

Auto Links

v0.94.1

Plugin for WordPress



Documentation

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Acknowledgments

Auto Links was completely written using the SciTE text editor. It's available for both Microsoft Windows and Linux. You can learn more about SciTe from the website <http://www.scintilla.org/SciTE.html>.

This documentation was written and exported to the PDF format using OpenOffice.org. You can find out more from the website at <http://www.openoffice.org>.

Introduction

Auto Links is a free WordPress plugin that takes a set of words you commonly use and turns them into links whenever you include them in a post.

Detailed Description

With Auto Links, you define a preset list of keywords and URLs associated with them. When someone visits your WordPress blog, Auto Links finds those keywords throughout the text of your post and turns them into links. Auto Links is smart enough to only "linkify" the first occurrence of a keyword in a post. The keywords are defined by you through an easy to use admin interface. You can add or remove keywords at any time.

Amazon Associates Features

Amazon Associates members can take advantage of Auto Links to turn user specified keywords into Amazon searches. Auto Links builds the Amazon links to include your Associates ID so that you are credited for click throughs and purchases.

Highly Configurable

Auto Links gives you more configuration options than any other similarly functioning WordPress plugin. You control the browser window/tab the links open in, which CSS class to apply to the links, the ALT and TITLE attribute values for the links, and more.

Keyword Tracking

Know which of your keywords, either general or Amazon, that your website visitors are clicking on. Auto Links gives you full daily, weekly, and monthly

stats for keyword clicks, along with nice looking graphs to view it all.

Feature List

- Fully configurable through the WordPress administration panel.
- Keyword tracking lets you see which linkified keywords your visitors are clicking on.
- Displays a small 'external link' graphic after the linkified keywords. The feature can be turned on or off.
- Use the link graphic that comes with Auto Links or use your own.
- Easily link to sites outside of your domain using 'http://', or link to sites within your own domain using only the relative path.
- Add your own JavaScript or HTML to each link generated.
- Gives you full control over the 'alt', 'title', and 'class' attributes for each generated link.
- View keyword tracking logs as easy to read tables and graphs.

Warranty

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BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

Requirements

Auto Links requires WordPress 1.5 or higher and everything needed to run WordPress: PHP, MySQL, and a web hosting account. You will need the ability to change user permissions on directories.

Installation

1. Download the complete script package from <http://www.headzoo.com/downloads/>.
2. Extract the contents of the archive to an easily accessible directory like your Windows/Mac/Unix desktop.
3. Upload all the files included in the archive to your web host, placing them in `/wp-content/plugins/`. The Auto Links archive file comes with many files and directories. Make sure you preserve that directory structure when uploading the files, ensuring that all scripts stay in their respective directories.
4. Once the files and directories have been uploaded, change the user permissions for `/wp-content/plugins/auto_links/klogs/` and `/wp-content/plugins/auto_links/klogs/auto_links.log` to 777. User permissions for all the files should look something like this:

`wp-content/plugins - 755`

`wp-content/plugins/auto_links - 755`

`wp-content/plugins/auto_links/klogs - 777`

`wp-content/pugins/auto_links/klogs/auto_links.log - 777`

`wp-content/pugins/auto_links/klogs/index.php - 644`

`wp-content/pugins/auto_links/klogs/kviewer.php - 644`

5. Disconnect from your web host and login to the WordPress administration panel. Activate the plugin from the 'Plugins' panel.
6. And that's it. The next thing to do is configure Auto Links.

Upgrading

To upgrade from an older version of Auto Links, simply over-write the old files, **EXCEPT** for your keyword logs file, which is `/auto_links/klogs/auto_links.log`.

Configuring

Auto Links 0.93

Basic Options General Keywords Amazon Keywords View Logs

Click the option description to get help with that option. (Pop-up window)

Display image after link: Yes No

Image to display after link:

Target window to open link in:

Add protocol (http://) to links: Yes No

Keyword Tracking: Yes No

Custom HTML/Javascript to Add to Links:

Image ALT Attribute:

Link TITLE Attribute:

Link CLASS Attribute:

Use Amazon Associates Keywords: Yes No

Amazon Associates ID:

AXL

Update Options >

The Auto Links basic configuration panel.

