



INSTALLATION AND USER MANUAL

Contao Multilingual Pagetree

Manage multilingual Contao websites in one shared page tree.

Package	vtinnovations/contao-multilingual-pagetree
Namespace	Vtinnovations\ContaoMultilingualPagetree
Publisher	V&T Innovations, www.v-t.one
Licence	Proprietary — free, lifetime licence per website root, all features included
Status	Repository state main (Unreleased)



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1. About this product

Contao Multilingual Pagetree adds an editorial translation workflow to Contao without creating a separate page tree for every language. All languages of a website share one page structure, and translations are edited through language tabs inside the normal Contao editing forms. Where required, a language can also maintain its content independently.

Features:

- one shared page tree for all configured languages
- language tabs inside the standard Contao editing forms
- connected translations with the field states **Inherit**, **Custom translation** and **Deliberately empty**
- free-language content with independent articles and content elements
- translated aliases for pages, news, events and FAQs
- per-language URLs: protocol, own domain and entry point
- same domain with path prefixes, separate domains, or a mix of both
- language switcher as a frontend module with availability checking
- canonical URLs, hreflang and x-default
- editorial review status after source-language changes
- integrity scan with a preview before repairs
- strict or fallback page availability per target language
- isolated management per website root in multi-site installations

The package is functionally implemented and has not been released under a version tag yet; the repository's changelog tracks the state of the main branch under *Unreleased*.

2. Requirements

Requirement	Version
PHP	^8.1
Contao	^5.0 (contao/core-bundle)
Composer	for installation and updates
PHPUnit	^10.5 (development of the package only)

The news, calendar and FAQ integrations only become active when the corresponding Contao bundle is installed. The package requires Contao 5; Contao 4 is not supported.

3. Installation

Contao Multilingual Pagetree is publicly available as a conventional Contao bundle through the Contao Manager, Packagist and GitHub:

- Packagist: packagist.org/packages/vtinnovations/contao-multilingual-pagetree
- Source: github.com/vtinnovations/contao-multilingual-pagetree

3.1 Installing through the Contao Manager (recommended)

1. Open Contao Manager.
2. Open the package manager.
3. Search for vtinnovations/contao-multilingual-pagetree or the product name.
4. Select the package.
5. Apply the changes.
6. Let Composer install the dependencies.
7. Run Contao setup/database updates when requested.
8. Clear or rebuild caches.
9. Open the website-root settings.
10. Activate the product with a valid V-T.ONE licence (see chapter 4).

3.2 Installing with Composer

For users who manage Contao through the command line:

```
composer require vtinnovations/contao-multilingual-pagetree
vendor/bin/contao-console cache:clear
vendor/bin/contao-console contao:migrate
```

The database update is required: the package creates its own tables and columns. When updating, replace the package directory completely so that removed files cannot survive.

3.3 Filesystem and runtime directories

The package only ever writes below var/, and therefore outside the public directory:

Directory	Purpose
var/contao-multilingual-pagetree/state/	internal operating state
var/contao-multilingual-pagetree/licences/	stored licence status per website root

Both directories must be writable by the PHP process. A directory that does not exist yet is a valid initial state.

- **Activate licence:** first activation of this website root.
- **Replace licence:** exchange an existing key for a different one.
- **Refresh licence:** deliberately fetch the licence status again.
- **Verify licence:** recheck the already stored licence status locally, without fetching it again.
- **Remove licence:** remove the stored status for this root; content and translations remain untouched.

Simply opening the page settings does not initiate an external verification. A licence can be issued for more than one domain; what counts is always the exact domain — `example.com`, `www.example.com` and `shop.example.com` are three different domains. Each website root is activated individually, as long as its configured domain is one of the domains the licence was issued for; the stored status stays separate per root.

If the stored status still comes from an earlier version of this product, the panel reports **Refresh required**. Run **Refresh licence** once in that case; the previously stored status stays untouched until it succeeds.

