

eSoftScript Pro 5

www.esoftscript.com

Quick Start Guide

version 1.0 Beta

A quick guide through the first steps of installing and configuring
your eSoftScript Pro 5 powered software library

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1. REQUIREMENTS

For the proper work of the script it needs some system requirements and PHP settings detailed in this chapter.

1.1. System Requirements

- UNIX web host (Linux, FreeBSD, etc.)
- Apache 1.3 or newer web server (mod_rewrite enabled for SEF URLs)
- PHP 5.2.1 or newer scripting language (PHP 5.3.x not yet supported)
- MySQL 4.1 or newer database
- ionCube Decoder must be provided by hosting for free (only one file is protected with ionCube)
- Around 100 MB storage space (1 MB script and rest for icons, users avatars and thumbnails), depending on the number of the listed products and members

1.2. PHP Configuration

- PHP XML extension
- register_globals = **OFF**
- safe_mode = **OFF**
- PCRE UTF-8 support = **YES**
- GD library available (for image manipulation – resizing the product screenshots, users avatars and captcha)

2. INSTALLATION

eSoftScript Pro 5 has a wizard style installation system that will guide you through the installation process.

Firstly, you have to extract the eSoftScript Pro 5 archive on your local machine and upload the files from folder `esspro-5-0` to the location where you want it to be installed. You have to upload into the root also the file `ess_info.php` received after the registration. Then you need to enter the URL in the address bar of your browser to open the installation screen. eSoftScript Pro 5 will detect that it is not yet installed and automatically redirects you to the installation screen.

2.1. Introduction

In the first screen of the installer you can select one of two options. When you install eSoftScript Pro 5 for the first time, please choose „Install 5.0” to start the installation process, in the case of an upgrade choose „Upgrade from 4.4”.

Note: You can upgrade from eSoftScript Pro 4.4 only. Installations of previous versions should be upgraded manually.

2.2. Welcome Screen

In the case of a clean install this screen provides you a brief overview about the database settings and the system requirements detailed in Chapter 1.1. of this Quick Start Guide.

2.3. PHP Version and Settings

Proceeding with the next step, the eSoftscript Pro 5 Installation checks automatically whether your server configuration meets the system requirements and the available database is supported by the script. It also checks whether the required PHP modules are enabled on your server. It is also important that all folders shown in the *Files and Directories* section of this screen are available and have the correct permissions set. If everything is in order, you can continue the installation by clicking the *Step 3* button.

Note: You can review the settings of your server by clicking the *Server Info* menu item in the *Utilities* block on the right.

2.4. Database Configuration

In this Step 3 of the installation process you can provide the details to access your database:

- **Host** – The address of the database server (usually localhost)
- **Database** – The name of the created database on the server.
- **Database User** – The login name required for the authentication to access the database.
- **Database Password** – The password required for the authentication to access the database.

If you do not know your database settings, please contact your hosting provider and request them. You will not be able to continue the installation without them.

2.5. Test Connection and Configuration Settings

After entering the matching details of your database the eSoftScript Pro 5 Installation will try to connect to your database and it will inform you about the results in the next screen loaded. At this time it attempts to create the configuration file and reports you the successful generation.

Note: The configuration file `sql.php` is created in folder `/sources/sql`. Only the database connection details are available in this file, the settings of the system are stored in table `ess_settings`.

2.6. Administrator Configuration

In this step you have to create your administration user. This site administrator will have full access rights to all the features of your eSoftScript Pro 5 powered software directory. All fields on this page are required.

2.7. Finalization

In the last step of the installation process you can visit the front-end of your software library by following the *Go to directory* link, or log in to the administration Control Panel. Your credentials are filled in automatically with the details provided in Step 4, you have to click the *Log In* button only.

3. BACK-END

You can enter the Administration Control Panel by clicking the *Control Panel* link in the top right corner of the front-end of your site after when you logged in as administrator. It provides access to the features and functions of eSoftScript Pro 5. You can add or modify categories, manage the listed products and the users, the submitted product reviews and news opinions or customize the settings of the script.

