User Guide Simple:Press Forum

Attract Clients and Grow Your Business

Work with me and become an Online Rock Star

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Why a Forum

A forum is a place on the web where you can have (closed) discussions with the other members of the forum.

The forum owner can start a forum for various reasons, i.e. bringing people together on the same topic, let people ask and answer questions, connect a forum to a group training, group coaching or program.

You can also have closed discussions in a closed group on Facebook. This is convenient when you already spend a lot of time on Facebook. You do not have to switch to the forum to join the conversation or ask a question.

The advantage of a forum over the closed group on Facebook is that it will be easier to find your discussions, topics you replied to and searching in the forum is easier.

The advantage of a forum for the owner is that they are the owners of the content. With a group, Facebook will be the owner of the content. It will be difficult to move the content of a group to another platform. The owner can also easily brand the forum, a group will always have the Facebook branding.

What is Simple:Press

Simple: Press is a WordPress plugin that allows people to add a forum to their WordPress website. The latest version of this plugin can be found on simple-press.com

There are a lot of possibilities for an owner to create a forum. We choose Simple:Press because it easily adds a great forum to a great website tool, WordPress.

Since you are reading this user guide you are probably a new member of the forum.

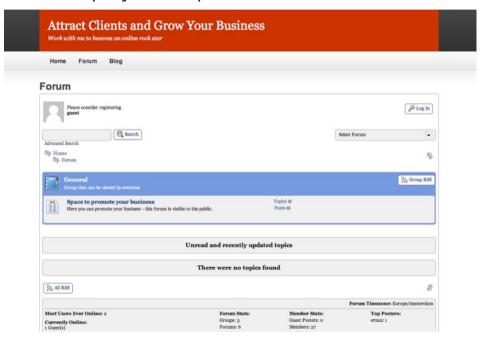
The forum owner can create separate groups and make you member of only one or more group. This way you only have access to a certain part of the forum.

By default a forum has:

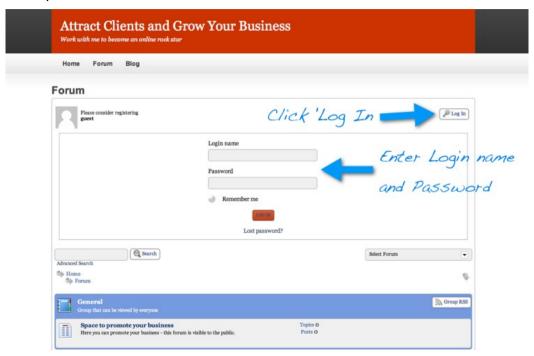
- Admins
- Moderators
- Members
- Guests

Work with the Forum

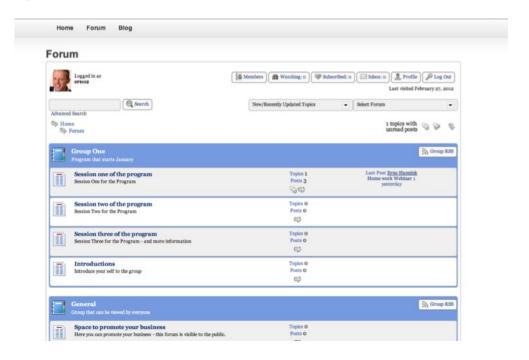
The design of the forum you joined may be different but it works similar.



Click the 'Log In' button to get access to the forum. You should have received an username and password via email from the forum owner.

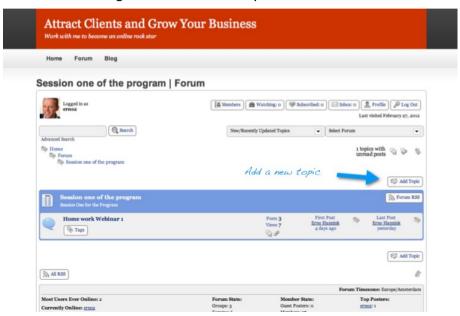


Now we are Logged In as a member. In this example I am a member of group One. Therefor I only have access to the Group One forum section and the General section that is open to anyone.

