

Headlines Module V1.0

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The first revision of the Headlines Module V1.0 document.

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1. Function

The “Headlines” module allows you to display RSS/XML news feeds from other websites. A news feed is a file summarising elements of a site’s content, a service commonly provided by dynamic websites. Linking to the feed allows you to display “headlines” and other content from the remote site on your own that will update automatically as the remote site changes. This module is typically used as a news aggregator or syndication tool.

Note that the **XOOPS** core system generates its own built in RSS feed, accessible from <http://www.yourdomain.com/backend.php>. Some **XOOPS** modules generate additional module-specific feeds.

2. Install/uninstall

No special measures necessary, follow the standard installation process – extract the Headlines folder into the `../modules` directory. Install the module through **Admin -> System Module -> Modules**. Detailed instructions on installing modules are available in the **XOOPS** Operations Manual.

3. Operating instructions / administration

To use this module you simply need to enter the details of news feeds you wish to use on your site (see Section 4.1, “List Headlines” [2]), and ensure that your user groups have access rights to the Headlines module (and block, if you decide to use it). Once the feeds are configured they are self-maintaining – they will update automatically as the remote websites refresh their content.

4. The Headlines administration menu



4.1. List Headlines

There are no configuration options available for the module per se; rather you add, configure and delete individual news feeds through the “List headlines” link in the administrative menu. This opens the form shown below. When adding a new feed the options are:

Option	Function
<i>Add Headlines</i>	
Site name:	The title of the website providing the feed
URL:	The URL of the website providing the feed
URL of RDF/RSS file:	Important! The URL to access the actual feed itself. If you get this wrong, the feed will not work.
Order:	Sets the order in which this feed will appear in the list relative to the others. This is the same as ‘weighting’ used in most other modules.
RSS Encoding:	Feeds can be encoded in different ways. You need to set the right encoding so that the module can read the feed. To find out what encoding a feed is using, open the feed URL and look at the contents of the file in your browser. Usually the type of encoding is indicated in the first few lines.
Cache time:	The contents of feeds are cached for a specified period of time – the Headlines module doesn’t call the feed from the remote site every time it is accessed! You can choose to cache feeds anywhere from 1 hour to 1 month. Consider how frequently the remote site is updated and set your cache time appropriately. Bear in mind that you are drawing on the bandwidth of the remote site each time the feed is called.
<i>Main Page Settings</i>	
Display in main page:	Do you want this feed to be visible on the Headlines index page? Default is “yes”.
Display image:	Some feeds include a logo or image for the remote site. Do you want to display it, if it is available? Default is “no”.
Display in full view:	Select “yes” to display the headlines plus the first few lines of each story. If you select “no” (default) only the headlines will be displayed.
Max items to display:	How many of the most recent headlines/items do you want to display from this feed? You can choose from 1 to 30. The default is 10.
<i>Block Settings</i>	
Display in block?	Do you want this feed to be included in the Headlines block? Default is “yes”.
Display image?	Do you want to display the feed’s image in the block? Default is “no”.
Max items to display	How many of the most recent headlines/items do you want to display from this feed ? You can choose from 1 to 30. The default is 5.

Headlines Configuration

Site Name	Cache Time	RSS Encoding	Display in main page	Display in block	Order	
XOOPS Official Website	1 day	UTF-8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	Edit Delete
Digital Photography Review	1 day	ISO-8859-1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	Edit Delete
About Saltwater Aquariums	1 day	US-ASCII	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	Edit Delete
About Freshwater Aquariums	1 day	UTF-8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	Edit Delete
PC Magazine	1 day	UTF-8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	Edit Delete
Java development on Nokia	1 day	UTF-8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	Edit Delete
Nokia Series 60 platform	1 day	UTF-8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	Edit Delete
Growfish	1 day	UTF-8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8	Edit Delete

Add Headline	
Site Name	<input type="text"/>
URL	<input type="text" value="http://"/>
URL of RDF/RSS file	<input type="text" value="http://"/>
Order	<input type="text" value="0"/>
RSS Encoding	<input type="text" value="UTF-8"/>
Cache Time	<input type="text" value="1 day"/>
Main Page Settings	
Display in main page	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display image	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Display in full view	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Max items to display	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Block Settings	
Display in block	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display image	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Max items to display	<input type="text" value="5"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

Figure 1. Headlines Configuration

Once a feed has been entered it will be included in the summary feed list, where you can easily edit its display modes, order, cache time, and encoding. Select the 'Edit' link to configure other properties.

