



Setting Up a Local Help Server

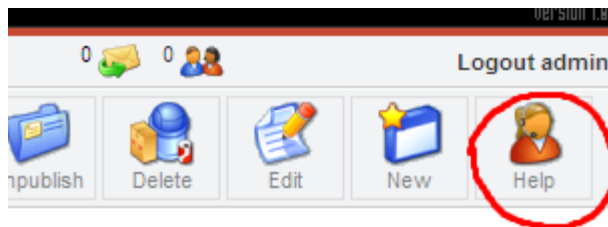
Files Needed:

- Latest copy of Joomla! 1.0.X
 - <http://joomla.org/gf/project/joomla/frs/>
- Help Screens translation pack for Joomla! 1.0.X
 - <http://joomla.org/gf/project/joomla/docman/?subdir=6>

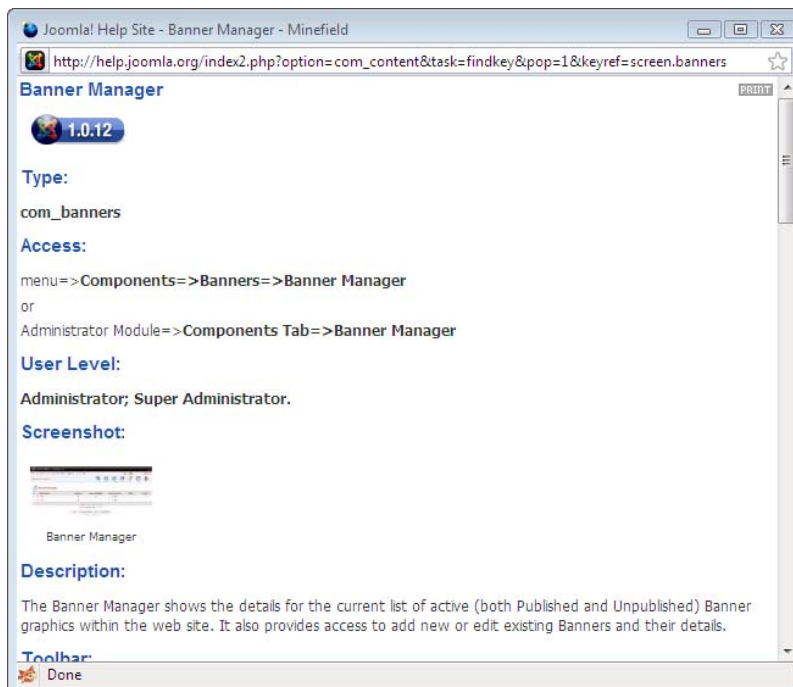
Resources Needed:

- phpMyadmin
- Web Browser
- Unzip application

What are Help Screens?



Throughout the Administrator backend, there are Help Screens available to help you get around. You can access these screens by clicking on the Help button on the toolbar.



Help screens, by default, are pulled from remote servers (default is help.joomla.org). In the Joomla! administrator configuration, there is an option to change the help server.

