

AEC Version 0.12.6RC2o

Installation/Upgrade Quick Start Guide

This guide will lead you through the basic steps of installing the component and dealing with casual server problems.

Sorry, the AEC is quite powerful!

The AEC is capable of modifying user accounts. **DO NOT USE YOUR ADMIN ACCOUNT AS TESTUSER WITHIN THE AEC.** You will very likely downgrade the administrator privileges and **lock yourself out** of your Joomla CMS.

Upload Filesize

PHP has a setting that governs how large the files you upload to your server can be.

You might have to change a particular setting in your php.ini file

How to find out what is set

Joomla 1.5.x:

Help → System Info.

Joomla 1.0.x:

System → System Info.

... Click on the PHP Information tab and look for upload_max_filesize.

PHP.ini

The location of this file will vary from server to server (depending on the setup of the webserver software). Contact your hosting provider or server administrator for more information if you can't figure it out from the Joomla! System Info.

How to get it done

the default setting of

```
upload_max_filesize = 2M
```

is too small and we recommend at least

```
upload_max_filesize = 4M
```

to make it work.

Still not working or not able to change the setting?

If you are unable to change this variable you will need to install the component via the “Install for Directory” method. For more information on this method click on the Help icon in Joomla when on the Install screen.

Reminder – keep your Software up to date:

We make every effort to make sure that AEC is compatible with different versions of Joomla, but it is **STRONGLY** recommended that you upgrade your version of Joomla to the most current versions. At this time that would be either 1.0.15 or 1.5.8. If you do not, you may have to apply some hacks manually.



Step #1 - Backup the Database and Files

1. **If this is an Upgrade**, continue with the steps below otherwise proceed to step #2.
2. It is recommended that you look at your hacks page and in addition to the backup, go to AEC hacks page and backup the hacked files to your local drive.
3. If this is an upgrade on J! 1.5.x please disable all AEC plug-ins, and re-enable the Joomla Authentication plug-in.
4. It is recommended at this point to remove the hacks that AEC has made previously (Use the undo now on the Hacks page)
5. Uninstall via the Joomla Uninstall (differs for versions 1.0.x and 1.5.x) the AEC Component, any AEC plug-ins, AEC modules, or AEC mambots.
6. **Check your Registration flow** via the front end doing a test registration, if all is good then proceed to step #2. If it is not working correctly, isolate the problem and correct it before installing the AEC.

Step #2 - Install files

Proceed with the installation of the following (in this order) below. Version numbers are shortened to an "X".

1. Unzip the package **AEC_package_X_unzip_first.zip** to your local hard drive.
2. Install **com_acctexp_X.zip**
3. Joomla 1.5.x: Skip to Step #3
4. Install **aechacks_mambot_X.zip** (Located in the joomla_1_0_mambots folder of the unzipped package)
5. Install **mod_acctexp_X.zip**
6. Publish the aechacks mambot
7. Joomla 1.0.x: Skip to Step #6



Step #3 - Install files (Joomla 1.5.x only)

For Joomla 1.5.x proceed with the installation of the following (in this order) below.

(Make sure to enable the System Legacy Plugin for Joomla)

1. **aecaccess_plugin_X.zip**
2. **aecerror_plugin_X.zip** (Located in the joomla_1_5_plugins folder of the unzipped package)
3. **aecrouting_plugin_Xzip** (same location)
4. **aecuser_plugin_X.zip** (same location)
5. **mod_acctexp_X.zip**
6. DO NOT PUBLISH THE PLUGINS YET

Step #4 (Joomla 1.5.x only) - Configure the Plugins

1. Extensions → Plugin Manager
2. Easiest way to do this is to scroll to the bottom and make sure the Display # is set to all
3. Enable User Plugin – **AEC Access**
4. Scroll or page down to the system Plugins and look for the AEC Routing and AEC Error Handler Plugins and make sure they are ordered **after the System Legacy Plugin**, if not reorder so that they are.

