

Z-Blocks

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Having hard time finding an answer to your question?

Check out our Knowledge Base.

Extension page: <http://ecommerce.aheadworks.com/magento-extensions/z-blocks.html>

Z-Blocks – is a unique solution to control static blocks in your store. You don't need to change template and layout files manually every time when you want to add an advertising banner or some specific information. All the administration of static blocks is available in admin panel.

Features:

- **Create an unlimited number of content blocks**
- **Place blocks in any position on the website**
 - 10 pre-defined positions
 - custom block positioning option
- **Configure the display mode of content items**
- **Schedule z-blocks displaying**
 - set general display duration
 - set the display pattern (daily, on weekdays, on weekends, etc.)
 - set the display time within a day
- **Target z-blocks displaying**
 - target the correct audience
 - with customer groups restrictions
 - with referral URL identification
 - with **Market Segmentation Suite** filtering
 - target the desired site areas with category- and product-based conditions
- **Integration with Market Segmentation Suite and One Step Checkout**

Installation

1. Backup your web directory and store database.

[Click to view details](#)

You can make backup copies with any tool you find appropriate

If you are going to use the native Magento backup function, navigate to **System -> Tools -> Backups** and perform **System** and **Database** backups

Backups System Backup Database and Media Backup Database Backup

Page 1 of 1 pages | View 20 per page | Total 0 records found Reset Filter Search

Select All | Unselect All | Select Visible | Unselect Visible | 0 items selected Actions Submit

Time	Name	Size, Bytes	Type	Download	Action
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2. Log in to the Magento backend

3. Disable compilation
Click to view details

Navigate to **System -> Tools -> Compilation.**

If Compiler status is Disabled, you can skip to the next step

If Compiler is enabled, disable it.

Compilation Disable Run Compilation Process

Compilation State

Compiler Status	Enabled
Compilation State	Compiled
Collected Files Count	7505
Compiled Scopes Count	4

IMPORTANT: after the extension is installed, you can enable the compilation again; **IT IS CRUCIAL** that you use **"Run Compilation Process"** function, not just "Enable button"

Compilation Enable Run Compilation Process

Compilation State

Compiler Status	Disabled
Compilation State	Compiled
Collected Files Count	7505
Compiled Scopes Count	4

Installing an extension with the Compilation enabled will result in store downtime.

4. Flush store cache
Click to view details

You can flush the store cache in 2 ways:

- **via the backend:**

Navigate to **System -> Cache Management** menu, and click **Flush Magento Cache** button

Cache Storage Management Flush Magento Cache Flush Cache Storage

Select All | Unselect All | Select Visible | Unselect Visible | 0 items selected Actions Refresh Submit

Cache Type	Description	Associated Tags	Status
<input type="checkbox"/> Configuration	System(config.xml, local.xml) and modules configuration files(config.xml).	CONFIG	ENABLED
<input type="checkbox"/> Layouts	Layout building instructions.	LAYOUT_GENERAL_CACHE_TAG	ENABLED
<input type="checkbox"/> Blocks HTML output	Page blocks HTML.	BLOCK_HTML	ENABLED

- **via filesystem:**

On your server, navigate to Magento root folder, then proceed to **/var/cache/**; delete all the content there.

5. Download the extension package from your account and extract the downloaded archive

6. Copy the content of **/Step_1/** folder to your store's root directory

If you are using a custom theme,
read the instructions [here](#).

In case you are using a custom theme, it is recommended to copy the design files to your current theme's folders. In case there are several themes in use at the same store, the design files must be copied to each of them.

- Find this folder in the package: `/step_1/app/design/frontend/base/default/` ; copy its content to `/app/design/frontend/[your_package]/[your_theme]/`
- Find this folder in the package: `/step_1/skin/frontend/base/default/` ; copy its content to `/skin/frontend/[your_package]/[your_theme]/`

7. Copy the content of **/Step_2/** folder to your store's root directory

8. Flush store cache again; log out from the backend and log in again.

Configuration

The extension is configured per-block. I.e., each of the Z-Blocks has its own settings.

To create a new Z-Block and manage the existent ones, navigate to **CMS -> Z-Blocks** backend grid.

