Configuring

Overview

One of the many advantages to Joomla! and HUBzero is the level of configuration that can be applied. Not only can you configure some global site settings, but individual components, modules, and plugins as well.

HUBzero also adds many other configuration options for extended registration information and more.

Joomla! Settings

Overview

Note: Most, if not all, of these settings can be set once and then left alone. Most HUBzero installs will have these configurations set for optimal performance. It is not advisable to make changes to the "System" or "Server" settings.

The settings are saved in '/configuration.php'. To save your changes, either the FTP-layer must be activated or the 'configuration.php' file made writable.

Toolbar

At the top right you will see the toolbar. The functions are:

Save

> Save the modifications you made to the Global Configuration. You will be redirected to the Control Panel

Apply

> Save it, but stay in the same screen. If you have been working on a screen for a long time and don't want to risk losing your work, pressing Apply saves your work and lets you continue working. If, for example, you lost your Internet connection, your work will be saved up this point.

Close

> Return to the previous screen without saving your work. If you press Close while adding a new item, this new item will not be created. If you were modifying an existing item, the modifications will not be saved.

Help

> Opens the Joomla! Help Screen.

Site Setting Groups

Site Settings

Site Offline
> This setting shows when the site is offline. Only Administrators will be able to see the site when *Site Offline* is set to Yes. The default setting is **No**.

Offline Message
> The message that will be displayed on the site when the site is offline.

Site Name
> The name of the site.

Default WYSIWYG Editor
> (WYSIWYG stands for What You See Is What You Get) The default editor to use when creating articles.

List Length
> The length of lists in the Control Panel for all Users. By default, this is set to **20**.

Feed Length
> The number of content items to be shown in the feed(s). By default, this is set to **10**.

Metadata Settings

Global Site Meta Description
> This is the description of the site which is indexed by search engine spiders.

Global Site Meta Keywords
> These keywords describe the site and are the basis for improving the ability of search engine spiders ability to index the site.

Show Title Meta Tag
> It shows the Meta information of each article. This Meta information is used by search engine spiders when indexing the site. Each article can have its own Meta Data information (set under the **Metadata Information** pane when creating or editing an article).

Show Author Meta Tag
> It shows the Author Meta information for articles and is used by search engine spiders when indexing the site.

SEO Settings

SEO stands for *Search Engine Optimization*.

Search Engine Friendly URLs
> When set to *Yes*, URLs are rewritten to be more friendly for search engine spiders. For example, the URL: *www.example.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=etc...*, would turn into: *www.example.com/alias*. Most of the items created in Joomla! have an Alias box where a search engine friendly URL can be inserted. The default setting is **No**.

Use Apache *mod_rewrite*
> When set to *Yes*, Joomla! will use the *mod_rewrite* settings of Apache when creating search engine friendly URLs. Please note: it is advised that you do not modify any **.htaccess** file without an understanding of how it works. You must use the **.htaccess**

file provided with Joomla! in order to use this setting. To use this file, rename the **htaccess.txt** file (found in the root directory) to **.htaccess**. By default, this setting is set to **No**.

Add suffix to URLs

When set to *Yes*, Joomla! will add **.html** to the end of the URLs. The default setting is **No**.

System Setting Groups

System Settings

Secret Word

This is generated when Joomla! is first installed and is not changeable. It is used internally by Joomla! for security purposes.

Path to Log folder

The path where the logs should be stored. The Joomla! installer should automatically fill in this folder.

Enable Web Services

This feature enables Joomla! to make RPC (Remote Procedure Calls) using HTTP as the transport medium and XML as the encoding language. This function should remain on to ensure that many third party extensions works. The default setting **Yes**.

Help Server

The place Joomla! looks for help information when you click the **Help** button (visible in many screens and options of the administration panel). By default, it uses Joomla!'s main help site.

User Settings

Allow User Registration
> This determines whether users can register on the site. The default setting is **Yes**.

New User Registration Type
> If *Allow User Registration* is set to *Yes*, this setting tells Joomla! what level of access should be given to new users who register. The default setting is **Registered**.

New User Account Activation
> This setting determines whether a new user will have to activate their account before they can use it. If set to **Yes**, users will be sent an email containing a link to a web address. The user must follow this link to activate his/her account. By default, this setting is set to **Yes**.

