

	Affiliate and Referral	Affiliate Light
Who will benefit more from installing?	Fits all-size one- and multi-sellers stores	Adapted to small and mid-size marketplaces based on Multi-Vendor platform.
Main advantage for a store owner	Flexible affiliate plans system with unlimited number of plans.	Flexibility in terms of setting up promotion conditions for affiliates.
Main goal behind using the add-on?	Create a multi-tier partner network	Motivate users to go to your online store using shared links
Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive functionality: affiliate tiers trees, multiple promotions for each affiliate plan, different plans for affiliates and customers etc. - Ability to create text, graphic and product banners for affiliate websites. - Widget mode for embedding your store in other websites. - Individual payout amounts for each plan. - Sharing product links to social networks. - Ability to set the affiliate inviter (i.e. the affiliate who invited this new affiliate). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simplified functionality: contains only the basic features. - Two methods are available for a partner to gain more referrals: Promo Code and Referral Link.
Can vendors become affiliates?	No, they can't	Yes, they can
What is the core difference at the functionality level?	Multi-tier network: you create a network of partners, where a partner is a separate user type (one more entity other than administrator, vendor, or customer)	Absence of multi-tier hierarchy: affiliates share only direct links
Promo-code functionality	Yes (numeric and alphabetic)	Yes (numeric and alphabetic)
Referral link functionality	Yes	Yes
Social sharing (via Facebook, Twitter, etc.) functionality	Yes (customer can share it as a ready-made post in different social media)	No (the add-on allows only to copy the link from the Settings section at the Affiliate program page. Then a customer can insert it into his/her social media post)
What is the core difference at the dashboard level?	A comprehensive dashboard for administrator and affiliates that provides full control of commissions and payments. Better traceability at the affiliates' network level	You see only the stats at the level of direct links (clickthroughs, orders).
What is the payout mechanism?	You pay commissions for referrals' clicks, banner views, and registrations	You pay commissions to your affiliates only for the orders made by their referrals
How is it compatible with CS-Cart / Multi-Vendor and PHP versions?	CS-Cart and Multi-Vendor 4.3.1 PHP 5.3 (depends on CS-Cart version)	CS-Cart and Multi-Vendor 4.5.0 and above. PHP 7.0 and above (the 7th version is more stable than earlier versions)