

Understanding the InstantForum.NET Web.config file

The Web.config file within the installation directory contains key application settings that may require updating before a v4.0 installation will function. The Web.Config file can be modified using any standard ASCII editor such as NotePad. Do NOT edit the web.config file with a WYSIWYG editor such as MS Word™. An overview of each key Web.Config element is provided below.

Application Settings

The <appSettings> element of the web.config file is used to stored key application settings. The database connection string application setting is dependent upon the environment, for instance, this will change as you move your forum from a testing and staging server into production.

```
<appSettings><!--The data provider to use for the application. --><!--Providers include
SqlClient, OLEDB, ODBC, Oracle, Currently only SqlClient is supported. --><add
key="InstantASP_DataProvider" value="SqlClient"/><!--VERY IMPORTANT!The connection string to
the data provider --><!--Please refer to "Step 4 : Editing The Web.Config" section of the
user guide for more information --><add key="InstantASP_ConnectionString"
value="server=localhost; Trusted_Connection=true;

database=InstantForumLive2;"/><!--The name of the owner for database objects --><add
key="InstantASP_DatabaseOwner" value="dbo"/><!--Virtual path to location of the XML based
configuration file defining file and folder names --><add key="InstantASP_PageData"
value="Pages.config"/><!--Interval in milliseconds to poll the InstantASP_Sessions table and
remove any expired data --><!--Example 300000 milliseconds polls the InstantASP_Sessions
table every 5 mins and removes expired session data --><!--The default value is to poll for
expired data every 1 minute i.e. every 60000 milliseconds --><add
key="InstantASP_SessionCleanUpInterval" value="60000"/><!--Interval in milliseconds to poll
the InstantASP_Emails table and send any queued emails --><!--Example 300000 milliseconds
polls the InstantASP_Emails table every 5 mins to send queued emails --><!--The default value
is to poll for emails every 1 minutes i.e. every 60000 milliseconds --><add
key="InstantASP_EmailInterval" value="60000"/><!--Determines which is method is used within
the application to log any exceptions that may occur --><!--Possible event log options are:
ToFile, ToEventLog Or ToEmail. To disable use None. --><!--If you choose ToFile exceptions
will be written to Exceptions.config within the installation root --><add
key="InstantASP_ExceptionLogMethod" value="ToEmail"/><!--Determines which email address is
used to send exception notifications to if the above --><!--InstantASP_ExceptionLogMethod
setting is set to ToEmail. --><add key="InstantASP_ExceptionEmailAddress"
value="errors@yourdomain.com"/><!--Period in seconds allowed for queries before they timeout,
if your performing a large --><!--job such as deleting a forum containing thousands of posts
and your receiving timeout --><!--exception errors this value may need to be increased to
allow the query to complete --><add key="InstantASP_CommandTimeout" value="120"/><!--Interval
in milliseconds to poll the built in tasks such as deleting temporary attachments,
--><!--deleting search results and deleting read forum and topic information, the custom
scheduled tasks --><!--within the InstantASP_ScheduledTasks table are also polled at this
interval --><add key="InstantASP_TaskInterval" value="60000"/><!--If you install
InstantForum.NET within a sub-folder of a IIS web application you will --><!--need to provide
the full virtual path from the root of your web application to the --><!--forum installation
```

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below, For example if you install the forum to a web application --><!--located at c:\test\
but you wanted to add the forum to c:\test\forums\myforum\--><!--you would modify the setting
below to read "forums/myforum" This indicates the --><!--virtual path from the web
application root, if you don't install the forum to the --><!--root of a web application
please ensure you move the bin directory and this web.config --><!--to your web applications
root directory, typically you can leave this blank, it is only --><!--required if you don't
install InstantForum.NET within the root of a IIS web application --><add
key="InstantASP_VirtualPath" value="/" /></appSettings>

HTTP Modules

The <httpModules> element of the web.config file configures the shared and forum specific HTTP modules. The HTTP modules defined all provide services like authentication and authorization, task management, email polling, exception handling and more. These modules are very important in order for InstantForum.NET to operate correctly. These should always be included within the web.config like so...

```
<system.web>

<!--VERY IMPORTANT! Required HttpModules --><!--These must be included in your web.config for
the application to function correctly. -->

<httpModules>

<!--HttpModule used to manage user authentication --><add
type="InstantASP.Common.HttpModule.SecurityModule, InstantASP.Common" name="SecurityModule"/>

<!--HttpModule used to perform dynamic URL rewriting --><add
type="InstantASP.Common.HttpModule.RewriterModule, InstantASP.Common" name="RewriterModule"/>

<!--HttpModule used to manage general tasks within all InstantASP applications --><add
type="InstantASP.Common.HttpModule.ServiceModule, InstantASP.Common" name="ServiceModule"/>

<!--HttpModule used to manage application generated emails --><add
type="InstantASP.Common.HttpModule.EmailModule, InstantASP.Common" name="EmailModule"/>

<!--HttpModule used to monitor and handle any application exceptions --><add
type="InstantASP.Common.HttpModule.ExceptionModule, InstantASP.Common"
name="ExceptionModule"/>

<!--HttpModule used to manage scheduled tasks specific to InstantForum.NET --><add
type="InstantASP.InstantForum.HttpModule.ForumModule, InstantASP.InstantForum"
name="ForumModule"/>

</httpModules>

</system.web>
```

InstantASP Support Center

<http://kb.instantasp.co.uk/Documentation/Understanding-the-InstantForum.NET-Web.config-file>