UNIT 10 JOOMLA

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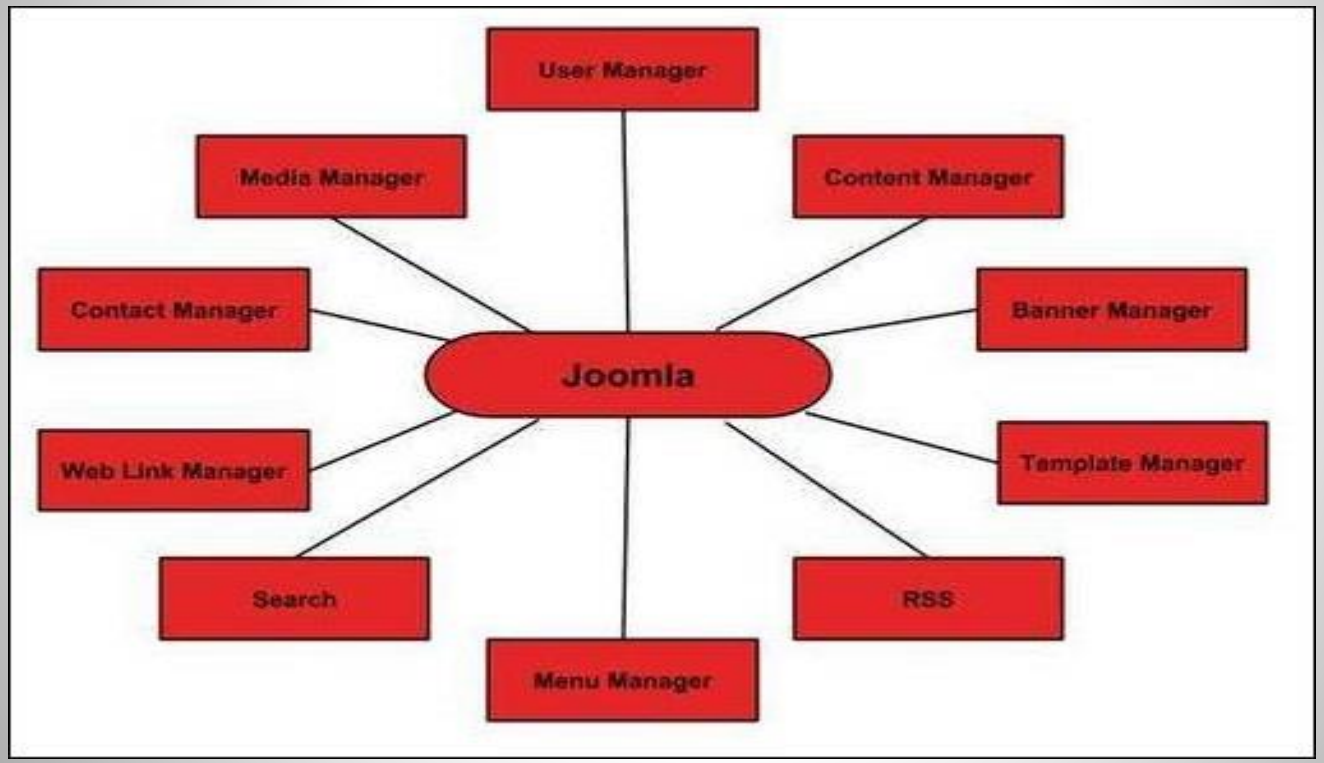
Introduction

- Joomla is an open source **Content Management System (CMS)**, which is used to build websites and online applications.
- It is free and extendable which is separated into front-end and back-end templates (administrator).
- Joomla is developed using PHP, Object Oriented Programming, software design patterns and MySQL (used for storing the data).

History

- Joomla is based on **Mambo** CMS which was developed by an Australian company in 2001 and initially released on *August 17, 2005*.
- The official version of Joomla 1.0 was released on *September 22, 2005*.

