



Administrator's Manual

Absolute News Manager V3.2 XE
The Complete News Administration Software
Developed by XIGLA SOFTWARE
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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations! You've just purchased one of the most powerful content and article management systems available today.

The Absolute News Manager is a powerful, state-of-the-art content management system that has been specially designed for easily updating and editing news releases, website announcements, company news and articles. Packed with plenty of features, but yet simple and easy to use, the Absolute News Manager is the perfect solution for publishing articles, news, stories, headlines, and editorials on the web.

Working with the Absolute News Manager is extremely easy. Just log into the application by using your username and password, enter the title, date and content of your news article, select the zones (places of your site) where you want the headline to be shown and it will be instantly published on your website. Best of all, writers and editors don't have to know HTML or FTP to update and create fully enhanced news articles.

Use a complete WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) editor to create your articles without having to know HTML code. Include unlimited images, files, audio and video to your articles and content. Display your content in your own designed Templates to give your articles and content any look and style that you want, enhance your System and give it further functionality with the use of Plug-Ins, plus much more.

By placing a single line of code into any page of your site (regardless of the extension: .htm, .asp, .cfm or anything else), the Absolute News Manager will instantly publish your latest headlines on your site. Also, you can configure every aspect of how your headlines will look: fonts, sizes, colors, number of headlines, horizontal or vertical display, everything!

The Absolute News Manager is very easy to set up and administer. It utilizes 100% Active Server Pages (ASP) script; there are no DLL's to install on the server. The simple, intuitive and user-friendly Web-based administration interface allows you to manage your news and articles from any location with web access.

The Absolute News Manager comes ready to run with either MS Access 2000 (you don't need to own a Microsoft Access License in order to use the software) or SQL Server 2000 databases (the full SQL Server Script is included in case you want to use MS SQL Server 2000 for greater scalability). The System also supports a wide range of third party server components (including no available components) for performing important tasks such as uploading files and sending e-mails.

We hope the functionality and versatility we've built into the Absolute News Manager System excites and inspires you. We've made our best effort to provide you with what we believe is the best system for managing content and articles on the web.

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

Juan David Arbeláez R.
XIGLA SOFTWARE
<http://www.xigla.com>

ABSOLUTE NEWS MANAGER FEATURES

The Absolute News Manager, features many powerful enhancements over previous versions. Here are just some of the features packed into this powerful system:

- ❑ 100% Active Server Pages (ASP) Script; there are no DLL's to install on the server and you can fully customize the code to suit your needs.
- ❑ Both Microsoft Access AND SQL Server databases supported. Easily scale your System with no additional cost (at least, not from us).
- ❑ User-friendly, web-based interface to author and administer the System from anywhere in the world. All you need is a web browser and an Internet connection!
- ❑ Feature packed Web-based HTML editor, so Publishers will be able to provide rich content without having to know HTML or FTP.
- ❑ Ability to attach unlimited images, files, documents, Audio and video to your articles and news to fully enhance your articles with state-of-the-art multimedia features.
- ❑ 3 User levels supported: No limits on the number of Publishers, Editors and Administrators you can add. In order to fully administer and publish your vision, register as many Publishers and Administrators as your server can support!
- ❑ Javascript Includes to easily inserting your latest headlines on any .htm, .cfm, .asp, .jsp, .php or any other type of page. You can also use ASP calls to display headlines on ASP pages, as well as an ASP.NET user control on ASP.NET pages.
- ❑ Template driven: Create your own templates using your favorite HTML editor and use some special (and very easy) text tags to define the layout of your articles to exactly match the look and feel of your site. There is no limit on the number of Templates you can create.
- ❑ Articles can be scheduled to appear and disappear at a future date by scheduling Start and Ending Dates.
- ❑ Support for articles located outside the Absolute News Manager System and outside your web site. Articles can be stored in the database or set as URL's for articles located on other sites.

- ❑ Publishers can be assigned to Zones, so that each one can only provide content to their allowed Zones. Multiple Zones are supported.
- ❑ Control every aspect of your Zones (the places where your headlines will be displayed): fonts, sizes, colors, number of headlines per Zone and other properties. Headlines can be displayed horizontally or even vertically. Every Zone can have its own unique look and feel.
- ❑ Zones can include thumbnail images with your headlines to further enhance usability and look and feel.
- ❑ Option to have System editors review all articles before publishing.
- ❑ Option to have the editors and publishers access only to their assigned content
- ❑ Automatic archiving of articles after expiration date.
- ❑ Built-in Cache: Boost your system performance by using the built-in cache system to deliver your articles and content.
- ❑ Syndication protection: Protect your content and bandwidth by selecting the URLs that have permission to display your headlines.
- ❑ Support for our Absolute Image Gallery (Multimedia Repository system) <http://www.xigla.com/absoluteig>
- ❑ Cross-referenced/related articles: Now you can define articles related to other articles. This is important for multi-page articles, online courses and for keeping users lingering in your site.
- ❑ Add any number of articles to any number of Zones. Also, now you can have articles in multiples zones.
- ❑ Plug-In Support: Absolute News Manager can be easily enhanced through the addition of Plug-Ins you may wish to add as they are developed.
- ❑ Deploy a search interface for your articles and news by including just three lines of code.
- ❑ Allow users to easily get a printable version of your articles or have the System send them by e-mail.
- ❑ Save time and work by easily updating your website or allowing remote Authors or Editors to do so.

- ❑ Option to Notify the editors by e-mail every time a new articles is posted by your publishers.
- ❑ RSS News feed. Easily syndicate your headlines to sites which support RSS XML News feeds
- ❑ Get rid of complicated HTML changes and FTP file uploads. The Absolute News Manager updates your content with the click of a mouse.
- ❑ Password-protected login security so only your authorized Publishers will be able to edit news articles.
- ❑ Fully compatible with a wide range of third-party components. The Absolute News Manager supports: ASPMail, ASPEmail, AspSmartMail, DevMailer, Jmail and SASMTPEmail for sending e-mails (And CDONTS in case no e-mail component is installed) and AspSmartUpload, ASPUpload and SAFileUp for file uploading (Also, the Absolute News Manager doesn't require a component for uploading as it comes with its own upload script!)
- ❑ Support for our picture and multimedia gallery administration system: Absolute Image Gallery, integrate both applications to deliver rich-multimedia content.
- ❑ Keep your content fresh and up-to-date to keep your site's visitors coming back for more.
- ❑ So easy to use, even non-technical users will be able to create and publish articles to your site.

At XIGLA SOFTWARE, we value our customers' feedback. If you have specific features you'd like to see implemented in the Absolute News Manager, please e-mail us at info@xigla.com and tell us about them. We'll consider them, and maybe you'll see them in a future version.

Also if you found a bug or have a problem, please e-mail us immediately so that we can help you solve the problem and keep your system operating as desired.

INSTALLING THE ABSOLUTE NEWS MANAGER

Installing the Absolute News Manager is very straight-forward: just follow the instructions below and your new article administration software will be running in no time.

The first thing you need to do is to decide which database you are going to use. By default, the Absolute News Manager comes configured to run with a Microsoft Access database; however, we've included the full Microsoft SQL Server Script in case you want to use a more powerful database server.

If you want to use the Absolute News Manager with SQL Server, then read the following sections in order to set up the database. Otherwise, you may skip to the *Installing Absolute News Manager in your web site* section.

Setting Up the Database (MS SQL Server 7 / 2000 ONLY)

1. The Absolute News Manager database is e-mailed as a script file called absolutenm.sql. Save this file somewhere on your local computer.
2. From within SQL Server Enterprise Manager, create a new database. Right-click on Database and select New database.
3. Enter the database name "absolutenm", or any other name you may want for this new database.
4. Click OK when finished. An empty database named "absolutenm" will be created.
5. Now, execute the absolutenm.sql script in order to create the tables and queries in the new database. From the Tools menu of the Enterprise Manager, select SQL Server Query Analyzer.
6. From within the Query Analyzer, open the absolutenm.sql script file. Make sure to select the "absolutenm" database from the database drop-down menu.
7. Execute the script by clicking the Execute Query Button or pressing F5. If executed successfully, you'll see a "Query Batch Completed" message at the bottom of the screen.

Note:

When executing the script some warnings may appear. This is a normal behavior and it is due to the fact that the database uses several variant fields.

Also, if you're running the script on a SQL Server 7, some syntax error messages may arise. However this seems to not affect the application performance and no problem has been currently reported by customers using this database server.

8. In order to optimize the database, right click on the "absolutenm" database from within Enterprise Manager. Select 'Properties' and under the 'Options' tab, check the "Auto shrink" property.

9. Due to the nature of Absolute News Manager, this system will be constantly accessing your database to retrieve and display your dynamic content. It is advised to set a maintenance plan in order to backup the database logs on a daily basis or to set the recovery model of the database to "SIMPLE". Otherwise, your log file might grow really fast and eat your disk space.

Note:

When executing the script some warnings may appear. This is a normal behavior and it is due to the fact that the database uses several variant fields.

Also, if you're running the script on SQL Server 7, some syntax error messages may arise. However this seems to not affect the application's performance and no problems have been reported by customers using this database server.

Now let's add a user for the database.

Adding a New User for the absolutenm database

1. Within the SQL Server Enterprise Manager, expand the tree down to Security.
2. Right click on Logins and select New Login.

3. Enter the name as absolutenm and select SQL Server authentication.
4. Enter a unique password (please take note of your password, **you'll need it later**).
5. Under 'Database' select the absolutenm database and click on the "Database Access" tab.
6. Click the Permit check box for the absolutenm database then check the db_owner box under "Permit In Database Role".
7. Click OK and enter your password confirmation.

Installing the Absolute News Manager on your web site

Absolute News Manager and the MS Access database are e-mailed to you in a zipped file (.zip). Follow these instructions to set-up the Absolute News Manager System for your site:

1. Create a sub-directory in your site's root directory. This directory will house the Absolute News Manager Software. It's a good idea to give it a name such as "absolutenm".

For example, if your domain is <http://www.something.com>, then you might create a directory called <http://www.something.com/absolutenm>

2. Extract the contents of the Absolute News Manager Zip file into this directory. The Absolute News Manager includes several sub-directories. **You must maintain this directory structure** and include those sub-directories.

Note:

Some hosting companies require you to place your databases in a specially assigned directory. If this is the case, you'll need to alter the Absolute News Manager Structure. Please refer to the troubleshooting section to see how to work around this.

WARNING! : DO NOT PLACE A COPY OF OUR ZIP FILE ANYWHERE ON YOUR SITE. By doing this you'll be allowing your users to download the application without owning a license. You'll be violating the License Agreement and intellectual property rights.

3. Now, set the permissions for the newly created absolutenm directory to allow read and write permissions, allow files to be browsed and allow scripts to be run. Turn off browser permissions on the database folder (db folder) so that users cannot download the MS Access database.

Note:

If you don't want to set write permission on the Absolute News Manager Directory, you need to know that the following directories require write permission, otherwise some errors will arise when uploading content:

- articlefiles : where the attached article files are stored
- thumbnails : where the headlines thumbnails are stored
- cache : article and zone cached content

Those folders are used for storing uploaded content like images, files and any other type of attachment as well as the cached content. Your hosting provider will be able to set the appropriate write permissions for those folders.

4. If you are using the Access database then skip to step 5. Otherwise, if you're using a SQL Server Database use a text editor (Notepad will work fine), and open the databasedata.asp script file to configure it properly:

You'll see the following code (we have colored and numbered the lines for explanation purposes):

```
<%  
1 '/// Connection Using an Access Database ///  
2 database="db/absolutenm.mdb"  
3 connection="Provider=Microsoft.Jet.OLEDB.4.0;Data Source="&  
  server.mappath(database)  
4  
5 '/// Connection Using a SQL Server database ///  
6 'connection="PROVIDER=SQLOLEDB;DATA  
  SOURCE=YOUR_SERVER;DATABASE=absolutenm;USER  
  ID=USERNAME;PASSWORD=PASSWORD;"  
%>
```

You'll note there's an apostrophe (comment) before the red line (line 6), you need to remove that apostrophe to "un-comment" that line and place an apostrophe (comment) before each of the green lines (Just before the database and connection variables (Lines 2 and 3).

Then in the red line (line 6) , you'll need to replace **YOUR_SERVER**, with the name of the SQL Server where the database resides. Also you'll have to replace the **USERNAME** and **PASSWORD** with the corresponding username and password you previously set in order to access the server, now the code may look like this (without the numbers) :

```
<%  
1 '/// Connection Using an Access Database ///  
2 'database="db/absolutenm2.mdb"  
3 'connection="Provider=Microsoft.Jet.OLEDB.4.0;Data Source="&  
  server.mappath(database)  
4  
5 '/// Connection Using a SQL Server database ///  
6 connection="PROVIDER=SQLOLEDB;DATA  
  SOURCE=YOUR_SERVER;DATABASE=absolutenm2;USER  
  ID=user_name_here;PASSWORD=Password_here;"  
%>
```

Note:

Absolute News Manager uses a DSN-Less connection to both the Access and SQL Server database. In case that you want to set up and use a DSN, create it in your control panel and replace the connection string in the DATABASEDATA.ASP file with the name of the DSN.

I.E: connection="YOUR DSN NAME"

Please note that DSN's are really slower compared to DSN-Less connections and they may present an erratic behavior when retrieving default values from the database.

5. Start the Absolute News Manager System in your web browser by accessing the directory where you installed Absolute News Manager and login using **admin** as both the username and password and click the login button: e.g. <http://www.yourdomain.com/absolutenm>.

Click on the Users button in the Top Menu. You'll see only an administrator named "Default Administrator". Click on its EDIT button (the pencil icon in front of it) in order to update the default administrator info with your own information.

6. Enter your name, a new username and password and your e-mail address, select Administrator for the user level, leave the Zones field untouched and provide any additional info about you or the new System Administrator. From now on, you'll use your new user name and password to access the system as a system administrator (The old "admin" account won't be available again, so make note of your new username and password).

7. Click on the Options button from the top menu, and click OK on the confirmation message. You'll be accessing the system configuration options.

8. In the Licensed To field, enter your name or the name of the company that purchased and will be using the Absolute News Manager as well as your order ID number (it can be found on the order confirmation e-mail)

9. In the Site URL field, enter the URL to your site:
e.g. <http://www.yourdomain.com>

10. In the Application URL, enter the full URL to the Absolute News Manager in your site (this is the same URL you defined in step 1 and used in step 5 to access the application), don't use a relative path. Type the full path to access the Absolute News Manager system (I.E : <http://www.yourdomain.com/absolutenm/>)

11. If you are an international user, you may want to use an appropriate charset encoding. Otherwise, leave the charset encoding field untouched.

