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eXo Knowledge Reference Guide

eXo Platform (eXo Platform)

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Chapter 1. Configuration

1.1. General

1.1.1. Roles Plugin Configuration

1.1.2. Overview

The roles plugin component is used to define user roles in eXo Forum and eXo FAQ. Roles are a convenient instrument to define access to a set of functions within the application.

Currently, it only allows to define who is in the *administrator* role. Administrators get access to administration functions.

At runtime, the application get data from the roles plugin in order to decide whether the logged user has the administration role or not.

1.1.3. Configuration

The plugin is configured in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file.

When a user signs in, his or her username, group and membership is compared with the user roles defined in the *xml* file that is provided by the roles plugin component.

In details:

At runtime of the Forum Service, the roles plugin component is called. The role plugin is configured in the *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file. The component-plugin named *add.role.rules.plugin* refers to *org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.RoleRulesPlugin* to create users for eXo Forum corresponding to the users that exist in the Organization database. Besides, the list of users who have administration roles is also defined.

```
<component-plugin>
  <name>add.role.rules.plugin</name>
  <set-method>addRolePlugin</set-method>
  <type>org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.RoleRulesPlugin</type>
  <description>add role rules</description>
  <init-params>
    <value-param>
      <name>role</name>
      <description>name of the role</description>
      <value>ADMIN</value>
    </value-param>
    <values-param>
      <name>rules</name>
      <description>rules of the role</description>
      <value>root</value>
      <value>john</value>
      <value>/platform/administrators</value>
      <value>member:/VIP</value>
      <value>validator:/VIP</value>
      <!--value>*/somegroup/somesubgroup</value-->
      <!--value>manager:/somegroup/someothergroup</value-->
    </values-param>
  </init-params>
</component-plugin>
```

When `ks-plugins-configuration.xml` file is executed, the administration role (with ADMIN value) will be checked and assigned to a matrix of users/groups/memberships defined inside "value" tags like below:

```
<value>...</value>
```

For example:

```
...
    <value>root</value>
    <value>john</value>
    <value>/platform/administrators</value>
    <value>member:/VIP</value>
    <value>validator:/VIP</value>
...
```

With the example above, the default Forum Administrator are *root* , *john*, users in */platform/administrators* group and users who are *member/validator* memberships in the VIP group.

When *root*, *john* or any user who belongs to the */platform/administrators* group or users who have *amember/validator* memberships in the VIP group signs in to eXo Forum, he or she will be identified as the default Forum Administrator.

To add or remove the default Forum Administrator, simply edit *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file and add or remove the correspondent "value" tags.

```
...
    <values-param>
        ...
    <value>...</value>
        ...
    </values-param>
...
```

The default Forum Administrators can only change their roles by editing in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file.

At runtime, the modifications in the *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file will be read and the database updated, the forum normal users and the default administration will be created correspondingly.

1.1.4. Mail Service Configuration

1.1.5. Overview

In KS, MailService comes from kernel, KS relies on this service to sends notifications via email.

This configuration initializes parameters for MailService, the parameters declare properties of a mail box that is used to send email notification.

1.1.6. Runtime Configuration

At runtime of KS, when the send mail function is executed, *org.exoplatform.services.mail.MailService* will be called that refers to *org.exoplatform.services.mail.impl.MailServiceImpl*.

Properties of MailService are defined with the format:

```

...
<component>
  <key>org.exoplatform.services.mail.MailService</key>
  <type>org.exoplatform.services.mail.impl.MailServiceImpl</type>
- <init-params>
- <properties-param>
  <name>config</name>
  <property name="mail.smtp.auth.username" value="notifuser" />
  <property name="mail.smtp.auth.password" value="somepassword" />
  <property name="mail.smtp.host" value="smtp.example.org" />
  <property name="mail.smtp.port" value="465" />
  <property name="mail.smtp.starttls.enable" value="true" />
  <property name="mail.smtp.auth" value="true" />
  <property name="mail.smtp.debug" value="false" />
  <property name="mail.smtp.socketFactory.port" value="465" />
  <property name="mail.smtp.socketFactory.class" value="javax.net.ssl.SSLSocketFactory" />
  <property name="mail.smtp.socketFactory.fallback" value="false" />
</properties-param>
</init-params>
</component>
...

```

Properties:

Table 1.1.

name	description	sample value
<i>mail.smtp.auth.username</i>	Default user name for SMTP or the email address which is used to send notification mail.	notifuser
<i>mail.smtp.auth.password</i>	The password of the email address which is used to send notification mail.	somepassword
<i>mail.smtp.host</i>	The SMTP server to connect to or the host name of the email provider.	smtp.example.org
<i>mail.smtp.port</i>	The SMTP server port corresponding to the mail server of the email provider.	465
<i>mail.smtp.starttls.enable</i>	If true, enables the use of the STARTTLS command (if supported by the server) to switch the connection to a TLS-protected connection before issuing any login commands. Note that an appropriate trust store must be configured so that the client will trust the server's certificate.	true false
<i>mail.smtp.auth</i>	If true, attempt to authenticate the user using the AUTH command.	true false
<i>mail.smtp.debug</i>	If true, in case there is error when connecting to SMTP server, warning will be returned.	true false

name	description	sample value
<i>mail.smtp.socketFactory.port</i>	Specifies the port to connect to when using the specified socket factory. If not set, the default port will be used.	465
<i>mail.smtp.socketFactory.class</i>	If set, specifies the name of a class that implements the socketFactory interface. This class will be used to create SMTP sockets.	javax.net.ssl.SSLSocketFactory
<i>mail.smtp.socketFactory.fallback</i>	If set to true, failure to create a socket using the specified socket factory class will cause the socket to be created.	true false

When sending an email in KS, those properties will use to connect to mail box(example: exoservice on gmail) and send notification from there.

