

Multilang M17n

Multilang M17n - Multilingualisation for Joomla!



"green frog" by adam whitehead at www.talladam.com

An extension for Joomla 1.5.x. It does not affect your database!
Makes your Joomla speak in other languages!



Content

Multilingualisation with Joomla!	2
Installation	3
Basic instructions	4
Management & configuration	5
Adding Articles	10
Automatic uninstall	11
Manual uninstall	11

Multilingualisation with Joomla!

Is it possible to make Joomla speak more than one language using the standard database? Can it be done with the minimum of interference in your system?

We think this can be done.

This manual describes how to install the Multilang M17n package and how to use it.

Bear in mind that Multilang M17n is designed to be simple. The philosophy is to use as much features which are already installed out of the box with your Joomla 1.5.x setup as possible.

This manual is split in two parts. The small light grey left and the big white right. The right contains the basic manual and is mainly derived from the manual which was provided with M17n from SDIC.

On the left side you will find extra and handy information how to use Multilang M17n and how to interpret this manual.

Installation

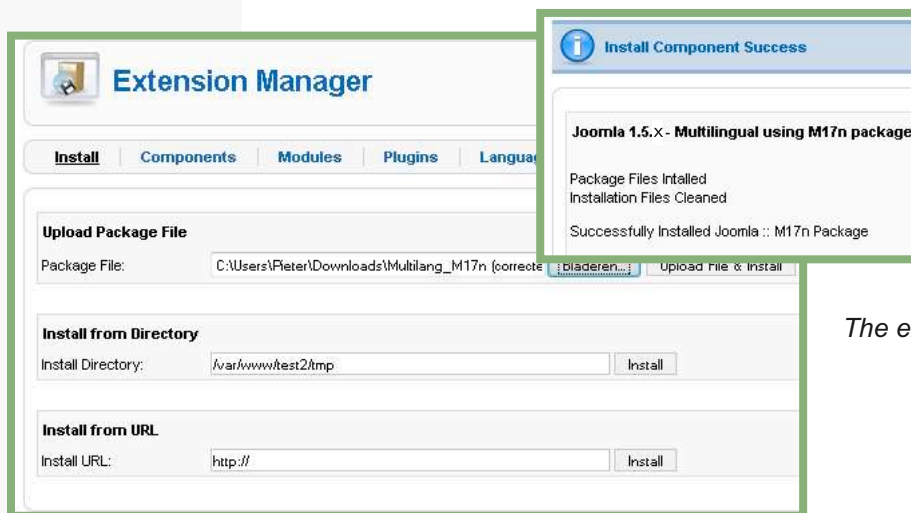
Before installing Multilang M17n, you will have to install the desired languages. This can be done from the main administration menu. Login to Joomla's administration, and from the main administration menu select:

Administrator > Extensions > Install/Uninstall

Under the section:

Upload Package File

Click on Browse and select the package on your computer. Then, click on Upload File & Install. Results of installation are displayed on screen.



The extension manager

After installing the desired languages you have to install the Multilang M17n package.

This is done the same way as installing the language packages:

Administrator > Extensions > Install/Uninstall

Under the section:

Upload Package File

Click on Browse and select the package on your computer. Then, click on Upload File & Install. Results of installation are displayed on screen.

Basic instructions

IMPORTANT: Enable M17n Module and M17n Plugin if needed.

IMPORTANT: The M17n Module **MUST** be assigned (under the Menu Assignment parameters) to ALL Menus, or at least to the main menu items. To configure the menu assignment.

Go to Administrator > Extensions > Module Manager. Select the M17n - Language Selector and look at the bottom left part for the Menu Assignment.

The screenshot displays the Joomla! Administrator interface. At the top, the 'Administrator' tab is active. Below the navigation bar, there is a filter section with 'Go' and 'Reset' buttons. A table lists installed modules:

#	Module Name	Enabled	Order	Access Level	Position	Pages	Type	ID
1	HootMenu	✓	1	Public	left	All	mod_rainmenu	1
2	M17n - Language Selector	✓	7	Public	left	None	mod_M17n	17

Below the table, the 'Menu Assignment' section is visible. It includes radio buttons for 'All', 'None', and 'Select Menu Item(s) from the List'. Under 'Menu Selection', a dropdown menu shows 'mainmenu' and 'Home'. An 'Install Component Success' message box is overlaid on the interface, stating: 'Joomla 1.5.6 - Multilingual using M17n package', 'Package Files Installed', 'Installation Files Cleaned', and 'Successfully Installed Joomla :: M17n Package'.

