

# **"Mailster Subscriptions" Community Builder Plugin For Joomla! 4**

## **Administrator Guide**



Version 1.0 for Joomla! 4 and Community Builder 2.7+

## **1 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. But Dada Mail ran its course. Over time it could not handle the load a single large email put on our server with subscribership per list over 200 and started to have performance issues.

Similar to Dada Mail, Mailster can use the POP3 protocol to access the email account associated with each list. It can alternatively use the IMAP protocol. Each list's email account is periodically polled by a cronjob script, and messages pulled from it are sent by Mailster to all the subscribers of the respective list. The cronjob script is easy to setup per instructions on the Mailster website.

My first application of Mailster was to implement a closed email discussion list for a homeowner 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. Mailster is a native Joomla extension, so it was the perfect solution.

Fortunately, Mailster manages its lists using the same database the Joomla site uses. In fact, Mailster can use existing ACLs you define within your site to quickly add subscribers to a list. Mailster, with its Business and higher plans, comes with a Community Builder (CB) "bridge" Joomla plugin. However, it is only able to handle the account email. We needed it to handle additional email addresses provided by custom CB fields.

## **2 FEATURES**

The Mailster Subscriptions CB plugin integrates Mailster's subscription capability into a Joomla! website running CB. It is really more of a bridge than an independent application. Everything the plugin does is based on Mailster being installed to manage its settings and subscribers on a Joomla! site with CB managing user profiles.

Your site members can subscribe to and unsubscribe from any Mailster list for which you publish a corresponding CB profile field. Each user can subscribe multiple email addresses, including the Joomla! account email. If a site member changes one of their email addresses using the CB profile editor, it is automatically updated in all Mailster groups and lists to which they are 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 plugin does not implement any Mailster administrator functions. So you will still need to create and configure your email lists using Mailster's admin interface. It also should not be used if the Mailster CB plugin is enabled as the two plugins are not aware of each other.

## 3 PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION

### 3.1 Compatibility and Testing

This plugin has been tested with Joomla! 4.2.4 along with CB version 2.7.4, and Mailster version 1.7.6. It may work in older versions of these applications, but has only been tested with these versions. The very first version of the original Dada Mail plugin was initially tested using the EasyEclipse integrated development environment (IDE) 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. So it's been around a while and just refactored for Mailster.

### 3.2 Preparation

Before you install the Mailster Subscriptions plugin, your site must be running Joomla! 4.x and CB 2.7 or later and you must acquire and install Mailster version 1.7.6 or later. The Business or higher Mailster option is highly recommended since those options can run list processing from a background cronjob. You can get Mailster at <https://www.brandt-oss.com>. This plugin was developed using the Business version of Mailster but should work with any version.

After you install Mailster, you must create one mailing list and one group for each list you plan to operate. Mailster allows list addresses to be either from Joomla user accounts or be external addresses. This plugin supports both. For this plugin to work, for each of your lists name a Mailster group and a list the same, ideally using a name without any spaces.

Explaining how to setup Mailster is beyond the scope of this document.

#### 3.2.1 CB Email List Fields

Each of your mailing lists will need at least one CB multi-select drop list or checkbox field associated with it, which you should name the same as your Mailster lists (to avoid user confusion). Which field type you use probably depends on how many email lists you need. Once you exceed about 5 lists, the drop list may be the better option if space on your profile is limited.

These CB fields must be named as "cb\_mylist" where "mylist" is the Mailster list name in all lowercase with any spaces removed. This is referred to as the list "short name". For instance, a list named "Neighbors" would have the short name "neighbors" and the field name "cb\_neighbors" and a list named "Authorized Users" would have the field name "cb\_authorizedusers".

#### 3.2.2 CB Email Address Fields

If you are going to allow multiple email addresses per user account, you will need to define at least one field for each additional email address you want to allow. These fields can use any naming convention you want to use, but consistency should be the rule. In section 4.5, *Adding Capacity for More Email Addresses*, you will see that if no field names are entered the default names will be email, cb\_email2, cb\_email3, etc.

Email address fields should be simple textbox fields. You do not need one for the account email, the field name for which is always "email".

