



User Manual

for pollXT version 1.2x

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

This document describes the usage of POLLXT. POLLXT is free software licensed under GNU/GPL. POLLXT can be downloaded at www.joomlaxt.com.

POLLXT is intended to be used with the Joomla! Content Management System. Joomla! is free software, licensed under GNU/GPL. Joomla! is available from www.joomla.org.

1.1.1 ABOUT POLLXT

POLLXT is an application to conduct surveys and polls on your website. It's a component (*an Add-on*) for a Content Management System called Joomla! and can't be used without Joomla!.

Originally POLLXT was an extension of the poll application delivered with Joomla!, but it has evolved into an completely independent component.

It's intended to be used for private homepages, clubs, small businesses etc... for everyone who wants to interact with the users of his website to get more information about them, their needs, wishes and interests.

We are doing our best to make POLLXT as stable as possible, but it's neither 100% secure nor is it guaranteed bug free. Huge polls might cause performance problems, hence it's not recommended for big professional business surveys.

1.1.2 FEATURES

POLLXT has a lot of configuration parameters, which are explained in detail in the complete manual (coming soon). The most important features are:

- Easy to use administration interface
 - Global settings for all polls
 - Highly configurable options for frontend display
 - Various options for results display
 - Security settings, incl. Cookie, Username and IP.Check
- Online upgrade
- Multi language capabilities (through Joomfish)
- Configuration options for polls, e.g.
 - Single/multiple voting, restrict to registered users
 - Publishing times and dates
 - Pictures for the poll, questions or options
 - Unlimited no. of questions and options
 - Redirect after voting (to results or URL)
 - Configurable intro and "thank you" texts
- Highly configurable questions and options
 - Email confirmation

- Various question types (radio, checkbox, listbox and multiselect)
- freetext fields and user defined new options
- Obligatory questions
- Sending of results via email
- Import of standard polls

1.1.3 EXTENSIONS


Besides the main component, that is required to use of POLLXT, several extensions exist, that make the use of POLLXT even more flexible. These extensions all have to be installed separately and are available from <http://www.joomlaXT.com>. Currently the following extensions exist:

- Administrator module: Allows quick access to poll maintenance in Joomla administration
- PollXT module: Displays polls in the module position instead of the main screen
- PollXT list module: Displays a list of available polls
- PollXT plug-in: Displays polls (or results) in content items
- PollXT search plug-in: Integrates polls into Joomla! Search

2 QUICK START

The Quick-Start Guide is intended for experienced Joomla-Administrators, who quickly want to set up a poll, without reading a lot of documentation.

2.1 INSTALLATION

The Installation is straight forward. Download the latest version of com_pollxt.zip from <http://www.joomlaxt.com>. To install the component using the standard Joomla! component installer go to your administration site, Installers – Components, browse for the file and press the “Upload file & Install” button .

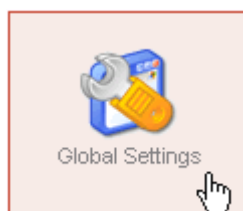
Usually evrything works out alright and a message will be displayed to confirm the successful installation. If not, check the forum at <http://www.joomlaxt.com> for known problems.

2.2 BASIC CONFIGURATION

After installation you can do some basic configuration. On the administration site go to Components – PollXT. The PollXT Control Panel will be displayed:



The first step is to check the global configuration:



Usually the default settings are fine for a first test, however it’s recommended to quickly browse through the settings to make you familiar with the possibilities of POLLXT and to adjust them to your needs.

On the “Frontend”-Tab you have some configuration options, that will influence the appearance of the poll at the user frontend.

You can e.g. determine which polls are displayed in which order and how the voting and result buttons are rendered.

The following settings will e.g. display one random Poll to your users:

Polls to Display:

Order to display Polls:

On the “Results” tab you have the possibility to influence the appearance of the results. E.g. you might configure that results should be displayed in a pop-up window.

On the security tab you can enable or disable the different security options to prevent multiple votings of the same user (if it’s not a “multiple vote” poll). It’s recommended to enable all of the options. However if you experience problems (e.g. because you have multiple users working from the same IP) you might switch some of them off.

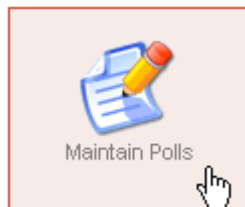
The “Miscellaneous” tab currently only allows you to change the root path for images. If you have a lot of images in and/or below “/images/stories” you might want to change the path, to decrease the no. of pictures in the poll administration. This can reduce loading times.



