

Avatar/Gravatar

plugin for Joomla! 1.5

version 1.11

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Table of contents

License	3
Acknowledgments	3
About Avatar/Gravatar Plugin	3
What is Gravatar and Avatar?	3
Before You Install	4
User Meta Plugin configuration	4
yvComment extension configuration	5
php.ini configuration	6
Installation	8
Configuration	8
Advanced Templating	9

License




This document is released under the [Joomla! Electronic Documentation License v 1.0](#). This plugin is released under [GNU General Public License version 2](#).

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Yuri Volkov for his help and ideas which both made this extension better. Thanks go also to Amy Stephen for taking care of me and other participants. Finally, special thanks go to Michał Sobkowiak for translating support.

About Avatar/Gravatar Plugin

Avatar/Gravatar Plugin is very advanced extension. It can work in three modes:

MODE	ENABLED	DISABLED
Header	 We are Volunteers Written by Administrator Wednesday, 07 July 2004 09:54 The Joomla! Core Team consists of volunteer developers. Work Groups of dedicated community members have often copied but never surpassed. Joomla! has some industry standards. Joomla! 1.5 is a major leap forward. The project has a nice balance of legacy development (success) to some young guns like Johan Janssens are bringing in new talent. In open source development people considered less sound should their single lead developer	We are Volunteers Written by Administrator Wednesday, 07 July 2004 09:54 The Joomla! Core Team consists of volunteer developers. Work Groups of dedicated community members have often copied but never surpassed. Joomla! has some industry standards. Joomla! 1.5 is a major leap forward. The project has a nice balance of legacy development (success) to some young guns like Johan Janssens are bringing in new talent. In open source development people considered less sound should their single lead developer
Comment	<i>Registered user:</i>  I want my Gravatar! testing to see if it happens. <i>Guest:</i>  Another guest avatar THIS GUEST DOESN'T HAVE ACCOUNT C	<i>Registered user:</i> I want my Gravatar! testing to see if it happens. <i>Guest:</i> Another guest avatar THIS GUEST DOESN'T HAVE ACCOUNT C
Mixed (Header and Comment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Header enabled and Comment enabled ● Header enabled and Comment disabled ● Header disabled and Comment enabled ● Header disabled and Comment disabled 	

There is separate configuration for displaying avatars of guests and registered users. Every registered user has personal configuration provided by *User Meta System Plugin*. Guests's configuration is located in configuration of *Avatar/Gravatar Plugin*.

What is Gravatar and Avatar?

Avatar is an image that represents a person in virtual reality. Usually, this image is not larger than 80x80 px. **Gravatar** (gravatar.com) is site which helps you with creating and placing your own avatar. All you need is e-mail address. Once you have signed up you can upload your avatar image and soon you will be seeing it on gravatar enabled weblogs. Avatar/Gravatar Plugin makes your Joomla! gravatar enabled. So what is a difference between both words in the plugin name? Let's take a look on the following table:

PARAMETER	AVATAR	GRAVATAR
own server	Yes	No
example path	http://www.example.com/image.png	example@gmail.com or http://www.gravatar.com/avatar.php?gravatar_id=5ad542253afcfc18e5878cca3d47cba

Gravatar is a special avatar. When you create avatar, Gravatar server will provide your avatar for you, you don't have to store it yourself. In Avatar/Gravatar extension, all you need to show your gravatar, is your e-mail address. You don't have to enter entire http path. That's why Gravatar is so comfortable by comparison to normal avatar placed on some server.

Before You Install

Before you install Avatar/Gravatar Plugin, you have to check if you have meet following requirements:

CRUCIAL	REQUIREMENT	VERSION
Yes	Kevin Devine's User Meta System Plugin installed	>= 1.0
No, optional	Yuri Volkov's yvComment extension installed (comments system)	>= 1.12
No, optional	access to the php.ini file	-

User Meta Plugin configuration

As can you see, to install Avatar/Gravatar Plugin in basic mode, you have to install User Meta System Plugin, only. Remember that after installing this extension, you have to enable it. Now, when you know what to do, you are ready to begin installation one of the main component. Enter following path into your web browser:

http://joomla.org/gf/download/frsrelease/6626/21394/add_to_user.xml, and download file.