12. The Absolute News Manager handles three types of users: Publishers, Editors and Administrators. If you want the publishers to only be able to access their own information you can check the appropriate options on the publishers access field. If you want only the Editors to be able to publish (set active) content, you can check the Editor's access option. This will require all the articles provided by the Publishers to be reviewed and approved by an editor before going live. Don't check this option if you wish to allow your publishers to publish their content at any time. However, this is a good option if you want your editors to control everything that needs to be published on your site, or if you are concerned about your liability in allowing your users to publish direct to the web.

13. Scroll down the options screen to the e-mail options. The E-Mail options are used for sending e-mails from within the Absolute News Manager (For example, when you want to allow your site visitors to send articles by e-mail):

- **Default E-Mail:** The e-mail address used to send e-mails and articles from your site. This must be a valid e-mail address on your SMTP Server.
- **SMTP Server:** The SMTP Server you will use to send e-mails.
- **Subject:** The default subject for articles e-mailed from your site.
- **Signature:** You may want to provide a "signature" for all articles sent from your site. Be creative and commercial; this is a wonderful way to market and promote your site.

14. Leave the rest of the options as they come by default (we'll consider them later) and click on the "Save Settings" button in order to save the changes (If you have problems, be sure that the Absolute News Manager

directory has "write" permission enabled in order to be able to update the settings).

Note:

For security reasons, many hosting providers do not allow write permissions to their directories. If this is your situation, the Absolute News Manager will show you the code necessary to update your settings. Follow these directions:

*Copy and paste that code into a blank .txt file (use Notepad)

*Rename this file to **configdata.asp**

*Upload this file to your Absolute News Manager root directory, replacing the existing default file, and your new settings will take place

Now, let's configure the correct Include Libraries to make the Absolute News Manager work with your server components.

Setting the Include Libraries to make the Absolute News Manager work with your server components

The Absolute News Manager supports a wide range of third party components for tasks like uploading to the server (When you need to upload files to your articles) and sending e-mail (For allowing your site visitors to send articles by e-mail).

In order for the Absolute News Manager to work with the upload and e-mail components installed on your server, you must set and configure their corresponding Include Library files.

An Include Library is a file that tells the Absolute News Manager how to work with the available component it needs to use in order to accomplish the uploading and e-mailing tasks.

These Include Libraries can be found in the incLibraries Zip file provided within the Absolute News Manager Zip file you were sent. These Include Libraries use a naming convention in the form of incTASK.COMPONENT where TASK is either Upload or Email and COMPONENT is the name of the commercial component for which that Library was developed (e.g. incEmail.ASPMail for ASPMail).

To configure these Libraries all you need to do is know which components your hosting provider currently has available to you on their servers and then rename the corresponding Include Library files to incEmail.asp and

incUpload.asp and move these file to the Absolute News Manager root directory (<http://www.yourdomain.com/absolutenm>) as is explained later.

Below is a list of components supported by the Absolute News Manager and their corresponding Include Libraries.

Upload Components Supported

- AspSmartUpload: from ASPSmart (<http://www.aspsmart.com>)
Library: incUpload.AspSmartUpload
- ASPUpload: from Persits (<http://www.persits.com>)
Library: incUpload.ASPUpload
- SAFileUp: from SoftArtisans (<http://www.softartisans.com>)
Library: incUpload.SAFileUp
- No Component: in case that no upload component is installed on the server
Library: incUpload.NoComponent

Setting Up the Correct Upload Library:

Once you know which upload component is installed on your server, all you need to do is **rename its corresponding include library to incUpload.asp** and move or upload it to the Absolute News Manager root directory.

E.g. (<http://www.yourdomain.com/absolutenm>)

If no upload component is installed, the incUpload.NoComponent Library will allow you to upload files to your articles. Just rename it to incUpload.asp and move or upload it to the Absolute News Manager root directory.

E-Mail Components Supported

- ASPEmail: from Persits (<http://www.persits.com>)
Library: incEmail.ASPEmail
- ASPMail: from ServerObjects (<http://www.serverobjects.com>)
Library: incEmail.ASPMail
- AspSmartMail: from ASPSmart (<http://www.aspsmart.com>)
Library: incEmail.AspSmartMail

- JMail: from Dimac (<http://www.dimac.net>)
Library: incEmail.Jmail
- SASMTPMail: from SoftArtisans (<http://www.softartisans.com>)
Library: incEmail.SASMTPMail
- CDONTS: in case that no e-mail component is installed on the server, CDONTS is supported by a lot of servers and should work for e-mailing articles.
Library: incEmail.CDONTS

Setting Up the Correct E-Mail Library:

Once you know which e-mail component is installed on your server, all you need to do is **rename its corresponding Include Library to incEmail.asp** and move or upload it to the Absolute News Manager root directory. E.g. (<http://www.yourdomain.com/absolutenm>)

If no e-mail component is installed, the incEmail.CDONTS should work as CDONTS is widely supported by many hosting companies. Just rename it to incEmail.asp and move it to the Absolute News Manager root directory.

Library Configuration Examples

In order to further explain the Libraries configuration, please note the following examples:

Example A: Suppose that your hosting provider currently has installed the JMail e-mail component and the AspSmartUpload upload component.

You'll have to use the incEmail.JMail and incUpload.AspSmartUpload Libraries.

Rename these files to incEmail.asp and incUpload.asp respectively and move them to the Absolute News Manager root directory, and you are all set!

Example B: Suppose that your server currently supports CDONTS but has no upload component installed.

You'll have to use the IncEmail.CDONTS and incUpload.NoComponent Libraries.

Rename each of this files to incEmail.asp and incUpload.asp respectively and move them to the Absolute News Manager root directory, and you are all set!

Note:

Many Hosting Providers support more than one upload and e-mail components. If this is your case, just pick the ones that you think are the best and set their corresponding Include Libraries as explained. Just use ONE upload Include Library and ONE e-mail Include Library.

Also, if your server supports upload and e-mail components that don't have corresponding Include Libraries provided, you'll have to create your own Libraries. Just pick one of the provided Libraries and customize it to suit your components. They are really easy to customize. Please let us know about it at info@Xigla.com so we can provide it in future releases.

Congratulations! Your Absolute News Manager System has been fully configured and is ready to start serving articles.

All you need to do now is create some Template Files to give your articles and content the look and feel that you want for your site.

Creating Templates for Displaying Your Content

The Absolute News Manager uses Templates to display your articles so that they match your site's look and feel and seamlessly integrate into your site.

This version of Absolute News Manager supports both HTML and ASP templates. HTML templates are easier to set than ASP templates, but ASP templates will let you add includes and dynamic code to your templates. If you're a good ASP programmer, the ASP templates can be a great option for you.

Each Zone can have a different Template (as will be explained later). In this way, when a user clicks on a headline displayed in a Zone, that Zone's assigned Template will be loaded and parsed with the full article.

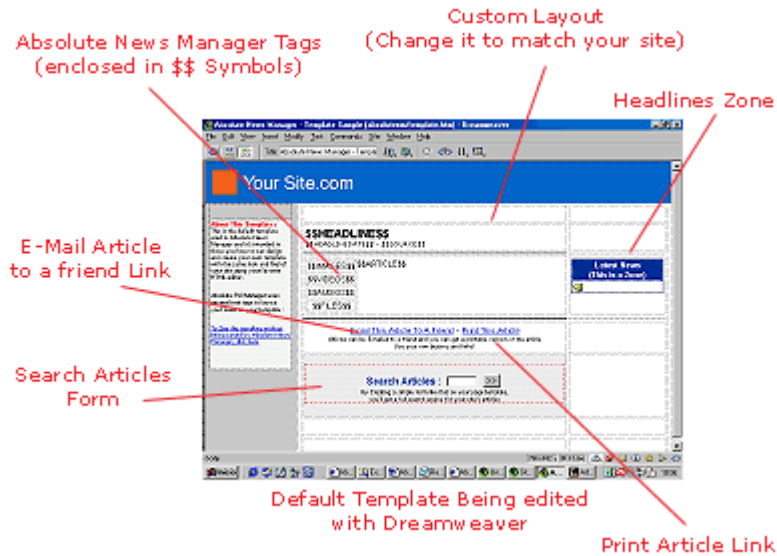
The Template files are (and must be) located inside the Templates folder in the Absolute News Manager root directory. There should be at least one Template file (named `template.htm`) in this folder for the system to work.

HTML Templates

An HTML Template is merely an HTML file which has several special tags (enclosed between \$\$ symbols) which tell the Absolute News Manager how to display and layout your articles and content.

To create a Template, you can use your favorite HTML editor. Just design an HTML file with the look and style that you want (use images, CSS, DHTML, anything), then include the Absolute News Manager Tags to define the content layout and save the Template and its files into the Templates folder.

By default, the Absolute News Manager comes with a predefined Template named `template.htm`, which has been designed to show you how to create your own Template files (you can have as many as you want).



By opening the default template.htm file, you can see how easy it is to design your own Templates in your favorite HTML editor using the Absolute News Manager Tags.

HTML Template Tags

The Absolute News Manager System uses some special text tags in order to layout the articles and content in your Templates, thus making it very easy to present your news and articles with any look and feel that you want.

To place these Tags, all you need to do is to include them anywhere within your customized Template file using your favorite HTML editor and save the Template into the specified folder. The Absolute News Manager will do the rest.

The default template.htm file will show you how easy is to use and locate the System Tags within your Templates. Just create an HTML file with your own design, use the Tags that you want by placing them anywhere you desire in the new Template and save the new Template to the Templates directory (including your own graphics and linked files). You can, and should, name this new Template something other than "template.htm"

Below are the Tags supported and their corresponding functions:

\$\$ARTICLE\$\$

This Tag displays the full selected article.

\$\$ARTICLEID\$\$

This Tag returns a number corresponding to the article ID in the database. Use this ID as a parameter in the Send Article By E-mail Link and the Print Article Link as explained later.

\$\$AUDIO\$\$

This Tag displays the article's associated audio files' link and their corresponding comments.

\$\$FILES\$\$

This Tag displays the article's associated files' links and their corresponding comments.

\$\$HEADLINE\$\$

This Tag displays the headline of the selected article.

\$\$HEADLINE DATE\$\$

This Tag displays the headline date of the selected article.

\$\$IMAGES\$\$

This Tag displays the article's associated images and their corresponding comments.

\$\$LINKS\$\$

This Tag displays the article's associated links (URL's that provide further information) and their corresponding comments.

\$\$RELATED\$\$

This Tag displays a list of the article's related articles if there are any.

\$\$SITE\$\$

This Tag displays the name of your site as defined in the Absolute News Manager options.

\$\$SITEURL\$\$

This Tag displays the URL of your site as defined in the Absolute News Manager options. You can also use it for links that point from your Templates to your site, in the form of:

```
<a href="$$SITEURL$$"> $$SITE$$ </a>
```

\$\$SOURCE\$\$

This Tag displays the selected article source.

\$\$SUMMARY\$\$

This Tag displays the summary for the selected article.

\$\$VIDEOS\$\$

This Tag displays the article's associated video files' links and their corresponding comments.

\$\$ZONEID\$\$

This Tag returns a number corresponding to the Zone ID of the Zone to which the article is assigned.

\$\$ZONENAME\$\$

This Tag returns the name of the zone for which the article is being displayed.

Note :

You can use any or all the Tags here described when creating your Templates. Take a look at the default Template (template.htm) in order to see how easy it is to create and position the Tags within a Template.

ASP Templates (ASP Programmers Only)

If you're a good asp programmer and you'd like to include dynamic content with your articles, the asp templates are a good option for you.

ASP Templates are different from HTML templates in that they don't make use of the HTML tags explained before (enclosed between \$\$ symbols), but rather they use variables to display the content. These variables have the same name as the HTML tags but without the \$\$.

To create an ASP template, all you have to do is create an ASP file, save it into the templates folder and add the following line at the start of the file:

```
<!--#include file="../incASPTemplates.asp" -->
```

Then, to position the article elements, you will not be using the \$\$TAGS\$\$ explained, but the name of the asp variable enclosed between <% %>, just like normal ASP code (I.E : <%=article%>

The Absolute News Manager comes with a predefined asp Template named template.asp, which has been designed to show you how to create your own ASP Templates.

Below are the variables supported and their corresponding functions:

<%=ARTICLE%>

This variable stores the full selected article.

<%=ARTICLEID%>

Stores the number corresponding to the article ID in the database. Use this ID as a parameter in the Send Article By E-mail Link and the Print Article Link as explained later.

<%=AUDIOS%>

Stores the article's associated audio files' link and their corresponding comments.

<%=FILES%>

Stores the article's associated files' links and their corresponding comments.

<%=HEADLINE%>

Stores the headline of the selected article.

<%=HEADLINE DATE%>

Stores the headline date of the selected article.

<%=IMAGES%>

Stores the article's associated images and their corresponding comments.

<%=LINKS%>

Stores the article's associated links (URL's that provide further information) and their corresponding comments.

<%=RELATED%>

Stores a list of the article's related articles if there are any.

<%=SITE%>

Stores the name of your site as defined in the Absolute News Manager options.

<%=SITEURL %>

Stores the URL of your site as defined in the Absolute News Manager options. You can also use it for links that point from your Templates to your site, in the form of:

```
<a href="<%=SITEURL%>"> <%=SITE%> </a>
```

<%=SOURCE%>

Stores the selected article source.

<%=SUMMARY%>

Stores the summary for the selected article.

<%=VIDEOS%>

This variable stores the article's associated video files' links and their corresponding comments.

<%=ZONEID%>

Stores a number corresponding to the Zone ID of the Zone to which the article is assigned.

<%=ZONENAME%>

Stores the current zone name for which the article is being displayed.

Note :

You can use any or all the ASP variables here described when creating your Templates. Take a look at the default ASP Template (template.asp) in order to see how easy it is to create and position the Tags within a Template.

Remember :

ASP Templates use asp variables instead of \$\$TAGS\$\$.

For instance, instead of typing \$\$ARTICLE\$\$ on an ASP template, you'll type <%=ARTICLE%>

Using Plug-Ins within your Templates

One of the powerful features of the Absolute News Manager is its support for Plug-Ins. Plug-Ins, as explained later, are programs intended to further enhance the functionality of your Absolute News Manager System. When using Plug-Ins, refer to the corresponding documentation in order to see how to correctly install and configure them.

The Absolute News Manager already includes 3 free Plug-Ins which come pre-installed and which allow your visitors the additional functionality to send articles by e-mail, search through all your articles and get a printable version of your articles.

These Plug-Ins will be explained in detail later, however, here are some quick instructions in order to have them working right now within your Templates.

