



The Handbook

Codex

http://codex.wordpress.org/Permalink_Structure

Version Date

6 August 2005

Using Permalinks

Permalinks are the permanent URLs to your individual weblog posts, as well as categories and other lists of weblog postings. A permalink is what another weblogger will use to refer to your article (or section), or how you might send a link to your story in an e-mail message. Especially when they are used to link to individual postings, once a story is posted, the URL to it should be permanent, and never change. Hence the "perma" in the name. See [Pretty Permalinks](#) for more info.

Structure Tags

You can use these tags to customize your permalinks.

`%year%`

The year of the post, four digits, for example 2004

`%monthnum%`

Month of the year, for example 05

`%day%`

Day of the month, for example 28

`%hour%`

Hour of the day, for example 15

`%minute%`

Minute of the hour, for example 43

`%second%`

Second of the minute, for example 33

`%postname%`

A sanitized version of the title of the post. So "This Is A Great Post!" becomes "this-is-a-great-post" in the URI (see note below)

`%post_id%`

The unique ID # of the post, for example 423

`%category%`

A sanitized version of the category name. Nested sub-categories appear as nested directories in the URI.

`%author%`

A sanitized version of the author name.

Permalinks work on most systems without any problems, but there are still some conditions where problems occur.

Note on using only `%postname%`

If you use `postname` as the only element in your permalinks to create a structure such as `myblog.com/post-title`, the rewrite rules may make it impossible to access pages such as your stylesheet (which has a similar format) or the `wp-admin` folder. It's best to include some numeric data (e.g. the post ID or date) in the permalink to prevent this from happening. Additionally, WordPress v1.2.x requires the use of a date structure in order for some features, such as the calendar, to function properly. `/%year%/%monthnum%/%day%/%postname%/` is always a good

start.

Note on using %category%

%category% does not work correctly with mod_rewrite in Apache versions prior to 2. If you are using Apache 1, do not use %category% in your permalink structure.

Note on using %category% with multiple categories on a post

Where you assign multiple categories to a post, only 1 can show up in the permalink. This will be the lowest numbered category (see [Manage Categories](#)). The post will still be accessible through all the categories as normal.

Properly terminating permalinks

It's important to guarantee permalinks lead to individual posts within your custom URI, so make sure to end a virtual site structure with either %post_id% or %postname%

```
/ %year% / %monthnum% / %day% / %postname% /
```

Where's my .htaccess file?

The .htaccess file should be in the root directory of your WordPress install, where the other WordPress files are located. Since the name of the file begins with a ".", the file may not be visible through an FTP client unless you change the preferences of the FTP tool to show all files, including the hidden files.

If you do not already have a .htaccess file, create one. If you have shell, or ssh access to the server, a simple `touch .htaccess` will create the file. If you are using FTP, create a file on your local computer, call it `1.htaccess`, upload it to the root of your WordPress install, and then rename it to `.htaccess`. Now read the following section to see how you can edit the file.

Editing Rewrite Rules (.htaccess)

This is not required when using WordPress v1.5. WordPress v1.5 creates and/or edits the .htaccess file for you.

Your server must have [mod_rewrite](#) for cruft-free permalinks to work. In addition, you must create a [.htaccess](#) file and place it in the directory in which your main index.php file resides. For example, if your WordPress blog is installed at `domain.com/wordpress/`, put the `.htaccess` file at `domain.com/wordpress/.htaccess`. However, if your WordPress installation is in a subdirectory, but your visitors access your site at the top level of your domain, place the `.htaccess` file at `domain.com/.htaccess`.

When you create a permalink structure, WordPress will generate rewrite rules for you to copy and paste into your `.htaccess` file.

A few cautions about creating and editing your `.htaccess` file:

- You must have FTP access to create the `.htaccess` file

- You must [chmod](#) the `.htaccess` file to 666 to edit it with the WordPress [template editor](#), but this is not recommended, since if you do that, any user of your blog, who can edit templates will be able to edit it. You can change the permissions to 660 to make it server-writable, which again will have the same limitation.
- If you leave whitespace at the end of your `.htaccess` file, it may make all pages on your site unavailable (though they will still exist, and your data will not be harmed). If this happens, delete the `.htaccess` file and create a new one.
- If your `.htaccess` file contains errors that bring down your site, you will need to use FTP or your host's [control panel](#) to delete the rogue `.htaccess` file. Once a fatal change has been saved in the WordPress editor, the editor (along with the rest of your site) will not be available until the problem is fixed.
- You may also be able to use your host's [control panel](#) to create and edit the `.htaccess` file. If so, it is likely you will still be able to edit the `.htaccess` file through this method, even if errors in the file have brought down your site itself.