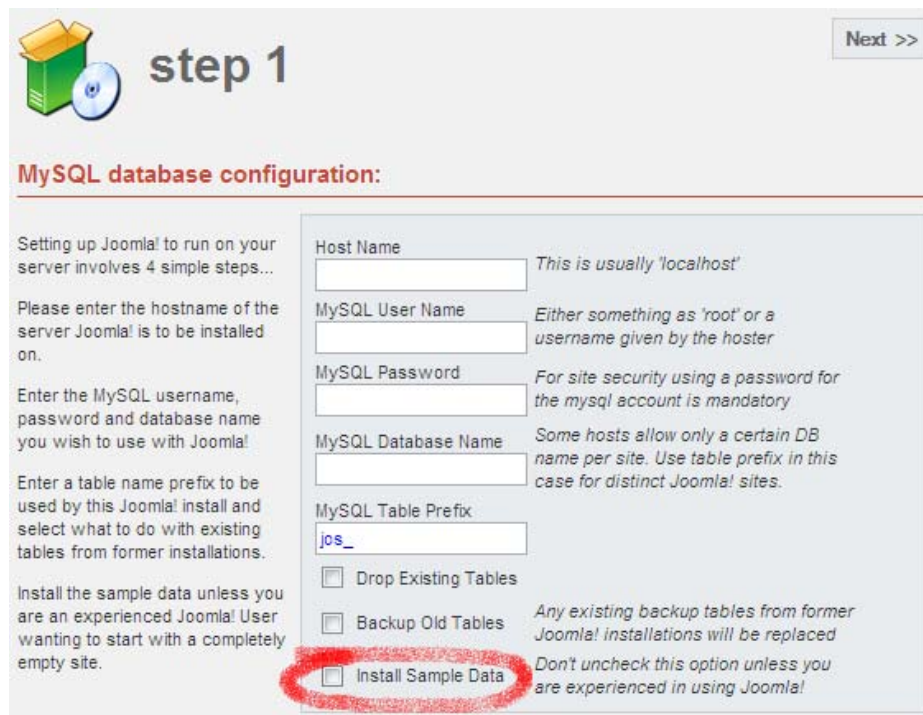
Local Help Server

A local Joomla! Help Server provides the same help screens as the default help server at help.joomla.org. The advantage of running a local help server is that you could customize the help screens to suit your website logo, add more information, and add any translations you may need. In addition, if the default Joomla! Help server were to ever become inaccessible for any reason, you would still be able to access your own local help server. The disadvantage to running your own local help server is that you would have to remember to update the help screens occasionally and that you would have to maintain and secure an additional site.

Setting up the Local help Server

Note: At the time of publication, a stable version of Joomla! 1.5.X has not yet been released. Help Screens for Joomla! 1.5 are currently unavailable, therefore all screenshots are of Joomla! 1.0.X installations. Unless otherwise noted, instructions below generally apply to both Joomla 1.0.X and Joomla 1.5.X.

Setting up a local help server is similar to installing Joomla! on your site. There is one major difference in the installation process though. In a normal Joomla installation you would normally check the box “Install Sample Data” but when setting up a help server, you will not be checking this box off.



The screenshot shows the Joomla! installation wizard at step 1, titled "MySQL database configuration:". On the left, there are instructions: "Setting up Joomla! to run on your server involves 4 simple steps...", "Please enter the hostname of the server Joomla! is to be installed on.", "Enter the MySQL username, password and database name you wish to use with Joomla!", "Enter a table name prefix to be used by this Joomla! install and select what to do with existing tables from former installations.", and "Install the sample data unless you are an experienced Joomla! User wanting to start with a completely empty site." On the right, there are input fields for "Host Name" (with a hint "This is usually 'localhost'"), "MySQL User Name" (with a hint "Either something as 'root' or a username given by the hoster"), "MySQL Password" (with a hint "For site security using a password for the mysql account is mandatory"), and "MySQL Database Name" (with a hint "Some hosts allow only a certain DB name per site. Use table prefix in this case for distinct Joomla! sites."). Below these are "MySQL Table Prefix" (with the value "jos_") and three checkboxes: "Drop Existing Tables", "Backup Old Tables" (with a hint "Any existing backup tables from former Joomla! installations will be replaced"), and "Install Sample Data" (which is circled in red and has a hint "Don't uncheck this option unless you are experienced in using Joomla!"). A "Next >>" button is in the top right corner.

Do NOT check the Install Sample Data check box!

Important! - Note the MySQL Table Prefix. You will need to know this later.

After you click next, you will be taken to a page to enter a site name. You can call your help site whatever you want.



