

Learning Joomla!

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Joomla! Core Team Member



Founded by a group of volunteer developers and administrators (16 original Core Team members) who were originally part of the Mambo project.

I am one of the founding members and continue to actively contribute to the Joomla! Project as a Core Team Member.

I have been involved on the Document Working Group, Fundraising Team and currently co-leading the Joomla! User Groups Working Group



Joomla! is a free open source framework (GPL) and content publishing system designed for quickly creating highly interactive multi-language Web sites, online communities, media portals, blogs and eCommerce applications.



Doesn't require the user or administrator of the site to know HTML to operate it once it's up and running.

Suitable for sites for government, municipalities, non-profit organizations, businesses and personal sites etc....

Translated into over 60 languages

Before you create the actual pages of your site, you might like to first create Sections & Categories if your site structure needs them.

Each Section may have one or more Categories.

Each Categories may have one or more articles. These articles make up your Web pages.

It helps to write down your layout of your structure on a piece of paper similar to this.

Don't worry if you are not sure of your Sections & Categories Structure because you can easily modify your structure in Joomla even after you get your site up and running.

Section 1

- Category 1
 - Article 1
 - Article 2
 - Article 3

- Category 2
 - Article 4
 - Article 5
 - Article 6

- Category 3
 - Article 9
 - Article 8
 - Article 9

Section 2

- Category 4
 - Article 10
 - Article 11
 - Article 12

- Category 5
 - Article 13
 - Article 14
 - Article 15

- Category 6
 - Article 16
 - Article 17
 - Article 18

Since most sites are often 20 pages or less, I like to keep sections limited to 1 unless I actually need to have more sections. I usually call it General.

If I create a site with more than one menu, then I may create my sections based upon each of the menu.

Organize what makes sense to you.

Create as many sections as needed.

Create as many categories as needed. I may have several depending on how many pages or if I want to have a blog layout on a given page.

These categories group articles based upon the category topic.

If your site is small, then you might only have one Section and one Category for all of your articles. OR

You could use the Uncategorized Section to group all of your articles together.

I prefer to start right away with creating one section and one Category to prepare the site for the future.

Articles are your main content for your pages

It is possible to have several articles on one page in a blog style layout.

→ For blog layouts, usually you have an intro text it could contain a photo with a link going to the full article.

Article Parameters

→ These global parameters are set for all the articles with the option to modify the parameters for individual articles separately.

Basic Parameters are settings such as:

→ Title Alias: the title that is useful for Search engines. It can be the same as your article title or be more specific for Search Engine Optimization.

Click the NEW icon

Type your Title (Use meaningful titles with keywords if possible for Search Engines)

Type your Title alias

→ Often the same as your title. The system will replace spaces with a hyphen for search engines and take out accents. If a word has an apostrophe, this is deleted by the system.

Select your Section and Category

Add a simple word in the editor and save your work as now is the time I like to create the menu.

Finish creating all your articles without the content as I prefer to add the content of my articles after I create the menu items.

Save, Apply and close buttons.

Save : saves your work and closes your editing window

Apply: saves your work without closing your window. I use this when I want to save my work (but I have not finished) and then verify it on your site to see how it looks. You may do this several times before saving and closing your editor.

Close: closes your editing window without saving. This is helpful if you edited your work but decided that it is not what you want to save, so you just close your editing window without saving it.

Using the Editor:

I usually like to keep the formatting simple by not overdoing it.

Avoid copying and pasting directly from Word processors such as MS Word as the code behind the text will not be compatible with your site and will likely bug it up.

I copy and paste first into MS Notepad to clean up all formatting and source code.

Then I copy paste from Notepad into the Joomla editor.

You can now format your text using this editor.

Those who are programmers can program directly using html mode

Save your work regularly using the Apply icon.

Verify your work by checking what it looks like to your visitors of your site.

I usually keep the Administrator window open, plus another window/tab open to view the Front end of your site. This way I can verify my work quickly.

The Save icon will save your work and close your editing screen.

The Close icon will close your screen and any unsaved work will obviously not be saved

Place your cursor on your editing window where you would like it to be.

Click Image icon below your editing window

Select the directory where you uploaded your image and select image.

Click insert image.

Now select the Insert image icon that is part of your editor.

Choose how you wish to align your image, usually it is left or right.

Give it a title

To give it space between your image and your text, you can add a padding style:

right align - padding: 0 0 10px 10px

left align - padding: 0 10px 10px 0

After installing Joomla, there are a few menus on your Joomla site.

