

# Installer 2.0 survey results

This document describes the results from the survey about the needs and opinions for the new Installer that is going to be implemented for TYPO3 Version 4.2.

The survey was available on [survey.typo3.org](http://survey.typo3.org) between 1<sup>st</sup> June until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

We had 333 complete answers. We assume that most of the attendees know TYPO3 so that we didn't reach too many people that are completely new to TYPO3. This might be a result of the fact, that the survey was only announced in the mailinglists and some resources that are not well known to people outside.

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## ***1. Role and experiences of the attendees***

Most of the people (88,89%) install and configure TYPO3. The minority do only installation or only configuration. This reflects the fact that most people have the role of an administrator when they use and install TYPO3.

50% percent of the people are administrators. Many of them (30%) are also developers. Only a few people are only editors or complete beginners.

Almost half (40%) also install 1 to 5 other web-applications. 28% has installed more than 5 other applications. 30% only know the installation of TYPO3.

Only one (1) attendee did never install TYPO3. 54% do 5 installations per week. 20% install TYPO3 once a week and 17% install it once a year. Two out of 333 stated that they do more than 21 installations per week.

## ***2. Feature requests***

We asked various questions about new features the new Installer should implement. The results vary from the group and role of the people but in some cases we had very clear results.

### **2.1 Updates**

The majority (292 out of 333) of the people want support for updates. This means that you can run the installer to update TYPO3. This also affects the ability of the Installer to contact typo3.org to get the most recent sources and install them.

### **2.2 Language**

The result for multilingualism of the installer is not clear. We have almost a tie in that question. 35% said yes, 28% said no and 35% don't care at all. Because we think, that this is a very important issue (and because it's already working) we decided to implement multilingualism in the new Installer.

## ***3. 1-2-3 Installer***

### **3.1 Usage of the 1-2-3 installer**

We were really surprised how often the current 1-2-3 installer is used. 60% use the 1-2-3 installer in any installation or often. So we see that this feature is really important and we need to focus on that to make it almost perfect.

23% used it in the past but install TYPO3 in a different way now.

It turned out, that many people clone an existing installation that is already configured for the server it is running on. A few people use packages that are provided by third parties. For example, TYPO3 packages at mittwald.

## 3.2 The future of a quick installer

We asked if the people would go through all steps of a guided installation or if they prefer a very basic installer and configure the rest on their own. That is what we have now.

### 3.2.1 How to install

It was not surprising, that we didn't get an absolute result. 24,68% want a basic installation and do the rest later. 21,89% would go through all steps an installer could provide. 22,96% will decide this depending on the amount of steps. The biggest part, 27,04% would like to cancel the installation at any point. This is some kind of combination of all points and will be the solution anyway.

We got several ideas how a guidance can work also:

- for advanced users all relevant Options (Like RealURL, Site Name, DB etc.) and for normal Users an simpler mode. In general, a slik interface and good informations help understandig the process and finish the installation successfully...
- select presets and only change differing settings
- Depends on the GD/IM delivered with PHP/Provider/TYPO3. If TYPO3 would deliver a `_working_` IM binary/setup by default, I wouldn't care too much of the rest ... ahh, sorry, `"$TYPO3_CONF_VARS['BE']['accessListRenderMode'] = 'checkbox';"` `_MUST_` be the default, too, I wouldn't care too much in the initial setup.
- Should have ability to go through with priority of importance
- By cloning instances there's no need to configure an instance again and again!
- i'm not saisfied with the 1-2-3 installer. i would allways prefer for neebies to have this tool around to give them a easy start...

### 3.2.2 How many steps?

The question was very important for us. The point is, to find a compromise between ans quick-install and a complete-install method. We've splitted the question into two parts because we are aware of the fact, the we have different user groups that install TYPO3.

#### basic setup

The first question was about the basic setup. How many steps do the users expect that it takes to make TYPO3 basically running? The answer was almost clear. 44,74% doesn't want more than 3 steps until the basic setup is done. This is actually what we have now, and there is no need to change it even if 32,13% of the people would also do 4 to 5 steps until basic setup is ready.