Block Settings

General Information

This tab allows defining the basic block settings.

General Information section:

- **Block Title** - sets the identifier of the block (for backend only).
- **Status** - switches the block on or off.
- **Store View** - allows selecting the Store View(s) the block will be displayed on.
- **Sort Order** - sets the block priority. In case there are several blocks to be rendered in the same position, all of them will be displayed, arranged from one with minimal Sort Order (top) to maximal (bottom)

Block Position section:

Here, you can choose the page position the block will be displayed in. For detailed information regarding the available positions, refer to [Block Positioning](#) chapter

Display Items and Rotation section:

General Information	
Block Title	<input type="text" value="sample block"/>
Status	<input type="text" value="Enabled"/>
Store View *	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px;"> <p>Main Website Store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English French German </div>
Sort Order	<input type="text" value="1"/>

Block Position	
Block Position	<input type="text" value="Catalog and Product Content Top"/>

Here, you can define the sequence and logic of displaying block items. There are 3 available modes (defined by **Display Items** selector):

- **Display Items = *Display All*** - all the items assigned to the block will be displayed, according to the value of the next option:
 - **Representation = *Display all items of the block*** - all the items will be displayed at one, arranged according to the item's Sort Order.
 - **Representation = *Slider*** - all the items will be displayed one-by-one, the block will be updated each X seconds.
 - **Rotation interval, sec** - (for Slider representation only) defines the time lapse before an item will be switched to the next one.
- **Display Items = *Rotate one by one*** - all the block items will be displayed one at a time, according to the Items' Sort Order; the block will be updated with each page refresh.
- **Display Items = *Random rotation*** - the block items will be displayed one at a time, in a random order; block content will be updated with each page refresh.

Audience

This tab allows defining the criteria for a store visitor to see the block.

Customer Group section:

Here, you can select what customer group(s) the block will be displayed for.

NOTE: no groups are selected by default, make sure to select at least one to make the block appear on the frontend.

Referrer Page tab:

This option allows displaying the block only to the visitors that were redirected to the page from a specific URL (defined in the **Referrer URL** field)

NOTE: the block will only be displayed as long as a visitor lands on the page from the designated URL. If the same visitor later returns from a different URL, via direct browser address, etc, the block will not get shown

Market Segmentation Suite section:

If the **Market Segmentation Suite** extension is installed, this section allows assigning MSS filtering to the block. I.e., the block will only be displayed if a visitor meets the MSS rule conditions.

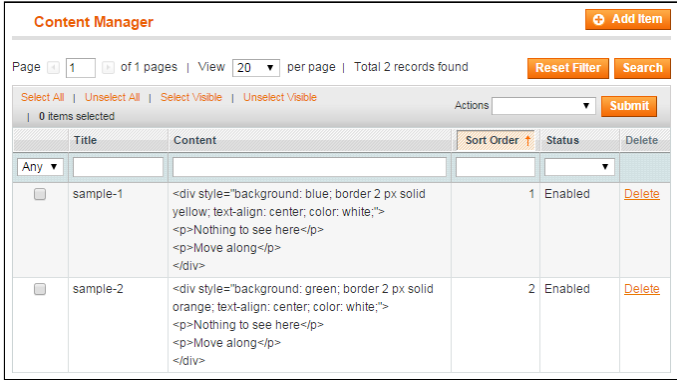
Content

Under the **Content** tab, you can see the Items manager

grid. An Item is equivalent to a content block, that is shown within the Z-Blocks. You can create any number of Items.

To create a new item, click Add Item button; to edit an existent one, click the correspondent grid row.

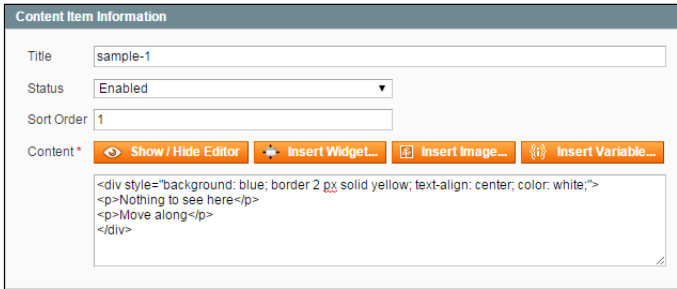
NOTE: when creating a new block, you will be able to add Content Items after it is saved.