Features


User Manager
Media Manager
Content Manager
Contact Manager
Banner Manager
Joomla
Web Link Manager
Template Manager
Search
RSS
Menu Manager

Features

- **User Manager** − It allows managing the user information such as permission to edit, access, publish, create or delete the user, change the password and languages. The main part of the user manager is Authentication.
- **Content Manager** − It allows managing the content using WYSIWYG editor to create or edit the content in a very simple way.
- **Banner Manager** − It is used to add or edit the banners on the website.
- **Template Manager** − It manages the designs that are used on the website. The templates can be implemented without changing the content structure within a few seconds.
- **Media Manager** − It is the tool for managing the media files and folder in which you can easily upload, organize and manage your media files into your article editor tool.
- **Contact Manager** − It allows to add contacts, managing the contact information of the particular users.
- **Web Link Manager** − The link resource is provided for user of the site and can be sorted into categories.
- **Search** − It allows users to search the appropriate information on the site. You can use smart indexing, advanced search options, auto suggest searches to make Joomla search best.
- **Menu Manager** − It allows to create menus and menu items and can be managed subsequently. You can put menu in any style and in multiple places.
- **RSS** − It stands for Really Simple syndication which helps your site contents and RSS files to be automatically updated.

Advantages

- It is an open source platform and available for free.
- Joomla is designed to be easy to install and set up even if you're not an advanced user.
- Since Joomla is so easy to use, as a web designer or developer, you can quickly build sites for your clients. With minimal instructions to the clients, clients can easily manage their sites on their own.
- It is very easy to edit the content as it uses WYSIWYG editor (**W**hat **Y**ou **S**ee **I**s **W**hat **Y**ou **G**et is a user interface that allows the user to directly manipulate the layout of the document without having a layout command).
- It ensures the safety of data content and doesn't allow anyone to edit the data.
- By default, Joomla is compatible with all browsers.
- The templates are very flexible to use.
- Media files can be uploaded easily in the article editor tool.
- Provides easy menu creation tool.

Disadvantages

- It gives compatibility problem while installing several modules, extensions and plugins simultaneously.
- Plugins and modules are not free in Joomla.
- Development is too difficult to handle when you want to change the layout.
- Joomla is not much SEO (Search Engine Optimization) friendly.
- It makes website heavy to load and run.

Real World Examples

- Corporate web sites or portals
- Corporate intranets and extranets
- Online magazines, newspapers, and publications
- E-commerce and online reservations
- Government applications
- Small business web sites
- Non-profit and organizational web sites
- Community-based portals
- School and religious web sites
- Personal or family homepages

What is Hosting?

- If you want to publish your website online, then you are required to get a web hosting service.
- A web hosting is a service that allows users to post a website or web pages onto the internet.
- Website data is hosted or stored on special computers known as servers.
- To access any website, the user needs to type the website address (Domain Address) into the browser's address bar.
- After that, the browser will connect the user to the server, and the webpage will be displayed through the browser.

What is Joomla Hosting?

- Joomla is known as the second most popular CMS platform after WordPress, and it helps users to create and build freely hosted Joomla websites.
- By giving an option to have a free hosted site for an unlimited time, Joomla aims to become more popular and increase its user base.
- Joomla hosting is a web hosting plan that provides compatibility with the content management system Joomla.
- For businesses and individuals that decide to build their website using Joomla, a Joomla hosting plan is a logical choice to ensure that your web hosting plan works well with the main system you use to run and maintain your website.

5 Benefits of the Joomla Hosting Platform

1. **Installation will be easy**.
    - Adding Joomla to a Joomla hosting account will typically mean one-click installation.
    - You don’t have to worry about a lengthy process of connecting your Joomla account to your web hosting one.
    - Within a couple of minutes, everything will be in place for you use and you’ll be ready to publish your Joomla-built website to the web.
2. **Adding Joomla to your account will be free.**
    - While web hosting plans come at a cost, when you use Joomla hosting you can be confident that using Joomla with your web hosting plan won’t add any additional cost or fees to your subscription.
    - Your web hosting cost will remain the amount you agreed to for the plan, even after you connect your accounts.

3. You can count on compatibility.

- The last thing you want is to figure out the web hosting plan you choose has compatibility issues with the CMS you built your entire website on.
- When you choose Joomla hosting for a website built with Joomla, you know right from the start that the two accounts will work well together.
- Your web hosting plan will have no problem accommodating your Joomla site, and your work in Joomla won't cause any problems with your web hosting.

