Advanced Notifications

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Set Up

1. In the Administration Block, navigate to Site administration -> Plugins -> Blocks -> Advanced Notifications. Here you will find the plugin's global (site-wide) settings:
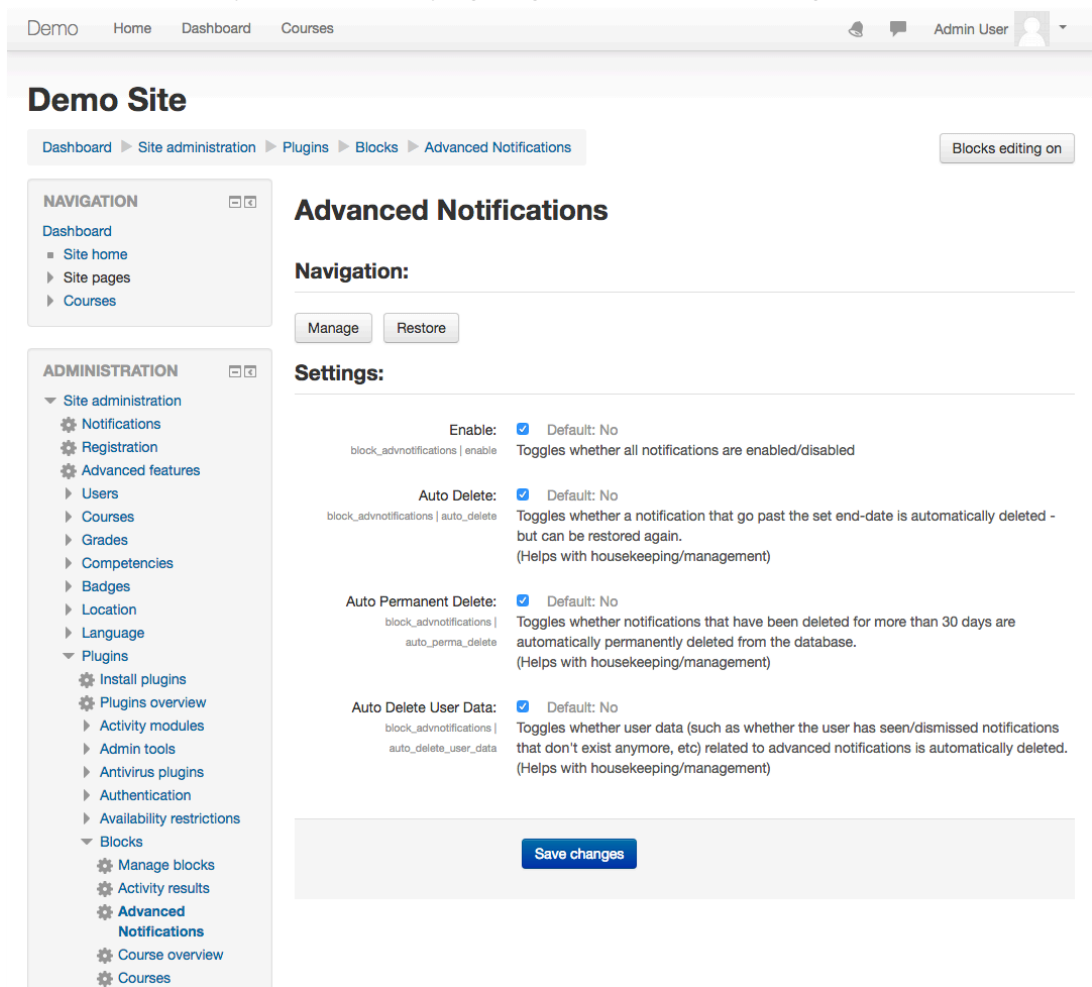
2. You will be presented with two navigational links – 'Manage' and 'Restore'.
   a. 'Manage' is links to the page in the plugin where you can create new notifications or edit existing notifications
   b. 'Restore' is where you can restore previously deleted notifications (discussed in more detail later).
3. The settings presented further down the page affect the plugin in the following ways:
   a. **Enable** – This enables/disables notifications site-wide. If this is not checked, no notifications will be displayed anywhere on the site.
   b. **Auto Delete** – If this is checked, the plugin will automatically check for any notification that has passed its set end-date and, if it is, will give it a 'deleted' status. This will move it from the 'Manage Notifications' page to the 'Restore Notifications' page (discussed later).
   c. **Auto Permanent Delete** – If this is checked, a scheduled task will be run daily to check if any notifications have been had a 'deleted' status for more than 30 days and, if so, will permanently delete its record from the database.
   d. **Auto Delete User Data** – If this is checked, any user data related to a notification that doesn't exist anymore is deleted. (A record is kept of which user has seen which notification, and whether they have dismissed it or not).

