Community Builder
Twitter Connect Plugin

enables automatic registration / login to CB websites using Twitter credentials

CB Twitter Connect 1.0

A CB 1.2.2 compatible plugin

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1   Introduction

The **CB Twitter Connect Plugin** version **1.0** is a CB 1.2.2+ compatible CB plugin that will integrate with your CB powered website and via the CB Login module (with Integration enabled) will allow users to sign-in (register) and/or login using their Twitter credentials.

Since it is fully compatible with CB 1.2.2, it is automatically Joomla 1.5 native (and also Joomla 1.0 and Mambo compatible).

Users will still be able to register via the traditional CB registration form. However, users may also elect to just sign-in using their Twitter credentials. If a Twitter session is not present, the user is redirected to sign into Twitter first. Users that have registered via the traditional CB registration form may elect to link their CB account with their Twitter account, thus being able to one click login in the future.

1.1   Assumptions – Prerequisites

This document assumes that you have properly installed Joomla 1.5.X or Joomla 1.0.X (www.joomla.org) or Mambo CMS and CB 1.2.2 (www.joomlapolis.com) on your website and that you have downloaded the CB Twitter Connect Plugin distribution package from Joomlapolis as a CB Documentation subscriber.

In addition to the CB 1.2.2 prerequisite, this CB Twitter Connect plugin will use **curl** if enabled in your hosting environment. You should consult your hosting organization to establish if **curl** is supported in your environment. If **curl** is not enabled the plugin will attempt to use alternative methods (i.e., snoopy library).

Please read note below:

In order for this plugin to integrate with the CB Login module you must make sure that the '**CB Plugins Integration'** parameter on the CB Login module is *Enabled*.

1.2 Basic Terminology and Use Cases

The following terminology will be used later on and it is important that you understand the meaning and usability of these terms in order to comprehend the exact operations and use cases supported by this plugin.

Registration: The registration process of a CB powered website typically is started by visiting the CB Registration form. The registration form is typically accessed by a link from the CB Login module (with the appropriate module parameters and CB configuration parameters set) or directly from a menu item set to point to the CB Registration form. The CB Registration process is typically managed by CB Workflows specified in the CB Configuration Registration Tab area (email confirmation, registration approval parameters). The CB Twitter Connect plugin basically bypasses the registration process for users with Twitter accounts. These users can basically register and login with a single click.

Linking: The process of associating and existing user account (username / password / email address triplet) with a Twitter account is called 'linking' and this term will be used later on during the configuration chapters of this document.

There are basically 3 use cases possible with this plugin. These are illustrated in the following **Figure 1**.
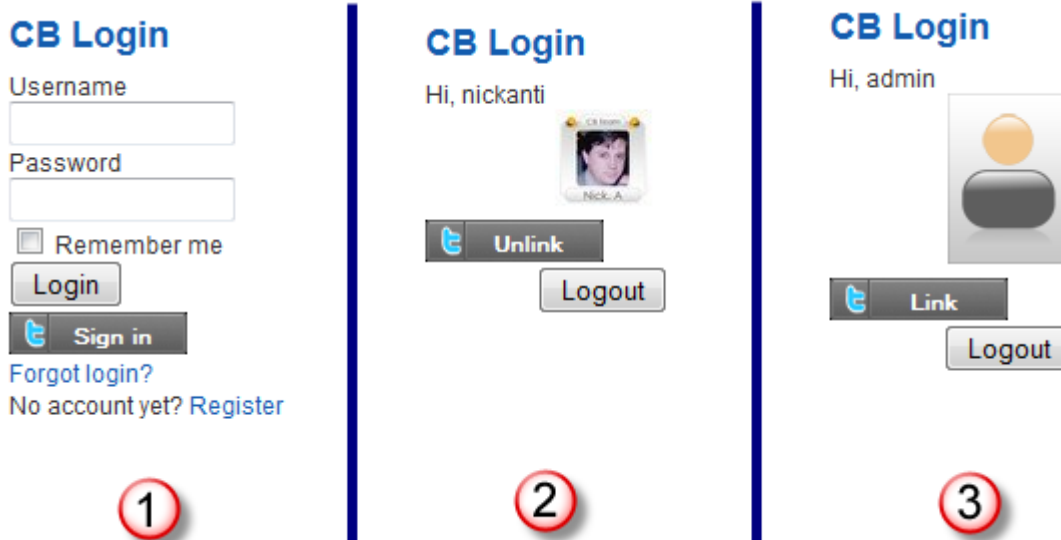
Figure 1 - CB Twitter Connect use cases