4.1 Entitlement overview

Contao Multilingual Pagetree is activated with a free, lifetime licence per website root. With an active licence, every feature of the package is available without restriction:

Feature	Without licence	With licence (Free, lifetime)
Create and edit additional languages	Not available	Available
Edit translations	Not available	Available
Editorial review status	Not available	Available
Free content mode	Not available	Available
Integrity repair	Not available	Available
Frontend output of existing translations	Available	Available

4.2 Licence error handling

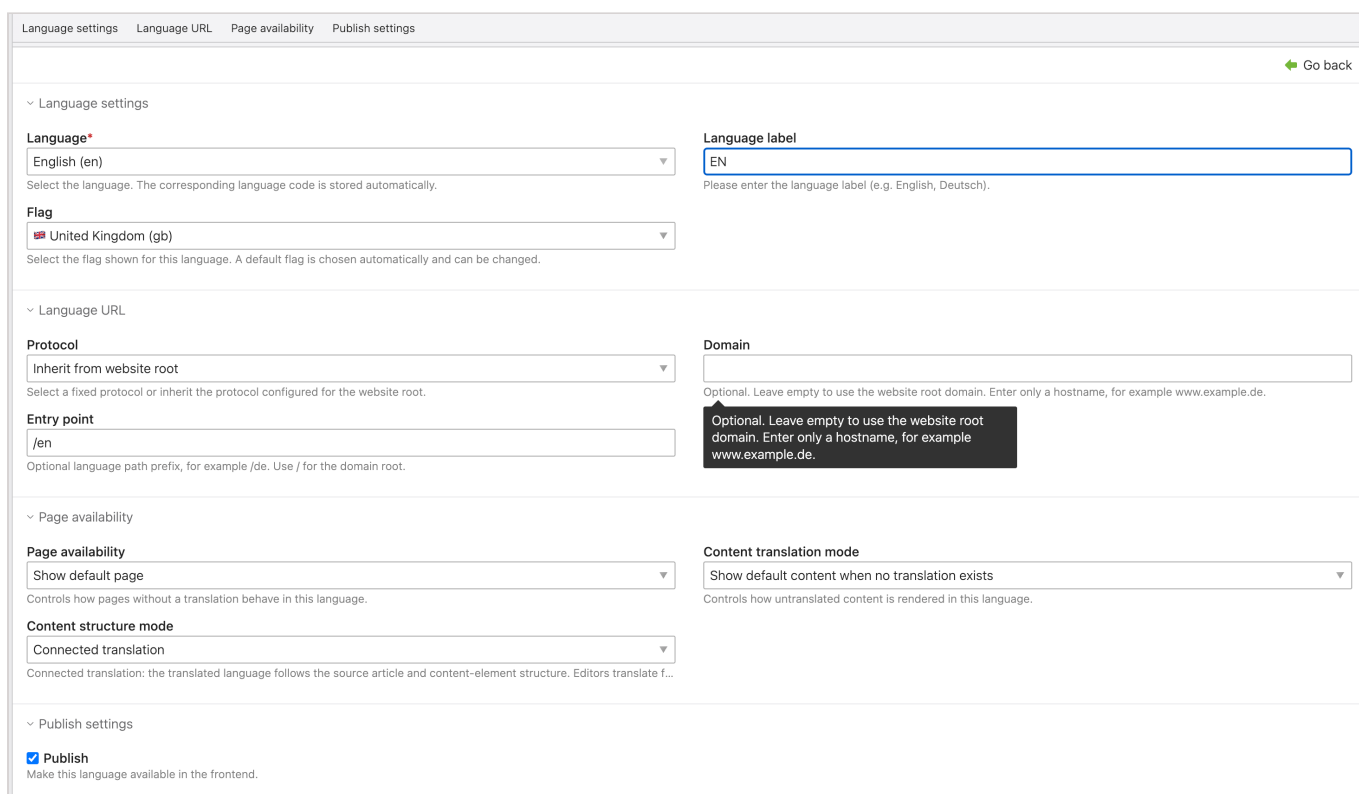
The interface distinguishes conditions including missing or invalid keys, domain or product mismatches, not-yet-valid or expired licences, unsupported responses, connectivity problems, and local storage failures. Retain the displayed **Reference** when requesting help, and never include the licence key, response contents, or credentials in support tickets or logs. Temporary service unavailability does not automatically change a previously valid local status.

