Subscription

A XOOPS plug-in
version 0.95

User guide

Enable paid access to your website's content.

Notes

Administrator Theme

There are different XOOPS administrator themes to choose from. For the purpose of this document we are using the "EVU" theme. If you are using a different theme then the screen shots used in this document and some of the words will be different.

Plug-ins / Modules

If you are using a different XOOPS administrator theme then the word "plug-in" may be substituted by "modules".

Name

XOOPS allows you to change the name of it's plug-ins. So depending on your set-up of XOOPS, the Subscriber plug-in may be called something different.

Subscription main menu

All subscription admin functions are accessible from the Subscription main menu. To access the menu, go to Plug-ins from the main menu and then select Subscriptions.
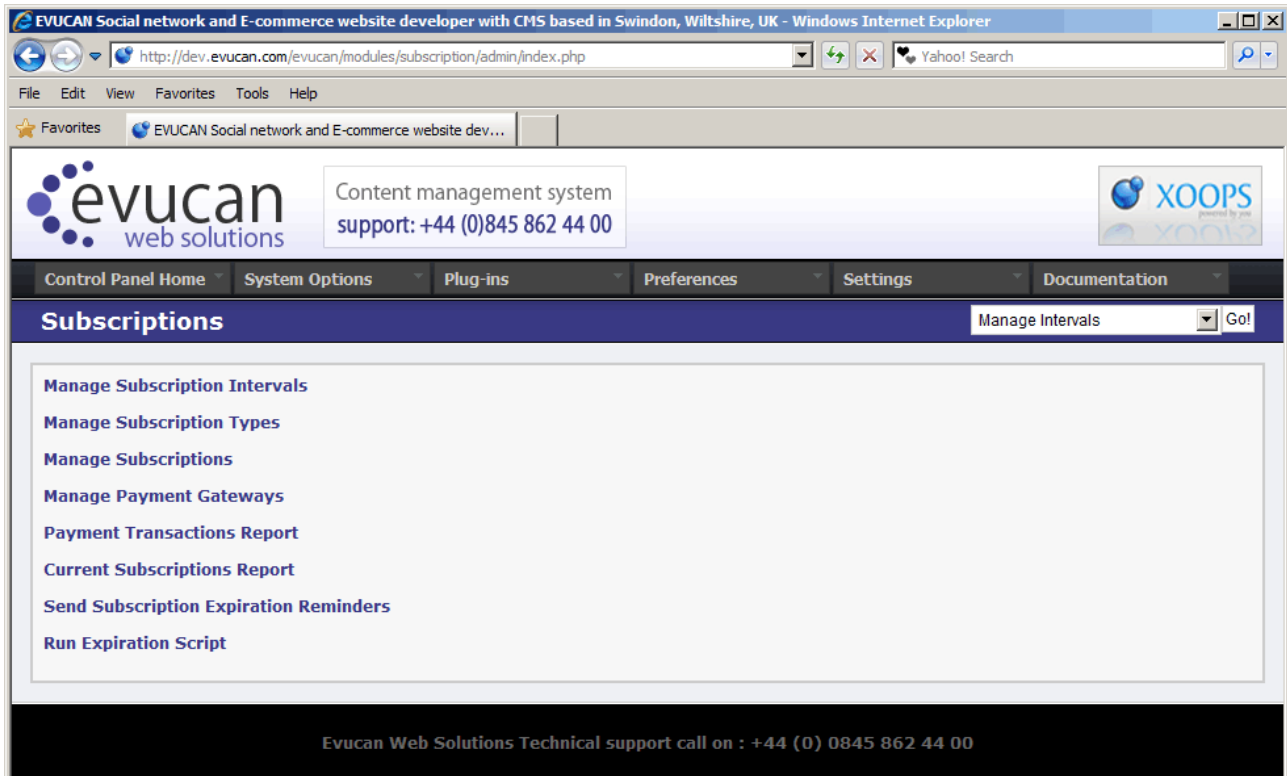
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Introduction

This module allows you to create, manage and sell subscriptions to your website's content based on XOOPS security groups.

Drawing 1: Subscriptions main menu

Features

- Fully supports SSL for Secure Payments
- Cancel subscription at any time
- View subscription expiration dates

- Reports for subscription payments and current subscribers

- Send Subscription Expiration reminders

- Auto-renew Subscriptions (for Paypal and other **direct** payment gateways)

Create a Subscription

Before you can create a subscription you must first set-up:

- Subscription Intervals
- Subscription Types

Subscription Intervals

An interval defines how regularly your users are going to be billed. Any number of Subscription intervals can be created.

