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# **Alkacon Software GmbH**

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## **Technote**

## **Alkacon OAMP Comments Module**

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## 1 Table of Content

1	Table of Content .....	2
2	Abstract .....	3
3	General purpose of the Alkacon OAMP Comments Module .....	3
4	Installation .....	3
5	Module usage .....	4
5.1	Creating an Alkacon Comments Form .....	4
5.2	Editing an Alkacon Comments form .....	5
5.3	Enabling comments with a given configuration.....	8
5.3.1	Template adjustment.....	8
5.3.2	Using the right comments configuration file .....	8
6	Frontend view .....	9
7	Implementation details .....	13

## 2 Abstract

This document describes the installation, configuration and usage of the Alkacon OpenCms Add-On Module Package Comments. With the Comments module, it is possible to create highly configurable blog comment function without HTML knowledge.

Once created, configured and published, a comment form may be filled out by website visitors to comment a page.

**Note:** This module extends the Alkacon OAMP Webform Module, so please also read that module's documentation.

## 3 General purpose of the Alkacon OAMP Comments Module

The module extends a basic OpenCms installation with the capability to create highly configurable online blog comments. It provides the following features:

- Free definable comment form with and without captcha field.
- Comment moderation option.
- Comment administration in 'direct edit' style.
- Different security levels and user restriction.

## 4 Installation

**Note:** To use the Alkacon OAMP Comments module, you need at least OpenCms version 7.0.5. The module is not compatible with older OpenCms versions.

**Note:** This module extends the Alkacon OAMP Webform Module, so you have to install that module before continuing. Please have in mind that you need at least version 1.2, older versions will not work correctly.

Step by step installation procedure:

1. Go to the OpenCms Administration view
2. Click "Module Management" and select either "Import Module from Server" if the module was placed in the **WEB-INF/packages/modules/** folder of your OpenCms installation, or select "Import Module with HTTP" to upload the module from your local file system
3. Select the Alkacon OAMP Comments module zip file **com.alkacon.opencms.comments\_1.0.x.zip** to import
4. Check if the jar file **com.alkacon.opencms.comments.jar** has been deployed in the **WEB-INF/lib/** folder after installation
5. Restart your servlet container afterwards

## 5 Module usage

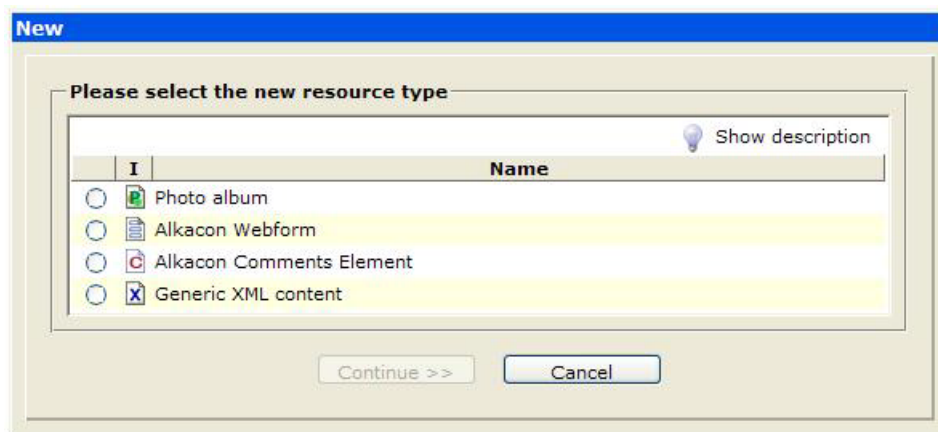
After successful installation of the Comments module, it is ready to use. New comment forms can be set up by creating a new resource of the type "Alkacon Comments Element".

