

CiviCRM for Joomla!

Integration, Best Practices,
Extensions, and More

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CiviCRM for Joomla

- less CMS-specific distinction than there once was
- we will cover:
 - ◆ implementation/installation/upgrade
 - ◆ configuration
 - ◆ extensions
 - ◆ best practices

installation considerations

CiviCRM tables

- may reside in an alternate database from Joomla
- can only be moved/configured after initial installation
- pros:
 - ◆ keeps CiviCRM isolated from Joomla
 - ◆ easier to run/restore CiviCRM-only backups
- cons:
 - ◆ when upgrading, will need to manually update settings file before running DB upgrade

upgrade considerations

- in-place upgrades
 - ◆ simple/fast, but leaves deprecated files in place
- uninstall/reinstall
 - ◆ more downtime during process
 - ◆ may break existing menu items to Civi resources

configuration files

→ before 4.6: 3 files

◆ frontend

/components/com_civicrm/civicrm.settings.php

◆ admin

/administrator/components/com_civicrm/civicrm.settings.php

/administrator/components/com_civicrm/civicrm/config.civicrm.php

→ 4.6+

◆ no more config.civicrm.php

configuration files

alternate configurations:

- use `JURI:base()` instead of static url
- use Joomla constants for file directories
 - ◆ `JPATH_ADMINISTRATOR`
 - ◆ `JPATH_ROOT`
- pros:
 - ◆ handle multiple domains within same site
 - ◆ portable between multiple environments (development/staging/production/etc.)
- cons:
 - ◆ requires manual management through upgrades

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moving/migrating DB

- Download the database locally
- If the database user is different, triggers need to be modified
 - ◆ Options
 - Edit the file in a text editor
 - Use Perl on the command line
 - `perl -pi -e 's/DEFINER= `.*` //g'`
- Don't overwrite existing CiviCRM tables

compatibility review

- CiviCRM has kept up with the Joomla releases, for the most part
- typically it will lag behind Joomla versions as compatibility isn't investigated until the Joomla version goes stable
- there are some UI weaknesses in current J3.x compatibility that are being discussed

override directory configuration

- suggested locations:
 - ◆ media/civicrm/customphp
 - ◆ media/civicrm/customtpl
 - ◆ media/civicrm/customext
- make sure the extension URL configuration matches the directory location
 - ◆ Administer > System Settings > Resource URLs

code customization management best practices

- using CiviCRM extensions instead of Joomla plugins
- when is it more appropriate to use a Joomla plugin?
- calling CiviCRM hooks from a Joomla plugin
 - ◆ hooks vs. event triggers... are they the same
- hooks vs. override php/tpl files
 - ◆ regions via extensions
 - ◆ extra.tpl files

ACL considerations

- review your ACL groups and permissions! don't ignorantly accept the defaults!
 - ◆ separate high level admin permissions from "standard" admin permissions
 - ◆ review public and registered group perms
- Civi group to Joomla user group sync
- CiviAuthenticate
- create a special user for cron

building links to CiviCRM content

→ custom JForm fields

- ◆ use CiviCRM data in module/template configuration
- ◆ build Joomla native forms for submitting to CiviCRM
- ◆ JForm fields in Civi core at `components/com_civicrm/elements`
- ◆ group, tag, entity fields list elements provided by CiviCRM Contact Module

Joomla-specific extensions

→ CiviAuthenticate plugin

<https://github.com/lcdservices/CiviCRM-CiviAuthenticate>

→ CiviGroup Sync component

<https://github.com/lcdservices/CiviCRM-Group-Sync>

→ Event Listing modules

<https://github.com/lcdservices/CiviEvent-Joomla-Module>

https://github.com/MobiusNewMedia/mod_civicrm_event

→ CiviCRM Contact module

https://github.com/MobiusNewMedia/mod_civicrm_contact

→ Juxtapose Component

→ CiviCRM User Synchronization

<http://extensions.joomla.org/extensions/extension/extension-specific/civicrm/civicrm-user-synchronization-for-joomla>

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other Joomla extension considerations

→ Akeeba backup

- ◆ DB table exclusions
 - cache tables
- ◆ file directory exclusions
 - media/civicrm/ConfigAndLog
 - media/civicrm/templates_c

→ AdminTools

- ◆ .htaccess maker exclusion list
 - administrator/components/com_civicrm/civicrm/bin
 - administrator/components/com_civicrm/civicrm/extern