

# HumaineMailman Documentation

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## Abstract

**HumaineMailman** is an add-on product for the Plone<sup>1</sup> content management system that allows to subscribe or unsubscribe to Mailman mailing lists, to embed Mailman mailing lists into a Plone portal. The portal manager can set up open or role-based mailing lists as well as "auto lists", i.e. mailing lists that get populated using a Python script. In order to allow easy integration into the Plone portal, there exists an auto list "sandbox" which allows to preview the effects of the script code before actually using it. Portal users get an additional preferences panel that allows to subscribe to all lists the user may access. The user data can be synced using a shell script (that should be called regularly by a cron job).

The product code has been developed in 2007 and is actively used to this day on the HUMAINE portal<sup>2</sup>. It has been released to the Plone collective<sup>3</sup> in late 2007 so that others can use it as well, hoping that some may find it useful. HumaineMailman is available free of charge under a BSD-style license (cf. page 4 for more information).

## 1 Installation

HumaineMailman is an Archetype-based add-on product developed for the Plone content management system. Development started using Plone 2.5.x versions, the current version is maintained using the Plone 3.0.x branch. All code has also been successfully tested with the old Plone 2.5.x branch and is considered stable for both Plone 2.5.x and Plone 3.0.x.

**Update:** HumaineMailman has been updated<sup>4</sup> to work with Plone 4.2.x in August 2012.

You can install HumaineMailman using the Plone `portal_quickinstaller` tool available in the Zope Management Interface (ZMI) or the "Add/Remove Products" section of the "Site Setup". Just select HumaineMailman from the list of installable products and click "Activate". After the product software has been installed, it will be shown in the list of installed products. The figures on the following page illustrate the installation process.

HumaineMailman will install the `mailman.tool`, a new "Mailing list preferences" panel for portal users and create a new property sheet `mailman_properties` inside the `portal_properties`. Any warnings or errors that are encountered during the installation process will be logged in the "Install log".

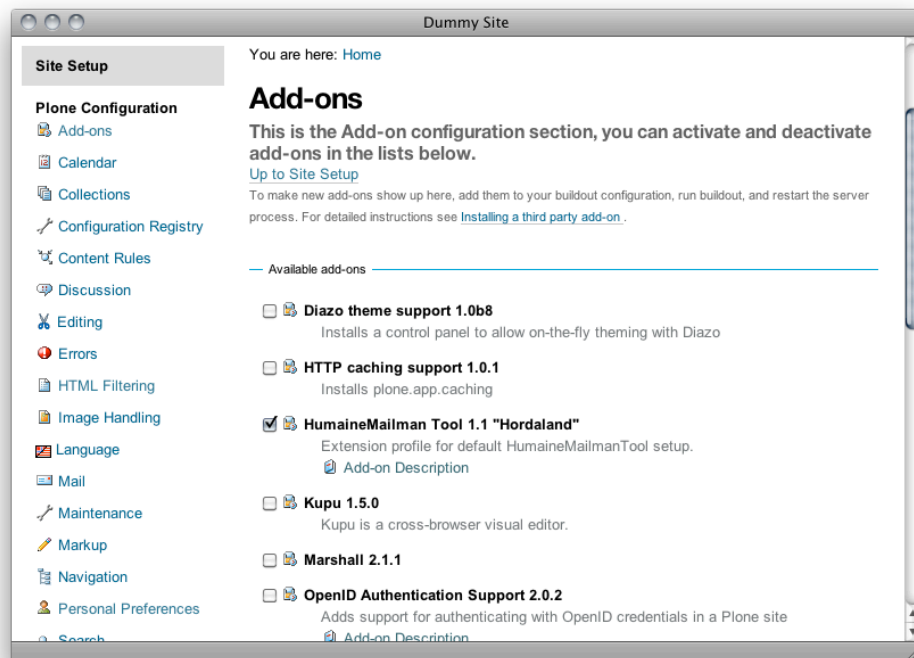


Figure 1: Click "Activate" on the bottom of the "Add-ons" page to install HumaineMailman.

