

INSTALLATION

Copy the "blognc" or "nc_blog" directory to the "modules" directory in your PrestaShop store, then upload it to your server using an FTP client like FileZilla. The module should then appear in the "Content Management" section on the "Modules" tab. Click the "Install" button to install the module.

There should then be a new "Blog" tab with "Posts", "Categories", "Tags", "Blocks", "Import" and "Preferences" sub-tabs at the end of your tab bar in the Back Office. There should also be a "Recent Posts" block at the bottom of your website homepage with a sample post and a link to the blog.

INSTRUCTIONS

This module lets you add a WordPress-style news blog to your PrestaShop website. It supports blog categories, tags and posts with Disqus comments, and various blocks including blog search, archive, calendar, authors, categories and tags. It also supports friendly URLs without the use of numbers.

In blog listings, up to four blog posts will be displayed per line, depending on the available space. Each post has a cover image, title, date, and a summary, if entered. If configured, the author and comment count may also be displayed.

In the Back Office, use the "Blog > Categories" tab to create categories and subcategories as needed, use the "Blog > Tags" tab to create tags, and then use the "Blog > Posts" tab to add new posts and link them to categories and tags.

Use the "Blog > Blocks" tab to add, remove and change the order of blocks and the "Blog > Preferences" tab to change the many blog settings.

Use the "Blog > Import" sub-tab to quickly add multiple blocks, categories, tags and posts. There are also export buttons on the "Posts", "Categories", "Tags" and "Blocks" sub-tabs that can be used to generate CSV files to transfer data between PrestaShop installations.

"BLOG > CATEGORIES" TAB

By default, the module installs a "News" blog category. There is also an "Uncategorized" blog category for posts that haven't been categorized yet. Go to the "Blog > Categories" tab to manage blog categories. The main categories are listed with the name, friendly URL and whether the category is enabled. There is also a "Position" column that can be used to change the order of categories. Just drag upward or downward to move the category up or down.

Click the "View" button on the right side of a blog category to view subcategories. To edit the "Uncategorized" blog category, click the gray "Edit" button in the top-right corner of the list. To edit any other category, click the down arrow next to the "View" button and then click the "Edit" menu item. To delete a category, click the "Delete" menu item. To add a new blog category, click the "Add new category" button in the top-right corner.

When adding a new blog category, enter the category name in each language. The friendly URL will automatically be generated but can be modified if needed. There are also options to enter a description, which appears between the title and list of pages on the category page, and a meta title, meta description and meta keywords for search engine optimization.

Finally, there's an option to set which customer groups can access the category. This can be used, for example, to advertise special offers that only existing customers can see. This feature could also be used with a subscription module to sell premium content.

NOTE: The friendly URL must be unique, so if there are multiple categories with the same name, enter a different friendly URL for each. Only blog categories with associated posts are listed in the blog. As soon as a post is associated with an empty category, it will automatically appear in the blog.

When finished, click the "Save" button to save the blog category.

"BLOG > TAGS" TAB

By default, the module installs "hello" and "world" blog tags in each language. Go to the "Blog > Tags" tab to manage blog tags. Each tag is listed by language along with the number of associated posts. To edit a tag, click the "Edit" button on the right side of the blog tag. To delete a tag, click the down arrow next to the "Edit" button and then click the "Delete" menu item. This will delete the tag and remove any post associations. To add a new blog tag, click the "Add new tag" button.

When adding a new blog tag, enter the tag name and then choose the corresponding language. The friendly URL will automatically be generated but can be modified if needed. There is also a posts section that can be used to quickly add or remove the tag from many posts without needing to edit them individually.

NOTE: The friendly URL must be unique, so if there are multiple tags in the same language with the same name, enter a different friendly URL for each.

When finished, click the "Save" button to save the blog tag.

"BLOG > POSTS" TAB

By default, the module installs a "Hello, World!" post with a sample image and content to show what is possible. The sample post includes formatted text and widget code. If you've also purchased and installed our "Image/Video Gallery" module, you will see the widget code is replaced with the sample gallery block on your website.

Go to the "Blog > Posts" tab to manage blog posts. All posts are listed including the cover image, title, friendly URL, author, category and icons that indicate the status of the post and whether it is a sticky post.

There is also a "Filter by category" option that can be used to list only posts associated with the specified category. To edit a post, click the "Edit" button on the right side of the blog post. To delete a post, click the arrow next to the "Edit" button and then click the "Delete" menu item. There are also options on this menu to preview a blog post before publishing or duplicate a blog post. To add a new blog post, click the "Add new post" button in the top-right corner.

When adding a new blog post, enter the title and content in each language. The friendly URL will automatically be generated but can be modified if needed. An optional summary can also be added, which is displayed at the bottom of the post when it is displayed in a list. There are also options to enter a meta title, meta description and meta keywords for search engine optimization.

Next, the cover image can be specified by clicking the "Add file" button and then selecting the image. The module automatically generates thumbnail images of varying sizes to minimize bandwidth usage, which can be configured near the bottom of the "Blog > Preferences" tab.

The "Category association" section can be used to specify the categories where the post is listed. Tick as many categories as required, though only one category can be chosen as the default category. More categories can be added on the "Blog > Categories" tab.

