

WordPress: Moderating Comments (and spam) in WordPress

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If your WordPress blog has comments turned on, you'll need to know a few things about how to manage them: Approving comments, getting rid of spam comments, and adjusting your comments settings.

Approving Comments

As a blog administrator, you should either set up e-mail notifications for comments (more on this in the settings section), or log into your blog periodically to check for comments awaiting approval.

If you have e-mail notification set up for comments, you may moderate individual comments via e-mail. The e-mail will include links to approve the comment, mark it as spam, or delete it.

```
To: jperry02@brynmawr.edu

A new comment on the post #67 "anchor test" is waiting for your approval
http://websandboxes.blogs.brynmawr.edu/2010/09/27/anchor-test/

Author : Juliana
E-mail : jperry02@brynmawr.edu
URL :
Whois : http://ws.arin.net/cgi-bin/whois.pl?queryinput=
Comment:
This is a real comment stating something actually relevant to the above post. I

Approve it: https://websandboxes.blogs.brynmawr.edu/wp-admin/comment.php?action=
Delete it: https://websandboxes.blogs.brynmawr.edu/wp-admin/comment.php?action=c
Spam it: https://websandboxes.blogs.brynmawr.edu/wp-admin/comment.php?action=cdc
Currently 1 comment is waiting for approval. Please visit the moderation panel:
https://websandboxes.blogs.brynmawr.edu/wp-admin/edit-comments.php?comment\_statu
```

To moderate comments while logged in to your blog:

In your dashboard, you'll see comment statistics—a total number of comments, approved comments, pending comments, and spam.

Recent Comments



From Monique Agia on [Welcome to the Southern California Alumnae Club!](#) [Pending]

Hello, I am the Treasurer of the Smith College Club of San Diego and I have formed a Seven Sisters...



From Eliza Randall on [Welcome to the Southern California Alumnae Club!](#) [Pending]

Hi there. I'm a Barnard '91 (transferred from Bryn Mawr) grad living in Los Angeles and working in the entertainment...

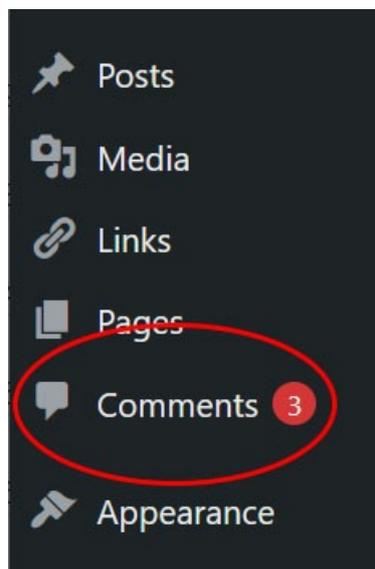


From Ann Bradley on [Welcome to the Southern California Alumnae Club!](#) [Pending]

Hi, I'm trying to get information about how quickly holiday cards are shipped; when I would receive them here in...

[All \(3\)](#) | [Mine \(0\)](#) | [Pending \(3\)](#) | [Approved \(0\)](#) | [Spam \(0\)](#) | [Trash \(0\)](#)

Click on **Pending** to deal with pending comments, OR click **Comments** in the left sidebar:



If a comment looks like it's legitimate and appropriate to your blog (more on determining this below), approve it by mousing over the comment and clicking the green **Approve** link that appears.

<input type="checkbox"/> Author	Comment	In response to	Submitted on
<input type="checkbox"/>  Monique Agia 0 approved moniqueagia@yahoo.com 72.199.237.104	Hello, I am the Treasurer of the Smith College Club of San Diego and I have formed a Seven Sisters and Friends Team for the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in San Diego. If you have a club in the San Diego area or a contact person for this area, I would like to forward her the information on the Race. Thank you very much, Monique Monique Agia '90 Smith College Club of San Diego moniqueagia@yahoo.com mailto:moniqueagia@yahoo.com	Welcome to the Southern California Alumnae Club! View Post 	2010/10/19 at 1:43 am
<input type="checkbox"/> Elise Randall		Welcome to the	2010/02/02 at 11:16

If you have many comments to approve, check the checkbox next to each comment you wish to approve, and then in the **Bulk Actions** dropdown menu at the top or bottom of the comments window, select **Approve**, then click **Apply**.

