Metadata

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Overview

The **Metadata API** is a simple and standarized way for retrieving and manipulating metadata of various WordPress object types.

Metadata for an object is a represented by a simple key-value pair.

Objects may contain multiple metadata entries that share the same key and differ only in their value.

Function Reference

Add/Delete Metadata:

- add_metadata()
- delete_metadata()

Get/Update Metadata:

- get_metadata()

- update_metadata()

Database Requirements

This function assumes that a dedicated MySQL table exists for the `$meta_type` you specify. Some desired `$meta_types` do not come with pre-installed WordPress tables, and so they must be created manually.

Default Meta Tables

Assuming a prefix of `wp_`, WordPress's included meta tables are:

- `wp_commentmeta`: Metadata for specific comments.
- `wp_postmeta`: Metadata for pages, posts, and all other post types.
- `wp_usermeta`: Metadata for users.

Meta Table Structure

To store data for meta types not included in the above table list, a new table needs to be created. All meta tables require four columns.

- `meta_id` – BIGINT(20): unsigned, auto_increment, not null, primary key.
- `object_id` – BIGINT(20): unsigned, not null.
  Replace *object* with the singular name of the content type being used.
  For instance, this column might be named post_id or term_id.
  Although this column is used like a foreign key, it should not be defined as one.
- `meta_key` – VARCHAR(255): The key of your custom meta data.
- `meta_value` – LONGTEXT: The value of your custom meta data.

Source File

Metadata API is located in `wp-includes/meta.php`.

Related

Metadata API: add_metadata(), get_metadata(), update_metadata(), delete_metadata().

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