

Twitter Status

plugin for Joomla! 1.5

version 1.3

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License

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What is Twitter?

Twitter ([Twitter.com](#)) is a microblogging service, many times used from a Mobile device that friends, family, and co-workers use to stay connected with quick, frequent 140 character phrases.

Plugin Description

"Twitter Status" adds new status with article title when published some article on your Joomla! website.

How does it work?

When author of article press **Save** button on "Add Article" page, plugin will connect to Twitter.com server and send article title. If everything go O.K., you will see article title on your Twitter.com account. As you know, Twitter has length limit on sending text. Sometimes title of article can infringe 140 chars. If it happen, Twitter Status will cut text to 140 signs.

Twitter Status works in two layers:

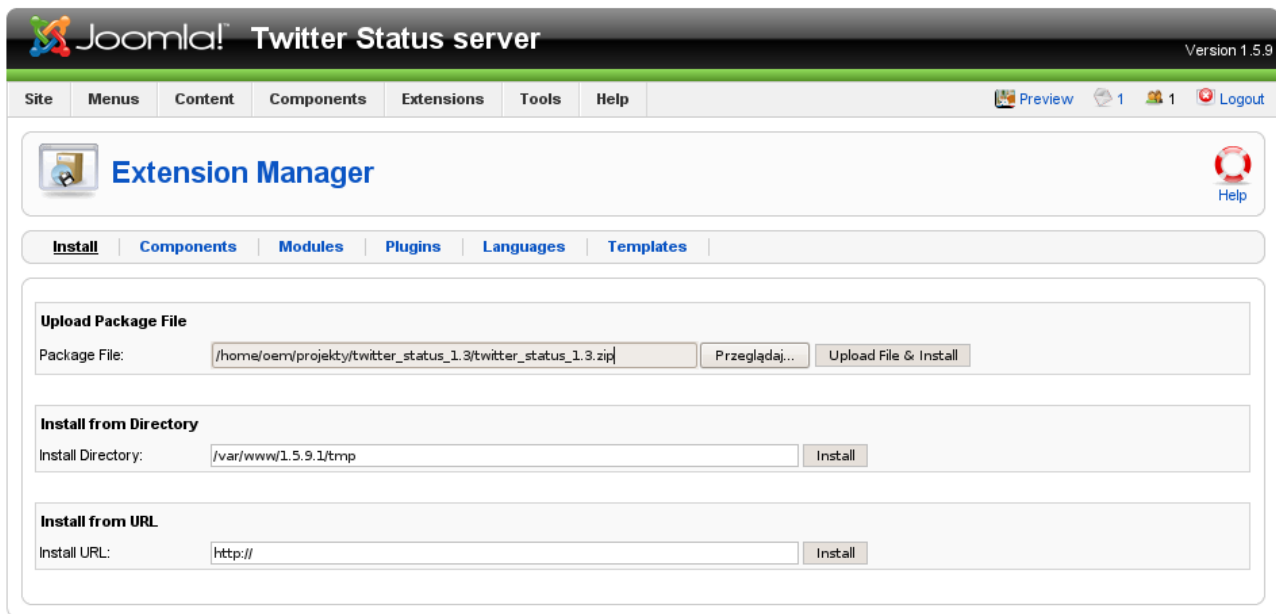
- Administrator layer (back-end)
- User layer (front-end)

If user select „Enable Twitter” in personal Configuration, plugin will update status of user account. If user didn't select „Enable Twitter”, plugin will update status of system account.

Go to *User Layer* section for more details.

Installation & Configuration

Download latest version of Twitter Status plugin from [Joomla! Extensions Directory](#). Then open your administration panel of Joomla! site where you want to install TS. Using **Install/Uninstall Manager** (menu Extension) upload zipped package.



Joomla! is Free Software released under the [GNU/GPL License](#).

Screen of plugin installation

If everything go fine, you will see following message:

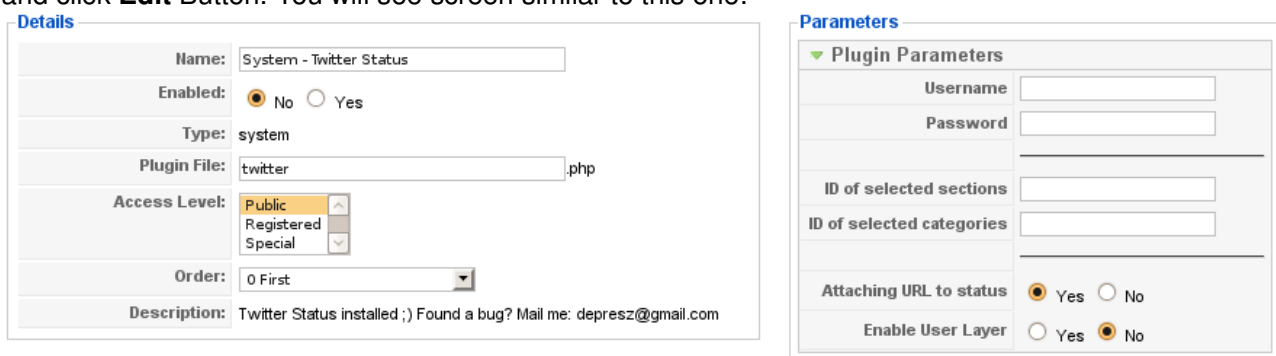


In some case – in older versions of Joomla! you can see following message on your screen:



It's possible that you can see this because you have not installed other than English languages (in this case Polish) and directories don't exist. You should ignore this message.

Now you have to enable and configure the plugin. Select box next to the „System - Twitter status” label and click **Edit** Button. You will see screen similar to this one:



Screen of plugin configuration

To Enable plugin, select **Yes** from Detail box. There's nothing to change in first box so let's configure

second box which is responsible for connection between *Joomla! Site* <=> *Twitter server*.

As you can see, there are 5 parameters:

Username: Login to Twitter.com account

Password: Password to Twitter.com account

Selected sections: You can put here ID of allowed sections that will be accepted by plugin. If you would like to allow all sections to create status, leave this field blank. When you fill more than one section you must insert comma sign among names (without spaces).

Selected categories: You can put here ID of allowed categories that will be accepted by plugin. If you would like to allow all categories to create status, leave this field blank. When you fill more than one section you must insert comma sign among names (without spaces).

Attaching URL to status: Select this option if you would like to append shorten by TinyURL address to your article (Format of Twitter message: *Title of article http://tinyurl.com/dud23*).

Enable User Layer: You can choose whether Twitter parameters will available on Personal Configuration (User Detail) page or not. If you disable this option, plugin will update system account only (not user's account). See below section to learn more.

Warning! You should remember that both of options: *Selected sections* and *Selected categories* depend on itself.

Click **Save** button to exit. **Plugin is now active!**

User layer details

Warning! This section depend on third party extension called UserMeta System Plugin. Information placed here can change suddenly. While I was writing this article I was using plugin in version 1.5.2. It's very possible that in new version of Twitter Status you will not have to change system files.

Twitter Status works also in user layer. If you have permission to creating news, you may want to update your, not filled in plugin configuration account.

If you want to enable User Layer of Twitter on your server, you have to download [UserMeta System Plugin](#). If you have already installed and enabled this plugin, go to *joomla_root/plugins/system/usermeta*. Open file *user.xml*. File will look like this:

```
<?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" />
  </params>
</form>
```

Append hinted text to file (appended text has to be inside <params></params>)

```
<?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="twitter_active" type="radio" default="0" label="Enable Twitter:"
description="When you enable, title of article and url address will be send on your Twitter
account!">
      <option value="1">Yes</option>
      <option value="0">No</option>
    </param>
    <param name="twitter_login" type="text" size="40" label="Twitter username:"/>
    <param name="twitter_password" type="password" size="40" label="Twitter password:"/>
  </params>
</form>
```

Now authors of articles can decide that status will be update on his/system account. If you are one of them, go to the „Your Details“:



Element of Menu with hinted Your Details position

If you appended in right way data to *user.xml* file, you will see following screen:

Screen of Your Details page with Enabled Twitter

You can see that there are 3 variables:

Enable Plugin: here you can select whether title of news will be sent on your account (username and password below) or on system account (configured in installation process). If you select Yes, status will be updated using your account. You have to remember that when you disabled "User Layer" in configuration of plugin, you can't send Twitter form user's account! So if you disable this Layer in configuration, don't add new parameters to *user.xml* file; it's not worth your work :)

Twitter username: login to your account

Twitter password: password to your account

Click **Save** to exit. Now plugin is ready to work with User.

Compatibility

Twitter Status Plugin has been tested together with *UserMeta System Plugin* in following version of Joomla!:

- 1.5.0 [O.K.]
- 1.5.1 [O.K.]
- 1.5.2 [O.K.]
- 1.5.3 [O.K.]
- 1.5.9 [O.K.]