

JMS Membership Sites Documentation



Thank you for your interest in JMS Membership Sites. This extension is the most flexible, robust and easy to use subscription membership solution available for Joomla.

The JMS Membership Sites extension is a powerful tool that turns a typical Joomla site into a powerful platform that will effortlessly manage paid memberships as well as premium content and features. This will also allow you to automatically collect recurring subscription payments for access or custom user groups through Paypal.

This highly flexible extension makes it a snap to configure the process to your needs. Once set up, it automatically manages payment collection, order processing, order fulfillment, coupon codes, membership expirations and much more. Operation is virtually hands free, as the Joomla Members Sites extension does the work for you.

Some of the Fantastic Features You Get

- Joomla 1.5& 1.7 Native
- Easily manage paid memberships with any Joomla user group.
- No Joomla core hacks necessary.
- Easily integrate Paypal's recurring subscription payment system or integrate Paypal's Instant Payment Notification (IPN).
- Highly flexible and adaptable customization.
- This extension supports a connection to many of the most powerful autorepsonder services available. You can easily manage the complexities of subscriptions and autoresponder list building.
- Supports multiple payment gateways, such as Paypal, Authorize.net and Moneybookers.
- You can insert custom subscription buttons in articles, custom modules or almost anywhere text appears.
- Straightforward, fully automated order processing, fulfillment and member management.
- Incorporate SEO friendly restricted content listings.
- This extension allows the search engines to index your content, even if it's restricted.
- Allows finer restrictions, giving you more power over modules, components and even levels or portions of those.
- Easy, user-specific content restrictions.
- Supports unlimited membership listings.
- Offers greater flexibility and options for restrict categories, sections and articles. This means virtually all types of content including specific components or sections of the component.
- You can add membership to existing Joomla user accounts.
- Membership subscriptions can be part of, or independent of, the site registration process.
- Secure membership management
- Maintain full control over which membership listings are shown in each respective user group.
- Support unlimited Coupon Codes with different types of discounts.
- Supports unlimited period options and unlimited installment options for your membership listings.
- Full control over both period terms and recurring payments.
- Supports limited length memberships or infinite length memberships.
- For your convenience, it offers automatic expiration of memberships at end of term.
- Robust independent messaging for multiple memberships or per individual membership.
- Automatically emails members about important account events, such as activation, cancellation, etc.
- Supports all PayPal currency codes.

- Supports all PayPal country codes.
- Supports custom graphics for subscription buttons.
- Intuitive administration pages
- Store subscription & transaction records for easy reference and management.
- Tracks the number of subscribers per membership listing.

Release Changes

Release Version 2.01: Changes

- Recurring automatic subscriptions added
- Versatile and flexible autoresponder options added to the separate membership plans as well as to the members in general

Documentation

We have put together documentation for the Joomla Members Sites Memberships extension, you can find it here: [Joomla Members Sites Documentation](#).

Free Technical Support and Updates

You can breathe easy knowing that our extensions are backed by excellent free technical support. In most cases, we will respond to your support inquiry within 24 hours or sooner. For technical support, just visit [our support forums](#).

License

All of our extensions are released under the [GNU GPLv2 license](#).

What does this mean to you? Well, a lot, here are just a few of the important tidbits.

- You may freely use the extension forever.
- You may freely use the extension on multiple websites.
- You may freely alter the extension's scripts.

Purchase Conditions

\$67 USD buys you instant access to the Joomla Members Sites extension download page, where you can download the extension and any updates for a period of one year or up to 5 times, whichever comes first.

Documentation

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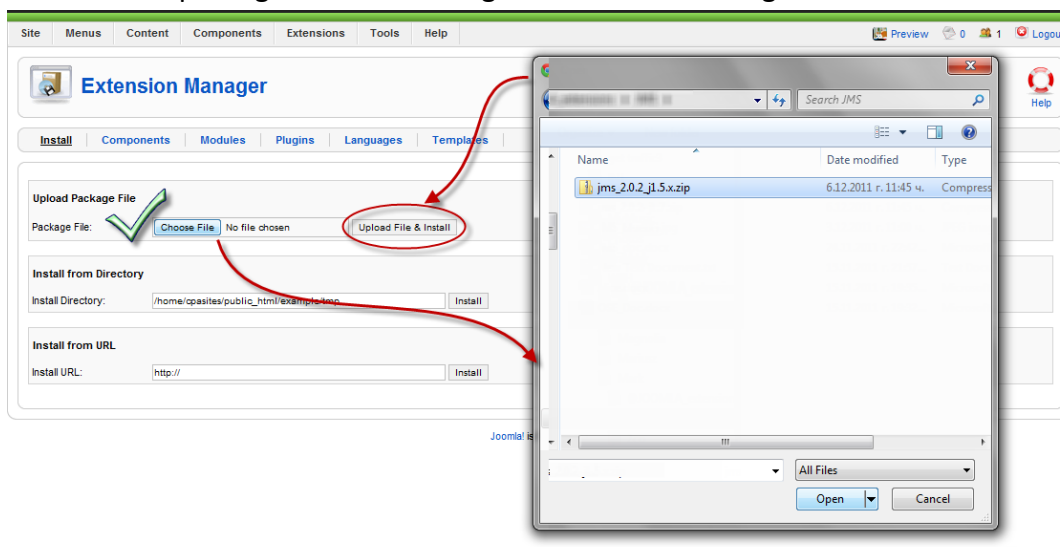
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I. Getting Started – Installation

1. If you don't have one, get a Business PayPal account now.
2. **Install the extension** through Joomla's Extension Manager (Watch the video tutorial on how to do that at: <http://joomlamadesimple.com/Creating-Subscriptions/installing-the-subscription-extension>).

