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Welcome to the installation guide for News Manager Lite 3.5 (referred to as NML) by Expinion.net, released November 26th 2004.

Please note that this installation guide is compatible only with version 3.5 and not with any previous or future versions.

NML version 3.5 was designed to work on Windows IIS servers, which support ASP, and specifically for either an MS Access, My SQL or MS SQL database.

Installation By Expinion:

Expinion.net does not offer free installation, on applications that are offered free-of-charge. If you wish to purchase an installation by Expinion.net staff, you may do so here: https://www.expinion.net/_purchase/step1.asp. If you choose this option, please ensure that your server/hosting plan is Windows based. Please note that you will also need to provide temporary FTP access to your server, and other information via this form:

<http://www.expinion.net/res/install.asp>

Note: You will need the *Purchase ID* for the installation that was purchased. This will be found in the download email you received after your purchase, to complete this request. Please also mention which existing folder has been write-enabled, this will be used by your administrators when uploading images/files via the admin area; it will also be required if you will be using Access as your database.

Once we receive your request, it usually takes us between 24 and 48 hours to do the installation. You will be notified once we are finished.

Please note that we can't complete the installation using Remote desktop, PC Anywhere, or any other similar application. We will only do the installation using *File Transfer Protocol* (FTP).

After the Expinion installation, please continue with the remainder of the 'To Do Items' checklist at the end of this document.

Installing NML Yourself

If you'd like to do the installation yourself, please read the next few steps.

Server Information Utility:

If you are *not* familiar with some of the server variables (such as the server's physical path or which email components are supported by your server), use the script **setup.asp**.

This file should be copied into the desired application folder on your server, where you want specific path information. Use your browser to call the file from your URL. Example:
<http://www.yoursite.com/NML/setup.asp>

Read more about using this utility here: <http://www.expinion.net/support/...>

1. Unzip

- Unzip the downloaded file to any folder on your computer.
- Open your editor of choice, or if you don't have one open Windows Notepad application.

Please note, that you should not use editors such as MS Front Page, which replace certain characters and can corrupt files.

2. Determine Database

Determine whether your server supports the MS SQL, My SQL, or MS ACCESS database. (For larger traffic needs, the MS SQL database is strongly suggested, set up details can be found below.)

3. Write Permissions (MS Access)

Ensure that your MS Access *database* is in a folder that is not read-only. It needs to have Read & Write permission. (Contact your host if you don't already know which folders these are.)

MS Access (only)

This paragraph is for MS Access installations *only*. (For SQL, skip to step 4.)

A *database* has been included in the download (db folder).

***Note:** If your host has set limitations on which folders may be write-enabled, you may need to copy your database to a new folder. Record the path to this new folder, as you may need it to set the database path, in the next step (4).

4. config.asp Settings

- Locate the config.asp file in your main NML directory.
- Open the file, using your text editor (not WYSIWYG editor).
- Change the following variables, as explained below.

* Note: Please ensure that all variables containing text (characters or commas, etc.) still have both quotes when you have finished editing. A config.txt file has also been included in your download, in case you make any errors.

PURCHASE_ID

Enter your purchase ID as found in the email messages send to you by Expinion.net that contained the download links for this application.

PER_PAGE

Set to a numeric value representing the number of articles per page in the administration.
Example: PER_PAGE = 5

TOP

Set to top X number of articles to show in the scroller and most recent include files.
Example: TOP = 5

SET_BASE_PATH

Set to your full installation URL of NML, make sure the end slash is included. Example:
SET_BASE_PATH = <http://www.site.com/nml/>

DB_TO_USE

Set to 1 if you wish to use the MS Access database, set to 2 if you want to use the MS SQL database, or 3 for My SQL. Database files are located in the DB folder.
Example: DB_TO_USE = 1

OPEN_DB() PROCEDURE

(While still using your text editor, in the same *config.asp* file.)

- a) Locate the **OPEN_DB** procedure.
- b) Determine the **Connection String** that applies to your database.

If you intend to use MS Access, there are three possible ways of connecting the MS Access database. Choose *only one* of the three described below. (Most people use the *Direct Path* option, and this is what is pre-set by default.)

MS ACCESS (only)

When it comes to MS Access database you have 3 optional ways of connecting to it.

1. Direct Path

This is the most commonly chosen option, and is therefore the default. To use this database option, simply change the portion that is shown below in bold type.

```
Set MyConn = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Connection")  
MyConn.Open "PROVIDER=Microsoft.Jet.OLEDB.4.0;DATA SOURCE=C:\path\to\nml\DB\ nml.mdb;"
```

If you are not sure about the path you can either contact your host for this information or try using our [setup utility](#). You only need to select and set up *one* of these connections. So, if you've done this one, skip to the [Customizing the Look of your Application](#) section of this guide.

If you want to use a different database option than MS Access *Direct Path*, your chosen connection string must have the ' s removed from the beginning of the lines that start like this:

Before:

```
'Set MyConn = ...  
'MyConn.open =...
```

After

```
Set MyConn = ...  
MyConn.open =...
```

Note the missing ' from the desired connection. All *other* database connection options (that you aren't using) *should* have the 's at the beginning! (Add ' to the beginning of the lines found under the DIRECT PATH option.)

