
VirtueMart Installation Tutorial

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1. Preamble

The content of this document is related to VirtueMart.



VirtueMart is free Software, licensed under GNU/GPL; VirtueMart [<http://www.VirtueMart.net>]

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The Software 'VirtueMart' is intended for use in Joomla or Mambo (version 4.5.1 and 4.5.2.x).

(Joomla and Mambo is free Software, licensed under GNU/GPL and available from www.joomla.org [<http://www.joomla.org>])

2. Installation

2.1. Installation and Upgrade

New Installation

When having met all the requirements and when you are running Joomla or Mambo you have to choices:

1. The automatic installation with Joomla's / Mambo's Element (Component-, Module-, Mambot-) Installer.
2. The manual installation.

Some users can't use the automatic Installer because of some 'safe_mode=On' issues or smething like that.

In case you're running into troubles with the automatic Installer try the manual installation instead.

Upgrade from mambo-phpShop

You want to upgrade to VirtueMart from mambo-phpShop? This is easy.

All you need to do is install VirtueMart! It will convert your installation of mambo-phpShop, rename the tables and copy all customer information into its own table #__vm_user_info.

So just follow the instructions for the automatic installation (or if you have difficulties with it: the manual installation).

Note

It is recommended to uninstall the old mambo-phpShop **modules** after you have installed the VirtueMart component and then install the new VirtueMart modules.

Caution

It is absolutely necessary to **make a backup of your whole site** before you upgrade your shop! An upgrade failure can always happen! So please: BACKUP, BACKUP, BACKUP!

2.2. Automatic Installation

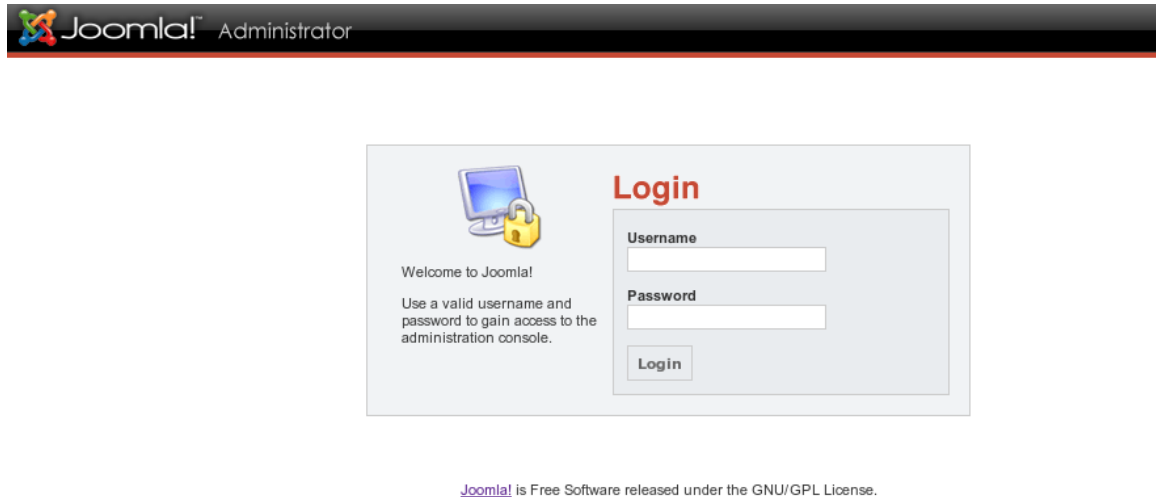
VirtueMart is a complex script. It's not component-only, but also requires a Module. So it comes to you in a file called 'VirtueMart_x.x_COMPLETE_PACKAGE.zip'. This file contains various Elements for VirtueMart.

Important

This file is not installable! Its contents are, but they must be unpacked first.

Package Contents:

- 1 Component (com_virtuemart_x.x.tar.gz)
 - 1 Main VirtueMart module (mod_virtuemart_x.x.tar.gz)
 - 10 additional Modules
 - 2 Mambots (1 Search, 1 Content Mambot)
1. Unpack the file 'VirtueMart_x.x_COMPLETE_PACKAGE.zip' to a local directory.
 2. Log in into Mambo's Backend (using the URL 'http://joomla_url/administrator') to access the administrative interface.



Backend Login Screen

You need to have the privileges of an Administrator / Superadministrator to install Elements.

- Click 'Components' -> 'Install/Uninstall' in the Top Menu.

