Multisites Single Sign In for domains v1.0

For ▣ 1.5 ▣ 1.6 ▣ 1.7 ▣ 2.5 ▣ 3.0 ▣ 3.1 ▣ 3.2

User's Manual

December 2013

Project :	JMS Multisites	**Customer :**	Edwin2Win
Product :	Multisites SSI Domains	**Written by :**	Edwin CHERONT
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Table of Contents

Revision History

Version	Date	Description
1.0.0	09-oct-2011	Initial version
1.0.1	01-nov-2011	Add free domain name customization
1.0.2	06-nov-2011	Add joomla 1.5 compatibility.
1.0.3	08-nov-2011	Add customization of the plugin
1.0.4	09-nov-2011	Add possibility to have different secret value per domain
1.0.5	19-nov-2011	Add a trouble-shooting chapter to help in the verification of the configuration.
1.0.6	11-aug-2012	Add the fact that it is compatible with joomla 2.5
1.0.8	18-mar-2013	Add joomla 3.0 & 3.1 compatiblity
1.0.10	18-dec-2013	Add the possibility to "ping" both domain.com and www.domain.com in case where suhosin apache module is installed.

1. Introduction

Welcome to the Jms Multi Sites' world.
This user manual describes the "Multisites Single Sign-In for domains" that is a plugin that allows users remain logged when they switch from one site domain to another one.
They are a native Joomla^{tm} 1.5, 1.7, 2.5, 3.0, 3.1 & 3.2 plugins.
We didn't checked the plugin under Joomla 1.6 but we think that it should also be OK.

This plugin can work with Jms Multi Sites or without Jms Multi Sites.
When Jms Multi Sites is present, it is required to have the version 1.2.69 or higher to benefit of all the functionalities and have the list of domains present in JMS.
Otherwise, like when Jms Multi Sites is not present, you have to enter the list of domains manually where the login and logout must be shared.
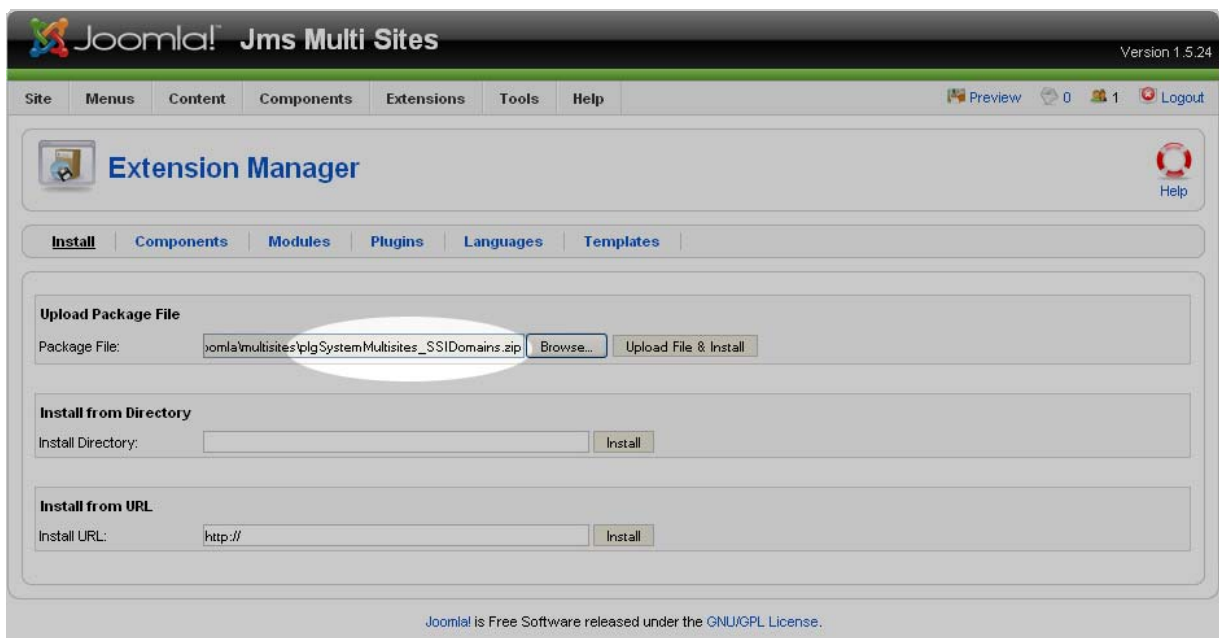
2. Installation

