Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by Rowe - 2012/02/16 12:16

Hi All,

We have JMS installed and use it to maintain several sites, I've not had any problems until now.

I can't seem to configure JMS to use and pick up Search engine friendly urls.
I've set the radio buttons in the global configuration for the slave site and also copied in and renamed the .htaccess file in the slave sites route directory and uncommented out the "rewrite_base" line but im still getting the error that its not finding the page.

I've checked my ISP allows for "mod_rewrite" and they do.

Could it not be working because the master site also needs setting up to use SEF URL's?
I realise that each slave site will have a unique htaccess file but they are using dynamic linking back to the general joomla route directory, could this be why its not finding the page.

Its looking for the correct path resolutions,... i.e. (/sef-url-test.html)
Its just not finding the page content.

I'm sure the solution is probably simple and I'm just missing something.

Please can someone help?

regards Nick

ether17@uk2.net

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by edwin2win - 2012/02/16 22:05

Based on your description, I think that the problem is located in the "rewritebase" value.
Try to use the "/" or if you have located your website into a subdirectory, put the path of the subdirectory.

If you have create a slave site with a domain or a subdomain, verify that you correctly assigned you cPanel (or other admin tool) with the correct "document root".

All the values between your server and the slave site definition should be the same.

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by Rowe - 2012/02/16 22:33

Thank you for the response however i'm slightly confused. I thought the rewritebase value didn't need to be changed as long as it was in the main route directory of the slave site?

For example our slave site domain mappings are set to "thisismydomain/joomla"
Obviously he index.php file is located in the route of the Joomla folder (dynamic links point back here to resolve url issues).

So the slave sites are stored in a directory such as :"/joomla/multisites/qp_slave_46"
This is the route of an example slave site.

Here we add the .htaccess file and uncomment the rewrite_base line.
It is my understanding that if this file is in the route of the slave site it should automatically resolve the issue but it does not.

I have tried using the absolute path of the slave site and also with "/joomla"
as in the mapping settings but still no joy, please can someone assist?

regards Nick

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by edwin2win - 2012/02/19 11:34

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You mentioned that the slave site is in
"thisismydomain/joomla"
and later you mentioned that you deployed the slave site in
"/joomla/multisites/qp_slave_46"

So I think that the rewritebase value is probably
/multisites/qp_slave_46

As the entry point of the "main site" is already /joomla
and that you want in fact to use the /multisites/qp_slave_46 as "root" of your slave site and not the / as root (that correspond to joomla)

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by Rowe - 2012/02/20 10:29

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Hi Edwin,

not quite i mentioned that the slave site url domain mappings point back to the joomla route folder (via dynamic linkings). This is to remove the joomla folder references from the slave site urls to keep them clean.

So the master site sits in the route of the joomla folder and all the slave sites are stored within the multisites folder as usual.

I deployed a slave site in the directory "/joomla/multisites/qp_slave_46" however I still get a 404 page and have tested several paths including the one you suggested to get the page to work.

The home page is being picked but when I go to change pages I get a 404 page as if it cant find the content.

regards Nick

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by edwin2win - 2012/02/20 17:27

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Do you have a ".htaccess" in the /joomla directory ?
If YES, try to update the parent ".htaccess" or if you have another one in another parent directory, update the most higher file in the hierarchy.

I think what when you have several ".htaccess", this is the higher one (first one) in the hierarchy that is used.

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by Rowe - 2012/02/20 17:44

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I also thought this thinking if the index.php file is stored in the parent joomla directory then surely and the others are pointing back to it. Then surely the SEF URLS need to be setup there aswel.

However when i set this up it still didnt work. I renamed the htaccess.txt file and uncommented the rewriteBase / value for use in the parent directory. As well as switching on the radio buttons in the global config area of the administration area.

This still did not work, im very confused as to why simply entereing a path into a command value is so difficult.

Is there something else I am missing. I have found youtube video turorials (altho none on JMS slave sites) to resolve this kind of issue and its still not working.

I'm suprised there is not a tutorial video following this process through.

regaqrds Nick

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by edwin2win - 2012/02/20 17:51

The problem of the error 404 is probably due to the htaccess that change the URL before it reach joomla.
So if the update perform by the htaccess is not correct, you receive a wrong page in Joomla that will result by the 404.

I know that configure the SEF is not necessary easy and require sometime a little research to identify the correct parameter.

All I can give you as answer is the one that I have found with my own experience when I had to configure it for a customer.

I think that the problem that you encounter is due to the fact that the slave site is in a subdirectory and that the "rewriteBase" is not correct.

If you can test with a subdomain that is deployed in a specific directory (not a subdirectory of your master), I think this will be easier for you to setup the SEF as normally, the subdomain will be identified by apache as a root directory.

The htaccess and the way that it interpret the URL depends on the URL itself and if the value is incorrectly interpreted, you will reach a wrong page with 404 result.

