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EXTREME JOOMLA TEMPLATING



zone manager²

Joomla! Component



template

Zone Manager

groups

styles

mainbody

position

user manual

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1. Introduction

Zone Manager is a component that manages templates compatible to the Zone Layout v2.0 technology.

With the Zone Manager you can set-up your own layout by creating, deleting or modifying positions and zones. Your modifications can be utilized by templates that support the Zone Layout v2.0 technology.

Read the next sections to learn more about the Zone Layout v2.0 secrets and the ways this component can help you build unique layouts in minutes.

2. General information

2.1 Required software

Zone Manager works with Joomla! 1.5.x.

2.2 Browser compatibility

Zone Manager is compatible with:

- Firefox 3
- Firefox 2
- Safari 2
- MS Internet Explorer 7
- MS Internet Explorer 6

2.3 Known problems

The MS Internet Explorer versions display a glitch on the buttons of the Zone Editor page. That affects on the visual part of the component. It does no harm on the data of the templates.

3. Component installation

To install the component you can use the Joomla! installation mechanism:

Extensions > Install/Uninstall

To access the component go to

Components > Zone Manager

Notice: In order to be able to use this component you also need to install a template compatible to the Zone Layout v2.0 technology.

4. Introduction to the Zone Layout v2.0

The second version of the Zone Layout technology continues the philosophy of zones but it now allows you to create infinite positions.

In simple words, a zone is a container of positions. It is a way of grouping your own custom made positions. The compatible templates to the Zone Layout v2.0 technology offer styling options so that your positions and zones can differentiate visually.

Apart from the logical categorization of positions in zones, the second version of the Zone Layout technology includes some new ways that help you create visual groupings. With the help of the Zone Manager you can group positions, or group zones. You can assign styles to these groups and make them look as if they belong to a joined area. The combinations can be so many that you can literally create unique designs in seconds.

To use this technology you need to install the component Zone Manager, and a template that supports Zone Layout v2.0. Read the following sections to learn how to use the Zone Manager.

5. List



Template List: Choose a template from the list [\[?\]](#)

Template	Status
bt_easygate v1.0	Accessible template
beez v1.0.0	Incompatible template ...
JA_Purity v1.2.0	Incompatible template ...
rhuk_milkyway v1.0.2	Incompatible template ...

The first thing to see when opening the Zone Manager component is a list of the site templates. Next to each template there is a status message.

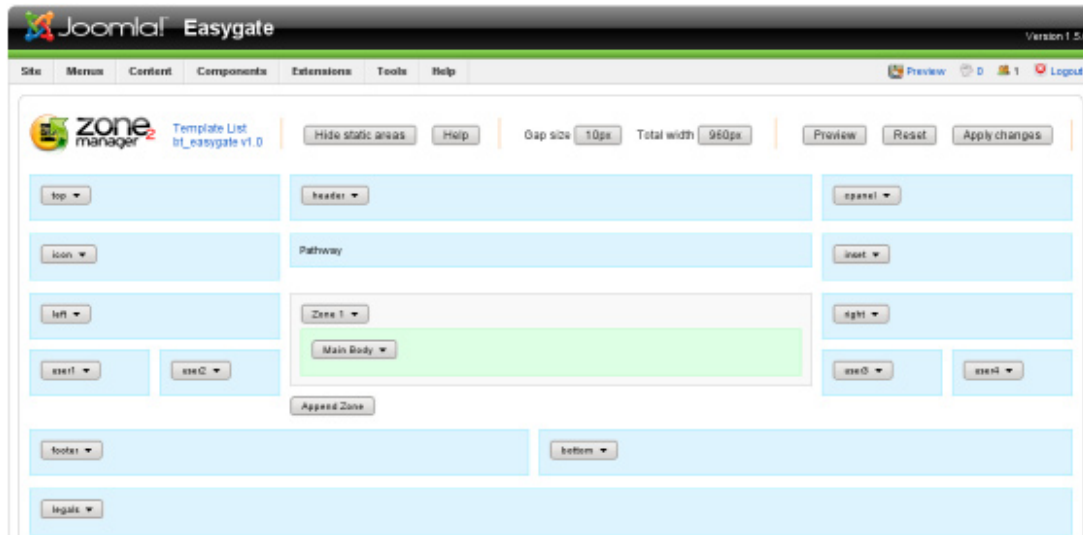
Templates that are compatible to the Zone Layout technology have the form of a link and their status appears in a green color. Click on the template name to get into the zone editor.