By fault, the default properties can only be changed by editing its value in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file and the user can configure an different mail box when deploying KS. Note that the properties which are used for SMTP Service must be exact.

At runtime, the modifications in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file will be read and updated, MailService will be executed depending on its properties.

1.1.7. Profile Provider Configuration

1.1.8. Overview

Forum and FAQ applications allow to show some information about the posters. The way we retrieve that information is pluggable through contact provider implementations.

For public internet websites, you may want to allow user provide personal information such as personal email address and location. To enable this simply override the ContactProvider component in your configuration.

1.1.9. Configuration

Configuration file format:

```
<component>
  <key>org.exoplatform.forum.service.user.ContactProvider</key>
  <type>org.exoplatform.forum.service.user.PersonalProfileContactProvider</type>
</component>
```

For corporate websites, it is probably more advisable to use the business information such as professional phone or email address. In that case you would use the BusinessProfileContactProvider :

```
<component>
  <key>org.exoplatform.forum.service.user.ContactProvider</key>
  <type>org.exoplatform.forum.service.user.BusinessProfileContactProvider</type>
```



```
</component>
```

If you run eXo [Collaboration Suite](#) on your portal you can get profile information from eXo Address Book contacts, including avatar image. To enable this nice feature :

```
<component>
  <key>org.exoplatform.forum.service.user.ContactProvider</key>
  <type>org.exoplatform.forum.provider.cs.CSContactProvider</type>
</component>
```

And finally you can create your own implementation to apply custom privacy policies.

1.2. Forum Configuration

1.2.1. Initialization Forum Plugin Configuration

1.2.2. Overview

The Initialization plugin component is used to define the default forum data in *xml* file. It includes categories,forums,topics and posts.

When Forum Service runs, it will get values which are returned from Initialization plugin component to initialize the default forum data.

1.2.3. Configuration

1.2.3.1. Default forum data

The default forum data is configured in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file.

In details:

At the runtime of Forum Service, Initailization plugin component is called, then *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file is executed, the component-plugin named *addInitialDataPlugin* will be referred to *org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.InitializeForumPlugin* to excute some objects to create default data for the forum application.

```
<component-plugin>
  <name>default.data</name>
  <set-method>addInitialDataPlugin</set-method>
  <type>org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.InitializeForumPlugin</type>
  <description>description</description>
  <init-params>
    <object-param>
      <name>livedemo.default.configuration</name>
      <description>initial data for live demo</description>
      <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.ForumInitialData">
        <field name="categories">
          <collection type="java.util.ArrayList">
            <value>
              <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.CategoryData">
                <field name="owner">
                  <string>root</string>
                </field>
              </object>
            </value>
          </collection>
        </field>
      </object>
    </object-param>
  </init-params>
</component-plugin>
```

```

    </field>
    <field name="name">
      <string>Knowledge Suite</string>
    </field>
    <field name="description">
      <string>All about exo KS</string>
    </field>
    <field name="forums">
      <collection type="java.util.ArrayList">
        <value>
          <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.ForumData">
            <field name="owner"><string>root</string></field>
            <field name="name"><string>Live demo</string></field>
            <field name="description"><string>Questions about this demo</string></field>
            <field name="topics">
              <collection type="java.util.ArrayList">
                <value>
                  <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.TopicData">
                    <field name="name"><string>Demo data policy</string></field>
                    <field name="icon"><string>Tux</string></field>
                    <field name="owner"><string>root</string></field>
                    <field name="content"><string>Welcome to exo Forum live demo...at anytime.</string>
                    <field name="posts">
                      <collection type="java.util.ArrayList">
                        <value>
                          <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.PostData">
                            <field name="name"><string>Reply: Demo data policy</string></field>
                            <field name="icon"><string>IconsView</string></field>
                            <field name="owner"><string>root</string></field>
                            <field name="content"><string>Enjoy and don't forget to send feedback at ks@ex
                          </object>
                        </value>
                      </collection>
                    </field>
                  </object>
                </value>
              </collection>
            </field>
          </object>
        </value>
      </collection>
    </field>
  </object>
</init-params>
</component-plugin>

```

1.1 Category array

After `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.InitializeForumPlugin` object is executed, `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.ForumInitialData` object is called. It returns a category array. The value of the category array is defined by `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.CategoryData` object like below:

```

<object-param>
  <name>livedemo.default.configuration</name>
  <description>initial data for live demo</description>
  <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.ForumInitialData">
    <field name="categories">
      <collection type="java.util.ArrayList">
        <value>
          <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.CategoryData">
            <field name="owner">
              <string>root</string>
            </field>
            <field name="name">
              <string>Knowledge Suite</string>
            </field>
            <field name="description">
              <string>All about exo KS</string>
            </field>
          </object>
        </value>
      </collection>
    </field>
  </object>
</object-param>

```

```
</field>
```

1. category includes some basic data which are defined in *field* tag with specific *name* like below:

```
<field name="owner">
<string>root</string>
</field>
<field name="name">
<string>Knowledge Suite</string>
</field>
<field name="description">
<string>All about eXo KS</string>
</field>
```

In which:

Table 1.2.

field	description	value sample	
owner	The user who is the creator of the category.	root	
name	The name of the title of the category.	Knowledge Suite	
description	The brief description of the category.	All about eXo KS	

1.1 Category value modification

The values of the default category can be changed by changing text values in string tag of each field by the other one.

