

User Guide

How to Create a Custom Component

By SBND Technologies

Description and Requirements

This example describes how to create a *FAQ* functionality that allows the site administrator to publish frequently asked questions and their answers. The functionality requires one text field to enter the question and another one to enter the answer.

Creating a Component for the Administration Panel

First, you must create a component for the administration panel. With this component the administration user will add data for new questions and their answers. New components can be created directly in the directory *root/cmp*. However, we recommend that you create sub-directories */back* and */front* in the */cmp* directory.

1. Create a PHP file called *FAQ.cmp.php* in the *root/cmp/back/* directory. The sub extension *cmp* is important because it tells the system that this PHP file is a component.
2. In the new file declare a class called *FAQ* (the name of the class must be the same as the file's name) that extends the *CmsComponent* class:

```
1. class FAQ extends CmsComponent{
2.     // define the name of the database table.
3.     public $base = 'faq';
4. }
```

3. Override the *main()* method and declare two component fields. For more information about component fields, see the *component-fields-options.txt* file in the documentation.

```
1. function main(){
2.     // call parent method for save main functionality.
3.     parent::main();
4.
5.     $this->setField('question', array
6.         'text' => BASIC_LANGUAGE::init()->get('faq_question'),
7.         'perm' => '*',
8.         'lingual' => true
9.     ));
10.    $this->setField('answer', array(
11.        'text' => BASIC_LANGUAGE::init()->get('faq_answer'),
12.        'perm' => '*'
13.        'formtype' => 'html',
14.        'dbtype' => 'longtext',
15.        'lingual' => true
16.    ));
17.
18.    // (optional. By default is false) start ordering support
19.    $this->ordering(true);
20. }
```

4. Add the component in the administration panel. To do that, in the administration panel go to *System* → *Components*, click the *Add* button and enter the required information:

SYSTEM

You are editing: Components / Add

*System Name: tutorial-faq

*PHP Class Name: cmp/back/FAQ [browse]

Public Name: Tutorial FAQ

Participate in Admin Menu Group: ☒

Parent: [dropdown]

[Save] [Back]

Welcome, | Log Out

SBND F&CMS

SYSTEM TUTORIAL FAQ

You are editing: Tutorial FAQ /

[faq_question]	[faq_answer]	order_id

Show: 10 | 20 | 50 | 100 | All

[Add] [Delete]

5. The default system *List* view shows columns for all components fields. You can change this as shown below:

```

1. function ActionList(){
2.   $this->map('question', BASIC_LANGUAGE::init()-
   >get('faq_question'), 'formater', 'align=left');
3.   $this->map('answer', BASIC_LANGUAGE::init()-
   >get('faq_answer'), 'formater', 'width=500', 'align=left');
4.
5.   return parent::ActionList();
6. }
7. // We will make and formater for the column "answer" that will cut the answer
   length to clear html tags and cut to 50
8. // symbols.
9. function formater($val, $name, $row){
10.   if ($name == answer){
11.     $tmp = strip_tags($val);
12.     if(count($tmp) > 50){
13.       return substr($tmp, 0, 50) . ' ...';
14.     }else{
15.       return $tmp;
16.     }
17.   }
18.   return $val;
19. }

```



The configuration of the administrative part of the functionality is finished.

Creating a Component for the Client Side

First, you create a component that extends the *FAQ* class (the previously created administrative component). After that you create a template file with specific formatting for the task. Finally, create a page where the *FAQ* functionality will be presented.

1. Create a PHP file *FAQFront.cmp.php* in the *root/cmp/front* directory:

```
1. BASIC::init()->imported("FAQ", "cmp/back")
2. class FAQFront extends FAQ{
3. }
```

2. Create a template file called *faq.tpl* in the *root/themes/your_theme/tpl* directory. You can check the path to your site theme in the administration panel, under *System* → *Settings* → *SITE_THEME*. For more information about themes, see the *How To Use Exception And Mobile Theme* guide.

```
1. <div class="faq-container">
2. <ul>
3. <!-- foreach($rows,k,row,i) -->
4. <li><a href="#id_{$i}">{$row.columns.question.label}</a></li>
5. <!-- end -->
6. </ul>
7.
8. <!-- foreach($rows,k,row,i) -->
9. <a name="id_{$i}"></a><div>
10. <h3>{$row.columns.question.label}</h3>
11. <div>{$row.columns.answer.label}</div>
12. </div>
13. <!-- end -->
14. <div>
15. <br>
```

3. Configure the component to use the new template:

```
1. function main(){
```

```

2. parent::main();
3. $this->template_list = "faq.tpl";
4. }