5. Setting up language management

Each Contao website root has one source language and any number of configured target languages. Target languages are managed through the globe action on the root page. Every root page forms an independent website boundary.

5.1 Initial setup

1. Open **Site structure** and edit the website root.
2. Check its primary domain.
3. In the licence panel, activate the licence issued for that domain (see chapter 4).
4. Save the root and open language management through the globe icon.
5. Add the target languages. Exactly one language is the source or fallback language.
6. Select availability and content modes for every target language.



The screenshot displays the Contao language management interface with four tabs: **Language settings**, **Language URL**, **Page availability**, and **Publish settings**. A **Go back** button is located in the top right corner.

Language settings tab:

- Language***: A dropdown menu showing "English (en)". Below it, a note states: "Select the language. The corresponding language code is stored automatically."
- Language label**: A text input field containing "EN". Below it, a note states: "Please enter the language label (e.g. English, Deutsch)."
- Flag**: A dropdown menu showing "United Kingdom (gb)". Below it, a note states: "Select the flag shown for this language. A default flag is chosen automatically and can be changed."

Language URL tab:

- Protocol**: A dropdown menu showing "Inherit from website root". Below it, a note states: "Select a fixed protocol or inherit the protocol configured for the website root."
- Domain**: A text input field. Below it, a note states: "Optional. Leave empty to use the website root domain. Enter only a hostname, for example www.example.de."
- Entry point**: A text input field containing "/en". Below it, a note states: "Optional language path prefix, for example /de. Use / for the domain root."

Page availability tab:

- Page availability**: A dropdown menu showing "Show default page". Below it, a note states: "Controls how pages without a translation behave in this language."
- Content translation mode**: A dropdown menu showing "Show default content when no translation exists". Below it, a note states: "Controls how untranslated content is rendered in this language."
- Content structure mode**: A dropdown menu showing "Connected translation". Below it, a note states: "Connected translation: the translated language follows the source article and content-element structure. Editors translate f..."

Publish settings tab:

- Publish**: A checkbox that is checked. Below it, a note states: "Make this language available in the frontend."

Figure 2 — Language management of a website root: the *Language settings*, *Language URL*, *Page availability* and *Publish settings* tabs.

Figure 2 shows the four tabs offered for every language of a root:

- **Language settings:** language, language label and flag.
- **Language URL:** protocol, domain and entry point (see chapter 6).
- **Page availability:** page availability, content translation mode and content structure mode (connected or free, see chapter 8).
- **Publish settings:** the Publish switch that makes the language available in the frontend.

6. Language URLs: protocol, domain and entry point

Every language of a website root can get an address of its own in the **Language URL** section. All three fields are optional.

6.1 Protocol

Inherit from website root (default) uses the protocol configured on the root page; **HTTPS** or **HTTP** fix it. Protocol alone never distinguishes two languages: two languages sharing the same hostname and entry point must not differ only by protocol.

6.2 Domain

Leave empty to use the website root domain. Otherwise enter exactly one hostname, for example `www.xyz.de` or `de.example.org`. The hostname is taken exactly as entered: only letter case and an accidental final dot are cleaned up. `example.com` and `www.example.com` remain two different addresses; `www` is never added or removed. Protocols, paths, query strings, fragments, ports and wildcards are rejected.

6.3 Entry point

What an empty field means depends on whether the language has a domain of its own:

- **with its own domain:** the language is served from that domain's root — the language code is *not* appended.
- **without its own domain:** the previous URL strategy is kept — the default language unprefixed, every other language below its language code.

