



# Manual

udde Picture Frame (uddePF)

Picture Frame Information System for  
Joomla 1.5 / Joomla 1.6

Version 1.1 rev 1

uddePF<sup>1</sup> is free software and you may redistribute it under the GPL.

uddePF comes with absolutely no warranty.

Use at your own risk.

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<sup>1</sup> except any documentation (like this manual) and certain plugins

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# 1 Installation and Configuration

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## 1.1 Requirements

To use uddePF you need

- Joomla! 1.5 or Joomla! 1.6 (using MySQL driver, not MySQLi driver)
- PHP 5  
PHP 5.2.4 or higher for Calendar Plugin
- MySQL 4.1.2 or higher
- One or two Digital Picture Frames (with network connection<sup>2</sup>)

and optionally (but highly recommended)

- Cron jobs.

Cron jobs are highly recommended to call the update script. You can also use a transparent pixel in your site but this does not ensure that the update script is called after a certain period of time.



Note:

There are several sites on the internet available that offer free Cron jobs, e.g. <http://www.cronjob.de/> , <http://www.cron-job.org/> , and many others

## 1.2 Setting up uddePF, Joomla, and the picture frame

### 1.2.1 Setting up the uddePF component

The installation is quite simple but there are a few points you should be aware of:

1. Install uddePF using the extension manager in Joomla. This will install a basic setup with all required tables.
2. Visit uddePF's backend. After installation all plugins are disabled by default. On the info tab you should find the information where to find the update script. You have to choose if you want to do updates using a Cron Job (recommended) or by adding a transparent pixel to your front page which calls the update script.
3. After you have chosen and set up the update method (see next chapter) configure and enable the plugins (there is a separate tab for each plugin). Do not forget to save the configuration. You can check the picture by pressing the preview button.

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<sup>2</sup> The Picture Frame should be able to display a single picture from the internet or a media RSS feed. Some Picture Frames can display feeds from <http://framechannel.com>. In that case you can use the uddePF created RSS feed as source for a frame channel feed.

**Note:**

Pressing the preview button forces all enabled plugins to update their data for the current page regardless of the configured update time period.

### 1.2.2 Setting up the update script

To create an updated image for your picture frame, you have to call an update script regularly, e.g. every 5 minutes. There are two methods:

1. Calling the update script using a Cron job (recommended), or
2. Adding a transparent pixel to your index.php which triggers the update script when a visitor visits your homepage.

You can (and should) protect the directory containing the update script with a password (http basic authentication). Enter your chosen credentials in the settings tab and save the configuration. The required .htaccess and .htpasswd files are created by uddePF automatically.

#### **Using method 1a „Update using a Cron job“ (wget method):**

On the info tab you will find the URL to the uddePF update script. Create a Cron job and use wget to call this URL e.g. every 5 minutes. Some providers offer a web interface to configure these jobs more convenient (e.g. all-inkl.com). When you are allowed to call scripts in password protected folders, you should protect the folder containing the update script (settings tab). For more information see chapter 1.4.

#### **Using method 1b „Update using a Cron job“ (script method):**

On the info tab you will find the absolute path to the uddePF update script. Create a Cron job and call this script e.g. every 5 minutes. Some providers offer a web interface to configure Cron jobs more convenient. Since the script is executed directly you can protect the folder that contains the update script (settings tab) and do not have to enter these credentials somewhere. For more information see chapter 1.4.

#### **Using method 2 „Update using a transparent pixel“:**

On the info tab you will find the URL to a transparent pixel that can be added to your site's front page. Add the pixel like this:

```

```

The executed script returns a transparent 1x1 GIF pixel and calls the update script every 5 minutes (when possible). You can change this time by editing the source file with a text editor. It is not guaranteed that the script is executed regularly since it needs a site visitor to be triggered.