With the sample code above, `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.CategoryData` object is called only one time. It means that only one default category is defined. If you want to define more default categories, repeat calling `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.CategoryData` object and define values for the new category with the sample code below:

```
<value>
  <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.CategoryData">
    <field name= " ">
      ...
    </field>
  </value>
```

1.2.3.2. Forum array

1. category may contain one or more forums. The value of the forum is defined in *forums* field. It returns a forum array. The value of the forum array is defined by `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.ForumData` object like below:

```
<field name="forums">
  <collection type="java.util.ArrayList">
```

```

<value>
<object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.ForumData">
  <field name="owner"><string>root</string></field>
  <field name="name"><string>Live demo</string></field>
  <field name="description"><string>Questions about this demo</string></field>
  ...

```

1.1 Basic forum data

A forum includes some basic data which are defined in field tag with specific name like above.

In which:

Table 1.3.

field	description	value	
owner	The creator of the default forum.	root any value	
name	The name or the title of the default forum.	Live demo any value	
description	The brief description of the default forum.	Questions about this demo any value	

The values of the default forum can be changed by changing text values in string tag of each field by the other one.

With the sample code above, `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.ForumData` object is called only one time. It means that only one default forum is defined inside the default category named Knowledge Suite. If you want to define more default forums, repeat calling `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.ForumData` object and define values for the new forum with the sample code below:

```

<value>
  <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.ForumData">
    <field name=" " >
      ...
    </field>
  </object>
</value>

```

1.2.3.3. Forum topics

1. forum may contain one or more topics. The value of the topic is defined in *topics* field. It returns a topic array. The value of the topic array is defined by `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.TopicData` object like below:

```

<field name="topics">
  <collection type="java.util.ArrayList">
    <value>
      <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.TopicData">
        <field name="name"><string>Demo data policy</string></field>
        <field name="icon"><string>Tux</string></field>
        <field name="owner"><string>root</string></field>
        <field name="content"><string>Welcome to exo Forum live demo. ... at anytime.</string></field>
        ...
      </object>
    </value>
  </collection>
</field>

```

A topic includes some basic data which are defined in field tag with specific name like above. In which:

Table 1.4.

field	description	value
name	The name or the title of the default topic.	Demo data policy
icon	The default icon of the default topic.	Tux
owner	The creator of the default topic.	root
content	The main content of the default topic.	Welcome to eXo Forum live demo...at anytime.This

This values of the default topic can be changed by changing text values in string tag of each field by the other one.

With the sample code above, `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.TopicData` object is called only one time. It means that only one default topic is defined inside the default forum named Live demo. If you want to define more default topics, repeat calling `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.TopicData` object and define values for the new topic with the sample code below:

```
<value>
  <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.TopicData">
    <field name=" ">
      ...
    </field>
  </object>
</value>
```

1. topic may contain one or more posts. The value of the post is defined in *posts* field. It returns a post array. The value of the post array is defined by `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.PostData` object like below:

```
<field name="posts">
  <collection type="java.util.ArrayList">
    <value>
      <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.PostData">
        <field name="name"><string>Reply: Demo data policy</string></field>
        <field name="icon"><string>IconsView</string></field>
        <field name="owner"><string>root</string></field>
        <field name="content"><string>Enjoy and don't forget to send feedback at ks@exoplatform.com</string>
      </object>
      ...
    </value>
  </collection>
</field>
```

A post includes some basic data which are defined in field tag with specific name like above.

In which:

Table 1.5.

field	description	value
name	The name or the title of the default post.	Reply: Demo data policy

icon	The default icon of the default post.	IconsView
owner	The creator of the default post.	root
content	The main content of the default post.	Enjoy and don't forget to send feedback at ks@exoplatform.com

This values of the default post can be changed by changing text values in string tag of each field by the other one.

With the sample code above, `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.PostData` object is called only one time. It means that only one default post is defined inside the default topic named Demo data policy. If you want to define more default posts, repeat calling `org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.PostData` object and define values for the new post with the sample code below:

```
<value>
  <object type="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.PostData">
    <field name=" ">
      ...
    </field>
  </object>
</value>
```

By fault, the default forum data can only be changed by editing in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file.

At the runtime, the new changes in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file will be executed and updated, the default forum data will be created correspondingly.

1.2.4. Auto Prone Plugin Configuration

1.2.5. Overview

Auto prune component is used to activate automatically the topics in specific Forums which are not activated (not viewed, edited or added post) for a period of time.

When Job Schedule Service runs, it will get values which are returned from Auto prune plugin component to identify the topics which have to be inactivated in Forum application. These topics will be invisible to users.

1.2.6. Configuration

The properties of Auto prune plugin is configured in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file.

