

HAMweather, LLC

# HW3 Cacher (Php)

Version 1.4.2 - 9/30/2008

## Table of Contents

<b>Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
Overview	3
Revisions	4
License	6
Support	13
<b>Installation</b>	<b>14</b>
Requirements	14
Installation	15
Advanced Installation Options	16

## Overview

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### HW3 Cacher Add-On Overview

#### HW3Cacher Add-On

With the development of HAMweather 4, output caching has been integrated into the code. It was decided that HAMweather 3 users could greatly benefit from the use of output caching as well, so the HW3Cacher script was developed.

The HW3Cacher script is used as a front end to the HW3php script and will cache its output. Then on future requests for the same URL, the data in the cache will be used, if not expired. For sites that receive multiple requests for the same data/locations within the max cache time, a huge saving in time and resources will be seen. In our testing a standard HW3 request may use 4MB of memory and take 1.3 seconds to display, but once cached with the HW3Cacher script, subsequent requests took less than 0.02 seconds to display and only used 0.25 to 0.5MB of memory. Though each individual user/server may experience different results based on server resources, network speeds and more.

The HW3Cacher script will allow you to set cache times based on the data being requested. This allows you to set a 10 minute cache time for a standard local forecast, but then a 1-2 minute cache time for the advisory pages. Additionally there is the ability to turn off caching for certain requests.

**Note:** The HW3Cacher will not cache a page that does not have forecast=xxxx or do=xxxx in the query string and the user has a HW3 cookie set. This is so that it does not cache the Cookie based "My Forecast" page, since the URL/Query String is the same for all users, but the output may be completely different.

This document can be found at the following locations:

**Online HTML:**

[http://www.hamweather.com/hw3/docs/hw3php/HW3Cacher\\_php](http://www.hamweather.com/hw3/docs/hw3php/HW3Cacher_php)

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[http://www.hamweather.com/hw3/docs/hw3php/HW3Cacher\\_php/HW3Cacher\\_php.pdf](http://www.hamweather.com/hw3/docs/hw3php/HW3Cacher_php/HW3Cacher_php.pdf)

## Revisions

### HW3CacherReleaseChanges

Latest Document Revision: 9/30/2008 3:42:33 PM

#### Changes in 1.4.2

- Fixed issue with non mime type being sent out at times causing IE to display the page code.

#### Release 1.4.1

- Fixed a bug with the Etag, was improperly setting it to the current time instead of the file modify time.
- added support for the sending the size header
- When caching, it caches file and then exports so that it can send all of the proper headers from a single routine.
- Support for new HWCheaders array which allows you to set new custom headers that you want always outputted when using the cache.

#### Release 1.4

- Improved mime type handling – Added catch to handle mod\_rewrites more appropriately with the rules
- added new output caching routine which adds support for passing the cache control headers to the browser and also adds support for if not modified since/http 304..

This can help lower resources and bandwidth. i.e. if a single user requests the same page while its still cached previously the script would have used the cached copy, resending the entire page. Now it will send a 304 not modified header (if the browser supports this), Thus saving resources and bandwidth

#### Release 1.3

- Corrected by with the mime type portion of the rules being ignored.

#### Release 1.2

- Added a default rule not to cache the yourweather options page
- Corrected an bug where chown was used in place of chmod.
- The cacher is primarily for use with GET http queries. The HW3 personal settings page used a post request to save cookie information. a line was added to not cache if the forecast or do parameters are passed via POST instead of GET.

#### Release 1.1

- Added \$HWCallow\_clean which allows website administrator to clear out cache using the HWClean option.

#### Release 1.0

- Official Release
- Added \$HWUseSubDirs to improve system performance when creating or accessing cached pages when many pages are in the cache directory.

#### Release 1.0.b1

- Initial Beta

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### Support

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## Installation

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### Requirements

#### HW3Cacher Requirements

The following are the requirements for using HW3Cacher:

- You must have HW3php installed and working correctly.

## Installation

### HW3Cacher Installation

For the majority of users the following is all that is needed to install HW3Cacher:

1. In your HW3 installation directory, create a directory named "cacheoutput". Depending on your server's security, you may need to give this directory write permissions (chmod 777).
2. Rename your hw3.php script to "hw3\_real.php"
3. Upload the hw3cacher.php to your HW3 installation and then rename the hw3cacher.php to the original name you were using for the hw3.php script. Normally you would simply rename it to hw3.php, but if you had previously renamed hw3.php to another name such as index.php, then rename the hw3cacher.php to index.php
4. Installation Complete. You should now be able to test your installation. You should notice that subsequent requests for the same information should display much faster.

**Note:** If you use cron to execute hw3.php via a shell script, or directly, then you must change all occurrences of hw3.php in your shell scripts and crontab entries to hw3\_real.php. Otherwise, you will run into problems with permissions creating directories or files from mkdir in the cache when pulling up certain web pages. If, when you are attempting to delete a cached page, you get a permission denied error from rmdir, then you must manually remove the page using your telnet/ssh access, or through your control panel file manager. These errors are caused when hw3.php is run from cron or manually, either directly or from a script, which executes hw3.php. This results in the cached files being owned by your login and causes the permission denied errors when HW3Cacher attempts to create or delete a cache file or directory.

