

Question On Forum Operation

Post by “Cassius” of June 14, 2019 at 9:10 AM

Does everyone here find it convenient enough to bookmark the "Dashboard" or other page as the place where you come to check the forum? I would hate to think that lots of people are going to the "home" page first and having to scroll down past the large section of unchanging text every time they want to see new posts.

The competing considerations are: (1) we need some significant unchanging text on the home page so that new users will understand the purpose of the board from the first visit, which competes with (2) we want repeat visitors to have a page they can bookmark to bypass that text on return visits.

The page that is supposed to work best for repeat visitors to bookmark is the [DASHBOARD](#). That page contains only the brief Announcements panel followed by a table of the latest threads and posts. That's the page I have bookmarked to visit every time I come back to the forum to check for new posts.

If anyone is finding that system to be unwieldy and has alternate suggestions, please let me know. No one has ever complained to me about the way this is set up, but I'd like to be sure that things are as efficient as possible.

Post by “Joshua” of June 14, 2019 at 10:41 AM

Good to know, Cassius! I've been clicking "New" under the same drop-down menu, which seems to yield similar results. I'll start using dashboard. I did at first find the sheer number of sub-forums to be quite daunting, but the system works well once one knows how to use it.

Post by “Cassius” of June 14, 2019 at 10:56 AM

Yes, great comment -- that is exactly why I added the "New" links.

And the rest of your comment is why I raise the issue. I know that navigating the forums is unwieldy, so that is why there is a "recent posts from across all forums" table, as well as a "most commented posts" table, and also the "General Discussion Forum" table. Between those three I am thinking that would cover most of the ways that someone would want to try to navigate, so that is what is included on the "Dashboard" page.

On the other hand, the main landing "Home" page has boxes that feature highlights from the Gallery, Files, and Longer "Blog" articles too. I am thinking that new people will flip through that home page and see a sample of pretty much all of the content, but I doubt that most people will want to flip through all that every time they visit the forum.

But in my own experience I am doing exactly what you are doing - more than anything else I am using that "New" link to find everything that's recent.

Post by “Elayne” of June 14, 2019 at 12:37 PM

I have the home page bookmarked but I don't look at it-- the red numbers on the top menu by Forum and Gallery, or sometimes at notifications-- that is where I go, to see what I haven't read.

Post by “Godfrey” of June 14, 2019 at 2:35 PM

I have "Unread Posts" bookmarked. I also use the red dots at the upper left and right sides of the page, and if I'm looking for something recent that I've already read I look under "Threads of the Last 24 Hours".

Post by “Cassius” of June 14, 2019 at 2:46 PM

Thanks for these replies. Does anyone have any issues with how the forum appears on a telephone? Once again the red dots at the top left and right are probably the best way to navigate rather than opening menus.

This forum software seems to be very strong in its "responsiveness" and therefore appearance on telephones and tablets, and that's one reason it justifies the cost rather than using public domain software.

In fact I gather a lot of people use ONLY their telephones nowadays, so they may not even realize that the "sidebar" exists.

Post by "Godfrey" of June 14, 2019 at 5:09 PM

No issues with an Android phone; it works well!

Post by "Cassius" of June 14, 2019 at 6:13 PM

Godfrey's post raises a good point . I am entirely Linux / Android myself and I don't have any Apple devices. If anyone ever runs into a problem they think is Apple-related please let me know.

Post by "Joshua" of June 14, 2019 at 7:09 PM

I have a laptop, but seldom wifi. I use my Samsung phone for everything. I'm not sure about a sidebar, but I can pull up two different menus by swiping either left or right from the edge of the screen.

Post by "Cassius" of June 14, 2019 at 7:25 PM

Thanks for that comment as I had never tried swiping from the right. Now I see what you mean.

On Android, at the very top of my page, but under the URL bar, I have a "show sidebar" command.

Post by “Martin” of June 15, 2019 at 1:44 AM

Typically, I access this homepage (and FB) between twice a day and once every 2 days on a laptop and usually not from a smartphone.

I mostly go down straight to the bottom and click on "Unread Posts" but ignore many links because I feel that I spend too much time reading instead of producing something new.

The only inconsistency of the interface is when I open the tab under "Notifications", "Moderation" or "Conversations" because a white on red number indicates how many new items there are, the links under the tabs usually do not lead me to anything which I did not yet read. Nevertheless, those numbers shrink and eventually disappear the more I go through the unread posts.

Post by “Cassius” of June 15, 2019 at 5:37 AM

1 Yes Martin I observe that too. Hopefully the programmers will update and fix that.

2. As to the sidebar, based on what I see from my tablet, I think what happens is that if the "show sidebar" button does not appear then the software automatically repositions the sidebar so that the same material shows up if you scroll to the very bottom of the page.

Post by “Mousikos” of June 17, 2019 at 5:49 AM

I also use the Forum > Unread Posts link as my standard destination.