Akeeba Subscriptions User's Guide

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Abstract

This book covers the use of the Akeeba Subscriptions component and its bundled modules and plugins for selling and managing subscriptions on your Joomla!™-powered web sites.

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Chapter 1. Introduction and installation

1. Introducing Akeeba Subscriptions

At a glance

Akeeba Subscriptions is a subscriptions management component for Joomla!™ 2.x/3.x and compatible distributions. It is built using our renowned Framework on Framework architecture which extends the standard Joomla! API, ensuring greater stability and compatibility across different Joomla! releases. It is licensed under the GNU General Public License (GPL) version 3 [http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html] or –at your option– any later version published by the Free Software Foundation. It licensing scheme means that you are free (and, in fact, more than welcome) to install it on as many sites as you want, whenever you want and use it for as long as you want, no strings attached. There are no secret per-domain licensing fees and you can use it to sell one or several millions of subscriptions without any hidden costs. We love Freedom of choice as much as you do!

The killer features

Its feature list is nothing short of amazing. Out of the box, Akeeba Subscriptions supports these features:

- Streamlined administrator interface which can even present you an interactive sales graph and sales report as soon as you launch the component
- Rich subscription levels (subscription packages) editor which allows you to choose different images for each of your subscriptions and even a different order confirmation and order cancellation text to show to your users.
- The easiest subscription management interface you've seen on a component. It will even show you your users' faces, powered by Gravatar.
- Users can upgrade or expand (renew) their subscriptions. Renewing a subscription will create a new subscription which becomes valid the very second their old one expires. Users do not lose any of their subscription time when renewing, unlike most other subscription systems out there.
- Full support for delayed payments, e.g. when using e-checks with PayPal.
- Discount coupon codes which allow you to set an absolute money value or percentage discount for all or a specific subscription level and user, have publish up/publish down dates or a usage limit (e.g. the coupon code is valid only for the first 100 people to use it) – or a combination of any and all of the above!
- Automatic discounts for upgrading or renewing subscriptions based on the subscription level and days of presence in the subscription package. This allows you to easily create rules like: 30% discount if you renew up to 30 days before the end of your subscription, 15% discount if you renew within the last 30 days, no discount otherwise.
- Full support for complex tax calculations based on country, state and ZIP code. It fully integrates with the European Union's VIES system so that you can charge no VAT tax for intra-EU B2B transactions.
- The subscription form can work with or without Javascript. With Javascript it becomes a fully fledged, auto-validating subscription form. Without Javascript it works as a standard web form, accessible to users who do not wish / cannot use Javascript on their browser.
- Integration with Joomla! 1.6 and later user group mapping
- Integration with third party components: K2, DOCman, JCE, VirtueMart, Tienda, JomSocial, Community Builder, ccInvoices, and much more! Check out our documentation for more information.

- Third party integrations for Akeeba Subscriptions are available[1]: G*Sales [http://www.nobbis.net/produkte/akeeba-g-sales-plugin.html], Zoo [https://www.zoolanders.com/extensions/item/zooaksubs], HikaShop [http://www.hikashop.com/].
- Content restriction: a content plugin to show parts of your content only to registered subscribers, without the need of any external tool.
- Payment methods: PayPal (for personal, verified and business accounts) is supported out of the box. Other payment methods are being added continuously. Over twenty of them are already implemented. Check out our documentation for more information.
- Recurring subscriptions. Not all payment methods support recurring subscriptions. Please consult the documentation for further information
- Send emails to subscribers upon subscription, when their subscription/payment status changes and when their subscription is about to expire

[1] These are third-party integration plugins, not distributed with Akeeba Subscriptions.

Support policy

Please note that the software is provided free of charge, but support is not. You need to have an AKEEBADELUXE, SUPPORT or FORUMSUPPORT subscription on AkeebaBackup.com to seek support regarding setting up, using and customizing Akeeba Subscriptions. Please note that we can not help you with design requests or write customisation code for you. We can, however, help you by telling you what you have to do to accomplish your intended goal, e.g. which files to modify and pretty much a list of what you should do.

2. Requirements and compatibility

Akeeba Subscriptions 1.0.b4 and later will attempt to detect if your server meets the minimum requirements. If it does not, it will only do a partial installation (no plugins and modules will be installed) and you will be presented with an error message. In any case, Akeeba Subscriptions requires the following server-side configuration:

- Joomla!™ and PHP version compatibilities are detailed in our Version Compatibility matrix [https://www.akeebabackup.com/compatibility.html].
- MySQL 5.0.41 or later. Earlier database server versions will not be supported. Do note that earlier releases of MySQL are obsolete and not supported any more by Oracle (the company who controls the development of MySQL).

3. Installation

3.1. Installation

Installing the package is the same as with any other Joomla! component. Go to your site's back-end Extensions, Manage and click on Browse. Locate the ZIP package and click on Upload and Install. If the installation fails, please refer to the installation troubleshooting section of this guide.

3.2. Installation troubleshooting

Joomla! is logging you out during installation

The first thing you might observe is that **Joomla! is logging you out when trying to install** Akeeba Subscriptions. This is due to a bug in Joomla! session handling (the session storage space is too small). Please follow these instructions

[http://docs.joomla.org/Why_does_the_administrator_logoff_all_of_the_sudden] to fix the database table that causes this issue. After doing that you will have to log in again to your site. You will see that everything is missing from the back-end interface. Don't panic! That's part of the Joomla! bug. Just log out using the link on the top-right of your page, then log back in. Everything is back to normal and you can retry the installation.

Joomla! says "can't build admin menu" and fails or Akeeba Subscriptions' entry under the Components menu disappears

Note

This problem should be mostly fixed as of Joomla! 2.5.6 and later releases

On some other occasions, especially when trying to install or update the component after an installation error, Joomla! will complain that it **cannot build admin menus**. This is due to another Joomla! bug we have sent a patch for [http://joomlacode.org/gf/project/joomla/tracker/?action=TrackerItemEdit&tracker_item_id=25663] to the Joomla! development team. Meanwhile, you will have to run a few SQL statements against your database with a database editor such as phpMyAdmin:

```
DELETE FROM jos_assets WHERE `name` = 'com_akeebasubs';
DELETE FROM jos_menu WHERE `menutype` = 'main' AND `alias` = 'com_akeebasubs';
DELETE FROM jos_extensions WHERE `type` = 'component' AND `element` = 'com_akeebasubs';
```

Remember to change *`jos_`* with your database tables' name prefix if you changed it during installation! It's easy to find out what it is. Take a look at the database and you'll see that all of your tables begin with the same few letters. That's your prefix. After running those SQL statements you can proceed with the reinstallation of the component.

Checking your temporary directory

First, we will have to make sure that you are using a valid temporary directory. Many sites are configured to use the system-wide (/tmp) directory or an invalid directory, causing installation problems. In order to change your site's temporary directory setting you have to follow this procedure, depending on your Joomla! version.

Joomla! 2.5 and later

1. Create a file named mynewtmp.php with the following contents:

   ```
   <?php echo dirname(__FILE__).'/tmp';
   ```

2. Upload the file to your site and access it as http://www.example.com/mynewtmp.php where www.example.com is the domain name to your site.
3. Write down what you see on the screen. That's your new temporary directory path.
4. Remove the mynewtmp.php file from your site.
5. Go to your site's administrator back-end and click on Site, Global Configuration menu item from the top menu.
6. Click on the Server link
7. Find the "Path to Temp-folder" and replace its contents with the new temp path from step #3.
8. Save your Global Configuration

Enable FTP

On most shared hosts which do not run suPHP (if you didn't understand anything, most likely the following *is applicable to you too*) you have to enable Joomla!'s FTP layer. Otherwise Joomla! won't be able to write the files to its directories and installation will fail.

1. Go to Site, Global Configuration menu item from the top menu.
2. Click on the Server tab
3. Set Enable FTP to Yes
4. In the FTP Host try using `127.0.0.1` or `localhost` or the FTP hostname assigned by your host
5. In the FTP Username and FTP Password fields provide the FTP username and password assigned by your host
6. In the FTP Root you have to type in the FTP path to your site's root. Here is the easy way to find it using FileZilla [http://filezilla-project.org/download.php]:

   Connect to your site using FileZilla. Navigate inside the folder Joomla! is installed in. Usually it's a directory named `public_html`, `htdocs`, `www` or something similar. If unsure don't ask us, ask your host. Now, on the right-hand pane you will find the FTP path. Most likely it will look something like `/public_html`. Copy this and paste it into the FTP Root text box in your Joomla!'s Global Configuration page.
7. Save your Global Configuration. If you got everything correctly, you should see a message that your configuration was saved. If you see an error message please seek assistance on the Joomla! Forum [http://forum.joomla.org].

Manual installation

Sometimes Joomla!™ is unable to properly extract ZIP archives due to technical limitations on your server. In this case, you can follow a manual installation procedure.

First, you have to extract the installation ZIP file in a subdirectory named `akeeba` on your local PC. Then, upload the entire subdirectory inside your site's temporary directory. At this point, there should be a subdirectory named `akeeba` inside your site's temporary directory which contains all of the ZIP package's files.

If you are unsure where your site's temporary directory is located, you can look it up by going to the Global Configuration, click on the Server tab and take a look at the Path to Temp-folder setting. The default setting is the `tmp` directory under your site's root. Rarely, especially on automated installations using Fantastico, this might have been assigned the system-wide `/tmp` directory. In this case, please consult your host for instructions on how to upload files inside this directory, or read the instructions above about changing your Joomla!™ temporary directory back to the default location and making it writable.

Assuming that you are past this uploading step, click on the Extensions, Manage (Joomla! 1.6+ users) link on the top menu. In this page, locate the Install Directory edit box in the Install from Directory area. It is already filled in with the absolute path to your temporary directory, for example `/var/www/joomla/tmp`. Please append `/akeeba` to it. As per our example, it should look something like `/var/www/joomla/tmp/akeeba`. Then, click on the Install button.

Still problems?

If you still can't install Akeeba Subscriptions and you are receiving messages regarding unwritable directories, inability to move files or other similar file system related error messages, please do not ask us for support. These errors stem from your site set up and can best be resolved by asking for help in the official Joomla!™ forums [http://forum.joomla.org]. We can only support software we develop ourselves. Joomla!'s extension installer is certainly not developed by us and –believe us– we have tried to improve it and submitted some still pending patches to the Joomla! project. Therefore we regret that we have to say that, but we can't help you. Thank you for your understanding.

3.3. Updating to the latest release

Akeeba Subscriptions can be updated with two different methods: installing the new version on top of the old one or using the integrated Live Update system.

Important

Akeeba Subscritpions 2.5.0 and later no longer support using Joomla!'s integrated extensions installer. The problem with Joomla!'s feature is that it does not allow you to select the minimum stability level of the update. This has traditionally led users installing unstable versions on their live sites, ending up in support requests and frustration. Moreover, the integrated Joomla! extensions update is unreliable on many shared hosts. Unless these significant issues are addressed we are going to keep on using our own Akeeba Live Update.

Updating directly

This is the failsafe approach, but the least convenient. Download the latest Akeeba Subscriptions release from https://www.AkeebaBackup.com/latest and save the ZIP file to your hard disk. Log in to your site's backend, click on Extensions Manager (Joomla! 1.6 and later). Use the Browse... button to locate the ZIP file you downloaded, then click on Upload and Install. All Joomla! versions since 1.5.5 are smart enough to understand that you're doing an upgrade instead of installation and adjust the process accordingly.

Important

Do NOT uninstall Akeeba Subscriptions before updating it! Uninstalling will remove all of your data, including all subscriber information!

Using Live Update

Since Akeeba Subscriptions 1.0.0 we have integrated our Live Update system inside Akeeba Subscriptions. Log in to your site's backend and go to Components, Akeeba Subscriptions. Look towards the bottom of the page. There should be an icon which reads "Update found" when there is a new version available. Click on it and then click on "Update now". The new version will be downloaded and installed automatically for you. In case this doesn't work, or if "Live Update not supported" is displayed below the icon, please make sure that your host's firewall allows TCP/IP communications over port 80 and 443 to `akeebabackup.com` and `s3.amazonaws.com`. If your host requests IP addresses instead of domain names, please ask them to trace them from the server as they are multicast hostnames, which means that they resolve to a different IP depending on where in the world you are.

Something not working right after the update?

Sometimes Joomla! "forgets" to copy all updated files. This is something that we have seen a few times. In this case, simply follow the instructions in the Updating Directly section above. This will force Joomla! to retry updating the component, copying the missing files and everything will work again.

4. Uninstallation

You can uninstall the component just like any other Joomla! component. In your site's back-end, just go to Extensions Manager, click on Uninstall. In the Filter area type *`subscription`* and click on Search. Several entries appear. Select the entry where the Name is Akeeba Susbcriptions and Type is Component. Do not select the other entries; they are removed automatically. Now click on Uninstall. This will completely remove Akeeba Subscriptions including all subscriber information.

Chapter 2. Initial set-up and usage

1. How subscriptions work and Quick Start

Before you begin setting up Akeeba Subscriptions, you should be aware of the way subscriptions work under the hood. The most basic concept is the subscription level (referred to simply as Level from now on). This is what you are selling to your customers. Your customers buy a subscription to a Level. The composite piece of information containing the Level, payment information and expiration time is called a Subscription.

When a user enters the subscription page, Akeeba Subscriptions first fetches the price associated with the Level your user wants to buy. It will then try to understand if there is an applicable discount. First, it will look into Upgrade definitions and produce a list of upgrade rules applicable for the user and the Level he wishes to buy. If there are multiple applicable upgrade rules, the one giving the maximum discount is elected. Next up, it takes a look at the coupon code, is supplied. If it is an active coupon and your user can use it to get a discount, the coupon's discount is calculated. In the case where there are two discounts, both an upgrade discount and a coupon discount, the highest one is elected. The level price minus the discount is called the Net Price.

Right up, Akeeba Subscriptions will try to determine the applicable tax by going through all the tax rules. It will go through the tax rules and keep the one which is the closest match to the country, zip code, city and VIES registration status. If no match is found, Akeeba Subscriptions will select the tax rate defined in the very first tax rule you have defined. This is called the Tax Amount. The sum of the Net Price and Tax Amount is the Gross Amount and that's what the user will have to pay.

When the user hits the Subscribe button, Akeeba Subscriptions will first check if this is a new or existing user. If it is a new user, it will create a new –but inactive– user account based on the information the user has supplied. A new, inactive subscription will be created for your user and he's redirected to the payment gateway. Exception: if you have an 100% or more discount (which means that the user shall pay nothing) he's not redirected to the payment gateway. Instead, he's redirected to the Subscription Confirmation page and his subscription becomes instantly active.

Once the user finishes the payment, he's redirected to the Subscription Confirmation page. If he changes his mind and cancels the payment, he will be taken to the Subscription Cancellation page. The text on each page is determined by the relevant fields in the Level configuration.

At the same time, your payment processor will send a post-back to your site, notifying Akeeba Subscriptions about the payment status. If the payment is marked as complete, the subscription is activated. Its start and expiration date are calculated based on the exact date and time that the payment post-back was received and the Level's configured length. If the associated user account was marked as blocked (inactive), it is activated. If any integrations are set up, they will run. For example, you may be adding users to JUGA groups upon a successful subscription.

Based on the above, you need to configure the following –in the order shown– for Akeeba Subscriptions to work:

- Configuration Options - well, that's just the currency you're selling in!
- Subscription Levels - the subscription products you are selling, i.e. your inventory
- Tax Rules - determine if the user has to be charged taxes over the subscription amount and how much that will be
- Upgrade rules - (optional) discounts based on what other products the user has bought and how long he's been a subscriber to them
- Coupons - (optional) discount codes used for promotions

Alternatively, you can import Subscription Levels and Coupons from other subscription systems instead of manually defining them.

The sections below will tell you how to go through each of these steps.

How to make it all work together to make money from your site

Note

The procedure outlined below works with Akeeba Subscriptions 2.4.5 or later. For earlier versions please consult the documentation PDF file of your Akeeba Subscriptions version.

What we described above cover just one small part of Akeeba Subscriptions' functionality: how to create something that your clients can buy and how to sell it. Obviously, your clients expect to get something for the money they paid. In other words, you need to make the subscriptions *do something* on your site. Akeeba Subscriptions' integration plugins are that magic glue which binds together subscriptions and features on your site.

In order to make it easier to understand, let's take a simple example. You want to set up a magazine site. Subscribers will have access to premium content. You want to sell 3, 6 and 12 months subscriptions. How can you do it? Very easily, but you have to start *backwards*. We will set up you site's Joomla! ACL to limit access to the premium content, Akeeba Subscriptions to sell subscriptions to the premium content and the Akeeba Subscriptions - Joomla! Usergroups Integration plugin as the glue to link Joomla! ACL (usergroups) to subscriptions. Still with us? Let's see how we can do it in 5 minutes or less.

Setting up Joomla! access control (ACL) for your content

First, we have to ensure that premium content can only be accessed by subscribers only. Using Joomla!'s powerful access control features it is very easy to do so. Before we begin, we strongly recommend reading some more about how Joomla! access control works:

- ACL concepts overview [http://magazine.joomla.org/issues/issue-jan-2012/item/637-Joomla-1-6,-1-7,-and-2-5-ACL-Concepts-Overview] (beginners)
- Joomla! ACL: Access Levels [http://magazine.joomla.org/issues/issue-feb-2012/item/639-Joomla-ACL-Access-Levels] (beginners; scroll all the way down for a very good video)
- A case for role-based ACL [http://magazine.joomla.org/issues/Issue-Aug-2012/item/825-A-Case-for-Role-Based-ACL] (advanced)
- Implementing role-based ACL [http://magazine.joomla.org/issues/Issue-Sept-2012/item/856-Implementing-Role-Based-ACL] (advanced)
- ACL Manager [http://www.aclmanager.net/] is a third party commercial component which can help you effectively managing ACLs on complex sites.

Alternatively, you'll have to just take our word and follow our easy instructions below. So, let's get down to business! You need to create a Joomla! user group called `Subscribers`. In order to do so go to Users, Groups menu item.

Then click on the New button.

Enter the following:

- Group title: Subscriber
- Group Parent: Public

and click on Save & Close. No, we will create a new Viewing Access Level called `Premium Content`, adding only the new Subscribers group to it. Click on Viewing Access Level and then click on New.

In the new page enter Premium Content as your level title and select ONLY the Subscriber group. There are two very common mistakes we've seen people doing:

- Using the Registered or any other built-in user group instead of a dedicated Subscriber user group. This is wrong. Without getting into too much technical details and rare exceptions, you should keep in mind that all Joomla! user accounts belong to the Registered group. Otherwise they wouldn't be able to log in at all. If you use the Registered group as your subscribers group then all users are subscribers, no matter if they paid or not. This is not a bug in Akeeba Subscriptions, it's how Joomla! works.
- Some people select both the Subscriber and Registered (or, worse, Public!) user groups in their Viewing Access Level. This is wrong. A user has access to content assigned to a particular Viewing Access Level if he belongs to *any* of the groups selected in the Viewing Access Level or one of their children groups. For example, if you select the Manager group in a Viewing Access Level then user who belong to either the Manager or the Administrator user group have access to the content. This happens because the Administrator group is a child (is *under*) the Manager group. This takes some getting used to, no doubt. Again, this is not a bug with Akeeba Subscriptions, it's the way Joomla! is designed to work.

Then click on Save & Close.

Then you have to set the Access to all the premium Joomla! articles and components to, you guessed it, Premium Content. The easiest way is using the batch processing feature of Joomla!. Go to Joomla! article manager, select all

the subscriber-only articles and scroll down. You'll see the Batch process the selected articles area. Set the Set Access Level to `Premium Content` and click on Process. Done!

Using Akeeba Subscriptions to sell access to your site

Before we go back to defining our subscription levels, you have to do one small thing. Go to the Extensions, Plugin Manager page and make sure that the "Akeeba Subscriptions - Joomla! Usergroups Integration" plugin is enabled.

Then, we will set up the three subscription levels. Go to Components, Akeeba Subscriptions. Click on the Setup, Subscription Levels menu item.

The first level is called `3MONTHS` and has a duration of 90 days. The second one is called `6MONTHS` and has a length of 180 days. The last one is called `12MONTHS` and has a length of 365 days. For each plugin, in the Integration area, she has to click on the User Groups tab. Most likely it's the only tab and it's already active. See those "Add to Joomla! Usergroups" and "Remove from Joomla! Usergroups" lists? She just has to select the `Subscribers` group on each one of them. This tells Akeeba Subscriptions to add the subscribers to the Subscribers group once their subscription is enabled and remove them from this group when their subscription expires.

Important

Make sure each subscription level has its Published option set to Yes, otherwise users won't be able to subscribe to it.

For example, here's how to set up the 3MONTHS level:

Don't be intimidated by the many options you see in here. Stick to the basic option and don't touch what you don't understand. Once you set up your site you have all the time in the world to read the documentation and deal with the more advanced options.

One important detail left: handling user payments. Essentially, you need a payments processor that Akeeba Subscriptions can talk to and ask them to handle the gory details of payments. The easiest option is PayPal. Setting it up is very easy, indeed. For the purpose of this tutorial we are going to demonstrate how you can integrate with PayPal

payments. PayPal allows you to start selling without filing out paperwork until you reach a certain income level. Of course, Akeeba Subscriptions supports dozen of payment processors other than PayPal. If you haven't done so already, you have to go to PayPal and open a new account.

Now back you go to your site's Plugin Manager and find the "Akeeba Subscriptions - PayPal integration" plugin.

Click on it to edit its configuration. All you need to do is enter your email address, the same one you used to open your PayPal account, into the Merchant ID or Email field. Make sure that Status is set to Enabled and Access set to Public.

Warning

Never, ever, **E V E R**, set the Access of payment plugins to anything else than Public.

Save and close. Done!

The final touch is creating a menu item so that your users can subscribe. Go to Menus, Main Menu, Add New Menu Item.

In the Menu Item Type area click on Select. A popup appears:

You will need one of the "All Levels" option under Akeeba Subscriptions. We recommend using the `All Levels (Awesome layout)` when you have less than 5 subscription levels. Set up all other menu options to your liking. And that's how it shows in the front-end:

That's all folks! You are now ready to start making some money from your site!

2. Configuration options

Click on Options (Joomla! 1.6, 1.7 and later) in the toolbar links area. The available options are:

Currency Options

Currency code	The three letter ISO 4217 currency code [http://www.xe.com/iso4217.php]. Common values are EUR (Euro), USD (United States Dollar), GBP (Great Britain Pound), CAD (Canada Dollar), AUD (Australia Dollar), JPY (Japan Yen), CNY (China Yuan) and MXN (Mexico, Pesos). This is used on virtually all of the payment processors to notify them about the currency you're selling your goods in. Please remember that all of your payment processors must support the selected currency. Some payment processors only accept a subset of currencies, most usually only one of USD, GBP and EUR. Default: EUR (Euro)
Currency Symbol	The currency symbol to be shown to your web visitors, e.g. € for Euro, £ for British Pound, $ for US/Australia/Canada Dollar or ¥ for Japan Yen. This is free form text used to prefix the prices. If your currency has no special symbol you can use text to describe it, or leave blank to completely omit the currency symbol display throughout the components. Default: € (Euro symbol)
Currency sign position	Determines if the currency symbol should appear before or after the amount. Default: After the amount

Back-end display

Show Gravatar images in Subscriptions page	When enabled, Gravatar images are shown next to each user in the Subscriptions page. If disabled, there will be no avatar images displayed. Default: Yes
Images directory	The directory, relative to your site's root, where the subscription level images will be stored. Default: images

Front-end display

Show steps bar	Should we render the steps bar (1-2-3) on the top of the page? Default: Yes
Allow collection of personal information and business registrations	When enabled, Akeeba Subscriptions will ask for address information and business registration information. This information is required if you have to issue invoices or receipts to your customers. On some jurisdictions, the automatic receipt generated by, for example, PayPal is adequate. In this case, there is no point collection this information on your site. In this case, set this option to No and Akeeba Subscriptions will not ask your customers for their address, city, state, ZIP, country, business registration, business name, occupation or VAT number. This also means that AS will no longer allow different tax rates based on city, state, country or VIES registration status; the default (first) tax rate will be applied instead. Default: Yes
Show login box	When enabled, if the user is not logged in yet when he tries to subscribe, a login box will be displayed on top of the subscriptions page, allowing her to login to the site. If disabled, this login box will not be disabled. Many people have reported that the login feature is confusing and redundant, as there is usually a login button or module for the same function, hence this option.
Show renew	When enabled, the front-end subscriptions list (the "My Subscriptions" page) will show a Renew link next to each subscription. Please note that only renewable subscriptions (the subscription

level is still published and it doesn't have the Forbid Renew checked) will have such a link next to them when this option is enabled.

Allow non-EU VAT entry

By default, only European Unions are allowed to enter their VAT number, for VIES registration checking. When you enable this option business users from countries outside the EU will be able to enter their VAT number. Their VAT number will, of course, not be checked for VIES registration and will always be accepted without any further check.

Payment method rendering

How are the payment method going to be rendered in the bottom of the new subscription page? The Text Only option renders them as drop-down list (combo box), i.e. the way they were rendered in Akeeba Subscriptions up to and including 2.1.0. The Images Only displays a radio list of images (logos). The images can be modified at the plugin parameters. Finally, the Images and Text displays the same radio list as the Images Only option, but next to each image you now have the (user-defined) payment option title.

Custom date format

You can customise the date and time format for the front-end display. For more information regarding date/time format strings, please consult the PHP manual: http://www.php.net/manual/en/function.date.php

Tax rate for display

This is the tax rate (in percentage units) used ONLY for front-end display. We strongly advise against using this option unless you are obliged to for legal reasons.

One of the problems faced by our users is that they have to display prices inclusive VAT, no matter if they have tax rules which define that no VAT tax will be applied in some cases. So far the only way to do that was editing Akeeba Subscriptions' files directly or doing template overrides. This option is here to eliminate that need.

Please note that this value IS NOT taken into account when calculating the amount of money to charge to the subscriber. It only modifies the price displayed in the All Levels view.

Example: Let's say you have a subscription level which costs 10 EUR. You enter a "Tax rate for display" value of 19. The price of the subscription level will be listed as 11.90 EUR (that's 10 EUR plus 19% VAT).

Require valid coupon

There are some cases when you want your users to enter an "authorization code" before they can subscribe. One prime example is a complimentary subscription to your site once a user buys a tangible or intangible good from you, or when you want to track the origin of your subscribers. When this option is enabled it allows you to use Akeeba Subscriptions in such a scenario: in order for the user to be allowed to subscribe he will have to provide a valid coupon code. If no valid code is provided the user will not be allowed to proceed with the subscription. You can always create coupon codes withe their type set to Amount and their value set to 0 to create "authorization codes" which only allow users to subscribe but not give them any discount.

Confirm free subscriptions

When disabled (default) free subscriptions –that is, subscriptions to subscription levels with a price of 0– will be activated immediately. If a new user account was created for a free subscription it will enabled automatically.

When this option is enabled, the subscription to a subscription level with a price of 0 will be activated automatically, but the new user account will not. Instead, the standard Joomla! user activation email will be sent out.

The email which is sent by this feature depends on your Joomla! User Manager setup. Go to Joomla!'s User Manager and click on the Options button. In the Component area you have to set New User Activation to either `Self` or `Admin`. When you select Self an email will be sent to the user with the free subscription containing an activation link. Visiting it will activate his user account. When it is set to Admin the administrators of the site will receive an email which will

allow them to manually activate the user with the free subscription. If you select `None` then no email is sent and the free subscribers will never get activated!

Integrated invoicing

Important

These options only apply to Akeeba Subscriptions Professional and only if you are using the integrated invoicing feature of the component, by enabling the Akeeba Subscriptions - Integrated Invoicing plugin

Invoice number format

Normally, invoice numbers are monotonically increasing integers (1, 2, 3, 4, ...). Sometimes you need to be able to customise the format of the invoice number to match your preferences or requirements imposed by your local tax authorities. This setting allows you to define how the invoice numbers will be formatted. You can use a mix of text and "variables". The available variables are:

[D:*x*] Returns a specific part of the current date and time. The exact part of the date/time that will be returned is defined by *x*. This can take a single letter used by PHP's date() function [http://www.php.net/manual/en/function.date.php]. For example, [D:y] will return the year (four digits), [D:m] will return the month and so on.

[N:*x*] Returns the invoice number. *x* is the minimum length of the invoice number. If the invoice number has a shorter length it will be zero padded. For example, let's consider invoice #12. [N:1] will return 12. [N:5] will return 00012 (zero-padded to five digits length).

If you are unsure, use [N:1] as your invoice number format.

Auto-send invoices

When enabled the invoice will be sent by email to the user as soon as it's generated. Otherwise you will have to go to your site's back-end, Components, Akeeba Subscriptions, Invoices and click the envelope icon to send the invoice to the subscriber as a PDF file.

Override numbering

If this is non-zero, invoice numbering will restart with this number. Once the first invoice with this number is generated, this option will revert back to 0 automatically.

VIES VAT notice

If you a VIES-registered merchant in the EU and you are selling to an VIES registered EU client no VAT will be charged and this note will be available in the [VAT_NOTICE] variable for your invoice template.

Certificate file

The name of the X.509 certificate file which will be used for PDF invoice signing. The file must be in PEM format and located in the administrator/components/com_akeebasubs/assets/tcpdf/certificates directory of your site. Only required if you NEED to produce signed PDF documents.

For more information on signed invoice PDF files please read the Invoices as signed PDF files section of the documentation.

Certificate secret key (optional)

The name of the X.509 certificate file containing the secret key for PDF signing. The file must be in PEM format and located in the administrator/components/com_akeebasubs/assets/tcpdf/certificates directory of your site.

For more information on signed invoice PDF files please read the Invoices as signed PDF files section of the documentation.

Certificate secret key password (optional)

The password for your secret key, used in PDF signing

For more information on signed invoice PDF files please read the Invoices as signed PDF files section of the documentation.

Extra certificates (optional)
: The name of the X.509 certificate file containing additional certificates to attach to the signed PDF file, e.g. the root (public key) certificates of your Certificate Authority. The file must be in PEM format and located in the administrator/components/com_akeebasubs/assets/tcpdf/certificates directory of your site.

  For more information on signed invoice PDF files please read the Invoices as signed PDF files section of the documentation.

Live Update

These options control how the integrated Live Update which allows you to update our component works

Minimum stability
: Choose the minimum stability level of releases to be notified for. By default this is set to Stable and is the recommended setting for live sites. If you want to help us build better software with less bugs please consider installing alphas, betas on your test/staging site or RCs on your live site. Your feedback helps us improve the software. Thank you in advance!

Permissions

This is the standard Joomla! 1.6 or later ACL permissions widget. The meaning of the different ACL settings* is as follows:

Configure
: Allows the user to access the Options page of the component (the very page you are on right now)

Access Administration Interface
: Allows backend access to the component. Frontend access IS NOT affected by this setting!

Create
: Allows the creation of new records on any backend page (e.g. Subscription Levels, Subscriptions, Users, Tax Rules, Coupons and so on)

Delete
: Allows the deletion of records on any backend page

Edit
: Allows the user to edit any record on any backend page

Edit State
: Allows the user to publish/unpublish records on any backend page

* actual label text may differ depending on your Joomla! version; this documentation is based on English (United Kingdom) language strings found in Joomla! 2.5.1.