Creating a "Send Article By E-Mail" Link

Using the "Send Article" Plug-In

If you want to allow your users to send articles by e-mail from your site, you'll need to create a link or button with the following parameters within your Template files (on one line).

For HTML Templates:

```
<a  
href="javascript:openppl('ppl.sendarticle.asp?a=$$ARTICLEID$$',0,0  
,360,240)">Send This Article By E-mail</a>
```

For ASP Templates :

```
<a href="javascript:openppl('ppl.sendarticle.asp?a=<%=articleid%>',0,0,360,240)">Send This Article By E-mail</a>
```

By doing so, the Absolute News Manager will automatically insert the necessary code so that when a user clicks on this link, the Send Article by E-Mail Plug-In is loaded and will launch a pop-up window for allowing the user to e-mail the article.

Creating a "Print This Article" Link

Using the "Print Article" Plug-In

If you want to allow your users to get a printable version of the article they're reading, you'll have to create a link or button with the following parameters within your Template file (note the ../ on the link).

For HTML Templates :

```
<a href=" ../anmviewer.asp?a=$$ARTICLEID$$&print=yes">Print Article</a>
```

For ASP Templates :

```
<a href=" ../anmviewer.asp?a=<%=ARTICLEID%>&print=yes">Print Article</a>
```

By doing so, the Absolute News Manager will automatically insert the necessary code so that when a user clicks on this link, the Printable Version Plug-In is loaded and a printable version of the article is generated.

Note that this link uses the **\$\$ARTICLEID\$\$** Tag. This will tell the Absolute News Manager to replace this Tag with the ID of the currently shown article, so that when the user clicks on the link, the Plug-In will know which article to prepare for printing.

The printable version of the article also uses a Template file named: **print-article.htm**. This file is also located in the Templates folder inside the Absolute News Manager root directory and can be customized in the same way as a normal Template file. Use your imagination, but bear in mind that a printable version of an article is intended for printing, so you may want to customize this file without too many graphics or banners (A logo and plain text is often a good idea).

Creating an Article Search Engine On Your Site

Using the "Search Article" Plug-In

Enabling user searches is extremely easy. In order to implement a search engine for the articles within your site, all you need to do is to create a FORM in each page where you want the search field to be displayed in the following way:

```
<form action="http://www.yoursite.com/absolutenm/PPL.search.asp">  
<input type="text" name="search">  
<input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Search">  
</form>
```

In the FORM ACTION, make sure to provide the full URL to the Absolute News Manager System.

You can customize this FORM in any way you like, just make sure it contains a TEXT field named search and that it points to the PPL.search.asp file within your Absolute News Manager root directory.

The search results are displayed inside an ASP page, you can customize the look and feel of this file by editing the PPL.search.asp file.

Note :

When using plug-ins on HTML templates, you'll use `$$TAGS$$`.

When using plug-ins on ASP Templates, you'll need to use `<%=tags%>`

QUICK START GUIDE

1. Configuration	<p>The first thing you must do when using the Absolute News Manager for the first time is to set your configuration settings as explained in the preceding chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Set the Absolute News Manager to work with your selected database (MS Access or SQL Server): Edit the databasedata.asp file to select the proper connection string.❑ Log into Absolute News Manager at http://www.yoursite.com/absolutenm using the default administrator username and password (admin)❑ Click on the USERS option from the top menu and edit the default administrator with your own information (select a new username and password)❑ Click on the OPTIONS button from the Top Menu and configure the Absolute News Manager by providing the necessary information.❑ Set the appropriate Include Libraries to allow the Absolute News Manager to upload files to your articles and send articles by e-mail (create an incUpload.asp and incEmail.asp files from the Libraries Zip file and move them to the Absolute News Manager root directory).❑ Create at least one Template file or edit the default Template (template.htm) file to match your site's look and feel. Use the Absolute News Manager Tags to layout the articles and create the "Send Article by E-mail" and "Print Article" buttons or links. Save your Templates and their files inside the Templates folder.
2. Define Your Headline Zones	<p>Headline Zones are the places on your pages where you want your latest headlines to be displayed.</p> <p>For example: if you want to display news on your main page, then you may define a Zone named MAIN PAGE.</p> <p>Also, if you want to display headlines and news related to a special topic on your site (like music or sports) then you should create a Zone named MUSIC NEWS for the music</p>

	<p>news and a SPORTS NEWS for the sports news.</p> <p>By defining Zones, you'll be able to control the display of Headlines on your pages and classify your news.</p> <p>This allows you to place the code on your web page just once and then control which headlines should appear in which Zones.</p> <p>Your News can be scheduled so that the headlines displayed on the defined zones will periodically change based on the dates defined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ To create a Zone, click the Zones button in the Top Menu and then click on the CREATE NEW ZONE button.❑ Enter the New Zone Name and a short description of the Zone (optional) in the corresponding fields.❑ Select a Template file to use when a user clicks on an article on that zone (type the Template file name).❑ Select the properties that you want to control/modify: You can set the fonts, colors, sizes of the headlines, which article properties to display, how to display the headlines (vertically or horizontally) and even a target frame to open the article.❑ Assign publishers to the Zone: Only the Publishers assigned to the Zone will be able to create and publish articles for the Zone.❑ Press the Save Zone Button.❑ The Zone will be created and its name will be added to the Zone list.❑ You can add as many Zones as you want and further assign publishers to any Zone. Also you can have different templates for each Zone or use the same one.❑ Next to each Zone is a code (Code for Zone). You need to copy and paste this code into each of your pages containing the Zone you just defined. E.g. You'll place the MAIN ZONE code on your main page where you want your headlines to be displayed, or you'll place the MUSIC NEWS Zone code on your music related pages. This Zone code can override the default Zone
--	---

	<p>options by passing additional parameters (see the Zone Section for details), thus allowing you to display the same Zone with different styles.</p>
<p>3. Create Publishers, Editors and Administrators</p>	<p>Publishers are the users in charge of publishing and maintaining articles on your site.</p> <p>Editors are the users in charge of publishing content.</p> <p>Administrators are the users in charge of maintaining the application and they can also publish content.</p> <p>By defining Publishers and assigning them to Zones, they'll be able to log into the Absolute News Manager System using their corresponding usernames and passwords and provide content only for their Zones.</p> <p>For example: if you want to have Sports news, you may want to register some Publishers and assign them to the Sports Zone.</p> <p>An editor then may review this content and publish it or assign it to another publisher.</p> <p>Administrators can freely add as many users as they want and assign them to any Zones at any time.</p>
<p>4. Create Articles</p>	<p>To create a new article, click on the 'New Art.' button on the top menu.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Enter a Headline, Headline Date and the Source for the new article. ❑ Set a Start Date and End date to schedule the headline displaying of the article on the assigned Zone (explained later). ❑ If you're an editor, or the option to have the editor review the article before publishing (options menu) isn't checked, you'll be able to set the status for the article. Select the current article status as Publish (Use Expired in case you don't want to display the headline anymore). You can also set it to Pending if the article is waiting for approval or is being composed or edited. ❑ Select the Zones on your site where you want the headline for this article to be displayed. Publishers will be

	<p>allowed to select only from their assigned zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Enter a Short Summary for the article. ❑ If you want this article to point to an URL on other site (or outside the Absolute News Manager), select the article type option to “External Article” and enter the corresponding URL to the article. Later when users click on the headline, they’ll be redirected to the url specified. ❑ If you’re going to create and compose an article, then select the “regular article” option on the article type field and you’ll be able to edit and compose the article using the TEXT editor or the On-Line HTML Editor. <p>By using the On-Line HTML Editor you can directly paste articles from Microsoft Word or other applications and enhance your articles using hyperlinks, colors, formatting and fonts without having to know HTML.</p> <p>Note: In order to use the On-Line HTML Editor you’ll need to use Microsoft Internet Explorer 4 or higher.</p> <p>Also, you can use the TEXT editor to compose articles or directly paste HTML code.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Click the Save Article Button to save and view the new article or press the Images and Files button if you want to attach files, images, video, audio and links to it and fully enhance your articles. ❑ If there are more articles in the database and you want to add related content to your new article, press the Related Articles button to relate any other articles to the current one. ❑ Once finished, click the View Article Button and you’ll be presented with the article information and the full article as will be displayed using the Zone Template. Clicking on other assigned Zones will display the article with the corresponding Zone Template.
<p>5. Let Your Visitors Browse Your Articles</p>	<p>If you pasted the Zone codes on your site and there are articles published, your headlines will be listed in the Zones depending on the start date that you previously set.</p> <p>When your visitors click on the headlines displayed in the Zones, The Absolute News Manager will display the full article using the Template file assigned to that Zone.</p>

	<p>If you've created the Plug-In links, users will be able to print the article, send it by e-mail and search all your articles.</p> <p>Every time you log into the Absolute News Manager you'll be able to search for your current articles and browse their contents and information.</p>
6. Enhance the System by Using Plug-Ins	<p>If you want, you can add and register new Plug-Ins in your Absolute News Manager System to further enhance its functionality. At XIGLA SOFTWARE we're developing new Plug-Ins that will let you get more from your Absolute News Manager.</p> <p>Check out our site for more information on Plug-Ins being developed: http://www.xigla.com</p>

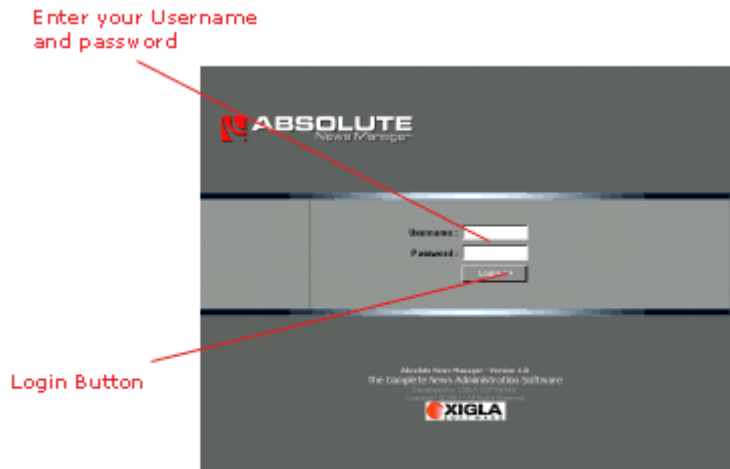
ABSOLUTE NEWS MANAGER OPTIONS

The Absolute News Manager is extremely easy to use. In order to operate the System, you just need the menu at the top of the screen. There, you'll find all the system options, which are explained below.

Login Screen

To access the Absolute News Manager, point your browser to <http://www.yourdomain.com/absolutenm>

Once there, use your username and password to access the application. By default, the Absolute News Manager comes configured with both "admin" for the administrator's username and password. If you set a different username and password you'll have to use it in order to access the application.



Search Screen

Use this option to browse and search through your articles

To search your articles you may enter any search criteria combination in the search box:

- ❑ **Keywords** : Enter a keyword to search your articles. Only articles containing the keyword will be returned.
- ❑ **Publisher Name / ID** : Type part the name of the publisher or his ID to look for articles created by that publisher.

- ❑ **Zone:** Select a Zone to list articles with headlines displayed on a particular Zone.
- ❑ **Status:** Select the current status of the articles you want to list.
 - **Publish:** Articles with headlines currently being displayed on your Zones, or scheduled to appear at a future date.
 - **Pending:** Articles just being composed (under construction) or waiting for approval.
 - **Expired:** Old News. Articles whose headline has finished their displaying period on your Zones.
 - **Archived :** If the option to allow browsing of archived articles is active (Options screen) you'll be able to search articles that have been archived.
- ❑ **Article Ids :** Type one or more article ID's to look for them directly.
- ❑ **Displayed Between:** Check this option and select two dates to list articles whose headlines have been (or will be) displayed in the Zones during the selected period.
- ❑ **Modified Between:** Check this option and select two dates to list articles that have been modified during the selected period.

Click the "Search Articles" button to list all the articles that fit your search criteria.

The Absolute News Manager will list the found articles and display the following information:

- ❑ **Articles Found:** Number of articles that match your search criteria.
- ❑ **Article Name:** Headline of the article found. Click the headline to view the full article and their properties.
- ❑ **Source:** The article source.
- ❑ **Displayed Between:** Article schedule.
- ❑ **Status:** Current article status (Publish, Pending or Expired).
- ❑ **Views:** Number of times that the article has been accessed.
- ❑ **View:** Click the View button to view the full article and their properties.
- ❑ **Edit:** Click the edit button in order to modify and edit the article. Only Administrators and the article's author (Publisher) will be able to modify the article.
- ❑ **Delete:** Click the Delete button to delete an article from the database. Only Administrators and the article's author (Publisher) will be able to delete the article.

You can sort the search results by clicking on the corresponding icon below each of the articles found properties

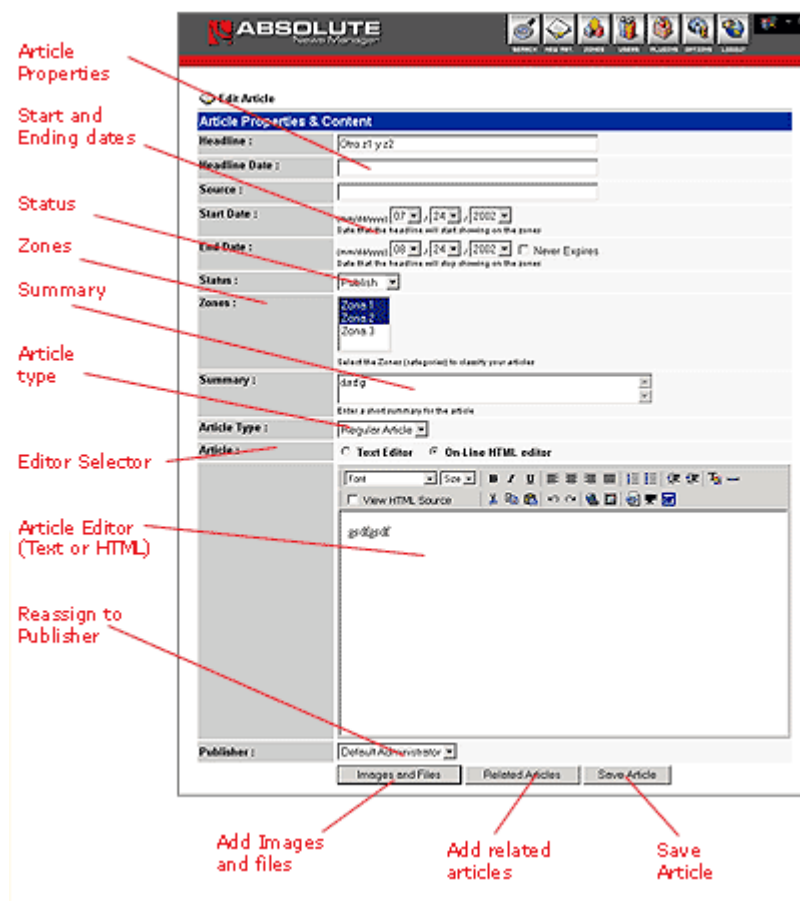
Also there are additional buttons on this screen:



New Article: Use this option to create new articles.

