Joomla!

# Component user guide

Template Creator CK

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http://www.joomlack.fr
http://www.template-creator.com

# Thanks

I want to thank everyone who helped and supported me in this project.

Thank you all !

Cédric KEIFLIN

## My websites

http://www.joomlack.fr.nf
Site dedicated to Joomla! extensions with demos and tutorials for Joomla! 1.5

http://www.joomlack.fr
Portail Joomlack with démos and download of extensions that are developped by me, and news from Joomlack.

http://extensions.joomlack.fr
Listing and demos of Joomla! extensions

http://www.ck-web-creation-alsace.com
Professional website to present my work with Joomla!

## Release Notes

LThis documentation is version 1.2

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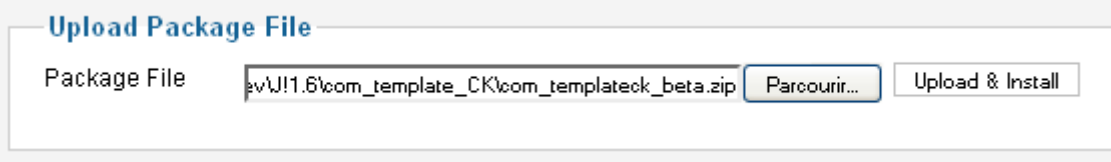
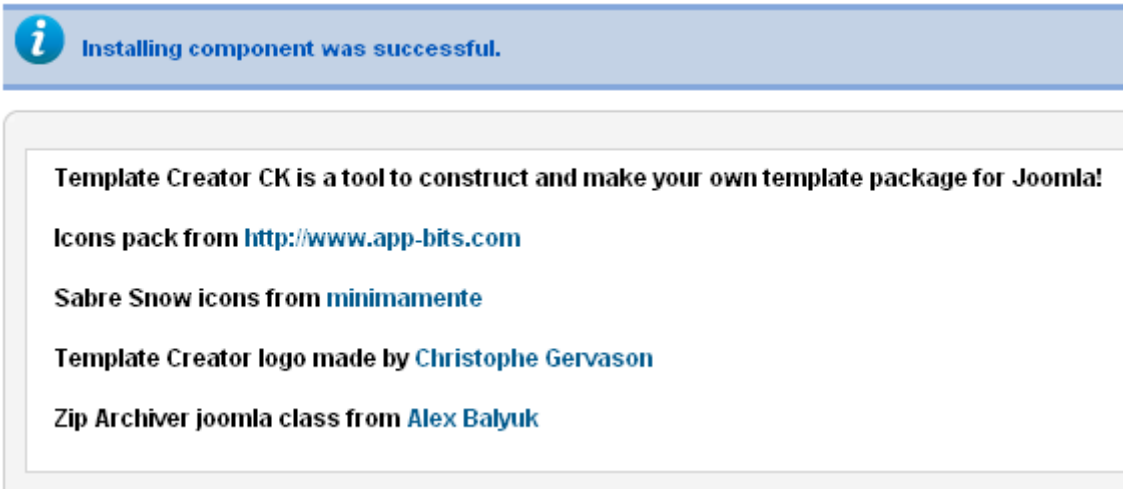
# I. Component installation

Template Creator is a Joomla 1.6 component.
It is suggested to install and use Template Creator on a local developpment server.

First download the ZIP file that contains the component Template Creator. Go into your website administration in the **menu >> Extensions >> Extension manager >> Install**.




Click on the button to search for the archive that you just downloaded. Then click on **Upload & Install**. Joomla displays the success message.

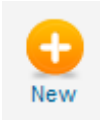



Now the component is installed and ready to be used. You can find it in the **menu >> Components >> Template Creator CK**.

# II. Templates management

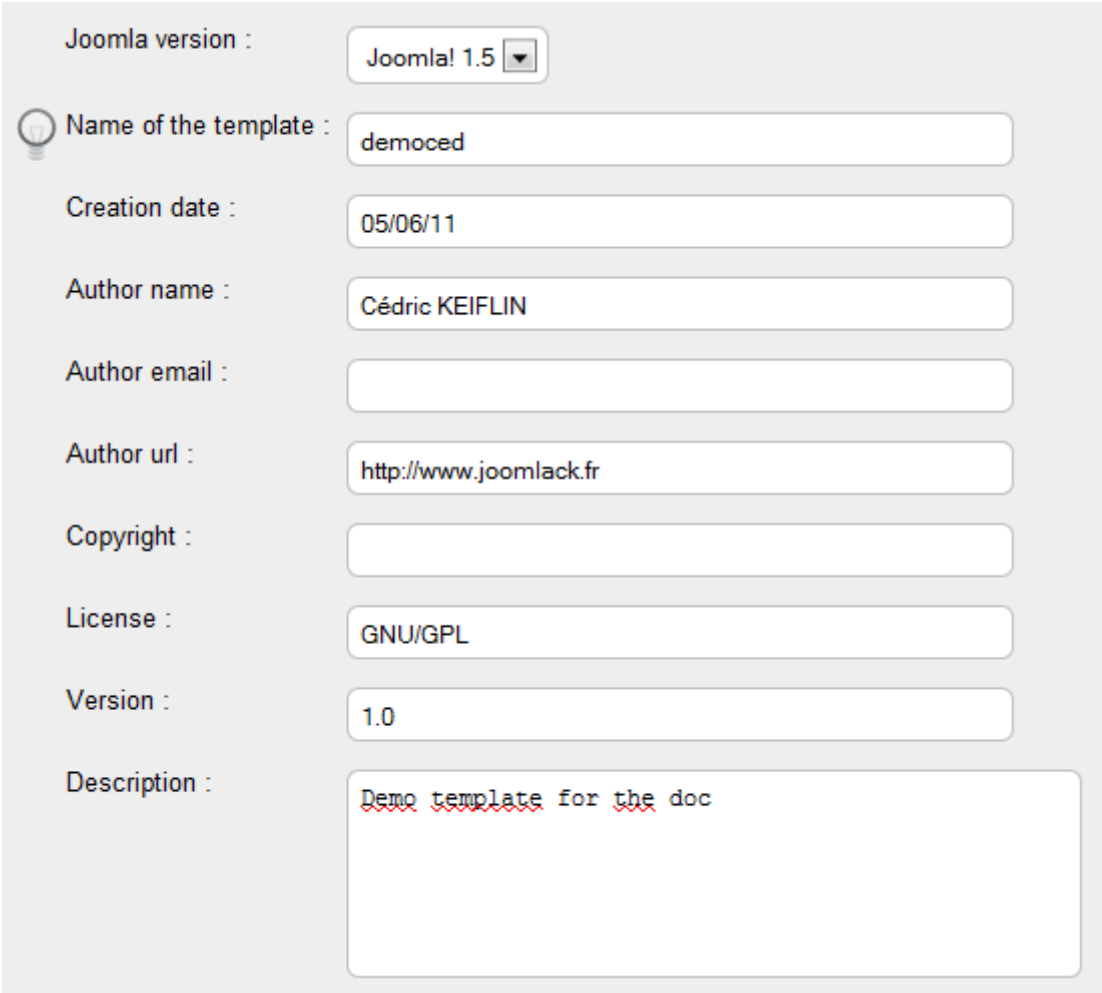
In this section we will see step by step all functions we can use to create some templates.

