

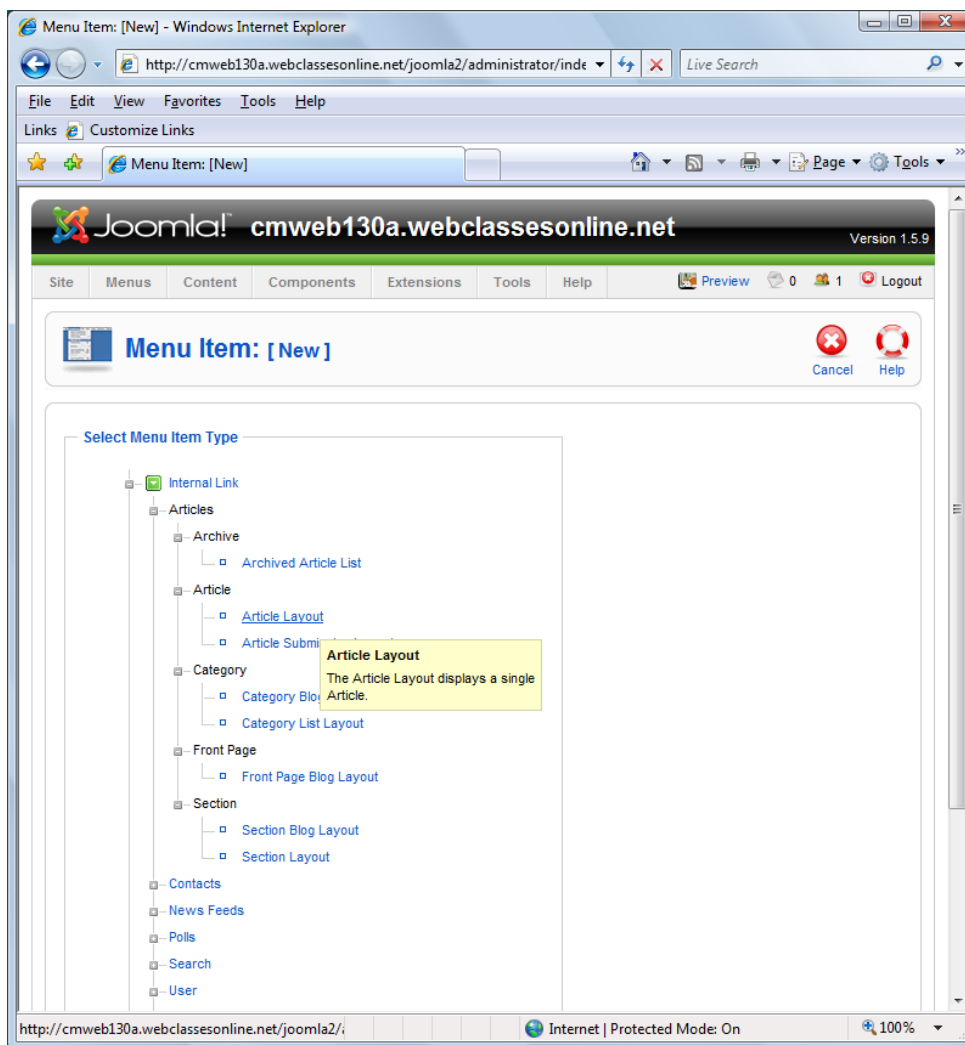
Menus and Navigation in Joomla!

Joomla! is a very flexible in its menu and page design, but careful thought must be given to how content will be entered in order to gain the look and flow that you want.

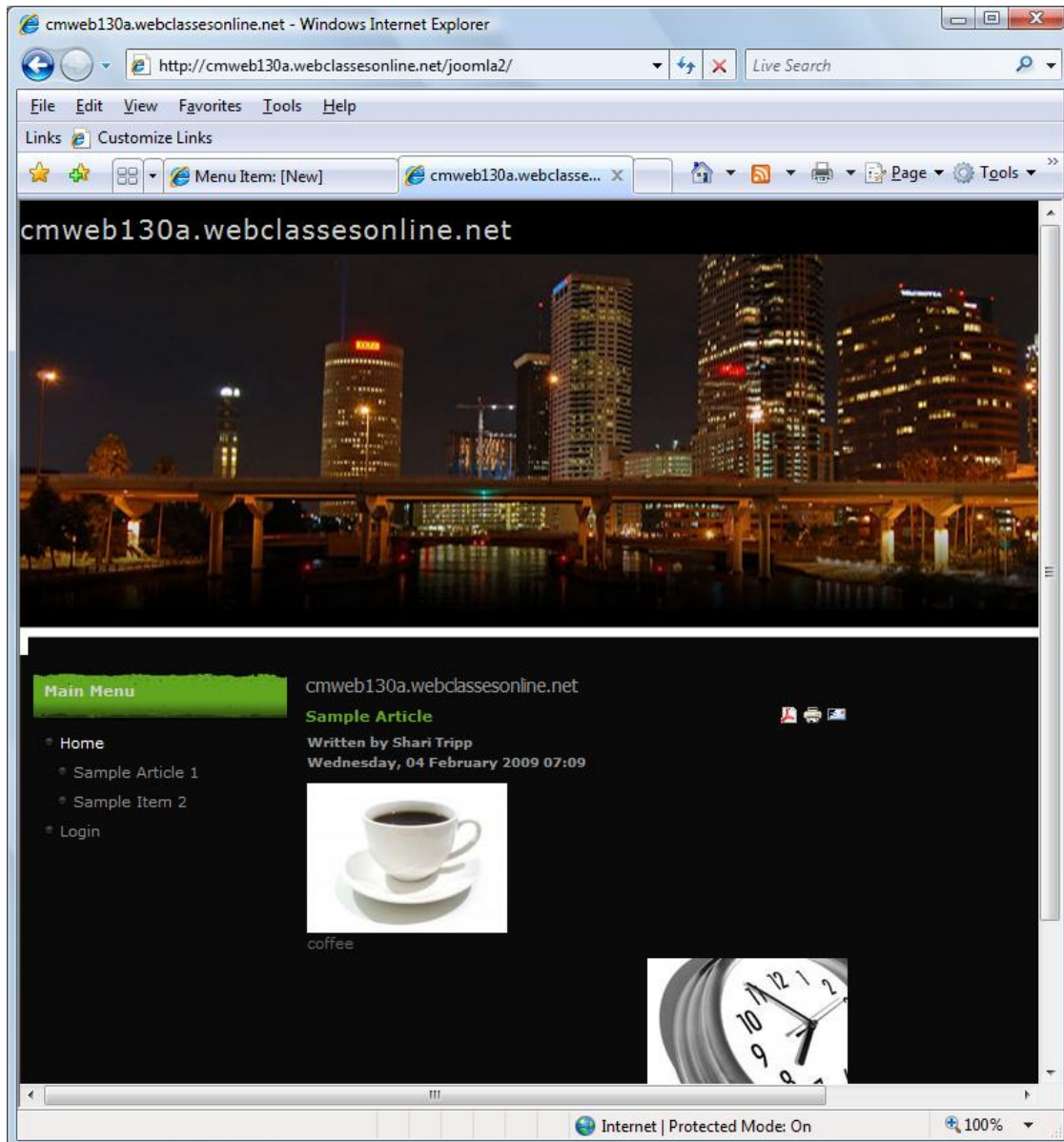
For your lab last week, I told you that you had to use at least 1 section and 1 category, simply because I wanted you to see how those worked. However, in a real life situation, you may choose not to have any sections or categories. If all you have is articles, then you will need to manually create the menus and the links to those articles. The benefit of this extra work is flexibility with your navigation, but it does mean that if you forget to link to an article, it won't be seen unless you publish it to the front page.

Here is an example:

If I choose to create links to my articles on the main menu choosing "Article Layout" (see screenshot)