The first use case of **Figure 1** shows how the CB Login module appears for a user that is not logged in on our CB powered website with the CB Twitter Connect plugin installed. The user may chose to login using his website credentials (if he has previously completed the CB Registration form), or may chose to register by clicking on the Register URL of the CB Login module, or finally the user may chose to bypass the registration process and click on the ⬛ Sign in button to use his/her Twitter credentials to login. In this situation, the CB Twitter Connect plugin might cause a Twitter page redirect asking the user to sign-in to his/her Twitter account as illustrated in **Figure 2**.
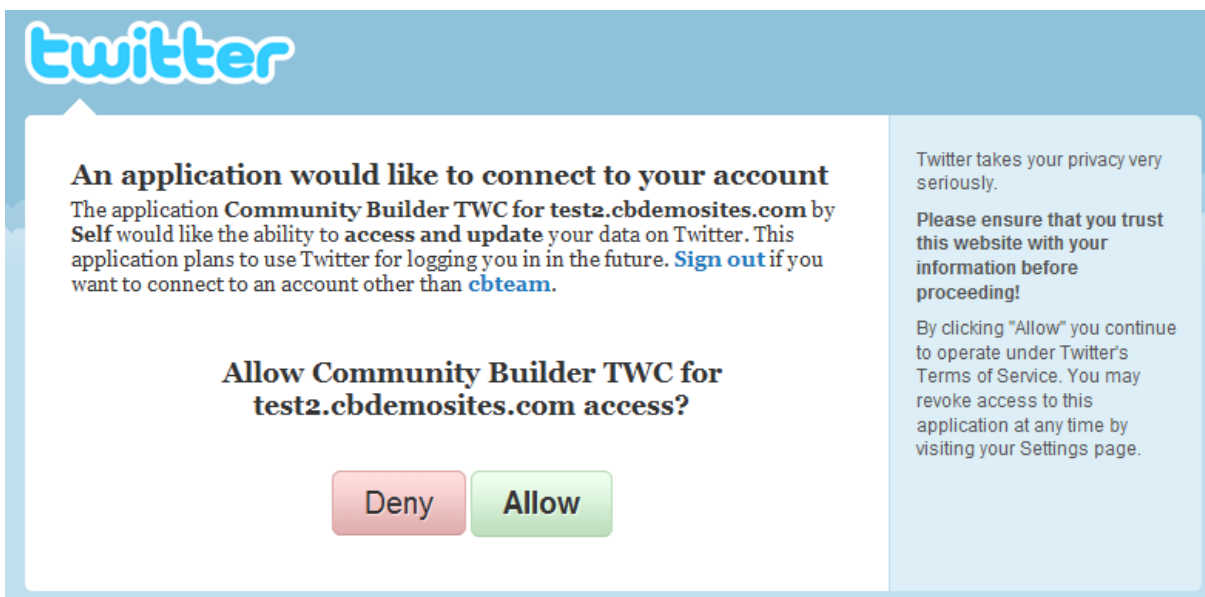

Figure 2: Twitter Application Authentication page

In the last case (button) the use will automatically be registered and logged into our site. In this use case and if the user is visiting our website for the first time, a new account is automatically created for this user based on his/her Twitter credentials. The users' Twitter profile image will be synchronized with his CB Profile image (if this feature is enabled in your plugin settings) and a default username will be created for the user. This is actually the situation illustrated in the second use case of **Figure 1**.

