

EPiSERVER RELATE

A PRODUCT IN THE EPiSERVER RELATE PACKAGE

VERSION 2 R2

Community

EPiServer Relate, a powerful solution for social websites, consists of a set of page templates and a community core, for setting up a community integrated with EPiServer CMS.



Function Description

EPiSERVER

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About This Documentation

Target Groups

This documentation is intended for the target groups as described below.

- The **EPiServer Relate User Guide**:
 - Content editors working in EPiServer CMS and EPiServer Mail.
 - Community moderators and administrators working in the Community Moderation and Administration interface.
- The **EPiServer Relate Function Description**:
 - System architects, developers and others with a more technical background evaluating community website platforms.

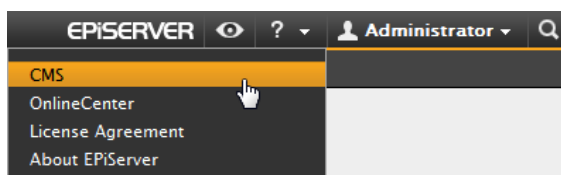
References

This documentation describes features in EPiServer Relate. Features in EPiServer CMS and EPiServer Mail will not be covered here. Therefore, the following documentation available from world.episerver.com, may be useful:

- User documentation for editors of EPiServer CMS.
- User documentation for administrators of EPiServer CMS.
- User documentation for EPiServer Mail.

How to Access EPiServer Help System

You can access the web help from the Global Menu. Click the ? icon and select the system for which you want to view the help. Browse or search for the topic where you need guidance.



You can also access the web help by browsing to *EPiServer Web Help*.



From each view in the user interface with a help icon provided, click the icon to get context-sensitive help.

Online Community on EPiServer World

EPiServer World is an online community where you can find the latest product information. It is open to the public, for partners, customers, and everyone working with EPiServer products, such as editors, web-masters, site owners and developers. Here you can download material, participate in discussions, read articles, receive support and much more. Feel free to sign up as a member.

Copyright Notice

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Introduction

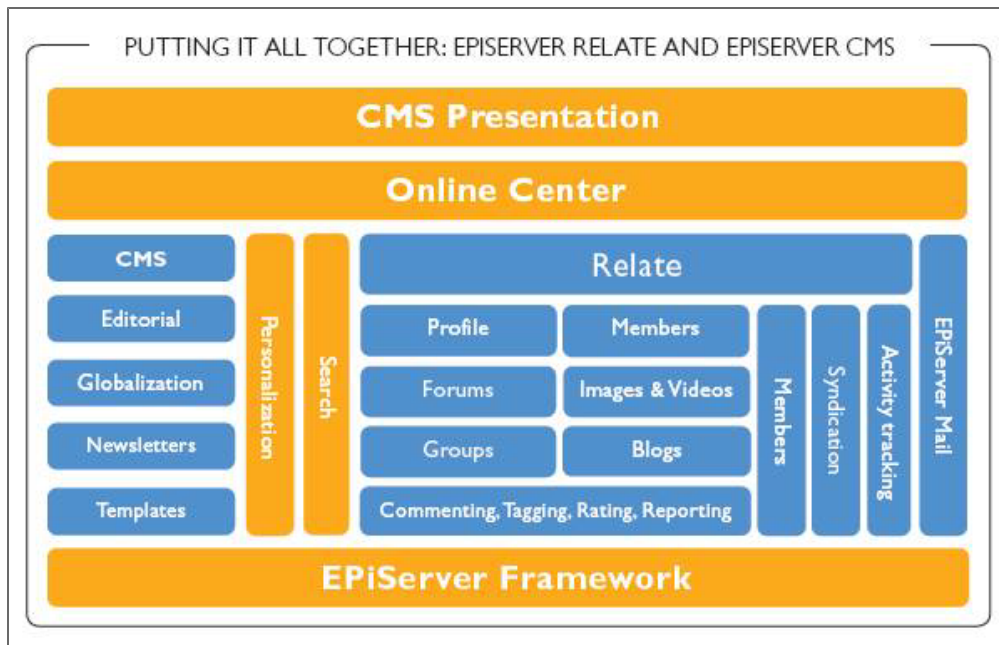


EPiServer Relate provides a powerful solution for building social websites or collaborative websites. EPiServer Relate consists of a set of page templates and a community core, for setting up an integrated community solution based on the EPiServer CMS editorial environment

The EPiServer Relate **templates** are intended as examples to provide inspiration when setting up a social website. The templates only illustrate parts of the extensive functionality available in the EPiServer Relate **framework**.

Refer to the User Guide on EPiServer World for more information on how to work with the templates and functionality in EPiServer Relate.

The EPiServer Relate Platform



The EPiServer Relate platform is built up by the following main parts:

- EPiServer CMS for **presentation** of content through page types and templates.
- EPiServer OnlineCenter with **Dashboard** and gadgets, for monitoring websites.
- The EPiServer Framework, containing **functions shared** by different EPiServer products.
- **EPiServer Mail**, for creating newsletters based on community associations and EPiServer CMS editorial content.

In addition there are a number of functions and modules described in more detail in the following.

Role Definitions

Community access rights can be set up in many different ways. Typically, anonymous visitors to the website can only view public content. In order to view community content, to contribute and to interact with members in the community, registration is required.

An EPiServer Relate installation is based on a setup of certain roles with specific tasks and access rights. The description in this documentation reflects these roles in order to make it easier to understand the underlying work procedures

Visitor

A **Visitor** is someone using a web browser to visit the website and use available functions and services. In EPiServer Relate, visitors are anonymous, cannot create content and will only have access to public content.

Member

A **Member** is registered and logged on to the website. Community members will have access to community content, and can interact with the website and other members to create community content such as forum postings and comments.

Owner

An **Owner** is a community member who is the creator of certain community content, for instance an image gallery, a club or a forum posting. Owners can administer community content that they themselves have created.

Editor/Moderator

The **Editor/Moderator** can belong to either roles but in EPiServer Relate it is assumed that the Editor/Moderator works with both editing of content in EPiServer CMS as well as moderating community content. The Editor/Moderator has access to the EPiServer CMS Edit mode as well as the Community Moderation/Admin mode. A community member can also be given moderator access rights without having access to the EPiServer CMS Edit mode, allowing for instance to moderate forums from View mode.

User

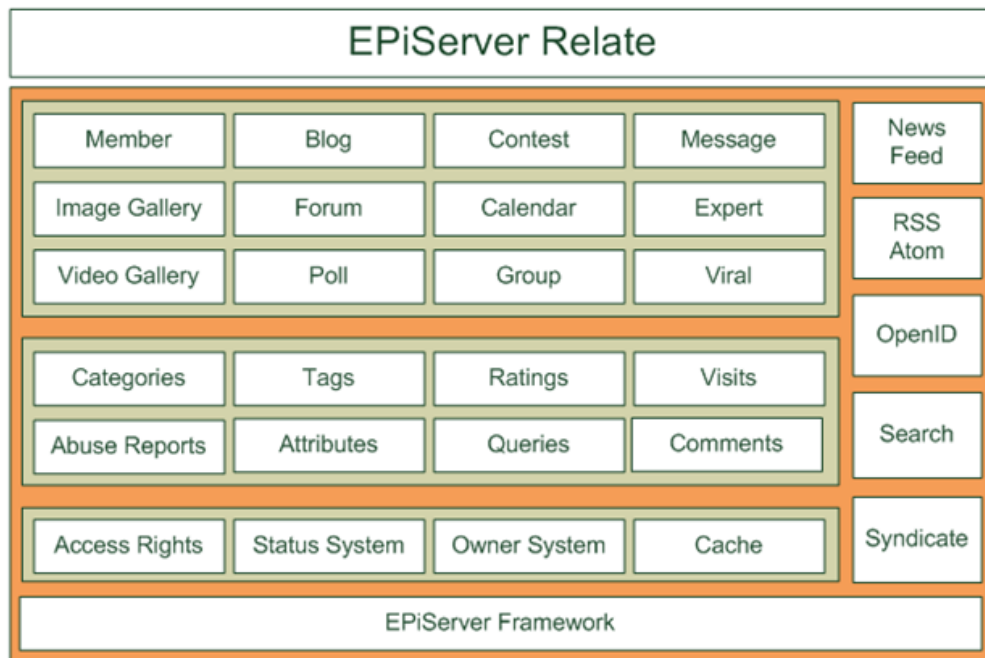
In the EPiServer Relate community context, a user can either be an anonymous visitor (unregistered), or a registered community member, with or without extended access rights for instance to moderate forums.