Save your settings, even if you didn’t change anything, to make sure all settings are stored correctly in the database.

2.3 CREATION OF FIRST POLL

After finalizing the global settings, we can start to create our first poll. You might want to start with the “Sample Poll” created with the installation to get a first impression, however we are creating a poll from scratch now.



Return to the PollXT control panel and press the “Poll Maintenance” button. An overview of all existing polls is displayed with some basic information on the polls, e.g. the no. of questions of the poll and if they are published or not. On this screen you can also view the results or clear all the results of a poll.

To create a new poll press the “New” button in the tool bar:



First screen is the Configuration Tab:

Your poll has to have a title:

Title:

As we did not install any modules yet, the poll is intended to be shown in the component:

Shown in:

For testing purpose I'd recommend to allow multiple voting (otherwise you can test your poll exactly once):

Multiple Voting:

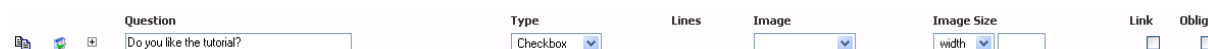
All the other settings are not really relevant for a first test, however you might want to adjust them to your requirements.

On the **Questions** Questions Tab the main information for the poll is created. A poll can have multiple questions, a question can have multiple options (i.e. possible answers). The questions and options are created in the Questions-Tab.

A new question is created by pressing the "New Question" button **Add question**.

A question either has to have a text or a picture (or both).

The question type determines how the options are displayed. Radio buttons and List boxes only allow one value to be selected, check boxes and multi-select allow multiple selections. by selecting the "obligatory" parameter you can also define that a question has to be answered. If the question is not answered, an error message will be displayed and voting is not possible.

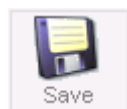

 Question: Do you like the tutorial? Type: Checkbox Lines: Image: Image Size: width Link: Oblig.:

After you created a question, you have to create the options... First press the small **+** icon in front of the question, then press the **add option** button. Press the button multiple times to get multiple options.

ID	Option	Image	Image Size	Link	Freetext	Rows	Cols	new Option?
0	yes		width	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			never
0	no		width	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			never

An option either needs a text or a picture (or both). You can also allow a "freetext" entry. This enables the user to enter his own answer (Typically an "Others" option). These freetexts might become new options automatically (depending on the "new option?" setting).

Finally you can configure the appearance of the results **Results**. If you want to send the results to someone by email, you can configure that here, too.



Save your poll and you're done. You have created your first poll. Remember the ID displayed in the poll overview and return to the control panel.

2.4 PUBLISHING THE POLL

Finally you have to make the poll available to your users. To do that, you have to create a menu item. From your administration site select an appropriate menu from the "Menu" menu and create a new menu by clicking the "New" button::



Choose the “Component” type:



Enter a name and select the component “pollxt”:

Name:

Component:

- News Feeds
- OpenSEF
- Polls
- pollxt**
- Remository

Press the “Apply” button:



You now have various parameters. The important ones are displayed right on top of the page: To display the poll directly, select the “Direct Voting” option and enter the ID you have previously created.

Parameters

Task Direct Voting Show List

Poll ID

You alternatively can display a list of all available polls. Then you have to select the “Show List” option. You also have the possibility to configure the layout of the list .



Save your new menu entry. Now you can start voting from the frontend. Congratulations!

3 FURTHER INFORMATION

3.1 THE COMPLETE POLLXT MANUAL

A complete manual for PollXT, explaining all the options and settings will soon be available on <http://www.joomlaxt.com> for a small fee. Make sure to check the site regularly.

3.2 JOOMLAXT.COM

To get further information go to <http://www.joomlaxt.com>. In the **forum** you will find answers to a lot of common problems. If you don't find an answer you can post your questions.

There's also a "Tipps & Tricks" section on joomlaxt.com where you can find additional hints on how to achieve certain results with pollXT.

3.3 JOOMLA.ORG

On <http://www.joomla.org> you'll find additional information on Joomla! in general, a very lively community in the forum and of course the latest Joomla!-versions and news.

4 SUPPORT JOOMLAXT

Maintaining and especially supporting PollXT (and other components) and the JoomlaXT.com-website is very time consuming and of course costs some money (hosting of the server etc...). If you are using P_{OLL}XT, especially if you're doing some kind of business, I'd really appreciate, if you'd donate some money to further support the development and support of PollXT:

