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HOW-TO DOCS AND TUTORIALS

ChronoForms How-to doc

Joomla! 1.5.19+ and MooTools 1.2.4

All the versions of Joomla! 1.5 include an implementation of version 1.12 of the MooTools JavaScript library.

From Joomla! version 1.5.19 on there is a system Plug-in included which will enable version 1.2.4 of the MooTools library.

The released versions of ChronoForms are written to work with MooTools 1.12 and will **not** work with MooTools 1.2.4.

This document explains how to hack Joomla! and ChronoForms so that MooTools 1.2.4 can be used in the front-end of the site only.



Joomla! 1.5.19+ and MooTools 1.2.4

Background

MooTools is a JavaScript library (or framework) that has been installed as a part of all of the Joomla! 1.5.x series of releases. The standard installation is of MooTools 1.12 but this is now rather out of date and the current MooTools release is 1.24.

In the core Joomla! code MooTools is used mainly in the admin area – the ‘back-end’ of the site and only has limited use in the ‘front-end’ (mostly for image captions). However, many extensions – ChronoForms among them – have made use of the MooTools to simplify JavaScript development in both the front and back-ends of the Joomla! sites.

In particular the ChronoForms Wizard is a complex JavaScript file that is heavily dependent on MooTools 1.12. ChronoForms also uses MooTools in the front-end to handle tooltips, and form validation.

I understand from Max that he has no plans to update the current version of ChronoForms to work with MooTools 1.2.4. It’s expected that a future release of ChronoForms for the Joomla! 1.6.x series will include a new Wizard using the then current version of ChronoForms.

If you do not need to use MooTools 1.2.4 on your site; then you can disable the MooTools Upgrade Plug-in and ChronoForms will continue to work using MooTools 1.12.

If you do need MooTools 1.2.4 in the front-end of your site then this document explains how you can hack the MooTools Upgrade Plug-in and the ChronoForms files to get that working.

- If you need MooTools 1.2.4 in the back-end of your site then it's likely that you can't use ChronoForms. Some parts of the form Wizard will not function. In particular you can drag new form elements into the form area but they don't 'drop' correctly. There are no current plans to fix this.

The Fix

The MooTools Upgrade Plug-in

The plug-in is a Joomla! plug-in found under Extensions | Plug-in Manager. Type 'Moo' in the filter box to locate it. By default the plug-in is disabled in a new installation and should also be disabled in an upgrade. If you are having problems with ChronoForms and find it is enabled then you should disable it temporarily to check that it is the cause of the problems.

To get MooTools 1.2.4 to run in the site front-end and keep MooTools 1.12 running in the backend we need to hack the code for this plug-in using a text editor to alter the file.

- You may need to use FTP to download the file to edit it and then upload it again; or to use an FTP editor like Dreamweaver; or install a Joomla! extension like exTplorer that will let you edit files from the site admin.

Open the file `plugins/system/mtupgrade.php` in your editor and find the `onAfterInitialise()` function at the end (line 46). Then change the function to this:

```
function onAfterInitialise()
{
    global $mainframe;
    if ( $mainframe->isSite() ) {
        JHTML::addIncludePath(JPATH_PLUGINS.DS.'system'.DS.'mtupgrade');
    }
}
```

Save the file and re-upload it if necessary.

ChronoForms

We have so far identified four ChronoForms files that need to be changed to let the front-end run with MooTools 1.2.4 These files are

- `components\com_chronocontact\js\jsvalidation2.js`
- `components\com_chronocontact\js\customclasses.js`
- `components\com_chronocontact\libraries\includes\JSvalidation.php`
- `components\com_chronocontact\libraries\includes\JSvalidation2.php`

There are relatively minor changes to the first two files but the second two have been completely re-written. Rather than add the changes here the zip file with this document includes the amended files.

We suggest that you find the existing versions of these files, rename them by adding .old to the end of the file name; then upload the new versions to the folders.

Once you have made the changes please test your site carefully to make sure that ChronoForms is working correctly in the back and front-end and that no other extensions are encountering problems because the front-end is now loading MooTools 1.2.4

- For more information on the changes in MooTools 1.2.4 and on the upgrading process for existing scripts please see [this MooTools blog post](#). There are links from this post to other useful resources.

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BOB JANES is the author of the [ChronoForms 1.3 for Joomla! site Cookbook](#) published by Packt Publishing. He provides support on the ChronoEngine forums and works as a developer of custom applications (often using ChronoForms and ChronoConnectivity) for Joomla! and WordPress.

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ChronoConnectivity is a Joomla! Component that works with ChronoForms to allow the easy display of lists of records from a database table. ChronoConnectivity and ChronoForms are published by [ChronoEngine.com](#).

This help-sheet was written for ChronoForms 2.3.1RC5.5



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