



Web Site Mini-Guide: Quizzes

With the quiz software, you can create an unlimited number of quizzes on your Web site. This guide describes how to create quizzes and how to link to them from your Web site.

Overview

With the quiz software, you can create an unlimited number of quizzes on your Web site. A quiz can be one of two types:

- Multiple choice: You show a number of answers for each question, and users choose one (Only one is the right answer). This is commonly used for testing knowledge.
- "Scale" quiz: Users answer each question on a scale - e.g. 1-10, or 0-5. Of course, this is also "multiple choice", but there is no right answer - merely a rating for each question. This is commonly used for surveys or self-assessment tests.

These two types are very similar, and the only real difference is in the way you specify the options for answering each question.

In both cases, the Web site calculates the total score, and you can display different text depending on the scores.

Creating a new quiz

To create a new quiz, log in to the E-Service site, then click the "Add a quiz" button on the administration page.

You need to type three things for the new quiz:

- ID: A unique identifier for the quiz. This is used only so that you can create a link to the quiz from your Web site. It's never seen by the users. You can use letters or numbers in this identifier, but don't use spaces or other punctuation.
- Name: This is the name of the quiz. It is seen by the user, so make it a descriptive name.
- Details: This is where you type the questions, answers and other text.

All the important stuff is in "Details", so we'll describe that now.

Example

The easiest way to see how this works is with an example. Here is a sample quiz with just three multiple choice questions. If they score less than 2, we consider it a "fail"; otherwise it's a pass.

Welcome to our sample quiz. Please answer all the questions below.

REQUIRED

RANDOM: 2

BEGIN PRE

<hr>

END PRE

ASK: What is the colour of Napoleon's white horse?

- a. Black.
- *b. White.
- c. Grey.

ASK: How many months have 28 days?

- a. 1.
- RESPONSE: It's not just February. They all have 28 days - some have more!
- b. 2.
- RESPONSE: They all have 28 days - some have more!
- *c. 12.

ASK: If I have 10 eggs and give you all but 2, how many do I have left?

- *a. Two.
- b. Eight.
- c. Ten.

DONE

EXPORT: Sample Quiz

SHOW RESPONSES

SUBMIT: Check My Answers

RESET: Clear Form and Start Again

RESPONSE HEADER:

Thank you for doing the quiz. You can see your responses below.

DONE

Your score was SCORE out of MAXSCORE (PERCENT%). The average score of all people doing this quiz is AVERAGE.

GRAPH

SCORE 0-1:

Sorry, you failed.

SCORE 2-3:

Congratulations! You passed.

SCORE 0-999:

What next? If you'd like to know more, please contact us.

How It Works

Here's what each part of the quiz text above means, in order:

Displaying the questions

- Introduction: Any text before the first question is displayed to the user as an introduction to the quiz.
- All answers required: The line REQUIRED means that they must answer every question. Leave this out to allow the user to skip questions.
- PRE/POST text: Any text between the lines BEGIN PRE and END PRE is displayed before each question. Similarly, text between BEGIN POST and END POST is displayed after each question. You can use this to insert a line between each question (as in the example above), frame each question in a table, etc. This text can be any HTML of your choice.
- Random selection: The line RANDOM: 2 means that the quiz consists of two questions chosen at random from the full set of questions. This is useful if you'd like to present a random quiz each time. This is optional; if you leave it out (which is common), all questions are used.
- Questions: Each question starts with "ASK:", followed by the question text. The text can run over more than one line, but must be followed by a blank line.
- Multiple Choice Options: Next come the options a, b, c, d, etc. Each letter (a, b, c, etc.) is followed by a dot and then the option text. The text can span more than one line.

You can give a numerical weighting to each option by putting it in brackets after the letter and before the dot - e.g.

a(3). This is the best answer

b(1). This is the worst answer

c(2). This is an OK middle answer

Note that the numerical weightings can be half-scores - e.g. 5.5.

If there is just one correct answer, put a "*" at the front of that option, as in the sample quiz above. This is the same as giving it a weighting of 1 and giving all the others a weighting of 0.

Each option can be immediately (without any blank lines) followed by a line starting with RESPONSE:, and then text (which may go over many lines). This is the text that is displayed when the user chooses that answer - e.g. an explanation of why that answer is correct or incorrect. This is usually used for incorrect options, to explain why that's the wrong answer. As you can see in the sample quiz, you can have a different response for each answer.

- Scale Options: Some questions will offer people a simple choice along a scale from 1 to whatever. In this case, instead of the multiple choice options, simply include a line like this:

scale 1-5

- Buttons: The SUBMIT and RESET lines determine the text that goes on the buttons at the end of the quiz. These are optional - the Web site uses some default text if you don't give them here.
- DONE: The single line DONE indicates the end of the questions.

Layout

If all of the questions have the same set of answers (e.g. all are True/False, or all are 1-5, or all are, say, Rarely/Sometimes/Often), you can have the quiz laid out in columns. To do this, add this line:

LAYOUT columns

Processing the answers

- Export: To export the results to a file for later download, insert a line like this:

EXPORT: Sample Quiz

This example exports it to a file named "Sample Quiz". Use a different name for each quiz on your site.

