Options

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Overview

The **Options API** is a simple and standardized way of storing data in the database. The API makes it easy to create, access, update, and delete options. All the data is stored in the wp_options table under a given custom name.

This page contains the technical documentation needed to use the Options API. A list of default options can be found in the Option Reference (link to Codex version, waiting for content migration to HelpHub).

Note that the `_site_` functions are essentially the same as their counterparts. The only differences occur for WP Multisite, when the options apply network-wide and the data is stored in the wp_sitemeta table under the given custom name.

Function Reference

Add/Delete Option:

- add_option()
- delete_option()
- add_site_option()
- delete_site_option()

Get/Update Option:

- get_option()
- update_option()
- get_site_option()
- update_site_option()

Examples

```
// Create an option to the database
add_option( $option, $value = , $deprecated = , $autoload = 'yes' );

// Removes option by name.
delete_option( $option );

// Fetch a saved option
get_option( $option, $default = false );

// Update the value of an option that was already added.
update_option( $option, $newvalue );
```

Available options by category

Discussion

- `blacklist_keys`: When a comment contains any of these words in its content, name, URL, e-mail, or IP, it will be marked as spam. One word or IP per line. It will match inside words, so “press” will match “WordPress.”
  Default: NULL
  *Data type:*__String (possibly multi-line)__
- `comment_max_links`: Hold a comment in the queue if it contains the value of this option or more.
  Default: 2
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `comment_moderation`: Before a comment appears, an administrator must always approve the comment.
  1 : *Yes*
  0 : *False* (default)
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `comments_notify`: E-mail me when anyone posts a comment.
  1 : *Yes* (default)
  0 : *No*
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `default_comment_status`: Allow comments (can be overridden with individual posts)
  open : *Allow comments* (default)
  closed : *Disallow comments*
  *Data type:*__String__
- `default_ping_status`: Allow link notifications from other blogs (pingbacks and trackbacks).
  open : *Allow pingbacks and trackbacks from other blogs* (default)
  closed : *Disallow pingbacks and trackbacks from other blogs*
  *Data type:*__String__
- `default_pingback_flag`: Attempt to notify any blogs linked to from the article (slows down posting).
  1 : *Yes* (default)
  0 : *No*
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `moderation_keys`: When a comment contains any of these words in its content, name, URL, e-mail, or IP, it will be held in the moderation queue. One word or IP per line. It will match inside words, so “press” will match “WordPress.”
  Default: NULL
  *Data type:*__String (possibly multi-line)__
- `moderation_notify`: E-mail me when a comment is held for moderation.
  1 : *Yes* (default)
  0 : *No*

*Data type:*__Integer__

- `require_name_email`: Before a comment appears, the comment author must fill out his/her name and email.
  __1__ : *Yes* (default)
  __0__ : *No*
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `thread_comments`: Enable WP-native threaded (nested) comments.
  __1__ : *Yes*
  __0__ : *No* (default)
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `thread_comments_depth`: Set the number of threading levels for comments.
  __1__ thru
  __10__ : levels
  Default: 5
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `show_avatars`: Avatar Display
  __1__ : (default) *Show Avatars*
  __0__ : *Do not show Avatars*
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `avatar_rating`: Maximum Rating
  __G__ : (default) *Suitable for all audiences*
  __PG__ : *Possibly offensive, usually for audiences 13 and above*
  __R__ : *Intended for adult audiences above 17*
  __X__ : *Even more mature than above*
  *Data type:*__String__
- `avatar_default`: Default Avatar
  __mystery__ : (default) *Mystery Man*
  __blank__ : *Blank*
  __gravatar_default__ : *Gravatar Logo*
  __identicon__ : *Identicon (Generated)*
  __wavatar__ : *Wavatar (Generated)*
  __monsterid__ : *MonsterID (Generated)*
  __retro__ : *Retro (Generated)*
  *Data type:*__String__
- `close_comments_for_old_posts`: Automatically close comments on old articles
  __1__ : *Yes*
  __0__ : *No* (default)
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `close_comments_days_old`: Automatically close comments on articles older than x days
  Default: 14
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `show_comments_cookies_opt_in`: Show the cookies opt-in checkbox on the comment form and enable comment cookies
  __1__ : *Yes* (default as of 4.9.8)
  __0__ : *No*
  *Data type:*__Integer__

- `page_comments`: Break comments into pages
  1 : *Yes* (default)
  0 : *No*
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `comments_per_page`:
  Default: 50
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `default_comments_page`:
  Default: ‘newest’
  *Data type:*__String__
- `comment_order`:
  asc : (default)
  desc :
  *Data type:*__String__
- `comment_whitelist`: Comment author must have a previously approved comment
  1 : *Yes* (default)
  0 : *No*
  Data type:

General

- `admin_email`: Administrator email
  Default: ‘you@example.com’
  *Data type:*__String__
- `blogdescription`: Blog tagline
  Default: ‘__(‘Just another WordPress weblog’)’
  *Data type:*__String__
- `blogname`: Blog title
  Default: ‘__(‘My Blog’)’
  *Data type:*__String__
- `comment_registration`: Users must be registered and logged in to comment
  1 : *Yes*
  0 : *No* (default)
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `date_format`: Default date format
  Default: ‘__(‘F j, Y’)’
  *Data type:*__String__
- `default_role`: The default role of users who register at the blog.
  subscriber (default)
  administrator
  editor
  author
  contributor
  *Data type:*__String__

- `gmt_offset`: Times in the blog should differ by this value.
  -6 : *GMT -6 (aka Central Time, USA)*
  0 : *GMT (aka Greenwich Mean Time)*
  Default: date('Z') / 3600
  *Data type:****Integer**
- `home`: Blog address (URL)
  Default: wp_guess_url()
  *Data type:****String (URI)**
- `siteurl`: WordPress address (URL)
  Default `wp_guess_url()`
  *Data type:****String (URI)**
- `start_of_week`: The starting day of the week.
  0 : *Sunday*
  1 : *Monday* (default)
  2 : *Tuesday*
  3 : *Wednesday*
  4 : *Thursday*
  5 : *Friday*
  6 : *Saturday*
  *Data type:****Integer**
- `time_format`: Default time format
  Default: '__('g:i a')'
  *Data type:****String**
- `timezone_string`: Timezone
  Default: NULL
  *Data type:****String**
- `users_can_register`: Anyone can register
  1 : *Yes*
  0 : *No* (default)
  *Data type:****Integer**

Links

- `links_updated_date_format`:
  Default `__('F j, Y g:i a')`
  *Data type:****String**
- `links_recently_updated_prepend`:
  Default empty
  *Data type: **String***
- `links_recently_updated_append`
  Default empty
  *Data type:****String**
- `links_recently_updated_time`
  Default: 120

*Data type:*__Integer__

Media

- `thumbnail_size_w`:
  Default: 150
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `thumbnail_size_h`:
  Default: 150
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `thumbnail_crop`: Crop thumbnail to exact dimensions (normally thumbnails are proportional)
  __1__ : *Yes* (default)
  __0__ : *No*
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `medium_size_w`:
  Default: 300
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `medium_size_h`
  Default: 300
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `large_size_w`
  Default: 1024
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `large_size_h`
  Default: 1024
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `embed_autourls`: Attempt to automatically embed all plain text URLs
  Default: 1
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `embed_size_w`
  Default: NULL
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `embed_size_h`
  Default: 600
  *Data type:*__Integer__

Miscellaneous

- `hack_file`: Use legacy `my-hacks.php` file support
  __1__ : *Yes*
  __0__ : *No* (default)
  *Data type:*__Integer__

- `html_type`: Default MIME type for blog pages (text/html, text/xml+html, etc.)
  Default: 'text/html'
  *Data type:***String (MIME type)**
- `secret`: Secret value created during installation used with salting, etc.
  Default: wp_generate_password(64)
  *Data type:***String (MD5)**
- `upload_path`: Store uploads in this folder (relative to the WordPress root)
  Default: NULL
  *Data type:***String (relative path)**
- `upload_url_path`: URL path to upload folder (will be blank by default – Editable in "All Settings" Screen.
  *Data type:***String (URL path)**
- `uploads_use_yearmonth_folders`: Organize my uploads into month- and year-based folders
  1 : *Yes* (default)
  0 : *No* (default for safe mode)
  *Data type:***Integer**
- `use_linksupdate`: Track links' update times
  1 : *Yes*
  0 : *No* (default)
  *Data type:***Integer**

Permalinks

- `permalink_structure`: The desired structure of your blog's permalinks. Some examples:
  `/%year%/%monthnum%/%day%/%postname%/`: Date and name based
  `/archives/%post_id%/`: Numeric
  `/%postname%/`: Post name-based
  Default: NULL
  *Data type:***String**
- `category_base`: The default category base of your blog categories permalink.
  Default: NULL
  *Data type:***String**
- `tag_base`: The default tag base for your blog tags permalink.
  Default: NULL
  *Data type:***String**

Privacy

- `blog_public`:
  1 : *I would like my blog to be visible to everyone, including search engines (like Google, Sphere, Technorati) and archivers.* (default)
  0 : *I would like to block search engines, but allow normal visitors.*
  *Data type:***Integer**