3. Subscription Level Groups

You can access this feature by clicking on Setup, Levels Groups in the toolbar links area.

Subscription level groups allow you to visually group subscription levels in related groups. Moreover, subscription level groups modify the way Akeeba Subscriptions defines the Valid From date of new subscriptions.

When a subscription level doesn't belong to a group and the user buys a new subscription on this level the Valid From date for the new subscription is set to the furthest in future Valid To date of other paid subscriptions in the same level. If this date is in the past, the current date and time is used. For example, if a user has a yearly subscription until June 1st and he buys a new subscription on May 1st his new subscription begins on June 1st this year and expires

on June 1st the next year. If, however, the user tries to buy a new subscription on August 1st, his new subscription will begin on August 1st this year and expire on July 31st next year. Any other subscriptions in other subscription levels are ignored during this calculation. With subscription level groups this changes a little. Instead having Akeeba Subscriptions only look for other subscriptions in the same subscription level, it now looks for all subscriptions in all levels belonging to the same group.

In practice, this means that if you have –let's say– a 3 month, a 6 month and a yearly subscription you should put them in the same group. No matter which subscription your user buys and in which order he will not lose any subscription time. Moreover, if you have a trial and a full subscription you should put both of them in the same group. Thus your users can upgrade from trial to full without losing subscription time.

4. Subscription Levels

You can access this feature by clicking on Setup, Subscription Levels in the toolbar links area.

Creating or editing a Subscription Level, you have these options:

Title	How the subscription will be presented to your users. We strongly suggest using all-capital letters and no spaces for easier administration, albeit you can really use anything you like.
Image	Select a picture to represent your subscription. The image must be located in your site's images directory.
Subscription Length (days)	How many days a subscription in this level lasts. Common values are 30 (one month), 180 (half a year) and 365 (one year).
Fixed expiration	Normally, subscriptions expire after a fixed amount of time since their creation. This is what the "Subscription length" option above does. In some cases you want to expire subscriptions on a specific fixed date. For example, a football club may want all of its subscriptions to end on July 1st, when the season officially ends. This is what the "Fixed expiration" is meant for. You have to enter the exact date (and, optionally, time) all subscriptions on this level will expire on. If you don't want to use this feature just leave it blank or use the pseudo-date "0000-00-00 00:00:00".

Important

We recommend against using the expiration notification features with fixed expiration subscriptions. If you do use them please bear in mind the following:

- All expiration notification emails will be scheduled for sending at the same time and date for all subscriptions on this level. If you have 300 subscriptions then 300 emails will be scheduled for the same date and time
- The expiration plugin will only send a handful of emails on each page load. This means that it will need several or even hundreds of page loads to send all notification emails. This has major effects outlined below.
- If you don't have enough traffic on your site for all emails to be sent out at the specified date, expiration notification emails may end being sent too late or never.
- While your site is sending emails its performance will suffer. You may experience an increase of page load time of up to 3 seconds.
- Most mail servers ban email addresses and email servers causing sudden traffic spikes on them. In other words, if you end sending too many emails too fast to a specific

domain (e.g. many mails to GMail addresses) you might end up being marked as a spammer and banned from sending email to that domain again.

- Many mail servers impose an email quota, i.e. a maximum number of emails which can be sent per day from a single email account. Most hosts have a limit of 500 or 1000 emails, whereas GMail and Google Mail for Applications has a limit of 250 emails per day. If you go over this limit your emails will not be sent and it's possible that your account will be blocked.

So, to save you from trouble, we recommend not using notification emails with fixed date subscriptions unless you are perfectly aware of the risks involved and you believe that your site will not be adversely affected by them.

Forever

When this option is selected, the subscription is set to never expire. Actually, the subscription date for Forever subscriptions is set to January 1st, 2038 00:00:00 YTC for a very good reason.

PHP and MySQL use something called UNIX timestamps to do date calculations, like determining if a date is in the future or how many days have elapsed since a certain date. Due to some geeky stuff you probably don't care to understand [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_2038_problem] the maximum date which can currently be expressed is Tuesday, 19 January 2038 03:14:07 UTC. That's why we use an easy to remember date which is as close to this End of Time as possible.

OK, let's also take this practically. At the time of this writing (November 2012), January 2038 is roughly 26 years in the future. That's more than the lifespan of the Web as we know it (it was born in 1989, 23 years ago, and took another 5 to become mainstream) and it has radically changed ever since. Joomla!'s predecessor, Mambo, was born in 2001. Believing that in 26 years you will still be in the same business with the same business model as today, we will be using 2012's web technologies, Joomla!, Akeeba Subscriptions and anything else we are used to right now is a pipe dream. So, yes, 26 years into the future is MORE than the lifetime of your site, your business model, my business model and the web as we know it.

Price

The price of a subscription in this level. If you need to enter a decimal value, use a dot as the decimal separator. For example, 12.30 is valid, whereas 12,30 is INVALID and will be interpreted as 1230. Do NOT use a thousands separator. For example 1000 is valid, whereas 1,000 is INVALID.

Group

When a subscription is not part of a group, the Valid From date of a new subscription is set to the maximum Valid To date of a properly paid (payment status set to "Completed") subscription at the same level. This is what allows Akeeba Backup to treat purchases of a new subscription on the same level as a renewal of the subscription.

When a subscription is part of a group, the Valid From date of a new subscription is set to the maximum Valid To date of a properly paid (payment status set to "Completed") subscription at any level belonging to this group.

For example, let's say FOOBAR6 is a subscription level with a 6 month duration and FOOBAR12 is a subscription level with a 12 month duration. A user has a subscription in the FOOBAR6 level valid from 2013-01-01 to 2013-05-31. On May 1st, 2013 he decides to renew his subscription. We have the following possibilities:

- No matter of the level grouping, if he buys a new FOOBAR6 subscription, the new subscription will be valid from 2013-05-31 to 2013-12-31, as it is a renewal on the same level.
- If the two levels *do not* belong to the same group and he buys a FOOBAR12 subscription, the new subscription will be valid from 2013-05-01 to 2014-04-30. In this case, the user loses a month because Akeeba Subscriptions doesn't know that the two levels are the same thing with a different duration.

- If the two levels *belong to the same group* and he buys a FOOBAR12 subscription, the new subscription will be valid from 2013-05-31 to 2014-05-30. In this case, Akeeba Subscriptions known that buying a FOOBAR12 subscription must be treated as a renewal of the FOOBAR6 subscription.

You can set up your groups in the Level Groups page of the component.

Slug
: The alias, used to construct the URL. Use only lowercase Latin characters without diacritics and accents, dashes and underscores. For example `uber-sub` is valid, whereas `über SUB` is INVALID.

Published
: Should it be shown to your users?

Forbid renewals
: This feature is available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1

Is set to Yes, a user can subscribe to this level only ONCE. He won't be able to renew his subscription. Useful in setting up "trial subscriptions", i.e. cheap or even free subscription levels with very limited duration which a user can subscribe to only once.

Recurring
: This feature is available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1

When selected, Akeeba Subscriptions will notify the payment processor plugin that the subscription should recur, i.e. it will automatically be renewed on expiration. In this case, please set both expiration notification parameters below to 0; there is no point informing your users that their subscription is expiring when it will be re-activated automatically.

Warning

Not all payment processors support recurring subscriptions. Please consult the documentation of your payment processor plugin.

First expiration notification (days)
: Akeeba Subscriptions will send a notification email to users whose subscription is expiring soon. It can send up to two emails. This parameter tells Akeeba Subscriptions how many days before the subscriptions expiration the first email will be sent. Set to 0 to not send out a notification email.

Second expiration notification (days)
: Akeeba Subscriptions will send a notification email to users whose subscription is expiring soon. It can send up to two emails. This parameter tells Akeeba Subscriptions how many days before the subscriptions expiration the second email will be sent. Set to 0 to not send out a notification email.

Notification after expiration (days)
: Akeeba Subscriptions will send a notification email to users whose subscription has expired this many days ago. Set 0 to not send out a notification email.

Tip

You can use this post-expiration notification email to offer your users a discount coupon code which can entice them to re-subscribe to your site. Never underestimate the strong impact of an offer to the psychology of the prospective buyer, even if the value of the coupon code is only in the 10-20% area.

Short Description
: A description of the subscription to show to your users. Keep it short (ca. 30 words or less) or it will overflow the boundaries of the subscription presentation areas in the front-end.

Since Akeeba Subscription 1.0.b4 you can use content plugin codes (like our own aslink plugin) in the description.

Integration

Since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.4.5 you may see a section in the page called Integration. Here you can configure the parameters for second-generation integration plugins, e.g. the "Akeeba Subscriptions - Joomla! Usergroups Integration" plugin. Each integration plugin renders a tab in this area. The parameters under each tab are detailed in the respective plugin's documentation page. You can enable integration plugins from your site's Extensions, Plugin Manager page.

Message to show after successful sign-up

The text in this area will be presented to the users after they successfully complete their payment. Use it to thank them for giving you their money and show them important information about their subscription, e.g. links to your support method, download links etc.

Warning

Do not include any sensitive information (such as "secret" download links) as the content of this page can be directly accessed by a knowledgeable user by manipulating the URL. If you want to include such information, please use the Restricted Content plugin bundled with Akeeba Subscriptions to make sure that the information will only be shown to users holding a valid subscription.

Since Akeeba Subscription 1.0.b4 you can use content plugin codes (like our own aslink plugin) in the message.

Message to show after sign-up cancellation

The text in this area will be presented to the users after they cancel their payment (if your payment gateway supports this feature). This is your last attempt to changing your user's mind or have them give you feedback on the reasons they decided to not move forward with their subscription. Use it wisely and do not insult your users, please :)

Since Akeeba Subscription 1.0.b4 you can use content plugin codes (like our own aslink plugin) in the message.

Multi-lingual support

Akeeba Subscriptions 2.0 and later are able support multi-lingual sites without the need of a third-party extension. This is done by using language code "merge tags" in the three last fields outlined above: short description, message to show after successful sign-up and message to show after sign-up cancellation. The merge tags in the text look like this:

```
[IFLANG en-GB]This is the English description[/IFLANG]
[IFLANG fr-FR]Ceci est la description française[/IFLANG]
[IFLANG de-DE]Diese ist die deutsche Beschreibung[/IFLANG]
[IFLANG el-GR]#### ##### # ######## #########[/IFLANG]
```

Essentially, you have to wrap your per-language text in `[IFLANG languageCode]` and `[/IFLANG]` merge tags. The languageCode you must use is the five letter language code used by Joomla!'s translation packages. For example, the English language is en-GB (British English), en-AU (Australian English) or en-US (Unites States English), German is de-DE (Germany) or de-AT (Austria) and so forth. If you're unsure, please go to your site's back-end, Language Manager and take a look at the language code in there.

Please note that you cannot use the same language code twice.

Customising the messages to show on successful sign-up and cancellation

Since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.0.a3, you can personalise the messages which are shown after a successful sign-up or cancellation of the subscription process. This is done using "merge codes". The merge codes are explained below.

Please note that you can use them in conjunction with Joomla! content plugins as well. In fact, using the merge codes you are open to a world of possibilities, even integrating an external affiliate system –like OSI Affiliates– on your site.

The available merge codes are listed in the Message variables section of our documentation.

5. Tax Rules

You can access this feature by clicking on Setup, Tax Rules Tax Rules in the toolbar links area.

Out of the box, Akeeba Subscriptions is set up to not apply any VAT or other tax at all. However, this is not what most users would like. Below we are providing the most common setups based on your business type. Our lawyers told us that we have to say this to you: Please note that we are not lawyers or tax technicians. As a result, our advice is based on our personal experience, may be flawed and in no way should be considered a legal or financial advice. Should you chose to use it you do so at your own risk. We strongly advise you to ask a qualified tax technician, lawyer or other relevant professional qualified by law to give you advice regarding tax laws. That said, here's the most common tax setups:

Extra-EU businesses, e.g. US based

Tax Rules determine if the user should be charged a tax amount on top of the regular price of the subscription level. If you do not wish to charge any taxes (e.g. you have already included any applicable taxes in your subscription price), you will still have to create a default rule with 0 tax charges. In order to do so, click on the New button, select the "- Select -" option in the Country drop-down and set the tax rate to 0, then click on Save. Now you have created a catch-all rule with 0% tax. Likewise, if you want to charge all users a flat tax rate, say 18%, do the same thing, but set the tax rate to your desired percentage, in our case 18 (note: without the % sign!) and click on Save.

Intra-EU businesses with a VIES registered VAT number, or extra-EU businesses with an EU VAT number

If you are a business based in the European Union with a VIES-registered VAT number you have to create a total of 30 rules to conform to the overcomplicated EU tax regulations. First, create a default rule with 0% tax as noted above. Then do the same thing, but set the VIES Reg option to Yes and the tax rate to 0%. Now create new tax rules for each one of these countries, VIES Reg set to No and tax rate set to your local VAT tax rate (e.g. 23% for Greece): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom. For the country of your business (e.g. Greece for a Greece-based business) create on more rule with VIES Reg set to Yes and the tax rate set to your local VAT tax rate (e.g. 23% for Greece).

After setting up the tax rules you need to pay attention to the ordering of the rules. The correct ordering of the rules is:

- The first published rule must be the catch-all default rule for EU countries: no country selected, VIES Reg set to Yes, tax rate set to 0.
- The second published rule must be the catch-all default rule for non-EU countries: no country selected, VIES Reg set to No, tax rate set to 0.
- The following rules, in any order, are the tax rules for each EU country except yours: VIES Reg set to Yes and tax rate set to 0
- Finally, publish the two rules for your country:
  - One rule where VIES Reg is set to Yes and tax set to your local VAT rate
  - One more rule where VIES Reg is set to No and tax set to your local VAT rate

This way, the following happens:

- If the customer is extra-EU he will be charged no VAT (the first catch-all rule kicks in)
- If the customer is intra-EU, but not a business with a VIES-registered VAT number, he's paying VAT (the second catch-all rule kicks in).
- If the customer is an intra-EU business, he will be charged no VAT (the specific country rule kicks in). He's liable to VAT on his local tax authorities, not your country's tax authorities.
- If the customer is from your own country, you are charging him with VAT no matter of the VIES registration status (the final two rules kick in).

Do note that the same setup is required if you are an extra-EU business –e.g. US-based– with an EU VAT ID (it's in the format EU012345678). In this case, you have no EU country of residence, so you can skip the last set of two tax rules mentioned above.

Intra-EU businesses without a VIES-registered VAT number

Please ask your lawyer whether it's legal for you to sell subscriptions to residents of a country other than yours. There is a gap in the EU directives regarding that case, therefore we can't provide you with even semi-accurate tax setup information within any stretch of imagination.

Tax Rule options

Each tax rule has the following options:

Country	Which country this tax rule is applicable in. If empty (the "- Select -" pseudo-option of the country list) it applies to all countries.
State	Which state this tax rule is applicable in. Note: only US and Canada states and provinces can be selected. If left empty (the N/A option) it applies to all states.
City	Which city this tax rule is applicable in. Do note that the spelling of the city must match, but it's case insensitive. This means that `new york`, `NEW YORK` and `New York` are equivalent. Leave blank to match all cities.
VIES Reg	If set to Yes, the tax rule matches only those clients with a valid, VIES registered EU VAT number. If you don't know what VIES registration is, read this [http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/vat/traders/vat_number/index_en.htm]. You can verify if a VAT number of an EU resident or EU registered business is also VIES registered through EU's official web application on Europa.eu [http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/vies/].
Tax Rate	The tax rate percentage. If you need to enter decimal digits, use a dot not a comma. For example, `17.5` is valid, `17,5` is INVALID. Do NOT type the percentage sign. For example, `23` is valid, `23%` is INVALID. The percentage is always implied, that's why it's printed after the field's contents.
Enabled	If set to Yes, the VAT Rule will be applied, otherwise it will be ignored (as if it weren't set at all)

6. Upgrade Rules

You can access this feature by clicking on Setup, Upgrades in the toolbar links area.

This feature allows you to create automatically applied discount rules to reward your loyal customers by giving them a discount. If you are not sure this is what you want to do, I strongly suggest reading Seth Godin's

"How should you treat your best customers? [http://sethgodin.typepad.com/seths_blog/2011/02/how-should-you-treat-your-best-customers.html]" and view this video of his [http://www.attorneymarketing.com/2010/04/25/seth-godin-explains-how-to-build-a-tribe-of-loyal-clients/] where he explains his ideas on small businesses even more clearly.

Each Upgrade rule has the following options:

Title
: Just a title to remind you of what this upgrade rule does

Published
: If set to No, it won't be taken into account during a new subscription's price calculation

From level
: The subscription level for which the user must already have a valid subscription in order for the upgrade rule to take effect

To Level
: The subscription level which the user is currently trying to subscribe to and onto which the discount will be applied

Min. Presence
: The minimum number of days the user has to have a valid subscription to From Level for this rule to be applied

Max. Presence
: The maximum number of days the user has to have a valid subscription to From Level for this rule to be applied

Discount Type
: If it's Value, the Value field contains currency, e.g. if you're using Euros and type a value of 20 then 20 Euros will be subtracted from the price. If its Percent, then the Value field contains a percentage, e.g. if you type a value of 20 then a 20% discount will be applied to the price.

  A special type, available since version 2.2, is the "Percent of last payment". When this option is selected, Akeeba Subscriptions looks for the paid amount in the user's latest subscription in the "From level" subscription level and applies the percentage on that amount (which may be different from the current subscription level's price).

Value
: See above.

Combine
: The final discount is normally defined by the upgrade rule that generates the highest discount. When upgrade rules have the Combine option set to `Yes`, then all these (that apply to the subscriber's situation) will be added together (combined) to define the discount. In other words, the applicable upgrade rules with the Combined flag turned on work accumulatively instead of exclusively. This feature comes in handy when you want to give discounts to "bundle" subscriptions, i.e. subscription levels which give you the same privileges as buying several other subscription levels at the same time.

  Example #1 (without Combine):

  ```
  Rule A gives $ 10 discount
  Rule B gives $ 15 discount
  Rule C gives $ 20 discount
  ```

  Total discount will be $20 given by rule C because it's the biggest discount of the three.

  Example #2:

  ```
  Rule A gives $ 10 discount => combine is on
  Rule B gives $ 15 discount => combine is on
  Rule C gives $ 20 discount
  ```

  Total discount will be $25 given by rule A + B because A+B (combined) give a bigger discount than C.

Example #3:

```
Rule A gives $ 10 discount => combine is on
Rule B gives $ 15 discount => combine is on
Rule C gives $ 30 discount
```

Total discount will be $30 given by rule C because C gives a bigger discount than A+B (combined).

Practical examples of upgrade rules:

You want to give a 30% discount to users with a SUB1 annual subscription if they renew up to 30 days before their subscription expiration. Both levels set to SUB1, min presence is set to 0, max presence is set to 335 (one year is 365 days, minus 30 days, equals 335 days), discount type Percent, value 30.

You want to give a 15% discount to users with a SUB1 annual subscription if they renew during the last 30 days of their subscription. Both levels set to SUB1, min presence is set to 335 (one year is 365 days, minus 30 days, equals 335 days), max presence set to 365 (one full year) discount type Percent, value 15.

You want to give a 10 Euro discount to users with a SUB1 annual subscription who are now buying a SUB2 subscription. From Level set to SUB1, To Level set to SUB2, min presence set to 0, max presence set to 365 (one year), discount set to Value, value set to 10.

You want users buying both SUB1 and SUB2 to have a 10 Euro discount. First, create a rule like in the previous example. Then create another rule with From Level set to SUB2, To Level set to SUB1, min presence set to 0, max presence set to 365, discount set to Value, value set to 10. This way, whichever subscription they buy first, they'll get the discount when they buy the other subscription as well.

You want to give a complimentary (free) SUB3 subscription to users who have already bought SUB1 and SUB2: you can't do that with Upgrade Rules, as you cannot combine multiple subscriptions in a single rule. Instead, use a coupon code with 100% discount and show this coupon code only to subscribers who have already bought a SUB1 and SUB2 subscription using the Restricted Content plugin bundled with Akeeba Subscriptions.

7. Subscription Level Relations

Important

This feature is only available in the for-a-fee Akeeba Subscriptions Professional edition of the component. It is NOT available in the free of charge Akeeba Subscriptions Core edition.

This feature allows you to create more fine-tuned subscription level relations than Upgrade Rules, covering areas of business policy that would otherwise be unenforceable. It can cover cases like:

- upgrading between subscriptions with the same access but different lengths, e.g. between one month, six month and yearly subscription levels.
- upgrading between subscriptions, e.g. when you have Apples, Oranges and Fruit Salad subscription levels it allows you to upgrade from Apples or Oranges to Fruit Salad, disabling the subscriptions in the Apples and Oranges levels in the process
- giving flexible discounts, based on how much subscription time remains on a user's existing subscription. This allows you to give a different discount to somebody who has one month left and a different discount to somebody who has six months left in his subscription, using one rule (instead of several you'd need with the regular Upgrade Rules)

The key differences from upgrade rules are:

- Flexible discounts with one relation entry. You can tell Akeeba Subscriptions how much discount to give every X amount of time left in a subscription instead of creating dozens of Upgrade Rules.
- Control the start and end of subscriptions. With Upgrade Rules you only get to give a discount. The previously active subscription remains active and the new subscription is always immediately activated. With relations you can give an optional discount. What is more important is that you can choose the old subscription to be immediately expired (therefore your subscribers not getting update emails for it) or have the new subscription become active when the old one expires (think about the case of buying a 3 month subscription when a 1 month subscription is already active).

You can access this feature by clicking on Setup, Subscription Level Relations in the toolbar links area.

The Basic options you have on each Subscription Level Relation are:

From Level
: In order for this relation to be applied, the user must have at least one paid for subscription in this Subscription Level, with a Valid To date in the future.

To Level
: In order for this relation to be applied, the user must be trying to buy a subscription in this Subscription Level.

Discount Mode
: There are three types of discounts which can be applied by a Subscription Level Relation:

  - **Use Upgrade Rules**. The discount to be applied is controlled by Upgrade Rules. This is useful when you are satisfied with the automatic discount given by Upgrade Rules and all you want is to control the subscription expiration (see further down).
  - **Fixed Discount**. A fixed discount will be given to users upgrading from the From Level to the To Level.
  - **Flexible Discount**. The discount will be calculated based on how much subscription time the user has left in his existing subscription in the From Level.

  The fields you see on the right hand of the page depend on your selection here.

Discount Type
: You can choose between `Value` (deduct X from the price) and `Percent` (deduct X% from the price). This works in conjunction with all value fields, depending on the Discount Mode you're using.

Subscription expiration handling
: This controls the way Akeeba Subscriptions handles the expiration of old subscriptions and the activation of the new subscription. In this context, old subscriptions are successfully paid subscriptions in the From Level subscription level with a Valid To date in the future. New subscription is the subscription which is being created in the To Level subscription level. The options you have are:

  Replace
  : Upon successful payment of the new subscription, the old subscriptions are immediately expired. The new subscription becomes active immediately. Use it when the To Level is an upgrade to the From Level, e.g. from a Silver to a Gold subscription.

  Extend
  : The old subscriptions are left intact. The new subscription does not become active immediately. Its Valid From date is set to be the same as the Valid To date of the currently active old subscription. Use it when the To Level provides the same access as the From Level with a different duration, e.g. a 3 month and a 6 month subscription level.

  Overlap
  : The old subscriptions are left intact. The new subscription becomes active immediately. Both subscriptions run in parallel. This is the same behaviour as when using Upgrade Rules.

Combine with other rules
: Normally, Akeeba Subscriptions selects the Subscription Level Relation which gives the biggest discount and that's what it will use. When this option is enabled, Akeeba Subscriptions will combine the discount given by all applicable Level Relation rules which have "Combine with other rules" enabled and apply them all together. This is useful when you have, for example, a Bronze to Gold and a Silver to Gold relation, the user has booth a Bronze and Silver subscription and by upgrading to Gold you want to give him a combined discount.

Published
: Set to Yes to activate this subscription level relation.

Depending on which Discount Mode you have selected, on the right hand side you will see one of the following sections. Please note that if you chose Use Upgrade Rules then there is nothing displayed on the right hand side of the page.

If you selected the Fixed Discount mode you will see this field:

Discount Amount
: The discount amount which will always be given. Please note that this field respects the Discount Type option. If you chose `Percent`, you have to enter a number 0-100 in here (decimals, like 22.5) are allowed. If you chose `Value` enter the amount to be directly deducted from the price.

On the other hand, if you selected the Flexible Discount you will see several fields. Remember that this mode will calculate the discount amount based on the remaining subscription time in the user's old subscriptions. The following options will allow you to define how that time is calculated and how much discount to give to your user.

Flexible discount
: You have three fields. The concept is that you give X amount of discount for every Y days / weeks / months / years of remaining subscription time.

  So, the first field defines how much that X amount of flexible discount is. Please note that this field respects the Discount Type option. If you chose `Percent`, you have to enter a number 0-100 in here (decimals, like 22.5) are allowed. If you chose `Value` enter the amount to be directly deducted from the price.

  The next two fields are the "period quantiser" of the remaining subscription time. They let you define what Y is. You can choose to enter the period in days, weeks (understood as 7 days), months (understood as 30 days) or years (understood as 365 days). So, 2 months is equivalent to choosing 60 days. For every this much of remaining subscription time the user will get X discount.

  This is easier to understand with an example. Let's say that you select to give 1€ of discount every 10 days. If your subscriber has 40 days of subscription time left he will be given a discount of 4€. That's 40 days, divided by 10 days (your Y value), multiplied by 1€ (your X value).

Low threshold fixed discount
: Sometimes you want to give a fixed discount if the remaining time is below a certain amolimitunt. In these fields you can select how much discount to give if the subscription time remaining is less than a specific limit.

  The first field is your fixed discount. Please note that this field respects the Discount Type option. If you chose `Percent`, you have to enter a number 0-100 in here (decimals, like 22.5) are allowed. If you chose `Value` enter the amount to be directly deducted from the price.

  The second field is the amount of time below which this Low Threshold Fixed Discount is applied. It uses the same units you selected in the last Flexible Discount field above.

  For example, if the Flexible Discount is 1€ of discount every 10 days and selecting to give 3€ of discount if there are less than 30 days of subscription time left you will have the following result. If your subscriber has 40 days of subscription time left, he will be give a 4€ discount as explained in the Flexible Discount field above. If he has 25 days, he will be given a 3€ discount. Why? Because his remaining time (25 days) is less than your low threshold (30 days), so the fixed low threshold discount kicks in.

If you don't want to use this feature enter 0 in both fields.

High threshold fixed discount

Sometimes you want to give a fixed discount if the remaining time is above a certain limit. In these fields you can select how much discount to give if the subscription time remaining is more than a specific limit.

The first field is your fixed discount. Please note that this field respects the Discount Type option. If you chose `Percent`, you have to enter a number 0-100 in here (decimals, like 22.5) are allowed. If you chose `Value` enter the amount to be directly deducted from the price.

The second field is the amount of time above which this High Threshold Fixed Discount is applied. It uses the same units you selected in the last Flexible Discount field above.

For example, if the Flexible Discount is 1€ of discount every 10 days and selecting to give 5€ of discount if there are more than 50 days of subscription time left you will have the following result. If your subscriber has 40 days of subscription time left, he will be give a 4€ discount as explained in the Flexible Discount field above. If he has 120 days, he will be given a 5€ discount. Why? Because his remaining time (120 days) is more than your high threshold (50 days), so the fixed high threshold discount kicks in.

If you don't want to use this feature enter 0 in both fields.

Remaining subscription time calculation

Akeeba Subscriptions need to calculate the remaining subscription time so that it can apply the Flexible Discount. This option controls how this remaining subscription time will be calculated. You have two options:

Use only the currently active subscription	Only the currently active (enabled) subscription in the From Level will be taken into account.
Currently active subscription and renewals	The currently active (enabled) subscription in the From Level and all paid (but not yet enabled) subscriptions in the From Level with a Valid To date in the future will be taken into account.

Remaining subscription time rounding

Let's say that your subscriber has 43 days of subscription time and you want to give 1€ of discount every 10 days. How much discount should you give that user? 4€? 5€? That's what this options controls: how Akeeba Subscriptions will handle the rounding of the remaining subscription time over the flexible discount period you've defined. You have the following options:

Round down	The decimals are stripped off. 1.0, 1.2, 1.5 and 1.9 will all be rounded down to 1.
Round up	The number is rounded to the next whole number. 1.0 remains 1. 1.2, 1.5 and 1.9 become 2.
Smart rounding	If the decimal value is less than 0.5 the number is rounded down. If the decimal value is equal or over 0.5 it is rounded up. 1.0 and 1.2 become 1. 1.5 and 1.9 become 2.

8. E-mail templates

Important

This feature is only available in the for-a-fee Akeeba Subscriptions Professional edition of the component. It is NOT available in the free of charge Akeeba Subscriptions Core edition.

This feature allows you to manage HTML email templates for all emails sent out by Akeeba Subscriptions. In contrast with the translation strings approach used in the Core release, this feature lets you manage your template emails more easily, define beautiful HTML email templates (instead of ugly plain text emails) and even set up different email messages per subscription level and language.

You can access this feature by clicking on Setup, E-mail Templates in the toolbar links area.

Each e-mail template has the following options:

Email type
: This drop down displays all email types currently known to Akeeba Subscriptions. In fact, Akeeba Subscriptions is smart enough to query the currently published plugins if they support sending Akeeba Subscriptions-related emails and, if so, which email types they support. As a result you will only see the email types supported by currently published plugins. Make sure you have enabled all the e-mail related plugins you are interested in before trying to edit e-mail templates.

  Please note that this is a grouped list. The grayed out header indicates which e-mail plugin the following, indented to the right, email types refer to. Some e-mail types may have the same name across different plugins but are triggered in very different conditions.

Language
: Which language this e-mail template is written in. Choose `(All)` to have this e-mail template apply to all languages. Akeeba Subscriptions is smart enough to figure out which template it should use. It will first try to find a template in the user's preferred language, then the site's default language, then English, then load the entries marked as All.

Subscription level
: Which subscription level this e-mail template applies to. Choose `(All levels)` to have this e-mail template apply to all subscription levels. Akeeba Subscriptions is smart enough to figure out which template it should use. It will first try to find a template for the subscription level of the subscription involved, the entries marked as All levels.

Status
: If you want to temporarily disable an email template without deleting it just set its Status to Unpublished.

Subject line
: The subject line of the email. You can use message variables in it.

Email body
: The body of the email. You can use rich HTML text and message variables in it.

9. Coupons

You can access this feature by clicking on Coupons in the toolbar links area.

This feature allows you to create discount coupon codes. When a user enters a valid coupon code during registration, it's subtracted from the price of his subscription. You can let coupons work on specific subscriptions, specific users, for a predefined time period or even for a predefined number of times before becoming inactive. You can even create 100% discount coupons for giveaways or other similar promotional reasons.