Edit Item screen

Content Item Information section:

- **Title** - sets the content item backend identifier
- **Status** - switches the item on or off
- **Sort Order** - defines the items priority (compared to the other items assigned to the same Z-Block)
- **Content** - the actual content of an item with the switchable WYSIWYG editor and support of standard Widgets and Variables



Item content guidelines
Item content

Blocks' items can include any content that native Magento CMS supports:

- HTML;
- Images/Flash;
- JavaScript;
- Code for fetching other blocks (such as featured products).

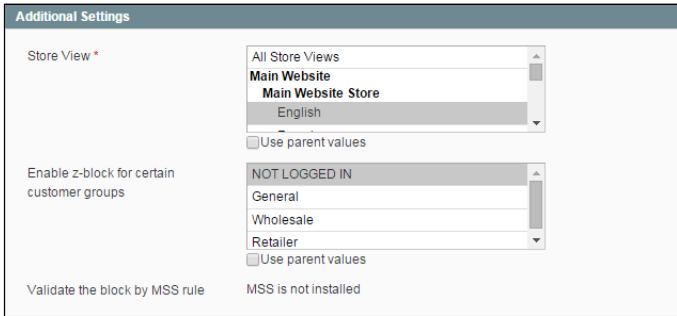
It is not recommended to specify **height** and **width** parameters (specifically, in absolute values) for an item. The parent block the items belongs to, automatically acquires the **max-width** (equal to the parent column width) and **max-height** (equal to the height of the largest block item) values.

💡 Z-Block width equals max width amongst all enabled content items.
 Z-Block height equals max height amongst all enabled content items.

Additional Settings section:

Here, you can override certain settings of a parent block (the values specified here will only be effective for the given item), namely:

- **Store View**
- **Enable z-blocks for certain customer groups**
- **Validate the block by MSS rule**



NOTE: the restrictions set here are added to the restrictions of the parent block.

*E.g.: the parent block is set to be displayed to customers from **Not Logged In** and **General** groups. You can further restrict the item to show up for **Not Logged In** customers **only**, but it is not*

possible to add extra groups (*Wholesale, Retailed, etc*) via the items settings.

Schedule

The extension features the option to schedule the display of the blocks.

Display block section:

Here, you can define the general duration of the block activity (via **From-To Dates** pickers)

Schedule Pattern section:

Here, you can define the periodicity of block showing.

- **Show** - allow selecting schedule pattern, e.g., *Every Day, Every Odd / Even Date, Every X Day of Month, etc*
- **From-To Time** - these selectors allow selecting a time frame the block will be shown in

Conditions

Here, you can define various conditions to further refine on which pages the block will be displayed.

Categories section:

allows selecting categories the block will be shown at.

The Category restrictions work only for **Custom, Catalog and Product, Catalog only and Product only** position types (see details in the [Block Positioning](#) chapter)

Conditions section:

allows setting product-related restrictions on the block. If any conditions are specified here, the block will only show up on the product pages that match them.

The Product restrictions work only for **Catalog and Product and Product only** position types (see details in the [Block Positioning](#) chapter)

CMS Pages section:

allows defining whether the block can be displayed on CMS Static Pages.

Block Positioning

The extension offers a number of ready-made positions, and the possibility to manually call the blocks in the desired place. The block position can be selected in the General Information tab of the [block setup](#) page.

Pre-defined Positions

There are 8 general block positions:

- **Menu Top**
- **Menu Bottom**
- **Sidebar Left Top**
- **Sidebar Left Bottom**
- **Content Top**
- **Sidebar Right Top**
- **Sidebar Right Bottom**
- **Page Bottom**

These positions can be further appended with the target site areas:

- **General (will be displayed on all pages)**
- **Catalog and Product**
- **Catalog only**
- **Product only**

Click to see the positions mapping

The screenshot shows a Magento store layout with the following highlighted block positions:

- Menu Top:** A yellow bar at the top of the page.
- Menu Bottom:** A blue bar below the navigation menu.
- Content Top:** A black bar above the main content area.
- Sidebar Left Top:** A yellow box containing a "Did you know?" message and a dog image.
- Sidebar Left Bottom:** A yellow box containing a "NEWSLETTER" sign-up form.
- Sidebar Right Top:** A green box containing "COMPARE PRODUCTS" and "MY CART" links.
- Sidebar Right Bottom:** A blue box containing a "BACK TO SCHOOL" promotional message.
- Page Bottom:** A green bar at the very bottom of the page.