In use case two of **Figure 1**, the user is logged in with his/her Twitter account and the CB Login module has a button. This button would disassociate the user account previously create (or linked) with the Twitter account and from this point on, the user would have to login to the site using his/her website credentials. If a Twitter linked user does click this button, then the system will issue a popup window warning requesting that the user change his/her account password, because after the unlinking the only way to login to the website with this account is through the traditional username/password sequence. This popup warning window is illustrated in **Figure 3**.
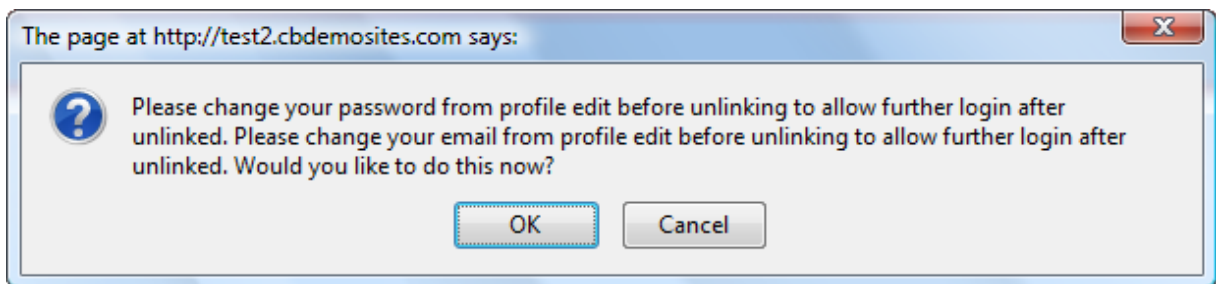

Figure 3 - Popup Password Change Request Warning

Clicking the OK button of this popup window will take the user to the CB profile edit page, where the user must change the password of the account.

Finally, the third use case illustrated in **Figure 1** deals with the case where a traditional user is logged in (using his/her username/password pair) and has the

option to click on the button to link this account with his/her Twitter account.

Please take note that the Twitter API does not disclose the user's email address. In CB Twitter Connect Plugin RC1 users were created with a fictitious and invalid email address of the form 'xxx@invalid'. This was satisfactory for CB and Joomla but would cause issues with some newsletter components trying to validate the email address and failing. As of RC2, email addresses in the form of xxx@invalid.com are used. These addresses are still fictitious but they validate just fine.

1.3 Distribution Package

The **CB Twitter Connect 1.0** plugin package is downloaded as a single package named **unzip1st_cbtwc_1.0.zip** that contains the following items:

- **plug_cbtwc_1.0.zip** (your CB Twitter Connect plugin package)
- **CB-TWC_1.0.pdf** (this documentation)

2 Installation Process

The installation of the **CB Twitter Connect 1.0 plugin** package is performed just like any other CB plugin. Once you have downloaded the package and extracted the plugin package from the distribution package (which contains also this document you are reading), you should install the CB plugin by visiting the CB Plugin Management backend on your CB 1.2.2 powered website.