Install new Component

Upload Package File

Package File:

Install from directory

Install directory:

media/ **Writable**
 administrator/components/ **Writable**
 components/ **Writable**
 images/stories/ **Writable**

Installed Components

Currently Installed	Component Menu Link	Author	Version	Date	Author Email	Author URL
Banners		Joomla! Project	1.0.0	July 2004	admin@joomla.org	www.joomla.org
DOCMan	option=com_docman	DOCMan Project	1.3.0 RC 2	Aug 2005	admin@mambodocman.com	www.mambodocman.com
Mass Mail		Joomla! Project	4.5.1	February 2005	admin@joomla.org	www.joomla.org
News Feeds	option=com_newsfeeds	Joomla! Project	1.0.0	July 2004	admin@joomla.org	www.joomla.org
Polls	option=com_poll					
Simple Machines Forum Registration	option=com_smf_registration	Theodore Hildebrandt	3.19	20.09.2004	everythi@everything-science.com	www.everything-science.com

List of installed components

Caution

You must check if the directories listed above the component list are writable! When they are not, you can't install the component. Browse to these directories then using ftp or JoomlaXplorer and change the permissions!

In the part 'Upload new component' select the file 'com_virtuemart_x.x.tar.gz'. This is the package file which contains all files for the VirtueMart Component, located on your computer (see Step 1).

Now click on 'Upload File & Install'. Since the tar.gz file is about 1 MB in size, you will have to wait a moment while the file is being uploaded to your server and unpacked.

If the upload takes too long, try Step 4 or do the Manual Installation.

4. Alternative: You can unpack the contents of 'com_virtuemart_x.x.tar.gz' and upload those files to a remote directory using a ftp connection. Now specify the directory on the server from where you want to install the files and click 'Install'.

Note

Package Files are mostly a ZIP or tar.gz compressed file directory, which includes all information for the installation. The main file is an XML document which describes the installation process. In order to use this function for your installation, your web server must support the `zlib` extension. You can check this in the Admin Section Menu item, System > System Info > System Information.

5. The VirtueMart Component *should* be installed now. You'll see the Welcome Message Screen with some options how to go on:



Installation Welcome Screen

You can now choose whether you want to install some Sample Data (18 products, with attributes, in 5 categories) to see how things have to be set up.

Or you can '**go directly to the Shop >>**' without installing Sample Data.

Caution

This step *again* takes some time & the VirtueMart installer is running a lot of Database Queries now. So please be patient!

6. Click 'Modules' -> 'Install/Uninstall' in the Top Menu to proceed to the installation of the VirtueMart Main module.

Choose the file 'mod_virtuemart_x.x.tar.gz' in the File Dialog and click 'Upload File & Install'.

Repeating this step you can install the additional modules for VirtueMart.

Publishing the Module:

Click 'Modules' -> 'Site Modules' in the Top Menu. Now browse through the list of installed modules and

find the one with the name 'VirtueMart Module'. Select it (click on the name) and modify its settings/details. You can now choose where to put the Module on your Mambo site. For more information about modules please refer to the Mambo documentation (<http://mamboserver.com> [<http://mamboserver.com/>]).

Important

Anywhere you place the module on your site, IT MUST BE PUBLISHED. This is because all category navigation is done via this module. So using the VirtueMart Component without the module is somehow 'difficult'.

Additional modules

mod_product_categories	"Product Categories Module"	It can display the product categories you have set up.
mod_productscroller	"Product Scroller Module"	It can scroll certain products somewhere on your site using a marquee tag.
mod_virtuemart_allinone	"All-in-one module"	Can display the latest, featured, top-ten or random products in one module using tabs.
mod_virtuemart_cart	"Mini-Cart Module"	Displays the mini-cart for the customer with a link to the cart page.
mod_virtuemart_featuredprod	"Featured Products Module"	Can display featured products in your store. Featured products are those which are "on special".
mod_virtuemart_latestprod	"Latest Products Module"	Displays the newest products in your store.
mod_virtuemart_manufacturers	"Manufacturer Module"	Shows all manufacturers from your store with a link to find all products of the selected manufacturer.
mod_virtuemart_randomprod	"Random Products Module"	Does what the name says: displays random products from your store or a certain category.
mod_virtuemart_search	"Searchbox Module"	Displays the VirtueMart searchbox (which lets the customer search for

products).

mod_virtuemart_topten

"Top Ten Products Module"

Displays the bestsellers from your store.