Note

You can not publish/unpublish coupons. A coupon will be automatically published when the current date is between its Valid From / Valid To dates. Likewise, a coupon will be automatically unpublished when the current date is outside its Valid From / Valid To dates. In order to unpublish a coupon set its Valid To date in the past and it will be automatically unpublished.

Each coupon supports the following fields:

Title
: A descriptive title for your coupon. It is only displayed to you, it is not displayed to your users.

Coupon code	The coupon code which the user has to enter in order to receive the discount. Very important: coupon codes are case insensitive, therefore it's best to type them in all capital letters. Moreover, we suggest using only capital Latin letters without accents or diacretics and numbers, so that all users can type them in using their keyboard.
Discount type	You can either specify Percent (give an X% discount over the price) or Value (deducts X from the price). It works in conjunction with the Value field below. For example, if you are using Euros as your currency, you set Value here and type in a value of 10, the coupon gives 10 Euro discount.
Discount value	See above
Published	Set to Yes for the coupon to become active
Hits	This is the number of times this coupon has been used.
Valid from	When the coupon will become active (note: the date is expressed in the GMT/UTC timezone). Leave blank and it will be adjusted automatically.
Valid to	When the coupon will become inactive (note: the date is expressed in the GMT/UTC timezone). Leave blank and it will be adjusted automatically.
User	Click on Select to pick a user for which the coupon will be active. For all other users the coupon will have no effect. Leave blank to let all users –even new ones– to use the coupon.
User Groups	This option is only available when using Akeeba Subscriptions on Joomla! 1.6 and later. Choose the user group(s) which will have access to the coupon. If a user does not belong to one of the selected groups, the coupon code will not be available for him and he won't be able to use it. If you don't want to impose any restriction, leave this blank (or make sure that only the `- Select -` pseudo-option is selected) and Akeeba Subscriptions will allow all user groups to have access to this coupon code.
Subscription Levels	Choose the subscription levels which the coupon code can be applied to. Leave it blank (or make sure that only the `- Select -` pseudo-option is selected) to let Akeeba Subscriptions apply the coupon to all current and future subscription levels you are offering on your site.
Hits limit	If it is greater than zero, the coupon can be used up to this number of times before it becomes inactive. In other words, when the Hits counter becomes equal to Hits Limit, the coupon can no longer be used by anyone. Leave it blank to not apply any such limit.
Maximum hits per user	If it is greater than zero, the coupon code can be used up to this number of times *per user*. For example, if this value is set to 2 a user will be able to use it only up to two times. The third time he tries to use it, the coupon code will have no effect.

10. Subscriptions management

You can access this feature by clicking on Subscriptions in the toolbar links area.

This is a standard Joomla! administrator page which needs no explanation.

The icons on the left hand side of the user information are Gravatars. If the user has linked a Gravatar to their email address, it is displayed next to their name, otherwise a default avatar (head-shaped cut out) is displayed.

In order to edit a subscription, click on the leftmost column (the numeric ID) of the subscription record. Clicking on the other links will edit the respective item, i.e. clicking on the subscription level will open the subscription level editor.

The available columns (and the respective filters on each column) are:

ID	The subscription ID. Clicking on an ID will open the subscription for editing.
Level	The subscription level of this particular subscriptions. Click on a subscription level to open the subscription level's editor page. You can use the dropdown to filter the view by a particular subscription.
User	Displays the user information of this subscription. Typing in the search box will search for whatever you typed in the username, full name and email address of the user. Partial matches will also be returned, e.g. searching for "car" will also match "Carlos", "Descartes" and, of course, "Car".
Payment / Discount	The payment column can be a dollar icon (successful payment), dollar icon with an exclamation mark (the payment is being processed), dollar icon with a star (the user was taken to the payment processor but we don't have any news if the payment worked) or a dollar icon in a red circle (payment was cancelled, reversed or failed). The discount column will tell you if a discount was used and what type of discount. A dollar card followed by green bold text means that a coupon was used; the green text is the coupon's code. A magician's hat followed by brown text indicates that an Upgrade Rule was used; the brown text is the title of the upgrade rule used. You have four available filters: • The State dropdown allows you to filter by payment state, e.g. Completed will only show the subscriptions which are paid for • The first text box allows you to filter by the Payment Processor Key of each subscription. This is useful when you have, for example, they Transaction # of a PayPal payment and you want to find the subscription it refers to; just paste it to this box and press ENTER on your keyboard! • The Discount dropdown allows you to filter by the discount type which was used on that subscription • The second textbox allows you to filter by coupon code or upgrade rule title.
Amount	Displays the breakdown of the amount paid by the user. The first line displays the net value, before any discount or taxes and is displayed in green letters if and only if the subscription cost money (it's not a zero-priced subscription). The second line is the discount amount and appears in red letters and a negative sign prefix if and only if there was a discount applied to the subscription. The third line is the tax amount and appears in brown, italic letters if and only if a tax amount (as determined by a tax rule) was applied. Finally, the bigger, black, bold letters indicate the amount paid by the user.
Valid From / Valid To	Shows the validity period of a subscription. The Valid From date is displayed left aligned in black type. The Valid To date is displayed right aligned in red type. You have two date pickers you can use to filter your subscriptions. The first one is the From and the second one is the To picker. You can have the following combinations: • Date entered in From, nothing in To. Shows subscriptions with a Valid From date AFTER the one you entered. • Date entered in To, nothing in From. Shows subscriptions with a Valid To date BEFORE the one you entered. • Date entered in From and To. Shows subscriptions with a Valid From date BETWEEN the two entered dates. The Valid To date can be anything. This is a bit unintuitive!

Created On — When the subscription was created. Entering a date in the date picker allows you to filter the display showing subscriptions which were created AFTER the entered date.

Published — Is the subscription active?

Important

Clicking on the Published column apparently has no effect. This is not a bug; it's the expected behaviour. The publish status of each subscriptions is defined by the payment state and the valid from/ to dates. If the payment state is marked as "Completed" then the subscription is forced to be active within the time period defined by the valid from / to columns. If you want to disable a paid subscription, set its payment state to cancelled and unpublish it.

You can use the Run Integrations button any time in order to have Akeeba Subscriptions re-process all integrations with third party components. This is useful when you suspect an integration has gone wrong, you changed the options in an integration plugin or you just imported a large number of subscriptions.

Using the Export to CSV button allows you to export the current view into a CSV file for further processing in a spreadsheet application such as Microsoft Office Excel, Apple Numbers or OpenOffice.org Calc. Do note that the full set of raw data is dumped to the CSV file. What we mean is that the filters are applied, but instead of exporting just one page of data (what is displayed on your screen) it will export all pages of data.

Tip

If you want to get the subscriptions list as CSV data through a CRON job, you can use the following URL:

```
http://www.example.com/index.php?
option=com_akeebasubs&view=subscriptions&format=csv&username=yourusername&password=your
```

where www.example.com is the domain name of your site, yourusername is the user name of a Super User and yourpassword is the password of that user. Please do not use this URL from your local computer over an insecure HTTP connection for security reasons. Only use it in CRON jobs running on your server or when accessing your site over HTTPS (encrypted / SSL-secured connection).

11. Affiliates management

Since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.0.b1 there is a very basic affiliate management system. It is extremely (even stupidly!) simple by design. If you want something more complex, you can easily integrate Akeeba Subscriptions with a web-based affiliate management system, like OSI Affiliates.

Important

We also ship plugins which allow you to integrate Akeeba Subscriptions with third party affiliate management solutions. Please take a look at the integration plugins section of our documentation.

The concept of affiliates in Akeeba Subscriptions is based on some simple rules:

- You manually create affiliates in the back-end of the component
- Each affiliate is linked to a Joomla! user account and is assigned a commission percentage
- When you pay your affiliate, you manually create an affiliate payment record to let Akeeba Subscriptions know how much you paid him and when

- Each subscription with a payment status of C (Completed) counts towards the amount owed to the affiliate
- Each affiliate payment deducts from the amount owed to the affiliate
- There is no "affiliate report" page of any kind

It's an extremely simple system, suitable for small sites with a handful of trusted affiliates. If you're interested in integrating a much more powerful third party affiliate system, please contact our support.

How to use affiliates?

Each affiliate has a unique numeric Affiliate ID. You can see that in the left-hand column in the affiliates management page. For our example, we'll assume that our affiliate has an ID of 123.

In order for a sale to be registered to that affiliate, you need to redirect the prospective buyer to the subscription levels list page, having appended the `affid=`*`123`* URL parameter at the end of the URL. For example, if your subscription level list page's URL is `http://www.example.com/subscribe.html` and your Affiliate ID is 123 then all visitors must visit the URL `http://www.example.com/subscribe.html?affid=123` for the sale to be registered to the affiliate. If you're not using SEF URLs with Joomla!, the URL would be something like `http://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=levels&affid=123` instead.

The prospective buyer is free to wander off to other pages of your site freely before coming buying his subscription. The affiliate ID is stored in the user's session. As long as he has activated cookies on his browser (it's on by default on all browsers) then the affiliate ID will be "remembered" throughout the user's session.

12. Front-end items

There are four types of front-end menu items you can create:

Subscribe • Specific Level	Allows you to create a menu link to the subscription page of a specific Subscription Level
Subscription Levels • Awesome Layout	Presents a list of all available subscription levels in a comparison table, using CSS3 styling. It's the most eye-catching presentation layout and it's best to use only if you have a small number of subscription levels (4 to 5)
Subscription Levels • All Levels	Presents a list of all available subscription levels as a two column list of boxes. It is a relatively dull presentation mode, but is suitable for a very large number of subscription levels (over 6)
My subscriptions • All of my subscriptions	Think of it as a kind of "My Account" page. It shows the user all of his subscriptions and allows him to review the information on each one of them, as well as renew them.

The subscription page defines two module positions where you can publish modules to further expand the information presented on the page. Publishing modules in the `akeebasubscriptionsheader` position will make them appear at the very top of the page, right above the Steps bar. That's a good place to publish information about SSL security or banners about your latest special offers. Publishing modules in the `akeebasubscriptionsfooter` position will make them appear right after the end of the subscription form. This is a good place to put a custom HTML module with links to your terms of service, business contact information, etc.

Additionally, the page which lists the subscriptions defines another two module positions where you can publish modules to further expand the information presented on the page. Publishing modules in the `akeebasubscriptionslistheader` position will make them appear at the very top of the page, right above the list of subscription levels. Publishing modules in the `akeebasubscriptionslistfooter` position will make them appear right after the end of the subscription levels list.

13. Importing from other components

Most likely you are already using a subscriptions system and wouldn't like to have to manually import all of your subscriptions to Akeeba Subscriptions. That's why we are offering an automated import feature. You can access it from Akeeba Subscription's dashboard page, by clicking on the Operations tab, and then on Import.

Warning

Importing from other components will DELETE AND REPLACE ANY AND ALL EXISTING DATA IN AKEEBA SUBSCRIPTIONS. There is NO TURNING BACK. Do NOT use this option after you have been using Akeeba Subscriptions and have new subscribers on your site.

Important

Please remember to review your Subscription Levels after import. Most notably, the text of the subscription completion and subscription cancellation pages will be missing from all subscription levels.

The options are:

AMBRA.Subscriptions	Imports subscription levels and subscriptions from Dioscouri's AMBRA Subscriptions (a.k.a. AMBRA.subs)
AMBRA.Subscriptions with PayPal with VAT plugin	If you are using AMBRA.subs with my modified "PayPal with VAT" payment plugin and the customizations for integrating coupons into AMBRA.subs, you can click on this option. It will import subscription levels, subscriptions and any coupon codes defined. Moreover, it will also import the extra data stored per user, e.g. their address and VAT number.

14. Custom fields

This feature was added in Akeeba Subscriptions 3.4.0.

Important

You need to publish the "Akeeba Subscriptions - Custom fields" plugin for this feature to work. This plugin is installed and automatically activated when you install or update Akeeba Subscriptions.

One of the most frequently requested features in Akeeba Subscriptions has been the customisation of the fields shown in the subscription page. Traditionally, this has been possible only by creating specialised Joomla! plugins. For all the merits of custom plugins, there was always one major drawback: it takes a developer to create them, making it impossible for non-developer site owners and integrators to add custom fields. Not any more! The Custom Fields feature of Akeeba Subscriptions allows you to easily create simple fields, such as text boxes and selection lists, using a simple graphical user interface. The custom fields are stored per user and shown in Akeeba Subscriptions' Users page.

You can access this feature by clicking on the Custom Fields toolbar link.

The parameters for each custom field are:

Title	The display title of the field. If you want to translate the title, please use a language constant as described in our translation instructions below.
Slug	The internal name of the field. It should consist of only lowercase, unaccented letters (a-z) and numbers (0-9). This is used when you need to access the field data.
When to Show	Fields can be shown for all subscription levels or for a specific subscription level only.

Warning

When you select `Specific level` the custom field will not be displayed in the Users page of Akeeba Subscriptions. It will only be available in the post-subscription messages and emails.

Subscription Level

If you set the option above to `Specific level` this defines for which level the field will be displayed. When the When to show option is set to `All levels` this will be ignored.

Field Type

Chose the type of the field. The available options are:

- **Text box**. Creates a simple text entry box.
- **Password box**. Creates a simple password entry box.
- **Checkbox**. Creates a single tick box.
- **Drop-down**. Creates a drop-down selection field. Ideal for selecting between short descriptions or a lengthy list. You can define the available options in the Options field below.
- **Mutliple selection list**. Creates a multiple selection list. You can define the available options in the Options field below.
- **Radio buttons**. Creates a one-of-many selection field using vertically stacked radio buttons. Ideal for selecting between a few, described in great length, options. You can define the available options in the Options field below.
- **Date**. Creates a date picker field. The user will be able to type in a date or select a date using the standard Joomla! pop-up date picker.
- **Subscription options**. This creates a drop-down with subscription options. This works like the "Drop-down" field type, with a very important difference: each option can increase or decrease the net price of the subscription.

  For example, a local footbal club could offer a "supporter" membership which costs 200 Euros annually. If the subscriber wants access to cheaper tickets they want an extra fee of 20 Euros per year. Without "Subscription options" you'd need to create two subscription levels, one without access to cheaper tickets for 200 Euros and one with cheaper tickets for 220 Euros. With "Subscription options" you can create only one subscription level for 200 Euros with a custom field for access to cheaper tickets. The field allows the subscriber to select between no access (no additional charge) or with access (extra charge of 20 Euros).

Options

Its function depends on the field type:

- **Text and password box**. Anything you type in here will be shown as a placeholder (gray text which disappears when you start typing) inside the box.
- **Checkbox**. Anything you type in Options is ignored.
- **Everything else**. For all other field types this is how you define options and their labels. The format is VALUE=LABEL, on pair per line. For example:

  ```
  1=One
  10=Ten
  100=A hundred
  1000=A thousand
  ```

With the example above, a drop=down list would show you the options One, Ten, A hundred and A thousand. The value stored, depending on your selection, would be 1, 10, 100 or 1000.

To make it clear: Each line defines one option to be shown to the user. Anything to the left of the equals sign is saved in the database and is made available to you when you display the contents of the field. Anything to the right of the equals sign is what your subscriber sees in the subscription page.

If you want to translate the label (right hand part) of the options you can use a language constant as described in our translation instructions below.

- **Subscription options**. It works pretty much the same was as "Everything else" described above. The only difference is what comes to the right hand of the equals sign. Each line follows the convention VALUE=LABEL|PRICE. For example:

  ```
  1=Normal price
  2=Cheaper|-9.99
  3=More expensive|9.99
  4=Invalid|foobar
  ```

  That pretty much means that after the label you are expected to put a vertical bar (|) followed by the amount of money you want to add/remove from the subscription's net price. In this example, if someone chooses the "Normal price" option the net price will be left unchanged because we did not define an amount for the option. Conversely if the choose "Cheaper" they will be charged 9.99 *less* because the value after the vertical bar is negative. Finally, if they choose "More expensive" they will be charged 9.99 *more* because the value after the vertical bar is positive. Finally, if they choose "Invalid" the price will not be modified because the value after the vertical bar is not a number and Akeeba Subscriptions has no idea what you want it to do.

Default value

The default value the field is set to. It depends on the field type:

- **Text and password box**. The contents of the box.
- **Checkbox**. Use ON, TRUE, 1 or ENABLED to have the checkbox checked by default. Anything else will result in the checkbox being cleared (unchecked) by default
- **Everything else**. Enter the value (left-hand part) of an option you defined in the Options above.

Allow Empty

If checked the custom field is allowed to be left empty / unchecked by your subscriber. If it's not checked (default), Akeeba Subscriptions will not allow your subscriber to submit the subscription form unless he fills in / checks the field.

Valid Field Label

If Allow Empty above is NOT checked, the contents of this field are shown next to your custom field when it's valid (filled in / checked). If you want to translate this label you can use a language constant as described in our translation instructions below.

Invalid Field Label

If Allow Empty above is NOT checked, the contents of this field are shown next to your custom field when it's invalid (not filled in / checked). If you want to translate this label you can use a language constant as described in our translation instructions below.

14.1. Accessing custom fields data

Custom fields can be accessed like any other custom field throughout the component. Whenever our documentation is talking about the field name's it means the Slug you have entered in the custom field edit page. Below you can find the most common uses.

Subscription Levels

You can use custom field data in a Subscription Level's sign-up and cancellation messages. Assuming that your custom field's slug is my_field you can use the merge tag `[CUSTOM:MY_FIELD]` to access your custom field's contents. Please note that despite the case (lower or upper case) you've used for the slug you have to type the merge tag in all uppercase letters.

Subscription and administrator emails

In both the "Akeeba Subscriptions - Emails" and "Akeeba Subscriptions - Administrator Emails" plugins it's possible to customise the email messages sent to users and administrators respectively. Assuming that your custom field's slug is my_field you can use the merge tag `[CUSTOM:MY_FIELD]` to access your custom field's contents. Please note that despite the case (lower or upper case) you've used for the slug you have to type the merge tag in all uppercase letters.

ccInvoices Tags

If you are using our "ccInvoices - Akeeba Subscriptions merge tags" plugin it's possible to access the value of custom fields for use in your invoices. Assuming that your custom field's slug is my_field you can use the merge tag `{asuser_custom_my_field}` to access your custom field's contents. Please note that despite the case (lower or upper case) you've used for the slug you have to type the merge tag in all lowercase letters.

14.2. Localising (translating) custom fields' labels and options

It is possible to use "language constants" instead of plain words in titles and option values. A "language constant" is an arbitrary string consisting of uppercase English characters and underscores. It doesn't have to mean anything. It's just a placeholder. You will assign a meaning to each language constant later on. This is a language constant: THIS_IS_A_LANGUAGE_CONSTANT. This is also a language constant: COM_AKEEBASUBS_MYCUSTOMFIELDS_FOOBAR_TITLE.

Tip

As a rule of thumb, we recommend using the naming convention COM_AKEEBASUBS_USERCUSTOMFIELD_*FIELDNAME*_TITLE for field title language constant and COM_AKEEBASUBS_USERCUSTOMFIELD_*FIELDNAME*_OPTION_*OPTIONNAME* for field option language constants, where *FIELDNAME* is the field's slug in all uppercase letters and *OPTIONNAME* is a shorthand for the name of the option.

Likewise, we suggest using COM_AKEEBASUBS_USERCUSTOMFIELD_*FIELDNAME*_LABEL_VALID and COM_AKEEBASUBS_USERCUSTOMFIELD_*FIELDNAME*_LABEL_INVALID for the Valid Field Label and Invalid Field Label language constants.

While it is not mandatory to follow this convention, it makes translation much easier as the key name provides *context* to your translators, e.g. it tells them that they are translating the field title for such and such user defined custom field in Akeeba Subscriptions.

And now, the interesting part: assigning a localised message per language constant and site language. Using Joomla! 2.5 and later it is easy, using its Language Override feature. Log into your site's back-end and go to Extensions, Language Manager, then click on Overrides. Right above the list, on the right-hand side, there is a drop down. Select your desired language, e.g. English (United Kingdom) - Site.

Important

Make sure you select the "- Site" variant of your language.

Click on the New button. In the new page, type the language constant in the Language constant field. Then enter the translation in the Text field. Then make sure you tick the For both locations checkbox. Finally click on the Save & Close button to save your language override. Repeat those steps for each language on your site and your fields' labels will be localised.

15. Integrated invoicing

Note

This feature is only available in the for-a-fee Akeeba Subscriptions Professional edition. It is not available in the free of charge Core edition.

Since Akeeba Subscriptions 3.0.0 we offer an integrated invoicing feature in Akeeba Subscriptions. This allows you to automatically issue invoices to your subscribers when their subscription is paid for, without using a third party component or service.

The invoices are issued against an HTML template and converted automatically to PDF. The PDF file can either be sent to the subscriber automatically or you can (re-)send it manually.

The integrated invoicing is NOT enabled by default. If you want to enable it you have to publish the Akeeba Subscriptions - Integrated Invoicing plugin in Joomla!'s Plugin Manager page.

Invoices generated by Akeeba Subscriptions' integrated invoicing will be available for download, as PDF files, in the My Subscriptions page at the front-end of the component.

Security considerations

All invoices' PDF files are stored in the `administrator/components/com_akeebasubs/invoices` directory. The directory comes with a .htaccess and web.config file which instructs Apache and IIS web servers respectively to forbid direct access to this directory files. Furthermore it comes with a blank index.html file which will prevent other web servers from producing a file listing in the directory. The names of the files are deliberately "mangled" using slightly hard to predict, semi-random names which will prevent malicious users from "guessing" their names and accessing them directly on web servers other than Apache and IIS.

15.1. Invoice Templates

You can access it from Akeeba Subscriptions' menu through Invoicing, Invoice Templates.

The Invoice Templates allow you to define how the invoices which are issued through the integrated invoicing feature will look like. You can create a different invoice template for each subscription level, if you want, but remember that all invoices share the same numbering. Each invoice template can be unpublished. An unpublished invoice template will not be taken into account when invoices are being created.

The parameters for each invoice are:

Title — This title is displayed in the Invoice Templates page and helps you understand which invoice template this is. The title isn't used anywhere else.

Published — If the template is published it will be used for invoice creation. If it's not published it will be ignored. Useful for editing invoice templates without having to put your site off-line.

Subscription levels
: Select which subscription levels this template will be assigned to. You can select multiple subscription levels by holding down CTRL (Windows, Linux) or CMD (Mac OS X) when clicking on the subscription levels in the list.

  There are two special entries in the list. The `None` option means that the template will not be applied to any subscription level if this is your only selection. The `All levels` option overrides any other selection and means that this invoice template will be used for all invoices issued for subscriptions in any subscription level.

Template text
: The text of the invoice. Please note that due to limitations to the HTML to PDF rendering engine you have to use nested tables to structure the layout and that your HTML must be syntactically correct. Refrain from using a lot of CSS and whenever possible specify the exact width and height of each element of the invoice. If you don't follow these rules you may end up with PDF invoices which look wrong or, in extreme cases, completely blank. If you get a blank PDF invoice your HTML is wrong – it happened to us during testing! Akeeba Subscriptions will try to fix wrong HTML, but this is not always possible as it requires the PHP Tidy extension to be installed and enabled; on most live servers it's not even installed.

  As for the useful part, you can use the message variables you are already familiar with to pull data from Akeeba Subscriptions into the invoice.

15.2. Invoice management

You can access it from Akeeba Subscriptions' menu through Invoicing, Invoices.

On this page you can manage all invoices issued by Akeeba Subscriptions' integrated invoicing and all other plugins which integrate with third party invoicing extensions.

For each invoice you see several columns:

Subscription
: That's the subscription number the invoice is issued for. You can search by subscription number.

User
: The username, user ID, full name and email of the subscriber. That's the same information you see in the Subscriptions page. You can search by username, full name and email address in the search field.

Invoice Source
: The invoicing plugin which created this invoice, e.g. invoicing (for the Integrated Invoicing of Akeeba Subscriptions), ccinvoices (for ccInvoices integration) and so on. You can filter by a specific invoice source.

Invoice Nr
: The number if the issued invoice. For invoices issued with Akeeba Subscriptions 3.0.0 or later you will see the formatted invoice number, i.e. the same number as the one printed on the actual invoice. For invoices issued with earlier releases of Akeeba Subscriptions you will only see the unformatted invoice number. You can search by invoice number.

Date
: The date of issue of the invoice. You can search by invoice date.

  Note

  The date of issues appears in the UTC timezone.

Actions
: The available actions for each invoice.

Regarding the actions, there are three distinct cases:

1. If the invoicing plugin listed in the Invoice Source is not published or if it doesn't specify the back-end URL to view the invoice you will see "No actions available"

2. If the invoicing plugin listed in the Invoice Source is published and it specifies the back-end URL to view the invoice you will see a link to the invoice. This will open the invoice for editing in the third party extension.

3. For invoices issued by Akeeba Subscriptions' Integrated invoicing you will see the following buttons:

   - Preview as HTML (the "page" icon). Opens up a popup lightbox with a preview of the invoice in HTML format.
   - Download (the "download" icon). Downloads the invoice as a PDF file.
   - Send by email (the "mail envelope" icon). Sends the invoice as a PDF to the subscriber.
   - A label "Sent" or "Not sent" depending on whether the invoice has been sent to the subscriber.
   - Regenerate (the "redo" icon). This will regenerate the invoice's HTML and PDF content. If you have enabled the automatic sending of invoices, the generated invoice will be sent to the subscriber.

15.3. Invoices as signed PDF files

Important

Signed PDFs can only be produced using the Integrated Invoicing feature of Akeeba Subscriptions. Even though other invoicing extensions which can be integrated with Akeeba Subscriptions may be able to generate PDF files, Akeeba Subscriptions CAN NOT sign them for you because it does not control their creation.

Tip

If you have a business based in Greece you MUST generate signed PDF files for your invoices to be considered legally valid. Akeeba Subscriptions Professional is the first Joomla! invoicing component to offer this feature.

We decided to devote an entire section to this slightly hidden but very useful feature of Akeeba Subscriptions: its ability to produce signed PDFs. But first, let's explain what signed PDFs are and why you might need them.

What are signed PDFs?

Signed PDFs are regular PDF files which carry a "signature". The signature is a cryptographically secured "snapshot" of the PDF file which proves a. who created it and b. that the PDF file has not been tampered with. It's the same thing as the stamp or handwritten signature you'd put on a physical (paper) invoice. In fact, in most jurisdictions it has the same legal status as a handwritten signature. All European Union countries equate the presence of a digital signature to a handwritten signature for all legal purposes. In Greece you are actually obliged to digitally sign your invoices (unless they are issued on perforated autographic paper or carry a signature by a "tax device"), otherwise they are considered illegal and punishable by law.

The digital signature is issued against an X.509 certificate, also known as SSL certificate. This may sound familiar if you have set up HTTPS on your site, because you had to buy and install an "SSL certificate" on your server. In fact, we're talking about almost the same thing. Your server needed a special form of an SSL certificate which is valid only for HTTPS communications. You can't use it for signing PDF files. You can, however, get a different kind of "SSL certificate" (properly called an X.509 certificate) for signing e-mails (also known as "S/MIME") and PDF files. As a rule of thumb, any SSL certificate which can be used to sign e-mails (sometimes called an "S/MIME certificate" or a "digital identity") can usually be used to sign PDF files.

How do I get a certificate for signing PDF files?

As you may know, you can either create self-signed certificates or obtain a certificate from a commercial entity known as "Certificate Authority". There's a catch: you cannot prove the authenticity of self-signed certificates (anybody can create one), therefore signature issued against them are not legally accepted unless you are a certificate authority your-

self. In case you are wondering if you are a certificate authority: no you aren't. If you were you'd definitely know it. So, you have to obtain a certificate from a reputable Certificate Authority. Why? The Certificate Authority (or CA for short) will "sign" your certificate with their own. Think about your certificate being your passport, the Certificate Authority being your government and their certificate being the official seal of the state. If someone presents you something which looks like a passport but lacks the seal (stamp) of the government you can't trust that what is written on the passport is true. However, if the passport is sealed by the government you do trust it. In fact, you trust the government well enough to believe that they've checked the personal information of the other party, commit it on the passport and seal it with their official seal. Your trust for the government extends to trusting that the government-certified identity of the other party is his real identity. That's how a CA works. They will check your identity, commit it to your passport (certificate) and seal it with their stamp (their own certificate).

Making matters a little more complicated, most CAs issue three different kind of certificates: Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3. Class 3 is reserved for their resellers and other CAs. It's the kind of certificate you don't need. So, what is the difference between Class 1 and Class 2?

Class 1 is the lowest class of certificates. In order to get a Class 1 certificate you only need a valid e-mail address (and, possibly, a small amount of money for the CA's trouble of issuing a certificate). No personal / business information is checked. The only proof provided by this kind of certificate is that the signer (that's you) has or had access to the email address specified in the certificate. Even though you can produce signed PDFs with Class 1 certificates they are not automatically equivalent to a hand-written signature but may be acceptable in court in case of a dispute.

Class 2 is the certificate class you will most likely need. For a Class 2 certificate to be issued the CA will have to validate your personal and/or business information. They will charge you a small or big sum of money for this service. This class of certificates proves that the signature belongs to the person or business that the CA validated the identity of. Signatures issued against Class 2 certificates have legal standing equivalent to handwritten signatures.

Below you can find a short list of Certificate Authorities we have tested:

- Comodo [http://www.comodo.com/home/email-security/free-email-certificate.php]. They offer free Class 1 certificates. All you need is an email address.
- Verisign [http://www.symantec.com/verisign/digital-id]. They offer Class 1 certificates for a small fee (about $23 USD per year).
- StartSSL [https://www.startssl.com/]. They offer free Class 1 certificates and low cost (about 50€ per year) Class 2 certificates.

You might wonder why you might want to pay Verisign for a Class 1 certificate when the others give it away for free. There is yet another catch (of course!). Adobe Reader, the only application which can display digital signatures in PDF files, will display the status of an otherwise valid signature as UNKNOWN unless the certificate used for signing belongs to one of Adobe's partners (namely, if the CA is part of the Adobe Approved Trust List [http://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/kb/approved-trust-list2.html]). Verisign seems to be the only English-speaking company which belongs to that list and can issue certificates is software format. Please note that many CAs will issue their certificates in the form of "USB tokens". These cannot be used in a server environment, like that used by your web server, therefore cannot be used with Akeeba Subscriptions.

How do I use my certificate with Akeeba Subscriptions?

Most CAs will issue your certificate and install it on your browser. This is acceptable if you only need to sign email you send from that browser and/or computer, but it's of little to no use when you want to automatically sign the PDF files issued by Akeeba Subscriptions. Luckily, you can export your certificates! Your CA should be able to give you instructions. They usually call this procedure "backing up" or "exporting" your certificates.

Some information on exporting certificates on popular operating systems:

- Windows (Vista and later) [http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-vista/Import-or-export-certificates-and-private-keys]. Remember to select the "Yes, export the private key" option.

- Mac OS X (Leopard and later) [http://www.utexas.edu/its/help/user-certs/804].

Now, there's a world of pain out there. Certificates can be exported in many different and largely incompatible formats. In order for Akeeba Subscriptions to be able to use your certificate it must be exported in PEM format. Files in PEM format have the extensions .pem, .cer or .crt depending on your browser and operating system. If your operating system doesn't allow you to export directly to PEM format, you may have to convert your file (usually in PKCS#12 a.k.a. .pfx format) to PEM format using something like SSL Converter [???]. Once you export the certificate, rename the file to certificate.cer (all lowercase letters) and upload it to your site's `administrator/components/com_akeebasubs/assets/tcpdf/certificates` directory.