Administrator

The **Administrator** administers the website, works with access rights and adapts the platform to suit the needs of the organization. The Administrator has access to the EPiServer CMS Edit and Admin mode, as well as the Community moderation and administration interfaces.

Overview of Functionality

This section provides an introduction to the functionality of EPiServer Relate. EPiServer Relate includes a variety of functions to enable high interactivity with selected target groups in a community, and between members within the target groups. EPiServer Relate contains the functions and modules listed in the image below.



In this document the EPiServer Relate features are described in detail, from a user, administrator and developer perspective when evaluating the possibilities with EPiServer Relate.

EPiServer Community Framework

The **EPiServer Community Framework** includes shared features that are available throughout all EPiServer Relate functions and can be used by other EPiServer products as well as third party functions.

The EPiServer Community Framework includes the following functions:

- **Categories** - content can be categorized and retrieved based on one or more categories.
- **Tags** - content can be tagged and retrieved through the drawing of tag clouds.
- **Ratings** - any community entity can be rated and average rating of entities can be calculated.
- **Visits** - the number of visits can be retrieved for content pages.
- **Abuse Reports** - abuse reporting of any type of content.
- **Comments** - commenting of content and other comments.
- **Custom Attributes** - used for connecting fields to Relate modules, for instance "location".
- **Dynamic Queries** - searching of content in all community entities, with sorting functionality.

The functions listed above are described in more detail in the following.

Categories

Categories are a way to group, but also separate, items in an EPiServer Relate community implementation. For example you could separate images, blog posts or messages into public and private by creating and assigning categories. Categories are defined in **community Moderation mode**, are global and can be applied to any community entity type. Categories are stored in a tree structure and can be nested in any way you wish. In the EPiServer Relate sample site you will find two predefined example categories, "Business" and "Leisure", which can be used for categorizing community content.

Tags

Tags are used to label content with simple descriptions. A **tag cloud** is a visual depiction of tags where each word is a link to content tagged with that word. In a tag cloud the importance of a word is shown with font size or color. Tags can also be used to help members to find specific information. EPiServer Relate supports both **predefined** tags for when you want a strict, controlled set of tags, and **free text tags** that allows community members to label content with any short text.

1 BLOG ENTRIES TAGGED WITH GOLF

**Connemara Golf club**

Posted: Jun 02 2010 By: Annika Jansson

At the Edge of Europe on the wild Atlantic coast lies a links course that is a challenge to all who play her. Nestled between the mountains and the sea in the West of Ireland, the Connemara Championship Golf Links is an exhilarating golfing exper...

Tags: [connemara](#), [golf](#)

Comments: 1

Views: 8

Average rating:


[Delete](#)

1 IMAGE GALLERIES TAGGED WITH GOLF

**Golf**

Number of images: 5

Jun 02 2010

[Delete](#)

10 IMAGE(S) TAGGED WITH GOLF

**Golf at Fopp...**

By: Annika Jansson

Jun 02 2010

Average rating:


[Delete](#)
**Golf at Ombe...**

By: Annika Jansson

Jun 02 2010

Average rating:


[Delete](#)
**Golf in Tuni...**

By: Annika Jansson

Jun 02 2010

Average rating:


[Delete](#)
**Golf at Ombe...**

By: Annika Jansson

Jun 02 2010

Average rating:


[Delete](#)
[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [Next](#) [Last](#)

1 CLUB(S) TAGGED WITH GOLF

**Golf**

If you haven't seen Jesper Parnevik swing, you haven't seen anything

Owner: Admin User

Tags: [golf](#)

Created: 02/06/10

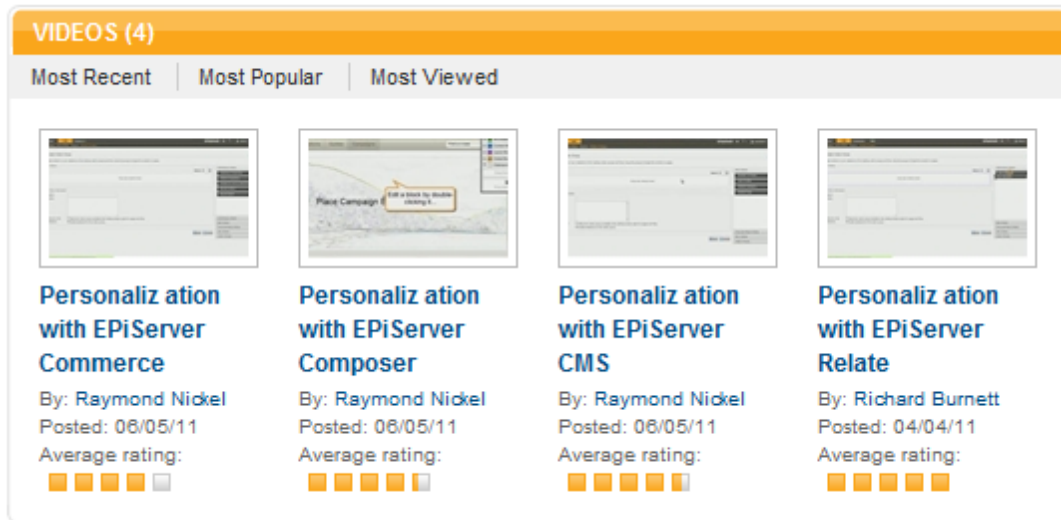
Members: 7

Status: Open

[Leave Club](#)

Rating

Rating is a common function in communities allowing members to rate or "like" for instance blog or forum postings or images. In EPiServer Relate, all types of content can be rated by community members. In the EPiServer Relate sample site, rating is available for member created content such as blog entries, images and videos, as well as editorial content such as articles. The rating functionality can also be used as a foundation for building a "Likes" feature.



Visits

The **Visits** functionality in EPiServer Relate is used for the "Latest Visitor" feature on the profile page of a community member, a common feature in many community sites. This allows the user to see who has visited the profile page, with links to each of the visiting members individual profiles.

Commenting

The **Commenting** feature in EPiServer Relate makes it possible to comment on community content, for instance blog entries or forum postings. In the EPiServer Relate sample site users have to be registered and logged in to be able to comment, but this can be set up as desired to allow for anonymous commenting as well. All types of content can be commented, and even comments can be commented.

Abuse Reporting

Most communities have a reporting function, allowing community visitors to report inappropriate content. The **Abuse Reporting** functionality in EPiServer Relate makes it possible for community members to report any type of community content, for instance images or blog entries. A snapshot of the content is produced when the abuse report is made.

The reports are then managed by a community administrator or moderator. This can be done either from the EPiServer Relate **community moderation mode**, or through the use of the **Community Abuse Report gadget** in EPiServer Relate. This gadget is available from the website **Dashboard**, for easy access by administrators. Refer to the *Gadget* section to find out more about gadgets in EPiServer Relate.

Custom Attributes

Attributes are useful when you wish to extend the community functionality of EPiServer Relate. Any number of attributes of any type can be associated with any entity in EPiServer Relate. With **Custom**

Attributes you can connect “fields” to all modules in EPiServer Relate, for example to a user profile. The custom attributes can be added through code or using the community Admin interface.

When customizing a community to specific needs, this is usually the most used function. A typical attribute can be “Location” on the user profile or “User Likes” to a blog. For example you can assign a “location” string attribute to the blog entry type so that the bloggers can specify from where they published the entry.

Dynamic queries, can follow attributes which makes it possible to for example construct a query that shows all users that are based in Sweden (location attribute), and that have liked at least one blog (user like attribute). It can also be used to mark a particular topic in a forum as answered (by adding a boolean attribute).

Dynamic Queries

Queries makes it possible to do searches based on categories, tags, ratings, comments, and custom attributes. Using **Dynamic Queries** in EPiServer Relate, you can search on all attributes connected to for example member profiles. An example query may be: “Find all blogs that are rated by at least 5 people and has an average rating higher than 4”.

Search content in any EPiServer Community entity combined with other entities and attributes. Also supports group wise and/or and sorting on all fields ascending/descending.

EPiServer Community Modules

The community modules in EPiServer Relate contain a wide variety of functions. It is also possible for other EPiServer products as well as third party systems to subscribe to the community events, such as user registration, adding of forum topics, new contact relations etc.

