Collective.Addons User Documentation

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User documentation

CHAPTER

ONE

INSTALLATION

You can install the Plone add-on collective.addons using zc.buildout and the plone.recipe.zope2instance. Thus you could add it to the list of eggs to install, e.g.:

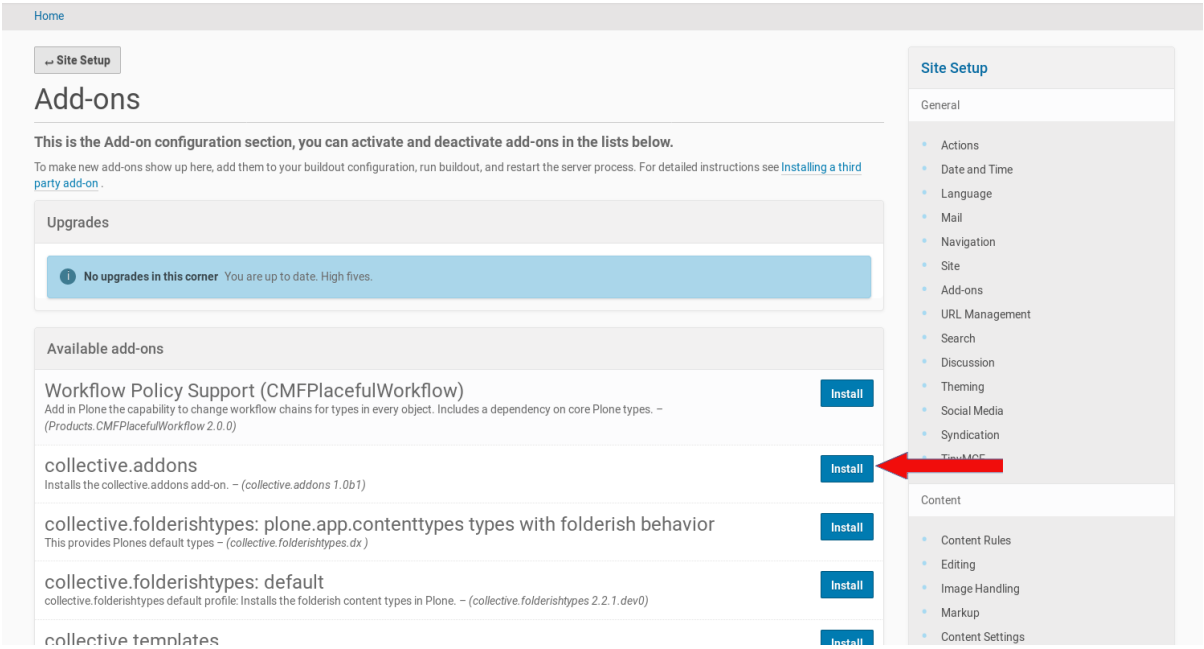
```
[buildout]
    ...
    eggs =
        ...
        collective.addons
```

Once you have added the add-on re-run buildout, e.g. with:

```
$ ./bin/buildout
```

Once your buildout finished you had to create a new Plone site and then install and activate the Plone add-on inside this new Plone site. Therefor you had to go to the Plone 'Site Setup' adminstration area. If you got administration permissions you find a link to it in the menu entry with your name (or 'admin'). You could reach it directly by adding '/@@overview-controlpanel' to the URL of your Plone site.

In the 'Site Setup' page click on 'Add-ons' and you get a list of the Plone add-ons which are available in your Plone site.



You will get a list like in the above screenshot. Click on the 'install' button next to the 'collective.addons' list entry and the add-on will be installed in your Plone site.

CHAPTER

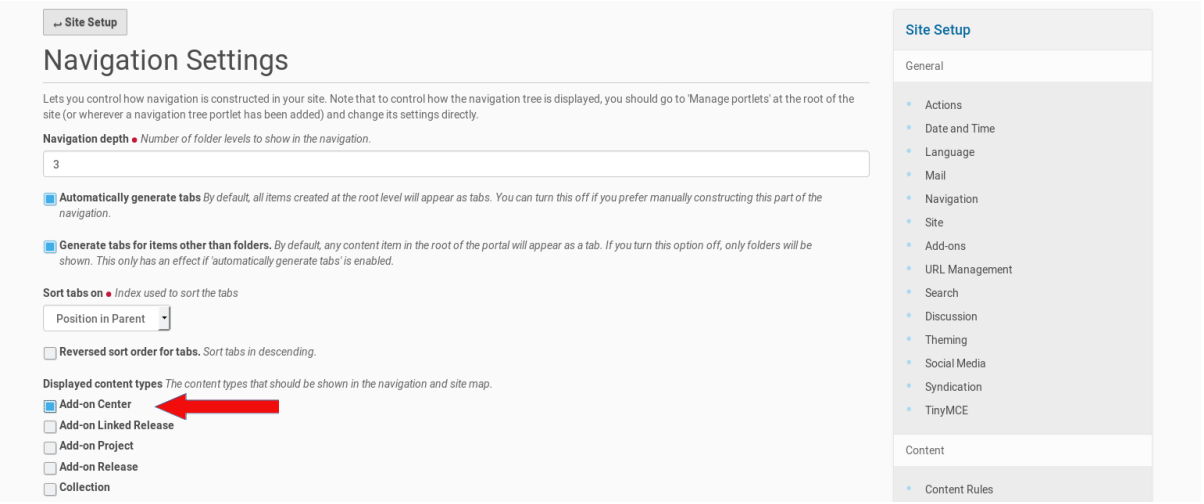
TWO

CONFIGURATION

The configuration of the add-on could be done from the Plone controlpanel ‘Site Setup’. You already used this panel during the installation of the add-on. There are entries for different configuration task.

2.1 Navigation configuration

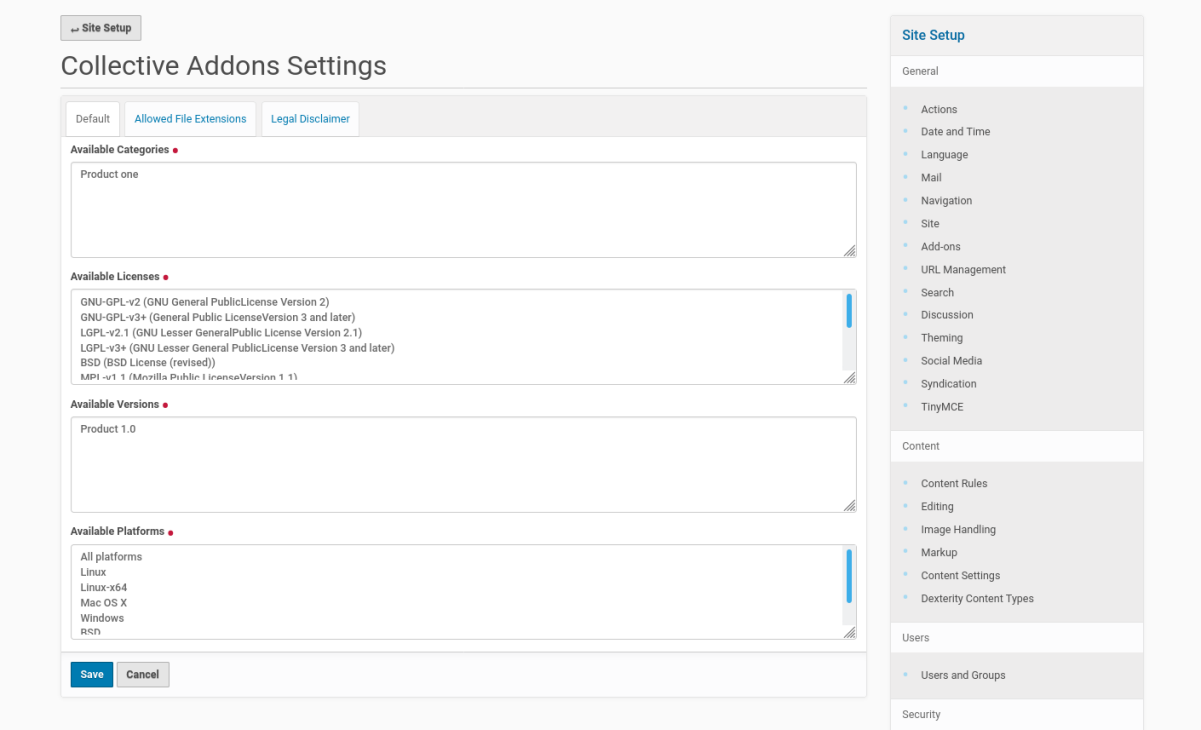
Next you need to go to the ‘Navigation’ configuration inside the ‘Site Setup’. Thus click on the corresponding button and you get to the configuration menu in the screenshot below.



Tick the checkbox in fron of the entry ‘Add-on_Center’ and save your changes. The necessary steps are done to go to the homepage of your Plone site (or a subdirectory of the site, where you want to create a new add-on center.

2.2 Collective Addons Settings

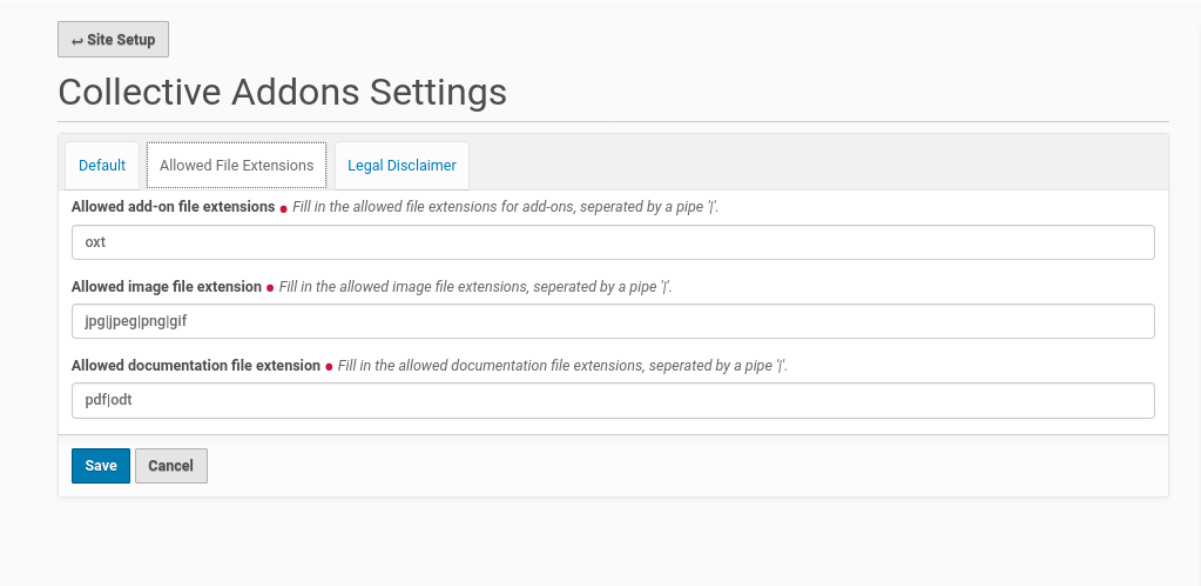
Once you finished the modification of navigation settings you could scroll down a bit on the Site Settings page to the section for ‘Add-on Configuration’. There you find a new entry for this add-on with the title ‘Collective Addons Settings’. Click on this entry and you get a form with fields to configure the add-on.