- ❑ **Source:** If you want, you can provide a source for the article. For example : Reuters, or the name of the Publisher.
- ❑ **Start Date and End Date:** Enter the corresponding dates to schedule the release of the news headline in the corresponding Zone. This way, the headline will be only shown when the predefined time arrives and users can click on the headline to access the article. You can also set the hour and minute when the article will began to be available as well as to set the article to never expire by checking the corresponding option.
- ❑ **Status:** A Publish status means that this article is ready to publish, and the headline will be displayed according to the start and ending date. A Pending status is used when an article is currently under construction or review and an Expired status means that the headline will no longer be shown in the Zone. If the options to browse archived articles is enabled (Options screen) you'll be able to set the status of an article as archived.
- ❑ **Zones:** Select the Zones where the article belongs. When the start date comes, the headline of the article will be shown on the specified zones. Publishers can only access their assigned Zones.
- ❑ **Summary:** If you want, you may provide a brief summary/teaser for the article.
- ❑ **Article Type :** If the article is outside Absolute News Manager, you can set it here by selecting the "External Article" option and provide the Url to the article. Or select "Regular Article" if you want to provide the content and the article will be stored inside Absolute News Manager.
- ❑ **Article:** If you are composing an article, you can edit it here. The Absolute News Manager has two editors available for editing articles:
 - **TEXT Editor:** This is a simple text editor with no rich-editing features. You can use it to directly write your articles or pasting pure HTML code. The Don't Auto Format option must be checked when you enter pure HTML code. Not checking this option will make the system automatically format the text article into HTML.
 - **On-Line HTML Editor:** The Absolute News Manager comes with its own HTML web-based editor. Using this editor you can visually edit your articles and enhance them with colors, fonts, links, tables and images. Also you can directly paste formatted text from other programs like Microsoft Word. Publishers don't need to know HTML when working with this editor as it is a What You See Is What You Get (WYSIWYG) editor.

- ❑ **Publisher:** If you're an editor you can reassign the article to another publisher by selecting it from this drop-down list.
- ❑ **Images and Files:** Press this button to save the article and attach files and images to it or to upload in-line images to add to your article.
- ❑ **Related Articles:** Press this button to save the article and add related articles to the current one.
- ❑ **Save Article:** Saves the article and takes you to the View Article Screen where you can preview it using the Zone Templates (for the Zones that the article has been assigned to).



Note :
Creating a Summary only articles :
 You can create a summary only article (an article without content, only a quick note) by selecting the "regular article" option and not providing any content. This is useful for example, if you want to add events to a zone.

Adding In-Line Images to the articles :

Even though Absolute News Manager uses the `$$IMAGE$$` tag to position your pictures on the template, you may want to insert an image directly in the article. To do so, press the "Images and Files" button. Upload the proper file as "Inline" (File Type), go back to the article and you'll be able to insert the file directly to your article.

Media Manager (Images and Files)

You can attach an unlimited number of files to your articles. By attaching images, audio, videos and URLs, your articles will provide a full multimedia experience.

- ❑ **File:** Select this option to upload a local file to the server and attach it to the article. Click on the BROWSE button to search your local drive and select the file that you want to upload.
- ❑ **URL:** You can provide the URL to the file or link that you want to attach to the article, just click this option and type the full URL to the file or link that you want to attach. If you have support for Absolute Image Gallery you can use it to select the file from your multimedia gallery system.
- ❑ **File Title:** Provide a title for the file that you are attaching like the name of the picture, the file or the name of the link.
- ❑ **Comments:** Provide any comment to further describe the file. For example you may attach a picture, enter the name of the picture and then type a description of the picture here.
- ❑ **File Type:** The Absolute News Manager classifies the attached files as images, audio files, video files, links, Inline or any other type of file. Just select the correct file type to classify the attached item. An Inline file type is used for inserting pictures directly to the article.

Once you've provided all the information, click on the Upload Button to attach the file to the article. You can upload as many files as you want.

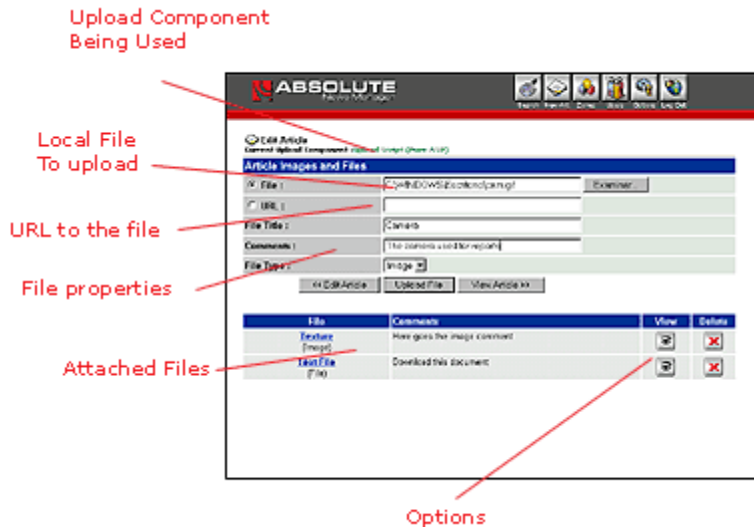
The attached files will be listed with their options to access and view the files and delete them.

Also you can go back to the article and edit it or click the View Article button to finish attaching files and view the article (Of course you can upload more files later).

Note :

In order to Upload files to attach to your articles, you need to have an appropriate Upload Include library configured.

Also, the articlefiles folder inside your Absolute News Manager directory must have write permission. Otherwise you'll get an error when trying to upload files.



Add Related Articles

If you want, you can add related articles to the article being edited by clicking on the Related Articles button when editing an article.

This option will show a search engine that will help you to look for the articles that you want to add (relate). This search engine works the same as the articles search screen previously described.

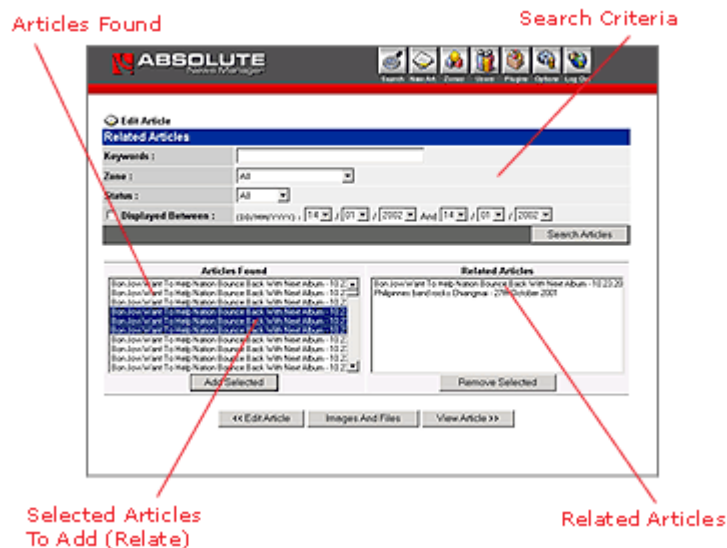
Enter your search criteria, click the search articles button and the articles found will be shown on the lower-left list.

Select the articles that you want to add (relate) to the current article and press the Add Selected button.

The selected articles will be added to the related articles list of the current article and will be listed on the lower-right screen.

If you want to remove any of the related articles, simply select them and click on the Remove Selected Button.

Once ready you can add further images, go back to the article edition screen or preview the article by clicking on the appropriate button.



View Article

To view an article, you must click on the VIEW button from the **search screen** or create a new article. This option will display all the article properties and will let you preview it exactly as it will be show on your site using the Templates for the Zones that you have assigned the article to:

- ❑ **Headline, Article ID, Zones:** The headline, article identification number and the Zone where the headline will be displayed (Clicking on each Zone will display the article using the Template assigned to the Zone).
- ❑ **Views :** Number of times that the article has been viewed/accessed.
- ❑ **Posted:** Date the article was created.
- ❑ **Last Updated:** The article last update date.
- ❑ **Start and End Date:** Dates scheduled for displaying the article headline on the Zones.

- ❑ **Status:** Current article status (as an editor or administrator, you can easily change the status from the drop-down list)
- ❑ **Publisher:** The Absolute News Manager Publisher that posted the article.
- ❑ **Direct Link URL :** Use this link if you want to directly link to an article from your site
- ❑ **Article Thumbnail:** Thumbnail image used for displaying the headline on the Zones. To upload a new thumbnail image, click on the upload button. A pop-up screen will be shown. Just follow the directions to add a thumbnail image to the article.
- ❑ **Summary :** Displays the summary for the article.
- ❑ **Article Preview:** Lets you see exactly how the article will look on your site once published using the zone's templates. Click on the "View" button top open the article on a new window. If the article is using an ASP template, you'll need to click the proper View Button to preview the article.

Also, there are additional options when viewing an article:

New Article: Lets the Publisher create and register a new article.



Edit Article: If you are the Publisher of the article or a System Administrator, you will be able to edit the article.



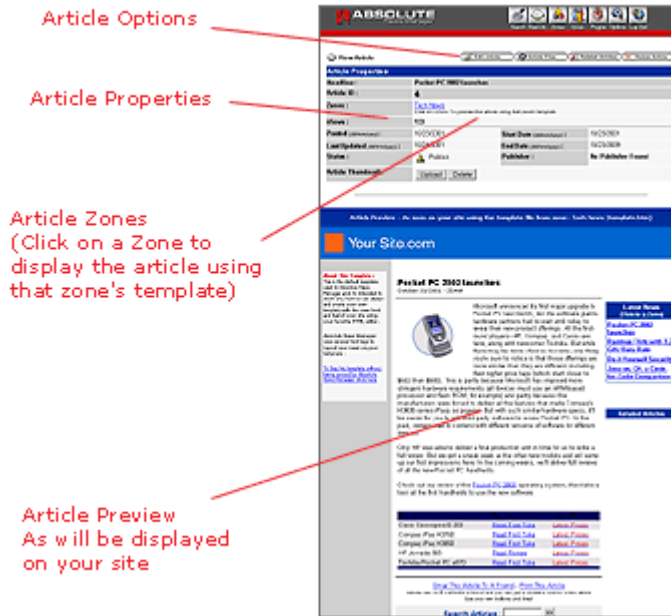
Article Files: If you are the Publisher of the article or a System Administrator, you will be able to add and edit the files currently attached to the article.



Related Articles: If you are the Publisher of the article or a System Administrator, you will be able to add related articles to the current one being displayed.



Delete Article: Only the System Administrator or the article Publisher will be able to delete the article.



Zones

This option lets you create and define the headline Zones for your site.

Zones are the places on your site where you want the Absolute News Manager to display your latest headlines. In this version of the Absolute News Manager, Zones have been greatly enhanced, allowing you to control each Zone style and color independently, as well as other properties.

Zones are analog to categories. By defining Zones, your users will see your latest headlines grouped so that they can easily access them.

For example, if you want to have music related articles on your site, then you may define a Zone named MUSIC ARTICLES, and create articles for this Zone. Then just copy and paste the Zone code into each page where you want your music related headlines to be displayed, and your users will access your music articles by clicking on the corresponding headline.

The registered Zones are listed with the following information:

- **Zone Name/Description:** The name of the Zone and the description you entered when you defined your Zone, also some other properties are displayed:
 - **Template:** Template used by the Zone to display and layout its articles

- **Headlines:** Maximum number of headlines to be displayed on the Zone.
- **Code for Zone:** Copy and Paste this code in each page where you want to display the headlines of the articles that you'll assign to each Zone.

Absolute News Manager provides two types of codes :

- **Javascript Inject** : use this code to display your headlines on any page regardless of the extension. The Javascript code is similar to this one :

```
<script language="JavaScript" src="http://site/anm/xlaabsolutenm.asp?z=1"></script>
```

- **ASP Include Call** : If you want to display your headlines on ASP pages, you can use this code instead which will render the headlines directly into the ASP page and is faster than the Javascript Inject.

The ASP include call works by adding a single include (xlaGC.asp) to your ASP pages and then calling a function on it called xlagc() :

```
<!-- #include file="xlaGC.asp" -->
<%=xlagc("http://site/anm/xlaabsolutenm.asp?z=1")%>
```

The xlaGC.asp file only has to be included once on your ASP pages. As it does not rely on paths or databases, you make copies of this file across your site's directories and call it directly with a simple include directive, without having to worry about paths.

The function xlagc() receives as parameter the URL to the zone.

The following code, retrieves the headlines for 2 different zones into 2 variables and then renders them on the current ASP page :

```
<!-- #include file="xlaGC.asp" -->
<%
'/// Variables that will hold the headlines
dim headlines1
dim headlines2

'/// using the xlagc() function to retrieve the headlines from
'/// site/anm/

headlines1=xlagc("http://site/anm/xlaabsolutenm.asp?z=1")
```

```
headlines2=xlagc(http://site/anm/xlaabsolutenm.asp?z=2)
```

```
'/// Displaying the headlines in the page  
response.write headlines1  
response.write headlines2  
%>
```

- **ASP.NET User Control** : You can directly display your headlines on ASP.NET pages by using the provided user control. This code works by registering the control in your ASP.NET page and then calling the control with the URL to the zone rendering script (xlaabsolutenm.asp) :

```
<%@ Register TagPrefix="xigla" TagName="anm"  
Src="xlagc.ascx" %>
```

```
<xigla:anm runat="server"  
location="http://www.yoursite.com/absolutenm/xlaabsolute  
nm.asp?z=1"/>
```

The Control registration is only required once in your ASP.NET page, at the beginning of the ASPX script. Make sure that its SRC (source) attribute, points to the xlagc.ascx file in your Absolute News Manager directory.

Then, you can call the control (<xigla:anm>) any number of times in the ASP.NET page. For the location property, you provide the full URL to the xlaabsolutenm.asp file which renders the headlines.

This is an advanced code, please refer to the .NET Framework documentation from Microsoft for info on how to use user controls on your ASP.NET pages.

- **Link to RSS Newsfeed** : You can syndicate your content to other sites via an XML RSS Newsfeed. Absolute News Manager provides you with a code to syndicate each of your zones. Many sites accept this format like <http://www.syndic8.com> and <http://www.newsisfree.com> . The RSS Newsfeed outputs an XML file with links and summaries of your articles that is easily accessible to other sites.

