INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Version 1.5, May 2008

INTRODUCTION



Dada Mail filled a need for me when my web-hosting company imposed a limit on the number of outbound emails per hour my site could send. I was running a simple Mailman discussion list that had about 165 subscribers. The per-hour limit was 250 messages, which was exceeded if anyone replied to a message posted to the list within an hour of it being posted. Then, Mailman promptly suspended the subscriptions of anyone who could not be sent the message. This entirely defeated the purpose of Mailman mailing lists with that provider in my opinion.

Dada Mail solved my problem because it allows me to use any SMTP server I want, whether it's on the same server as my site or another server. Dada Mail can implement a discussion list by enabling the "dada_bridge.pl" plug-in, which uses a standard POP3 email account to receive messages to be posted to the list. The email account is periodically polled by a cron job command, and messages pulled from it are sent by Dada Mail to all the subscribers of the respective list. The cron job command is easy to setup and, in fact, can be done several ways.

My first application of Dada Mail was to implement a closed email discussion list for a home owner association (HOA). The HOA site uses Joomla, and I wanted the email list subscriptions to be exclusively available to site members, not open to the public. Dada Mail is written in Perl, not PHP like Joomla. I did not want to use system calls to interface the two programs because they are always problematic. Not a problem...

Fortunately, Dada Mail can manage its lists using MySQL (among other) database tables. Since Dada Mail has options to make its lists inaccessible via its own web interface, it was clear that it was designed to be integrated with content management systems like Joomla through the database tables.

Being a big Joomla fan and an intermediate Joomla extension author, I saw Dada Mail as the solution I needed, that is once I integrated it with Joomla.

The Dada Mail Subscriptions Community Builder plug-in is the first in a (probably small) series of Dada Mail Joomla extensions I will write. As I also require the message archive Dada Mail maintains to be available only to the HOA site's members, I will also write an archive viewer Joomla component (in progress now). If I get enough requests, I may decide to implement the entire Dada Mail admin interface in the same component. But that will take considerably more time.

FEATURES

The Dada Mail Subscriptions CB plug-in integrates Dada Mail's subscription capability into a Joomla website. It is really more of a bridge than an independent application. Everything the plug-in does is based on Dada Mail being installed to manage its settings and subscribers in a MySQL database. The tables created by Dada Mail when it is configured to use MySQL are accessible to the Joomla site as long as the same database is used by both Joomla and Dada Mail.

Your site members can subscribe to and unsubscribe from any Dada Mail list for which you publish a corresponding CB field. And as of version 1.3, each user can subscribe multiple email addresses, including the Joomla account email. If a site member changes one of his/her email address using the CB profile editor, it is automatically updated in all Dada Mail lists to which he/she is subscribed. In addition, you can specify list(s) to which the primary account email

address for new users is automatically subscribed after they register or if you create accounts for them via the CB administrator interface. Configuration options include sending subscription notification emails and formatting those email messages.

Note that this plug-in does not implement any Dada Mail administrator functions. So you will still need to create and configure your email lists using Dada Mail's web interface or with the Dada Mail Manager Joomla component. If you choose not to use the Manager component, it is recommended that you include the default Dada Mail list administration URL in a Joomla Wrapper and put it in your administrator front-end menu for convenience.

HOW TO INSTALL

Compatibility and Testing

This plug-in has been tested with Joomla! 1.0.12-15 as well as Joomla! 1.5 with legacy support enabled along with Community Builder versions 1.0.2 and 1.1, as appropriate, and Dada Mail version 2.10.14-15. It may work in older versions of these applications, but has not been tested with any of them. The plug-in was initially tested using the EasyEclipse integrated development environment with XAMPP version 1.5.1 for Microsoft Windows on a locally-installed Joomla 1.5 site with legacy support enabled. It was subsequently installed and testing was completed on a live SSL site running Linux, Joomla 1.0.12, and CB 1.0.2. It does not require register globals to be enabled.