"Multisites Single Sign In for domains" is a zipped file containing the plugins and this documentation:

- **plgSystemMultisites_SSIDomains.zip** : is the Joomla 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.5, 3.0, 3.1 & 3.2 plugin that allow login and logout on the other domains;

The installation consists in unzipping the
"Multisites_SSIDomains_unzip_first_Vxxx.zip" into a temporary directory.
When unzipped, you have the access to the plugin listed above and that can be installed using the standard joomla installation procedure.

2.1. Joomla 1.5 installation

Joomla 1.5 provides a very simple installation interface.
The installation consists in selecting the plgSystemMultisites_SSIDomains.zip file with the browse button and after click on the "Upload File and Install" button (as shown below).

When the installation is completed, you are remembered that this plugins requires the Jms Multisites version 1.2.69 or higher.

2.2. Joomla 1.7, 2.5 installation

Joomla 1.7, joomla 2.5 provides a very simple installation interface.
The installation consists in selecting the plgSystemMultisites_SSIDomains.zip file
with browse button and after click on the "Upload File and Install" button (as
shown below).
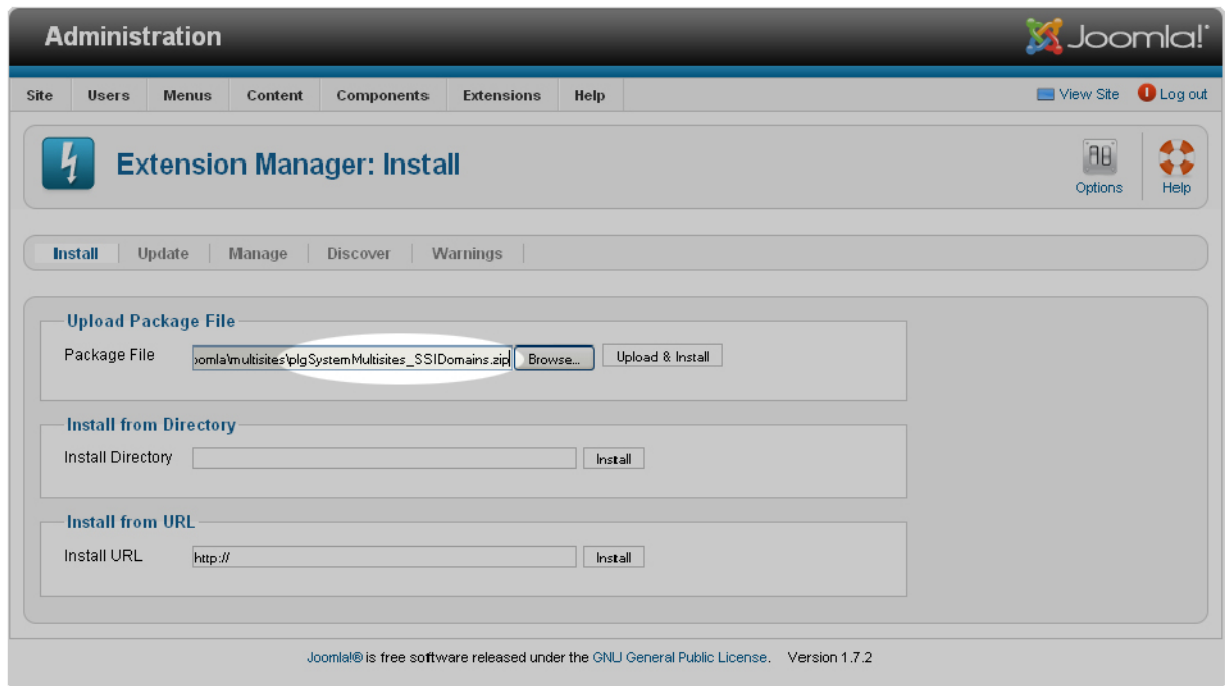
When the installation is completed, you are remembered that this plugins may
requires the Jms Multisites version 1.2.69 or higher to benefit of all the features.
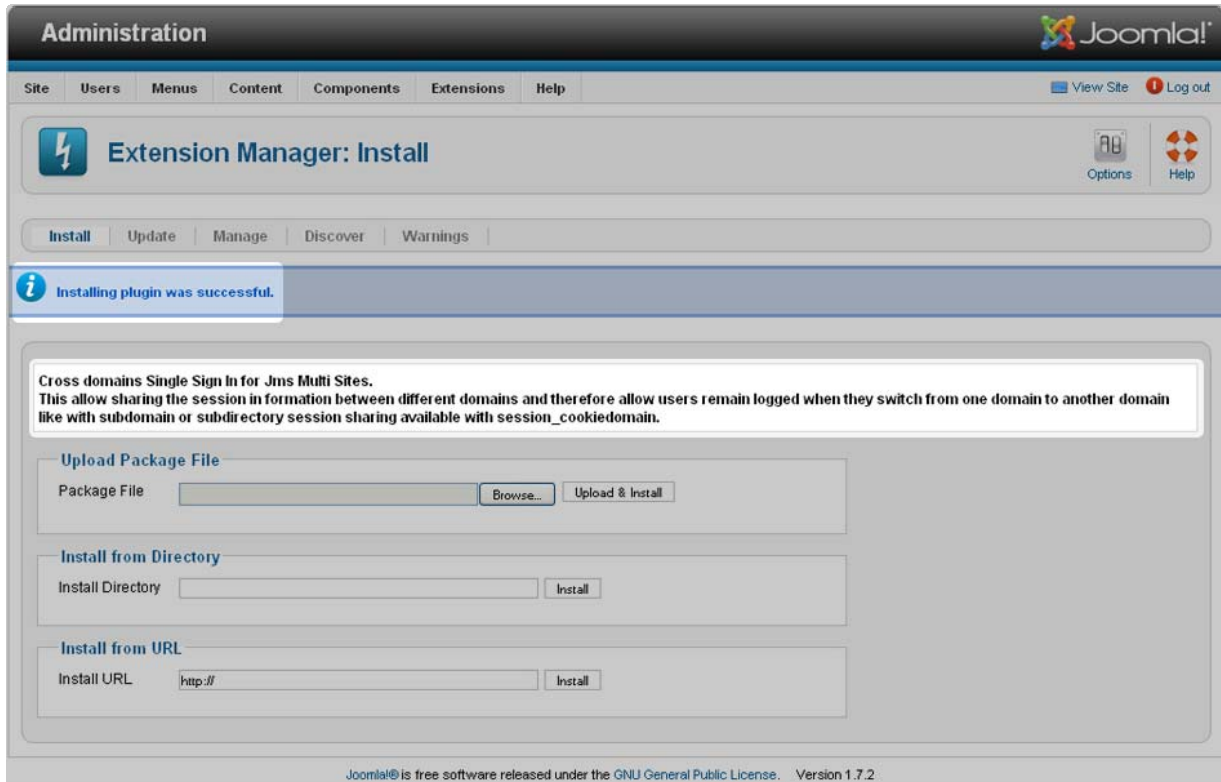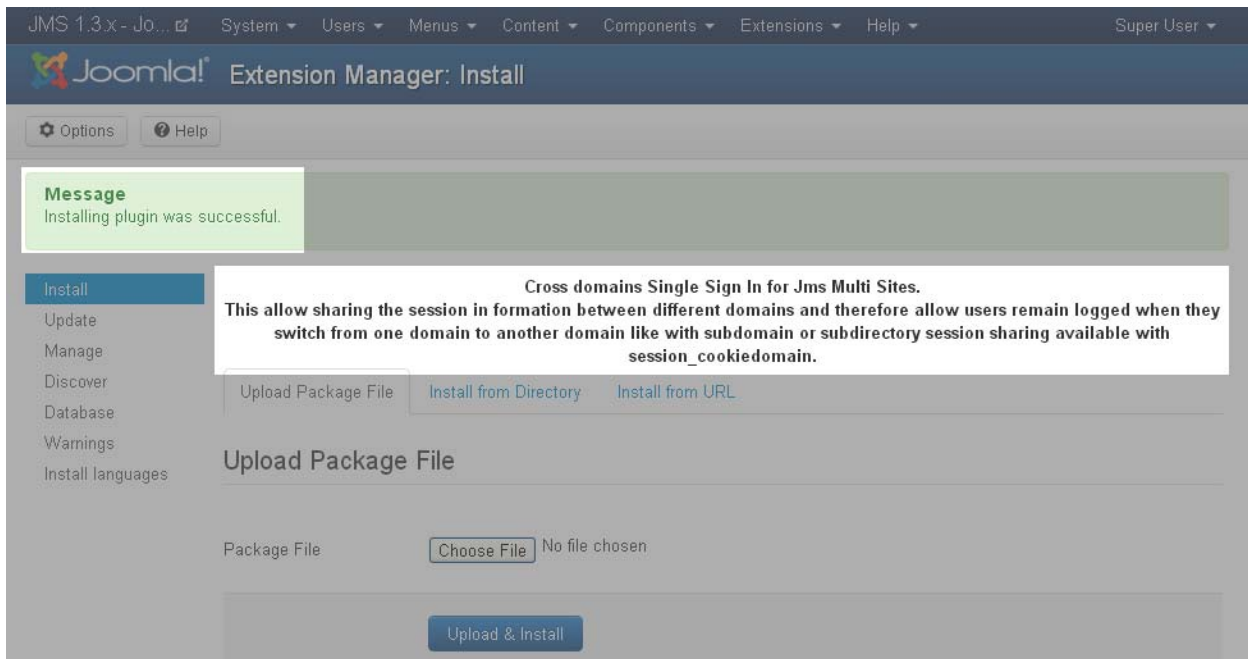
2.3. Joomla 3.0, 3.1 & 3.2 installation

