user manual

Joomla!
Template

ViPHOSt

Viphost v1.0 - Manual v1.0

Joomla! Template

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1. Introduction

VIP Host is the February 2009 Joomla! template from BonusThemes.com.

VIP Host is a Joomla template dedicated to those of us who need a rock-solid and an impressive website infrastructure for a web hosting service. VIP Host, as all the BonusThemes templates, features flexible technologies able to make the template look really simple or filled up with tons of information, and all that with impressive and well balanced graphics and animation effects.

It features a 3 column layout, many and very impressive animation effects and a menu system with built-in support for VirtueMart 1.1. That makes it easier for you to achieve an e-commerce content integration.

From the technological innovation point of view, VIP Host introduces the second version of SMenu (sliding menu) and the brand new component com_nb. SMenu is a GNU/GPL module that creates quite a few types of animation effects. com_nb (no body) is a GNU/GPL component used in conjunction with the template to allow you instruct the template not to show the main body area for certain menu items.

Read the following sections to find detailed information and illustrated examples that explain the ways you can use the template.

2. General information

2.1 Required software

VIP Host works with Joomla! 1.5.x and it is recommended to use the latest version available.

Visit http://www.joomla.org to find which is the latest available version for Joomla!. If you are not sure which version you are using at the moment, login to the administrator control panel and locate the version number on the top right corner of the page.

2.2 Browser compatibility

VIP Host is compatible with:

- Firefox 3
- Safari 3
- MS Internet Explorer 7
- MS Internet Explorer 6

3. Template installation

To install the template you can use the Joomla! installation mechanism:
`Extensions > Install/Uninstall`

Alternatively, you may unpack the template in the /template directory.

To activate the template go to
`Extensions > Template Manager`
select the template and click the "Default" button.

Read Appendix A for illustrated examples on how to install and activate a template.

4. Layout

The layout of VIP Host provides 37 regular module positions and 5 invisible positions for supplementary services.

VIP Host implements a technology that makes it really easy to set the width of any position or the main body. Read section 5.10 for more information.

This template uses a collapsible module technology. That makes some positions disappear if there are no published modules in them. This feature gives you the capability to make arrangements for wider space in your pages.

On the top of its layout, VIP Host uses CMenu, a menu script that uses a regular Joomla menu as a data source. You have the option of disabling this menu and have a regular module position in its place. This can be set from the Template Manager and the name of the position that replaces CMenu is "header". Read sections 5.5 and 5.6 for more information.

CMenu can also be easily connected with VirtueMart's products and categories. Read section 5.11 and appendix C for more details.

This template supports animation effects for modules that are published in positions "left_up" and "right_up".

