

# Addons

This section will help developers get started with understanding all the different things an addon can do. It is still very much a work in progress, so if you have questions not answered here, send them to [support@geodesicsolutions.com](mailto:support@geodesicsolutions.com) and we will be happy to explain things further.

The bulk of the documentation for addons is still in the form of an example addon that can be [downloaded](#) from the "public downloads" section in the client area. This section of the user manual is meant to compliment the example addon, not replace it.

## Parts of Addons

There are a few main parts to an addon, which are listed below:

- **info.php** - Holds information about the addon. This is what tells the addon system anything it needs to know, like the addon name, version, and author. It also tells the addon system about some of the capabilities of the addon, for instance it says what core events the addon uses or what tags the addon has.
- **Core Events** - sometimes called "software hooks", this is one of the main ways an addon will interact with the main software without having to change any of the base code like might normally be required. Core events can do many different things, see the linked page for more info.
- **Tags** - replace a special tag in a template with whatever the addon wants to.
- **Pages - Added in 4.0.0** - Allows the addon to have it own page(s), where it can replace the "mainbody" content with whatever it wants to. The page has a template assigned to it just like a normal "page".
- **setup.php** - The addon can do what it needs to when the addon is being installed, enabled, disabled, or un-installed. For instance it can create a needed database table when the addon is being installed, and delete that table when the addon is un-installed.
- **Admin** - Can display pages in the admin, and can display and update addon settings.
  - Addon Settings - **Added in 4.0.0** - Addons can have their own settings, using the `geoAddon::getRegistry()` method. See the documentation on `geoRegistry` class for more info.
  - Text - Addons can have their own text which will be handled by the "set text" page in the admin for that addon. The text is language specific, and when you retrieve the text in your code using `geoAddon::getText()` it will already be for the currently selected language.
- **app\_top.php** - Allows your addon to do something at the top of the page load. Only use this if it's the best option<sup>1)</sup>, as it will be run on every page load.
- **Cron tasks** - Your addon can create its own cron task if it wants. See the **cron/** directory and contents in the example addon.
- **Remote API Call - Added in 4.0.0** - An addon can add its own remote API call. See the **api/** directory and contents in the example addon.
- **Order Item - Added in 4.0.0** - You can create your own order item with an addon. See the **order\_items/** directory and contents in the example addon, also there is a [developer tutorial](#) using a *skeleton* order item to do what it needs.
- **Payment Gateway - Added in 4.0.0** - You can create your own payment gateway with an addon. See the **payment\_gateways/** directory in the example addon.

- **Seller to Buyer Gateway - Added in 4.0.0** - You can create your own "seller to buyer" payment gateway with an addon. See the **payment\_gateways/seller\_buyer/** directory in the example addon.

## Addon Folder Guidelines

The addon's folder name is part of what defines the addon, and is used for the *name* var in the info.php file. To ensure the best compatibility, and reduce chances of future compatibility changes, we recommend using the following guidelines. Some of these are suggestions, and some are required in order for certain things to work in the software.

- Do **not** use period (.) in the folder name as it will cause problems in the software<sup>2)</sup>.
- Highly recommend using alpha-numeric and underscore (\_) characters only. This will ensure best compatibility and reduce/remove any chances of problems in the software itself.
- Check to make sure the name is not already being used by one of the available official addons released by Geodesic Solutions. We also recommend checking the addons posted by 3rd party developers on our site <http://geoaddons.com>.
- Choose a unique name, perhaps consider adding something unique to you to the beginning of each addon folder you create<sup>3)</sup>. Doing this will greatly reduce the chances of compatibility problems from 2 different addons using the same folder name.

## Advertise your Addons

We have a website <http://geoaddons.com>, owned and operated by Geodesic Solutions, LLC. specifically for showcasing 3rd party addons (Addons created by you!). If you have created your own addon and would like to sell or give it away, register a developer account on <http://geoaddons.com> and post a listing about your addon on the site. The <http://geoaddons.com> website is powered by GeoClassAuctions Enterprise, and uses a lot of the built in features like ability for users to review addons.

You can create your own developer storefront as well once you get a few addons posted on the site that you want to be able to showcase from a single location on the site.

## geoaddons.com Guidelines

These guidelines are **for developers** wishing to advertise an addon on geoaddons.com. Below are the guidelines that your addon must adhere to, in order to advertise your addon by posting it on <http://geoaddons.com>.

### Addon Requirements:

- Must be a "drop-in addon", meaning that you upload the addon folder, install/enable it in the admin, perhaps change configuration settings or modify templates to add addon tags, and that is it. Beyond uploading the addon folder and perhaps changes to file permissions for your addon, any other steps must be able to be completed **from the admin panel**, which means no changes to core files or things of that nature. To be absolutely clear: addons that require modification of "core" PHP files even when using the "latest GeoCore version", are **not**

**permitted.**<sup>4)</sup>

- Must provide clear way to contact the author for support questions. Be ready to support your addon, as Geodesic Solutions does not support 3rd party addons at all, we will always refer questions to the addon's author. If you require "paid support" or support for specific time period, be sure that is mentioned clearly in the post. Addons that are not long supported by the author will be removed.
- Must provide the link to purchase and/or download the addon.
- Clearly define all requirements such as if it requires another specific addon to be enabled, and which versions of the main software it is compatible with.

These guidelines are subject to revision as needed. If any of the guidelines above are not met, we may **remove your listing** and attempt to contact you to re-post it with any corrections or changes needed.

Below are **recommendations** if you plan to post your addon on geoaddons.com:

**Addon Suggestions:**

- Follow the [Addon Folder Guidelines](#).
- Eliminate any HTML inside PHP files, make use of Smarty templates which can be located in sub-folder **templates/**. That way they can be easily customized through the template set system.
- When there are new Geo updates, we recommend to read the [Changes to Note](#). Any time there are changes that have a high chance of impacting existing addons, we will document it there.
- Keep your addon up to date, to work with newer versions of the software. If your addon only works with older versions of the software, and for whatever reason you cannot or will not update it to work with newer version, be sure to edit the post and make it absolutely clear that it is not compatible with the new version, or simply take the post down.
- Try to follow "best practices" wherever possible, and in your addon documentation make sure to advocate best practices. For instance, you should never have "edit geo\_templates/default/..." in the instructions, since you should never edit any templates in the default template set. We recommend to link directly to user manual pages here on our site when applicable.

<tip c n>**Note:** If you happen to find any addons posted on <http://geoaddons.com> that do not follow the requirements above, please let us know. We do try to review every addon posted but sometimes things can slip through.</tip>

<sup>1)</sup>

in other words, don't use it as a "lazy" way to accomplish something that can be done much better another way

<sup>2)</sup>

For one, the addon text exporter uses a . between addon name and auth tag, so export/import text would not work for your addon.

<sup>3)</sup>

For instance what you use for *auth\_tag* in the info.php file.

<sup>4)</sup>

If you think that a core file needs to be modified to accomplish something, contact us for options. As stated on the [developers page](#), we we can add new hooks to the software if there is not a way to accomplish something already, or can point you to an existing way to accomplish what you need.

From:

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Permanent link:

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Last update: **2014/09/25 16:55**