# 1. Creating a new template

Click on the New icon to create a new template 


## 1.1) Step 1 : Global informations

In this part we will define if we want to create a joomla 1,5 ot 1,6 template and the name we will give it. These informations are required for the template. All other infos are just given as indications but I suggest you to fill them, it will make your template clearer.

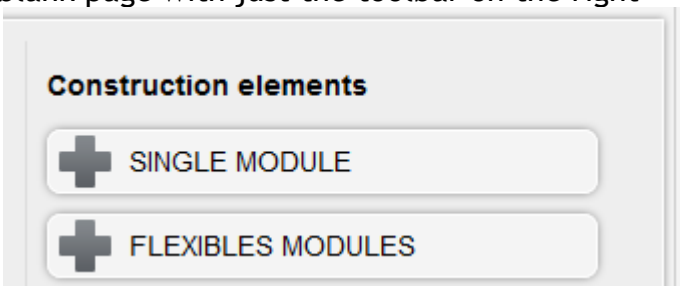


You can already click on the **Save** button to store your data. You will stay on the page and Joomla says you that the data are successfully stored.

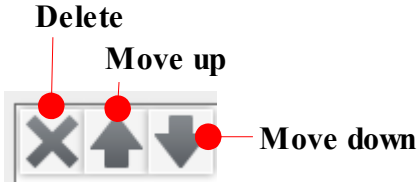
## *1.2) Step 2 : HTML structure*

Click on the button **Edit the HTML** in the left menu

Then you come on a blank page with just the toolbar on the right

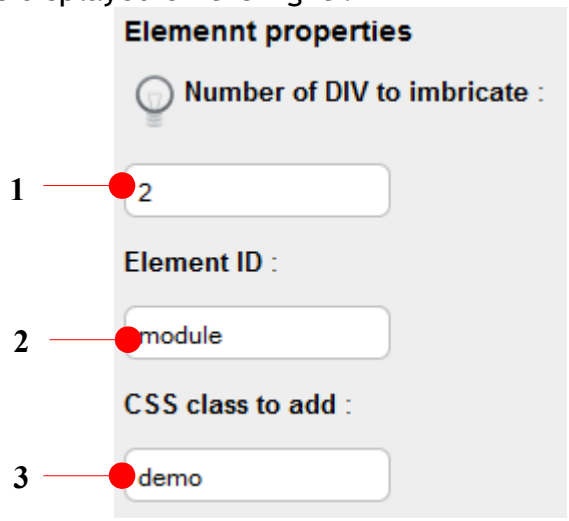



When inserting a construction element it contains some buttons to control and manipulate it.




By clicking on the following control button you activate some options for the block

Hereafter the options displayed on the right :




**1 : Number of DIV to imbricate**
You can choose to imbricate some , here you add 2  into the container

```
<div id="container">
      <div>
            <div>
```

**2 : Element ID**
ID to add to the container

**3 : CSS class to add**
CSS class to add to the container

Example of the result with the data above

```
<div id="module" class="demo">
      <div>
            <div>
                  …
```

If the control manage a module, when clicking on it you will see some more options :

**4 : Module position name**
Write the name of the position to be used to load the modules in the template

**5 : Module style**
You can choose one of the several available styles

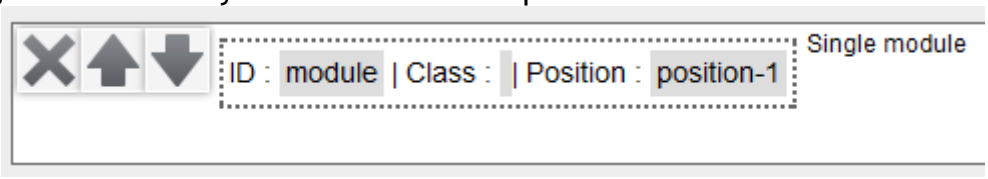
**6 : Choice list**
If you want to use a generic position name you can select it in the list

Example of module loading with above data :
```
<jdoc:include type="modules" name="position-1" style="xhtml" />
```

Let's see more in detail the available construction elements.

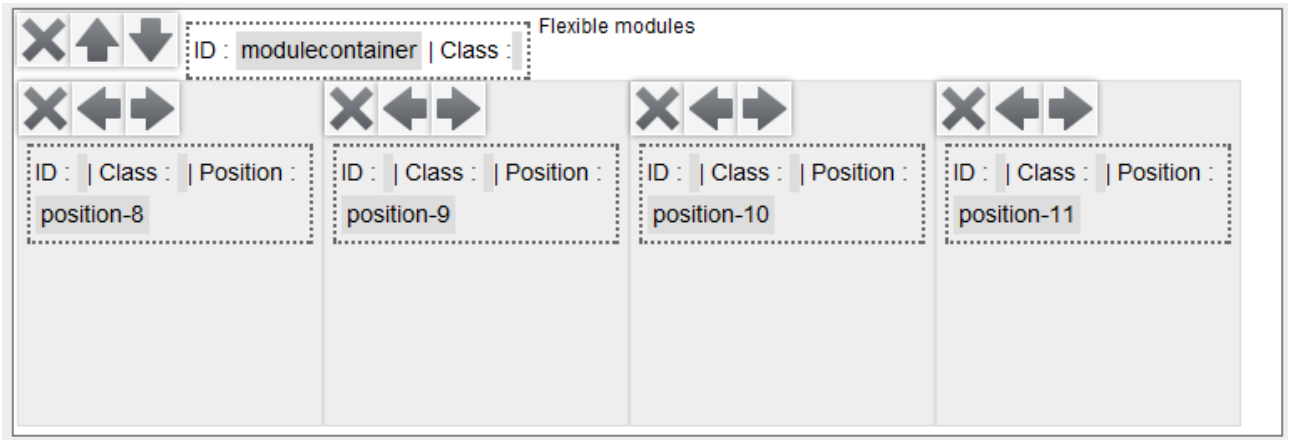
## a) Single module

By clicking on the button you will obtain a unique module.




It is a block which contains a module.