#### 3.2.3 CB Email Address Name Fields

In addition to the extra email address fields, you may optionally create another pair of CB textbox fields for each email address for the person's first and last names. These fields must be named the

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same as the email address fields with “firstname” and “lastname” appended. So, for an email field named “cb\_email1”, these two fields would be named “cb\_email1firstname” and “cb\_email1lastname”. These will be combined and inserted into the Mailster “name” field. For the account email, the name already on the account is used. See the section 5, *Mailster Database Considerations* for more information.

### 3.3 Installing the Plugin

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

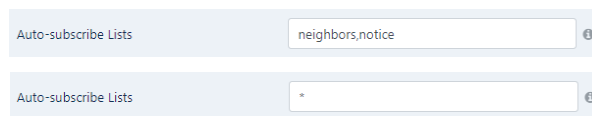
## 4 Plugin Administration Options

Allowing your Mailster 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.

The plugin is setup by default to support either a single or up to 4 email addresses per site account profile. Since it does not dynamically add/delete configuration fields to allow this to be varied, if you want to support more or fewer lists, you'll need to edit the plugin's XML file. The options for the “Use Multiple Email Addresses” selection are “No” and by default the values 1 to 4. The “No” option makes the plugin ignore all the profile field names you specify since it will simply use the account's main email address. The other options set the number of email addresses to the value selected. If you want more than 4 addresses, you need to change the XML file to add more options, following the naming convention used for the first 4. The option field names need to end in a number (e.g., email1, email2, ...). Make sure you make the number of email addresses to select no more than the maximum for which you have defined configuration fields. For more on this subject, see *Adding Capacity for More Email Addresses* below.

### 4.1 Single-Address Support

To configure your site to support subscribing only one email address per Joomla! user account, select “No” in the plugin admin interface in the site back end *Use Multiple Email Addresses* option. Note that choosing this option will force ALL of your Mailster 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 the number (up to 4) as shown below. If you want your users to be automatically subscribed to any of your Mailster lists, enter the list short names in the Auto-subscribe box, separated by commas, or enter an asterisk (\*) if you want new users to be subscribed to all of your lists.



Auto-subscribe Lists neighbors,notice ⓘ

Auto-subscribe Lists \* ⓘ

If you select “No” for the *Use Multiple Email Addresses* option, to allow users to subscribe/unsubscribe to/from your Mailster list simply define a **Check Box (Single)** or **Drop**

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**Down (Single-select)** field for each list using the list's short name. When you do this, CB will prefix the field name with "cb\_". For instance, if you have a 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 Mailster list.

The screenshot shows a configuration form for a Mailster subscription field. It includes several dropdown menus and toggle buttons. The 'Type' dropdown is set to 'Check Box (Single)'. The 'Tab' dropdown is set to 'Email Lists'. The 'Required' dropdown is set to 'Not Required'. The 'Read Only' section has 'Yes' and 'No' buttons, with 'No' being selected. The 'Show on Profile' dropdown is set to 'Yes, 1 Line with Title'. The 'Show on Registration' dropdown is set to 'No'. The 'Show on Profile Edit' dropdown is set to 'Yes, 1 Line with Title'. The 'Searchable' section has 'Yes' and 'No' buttons, with 'No' being selected.

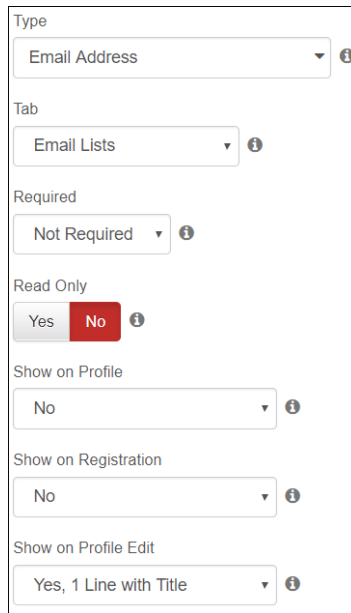
### 4.2 Multiple-Address Support

If you select a value for the *Use Multiple Email Addresses* option, to allow users to subscribe/unsubscribe to/from your Mailster list you'll need to define one field for each email address you wish to allow your site users to subscribe to each of your lists. In the plugin admin interface, enter one of these CB field names into each of the boxes beneath the multiple addresses 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.