Template	Status
bt_easygate v1.0	XML file not writable ... The template setup file <code>templateDetails.xml</code> is not writable. This means that the file has not enough writing permissions or that its owner does not match the web server running thread.
beez v1.0.0	Incompatible template ...
JA_Purity v1.2.0	Incompatible template ...
rhuk_milkyway v1.0.2	Incompatible template ...

Templates that are still compatible but they have an error that makes the Zone Manager non functional have a status message in a red color. The status messages are clickable, and if you click on them you will see a more detailed explanation of the problem. The most usual problems are permission related on certain files in the template directory. More specifically, the web server needs to have write permissions on the files `zl_config.php` and `templateDetails.xml`. Whatever the problem is, click on the status message to read a more detailed explanation.

On the bottom of the list there are the templates that are not compatible to the Zone Layout technology and their status appears in a gray color.

6. Zone Editor



When you select a template from the list you get into the Zone Editor. On the top of the screen you can see control buttons, on the main area you can edit the zones and on the bottom there are supplementary information and services.

One important thing to remember about the editor is that whatever changes you do, you will have to click the *Apply changes* button to save them.

The following sub-sections include a short description of what you can see on this screen. Read the next chapters for quick tips on how to do simple tasks in this component.

6.1 Controls on the top area



Template List & Template name

These are two different links. Click on the Template List link to go back to the list of templates. Click on the template name to go to the template's author website.

Show static areas / Hide static areas

Click this button to show or hide the areas with the static regular positions. By hiding the static areas you have more space to edit the zones.

Help

Shows an online help window.

Gap size

Use this button to control the size of the gap between positions and zones. The gap must be an integer number that represents pixels.

Total width

Use this button to control the total width of the website. The width must be an integer number that represents pixels.

Preview

Click the Preview button to open a new window that shows the front of the website. Remember that you need to click the Apply changes button before you preview the website.

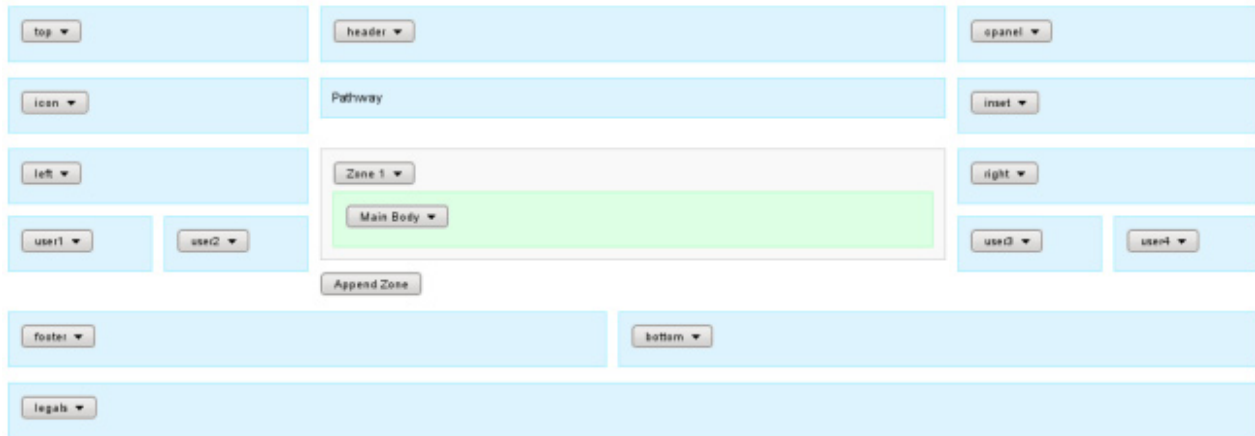
Reset

Click the Reset button to reload the page. This will cancel any changes you might have done.

Apply changes

Click the Apply changes button to save your changes.

6.2 Zones and regular positions area



The screenshot shows the Zone Manager interface with various position controls. At the top, there are buttons for 'top', 'header', and 'panel'. Below these are 'icon', 'Pathway', and 'inset'. In the center, there are 'left', 'Zone 1', 'Main Body', and 'right' buttons. Below these are 'user1', 'user2', 'user3', and 'user4'. At the bottom, there are 'footer', 'bottom', and 'legals' buttons. There is also an 'Append Zone' button.

In the main part of the screen you can find controls that help you manage zones and regular positions. Every element in this area has a button you can use to open a drop-down menu with related actions.



The screenshot shows three zones in the Zone Manager interface. Zone 1 has a 'newsflash' position with 'Collapsible: Yes'. Zone 2 has three positions: 'links' (Collapsible: Yes), 'Main Body', and 'ad' (Collapsible: Yes). Zone 3 has a 'banners' position with 'Collapsible: Yes'.

The basic idea is to create zones and add positions in them. Once the new positions are added you can use the regular Joomla! module manager to assign them modules. From the Zone Manager you can also group positions, or zones and give them styles so that they appear to be joined. You can make combinations with styles on single positions or zones, and styles in groups of positions or styles in groups of zones.

There are plenty of ways to control positions and zones. Go ahead and click on the drop-down menus to explore the available options. You can move zones up or down, cut and paste positions and more.

6.3 Controls on the bottom area

Available group styles	Groups in use	Warnings						
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• gstyle1• gstyle2• gstyle3• gstyle4• gstyle5• gstyle6• gstyle7• gstyle8• gstyle9	<table><thead><tr><th><u>Group</u></th><th><u>Style</u></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>bottom group</td><td><div>gstyle2</div></td></tr><tr><td>top group</td><td><div>style x</div></td></tr></tbody></table>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Style</u>	bottom group	<div>gstyle2</div>	top group	<div>style x</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are 1 groups that contain unknown styles
<u>Group</u>	<u>Style</u>							
bottom group	<div>gstyle2</div>							
top group	<div>style x</div>							

The bottom area shows supplementary controls and information

Available group styles

This is a list of the available styles you can use for your groups and positions. Move your mouse over a gstyle to see an illustrated sample.

Groups in use

This is a dynamic list that displays the groups you created for your zones and positions. Next to each group you have a text box that allows you to set a style for the group. When you assign a style that is not supported the text box becomes red.

Warnings

This is a list of warnings generated while you edit the zones. It is a good practise to make it a habit to ensure that this list is always empty.

7. Styles

In the Zone Layout v2.0 technology there are two distinct kinds of styles.

7.1 mstyles



>> Module 1

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>> Module 2

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Module 3

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>> Module 4

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>> Module 5

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There are styles that decorate modules which are better known in the Joomla! universe as module suffixes. We call them module styles or just mstyles.

Module styles are assigned from the regular Joomla! Module Manager by setting the module suffix.

7.2 gstyles



In Zone Layout v2.0 technology you also have styles for groups. We call them group styles or simply gstyles.

With the Zone Manager you can assign group styles (gstyles) to your groups, or to single zones or positions. The screenshot above displays three positions with a different gstyles. Modules still have their own module style but a position can also have its own style.

Each template has its own gstyles and the Zone Manager has an internal mechanism to understand that. Whenever you try to assign a group style that is not supported by the template, the Zone Manager paints it red and it generates a warning message on the bottom right corner of the Zone Editor.

8. Groups

There are two different ways you can create groups. You can group positions, or group zones. You can also make combinations of the two.

Grouping positions or zones is useful because you can then assign styles to your groups and make them appear as a joined area.