3.1. Preferences

In this chapter you will learn how to modify some of the basic settings of your new software library.

Right after the installation you will be redirected to the so called *Administration Control Panel*. You can also access this panel by clicking the *Control Panel* link in the front-end of your site (top right corner in the screen of the default skin). In this interface, by clicking the *Settings* tab you can customize the settings of your software library. The settings are grouped, the various settings can be accessed from the *Settings Menu* on the right. The settings are stored in table *ess_settings* in the database.

3.1.1. Dashboard

When you enter the Control Panel, you arrive at the *Dashboard*. In this screen you can overview some statistics about your software library. lists of your inactive members, developers and editors. eSoftScript Pro 5 tracks the activity of your editors, the last 5 actions are listed here also. At the bottom of the screen you will find four buttons for deleting the cache, the logs, the old thumbnails and icons. The quick links to the frequently used features are displayed on the right.

3.1.2. General Settings

In order to work your site properly, you must provide the URL of your software library in the *Directory URL* field in this screen. It is filled in automatically, you should check it only. The e-mail used as the sender address for the site notifications in the *E-mail* field is filled in with the admin e-mail address specified during the installation. You can change it here when necessary. You can even provide a secondary address in the *E-mail 2* field.

You can enable/disable the use of the PAD technology by selecting the appropriate option of the *Accept PAD Submits* setting. To force the developers to create their accounts for the product submissions, select "Yes" for the *PAD Submission need Log In* setting. If several skins and/or language files are available, you can select the default ones here. You can select the default main category as well. If only products belonging to one operating system are listed on your site (e.g. Windows), then please choose that. You can activate/deactivate the news publishing system and the press release feature in this screen, too. Developers are able to submit their reviews and opinions only when you select "Yes" for *Developer can write review or opinions*.

3.1.3. SEO Settings

In this screen you can change the name of your software library by entering the new name in the *Directory name* field and you can update the metadata of your front-end pages. To enable the search engine friendly URLs, select "Yes" for *Friendly URLs*. Please copy the *.htaccess* file from the */htaccess* folder into the root directory of your server.

Note: The URL rewriting requires the Apache `mod_rewrite` module enabled on your server, otherwise the SEF URLs will not be generated.

3.1.4. Miscellaneous Settings

On this page you can customize some additional settings of the script. You can select the preferred date format and enable the caching that will speed up the load time of the pages in the front-end. If you want to review the new products, set "No" for *Auto Insert Products*, otherwise the new submissions will be automatically published on your site.

eSoftScript Pro 5 supports the automated update of the listed products which were submitted using PAD files. You can enable this feature by selecting "Yes" in the *Auto update Products* dropdown list. Note: The auto update will work only if you create a cron job in your web server control panel by specifying file `/sources/cron.php`.

You can enable the integrated link exchange system when you select "Yes" for *Partners Links page*. In the case of the activation of this feature additional options will be visible. You can replace the default link code and you will be able to define the interval of the link back checking. The number of the attempts before declining the partnership also can be set. ⇨ Chapter 3.4.2.

External web analytics solutions (e.g. Google Analytics, Woopra, Clicky, etc.) can be easily integrated to measure the traffic of your site by pasting the provided code into the *Statistics Script* field.

You can customize the length of the ACP listings by selecting the desired value in the *ACP Elements / Page*, *Products / Page* and *News / Page* dropdown lists. The script supports the automated e-mail notifications of the developers about changing the status of their listed products.

Note: The content of these notifications can be modified in the *Developer Emails Settings* screen. ⇨ Chapter 3.1.7.

3.1.5. Advertising

To make some revenue from your site, you can publish ads on the free areas of your pages. Firstly, you have to define these areas in your skin by pasting the `{ $adv_728x90 }` etc. code into the appropriate file of your currently used skin. Then, you have to paste the banner displaying code into the matching field of this screen. The advertisements will be displayed by selecting "Yes" in the *Advertising Areas* dropdown list.

3.1.6. Security Settings

You can customize various settings for increasing the security of your site. Both the new products and product updates can be moderated, as well as the product reviews and news comments (opinions) submitted by the members can be reviewed before they are published. It is recommended to regularly change your password, you can do it here, too. The supported file formats can be modified as well.