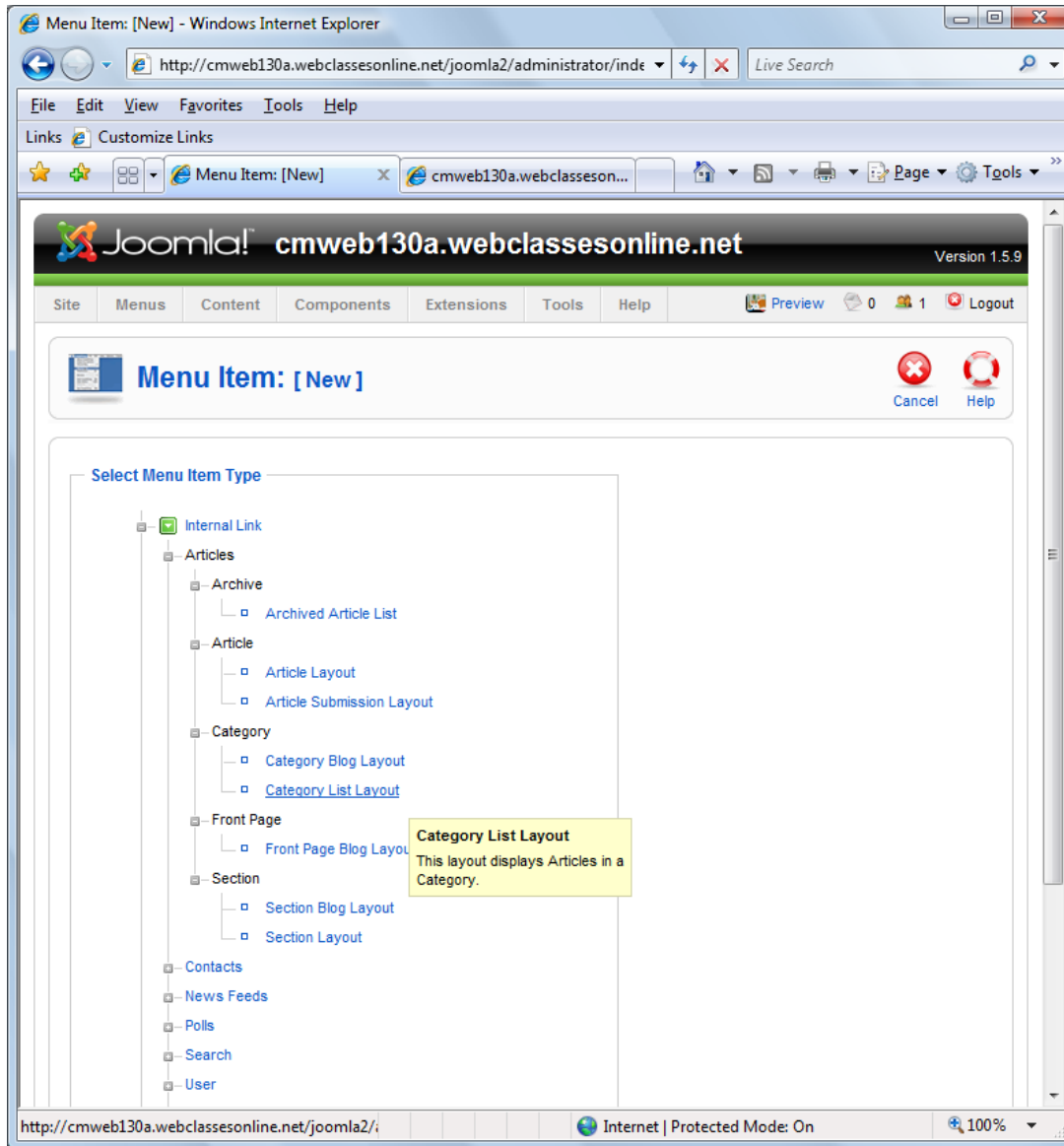
This produces a home page navigation that looks like:



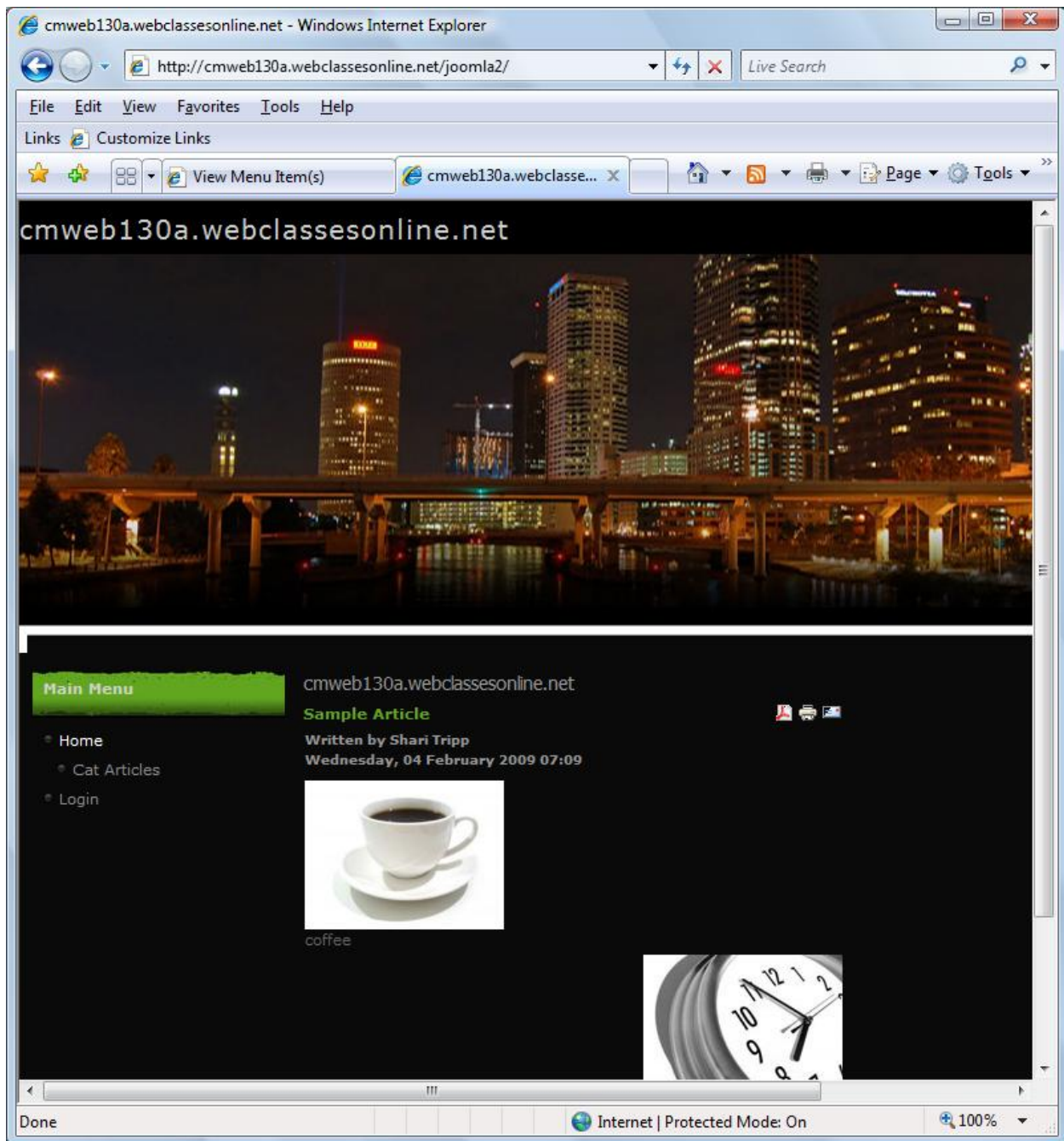
If you use categories, that allows you to have semi-automatic navigation that is one level deep. By that I mean that your category will be listed as a menu item, and when it is clicked on, all the articles in that category will be displayed. Much more automatic than manually entering the links, but it does constrain your site design a bit.

Here is an example:

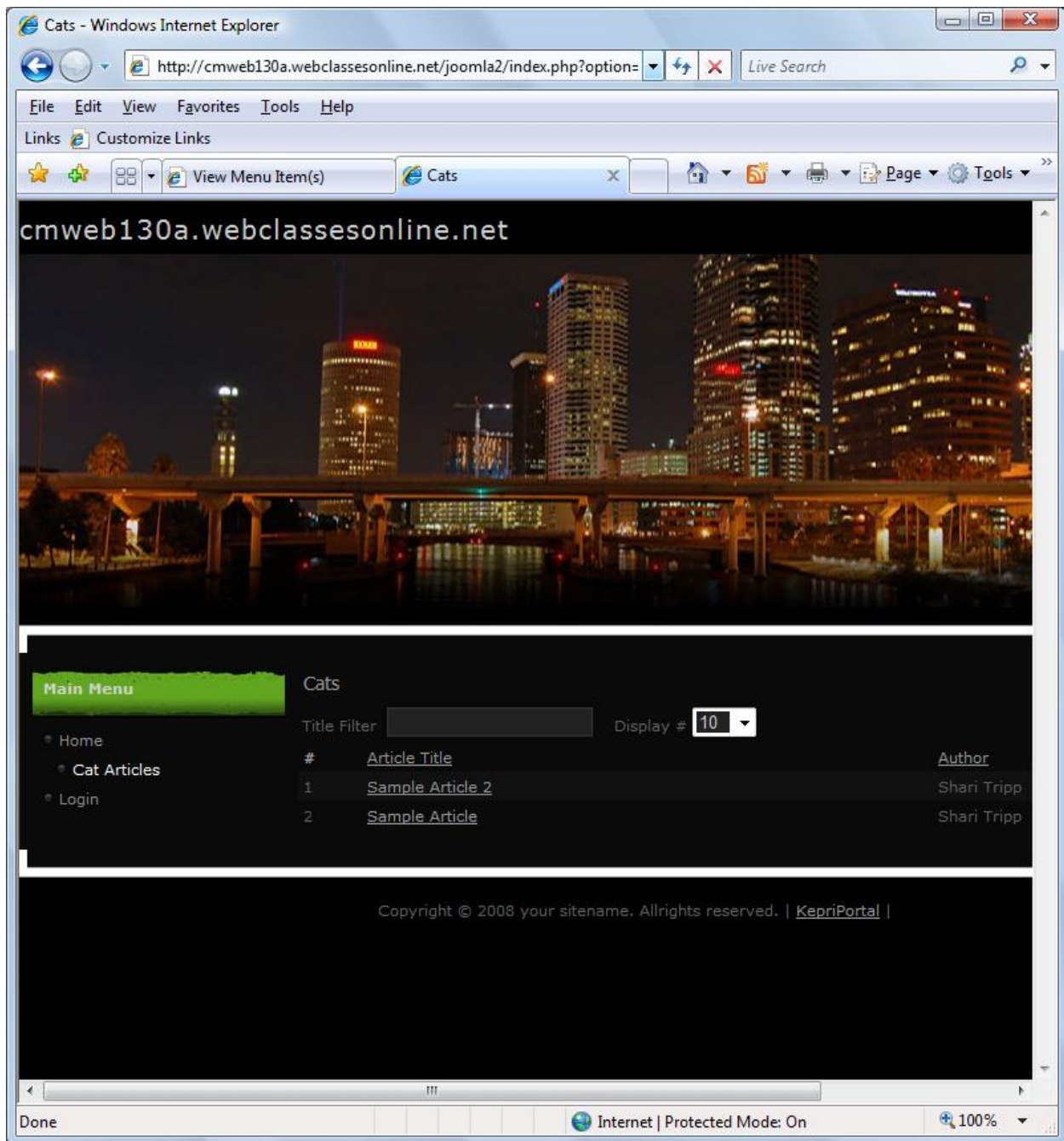
If I choose to create links to my articles on the main menu choosing "Category List Layout" (see screenshot)