Example

If the Legacy Plugin is order #3 under the system plugins, then AEC Routing should be order #4 and the AEC ErrorHandler should be order #5.

5. Enable the AEC Error Handler Plugin
6. Enable the AEC Routing Plugin

That concludes the installation, the following is a Setup Guide

The following steps will guide you through a typical setup of the AEC. None of these are required in setting the AEC up, but they can help getting a grasp of the administration of your new membership component. In a typical setup, clicking on **register** or **create an account**, will present the user a choice of Plans, then taken to the registration form the register, then to a Confirmation Screen then to the Checkout screen – then to the appropriate payment processor.



Step #6 - Apply the Hacks

1. Go to Components → AEC → AEC Central then click on Hacks
2. Apply all of the Joomla Hacks and/or CB Hacks. (all other third party hacks depend on the logic flow with that component)

Step #7 - Configure the Processor

1. Go to AEC Central → Processors
2. With “New”, you can create a new Payment Processor
3. Create entries for PayPal and PayPal Subscription
4. Enter in your business ID (email) in both Processors and save them

Step #8 - AEC Global Settings

1. Go to Components → AEC → AEC Central then click on Settings
2. Stay on the Global Tab
3. Require Subscriptions set to YES
4. If you have any SEO/SEF turned on then set Simple URLs to YES
5. For the purpose of this guide for processor descriptions we will multi select Paypal and Paypal Subscription, by holding down the Ctrl key
6. Entry Plan set to No Plan
7. Plans First set to Yes
8. Integrate Registration set to Yes
9. Show Fixed Decisions set to Yes
10. Click on the Apply Button



Step #9 - Configure the First Plan (Recurring Subscription Paypal)

1. Go to Components → AEC → AEC Central then click on Plans
2. Click on New
3. Name: Monthly Recurring Subscription
4. Published set to Yes
5. Visible set to Yes
6. Enable User group set to Yes (Registered)
7. Make Active set to Yes
8. Primary set to Yes
9. Update Existing set to Yes
10. Override Activation set to No
11. Override Registration Email set to No
12. Fall Back Plan set to No Plan
13. Standard Parent Plan set to No Plan
14. Free set to NO
15. Regular rate: 9.95
16. Lifetime set to NO
17. Period: 1
18. Period Unit set to Months
19. Click on Apply
20. Click on the Processors tab
21. Under Paypal Subscription check off Active
22. Hit Save



Step #10 - Configure the second Plan (One Time Charge Paypal)

1. Go to Components → AEC → AEC Central then click on Plans
2. Click on New
3. Name: Monthly One Time Subscription
4. Published set to Yes
5. Visible set to Yes
6. Enable User group set to Yes (Registered)
7. Make Active set to Yes
8. Primary set to Yes
9. Update Existing set to Yes
10. Override Activation set to No
11. Override Registration Email set to No
12. Fall Back Plan set to No Plan
13. Standard Parent Plan set to No Plan
14. Free set to NO
15. Regular rate: 12.95
16. Lifetime set to NO
17. Period: 1
18. Period Unit set to Months
19. Click on Apply
20. Click on the Processors tab
21. Under Paypal check off Active
22. Hit Save

Step #11 - You are done!

Do a test registration..... This is done via the Login Module. If you are using CB then make sure you have enabled the CB Login module. From the login module click on Create an account or Register.



Valanx.org AEC Support Policy and Options

Valanx.org offers free and paid support for AEC

On our site, we offer support for paying and non-paying members. Please note, that non-paying members only have access to the manual wiki and community forum, where you can share information and discuss problems with other users, but do not get support from us in person. If you want our support staff to help you out, you will have to at least make a donation.

Make sure to search for similar issues first

If you have any problems - please search our user forum. It is the best first step to find the answer to any question you may have. Also look at the topic Frequent Problems - Answered! The forum will help you - either this problem has been talked about before, or our forum moderators will have an answer. To get there, simply log on to valanx.org and follow the Support links.

