

# LiveJournal Communities

These notes are designed for students or staff who want to use LiveJournal blogging software to create a Community. A community blog allows a blog for entries to be made by all members of that community. It combines some advice from the LiveJournal FAQ section. It covers the following specific areas:

1. **What is a Community**
2. **Creating a Community**
3. **Managing a Community**

**Note:** Please refer to the accompanying document **LiveJournal - Blogging & Blog Readers**.

## 1. What is a Community?

A LiveJournal community is a Blog or journal, where many users post entries about a similar topic. Users who are interested in a particular subject or topic can find or create a community for this. After you join a community, you can post comments or entries to the community.

**Note:** A community still requires each member of that community to have an individual LiveJournal account. And you require a personal account in order to start a community.

## Why is a community different from personal journal?

- Comments and entries in a community account are posted by other personal accounts.
- Community accounts can neither post comments or entries, nor join other communities (though members of the community can).
- If you have email notifications enabled and you post an entry in a community, you will receive email notifications for comments posted in reply to that entry.
- Email notifications of all community comments cannot be sent to the community's email address or the maintainer, unless it is an moderated community (See **Manage Communities > Administrative Options**).

## LiveJournal Users:

- **Maintainers:** A community always has at least one maintainer and may have multiple maintainers. Maintainers use their own user accounts to supervise a community, control its settings and Community Info, and perform other administrative functions.
- **Moderators:** A community will have one or more moderators if a maintainer has turned on moderated posting. Maintainers are usually moderators too. In most communities with moderated posting, a moderator must approve your entries before they are posted.
- **Members:** A community typically has at least one member, who has joined the community. Members, not watchers, can see the community's Members-only entries.
- **Watchers:** A community typically has at least one watcher, who has friended the community. Watchers, not members, can see the community's entries on their Friends page.

## Security

- **Security:** Entries with Private or Custom security cannot be posted in a community. Since a community account's members are like a personal account's friends, Friends-only means Members-only, accessible only by community members.

## 2. Creating a Community

You can either create a completely new community or convert an existing journal into a community. With either method, begin by logging into your personal account. This account will be associated with the community as the "maintainer account", which means that you will have to be logged into this account to change community settings. Additionally, the username you select for your community must either be unregistered or belong to you as a personal account (i.e. you know its password).

- **Create a Community**
  1. Go to **Communities > Create New**
  2. The **Create New Community page** and enter a new username to create your community
  3. Define various membership, posting & moderation settings.
  4. Click on **Create Community**

## 3. Managing a Community

A new community will not have a password because it is not possible to log into community accounts. Instead of logging in, all administrative tasks can be done from the maintainer account at the **Manage Communities** page. Additionally, many LiveJournal pages have a Switch as user drop-down menu, which will allow you to modify the community's information and settings rather than your own.

### Adding Community Journal Entries

- **Posting an entry in a community**
  1. Before posting an entry in a community, you will need to join it, as posting access is usually granted with membership.
  2. You can then post to the community
  3. You can post an entry from any LiveJournal account. Remember to change the the **Post to:** drop-down menu at the top of your page to allow you to post your entry to either your own community or others (such as your journal)
  4. Use the Friends security level (at the bottom of the page: **Show this entry to:**) to post so that only members of the community can see your entry. Private or Custom cannot be used in a community.

### Adding users and granting posting access to a community

When creating a community, decide whether membership will be closed, moderated, or open, and whether all members will have posting access. You can edit community **settings** at the **Communities > Manage Communities > Settings** page. You can also invite users to the community.

- **Open Membership:** If your community gives posting access to All Members, you do not need to do anything to add users. These options allow any LiveJournal user to obtain membership in your community without seeking your approval. You can also allow anyone

to join via Open Membership, but grant Posting Access individually using the Members link on the **Manage Communities** page.

- **Moderated Membership:** Users must request membership by attempting to join. At the bottom of the **Manage Communities** page, you can select to be notified by email every time someone requests membership in a community you maintain, or you can choose only to be notified when you load the Community Management page. When you load the Community Management page and there are pending membership requests, you will see **Members pending** click on the *pending* link to reach a page where you can accept or reject these membership requests.
- **Closed Membership:** Only users you invite can join the community. No-one can join on their own.

## Inviting Users to Your Community

You can invite users to your community, which will allow them to accept or decline membership.

- **To invite users to your community**
  1. Go to the **Manage Communities** page
  2. Select the **Members** link for the appropriate community. If there is more than one page of members for the community, go to the last page.
  3. You will see blank spaces for the usernames you wish to invite.
  4. Entering their **usernames** and selecting the desired access levels (member, moderator, maintainer, posting access), click the "Update settings" button to add your community invitation to their Manage Community Invitations page.

Invited users will need to respond to the invitation from the Manage Community Invitations page within 30 days; otherwise, the invitation will expire. They will not receive an email informing them of the invitation only a notice within their LiveJournal account. You may wish to notify them by email, a LiveJournal comment, or a LiveJournal entry.

After sending invitations, you can go back to the Community Management page and select the appropriate Invitations link to view their status (accepted, declined, outstanding).

## Joining a Community

Alternatively LiveJournal users can select Join the Community if the community is not closed:

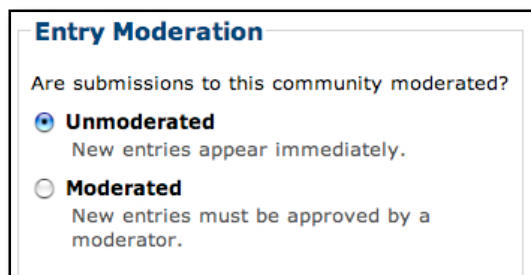
1. First log into LiveJournal
2. Next find the LiveJournal blog that you wish to join
3. Click on the Join Community button to request membership of that community

Under **Manage Communities > Members** there will be lists of LiveJournal users who have requested membership. These can be individually accepted or declined.

## Community Posting Restrictions

There are a variety of settings for restricting and controlling how members can post to the community. Look in the location: **Communities > Manage Communities > Settings**.

- **Entry Moderation:** This gives you choice as to whether you as Community Maintainer or



Moderator allow moderated (and approved) posting or unmoderated posting.

- **Member Posting Restrictions:** Allows a choice of having only certain member posting entries. This gives fine control of who can post if you require it. You may want to have several closed communities open to all members to read, but to have sub-groups who can only post to particular communities.
- **Non-member Posting Restrictions:** This allows you to choose whether non-members can post to your community. If you have a closed community you'll probably want to leave the default of *Only members can post*.

Further information can be found in the LiveJournal Support (<http://www.livejournal.com/support/>) and FAQs (<http://www.livejournal.com/support/faq.bml>) section.

**Member Posting Restrictions**

Do you want to allow only certain members the ability to post?

☒ **All Members**  
Anybody can post immediately once a member.

☐ **Select Members**  
Only some members are able to post, once a maintainer gives them access.

**Non-Member Posting Restrictions**

Can users post to this community without having to join it?

☒ **Only members can post**  
Users have to join this community in order to post in it.

☐ **Allow all users to post**  
Users can post to this community without having to join it.