

EXT: WEC Flash Player

Extension Key: **wec_flashplayer**

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Support Community: <http://www.webempoweredchurch.com/support/community/>

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- a GNU/GPL CMS/Framework available from www.typo3.com

Table of Contents

EXT: WEC Flash Player	1	Configuration	5
Introduction	1	Video Only Parameters.....	5
What does it do?.....	1	Audio Only Parameters.....	6
What is the Web-Empowered Church?.....	1	Common Parameters.....	6
Screenshots.....	2	Setting Fields Dynamically.....	6
Users manual	2	Calling the Flash Player via HTML.....	7
Installation.....	2	Known problems	7
Video Settings.....	3	Extension.....	7
Audio Settings.....	4	Adobe Flash Player.....	7
Constant Editor.....	4	To-Do list	7
Administration	5	Changelog	7

Introduction

What does it do?

The Web-Empowered Church Flash Player Extension is used to produce a streaming media player for MP3 audio or Flash FLV files containing both audio and video. Currently, video must be at a resolution of 320 x 240 or less.

The Flash movies contain all of the functionality for controlling the media; TYPO3 is only used to provide a means for entering data and passing that data to Flash. This data passing is accomplished by embedding FlashVars in the HTML of a pages.

What is the Web-Empowered Church?

The Web-Empowered Church (WEC) is a ministry of the Foundation for Evangelism (www.evangelize.org). The mission of WEC is to innovatively apply WEB technology to EMPOWER the worldwide CHURCH for ministry.

WEC will help churches around the world expand evangelism, discipleship, and care through the innovative application of Internet technology. WEC web-based tools and training will help make church ministries more efficient and effective, and will extend ministry impact to a world in need of Jesus (See www.WebEmpoweredChurch.org/Jesus). We want to fuel a worldwide movement using the Internet to point the world to Jesus Christ, to grow disciples, and to care for those in need. Our desire is to use the web to empower the Church to become a truly 24 hours per day 7 days per week ministry that is not constrained by walls or distance or time.

If you would like to find out more about WEC or our tools, or support us in any way, please go to our website for users: www.webempoweredchurch.com and for software/web developers: www.webempoweredchurch.org.

Screenshots

Output for Flash Player - Video



switch to Low (Dialup)

Output for Flash Player - Audio



Users manual

Installation












The WEC Flash Player extension can be installed through the typical TYPO3 installation process using the Extension Manager. It is highly recommended that it is installed as a local extension in the typo3conf folder however. A local install is assumed in the default Typoscript configuration of file paths and these values will have to be changed before running the extension from a different location.

Once installed, adding the audio or video version of the Flash Player plugin is as simple as adding a frontend plugin to the page where you wish for the data to appear. If the plugin is added through the new content wizard, special rows will be displayed for adding the Flash Player plugins, as shown below.

After selecting the version of the Flash Player Plugin that you want to appear on your page, you will be presented with a FlexForm-based page for entering data about the audio or video.

The sections immediately below provide a brief overview of the fields that are available, while the Configuration section of this document provides a more detailed explanation of each field.

Plugins

-  **Better login-box**
Adds a login box to the page (more advanced than the default)
-  **Searchbox**
Adds a Searchbox to the page.
-  **News**
Versatile news system for TYPO3
-  **Flash Presentation - Video**
Flash-based slide presentation with synchronized video track
-  **Flash Presentation - Audio**
Flash-based slide presentation with synchronized audio track
-  **WEC Devotional Journal**
Add a devotional journal.
-  **Web-Empowered Church Buttons**
Select from several buttons indicating involvement with the Web-Empowered Church ministry.
-  **Flash Player - Video**
Flash-based media player for FLV video.
-  **Flash Player - Audio**
Flash-based media player for MP3 video.
-  **Guestbook**
Adds a guestbook to the page
-  **Calendar**
A Calendar designed to fit the needs of a community, FE and BE entries
-  **CHC Forum**
Adds the CHC forum plugin

Video Settings

If the Flash Player - Video plugin was selected, a FlexForm for Video Settings will be displayed as shown below. This tab lets you specify the title of the player, as well as actual files to play for low bandwidth and high bandwidth users.