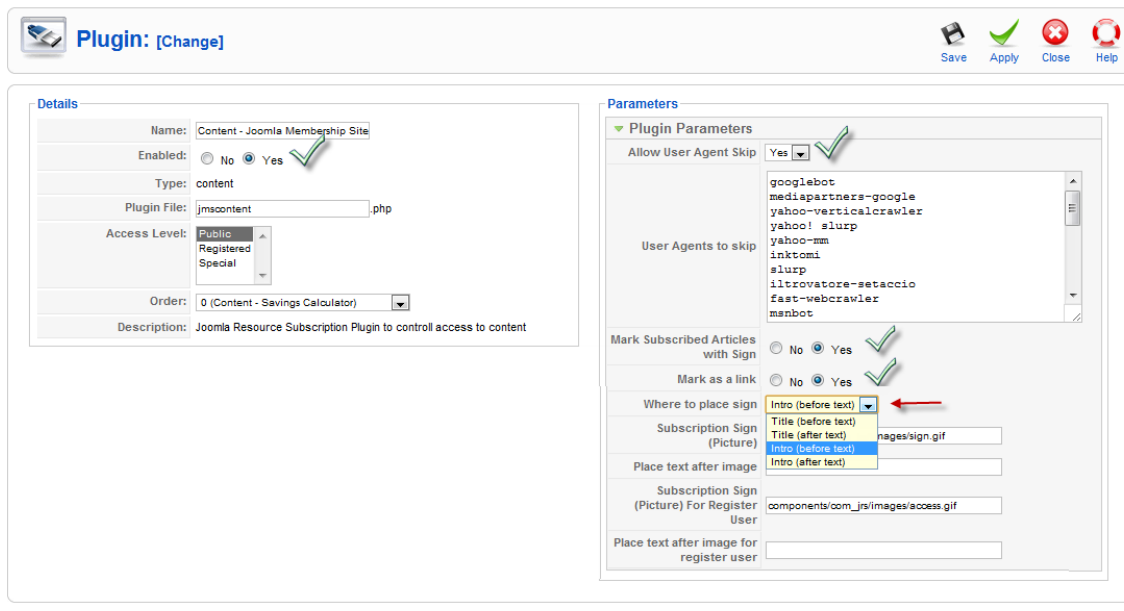
During the installation, 1 component, 2 plugins and 1 module will be installed on your Joomla system. These are all required; however, they come as a auto-installable package so they will be automatically installed on your system simultaneously.

- 2.1. Download the zip file.
- 2.2. Install the package file as it is using the extension manager:



- 2.3. Login to the administrator section of your website.
 - 2.4. Click on Extensions -> Install/Uninstall.
 - 2.5. Click on the browse button -> Select "jms_2.0.2_j1.5.x.zip" and click "Open."
 - 2.6. Click on the "Upload File & Install" button -> you will see a message "Install Component Success."
3. **Configure the Plugins**, a related video tutorial can be found at: <http://joomlasubscriptionsites.com/creating-subscriptions/configuring-the-plug-ins.html>.

- 3.1. Go to Extensions -> Plug-in Manager.
- 3.2. Find plug-in called: "Content - Joomla Membership Sites - Content Restrictions" and click on it -> Click on Enabled – "Yes."



3.3. In the right control panel for the drop-down "Allow User Agent Skip," click on "Yes."

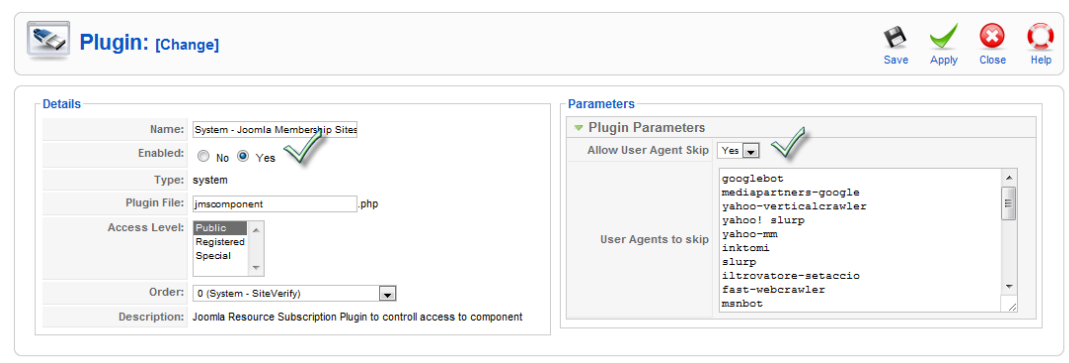
3.4. For "Mark Subscribed Articles with a Sign" → click on "Yes." If you select "Yes" you need to select "Yes" for the "Mark as link," as well. This will mark the icon as a direct link to your article. A more detailed explanation of these options is available in the video tutorials.

3.5. You can choose where exactly to place the "restrict" icon. You can opt for any of the following options: a) within the title, but before the text; b) within the title, but after the text; c) Within the Intro, but before the text and d) Within the Intro, but after the text.

