

Twitter Status 2.0.2

plugin for Joomla! 1.5

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License

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Code of Twitter Status is released under the GNU/GPL

What is Twitter?

“Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author's subscribers who are known as followers.”

From Wikipedia

Plugin Description

Twitter Status updates Twitter account using article title & article's URL once you add new article to Joomla! It works very silence in background – you won't probably notice that something is adding to Twitter. Only indication of work is longer than usually page loading (+1 second longer), and message “Twitter account has just been updated” after saving article. Twitter Status support **Community Builder & User Meta System Plugin** (you can let your users tweet or just trace what articles they are adding), **MyBlog** (2.0.x, 3.0.x), and **EventList** (you can directly inform people about event using Twitter). In message you can attach URL to article/event - of course there's support of Joomla! SEF and **sh404SEF** for addresses!

How does it work?

When author of article add or publish up article, plugin will connect to Twitter.com server and send new message. If everything go O.K., you will see new tweet on your Twitter.com account. As you know, Twitter has length limit on sending text. Sometimes title of article can infringe 140 chars. If it happens, Twitter Status will cut text to 140 chars.

Supported 3rd-party extensions

While Twitter Status was creating, following versions of extensions have been used, and are 100% fully supported:

- **MyBlog** - 3.0 Build 329
- **MyBlog** – 2.0.1 Build 282
- **Community Builder** – 1.2.1
- **sh404SEF** – 1.0.20_BETA
- **EventList** – 1.0.1
- **UserMeta System Plugin** – 1.6.3

As I'm not developing 3rd-party extensions **There is no surety that Twitter Status will work correctly after installation new version of extensions.** Of course it's natural that I'll try to update Twitter Status code as soon as new releases of extensions will be available.

Supported Joomla! Releases

J! 1.5.14	J! 1.5.13	J! 1.5.12	J! 1.5.11	J! 1.5.10	J! 1.5.9	J! 1.5.8	J! 1.5.7	J! 1.5.6	J! 1.5.5	J! 1.5.4	J! 1.5.3	J! 1.5.2	J! 1.5.1	J! 1.5.0
OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	NOT	NOT	NOT	NOT	NOT	NOT

Twitter Status 2.0.1 supports Joomla! 1.5.8, Joomla! 1.5.7, and Joomla! 1.5.6 too.

I recommend you to update your Joomla! because of many bugs, and a lot of people want to improve they can read (WOW!)... but they read wrong things... instead of “How to crack” they should “How to help with improving J!”

What's new in 2.0.2?

27 mails: 21 solved problems, 6 unsolved. Twitter Status 2.0.2 comes with more stable code. There are no big changes – now extension is more user friendly – no blank screen, added languages, and easier installation:

I delayed 2.0.2 release to receive all error reports from users. The most common was problem of non supported PHP4 – that was the biggest surprise for me. Mainly I added PHP4 support. Another surprise was MySQL <5 support. Few users noticed that's still in use database version, so I changed queries to make it work in MySQL 4 (didn't test with MySQL 3 but it should work – new queries are very simple).

Finally I added pseudofunction that detect whether json function exists in server. It avoid producing white screen (kind of Windows's bluescreen of death). I should mention that Json library doesn't exists in PHP4 default installation. Another pseudofunction is multibyte – when you doesn't have such a library. Now Twitter Status can handle posting tweet without multibyte. All of mentioned stuff eliminate PHP errors.

Twitter Status is now more friendly for Greek, and Spanish users – there's support for those languages. Big thanks to Carlos Acosta (Spanish) and Vitali (Greek and hopefully French in 2.0.3 release).

One of visible things is easier installation process. Now, Twitter Status automatically installs plugin, so you don't have to take care of its installation, and configuration. Just upload downloaded package, and click Install. When you fill in configuration, Twitter Status is ready to work. You can save precious time ;]

I hope that all errors have been eliminated, and Twitter Status code is free to attach 3rd party components. Of course stay tuned on twitter.com/depresz

Thank you,
Tomasz Dobrzyński
<http://tomasz-dobrzynski.com>

Installation and Configuration

Go to the <http://tomasz-dobrzynski.com/> and get latest Twitter Status release. You will download zipped package – **don't** unzip it. Since 2.0.2 release plugin will be automatically installed with component. Open administration panel of your Joomla! site. Using **Install/Uninstall** from **Extensions** menu upload downloaded file. Once you do it, you should see following screen:

The screenshot shows the Joomla! administration interface for the Twitter Status 2.0 extension. At the top, the Joomla! logo and 'Twitter Status 2.0' are visible, along with the version number 'Version 1.5.14'. The navigation menu includes 'Site', 'Menus', 'Content', 'Components', 'Extensions', 'Tools', and 'Help'. A 'Preview' button and user information are also present. The main content area displays the 'Extension Manager' with a sub-menu for 'Install', 'Components', 'Modules', 'Plugins', 'Languages', and 'Templates'. A blue banner at the top of the content area reads 'Install Component Success'. Below this, a large box contains the message 'Installation of component & plugin complete' and 'Thanks for choosing Twitter Status extension. You have just installed package that consist of main program, and additional modules such as:'. Three columns of information are provided: 'LOG MANAGER' with a screenshot of a log file, 'SCHEDULED JOBS' with a screenshot of a job schedule table, and 'CONFIGURATION' with a screenshot of the configuration page. Below each column is a brief explanation of its purpose. At the bottom of the configuration section, there is a button labeled 'Configuration of Twitter Status'. A footer note provides additional instructions on how to access documentation and support.

Please follow instructions on the screen. Only step you have to do is click “**Configuration of Twitter Status**” button at the bottom of instructions.

I assume that you don't know how to configure Twitter Status so I'm going to introduce you to this topic. As you probably know, to open configuration you must click on “*Components*” menu, and select “*Twitter Status*” → “*Configuration*” (or go here directly from installation using button). Here you can see new configuration panel:

Configuration consist of four steps you have to do:

- 1) Select what do you want to update
- 2) Select how update will look
- 3) Select where update will be placed
- 4) Save configuration

Here's list of options that you can find in each step:

Step #1 – What?

Sections/Categories: Select which sections, and categories Twitter Status can trace. When you click on some section, you will see all categories in this section. If you uncheck last checked category, section will be automatically unchecked. It's user friendly component :) You should notice that list contain only published sections/categories form Joomla! and EventList.

Updating article: Select what will do Twitter Status when see that tweet is sent; That's typical scenario when user update article. Here's possibilities:

- 1) **Don't update Twitter again**
- 2) **Update Twitter – send the same message;** will be sent same tweet like last time
- 3) **Update Twitter – send message below;** you can specify what message will be sent when user update article. Message will be just changed with article's title so sample message: “Guys, I've just updated my article – check it out!” will output “Guys, I've just updated my article – check it out! <http://bit.ly/dew32>” in default configuration.

Updating article is a new feature – thanks [Jean-Marc Runner](#)

Step #2 – How?

Attach address: You have here options that allow you to:

- 1) **No** – Link won't be displayed at all; sample tweet (Let's assume that you're using hashtag #site)
"This is sample article #site"
- 2) **Yes, but don't shorten** – Link to article will be displayed; It's not a good solution if you want to attach articles with long articles name. Remember that you have only 140 chars, and you share it with hashtags, article title, and address; sample tweets:
"This is sample article #site <http://mysite/index.php/test>"
"This is sample article #site <http://mysite/article/1/5>"

Warning!

According to the Twitter Documentation, if you want to save real full path address, it has to be shorter than 30 chars; if address is longer than 30 chars it will be shortened by default Twitter shortener service – probably Bit.Ly (in past it was TinyUrl.com)

- 3) **Yes, and shorten using bit.ly** – address to your article will be dynamically shorten using bit.ly shortening service. When you click on link you will be redirected to your article (it's just a mask that allow you to save precious chars); sample tweet:
"This is sample article #site <http://bit.ly/xxxxx>"
- 4) **Yes, and shorten using TinyURL.com** – address to your article will be dynamically shorten using TinyURL.com shortening service. It works the same like bit.ly; sample tweet:
"This is sample article #site <http://tinyurl.com/xxxxx>"

Hashtags: If you want to use this option you probably know what they are – it's Twitter.com feature ([information about hashtags on Twitter.com help](#)). You can select where do you want to place it - you have three possibilities:

- 1) **Start (Before message)**; sample tweet:
"#hashtag This is sample article <http://bit.ly/xxxxx>"
- 2) **Middle (Between message and URL)**; sample tweet:
"This is sample article #hashtag <http://bit.ly/xxxxx>"
- 3) **End (Behind URL)**; sample tweet:
"This is sample article <http://bit.ly/xxxxx> #hashtag"

Of course if you don't attach link to article, option Middle, and End will look the same.

