

Includes complete coverage of Joomla! 2.5

WRITTEN BY
RICK SHREVES

Joomla!

BIBLE

THE COMPREHENSIVE, TUTORIAL RESOURCE

EXPLORE THE LATEST
TOOLS AND FEATURES

MASTER INSIDE TRICKS
AND BEST PRACTICES

DISCOVER WHAT YOU
NEED, WHEN YOU NEED IT

SECOND EDITION

Joomla!® Bible, Second Edition

Table of Contents

[Part I: Getting Started with Joomla!](#)

[Chapter 1: Introducing the Joomla! Content Management System](#)

[Discovering Open Source Content Management](#)

[Deciding to use a CMS](#)

[Deciding to use open source](#)

[Determining whether open source is right for you](#)

[Discovering Joomla!](#)

[Deciding to use Joomla!](#)

[Complying with the Joomla! open source license](#)

[Understanding the Joomla! Architecture](#)

[Working with the Joomla! CMS](#)

[Working with the Joomla! Platform](#)

[Appreciating the underlying technologies](#)

[Making sense of the Joomla! release schedules](#)

[Engaging with the Joomla! Community](#)

[Understanding the structure of the community](#)

[Becoming a part of the community](#)

[Summary](#)

Chapter 2: Obtaining and Installing Joomla!

Getting the Installation Files

[Exploring the JoomlaCode site](#)

[Determining which files you need](#)

Meeting the Technical Requirements

[Understanding the server requirements](#)

[Providing access for site visitors and administrators](#)

Installing Joomla!

[Creating a local development site](#)

[Installing on a web-hosting service](#)

[Running the Joomla! installer](#)

Summary

Chapter 3: Taking a First Look at Joomla!

Exploring the Front End

[Understanding the content organizational structure](#)

[Understanding the menu structures](#)

[Exposing the role of modules](#)

Exploring the Back End

[Understanding the various admin interfaces](#)

[Touring the main admin navigation menu](#)

Summary

Chapter 4: Getting the Most from Site Configuration

Exploring the Global Configuration Manager

[Navigating the Global Configuration Manager](#)

[Configuring components](#)

[Using the Global Configuration Manager Workspaces](#)

[Working with the Site tab](#)

[Configuring the System tab options](#)

[Modifying the Server tab options](#)

[Summary](#)

[Part II: Working with Content and Users](#)

[Chapter 5: Managing Content](#)

[Creating Articles](#)

[Introducing the Article Manager](#)

[Exploring the Add New Article workspace](#)

[Controlling introductory text](#)

[Creating multipage articles](#)

[Managing Existing Articles](#)

[Publishing and unpublishing articles](#)

[Featuring articles](#)

[Modifying articles](#)

[Copying and moving articles](#)

[Archiving articles](#)

[Deleting articles](#)

[Understanding Content Hierarchies in Joomla!](#)

[Using Categories to Create Content Hierarchies](#)

[Introducing the Category Manager](#)

[Adding a new category to your site](#)

[Copying and moving categories](#)

[Editing categories](#)

[Archiving and unarchiving categories](#)

[Deleting categories](#)

[Creating common content structures](#)

[Working with the Global Article Manager](#)

[Configuring default article formatting](#)

[Modifying the layout of the article editing page](#)

[Configuring category options](#)

[Tailoring the blog and list layouts](#)

[Managing integration and permissions](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 6: Working with Editors and Media](#)

[Working with the Editor Options in Joomla!](#)

[Using the TinyMCE editor](#)

[Creating content without a WYSIWYG editor](#)

[Introducing the Joomla! Media Manager](#)

[Working with Media Files](#)

[Uploading files](#)

[Organizing files](#)

[Viewing file information](#)

[Displaying media on your site](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 7: Employing Advanced Content Management Techniques](#)

[Using Content Display Modules](#)

[Creating custom content in modules](#)

[Displaying the most recent content](#)

[Displaying the most popular content](#)

[Giving visitors access to related content](#)

[Displaying random images](#)

[Placing modules inside articles](#)

[Bringing External Content into Your Site](#)

[Using iframe wrappers](#)

[Displaying syndicated content](#)

[Managing Content from the Front End](#)