All (3) | Mine (0) | Pending (3) | Approved (0) | Spam (0) | Trash (0)

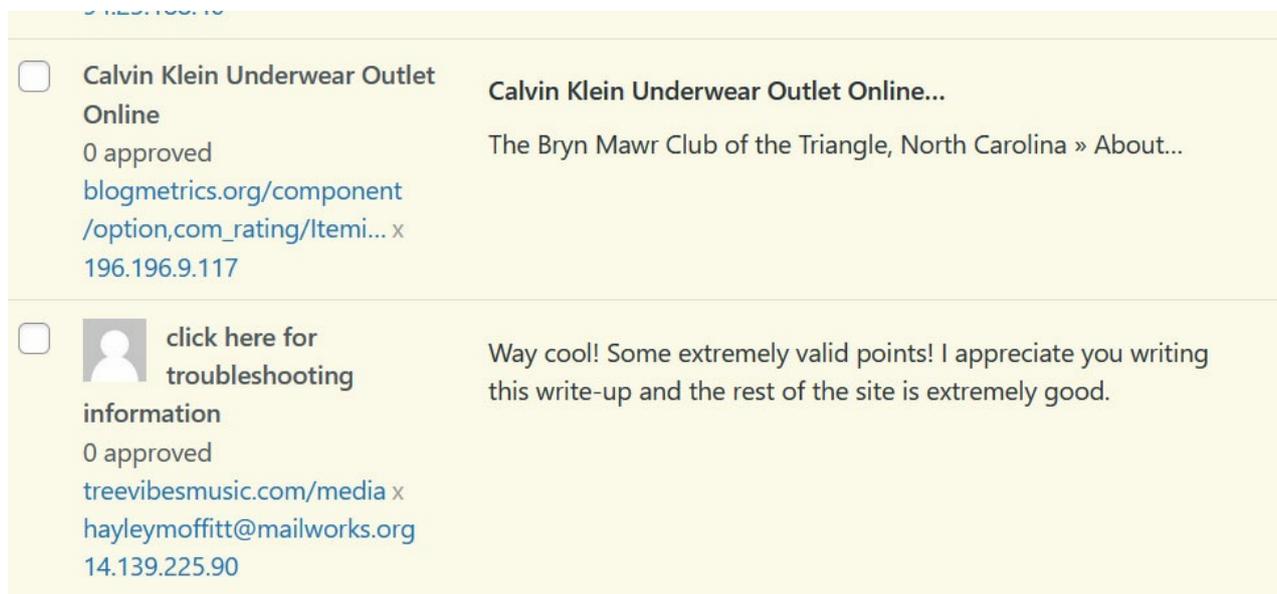
Bulk actions **Apply** All comment types Filter Check for Spam

<input type="checkbox"/>	Comment
<input type="checkbox"/>  Monique Agia 0 approved moniqueagia@yahoo.com	Hello, I am the Treasurer of the Smith College Club of San Diego and I have formed a Seven Sisters and Friends Team for the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in San Diego. If you have a club in the San Diego area or a contact person for this area, I would like to forward her the information on the Race. Thank you very much, Monique Monique Agia '90 Smith College Club of San Diego

Note: If a comment is not spam, but is somehow inappropriate (off topic, contains personal attacks, etc.), you may not wish to approve it. This type of moderation is at the discretion of administrators of individual blogs (as different types of discussions have very different moderation needs), but we recommend having a clearly stated moderation policy on your blog so that your users know what's expected.

Spam

The Akismet WordPress plugin automatically flags a lot of spam for you (this is why you may already have comments listed under the “spam” category). However, spammers are persistent, and often make comments that look legitimate to a computer, but to a human are obviously irrelevant. These spam comments usually only contain phrases like “Hi, I like your blog!” and serve only to post a link to the spammer’s website. Here is an example:

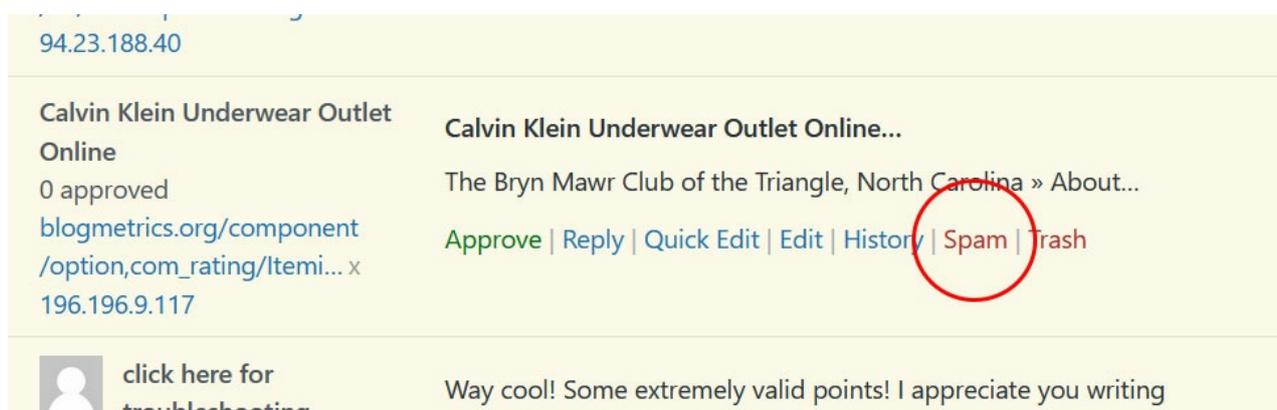


The screenshot shows a list of comments in a WordPress interface. The first comment is from 'Calvin Klein Underwear Outlet Online' with a link to 'blogmetrics.org/component/option,com_rating/Itemi... x' and IP '196.196.9.117'. The second comment is from a user with a profile picture, titled 'click here for troubleshooting information', with a link to 'treevibesmusic.com/media x' and email 'hayleymoffitt@mailworks.org'. Both comments are marked as spam.

Mark comments as spam to get them out of your blog, and to teach the spam filters to recognize yet more spam and keep it out of your blog.

To mark an individual comment as spam:

Mouse over the comment and click the blue spam link that appears.

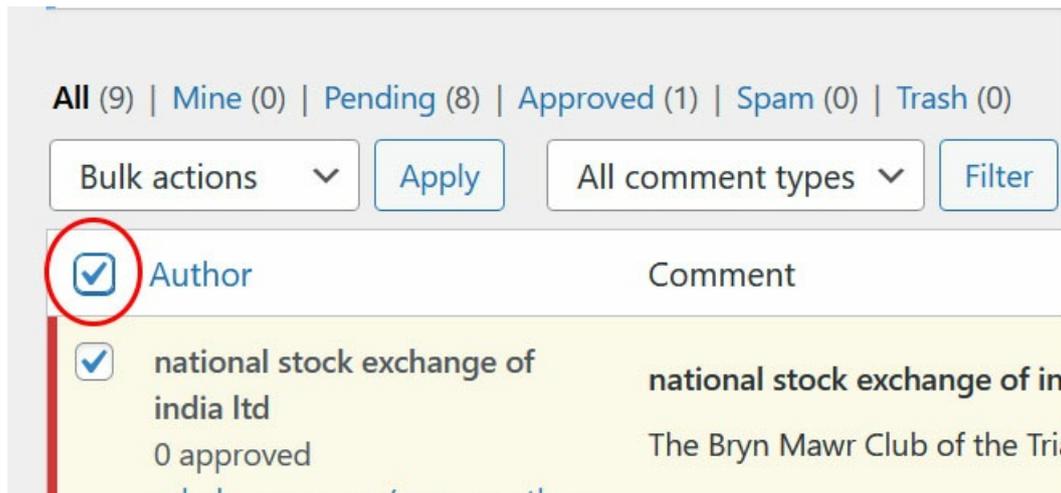


This screenshot is similar to the previous one but highlights the 'Spam' link in the second comment. The 'Spam' link is circled in red, indicating the action to be taken to mark the comment as spam.

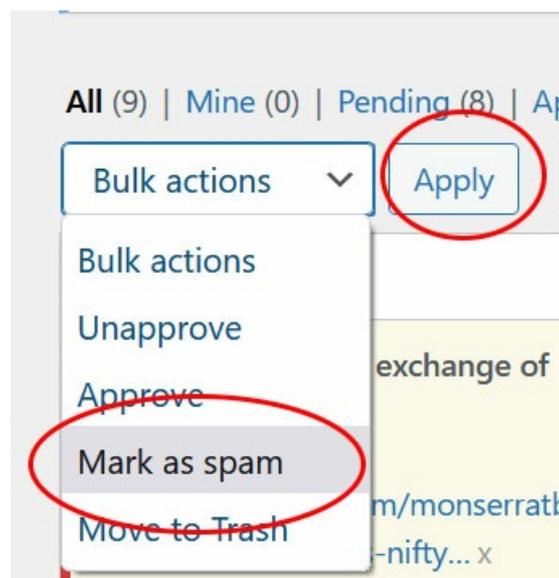
To mark many comments as spam at once:

Click the checkboxes next to individual spam comments, or click the checkbox above all comments

(next to Author in the heading) to select them all.