Sample tweet: it's not a option – it's just simulation how would look sample tweet on Twitter.com – it's very useful for beginners.

Step #3 – Where?

Twitter account: enter login/password to Twitter.com account which Twitter Status will update

User layer account: Thanks this box you can provide Twitter Status information whether let users to update Twitter. You can select in which component do you want to let users for updating:

- 1) Disable user layer – you will not allow users to update Twitter
- 2) Enable in Community Builder – Community Builder users will have possibility to update Twitter
- 3) Enable in UserMeta - UserMeta users will have possibility to update Twitter

Once you select option 2 or 3 you can select whether Twitter Status has to update only user's Twitter account or user's + main account from option "Twitter account".

Then fill in username field, and password field from which Twitter Status will read account details. More information about user layer in next chapter.

Twitter Status User Layer

Let's assume that we have layers in which Twitter Status works:

- Administrator layer (back-end)
- User layer (front-end):
 - Community Builder layer (for sites where Community Builder is installed)
 - UserMeta layer (for sites where Community Builder isn't installed)

Administration Layer

This layer is not complicated. I mean plugin has only one way to get username/password to Twitter – it's Twitter Status configuration. Open from menu *Components* → *Twitter Status* → *Configuration*, and take a look at “Twitter account” option. Fill in username, and password. After that Twitter Status is ready to update Twitter.

User Layer

Each user has possibility to update Twitter account using user layer – of course user **HAS TO** have right to publish new article (not add, and wait for reaction of administrator) – only published articles are retrieved by Twitter Status.

Twitter Status provide support for 2 type of User Layer – Basicly it's a support for Community Builder users, and non-Community Builder users.

If you want to enable Community Builder user layer...

Download Community Builder - <http://www.joomlapolis.com/>

1. Go to the back-end of your site, and open “Field Management” page from Community Builder
2. Add text field – insert title “Twitter username”, and some name: e.g. **cb_twitter_username**
3. Add password field – inser title “Twitter password”, and some name: e.g. **cb_twitter_password**
4. Go to Twitter Status configuration (menu *Components* → *Twitter Status* → *Configuration*), and select “Enable in Community Builder” from “User layer account” option
5. Enter name of text field (**cb_twitter_username**) to “Username field”
6. Enter name of password field (**cb_twitter_password**) to “Password field”
7. Save configuration, and that's it

Warning!

Remember to inform user while processing registration that only article's creators will be able to use “Twitter username”, and “Twitter password” fields.

Skip “If you want to enable UserMeta user layer...” section to read how to test whether User layer works.

If you want to enable UserMeta user layer...

Download UserMeta System Plugin - <http://joomlancode.org/gf/project/usermeta/frs/>.

1. Go to the back-end of your site, and install this extension
2. Open menu *Extensions* -> *Plugin manager* -> *System – UserMeta*), and ensure that "Extend with Paramters", and "Show in User Manager" are enabled. Enable plugin, and save.
3. Edit file JOOMLA/plugins/system/usermeta/user.xml – it should look like this one below. Bold text indicate on Twitter Status lines. Last two parameters are responsible for connection between UserMeta, and Twitter Status. You can name last two fields however you want – in this case I named it **twitter_username**, and **twitter_password**

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<form>
  <params>
    <param name="admin_language" type="languages" client="administrator"
default="" label="Back-end Language" description="paramAdminLanguage" />
    <param name="language" type="languages" client="site" default=""
label="Front-end Language" description="paramLanguage" />
    <param name="editor" type="editors" default="" label="User Editor"
description="WYSIWYG Editor for this User" />
    <param name="helpsite" type="helpsites" default="" label="Help Site"
description="Help Site for this User" />
    <param name="timezone" type="timezones" default="" label="Time Zone"
description="Time Zone for this User" />

