

# **SIMAnswers**

**Joomla Component  
Joomla Modules  
Joomla Plugin**

For Joomla - <http://www.joomla.org>

# **User Documentation**

Product of Mike (<http://mike.simbunch.com>)

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# Software License Agreement

Depending on your license purchase, please download and read the appropriate license (bulk or single) from the [online shop](#). Upon using the product, you acknowledge that you have fully read and agreed to the terms and conditions as stated in the software license agreement.

# Introduction

SIMAnswers is the complete Questions and Answers solution for Joomla. In fact, imagine [Yahoo Answers](#) for Joomla! SIMAnswers works in exactly the same way as Yahoo Answers, down to the last detail!

Admins can create categories and subcategories, set points and levels for different activities, and administer violation reports. By creating appropriate categories, you can create MUCH more meaningful content to your website. With more questions asked and answers provided, search engines will rank your site much higher (just like Yahoo Answers and Wikipedia, with a ton of user created content).

Admins can set points for the following actions:

- Starting participation
- Choosing best answer
- Login/visit per day
- Answering a question
- Voting on an answer
- Selected as best answer
- Receive thumbs up on best answer
- Asking a question (minus points)
- Spam answer removed (minus points)

Users can do a TON of things with SIMAnswers. Here's a quick list:

- Ask questions
- Answer questions
- Provide sources for their answers
- Answer open question, vote undecided questions, or discover resolved questions
- Email interesting questions to friends (using [OpenInviter](#) technology)
- Bookmark questions using social bookmarks (includes Facebook, del.icio.us, Digg, Furl, Yahoo MyWeb, StumbleUpon, Google Bookmarks, Technorati, Reddit).
- Retweet on Twitter with a click
- Add to their private watchlists
- Add a question as interesting/starred
- Select a best answer or put their questions to a vote
- Extend question expiry by twice the time
- Comment on questions
- Report violations for questions, answers or comments
- Thumb up/down a question or answer, providing better community feedback
- Search questions easily, or with an advanced search feature

Every user has his own dashboard that displays his statistics, including Total Answers, Best Answers, Open Questions, Voting Questions, Resolved Questions, Activity Summary (points, levels, starred questions etc), and a list of the user's answers, questions, starred questions and watchlist.

SIMAnswer is fully integrated with [Community Builder](#) and [JomSocial](#), but does not require them to work.

## ***Types of Questions***

There are 3 types of questions: Open Questions, Undecided Questions, Answered Questions

### **Open Questions**

Open questions are questions that have not expired. The time before a question expires is 4 days by default, and is configurable by the admin. Anyone is free to provide their answers for open questions.

### **Undecided Questions**

Undecided questions are questions that are being put to a vote. There are 2 possible scenarios whereby questions are put to a vote:

- 1) Question expired
- 2) Asker decided to put it to vote before question expires

Once a question is put to a vote, no more new answers can be given. Note that if a question expires before an answer is provided, it will be removed and the points (for asking a question) will be returned to the asker.

### **Answered Questions**

Answered questions are questions where a best answer has been selected. There are 2 ways to select a best answer:

- 1) Asker personally selects a best answer
- 2) A best answer is voted (if the question has been put to vote)

After a question has been answered, users will be able to leave comments.

# Package Content

The software package includes the following:

- SIMAnswers component (com\_simanswers.zip)
  - The main component.
- SIMAnswers Categories module (mod\_simanswers\_categories.zip)
  - Displays a list of categories. Display in left or right module position when viewing SIMAnswers.
- SIMAnswers Headboard module (mod\_simanswers\_headboard.zip)
  - Displays the headboard on a horizontal module position. This is optional, as you can configure SIMAnswers to display the headboard as part of the component.
- SIMAnswers Questions multi-purpose module (mod\_simanswers\_questions.zip)
  - Displays latest or popular questions with multiple configurations.
- SIMAnswers system plugin (simanswers.system.zip)
  - Joomla plugin for SIMAnswers
- SIMAnswers plugin for JomSocial (plg\_simanswers.zip)
- SIMAnswers plugin for Community Builder (plug\_simanswers.zip)
- AUP plugins

# Installation and Configuration

## *Installation*

Install the software in the following order (important):

