

P4J - DB Manager

User manual

Version 1.1.1 · October 2026 · Joomla 5 and 6

> Browse, edit, insert, delete and export the records of your Joomla database and run SQL queries, directly from the administrator. Reserved to Super Users, with an activity log of every change.

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1 Overview

P4J - DB Manager is a Joomla administrator component that gives Super Users a complete view of the site database: you can browse every table, change single values, add and delete rows, export data, look at table structure and relationships, and run your own SQL queries.

Every change made through the component is written to an **activity log**, so you always know who changed what and when.

> **Warning:** DB Manager works directly on the database, without the checks that Joomla applies when you edit content from its own screens. Always take a backup of the site before making changes, and work on a staging copy whenever possible.

2 Requirements

Joomla	5.0 or later, Joomla 6
PHP	8.1 or later
Database	MySQL or MariaDB (the database Joomla is installed on)
User	Super User account
Browser	Any up-to-date browser (Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Safari)

3 Installation and updates

DB Manager is installed like any other Joomla extension.

1. **Download the package**
   Sign in to the Plus4J download area (plus4j.com/area-download) and download `com_dbmanager_v1.1.1.zip`. Do not unzip it.
2. **Open the installer**
   In the Joomla administrator go to *System* → *Install* → *Extensions*.
3. **Upload the package**
   In the *Upload Package File* tab, drag the ZIP file into the box or click *Or browse for file*. Joomla confirms the installation with a green message.

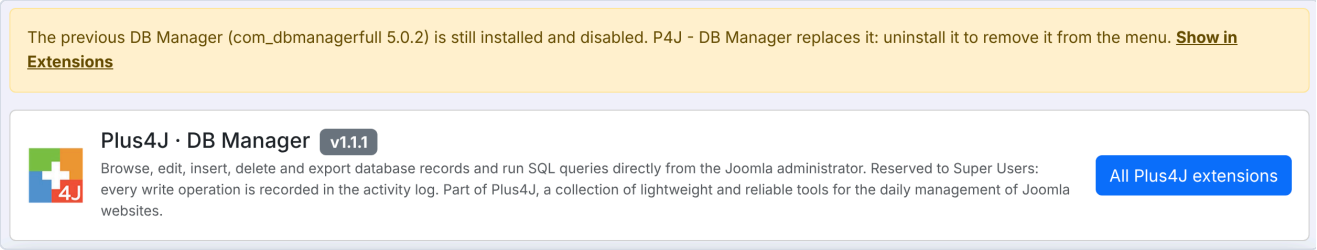
4 **Open the component**
Go to *Components → P4J - DB Manager*. All Plus4J products start with "P4J - ", so they appear next to each other in the menu.

Updating

To update, install the new package over the existing one, exactly as above: there is no need to uninstall first, and the activity log is kept. Version 1.1.1 installs directly over 1.0.0 and 1.1.0.

Replacing the previous DB Manager

If the site still has the previous **DB Manager** (also called DB Manager Full, version 5.x), P4J - DB Manager replaces it. During installation the old component is **disabled**, not removed, and Joomla shows a message about it. As long as it is installed, a yellow notice at the top of the P4J - DB Manager page reminds you to uninstall it: *Show in Extensions* opens it directly in the list of extensions, where you can select it and press *Uninstall*.



