

Configuring the Standard Interface (Active Server Pages)

The WebBoard Standard (ASP) Interface is a high availability interface for participation and moderation of boards & conferences.

The standard interface utilizes Active Server Pages and is designed to be easily integrated into a website, without using frames. The native interface uses frames.

The default installation of the Standard Interface provides access to one board, or optionally to all boards. Multiple installations of this interface can be configured so that each installation serves a single board, thereby giving each board a unique URL and its own configuration settings.

Configuration of the standard interface itself is done via the global.asa file. The file is installed in the virtual folder along side the WebBoard ASP pages. By default, WebBoard's standard interface ASP pages are installed into the virtual directory 'WB' during the main installation or upgrade of version 7.

It's important to note that if you **don't** want WebBoard's standard interface pages to be installed to your default website, or you'd like to create your own virtual directory, you can accomplish this very easily.

- delete the 'WB' virtual directory that was created during the installation/upgrade, located in your default website's IIS tree.
- run the WebBoard7ASP.exe file located in your \webboard directory.
- choose a different website, virtual directory, or both to install the standard interface to.
- complete the execution of the WebBoard7ASP.exe installer.

Security Considerations

These pages are 'ASP' pages, and as such, proper care should be taken when configuring your system to run them.

The first step should be to create a user account specifically for this purpose. A meaningful name is always useful to help dispel any confusion about the purpose of the account in question. A good example of this is 'WB6ASPUser'.

Once this user is created, there are similar procedures for installing the ASP components on a local versus a remote system.

Local Installation:

- Make sure the 'WB6ASPUser' account has full access to the \WebBoard directory (and all subdirectories)
- For the virtual directory (default '/WB/') or the root of the website you're hosting the WB6ASP pages from, go into the properties, into 'directory security', and edit the account that's being used for Anonymous access. Set this as your 'WB6ASPUser' account.

This allows more control of your system by managing permissions and access based on this specific account's needs.

Remote Installation:

- Create the user 'WB6ASPUser', as in the local installation example - but do so on **BOTH** the WebBoard server, as well as the remote IIS/ASP server. You must give this account the same password, so that authentication is 'transparent'.

- Create a share on your WebBoard server for the entire WebBoard tree. (c:\WebBoard for example) This share is going to have an UNC path that looks like \\machine name or IP\WebBoard
- Grant the 'WB6ASPUser' rights to read/write/modify the files in that \\machine name or IP\WebBoard share. This will be done on the WebBoard server itself.
- Log in to the native interface for WebBoard, and go to more -> administrator menu -> site management. Go down to the 'Misc Server Settings'. -> Configure 'Messages Folder' to be '\\machine name or IP\WebBoard\Confs'. (press 'Change')
 - > Configure 'Attachment Folder' to be '\\machine name or IP\WebBoard\Upload'. (press 'Change')
- On the IIS/ASP server, go to start -> administration tools -> data sources (ODBC). Create a *System DSN* for WebBoard. (The settings here should match the ones on your WebBoard server.) Use SQL authentication, and verify the connection.
- The WB ASP installer will prompt you for the ODBC DSN Name, UID and Pass.
- > The WB ASP installer will prompt you for the path to you primary WebBoard Server entry \\machine name or IP\WebBoard share name.
- > The WB ASP installer will prompt you for The URL to you the WebBoard IM this can be located this on the options tab of the WebBoard Properties Sheet.
- Now bring up the IIS admin tool on your IIS/ASP machine. For the virtual directory (default '/WB/') or the root of the website you're hosting the WB6ASP pages from, go into the properties, into 'directory security', and edit the account that's being used for Anonymous access. Set this as your 'WB6ASPUser' account.
 - Make sure that you're creating some special registry keys on your remote server. For consistency, create: HKLM\SOFTWARE\O'Reilly\WebBoard\3.0. Then create the following keys:
 - \Database\DSN (Name of the DSN you're using)
 - \Database\UID (SQL login account)
 - \Database\PASS (SQL password)
 - \InstallDir (Base install directory)
 - \IMURL (IM URL, for Premium Customers)
 - \ConfDir (Searching looks in the registry for the path to conference index files.)
- On your IIS/ASP server, go to start -> run, and run 'iisreset'. This restarts the IIS server service, causing all the registry changes to take effect.

