

Effective Rules for Building and Securing of Blogs

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Abstract

Blogging is about more than just putting thoughts on a web; it's about connecting with and hearing from anyone who read the work. Many web sites now days help to get a free account to quick post thoughts and photos interact with people, and more. The fastest way to understand blogging is to try it out, but in that case securing the blog is important, by including authentication schemes.

In this paper we suggest implications of our research for improving the design and usefulness of blogging systems, and also we divided the blogs depending on the subject and need, which are either to be used in public or only used by small group, so we can suggest different steps for securing the blogs.

Keywords: weblogs, web security, blogs structure.

Introduction

A **blog** is a website where entries are written in chronological order and commonly displayed in reverse chronological order and frequently updated with post centered around one topic. Many blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries [1]. A typical blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, web pages, and other media related to its topic. The ability for readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important part of many blogs. Micro-blogging is another type of blogging which consists of blogs with very short posts. The term "weblog" was coined by Jorn Barger on 17 December 1997. The short form, "blog," was coined by Peter Merholz, who jokingly broke the word *weblog* into the phrase *we blog* in the sidebar of his blog Peterme.com in 1999 [2].

Before blogging became popular, digital communities took many forms, including Usenet, commercial online services. Usenet was the primary serial

medium included in the original definition of the World Wide Web (WWW). It featured the Moderated Newsgroup which allows all posting in a newsgroup to be under the control of an individual or small group. Most such newsgroups were simply moderated discussion forums [3].

The modern blog evolved from the online diary, where people would keep a running account of their personal lives. Most such writers called themselves diarists, journalists, or journalists. A few called themselves "escribitionists". The Open Pages web ring included members of the online-journal community [4].

Weblogs are being attacked, and defaced. This sort of thing has been happening for years, especially the blogger, it's not that software has become less secure, but because many bloggers don't know how to secure their own Web sites. Finally if the hosting done from a home or from a rented server, the best defense against

small attacks is by using a hardware server-side firewall [5, 6].

After a slow start, blogging rapidly gained in popularity. Blog usage spread during 1999 and the years following, being further popularized by the near-simultaneous arrival of the first hosted blog tools such as Open diary, Brad Fitzpatrick, and also Even Williams launched blogger.com in August 1999 which purchased by Google in February 2003. In 2004, the role of blogs became increasingly, as political consultants, news services and candidates began using them as tools for outreach and opinion forming [2].

Many various types of blogs, and each differs in the way content is either delivered or written. For example media type blogs comprising video, or blogs defined by which type of device is used to compose it. There are also blogs which focus on a particular subject, such as political blogs, travel blogs, fashion blogs, project blogs etc. [2]

Our aim in this study is to give an easy protocol that may help in starting one's blog, and that would be done by focusing on the blog's subject, and its use. In this paper blogs divided into

two kinds of blogging. First kind is the blogs that build only to small selected groups of users, which can be secured by using authentications schemes, and the second kind is opened for public use.

Data Source

The idea of this paper began when intended a blogger workshop that managed by AKI a news agent company in Italy. Many interviews with blogs owners (three arabic owners and five european owners), were made asking questions and analysis information of some references.

Methods

In this work best module of creating blogger own code, and the best advices were selected to find out the best steps to secure blogs. After deciding the blog subject, blog kind should be chosen, either blogs that build only to small selected groups of users, which can be secured by authentications schemes, or blogs opened for public use. For more explanation, the effective steps that are suggested in this work can be seen in the diagram figure no. (1).