To download the results, go to the administration page and click the "View saved results" link. Then follow the instructions on that page.

- Displaying responses: By default, when displaying the answers page, only specific RESPONSE text is shown for each answer. This is the right behaviour if you're only calculating a total.

On the other hand, if you would like to give feedback on each answer, it's better to show the question, the user's answer, and then any response. In this case, add this line at the start (as in the example):

SHOW RESPONSES

In addition to this information, you can also show the correct answer if you like (unless you'd like them to re-take the test later). To do this, use:

SHOW CORRECT

The block of text from RESPONSE HEADER: to the next DONE is displayed at the top of the responses.

- Follow-Up Text: Any text after the last question is displayed to the user after they submit their results. This text is displayed after the responses.

Note the special words SCORE, MAXSCORE, PERCENT and AVERAGE, which are replaced by the score, maximum score, percentage score and average score respectively.

- Score Text: The lines like SCORE 0-1 ... tell the script what to display depending on the person's score. This lets you show different text for different scores.

The scores are processed from top to bottom, and you are allowed to have overlapping intervals. For example, if you have some text for SCORE 1-5 and some other text for SCORE 3-6, and the user's score is 4 or 5, both text segments are displayed.

In particular, in the example above, note the use of SCORE 0-999 at the end of all the scores. This matches any score, which allows you to display some text after all the scores.

In most quizzes, you will have score ranges to cover all possible scores - e.g. 0-3, 4-7, 8-10. But be careful if you allow decimal scores - you have to ensure that your score ranges include the decimal scores as well. For example, if you allow half-scores, instead of 0-3, 4-7, 8-10, you require 0-3.5, 4-7.5, 8-10 (or 0-3, 3.5-7, 7.5-10).

Note the use of "SCORE 0-999:". This is a handy way to display some text regardless of their score.

- Graphing results: You can use the word GRAPH in the follow-up text or any of the score text, and this displays a small bar graph showing their score against the average of everybody who has done this quiz. You can see this in the example above.

Formatting the text

All of the text displayed to the user is "Smart Text", which allows various formatting options, such as bold, italics, bullet points, tables and links to other Web pages. For more on Smart Text, visit this Web page: www.fsplugins.com/smart_text.

For example, one common use of a quiz is to give the user a self-assessment tool that then leads them on to a product or service. So, after displaying their score, you could link them to a Web page, like this:

```
[http://example.com/productpage.html Find out how to improve your score]
```

This is the Smart Text code for linking to a Web page. It appears to the user like this:

[Find out how to improve your score](#)

Linking from a Web page

After you create a quiz, you need to link to it from your Web site.

From the administration page of the E-Service site, click "View quizzes" and find the quiz that you want. It will include a link that you can copy and paste as a link from your site.

Chaining quizzes together

Although most quizzes operate as stand-alone items, it is possible to chain them together. This is usually done when you have to score each quiz separately, but they are all related. For example:

- The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator questionnaire asks four different groups of questions, calculates four results, and combines them into a single "personality indicator".
- A geography quiz might have its questions grouped into various regions (Africa, Australia, etc.), where it's important to show the score for each region as well as the overall score.

To demonstrate how to chain quizzes together, assume you have a geography quiz with three sections (in this order): Australia, North America and Europe.

First create three separate quizzes as described above. Let's assume they are called australia, north-america and europe.

Linking one quiz to the next

At the end of the first (Australia) quiz, add this line:

```
[CHAIN:north-america Go to part 2 - North America]
```

Similarly, at the end of the second (North America) quiz, add this line:

```
[CHAIN:europe Go to part 3 - Europe]
```

That's all you have to do to chain the quizzes together. The software will automatically pass the results of one quiz to the next.

Showing individual results

Each quiz is still treated as an individual item, so you can show the score, average and/or graph for each quiz in the usual way. Just do it as described earlier, ignoring the fact that this is chained to any other quizzes.

Showing overall results

After the user completes the last quiz, you will show them an overall results page. At this point, you have access to all of the individual quiz scores as well as the total scores:

- The individual scores are "SCORE q1", "SCORE q2", etc.
- The total score is "SCORE TOTAL".

In our example, in the text that appears after the Europe quiz, you can show the three individual scores and their overall score like this:

```
Thank you for completing the quiz.
```

```
Your scores were:
```

```
* Australia: SCORE q1
```

* North America: SCORE q2
 * Europe: SCORE

Your total score was SCORE TOTAL.

Note that the Europe score is just "SCORE", not "SCORE q3", because it's just the normal score for the current quiz.

In a similar way to "SCORE q1", you also have access to these values:

- Individual average scores are "AVERAGE q1", "AVERAGE q2", etc, and the average for the total is "AVERAGE TOTAL".
- The maximum score for each quiz is "MAXSCORE q1", "MAXSCORE q2", etc., and the maximum score for the entire chain is "MAXSCORE TOTAL".
- Individual graphs are "GRAPH q1", "GRAPH q2", etc., and the graph for the total is "GRAPH TOTAL".