Once you've activated Auto Links from the Plugins panel, a new menu option for Auto Links will appear under 'Options' in the WordPress administration panel. Clicking on the menu link for Auto Links brings you to the Auto Links basic configuration menu, which will look similar to the picture above.

All options for Auto Links can be configured through that panel. At the top of the panel you will see four buttons; Basic Configuration, General Keywords, Amazon Keywords, and View Logs.

Basic Options

This page lets you change settings that affect the way Auto Links behaves.

Display Image After Link

Auto Links can, if this option is set to 'Yes', display a small 'external link' graphic after all links that it generates. The graphic that comes with Auto Links looks like this: [🔗](#)

Image to Display After Link

You are not stuck using the 'external link' graphic that comes with Auto Links. With this option you can specify your own graphic to use. Enter the URL or relative path to the gif, jpg, or png file to use.

Target Window to Open Link

Most browsers support a 'target' attribute in the links. Use this option to specify the target window or tab to open the link into. Use '_blank' to open the link a new window or tab.

The 'target' tag is not supported by XHTML 1.0, and any page that uses it will not validate.

Add Protocol (http://) to Links

If you turn this option off, Auto Links will not add 'http://' to the beginning of website addresses you specify when adding keywords and links. This is fine if the links your adding are within your own domain name. However, if you enter a link, like 'www.yahoo.com', with this option turned off, the visitors browser will try to find the web page 'www.yahoo.com' within your domain name which will result in a error, 404 page not found.

If you want to have keywords that link to both pages outside of your own domain name and to pages within your domain name, you might want to turn this option off. When this option is turned off, you can link to pages within your domain name by entering the pages relative path, like 'newpost/mypost.php'. When this option is turned off you'll need to add 'http://' to external links manually. So enter 'http://www.yahoo.com' instead of 'www.yahoo.com' when adding new keywords.

If a link in your keywords list already contains 'http://', 'https://', or 'ftp://', this option is ignored and Auto Links does not add 'http://'.

Keyword Tracking

This option turns keyword tracking on or off. With keyword tracking turned on, Auto Links keeps track of every linkified keyword that your website visitors click on.

You can view the tracking logs in easy to read format by clicking on the 'View Logs' button.

Custom HTML/JavaScript to Add to Links

Whatever text you enter here will be inserted inside the link tag after 'href'. This lets you add bits of JavaScript or other code that you want executed every time a link is clicked.

One popular option is to insert JavaScript to open the link in a new window or tab, without relying on the non valid 'target' attribute. That JavaScript code is:

```
onclick="window.open(this.href); return false;"
```

Entering that code into this option's text field results in links opening in new windows or tabs, and your links will validate against XHTML 1.0.

You can use %%STRINGS%% inside this field. Read page 12 for more information on %%STRINGS%%.

Image ALT Attribute

XHTML 1.0 strict/transitional requires that you use the 'alt' attribute inside your image tags. The 'alt' attribute is also important for web surfers with vision disabilities.

This option lets you specify the value of the 'alt' attribute. Any text you enter into the options text field will be the value of the 'alt' attribute for each 'external link' image. So if you enter 'My Image', Auto Links creates a link with 'alt="My Image"'.

You can use %%STRINGS%% inside this field. Read page 12 for more information on %%STRINGS%%.

Link TITLE Attribute

Any text entered into this field will be the value for the links 'title' attribute. When your website visitors place their mouse pointer over the link the value of the 'title' attribute comes up in as a tool tip – a small window with informative text printed inside it.

You can use %%STRINGS%% inside this field. Read page 12 for more information on %%STRINGS%%.

Link CLASS Attribute

Typically your WordPress theme has a style specified for links. If you want to you can use a different style by specifying it's class name in this field.

Use Amazon Associates Keywords

If you have an Amazon Associates account, you can turn this option on to linkify keywords you specify in the Amazon Keywords list. Any keyword in the Amazon keywords list is turn into a link to Amazon showing search results for that keyword. If your website visitor buys a product after clicking your link, that purchase is credited towards your Associates account.

Amazon Country

Let's you decide which Amazon to link to. Amazon.com for the United States,

Amazon.co.uk for the United Kingdom, Amazon.ca for Canada, Amazon.de for Germany, Amazon.co.jp for Japan, and Amazon.fr for France.

Amazon Associates ID

To receive credit for Amazon purchases made after clicking on a link from your website, you need to enter your correct Associates ID here. Usually the ID looks similar to 'bigblog-20'.