7. Recommended: Mambot Installation

Click on 'Mambots' -> 'Install/Uninstall' in the Top Menu.

SearchBot: Performs a search on the product table and delivers search results for Joomla's / Mambo's site search.

Select the file 'virtuemart.searchbot_x.x.tar.gz' and click 'Upload File & Install'.

Mambot ProductSnapshot: Displays product figure/price/add-to-cart link in Mambo Content.

Select the file 'mosproductsnap_x.x.tar.gz' and click 'Upload File & Install'.

Publishing the Mambots:

Mambots need to be published before they do ANYTHING. Click on 'Mambots' -> 'Site Mambots' in the Top Menu. Now browse through the list of installed Mambots and find 'virtuemart.searchbot' and 'mosproductsnap'. Select one (click on the name) and modify its settings/details. Remember to publish it. For more information about Mambots please refer to the Mambo documentation (<http://mamboserver.com> [http://mamboserver.com/]).

You're now done with the Installation of VirtueMart and its elements.

2.3. Manual Installation

The installation has failed? You have safe_mode = On ?

You don't need to pull out your hair! You can still use the manual installation.

Manual Installation is a little bit harder than the automatic installation. It will need some file copying.

1. Download the Manual Installation Package. This is just another Package Form of VirtueMart.
2. Unpack the archive file VirtueMart_x.x_Manual-Installation-Package.tar.gz your have downloaded in Step 1 to a local directory.

You should now see at least four directories. The directory structure in those directories is the same as in your Joomla / Mambo site:

```
/administrator
/components
/mambots
/modules
```

3. Open up an FTP Connection to your site (you should use an FTP Program like SmartFTP...) and upload the directories to the root of your Mambo site.

```
/site-root/administrator
/site-root/components
/site-root/mambots
/site-root/modules
```

4. Login in to the Administration of your site (http://www.your_site.com/administrator/).
5. When having logged in, you see this URL in the address bar:

`http://www.your_site.com/administrator/index2.php`
6. Now just add **"?option=com_virtuemart"** after `index2.php`, so it looks like this in your browser's address bar:

`http://www.your_site.com/administrator/index2.php?option=com_virtuemart`

and submit (press Enter).
7. You should now see the "Installation was successful..." Screen. There you can click on **"GO TO THE SHOP >>"** or **"INSTALL SAMPLE DATA >>"** (when you want to have some sample Products and Categories in your Shop).
8. That's it.
9. To install the Modules and Mambots for VirtueMart, follow the instructions of the Automatic Installation, Steps 6 and 7. If this doesn't help you, because NO automatic installations are possible, you can manually upload the files (you have probably already done this in step 3).

Modules and Mambots require an entry in the table **jos_mambots** / **jos_modules**.

You can add these entries by uploading an SQL file (using phpMyAdmin) that contains all necessary queries:

```
/administrator/components/com_virtuemart/sql/virtuemart_modules.installation.sql
```

Now you should have installed VirtueMart correctly.

2.4. Installation FAQ

Q: The Installer tells me "ERROR: Could not find an XML setup file in the package". What's wrong?

A: Mostly this problem arises because you don't have unpacked the file `VirtueMart_x.x_COMPLETE_PACKAGE.zip` before and tried uploading / installing this file.

Q: The Installer tells me "Another component is already using the directory `com_virtuemart`"

A: Please delete the directories `/site_root/components/com_virtuemart` and `/site_root/administrator/components/com_virtuemart`.

Q: When using the automatic installation nothing happens after clicking on "Upload & Install" What's the cause?

A: VirtueMart is a big component, its installer file archive has a size of more than 1.1 MB. When uploading this file to your server you can wait a long time until the file is completely transferred to your server. You can use the Remote Installer for VirtueMart instead! <http://developer.joomla.org> [http://mamboforge.net/frs/?group_id=38]

Q: On an upgrade from mambo-phpShop, the VirtueMart installer won't recognise my existing tables! What to do now?

A: Sometimes the tables beginning with `jos_pshop_` or `mos_pshop_` are not found. Before you click on "Install sample data" or "Go directly to the shop" you can just type in this URL in the address bar of your browser:

```
index2.php?option=com_virtuemart&install_type=update12pl3
```

After that the upgrade procedure begins!

Q: After having installed the component, I add a Main Menu Link to the VirtueMart component. But clicking on that link only displays the text "Welcome to Washupito's....." What's wrong?

