
Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - REVISITED!!!

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/01 03:04

Decided to try my hand at a contrib that some might find worthwhile. It's my first one and I don't know much at all about programming so forgive my bumbling.

I borrowed the idea, code, and everything else from Adeptus (as I am sure he pretty much did the same thing) as implemented in his Fireboard RE. I still have some testing to do before dropping the hacks. I have some styling issues to work out as the plugin uses it's own embedded CSS and not the forum.css. I think if I can just move it into the forums.css it should fix everything. I also have to figure out how it's integrated into the forum config to be visible. I'll work on it some more during the week.

To see a working implementation check out this link.

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/02 03:46

Doesn't look like there's much interest in this but I'm going to forge along. If I can figure this one out I may be able to integrate other goodies into FB as hack/plugins.

But right now I would like to get some people to test out the functionality of the chat I have set up at the above link. I'm mainly trying to see if the configuration from the control panel is working om the front end. Previously I had it set up to NOT allow guests to post in the chat and now I do. So if you get a moment stop in and just enter some text to see if it IS working. If so I'll clean up a few details and release the hack as it stands now and update as I go along.

Thanks.

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax

Posted by FidelGonzales - 2007/10/02 05:17

I like the chat function. Looks good. Seems to work well.

I'm curious as to how the data is stored and how can it be administrated?

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax

Posted by iosoft - 2007/10/02 05:20

Sorry friend, but I oppose it.

CHAT tools are real Server-Database-Bandwidth killer and specially the AJAX ares. Believe me, I have seen server overload just due to chat.

I really don't want to see it in-build with FB.

A suggestion to you -

There are many FLASH-AJAX based chat tools available. Incorporate them with very small coding.

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/02 11:55

I'm not suggesting to include it into future builds. But I will look into other, less "intensive" apps to incorporate if I'm successful with this one and feel confident that I can. This particular app was claimed to be not so much of a resource hog

and DID NOT utilize the database at all. The chat info is probably stored in a flat file.

But remember, I am not a programmer, coder or anything of the like. This is my first attempt at integrating a plugin. No more and no less. I just thought I'd share it. I don't have much experience in this area but hope to gain some. Thanks for your suggestion.

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/03 17:42

I think I'm about done with porting this over from the RE version. The only Issue I have now is that all of a sudden it's showing REAL names instead of USER names. Don't think I changed anything that should have affected that but I'll try and hunt it down.

Ultimately there was a lot of code to hack/insert and I most likely butchered but it seems to work just fine. I'll document the changes and upload the chat plugin in a day or so.

And I've verified that it saved the chat session in a flat text file.

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/04 00:11

I originally posted in this in the Wishlist and Suggestions forum as a suggestion. That being said I understand that some of you think this is a wasted effort. In response to that I thought I'd move my response to that resistance to a more appropriate forum-this one.

"Okay. Let me clarify ONCE-AND-FOR-ALL. This is just a personal exercise to see if I can do it. I am trying to learn something here. And while I'm doing that I'm gaining a greater understanding of how Fireboard works. I am not a programmer of any sort. Think of this as a log, although somewhat sparse, of my progress. If I am successful I will make the files and hacks available to anyone that wants them. I am not on the dev team so this isn't distracting me from anything (concerning the current development of Fireboard). I am also not offering this up as a feature to be included in any future release. This is just a personal project I'd thought I'd share with any interested parties. If you think this is a waste of time or that I'm using the wrong resources then so be it."

When I'm done I hope somebody gets some use out of this. I don't know why people think I'm polling to ask whether this was a good idea or not. Adeptus thought enough of it to implement it into RE so I thought I'd give it a shot.

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax

Posted by girth - 2007/10/05 07:02

I would like a shoutbox at top. Think it will get more activity in the forums in comparison to the homepage.

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax

Posted by iosoft - 2007/10/05 09:30

There are 100s of chat/shout-box components-modules for Joomla.
Use them.

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/06 13:38

Before you attempt this BACKUP!!! BACKUP!!! BACKUP!!! BACKUP!!! Perform a backup of all the files you will be touching.

This DOES NOT modify the database at all so to all of the SQL squeamish-don't worry!

I'm not responsible for any damage you may cause to your Joomla/Fireboard install. I am a rank amateur when it come to stuff like this so use at your own risk.
Contained in this zip are the files I modified. If you have NEVER modified these files you can probably just overwrite the originals.

Note*-I did not move any of the CSS elements of this hack into the forum.css file because I didn't want to "connect" this hack so tightly into the Fireboard code.

I DID NOT get to thoroughly test this for bugs as I was more interested in seeing if I could pull this off. If you find any bugs or strange characters popping up that's probably because I wasn't looking for them. I'm not supporting this in any way shape or form since this stuff is a little out of my realm of expertise. Hopefully our fellow forum members will lend a hand where needed.

Instructions/files are in the included zip file. Good luck. <http://www.bestofjoomla.com/images/fbfiles/files/FBchat.zip>

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax

Posted by iosoft - 2007/10/06 17:04

Good work.