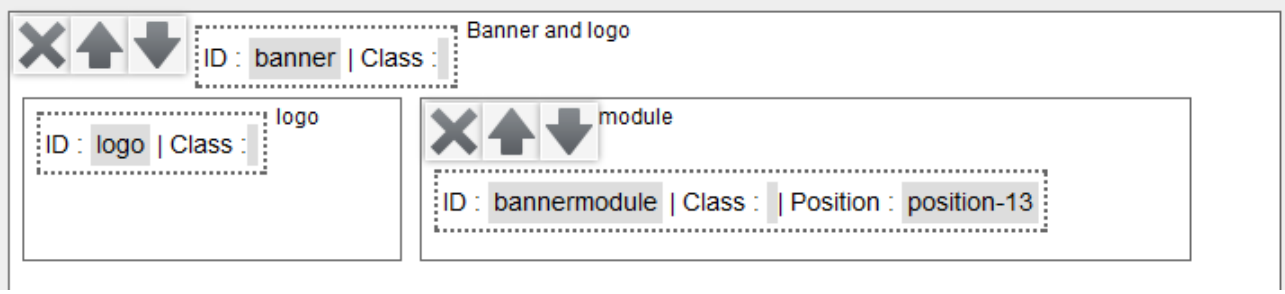
## b) Flexibles modules




We get a block with 4 blocks of modules. Each module block can be moved into the parent block, or deleted to create a main block with 1, 2, 3, or 4 modules.
Each module block has a variable width which depend on the number or actvie blocks. A block is considered as active if at least one module is published in its position.. For example if you have published some modules in the position-8 and the position-9 but no one in position-10 and 11, then the blocks position-8 and position-9 will have a width of

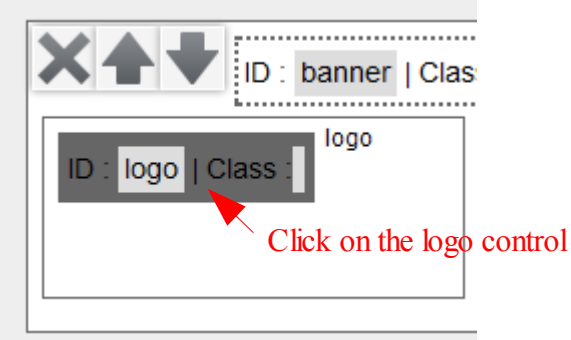
50% each, and the two other will not be displayed.

## c) Banner and logo

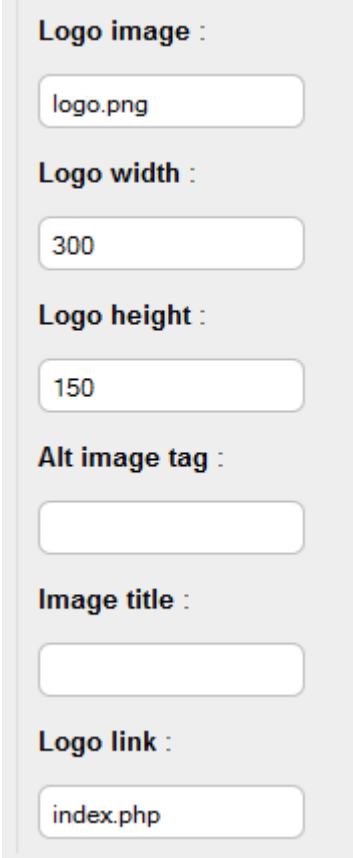



We create a block that contain an image used as a logo for your website on which you can add a link (to the home page for example)

By clicking on the logo control you can see some more optionsj on the bottom right of the page :

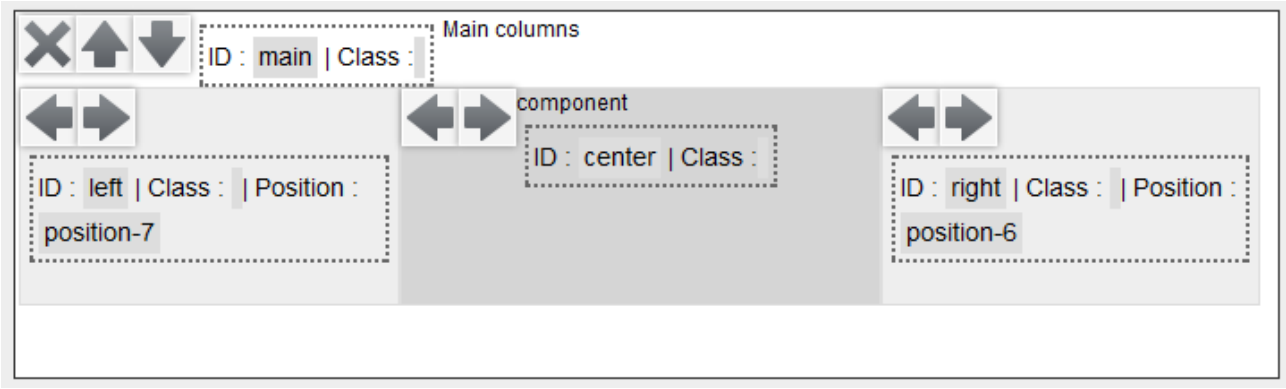



Let's see the options that allows you to drive the logo.