The main content area displays three products: Sennheiser headphones (3,76 €), Sony Walkman (Special Price 37,56 €), and Apple iPod Nano (150,24 €). Each product has "Add to Cart", "Add to Wishlist", and "Add to Compare" buttons.

Also, there are 3 extra positions for **Customer Account**, **Shopping Cart** and **Checkout** screens (see images below)

• **Customer Content Top**

Click to view screenshot


The screenshot shows a user account dashboard titled "Customer Content Top". On the left is a "MY ACCOUNT" sidebar with links like "Account Dashboard", "Account Information", "Address Book", "My Orders", "Billing Agreements", "Recurring Profiles", "My Product Reviews", "My Tags", "My Wishlist", "My Applications", "Newsletter Subscriptions", and "My Downloadable Products". The main content area is titled "My Dashboard" and greets the user "Hello, James Stivensson!". It includes a "RECENT ORDERS" table with columns for Order #, Date, Ship To, Order Total, and Status. Three orders are listed: 100000003 (Canceled), 100000002 (Pending), and 100000001 (Complete). Each order has "View Order" and "Reorder" links.

Order #	Date	Ship To	Order Total	Status	
100000003	12/08/2011	James Stivensson	685,00 \$US	Canceled	View Order Reorder
100000002	12/08/2011	James Stivensson	855,00 \$US	Pending	View Order Reorder
100000001	12/08/2011	James Stivensson	1 060,00 \$US	Complete	View Order Reorder

• **Shopping Cart Content Top**

Click to view screenshot

The screenshot shows a shopping cart interface titled "Cart Content Top". It features a "Proceed to Checkout" button in the top right. The cart table has columns for Product Name, Move to Wishlist, Unit Price, Qty, and Subtotal. One item is listed: "Sennheiser" headphones with a unit price of 3,76 € and a quantity of 1. Below the table are buttons for "Continue Shopping", "Clear Shopping Cart", and "Update Shopping Cart".

Product Name	Move to Wishlist	Unit Price	Qty	Subtotal
 Sennheiser	Edit Move	3,76 €	1	3,76 €

• **Checkout Content Top**

Click to view screenshot

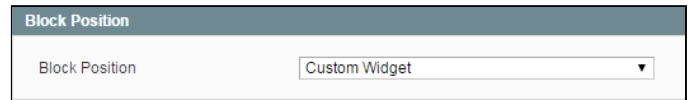
The screenshot shows a checkout process titled "Checkout Content Top". It includes a progress indicator "YOUR CHECKOUT PROGRESS" with steps: Billing Address, Shipping Address, Shipping Method, and Payment Method. The "Billing Information" step is active, showing a dropdown menu with the address "James Stivensson, Madisson, 1552, San Jose, California 91353, Etats-Unis". There are radio buttons for "Ship to this address" (selected) and "Ship to different address". A "Continue" button is at the bottom right of the form.

Custom Positions

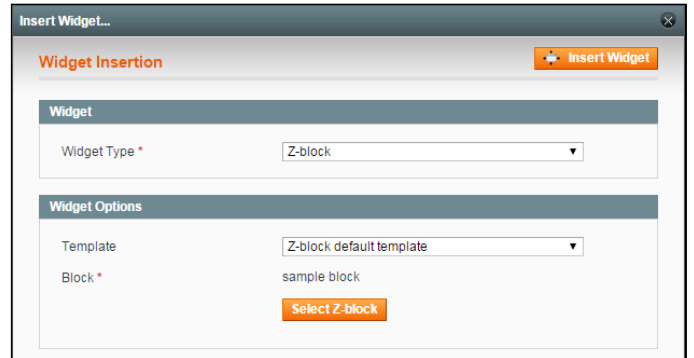
In addition to the pre-defined positions described above, the extension allows inserting blocks manually.