Reading

- `blog_charset`: Encoding for pages and feeds. The character encoding you write your blog in (UTF-8 is recommended).
  Default: `UTF-8`
  *Data type:*__String__
- `gzipcompression`: WordPress should compress articles (with gzip) if browsers ask for them.
  1 : *Yes*
  0 : *No* (default)
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `page_on_front`: The ID of the page that should be displayed on the front page. Requires `show_on_front`'s value to be **page**.
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `page_for_posts`: The ID of the page that displays posts. Useful when `show_on_front`'s value is **page**.
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `posts_per_page`: Show at most **x** many posts on blog pages.
  Default: 10
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `posts_per_rss`: Show at most **x** many posts in RSS feeds.
  Default: 10
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `rss_language`: Language for RSS feeds (metadata purposes only)
  Default: `en`
  *Data type:*__String (ISO two-letter language code)__
- `rss_use_excerpt`: Show an excerpt instead of the full text of a post in RSS feeds
  1 : *Yes*
  0 : *No* (default)
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `show_on_front`: What to show on the front page
  posts : *Your latest posts* (default)
  page : *A static page (see page_on_front)*
  *Data type:*__String__

Themes

- `template`: The slug of the currently activated theme (how it is accessed by path, ex. `/wp-content/themes/my-theme` (`my-theme` would be the value of this option).
  Default: 'default'
  *Data type:*__String__
- `stylesheet`: The slug of the currently activated stylesheet (style.css) (how it is accessed by path, ex. `/wp-content/themes/my-style` (my-style would be the value of this option)
  Default: 'default'

*Data type:***String**

Writing

- `default_category`: ID of the category that posts will be put in by default
  Default: 1
  *Data type:***Integer**
- `default_email_category`: ID of the category that posts will be put in by default when written via e-mail
  Default: 1
  *Data type:***Integer**
- `default_link_category`: ID of the category that links will be put in by default
  Default: 2
  *Data type:***Integer**
- `default_post_edit_rows`: Size of the post box (in lines)
  Default: 10
  *Data type:***Integer**
- `mailserver_login`: Mail server username for posting to WordPress by e-mail
  Default: 'login@example.com'
  *Data type:***String**
- `mailserver_pass`: Mail server password for posting to WordPress by e-mail
  Default: 'password'
  *Data type:***String**
- `mailserver_port`: Mail server port for posting to WordPress by e-mail
  Default: 110
  *Data type:***Integer**
- `mailserver_url`: Mail server for posting to WordPress by e-mail
  Default: 'mail.example.com'
  *Data type:***String**
- `ping_sites`: When you publish a new post, WordPress automatically notifies the following site update services. For more about this, see Update Services. Separate multiple service URLs with line breaks. Requires `blog_public` to have a value of **1**.

  Default: 'http://rpc.pingomatic.com/'
  *Data type:***String (possibly multi-line)**
- `use_balanceTags`: Correct invalidly-nested XHTML automatically
  1 : *Yes*
  0 : *No* (default)
  *Data type:***Integer**
- `use_smilies`: Convert emoticons like `:-)` and `:P` to graphics when displayed
  1 : *Yes* (default)
  0 : *No*
  *Data type:***Integer**
- `use_trackback`: Enable sending and receiving of trackbacks
  1 : *Yes*

0 : *No* (default)

- `enable_app`: Enable the Atom Publishing Protocol
  1 : *Yes*
  0 : *No* (default)
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `enable_xmlrpc`: Enable the WordPress, Movable Type, MetaWeblog and Blogger XML-RPC publishing protocols
  1 : *Yes*
  0 : *No* (default)
  *Data type:*__Integer__

Uncategorized

- `active_plugins`: Returns an array of strings containing the path of the *main* php file of the plugin. The path is relative to the *plugins* folder. An example of path in the array : `/mainpage.php`.
  Default: array()
  *Data type:*__Array__
- `advanced_edit`:
  Default: 0
  *Data type:*__Integer__
- `recently_edited`:
  Default: NULL
  Data type:
- `image_default_link_type`:
  Default: 'file'
  Data type: 'file', 'none'
- `image_default_size`:
  Default: NULL
  Data type: 'thumbnail', 'medium', 'large' or Custom size
- `image_default_align`:
  Default: NULL
  Data type: 'left', 'right', 'center', 'none'
- `sidebars_widgets`: Returns array of sidebar states (list of active and inactive widgets).
  Default:
  *Data type:*__Array__
- `sticky_posts`:
  Default: array()
  Data type:
- `widget_categories`:
  Default: array()
  Data type:
- `widget_text`:
  Default: array()

Data type:

- `widget_rss`:
  Default: array()
  Data type:

All Settings Screen

WordPress 3.0 removed Settings > Miscellaneous screen and some of the options cannot be reached (e.g. `upload_url_path`). You may use the All Settings Screen to view and change almost all options listed above. It is accessible by visiting `/wp-admin/options.php`

all-settings-screen.png?resize=1024%2C640&ssl=1

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