When a page with any of these codes is displayed (except for the RSS Newsfeed code which outputs XML code), the Absolute News Manager will show a list of the current articles assigned to that Zone. This

listing is shown inside a border-less table that resizes to 100% of the cell's width where you placed the code into.

You may want to create a table such as the one below to display the headlines for each Zone (you can display your headlines both horizontally or vertically):

Design a headlines List container for each zone

Paste the zone code into the cell that you want your headlines to be displayed (Use your favorite HTML Editor and place the code in HTML View)

Absolute News Manager Will load and list your current headlines into the specified zone when the scheduled date arrives

Latest News

 [Pocket PC 2002 launches](#)
October 23/2001
ZDNet
With the official launch of Pocket PC 2002 comes a flurry of new PDAs from Compaq, Casio, and newcomer Toshiba. Check out our first impressions of the hardware.

 [Do-it-Yourself Security](#)
October 15, 2001
ExtremeTech
Can you do a better job than the pros?

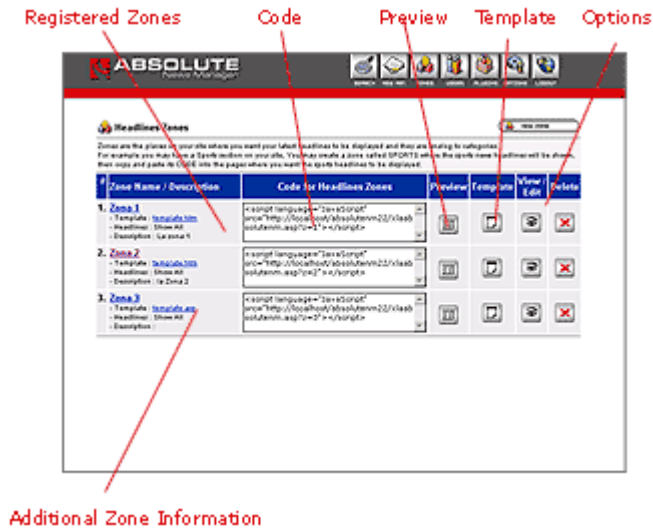
 [Java vs. C#, a Code-for-Code Comparison](#)
August 30, 2001
ExtremeTech
Microsoft Engineers its Own Species of "Improved C++" for the .NET Platform

- ❑ **Preview:** Click the preview button to see how the zone will display at any given date.
- ❑ **Template:** Click the Template Button to view the Zone's assigned Template without being parsed. This Template will be later used to display and layout your articles.

Note :
ASP templates cannot be previewed from the zones screen as they require an article to display. Trying to preview an ASP template from the zones screen will display an error message.

- ❑ **Edit:** Click the Edit Button to edit the Zone properties and assign Publishers to it.

- ❑ **Delete:** Click the delete button to delete a Zone. Also, you'll need to delete the code from the pages that contained that Zone. All the articles assigned only to that Zone will be automatically deleted.



Creating New Zones

The Absolute News Manager uses Zones to display your latest headlines. Zones also use Templates to parse your article and content, plus they provide a comprehensive set of properties to let you fully customize the look & feel of each Zone independently.

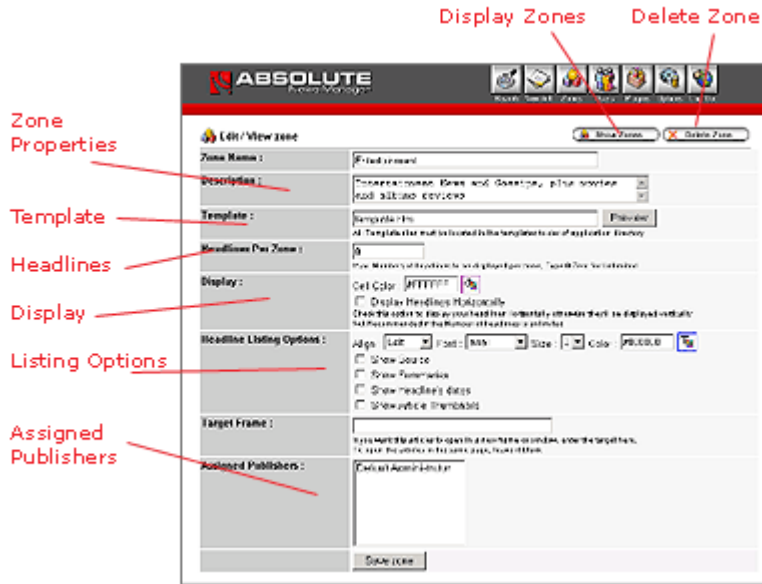
Only System Administrators will be able to edit and create new Zones. To create a new Zone, click on the Create New Zone button.

The Zone Properties will be displayed. These properties allow you to control how your headlines will be displayed:

- ❑ **Zone Name:** Enter a name to identify the new Zone. For example, if you want to have sports news, you may name a Zone "Sports". Also remember that Zones allow you to categorize your information, so a good category name will be a perfect Zone name.
- ❑ **Description:** Provide an optional description for the new Zone.
- ❑ **Template:** Enter the full name of the file that will be used as Template for articles assigned to this Zone. Your Templates must be located inside the Templates folder. The default Template file is template.htm.

- ❑ **Headlines Per Zone:** Allows you to limit the number of headlines to be displayed per Zone. Type 0 (Zero) if you want to display all the articles that are currently available (published).
- ❑ **Display:** Allows you to control the displaying of the cells containing your headlines:
 - **Cell Color:** If you want, provide a color for each headline cell.
 - **Display Headlines Horizontally:** Headlines can be displayed both horizontally and vertically. If you want your headlines to be displayed horizontally, you'll need to check this option. It is a good idea to limit the number of headlines per Zone when displaying them horizontally, otherwise, if you have a lot of active articles, your pages will display an annoying horizontal scroll bar.
- ❑ **Headline Listing Options:** Lets you control which information to display and which fonts to use with your headlines:
 - **Align, Font, Size, Color:** Select how the headlines will be aligned and which font, sizes and colors they should have.
 - **Show Source:** Check this option to display the source of your articles.
 - **Show Summaries:** Check this option to display the summary / teaser of your articles.
 - **Show Headline's Dates:** Check this option to display the headline date of your articles.
 - **Show Article Thumbnails:** If your article has a thumbnail and you want it to be shown on your Zone, check this option.
- ❑ **Target Frame:** If your site is using frames and you want your Zone to be displayed on one frame and display the articles on another, you should enter the name of the target frame here. Also, if you want your articles to open on a new window when a headline is clicked, you should type the target frame `_blank` . If you want your articles to display on the same page/frame, leave this field blank.
- ❑ **Assigned Users :** Select the Publishers/ Editors / Administrators that will be assigned to this Zone. Publishers will be allowed to edit articles to their assigned Zones only.

Click the Save Button and your new Zone will be created. Remember that you can have different Templates for each Zone : If you want your music news to be displayed with a different look than your sports news, you may have 2 different Templates and assign one to each Zone.



Note:
 When you create a Zone, the values provided are considered the default settings. However those values can be overridden by passing a new set of parameters in the URL used for the zone code previously explained (the URL pointing to the xlaabsolutenm.asp file). Thus allowing you to have the same Zone displayed in different ways.
 To see how to override these parameters refer to the "Overriding Zone Parameters" section next.

Overriding the Default Zone Parameters

When creating a Zone, you define set several parameters in order to display and list your headlines the way you want.

Once a Zone is created, the application provides a zone code that needs to be pasted in each page of your site. For Instance, the javascript code is similar to the one shown below :

```
<script language="JavaScript"
src="http://www.site.com/absolutenm/xlaabsolutenm.asp?z=1"></script>
```

Please note, there's a mandatory question mark (?) inside the code. This means that several parameters will be passed to the application. In this case, the parameter z=1 is passed. Where z is the parameter for Zone and 1 corresponds to the Zone ID # 1, thus this code will display the headlines for the Zone with Zone ID 1 using the displaying options that you configured when creating the Zone.

However, you can override those parameters and present the same Zone in a different way. For example :

A Zone displays all of your available headlines vertically without its thumbnails. Maybe you'll want to also have this same Zone to display only 4 headlines, horizontally and with thumbnails. You don't have to create a new Zone with these new settings; you can just override the default parameters.

For overriding the Zone parameters the line of code can be modified in the following way by adding some new parameters (in red):

```
<script language="JavaScript"
src="http://www.site.com/absolutenm/xlaabsolutenm.asp?z=[ZONEID]&h=[0..n]
&ss=[y,n]&sc=[y,n]&sd=[y,n]&st=[y,n]&d=[v,h]&al=[Align]&cc=[Hex
Color]&target=[Target Frame]&font=[font]&color=[Hex
Color]&size=[0..n]&isarchive=[y,n]&stdate=[date]&edate=[date]&pdate=[date]
]&sort=[datafield]&ord=[asc,desc]&css=[ClassName]&rmore=[text]"></script>
```

- **Z**: Zone ID, an integer which defines which Zone's headlines to display
- **h**: Maximum number of headlines to be displayed, also an integer. Type 0 (Zero) for displaying all the available headlines.
- **ss**: Show Summary, Yes(y) or No(n). Whether or not display the article's summary.
- **sc**: Show Source, Yes(y) or No(n). Whether or not display the article's source.
- **sd**: Show headline Date, Yes(y) or No(n). Whether or not display the article's date.
- **st**: Show article's Thumbnail, Yes(y) or No(n). Whether or not display the article's thumbnail image.
- **d**: Display the headlines vertically(v) or horizontally(n).
- **al**: Align, How to align the headlines. Could be Left, Center or Right.
- **cc**: Cell Color, hexadecimal value, i.e: cc=CC00FF.
- **target**: Target frame to open the headlines, I.E : target=_blank.
- **font**: Font to display the headline, I.E : font=verdana.
- **color**: Font Color, I.E : color=999999.
- **size**: Font Size, integer.
- **isarchive** : archived articles, Yes(y) or No(n). The zone will contain headlines from archived articles.
- **stdate** : Display headlines with a defined starting date. The date passed should be in the format of YYYY/MM/DD, you can pass a complete date or just part of it. I.E : to display articles with a start date of August 2002 you'll set this parameter as stdate=2002/08. The zone will display all the headlines that became published during august 2002.
- **edate** : Display headlines with a defined ending date. The date passed should be in the format of YYYY/MM/DD, you can pass a complete date or just part of it. I.E : to display articles with an ending date of April 2002 you'll set this parameter as edate=2002/04. The zone will display all the headlines that expired during April 2002.

- ❑ **pdate** : Display headlines with a defined posted date. The date passed should be in the format of YYYY/MM/DD, you can pass a complete date or just part of it. I.E : to display articles that were posted during January you'll set this parameter as pdate=2002/01 The zone will display all the headlines that were posted during January 2002.
- ❑ **sort** : sorting criteria. You can pass any database field name to be used for sorting the headlines on the zone. You can use the following values to sort your headlines :
 - **articleid** : Sort the headlines by articleid
 - **posted** : Sort the headlines by date posted
 - **lastupdate** : Sort the headlines by last update date
 - **headline** : Sort the headlines by headline
 - **headlinedate** : Sort the headlines by headline date
 - **startdate** : Sort the headlines by startdate (default)
 - **enddate** : Sort the headlines by end date
 - **source** : Sort the headlines by source
 - **summary** : Sort the headlines by summary
 - **clicks** : Sort articles by hits
- ❑ **ord**: Headlines Order. Ascending(asc) or descending(desc). Use it conjunction with the sort parameter to display your orders in ascending or descending order (Ascending by default)
- ❑ **css**: Inherit from class. Pass the name of the CSS style class from which the headlines should inherit to render the headlines. I.E :
Css=myStyle will inherit from the myStyle CSS class
- ❑ **rmore** : Read More Label. You can change the read more label by passing it as a parameter. Make sure to pass the spaces as a plug(+) sign. I.E : rmore=click+here

You don't need to use all the parameters all the time, you can just take the ones that you want to be modified and overridden for presenting the Zone and type new values for them. Below are some examples on how to use overriding:

1. A Zone is defined to display all the available headlines vertically and their summaries. This Zone is Zone ID #4 and we'd like to display those same articles vertically but limited to 5 headlines, without the summaries but with the headlines dates and using a verdana font and ordered alphabetically.

The following code should be used:

```
<script language="JavaScript"
src="http://www.site.com/absolutenm/xlaabsolutenm.asp?z=4&h=5&ss=n&sd=y&f
```

```
ont=verdana&sort=headline&ord=asc">
</script>
```

This code has the following parameters:

z=4: The Zone ID. Display Headlines for Zone # 4.

h=5: The number of headlines will be limited to only 5.

ss=n: By default the article summaries will be displayed, so we have to override this parameter telling the application to not show the summaries.

sd=y: Display The Headline's dates.

font=verdana: Use the verdana Font.

Sort=headline. Use the headline field to sort the articles

Ord=asc. Sort the headlines in ascending order

2. Zone ID #2 displays vertically only 5 headlines with their dates and we would like to display those same 5 headlines but horizontally with the thumbnails and summaries only in font color red.

Use the following code to override the Zone #2 settings:

```
<script language="JavaScript"
src="http://www.site.com/absolutenm/xlaabsolutenm.asp?z=2&sd=n&ss=y&st=y&
d=h&color=FF0000">
</script>
```

This code has the following parameters:

z=2: Display headlines for Zone #2.

sd=n: As the Zone by default displays the dates, we'll override that value by passing a n for not displaying the headlines dates.

ss=y: Display the source of the article.

st=y: Display the article's thumbnail.

d=h: Display the headlines Horizontally(h).

color=FF0000: Use Font Color FF0000 (Red).

By overriding the Zone's default parameters you'll have much more control on how your headlines are displayed. Experiment a little to get the knack of it.

Latest News		
 <p><u>Pocket PC 2002 launches</u> October 23/2001 <i>ZDNet</i> With the official launch of Pocket PC 2002 comes a flurry of new PDAs from Compaq, Casio, and newcomer Toshiba. Check out our first impressions of the hardware.</p>	 <p><u>Do-it-Yourself Security</u> October 15, 2001 <i>ExtremeTech</i> Can you do a better job than the pros?</p>	 <p><u>Java vs. C#, a Code-for-Code Comparison</u> August 30, 2001 <i>ExtremeTech</i> Microsoft Engineers its Own Species of "Improved C++" for the .NET Platform</p>

Zones provide you with a set of comprehensive properties to let you display your headlines in any way you want

Note:

You can also use the overriding parameters when using the ASP include call. To do so, just add the parameters to the URL used in the xlagc() function call. For example :

```
<%=xlagc("http://site.com/anm/xlaabsolutenm.asp?z=1&h=2")%>
```

The same, applies for the ASP.NET user control :

```
<xigla:anm runat="server"
location="http://www.domain.com/anm/xlaabsolutenm.asp?z=1&h=2"
/>
```



Users

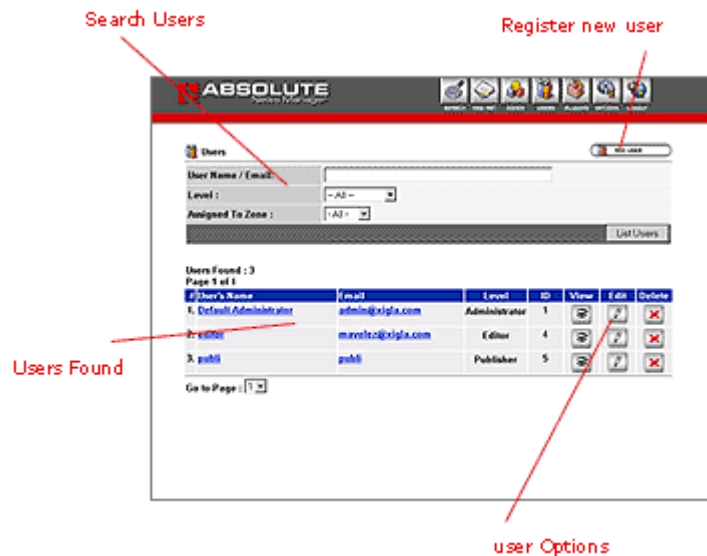
This option lets you register Publishers and Administrators for providing articles to your Zones and managing the System.

The Absolute News Manager lets you have an unlimited number of users for publishing articles on your site. There are three user levels: System Administrators, Editors and Publishers:

- **System Administrators:** have complete control over the application. They can post and delete articles, create and modify zones, register new users and modify the application settings. They have the highest security level and can access to every part of the applications

- ❑ **Editors:** Editors have access to almost every part of the application but they cannot change the configuration settings, modify or create users and zones. They can publish content, make it active, access the system plug-ins and reassign an article to another publisher. An editor can access every publisher's information.
- ❑ **Publishers:** The lower level. They can be set so that they can only access their own information. They can only submit content to their assigned zones and you can set them so that editors have to review their content before making it active. You can assign any number of Publishers to any Zone, so that they can only publish articles to their Zones.

You can list the different system users by providing a search criteria to the search engine.

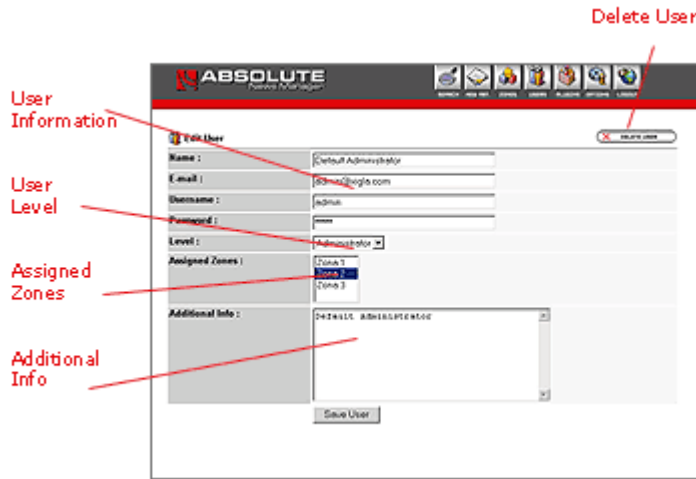


Registering New Users

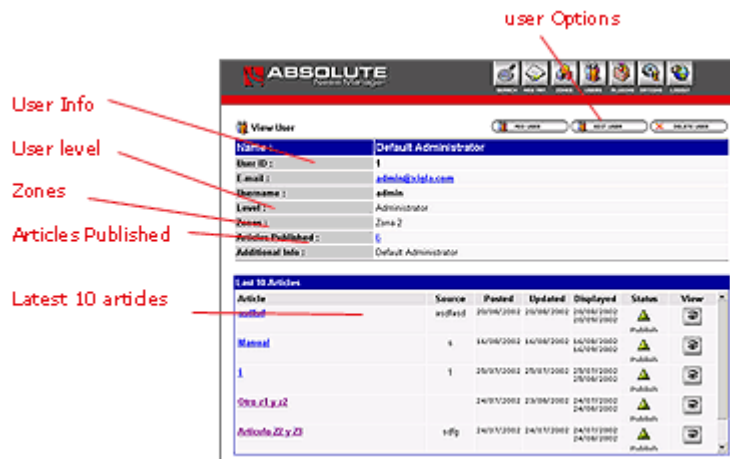
Only System Administrators will be able to edit and register new users. To do so, just click on the Add User button, and you'll be taken to the Edit User Screen.

- ❑ **Name, E-Mail:** Enter the name and e-mail of the new Absolute News Manager Publisher.
- ❑ **Username and Password:** type a username and password for the new Publisher.
- ❑ **Level:** Select the user level (administrator, editor or publisher).
- ❑ **Assigned Zones:** Select the Zones that the new Publisher will have access to.

- **Additional Info:** Enter any additional info for the Publisher (phone number, address, notes, etc).



The new user will be created and you'll be taken to the View user screen where you can see all the publisher information as well as some information regarding his articles. You can also access this information by clicking the user's name on the users search screen.



Plug-Ins

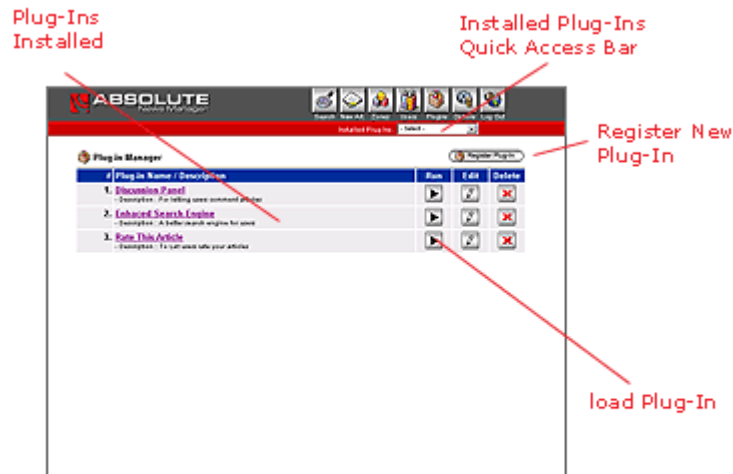
Add and Register Plug-Ins to enhance your Absolute News Manager.

Plug-Ins are programs that have been developed to work with the System and add further functionality to your Absolute News Manager.

Plug-Ins are intended to perform a wide variety of tasks like: allowing users to comment an article or allowing them to rate an article or to send articles by e-mail, displaying your headlines in News Tickers instead of in Zones, allowing users to browse your articles, and much more.

Xigla Software is constantly developing new ideas and programs to be adapted as Plug-Ins for your Absolute News Manager and getting even more from the System, for more information, visit our site at <http://www.xigla.com>.

Only System Administrators can register new Plug-Ins, however they can be accessed by both administrators and editors. Publishers have no access to them.



Registering New Plug-Ins

When getting a new Plug-In, you must refer to its accompanying documentation in order to know how to correctly install it.

Some Plug-Ins need to be registered in order to be managed from within the Absolute News Manager control panel (refer to the Plug-In's accompanying documentation to know if your Plug-In needs to be registered or not).

To register a Plug-In, click on the Register Plug-In Button on the Plug-Ins screen.

A registration form will be shown asking you for the following information:

- ❑ **Plug-In Name:** Name of the Plug-In being registered in the Absolute News Manager.
- ❑ **Plug-In File:** Full URL to the file that must be loaded in order to administer the Plug-In within the System.
- ❑ **Description:** If you want, you can enter any additional information about the Plug-In.



Once the Plug-In is registered, it'll be automatically added to the Top menu's Quick Plug-In access list. This list will be only visible when at least one plug-in has been registered and will be only available to System Administrators and Editors.

Note :

Remember that not all Plug-Ins need to be registered this way. You must read the Plug-In accompanying documentation in order to determine whether or not the Plug-In needs to be registered.



Options

Set and configure your Absolute News Manager.

The configuration settings define several properties that the Absolute News Manager needs for its proper working:

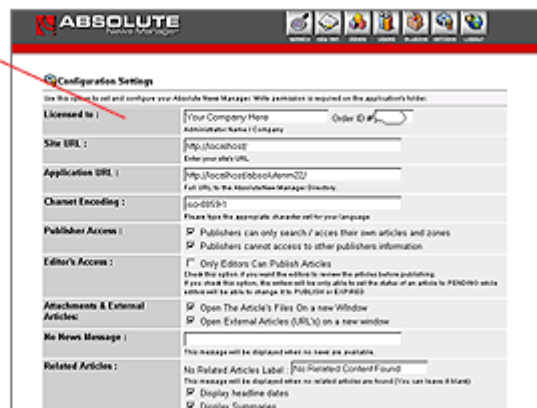
- ❑ **Licensed To / Order ID:** Enter the name of the person/company that the Absolute News Manager was licensed to as well as the order ID number that you received once your purchase was confirmed.
- ❑ **Site URL:** Enter the full URL to your site.
- ❑ **Application URL:** Full URL to the Absolute News Manager (do not provide a relative path)
I.e. <http://www.yourdomain.com/absolutenm>
- ❑ **Charset Encoding :** Defines the character set used in the application. This is useful for international users. By default it is iso-8859-1

- ❑ **Publishers Access** : Sets the access allowed to the publishers registered. You can set whether or not a publisher can access other publisher's information as well as if they can browse their own information and assigned zones.
- ❑ **Editors' Access** : These options let you set the level of access for your editors. You can set whether or not editors can access and browse unassigned zones and articles as well as to have them review all articles before publishing. By checking this option (only editors can publish articles), the system publishers will only be able to set the status of their articles to PENDING while editors and administrators will be able to change it to PUBLISH or EXPIRED.
- ❑ **Attachments and external articles** : select if you want the external articles to open on a new window as well as the files and links.
- ❑ **No News Message**: Enter a message that will be displayed on your Zones when no headlines are available. You may leave this field blank.
- ❑ **Related Articles** : Type a message to display when no related articles are found and select if you want the summaries and headline dates of the related articles to be shown.
- ❑ **Read More Label** : if you want to add a "Read More" Link to your headlines on the zones, type the label here.
- ❑ **Cache** : To enable the system cache. Write permission is required on the cache folder of your Absolute News Manager system. Cache will help to get a better performance by saving the information to disk and keeping it there for a specific time frame.
- ❑ **Components** : Lists the components being used according to the Include Libraries installed in the Absolute News Manager root directory.
- ❑ **Zone's Syndication** : Use this option to protect your headlines to be displayed on non authorized sites. Select the option that you want and type the banned or approved URL's on the text box and pressing ENTER after each one (one URL per line).
- ❑ **RSS Syndication**: Enables the XML RSS Syndication feature. Provide the number of days that a headline should be added to the RSS News feed as well as the name of your site to display when syndicating your content.
- ❑ **Archives**: Select how to handle the archiving of your articles (when do they become active after expiring) and if they can be freely browsed by the system editors and administrators from within the application

(archives are always available to the end users through the search plug-in).

- ❑ **Absolute Image Gallery Support** : Absolute Image gallery is a premier picture and multimedia gallery administration system. You can integrate Absolute News Manager with Absolute Image Gallery so that files stored on AIG can be used on Absolute News Manager. If you have Absolute Image Gallery installed on the same domain where ANM is, just type the full URL to the system to allow this support. You'll be able to attach files from your gallery on the Media Manager screen when editing articles. For information about Absolute Image Gallery, visit <http://www.xigla.com/absoluteig>
- ❑ **Database Options** : If you're using an Access database with a DSN-less connection, it's a good idea to compact your database once in a while.
- ❑ **E-Mail Options** : These values are used for sending articles by e-mail and by Plug-Ins with e-mail capability:
 - **Default E-mail Address**: A default e-mail is used instead for the user e-mail for preventing spamming.
 - **SMTP Server**: SMTP Server used for sending e-mails.
 - **Subject**: Subject used for the articles sent by e-mail. I.e. Article sent from yourdomain.com.
 - **Signature**: This message will be added to all the articles sent by e-mail from your site. Use this to promote your site by providing your site's URL, title and a memorable tag-line.
- ❑ **E-Mail Notifications** : Use this option to receive e-mail notifications when a publisher has created an article.

Configuration Settings



The screenshot shows the 'Configuration Settings' page in Absolute News Manager. The page has a header with the 'ABSOLUTE' logo and navigation icons. The main content area is titled 'Configuration Settings' and contains a form with the following fields and options:

- Licensed to:** A text field containing 'Your Company Here' and an 'Order ID #' field.
- Site URL:** A text field containing 'http://localhost/'.
- Application title:** A text field containing 'http://localhost/absolute/nm22'.
- Charset Encoding:** A dropdown menu set to 'iso-8859-1'.
- Publisher Access:** Two checked checkboxes: 'Publishers can only search / view their own articles and zones' and 'Publishers cannot access to other publishers information'.
- Editor's Access:** A radio button selected for 'Only Editors Can Publish Articles'. Below it, a note says: 'Check the option if you want the editor to review the articles before publishing. If you check this option, the editor will be only able to set the status of an article to PENDING while editor will be able to change its PUBLISHED or EDITED'.
- Attachments & External Articles:** Two checked checkboxes: 'Open The Article's Files On a new window' and 'Open External Articles (URL) on a new window'.
- No News Message:** A text field containing 'This message will be displayed when no news are available'.
- Related Articles:** A dropdown menu set to 'No Related Articles Label'. Below it, a note says: 'For Related Content Found. This message will be displayed when no related articles are found (You can leave it blank)'. There are three checked checkboxes: 'Display headline dates' and 'Display Summaries'.

Press the Save button to save the new settings. Write permission is required on the Absolute News Manager root directory in order to save the settings. Otherwise, the application will present you with the necessary code for uploading to your site. This code must be copied and pasted into a blank .txt file. Rename this file to configdata.asp and upload it to your Absolute News Manager root directory and your new settings will take place.

Error Message



Code :
Copy and Paste This code into a file and name it configdata.asp, Upload it to your Absolute News Manager root Directory



Log Out

Once finished, click the Log Out button to finish your Absolute News Manager Session and you'll be taken back to the login screen.

DEFAULT PLUG-INS

The Absolute News Manager includes 3 free Plug-Ins to perform tasks such as letting users send articles by e-mail, getting a printable version of the article and searching your articles.