4. Making updates will be intuitive.

- One of the big benefits of using Joomla is that it makes all the ongoing updates you'll need to make to your website—big and small—easy to do yourself, without having to call on a web development professional to help.
- With the right Joomla hosting plan, you can ensure that all the updates you make to your website are still easy with Joomla, and any updates you need to make to your hosting plan will be simple and intuitive as well.

5. **You have two sources for helpful support.**
    - If you're not an expert on building and running a website—and maybe even if you are—you'll hit up against issues working on your website where you need help. When you use Joomla to build your website, you gain access to a large community of Joomla users who provide help and support in the Joomla forum, in Joomla user groups that meet around the world, and at a number of events and conferences that are all about Joomla. And that's in addition to the educational materials like courses and tutorials that are readily available online.
    - With a good Joomla hosting provider, you also gain access to a committed customer support team who can help you out with many additional aspects of keeping your website working the way you want. This is especially valuable if you go with a web hosting provider that offers 24/7 customer support or provides additional skilled services to help out with things like SEO, PPC, or web design.
    - Even with an intuitive web hosting plan and CMS like Joomla, many aspects of running a website can be difficult, so having multiple sources you can turn to for help is a valuable benefit.

5 Things to Look for in a Joomla Hosting Plan

1. Scalability

- When choosing a Joomla hosting provider, you have to think about what you need today, but you'll make a better long-term choice if you also consider what you could need in the future.
- Determine whether the web hosting company you go with provides room to grow.
- Will it be easy to upgrade your plan down the line if your website starts getting a lot more traffic, or if you decide to expand your website to include features that require a higher level of bandwidth?
- Figure out what type of plan best meets your needs today, but also look at some of the other plan options your provider offers. Do they look like a good fit for where you want your Joomla website to be in five years.

2. 24/7 Support

- A good web hosting provider will make a lot of what you need to do through your web hosting account simple and intuitive.
- But nonetheless, you may well have times where you need a little help figuring out how to do something or fixing a problem that's not working right. When that happens, you want to get ahold of someone that knows how to help and can provide the information you need fast.
- Any web hosting provider you choose (as long as they offer paid plans), should provide customer support.
- But also check to see if the support they provide is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- And check some hosting reviews to see if their customer support team has a reputation for having a good track record.
- The quality and accessibility of the customer support you receive can make a big difference in how satisfied you are with a Joomla hosting provider.

3. 99% Uptime

- Uptime is the term used in the web hosting industry to describe the amount of time your website is accessible to visitors on the web.
- Because web hosting servers occasionally have to go offline for maintenance, no company can promise 100% uptime. And web servers can go offline for a number of additional reasons, such as hackers, improper maintenance, parts breaking, or web servers being affected physically by extreme weather conditions like flooding.
- Part of what you pay a Joomla web hosting provider for is to keep their web servers well maintained and working consistently. The most reliable companies put a lot of work into delivering on that. Look for a web hosting company that offers at least 99% uptime, but ideally promises closer to 99.9%

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4. Security

- Website security is an issue every website owner has to prioritize today.
- Data breaches and hacked websites are an all too common reality, and often websites built using a CMS are a particular target since hackers know how to find vulnerabilities in the CMS code.
- While there are a number of steps you can take to make your website more secure from hackers, including keeping your Joomla version up to date, one of the best ways to ensure website security is choosing the right web hosting provider,Check that your Joomla hosting provider has a reputation for using strong firewalls to keep their web servers protected, and that they offer key security features like an SSL certificate and security software.

5. Affordability

- Web hosting is a necessary expense if you want to have a website, but it doesn't have to be a large one.
- A good Joomla hosting plan can start at less than $3 a month for shared web hosting, which is usually a good choice for new websites.
- When you're considering your options, you have to think about what you can afford. In some cases, paying a little more can be worth it for what you get for the extra money—such as choosing a web hosting plan that includes features you need like an SSL certificate or a website builder. So consider carefully what you're getting for the cost, and make sure it fits in your website budget.