A certificate is actually a collection of two things: a public key and a private key. Akeeba Subscriptions needs both to sign your PDF files. Usually both keys are included when you export your certificate. If you have to export them separately, remember to also export your secret key in PEM format (.pem, .cer or .crt file extension), rename it to secret.cer and upload it to your site's `administrator/components/com_akeebasubs/assets/tcpdf/certificates` directory.

The secret key of your certificate is always password-protected. This is what prevents someone from grabbing a copy of your certificate and impersonate you. Therefore, Akeeba Subscriptions needs you to enter the password of this file in its configuration. Go to the back-end of your site and go to Components, Akeeba Subscriptions and click on the Options button in the toolbar. Under Invoicing you will find the option for the certificate secret key password. Enter your password there.

You are now ready to start generating signed PDF files for your invoices!

16. Customising Akeeba Subscriptions

The author has no illusions about being any good as a web designer. The opposite is true. To this end, we've made it very easy for users to override the CSS files of Akeeba Subscriptions in their templates. The following sections will explain how to customise Akeeba Subscriptions' front-end display.

16.1. Customising the front-end layout

Layout customisation usually involves either changing just the CSS or changing both the CSS and HTML output of the component. Both can be accomplished with template overrides. We will explain the two procedures below.

Warning

Newer versions of the component may introduce changes to the base CSS files and HTML output. We recommend you to review your overridden files every time you upgrade Akeeba Subscriptions. We regret to inform you that we can not accept bug reports and support requests unless the issues you have can be reproduced *even after disabling your overrides*.

Customising the CSS

1. Find your current template's subdirectory in your site's root, under the `tempates` directory. In this example, we will assume it is `templates/*mytemplate*`

2. Create a new directory `templates/*mytemplate*/media/com_akeebasubs/css` This is your media files overrides directory.

3. Copy the file `media/com_akeebasubs/css/frontend.css` into the `templates/*mytemplate*/media/com_akeebasubs/css` directory. From now on, Akeeba Subscription will load this new `frontend.css` file instead of the file found under `media/com_akeebasubs/css`.

4. Edit the `templates/mytemplate/media/com_akeebasubs/css/frontend.css` file replacing or adding CSS rules so that the design matches your desired style

Please don't ask us for CSS or design ideas. We are good developers and horrid designers. You can ask us, however, regarding any issues you might experience overriding our CSS files.

Customising the HTML output

Sometimes it's not enough modifying the CSS. In order to achieve your desired styling you may also have to add some extra div or span elements in the HTML output. When this happens you need to perform template overrides for our view template PHP files, a process called Template Overrides in Joomla! jargon. Instead of reinventing the wheel by writing lengthy instructions, we think it's better for you to read the official Joomla! documentation on the subject [http://docs.joomla.org/How_to_override_the_output_from_the_Joomla!_core].

16.2. Customising emails

There are two ways to customise your email messages, depending on whether you are using the free-of-charge Core edition or the for-a-fee Professional edition.

Akeeba Subscriptions Professional

Akeeba Subscriptions Professional has a full-featured e-mail template editor discussed in the E-mail Templates section of our documentation. It allows for fine grained and very easy customisation of the email messages.

Akeeba Subscriptions Core

Akeeba Subscriptions Core lacks the visual email editor of the Professional version but it does allow you to customise your email messages. In order to do that you have to override the translation strings which define the email subject and body in each of its email-capable plugins. Traditionally this required editing files on your server but thanks to a feature introduced in Joomla! 2.5 this is no longer necessary. Here's how to edit your emails text using Joomla! 2.5 and later's Language Override's feature. Log into your site's back-end and go to Extensions, Language Manager, then click on Overrides. Right above the list, on the right-hand side, there is a drop down. Select your desired language, e.g. `English (United Kingdom) - Administrator`.

Important

Make sure you select the "- Administrator" variant of your language. Counter-intuitively, plugin translation files are considered administrator language files.

Click on the New button. In the new page, in the right-hand side of the page, there is a search box. Enter a part of the email text you want to translate. For example, let's change the email header of a new (just-paid) subscription. We will search for *`new subscription`*. Make sure the radio button called Value is selected and click on Search. After 1-5 seconds, a list of matching language strings is shown below. You can use the More results link to load more language strings.

The email language strings begin with a different prefix depending on the plugin which sends them:

PLG_AKEEBASUBS_SUBSCRIPTIONEMAILS_ E-mails sent to customers when a subscription is created, renewed or otherwise modified

PLG_AKEEBASUBS_ADMINEMAILS_ E-mails sent to administrators

PLG_AKEEBASUBS_AFFEMAILS_ E-mails sent to affiliates

PLG_SYSTEM_ASEXPIRATIONNOTIFY_ E-mails sent to subscribers to notify them that their subscription's expiration date is approaching

In our case, we want to change the email header for the email sent to a subscriber when his subscription becomes active, so it is the `PLG_AKEEBASUBS_SUBSCRIPTIONEMAILS_HEAD_NEW_ACTIVE` option from the list. Click on it. Magically, the Language constant and Text fields on the left-hand side of the interface are populated.

Brilliant! Now edit the text in the Text area to whatever you want. You can use message variables in the text.

Then make sure you tick the For both locations checkbox. Finally click on the Save & Close button to save your override. From now on, Joomla! will use your overridden translation string instead of Akeeba Subscriptions - Subscriptions Emails plugin's built-in strings. After setting up all those overrides, it's easy to train your client to edit those emails all by themselves, without your intervention.

The author would like to thank Joomla! co-founder and expert Brian Teeman for pointing us to this very useful Joomla! hidden secret.

16.3. Message variables for subscription level messages and emails

Akeeba Subscriptions allows you to customise the subscription level success and cancellation messages, as well as the emails it sends. Customisation would be futile without a way to include various bits of useful information regarding the subscription the message or email refers to. This is done through the use of message variables or "merge codes". You will find all of the currently available merge codes below:

\n	A new line. Please use it only in the email body text. It is ignored everywhere else.
[SITENAME]	The website's name, as configured in Global Configuration
[FULLNAME]	User's full name
[FIRSTNAME]	User's first name
[LASTNAME]	User's last name
[USERNAME]	User's username
[USEREMAIL]	User's email address
[LEVEL]	Subscription level's title
[ENABLED]	The text "Enabled" if the subscription is enabled, "Disabled" otherwise. The actual string is translated to the current language.
[PAYSTATE]	The payment state: New, Pending, Completed, Rejected or Refunded. The actual string is translated to the current language.
[PUBLISH_UP]	The date when the subscription becomes active in a format like this: 2011-12-31 21:34:59. Dates and times are always expressed in UTC timezone.
[PUBLISH_UP_EU]	The date when the subscription becomes active in a format like this: 31/12/2011 21:34:59. Dates and times are always expressed in UTC timezone.
[PUBLISH_UP_USA]	The date when the subscription becomes active in a format like this: 12/31/2011 09:34:59 pm. Dates and times are always expressed in UTC timezone.
[PUBLISH_UP_JAPAN]	The date when the subscription becomes active in a format like this: 2011/12/31 21:34:59. Dates and times are always expressed in UTC timezone.

[PUBLISH_DOWN] The date when the subscription becomes inactive in a format like this: 2011-12-31 21:34:59. Dates and times are always expressed in UTC timezone.

[PUBLISH_DOWN_EU] The date when the subscription becomes inactive in a format like this: 31/12/2011 21:34:59. Dates and times are always expressed in UTC timezone.

[PUBLISH_DOWN_USA] The date when the subscription becomes inactive in a format like this: 12/31/2011 09:34:59 pm. Dates and times are always expressed in UTC timezone.

[PUBLISH_DOWN_JAPAN] The date when the subscription becomes inactive in a format like this: 2011/12/31 21:34:59. Dates and times are always expressed in UTC timezone.

[MYSUBSURL] or [URL] The URL to the "My Subscriptions" page

[DLID] The Download ID –as defined and used by Akeeba Release System– of the subscriber.

[CURRENCY] or [$] The currency symbol you've defined in Akeeba Subscriptions' Options page

[SUB:ID] The numeric, unique Subscription ID

[SUB:USER_ID] The numeric Joomla! user ID of the subscriber

[SUB:AKEEBASUBS_LEVEL_ID] The numeric ID of the subscription level

[SUB:PUBLISH_UP] The exact date and time the subscription will be activated in YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss format, e.g. 2011-12-31 13:10:50. Dates and times are always expressed in UTC timezone.

[SUB:PUBLISH_DOWN] The exact date and time the subscription will be deactivated in YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss format, e.g. 2012-12-31 13:10:49. Dates and times are always expressed in UTC timezone.

[SUB:ENABLED] This returns 1 if the subscription is enabled (e.g. the payment processor already notified us that the transaction is valid and it's not a renewal for a future date) or 0 if it's not enabled yet.

[SUB:PROCESSOR] The name of the payment processor plugin, e.g. "paypal" for the PayPal payment plugin

[SUB:PROCESSOR_KEY] The unique transaction ID assigned by the payment processor.

Note

This may NOT be available if the payment processor has not contacted your site with the result of the transaction before redirecting the user back to your site.

[SUB:STATE] The payment state. C means completed, P is pending, X is cancelled, N means it hasn't been processed yet.

Note

This may NOT be available if the payment processor has not contacted your site with the result of the transaction before redirecting the user back to your site.

[SUB:NET_AMOUNT] The amount the user paid, before taxes.

[SUB:TAX_AMOUNT] The amount of taxes that the user paid.

[SUB:GROSS_AMOUNT] The total amount the user paid, including taxes.

[SUB:TAX_PERCENT] The percentage of the tax paid, e.g. 18.00 if the user paid 18% tax.

[SUB:CREATED_ON] The exact date and time the user pressed the Subscribe Now button in YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss format. Dates and times are always expressed in UTC timezone.

[SUB:AKEEBASUBS_COUPON_ID] The numeric ID of the coupon used during the subscription, or 0 if no coupon was used

[SUB:AKEEBASUBS_UPGRADE_ID] The numeric ID of the upgrade rule automatically applied to the subscription, or 0 if no upgrade rule was used

[SUB:AKEEBASUBS_AFFILIATE_ID] The numeric ID of the affiliate who referred this subscription, or 0 if no affiliate was used

[SUB:AKEEBASUBS_INVOICE_ID] The numeric ID of the Akeeba Subscriptions invoice. Please note that this only refers to the built-in invoicing feature of Akeeba Subscriptions. It doesn't store the invoices created through the integration with third party invoicing solutions such as ccInvoices.

[SUB:PREDISCOUNT_AMOUNT] The price of the subscription, before any coupon or upgrade rule discount was applied

[SUB:DISCOUNT_AMOUNT] The exact discount amount (coupon, upgrade rule) applied to the subscription

[LEVEL:ID] The numeric ID of the subscription level.

[LEVEL:TITLE] The title of the subscription level.

[LEVEL:DESCRIPTION] The description of the subscription level.

[USER:ISBUSINESS] 1 if the user chose to perform a business registration, 0 otherwise

[USER:BUSINESSNAME] The business name

[USER:OCCUPATION] The business activity specified

[USER:VATNUMBER] The VAT registration number

[USER:VIESREGISTERED] 1 if the VAT number is VIES-registered

[USER:ADDRESS1] The address field (part 1)

[USER:ADDRESS2] The address field (part 2)

[USER:CITY] City

[USER:STATE] State (the short two to five letter code)

[USER:STATE_FORMATTED] State (the full human-readable name of the state)

[USER:ZIP] ZIP/Postal Code

[USER:COUNTRY] Two-letter ISO code of the selected country, e.g. DE for Germany, FR for France, US for USA, CA for Canada and so on

[CUSTOM:*YourFieldName*] Where `YourFieldName` is the name of a custom field in all uppercase letters. Custom fields can be defined in plugins or in the Custom Fields page of the component.

[SUBCUSTOM:*YourFieldName*] Where `YourFieldName` is the name of a per-subscription custom field in all uppercase letters. Custom per-subscription fields can be defined in plugins. If you have created any custom field plugins, you know what this is. If you don't know what this is, you most likely don't need it!

In addition to the above, the following variables are valid *only* for invoice templates:

[INV:PLAIN_NUMBER] The plain (unformatted) invoice number

[INV:NUMBER] The formatted invoice number (if you are using a custom format in the component's Options)

[INV:INVOICE_DATE] The date of the invoice. The format you've set up in the component's Options will be used.

[INV:INVOICE_DATE_EU] The date of the invoice. The European date format (DD/MM/YYYY, e.g. 31/12/2012) will be used.

[INV:INVOICE_DATE_USA] The date of the invoice. The US date format (MM/DD/YYYY, e.g. 12/31/2012) will be used.

[INV:INVOICE_DATE_JAPAN] The date of the invoice. The Japanese date format (YYYY/MM/DD, e.g. 2012/12/31) will be used.

[VAT_NOTICE] If he subscriber has chosen a country belonging to the European Union and his VAT number is VIES-registered this will be replaced with the standard notice "VAT liability is transferred to the recipient, pursuant EU Directive nr 2006/112/EC and local tax laws implementing this directive." In any other case this will be blank.

Chapter 3. Payment plugins

Akeeba Subscriptions is designed to be a modular system, powered by standard Joomla! plugins. Using plugins you can add payment methods as well as integration with third party software. Moreover, core functionality of Akeeba Subscriptions (like sending out emails upon subscription or email reminders for subscription expiration) is take care of by plugins.

This documentation chapter will guide you through the details of configuring the payment plugins. Payment plugins are used to integrate payment processor (services which facilitate on-line and off-line payments) with Akeeba Subscriptions. Without them you cannot have subscriptions. Akeeba Subscriptions comes with dozens of payment plugins. One of them, which integrates the popular PayPal payments service, is always enabled by default.

All payment methods are standard Joomla! plugins, belonging to the `akpayment` group. If you want to enable a payment method, just publish the relevant plugin.

Warning

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT! DO NOT SEEK SUPPORT IF YOU DO NOT HEED THIS WARNING.

ALL AKEEBA SUBSCRIPTIONS AND PAYMENT PLUGINS MUST BE PUBLISHED WITH "Public" ACCESS. IF YOU SET THEIR ACCESS TO "Registered" OR IN ANY OTHER WAY MODIFY YOUR SITE'S ACL SETTINGS TO FORBID NON LOGGED IN USERS FROM ACCESSING THE PLUGINS AKEEBA SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL WORK ERRATICALLY OR NOT AT ALL.

If you think that Akeeba Subscriptions does not work correctly because it does not activate subscriptions, run integrations (e.g. doesn't assign subscribers to Joomla! groups), accept payments or malfunctions in any other way, the first you MUST do before even contemplating on whether you should contact us is to check your plugins. During the first week of June 2012 we had four people with the same self-induced problem. **YOU MUST NEVER, EVER CHANGE THE ACCESS OF THE PLUGINS**!

1. 2Checkout Standard Purchase Routine

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - 2Checkout Standard Purchase Routine

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

Warning

This payment method has been rewritten as of Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1; if you were previously using it, please review this documentation and reconfigure the plugin.

This payment method integrates the 2Checkout Standard Purchase Routine payments service (commonly simply referred to as 2checkout or 2CO).

Important

Akeeba Subscriptions cannot pass the currency to 2Checkout. You MUST make sure that the currency configured in 2Checkout and the currency displayed in your site match to avoid nasty surprises.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "2Checkout" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Visa, MasterCard or American Express cards"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Seller ID	Your 2Checkout seller numeric ID, as communicated to you by 2Checkout.
Secret word	The secret word you have specified in your 2Checkout account, used to verify that the payment notification come, indeed, from 2Checkout and avoid fraudulent requests. It is case sensitive, i.e. ABC, abc and Abc are three different secret words.
Demo mode	When enabled, transactions are processed by 2Checkout's as test payments. This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU NOT ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.** This option should be used only in the integration testing phase during your initial setup. When you're ready to go live with your site, disable this feature. **Warning** Demo transactions DO NOT send an Instant Notification System (INS) message. Therefore, all subscriptions processed with a demo transaction will have a payment status of New and will not be enabled.
Language	Select the language the 2Checkout interface will be displayed in.
Default payment method	2Checkout allows different payment methods. Select which one will be pre-selected in the checkout page.
Skip landing page	When enabled your users will not see the order review page when they are redirected to 2Checkout.
Checkout Process	You can select between the Multi Page Checkout and Single Page Checkout modes. Single page checkout is likely to give you a much better conversion rate as the client just fills in his information and clicks on a button. The less steps to performing the payment, the more likely a user is to actually pay.

Integration Notes

2Checkout requires you to supply a Notification URL before you can accept payments to your site. In order to do that, please follow this procedure:

1. Login to your 2Checkout management page, https://www.2checkout.com/va
2. Click on Notifications, Settings from the top menu
3. In the Global URL field enter:

   ```
   http://www.example.com/index.php?
   option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=2checkout
   ```

   where `www.example.com` must be replaced with the domain name of your site. Then click on Apply, Enable All Notifications and Save Settings buttons, in this order.

If you skip this step, or make a typo, no subscription will be activated in Akeeba Subscriptions and the payment status will always appear as "New".

2. AlloPass

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Allopass

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the mobile micro-payment processor Allopass.

Warning

Due to international regulations regarding the mobile phone market, Allopass has **FIXED PRICE POINTS**. You will have to select which of those fixed price points is closer to your subscription value. This also means that things like coupons, upgrade rules and tax rules **ARE COMPLETELY IGNORED** when using this plugin. Also note that the maximum payment you can request through Allopass is 10$ due to mobile industry regulations.

We generally don't recommend using this payment method as it makes it very hard for your customers to figure out how much they have to pay before clicking the Subscribe Now button. Moreover, the amount of money you earn is only a small fraction of what your customers actually pay.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "Allopass" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay via Mobile Phone"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
API Key	Provided by Allopass
API Secret Key	Provided by Allopass
Map price-points	This is used to map subscription levels to site IDs, Product IDs and Price Point IDs in Allopass. The format is `LEVELTITLE=11111:22222:33333` where `LEVELTITLE` is the Title of your subscription level, 11111 is your Site ID, 22222 is your Product ID and 33333 is your Price Point ID. See the Integration Notes below for more information. You can enter multiple subscription levels, one level per line.

Important

If you do not map a subscription level to a site, product and price point ID then you will not be able to sell a subscription to this level using the AlloPass payment plugin.

Integration notes

Before you can start selling subscriptions using the Allopass plugin you have to create a Site, Product and Price Point in Allopass. We will guide you through, but please note that this is only for your convenience. If you have questions about how Allopass works please contact Allopass, not AkeebaBackup.com.

Creating a Site

This procedure is required only once before you can create a product.

1. Log in to Allopass and go to My Account, My Products. Direct link: https://www.allopass.com/merchant/product

2. Click on the Add a new site... button to the right hand side of My Sites List header. Direct link: https://www.allopass.com/merchant/product/site-add

3. Enter all the necessary details and click on the Add Site button.

Creating a Product and getting its information

1. Log in to Allopass and go to My Account, My Products. Direct link: https://www.allopass.com/merchant/product

2. Click on the Add a new product... button to the right hand side of My Sites List header. Direct link: https://www.allopass.com/merchant/product/add

3. Select the site you created in the "Creating a Site ID" procedure.

4. Select the One-Time, Fixed pricepoints payment method. That's the only method supported by Akeeba Subscriptions' plugin. Click on Next.

5. Enter your product information.

   ### Important

   You MUST enter a Notification URL. The URL `https://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=allopass` must be used, after replacing `www.example.com` with your site's domain name.

   Click on Next.

6. Select all your price points per continent and country. Yes, it's a long list. We also strongly suggest creating a test code. Then click on Next.

7. Make sure all is to your liking and click on Confirm.

8. You now see your product. Under the # auth column there are three numbers separated by a slash, for example 11111/22222/33333. Note them down. These are your Site ID, Product ID and Price Point ID. Replace the slash with a colon, i.e. 11111/22222/33333 becomes `11111:22222:33333`. Note that down. This is what you need to put in Akeeba Subscriptions' plugin.

If you need to fetch back this information in the future, go to My Products, click on your site's name and make sure that One-Time, Fixed price points is selected. You will now see your products and their # auth fields.

Setting up the product in Akeeba Subscriptions

First create a subscription level and note down its title. For the sake of this example let's say it is called LEVEL1. Then perform the procedure above to get the product's setup string which contains the site, product and pricepoints ID, e.g. 11111:22222:33333. You need to enter the following line in the Map price-points field in Akeeba Subscriptions:

```
LEVEL1=11111:22222:33333
```

If you want to set up multiple levels, you can enter one level per line. For example, in order to map a second subscription level called LEVEL2 to the same Allopass product enter this:

```
LEVEL1=11111:22222:33333
LEVEL2=11111:22222:33333
```

We are not through yet. We also need to enter the API keys. Go to your Allopass My Profile page. On the right hand side you will find the API Key and API Secret Key. Copy those keys to Akeeba Subscriptions plugin's same-named fields. Now save the plugin, publish it and you're ready to start selling.

3. Beanstream

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Beanstream

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.4.1.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This is a payment plugin which allows you to use Beanstream (http://www.beanstream.com) to handle credit card payments.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "Beanstream" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay with credit card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	This is the 9-digit merchant ID assigned to you by Beanstream.
Hash Key	Please enter the hash key here if you have enabled Hash validation in Transaction Response Page in your Beanstream account.

Integration notes

We strongly advise you to enable hash validation as it allows Akeeba Subscriptions to authenticate the transaction response messages. In order to do that go to your Beanstream account and select Administration, Account Settings, Order Settings. Tick the Include hash validation in Transaction Response Page redirection and Payment Gateway Response Notification checkbox. Right below it enter a Hash key of your liking. In the Hash algorithm area make sure that `SHA-1` is selected.

During the payment process the customer gets redirected to the merchant's payment form in Beanstream. The merchant (you) can configure that form at Configuration, Payment form in the Beanstream backend.

4. BrainTree

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - BrainTree

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 3.0.0.

This plugin **does support** recurring payments. Please read the integration notes below.

This is a payment plugin which allows you to use the low cost payment processor BrainTree.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "BrainTree" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay with credit card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	This is the merchant ID assigned to you by BrainTree.

Public Key	This is the public key given to you by BrainTree.
Private Key	This is the private key given to you by BrainTree.
Sandbox	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the sandbox (testing server). This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

Integration notes for recurring payemnts

In order to get recurring payments work with BrainTree, the merchant has to create a "plan" in the braintree account, that matches the Akeeba Subscriptions' Subscription Level. When ones create a plan (in the BrainTree account under Recurring Billing, Plans) there are a few fields to fill in. The first field is called Plan ID and the merchant has to enter the "slug" of the corresponding Subscription Level of Akeeba Subscriptions. There are also the fields Price which will be overwritten by the amount sent by Akeeba Subscriptions and First Bill Date will always be set to `Immediately` by the plugin. One can only choose the billing cycle in months, so that has to match the Subscription Length in Akeeba Subscriptions.

In order to get recurring payments to work one secondly has to create a "webhook" (under Account, Webhooks which notifies Akeeba Subscriptions about changes (e.g. new payment) of a recurring subscription. The URL that needs to be used for the webhook is:

`https://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=braintree&type=webhook&marker=000`
after replacing `www.example.com` with your site's domain name.

and one has to select to get a notification for `Subscription charged successfully`.

5. CashU

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - CashU

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.3.0.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the payment processor CashU, a popular payment processor for countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "CashU" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay by credit card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	This is the identification number given to you by the CashU system during the registration of your account
Encryption Keyword	This is the encryption keyword (case sensitive) that you choose in your CashU account. It will be used to secure each payment. If it's missing or wrong all transactions will fail.
Service/Product Name	If you are not using "Multiple Checkout" you can leave this field empty. Otherwise it is the service/product name you want your clients to see when you're using Multiple checkout.

Language	Selects the language of the CashU interface that your clients will see. You can select between English, Arabic and Farsi.
Enhanced Encryption	If you are using the "Enhanced Encryption" (under the "Encryption Type" tab) in your CashU account you must set this option to Yes.
Sandbox	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the sandbox (testing server). This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

Integration notes

Before you can use this Akeeba Subscriptions payment plugin you will have to do some changes in your CashU account.

1. Log in to your CashU merchant's interface at https://www.cashu.com/business/cashu_prepaid
2. In the interface go to "My Account" > "Payment Security" (see sreenshot_1).
3. In this new site you will have to change the Notification URL to `https://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=cashu` after replacing `www.example.com` with your site's domain name.
4. On the same site, please change the Return URL to the SEF URL of an article in your site. This is where the customers will be redirected after paying.

   ### Important

   It MUST be a SEF URL, e.g. `http://www.example.com/something/somearticle.html`. You cannot use a non-SEF URL which contains index.php. Such non-SEF URLs will not work correctly with CashU.

6. ccAvenue

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - ccAvenue

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the ccAvenue payments service, the leading payment processor in India. It can be used for transactions in Indian Rupees or US Dollars.

Important

Akeeba Subscriptions cannot pass the currency to ccAvenue. You MUST make sure that the currency configured in ccAvenue and the currency displayed in your site match to avoid nasty surprises.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "ccAvenue" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Visa, MasterCard or American Express cards"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	Your ccAvenue Merchant ID, as communicated to you by ccAvenue.

Working Key	The password you have specified in your ccAvenue account, used to verify that the payment notification come, indeed, from ccAvenue and avoid fraudulent requests. It is case sensitive, i.e. ABC, abc and Abc are three different secret words.

Integration notes

Note

The following notes were shared with us by our clients. We include them here in hope that it will help you setting up the payment plugin. We have not been able to verify them ourselves in any other way except checking with our users that the payment plugin works for them.

The ccAvenue documentation can be quite confusing. ccAvenue has three different transaction type options to choose from. In order to use Akeeba Subscriptions with ccAvenue, you have to select the first transaction type option (variable amount) in ccAvenue's interface.

Moreover, some users report that you have to deactivate the Working Key if it's activated.

7. ClickAndBuy

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - ClickAndBuy

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.4.4.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This is a payment plugin which allows you to use the German payment processor ClickAndBuy.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "ClickAndBuy" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay with credit card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	The Merchant ID assigned to you by ClickAndBuy. It's available at the top right corner of all pages of your account page https://merchant.clickandbuy.com/
Project ID	The Project ID assigned by ClickAndBuy. You have to go to your account page at https://merchant.clickandbuy.com/, Configuration and open the options on the left hand side with a little arrow. This allows you to manage your projects. Here you need to select the project of your choice and you will see the value Project ID. Copy it to Akeeba Subscriptions' plugin.
Key	The Project ID assigned by ClickAndBuy. You have to go to your account page at https://merchant.clickandbuy.com/, Configuration and open the options on the left hand side with a little arrow. This allows you to manage your projects. Here you need to select the project of your choice and you will see the value Shared Secret Key. Copy it to Akeeba Subscriptions' plugin.
Sandbox Merchant ID	The Merchant ID used when the Sandbox option below is enabled.
Sandbox Project ID	The Project ID used when the Sandbox option below is enabled.
Sandbox Key	The Shared Secret Key used when the Sandbox option below is enabled.

Sandbox	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the sandbox (testing server). This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

8. CM-CIC P@iement

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - CM-CIC p@iement

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.5.0.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This is a payment plugin which allows you to use the French payment processor CM-CIC p@iement [https://www.cmcicpaiement.fr/fr/index.html]. It enables payments with VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Carte Bleue and PayPal.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "CM-CIC" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Carte Bleue ou carte de crédit"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
EPT/TPE Number	This is the number of the merchant's virtual EPT/TPE. It's a seven digit number.
Security Key	Usually this is the merchant's Administrator Email account. This email address will receive a copy of all successful payment receipts.
Site ID	A unique identifier for your site. You should only use lowercase/uppercase unaccented characters and numbers, e.g. `societe` or `myWebsite1`. This is required to distinguish between different websites using the same virtual EPT/TPE number. If you only have one site use `website`.
Sandbox	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the sandbox (testing server). This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

9. DeltaPay (Alpha Bank, Greece)

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - DeltaPay (Alpha Bank, Greece). Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.0.1.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the DelptaPay payment processor operated in Greece by Alpha Bank. It implements the HTML method which redirects your user to DeltaPay's server where they can enter their Credit Card details.

Warning

The DeltaPay system lacks any fraud protection and its security model is flaky. It is trivial for an unskilled hacker to spoof a payment notification and subscribe without paying. We **STRONGLY** recommend against using it. The only reason we include it is that some of our clients requested it.

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "DeltaPay" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Credit Card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	When you open a merchant account with Alpha Bank, they'll give you a merchant ID. Put it in this field.

Integration notes

You will have to give some URLs to Alpha Bank before going live.

The first one is the "Payment page". Unfortunately, this can not be provided, as the referrer page (where the client performs the payment from) depends on your menu structure and the subscription level your user buys. If they insist, give them this URL:

```
http://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=subscribe
```

Where www.example.com is the domain name of your site. If this doesn't work and ask you to contact your web developer to change the payment system, we regret to inform you that this IS NOT AN OPTION. Besides, the bank checking the HTTP referer field for "security reasons" (as they say in their documentation) is stupid. This HTTP field can be forged very easily or even turned off (ref. RFC 2616 ch. 15.1.2 §7 [http://www.w3.org/Protocols/rfc2616/rfc2616-sec15.html]) and must not be used for security purposes. Moreover, not allowing more than one payment URLs is unheard of in this decade. Please ask the bank to fix their system. After all, it's YOUR money on the line.

The other three URLs they require are the Success, Failure and Cancel pages. For all of them give them this URL:

```
http://www.example.com/index.php?
option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=deltapay
```

where www.example.com must be replaced with the domain name of your site.

10. Dwolla

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Dwolla

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.4.5.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This is a payment plugin which allows you to use the US payment processor Dwolla (https://www.dwolla.com/). Dwolla allows you to perform safe and easy bank-to-bank transfers between your client's and your bank account.

Warning

All Dwolla payments are in US Dollars. Since it supports no other currency you MUST make sure that the configuration of Akeeba Subscriptions has the currency code set to USD and the currency symbol set to $.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "Dwolla" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay with bank transfer"

Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Account ID	Please enter your Account ID as given by Dwolla. It's in the form 812-xxx-xxxx.
Application Key	Enter your Dwolla Application Key. You will need to create a new Dwolla Application before you can get this.
Application Secret	Enter your Dwolla Application Secret. You will need to create a new Dwolla Application before you can get this.

Implementation notes

When creating a new Dwolla Application you do not need to enter anything in "OAuth Callback", "Payment Callback" and "Payment Redirect" fields. If Dwolla doesn't let you move forward without filling in anything you can use the URL `https://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=dwolla` where www.example.com is your site's domain name.

11. ePay (Denmark)

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - ePay

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.4.5.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This is a payment plugin which allows you to use the Danish payment processor ePay (http://www.epay.dk).