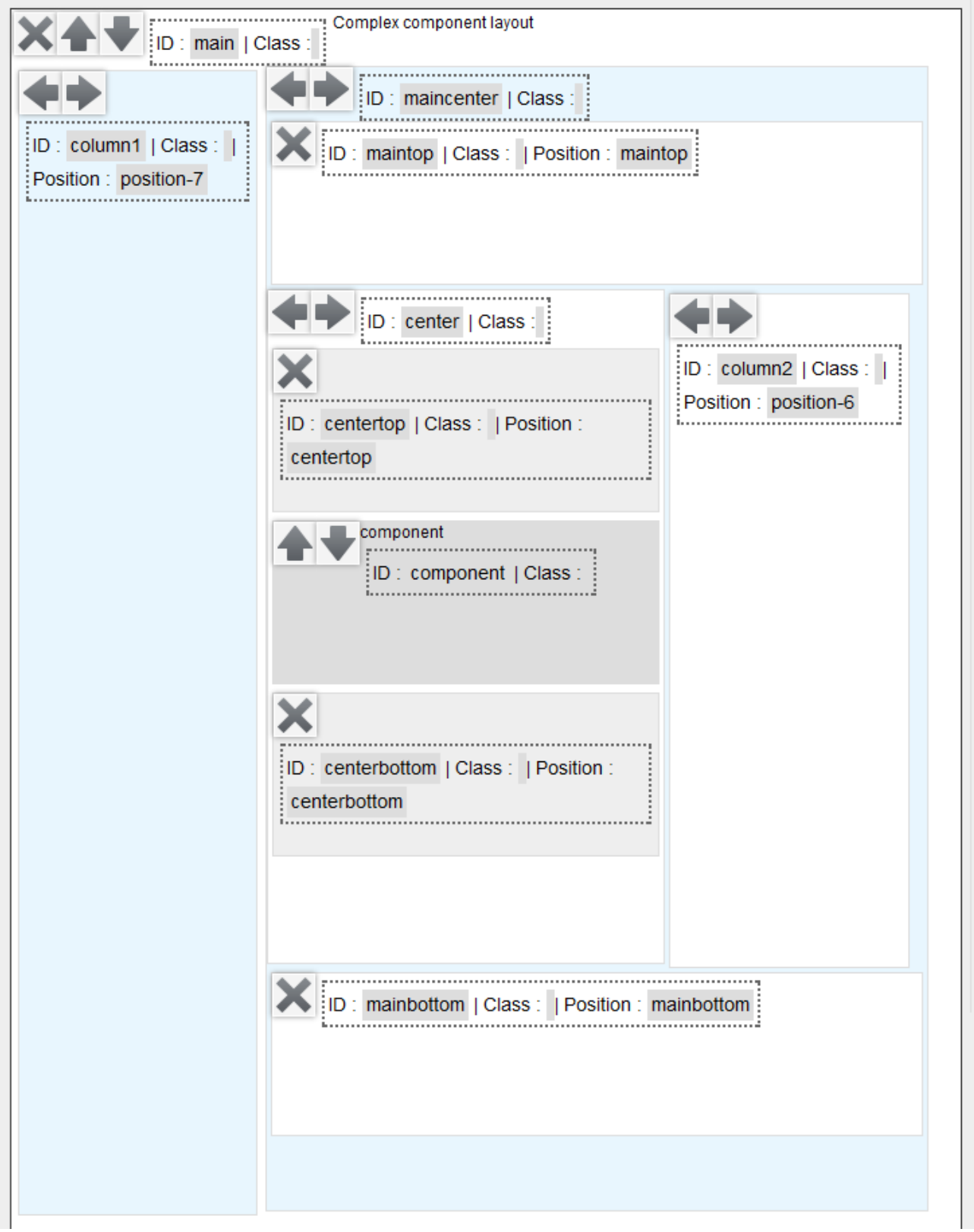

The image (logo.png in the example) have to be stored in the folder **images** of the template.

## d) Component




The **Component** button allow to insert a global block with a 3 columns layout with the main component of the page (only one component can be put in the template).

## e) Component 2

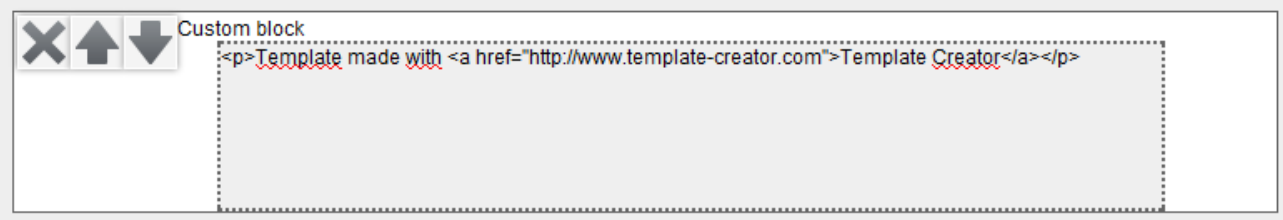


This complex layout offers a large flexibility in modules and columns positioning. All columns can be moved and the modules can be deleted to not surcharge the HTML output code.

## f) Custom block

This is an empty block in which you can put the code you want. Just click in the area and delete the default text to put you own. For example to add a copyright in your page, add this HTML code :

```
<p>Template made with <a href="http://www.template-creator.com">Template Creator</a></p>
```

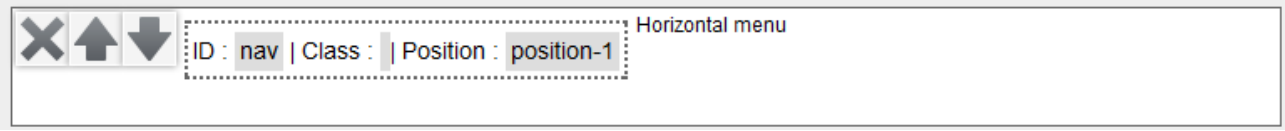



## g) Empty block

This option allows you to put an empty block that will output the following code (according example above) :

```
<div id="demo" class="test"></div>
```

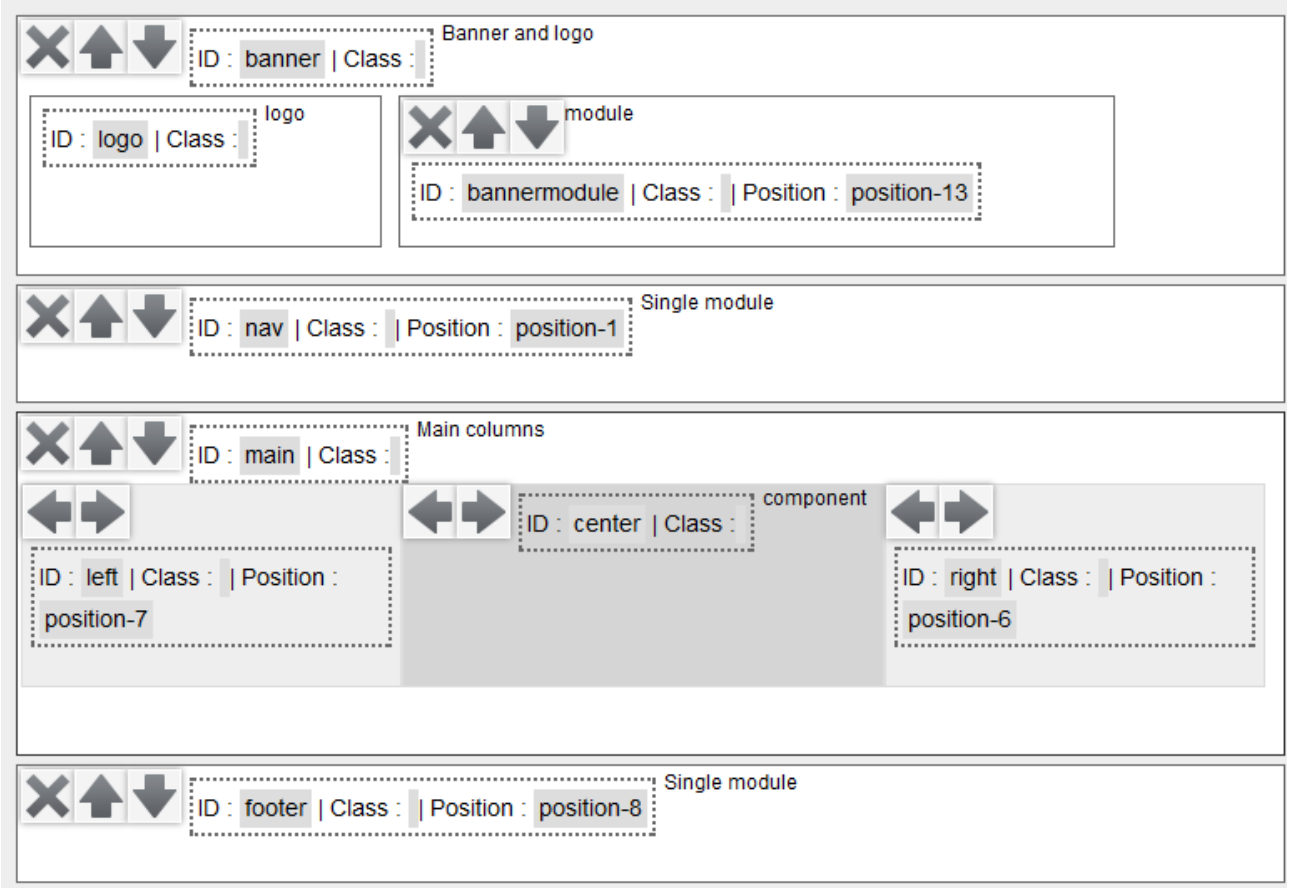
## h) Horizontal menu




The horizontal menu block contains a single module on which are associated some specific CSS styles to render an horizontal css dropdown menu. You must just load a menu module in the given position.
You can set the styles of the menu, please report you to the chapter about css edition.