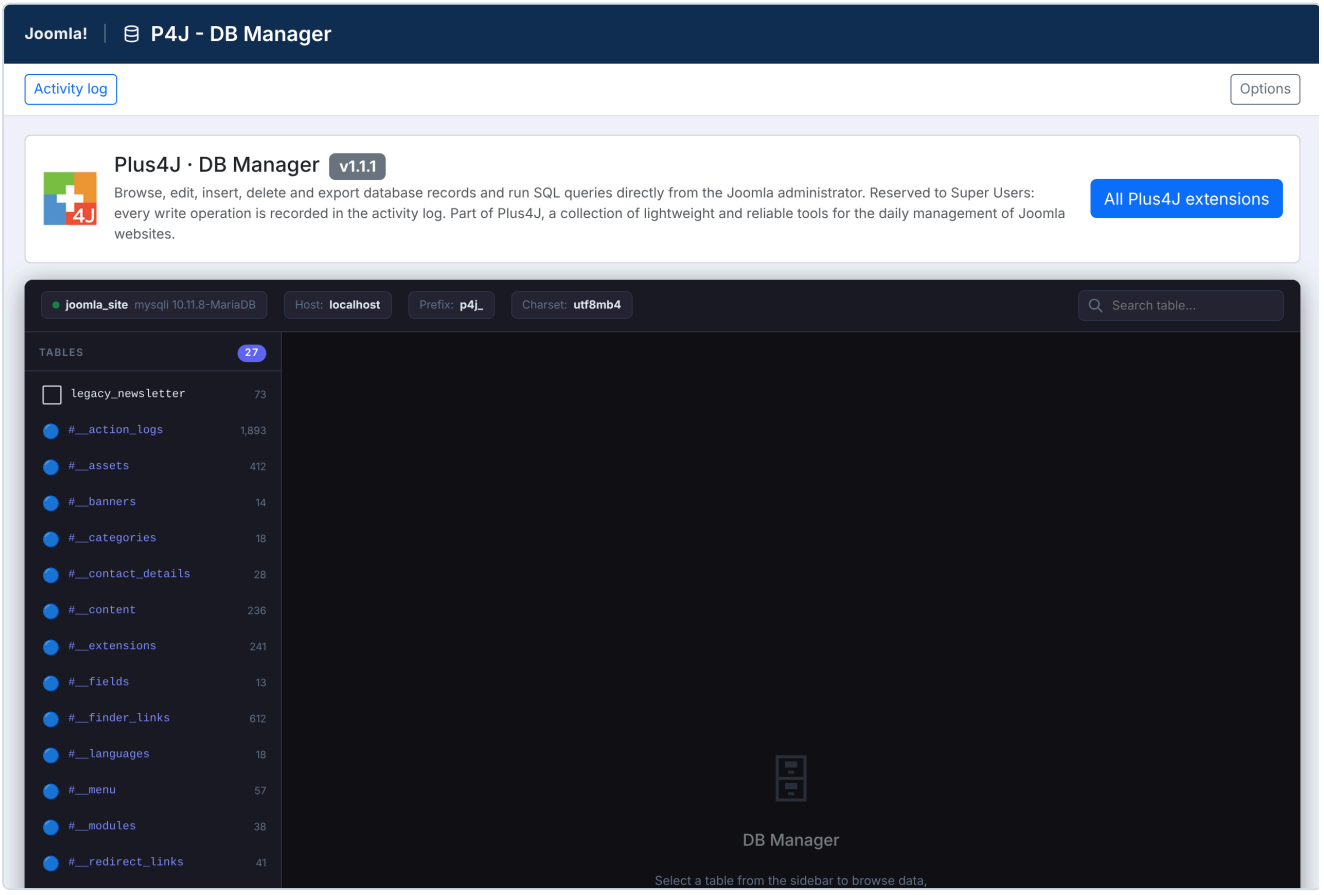
The notice shown while the previous DB Manager is still installed

The old version could also be opened by Administrators who are not Super Users, so it is best to uninstall it as soon as possible. Your data is not affected: only the old component is removed.

When a new version is available, Joomla shows it on the control panel and in *System → Update → Extensions*. Updates are not installed automatically: if you press *Update*, Joomla displays a message with a link to the Plus4J download area, where you can download the new package with your account and install it as described above.

> **Note:** The component is visible only to Super Users. Administrators and other back-end users do not see it in the menu and cannot open it, even with a direct link.