Insert content of downloaded file before `</params>` closing tag (`</params>`) in the `Joomla/plugins/system/usermeta/user.xml` file. Remember to place code between `<params></params>` tags. Look at following code to see how to do it:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<form>
  <params>
    <param name="admin_language" type="languages"
client="administrator" default="" label="Back-end Language"
description="paramAdminLanguage" />
    <param name="language" type="languages" client="site" default=""
label="Front-end Language" description="paramLanguage" />
    <param name="editor" type="editors" default="" label="User Editor"
description="WYSIWYG Editor for this User" />
    <param name="helpsite" type="helpsites" default="" label="Help
Site" description="Help Site for this User" />
    <param name="timezone" type="timezones" default="" label="Time
Zone" description="Time Zone for this User" />

    <param name="@spacer" type="spacer" default="" label=""
description="" />
  </params>
</form>
```

```

    <param name="avatar" type="text" default="" label="Avatar
URL/Gravatar username" description="Enter URL to your avatar on server or enter
Gravatar username (e-mail address)" />

    <param name="user_is_set_header_avatar" type="radio" default="1"
label="Show header avatar" description="When you are logged in, you can choose
whether header's avatar placed in the header of article will be showed or not">
        <option value="1">Yes</option>
        <option value="0">No</option>
    </param>

    <param name="user_is_set_comment_avatar" type="radio" default="1"
label="Show comment avatar" description="When you are logged in, you can choose
whether comment's avatar placed in comments of article will be showed or not.
Option available only when yvcomment extension installed">
        <option value="1">Yes</option>
        <option value="0">No</option>
    </param>

