Hot Topics in TRAIN – How To

The Hot Topics feature in TRAIN allows administrators to select specific hot topics that are relevant to their audience and display them only to that audience. The Hot Topics leverage the already existing “Announcements” functionality and work in a similar fashion. They also allow the administrator to provide Hot Topics on their affiliate page prior to login.

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Where do they show up?

The Hot Topics show on the affiliate page prior to login for all hot topics at the affiliate group level. For example, Hot Topics that are available at the VHA group level will show on the VHA affiliate login page as shown below.
For Hot Topics assigned at the affiliate level and sub-group level, they will show on the logged in affiliate home page based on the users group selection, as shown below.

If no Hot Topics are added for an affiliate, there will be no “Hot Topics” section on the affiliate login page or on the logged in home page. On the logged in home page the “Search” section will fill the available space. The “Your Recent Courses” have been moved down and the “Courses You May Also Like” has been moved to the right to accommodate the “Hot Topics” section.
How do I add Hot Topics?

Hot Topics are added through the same administrative interface as “Announcements” which is through the “Blog Post” admin tile. Access to this tile, and in turn the ability to add Hot Topics, is through the Blog Author and Blog Admin roles. The availability selection for the admin will be based on the group where the role is assigned.

When adding a new blog post select “Hot Topics” in the “Blog Channel” dropdown as shown below.

![Add blog post screenshot]

The title of the hot topic post will not be shown to end users, only what is put into the “Content” section will show to end users. It is good practice to name all of your hot topics in the same way, such as “Opioid – Hot Topic, Zika Virus – Hot Topic” so they can easily be identified in the list of blog posts.

The content section is where you will enter the link that will constitute your Hot Topic. You can use a simple hyperlink to a search within TRAIN or include an image. Here is how the content will need to be formatted to include an image.

`![alternative image text](image URL) ![link text](link URL)`

Here is an example of this in practice.

`![ACPE Logo](/resources/67/b2/d8/c3ba4dec62319b9be26f02d444.jpg "ACPE Logo") ![Antibiotic Stewardship](https://train.org/cdctrain/search?type=course&query=%22antibiotic%20stewardship%22)`

The “alternative image text” is what will show when someone hovers over the image or a screen reader is used. The “image URL” is the URL where the image is located on the internet, or, if you
use the image shortcut it will generate this for you. If you use the image shortcut start with that first. The “link text” is the text that will appear to the user when viewing the hot topic. Finally, the “link URL” is the URL to the search you preformed in TRAIN. You can use the full URL string or just use from the “search?” onward. So for this example it would be “search?type=course&query=%22antibiotic%20stewardship%22” for the link URL. You can use the hyperlink shortcut as well to generate the URL section.

If you’re not using an image you simple need the link text and link URL

[link text](link URL)

Here is an example of this in practice using the above example Hot Topic and only using the shorted search URL.

[Antibiotic Stewardship](search?type=course&query=%22antibiotic%20stewardship%22)

Here is what this hot topic looks like with the image and without.

*With image*

Antibiotic Stewardship

*Without image*

Antibiotic Stewardship
What else should I know?

- Images should be 32x32 to properly display in TRAIN. If you can’t get a 32x32 version of your image you can use a site such as https://www.reduceimages.com/ to reduce the size of your image. Start with a square image for best results, but if your image is not square make sure that neither the height or width of the image is greater than 32.
- As mentioned before, only hot topics posts set to the top level affiliate group will be available on the affiliate login page.
- As mentioned before the title of the blog post is not shown to end users, only what is in the content section, so the titles for hot topics should use a common identifier so they can be easily found within you list of blog posts
- All admins that currently have either the “Blog Author” or “Blog Admin” role will have the ability to post hot topics based on the group level for which the role is assigned
- If the length of the hot topic post does not fit within the tile, the words will wrap so the link text is shown
- If more hot topic posts exist than can be viewed within the tile, a scroll bar will be used to give access to all available hot topics
- To get an overview of the announcements functionality, review the tutorial on the admin tutorials page.