

ANGEK DESIGN

PF Task Expiry Notifier

A Joomla 3.x System Plugin for Projectfork 4

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PF Task Expiry Tracker

Introduction

The PF Task Expiry Tracker is a Joomla 3.x native system plugin and Joomla 3.x cli application that, once configured and set up through a cron job, will deliver task summary notification emails to assigned users for tasks that are about to reach their completion date and/or have already gone past their completion date and are currently overdue.

Installation

The PF Task Expiry Tracker plugin is installed via Joomla 3.x's native installer. If you have downloaded the code from GitHub you will need to extract it then navigate to the `plg_taskexpirynotifier` folder and create a zip file of its contents. Use the generated zip file to install.

Once installed, the plugin adds, in addition to the `plg_pfexpirytracker` folder within your plugin/system directory, an additional file (`cron_pf_notifier.php`) to your Joomla's cli directory. It is this file that you will need to call when setting up the cron job.

Configuration

Once installed, the plugin needs to be configured. PF Task Expiry Tracker comes with a number of configuration settings divided into the following logical tabs:

- Basic Settings
- Overdue Task Settings
- Task Information.

Basic Settings Tab

Plugin	Basic Settings	Overdue Tasks Settings	Task Information
Email From	<input type="text" value="support@angedesign.com.au"/>		
From Name	<input type="text" value="ANGEK DESIGN MAILER"/>		
Email Subject	<input type="text" value="Your Task Alerts."/>		
Email Message	<div><p>The following tasks are due within the next 6 days:</p></div>		
Email CC	<input type="text" value="angedk@angedesign.com.au"/>		
Email BCC	<input type="text" value="angedk67@gmail.com"/>		
Alert Period	<input type="text" value="6"/>		
Alert Interval	<input type="text" value="Day"/>		
Alert Condition	<input type="text" value="<"/>		

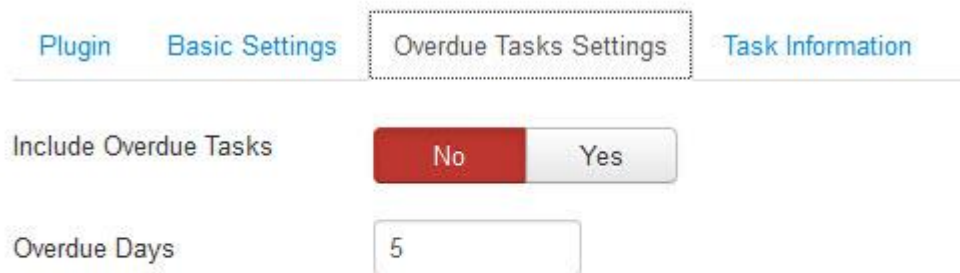
The Basic Settings tab provides the following 9 parameters:

- **Email From** - this holds the email address that will be displayed in the notification emails. If this field is left blank the plugin will use the “Email From” parameter from your Joomla configuration file.
- **From Name** - this holds the name that will be displayed in the notification emails. If this field is left blank the plugin will use the “From Name” parameter from your Joomla configuration file.
- **Email Subject** - Enter the subject line for your email notifications.
- **Email Message** – Enter any generic message you like to deliver to the user. The task list will be appended to this message
- **Email CC** – If you would like to send a copy of the notification to someone then enter their email address in this field. This field can be left blank.
- **Email BCC** – If you would like to send a blind copy of the notification to someone then enter their email address in this field. This field can be left blank.
- **Alert Period, Alert Interval and Alert Condition** - Set the period prior to a task deadline that the email notification should be sent.

If you want to be alerted of all the tasks that are due to be completed in exactly 2 days time then enter 2 in the **Alert Period** textbox, select '**Day**' for the **Alert Interval** and select '=' for the **Alert Condition**.

Similarly, if you want to be alerted of all tasks that are due to be completed within the next 6 days then enter 6 in the **Alert Period** textbox, select '**Day**' for the **Alert Interval** and select '<' for the **Alert Condition**.

