

PowerPlugs

Absolute News Manager

PowerPlugs For Absolute News Manager Vol. 1
Developed by XIGLA SOFTWARE
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OVERVIEW

One of the powerful features of our premier content management software tool Absolute News Manager, is its support for Plugins. Plugins, are programs developed to further enhance the functionality of your Absolute News Manager System.

Powerplugs Vol 1. is our first collection of Plugins for Absolute News Manager, this collection includes the following tools :

- **Rate & Review** : Allow your users to rate and review your and articles. By using this plug-in, your website visitors will be able to comment and rate your content in an easy way and provide important feedback to your content administrators.
- **Article Ranking** : This plug-in works in conjunction with the Rate & Review plug-in. With this tool , you'll quickly know the ranking of your articles according to their reviews. Check your Top 100 articles, the most commented, the most viewed and your worst rated content.
- **News Ticker Collection** : A fantastic plug-in for displaying your headlines instead of using zones. News tickers are perfect for syndicating and displaying your headlines in small spaces.
- **Quick Navigation Bar** : A Drop-down list of your available zones and subzones that will let your content readers to easily jump across your categories and get the latest article for each zone.

Installing these Plugins is extremely easy, just follow the guidelines and your Plugins will be working with your Absolute News Manager in no time.

We hope you'll enjoy using these Plugins with your Absolute News Manager in many ways. Please e-mail us with any questions you may have regarding these tools, including any wishes you have for future Plugins. We're committed to making the Absolute News Manager the best news content management system on the web.

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INSTALLING THE PLUGINS

To install the Plugins all you need to do, is to unzip the contents of the powerplugins1.zip file into your Absolute News Manager root directory.

Next, you'll need to update your Absolute News Manager database.

For SQL Server Users

1. From the SQL Server Query analyzer, select the Absolute News Manager database and load and execute the ppl1.sql file found on the Powerplugins database.zip file
2. The SQL Server database will be modified and prepared to work with the provided Plugins.
3. If you are upgrading from a previous Powerplugins install, the content will be automatically updated.

Registering the Plugins from within Absolute News Manager

Some of the Plugins need to be registered from within Absolute News Manager in order to allow access to their administrative features.

Login to your Absolute News Manager using your administrator username and password and click on the "Plugins" button from the top menu.

For each plug-in you'll need to click on the "Register Plug-In" button and fill the following fields (as explained later) and then click on the register-Plugin button.

- ❑ Plug-In Name : the name of the plug-in to register
- ❑ Plug-In file : the plug-in file to execute in order to access to the plug-in administration.
- ❑ Description : an optional description for each plug-in

Below is the information required for each plug-in in order to register it from within the Absolute News manager system :

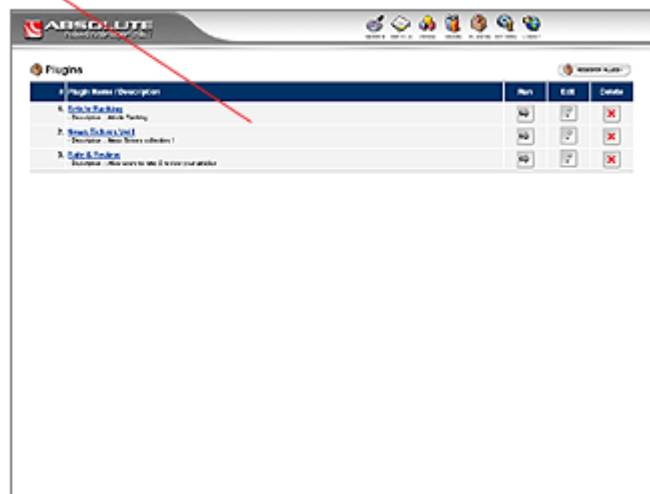
1. **Rate & Review Plug in :**
 - Plug-In Name : Rate & Review
 - Plug-In File : PPL1reviewsearch.aspx
 - Description : Allow users to rate & review the content

2. **News Tickers Vol I :**
 - Plug-In Name : News Tickers Vol I
 - Plug-In File : PPL1TickersVol1.aspx
 - Description : News Tickers collection 1

3. **Article Ranking :**
 - Plug-in Name : Article Ranking
 - Plug-In File : PPL1Ranking.aspx
 - Description : Article Ranking

Once finished, your Plug-in list should include these 3 Plugins :

Plugins Registered



Clicking on each of the Plugins names (or its run button) will take you to the administration of each tool.