With VIP Host you can hide the entire area of the main body if that is suitable for your set up. Read section 5.14 for more information.
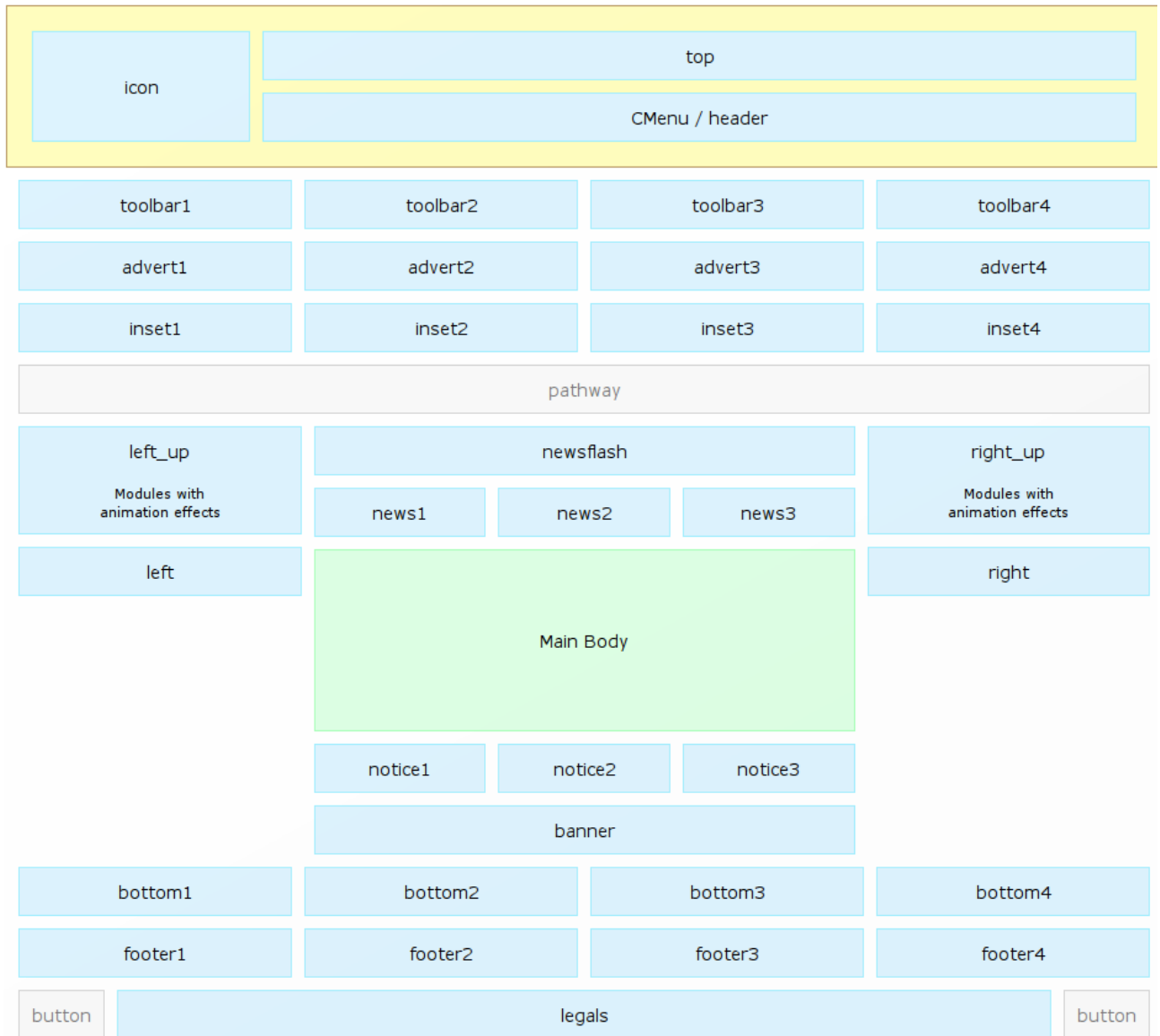
On the top right corner of the template you can place a module in a drop down panel. You can do this simply by publishing a module in the position "ddp1". Read section 5.13 for more information.

VIP Host is built to support SMenu. With SMenu you can add impressive animation effects in the main area of the template. Read section 5.15 for more information.

Finally, we need to point out that VIP Host is designed with large gradients. Try to use enough content to make the gradient areas visible because this way the design concept achieves its goal. Also try to put content in positions "bottom1", "bottom2", "bottom3" or "bottom4" to keep the bottom area layout visible.

4.1 Template map

icon	top
	CMenu / header

toolbar1	toolbar2	toolbar3	toolbar4
advert1	advert2	advert3	advert4
inset1	inset2	inset3	inset4

pathway

left_up Modules with animation effects	newsflash	right_up Modules with animation effects
	news1 news2 news3	

left	Main Body	right

notice1	notice2	notice3

banner

bottom1	bottom2	bottom3	bottom4
footer1	footer2	footer3	footer4

button	legals	button

Map of regular module positions for the template VIP Host.

The drop down panel is not visible in this map, but its position name is "ddp1". Read section 5.13 for more information.

VIP Host also supports 5 hidden positions for supplementary services. Read section 5.8 for more information.

The areas in the yellow background have a fixed height.

Modules in positions left_up and right_up have an animation effect and require the title to be visible.

