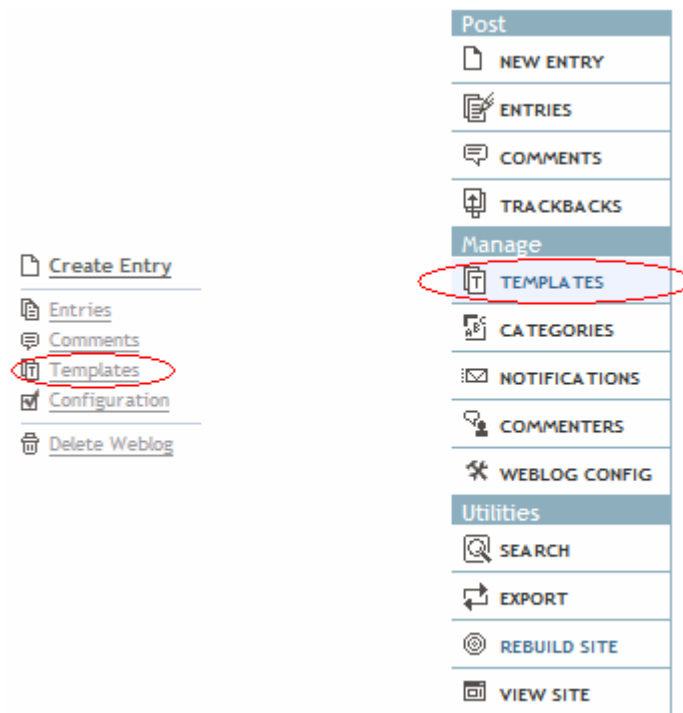


Podcasting with mBlog

Podcasting – publishing short audio stories or reports on a regular basis – is a hot new technology in fields ranging from news to education to entertainment. With its built-in RSS capabilities and ability to be quickly and easily updated with new content, mBlog is a natural tool to implement podcasts. While podcasting features are not part of the standard Movable Type package, the mBlog team has developed a way to easily enclose podcasts within an mBlog post. To take advantage of this method, you’ll need to make a few small changes to your blog templates. Here’s how:

1. Open mBlog in your browser and select the template modification screen for your blog. Templates can be reached from the `Templates` option on the mBlog main page or from the `Templates` button under `Manage` in the left-side toolbar on internal mBlog pages, as shown below:



2. Under the “Index Templates” heading, select the **RSS 2.0 Index** template by clicking on its name.
3. **Before making any changes to the template, back up the current template.** (See the mBlog handout “Backing Up mBlog User Templates”.)
4. Scroll all the way to the bottom of the template text and look for a block of code that looks like this:

```
<MTEentries lastn="15">
<item>
<title><$MTEentryTitle remove_html="1" encode_xml="1"$></title>
<description><$MTEentryBody encode_xml="1"$></description>
```

```

<link><$MTEnterPermalink encode_xml="1"$></link>
<guid><$MTEnterPermalink encode_xml="1"$></guid>
<category><$MTEnterCategory remove_html="1"
encode_xml="1"$></category>
<pubDate><$MTEnterDate format_name="rfc822"$></pubDate>
</item>
</MTEnteries>

```

This is the code for an individual entry's listing in the RSS file. We need to add a line that will include a file with each entry based on an address included in a particular part of the post.

5. Click in the Template Text field just *after* the </pubDate> text, and then press ENTER to create a blank line.
6. Copy the following line of code:

```
<enclosure url="<$MTEnterKeywords">></enclosure>
```

and paste it into the template (at the spot where you just created a blank line). You should now see a block of code that looks like this:

```

<MTEnteries lastn="15">
<item>
<title><$MTEnterTitle remove_html="1" encode_xml="1"$></title>
<description><$MTEnterBody encode_xml="1"$></description>
<link><$MTEnterPermalink encode_xml="1"$></link>
<guid><$MTEnterPermalink encode_xml="1"$></guid>
<category><$MTEnterCategory remove_html="1"
encode_xml="1"$></category>
<pubDate><$MTEnterDate format_name="rfc822"$></pubDate>
<enclosure url="<$MTEnterKeywords">></enclosure>
</item>
</MTEnteries>

```

7. Click the Save button at the bottom of the page.
8. Click the Rebuild this template button.
9. Now we have to make a small change in the Main Index template so that the template uses this modified RSS 2.0 template to provide the blog's RSS feed. Click on the Templates button under Manage in the left-side toolbar.
10. Under the "Index Templates" heading, select the **Main Index** template by clicking on its name.
11. **Back up the current template before making any changes.**
12. Scroll all the way to the bottom of the template text, then back up a little until you see a block of code that looks like this:

```

<div class="link-note">
<a href="<$MTBlogURL$>index.rdf">Syndicate this site (XML)</a>
</div>

```

13. Delete the index.rdf text and replace it with index.xml. The code should now look like this:

```
<div class="link-note">
<a href="<$MTBlogURL$>index.xml">Syndicate this site (XML)</a>
</div>
```

14. Click the Save button at the bottom of the page.
15. Click the Rebuild this template button.

At this point, your mBlog is ready to support podcasts. You can attach a podcast file to an mBlog post by following these simple steps:

1. Upload your file to a Web-accessible server. For most UM faculty, staff, and students, the easiest place to put a file will be in your IFS space, which is easily accessible using the mFile file management tool (<http://mfile.umich.edu>). To be publicly accessible from the Web, files in IFS space *must* reside in the `html` folder within your `Public` folder.
2. Begin a new post in mBlog. Look for the `Keywords` field on the New Entry page. If you don't see a `Keywords` field, scroll to the bottom of the New Entry page, click on the link marked `Customize the display of this page`, select the `Custom` radio button, click to check all of the options under `Custom`, and then click the `Save` button. (You should only need to do this once; your preferences will be saved for future postings.)
3. In addition to whatever text you wish to enter as part of the blog entry, type the complete URL of your podcast file in the `Keywords` field. For example, if your username is `jhmesh`, and your file is named `mycast.mp3`, you would enter the following URL:

```
http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jhmesh/mycast.mp3
```

4. The above step only provides a link within the RSS feed of your blog; it does *not* create a visible link in the text of your entry. If you also want to allow blog readers to download your podcast from the text of your entry, *without* subscribing to the RSS feed, include the following in the text of your entry (in either the `Entry Body` or `Extended Entry` fields):

```
<a href="http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jhmesh/mycast.mp3">Click
here to download the podcast.</a>
```

You can alter the "Click here" text to suit your preferences.

5. Save your entry. The RSS feed is automatically updated, and the podcast file will now be accessible to anyone who subscribes to that feed.