Overdue Task Settings



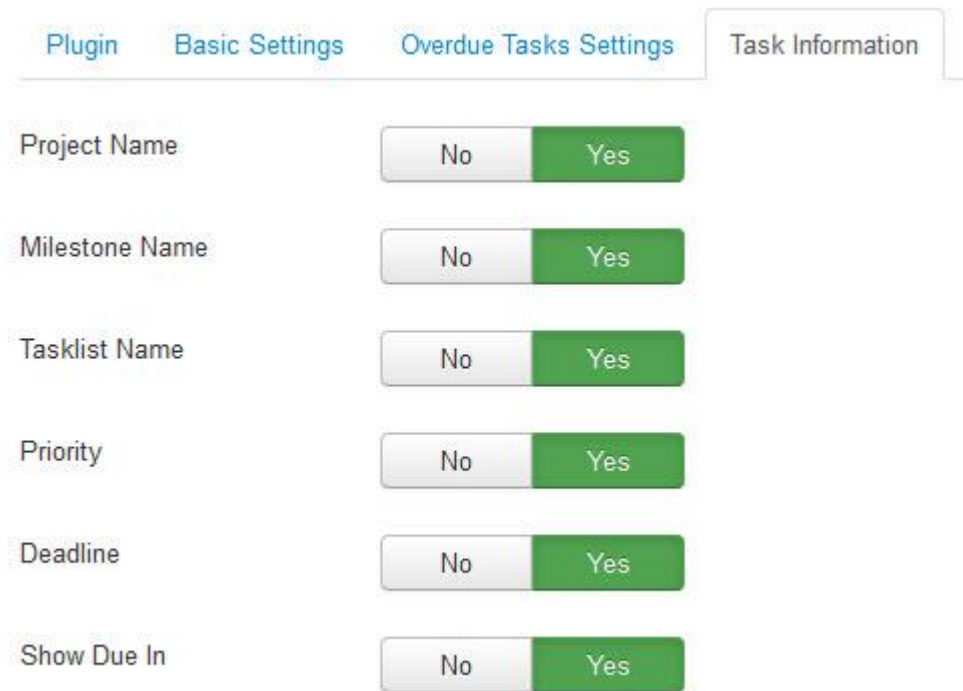
The screenshot shows a settings interface with four tabs: 'Plugin', 'Basic Settings', 'Overdue Tasks Settings', and 'Task Information'. The 'Overdue Tasks Settings' tab is selected and highlighted with a dashed border. Below the tabs, there are two settings:

- Include Overdue Tasks**: A toggle switch with 'No' (red) and 'Yes' (grey) options. The 'No' option is currently selected.
- Overdue Days**: A text input field containing the number '5'.

The Overdue Task Settings tab provides the following 2 parameters:

- **Include Overdue Tasks** - You can elect to also include tasks that are overdue in your notifications.
- **Overdue Days** - If you elect to include overdue tasks then by entering a number into this textbox the user will continue to receive overdue tasks in their notifications for X days past the task completion date.

Task Information Settings



Plugin	Basic Settings	Overdue Tasks Settings	Task Information
Project Name	<input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
Milestone Name	<input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
Tasklist Name	<input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
Priority	<input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
Deadline	<input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
Show Due In	<input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	

The Task Information Settings tab provides the following 9 parameters:

- **Project Name** - Select “Yes” if you want the Project Name included in the email notification
- **Milestone Name** - Select “Yes” if you want the Milestone name included in the email notification. If a task does not belong to a milestone this field will not be displayed in the notification email.
- **Tasklist Name** - Select “Yes” if you want the Task List name included in the email notification. If a task does not belong to a milestone this field will not be displayed in the notification email.
- **Priority** - Select “Yes” if you want the task’s priority to be included in the email notification.
- **Deadline** - Select “Yes” if you want the task’s completion date to be included in the email notification.
- **Show Due In** – If set to “Yes” the plugin will calculate the number of days that the task will become due based on the date the notification is sent.

Cron Job Setup

For the notifications to work you must configure a cron job to run once a day.

Here's a couple of examples of what the cron job should look like:

Command Line

`crontab -e`

```
0 0 * * * php /path/to/joomla/cli/cron_pf_notifier.php
```

Cpanel

Add New Cron Job

Common Settings:

Minute: :00 top of the hour (0) ✓

Hour: 12:00 a.m. midnight (0) ✓

Day: Every day (*) ✓

Month: Every month (*) ✓

Weekday: Every weekday (*) ✓

Command: ✓

Current Cron Jobs

Minute	Hour	Day	Month	Weekday	Command	Actions
0	0	*	*	*	[REDACTED]	Edit Delete
*	*	*	*	*	[REDACTED]	Edit Delete
0	0	*	*	*	php /path/to/joomla /cli/cron_pf_notifier.php	Edit Delete

There are 2 things that you need to make sure are correct when setting up the cron job.

- Path to your php executable and
- Path to the script to be executed. This must be: `/path/to/joomla/cli/cron_pf_notifier.php`

Notifications

If everything has been configured correctly the plugin will execute and deliver notifications to your users listing the tasks that are approaching their completion date. Below is a screenshot of one such notification.

Please note that all notifications are delivered as html email. I have yet to configure the plugin to deliver plain text email notifications.

Please find below a summary of tasks that you have been assigned to that are approaching their completion date:

Project: My First Project			
Task Title	Priority	Deadline	Due In
Milestone: milestone 1			
Task List: task list 1			
task 2	Very Low	2014-02-07 00:31:10	3 Days
Project: My Second Project			
task A	Very Low	2014-02-04 01:16:32	0 Days

If you have any further suggestions or found any bugs please report them on the GitHub site at:

<https://github.com/angedk/Projectfork-3rd-Party-Extensions/issues>