

How to use the FlashNewsComponent

Step-by-Step Tutorial:

Welcome to the FlashNewsComponent Tutorial. I know it seems long and hard but if you read this document you should be able to get a Newsfeed up and running in **15 mins**.

I have marked out some areas of this Tutorial with either blue or orange colour.

Blue is MUST READ, and very step by step based walk through certain things
Orange is Extra information, read the orange parts if you have trouble getting things to work.

Tutorial Index

Part 1: Installing the Component

Part 2: Setting up the MySQL Database

Part 3: Connecting the Component to the Database

PART 1: Installing the Components

When you have downloaded and unpacked the zip file you should see the following files:

Lets concentrate on the folder called "ComponentFiles". In this folder you find all the nessesary files for installing the component.

You now have 2 ways of installing the component, you can do it by either:

1. By using using the Flash Extension Manager which is a program provided with Flash MX2004 to help you install components with easily.

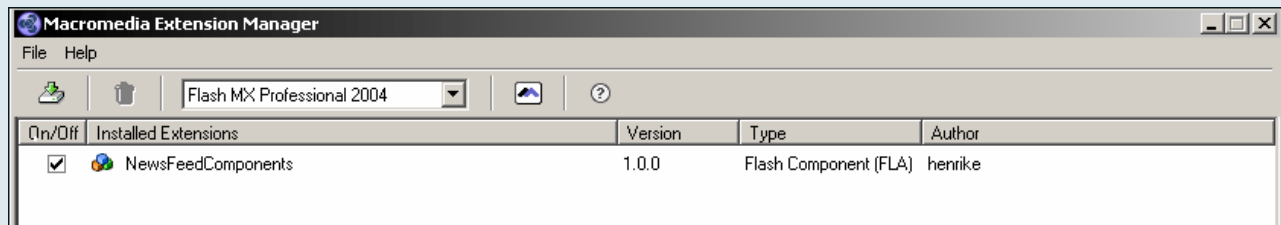
This is how you easily install the component using the extension manager:

First quit Flash MX 2004 if it is currently running. Double-click on the MXP file.

If you have Extension Manager installed, the application will launch and walk you through the installation process.

If your computer returns an error, stating that it doesn't know what to do with the file, or if it tell you that **You need FLASH 7**. Then visit http://www.macromedia.com/exchange/em_download/ to download the latest version of Extension Manager. Install Extension Manager, then retry installing the MXP file.

If the installation has been succesfull you should see the NewsFeedComponent in the Extension Manager interface.:



If you don't want or cant use the Extension Manager you can always install the component manually by:

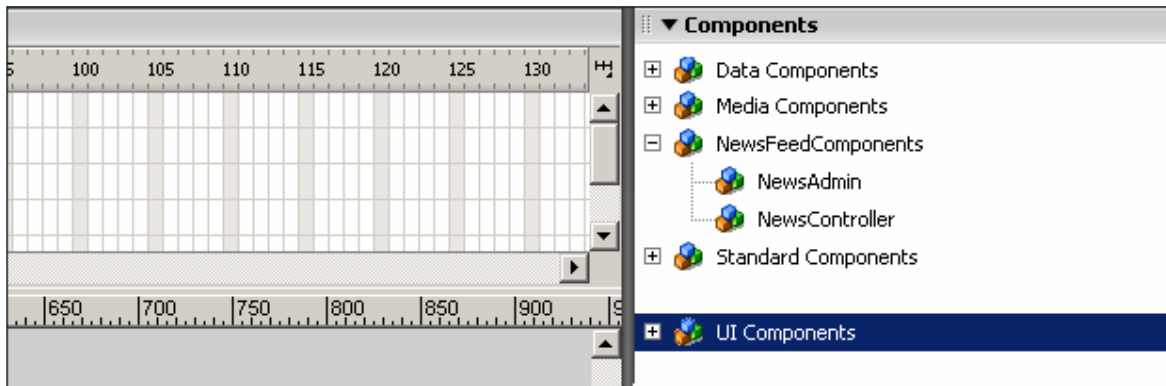
1. Copying the folder "NewsFeedComponents" into the components folder.