This produces a home page that looks like:



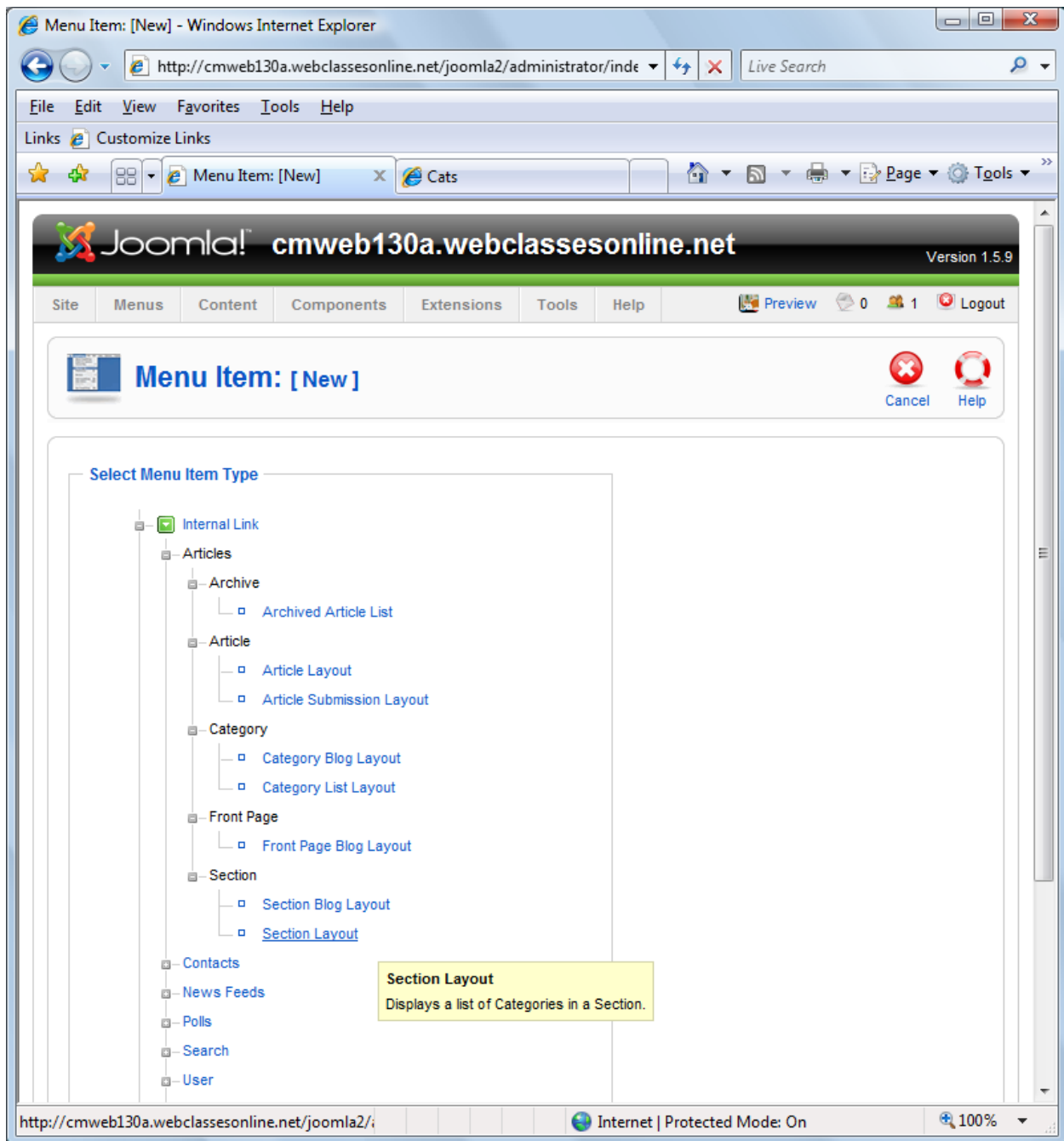
and if I click on my category link "Cat Articles", I will get a page that shows a list of the articles in that category, like this:



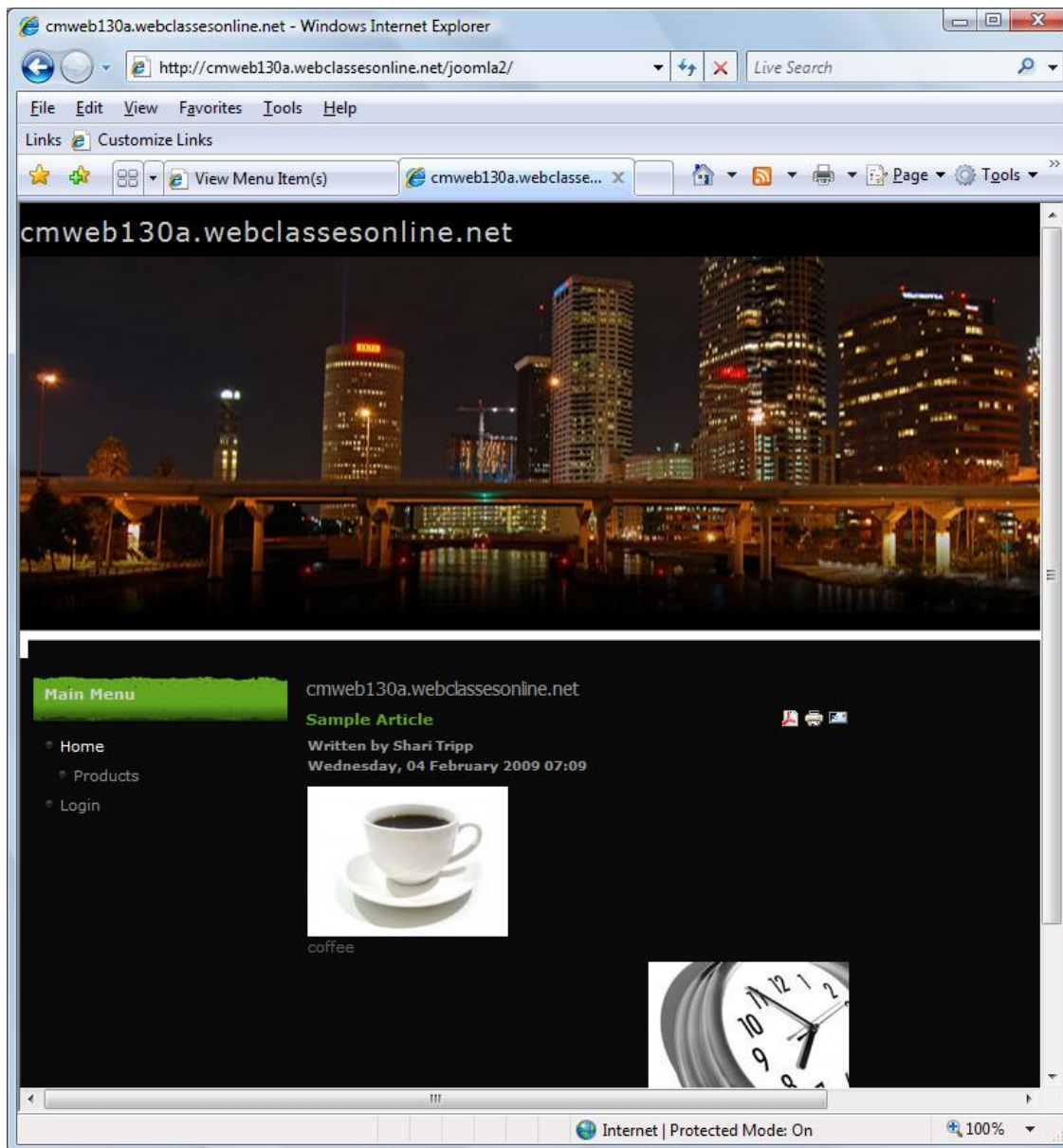
If you use sections and categories, then your navigation will be two levels deep. Click on a section; see all the categories in that section. Then click on the category, and see all the articles in that section.