4 The main screen

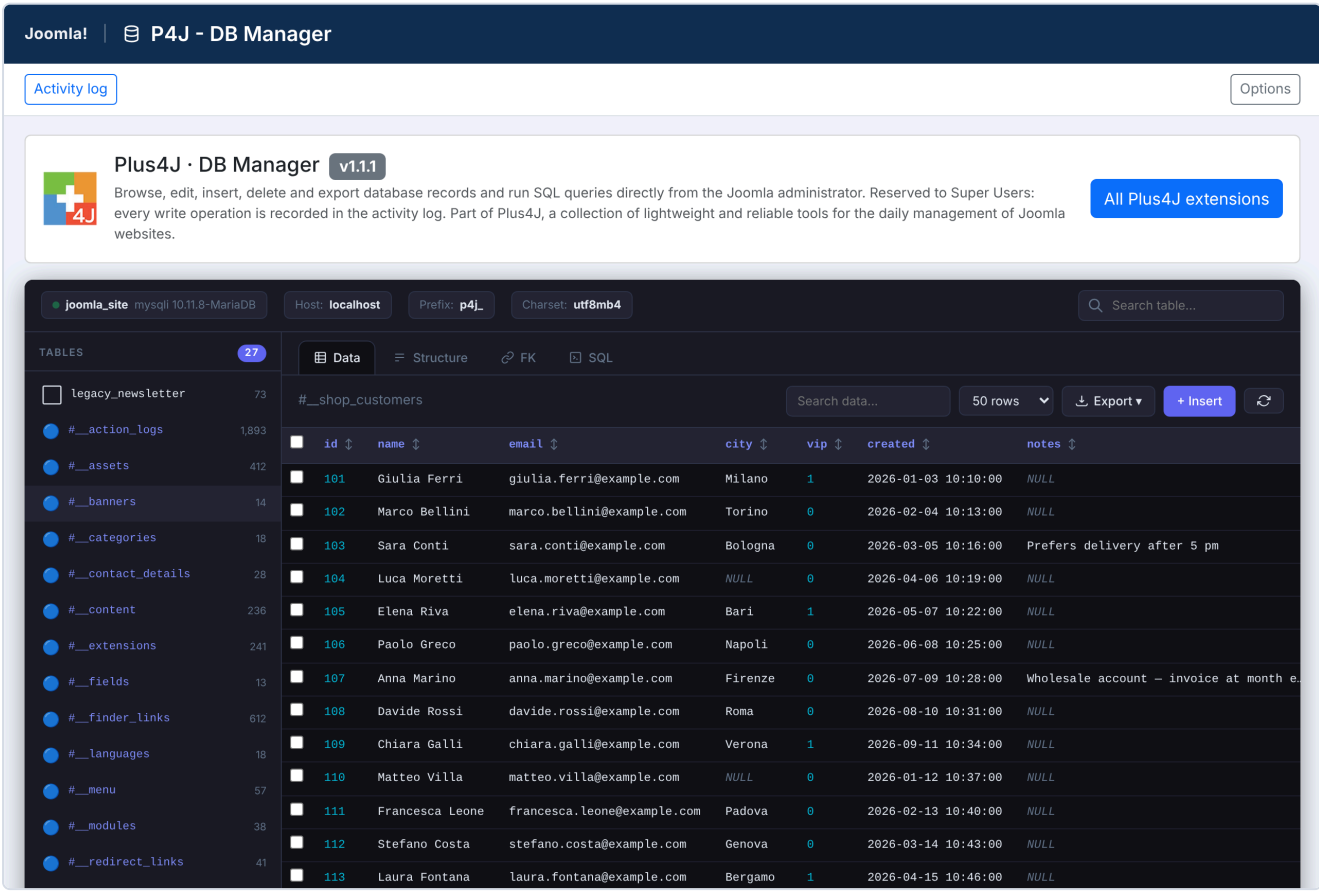


The main screen of P4J - DB Manager

At the top of the page the **Plus4J box** shows the installed version and a link to the other Plus4J extensions. Below it is the working area:

Top bar	Database name and server version, host, table prefix and character set. On the right, the *Search table...* field filters the list of tables as you type.
Tables	All tables of the database with an approximate number of rows. Joomla tables are shown with the short prefix `#__` and a blue dot; tables of other applications are shown with their full name.
Work area	Select a table to open it. Four tabs are available: *Data*, *Structure*, *FK* (foreign keys) and *SQL*.
Activity log	The toolbar button opens the list of changes made with DB Manager (see chapter 13).

5 Browsing data



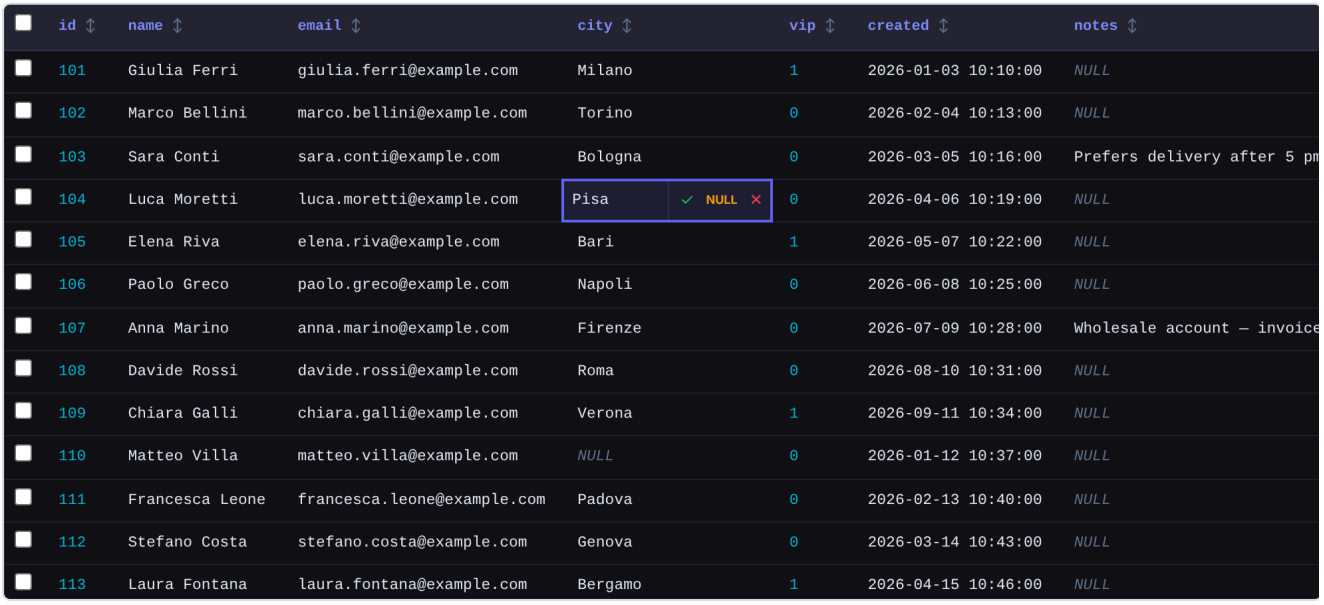
The Data tab: records of the selected table

The *Data* tab shows the records of the table, page by page.