### 1.2.3 Setting up the picture frame

Your picture frame should be able to display a jpg picture or a media RSS feed (some picture frames use <http://framechannel.com> which can also be used for our purpose). Unfortunately WLAN capable picture frames have become rare. Currently following frames should still be available:

|  | URL to picture   | URL to RSS Feed   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Samsung SPF-72V</b>                   | Working<br><br>Picture frame reloads picture every 20 seconds with a transition effect (bug in current firmware).<br><br>Switch of picture caching in web interface. | Working (recommended)<br><br>Switch of picture caching in web interface.  |
| <b>Samsung SPF-72M</b>                   | Flash SPF-72V Firmware<br>Use USB WLAN-Stick, with Ralink 2501usb Chip, e.g. TP-Link TL-WN321G<br><br>See SPF-72V  | Flash SPF-72V Firmware<br>Use USB WLAN-Stick, with Ralink 2501usb Chip, e.g. TP-Link TL-WN321G<br><br>See SPF-72V |
| <b>Samsung SPF-83B</b>                   | Flash SPF-83V Firmware<br><br>See SPF-72V  | Flash SPF-83V Firmware<br><br>See SPF-72V   |
| <b>Samsung SPF-83M</b>                   | Flash SPF-83V Firmware<br>Use USB WLAN-Stick, with Ralink 2501usb Chip, e.g. TP-Link TL-WN321G<br><br>See SPF-72V  | Flash SPF-83V Firmware<br>Use USB WLAN-Stick, with Ralink 2501usb Chip, e.g. TP-Link TL-WN321G<br><br>See SPF-72V |
| <b>Samsung SPF-83V</b>                   | See SPF-72V  | See SPF-72V   |
| <b>Samsung SPF-85V</b>                   | See SPF-72V  | See SPF-72V   |
| <b>Samsung SPF-105V</b>                  | See SPF-72V  | See SPF-72V   |
| <b>Kodak W820</b>                        | unknown  | reported to work<br><br>Use picture size 840x504 to get a clear picture.  |
| <b>Kodak W1020</b><br><b>Kodak W1030</b> | unknown  | reported to work<br><br>Use picture size 840x504 to get a clear picture.  |
| <b>Philips 8FF3WMI</b>                   | unknown  | reported to work  |
| <b>Motorola LS1000W</b>                  | unknown  | reported to work with FrameChannel account  |

|                            | URL to picture | URL to RSS Feed |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Polaroid CPU-01015B</b> | unknown        | unknown         |

**Note:**

**Flashing a wrong or not officially supported firmware may (and most likely will) void the warranty.**

E.g. when you flash a Samsung SPF-72V firmware on a Samsung SPF-72M you should be aware of this warning!



### 1.2.3.1 Setting up Samsung SPF-72V (and compatible)

Open the picture frame web configuration interface in your web browser, e.g. <http://192.168.2.222:5050> (see Figure 1.1). You will find the correct IP in the settings dialog in your picture frame.

**Figure 1.1 – Login dialog Samsung SPF-72V**



Next configure the photo feed. Enter the URL to the uddePF picture frame feed as shown on the info page (see Figure 1.2), e.g.

[http://www.mydomain.com/administrator/components/com\\_uddepf/pictureframe/pf<secret\\_code>.xml](http://www.mydomain.com/administrator/components/com_uddepf/pictureframe/pf<secret_code>.xml)

**Figure 1.2 – Configure RSS picture feed**



Do not forget to switch off picture caching; otherwise the picture frame might not update the picture displayed (see Figure 1.3).

**Figure 1.3 – Configure picture caching**



## 1.3 Available plugins

### 1.3.1 Settings (build-in)

On the main settings tab you can configure some general settings.

| Setting                                      | Description   |
|--|---|
| Username<br>Password                         | The username and password are used to protect the folder containing the update script. When the password is left empty the password protection is removed and the update script can be called without any authentication.<br><br>uddePF automatically creates the required .htaccess and .htpasswd files. |
| Phrase                                       | To secure the created picture the file is suffixed with this phrase. Use at least 10 characters (letters and numbers). When this phrase is changed, ensure that the old image is deleted in /pictureframe folder.   |
| Language                                     | The language used in the backend and for the picture.   |
| Locale                                       | The date and time format and language used.   |
| Supported pages                              | uddePF can change pictures periodically, e.g. you can specify two pages, the first showing the date/time and calendar, the second date/time and your emails.  |
| Image width<br>Image height                  | The width and height of the created image.  |
| Left column<br>Middle column<br>Right column | The start positions for the three columns that can be configured in some plugins.   |
| Font normal<br>Font bold                     | The used fonts. You can add other TTF fonts by uploading them into <a href="#">\administrator\components\com_uddepf\resources\fonts\</a>  |
| Ordering                                     | The ordering the plugins are created. E.g. when you enable the email and calendar plugin for the first page, you can specify which plugin should be displayed first.  |