A: VirtueMart is no component-only script. It's programmed to be used together with the corresponding VirtueMart Main Module. Without the module you'll always get the **shop.index** page. That's the cause.

3. First Steps

Do you have installed the VirtueMart Main Module?

If not, do so now. Don't forget to publish it somewhere on your site. This module is meant to display all categories and to control the component.

Note

All following procedures mean that you use the horizontal Main Menu of the VirtueMart administration!

Tip

VirtueMart provides FULL ACCESS to its administration panel from the Frontend! That means that you don't have to login at the backend of your site to make all your changes, but just click on "Administration" in the VirtueMart Main Module. (requires *admin* or *storeadmin* permissions)

1. Go to "Store" -> "Edit Store" and make all important settings that fit to your details. Don't forget to set currency, currency display style and your email address!
2. Go to "Tax" -> "Add tax rate" and add a tax rate according to the local settings of your Shop (important for european shops!).
3. Go to "Components" -> "VirtueMart" -> "Admin" -> Configuration and change all details to fit your needs.
4. Go to "Components" -> "VirtueMart" -> "Products" -> "Categories" -> "Add category" and set up your categories and category structure. Be sure that all of them are published.
5. Go to "Components" -> "VirtueMart" -> "Products" -> "Products" -> "Add Product" and add as many products as you need repeating this step.

3.1. Joomla / Mambo Configuration

[VirtueMart makes use of the global Configuration values which can be set in the Global Configuration for your Joomla/Mambo site.]

Allow User Registration	YES
	A user/customer must be registered to your site before being able to checkout. VirtueMart provides an enhanced Registration Form where customers can leave their account and shipping data. When register using this form, they are automatically added to the Joomla / Mambo user list.
Use New Account Activation	NO
	So new customers have a streamlined checkout process and don't have to activate their new account and re-begin checkout!
Mail Configuration	varies

VirtueMart sends Mail using Joomla's / Mambo's Mail configuration. So be sure to modify the values according to your server.

Caution

If you don't change your Store Information and the email-Address, VirtueMart sends Order Confirmation Mails to *demo_order@virtuemart.net*.

Localization / Language	<p>Whatever language you set in Joomla's / Mambo's Configuration: VirtueMart tries to pick it from its own language directory:</p> <pre>/ site_root/administrator/components/com_virtuemart /languages</pre> <p>If the selected language isn't found (e.g. german_neutral or arabic....), the english language file is loaded by default</p>
Search Engine Friendly URLs	<p>Recommended: Off</p> <p>VirtueMart is fully SEF compatible, but please note that some the SEF links for VirtueMart, which are generated by Mambo's SEF module or others, sometimes lead to "URL redirection limit exceeded..." errors.</p>

4. About

4.1. The project

VirtueMart is an Open Source E-Commerce solution, which is based on a Shopping Cart Script called "php-Shop" (originally developed by Edikon Corp. [<http://www.edikon.com>] and the phpShop community (<http://www.phpshop.org>).

VirtueMart is released under the GNU Public License, which means by the end, it free for download and use.

There's a small bunch of developers who help in pushing this Shopping Script towards professionalism and usability. The author of this documentation is the Lead Developer...and having not much time besides Wife, Work & Studies.

4.2. The Community

Since VirtueMart is free and Open Source Software, everyone using it can and should contribute to this project.

You can send your code snippets, hints and everything else helpful to the Homepage of the project: <http://virtuemart.net> [<http://VirtueMart.net>].

There's also an active Forum, where discussion and bug reporting can take place: Forum [http://www.VirtueMart.net/index.php?option=com_smf&Itemid=71].

4.3. The Documentation

This documentation was written using XMLMind XML Editor [<http://www.xmlmind.com/xmleditor>] using the DocBook [<http://www.docbook.org>] XML Format.

DocBook defines a set of markup elements useful for marking up text so that the text can then be transformed into several different formats. It's possible to create documents in different formats: PDF, HTML, HTML Help (.chm Files for Windows Help), XML, RTF, TeX, WordML (Word 2003) and others. The author of this document uses eDE [<http://docbook.e-novative.de/>] for generating the End-User documents. The idea is to write just

once and reach the largest possible number of people with the information. Digital information not stored properly tends to get lost. Due to the fact that not containing uncommon characters (such as binary formats) it's possible to index and search directly on the documents written on SGML and consequently on DocBook. The SGML systems use markups to make their description. DocBook holds over 300 markup elements each one with several attributes which can assume several values, these can be fixed or defined by the document / style that the author has used.