

Although I fell off posting to my blogs for a few days, my quest to be listed #1 as the “ [best web designer in Canada](#) ” continued in my absence. I am really happy to announce that I have broken onto the first page of Google search results, and have remained in the number 8 position for the last 2 days!

Unfortunately, 2 of my blogs were shut down by their operators as simply being SEO link sources, so I guess to them the information I am discussing is of no value.

Today I wanted to touch on how the [Joomla CMS](#) can be extended, or how new features and functions can easily be added to Joomla through Extensions. Extensions are programs that can be loaded into a Joomla site to add functionality. There are 3 types of extensions: modules, plugins and components.

- Modules typically display information to the user, or collect user input.
- As an example, a module can display the current number of site visitors, or a login form.

- Plugins typically add a function to Joomla and only the output may be visible to the user.
- A plugin may display an image or embed a video in an article (some page content) when the writer include a snippet of code.
 - Example: {youtube}xom39ej3qs{/youtube} which would embed a YouTube video in the article where placed.

- Components typically extend what Joomla can do by adding complete functions. An example of some of the components available for Joomla are:
 - a complete online store (ecommerce) including product images, descriptions, categories, physical/virtual products, shopping cart, shipping integration and payment gateway integrations

 - file managers that allow file uploading, downloading, categorizing and personal file management
 - business directories that include categories, free/paid listings, featured listings, user submitted listings, listing management
 - paid membership website extensions, that include restricted access, renewal billing, membership management
 - personal messaging systems
 - live chat systems
 - community building and functions systems

- blogs
- and much more

With over 3,200 extensions listed in the [Joomla Extension Directory \(JED\)](#) there is a good chance that you will be able to find an open-source free extension that will do what you want on your site.

Tomorrow I will discuss Joomla page content.