Preparation

Before you install the Dada Mail Subscriptions plug-in, you must first download and install Dada Mail. You can acquire Dada Mail at http://mojo.skazat.com. This plug-in was developed using the free version of Dada Mail but has also been tested using the Pro version.

After you install Dada Mail, you must follow the instructions for transferring its settings, subscribers, and archives into a MySQL database. When you do this, make sure you specify the same database your Joomla site is using. The plug-in will not work otherwise.

If you are going to create a discussion list, make sure to install the dada_bridge.pl plug-in into the Dada Mail system. Instructions for installing Dada Mail and the bridge are available on the Dada Mail website under Support/Complete Documentation.

information? See Getting Help.

Complete Documentation - (start here)

VERY IMPORTANT DOCS TO CHECK OUT:

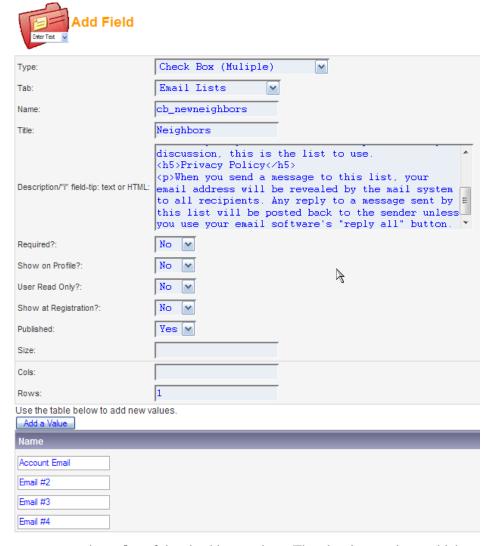
Upgrading from Version 1.2 or Earlier

The ability to support multiple email addresses per user is a new feature that uses a different type of checkbox field than what was used in previous versions of this plug-in. If you are using v1.2 or earlier and want to upgrade to this version to use the multiple-address feature, there's a little bit of work involved (it's not really that bad). If you are not upgrading, you do not need to perform the steps in this section, but you might want to read it anyway as there is information here that may help you better understand the database aspects of the plug-in. The basic idea is as follows.

CAUTION: You should set your site status to "down" during this process since the users can change the parameters being manipulated and could lose settings if the site is active during this process.

First create a new, temporary multicheckbox field for each of your lists. Use a similar name so you don't get confused. For instance, if your Dada List's short name is "neighbors", your original field name would be "cb_neighbors". Name the temporary field something like "cb_newneighbors". You'll be renaming it using phpMyAdmin later. Copy the description and label used for the original checkbox field and apply them to the temporary field.

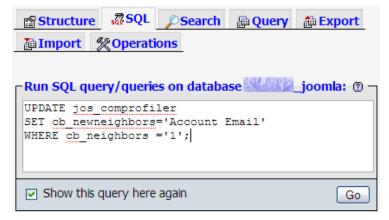
For the option values, use names that are consistent with the labels you assigned to your extra email address fields. The plug-in does not depend on this, but your users might be confused if the names are different. In our case, we also want the user to be able to subscribe his/her Joomla account email (since that is what was allowed in the earlier version), so let's call that option "Account Email". We'll end up with the following.



It's important to note the <u>order</u> of the checkbox options. The plug-in correlates which email address goes with which option <u>based on this order</u>. When you are finished you should have a new multicheckbox field that will eventually replace your existing checkbox field.



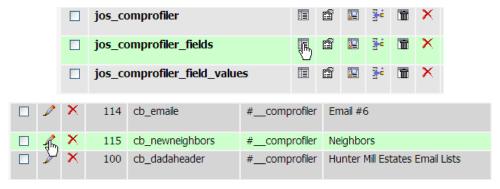
Next you'll need to populate the new multicheckbox field. This must be done with an SQL command (there is no way to do this with Joomla or CB). In your phpMyAdmin interface, enter a SQL command like the following, using your field and checkbox names in place of mine.



