

Miscellaneous Notes on What's New

Adding Formatting to a noresult message in a Server-Side Include

If you add 8 plus signs to the end of the noresult message it will parse the html in the message

```
&noresult_message=<li>None%20at%20this%20time.</li>+++++++
```

Suppressing the display of template headers and footer

If you want to display items from What's New, but don't want the header or footer to appear when there are no active items, add "&noheadfoot=1" to the SSI:

```
include 'http://whatsnew.informe.org/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Citizen+Alert+System&v=alert2011&noresult_message=&
```

Random ordered list of entries

You can have a list of items pulled from What's New display in a random order by using the following in the SSI:

```
&amp;orderby=random
```

Showing a date range of items

What's New can display only those items within a specified date range. This is poorly documented, but here are a couple of examples.

To show the previous 30 days until today add the following argument to your server side include.

```
&sd=-30days&ed=today
```

To show the 30 days following today add the following to your server side include.

```
&sd=today&ed=30days
```

We use this on the state calendar to display the next three months:

```
<!--#include virtual="/tools/whatsnew/index.php? topic=Portal_Public_Calendar&v=index-2006&sd=today&ed=3months" -->
```

You could use this to display the last three months:

```
<!--#include virtual="/tools/whatsnew/index.php? topic=Portal_Public_Calendar&v=index-2006&sd=-3months&ed=today" -->
```

You can also pass a # of days, like so:

```
<!--#include virtual="/tools/whatsnew/index.php? topic=Portal_Public_Calendar&v=index-2006&sd=-180days&ed=today" -->
```

This would limit display to items with a date within 2008:

```
<!--#include virtual="/tools/whatsnew/index.php? topic=Portal_Public_Calendar&v=index-2006&sd=20080101&ed=20081231" --
```

Search of all words

The MySQL search by default uses an exclusion list of common words, so it ignores "first", "second", etc. We've added the ability to turn off the use of the exclusion by adding a hidden field to the search form, like so:

```
<input name="k1" type="hidden" value="1" />
```

Searching Archived What's New Entries

What's New includes only live entries in the search results display. You can search and display live entries, or archived entries, but not at the same time. To add this option to your search form, just add this code:

```
Search live/archived items?:
```

```
<input name="ar" id="ar-no" type="radio" value="" /><label for="ar-no">Live items</label>
```

```
<input name="ar" id="ar" type="radio" value="1" /><label for="ar">Archived items</label>
```

Now the user will be able to select a live or archived entries using a radio button.

Adding a “Last Updated” Date Stamp to a What’s New Page

What’s New has a hidden field that allows you to insert a date and time stamp on any page generated by What’s New. To use on a page that is completely generated through What’s New, simply add (without the quotes) “<!-- \$last_updated -->” where you’d like the date and time to appear. That’s it.

You can also use this on a page that has an includes file generated by What’s New, but there are a couple of extra steps. In the topic administration within the What’s New topic create a template named something like “lastupdated” and put this `<!-- $last_updated -->` into the body section of the template. Then, on the html page that is using the include file, add:

```
<!--#include virtual="/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Your_Topic_Name&v=lastupdated&l=1"-->
```

Conditional Statements in a What’s New Template

Below is a conditional statement. Things to note:

The conditional statement is inside comments and comments must be stripped around wn fields within the statement.

This statement does the following: if the url field has a value build a link that wraps the entry headline in that url; if there is no url build a link to a page built from what’s new using the article template, and the entry id for this entry. Note that the field that is conditional (`{url}`) doesn’t contain the \$ in the first instance.

```
<li><!-- if(url,<a href="$url">$headline</a>,<a href="http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Edu_News_Clip
```

Linking to a Specific What’s New Entry

To reference a different view of the current entry use `<!-- $news_id -->`, for example on the foliage site:

```
<a href="http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=foliage_audio&v=article&id=<!-- $news_id -->">
```

Will open a What’s New generated page that shows just the text transcript from the summary field, using the “article” template.

Sometimes a user will be presented a blank screen when they try to access a topic listing

This is almost always caused by a corrupted entry in the topic and can be fixed by deleting the last entry in the topic. This can usually be done by someone with super-admin access to What’s New, although if the problem happens to a super-admin it will need to be fixed directly in the database.

Adding a timestamp

Another undocumented feature! You can add a timestamp for the last modified date of an entry by adding this to the template: `<?__TIMESTAMP__?>`

A user gets a MySQL error when uploading an entry

This is almost always the result of trying to upload an attachment over the 5 megabyte limit.