1. Component – com\_simanswers.zip  
Administrator → Extensions → Install/Uninstall
2. Module – mod\_simanswers\_categories.zip  
Administrator → Extensions → Install/Uninstall
3. Module – mod\_simanswers\_headboard.zip  
Administrator → Extensions → Install/Uninstall
4. Module – mod\_simanswers\_questions.zip  
Administrator → Extensions → Install/Uninstall
5. Plugin – simanswers\_system.zip  
Administrator → Extensions → Install/Uninstall
6. Plugin – plg\_simanswers.zip (for JomSocial)
7. Plugin – plug\_simanswers.zip (for Community Builder)
8. Create a new menu item of Component type, and point it to SIMAnswers.
9. SIMAnswers uses **loncube** software to encode and encrypt a small part of the sourcecodes (one file). The encoded sourcecodes do not in any way disallow you to modify how the output is displayed, but rather only a tiny part of critical processes. This is to protect the software, and also make it very convenient for users to manage their licenses.

In order to run the software, you will be required to install/upload loncube's loaders. There are 2 ways to accomplish this:

1. Contact your host. Most hosts have loncube loaders pre-configured, and chances are you need not do anything at all. Try using the software after installing it. If it works (together with a valid License Key), then your host already have loncube loaders installed.
  2. If your host do not and is unwilling to have loncube loaders installed on their servers, you may do so yourself. Visit <http://www.ioncube.com/loaders.php> and download the appropriate zipped file (**Windows (x86)** for Windows servers, and **Linux (x86)** for most Apache/Linux based servers). Unzip the file and upload the loncube folder into the directory where your Joomla is installed.
10. Remember to publish the modules and system plugin!

# Disabling Previous Mootools Version 1.1

Detailed information available [here](#).

## Still Having Trouble?

The above 2 methods should work for 99% of the Joomla 1.5 templates out there. There is also an active forum thread where users discuss how they disable Mootools 1.1 based on their templates, located [here](#). As there are unlimited number of templates out there, it is impossible to cover for all of them.

If you are using a troublesome template, and/or if you have no experience in PHP, there is a custom installation service available for a fee of 40 SGD, which includes modifying your template to allow SIMAnswers to function properly. You may email me using the [Contact Me](#) form on my site. Please make sure to leave your username as well.



# Working with Contacts Import Scripts

Important: If you already have [ParaInvite](#) installed, you can skip this step as SIMAnswers will automatically detect the scripts from ParaInvite.

**SIMAnswers** integrates with [OpenInviter](#) for its contacts import scripts. The scripts are developed, maintained, updated and released separately by OpenInviter.

SIMAnswers requires the **General package** from OpenInviter. You can download it [here](#) (requires registration and login first, before clicking on that link). **DO NOT DOWNLOAD ANY OTHER PACKAGE!!!** After downloading the package, unzip and upload the contents of the folder OpenInviter into the components/com\_simanswers/OpenInviter folder.

## Miscellaneous Information

### **System Requirements**

- Joomla 1.5
- IonCube loaders

### **Browser Compatibility**

SIMAnswers has been tested to work with the following browsers:

- Firefox 2.0 / 3.0
- Internet Explorer 7.0 / 8.0
- Opera
- Safari

### **Language and CSS Styling**

SIMAnswers utilizes a language file for ease of customization, and every single displayed text can be modified through this language file. The language file is located at language/en-GB/en-GB.com\_simanswers.ini

Every HTML element used by the software has its own CSS class for easy styling. The CSS file is in components/com\_simanswers/css.

### **Source Codes**

You are free to modify SIMAnswers for your own use. Only 1 file (globals.simanswers.php) is encoded and it does not affect the output in any way.

# Support

## ***Check for Software Updates***

The latest version will be displayed in the configuration page. The installed version is also displayed.

Also, you can visit <http://www.simbunch.com> for the latest information.

## ***Forums***

If you have any problems with the software, please visit the forum at <http://www.simbunch.com>.

## ***Email***

You can also email Mike at [mike@simbunch.com](mailto:mike@simbunch.com), but for all stable releases the forum is preferred.

Security related bugs should be reported by email only.

## ***Updates***

Major updates will be notified by email, but this will not happen frequently. The best way is to check for the latest version yourself. All existing customers will receive updates for free, regardless of price changes if any.

## ***License Management***

If there is a change in your site's URL or server's IP, please notify the Vendor of the change. Once you've received notification that the update has been made, please delete the file key.php from /components/com\_simanswers/