Joomla 3.0, 3.1 and 3.2 provide a very simple installation interface.
The installation consists in selecting the plgSystemMultisites_SSIDomains.zip file with browse button and after click on the "Upload File and Install" button (as shown below).

When the installation is completed, you are remembered that this plugins may requires the Jms Multisites version 1.2.69 or higher to benefit of all the features.

3. Concept

The objective of this plug-in is to the same as apache or IIS when they share the session between sub domains.

The sharing of sessions between sub domains consists in using the "cookie domain" to declare the server to share the session for a specific domain and potentially all its sub domains.

Unfortunately, this native apache and IIS feature does not work with different domain names.

So this plug-in has for objective to add such functionality.

The concept of this plug-in is to add JavaScript that pings the other domains with the necessary information to allow sharing the sessions across domains.

So this plug-in must be installed in all the websites that need to share the session information.

<u>Remark</u>

In the case where Jms Multi Sites is not used, it is required that all the website share the same MySQL user data and session data.

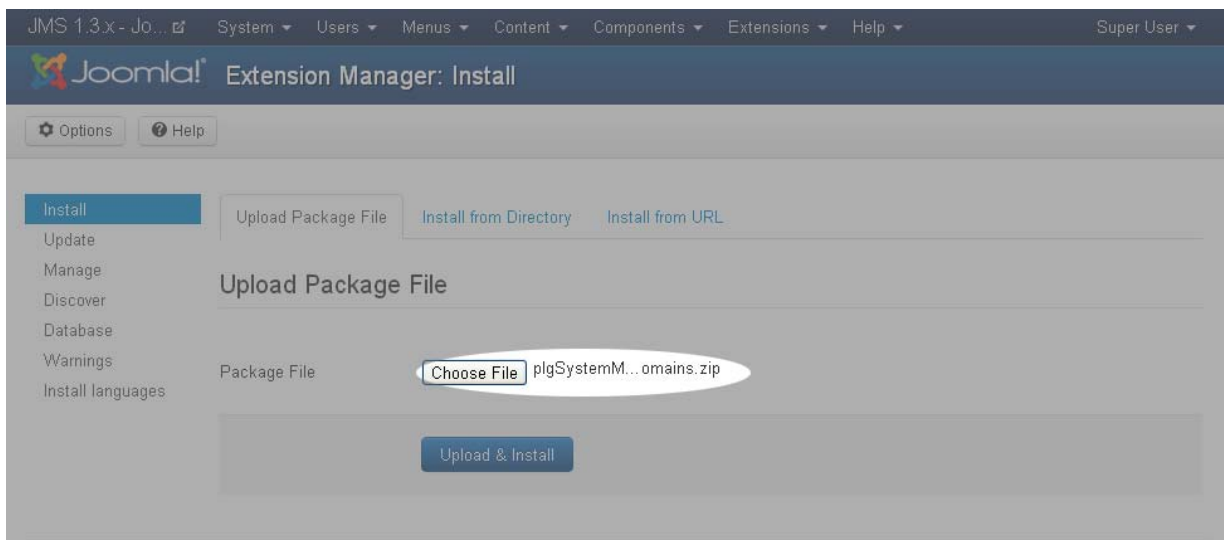In addition, if you want to use the default feature that consists in the verification of the data pinged then it is required that the "configuration.php" contains the same "secret" value for all the website. The secret value is used for the encryption of the data and must be the same on all the website to validate the information. It is possible to disable the security checksum when editing the "multisites_ssidomains.cfg.php" file and putting in comment the "SSI_VERIFY_CHECKSUM" define statement or setting it to "false".
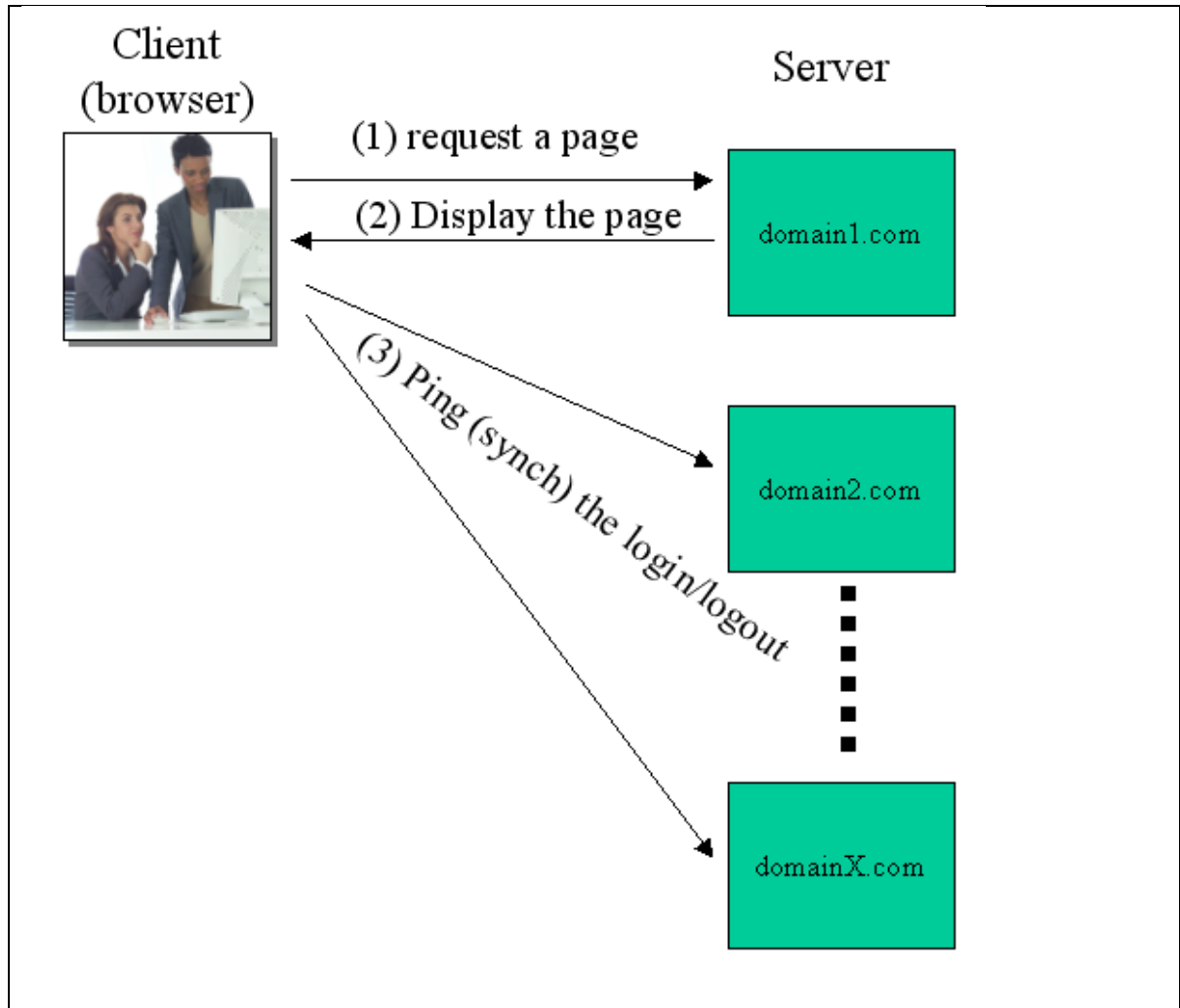
In the figure above, we illustrate the concept of the ping (or synchronization) of the login and logout.