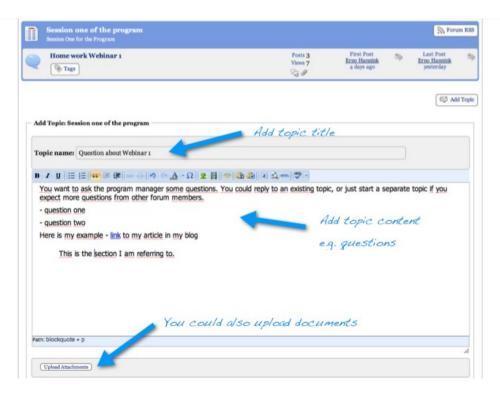


Start a topic in a forum

Click the 'Add Topic' button to start a new topic in a forum. This section of the forum is called 'Session one of the Program' in this example.



Enter the Topic

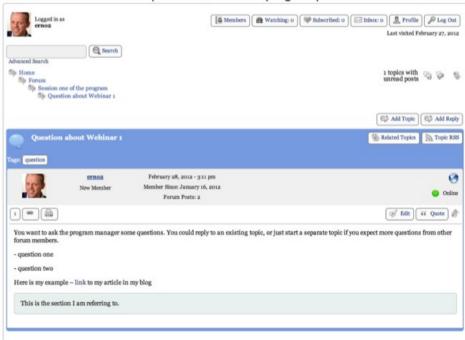


Upload a file (maximum size and allowed extensions set by the owner), add a tag, subscribe to the topic and you will receive replies in your email inbox.



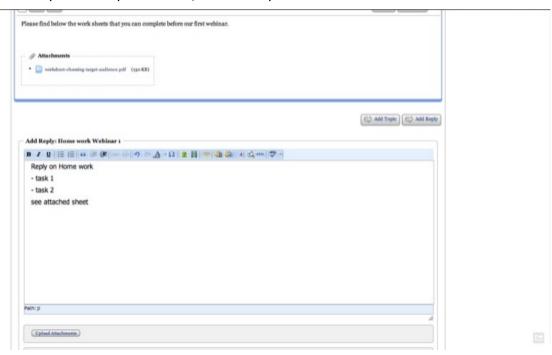
This is what the topic looks like in the forum (without attachment)

Question about Webinar 1 | Session one of the program | Forum

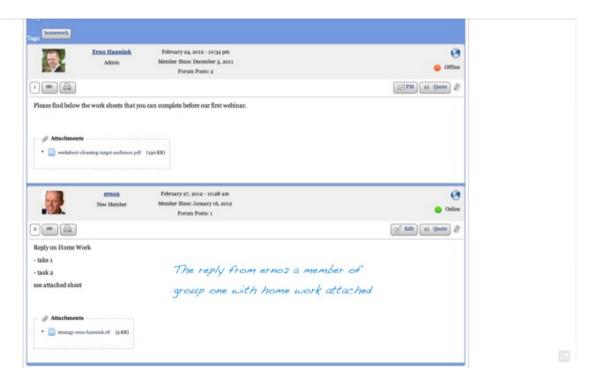


Reply on a topic

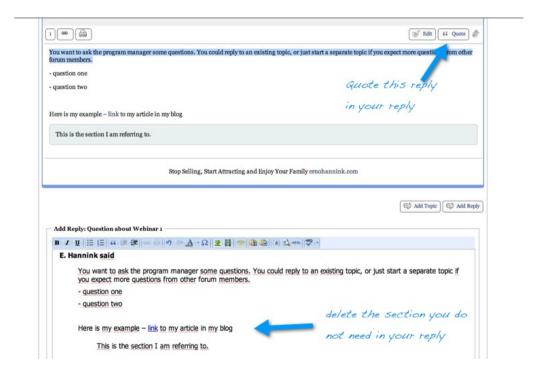
You can reply to a topic and upload files, for example home work



The reply with the attached home work posted



Quote a reply

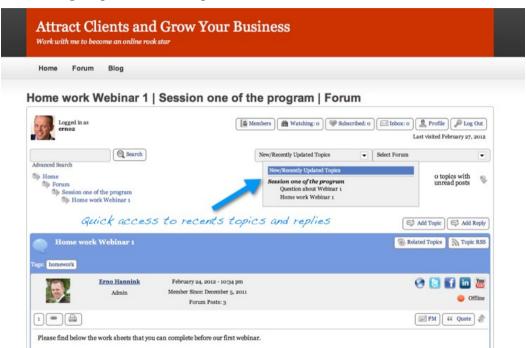


Breadcrumbs

Use the breadcrumbs to get back one level or more levels, to forum or home.