Front-end User Parameters
> When set to *Show*, users will be able to select their language, article editor, and help site preferences from within their Details screen. The default setting is **Show**.

Media Settings

Legal Extensions (File Types)
> These are the file types users are allowed to upload. By default, when Joomla! is installed, basic image and document files are allowed.

Maximum Size (in bytes)
> The maximum file size users are allowed to upload, in bytes. The default setting is **10000000** (or 10mb).

Path to Media Folder
> The path where non-image media files are located, including videos and document files. The default is "<Joomla! home>/images". You can create a new folder to use with the Media Manager and enter the path to that folder here. **Warning**: *Do not delete or rename the existing "<Joomla! home>/images" folder on your server.* This folder and its subfolders "images/banners", "images/M_images", "images/smiles", and "images/stories" are used by Joomla!. Deleting or renaming these folders may cause errors.

Path to Image Folder
> The path where images are stored. The default is "<Joomla! home>/images/stories". You can create a new folder to use with the Media Manager and enter the path to that folder here. If you want to access this folder from the Media Manager, either use the default value or make the new folder a sub-folder of the Media Manager folder. **Warning**: *Do not delete or rename the existing "images/stories" folder on your server.* This folder is used by Joomla! and deleting or renaming it will cause errors.

Restrict Uploads
> This feature restricts uploads by user type. The default setting is **Yes**.

Check MIME Types
> This uses MIME Magic or Fileinfo to verify files. The default setting is **Yes**. By checking the MIME information, you help ensure users don't upload malicious files to your site. If invalid MIME type errors are received then change the setting to *No*.

Legal Image Extensions (File Types)

This allows you to limit the types of images that can be uploaded. It operates by checking the file image headers. By default, Joomla! only allows **bmp,gif,jpg,png**.

Ignored Extensions

This sets which extensions are ignored for MIME type checking and restricts uploads. By default, no extensions are ignored.

Legal MIME Types

This sets the list of legal MIME types for uploads. By default, Joomla! automatically includes some standard file types. It is recommended that you do not touch this setting unless you know what you are doing.

Illegal MIME Types

This sets the list of illegal MIME types for uploads. By default, Joomla! automatically blocks HTML MIME types. It is recommended that you do not touch this setting unless you know what you are doing.

Enable Flash Uploader

This setting enables the integrated Flash Uploader which is used for example at the Media Management. If enabled it is possible to upload several fieles at once. Default setting is **No**. *Tip: if enabled and the download does not work, disable the flash uploader (can happen due incompatible flash settings by Adobe)*

Debug Settings

Debug System

This will turn on the debugging system of Joomla!. When set to **Yes**, this tool will provide diagnostic information, language translations, and SQL errors. If any such issues or errors occur, they will be displayed at the bottom of each page, in both the front-end and back-end.

Debug Language

This will turn on the debugging indicators (*...*) or (?...?) for the Joomla! Language files. Debug Language will work without the Debug System tool set to on. But it will not provide additional detailed references which would help in correcting any errors.

Cache Settings

Cache

This setting sets whether site caching is enabled or not. When enabled, it keeps a local copy of the content on the server to speed up accessing and lessen stress on the database. The default setting is **No**.

Cache Time

This setting sets the maximum length of time (in minutes) for a cache file to be stored before it is refreshed. The default setting is **15** minutes.

Cache Handler

This setting sets how the cache operates. There is only one caching mechanism which is file-based.

Session Settings

Session Lifetime

> This setting sets how long a session should last and how long a user can remain signed in for (before logging them off for being inactive). The default setting is **15** minutes.

Session Handler

> This setting sets how the session should be handled once a user connects and logs into the site. The default setting is set to **Database**.

Server Setting Groups

Server Settings

Path to Temp-folder

> The path where files are temporarily stored. This is filled in by default when Joomla! is installed.

GZIP Page Compression

> Compressing pages typically increases your site's speed. The default setting is **No**.

Error Reporting

> This sets the appropriate level of reporting. The default setting is **System Default**.

Force SSL

> This setting forces the site access for selected areas under SSL (https). *Note*: you must have set already the server to use SSL. Options are:
>
> None
>
> > SSL is not activated
>
> Administrator Only
>
> > SSL is only valid for the backend.

