



## IndexNow

Plugin for Joomla! 3, 4 & 5

This manual documents **version 6.x** of the Joomla! extension.

<https://www.aimy-extensions.com/joomla/indexnow.html>

# 1 Introduction

**Aimy IndexNow** automatically informs search engines when new content becomes available on your website or updates have been published - instantly. To achieve this, the plugin uses the **IndexNow protocol** to submit notifications.

## 2 Supported Joomla! Versions

**Aimy IndexNow** supports Joomla!...

- 3.9 and up,
- 4.0 and up,
- 5.0 and up.

## 3 Installation

The installation of the extension follows the common Joomla! procedures.

In case you are not familiar with these procedures, proceed as follows:

1. Download the extension's ZIP archive
2. Log into your Joomla! backend as "Super User"
3. From the menu, choose "*System* → "*Install*" → "*Extensions*"
4. Click on the "*Or browse for file*" button and select the ZIP archive

The extension's archive will be uploaded and installed afterwards.

For further information, please have a look at the Joomla! documentation "*Installing an Extension*".

**NOTE:** All plugins are disabled by Joomla! when installed for the first time. To enable Aimy IndexNow, proceed and configure the plugin.

## 4 Configuration

After a fresh installation, click on the "*Configure plugin now*" button on the installation report page.

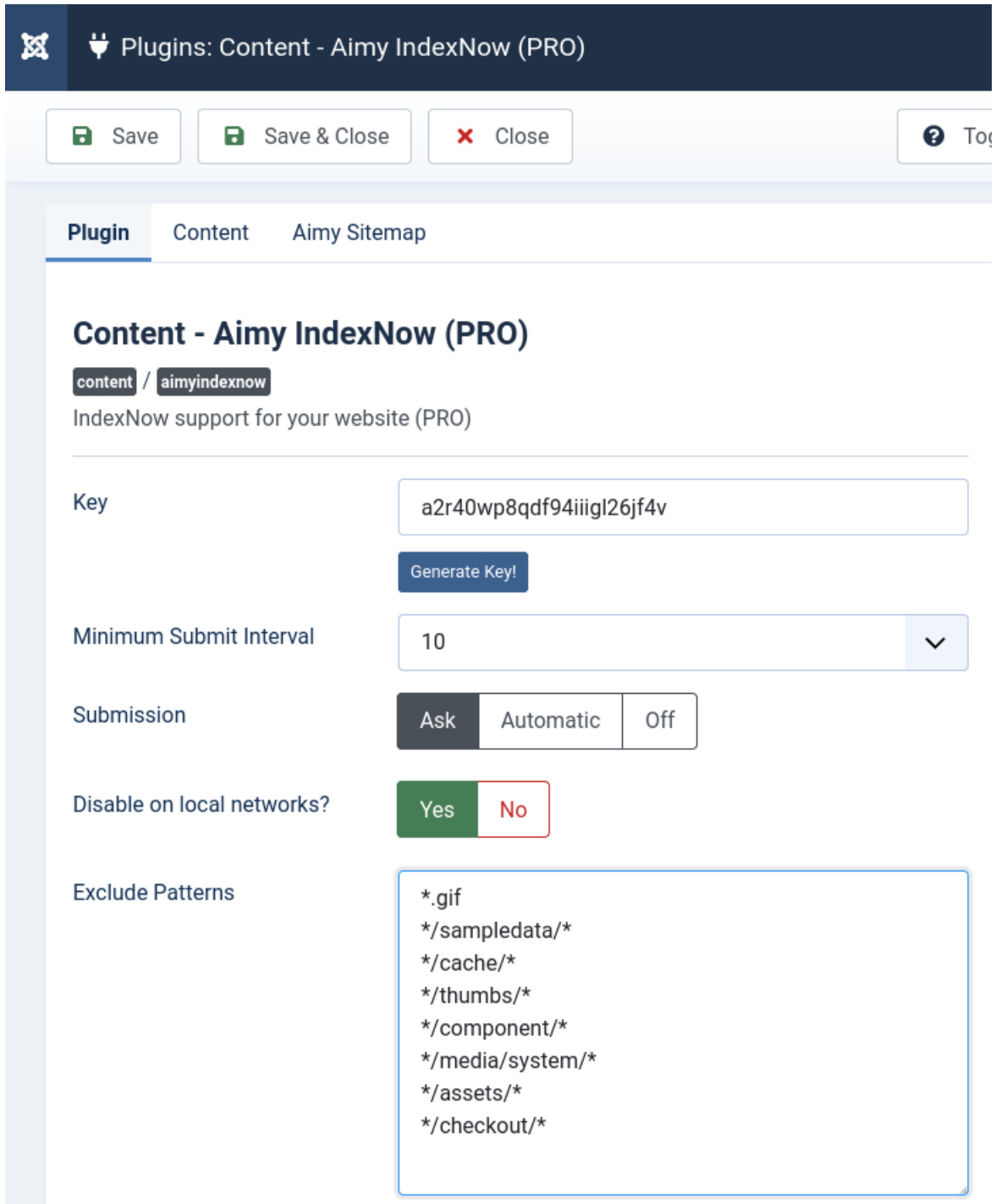
At any time, you can configure the Aimy IndexNow plugin using Joomla!'s Plugin Manager by choosing "*System*" → "*Manage*" → "*Plugins*". Locate the plugin and click on its name in the "*Plugin Name*" column of the plugin listing.