Then select **Mark as Spam** from the **Bulk Actions** dropdown menu at the top or bottom of the comments window, and click **Apply**.



This will move them to the Spam tab of the Comments area. Click on that Spam tab and then, finally, click **Empty Spam** to get rid of all the spam you've marked!

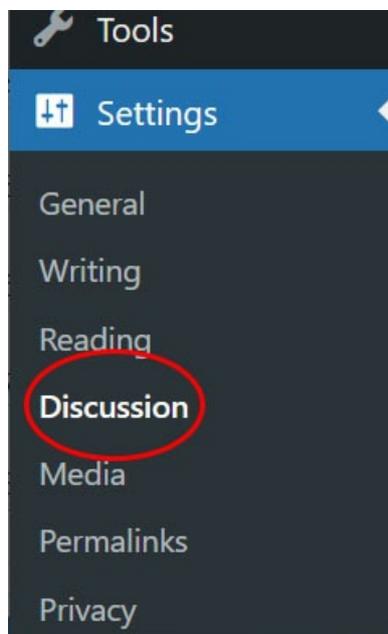
All (6) | Mine (0) | Pending (5) | Approved (1) | **Spam (3)** | Trash (0)

Bulk actions All comment types

<input type="checkbox"/>	Author	Comment	
<input type="checkbox"/>	national stock exchange of india ltd 0 approved rebelmouse.com/monserratbare la/nse-nse-tips-nifty... x 192.99.141.53	national stock exchange of india ltd... The Bryn Mawr Club of the Triangle, North Carolina » About...	<i>Flagged as s</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stardom Hollywood Hack 0 approved	Stardom Hollywood Hack...	<i>Flagged as s</i>

Adjusting Comments Settings

To adjust your settings, go to **Settings** in the left sidebar, then **Discussion**.



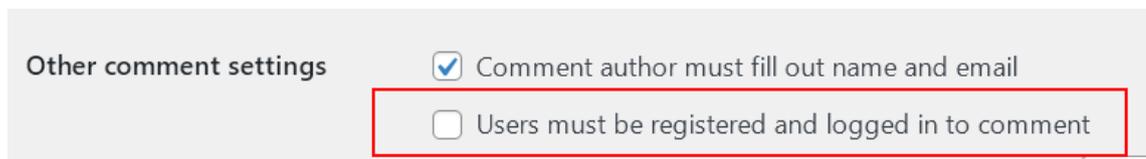
The [WordPress Codex](#) describes discussion settings options in detail.

Our recommended comments settings:

These recommendations are designed to minimize spam while allowing discussion to continue without too much difficulty.

Check the following:

- Comment author must fill out name and e-mail
- Users must be registered and logged in to comment, this is checked by default.
 - If your target audience is mostly non-BMC users, you can uncheck this option.
Please note that unchecking this may open you up to spam comments.



Other comment settings

Comment author must fill out name and email

Users must be registered and logged in to comment

- E-mail me whenever:
 - *Optional: If you wish to closely monitor a discussion, check: Anyone posts a comment (Note: This will also allow you to approve all comments via links in the e-mails, as shown in the Approving Comments section above)*
 - A comment is held for moderation
- Before a comment appears:
 - Comment author must have a previously approved comment
 - *Optional: If you are having a serious problem with spam or wish to closely moderate a discussion, check: "An administrator must always approve the comment"*
- Comment Moderation: Hold a comment in the queue if it contains **1** or more links (The default is 2 links; we recommend adjusting to 1– most legitimate comments will not have a link, while all spam comments will have at least one link. Most legitimate comments with links should be easy to identify when held for moderation)

Finally, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click **Save Changes**.

Questions?

If you have any additional questions or problems, don't hesitate to reach out to the **Help Desk!**

Phone: 610-526-7440 | [Library and Help Desk hours](#) □

Email: help@brynmawr.edu | [Service catalog](#) □

Location: Canaday Library 1st floor
