

Extensions

Overview

Joomla! already is a rich featured content management system but if you're building a website with Joomla! and you need extra features which aren't available in Joomla! by default, you can easily extend it with extensions. There are five types of extensions for Joomla!: Components, Modules, Plugins, Templates, and Languages. Each of these extensions handle specific functionality.

Components

The largest and most complex of the extension types, a component is in fact a separate application. You can think of a component as something that has its own functionality, its own database tables and its own presentation. So if you install a component, you add an application to your website. Examples of components are a forum, a blog, a community system, a photo gallery, etc. You could think of all of these as being a separate application. Everyone of these would make perfectly sense as a stand-alone system. A component will be shown in the main part of your website and only one component will be shown. A menu is then in fact nothing more then a switch between different components.

Modules

Modules are extensions which present certain pieces of information on your site. It's a way of presenting information that is already present. This can add a new function to an application which was already part of your website. Think about latest article modules, login module, a menu, etc. Typically you'll have a number of modules on each web page. The difference between a module and a component is not always very clear for everybody. A module doesn't make sense as a standalone application, it will just present information or add a function to an existing application. Take a newsletter for instance. A newsletter is a module. You can have a website which is used as a newsletter only. That makes perfectly sense. Although a newsletter module probably will have a subscription page integrated, you might want to add a subscription module on a sidebar on every page of your website. You can put this subscribe module anywhere on your site.

Another commonly used module would be a search box you wish to be present throughout your site. This is a small piece of re-usable HTML that can be placed anywhere you like and in different locations on a template-by-template basis. This allows one site to have the module in the top left of their template, for instance, and another site to have it in the right side-bar.

Plugins

Joomla! plugins serve a variety of purposes. As modules enhance the presentation of the final output of the Web site, plugins enhance the data and can also provide additional, installable functionality. Joomla! plugins enable you to execute code in response to certain events, either Joomla! core events or custom events that are triggered from your own code. This is a powerful way of extending the basic Joomla! functionality.

Templates

A template is a series of files within the Joomla! CMS that control the presentation of the content. The template is not a website; it's also not considered a complete website design. The template is the basic foundation design for viewing your website. To produce the effect of a "complete" website, the template works hand-in-hand with the content stored in the database.

Languages

Probably the most basic extensions are languages. Languages can be packaged in two ways, either as a core package or as an extension package. In essence, these files consist key/value pairs, these pairs provide the translation of static text strings which are assigned within the Joomla! source code. These language packs will affect both the front and administrator side. Note: these language packs also include an XML meta file which describes the language and font information to use for PDF content generation.

Conclusion

If the difference between the three types of extensions is still not completely clear, then it is advisable to go to the admin pages of your Joomla! installation and check the components menu, the module manager and the plugin manager. Joomla! comes with a number of core components, modules and plugins. By checking what they're doing, the difference between the three types of building blocks should become clear. You can also check out the official Joomla! extensions page. Browse through the extension categories and you'll be amazed about the extension possibilities you have for your site.

Installing

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See [Installing Extensions](#) in the Web Developer's Guide for details.

Modules Manager

Overview

The Module Manager is where you add and edit Joomla! Modules. In Joomla!, Modules are used to display content and/or media around the main content.

The Module Manager can be found by selecting "Extensions" > "Module Manager" from the drop-down menu on the back-end of your HUB installation.

Module Facts:

1. All Joomla! websites require at least 1 Menu Module
2. All Other Module Types are Optional. (Examples: News, Banner, Latest News, Polls)
3. Every Menu is accompanied by a menu module. (Example mod_mainmenu)
4. Multiple occurrences of similar module types.
5. Some Modules are linked to components. For example, each Menu Module is related to one Menu component. To define a Menu in Joomla!, you need to create the Menu and Menu Items using the Menus screens and then create the Module for the Menu using this screen. Other Modules, such as Custom HTML and Breadcrumbs, do not depend on any other content.

A HUBzero installation is accompanied with over 20 Joomla! default module types and additional, HUBzero-specific modules.

Column Headers

Click on the column heading to sort the list by that column's value.

#

An indexing number automatically assigned by Joomla! for ease of reference.

Checkbox

Check this box to select one or more items. To select all items, check the box in the column heading. After one or more boxes are checked, click a toolbar button to take an action on the selected item or items. Many toolbar actions, such as Publish and Unpublish, can work with multiple items. Others, such as Edit, only work on one item at a time. If multiple items are checked and you press Edit, the first item will be opened for editing.

Module Name

The name of the Module. You can click on the name to open the Module for editing.

Enabled

A green tick or a red X showing whether the use of the component is enabled/disabled. Click the icon to toggle the item between enabled and disabled.