Each field in the FlexForm must be filled in for the extension to work properly. If you try to save an incomplete form, a yellow exclamation mark will appear to indicate the incomplete data. The error could be anywhere in the FlexForm and is not necessarily in the field next to the exclamation mark.

Plugin:
Select a plugin to insert.


Flash Player - Video

Plugin Options:
FlexForm Configuration of Plugins



DEF:
Video Settings

Class/Video Title


Intro Message

Background Image 

JPG JPEG
 no file selected

 Low Bandwidth Video 

FLV
 no file selected

High Bandwidth Video 

FLV
 no file selected

Audio Settings

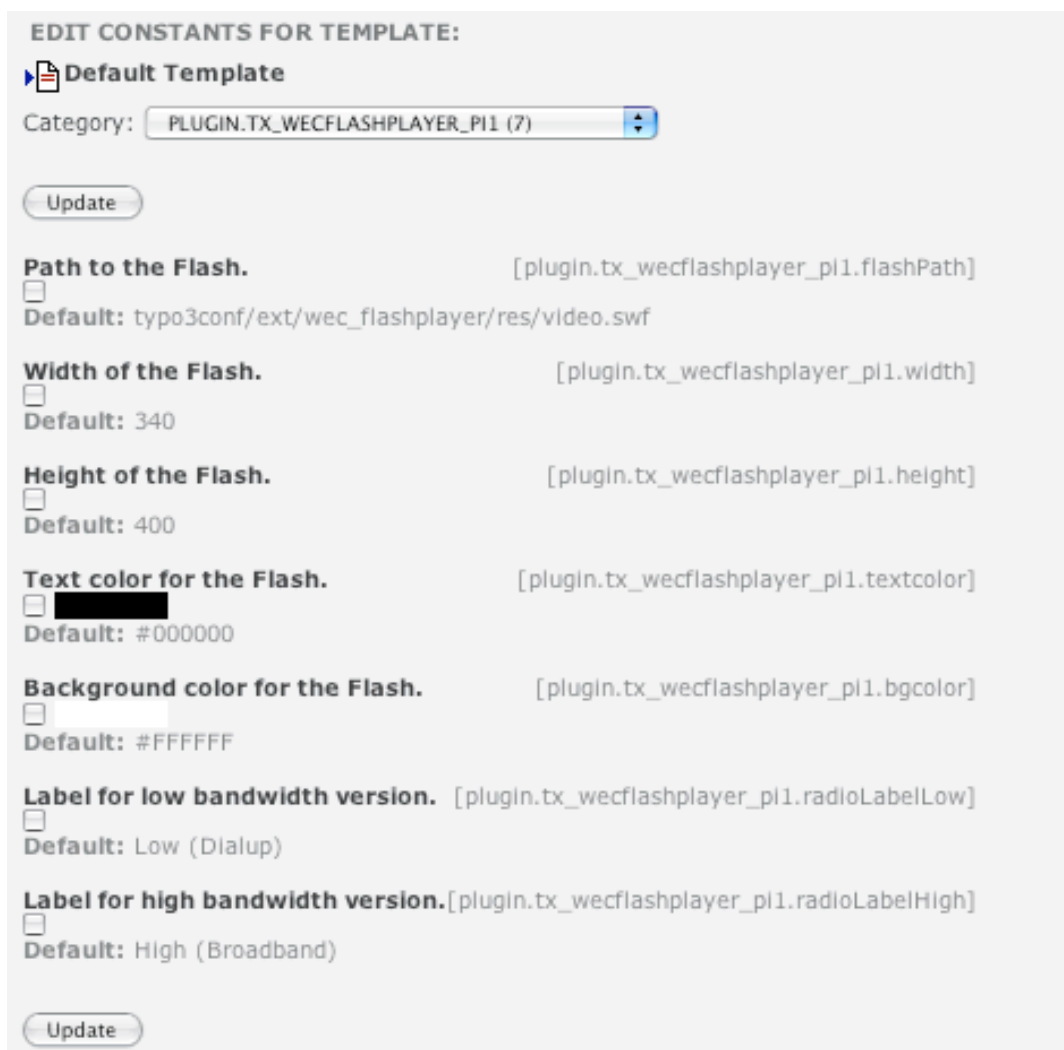
If the Flash Player – Audio plugin was selected, a FlexForm for Audio Settings will be displayed as shown below. This will let you select an MP3 file to be played and choose whether it should begin playing as soon as the player loads.