General Keywords

Auto Links 0.93

Basic Options General Keywords Amazon Keywords View Logs

General Keywords List

Keyword:

Link:

general electric
citigroup
ibm
home depot
home-depot
altria
mckesson
cardinal health
state farm
kroger

Delete from List Update List Add to List Clear Help (Pop-up window)

AXL WP

Save Keywords List >

Adding to, removing from, and editing your keywords list is simple.

Any deletions, updates, or additions are lost if you don't click the 'Save Keywords List' button.

If at any time you make a mistake, click the 'Clear' button.

Adding a Keyword

To add a new keyword, type the word into the 'Keyword' text box, and then type the link for the keyword into the 'Link' text box.

Click the button 'Add to List'.

When you are finished adding/removing/editing keywords, click the 'Save Keywords List' button.

Removing a Keyword

From the 'General Keywords List', click on the keyword you want to delete. The keyword and its link will appear in the two text boxes on the right.

Click the 'Delete from List' button.

When you are finished adding/removing/editing keywords, click the 'Save Keywords List' button.

Editing a Keyword

From the 'General Keywords List', click on the keyword you want to edit. The keyword and its link will appear in the text boxes on the right. Make any changes to the keyword or its link in those text boxes.

Click 'Update List'.

When you are finished adding/removing/editing keywords, click the 'Save Keywords List' button.

Amazon Keywords

The screenshot shows the 'Auto Links 0.93' application window. At the top, there are four tabs: 'Basic Options', 'General Keywords', 'Amazon Keywords', and 'View Logs'. The 'Amazon Keywords' tab is active. On the left, there is a list box titled 'Amazon Keywords List' containing the items 'Harry Potter', 'Sean', and 'Halo 2'. To the right of this list are two input fields: 'Keyword:' with an empty text box, and 'Type:' with a dropdown menu currently set to 'All Products'. Below these fields are several buttons: 'Delete from List', 'Update List', 'Add to List', 'Clear', and 'Help (Pop-up window)'. At the bottom right of the window is a 'Save Keywords List >' button. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for 'AXL'.

Adding to, removing from, and editing your Amazon keywords list is done the same way as the general keywords list.

Remember, any changes made to the 'Amazon Keywords List' are lost if you don't click 'Save Keywords List'.

If at any time you make a mistake, click the 'Clear' button.

Adding a Keyword

To add a new keyword, type the word into the 'Keyword' text box, and then choose the product type from the drop down list. For instance, 'Ray Charles' is music, so you would choose 'Music' from the drop down list.

Click the button 'Add to List'.

When you are finished adding/removing/editing keywords, click the 'Save

Keywords List' button.

Removing a Keyword

From the 'Amazon Keywords List', click on the keyword you want to delete. The keyword and it's product type will appear in the two text boxes on the right.

Click the 'Delete from List' button.

When you are finished adding/removing/editing keywords, click the 'Save Keywords List' button.

Editing a Keyword

From the 'Amazon Keywords List', click on the keyword you want to edit. The keyword and it's product type will appear in the text boxes on the right. Make any changes to the keyword or it's type in those text boxes.

Click 'Update List'.

When you are finished adding/removing/editing keywords, click the 'Save Keywords List' button.

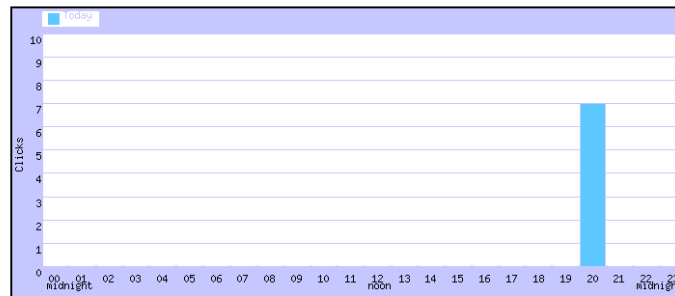
Keyword Logs

Keyword List (Today)

Keyword List (Today)	
Wordpress :	2
Disney :	2
Wal-Mart :	1
Google :	1
Yahoo :	1

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

Since Midnight



[\[Back to Top\]](#)

If you have keyword tracking turned on you can view the tracking information by clicking 'View Logs' from the Auto Links configuration panel.

