pg/admin/
Disallow: /account/forgotten_password.php
Disallow: /_css
Disallow: /_graphics
Disallow: /account
Disallow: /admin
Disallow: /engine
Disallow: /languages
Disallow: /service
Disallow: /settings
Disallow: /simplecache
Disallow: /vendors

The file needs to be placed in the main directory root of the elgg installation and will instruct:

Google, Yahoo, Bing, Ask Jeeves and Yandex crawlers not to crawl and index the above list of directories.

I've also red online some interesting suggestions to use the **&ltmeta robots rel=''nofollow>** in order to instruct GoogleBot and the rest of the search engine crawlers not to follow the spam links which appear on spammer user blogs and video links.

To implement the *rel="nofollow* meta in my elgg installation I used the **elgg plugin called Metatag_Manager**

Metatag manager is ultra easy to install and is installed via the regular elgg installation procedure by placing and unarchiving in **mod/ dir**

The plugin is lacking a good documentation as with many of the Elgg plugins so it took me a while until I realize how can I *Set it up*

Thanksfully finally I found that the *Metatag Manager plugin configuration* is located in:

Administration -> Site Administration

On the **Site Administration** page you will notice the **Robots** and **Author** empty fields.

Now to instruct elgg to show to all your elgg based website pages (including the user blogs simply fill in the *Robots* field:

Robots

nofollow

  Press the save button and you're done the **rel="nofollow"** will appear on every elgg generated page and hopefully your social network search engines pagerank will hop up.

  I have to say that by so far **Elgg** is missing a serious anti-spam protection support and the developers should work in that direction to make this awesome project a bit more usable.
I've also noticed there is also a commercial (paid) plugin for Elgg called **PluginLotto** which appears to be a promising one but since it costs money and I can't afford the fee I have no observations on it.
It would be nice if somebody could share if it's an usable one and it worths the money.