Entire Site
>SSL is valid for the whole site (front- & backend).

Locale Settings

Time Zone
>This tool sets the current date and time. The set time should be where the site's server is located. The default setting is **(UTC 00:00) Western Europe Time, London, Lisbon, Casablanca**.

FTP Settings

FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol. Most of these settings are set during the initial Joomla! installation.

Enable FTP
>This setting tells Joomla! to use it's built-in FTP function instead of the normal upload process used by PHP.

FTP Host
>The host server's URL connecting the FTP.

FTP Port
>The port where the FTP is accessed. The default setting is **21**.

FTP Username
>The username that Joomla! will use when accessing the FTP server. Security recommendation: create another FTP user account to access a folder where files will be uploaded to.

FTP Password
>The password that Joomla! will use when accessing the FTP server. Security recommendation: create another FTP user account to access the folder where files will be uploaded to.

FTP Root
>The root directory where files should be uploaded to.

Database Settings

These settings are set during the initial setup of Joomla! It is advised to leave these settings the way they are, unless you have a good understanding of how databases work.

Database Type
>The type of databased to be used. The default setting is **mysql**, but this can be changed during the initial setup of Joomla!.

Hostname
>The hostname where the database is located. It is typically set to **localhost** for most servers. It is possible for the hostname to be located on a different server all together.

Username
>The username to access the database.

Database
>   The name of the database.

Database Prefix
>   The prefix used before the actual table's name. This allows you to have multiple Joomla!
>   installations in the same database. The default setting is **jos_**, but this can be changed
>   during initial setup of Joomla!.

Mail Settings

The mail settings are set during the initial setup of Joomla!. These settings can be changed
whenever needed.

Mailer
>   This setting sets which mailer to use to deliver emails from the site. The default setting is
>   **PHP Mail Function**. This can be changed during the initial setup of Joomla!.
>
>   PHP Mail Function
>   >   This uses the mail function that is built into PHP.
>
>   Sendmail
>   >   This uses the Sendmail program, which is typically used when creating HTML
>   >   email forms.
>
>   SMTP Server
>   >   This uses the site's SMTP server.

Mail from
>   The email address used by Joomla! to send site email.

From Name
>   The name Joomla! will use when sending site emails. By default, Joomla! uses the site
>   name during the initial setup.

Sendmail Path
>   The path where the Sendmail program is located. This is typically filled in by Joomla!
>   during the initial setup. This path is only used if **Mailer** is set to **Sendmail**.

SMTP Authentication
>   If the SMTP server requires authentication to send mail, set this to **Yes**. Otherwise leave
>   it at **No**. This is only used if **Mailer** is set to **Sendmail**.

SMTP Username
>   The username to use for access to the SMTP host. This is only used if **Mailer** is set to
>   **Sendmail**.

SMTP Password
>   The password to use for access to the SMTP host. This is only used if **Mailer** is set to
>   **Sendmail**.

SMTP Host
>   The SMTP address to use when sending mail. This is only used if **Mailer** is set to
>   **Sendmail**.

HUB Settings

Overview

Note: Most, if not all, of these settings can be set once and then left alone. Most HUBzero installs will have these configurations set for optimal performance. It is not advisable to make changes to any settings not in the "Registration" area.

Toolbar

At the top right you will see the toolbar. The functions are:

Save
> Save the modifications you made to the Global Configuration. You will be redirected to the Control Panel

Close
> Return to the previous screen without saving your work. If you press Close while adding a new item, this new item will not be created. If you were modifying an existing item, the modifications will not be saved.

Site Settings Group

Site Settings

Short Name
> **Deprecated** A short name for the site to be used in various component texts.

Short URL
> **Deprecated** The URL of the site minus the "http://".

Long URL
> **Deprecated** The full URL of the site.

Support Email
> Primary email address for administrative data to be sent to.

Monitor Email
> Email address for account registration data to be sent to.

Home Dir
> The home directory for user accounts.

Forge Settings

Name
> The name for the Tool Forge area of the site.

URL
> The URL for the Tool Forge.

RepoURL
> The URL for the Tool Forge used by Repo.

LDAP Settings

MasterHost

.

SlaveHosts

.

BaseDN

.

NegotiateTLS

.

SearchUserDN

.

SearchUserPW

.