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "ePay" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay with credit card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	The Merchant Number as given by ePay. Can be found under the menu Settings and payment system in the ePay administration.
Sandbox	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the sandbox (testing server). This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**
Sandbox Merchant	The test account's merchant number. This is only used when the Sandbox option above is turned on.
Use MD5 hash	When enabled it allows you to validate that the payment responses actually do come from ePay and are not faked by potential fraudsters.

Warning

Before enabling this option in the plugin, you have to enable this feature in ePay. So just remember to set MD5 security check to `On accepturl and by authorization` in the ePay administration under the menu Settings, Payment system.

Payment types	Select the accepted payment types. This is a multiple selection box. You can hold down the CTRL key (Windows, Linux) or CMD key (Mac) when clicking to select multiple items on the list.
Language	The language the payment page will be displayed on. Select "Auto detect" to have ePay detect the user's preferred language automatically.
Callback text	(optional) Normally, when the user completes the payment, ePay shows him a button with the default label "Return to Merchant". If you type in something in here, it will be shown on that button instead of the default label. For example, you can type in something like "Return to Example.com"
Custom Header Image	(optional) The URL to an image to be shown on ePay's checkout page header. It'd better be hosted on an HTTPS URL, otherwise your customers will get a warning about insecure content on their browser.
Header background color	(optional) The hex code of ePay checkout page's header background color. For example, white is FFFFFF (note: there is no # sign in front of the hex color code!)
Header border color	The hex code of ePay checkout page's header border color. For example, light gray is CCCCCC (note: there is no # sign in front of the hex color code!)

12. Moneris eSelect Plus

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - eSelect Plus. Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.2.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the Canadian Moneris (eSelect) credit card processing service, namely their eSelect Plus payment methof. Moneris offers is the largest payment processor in Canada and offers its services even to non-Canadian businesses. The eSelect plus method is a hosted payments solution, which means that your site needn't have an SSL certificate, as your users are not entering their credit card information directly on your site, but on a Moneris-hosted page.

Warning

This plugin allows your clients to enter their Credit Card information in a page on your site and then it submits this form to your server. You have to make sure that you are always presenting the subscription page in HTTPS, using an SSL certificate signed by a reputable Certificate Authority. Failure to do so might hold you liable in case your client's credit card information is stolen. Please note that no credit card information is ever stored on your site's database.

Important

Moneris does not allow us to communicate the transaction currency. Please ensure that your prices are displayed in the same currency as the one set up in your Moneris account.

Important

Please read the Integration Notes section below before using this payment plugin.

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "eSelect Plus" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "VISA or MasterCard"

Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
eSELECTplus Version	Choose whether you're using the Canada or US version of the service. If unsure, look at your eSELECT back-end URL. If it is `https://esqa.moneris.com/mpg` then you are using the Canadian version. Otherwise, if it is `https://esplus.moneris.com/usmpg` then you are using the US version.
Merchant ID	The Merchant ID (ps_store_id or hpp_id) given to you by Moneris.
Merchant Key	The is the token (hpp_key) given to you by Moneris and acts as the password authenticating you to Moneris services.
Language	You can select the language Moneris will send emails in. You can choose between English and French.
Test Mode	When enabled, the transactions will be performed against Moneris' test server. DO NOT USE THIS ON A LIVE SITE!

Warning

The transaction status depends on the penny value of the gross price. You need a gross price with a zero penny value (e.g. 1.00 CAD) to get a successful test transaction. Read the Moneris integration manual for more information.

Integration notes

In the Moneris account settings page you have to set the following options:

- Set the Response Method to "Sent to your server as a POST". Do not use the GET option, it doesn't work correctly
- For all three links Approved URL, Declined URL and Response URL (found in Security Features) the URL `https://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=eselectplus` must be used, after replacing `www.example.com` with your site's domain name.
- Remember that in order to use this plugin, you have to set up a "hosted config", not a "directpost config". Otherwise, please use the Moneris integration plugin for Akeeba Subscriptions.

13. eWay

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - eWay

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the eWay payments service. It can work with all three local payment services offered by eWay (Australia, New Zealand and UK/Europe).

Important

Each local eWay payment service supports different currencies. The Australian service only supports AUD, the New Zealand service only supports NZD and the UK service only supports GBP and EUR - as far as I can see. You have to make sure you have signed up to the correct payment service and set up the currency in Akeeba Subscriptions accordingly.

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "eWay" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Credit Card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
eWay Site	Select which local eWay site you are signed up with. IMPORTANT! If this selection is incorrect, you will get an error when you try to subscribe.
eWay Customer ID	Enter your numeric eWay Customer ID. Use 87654321 for testing.
eWay Username	Enter your eWay username. Use TestAccount for testing.
Company logo URL	Optional. The URL of your logo image. It can be hosted on your website but MUST use https. This is the top image block of the payment web page and it is restricted to 960x65 pixels. A default secure image will be used if you leave this field empty.
Page banner URL	Optional. The URL of the payment page's banner. It can be hosted on your website but MUST use https. This is the second image block of the payment web page and it is restricted to 960x65 pixels. A default secure image will be used if you leave this field empty.
Language	This automatically translates headings and button text to the desired language. The default is English.
Company name	Optional. This will be displayed as the company is purchasing from. Including this is highly recommended.
Page title	Optional. This value is used to populate the browser's title bar at the top of the screen.
Page description	Optional. Used as a greeting message to the customer and is displayed above the customer's order details.
Page footer	Optional. The page footer text can be customised and populated below the customer's order details. Useful for contact information.

14. GoCardless

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - GoCardless

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the low cost GoCardless payments service.

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "GoCardless" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Payment by direct debit"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Add identifier	Your app identifier as given to you by GoCardless

App secret	Your app secret as given to you by GoCardless
Merchant access token	Your merchant access token as given to you by GoCardless
Merchant ID	Your merchant ID as given to you by GoCardless
Sandbox	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the testing (sandbox) server. No money will change hands. This is supposed to be used ONLY for testing the integration with GoCardless before launching your site.

Integration notes

All GoCardless payments take a while to be processed. The payments will appear as Pending in Akeeba Subscriptions' interface until they are cleared by GoCardless. This means that your users' subscriptions and user accounts will take a few days to be activated since their payment.

GoCardless does not allow Akeeba Subscriptions to notify it of the currency of the transaction. As a result you have to set the correct currency in your GoCardless account.

At the GoCardless account you also have to set the following parameters under URI Settings:

Redirect URI: `https://www.example.com`

Cancel URI: `https://www.example.com`

Webhook URI: `https://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=gocardless`

Where www.example.com is the domain name of your site.

15. Google Checkout

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Google Checkout. Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the Google Checkout payment processor by Google, Inc.

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "Google Checkout" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Credit Card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	Your Merchant ID is a unique, numeric code assigned to your business by Google. In order to find it: 1. Sign in to Google Checkout. 2. Click the Settings tab. 3. Click Integration.

4. Your Merchant Key and Merchant ID will appear under Account information.

Merchant Key	Your Merchant Key is a unique code that helps secure your communications with Google. Both you and Google will use this key to authenticate and verify the integrity of any messages you exchange.
Sandbox	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the testing (sandbox) server. No money will change hands. This is supposed to be used ONLY for testing the integration with Google Checkout before launching your site. Please consult Google for further instructions on using their Sandbox – you have to create two special Sandbox users (Sandbox Merchant and Sandbox Buyer) to use it.
Sandbox Merchant ID	The Merchant ID when using the Sandbox
Sandbox Merchant Key	The Merchant Key when using the Sandbox

Integration notes

You will have to specify the API callback URL before using Google Checkout. To add or edit your API callback URL:

1. Sign in to Google Checkout.
2. Click the Settings tab.
3. Click Integration.
4. Find the API callback URL box and enter the following:

   `https://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=subscribe`

   Where www.example.com is the domain name of your site.
5. Under Callback contents, select `Notification as XML`.
6. Click Save.

Warning

Your site MUST support HTTPS and you MUST supply an HTTPS URL in the API callback URL field.

16. IFmb (IFthen)

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - IFmb (IFthen)

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.3.0.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This is a payment plugin which allows your clients to use the Portuguese IFTHEN off-line payment system. Using this system, your clients are allowed to complete the purchase at their bank's ATM using the codes provided by this plugin.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "IFthen" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay in your bank's ATM"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Validation string	This is the validation string you are using for the callback service. Please read the integration notes below.
Entity	The entity number (Entidade) provided by IFthen. This is a 5 digit number, e.g. 12345
Sub-entity	The sub-entity number (Subentidade) provided by IFthen. This is a 3 digit number, e.g. 678

Integration Notes

There are two ways to confirm the payments made by your clients and activate subscriptions, the manual method and the automatic method.

In the manual method you have to check for IFthen payments daily. Then you must go to your Subscriptions view, find the subscriptions which have been paid for an enable them by setting the payment status to "Completed". Please note that the IFthen reference number is displayed in the Processor Key field.

The second method is an automatic call-back made by IFthen to your site when each payment is completed. This will allow Akeeba Subscriptions to enable paid subscriptions automatically. In order to use that you have to send an email to IFthen asking them to enable callbacks. In the email, you need to provide two pieces of information:

1. The callback URL which is `https://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=ifthen&chave=[CHAVE_ANTI_PHISHING]&ent` replacing `www.example.com` with your site's domain name
2. Your Validation string (call it "Antiphishing Key" in your email), as entered in the plugin. Please note that it is case-sensitive, i.e. ABC, Abc and abc are three different validation strings!

17. MoIP

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - MoIP

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the MoIP payments service (https://www.moip.com.br), a popular Brazilian payment processor.

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "MoIP" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Credit Card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Identification	Your identification with MoIP. This is your email, verified cellphone number or login (username) corresponding to your MoIP account.
Sandbox	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the testing server. No money will change hands. This is supposed to be used ONLY for testing the integration with MoIP before launching

your site. Please consult MoIP for further instructions on using their Sandbox – you have to create special Sandbox users to use it!

Integration notes

You will have to setup an instant payment notification URL in your MoIP back-end before Akeeba Subscriptions can handle transactions processed by MoIP. In order to do this, go to Meus Dados, Preferências, Notificação das Transações and find the Receber notificação instantânea de venda option. In there, enter a URL like this:

```
http://www.example.com/index.php?
option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=moip
```

where www.example.com must be replaced with the domain name of your site.

Important

The developers of Akeeba Subscriptions do not speak Portuguese. The above instructions and the Portuguese labels of MoIP's interface were kindly provided by MoIP's staff. If you want to seek support with us, please place your request in English. Otherwise we will have to use Google Translate and we might be lost in translation. Thanks!

18. Moneris

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Moneris. Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the Canadian Moneris (eSelect) credit card processing service. Moneris offers is the largest payment processor in Canada and offers its services even to non-Canadian businesses.

Important

Moneris does not allow us to communicate the transaction currency. Please ensure that your prices are displayed in the same currency as the one set up in your Moneris account.

Warning

Moneris is a Credit Card processor, not a payment gateway. This means that your clients will be entering their Credit Card information on a page hosted on *your* site. As a result, you MUST use HTTPS for your site so as not to expose your clients to any risk of stolen information.

Akeeba Subscriptions does not record the credit card number, expiration date or CVV2 of the Credit Card used by your client, therefore PCI compliance of your site is not required.

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "Moneris" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "VISA or MasterCard"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Store ID	The Store ID given to you by Moneris. When testing, please use one of the test shop names, e.g. `store1`

API Key — The is the API key given to you by Moneris and acts as the password authenticating you to Moneris services. When testing, please use the API key of the test shop, e.g `yesguy`

Test Mode — When enabled, the transactions will be performed against Moneris' test server. DO NOT USE THIS ON A LIVE SITE!

Warning

The transaction status depends on the penny value of the gross price. You need a gross price with a zero penny value (e.g. 1.00 CAD) to get a successful test transaction. Read the Moneris integration manual for more information.

Integration notes

You have to set the following options to your Moneris settings page

- Set the Response Method to "Sent to your server as a POST". Do not use the GET option, it doesn't work correctly
- For all three links Approved URL, Declined URL and Response URL (found in Security Features) the URL `https://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=moneris` must be used, after replacing `www.example.com` with your site's domain name.
- Remember that in order to use this plugin, you have to set up a "directpost config", not a "hosted config". Otherwise, please use the eSELECTplus integration plugin for Akeeba Subscriptions.

19. NoChex

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - NoChex

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

Warning

This payment processor only accepts payments in Great Britain Pounds (GBP - £). You must make sure that Akeeba Subscriptions is set up to use GBP as the currency and that all of your prices are listed in GBP.

This payment method integrates the NoChex payment processor. The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title — Leave blank to use "NoChex" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "MasterCard, Visa, Maestro"

Payment option image — An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.

Merchant ID — The email address you use with your NoChex account

Secure POST — If enabled, the verification postback to NoChex will be over an SSL connection. In order for this to work, your host needs to support SSL connections using cURL to NoChex' IP address block.

Test Mode — When enabled, transactions are processed by NoChex' testing server. This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

20. None

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - None

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This is a dummy payment plugin which immediately activates a subscription without payment.

Warning

DO NOT USE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES. IT IS MEANT FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY. ENABLING IT ON A PRODUCTION SITE ALLOWS ANYONE, INCLUDING UNREGISTERED USERS, TO SUBSCRIBE TO ANY SUBSCRIPTION THEY WANT **WITHOUT PAYING ANYTHING AT ALL**. You have been strongly warned.

21. Off-line

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Off-line

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This is a payment plugin which lets your users complete their payment off-line, e.g. through bank (wire) transfer, money check, Western Union or any other means of payment that you allow. It works very simply: it just presents your user with a customizable instructions message. In that message you can use the variables `{SUBSCRIPTION}` to display the subscription ID and `{AMOUNT}` to display the amount due. You can also use `{FIRSTNAME}` and `{LASTNAME}` for the user's first and last name, respectively. Please use all caps for these variables and include the curly braces.

Tip

The text in this field is HTML code. If you want to add linebreaks, just add a <br/> tag. Of course you can use any kind of HTML markup you wish, such as <b> for bold text, or even embed a Flash file (even though I can't possibly think *why* you'd want to do *that*) as long as it's allowed by your Joomla! version and preferences. It's safe to assume that basic HTML like <p>, , <b> and <a> tags will work.

Tip

Since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.3.0 you can also use language merge tags. They work the same way as the language merge tags in the Subscriptions Levels messages.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "Off-line" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Bank deposit and Western Union"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.

Once the user effects the payment, simply go to your Subscriptions view, enable his subscriptions and set the payment status to "Completed". That's all!

22. PagSeguro

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - PagSeguro. Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates PagSeguro [https://pagseguro.uol.com.br/en/what-is-pagseguro.html#rmcl], the leading Brazilian payment processor.

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "PagSeguro" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "VISA or MasterCard"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	Your Merchant ID is the email you used to register to PagSeguro
Token	This is the 32-character API token. You can create one in the settings page of payments. For more information, please take a look at the integration notes page [https://pagseguro.uol.com.br/v2/guia-de-integracao/api-de-pagamentos.html].

Integration notes

You will have to specify the API callback URL before using PagSeguro. To add or edit your API callback URL, go to the settings page of PagSeguro. Setup the following URL:

```
http://www.example.com/index.php?
option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=pagseguro
```

Where www.example.com is the domain name of your site.

For more information, please consult PagSeguro's API notification instructions page [https://pagseguro.uol.com.br/v2/guia-de-integracao/api-de-notificacoes.html].

23. Payfast

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Payfast

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.3.0.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the payment processor Payfast.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "PayFast" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay by credit card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	This is the identification number given to you by the PayFast system
Merchant Key	The Merchant Key given to you by PayFast.
Sandbox	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the sandbox (testing server). This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER**

WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.

Important

When using the Sandbox option please use the test login sbtu01@payfast.co.za (username), clientpass (password), which can be found in the integration guide (https://www.payfast.co.za/s/std/integration-guide).

24. Paypal

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Paypal

This plugin **supports** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the standard PayPal Website Payments service, available without any setup fee to all verified PayPal clients. In other words, that's the standard way to use PayPal as your payment processor.

Important

Please DO READ the integration notes below. Do not ask for support if you have not read and followed the instructions contained therein.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "PayPal" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "PayPal, bank account or Credit Card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	Your PayPal email address or your secure merchant ID (if PayPal has assigned you with one)
Secure POST	If enabled, the verification postback to PayPal will be over an SSL connection. In order for this to work, your host needs to support SSL connections using cURL to PayPal's IP address block.
Sandbox	When enabled, transactions are processed by PayPal Sandbox, i.e. PayPal's testing mode. This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

Warning

Using the Sandbox is not as straightforward as it sounds. It is actually a long, complicated process. We have documented the entire 43 step process for your convenience. It can be found further down this documentation page. If it sounds overly technical and complicated to you, you can simply use the live (normal) PayPal and a credit card not associated with your PayPal account to test the purchase of a subscription.

Sandbox merchant	The dummy merchant email used with PayPal's Sandbox.
PayPal Callback Text	(optional) Normally, when the user completes the payment, PayPal shows him a button with the default label "Return to Merchant". If you type in something in here, it will be shown on that button instead of the default label. For example, you can type in something like "Return to Example.com"

Custom Header Image	(optional) The URL to an image to be shown on PayPal's checkout page header. It'd better be hosted on an HTTPS URL, otherwise your customers will get a warning about insecure content on their browser.
Header Background Color	The hex code of PayPal checkout page's header background color. For example, white is FFFFFF (note: there is no # sign in front of the hex color code!)
Header Border Color	The hex code of PayPal checkout page's header border color. For example, light gray is CCCCCC (note: there is no # sign in front of the hex color code!)

Recurring payments support notes

PayPal has some restrictions regarding the renewal period of subscription. A subscription may recur in a period of 1-90 days, 1-52 weeks, 1-24 months or 1-5 years. Akeeba Subscriptions will automatically convert the subscription duration to the closest match. This may not always be what you expect. For example, 180 days is converted to 6 months and 15 days is converted to 2 weeks. Due to the fuzziness of the conversion and the way PayPal handles renewals, it is possible that a subscription will expire before it is automatically renewed. If a subscription expires, an expiration email will be sent to your client.

Payments will recur till the end of the world unless you cancel your PayPal account, your client cancels his PayPal account, your client manually unsubscribes from his PayPal account's back-end or your client does not have funds for 3 consecutive days after his renewal is due. In all of the above cases, your client's subscription may expire before it is renewed. If a subscription expires, an expiration email will be sent to your client.

You can not cancel recurring payments through Akeeba Subscriptions. You have to do so manually, from PayPal's back-end.

Important

PayPal does not allow cancelling subscriptions / recurring payments programmatically. It's not like we are missing this feature in Akeeba Subscriptions; it's simply impossible with PayPal because PayPal does not support this feature at all.

When a subscription payment recurs, the original subscription record is overwritten. In order for you not to lose statistics information, a new **expired** subscription record is created with the old subscription record's information. This means that the subscription with the biggest subscription ID (appearing towards the top of the front- and back-end lists) will show as expired. This is not a bug. PayPal sends us the original subscription's ID as a reference, which is why only the original subscription can be updated.

Warning

In order for the recurring payments to work you have to enter Akeeba Subscriptions' callback URL in PayPal's interface. Log in to PayPal and go to Profile, My Selling Tools, and click on the Update link next to Instant Payment Notifications. Click on Choose IPN Settings. In the Notification URL enter `http://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=paypal` where http://www.example.com is the URL to your site. Under IPN Messages select `Receive IPN Messages (Enabled)` and click on Save.

Integration notes

PayPal doesn't handle UTF-8 data very gracefully by default. You will have to enable UTF-8 on your PayPal account to let accented and international characters be accepted in the payment pages.

Log in to your PayPal account. Click the Profile link in the menu bar under My Account. In the Selling Preferences columns click on the Language Encoding option. Click on More Options. Set Encoding to `UTF-8` and click on Save.

Some people have reported that the subscriptions are not automatically updated after their subscribers pay in PayPal. If this happens you will need to set up an IPN URL in PayPal's back-end. Log in to PayPal and go to Profile, My Selling Tools, and click on the Update link next to Instant Payment Notifications. Click on Choose IPN Settings. In the Notification URL enter `http://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=paypalpaymentspro` where http://www.example.com is the URL to your site. Under IPN Messages select `Receive IPN Messages (Enabled)` and click on Save. This step is always required when using recurring payments.

Using the PayPal Sandbox

Using the PayPal Sandbox is not even half as intuitive as you might think. Since most of our users think that our software is broken because they are not able to use the Sandbox, we have documented every single step you have to take in order to use the Sandbox on your site.

A. Signing up for Sandbox access

1. Go to the PayPal Sandbox site [https://developer.paypal.com]
2. Click on Sign Up. Important: do not use your regular PayPal email address to subscribe!
3. You get an email. Click on the link to activate your Sandbox access.
4. Log in to the Sandbox using the email and password you created

B.1. Create a seller account

1. Go to the main Sandbox page [https://developer.paypal.com/cgi-bin/devscr?cmd=home/main]
2. Click on Create a preconfigured account

   ### Warning

   MAJOR SUPER DUPER IMPORTANT PITFALL WARNING!!! Choose a country with the same currency as your site. For example United States for transactions in USD.

3. Set the account type to `Seller`
4. Optional: set the login email to "seller". It will make it easier for you to remember what you're doing
5. Note down your password. This will not be visible anywhere else.
6. Set Add Bank Account to Yes and set the Account Balance to something like 100.00 USD
7. Click on Create account

   ### Important

   Make sure that Payment Review and Negative Test Mode are set to Disabled (that's the default)

8. PITFALL: PayPal will modify your email address, appending a random number and _biz to it. Please verify it at the Test Accounts section of your Sandbox Account. Note down your email and password, you will need them!

B.1. Create a buyer account

1. Go to the main Sandbox page [https://developer.paypal.com/cgi-bin/devscr?cmd=home/main]
2. Click on Create a preconfigured account

   Warning

   MAJOR SUPER DUPER IMPORTANT PITFALL WARNING!!! Choose a country with the same currency as your site. For example United States for transactions in USD.

3. Set the account type to `Buyer` (not "Buyer In-Store")
4. Optional: set the login email to "buyer". It will make it easier for you to remember what you're doing
5. Note down your password. This will not be visible anywhere else.
6. Set Add Bank Account to Yes and set the Account Balance to something like 1000.00 USD
7. Click on Create account

   Important

   Make sure that Payment Review is set to Disabled (that's the default)

8. PITFALL: PayPal will modify your email address. Please verify it at the Test Accounts section of your Sandbox Account. Note down your email and password, you will need them!

C. Set up Akeeba Subscriptions PayPal plugin for use with PayPal Sandbox

1. Go to Extensions, Plug-in Manager
2. Find the Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Paypal plugin and edit it
3. Set Sandbox to `Yes`
4. In the Sandbox Merchant field enter your seller's email address
5. Click on Save & Close

D. Testing Akeeba Subscriptions with PayPal Sandbox

1. Make sure you have at least one published Subscription Level with a value of AT LEAST 1. Smaller values WILL NOT go through!
2. Go ahead with buying a subscription to that level.
3. Make sure the URL begins with https://www.sandbox.paypal.com. If not, you are doing something wrong and you have to set up the plugin again.
4. Make sure that in the top left corner you see the name you registered with Paypal Sandbox followed by the words "Test Store". If not, you are doing something wrong and you have to set up the plugin again.
5. Login using the Sandbox buyer email and password and go through with the payment.
6. Go to your site's back-end, Components, Akeeba Subscriptions, Subscriptions

7. The subscription will be disabled and Payment column will display a dollar sign with an excalamation mark inside a solid red circle. This means that the payment is pending. That's good! It actually means that PayPal did communicate with your site!
8. Go back to the PayPal Sandbox site
9. Go to Test Accounts
10. Click on the orange "Enter Sandbox Test Site" button; a new popup window displays
11. Click on Logout. Not the one on the top right, the one right below it.
12. Now click on Log In
13. Log in with your Sandbox seller's email and password
14. You will see the transaction with a "Payment status" of Unclaimed. Click on the Accept button to its right.
15. It may ask you what to do. If it does, choose the first Accept option and then click on Submit.
16. Wait for 1-5 minutes for the payment notification to be sent to your site
17. Go to your site's back-end, Components, Akeeba Subscriptions, Subscriptions
18. The subscription will be enabled now and the Payment will display as a green dollar sign. Awesome! You're ready to start selling! Remember to set the plugin's Sandbox to Off and enter your real email address to the Merchant ID field of the plugin.

25. Paypal Payments Pro

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Paypal Payments Pro

This plugin **supports** recurring payments.

Note

This plugin implements the Direct Payment method.

Warning

This plugin allows your clients to enter their Credit Card information in a page on your site and then it submits this form to your server. You have to make sure that you are always presenting the subscription page in HTTPS, using an SSL certificate signed by a reputable Certificate Authority. Failure to do so might hold you liable in case your client's credit card information is stolen. Please note that no credit card information is ever stored on your site's database.

This payment method integrates the PayPal Payments Pro, a.k.a. PayPal Website Payments Pro service, available with a monthly fee to merchant PayPal clients in select countries. If you are using for the "simple" or "regular" PayPal integration this is NOT the plugin you want. The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "PayPal Payments Pro" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Credit Card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.

API Username	This is the API username given to you by PayPal
API Password	This is the API password given to you by PayPal
API Signature	This is the API signature given to you by PayPal
Sandbox API Username	This is the API username given to you by PayPal Sandbox. This is only used when the Sandbox option is turned on.
Sandbox API Password	This is the API password given to you by PayPal Sandbox. This is only used when the Sandbox option is turned on.
API Sandbox Signature	This is the API signature given to you by PayPal Sandbox. This is only used when the Sandbox option is turned on.
Sandbox	When enabled, transactions are processed by PayPal Sandbox, i.e. PayPal's testing mode. This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

Warning

Using the Sandbox is not as straightforward as it sounds. We recommend simply usis the live (normal) PayPal and a credit card not associated with your PayPal account to test the purchase of a subscription. Use a coupon code to reduce your subscription price to 1 USD, 1 GBP or 1 EUR but not any less (the transaction won't go through for values less than 1 due to PayPal Sandbox limitations)

Recurring payments support notes

PayPal has some restrictions regarding the renewal period of subscription. A subscription may recur in a period of 1-90 days, 1-52 weeks, 1-24 months or 1-5 years. Akeeba Subscriptions will automatically convert the subscription duration to the closest match. This may not always be what you expect. For example, 180 days is converted to 6 months and 15 days is converted to 2 weeks. Due to the fuzziness of the conversion and the way PayPal handles renewals, it is possible that a subscription will expire before it is automatically renewed. If a subscription expires, an expiration email will be sent to your client.

Payments will recur till the end of the world unless you cancel your PayPal account, your client cancels his PayPal account, your client manually unsubscribes from his PayPal account's back-end or your client does not have funds for 3 consecutive days after his renewal is due. In all of the above cases, your client's subscription may expire before it is renewed. If a subscription expires, an expiration email will be sent to your client.

You can not cancel recurring payments through Akeeba Subscriptions. You have to do so manually, from PayPal's back-end.

Important

PayPal does not allow cancelling subscriptions / recurring payments programmatically. It's not like we are missing this feature in Akeeba Subscriptions; it's simply impossible with PayPal because PayPal does not support this feature at all.

When a subscription payment recurs, the original subscription record is overwritten. In order for you not to lose statistics information, a new **expired** subscription record is created with the old subscription record's information. This means that the subscription with the biggest subscription ID (appearing towards the top of the front- and back-end

lists) will show as expired. This is not a bug. PayPal sends us the original subscription's ID as a reference, which is why only the original subscription can be updated.

Warning

In order for the recurring payments to work you have to enter Akeeba Subscriptions' callback URL in PayPal's interface. Log in to PayPal and go to Profile, My Selling Tools, and click on the Update link next to Instant Payment Notifications. Click on Choose IPN Settings. In the Notification URL enter `http://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=paypalpaymentspro` where http://www.example.com is the URL to your site. Under IPN Messages select `Receive IPN Messages (Enabled)` and click on Save.

Integration notes

PayPal doesn't handle UTF-8 data very gracefully by default. You will have to enable UTF-8 on your PayPal account to let accented and international characters be accepted in the payment pages.

Log in to your PayPal account. Click the Profile link in the menu bar under My Account. In the Selling Preferences columns click on the Language Encoding option. Click on More Options. Set Encoding to `UTF-8` and click on Save.

26. Paypal Payments Pro (Express Checkout)

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Paypal Payments Pro (Express Checkout)

This plugin **supports** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the PayPal Payments Pro, a.k.a. PayPal Website Payments Pro service, available with a monthly fee to merchant PayPal clients in select countries. If you are using for the "simple" or "regular" PayPal integration this is NOT the plugin you want.

Note

This plugin implements the Express Checkout [https://www.x.com/developers/paypal/documentation-tools/express-checkout/integration-guide/ECGettingStarted] method.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "PayPal Payments Pro" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Credit Card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
API Username	This is the API username given to you by PayPal
API Password	This is the API password given to you by PayPal
API Signature	This is the API signature given to you by PayPal
Sandbox API Username	This is the API username given to you by PayPal Sandbox. This is only used when the Sandbox option is turned on.
Sandbox API Password	This is the API password given to you by PayPal Sandbox. This is only used when the Sandbox option is turned on.

API Sandbox Signature — This is the API signature given to you by PayPal Sandbox. This is only used when the Sandbox option is turned on.

Sandbox — When enabled, transactions are processed by PayPal Sandbox, i.e. PayPal's testing mode. This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

Warning

Using the Sandbox is not as straightforward as it sounds. We recommend simply usis the live (normal) PayPal and a credit card not associated with your PayPal account to test the purchase of a subscription. Use a coupon code to reduce your subscription price to 1 USD, 1 GBP or 1 EUR but not any less (the transaction won't go through for values less than 1 due to PayPal Sandbox limitations)

Recurring payments support notes

PayPal has some restrictions regarding the renewal period of subscription. A subscription may recur in a period of 1-90 days, 1-52 weeks, 1-24 months or 1-5 years. Akeeba Subscriptions will automatically convert the subscription duration to the closest match. This may not always be what you expect. For example, 180 days is converted to 6 months and 15 days is converted to 2 weeks. Due to the fuzziness of the conversion and the way PayPal handles renewals, it is possible that a subscription will expire before it is automatically renewed. If a subscription expires, an expiration email will be sent to your client.

Payments will recur till the end of the world unless you cancel your PayPal account, your client cancels his PayPal account, your client manually unsubscribes from his PayPal account's back-end or your client does not have funds for 3 consecutive days after his renewal is due. In all of the above cases, your client's subscription may expire before it is renewed. If a subscription expires, an expiration email will be sent to your client.

You can not cancel recurring payments through Akeeba Subscriptions. You have to do so manually, from PayPal's back-end.

Important

PayPal does not allow cancelling subscriptions / recurring payments programmatically. It's not like we are missing this feature in Akeeba Subscriptions; it's simply impossible with PayPal because PayPal does not support this feature at all.

When a subscription payment recurs, the original subscription record is overwritten. In order for you not to lose statistics information, a new **expired** subscription record is created with the old subscription record's information. This means that the subscription with the biggest subscription ID (appearing towards the top of the front- and back-end lists) will show as expired. This is not a bug. PayPal sends us the original subscription's ID as a reference, which is why only the original subscription can be updated.