The main menu is your principle menu on your site

Other menu is a secondary menu on your site (if needed)

Your Home page menu is already set up

Create your menu items to link your articles to a menu.

Go to the Main menu manager and select NEW to create a new menu item.

Select Article as your menu item type and then select Standard Article Layout. This is the most popular type of menu as it links directly to your articles.

You can also link to a category of articles that will give it a blog style layout for the page - several articles on the same page.

Other useful menu types

Links to Components: Contacts, Login, Newsfeeds, Polls, Search, Web Links

External Links

Menus are the window to your articles. They are like an index of your site.

Presented either horizontally near the top of your template or vertically.

Can contain several levels depending on your template that you use plus how you wish to structure your pages.

Choosing to have a horizontal or a vertical menu will often depend on the content of your site and your template design.

If you do not have much content, you might prefer a vertical menu on the side of your template. If you have lots of content and you need the full width of your template to present it, you will prefer a horizontal menu.

If your site is very large, you probably have more than one menu and will often combine a horizontal menu with a vertical menu.

Most people prefer sites that are not more than 2 levels deep in the menu. So try to make things assessable as possible by keeping your articles in the first or 2nd level of your menu.

Since articles are linked from a menu item you can easily rearrange your articles moving them from one menu to another.

You can have menu items in an unpublished state, ready with a click of a mouse to publish the menu item.

Menu items linking different Page Layouts:

There are several ways to present your articles.

One per page, - Standard layout

Several per page such a a blog layout.

Usually in blog layout you present only the intro of several articles with links to the rest of your articles

You can also present a complete list of articles in a Section or categories.

Manage all images and documents that you wish to display on your site

Images such as, jpg, gif, png

Video and flash

Documents in pdf format.

Convert all documents such as MS Word, Excel etc. to pdf format before uploading to avoid transferring viruses.

Pdf files have become the standard.

Uploading documents & images in the Image Directory:

Create some subdirectories in the Media Manager.

Create "documents" for your pdf files

Create, if needed, different image subdirectories

Resize your images before uploading them so that they are the size that you actually need as Joomla does not optimize images.

Upload your images and documents

You can go back to adding the content & images to your your articles.

Shows all articles that have been checked off as being published on the Frontpage of your site will be listed in the Frontpage Manager.

Reorder how your articles presented on your Frontpage

Unpublished articles.

Are mini or full applications such as boutiques, forums, directories and image galleries etc... integrated into Joomla

They appear in the main content area of your site.

Components that are included in Joomla:

Contact component:

Most popular as it presents your contact information including a form that your visitors can use to contact you.

You can have as many contacts for your site as needed with each of them their own page and contact form.

Banner component:

Publishes advertising banners

Newsfeed component:

manages and presents newsfeeds from other sites for your visitors

Polls component:

Create mini polls: yes or no or multiple choice.

Useful tool if you want to quickly poll your visitors on a given subject.

Weblinks component:

Creates a mini directory of external websites

Modules they are usually blocks of information, pictures & text surrounding your articles on each page.

Modules can be positioned above, on each side and below your main content articles.

Module positions are determined by your template.

More simpler in functionality than Components.

Modules and Components often work together. Modules can present information from a component or be self contained in information and functionality.

Some of the most popular modules are Latest news, Popular, Polls and Random image modules

Latest News presents a short list of your latest articles linking to the article

Random image module presents different images in the same position. Every time you refresh the page or change to another page which has this module another image shows up.

Often you have more module positions in your template that you actually use.

If in a certain module position you do not have any modules showing up on a given page the position disappears for your visitors and you article takes up the full width of your template.

Manage all users that have login access to your site

Some users might only be registered users meaning that they have access to some pages of your site that is password protected.

For other users, you can grant editing privileges either by accessing the content with a Frontend or backend login.

Managers or administrators of your site have backend access and have advanced privileges of managing your site.

Move unwanted articles to the Trash

Restore them if you made a mistake or

Delete them permanently

Developers all around the world love to create powerful add-ons that are called Extensions.

An Extension is used to add capabilities to Joomla that do not exist in the base core code. Here are just some examples of the hundreds and hundreds of available Extensions:

Dynamic form builders

Business or organizational directories

Document management

Image and multimedia galleries

E-commerce and shopping cart engines

Forums and chat software

Calendars

E-mail newsletters

Banner advertising systems

You can find more examples over at our ever growing Joomla!

[Extensions Directory.](#)



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...because open source matters



Questions?

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