

# ZOINTS

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## Zoints Local Technical Documentation

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### Abstract

Created by forum owners to solve the salient problems we face, Zoints is the Internet's first community-based social network. We're working to ensure that the diverse forums across the Internet continue to flourish in this changing technological and social landscape by providing software solutions that empower the owners of these digital communities. The following technical documentation will describe Zoints Local, what it entails, and how to download, install, configure, and use it.

### General Information

Zoints Local is designed with [Internet Explorer](#) 6+ (IE7), [Firefox](#) 1+, and [Opera](#) 8+ in mind. If you experience problems, please be sure you are using the latest version of your browser. If the problem continues, refer to the [If You Need Help](#) section below.

### Downloading the Software

Download the files as described here: <http://www.vbulletin.org/forum/showthread.php?t=130946>. To prepare for installation, upload the /z/ directory to your website, so that the URL would resemble one of the following three forms:

- forumdomain.com/z/
- sub.forumdomain.com/z/
- forumdomain.com/dir/z/

If you are using mod\_rewrite for pretty URLs, also upload the .htaccess file in the "rewrite" folder to the /z/ directory on your website.

## Installation

To begin installation of Zoints Local, first download the package as described above and upload the necessary files. Then run `/z/install/index.php`.

1. *Zoints Installer*: Click the Install Zoints link to begin the installation process.
2. *Forum Software*: Select your forum software, version, and path. Do not include a trailing (ending) slash in the forum path.
3. *Database Settings*: From here you can choose whether to install in an existing database or a new one. If you check Install Into Forum Database, the database connection information will be loaded from your forum's configuration file. It may also be helpful to specify a table prefix if you are installing into an existing database.
4. *Database Option*: If you check the box here, any already existing Zoints tables will be deleted from the database first. This should only be used if you are re-installing Zoints Local from scratch.
5. *Installing Database*: This screen acts as confirmation to show you a list of tables that are added. Click Proceed once it is done to continue.
6. *Forum Authentication Key*: To verify your forum and that it is a member of Zoints, you must enter your authentication key and token here.
7. *Configure Directories*: In this step, certain necessary directories are tested to ensure that they can be written to. If not, you will be notified, and you must chmod those directories to 777. Optionally, you may specify a directory for the Magpie (RSS feeds) cache.
8. *Configure Settings*: Here you must specify the URL of the /z/ directory (which will usually be filled in automatically; the trailing slash must be included this time), and an e-mail address if you would like to be notified of database errors. If you are running Apache with support for mod\_rewrite, you can enable the pretty URLs option.
9. *Turn on Zoints*: Before you can use Zoints Local, you must first delete the two listed files. After that, click the Turn it On button, and you're ready to go!

Next, in the vBulletin Product Manager, import the `product-zointsprofile-<version>.xml` file from the Profile download package. If you are upgrading from a previous version, be sure to set "Allow Overwrite" to Yes.

## Configuration

Managing all aspects of your Zoints Local installation is an easy process, through the intuitive admin interface. To access it, visit `/z/zadmin.php` and log in using the same username and password information as with your forum account.

## Settings

- *Zoints Profile System Status*: From here, you can choose either "Activated" or "Disabled" to turn off Zoints Local. When the Profile System is disabled, Zoints Local profiles can not be accessed.
- *Allow regular members to edit styles?* If this is set to No, members can not edit any style.
- *Add custom header at the top of every page?* If this is set to yes, you can add your own custom HTML header at the top of every profile.

## Members

- *Find Members*: From here, you can search for members by username or e-mail.

## Pages

### Profile Pages

From here you can manage all of the pages associated with Zoints Profiles. There are three sections:

- *Active by Default*: These pages will be visible by default in the linkbar at the top of a user's profile.
- *Inactive but Available*: These pages will not be listed in the linkbar, but they will still be available if someone knows the URL to the page.
- *Unavailable*: These pages will not be listed in the linkbar or visible at all.