Delete the old field using the CB Field Manager. This should eliminate a record in the jos_comprofiler_fields table and also a column in the jos_comprofiler table.



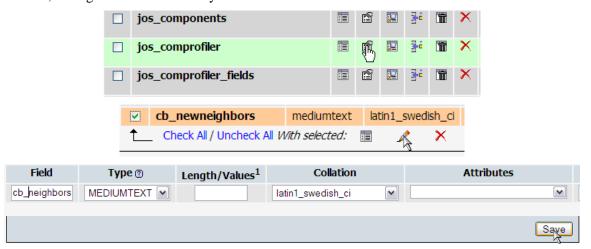
Next, rename the new field using the old field's name. This cannot be done using the CB admin interface. It must be done using your database administration interface and requires modifying two tables. In phpMyAdmin, browse the jos_comprofiler_fields table and edit the record for the temporary field you created above.



Rename the field to the old field name (e.g., in our case, we will rename cb_newneighbors to cb_neighbors). Save the record.



Next, open the structure of the jos_comprofiler table and rename the new field in a similar manner, saving the structure when you've finished.



Uninstall the old version of the plug-in. You will lose your settings when you do this, so save them in a temporary text file if you don't want to type them in again.

Finally, install the new version of the plug-in and set it up the same way you had it before. Note that the Dada Mail Archives table name is no longer needed and that there are some new entries to specify your email address fields. Also, the [EMAIL] tag behaves differently than it did in prior versions.

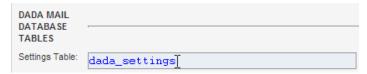
Installing the Dada Mail Subscriptions Plug-in

After you've created your first Dada Mail list using the native Dada Mail administrator web interface, you can install this plug-in, manage that list, and create additional lists (as copies of other lists). Just install the plug-in as you would any other CB plug-in, using the CB plug-in manager. Installing the plug-in will create a new CB tab called "Email Lists". Although you do not need to use this tab for your Dada Mail list subscriptions, it is created for your convenience. You may delete it if you prefer to put the subscription fields into another profile tab. Make sure you remember to publish the plug-in.

Plug-in Administration Options

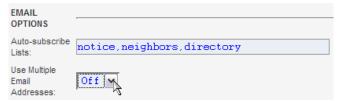
Allowing your Dada Mail list to be subscribed within the CB profile is very easy. There are two different ways to do it depending on whether or not you want to support multiple email addresses on your site. This is a decision you should consider carefully since converting your site later from supporting only one address per account to supporting multiple addresses requires technical knowledge of managing the MySQL database directly. (see "Upgrading from Version 1.2 or Earlier" above)

If you used the default Dada Mail database table names when you installed it, you do not need to change the settings table name. This name must be the same as the one you specified during Dada Mail installation.



Single-Address Support

To configure your site to support subscribing only one email address per Joomla user account, select "Off" in the plug-in admin interface in the site back end "Use Multiple Email Addresses" option. Note that choosing this option will force ALL of your Dada Mail lists to be limited to subscribing only the primary email address of each Joomla user account. To allow your site users to subscribe multiple addresses, select "On" for this back end option. If you want your users to be automatically subscribed to any of your Dada lists, enter the list short names in the Autosubscribe box, separated by commas.



If you select "Off" for the above option, to allow users to subscribe/unsubscribe to/from your Dada Mail list simply define a **Check Box** (**Single**) field for each Dada list using the list's "simple name". When you do this, Community Builder will prefix the field name with "cb_". For instance, if you have a Dada Mail list named "neighbors", create a CB field by this name and CB will rename it "cb_neighbors" automatically. Publish the field and your members will then be able to subscribe to the corresponding Dada Mail list.