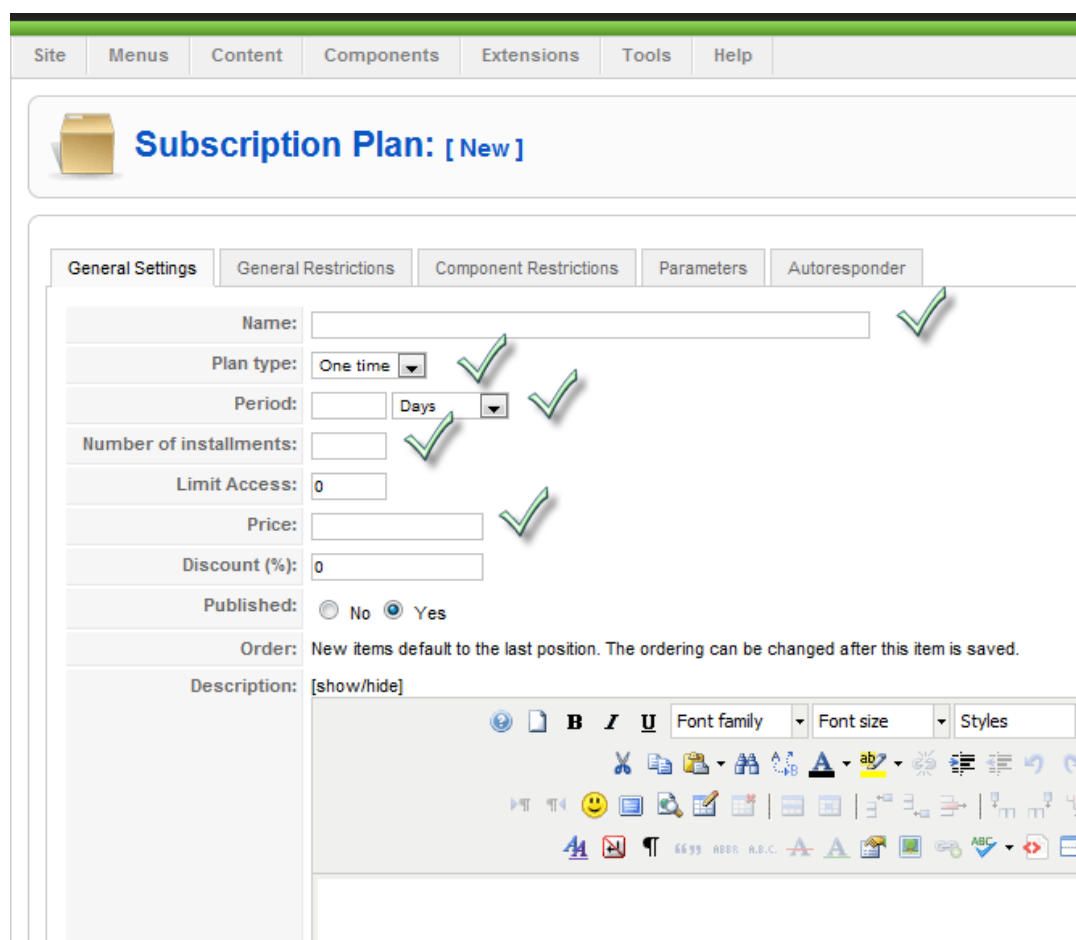
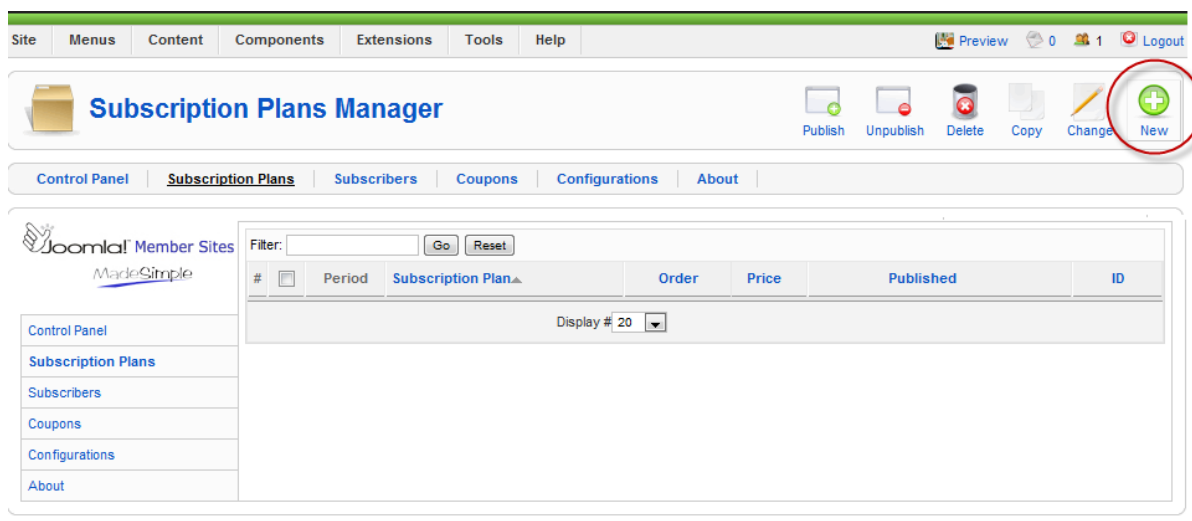
The next option gives you the opportunity to upload your own icons showing that a specific article is restricted or not. The extension also allows you to place custom text after the image.

3.6. Click on Save.

3.7. Search for: **"System - Joomla Membership Sites - Component Restrictions"** plug-in and enable it. The only parameter you have to set here is whether you want to allow the search engines to index these pages even if they are protected by this component. If you want your pages indexed, select "Yes" → Click on "Save." Here you can also prohibit search engines from accessing the restricted content. It's similar to the plug-in above, however it is specific for component restrictions.



4. **Creating your first subscription plan.** A related video tutorial is available at: <http://joomlamadesimple.com/Creating-Subscriptions/creating-a-subscription-plan>
 - 4.1. Go to Components -> Joomla Membership Sites -> Subscription Plans.
 - 4.2. Click "New."