### 5.1 Creating an Alkacon Comments Form

To create a new Comments Form the "new" dialog in OpenCms has to be used:

1. Click "New" in the Top Bar of the OpenCms Workplace.
2. In the following dialog click "Structured content" and then "Continue".
3. Then select "Alkacon Comments Element" and "Continue".
4. In the following dialog enter the name of the new file.

→ A new file of type "alkacon-comment" will be created and be visible in the Explorer view.



**Figure 1: The 2nd stage of the new dialog to create an Alkacon Comment form.**

Normally, you will create this kind of files in a separate area of your site, for instance, in a `"/system/"` folder or under the `"_config_"` of template two, or the `"_configuration"` folder of template one. Just be sure the Guest user can read it.

## 5.2 Editing an Alkacon Comments form

Comment forms are edited by clicking their file symbol in the OpenCms explorer with the right mouse button and choose "edit" from the popup – menu.

The XML content editor for the Comment forms appears.

You will see that the structure of the form is very similar to the one for generic Webforms, some fields has been repositioned and renamed, other few added. One can add as many labelled fields as desired to collect data.

Language: English

**Comments Options:**

- Moderated: ☒
- Comments per page: 5
- Security Level:
  - ☐ View and write comments without log in.
  - ☒ Only view comments without log in, and log in needed for writing.
  - ☐ Log in needed for viewing and writing comments.
- Organizational Unit: test
- Group: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)
- Minimized start: ☒

**Comment Form header text:** (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)

**Form field [1]:**

- Type: Text input
- Label: Your name:|name
- Mandatory: ☒
- Default value: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)
- Validation: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)
- Error Message: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)

**Form field [2]:**

- Type: Email field
- Label: Your Email (will not be shown):|email
- Mandatory: ☒
- Default value: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)
- Validation: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)
- Error Message: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)

**Form field [3]:**

- Type: Text input
- Label: Subject:|subject
- Mandatory: ☒
- Default value: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)
- Validation: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)
- Error Message: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)

**Form field [4]:**

- Type: Text area
- Label: Your comment:|comment
- Mandatory: ☒
- Default value: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)
- Validation: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)
- Error Message: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)

User Michael Moossen (Admin) logged in at 5/23/08 2:39 PM from 127.0.0.1 [OU root organizational unit]

**Figure 2: Alkacon OpenCms Comment form editor with comments options.**

Here the most important is the Comments Options section, offering following options:

- **Moderated:**  
If selected the comments have to be approved to be displayed. In this case, the comments can have 3 states:

- a. **New:** Will be displayed only to managers until they are approved
- b. **Approved:** Will be displayed to everyone
- c. **Blocked:** Will be displayed only to managers

Moderators are all users having write permissions on the commented page, these users will have additional options for approving, blocking and deleting comments when viewing the file logged in and in the offline project, like direct edit. Additionally they will also see more details, like for instance, the email address of the writers.

- Comments per page:  
Select the preferred number of comments to display in a page.
- Security Level:  
There are 3 different security levels:
  - a. **None:** View and write comments without log in
  - b. **Write:** Only view comments without log in, and log in needed for writing.
  - c. **View:** Log in needed for viewing and writing comments.

If security level is view or write, then only users belonging to at least one of the given organizational units or groups are allowed to read or write comments. If no organizational unit and no group are defined, all users are allowed.

- Organizational Units:  
A list of organizational Units
- Groups:  
A list of groups
- Minimized:  
If set, the user gets only a link to open the comments, if not, the comments are immediately displayed.

Be aware, as shown in figure 3, in the notification mail text, that you can use all the field names as macros, and additionally you can use following macros:

- **date:** the current date
- **url:** the page link

Additionally, if using the `com.alkacon.opencms.comments.CmsCommentDynamicFields` class name for the "Dynamic field class" option in the "Advanced Configuration", you can use three different dynamic fields to store some additional information, these are:

- **username:** Login name of the user (if not logged in, Guest)
- **locale:** The locale of the comment
- **ipaddress:** The remote IP Address

Language	
English	
<b>Form field [7]:</b>	<p>Label: <input type="text" value="username"/></p> <p>Mandatory: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Default value: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)</p> <p>Validation: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)</p> <p>Error Message: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)</p>
<b>Captcha Field:</b>	<p>Label: <input type="text" value="Verification:"/></p> <p>Preset: <input type="text" value="Alkacon Dict"/></p>
<b>Comment Form footer text:</b>	(Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)
<b>Mail Alert:</b>	<p>Mail from: <input type="text" value="comments.noreply@alkacon.com"/></p> <p>Mail to: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)</p> <p>To responsible: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mail CC : (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)</p> <p>Mail BCC: (Click on the "New" button on the right side to activate this element)</p> <p>Mail subject: <input type="text" value="New comment for %(url) from %(name)"/></p> <p>Mail text: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">A new comment for <u>%(url)</u> has been added by %(name) ( %(email)) at %(date): %(comment)</div></p> <p>Mail type : <input type="text" value="HTML mail"/></p>
<b>Confirmation text:</b>	<p>Thank you very much for your comment.</p> <p>Your comment has been successful submitted and will be reviewed and published as soon as possible.</p> <p>Sincerely, The OpenCms Team</p>
<b>Advanced configuration:</b>	<p>Enable mandatory marks: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Form attributes: <input type="text" value="class='loginform'"/></p> <p>Field attributes: <input type="text" value="style='width: 99%'"/></p> <p>Dynamic fields class: <input type="text" value="com.alkacon.opencms.comments.CmsCommentDynamicFields"/></p>

**Figure 3: User creation options.**

## 5.3 Enabling comments with a given configuration

There are two things to take care of, first to include the comment render element in the right position in your template, and second is to set the 'comments' property to point to the Comments configuration file to use.

### 5.3.1 Template adjustment

Just insert the following code in the right place in your template:

```
<!-- begin: #comments -->
<c:set var="comments"><cms:property name="comments" file="search"/></c:set>
<c:if test="${!empty comments}">
    <cms:include
file="% (link.weak:/system/modules/com.alkacon.opencms.comments/elements/commen
nt_main.jsp)" >
        <cms:param name="cmturi" value="${cms.requestContext.uri}" />
    </cms:include>
</c:if>
<!-- end: #comments-->
```

For instance, in template two, a good place would be in file `/system/modules/org.opencms.frontend/templatetwo/templates/main.jsp` close to the end in line 145 before the `<div class='clear'>` stuff. So the comments will appear at the end of the middle column.

### 5.3.2 Using the right comments configuration file

Additionally you will need to set the 'comments' property, for single files, or for a folder to enable comments for all files in the folder.

It could be that this property is not yet defined, in which case, you will have to create it first.

And the value of the property has to be a path to the comments configuration file to use, or a configuration file mapping name, for a more user friendly option.

Configuration file mappings are defined as module parameters (in the Administration View > Module Management > Click on the `com.alkacon.opencms.comments` Module > Module Parameters) where you can define parameters having as name: `config:<name>` and as value `<configuration file path>`. Where the `<name>` is a nice name like 'moderated-webuser' and the `<configuration file path>` is the path to the configuration file, like `/system/shared/comments/moderated-webuser.xml`. So you can use 'moderated-webuser' instead of `/system/shared/comments/moderated-webuser.xml` as 'comments' property value. A complete module parameter entry will look like:

`config:moderated-webuser=system/shared/comments/moderated-webuser.xml`



## 6 Frontend view

Once integrated in your template and configured, you will see something like this:

**OpenCms 7.0.5 Demo Website**  
Wonderful World of Wurst

Search

Welcome to OpenCms | Release Notes | OpenCms Demo

OpenCms Demo [EN] » Starting page

### Starting page

- Wurst Today
- Wurst Dictionary
- Wurst View
- Wurst Extranet

### Starting page

The startpage is based on a structured content for articles. Such types can be defined by yourself for editing and rendering structured contents.

