Galleon Documentation

Welcome to Galleon Forums. Support information, including bug and enhancement requests, support forums, etc., may be found at http://galleon.riaforge.org. For version number and release history information, please see the readme.txt file.

If you find these forums useful, please consider visiting my wishlist: http://www.amazon.com/o/registry/2TCL1D08EZEYE

Installation

To install Galleon, simply unzip the zip file to your web server. You can place it anywhere on your web server, just be sure to note the location. Inside the folder you will see a subfolder called **installation**. In that folder, you will find three SQL files that support MySQL, SQL Server, or Oracle.

Next, go to the **cfcs** subfolder and open **settings.ini.cfm**. This file obviously determines the settings for Galleon.

The first setting is the **DSN**. Later you will create a DSN for Galleon. If you wish to use the default name, then don't change this.

Perpage determines the number of records to show per page.

FromAddress is the email address used when notifications are sent to members.

The **rootURL** is the root location of the forums application. At minimum you will have to change this setting.

The **sendonpost** setting is an email address. Each and every forum post will be sent to this email address. This is useful for monitoring forums for spam or otherwise objectionable posts. For busy forums though it could easily fill your email client.

The **dbtype** setting tells Galleon which type of database you are using. Valid values are: sqlserver, mysql, oracle.

Next is the **tableprefix** value. By default, Galleon database scripts use tables all prefixed with "galleon_". You may want to modify your database tables to use another prefix, or no prefix. Once you have updated the database, you will need to update the tableprefix value so that it matches your table prefix.

The **version** number represents the version of Galleon and does not need to be changed.

Galleon supports email verification for new users. If **requireconfirmation** is set to true, an email will be sent to new users. The user must click a verification link before they are allowed to log on.

The **title** attribute lets you give your forums a specific title. So for example, if you were discussing the TV show "Lost", you may want to use the title, Lost Forums. This title is also used in all emails sent from the application.

The next setting, **fullemails**, represents how you will notify folks of new messages. If set to false, users will simply get a message stating that a thread they have subscribed to has been updated. If set to true, they will get the same message along with the body of the new post.

The **encryptpasswords** setting will encrypt passwords when they are stored in the database. NOTE: If you change this setting after users have been created, their passwords will no longer work. You will need to manually update their passwords. By default Galleon sets this value to TRUE.

The **allowavatars** setting will allow users to upload avatars or use the Gravatar service.

The next setting, **safeExtensions**, is a list of extensions allowed for message attachments.

The next setting, **bbcode_editor**, determines if the rich text editor should be used for message writing.

The next three settings, **mailserver**, **mailusername**, and **mailpassword**, support providing credentials to your mail server if they are required. Leave them blank if you do not need these values.

The next setting, **allowpms**, either enables or disables the use of private messaging. This is a way for users to send private notes to each other.

The **tempdir** setting is used to specify the temporary directory that attachments and user avatars will be stored in. Files are placed here so that they are not under web root while they are being checked. If left blank, Galleon will call ColdFusion's getTempDirectory() function. On a few rare occasions this call will return an empty string. You can specify another folder in this setting if you do not want to use the getTempDirectory() function. **If you specify a folder, be sure it is not under web root!**

The next two settings allow for a quick and simple modification to the layout of your site. The front end design of Galleon is controlled by two templates, main_header.cfm and main_footer.cfm. You can customize this to your liking. However, if you simply want to add additional links to the top nav, you can use **preheaderlinkstext** and **preheaderlinksurl** to specify a text value and url for an additional link. You can use a list for both values. They will be added to the left of the main, top level navigation.

Now switch to your ColdFusion Administrator. Create a DSN with the name you used in the settings file (remember that the default is Galleon). Point it to the database you just created.

At this point the installation should be complete. Open your browser to <your host>/<install folder>. You should see a message saying that no conferences are available. If you then go to <your host>/<install folder>/admin you will be presented with a login form. Enter "admin" for the username and password. Once in, you can begin administrating Galleon. **Change your password or the world will come to an end!**

Delete the installation folder. It should not be kept on your web server.

Galleon caches it's settings. In order to refresh this cache, you can either restart ColdFusion, you can add ?reinit=1 to the URL.

