

1 - The Basics

What is a plugin?

A plugin is something that adds new features to MyBB or extends/modifies the default ones.

MyBB plugins are found in inc/plugins/ and every plugin filename must have the following format: plugincodename.php

What is a codename?

A codename is a name used to identify each plugin. It is the name of the file and must be used at the beginning of every function inside that plugin. E.g. For testplugin.php the codename is testplugin.

Why is the codename important?

MyBB stores, internally, the codenames of all plugins active on the forum so it can later use those codenames to load the active plugins.

How does MyBB load plugins?

Everytime someone visits a MyBB forum (regardless of the page being visited), MyBB will browse the internal list of active plugins' codenames and "require_once" each inc/plugins/codename.php so if we have testplugin1 and testplugin2 two activated on a MyBB forum, it will "require_once" inc/plugins/testplugin1.php and inc/plugins/testplugin2.php on each MyBB instance (i.e. when someone visits the forum).

What defines a PHP file as a plugin?

It is mandatory to have a codename_info() function which returns an array with the following information:

- "name" - Name of the plugin.
- "description" - Description of the plugin.
- "author" - Author of the plugin.
- "authorsite" - Site of the author.
- "website" - Website of the plugin.
- "compatibility" - Compatible MyBB versions (separated by a comma).
- "version" - Plugin version.

The other functions that MyBB expects the plugin to have are the following: (they are optional!)

- codename_activate() – is executed when someone clicks "Activate" or "Install and Activate"
- codename_deactivate() – is executed when someone clicks "Deactivate" or "Uninstall"
- codename_install() – is executed when someone clicks "Install"
- codename_uninstall() – is executed when someone clicks "Uninstall"
- codename_is_installed() – is executed when someone views the Plugins page on the Admin Control Panel. It returns a boolean (true or false) which tells MyBB whether the plugin has been installed or not.

The *activate and *deactivate functions are executed when someone clicks "Install and Activate" and "Uninstall" because when someone clicks it, it not only gets installed (or uninstalled) but also gets activated (or deactivated).

Important Notes

Remember that MyBB loads the plugin file using require_once, which will read and evaluate the code so if any code is on the global scope it will be executed.

Test Plugin example

```
<?php

// Disallow direct access to this file for security reasons
if(!defined("IN_MYBB"))
{
    die("Direct initialization of this file is not allowed.<br /><br />Please make sure IN_MYBB is defined.");
}

function hello_info()
{
    return array(
        "name"           => "Test Plugin",
        "description"     => "A test plugin.",
        "website"         => "http://mybb.com",
        "author"          => "MyBB Group",
        "authorsite"      => "http://mybb.com",
        "version"         => "1.0",
        "guid"            => "",
        "compatibility"   => "*"
    );
}

/**
 * ADDITIONAL PLUGIN INSTALL/UNINSTALL ROUTINES
 */
* function hello_install()
* {
*     // We could create a 'hello_world' table in our database
* }
*
* function hello_is_installed()
* {
*     global $db;
*     if($db->table_exists("hello_world"))
*     {
*         return true;
*     }
*     return false;
* }
*
* function hello_uninstall()
* {
*     // We would drop our 'hello_world' table
* }
*
* function hello_activate()
* {
* }
*
* function hello_deactivate()
* {
* }
*/

?>
```