Drawing 2: Intervals

Interval types

There are four interval types that you can choose from:

- Day,

- Week,

- Month,

- Year,

- Permanent.

Monthly and Yearly intervals are created by default.

The final interval type, Permanent is a pay once only option. Useful, if you want to charge your users only once.

Create a new Interval

1. Select "Manage Subscription Intervals" from the main Subscription menu.
2. Scroll down to the second box on the screen where it says: "Create New Subscription Interval "
3. Input the name of the Interval in the **Name** text box. This should be something descriptive so you can reference it when you come to create a subscription.
4. Select **Interval type**
5. Now input **Interval Amount**. This value defines the regularity of the intervals.
6. The Sort order lets you define the order of the interval types when ever they are displayed.
7. Now click on the Create button to add the Interval type.

Example

For example, if you wanted a monthly interval to renew every 30 days, you would choose the interval type 'Day' and the interval amount of '30'.

By default, the Monthly interval is set up to renew every month (type=Month, amount=1).

Modify an existing Interval

Select an existing Interval type from the drop down box in the "Existing Subscription Intervals" box. Now click on "Modify".

Subscription Types

Subscription type defines the access privileges by assigning one or more security groups. If you have not created new security groups to support the different access levels to your website, you should do this before continuing.

- This document does not detail how to create/modify **Security groups**. Please read the XOOPS operation guide.

Any number of Subscription types can be created. Basic and Premium subscription types are are already set-up as default.

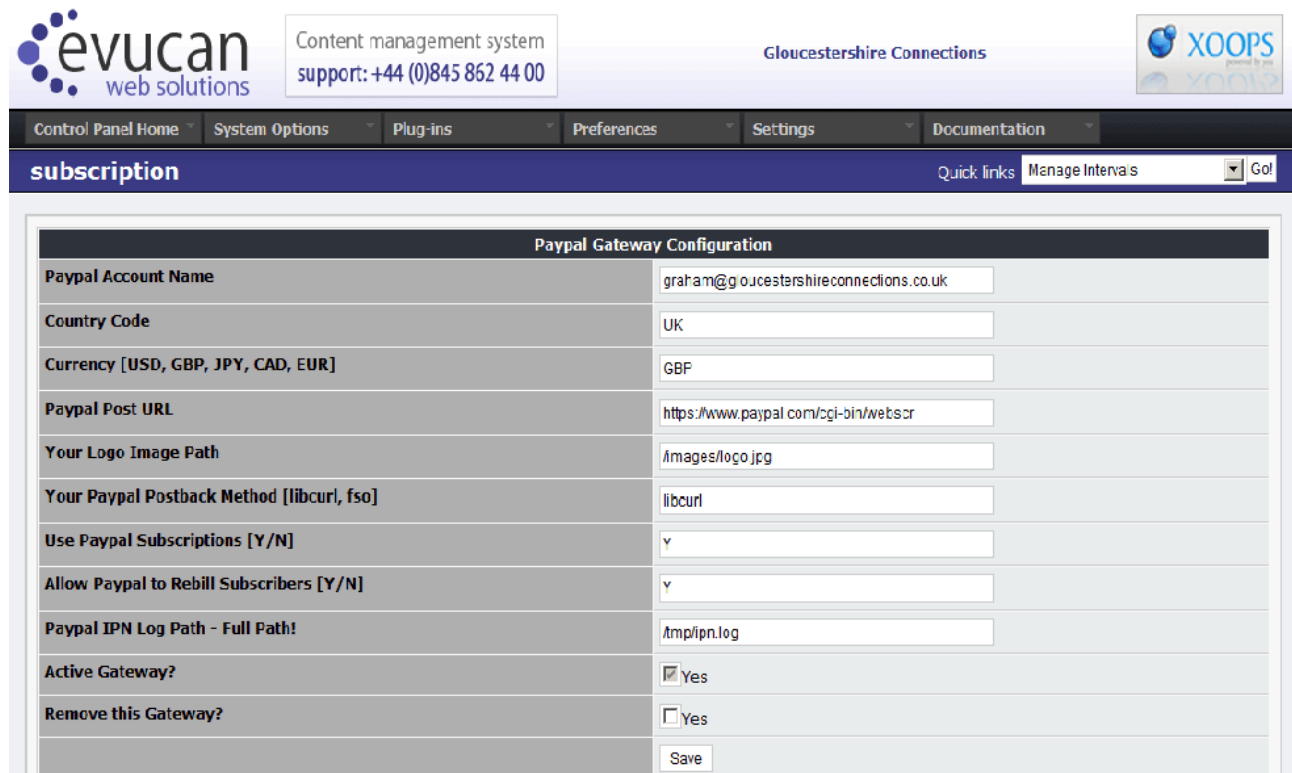*Drawing 3: Create a Subscription type*

Create a new Subscription Type

1. Select "Manage Subscription Types" from the main Subscription menu.

2. Scroll down to the second box on the screen where it says: "Create New Subscription Type"

3. Input the name of the Interval in the **Name** text box. This should be something descriptive so you can reference it when you come to create a subscription.