### 4.1 Enabling the Plugin

In order to use the plugin's functionality, you have to enable it first.

To do so, change the plugin's status from "*Disabled*" to "*Enabled*" and apply your changes by clicking on either the "*Save*" or "*Save & Close*" button in the toolbar.

## 4.2 Plugin Options



The screenshot shows the configuration window for the 'Content - Aimy IndexNow (PRO)' plugin. At the top, there are buttons for 'Save', 'Save & Close', and 'Close'. Below these are tabs for 'Plugin', 'Content', and 'Aimy Sitemap'. The main title is 'Content - Aimy IndexNow (PRO)' with sub-titles 'content / aimyindexnow' and 'IndexNow support for your website (PRO)'. The configuration options include: 'Key' (a2r40wp8qdf94iiigl26jf4v) with a 'Generate Key!' button; 'Minimum Submit Interval' (10); 'Submission' (Ask, Automatic, Off); 'Disable on local networks?' (Yes, No); and 'Exclude Patterns' (a list of file and directory patterns).

Aimy IndexNow's functionality can be suited to your needs using the following configuration options:

### Key

You can enter your already existent key, enter a new one or use the "Generate Key!" button to let a new one be generated for you.

**Aimy IndexNow** will use this key when communicating with the IndexNow API and make sure an appropriate **keyfile** will be created on your webspace before the first submission.

**HINT:** If you create a **new key**, please keep in mind to use only digits ([0-9]), letters ([a-z] & [A-Z]) and dashes (-). A key must contain between 8 and 128 characters. For details,

please have a look at the documentation available at <https://www.indexnow.org/documentation>.

### Minimum Submit Interval

To avoid submitting the same URL to the IndexNow API too often, you can specify the minimum submit interval in minutes.

### Submission

Choose whether **Aimy IndexNow** should ask before each submission or if submissions should be send automatically.

The PRO version allows submissions to be turned off ("Off"), which is mostly intended to be used with Aimy Sitemap. Have a look at <https://www.aimy-sitemap.com/how-to-use-aimy-sitemap-together-with-aimy-indexnow.html> for details.

### Disable on Local Networks?

Choose whether submissions should be disabled on local networks. We recommend to keep the default setting of Yes.