Which on windows XP is at : *"Programs\Macromedia\Flash MX 2004\en\First Run\Components"*.

And on Mac OsX : *"Applications : Macromedia Flash MX 2004 : Configuration : Components"*

Congratulations you have installed your News Component !!

You can now open up Flash MX2004 and take a look in the components panel, which has now got a new folder called "NewsFeedComponents" which contains your 2 brand new components.



PART 2: Setting up the Database

It is now time to take a look at the php files. The News backend consists 6 php files and the "inc" folder (which should also contain a php file).

Before we continue you should have the following ready:

- **Your FTP program**
- **Your MySQL login information**

Which is:	Database Name	<i>Should be filled with the name of you DB</i>
	Database Host	<i>Should be filled with host/server info.</i>
	Database Username	<i>Should be filled with the MySQL Username</i>
	Database Password	<i>Should be filled with the MySQL Password</i>

This information is normally provided from you hosting service and can often be found together with you login and password for ftp and email.

If you are ready lets install the database:

This is how you easily install the Database on your own server

1. Start up your FTP program and upload the 6 php files and the "inc" folder to your server.
2. Open up your Internet Explorer and type in the address to the folder where you put the php files. And then type install.php.



3. You have now started the Database setup script and you will be asked if you agree to install it
4. Click "I agree"



5. You now have to type in your MySQL account information as discussed earlier.

Flash News Component Ver 1.0 Installation

Database Settings
If you're unaware of your database settings please ask your webhost.

Database Name	<input type="text" value="mydatabasename"/>
Database Host	<input type="text" value="localhost"/>
Database Username	<input type="text" value="mydatabaseusername"/>
Database Password	<input type="password" value="●●●●●●"/>
Tabel Name	<input type="text" value="Johnsnews"/>

6. Finally fill out the field "TabelName" with what ever name you would like.
7. Click the SUBMIT button and on the next the CONFIRM button if the information is correct.

You have now successfully installed the Database !

NB: If the installation script tells you that it can't write to the file config.php

You need to change the permission of the "config.php" file which is in the "inc" folder to 755, 775 or 777.

Normally you do this by right clicking on the file from within your ftp program and then choosing either "chmod", "permissions", "atributes" or something similar.

Then you normally can set the permission level of the files either by writing it (755, 775 or 777) or by clicking.

Here is a small tutorial on how to change file permission for some of the most used FTP programs.