Note:
 The plugin's files should be located at the root of your Absolute News Manager directory. The scripts to modify the database have been specially developed to work with the original version of the Absolute News Manager database otherwise they won't work as expected.

The Quick Navigation Bar Plug-In does not need to be registered from within the Absolute News Manager Plugins administration screen.

The Rate & Review Plug-In

This plug-in will let your website visitors to easily rate and review your articles. To enable the plug-in, you'll need to copy and paste the following line of code on each of your Absolute News Manager Templates.

For HTML templates :

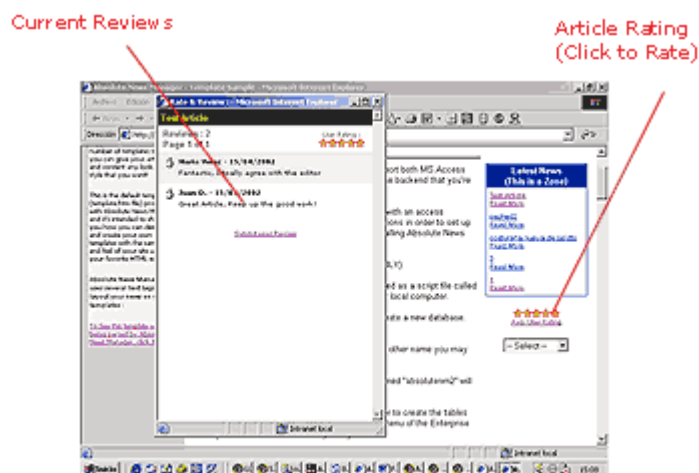
```
<script language="JavaScript"
src=" ../PPL1Review.asp?a=$$ARTICLEID$$">
</script>
```

For ASP.NET templates :

```
<script language="JavaScript"
src=" ../PPL1Review.asp?a=<%=anm.articleid%>">
</script>
```

Note that in the SRC attribute, you can type the full URL to the PPL1Review file located on your Absolute News Manager directory.

Later, when a user requests an article that uses the template where this code was pasted, the current rating of the article will be displayed with a link to rate the article. Clicking on that link will open a pop-up window where the user will be able to type his comments about the article and read other comments.

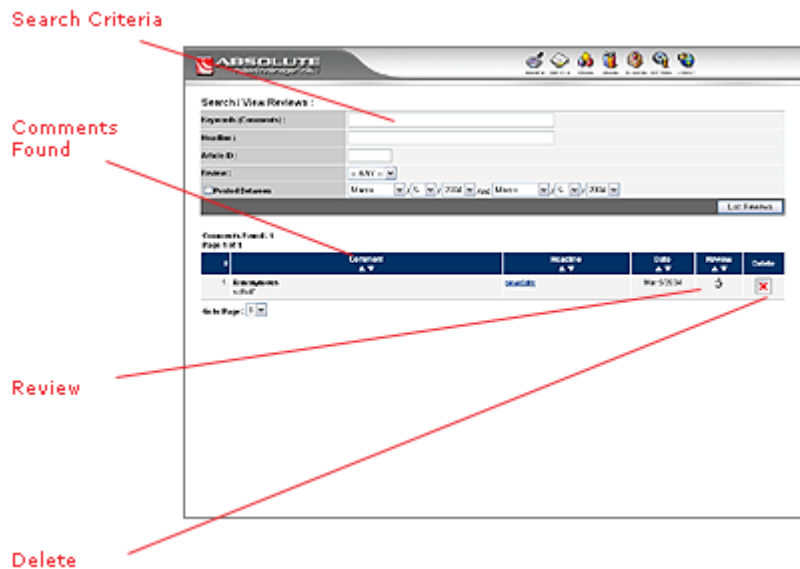


As an administrator, you can log into Absolute News Manager to read your articles reviews. You can easily access the rate & review plug-in by selecting the Rate & Review plug-in from the plugins screen.

A search screen will be shown which lets you browse through your articles reviews by typing any search criteria :

- ❑ **Keywords** : display comments containing the provided keyword.
- ❑ **Headline** : display comments from the articles containing the typed keyword on its headline.
- ❑ **Article ID** : display comments from the article that has the provided ID.
- ❑ **Review** : display the comments that have been rated as positive and / or negative.
- ❑ **Posted Between** : display comments being posted during the period selected.

By clicking on the search button ,all the comments that match your criteria will be displayed. From this window, you can delete the comments that you don't find appropriate.