### 1.3.2 Recommended plugin settings

Each plugin can gather its data after a certain time period. The following table gives some recommended values for update and display periods.

| Plugin      | Recommended update period | Action after update period expires   |
|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| Date/Time   | n/a                       | n/a  |
| Style       | n/a                       | n/a  |
| RSS Feeds   | ≥ 15 minutes              | RSS Feeds are gathered and stored locally in cache folder.                         |
| Weather     | ≥ 3 hours                 | XML data is requested from Google API and stored locally in cache folder.          |
| Calendar    | ≥ 1 hour                  | XML data is requested from Google API and stored in MySQL database.                |
| Mail        | ≥ 10 minutes              | Data is requested from POP3 or IMAP account and stored in MySQL database.          |
| PayPal      | ≥ 15 minutes              | Data is requested from PayPal API and stored in MySQL database.                    |
| Messenger   | ≥ 10 minutes              | Web status icons are requested and stored locally in cache folder.                 |
| Slideshow   | ≥ 1 day                   | File list of existing images is created and stored in a text file in cache folder. |
| DWD         | ≥ 1 hour                  | Weather pictures are requested and stored locally in cache folder.                 |
| ZDF Weather | ≥ 1 hour                  | Weather pictures are requested and stored locally in cache folder.                 |
| Benzin      | ≥ 1 hour                  | Data is requested and stored in MySQL database.                                    |

### 1.3.3 Date/Time Plugin

The Date/Time Plugin creates a header containing the current date and time.

**Figure 1.4 – Date/Time Plugin settings**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Enable plugin   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no   |
| Show on page    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| <hr/>           |   |
| Time format     | 22:40 ▾   |
| Date format     | Tuesday, 5. August 2007 ▾   |
| Show weeknumber | No ▾  |

**Figure 1.5 – Date/Time Plugin example (with Style Plugin)**



### 1.3.4 Style Plugin

The Style Plugin creates a background image. Optionally this image can be different in the morning, evening, and night.

You can add more backgrounds by uploading images into

`\administrator\components\com_uddepf\plugins\PFStylePlugin\backgrounds\`

Figure 1.6 – Style Plugin settings

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Enable plugin</b>        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no   |
| <b>Show on page</b>         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| <hr/>                       |   |
| <b>Background</b>           | nasa402874main ▼  |
| <b>Background (morning)</b> | nasa397262main ▼  |
| <b>Background (evening)</b> | nasa495574main ▼  |
| <b>Background (night)</b>   | nasa506929main ▼  |

Figure 1.7 – Style Plugin example

**14:06**  
Dienstag, 8. Februar 2011

**heise online News**  
Safer Internet Day: Jugendliche in der "Pubertät 2.0"  
US-Regierung plant Änderungen an Copyright-Gesetz  
Handy- und Tablet-CPU mit vier Kernen  
Intel liefert fehlerträchtige Chipsätze wieder aus  
CeBIT-Special auf heise online  
LG reicht Gegenklage im Patentstreit mit Sony ein  
Googles I/O-Konferenz innerhalb einer Stunde ausverkauft  
Bericht: Microsoft sucht Top-Manager mit technischem Hintergrund  
Ägypten: Verhafteter Google-Manager wieder frei  
Neuartige Fußprothese vor der Vermarktung  
... 50 weitere Elemente

**PayPal**  
USD EUR  
USD EUR  
USD EUR  
-11.50 EUR Skype  
... 5 weitere Transaktionen

**Weather:**  
Aktuell: 9°C  
Feuchtigkeit: 62 %  
Wind: W mit 13 km/h  
Heute: 7° | 0° Klar  
Morgen: 7° | 1° Klar  
Do.: 8° | 4° Meist sonnig  
Fr.: 8° | 6° Vereinzelt Regen



### 1.3.5 RSS Feed Plugin

The RSS Feed Plugin displays RSS Feeds. Tested are RSS 0.9 Feeds. Nevertheless RSS 2.0 should also work.

