



Comments Engine

What is it?

You can add a comments facility to your pages using the microcyte comments engine. This facility is easy to add and only requires a small amount of configuration. The comments facility allows users of the site to leave comments on any page where the facility is enabled. The comments can be edited or removed by the website administrator. We'll cover the configuration of the comments engine in this chapter.

How do you build it?

Enabling the comments facility within a page template is as simple as adding the following code block at the appropriate place within the template code:

```
<!-- <![CDATA[ -->  
<?php buildComments($currentpageid, "default_discussion.tmp"); ?>  
<!-- ]]> -->
```

This code block will add in the comments posting form and build the catalogue of user comments added to the page so far. You can change the presentation of both the comments posting form and the comments themselves.

Styling the comments posting form

You can find the basic template for the comments posting form by editing the `form_template.php` file in the `MCTEdicussion` directory. It is very important you do not edit any of the PHP or the form post action attribute in this file other wise it may stop the form and comments engine from working correctly. You can modify the layout of the form and add styles/classes where appropriate to make the form look as you would like it to.

Styling the comments template snippet

You can change appearance of the actual comments themselves by editing the `default_discussion.tmp` snippet in the `/fragments/private` directory from the root of the website. You can see more information about snippets by looking at the 'fragments and snippets' chapter.

This snippet is a repeatable block of HTML which can be styled as appropriate to your template. This file already has most the available placeholders inserted as an example of their use but the default layout does look basic so you will want to add your own styling.