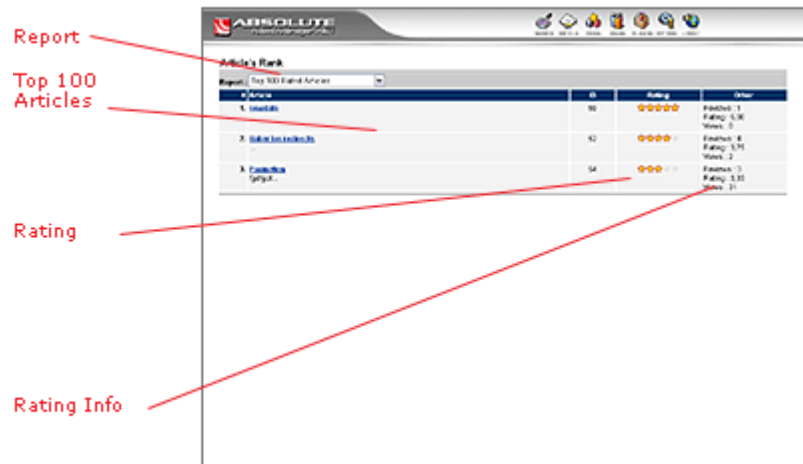
The Article Ranking PlugIn

This plugin is an additional feature of the Rate & review plugin. This tool allows you to know which are your most requested, commented and Top 100 articles.

To access the plug-in, simply click on the Article Ranking link from the Plugins screen or select the plug-in from the top menu list box.

A list with 100 articles (according to the selected criteria will be shown). You can get the following lists :

- **Top 100 Rated Articles** : articles with the highest rating (depending on the number of comments and reviews)
- **Top 100 Most Talked About** : the articles that have been commented the most.
- **Top 100 Worst rated Articles** : articles that have been very low rated.
- **Top 100 Most Viewed Articles** : articles that have been accessed the most (and have reviews).



The Quick Navigation Bar

This plug-in displays a drop-down list box listing all of the zones with current published articles. With this navigation bar, the users can easily jump to the latest article published on each zone.

This Quick Navigation bar can be added to any page of your site by just copying and pasting the following HTML code :

```
<script language="JavaScript"
src="http://www.yoursite.com/absolutenm/PPL1QuickNav.asp">
</script>
```

Note that in the SRC attribute, you can type the full URL to the PPL1QuickNav.asp file located on your Absolute News Manager directory

Make sure to replace <http://www.yoursite.com/absolutenm> with the full URL to your Absolute News Manager application.

Newsticker Collection Vol I

The newstickers are a fantastic way of displaying your news instead of using zones as they use too little space on your web pages. You can display your latest headlines using 3 different news tickers :

- **News ticker** : Lists your headlines with a cool typewriter effect.
- **History Ticker** : Zone scrolling marquee.
- **Horizontal Ticker** : A horizontal news ticker, very popular among news syndication sites.

The newstickers work exactly as your Absolute News Manager zones. Just copy and paste the provided code on the pages where you want the newsticker to show up and that's all.

When you access the newsticker collection through the Plugins screen. You'll see that the system provides you with the code for displaying a news ticker for each of your zones.

By selecting the type of news ticker from the drop-down list. You'll have a code generated depending on the news ticker that you want to use.

All of the news tickers resize to the full width of the cell where you paste the news ticker code. When selecting a history ticker, you'll need to set its height when pasting the code.

You can preview how your news tickers will look by clicking its preview button.

Also, you can pass additional parameters in order to set the fonts, sizes and colours of each news ticker (as the zone's overriding features, refer to the Absolute News Manager documentation for information on zone overriding) :

1. History Ticker :

A history ticker has a code similar to the one shown below :

```
<IFRAME FRAMEBORDER=0 SCROLLING=NO width=100% height=120  
SRC='http://www.site.com/anm/PPL1HistoryTicker.aspx?z=10&direction  
=up' >  
</iframe>
```

The history ticker works by loading a zone from your news manager (with all their defined parameters) and displaying it inside a marquee withing an inline frame (IFRAME).

As you can see, we have set the WIDTH to 100% (full width of the cell where the code is placed) and the HEIGHT to 120 pixels.

Next, we define the SRC property by pointin to the PPL1HistoryTicker.aspx file and passing the zone parameters along with an additional parameter called DIRECTION.

