

Discussion Forum Extension

The Discussion Forum extension enables the rapid development of threaded online discussion forums. This extension provides the InterLoom™ objects and beans for submitting and displaying threaded discussion messages in a variety of formats. Administrative features such as approval functions and user profiles ensure that the Forum Discussion extension supports a viable online community.

Business Case: Several high-profile Web sites have demonstrated the business benefits of creating a healthy online community. A self-sustaining discussion forum creates compelling content, offers self-help, and improves site “sticky-ness”. The Discussion Forum extension simplifies the creation and administration of an ongoing forum.

Feature	Functions
User profiles	Profiles of registered forum discussion contributors kept on database.
Search function	Enables a selected discussion to be indexed and searched.
Multiple view options	Messages may be sorted by last post, thread title, thread starter, number of replies and number of times viewed.

InterLoom Objects	Functions
Forum Displayer	Displays a selected discussion forum.
Forum Lister	Displays a list of forums the user can access.
Forum Message Viewer	Displays a message and optionally its children.
Forum Search Results	Displays the results of a search against a discussion forum.
Forum Thread Viewer	Shows a list of messages for navigating within a forum topic.

InterLoom Beans	Functions
Forum Message Populator	Populates a form with data from a forum message.
Forum Message Saver	Saves a submitted message to a discussion forum.

InterLoom Filter	Functions
Forum Message Action	Performs an operation on an existing message, such as approval or deletion.

InterLoom Manager	Functions
Forum Manager	Creates and manages discussion forums. Forums can be categorized into folders, and the Forum Lister object will display any forums created, unless they are marked as hidden.