Shareware and commercial products are distributed via global registration services. They are affiliate networks at the same time, and by signing up you can make some revenue from your site. eSoftScript Pro 5 supports RegNow, Share-It, Plimus and eSellerate by default. You can enter your affiliate ID(s) here.

3.1.7. Administration Levels

These access control levels allow you to set the permissions per pages or per administrators/editors. The security level options depend on your selection in the *Administration Types* section.

Note: The Administration level for an editor can be selected in the *Users / Editors* screen by selecting the checkbox of the user in the list and by clicking the *View* button. ⇨ Chapter 3.3.3.

3.1.8. Developer Emails Settings

You can find 10 e-mail templates to notify the developers about the statuses of their products listed in your software library. Their subjects range from the product submission to the reviews. You can use variables, they are listed at the bottom of the page.

Note: In order to send automatic e-mail notifications for the developers, please select "Yes" for the *Send developer product status* option in the *Miscellaneous Settings* screen. ⇨ Chapter 3.1.3.

3.1.9. Blocks Settings

The front-end of your software library is structured into groups for various lists. The lengths of these lists displayed in blocks can be selected here. You can choose the license types (freeware, shareware, etc.) to be listed for 8 blocks.

3.2. Content Management

Both your software catalog and the news can be organized into categories. The reviews and the opinions submitted by the members, the editor reviews and the developer press releases can be accessed here as well.

3.2.1. Categories and Operating Systems

eSoftScript Pro 5 contains predefined main categories, subcategories and operating systems by the recommendation of the Association of Shareware Professionals. You can review them by clicking the *Categories* tab. If you want to add a new main category, enter its name into the *Add Main Category* field and click the *Add* button to the right. The subcategories will be expanded by clicking a main category. To add a new subcategory, type the name in the *Add New Category* field and click *Add*. To fill in the details of your new category, click *Edit* in the *Tools* column. A new browser window will pop up and you can enter the page title, the description and the keywords.

The main and subcategories can be listed or unlisted. If you wish to disable a category, click the *Unlist* tool. The label of this tool will change to *List* and the color of the field in the *Status* column will turn to red. When you want this category to be enabled again, click *List*. The label of this tool will change to *Unlist* and the color of the field in the *Status* column will turn to green.

The number of the available items in a category/subcategory is displayed after the name of the container. When you click the *Edit* tool for an already existing item, you can change the name, the page title, the keywords and the description in a new popup window.

The operating systems belonging to a main category are listed below the expanded subcategories. If you wish to add a new operating system, specify its name in the *Add System Version* field and click *Add*.

Both the unnecessary categories and operating systems can be removed by clicking *Delete* in the *Tools* column.

3.2.2. Products

This tab is started with the pending products, if any. This screen can be opened any time by clicking the *Pending Products* item in the *Products Menu* on the right. Below this list you will find 8 buttons. The chosen action can be performed only when you select a product. You can modify any of the details if you click *Edit*. A click on the *Review* button will redirect you to the front-end listing of the selected product to compose and save your review. When a product is not available for your visitors, you can publish it by pressing the *List* button. The *Unlist* button performs the opposite

action: The selected product will be unpublished in the front-end. When you press the *Sponsor* button, a new screen will be loaded and you can select where you wish to display the sponsored product and you can define the time interval of the sponsoring. Press the E-mail button, if you want to send a message to the developer of the selected product directly from your ACP. A possibly infected file can be tested against viruses with the *Check* button. You can remove the unnecessary products with the *Delete* button.

You will find two filters below the button bar: The first dropdown list filters the main categories (operating systems), the second one narrows the list by license type. These two filters can be combined.

From the *Products Menu* you can add a new product: A similar submission form will be loaded, like the one in the front-end. The other menu items provide access to lists by various criteria: listed, unlisted, updated, unreviewed, sponsored, pending orphan, infected and unscanned products.

All of the products can be listed by clicking the *Listed Products* menu item. The previously mentioned *Products Menu* provides access to the unlisted, the updated, Spam sites can be blocked by adding the URL in the *Add banned URL* screen.