The screenshot shows a FlexForm interface for the 'Flash Player – Audio' plugin. At the top, there is a 'Plugin:' section with a dropdown menu set to 'Flash Player – Audio'. Below this is the 'Plugin Options:' section, which includes a 'DEF:' dropdown set to 'Audio Settings'. The main area contains an 'Audio File' field with a file selection button and a 'Choose File' button. Below the file field, it indicates 'MP3' and 'no file selected'. There is also an 'Autoplay?' checkbox which is currently unchecked.

Constant Editor

In addition to the FlexForm-based values, there are several additional variables that may need to be changed on rare occasions. These variables, such as movie size, path, background color, etc., are all available from the Constant Editor within TYPO3's Web->Template module.



The screenshot shows the 'EDIT CONSTANTS FOR TEMPLATE:' interface. It is set to the 'Default Template' and the category is 'PLUGIN.TX_WECFLASHPLAYER_PI1 (7)'. There are two 'Update' buttons. The constants are listed as follows:

- Path to the Flash.** [plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.flashPath]
 Default: typo3conf/ext/wec_flashplayer/res/video.swf
- Width of the Flash.** [plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.width]
 Default: 340
- Height of the Flash.** [plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.height]
 Default: 400
- Text color for the Flash.** [plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.textcolor]
 [Color Picker] Default: #000000
- Background color for the Flash.** [plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.bgcolor]
 [Color Picker] Default: #FFFFFF
- Label for low bandwidth version.** [plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.radioLabelLow]
 Default: Low (Dialup)
- Label for high bandwidth version.** [plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.radioLabelHigh]
 Default: High (Broadband)

Administration

No special administration is required for this extension.

Configuration

Both the audio and video versions of the Flash Player plugin have been developed with the goal of being highly configurable while still being easy to use. The Users Manual section above described several different places where data may be entered. The goal was to put the values that will change most often in a FlexForm, while those that will only change occasionally are placed in the Constant Editor so that their values can be shared across multiple instances of the Flash Player plugin. In addition to these locations, there are several variables that will only change on very rare occasions. These variables are only available in the Typoscript setup.

In an effort to enhance the customizability of the extension, however, all variables can be set from Typoscript directly, if you prefer. Any FlexForm values that have been set will override the assigned Typoscript values, but giving every variable a Typoscript object allows the plugin to be used in a very dynamic environment. Likewise, the available Typoscript values and their FlexForm counterparts are in no way hardcoded into the extension output. If you need to modify the Flash source files to meet a specific requirement of your site, simply add a new Typoscript object and its value will automatically be passed through as part of the FlashVars output.

Video Only Parameters

Each video parameter can be found within plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1

Example: plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.videobase.value = fileadmin/video/