The keywords log viewer will show you:

- 'In a Nutshell' – Basic click information for the day, week, and year.
- 'Keyword List (Total)' – Shows the number of clicks per keyword for as long as you've had keyword tracking turned on.
- 'Keyword List (Today)' – Shows the number of clicks per keyword for today.
- 'Since Midnight' – Shows a bar graph of the number of clicks since midnight.
- 'Past 7 Days' – Shows a bar graph of the number of clicks for the past 7 days.
- 'Past 30 Days' – Shows a bar graph of the number of clicks for the past 30 days.

The log file – auto_links.log – is located in the directory /wp-content/plugins/auto_links/klogs. You can manually remove lines from the log file without upsetting the operation of Auto Links or the keyword log viewer.

%%STRINGS%%

Auto Links currently supports three %%STRING%% words that can be used in the “Custom HTML/Javascript to Add to Links”, “Image 'ALT' Attribute”, “Link 'TITLE' Attribute”, and “Link 'CLASS' Attribute” options. The

%%STRINGS%% are:

%%KW%% - This is replaced by Auto Links with the keyword being turned into a link.

%%LINK%% - This is replaced by Auto Links with the URL of the keyword being turned into a link.

%%BLOGTITLE%% - This is replaced by Auto Links with the name of your website.

For example, if the keyword being turned into a link is “Yahoo” and the URL is “www.yahoo.com”, if you enter “Visit %%KW%% at %%LINK%%” into the “Link 'TITLE' Attribute” option, Auto Links turns your entry into “Visit Yahoo at www.yahoo.com” when setting the links “title” attribute.

You can use any of the %%STRINGS%% that you want in the supported

options as many times as you want, and with any other text.

Adding Keywords on the Fly

Auto Links lets you add keywords on the fly, meaning you can add new general keywords as you're writing a post. To do this, simply wrap the word you want to add with the <addkeyword></addkeyword> tags. For example, if your writing a post and you want to add the word Slashdot to your keywords list, you would follow this syntax in the post editor:

One of my favorite tech websites is

<addkeyword link="www.slashdot.com">Slashdot</addkeyword>. I visit it all the time.

When you save your post, the word “Slashdot” will be added to your general keywords list with the link “www.slashdot.com”. This method will save you from having to add the keyword to your list after saving the post.

After Auto Links adds the word to your general keywords list, it strips the <addkeyword></addkeyword> tags from the post.

F.A.Q

- Can I turn off the external link image that Auto Links adds to links?

Yes. You can turn off the image or change the image from the Auto Links sub menu.

- Do I need to put any special tags inside my post to use Auto Links?

No. Auto Links does everything for you. Just type your post as you would normally and Auto Links will find the keywords and turn them into links.

- What are the keywords that Auto Links looks for?

That's up to you. The plugin comes with some default keywords, but you can add more through the configuration menu.

- Can I keep Auto Links from turning a keyword into a link?

No. If a word is in your keywords list, Auto Links is going linkify it. I might do something with future versions so you can wrap a keyword in a special tag that will prevent Auto Links from turning the keyword into a link.

- What version of WordPress does Auto Links work?

As far as I can tell, 1.5 and above.

- If I upgrade from a previous version of Auto Links, will I loose my keywords list or configuration settings?

No. All keywords and settings are stored in the WordPress database, and upgrading Auto Links should have no impact on the database. However, until Auto Links reaches v1.0, reverse compatibility is not guaranteed. The method in which Auto Links accomplishes a task may change from minor version to minor version.

- If I have a keyword that is both in my regular keywords list, and my Amazon keywords list, what kind of link will the keyword be turned into?

An Amazon associates search. Amazon searches take precedence over regular searches.

Hacks

There are a couple things that can be done with Auto Links that are not supported or configurable through the Auto Links configuration page. Some of the hacks listed below will require that you edit the Auto Links source code or enter special text in your post.

Changing Case Sensitivity

Auto Links is not case sensitive which means it treats the keyword “yahoo”, “Yahoo” and “yaHOO” the same. No matter how it's typed in your post, Auto Links will find it and linkify it.