Free Joomla Hosting Specifications

- There are some limitations on the hardware configuration provided in the free Joomla hosting service, as follows:
- 100% Core Joomla or WordPress (Unrestricted)
- 500MB Disk Space
- 1 CPU Core
- 1 GB RAM
- Free Subdomain
- FTP/MySQL Access

Joomla Login

- Joomla is a great platform to build almost any kind of website. It provides a lot of great tools in the admin panel. Once you have completed the installation of Joomla. You can start working to make a website of your own.
- Before you start building your website, you have to log in to Joomla to access its admin panel. The admin panel is the area where all of the work for the website is completed. Every task from creating content to performing various maintenance tasks is available with just a click of the mouse.

Joomla Admin URL

- By default, Joomla installs the admin panel, which can be accessed only through the URL: "http://yourdomain.com/administrator". Here, you need to change the '**yourdomain.com**' with your website domain or public IP address (localhost).
- In other words, you are required to type the website address or localhost, followed by "/administrator" to access the Joomla admin area. It will provide the login screen which will look like the screenshot given below:

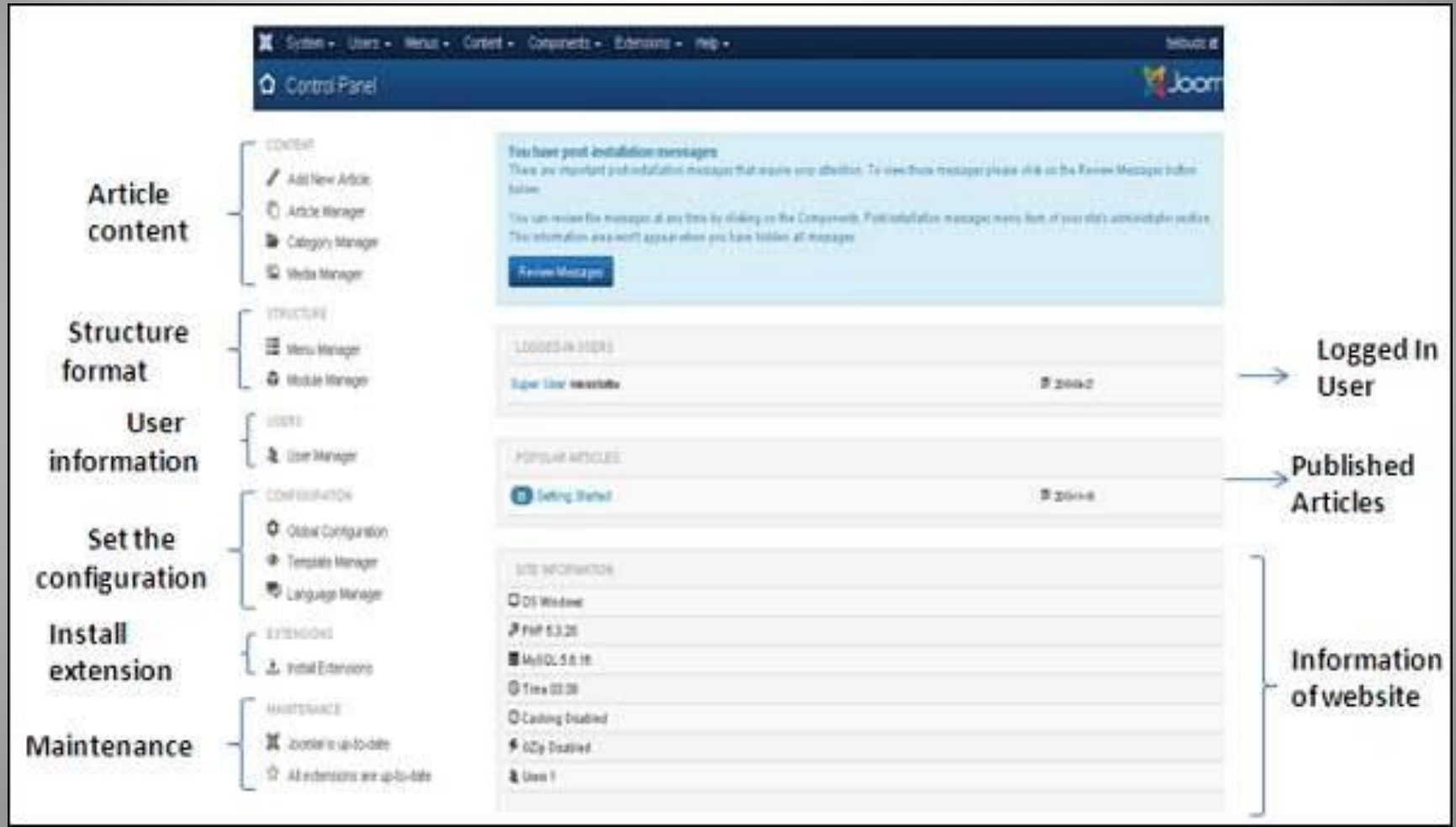
- Type your username and password and click on the "**Log in**" button to continue. If you have entered the correct credential details, you will be redirected into the admin panel, where you can perform the changes to your site.