Types of Notifications

There are two types of notifications this plugin allows – Global and Instance-Based:

Global

Global Notifications are notifications you would like to appear site-wide. Every occurrence of the Advanced Notifications block will display these types of notifications. These are generally very important notifications such as planned outages or major changes happening to the site.

There are two ways a global notification can be set up:
1. Admin Settings:
    a. Navigate to (in the Administration Block) Site administration -> Plugins -> Blocks -> Advanced Notifications.
    b. Click on the 'Manage' button at the top of the page.

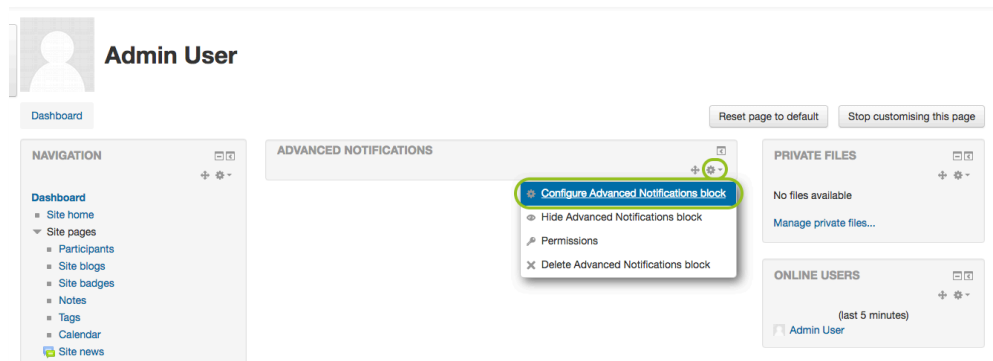   c. You will be taken to the 'Manage Notifications' page and any notifications that are created here will be global notifications.

2. Block Configuration:
    a. Navigate to any occurrence of the Advanced Notifications Block, and ensure Editing/Customise Mode is turned on.

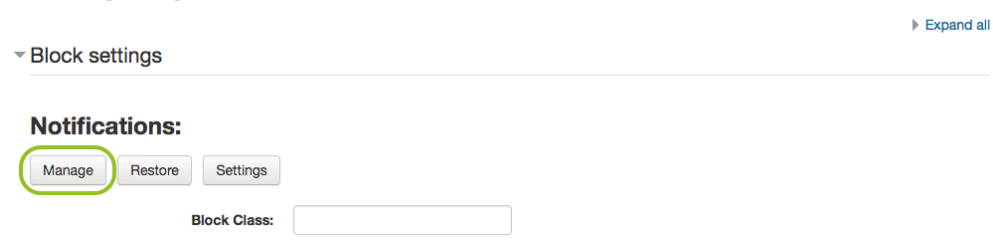b. Click on the Advanced Notification Block's cog/configure button, and click on "Configure Advanced Notifications block".

c. You will be taken to the current block's configuration – here you will see navigation options. Click on 'Manage' if you wish to create a global notification.

d. You will be taken to the 'Manage Notifications' page and any notifications that are created here will be global notifications – as long as you ensure the 'Global Notification' checkbox is ticked.
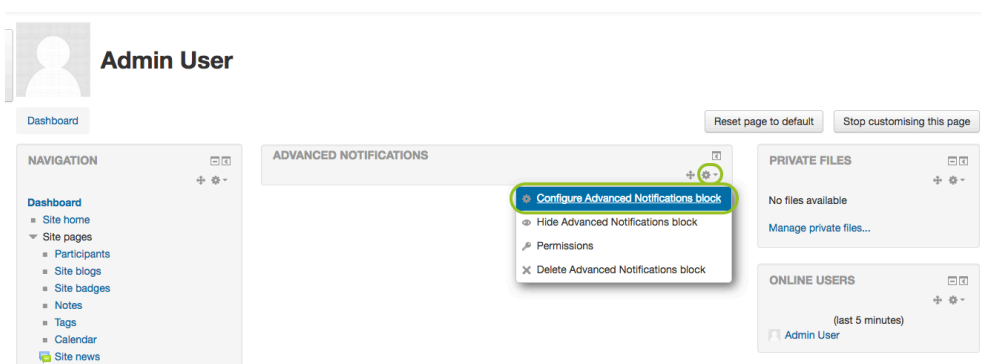
Instance-Based

Instance-Based notifications only appear in the block in which the instance-based notification was set up in. This means that if an Advanced Notification Block is placed in a course, for example, and a new notification is set up through it (and the 'Global Notification' checkbox from above was not ticked), it would only appear in that block and nowhere else on the site. Keep in mind that global notifications will be displayed at every occurrence of the Advanced Notification block.