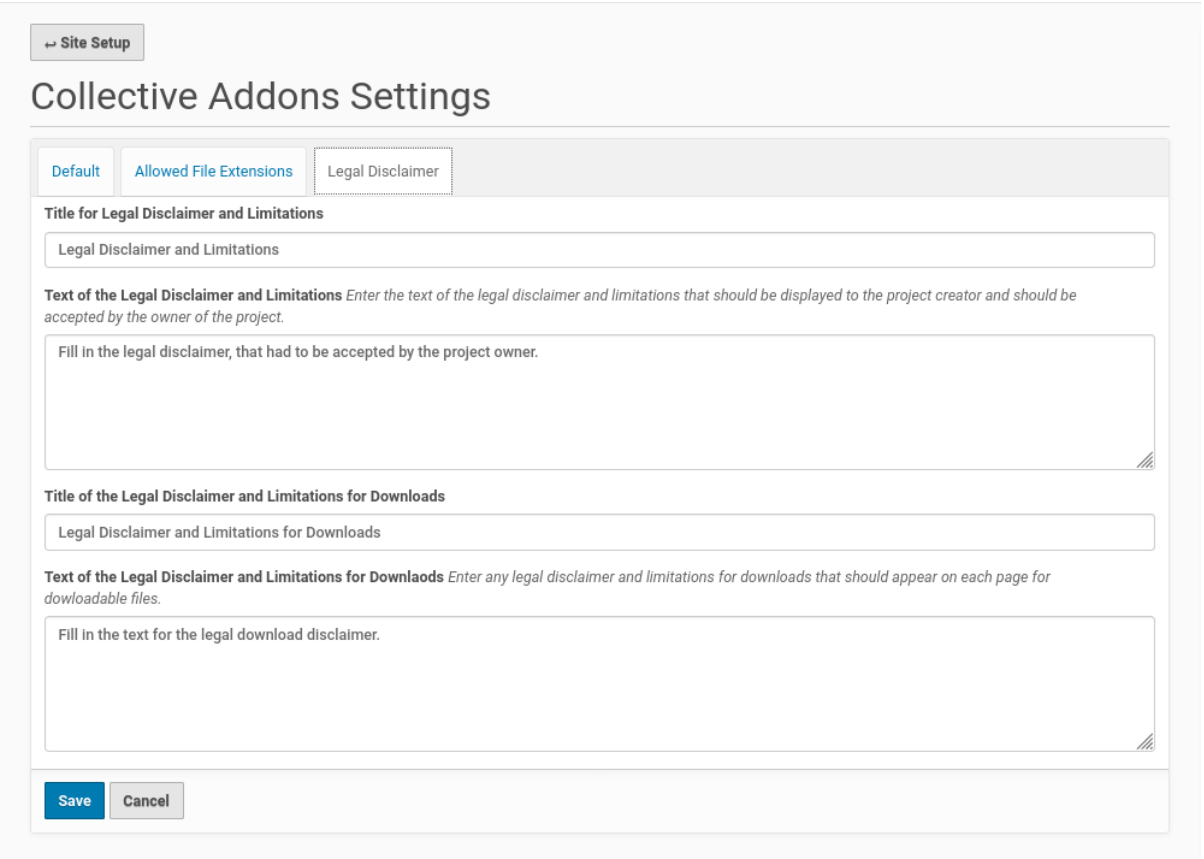
The fields on the first register 'Default' collect the values for the categories, the licenses, the versions (the versions of the product, the add-on is compatible with) and the platforms. This fields comes already with some default value. You could replace this values with your own choice. Every single value needs a new line.

The entries of this fields will be used to configure the available options for the contributors on the modules to create a add-on project and to add releases or linked releases to a project.

The second register ''Allowed file extensions' need your input about the allowed file extensions for the add-ons, the image file extensions (logo, screenshot) and the documentation files. If there are different file extensions allowed for this file categories you could enter this file extensions seperated by a pipe into the form fields, e.g.: 'pdflodt' for documentation files.



The third register 'Legal Disclaimer' provides fields to configure the title and the text of the legal disclaimer for contributions and the ones for downloading add-ons.



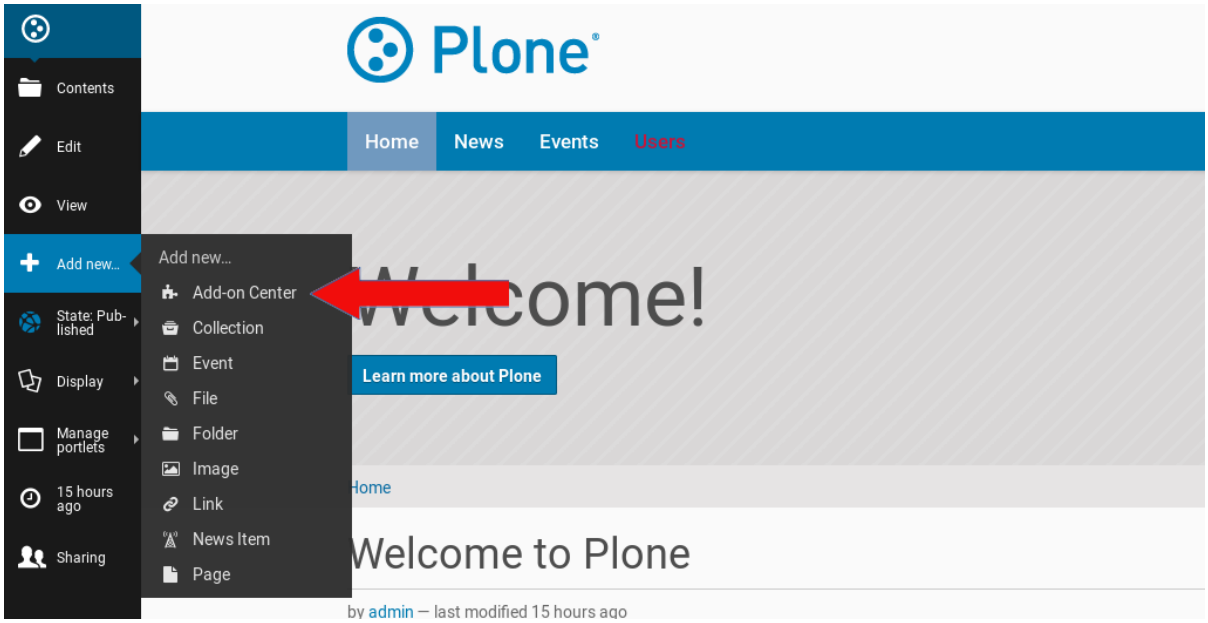
Once you finished the configuration within the fields of all three register save your changes. This will write some new entries to the 'Configuration Registry' of the Plone site. This new Configuration Registry entries will be used for the dynamic content of the edit forms of the add-on projects and (linked) releases as well as the search feature of the add-on center.

