

Installation guide for administrators

****Plugin:**** `local\_zsk\_frontpage\_elements` (ZSK custom site home elements)

****Audience:**** System administrators and Moodle managers

****Version:**** Plugin release 1.4.4

What this plugin does

This plugin lets you create ****custom content blocks for the Moodle site home**** and place them freely in the centre column — alongside the course list, course tiles, events, and other Moodle items.

Typical content:

- Welcome messages and notices (shown inline)
- Linked info pages (title on the site home → full content on a dedicated page)
- PDF and document links (file opens directly when clicked)

****Maintenance:**** via site administration only (**Manager** role). Teachers and students ****view**** the content; they do not edit it inside a course.

System requirements

Requirement	Version
-------------	---------

-----	-----
-------	-------

Moodle	4.1 or higher (recommended: 4.4+)
--------	-----------------------------------

PHP	As required by your Moodle version
-----	------------------------------------

Database	MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, or SQL Server
----------	---

Write access	to `moodle/local/`
--------------	--------------------

Optional ZSK add-ons (same site home picker)

If installed, these add extra choices in ****Front page settings****:

Plugin	Picker label
`local_zsk_local_tiles`	Course tiles
`local_zsk_termine`	Upcoming events

These plugins are ****not**** required for custom site home elements.

Step 1: Deploy plugin files

ZIP structure (important)

After unpacking, the path must look like this:

```
` `` `text
moodle/local/zsk_frontpage_elements/version.php
` `` `
```

The ZIP must contain the folder `zsk\_frontpage\_elements/`, ****not**** plugin files at the archive root.

Installation

1. Copy the folder `zsk\_frontpage\_elements` to `moodle/local/zsk\_frontpage\_elements/` (FTP, Git, or ZIP upload).
2. Log in as administrator.

3. Open **Site administration → Notifications** and run the upgrade.

Step 2: Enable the plugin

Site administration → ZSK custom site home elements → Settings

Setting	Recommendation
---------	----------------

-----	-----
-------	-------

Enable plugin	Yes
----------------------	-----

When disabled, custom elements are not shown and do not appear in front page settings.

Step 3: Create site home elements

Site administration → ZSK custom site home elements → Manage site home elements

1. Click **Add element**.
2. Enter a **Title** (shown on the site home or as link text).
3. Choose **Display on site home** (see below).
4. Add content or a file.
5. Click **Save changes**.

The overview lists each element's **Slot ID** (e.g. `10001`). This ID is used internally for ordering in front page settings.

Display modes

Mode	Behaviour on the site home
------	----------------------------

|-----|-----|

| ****Inline on site home**** | Heading plus HTML content below (images and media in the editor supported) |

| ****As link (dedicated page)**** | Clickable title with icon only; content on
`/local/zsk\_frontpage\_elements/view.php` |

| ****As file link**** | Clickable title opens a file — uploaded in Moodle or via external URL (e.g. PDF)
|

For link and file modes you can pick a ****link icon**** (page, file, calendar, etc.).

Step 4: Place elements on the site home

****Site administration → Front page → Front page settings****

Two lists matter:

| Moodle setting | Applies to |

|-----|-----|

| ****Front page items when logged in**** (`frontpageloggedin`) | Logged-in users |

| ****Front page items when logged out**** (`frontpage`) | Guests (optional) |

Your elements appear as ****“ZSK: [title]”****. You can also select course list, course search, course tiles, upcoming events, etc.

****Order:**** The list order defines placement in the ****centre column**** of the site home. Course search (if enabled) keeps its Moodle default position; ZSK elements are positioned by a small client script.

****Tip:**** Reload the site home after changes (clear browser cache if needed).

Step 5: Permissions

Capability	Default	Meaning
------------	---------	---------

-----	-----	-----
-------	-------	-------

`local/zsk_frontpage_elements:manage`	<i>*Manager*</i> only	Create, edit, delete elements
---------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------------

Teachers (**Editing teacher**) do ****not**** have this capability by default. If specific staff should maintain content, grant the capability in the system context. Usually maintenance stays with central admins.

Site home content is visible to ****all visitors**** (including guests) once the element is in the appropriate front page list.

Troubleshooting

Element does not appear on the site home

1. Plugin enabled? (****Settings → Enable plugin****)
2. Element selected in ****Front page items when logged in**** (or ****when logged out****)?
3. ****File link**** mode: file uploaded or valid external URL?
4. ****Link / inline**** mode: editor content not empty?
5. Clear browser and Moodle caches.

“ZSK: ...” missing from the front page picker

- Run the plugin upgrade again.
- Check that at least one element exists under ****Manage site home elements****.
- Check whether another ZSK plugin overrides front page settings (should be aligned with current `local\_zsk\_local\_tiles` versions).

Redirect loop (`ERR\_TOO\_MANY\_REDIRECTS` on `admin/upgradesettings.php`)

Occurs when `mdl\_config\_plugins` rows for ZSK plugins are missing.

****Option A – CLI (recommended):****

```
` `` `bash
php local/zsk_frontpage_elements/cli/seed_defaults.php
` `` `
```

****Option B – Browser (no SSH):****

1. Upload `recover\_config.php` from the plugin folder.
2. Set `RECOVERY\_TOKEN` in the file to a random value.
3. Open in browser: `https://your-moodle.site/local/zsk\_frontpage\_elements/recover\_config.php?token=...`
4. ****Delete**** the file from the server afterwards.

****Option C – Database:****

See [recover_via_database.sql](../recover_via_database.sql) (adjust table prefix).

Then clear browser cookies for the site and reload the site home.

Element deleted but slot remains in config

Deleting an element removes its slot from `frontpage` and `frontpageloggedin` automatically. If an entry remains, remove it manually in front page settings.

Post-installation checklist

- [] Upgrade completed without errors
- [] ****Enable plugin**** = Yes
- [] At least one test element created
- [] Element selected and positioned in ****Front page items when logged in****
- [] Site home checked while logged in (inline, link, file modes)
- [] Optional: same check for guests (****Front page items when logged out****)

Further documentation

- [Teacher guide]([TEACHER_GUIDE.md](#))
- [Student guide]([STUDENT_GUIDE.md](#))
- [German version]([../de/INSTALLATION_ADMIN.md](#))

Version: ZSK custom site home elements 1.4.4