Instead of browsing the paginated list, the best way to find a product is to use the search feature. You can find a listing by name, ID, keyword, developer or company.

Note: eSoftScript Pro 5 checks the infection of a listed product using Dr.Web Anti-Virus.

3.2.3. PADs

If you want to add a PAD file for later processing, please enter the URL on the *Add PAD* page. This PAD file will be listed in the *Pending PADs URLs* screen. (If you follow the PAD file URL, a new browser tab/window will open and the content of the file on the remote server will be loaded for overview.) When you want to add it to your catalog, just select its check box and click the *Submit* button. The *Add Product* screen will be loaded and the fields are filled in with the details fetched from the PAD file. Click the *Save* button to list the product on your site.

When you wish to update the link of a PAD file, select it and click *Edit* on the button bar, below the list. The unwanted PADs can be removed by the *Delete* button or you can block them with the *Ban URL* button.

From the *PADs Menu* you can list the pending submissions or the rejected PADs by the appropriate menu items. When you select the *Upload file with PADs* item, you can easily add a bulk PAD list in a .txt file.

When you set a cron job to add the PADs automatically you will have some results in this area. If a PAD was successfully added it will be deleted from the Pending PADs URLs, otherwise it will be listed in the Rejected list and in the Result field you will see the reason of declining the PAD URL.

In the search field, below the menu, you can enter the fragment of an URL to find a PAD file.

3.2.4. Reviews

The site members can submit their max. 1000 characters long reviews and their ratings for any of the listed products in the front-end. These reviews can be managed on the *Reviews* tab. Switching to this tab the *Reviews Pending* screen is loaded, what you can access anytime by clicking the *Reviews Pending* item in the *Reviews Menu* on the right. All of the submitted and published reviews can be accessed from the *Listed Reviews* menu item. The following actions can be performed with a selected item on both screens: Read, Edit, E-mail, Approve and Delete.

Editors also can submit their ratings and unlimited characters long reviews for a listed product in the front-end. In the back-end, these reviews can be accessed from the Editors Reviews menu item

on the right. A selected item can be read, edited, e-mailed and deleted. The review will be opened in the front-end for reading.

If you want to find a review, please enter the name of the reviewer or a keyword in the title of the *Search* section, then click the *Search* button. The matching items will be listed.

Note: The member reviews can be moderated by setting the *Admin approve new reviews* to "Yes" in the *Security Settings* screen. ⇒ Chapter 3.1.5.

3.2.5. News

Switching to the *News* tab the *News Management* screen will be loaded, where the created articles are listed. This screen can be accessed anytime by clicking the *News Management* item in the *News menu* on the right. You can read an article by selecting its check box and clicking the *Read* button and you will be redirected to the article in the front-end. If you wish to change the text, click the *Edit* button. The article can be removed by clicking the *Delete* button. To contact the author directly from eSoftScript Pro 5, click the *E-mail* button and the *Send e-mail* screen will be loaded, and you can enter the subject and the text of your message. If you are ready, just click the *Send* button.

If the News category is enabled in the *Categories* screen, you can create an article by clicking the *Add News* menu item on the right. You can enter the text using a WYSIWYG editor and you can illustrate the article with max. 10 images.

The list of the subscribers can be accessed by clicking the *Readers* menu item. Select the check box of an item to send e-mail, view the details of the user, delete or ban him/her.

The articles to be sent are listed in the *Waiting for send News* screen. The following actions can be performed on a selected item: Read, Edit, Send, Delete, E-mail.

The list of the articles delivered to the subscribers is available in the *View sent News* screen, accessed from the *News Sent* menu item. The following actions can be performed on a selected item: Read, Edit, Send, Delete, E-mail.

If you want to find an article, enter a keyword into the *Search* field and click the *Search* button. The matching results will be listed in a new screen, if any.

Notes:

- To publish news on your eSoftScript Pro 5 powered web site, you must enable the news feature in the *General Settings* screen. ⇒ Chapter 3.1.1.
- The news categories can be managed on the *Categories* tab. ⇒ Chapter 3.2.1.

