



Blog Roll



User Manual

Version 1.0

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1 Introduction

The Blog Roll web part aggregates blog posts from multiple SharePoint blogs and displays them in a single location.

Blogging is an explosively popular social phenomenon that is now making its mark in the enterprise world. The Blog Roll web part enables the enterprise to promote blogs that would otherwise be hidden away in Team Sites and My Sites.

Aggregate blogs across multiple site collections and web applications in your SharePoint farm to increase exposure of blog posts. Encourage knowledge sharing by distributing blog posts across multiple communities and actively sponsor individual value.

Key features:

- Aggregate blog posts from multiple SharePoint blog sites
- Display the post title linked to the blog post
- Display a summary of the blog post and limit the number of words in the summary text
- Display the author of the post with a link to their user profile (My Site)
- Display the author's profile photo and set the size of the photo
- Display the total number of comments for each blog post linked to the comments section
- Sort posts by published date, created date or modified date
- Filter by blog category
- Limit the number of blog posts displayed in the web part
- Customise the look and feel using custom styles or have the web part pick up the site theme
- Display/hide the default "welcome" blog post

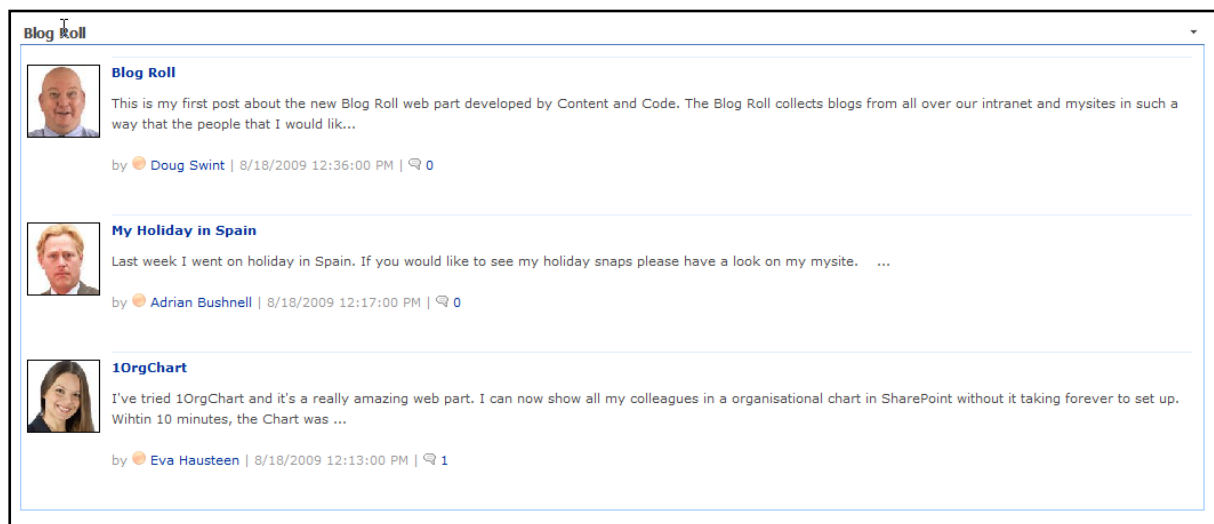


Figure 1 – Blog Roll

This user manual is intended for SharePoint Users who want to use the Blog Roll web part on their SharePoint sites.

2 Adding the Blog Roll web part

To add the Blog Roll web part to a page select edit page on the page where you want to add the web part.

Select **Add a Web Part** where you would like the Blog Roll web part to appear.

