



Firebook Guestbook Installation Guide

Firebook Guestbook Software
Software Provided By: www.firebook.de
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How to Install the script on Your Website

These instructions explain how to install the Firebook guestbook and bypass any problems one may encounter in the process. If you do not plan to do a fresh install, but an upgrade, please read the section "How to upgrade the script".

The installation consists of three stages: **1) Prepare, 2) Create Directories, 3) Upload Files and 3) Run Setup, Login, and Test.**

What You Need to Know

Before you can start an installation there are a few basic things you must know, such as the usage of the chmod command (for UNIX and Linux servers only) or using an FTP (file transfer protocol) client. If you think you already know these things, you can skip to the next section. Otherwise, let's start here. *For an explanation of the terms used in this guide, please read the glossary at the end of this document.*

1. The first thing you need is a web host that supports the Perl language. Hosts like *Tripod*, *AngelFire*, and *Geocities* do not have this software installed. Most hosts' FAQ pages will say if they do or do not support Perl scripts. You also need to determine the location of the Perl program on your host's server (such as `/usr/bin/perl` or `D:/perl/perl.exe`).
2. Now that you've got a host, you'll need to get an FTP client. FTP clients allow you to connect to the FTP server that your host provides. Through the FTP server, you will install the script. For *MS Windows* users, we recommend *LeechFTP* or *FileZilla*. For others, visit www.download.com or similar sites to download a client for your system. If you build your website with *MS Frontpage*, you may upload the files from that program, but it is not recommended!
3. The next key thing to understand is chmod'ing. Chmod'ing is a process that only UNIX- and Linux-based web hosts support. If your host is not a *Windows* host, then it's probably a UNIX or LINUX host. Chmod'ing is a process that basically sets the permissions to do certain actions, including reading, writing, and executing. You use your FTP client to chmod; how you do so in every client is different. In many of them, all you have to do is right-click on a file, select "Chmod" or "Set Permissions," then input the chmod number. If you are on a *Windows*-based host, you normally don't need to chmod anything.
4. You must also understand how to upload files in ASCII and Binary mode through your FTP client. These are different methods of transferring the data. Usually text documents are uploaded in ASCII and images in Binary.
5. Lastly, it is recommended that you have basic knowledge of HTML code. This will allow you to edit your template. This knowledge is not required.
6. Sometimes the script fails to generate the database and all tables automatically. Then you will need a programme to manage your database. We recommend to install a database tool like SQLYog or NaviCat if you install the script on your local computer or PHPMyAdmin if you plan to install the script on your remote webserver. These tools will allow you to easily create databases and manage the tables.

Materials and Tools Needed

All materials and tools can be acquired for free.

Hosting Account Requirements

1. At least 2 MB free disk space on your web hosting account
2. Perl (version 5 or higher) installed on your web host or server
3. Sendmail (for UNIX/Linux hosts) or SMTP (for *Windows* hosts) email server
4. Database (i.e.: MySQL, Oracle, MSSQL,...)
5. The Perl Module DBI, and a database driver for the database you are using (f.e.: DBI:mysql, DBI:Oracle)

Software Requirements

1. The latest copy of the script from <http://www.firebook.de>
2. A FTP client (such as *LeechFTP* or *FileZilla*)
3. A text editor (such as *MS Notepad* or *PsPad*)
4. A compression utility for extracting .zip files (such as *Winzip*, *Winrar* or the built-in tool in *Windows*)
5. A web browser (such as *Firefox* or *MS Internet Explorer*)
6. *If automatic creation of database fails*: A tool, which allows you to create databases (often provided by webspace provider, otherwise: SQLYog, Navicat, PhpMyadmin)

Stage 1: Prepare

Step 1 Make sure you meet the qualifications listed in the “What You Need to Know” section of this guide. You must also gather the required tools and materials listed in the above section.

Step 2 Extract the .zip package to any location of your choice on your computer using your ZIP utility (such as *Winzip*). Just remember where you extracted the files! You may already have extracted these files if you are reading this installation guide.

Step 3 Open the files “firebook.cgi” and “setup.cgi”, which are in the “/cgi-bin/firebook” directory of the package you downloaded, in a text editor such as *MS Notepad* or *Nedit*. The first line of these files contain the path to your server's Perl location. Generally, the default setting (“/usr/bin/perl”) is correct, but Perl can be installed in different locations. For example on a *Windows* or *WinNT* hosting server, your Perl path should probably be set to “#!C:/Perl/Bin/perl.exe”. Check your server FAQs to determine your perl path, and change the path in both files accordingly.