```

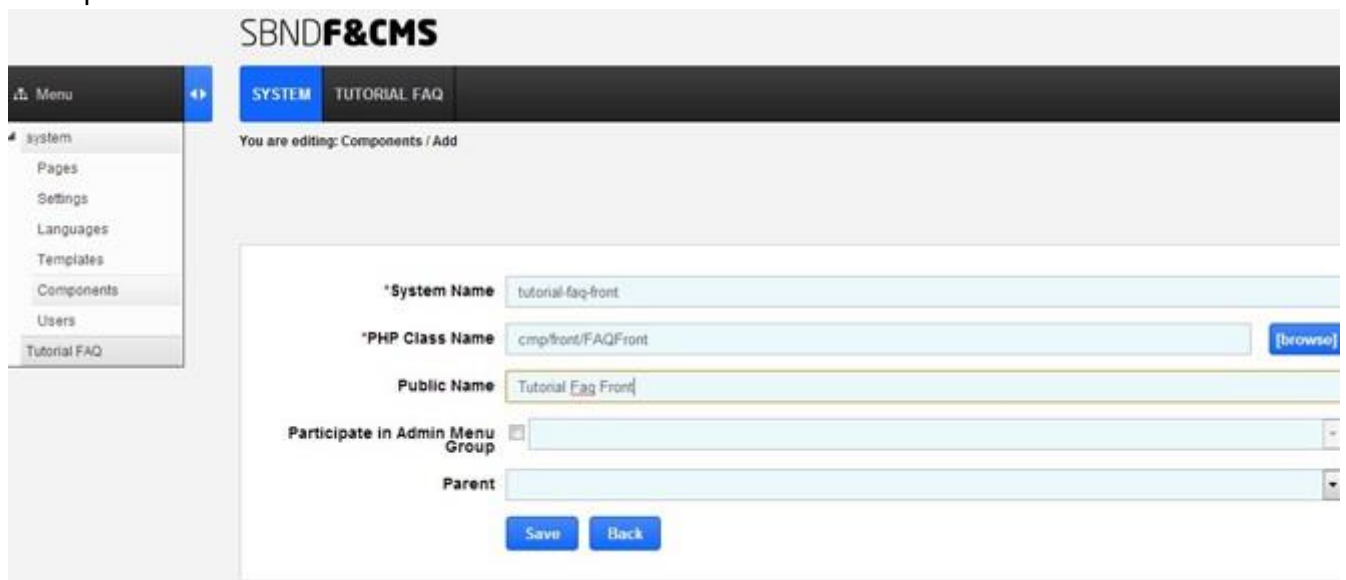
4. Stop the administrative actions and formatting:

```

1. function main(){
2.     parent::main();
3.     //$this->delAction('save');
4.     //$this->delAction('add');
5.     //$this->delAction('delete');
6.     $this->delAllActions();
7.
8.     // configure this component to use our template.
9.     $this->template_list = 'faq.tpl';
10. }
11. /**
12.  * Override this method to stop answer test formatting.
13.  */
14.
15. function formater($val, $name, $row){
16.     return $val;
17. }

```

5. In the administration panel go to *System* → *Components*, click the *Add* button and enter the required information:



The screenshot shows the SBND F&CMS administration interface. On the left is a sidebar menu with options: Menu, system, Pages, Settings, Languages, Templates, Components, Users, and Tutorial FAQ. The main area has tabs for SYSTEM and TUTORIAL FAQ. Below the tabs, it says 'You are editing: Components / Add'. The form contains the following fields:

- *System Name**: tutorial-faq-front
- *PHP Class Name**: cmp/front/FAQFront (with a [browse] button)
- Public Name**: Tutorial Faq Front
- Participate in Admin Menu Group**: A checkbox that is checked, followed by a dropdown menu.
- Parent**: A dropdown menu.

At the bottom of the form are two buttons: **Save** and **Back**.

6. Create a new page for the *FAQ* section. To do this, in the administration panel go to *System* → *Pages* and click *Add* to create the page:

Additional menu image 2 

Show in language version ☐ No ☒ Yes

Menu

system

Pages

Settings

Languages

Templates

Components

Users

Tutorial FAQ

SBNDF&CMS

SYSTEM TUTORIAL FAQ

You are editing: Pages /

Filter Data

Add

Delete

Menu Positions

System name	Title	Target	Component Name	Position	Show in language version
home	Home	self		top	English
tutorial-faq	Tutorial FAQ	self	tutorial-faq-front	top	English

Show: 10 | 20 | 50 | 100 | All

Add

Delete

Menu Positions

The creation and configuration of the *FAQ* functionality is done. When you open the page on client side the *FAQ* UI is displayed:

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Home Tutorial FAQ

Tutorial FAQ

Tutorial FAQ

- How to create component
- How to extend default control panels components

How to create component

The short answer is **EASY** :)

How to extend default control panels components

First you have to know the components id. You can see this information in section "system-component-names.txt"

If you know "How to create component" you can extend all control panel interfaces too easy.