When a user requests a page from his browser (1) then the server return the page that must be displayed (2) in which a script is called on each domain to login or logout depending (3) on the current state of the page displayed.

So that, the other domains are always kept informed of the login information that must be shared (or logout).

4. Configuration of the plugins

The plugin has different settings that allow defining trigger the moment when it is used and also setup the list of domains that must be pinged for the login and logout.

It is possible to active the plugin only for the front-end, back-end or both (front-end and back-end).

In addition, when Jms Multi Sites 1.2.69 or higher is present, the list of domains that are declared in JMS is displayed. This allows manual refine the automatic processing to add domain or exclude domain in the processing.

It is also possible to enter free domain name that can be either selected or excluded depending on the action chosen.
When JMS is not present, it is recommended to use the "selected domains" and here a free list of domains. Otherwise, no domains will be pinged.

Parameters:

- The "**SSI active for the"** : is the parameter that allow trigger when the plugin must be executed.
  The available options are:
  - o Front-end: This is the default value. In this case, the ping is sent to the domains only for the front-end. So when you are connected on the back-end of the website, the "ping" is not sent.
  - o Back-end: Only the back-end is pinged and not the front-end;
  - o Both: Mean that both the back-end and front-end generate the script that ping the domains for the login and logout.
- The "**Action"** : defines the kind of processing that must be performed by the plugin.
  The available options are:
  - o Automatic : This is the default processing that consists in using the list of domain computed by JMS and that correspond to the list of domain that share the joomla users.
    Sometime the list of domain is too large and contain "internal" subdomain URL or subdirectories URL that should be ignored to speedup the processing. In this case, the the "exclude" option that allows excluding some domains from the processing.
  - o Selected : This replace the "automatic" computation by a specific list of domain selected amount a list (when Jms Multi Sites version 1.2.69 or higher is present) or from a specific "free list of domain" provided by the user.
  - o Exclude from automatic: This choice allow using the standard automatic processing and exclude some specific domain or subdomain from the processing. This allow speeding up the processing and avoid "ping" the website that would already synchronize by a "subdomain" cookie domain configuration.
- The "**Domains"** : When Jms Multi Sites 1.2.69 or higher is present this list all the domains present in all the slave site defined in JMS.
  There is no filtering to restrict the list to "sharing" candidate.
  So it pertain to the user to select the list of domain that he wants to "select" or "exclude" depending on the action chosen.
- The "**Free additional domain"** : Is a free area where you can enter the list of domain to process or exclude depending on the action chosen.
  The list of domain can be entered on separated lines or separated with a comma.
  The protocol (http or https) can be entered to force using it when there are several protocol to call.
  So enter "**www.domain.com**" OR "**http://**www.domain.com".
  It is also possible to enter a specific "secret" value per domains.
  In this case, you have to follow the domain name with => secret value.
  ie. "**www.domain.com => MySecretValue"**
  The secret value is the one that is present in the "configuration.php" file of the "domain.com"