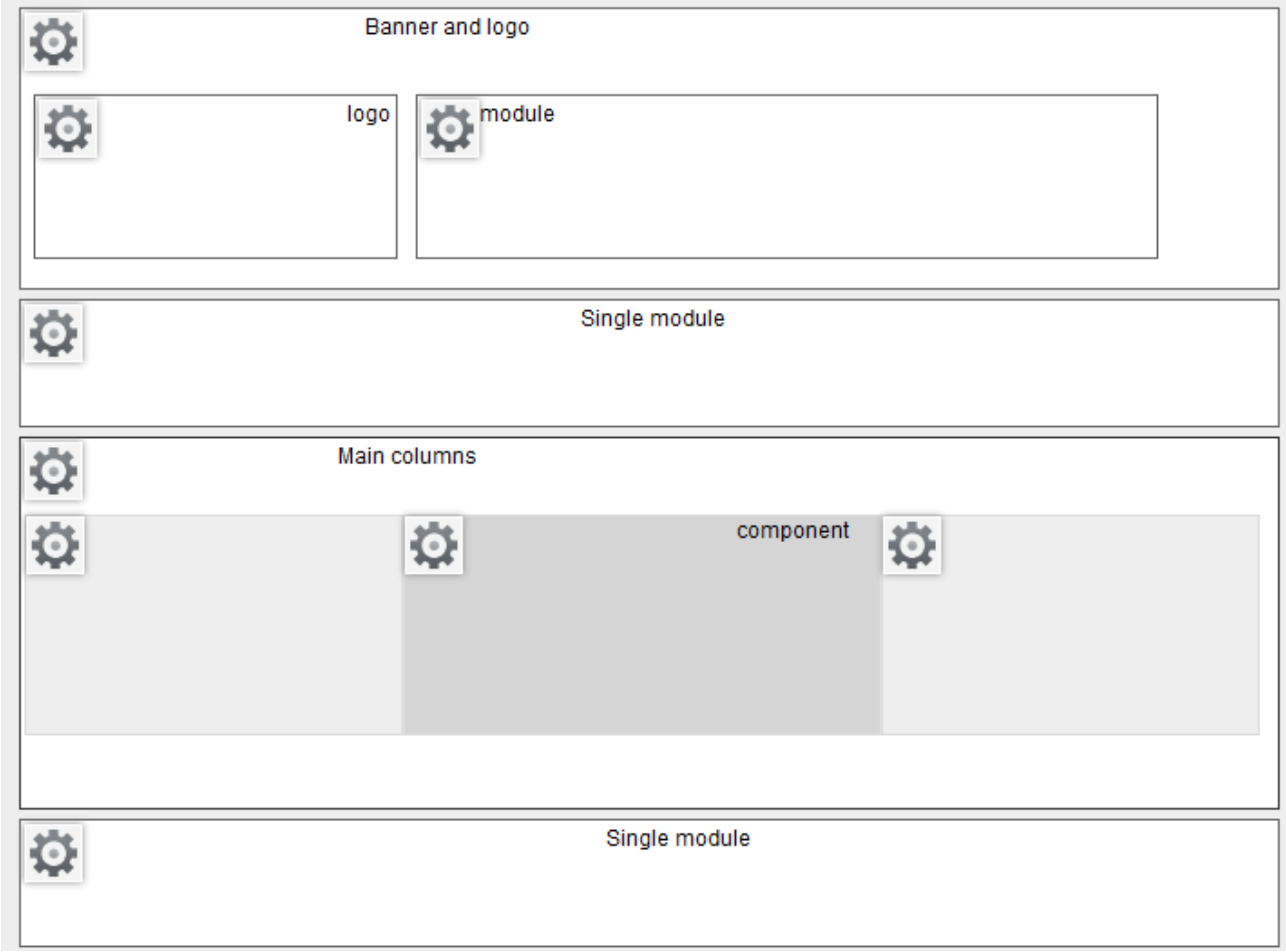
## 1.3) Step 3 : CSS definition

To play with the CSS we will use the HTML structure of the **demock1** gabarit installed with Template Creator.




By cliking on the button Edit the CSS you come on the page where to define the CSS styles.

The interface shows all of the HTML blocks previously created.




Each block has a control button where to click :

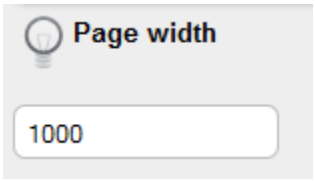
When you click on the control the block is active and shows a red border.

On the right of the screen you can see the options. Several buttons are available :

- **Edit the styles of the page** : you can set the general styles of the template
- **Edit the styles of the main container :** you can set some styles for the wrapper
- **Edit the block styles** : you can set the styles of the active element (which has a red border)
- **Edit the modules styles :** you can set some styles for all modules in the selected block
- **Edit the module titles styles :** you can set the styles of the module titles in the selected block
- **Edit the menu styles** : you can customize the menu module

## a) Page styles + Wrapper styles

**Page width**
Here you define the width of the main container in pixels. For example if you want a 1000 px width page, you must write **1000** :




**You must give a width in this field for the wrapper**

**Colors**
You can define some custom color for several elements as page background, container background, text, links and hovered links.
It is very easy to choose a color, you can pick it up in a color picker just by clicking on the box on the left, or directly write the color value in the field.

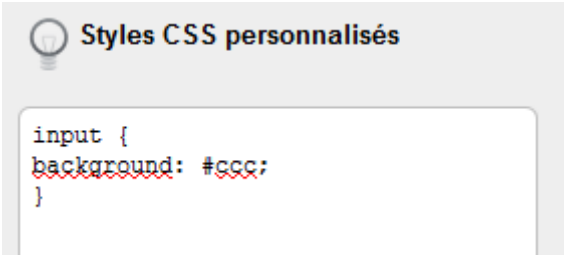
The selected color appears as background for the left box so you can see how it renders.

**Font**
You can set the font family and text size to be used by default for all the texts in the page. You must give the value as in a standard CSS stylesheet (give the unit after font size) :

**Custom CSS styles**

This option is the most powerfull because it lets you write all css you want. You can add new declarations to target any element. For example to give a grey background to all input fields :

```
input {
	background: #ccc;
}
```

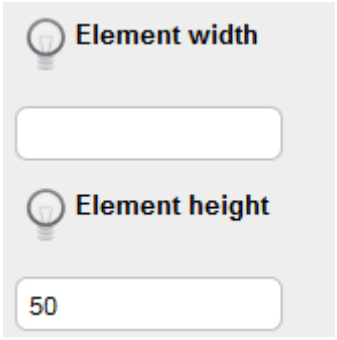



You can imagine what you want and add it here to see it in your template.