The "Tags" section can be used to specify the tags where the post is listed. When entering the tags for each language, enter a comma to finish a tag. Click the "x" button on a tag to delete it. Note that tags can be added to multiple posts at once using the "Blog > Tags" tab.

The "Status" section is used to specify whether the post is a draft, pending review, or published. A post marked as a "Draft" is unfinished. A post marked as "Pending review" is finished, but needs to be proofread, preferably by another author. A post marked as "Published" is ready to be published at the specified "Publish date". Note that posts marked as "Draft" or "Pending review" will not be published, even after the publish date.

The "Sticky" option is used to specify whether the post sticks to the top of listings. Posts that are sticky will remain at the top of listings even when newer posts are published. Only a newer post that is also sticky can appear before it. Sticky posts are useful for important posts and for blog posts that are advertisements.

Finally, the "Publish date" field specifies when the post should appear on the website. When left blank, the publish date is set to the current date and time. It is also possible to set the publish date to a future date, such as when a promotion begins, or prepare posts beforehand and schedule them to be published at random times during weekends or holidays to create the appearance that the website is always active. It's also possible to write posts with past dates, so it looks like the blog has been around longer than it has.

When finished, click the "Save" button to save the blog post.

"BLOG > BLOCKS" TAB

By default, the module installs a "Recent Posts" block at the bottom of your website homepage and blocks including blog search, archive, calendar, authors, categories and tags at the bottom of the left column. Go to the "Blog > Blocks" tab to manage blog blocks. All blocks are listed including the type, hook, maximum number of items, and whether the block is displayed.

There is also a "Filter by hook" option that can be used to list only the blocks in the specified hook. When filtering by a hook, the order of blocks can be changed by dragging up and down from the "Position" column.

To edit a block, click the "Edit" button on the right side of the block. To delete a block, click the arrow next to the "Edit" button and then click the "Delete" menu item. To add a new block, click the "Add new block" button in the top-right corner. When adding a block, choose the type of block and the hook to place it in. If the type of block is "Posts", enter the maximum number of posts to displayed. Otherwise, leave it as the default value. Choose whether to display the block and then click the "Save" button.

To move the blog blocks above other module blocks, go to the "Modules & Services > Position" tab, scroll down to the "displayLeftColumn", "displayRightColumn" or "displayHome" sections, and then drag the "News Blog" module upward. To display the blog blocks only on blog pages, click the "Edit" button on the "News Blog", scroll down to the "Front modules controller" section of the "Exceptions", select the items from "module-blognc-tag" to "module-blognc-search", and then click the "Save" button.

To choose on which blog pages to display the left and right columns, go to the "Preferences > Themes" tab, click the "Advanced Settings" button, scroll down to the items starting with "module-blognc", and then click on a tick or cross to toggle whether the left or right column is displayed.

"BLOG > IMPORT" TAB

The "Blog > Import" tab can be used to quickly add multiple blocks, categories, posts and tags.

Upload images to the "modules/blognc/upload" directory and then write "../upload/your_image.jpg" in the "Image URL" column of the CSV file. There are sample CSV files in the "modules/blognc/docs/csv_import" directory.

There are also "Export" buttons on the "Blocks", "Categories", "Posts" and "Tags" sub-tabs that can be used to generate CSV files to transfer data between PrestaShop installations. For more information about importing CSV files, click the "Help" button on in the toolbar at the top of the "Blog > Import" tab.

"BLOG > PREFERENCES" TAB

The "Blog > Preferences" tab has many settings. In the "General" section, the "Welcome text" field can be used to add text to the top of the blog homepage between the title and blog post list. The "Posts per page" is the maximum number of posts that can be displayed on a single page. If this is exceeded, pagination is added to navigate pages. The "Author information" option can be used set whether to display author of posts and whether the employee or shop is the author. The "Show breadcrumb bar" option can be changed to "No" to hide the breadcrumb bar inside the blog.

The "Show social buttons" option chooses whether to display social buttons below the title on blog posts to make it easy to share the blog posts on social media. In the "Social buttons" section, there are options to choose which social media websites to display including Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Google+.

In the "Comments" section, there is the option to add Disqus comments to your blog. Sign up to Disqus at <https://disqus.com/admin/create/> and register a shortname, then enter it in the "Disqus forum shortname" field. You can then manage all the blog comments at <https://disqus.com/home/forum/<shortname>/>.

In the "Search" section, there are options to choose the sort order of search results and which parts of blog posts to search. By default, "Order by" is set to "Relevance", which sorts search results from those with the most string matches to those with the least. The "Newest post first" option simply sorts search results from newest to oldest posts without taking the number of matches into consideration.

By default, "Title search" is set to "All keywords", and the "Summary search" and "Content search" are set to "Exact string". Each of these can be set to "Don't search" to exclude them from search results, "All keywords" to require every search keyword to match, "Any keywords" to only require one of the search keywords to match, or "Exact string" to require the entire search string to match.

In the "Images" section, it is possible to set the size of the thumbnails and full-sized images. By default, images are cropped so they are all the same dimensions. Images can be cropped from the top, bottom, center, left or right. When cropping is disabled, images are resized to have the same height while maintaining the original aspect ratio. After changing any of these options, click the "Regenerate thumbnails" button to update the thumbnails.

In the "Custom CSS" section, it is possible to modify the CSS used by the blog. There is a "Revert" button that can be used to return to the default CSS at any time.