- The "**Ping protocol"** : This allow selecting if the "ping" sent to the other domain must be performed with "HTTP" (the default) or if you want to use the "current site" protocol or the protocol that would be present in the domain name. "Current site" can be interesting when using the SSI on an https website and that you want to force that all the calling (pinged) domains are called also with https. This avoid mention that "unsecured" material is called by the website.
- "**Make domain.com and www.domain.com"** : allows to either consider the www.domain.com as synonym of domain.com or as different domain. When they are synonym, only one ping is sent. Otherwise, the ping is sent to both www.domain.com and domain.com. This may be helpful when the suhosin apache module is installed and restrict to share the sessions between www.domain.com and domain.com.

4.1. Pre-requisite to use the SSI Domains plugin without Jms Multi Sites

This plugin can be installed on standalone Joomla that does not use Jms Multi Sites.
This can be the case when a **same website** is accessed via several domains. (ie. You used cPanel "parked domains" to have several domains accessing the same website).

As mentioned in the "concept", the pre-requisite are:
- Share the same MySQL "#__sessions" table;
- Share the same My SQL "#__user*" tables;
- Use the same "secret" value or setup the plugin with the specific "secret" value per domain.

Therefore, when using the same website for several domains (parked domains), this mean that the pre-requisite to share the "users" and "session" information is OK as you share the same DB with same table prefix.
In addition, the "secret" value is also the same as you share the same "configuration.php" file.

Note:
The plugin can be configured with all the domain names including itself because it contains a filtering to avoid ping "itself".

5. Trouble shooting

When the Single Sign In across domains does not seem to work, this might be due to the following reason.

1) Verify that the plugin is installed in each domains or the plugin is not enabled
2) Verify that you have domain automatically computed or selected.
   You can crosscheck the list of domain that are "pinged" when you display the source of a page generated.

```
<script
src="http://www.domain.com/plugins/system/multisites_ssidomains/multisites_ssidomains/login.php?d=….&cs=….."
type="text/javascript"></script>
```

3) Verify the scripts return something.
   You should have a value like "ssidomain_login = true;"
   You can use browser debugger like "firebug" to verify that the script return a value or directly enter the URL in another page of the browser to display the result.
   When the value is "false;" then this mean that the data sent were not correct.
   This might be due to a different "secret" value in the "configuration.php" file. In this case, verify that you have the same "secret" value for each website or that you have entered a specific "secret" value when configuring the domain in the plugin.

If this still not work, try to change the "multisites_ssidomains.cfg.php" configuration to enable the "$ssi_debug = true;" statement and get more detailed information in the returned value of the "login" call.

6. System requirements

The "Multisites SSI for domain" plugins were developed and tested on Joomla 1.5.24, Joomla 1.7.2, joomla 2.5.4, joomla 3.2.0

6.1. Joomla 1.5.x

- MySQL 5.x or higher is required.

- PHP 5.2.x or higher is required.

- The Jms Multisites Version 1.2.69 is recommended but not required.

6.2. Joomla 1.7.x, 2.5.x, 3.0.x, 3.1.x, 3.2.x

- MySQL 5.x or higher is required.

- PHP 5.3 or higher is required.

- The Jms Multisites Version 1.2.69 is recommended but not required.

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