All CB plugins must be installed using our CB Plugin Management administration panel. To locate the CB plugin Management panel from your Joomla 1.5.x administration backend follow the **Components → Community Builder → Plugin Management** menu sequence as illustrated in **Figure 4**.
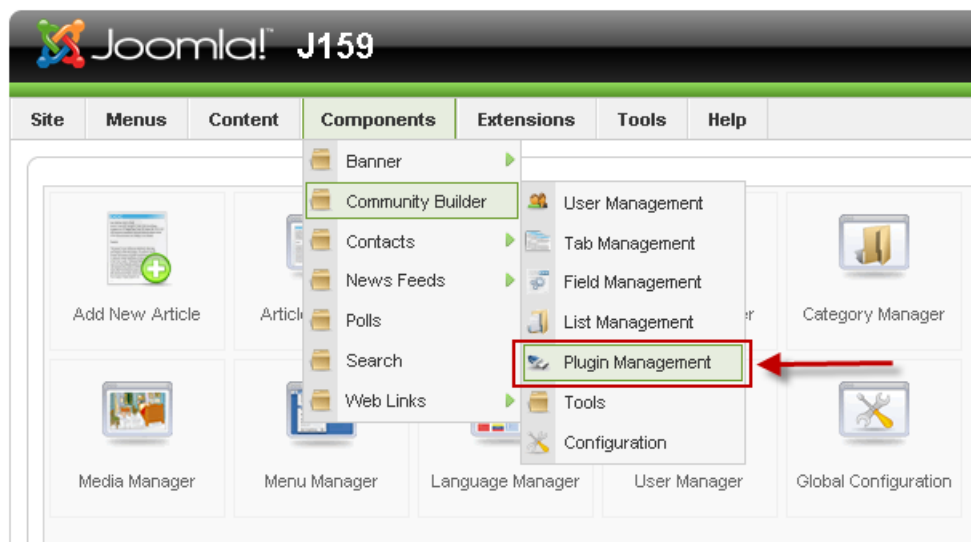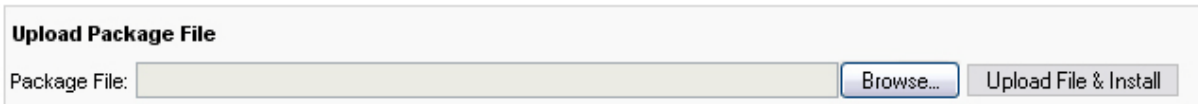

Figure 4 - Navigating to the CB Plugin Management Panel

This will reveal the **CB Plugin Management** panel where you will see an **Install New Plugin** area as illustrated in **Figure 5**. Simply click Browse… and locate the **plug_cbtwc_1.0.zip** package on your local storage followed by clicking the Upload File & Install button.

Install New Plugin

Upload Package File

Package File: [   ] [Browse...] [Upload File & Install]

Figure 5: CB Twitter Connect Plugin Installation

After the **Upload File & Install** button has been selected (clicked on), the CB plugin installation process will start and you should soon see the progress – completion messages regarding the CB Twitter plugin installation task. Hopefully, you should see something similar to the illustration in **Figure 6**.
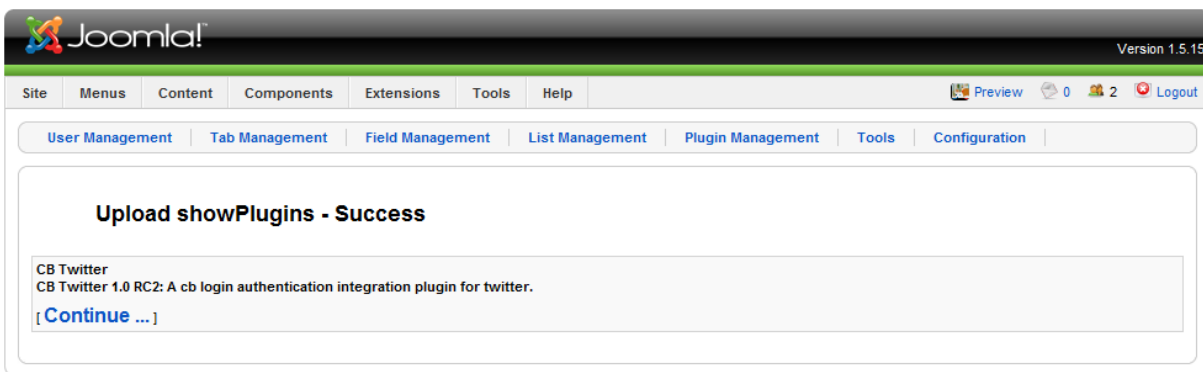

| Site | Menus | Content | Components | Extensions | Tools | Help | Preview 0 2 Logout |

User Management | Tab Management | Field Management | List Management | Plugin Management | Tools | Configuration

Upload showPlugins - Success

CB Twitter
CB Twitter 1.0 RC2: A cb login authentication integration plugin for twitter.