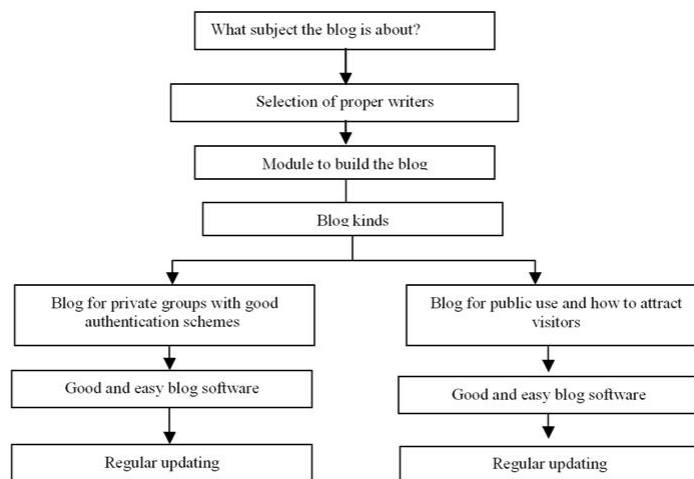


Fig.1: Diagram of the suggested work

As mentioned before, blogs are originally a website. Website is any collection of web pages on the World Wide Web which floats in the Internet, while blogs used to have some features that were unique to blogs, many websites are now embracing these features. Blogs have comments, Chronological Order in their Structure, Date, Personal Voice and Opinion, and Archives, while websites probably don't have.

Part of what makes the difference between a website and a blog used to be the software tool(s) that runs the site and site's design. Most blogging tools come ready out of the box with pinging, tagging, archives, trackbacks, comments, and all the programming to make the site work as it does. Websites were usually either created by hand or with editing software package like FrontPage or Dreamweaver and single pages were created as necessary. But websites wanted all these slick features so many had to either add them manually.

Module to build blogs

After many discussions, with other bloggers and searching made, a decision was made to split a code into modules, so bloggers can choose the specific modules they want to apply to their new blog and create their own code.

The best module found to build a blog was written by bloggers that met together to decide the steps as bellow [8]:

1. Responsibility for our own words
2. Nothing we wouldn't say in person
3. Take action against attacks

4. a) No anonymous comments
OR b) No pseudonymous comments
5. Ignore the trolls
6. Encourage enforcement of terms of service
7. Keep our sources private
8. Discretion to delete comments
9. Do no harm and think twice - post once.

Blog kinds

In this paper we divided blogs into two kinds, so with this classification we help bloggers to decide the way in building their blogs that combine between structures and their needs:

1 - Blogs for small selected groups

For many reasons bloggers need to have use their blogs for selective user groups. To use such blogs users need authentications used to securely validate the identity of each remote user, so the system can determine what level of security is appropriate for that user. Virtual private networking use authentication to determine whether or not the user can participate [6].

Many web servers use one of several standard log file formats when creating their logs. These standards enable commercial log analysis programs to read the log files of all popular web servers.

The original web server programs create logs in a common log format that uses several files to store all the information collected about files served. These log files include, Access-log, Referrer-log, and Error-log.

Since we are interesting for securing the blogging sits, the most important file is the access-log file which have

eight fields of information for each HTML and graphic file served. Our considering fields are address field that contained either the IP address or domain name from which the request came, and the AuthUser field that used when username and password authentication is required of the user to see the page. Most network operating systems protect the username and password when log on by encryption them before sending them over the network to be authenticated [7]. The need for reliabilities to both the owner of the blog, and the reader are being very important. There are many tips to help bloggers to protect themselves from crackers, no matter how blog is hosted or how secure it is, strong passwords were needed. Many recent studies now a day focused on securing the path of sending the identity and password of each user, such as using two different paths for sending another studies were considering a two factor password, one of them changes frequently such as number changing using some equations.

Frag Token the security web authentication is a set of novel techniques that retrofit existing token-based authentication protocols into major web browsers without a plug-in [9].

2- Blogs for public

Designing such kind of blogs generally done as a daily diary, or may be as an information and news transferring tool. Comments probably received frequently. The emergence of blogging has brought a range of legal liabilities and other consequences areas of concerns such as

- 1- the issue of bloggers releasing properties or confidential information

- 2- blogging and deformation
- 3- employees who write about aspects [10]

The most important issue here is how to choose the best design structure and the most web server recent version of programs that any blogger need to help in updated.