To make Auto Links case sensitive, meaning that “Yahoo” and “yahoo” are not treated the same, open `auto_links.php` in a text editor and find the two lines that looks like this:

```
$al_regExPatternMain[] = '\(?:!((<.*?)(<a.*?)))(\b'. $al_theKeyword .  
'\b)(?!(([^<>]*?)>)([>]*?</a>))\si';
```

This line can be found twice in the source code. The first time for regular keywords and the second time for Amazon keywords. Remove the 'i' from the end of that string, and Auto Links will be case sensitive. Be careful not to remove the '; from the end of the line.

If Auto Links is case sensitive and the keyword “yahoo” is in your keywords list, if you use the word “Yahoo” -- with a capital Y-- in a post, Auto Links **will not** turn it into a link.

Tracking Non Auto Links Keywords

Auto Links has a feature to track keyword clicks by your website visitors. You can use this tracking feature to track linked words that are not in your keywords list.

If you're writing a post and you want to include a link to a website that isn't in your keywords list, but you still want the link tracked by Auto Links, you can add a special URL for the links “href” attribute, and Auto Links will track that word.

As an example, if you want to add a link to your post for a friends blog with the title “Joe's Blog” and the URL “www.joesblog.com”, instead of entering “http://www.joesblog.com” as value for the “href” attribute, you would add this:

```
http://www.myblog.com/wp-  
content/plugins/auto_links/klogs/?kw=joesblog&rl=www.joesblog.com
```

Make sure you change “www.myblog.com” to the URL for your website, change “joesblog” to unique word that you want Auto Links to store in the log file, and change “http://www.joesblog.com” to the URL of the website.

Now whenever one of your website visitors click on the link for “Joe's Blog”,

the word “joesblog” will be logged by Auto Links.

Change Log

v0.94.1 October 30th, 2005

- Fixed a bug where your Amazon Associates ID wasn't being used when keyword tracking is turned on.

v0.94 October 23rd, 2005

- Now has an option for Amazon Associates from different countries, including The United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Germany, and France.
- Fixed bug with the custom HTML. Thanks www.quakemachine.com/blog/.
- Made it more clear, in the docs, what file permissions are needed for each script and directory.
- Cleaned up code
- Made admin help easier to read
- Broke script up into a few different include files

v0.93.1 August 25th, 2005

- Added the `<addkeyword></addkeyword>` tag so you can add keywords to your general keywords list on the fly, meaning while you're writing the post.

v0.93 August 23rd, 2005

- Completely re-coded the admin panel. It's now much more organized and easier to use.
- Rewrote some of the code making Auto Links faster.

v0.92 August 21st, 2005

- Finally have a new and improved version of the keyword tracking logs viewer.
- Made small changes to the code here and there.

v0.91 August 18th, 2005

- Auto Links now has built in support for Amazon associates searches.

v0.9.3 August 17th, 2005

- The plugin won't linkify two or more keywords that share the same link. If 'Wal-Mart' and 'Walmart' share the same link — www.walmart.com — only the first keyword gets turned into a link.

v0.9.2 August 17th, 2005

- Rewrote a good deal of the code to make it faster and more streamlined.

v0.9.1 August 15th, 2005

- Removed 'alt' attribute from 'a' tag.
- Won't linkify keywords that are part of bigger words, i.e. won't linkify "intel" in 'intelligence'.
- Links have been tested to be valid XHTML 1.0 Transitional.

v0.9beta August 14th, 2005

- Added keyword logging.
- Added 5 options to the admin menu.
- Fixed bugs.

v0.8beta August 9th, 2005

- Complete rewrite of the code to make it more efficient.
- More tweaking of the regular expression by Sam.
- Adding much better admin menu. Now you can add and remove keywords.

v0.7.6beta August 8th, 2005

- Fixed regular expression so keywords found within tags don't get turned into links.
- Changed it so that comments don't get linkified.

v0.7.5beta August 8th, 2005

- Made the whole thing more efficient with better regular expressions. Big thanks to Samble for the help!

v0.7beta August 8th, 2005

- The plugin can now be configured through the admin panel. There is no longer any need to edit the code within the scripts.
- All options and keywords are stored in the WordPress database.

v0.6beta August 7th, 2005

- Script now handles punctuation after keywords.
- Keywords are no longer case sensitive. Google and google are treated the same.
- Moved the keywords array to an external script. That way you can update the main script without losing all your keywords.

v0.5beta August 6th, 2005

- Threw the whole thing together in an afternoon.

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