#### complete installation

The second part is about a complete installation. How many steps would you go through for having a complete running website at the end. As we expected, the result is wider spreaded than in the first part of the question. 38,74% think that 6 to 10 steps would be ok. For 22,82% 4 to 5 steps are enough and 13,21% would go through more than 10 steps until they want to start filling in content.

### 3.2.3 One-click installation

We had the idea of one-click installations. This means, that someone provides some kind of package, for the installer that contains meta information for installing a specific type of website. For example a blog-package that automatically installs and set up timtab with all it's third party extensions. Another package could be a community site or a company website.

We liked that idea but the majority of the people (51,65%) don't think that this is so important. At least 30,33% like the idea too.

48,35% out of that 273 people would definitely use such packages while 41,39% may use it.

### 3.2.4 Command Line Interface

Because we have many agencies using TYPO3 we thought that most of the people that install TYPO3 might be familiar with command line interfaces. So, why should we not provide a command line interface for TYPO3 to make it installable without access to the server via Browser? That might be a good idea if your DNS isn't ready or if the server is not available via browser by other reasons.

Most people think the same and so we a result of 67,3% yes against 32,7% no.

We also asked the people why a command line installer is a bad idea. Here are the most common answers:

- too complicated
- no ssh one most shared hosting packages
- We have 2007
- browser is always available
- I like clicking

### 3.2.5 Template Repository

Most of us know these terrible default static templates that come with TYPO3. At the T3BOARD07 I was confronted with an idea that I liked pretty much. The idea was a template repository. A resource where users can download complete template packages that give their page a complete look, out of nothing. We've picked up this idea and asked if the user would use such a possibility during the installation process: selecting a template from an online repository.

54,65% would give it a try and 14,71% love the idea so much that they said "Yes, of course!". 20,72% would not use it. We need someone who realises such a system anyway.

### 3.2.6 net-install

Since several years software is provided as net installations beside the "normal" way of downloading complete packages. So we thought of providing such a possibility too. A net install is a very small piece of software that is started on the target system that loads all necessary packages from the internet on it's own. So the user doesn't have to hassle with download mirrors and stuff like that. Many of the users see it the same and so 57,66% said "Yes, I want that.". Only 20,12% said no and 22,22% won't use it by their self but think that many others would like to see such thing.

## 4.1 Installer in backend a.k.a. Setup-Module

We (and most of the people) are not satisfied with the Installer module in the backend as it is now. So we asked some things how it can be improved.

First general thing is, and that is out of the question, that there won't be a module called "Install" anymore. We decided to rename it to "Setup" what is much more descriptive. You don't install anything in that module but you setup your installation.

71,47% of the people think the same way and said "yes". 21,02% are undecided.

Based on the answers, it's a must have that the setup module displays all warning and errors in the setup, collected on a single page. 82,28% of the people want that.

Beside the functional stuff, almost half of the people don't care about the look of the module. 31,53% want that it looks like the rest of the system, 27,33% want a nice and fancy design and 41,14% don't care at all.

### 4.1.1 Help

A complex and mighty system has many options. TYPO3 is no exception. Maybe TYPO3 has more options than many other systems. Anyhow, we have to provide some help for the various options a user has to set up. Currently the help texts are shown completely beside (or above) the respective option. That needs a lot of space on the page and doesn't makes it easier to navigate. We had some ideas how help should be provided.

35,14% want to have to possibility to turn the help texts completely off. 21,92% want it as it is now and 30,33% think, that tooltips are the right solution. Only 12,61% want to have some kind of pop up window where they can request help texts.

### 4.1.2 Problems

We wouldn't have a need for reimplementing the installer if there wouldn't be any problems in the current tool. Most of the people have problems to find the right combination of settings to have the job done (25,14%). Almost the same amount of people (19,73%) can't even find the right section where the options are hidden. And 17,7% don't find the responsible installer module.