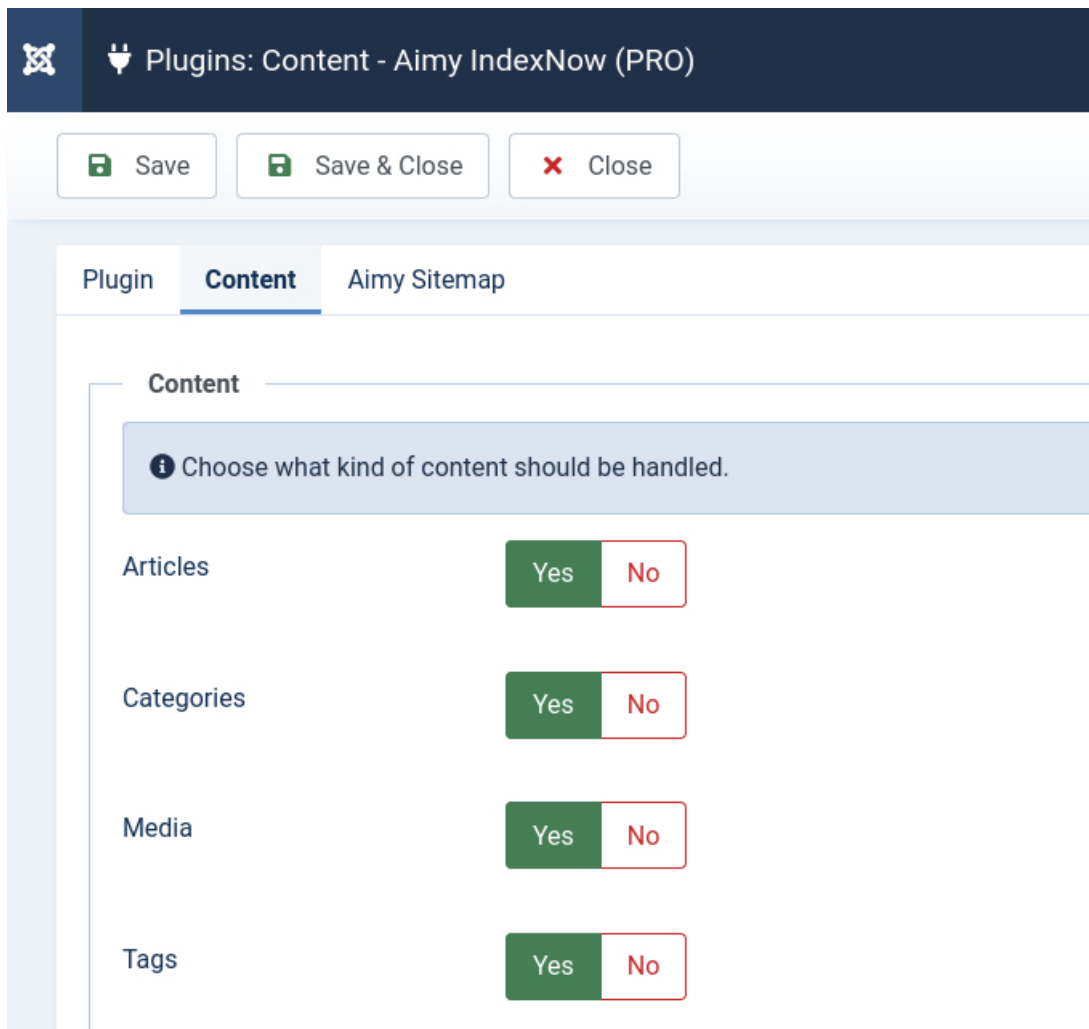
### Exclude Patterns

You may specify wildcard patterns, one on each line, that should be excluded. These patterns are case-sensitive. Regular expressions are not supported.

If an URL matches on of the patterns, no notification will be send for it.

Examples:

- \*.gif will exclude any file having the extension ".gif".
- /legal/ will exclude all URLs starting with /legal/, for example
  - "/legal/imprint.html" or
  - "/legal/terms-of-use.html".



**Aimy IndexNow PRO** allows to configure which types of content should be handled. The free of charge version does support Joomla! articles.

### **Article**

Joomla! articles (`com_content`)

### **Categories (PRO feature)**

Joomla! categories (`com_categories`)

### **Media (PRO feature)**

Media files handled by Joomla! (`com_media`)

### **Tags (PRO feature)**

Joomla! Tags (`com_tags`)

AimyIndexNow PRO allows to pass detected content changes to [Aimy Sitemap](#):

The screenshot shows a software interface with a dark blue header bar containing a logo and the text 'Plugins: Content - Aimy IndexNow (PRO)'. Below the header is a toolbar with buttons for 'Save', 'Save & Close', 'Close', and 'Help'. The main content area has a tabbed interface with 'Plugin', 'Content', and 'Aimy Sitemap' tabs. The 'Aimy Sitemap' tab is active and displays a configuration panel. At the top of this panel is a blue information box with an 'i' icon and the text: 'If you installed Aimy Sitemap on your website Aimy IndexNow PRO can automatically pass information on content changes to it.' Below this are two settings, each with a 'Yes'/'No' toggle and a descriptive text. The first setting is 'Pass information to Aimy Sitemap?' with a 'Yes' button selected and the text: 'Should URLs, that are submitted to indexnow.org also be passed to Aimy Sitemap's Index?'. The second setting is 'Write XML Sitemap?' with a 'No' button selected and the text: 'Should the XML Sitemap be written afterwards? (For explanation: In Aimy Sitemap's Index you can make settings for URLs like the priority or the change frequency. If you do not want to change the data, you can directly write the XML Sitemap).'