For example:

If I choose to create links to my articles on the main menu choosing "Section Layout" (see screenshot)



It will produce a home page that looks like:



And then if I click on the section link "Products" it will take me to the following page that lists all the Categories under that section, in this case "Cats":

Products - Windows Internet Explorer


http://cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net/joomla2/index.php?option= Live Search

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Links Customize Links

View Menu Item(s) Products

cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net



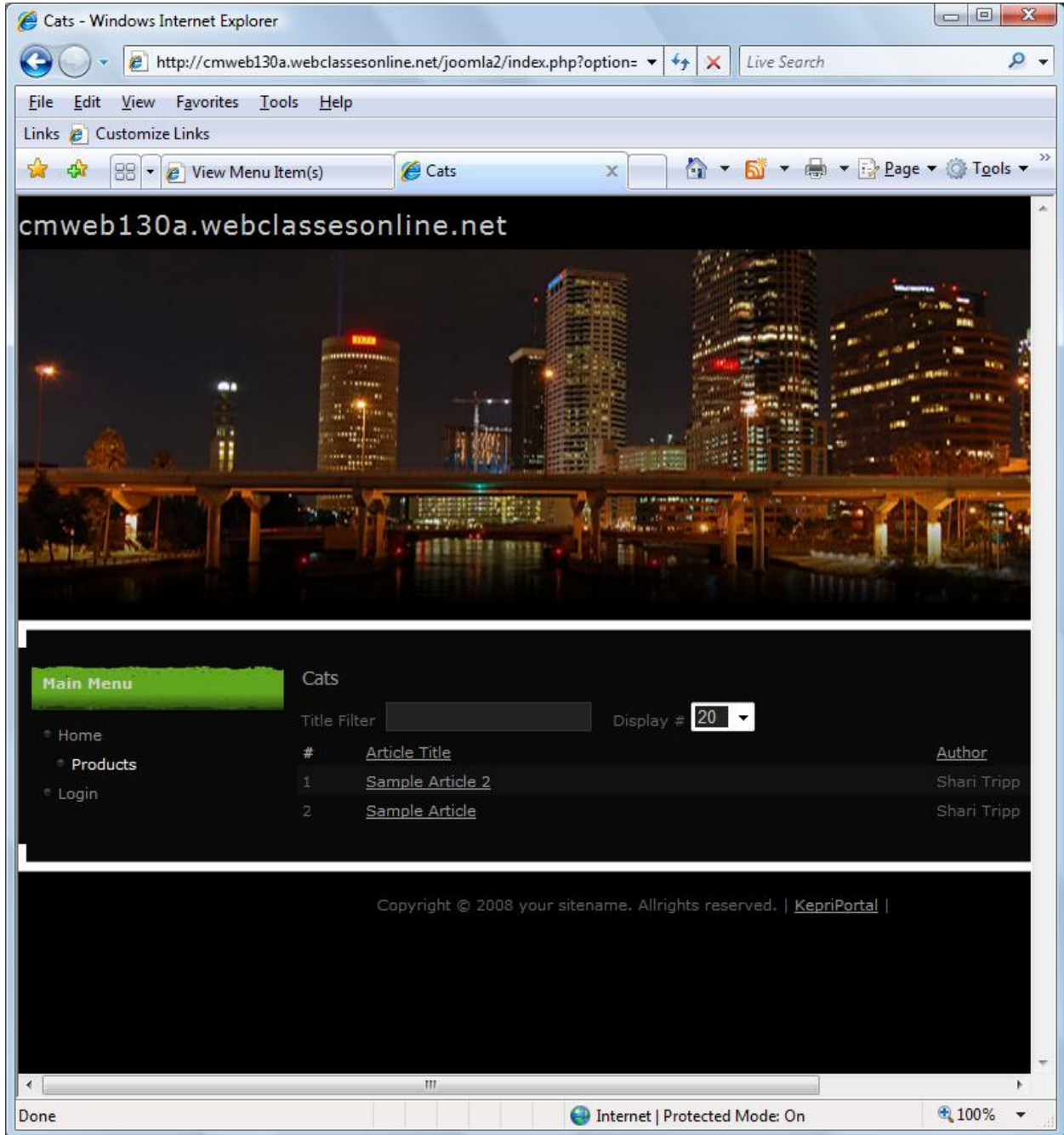
Main Menu

- Products
 - Cats (2 Articles)
- Home
- Products
- Login

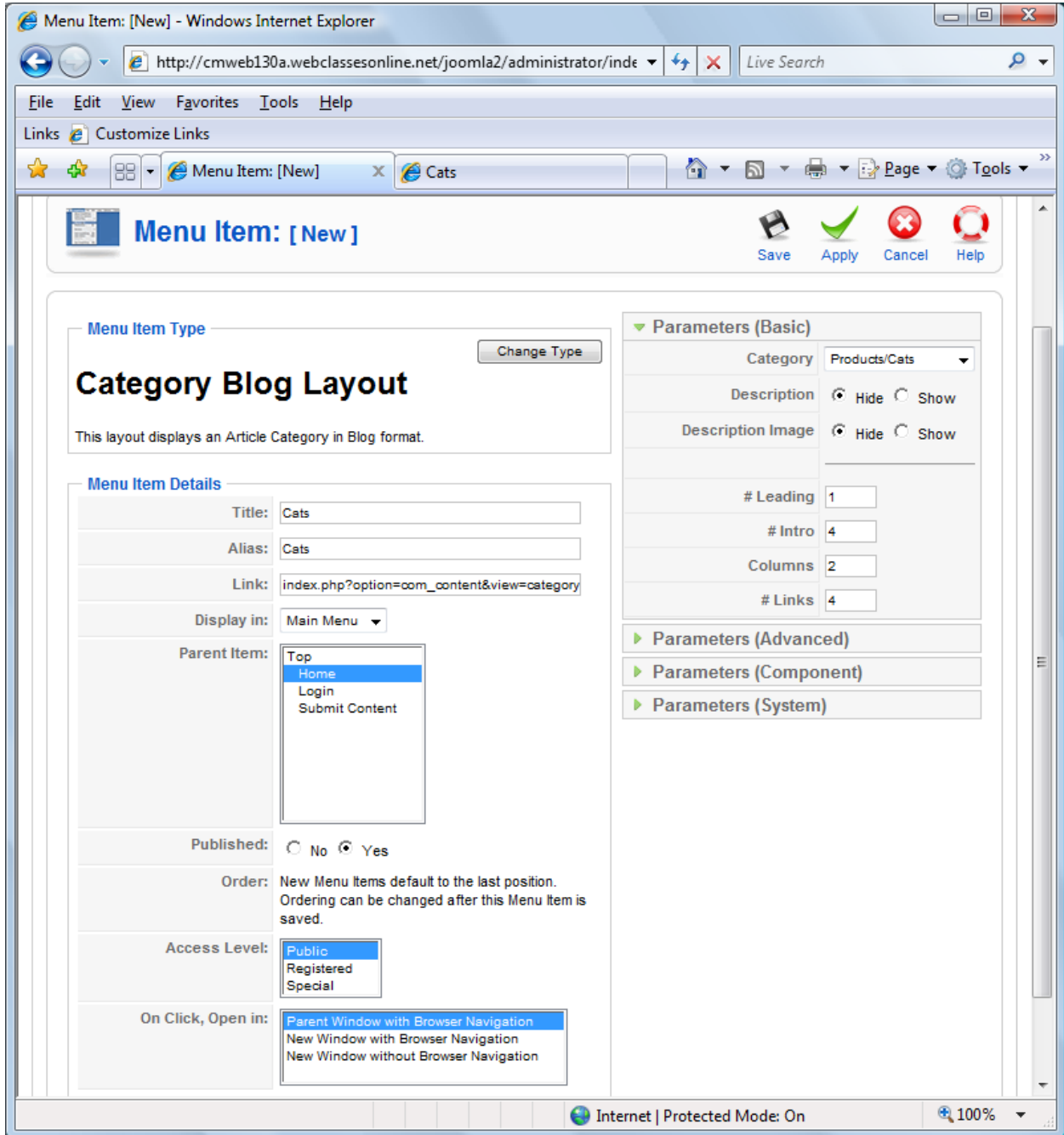
Copyright © 2008 your sitename. Allrights reserved. | [KepriPortal](#) |

http://cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net/joomla2/i Internet | Protected Mode: On 100%

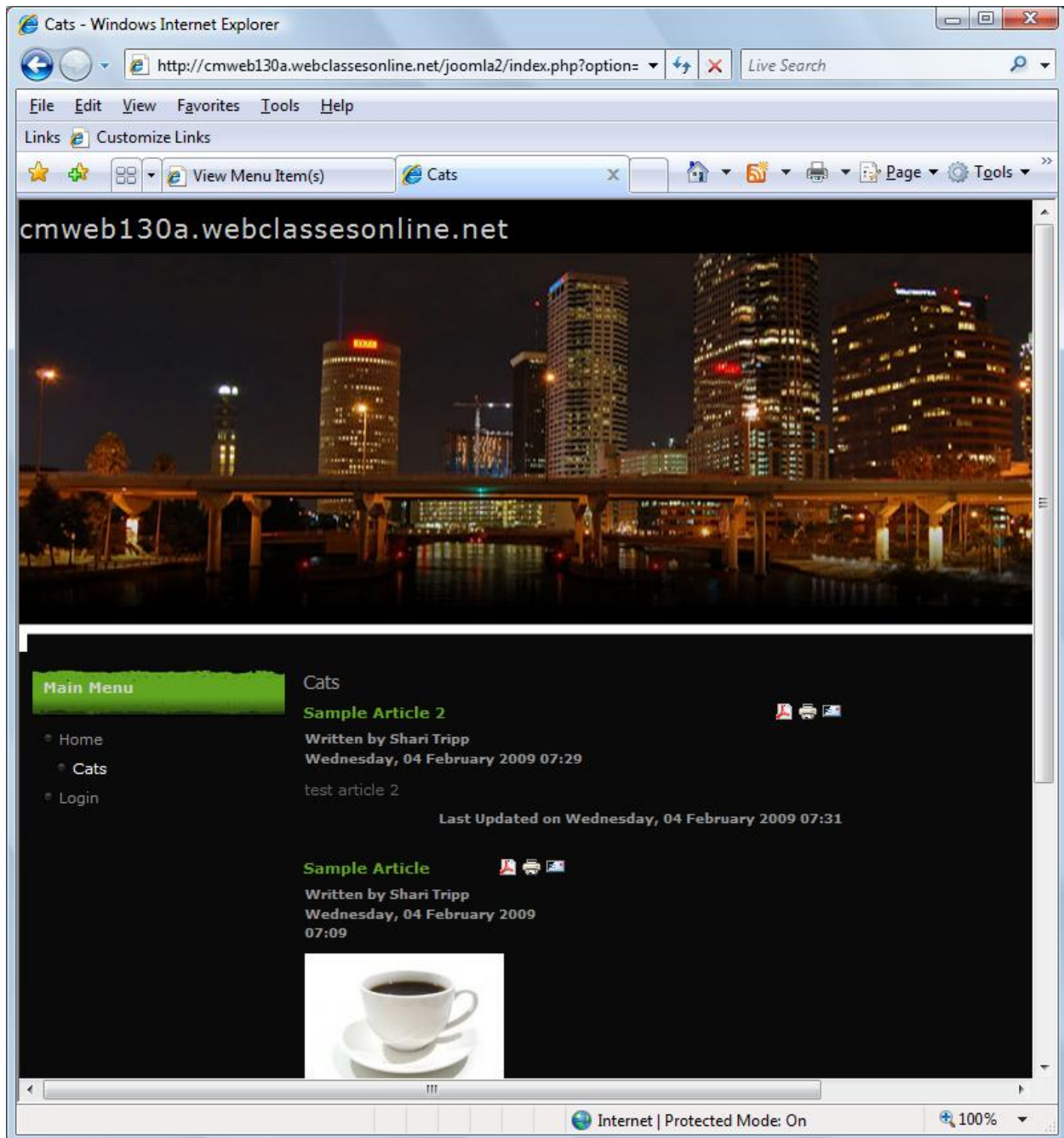
And if I click on the category link "Cats", it will bring me to a page that lists all the articles that have the category "Cats":