Through the dropdown to the right of each page name, you can edit the page name, style, or block layout, as well as change the status (Active, Inactive, Unavailable) of a page. You can also use the arrows to the left of the Active pages to re-order them.

### Edit Block Layout

On this page, you can change the layout of blocks and availability of blocks on a profile page. Like a page itself, blocks can be either Active (shown on a profile), Inactive (not shown, but still available for user selection), and Disabled (can not be seen by the user at all).

- *My Homepage*: In the section, you can change what column a block is in and its order within that column. The yellow x to the right of a block name will remove that block from Active view. A (L)ocked block can not be disabled by members, while (P)review will show you what the block will look like. (Note that the name of this section will change to reflect the actual name of the page whose block layout you are editing.)
- *More Blocks*: Here you can (P)review Inactive blocks and add them to a column. Disabled blocks must be enabled before you can add them to a page.

### Block Actions

It's easy to create blocks and even share them with others. To learn more, visit the [Block Development](#) forum at [Zoints Dev](#).

- *Upload Block*: Use this interface to import a block either by uploading it from your computer or specifying the URL of a block file online.
- *Add HTML Block*: Create your own custom block by specifying a title, version, author, URL, description, and HTML code.

### Add New Default Page

Here you are able to create a new page (Block or Content). Note that it will be disabled after you create it, and after that you can choose which blocks to put on it and if you want it to be Active.

## Tours

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Tours may serve as a pictorial walkthrough of anything you like. Under Current Tours, click the tour name in the left column to edit it. Below that, you can add a new tour. The Exit URL, which is optional, is where the user will be taken after the tour finishes. If "Show on zhhelp.php" is checked, the tour will be listed on that page.

When you go to the Edit Tour page, you're presented with a screen where you can change the tour title and URL, as well as edit, re-order, and delete pages. On the Edit Page screen, you are prompted for the page title and text (HTML accepted). You can also upload a new image or specify the URL of one. Note that you can only have one image per page through this method, however.

## Profile System

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### Pages

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A profile will be organized into pages, and there are two types of pages:

- *Block Page*: These pages allow the user to work with and use the blocks pre-supplied by Zoints or those created by others.
- *Content Page*: These allow the user to create their custom page with whatever he or she wants.

### Blocks

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Blocks are the basic element of any page. There are three basic categories of blocks that one can use on his or her profile:

- *Zoints Blocks*: These are pre-defined, standard blocks that are common to just about any kind of profile. These include, for example, About Me, Contact Information, My Network, Links, Comments, etc.
- *RSS Feed Blocks*: Like their name would suggest, these blocks will read as RSS feed, display the headlines, and (if the user has enabled the option) display a snippet of the post content as well. RSS Feed blocks can be updated every 30 minutes, or every 1, 2, 12, or 24 hours.
- *Custom Blocks*: These blocks have no default purpose; they accept BBCode to allow the user to put whatever they want in here.

In the "title bar" of each block, you will see three buttons: Group Permissions, Edit This Block, and Disable This Block. Group Permissions provides a simple way to see who can view a block; click the image for a list of network groups. The other buttons are self-explanatory.

### Style Editor

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You can manage all your styles through the Style Settings dropdown at the top of your profile. You change the style of your page as a whole or at the individual block level. For the latter, you will only see the appropriate settings for that block. When you click Edit Style or Create New Style, you are presented with the full Style Editor. If creating a new style, you have the option to create it from scratch or to have the settings pre-filled with those of another skin.

Editing styles is fairly straightforward and you can just work from left to right in the Editor. First, select what you are editing. Second, choose a property (Body, Page, Block Title, etc.). Third, you will change the values. These will be dependent on what item and property you are editing, and will be things like Background, Font Color & Style, Border Color, etc. And finally, the last column presents a color picker. (Note: at this time, only Firefox will display the color picker properly. Internet Explorer and Opera will display a basic list.)

## **If You Need Help**

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Support for Zoints Local is always available in the [Zoints Local](#) forum at the [Zoints Network](#).

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This document was last updated on November 6, 2006. For the latest version, please visit <http://network.zoints.com>.