db8

Joomla 2.5 Multi-language Checklist

Joomla 2.5 makes it possible to create a multilanguage website, out-of-the-box, without any 3rd party extensions. Joomla specialist db8 from Nijmegen (Netherlands) has created this Multi-language Checklist (available at www.db8.nl) to make it easier to set up such a multilanguage website.

Using this 10-step-checklist you should be able to create a multilanguage Joomla! website with two languages: the default English and an additional language. For any other language(s), take the same approach as the one in this checklist for the "Dutch" language.

① Install Language Pack

Joomla is shipped with English (en-GB) as default language. For every additional language Joomla needs a *Language Pack* to display translations for system labels like "read more".

☐ **Install the language pack for Dutch (nl-NL)**

⇒ Extensions > Language Manager > [Install Language] > select Dutch > [Install]

② Define Content Languages

By default everything is assigned to language "All". In order to assign content to different languages, you will have to create a *Content Language* for every language.

☐ **Check if Content Language "English" exists**

⇒ Extensions > Language Manager > Content > [New] > Title: English (UK), Native: English (UK), URL Code: en, Img Prefix: en, LTag: en-GB

☐ **Create a New Content Language "Dutch"**

⇒ Extensions > Language Manager > Content > [New] > Title: Dutch (NL), Native: Nederlands (NL), URL Code: nl, Img Prefix: nl, LTag: nl-NL

③ Enable & Configure "System - Language Filter" plugin

To get the multi-language feature working, you'll have to enable the Language Filter Plugin

☐ **Publish the Language Filter Plugin**

⇒ Extensions > Plug-in Manager > System - Language Filter > Status: Enabled, Menu associations: Yes, Remove URL Language Code: Yes

④ Create Root Category for every Language

Every language needs its own main category

☐ **Create an "English" Category called "English Cat"**

⇒ Content > Category Manager > [New] > Title: English Cat, Language: English (UK)

☐ **Create a "Dutch" Category called "Dutch Cat"**

⇒ Content > Category Manager > [New] > Title: Dutch Cat, Language: Dutch (NL)

⑤ Create Articles

Create articles in different languages

☐ **Create an article called "English Article"**

⇒ Content > Article Manager > [New] > Title: English Article, Category: English Cat, Language: English (UK), Article Text: Example text.

☐ **Create an article called "Dutch Article"**

⇒ Content > Article Manager > [New] > Title: Dutch Article, Category: Dutch Cat, Language: Dutch (NL), Article Text: Voorbeeld tekst.

⑥ Create Menus

Every language needs its own menu

☐ **Create an "English" Menu called "English Menu"**

⇒ Menus > Menu Manager > [New] > Title: English Menu, Menu Type: english-menu

☐ **Create a Menu called "Dutch Menu"**

⇒ Menus > Menu Manager > [New] > Title: Dutch Menu, Menu Type: dutch-menu

☐ **Do NOT change the default "Main Menu"**

⑦ Create Menu Items & Menu Item Association

Every language needs one default homepage. Other *Menu Items* should have a reference to their counterpart in the other language(s)

☐ **Create an "English" *Menu Item* of type *Featured***

⇒ Menus > English Menu > [New] > Menu Item Type: Articles – Featured Articles, Menu Title: Home, Default Page: Yes, Language: English (UK), Select Categories: English Cat

☐ **Create an "English" *Menu Item* of type *Single Article***

⇒ Menus > English Menu > [New] > Menu Item Type: Articles – Single Article, Menu Title: My English Article, Default Page: No, Language: English (UK), Select Article: English Article. + Menu Item Associations > Dutch (NL) → not yet, Dutch Item doesn't exist.

☐ **Create a "Dutch" *Menu Item* of type *Featured***

⇒ Menus > Dutch Menu > [New] > Menu Item Type: Articles – Featured Articles, Menu Title: Home, Default Page: Yes, Language: Dutch (NL), Select Categories: Dutch Cat

☐ **Create a "Dutch" *Menu Item* of type *Single Article***

⇒ Menus > Dutch Menu > [New] > Menu Item Type: Articles – Single Article, Menu Title: Mijn Nederlandse Artikel, Default Page: No, Language: Dutch (NL), Select Article: Dutch Article. + Menu Item Associations > English (UK): My English Article

⑧ Create Menu Modules

Every language needs its own *Menu Module*

☐ **Create an "English" *Menu Module***

⇒ Extensions > Module Manager > [New] > Type: Menu, Title: English Menu, Position: position-7, Language: English (UK), Module Assignment: On all pages, Basic Options > Select Menu: English Menu

☐ **Create a "Dutch" *Menu Module***

⇒ Extensions > Module Manager > [New] > Type: Menu, Title: Nederlands Menu, Position: position-7, Language: Dutch (UK), Module Assignment: On all pages, Basic Options > Select Menu: Dutch Menu

☐ **Unpublish the default "Main Menu" Module**

⑨ Create Language Switcher Module

Your visitor should be able to select a language

☐ **Create a Module of type *Language Switcher*** ⇒ Extensions > Module Manager > [New] > Type: Language Switcher, Title: Choose Language, Position: position-7, Language: All, Module Assignment: On all pages

⑩ Redirect old incoming links

The new multilanguage menu structure might change the old URLs, which might result in faulty incoming links (with 404 errors).

☐ **To prevent 404 errors after change:** Use .htaccess to rewrite faulty links to new URLs

⇒ Put a permanent redirect in .htaccess for every link, like: Redirect 301 /old/relative/url http://new/absolute/url

☐ **To solve 404 errors:** Manually redirect faulty links to new URLs with *Redirect Manager*

⇒ Components > Redirect