[Understanding the advantages and the limitations](#)

[Enabling user-created content](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 8: Working with the Menu System](#)

[Introducing the Menu Manager](#)

[Creating and Managing Menus](#)

[Adding a new menu to your site](#)

[Editing and deleting menus](#)

[Working with the Menu Item Manager](#)

[Creating and Managing Menu Items](#)

[Adding new menu items to a menu](#)

[Understanding the various menu item types](#)

[Creating multi-tier menus](#)

[Editing and deleting menu items](#)

[Controlling Access to Menus and Menu Items](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 9: Managing the Home Page of Your Site](#)

[Creating the Home Page of Your Site](#)

[Working with the default content layout options](#)

[Using a distinct template for the home page](#)

[Publishing Articles on the Home Page](#)

[Displaying featured articles](#)

[Building a page without featured articles](#)

[Publishing Component Output on the Home Page](#)

[Publishing Modules on the Home Page](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 10: Managing Your Site's Users](#)

[Introducing the User Manager](#)

[Understanding the Default User Hierarchy](#)

[Classifying front-end users](#)

[Classifying back-end users](#)

[Adding Users to the System](#)

[Creating a new user](#)

[Working with the New User workspace](#)

[Managing Existing Users](#)

[Editing user accounts](#)

[Deleting users](#)

[Blocking users](#)

[Adding and Editing User Groups](#)

[Enabling Front-End User Registration](#)

[Configuring user registration](#)

[Using the Login module](#)

[Creating a login page](#)

[Redirecting users after login or logout](#)

[Creating a user registration page](#)

[Enabling the Username Reminder function](#)

[Enabling the Password Reset function](#)

[Working with the User Profile Page](#)

[Controlling Access to Content and Functionalities](#)

[Deciding what users can see](#)

[Controlling what users can do](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 11: Creating a Multilingual Website](#)

[Introducing the Language Manager](#)

[Installing New Language Packs](#)

[Modifying a Language Pack](#)

[Enabling Multilingual Content](#)

[Configuring the site to support a fully multilingual presentation](#)

[Creating the content structures to support multiple languages](#)

[Enabling the supporting plug-ins](#)

[Summary](#)

[Part III: Working with Components, Modules, and Plug-Ins](#)

[Chapter 12: Using the Banner Manager](#)

[Introducing the Banner Manager](#)

[Configuring the Banner Component](#)

[Managing Clients](#)

[Exploring the Banner Client Manager](#)

[Creating clients](#)

[Editing clients](#)

[Archiving clients](#)

[Deleting clients](#)

[Managing Categories](#)

[Exploring the Banner Categories Manager](#)

[Creating categories](#)

[Editing categories](#)

[Archiving categories](#)

[Deleting categories](#)

[Managing Banners](#)

[Creating banners](#)

[Editing banners](#)

[Archiving banners](#)

[Deleting banners](#)

[Tracking banner performance](#)

[Using the Banner Module](#)

[Creating a new Banner module](#)

[Enabling context-sensitive banner display](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 13: Working with the Contacts Component](#)

[Introducing the Contact Manager](#)

[Configuring the Contacts Component](#)

[Managing Contacts](#)

[Adding a new contact](#)

[Editing contacts](#)

[Archiving contacts](#)

[Deleting contacts](#)

[Managing Categories](#)

[Creating a new category](#)

[Editing categories](#)

[Archiving categories](#)

[Deleting categories](#)

[Creating Contact Forms](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 14: Using the Newsfeed Component](#)

[Introducing the Newsfeed Manager](#)

[Configuring the Newsfeed Component](#)

[Managing Your Newsfeeds](#)

[Adding a newsfeed](#)

[Editing a newsfeed](#)

[Archiving a newsfeed](#)

[Deleting a newsfeed](#)

[Managing Newsfeed Categories](#)

[Creating a new category](#)

[Editing categories](#)

[Archiving categories](#)

[Deleting categories](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 15: Using the Site Search Components](#)

[Creating an Effective Site Search](#)

[Working with Joomla! basic search](#)

[Enhancing site search with Smart Search](#)

[Providing visitors with the right search interface](#)

[Configuring the Site Search Components](#)

