

# Rating API

## Status of this Memo

This memo provides information for the Xaraya community. It does not specify an Xaraya standard of any kind. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

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## Abstract

The contents of this RFC contain the literal content of the old plain text version of RFC-0003

When time is a less scarcer good, someone might convert the plain text into structured XML so we can benefit from it.

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## 1. Introduction

All ?xxx numbers refer to the basic documents in section 7. We read through the articles on <http://www.postnuke.com>, its forum threads, feature requests on sourceforge and the developers mailing list. The following RFC is a first summary and contains some solution proposals either compiled from the basic documents or from general definitions concerning comments systems / forums.

## 2. List of requirements for the Rating API

The main objective of this API is to provide a small, yet flexible codebase for adding rating functionality to modules. Rating is a powerful organisational concept, and goes well together with categories to sift through large amounts of content. In a community setting, it helps to identify valuable elements of the community, and to protect the community from disturbances. That said, there are a lot of approaches to rating, from the very simple to the highly sophisticated. [1], [4] Not all rating types are suited for the same problems so it would be feasible to make parts of this API pluggable to allow for the addition of different rating types. The API should be transparent to all modules that want to use it, and vice versa. Following is a list of requirements broadly grouped into categories. - let users rate articles [5] - let users rate submissions [6] - provide a moderation system based on Karma [7] - promote user permissions by various measures [8] - approve new users [9] - give points to users based on activity [10] - create friends / foes list [12], [13] - select site content by rating for syndication [16] - let users rate an item only once [17] - customize display of content based on rating [17] - devise anti-groupthink measures [17]

### 3. Solution proposals - database tables

3a. Trust Networks See Appendix 1 [14] for one possible approach. It is straight out of the sourceforge.net code [2] Its just one idea.

## 4. Solution proposals - functions

4a. Trust Networks Networks of Trust have been shown to be rather resilient to attack. [3] It may be feasible to reuse the PHP port of the advogato.org Network of Trust that sourceforge.net uses. [2] See Appendix 2 [15] for the code. 4b. Distributed Trust Networks [4] Takes the notion of Trust Network one step further by suggesting to distribute the Trust Network over several sites. drupal rating: [18]

## 5. Relationship of the API to other areas

5a. Categories API There seem to be some overlaps with the Categories API, as both Ratings and Categories can be thought of as metadata. [11] 5b. Permissions System Ratings have to have an impact on user permissions in the end to be effective. There should be ways to assign permissions based on ratings. This is a difficult area fraught with pitfalls, as Jim McDonald has pointed out. Worth considering though.

## 6. Code that will need to be rewritten

/Modules/News /Modules/Submit\_News /Modules/NS-Comments/ /Modules/Downloads  
/Modules/Web\_Links/ /Modules/Member\_List/ /Modules/Top\_List/ /Modules/Stats/ /Modules/Messages/  
/Modules/Users



## 7. Basic documents for this RFC

[1] <http://www.meridianvault.com/rate-it.zip> [2] [http://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group\\_id=39306&release\\_id=60003](http://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=39306&release_id=60003) [3] [http://xmlv1.net/article/index.xv1?acct=article:\\_02](http://xmlv1.net/article/index.xv1?acct=article:_02) [4] <http://advogato.org/article/176.html> [5] [http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=459239&group\\_id=27927&atid=392231](http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=459239&group_id=27927&atid=392231) Credits to: Pim van der Zwet [6] [http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=448439&group\\_id=27927&atid=392231](http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=448439&group_id=27927&atid=392231) Credits to: Anonymous [7] [http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=487384&group\\_id=27927&atid=392231](http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=487384&group_id=27927&atid=392231) Credits to: Steven Hilton, Kevin Fogleman [8] [http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=440463&group\\_id=27927&atid=392231](http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=440463&group_id=27927&atid=392231) Credits to: Simon Troup [9] [http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=461559&group\\_id=27927&atid=392231](http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=461559&group_id=27927&atid=392231) Credits to: [10] [http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=440629&group\\_id=27927&atid=392231](http://sourceforge.net/tracker/index.php?func=detail&aid=440629&group_id=27927&atid=392231) Credits to: Anonymous [11] <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pndev/message/5723> Credits to: jojajota [12] <http://slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=02/01/03/1812245&mode=thread> [13] <http://cvs.slashcode.com/index.cgi/slash/plugins/Zoo/zoo.pl?rev=1.11&content-type=text/x-cvsweb-markup> [14] RFC-3 Appendix 1 [15] RFC-3 Appendix 2 [16] <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pndev/message/4768> [17] <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PN-Data/message/67> [18] <http://cvs.drupal.org/viewcvs.cgi/drupal/modules/rating.module?rev=1.39&content-type=text/vnd.viewcvs-markup>

## **8. Tools that need to be created from scratch**

## 9. Retractions

We list features that were considered but rejected for this API below.

## 10. Changelog

2.0 (January 6, 2002) Integrated contributions from Kevin Fogleman. 1.1 (January 6, 2002) Moved implementation details out into Appendices. Integrated contributions from Jeremy Coates. 1.0 (January 6, 2002) Initial Version