The screenshot shows a web interface for Joomla! installation. At the top left, there is an icon of a green box and a blue CD, followed by the text "step 2". In the top right corner, there is a button labeled "Next >>". Below this, the heading "Enter the name of your Joomla! site:" is displayed in red. Underneath, there is a "SUCCESS!" message and a text box for "Site name" containing the text "YourCompany Help Site". To the left of the text box, there is a note: "Type in the name for your Joomla! site. This name is used in email messages so make it something meaningful." Below the text box, there is an example: "e.g. The Home of Joomla!".

something goes here?

Finish the installation and delete the installation folder.

If you haven't done so already, download the latest copy of the help screens from JoomlaCode (<http://joomlacode.org/gf/project/joomla/docman/?subdir=6>).

Note:

help_screens_translation_pack_090307-v1.1

The first part of the file name ("help_screens_translation_pack") denotes what the zip file contains.

"090308" denotes the date the pack was created.

"v1.1" denotes the help screen version.

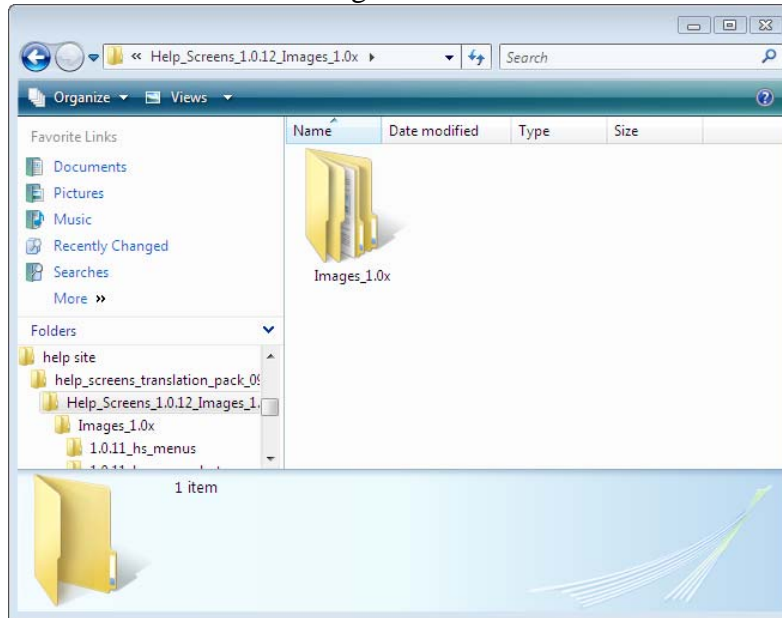
Joomla! 1.5 will have help screens available and will be package similarly.

These help screens are for Joomla! 1.0.X only.

Extract the zip archive to a folder. Inside this new folder there should be 5 .sql files, 1 .zip file, and one .txt file.