Using Permalinks Without mod_rewrite

For permalinks in general, you must use [mod_rewrite](#), and IIS (common on Windows servers) does not support `mod_rewrite`. If you are using Apache 2.0.54, on Windows, `mod_rewrite` may work. If you put a filename at the beginning, WordPress will attempt to use that to pass the arguments and bypass the necessity for `mod_rewrite`.

```
/index.php/%year%/%monthnum%/%day%/%postname%/
```

If you use this option, you can ignore the rewrite rules (that is, you can ignore `.htaccess`).

Fixing Permalink Problems

Fixing (`.htaccess`) Generation Issues

If your installation of Wordpress does not generate a `.htaccess` file or if it does not write the new rules onto your existing `.htaccess` file then there are a couple reasons that could be causing this. Work step by step and continue to the next step only if the step below does not work.

1. **Change File Permissions:** You must [chmod](#) the `.htaccess` file to 666 to edit it with the WordPress [template editor](#), but this is not recommended, since if you do that, any user of your blog, who can edit templates will be able to edit it. You can change the permissions to 660 to make it server-writable, which again will have the same limitation.
2. **Server Blockage:** Your host might have blocked the `SERVER_SOFTWARE` variable and this will cause Wordpress's `.htaccess` generation to fail. If you are sure that your server is running Apache, you can force WP to believe that your server is running Apache by changing your `wp-includes/vars.php` file. Follow the steps below to implement these changes.
 1. Open the `wp-includes/vars.php` file using the built in file editor in your WP Admin panel. To navigate to this panel, login to Wordpress, click on

- "Manage", then on "Files", lastly scroll to the bottom and type in `wp-includes/vars.php` into the text box under the "Other Files" title.
2. Look for `$is_apache = strstr($_SERVER['SERVER_SOFTWARE'], 'Apache') ? 1 : 0;`, once you find it replace it with `// $is_apache = strstr($_SERVER['SERVER_SOFTWARE'], 'Apache') ? 1 : 0;`
 3. Add a new line under `// $is_apache = strstr($_SERVER['SERVER_SOFTWARE'], 'Apache') ? 1 : 0;` and type in `$is_apache = 1;`

Long Permalinks

When using extra long permalinks in email and posting in comments and chats, some long permalinks are "chopped off" or only the first section is actually recognized as a link and the end seen as text. Here is an example.

<http://yourdomain.example.com/2005/0/4/article-about-joe-fred-sally-and-bog>

Can result in:

<http://yourdomain.example.com/2005/0/4/article>-about-joe-fred-sally-and-bog

To click on the lower link, the user would get a Page Not Found Error. If you have a tendency to use very long permalink post titles, take these steps to prevent this problem.

1. Check that you are indeed using **Permalinks**.
2. Edit your `.htaccess` file and add the following and save the file:

```
RewriteRule ^post/([0-9]+)?/?([0-9]+)?/?$ /index.php?p=$1&page=$2 [QSA]
```

3. Test it. Find a post's ID number and type the following (with your information) in your browser and you should be redirected to your post:

[http://yourdomain.example.com/post/\(the ID #\)](http://yourdomain.example.com/post/(the ID #))

Fixing Other Issues

If your `.htaccess` file is being generated correctly, but Permalinks still do not function, the following might be a problem. If problems persist, post a note in the [WordPress Forum's](http://www.wordpress.org/support) (<http://www.wordpress.org/support>) How To section.

AllowOverride Not Enabled

Your server may not have the `AllowOverride` directive enabled. If the `AllowOverride` directive is set to `None` in your Apache `httpd.config` file, then `.htaccess` files are completely ignored. In this case, the server will not even attempt to read `.htaccess` files in the filesystem. When this directive is set to `All`, then any directive which has the `.htaccess` Context is allowed in `.htaccess` files. Example of enabled `AllowOverride` directive in `httpd.config`:

```
<Directory />
    Options FollowSymLinks
    AllowOverride All
```

</Directory>

If you don't want to set AllowOverride to all (as it is above) then your AllowOverride list must include the FileInfo directive. You must restart your Apache server for any httpd.config file changes to take effect. For more information on which overrides are allowed, read about [Apache Core Features](http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.0/mod/core.html#allowoverride) (<http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.0/mod/core.html#allowoverride>).

More Help

If these steps do not work, search for your problem in the [Codex](http://codex.wordpress.org) (<http://codex.wordpress.org>), [Troubleshooting](#), or in the [Support Forum](http://wordpress.org/support/) (<http://wordpress.org/support/>). As a last resort, file a bug report in the [Trac](http://trac.wordpress.org) (<http://trac.wordpress.org>).

External Resources

- [Boost Search Engine Optimisation \(SEO\) using Permalinks](http://www.tomrafteryit.net/boost-search-engine-optimisation-seo-using-permalinks/) (<http://www.tomrafteryit.net/boost-search-engine-optimisation-seo-using-permalinks/>)
- [How to Configure WordPress to Create Search Engine Friendly URLs for Permalinks](#)