Advanced MultiTier Affiliate System

For openCart 3.0.x

Installation Instructions

Works with openCart 3.0.x

1. Either download the .zip and upload it in *Admin > Extensions > Installer*, or install directly from *Admin > Marketplace*
2. Refresh modifications in *Admin > Extensions > Modifications*
3. In *Admin > Extensions > Modules*, click **Install**, then **Edit**, configure and Enable

To uninstall:

1. In *Admin > Extensions > Modules*, click **Uninstall**
2. Delete entry for .zip in *Admin > Extensions > Installer*
3. Refresh modifications in *Admin > Extensions > Modifications*

If you upgrading from Demo to full version, please uninstall Demo version first.

For technical support please email opencart@phpgods.net with you site information and admin access. Include your FTP account information. The module is supposed to work with original openCart, and even though compatibility issues are very unlikely to occur, there is no guarantee that it will work with other extensions, modules, modification or themes.

This module is included in Affiliate Pack X and is compatible with all extensions in the pack.

PLEASE DO NOT POST SUPPORT REQUESTS IN THE OPENCART.COM PAGE COMMENTS!

User Guide

The extension is built around the concept of "affiliate schemes". Affiliate scheme defines commission amounts, which affiliates on each level (up to defined maximum number of levels) will receive. You can have unlimited number of schemes, up to 50 levels each.

To define new affiliate scheme, go to *Extensions > Modules > Edit MultiTier Affiliate system* and click Add button. "Tiers" drop down box sets the maximum number of levels in the scheme. Set it to anything higher than 1, then scroll down to "Commissions" table. The leftmost column, marked Level 1, represents affiliates who signed up at your site directly, not under any other affiliate. Level 2 is for affiliates signed up under Level 1, Level 3 under Level 2 etc. Considering any particular sale, tracking code always points to the highest level in the scheme.

You define commission amounts for every possible number of levels, that can occur in sales. For example, if you set "Tiers" to 5, buyers can still buy under affiliate at Level 1 or Level 2 or Level 3, and for each of these cases you define commission amounts. They do not need to sum up to equal amount of total commission, though it's a standard practice.

When number of levels in a particular sale exceeds maximum number of levels in the

scheme, it is normally shifted to the right. For example, you have 5-level scheme and 7 levels in the sale. In this case, affiliates at Level 1 and Level 2 will receive nothing, affiliate at Level 3 will receive commission defined for Level 1, affiliate at Level 4 will receive commission defined for Level 2, etc. You can modify this behavior using "Always include in commission" drop down box. If you set it to 2, affiliates at Level 1 and 2 will always receive commission, while next two level affiliates will receive nothing. In the same case of 5-level scheme and 7 levels in the sale, affiliates receiving commission will be Levels 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, while Level 3 and 4 will not get anything.

Zero commission amount (0.00 value in the text box) is allowed.

Commission scheme types can be percentage-based or fixed amount.

Fixed amount commission is assigned for each product item in the order. For example, if order contains of 1 item of Product 1 and 2 items of Product 2 (3 items total), and commission is $5, total order commission will be $5 * 3 = $15 .

If the sum of all commissions exceeds product's price, commission for each level will be reduced proportionally. For example, product price is $25, commissions in the 3-level scheme are set to $25, $20, $5 ($50 total) – in the order commissions will be $12.5, $10, $2.5 ($25 total).

For percentage-based schemes, you can set it to either calculate commission from the value defined by *General Settings – No Shipping*, or from sale's total cost.

New affiliates can be approved automatically or manually, this is configurable per scheme per level. OpenCart's own setting for auto-approval is ignored.

Commission can be added to affiliate's accounts automatically when the sale is completed, or manually in *Orders > View > Order Details*. This is configurable per scheme per level per number of tiers. OpenCart's own setting for auto-adding commission is ignored.

Every scheme has its' own tracking code, which you can attach to affiliate registration URL by adding *&mta=<code>* to the URL. Every new affiliate who signed up with this code will be automatically assigned to this scheme. Usually it's not needed, but can be used, for example, to create special promo actions. For example, you'd like every new affiliate who signed up at particular date, to have higher commissions. You create new scheme (with higher commissions) and promote registration URL with this scheme's code in it. When the promo day is over, you copy this scheme to new (with a single click), move all affiliates who signed up with it to copied scheme (also with a sinlge click), and then delete the original scheme to prevent anyone else from signing up to it.

When no particular scheme is attached to affiliate, product, combination etc., it shows that the scheme is *Default*. This means that the scheme which is currently set as Default will be used for them, and if you set another scheme as Default, their scheme also changes to that new default scheme.

Different schemes can be attached to any number of affiliates, products, product + discount, product + special, product + coupon, product + affiliate combinations etc. To attach scheme to affiliate, go to *Customers > Edit >* Affiliate tab.

To attach scheme to product, go to *Catalog > Products > Edit.* From there, go to *Discount* tab to attach schemes to discounts, to *Special* tab to attach schemes to specials, and to *Commission* tab to attach schemes to product itself and to product + coupon combinations. In each of these places, you can also click *"Custom Schemes for Selected Affiliates"* link to add individual affiliate(s) to the combination.

Keep in mind that each scheme covers all levels, and each product in the order can use one and only scheme. That scheme is selected according to the following system of priorities:
 – look for product (+ discount / special / coupon) + any of participating affiliates' scheme
 – if none found, look for product (+ discount / special / coupon) scheme
 – if none found, look for any of participating affiliates' scheme (from higher to lower level)
 – if none found, use Default scheme.