**Figure 1.8 – RSS Feeds Plugin settings**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Enable plugin</b> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no                               |
| <b>Update period</b> | 10 minutes ▼  |
| <b>Show on page</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| <b>RSS Feed URL</b>  | <input type="text" value="http://www.heise.de/newsticker/heise.rdf"/>                       |
| <b>RSS Item Age</b>  | <input type="text" value="0"/>  |
| <b>RSS Items</b>     | <input type="text" value="10"/>   |

**Figure 1.9 – RSS Feeds Plugin example (with Style Plugin)**



### 1.3.6 Weather Plugin

The Weather Plugin displays the current weather based on the Google Weather API.

**Figure 1.10 – Weather Plugin settings**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Enable plugin | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no   |
| Update period | 3 hours ▼   |
| Show on page  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| <hr/>         |   |
| Location      | Bottrop, Germany  |
| Iconset       | novacom ▼   |

**Figure 1.11 – Weather Plugin example (with Style Plugin)**





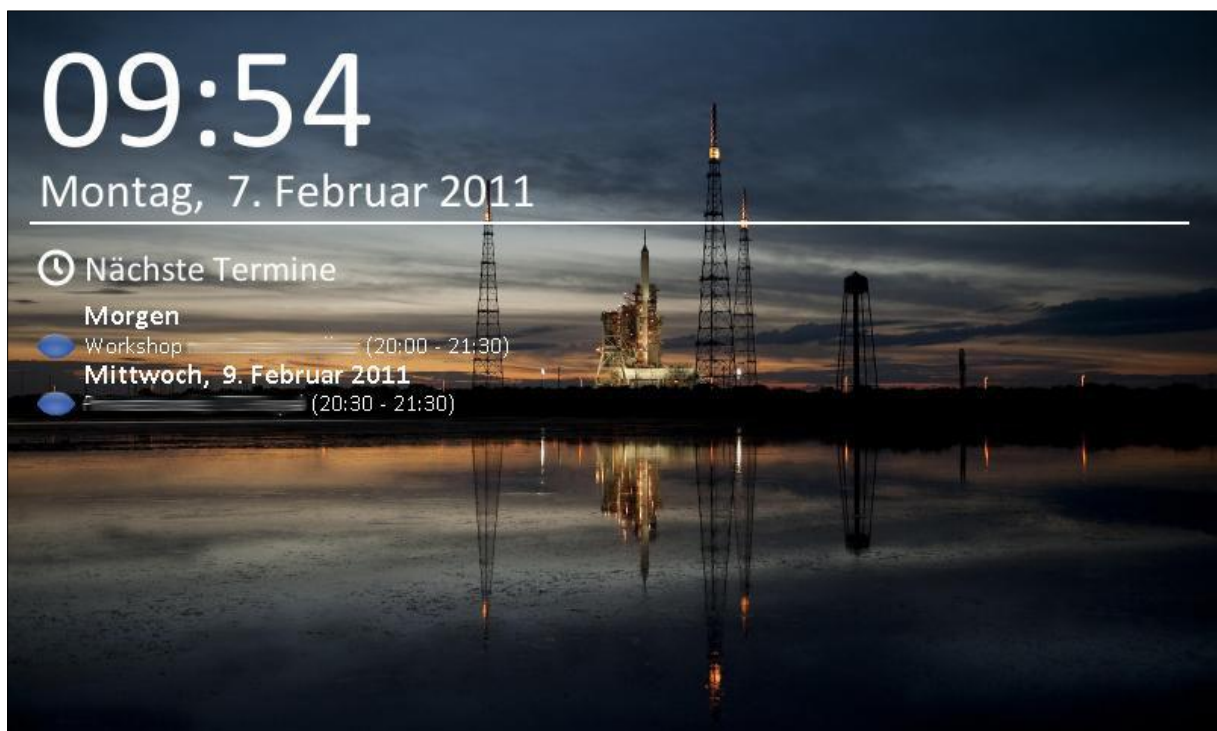
### 1.3.7 Calendar Plugin (premium plugin)

The Calendar Plugin displays your Google calendar.