## Advanced Installation Options

### HW3Cacher Advanced Installation Options

The majority of users can follow the standard installation, but for advanced usage, the following parameters are available when you edit the hw3cacher script:

OPTION	PARAMETERS	DESCRIPTION
CACHE PATH	<code>\$HWCcache_path = './cacheoutput/';</code>	This setting points to the directory to cache data too. If you prefer you can place the cache path outside of the web area.  If you do this, just adjust the value to the new file path. For instance if you want the cache path to be at <code>"/big/dom/mydomain/cacheoutput"</code> then you would create the cache directory, give it write permissions and then set this setting to: <code>\$HWCcache_path = '/big/dom/mydomain/cacheoutput/';</code>
HW PATH	<code>\$HWCchw_path = './hw3_real.php';</code>	This is the file path (not url) to the hw3 script. If you rename the hw3.php to hw3_real.php per the installation, then this does not need to be changed, but if you want to rename the hw3.php script to a different name, just adjust the file path/name in this setting.
COOKIE NAME	<code>\$HWCcookiename = 'HW3';</code>	This defines the cookie name used by HW3. you only need to adjust this if you changed the cookie name in the <code>configs/hw3.ini.php</code>
SHOW DETAILS	<code>\$HWCshow_details = false;</code>	If set to "true" then the cacher will output time and memory used after outputting the HW3 output. This is primarily for testing to see the savings from the HW3Cacher script.
CACHE CLEAN INTERVAL	<code>\$HWCcache_clean_interval = 120;</code>	The cache script is designed to clean out the cache directory occasionally to help prevent wasting space. This setting controls the interval in minutes that the cache directory will be cleaned. Note that not all files will be removed from the cache directory. Instead for best performance, it will only remove all the files in the cache directory that are older than the Clean Interval Time.
ALLOW NOCACHE	<code>\$HWCallow_nocache = 'xxxx';</code>	This setting determines if you want to allow "nocache=xxxx" to be passed in the query string to force no caching on that request. Setting this to 0 will turn off the nocache feature. Otherwise you can adjust this to any alphanumeric value you need. Then to force no caching in the query string pass "nocache=xxxx" where "xxxx" is the value you set this setting to.
ALLOW CACHE CLEAR	<code>\$HWCallow_clear = 'xxxx';</code>	This setting determines if you want to allow "HWclear=xxxx" to be passed in the query string to force clearing the cache on that request. Setting this to 0 will turn off the cache clear feature. Otherwise you can adjust this to any alphanumeric value you need. Then to force cache clear in the query string pass "HWclear=xxxx" where "xxxx" is the value you set this setting to.
USE SUBDIRS	<code>\$HWUseSubDirs = 'true';</code>	This setting is used to create subdirectories for storing cached web pages. This optimizes system performance by preventing too many files from being created under one directory. Some operating systems suffer severe performance issues when accessing files in a directory when this condition occurs. If set to false, cached files will be stored using the normal single cache directory method. It is highly recommended to leave this option set to true.
DEFAULT CACHE TIME	<code>\$HWCcache_time = 10;</code>	The global default cache time, in minutes, to cache output for.
DEFAULT MIME TYPE	<code>\$HWCmime = 'html';</code>	The default mime type to use.

OPTION	PARAMETERS	DESCRIPTION
CACHE RULES	\$HWCcache_rules	<p>This setting allows you to defined specific caching criteria based on patterns in the URL / query string combination. You can add a new cache rule by adding a line similar too:</p> <pre>array( '/pattern/', Cache? True or False, max cache time in minutes, optional cachename_prepend, optional mime)</pre> <p>The '/pattern/' will be compared against the url/querystring. If the pattern matches then the rule will be used to determine the caching criteria. Additionally you can have '!/pattern/'. In this case, if the pattern does NOT match, then the rule will be used to determine the caching criteria.</p> <p>if "Cache? " is set to true then, when the rule is used we will cache, if false then the rule means do not cache.</p> <p>"Max cache time in minutes" allows you to override the default max cache time.</p> <p>"optional cachename_prepend" allows you to add a string of text to prepend to the cache file names. Useful for debugging.</p> <p>"optional mime [html by default]" allows you to define a new mime type to use instead of the default. The optional mime types supported are:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">js, html, xml, mp3, wav, png, jpg, gif</p> <p>The default mime type "html" is assumed if none are specified.</p> <p>A good example of a rule that limits warnings to being cached for 1 minutes would be:</p> <pre>array( '/forecast=warnings/', true, 1, 'warnings_')</pre> <p>Here, if the query string has "forecast=warnings" then we will cache, but with a max cache time of 1 minute. Additionally we will prepend the cache file name with the text: "warnings_"</p> <p>Cache Rules are tested in order they are defined, and once a cache rule pattern matches the url/query string combination, then no further rules will be processed.</p>