CHAPTER

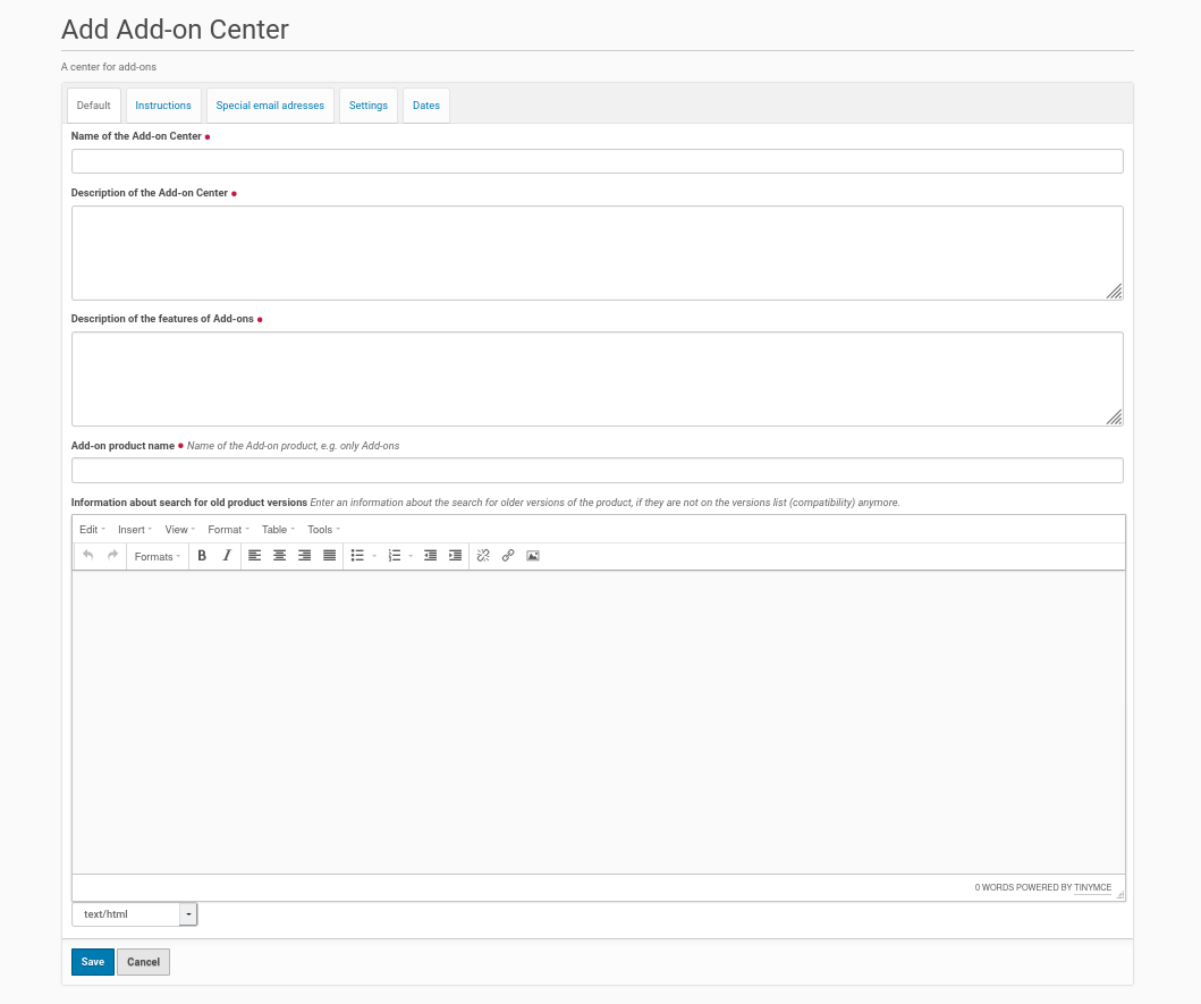
THREE

ADD A NEW ADD-ON CENTER TO YOUR PLONE SITE

I assume you want to add the center to the Plone site root ('Home'). Therefor go to this site root and choose from the Plone menu on the left 'Add new'. You get in this menu an entry to create a new 'Add-on Center' (see the screenshot below).



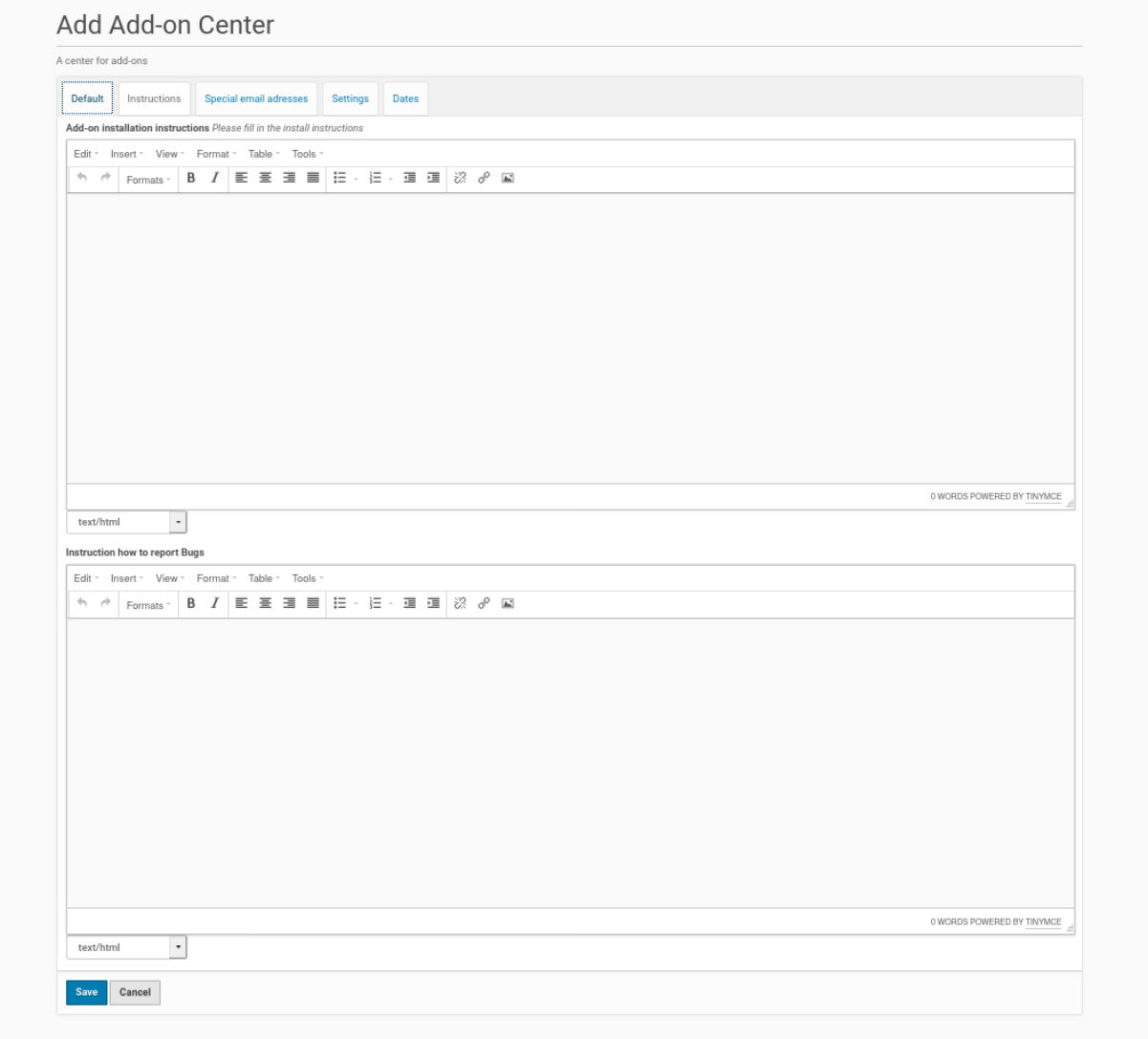
Click on this entry and you get the form below. This is the edit form to create and configure a new Add-on Center in your Plone site.



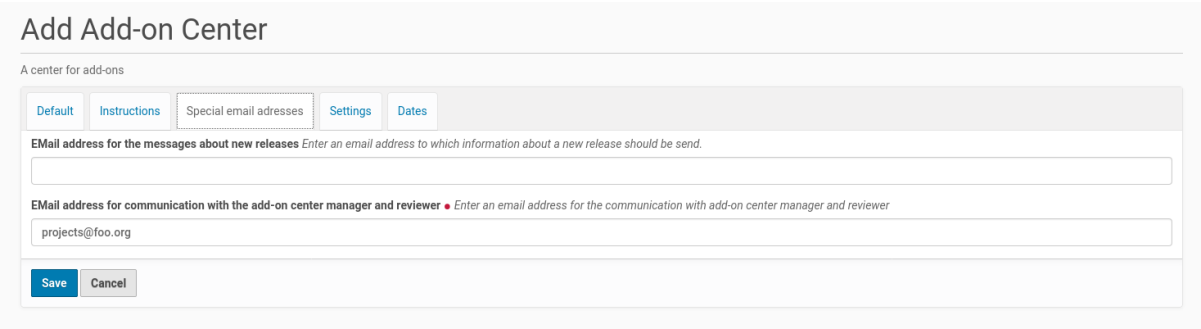
Fill in the fields in the edit form of the Add-on Center. All fields has a description of their expected values. Don't miss to go through the register of the edit form dialog.

The first register 'Default' (screenshot above) contains the fields for setting title of the add-on center, to describe the features of the add-ons and the naming of the add-on. If older product versions are removed from the listing, there is a field for the text to show next to the search feature of the center, how to search for add-ons compatible with this older product versions.

The second register ('Instructions') (see screenshot below) provides two fields to give information to the user, how to install the add-on and how to report bugs.



Within the third register (see screenshot below) it is possible to set special email addresses. The first field could be used to send an email to an address once a new release has been published. The second field holds the address for the communication with the manager or the add-on reviewer on the site.



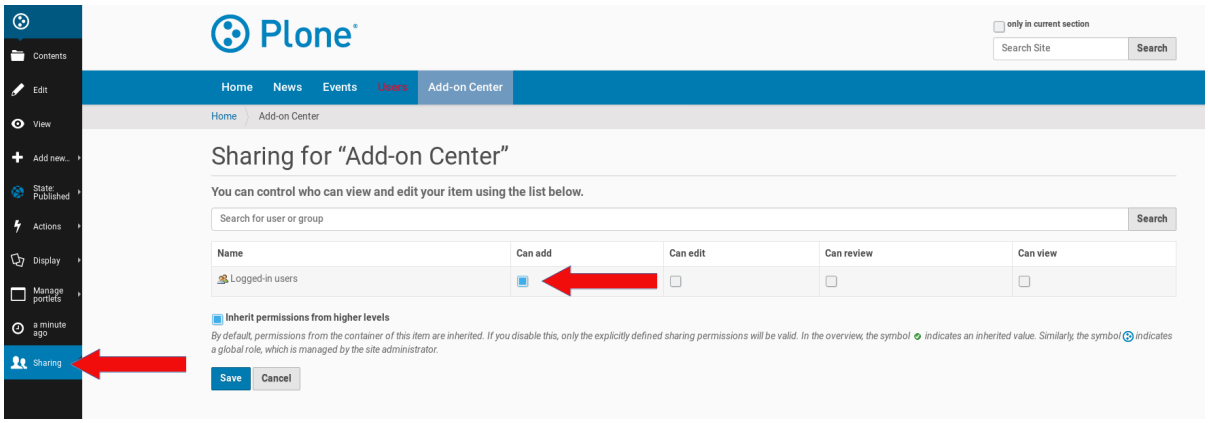
Once you are finished with adding values to the edit form, save the form. If you missed to edit a form field, you will get an error message and could fill in the necessary information into the appropriate form field.

3.1 Publish The New Add-on Center

Once you finished with the edit form of the Add-on Center and saved your changes you need to publish the center. You could do this by a click on the entry 'State: Private' in the menubar on the left site. Choose the entry 'Publish' and you are done.

3.2 Sharing: Enable Members To Add Projects

The logged in users are not able to add projects to the Add-on Center yet. You could enable this by a mouse click on the entry 'Sharing' in menubar on the left site (see screenshot below). This shows the edit menu for sharing and you could tick the checkbox 'Can add' for 'logged-in-users' (see screenshot below) to enable the members of the Plone site to add their add-on projects to the center.