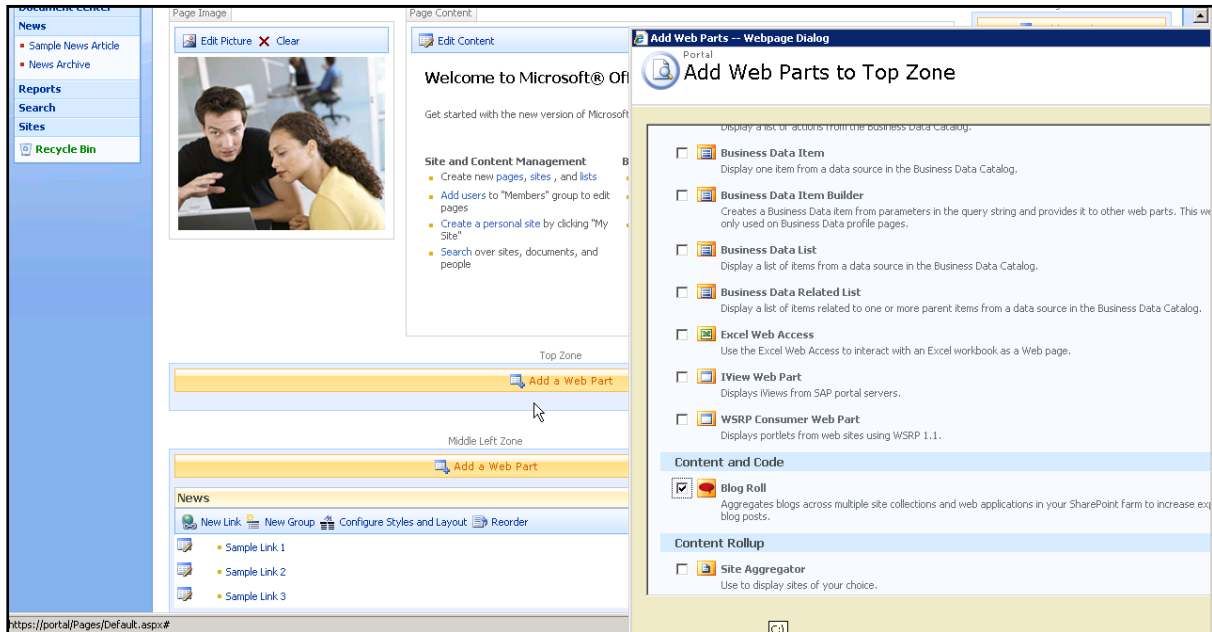


Figure 2 adding a web part

Select **Blog Roll** from the Content and Code section and Click on **Add**.

The web part will now appear with a message *"There are no blog posts to display."*

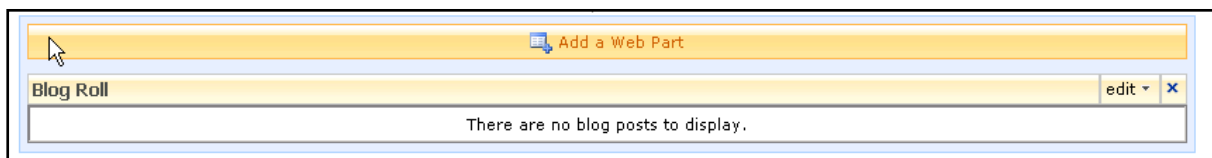
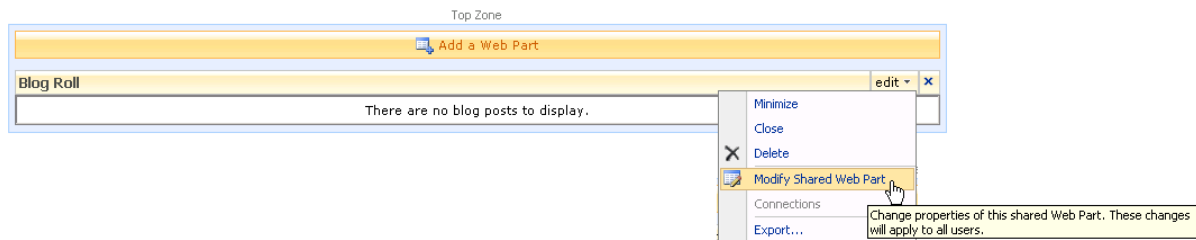


Figure 3 the Blog Roll Web Part

3 Configuring the Blog Roll web part

To configure the Blog Roll web part select **Modify Shared Web Part** from the **edit** menu.



Open the Blog Roll Options

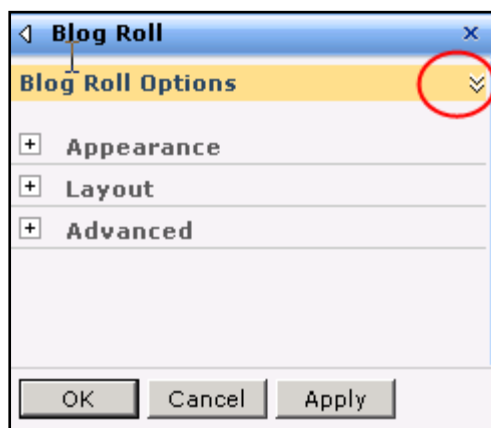


Figure 4 Blog Roll configuration options

3.1 Query

To receive blog posts in your Blog Roll web part a Query will need to be configured.

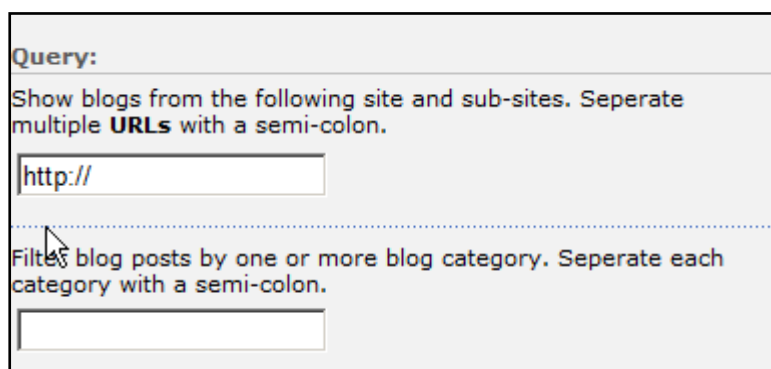


Figure 5 Query options

Configure one or more URLs where blog posts should be collection from. Possible options would be:

Example

<http://portal>;<http://mysite>

Blog posts can be filtered by specifying categories to be displayed in the Blog Roll web part.

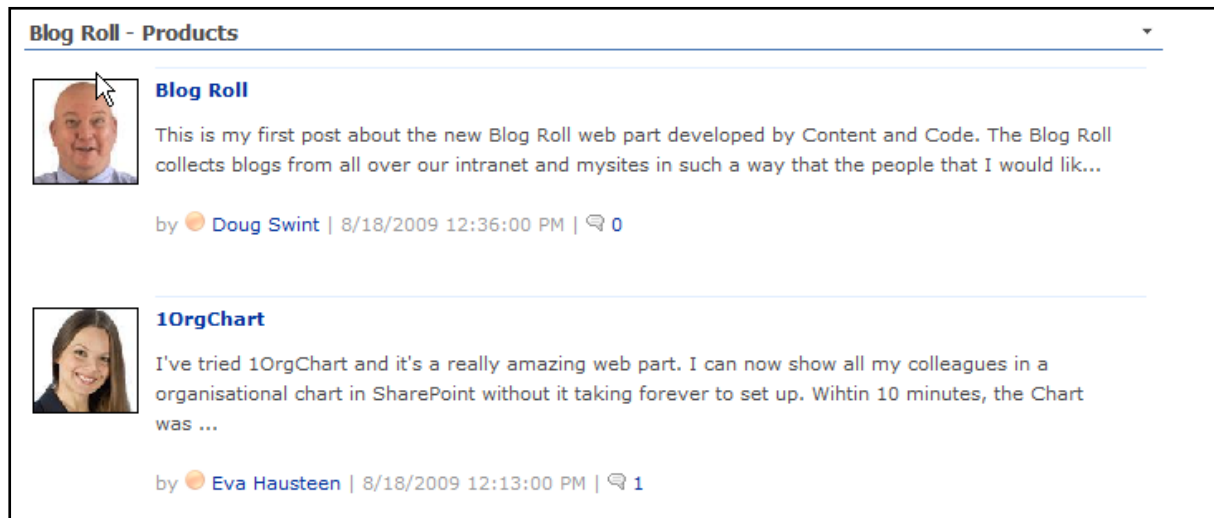


Figure 6 - Product related blogs only

3.2 Presentation

Blog Posts can be presented in different order. Posts can be ordered by Published Date, Post Category and Title both in ascending and descending order.