The extension manager

Menu assignment

Legacy check

Legacy Check:

In order for the package to work, M17n menus need to have their Menu Style set to "List" and not to "Legacy - *". M17n is only implemented into 1.5 menus.

To change this:

Administrator > Extensions > Module Manager

Select the module corresponding to your menu. (Main Menu by default)

The Menu Style on the right side (Module Params) must be set to "List", NOT to "Legacy - ..."

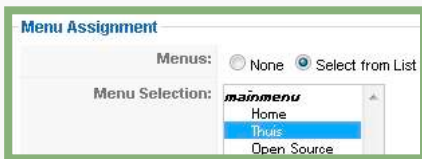
Please Note:

It is necessary to have at least one menu item defined for each of the installed language for the plugin to work properly.

Templates

As each language gets its own menu items, it's easy to assign a template to a language or a part of that language.

This can become very handy when there are national festivities or activities in a certain country. For example; in the Netherlands we color everything in orange when the national football team is playing in big tournaments. This is very nice for the Dutch but not for the Germans.



Modules

Same way you can assign modules to menu items.

This way you can have similarity in items but also have some items language specific.

Management & configuration

Basic Approach

The common approach is to have all multilingual menus in your mainmenu and then to pick a language for each item. Then, when needed, you should define which submenus will be attached to the main menu items, which allows you keeping all of the multilingual feature at one level and manage your submenus independently. This is the simplest approach and probably the most efficient as you will only deal with multilingual menus on the first navigation level.

For advanced multilingual features, association keys are available but must be set individually for each menu item.

Using the the language selector in combination with association keys will enable you to switch between languages and stay on the item. Still, if you do not exactly know how to handle this, you may disable association handling from the plugin and enable it once you feel more comfortable with Multilang M17n features.

Next pages explain the steps to manage and configure the different Multilang M17n package elements.

Association key

It's not necessary but it comes in very handy; Menu items which are used for every language (Universal - not set) cannot work with an association key as there is no association. Changing languages from such menu items will result in returning to the home page in the requested language.

It then may become handy to create the entry for each language so the association key can be set.

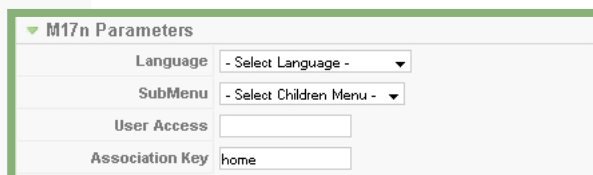
Languages

To manage your languages, you will have to use Joomla's language manager under:

Administrator > Extensions > Language Manager

You can find dozens of languages available on Joomla's website but pay attention to the version, as some have not been yet ported for Joomla 1.5 Stable.

The language selector and the menus management will only propose you the languages that are installed.



parameters

Menu Items

Now, you can select a menu from the menu manager:

Administrator > Menus > Main Menu (or any other)

Look at the top-right corner of your menu items list

and notice the new added drop down menu for filtering contents by language. Universal means "NOT SET YET" or more simply, an item that will be shown no matter what language the user selects.

Click on an item and look on the right side parameters.

Expand "> M17n Parameters", described below:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Language: | The targeted language (a list of the currently installed langs) |
| SubMenu: | Child menu for item (optional). The current item will "highlight" when any item of the selected child menu is open. |
| User Access: | Coma separated values (optional). Only shows item to those users that are in this list. If left blank, then shows to all users. |
| Assoc. Key: | This allows you to associate a menu item with another to have "replicated" sites and so you can stay on the same page when switching the language. Please see the plugin details for a more detailed description of this feature. |

Flags of your choice

You can use an alternate location for your "national" icons. For example if you want to use an Edam cheese for the Netherlands or a Baguette for France, put in the location of the containing map. As long as the icons are named according to the names used by M17n. Which means "gb.gif" for the UK, "fr.gif" for France "nl.gif" for the Netherlands and so on...