3.2.6. Opinions

The site members can submit their max. 1000 characters long opinions and their ratings for any of the published news in the front-end. These opinions can be managed on the *Opinions* tab. Switching to this tab the *Pending Opinions* screen is loaded, what you can access anytime by clicking the *Pending Opinions* item in the *Opinions Menu* on the right. All of the submitted and published opinions can be accessed from the *Listed Opinions* menu item. The following actions can be performed with a selected item: Read, Edit, E-mail, Approve and Delete.

If you want to find an opinion, please enter a keyword in the *Search* section on the right and click the *Search* button. The matching articles will be listed, if any.

Note: The member opinions can be moderated by setting the *Admin approve new opinions* option to "Yes" in the *Security Settings* screen. ⇒ Chapter 3.1.5.

3.2.7. Press Releases

The registered developers can add their press releases in the front-end, when they click the *Press Releases* item in the *Developer Panel*. In the back-end, you can access them on the *Press* tab. When you switch to this tab, the list of all the available announcements will be listed. You can access this screen anytime by clicking the *All Press* item in the *Press* menu on the right. The users subscribed the press releases can be listed by clicking the *Press receivers* menu item.

In the sidebar on the right, below the menu, the search field is displayed. You can search for a press title in all of the screens.

Note: In order to receive and send press releases, this feature must be enabled in the *General Settings* screen. If you would like to review a submitted announcement, select "Yes" for the *Press listing need approve* option. ⇒ Chapter 3.1.1.

3.3. Users

eSoftScript Pro 5 controls the access to certain areas and features of your software library through the use of Access Control Level mechanism. Certain groups have certain access level features for creating, editing and publishing content (through the front-end and back-end interfaces) as well as to access to the Administration Control Panel. Each group has different levels of access control and once a user is made a member of that group, they inherit those rights. The system supports 3 user groups.

When you hover the mouse over the *Users* tab, the available user groups are listed in a dropdown menu. By clicking the required menu item the users belonging to that specific user group will be listed.

3.3.1. Members

They are the registered users of your site, having extra privileges compared to the normal visitors for the front-end features. Members can submit their reviews (⇒ Chapter 3.2.4.) about the listed products and opinions (⇒ Chapter 3.2.6.) about the published articles. In addition to this, when they logged in to the members area, they have access to the *User Panel* in the front-end. Various useful tools are available for them in the User Panel, like the alerts and the basket.

When you select the *Members* item, the active members will be listed. You can open this screen anytime by clicking the *Active Members* menu item in the *Member Menu* on the right. Those users are considered active, who logged in at least once. When you select a user, you can view his/her details, you can send an e-mail, delete or ban him/her using the buttons at the bottom of the page.

The inactive and the banned members can be listed by clicking the appropriate item in the *Member Menu* on the right.

3.3.2. Developers

Software publishers also can create their accounts in the front-end to be able to submit their product(s) for your software library using a PAD file or by manual submission. You can give them permission to write reviews and opinions in the *General Settings* screen (⇒ Chapter 3.1.1.) in the Control Panel. After logging in, the *Developer Panel* is available for them, from where they can open a form to provide their company details. They can easily access to their product(s), press releases, reviews and opinions as well.

When you select the *Developers* item, the active software publishers will be listed. You can open this screen anytime by clicking the *Active Developers* menu item in the *Developers Menu* on the

right. Those users are considered active, who logged in at least once. When you select a user, you can view his/her details, you can send an e-mail, delete or ban him/her using the buttons at the bottom of the page.

The inactive and the banned developers can be listed by clicking the appropriate item in the *Developers Menu* on the right.

3.3.3. Editors

They are semi-administrators with administration level 0 by default, having limited permissions for administering the contents of your site. The granted administration level can be checked in the top right corner of the skin header.

When you select the *Editors* item, the active editors will be listed. You can open this screen anytime by clicking the *Active Editors* menu item in the *Developers Menu* on the right. Those users are considered active, who logged in at least once. When you select a user, you can view his/her details, you can send an e-mail, delete or ban him/her using the buttons at the bottom of the page. For the editors the approve action can be performed.

