



Web Site Mini-Guide: Opinion Polls

You can create any number of simple "opinion polls" on your Web site. This guide describes how to set up these polls and then incorporate them into your Web site.

Overview

Many Web sites conduct regular "opinion polls" for site visitors. These can be as simple as just a Yes/No question, or it can offer a number of options.

The Poll Module allows you to create as many polls as you like for your site. Often, you might have only one "current" poll, but the system also saves the results of all polls you have conducted in the past. You can also export the poll results into, say, Microsoft Excel, for further processing.

After somebody responds to the poll, their results are recorded and they immediately see a summary of the results so far.

Single-response poll

Here's an example of a simple Yes/No poll:

Have Your Say

Will the Federal Government's tax reforms work in your favour?

- Yes
- No

Have Your Say

You can also offer other options, like this:

Have Your Say

Are you committed to a long-term fitness and nutrition program?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Have Your Say

Multiple-response poll

You can have a single question but allow multiple responses to it, like this:

Have Your Say

What on-line marketing methods do you use now?

- Search engine advertising
- Search engine free listings
- My own e-zine
- Writing articles for other e-zines
- Advertising in other e-zines
- Publishing on article Web sites
- Link exchanges
- Banner advertising
- Sponsorship
- Other

User comments

You can also allow the user to provide their own comments, like this:

Have Your Say

Are you committed to a long-term fitness and nutrition program?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Any comments (optional)?

E-mail address (optional):

Administration

This is an E-Service facility, so log in from the E-Service site fsplugins.com (or your Web site administration page, if the E-Service options appear here).

Note: Depending on where your site is installed, you might have to change fsplugins.com to www.eservice.com.au. If you're not sure, please check with First Step.

Scroll down to the Polls section:

Polls

- ◆ [View polls \(Add a poll\)](#)
- ◆ [Download results](#)

If you have already created polls, click the "View polls" link to see them:

Have Your Say

ADMIN

- Click the poll name to see detailed information about that poll.
- Click "WEB LINK" to show the poll in a new window. Use this Web address when linking to this poll from one of your own Web pages.
- Click "STATS LINK" to show the statistics for this poll. People who respond to the poll will see the statistics automatically, but you can use this address to show the statistics to everybody else.
- Click "HTML CODE" to show some code that you can paste into your Web page to display the poll. Use this to show the poll directly in your Web page rather than linking to it.

| ID | Title | Links | Actions |
|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | Are you committed to a long-term fitness and nutri... | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE | <input type="button" value="Change"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/> <input type="button" value="Copy"/> |
| 2 | What on-line marketing methods do you use now? | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE | <input type="button" value="Change"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/> <input type="button" value="Copy"/> |
| 3 | Will the Federal Government's tax reforms work in ... | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE | <input type="button" value="Change"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/> <input type="button" value="Copy"/> |

We'll describe the options on this page in more detail later.

Creating a Poll

You create a poll by clicking the "Add a poll" link from the administration page. Alternatively, if the new poll is similar to an existing poll, it might be easier to copy an existing poll by clicking the "Copy" button next to that poll.

Either way, you will get a form to fill in. If you're adding a new poll, the form is blank; if you're copying an existing poll, the form has the existing poll's values filled in:

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Question | |
| Will the Federal Government's tax reforms work in your favour? | |
| Options (one per line) | |
| Yes No | |
| Ask for comments? | No <input type="button" value="v"/> |
| Allow multiple selections? | No <input type="button" value="v"/> |

The form is reasonably self-explanatory, so we only provide a summary here:

- Question: The question that you're asking.
- Options: The possible options they can provide, one per line. They don't have to be one-word options – they can be complete phrases or sentences. Get the wording correct now. Although you **can** change the wording at any time, if you change the wording of an option after people start responding, the system will treat it as a different option.

- Ask for comments: If you set this to Yes, the poll will include an optional field for the user to type in any comments, and another optional field for their e-mail address.
- Allow multiple selections: If you set this to Yes, the user can tick more than one of the options.

After you finish these steps, click the "Add" button and the new poll will now appear in the list of polls:

Displaying the poll

The easiest way to display the poll is to click the "WEB LINK" link next to the poll of your choice:

| ID | Title | Links |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | Are you committed to a long-term fitness and nutri... | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE |
| 2 | What on-line marketing methods do you use now? | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE |
| 3 | Will the Federal Government's tax reforms work in ... | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE |

This opens a new window showing the poll, and you can copy the Web page address – e.g.

<http://fsplugins.com/poll/firststep/3>

For example, if you would like your newsletter subscribers to complete a poll, send them this link in an e-mail message. You can also include this link on a Web page.

Alternatively, to display the poll directly on a Web page, click the "HTML CODE" link:

| ID | Title | Links |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | Are you committed to a long-term fitness and nutri... | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE |
| 2 | What on-line marketing methods do you use now? | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE |
| 3 | Will the Federal Government's tax reforms work in ... | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE |

This displays some HTML code in a window:

Have Your Say

[ADMIN](#)

Copy the HTML below and paste it into your Web page.

```
<form
action="http://127.0.0.1/eservice/cgi-bin/allegro.pl"
method=post>
<input type=hidden name="db_table" value=poll>
<input type=hidden name=account value="firststep">
<input type=hidden name=id value=3>
<p><p>Will the Federal Government's tax reforms work in
your favour?
<p><table border=0>
<tr valign=top><td><input type=radio name="f_vote"
value="Yes"></td><td>Yes</td></tr>
```

You (or your Webmaster) can copy this code and paste it into a Web page.

Showing poll results

After somebody responds to the poll, they immediately see the statistics for responses so far, like this:

Have Your Say

Poll Results

Will the Federal Government's tax reforms work in your favour?

- ◆ Perhaps: 67%
- ◆ Maybe: 33%

There might be times when you'd like to show the results without forcing them to respond to the poll (For example, if you're showing a list of past polls).

To see the results of a poll, click the "STATS LINK" link:

| ID | Title | Links |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | Are you committed to a long-term fitness and nutri... | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE |
| 2 | What on-line marketing methods do you use now? | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE |
| 3 | Will the Federal Government's tax reforms work in ... | WEB LINK STATS LINK HTML CODE |

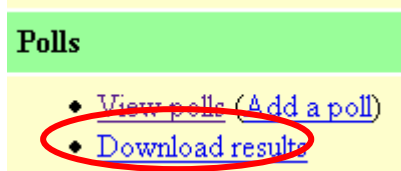
Again, you can include this Web address on your Web pages or in an e-mail message.

Testing the poll

To test the poll, click the "WEB LINK" link as described above and fill in the poll yourself.

Downloading Your Results

Click the "Download results" link on the E-Service administration page:



This will show you a list of possible results to download:

| Count | Title | From | To | Delete? |
|-------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3 | Poll 1 | 14-Oct-2005 | 14-Oct-2005 | <input type="button" value="Delete"/> |
| 10 | Poll 2 | 14-Oct-2005 | 14-Oct-2005 | <input type="button" value="Delete"/> |

The columns in this list are as follows:

- Count: The number of results (in other words, the number of times the survey was completed).
- Title: The survey title. Click this to display the form results and download them. Instructions for doing this are at the bottom of the page, below the list.
- From/To: The date of the earliest and most recent results.
- Delete?: Click this link to delete that set of results. **WARNING:** This deletes the results permanently, so make sure you have downloaded them first.

The list is sorted by the Title column, but you can click other column headings to change the sort order.