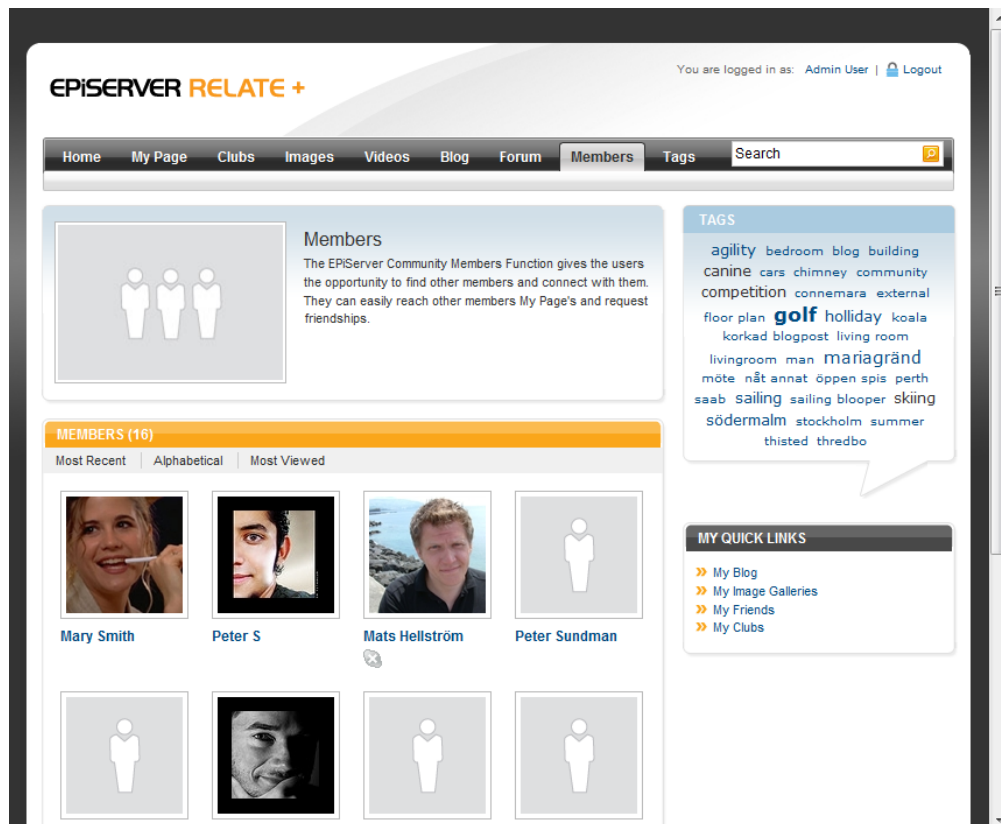
The following modules are included:

- **Member**
- **Group**
- **Blog**
- **Contest**
- **Message**
- **Image and Video Gallery**
- **Forum**
- **Calendar**
- **Club**
- **Expert**
- **Poll**
- **Campaign**

These functions, and how they interact with each other, are described in more detail in the following.

Members

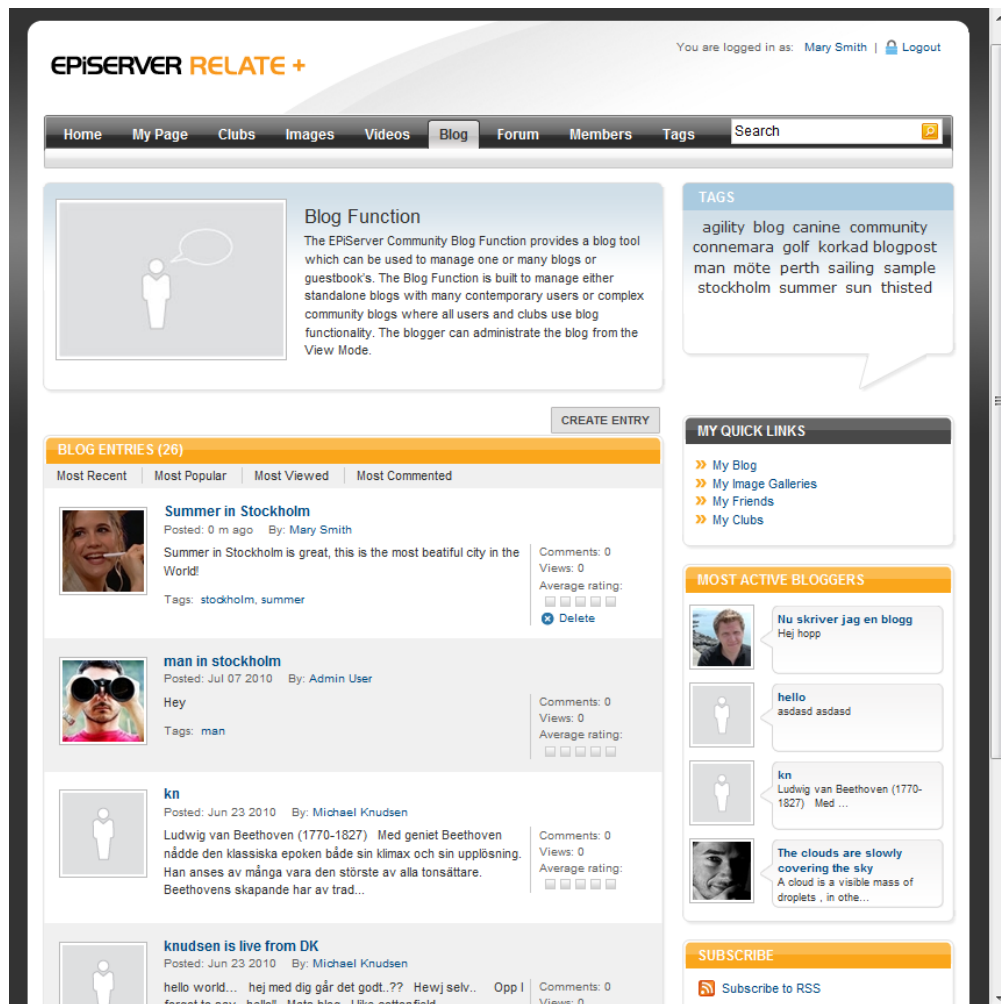
The EPiServer Relate **Member** function serves as a foundation for the user's personal page and provides a fast and easy way to aggregate content from other functions. Information about a single community user is contained on the **MyPage** view. The **Members** section in EPiServer Relate displays information about members of the community. Here users can find other members and connect with them. The main page in EPiServer Relate shows recent members and also provides possibility to view members alphabetically or find most viewed members of the community.



Blogs

The EPiServer Relate **Blog** function provides a blog tool which can be used to manage one or many blogs or guestbooks on a website or within a community. Under **Blogs** on the start page in EPiServer Relate, community members can create their own blogs and view other members blogs. The blogger administers the blog from View mode. The same rich text editor as in EPiServer CMS, is also used when you write blog posts. An image gallery will be created for each blog for storing images inserted into blogs. The blog function is built to manage either standalone blogs with many contemporary users, or complex community blogs where all users, clubs, and experts use blog functionality. Included in the EPiServer Relate blog feature is the administrator user interface, as well as extension possibilities to other Community functions.