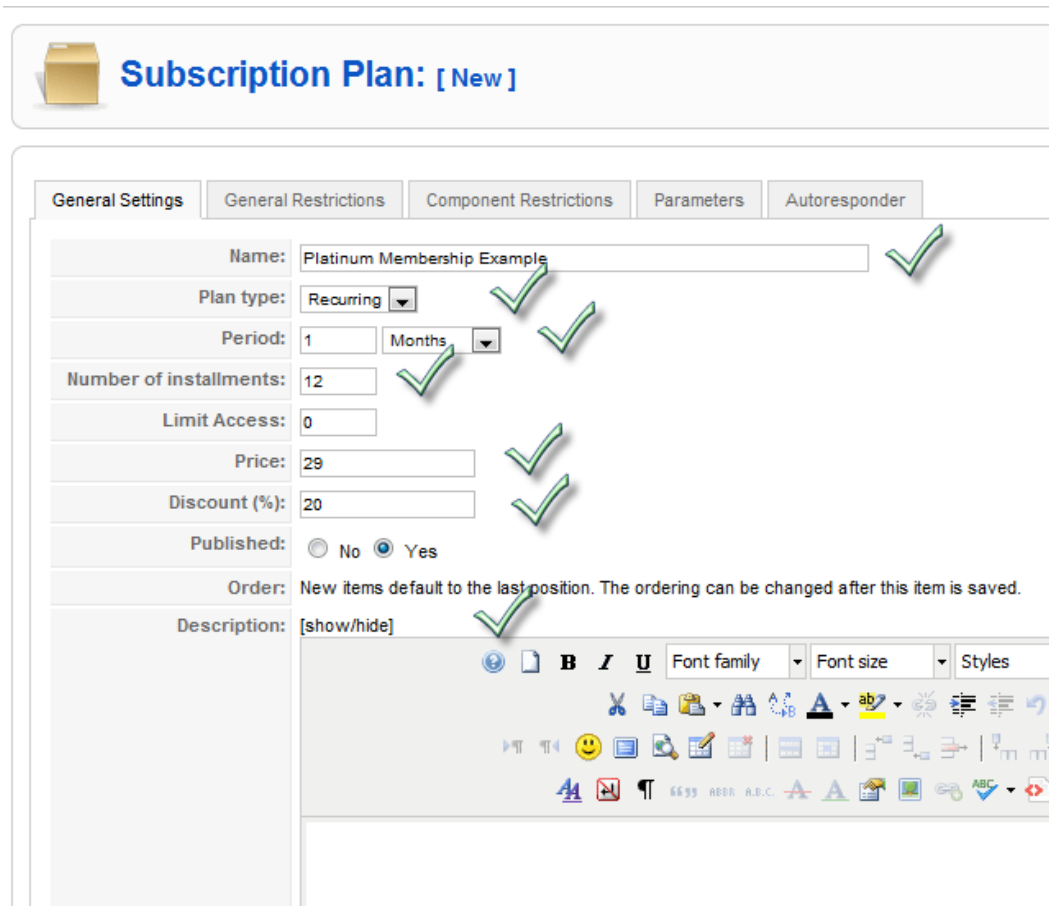


- 4.3. Enter a name for the plan; this is a name that will be seen by your site users. Select the plan payment type (one time fee or recurring fee).
- 4.4. The period is the allotment of time for the plan. For one time plans, this dictates how long the user can access the restricted content. For recurring plans, this dictates the time frame between recurring payments. So, if the plan is recurring

after the selected period, the user will be charged again and the plan will repeat. On the other hand, if the plan is “one time,” the membership will expire after the end of the selected period, and no further charges will occur.

- 4.5. "Number of installments" is only valid for recurring plans. This defines the number of payments that will be collected for this subscription. For example, if a membership is valid for 6 months, then you'll select “recurring” and the period will be “every 1 month” with 6 installments. If you want to create an on-going membership, you could enter a very large number in this field.
- 4.6. "Limit Access field," is generally used in conjunction with a one-time payment. You can then limit the number of times the person can access the content. If we limit access to 10 views, the user will be able to view the particular content or component 10 times, and after that they won't have further access even if their subscription has not expired.
- 4.7. Price field - enter a price.
- 4.8. The discount field lets you discount a price for certain periods of time. This will show up on the front end as the normal price and discounted price.
- 4.9. Make sure you click “Yes” on the Published option.
- 4.10. Enter a HTML Description – this is not required. You have the option to add a description which will appear right under the name and price of the subscription on the front end of your website.

Example 1:



The screenshot shows a web interface for creating a new subscription plan. At the top, there is a folder icon and the text "Subscription Plan: [New]". Below this, there are five tabs: "General Settings", "General Restrictions", "Component Restrictions", "Parameters", and "Autoresponder". The "General Settings" tab is active, showing the following fields:

- Name: Platinum Membership Example ✓
- Plan type: Recurring ✓
- Period: 1 Months ✓
- Number of installments: 12 ✓
- Limit Access: 0 ✓
- Price: 29 ✓
- Discount (%): 20 ✓
- Published: No Yes ✓
- Order: New items default to the last position. The ordering can be changed after this item is saved.
- Description: [show/hide] ✓

Below the form fields is a rich text editor with a toolbar containing icons for undo, redo, bold, italic, underline, font family, font size, styles, link, unlink, list, unlink list, indent, outdent, text color, background color, and other text formatting options.

In the example above, the plan is set as recurring for a period of 1 year. It will charge the user every month and it will expire 12 months after subscription. There is no limited access, which means that the user can view the content as many times as he needs. The price is \$29 with a discount of 20% so - \$23.20.

Example 2:

Subscription Plan: [New]

General Settings | General Restrictions | Component Restrictions | Parameters | Autoresponder

Name: One Month Silver Member Example ✓

Plan type: One time ✓

Period: 1 Months ✓

Number of installments: 1 ✓

Limit Access: 20 ✓

Price: 14

Discount (%): 0

Published: No Yes

Order: New items default to the last position. The ordering can be changed after this item

Description: [show/hide]

In the example above, you see a sample membership that is not recurring. It's one payment only and expires when one of the following conditions comes first: the user reaches the access limit of 20 views of the restricted content or when the period is over one month later.

Specifying groups of users for the subscription plan:

- 4.11. Click on the "Parameters" Tab.
- 4.12. "Grant to New Users" will automatically grant the plan to any new user who registers on your website.
- 4.13. "Grant to Old Users" will grant the plan to all existing users on this website.
- 4.14. The "Completed Message" is the message the user will see once they've completed the purchase of their subscription plan.
- 4.15. The "Cancel Message" is shown to a user when they cancel the plan

4.16. Go to "Autoresponder." This is a very powerful feature that allows you to add all subscribers from an autoresponder list, such as a subscriber list from Aweber or GetResponse, to this plan. To enable this feature, make sure that you select "Yes" for "Use Autoresponder." You'll then need your autoresponder URL and your autoresponder list name. You can find those in your HTML form created in the autoresponder service.