5. The user side

The Headlines module is very simple from the user perspective. The Headlines index page displays a list of available feeds at the top. Users can view different feeds simply by selecting a link from the list. The contents of the currently selected feed are displayed below. Users can select articles/items of interest, which open the remote (source) site in a new window.

Headlines

- About Freshwater Aquariums
- About Saltwater Aquariums
- Digital Photography Review
- PC Magazine
- XOOPS Official Website
- Nokia Series 60 platform
- Java development on Nokia
- Growfish

XOOPS Official Site		
	Updated	Mon, 5 Jul 2004 00:28:52 CDT
	Description	XOOPS Official Site
	Webmaster	webmaster@xoops.org
	Category	News
	Generator	XOOPS 2.0.7
	Language	en
The 5th french Xoops Newsletter is out !		
Published:	Sun, 4 Jul 2004 22:01:17 CDT	
Description:	<p>The 5th jully French speaking Xoops Community Newsletter is out !</p> <p>Summary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Editorial 2. Themes, templates and Smarty 3. Xoops text formatting 4. Xoops' women's point of view 5. Xoops 2.0.7 multilangage 6. Xoops 1.3 : development still on the way... 7. Latest news from xoops-themes. 	
Intowesee.Net has been XOOPSED!!!		
Published:	Sun, 4 Jul 2004 09:09:16 CDT	
Description:	<p>Intowesee.Net has been XOOPSED!!</p> <p>Intowesee.Net previously use PHP-Nuke, but now I decide to change to XOOPS. I managed to transfer all my 1400+ users, even though I had minor difficulty in tweaking the php script to convert the users to XOOPS. more...</p>	
Hyperpod.net XOOPS Theme Design Contest		
Published:	Sun, 4 Jul 2004 00:39:38 CDT	
Description:	<p>Hi, hyperpod.net is a new XOOPS based portal for designers, programmers, and developers of multimedia.</p> <p>The site has just been launched and we are looking for quality registered users!</p> <p>To kick off the site launch we are having a XOOPS Theme Design Contest. We invite all XOOPS theme designers to create a theme for hyperpod.net that other XOOPS users might be able to use as well. more...</p>	

Figure 2. Headlines Index Page

6. Blocks

The Headlines block simply displays links to the content of the feeds you have listed. In this case, the block is linking to two separate websites that provide articles about freshwater and saltwater aquariums. Clicking on the title of the site, for example “About Freshwater Aquariums” will open the URL listed as the feed’s home page, while clicking on a “headline” will open an individual article on the remote site. In either case, the remote site will open in a new window.

Headlines

About Freshwater Aquariums

- [Converting to Live Plants](#)
- [Photo Ace Contest](#)
- [Reference Desk](#)
- [Aquarium Glossary](#)
- [Blind Cave Fish](#)

About Saltwater Aquariums

- [Checklist of Items For Getting Started](#)
- [DIY Chiller Plans](#)
- [Cycling a New Tank With Live Rock](#)
- [DIY Coil Denitrator Plans](#)
- [DIY Reef Fluorescent Light Hood Plans](#)

Figure 3. Headlines Link Block

7. Templates

- `xoopsheadline_index.html`: This is the template for the Headlines index page.
- `xoopsheadline_feed.html`: This template displays the details of an individual feed when you open it on the index page.
- `xoopsheadline_block_rss.html`: This is the template for the Headlines block; it shows links to syndicated headlines from other sites via RDF/RSS news feeds.

8. Miscellaneous notes

Syndication of content is a two-edged sword and the advantage lies with the site providing the content. Since people are exposed to content provider's site when they click on a link you can actually lose visitors if they find that site to be more useful than yours. However, many people do find aggregator sites beneficial and if you have your own quality content then it may be a useful service to provide.

9. Module credits

The Contact Us module was written by Kazumi Ono, aka "Onokazu".