    <param name="spacer" type="spacer" default=" " />
    <param name="spacer" type="spacer" default="If you will be not able to publish
articles - don't fill in Twitter fields below"/>
    <param name="twitter_username" type="text" default="" label="Twitter username"
/>
    <param name="twitter_password" type="text" default="" label="Twitter password"
/>
  </params>
</form>
```

4. Go to Twitter Status configuration (menu *Components* → *Twitter Status* → *Configuration*), and select "Enable in UserMeta" from "User layer account" option
5. Enter name of Twitter username param from user.xml file (**twitter_username**)
6. Enter name of Twitter password param from user.xml file (**twitter_password**)
7. Save configuration, and that's it

Testing User Layer

User layer is now ready. To check whether User Layer works, edit some Joomla! profile, and add username/password to Twitter. Then submit new article, and check on Twitter whether profile has just been updated or not (If not – go to the Log Manager [See later in this document]). Then use profile where username/password fields are empty. When you post article, administration layer Twitter account (this one from Twitter Status Plugin configuration) should be updated.

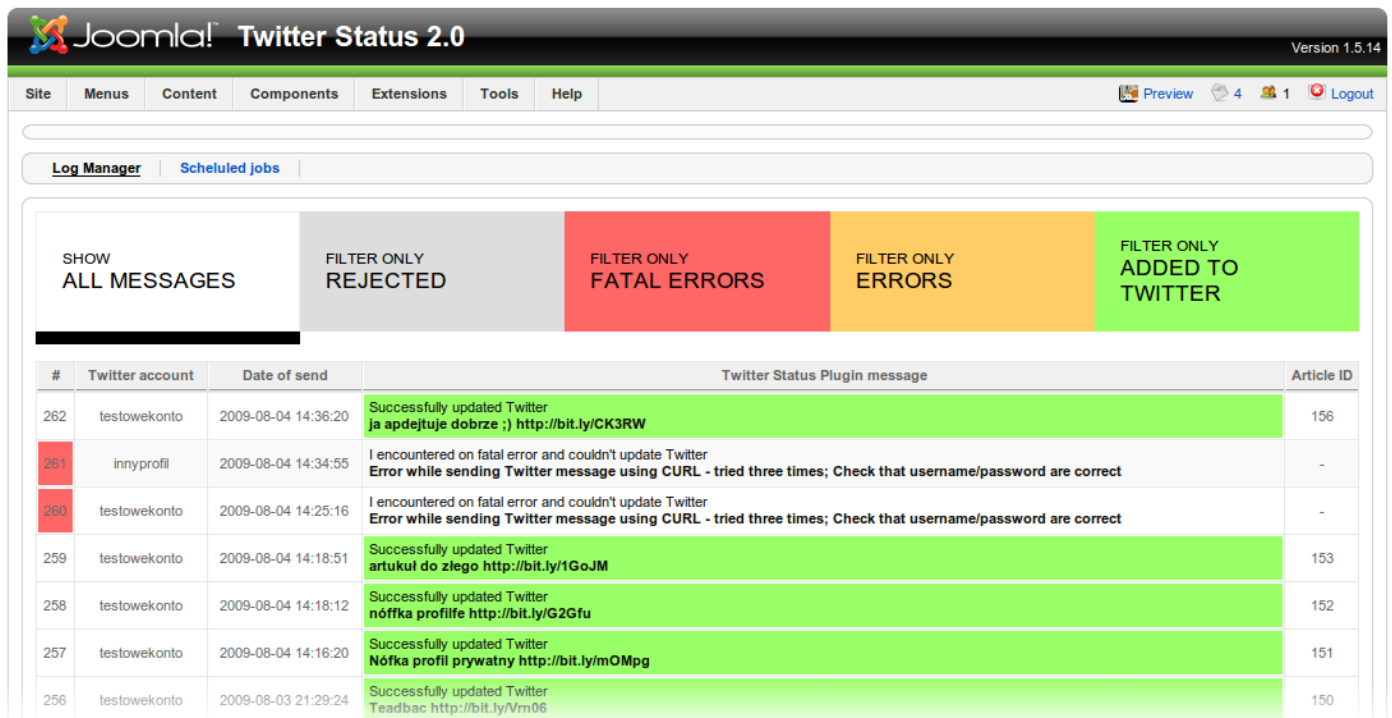
Twitter Status component

You can get in to Twitter Status component using menu *Components* -> *Twitter Status*.



Log Manager

As can you see in this menu you have Twitter Status Log Manager, where you can see all possible Errors regarding Twitter Status Plugin, and Scheduled jobs where you can see waiting jobs for twitter Status Plugin. Let's take a look at Log Manger:



Log manager consist of two parts: buttons at the top, and messages; Using Buttons you can filter messages. In Log Manger you can see 4 types of messages: Rejected, Fatal Errors, Errors, Added to Twitter. Each Type of message has its own color. It's like in the life: green is good, red is bad. Here is listed all of possible messages in Twitter Status Log Manager:

Grey – “Rejected” group

- #0 Scheduled job added – I'll update Twitter once article will publish itself
- #1 Article that user created is on blocked sections or categories
- #2 Article is not published
- #15 I already added this article to Twitter

Orange – “Errors” group

- #3 Error while compressing URL using CURL - if it occurred first time don't worry, otherwise maybe you should use other URL compressor (TinyURL instead of Bit.Ly or vice versa)
- #4 Unable to connect compressor using fsockopen - if it occurred first time don't worry, otherwise maybe you should use other URL compressor (TinyURL instead Bit.Ly or vice versa)
- #5 There was problem while decoding data returned from Bit.Ly URL compressor
- #6 There was some problem with creating article's address (probably SEF fault)

Red – “Fatal errors” group

- #11 Error while sending Twitter message using CURL - tried three times; Check that username/password are correct
- #12 Error while sending Twitter message using fsockopen - tried three times; Check that username/password are correct
- #13 Unable to connect Twitter.com using fsockopen - tried three times

Green – “Added to Twitter” group

- #14 Successfully updated Twitter

I hope you will see only this green on in Log Manager.