The grouping process is very simple. Just set the same group name to your positions or zones.

8.1 How to group positions

Let's now see how you can group positions. In this example we created two zones with three positions in each zone. We also placed one module in each position.

From the Zone Manager this looks like this:



From the front-end it looks like this:

Module 1

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Lets not see how you can create position groups in those two zones.

Use the drop-down menus for positions p2 and p3 and set the group name to “group1”.
Then do the same for positions p4 and p5 but use another group name: “group2”.

Zone 4 ▼

p1 ▼
Collapsible: Yes

p2 ▼
Collapsible: Yes - Group: group1

p3 ▼
Collapsible: Yes - Group: group1

Zone 5 ▼

p4 ▼
Collapsible: Yes - Group: group2

p5 ▼
Collapsible: Yes - Group: group2

p6 ▼
Collapsible: Yes

Then, go to the bottom of the screen and you will see you two new groups in the column “Groups in use”. Move the mouse pointer over the gstyles listed on the first column to find a suitable group style, and set the styles. In this example we used gstyle5 for group1 and gstyle8 for group2.

Available group styles	Groups in use	Warnings						
<ul style="list-style-type: none">gstyle1gstyle2gstyle3gstyle4gstyle5gstyle6gstyle7gstyle8gstyle9	<table><thead><tr><th>Group</th><th>Style</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>group1</td><td><input type="text" value="gstyle5"/></td></tr><tr><td>group2</td><td><input type="text" value="gstyle8"/></td></tr></tbody></table>	Group	Style	group1	<input type="text" value="gstyle5"/>	group2	<input type="text" value="gstyle8"/>	
Group	Style							
group1	<input type="text" value="gstyle5"/>							
group2	<input type="text" value="gstyle8"/>							

Finally, save your changes by clicking the “Apply changes” button on the top right corner of the page.

Preview

Logout

Reset

Apply changes

You can now go to the front-end and see how your changes affected the layout.

Module 1

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Module 4

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Module 5

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Module 6

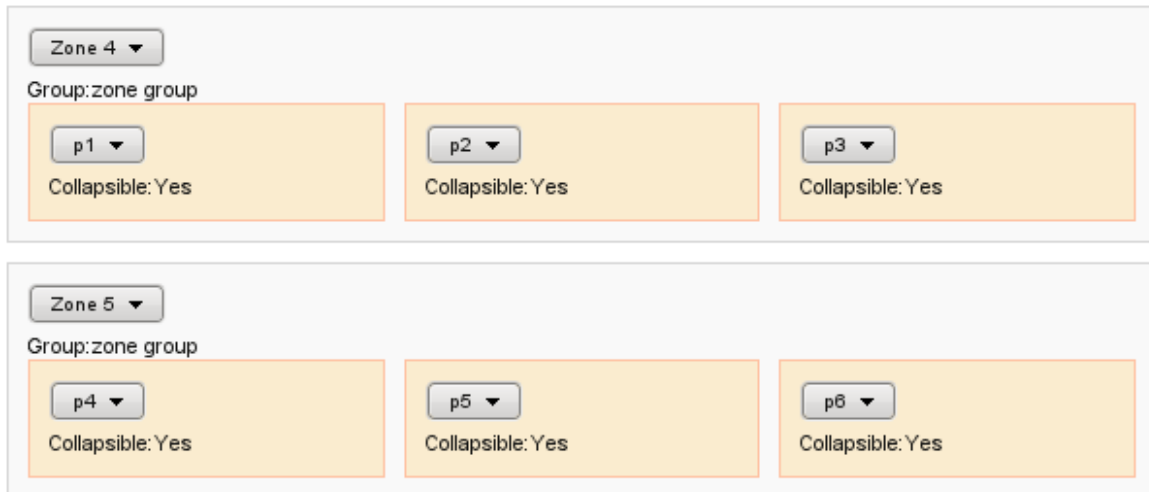
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Notice that we intentionally used two groups in two different zones in this example to show that groups of positions must be limited in single zones.