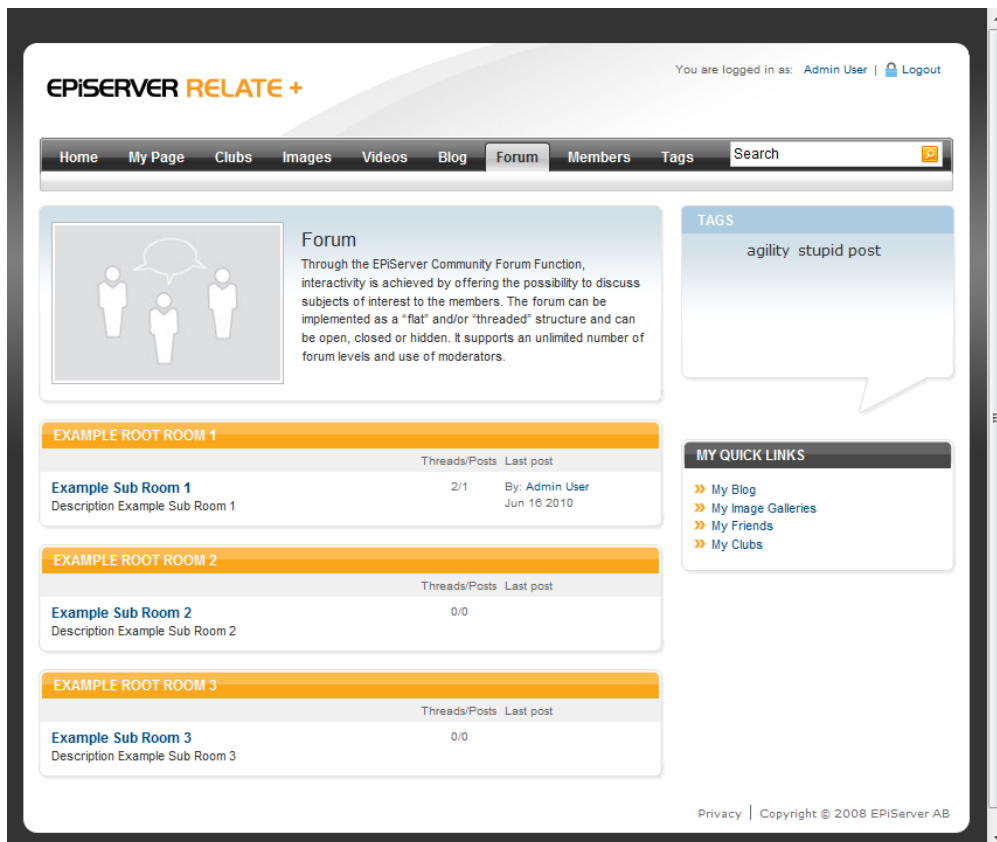
The MetaWeblog API is supported, which means that you can use your favorite blog application, such as iBlogger for the iPhone or Live Writer for Windows, when creating or editing blog posts. The URL you should use is the URL to "My blog" for the specific user, for example, <http://relateurl.com/en/Blog/My-Blog/?userId=3>. Blogs can also be syndicated from other blog providers.



Forums

Through the EPiServer Relate **Forum** function, interactivity is achieved by offering the possibility to discuss subjects of interest to community members. Moderators as well as members can be granted enhanced administrative rights such as edit, move and delete topics, delete and lock discussions, place announcements, etc. The forum can be implemented as a “flat” and/or “threaded” structure and can be open, closed or hidden. An unlimited number of forum levels and use of moderators is supported, and it is also possible to add polls to forum topics.

As an example, you can have one or more “forums” [Club Forum and Travel Forum] on root level, and under each forum a structure of “rooms” [Europe, America, and, Africa etc]. There is no limit to how large the structure can be. In each room there can be one or more topics that can be set by administrators or users.



Roles and Functions

Refer to the *About EPiServer Relate* section for a definition of roles.

The EPiServer Relate Forum function provides all the necessary functionality to create easy-to-navigate forums.

As an administrator of a community you can see, search and manage all forums, rooms, topics and replies, within that community. Properties and security settings for users and moderators for a forum and/or rooms are easily set in the community Admin Interface.

Administrators can either manage forums from the built in Admin user interface for the Forum function, or together with users with minor administrator user rights, they can manage forums from “view” mode, if EPiServer Relate is implemented with that option. The Admin interface makes it easy to manage one or more forums with advanced structures of rooms and topics.

Clubs

The EPiServer Relate **Club** function contains all the necessary functionality to handle clubs in a community. Community members can join various clubs within the community and share a common interest. Each club has an event calendar, forums, image galleries and a “wall” for members to post club related content. The latest club functionality, administrator user interface, and extension possibilities to other community modules are included.

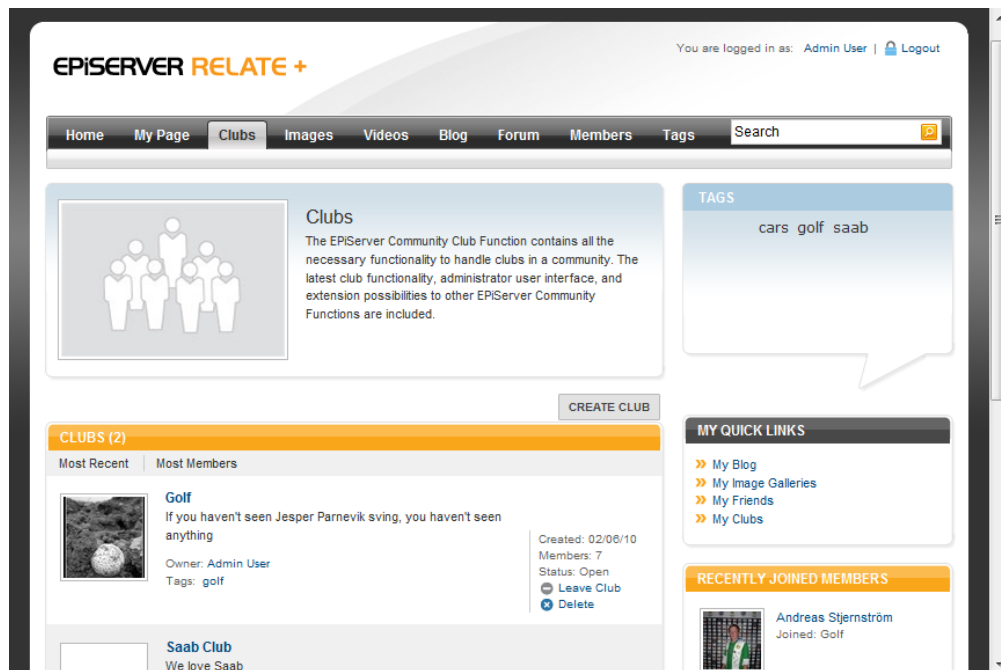
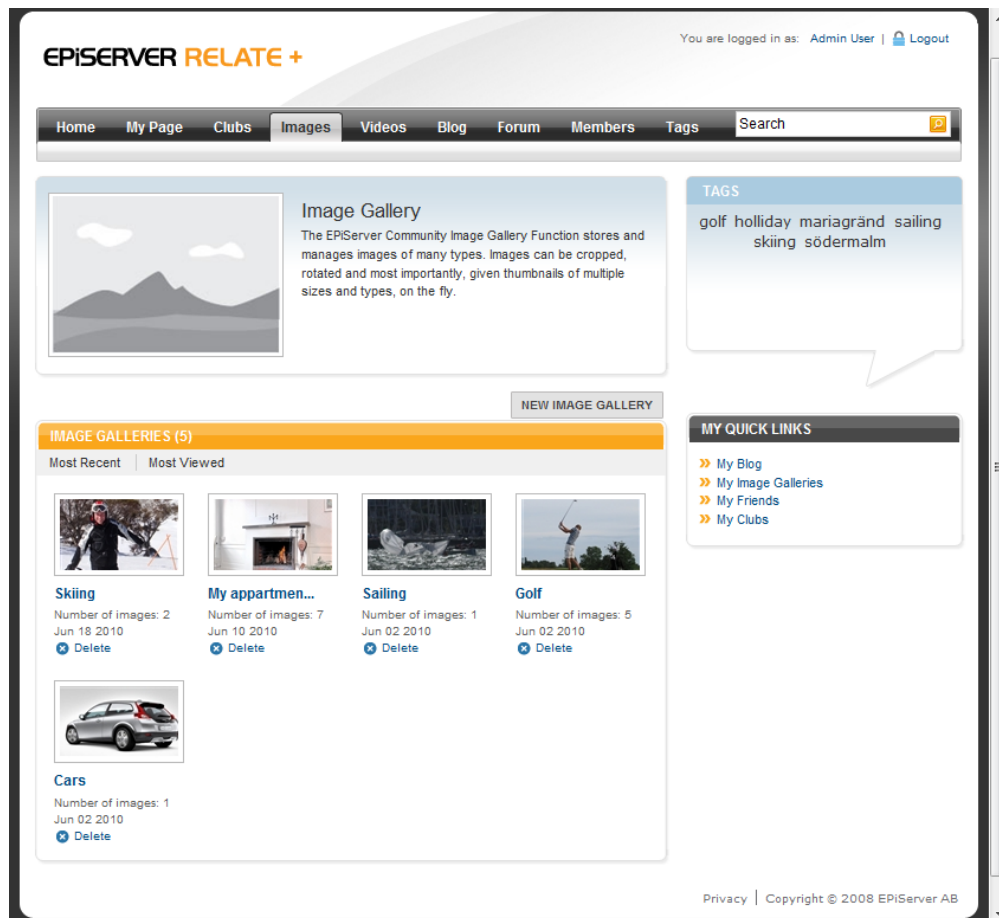