Administration

The Galleon Administrator has three main sections: Forum Options, Security Options, and Stats. Let's start with the section you will spend the most time in, Forum Options.

Forum Options

Galleon divides your forums three ways. At the highest level you have conferences. A simple site may have only one conference, while a more complex site could have multiple. Consider a Science Fiction web site. It could have a top level conference for Movies, Books, Games, etc.

Forums are the next level of separation. Taking our SciFi example, the Movies conference could have a forum for Star Wars, Star Trek, etc. Forums can be marked with a Rank value to override their natural sort order.

Threads are individual conversations inside forums. The Star Wars forum in the Movies conference could have a thread comparing the prequels to the classic trilogy.

Lastly, messages are the individual posts that make up each thread.

Galleon lets you add, edit, delete any of these pieces of content from the administrator. Most of this is self-explanatory, but there are some things you should know:

1. If your site only has one conference, when a user hits your installation of Galleon they will automatically be pushed to the forums listing.
2. Conferences, Forums, and Threads have an Active flag. If Active is set to false, they will not show up on the web site. This is a nice way to temporarily hide, or archive, content without actually deleting it.

3.   Threads have a "Sticky" flag. A sticky thread will always be on top of other threads when displaying a forum. This can be useful for threads concerning forums rules or another announcements.
4.   Forums can be marked to allow attachments.

Rank Options

Ranks allow you to mark users based on the number of posts they have created. It allows visitors to your forums to see who may be more experienced or familiar with your forums. Every rank has a name and a minimum number of posts to qualify for that rank. There are no ranks installed by default.

Security Options

Security options include both user management and forum management. Galleon gives you fine grained control over what users can do with your content. Conferences and Forums allow you to specify who can read, write, and edit content in these areas. Security is hierarchal. If you do not specify a setting at the Forum level, Galleon will check the Conference level. If you set both, the Conference level can overrule the Forum level. If there is no security applied to a Conference or Forum, then the permission is marked as Everyone. This doesn't mean quite anyone though. When it comes to Post (writing entries) and Edit security, only logged in users can run these options. Read access applies to the world at large. Some examples:

• By default anyone and everyone can read your entire site. By removing Everyone from Read access to a Forum, the public will not be able to read the content.
• By default any logged in user can post to a forum. You may want to restrict a forum only to one set of users. This will let any user read the forum, but not write to it. This could be useful to keep spammers away. (Some spammers will actually go through the verification process just so they can spam you.)

By default, Galleon ships with 3 groups: Forums Members, Forums Moderators, and Forums Admins. Any registered user is automatically placed in the members group. You can select which groups can do what when you edit a Conference or Forum. You can also create new groups at any time, but you cannot delete the three groups listed above.

User management is handled by a user editor. This editor lets you add, edit, and delete users. In general you will not have to create users. Your visitors will use the registration form to create their own accounts. You may need the admin functionality to "promote" users to moderators or to reset a user's password.

Stats

The stats page simply displays various reports about your site. You can use these reports to gauge how popular conferences/forums are as well as which members are the most active. A new search word report has been added in 1.1. It provides information about the search words being used in your forums.

Using Galleon

The public facing part of Galleon is rather simple. Users are presented with a selection of conferences, forums, and threads. Users do not need to register or log on to browse the messages. They do need to register or logon to create a new thread or respond to existing threads.

Another option users have is to receive notifications. This option can be set by clicking the **Profile** link. Once turned on, if a message is posted to a thread that the user has posted to, the user will get an email informing them of the new message.

The search engine allows users to search not only messages but conferences, forums, and threads. This is useful for larger sites that may have numerous forums. Users have the choice of doing a phrase, any, or all search. A phrase search will do an exact match. So a search for "Red Rum" will only match Red Rum. An "any" search would match any instance of "Red" or "Rum." An "all" search would only match content that has both "Red" and "Rum."

RSS Feeds

RSS feeds are automatically created for conferences. Each conference has a unique RSS feed. You can find this by clicking on the RSS link after you have selected a conference. The feed contains the last twenty posts to any thread in any forum in the conference.