Field Name	Description	Type	Notes
videobase	Directory that video files are stored in.	TEXT	Stored in Typoscript Setup. Value defaults to the uploads folder (uploads/tx_wecflashplayer) since uploaded files will be placed here. Path can be relative to TYPO3 root (uploads/tx_wecflashplayer) or absolute (http://www.mysite.com/uploads/tx_wecflashplayer).
videolow	Filename of low bandwidth video.	TEXT	Stored in FlexForm or Typoscript Setup. File is expected to be in the FLV video format and must be at a resolution of 320 x 240 or less.
videohigh	Filename of high bandwidth video.	TEXT	Stored in FlexForm or Typoscript Setup File is expected to be in the FLV video format and must be at a resolution of 320 x 240 or less.
radioLabelLow	Radio button label for low bandwidth option.	TEXT	Stored in Constant Editor or Typoscript Setup. Value defaults to "Load (Dialup)".
radioLabelHigh	Radio button label for high bandwidth option.	TEXT	Stored in Constant Editor or Typoscript Setup. Value defaults to "High (Broadband)".
textcolor	Text Color.	TEXT	Stored in Constant Editor or Typoscript Setup. Default value is 000000 (black). Note that there is no pound sign before the color definition.
classtitle	Title of class / video.	TEXT	Stored in FlexForm or Typoscript Setup.
intromessage	A welcome or intro/directions message.	TEXT	Stored in FlexForm or Typoscript Setup.
bwbase	Directory that bandwidth testing image is stored in.	TEXT	Stored in Typoscript setup. Default value is res folder within the extension directory (typo3conf/ext/wec_flashplayer/res).
bwimage	Filename of bandwidth checker image.	TEXT	Stored in Typoscript Setup.
bgbase	Directory that background image is stored in.	TEXT	Stored in FlexForm, Typoscript Setup. Value defaults to the uploads folder (uploads/tx_wecflashplayer) since uploaded files will be placed here.
bgimage	Filename of background image.	TEXT	Stored in FlexForm or Typoscript Setup.

Audio Only Parameters

Each audio parameter can be found within plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi2

Example: plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi2.audiobase.value = fileadmin/audio/

Field Name	Description	Type	Notes
audiobase	Directory that audio files are stored in.	TEXT	Stored in Typoscript Setup. Value defaults to the uploads folder (uploads/tx_wecflashpplayer) since uploaded files will be placed here.
audiofile	Filename of MP3 audio file.	TEXT	Stored in FlexForm or Typoscript Setup. File is expected to be in the MP3 audio format.
autoplay	Start playback of audio automatically.	TEXT	Stored in FlexForm or Typoscript Setup. Vault defaults to false.

Common Parameters

Common parameters can be found in both plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1 and plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi2, depending on whether you want to set the parameter for video (pi1) or audio (pi2)

Example: plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.flashPath.value = fileadmin/flash_video fla
plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi2.flashPath.value = fileadmin/flash_audio fla

Field Name	Description	Type	Notes
flashPath	Path to Flash movie to be loaded.	TEXT	Stored in Constant Editor. Value may be an absolute or relative URL. Defaults to typo3con/ext/wec_flashplayer/fla/video_chart_final.swf for video version or typo3conf/ext/wec_flashplayer/fla/mp3_chart_final.swf for audio version. This value is only used in the HTML markup and is not passed to the Flash movie.
width	Width of the the Flash movie.	TEXT	Stored in Constant Editor. Defaults to 340 for video version or 120 for audio version. This value is only used in the HTML markup and is not passed to the Flash movie.
height	Height of the Flash movie.	TEXT	Stored in Constant Editor. Defaults to 400 for video version or 20 for audio version. This value is only used in the HTML markup and is not passed to the Flash movie. This value is only used in the HTML markup and is not passed to the Flash movie.
bgcolor	Background color for the Flash movie.	TEXT	Stored in Constant Editor. Defaults to #FFFFFF (white). This value is only used in the HTML markup and is not passed to the Flash movie.
wmode	Windowless mode for the Flash movie.	TEXT	The value of wmode can be opaque, transparent, or window. Opaque is the default behavior and is allows the Flash movie to be layered below DHTML menus. This value is only used in the HTML markup and is not passed to the Flash movie.
baseurl	Base URL that all media files are read from.	UNDEFINED	By default, the baseurl is not manually defined and is instead automatically set to the main TYPO3 path. To use a custom URL, set up a TEXT cObject with the base URL that media should be loaded from.