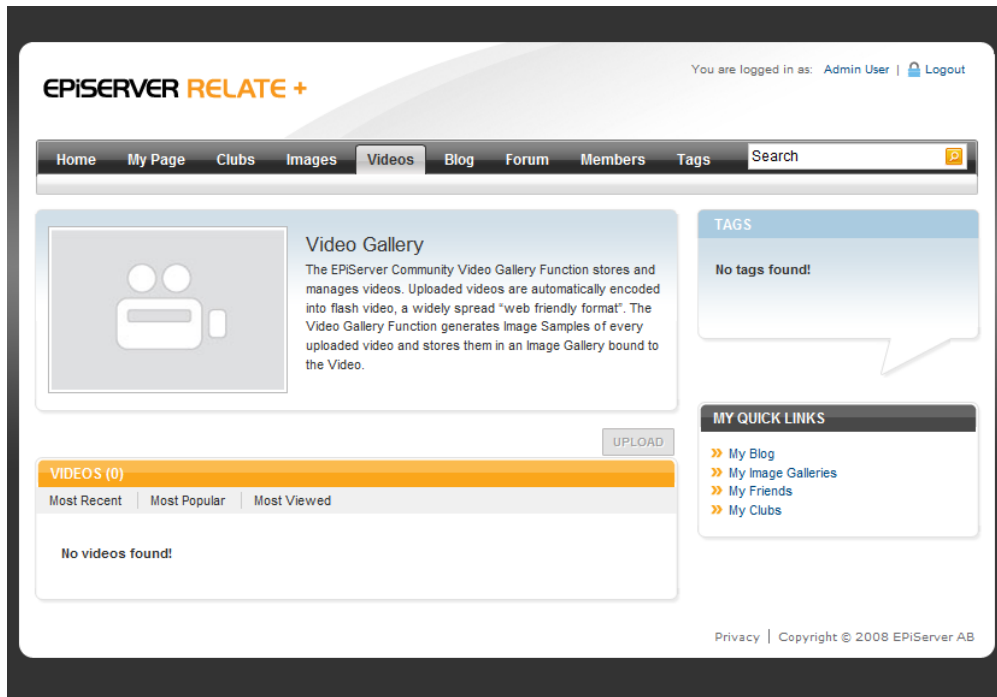
Image Gallery

The EPiServer Relate **Image Gallery** function stores and manages images of many types. Through image galleries community members can share images and members can create their own image galleries which will be displayed under the **Images** section of the start page in EPiServer Relate. Images can be cropped, rotated and most importantly, given thumbnails of multiple sizes and types, on the fly. Image galleries can be categorized and searched for from the images main page. Images are administered by members from View mode.



Video Gallery

The EPiServer Relate **Video Gallery** function stores and manages videos enabling community members to share their videos. Uploaded videos are automatically encoded into flash video, a widely spread “web friendly format”. Flash video provides fast, lightweight and platform independent playback. The Video Gallery function generates **Image Samples** of every uploaded video and stores them in an image gallery bound to the video, providing a fast overview of the video, while saving performance and bandwidth. The functionality resembles that of the image galleries. Community members can upload videos, and other members can rate and comment the videos. Videos are administered by members from View mode.



Content Delivery Network

A content delivery network (CDN) is required in order to use the Video Gallery Function.

The following file types are supported:

Container files	AVI, MOV, MKV, ASF, MP4, 3GP
Video Codecs	DivX, Xvid, H.264, WMV, MPEG2, MSMPEG4, Sorensen
Audio Codecs	MP3, AAC, WMA, AC3

Roles and Functions

Refer to the *About EPiServer Relate* section for a definition of roles.

With the EPiServer Relate Video Gallery function it's easy for developers to handle videos on your community. Everywhere videos are used, users will have access to the powerful features of the Video Gallery function.

Contests

Contests are popular in communities, providing a method to activate community members and create a more dynamic and interactive community. The EPiServer Relate **Contest** function contains all functionality necessary to start and administer contests in a community and can handle questions with single and multiple alternatives as well as plain text answers.

Messaging

The EPiServer Relate **Messaging/Contact** function contains all necessary functionality for managing contacts and messaging between members, and between administrators and members. Included is functionality for adding, removing and editing contacts as well as managing incoming and outgoing requests. Depending on settings or implementation, contacts can be added directly or must be approved by the requested user. The function also provides functionality for sending direct messages to contacts and provides a visual representation of how you are connected to your friends via the **Connection Link** feature.

Calendar

The EPiServer Relate **Calendar** function provides all necessary functionality for creating calendar events, inviting users to the event, accepting invitations and keeping track of the number of attendees. The events can be either unique or recurring. Moderators can search for calendars and edit their events. The events display the basic event information as well as invitations and registrations.

Expert

The EPiServer Relate **Expert** function lets community members ask questions within a specific or general categories, receiving an answer from an expert. The expert can be an external expert or a community member. An external expert gains access to the site by a unique expert ID, which can be provided as a part of a link in an e-mail with the question. Experts can be assigned to a specific site or they can answer questions from any site within the community. Site administrators can review questions and answers before they are published, and the users can rate the answers.

The **Member Expert** is a member of the community, who can be easily distinguished from other users after login, this way a different user interface can be created for the Member Expert users, e.g. to display the list of questions assigned to them, and allow them to create answers. The Expert function provides superior expert functionality, administrator user interface and can be extended with other EPiServer Relate community functions.

Poll

Polls is a useful way of enhancing community interactivity and creating dynamic sites. The EPiServer Relate **Poll** function consists of a powerful poll administration tool, with a web user interface, that is used by administrators to manage polls. Moderators start and administer polls that community members can participate in.

The interface includes creation, activating/deactivating and monitoring of polls, as well as a poll software library, which enables web application developers to utilize the polls on the community websites, and with extension possibilities to other EPiServer Relate community functions. The Poll function provides full-featured polls, with ability to control all the aspects of poll creation and management, including poll visibility timeframes, ordering of choices and viewing of votes for each choice.

Campaigns

Campaigns, also known as viral marketing, are a way for communities to attract more members. The EPiServer Relate **Campaign** function provides a tool for creating campaigns and referrals in a community. The Campaign function keeps track of invitations and invitations that have led to an actual membership. Moderators can easily create, modify and remove campaigns.

Groups

Work more closely by using groups as collaboration areas where you share all related information as well as updates around specific tasks. In the EPiServer Relate community **Group** function, the groups are easily configured, can be open to all or private for a specific group, and can contain the following parts: notice board, file and image sharing, discussion forum with polls, news, calendar.

General Functions

This section describes general functions available as an integrated part of EPiServer Relate.

The following functions are described:

- **Feeds (News Feeds and RSS/Atom)**
- **OpenID**
- **Search**
- **Syndication**
- **Access Rights**
- **Status System**
- **Owner System**
- **Cache**
- **Personalization**

These functions are described in more detail in the following.

Feeds

RSS and ATOM

Sharing and collecting information should be easy. All information within the community can be shared using a built in web service together with the open standards RSS and Atom. This means that you can subscribe to updates in an RSS reader or integrate with an external system using the Atom feeds.

When content can be shared in EPiServer Relate, you will see a "Subscribe" box. The following content can be shared:

- News feed and Mini feed.
- Blog entries and blog entry comments.
- Forum topics and forum topic replies.



News Feeds

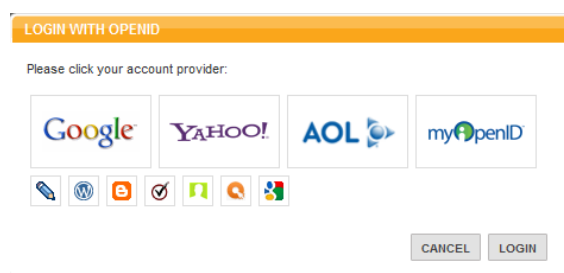
The EPiServer Relate community platform has a built in real time feed function that lets you stay up to date with all the things that matters, for instance on an intranet. By filtering the feed you can choose to only see activity from colleagues with the same role as you or activity in a specific project you're member of.

The news feed is built up of "stories". A story contains an action, actor(s) and target(s). For example: "Joe commented on Jeff's blog". "Joe" is the actor, "commented" is the action and "Jeff's blog" is the target. The news feed automatically aggregates actions that are tied to the same actor/target, similar to Facebook.

