

Total RSS Documentation

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Section 1: Installation

System Requirements

- Joomla! 1.5.XX (get the latest version here).
Total RSS cannot be installed on Joomla! 1.0.XX. If your website uses Joomla! 1.0 then please consider using Author RSS instead. Author RSS was developed for Joomla 1.0.XX and has many of the same features as Total RSS.
- PHP4 or PHP5 (obtain the latest release for your version here).
Total RSS was developed and tested on PHP 4.4.8, PHP 5.2.6 is current recommended version as "Support for PHP 4 has been discontinued since 2007-12-31."
- MySQL 4 or 5 (obtain the latest release for your version here).
Will support any version that your Joomla installation supports, recommended to use UTF-8 as your collation

Generally, Total RSS will install and run on any platform which supports Joomla! 1.5.XX. As of the time of writing, this component was successfully installed and runs on the latest version, Joomla! 1.5.5. If you have difficulty or questions, please contact the author.

It is also recommended that you use a Linux server running Apache 2. While it is possible to run and install Joomla on Windows or other operating systems, this has not been tested. Total RSS was written using the new OS independent methods for file locations, and should work on any operating system and platform supported by Joomla!, however, no compatibility is guaranteed.

System Optionals

Total RSS was developed to be search engine friendly (it uses the JRoute/router.php Joomla! 1.5XX architecture). In order to take advantage of this you should use Apache 2 with a .htaccess file enabled and Mod Rewrite turned on. You may require additional tweaking such as specifying the base directory. For more information on using SEF please visit:

[http://docs.joomla.org/SEF URLs in Joomla! 1.5.](http://docs.joomla.org/SEF_URLs_in_Joomla!_1.5)

Installation

In order to install Total RSS you must first purchase and download the component to your desktop, workstation, or server. Total RSS installs like any other regular Joomla! component. If you are unfamiliar with the component installation process please search for a tutorial, this video provides a

quick example: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps1pK9w-yeg> (video not endorsed or created by Web Design Hero). You may also wish to view the Total RSS demo video available at WebDesignHero.com.

Section 2: Administration

In order to use Total RSS you must first install the component. Please see Section 1: Installation for more information.

After successful installation, you must first setup Total RSS before you can use it on the user frontend. Total RSS provides a few configuration options to help you setup the software for your Joomla! website. The first section is "Main Configuration", which is where you can change the way information is presented to your users. The second section "Select Sections and Categories" will allow you to choose the sections and categories for which you would like to display news feeds.

Main Configuration

There are four configurable options under this section. The first three options affect the display of the main page (MVC View: main) for the component and the last option is specific to the page which lists the feeds for the authors (MVC View: authorlist). Each option will now be explained

Show feeds by Author? [Yes/No]

If set to Yes, a link will be displayed for the Author List page. If set to No, then no link to the authors' feeds will be displayed. The default is Yes. You may wish to change this option to "No" if you do not want to provide RSS feeds for individual authors.

Show Section and Category RSS feeds? [Yes/No]

If set to Yes, a link will be displayed for the Section and Category List page. If set to No, then no link to this page will appear. The default is Yes. You may wish to change this option to "No" if you do not want to provide RSS feeds for individual sections and categories.

Show the Super Feed? [Yes/No]

If set to Yes, a link will be displayed for the Super Feed. If set to No, then no link to the Super Feed will be displayed. The default is Yes. The Super Feed is a direct link to an RSS feed which aggregates all of the selected sections and categories into one feed. You may wish to change this option to "No" if you do not want to provide a link to the Super Feed.

Display authors by name or username? [Name/Username]

If set to Name, then the Author List will be organized by the user's name. If set to username, the user's username (login name) will be used to organize the list. The difference between username and name is the following: When a user is created, they must create a username, which is used to log into the website and is guaranteed to be unique. The name, on the other hand, can be any value such as "John P. Smith", and is not guaranteed to be unique. Even if you have two users with the same name value, they will have their own unique RSS feed, but there would be no way for the user to determine which feed belonged to which user unless they first viewed the author's articles or feed. In most cases, you will want to use the Name field since it typically uses an author's real name. For the same reason, you may prefer to use an author's username in order to hide the real name or in cases where the real name is not appropriate or desired for your site.

Please remember to click the Save button at the top of the page after making any changes or your changes will be lost. A confirmation message will appear after a successful save.

Select Sections and Categories

On this page, you will be presented a list of all the sections and categories on your Joomla installation. By default, no sections or categories will be selected. This is because you must explicitly select the sections and categories for which you wish to display feeds. Total RSS was designed like this to prevent accidentally displaying feeds for categories or section which you do not displayed. Also note, if you add more sections or categories, you must explicitly select them here as they will not be automatically added to the front-end display when you create a new section or category.

In order to select the sections and categories you would like to display, make sure the check-box in front of the category or section is selected. You should first select all the Sections you want to display, then select the categories under that section. Please note, since categories are a organized hierarchically under sections, if you do not select the parent section, you cannot display the category feed either. If your category feed does not appear on the front-end, make sure that you have selected its parent section as well. Likewise, since no article can be in any given section without also being in a child category, if you do not select any categories under a section, then the section feed will be empty.

Please remember to click the Save button at the top of the page after making any changes or your changes will be lost. A confirmation message will appear after a successful save.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- Is Total RSS open source? Is it GPL?

Total RSS is commercial open source software. Not all software that is free of cost (gratis) is also free in the sense that it can be modified and redistributed (libertas). While there is an initial financial cost for Total RSS, you are free to use and modify the software in any manner you see fit. The financial cost helps defray the many hours it took to produce this software for your use and also encourages the author to actively pursue this and other open source projects.

While the GPL (GNU General Public License) is a common open source license, it is not the only open source licensing agreement. While the GPL is popular, the author has decided to distribute this work under a Creative Commons open source license. Specifically, the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License. Please visit the Creative Commons website for more information and the text of this license agreement.

- Why can't I sort the Author List by alias?

At the time of writing, there is an undocumented security flaw related to the use and storage of a user's author alias. While testing the usage of author alias for the author list, it was determined that there was no way to add enough security measures while at the same time allowing efficiently functionality to include this feature. Some functionality towards the use of author alias has been developed, and the deprecated code is available in the appropriate source files. You may wish to extend and implement the display of author's by author alias at your own risk, and this should be left to professional programmers.

While there is an understandable desire to list and create feeds using the author alias, it is not possible at this time without modifying core Joomla files. The author believes that modifying the Joomla! core files can lead to greater security, but may also compromise other core and third party components from proper functionality. Until such time that the Joomla core improves upon this security bug, author alias will NOT be officially supported.

- Can I edit the HTML output to better fit my theme?

Yes! Total RSS was written using the MVC framework. As a result, you can modify any MVC view's template file to better suit your needs or design requirements. The author has attempted to minimize the amount of PHP in each template file in order to simplify editing. If you are familiar with HTML and have a minimal understanding of PHP, you can easily modify the template files.

- What about SEF urls? Sh404 support?

Total RSS is built to be compliant with the Joomla! 1.5.XX SEF methods. This is accomplished using the JRoute class to build URLs and the component's router.php file to build and interpret SEF urls. Using the built in support for SEF urls should work as long as you have properly configured SEF support. This may include enabling mod_rewrite and editing your .htaccess file settings for your specific configuration. SEF urls have been tested with a standard LAMP environment, there is no support for non-Linux or non-Apache setups.

There is no additional plug-ins for sh404 or any other third party SEF extension. Configuring and extending support to third party applications is left up to the Joomla administrator.