AcctMgrDN

.

AcctMgrPW

.

Registration Setting Groups

See [Configuring Registration](#) for more details.

Login Return URL

By default, members who have just logged in will be directed to the "/myhub" page. It is possible, in HUBzero, to change the redirection URL to something else.

1. First login to the administrative back-end.
2. Once logged in, find "Components" in the main menu bar located toward the top of the page. You should be presented with a drop-down menu containing a list of your installed components.

3. Choose "Hub" from the available options.

4. You should now be presented with a control panel for various settings and configurations of your site.

   Note: This is a different set of configurations than what is found under "Site" > "Global Configuration" and control HUB specific items.

   Once the page has loaded, select the "Parameters" button in the toolbar, found in the upper right-hand portion of the screen. Click it.

5. You should now be presented with a pop-up panel for various settings and configurations of your site.

   Look for the option titled "Login Return URL". This will most likely be the first item in the list.

6. Enter in the textbox the URL you wish members to be redirected to and then click "Save".

Registration

Overview

HUBs allow for considerable customization of the registration form for new members. While one HUB may present fields for filling in phone, website, and organization, another may take a more minimal approach and require only a username, password, and email address. This is all configurable.

Making Changes

1. First login to the administrative back-end.
2. Once logged in, find "Components" in the main menu bar located toward the top of the page. You should be presented with a drop-down menu containing a list of your installed components.

3. Choose "Hub" from the available options.

4. You should now be presented with a control panel for various settings and configurations of your site.

   Note: This is a different set of configurations than what is found under "Site" > "Global Configuration" and control HUB specific items.

   Once the page has loaded, select "Registration" from the sub-menu found under the "HUB Configuration" title.

5. You should now be presented with a table of available user fields and their status for a particular action. This controls what fields the user will see, must fill in (required) or can fill in (optional) depending upon which action or state they are currently in. That is, you can make the username field required for the registration page ("create" column) but may not wish for your users to be able to edit this after creation ("read only" for the "update" and "edit" columns).

   Create column
   　　　What the user sees on the registration page
   Proxy column
   　　　What columns an administrator sees or must fill in when creating an account by
   　　　proxy (i.e., for someone else)
   Update column
   　　　What fields the user will see and/or must fill in if something has changed with
   　　　what information is required at registration. An example of this would be if the
   　　　"citizenship" field was, at one point, optional for registration but is now required.
   　　　Setting this field to "Required" for the "Update" column will now require logged-
   　　　in users to fill this information out.
   Edit column
   　　　What fields the user will see and can edit for their user profile
   Field Option Definitions:
   　　　Required = Must fill in

Optional = Can fill in
Hide = Not visible
Read only = Can view but cannot change

6. Once you feel ready to save your changes, scroll back to the top of the page and click "Save" (the icon that looks like a floppy disk) in the upper right portion of the page.

Changes take affect immediately.

Customizing Confirmation Email

All component layouts can be customized through overrides. Except for files that are provided in the "Joomla!" distribution itself, this method for customization eliminate the need for designers and developers to "hack" core files that could change when the site is updated to a new version. Because they are contained within the template, they can be deployed to the Web site without having to worry about changes being accidentally overwritten when your System Administrator upgrades the site. Some emails sent by the system, such as registration confirmations, are component layouts for just this reason of customization.

Quick Overview of Output Overrides

Layout overrides only work within the active template and are located under the /html/ directory in the template. For example, the overrides for "corenil" are located under /templates/corenil/html/.

It is important to understand that if you create overrides in one template, they will not be available in other templates. For example, "rhuk_milkyway" has no component layout overrides at all. When you use this template you are seeing the raw output from all components. When you use the "Beez" template, almost every piece of component output is being controlled by the layout overrides in the template. "corenil" is in between having overrides for some components and only some views of those components.

The layout overrides must be placed in particular way. Using "Beez" as an example you will see the following structure:

```
/templates
  /beez
    /html
      /com_register  (this directory matches the component directory n
ame)
        /emails          (this directory matches the view directory name
)
          confirm.php (this file matches the layout file name)
```

The structure for component overrides is quite simple:
/html/com_{ComponentName}/{ViewName}/{LayoutName}.php.

