

Installing the phpbb forum on Debian (Squeeze/Sid) Linux

Author : admin

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creating communities A short text to describe your forum

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It is currently Wed Oct 21, 2009 12:15 pm
[Moderator Control Panel]

Last visit was: Wed Oct 21, 2009 12:09 pm

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YOUR FIRST CATEGORY	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
Your first forum Description of your first forum.	1	1	by Meow Wed Oct 21, 2009 12:09 pm

WHO IS ONLINE

In total there is 1 user online :: 1 registered, 0 hidden and 0 guests (based on users active over the past 5 minutes)
Most users ever online was 1 on Wed Oct 21, 2009 12:15 pm

Registered users: **Meow**
Legend: Administrators, Global moderators

STATISTICS

Total posts 1 • Total topics 1 • Total members 1 • Our newest member **Meow**

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The team • Delete all board cookies • All times are UTC

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Administration Control Panel

I've just installed the [phpbb forum](#) on a Debian Linux because we needed a goodquick to install communication media in order to improve our internal communication in a student project in Strategic HR we're developing right now in Arnhem Business School.

Here are the exact steps I followed to have a properly it properly instlled:

1. Install the phpbb3 debian package

This was pretty straight forward:

```
debian:~# apt-get install phpbb3
```

At this point of installation I've faced a **dpkg-reconfigure** phpbb deb package configuration issue: I was prompted to pass in the credentials for my **MySQL** password right after I've selected the *MySQL* as my preferred database back engine.

I've feeded my **MySQL** root password as well as my preferred forum database name, however the database installation failed because, somehow the configuration procedure tried to connect to my **MySQL** database with the **htcheck** user.

I guess this has to be a bug in the package itself or something from my previous installation misconfigured the way the debian database backend configuration was operating.

My assumption is that my previously installed *htcheck* package or something beforehand I've done right

after the **htcheck** and **htcheck-php** packages installation.

after the package configuration failed still the package had a status of properly installed when I reviewed it with **dpkg**

I've thought about trying to manually reconfigure it using the **dpkg-reconfigure** debian command and I gave it a try like that:

```
debian:~# dpkg-reconfigure phpbb3
```

This time along with the other fields I've to fill in the ncurses interface I was prompted for a username before the password prompted appeared.

Logically I tried to fill in the **root** as it's my global privileges MySQL allowed user.

However that didn't helped at all and again the configuration tried to send the credentials with user **htcheck** to my MySQL database server.

To deal with the situation I had to approach it in the good old manual way.

2. Manually prepare / create the required phpbb forum database

To completet that connected to the MySQL server with the mysql client and created the proper database like so:

```
debian:~# mysql -u root -p
mysql>
CREATE database phpbb3forum;
```

3. Use phpmyadmin or the mysql client command line to create a new user for the phpbb forum

Here since adding up the user using the phpmyadmin was a way easier to do I decided to go that route, anyways using the mysql cli is also an option.

From phpmyadmin It's pretty easy to add a new user and grant privileges to a certain database, to do so navigate to the following database:

Privileges -> -> Add a new user ->

Now type your **User name:** , **Host** , **Password** , **Re-type password** , also for a **Host:** you have to choose **Local** from the drop down menu.

Leave the **Database for user** field empty as we have already previously created our desired database in step 2 of this article

Now press the **"Go"** button and the user will get created.

Further after choose the *Privileges* menu right on the bottom of the page once again, select through the checkbox the username you have just created let's say the previously created user is **phpbb3**

Go to **Action** (There is a picture with a man and a pencil on the right side of this button

Scroll down to the page part saying **Database-specific privileges** and in the field **Add privileges on the following database:** fill in your previously created database name in our case it's **phpbb3forum**

and then press the **"Go"** button once again.

A page will appear where you will have to select the exact privileges you would like to grant on the specific selected database.

For some simplicity just check all the checkbox to grant as many privileges to your database as you could. Then again you will have to press the **"Go"** button and there you go you should have already configured an username and database ready to go with your new phpbb forum.

4. Create a virtualhost if you would like to have the forum as a subdomain or into a separate domain

If you decide to have the forum on a separate sub-domain or domain as I did you will have to add some kind of Virtualhost into either your Apache configuration `/etc/apache2/apache2.conf` or into where officially the virtualhosts are laid in Debian Linux in `/etc/apache2/sites-available`
I've personally created a new file like for instance `/etc/apache2/sites-available/mysubdomain.mydomain.com`

Here is an example content of the new Virtualhost:

```
ServerAdmin admin-email@domain.com
ServerName mysubdomain.domain.com
```

```
# Indexes + Directory Root.
DirectoryIndex index.php index.php5 index.htm index.html index.pl index.cgi index.phtml index.jsp
index.py index.asp
```

```
DocumentRoot /usr/share/phpbb3/www/
```

```
# Logfiles
ErrorLog /var/log/apache2/yourdomain/error.log
CustomLog /var/log/apache2/yourdomain/access.log combined
# CustomLog /dev/null combined
```

```
Options FollowSymLinks MultiViews -Includes ExecCGI
AllowOverride All
Order allow,deny
allow from all
```

In above Virtualhost just change the values for **ServerAdmin** , **ServerName** , **DocumentRoot** , **ErrorLog** , **CustomLog** and **Directory** declaration to adjust it to your situation.

5. Restart the Apache webserver for the new Virtualhost to take affect

```
debian:~# /etc/init.d/apache2 restart
```

Now accessing your **<http://mysubdomain.domain.com>** should display the installed phpbb3 forum
The default username and password for your forum you can use straight are:

username: admin

password: admin

So far so good you by now have the PHPBB3 forum properly installed and running, however if you try to **Register a new user** in the forum you will notice that it's impossible because of a terrible ugly message reading:

Sorry but this board is currently unavailable.

I've spend few minutes online to scrape through the forums before I can understand what I have to stop that annoying message from appearing and allow new users to register in the *phpbb forum*

The solution came natural and was a setting that had to be changed with the forum admin account, thus login as admin and look at the bottom of the page, below the text reading **Powered by phpBB Â© 2000, 2002, 2005, 2007 phpBB Group** you will notice a link with *Administration Control Panel* just press there a whole bunch of menus will appear on the screen allowing you to do numerous things, however what you will have to do is go to

Board Settings -> Disable Board

and change the radio button there to say **No**

That's all now your forum will be ready to go and your users can freely register and if the server where the forum is installed has an already running mail server, they will receive an emails with a registration data concerning their new registrations in your new phpbb forum.

Cheers and Enjoy your new shiny phpbb Forum :)