Warning

In order for the recurring payments to work you have to enter Akeeba Subscriptions' callback URL in PayPal's interface. Log in to PayPal and go to Profile, My Selling Tools, and click on the Update link next to Instant Payment Notifications. Click on Choose IPN Settings. In the Notification URL enter `http://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=paypalpaymentspro` where http://www.example.com is the URL to your site. Under IPN Messages select `Receive IPN Messages (Enabled)` and click on Save.

Integration notes

PayPal doesn't handle UTF-8 data very gracefully by default. You will have to enable UTF-8 on your PayPal account to let accented and international characters be accepted in the payment pages.

Log in to your PayPal account. Click the Profile link in the menu bar under My Account. In the Selling Preferences columns click on the Language Encoding option. Click on More Options. Set Encoding to `UTF-8` and click on Save.

27. PayU

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - PayU

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.4.1.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

Warning

This is a plugin contributed by a third-party (IML Educations). It has not been developed by Akeeba Ltd. We include with permission from its creator, IML Educations, in hope that users of Akeeba Subscriptions will find it useful. We regret to inform you that, unlike the plugins written by us, we cannot provide support for it.

This is a payment plugin which allows your clients to use the India-based PayU payment processor service.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "PayU" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay with credit card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	This is the merchant ID assigned to you by PayU.
Working Key	This is the working key (password) assigned to you by PayU. Without it, Akeeba Subscriptions cannot validate the transactions.

28. PostFinance.ch

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - PostFinance.ch. Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the Swiss PostFinance payment processing service.

Important

Make sure you have set up your Akeeba Subscriptions currency code to one of the currency codes supported by your PostFinance.ch account, e.g. EUR for Euros, USD for US Dollars and so on.

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "PostFinance" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "VISA or MasterCard"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Affiliation name	This is the affiliation name (merchant ID) supplied to you by PostFinance.ch.
Passphrase for data and origin verification (production)	This is optional, but STRONGLY recommended. It will be used to validate the payment request made to PostFinance, ensuring that fraudsters can not send forged payment requests for lesser amounts. This parameter is the passphrase defined in your PostFinance account, in Merchant's Technical information, under the tab "Data and Origin Verification", section "Checks for e-Commerce." Enter your PROD password here. Remember that the passphrase is case sensitive.
Passphrase for transaction feedback (production)	This is optional, but STRONGLY recommended. It will be used to validate the payment notification sent by PostFinance back to Akeeba Subscriptions, ensuring that fraudsters can not send forged payment notifications in order to get free access to your services. This parameter is the passphrase defined in your PostFinance account, in Merchant's Technical information, under the tab "Transaction Feedback", section "All transaction Submission modes." Enter your PROD password here. Remember that the passphrase is case sensitive.
Payment page language	The language code of the payment page. All languages are defined as language, underscore, country code, e.g. en_US for US English, de_DE for German (Germany) etc. Default: en_US (English). Please ask your bank for the available languages.
Testing	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the PostFinance.ch testing server.

Warning

No money will change hands when this is enabled. Only use for testing purposes, before putting a site live. Do not use this on a live site, accepting transactions from your clients!

Passphrase for data and origin verification (testing)	This is optional, but STRONGLY recommended. It will be used to validate the payment request made to PostFinance, ensuring that fraudsters can not send forged payment requests for lesser amounts. This parameter is the passphrase defined in your PostFinance account, in Merchant's Technical information, under the tab "Data and Origin Verification", section "Checks for e-Commerce." Enter your TEST password here. Remember that the passphrase is case sensitive.
Passphrase for transaction feedback (testing)	This is optional, but STRONGLY recommended. It will be used to validate the payment notification sent by PostFinance back to Akeeba Subscriptions, ensuring that fraudsters can not send forged payment notifications in order to get free access to your services. This parameter is the passphrase defined in your PostFinance account, in Merchant's Technical information, under the tab "Transaction Feedback", section "All transaction Submission modes." Enter your TEST password here. Remember that the passphrase is case sensitive.
Background colour	(optional) Payment page's background colour. You can use a named colour, e.g. white, or a hexadecimal colour definition, e.g. #FFFFFF (including the hash sign in front of the hex value).
Text colour	(optional) Payment page's text colour. You can use a named colour, e.g. white, or a hexadecimal colour definition, e.g. #FFFFFF (including the hash sign in front of the hex value).
Table background colour	(optional) Payment page's table background colour. You can use a named colour, e.g. white, or a hexadecimal colour definition, e.g. #FFFFFF (including the hash sign in front of the hex value).
Table text colour	(optional) Payment page's table text colour. You can use a named colour, e.g. white, or a hexadecimal colour definition, e.g. #FFFFFF (including the hash sign in front of the hex value).

Button background colour	(optional) Payment page's button background colour. You can use a named colour, e.g. white, or a hexadecimal colour definition, e.g. #FFFFFF (including the hash sign in front of the hex value).
Button text colour	(optional) Payment page's button text colour. You can use a named colour, e.g. white, or a hexadecimal colour definition, e.g. #FFFFFF (including the hash sign in front of the hex value).
Background colour for the left columns (iPhone)	(optional) Payment page's background colour for the left columns, only used in the iPhone template. You can use a named colour, e.g. white, or a hexadecimal colour definition, e.g. #FFFFFF (including the hash sign in front of the hex value).
Text colour for the left columns (iPhone)	(optional) Payment page's text colour for the left columns, only used in the iPhone template. You can use a named colour, e.g. white, or a hexadecimal colour definition, e.g. #FFFFFF (including the hash sign in front of the hex value).
Font family	(optional) Payment page's font family, e.g. Verdana
Font family for the left columns (iPhone)	(optional) Payment page's font family for the left columns, only used in the iPhone template
Custom logo image	(optional) The URL to your logo image file. WARNING! It must be an HTTPS URL or your clients will receive warnings about insecure content.

Integration notes

In order for this integration to work, you have to supply some URLs to PostFinanace's back-end interface before using this integration in a live or test environment.

Warning

IF YOU DO NOT CARRY OUT THESE STEPS, AKEEBA SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL NOT RECEIVE PAYMENT NOTIFICATIONS, THE SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL NOT BECOME ACTIVE AUTOMATICALLY AND THE INTEGRATION PLUGINS WITH THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE WILL NOT EXECUTE.

Please go to the Technical Information page, Transaction feedback tab, Direct HTTP server-to-server request section (URL fields) and enter the following URL in BOTH of those fields:

```
http://www.example.com/index.php?
option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=postfinancech
```

where `www.example.com` is, of course, to be substituted with the domain name of your site.

Then, please go to the Technical Information page, Transaction feedback tab, HTTP request for status changes section. Enter the same URL there.

Finally, please go to the Technical Information page, Transaction feedback tab, Direct HTTP server-to-server request section. For the timing of the feedback request please select `Always online`.

29. Przelewy24

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Przelewy24

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.4.4.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This is a payment plugin which allows you to use the Polish payment processor Przelewy24.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "Przelewy24" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay with credit card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Seller ID	This is the seller ID assigned to you by Przelewy24.
CRC Key	The CRC Key assigned to you by Przelewy24.

30. RBK Money

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - RBK Money

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the Russian RBK Money payments service (https://www.rbkmoney.com).

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "RBK Money" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Credit Card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Shop ID	Your identification with RBK Money.
Secret Key	This is the 32-character "secret key" you configure in RBK Money ("######### ####"), a verification code which ensures the security of the transactions and helps Akeeba Subscriptions recognise and not process fraudulent requests.
Language	The payment page language (English or Russian)

Integration notes

In your RBK Money backend, please set the following URL as your callback URL ("URL ########## # ########"):

```
http://www.example.com/index.php?
option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=rbkmoney
```

where www.example.com must be replaced with the domain name of your site.

31. Robokassa

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - CM-CIC p@iement

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.5.0.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This is a payment plugin which allows you to use the Russian payment processor Robokassa [http://robokassa.ru/].

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "Robokassa" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Credit card or payment by ATM"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	This is the merchant login given to you by Robokassa
Password #1	Please enter the password #1 that you can find in the administrator interface of your Robokassa account
Password #2	Please enter the password #2 that you can find in the administrator interface of your Robokassa account
Sandbox	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the sandbox (testing server). This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

Integration notes

You need to set the following URLs at the Web-Interface of your Robokassa account:

Result URL	`http://example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=robokassa` where www.example.com must be replaced with your site's URL.
Query method to Result URL	POST
Success URL	`http://example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=robokassa&mode=success` where www.example.com must be replaced with your site's URL.
Query method to Success URL	POST
Fail URL	`http://example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=robokassa&mode=cancel` where www.example.com must be replaced with your site's URL.
Query method to Fail URL	POST

Since Robokassa works with e-currencies please don't forget to set the currency code in Akeeba Subscriptions to whatever e-currency you are going to use (you can set the currency code at "Components" > "Akeeba Subscriptions" > "Options" > "Currency code"). Valid codes are "WMR", "WMZ" for example.

Important

Robokassa e-Currency codes are not compatible with other payment processors. As a result you cannot have Robokassa and any other payment plugin enabled at the same time.

32. SCNet

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - SCNet

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.4.5.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This is a payment plugin which allows you to use the payment processor SCNet.

Note

There are two plugins available with Akeeba Subscriptions. The Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - SCNet plugin works by redirecting your customer to SCnet's website. All credit card entry and processing is done at SCnet's site. On the contrary, with the Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - SCNet (integrated) plugin the credit card form is rendered on your site. The customer never leaves your site. The credit card data is then sent to SCnet for processing. When using the "integrated" plugin you must use HTTPS on your site to ensure the security of the transactions. This precludes the use of the "integrated" plugin on shared hosts, where setting up HTTPS is usually out of the question or leads to suboptimal situations, like "shared HTTPS" setups which do not always satisfy PCI compliance guidelines.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "SCNet" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay with credit card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	The Merchant ID as given by SCNet.
Admin Email	Usually the Merchant's Administration Email account. This email address will receive a copy of all successful receipts.
Payment Page	The URL of your Hosted Payment Page as given by SCNet.
Thumbprint Image	Thumbprint (thumbnail) image to be displayed on the Payment Page. The image can be uploaded using the Administration Panel of SCNet.
Background image	If you want your own background water mark gif/jpg you can upload it to our server using our Administration Panel of SCNet. You can then enter the gif/jpg filename in this field e.g. logo.gif.
Table background color	Set the table background caption color shown on the Payment Page.
Sandbox	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the sandbox (testing server). This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

33. Skrill

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Skrill (Moneybookers)

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the Skrill (formerly: Moneybookers) payment processor. Please note that you need to have a Merchant Account at Skrill for this plugin to work. The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "Skrill" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Skrill, bank account or Credit Card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	Your Skrill email address
Secure POST	If enabled, the verification postback to PayPal will be over an SSL connection. In order for this to work, your host needs to support SSL connections using cURL to PayPal's IP address block.
Secret Word	The Secret Word you have defined in the Merchant Tools of your Skrill account. This is used to check transactions against potential fraud and is never transmitted over the network.
Company text	The company name to be displayed in Skrill's payment page, maximum 30 characters
Language	(optional) The language the Skrill payment page will be in.
Confirmation Note	A short notice (up to 240 characters) which is shown to your users after they've finished paying and before they are redirected back to your site.
Custom Logo Image	(optional) The URL to an image to be shown on the top of Skrill's checkout page header. It'd better be hosted on an HTTPS URL, otherwise your customers will get a warning about insecure content on their browser.
Test mode	When enabled, all transaction are performed against the test gateway (no money changes hands). Please note that you MUST specifically ask Skrill to also enable that feature on your account and provide you with a test merchant and a test user to use during your testing.

34. Suomen Verkkomaksut Oy

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Suomen Verkkomaksut Oy

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.3.0.

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the Finnish payment processor Suomen Verkkomaksut Oy.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "Suomen Verkkomaksut Oy" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Pay by credit card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	This is the identification number given to you by Suomen Verkkomaksut
Merchant Auth. Hash	The Merchant Authentication Hash is the merchant hash code given by Suomen Verkkomaksut. This is used during payment transactions for authentication and security.
Culture	Select the language of the payment page of Suomen Verkkomaksut.

Sandbox	When enabled, Akeeba Subscriptions will use a test merchant and hash. The values in Merchant ID and Merchant Auth. Hash are ignored. This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

35. uPay

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - uPay

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the uPay payments service (https://www.upay.co.uk), a popular payment processor in universities and colleges.

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "uPay" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Credit Card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Site ID	The unique, numeric Site ID given to you by uPay
Test Mode	When enabled, all transactions will be performed against the testing server. No money will change hands. This is supposed to be used ONLY for testing the integration with uPay before launching your site. As per uPay's documentation, the valid CC numbers for testing are: • Visa: 4222222222222 and 4111111111111111 • MasterCard: 5454545454545454 • Discover: 6011666666666666 You can use any expiry date in the future.

Integration notes

uPay requires you to give them a Posting URL before they give you your account's credentials. You have to give them the following URL: `http://www.example.com/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=upay` where www.example.com must be replaced with the domain name of your site.

uPay will also ask you for a Success Link URL, a Cancel Link URL and an Error Link URL. These URLs have nothing to do with Akeeba Subscriptions. You can use, for example, a link to an article for each one of them.

36. Verotel

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - Verotel

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the dutch Verotel FlexPay payments service (https://www.verotel.com).

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "Verotel" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Credit Card"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Shop ID	Your identification with Verotel. This is a numeric ID you have to get from Verotel.
Key	This is the "signature key" Verotel sends you, a verification code which ensures the security of the transactions and helps Akeeba Subscriptions recognise and not process fraudulent requests.

Integration notes

In your Verotel control center, please enable "FlexPay" (my setup > FlexPay options). You will also receive your "signature key" which you must supply in the Key field of the plugin's parameters.

Add the following URL as your "Postback script":

```
http://www.example.com/index.php?
option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=verotel
```

where www.example.com must be replaced with the domain name of your site.

In the "Success page" field please enter the URL of your site where all visitors will be directed after their payment. Unfortunately, Verotel doesn't allow for Akeeba Subscriptions' customised per-level success messages. You will have to direct all your customers to a generic page on your site, e.g. an article created in Joomla!.

37. VivaPayments

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - VivaPayments

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the Greek payments service VivaPayments (http://www.vivapayments.com). It is a low cost payments processor available only for businesses in Greece.

The options you have with this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "VivaPayments" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Credit Card / Pay with ###.#."
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	The Merchant ID assigned to you by VivaPayments, accessible from your Viva profile.
Password	Your transaction password (**NOT your login password!!!**), as defined in your Viva profile. Please keep in mind that this must be different than the password you use to login to your Viva profile for security reasons.
Sandbox	When enabled, Akeeba Subscriptions will perform transactions against the test servers. This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.**

Integration notes

In order to use this payment plugin you will have to do some configuration in your VivaPayments profile. Log in to VivaPayments and go to Sources. Change the settings of Default and enter the following callback URLs:

1. Set the domain name to `http://www.example.com` (if you are not using HTTPS / SSL on your site) or `https://www.example.com` where `www.example.com` must be replaced with the domain name of your site.
2. Set SUCCESSFUL TRANSACTION to `index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=viva` (the domain will be automatically put in front of this URL)
3. Set FAILED TRANSACTION to `index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=callback&paymentmethod=viva&type=cancel` (the domain will be automatically put in front of this URL)

Please remember that unless you do that Akeeba Subscriptions will not be able to "see" the payments and will not activate subscriptions automatically when they are paid.

38. WorldPay

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - WorldPay

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the WorldPay Hosted Payment Page payments service, available with all entry-level offerings of WorldPay.

Important

WorldPay's Hosted Payment Page mode does not allow your visitors to come back to your site. Therefore, they will not see your custom payment success and cancellation messages. You will instead have to use custom HTML pages uploaded to WorldPay's servers.

Warning

You need to perform some setup before using this method (the following steps are taken verbatim from WorldPay's Test and Go Live documentation):

- Log in to the WorldPay Merchant Interface
- Select Installations from the left hand navigation
- Choose an installation and select the Integration Setup button for either the TEST or PRODUCTION environment
- Check the Enable Payment Response checkbox
- Enter the WPDISPLAY ITEM tag which includes the dynamic url variable into the Payment Response URL input field:

  <wpdisplay item=MC_callback>

- Enter a password into the Payment Response Password input field; this is your Callback Password and you will have to copy it to the plugin's setup parameters

- Select the Save Changes button

Please make sure that you have completed all of the steps above and have configured all the parameters BEFORE enabling this plugin. Do not ask for support if you haven't done that yet.

The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "WorldPay" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "Visa, MasterCard or American Express cards"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Installation ID	Your WorldPay installation ID, as communicated to you by WorldPay.
Callback Password	The callback password you have specified in your WorldPay account, used to verify that the payment notification come, indeed, from WorldPay and avoid fraudulent requests
Test mode	When enabled, transactions are processed by WorldPay's test server, i.e. WorldPay's testing mode. This is designed for integration tests, BEFORE going live with your site. **NEVER, EVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SHOULD YOU NOT ENABLE THIS ON PRODUCTION SITES! IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LOSE MONEY AND/OR CUSTOMERS.** This option should be used only in the integration testing phase during your initial setup. During this phase, visitors can use one of the dummy card numbers to buy subscriptions without money changing hands. When you're ready to go live with your site, disable this feature.

39. ZarinPal

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions Payment - ZarinPal

This plugin **does not support** recurring payments.

This payment method integrates the Iranian payment processor ZarinPal. The options you have in this plugin are:

Payment option title	Leave blank to use "ZarinPal" or type in a custom name to show to your customer's, e.g. "MasterCard, Visa, Maestro"
Payment option image	An image to show in the payment processor selection list when the Image Only or Image and Text option is set in the component's parameters.
Merchant ID	The merchant ID assigned to you by ZarinPal

Chapter 4. Integration plugins

Akeeba Subscriptions is designed to be a modular system, powered by standard Joomla! plugins. Using plugins you can add payment methods as well as integration with third party software. Moreover, core functionality of Akeeba Subscriptions (like sending out emails upon subscription or email reminders for subscription expiration) is take care of by plugins.

One of the most important aspects about subscription systems is their ability to integrate with third party software. A subscription all by itself means pretty much nothing. It's just a "flag". The added value is when this subscription allows the user holding it to actually do something on the site. Akeeba Subscriptions comes with several such plugins. One of them, integrating with Joomla! user groups (usually referred to as "ACL" - Access Control List - by experienced users), is enabled by default.

As of Akeeba Subscriptions 3.0.0 and later versions most integration plugins have no options in the plugin editor. Instead, you will find their configuration inside each subscription level's page. This makes it much easier for you to understand how they work, without having to remember the complex syntax which was required in previous versions of Akeeba Subscriptions.

All integrations with third party applications and services are standard Joomla! plugins, published in the `akeebasubs` group.

1. Community Builder integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Community Builder Integration

This integration plugin allows you to add and remove users from Community Builder groups based on their subscription status. Moreover, it allows you to automatically authorize subscribers and deauthorize them when their subscriptions expires, essentially controlling their access to your Community Builder community based on their subscription status.

Please note that this is a smart integration, exactly as described in the JUGA plugin in this documentation; instead of adding users when a subscription goes active and removing them when a subscription goes inactive, Akeeba Subscriptions plugins take a look at all of the user's active and inactive subscriptions and decide if the user should be added to or removed from Community Builder groups or authorized/deauthorized.

The plugin has these options:

Add to CB groups	When enabled, new subscribers are automatically added as Community Builder users (a default profile is created for them that they can later fill in)

The plugin renders the following options in each subscription level:

Automatic authorization	Should this subscription level be automatically authorized? When a user has an active subscription to one of the levels with automatic authorization enabled, he will be marked as an authorized user who has read the terms of use in Community Builder, essentially allowing her to have access to the Community Builder community on your site.
Automatic deauthorization	Should this subscription level be automatically deauthorized? When a user no longer has an active subscription to any of the levels with automatic deauthorization enabled, he will be marked as an unauthorized user who has not read the terms of use in Community Builder, essentially not allowing her to have access to the Community Builder community on your site any more.

2. ccInvoices integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - ccInvoices Integration

This integration allows you to automatically issue and send (paid) invoices to your customers once they complete a successful registration. When this plugin is enabled, the following will take place when a user signs up and his payment is successful:

- If he doesn't exist as a ccInvoice contact, a new contact will be created for the user.
- A new paid invoice is generated with the item description reading "Subscription to *`level title`*" where "level title" is the title of the subscription level the user subscribed to.
- A PDF of the invoice, based on the default template, is generated and emailed to the user

Please note that the default email text in ccInvoices prompts the receiver to pay the invoice by the due date. You may want to change the wording, as the invoices generated from subscriptions are already paid for. You don't want to confuse your customers!

The parameters to this plugin are:

Subscription description	How the subscription will be rendered in the invoice's description field. You may use the same merge tags you can use in the order success message. Leave empty for a default description.
Add Intra-EU Note	If set to Yes, transactions with EU-based businesses with VIES-registered VAT numbers will have the "Intra-EU" note below shown in the notes. This is required to comply with EU legislation for intra-EU B2B transactions where the VAT liability is transferred to the recipient.
Intra-EU Note	The note to be appended to intra-EU, VAT-free transactions. The default text reads: VAT liability is transferred to the recipient, pursuant EU Directive nr 2006/112/EC and local tax laws implementing this directive.
Generate invoice	Determines when to generate an invoice. The available options are: • `After the payment`. This is the default option. An invoice will be generated once the subscription is paid for, i.e. the payment status is set to Completed and the subscription is enabled. • `Before the payment`. When this option is selected, an invoice will be generated as soon as a new subscription with a pending payment is generated. You will have to issue a payment receipt manually when the subscription is paid. This option is usually useful when used together with the Offline payment plugin as many companies require the receipt of an invoice before paying for a subscription.

Tip

You may also be interested in our ccInvoices tags plugin which complements this integration plugin.

3. DOCman Integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - DOCman Integration

Warning

This integration has only been tested against DOCman 1.5. DOCman 2.0 and later uses Joomla! 1.6 and later's user groups and ACLs to control who can download what. You are advised to use the Joomla! 1.6 user group integration plugin instead of the DOCman integration plugin with DOCman 2.0 and later.

This integration plugin allows you to add and remove users from DOCman groups based on their subscription status. This allows you to control downloads/uploads to your DOCman downloads based on a user's subscription status and can form the basis of a commercial file distribution system.

Please note that this is a smart integration; instead of adding users when a subscription goes active and removing them when a subscription goes inactive, Akeeba Subscriptions plugins take a look at all of the user's active and inactive subscriptions and decide which groups the user should be added to or removed from.

The plugin has these options:

Add to DOCman groups

This is a list for assigning subscription levels to DOCman groups. When a user has an active subscription to the specified level, he'll be added to the DOCman group mentioned on the right hand of the equal sign. Each assignment is done like this:

```
LEVEL1=Group 1,Group 2,Group 3
```

Where LEVEL1 is the Title of the subscription level and Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3 are the names of the DOCman groups you want to add a user to when he subscribes. If you want to assign multiple subscription levels to multiple groups, you have to do something like that (separate multiple lines with a single press of the ENTER key on your keyboard):

```
LEVEL1=Group 1,Group 2,Group 3
LEVEL2=Group 2
LEVEL3=Group 4,Group 1
```

You can also use the numeric IDs of subscription levels or DOCman groups instead of their titles. However, we consider working with numeric IDs very counter-intuitive.

Remove from DOCman groups

Likewise, this is the list of the DOCman groups to remove a user from when his subscription to the specified level is no longer active. Do note that you can specify a different set of groups to remove the user from than the ones you are adding him to. For example:

```
LEVEL1=Group 1,Group 2
LEVEL2=Group 2
LEVEL3=Group 1
```

In this example, together with the rules displayed in "Add to DOCman groups", when a subscription to the LEVEL1 level expires, the user will still belong to DOCman Group 3, as it's not removed from his account; only Group 1 and Group 2 are removed. Likewise, if the user has an expired LEVEL1 subscription and an active LEVEL2 subscription he'll now belong to Group 2 and Group 3: Group 3 because it's not removed when his subscription expires and Group 2 because his active LEVEL2 subscription suggests that he should be granted Group 2 access despite his expired LEVEL1 subscription.

If you find this hard to understand, join the club. ACLs are not meant to be easy to setup or understand. It's a power feature and, as such, poses a great difficulty to even the most seasoned web site integrators. Take your time and experiment on a dev copy of your site before going live.

4. JCE Integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - JCE Integration

This integration plugin allows you to add and remove users from JCE (Joomla! Content Editor) groups based on their subscription status. This allows you to control the editing permissions of individual users based on their subscription status.

Please note that this is a smart integration; instead of adding users when a subscription goes active and removing them when a subscription goes inactive, Akeeba Subscriptions plugins take a look at all of the user's active and inactive subscriptions and decide which groups the user should be added to or removed from.

The plugin has these options:

Add to JCE groups

This is a list for assigning subscription levels to JCE groups. When a user has an active subscription to the specified level, he'll be added to the JCE group mentioned on the right hand of the equal sign. Each assignment is done like this:

```
LEVEL1=Group 1,Group 2,Group 3
```

Where LEVEL1 is the Title of the subscription level and Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3 are the names of the JCE groups you want to add a user to when he subscribes. If you want to assign multiple subscription levels to multiple groups, you have to do something like that (separate multiple lines with a single press of the ENTER key on your keyboard):

```
LEVEL1=Group 1,Group 2,Group 3
LEVEL2=Group 2
LEVEL3=Group 4,Group 1
```

You can also use the numeric IDs of subscription levels or JCE groups instead of their titles. However, we consider working with numeric IDs very counter-intuitive.

Remove from JCE groups

Likewise, this is the list of the JCE groups to remove a user from when his subscription to the specified level is no longer active. Do note that you can specify a different set of groups to remove the user from than the ones you are adding him to. For example:

```
LEVEL1=Group 1,Group 2
LEVEL2=Group 2
LEVEL3=Group 1
```

In this example, together with the rules displayed in "Add to JCE groups", when a subscription to the LEVEL1 level expires, the user will still belong to JCE Group 3, as it's not removed from his account; only Group 1 and Group 2 are removed. Likewise, if the user has an expired LEVEL1 subscription and an active LEVEL2 subscription he'll now belong to Group 2 and Group 3: Group 3 because it's not removed when his subscription expires and Group 2 because his active LEVEL2 subscription suggests that he should be granted Group 2 access despite his expired LEVEL1 subscription.

If you find this hard to understand, join the club. ACLs are not meant to be easy to setup or understand. It's a power feature and, as such, poses a great difficulty to even the most seasoned web site integrators. Take your time and experiment on a dev copy of your site before going live.

5. JomSocial integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - JomSocial Integration

This integration plugin allows you to add and remove users from JomSocial groups based on their subscription status. This allows you to control access to your JomSocial groups based on a user's subscription status.

Please note that this is a smart integration; instead of adding users when a subscription goes active and removing them when a subscription goes inactive, Akeeba Subscriptions plugins take a look at all of the user's active and inactive subscriptions and decide which groups the user should be added to or removed from.

The plugin has these options:

Add to JomSocial groups

This is a list for assigning subscription levels to JomSocial groups. When a user has an active subscription to the specified level, he'll be added to the JomSocial group mentioned on the right hand of the equal sign. Each assignment is done like this:

```
LEVEL1=Group 1,Group 2,Group 3
```

Where LEVEL1 is the Title of the subscription level and Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3 are the names of the JomSocial groups you want to add a user to when he subscribes. If you want to assign multiple subscription levels to multiple groups, you have to do something like that (separate multiple lines with a single press of the ENTER key on your keyboard):

```
LEVEL1=Group 1,Group 2,Group 3
LEVEL2=Group 2
LEVEL3=Group 4,Group 1
```

You can also use the numeric IDs of subscription levels or JomSocial groups instead of their titles. However, we consider working with numeric IDs very counter-intuitive.

Remove from JomSocial groups

Likewise, this is the list of the JomSocial groups to remove a user from when his subscription to the specified level is no longer active. Do note that you can specify a different set of groups to remove the user from than the ones you are adding him to. For example:

```
LEVEL1=Group 1,Group 2
LEVEL2=Group 2
LEVEL3=Group 1
```

In this example, together with the rules displayed in "Add to JomSocial groups", when a subscription to the LEVEL1 level expires, the user will still belong to JomSocial Group 3, as it's not removed from his account; only Group 1 and Group 2 are removed. Likewise, if the user has an expired LEVEL1 subscription and an active LEVEL2 subscription he'll now belong to Group 2 and Group 3: Group 3 because it's not removed when his subscription expires and Group 2 because his active LEVEL2 subscription suggests that he should be granted Group 2 access despite his expired LEVEL1 subscription.

If you find this hard to understand, join the club. ACLs are not meant to be easy to setup or understand. It's a power feature and, as such, poses a great difficulty to even the most seasoned web site integrators. Take your time and experiment on a dev copy of your site before going live.

6. Joomla! User Groups Integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Joomla! Usergroups Integration

This integration plugin allows you to add and remove users from Joomla! 1.6 or later groups based on their subscription status. This allows you to fully utilize Joomla! 1.6 or later's built-in ACL capabilities on compatible extensions.

Please note that this is a smart integration; instead of adding users when a subscription goes active and removing them when a subscription goes inactive, Akeeba Subscriptions plugins take a look at all of the user's active and inactive subscriptions and decide which groups the user should be added to or removed from.

Note

The instructions below apply to Akeeba Subscriptions 2.4.5 and later. For earlier versions please do consult the documentation PDF file for your version.

The plugin has no options. Its configuration is integrated to each subscription level. In each subscription level, under the Integrations area, you will see a "User Groups" tab when this plugin is enabled. The options given are:

Add to Joomla! 1.6 groups	This is a list for assigning subscription levels to Joomla! groups. When a user has an active subscription to the specified level, he'll be added to the Joomla! groups selected in the list.
Remove from Joomla! 1.6 groups	Likewise, this is the list of the Joomla! groups to remove a user from when his subscription to the specified level is no longer active. Do note that you can specify a different set of groups to remove the user from than the ones you are adding him to.

When deciding which groups to add users to / remove from, this plugin takes into account all of the user's active and expired subscriptions. If a user group ends up begging to both be removed from the user account and added to it add wins. That is to say that if an expired subscription tells us to remove a user from Group A and another one tells us to add the user to Group A then the plugin always decides to add the user to Group A.

7. Joomla! User Profile Sync

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Joomla! user Profiles Sync

This plugin allows you to synchronise the information stored for each user with the information Joomla! keeps in its #__user_profiles page. The first corollary of this kind of integration is that the basic address information of your subscribers are now visible –and *editable*– on their Joomla! profile page if you enable Joomla!'s optional User Profiles plugin. The second and most important corollary is that all information kept by Akeeba Subscriptions for your subscribers, including custom fields, are automatically synchronised with the #__user_profiles table, making the accessible to third party extensions in a very easy to process form.

8. K2 Integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - K2 Integration

This integration plugin allows you to add and remove users from K2 1.6 groups based on their subscription status. This allows you to fully utilize K2's limited ACL capabilities (basically, just control front-end editing).

Warning

K2 only allows a user to belong to one and only one group. This means that only the latest subscription's K2 group will be applied to your user if he holds several subscriptions.