The screenshot shows the 'Use Multiple Email Addresses' configuration section. It features a dropdown menu set to '4'. Below this, there are five input fields for email addresses. The first field is labeled 'Email #1' and contains the text 'email'. The second field is labeled 'Email #2' and contains the text 'cb\_emaila'. The third field is labeled 'Email #3' and contains the text 'cb\_emailb'. The fourth field is labeled 'Email #4' and contains the text 'cb\_emailc'. The fifth field is labeled 'Email Options Field:' and contains the text 'cb\_listnames'.

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 on Registration** is entirely up to you. However consider the fact that whether or not a user subscribes at registration will override a Mailster list specified in the Auto-subscribe list (the auto-subscribe function executes first).

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The image shows a vertical configuration form for the 'Mailster Subscriptions' plugin. It contains several dropdown menus and a radio button group, each with an information icon (i) to its right. The fields are: 'Type' set to 'Email Address'; 'Tab' set to 'Email Lists'; 'Required' set to 'Not Required'; 'Read Only' with 'Yes' and 'No' radio buttons, where 'No' is selected; 'Show on Profile' set to 'No'; 'Show on Registration' set to 'No'; and 'Show on Profile Edit' set to 'Yes, 1 Line with Title'.

In addition to creating fields for the email addresses, you must also define a **Check Box (Multiple)** or **Drop Down (Multi-select)** field or a **Code** version of either for each Mailster list using the list's short name. These two field types allow multiple selections to be made for a single CB field, in this case allowing multiple addresses to be subscribed to a single Mailster list. The number of rows and columns you specify depends mostly on the aesthetics you want. For checkboxes, the recommendation is to set all the field dimensions to 0. For a drop list, the recommendation is to set the number of rows to the number of email addresses your site will support plus one and the other dimensions to 0.

Using Code field types is a bit trickier. First, you have to know a little bit of PHP. You at least need to understand array key-value pairs. But the tricky part of this is that without a static field option list defined for your actual email list fields (the code generates the options list on the fly), you need to define an unpublished option list field so this plugin knows what the options are. Using **Code Check Box (Multi-select)** or **Code Drop List (Multi-select)** field types can create visually pleasing response and order enforcement when combined with CB's Core Ajax plugin.

For each email address your site will support (or for a common field if you use **Code** fields for your actual list fields), you will need to "Add a Value". Each value you enter corresponds to one supported email list address. And the order you define them here must match the order you entered the email address field names in the plugin 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. This allows you the freedom to use HTML formatting on the email address field labels.

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Value	Label
Account Email	
Email #2	
Email #3	
Email #4	

Unless you use a common, unpublished field, you will need to define the same exact list of values in the exact same order for each email list field. The end result should look to the user something like the following example in the CB profile editor.

Email List Name	Subscriptions
Notice List:	Account Email Email #2 Email #3
Neighbors List:	Account Email Email #2 Email #3

### 4.3 Email Notifications

Plugin options allow you to choose whether the user, admin, both or neither receives a notification email whenever a list subscription change is made. Note that these messages can be configured to be sent whether the change is made in the back end by the administrator or in the front end by the user. A good number of the plugin 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 plugin configuration description summarizes the tags.

## "Mailster Subscriptions" Community Builder Plugin

### Mailster Subscriptions Community Builder Plug-In v1.0

© Bruce Scherzinger

Allows users to subscribe/unsubscribe to Mailster mailing lists from their CB profiles.

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 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).

Mailster is Free and Paid Software and is released under the Gnu Public License.

<https://www.brandt-oss.com>

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

Send Notification to

☐ No ☐ User Only ☒ Admin Only ☐ Admin and User ⓘ

Send Account Deletion Notification

☒ No ☐ Yes ⓘ

Admin Address

 ⓘ

Email Format

☐ Text ☒ HTML ⓘ

Part A) Message Prefix

Welcome to [SITE].<br /><br />[USER] successfully:<ul>

 ⓘ

Part B) Subscribe Message

<li>subscribed [EMAIL] to [LIST].</li>

 ⓘ

Part B) Auto-Subscribe Message

<li>auto-subscribed [EMAIL] to [LIST].</li>

 ⓘ

Part C) Unsubscribe Message

<li>unsubscribed [EMAIL] from [LIST].</li>

 ⓘ

Part D) Address Change Message

<li>changed [LABEL]

<ul>

<li> <strong>from:</strong> [OLD]

 ⓘ

Part E) Message Suffix

</ul>

<p>Thanks for keeping your subscriptions current.<br/><br/>The Webmaster</p>

 ⓘ

Part F) Email Subject

[SITE] Email List Subscription Update

 ⓘ

From Address

 ⓘ

From Name

 ⓘ

Welcome to Hunter Mill Estates HOA.

Bruce Scherzinger successfully:

- subscribed [REDACTED] to Neighbors.

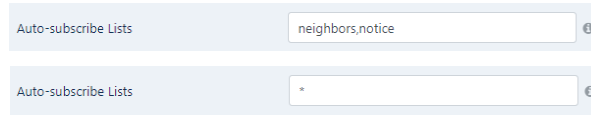
Thanks for keeping your subscriptions current.

The Webmaster



### 4.4 Parameter Summary

**Auto-subscribe Lists** – If you want the account email addresses of new site members to be subscribed to any email lists automatically after they register, just enter the short names of those lists in this field separated by commas. You can enter a single asterisk to subscribe new users to all of your lists. The new member will receive a subscription notice email (if enabled) after the registration is approved.

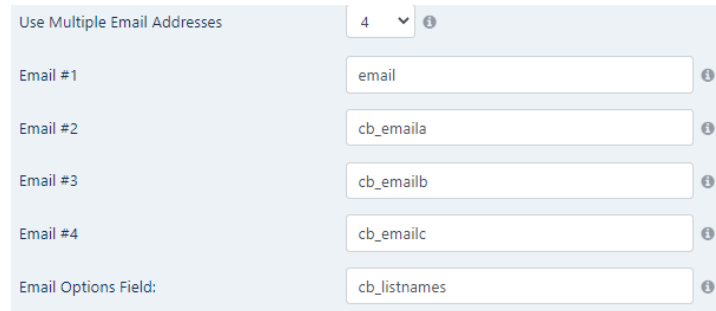


Auto-subscribe Lists neighbors,notice ⓘ

Auto-subscribe Lists \* ⓘ

If your site does not require confirmation or admin approval, the new member will be sent the subscription notice email immediately after registering. If it requires confirmation but not admin approval, the notice email will be sent immediately after confirming. Note that although the auto-subscribe function will work for any/all email address fields you include in the registration form, giving the user an option to subscribe at registration and then forcing subscription may be frowned upon by some people. If you do auto-subscribe your new users, make sure you include your email list policies and privacy notices in the registration form. And if you want to give a new user the option to subscribe an address at registration, don't include the field name for that address in the auto-subscribe list. Use good judgment.

**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 Mailster email lists.



Use Multiple Email Addresses 4 ⓘ

Email #1 email ⓘ

Email #2 cb\_emaila ⓘ

Email #3 cb\_emailb ⓘ

Email #4 cb\_emailc ⓘ

Email Options Field: cb\_listnames ⓘ

**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 you **MUST SPECIFY** CB fields for as many email addresses as you select. If you only wish to support two addresses, for example, change the option value for the “User Multiple Email Addresses” to “2”. All supported email address entry fields must be specified. Make sure the profile fields are created **BEFORE** you enter them here!

**Email Options Field** – If you are using *Code Check Box (Multiple)* fields, which really have no statically predefined option list (because the code computes it on the fly), then enter the name of the single options list field you used to define the options in this box. This field should not be published. Its only purpose is to specify a single field that represents the options each of your list fields should use. Please note that if you enter something in this box, the options it statically defines are what the plugin is going to assume your individual list Code fields are going to return. Make sure you define this field before changing this parameter.

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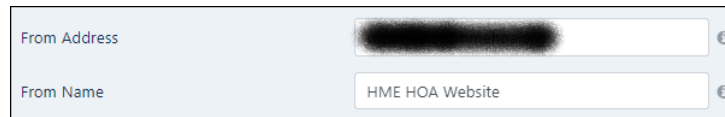
When using this option, you only need to define your list options with one choice, typically the account email. The unpublished options list field should have its first choice set the same as the individual list fields.