## b) Element styles + modules styles + modules titles styles

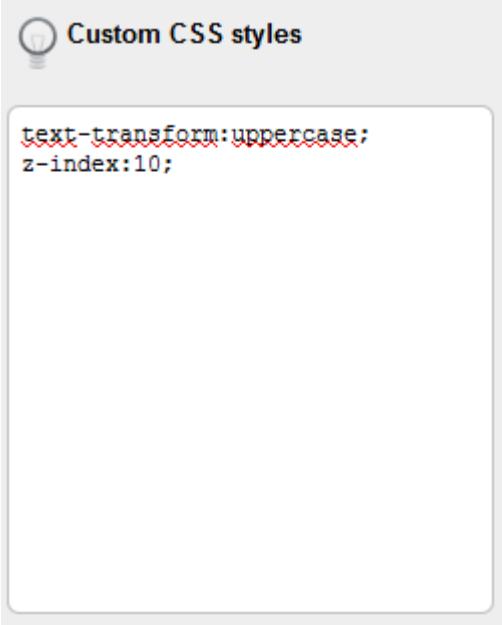
The styles of each element can be set after activating it by clicking on the control button.
Dimensions

The dimensions can be set for the active element just by giving the value without unit, hereafter a 50px height.



## Custom CSS styles

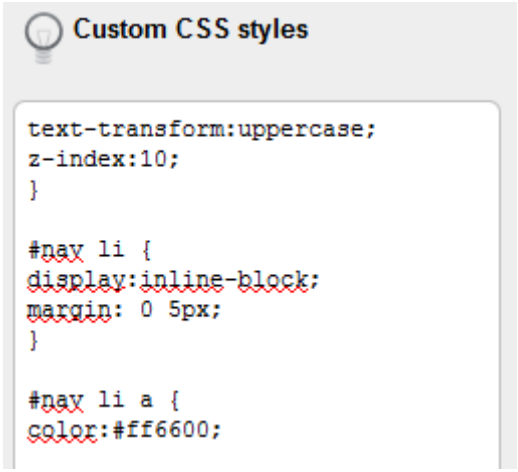
This area allows you to put some more styles for the active block. You just have to list all properties.




Tip :
by looking the generated CSS code with the example above you must see that :

```
#IDdubloc {
text-transform:uppercase;
z-index:10;
}
```

With just a little imagination you can use this method to add some styles on other elements, just by closing and opening the brackets. Hereafter a concrete example with with a block that have an ID **nav** :




And the generated CSS code is :

```
#nav {
text-transform:uppercase;
z-index:10;
}

#nav li {
display:inline-block;
margin: 0 5px;
}

#nav li a {
color:#ff6600;
}
```

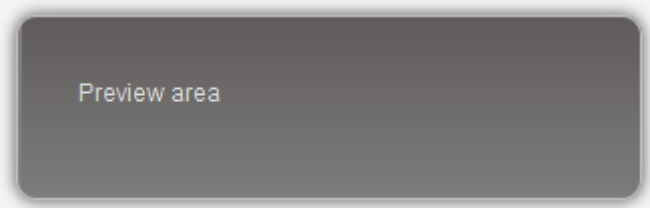
This method offers a large panel of possibilities to style your elements with your own css code.

To set the visual styles you must click on the button

By clicking on it you open a new window with a menu :

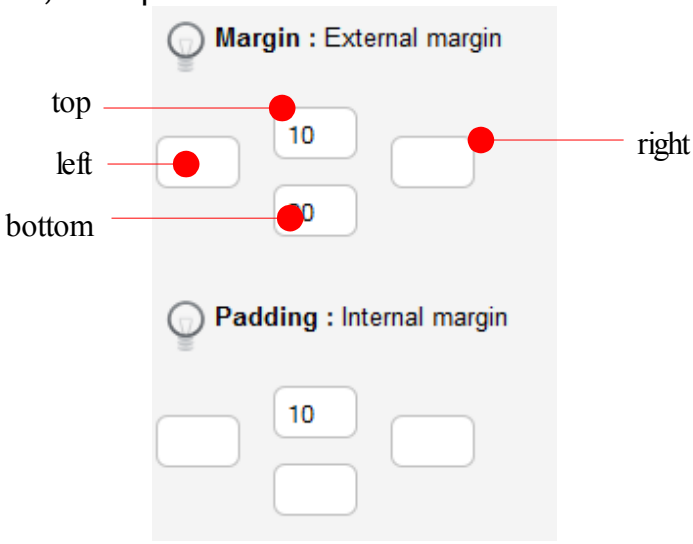
- General
- Borders
- Shadows
- Gradients

When you change a style (not with margins) you can see the changes on the preview area in the top left corner. Example with rounded corners, shadow and gradient :



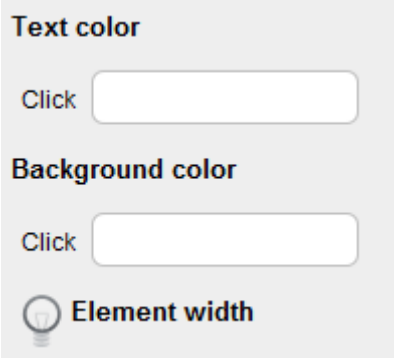

**Margins**

You can set some external and internal margins for the selected element. You must give the value with the unit, example : **10**.



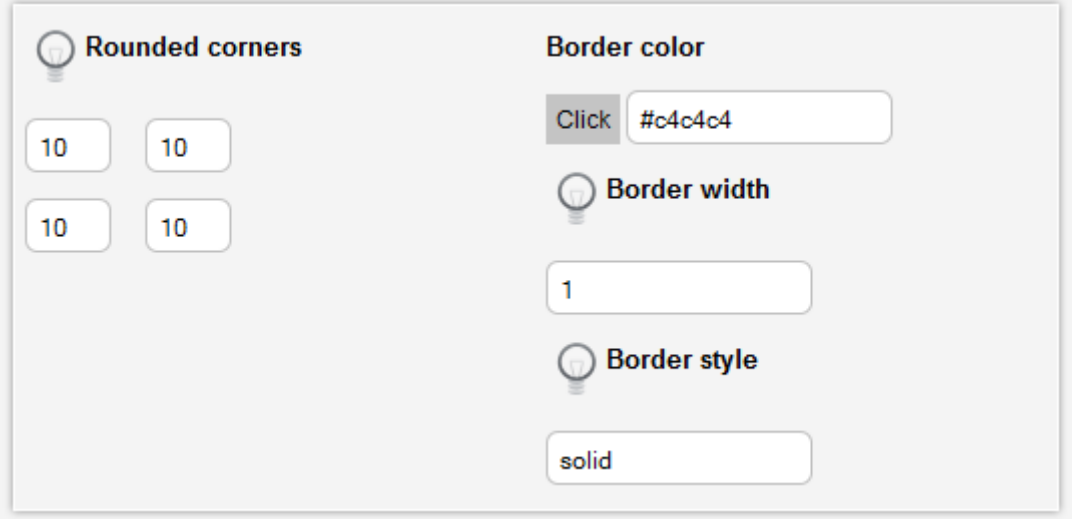
## Colors

As previously you can set some color by writing the code or using the color picker on the left of the field.