Reset Joomla Admin Password

- Sometimes, people create elaborate usernames and passwords to ensure security for their websites. Unfortunately, they forget the credential details and don't get access to the admin panel of the site. It's quite embarrassing when you create a site but can't make changes because of the wrong credentials. However, you can change or reset the username or password easily by following some steps. It is not difficult for resetting or retrieving the username or password with Joomla.
- In the Joomla login screen, there are question mark signs next to both the username and password fields.
- If you click any of these icons, you will be redirected into the page where you have to enter the email address associated with your user account. If you enter the correct email address, you will receive the email with the instructions to reset your credentials

Joomla Control Panel

- As soon as you log in to the Joomla admin panel, you will be redirected into the Control Panel (Dashboard) screen.
- To access the control panel from any other page in the back-end, navigate to the "**System > Control Panel**" from the drop-down menu of **Joomla Administrator Panel**.
- It contains several default features and functions of Joomla to access through clickable icons, menu bars, etc. It will look like this:


Control Panel
Article content
Structure format
User information
Set the configuration
Install extension
Maintenance
Logged In User
Published Articles
Information of website

Contd.

- There is a side-bar containing several options which are used to access several functions such as Articles manager, Media manager, Menus, Modules, Users, Templates, Configurations, and Extensions. Check out the following list explaining these options and their functions:

Article Content

There are four icons under the **CONTENT** section as shown below −

Add New Article − It creates a new article page.

Article Manager − It manages all your present articles.

Category Manager − It creates new categories and helps in publishing/unpublishing the categories.

Media Manager − It manages the files by uploading various new files or deleting the existing ones on your web server.

Structure Format

In **STRUCTURE** section, there are two groups of icons −

Menu Manager − Menu manager allows creating custom menus for your website and navigating through your website.

Module Manager − It manages the modules such as location and function of modules that are installed on site.

User Information

Under USERS section, there is one icon located −

User Manager − It manages the user information, which allows creating or deleting the user, changing passwords, time and languages. You can also assign the user to User Groups.

Set the configuration

- Three icons are located under the **CONFIGURATION** section as given below −

Global Configuration − This is an important part in the Joomla back-end. Any changes made in this configuration, will affect the entire website.

Template Manager − It manages the templates used in the website.

Language Manager − It manages installed language by setting the default language for your site.

Install Extension

- There are many Extensions available in Joomla. You can install different types of extensions to extend the functionality of the site.

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Maintenance

- In MAINTENANCE section, there are two icons located −
  - **Joomla is up-to-date** − It views the current update status of the Joomla installation.
  - **All extensions are up-to-date** − It views the current update status of the Joomla extension.

Logged-In User

- It shows the administrator name who has logged in to the Joomla site.

Published Articles

- It shows the published articles and also shows the present article, that you have published.

Information of Sites

- It displays the details of the site such as OS name, version of PHP and MySQL etc and also shows the number of users that are using this site.

QUESTIONS

- State and explain any 6 features of Joomla.
- Give advantages and disadvantages of Joomla CMS.
- Give any 6 real world example where Joomla CMS can be used.
- What is Joomla hosting?
- Give any 5 Benefits of the Joomla Hosting Platform.
- What are the important things that you need to consider while investing in Joomla Hosting Plan.?
- What are the limitations on the hardware configuration provided in the free Joomla hosting service?
- Explain some of the features and its function listed under Joomla control panel/Dashboard.
- Explain article content, structure format, user information and Set the configuration option of Joomla control panel/Dashboard.
- Write a short note on Joomla login.

REFERENCE

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