- **Rows per page**: choose 25, 50, 100, 250 or 500 rows with the selector in the toolbar. The buttons at the bottom move between pages; you can also type a page number in the box on the right.
- **Search**: type in *Search data…* to show only the rows that contain the text in any column. Clear the field to see all rows again.
- **Sorting**: click a column heading to sort by that column; click again to reverse the order.
- **Refresh**: the round-arrow button reloads the current page.

Empty values are shown as *NULL* in grey italics and numbers in light blue. Long texts are shortened: point at the cell to read the whole value.

6 Changing a value



id	name	email	city	vip	created	notes
101	Giulia Ferri	giulia.ferri@example.com	Milano	1	2026-01-03 10:10:00	NULL
102	Marco Bellini	marco.bellini@example.com	Torino	0	2026-02-04 10:13:00	NULL
103	Sara Conti	sara.conti@example.com	Bologna	0	2026-03-05 10:16:00	Prefers delivery after 5 pm
104	Luca Moretti	luca.moretti@example.com	Pisa ✓ NULL ✕	0	2026-04-06 10:19:00	NULL
105	Elena Riva	elena.riva@example.com	Bari	1	2026-05-07 10:22:00	NULL
106	Paolo Greco	paolo.greco@example.com	Napoli	0	2026-06-08 10:25:00	NULL
107	Anna Marino	anna.marino@example.com	Firenze	0	2026-07-09 10:28:00	Wholesale account — invoice
108	Davide Rossi	davide.rossi@example.com	Roma	0	2026-08-10 10:31:00	NULL
109	Chiara Galli	chiara.galli@example.com	Verona	1	2026-09-11 10:34:00	NULL
110	Matteo Villa	matteo.villa@example.com	NULL	0	2026-01-12 10:37:00	NULL
111	Francesca Leone	francesca.leone@example.com	Padova	0	2026-02-13 10:40:00	NULL
112	Stefano Costa	stefano.costa@example.com	Genova	0	2026-03-14 10:43:00	NULL
113	Laura Fontana	laura.fontana@example.com	Bergamo	1	2026-04-15 10:46:00	NULL

Editing a single cell

1. **Click the cell**
   The cell becomes an input field with the current value selected.

2. **Type the new value**
   Press `Enter` or the green ✓ to save. The value is written to the database at once and a ✓ briefly confirms it.

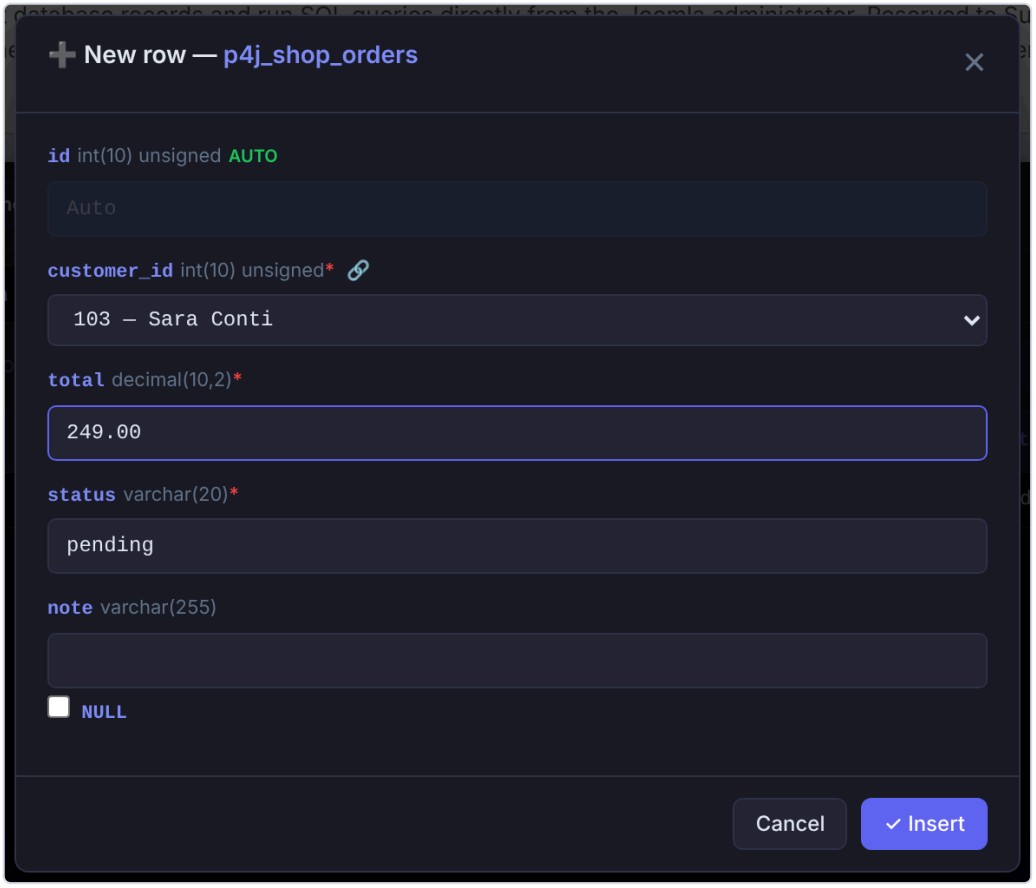
3. **Empty value**
   Press *NULL* to save an empty (NULL) value, if the column allows it.

