

Brief for CiviCRM 'Community Shares' extension

Report by Rob Squires, Creative Local Solutions

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The Community Shares extension can extend upon the existing CiviContribute component, and to a lesser extent the CiviMember component.

Two new Financial Types are declared within CiviContribute, for Shares and Loan stock. Corresponding Account Types are set up as defaults for the Financial Types.

It can potentially use other CiviContribute features including payment gateways, target widgets, price sets, and thank you gifts.

1. Defining Offer Types

A dashboard and form are provided for defining Offer Types. Each Offer Type stores the following information:

- title
- share offer or a loan stock offer
- share value (default £1, only applies if it is a share offer)
- transferable (true or false)
- withdrawable (true or false)
- end date extendable (true or false)
- fixed or variable interest rate
- interest rate (if fixed)
- interest rate range or options (if variable)
- interest payment deferment period
- others .. ??

2. Defining new Offers

New Offers are created as a new Contribution Page using existing functionality.

If the selected Financial Type is 'Community Share' then an additional required option is presented to choose an Offer Type (as defined above).

Also at this stage the following options are set, relevant to the share offer:

- target amount
- start date
- end date

3. Membership

Optionally the CiviMember component can be enabled if membership is required before purchasing of community shares.

4. Purchasing Shares / loan stock

Some minor changes are required to override existing functionality:

If the CiviMember component is used, the following needs to be overridden:

- 'Additional contributions' label needs overriding to use label defined in CiviContribute
- 'No thank you' option needs removing
- Extra text required between Membership amount and Additional contributions.

'Contribution amount' needs overriding in the confirmation page.

5. Managing shares

Upon completion of a Community Share 'contribution' a corresponding volume of shares need to be attributed to the contact that purchased them. Share purchases need to be saved to the database.

An additional database table is required for tracking interest on shares. A cron function should be used to attribute interest to users based on certain rules, relating to the quantity of their shares, and the features of the share offer defined in the Offer Type.

An administrative interface is required that provides the following:

- reporting on current share ownership,
- reporting on interest rates, interest payments, and balance,
- a form to enable withdrawal of shares,
- a form to enable transfer of shares to another member.

A panel is required in the User Dashboard with information on number of shares owned, interest, withdrawals and transfers.

6. Loans

Upon completion of a Loan Stock 'contribution' a record need to be saved to the database. An additional database table is required for tracking interest on

loans. A cron function should be used to attribute interest to users based on certain rules, relating to the quantity of their loan, and the features of the loan stock defined in the Offer Type.

*Is interest on shares and / or loans paid automatically or is it paid upon request by the shareholder?

7. Exporting financial data

Functionality is required to export data in share ownership, loans and interest. This should be in csv format, and suitable for use with Quickbooks.

8. Open data

Making anonymized data shareable with external apps such as the new platform being developed by the Community Shares Unit in conjunction with Dotforge.

9. Alternative approaches

- Consider developing module to be independent of Civi. (An extension of Ubercart or Commerce modules instead.)
- Consider using the new Dotforge platform when it is ready, instead of CiviContribute. This approach would necessitate the DotForge platform providing an API in order that data could be exchanged between their platform and the local Civi installation.

Community Shares Unit

The Community Shares Unit is run by Locality in partnership with Co-ops UK, and is funded by DCLG. The website is at <http://communityshares.org.uk>.

The website is built with Drupal 7 and was developed by an Oxford based co-operative called the Agile Collective (<http://agile.coop>).

The Community Shares Unit currently utilise a digital platform called [Micro Genius](#), founded by Emily MacKay in 2011, to enable communities to manage their share offers.

They are now collaborating with [dotForge](#) to develop a next generation platform, which will be co-owned and feature aspects of open data, in order to assist member-owners.

The CiviCRM Core Team

“We only work on projects that have broad applicability within our community. If you are unsure about whether this applies to your project, get in contact and we’ll let you know. If we can’t help with your project, we’d be happy to forward your enquiry onto our list of partners who may be able to help. We charge a flat rate of \$175 per hour for all work, which is discounted to \$125 per hour for [members](#) and [partners](#). All work is licensed under the [GNU Affero General Public License](#). Hiring the [core team](#) is only one way to get the improvements you need into CiviCRM. You may also choose to work with one of our many [expert CiviCRM service providers](#) instead.”

<https://civicrm.org/work-with-the-core-team>

More Information

For more information, contact Rob Squires, Creative Local Solutions:

www: <http://Rob.CreativeLocalSolutions.co.uk>

email: Rob@CreativeLocalSolutions.co.uk

mobile: +44 (0)7974 658 745

Chris Walsh, Director Kindling Trust:

www: <http://kindling.org.uk>

email: chris@kindling.org.uk

office: +44 (0)161 226 2242