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by Rowe - 2012/02/20 18:13

Hi Edwin,

thank you for your quick response and I completely agree with your answer. However I've tried all the relevant paths i can think of. It seems a bit over kill to purchase an hour of support for something that should take about 30 seconds to a value.

However ignoring the value for the slave site reference, I also had the same problem getting it to work on the master. Which i followed a youtube tutorial for.

1. edit htaccess.txt file and amend to .htaccess
2. remove commented out command for rewriteBase
3. edit global configuration settings to create SEF URLS
4. wait for a moment and preview pages.

The .htaccess file should automatically resolve to the route and work but it does not.

I have now attached a screenshot showing the folder structure of the slave sites locations.

The master site is simply located in the route Joomla folder.

So from what you can see (and from what i entered as the rewriteBase valuefrom the start) is the value

of the slave site location.

Which is : /multisites/qp_slave_46

So surely this means that the rewrite base value should read
RewriteBase /multisites/qp_slave_46

Or if shown as an absolute add the joomla folder reference at the beginning of the path, but neither work.... http://www.jms2win.com/images/fbfiles/images/screenshot-20120220.jpg

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by edwin2win - 2012/02/21 10:43

The directory structure that you show me with the gp_slave_46 is INCORRECT or your tool does not display the links.

You should have all the directories like in the master site.
Plenty of directories linked to the master.
I don't see them.

I only see the cache directory and the "tmp" directory is also missing.

So either this is your tool that does not display the things or your slave is not correctly created.

If the symbolic link is allowed and that you have deployed the slave site in the {site_dir} then you should have plenty of symbolic links that are not displayed in your screenshot.

You think that the SEF / error 404 just take 30 second but you can see by yourself this is not the case. Myself, I should test case by case and perhaps add a trace in joomla to see the value sent by the htaccess. I can tell you this will not be done in 30 seconds.

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by Rowe - 2012/02/21 11:48

Hi Edwin,

First of all I would like to thank you for your assistance with this issue.

Secondly I believe I have some good news I was able to setup the master site SEF URL's by going into the multisites folder where the slave sites were installed and opening the "config_multisites.php" file.

At the top of this file I found this line of code:

define('MULTISITES_MASTER_ROOT_PATH', '/websites/My ISP/LinuxPackage22/or/ac/le/myurl.com/public_html/joomla');

So I extracted the url from here and entered the value into the master site and it now works. So in theory I should just need to continue to drill down to each slave site now.

Its strange that its reading the path so far back, however at least now I should be able to resolve this, thank you for your time.

Regards Nick

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by edwin2win - 2012/02/22 12:35

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The path that you have in this line correspond to the path that you use when you manage the slave site definition from the master website.

Remember that normally, you should always manage the slave sites from the master.

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by Rowe - 2012/02/22 12:51

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Hi Edwin ,

Agreed , i was a bit confused with this URL however when referencing directly from the master the slave site URL's collapsed to a 404.

The correct way I found involved a few steps which now resolves all paths too

domain/page.html as it should be.

1. Set all settings in global config
2. copy master path url from the config_multisites.php and add the extension for the slave site into the rewriteBase path of your htaccess file.
(making sure the rewriteBase command is not commented out.

3. In the slave sites config file first change permissions to enable write access
4. open the slave site config file and add the url only for the slave site domain in the variable here "var $live_site = 'http://www.yourdomain.co.uk/';"
5. Change the permissions back on the slave sites config to remove write access.

This should now resolve all url issues, it takes about a minute to do and works, I have tested this on several of our domains now managed through JMS now.

The only problem is with the master site as it the the site thats hosted. The url reads mydomain/joomla/index.htm.

I have found a work around for this but thats another topic lol. I hope this is helpful to others. I knew it

would be a simple solution but it wasn't half a pain. Thanks for all your help Edwin.

Regards Nick

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by edwin2win - 2012/02/22 13:29

Thank you for the feedback and your procedure that may help other people.

Just a remark for the other people.
The SEF and rewritebase value can be different for each hosting and the value described here correspond to a specific case that can not be generalized.

In addition, the "live_site" parameter should always be empty except in the case of sh404SEF that require it because they still use a joomla 1.0.x method.

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by joekker - 2012/02/24 22:52

Hi,

It is a working solution

for www domain version (whithout www I get a simple html page - in my case - without the template format)
and by backend creation, as the method cannot be used for automated billable frontend creation sites

To be honest, I dont understand this SEF problem appearing.
I have Joomla 1.5 sites that use the earlier version of multisites and there is no problem with SEF.
What is the problem here? And what is the solution? Everyone has the SEF problem by Joomla 2.5 or it can be a server issue?
A site without SEF is like a site launching in the space.

Thank you for the answer!

Jozsef

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by edwin2win - 2012/02/26 11:44

Do you mean that the problem is introduced with Joomla 2.5 and that it is working under Joomla 1.5 ?

If yes, perhaps this is a problem introduced by joomla itself.
Perhaps you could have a look in the joomla bug tracker to see if something similar is reported

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by joekker - 2012/02/26 12:01

Hi,

No, it is not a Joomla version issue. I found, that it works for me under 1.5 because all of my slavesite root folders are in public_html not in public_html/multisites folder.
If I make it like this, SEF works. If I create my sites in multisites folder than although I defined mysites.com/{site_id} as a list of domain names I get a 404 error. In this case site works properly only if I type into the browser mysite.com/multisites/site_id.

Just now, I found, that all of my problems coming from the "List of domain name" option that I mentioned few lines above. The point is, that really doesn't matter what domain I give (usually I give http://mysite.com/{site_id}) if the given way is not the same like the folder name than the site is 404 for http://mysite.com/{site_id} and works for http://mysite.com/foldername

For example if I give as deployment folder {user_id}{site_prefix} and for domain name http://mysite.com/{site_id} the latter will be broke and http://mysite.com/{user_id}{site_id} will work. If in this case the {site_id} is the folder name the page will work even with SEF.

This the reason why the site doesn't work if it is placed in multisites directory.

I think this not the case how it was planned. I spent days on this issue, until I found this. Very frustrating. Of course it's not a good solution to have all slavesite root folders created in public_html. Neither is a good solution if the {site_alias} must be a folder name, if I want users to create billable sites from the frontend where they provide {site_alias} to have http://mysite.com/{site_alias} working.

I really need help!

Regards

Jozsef

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by Rowe - 2012/02/27 11:22

Hi Jozsef,

If you go into your slave site configuration file you will find a variable called "$live_site". Try entering in your site value for example:

var $live_site = 'http://www.yoursite.com';

Each slave site has its own URL so this value will obviously correspond and change for each one. My slave sites are all in the multi-sites folder.

However, this variable value should (other than for the route/master site) Overwrite the general pathing issues and allow you to resolve the error you are having.

so http:www.hostedsite.com/public_html/joomla/slave_site_id/index.htm should resolve too

http:www.slave_site_id/index.htm.

The reason your sites will have a 404 page is simply because jms/joomla is only going to find the content if it's looking in the right place. Its a standard pathing issue.

The variable value i mentioned is basically an URL overwrite telling JMS where to read the url from.

I hope this helps.

regards Nick

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by joekker - 2012/02/27 13:59

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Hi Nick,

you are kind and I have read your posts before, but if I need manually update the paths, then what is the sense of a frontend created billable website and site_alias?

It means I cannot automate frontend creation, right?

Let's see concrete. My site is weddingof.com, the frontend created site should be weddingof.com/bridenameandfiancename
The couple should find my site, pay, create and go.
Instead of this I should have correct the path after they have created their site, then write a message that you can go on, right?

Regards

Jozsef

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by edwin2win - 2012/02/28 10:52

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If you created paid website creation from the front-end, you normally enabled the "billable website"

functionality and purchased website quota.

In this case, you can add specific script in the menu item definition to perform additional task.
So you can create a specific php script that would update your .htaccess automatically once the website is created.

The specific script is only executed when billable website is enabled and that the website quota is available.

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by joekker - 2012/02/28 11:02

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Hi, no I haven't created paid website creation yet, but that is what I plan. But untill I don't see that it can work I don't buy billable website quota.

So, billable function is disabled. First, I am trying the frontend creation issue.

Then please let me summarize:
If I buy billable website quota, you can provide a specific script that can solve this folder issue, and I can have mydomain.com/{site_id} with mydomain.com/anydirectory working. Correct?

Regards

Jozsef

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by edwin2win - 2012/02/28 11:36

_____

I will not provide you script.
YOU will be able to execute something that you would write in the "On deploy success" present in the menu item.

You could for example write something to
- open the .htaccess file present in the directory deployed
- Read all the content
- Replace the string "rewriteBase ..." but "something new
- Write the result into the .htaccess

If you want to create a specific plugin instead of using the "On deploy success" field, this is also possible.
See user manual chapter 4.2 that describe how to define script for additional specific processing.

If you want that we create a specific plugin for you, this is also possible with our billable support that you can order at
http://www.jms2win.com/en/joomla-multisite?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage_multisites.tpl

&product_id=35&category_id=1

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Re: Configuring A Slave Site To Use SEF URL's

Posted by joekker - 2012/02/28 11:53

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Dear Edwin,

although I know CSS, HTML and some PHP, but I am not a programmer. If I would, I think I wouldn't use CMS systems.

I hope you understand I am not against you, but please help me to understand, that
- Why is it possible to provide a mydomain.com/{site_id} domain with {user_id}{site_prefix} directory name, if it only works when the folder name and the site_id is the same (shortly the path is the same as the domain given)?
- What is the sense of the frontend creation and the billable site, if users cannot automatically get their mysite.com/{site_alias} website?

I bought my second subscription by you because of these possibilitites.

Regards

Jozsef

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