You can also choose the blog layout when creating a category or section link. When doing that, you can choose how many columns to display in the Parameters column:



This produces a screen that looks like the following when the category link is clicked; instead of listing links to the articles, it lists the articles themselves:

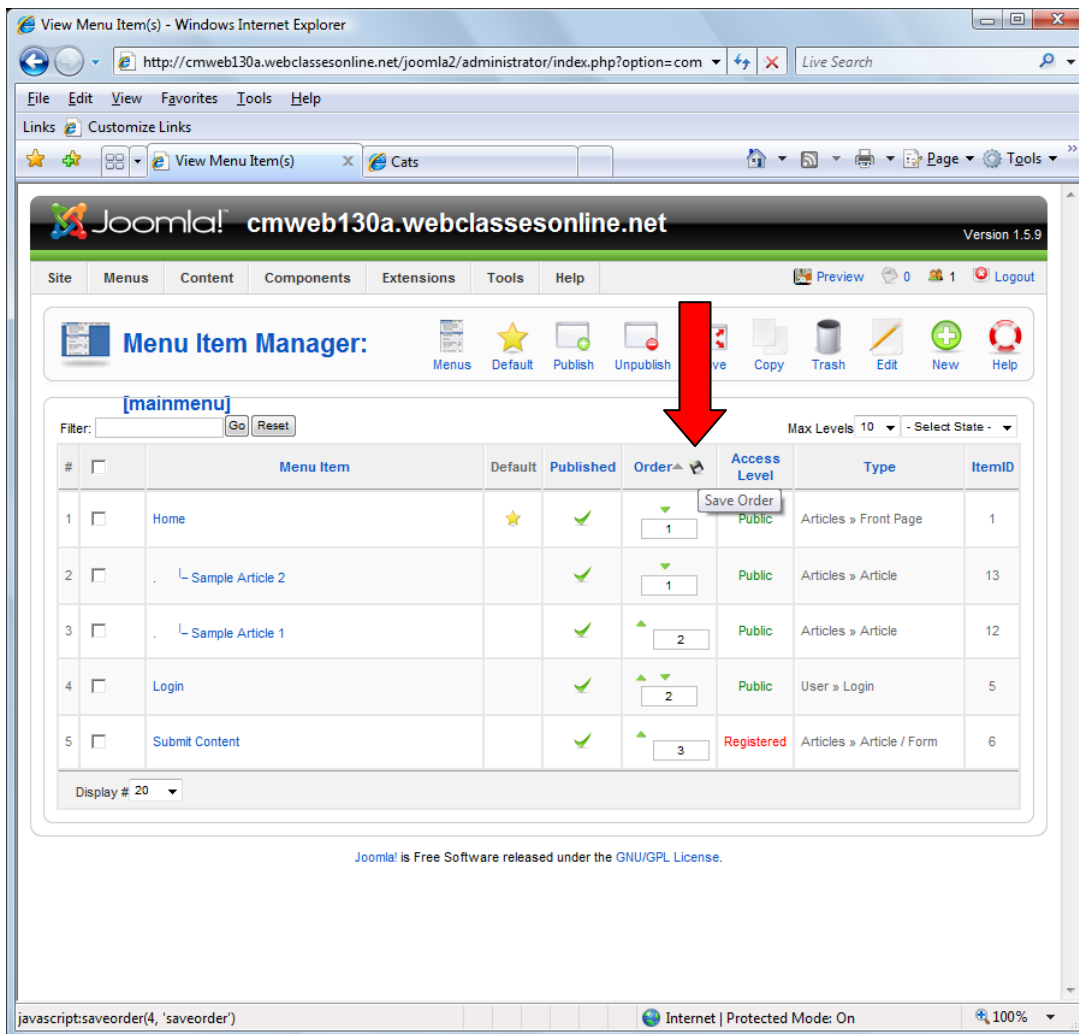


So, whether you just use articles, use categories, or use sections, or a combination of the options, it really depends on the site layout you are trying to accomplish, and how automated you want to be.

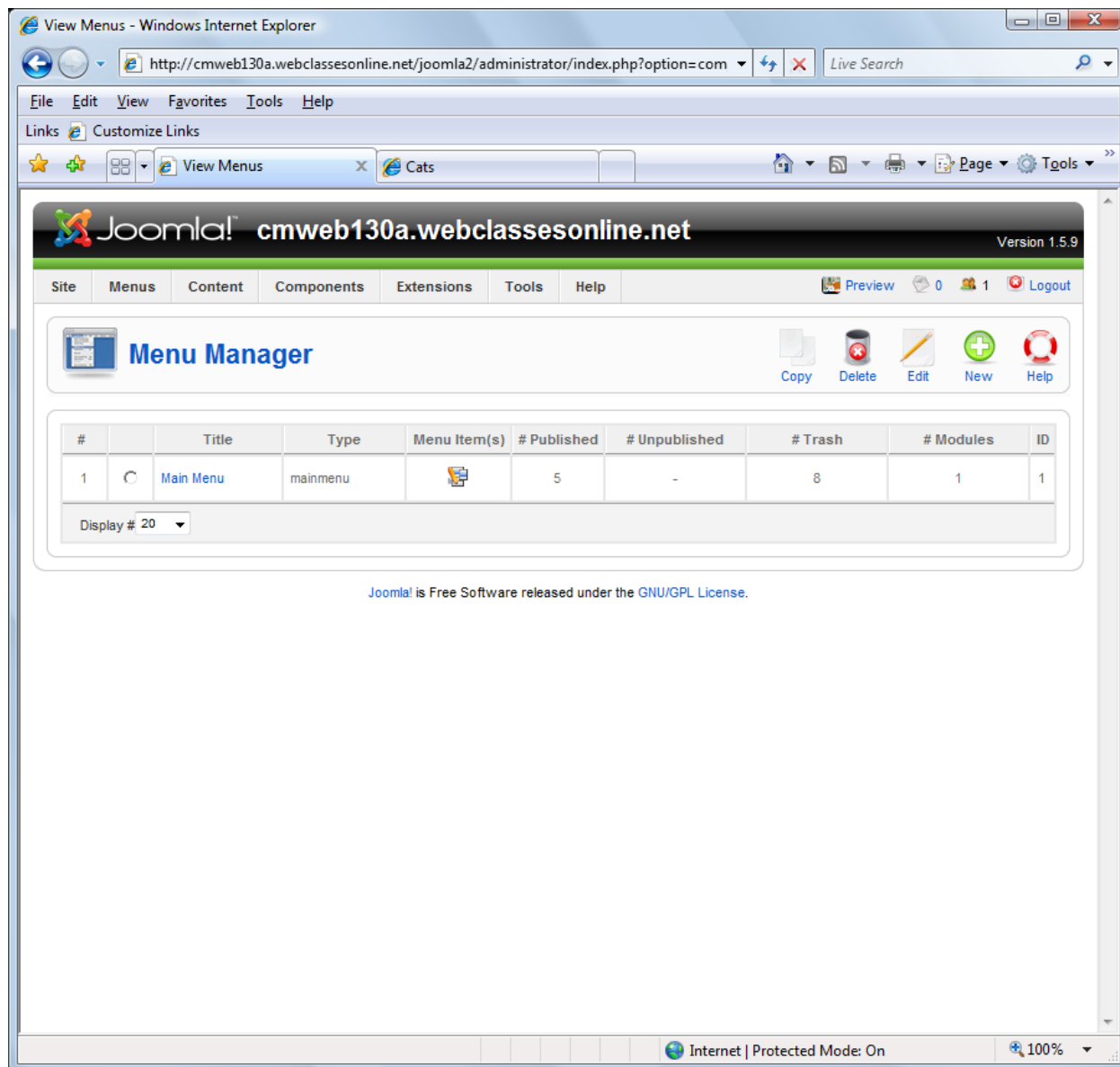
You also have a variety of options within the menus themselves. In addition to changing the order in which the menu items appear, you can create new menus that only appear on certain pages, change the way your links are displayed (vertically or horizontally, and also the appearance to some extent). Of course, you are limited by the template you have chosen, as it works in conjunction with the settings you choose in the menu module, and it may or may not work well with the different settings.