There also some other problems that annoys the people:

- the forced settings for IM/GM configuration since even though you can change them they are ignored anyways. This is even more confusing, since i.e. effects do work for IM5 but not when using TYPO3.
- exact settings, e.g. for image processing
- better to have tabs instead of one big list Settings should be made at ONE place i.e. always im5 will show up when you update Basic Config to im6 already in allconfig
- This is not only to the installer, but you have setting all over! Page Config, Template (Setup & Constants!), User Config, Extension can be Configured within the Extension in Extension Modul, or via Template, or even within textfile inside the Extension, Then Global Install-Tool Setting..... And hidden Settings in pre-installed things like tt\_content etc. It's a mess!

- Lack of coherent, updated help and documentation
- clean-up database takes no account on installed packages
- The complete inconsistency throughout Typo3. (or more precisely: That consistency is mixed with inconsistent things).
- usability (very long page) in "all configuration"
- To mutch at once !! To geeky !!
- only english descriptions
- all UI of T3 feels like old windows 95
- almost everything - use better widgets, e.g. Dojo! (tabbed browsing, expand/collapse etc.)
- Results from some modules are different than expected [like trying to clean DB with DB analyser can yield malfunctioning site]
- it's just not usable enough.
- Correct Imagemagick settings require a celebration when finally achieved. Can the settings be more automatic based on your exact version number???
- "All configuration" screen is too big - have to scroll down to find the right setting, and then have to scroll down even further to validate/save settings
- all configuration is quit a loooong site :-)
- The TSref hase to be extended in several parts, that where unclear/confusing/short since years. Make other important docs (modern/futuristic) current. Force extension authors to write docs. Make typo3.org better!
- It's simply not clear what each option really does. Specially the image handling is totally weird
- not all descriptions are present or useful
- not enough separation, not sexy enough for newcomers
- We should be able to set GFX values from "Image Processing" section. I use "Ctrl-F" in my browser to find entries in "All Conf", but maybe we could have a "builtin filter" like the "about:config" in Firefox ?
- The general missing navigation
- There ist sometimes to much Information on one Page to keep an overview, you easily can get lost.
- yes, find the right section/module/variable is confusing
- uploading many files per ftp due to no root access and tar available; should be handled by installer
- scrolling the all config page to get to the correct line, Use Tabs!
- long list, ajax tree would be great
- There should be more detail and examples on many of the options. I would help write descriptions if it was easy to contribute to this specific task.
- The Install Module is badly structured. It mixes wizard-like parts with pure variable settings. Navigation within the Module is not handy as well.
- For beginners: no tutorial with a matching default website for version 4+
- Installtool seems not to be aware of the fact that one variable is a integer and another a string. All become strings in resulting localconf. CONFUSING!
- Module compatability: Is the module compatable with the version I am currently using?
- settings should be collapsed and organized. you need to know exactly what you are locking for or it takes ages to find it (read all setting)
- I dont know. Sometimes this and sometimes that...
- the L000000ONG list
- In general it would be a good idea to have small hints and an extended description

## 4.2 Navigation

Finally we asked what the users favorite way of navigation is.

As TYPO3 users it was not too surprising, that 47,79% of the people like trees for navigation. Almost 21% like Plain lists and Search and 7,69% like clouds for navigation.

Other answers where

- Tabs
- Good aranged, Logically not to many clicks!
- It depends on what I am working with: The right tool for the job.
- Ajax reduce list ...
- tabbed browsing (what is tagclouds?)
- `_Good_ search`, pointing me to just `_that_ doc` at hand (and showing it threaded, if applicalable).
- Search because all config or TStree are just too long but you need to know what you're looking for
- Built-in browser-search (find as you type in Firefox)
- AutoComplete

## 5 Conclusion

To be honest, we don't have a final concept yet but we will use the results from this survey to create a final concept as soon as possible to start implementation right away. At least we want that baby in TYPO3 4.2!

We asked the developers for their support and we got 11 email addresses that we can contact. I will do that within this week and I hope that we bring the Installer 2.0 on it's way very soon.

If you have any further questions, see the Wiki page at [http://www.typo3.org/index.php/Install-Tool\\_2.0](http://www.typo3.org/index.php/Install-Tool_2.0) or email me at [installer2@typo3-unleashed.net](mailto:installer2@typo3-unleashed.net).

**We want to thank all attendees!**

Hamburg, Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 2007

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