Inserting via Widget

First, you should set the **Block Position** to "**Custom Widget**" in the General Information tab of the **block setup** page.



Now, this block will become selectable in a widget setup screen.

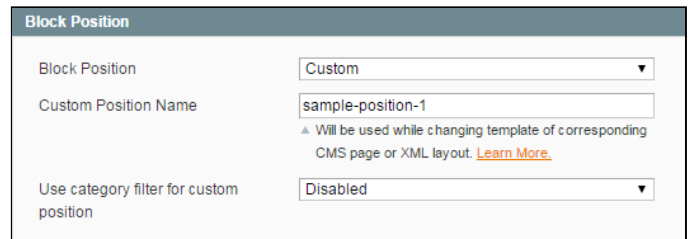


Inserting via CMS / Layout / Templates

First, you should set the **Block Position** to "**Custom**" in the General Information tab of the **block setup** page.

2 new options will get displayed:

- **Custom Position Name** - this field sets the block identifier which **will be required** when you actually call the block
- **Use category filter for custom positions** - this option defines whether the **Category filter** will be applied to the block



Then, you can proceed with actually calling the block in the desired place. There are 3 available methods:

Via CMS

Insert the below code in the necessary CMS Static Block or Static Page, changing *position_name* with **Custom Position** value and *block_name* with any block name unique for the current layout.

CMS

```
{{block type="zblocks/block" position="position_name"}}
```

Via Layout

Insert the below code in the necessary .xml layout file, changing *position_name* with **Custom Position** value and *block_name* with any block name unique for the current layout.

.xml layout

```
<block type="zblocks/block" name="block_name">
  <action method="setPosition">
    <position>position_name</position>
  </action>
</block>
```

Via .phtml template file

Insert the below code into the necessary .phtml template, changing *position_name* with **Custom Position** value.

```
.phtml
```

```
<?php echo Mage::app()->getLayout()->createBlock('zblocks/block')->setPosition('position_
```

Uninstallation

If you just need to temporarily disable the extension, you can just do the steps 1-5, without deleting the files of the extension.

- Disable compilation, in case it is enabled.
- Login to your FTP, navigate to **app/etc/modules/**
- Open the file AW_Zblocks.xml and change the following line:

```
<active>true</active>
```

to

```
<active>>false</active>
```

Now your Magento is unaware of the existence of this module.

- Clear the cache under var/cache
- Make sure that the site is working properly, otherwise roll back the changes and apply to our [technical support](#).
- If everything works fine, it is safe to delete the files of the extension.
- In case you need to clean the database, **backup your database** and then run the following queries in MySQL:

It is necessary to run the queries in the specified order

```
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS `aw_zblocks_condition`;
```

```
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS `aw_zblocks_content`;
```

```
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS `aw_zblocks`;
```

```
delete from core_resource where code ='zblocks_setup';
```

Note, if you are using the table with prefixes, you must specify them in all table names.

If you are not sure how to do that or expect any troubles with it, please contact your server administrator regarding the matter.

If you remove the tables as it is described above, you will need to create all the blocks again after the extension is reinstalled.

Troubleshooting

After the extension installation the store gives an error, or blank page, or suggests to start Magento installation procedure.

Change the owner of the extracted extension files to the web server user and set 775 permissions on them.
Clear the store cache and try again.

There is no aheadWorks extensions under my configuration section, or having the extension tab clicked I get a blank page, or Access Denied error.

Clear the store cache, browser cookies, logout and login again.

I've set up everything correctly, inserted the HTML code but there is nothing on that page.

Clear the store cache, clear your browser cache and domain cookies and refresh the page.

My configuration changes do not appear on the store.

Clear the store cache, clear your browser cache and domain cookies and refresh the page.

You can always find the latest version of the software, full documentation, demos, screenshots and reviews at <http://ecommerce.aheadworks.com>

License agreement: <http://ecommerce.aheadworks.com/LICENSE-M1.txt>

Contact us: <http://ecommerce.aheadworks.com/contacts/>

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Нравится
это

Станьте первыми кому понравится

Ни одной