[Managing Indexed Content](#)

[Tracking Site Search Activity](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 16: Using the Weblinks Component](#)

[Introducing the Weblinks Manager](#)

[Configuring the Weblinks Component](#)

[Managing Weblinks](#)

[Adding a new link](#)

[Editing a weblink](#)

[Archiving a weblink](#)

[Deleting a weblink](#)

[Managing Weblinks Categories](#)

[Creating a new category](#)

[Editing categories](#)

[Archiving categories](#)

[Deleting categories](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 17: Working with the Site Modules](#)

[Introducing the Site Module Manager](#)

[Creating new modules](#)

[Creating duplicate modules](#)

[Editing modules](#)

[Deleting modules](#)

[Reviewing the Site Modules](#)

[Publishing your archives with the Archived Articles module](#)

[Drawing attention with the Articles - Newsflash module](#)

[Connecting related content with the Articles - Related Articles module](#)

[Displaying your categories with the Articles Categories module](#)

[Publishing the Articles Category module](#)

[Managing advertising with the Banner module](#)

[Enhancing navigation with the Breadcrumbs module](#)

[Creating content with the Custom HTML module](#)

[Adding external content with the Feed Display module](#)

[Adding the Footer module](#)

[Language Switcher module](#)

[Highlighting the most recent content with the Latest News module](#)

[Publishing the Latest Users module](#)

[Displaying the Login module](#)

[Creating navigation with the Menu module](#)

[Featuring popular content with the Most Read Content module](#)

[Displaying images with the Random Image module](#)

[Providing site search with the Search module](#)

[Enhancing searches with the Smart Search module](#)

[Showing site information with the Statistics module](#)

[Adding RSS with the Syndicate Feeds module](#)

[Publishing links via the Weblinks module](#)

[Showing activity with the Who's Online module](#)

[Displaying external content with the Wrapper module](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 18: Working with the Administrator Modules](#)

[Introducing the Administrator Modules Manager](#)

[Creating new modules](#)

[Creating duplicate modules](#)

[Editing modules](#)

[Deleting modules](#)

[Reviewing the Administrator Modules](#)

[Publishing the Admin Sub-menu module](#)

[Configuring the Administrator Menu module](#)

[Creating custom output with the Custom HTML module](#)

[Displaying external content with the Feed Display module](#)

[Publishing the Joomla! Version Information module](#)

[Displaying the latest articles with the Latest News module](#)

[Logged-in Users module](#)

[Using the Login Form module](#)

[Multilanguage Status utility module](#)

[Displaying popular content with the Popular Articles module](#)

[Using the administrator's Quick Icons module](#)

[Viewing site stats with the Statistics module](#)

[Using the Title module](#)

[Enabling the Toolbar module](#)

[Configuring the User Status module](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 19: Working with Plug-Ins](#)

[Introducing the Plug-in Manager](#)

[Modifying plug-ins](#)

[Reviewing the Default Plug-ins](#)

[Using Authentication plug-ins](#)

[Captcha plug-ins](#)

[Content plug-ins](#)

[Editors plug-ins](#)

[Editors XTD plug-ins](#)

[Extension plug-ins](#)

[Finder plug-ins](#)

[Quickicon plug-ins](#)

[Search plug-ins](#)

[System plug-ins](#)

[Enabling User plug-ins](#)

[Summary](#)

[Part IV: Customizing and Extending the System](#)

[Chapter 20: Customizing the Appearance of Joomla!](#)

[Exploring the Default Templates](#)

[Reviewing the site templates](#)

[Reviewing the administrator templates](#)

[Understanding How Templates Work](#)

[Locating the template directories](#)

[Reviewing the key files](#)

[Using the Joomla! Template Manager](#)

[Viewing templates and styles](#)

[Setting the default style](#)

[Assigning styles](#)

[Customizing Template Styles](#)

[Working with Templates](#)

[Modifying an existing template](#)

[Creating a New Template](#)

[Overriding Module and Component Output](#)

[Customizing view templates](#)

[Creating Module Chrome](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 21: Customizing Joomla! Functionality](#)

[Understanding the Basic Principles](#)

[Finding the Right Tools](#)

[Assembling your tool kit](#)