Instance-based notifications can be set up as follows:

1. Navigate to an occurrence of the Advanced Notifications Block of your choice - where you would like the instance-based notification to appear - and ensure Editing/Customise Mode is turned on.
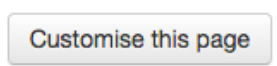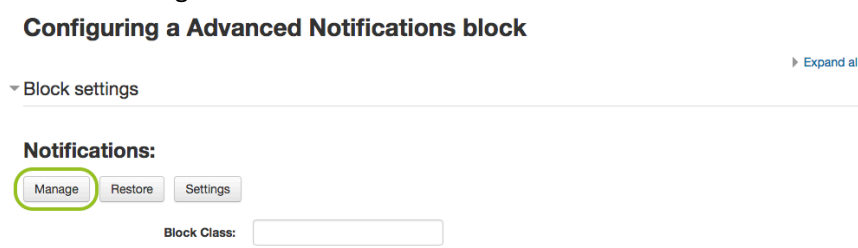

2. Click on the Advanced Notification Block's cog/configure button, and click on "Configure Advanced Notifications block".


3. You will be taken to the current block's configuration – here you will see navigation options. Click on 'Manage' to create a new instance-based notification.

4. You will be taken to the 'Manage Notifications' page and any new notifications that are created here will be instance-based notifications – as long as you ensure the 'Global Notification' checkbox remains unticked. The new notification will then be only displayed in the block through which it was set up.

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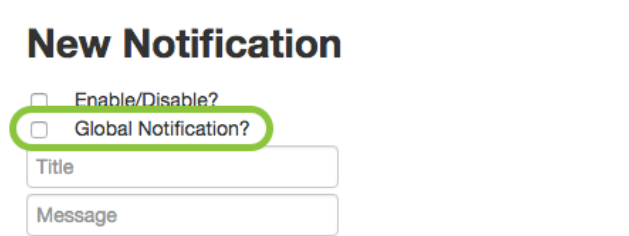
Pages/Navigation

Near the top of the pages in the Advanced Notification plugin you will see contextual navigational links which will navigate between different pages where you can affect the plugin and the notifications in different manners.

Managing Notifications

New Notification

Creating a new notification has been made as simple as possible, and these are made on the same page as managing notifications – 'Manage Notifications'. You can navigate to the page as explained above under the 'Types of Notifications' heading – depending on which type of notification you would like to set up. Once there, you will see a 'New Notification' form towards the bottom of the page:

New Notification

- Enable/Disable?
- Global Notification?

Title

Message

Type

\# of times

Number of times to display the notification to the u...

- Display Icon?
- Dismissible?

From:

dd/mm/yyyy

To:

dd/mm/yyyy

Save   Cancel

- Toggles whether the notification is viewable to the user or not.
- Toggles whether notification is global or instance-based – only appears if 'Manage Notifications' was accessed through the block's configuration as explained above.
- The notification's title – bolded text in notification.
- The notification's message – standard text in notification.
- Type of alert – info, success, warning, etc.
- Number of times the notification should be displayed to the user – setting this to 0 (default) means an infinite number of times.
- Toggles whether an icon is rendered in the notification or not – icon image is based on the type of alert (above).
- Toggles whether the notification is dismissible or not.
- From and to which date the notification should be displayed – setting these to the same date will display the notification infinitely (until disabled manually).
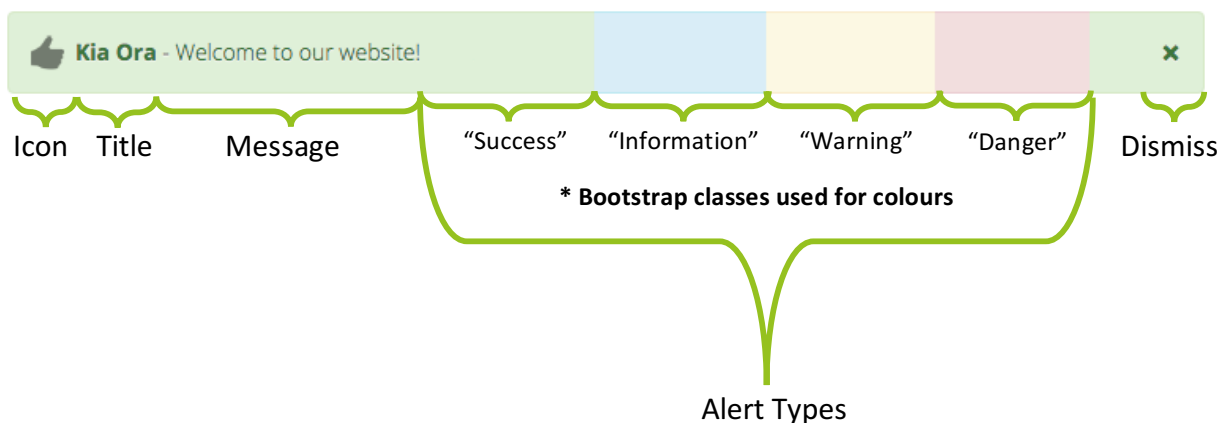
Remember to 'Save'