4. **Cancel**
   Press `Esc`, the red ✕ or click elsewhere to leave the cell unchanged.

With `Tab` you save and move to the same column of the next row, which is handy to correct a series of values.

> **Note:** Values can be changed, added and deleted only in tables that have a primary key. In other tables the data is shown read-only: there are no check boxes and no Insert button.

7 Adding a row



The New row form, with a list for a linked column

1. **Press “+ Insert”**
   The form shows one field for each column, with its type.

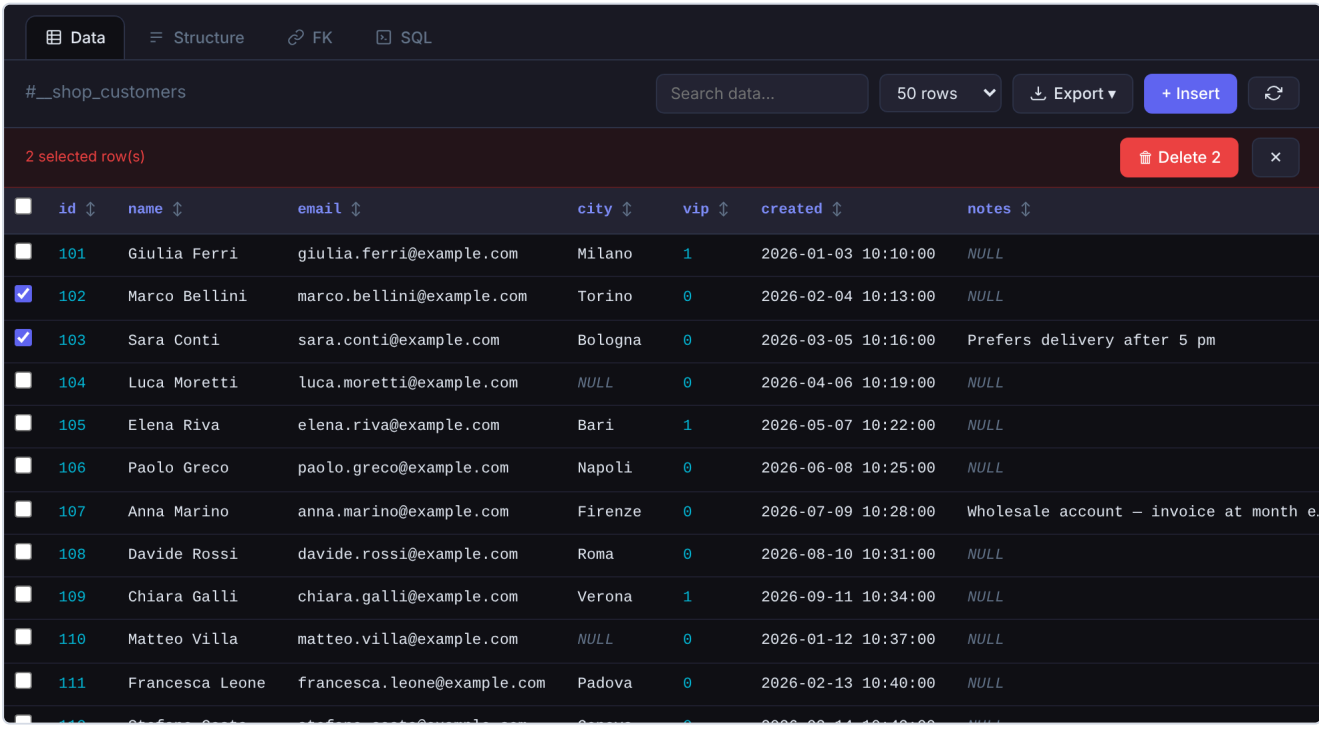
2. **Fill in the fields**
   Fields marked with a red * are required. The automatic number (*AUTO*) is assigned by the database. Default values are already filled in.

3. **Linked columns**
   Columns linked to another table (🔗) offer a list of the available values, with a readable label when possible.

4. **Empty values**
   Tick *NULL* under a field to save it empty.

5. **Press “Insert”**
   The row is saved and the table moves to the last page, where the new row appears.

8 Deleting rows



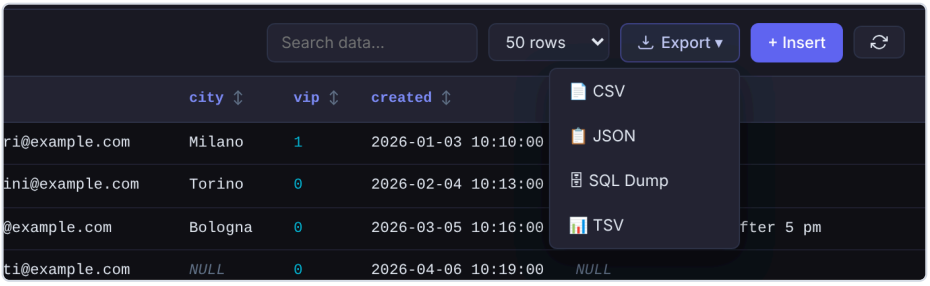
Two rows selected for deletion

1. **Select the rows**
   Tick the boxes on the left. The box in the heading selects all the rows of the page.