**Send Notification to** – This option allows you to select who should receive email notifications when a member subscribes or unsubscribes to one of your Mailster lists. This applies to ALL notifications sent by the plugin. Note that a notification is sent when a user's account is deleted informing the user that each of their subscribed emails was unsubscribed from all lists.

**Send Account Deletion Notification** – This option specifies whether the plugin should send an unsubscribe notification to a user when their account is deleted using the CB User Manager.

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**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.

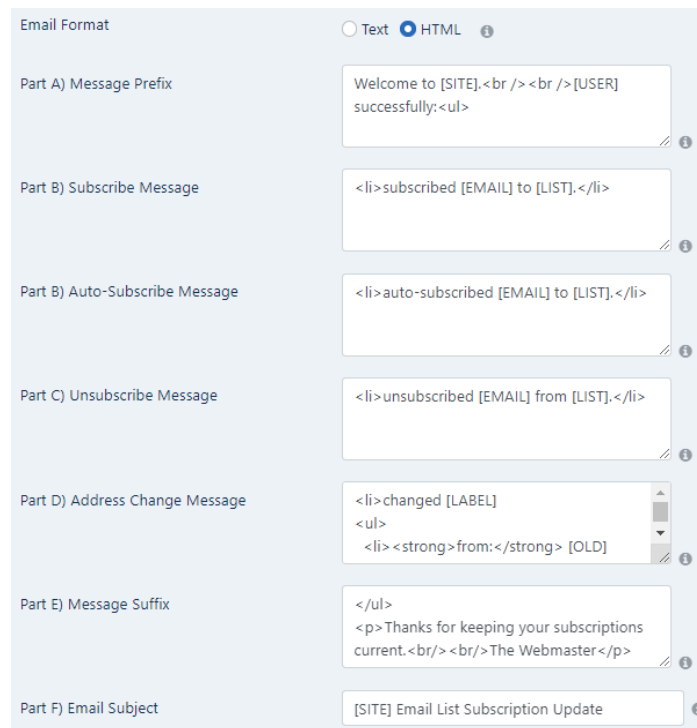


The screenshot shows two input fields. The first field is labeled 'From Address' and contains a blurred email address. The second field is labeled 'From Name' and contains the text 'HME HOA Website'. Both fields have a small information icon (i) to their right.

**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.

**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 Joomla Mailer when “Text” is selected. The screen shot above illustrates the flexibility in formatting you have using HTML.



The screenshot shows the 'Email Format' configuration panel. At the top, there are two radio buttons: 'Text' and 'HTML' (which is selected). Below this, there are six sections, each with a label and a text area for HTML formatting:

- Part A) Message Prefix**: Contains the text 'Welcome to [SITE].<br /><br />[USER] successfully.<br />'. There is a small 'i' icon to the right.
- Part B) Subscribe Message**: Contains the text '<li>subscribed [EMAIL] to [LIST].</li>'. There is a small 'i' icon to the right.
- Part B) Auto-Subscribe Message**: Contains the text '<li>auto-subscribed [EMAIL] to [LIST].</li>'. There is a small 'i' icon to the right.
- Part C) Unsubscribe Message**: Contains the text '<li>unsubscribed [EMAIL] from [LIST].</li>'. There is a small 'i' icon to the right.
- Part D) Address Change Message**: Contains the text '<li>changed [LABEL]<br /><ul><li><strong>from:</strong> [OLD]</li></ul>'. There is a small 'i' icon to the right.
- Part E) Message Suffix**: Contains the text '</ul><p>Thanks for keeping your subscriptions current.<br /><br />The Webmaster</p>'. There is a small 'i' icon to the right.
- Part F) Email Subject**: Contains the text '[SITE] Email List Subscription Update'. There is a small 'i' icon to the right.

**Message Prefix** – The text entered into this box will appear at the beginning of all notification email messages. You can have the plugin 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 plugin 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.