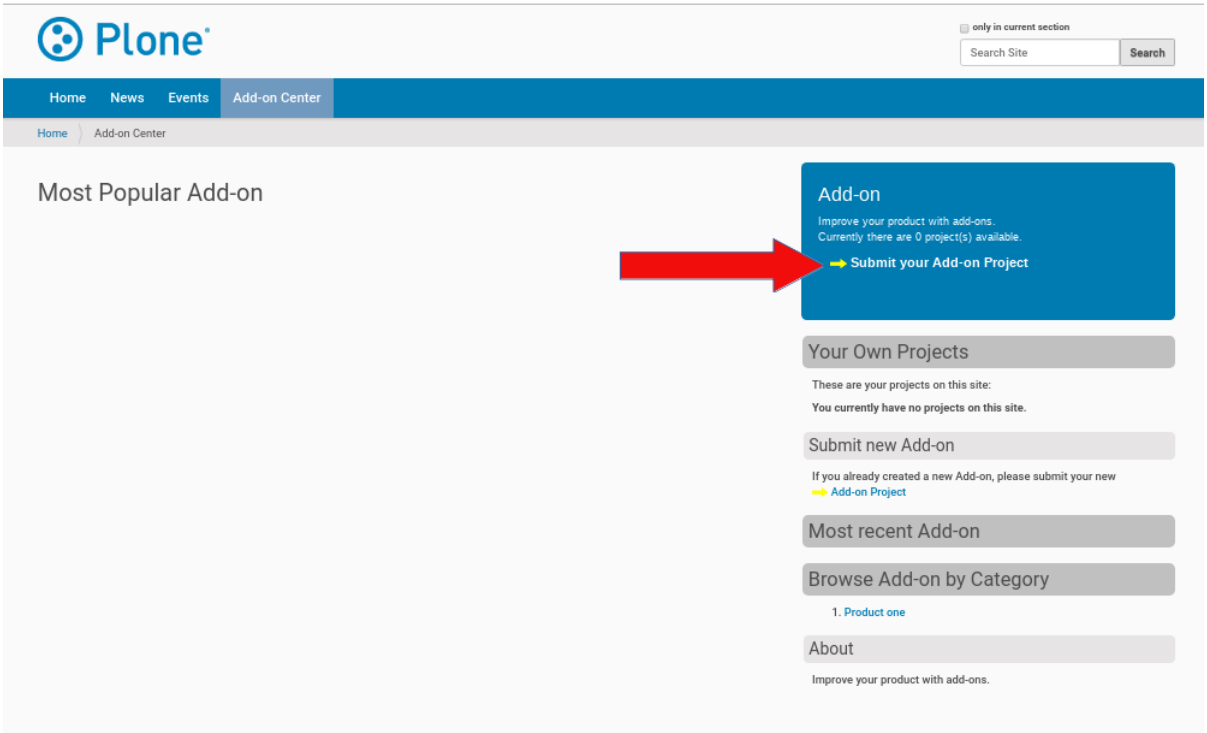
CHAPTER

FOUR

ADD A NEW ADD-ON PROJECT TO THE ADD-ON CENTER

A member of the Plone site (logged-in user) could add own add-on projects to the 'Add-on Center' once he called the appropriate form for new such projects and fill in the necessary data.

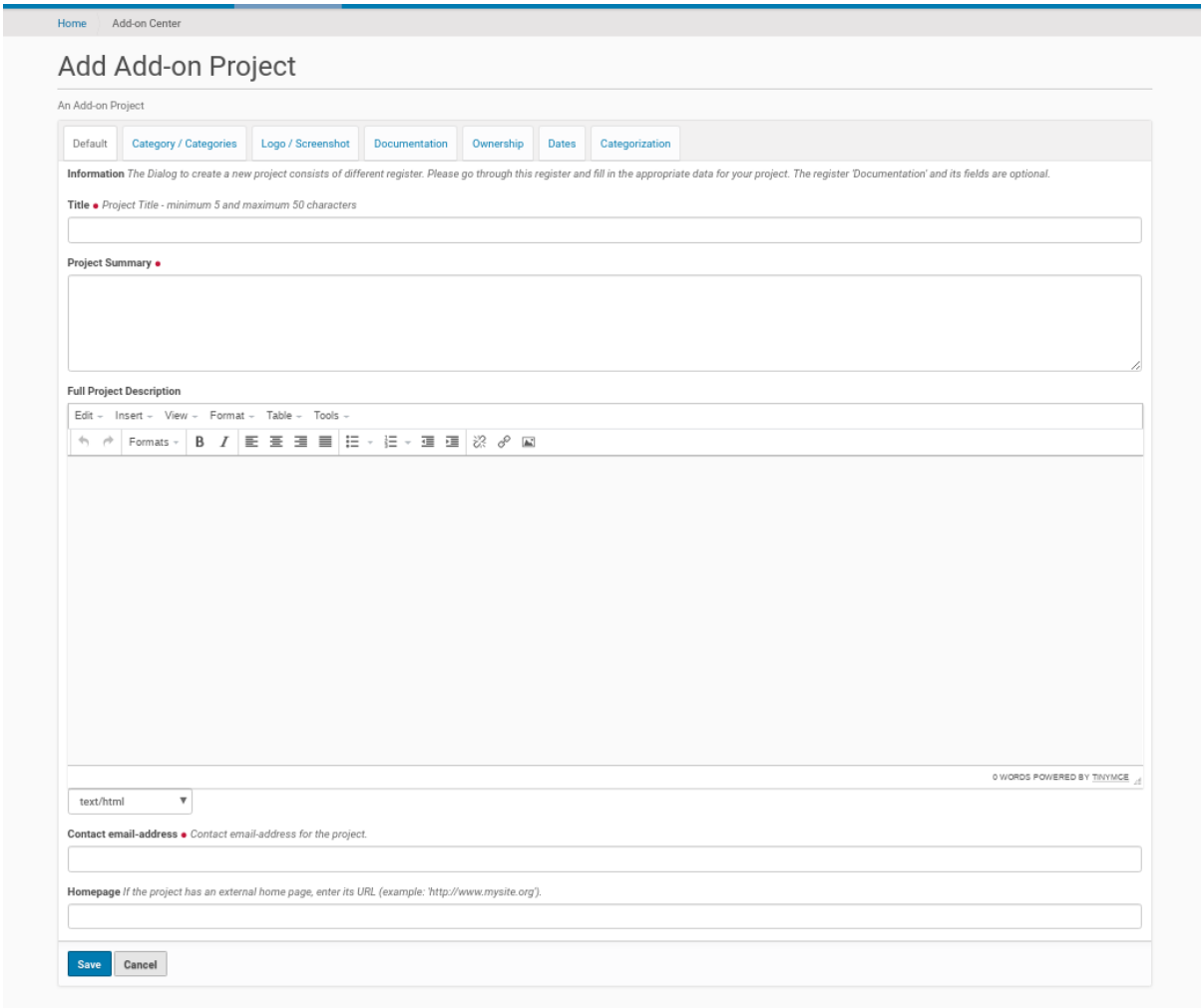
He has to click with the mouse first on the link in the box on the right side (see screenshot below).



This mouse click opens the form for providing new add-ons. The form dialog consists of several register. The form fields in the first register asks for more general information about the project. It's possible to edit and change the content of the fields later, if the focus or the features of the project varies.

4.1 The First Register 'Default'

The new add-on project needs its own title with a length from 5 to 50 characters. This title has to be unique inside the 'Add-on Center'. If there is already another add-on project with the same title the member will get an error message with the appropriate information. Thus he had to choose another title for his add-on project.



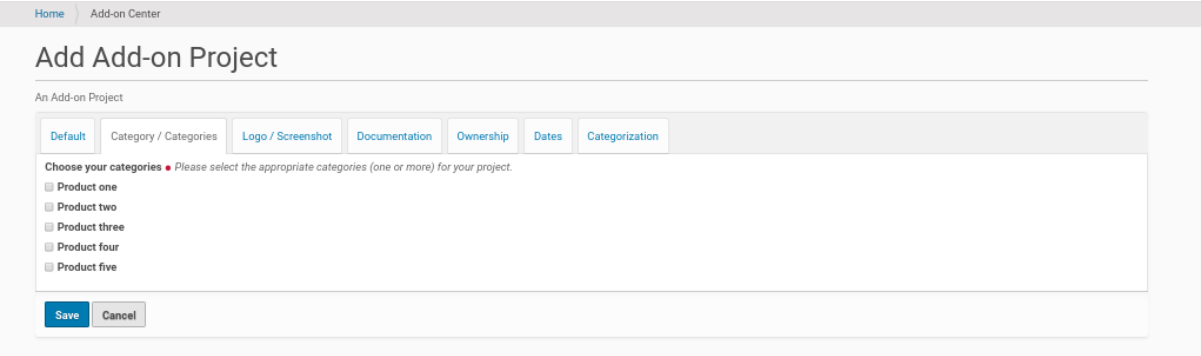
A new project needs also a summary and could get a full description of its purpose and features. The latter one is optional (only form fields with a red point behind the title are mandatory).

It's also necessary that the member provides an email-address. This address will be used to get in contact with the project (owner). The 'Add-on Center' sends e.g. messages if the status of the project changes (e.g. it was published by a reviewer). Users of the project / add-on could send feedback to the author within a form. The content of this form will be send by email to the project (owner) (The feedback provider will not see the email address of the project).

If there is already a homepage of the add-on project available on the internet, it is possible to submit within the correspondending form field. This homepage will be published inside the project ressources on the right side of the add-on project page. Thus the user of the project / add-on could reach the external project homepage very easily with only one mouse click.

