OpenGlobal PayPal Recurring Payments for VirtueMart

Instruction Manual

Introduction

This Virtuemart 2.x payment plugin is based on the standard PayPal plugin except it allows you to charge recurring payments / subscriptions. You can charge a regular fee, or you can charge a one off setup fee followed by the regular fee. The regular fee can be daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, or can recur over any number of days, weeks, months or years.

Virtuemart vouchers/coupons can be handled and can be applied to either the setup fee or the recurring fee.

Please note, this plugin supports only single vendor configurations.

Installation

The OpenGlobal PayPal Recurring Payments for VirtueMart plugin installs in exactly the same way as any other Joomla! plugin. Simply log into the Joomla! administrative control panel as an Administrator (not "Manager") and go to Extensions > Install/Uninstall.

Upload and install the package by locating the package on your computer and clicking "Upload File & Install".

As long as there are no errors, the plugin is now installed. You will need to go into the Plugin Manager and publish the plugin.

Configuration

If you want to be able to specify a set up fee for some or all of your products, you will need to specify two prices, one for the one off fee and one for the recurring fee. For this you'll need to create a Custom Field. If you only want to use recurring fees, with no setup fees, or trial fees, you can skip this step.

Custom Field Configuration

From Virtuemart, go to Products > Custom Fields and on "New".

Give the Custom Field a field type of "String".

The title of your Custom Field will depend on which method you want to use. There are two options. The first method uses the inbuilt core Virtuemart pricing fields as the one off setup fee and the new Custom Field as the recurring fee. The second method swaps these over.

You need to make an informed decision now, which of these methods you want to use, because it will be very difficult to change this later.

	Method 1	Method 2
Recurring price	Custom field	Virtuemart standard pricing variables
One off price	Virtuemart standard pricing variables	Custom field
Coupons/vouchers will apply to	...the one off set up fee	...the recurring fee

The default Virtuemart template will not display an "Add to Cart" button for any products whose core price is 0.00 (and Virtuemart doesn't handle this well in general). If not all of your products will have a one off price, you will need to either use Method 2, or copy the file /components/com_virtuemart/views/productdetails/tmpl/default.php to /templates/<YourTemplate>/html/com_virtuemart/productdetails/default.php and change the line:

if (!VmConfig::get('use_as_catalog', 0) and !empty($this->product->prices)) {

to:

if (!VmConfig::get('use_as_catalog', 0)) {

If you are using method 1, then it is suggested to call your Custom Field something like "Monthly Price" (or whatever). If you are using method 2, then it is suggested that you call your Custom Field something like "Setup Price".

Make sure the field is published, has no parent, is not a cart attribute, is not admin only, is not a list and is not hidden.

Plugin Configuration

From Virtuemart, go to Shop > Payment Methods and click on "New".

The suggested configuration depends on how you want to use the recurring payments. If you don't want to use the setup fee options, simply choose the "Simple Recurring Payments" setup.

Simple Recurring Payments

From Virtuemart, go to Shop > Payment Methods and click on "New".

Give an appropriate "Payment Name" such as "PayPal Recurring" and choose the "VM – Payment, PayPal Recurring" Payment Method.

Click "Save" (this must be done before you can configure the plugin) to save the plugin without closing it.

Now click on the Configuration tab.

Enter your PayPal account email, and if you have a sandbox for testing purposes, enter your PayPal Sandbox email address. Specify whether you want to use the Sandbox or the Live PayPal server using the "Sandbox" options.

Set your other standard payment options as appropriate. Make sure the Pending, Successful, and Failed transactions are set to the appropriate Virtuemart Order Statuses.

For Payment description, you can either use the order number as the PayPal payment description, or a comma separated list of the ordered product names.

Set the payment frequency and payment frequency unit. This must be the same for all products. Set the Pricing Format to "Core price is recurring, custom field is trial price".

Ignore the last three options.

Advanced Setup – Method 1

Use this method if you want to be able to specify one off setup fees and you want any vouchers/coupons to apply to the set up fee only. This method also allows you to use this payment plugin to take non-recurring payments (ie. Standard one-off payments) for any products with no recurring price configured.

From Virtuemart, go to Shop > Payment Methods and click on "New".

Name your plugin something that indicates the payment frequency as this name will appear in the Checkout as in the following image. The standard Virtuemart core price will be the one off fee so the name needs to reflect the nature of the recurring fee, such as "Monthly Payment".

Name	SKU	Price:	Quantity / Update	Tax Discount	Total
Product ABC	ABC	£50.00	1		£50.00
Product prices result					£50.00
Enter your Coupon code Save					
No shipment selected					
Select shipment					
Monthly Payment (£5.00)					
Total:					£50.00

Choose the "VM – Payment, PayPal Recurring" Payment Method and click "Save" (this must be done before you can configure the plugin) to save the plugin without closing it.

Now click on the Configuration tab.

Enter your PayPal account email, and if you have a sandbox for testing purposes, enter your PayPal Sandbox email address. Specify whether you want to use the Sandbox or the Live PayPal server using the "Sandbox" options.

Set your other standard payment options as appropriate. Make sure the Pending, Successful, and Failed transactions are set to the appropriate Virtuemart Order Statuses.

For Payment description, you can either use the order number as the PayPal payment description, or a comma separated list of the ordered product names.

Set the payment frequency and payment frequency unit. This must be the same for all products. Set the Pricing Format to "Core price is trial, custom field is recurring price".

Select the Custom Field you created previously in the "Custom field price name" box and then enter the duration of the trial period. This is the time after the one off setup fee when the recurring payments will commence. Usually, this will be the same as the recurring payments frequency themselves.

Click "Save & Close".

Advanced Setup – Method 2

Use this method if you want to be able to specify one off setup fees but you want any vouchers/coupons to apply to the recurring fee only.

From Virtuemart, go to Shop > Payment Methods and click on "New".

Name your plugin something that indicates the setup/trial nature as this name will appear in the Checkout as in the following image. The standard Virtuemart core price will be the recurring fee so the name needs to reflect the nature of the one off fee, such as "Setup fee" or "Trial period".

Name	SKU	Price:	Quantity / Update	Tax Discount	Total
Product ABC	ABC	£50.00	1 🔄 🗄		£50.00
Product prices result					£50.00

Enter your Coupon code   **Save**

No shipment selected

Select shipment

Setup Fee (£5.00)

Total:	£50.00

Choose the "VM – Payment, PayPal Recurring" Payment Method and click "Save" (this must be done before you can configure the plugin) to save the plugin without closing it.

Now click on the Configuration tab.

Enter your PayPal account email, and if you have a sandbox for testing purposes, enter your PayPal Sandbox email address. Specify whether you want to use the Sandbox or the Live PayPal server using the "Sandbox" options.

Set your other standard payment options as appropriate. Make sure the Pending, Successful, and Failed transactions are set to the appropriate Virtuemart Order Statuses.

For Payment description, you can either use the order number as the PayPal payment description, or a comma separated list of the ordered product names.

Set the payment frequency and payment frequency unit. This must be the same for all products. Set the Pricing Format to "Core price is recurring, custom field is trial price".

Select the Custom Field you created previously in the "Custom field price name" box and then enter the duration of the trial period. This is the time after the one off setup fee when the recurring payments will commence. Usually, this will be the same as the recurring payments frequency themselves.

Click "Save & Close".