Order

The order to display modules within a Position. If the list is sorted by this column, you can change the display order of modules within a Position by selecting a Position in the "Select Position" filter and then clicking the arrows or by entering the sequential order and clicking 'Save Order'.

Access Level

Who has access to this item. Current options are:

- **Public:** Everyone has access
- **Registered:** Only registered users have access
- **Special:** Only users with author status or higher have access

You can change an item's Access Level by clicking on the icon in the column.

Position

The position on the page where this module is displayed. Positions are locations on the page where modules can be placed (for example, "left" or "right"). Positions are defined in the Template in use for the page. Positions can also be used to insert a Module inside an Article using the syntax "{loadposition xxx}", where "xxx" is a unique position for the module.

Pages

The Menu Items where this Module will be displayed. Options are "All" for all Menu

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Items, "None" for no Menu Items, and "Varies" for selected Menu Items. A Module will only display on Menu Items where it is selected.

Type

The system name of the Module. Joomla! installs 20 standard Modules. Many Joomla! Extensions contribute additional Modules.

ID

The ID number. This is a unique identification number for this item assigned automatically by Joomla!. It is used to identify the item internally, for example in internal links. You can not change this number.

Display

The number of items to display on one page. If there are more items than this number, you can use the page navigation buttons (Start, Prev, Next, End, and page numbers) to navigate between pages. Note that if you have a large number of items, it may be helpful to use the Filter options, located above the column headings, to limit which items display (*where applicable*).

Toolbars

Primary Toolbar

At the top right you will see the toolbar:

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The functions are:

Enable

To enable one or more items, select them using the Checkbox and press this button. You may also toggle between Enabled and Disabled by clicking on the icon in the "Enabled" column.

Disable

To disable one or more items, select them using the Checkbox and press this button. You may also toggle between Enabled and Disabled by clicking on the icon in the "Enabled" column.

Copy

To copy one or more Modules, select them using the Checkbox and press this button. A new Module will be created for each selected Module. The new Module will have the name "Copy of" plus the original Module name. Note that the new copies are initially disabled.

Delete

To delete one or more items, select them and click this button. The selected items will be deleted. **Note:** *only empty items can be deleted.*

Edit

Select one item and click on this button to open it in edit mode. If you have more than one item selected (where applicable), the first item will be opened. You can also open an item for editing by clicking on its Title or Name.

New

To create a new instance of a Module, press this button. You will be taken to a screen that lists all of the available Modules. See [Module Manager - New/Edit](#) for information about adding Modules.

Help

Opens this Help Screen.

Site and Administrator Links

At the top left, above the Filter, you will see the following two links:

Site

OOpens the Site tab. This is the default tab and allows you to manage the Modules for the front end of the web site.

Administrator

OThis tab allows you to manage the Modules for the back end administration of the web site. If you do not need to change the Joomla! administrator menus, no modifications are required here.

List Filters

Filter by Partial Title

You can filter the list of items by typing part of the title or the ID number. Or, you can select a combination of Category and Published State.

Filter

In the upper left corner just above the column headings is a Filter field and two buttons, as shown below:

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If you have a large number of items on the list, you can use this filter to find the desired item(s) quickly. Enter either part of the title or an ID number and press 'Go' to display the matching items. You can enter in whole words or part of a word. For example, "ooml" will match all titles with the word "Joomla!" in them.

Filter by Template, Position, Type and Published State

In the upper right area, above the column headings, are following drop-down list boxes as shown below:

The selections may be combined. Only items matching both selections will display in the list.

Select Template.

Select the Template from the drop-down list box of available Templates. Only Templates that are enabled for this site will display.

Select Position.

Select a Position from the drop-down list box of available Positions.

Select Type.

Select the Module Type from the drop-down list box of available Module Types. Joomla! installs with 20 available Module Types. Additional ones may be available if you have installed any Joomla! Extensions.

Select State.

Use the drop-down list box to select the published state: Enabled or Disabled.

Create/Edit Modules

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When you create a new Module, you will select the Module Type. This will determine what type of content this Module can display. If you edit an existing Module, the Module Type will already be determined.

Note: You cannot change the Module Type of an existing Module.

All Modules have two sections that are the same: Details and Menu Assignment. The Parameters are different for each Module Type.

Details

Module Type

This displays the system name of the module. No entry is allowed.

Title

The Title of the Module.

Show Title

Whether or not to show the Title of the Module.

Enabled

Whether or not the Module is enabled. If "No", the Module will not be shown on the page.

Position

The Position on the page to show the Module. There are two types of Positions you can use.

1. You can select a Position from the drop-down list box. The Positions in the list box are those provided by your Template. You can see the available Positions on the page by adding the letters "?tp=1" to the end of any front-end Joomla! URL. For example, if your home page is "www.mysite.com", you can type the URL "www.mysite.com?tp=1". The page will display with labeled rectangles

indicating each pre-defined Position for the current Template.