New /recently updated topics



You will know someone has submitted a reply when

- You subscribed to the topic and received an email telling you there has been a reply
- You subscribed to the topic or you switched on watch the topic and when you log
 into the site see that there is a number beside either the Watching or the
 Subscribed buttons.
- You click on the New/Recently Updated Topics select list; a topic which is New or Recently Updated will be in red.

Report a reply or topic

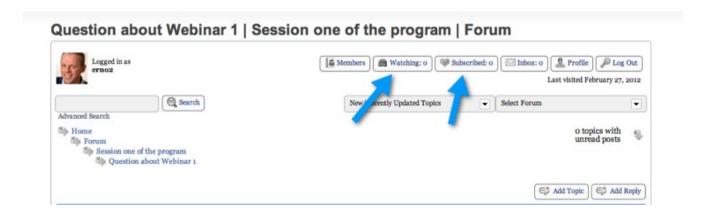
This option needs to be activated by the forum owner.

If this is activated you will see a 'Report' button. Click 'Report', if you find a post, topic or reply which you believe should be edited or removed, to report the matter to the Moderators or Administrator.

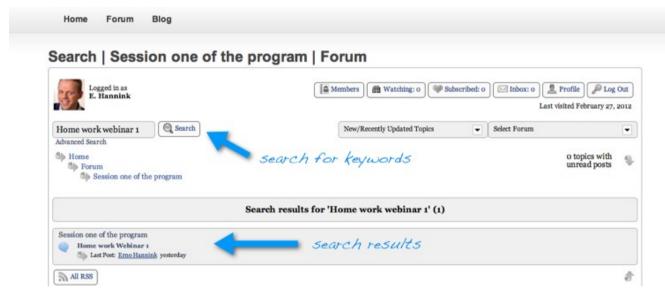
Subscribing to vs watching a topic

When you subscribe to a topic, you are notified of all new posts to that topic.

When you watch a topic, you are really just flagging the topic as something you want to come back to or want to watch. There are no email notifications.

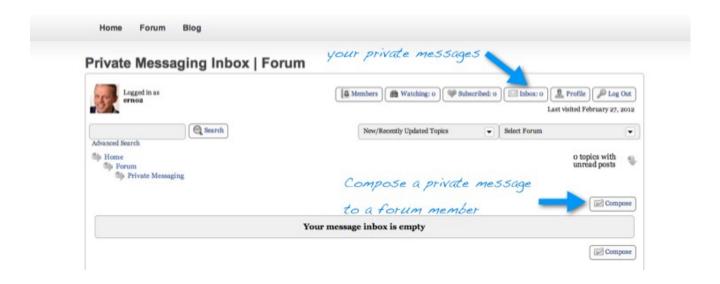


Searching in the forum



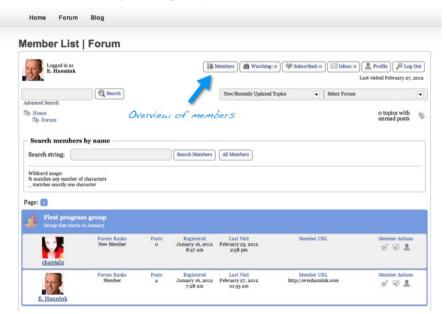
Private Messaging

Sending another member of the forum a direct message. Like sending an email. The Private Messaging plugin needs to be activated by the owner of the forum.



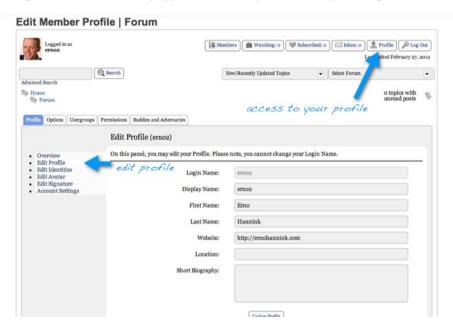
View Members in the forum

Click the 'Members' button to view the other members in the forum. In this example I can only see the members of my own group.