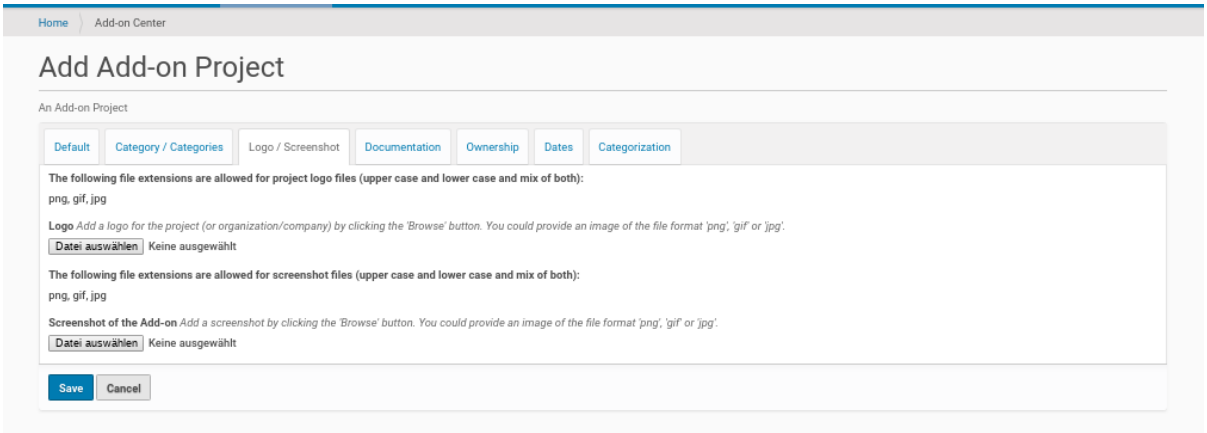
4.2 The Second Register ‘Category / Categories’

The add-on projects were assigned to one or more categories. The creator of the add-on project could choose on this register one or more categories, the new add-on project matches. The list of categories on this register had been created by the Plone site administrator within the ‘Add-on Center’.



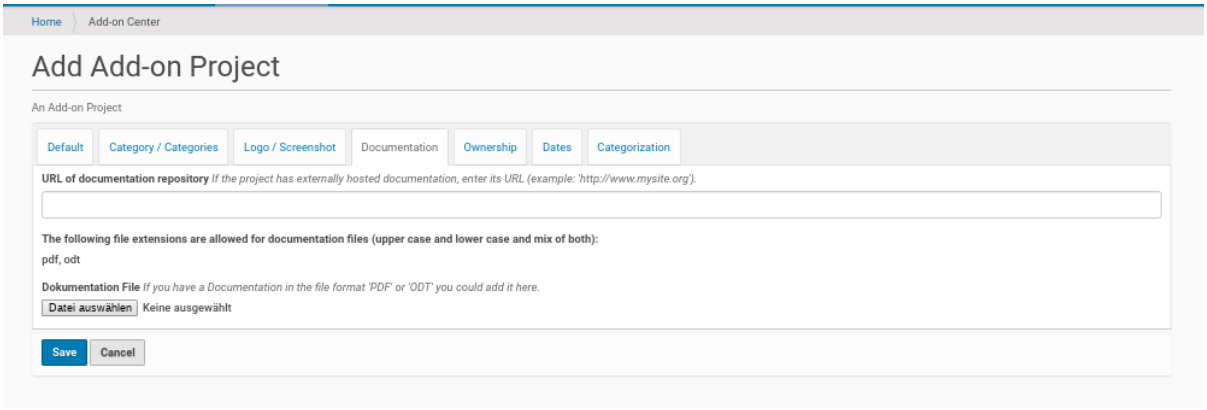
4.3 The Third Register ‘Logo / Screenshot’

This is the place to submit a project logo or screenshot. It is mandatory to submit one of them. The allowed file extensions are displayed next to the button to call the file dialog. The Plone site administrator choose this allowed file extensions within the ‘Add-on Center’.



4.4 The Fourth Register ‘Documentation’

This register provide the opportunity to upload a documentation file. It will be linked from the project ressources in the project view. The allowed file extensions are displayed next to the button to call the file dialog.The Plone site administrator choose this allowed file extensions within the ‘Add-on Center’.

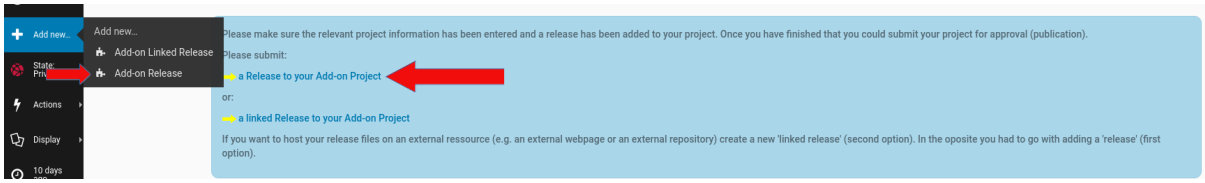


CHAPTER

FIVE

ADD A NEW RELEASE TO AN ADD-ON PROJECT

An owner of an add-on project could add a release to the own project. There is a link at the top of an add-on project page whilst the owner is logged-in to the Plone site. Once he clicked on this link he got an edit form to enter the content of the new release.

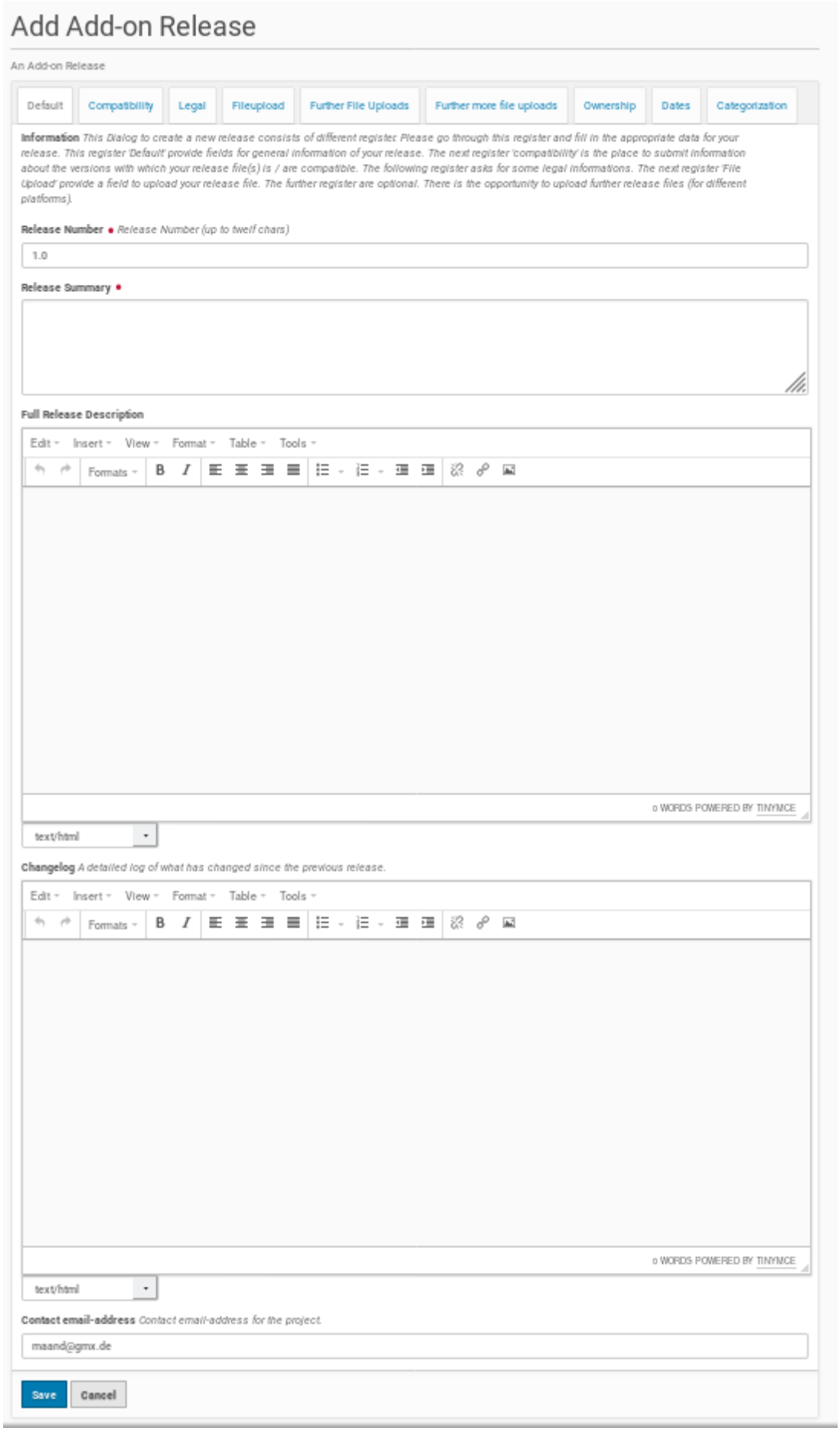


The owner could make alternatively a mouse click on the menu entry ‘Add new’ in the menu bar on the left side and choose from the opening sub menu the entry ‘Add-On Release’ (see the small red arrow in the screenshot above).

The form dialog consists of several register. The form fields in the first register asks for more general information about the release. It’s possible to edit and change the content of the fields later, if there is something missing or there are e.g. typos, that should be fixed.

5.1 The First Register ‘Default’

The new add-on release needs its own release number. This number (up to twelf chars) will be part of the release title and its URL. The title will be created from the add-on project title and the release number. This title has to be unique inside the Plone site. If the release number is already in use, the editor will get an error message about it.