2. You can type in a Position that is different from the pre-defined positions (for example, "myposition1"). This type of Position can be used to insert a Module into an Article. If you enter the code "{loadposition xxx}" inside the text of an Article, where "xxx" matches the Position of a Module, and if the Module is assigned to the the Menu Selection where the Article is displayed (see [Menu Assignment](#) below), then the Module will be displayed at that point in the Article.

Order

The Order that this Module will be displayed within the Position. If more than one Module is displayed at the same position, this will determine the order of display. The drop-down list box shows all Modules displaying at the current Position. Select the Module that you want the current Module to *follow*.

- You can also change the order of display in the Module Manager.
- The Module Order is only important when two or more Modules are displaying at the *same Position* and on the *same Menu Selections*.

Access Level. Who has access to this item. Current options are:

- **Public:** Everyone has access
- **Registered:** Only registered users have access
- **Special:** Only users with author status or higher have access

Enter the desired level using the drop-down list box.

ID

The ID number. This is a unique identification number for this item assigned automatically by Joomla!. It is used to identify the item internally, for example in internal links. You can not change this number.

Description

A description of what the Module does. No entry is allowed.

Menu Assignment

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This is where you tell Joomla! which pages to show this Module on. This Module will show on the page when this Menu Item is selected. If the Menu Item allows the user to navigate to sub-pages, then this Module will also show on these sub-pages. For example, if the Menu item is a Blog Layout, the Module will also show when the user clicks on a "Read more..." link, an Article Link, or a Page Navigation link from that Blog Layout.

Menus.

"All" means show the current Module on all Menu Items. "None" means don't show the Module on any Menu Items. "Select Menu Item(s) from the List" allows you to select which Menu Items to show the Module on.

Menu Selection.

If "Select Menu Items(s) from the List" above is selected, select individual Menu Items that will display the Module.

- Use Ctrl+Click to select multiple Menu Items.
- Use Shift+Click to select a range of Menu Items.
- If you want to select most of the Menu Items, first click "All" above under Menus and then click "Select Menu Items(s) from the List". All of the Menu Items will be selected. Then use Ctrl+Click to deselect the Menu Items you don't want to include.

Parameters

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This will vary between modules.

Templates Manager

Overview

The Template Manager is where you assign a default Template to your Joomla! web site. You can also edit and preview Templates here.

In Joomla!, the visual layout of both the Front-end and Back-end of your site is controlled by the Template. Templates are extensions that contain layout and style information that tells Joomla! exactly how to draw each page of your site.

When you first install Joomla!, one Back-end Template and two Front-end templates are included. Other Templates can be installed from third-party developers as Extensions.

If you want to use the same Template for all of the pages on your site, you just assign one Template as the Default Template. You can also assign different Templates to different pages.

Select "Extensions" ? "Template Manager" from the drop-down menu in the back-end of your Joomla! installation.

Column Headers

#

An indexing number automatically assigned by Joomla! for ease of reference.

Template Name

The name given to each Template by the Template author. Click the Name to open the Template for editing. If you hover the mouse over the Template Name, a small preview for the Template displays in a pop-up window. The Template Name normally corresponds to the sub-directory name that contains the Template in the <path-to-Joomla!>/templates/ directory. For example, the files for the "rhuk_milkyway" Template are in the directory "<path-to-Joomla!>/templates/rhuk_milkyway".

Default

Indicator of Default Template.

Assigned

Shows whether this Template has been assigned to any specific menu items. To assign a template to menu items, open the Template for editing.

Version

The version number of the Extension.

Date

The date this extension was released.

Author

The author of this extension.

Display #

The number of items to display on one page. If there are more items than this number, you can use the page navigation buttons (Start, Prev, Next, End, and page numbers) to navigate between pages. Note that if you have a large number of items, it may be helpful to use the Filter options, located above the column headings, to limit which items display (*where applicable*).

Toolbars

At the top right you will see the toolbar:

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Default

Select the Template that you want to be the default Template. Then click this button. The default star symbol will show in the Default column, indicating that this is now the default Template.

Edit

Select one item and click on this button to open it in edit mode. If you have more than one item selected (where applicable), the first item will be opened. You can also open an item for editing by clicking on its Title or Name. See the section below called [Template - Edit](#) for information on the edit screen.

Help

Opens this Help Screen.

Plugins Manager

Overview

The Plugin Manager allows you to enable and disable Joomla! Plugins and to edit a Plugin's Details and Parameters.

The Plugin Manager can be accessed by selecting "Extensions" > "Plugin Manager" from the drop-down menu on the Back-end of your HUBzero installation.