Note

The instructions below apply to Akeeba Subscriptions 2.5.1 and later. For earlier versions please do consult the documentation PDF file for your version.

The plugin has no options. Its configuration is integrated to each subscription level. In each subscription level, under the Integrations area, you will see a "User Groups" tab when this plugin is enabled. The options given are:

Add to K2 groups	This allows you to assign this subscription level to a K2 group. When a user has an active subscription to the specified level, he'll be added to the K2 group selected in the list.
Remove from K2 groups	Likewise, this is the K2 group to remove a user from when his subscription to the specified level is no longer active. Do note that you can specify a different group to remove the user from than the one you are adding him to.

9. Delete users on subscription expiration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Delete users with expired subscriptions

When this plugin is enabled, when all of the subscriptions of a user expire, his Joomla! user record will be permanently deleted from the site. This is equivalent to using Manage Users in the back-end to delete a user. We consider this plugin to be suitable for a tiny minority of sites which want to allow access to their content only to registered users but wish to receive payment to register users.

Warning

DELETING USERS IS AN IRREVERSIBLE PROCESS! ONCE A USER IS DELETED, ALL INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH HIM (INCLUDING SUBSCRIPTIONS INFORMATION) IS GONE. FOREVER. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE THEM EVER AGAIN.

This is how this feature is supposed to work. When every information pertaining to a user with an expired subscription vanishes to thin air do not complain that it is unacceptable or a bug; it's not; it's how this is designed to work.

10. VirtueMart 2 Integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - VirtueMart 2 Integration

Important

This plugin only works with VirtueMart 2.x. It will NOT work with VirtueMart 1.x.

Note

The ability to assign multiple shopper groups to a single user was added in Akeeba Subscriptions 2.5.0

This integration plugin allows you to add and remove users from VirtueMart 2.0 shopper groups based on their subscription status. This allows you to set special discounts to subscribers (e.g. a discount club) or other VirtueMart tricks which are based on the shopper groups a user belongs to.

Please note that this is a smart integration; instead of adding users when a subscription goes active and removing them when a subscription goes inactive, Akeeba Subscriptions plugins take a look at all of the user's active and inactive subscriptions and decide which groups the user should be added to or removed from.

The plugin renders these options in each subscription level:

Add to VirtueMart groups	When a subscription to this level becomes active, the user will be added to the VirtueMart 2.x groups you have selected here. You can select multiple VM groups.
Remove from VirtueMart groups	When a subscription to this level becomes inactive (e.g. it expires or the payment is cancelled), the user will be removed from the VirtueMart 2.x groups you have selected here. You can select multiple VM groups.

11. AceShop Integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - AceShop Integration

This integration plugin allows you to add and remove users from AceShop shopper groups based on their subscription status. This allows you to set special discounts to subscribers (e.g. a discount club) or other AceShop tricks which are based on the shopper groups a user belongs to.

Please note that this is a smart integration; instead of adding users when a subscription goes active and removing them when a subscription goes inactive, Akeeba Subscriptions plugins take a look at all of the user's active and inactive subscriptions and decide which groups the user should be added to or removed from.

The plugin renders these options in each subscription level:

Add to AceShop groups	When a subscription to this level becomes active, the user will be added to the AceShop 2.x groups you have selected here. You can select multiple VM groups.
Remove from AceShop groups	When a subscription to this level becomes inactive (e.g. it expires or the payment is cancelled), the user will be removed from the AceShop 2.x groups you have selected here. You can select multiple VM groups.

12. RedShop Integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - RedShop Integration

This integration plugin allows you to add and remove users from RedShop shopper groups based on their subscription status. This allows you to set special discounts to subscribers (e.g. a discount club) or other RedShop tricks which are based on the shopper groups a user belongs to.

Please note that this is a smart integration; instead of adding users when a subscription goes active and removing them when a subscription goes inactive, Akeeba Subscriptions plugins take a look at all of the user's active and inactive subscriptions and decide which groups the user should be added to or removed from.

Important

RedShop allows a user to belong to exactly one shopper group.

The plugin has these options:

Add to RedShop groups

This is a list for assigning subscription levels to RedShop groups. When a user has an active subscription to the specified level, he'll be added to the RedShop group mentioned on the right hand of the equal sign. Each assignment is done like this:

```
LEVEL1=Group 1
LEVEL2=Group 2
LEVEL3=Group 3
```

Where LEVEL1 is the Title of the subscription level and Group 1 is the name of the RedShop group you want to add a user to when he subscribes.

You can also use the numeric IDs of subscription levels or RedShop groups instead of their titles. However, we consider working with numeric IDs very counter-intuitive.

Remove from RedShop groups

Likewise, this is the list of the RedShop groups to remove a user from when his subscription to the specified level is no longer active. Do note that you can specify a different set of groups to remove the user from than the ones you are adding him to. For example:

```
LEVEL1=Group 1
LEVEL2=Group 2
LEVEL3=Group 1
```

13. Sample Fields

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Sample Fields

Since Akeeba Subscriptions 1.0.0 it is possible to have custom fields in the subscription page by means of plugins. These fields are stored as JSON inside each user's params field in the #__akeebasubs_users table. Developers can

easily create plugins to add as many fields as they want. The "Sample Fields" plugin is a demonstration of this feature which also acts as a self-documenting tutorial for developers. It adds two custom fields (Gender and Age Group).

14. Automatic Country and City fill

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Automatic Country and City fill

Since Akeeba Subscriptions 1.0.0 it is possible to have plugins which can override user information (e.g. name, address) and can also be notified when user's information is being saved. This allows for very advanced integrations. One possibility is to automatically fetch such information from external services and component, e.g. using a geolocation service or fetching user information from Community Builder, JomSocial, etc. The other possibility is to provide a "reverse integration", e.g. update Community Builder or JomSocial fields based on the information the user entered in the subscription page, essentially making the user believe that all of his information is managed in a single place.

This particular plugin acts as a demonstration of this plugin system. It will query the user's IP address against the free hostip.info service and populate the country and city fields, unless the user has overridden them, i.e. he has bought another subscription in the past.

Important

The hostip.info service usually returns only the Country for a particular IP. It will very rarely be able to provide the City. If you only see the Country being filled in do not worry; it's how the service works.

15. Custom SQL scripts

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Custom SQL scripts

This plugin can run arbitrary SQL commands when a subscription becomes active or inactive. Please note that this plugin is very naive. For starters, it will run the SQL commands once for every active and inactive subscriptions it encounters. If you have two disabled subscriptions and five enabled subscriptions on a specific level it will run the deactivation SQL twice and the activation SQL five times. Moreover, the plugin fires: when a new subscription is created; when the subscription status changes for any reason (payment status changes, manual disable/enable, automatic enable/disable due to Valid From/To dates being reached) and when you click on the Run Integration button.

In the plugin's parameters you can define the SQL commands to run. In all cases, you can do something like this:

```
LEVEL1=INSERT INTO #__foobar (`user_id`,`something`) VALUES( '[USERID]', 'myvalue' );
```

The leftmost part is the subscription level for which the SQL command will run. The rightmost part is the list of SQL commands, separated by semicolons. The *[USERID]* variable will be replaced with the user's numeric ID for the user whose subscription Akeeba Subscriptions is currently processing. The [USERNAME] variable will be replaced with the user's username (available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1).

16. RedShop User Synchronisation

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - RedShop User Synchronisation. Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.0.1.

This plugin provides two-way synchronisation between the user data stored in RedShop and Akeeba Subscriptions. Such data include the name of the user, email address, address data, business name and VAT number. When enabled, two things will happen:

- When a user enters the subscription page, the form will be pre-filled with his main RedShop address details, as long as he's logged in

- When the user submits the subscription form, the main RedShop address of this user will be created/updated with the information he entered in the subscription form

This plugin WILL NOT magically synchronise data when it changes in RedShop. The synchronisation occurs ONLY when the user is visiting the subscription page to make a new subscription or "renew" an existing one (subscription renewal in Akeeba Subscriptions is the same thing as a new subscription).

17. Community Builder fields sync

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Community Builder Field Sync. Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 3.0.0.

This plugin provides two-way synchronisation between the user data stored in Community Builder's custom fields and Akeeba Subscriptions. Such data include the address data, business name, VAT number and any custom fields you have defined in Akeeba Subscriptions. When enabled, two things will happen:

- When a user enters the subscription page, the form will be pre-filled with his Community Builder address details, as long as he's logged in
- When the user submits the subscription form, the Community Builder extra fields for this user will be updated with the information he entered in the subscription form

This plugin WILL NOT magically synchronise data when it changes in Community Builder. The synchronisation occurs ONLY when the user is visiting the subscription page to make a new subscription or "renew" an existing one (subscription renewal in Akeeba Subscriptions is the same thing as a new subscription).

Community Builder doesn't come with out of the box fields to hold all the information collected by Akeeba Subscriptions. You will have to create them yourself. The names you have to use are:

cb_isbusiness	Checkbox. Is this a business registration?
cb_businessname	Text. The name of the business.
cb_occupation	Text. The business activity.
cb_vatnumber	Text. The VAT number, without the country prefix.
cb_viesregistered	Checkbox. Is the VAT number of the user registered in VIES? (only makes sense for EU customers when you are an EU merchant)
cb_taxauthority	Text. Not currently used.
cb_address1	Text. Address.
cb_address2	Text. Address, continued.
cb_city	Text. The user's city.
cb_state	Text. The user's state, province or administrative area.
cb_zip	Text. User's ZIP / postal code
country	Text. User's country, in human readable form.

You can create all, some or none of those fields, but the names MUST match for the sync to work! Moreover, Akeeba Subscriptions will synchronise its extra fields with CB. In order to do that you will have to create CB fields with

their name being cb_ followed by the Akeeba Subscription's field slug. For example, if you have defined an Akeeba Subscriptions fields whose slug is mobile you need to create a CB field whose slug is cb_mobile for the sync to work.

18. Kunena Integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Kunena Integration. Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1.

This integration plugin allows you to add and remove users from Kunena groups based on their subscription status. This allows you to fully utilize Kunena's built-in ACL capabilities.

The plugin has these options:

Add to Kunena groups

This is a list for assigning subscription levels to Kunena groups. When a user has an active subscription to the specified level, he'll be added to the Kunena group mentioned on the right hand of the equal sign. Each assignment is done like this:

```
LEVEL1=Group 1, Group 2
```

Where LEVEL1 is the Title of the subscription level and Group 1 and Group 2 are the names of the Kunena groups you want to add a user to when he subscribes (separate multiple groups with a comma). If you want to assign multiple subscription levels to multiple groups, you have to do something like that (separate multiple lines with a single press of the ENTER key on your keyboard):

```
LEVEL1=Group 1, Group 2
LEVEL2=Group 2
LEVEL3=Group 3, Group 4, Group 5
```

You can also use the numeric IDs of subscription levels or Kunena groups instead of their titles. However, we consider working with numeric IDs very counter-intuitive.

Remove from Kunena groups

Likewise, this is the list of the Kunena groups to remove a user from when his subscription to the specified level is no longer active. Do note that you can specify a different set of groups to remove the user from than the ones you are adding him to. For example:

```
LEVEL1=Group 1
LEVEL2=Group 2
LEVEL3=Group 3, Group 4
```

19. Intellectual Property integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Intellectual Property Integration. Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1.

This plugin integrates Akeeba Subscriptions with the Intellectual Property real estate component by The Thinkery LLC. It allows subscribers to specific Subscription Levels to be automatically assigned as Agents in Intellectual Property. This allows you to create a real estate portal with self-registering real estate agents.

The plugin has only one options:

Add to Intellectual Property

This can be used to map subscription levels to Intellectual Property company parameters. It uses the following format:

```
LEVEL1=maxlistings=50,maxflistings=10,maxagents=25,maxfagents=10
LEVEL2=
```

```
LEVEL3=maxlistings=20,maxflistings=1,maxagents=5,maxfagents=1
```

The left hand side is the title of the Subscription Level. The right hand side is a comma separated list of Company parameters. The available parameters are:

maxlistings	The maximum number of property listings for that company
maxflistings	The maximum number of featured property listings for that company
maxagents	The maximum number of agents for that company
maxfagents	The maximum number of featured agents for that company
maximgs	The maximum number of images per listing

In order to understand how this works, you have to consider the following cases:

1. **The user has active subscriptions to one or more subscription levels listed in the plugin parameters (left hand side)**

   If the user does not have any Agent records, a new Company is created and the user becomes an Agent for that Company. The Company parameters are those defined in the right hand side of the plugin parameters (e.g. maxlistings=50,maxflistings=10 and so on). If you leave them blank, like in the LEVEL2 example above, Intellectual Property will use the default company parameters.

   If the user is already listed as an Agent to one or more companies, the company is published and the user's Agent record becomes published. This allows someone with an expired subscription to re-subscribe in order to regain access to his company. Furthermore, the parameters for each company for which he is listed as an agent are modified. The value chosen for each parameter is the maximum of the current parameter and the parameter value defined in the right hand part of the plugin's configuration. For example, if the company is configured with maxlistings=100 and the plugin configuration defines maxlistings=20, the company will continue to have maxlistings=100 (maximum value wins). On the contrary, if the company is configured with maxlistings=10 and the plugin configuration defines maxlistings=20, the company will now have maxlistings=20 (maximum value wins). Likewise, if the user is a subscriber to multiple subscription levels, the maximum value will be used.

2. **The user does not have active subscriptions to any of the subscription levels listed in the plugin parameters (left hand side)**

   All Agent records for this user become unpublished. This essentially revokes any administrative rights the user may have had on any of the companies for which he was listed as an Agent.

   Moreover, all of the companies the user was listed as an Agent are unpublished.

How is this all supposed to work in real life?

The flow is very simple: the user comes to your site and clicks the Subscribe menu item. He fills in his information and clicks on Subscribe Now. He's forwarded to the payment processor's page (e.g. PayPal) and pays. When his payment is cleared, the payment processor calls back your site. Akeeba Subscriptions handles the callback and enables the subscription. Enabling the subscription triggers the "Akeeba Subscriptions - Intellectual Property integration" plugin. The plugin adds the user as an Agent to IP. At the same time, the email plugin is triggered and send the user an email which tells him that his subscription is now activated. Your user can begin filing properties on your site.

When a subscription expires and has not been renewed, the "Akeeba Subscriptions - Intellectual Property integration" plugin is triggered again. This time it removes the user from Intellectual Property. At the same time, the email plugin is triggered and send the user an email which tells him that his subscription has now expired. Your user can no longer file new or manage his existing properties on your site.

The exact limits for the Intellectual Property agent are defined by the plugin's setup parameters. In the setup parameters you actually tell the plugin what are the limits imposed by each subscription level. You can have, for example, two levels. LEVEL1 can tell the plugin that the user can create up to 10 properties, LEVEL2 can tell the plugin that the user can create up to 20 properties. If the user subscribes only to LEVEL1 he will be able to create up to 10 properties. If the user subscribes only to LEVEL2 he will be able to create up to 20 properties. If the user subscribes to both, he will be able to create up to 20 properties (the largest value wins, the values are not added).

20. Agora integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Agora Integration

This integration plugin allows you to add and remove users from Agora Groups, with different Roles based on their subscription status.

Please note that this is a smart integration; instead of adding users when a subscription goes active and removing them when a subscription goes inactive, Akeeba Subscriptions plugins take a look at all of the user's active and inactive subscriptions and decide which groups the user should be added to or removed from.

Before we begin taking a look at the plugin options, please note that Agora defines Groups and Role. Each user can belong to one or more groups with a different Role, e.g. belong to Group One as a Guest, Group Two as a Member, Group Three as a Moderator and Group Four as an Administrator. Are you confused yet? Tell me about it... Unfortunately, we have to follow the same inconvenient structure for the plugin parameters. Each entry which can be assigned or removed from the user's record can therefore consist of a Group, or a Group and a Role. For example:

`My Group`

defines an entry which only mentions a Group. The Role assigned to the user will be Member (it's a hardcoded default).

`My Group/`*`My Role`*

defines an entry which defines a Group and a Role. *`My Role`* can be one of:

None	The user will be removed from that Group
Guest	The user will become a Guest in that Group
Member	The user will become a Member in that Group
Moderator	The user will become a Moderator in that Group
Admin	The user will become an Admin in that Group

Sometimes you will have a conflict. For example, a user may have two subscriptions. One subscriptions says that he should belong to Group One as a Member. The other says he should belong to Group One as a Moderator. In case of conflict, the highest Role wins. In our example, the user would become a Moderator in that group.

The plugin has these options:

Add to Agora groups

This is a list for assigning subscription levels to Agora groups. When a user has an active subscription to the specified level, he'll be added to the Agora group/role mentioned on the right hand of the equal sign. Each assignment is done like this:

```
LEVEL1=entry1,entry2,entry3
```

Where entry1, entry2 and entry3 is a Group/Role entry as described above.

If you want to assign multiple subscription levels to multiple entries, you have to do something like that (separate multiple lines with a single press of the ENTER key on your keyboard):

```
LEVEL1=entry1,entry2,entry3
LEVEL2=entry2
LEVEL3=entry4,entry1
```

Remove from Agora groups
: Likewise, this is the list of the Agora groups to remove a user from when his subscription to the specified level is no longer active. Do note that you can specify a different set of groups to remove the user from than the ones you are adding him to. For example:

```
LEVEL1=entry1,entry2
LEVEL2=entry2
LEVEL3=entry1
```

Spare admins from removal?
: If enabled, users with Admin role will not be removed, i.e. the "Remove from Agora groups" rules won't apply to them

Agora Version Installed
: Select which version of Agora you have installed. Choose 3 if you have Agora 3 installed. Choose 4 If you have Agora Pro (at the time of this writing it's version 4) installed. The difference between the two is that they use different table names. Using the wrong Agora version will result in no changes taking place in Agora after a subscription is enabled/disabled.

21. Phoca Download Integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Phoca Download Integration

This was a third party plugin, distributed with Akeeba Subscriptions. Its developer ceased supporting the plugin and as of Akeeba Subscriptions 3.0.3 it has been removed.

22. MailChimp integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - MailChimp Integration

This integration plugin allows you to automatically add/remove users from your MailChimp newsletter lists. MailChimp is one of the major newsletter services. They offer a free tier for smaller sites and a paid tier for bigger sites.

The plugin has these options:

MailChimp API Key
: This is the API key you will find in your MailChimp administration page, Account, API Keys & Authorized Apps

Email Type
: The email type preference set for this user (HTML, text or mobile)

Double Opt-In
: Controls whether to use the double opt-in feature in MailChimp. Use with caution. Abuse of this feature may get your account suspended.

Send Welcome
: If Double Opt-In is disabled and this is enabled, MailChimp will send the user your list's Welcome Email if the subscriber is just added. It will not send an email if the subscriber is modified, e.g. when he renews his subscription or subscribes to one more level which would add him on the same list. If Double Opt-In is enabled this setting is ignored.

Send Goodbye
: If enabled, MailChimp will send your list's goodbye email if a subscriber is removed from a list.

Send Notify	If enabled, it sends the user the unsubscription notification email when he's removed from the list.
Delete member	Normally Akeeba Subscriptions simply unsubcribes the user from the list when his subscription expires. When this is enabled, the MailChimp user is completely removed.

The plugin renders these options in each subscription level:

Add to MailChimp lists	When a user's subscription in this subscription level becomes active, he will be added to the MailChimp lists you've selected here. You can select multiple MailChimp lists.
Remove from MailChimp lists	When a user's subscription in this subscription level becomes inactive (e.g. it expires or the payment is cancelled), he will be removed from the MailChimp lists you've selected here. You can select multiple MailChimp lists.

23. Google Analytics Commerce integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Analytics commerce

Note

This is a third party plugin, developed and maintained by Compojoom. Akeeba Ltd cannot provide any support for it.

This integration plugin allows you to add Google Analytics Commerce tracking to your Akeeba Subscriptions sales.

The plugin has these options:

Tracking id	The tracking id for your google analytics profile
Store name	The store name will appear in the stats of your google analytics profile

24. AcyMailing integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - AcyMailing Integration

This integration plugin allows you to automatically add/remove users from your AcyMailing newsletter lists.

The plugin renders these options in each subscription level:

Add to AcyMailing lists	When a user's subscription in this subscription level becomes active, he will be added to the AcyMailing lists you've selected here. You can select multiple AcyMailing lists.
Remove from AcyMailing lists	When a user's subscription in this subscription level becomes inactive (e.g. it expires or the payment is cancelled), he will be removed from the AcyMailing lists you've selected here. You can select multiple AcyMailing lists.

25. ProjectFork integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - ProjectFork Integration

This integration plugin allows you to automatically add ProjectFork projects when someone subscribes on your site, depending on their subscription level.

The plugin has these options:

Subscription Levels
: Choose the subscription levels handled by this plugin. When a user subscribes to one of these levels, a new project will be created in ProjectFork.

Archive Projects
: When set to Yes, existing projects will be set to "Archived" status in ProjectFork when the user's subscription expires. If set to No the user will continue having access to his project even after the expiration of his subscription.

Project Author
: When left blank the user who subscribed will be assigned as the "Author" of the Project in ProjectFork. This grants him several implicit privileges in ProjectFork. If unsure please consult ProjectFork's documentation.

  You can enter a Joomla! username here. The username you enter here will be assigned as the "Author" of the project. It's a good idea setting this to a site Administrator or Super Administrator so that you keep total control of your subscribers' Projects in ProjectFork should the need arise.

If you want to assign subscribers to ProjectFork groups you can do so by using the Akeeba Subscriptions - Joomla! Usergroups Integration plugin to assign subscribers to Joomla! user groups. All ProjectFork groups are set up to be automatically assigned based on a user's Joomla! usergroup membership.

26. EasyDiscuss integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - EasyDiscuss Integration

This integration plugin allows you to automatically add/remove EasyDiscuss ranks and badges to users based on their subscriptions. EasyDiscuss [http://stackideas.com/easydiscuss.html] is a Joomla! forum discussion extension created by StackIdeas.

The plugin has these options:

Active rank
: This is a list for assigning ranks to users when their subscription becomes active. When a user has an active subscription to the specified level, he'll be assigned to the rank mentioned on the right hand of the equal sign. Each assignment is done like this:

  ```
  LEVEL1=Rank 1
  ```

  Where LEVEL1 is the Title of the subscription level and Rank 1 is the name of the EasyDiscuss rank you want to add a user to when he subscribes.

  You can also use the numeric IDs of subscription levels and/or ranks instead of their titles. However, we consider working with numeric IDs very counter-intuitive.

  Important

  Please note that EasyDiscuss only allows one rank per user. The rank specified by the latest subscription bought by the user will be used.

Inactive rank
: This is the list for removing ranks from users when their subscription becomes inactive. When a user's subscription to the specified level expires, he'll be removed from the rank mentioned on the right hand of the equal sign. Each assignment is done as in Active Rank above.

Active badge
: This is a list for assigning subscription levels to EasyDiscuss badges. When a user has an active subscription to the specified level, he'll be given the EasyDiscuss badge mentioned on the right hand of the equal sign. Each assignment is done like this:

  ```
  LEVEL1=Badge 1,Badge 2,Badge 3
  ```

Where LEVEL1 is the Title of the subscription level and Badge 1, Badge 2 and Badge 3 are the names of the EasyDiscuss badges you want to add a user to when he subscribes. If you want to assign multiple subscription levels to multiple badges, you have to do something like that (separate multiple lines with a single press of the ENTER key on your keyboard):

```
LEVEL1=Badge 1,Badge 2,Badge 3
LEVEL2=Badge 2
LEVEL3=Badge 4,Badge 1
```

You can also use the numeric IDs of subscription levels and badges instead of their titles. However, we consider working with numeric IDs very counter-intuitive.

Inactive badge

Likewise, this is the list of the EasyDiscuss badges to remove a user from when his subscription to the specified level is no longer active. Do note that you can specify a different set of badges to remove the user from than the ones you are adding him to. For example:

```
LEVEL1=Badge 1,Badge 2
LEVEL2=Badge 2
LEVEL3=Badge 1
```

In this example, together with the rules displayed in "Active Badge", when a subscription to the LEVEL1 level expires, the user will still belong to EasyDiscuss badgeBadgeList 3, as he's not removed from it; he's only removed only from the badges Badge 1 and Badge 2. Likewise, if the user has an expired LEVEL1 subscription and an active LEVEL2 subscription he'll now belong to badges Badge 2 and Badge 3: Badge 3 because it's not removed when his subscription expires and badge Badge 2 because his active LEVEL2 subscription suggests that he should be added to Badge 2 despite his expired LEVEL1 subscription.

If you find this hard to understand, join the club. ACLs are not meant to be easy to setup or understand. It's a power feature and, as such, poses a great difficulty to even the most seasoned web site integrators. Take your time and experiment on a dev copy of your site before going live.

27. TrackTime integration

Note

This is a third party plugin. It is not created or maintained by Akeeba Ltd.

This plugin allows Akeeba Subscriptions to create invoices using the third party TrackTime invoicing component for Joomla!. For more information about the plugin and its documentation please visit http://www.fabbricabinaria.it/en/docs/tracktime-docs/tracktime-akeeba-subscription-integration

Chapter 5. Miscellaneous plugins

Akeeba Subscriptions is designed to be a modular system, powered by standard Joomla! plugins. Using plugins you can add payment methods as well as integration with third party software. Moreover, core functionality of Akeeba Subscriptions (like sending out emails upon subscription or email reminders for subscription expiration) is take care of by plugins.

Akeeba Subscriptions comes with more standard Joomla! plugins which accomplish a variety of tasks, from email communications to content filtering. These plugins belong to several groups: `akeebasubs`, `content`, `system` and `ccinvoices`. This documentation chapter discusses the various plugins available and their configuration.

1. Subscription expiration control

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: **System - Akeeba Subscriptions Expiration Control**

Akeeba Subscriptions will automatically expire your users' subscriptions when they visit a page with an Akeeba Subscriptions module on your site after their subscription expiration date. However, if you want subscription expiration to be performed automatically, you need to publish this plugin. It will fire once per day, expiring subscriptions past their expiration date. We strongly recommend publishing this plugin at all times.

Since some people reading the above paragraph had gotten the wrong picture, let's try explaining this in even more detail. The subscription expiration control plugin is a Joomla! plugin. It cannot magically run on its own accord. The only way it will run is when a page load occurs. Therefore you need to have at least a handful (typically: about 10) page load requests per day on your site so that this plugin can be triggered and do its job. If you have a site with practically zero traffic you will have to deliberately visit it every day and browse 10-20 pages so that this plugin does get activated and does process expired subscriptions. The subscriber whose subscription has expired does not need to visit your site.

2. Subscription emails

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Emails

When this plugin is published, an email will be sent out to the user when any change in the status of the subscription has taken place. For a complete list of the events on which an email is sent you can take a look at the language file, e.g. `administrator/language/en-GB/en-GB.plg_akeebasubs_subscriptionemails.ini`. Please note that if you are running a multilingual site, the site's active language at the time the subscription was registered is saved as the user's default language. As long as translation files for that language exist for our email plugin, then all emails the user receives will be in that language (the user's default language).

Note

This plugin uses Joomla!'s mail system. You have to ensure that your site can send out emails (e.g. use the Mass Mail feature to send a test email to Super Administrators) before activating this plugin.

We strongly recommend publishing this plugin at all times.

For email customisation instructions, please take a look at the Customising emails section of our documentation.

3. Administrator emails

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Administrator Emails

When this plugin is published, an email will be sent out to the administrator (you can define the email address of the administrator) when any change in the status of a subscription has taken place. For a complete list of the events on which an email is sent you can take a look at the language file, e.g. `administrator/language/en-GB/en-GB.plg_akeebasubs_afminemails.ini`. Please note that if you are running a multilingual site, the site's active language at the time the subscription was registered is saved as the user's default language. As long as translation files for that language exist for our email plugin, then the emails the administrators will receive will be in that language (the default language of the user whose subscription has been modified).

Note

This plugin uses Joomla!'s mail system. You have to ensure that your site can send out emails (e.g. use the Mass Mail feature to send a test email to Super Administrators) before activating this plugin.

For email customisation instructions, please take a look at the Customising emails section of our documentation.

4. Affiliate emails

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Emails to Affiliates

When this plugin is published, an email will be sent out to an affiliate when a subscription linked to his affiliate ID is activated (the payment status changes to C - Complete). For a complete list of the events on which an email is sent you can take a look at the language file, e.g. `administrator/language/en-GB/en-GB.plg_akeebasubs_affemails.ini`.

Note

This plugin uses Joomla!'s mail system. You have to ensure that your site can send out emails (e.g. use the Mass Mail feature to send a test email to Super Administrators) before activating this plugin.

For email customisation instructions, please take a look at the Customising emails section of our documentation.

5. Subscription expiration notification

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: System - Akeeba Subscriptions Expiration Notification

This plugin will notify a user before his subscription's expiration, based on the notification settings of each subscription level.

Note

This plugin uses Joomla!'s mail system. You have to ensure that your site can send out emails (e.g. use the Mass Mail feature to send a test email to Super Administrators) before activating this plugin.

We strongly recommend publishing this plugin at all times.

For email customisation instructions, please take a look at the Customising emails section of our documentation.

6. Content restriction

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Content - Akeeba Subscriptions Restricted

This content plugin allows you to show parts of your content only to specific subscribers. This is a very powerful feature that allows you to alter the displayed content based on the user's subscription status.

Note

It cannot "hide" entire articles, e.g. not show them at all to non-subscribers. At best, only the title will be shown.

If you have Joomla! 1.6 or later you can use the bundled Joomla! 1.6 User Group integration plugin to automatically assign subscribers to Joomla!'s groups and then use Joomla!'s ACL feature to fine-tune which users have access to which articles.

Note

The following documentation adds a space between the curly brackets ({ and }). This is done in order for Joomla! not to process the documentation text as plugin instructions. When you use the plugin, please DO NOT add a space between the curly braces and its contents. Thank you!

Its syntax is:

```
{ akeebasubs expression }Your content{ /akeebasubs }
```

This means that "Your content" will only be displayed to users whose subscriptions satisfy the *expression*. In the simplest form, expression is just the name of a subscription level, e.g.

```
{ akeebasubs LEVEL1 }Your content{ /akeebasubs }
```

If you want to present the content to someone who holds an active subscription to both LEVEL1 and LEVEL2, you can use the && (logic and) operator:

```
{ akeebasubs LEVEL1 && LEVEL2 }Your content{ /akeebasubs }
```

Likewise, you can use the || (logic or) operator to present the content to anyone who has a subscription to any of LEVEL3 or LEVEL4 levels:

```
{ akeebasubs LEVEL3 || LEVEL4 }Your content{ /akeebasubs }
```

Important note: The logical OR consists of two "pipe" symbols. These are not the same as capital I! On a Mac's keyboard, the pipe symbol is present next to the ENTER key, accessible by pressing SHIFT-\. On most Windows/Linux machines, this key is usually somewhere near the ENTER key and is most likely accessible by pressing SHIFT-\ as well.