As part of the structured information, there is a definition which additional side elements ("boxes") are displayed in the right, left or center column.

## Wonderful World of Wurst

Wonderful World of Wurst presents the most spectacular and amazing stories about sausage from around the world. Entertaining and with lots of useful information. Let us take you into the adventurous world of sausage around the globe!

### Overview

- Below **Wurst Today** you will find all up-to-date news and information about sausage-related events.
- The **Wurst Dictionary** provides in-depth information about sausage in various flavours.
- Within **Wurst View**, you find articles and entertaining contributions about sausage.
- If you already have access, you can find additional information inside our extranet, **Wurst Extra**.

### It's all about sausage

Did you know already, that german wurst is divided into three categories (raw, cooked and pre-cooked), according to the way they are made ? No ??

So you will find here **additional information!** Make sure to visit our pages with detailed information about the **various wurst flavours**, too.

### Your Opinion is not "Wurst" (meaning: We care about your opinion)!

Do you have additional questions, suggestions or further wishes ?

So write us using our **contact form!** We are looking forward hearing from you and will process your message as fast as possible.

### User Comments

[Click here to post a new comment.](#)

May 9, 2008 5:02 PM - Comment added by <b>mm</b> :
mm mm mm mm mm mm eiww iewljdf wfel jqewffj ejwl
May 9, 2008 4:58 PM - Comment added by <b>user</b> :
dei dew joiew jefow wfeqejqewfjqew jwef jweofqjf
May 9, 2008 12:53 PM - Comment added by <b>dqew</b> :
weuh ewh hdkeu
May 8, 2008 4:42 PM - Comment added by <b>der micha</b> :
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquid ex ea commodi consequat. Quis aute iure reprehende
May 8, 2008 4:34 PM - Comment added by <b>test</b> :
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquid ex ea commodi consequat. Quis aute iure reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint obcaecat cupiditat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

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Figure 4: Demo frontend view for a normal user

Alkacon

OpenCms 7.0.5 Demo Website  
Wonderful World of Wurst

Search

OpenCms

Welcome to OpenCmsRelease NotesOpenCms Demo

OpenCms Demo [EN] » Starting page

Starting page

Wurst Today

Wurst Dictionary

Wurst View

Wurst Extranet

Starting page

The startpage is based on a structured content for articles. Such types can be defined by yourself for editing and rendering structured contents.

As part of the structured information, there is a definition which additional side elements ("boxes") are displayed in the right, left or center column.

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Did you know already, that german wurst is divided into three categories (raw, cooked and pre-cooked), according to the way they are made ? No ??

So you will find here **additional information!** Make sure to visit our pages with detailed information about the **various wurst flavours**, too.

### Your Opinion is not "Wurst" (meaning: We care about your opinion)!

Do you have additional questions, suggestions or further wishes ?

So write us using our **contact form!** We are looking forward hearing from you and will process your message as fast as possible.

User Comments

Click here to post a new comment.

Prev12345Next

May 15, 2008 5:09 PM - Comment added by **test**:

Username: **Admin**  
Email: **test@test.cl**  
IP Address: **127.0.0.1**  
Comments: **5**  
This new OAMP Module rocks

May 9, 2008 10:25 AM - Comment added by **hh**:

Username: **Admin**  
Email: **hhhjdqkj@nkude.djk**  
IP Address: **127.0.0.1**  
Comments: **1**  
ebuwu ew nkwfek fewknf

May 9, 2008 5:02 PM - Comment added by **mm**:

Username: **Admin**  
Email: **mm@mm.mm**  
IP Address: **127.0.0.1**  
Comments: **2**  
mm mm mm mm mm mm eiuw iewljdf wfel jqewffj ejwl

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Figure 5: Demo frontend view for a manager

The screenshot displays the OpenCms 7.0.5 Demo Website interface. The header includes the Alkacon logo, the site title "OpenCms 7.0.5 Demo Website", and a search bar. The main navigation bar contains links for "Welcome to OpenCms", "Release Notes", and "OpenCms Demo". The breadcrumb trail shows "OpenCms Demo [EN] » Starting page".