### Pass Information to Aimy Sitemap (PRO Feature)

If enabled, all URLs submitted to `indexnow.org` will be passed to Aimy Sitemap's index as well.

### Write XML Sitemap (PRO Feature)

If enabled, the website's XML sitemap will be automatically written after the URL has been passed to Aimy Sitemap's index.

## 5 Notes and Limitations

### 5.1 When will a Notification be submitted?

In order to submit a notification to [indexnow.org](http://indexnow.org), **Aimy IndexNow** requires...

1. **support** for the component that manages the content to be **enabled**,
2. the content to be both **published** and **public**,
3. the content to be **saved** at least once and
4. that a notification has not already been submitted within the amount of minutes set as **Minimum Submit Interval**.

**Aimy IndexNow** will submit a notification if new content is **created**, existent content is **updated** or content **changes its state** so that it becomes available to the public. Currently no notifications will be submitted if content is **deleted** or becomes **unavailable**.

### 5.2 Notification Message Support in `com_media`

In contrast to Joomla! 3, `com_media` does not show **notification messages** sent by **Aimy IndexNow** in **Joomla! 4** anymore. However, as of v4.0 notification messages are queued and will be shown as soon as you visit a component that triggers content plugins in your website's Joomla! backend, i.e. `com_content` ("Articles").

If you have chosen "Ask" as mode for "Submission", you will be able to trigger submissions to [indexnow.org](http://indexnow.org) then.

### 5.3 Will I receive a Notification Message after a Submission?

You will receive a **notification message** within your Joomla! backend...

1. after each **submission** and
2. if a submission has been **canceled** because the same URL has been submitted shortly (see **Minimum Submit Interval** option)

Of course you will be notified if a error should occur as well.

### 5.4 Supported Search Engines

**Aimy IndexNow** submits all notifications to the official **indexnow.org** endpoint. The submission will then be **immediately shared** with all other IndexNow-enabled search engines (like Bing or Yandex).

Have a look at the IndexNow FAQ for details: <https://www.indexnow.org/faq>.

### 5.5 Removal of Keyfiles

**Aimy IndexNow** will not remove any keyfile (i.e. upon deinstallation). Just remove it manually from the root directory of your website if you should not need it anymore.

## 5.6 "Start Publishing" Feature of Joomla! Articles

**Aimy IndexNow** does only submit a notification if an article is currently published, not if it will be published automatically in the future. You will need to save it once more afterwards in order to trigger a notification to be submitted.

## 5.7 Batch Processing of Articles

On batch processing of articles the technical events required are not triggered by Joomla! - as a result, **Aimy IndexNow** will not be executed in this case.

## 5.8 Content Saving in Frame

**Aimy IndexNow** will not submit notifications when content is saved in a frame ("component view", i.e. if a new article is created while creating a new menu item). That's because the final URL of the page may not be available at this point.

## 5.9 Joomla! Installation within a Subdirectory

If you installed Joomla! within a subdirectory, the keyfile generated by **Aimy IndexNow** won't be retrieved by the search engines for verification purposes as the **keyfile** must be placed in a website's **root directory**.

There are a couple of approaches to work around this limitation:

1. Manually create a keyfile in the root directory of your website and enter your key in the plugin's options.

Have a look at the IndexNow protocol's documentation for details: <https://www.indexnow.org/documentation>

2. Copy the file created by **Aimy IndexNow** within Joomla!'s root directory after the first notification to the website's root directory - its filename equals your key, suffixed with `.txt`.
3. Create a rewrite rule within the **root directory's** `.htaccess` file.

```
<IfModule mod_rewrite.c>
  RewriteEngine On
  RewriteRule ^/(?(your-key\.txt))$ /your-subdirectory/$1 [L]
</IfModule>
```

The latter approach will only work if your website is served by the Apache webserver.



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