Step 4 If your server requires PERL files to have the extension *.pl instead of *.cgi, please change the file **firebook.cgi** to **firebook.pl** and **setup.cgi** to **setup.pl**

Step 5 Create a database, which you dedicate for this script. Normally your webspace provider will supply a tool, which allows you to do that – if there is no tool available you may want use one of the following tools: SQLYog, NaviCat oder PhpMyAdmin. If you have created a database user that is capable of creating databases, the database can be created automatically during the script installation.

Stage 2: Create Directories

Step 1 In the “cgi-bin” directory (or proper directory designated by your web host for containing Perl scripts) of your web hosting account, create a directory called “firebook” (or whatever name you wish to use). If you do not have a cgi-bin or another directory designated for use by Perl scripts, then first create a directory called “cgi-bin” and then inside create the “firebook” directory. An example structure is provided in the firebook package you've downloaded. The cgi-bin may have to be in your public_html directory or in the home root of your account, depending on your web host's setup.

Step 2 Then, in the HTML section of your web space (outside the cgi-bin), create another directory called “fbimages” for your guestbook graphics (if you use another name, the setup won't be able to find that folder).

Stage 3: Upload Files

Step 1 Upload the files from the directory “cgi-bin/firebook” from the downloaded .zip you extracted in Stage 1 to the “firebook” directory you created in Stage 2 on your server. Be aware that you have to upload all files in ASCII mode.

Step 2 Upload the files from the directory “fbimages” from the downloaded .zip you extracted in Stage 1 to the “fbimages” directory you created in Stage 2 on your server. Be aware that you have to upload all files in Binary mode. Many FTP clients will select the upload mode automatically, but chances are high you first have to setup the file types to be uploaded in ASCII mode upon first usage of your FTP program.

Step 3 Change the file permissions (CHMOD) of the file `setup.cgi/setup.pl` in the folder “firebook” to **755**.

Stage 4: Run Setup, Login, and Test

Step 1 In order to finish the installation, the script setup must be started, which will set file permissions and set up the configuration automatically. Open the file `setup.cgi/setup.pl` that you have uploaded to your server in your browser, for example: `http://www.mydomain.com/cgi-bin/firebook/setup.cgi`. Remember most servers are case-sensitive, so type in the URL exactly as the directories and files are named.

Step 2 If the script “`setup.cgi/setup.pl`” doesn't work, please check if you entered the correct URL. Please check if you changed the path to perl accordingly and if the file permissions of the file “`setup.cgi/setup.pl`” are correct. What's more you can try to change the permissions of the “**firebook**” directory, examples: **755, 777** or rename the file `setup.cgi` to `setup.pl`. If it still doesn't work, please ask in the Firebook support forum for help -> <http://www.firebook.de/forums>.

Step 3 If the script runs, there will be a setup screen. Please follow the instructions, enter all required informations and run the setup. The setup script will ask you to enter the credentials and data for the database connection. The setup script can create the tables automatically if all data has been provided. If you do not wish to let the script create the tables automatically you can find the SQL scheme in the folder `sql_schemes` of this package. You can adapt the SQL statements as needed and run them with a database manager of your choice like PHPMyAdmin.

Step 4 After the setup your Firebook GB should be working. If you can not finish the setup due to permission problems or you can not access `firebook.cgi`, re-upload the file `setup.cgi/setup.pl` and set the permissions manually like described in *Table 1 on page 6*. Then restart the file “`setup.cgi/setup.pl`”.

Step 5a If you can run your guestbook now, you can login in your admincenter with the username: **admin**, and the password: **pass**; Please don't forgot to change the login data! Make sure that the file "setup.cgi/setup.pl" has been deleted.

Step 5b If you can not run your guestbook now, please open the file "firebook.cgi/firebook.pl" locally, change the paths on the lines 36 and 37 to the correct absolute paths to the file "config.pl" and the directory "data" on your webserver. Then upload the file firebook.cgi/firebook.pl to your server, set CHMOD to 755 and run the file. If it works continue with step 4a, if not please ask the Firebook support forum for help -> <http://www.firebook.de/forums>.