Notification Breakdown

👍 **Kia Ora** - Welcome to our website!   ✖

Icon   Title   Message   "Success"   "Information"   "Warning"   "Danger"   Dismiss

* Bootstrap classes used for colours

Alert Types

Preview
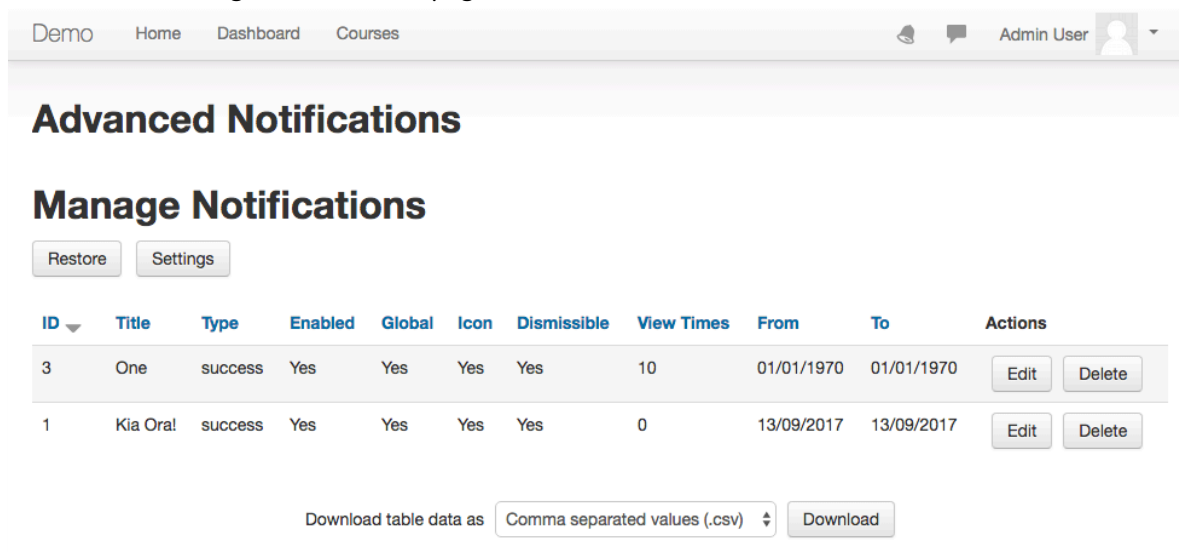

When creating a new notification, a 'live' preview is visible just above the New Notification heading – JavaScript needs to be enabled for this feature to work. The preview will change as the content changes in the textboxes, checkboxes & dropdowns below. Note that this is just a preview and may not 100% accurately reflect what the resulting notification will look like.

Record of Notifications

Notifications that have been saved are stored in the database and are displayed to the user in a neat table on the 'Manage Notifications' page:

The table can be sorted in ascending or descending order by each column (besides 'Actions') by clicking on the table header(s). A copy of the table can also be downloaded in multiple formats by selecting a format from the dropdown list and clicking 'Download'.

Notification Actions

The table also offers 'Actions' the user can make to affect the notifications in some way. The available actions are as follows:

- **Edit** – Clicking on 'Edit' will dynamically load the notification you wish to edit's details into the 'New Notification' form below the table. Make the changes to the notification's details and save the updated content by clicking on 'Update'. (JavaScript required)
- **Delete** – Clicking on 'Delete' adds a 'deleted' status to the notification and will remove the record from the 'Manage Notifications' table (however it will be displayed in the 'Restore Notifications' table). The page 'Restore Notifications' also has a 'Delete' action – be wary though as clicking on this 'Delete' action will permanently delete the notification from the database.
- **Restore** – Clicking on 'Restore' which can be found on the 'Restore Notifications' page will remove the 'deleted' status from the notification and will remove the record from the 'Restore Notifications' table (it will be displayed in the 'Manage Notifications' table again).

Extra Notes

- If a notification is set to be 'dismissible' and have a 'number of view times' set – whichever event occurs first will be respected.