When requesting support, make sure to include the following information in your request:

What version of Joomla are you running?
What version of AEC have you installed?
Do you have CB (Community Builder) installed and if so what version?
Do you have JACL or JUGA Installed?
What payment processor are you attempting to use?

Free Support

Free Support is given in the forum to a certain extend (through participation and moderation), but mainly via email using the contact form on the site. Please log in when using the contact form first, this will filter the support level you are at, if you do not it will be assumed that you are at the lowest support level.

Do try the forum first please – there is a very good chance that your problem has been solved by somebody else already!

Need us to take a Quick Look?

Need us to take a quick look and try to isolate a problem you may be having?

For 30 Euro we will go onto your server and isolate the problem you are having. If it can be fixed within a 15 minute period of time (usually can be) we will fix it.

If your issue does require more time, a reinstall, or an upgrade or custom programming, we will quote you the membership level you should be at for support and issue you a coupon for the 15 Euro that you can use against the purchase of the proper support level.

Basic Membership Priority Support

Email support based on a ticket System is provided using the “Support” Menu option on the site. Please log in when using the support system first.

Generous: Top Priority Support, On Server Support

Email support based on a ticket System is provided using the “Support” Menu option on the site. Please log in when using the support system first.

On Server Support: We will go onto your server and check over the configuration and setup you have done and isolate and fix and problems you are having.

AEC Setup & Top Priority Support:

Priority Email Support, On Server Support, AEC Installation Service

This plan is like the Generous Membership (four months of Top Priority Support), but includes setting the AEC up on your server by our Support Team. We will contact you for your server details and requirements.

Email support based on a ticket System is provided using the “Support” Menu option on the site. Please log in when using the support system first.

On Server Support: We will go onto your server and check over the configuration and setup you have done and isolate and fix and problems you are having.

Upgrading Support Levels

If you need to upgrade your current support membership to a higher level we do offer discounts on said upgrades. Just use the contact form on the site and we will supply you with the link for upgrading.

Custom Integrations

We also offer custom integration services. Need a special payment processor for AEC? Need a special Micro Integration written? Need or want to add a feature to AEC?



Just use the contact form on the site and let us know, we will be happy to quote what the sponsorship of such a modification would be.



NOTES ON THE FILES IN THE PACKAGE

The individual packages are:

com_acctexp_X.zip - The Account Expiration Control Component

This is the AEC Component. Please always install this first. The Component in itself will also not restrict access to content or to the system, but (for example) give you options to modify user accounts to have the system grant different access rights.

mod_acctexp_X.zip - The AEC Module

This is the AEC Module. It lets you display the individual account expiration date to your users. It is also required for certain Micro Integrations which can display Javascript code or other extra information in the Module and thus, for example, display affiliate tracking code and similar information.

aecaccess_plugin_X.zip - AECaccess Plugin - Access Manager

This Plugin manages the Joomla login. Note, that this plugin does not in itself restrict access to content, just to the site itself (should you choose so).

aecerror_plugin_X.zip - AECerror Plugin - Error Manager

This Plugin handles error behavior of your Joomla CMS. For example, instead of redirecting your users to a standard "you are not allowed to access this page, please log in", you can, with this plugin, forward them to a special AEC NotAllowed page, which explains the Membership system on your site.

aecrouting_plugin_X.zip - AECrouting Plugin - Routing Manager

A general purpose router for AEC related events such as registration (where, according to your settings, the AEC might redirect to the plan selection screen first).

aechacks_mambot_X.zip - AEChacks Mambot - System Hacks Emulator

While previously, the AEC relied on hacking (editing) core Joomla files, this mambot emulates this behavior by intercepting certain calls and redirecting them to AEC functions. It may still be necessary to hack certain files, but the majority of systems will have a complete integration with this Mambot alone.

aecuser_plugin_X.zip - AECuser Plugin - User Manager

Certain functions within the AEC need to intercept user registrations to store extra data and propagate changes to a user account to internal functions. This is why the AECuser Plugin is required for most systems.

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