Steb 5b firebook.cgi/firebook.pl
<pre>##### EDIT THESE PATHS FOR MANUAL CONFIGURATION ### EXAMPLE ### \$configpath = qq~/usr/home/dir/cgi-bin/firebook/config.pl~; ### \$fb::gl{'datadirpath'} = qq~/usr/home/dir/cgi-bin/firebook/data~; my \$configpath = qq~/usr/home/dir/cgi-bin/firebook/config.pl~; \$fb::gl{'datadirpath'} = qq~/usr/home/dir/cgi-bin/firebook/data~; ##### EDIT THESE PATHS FOR MANUAL CONFIGURATION</pre>

TABLE 1	
CGI-BIN Section (upload all files in ASCII Mode)	
- These files can be found in the „cgi-bin“ directory on your server -	
/firebook/	-rwxr-xr-x (chmod 755)
/firebook/firebook.cgi or firebook.pl	-rwxr-xr-x (chmod 755)
/firebook/setup.cgi or setup.pl	-rwxr-xr-x (chmod 755)
/firebook/config.pl	-rw-rw-rw- (chmod 666)
/firebook/data	drwxrwxrwx (chmod 777)
/firebook/data/*.*	-rw-rw-rw- (chmod 666)
/firebook/data/[all subdirectories]	drwxrwxrwx (chmod 777)
/firebook/data/[all subdirectores]/*.*	-rw-rw-rw- (chmod 666)
/firebook/data/language, modules, skins, subs/[all subdirectories]	drwxrwxrwx (chmod 777)
/firebook/ data/language, modules, skins, subs/[all subdirectores]/*.*	-rw-rw-rw- (chmod 666)
HTML Section (upload all files in BINARY Mode)	
- These files can be found in the „fbimages“ directory on your server -	
/fbimages/[all directories and sub-directories]	drwxrwxrwx (chmod 777)
/fbimages/[all files]	drwxrwxrwx (chmod 777)

How To Upgrade the script

Below is an outline explaining how to upgrade the script from a version prior to this release. Any prior version of the guestbook can be upgraded to this version as long as all of the steps below are followed. What's more, you can also import data from i-dreams.net guestbook installations. **Attention:** *only the most important data will be included for updates – all other data is lost if you do not make a manual transition. Please check your settings in the admincenter after updating.*

Step 1 It is important that you backup your data before proceeding with an upgrade. You may simply download the directories (in ASCII mode) with your FTP client.

Step 2 Conduct all steps of a standard installation, but be aware of the following:

- you shall not overwrite your old installation! You have to rename the old folders before uploading the new ones.
- once you enter the required data for the setup, don't forget to change the installation type to "update" and enter the absolute path to your previous installation.

Step 3 Copy the content of the folders „upload“ and „maps“ from your old graphics directory into the new graphics directory you created in Step 3 into the folders of the same name.

Appendix A: FAQ

I forgot my password. What can I do?

Log in by ftp into your account. Change into the guestbook's directory. Open the directories "data/admdat" and replace the file admin.dat with the original file from your package. Login without password and user "admin", afterwards change your admin data in the admincenter.

How to implement the guestbook using SSI?

To implement the guestbook via SSI or PHP you can use the templates provided in the folder „ssi“.

- open the template you want to use and check the path to the firebook.cgi/firebook.pl file.
- upload the *.shtml or *.php file to your webserver.
- open the admincenter and change the SSI/PHP URL pointing to the file you uploaded
- deactivate the gzip compression in your admincenter

Now you can open the guestbook via ssi/php adding ?inc=[type], e.g.:

<http://www.yourdomain.com/firebook.shtml?inc=ssi> or <http://www.yourdomain.com/firebook.php?inc=php>

How can I change the settings/template? How to perform admin actions?

Log in into your admincenter (script?action=login) and select the appropriate menu entry, follow the instructions provided in the admincenter.

How can I edit entries? How can I determine users IP addresses?

Click on the edit button, which can be found near each new message. It is marked by the following graphic: . Alternatively you can edit messages in your admincenter under "moderation".

How can I change the guestbook's appearance?

You have various possibilities to change the scripts's appearance. All settings can be found in the admincenter under "skin system".

Where can I find more maps, smilies, skins, language packages and flags?

In the download section of the guestbook on <http://www.firebook.de>

My AIM, YIM, MSN,.. graphics do not work anymore.

You have to change your onlinestatus- server. Please visit www.onlinestatus.org, select an onlinestatus server and enter the server url in the field „online-status“ in the skin settings of your admincenter. If you don't like to use the online status delete the URL in your attributes – in this case standard graphics will be displayed instead.

How to use the top entries?

Insert the following code, where the top entries shall be displayed

JS: `<script src="urlzufb/firebook.cgi?action=topentrys&anzahl=nra&cut=nrb"></script>`

SSI: `<!--#exec cgi="pfadzufb/firebook.cgi?action=topentrys&anzahl=nra&cut=nrb&ssi=yes" -->`

"urlzufb" should be replaced with the URL to your Firebook Script, "pfadzufb" with the path to your script and "nra" with the number of entries. "nrb" can be used to limit the number of allowed characters.