Passwords

You can assign passwords to a quiz, so that only people who have a valid password are allowed to do the quiz.

Setting a password

First, go into the quiz and click the "Password Required" checkbox:

The screenshot shows a quiz interface. At the top, there is a list of options: a(1) Never, b(2) Seldom, c(3) Sometimes, d(4) Often, and e(5) Always. Below this list is a 'Flags' section. In the 'Flags' section, the 'Password Required' checkbox is checked and circled in red. The 'CCO Feedback' checkbox is unchecked.

Then go back to the administration page, scroll down to the Quiz section, and click Add Password:

The screenshot shows the Quiz administration page. At the top, there is a 'Quiz' section with a 'HELP' button. Below this, there are three links: 'View quizzes (Add a quiz)', 'Passwords (Add password)', and 'Download saved results'. The 'Passwords (Add password)' link is circled in red.

On the next page, fill in the password form:

Password	<input type="text"/>
Quizzes	<input type="checkbox"/> All Quizzes <input type="checkbox"/> commquiz1
Expiry Date	<input type="text"/>
Limited Uses	<input type="text"/>

This is what each of the fields is for:

- Password: The new password (not case-sensitive). We recommend you use letters and numbers only, just to make it easier for people to remember and type.
- Quizzes: The password will work for any of the quizzes you tick, or all of them if you tick the "All Quizzes" box. If you expect a quiz to appear here and it doesn't, it probably means you forgot to tick the "Password Required" box in the previous step.
- Expiry Date: Optionally, you can set a final date for the password. If you leave this blank, the password will continue to work forever.
- Limited Uses: This allows you to say that password can only be used a certain number of times. For example, if you set this to 10, the system will only allow it to be used 10 times. If you leave this blank, there's no limit.

After you confirm this page, the password is added to the system.

Using the Password

You still link to the quiz in exactly the same way as before – e.g.

<http://www.eservice.com.au/quiz/tymson.commquiz1>

However, you will now find that it first asks you to enter a password:

Communication Quiz Part 1

To continue, please type your password into the box:

Password:

Additional Fields

The quizzes are usually anonymous. However, it *is* possible to ask users to fill in a form before they do a quiz. Here are two examples:

<p>First Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Last Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>E-Mail Address: <input type="text"/></p> <p><input type="button" value="Continue"/></p>	<p>First Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Last Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Location: <input type="text" value="▼"/></p> <p>Password: <input type="text"/></p> <p><input type="button" value="Continue"/> <input type="button" value="Clear"/></p>
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After they fill in the form, they do the quiz in the normal way. When they finish, their results are saved on the server and available to download in the usual way.

Preparing the form

This is probably the most complex thing you'll do with quizzes, although it's mostly a matter of cut and paste. If you have a Webmaster updating your site, please send these instructions to them.

Start by copying this block of text:

```
<form method=post name=allegro action="http://fsplugins.com/cgi-
bin/allegro.pl">
<input type=hidden name="db_table" value="quiz">
<input type=hidden name="account" value="account">
<input type=hidden name=action value=search>
<table border=0 cellpadding=5>
<tr valign=top><th align=right>First Name:</th>
  <td><input type=text name="First Name"></td></tr>
<tr valign=top><th align=right>Last Name:</th>
  <td><input type=text name="Last Name"></td></tr>
<tr valign=top><th align=right>E-Mail Address:</th>
  <td><input type=text name="E-Mail Address"></td></tr>
</table>
<input type=hidden name="f_id" value="quizid">
<input type=submit name="search" value="Continue">
<input type=hidden name="context" value="ask">
<input type=hidden name=fields value="First Name,Last Name,E-Mail Address">
<input type=hidden name="required_fields" value="First Name,Last Name,E-
Mail Address">
</form>
```

Change the items in bold – i.e.

- account – the name of your E-Service account
- quizid – the identifying code for this particular quiz

This example asks the user for their first name, last name and e-mail address:

```
<tr valign=top><th align=right>First Name:</th>
  <td><input type=text name="First Name"></td></tr>
<tr valign=top><th align=right>Last Name:</th>
  <td><input type=text name="Last Name"></td></tr>
<tr valign=top><th align=right>E-Mail Address:</th>
  <td><input type=text name="E-Mail Address"></td></tr>
```

The two lines near the end list all the fields and tell you which are compulsory:

```
<input type=hidden name=fields value="First Name,Last Name,E-Mail Address">
<input type=hidden name="required_fields" value="First Name,Last Name,E-
Mail Address">
```

IMPORTANT: If you're using the First Step content management system for creating the form, don't insert these lines manually. Instead, for the required fields, add the word "required", like this:

```
<td><input type=text name="First Name" required></td></tr>
```

The system will then insert the two lines manually into the HTML.

Saving the form

Then paste this code into a page on your Web site. Refer people to this page rather than sending them directly to the quiz link.