2. **Press “Delete”**
   A red bar shows how many rows are selected. Press *Delete* and confirm. The ✕ button clears the selection.

> **Warning:** Deletion is permanent and cannot be undone. Before deleting, check in the FK tab whether other tables depend on these rows.

9 Exporting data



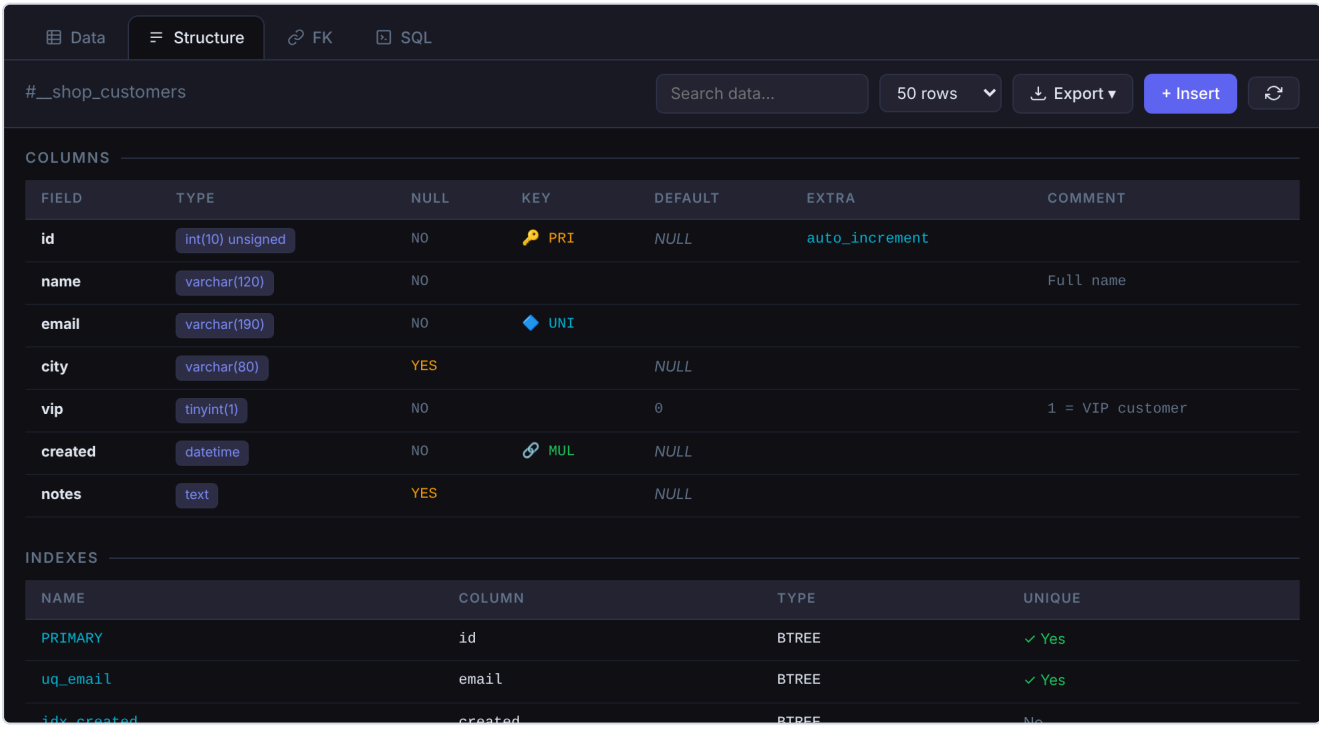
Export formats

The *Export* button saves the data of the table to a file on your computer:

CSV	Values separated by commas, for Excel, LibreOffice and other spreadsheets.
JSON	Structured format for other applications.
SQL Dump	Commands to recreate the table and its rows in another MySQL/MariaDB database.
TSV	Values separated by tabs, useful when the data contains commas.

- If some rows are **selected**, only those rows are exported.
- Otherwise the whole table is exported, taking into account any active **search**.
- Each export contains at most **50,000 rows**. For larger tables use a search to export in parts, or a full backup tool.

