

# Blog4Umbraco Extensions

---

## *Installation and Users Guide*

### **Contents**

Introduction .....	1
The Future .....	2
Post-Installation Steps .....	2
Globally Disabling Comments .....	2
Blog Categories .....	3
Updating the Blog Document Type .....	3
Updating the Blog Post Document Type .....	3
Enabling Time fields in the Blog Entry Post Date .....	4
Other Issues: .....	4
Blog for Umbraco generates the following error when attempting to create a new Blog: .....	4
Workaround: .....	4

### **Introduction**

The Refactored Blog4Umbraco Extensions came about because the current version of Blog4Umbraco (currently 2.0.26) had some issues when it came to creating multiple blogs within a single website, and in addition under some circumstances creating a new blog entry would cause a “Yellow Screen of Death” (YSod).

In order to address these shortcomings this package was created, and later extended with other functionality. The current functionality offered by this package includes:

- Allowing Comments to be Disabled at the Blog Level
- Enable setting a Blog-wide Category and having Tags bound to that Category

An additional Datatype called Blog Tags and derived from the built in Tags Datatype is also provided which is the basis upon which the Blog-wide Category is built.

For a more detailed and technical description of the package, the reader is directed to the blog entries found at <http://refactored.com.au/blog>:

- [Blog Categories in Blog4Umbraco - Take Two](#)



- [Adding a Blog Category to Blog4Umbraco](#) (the method described here is not recommended, but provides additional background information).

## The Future

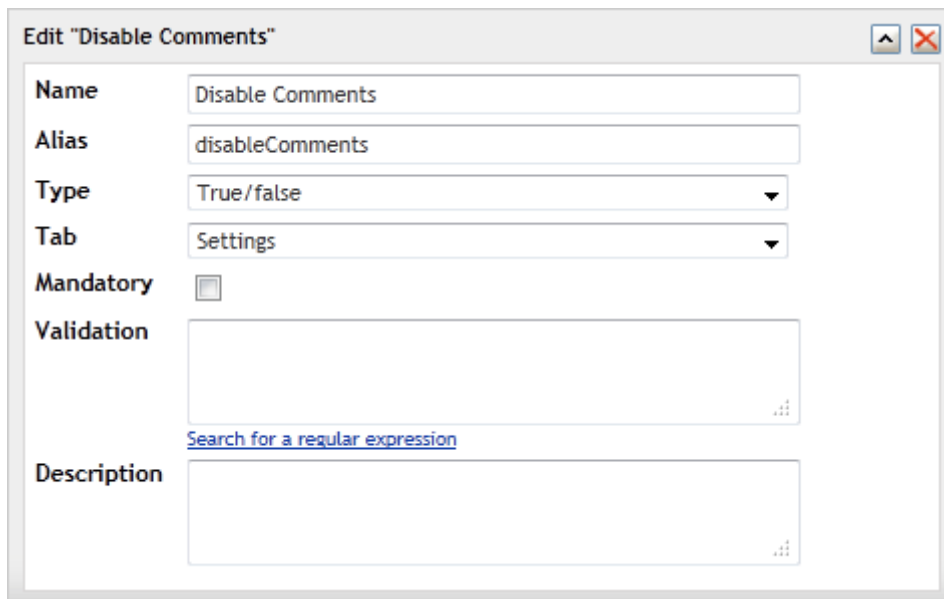
Work is currently underway to release a version 3 of Blog4Umbraco (B4U) which will address the issues discussed here and add other much needed functionality including Trackbacks and Comment Notifications.

## Post-Installation Steps

After installing the package, additional steps are required in order to activate the features. These involve modifying the Blog-related document types as follows:

### Globally Disabling Comments

In order to be able to globally disable comments, edit the Blog Document Type by adding a new property based on the True/False data type as follows:



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Edit 'Disable Comments'". It contains the following fields:

- Name:** Disable Comments
- Alias:** disableComments
- Type:** True/false
- Tab:** Settings
- Mandatory:**
- Validation:** (empty text area)
- Description:** (empty text area)

Below the Validation field, there is a link: [Search for a regular expression](#)

