

**This GIT Repository is intended instruct one how to:**

Build an open-source customizable Flat-rate shipping module w/ weight & price driven PHP callouts in Magento

**Before your start...**

1: The first step in any Magento project that involves code is creating a pre-edit backup of your site AND database

**Note:** Do not transfer DB to another server unless scrubbed of all sensitive information - if your .sql file contains sensitive information I strongly urge you to tar and encrypt it after ensuring it isn't in a public web directory...run `tar -cfv 'tar filename'.tar 'mysqldumpfile'.sql` then run `openssl des3 -salt -in infile.tar -out encryptedfile.tar`. I then recommend transferring the file via SSH/SFTP to a SD card and putting said card somewhere where it will never again see the light of day - let alone another SD card reader.

Most stores (or at least those that follow PCI compliance rules) won't have an issue with secure payment information being stored - however many will still have customer shipping and contact information. Don't discount the merit of checking site security simply because you employ a secure pay gate.

Be sure to preserve file permissions and structure (`tar -cfvp` works well to compress, use at least `-xvf` to `un-tar`). If you have any hidden files (at the very least your Magento site should have an html-root level `.htaccess` file) be sure you back them up as well - as they won't be included in your tar command.

2: Next, create a working backup folder in the same directory as the file you're going to edit. Name it what you want, and copy two versions of the file you're to edit to the folder - one is to be left untouched while the other will be your working copy (to be copied over the live/production file once complete). If you know what you're doing you can go ahead and simply create one backup copy and live-edit the .phtml template file we'll be working on (not recommended for those unfamiliar with PHP/HTML/SSH/VIM).

**Example:**

The client: a web-store that ships product (kayaks, canoes, etc) that must be delivered directly to customers via freight truck.

The problem: a smaller shop that can't do a basic flat or table rate shipping fee. Needs to configure a zone and weight-based system that can give users an idea of additional cost incurred when shipping bulk items on product page. Also would like to tie-in a price-based callout for their "Over \$39 Free Shipping" policy.

**Solution:**

1. Install and configure WebShopApps' free MATRIXRATE Magento shipping Extension:

<http://www.webshopapps.com/us/free/matrixrate-shipping-extension.html>

2. Determine East/Central/West US shipping zones and any other variables needed in matrix rate shipping calculations & configure the extension accordingly.

(here we are calculating based on state and weight range, but you will need to be sure to include other required info such as "Delivery Type", "Country" etc. - see the WebShop WIKI for extension configuration info - <http://wiki.webshopapps.com/extensions/matrix-rates> )

3. Apply specified zone rate to zones via state abbr. (could do by zip but that's a whole hell of a lot more entries to go through)

**NOTE** - if you're already shipping via UPS/USPS you need to ensure that your matrix-rate weights for over-sized items are **GREATER THAN** the UPS and USPS shipping API maximum shippable weight (the max at the time of publication is 155.0000 - so simply ensure your weights **START AT** 156.0000. Example:

| Country | Region/<br>State | City | Zip/<br>Postal<br>Code<br>From | Zip/<br>Postal<br>Code To | Weight<br>From | Weight<br>To | Shippin<br>g Price | Delivery<br>Type |
|---------|------------------|------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|
| USA     | AL               |      |                                |                           | 208            | 373          | 100                | Freight          |
| USA     | AL               |      |                                |                           | 374            | 414          | 100                | Freight          |
| USA     | AL               |      |                                |                           | 156            | 186          | 50                 | Freight          |
| USA     | AL               |      |                                |                           | 187            | 207          | 50                 | Freight          |
| USA     | AL               |      |                                |                           | 414            | 440          | 150                | Freight          |
| USA     | AR               |      |                                |                           | 208            | 373          | 200                | Freight          |
| USA     | AR               |      |                                |                           | 374            | 414          | 200                | Freight          |
| USA     | AR               |      |                                |                           | 156            | 186          | 100                | Freight          |
| USA     | AR               |      |                                |                           | 187            | 207          | 100                | Freight          |
| USA     | AR               |      |                                |                           | 414            | 440          | 200                | Freight          |
| USA     | AZ               |      |                                |                           | 156            | 186          | 150                | Freight          |
| USA     | AZ               |      |                                |                           | 187            | 207          | 150                | Freight          |
| USA     | AZ               |      |                                |                           | 414            | 440          | 350                | Freight          |
| USA     | AZ               |      |                                |                           | 208            | 373          | 300                | Freight          |
| USA     | AZ               |      |                                |                           | 374            | 414          | 300                | Freight          |

If you haven't already noticed the first three states of the 48 in my matrix rate .csv file happen to each be in a different one of the three shipping zones.

AL = Alabama = EAST (cheapest rate - same zone as retailer) Smaller kayaks/canoes ship for \$50 flat rate, larger \$100, and huge/heavy boats for \$150

AR = Arkansas = CENTRAL (middle rate - one over from retailer) Smaller kayaks/canoes ship for \$100 flat rate, larger \$150, and huge/heavy boats for \$200

AZ = Arizona = WEST (highest rate - on other side of country from retailer) Smaller kayaks/canoes ship for \$150 flat rate, larger \$300, and huge/heavy boats for \$350

\*\*\* **Confirm the MATRIXRATE extension is fully operational before continuing.** \*\*\*

4. Navigate to your current theme's template folder (your customized one - **not the default or base**) - backup and open the .phtml template file you wish to insert your call-out into. (I'm inserting it into my view.phtml in app/design/template/yourthemehere/customsubthemehere/template/catalog/product/view.phtml)

5. Insert snippet found in conditional-magento-callouts.phtml into your template file (wherever you would like it to be).

6. Customize PHP conditional arguments, CSS and layout to fit your needs

7. Finished... **Time to have a beer (STZBR!)**