Once the weblog is up and running, for both kinds, the interesting in knowing how well it is attracting visitors is the goal. Register the site with some search engines, so that people doing online searches can find the blog. Aside from telling everyone to see the blog on the web, using URL (Uniform Resource Locator that effectively serves as the page's worldwide name) to let other know about the blog by:

- Print the URL of the blog on the blogger Owen business card
- Add the URL of the blog to the signature in email and newsgroup messages
- Include the URL of the blog in return address whenever you send greeting cards or any occasion
- Post the URL of the blog to the addresses of people that may be interesting to interactivit with the blog

Blog Building Software

Next step is to verify good and easy to use software for building blogs, with a check of the web server to be the most recent version and many other programs that any blogger need to help in updated the blog every week. Using free software is good to increase professional skills, the experiment with different tools and techniques with the free software would help bloggers with

their first steps to build blogs. There are probably many options to choose from, and when looking for a particular package, first identify the task that wish to be completed [2]. Then, research possible software solutions, and select some candidates. Try them out in the same manner, and compare the results to see which best fits your needs. Decide whether you found your solution or if you need to repeat the process and change your methods. Finally, publish your results. For example the Edit-X Blogger is Free Blog Software designed to allow blog site managers and developers to add

powerful Content Management capability to any site, no matter where it is hosted. With Edit-X Blogger, it's now possible for a non-technical content contributor to publish a blog post without involving reading support documentation. (<http://www.free-blog-software.com/index.php#signup>). How dose The free software run can be shown in the frame work of figure (2)

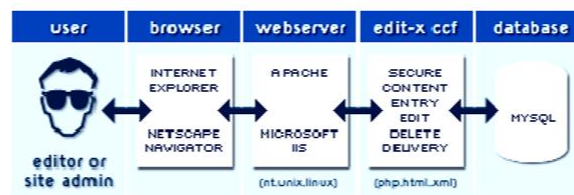


Fig. 2: Edit-X running frame work

Conclusion

In this paper steps were put to help in building anyone blog structure depending on some references and experience from some bloggers, and can be concluded as bellow

- 1- First any beginner that wants to build his own blog must concentrate on the exact purpose for that new blog and to which blog kind it would be belong.
- 2- Choosing the editing tool to help in building the blog is the easily to design a great looking page, these are collection of templates will get you started with an attractive site right away without needing to learn any Hyper Text Markup Language that used to design a webpage.
- 3- When the blogger is ready to take the next step, the templates can be used

to create a design that perfectly reflects the blogger and the blog.

- 4- Time to decide if the blog will have an email account, the format of the email address is ((username.secretword@blogger.com)). Note that this email address must be kept secret, otherwise any one who gets it will be able to post as the blog owner. Also be sure to specify whether or not the email posts to publish automatically or posts will be saved on the account and will not appear on the blog until the blogger himself login to the blogger.com and publish them.
- 5- Putting the outline of how the blog would be published and to whom then deciding the secure way to protect the blog from any kind of hacking

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قواعد فعالة لبناء والحماية للمدونات

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الخلاصة:

المدونة هي أكثر من وضع الأفكار على صفحة الانترنت ونشرها بل هي عبارة عن الاتصال والاستماع لاي احد يقرأ المدونة.

في هذه الايام الكثير من صفحات الانترنت تساعد للحصول على مشاركة مجانية والحصول على تصميم ونشر سريع للأفكار وحتى الصور وكذلك امكانية التفاعل الانني مع الاشخاص واستخدامات كثيرة اخرى. أن اسرع طريقة لفهم المدونة هي ان تجربها بنفسك ولكن مع الانتباه الى أهمية تأمين الحماية للمدونة وحسب كونها مدونة للعامه او لمجموعات صغيرة محددة من الأشخاص، عن طريق استخدام أنظمة التحويل.

في هذا البحث اقترحنا ضمناً خلاله ما يثبت أهمية تحسين اختيار طرق تصميم أنظمة المدونة لجعلها مفيدة، كما عملنا على تقسيم هذه المدونات وبعد تحديد الموضوع الى نوعين الاول هو مدونات للاستخدام العام والنوع الثاني هو مدونات تستخدم من قبل مجموعة محددة من المستخدمين وبهذه الطريقة اصبح بإمكاننا اقتراح مياحفظ على سرية المدونات.