In details:

At the runtime of Job Schedule Service, Auto prune plugin component is called, then *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file is executed, the component-plugin named *ForumDeactiveJob* will be referred to *org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.DeactivePeriodJob* to inactivate the topics in specific Forum which satisfy predefined inactivation properties.

```
<component-plugin>
  <name>ForumDeactiveJob</name>
  <set-method>addPeriodJob</set-method>
  <type>org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.DeactivePeriodJob</type>
  <description>add a Deactive job to the JobSchedulerService</description>
```

```

<init-params>
  <properties-param>
    <name>job.info</name>
    <description>save the monitor data periodically</description>
    <property name="jobName" value="DeactiveJob"/>
    <property name="groupName" value="KnowlegedSuite"/>
    <property name="job" value="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.DeactiveJob"/>
    <property name="repeatCount" value="0"/>
    <property name="period" value="7200000"/> <!-- 2 hours-->
    <property name="startTime" value="+0"/>
    <property name="endTime" value=""/>
  </properties-param>
  <properties-param>
    <name>deactive.info</name>
    <description></description>
    <property name="inactiveDays" value="1"/>
    <property name="forumName" value="Live demo"/>
  </properties-param>
</init-params>
</component-plugin>

```

The properties for Auto-prune plugin are defined in property tag with format like below:

```

...
  <property name="jobName" value="DeactiveJob"/>
  <property name="groupName" value="KnowlegedSuite"/>
  <property name="job" value="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.DeactiveJob"/>
  <property name="repeatCount" value="0"/>
  <property name="period" value="7200000"/> <!-- 2 hours-->
  <property name="startTime" value="+0"/>
  <property name="endTime" value=""/>
...
  <property name="inactiveDays" value="1"/>
  <property name="forumName" value="Live demo"/>
...

```

In details:

Table 1.6.

property	description	value
jobname	The name of job which will be executed.	DeactiveJob
groupname	The name of the application which will be executed.	KnowlegedSuite
job	The reference function of the job which will be executed.	org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.DeactiveJob
repeatCount	The repeat time for the job. It means that how many time the job will be executed. It means that <i>DecactiveJob</i> is called at runtime only. It is does not repeat. Assume that the value is 2 or 3, <i>DecactiveJob</i> is called 2 or 3 times.	0 any value
period	The time interval the job will be executed.	72000000 (equal to 2 hours) any value

property	description	value
starttime	The start time when the function will be executed. <i>starttime</i> is 0. <u>It means that the time to start executing DecactiveJob is the runtime</u>	<u>0 any value</u>
endtime	The end time when the function will be stopped executing. <i>endtime</i> is blank. It means that there is no limitation for the end time for <i>DecactiveJob</i> .	null

With start and end time, you can give a specific date in format:yyyy-mm-dd HH:mm:ss.sss to define the start and end time for *DecactiveJob* . Besides, deactive information is also defined:

Table 1.7.

property	description	value
inactiveDays	The number of days the topic has not been activated. <i>inactivateDays</i> is 1. It means that all the topics which have 1 inactivated day, will be set inactivated status. They will be invisible.	numeric value
forumname	The name of the Forum which will be checked for Auto prune. In case, <i>forumname</i> is blank. It means that all forums will be checked for auto prune. <i>forumname</i> is Live demo. It means that only the forum named 'Live demo' is checked for Auto prune.	Live Demo

By fault, the default properties can only be changed by editing its value in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file.

At the runtime, the new changes in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file will be executed and updated, Auto prune plugin will be executed depending on its properties.

1.2.7. Auto-count Active Users Plugin Configuration

1.2.8. Overview

Auto-count Active Users component is used to calculate automatically the number of active users. A user is considered as an active user only when he/she often adds topic/post in Forum and his/her last post date satisfies with the interval time that is predefined.

For example, after 15 days if one user does not have any new post, he/she is not considered as an active user.

When Job Schedule Service runs, it will get values which are returned from Auto-count Active Users plugin component to identify the number of active users. This value is updated at Active Members information when viewing Forum statistics.

1.2.9. Configuration

The properties of Auto-count Active Users plugin is configured in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file.

In details:

At Job Schedule Service runtime, Auto-count Active Users plugin component is called, then *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file is executed, the component-plugin named *RecountActiveUserJob* will be referred to *org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.RecountActiveUserPeriodJob* to calculate number active users.

```
<component-plugin>
  <name>RecountActiveUserJob</name>
  <set-method>addPeriodJob</set-method>
  <type>org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.RecountActiveUserPeriodJob</type>
  <description>add a RecountActiveUser job to the JobSchedulerService</description>
  <init-params>
    <properties-param>
      <name>job.info</name>
      <description>save the monitor data periodically</description>
      <property name="jobName" value="RecountActiveUserJob"/>
      <property name="groupName" value="KnowlegedSuite"/>
      <property name="job" value="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.RecountActiveUserJob"/>
      <property name="repeatCount" value="0"/>
      <property name="period" value="7200000"/> <!-- 2 hours-->
      <property name="startTime" value="+0"/>
      <property name="endTime" value=""/>
    </properties-param>
    <properties-param>
      <name>RecountActiveUser.info</name>
      <description></description>
      <property name="lastPost" value="15"/> <!-- users are active if have last posts in 15 day -->
    </properties-param>
  </init-params>
</component-plugin>
```