Remember – each time once something happen (or not!) with Twitter Status – look at the Log Manager. Try to visit this page often. If you want to contact with support, please take a look at Log Manager first. Now, let's take a look at Scheduled jobs.

Scheduled jobs

Here will be available tweets that's waiting in queue to send. Joomla! doesn't have access to cron that's why I decided to write own “cron” that I called “Scheduled jobs”. It works when someone generate traffic on your Joomla! Site. Each time when some job is in database, Twitter Status check does is able to update Twitter. To understand this install Twitter Status, and add new article with publish up date in the future. Don't open your Joomla! Site until article will publish up. Wait another few minutes, and open your Joomla! In the moment of your enter to site, Twitter account is updating. Problem of publishing up articles in the future doesn't exist if your site is visiting constantly by many users.

From my experience I know that not each site can generate such a traffic so I decided to run service: I can open your site (sending requests - and not receiving content – it save your bandwidth) even every 1 min. Go to <http://tomasz-dobrzynski.com/> and click “Job helper” tab to read more about it.

The screenshot shows the Joomla! Twitter Status 2.0 interface. At the top, there's a Joomla! logo and the title "Twitter Status 2.0" with the version "1.5.14". Below that is a navigation menu with items: Site, Menus, Content, Components, Extensions, Tools, Help. On the right, there are icons for Preview, 4 notifications, 1 user, and Logout. The main content area has two tabs: "Log Manager" and "Scheduled jobs". The "Scheduled jobs" tab is active, showing a table with the following data:

	Date of job's creation	Date of article's publication	Time left to update Twitter	Article used for this job
DELETE	2009-08-05 15:51:45	2009-09-05 15:51:26	30d 23h 54min 58sec	Here is article's title
DELETE	2009-08-05 15:50:12	2009-08-05 19:51:31	3h 55min 3sec	Testing new schedule job - it's article with publish up date in the future

At the bottom of the table, there is a "Display # 20" dropdown menu.

I think that's interface of schedule jobs is so simple, and I don't need to explain what means these columns. You should only know that Twitter Status automatically remove jobs from list when will detect that article that should be posted in the future not exist.

What Twitter Status can?

Just take a look at sample tweet from Joomla! on Twitter... or just see Twitter Status in action on Youtube!
<http://www.youtube.com/user/twitterstatus>



testowekonto Default configuration - just filled in username and password <http://bit.ly/118UYP>

7 minutes ago from API



testowekonto Added hashtag to basic configuration [#sample](http://bit.ly/11c0cT)
<http://bit.ly/11c0cT>

6 minutes ago from API



testowekonto Used TinyURL.com shortening service [#sample](http://tinyurl.com/klojuh)
<http://tinyurl.com/klojuh>

5 minutes ago from API



testowekonto Used TinyURL.com shortening service [#sample](http://tinyurl.com/nf4ns6)
<http://tinyurl.com/nf4ns6>

4 minutes ago from API



testowekonto Disabled adres attaching and no hashtag

3 minutes ago from API



testowekonto Changed position of hashtag <http://bit.ly/7VuLx>
[#sample](http://bit.ly/7VuLx)

1 minute ago from API



testowekonto [#sample](http://bit.ly/ps8UI) Hashtag is before message
<http://bit.ly/ps8UI>

less than 20 seconds ago from API