Account Expiration Component
Quickstart Guide

Welcome to the Account Expiration Component for the *Joomla!* Content Management System!

And thank you for choosing our software to handle your subscriptions. This Quickstart Guide should help you through the most common problems in setting up the AEC.

Before you even start

Make sure that you have the following:
- Registered with the payment gateway you want to use - This may in some cases take a while.
- An **internet-reachable** installation of joomla! on a capable web-server - If your site can't be seen from the outside, how should your payment gateway send you a notification about the payments?
- Make sure you use the **latest supported version of joomla!**

After installing the AEC

- Make sure that you **apply the hacks** on the 'Hacks' page that are marked with an arrow and fill out the Settings.
- If you are upgrading from an earlier version, it **might be that you have to unhack certain files**, so always look at the hacks page!
- It might be that you still use the old modules that were needed in order to run the AEC (all versions before 0.12.3.43). **You must now use the regular Joomla! or CB login module.**
- **Read the below segment on Registration Workflows!**

After you have set up the AEC

After you have installed and set up the AEC, there are things that you should consider:
- Make sure that you are **not in offline mode when testing** - since this would make your site unreachable to any payment notification

Different Registration Workflows

The AEC supports a number of different registration workflows:

> **[Registration]** Register → Account Details → (Activate) → Login → **Logged In**
> **[Subscription]** (Voluntary) → *Subscription Plans* → Confirm → Checkout

In general, **after you have installed the AEC, it will do nothing**. A new user will be able to log in without a subscription. He will never see any payment plans unless he accesses that workflow. When the user subscription runs out, everything will stay as it was during the subscription, so make sure that you provide a **Fallback Plan** in the Plans Settings if you want to patch down the users privileges after the plan expired.

The AEC supports a number of different registration workflows:

> **[Registration]** Register → Account Details → (Activate)
> Login → *Entry Plan Application* → Auto Confirm&Checkout → **Logged In**

You may also choose to select an Entry Plan in the AEC Settings. This will mean, that each new user is automatically applied to this Entry Plan at no cost. Your users will never notice that a Subscription is set up and it will not show in the Invoice history. They will however see the plan information in their

> **[Registration]** Register → Account Details → (Activate) → Login
> **[Subscription]** Login → *Subscription Plans* → Confirm → Checkout → Login → **Logged In**

MySubscription page.

The next option is to **set "Require Subscription" in the settings**. With this, every user will be checked for his subscription status. If he or she has none, the user will not be logged in, but instead confronted with the **payment plans**. Only if a payment plan has been applied through payment or because it was free, the user will be able to log in again.

This also affects the situation of an Entry Plan – when the plan runs out, the user now has to choose (and pay if that is required) a new plan.

Integrated Subscription&Registration

> **[Hybrid]** Register → Account Details → *Subscription Plans* → Confirm → Checkout
> (Activate) → Login → **Logged In**

The AEC also offers to integrate the subscription into the Registration Process.

For an integrated Joomla! Registration, **commit the "registration.php Hack #2"** on the 'Hacks' page. If you use Community Builder, **commit the "comprofiler.php Hack #2"**. This will catch the user details after they have been entered in the registration form and only submit them if the user also makes a choice on the payment plans after that.

> **[Hybrid]** Register → *Subscription Plans* → Account Details → Confirm → Checkout
> (Activate) → Login → **Logged In**

If you want to show the Subscription Plans first, you need to do this for CB:
  - commit the "**comprofiler.php Hack #2**"
  - commit the "**comprofiler.php Hack #6**"
  - commit the "**comprofiler.html.php Hack #2**"

For a Joomla! registration, you need to:
  - commit the "**registration.php Hack #5**"

In both cases, you **must** set "**Plans first**" to "Yes" in the AEC Settings as well.

This will ask the user to choose a Payment Plan **before** he or she puts in the account details.

If you need more support

On www.globalnerd.org, we have set up a support site that provides:
  - An extensive manual that covers all of the functions of the AEC
  - A support forum that you can use to find problems that have been discussed before, or to ask new questions. We normally answer within 6 hours.
  - Development releases that fix errors soon after they have been found, that you can download even before we include the fixes in the public version.
...for free or a small subscription fee (manual only for paying users).

Please help us out so we can continue developing this component

...and offer more features (and less bugs) in the future. Although our service is of course free for everybody, paying members will receive priority support.