4.2 CSS structure

VIP Host uses the main Joomla template CSS file for typography and other general styling. That main file is /templates/bt_viphost/css/template.css.

The file /templates/bt_viphost/css/layout.css contains CSS definitions that control the layout.

The file /templates/bt_viphost/css/cmenu.css contains CSS definitions that control the layout of CMenu, the script for the menu on the top area.

Naming system for module positions:

The IDs of the <div> tags that wrap the template positions always start with "pos_". For example the module position "left" takes the id "pos_left".
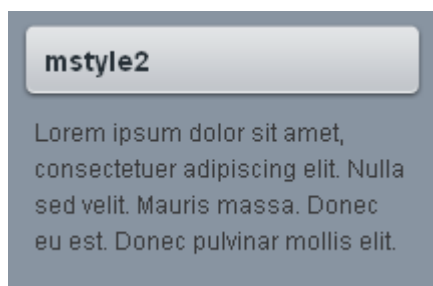
Joomla! Template
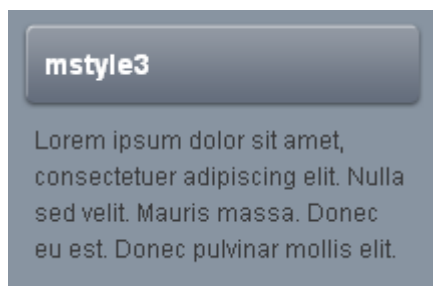
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4.3 Module Suffixes

There are 3 module styles (or module suffixes) that match the styling of the template.

mstyle1

mstyle2

mstyle3

5. Template setup

5.1 Logo setup

To setup your logo, publish a "Custom HTML" module with an uploaded image in any template position.

Example:
1. Upload your logo on your website
2. Create a new "Custom HTML" module that contains the URL of the image you just uploaded
3. Publish that module in a suitable position

For additional help with illustrated examples, visit http://www.bonusthemes.com and open the tutorial "How to upload your logo" from the tutorials section.

You can publish your logo in any position, but the recommended one for logos is "icon". If you want to use that position for your logo, the maximum height should be 115 pixels. If you want to use a shorter logo with a vertical middle alignment you can either create an image of 115 pixel height which contains transparent pixels, or alternatively you can define the top margin of the HTML div "pos_icon" from the CSS file /templates/bt_viphost/css/template.css.

Example:

```
#pos_icon {
  margin-top: 10px;
}
```

The module position "icon" has a default width of 300 pixels. If you want to set the width to a different value follow the instructions in section 5.10.

5.2 Banner setup

To setup a banner, publish a banner module in any template position.

5.3 How to show/hide the BonusThemes logo

You can show or hide the BonusThemes logo from
Extensions > Template Manger

5.4 PNG fix

MS Internet Explorer 5 and 6 have trouble rendering the alpha levels (transparencies) of PNG images. The template is equipped with a script that fixes this problem. To enable transparencies in PNG files for MS Internet Explorer 5 and 6, use the CSS class "pngfix". In some cases images appear distorted. To avoid this distortion provide "width" and "height" attributes in your <img> HTML tags. Alternatively, you can try the CSS class "pngfix_static".

PNG fix's website:
http://www.twinhelix.com

5.5 How to enable/disable CMenu

CMenu (Classic Menu) is the menu that appears on the top of the page.

If you want to use a module instead of CMenu you can disable it from
Extensions > Template Manger

locate the option "Header Menu Type" and set it to "Position Header". You can now publish your module in the position "header".

5.6 How to set the Joomla menu for CMenu

CMenu by default shows the contents of the Joomla menu "topmenu".

In order to change the source of CMenu, go to
Extensions > Template Manager

and use the option "Header Menu Name".

5.7 How to enable/disable the SEOCP feature

SEOCP (Search Engine Optimization Content Positioning) is a feature that controls the position of the main content of the pages.