The inactive, the pending and the banned editors can be listed by clicking the appropriate item in the *Developers Menu* on the right.

3.4. Additional Features

3.4.1. IPs

eSoftScript Pro 5 provides an easy IP blocking method for protecting against attacks or preventing the access of your site from the unwanted members. Switch to the *IPs* tab and click the *Add banned IP* item in the *Banned URL Menu* on the right. A browser window will pop up and you can enter an IP address or an IP range to ban. The added IP addresses/ranges will be listed in the *Banned IPs* screen.

3.4.2. Links

With the built-in link exchange system you can boost your search engine ranks. Pasting your code into the page on their site and using the form on the Partners Links page of your site your visitors can submit their requests. You have nothing else to do, just review and approve the links in the Links->Pending Links screen in your ACP. Your existing partner sites can be found in the *Listed Links* screen, the declined ones are listed on the *Rejected Links* page.

The following actions can be performed in all the 3 screens by clicking the appropriate button: edit, view, list, check, reset, reject and delete.

You can find an item in all the 3 screens by searching for the URL, e-mail address, link title and link description in the *Search* section on the right.

Note: In order to use the link exchange feature, you must enable it in the *Miscellaneous Settings* screen. ⇒ Chapter 3.1.4.

4. FRONT-END

For your convenience, the most common administration features can be accessed from a product page in the front-end when you are logged in.

4.1. User Tools

The following tools make your work easier:

- **Scan:** Launches the virus scan of the current product
- **Rate and review:** The screen for submitting the editor's rating and review
- **Recommend/Unrecommend:** When you like a product, click this tool recommend it for your visitors. You can abandon the recommendation anytime by clicking the Unrecommend item.
- **Update:** The *Manual submit software* screen will open where you can select between the old and the new full descriptions, short descriptions and keywords. The additional details can be modified as well.
- **Edit:** You will be redirected to the *Edit Product Details* screen with the current product details in the Administration Control Panel to modify any of the details.
- **Edit Description:** The *Edit Description Details* window will pop up and you can change the long and short descriptions and the keywords of a product.
- **E-mail:** The *Send e-mail* screen will open in the Administration Control Panel and you can send your message to the developer of the current product.
- **Unlist:** You will be redirected to a form in the Administration Control Panel where you can enter your reason of unpublishing the product.
- **Sponsor:** The current product can be highlighted on your key pages for the selected time interval.
- **Delete:** You can permanently remove this product from your software library.

Note: In order to send product update alerts for your members, please create a cron job using file sources/cron.php.

5. PRELAUNCH CHECKLIST

Please check off the items below when finished the configuration of your site. Check these items and when all of them are checked, your site is ready for launch.

- I updated my profile from the Dashboard.
- I checked and updated the Directory URL and E-mail in General Settings.
- I selected the date format in Miscellaneous Settings.
- I enabled the PAD submissions in General Settings.
- I activated the account confirmation in Security Settings.
- I enabled the approval of the new additions, the product updates, the reviews and the opinions in security Settings.
- I reviewed the message templates in Developer Emails Settings.
- I customized the length of the blocks in Blocks Settings.
- I created the categories.
- I added the required operating systems.
- I deployed my software library with products.
- I created a cron job to automatically maintain my library.
- I created a cron job to send product alerts for the users.
- I entered the web analytics code in Miscellaneous Settings.

6. GETTING HELP

The developer of eSoftScript Pro 5 provides support for the customers in the [eSoftScript Discussion Forum](#). Many questions have been answered here, therefore it is highly recommended to use the search feature of the forum before posting your question. If you cannot find the answer, feel free to post a new topic asking for help. Be sure to be descriptive when explaining your problem and please provide your Apache, PHP and MySQL versions as well.

7. CREDITS

PAD is a registered trademark of [Association of Shareware Professionals, Inc.](#) (ASP).

Apache is a trademark of [The Apache Software Foundation](#).

PHP is a registered trademark of [PHP project group](#).

MySQL is a trademark of [Sun Microsystems, Inc.](#)

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