8.2 How to group zones

Lets extend the previous example to zones. We will now attempt to group zones.

The difference from the previous example is that you should now use the drop-down menu of the zones instead of the positions. So open the drop-down menus of the zones and set the group name “zone group” for both zones.



Zone 4 ▼
Group: zone group

p1 ▼ Collapsible: Yes p2 ▼ Collapsible: Yes p3 ▼ Collapsible: Yes

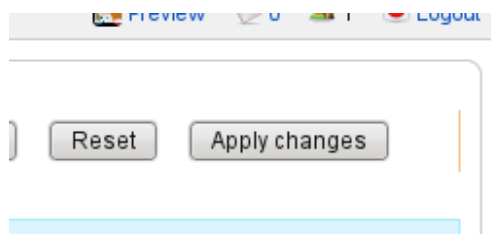
Zone 5 ▼
Group: zone group

p4 ▼ Collapsible: Yes p5 ▼ Collapsible: Yes p6 ▼ Collapsible: Yes

Go to the bottom of the page and set a style for the new group. Set it to “gstyle8”.

Available group styles	Groups in use		Warnings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gstyle1 • gstyle2 • gstyle3 • gstyle4 • gstyle5 • gstyle6 • gstyle7 • gstyle8 • gstyle9 	<u>Group</u>	<u>Style</u>	
	zone group	<input type="text" value="gstyle8"/>	

Save your modifications by clicking the “Apply changes” button on the top right corner of the page.



Preview Logout

Reset Apply changes

Finally, go to the front-end to see how the layout looks like.

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Module 4 <i>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.</i>	Module 5 <i>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.</i>	Module 6 <i>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.</i>

You can create various different results with zone groups. For example you can create a zone with just one position where you can set a text as a title for what is underneath. You can then create zones with different amounts of positions so that the layout seems complex and interesting.

9. Menu reference

Each element in the Zone Editor has its own menu options. Regular positions, dynamic positions, main body and zones have drop-down menus with options that relate to them and only them.

Here is a list of the various options you can find, and a description of their roles:

Add position at the start

Adds a new position at the start of the zone

Add position at the end

Adds a new position at the end of the zone

Add position on the left

Adds a new position on the left of the selected position

Add position on the right

Adds a new position on the right of the selected position

Add zone above

Adds a new zone above the selected zone

Add zone below

Adds a new zone below the selected zone

Cut

Cuts the selected position to the clipboard. Use the paste options on the zone and position menus to move the cut position.

Delete

Deletes the selected position

Move zone up

Moves the zone up

Move zone down

Moves the zone down

Paste position at the start

Pastes the cut position at the start of the zone. You need to use the Cut option from a position before using this option.

Paste position at the end

Pastes the cut position at the end of the zone. You need to use the Cut option from a position before using this option.

Rename

Renames the selected position

Set group

Sets the group name for the selected position or zone.

Set style

Sets the style (gstyle) for the selected position or zone.

Set width

Sets the width of the position in pixels.

Switch collapsible

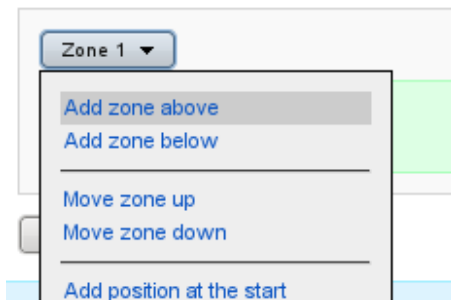
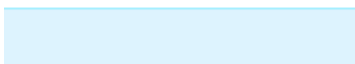
Switches the collapsible attribute. When a position is collapsible and there are no published modules to show, the template's layout manager does not display it at all. When all positions in a zone are collapsible and none of them is shown, then the zone does not appear at all. If at least one position in the zone is non collapsible the zone remains visible even if there are no published modules.