These 3 Plug-Ins come installed by default and THEY DON'T NEED TO BE REGISTERED in the Plug-Ins screen.

The "Send Article By E-Mail" Plug-In

This Plug-In has been developed to allow users to send articles by e-mail.

This Plug-In makes use of the e-mail parameters provided in the options screen, and doesn't need to be registered using the Plug-Ins screen.

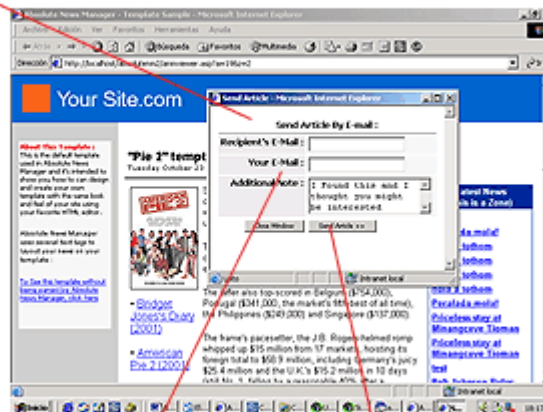
To make use of this default Plug-In, all you need to do is create a link like the one shown below on each Template that you want to enable with this feature.

```
<a href="javascript:openppl('ppl.sendarticle.asp?a=$$ARTICLEID$$',0,0,360,240)">Send This Article By E-mail</a>
```

Later, when an article using a Template with this code is parsed, you'll see a link with the text "Send This Article By E-mail". When a user clicks on the link, a pop-up window will be displayed allowing the user to enter the destination e-mail information and an article link will be e-mailed to the address provided with the Subject and Signature that you entered in the options menu.

You can change the "Send This Article By E-Mail" to any text you want, even an image button.

Plug-In being loaded after user clicks on link



Information Required

Send Button

Note:

If you take a closer look at the Plug-In code, you'll see that it makes a call to a javascript function named openppl(), you don't have to create this function as it is automatically generated by the Absolute News Manager when parsing a Template.

The openppl() function is the default javascript function generated by the Absolute News Manager to open Plug-Ins on Pop-Up windows.

For ASP Templates, you'll need to use <%=ARTICLEID%> instead of \$\$ARTICLEID\$\$

The “Print This Article” Plug-In

This Plug-In has been developed so that users can have a print-ready version of your articles.

To make use of this program, all you have to do is create a link like the one shown below for each Template that you want to enable with this feature.

```
<a href=" ../anmviewer.asp?a=$$ARTICLEID$$&print=yes">Print  
Article</a>
```

Later, when an article using the Template with this code is displayed, you'll see a link with the text “Print Article”. When a user clicks on the link, a print-ready version of the article will be displayed, so that the user can easily print it.

This Plug-In makes use of a special Template named **print-article.htm** (located in the Templates folder) which is a Template designed to create a print-ready version of an article. This Template can be fully customized in the same way as any Absolute News Manager Template (i.e. all Tags are supported). It's a good idea to keep this a very simple Template, however, so that other items don't interfere with the article for printing.

Note:

If you take a closer look at the Plug-In code, you'll see that it links to ../anmviewer.asp

The reason for using ../ is that this code will be placed on a Template that is stored inside the Templates subdirectory while the file anmviewer.asp is stored in the root directory.

By using the ../ we're ensuring that the Template correctly links to that file.

For ASP Templates, you'll need to use <%=ARTICLEID%> instead of \$\$ARTICLEID\$\$

The “Search Articles” Plug-In

The Search Articles Plug-In is a special program that will allow you to implement a simple search engine for your articles in any page of your site (or even outside your site!)

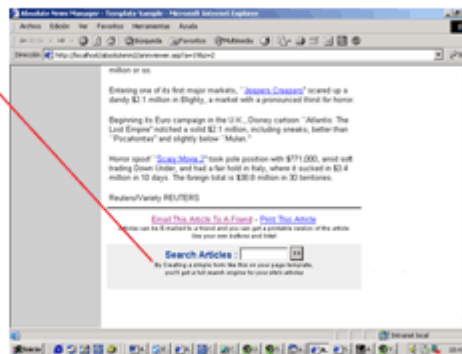
To use this Plug-In, all you have to do is create a form using the HTML code below on ANY page of your site where you want to implement this search engine (Note: This works on ANY page; you're not limited to using it only inside your Templates).

```
<form action="http://www.yoursite.com/absolutenm/PPL.search.asp">  
<input type="text" name="search">  
<input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Search">  
</form>
```

Additionally, you can customize this form in any way you like. Just make sure it contains a TEXT field named "search" and that it points to the PPL.search.asp file in your Absolute News Manager root directory.

This Plug-In is an ASP based script. You may want to customize this file so that it has a style that matches your site's look and feel.

Search Form customized and Displayed on a parsed template



ABSOLUTE IMAGE GALLERY INTEGRATION

Absolute News Manager, supports our multimedia gallery and digital assets administration system Absolute Image Gallery.

If you have Absolute Image Gallery installed on the same domain as Absolute News Manager, you can integrate it with Absolute News Manager in order to pull files from there to use on your articles.

To do this, make sure that there's a file inside your Absolute Image Gallery folder called **aig-anm.asp**

If the file is not in there, look into your Absolute News manager root directory for this file and move it to your Absolute Image Gallery root folder.

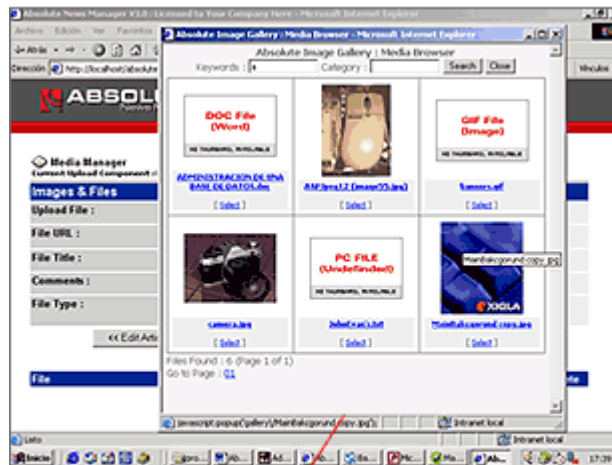
Then, in the options screen, under the “Absolute Image Gallery support” field, make sure to type the full path to your Absolute Image Gallery application. I.E : <http://www.yourdomain.com/absoluteig>

Once set, when adding images and files to your articles you’ll see the following button :



By pressing this button, the Absolute Image Gallery media browser will be opened allowing you to select the file that you want to use in your article.

Click on the [SELECT] link below the file that you want to use and click the UPLOAD button to register this file to use it on your article.



Absolute Image Gallery Media Browser being opened from the Media Manager of Absolute News Manager when adding new images and files to an article

Note:

In order for Absolute News Manager to work with Absolute Image Gallery, both applications must be installed under the same domain. Also the file anm-ai.g.asp should be located on the Absolute Image Gallery root folder.

IDEAS FOR YOUR ABSOLUTE NEWS MANAGER

The Absolute News Manager System is a very versatile application. People around the world are currently using it in a variety of ways. Below is a list of

just a few of the different ways you can use the Absolute News Manager System:

- **Syndicate Content:** Since the Absolute News Manager uses Javascript Includes to display the current headlines on your Zones, you can also include your latest news in any type of web page (regardless of whether they are HTML, CFM, ASP, JSP, PHP or any other type of file). Just provide this script code to the sites that you want to syndicate your content and they'll be displaying your news!
- **Intranet Content:** The Absolute News Manager has successfully provided easy-to-use tools for Intranets to display fresh, up-to-date content. Install your Absolute News Manager in your corporate Intranet, design Zones for each of your company's departments, assign Publishers to your Zones and let them do the rest!
- **Create an Announcements Zone for Your Site:** Just create a Zone for your latest announcements and provide the news for it. Your visitors will be up to date with your latest news!
- **Create an On-Line Course:** Just create your course and break it into different articles, attach any files that your users will need for taking the course, link each following article directly by creating hyperlinks in the article using the included on-line HTML editor. This is very powerful!
- **Use It for Document Management:** Upload your documents to an article where you describe the contents of the files, implement a search engine and your users will be able to manage their documents easily, plus they can e-mail them to other users!
- **Create a Knowledge base :** This application is perfect for creating knowledge bases as you can attach any kind of document to it, select start and ending dates, and archive articles for further browsing.

Got other great ideas? Let us know and we'll pass them along.

We believe the Absolute News Manager is the best and easiest web publishing tool on the web, and we're doing our best to keep it that way.

For more ideas on how our customers are using this application, visit our spotlight section at <http://www.xigla.com/absolutenm/spotlight.htm>

TROUBLESHOOTING

**Q: I've uploaded all the files to my site and maintained the directory structure. However, I'm getting an error. Microsoft JET Database Engine error '80004005'
Operation must use an updateable query.**

A: This error is due to write permission restrictions on the database. Many hosting companies provide their users with a special directory to place their databases in.

To solve the problem, move the database to the assigned directory (often named "databases" and located at the root of your site—Please check this with your host provider's Administration).

With a text editor open the file named databasedata.asp in your Absolute News Manager root directory.

There's a variable named "database".

Change the value of this variable to reflect the new database location.

I.E: The current location is db/absolutenm2.mdb. If your database directory is named databases and it's located at the root of your site, you should change the value of this variable to:

```
database=" ../databases/absolutenm2.mdb"
```

Another way to solve the problem is to create a DSN to the database located in a directory with write permission.

Q: I'd like to create a DSN to the Database, what do I have to do?

A: Place the database in your assigned database directory.

Your hosting company should provide you with a control panel to set DSN's or they will be able to set them for you.

Select a name for the DSN (I.E : absolutenm2).

With a text editor, edit the configdata.asp file in the following way:

In the corresponding connection (Access or SQL Server), replace the value of the connection variable with the name of the DSN:

```
connection=" DSNNAME "
```

You must enclose the DSN Name in double quotes ("")

Please note that DSN's are really slow compared to the default DSN-less connection. Also, they may present an erratic behavior when retrieving default

values from the database. It is advised to use the DSN-Less connection that comes by default.

Q: I've configured everything, and after pressing the Login Button I get an error telling me that the database cannot be found.

A: In this case you'll have to set up a DSN to the database as explained in Question 2 above. Make sure that your database directory has write permissions.

Q: I'm trying to configure Absolute News Manager from the Options Menu. However, every time I press the 'Save Settings' button I get an error message saying that the directory has no write permission and that I must create and upload a file.

A: Some hosting companies don't allow write permissions due to security restrictions. If that's your situation, you'll have to manually configure your Absolute News Manager and upload the changed configdata.asp file to your site.

To do this, copy and paste into a blank .txt file the code provided by the Absolute News Manager, rename this file to configdata.asp and upload it to your Absolute News Manager root directory.

You'll have to do this every time you want to make a change to the application settings.

Q: I Have several components supported by the Absolute News Manager, which Include Libraries do I have to set in the Absolute News Manager Directory?

A: You must configure only one Include Library for each of the upload and e-mailing tasks. Select the components that you'd like the Absolute News Manager to work with and configure its corresponding upload and Include Libraries as described in the installation instructions.

Q: My server doesn't have installed any of the components that Absolute News Manager currently supports, what can I do ?

A: For uploading and attaching files to an article you should use the incUpload.NoComponent library. Just rename this file to incUpload.asp and move it to the root directory of your Absolute News Manager.

For e-mailing, most hosting providers support CDONTS. You should then try using the incEmail.CDONTS Library. Rename this file to incEmail.asp and move it to the root directory of your Absolute News Manager.

If CDONTS is not supported then you'll need to create your own incEmail.asp file or you won't be able to provide the "Send Articles By E-mail" option. Erase any link for sending articles by e-mail that you have on your Template files.

Q: After uploading a file to an article or uploading a thumbnail I get an error, why?

A: Check that the 'articlefiles' and 'thumbnails' folders in the Absolute News Manager directory have write permission. These folders are used for storing the files and attachments of your articles.

Also, make sure that you are using an Include Library for uploading. Check if there's a file named incUpload.asp in your Absolute News Manager directory and that it is compatible with the component installed on your server.

Q: I've correctly set the Application, Include Libraries and write permissions, however I still get an error message when uploading or sending e-mail. Is the Include Library outdated?

A: Components are developed by other companies which are not related in any way to Xigla Software. With time, many of these components get upgraded and new versions are released often requiring updates to the ASP code within the Include Library to work with the new component. It is very difficult for us to track when components are updated by these companies. If you find that your Include Library no longer supports your component, please let us know so that we can update the Upload or E-mail Library accordingly.

Q: I've placed a Zone on a Template file but it always loads the same Zone even though I'm viewing an article from a different Zone. I'd like this Zone to display the headlines of the Zone that the current article belongs to.

A: Copy and paste the code for a Zone on the Template file. But instead of using the zoneid number, use the Tag `$$ZONEID$$`. I.e.

```
<script language="JavaScript"
src="http://localhost/absolutenm/xlaabsolutenm.asp?z=$$ZONEID$$"></script
>
```

Later, when the Absolute News Manager parses your Template, it will replace the Zone with other headlines related to the current article (from the same Zone).

Q: I've pasted the plug-ins code on an ASP template but they do not seem to work.

A: Make sure that you are using `<%=variables%>` instead of the `$$TAGS$$`. For example, in the "Print article" plug-in the code for an HTML template is :

```
<a href=" ../anmviewer.asp?a=$$ARTICLEID$$&print=yes">Print
Article</a>
```

However, this code for an ASP template should be :

```
<a href=" ../anmviewer.asp?a=<%=articleid%>&print=yes">Print
Article</a>
```

Q: I've copied the Zone code and I want to display the headlines in a special order, how can I do this?

A: You can override the zone and use the SORT and ORD parameters to select the field that you want to use for sorting the headlines as well as their order (ascending or descending). Refer to the overriding section for more information on how to override your zone's parameters.

Q: I'm trying to use an ASP template but I get an error message telling me that buffering must be on.

A: If you get this error message, you should add the following line of code at the very beginning (the first line) of your ASP template :

```
Response.buffer=true
```

Q: I've registered a Plug-In but when I load/execute it, nothing happens.

A: Not all Plug-Ins require registration on the Plug-In screen. Delete the Plug-In reference and read the Plug-In accompanying documentation for instructions on how to correctly set the Plug-In.

Q: Where can I get Plug-Ins to further enhance my Absolute News Manager ?

A: Check our website as we'll be releasing new Plug-Ins for use within the Absolute News Manager. Visit <http://www.xigla.com/> and <http://www.xigla.com/absolutenm>.

Q: I'm having problems not listed here. What can I do?