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**Auto-Subscribe Message** – The text appearing in this box will be repeated for each list the user is auto-subscribed to following registration. 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. Note: If a user account is deleted, an unsubscribe notification will be sent if/as specified containing one of these lines for each of the user's email addresses with "all email lists" filled-in for 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, but know that it affects all lists to which that address is subscribed.

**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.

### ***4.5 Adding Capacity for More Email Addresses***

The plugin 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 plugin XML file to add more. To do this, open the XML file in a text editor (e.g., Notepad, Notepad++, etc.) and look for the comments containing the words "MULTIPLE EMAIL ADDRESSES".

The XML file excerpt below is setup to allow 1 to 4 addresses. Let's say you want to support 6 email addresses per user. To do this, simply add two more email# parameters to allow CB fields to be specified for your additional email addresses and add two more options for the "emails" field. Note that these parameter names must follow the naming convention "email#" where # starts at 1 and ends at the number of options you entered for the "emails" parameter option value list. If you want to support a variable number, just add more option records below the "emails" parameter, each with a different number (e.g., 1,2,3,4).

## "Mailster Subscriptions" Community Builder Plugin

### The default configuration

```
<!-- MULTIPLE EMAIL ADDRESSES -->
<!--<param name="emails".
.....type="list".
.....size="1".
.....default="0".
.....label="Use Multiple Email Addresses".
.....description="Select a number to allow one or multiple email addresses (up to 4) per user for subscribing to.
for each subscription you want to support. Selecting No indicates only the primary account email can be subs
.....<option value="0">No</option>
.....<option value="1">1</option>
.....<option value="2">2</option>
.....<option value="3">3</option>
.....<option value="4">4</option>
.....</param>
<!--
.....To change the number of supported email addresses, change the "On" option value above and
.....add or remove email# parameter definitions below. The number of email# parameter
.....definitions should equal or be greater than the On option value above. The parameter names
.....MUST FOLLOW the email# naming convention.
-->
.....<param name="email1".type="text".size="40".default="email".label="Email #1".description="Enter the field name f
email lists."./>
.....<param name="email2".type="text".size="40".default="cb_email2".label="Email #2".description="Enter the field name f
email lists."./>
.....<param name="email3".type="text".size="40".default="cb_email3".label="Email #3".description="Enter the field name f
email lists."./>
.....<param name="email4".type="text".size="40".default="cb_email4".label="Email #4".description="Enter the field name f
email lists."./>
.....<param name="email_opts".type="text".size="40".default="".label="Email Options Field".description="Enter the field
defined. This is necessary if you use a CB Code Field and your email list name options are not statically defined.
blank."./>
<!--END MULTIPLE EMAIL ADDRESSES-->
```

### An extended configuration

```
<!-- MULTIPLE EMAIL ADDRESSES -->
<!--<param name="emails".
.....type="list".
.....size="1".
.....default="0".
.....label="Use Multiple Email Addresses".
.....description="Select a number to allow one or multiple email addresses (up to 6) per user for subscribing to.
for each subscription you want to support. Selecting No indicates only the primary account email can be subs
.....<option value="0">No</option>
.....<option value="1">1</option>
.....<option value="2">2</option>
.....<option value="3">3</option>
.....<option value="4">4</option>
.....<option value="5">5</option>
.....<option value="6">6</option>
.....</param>
<!--
.....To change the number of supported email addresses, change the "On" option value above and
.....add or remove email# parameter definitions below. The number of email# parameter
.....definitions should equal or be greater than the On option value above. The parameter names
.....MUST FOLLOW the email# naming convention.
-->
.....<param name="email1".type="text".size="40".default="email".label="Email #1".description="Enter the field name f
email lists."./>
.....<param name="email2".type="text".size="40".default="cb_email2".label="Email #2".description="Enter the field name f
email lists."./>
.....<param name="email3".type="text".size="40".default="cb_email3".label="Email #3".description="Enter the field name f
email lists."./>
.....<param name="email4".type="text".size="40".default="cb_email4".label="Email #4".description="Enter the field name f
email lists."./>
.....<param name="email5".type="text".size="40".default="cb_email5".label="Email #5".description="Enter the field name f
email lists."./>
.....<param name="email6".type="text".size="40".default="cb_email6".label="Email #6".description="Enter the field name f
email lists."./>
.....<param name="email_opts".type="text".size="40".default="".label="Email Options Field".description="Enter the field
defined. This is necessary if you use a CB Code Field and your email list name options are not statically defined.
blank."./>
<!--END MULTIPLE EMAIL ADDRESSES-->
```