Multiple-Address Support

If you select "On" for the above option, to allow users to subscribe/unsubscribe to/from your Dada Mail list you'll need to define one field for each email address you wish to allow your site users to subscribe to Dada Mail lists. In the plug-in admin interface, enter one of these CB field names into each of the boxes beneath the On/Off option (see below). Note that when this configuration is used, the account email address is NOT automatically included. Enter "email" in one of the boxes to allow users to subscribe their account email address. Note that the order you enter these field names is significant, which will be explained later.

Use Multiple Email Addresses:	On V
Email #1:	email
Email #2:	cb_emaila
Email #3:	cb_emailb
Email #4:	cb_emailc

The email address fields should be created as type **Email Address** in the CB Field Manager as shown below. The **Size** you specify depends on your site's template and is purely for user aesthetics. Whether you enable **Show at Registration** is entirely up to you, however consider the fact that whether or not a user subscribes at registration will override a Dada list specified in the Auto-subscribe list (the auto-subscribe function executes first).



In addition to creating fields for the email addresses, you must also create a multi-select checkbox (multicheckbox) field for each Dada list using the list's "simple name". Multicheckboxes allow multiple selections to be made for a single CB field, in this case allowing multiple addresses to be subscribed to a single Dada Mail list. The number of rows and columns you specify depends on the number of email addresses your site will support. For the default 4 addresses, you can probably specify 1 for Rows and leave Cols blank, but how this will look depends on your site template. Adjust Rows and Cols as needed.

For each email address your site will support, you will need to "Add a Value". Each value you enter corresponds to one supported email address. And the order you define them here must match the order you entered the email address field names in the plug-in admin interface. It is important to understand that the correlation between the checkboxes (values entered here) and the email address fields is made by the software based on the ORDER they are specified, not on the names or labels you assign to them.

Туре:	Check Box (Muliple)
Tab:	Email Lists
Name:	cb_neighbors
Title:	Neighbors
Description/"i" field-tip: text or HTML:	<pre><h5>Description</h5> This mailing list supports community discussions. It contains at least one email address for most residents of Hunter Mill Estates. If you need to send a message out to the whole community or you wish to hold an open community discussion, this is the list to use.</pre>
Required?:	No 💌
Show on Profile?:	No 💌
User Read Only?:	No 💌
Show at Registration?:	No 💌
Published:	Yes 💌
Size:	0
Cols:	0
Rows:	1
Use the table below to add new value	s.
Add a Value Name	
Account Email Email #2 Email #3	
Lindi #4	

You will need to define the same multicheckboxes for each email list field. The end result should look to the user something like the following example in the CB profile editor.

Edit Your Details

Contact Info	Bio	Email Lists	Additional Info	Forum settings	Guest Book	Photo Gallery	
Hunter Mill Estates Email Lists							
Email lists are a way of keeping the residents of our community informed. All of our email lists are usable only by the residents of the community who subscribe to them. For a description of each list, wave your mouse cursor over the corresponding "i" icon below.							
Notice:		✓ Account Em	nail 🔽 Email #2	□Email #3 □Er	mail #4		
Neighbors:		Account Em	nail Email #2	■Email #3 ■E	mail #4		
		ⓒ ⋈					
Directory:		✓ Account Em	nail 🗌 Email #2	□Email #3 □Er	mail #4		
		① ႘					
HMDL:		Account Em	nail 🗌 Email #2	□Email #3 □E	mail #4		
		① 🔀					
Additional I	Emai	il Addresse	s				
You can subscribe up to 3 email addresses in addition to your website account email to our email lists. Enter any additional addresses you wish to subscribe below. Then, for each email list check the address(es) you wish to subscribe to the lists above. Note that each email address you enter must be unique throughout the entire website. Duplicates are not allowed.							
Email #2:		myaddress@sd	medomain.com		<u> </u>		
Email #3:					1		
Email #4:					1		

Email Notifications

Plug-in options allow you to choose whether the user, admin, both or neither receives a notification email whenever a change is made. Note that these messages can be sent whether the change is made in the back end by the administrator or in the front end by the user. A good portion of the plug-in options are devoted to formatting these messages. HTML is the better format since it supports lists and tables.