Security Notes:

* The reason for advising the creation of another account for use by the WebBoard ASP pages is that it is not a wise choice, from a security standpoint, to *grant* the IUSR anonymous accounts that come built in with IIS any more rights than they already have. Those accounts are given 'read' access to virtual directories, and shouldn't be granted any *more* rights than that. This is also done from an 'auditing' perspective, making it much easier for administrative staff to track attempted rights violations on their web servers.

* At the end of this process, you may well notice that your ASP pages (local and remote) are all functioning fine. You can post, upload attachments, see user avatar icons, etc - but that your native interface has lost some of its functionality.

To resolve this, you've got to make a change, based on your current run mode in the WebBoard internal server application.

-> if you're running as an application, merely grant the account you're running the application as rights to the \\machine name or IP\WebBoard share, same as you did for the IIS/ASP server.

-> if you're running as a service, you're going to run the WebBoard Conference Service and the WebBoard Chat Service as an user *other* than LocalSystem. LocalSystem never has rights to reach across the network (i.e. the \\machine name or IP\WebBoard share) and as such, you're going to need to come up with an account that's got privilege to do so.

Why would I want to do a 'remote installation' of these ASP pages?

There are a variety of reasons you might want to install the standard interface ASP pages onto a machine other than the one you're currently running WebBoard's main applications on.

- Corporate policy prohibits you from running IIS on the same machine as WebBoard
- Conservation of resources on the WebBoard server
- Load balancing (you can install the standard interface ASP pages on as many machines as you wish, all following the previously outlined steps for accessing the message bodies, uploads, and images)

Making Changes to global.asa

The various options available are described in detail below, in excerpts from the global.asa file.

Global.asa File Settings

Global Settings

Server.ScriptTimeout = 600

May increase for large file transfers over slow connections. This variable is measured in seconds – so, 600 seconds means '10 minutes'. IIS has settings for this as well, in the properties of the website you're using – called 'Connection Timeout'. Whichever of these two settings is shorter will be the defining limit.

Application("BaseScript ") = "default.asp"

"default.asp" is the default name of the WebBoard application main page. If the main page is renamed, that name must also be entered here.

Application("Oracle") = False

WebBoard database type. Set to False for MSSQL Server. Set to True for Oracle 8i/9i.

Application("DefaultBoardID") = 1

Default Board ID. The default board ID can be overridden by including '?boardid=n' in URL.

For example: *http://your.webboard.com/webboard/default.asp?boardid=99*

By default, requests to this particular installation of the WebBoard standard interface open to the board configured here. Logged in users also have access to a list of boards that they have visited on the system. Optionally, a user can be directed to a page that lists all boards available.

Application("BoardName") = ""

Overrides Board Name globally if not blank.

Normally the board name displayed is the board name configured via the administration tools in the WebBoard Native interface. This name can be overridden so that any boards accessed via this asp installation display this name.

Application("ShortDateFormat") = "mm/dd/yy"

Short date format shown in tree view. This is a VBScript Date Format . See <http://msdn.microsoft.com/scripting/> for VBScript references.

Application("MedDateFormat") = "mm/dd/yy hh:mmam/pm"

Medium date format shown in topics and conferences lists. This is a VBScript Date Format. See <http://msdn.microsoft.com/scripting/> for VBScript references.

Application("LongDateFormat") = "dd mmm yyyy hh:mm am/pm"

Long date format shown in message headers. This is a VBScript Date Format. See <http://msdn.microsoft.com/scripting/> for VBScript references.

Application("RequireLogin") = False

Require login for any board (deny guest access).

Note: Closed boards always require login. If this value is True, any user must log in to access any boards via this installation. If this value is set to False, users may access any non-closed boards as guests via this installation. Guest users have read-only access and must log in to post messages, subscribe to mailing lists and so on.

