



Joomla 1.0.x Developers Handbook



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About Blue Flame IT Ltd & Phil Taylor

Since the very beginning of Mambo 4.5 Phil Taylor has been involved with the development of components for Mambo (Which later was forked as Joomla!). Phil was part of the Core development team that brought you Mambo 4.5, being personally responsible for PDF Generation, Mambots Principle, Content Rating and many more features in the core Mambo code.

In 2003 Phil started developing full time, both on the Mambo Core code and commercial components for Mambo. Blue Flame IT Ltd now has several more employees and a dedicated office in Tewkesbury UK. Greg, Chris and Trevena all add to the success of the business, bringing their own experience and skills to the team. We also have a few trusted partners worldwide that provide development, support and assistance in different time zones.

Phil is considered to be the leading custom developer for Joomla and is in very high demand, both for consultancy and for custom Joomla development worldwide. He has worked on some very high profile Joomla Sites over the years and provided assistance and skills on many smaller projects.

Blue Flame IT now has eight complex commercial components and many free solutions available from its website <http://www.blueflameit.ltd.uk>

About this manual and the developers 2 day course

This manual, the developer's course and Joomla Platform CD are provided by Blue Flame IT Ltd in an effort to educate PHP developers and encourage them to turn their hand to developing Joomla Components.

Joomla! is free software licensed under the GPL license. The name Joomla!™ is trademarked. All references to Joomla within this manual should be assumed to refer this trademarked open-source software. The Joomla logo has been used in accordance with the Joomla!™ Logo Guidelines and with permission. Use of the Logo on this manual and associated Joomla Platform CD is not intended to mislead that this is an official Joomla document. We use the word Joomla with no explanation mark for ease of reading.

The course, manuals and CD have not been reviewed by the core Joomla! Development Team and are **not considered to be an Official Joomla Training Resource**. (At the time of writing there are no official training courses and the only official source of documentation for Joomla! is provided by the Official Joomla Websites)

This Manual is copyrighted material and released under a commercial license.

On the CD is a mixture of software under different licenses, please consult the documentation for each application for more details.

The contents of this manual should be considered advice only, you should ensure you totally understand the full impact of using the code examples or advice given before implementing them into your projects.



Extending Joomla with Components – A Brief History

Since the early days of Mambo 4.0 there have been core components.

A Joomla component can be defined as a set of files that provide a specific primary function of a site producing, normally, 80-90% of the final output of a page.

In short, this means that components are used by Joomla to provide the main functionality of the core system. We have a content component, contacts components, polls component and many more within the core. These components when brought together by the Joomla framework provide the dynamic site that amazes the casual visitor.

In Mambo 4.5 the components idea was extended to allow 3rd Party developers to extend Mambo's core functionality by designing, developing and integrating their own custom components. This opened the gateway that is today making Joomla such a useful framework for a website.

ComboMAX (A Commenting Component) was the first ever Mambo Component. It was designed by core Mambo developer Phil Taylor as a proof of concept component that other developers could dissect and learn from. It was actually released prior to Mambo 4.5 so that developers could hit the road running when Mambo 4.5 was first released.

The ComboMAX development was also responsible for the concept of Mambots (Plugins) that could extend Mambo further. ComboMAX required a comments form to be appended to content items when an item was viewed. Before Mambots the only way to achieve this was to hack the core code of Mambo, making upgrading difficult at a later date. Once the idea of Mambots was improved upon by Andrew Eddie, boundless ideas and uses have been found for Mambots (Plugins).

Since the Joomla project has started little has changed in the way that components are handled and used.

What about Joomla 1.5?

Joomla 1.5 will mark the beginning of a new generation of web based dynamic websites!

However, at this moment in time the Joomla 1.5 code base is still being refactored, tweaked, improved and is a little distance from being stable.

Joomla 1.5 is not an updated version of Joomla 1.0.x, rather a complete rewrite based on existing principles and features of Joomla. A completely different PHP Application is how I would put it! However there is some backward compatibility for 3rd party developers.

*“Moving a website from Joomla 1.0.x to Joomla 1.5 is not an upgrade – **it is a migration!**”*
Joomla Core developer Johan

However, the core developers have gone to great lengths to ensure a lot of backward compatibility for developers and so the principles and the ideas we teach in this course will set you in the right direction for developing in Joomla 1.5.