The body of each notification message consists of three parts: the prefix, the changes, and the suffix. Changes are either subscriptions or unsubscriptions. Because the information in the different parts of the messages are user-dependent and can be list-dependent, several tags are defined to provide a personal touch to the messages. Not all tags work in all message parts, and some of them work differently in different message parts. A table displayed in the plug-in options area summarizes the tags.

Special tags you can insert into email notice message fragments are as follows:

Tag	What is Inserted	In Message Parts
[USER]	Name of the subscriber.	A,E,F
[SITE]	Name of the website.	A,E,F
[EMAIL]	Primary account email address of the subscriber.	A,E,F
[EMAIL]	Email address applicable to the subscription or email address change.	B,C,D
[OLD]	Old email address applicable to email address change.	D
[LIST]	Name of the email list being un/subscribed.	B,C,D

A Subscribe or Unsubscribe message (part B or C) will be inserted for each modification the user makes. When HTML format is used, you can make this appear as a bulleted list. When Text format is used, there is no formatting capability at all (not even using newlines).

This example illustrates how the HTML format can be used to create nicely-formatted notification messages.

EMAIL NOTIFICATION	
Send Notification to:	O No O User Only O Admin Only O Admin and User
Admin Address:	bruce@joomlander.net
Email Format:	○ Text ③ HTML
Part A) Message Prefix:	Welcome to [SITE]. [USER] successfully:
Part B) Subscribe Message:	<pre>subscribed [EMAIL] to the [LIST] list.</pre>
Part C) Unsubscribe Message:	<pre>\li>\unsubscribed [EMAIL] from the [LIST] list.</pre>
Part D) Address Change Message:	<pre>changed [OLD] to [EMAIL].</pre>
Part E) Message Suffix:	<pre> The Webmaster</pre>
Part F) Email Subject:	[SITE] Email List Subscription Update
From Address:	
From Name:	

Welcome to Hunter Mill Estates HOA.

Bruce Scherzinger successfully:

• subscribed bruce to the Notice list.

The Webmaster

Parameter Summary

Settings Table – If you specified a different name than the default for the database table in which Dada Mail maintains its settings, enter that name here. The plug-in defaults to the same name Dada Mail defaults to, so if you didn't specify a different name, you should not need to change this field. The plug-in will get the name of your subscribers table from this table.

Auto-subscribe Lists – If you want the account email address of new site members to be subscribed to any email lists automatically after they register, just enter the simple names of those lists in this field separated by commas. The new member will receive a subscription notice email (if enabled) after the registration is approved. If your site does not require admin approval, the new member will receive the subscription notice emails immediately after registering. Note that the auto-subscribe function only applies to the account email address (also see "Adding More Email Addresses" below).

Use Multiple Email Addresses – This option allows you to choose whether you wish for your site to support multiple email addresses per user for subscriptions to Dada Mail email lists.

Email #1...#4 – If you choose to support multiple email addresses per user, enter the CB field names associated with each email address entry field you present in your user profiles. Note that unless you reduce the number of addresses to be supported in the XML file you MUST SPECIFY a CB field in each of these boxes. If you only wish to support two addresses, for example, change the "On" option value for the "User Multiple Email Addresses" to 2. All supported email address entry fields must be specified!

Send Notification to – This option allows you to select who should receive email notifications when a member subscribes or unsubscribes to one of your Dada Mail lists.

Admin Address – Some mail servers will not send an email message to the address specified in the From part of the email envelope. This field allows you to specify the address you wish to receive subscription notice emails when you include "Admin" in the Email Notification option.

Email Format – Although you can elect to send subscription notice emails in plain text format, HTML is recommended because there are no formatting options with plain text at all. All newline characters are removed by PHP Mailer when "Text" is selected. The screen shot illustrates the flexibility in formatting you have using HTML.