4. Select "None" for **Parent Subscription type** from the drop down box**.** Or if you have want to create a hierarchy of subscription types then you can pick an existing Susbcription type from the drop down box. By doing so the child subscription type inherit properties or behaviours from its parent.

5. Now lets define which security groups are going to be associated with this Subscription type. Select one or more security groups for **Group Permission**.

6. Now click on the Create button to add the Subscription type.

Modify an existing subscription Type

Select an existing Subscription type from the drop down box in the "Existing Subscription Intervals" box. Now click on "Modify".

Manage Subscriptions

We are now ready to create a subscription. Create subscriptions with one of the types and intervals created in the previous steps. When a user purchases one of these subscriptions, he or she will be automatically added to the security group assigned to the subscription type for that subscription.

Drawing 4: Create subscription

Create a new Subscription

1. Select "Manage Subscription" from the main Subscription menu.
2. Scroll down to the second box on the screen where it says: "Create Subscription "
3. Firstly, input the **Alternate Subscription ID**. This is a unique reference number that can be assigned by you.
4. Select a **Subscription Type** from the drop down box**.**
5. Select a **Subscription Interval** from the drop down box**.**
6. Now input the cost of the subscription per interval in the **Price** field.
7. The Sort order defines the order in which the subscriptions will be displayed to users.

Modify an existing subscription

Select an existing Subscription type from the drop down box in the "Existing Subscription " box. Now click on "Modify".

Payment gateways

New payment methods can be installed. By default the subscription plug-in comes with Paypal gateway but first, it may need to be installed.

Drawing 5: Paypal configuration

Installing Paypal

1. Click on **Manage Payment Gateways** from the main subscription menu
2. Scroll down to the **Add gateway box**
3. Input Paypal in the **Gateway Name** field

Configuring Paypal

1. Click on **Manage Payment Gateways** from the main subscription menu
2. Select **Paypal** from Installed Gateways
3. Click on Modify
4. Now input values in the field as advised by Paypal

Re-bill subscribers

To automatically charge subscribers according to the subscription interval by paypal ensure the following field are set as below:

- Use Paypal Subscriptions : **Y**
- Allow Paypal to Re-bill Subscribers : **Y**

Reports

Payment Transactions Report

View details of transactions made by users purchasing subscriptions.

Drawing 6: Payment Transactions Report

View Report

- Select "Payment Transactions Report" from the Subscription main menu.
- To view by a specific user name input the user id in the text box, "Search by user name" and press return.
- To view a transaction in detail then click on the Detail link on the right side column.

Add manual transaction

Sometimes you will need to input a manual transaction, for example when a user is unable to make payment on-line. You may need to update the system for completeness of record.

1. Go to the "Payments transaction report"
2. Scroll down to "Add manual transaction"
3. Input the details and then click on "Add"

Current Subscriptions Report

View details of the current subscriptions.

Drawing 7: Current Subscriptions Report

View Report

- Select "Current Subscriptions Report" from the Subscription main menu.

- To **view by a specific user name** input the user id in the text box, "Search by user name" and press return.

- To view a transaction in detail then click on the **Detail** link on the right side column.

- Cancel subscription from renewing after expiration by clicking on **Cancel.**

- **Revoke,** same as cancel but also revokes security group immediately for a Subscription.

Subscriber expirations

Send Subscription Expiration Reminders

Remind those users to renew who's subscription has expired.

1. Select **Send Expiration Reminders** from the Subscription main menu.
2. Now input a date in the suggested format
3. Click on Send

Run Expiration Script

View which users' subscriptions have expired.

1. Select **Run Expiration Script** from the Subscription main menu.
2. Click on submit

View details of transactions made by users purchasing subscriptions.

User interface– paying for a subscription

Paying for subscriptions can be integrated into the registration process or it can be accessed directly from the following page:

<website address>/modules/subscription

Drawing 8: Paying for a subscription

1. The user simply clicks on the Next button for the required subscription

2. The user will transferred to the configured payment system

3. Once payments are made the user will be returned to the site

4. The user must log back in for the new security groups to take effect (relative to the subscription purchased)