Application("EnableIM") = False

In the Premium edition, this setting enables or disables the Instant Messenger.

Application("AttachmentHREF") = "file.asp?file="

URL for access-controlled file downloads. The default setting provides access control for downloading file attachments from WebBoard messages. Change this setting only if no access control is required for file attachments and URL for attachment location is a mapped virtual folder. For example: ... = "/uploads/"

Application("LogOffURL") = ""

Leave this setting blank to use per-board logoff URL defined in Board Settings in Administration.

Application("ShowBoardRSSFeedLink") = True**Application("ShowForumRSSFeedLink") = True**

Each one of these entries controls if and where the 'xml' RSS Feed Link is shown.

Application("AllowMsgRating") = True**Application("UserCanRateMsg") = True****Application("UserCanSeeMsgRating") = True**

These settings control if users are allowed to rate messages, and if users can see those message ratings.

Application("PollInMsg") = True

This entry allows for polls to be created on a 'per message' basis.

Application("ToFullThread") = True

This value toggles 'full threading' view in the Tree view mode of the standard interface.

Application("LogASPEvents") = True

This application variable has been introduced as a 'placeholder' for future functionality.

Toolbar**Application("AltLayoutToolbar") = False**

Alternate toolbar layout. This setting displays a toolbar similar to the Native Interface toolbar.

Bread Crumbs

Application("ShowRoadMap") = True

Displays the Road Map (Bread Crumb Bar).

Application("strRMdelimiter") = " » "

Delimiter between Bread Crumb items.

Application("strRoadmapRoot") = "Home</ a>"

String/URL to prepend to Bread Crumbs. Optionally, this setting displays a link at the left end of the bread crumbs that directs the user to a location outside of the WebBoard application, for example the web site home page.

Application("ShowBoardsList") = False

Show All Boards list in Bread Crumbs. If set to True, this setting inserts a 'Boards' link in the breadcrumbs that directs the user to a list of available boards on the site.

Application("strConfAll") = "Show All Messages"

Application("strConfNew") = "Show New Messages"

Sets the text for the All/ New link that appears at the far right of the breadcrumbs when users are logged in.

Conferences

Application("TruncSize") = 30

Truncate message subject in tree view to this length. This setting sets the number of characters to display.

Application("ShowThreadInTree") = True

Show fully expanded threads in tree. If set to True, the tree view can be expanded to show Conferences/ Topics/ Messages. In boards where topics contain a very large number of messages, it may be more desirable and efficient to display only Conferences/Topics in the tree.

Application("ShowAuthorInTree") = False

Show author name in expanded tree view. Where messages are shown in the tree view, this setting also displays the message author name.

Application("ShowMsgCount Tree") = True

Shows message counts (total, new) in tree view.

Application("ShowDateInTree") = False

Show Message/ Topic post dates in tree view.

Application("NumTopicsToDisplay") = 20

Number of topics to display at once. For each expanded conference in the tree view, break the list of topics into groups of this size.

Application("HideGuestPostButtons") = False

Show/Hide 'New Topic', 'Post' and 'Reply' buttons if user is a guest.

Read Message

Application("AltLayout Messages") = False

Displays a message in a fashion similar to the Native interface, with message headers above the message body.

Application("AuthorCellInfo") = "..."

Append info to Author cell. In the message view, the Author column contains only the message author's name. This VBScript string defines information to be appended to the name for each message. The default value appends the HTML code required to display the users' picture (if any). This string may include any of the following tokens, which are converted at display-time:

\$userid\$

\$timesread\$

\$msgid\$

\$forumid\$

\$threadid\$

\$username\$

Options Menu**Application("AllowMouseOverChange") = True**

Mouse over option. This setting allows the end user to select mouse over pop-ups. If set to True, this setting allows users to enable popup windows in the tree view containing information about conferences and topics.

Application("StrMouseOver") = "Mouse Over Pop-Ups"

Mouse over option text. This setting defines the text displayed in the options menu for enabling the mouse over option.

