

Vertex 3 Released With JQuery!

Vertex 3.0 is now available for download! This new version of Vertex brings compatibility for Joomla 3.0, but more importantly the entire framework has been converted from Mootools to JQuery! Please take the time to read this entire post, and we hope that you find it informative and beneficial.

Before we go any further we want to stress that Joomla 3.0 is strictly for developers and advanced users. If you are currently using 2.5, stay right where you are and do not upgrade until at least Joomla 3.5! Unless you are a very experienced user or developer we also recommend still creating even new websites with 2.5 because it is a more stable platform with many more extensions available for it. These are recommendations from Joomla themselves and we agree with them.

The Vertex 3 patch can be applied to any template that is listed as Joomla 3.0 compatible on our compatibility list. If a template is not yet listed as Joomla 3.0 compatible do not apply this patch. Please check the compatibility list frequently as we will be listing more Joomla 3.0 in the weeks to come.

http://www.shape5.com/joomla/product_compatibility/current_joomla_product_compatibility_list.html

Simply install the Joomla 2.5 site shaper, then through the Joomla Update component upgrade to Joomla 3.0. Once you have upgraded you can apply the Vertex 3 patch. So in short, one version of the template, and two versions of the Vertex framework are available. Please be sure to read and follow the entire Vertex 3 upgrade tutorial from here:

http://www.shape5.com/joomla_tutorials.html

Please note that this patch is for new websites only! If you are currently running a Vertex 2 template on Joomla 2.5 we do not recommend upgrading to Joomla 3.0. We will provide a tutorial for upgrading existing sites to Vertex 3 at a later date.

Joomla 3.0 introduces a lot of new technologies, but the main two are Bootstrap and JQuery. Below are our approaches to both of these:

Bootstrap - As explained in our previous blog post consists of both typography elements and a responsive layout. In Vertex 3 we have customized the Bootstrap typography elements to fit nicely within the Vertex style of each Vertex template. While many template developers will only be including Bootstrap into future templates, Vertex 3 will call Bootstrap css files for all Vertex templates, even ones already created! We believe this is absolutely crucial as many of the core Joomla layouts now use the Bootstrap layout and classes, such as the search, contact, login, register and many other pages. Without including Bootstrap these core pages simply would not be stylized. Because Vertex 3 includes Bootstrap this ensures that these pages will be stylized correctly. Additionally, this also means that any third party extensions that are taking advantage of the Bootstrap framework will also be stylized as well and will work with no issues at all!

Jquery - The introduction of JQuery from the core of Joomla 3.0+ is actually what we are most excited about in this new version! Because JQuery is now called from the core of Joomla this means that templates and extensions can now share the javascript library rather than each calling their own files and conflicting with each other! This is very similar to how Joomla has included Mootools from the core for years. The introduction of JQuery from the core was a very welcomed addition to most Joomla developers. Thank you, Joomla team, for your efforts in making this happen!

Because JQuery is now included in the core of Joomla, and Mootools is now labeled by Joomla as a "legacy" script, it is our general assumption that Mootools will soon be deprecated from Joomla altogether. This is where we would like to take a moment to brag about what we've done with this conversion! This conversion was not just about making our products compatible with Joomla 3.0, it was about making them compatible for years to come and versions to come! Many other frameworks and extensions by other developers are still being produced around Mootools, and if Mootools is soon deprecated all of those products will need to be updated, which means more updates for the webmaster of those sites to perform. Instead of simply converting the php of our products to make them compatible with Joomla 3.0 we wanted to take the extra time now to remove it and focus strictly on JQuery within our products, and that is exactly what we have done! The entire Vertex 3 framework is now controlled entirely by JQuery and no Mootools calls at all!

We didn't stop there though, if we're going to convert our framework then we should also convert our modules to JQuery too, right? We have recently released several of our most popular extensions to be compatible with JQuery as well! We currently have seven modules that were once run by Mootools that are now converted to work with JQuery! The best part is, they work with Joomla 2.5 and 3.0! In Joomla 2.5 the modules will work with Mootools, and in Joomla 3.0+ the modules will automatically convert over to JQuery all on their own! This means you can build your 2.5 site now and upgrade to 3.0 or 3.5 with no problems at all! Site shapers listed on our compatibility page that are labeled as being compatible with Joomla 3.0 already include these updated modules.

We hope you enjoy all the hard work that's been put into Vertex 3, and we look forward to the future developments of Joomla 3.0 and beyond!