Keep in mind that in order for a section or category to show up, it must have at least one article within it, but that makes sense because without an article, there is no content to display! One would not want to display a menu item that pointed at nothing, so just keep in mind that if you have wanting to see a section or category, they need to have articles within them.

If you want to change the order that the links are listed in on a menu, use the arrows on the menu manager to move the items up and down. **BE SURE TO CLICK THE DISK ITEM NEXT TO "ORDER" TO SAVE THE ORDER, OR IT WILL NOT TAKE EFFECT** (see screenshot)



If you want to create a menu in addition to the main menu, go to menus, then click on menu manager (see screenshot)



Click on New, and fill out the fields as desired. Note that the unique name cannot have spaces, but the others can:

cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net - Administration - Windows Internet Explorer

http://cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net/joomla2/administrator/index.php

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Links Customize Links

cmweb130a.webclasses... X Cats

Joomla! cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net Version 1.5.9

Site Menus Content Components Extensions Tools Help Preview 0 1 Logout

Menu: [New] Save Cancel Help

Unique Name: ⓘ

Title: ⓘ

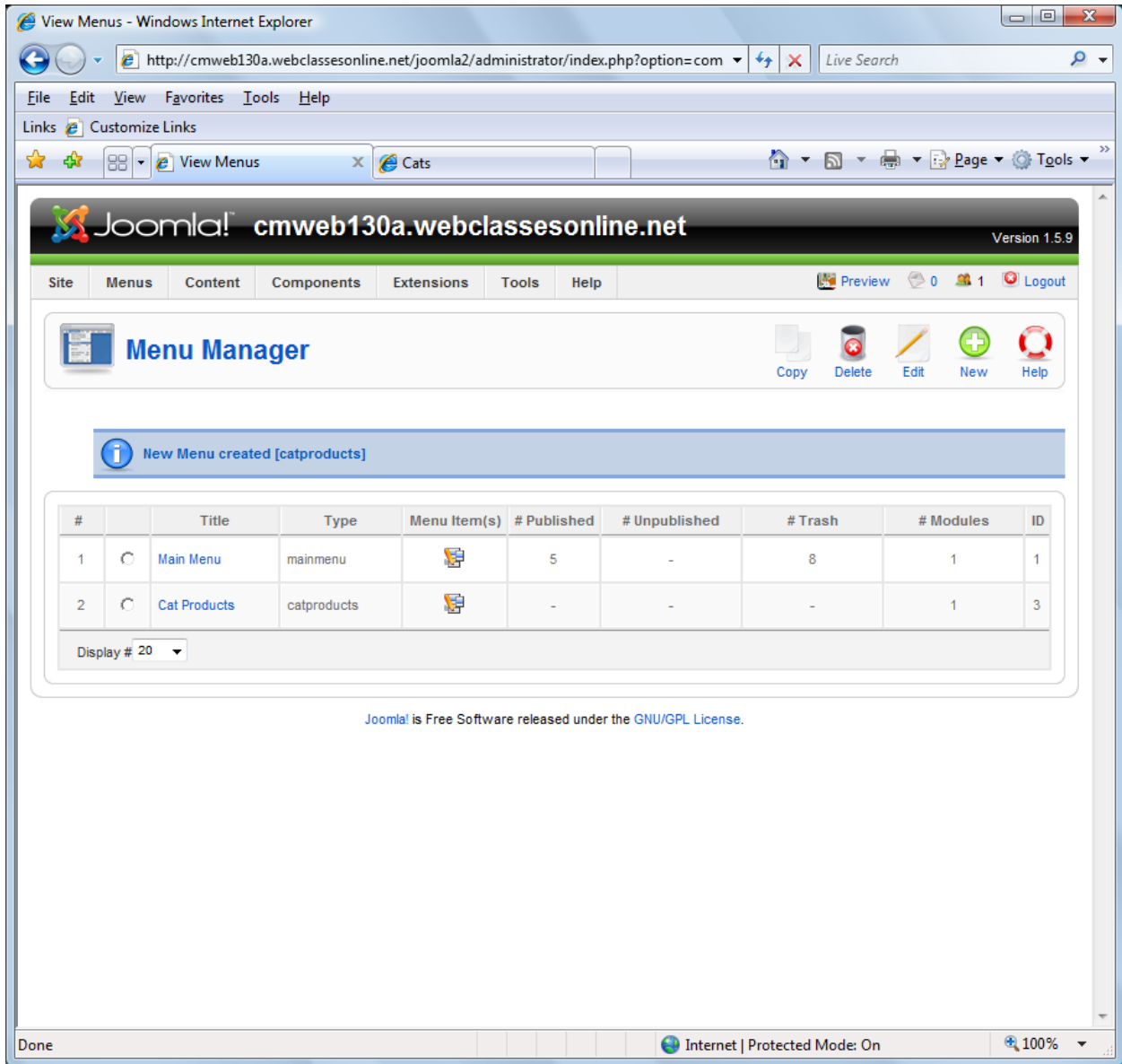
Description: ⓘ

Module Title: ⓘ



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Done Internet | Protected Mode: On 100%

Once you Save it, it will show up in the Menu manager, but it will not yet be active:

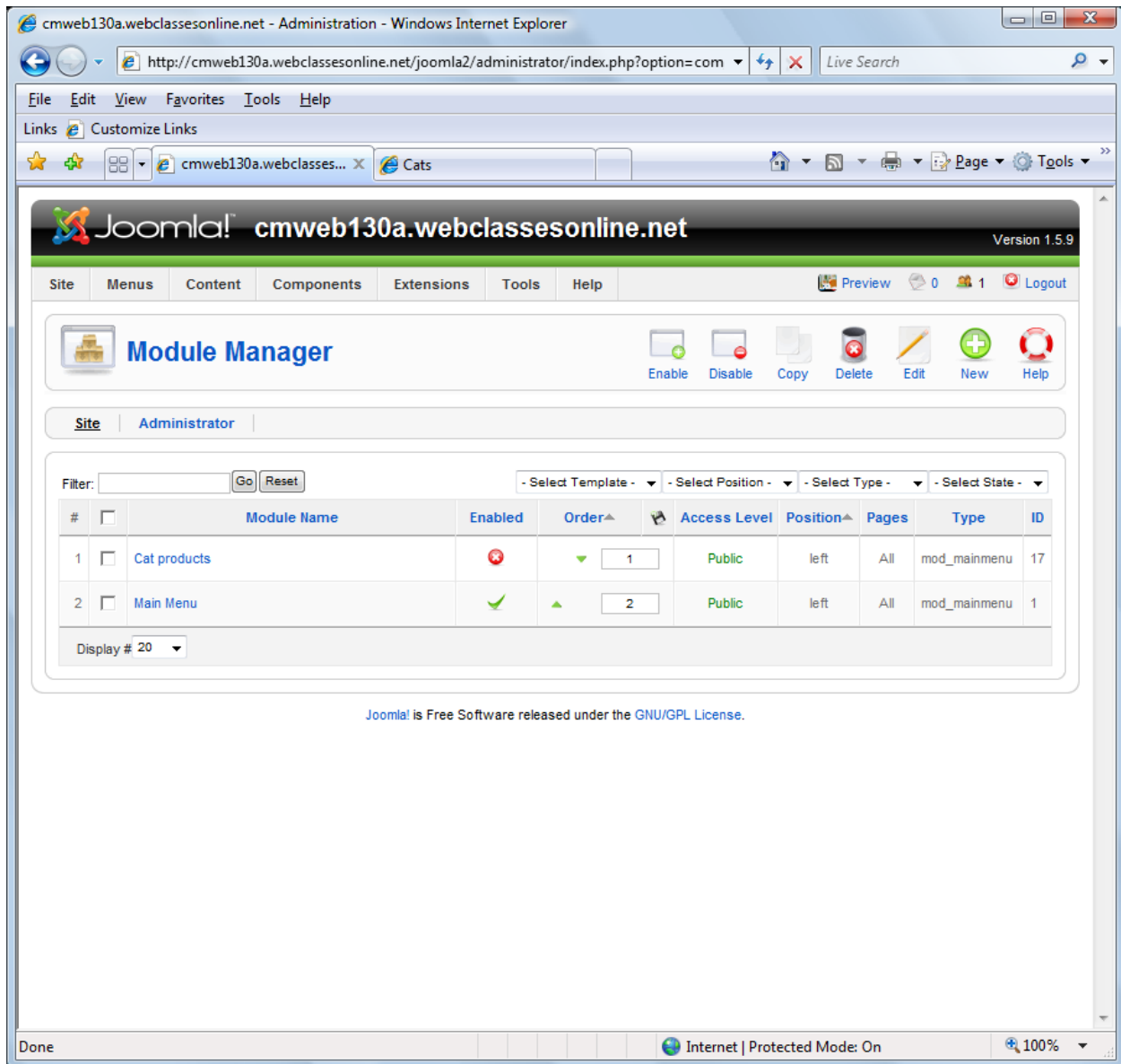


The screenshot shows the Joomla! administrator interface in Internet Explorer. The browser address bar shows the URL: <http://cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net/joomla2/administrator/index.php?option=com>. The Joomla! logo and site name 'cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net' are visible at the top, along with the version number 'Version 1.5.9'. The navigation menu includes 'Site', 'Menus', 'Content', 'Components', 'Extensions', 'Tools', and 'Help'. The 'Menus' section is active, displaying the 'Menu Manager' interface. A notification banner indicates 'New Menu created [catproducts]'. Below the notification is a table listing menu items:

#		Title	Type	Menu Item(s)	# Published	# Unpublished	# Trash	# Modules	ID
1	<input type="radio"/>	Main Menu	mainmenu		5	-	8	1	1
2	<input type="radio"/>	Cat Products	catproducts		-	-	-	1	3

Below the table, there is a 'Display # 20' dropdown menu. At the bottom of the page, a footer message states: 'Joomla! is Free Software released under the GNU/GPL License.'