Message Prefix – The text entered into this box will appear at the beginning of all notification email messages. You can have the plug-in fill-in the site name, user's name, and/or user's account email address in this part of the message by specifying [SITE], [USER], and/or [EMAIL], respectively. The plug-in will not insert any list names into this part of the message, and the [EMAIL] tag will insert only the user account email.

Subscribe Message – The text appearing in this box will be repeated for each list the user subscribes to. Insert the subscribed address using the [EMAIL] tag and the list name using the [LIST] tag.

Unsubscribe Message – The text appearing in this box will be repeated for each list the user unsubscribes from. Insert the unsubscribed address using the [EMAIL] tag and the list name using the [LIST] tag.

Email Address Change Message – The text appearing in this box will be repeated for each email address the user changes. Insert the old address using the [OLD] tag and the new address using the [EMAIL] tag. Note that the code does not check to see which email lists these changes affect.

Message Suffix – The text entered into this box will appear at the end of all notification email messages. Formatting options for this part of the message are the same as for the Message Prefix.

Email Subject – This will be the subject of all subscribe, unsubscribe, and address change notice emails sent. You can include the [SITE], [EMAIL], and [USER] tags in this field. Note that [EMAIL] will insert the user account email.

From Address – Use this field to override the email address specified in the Joomla Global Configuration panel Email tab if you want different sender information for email list subscription notices than for other website email notices. If you leave this blank, the Global Configuration setting will be used.

From Name – Use this field to override the email address specified in the Joomla Global Configuration panel Email tab if you want different sender information for email list subscription notices than for other website email notices. If you leave this blank, the Global Configuration setting will be used.

Language Adaptation

To adapt this plug-in for other languages, change all applicable text in the XML file as well as in all "define" statements at the top of the PHP file. There is no separate language file.

Adding More Email Addresses

The plug-in comes preconfigured to support up to 4 email addresses per Joomla user account. If you need more than this number, you can easily edit the plug-in XML file to add more. To do this, open the XML file in a text editor and look for the comments containing the words "MULTIPLE EMAIL ADDRESSES".

Let's say you want to support 6 email addresses per user. To do this, simply change the "On" option value for the parameter "dada_emails" to 6 (the default is 4). Next, add two more parameters to allow CB fields to be specified for your two additional email addresses. Note that these parameter names must follow the naming convention "dada_email#" where # starts at 1 and ends at the number you entered for the dada_emails parameter option value.

You can make these edits directly on the installed XML file at any time. You can even do it using the text editor built into the JoomlaXplorer component if you have it installed. The plug-in will automatically recognize your new email address fields, but don't forget that you'll need to create the new fields so your users can enter their email addresses. If the fields themselves do not exist, the database query of the fields that the plug-in code executes will fail and the user profile will not be fully displayed. Therefore, it is a good idea to always create the new email address fields FIRST, and then extend the number of them the plug-in can use by specifying the new field names afterwards.

Other Things to Note

This plug-in operates on sites using Community Builder (CB) only. The Dada Mail Manager component does not require CB to be installed and does not check to see if it is. If you are using

the Dada Mail Manager component, email addresses other than the account email address will be categorized in the back end "Members" view as "Non-Site Members". This is because there is no information in the Dada Mail database tables that associates these addresses with a Joomla account and the component does not create any new tables to manage these associations.

Acknowledgements

Dada Mail is the creation of Justin Simoni. My sincere thanks go to Justin for creating Dada Mail and for his very personal and gracious manner of supporting his work of art and also for his encouragement toward my goal to integrate Dada Mail into the Joomla CMS.

Dada Mail is Free Software and is released under the Gnu Public License.

To acquire Dada Mail, visit http://mojo.skazat.com.

Community Builder is the quintessential Joomla extension for sites that are based on member registration and need members to have configurable options. This plug-in would have been a lot more difficult to develop without CB. Hats off to the entire CB Team!

Community Builder is open source software released under the Gnu Public License.

To acquire Community Builder, visit http://joomlapolis.com.