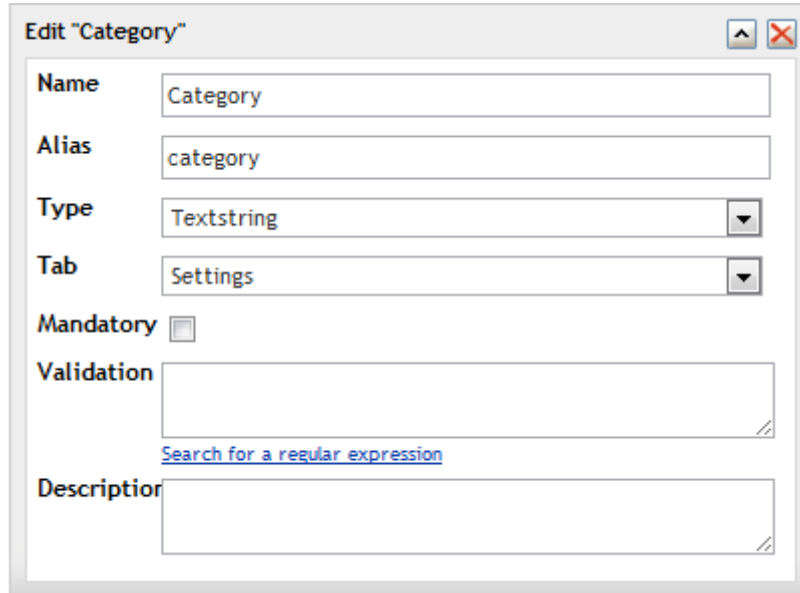
If the Disable Comments checkbox is checked on a Blog page then the Close comments field will be also become checked when it is saved.



## Blog Categories

### Updating the Blog Document Type

In order to facilitate Blog Categories, an additional property needs to be added to the Blog Document Type as follows:



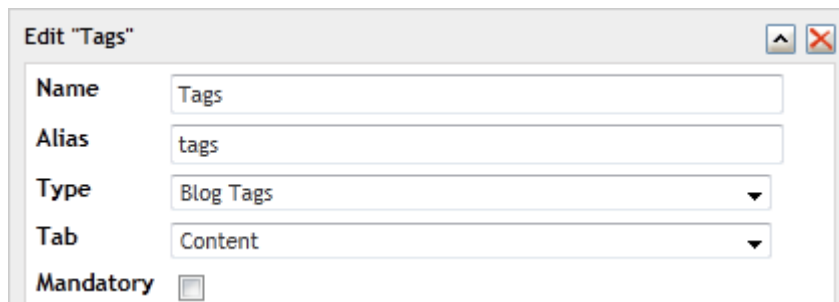
The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Edit 'Category'". It contains the following fields and controls:

- Name:** Text input field containing "Category".
- Alias:** Text input field containing "category".
- Type:** Dropdown menu with "Textstring" selected.
- Tab:** Dropdown menu with "Settings" selected.
- Mandatory:** A checkbox that is currently unchecked.
- Validation:** A large text area for validation rules, currently empty. Below it is a link: [Search for a regular expression](#).
- Description:** A large text area for a description, currently empty.

Coupled with the change to the Blog Post Document type below, this will cause tags added to blog posts to use the category set in this property of the corresponding Blog.

### Updating the Blog Post Document Type

Change the Tags property in the Blog Post Document so that it uses the "Blog Tags" type instead of the built-in "Tags" data type:



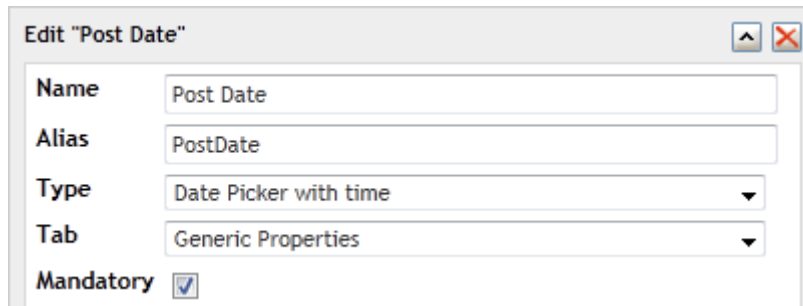
The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Edit 'Tags'". It contains the following fields and controls:

- Name:** Text input field containing "Tags".
- Alias:** Text input field containing "tags".
- Type:** Dropdown menu with "Blog Tags" selected.
- Tab:** Dropdown menu with "Content" selected.
- Mandatory:** A checkbox that is currently unchecked.

## Enabling Time fields in the Blog Entry Post Date

In the original Blog4Umbraco package, there is no way to enable the Post Date to use time as well as date, which results in all posts being set as being posted at midnight.

The updated Umlaut.Umb.Blog.dll file included in this package addresses this issue, but you still need to modify the Blog Post document type in order to take advantage of the change. In order to do so, change the Post Date property type from “Date Picker” to “Date Picker with time”:



## Other Issues:

### Blog for Umbraco generates the following error when attempting to create a new Blog:

Issue # 5612 – <http://blog4umbraco.codeplex.com/workitem/5612>

Operand type clash: int is incompatible with ntext

Description: An unhandled exception occurred during the execution of the current web request. Please review the stack trace for more information about the error and where it originated in the code.

Exception Details: System.Data.SqlClient.SqlException: Operand type clash: int is incompatible with ntext

### Workaround:

If you encounter this type of error, double-check the Author Picker and make sure that the datatype is set to **int** instead of **ntext**.

## Comments and Suggestions

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this document or the package it describes, you can contact the author here:

Robert Foster

Email: [rfoster@refoster.com.au](mailto:rfoster@refoster.com.au)

Blog: <http://refactored.com.au/blog>

