

# Polls Module V1.0

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Revision History

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SW

The first revision of the Polls Module V1.0 document.

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## 1. Function



The Polls module can be used to display interactive survey forms on your site. Each poll can display a question on which visitors can “vote”. This can be a valuable way to collect feedback from your community. Polls can be configured to allow single or multiple choices and visitors can view the “results” to date.

## 2. Install/uninstall

No special measures necessary, follow the standard installation process – extract the “polls” folder into the `../modules` directory. Install the module through **Admin -> System Module -> Modules**. If you need detailed instructions on installing modules see the **XOOPS Operations Manual**.

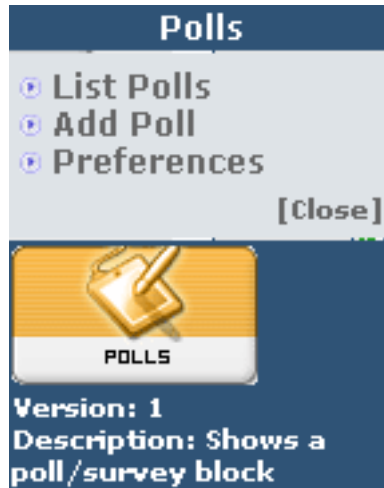
## 3. Operating instructions

The Polls module is very simple to configure and use. Basically you need to:

1. Create one or more polls for people to vote on (Polls administration -> Add poll)
2. Display the Polls block somewhere on your website (not strictly necessary – people can also access them through the “Polls” link in the main menu – but displaying the polls block in a prominent location will encourage people to vote) and

3. Ensure that relevant user groups have access rights to a) the Polls module and b) the Polls block so that they can see it and vote.
4. Most management functions for existing polls are found in Polls administration -> List polls.

## 4. Administration menu



### 4.1. List polls

This is the main page for administering your polls. It displays a list of all the polls in the database, both active and expired. The available functions are:

Option	Function
Display in block	Show (or hide) the poll in the Polls block. You might want, for example, to hide polls once they expire.
Display order	If you have multiple polls, you can set the vertical order in which they will appear in the polls block here (see Section 6, "Blocks" [5]).
Total voters	How many people have voted in this poll.
Total votes	Total number of votes received (people can only vote once, but if your poll is set to allow multiple choices they can vote for several items simultaneously, thus the total number of votes can exceed the number of actual voters)
Expiration	The date / time on which the poll will close – no further voting will be allowed. If the poll has expired a "restart this poll" link will be displayed – this allows you to reset the expiration date and notification options for the poll.
Edit / Delete / View log	Select "edit" to modify the poll configuration options, or "delete" to remove the poll (and voting records) from the database. The "view log" function doesn't work – it was never implemented.

#### Polls Configuration

#### Polls List

Display in block?	Display order	Poll Question	Total voters	Total votes	Expiration	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	What do you think about XOOPS?	0	0	Expired Restart this poll	Edit Delete View log
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	Are mini-nukes a good idea ?	1	1	2004/6/25 20:37	Edit Delete View log

The options from the “restart polls” link are as follows:

Option	Function
Expiration	Set the new date for the poll to expire in the format:  yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss  eg: 2004-12-25 08:00:00
Notify the poll author when expired	If you select “yes” you will receive a notification message via email or personal message, depending on the notification option you selected when you registered your account.
Reset all logs for this poll	Select “yes” to discard all the previous votes.































### Polls Configuration

Restart poll	
Expiration Format: yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss Current time is 2004-06-18 22:45:36	<input type="text" value="2004-06-25 22:45:36"/>
Notify the poll author when expired?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Reset all logs for this poll?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
<input type="button" value="Restart this poll"/>	

## 4.2. Add poll

This is where you create and configure new polls. The configuration options are as follows:

Option	Function
Poll question	This will appear as the title of the poll – what do you want to ask ?
Poll description	For administrative use only – it isn’t publicly accessible anywhere.
Expiration	The date / time that the voting will close (poll will still be displayed)
Display in block	Select “yes” for this poll to be displayed in the Polls block (if you select “no” it will still be accessible through the “Polls” link in the main menu).
Display order	If you have multiple polls, you can set the vertical order in which they will appear in the polls block here. Lower numbers appear at the top of the page.
Allow multiple selection	You can force people to select one voting option only, or allow them to select multiple options simultaneously.
Notify the poll author when expired?	If you select “yes” you will receive a notification via email or personal message when the poll expires according to the default notification option you selected when you registered your account.
Options	Enter the “voting choices” here - type each permitted response in a separate box. The drop down box to the right allows you to select the colour of the bar used to display the results for this voting option in the “view results” page.