Application("DefaultMouseOverOn") = False

Default mouse over setting. If set to True, the mouse over option is enabled by default.

Style sheet options

It's important to note that style sheet settings are on a 'per session' basis. This means that the board has a default style sheet that it's configured to use. When an user changes to one of the other available schemes, that change will last until the session is ended (browser closing, etc...)

Application("AllowStyleSheet Change") = True

Allow end user to select style sheet in options menu

Application("CSS1_URL") = "images/ style.css"

Application("CSS1_name") = "Blues"

Application("CSS2_URL") = "images/ style.asp?style= chroma"

Application("CSS2_name") = "Chroma"

(...)

Style sheet locations and names

CSS1 is the default style sheet and must be defined. If more than one style sheet is defined, and users are permitted to select a style in the Options menu. The list of available style sheet Names is displayed in the Options menu.

User Profile

Application("UserPicMaxWidth") = 120
Application("UserPicMaxHeight") = 120
Application("UserPicMaxBytes") = 40960

Settings for the size of user profile images that may be uploaded by a user to his/her profile. Width and Height values are set in pixels.

Application("AllowChange...") = True

Allow or deny user change of items in user profile form. A False setting disables user editing of that item, and hides it in the user profile form.

Application("AllowChange_layout") = True
Application("AllowChange_fullview") = True

Changing either of these two values does make the user profile changes, however, these values are tied to the 'native interface', and making changes to them does nothing in the standard interface.

Post/Edit Form

Application("AllowWYSIWYGPostForm") = True

If browser supports it (IE 5+), use the WYSIWYG post form.

Note: This form is not recommended for boards which have mailing lists, as the messages composed with it tend to have large amounts of HTML markup included in them.

Application("ShowEmoticons") = True

Show drag and drop emoticon icons in wysiwyg post form.

Application("AllowAnonymousPosts") = True

Allow users to post anonymously.

Text Strings

The global.asa file also contains definitions for all of the text visible in the user interface that is not editable in the ASP pages. These text strings may be changed to localize WebBoard to use another language, or to grant a slightly customized 'look and feel' to your interface.

Global text strings

```
Application("Conference") = "Conference"  
Application("Conferences") = "Conferences"  
Application("Topic") = "Topic"  
Application("Topics") = "Topics"  
Application("Messages") = "Messages"  
Application("LastPost") = "Last Post"  
Application("Author") = "Author"  
Application("Date") = "Date"  
Application("DeletedUser") = "(Deleted User)"  
Application("Anonymous") = "Anonymous"  
Application("Status") = "Status"  
Application("Subject") = "Subject"  
Application("MarkThisThreadRead") = "Mark this topic read"  
Application("NewStickMsgs") = " new messages and sticky"  
Application("News") = "News"  
Application("Err_NoMessageMarkedRead") = "Message marked read"  
Application("TotalMsgs") = "Total Messages "
```

Application("Comments") = "Comments"
Application("Weblog") = "WebLog"

Conference info

Application("strYes") = "Yes"
Application("strNo") = "No"
Application("Moderated") = "Moderated: "
Application("Readonly") = "Read Only: "
Application("CreatedBy") = "Created By: "
Application("Created") = "Created: "
Application("NeedsVerif") = "Verification: "
Application("TimesRead") = "Times Read: "
Application("NoConferences") = "No Conferences Available"
Application("NoTopics") = "No Topics Available"
Application("Newmsgs") = " new messages"
Application("New") = "New"
Application("NewFlag") = ""
Application("TopicNewFlag") = ""
Application("TreeNewFlag") = "new"