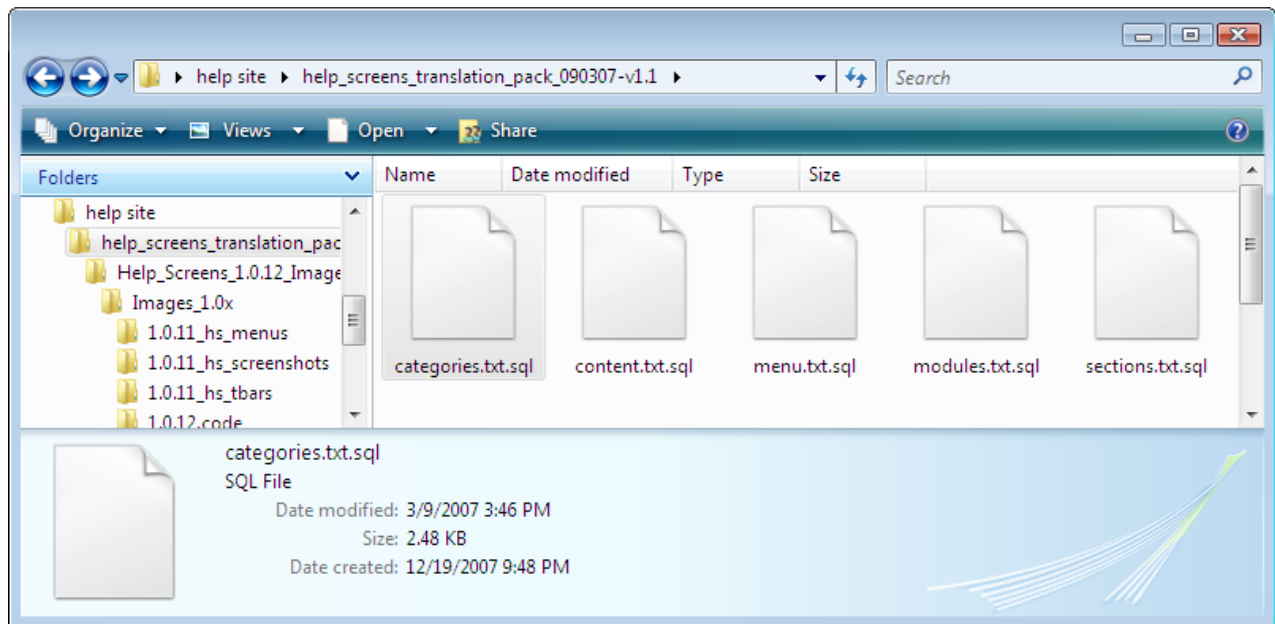
The .sql files are all database dumps, the .zip file contains images, and the .txt files contains credits and file information.

Unzip the zip file. You should have a folder Images_1.0x



Upload this folder (Image_1.0x) to your joomla_root/images/stories/ directory.

After that's been done, it is time to move onto the database files.



The first file we will work on is categories.txt.sql.

Open the file with a text editor (Notepad, Notepad++, etc.). Do not use a word processing program. Using the Find and Replace or similar function, replace all instances of:

#_

with your MySQL Table Prefix. For example, if your MySQL Table Prefix was:

jos_

then you would replace all instances of

#_

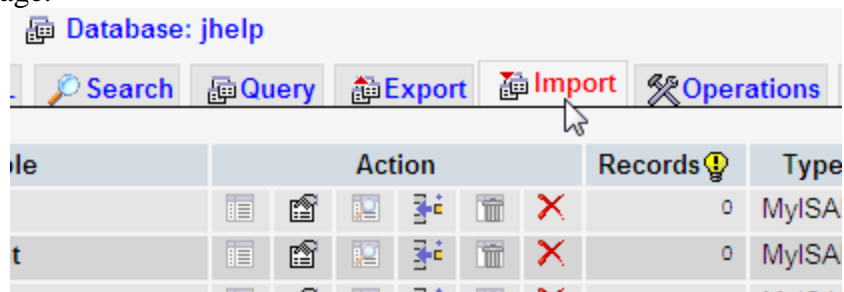
with

jos_

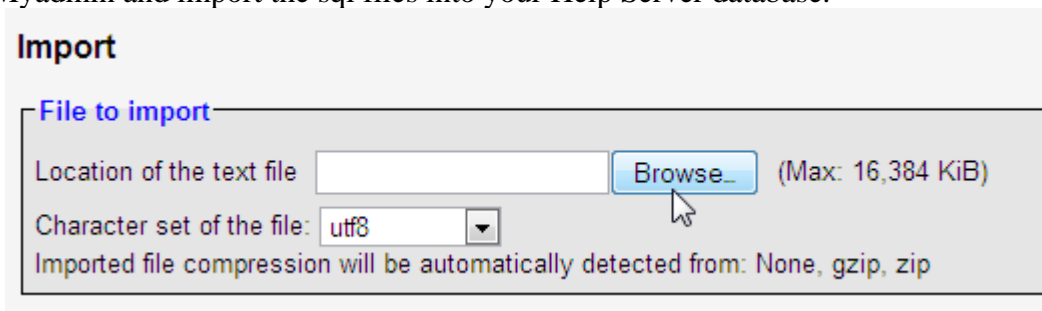
Repeat for all .sql files until complete.