[Continue ...]

Figure 6 - Successful CB Twitter Connect Plugin Installation

If anything out of the ordinary occurs during your specific installation process after following the previous instructions, please post to the appropriate Joomlapolis forums for free community support.

For further verification of successful installation of the **CB Twitter Connect** plugin you should be able to see an extra **CB Twitter Connect** line item in your CB Plugin Management summary panel as illustrated in **Figure 7**. Notice that there is a red **X** in the 'Published' column. This means that the CB plugin has not been enabled yet.

| 1 | ☐ | CB Twitter | | ✓ | ✗ | | | 1 | Public | user | cb.twitter |

Figure 7 - CB Twitter Connect item in CB Plugin Management Summary Panel

This plugin does not install any extra CB Tabs like other plugins usually do, so don't bother looking for one in the CB Tabs Management area.

3 Configuration

To properly configure the CB Twitter Connect plugin we need to first create and configure our own Twitter application on the Twitter developers environment. Don't let this scare you. We will guide you through this process in great detail and will provide many screenshots to make you feel comfortable with the entire process. You will only have to do this once for every CB 1.2.2 website you have installed the CB Twitter Connect plugin on. After creating this Twitter application you will need to copy/paste 2 elements given by this Twitter application instance over to your CB Twitter Connect plugin parameters and then configure extra integration options and synchronization fields.

3.1 Overview of CB Twitter Connect Plugin Parameters

Once the **CB Twitter Connect** plugin has been successfully installed, the next step should be to enable the plugin (since it is not enabled by default) and then to explore the various plugin parameters.

You can enable the plugin by following one of the following processes. If you visit the **CB Plugin Manager** panel as illustrated in **Figure 8**, you will see that the **CB Twitter Connect** row in the table has a red X in the **Published** column. By clicking on the red **X** you can enable the plugin and see that the red **X** turns into a green checkmark (✔).
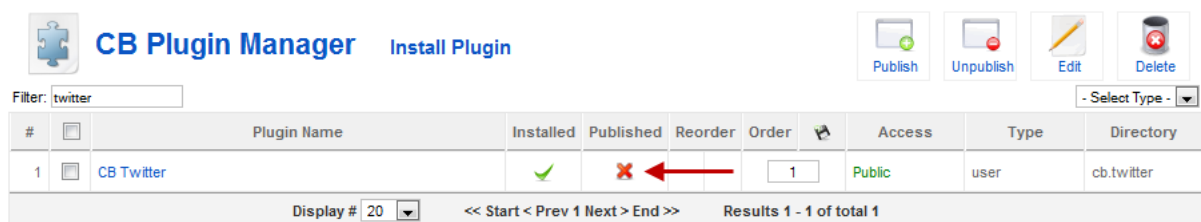