The properties for Auto-count Active Members plugin are defined in property tag like below:

```
...
  <property name="jobName" value="RecountActiveUserJob"/>
  <property name="groupName" value="KnowlegedSuite"/>
  <property name="job" value="org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.RecountActiveUserJob"/>
  <property name="repeatCount" value="0"/>
  <property name="period" value="7200000"/> <!-- 2 hours-->
  <property name="startTime" value="+0"/>
  <property name="endTime" value=""/>
...
  <property name="lastPost" value="15"/>
...
```

In which:

Table 1.8.

property	description	value
jobname	The name of job which will be executed.	RecountActiveUserJob

property	description	value
groupname	The name of the application which will be executed.	KnowlegedSuite
job	The reference function of the job which will be executed.	org.exoplatform.forum.service.conf.RecountAct
repeatCount	The repeat time for the job. It means that how many time the job will be executed. <i>repeatCount</i> is 0. It means that <i>RecountActiveUserJob</i> is called at runtime only. It is does not repeat. Assume that the value is 2 or 3, <i>RecountActiveUserJob</i> is called 2 or 3 times.	0 any value
period	The time interval the job will be executed.	7200000 (millisecond) (equal to 2 hours)
starttime	The start time when the function will be executed. <i>starttime</i> is 0. <u>It means that the time to start executing <i>RecountActiveUserJob</i> is the runtime.</u>	0 any value
endtime	The end time when the function will be stopped executing. <i>endtime</i> is blank. It means that there is no limitation for the end time for <i>RecountActiveUserJob</i> .	null

With start and end time, you can give a specific date in format:yyyy-mm-dd HH:mm:ss.sss to define the start and end time for *RecountActiveUserJob* . Besides, active time information is also defined:

Table 1.9.

property	description	value
lastPost	The number of days that the user has added last post. <i>lastPost</i> is 15. It means that all users, within 15 days since their last post date, have any new post, they are active members.	numeric value

By default, the default properties can only be changed by editing its value in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file.

At the runtime, the new changes in *ks-plugins-configuration.xml* file will be executed and updated, Auto-count Active Users plugin will be executed depending on its properties.

1.2.10. Forum Action Bar Configuration

1.2.11. Overview

Main action bar displays all main function buttons. The number of function buttons depending on the role of user login. Currently, the main action bar is only visible on the homepage. It disappears when you focus into other pages. But Show/hide main action bar is an option, you can configure the main action to be shown or hidden in all pages all the time.

1.2.12. Configuration

The value is to determine to show/hide main action bar in Forum is *true* or *false*.

In case *true*, Main action bar is shown on all pages.

In case *false*, Main action bar is only show on the homepage.

This value is defined in portlet.xml file like below:

```
...
<portlet-preferences>
  <preference>
    <name>showForumActionBar</name>
    <value>false</value> <!-- true/false ->
    <read-only>false</read-only>
  </preference>
</portlet-preferences>
...
```

In which:

Table 1.10.

parameter	description	value
name	The name of function which will be executed.	showForumActionBar any value
value	The value is to determine whether to show main action bar or hide	true false
read only	The value is to determine the value will be show 1 time only or depending the times the <i>showForumActionBar</i> function is called. <i>True</i> is for 1 only time and <i>False</i> is for dynamic.	true false

1.2.13. Default forum setting configuration

1.2.14. Overview

Default forum setting includes settings set for new user account. It contains declarations of time zone, short date format, long date format, time format, max topic per page, max post per page and flag for showing forum jump or not. It's rather simple and user can change such settings by UI based function after that.

1.2.15. Configuration

This configuration is declared in a file named "ks-configuration.xml". Its path is "tomcat source/webapps/ks-extension/WEB-INF/ks-extension/ks/ks-configuration.xml" if you are running tomcat and "project source/extension/webapp/src/main/webapp/WEB-INF/ks-extension/ks/ks-configuration.xml" if you are in developing phase.

In details:

```
...
<external-component-plugins>
  <target-component>org.exoplatform.services.organization.OrganizationService</target-component>
  <component-plugin>
    ...
    <init-params>
      <properties-param>
        <name>user.profile.setting</name>
        <description>set default user profile</description>
        <property name="timeZone" value="GMT"/>
        <property name="shortDateFormat" value="MM/dd/yyyy"/>
        <property name="longDateFormat" value="DDD, MMM dd, yyyy"/>
        <property name="timeFormat" value="hh:mm a"/>
        <property name="maxTopic" value="10"/>
        <property name="maxPost" value="10"/>
        <property name="isShowForumJump" value="true"/>
      </properties-param>
    </init-params>
  </component-plugin>
</external-component-plugins>
...
```

In which:

Table 1.11.

parameter	description	value
timeZone	time zone of user	time zone id. For example: GMT, GMT-05:00, GMT+07:00, GMT+08:30 ... visit http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.4.2/docs/api/java/util/ for more detail.
shortDateFormat	the format to display short information of a date	String date format visit http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.4.2/docs/api/java/text/ to ensure the format exactly.
longDateFormat	the format to display a date with more infomation	String date format visit http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.4.2/docs/api/java/text/ to ensure the format exactly.
timeFormat	format to view time(hour, minute,..)	String time format visit http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.4.2/docs/api/java/text/ to ensure the format exactly.
maxTopic	maximum number of topics on a page	number

parameter	description	value
maxPost	maximum number of posts on a page	number
isShowForumJump	show forum jump or not	true false

1.2.16. Forum IP Login Configuration

1.2.17. Overview

IP logging is the IP of the computer which is used to connect Internet and do action in Forum. For example, when users add a topic or post in Forum, their IP address can be saved enclosing with their entry. Only the administrator can view that IP information.