Next, please open up phpMyadmin and navigate to your Joomla! Help Server Database.

Go to the Import page.



Open phpMyadmin and import the sql files into your Help Server database.



Continue to import the .sql files until you have imported all of them.

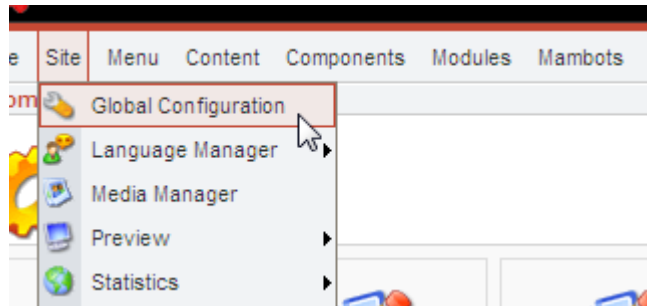
You have now finished setting up your own Local Joomla! Help Server.

Note: Similar steps would be taken to set up a Local Help Server for Joomla! 1.5.

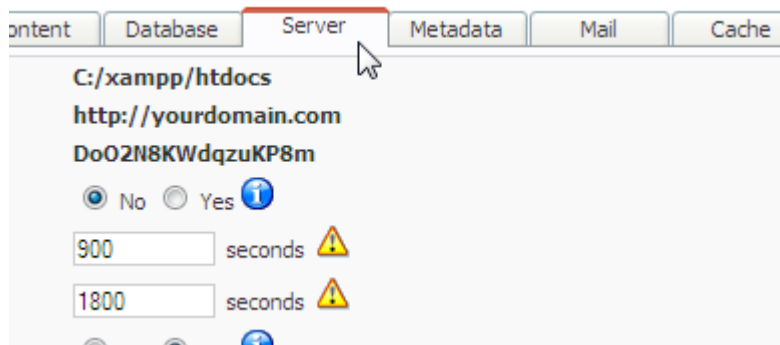
Configuring Joomla! To Use Your Local Help Server – Joomla! 1.0.X

Log into the Joomla! Back End of your site, *not the local help server*.

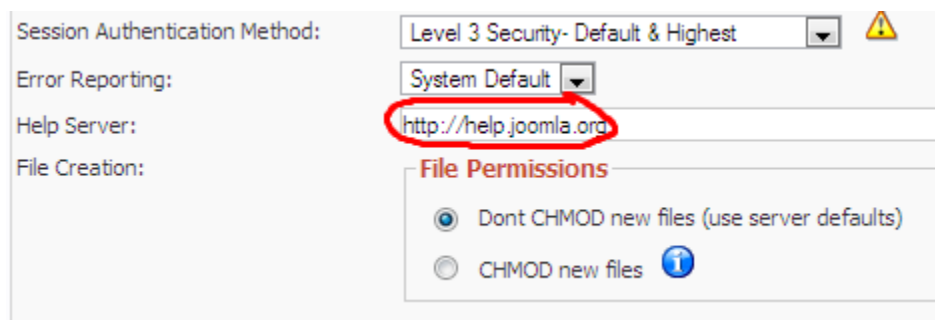
Go to Site -> Global Configuration.



After that, proceed to the Server tab.



Towards the middle, there is an option to change the help server.



As you can, the default help server is help.joomla.org.


Change the help server location to the local help server you have just set up.