I. Restricting Access to Content

Access logic

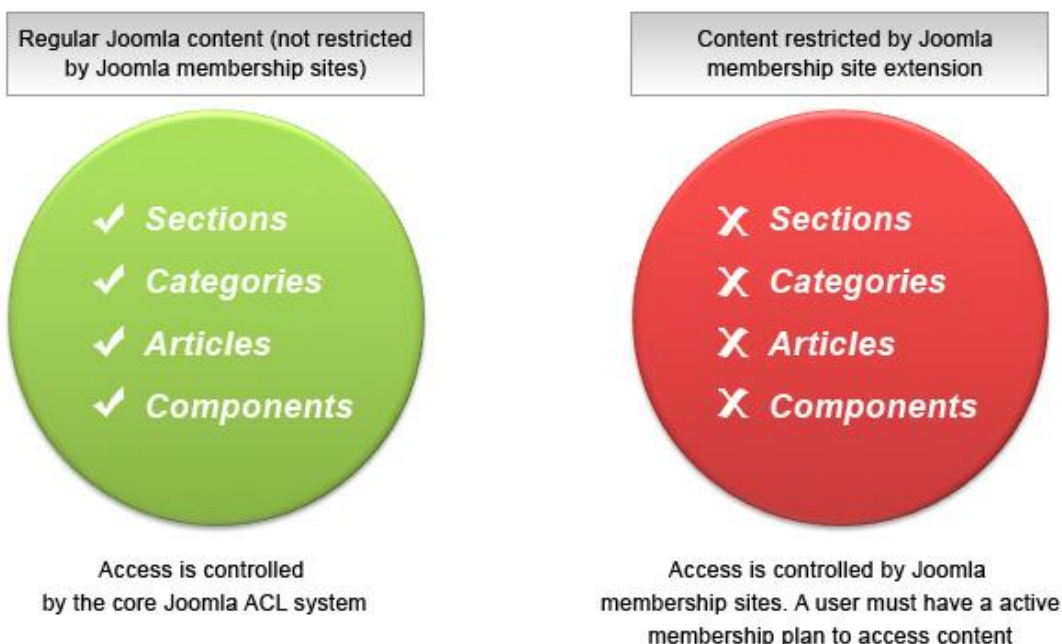
Before you start setting up your access restrictions, you really need to understand a few concepts:

1. Who can access what content?
2. Allowing access to the respective content under multiple plans.

Who can access what content?

Joomla Membership Sites does not replace the core Joomla ACL system, instead it enhances it. Users must be registered in Joomla and have an active membership to view restricted content.

Access to content is only restricted once a Section, Category, Article or component is added to the active membership plan. Any content NOT added to an active membership plan will remain accessible through the regular Joomla ACL.



Here's an example of the typical system workflow:



1. A guest visits your site and becomes a registered user (they can do this at the same time when they purchase a membership). Please note a user has to register as a normal Joomla user before he or she can join any membership.
2. After registration, he or she joins a membership plan, and after the payment is approved, they become a member and obtain the access right(s) to the membership-controlled content. Again, remember your users have the ability to register and purchase a subscription simultaneously.
3. Lastly, even if the user is a Joomla registered user, they can't view the restricted content until they have purchased a membership.

Allowing access to content under more than one plan

Access to sections, categories, articles and components can be controlled by one or more subscription plans.

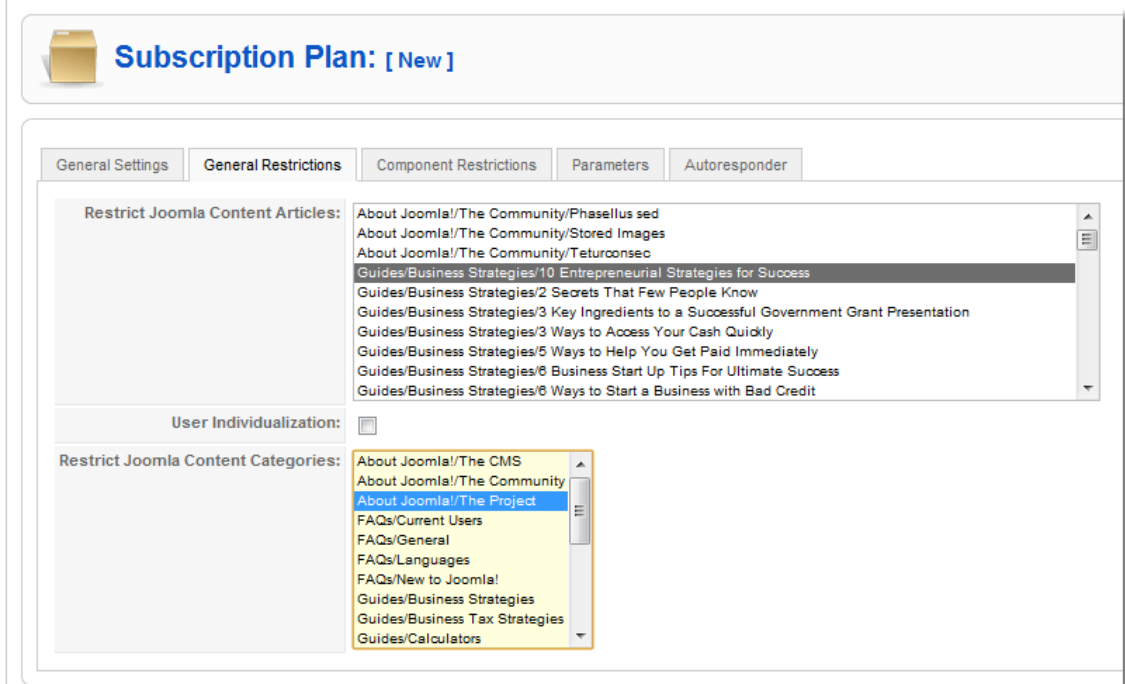
For example, you offer both a free subscription plan (membership 1) and a paid subscription plan (membership 2).