An empty field and an explicit `/` are **not** the same thing: `/` means the language lives at the root of its domain; `/de` means it lives below that path prefix. Convenient input is normalised: `de` becomes `/de`, `/de/` becomes `/de`. An entry point always matches on complete path segments: `/de` covers `/de`, `/de/` and `/de/about`, but never `/demo` or `/development`.

6.4 Examples

Same domain with entry points:

Language	Domain	Entry point	Address
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English	(empty)	/	https://www.xyz.com/
German	(empty)	/de	https://www.xyz.com/de
Russian	(empty)	/ru	https://www.xyz.com/ru

Its own domain without an entry point:

Language	Domain	Entry point	Address
German	(empty)	(empty)	https://xyz.com
English	(empty)	/en	https://xyz.com/en
Russian	xyz-ru.com	(empty)	https://xyz-ru.com

Separate domains:

Language	Domain	Entry point	Address
English	(empty)	/	https://www.xyz.com/
German	www.xyz.de	/	https://www.xyz.de/
Russian	www.xyz.ru	/	https://www.xyz.ru/

Mixed:

Language	Domain	Entry point	Address
English	(empty)	/	https://www.xyz.com/
German	www.xyz.de	/de	https://www.xyz.de/de
Russian	(empty)	/ru	https://www.xyz.com/ru

6.5 What is not allowed

So that an incoming request stays unambiguous, saving is rejected for:

- two published languages with the same hostname **and** the same entry point,
- two mappings that become identical only after normalisation,
- two languages differing only by protocol,
- more than one language claiming / on the same hostname,
- a hostname that already belongs to another website root.

Two languages may both use / only when their hostnames differ. Ambiguous configurations are never resolved by picking a winner; they are rejected with a message. Canonical URLs, hreflang, x-default, the language switcher and detail switching for news, events and FAQs always use the target language's protocol, hostname and entry point.

7. Editing translations

Supported records show language tabs in their normal editing form. For every translatable field, select:

- **Inherit from source:** use the current source value.
- **Use custom translation:** use the entered language value.
- **Leave deliberately empty:** keep the field empty in this language.

Technical, structural, and publication fields remain protected. Publication status and publication windows can be controlled per language where the form offers them. This applies to pages, articles, news, events and FAQs.

The screenshot displays a web interface for editing translations. At the top, there are three tabs: "Language", "Translatable content", and "Publish settings". A "Go back" button is in the top right corner. Below the tabs, the "Language" section shows a dropdown menu with "Not yet reviewed" selected. A button "Mark translation as reviewed" is present. Below this, there are three language tabs: "Default (DE)", "EN [EN] - Not yet reviewed" (which is active), and "RU [RU]". The "Translatable content" section contains several fields: "Translation state" (dropdown menu with "Use custom translation" selected), "Page name" (text input with "About Us" and a placeholder "Please enter the page name."), "Page title" (text input with "About Us" and a placeholder "Please enter the page title."), "Translation state" (dropdown menu with "Use custom translation" selected), "Current source value:" (text input with "About Us" and a placeholder "Please enter the page title."), "Translation state" (dropdown menu with "Inherit from source" selected), "Page description" (text area with a placeholder "Here you can enter a short description of the page which will be evaluated by search engines like Google or Yahoo. Search engines usually indicate between 150 and 300 characters."), "Translation state" (dropdown menu with "Inherit from source" selected), and "Page alias" (text input with a placeholder "The page alias is a unique reference to the page which can be called instead of its numeric ID.").

Figure 3 — Translating a page: the language tabs (Default, EN, RU), the review status "Not yet reviewed" with the "Mark translation as reviewed" action, and per-field translation state at field level.

Figure 3 shows the review status of a page record: it shows whether a translation is unreviewed, current, or needs review after a source-language change. **Mark translation as reviewed** records the current editorial state; it does not alter publication or routing. Content-element language tabs intentionally contain no review controls.

