



LiteCommerce Flyout Categories Module

Version 2.1

Reference Manual

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Introduction

The LiteCommerce **Flyout Categories** add-on module lets you control the visual presentation of your categories structure. You can select from several layout schemes available in different color variations or create your own templates.

Flyout Categories enhances LiteCommerce navigation system by introducing several new styles of categories menu, and makes browsing categories convenient for your customers. The module enables you to use four major menu styles: a horizontal menu, tree-style menu (Explorer), menu with buttons (Candy) and menu with icons (Icons). Each of the major menu styles includes several variants of menu design. You are welcome to use one of the pre-designed image sets bundled with the module or create images of your own. Skin based architecture allows you to create a unique design for your menus without modifying any PHP code.

Administrator Zone

This section contains information on:

- [installing the LiteCommerce Flyout Categories add-on module](#);
- [configuring the module](#);
- [using the Scheme Manager](#);
- [changing category structure](#).

Installing the Module

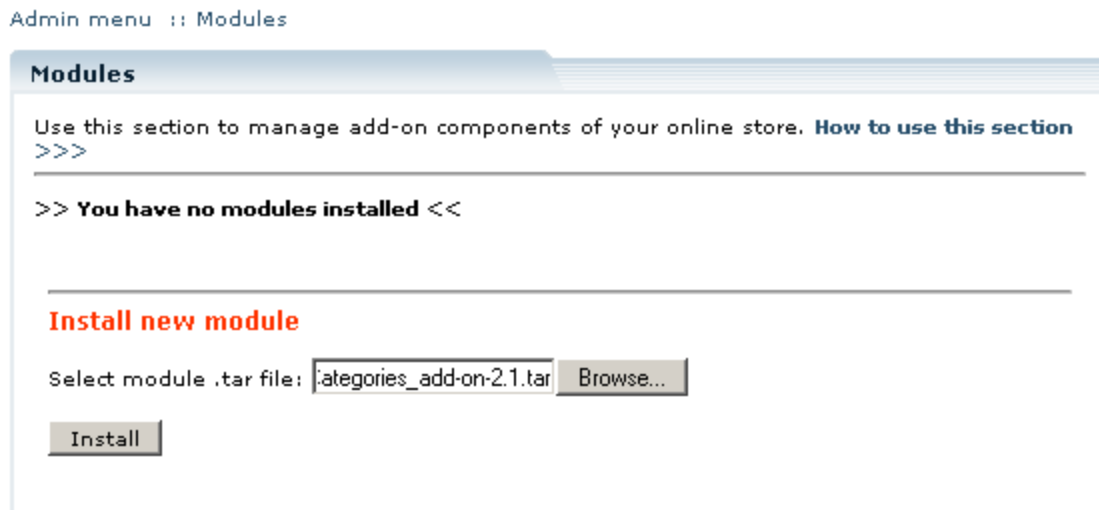
To successfully install Flyout Categories add-on module your shopping system requires LiteCommerce shopping cart software version 2.x to be installed at your online store.



To provide complete functionality of the module, including automatic generation of small category icons, PHP must be compiled against GDlib v. 2.0 or later. Specifically, the following functions are used by GDlib and must be enabled:

```
imagesx(...)  
imagesy(...)  
imagejpeg(...)  
imagecreatefromstring(...)  
ImageCreateTrueColor(...)  
ImageCopyResampled(...)
```

Select the 'Modules' section in the 'Settings' menu of the Administrator Zone. The list of currently installed modules will appear. To install a module (Flyout Categories in our case) click on the **'Browse...'** button, select the module's **'.tar'** file and click on the **'Install'** button to add the module to your store setup.



'Flyout Categories' module will appear in the list of the installed modules; it will be activated automatically.

To deactivate the module, unselect the **'Active'** check box against the module title and click on the **'Update'** button. To completely uninstall the module, click on the **'Uninstall'** button.

Admin menu :: Modules

Modules

Use this section to manage add-on components of your online store. [How to use this section >>>](#)

You have **1** module installed and **1** module activated.

Commercial modules

Title	Active	Description	Version	
▶ FlyoutCategories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Allows to change the layout of your categories pages instantly.	2.1	<input type="button" value="Uninstall"/>

Configuring the Module


After you have successfully installed the LiteCommerce **Flyout Categories** add-on module, click on the **Flyout Categories** module name in the list of installed modules to enter the module configuration page.

Basic settings

Selected scheme: select one of predefined layout schemes. When the module is first installed none of the schemes is selected.

[Admin menu](#) :: [Modules](#) :: [FlyoutCategories settings](#)

Module FlyoutCategories settings



Use this page to configure the "FlyoutCategories" module settings. Complete the required fields below and press the "Update" button.

Note: You can manage your Flyout Categories template schemes on [Flyout Categories Manager](#) page.

Selected scheme:

Automatically rebuild category menu layout:

Force JavaScript in the layout engine:

Small category icon width (pixels):

Small category icon resize quality:

Automatically rebuild category menu layout: select this check box so that each time you modify a category the category pages are updated and rebuilt automatically.

Leave the check box empty if you would like to be able to control when your category pages are rebuilt. When you modify a category and click '**Update**' you see a message "Category structure has been changed" and a link 'Rebuild category menu layout'. Click on this link to reflect the new category structure in the layout.



You might want to turn off the automatic category menu rebuilding feature when you do a bulk update of your category structure, to save time. After you are done with modifying categories, do not forget to click on the 'Rebuild category menu layout' link to reflect the changes in your category menu.

Force JavaScript in the layout engine: Select the check box to insert just the calls to JavaScript files into your store pages source code. Leave this checkbox empty to insert the HTML code of the category menu.

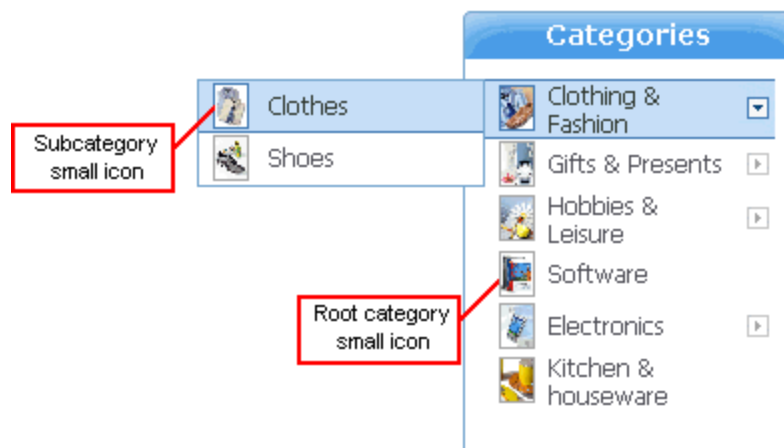


It is a good idea to switch this option off when you modify the templates to make it easier to trace possible mistakes in code.

Click **'Update and rebuild layout'** to apply the new settings.

Small Icons

Small icons are used in the categories menu for some of the layout schemes.



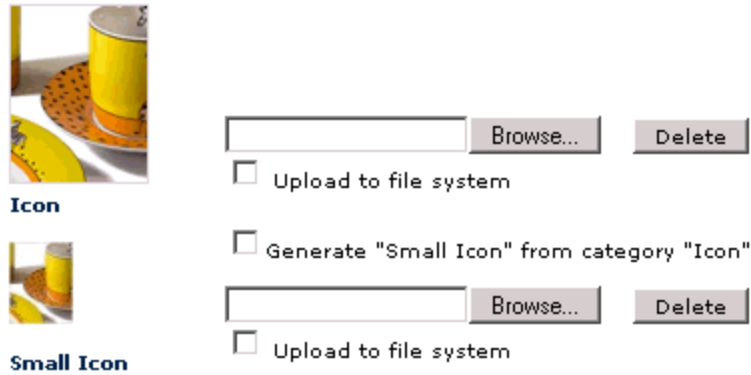
'Icons' layout scheme

The following options are set on the **Flyout Categories** module configuration page:

Small category icon width: select the width of 16, 32 or 64 pixels. This is the size of the icon image which will be stored in the database. It might be a good idea to set the 64 pixels width here to store a larger image. Then you can set the icon width of 32 or 16 pixels in the options for the specific layout scheme.

Small category icon resize quality: the category icon image will be resized preserving *normal*, *good* or *best* quality. Please pay attention to the resulting file size as the images with best quality tend to be larger.

If the **Flyout Categories** module is enabled when you modify a category, one more option appears below the category icon selection option: category small icon selection.



The screenshot shows two sections for category modification. The first section is for the 'Icon' category, featuring a large image of a yellow cup, a 'Browse...' button, a 'Delete' button, and a checkbox for 'Upload to file system'. The second section is for the 'Small Icon' category, featuring a smaller image of the same cup, another 'Browse...' button, another 'Delete' button, and a checkbox for 'Upload to file system'. A checkbox labeled 'Generate "Small Icon" from category "Icon"' is positioned between the two sections.

Category modification page

Select the 'Generate "Small Icon" from category "Icon"' option to automatically generate small icons from the regular icons you have already selected. Leave the check box empty to be able to use different images for small icons.



Small icons are generated automatically if GD library is installed on your server.

Small category icons also constitute a separate category in the 'Image files' section of the 'Maintenance' menu.

Admin menu :: Image files

Image files			
Use this section to manage your store's image files.			
	Naming schema	File system	Database
Product thumbnails	pt_??.gif	0	134 Move to filesystem
Product images	pi_??.gif	0	134 Move to filesystem
Category icons	ci_??.gif	0	19 Move to filesystem
Small category icons	cs_??.gif	0	1 Move to filesystem

'Image files' section of the 'Maintenance' menu



If you store small category icons on the file system that helps keep the store database compact and improves the response time of your store.

Scheme settings

There are four generic layout schemes available with several color solutions for each one. It is also possible to disable the module functionality by selecting '**None**' from the 'Selected scheme' drop-down box. This way the layout of the Customer zone will not be affected, but the administrator is still able to make changes and configure the module settings. The following schemes are available:

- [Icons](#)
- [Explorer](#)
- [Horizontal Menu](#)
- [Candy](#)

Depending on which scheme you have chosen, options for the scheme vary. The set of existing options appears automatically when you select a scheme from the drop-down box.

Icons

The following settings are available for the 'Icons' scheme:

Maximum depth of the tree: select depth from 1 to 7 nodes. This shows the possible number of nested categories.

Show categories icons: select this check box to display icons for categories next to the category names.

Show subcategories icons (arrow): select this check box to display arrows next to the names of the categories which have subcategories.

Options for scheme: Icons

Maximum depth of the tree:

Show categories icons:

Show subcategories icons (arrow):

Show icons for root category:

Drop direction:

Drop logic:

Select color:

Category popup delay (seconds):

Category close delay (seconds):

Root categories icons width (pixels):

Subcategories icons width (pixels):

Show icons for root category: select this check box to display icons for root category names.

Drop direction: select 'right' or 'left' depending on where you want the menu to drop to.

Drop logic: select either 'smart' or 'fixed' drop logic. If 'fixed' is selected, the menus drop to the direction specified in the 'Drop direction' option, regardless whether there is space available or not. In this case a horizontal scroll bar appears if the resulting page width exceeds browser window width. If 'smart' is selected and not enough space is available (for example, at the side of the screen), the menu drops to the other direction, overriding of the 'Drop direction' option value.

Select color: select a color from the drop-down box. At least three color solutions are available by default for each scheme.

Category popup delay (sec.): set the number of seconds after which the nested categories expand.

Category close delay (sec.): set the number of seconds after which the expanded categories collapse.

Root categories icons width / Subcategories icons width: select the width of 16, 32 or 64 pixels. The settings override the 'Category small icon width' setting value, and the icon images are resized correspondingly.

Explorer

The following settings are available for the 'Explorer' scheme:

Maximum depth of the tree: select depth from 1 to 7 nodes. This shows the possible number of nested categories.

Options for scheme: Explorer

Maximum depth of the tree:

Select color:

Select color: select a color from the drop-down box. At least three color solutions are available by default for each scheme.

Horizontal Menu

The following settings are available for the 'Horizontal Menu' scheme:

Maximum depth of the tree: select depth from 1 to 7 nodes. This shows the possible number of nested categories.

Drop logic: select either 'smart' or 'fixed' drop logic. If 'fixed' is selected, the menus drop to the direction specified in the 'Drop direction' option, regardless whether there is space available or not. In this case a horizontal scroll bar appears if the resulting page width exceeds browser window width. If 'smart' is selected and not enough space is available (for example, at the side of the screen), the menu drops to the other direction, overriding of the 'Drop direction' option value.

Options for scheme: Horizontal Menu

Maximum depth of the tree:

Drop logic:

Select color:

Show subcategories icons:

Category popup delay (sec.):

Category close delay (sec.):

Select color: select a color from the drop-down box. At least three color solutions are available by default for

each scheme.

Show subcategories icons: select this check box to display arrows next to the names of the categories which have subcategories.

Category popup delay (sec.): set the number of seconds after which the nested categories expand.

Category close delay (sec.): set the number of seconds after which the expanded categories collapse.

Candy

The following settings are available for the 'Candy' scheme:

Maximum depth of the tree: select depth from 1 to 7 nodes. This shows the possible number of nested categories.

Drop direction: select 'right' or 'left' depending on where you want the menu to drop to.

Options for scheme: Candy

Maximum depth of the tree:	<input type="text" value="4 Nodes"/>
Drop direction:	<input type="text" value="right"/>
Drop logic:	<input type="text" value="smart"/>
Select color:	<input type="text" value="curve_blue"/>
Category popup delay (sec.):	<input type="text" value="0.5"/>
Category close delay (sec.):	<input type="text" value="1.0"/>

Drop logic: select either 'smart' or 'fixed' drop logic. If 'fixed' is selected, the menus drop to the direction specified in the 'Drop direction' option, regardless whether there is space available or not. In this case a horizontal scroll bar appears if the resulting page width exceeds browser window width. If 'smart' is selected and not enough space is available (for example, at the side of the screen), the menu drops to the other direction, overriding of the 'Drop direction' option value.

Select color: select a color from the drop-down box. At least three color solutions are available by default for each scheme.

Category popup delay (sec.): set the number of seconds after which the nested categories expand.

Category close delay (sec.): set the number of seconds after which the expanded categories collapse.

Scheme Manager

You can control your Flyout Categories template schemes through the Scheme Manager. To access it click on the 'Scheme Manager' link in the 'Look & Feel' menu.

Admin menu :: Scheme Manager

Flyout Categories Manager

Use this section to manage your Flyout Categories template schemes.

#	Pos.	Name	Actions
1 A	10	Icons	<input type="button" value="View"/> <input type="button" value="Clone"/>
2	20	Explorer	<input type="button" value="View"/> <input type="button" value="Clone"/>
3	30	Horizontal Menu	<input type="button" value="View"/> <input type="button" value="Clone"/>
4	40	Candy	<input type="button" value="View"/> <input type="button" value="Clone"/>

A - Active scheme.
Note: You can activate schemes on [FlyoutCategories settings](#) page.

You can use the predefined template schemes right after the module installation. To avoid possible conflicts in case of module upgrades the predefined schemes cannot be edited. If you want to change the look or the behavior of the predefined scheme, you can clone it and edit the copy afterwards.



The 'Scheme Manager' is designed for creating and editing options, which will later be configured on the module configuration page.

Editing a Scheme

To edit an existing scheme, click on the **'Edit'** button next to the scheme name. The predefined schemes cannot be edited, you can only view the details. To make some changes to a predefined scheme you can clone it and modify the cloned scheme.

You can modify the scheme templates directly. The templates directory consists of .tpl files, an "images" directory and a "styles" directory, containing .css files. The best way to go is copy the existing templates to a new folder and modify them. To replace the scheme templates now click **'Browse'** to the right of the text box, locate the directory with the templates you have edited and click **'Update'**.

Icons (clone) scheme templates

Templates location	<input type="text" value="skins/default/en/modules/FlyoutCategories/schemes/005_Icons"/>	<input type="button" value="Browse"/>
<input type="button" value="Update"/>		
<input type="button" value="Switch to 'Expert' mode"/>		

The set of user-defined options can be modified. To modify the set of options of the selected scheme, click **'Switch to 'Expert' mode'**.

Click **'Switch to 'Simple' mode'** to return and hide the option configuration dialog.

To delete an option, click **'Delete'** next to it in the configurable options list.

Cloning a Scheme

To create an exact copy of a scheme, click **'Clone'** next to its name. This might be helpful when you want to modify a predefined scheme or create a scheme with parameters just slightly different from the existing one.

Deleting a Scheme

To delete an existing scheme click **'Delete'** to the right from the scheme name. It is impossible to delete the predefined schemes.

'Expert' mode

When you switch to 'Expert' mode, several changes happen throughout.

- Keynames are displayed next to the option names in the Scheme Manager as well as on the module configuration page. These are the expressions in brackets, which are used to call this option in the templates. For example, *"Show categories icons [cat_icons]"*. Here *[cat_icons]* is the keyname.
- You are able to modify every available option: change its description, keyname and option type. There are three available option types for each option: text box, select box and check box.
- You are able to add options. To add a user-defined option complete the required fields and click **'Add option'** below.

The following fields need to be completed:

- **Keyname:** enter a name you want the template to use to call this option. The keyname must be unique!
- **Option type:** select 'Text box', 'Select box' or 'Check box'. If you choose 'Select box', a field '**Option points**' appears where you specify the option points to select from. Each option point must go on its own line.

For example, for the option 'Drop direction' there are two option points to select from - 'right' and 'left'.

- **Option description:** enter a short description for the option.

For example, "*Show categories icons [cat_icons]*". Here '*Show categories icons*' is the option description.

- You are able to use the keyname to call your options in the templates. You need to know PHP and Flexy to create and use new options. Here are the steps you need to perform to reflect your option value in the customer zone:

1. Create an option
2. Click '**Browse**' next to the 'Templates location' field and click on the necessary template name. There are three templates in each **Flyout Categories** template directory:

categories.tpl is a necessary template you will not need to change.

cat_template.tpl provides for the appearance and logic of operation of the main categories menu

scat_template.tpl provides for the appearance and logic of operation of the subcategory menus

3. Edit the template.

The syntax of a condition is as follows:

```
{if: data. scheme. options. color. value=#blue#}
...
{end: }
```

where

data.scheme.options is a prefix common for all the Flyout Categories options,

color is a keyname,

value=#blue# is the option value. If the option is a check box, you do not need the '***=#blue#***' part as there are only two possible values: true and false.

{else:} and **{end:}** are used to close or alternate If statements.

4. Save the modifications or click '**Cancel**' to discard the changes you have made.
5. Select the necessary option value on the **Flyout Categories** module configuration page.

Example

For example, you want to show root categories icons if the Horizontal Menu scheme is active, but there is no such an option. Here is what you need to do:

1. As Horizontal Menu is a predefined scheme, it cannot be edited, so you need to clone it first. Click '**Clone**' next to Horizontal Menu scheme name in the Scheme Manager.
2. Click '**Edit**' next to your new scheme name. Switch to 'Expert' mode if you have not done it yet.
3. Create an option. For example:

keyname - rootcat_icons

type - check box

option description - Show icons for root categories

4. Click '**Browse**' next to the 'Template location' field. Click on cat_template.tpl.
5. Modify the code.



This code assumes that your images are stored in the database, not on the file system.

Replace this part:

```
<div id="menu_{item.category.category_id}" style="position: relative; left: 0; top: 0;"
onMouseOver="javascript:hideMenu(); show_menu('submenu_{item.category.
category_id}','rootmenu','menu_{item.category.category_id}'); cancelCloseMenu(); "
OnMouseOut="javascript: initiateHideMenu();">
```

```
</div>
```

with the following:

```
{if: data.scheme.options.rootcat icons.value}
<table border=0 cellpadding=0 cellspacing=0><tr><td valign=top></td><td
valign=top>
{end:}
                <div id="menu_{item.category.category_id}" style="position: relative;
left: 0; top: 0;" onMouseOver="javascript:hideMenu();show_menu('submenu_{item.category.
category_id}','rootmenu','menu_{item.category.category_id}'); cancelCloseMenu();"
OnMouseOut="javascript: initiateHideMenu();">
                </div>
{if: data.scheme.options.rootcat icons.value}
</td></tr></table>
{end:}
```

6. Save the modifications and select the corresponding check box on the **Flyout Categories** module configuration page.

Changing category structure

When the **Flyout Categories** add-on module is activated, new options appear on the 'Manage categories' page in the Administrator zone.

FlyoutCategories actions

Automatically generate missing small category icons

Rebuild category menu layout

Automatically generate missing small category icons: select this action to generate small icons from main category icons for all the categories which do not have small icons yet. This allows you to save time generating small icons one by one for each modified category. If GDlib is supported on your server, this option is selected by default.



The automatically generated small icons are stored on the file system.

Rebuild category menu layout: select this action to rebuild the layout when you have modified one or more categories. The same action can be performed by clicking on the '**Rebuild category menu layout**' link which appears at the top of the 'Manage categories' page when the category structure has been changed.

Select the required actions and click '**Update**'.

Customer Zone

This section describes how the Customer Zone layout looks like depending on the scheme selected in the **Flyout Categories** add-on module. The exact look and feel of the Categories menu depends on the combination of the values of the user-defined options.



The category menu displayed to a logged in customer takes into consideration his or her membership: if some of the categories are not supposed to be visible to customers with such a membership, these categories are excluded from the Flyout Categories category menu layout.

2.1 Horizontal menu

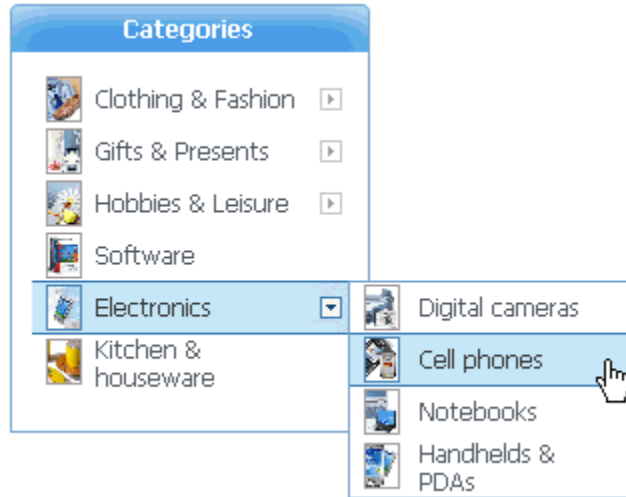
If you select 'Flat Layout' from the 'Selected scheme' drop-down box, the 'Categories' menu will acquire the following look:



The color combinations available for the 'Flat Layout' scheme are blue, blue_grey and yellow_grey.

2.2 Icons

If you select 'Icons' from the 'Selected scheme' drop-down box, the 'Categories' menu will look like this.

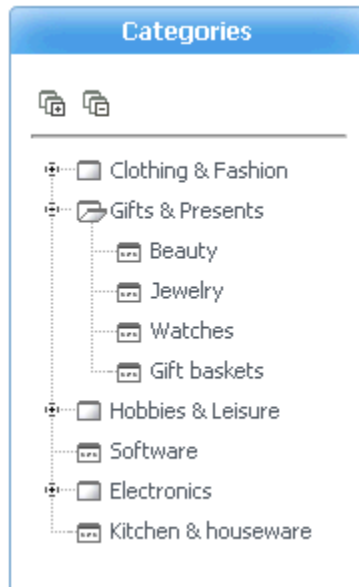


In the user-defined options you can select to display or not the icons for categories and subcategories and the arrows to the right of the parent category. You can also adjust the maximum depth of the category tree (1-7 nodes).



The color solutions available for the 'Icons' scheme are blue, grey and yellow.

2.3 Explorer

If you select 'Explorer' from the 'Selected scheme' drop-down box, the 'Categories' menu will look like this:



The color solutions available for the 'Explorer' scheme (differing in folder colors) are blue, grey and yellow.

To expand all the nested categories click on the  icon. To collapse all the nested categories click on the .

icon.

2.4 Candy

If you select 'Candy' from the 'Selected scheme' drop-down box, the 'Categories' menu will look like this.



The color solutions available for the 'Candy' scheme are curve_blue, curve_yello, grey_blue and yellow.

Terms and Definitions

Administrator: a 'super-user' of the online store system who is privileged to configure the entire store and manage products, customers and orders;

Administrator zone: an administrator back office where the store Admin can configure, control and monitor store operations, enable or configure various features of the store;

Customer: a registered store user;

Customer zone: an area at the online store where store customers can manage their profiles and review their orders;

User: anyone who visits the online store.