10. How to

10.1 How to create a zone

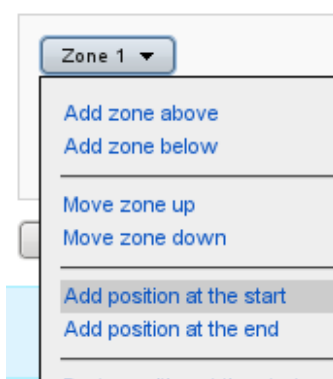


One way to create a zone is to click the “Append Zone” button.

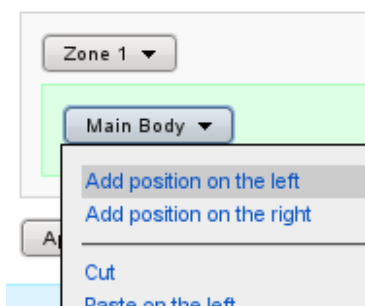


Another way to create a zone is to open the drop-down menu of an existing zone and use the available options to create a new zone above or below it.

10.2 How to create a position



One way to create a position in a zone is to open the drop-down menu of a zone and use the available options to create a new position on the start or the end of the zone.



Another way to create a position is to open the drop-down menu of an existing position and use the available options to create a new position on its left or its right side.

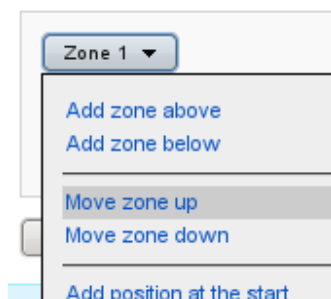
10.3 How to create position groups

The creation of position groups is extensively explained in section 8.

10.4 How to create zone groups

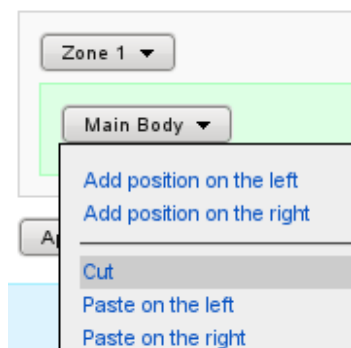
The creation of zone groups is extensively explained in section 8.

10.5 How to control the location of the zones



You can use the drop-down menu of the zones to move your zones up or down.

10.6 How to control the location of the positions



The Zone Manager has an internal clipboard mechanism that allows you to cut and paste positions much like you would do in your file manager for files.

Open the drop-down menu of a position and click on the Cut option.

Then you can paste it two ways:

Open the drop-down menu of a position and paste on its left or on its right side.

Or, open the drop-down menu of a zone and paste on its start or on its end.

11. Additional support

For additional support visit <http://www.bonusthemes.com> .

Appendix A: Zone Layout Dictionary

Group

There are two kinds of groups: position groups and zone groups. The essence of groups is to assign them a group style so that the grouped elements appear to be joined.

Group Style

Group styles (or gstyles) make groups of positions or groups of zones appear in a joined area.

Main body

Special type of control that displays the main body content of the web page.

Module

A custom script that presents data in a box-shaped area. Examples: Login module, Search module, Online users module. Modules appear as parts of Positions.

Module Style

Module styles (or mstyles) is a better name we chose to refer to Module Suffixes.

Module Suffix

A style for a module. The name follows the internal method used for the style to be displayed: a suffix that triggers pre-arranged CSS classes.

Position

An area that contains modules. In the Zone Manager there are regular positions and dynamic ones. The dynamic positions are the ones you create inside the zones.

Template

Templates are display mechanisms for content. They are responsible to get content from the database, organize it in main body, modules, positions and zones and present it in an aesthetically beautiful environment.

Zone

A zone is a horizontal area that contains positions or the main body.



Joomla! Component



bonusthemes.com

E X T R E M E J O O M L A T E M P L A T I N G

- Programming: Alex Stylianos - Creative Pulse - <http://www.creativepulse.eu>
- Graphics: Panos Gazepidis - Mediagrafix - <http://www.mediagrafix.gr>

Distribution - Support: <http://www.bonusthemes.com>