However, get and save IP information is an option. The supper administrator can determine whether to get and save IP information or not.

1.2.18. Configuration

The value is to determine to get and save IP enclosing with post in Forum is *true* or *false*.

In case *true*, the IP is gotten, saved and shown enclosing with post.

In case *false*, the IP is not gotten and saved.

This value is defined in portlet.xml file like below:

```
...
<portlet-preferences>
  <preference>
    <name>enableIPLogging</name>
    <value>true</value> <!--true/false -->
    <read-only>false</read-only>
  </preference>
</portlet-preferences>
...
```

In which:

Table 1.12.

parameter	description	value
name	The name of function which will be executed.	enbaleIPLogging any value
value	The value is to determine whether to get IP or not.	true false
read only	The value is to determine the value will be gotten 1 time only or depending the times the <i>enableIPLogging</i> function is	true false

parameter	description	value
	called. <i>True</i> is for 1 only time and <i>False</i> is for dynamic.	

The administrator can determine whether to get or save the IP logging or not by simply editing the value of this portlet preference in *portlet.xml* file with two optional value *true* or *false*.

1.2.19. Bookmarkable Forum URLs Configuration

1.2.20. Overview

This feature defines how the links are generated in the Forum application. You can choose to use ajax or not.

- By not using Ajax, the Forum will generate plain URLs in the links. The added benefit will be bookmarkability and better SEO as the links will be permalinks.
- Using ajax, the links will be javascript based and generate ajax calls. This should make browsing faster because the whole page is not reloaded.

This article will explain how to configure the ajax setting for the forum portlet.

1.2.21. Changing the portlet preference

The setting is called **useAjax** and is defined in *portlet.xml* file below:

```
<preference>
  <name>useAjax</name>
  <value>true</value> <!--true/false -->
  <read-only>false</read-only>
</preference>
```

By default, 'true' value is set. Because using Ajax will makes the speed of the Forum process fatser.

If you want to show the detail link to any forum/topic in the Forum Application, simply replace 'true' value by 'false', the Forum Application will be displayed with the detail link to the page that is being viewed.

1.2.22. Changing in the UI

Note

Since KS 1.2

The easiest way to configure bookmarkability of the forum urls is to use the UI. Go to the portlet Edit Mode, then go to tab "Options", then uncheck "Use Ajax" option.

1.3. Answers Configuration

1.3.1. Answers Default Data Plugin

1.3.2. Overview

The Initialization plugin component is used to define the default answers data in *xml* or *zip* file. It includes categories of question and that should be exported from a eXo Answers application.

When Answers Service starts, it will get values which are returned from Initialization plugin component to initialize the default Answers data.

1.3.3. Configuration

1.3.3.1. Default Answers data

The default Answers data is configured in *services-configuration.xml* file.

In details:

At the run time of Answers Service, Initialization plugin component is called, then *services-configuration.xml* file is executed, the component-plugin named *addInitialDataPlugin* will be referred to *org.exoplatform.faq.service.InitializeDataPlugin* to excute some objects to create default data for the forum application.

When initialize default data in a *zip* file

```
<component-plugin>
  <name>technical-faq</name>
  <set-method>addInitialDataPlugin</set-method>
  <type>org.exoplatform.faq.service.InitializeDataPlugin</type>
  <description>Initialize</description>
  <init-params>
    <value-param>
      <name>location</name>
      <description>location where Answers export format file is stored</description>
      <value>war:/data/Technical-FAQ.zip</value>
    </value-param>
  </init-params>
</component-plugin>
```

If the default data in xml format

```
<value>war:/data/Technical-FAQ.xml</value>
```

By default, the default Answers data can only import if the importing categories does not exist in database.

To initialize default data in multiple files needs to declare them in multiple plugin

```
<component-plugin>
.....
</component-plugin>
```

1.3.4. FAQ Preferences Configuration

1.3.5. Overview

FAQ is configured mainly in two files:

- Portlet preferences : **/webapps/faq/WEB-INF/portlet.xml**
- Services configuration : **WEB-INF/conf/ks-plugins-configuration.xml**

Note

For general KS configuration information, please refer to [KS Configuration| KS:KS Manual#Configuration] section

1.3.6. Portlet Preferences

FAQ portlet has portlet preferences that you can configure to alter the behavior.

At runtime you can use the portlet EDIT mode to set the preferences :

Alternatively, you may want to configure the portlet in **portlet-preferences.xml** file.

Table 1.13.