**Figure 1.12 – Calendar Plugin settings**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Enable plugin | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no                               |
| Update period | 1 hour ▼  |
| Show on page  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| <hr/>         |   |
| Username      | <input type="text" value="gmail.com"/>  |
| Password      | <input type="password"/>  |
| Days          | 4 days  |
| Date format   | Tuesday, 5. August 2007 ▼   |

**Figure 1.13 – Calendar Plugin example (with Style Plugin)**



### 1.3.8 Mail Plugin (premium plugin)

The Mail Plugin displays emails from POP3 or IMAP accounts. On IMAP accounts the plugin displays unseen messages, on POP3 accounts all new messages are displayed.

**Figure 1.14 – Mail Plugin settings**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Enable plugin | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no   |
| Update period | 10 minutes  |
| Show on page  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| <hr/>         |   |
| Server        | mail  |
| Username      |   |
| Password      |   |
| Server port   | 993   |

**Figure 1.15 Mail Plugin example (with Style Plugin)**



### 1.3.9 PayPal Plugin (premium plugin)

The PayPal Plugin displays the balance of your PayPal account and additional the last transactions.

Figure 1.16 – PayPal Plugin settings

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Enable plugin              | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no   |
| Update period              | 15 minutes  |
| Show on page               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| <hr/>                      |   |
| API Username               | <input type="text"/>  |
| API Password               | <input type="password"/>  |
| API Signature              | <input type="text"/>  |
| PayPal Environment         | Live  |
| Max transactions displayed | 4   |
| Max days displayed         | 7   |
| Show balance (top)         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no   |
| Show balance (inline)      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no   |

Figure 1.17 – PayPal Plugin example (with Style Plugin)



### 1.3.10 Messenger Plugin (premium plugin)

The Messenger Plugin displays the status of ICQ, AOL, Skype, and Yahoo contacts.

**Figure 1.18 – Messenger Plugin settings**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Enable plugin | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no   |
| Update period | 10 minutes ▼  |
| Show on page  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| <hr/>         |   |
| User ID       | <input type="text"/>  |
| Name          | <input type="text" value="Stephan"/>  |
| Messenger     | ICQ ▼   |

**Figure 1.19 – Messenger Plugin example (with Style Plugin)**



### 1.3.11 Slideshow Plugin

The Slideshow Plugin displays a random picture which is displayed centered below the Date/Time area.

Figure 1.20 – Slideshow Plugin settings

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Enable plugin | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no                               |
| Update period | 1 day <input type="button" value="v"/>  |
| Show on page  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 |

Figure 1.21 – Slideshow Plugin example

21:54

Dienstag, 8. Februar 2011



5°C



PayPal

USD

EUR

USD

-11.50 EUR

Skype

... 5 weitere Transaktionen



Aktuell

Feuchtigkeit: 70 %

Wind: N mit 2 km/h

Heute

7° | 0°

Klar



Morgen

7° | 1°

Klar



Do.

8° | 4°

Teils sonnig



Fr.

8° | 4°

Vereinzel Regen





### 1.3.12 DWD Plugin

The DWD Plugin displays weather information from the DWD (Deutschen Wetter Dienst).

Figure 1.22 – DWD Plugin settings

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Enable plugin | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no  |
| Update period | 1 hour <input type="button" value="v"/>  |
| Show on page  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

Figure 1.23 – DWD Plugin example



### 1.3.13 ZDF Forecast Plugin

The ZDF Forecast Plugin displays weather information from the ZDF (German television).

Figure 1.24 – ZDF Forecast Plugin settings

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Enable plugin             | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no  |
| Update period             | 1 hour ▼   |
| Show on page              | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| <hr/>                     |  |
| Left picture              | Forecast ▼   |
| Right picture             | Temperature ▼  |
| Left picture (alternate)  | none ▼   |
| Right picture (alternate) | Pollen West ▼  |

Figure 1.25 – ZDF Forecast Plugin example



### 1.3.14 Benzin Plugin

The Benzin Plugin displays fuel price information from cever-tanken.de.