You can also negate the logic. For example, you can present the content to anyone having a subscription to neither LEVEL1 nor LEVEL3 by using the ! (logical not) operator:

```
{ akeebasubs !LEVEL1 && !LEVEL3 }Your content{ /akeebasubs }
```

If you specify multiple operators, the precedence is NOT, AND, OR. This means that the exclamation mark is processed first, the ampersands second and the bars last. Example:

```
{ akeebasubs !LEVEL1 || LEVEL2 && !LEVEL3 }Your content{ /akeebasubs }
```

This means that the content will be presented to users who do not have a subscription to LEVEL1. Also, if they do have a LEVEL1 subscription and they are also LEVEL2 (but not LEVEL3) subscribers the content will also be shown to them.

Tip

Since Akeeba Subscriptions 1.0 Stable you can also use a pseudo-level marked by a single star (*) which matches all active subscriptions. For example, to show something to all subscribers use:

```
{ akeebasubs * }Content to show to all subscribers{ /akeebasubs }
```

Additionally, you can use the "not" modifier (exclamation mark) to show content only to non-subscribers:

```
{ akeebasubs !* }Content to show to non-subscribers{ /akeebasubs }
```

You can use this trick to easily show different messages to subscribers and non-subscribers, no matter if you have decided on the final list or naming of your subscription levels.

7. Timed content release

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Content - Akeeba Subscriptions Timed Release

This content plugin allows you to show parts of your content only to specific subscribers, depending on how many days they are on particular subscription levels, or how many days remain in their subscription to perticular subscription levels. This is a very powerful feature that allows you to "drip feed" information to your subscribers.

Practical use case: e-Learning sites. On an e-learning site a user usually subscribes to a course which lasts for weeks. Typically, you only want your student to see certain information every few days/weeks, disallowing them to peek through to the end of the course. This plugin will help do exactly that.

Another practical use case: showing coupon codes to your subscribers as the end of their subscription expiration comes near, e.g. during the last 30 days of their subscription.

Note

Like the content restriction plugin, it cannot "hide" entire articles, e.g. not show them at all to people outside the specified time constraints. At best, only the title will be shown.

Its syntax is:

```
{astimedrelease expression }Your content{/astimedrelease}
```

This means that "Your content" will only be displayed to users whose subscriptions satisfy the *`expression`*. In the simplest form, expression is just the name of a subscription level, e.g.

```
{astimedrelease LEVEL1}Your content{/astimedrelease}
```

In this form it will only show the content if the user has or has ever had a subscription on the LEVEL1 subscription level. It gets infinitely more useful appending time expressions after the subscription level.

Time expressions follow the subscription level, are enclosed in parentheses and consist of one or two arguments. Since it's hard to explain this otherwise, let's take some examples:

LEVEL1(10)	The user must have more than 10 days of presence in the LEVEL1 subscription level
LEVEL1(X,10)	The user must have less than 10 days of presence in the LEVEL1 subscription level
LEVEL1(10,20)	The user must have between 10 and 20 days of presence in the LEVEL1 subscription level
LEVEL1(-10)	The user must have more than 10 days before his subscription at the LEVEL1 subscription level expires
LEVEL1(-5,-10)	The user must have more than 10 but less than 5 days before his subscription at the LEVEL1 subscription level expires

LEVEL1(X,-5) The user must have less than 5 days before his subscription at the LEVEL1 subscription level expires

You can create complex situations involving multiple checks using the && (and) and || (or) operators. For example:

```
{astimedrelease LEVEL1(X,10) && LEVEL2(-10)}Your content{/astimedrelease}
```

means that the user must be in his first 10 days of a LEVEL1 subscription and his last 10 days of a LEVEL2 subscription (but not one without the other also being true). Conversely:

```
{astimedrelease LEVEL1(X,10) && LEVEL2(-10)}Your content{/astimedrelease}
```

means that the user must be in his first 10 days of a LEVEL1 subscription or his last 10 days of a LEVEL2 subscription (or both).

Moreover you can use the ! (not) operator to negate the effect of an expression. For example:

```
{astimedrelease LEVEL1(X,10) && !LEVEL2(-10)}Your content{/astimedrelease}
```

means that the user must be in his first 10 days of a LEVEL1 subscription but not his last 10 days of a LEVEL2 subscription.

Important

he logical OR consists of two "pipe" symbols. These are not the same as capital I! On a Mac's keyboard, the pipe symbol is present next to the ENTER key, accessible by pressing SHIFT-\. On most Windows/Linux machines, this key is usually somewhere near the ENTER key and is most likely accessible by pressing SHIFT-\ as well.

Note

This plugin does a "smart calculation" of the time the user has a subscription on a particular level. It sums up the time he has consumed for all of his subscriptions on that level to date, including expired subscriptions.

For example a user has two subscriptions: LEVEL1 from 1/1/2012 to 31/1/2012, expired. LEVEL1 from 15/3/2012 to 15/4/2102, active. Assuming that the current date is April 1st, 2012 the user's calculated time on LEVEL1 is 46 days: 31 days from his expired subscription and 15 days from his current subscription.

Similarly the number of days till the subscription expiration are calculated based on the expiration date of the last expiring paid subscription of the user on that level, one which may not be active yet.

Moreover, the plugin allows you to display the number of days a user has accumulated on a subscription level and how many days remain until his subscription expires:

```
{asdayselapsed LEVEL1}
```

shows how many days the user has had subscriptions for the LEVEL1 subscription level.

```
{asdaysremaining LEVEL1}
```

shows how many days remain until the users subscription to LEVEL1 expires.

You can also append a comma and a number to add/remove a number of days. For example:

```
{asdaysremaining LEVEL1,-10}
```

shows how many days remain until the users subscription to LEVEL1 expires, minus 10 days. This feature is useful for displaying the number of days left before you allow your user to view some timed release content.

8. The Akeeba Subscriptions Link (aslink) plug-in

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Content - Akeeba Subscriptions Link

The purpose of the aslink plugin is to produce URLs to subscription pages if you give it the name of the subscription level, its URL or its numeric ID.

Note

The following documentation adds a space between the curly brackets ({ and }). This is done in order for Joomla! not to process the documentation text as plugin instructions. When you use the plugin, please DO NOT add a space between the curly braces and its contents. Thank you!

The aslink plugin only produces a URL, not a link. In order to create a link, select the text you want to link, click on your WYSIWYG editor's link button and when it asks you for a URL, enter the plugin code, as shown below.

Syntax:

```
{ aslink MYLEVEL }
```

Returns the URL to a subscription level called "MYLEVEL", e.g. `http://localhost/component/akeebasubs/new/mylevel?layout=default`.

```
{ aslink mylevel }
```

Returns the URL to a subscription level whose slug is "mylevel", e.g. `http://localhost/component/akeebasubs/new/mylevel?layout=default`.

```
{ aslink 2 }
```

Returns the URL to a subscription level whose numeric ID is 2, e.g. `http://localhost/component/akeebasubs/new/mylevel?layout=default`.

In order to find the numeric ID of a level, please go to your site's back-end, Components, Akeeba Subscriptions, Subscription Levels and click on the name of the subscription level you want. Note the URL in the browser. It's something like `http://localhost/administrator/index.php?option=com_akeebasubs&view=level&id=2`. The number after &id= is the numeric ID of the level. In this example, the numeric ID is 2.

Moreover, you can use the following syntax:

```
{ aslink view=levels }
```

to create a link to the Subscription Levels view. This is usually quicker than creating a link to a menu item and remembering to change that link whenever your menu structure changes.

9. Agree to Terms of Service

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Agree to Terms of Service

Note

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1

This plugin allows you to force your users to accept your Terms of Service before being able to subscribe, a requirement with many payment processors. All you have to do is to enable this plugin and supply a TOS URL. Unless the user indicates that he accepts the terms of service, he won't be able to complete the subscription.

Tip

If you want to change the relative position of this field to other custom field plugins, you can use the plugin order in Joomla!'s Manage Plugins page

The plugin has the following options:

Terms of Service URL	The URL to the Terms of Service document. A link to this document will be displayed in the subscription page.

10. Age verification

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - Age verification

Note

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1

This plugin allows you to force your users to verify that their age i above a certain (configurable) limit before being able to subscribe, a requirement for many sites which can not provide services to minors. All you have to do is to enable this plugin and supply the minimum age. Unless the user indicates that he/she is over that age, he/she won't be able to complete the subscription.

Tip

If you want to change the relative position of this field to other custom field plugins, you can use the plugin order in Joomla!'s Manage Plugins page

The plugin has the following options:

Minimum age	The minimum age the user has to confirm before being able to subscribe.

11. IP Logger

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - IP Logger

Note

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1

This plugin allows you to log the IP address your user was using during his latest sign-up attempt. In order to view it, please go to the Users page of Akeeba Subscriptions and click on the user name. The IP address will be displayed in the custom fields area.

The plugin has no options.

12. ReCAPTCHA integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - ReCAPTCHA integration

Note

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.1

This plugin allows you to have your users fill in a CAPTCHA before they can subscribe to your site. This is a good measure to prevent automated/bulk registrations, especially if you offer free or trial subscriptions. The CAPTCHA is provided by ReCAPTCHA.net [http://www.ReCAPTCHA.net]. You will need to have created a ReCAPTCHA account before using this plugin.

Tip

If you want to change the relative position of this field to other custom field plugins, you can use the plugin order in Joomla!'s Manage Plugins page

Important

Showing a CAPTCHA on your subscription page will result in many lost sales. By showing a CAPTCHA in the subscription page you are making your potential subscribers to think hard before they part with their money, as well as frustrate them (according to our experience, one in two CAPTCHAs is unsolvable and makes the user feel they are stupid). As any undergrad business school student can tell you, the more you make people think, the less likely they are to pay. Besides, if someone actually pays you he is certainly not a spammer, therefore the CAPTCHA is unnecessary.

We strongly advise you **AGAINST** using this plugin. If you decide to use it, you should limit its display only to free or trial subscriptions using the "Enable on these levels" option described below. You can always ignore our advice to your business' detriment.

The plugin has the following options:

Public key	Your ReCAPTCHA public key
Private key	Your ReCAPTCHA private key
Theme	Choose one of the predefined ReCAPTCHA themes. By default the "red" theme is used (classic ReCAPTCHA)
Language	Choose the default language for the ReCAPTCHA interface. Please note that ReCAPTCHA treats that as a suggestion. It may override it based on your browser settings. For example, if you choose French but your browser specified that English should be preferred over French, the interface will display in English.
Enable on these levels	Select when to show the ReCAPTCHA. It will be shown only on the subscription page for the subscription levels you select here. You can do multiple selection by holding down the CTRL key (Windows, Linux) or CMD key (Mac) when clicking the levels. If you select the first option, the three dashes, ReCAPTCHA will be shown for all subscription levels.

13. PostAffilatePro integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: System - Post Affiliate Pro integration

Note

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.3.0

This plugin allows you to integrate Akeeba Subscriptions with the third party affiliate management service PostAffiliatePro.

The plugin has the following options:

URL of Post Affiliate Pro	Specify the url of your installation of Post Affiliate Pro. Please note that you need to specify the full url including the protocol like https://www.yoursite.com/affiliate

Integration notes

In the merchant's web interface:

1. Create an affiliate (Affiliate Manager)
2. Add the tracking URL of the affiliate's website (like "www.affiliate-website.com") to the affiliate's profile.
3. Create a banner and the target URL is the merchant's website (like "www.merchant-website.com")

In the affiliate's web interface, go to Home, Banner & Links and get the code to the banner.

14. iDevAffiliate integration

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: System - iDevAffiliate integration

Note

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.3.0

This plugin allows you to integrate Akeeba Subscriptions with the third party affiliate management software iDevAffiliate. Please note that this plugin integrates with the version of iDevAffiliate you get to install on your own site, not the iDevAffiliate service which is hosted on their servers.

The plugin has the following options:

URL of iDevAffiliate	Specify the url of your installation of iDevAffiliate. Please note that you need to specify the full url including the protocol like `https://www.yoursite.com/idevaffiliate` or `http://www.yoursite.com/idevaffiliate`.
Recurring Commissions	If this is set to Yes, then the affiliate gets not only commission for the first sale, but for each additional purchase (renewing subscription e.g.) that is done by the same user.

Integration notes

This is what a merchant needs to do in the back-end of iDevAffiliate in order to get it working with the plugin

1. Enable Generic Tracking Pixel. Go to Cart Integration, Shopping Cart Integration Wizard and select Enable Generic Tracking Pixel.
2. Pass Affiliate ID: Go to Setup & Tools, Advanced Developer Tools, Custom Functions, Pass Variables To Incoming Traffic Page and set Affiliate ID to Enabled = yes.

3. Optional but helpful: Make sure that Email is setup correctly in order to receive messages about commissions (after sales): Setup & Tools, Email Settings

15. ccInvoices tags

Displayed in the Plugins Manager as: ccInvoices - Akeeba Subscriptions merge tags

Note

Available since Akeeba Subscriptions 2.3.0

Important

If you wish to use ccInvoices to generate invoices outside of Akeeba Subscriptions please DO NOT use this plugin. It will result in fields containing the raw merge tags, e.g. {asubs_id} which certainly looks weird on an invoice.

This plugin allows you to access Akeeba Subscriptions information from within your ccInvoices "Invoice PDF Template". Just enable this plugin to make the following tags available:

Subscription record information:

{asubs_id}	Subscription ID
{asubs_user_id}	User's numeric ID
{asubs_akeebasubs_level_id}	Subscription level's numeric ID
{asubs_publish_up}	Subscription activation date (GMT)
{asubs_publish_down}	Subscription expiration date (GMT)
{asubs_notes}	Any notes you have entered for the subscription
{asubs_enabled}	1 if the subscription is already active, 0 otherwise
{asubs_processor}	Payment processor, e.g. paypal
{asubs_processor_key}	Unique transaction key
{asubs_state}	N for a new subscription, P for pending payment, C for completed payment, X for cancelled. This should normally be set to C at all times.
{asubs_net_amount}	Total payable amount before tax
{asubs_tax_amount}	Tax amount
{asubs_gross_amount}	Total payable amount including tax
{asubs_tax_percent}	Tax percentage, or 0 if there is no tax
{asubs_created_on}	When the subscription was created (GMT)
{asubs_akeebasubs_coupon_id}	Numeric ID of the coupon used, if applicable
{asubs_akeebasubs_upgrade_id}	Numeric ID of the upgrade rule used, if applicable

{asubs_akeebasubs_affiliate_id}	Numeric ID of the affiliate who referred this subscription, if applicable
{asubs_affiliate_commission}	Affiliate's commission, if applicable
{asubs_akeebasubs_invoice_id}	The invoice's ID. May be different than the invoice number!
{asubs_prediscount_amount}	The price of the subscription before any discount (coupon or upgrade rule) is applied
{asubs_discount_amount}	The discount (coupon or upgrade rule) applied to the subscription's price

Subscription level information:

{aslevel_id}	Subscription level's numeric ID
{aslevel_title}	Subscription level's title
{aslevel_slug}	Subscription level's alias (slug)
{aslevel_image}	The subscription level's image path, relative to the images directory
{aslevel_description}	The description of the subscription level
{aslevel_duration}	Duration in days
{aslevel_price}	The price of the subscription level

User information:

{asuser_id}	User's numeric ID
{asuser_name}	User's full (real) name
{asuser_username}	Username
{asuser_email}	Email address
{asuser_isbusiness}	1 if user registered as business
{asuser_businessname}	Business name
{asuser_occupation}	Business activity
{asuser_vatnumber}	VAT number
{asuser_viesregistered}	1 if the VAT number is VIES registered
{asuser_taxauthority}	(not used)
{asuser_address1}	First part of the address field
{asuser_address2}	Second part of the address field
{asuser_city}	City
{asuser_state}	State (Canada and US only)
{asuser_zip}	ZIP / Postal code
{asuser_country}	Country

{asuser_custom_***} Access custom fields. Substitute *** with your custom field's name.

Miscellaneous information:

{$}	Currency sign, e.g. € for Euros (as configured in Akeeba Subscriptions, not ccInvoices)
{asubs_vat_notice}	If the transaction is for a business located in EU with a VIES-registered VAT number, it returns the following text: VAT liability is transferred to the recipient, pursuant EU Directive nr 2006/112/EC and local tax laws implementing this directive.
{akeeba_dlid}	Returns the Download ID for the user. This Download ID is for use with Akeeba Release System and Akeeba Live Update.

Chapter 6. Akeeba Subscriptions' modules

Akeeba Subscriptions comes with a variety of modules to display customized lists of subscription levels or a list of a user's subscriptions. Make sure you visit your Module Manager page and have a look at them. You can create interesting effects, like a customized and categorized subscriptions list page, out of those modules.

1. List of active subscriptions

Displayed in the Modules Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - List of active subscriptions

This is extremely simple plugin will merely list the current user's active subscriptions as an unordered list. It is meant as an example of how you can create custom modules for Akeeba Subscriptions.

2. List subscription levels

Displayed in the Modules Manager as: Akeeba Subscriptions - List subscription levels

This extremely powerful module allows you to present a list of all or specific subscription levels, using either layout, in any module position on your site. Combined with Joomla!'s { loadposition } plugin you can use this module to assemble the perfect presentation page of your subscriptions, grouped any way you please.

The module has only two options:

Subscription Levels	Choose which subscription level(s) to display in the module. This is a multiple-selection list. You can use CTRL-click (Windows, Linux) or CMD-click (Mac OS X) to select multiple items on the list.
Layout	Choose which layout you want to use to display your subscription levels to the users. You can choose between the Default or the Awesome layout, the same layouts you can choose in menu items.

Chapter 7. Developers' information

Akeeba Subscriptions was designed to be very extensible right from its inception. Everything can be accomplished using plugins which can be installed through the familiar Joomla! extensions installer.

The plugins can belong to one of two groups:

akeebasubs — This is the plugin group where all integrations live. Plugins in this group can implement a plethora of methods which allows them to be notified when a subscription's status changes, when the user information is read/written and much more.

akpayment — This plugin group is used by Akeeba Subscriptions payment plugins. Plugins in this group implement special methods which allows them to be notified of the user's intention to pay for a subscription, as well as process the payment notification by the payment processor and, in turn, let the component know.

The rest of this chapter documents the various plugin events in each group. References to existing plugins are made so that you can understand how things really work.

1. The "akeebasubs" plugin events

Since Akeeba Subscriptions 3.5.0 we recommend developers wishing to create plugins for Akeeba Subscriptions to place them in the `akeebasubs` directory.

Moreover, we have created a base class, `plgAkeebasubsAbstract`, which can make your life simpler. You are suggested to use code like the following to create your custom plugins:

```
<?php
defined('_JEXEC') or die();

$akeebasubsinclude = include_once JPATH_ADMINISTRATOR.'/components/com_akeebasubs/assets/a
if(!$akeebasubsinclude) { unset($akeebasubsinclude); return; } else { unset($akeebasubsinc

class plgAkeebasubsMycustomplugin extends plgAkeebasubsAbstract
{
    // your code goes here
}
```

This allows you to use our base class. In the event that a user enables the plugin without having a post-3.5.0 Akeeba Subscriptions version installed the plugin will not load, therefore not causing a fatal PHP error.

1.1. onAKSubscriptionChange

Prototype: `public function onAKSubscriptionChange($row, $info)`

Synopsis: This event is called whenever a subscription is created or modified.

Sample plugin: plugins/akeebasubs/subscriptionemails.php

The `$row` variable contains a JTable descendant which gives you access to all of the information in the subscription record (#__akeebasubs_subscriptions table's fields). The `$info` variable contains a hash array with useful information, including a copy of table before and after the modification, the modified rows and the kind of modification (new for new record or modified for a modified existing record) that took place.

You cannot change the information in $row or pass data back to the component in any way. In fact, this event is called immediately after all information has been written to the database.

1.2. onAKUserRefresh

Prototype: `public function onAKUserRefresh($user_id)`

Synopsis: This event is called when the user clicks on the "Refresh Integrations" button in the back-end of the Akeeba Subscriptions component. It is called once per each subscriber. The $user_id variable contains the numeric Joomla! user ID of the subscriber.

Sample plugin: plugins/akeebasubs/joomla.php

You might consider it odd that the event is called per user instead of per subscription. However, the integrations in Akeeba Subscriptions are "smart". This means that instead of triggering functionality based on the enabled status of an individual subscription they work based on the enabled status of all subscriptions. This allows you to have rules like "if the user has SUB1 and SUB2, do this" or "if the user has SUB1 and had a SUB2 but it has now expired, do that". Looking at the sample plugin's code you can understand how the iteration of the user's subscriptions is made and how a plugin can determine which subscription levels the user belongs to.

1.3. onSubscriptionFormRender

Prototype: `public function onSubscriptionFormRender($userparams, $cache)`

Synopsis: This event is called when the subscription form (front-end, view=level) is displayed. It returns an array of extra fields which will be rendered in the form, right below the email field and before the address fields.

Sample plugin: plugins/akeebasubs/samplefields.php

The input of this event's method is two variables:

$userparams
: This is a copy of the user's record, as stored in the #__akeebasubs_users table, in object format. You can access the data in the user record as, for example, `$userparams->address1` in order to get the Address 1 field's contents.

  The most important -for you- part of this object is `$userparams->params` which stores all the extra fields' values. For example, if you have defined a field named foobar, you can get its stored value as `$userparams->params->foobar`.

  > **Important**
  >
  > This object contains the data stored in the database. When the user modified this data in the interface and submits the form (but the form is invalid) the information in this object IS NOT UPDATED. In this case, use the `$cache` variable.

$cache
: When the user submits the subscription forms but it is invalid (errors don't allow it to pass the validation), Akeeba Subscriptions stores the user's modified data in the $cache array. The information in this array may be different than the information in $userparams array.

Getting the values for your custom fields

To cut a long story short, if you have a field named foobar, here is how to get its value:

```
if(array_key_exists('foobar', $cache['custom'])) {
  $current = $cache['custom']['foobar'];
```

```
} else {
  $current = property_exists($userparams->params, 'foobar') ? $userparams->params->foobar
}
```

Returning custom field definitions

The return of this event is an array which consists of one or more hash (key/value pair) arrays. Each of the hash arrays defines exactly one extra field and has the following keys:

id — String. Required. The field's HTML id.

label — String. Required. The label which appears to the left of the field.

elementHTML — String. Required. The HTML of your field.

> **Important**
>
> The name value of your field **must** be `custom[id]`, where *id* is the HTML id you defined in the id key above. Also, the HTML id **must** be defined and **must** be equal to the HTML id you defined in the id key above. If you don't do that, your extra field might never be saved.

invalidLabel — String. Optional. This is the label which appears in green on the right of the field when the field is valid. The HTML element containing this string is named id_valid, where *id* is the HTML id you defined in the id key above.

validLabel — String. Optional. This is the label which appears in red on the right of the field when the field is invalid. The HTML element containing this string is named id_invalid, where *id* is the HTML id you defined in the id key above.

isValid — Boolean. Optional. If you defined the invalidLabel and/or validLabel fields, pass a boolean here indicating if the field is currently valid so that the correct label is shown when the page loads.

Javascript validation

Akeeba Subscriptions does not make any attempt to validate the custom fields and update the display status of the valid/invalid labels. It is your responsibility. In this event, you can call `JFactory::getDocument()->addScriptDeclaration($scriptData)` where $scriptData is the Javascript validation code.

In order to make it easier for you, Akeeba Subscriptions offers an architecture similar to an observer pattern in the Javascript code. You can have Javascript functions called when Akeeba Subscriptions' Javascript code is fetching the contents of the fields before sending a data validation request through AJAX and another function which is called when the validation results are being processed. You can add the former to the stack using addToValidationFetchQueue() and the latter using addToValidationQueue().

Please look at the very well documented sample plugin for more information regarding all of the above.

1.4. onSubscriptionFormRenderPerSubFields

Prototype: `public function onSubscriptionFormRenderPerSubFields($cache)`

Synopsis: This event is called when the subscription form (front-end, view=level) is displayed. It returns an array of extra fields which will be rendered in the form, right below the email field and before the address fields. Unlike onSubscriptionFormRender fields which are stored in the user's record, the fields defined by onSubscriptionFormRenderPerSubFields are stored inside the subscription record. This allows you to handle per-subscription options.

Sample plugin: plugins/akeebasubs/slavesubs.php

The input of this event's method is two variables:

$cache When the user submits the subscription forms but it is invalid (errors don't allow it to pass the validation), Akeeba Subscriptions stores the user's modified data in the $cache array. The information in this array may be different than the information in $userparams array.

Getting the values for your custom fields

To cut a long story short, if you have a field named foobar, here is how to get its value:

```
if(array_key_exists('foobar', $cache['subcustom'])) {
  $current = $cache['subcustom']['foobar'];
} else {
  $current ='default value';
}
```

Returning custom field definitions

The return of this event is an array which consists of one or more hash (key/value pair) arrays. Each of the hash arrays defines exactly one extra field and has the following keys:

id String. Required. The field's HTML id.

label String. Required. The label which appears to the left of the field.

elementHTML String. Required. The HTML of your field.

Important

The name value of your field **must** be `custom[id]`, where *id* is the HTML id you defined in the id key above. Also, the HTML id **must** be defined and **must** be equal to the HTML id you defined in the id key above. If you don't do that, your extra field might never be saved.

invalidLabel String. Optional. This is the label which appears in green on the right of the field when the field is valid. The HTML element containing this string is named id_valid, where *id* is the HTML id you defined in the id key above.

validLabel String. Optional. This is the label which appears in red on the right of the field when the field is invalid. The HTML element containing this string is named id_invalid, where *id* is the HTML id you defined in the id key above.

isValid Boolean. Optional. If you defined the invalidLabel and/or validLabel fields, pass a boolean here indicating if the field is currently valid so that the correct label is shown when the page loads.

Javascript validation

Akeeba Subscriptions does not make any attempt to validate the custom fields and update the display status of the valid/invalid labels. It is your responsibility. In this event, you can call `JFactory::getDocument()->addScriptDeclaration($scriptData)` where $scriptData is the Javascript validation code.

In order to make it easier for you, Akeeba Subscriptions offers an architecture similar to an observer pattern in the Javascript code. You can have Javascript functions called when Akeeba Subscriptions' Javascript code is fetching the

contents of the fields before sending a data validation request through AJAX and another function which is called when the validation results are being processed. You can add the former to the stack using addToSubValidationFetchQueue() and the latter using addToSubValidationQueue().

Please look at the very well documented slavesubs plugin for more information regarding all of the above.

1.5. onValidate

Prototype: `public function onValidate($data)`

Synopsis: This event is called when Akeeba Subscriptions is validating the subscription form.

Sample plugin: plugins/akeebasubs/samplefields.php

The $data parameter is an object with all the data keys. You are interested in `$data->custom` which contains the values of the custom fields. You can get the value of a custom field named "foobar" using `$data->custom['data']`.

The return value is a hash array with the following keys:

custom_validation A hash array of booleans, showing the validation status of each field.

isValid Set to false if any of the validation errors above means that the entire subscription form should be deemed invalid, otherwise set it to true to not cause the entire form to become invalid. The latter is useful when you have an optional field whose validation status doesn't play a role in the user's ability to complete the subscription transaction.

1.6. onValidatePerSubscription

Prototype: `public function onValidatePerSubscription($data)`

Synopsis: This event is called when Akeeba Subscriptions is validating the subscription form. This event is used to validate per-subscription custom fields.

Sample plugin: plugins/akeebasubs/slavesubs.php

The $data parameter is an object with all the data keys. You are interested in `$data->custom` which contains the values of the custom fields. You can get the value of a custom field named "foobar" using `$data->subcustom['data']`.

The return value is a hash array with the following keys:

subscription_custom_validation A hash array of booleans, showing the validation status of each field.

isValid Set to false if any of the validation errors above means that the entire subscription form should be deemed invalid, otherwise set it to true to not cause the entire form to become invalid. The latter is useful when you have an optional field whose validation status doesn't play a role in the user's ability to complete the subscription transaction.

1.7. onSubscriptionLevelFormRender

Prototype: `public function onSubscriptionLevelFormRender(AkeebasubsTableLevel $level)`

Synopsis: This event is called when the subscription level editor form (back-end) is displayed. It returns an array defining a configuration tab for this plugin.

Sample plugin: Look at the base class' implementation

You will rarely have to override this method. You just need to provide two subdirectories in your plugin's folder:

- `tmpl`. This is where your back-end editor form template file (`default.php`) is stored.
- `override`. Leave it empty. This is where a user can put his customised `default.php` template file to override yours.

1.8. onAKUserGetData

Prototype: `public function onAKUserGetData($userData)`

Synopsis: This plugin is called when Akeeba Subscriptions is fetching the user data the first time in the current session that the user is visiting the Subscription (view=level) page

Sample plugin: plugins/akeebasubs/autocity.php

This method is called whenever a user starts a new subscription and Akeeba Subscriptions wants to fetch user data. You can use it to fetch user information from additional sources and return them in an array. The values in the array will replace the values stored in the user's profile.

The $userData variable contains an object with already fetched user information from the #__akeebasubs_users table.

Returns a key/value array with user information overrides.

1.9. onAKUserSaveData

Prototype: `public function onAKUserSaveData($row)`

Synopsis: This plugin is called when Akeeba Subscriptions is saving user's data to the database.

Sample plugin: plugins/akeebasubs/autocity.php

This method is called whenever Akeeba Subscriptions is updating the user record with new information, either during sign-up or when you manually update this information in the back-end.

The $row variable contains a AkeebasubsTableUser object with the information to be stored in the #__akeebasubs_users table.

1.10. onCancelMessage

Prototype: `public function onCancelMessage($row)`

Synopsis: This plugin is called when Akeeba Subscriptions is displaying the order cancellation message.

Sample plugin:

Since: 2.3.0

This method is called whenever Akeeba Subscriptions is displaying the order cancellation message in the front-end of the site.

The $row variable contains an AkeebasubsTableSubscription object of the subscription for which the message is being displayed.

Anything you return is considered to be HTML which will be displayed on the message page, right after the message.

1.11. onOrderMessage

Prototype: `public function onOrderMessage($row)`

Synopsis: This plugin is called when Akeeba Subscriptions is displaying the order confirmation message.

Sample plugin:

Since: 2.3.0

This method is called whenever Akeeba Subscriptions is displaying the order confirmation message in the front-end of the site.

The $row variable contains an AkeebasubsTableSubscription object of the subscription for which the message is being displayed.

Anything you return is considered to be HTML which will be displayed on the message page, right after the message.

2. The "akpayment" plugin events

2.1. onAKPaymentGetIdentity

Prototype: `public function onAKPaymentGetIdentity()`

Synopsis: Returns the internal name and the human readable description of this payment plugin.

Sample plugin: plugins/akpayment/paypal.php

Returns a hash array:

name — The internal payment processor plugin name. If you have plg_akpayment_foobar then this must be foobar.

title — The name of the payment processor as will appear on the subscription page, e.g. "Foobar Payments", "Credit Card", etc.

2.2. onAKPaymentNew

Prototype: `public function onAKPaymentNew($paymentmethod, $user, $level, $subscription)`

Synopsis: This method is called whenever the user asks for a payment to be made for his new subscription.

Sample plugin: plugins/akpayment/paypal.php

2.3. onAKPaymentCallback

Prototype: `public function onAKPaymentCallback($paymentmethod, $data)`

Synopsis: This method is called whenever the payment processor posts back to Akeeba Subscriptions to notify us of a payment having been processed.

Sample plugin: plugins/akpayment/paypal.php