For example, if the local help server you set up is at:
yourdomain.com/localhelp

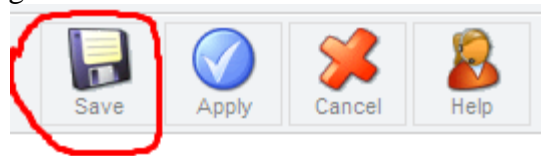
You would put:

<http://yourdomain.com/localhelp>

where it says Help Server so that it would look like this:

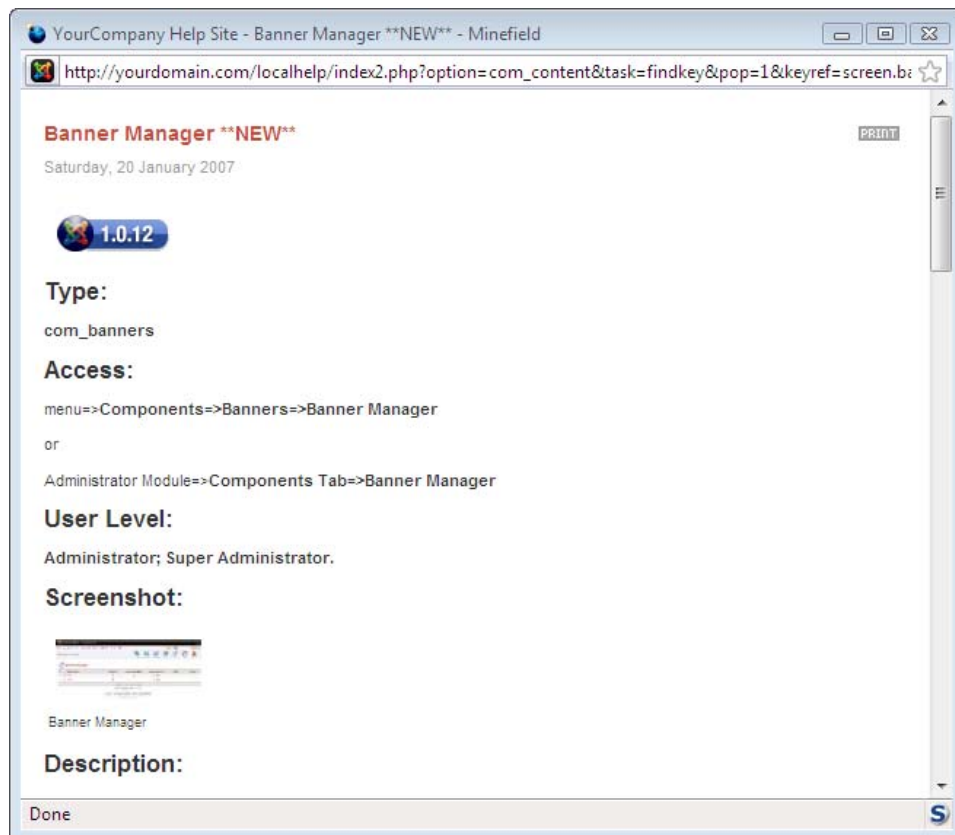
| | |
|----------------|--|
| Help Server: | <input type="text" value="http://yourdomain.com/localhelp"/> |
| File Creation: | File Permissions |
| | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Dont CHMOD new files (use server defaults) |
| | <input type="radio"/> CHMOD new files  |

Save your changes to the configuration file.



Your Joomla! Site should now be setup to use your very own Joomla! Local Help Server.

Here's what it looks like:



As you can see, the URL for the help screen now shows that it is showing content from the local help server instead of help.joomla.org.

Configuring Joomla! To Use Your Local Help Server – Joomla! 1.5.X

In Joomla! 1.5.X, key references are used in help screens. For example, clicking a help button that has a key reference of “screen.config” would access “screen.config.15” on the help server. The “15” denotes the version of Joomla! running. If your site was running Joomla! 1.6, the key reference would for “screen.config” would be “screen.config.16”.

To configure Joomla! 1.5 to use your own local help server, you will need to edit the help server xml file located at `yoursite\administrator\help`.