News feeds can be generated for a particular user showing the stories for all friends, or for a particular target (commonly used to generate a news feed for a particular group/club).

OpenID

If you are a member of several communities, it can be a hassle to manage all your online identities. EPiServer Relate therefore supports for **OpenID**, when signing up or signing in to a community built using EPiServer Relate. Select a provider among the options, enter your login credentials and you will be logged in to the website.



You can use any OpenID provider, for example Google or Yahoo, when signing up or signing in to a community built using EPiServer Relate. When registering is easy, the barrier to start making comments on CMS articles, rate blog posts, etc, becomes lower. OpenID is supported for authenticating users.

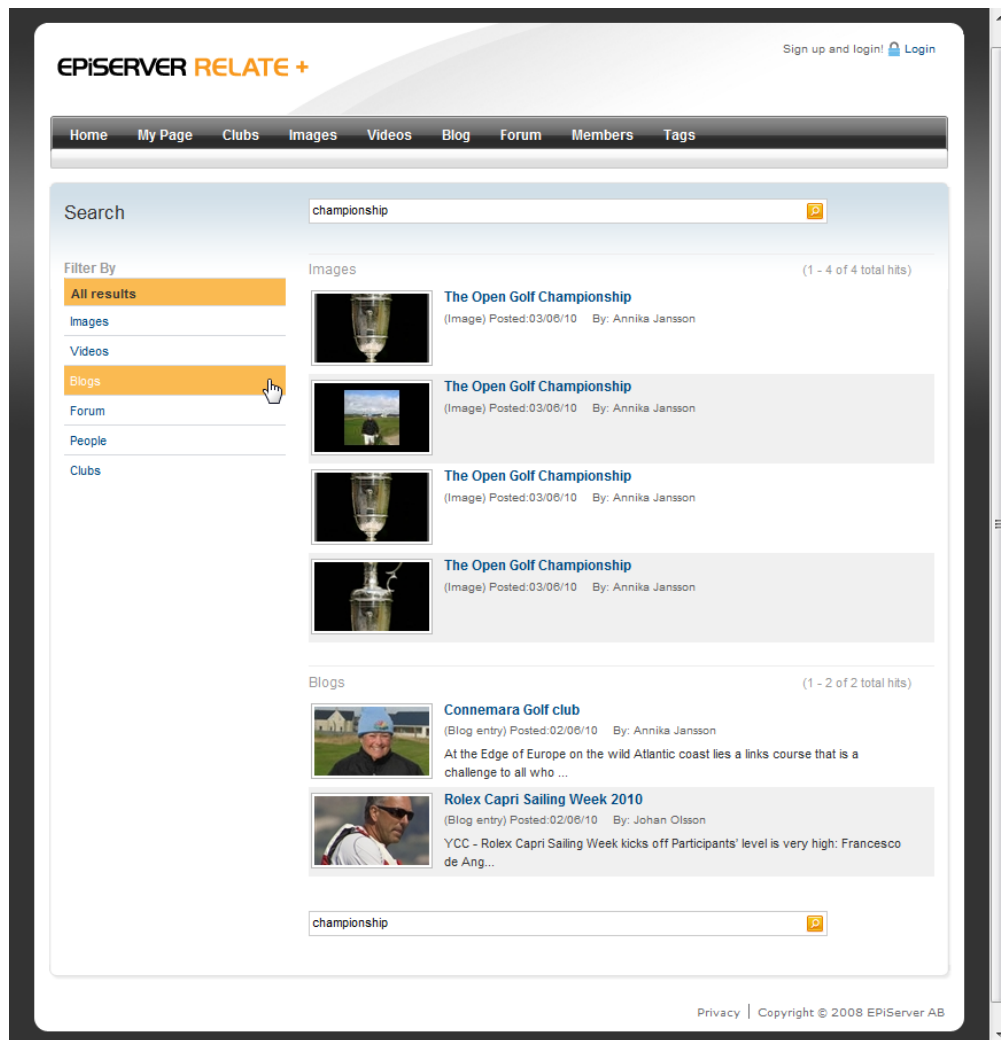
Search

Introduction

The EPiServer Relate templates sample site uses search functionality based on the search engine **Lucene** which is part of the **EPiServer Framework**. The following content types can be configured to be indexed:

- Blog entries and comments
- Clubs and content within clubs
- Forum topics and replies
- Images and image comments
- Members
- Videos and video comments
- Articles and files created by content editors

Search results can be filtered based on the types above.



The search also handles access rights. For example, in a search result list you will find content within closed clubs only if you're a member of that particular club. Only approved content will be indexed. Tags are not included in the search.

Feature Summary

In the following you will find a summary of the EPiServer Search functionality.

- **Global search** across all community content with supports for facets.
- **Static facets:**
 - Categories and types.
 - Define which facets you want to filter on.
- **Event driven indexing:**
 - Instead of crawling the entire HTML of the site, you push the content you'd like to index to the search service, which supports good performance.
- **Index any type of content:**
 - Out of the box full text search on all content.

- In the EPiServer Relate templates, you can see how the different content types (blogs, forums etc.) are configured for indexing, and which fields are defined for indexing (heading, summary etc.)
- The search index can be extended to **include results from external systems** using the search web service and an open protocol based on Atom.
- The search results are **filtered based on access rights**. As an example, this ensures that users can only search within closed clubs that they are members of.
- **Built-in filtering to limit the search results** to only include the type of content you're after: blogs, forums, club, etc.
- The search API is similar to the **Lucene API**, which is used by the search service.
- The **search service is pluggable**, meaning that you can replace Lucene with another index and still use the same API for searching on the client.
- **Stemming** on English, provides the same support as Lucene.
- Possibility to use **instant search**, meaning that the most important information is shown as you type, for example a phone number if you are searching for a colleague on an intranet.

