

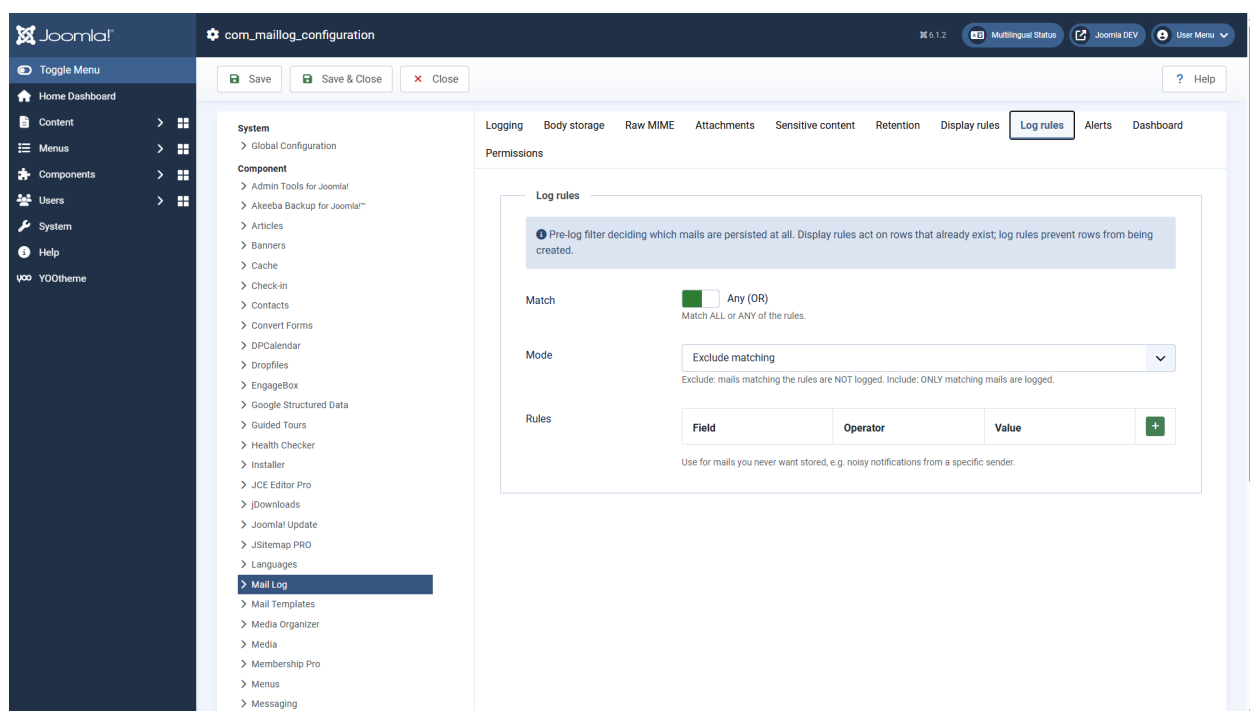
Log rules and display rules

Mail Log has two kinds of rules that are easy to confuse but do very different things. Both are found in the *options*.

Log rules decide which mails are stored at all.

Display rules only decide which stored mails appear in the list.

Log rules: what is never stored in the first place



Log rules filter before anything is stored.

Log rules take effect **before** anything is written to the database. That keeps uninteresting bulk mail out of the log — noisy notifications from a particular service, for instance. What a log rule excludes never becomes an entry.

Two settings determine the behaviour:

Mode	<i>Exclude matches</i> — matching mails are NOT logged. <i>Include matches only</i> — ONLY matching mails are logged, everything else is discarded.
Match	Whether a mail has to satisfy <i>all</i> rules (AND) or <i>any</i> of them (OR).

Display rules: what is hidden in the list

Display rules take effect **after** storing. Matching entries are merely hidden in the list and on the dashboard — nothing is deleted. Change the rule and the entries reappear. Useful for tidying up an overloaded view without losing data.

How a rule is put together

Both rule types are built from the same parts. Every rule checks a **field** with an **operator** against a **value**:

Field	Subject, body, recipient or sender.
Operator	contains, does not contain, equals, does not equal, starts with, ends with — for display rules additionally is empty / is not empty.
Value	The text to compare against.

Examples

- **Do not log cron job mails:** log rule, mode *exclude matches*, field *sender*, operator *contains*, value `cron@`.
- **Log order mails only:** log rule, mode *include matches only*, field *subject*, operator *contains*, value `order`.
- **Hide internal test mails:** display rule, field *recipient*, operator *ends with*, value `@internal.example`.

The mode *include matches only* for log rules is sharp: everything that does not match is not logged. Use it deliberately and check afterwards that the mails you want still reach the log.

Applies to version 1.0.5.

[Deutsche Fassung](#)

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