It is very important to understand that Discounts, Coupons and Specials do not inherit product's general scheme. If you set custom scheme for a product, and during the sale some discount was applied, that custom scheme you've set for the product will not be used. The system will look for this particular discount's own scheme (or just use Default).

It is also possible to apply selected scheme, or use it when creating a product:
 – for all products by certain manufacturer on Edit Manufacturer page
 – for all products in certain category on Edit Category page
 – for combinations of all products with certain coupon on Edit Coupon page.

There are several other smaller details. The only one worth mentioning is that logged-in affiliates can obtain links with their tracking code, pointing to any page on the site, while just browsing the site. Log in as any affiliate to see how it works.

General Settings
`Associate customer account with parent affiliate:`
 Permanently in the database – Even if the customer clears cookies, his association with parent affiliate won't be lost. If registered customer uses a link with another affiliate's tracking code, it will be ignored, affiliate will stay the same. This is default extension's behavior.
 In cookies only – This uses regular openCart's behavior. If customer clears cookies, his orders won't be tracked, and using a link with another affiliate's tracking code will replace former affiliate with new one as parent for this customer. Parent Affiliate setting on Customer Edit page is ignored.

`Permit parent affiliate changing or adding after customer account is created:`
 If set to YES, customer are able to change their parent affiliate (for customer part of their account only) by using URL with tracking code at any time, but if set to NO, parent affiliate (if tracking code is present) is assigned when they are registering, and can only be change in Admin.

`No Shipping:`

Each scheme has a YES/NO *No Shipping* setting. If it's set to NO in the scheme, commission will be calculated from order *total* . If it's set to YES, commission will be calculated according to the value defined in this General Setting.

Subtract shipping, handling & taxes from total price – The value will be *total* with *shipping, handling, tax* and *low order fee* subtracted from it. It's default.

Ignore all price-increasing modifiers – The value will be *subtotal* and all *totals*, which *decrease* it, making it the lowest possible value.

Use subtotal – The value will be *subtotal*. This is regular openCart 1.5.4 and higher behavior. Keep in mind that in certain cases *subtotal* can be actually higher than *total*.

`Permanently assign default scheme:`

When new affiliates sign up with no *&mta=* code, they are not assigned to any particular scheme. Instead, the scheme which is set as Default is used to calculate commissions for them. If you set this setting to YES, the scheme that is set as Default when affiliate registers will be assigned to them permanently, as if they used that scheme's *&mta=* code . Setting another scheme as Default will not affect them.

You can also:

- with *Tracking Cookie expiration* setting, change how long tracking code will last, from openCart's built-in 1000 days, to any number of days, or just one browser session by setting it to 0 or keeping.

- select one or more *Order Status* that should trigger *Autoadd Commission* function.

- configure how the system should handle situations when two or more affiliates in the order have different schemes attached to them. Keep in mind that it only resolves conflicts on the same priority level – if one affiliate has one scheme attached to product / affiliate combination, and the other affiliate has another scheme attached to affiliate, it's not a conflict (product / affiliate combination has higher priority).

It's also possible to show affiliates downline tree of all their sub-affiliates on a separate page. This function is disabled by default for privacy reasons. If you enable it, affiliates will have a link to the page with downline tree on their main affiliate account page. You can also configure which information (besides names) about sub-affiliates they can see – email addresses, phone numbers, earnings (total and from last month).
Admin can see complete affiliate downline tree via the link under General Settings, and any particular affiliate's downline on Edit Affiliate pages.

Testing
While testing the extension after installing it, you might want to try creating several different affiliate accounts and using different affiliate links to make test customer or affiliate sign-ups or purchases. If you are going to do this, remember to clear cookies in your browser and start new browser session (re-start the browser) every time you are going to use new affiliate link, or re-login as different customer.

Admin Insert / Edit Order
When adding order in administration, keep in mind that if Affiliate field is not empty and contains different affiliate than customer's current parent, that parent will be replaced. In most cases, unless the order is assigned to someone with no customer account, it's better to leave Affiliate field empty, the system should be able to find appropriate affiliate.
When you edit existing order in administration, commission also automatically adjust to changed data.

For existing orders, both *Edit Order* and *Order Info* pages contain a link to **Edit Order Commission** page. On that page you can assign arbitrary commission to any affiliate, regardless of their levels, schemes, relations with customer etc., you can also modify commission amounts or remove it. Commission is assigned per product. If commission is added to affiliate balance already, you have to remove it from balance before modifying commission for that affiliate.

If you are using Payment Methods which require manual order completion and still want commission to be added automatically, you have to set Order Status to Complete (or any other Order Status set to trigger Autoadd in MTA General Settings) using *View > Order History* .

PayPal Express Recurring payments
To pay commission for PayPal Express Checkout Recurring payments , it should be enabled in General Settings, and PayPal IPN in your PayPal account must point to the URL listed in openCart's Express Checkout payment module settings. Commission amount for recurring payments will be in the same proportion to Recurring Profile's price as original order commission is to final product price.

Issue with 30+ levels in schemes
Some servers won't save schemes with many (more than 30) defined levels)
The problem here is not with the extension, but with PHP on the server not configured to handle very large forms.

Generally this can be solved with adding the following to PHP configuration *php.ini* :
max_input_vars = 10000

But it's better to consult with your hosting about the issue.

Disclaimer

THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS" AND ANY EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARE DISCLAIMED. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE REGENTS OR CONTRIBUTORS BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA, OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE USE OF THIS SOFTWARE, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE.