

FREE Guestbook Script

If you've ever wanted to add a guest book to your web site you can thank the well-recognized Matt Wright for writing a wonderful Perl script and making it readily available via the web.

To install the Guestbook script:

- Select the **Guestbook Installer** in your **Control Panel** (to go to your Control Panel, enter "your_domain.com/stats/" into your browser's Address text box. Be sure to replace "your_domain.com" with your actual domain)

Special Notes

- The Guestbook Installer will overwrite previously installed Guestbook scripts.
- Do NOT remove the <!--begin--> tag within guestbook.html . This tells the Perl script where to insert new entries
- You can modify the addguest.html and guestbook.html files to meet your own design standards

Special Installation Notes

First time users should use the Guestbook Installer within your Control Panel to install the Guestbook program. The instruction contained herein is being provided for those whom wish to **modify the script** installed by the Guestbook Installer or to install **multiple versions** of this application.

1. Locate and download the following files from [Matt's Script Archive](#):
 - guestbook.pl - The Perl script which adds to the guestbook.html .
 - addguest.html - The form that users fill out to add their entry.
 - guestbook.html - The guestbook file that contained the users' entries.
 - guestlog.html - The short log of all guestbook entries. (optional)
2. Create a subdirectory named "guestbook" within your web site and upload both *guestbook.html* and *guestlog.html* to the new director
3. Change the first line of the Perl script to reflect the official path to Perl on our server:

```
#!/usr/local/bin/perl
```

4. There are a few more things that need to be changed in the Perl script:

```
# Set Variables
```

```
$guestbookurl - The URL address of your guestbook.html file  
$guestbookreal - The system location of your guestbook.html file  
$guestlog - The system location of your guestlog.html file  
$cgiurl - The URL portion of the address to the guestbook.pl file
```

The second and third variables call for a system path which is not the same as a URL. If your domain name was *yourdomain.com* the system path would be `/u/web/yourdo` where "yourdo" is the account userid. As such, the Set Variables section of the Guestbook script would follow this format:

Set Variables

```
$guestbookurl = "http://www.your_domain.com/guestbook/guestbook.html";
$guestbookreal = "/u/web/<userid>/guestbook/guestbook.html";
$guestlog = "/u/web/<userid>/guestbook/guestlog.html";
$cgiurl = "http://www.your_domain.com/cgi-local/guestbook.pl";
$date_command = "/usr/bin/date";
```

Be sure to substitute your domain name and userid in the example above. The path to "date" is properly set. Although Matt's code is accurate, we recommend using the Perl Script checker within your account Control Panel when installing any Perl script.

5. Upload the "guestbook.pl" script to your cgi-local directory in ASCII transfer mode. Cgi-local will place the appropriate permissions on files uploaded to this directory so you do NOT need to `chmod a+rx` the Perl script.
6. Modify the form ACTION attribute within "addguest.html" to reference the guestbook script within cgi-local as shown below and upload to the "guestbook" directory:

```
<FORM METHOD="POST" ACTION="/cgi-local/guestbook.pl">
```

7. Select the **File Manager** option within your account Control Panel. Locate the file name *guestbook.html* within the guestbook directory. Click the box marked "PW" to the left of the guestbook.html file name to enable public write access. This will allow the Perl script to append data to the file guestbook.html.

You can test the script by referencing either the addguest.html or guestbook.html file via the web.

Special Notes

- Do NOT remove the `<!--begin-->` tag with guestbook.html . This tells the Perl script where to insert new entries
- Some possible causes of a SERVER ERROR:
 - Set Variables section within Perl script inaccurate
 - Perl script was not uploaded in ASCII transfer mode
 - Public-write permission not set for guestbook.html (see #7 above)
- The reference to both the date and sendmail program are correct
- You can modify the addguest.html and guestbook.html files to meet your own design standards

A Few Options

- Set the \$separator variable to display either a horizontal line or insert a paragraph tag between guest book entries
- Set the \$allow-html variable to allow visitors to use HTML tags within their entries