Figure 1.26 – Benzin Plugin settings

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Enable plugin           | <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no  |
| Update period           | 30 minutes ▼   |
| <b>1. Picture Frame</b> |  |
| Column                  | Left ▼   |
| Show on page            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| <b>2. Picture Frame</b> |  |
| Column                  | Left ▼   |
| Show on page            | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6            |
| City                    | Bottrop  |
| Max. gas station        | 5  |
| Max. age                | 12   |
| Fuel                    | Diesel ▼   |

Figure 1.27 – Benzin Plugin example

21:57

Freitag, 4. März 2011

---


**Spritpreis (Diesel)**

1,389 EUR/l 04.03.-06:35  
Bottrop, JET, Hans Sachs Str. 15-19  
1,389 EUR/l 04.03.-06:33  
Bottrop, JET, Gladbecker Str. 113  
1,439 EUR/l 04.03.-09:41  
Bottrop, JET, Horster Str. 264  
1,449 EUR/l 04.03.-11:36  
Bottrop, TOTAL, Bottroper Str. 18-20  
1,459 EUR/l 04.03.-17:54  
Bottrop, ARAL, Im Fuhlenbrock 137

... 3 weitere Tankstellen



## 1.4 Configure Cron jobs on Linux systems

There are two different types of configuration files:

1. The Linux system crontab: Usually, used by system services and critical jobs that requires root like privileges. The sixth field (see below for field description) is the name of a user for the command to run as. This gives the system crontab the ability to run commands as any user.
2. The user crontabs: User can install their own jobs using the crontab command. The sixth field is the command to run, and all commands run as the user who created the crontab

To edit your crontab file, type the following command at the Linux shell prompt:

```
$ crontab -e
```

Your cron job looks as follows for user jobs:

```
1 2 3 4 5 /path/to/command arg1 arg2

* * * * * command to be executed
- - - - -
| | | | |
| | | | ---- Day of week (0 - 7) (Sunday=0 or 7)
| | | ----- Month (1 - 12)
| | ----- Day of month (1 - 31)
| ----- Hour (0 - 23)
----- Minute (0 - 59)
```

A Cron job looks as follows:

```
1 2 3 4 5 USERNAME /path/to/command arg1 arg2
```

So when you plan to call the update script every five minutes using wget use

```
*/5 * * * * wget -O - -q -t 1 http://user:pass@www.domain.com/.../update.php
>/dev/null 2>&1
```

or you can call the script directly using

```
*/5 * * * * /full path to component/com_uddepf/scripts/update.php
>/dev/null 2>&1
```

By default the output of a command or a script (if any produced), will be email to your local email account. To stop receiving email output from crontab you need to append `>/dev/null 2>&1` as shown in the examples above

## 2 Installation of uddePF premium plugins (for donators)

---



**Note:**

A donation does not mean that you have automatically access to all premium plugins. Please check the development site for more information how to get access to a certain plugin.

### 2.1 How to get premium plugins for donators

There are several plugins available exclusively for donators (see chapter 1.3).

All plugins can be downloaded from my support web site:

<http://www.slabihoud.de/software/>

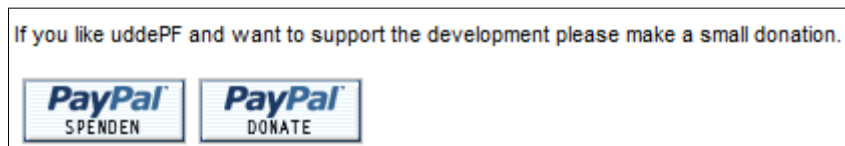
When you are interested in these plugins, please make a donation using the donate buttons in uddePF admin backend or on my support site. Ensure that your correct email address is submitted by PayPal, so I can send you your personal username/password. With these user credentials you are able to download the files from my webpage.



**Important:**

**Please check on the website above for the minimum fee required to get the user credentials!**

**Figure 2.1 – Donation buttons in uddePF admin backend**



### 2.2 How to install premium plugins for donators?

Extract the downloaded archive and copy the files into

[/administrator/components/com\\_uddepf/plugins/](/administrator/components/com_uddepf/plugins/)

When you enter the uddePF admin backend you should find a new tab for each newly installed plugin.

## 3 Errors and Warnings

---

### 3.1 Joomla errors

#### 3.1.1 “Error! Could not find a Joomla! XML setup file in the package.”

*I get the message “Error! Could not find a Joomla! XML setup file in the package.” when I try to install uddePF.*

When you get this error while installing uddePF you might have forgotten to unzip the archive `uddePF_x.x_unzip1st.zip`.