    <param name="@spacer" type="spacer" default="" label=""
description="" />
</params>
</form>

```


Bold, green text is appended code from downloaded file. Now, each user has additional personal parameters (avatar path, and other, two configurable things which will be responsible for displaying or not avatars/gravatars on site).




















yvComment extension configuration

As you can see in the above table, this extension is not required for using of Avatar/Gravatar Plugin, but if you have already installed yvComment, great! You can integrate Avatar/Gravatar Plugin with this comment system, and then you will be able to display avatars or gravatars of comment's author. Plugin also works for guest comments showing default avatar image (defined in Default avatar parameter) or guest's gravatar if available.

How does it work? When a guest is creating new comment, one of the things that have to be filled is e-mail address. This e-mail is used to check if there is an account using it on gravatar.com server. If yes avatar is retrieved from gravatar.com, if not default image is shown.

How to make a yvComment work with Avatar/Gravatar? You have to go to the configuration of yvComment Plugin, and change *Execute content plugins* from *No* to *Yes*. Now, avatars/gravatars of registered users and optionally guests will be showed next to the every comment. Just take a look and compare:

	Before	After
PREVIEW NEW COMMENT	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Sample comment</p> <p>This article is very cool!</p> </div> <p>Add your comment</p> <p>Your name: <input type="text" value="Tomasz"/></p> <p>Your email: <input type="text" value="depresz@gmail.com"/></p> <p>Subject: <input type="text" value="Sample comment"/></p> <p><input type="text" value="This article is very cool!"/></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Sample comment</p> <p>This article is very cool!</p> </div> <p>Add your comment</p> <p>Your name: <input type="text" value="Tomasz"/></p> <p>Your email: <input type="text" value="depresz@gmail.com"/></p> <p>Subject: <input type="text" value="Sample comment"/></p> <p><input type="text" value="This article is very cool!"/></p>

LIST OF COMMENTS	<p>Comments (7)</p> <p>Another guest avatar</p> <p>THIS GUEST DOESN'T HAVE ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>Test of comment gravatar, level guest</p> <p>THIS GUEST HAS ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>testing gravatar with guest</p> <p>THIS GUEST HAS ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>Test of guest's comment</p> <p>THIS GUEST DOESN'T HAVE ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>Test of comment</p> <p>IE7, 6, Fox, Safari, Op{e}ra fine? xD</p>	<p>Comments (7)</p> <p>Another guest avatar</p> <p>THIS GUEST DOESN'T HAVE ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>Test of comment gravatar, level guest</p> <p>THIS GUEST HAS ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>testing gravatar with guest</p> <p>THIS GUEST HAS ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>Test of guest's comment</p> <p>THIS GUEST DOESN'T HAVE ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>Test of comment</p> <p>IE7, 6, Fox, Safari, Op{e}ra fine? xD</p>
LIST OF COMMENTS (BACK-END)	<p>  Test of comment gravatar, level guest</p> <p>THIS GUEST HAS ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>We are Volunteers, Administrator</p> <p>  testing gravatar with guest</p> <p>THIS GUEST HAS ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>We are Volunteers, Administrator</p> <p>  Test of guest's comment</p> <p>THIS GUEST DOESN'T HAVE ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>We are Volunteers, Administrator</p> <p>  Test of comment</p> <p>IE7, 6, Fox, Safari, Op{e}ra fine? xD</p> <p>We are Volunteers, Administrator</p>	<p>   Test of comment gravatar, level guest</p> <p>THIS GUEST HAS ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>We are Volunteers, Administrator</p> <p>   testing gravatar with guest</p> <p>THIS GUEST HAS ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>We are Volunteers, Administrator</p> <p>   Test of guest's comment</p> <p>THIS GUEST DOESN'T HAVE ACCOUNT ON GRAVATAR.COM</p> <p>We are Volunteers, Administrator</p> <p>   Test of comment</p> <p>IE7, 6, Fox, Safari, Op{e}ra fine? xD</p> <p>We are Volunteers, Administrator</p>

php.ini configuration

Php.ini's parameter called `allow_url_fopen`. It is not crucial for functionality of plugin, but can be helpful. Setting this parameter to `on`, enables Avatar/Gravatar Plugin control of avatar image size. Below are scenarios that will happen when `allow_url_fopen` is *On* or *Off*:

On: If image is bigger than 80x80 px, even when size of image is normalized, plugin will resize graphic to maximum allowed size

Off: Plugin will leave image unchanged even if it exceeds maximum allowed size of 80x80 px. It is recommended to turn this function on, because some bad guy can insert in avatar path some very, very huge image and layout of your page will be disturbed radically.

So, how to change this parameter? First, find out, where is your `php.ini` file placed. In Microsoft® Windows you should find it in [C:\Windows](#) or in [php](#) directory of your server implementation. On virtual hosting accounts you may want to ask your host if you can alter php settings and where to find them. Linux provides this file inside `/etc` or `/etc/php` (`/etc/php5`) directory. . You will see many variables listed in this file. Search for `allow_url_fopen` variable. If doesn't exist, append following line at the end of file:

```
allow_url_fopen = On
```

If it exists, make sure that is uncommented (without `;` sign in the front of a line). Now change value from *Off* to **On**. Save and exit file. Now, you must restart your server.

Hehe: Restart button is red and looks dangerous. Go ahead if you made it to this point it means that you are adventurous type. So give it a try and see what happens. We promise you won't blow half of the world up by this... even if you would like to.

Installation

Latest stable code is on the http://joomla.org/gf/project/avatar_gravatar/. Go to this page, and select Files tab. Click on the [avatar-gravatar.zip](#). You will be redirected to the list of Avatar/Gravatar packages. Download latest file (one from the top of the list). Save file to disk. Open your Joomla! 1.5 website, and go to the back-end of your site. From menu Extensions select Install/Uninstall position. Choose downloaded file, and click Upload File & Install .

It's very probable that you will see information looking like the one below. Again, you can just ignore this message. It only means that you don't use some of languages included in this plugin.



Installer::install: The language file 'language/pl-PL/pl-PL.plg system avatar gravatar.ini' could not be installed because the Administrator language package for 'pl-PL' has not been installed or does not exist.

Avatar/Gravatar is installed, now. Next, very important step is configuration.

Configuration

This section of manual is very important running of Avatar/Gravatar Plugin smoothly. Notice that this plugin has very detailed configuration, so it is good to know, what those functions are responsible for.

Normalize avatar size - Turns on scaling of avatars to desired size (set below)

Normalized width - Sets width of avatars (size in pixels, maximum value: 80)

Normalized height - Sets height of avatars (size in pixels, maximum value: 80)

Avatars next to the header of article (for guests) - If you enable this option, avatar will be shown inside header of article, for non-logged in users. This parameter doesn't affect logged in users because they have their own personal settings.

Avatars next to the comment of article (for guests) - If you enable this option, avatar will be shown inside comment of article, for non-logged in users. This parameter doesn't affect logged in users because they have their own personal settings.

Size of comment avatar - This list box decides how large the image will be in relation to the avatar in header (100% = this same size like header's avatar)

Default avatar - If user did not enter avatar path/gravatar username in user's detail, plugin will show default avatar. Enter avatar URL or Gravatar username (e-mail)

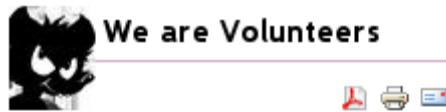
CSS control - Decides who will implement CSS styles.

- Plugin - File with style (*JOOMLA/plugins/system/avatar_gravatar/image.css*) contains default style of the default template. This solution is static, and should be defined only for default template provided by Joomla!
- Template - Styles of the avatar/gravatar images are defined manually by certain template. This is recommended solution because, you can avoid problems with rendering default style sheet. In connection with "Advanced template" option, you can build very flexible and stable site. More details in the "Advanced Templating" section.
- Neither - CSS is disabled and avatars will not be displayed. This is a hook for programmers.

Advanced template - If you have prepared template by adding special Avatar/Gravatar tag, you can enable this option. This option provides gate that allows to place header avatar wherever you want! More details in the "Advanced Templating" section.

Advanced Templating

What is this section for? *Imagine that you found something very cute and elegant, but you can't look at it.* Advanced templating makes your site, powered by Joomla!, more adjustable. What do I need? Template that you can edit, and a little of patience. In this section I will use on Beez template as an example. Just take a look, how look by default:



Last Updated (Friday, 01 February 2008
17:43)
Written by Administrator
Wednesday, 07 July 2004 09:54

The Joomla! Core Team consists of volunteer developers, designers, administrators and managers who, together with a large range of Work Groups of dedicated community members have taken Joomla! to new heights in its relatively short life. This well-oiled machine is often copied but never surpassed. Joomla! has some wonderfully talented people taking Open Source concepts to the forefront of industry standards. Joomla! 1.5 is a major leap forward and represents the most exciting Joomla! release in the history of the project.

→ [Read more: We are Volunteers](#)

[Comments \(3\)](#)

Not good, right? **Don't worry!** Advanced templating allow you to manage looks of Avatar/Gravatar Plugin. To turn on this function, you have to change two configuration parameters of Avatar/Gravatar Plugin; it will be:

1. **CSS Control:** change to **Template**
2. **Advanced template:** change to **Yes**

Now, you will have possibility to:

- put own styling code into the template
- select where you want to place Avatar/Gravatar

So, let's start from adding some one, important line to the `content` template of article. Open directory: `Joomla!/templates/TEMPLATE_NAME/html/com_content/` (if it does not exist in your template read more about Joomla! Template Overrides, it will help you find basic one and understand this section better). You should see a few directories: `category`, `frontpage`, `article`, `section`. Each catalogue has similar structure (similar file names). Following step will have to be repeated to each file in section. We will go to the `frontpage` directory. Open file `default_item.php`, and insert following line:

```
<?php if(!empty($this->item->avatar)) echo $this->item->avatar; ?>
```

behind this line: (about 42 line of code)

```
<?php if (($this->item->params->get('show_section') && $this->item->sectionid)
```

```
|| ($this->item->params->get('show_category') && $this->item->catid) : ?>
```

Save and exit file. Second step is to create new CSS stylesheet for template. When you change template to other, this CSS will be not available. It's flexible solution because it allows you to create separate stylesheet for each of templates. Go to the JOOMLA/templates/TEMPLATE_NAME/css/ directory. Create new file called avatar_gravatar.css and insert following code:

```
/* This is file where you can set style of image */
img.avatar_gravatar-header
{
    float: left;          /* you should not change this */
    padding-left: 0px;
    padding-right: 5px;
    margin-right: 5px;
    padding-top: 5px;
    padding-bottom: 2px;
    border-right: dotted purple 1px;
}

img.avatar_gravatar-comment
{
    float: left;          /*you should not change this */
    border: solid transparent 4px;
}
```

Then create stylesheet connection with main content of template (it's something like a symbolic link). Go to the JOOMLA/templates/TEMPLATE_NAME/ directory, and open index.php file. Insert following line:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="<?php echo $this->baseurl ?
>/templates/beeze/css/avatar_gravatar.css" type="text/css" />
```

somewhere among `<link rel="stylesheet" . . .` line. Save and exit file. Refresh your browser. You should see following screen:

We are Volunteers



Last Updated (Friday, 01 February
2008 18:16)
Written by Administrator
Wednesday, 07 July 2004 09:54

The Joomla! Core Team consists of volunteer developers, designers, administrators and managers who, together with a large range of Work Groups of dedicated community members have taken Joomla! to new heights in its relatively short life. This well-oiled machine is often copied but never surpassed. Joomla! has some wonderfully talented people taking Open Source concepts to the forefront of industry standards. Joomla! 1.5 is a major leap forward and represents the most exciting Joomla! release in the history of the project.

[→ Read more: We are Volunteers](#)

[Comments \(3\)](#)

To make site more beautiful, disable PDF, print, and e-mail icons. After this, you will see:

We are Volunteers



Last Updated (Friday, 01 February 2008 18:11)

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 07 July 2004 09:54

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[→ Read more: We are Volunteers](#)

[Comments \(3\)](#)

As you can see, you have full control under displaying of avatar in header section. You can place it, wherever you want. Just take a look what can you create:

We are Volunteers



The Joomla! Core Team consists of volunteer developers, designers, administrators and managers

who, together with a large range of Work Groups of dedicated community members have taken Joomla! to new heights in its relatively short life. This well-oiled machine is often copied but never surpassed. Joomla! has some wonderfully talented people taking Open Source concepts to the forefront of industry standards. Joomla! 1.5 is a major leap forward and represents the most exciting Joomla! release in the history of the project.

[→ Read more: We are Volunteers](#)

[Comments \(3\)](#) }

To make this style, just change *default_item.php* file:

```
move <?php if(!empty($this->item->avatar)) echo $this->item->avatar; ?>, behind this (about 95 line of code): <?php echo $this->item->event->beforeDisplayContent; ?>.
```

Sencond thing is CSS file: put new content of *img.avatar_gravatar-header* block to the *avatar_gravatar.css* file:

```
img.avatar_gravatar-header
{
    float: left;
    padding-left: 0px;
    padding-right: 5px;
    margin-right: 5px;
    padding-top: 5px;
    padding-bottom: 2px;
    border-right: dotted purple 1px;
```