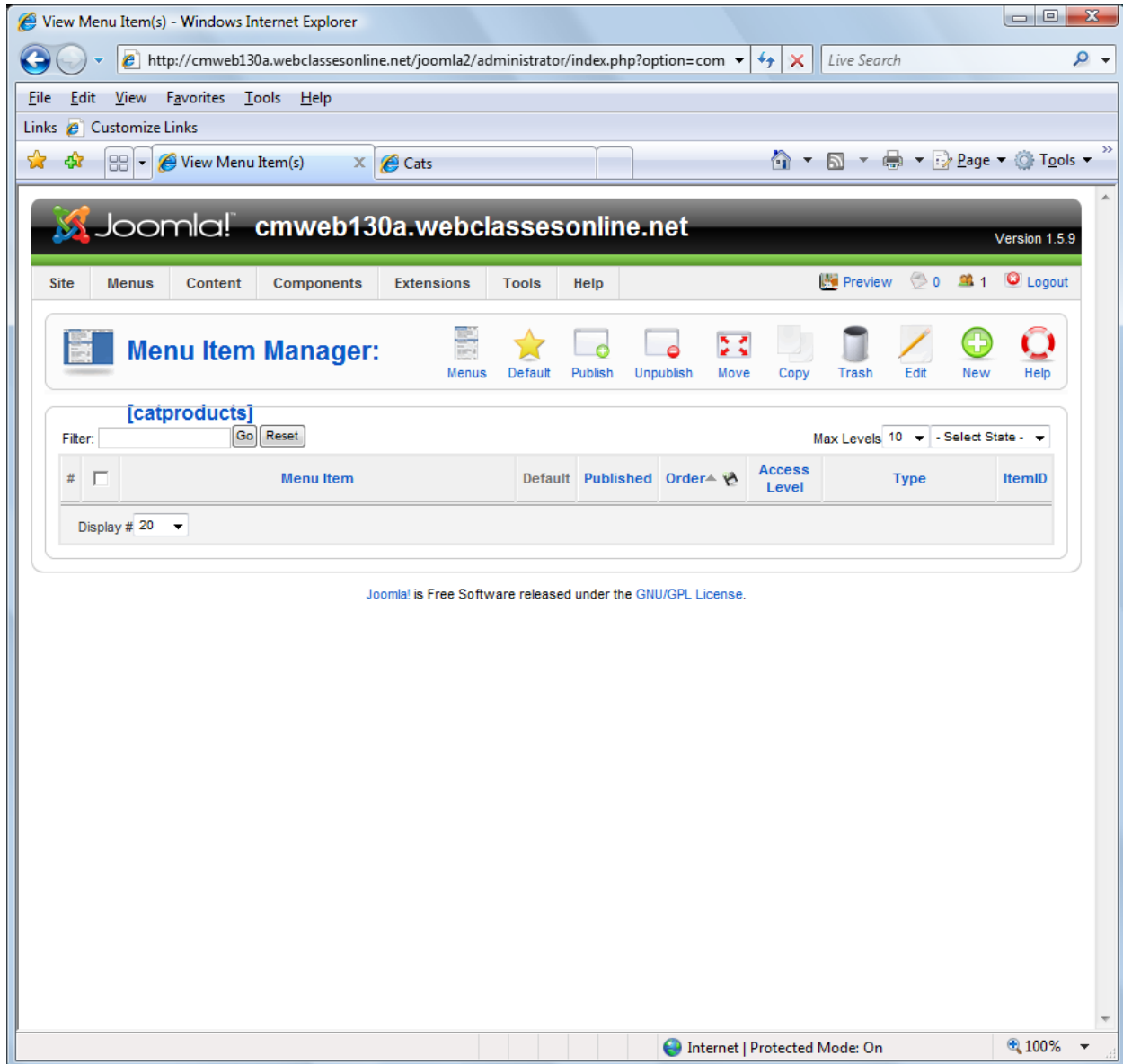
To make it active, go to the Extensions menu and click on Module Manager. (see screenshot)



Note that it is not Enabled. Click on the red circle with the x in it in the Enabled column to change it to Enabled. If you ever want to disable it, just click the green checkmark and it will toggle back to Disabled. If you want to get rid of something completely, put a checkmark in the box next to it and then select the Delete icon.

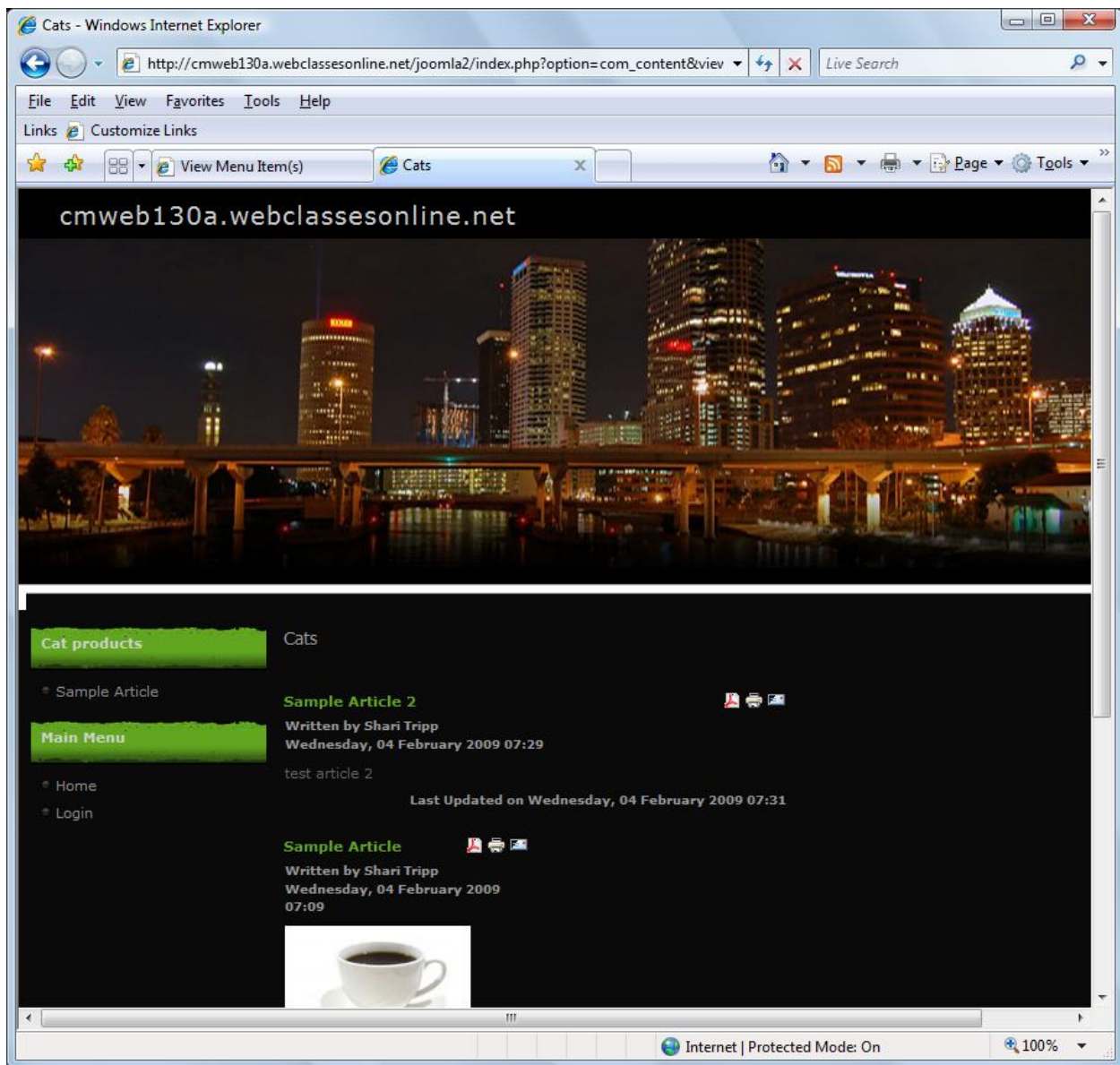
To change the order, click the green arrow next to the item. Don't forget to click the floppy disk icon next to "Order" to save the new order. To edit the menu module, click on the actual name. Depending on the template you have, not all options may take effect or be available.

To add links to the new menu, click on Menus, then the name of the new menu you created. This will bring you to the following screen:



Click New to add a new link, which can be any of the different kinds of links you could have for the main menu (for example, linking to articles, categories, or sections).