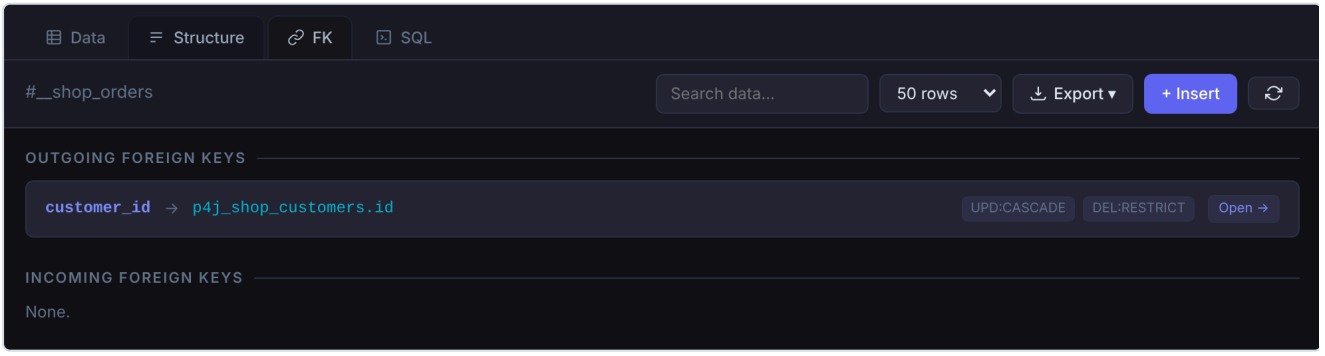
10 Table structure



The Structure tab

The *Structure* tab describes the selected table: its **columns** (type, empty values allowed, keys, default value, comments), its **indexes** and the complete **CREATE TABLE** statement, which you can copy to recreate the table elsewhere. This tab is read-only.

11 Foreign keys



The FK tab of a table linked to another

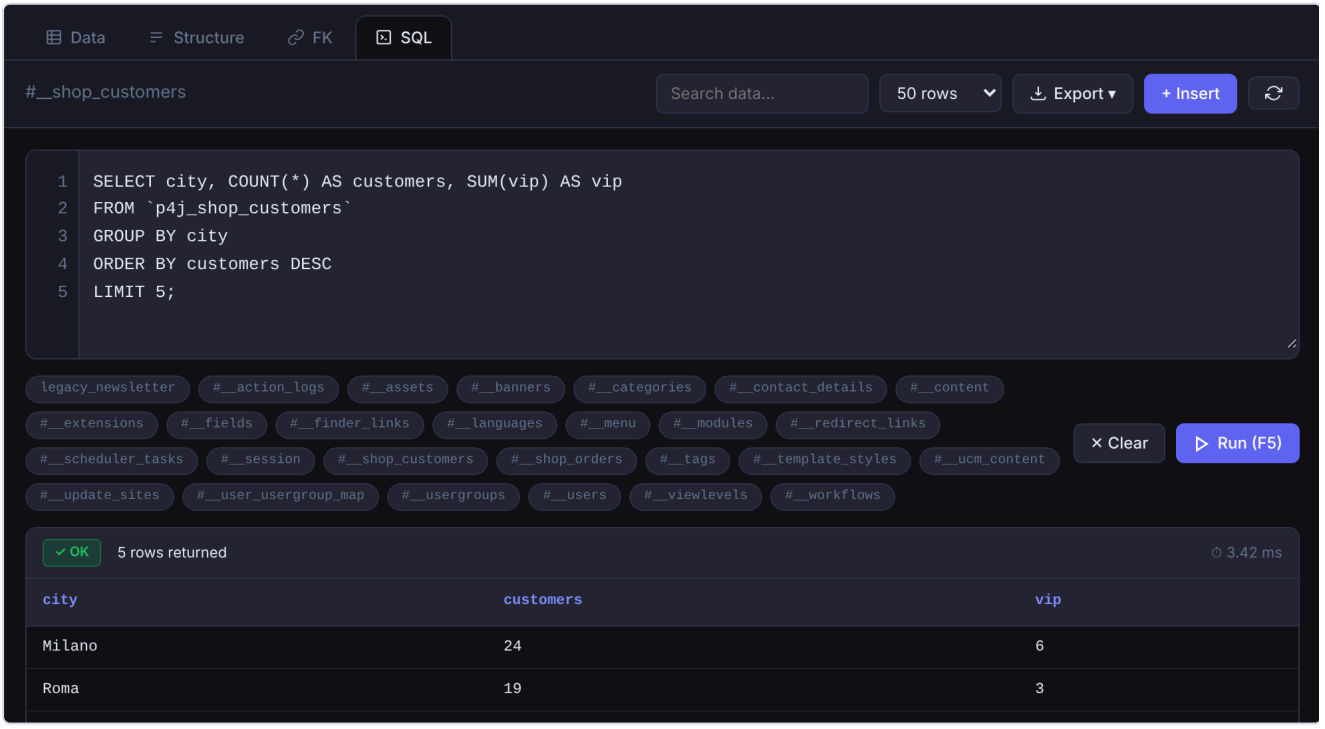
The *FK* tab shows how the table is linked to the others:

- **Outgoing foreign keys**: columns of this table that point to another table.
- **Incoming foreign keys**: other tables that point to this one. They are the ones affected if you delete rows here.

For each link you see what happens on update and on delete (for example CASCADE or RESTRICT). *Open* → opens the linked table.