The zone parameters are exactly the same properties that you use on your Absolute News Manager settings (and can also be overridden as explained in the Absolute News Manager documentation).

The DIRECTION parameter can be either up, down, left or right
This is an optional parameter, If no direction is defined, this parameter will take "UP" as default direction.

Sample :

```
<IFRAME FRAMEBORDER=0 SCROLLING=NO width=100% height=120  
SRC='http://www.site.com/anm/PPL1HistoryTicker.aspx?z=10&pz=2&temp  
late=t.aspx&h=10&display=h&direction=left'>  
</iframe>
```

The code shown above, will display the headlines from zone ID 10 (Z=10), using the display settings from zone ID 2 (PZ=2) , the template will be t.aspx (TEMPLATE=t.aspx) , only 10 headlines will be displayed (H=10) and the Newsticker will be scrolled to the left (DIRECTION=LEFT).

Note:

When pasting the history ticker in your page, remember to replace the [HEIGHT] tag for the proper height in pixels of percentage.

The history ticker works by loading the headlines exactly as they show in your zones (with the same properties and layout) but displaying them in a marquee with an scrolling direction.

2. News ticker :

The code used for the normal news ticker is similar to :

```
<script language=JavaScript
src="http://www.site.com/anm/PPL1NewsTicker.aspx?z=1"></script>
```

Where Z is the ID for the zones used to display the headlines.

This news ticker also supports the following additional parameters :

P : Publisher ID for loading headlines that belong a publisher

PZ : use text properties from zone

Template : use template

H : max number of headlines

Font : font used for listing the headlines

Color : font color

Size : font size

CSS : inherit class style

Featured : How to list featured articles (only,n,normal : only display featured articles, n do not display featured articles, normal : display both featured and non featured)

Subzones : include articles from subzones (y or n)

Target : targetframe

```
<script language=JavaScript
src="http://www.site.com/folder/PPLNewsTicker.aspx?z=1,3&h=5&featu
red=only&subzones=y&target=_blank"></script>
```

The code shown above will display up to 5 featured headlines (h=5 , featured=only) for zone # 1 and 3 (z=1,3) and their subzones (subzones=y) and open them in a new window (target=_blank).

Note:

The parameters used in the News Ticker can have the same properties as the zones in your Absolute News Manager.

As this is a ticker that will only display the headlines, only the headline properties defined from the zone or the PZ parameter will be used (font,size,color Headline CSS style , etc)

3. Horizontal News ticker :

This news ticker uses a similar code to this :

```
<script language=JavaScript
src="http://www.site.com/folder/PPL1HorizontalTicker.aspx?z=1">
</script>
```

Where Z=1 means displaying the headlines for Zone ID # 1

Where Z is the ID for the zones used to display the headlines.

This news ticker also supports the following additional parameters :

SP : Scrolling Speed

P : Publisher ID for loading headlines that belong a publisher

PZ : use text properties from zone

Template : use template

H : max number of headlines

Font : font used for listing the headlines

Color : font color

Size : font size

CSS : inherit class style

Featured : How to list featured articles (only,n,normal : only display featured articles, n do not display featured articles, normal : display both featured and non featured)

Subzones : include articles from subzones (y or n)

Target : targetframe

```
<script language=JavaScript
src="http://www.site.com/folder/PPL1HorizontalTicker.aspx?z=1&font
=tahoma&size=2&target=_blank&sp=7"></script>
```

The code shown above will scroll the headlines for zone # 1, using Tahoma in size 2 at a speed of 7 (very fast) and the articles will open on a new window (_Blank target)

SAMPLE TEMPLATES

The PowerPlugs come with a template in both HTML and ASP.NET format called PPL1-template.htm and PPL1-template.aspx to show you how to use some of the plugins like the Quicknavigation, History Ticker and Rate & review.

Make sure to check them to see how easy is to use these plugins in your Absolute News Manager.

Remember to copy the templates to the templates folder of your Absolute News Manager if you want to use these templates.

FOUND A BUG? LET US KNOW!

We've tried our best to make this a bug-free solution, however, with all the different server configurations out there, some minor problems may arise.

If you find that something isn't working the way it should, please e-mail us ASAP so that we can quickly work to resolve the problem. This won't cost you and you'll be helping to improve the System and to deliver a better program to all of our current and future users.

The best way to report a bug is by contacting us at our website at <http://www.xigla.com>.

For more quality applications, visit our site at

<http://www.xigla.com>