



xmlPoll

xmlPoll v2.1 README

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Summary

- Easily add, edit, and delete multiple polls in a single XML file
- You can deter repeat voters by setting cookies on their computers
- You can allow voters to select more than one answer
- You can set a closing date for each poll, after which votes will not be accepted
- Users can view results without voting
- Outputs valid XHTML 1.0 Strict markup
- Packaged with an attractive CSS stylesheet
- Requires PHP5

Improvements over spiderPoll v1.3

- xmlPoll has been rewritten to use an XML file rather than a plain text file. The XML file is easier to edit and brings other advantages.
- You can now run multiple polls from the same script installation (you do not need to make several copies of xmlPoll).
- You no longer need to write your own voting forms (e.g., poll.html). poll.php is now all you need for printing a voting form, adding votes, and printing results. (You can still use your own form, if you wish.)
- xmlPoll now sets cookies on users' computers instead of recording their IP address. Neither methods are foolproof against users determined to vote more than once. However, IP address recording becomes cumbersome after hundreds of people have voted in your poll.

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1. Purpose - Brief Explanation, Advantages, and Limitations

xmlPoll 2.0 allows you to setup multiple voting polls from a simple XML file. Optional cookie-setting deters repeat voting. You can allow users to select more than one answer in a poll and they can always view results without voting. You can set a closing date, after which votes will not be accepted.

2. Requirements - Necessary Software and Server Access

PHP5 must be installed on your Web server. You must be able to set file permissions.

3. Installation - Step-by-Step

- (1) Download and unzip xmlPoll.zip. You should now have the following files:
 - poll.php
 - poll.xml
 - poll.css
 - poll.jpg
 - poll_header.inc
 - poll_footer.inc
- (2) Upload the files.
- (3) If you want to deter users from repeat voting, open poll.php for editing. Change the variables \$domain_name and \$one_vote_per_user. You may also want to change the other variables, like \$hide_results.
- (4) Set read-write file permissions on poll.xml.
- (5) You should finish by testing xmlPoll (it should work “out of the box”). Poll.php?pid=0 will access the first poll; poll.php?pid=1 will access the second. (There are two example polls already setup.)

4. Customization

If you know CSS, you may customize the poll design using poll.css. The HTML output of poll.php is basic to allow maximum use of CSS.

If you are comfortable with PHP, you can also edit the HTML output in poll.php.
You can replace poll.jpg with your own graphic (but keep the filename unless you edit poll.php).

5. How to Use

To begin adding your own polls, open poll.xml for editing. Follow the example polls.

You may want to use an IFRAME to embed poll.php in another Web page. Follow the example at <http://www.fromthedesk.com/code/xmlPoll/poll.html>.

6. Change Log

12/18/2005 - Version 1.2 is released. spiderPoll no longer relies on register_globals. spiderPoll now requires header and footer files.

01/27/2006 - Replaced \$REMOTE_ADDR with \$_SERVER['REMOTE_ADDR'].

07/27/2006 - Version 1.3 is released. poll.txt is now easier to build and to read. spiderPoll now ships with an attractive design.

03/24/2008 - Version 2.0 is released under the new name xmlPoll. xmlPoll now uses an XML file instead of a plain text file. You can run multiple polls from the same xmlPoll installation. You can now use poll.php for printing the voting form, adding votes, and displaying the results (a separate HTML file is no longer necessary for the voting form). Finally, xmlPoll uses cookie-setting instead of IP address recording to deter repeat voters.

08/31/2009 – Version 2.1 is released. xmlPoll now works with images, e.g. photo contests. xmlPoll also features an improved presentation.

7. Reporting Bugs

Visit <http://www.fromthedesk.com/script.php?sid=5> for updates and bug reporting.

8. Acceptable Use

Only the purchaser of this script may use and modify it.