Message Navigation

Application("strNext") = "next"
Application("strTop") = "top"
Application("strPost") = "post"
Application("strAltPost") = "Post a new message"
Application("strReply") = "reply"
Application("strAltReply") = "Reply to this message"
Application("strQuote") = "quote"
Application("strAltQuote") = "Reply and quote this message"
Application("strIM") = "im"
Application("strAltIM") = "Send user an instant message"
Application("strEmail") = "email"
Application("strAltEmail") = "Send user an email"
Application("strProfile") = "profile"
Application("strAltProfile") = "View user's profile"
Application("strEdit") = "edit"
Application("strAltEdit") = "Edit this message"
Application("strDelete") = "delete"
Application("strAltDelete") = "Delete this message"
Application("Posted") = "Posted: "
Application("OriginallyPosted") = "Originally Posted: "

Watch link

Application("StartWatch") = "Watch this Topic"
Application("StopWatch") = "Stop Watching This Topic"

Search

Application("NextSearchResults") = "Next"

Application("TotalSearchResults")= "Found"

Radio button option text

Application("StrOn") = "On"
Application("StrOff") = "Off"

Style sheet option text

Application("Select Style Sheet")= "Select Style Sheet"

Log in error messages

Application("ErrLogin2") = "You could not be logged in."
Application("ErrSignUpName") = "Please enter your Login name."
Application("ErrSignUpPass") = "Please enter your Password."
Application("ErrSignUpPassMatch") = "Passwords don't match."
Application("ErrSignUpFirstName") = "Please enter your first name."
Application("ErrSignUpLastName") = "Please enter your last name."
Application("ErrSignUpemail") = "Please enter your email address."
Application("PassWordNotFound") = "No Password Found."

Email address verification board new user sign up confirmation

Application("PassWordSent") = "Your login name and password have been emailed to you."

Forgot your password confirmation

Application("PassWordSent2") = "Your password has been emailed to you."

Message doesn't exist or is not verified

Application("Err_NoMessage") = "The requested message does not exist or is not yet verified."

Message posted is not verified

Application("Err_MessageNeedsVerif") = "This topic is awaiting verification."

Sign up error messages

Application("Err_?") = "Unspecified Error"
Application("Err_1") = "Login name already in use. Please select another."
Application("Err_2") = "Login name is invalid. Please select another."
Application("Err_3") = "Password is invalid. Please select another."
Application("Err_4") = "First name is too long. Please select another."
Application("Err_5") = "Last name is too long. Please select another."
Application("Err_6") = "Email Address is invalid. Please re-enter."

Text displayed when a guest attempts to post or reply

Application("ErrLogin1") = "You must login or enter a user name and password to post a message."

Images in the 'author cell'

```
Application("MsgRate1") = "<IMG SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 1 Star"">"
Application("MsgRate2") = "<IMG SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 2 Stars""><IMG
SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 2 Stars"">"
Application("MsgRate3") = "<IMG SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 3 Stars""><IMG
SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 3 Stars""><IMG SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 3
Stars"">"
Application("MsgRate4") = "<IMG SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 4 Stars""><IMG
SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 4 Stars""><IMG SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 4
Stars""><IMG SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 4 Stars"">"
Application("MsgRate5") = "<IMG SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 5 Stars""><IMG
SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 5 Stars""><IMG SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 5
Stars""><IMG SRC=""images/star.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" 5 Stars""><IMG SRC=""images/star.gif""
BORDER=0 alt="" 5 Stars"">"
```

Images in the 'ratings bar'

```
application("RateThis1") = "<IMG SRC=""images/nrstar.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" Give this message a 1 Star
Rating"">"
application("RateThis2") = "<IMG SRC=""images/nrstar.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" Give this message a 2 Star
Rating"">"
application("RateThis3") = "<IMG SRC=""images/nrstar.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" Give this message a 3 Star
Rating"">"
application("RateThis4") = "<IMG SRC=""images/nrstar.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" Give this message a 4 Star
Rating"">"
application("RateThis5") = "<IMG SRC=""images/nrstar.gif"" BORDER=0 alt="" Give this message a 5 Star
Rating"">"
```

File Reference by name

adminpass.asp

This file takes current session information and routes it to the 'administrative' pages for both Administrator and Manager level accounts.

CalendarMsg.asp

This page handles authentication checking of users attempting to access calendaring functions.