The left sidebar features a "Starting page" section with links to "Wurst Today", "Wurst Dictionary", "Wurst View", and "Wurst Extranet". Below this is a "Starting page" description: "The startpage is based on a structured content for articles. Such types can be defined by yourself for editing and rendering structured contents. As part of the structured information, there is a definition which additional side elements ('boxes') are displayed in the right, left or center column."

The main content area is titled "Wonderful World of Wurst" and describes the site's focus on sausage-related stories and information. It includes an "Overview" section with a list of features: "Below Wurst Today you will find all up-to-date news and information about sausage-related events.", "The Wurst Dictionary provides in-depth information about sausage in various flavours.", "Within Wurst View, you find articles and entertaining contributions about sausage.", and "If you already have access, you can find additional information inside our extranet."

A login dialog box is overlaid on the page, titled "Please enter your credentials:". It contains fields for "Name:" and "Password:", and "Login" and "Cancel" buttons.

The right sidebar shows "Recent news" with a headline "New fat-free sausage" dated "Jan 5, 2008" and a sub-headline "Munich, Germany - German butcher develops nearly fat-free sausage".

Below the login dialog, the page continues with sections titled "It's all about Wurst" and "Your Opinion (We care about your opinion)!", followed by a "User Comments" section. The comments section shows a list of comments with timestamps and user names, and a "Prev 1 2 Next" navigation bar.

The footer states: "Build with OpenCms - The Open Source CMS, provided by Alkacon Software - The OpenCms Experts".

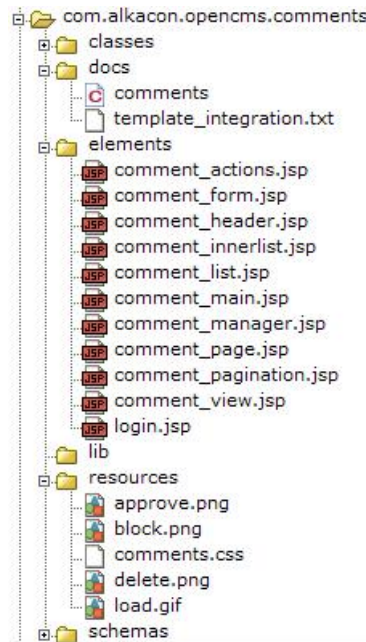
Figure 6: Demo frontend view for the login dialog





## 7 Implementation details

The module is composed as described in figure 8:



**Figure 8: Module structure**

The `classes` folder contains the resource bundles used for localization. There are two resource bundles:

- **workplace**: for messages displayed in the workplace, mainly the xml content editor.
- **frontend**: for messages displayed in the frontend.

The `docs` folder contains a text file with the piece of code you need to include in your template, and a sample configuration file.

The `elements` folder is the more interesting with all JSP elements:

- **comment\_actions.jsp**: executes all administrative actions, like approving, blocking and deleting comments.
- **comment\_form.jsp**: this is the post form element
- **comment\_header.jsp**: Renders the header of the comment list
- **comment\_innerlist.jsp**: Renders the list of comments including pagination
- **comment\_list.jsp**: Renders the list of comments including header
- **comment\_main.jsp**: This is the main element to include in the template
- **comment\_manager.jsp**: This element renders one comment with administration options
- **comment\_page.jsp**: Renders a whole page of comments
- **comment\_pagination.jsp**: Renders the pagination bar
- **comment\_view.jsp**: This element renders a single comment
- **login.jsp**: the login form element

The **lib** folder contains the needed jar file with some few classes.

The **resources** folder contains the used style sheets and icons.

The **schemas** folder contains the **xsd** files defining the configuration xml.