Open up and edit

`yoursite\administrator\help\helpsites-15.xml`

Where it says:

```
<site tag="en-GB" url="http://help.joomla.org">English (GB) – help.joomla.org</site>
```

Add below:

```
<site tag="en-GB" url="http://yourdomain.com/localhelp">Local Help</site>
```

Where:

en-GB

is the language code and:

<http://yourdomain.com/localhelp>

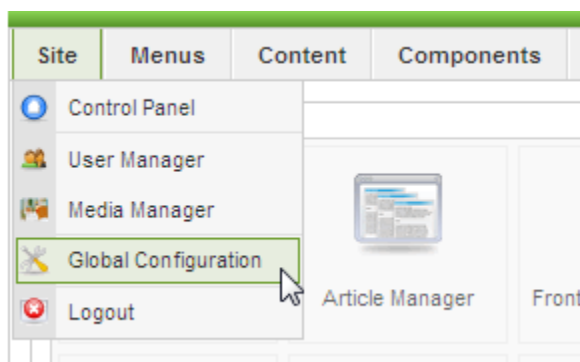
is the URL to your local help server and:

Local Help

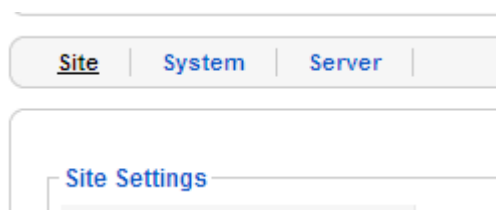
is whatever you want to call your local help server.

Upload and overwrite your new copy of the helpsite-15.xml file.

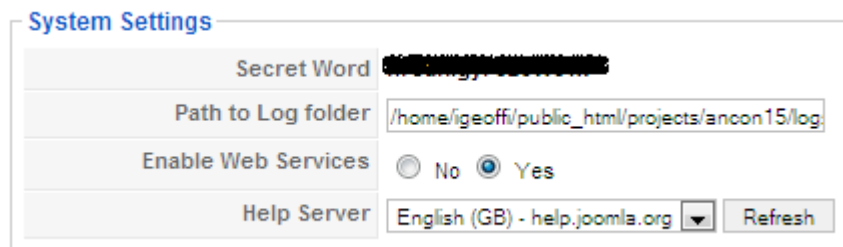
Login to the Administrator Backend and go to Site -> Global Configuration.



Go the System Settings Tab.

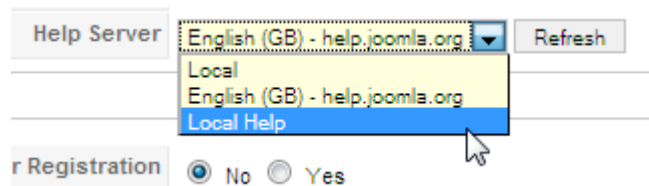


Under the Site Settings section, there is an option to change the Help Server.



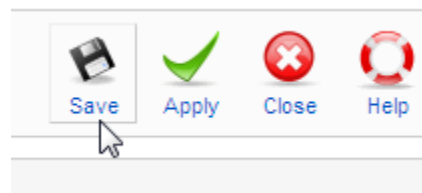
The screenshot shows the Joomla! System Settings interface. The 'Help Server' field is set to 'English (GB) - help.joomla.org'. A dropdown menu is open, showing three options: 'Local', 'English (GB) - help.joomla.org', and 'Local Help'. The 'Local Help' option is highlighted in blue. Other settings visible include 'Secret Word' (blacked out), 'Path to Log folder' (set to '/home/igeoffi/public_html/projects/ancon15/log'), and 'Enable Web Services' (set to 'Yes').

Select your Local Help Server from the drop down list.



This is a close-up of the 'Help Server' dropdown menu. The 'Local Help' option is selected and highlighted in blue. The 'Refresh' button is visible to the right of the dropdown. Below the dropdown, the 'Registration' section is partially visible, with 'No' selected.

After that, save your changes to the configuration file.



The screenshot shows the Joomla! configuration toolbar. The 'Save' button, represented by a floppy disk icon, is highlighted with a mouse cursor. Other buttons include 'Apply' (green checkmark), 'Close' (red X), and 'Help' (red lifebuoy).

Your Joomla! 1.5 site is now configured to use your local help server.

Hopefully you found this useful.