



The Handbook

Codex

<http://codex.wordpress.org/Permalinks> Options SubPanel

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Permalinks Options SubPanel

Options → Permalinks

For a nice introduction to Permalinks, check out the [Pretty Permalinks](#) section of [Introduction to Blogging](#). But briefly, and to quote this very Permalinks SubPanel:

By default WordPress uses web URIs which have question marks and lots of numbers in them, however WordPress offers you the ability to create a custom URI structure for your permalinks and archives. This can improve the aesthetics, usability, and longevity of your links.

This SubPanel controls how that custom URI structure is defined. For a more in depth description of the way this structure is specified, see the [Using Permalinks](#) page.

Edit Permalink Structure

Examples

No better description can be given for what permalinks actually do than to actually show some examples. To that end, the SubPanel lists two helpful examples and shows you what they would look like for your actual blog. That's not so hard, is it?

Structure

Enter into this text box the permalink structure you want to use. You can copy and paste from the examples, or you can write your own with the tags found at [Using Permalinks](#).

Category base

You can also decide how the URIs for your category pages will look by entering a permalink structure here. Again, copy the example `/taxonomy/categories` or write your own.

Update Permalink Structure

Click this button to save your changes. If you don't click this button, your changes will not be saved. After you've clicked this button, you should receive one of two messages depending on whether your `.htaccess` file is writeable. For information on how to make `.htaccess` writeable, see [Changing File Permissions](#).

- If `.htaccess` is writeable, you will get a message that says "**Permalink structure updated.**" You're all set; WordPress has been able to do everything for you automatically.
- If `.htaccess` is *not* writeable, you will see a message that says "**You should update your .htaccess now.**" This means you'll have to do one extra step yourself. In the new text box at the bottom of the SubPanel, WordPress displays many lines of [rewrite](#) rules associated with the Permalink Structure you chose above. You will need to manually copy everything in this text box into your `.htaccess` file to make your new permalinks work.

Note: If you're writing your `.htaccess` file on your own, personal computer, some operating systems do not allow the creation of a file named `".htaccess"` because of the initial dot (`"."`). You can always name the file without the initial dot or with a standard extension (e.g. `"htaccess.txt"`). Once the file is uploaded to your weblog's directory,

rename it through your [FTP](#) software. All current [FTP Clients](#) should provide you a way to do this.

Also Note: Files that begin with a dot (".") like ".htaccess" are hidden on most servers by default. Consult the userguide or FAQ of the FTP software you use to find out how to have the software display these hidden files, and also how to use the software to change file permissions, rename files, etc. For more information on all of this see [Changing File Permissions](#).