This is what my site looked like after adding the extra menu:



To control whether an article appears on the front page, go to the Content menu, then Article Manager (see screenshot)

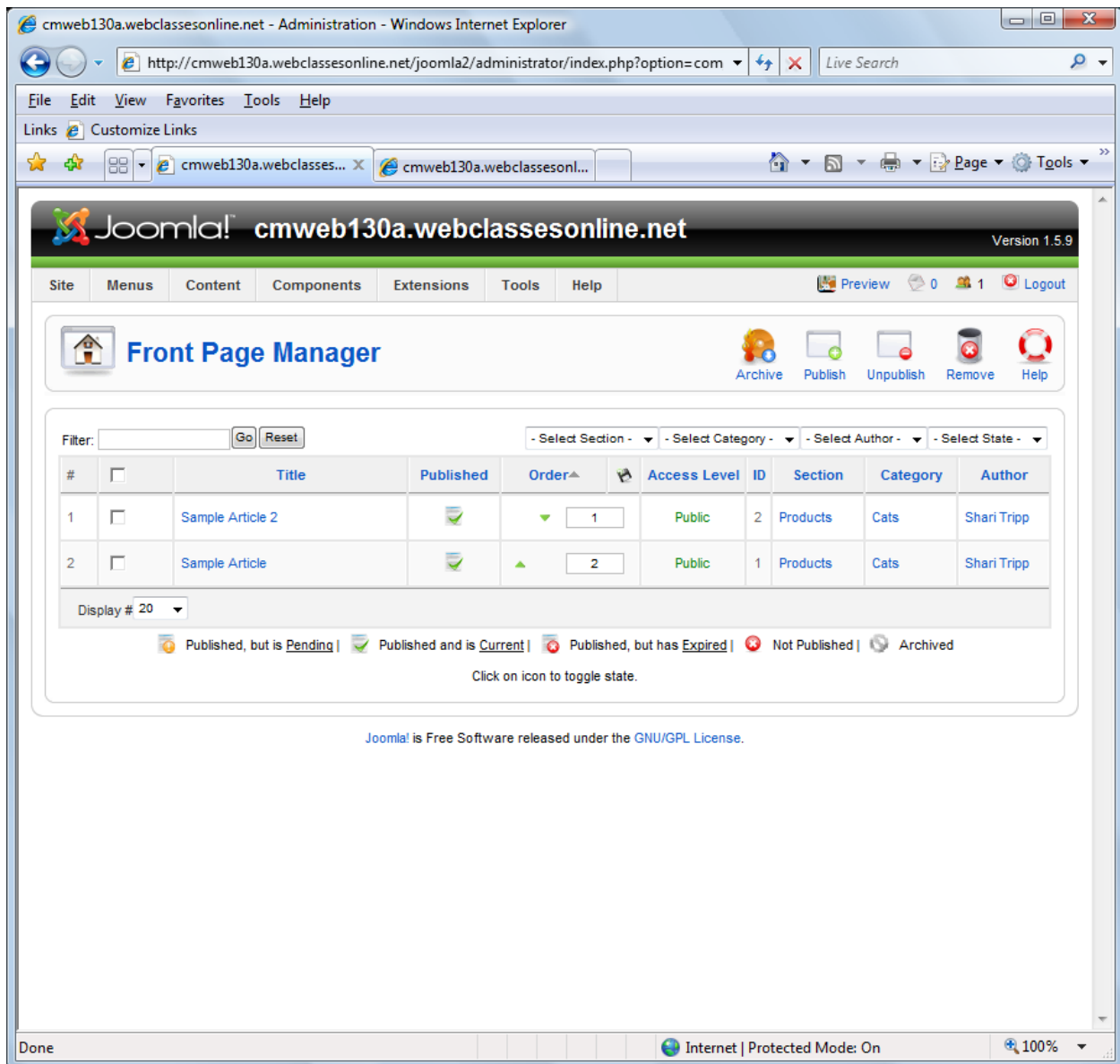
The screenshot displays the Joomla! Article Manager interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with options: Site, Menus, Content, Components, Extensions, Tools, and Help. Below this is a toolbar with icons for Unarchive, Archive, Publish, Unpublish, Move, Copy, Trash, Edit, New, Parameters, and Help. The main content area features a table of articles with the following columns: #, Title, Published, Front Page, Order, Access Level, Section, Category, Author, Date, Hits, and ID. The table contains two rows of data:

#	Title	Published	Front Page	Order	Access Level	Section	Category	Author	Date	Hits	ID
1	Sample Article 2			1	Public	Products	Cats	Shari Tripp	04.02.09	4	2
2	Sample Article			2	Public	Products	Cats	Shari Tripp	04.02.09	1	1

Below the table, there is a legend for article states: Published, but is Pending; Published and is Current; Published, but has Expired; Not Published; and Archived. A note indicates that clicking on an icon toggles the state. At the bottom of the page, it states: Joomla! is Free Software released under the GNU/GPL License.

If you want the article to appear, click the icon under the "front page" column so that it displays the green checkmark.

To change the order the articles display in on the front page, you must go to the content menu, then click on the front page manager, then click the up or down arrows next to the articles and be sure to click the floppy disk icon next to "Order" to save the order (see screenshot):



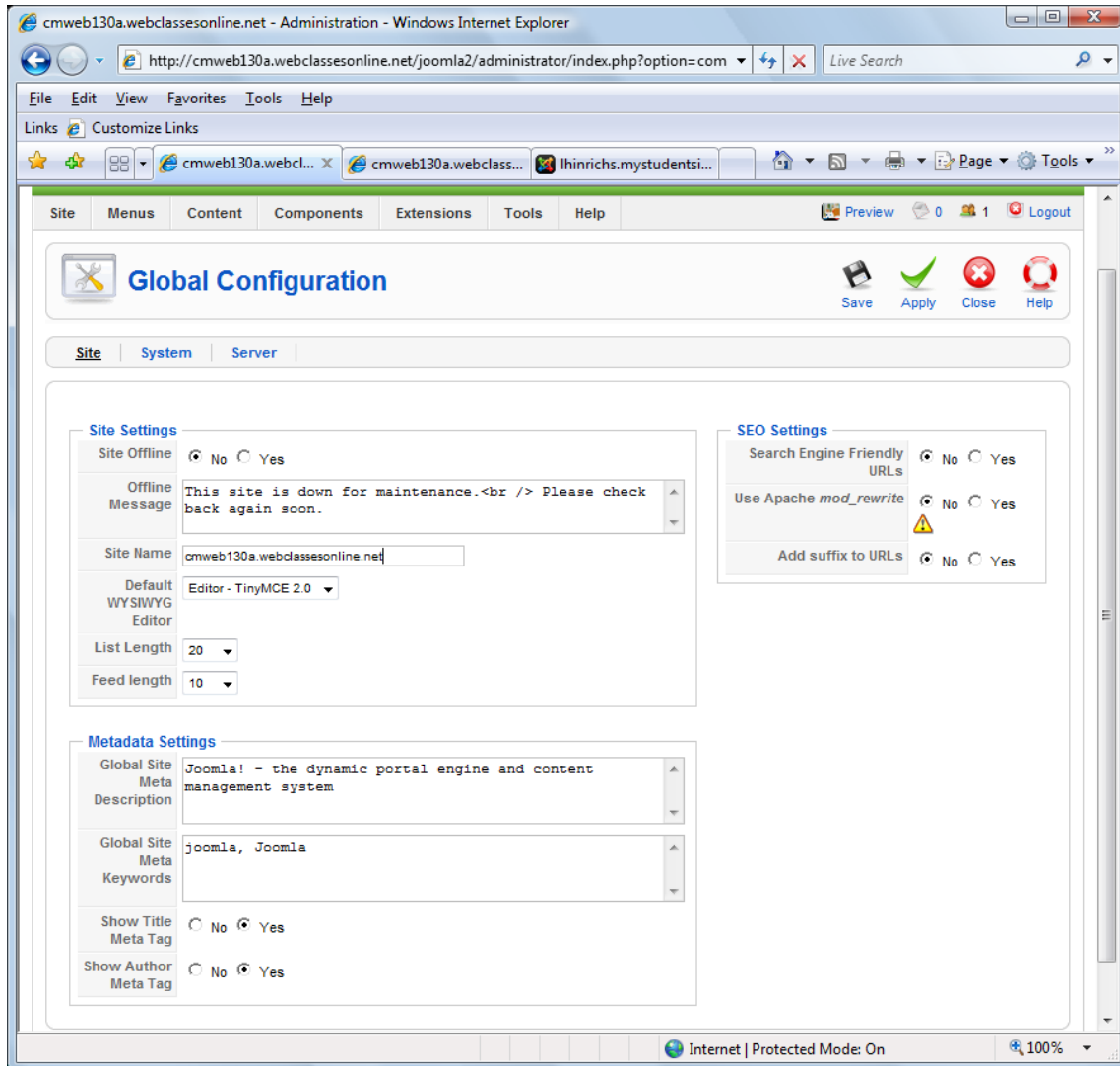
So, the order displayed on the front page may be different than the order the articles are displayed in when you click on the "category" link; the front page manager controls the order for the front page, while the article manager controls the order for the article page.

Likewise, the order the links display in are controlled on each menu.

Some other settings that you may want to change at this point are:

Site name. When you installed your Joomla! site, you were asked what the site name should be. Chances are, you weren't sure at the time so you just put something generic in there, perhaps your url to your site. To change that, go to Site, then Global Configuration, and make sure you have the Site link selected. This brings you to the following screen. In it, if I change the cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net

that is currently in the site name box to "My Sample Site", the site name that displays on the home page will now be "My Sample Site".



Some other settings you may want to change here are the Global Site meta tag so that it is more descriptive of what the actual site is, as well as the Global Site Meta keywords. Keep in mind that the description meta tag is what displays in search engines in your search engine listing (the paragraph that shows up under the link), and the keywords tell the search engines which keywords you think your site should display under.

Don't forget to Save after you make your changes.

In future handouts we will explore how to make further changes to the appearance of your site, such as to change colors, switch out banners, etc. We will also look at extending the capabilities of your site by installing Joomla! Extensions.