Your paid members get access to the free subscription material, plus more. Here's a simplified example of how you would set that up:



You must add article A to BOTH subscription plans. Otherwise, once it's assigned to membership plan 1, ONLY user who are subscribed to membership plan 1 will be able to view that article. Be sure you take your time and carefully evaluate your plans, and what they entail, as you create them.

5. **How to restrict access to content**(watch the related video tutorial at: <http://joomlamadesimple.com/Creating-Subscriptions/how-to-restrict-access-to-content>).



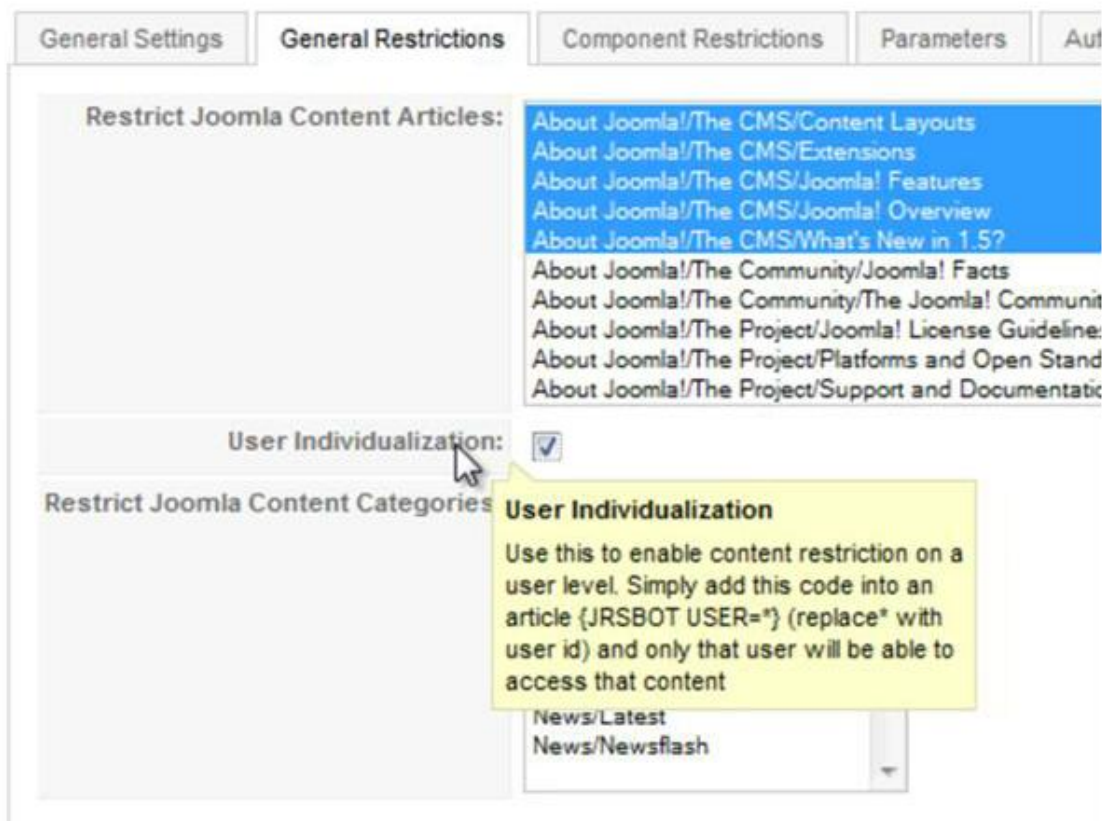
5.1. Once you setup the basic plan information, it's time to setup the restrictions, or the content controlled by the plan. To restrict access to general categories or articles, click on the "General Restrictions" tab. There are three ways that you can restrict access to content using the Joomla Membership Extension:

- If you want to restrict a certain category, click on it in the category list. You can also select more than one by clicking on the Ctrl key and selecting others.
- If you want to restrict access to specific article, click on the article/s in the list of articles at the top.

II. Manage Joomla Membership Sites

1. **Setting User Specific Restrictions**, for step-by-step help, watch the relevant video tutorial at: <http://joomlamadesimple.com/Creating-Subscriptions/setting-user-specific-restrictions>

1.1 The third option for restriction is user-based, meaning you can restrict an article to one or more specific users. You do that using the "User Individualization" option by selecting the checkbox under the "General Restrictions" tab.



Then, you insert a specific piece of code into any article that you want restricted on a user basis. The tooltip can help you with the tag, it contains the following information:

- **User Individualization**

Use this to enable content restriction on a user level. Simply add this code into an article:

{JRSBOT USER=*}

Replace * with the user ID and only that user will be able to access that content.

To find the user ID go to the Site menu and click on "User Manager". In the table you have an ID column and next to each one there is a specific number.

2. **Restrict access to a component-** for step-by-step help, watch the relevant video tutorial at: <http://joomlasubscriptionsites.com/creating-subscriptions/how-to-restrict-access-to-a-component.html>.

- 2.1. Go to the "Subscription plans" tab and open the plan that you want to modify.
- 2.2. Click on the "Component Restrictions" tab.
- 2.3. You will see a list of the components you've installed on your Joomla system.

There are number of different levels which you can restrict access to.

- The most basic level is to restrict access to the entire component. For example, if you want to restrict the access to a forum in your website, click the forum component and click "Apply."