Add Add-on Release
An Add-on Release
Default
Compatibility
Legal
Fileupload
Further File Uploads
Further more file uploads
Ownership
Dates
Categorization
Information This Dialog to create a new release consists of different register Please go through this register and fill in the appropriate data for your release. This register 'Default' provide fields for general information of your release. The next register 'compatibility' is the place to submit information about the versions with which your release file(s) is / are compatible. The following register asks for some legal informations. The next register 'File Upload' provide a field to upload your release file. The further register are optional. There is the opportunity to upload further release files (for different platforms).
Release Number • Release Number (up to twelf chars)
1.0
Release Summary •
Full Release Description
Edit Insert View Format Table Tools
Formats
0 WORDS POWERED BY TINYMCE
text/html
Changelog A detailed log of what has changed since the previous release.
Edit Insert View Format Table Tools
Formats
0 WORDS POWERED BY TINYMCE
text/html
Contact email-address Contact email-address for the project.
maand@gmx.de
Save
Cancel

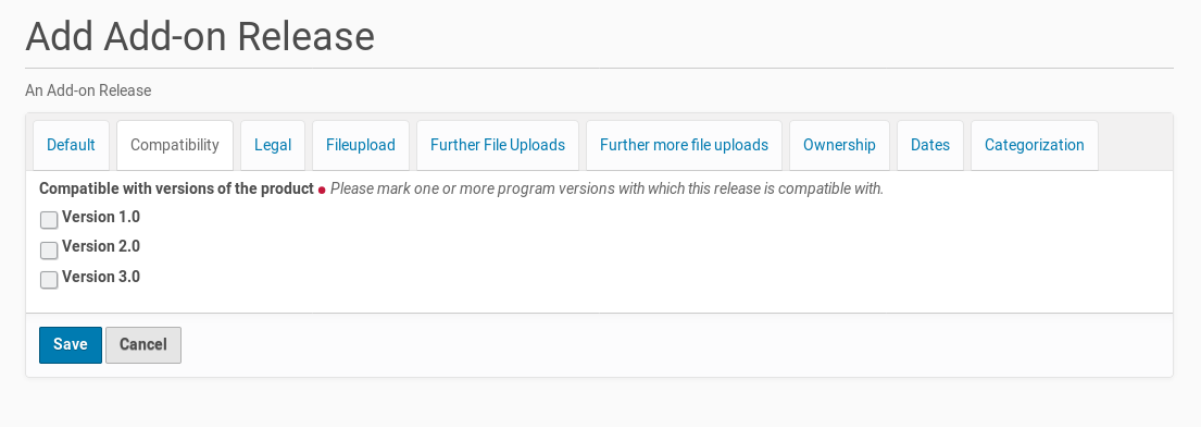
A new release needs also a summary and could get a full release description with details about its features. The latter one is optional (only form fields with a red point behind the title are mandatory).

There is also an optional field to add changelog information, especially if the add-on release adds some new features or fix some issues.

The field for the email address will be initialized with the email address from the add-on project the release was added to.

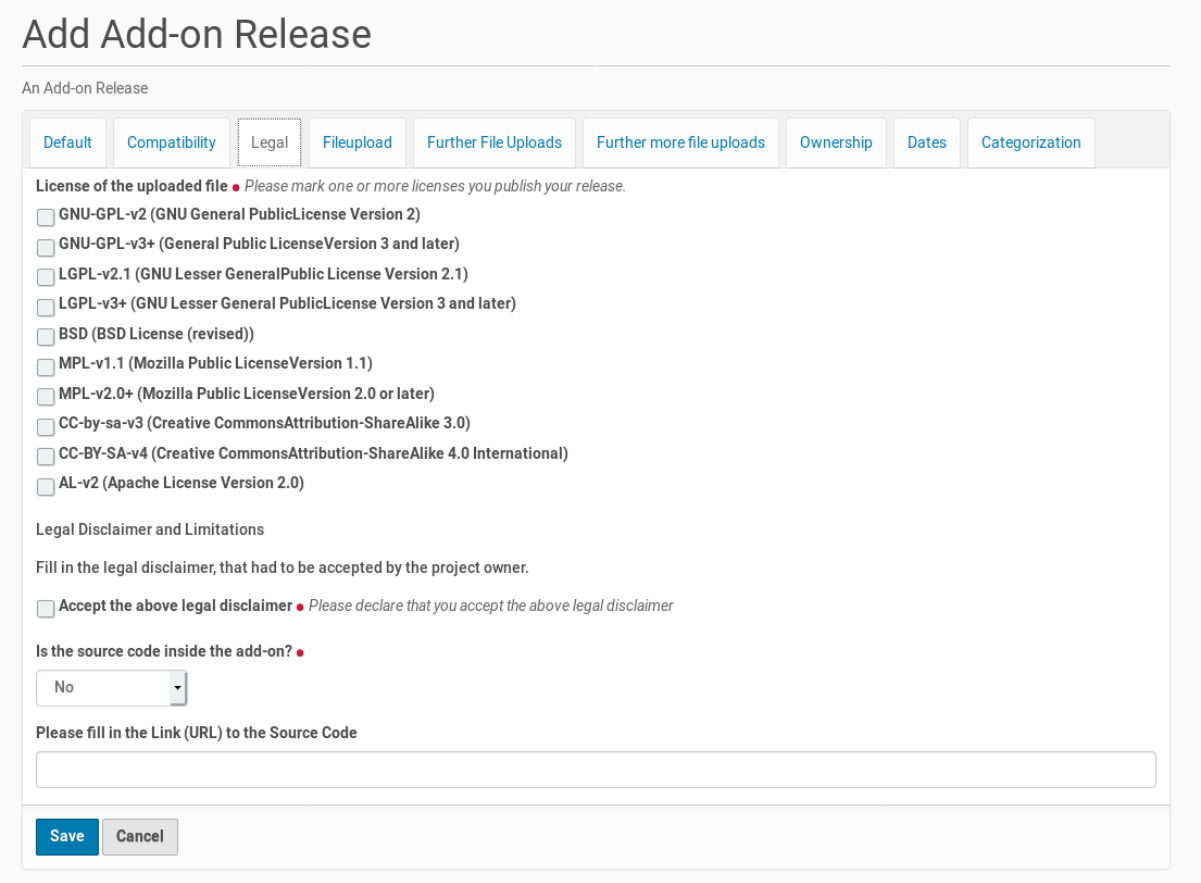
5.2 The Second Register 'Compatibility'

This register contains a form field to choose the versions of the program the release is compatible with. The list of program versions will be created by the site admin within the 'Add-on Center'. It is possible to choose multiple program versions for the release compatibility.



5.3 The Third Register 'Legal'

The third register shows the necessary fields for the legal statements about the release. It starts with the license for the release. It is possible to check more than one license for a release. This declaration need to be in accordance with the license declaration inside the add-on release (if there is one).

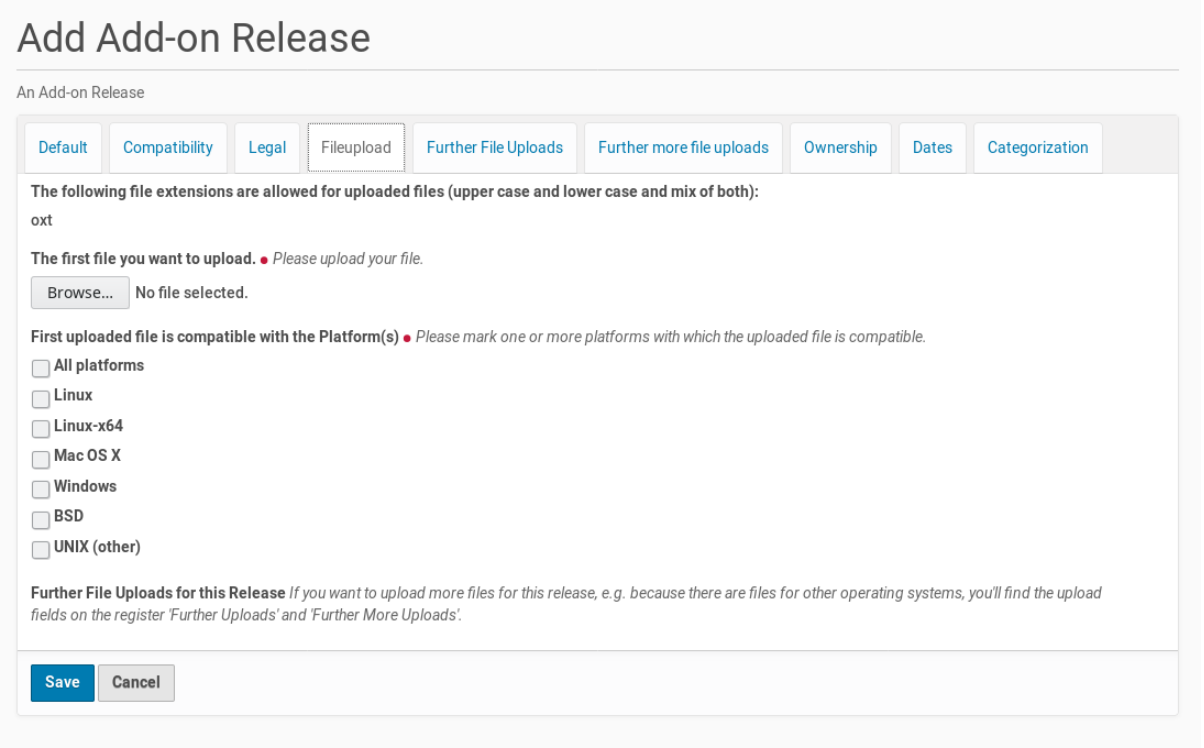


There is also a read-only form field which contains the text of the legal disclaimer that has to be accepted by the add-on release owner. The text of the legal disclaimer will be set by the site admin inside the 'Add-on Center'.

If the source code is not inside the add-on release (the drop down field is set to 'No'), it is necessary to fill in the link to the source code in the form field at the bottom of the register. If such a link will not be submitted the release owner gets an error message.

5.4 The Fourth Register 'Fileupload'

This register is the place to upload the add-on release file and declare which platform it is compatible with.



If there are versions of the add-on release for different platforms (e.g. one for MS Windows and another one for Linux only) this further release files could be uploaded using the following register.

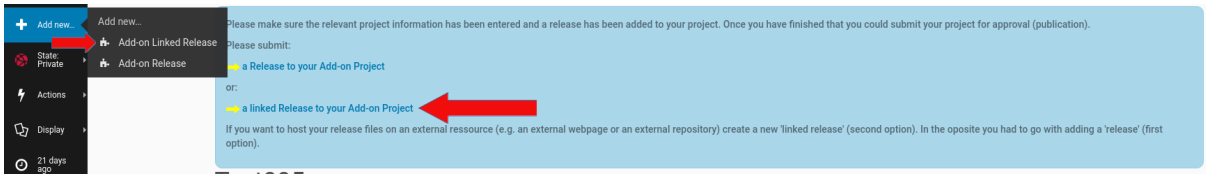
The list of platforms in the listing below the the upload field will be created by the site admin inside the 'Add-on Center'. She / he is able to expand this list at any time if desired.