2. Map Path

```
Set MyConn = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Connection")  
MyConn.Open "Provider=Microsoft.Jet.OLEDB.4.0;Data Source=" & Server.MapPath("\path\to\nml.mdb") & ";Persist  
Security Info=False"
```

All you need to do is change the path leading to the MS Access database, which is located in the DB folder of this application. If you are not sure about the path you can either contact your host for this information or try using our [setup](#) utility.

You only need to select and set up *one* of these connections. So, if you've done this one, skip to the [Customizing the Look of your Application](#) section of this guide.

3. Data Source Name (DSN)

```
Set MyConn = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Connection")  
MyConn.open = "DSN=MMS"
```

You will need to create a DSN name on the server that contains the connection information for the database. Once you have done so, enter the DSN name.

Note: Please be very careful to leave the ;" characters at the end of the server path.

You only need to select and set up *one* of these connections. So, if you've done this one, skip to the [Customizing the Look of your Application](#) section of this guide.

MS SQL (only)

Change the information in this connection string as required (usually you only need to change the portion shown in bold text).

```
Set MyConn = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Connection")
MyConn.Open "Provider=sqloledb;Network Library=DBMSSOCN;Data Source=ADDRESS,1433;Initial
Catalog=DB_NAME;User ID=USERNAME;Password=PASSWORD;"
```

If you are using MS SQL database, you can find the SQL script, which creates the necessary database structure for you in the DB folder. An explanation about executing the SQL script, can be found here: http://www.expinion.net/support/issue_view.asp?ID=88

Be sure to add the ' to the database connection lines for *MS Access - Direct Path*. (See red text above for more info.)

My SQL (only)

Change the information in this connection string as required.

```
Set MyConn = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Connection")
MyConn.Open "Driver={MySQL ODBC 3.51 Driver}; Server=MySQL_SERVER; uid=USERNAME; pwd=PASSWORD;
database=DATABASE_NAME; option=3; port=3306;"
```

If you are using MY SQL database, you can find the SQL script, which creates the necessary database structure for you in the DB folder. An explanation about executing the SQL script, can be found here: http://www.expinion.net/support/issue_view.asp?ID=2251

Be sure to remove the ' at the beginning of the two My SQL db connection lines (as shown in green above), and add the ' to the database connection lines for *MS Access - Direct Path*. (See red text above for more info.)

CUSTOM CONNECTIONS (For Programmers Only)

Rather than using one of the existing database connections, you *can* add your own connection string. In this case, leave the existing sample connections *rem'ed*. When adding your own custom connection string, please make sure that the object is called *MyConn*.

Customizing the Look of your Application:

We have tried to make it easy to add your site layout to the public side of the application. Simply follow the explanation below:

Header and Footer Files:

The header and footer files in the root folders are common to almost all files in the public side of the NML. Through it, you can add your site layout to the NML easily.

- Locate the NMLroot/inc_header.asp and NMLroot/inc_footer.asp files in the same directory that your members will be using.
- Open each of these two files in your text editor, and modify it according to your site layout.
- If you have your own header, and it's located in a file by itself (which is then *included* in your *other* pages), you may simply replace the existing 'include' statement path (your_header_here.asp) with the path to *your existing header*.
- Or, add the *code* for *your* header directly into the inc_header.asp, and remove the include statement currently found in the inc_header.

How does it work? Well, if you take your entire design and leave some space for where MMS should be, the upper portion goes to the header and the bottom goes to the footer file. Here is an example, the green portion is for header and the orange is for the footer:

```
<html><head>
  <title>Untitled</title>
</head>
<body>
<table width="100%"><tr>
  <td colspan="2">Top Menu</td>
</tr><tr>
  <td width="25%">Left Menu</td>
  <td width="75%">Member Management</td>
</tr>
</table>
</body></html>
```

The result would be your site layout wrapped around the NML. While you can do the same for the administration it is not recommended. Only do so for the public side.

Setup File Utility:

In case you need to discover certain settings, paths, or available components on your server, we have included a small utility that, when called, will show some of the more useful unique information about your particular server.

Simply call the utility in your browser after copying all MMS files to your server:

Example: Use this address in Explorer -

<http://www.YourDomainnamehere.com/NML/setup.asp>

The page displayed in the browser, will show information such as the direct path for the folder, or available email and upload components. [Read More.](#)

To-Do Checklist

- ☐ Placed database (if MS Access) in a [read & write](#) directory.
- ☐ Set all variables in [config.asp](#) file (to paths that will be appropriate for the final server).
- ☐ Customized the [database](#) path or connection in the config.asp file under OPEN_DB() procedure.
- ☐ Uploaded to host (if required).

----- *Note: The above will already be completed, if Expinion has done the installation.* -----

- ☐ Logged in to the administration (... \NML\admin\index.asp)
On the first login, use username: **admin** and password **admin**.
Please change this password (and record it somewhere safe) as soon as possible.
- ☐ Customized the [inc_header](#) and inc_footer files.
- ☐ Incorporated the News Manager Lite into my site.
 - Linked to or include News Views on my existing pages.
 - Linked to admin login area, or notified administrators to bookmark the URL.