When SEOCP is enabled the content is internally positioned on the top of the HTML code and this helps search engines find and analyze the content easier. When the page loads, a JavaScript script moves the content to the proper position so that the visual structures can display it in the way the human eye can understand better.

SEOCP needs JavaScript to work. This means that users with JavaScript disabled will not be able to read the content of the page.

By default, SEOCP is disabled. To enable SEOCP go to
Extensions > Template Manager

and use the option "SEOCP".

5.8 Hidden module positions

VIP Host features 5 hidden positions for supplementary functionality. The names of these positions are "aux1", "aux2", "aux3", "aux4", "aux5".

5.9 Custom menu styling

The VIP Host template has a default way of laying out menus. It uses a specific set of CSS rules that may not appear nice in exception cases. One such exception is a horizontal menu.

To make the template ignore the default layout for menus you can use a custom "Menu Class Suffix". This should not be confused with "Module Class Suffix". From the administrator's control panel go to Extensions > Module Manager

open the menu module that needs to have a different layout, open the "Advanced Parameters" panel on the right side of the page and set the "Menu Class Suffix" to any value (type for example "mystyle") and click the "Save" button.

5.10 How to set the width of any position

To set the width of a module position in the template go to Extensions > Template Manager

click the bt_viphost template and use the "Position widths" text box.

You can simply type the name of the template, a semi-colon and a width in pixels. Each line should have one setting.

Example:

left: 160
right: 200

To set the width of the main body use the keyword: "mainbody".

Example:

mainbody: 700

5.11 How to connect CMenu with VirtueMart 1.1

CMenu is the menu that appears by default as the main template menu. As explained in previous sections its data source is a regular Joomla! menu of your choice.

The connection of CMenu with VirtueMart 1.1 is a very simple task. All you have to do is create an "External Link" menu item and use the "Link" text box to define the type of connection you want. The system will convert your link to VirtueMart data if it starts with ":vm:". After that keyword, you should enter a type of connection and optional parameters.

Here is an example of what the Link should look like if you want to show all the VirtueMart categories under a menu item:

:vm:category

And here is a more complex example that connects a menu item with the sub-categories of the category 5.

:vm:category:id=5

Depending on the command you use ("category" in this case) you have optional parameters to filter your connection. For example, you may want to show only one level of sub-categories. To do that, you should use the parameter "depth":

:vm:category:id=5:depth=1

The colon (:) symbol is a delimiter for your parameters. If you want to use parameters, you should separate them with a colon (:).

Here is a list with all the available commands:

- category : Displays VirtueMart product categories.
- featured : Displays featured products.
- latest : Displays latest products.
- random : Displays random products.
- selected : Displays selected products.
- topten : Displays best selling products.

Read Appendix C for a detailed reference on the commands and their parameters.
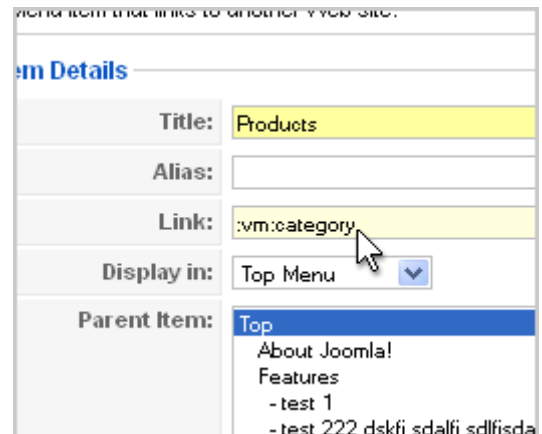
5.12 How to make modules have opening/closing animation effects

Simply publish them in the position "left_up" or "right_up".

In order to make them work correctly you should have the titles visible, so make sure you have the "Show Title" option to 'Yes".

5.13 Drop down panel

The VIP Host template is designed to support a sliding panel as an additional module position. This panel takes input from the regular Joomla module position "ddp1".

To add a module in that position, all you have to do is publish a module in it. Make sure you have the "Show title" option enabled because that will be used to set the caption of the panel's tab.

5.14 How to hide the main body area

With VIP Host you can hide the entire area of the main body.

To do that, download and install the component "com_nb" (stands for No Body). You can download this component from the Downloads Area of the BonusThemes.com website.

Assign "com_nb" to the menu items you want the main body area to be hidden.

5.15 SMenu settings

VIP Host is compatible with SMenu v2.0, a sliding menu module that features animation effects.

In the demonstration website of VIP Host, SMenu is displayed in the area with the animated panels in the middle part of the page. In order to set it up in your website you need to create images with your products, download and install the module in your website, use the settings listed below to fine tune it and use a banner category as input.

The following steps assume that you know how to use graphics tools (like GIMP or Photoshop) to create images and know how to use the Joomla's banner system.

Step 1: Create images with your products

Open the PSD sources package from the distribution files. In the archive you will find two empty background images, one in PNG format ("smenu-background-template.png") and another one in GIF format ("smenu-background-template.gif").

Use a graphics tool of your choice to super-impose product images on the PNG background file. Do that for as many products you want to show in your website.

PNG images are evolution types of GIF images. PNG images support semi-transparent areas. This is required by VIP Host because it uses lots of gradients and only PNG images can blend in nice. However, one old but popular browser, MS Internet Explorer 6, does not fully support them. If you want to make your website fully compatible with that browser you will have to repeat the work you done with the PNG background image to the GIF image. So you will have to create two versions of each product, one in PNG format and another in GIF format. The file names should be identical except from their extension.

Step 2: Upload your product images

When you have the images ready, upload your images in "images/banners" using the Joomla's Media Manager or FTP.

Create a banner category and corresponding banner items to your images. The GIF and the PNG images must have the exact same file name except from their extension.

For example:

product1.png
product2.gif

product2.png
product2.gif

When you assign an image to a banner item, choose the PNG filename. The GIF filename will be automatically picked up by SMenu, so you can safely ignore it.

Step 3: Download and install SMenu v2.0

You can download SMenu from the Downloads Area of the BonusThemes.com main website. Go to the Downloads Area, open the section Joomla! Addons and locate SMenu in the list.

Install the module using the regular way: Go to the administrator's control panel and install the module from the menu "Extensions > Install/Uninstall".

Step 4: Set up SMenu

The following settings are the ones we used to produce the result you can see in the demo website of VIP Host. You can follow them or alter them to fit your requirements.

From the Details panel:

Show Title: No
Enabled: Yes
Position: advert1

From the Parameters panel:

Count: 3
Category: [your banner category]
Height: 222
Orientation: Horizontal
Movement type: Elastic
Animation type: Slow >> Fast
Alignment: Start
PNG->GIF substitution: Yes
Speed: 3
Interval: 20
Min item size: 200
Start image: templates/bt_viphost/images/layout/smenu_l_placeholder.gif
Start CSS class: smenu_start
Splitter image: templates/bt_viphost/images/layout/smenu_splitter_placeholder.gif
Splitter CSS class: smenu_splitter
End image: templates/bt_viphost/images/layout/smenu_r_placeholder.gif
End CSS class: smenu_end
Format:

If you want to use a different amount of product images you should adjust the "Count" and "Min item size" or "Large item size".

If you use a different "Animation type", adjust "Speed".

Appendix A – How to install a template

To install a template in Joomla! 1.5.x follow the next 6 steps:

Step 1

Get into the administrator's control panel with your browser.
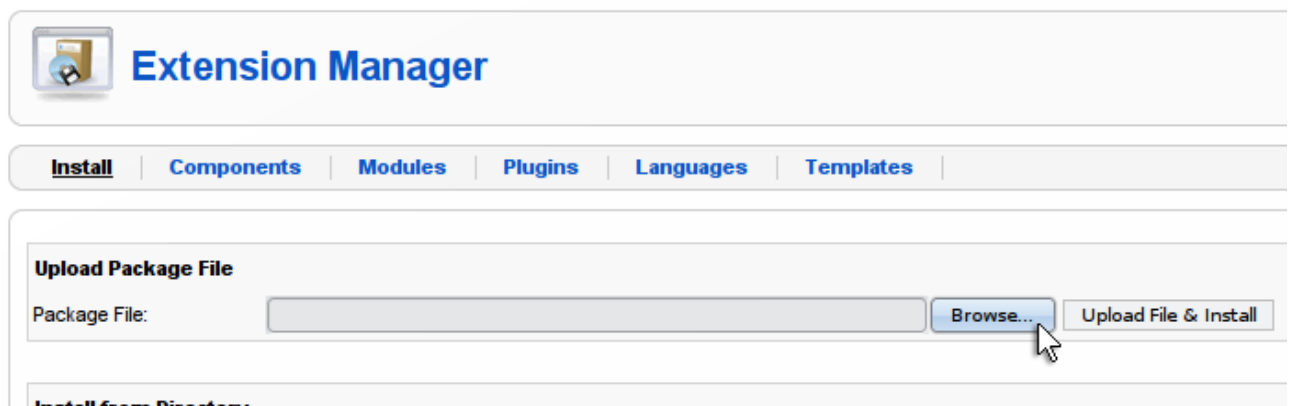
The URL usually looks like
http://www.example.com/administrator/

Step 2
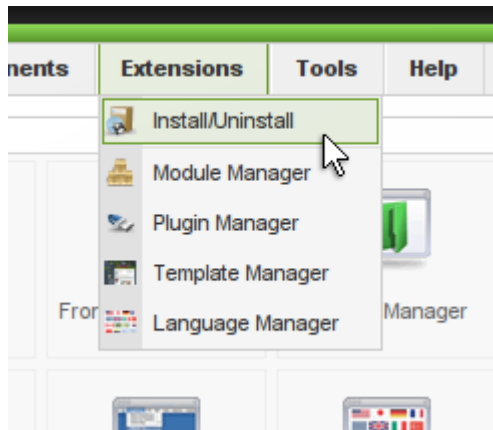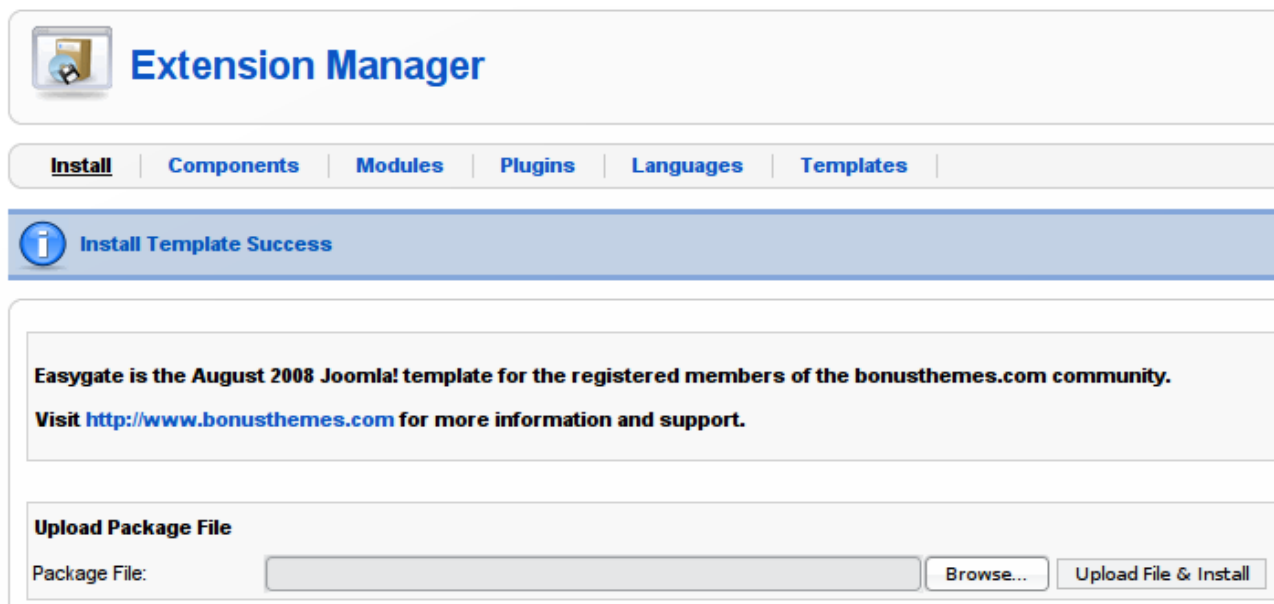
Go to the menu *Extensions > Install/Uninstall*

Step 3

Click the *Browse* button to find the archive of the template, and then click *Upload File & Install* to perform the installation procedure.
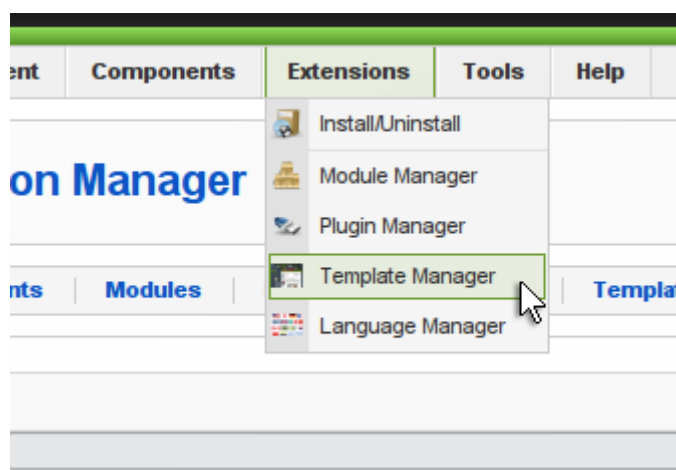
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Step 4

If the installation was successful you will be able to see a success message like the one in the image.

Step 5

The next thing to do is to activate the template.

Go to *Extensions > Template Manager*

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Step 6

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From the *Template Manager* page click on the template name you just installed and then click the *Default* button to make that template the default one.

Appendix B – How to setup a module

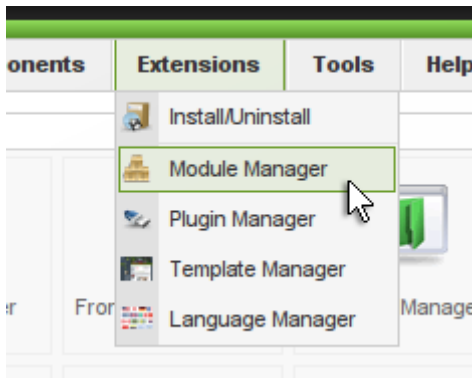To setup a module in Joomla! 1.5.x follow the next 4 steps:

Step 1

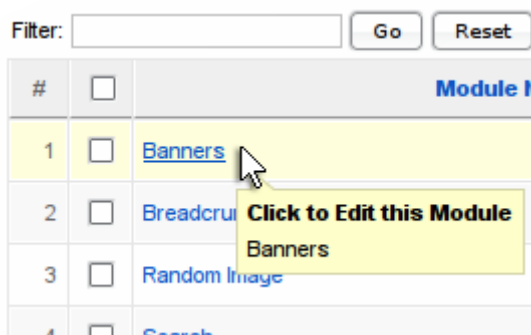Get into the administrator's control panel with your browser.

The URL usually looks like
http://www.example.com/administrator/

Step 2

Go to the menu *Extensions > Module Manager*

Step 3

Find the module you want to edit and click it.

Note: If you cannot find your module perhaps there are too many modules split in pages. Go through the pages to find your module, or use the filters to limit the list of modules on your screen.

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Step 4

Now you are in the page that controls the module.

From the Details area you can control many features including:

- Set the title of the module
- Show or hide the title
- Publish or unpublish the module by checking the Enabled attribute
- Set the position of the module

From the Parameters area you can control other features including the ability to

- Set the Module Class Suffix

To save your changes click the *Save* button ton the top right corner.