Figure 8 - Enabling the CB Twitter Connect Plugin

You can also click on the **CB Twitter Connect** link in the **CB Plugin Manager** summary panel (see **Figure 8**) to edit the CB Twitter Connect plugin parameters as illustrated in **Figure 9**.
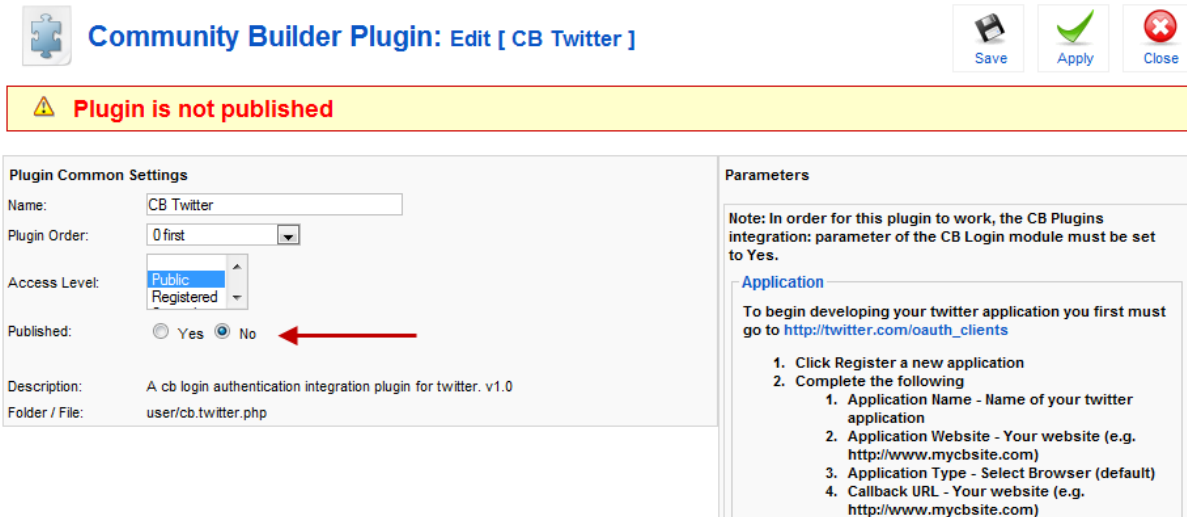

Figure 9 - CB Twitter Connect Plugin Parameters

As you can see in Figure 9, the plugin is not enabled. The red **"Plugin is not Published"** message on the top of your edit page and the **No** selection in the Published radio parameter field (see red ← in the left part of **Figure 9**) should be a clear enough indication that the plugin is not published. You can publish the plugin by selecting the Yes value for the Published radio parameter and then clicking on the Apply or Save icon (top right corner of **Figure 9**).

Enabling the CB Twitter Connect plugin does not put it in an operational mode. We need to configure 2 Twitter related parameters, the **'Consumer Key'** and **'Consumer Secret'** parameters in order to have our CB plugin communicate with Twitter.

You will also see in **Figure 9** that there are many additional plugin parameters in the right area of the page. Before diving into details we will focus on the plugin description and configuration overview given on the top part of this right area. The description is illustrated in **Figure 10**.

Parameters

Note: In order for this plugin to work, the CB Plugins integration: parameter of the CB Login module must be set to Yes.

Application

To begin developing your twitter application you first must go to
http://twitter.com/oauth_clients

1. Click Register a new application
2. Complete the following
    1. Application Name - Name of your twitter application and Description of application (mandatory)
    2. Application Website - Your website (e.g. http://www.example.com)
    3. Application Type - Select Browser (default)
    4. Callback URL - Your website (e.g. http://www.example.com /index.php)
    5. Default Access type - Select Read & Write
    6. Use Twitter for login - Checked
3. Click Save
4. Copy Consumer key and Consumer secret to their respective locations

Consumer Key: _____

Consumer Secret: _____

Connect Type: New Registrations & Linking ▼

Figure 10 - Twitter Connect Application Configuration Instructions

We will go through these steps in detail in the next sections.

3.2 Configuration of Twitter Application on Developers Site

The steps outlined in **Figure 10** will provide you with the *Consumer Key* and *Consumer Secret* values needed to be copied/pasted into the relevant CB Twitter Connect plugin parameters seen in lower part of **Figure 10**.

Before we begin the process lets agree on some basic assumptions that will help us along the way:

- The CB 1.2.2 website we want to integrate with Twitter is located at ***http://www.mycbwebsite.com*** *(you should substitute this with your specific website).*

Lets now begin the process:

Step 0: Visit the Twitter developers area located at the

http://twitter.com/oauth_clients URL.