Module (Language Selector)

Now, you can select a menu from the menu manager:

Administrator > Menus > Main Menu (or any other)

Pick an item and look on the right side parameters.

Expand "> M17n Parameters", described below:

Sel. Prefix:	A text to display before the languages in the module.
Sel. Suffix:	A text to display after the languages in the module.
Style:	CSS style options for the lang. selector items.
Lang. Label:	Define how to display each language on the selector. Full text by default. Full Text, as defined in the language xml file. E.g. English (United Kingdom) Short Text, simplified version of the previous, as defined in the language xml file but without the text that is between parenthesis. E.g. English ISO Code, as defined by ISO 639-1, a two letters abbreviation. Taken from the locale code in the xml file. E.g. EN
Icons Folder:	Icons, uses images instead of text. The default icons are located in : /PathToJoomla/modules/mod_M17n/icons/ Change this if you want to use your own icons. Not all of them are necessary but you MUST use the same naming convention.
Active Language:	This defines how to display the language that is currently in use. Default is to disable link on the current language. No link on current, this disables the link (href) for the language in use. Hide current language, the language in use will not be displayed at all. Background Hilight Color, this will display a background color behind the selected language. May not be visible when using icons, depending on CSS. Set the color on the next option. Border Hilight Color, this will display a one pixel border around the selected language. Set the color on the next option. No hilight, all languages are shown identically. Unrecommended because it is confusing for the end-user as no difference is made between each of the languages available. Hilight Color: Allows you to specify which color to use when the previous option is set to background or border highlight. You can use an hexadecimal color code (like

Wishlist

Of course there are many things to wish for. One of the things urgently needed is a hack of the syndication module. It's only working for the default language yet. We need it to be language dependent.

Also there's need for a hack in the Polls component. we're thinking of allowing more than one poll adding its details to the same table. It would make it possible to create national and/or international polls.

- Separator:** #ff0 or #FFFF00) or you could also use CSS color names (such as grey, black, blue, green)
This defines how to separate each language in the language selector module. Default option is carriage return (
).
Carriage Return, this separates all of the choices with a
 tag.
Simple Space, will simply display a single space between choices ();
Wide Space. this will show a "triple" space between choices (x 3)
Custom Spacer, allows you to specify your own separator string in the next text field (Custom Separator).
- Custom Sep.:** A string made of any html tags or characters. If you decide to use it seems to work but when you come back to edit the module again, the may become a question mark (?). You will have to replace every time you want to edit the module.
- Howlong to remember:**
This defines howlong the language choice shall be remembered by the module. Default option is to store it in the session.
Session Lifetime, will store the value in the session, user will have to set it everytime the site is visited.
Permanent, will store the value in a cookie with a one year lifetime.
Custom Lapse, will store the value in a cookie but using a custom lifetime as defined on the next field
- Custom Lapse:** The number of days that cookie lifetime should last. This will only be used when themprevious option is set to Custom Lapse.

SEO

Make sure you don't activate SEO in Joomla. M17n does not work as expected when this is turned on. Association keys don't work.

Plugin

The plugin allows the whole site to know which language the end-user has currently selected and which ones are available from the current page, depending on the chosen configuration. Please go to:

Administrator > Extensions > Plugin Manager

Usually, the M17n plugin is located on the second page, but it depends on how many plugins you have installed. Search for and click on:

System - Multilingual (M17n)

On the right side, you'll find the parameters. Under "Plugin Parameters" you will find:

Association Handling:

This option defines how the associative keys will be handled. Those keys are used to match a specific menu item (e.g. Products in english) with the corresponding menu in another language (e.g. Produits in french). Automatic, if assoc. key is found it will be used. Otherwise, home item will be used instead. Default Option.

Strict, only assoc. keys are used. If no association key is found, then the language selector will not display the other languages.

Disabled, only home items will be used.

Home Items Retrieval:

The home items are the default Itemids for each language. Depending on the association handling type, Itemids may not be used.

Automatic, this will seek for the first menu item for each language and define it as the "Home" Itemid. The search is using the order position in the menu.

Manual, that option allows you to set the Home itemid manually for EACH of the languages installed. We strongly recommend to use a different value for each language if set to manual. The Manual Home Items below must be set.