A: Contact us! We're more than happy to help you. You can reach us at: <http://www.xigla.com/absolutenm> or e-mail us at: info@xigla.com. Please refer to the license agreement for our support terms and conditions.

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 the Absolute News Manager web site: <http://www.xigla.com/absolutenm>.

Other Applications by XI GLA SOFTWARE



Bring live customer support to your site

The complete, and feature-packed software solution for increasing your sales, providing technical assistance and increasing your customers satisfaction by delivering Live Customer Service on your own web-site!

Sounds good? It is Good!

Absolute Live Support is a customer service tool for your website that enables web site visitors to instantaneously communicate with your customer service personnel. Web site visitors simply click a Live Support button and are connected with one of your customer service representatives. Your company representative then assists the visitor by providing information, links, graphics, or even guiding them through your web site.

Some Key Features and Benefits:

- Absolute Live Support makes it easy to provide real time customer support for both your prospects and your existing customers.
- Runs on your own server under your own domain: This is not a hosted service; you get the full application for installing on your own site.
- 100% Web-based: Provide real-time customer service support from any computer, anywhere. No need to install any client application. Just launch your browser!
- Reduce Costs: Your representatives can handle concurrent multiple calls instead of being limited to one conversation. By providing assistance online, you do not incur in any telephone charges, thus lowering your phone bills drastically



Absolute Live Support :
Provide the Right Answers at the Right time
Add Customer Support to Your Site!

- Increase Customer Satisfaction: By providing one-on-one interaction, you can better explain your products and services and confirm that your explanation truly answers the customer's question.
- Close More Sales: Absolute Live Support can help you close the sale with customers who may be sceptical about purchasing online. Your live, personal attention demonstrates your commitment to providing great customer service.
- Add Unlimited Representatives and Departments: Get you whole staff to work with the system!

Plus Much More!

"Absolute Live Support Is The Perfect Solution For Improving Your Customer Service And Increasing Your Sales On-Line

GET IT NOW AT:

<http://www.xigla.com/absolutels>

Absolute Live Support By XI GLA SOFTWARE
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Introducing the Absolute Poll Manager XE

The most complete, robust and easy-to-use web-based poll administration system that will allow you to dynamically add and manage polls on your web site while creating interest among your site's visitors and gathering valuable information about what they think.

Generate interest, increase retention, drive traffic, make sales, tempt visitors to stay on your site... Invite them to voice their opinion!

Absolute Poll Manager XE is a ready-to-run, out-of-the-box solution that will allow you to easily create professionally-looking questionnaires, collect instant feedback and business intelligence from your site's visitors and customers.

Features:

- 100% Active Server Pages (ASP) script, there are no DLLs to install on the server.
- Easy-to-use, HTML-based interface to let you administer the application from anywhere in the world. You only need web access!
- Packed with a powerful filter that lets you filter the poll's results to display only the votes that match an specific criteria or pattern.
- Only one (1) line of code is needed to insert your polls onto your pages.
- Polls are displayed and rotated in Zones which you previously define allowing you to completely control the look and feel of your polls.
- Add unlimited questions per poll.
- Polls can be scheduled to appear and disappear at a future date by defining Start and Ending Dates.
- Supports 3 types of questions: Radio Button, Multi-Select Check Boxes and Drop Down Lists.



Absolute Poll Manager XE
The most complete and easy to use
Web Based Polling Software

- Option to export the polls' results and information to MS Word and MS Excel formats.
- Full system configuration through the control panel.
- Works with both Microsoft Access and SQL Server databases (full script included).
- Free minor upgrades included, plus Lila Software's full support and more!

This is a really powerful application that you won't want to miss!

**To get your
Absolute Poll Manager
go now to:**

<http://www.xigla.com/absolutepm>

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Fast and Easy Article Web Publishing

Do you need a quick and easy to use solution for updating and editing massive amounts of articles on your website?

Absolute News Manager makes it really easy for you or your company staff to perform in-house updates to your online schedules, information bulletins, announcements, tour schedules, sale specials, internal company information, news breaks, daily restaurant menus, as well as articles and public information.

You will save precious time and work by easily updating your website with fresh and up-to-date content that will keep your visitors coming back for more!

- Perfect for any site constantly requiring to update articles, news, stories, headlines, editorials, etc.
- Add any type of multimedia content to fully enhance your articles.
- Template-driven. By editing a template file, your articles will be published with the exact look and feel that you want.
- Save time, work, and money by not having to make hundreds of HTML changes and tons of time consuming FTP uploads.
- Create multiple Zones for displaying your articles (e.g. Business, Sports, Music, Entertainment, etc.).
- Supports multiple publishers with different access levels. Get your entire staff to work with the application!
- 100% ASP; there are no DLLs to install on the server.



Absolute News Manager
The powerful web based system for easily publishing News and articles on your site

- Integrated Visual HTML Editor: Publishers don't need to know any HTML.
- Option to send articles by e-mail: Attract more visitors as they send links to your articles.
- Implement a full article search engine with only 3 lines of code.
- Syndicate your content to attract more traffic
- Works with both Microsoft Access and SQL Server databases (full script included).

Plus more! This application is so feature rich that you won't believe it!

"Absolute News Manager is the complete tool for easy article publishing on your web site or corporate Intranet"

GET IT NOW AT:

<http://www.xigla.com/absolutem>

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Introducing Absolute Banner Manager XE

The most complete, robust and easy to use web based banner management solution specially designed for webmasters who need fast, scalable, reliable and flexible ad serving and management front-end.

Absolute Banner Manager XE simplifies your advertising tasks while maximizing your advertising revenues.

An Application That Pays by Itself

Do you want to sell your ad space and boost your revenue?, need an easy to use, yet powerful solution for rotating and managing banners on your website at a very affordable price? Absolute Banner Manager XE is what you're looking for.

- Unlimited banners, zones and advertisers
There are no limitations built into the application, Register as many advertisers, banners and zones as your database can handle.
- 100% ASP Source code : Completely Developed Using Active Server Pages, there are no DLL's to install and supports both MS Access and SQL Server 2000 (Full Script Included).
- Rich Media Support : Multiple types of ads supported : Use GIFs, JPEGs, Animated GIFs, Text ads, HTML banners, Flash banners, Java Applets, Rich Media banners, and 3rd party ad serve.
- Independent Client Stats : Individual passwords allow each of your advertisers to log into the application to view their own advert stats by using beautiful bar charts and generating detailed reports in HTML and MS Excel Format.



ABSOLUTE BANNER MANAGER XE
THE POWERFUL BANNER ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

- Powerful banner tracking engine : Multiple zones can be established, allowing certain banners to appear only on certain parts of your pages. Absolute Banner Manager XE keeps track of exposures and click-thrus for each banner, as well as of the average total number of exposures per day.
- Banners can be weighted to control how often they are displayed, and can automatically be expired from the rotation after a designated number of exposures, click-thrus or date.
- Supports Pop-ups and automatic rotation banners: You can set banners that are automatically rotated and changed without having the user to reload the page or pop-up windows based ads!

A perfect ad management solution for small and medium sites and powerful enough for higher traffic portals.

GET IT NOW AT:

<http://www.xigla.com/absolutebm>

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Introducing Absolute FAQ Manager XE

The incredibly powerful and cost effective customer support system for reducing your costs, increasing customer satisfaction and boosting your sales by empowering your customers to get the answers they need when they need them by themselves!

It's Customer Service on Demand!

The Absolute FAQ Manager is a feature packed Frequently Asked Questions management system that allows you to offer your customers an easy way to automatically get answers to their specific questions on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

With this powerful system your customers will get the information they need when they want it and within the context of your site. This, prevents your customers from leaving your site when they have questions, and cannot readily find answers.

Some Features and Benefits:

- Reduce your support costs: Eliminate redundant support phone calls and e-mails. With Absolute FAQ Manager you will reduce your expenditures in customer service by allowing your customers to help themselves and get the information they need.
- Increase Customer Satisfaction : Your customers will get instant answers to their questions, directly from your web site. They won't have to call your company or send you an e-mail and wait for a reply!
- Natural Language Support : Our powerful search functionality enables customers to get the information they want, using natural language questions.



Absolute FAQ Manager XE
Empower Your Customers to Help Themselves

- Effectiveness on rise : If a customer does not find the answer he's looking for, he can submit it to you. When you answer the question, you can automatically add it to the knowledge!, the longer the use of the system, the greater the number of instant answers available!
- Gather Valuable Customer Knowledge : With the Absolute FAQ Manager, you can easily find out what your customers need by providing them with an easy and powerful communication channel with your company!
- Unlimited Topics and FAQs: You can create virtually unlimited topics to organize your FAQs and have virtually unlimited number of questions.

Plus Much More!

“Absolute FAQ Manager is a featured packed Frequently Asked Questions management system”

GET IT NOW AT:

<http://www.xigla.com/absolutefm>

Absolute FAQ Manager By XIGLA SOFTWARE
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The Perfect Tool to Start Your Own Web-Based Multimedia Gallery

The powerful and feature-rich, database-driven Image Gallery administration system totally developed using Active Server Pages technology.

Absolute Image Gallery, makes creating and maintaining pictures and multimedia galleries a snap! It resides on your web server and searches your web server drive for new images and files to add to your gallery; all from within the powerful (and very easy to use) administration area.

Support for All Kinds of Multimedia

The Absolute Image Gallery is a state-of-the-art digital assets administration system that will let you have and maintain any kind of multimedia content on your site: pictures, animations, movies and videos, MP3s, WAVs, Real Media, Word, Excel, Flash—all of these file types and much more are supported. Plus, you can add support for any file type that you want!

- 100% pure Active Server Pages (ASP) script; there are no DLLs to install on the server.
- Supports unlimited Categories and Sub-Categories. You can have as many as your server can handle. Plus, virtually unlimited files per category.
- Batch Thumbnailer utility included: you'll receive a powerful batch thumbnailer program (.EXE) for easily creating your thumbnails. Totally Free!
- Not just for picture administration: you can have image galleries, video galleries, audio files, office documents, flash, PDF's, ANYTHING!



Absolute Image Gallery
Create Your Own Multimedia Gallery

- Favourite Files: users can mark their favourite files and then have them sent to their e-mail addresses, and you can keep a log of the e-mails addresses entered.
- Images and files can be uploaded via FTP or from within the application. The Absolute Image Gallery also comes with its own upload script.
- Default Thumbnails: If a file has no thumbnail assigned, a default thumbnail is displayed detailing the file type.
- Hit Tracking and Rating System: the system keeps a record of the number of hits that each file receives plus users can rate your files!

Plus Much More!

"Absolute Image Gallery is a complete digital assets administration system!"

GET IT NOW AT:

<http://www.xigla.com/absoluteig>

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Quickly add dynamic content to your site

The Absolute Content Rotator is a powerful content management system specially designed to rotate content through your web site automatically. The Absolute Content Rotator will keep your visitors coming back by showing them fresh new content on every visit to your site.

Absolute Content Rotator is an application with many, many uses. It's the perfect solution for displaying factoids, famous quotes and sayings, thoughts of the day, daily tips, featured sales items or special offers, pictures and anything else you can think of.

Some Features and Benefits:

- Support for unlimited content zones : Your content is displayed and rotated in Zones, which you previously define, allowing you to target specific sections of your site to deliver the content you want.
- Powerful Scheduling Engine : You can set specific information as to how and when the content should be displayed. Easily define date sensitive content and data to be displayed when you need it.
- Rotate content randomly or sequentially : Define how often your content should be refreshed on every zone, you can set it to change randomly every hour or even to display it sequentially until reaching a number of impressions (useful if you want to display banner ads!)



Absolute Content Rotator
The powerful content management system specially designed to rotate content

- Easily add content to any page: only one (1) line of code is needed to add and rotate your content in your pages.
- HTML Editor : Packed with a powerful WYSIWYG (What you see is what you get) editor to let you edit rich content online without having to rely on any other applications.
- Unlimited Zones and Content Items : Your content is displayed and rotated in Zones, which you previously define, allowing you to target specific sections of your site to deliver the content you want. You can have as many zones as you want with as many content as you server can handle.

Plus Much More!

“Absolute Content Rotator has to be the most innovative content rotator system”

GET IT NOW AT:

<http://www.xigla.com/absolutecr>

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ABSOLUTE CONTROL PANEL

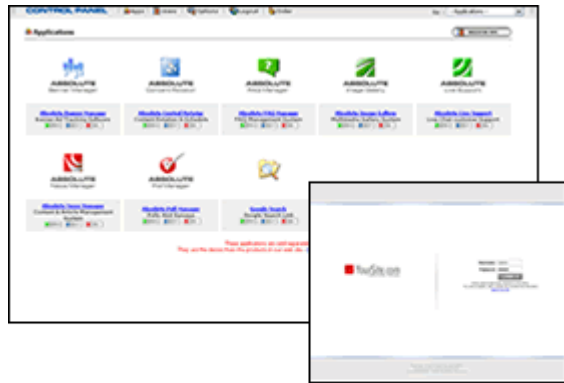
Introducing the Absolute Control Panel XE

Absolute Control Panel is a web based interfacing system specially designed to provide centralized access to your web based applications and Xigla application modules. It has been developed as a practical access point to our web based suite of solutions on your web sites.

By using the Absolute Control Panel, you don't have to worry about login in and out to each of your web based modules; the application does it for you, thus letting you easily switch back and forth between your web modules all from a practical and ergonomically interface.

Some Key Features:

- Centralized Access Point: Your whole staff can access your different web based modules from within a single login screen.
- Specially designed for our line of web based applications : All of Xigla Software's web developments can be easily registered into the Absolute Control Panel.
- Add support for 3rd party web applications : Users with knowledge of HTML, can add references to their own applications and deploy a full administrative portal from a single location.
- Support for external programs: Your web modules don't have to be installed on the same server where the Absolute Control Panel is. You can register applications hosted on any server and domain.



Absolute Control Panel
Manage your Xigla Applications from a single location

- Intuitive and easy to use user Interface: The Top menu provides everything you need to easily work with the system and switch between your applications.
- Use your own logos and images: You can use your own logos and images with the application to identify the control panel as well as personalized icons to identify your applications.

Specially designed for Xigla Software's line of products

Absolute Control Panel provides a powerful centralized access point to your Xigla Software's applications. Plus, if you have knowledge of HTML, you can add support for additional 3rd party applications and create a deploy a full administrative portal with this innovative system!

Plus Much More!

GET IT NOW AT:

<http://www.xigla.com/absolutecp>

Absolute Control Panel by XIGLA SOFTWARE
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Absolute News Manager V3.2 XE

The Complete News Administration Software

Developed by XIGLA SOFTWARE

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Absolute News Manager Administrator's Manual

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For more quality applications, visit our site at

<http://www.xigla.com>