Setting Fields Dynamically

As alluded to above, it is possible to set extension parameters dynamically through Typoscript. By default, the title of a

Flash player is assigned in the Frontend Plugin's FlexForm. In this default configuration, the following Typoscript setup is defined.

```
plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.classtitle = TEXT
plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.classtitle.value =
```

If you'd like to set a static value in Typoscript, simple change the second line.

```
plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.classtitle.value = My Class Title
```

More interesting is a dynamic value. The following example will set the class title to the title of the current page.

```
plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.classtitle = TEXT
plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi1.classtitle.field = title
```

For each of these example, a value in the FlexForm will take precedence over any special Typoscript configuration you may perform.

It is also possible to set up the entire extension via Typoscript, following similar concepts as shown above. The following Typoscript would render the MP3 player and force it to play mysong.mp3 automatically.

```
page.10 < plugin.tx_wecflashplayer_pi2
page.10.audiofile.value = mysong.mp3
page.10.autoplay.value = true
```

Calling the Flash Player via HTML

In addition to the dynamic, Typoscript-based configurations, it is also possible to use the Flash player within a static HTML page. The disadvantage of using static HTML is that many of the default values provided by TYPO3 must now be manually entered so it is recommended that you use Typoscript whenever possible. An example of using the Flash Audio Player from a static HTML context is shown below.

```
<div class="tx-wecflashplayer-pi2">
  <embed src="typo3conf/ext/wec_flashplayer/res/mp3.swf"
    flashvars="audiobase=uploads/tx_wecflashplayer&audiofile=mysong_02.mp3&autoplay=1&baseurl=http://typo3.dev/&lastloaded=true" width="120" height="20" bgcolor="#FFFFFF" quality="high"
    pluginspage="http://www.macromedia.com/go/getflashplayer"
    type="application/x-shockwave-flash">
  </embed>
</div>
```

There are a couple things worth noting in this example. There are several values (src, width, height, bgcolor, etc) that are not passed along to the Flash movie and are only used in generating the HTML. In the table of parameters above, the special variables are noted. Aside from these special cases, all parameters are passed to the Flash movie inside the flashvars attribute. The parameter names used in the HTML are identical to those described in the table above. Parameters and their values are separated by an equal sign while parameter / value pairs are separated by an ampersand.

In addition to those parameters described in the table above, there are two parameters that are always included automatically by TYPO3: baseurl and lastloaded. When generating the Flash movie from static HTML, you'll need to set lastloaded to true and baseurl to the root URL of your site.

Known problems

Extension

FLV videos are currently limited to a resolution of 320 x 240 or less.

Adobe Flash Player

The Adobe Flash Player plugin has a known issue with MP3 Playback where certain pairings of bitrate and frequency result in playback at double speed. Please see <http://loudblog.de/forum/viewtopic.php?id=46> for a list of bitrates and frequencies that are known to work.

To-Do list

- None

Changelog

Version	Changes
1.3.1	Updated to the latest SWFObject library.

Version	Changes
	Added default settings for wmode to allow layering below menus.
	Fixed bug when quotes were used in class title or intro message.
1.3.0	Corrected typo that prevented background color from being set.
	Updated Javascript inclusion to prevent Out of Memory errors in IE.
	Added possibility to set baseurl from Typoscript, rather than having it automatically generated.
1.2.1	Updated require statements for SWFObject to avoid open_basedir issues.
1.2.0	Updated Flash rendering to use SWFObject from http://blog.deconcept.com/swfobject/ for better IE support.
	Removed unused videoLowEC and videoHighEC.
1.1.0	Added autoplay support for Flash Audio.
	Removed stray debug statements and cleaned up comments.
	Added Flash capability to append slashes when missing in paths provided by FlashVars.
	Added more detail to extension manual or Typoscript and HTML configurations.
1.0.1	Removed .fla files to keep extension size smaller.
1.0.0	Initial release.