Create new poll																															
<b>Poll Question</b>	<input type="text" value="Is the delopment of mini-nukes is a good idea ?"/>																														
<b>Poll description</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">This poll is to survey the attitude of XOOPS users to the US proposal to develop mini-nukes!</div>																														
<b>Expiration</b> <small>Format: yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss</small> <small>Current time is 2004-06-18 20:37:26</small>	<input type="text" value="2004-06-25 20:37:26"/>																														
<b>Display in block?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No																														
<b>Display order</b>	<input type="text" value="1"/>																														
<b>Allow multiple selection?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No																														
<b>Notify the poll author when expired?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No																														
<b>Options</b>	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="text" value="Yes, I need a mini nuke for home defence"/></td> <td>aqua.gif</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text" value="No, mini-nukes are insane"/></td> <td>blue.gif</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text" value="Unsure...didn't we sign a non-proliferation treaty ?"/></td> <td>brown.gif</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td>darkgreen.gif</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td>gold.gif</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td>green.gif</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td>grey.gif</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td>orange.gif</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td>pink.gif</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td>purple.gif</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<input type="text" value="Yes, I need a mini nuke for home defence"/>	aqua.gif		<input type="text" value="No, mini-nukes are insane"/>	blue.gif		<input type="text" value="Unsure...didn't we sign a non-proliferation treaty ?"/>	brown.gif		<input type="text"/>	darkgreen.gif		<input type="text"/>	gold.gif		<input type="text"/>	green.gif		<input type="text"/>	grey.gif		<input type="text"/>	orange.gif		<input type="text"/>	pink.gif		<input type="text"/>	purple.gif	
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<input type="text"/>	pink.gif																														
<input type="text"/>	purple.gif																														
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>																															

### 4.3. Preferences

There are only two fairly standard preference options available. Both relate to the posting of comments on polls:

Option	Function
Comment rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments are always approved (default) – any comment that is posted will immediately be published on the site</li> <li>• Comments by registered users are always approved – comments posted by anonymous visitors will not be published until approved by an Administrator</li> <li>• All comments need to be approved by Administrator</li> </ul>
Allow anonymous post in comments?	Do you want to allow anonymous visitors to be able to post comments on your polls? The default is “no”.

Module Config Options	
<b>Comment Rules</b>	<input type="text" value="Comments are always approved"/>
<b>Allow anonymous post in comments?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
<input type="button" value="Go!"/>	

### 5. The user side

The Polls module is very simple from the user perspective – they can either vote, or view the results of a poll.



**Polls**

What is your favourite kind of music ?

Country

Western

I like both kinds of music, country AND western

## 5.1. Voting

Make a choice (or several choices if multiple selections have been enabled) and press the [Vote!] button ! It's that simple. A "thank you" message will be displayed. Once a user has voted they can't vote again – a "sorry you have already voted" message will be displayed if they try. After voting, the user is directed to the "Poll results" page.

## 5.2. Viewing poll results

Poll results are also accessible through the [Results] button on the polls block or from the Polls index page.

## 6. Blocks

"Polls" is the only block in this module. It displays the currently active polls in a vertical stack. The contents of this block are configured through the Polls administration menu.

## 7. Templates

The Polls module has four templates, which are available through **Administration Menu -> System Module -> Templates -> Polls**. They are:

- `xoopspoll_index.html`: This template displays the index page for the Polls module (ie. the page displayed from the "Polls" link in the main menu). It provides a list of currently active polls.
- `xoopspoll_view.html`: This template displays an expanded view of a poll when a visitor
  - clicks on the "vote" button in the Polls block without selecting a choice, or
  - clicks on a poll name in the Poll index page.
- `xoopspoll_results.html`: This template controls the layout of the "Results" page where visitors can review the current state of a poll.
- `xoopspoll_block_poll.html`: This is the template for the Polls block. It shows an unlimited number of polls / surveys. If you want to customise the appearance of your polls this is the template you need to modify.

## 8. Miscellaneous notes

### Polls administration -> list polls -> view log

The “view log” links are non-functional – this feature was never implemented.

### Group permissions

You must give relevant user groups access rights to i) the Polls module and ii) the Polls block so that they can vote (System module -> Groups). Detailed information on configuring group permissions is available in the Operations Manual if you need it.

### Interpreting poll results

Be careful how you interpret the feedback you get from polls. Bear in mind that only motivated users will respond – respondents probably do not represent a representative cross-section of your community !

## 9. Module credits

The Contact Us module was written by Kazumi Ono, aka “Onokazu”.