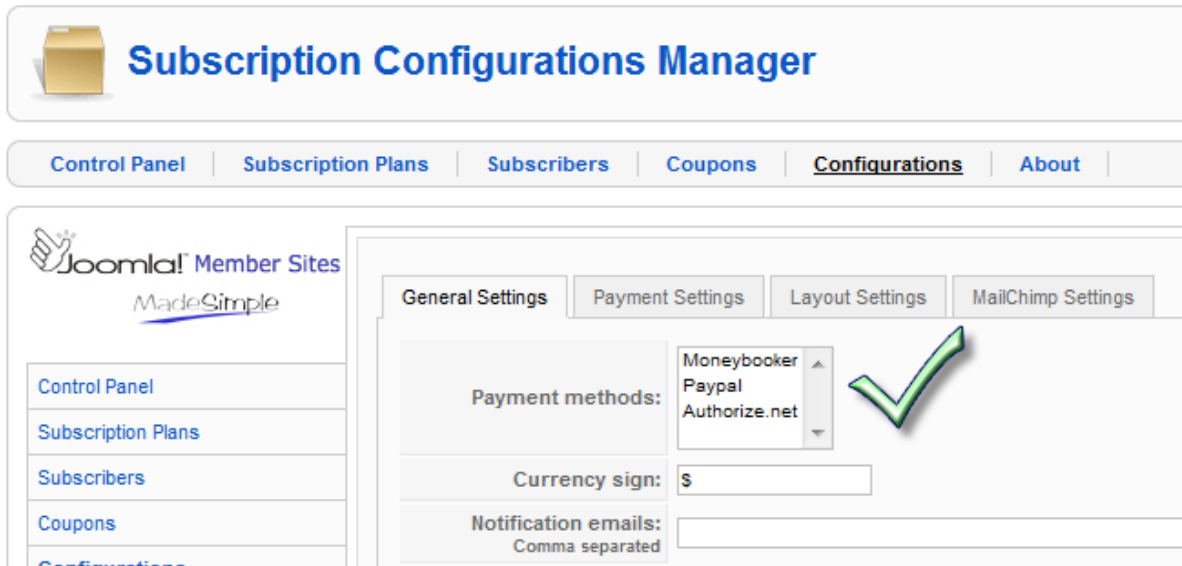
- There are ways you can limit access to specific parts of a component. Notice that when you click on a component you have the following fields underneath:

URL Variable 1
 Variable Value 1
 AND
 URL Variable 2
 Variable Value 2

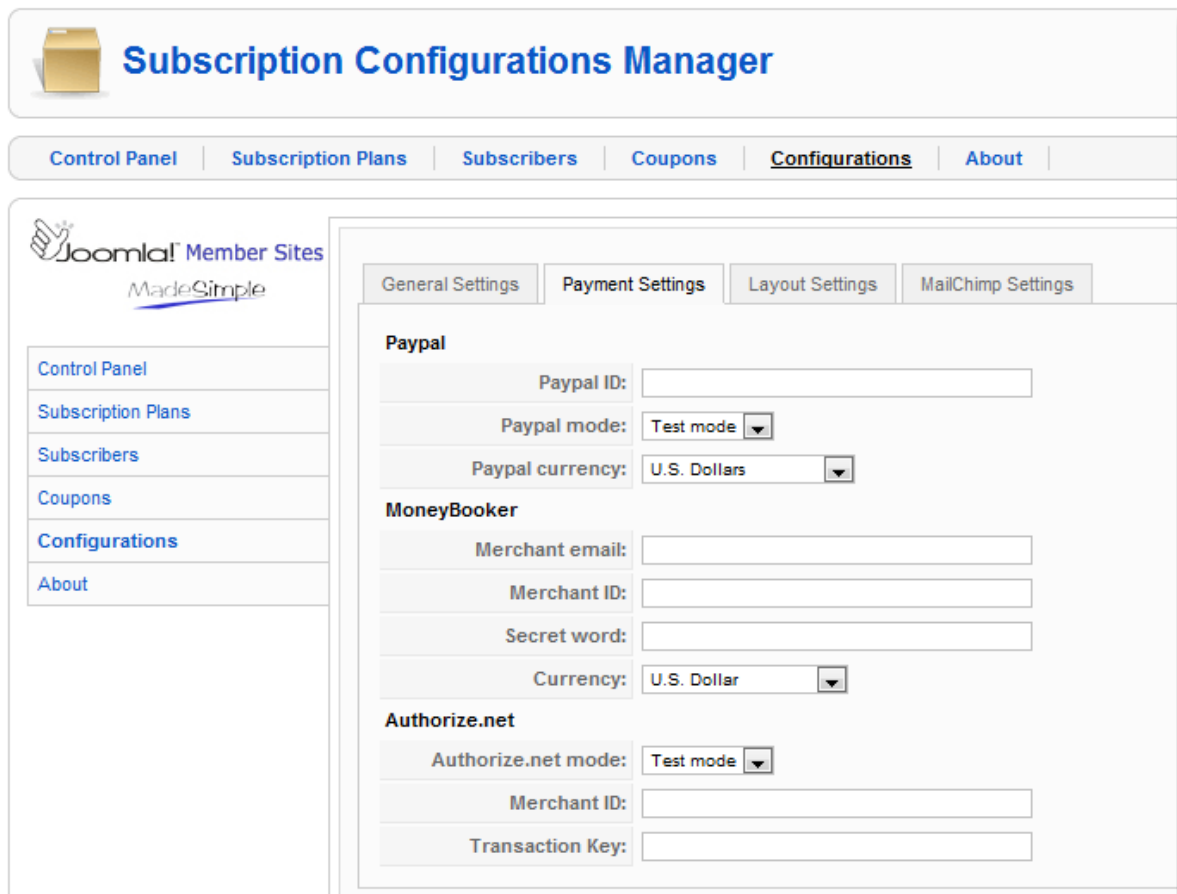
The screenshot shows the Joomla! administration interface for configuring a component restriction. The title bar reads "Subscription Plan: [New]". Below the title bar are five tabs: "General Settings", "General Restrictions", "Component Restrictions", "Parameters", and "Autoresponder". The "Component Restrictions" tab is active. On the left, a "Restrict Components:" sidebar lists various Joomla! components with checkboxes. The "JComments" component is checked. To the right of the sidebar, a list of components is shown with checkboxes, including "Articles", "Cache Manager", "Contacts", "DOCman", "JCE", and "Joomla Donation". In the center, there are two identical configuration boxes. Each box contains fields for "URL Variable 1:" and "Variable Value 1:", followed by the word "AND", then fields for "URL Variable 2:" and "Variable Value 2:". Below these boxes is the word "OR", indicating that either of the two boxes can be used to restrict access.