> **Note:** Joomla's own tables do not declare links of this kind, so for them the tab is usually empty. The information is shown only for tables that declare their foreign keys (InnoDB engine).

12 SQL queries



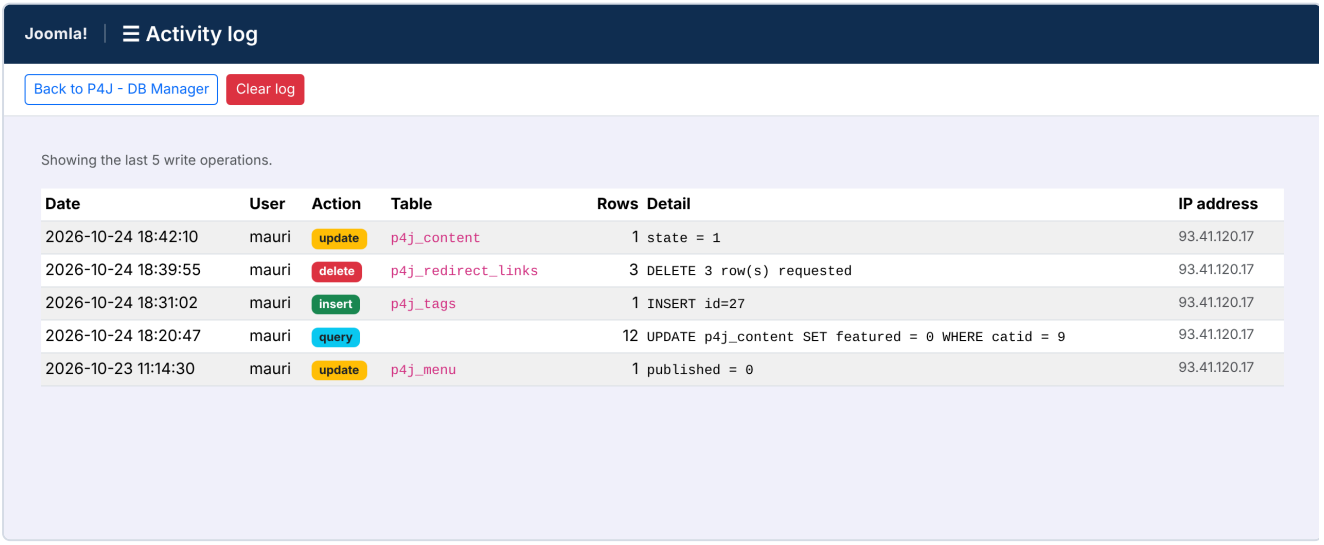
The SQL tab with the result of a query

The *SQL* tab lets you write and run your own queries on the site database.

- When you open a table the editor proposes `SELECT * FROM … LIMIT 100`.
- Click a table name under the editor to insert it where the cursor is.
- Press *Run*, `F5` or `Ctrl`+`Enter` to run the query. *Clear* empties the editor.
- Queries that read data (SELECT, SHOW, DESCRIBE, EXPLAIN) show their result in a table, with the number of rows and the time taken.
- All other queries (UPDATE, INSERT, DELETE, ALTER…) show the number of rows affected and are recorded in the activity log.

> **Warning:** Queries are run exactly as written, with the full permissions of the Joomla database user. A wrong statement can delete or damage data across the whole site. Take a backup first.

13 Activity log



The activity log

Press *Activity log* in the toolbar to see the last 500 changes made with DB Manager, from the most recent. For each one the log shows date and time (in your time zone), user, type of operation, table, number of rows, a short detail and the IP address.

insert	A row added with the New row form.
update	A value changed in the Data tab.
delete	Rows deleted from the Data tab.
query	A SQL query that changed data or structure.

Queries that only read data are not recorded. *Clear log* empties the log permanently; *Back to P4J - DB Manager* returns to the main screen.

14 Troubleshooting

The menu still shows “DB Manager” next to “P4J - DB Manager”.

It is the previous version, disabled during installation. Uninstall it from *System → Manage → Extensions* (see chapter 3).

An Administrator cannot find the component in the menu.

This is intended: DB Manager is reserved to Super Users because it gives access to the whole database, including user accounts.

There are no check boxes and no Insert button, and cells cannot be edited.

The table has no primary key, so a single row cannot be identified safely. The data can still be read and exported.

The FK tab says “None”.

The table does not declare foreign keys. This is normal for Joomla tables and for tables using the MyISAM engine.

The export does not contain all the rows.

Each export is limited to 50,000 rows. Use the search to export the table in several parts.

An operation fails with “Invalid CSRF token”.

The session has expired. Reload the page and repeat the operation.

Joomla shows an error when I press Update.

This is expected: updates are downloaded manually. Follow the link in the message to the Plus4J download area, download the new version and install it from *System → Install → Extensions*.

For help, write to **info@plus4j.com** and include the Joomla and PHP versions and the exact text of any error message. All Plus4J extensions: **plus4j.com/extensions**.