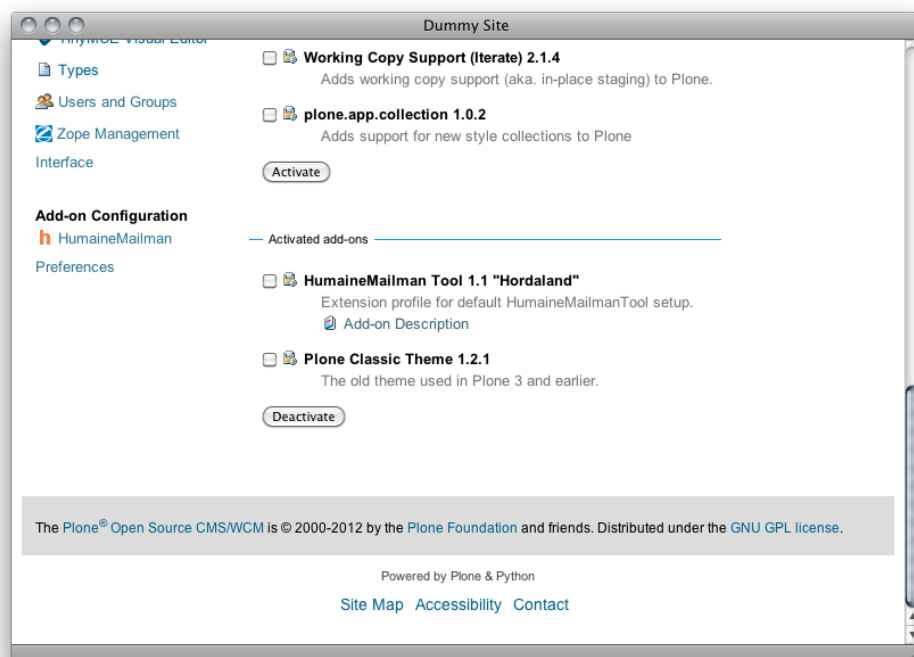


Figure 2: Successfully activated HumaineMailman and corresponding add-on configuration.

## 2 Preferences

The HumaineMailman product comes with a dedicated preference panel which is available in the "Site Setup" sub-category "Add-on Product Configuration". It allows the portal manager to connect Mailman mailing lists to the Plone portal. We distinguish open lists, i.e. mailing lists which every portal member may freely subscribe to. Next to these it is possible to control access to mailing lists based on roles. Finally, there exist so-called "auto lists" which are populated using a Python script.

The following figure shows the "Configure HumaineMailman" preferences right after the product has been installed:

Dummy Site

### Mailing Lists

This is the place to configure all your mailing lists which should be used with HumaineMailman. Each mailing list entry specifies the **type** of the mailing list (open, role, or auto), the list's **mail address**, the corresponding **web url without leading 'http://'**, it's **admin password** (which should **NOT** be the Mailman admin password), and (for role based lists) the **required role** a user has to have in order to subscribe to the list.

The input is expected to be supplied in the following format, fields separated by ":", one entry per line.  
Role information can be omitted if an "open" or "auto" list is defined.

<type>:<mail-address>:<web-url>:<admin-password>:<role>

Mailing list information can be updated by clicking the 'Update' button. To discard any of your changes to the original mailing list information, click the 'Reset' button.

Figure 3: Configure HumaineMailman in "Add-on Configuration"

### 3 License

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## 4 Acknowledgements

HumaineMailman has been developed by Christian Federmann, DFKI GmbH.  
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**humaine**

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see <http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/>



## Notes

<sup>1</sup><http://www.plone.org/>

<sup>2</sup><http://emotion-research.net/>

<sup>3</sup><http://dev.plone.org/collective/browser/HumaineMailman>

<sup>4</sup>Updated source code available from GitHub at <https://github.com/cfedermann/HumaineMailman>