[Adding extensions that aid customization](#)

[Customizing Components](#)

[Introducing Component Architecture](#)

[Understanding the anatomy of a typical component](#)

[Creating a new component](#)

[Customizing Modules](#)

[Understanding the elements of a typical module](#)

[Creating a new module](#)

[Working with Plug-ins](#)

[Understanding plug-in architecture](#)

[Creating a new plug-in](#)

[Packaging a plug-in](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 22: Extending Your Site](#)

[Finding Extensions](#)

[Working with the Extension Manager](#)

[Introducing the Extension Installer](#)

[Uninstalling extensions](#)

[Finding the Right Extension for the Job](#)

[Improving content management](#)

[Improving site administration](#)

[Enhancing search functionality](#)

[Enhancing menus and navigation](#)

[Building complex forms](#)

[Adding a gallery](#)

[Adding a forum](#)

[Enhancing SEO](#)

[Adding Web 2.0 functionality](#)

[Improving Ad Management](#)

[Summary](#)

[Part V: Overseeing Website Maintenance and Management](#)

[Chapter 23: Keeping Your Site Secure and Up to Date](#)

[Implementing Security Best Practices](#)

[Securing the Joomla! core](#)

[Securing third-party extensions](#)
[Keeping Up With Security Notices](#)
[Managing Site Maintenance](#)
[Taking a site offline](#)
[Backing up your site](#)
[Restoring from a backup](#)
[Regaining access to your administration system](#)
[Upgrading the core with Joomla! Update](#)
[Updating your site extensions](#)
[Summary](#)

[Chapter 24: Managing Performance and Accessibility](#)

[Employing Effective Cache Management](#)

[Setting the site cache](#)
[Enabling page caching](#)
[Caching module output](#)
[Clearing the cache](#)
[Purging the expired cache](#)

[Improving Content Performance](#)

[Avoiding large files](#)
[Saving images in the right format](#)
[Optimizing images](#)
[Keeping your code clean](#)
[Avoiding tables](#)
[Using image rotators](#)
[Using wrappers](#)
[Limiting use of animation](#)

[Restricting use of Flash](#)

[Limiting streaming](#)

[Tuning Joomla! Performance](#)

[Enabling server-side compression](#)

[Disabling unnecessary features](#)

[Minifying your CSS and JavaScript](#)

[Implementing Google Analytics](#)

[Optimizing your template](#)

[Being selective about extensions](#)

[Skipping live stat reporting](#)

[Disabling SEF URLs](#)

[Optimizing your database](#)

[Maintaining Accessibility](#)

[Assessing the accessibility of Joomla!](#)

[Improving template accessibility](#)

[Creating accessible content](#)

[Summary](#)

[Chapter 25: Making a Site Search-Engine Friendly](#)

[Creating Search Engine-Friendly URLs](#)

[Creating Custom Error Pages](#)

[Working with Metadata and Page Titles](#)

[Setting the metadata](#)

[Setting the page titles](#)

[Summary](#)

[Part VI: Appendixes](#)

[Appendix A: Choosing a Sample Data Set](#)

[Appendix B: Locating Key Files](#)

[Appendix C: Installing XAMPP](#)

[Appendix D: Installing MAMP](#)

[Appendix E: Implementing e-Commerce with VirtueMart](#)



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Ric Shreves



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About the Author

Ric Shreves is a partner at water & stone (www.waterandstone.com), a web development agency focused on open source content management systems, or CMS. He has been building websites professionally since 1999 and writing about technology for almost as long. He has published several books on open source content management systems, including titles on Mambo, Joomla!, and Drupal. This is his fifth title with Wiley, having previously released Visual Blueprint titles on Mambo and Ubuntu Linux, as well as *Drupal 7 Bible* and the first edition of *Joomla! Bible*.

Ric is an American who has lived in Asia since 1995. He currently resides in Bali, Indonesia. You can learn more about Ric and his most recent work by visiting his website at <http://ricshreves.net/>.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Wiley for asking me to return as the author of the second edition of Joomla! Bible. We worked together to produce the first edition three years ago. In the intervening years, much has changed with both the web CMS landscape in general and with Joomla! in particular. Much of my excitement for this revision text stems from the fact that the newest version of Joomla! is a major step for the project — one that I hope receives the broad audience that it deserves. Having the chance to dig into Joomla! 3 in depth while researching and writing this title has been a brilliant learning experience and has left me with a very positive view of the newest version of Joomla! — something that I hope I have communicated adequately in the pages of this book.