Another problem might be that your provider limits the number of files you are allowed to store on the server, e.g. 6000 files and folders altogether. In that case you should check if you can clean up the temp folder in order to get free resources.

#### 3.1.2 “Error 500 – Internal server error” during installation

*I am getting an “Error 500-Internal server error” when I install uddePF.*

“Error 500” means a general server (maybe configuration) error. So the server is misconfigured, there is a problem in your `.htaccess` file(s) or your server has not enough CPU power to complete a script. When it is an overloaded server you can try to remove the template folder from the installation package. Don't forget to remove the corresponding lines from the XML file, too. The Joomla installer needs lots of less CPU power to install the component.

#### 3.1.3 “Fatal error: Maximum execution time of XX seconds exceeded” during installation

*I am getting an “Fatal error: Maximum execution time of XX seconds exceeded” when I install uddePF.*

Your server has not enough CPU power to complete a script. You can ask your server administrator to increase the execution time for PHP scripts but it seems that the server is unsuitable for running Joomla CMS.

### 3.1.4 “Warning: require\_once(var/.../components/com\_uddepf/uddepflib15.php) failed” message after installation

*After the installation of uddePF I get following error message:*

```
Warning: require_once(var/.../components/com_uddeim/uddeimlib15.php)
[function.require-once]: failed to open stream
```

It seems that the root path is not set correctly on your Joomla installation:

JPATH\_SITE should be

/var/...

and not

var/...

### 3.1.5 “Warning: mysql\_query(): supplied argument is not a valid MySQL-Link resource in ...” message when uddePF is called.

*When I call uddePF I get following error message:*

```
Warning: mysql_query(): supplied argument is not a valid MySQL-Link
resource in ...
```

You are using the “MySQLi” driver instead of the “MySQL” driver. In Joomla’s configuration panel, open the server tab and select the “MySQL” driver. Don’t worry, the MySQLi driver is not better than the MySQL driver even when the names makes you believe that<sup>3</sup>.

When MySQL support is not enabled in your PHP installation (might be the case if you are on a PHP5 and MySQL 5.0 environment) you can enable the MySQL driver by editing php.ini. Ensure that it contains following line:

```
extension=php_mysql.dll
```

## 3.2 SQL errors

### 3.2.1 “DB function failed with error number 2006” error (SQL error 2006)

*I tried installing uddePF on my Joomla system, and while all plugins and other parts of the system where no problem installing, the main component didn't want to install and gave me the following error message:*

```
JInstaller::install: SQL fout. DB function failed with error number
2006
```

---

<sup>3</sup> See <http://blogomunity.com/joomla-blog/83-benchmarking-mysql-vs-mysqli-drivers-with-joomla-database-layer.html>

*MySQL server has gone away SQL=CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS  
`jos\_uddepf\_config` [...]*

The most common reason for the MySQL server has gone away error:

- Is that the server timed out and closed the connection. By default, the server closes the connection after 8 hours or 28800 seconds if nothing has happened. You can change the time limit by setting the `wait_timeout` variable when you start MySQLd via your server's `/etc/my.cnf` as well.
- Another common reason to receive the MySQL server has gone away error is because you have issued a “close” on your MySQL connection and then tried to run a query on the closed connection. You can check that the MySQL hasn't died by executing `MySQLadmin version` and examining the uptime, i.e. to check MySQL uptime, in shell as root user type:  
`MySQLadmin -u root -p version`
- You can also get these errors if you send a query to the server that is incorrect or too large. If MySQLd gets a packet that is too large or out of order, it assumes that something has gone wrong with the client and closes the connection. If you need big queries (for example, if you are working with big BLOB columns), you can increase the query limit by starting MySQLd with the `-O max_allowed_packet=#` option (default 1M) or via `max_allowed_packet` variable in your `/etc/my.cnf` file and restarting MySQL after you edited your `/etc/my.cnf` file. The extra memory is allocated on demand, so MySQLd will use more memory only when you issue a big query or when MySQLd must return a big result row

You have not read the README file carefully that have been provided with uddePF.