Manual Home Items:

This field is to be used when the previous option has the Manual value selected. Values in this field should contain all languages that are installed, separated by comas: en-GB=1,de-DE=11,fr-FR=21

This field will need update when a new lang. is installed on the website. Please check on the language file XML to see what locale is to be used (en-GB, en-US, fr-CH and so on)

Do not worry

All is taken care of. Searching is done only in articles of the selected language. So is the mostread and latest news module. Even the flash module has been taken care of. All these modules can be used without any problems.

Of course there's much to wish for. The syndication module has to be fixed and there's need for language tagging is textfields we cannot use in combination with multilingualisation.

This is all under development. Every day new ideas emerge. Good ones and bad ones. Bad ones don't make it to the extension. Good ones will be investigated and may even be the new entry in the extension.

Any suggestions? Please mail them: info@groenewegdigitaal.nl. Also for your questions.

Also investigate the Joomla Forum. As many ideas emerge from there.

Adding articles

How to add articles in your desired language? It will be explained from both back end and front end.

Back end

In the back end select the following:

administrattor > content > article manager > new

Add you article as you are used to within Joomla. Then open the "parameters (advanced)" on the right en make your choice at "content language". All languages installed are shown in the drop down selector.

Parameters (Advanced)	
Show Title	Use Global
Title Linkable	Use Global
Intro Text	Use Global
Section Name	Use Global
Section Title Linkable	Use Global
Category Title	Use Global
Category Title Linkable	Use Global
Article Rating	Use Global
Author Name	Use Global
Created Date and Time	Use Global
Modified Date and Time	Use Global
PDF Icon	Use Global
Print Icon	Use Global
E-mail Icon	Use Global
Content Language	- Select Language - English (United Kingdom) Nederlands (Nederland)
Key Reference	
Alternative Read more: text	

advanced parameters

Front end

In the front end it's made much easier than that. when you allow your users to add articles from the front end, the article will be stored in the language selected with the Multilang M17n language selector. It;s as easy as that. Users do not have to think about anything more that they are used to.

Disclaimer

"Multilang M17n" is a combination of the extension M17n from Jason Johnston of SDIC (<http://www.sdic.ch>) with extra hacks on the core made by Pieter Groeneweg (<http://www.groenewegdigitaal.nl>). The extension can be downloaded from <http://www.groenewegdigitaal.nl>.

Multilang M17n does not affect some core files of Joomla. However all files hacked are backed up and will be restored upon uninstalling Multilang M17n.

Multilang M17n does not affect your database.

Multilang M17n is free to use and adapt under the licenses named in the original files and licenses named in the added files.

We need your feedback.

Etymology:

M17n represents multilingualisation. "M" following 17 other letters then ended with "n". Multilang M17n doubles it so to speak.

This manual is made courtesy by bizgo.nl.



Visit the works of Adam Whitehead at <http://talladam.com>

Automatically uninstalling Multilang M17n

You can uninstall the package but the menu parameters will remain in your menu items. This is useful if you plan to reinstall or update the plugin later and, additionally, it would be dangerous to parse all your menus to remove some parameters that will obviously not affect them.

To remove the package, login to Joomla's administration, and from the main administration menu select :

Extensions > Install/Uninstall

From the submenu, select :

Components

Click on the radio button (checkbox) next to M17n. Then, click on the uninstall button on the upper-right part of the screen. Uninstallation result will be shown on the screen once completed.

Please Note:

Some people experience problems while uninstalling. It may be caused by file permission issues, however, the uninstallation script is intended to remove only what it has installed. Joomla creates an additional record on the components table.

Manual uninstall

To remove the files manually, please look at the zip structure and remove all of the corresponding files as well as anything located within

`%joomla%/administrator/components/com_M17n/`

which is a temporary folder created for installation purposes (and normally destroyed thereafter).

Also revert the backed up files named "xyz.php.bak" that can be found in these two directories:

`%joomla%/administrator/components/com_menus/`

`%joomla%/modules/mod_mainmenu/`

`%joomla%/libraries/joomla/application`

Simply remove the .bak for those files and restore will be complete as those files are usually renamed to prevent you from losing anything.