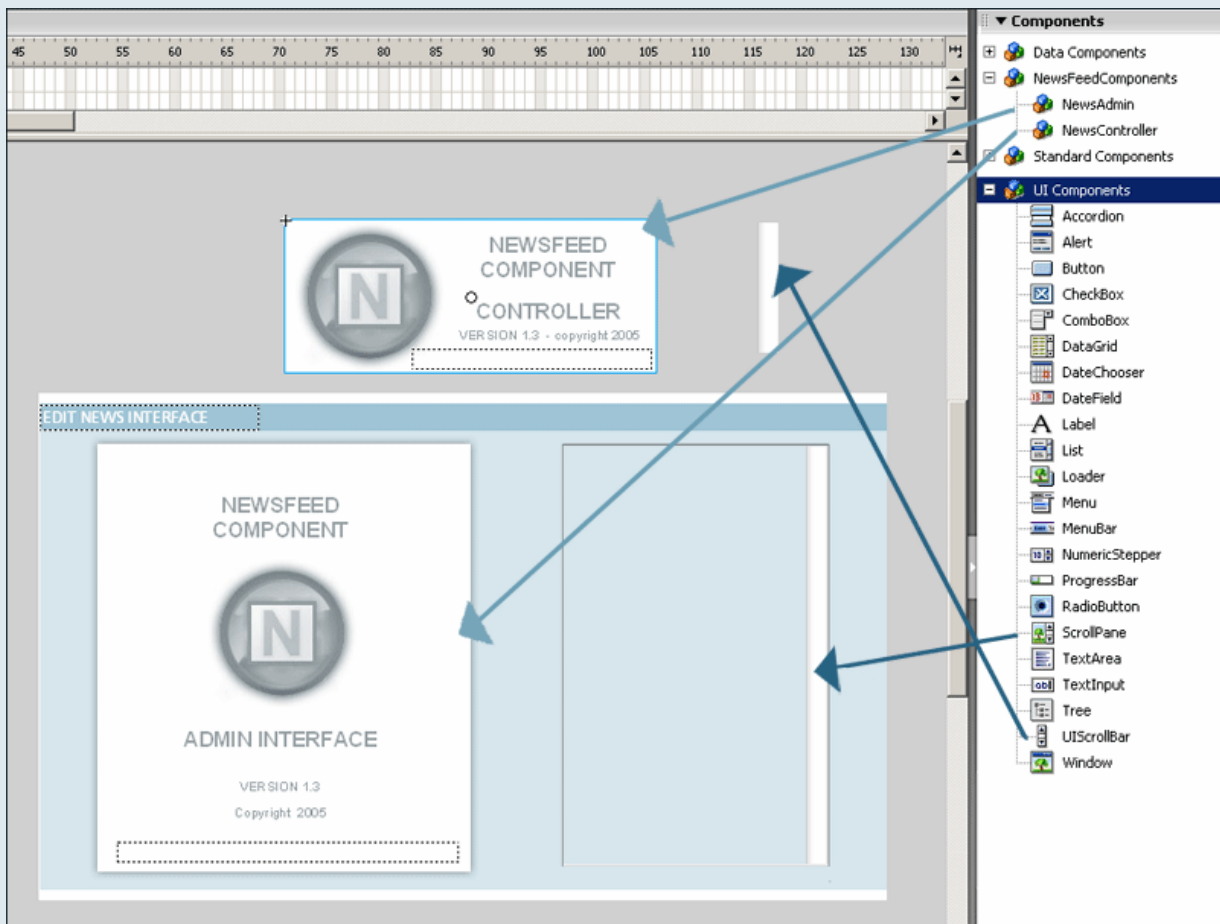
<http://www.stadaus.com/en/tutorials/chmod-ftp-file-permissions.php>

Part 3: Connecting the Component to the Database

Now lets get on with the fun part of getting our component to show some news. So open up flash and find the component panel.

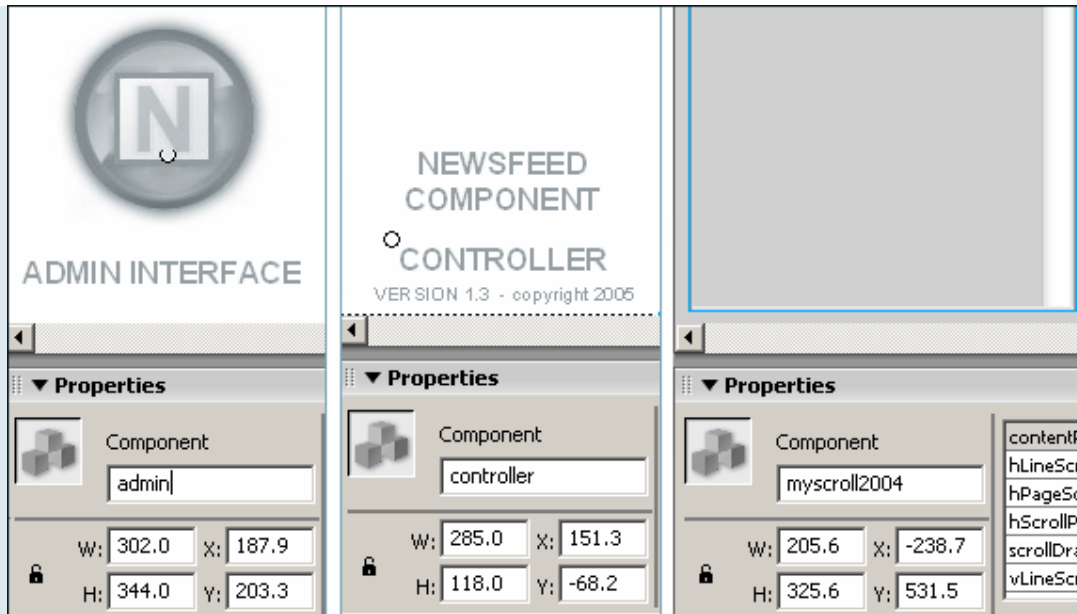
Follow this to connect the components to your database