Column Headers

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#

An indexing number automatically assigned by Joomla! for ease of reference.

Checkbox

Check this box to select one or more items. To select all items, check the box in the column heading. After one or more boxes are checked, click a toolbar button to take an action on the selected item or items. Many toolbar actions, such as Publish and Unpublish, can work with multiple items. Others, such as Edit, only work on one item at a time. If multiple items are checked and you press Edit, the first item will be opened for editing.

Plugin Name

The Name of the Plugin. Click on the Name to open the Plugin for editing.

Enabled

A green tick or a red X showing whether the use of the component is enabled/disabled. Click the icon to toggle the item between enabled and disabled.

Order

The order to display items. If the list is sorted by this column, you can change the order by clicking the arrows or by entering the sequential order and clicking 'Save Order'. Note that the display order on a page is set in the Parameters - Advanced section for each [Menu Item](#). If that order is set to use something other than 'Order' (for example, 'Title - Alphabetical'), then the order value in this screen will be ignored. If the Menu Item Order parameter is set to use 'Order', then the items will display on the page based on the order in this screen.

Access Level

Who has access to this item. Current options are:

- **Public**: Everyone has access
- **Registered**: Only registered users have access
- **Special**: Only users with author status or higher have access

You can change an item's Access Level by clicking on the icon in the column.

Type.

The Type of the Plugin. Possible types are: authentication, content, editors, editors-xtl, search, system, user, and xmlrpc. These are also the names of the subfolders where the Plugin files are located. For example, Plugins with a Type of "authentication" are located in the folder "plugins/authentication".

File.

The name of the Plugin files. Each Plugin has two files, a ".php" file and a ".xml" file. So, for example, the Authentication - Joomla! plugin has two files: "joomla.php" and "joomla.xml".

ID

The ID number. This is a unique identification number for this item assigned automatically by Joomla!. It is used to identify the item internally, for example in internal links. You can not change this number.

Display #

The number of items to display on one page. If there are more items than this number, you can use the page navigation buttons (Start, Prev, Next, End, and page numbers) to

navigate between pages. Note that if you have a large number of items, it may be helpful to use the Filter options, located above the column headings, to limit which items display (*where applicable*).

Toolbars

At the top right you will see the toolbar:

Enable

To enable one or more items, select them using the Checkbox and press this button. You may also toggle between Enabled and Disabled by clicking on the icon in the "Enabled" column.

Disable

To disable one or more items, select them using the Checkbox and press this button. You may also toggle between Enabled and Disabled by clicking on the icon in the "Enabled" column.

Edit

Select one item and click on this button to open it in edit mode. If you have more than one item selected (where applicable), the first item will be opened. You can also open an item for editing by clicking on its Title or Name.

Help

Opens this Help Screen.

List Filters

You can filter the list of items by typing in part of the Title or the ID number. Or you can select a combination of Category and Published State.

Filter

In the upper left corner just above the column headings is a Filter field and two buttons, as shown below:

If you have a large number of items on the list, you can use this filter to find the desired item(s) quickly. Enter either part of the title or an ID number and press 'Go' to display the matching items. You can enter in whole words or part of a word. For example, "ooml" will match all titles with the word "Joomla!" in them.

Filter by Type and State

In the upper right area, above the column headings, are 2 drop-down list boxes as shown below:

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The selections may be combined. Only items matching both selections will display in the list.

Select Type

Select a Type from the drop-down list box to select only Plugins of this Type.

Select State

Select a state (Enabled or Disabled) from the drop-down list box to select only Plugins with this state.

Edit Plugins

You can edit details and parameters for Plugins. Some Plugins have several parameters, while others don't have any.

Details

The Details section is the same for all Plugins, as follows:

Name

The Name of the Plugin.

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Enabled

Whether or not this Plugin is enabled.

Type

The Type of the Plugin. This value cannot be changed.

Plugin File

The name of the Plugin file. Each Plugin has two files with this name. One has the file extension ".php" and the other has the file extension ".xml".

Access Level

Who has access to this item. Current options are:

- **Public**: Everyone has access
- **Registered**: Only registered users have access
- **Special**: Only users with author status or higher have access

Enter the desired level using the drop-down list box.

Order.

he order this item will display in the Manager screen. Use the drop-down list box to change the Order. You can select 'First' or 'Last' to make this the first or last item. Or you can select an item from the list. In this case, the current item will be listed just *after* the item you select. Note that the Order can also be changed in the Manager screen.

Description.

The description of what this Plugin does. This cannot be changed.

Parameters

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This will vary between plugins.

Uninstalling

Overview

See [Uninstalling Extensions](#) in the Web Developer's Guide for details.