

An Introduction to AMP

Topics covered in this tutorial:

WELCOME	1
ABOUT THESE TUTORIALS	1
HOW AMP IS REFERENCED	2
CONTROLLING YOUR SITE (THE ADMIN INTERFACE (/SYSTEM))	2
YOUR PUBLIC SITE	2
AN OVERVIEW OF THE AMP COMPONENTS	3

Welcome

The Activist Mobilization Platform (AMP) is a suite of content publishing, organizing and mobilization tools built by and for social movements. Radical Designs, the author of AMP, provides customized, configured and hosted installations of AMP along with training, service and support contracts that will help your organization make the most of its on-line presence.

All components of AMP are released under the Gnu Public License (GPL) except where noted within the source code. The terms of the GPL can be accessed via the internet at <http://opensource.org/licenses/gpl-license.php>.

AMP includes a robust Content Management System that allows site changes, updates and expansion by non-technical staff. The core features include document management, image uploading and size optimization, a site search engine, blog-style visitor comments, visitor-submitted content, meta tag creation, navigational breadcrumb, printer-safe articles, page recommendation, a site map, site-wide hot words and WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) editing. The content management system auto-generates navigation and creates index pages based on content categorization. All content and modules are managed through a single interface with version control and roll back controls.

AMP sites are templated and use CSS to easily and flexibly provide your site with a custom look and feel.

About these Tutorials

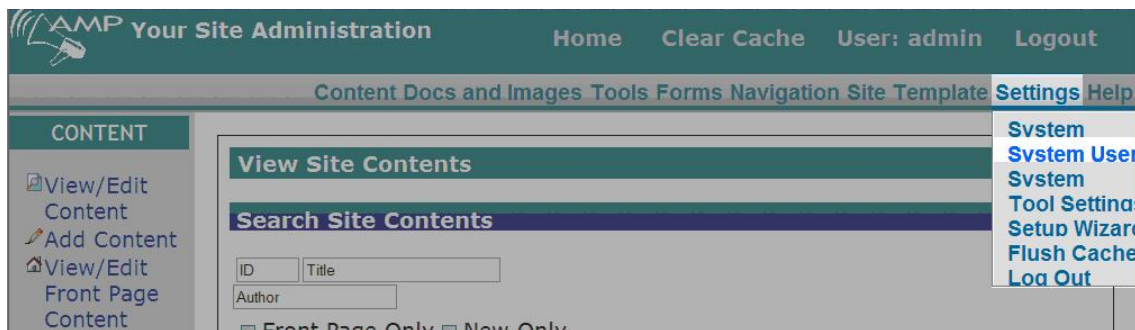
These tutorials are a guide to setting up a new AMP site from scratch. Reading all of them will provide a great overview of the system as you begin to build a new site, detailing how all the parts relate and can be put to best use.

Each tutorial covers specific tasks that do not require an overall understanding of the system. You may have to go back to prior tutorials to fully understand an answer but don't hesitate to jump straight to the topic you are interested in.

It is also very common for an AMP installation to have been customized or had custom elements added to it specifically for your organization. If you see something on your site that is not covered here it may not be part of the basic AMP install but instead be something Radical Designs made just for you. Please contact RD (go to <http://www.radicaldesigns.org/contactRD> for details) for more information about that feature.

How AMP is Referenced

To move around in the AMP administration system you will mostly use the main dropdown menus along the top of the Admin pages. When this manual asks you to go to a specific page and uses a format like this '**Settings => System Users**' then you should look for **Settings** in the main menu, click it and then click **System Users** in the submenu and so on into other submenus.



Controlling Your Site (The Admin Interface (/system))

If your AMP-based website is located at www.yourorganization.org, simply go to: <http://www.yourorganization.org/system> to access the Admin or System interface. We sometimes call this the Admin side. Most of this manual helps you to navigate this interface to make changes to your site.

These Admin pages are password protected and act as your website control room. Using them you can maintain content and control the appearance and behavior of your website from any place where you have Internet access. All changes are made as soon as you save the new information you have entered. Login using the *Username* and *Password* for your site.

Your Public Site

Assuming you have managed to successfully install AMP your site is available at www.yourorganization.org. You should see your new empty homepage wrapped in the AMP wireframe template (a simple default template that comes installed in every AMP site). A new AMP install generally comes with a number of features enabled to help you better understand how your AMP site is structured.

The most important are the **navigation elements**, examples of which appear in the left side of the wireframe. These will give you a picture of how your site is constructed as you start to build your Sections and Content (see **Chapter 3** for details about enabling and changing your Navigation). Without navigation elements, or a working knowledge of the standard URLs used by AMP, finding content on your site will be confusing at first.

This manual will demonstrate how to build out and navigate your site. If at any point you need an overview of what is on your site you can always browse to <http://www.yourorganization.org/sitemap.php>. There you will see a simple linked map of your existing Sections and Content.

An Overview of the AMP components

This introduction gives an overview of the different components of the AMP system, it is good to read to familiarize yourself with system but if you really want to get started building your site you might want to skip ahead to the next tutorial.

***Main Menu** All the components listed below appear somewhere in the main dropdown menu of the Admin or System interface. It's a good idea to browse this interface while reading this document.*

Content

Governs the creation and organization of materials on your site. This is the stuff you'll be working with most frequently because it allows you to add and edit content. Content is arranged by Section and categorized by Class and a variety of AMP features build on these arrangements.

Sections

AMP creates a map of site organization based on Sections and subsections. The system-generated Navigation elements and some tools like sitemaps are built to take advantage of the Sections structure. Different templates or navigation are assigned on a section-by-section basis. Section settings take advantage of and govern the display of a special AMP built-in class called a Section Header, where the content of a Section is listed. These settings decide how a Section's Content List will be displayed and what Content or subsections will be included.

Classes

Classes provide a way to categorize and manipulate content without affecting the overall site structure created by the section-by-section organization. AMP takes advantage of some built-in Classes (section headers, press releases etc.) for many features.

Navigation

AMP provides a number of built-in Navs, many of which automatically and intelligently update along with your content changes, making your site consistent and easy to navigate. There are two defined display areas for Navs, the "left nav" and "right nav". You may use one, both, or neither area within a template. To display a Nav, you can add it to the built-in Standard site-wide layout or the Front Page layout. Sections, Class listing pages, and the Public Pages for Tools, can be assigned customized Navigation Layouts. Individual Articles can only use the layout for the section where they are located.

Documents and Images

Lets you upload pictures and documents and make them available onto your website, allowing you to add images to your content and make PDFs, word processing files, or other computer files available on your website.

Tools

Includes the more advanced features and functions that AMP provides. Don't be fooled, just because they are advanced features doesn't mean they are hard to implement or configure. These tools include things like our Calendar, Links, and Photo Gallery features.

Forms (UDMs)

A way to create forms for your site. The forms come with standard contact information fields built-in, and also allow you to define your own questions. Information provided by your site visitors is stored in this interface. A plugins architecture allows visitor data to be used with other features, including third-party Web services.

Templates/CSS

AMP supports an HTML-based templating system which allows you to create as many different layouts and related CSS files as you might need. These templates can be applied to an entire site, or applied individually to different Sections or Tools. AMP relies on a set of built-in CSS classes that are included by AMP when content is displayed; they control the style of standard things like titles or bylines.

Users and Permissions

AMP permissions focus on who has access to your site administration and what components of the administration interface they can use. AMP does not support section-by-section permissions. A user can either edit all content or no content, there is no way yet to limit them to some items of content. AMP does provide a means to create visitor or member accounts to provide protected access to content on your site.