This project ran on an incredible schedule, largely due to the measured guidance of my project editor Jade Williams. We had a very aggressive deadline to meet and without Jade's experience and ability to prioritize, I never would have made it. I also want to say thank you to Stephanie McComb, a Senior Acquisitions Editor at Wiley. She's the person responsible for pushing through both the Joomla! and Drupal Bible titles at Wiley, and has been a steady champion for these projects internally.

Introduction

Welcome to Joomla! Bible. As with all books in the Bible series, you can expect to find both hands-on tutorials and real-world applications, as well as references and background information that provide a context for what you are learning. This book is a comprehensive resource

on the Joomla! open source content management system. After you have read Joomla! Bible, you will be well prepared to build and maintain a Joomla!-based website.

Joomla! is in the forefront of one of the most dynamic trends in open source software: the rise of open source content management systems. Historically, a web CMS was a very expensive investment. Open source has changed all that. There are now a number of options that allow website developers and website owners to tap into the power of CMS-based websites.

Of all the web CMS options that exist in the market today, perhaps none is more popular than Joomla! — certainly none is growing more quickly. The Joomla! system powers millions of websites and is one of the dominant forces shaping the way people interact with information online. It has empowered developers and website owners around the world to build the websites that allow them to express themselves, to sell their products, to publicize their news, and to build communities. With the arrival of Joomla! 3, the system moves into new ground with expanded functionality and support for mobile devices.

If you are a designer looking to build functional websites for your clients, Joomla! is an excellent tool. If you are a developer looking for a framework upon which to develop custom functionality, Joomla! can meet your needs. And if you are simply a website owner wanting to take control of your website, then you need look no further than Joomla!. Whatever your goals, welcome to Joomla! Bible.

In keeping with the comprehensive theme of the Bible series, this book seeks to provide a range of information suitable to a wide variety of potential readers. While I have strived to present information that is relevant to the

largest possible group of users, certain sections of this book are logically more relevant to certain categories of users.

If you are looking to take your first steps with an open source content management system, the book progresses logically from the first section of introductory materials through the final sections on customization and website maintenance.

If you are already familiar with Joomla!, the opening sections will probably add little to your understanding of the system, but the sections that follow will help you unlock its full potential. Joomla! is a complex system, and the middle sections of this book explore in depth how to get the most out of it.

If you are a designer or developer, the middle and final sections will be your focus, as they take you through creating and configuring a Joomla! website and cover the basics of customizing the appearance and functionality of the system.

Finally, if you are a website owner or administrator, this book should serve as a reference, providing you with an easy-to-use guide to the ongoing ownership of a Joomla! website.

Is This Book for You?

This second edition of Joomla! Bible has been extensively updated to focus on coverage of the Joomla! 3 series of releases. With the arrival of Joomla! 3, the system has seen a complete change in the administration interface, new functionality, and numerous changes in the work process.

This book provides new users with all the information they need to install and configure a Joomla! website.

Thereafter, the book stands as a reference for the various content management and component functionalities, all of which are documented and explained in detail. New users will also find the sections on maintaining and securing the system particularly helpful.

If you are familiar with Joomla! but ready to move up to the new Joomla! 3, this book provides all the information you need to get up to speed with the new interfaces quickly. If you are familiar with the first edition of this book, you will find the organizational schema to be very similar, but the contents have been almost completely refreshed and in many cases, expanded.

How This Book Is Organized

This book is divided into six parts, including an Appendix with useful resources.

Part I: Getting Started with Joomla!

Part I covers the basics of getting started with Joomla!. It assumes you do not know anything about the system. I introduce you to Joomla! and open source and content management systems and then walk through obtaining and installing Joomla!. The third chapter takes you on a guided tour of the front end and back end of the default Joomla! installation. The final chapter in this section covers getting the most out of Joomla's many configuration options.

Part II: Working with Content and Users