Appendix C - CMenu to VirtueMart 1.1 link reference

To connect CMenu with VirtueMart's data create an "External Link" menu item and use the "Link" text box to enter the connection command.

The following example will display all the product categories:

:vm:category

Commands can take parameters. Type the colon (:) symbol before each parameter. Here is an example that demonstrates how you can build a link with multiple parameters:

:vm:category:id=1:depth=1:published=1:cur_vendor=0

Available commands and their parameters:

C.1 category

Displays product categories.

id
Valid values: Comma separated list of product category IDs.
Description: When used, only the sub-categories of the given IDs will appear.
Default: 0
Example: :vm:category:id=1,2,3

depth
Valid values: Zero or any positive integer number.
Description: Value 1 or larger sets the maximum level of depth of the categories to appear. Value 0 shows them all.
Default: 0
Example: :vm:category:depth=1

published
Valid values: 1 or 0 that represent published or all.
Description: Use value 1 if you want to list only the published categories, 0 if you want to list them all.
Default: 1
Example: :vm:category:published=1

cur_vendor
Valid values: 1 or 0 that represent current vendor only, or all vendors.
Description: Use value 1 if you want to list the categories of the current vendor only, 0 if you want to list them all.
Default: 1
Example: :vm:category:cur_vendor=1

C.2 featured

Displays featured products.

max_items
Valid values: Any positive integer number.

Description: Maximum number of items to display.
Default: 10
Example: :vm:featured:max_items=20

cat
Valid values: Comma separated list of category IDs.
Description: When used, only the products under the given categories will appear.
Example: :vm:featured:cat=1,2,3

cur_vendor
Valid values: 1 or 0 that represent current vendor only, or all vendors.
Description: Use value 1 if you want to list products of the current vendor only, 0 if you want to list them all.
Default: 1
Example: :vm:featured:cur_vendor=1

C.3 latest

Displays latest added products.

max_items
Valid values: Any positive integer number.
Description: Maximum number of items to display.
Default: 10
Example: :vm:latest:max_items=20

cat
Valid values: Comma separated list of category IDs.
Description: When used, only the products under the given categories will appear.
Example: :vm:latest:cat=1,2,3

cur_vendor
Valid values: 1 or 0 that represent current vendor only, or all vendors.
Description: Use value 1 if you want to list products of the current vendor only, 0 if you want to list them all.
Default: 1
Example: :vm:latest:cur_vendor=1

C.4 random

Displays randomly selected products.

max_items
Valid values: Any positive integer number.
Description: Maximum number of items to display.
Default: 10
Example: :vm:random:max_items=20

cat
Valid values: Comma separated list of category IDs.
Description: When used, only the products under the given categories will appear.
Example: :vm:random:cat=1,2,3

cur_vendor
Valid values: 1 or 0 that represent current vendor only, or all vendors.

Description: Use value 1 if you want to list products of the current vendor only, 0 if you want to list them all.
Default: 1
Example: :vm:random:cur_vendor=1

C.5 selected

Displays custom selected products.

id
Valid values: Comma separated list of product IDs.
Description: ID numbers of the products you want to show.
Example: :vm:selected:id=1,2,3

The usage of the parameter id is compulsory.

C.6 topten

Displays best selling products.

max_items
Valid values: Any positive integer number.
Description: Maximum number of items to display.
Default: 10
Example: :vm:topten:max_items=20

cat
Valid values: Comma separated list of category IDs.
Description: When used, only the products under the given categories will appear.
Example: :vm:topten:cat=1,2,3

cur_vendor
Valid values: 1 or 0 that represent current vendor only, or all vendors.
Description: Use value 1 if you want to list products of the current vendor only, 0 if you want to list them all.
Default: 1
Example: :vm:topten:cur_vendor=1

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• Graphics: Mediagrafix - http://www.mediagrafix.gr
• Programming: Creative Pulse - http://www.creativepulse.eu

Distribution - Support: http://www.bonusthemes.com