Step 1: Click on the Register a new application link as illustrated in **Figure 11**.

Figure 11 - Set Up New Application on Twitter Developers Site

Step 2: Complete the '**Application Name:**' (e.g., Community Builder FBC for
www.mycbsite.com) and provide a short '**Description:**' (mandatory). This
is illustrated in **Figure 12**.

Figure 12: Completing the Twitter Application form (part 1)

Step 3:   Fill-in the **'Application Name:'** field with your website URL (e.g., http://www.mycbsite.com) as also illustrated in **Figure 12**.

Figure 13: Completing the Twitter Application form (part 2)

Step 4: Complete the '**Callback URL:'** field again with your website URL (e.g., http://www.mycbsite.com/index.php). It is best to end your Callback URL with the '/index.php' file to avoid potential issues with third party SEF components.

Step 5: Select the **Read & Write** radio button setting on the '**Default Access type:'** field as shown in **Figure 13**.

Step 6: Select the **Yes, use Twitter for login** checkbox on the '**Use Twitter for login:'** field as illustrated in **Figure 13**.

Step 7: Click on the **Save** button shown in **Figure 13**. You will also have to complete a captcha image challenge before you can actually save the form.

Step 8: Copy the **Consumer Key** and **Consumer Secret** values from the Twitter Application page shown in **Figure 14** to the relevant CB Twitter Connect Plugin parameters shown in **Figure 10**.

Application Details

Community Builder TWC for

www.mycbsite.com by Joomlapolis

This is my Community Builder Twitter Connect application for my www.mycbsite.com website.

created by Nick A. – read and write access by default – 1 user

Edit Application Settings   Reset Consumer Key/Secret

Consumer key

D6m7mIWWtsQPGYgUsefofA

Consumer secret

vivwua5RFa3c78h46zF0S5eIFADLWVArgy6kIa9EaI

Request token URL

http://twitter.com/oauth/request_token

Access token URL

http://twitter.com/oauth/access_token

Authorize URL

http://twitter.com/oauth/authorize

Figure 14: Your Twitter Application Codes

You have now completed the Twitter application part of your CB Twitter Connect plugin configuration. This process should be repeated for each of your CB sites you use to activate your CB Twitter Connect plugin on.

If you have successfully followed instructions outlined up to this point, your published and properly configured CB Twitter Connect plugin should produce a Twitter Connect button in your CB Login module as illustrated in **Figure 1**. If you do not see such a button, then you have most likely done something wrong or you have not modified your CB Login module parameter as discussed in the prerequisites section note in **Chapter Error! Reference source not found.**. If you feel that you have done things properly from your end, then perhaps something else is wrong (bug in code or bug elsewhere that is blocking proper operation), then please post to the relevant forum area as instructed in **Chapter 5**.

3.3   Other CB Twitter Connect Plugin Configuration Parameters

We have already gone through the process of populating the first two parameters of our CB Twitter Connect plugin installation instance (the Consumer Key and the Consumer Secret). There are many more features that we can take advantage of through the remaining plugin parameters.

Before we start describing the parameters and their meaning, please read (or refresh yourself regarding) the terminology discussed in **Chapter 1.2**.

These additional parameters are:

- **Connect Type:** [default: **New Registrations & Linking**]
  This drop-down parameter field has three possible settings that are used to set the mode of operation of the plugin in terms of the registration and linking operations:
    - **New Registrations & Linking** is the default setting to allow both New Registrations and Linking operations (see **Chapter 1.2** for explanation of these terms). This means that a new user can automatically sign in to the CB powered website by clicking on the button of the CB Login module and that traditionally logged in users may click on the button of the CB Login module to associate the existing account with a Twitter account. Remember these use cases were described back in **Chapter 1.2**.

- o '**Registration Only**' is selected if we only want Twitter users to connect as brand new website user accounts (and not link to some existing traditional account)

- o '**Linking Only**' is selected if we do not want to bypass the registration process of our website but we do want users to connect their Twitter account (perhaps to synchronize Twitter data with CB fields) with their account on this website.