Why can't I mix certain UBBC functions?

It is not possible to use some of the advanced functions together, because some effects are too complex to combine.

Why do certain UBBC Functions not work in Netscape o.a.?

Certain UBBC functions can only be displayed in the Internet Explorer. Other browser like Netscape or Opera might fail to show the effects. These functions are marked with "IE".

I still have another question. Where can I get further advice?

Contact our support team at the official Firebook support forums on <http://scripts.i-dreams.net/forums>.

Appendix B: Glossary of Related Terms

Below are some terms that you need to understand when installing the script. Please do not hesitate to research these terms in Google or Wikipedia if you feel you do not understand the descriptions provided here.

ASCII – This is an information exchange code using a set of specific characters. Many files (all text-based) must be uploaded in ASCII mode to retain their original format. Samples include Perl scripts, text documents, web pages, and code files.

Binary – This is an executable type of file, as opposed to an ASCII file. These files are usually programs and images. Certain files must be uploaded in Binary mode for them to function properly.

Chmod – Change Mode. This is a command on UNIX and Linux machines that is used to change file permissions. Chmod can usually be done from an FTP client or from a telnet or SSH session. Chmod is comparable to setting file permissions on a *MS Windows* server running *MS IIS*. There are a total of 9 permissions available.

File Permissions – These are permissions that one can set on any file or directory with most any operating system. Permissions include read, write, and execute. They can typically be set for the file owner, a user, or a group, providing a total of 9 possible permission sets. On UNIX and Linux systems, these can be set using the chmod command. They allow files to be secured or accessed from the web, and they tell the server if the files can be executed, read from, or written to.

FTP – File Transfer Protocol. This is an Internet protocol that allows one to transfer files from a local PC to a remote machine over a network. Typically a client, such as *LeechFTP*, is used to transfer the files from a PC to a remote machine. This is what is used to upload the script files.

HTML – Hypertext Markup Language. This is the original markup language created for writing web pages, typically with the file extension .htm or .html. These documents often contain hyperlinks to other Internet documents.

Package – A collection of files, often a tree of files for a software release, bundled together for distribution.

Perl – This is a high-level programming language based on the C language. It was originally created to write scripts for the UNIX operating system, but it has evolved to include CGI scripts for the World Wide Web, such as this script.

Sendmail - Sendmail is a program which can send e-mails. Most host faqs say where the path to sendmail can be found, if the program is installed. If sendmail doesn't work, use smtp or Net::SMTP to deliver your e-mails.

Upload – This is the act of transferring data (files) from one computer to another, often remote, computer.

URL – Uniform Resource Locator. This is an Internet address to a resource, such as <http://www.i-dreams.net>.

Webmaster – This is the website administrator, a person responsible for the development and maintenance of the web pages at a website.

Zip – This is a file extension for a collection of files or directories that have been compressed into one file, typically created on *Windows* computers. The filename will appear as "filename.zip." This term is commonly used as a noun or a verb to denote compressed files or the action of compressing files.

Appendix C: Chmod Tutorial

While reading this installation guide, you will be asked to set permissions, known as “chmodding” on Unix and Linux servers. This does not apply if you are installing the script on a Windows or Macintosh server, for which you will have to set permissions another way or ask your web host to grant permissions as needed for you. The following steps explain how to chmod on Unix and Linux servers.

Setting permissions on files and directories will allow certain users access to those specific files and directories. This is critical to running an efficient and secure script. It also grants the program to access certain functions on your web hosts’ server. Most important of these permissions is the write permission, which allows the script to modify or create files on the server, which is required for every access.

Step 1 Chmods can be set by FTP’ing to your website or by logging into the shell via telnet or SSH. For this lesson, we’ll assume you have FTP access to your website and have logged in.

Step 2 You must first understand the three categories (or levels of access) that can be given: owner, group, and other. These are the types of users on the server that you will be granting permissions to.

Step 3 Each category can be given a combination of one or more of the following permissions: read, write, execute. Each of these has an equivalent numeric value: read = 4, write = 2, and execute = 1.

Step 4 Once you have logged into your website with your FTP program, navigate to the “firebook” directory inside your cgi-bin where you installed the script.

Step 5 Select the file(s) that you wish to chmod (as stated by the Installation section in this guide), right-click your selection, and choose the “chmod” or “set permissions” option in the menu that appears.