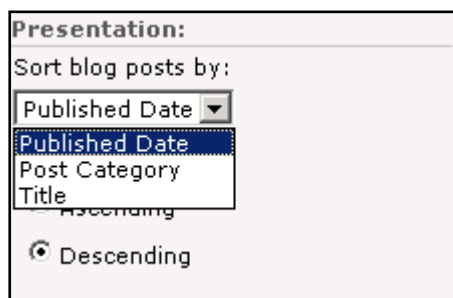


Figure 7 Presentation options

3.3 Blog post limit

By specifying a Blog post limit, the user can limit the number of posts shown in the Blog Roll Web Part.

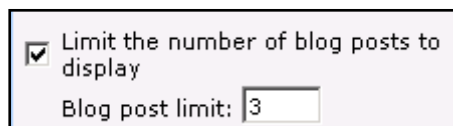


Figure 8 Blog post limit

3.4 Post Formatting options

The way Blog Roll displays posts can be configured by specifying

- The number of characters shown for each post.
- To display author's picture or not
- The size of the author's picture

- To display the categories or not
- To use custom XSL for the web part
- To Display Welcome messages or not

For each aggregated blog post:

☒ Display a summary of the blog post
Summary limit: characters

☒ Display the author's picture
Picture size: pixels (width)

☐ Display the blog categories

☐ Use custom XSL
Custom XSL location:

☒ Display the default "Welcome" blog posts

Using the above options posts can be configured to like this:



Figure 9 Example post

3.4.1 Custom XSL

An example of a custom xsl can be found in:

C:\Program Files\Common Files\Microsoft Shared\Web Server Extensions\12\TEMPLATE\LAYOUTS\CcBlogRoll\Style

3.5 RSS Feed

RSS Feeds can be enabled.

When The Enable feed for this web part has been enabled the RSS feed icon will appear on the Blog Roll web part.

Feed:

☐ Enable feed for this web part

Feed title:

Feed description:



Figure 10 - RSS icon in Blog Roll

When you click on the RSS icon the following page will appear.

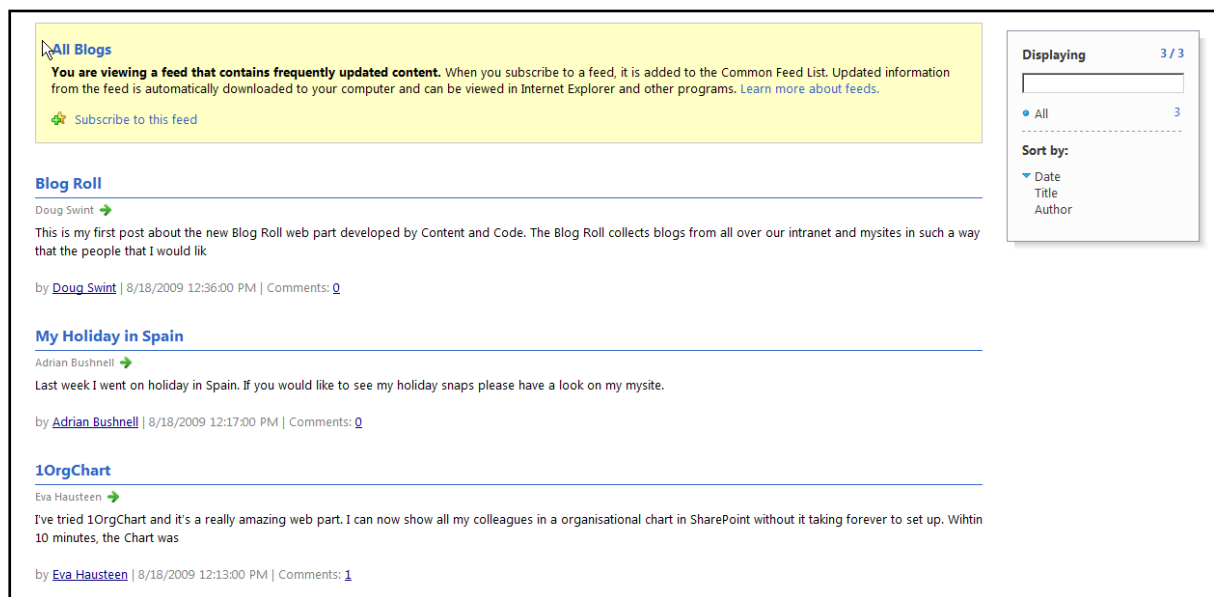


Figure 11 - RSS feed from blog