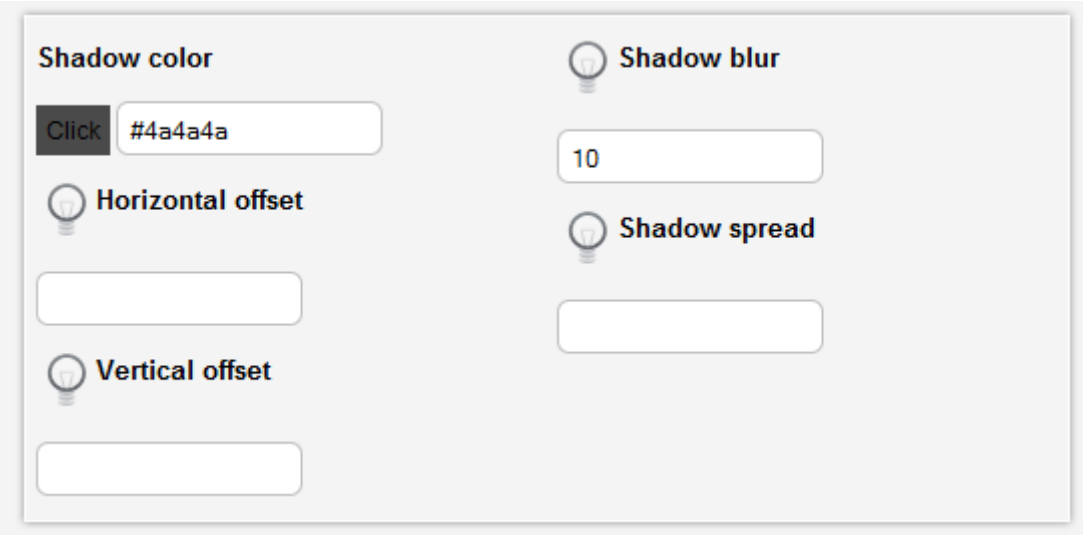



## Borders

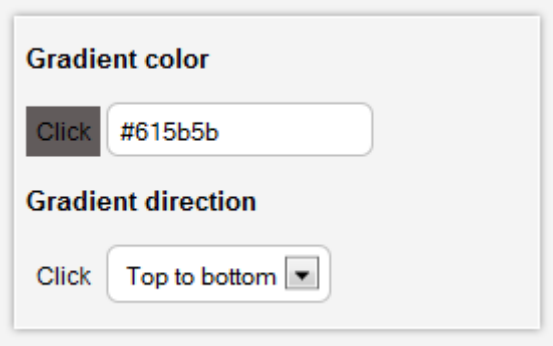
You just have to put the values in px or use the color picker. For border style, use CSS standard attributes (solid, dotted, etc).



## Shadows

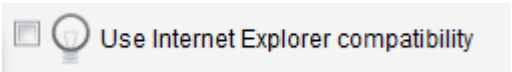



## Gradients




## IE compatibility

The checkbox on the top right allows to activate a script for IE compatibility. This emulate CSS3 styles (rounded corners, shadow, gradient) but can cause javascript confilcts. For each element choose if you want to activate or not.



## Edit the menu styles

For any block you can style its menu, for example in the horizontal menu or in the left and right columns. You must click on the button 'Edit the menu styles' and you see a popup.
The popup contains :

**Parent element** : first level elements that are always shown

**Child element** : they are in a sublevel, they generally display when hovering the parent item for a dropdown horizontal menu

**Child 2 element** : for the block in the second sublevel it allows to position it with margins

Anchor is the link tag in the menu, it can have two more states : **:hover** when you mouseover it, or **.active** when it is the link for the current page

For each element you can style it as you want.

The checkbox option on the top allows you to make CSS compatible with the use of the module for dropdown menu Maximenu. You can also choose to use the standard menu or the Maximenu menu.

## 1.4) Step 5 : Choose the theme

This step is optionnal to create your own template.
***So what is a theme ?***
It is a prefabricated design that you can apply to your template, just select it and it will be added to your template :

- a css file **layout.css** which contains all the needed styles to render the theme
- all image of the theme will be copied into the template

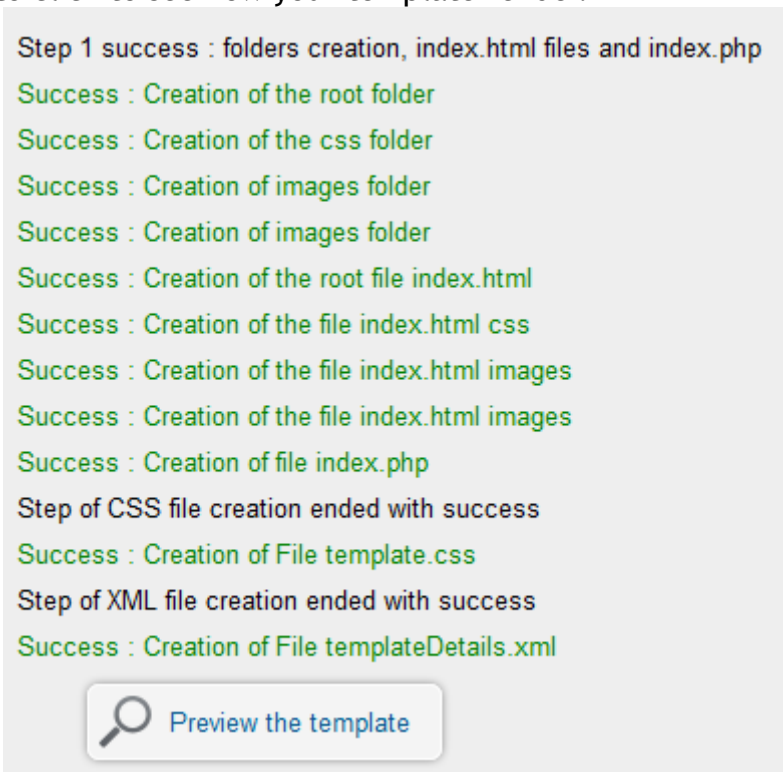
To select a theme, just click on it then the active item will have a dark grey and its name is written at the top of the page :

To have more informations about installation and modification of the themes, please see the specific section.

## 1.5) Step 6 : Template preview

You can click on the button in the left menu to preview what you have created

The software will create all necessary files and folders and display some messages with a button on which to click to see how your template render.