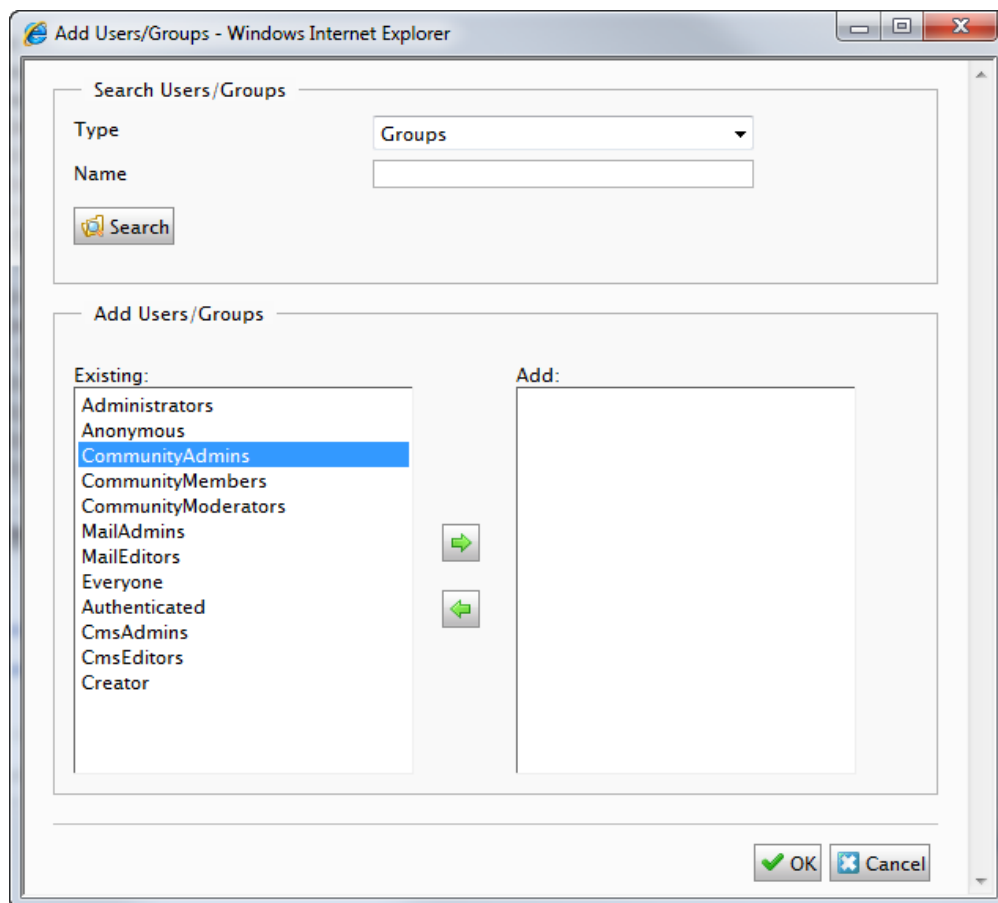
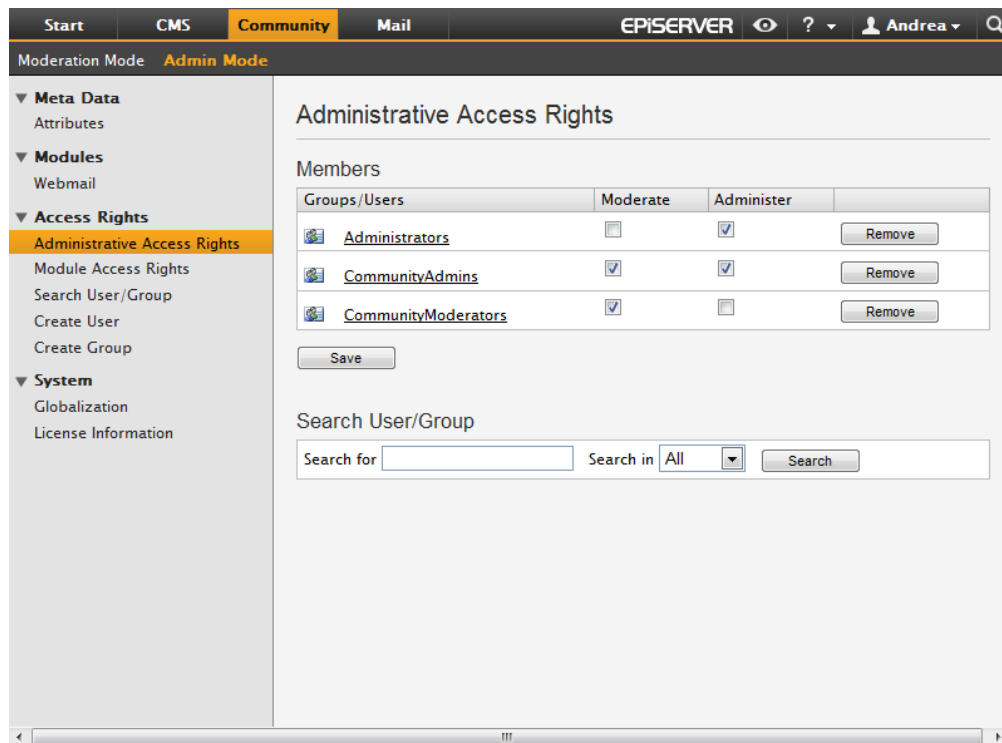
Syndication

The blogging experience is a key factor in every community. The many blog extension features including **syndication**, makes EPiServer Relate a fully-fledged blog engine. Blogs can be syndicated from other sources like for instance Wordpress.

Access Rights

Access rights in EPiServer Relate can be set on all content in the community, both editorial content and community generated content. The search in EPiServer Relate considers the access rights to make sure each member only gets to see the information he/she is allowed to. As a community administrator, you can also give community members moderation access rights for instance to moderate a forum. Community access right management is done from the community administration interface.

Access rights on editorial content (pages in the page tree structure) are managed from the EPiServer CMS Admin mode. The access right management in EPiServer Relate is completely integrated, so that you will find the same users and groups both in the CMS Admin mode as well as in the community administration interface.



It is possible for developers to create a multilayered community with different accessibility by the use of different access levels and groups.

Status System

The **Status** system is used in different ways to show the status of content. As an example, images, comments and videos can be in states approved, pending, or deleted.

All entity types have a common set of possible states: Pending, Approved and Removed. The status system makes it possible to moderate all content on the site and set up different rules regarding which content that needs to be approved by a moderator before shown on the site.

The status system is also used by the **community approval gadget**, which is used by the community moderator to approve for instances images, comments or videos before they are published. To find out more about gadgets in EPiServer Relate, please refer to the *Gadget* section of this documentation.

Owner System

The **Owner** system in EPiServer Relate, makes it possible to associate modules with other modules, similar to *Custom Attributes*. The purpose of the Owner system is to ensure that everything an entity owns is deleted when the actual entity is deleted.

Cache

EPiServer Relate has a function called the **Explicit Cache Time Expiration**. Overloads for a number of methods with the possibility to set an explicit time for cache expiration. This is useful in cases where the cache otherwise would expire very often (like in the visits system) and where some latency is acceptable.

Personalization

The **Personalization** feature in EPiServer Relate makes it possible to target content for different visitor groups, providing a more personal website experience. Personalization criteria for community members are included in EPiServer Relate. This makes it possible to target content to community members based on their profile information. The profile criteria can be used in combination with EPiServer CMS, for instance to display adapted content to a selected group.

The screenshot displays the 'Create Visitor Group' interface in EPiServer Relate. The top navigation bar includes 'Start', 'CMS', 'Community', and 'Mail', with 'EPISERVER' and a user profile 'Mary Smith' on the right. Below the navigation bar, the 'Visitor Groups' section is active. The main content area is titled 'Create Visitor Group' and includes a help icon. A subtitle reads: 'Adapt content on your website by first creating visitor groups and then using the groups to target the content on pages.' The interface is divided into several sections: 'Criteria' with a 'Match' dropdown set to 'All' and a 'Drop new criterion here' placeholder; 'User Attribute' dropdown menu showing a list of attributes including 'LivesIn' (highlighted); 'Other Information' with fields for 'Name', 'Notes', 'Security role', and 'Statistics'; 'Community Criteria' with a 'User Attribute' button; 'Site Criteria' with buttons for 'Time and Place Criteria', 'URL Criteria', and 'Visitor Groups'; and a 'Save' button at the bottom right.

The profile criteria can easily be updated to be used by EPiServer CMS editors, as well as for creating mailing lists in EPiServer Mail. Find out more about personalization in the user documentation for EPiServer CMS.

Using Personalization

Whenever you add an attribute to the profile information for a member, for example “role” or “age”, this can be used as a personalization criteria. For example, let's say you'd like to give all members living in Stockholm that have a Gold Card a special offer on the front page. This can be done using the profile criterion in combination with EPiServer CMS. The power of the profile criterion is that a partner can easily add for example information about member level (bronze, silver, gold) and it can immediately be used by editors throughout EPiServer CMS, as well as for creating mailing lists in EPiServer Mail.

Gadgets

A **gadget** is a small application which is available from the **Dashboard** in **EPiServer OnlineCenter**. A number of gadgets are shipped out-of-the box with each EPiServer product.

You can use some of the gadgets with iPhone and iPad, see *EPiServer Mobile Center*.

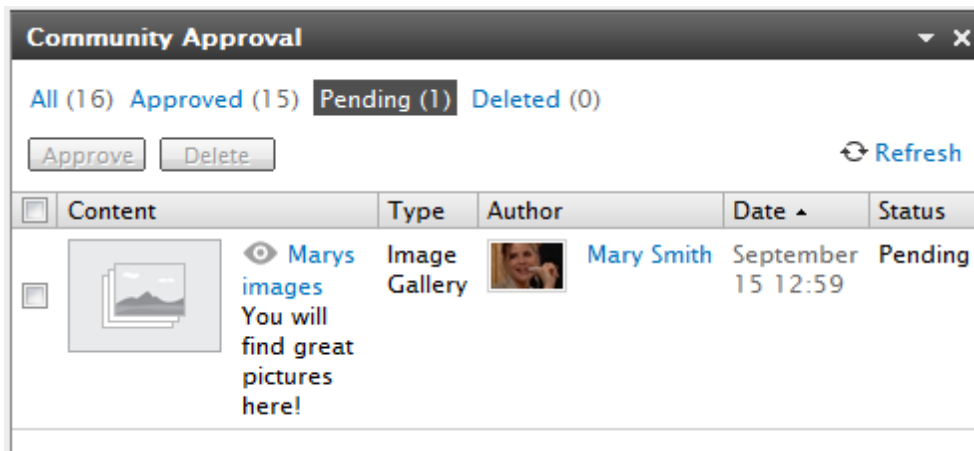
You can also develop and customize your own gadgets to suit your needs, see *EPiServer World*.