1. Now drag one of each of the FlashNews components to the stage.
2. You also have to drag a Macromedia scrollpane (**Please note it has to be the new XP like Scrollpane**) and and UI scrollbar to the stage



3. Now you can delete the UI scroll bar again, but leave it in the library.
4. Now give the 3 remaining components an instance name each:

The Controller Component should have the name:	“controller”
The Admin Component should have the name:	“admin”
The Macromedia Scrollpane should have the name:	“myscroll2004”



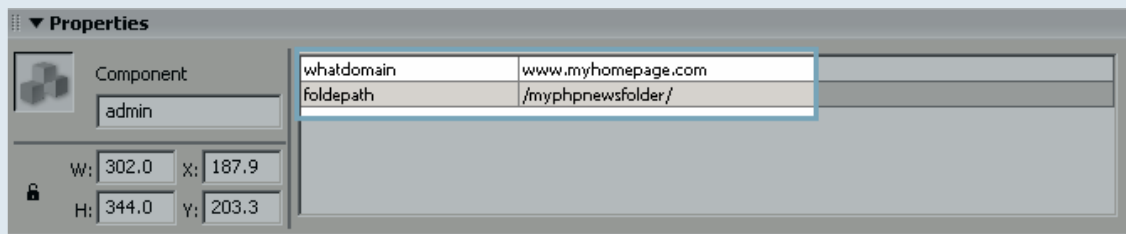
- Now its time to fill out the parameters of the NewsAdmin & NewsController components.

Select the **NewsAdmin** Component and open up the Component Inspector Panel (Alt+F7)

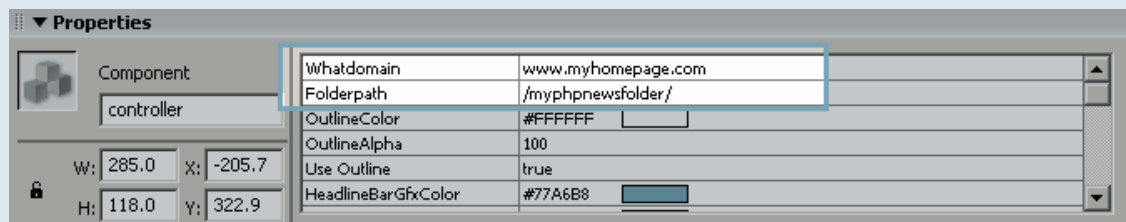
You now see 2 parameters :

If you uploaded the php files to this location: www.myhomepage.com/myphpnewsfolder you should fill out the parameters like this:

WhatDomain : Type in the address of your webpage fx. *www.myhomepage.com*
 FolderPath : Type in the folder path to the php files you uploaded earlier
 Fx. /myphpnewsfolder/



- Select the **NewsController** Component and fill out the WhatDomain & FolderPath with the same information as above.



Congratulations you are now ready to see the result of you work !

Pres Ctrl+Enter to preview you flash file

The first thing you will see in the scrollpane is a message saying "No news items yet".

Dont worry about that because it is now time to add your first news post.

You do that by filling out the fields in admin panel and submitting it.

The firste time you do this you will have to re preview (ctrl+enter) your fla to see you first post.
After that you should be able to add all the news you would like with instant update in the scrollpane.

I hope everything worked out fine

If not you are welcome to contact us using this email : techsupport@componentsforflash.net