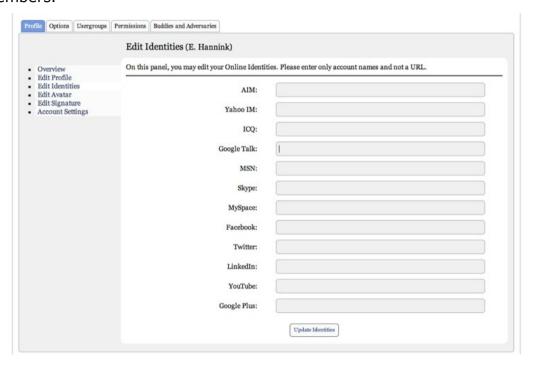


Edit Profile

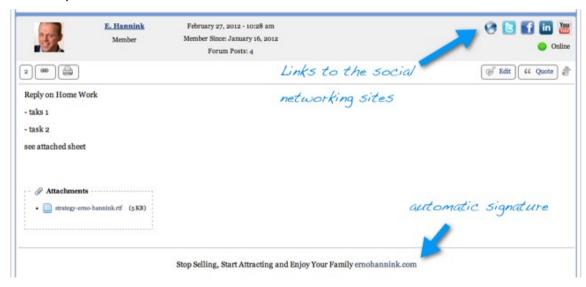
Edit information and settings in your profile. Like profiles for social networking sites, signature (message below each reply), avatar. Options for posting, time zone, editor.



Enter the profiles of the social networking sites where you want to connect with other forum members.



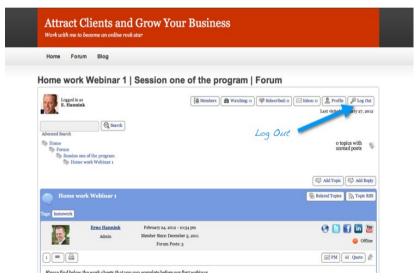
Reply with an automatic signature and the profiles for your social networking sites. This makes it easier to connect with you and to connect with other members that completed their personal profile.



Logout

When leaving the Forum click the Logout button, especially if using someone else's computer. This stops an unauthorized person using your login to access the Forum.

Completely closing your web browser has the same effect as logging out (completely, that is: just closing a window or tab does not do the job.)



Erno Hannink

Erno is a mentor, author and speaker on Attracting Clients. I help independent professionals use the internet to get more clients. Attracting your ideal client is the key to success.

Author of 2 books that are published by A.W. Bruna: Laat de klant naar jou komen (Attracting clients) – 2009 2nd print Kies je doelgroep (Pick your target audience) – April 2012

You will get highlights of my book Attracting Clients for Free when you subscribe to my newsletter. http://ernohannink.com/newsletter/

Founder of Hannink Online Media – a network company http://hanninkonlinemedia.com

Initiator of Social Media Club in the Netherlands, SOBCon Europe, WordCamp Netherlands, Social Media Event

co-organizer of the Social Media Club Amsterdam and SOBCon Europe.

I write informative articles on <u>ErnoHannink.nl</u> (Dutch) and <u>ErnoHannink.com</u> (English) on how to get more clients. Here you will find tips and tricks on blogging, newsletter, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Google+ and more.

With my newsletter alone I am already helping more than 6.000 people how they can attract clients using the internet.

Stop Selling - Start Attracting Clients and enjoy your family

Free Information

To get weekly tips on how you can attract clients and grow your business, just subscribe to my **free newsletter**. Join over 6,000 subscribers.

http://ernohannink.com/newsletter/

You can also find free information on my **Facebook page**: <u>Erno Hannink - Social Media for Independent Professionals</u>

And of course on my **blog**: http://ernohannink.com/blog/

Questions?

For questions you can contact us via

- @ernohannink
- facebook.com/ErnoHanninkEN
- ernohannink.com
- erno@ernohannink.com

Erno is a mentor, author and speaker on Attracting Clients. I help independent professionals use internet to get more clients.



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