CHAPTER

SIX

ADD A NEW LINKED RELEASE TO AN ADD-ON PROJECT

Linked releases put the add-on project owner into the position to host release files on external ressources, e.g. his own webspace or another website. Whilst the owner is logged-in to the Plone site there is a link at the top of an add-on project page. Once he clicked on this link (see screenshot below) he got an edit form to enter the content of the new linked release.

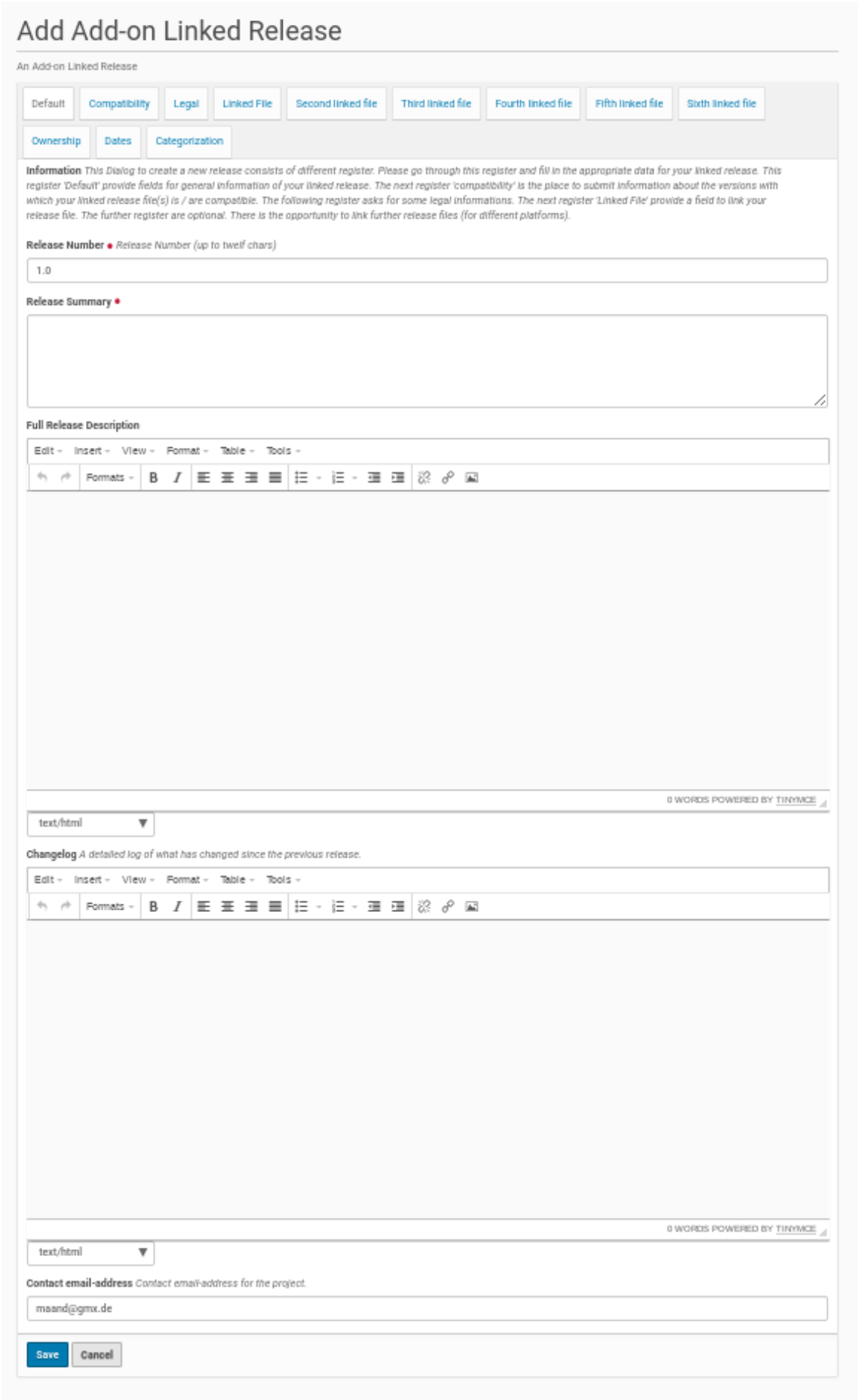


The owner could make alternatively a mouse click on the menu entry ‘Add new’ in the menu bar on the left side and choose from the opening sub menu the entry ‘Add-On Linked Release’ (see the small red arrow in the screenshot above).

The form dialog consists of several register. The form fields in the first register asks for more general information about the release. It’s possible to edit and change the content of the fields later, if there is something missing or there are e.g. typos, which should be fixed.

6.1 The First Register ‘Default’

The new add-on linked release needs its own release number. This number (up to twelf chars) will be part of the linked release title and its URL. The title will be created from the add-on project title and the linked release number. This title has to be unique inside the Plone site. If the linked release number is already in use, the editor will get an error message about it.


Add Add-on Linked Release
An Add-on Linked Release
Default
Compatibility
Legal
Linked File
Second linked file
Third linked file
Fourth linked file
Fifth linked file
Sixth linked file
Ownership
Dates
Categorization
Information This Dialog to create a new release consists of different register. Please go through this register and fill in the appropriate data for your linked release. This register 'Default' provide fields for general information of your linked release. The next register 'compatibility' is the place to submit information about the versions with which your linked release file(s) is / are compatible. The following register asks for some legal informations. The next register 'Linked File' provide a field to link your release file. The further register are optional. There is the opportunity to link further release files (for different platforms).
Release Number • Release Number (up to twelf chars)
1.0
Release Summary •
Full Release Description
Edit Insert View Format Table Tools
Formats
0 WORDS POWERED BY TINYMCE
text/html
Changelog A detailed log of what has changed since the previous release.
Edit Insert View Format Table Tools
Formats
0 WORDS POWERED BY TINYMCE
text/html
Contact email-address Contact email-address for the project.
maand@gmx.de
Save
Cancel

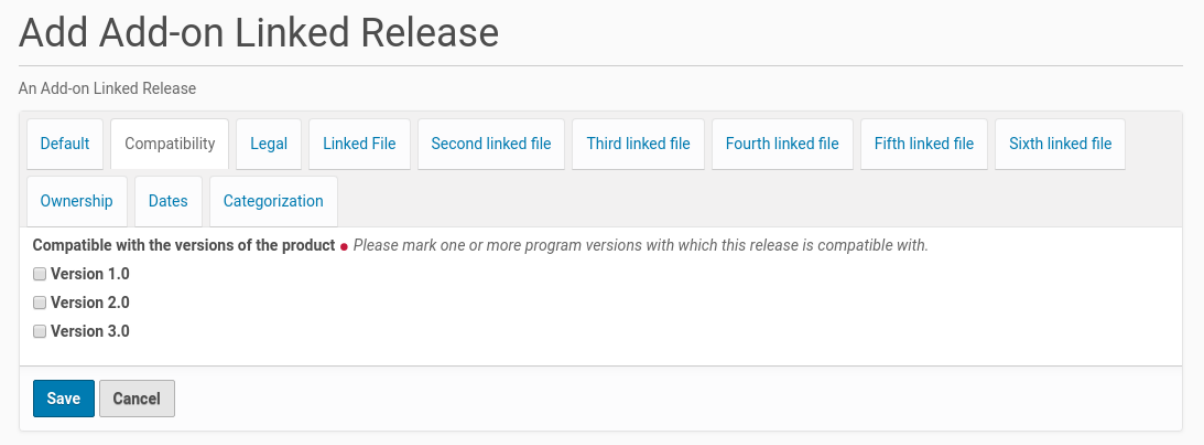
A new linked release needs also a summary and could get a full release description with details about its features. The latter one is optional (only form fields with a red point behind the title are mandatory).

There is also an optional field to add changelog information, especially if the add-on linked release adds some new features or fix some issues.

The field for the email address will be initialized with the email address from the add-on project the linked release was added to.

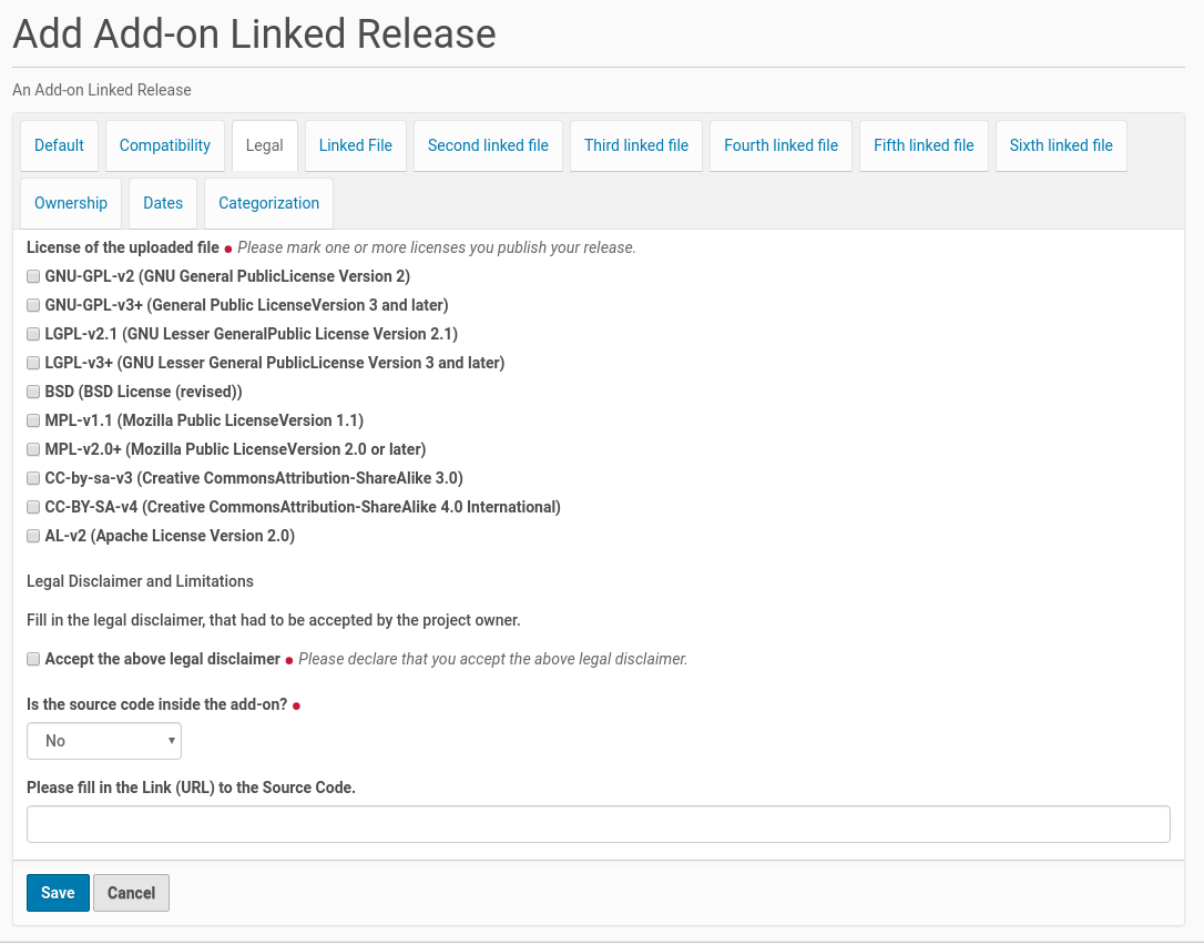
6.2 The Second Register 'Compatibility'

This register contains a form field to choose the versions of the program the linked release is compatible with. The list of program versions will be created by the site admin within the 'Add-on Center'. It is possible to choose multiple program versions for the release compatibility.