For general information about gadgets and how to use them, see the *user documentation for EPiServer CMS on EPiServer World*.

Gadgets in EPiServer Relate

Community Approval Gadget

The Community Approval gadget makes enables EPiServer Relate community administrators to approve community content that has been added by community members. Depending of the setup of the community, you can define the type of content that should be subject to approval. The gadget provides an overview of the approval status, and you can view, approve or delete content from here.



Community Abuse Report Gadget

The Community Abuse Report gadget enables EPiServer Relate community administrators to manage abuse reports that have been created by community members. Depending of the setup of the community, you can define the type of content that should be subject to abuse reporting. The gadget provides an overview of the abuse reporting status, and you can view and manage abuse reports from here.

Community Abuse Report

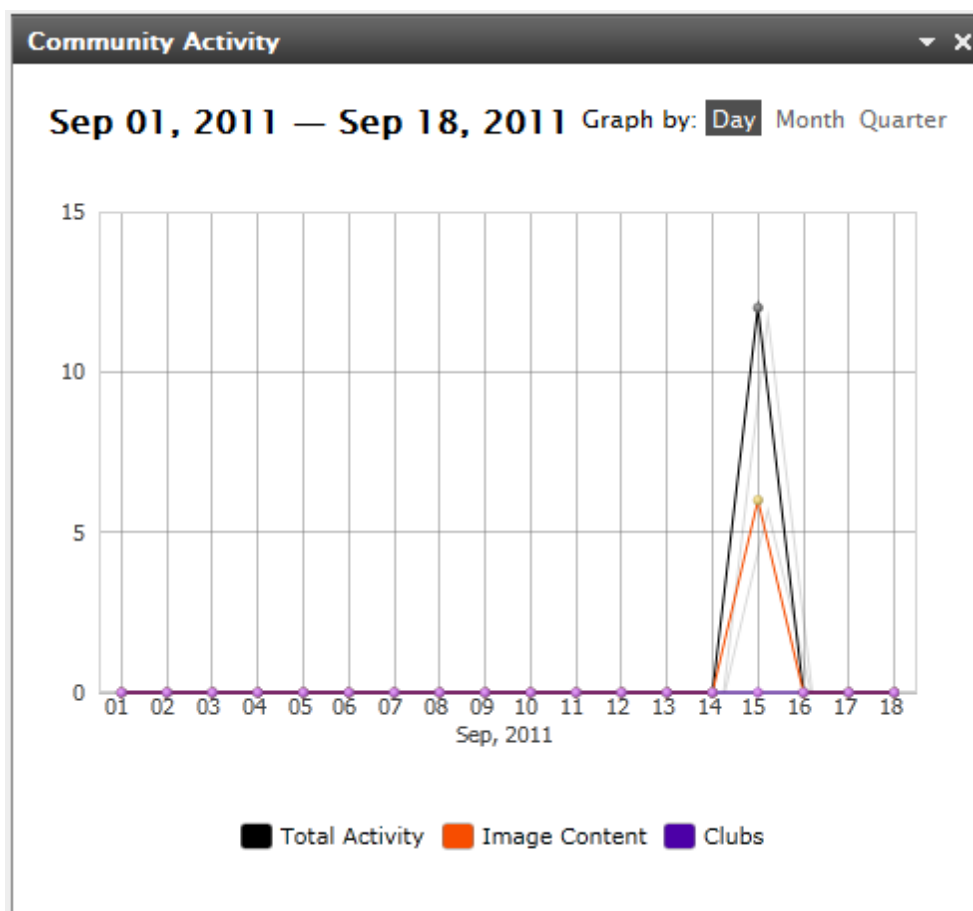
All (1) **New (1)** Handled (0) Ignored (0)

Mark Handled Ignore

Content	Type	Abuse Reports	Report Date	Status
<input type="checkbox"/> 	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Kids Image	Reports (1)  John Brown I don't like this at all!	September 15 13:09	New

Community Activity Gadget

The Comment Activity Report gadget enables EPiServer Relate community administrators and website owners to get a graphical overview of the community activity. You can define the community segments and time intervals for which you want to monitor the activity.



Common Questions

In this section you will find a number of commonly asked questions regarding the functionality of EPiServer Relate and the customization and extension possibilities available when creating your community website with EPiServer Relate.

Interactivity, Connecting and Sharing

How can community members connect with each other using their profile information?

The **News Feed** function can be used for discovery. It is possible to get the closest connection between two users. **Dynamic Queries** makes it possible to construct search queries that for example find common interests between users.

Read more: see *Feeds* and *Dynamic Queries* in this documentation.

How can community members share blog posts, images, links and forum topics with other community members and members outside the community (like Facebook share)?

Internal sharing is usually done through the **News Feed** function. For external sharing, a 3rd party service is required.

Read more: see *Feeds* in this documentation.

How can community members subscribe to an RSS feed for a forum that is within a club?

You can subscribe to all content using the **RSS/Atom** service. Access rights on RSS feeds are hardly used since most RSS clients don't support it. RSS is mostly used for sharing between data between systems.

Read more: see *Feeds* in this documentation.

How can community members rate forum content, topics, and replies?

In EPiServer Relate, rating is supported for all types of content, and can easily be implemented and extended.

Read more: see *Rating* and in this documentation and the *Relate User Guide* for examples.

How can a forum topic be marked as “answered”?

This can easily be done by using the **Attribute** system and add a flag to the forum entity.

Read more: see *Custom Attributes* in this documentation.

How can community members attach files to different types of user-generated content?

This can be done by using the **Attribute** system and connecting to a VPP (Virtual Path Provider) in EPiServer CMS for example.

Read more: see *Custom Attributes* in this documentation and the *EPiServer CMS SDK*.

How can community administrators and members invite other members to the community?

This is done through basic customization. Using the **Campaign** module, you can build a viral marketing function of the type "recruit 5 members and you are awarded with 10 dollars".

Read more: see *Campaigns* in this documentation.

Creating Content

Is there a Rich Text editor that allows for clean pasting by community members from other sources such as MS Word?

The powerful TinyMCE editor used in EPiServer CMS, is also used by default in the **Blogs** function in EPiServer Relate. This editor has a "paste from Word" option with a built-in HTML filter, making it easy to strip out unwanted tags.

Read more: see *Blogs* in this documentation and the *EPiServer CMS user documentation*.

When you create a blog, where is it displayed and how do you associate it with for instance a user or a club?

This is dependent on the templates used. In the EPiServer Relate templates, users and clubs have predefined blogs that will be displayed. The templates will display the content, and you use the **Attribute** or **Owner** system, to associate different community items with each other. You can for instance associate an image gallery to all blogs.

Read more: see *Attributes* and *Owner System* in this documentation, and the *Relate User Guide* for examples.

Customizing the User Experience

Is it possible for community members to customize their specific time zone?

This can be done by setting an **Attribute** that is used whenever a date is shown for that user.

Read more: see *Custom Attributes* in this documentation.

Presence Awareness

Is it possible for community members to see who else is logged on in the community?

Yes, this is done using the `OnlineStatusHandler`.

Community Administration

Is it possible to set customized, role-based permissions that apply to every level of the platform, communities, groups, content types, as well as view and create/edit?

You can set very granular access rights on all content if desired. The EPiServer Relate templates as well as the Search function will filter according to access rights so that community members only see the content they have access rights to.

Read more: see *Access Rights* in this documentation and the *EPiServer CMS user documentation*.

Is it possible to turn off comments for specific community entities or types of community entities, for instance blogs or images?

In EPiServer Relate this is done by the use of a page property for the pages in EPiServer CMS. This can easily be added to all entities using a settings page (data container) in EPiServer CMS.

Read more: see the *Relate User Guide* for examples.

How do you grant/deny a community member access to a particular forum that is associated with a club?

This can be done by the use of a page property for the pages in EPiServer CMS. However, remember that clubs are normally used to simplify access rights management and have less administration.

Extending EPiServer Relate

What are the possibilities to extend the out-of-the-box features?

Using *Custom Attributes* all available can be extended with additional fields and connections. Custom modules can be written which will be treated “first class citizens” within the EPiServer Relate Framework, with the possibility to rate and comment them.

The strength of EPiServer Relate is the extensive and powerful customization possibilities. The EPiServer Relate templates have been created with the sole purpose to exemplify how different community functions can be implemented and reused to build new functionality with very little development time.

Read more: see the *Relate User Guide* for examples.