

Comparison of phpBB to other Popular Forum Solutions

FEATURE	PHBB3	INVISION POWER BOARD (IPB)	VBULLETIN (VB)	SIMPLE MACHINES FORUM (SMF)
General				
License:	GPL	Proprietary	Proprietary	Proprietary
License Price:	Free	US\$149.99 [?]	US\$160 [?]	Free
Programming Language:	PHP	PHP	PHP	PHP
Latest Version:	3.0.0	2.3.4	3.6.8-pl2	1.1.4
Release Date:	13 Dec, 2007	09, Jan 2008	05, Nov 2007	27, Sep 2007
Security				
Permanent Bans:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Temporary Bans (Suspension):	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Permissions:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paid Security Code Audit:	Yes	Yes	No	No
Form Handling:	Yes [?]	-	-	Yes
Type Aware Parameter Handling:	Yes	-	Yes	No
Type Aware Database Layer:	Yes	-	-	No
Password Hashing:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anti-Spam				
CAPTCHA Visual Confirmation:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Flood Control:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Groups:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ACLs:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Word Censor:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Banning:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Suspensions:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Warnings:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
User Logging:	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
User Post IP Logging:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Report Posts:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Post Moderation:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Data Management				
MySQL:	Yes [?]	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes
MSSQL Server:	Yes	Yes [?]	No	No
MSSQL ODBC:	Yes	Yes [?]	No	No
PostgreSQL:	Yes	No	No	No
Oracle:	Yes	Yes [?]	No	No
Firebird:	Yes	No	No	No
SQLite:	Yes	No	No	No
Database (DBMS) Backups:	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Database (DBMS) Restore:	Yes	-	-	-
Post/Topic Pruning:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Registration				
COPPA Registrations:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Limit Registration Attempts:	Yes	-	-	No
Set min/max Username Length:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Set min/max Password Length:	Yes	-	-	Yes
Limit username Chars:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Set Password Complexity Requirements:	Yes	-	-	Yes
Force Password Change:	Yes	-	-	-
Allow/Disallow e-mail Address Re-usage:	Yes [?]	-	Yes	No
Posting				
Topic Display Method:	Flat	Flat or Threaded	Flat or Threaded	Flat
BBCode:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Custom BBCode Buttons:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

WYSIWYG Editor:	No	Yes	Yes	No
HTML in posts:	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Smilies/Emoticons:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quoting:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes [?]	Yes
Quote Multiple Posts:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Formatting Toolbar:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Syntax Highlighting:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Attachments:	Yes (Multiple)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Post Drafts:	Yes	No	Yes	No
Polls:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multiple Poll Option Voting:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User based Poll Tracking:	Yes	-	Yes	Yes
Allow/Disallow Vote Change:	Yes	-	-	Yes
Beaten-to-Posting Review:	Yes	-	Yes	Yes
Posting Preview:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Flood Control:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Attachments				
Automatic Image Thumbnails:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Attachment Types:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multiple Attachments:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Customisable Attachment Placement:	Yes [?]	Yes	No	Yes
Profiles / Memberlist				
Custom Profile Fields:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
User Posting Stats:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User Instant Messengers:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User Profile details:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Memberlist Searching:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User Rating:	No	Yes	Yes	No
Search System				
Fulltext Search:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Customised Topic Search:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Customised Forum Search:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Author Search:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Advanced Search:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Unread Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Active Topics:	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Posts Since Last Visit:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Search Flood Control:	Yes	Yes	-	No
Forums				
Categories:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Password Protected Forums:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Forum Specific Styles:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
URL Link Redirect Forums:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	No
Forum Rules:	Yes	Yes	No	No
Subforums:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Last Post:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Forum Pruning:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Display Active Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Subscribe to Forums:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	No
Subscribe to Topics:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bookmark Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Topic Sorting:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Post Sorting:	Yes [?]	No	No	No
Topic Participation Tracking:	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Print Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
E-mail Topics:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
User Control Panel				

User Signatures:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User Avatars:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User Ranks:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Users Online List:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User Preferences:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User Profile Settings:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manage Saved PM/Post Drafts:	Yes	Yes	No	No
Manage Bookmarks:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Manage Attachments:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Manage Subscribed Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Custom Profile Fields:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Friends/Foe List:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private Messaging				
Additional PM Folders:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes [?]
Customisable PM Filter Rules:	Yes	No	No	No
Send to Multiple Recipients:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Send Blind Carbon Copies:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Send to Groups:	Yes	No	No	No
Forward Messages:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Address Book:	Yes [?]	Yes	No	No
Message Drafts:	Yes	Yes	No	No
Export Messages:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Attachments for Messages:	Yes	Yes	No	No
Conversation View:	Yes	-	No	No
Custom Message Handling Rules:	Yes	No	No	No
Usergroups				
Group Types:	Yes [?]	Yes	-	Yes
UCP Group Management:	Yes	-	Yes	No
UCP Manage Group Memberships:	Yes	-	No	No
Multiple Group Leaders:	Yes [?]	-	Yes	No
Custom Group Colours:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Group Ranks:	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Group Avatars:	Yes	Yes	-	-
Group-based Memberlist Display:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Moderation Control Panel				
Global Moderators:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Forum Moderators:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Post Moderation Queue:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Manage Reported Topics/Posts:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Topic History:	Yes	Yes	-	-
Forum/Topic Logs:	Yes	-	-	No
Localised Moderator Logs:	Yes	-	Yes	No
Post Editing:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Post Locking:	Yes [?]	Yes	-	No
Post Details:	Yes	-	-	No
Change Post Author:	Yes	-	-	No
Quick-Mod Tools:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Moving Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Move Multiple Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Merging Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Merging Posts:	Yes	Yes	-	-
Merging Multiple Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Split Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Locking Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deleting Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Copying Topics:	Yes	No	-	No

Global Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Announcement Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Sticky Topics:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manage Bans:	Yes [?]	Yes	-	No
Manage User Warnings:	Yes	Yes	-	No
Banning by Username:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Banning by E-mail Address:	Yes	No	No	No
Banning by IP Address:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
User Notes:	Yes	No	-	No
Administration Control Panel				
Founder Status/Board Creator:	Yes	Yes	No	No
Load Settings:	Yes	-	-	Yes
Automatic MOD Installer:	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prune Inactive Users:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Manage Ranks:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manage Groups:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manage Group Memberships:	Yes	-	No	Yes
Manage Attachments and Settings:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manage User Attachments:	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
User Editing:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Topic Icons:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mass e-mail:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manage report/denial Reasons:	Yes	Yes	-	No
Module Management:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Custom BBcodes:	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Custom Profile Fields:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Manage Bans:	Yes [?]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Banning by Username:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Banning by E-mail Address:	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Banning by IP Address:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Styles				
User Selectable Styles:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Install/Manage Custom Styles:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Customise/Edit Templates:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Customise/Edit Themes:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Customise/Edit Imagesets:	Yes	Yes	No	No
Notifications				
E-mail:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Instant Messaging:	Yes [?]	No	-	No
Bookmarks:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
RSS/Syndication:	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Localisation				
Support for Multiple Language Packs:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of Translations:	61	-	4 (officially)	37
Right to Left Support:	Yes	-	-	-
Language Pack Web-Editor:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Installation / Upgrade				
Installation Wizard:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Update Wizard:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Convertor Wizard:	Yes	Yes [?]	Yes	-
File Merge Diff Update Engine:	Yes	No	-	Yes
Technical Features				
CMS Software Integration:	Yes [?]	Yes [?]	Yes [?]	Yes [?]
XHTML Compliant:	Yes [?]	No	Yes [?]	Yes [?]