6.3 The Third Register 'Legal'

The third register shows the necessary fields for the legal statements about the linked release. It starts with the license for the linked release. It is possible to check more than one license for a linked release. This declaration need to be in accordance with the license declaration inside the add-on linked release (if there is one).

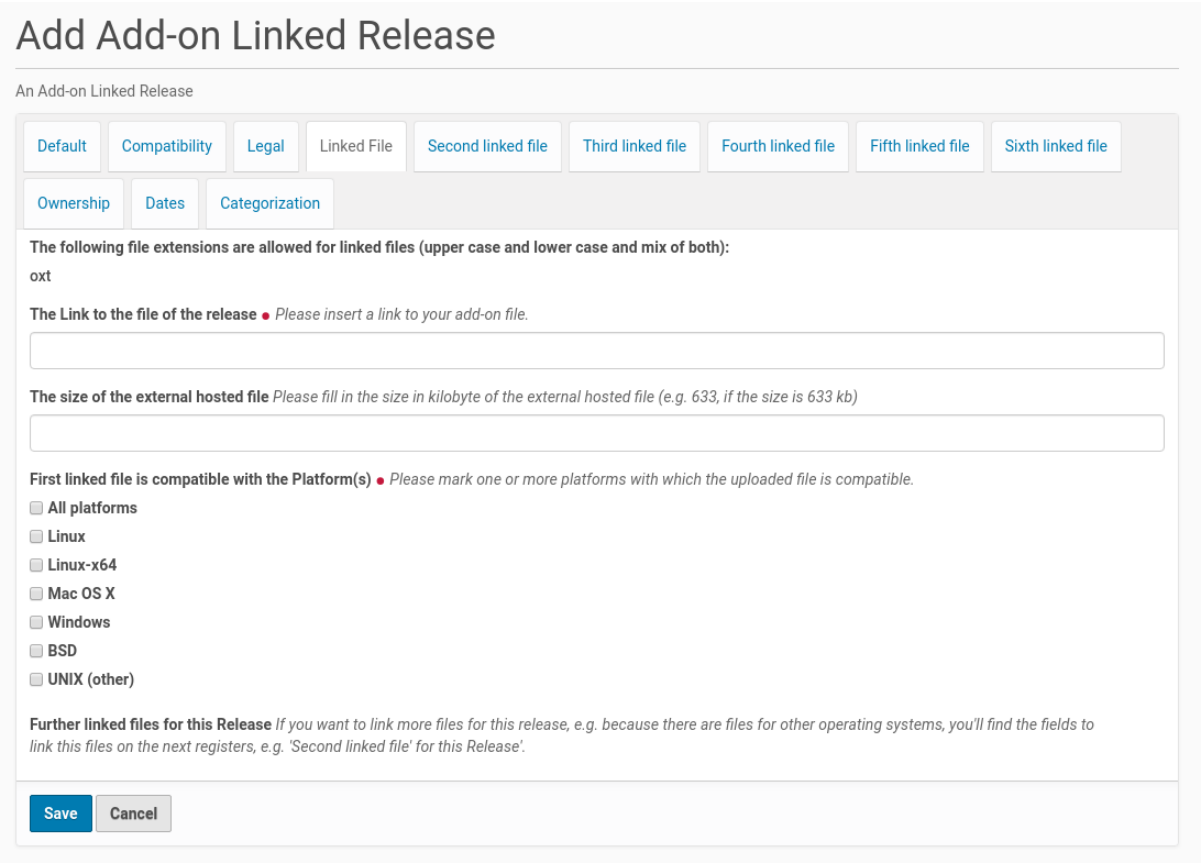


There is also a read-only form field which contains the text of the legal disclaimer that has to be accepted by the add-on linked release owner. The text of the legal disclaimer will be set by the site admin inside the 'Add-on Center'.

If the source code is not inside the add-on linked release (the drop down field is set to 'No'), it is necessary to fill in the link to the source code in the form field at the bottom of the register. If such a link will not be submitted the linked release owner gets an error message.

6.4 The Fourth Register 'Linked File'

This register is the place to link to the add-on linked release file and declare which platform it is compatible with.



If there are versions of the add-on linked release for different platforms (e.g. one for MS Windows and another one for Linux only) this further linked release files could be linked using the following register.

The list of platforms in the listing below the the upload field will be created by the site admin inside the 'Add-on Center'. She / he is able to expand this list at any time if desired.

Because a linked release is not uploaded to the Plone website it is not possible for Plone to calculate the size of the add-on linked release file. Thus there is a form field to submit this size of the file. This information will be displayed in the website next to the download link for the linked release file.

CHAPTER

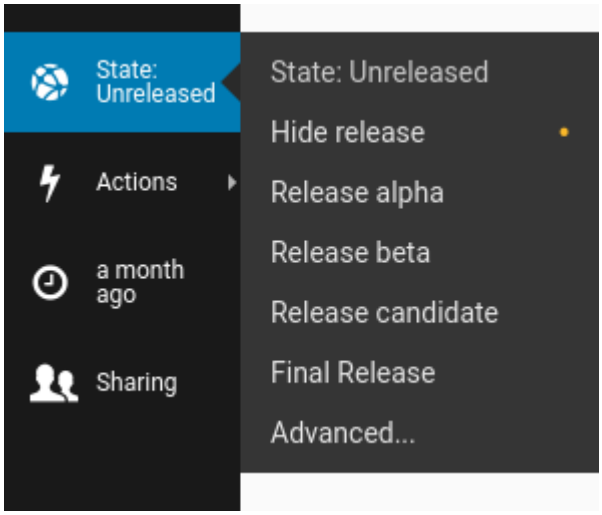
SEVEN

RELEASE AN ADD-ON RELEASE OR A LINKED ADD-ON RELEASE

Once you have filled in all required data into the form of a new add-on release or linked add-on release and saved the form, you have to decide if and with which state you want to publish the add-on release.

The release is in the default state at that time. This means its workflow state is 'Unreleased'. You could choose another state from the listing in the menubar on the left side (see screenshot below). Click on the appropriate entry in this menubar and you get a listing with the available further workflow state (drop down menu):

- Release alpha –> Alpha Release
- Release beta –> Beta Release
- Release candidate
- Final Release.



If an add-on release or linked add-on release should not be public available anymore, it could be hidden. Therefor you choose 'Hide release' from the entries in the listing in the menu entry (drop down menu).

In case a release got the state 'hidden' the owner could later decide to 'unhide' it. Therefor she / he make a mouse click on the entry 'Hidden' in the menubar on the left side and choose the entry 'Unhide release'. The (linked) add-on release will get the state 'Unreleased' again and it is possible to publish it in one of the workflow states again, which are listed above.

CHAPTER

EIGHT

PUBLISH AN ADD-ON PROJECT

Once the project owner added an add-on release or a linked add-on release to her / his project and released it she / he could return back to the add-on project page and submit the project for publication.

The project owner could do this within the menubar on the left side. She / he had to click on the menu entry 'Private' and than click on the entry 'Submit for publication' in the opening drop down menu. The menu entry will change from 'Private' to 'Pending'.

The project owner will get an email with an information about this change of the workflow change. A corresponding email will be send to the administrator or a configured email address for this task (configured inside the 'Add-on Center'.

The project has been forwarded into the review queue of the 'Add-on Center'. Once the administrator, site-admiministrator or a reviewer changed the workflow state again, e.g. published the project, the project owner will get a further email with this new state.

CHAPTER

NINE

MESSAGING

The collective.addons Plone add-on use some of the Plone messaging implementations to create messages to the site admin, reviewers and the owner / creator of add-ons.

9.1 Messages To The Site-Admininstrator / Administrator

- The site-administrator / admiinstrator get an e-mail once a new add-on project have been added to the add-on center.
- If the project owner submit her / his project for publication, the site-administrator / administrator get an e-mail about this event.
- Once the text of a published project change the site-administrator / administrator will get an e-mail with the complete text of the project summary and its description. Thus he get an information, if the text of the project changes into a direction that has not been reviewed.

If the form field 'contactForCenter' in the add-on center contains an e-mail address the above messages will be send to this address. Otherwise the e-mail goes to the e-mail address of the Plone site.

9.2 Messages To The Project Owner

- Once a workflow status of his project(s) change the project owner will get an message (e-mail) which inform her / him about this new status.
- The project owner will get an e-mail once an add-on release or a linked add-on release have been added to her / his project(s).
- Once the site-administrator / administrator of the Plone site adds a new product version to the form field 'Available Versions' the owner of a project will get an e-mail to inform her / him about this event. The message ask the owner to update the versions list of the (linked) releases of his project(s).

9.3 Messages To A Possible Information Hub Of Add-on Releases

It is possible to create a hub outside of the Plone site, that drives the add-ons center, which could get an e-mail for every new published add-on (linked) release. This e-mail could be parsed and used to inform the user of the product about new (linked) releases from inside the product.