7.1 Translating content elements

Choose the language with the language tabs at the top of the form. The form of a target language is the same form as the source language: the same sections, the same field order, the same editor and the same selectors. You translate directly in the normal fields — there are no extra per-field selectors and no separate section for translatable content.

As long as a field has no saved translation, the form shows the source-language text. It only becomes a translation once you change that text and save. Text you leave unchanged stays connected to the source language and keeps following later changes there.

Fields that belong to the structure of the element — element type, image selection, image size or CSS settings, for example — are controlled by the source language in connected mode and are therefore not editable. You edit the same content element as in the source language — only the values belong to the language you selected.

8. Connected and free content

Connected mode keeps structure, type, and order under source-language control; only approved fields are translated. **Free mode** gives the target language independent articles and content elements; source content is not rendered automatically. Switching modes does not delete content — before switching, the interface explains which records will become active or inactive.

9. Page availability and the language switcher

Mode	Behaviour
Fallback to default language	pages and content without a translation render the source content under the language URL.
Strict	pages without an available translation are not reachable; untranslated content renders no source-language text.

The setting applies per target language and also governs untranslated content fields. If you deliberately clear a field and save it, it stays empty in that language — even when fallback is enabled.

The **language switcher** frontend module (`language_switcher`, category *Miscellaneous*) offers horizontal or vertical flags, labels, or both. Its unavailable-language, hide-active-language and custom module-template options remain available. Canonical URLs, `hreflang` and `x-default` are emitted automatically and always use the protocol, hostname and entry point of the target language.

10. Permissions and security

Access follows native Contao mechanisms: administrators always have access; other backend users require the site-structure module, the relevant page mount and the normal table and field rights. There is no separate bundle-specific licence permission. Every write operation is checked server side; a control hidden in the form is not a permission.

Further principles of the security model: backend write actions run over POST with the Contao request token; language, root and record references are validated against the stored configuration; website roots are isolated from one another; licence data is kept outside the public directory; licence keys and complete authentication material appear neither in browser output nor in ordinary logs.

11. Integrity, maintenance and console commands

```
vendor/bin/contao-console contao-multilingual-pagetree:integrity:scan  
vendor/bin/contao-console contao-multilingual-pagetree:integrity:repair  
vendor/bin/contao-console contao-multilingual-pagetree:data-report  
vendor/bin/contao-console contao-multilingual-pagetree:registration
```

The integrity scan never changes data. It reports issues such as missing sources, duplicate translations, invalid aliases, and cross-site relations. Always review the preview before confirming repairs; ambiguous relations are not guessed or merged automatically.

11.1 Clearing the cache

```
vendor/bin/contao-console cache:clear  
vendor/bin/contao-console cache:clear --env=prod
```

In the Contao Manager this corresponds to the action that clears the application cache. After changing a language URL a cache rebuild is required, because mappings and path prefixes are cached.

12. Troubleshooting

Symptom	Check
Additional languages cannot be created	Check the licence status of the root and its configured domain
A language URL has no effect	Rebuild the cache; check the domain and entry-point fields
A language on its own domain is unreachable	Check the exact hostname; <code>www</code> variants and parent domains do not count
Saving a language URL is rejected	Read the message: hostname and entry point are already taken or ambiguous
Translations do not appear in the frontend	Check the publication of the language and page availability
Unexpected data state	Run <code>integrity:scan</code> and review the preview

If a licence action reports an error, retain the displayed reference and pass it to the administrator. Never include licence keys in tickets, screenshots, or logs.

13. Uninstalling

Back up the database and files before making changes. Stop editorial changes first, then inspect retained data with the report or integrity scan (`data-report`, `integrity:scan`). Removing the Composer package does not automatically delete stored translation data.

14. Legal

Contao Multilingual Pagetree is proprietary software. Copyright: V&T Innovations Team, www.v-t.one.

Support: [issue tracker on GitHub](#).

This manual describes administration and observable behaviour of the package as of the main branch. Internal licensing verification, communication and storage mechanisms are deliberately not documented.