- **Login redirect:** [default: (empty/blank)]

  This setting instructs the CB Twitter Connect plugin to redirect the user to a specific URL after successful login. If left blank, the user is kept on the current page. If populated with '***index.php?option=com_comprofiler***' the user will be redirected to his/her CB profile after login.

- **Hide on Auth Integrations:** [default: **Yes**]

  This Yes/No drop down field parameter is used to specify how the plugin should react if another CB authentication plugin (e.g., the CB Facebook Connect plugin) is present and activated also on this website and a user has logged onto our site using it. A setting of 'Yes' in this parameter will hide the

   button in the CB Login module when user is signed in using the CB Facebook Connect plugin. Suggest to keep this to 'Yes' to not confuse users.

- **Unlink:** [default: **Login Module**]

  This drop-down field parameter is used to specify how the 'Unlink' operation should be presented. There are 3 permissible values:

  - o **Login Module,** to present the 'Unlink' button in the CB Login module.
  - o **CB Menu**, to present the Unlink operation as a CB Menu in the CB User Profile.
  - o **Login Module & CB Menu** is used to have the 'Unlink' operation presented both as a CB Login module button and as a CB Menu item.

- **Data Synchronize:** [default: **Enable**]

  This parameter when enabled will synchronize Twitter data with CB fields (see following parameters). If is this parameter is set to 'Disable', the plugin will still synchronize basic data when creating a new user account (username, name, etc.).

- **Data Auto synchronize:** [default: **Enable**]

  This parameter when enabled instructs the plugin to continuously synchronize with Twitter data.

- **Username Override Synchronize:** [default: **empty**]

  When left empty the plugin will not change the username. Best to leave this parameter empty.

- **Username Override Registration:** [default: **empty**]

  When left empty the plugin will use the Twitter first name and last name to construct a username for this website. Best to leave this parameter empty.

- **Avatar:** [default: **Yes**]

  This **Yes/No** radio field parameter is used to specify if the Twitter profile image should be also used in the CB User Profile. Since the Twitter API only pushes the thumbnail image of the Twitter profile, you might not want to enable this setting.

- **Cache Data:** [default: 60]

  Cache Data is the cache for data received from Twitter into a special XML file used for integration. The default value here is 60 minutes, a suggested value from Twitter team.

- **Cache Online:** [default: 60]

  Cache Online is the period of time that elapses between checking of the XML file for updated data while a user is logged in.

- **Cache Offline:** [default: 1440]

  This is how often the XML file is checked when a user is logged off. Default is 1440 minutes.

4 Usability Considerations

As a website administrator you need to consider some usage related issues before you install and use this plugin.

As you see in **Figure 15**, the E-mail provided by the CB Twitter Connect plugin is not a valid one. The Twitter API does not provide such an email synchronization and thus the CB Twitter plugin creates a unique entry for the email address but not a valid address. It's up to the website administration team to notify these 'Twitter users' to

update their CB profiles and provide a valid email address. Otherwise, they will not be able to receive notifications from website related extensions (e.g., newsletters, etc.).

Figure 15: Twiiter Users in CB User Management

The Twitter API only provides for the synchronization of a thumb-nail profile image. This means that if the 'Avatar' synchronization parameter is enabled back in **Chapter 3.3**, you will most likely end up with a very small CB profile image. You can of course disable this feature and let Twitter signed in users upload their own CB profile images.

5 Questions, Support, Modifications, Enhancements

.All questions and support issues should be directed to the appropriate forums area of the Joomlapolis.com website:

http://www.joomlapolis.com/component/option,com_joomlaboard/Itemid,38/func,showcat/catid,126/

Please do not contact the author directly – use the forums.

Once again we would like to thank our CB Documentation subscribers for supporting our efforts.

Enjoy!