Class_DB.asp

Handles database connection class information.

croom-o.asp

This page is responsible for routing session information into a new browser window and opening up the chat applet when an user requests a chatroom.

global.asa

As outlined previously, this file contains the various application variable settings for managing WebBoard's standard interface.

confintro.asp

This file contains all the relevant information regarding a conference – visible only in 'Tree view' mode.

default.asp

This file contains all the 'includes', and session variables for all the different commands in the WebBoard standard interface.

file.asp

Checks access control on file attachments prior to retrieving them from the uploads directory.

Loginagain

This file, even though it has no file extension, is a redirector back to your base WebBoard standard interface page. 'Loginagain' is a legacy command from the original native interface.

intro.asp

This page is almost exactly the same as 'intro.html' in the native interface – displaying a board welcome message to users when they log in. Only visible in 'Tree-view' mode.

preview.asp

This page is the 'popup' window for previewing messages prior to posting them.

progress.asp

This page is a 'popup' window for keeping track of your file upload as it goes through.

md5.js

File responsible for hashing authentication credentials.

msg.asp

This file handles bringing up message bodies that have already been posted, when an user wants to edit that post. This is not where normal message display comes from, only editing.

overlib.js

Javascript library for the standard interface handling behavior of window drawing, popups, etc... in the javascript environment.

posting.asp

This page is where file uploads/attachments are started from – where the type of attachment or upload is selected.

Qmsg.asp

Similar in function to 'msg.asp', this file is for quoting previously posted messages when replying.

SSO.asp

Example page for 'passthrough' authentication into your WebBoard's standard interface.

util.asp

Contains a collection of the different constants used by the standard interface ASP code

UserProfile.asp

This page handles displaying and editing of your user profile information.

userimg.asp

This file is almost exactly the same as the file 'file.asp'. Responsible for checking authentication credentials when an user image is requested.

WBMain.asp

The core of the standard interface, this file contains the routines responsible for building the structure of the standard interface and handing commands off to the WebBoard ASP dll files.

wbmsgbox.asp

This page handles presentation of the original 'post message' functionality. Editing of posts is handled by msg.asp.

viewdayevent.asp

This page is for determining time and date for calendar events.

viewevent.asp

This page handles authentication checking for event entries or modifications into a board's calendar.

webupload.asp

This page actually does the work of uploading attachments, checking to make sure that the process completed successfully.

Relevant Sections in 'language.ini'

The file 'language.ini' (found in \webboard\HTML) contains a few useful entries that relate to the standard interface.

Preferred URL to replace WB-URL tag for board. Ex:

Board9=http://domain.com/wbpx.dll/~boardname

This entry has a very wide variety of uses – the most important of these is to create links in outbound e-mails that make it possible for your users to log into your system.

Examples:

Board1=http://your.webboard.here/~board_alias

Board2=http://your.webboard.here/webboard/wbpx.dll/~board_alias

Board3=http://your.webboard.here:8080/~board_alias

Board4=http://your.IIS.server/WB/

It's important to note that you'll have to make an entry for each board individually – each Board# applies only to that board. As of later versions of WebBoard 7.0, an 'ASPBoards' directive was added to the language.ini file, to cause a 'site wide' shift in WB-URL values for customers using the standard interface by default:

ASPBoards=http://localhost/WB/?boardID=%boardalias%

It's very important to change 'localhost' to whatever FQDN your system is using, or all your links are going to go out reading http://localhost/WB/?boardid=board_alias.

Custom mapped URL for attachment links in email. Ex: *FilesBoard9=https://domain.com/uploads/*

Similar in basic function to the Board# entries, this entry allows you to create a link to wherever you choose to house your uploaded files. There's a variety of reasons for this – one of the most popular being SSL support (SSL isn't part of the web page serving application that handles the 'native interface'. To use SSL, you must either use the standard interface, or install 'external server support' and route all your requests for WebBoard pages through the wbpx.*** proxy file). Another is that you might be storing your uploaded file attachments on a network appliance, not on the same server as WebBoard itself.