Preference	Values	Default	Description	Since
display	approved, both	both	Indicate if only unapproved questions are hidden to normal users	1.0
orderBy	alphabet,created	alphabet	Default sort order for questions	1.0
orderType	asc,desc	asc	Default sort direction ascending or descending	1.0
SendMailAddNewQuestions	email notification template (see below)	blank	Template for email notifications when a new FAQ entry is added. A blank vaue will use default template.	1.0
SendMailEditResponseQuestions	email notification template (see below)	blank	Template for email notifications when a new FAQ entry is added. A blank vaue will use default template.	1.0
enableVotesAndComments	true, false	true	Enable or disable votes and comments	1.1

Preference	Values	Default	Description	Since
			feature	
enableAutomaticRSS	true, false	true	Enable or disable RSS feature	1.1
isDiscussForum	true, false	false	Enable or disable discuss question in forum feature	1.1
pathNameCategoryForum	any value	<i>blank</i>	Define the forum path which is used for discussion. Blank value means the forum path will be defined later in FAQ portlet settings.	1.1
enableViewAvatar	true, false	true	Enable or disable avatar feature	1.1

Default Portlet Preferences

As a reference, the default **portlet.xml** for FAQ application is:

```

<portlet-preferences>
  <preference>
    <name>display</name>
    <value>both</value> <!-- approved/both ->
    <read-only>>false</read-only>
  </preference>
  <preference>
    <name>SendMailAddNewQuestion</name>
    <value> </value>
    <read-only>>false</read-only>
  </preference>
  <preference>
    <name>SendMailEditResponseQuestion</name>
    <value> </value>
    <read-only>>false</read-only>
  </preference>
  <preference>
    <name>orderBy</name>
    <value>alphabet</value> <!-- alphabet/created ->
    <read-only>>false</read-only>
  </preference>
  <preference>
    <name>orderType</name>
    <value>asc</value> <!-- asc/desc ->
    <read-only>>false</read-only>
  </preference>
  <preference>
    <name>enableAutomaticRSS</name>
    <value>true</value> <!-- true/false ->
    <read-only>>false</read-only>
  </preference>
  <preference>
    <name>enableVotesAndComments</name>
    <value>true</value> <!-- true/false ->
    <read-only>>false</read-only>
  </preference>
  <preference>
    <name>isDiscussForum</name>
    <value>>false</value>
    <read-only>>false</read-only>
  </preference>
</portlet-preferences>

```

```

</preference>
<preference>
  <name>pathNameCategoryForum</name>
  <value> </value>
  <read-only>false</read-only>
</preference>
<preference>
  <name>enableViewAvatar</name>
  <value>true</value> <!-- true/false ->
  <read-only>false</read-only>
</preference>
</portlet-preferences>

```

1.3.7. FAQ Mail Template Configuration

1.3.8. Overview

FAQ is configured mainly in two files:

- Portlet preferences : **/webapps/faq/WEB-INF/portlet.xml**
- Services configuration : **WEB-INF/conf/ks-plugins-configuration.xml**

Note

For general KS configuration information, please refer to [KS Configuration| KS:KS Manual#Configuration] section

1.3.9. Configuration

Mail templates use a specific syntax that you can use to create a customized email message:

Parameters:

Table 1.14.

Parameter	Description
<i>&categoryName</i>	To load the category's name.
<i>&questionContent</i>	To load the question's content.
<i>&questionResponse</i>	To load the question's answer.
<u>here</u> :	To load the link to question in FAQ.

Chapter 2. Data Storage

2.1. FAQ JCR Structure

2.1.1. Overview

eXo FAQ is a JCR based application. FAQ information is saved in eXo-JCR under FAQservice data directory.

2.1.2. Category

Category is created from `exo:faqCategory` nodetype and defined to add data inside as:

- Sub-Category
- Question Home
- RSS

System auto creates category home under FAQ application node when the first time launch application. All users create categories are the sub-category of category home.

The home category auto created here:

```
<tt> /exo:applications/faqApp/categories </tt>
```

- **Sub-Category**

In fact, sub category is also a category, we defined a mixin nodetype called **`mix:faqSubCategory*`** to allow add a node with the same type with category to a existing category. When a category is created this mixin nodetype will be mixed to that category.

- **RSS**

Each category has a RSS child node that stores a RSS feed representing all question in this category as binary data type. node type `exo:faqRSS`

```
<tt> /exo:applications/faqApp/categories/ks.rss </tt>
```

2.1.3. Question and Question home

Question home node creates from `exo:faqQuestionHome` nodetype that is defined as a child node of category. This node is containing all question node that created in side a category. Only question nodetype (`exo:faqQuestion`) can be added to question home.

The question home is created as a child node of category

```
<tt> /exo:applications/faqApp/categories/questions </tt>
```

- Question

Question node creates from `exo:faqQuestion` nodetype under question home. The answers, comments and attachments are defined as child node of question.

The question node create under question home

```
<tt> /exo:applications/faqApp/categories/questions/Question7364ba00c0a8014700bcf58acbbafae2 </tt>
```

- Multilanguages

Question support multilanguages, all other languages are storing as a child node of question and can be add to question via a mixin nodetype called `mix:faqi18n`

After added mixin nodetype `mix:faqi18n` to question, the nodetype `exo:questionLanguageHome` can add to question node and this nodetype will containing all languages node with nodetype `exo:faqLanguage`, all display properties of question are defined in `exo:faqLanguage` nodetype

2.1.4. Answer, Comment and Attachment

Answer, comment and attachment are defined as child nodes of question node. Attachment is defined as a `nt:file` nodetype and storing directly under question node. Answers and comments are storing under answer home and comment home nodes

- `exo:answerHome/exo:answer`

```
<tt>
```

```
/exo:applications/faqApp/categories/questions/Question7364ba00c0a8014700bcf58acbbafae2/faqAnswerHome/Answer736
```

```
</tt>
```