Customizing The Confirmation Email

To override the component layout for the registration confirmation email, copy:

```
/components/com_register/views/emails/tmpl/confirm.php  (the email sen
t if the user resends a confirmation)
/components/com_register/views/emails/tmpl/create.php  (the email sent
```

```
 upon registration)
```

to:

```
/templates/{YourTemplate}/html/com_register/emails/confirm.php
/templates/{YourTemplate}/html/com_register/emails/create.php
```

If the destination directories do not exist, create them. And then edit the contents of the file(s) you just copied.

See Template Overrides for more information on customizing layouts and CSS.

Confirmation Return URL

By default, members who have just completed the confirmation process will be directed to a "Thank you" page. It is possible, in HUBzero, to change the redirection URL to something else.

Note: This only applies to the initial page the user sees upon confirmation of their email. To customize the return URL members are redirected to upon login see Hub Configuration.

1. First login to the administrative back-end.
2. Once logged in, find "Components" in the main menu bar located toward the top of the page. You should be presented with a drop-down menu containing a list of your installed components.

3. Choose "Hub" from the available options.

4. You should now be presented with a control panel for various settings and configurations of your site.

   Note: This is a different set of configurations than what is found under "Site" > "Global Configuration" and control HUB specific items.

   Once the page has loaded, select the "Parameters" button in the toolbar, found in the upper right-hand portion of the screen. Click it.

5. You should now be presented with a pop-up panel for various settings and configurations of your site.

   Look for the option titled "Confirmation Return URL". This will most likely be the second item in the list.

6. Enter in the textbox the URL you wish members to be redirected to and then click "Save".

Components

Overview

Many components will have a set of parameters that can be configured. These parameters can determine what functionality is presented to the user, be a default set of user options (what profile fields are visible to site visitors by default, for instance), or settings needed for the component to function properly. Accessing and adjusting these parameters is quick and easy.

Note: Not all components will have configurable parameters. For those that do, the configurations apply **only** to that component and should not affect any other components, site settings, or module settings.

1. First login to the administrative back-end.
2. Once logged in, find "Components" in the main menu bar located toward the top of the page. You should be presented with a drop-down menu containing a list of your installed components.

3. Choose the component you wish configure from the available options. Here we've chosen the "Hub" component.

4. Once the page has loaded, select the "Parameters" button in the toolbar, found in the upper right-hand portion of the screen. Click it.

5. You should now be presented with a pop-up panel for various settings and configurations of your site.

6. Adjust the available parameters as needed and then click "Save". Changes take affect immediately.

Modules

Overview

Most modules will have a set of parameters that can be configured. These parameters can determine what functionality is presented to the user, be a default set of user options, or settings needed for the module to function properly (setting the URL to a feed for a feed reader module, for instance). Accessing and adjusting these parameters is quick and easy.

Note: Not all modules will have configurable parameters. For those that do, the configurations apply **only** to that module instance. You may have multiple instances of a module with different parameter configurations.

1. First login to the administrative back-end.

2. Once logged in, go to the "Module Manager." The Module Manager can be found by selecting "Extensions" > "Module Manager" from the drop-down menu on the back-end of your HUB installation.

3. Choose the module you wish to configure from the available list.

4. Once the page has loaded, find the "Parameters" grouping, found on the right-hand portion of the screen.

5. Adjust the available parameters as needed and then click "Save" (the icon that looks like a floppy disk) in the upper right portion of the page. Changes take affect immediately.

Plugins

Overview

Some plugins will have a set of parameters that can be configured. These parameters can determine what functionality is presented to the user, be a default set of user options, or settings needed for the plugin to function properly. Accessing and adjusting these parameters is quick and easy.

Note: Not all plugins will have configurable parameters. For those that do, the configurations apply **only** to that plugin and should not affect component configuration, module configuration, or site configuration.

1. First login to the administrative back-end.

2. Once logged in, go to the "Plugin Manager." The Plugin Manager can be found by selecting "Extensions" > "Plugin Manager" from the drop-down menu on the back-end of your HUB installation.

3. Choose the plugin you wish configure from the available list.

4. Once the page has loaded, find the "Parameters" grouping, found on the right-hand portion of the screen.

5. Adjust the available parameters as needed and then click "Save" (the icon that looks like a floppy disk) in the upper right portion of the page. Changes take affect immediately.