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by girth - 2007/10/07 05:02

I installed on test site and came up with code instead of words but nothing major that I can see. If you have any idea how to fix those that would be helpful.

http://www.esgamer.com/joomla/index.php?option=com_fireboard&Itemid=26

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/07 12:29

I don't see anything but the chat window. Just in case the files aren't in the proper locations or a hack was missed here's the list and location of the files being touched.

FIREBOARD.PHP - components>com_fireboard
ADMIN.FIREBOARD.HTML.PHP - administrator>components>com_fireboard
ADMIN.FIREBOARD.PHP - administrator>components>com_fireboard
FIREBOARD_CONFIG.PHP - administrator>components>com_fireboard
ENGLISH.PHP - administrator>components>com_fireboard>language

Those were the only files I touched.

Also the chatmy folder is supposed to go in the plugins folder of your active template.

That's about the only support I can give you. Like I said I'm NOT any kind of programmer or developer. Just someone that experimented with this implementation.

Edit*

*I just noticed that there may be some BBcode element in the text file I included. Probably from me copying and pasting back and forth from my post. I've attached the "clean" set of instructions.
http://www.bestofjoomla.com/images/fbfiles/files/Chat_Instructions.zip

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Re: Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by girth - 2007/10/07 16:05

I fixed the errors. It was UK_ when it should be FB_ for my site.

I did get the chat on my live site but it will not post new chats. I have it down right now and hopefully can get it working later.

Its kinda wierd since you can post sometimes and other times you cant. I believe also with mychat, the default template is still needed since some of the links link back to there. I tried to just put chat folder and it still needed to look for a few files under default.

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Re: Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by girth - 2007/10/08 03:13

I think the shout box is working good but I think I am running into is the messages not updating when they are posted. If I post and leave I can see message that I inputed.

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Re: Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/08 03:26

Possibly I missed uploading a file. I touched so many before I started actually documenting. I'll go back and see which ones I modified and when.

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Re: Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by Tinker - 2007/10/08 04:02

girth wrote:

I think the shout box is working good but I think I am running into is the messages not updating when they are posted. If I post and leave I can see message that I inputed.

I have the same problem. This seems to be a jquery issue. It only happens in Internet Explorer 7; works fine in Firefox. You'll also notice the ability to collapse categories no longer works (issue exists in Fireboard RE as well).

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Re: Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/08 11:57

That may be I updated that file previously so I'm not running the one from the original FB install.
http://www.bestofjoomla.com/images/fbfiles/files/jquery_latest.zip

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Re: Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by Tinker - 2007/10/08 14:13

I had already replaced the file as well. The collapse issue is in IE7 and FF, if I comment out the jquery line in my.phpchat the collapse works. Messages still are not updating in IE7.(I may have tracked this down in my case to a conflict with my dropline style menu, collapse funtion still not working though :(). I'll have to live without this feature as I can't lose the menu features.

Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by girth - 2007/10/08 14:34

I have shout setup in both my live and test site and messages update in test site but not in live site, but neither site does the collapse work.

Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/08 15:03

Looks like this one is going to be very picky about it's server environment. At work now and the collapse does not work on IE6 but messages update instantly.

Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by girth - 2007/10/20 20:55

Anyone have any luc kwith this??

Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/21 01:12

It's a very delicate and unstable hack. I've gone and created a new module position and I'm going to eventually just install some form of shoutbox module there instead. Unless this somehow gets installed into the FB core as an option I wouldn't use it. It doesn't play well with any other javascript/mootools item you may have running on your Joomla install.

Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/10/21 18:35

Well I abandoned the integrated chat and went with a module position for Fireboard instead.

To create the module position I inserted this code into profilebox.php @ line 156.

<http://www.bestofjoomla.com/images/fbfiles/files/code-2cf000ef22b118ceb2019b971816f735.txt>

Created a new module position in Joomla called fb_chat and published the zigchat module to it. Using that code you can publish a module position anywhere you want just like in a Joomla template.

I'm not too happy with ANY of the available chat/shoutbox modules out there. Anyone that finds a better chat/shoutbox module please let me know. I've think I've tried all of them over the course of the last 2 days.

Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - RELEASED!!!

Posted by Adidas108 - 2007/11/02 05:24

np..i tried ur files and got error in fireboard.php ...then tried to put code as u say and result was as u can se in picture...anyway maybe some good coder can explain what esectly we can do to get this one to work.

cheer

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - ABANDONED!!!

Posted by gurbir - 2008/01/01 03:20

Hi grumblemarc,

Can you please tell me in which file do i have to add this code as i m not able to find profilebox.php anywhere.:(

Thnx

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - ABANDONED!!!

Posted by grumblemarc - 2008/01/01 15:00

components/com_fireboard/template/default/plugin/profilebox

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Re:Integrated mini-chat with Ajax - ABANDONED!!!

Posted by grumblemarc - 2008/03/03 14:46

Apparently I did not do so bad a hack job as I thought. As I presentd it originally we had it working PERFECTLY on the default template over at joomla.me.com. With a little more hacking it is now working with the Numinu template with the Vcard.

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