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 your favorite file explorer component if you have one installed. The plugin will automatically recognize your new email address fields, but don't forget that you'll need to create the new fields (BEFORE adding them to the XML file). If the fields themselves do not exist when the plugin runs, the database query of the fields that the plugin 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 plugin can use by

## "Mailster Subscriptions" Community Builder Plugin

specifying the new field names afterwards. You'll also want to enter your email address fields into the plugin administrator interface and save it.

### 5 Mailster Database Considerations

As mentioned earlier, Mailster allows subscriptions to be either with Joomla account addresses or with other, non-account addresses. The plugin takes full advantage of this in order to be able to support additional email addresses in user profiles.

Mailster has two different kinds of users: group users and list users. Group users are formed using account email addresses. List users are email addresses other than the account email address. The plugin maintains the additional email addresses your profiles support as list users. In the database (`#__mailster_users` table) list user address IDs are numbered sequentially (auto-incremented) as their records are inserted into that table. Subscriptions are maintained in the `#__mailster_group_users` table using either the account user ID (for account email addresses) or the `#__mailster_users` ID for non-account addresses. Each record in the `#__mailster_group_users` table has a flag indicating whether it is a Joomla! user address or not. As a result, this table has no unique key column.

What this means is that a non-account email address can technically be added either using the profile fields you specify or by adding a user to the Mailster Users list in the site back end. You would then add that user to the Mailster group corresponding to your email list. What you cannot do with Mailster is specify which profile this new address goes with. The best way to do that is to edit the user's profile in the site front or back end and add the address (and, optionally, names) there and save the profile. And if you are going to do that, you might as well just do it that way from the start since the plugin will update the Mailster tables for you. Account email address changes are handled intrinsically by CB/Joomla! because all Mailster maintains is the user ID for the account in its `#__mailster_group_users` table.

Deleting non-account email addresses can be done cleanly in Mailster by removing the entry from the Mailster Users list. Doing this will unsubscribe that address from every email list it may have been subscribed to. Removing the address from the email list's group list will, instead, only unsubscribe the address from that email list.

Although the plugin does support separate first and last name fields for non-account addresses, it is not a requirement to implement these fields. The plugin checks for their existence and, if they exist, it will concatenate the names into a single string to insert with the user list address. The plugin also doesn't care if the fields exist and aren't populated. So, it's up to you whether you make them required fields in the user profiles.

The field and table naming conventions must be followed! The following lists show some examples. In addition to these conventions, it is highly recommended that the Mailster Groups and Lists be named the same. This doesn't matter to the plugin, but it will avoid confusion. Both CB and the plugin will replace any non-alphanumeric character with an underscore (" ") to create or determine the database column name.

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You Specify	Plugin Assumes	
List Name	Short Name	DB Column Name
My List	my_list	cb_my_list
My?List	my_list	cb_my_list
MyList	mylist	cb_mylist

You Specify		Plugin Assumes	
Email Field Name	DB Column Name	First Name Column	Last Name Column
Email #1	cb_emaila	cb_emailfirstname	cb_emaillastname
Email #2	cb_email_x	cb_email_xfirstname	cb_email_xlastname

## 6 Language Adaptation

To adapt this plugin 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.

## 7 Acknowledgements

**Mailster** is the creation of Holger Brandt. My sincere thanks go to Holger for creating Mailster and for his very personal and gracious support as well as his encouragement toward my goal to integrate Mailster with Community Builder.

Mailster is Free and Paid open-source Software.

To acquire Mailster, visit <https://www.brandt-oss.com>.

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

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

To acquire Community Builder, visit <https://joomlapolis.com>.

**Mailster Subscriptions CB Plugin** is Free open-source software released under the Gnu Public License, v3.

To acquire Mailster Subscriptions CB Plugin, visit <https://github.com/bascherz/Mailster-Subscriptions-CB-Plugin>.