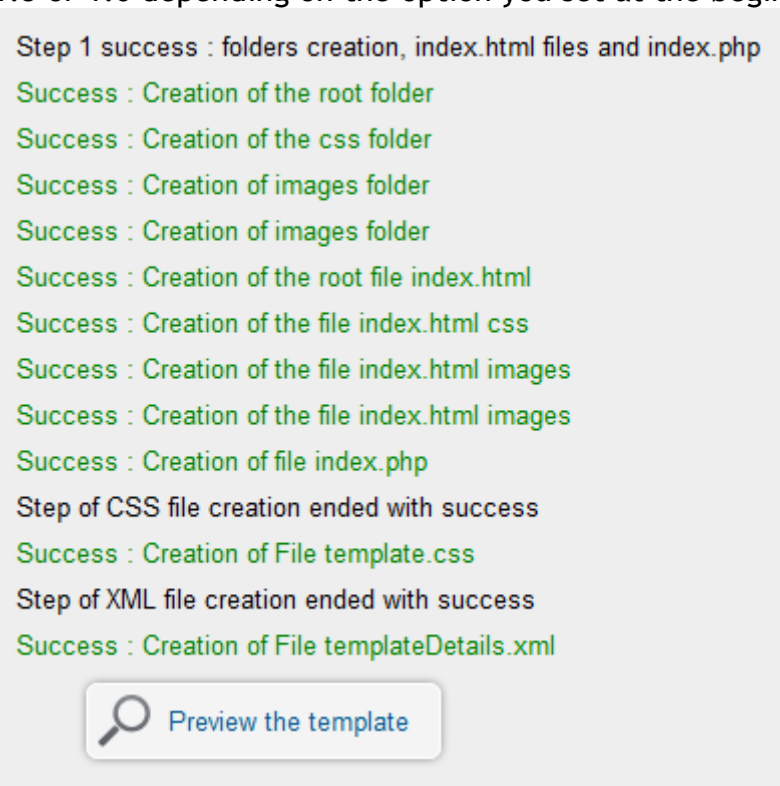



The page will be displayed with all the modules published in your website but the main component is only an article given as an example. To test your template on all your pages you must create the package and install it.

## 1.6) Step 7 : final package creation

Now you are in the last step. Go in the menu **Create the package**

Then you come on quite the same page as previously for the preview, but now the software will create the entire ZIP archive that you can download and install on any Joomla website (1.5 or 1.6 depending on the option you set at the beginning).




When clikcing on the **Preview the template** button, a popup opens asking you to store the ZIP archive that contains the template.

Note :
when you want you can come back to any step to change any options and then recreate the preview or the package, and as many time you want.

# 2. Import / export a template gabarit

The first question you may ask is, what is a gabarit ?
I will bo my best to explain you what the difference between a template, a theme and a gabarit.

**Template** : used by joomla, a template is a package of folders and files that you can install in any Joomla website (the archive created in the last step)

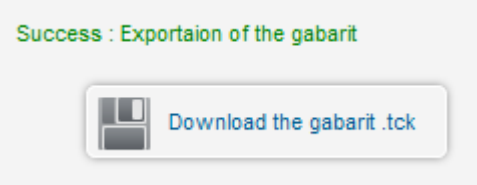
**Theme** : a already said, a theme is a predefined style with some image that are incorporated in the template to add some design

**Gabarit** : it is only the version of a template that is understandable by Template Creator. You can not import any joomla template, you must export the template made with Template Creator to import it in another place where the software is installed, just to save you work or to share with other users of Template Creator.

## *2.1) Exporting a gabarit*

On the main page of the component where you see the list of all templates you can see some icons on the top right of the page. One of them is used to export a gabarit.

To export a gabarit you must first select it in the list and then click on the icon above. Then you come into a page that offers you the possibility to download it.




As the file is a text (with .tck file format), when clicking on it you just open the file. You must right click on the button and select **Save link as** to store the file on your computer.

You can now store the file .tck where you want.

## 2.2) Importing a gabarit

The import method allows you to reinstall a template made with Template Creator and previously exported. Click on the icon **Import a gabarit**

You come on a page asking you to search for the .tck file to import

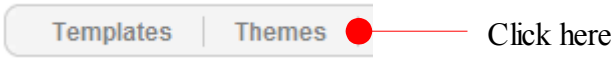
Select the file and click **Install**, the gabarit will be installed and is now shown in the list of templates in the main page of the component.

# III. Themes management

We will see how to manage the themes.

# 1. Edit a theme

To manage the themes, go to the page for themes management in the component. In the toolbar click on the **Themes** button:




You come on a new page that lists all available themes with their name and thumbnail.

By clicking on the name or the thumbnail you just enter in the edition mode. Then you have three possibilities in the left menu.

## *1.1) Theme preview*

This is the big image to show how renders the theme.

## *1.2) CSS edition*

This function loads the layout.css file located in the theme folder, it contains all CSS styles applied to the template. Note that the styles set in the steps in creating the

template are more important and will be used instead of those of the theme if there is a conflict.

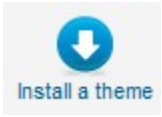
Here you can modify some codes and save it by clicking on the Save button.

### *1.3) Images of the theme*

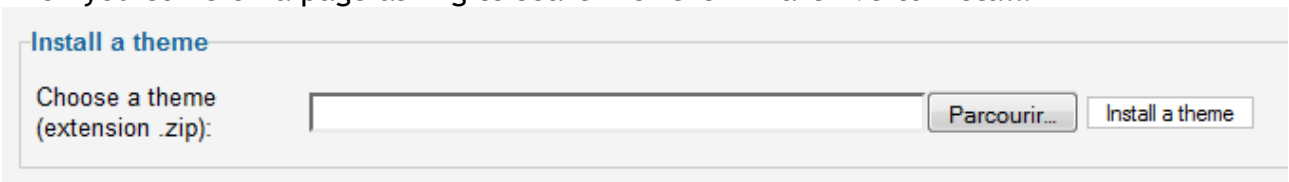
This is only for information, it lists all images used by the theme with their name and preview.

## 2. Install a theme

On the page for themes management, click on the **Install a theme** button.

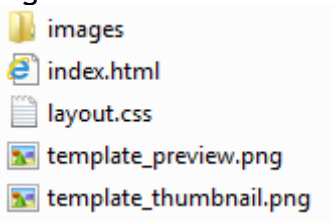



Then you come on a page asking to search for the ZIP archive to install.




The themes are located in the folder :
**/components/com_templateck/themes**

Each of them contains the following files :




**Images folder** : contains all images used in the theme
**index.html** : used for the security
**layout.css** : CSS stylesheet used to render the theme
**template_preview.png :** big size image used in the preview function in the theme edition
**template_thumbnail.png** : thumbnail used for the preview in the theme management

page

All these files are copied in the template and will be used in Joomla for their respective functionnalities.

# IV. Gabarit updater

# 1. Update

At the top of the component you will see a tab called Update your gabarit.
Why to need this ? The evolution of Template creator needs to change some value in the code to offer you some new possibilities. To avoid you to redo your work with the new version I decided to implement this to simply update your old gabarit for the new version.

Just select a gabarit in .tck format (you must first have exported it) and click on the button **Upload the gabarit**. That's it, just have to save the link as.

Once stored on your disk, you can import the new gabarit in the component in the main window.