If you want to restrict the category listing of the forum for a URL variable, you need to put "func" and as variable "listcat." This will restrict all the categories of your forum. In case you need to restrict one of the categories, click on the category in the front end and pay attention to the end of the URL. For variable 1 you need "func" again, for variable 1 "showcat." Into variable 2 – "catid" and last in the value 2 paste the category number and click on "Apply."

3. Setting up Payment Processors- for step-by-step help, watch the relevant video tutorial at: <http://joomlamadesimple.com/Creating-Subscriptions/setting-up-payment-processors>
 - 3.1. Go to Components ->Joomla Membership Sites ->Configurations



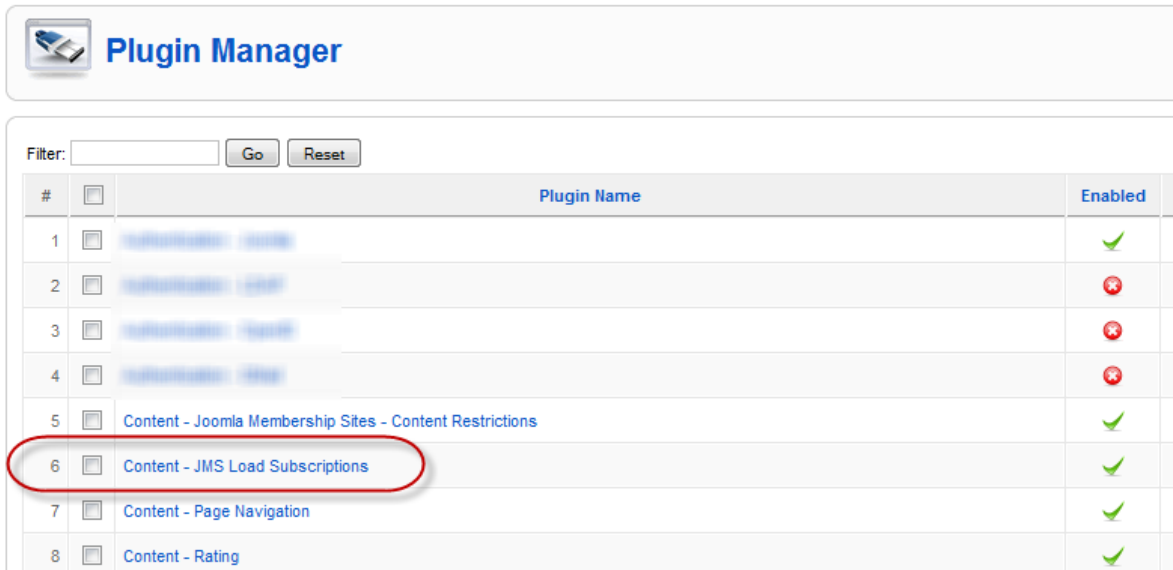
- 3.2. You can select from the available options, currently we have Moneybookers, Paypal and Authorize.net. With newer versions, we'll add more payment processors to this list. You can select one or all of these payment methods.



- 3.3. Click on the “Payment Settings” tab -> Here you can enter your details. For example, with a Paypal ID, you enter your Paypal email and then select “live mode” (if you select test you will be sent to the paypal sandbox for testing the system instead). Select the currency that you want to use for your system. Enter the analogical details for Moneybookers
- 3.4. Once all the details in place -> click on the “Save” button.

III. Additional Functions

1. Customizing the look and feel (watch the related video tutorial at <http://joomlamadesimple.com/Creating-Subscriptions/customizing-the-look-and-feel>)



Plugin Manager

Filter:

#	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plugin Name	Enabled
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Content - JMS Load Subscriptions	✓
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Content - JMS Load Subscriptions	✗
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Content - JMS Load Subscriptions	✗
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Content - JMS Load Subscriptions	✗
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Content - Joomla Membership Sites - Content Restrictions	✓
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Content - JMS Load Subscriptions	✓
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Content - Page Navigation	✓
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Content - Rating	✓



Plugin: [Edit]

Details

Name: Content - JMS Load Subscriptions

Enabled: No Yes

Type: content

Plugin File: jmsloadsubscription.php

Access Level: (Registered, Special)

Order: 0 (Content - JMS Load Subscriptio...)

Description: Content plugin to load subscriptions into an article

Parameters

▼ Plugin Parameters

Subscribe Button Image: ✓

- 1.1. We will see in more details how to customize your “subscribe” button so that it matches the look and feel of the rest of your website.
- 1.2. Go to Extensions -> Plugin Manager
- 1.3. Search for a plug-in called “Content - JMS Load Subscriptions” -> open it
- 1.4. In the parameters module you will find a field called “Subscribe button image” -> Simply enter the path of the chosen image in this field and click on “Save”

IV.Related Information

1. Membership Control Logic

The Membership Control does not replace the default Joomla access control and user levels, but supplements them with horizontal access management. The content controlled by the Membership Control is not accessible by normal Joomla registered users. Content which isn't controlled by the Membership Control will follow normal Joomla default settings.

The logic of the software: All articles, categories, sections, menu items and modules will be under controlled ONCE THEY ARE SELECTED in the policy, and once these items are selected in the policy, ONLY members in this policy/group can access them.

2. Work flow of joining a membership :

- A visitor must register to be a normal Joomla user before he/she joins any membership.
- After registration, he/she may join a membership plan, and after the payment is approved, he/she becomes a member of the plan and obtains the access rights to the content controlled by the membership.
- Remember, even if the user is a Joomla registered user, he/she can't view the restricted content controlled by the Membership Control.