- `exo:commentHome/exo:comment`

```
<tt>
```

```
/exo:applications/faqApp/categories/questions/Question7364ba00c0a8014700bcf58acbbafae2/faqCommentHome/Comm
```

```
</tt>
```

2.1.5. FAQ Setting

Storing information for sort data as order by, order type, sort question by vote. Each user has a dedicate setting for display data in faq as they want, the default setting is used if user have never save a setting. Node type is `exo:faqUserSetting`

```
<tt> /exo:applications/faqApp/settingHome/userSettingHome/$username} </tt>
```

2.1.6. Template for FAQ portlet

This place stores template for FAQ portlet. User can online edit this template in FAQ portlet to change layout, skins,... The template is storing in an `nt:file` nodetype under template home node

```
<tt> /exo:applications/faqApp/templateHome/nt:file </tt>
```

2.2. Forum JCR Structure

2.3. Overview

eXo Forum is a JCR based application. Forum information is saved in eXo-JCR under ForumService data directory.

2.4. Forum System

Forum system node creates from nodetype `exo:forumSystem`. That is defined as a child node of `ForumService` and can store nodes with nodetype as `exo:banIP`, `exo:forumUserProfile`, `exo:statistic`, `exo:administration` under forum system.

```
<tt> /exo:applications/ForumService/ForumSystem <tt>
```

2.4.1. Ban IP address and Ban IP address home

Storing information about banned IP address access forum. Node type is `exo:banIP`, `exo:banIPHome`

The `banIP` stores under `ForumSystem` node

```
<tt> /exo:applications/ForumService/ForumSystem/exo:banIPHome/exo:banIP <tt>
```

2.4.2. User profile and User profile home

Storing information of each user, user profile is auto created by a listener when user register to organization service. Private message can be added to user profile as a child node. Node type is `exo:forumUserProfile`, `exo:userProfileHome`. Private message `exo:privateMessage` define as child node of `exo:forumUserProfile`

The user profile stores under `ForumSystem` node

```
<tt> /exo:applications/ForumService/ForumSystem/exo:userProfileHome/exo:forumUserProfile <tt>
```

2.4.3. Statistic and Statistic home

Storing Statistic information of forum as number of posts, topics, users, active users, ... Node type is `exo:forumStatistic`, `exo:statisticHome`

The `Statistic` stores under `ForumSystem` node

```
<tt> /exo:applications/ForumService/ForumSystem/exo:statisticHome/exo:forumStatistic <tt>
```

2.4.4. Administration and Administration home

Storing informations for setting the layout, email notify format and censor works. Node type is `exo:administration`, `exo:administrationHome`

The `Administration` stores under `ForumSystem` node

<tt> /exo:applications/ForumService/ForumSystem/exo:administrationHome/exo:administration <tt>

2.5. Forum Data

Forum data node creates from nodetype `exo:forumData`. The data nodes as category, forum, topic, post, tag, BBcode, topic type will store under forum data node.

<tt> /exo:applications/ForumService/ForumData <tt>

2.5.1. Category and Category home

Category home is defined for stores all categories of forum, this node is a child node of `ForumData` node and only category nodetype can be added to category home. Node type is `exo:categoryHome`

<tt> /exo:applications/ForumService/ForumData/CategoryHome <tt>

Category (node type is `exo:forumCategory`) is a child node of category home, this nodetype defined to allow add child nodes as `exo:forum` and `exo:forumRSS`

<tt>

/exo:applications/ForumService/ForumData/CategoryHome/Category736e99dec0a8014701622a1157719bb4

<tt>

2.5.2. Forum

Forum node is defined as child node of category and allowed add child nodes as Topic and RSS type. Node type is `exo:forum`

<tt>

/exo:applications/ForumService/ForumData/CategoryHome/Category736e99dec0a8014701622a1157719bb4/Forum1622a1

<tt>

2.5.3. Topic

Topic nodetype is defined as child node of Forum and allowed add child nodes as Topic, Poll and RSS type. Node type is `exo:topic`, `exo:poll`

<tt>

/exo:applications/ForumService/ForumData/CategoryHome/Category736e99dec0a8014701622a1157719bb4/Forum1622a1

<tt>

2.5.4. Post

Post nodetype is defined as child node of Topic and allowed add only attachment type child node. Node type is `exo:post`, `exo:forumAttachment`

<tt>

/exo:applications/ForumService/ForumData/CategoryHome/Category736e99dec0a8014701622a1157719bb4/Forum1622a1

<tt>

2.5.5. Tag and Tag home

Tag is storing information about name, topic that tag added, number of user used this tag, number of tag in used. Node type is `exo:forumTag`, `exo:tagHome`

```
<tt> /exo:applications/ForumService/ForumData/TagHome/tag2a1157719bb4736e99dec0a801470162 <tt>
```

2.5.6. BBCode and BBCode home

Defined BBCode that is using in forum, Node type is `exo:forumBBCode`, `exo:forumBBCodeHome`

```
<tt> /exo:applications/ForumService/ForumData/forumBBCode/$bbcodename} <tt>
```

2.5.7. Topic type and Topic type home

Node type is `exo:topicType`, `exo:topicTypeHome`

```
<tt>
```

```
/exo:applications/ForumService/ForumData/TopicTypeHome/topicType2ec0a801470162a1157719bb4736e99d
```

```
<tt>
```