

# Admin Tools

Version 6.1.1 Stable



**Released on:** hursday, 12 August 2021

## Release Notes

### What's new?

**Bug fixes and minor improvements.** Please take a look at the CHANGELOG below.

## Joomla! and PHP versions supported

Please consult [our Compatibility page](#). It explains our version support policy and lists which versions of our software are compatible with which versions of Joomla and PHP.

## Changelog

### Bug fixes

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- [HIGH] Uninstallation broken on Joomla 4 due to different installation script event handling.
- [LOW] Optimise Tables fails on Joomla 3 when you're using the PDO MySQL database driver.

### Miscellaneous changes

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- Changes in Joomla 4.0.0-RC5 broke the date and time input fields. Now using native HTML 5 controls.

# Admin Tools

Version 6.1.0 Stable



**Released on:** Monday, 26 July 2021

## Release Notes

### What's new?

We went through the entire Admin Tools feature set with a fine comb, questioning every default and every feature implementation, identifying issues and resolving them. This new version has a substantial amount of improvements to help you run a safer, more efficient site with less effort.

**Added default rules to not block DuckDuckGo, Baidu, Yahoo and Yandex indexers.** The default settings for not blocking IPs and domain names now include GoogleBot, MSN Bot (used by Bing) and the bots used by DuckDuckGo, Baidu, Yahoo and Yandex.

**Repair and Optimize tables is now possible again on Joomla 4.** This feature was temporarily removed from Joomla 4 because the MySQLi driver in Joomla 4 does not support the database commands necessary for this feature. In this version we are applying a workaround which allows us to execute the required database commands, allowing us to reintroduce these features for Joomla 4.

**You can now choose the protection mode for the Administrator password protection.** The administrator password protection used to be an all or nothing affair. With the changes we are introducing in this version you can choose if you want to block everything (like it used to be, default option), just the .php files or only Joomla's index.php file. This allows you to easily customise your protection level in case you are using third party extensions which require frontend accessible files in their backend directory. While that practice is bad, you now have at least an option to allow these extensions to function without completely removing the protection of your administrator login.

**.htaccess Maker: Disable client-side risky behavior in static content.** With this option you can send a specially crafted Content-Security-Policy HTTP header for the allowed static files which instructs the browser to not allow them to run any embedded or externally referenced script content. This is a step up from the protection effected by the Neutralise SVG script execution option we introduced several months ago. This protection applies to all files, including .html files, making your site safer than before.

**Explicitly allowed domain names.** You can now tell Admin Tools the domain names your site is allowed to be accessed on. This effectively and elegantly mitigates HTTP Host header spoofing attacks. We very strongly recommend using this feature *instead of* Joomla's `$live_site` parameter in your site's configuration.php file. Furthermore, this option is designed to bring as little maintenance headache upon you as possible. You only need to provide either the non-www or www version of your domain name; the other version (www or non-www respectively) will be added automatically. This means you can't accidentally lock yourself out of your site due to a endless redirection loop, unlike what happens with the `$live_site` in configuration.php. You do not need to add any domain name which resolves to an internal network address; these are automatically allowed, unlike what happens with the `$live_site` in configuration.php.

**Updated the default offline.html file contents with modern CSS.** When you use the Emergency Off-Line Mode your site visitors will no longer be seeing a page that looks like it was designed in the late 1990s. It's also smaller and easier to understand when you try to customise it.

**Admin password protection will now reset error pages using an even more aggressive method.**

A few months ago we added an option to reset the custom error pages when setting up the Administrator Password Protection. What we did is tell the web server to use its default error pages. However, it transpired that some hosts really have no brains whatsoever and set the default error pages to non-existent files! This meant that the problem we were trying to solve was still unsolved on some — thankfully very few — badly configured servers. This time around we will reset them to a hardcoded short message. Regardless of how bad the server setup is this will solve the problem with the Administrator Password Protection leading to Joomla's 404 page instead of your browser asking you for a username and a password.

**Clean temp folder: only files and folders over 60 seconds old will be deleted.** Joomla uses the temporary directory to install updates to itself and extensions. Its extensions use the temporary folder to handle and make transformations on bigger files. If one of these operations is in progress when the Clean Temp Folder code kicks in (for example if another administrator logged into the site runs the feature or if it runs automatically because you've asked the plugin to automate this) it's conceivable that the undergoing process, e.g. updating your site or an extension, would fail. Admin Tools will only delete files and folders created more than 60 seconds ago to prevent this kind of issue. 60 seconds is typically longer than how much time is required for an update process to run to completion on most sites.

**Bug fixes and minor improvements.** Please take a look at the CHANGELOG below.

## Joomla! and PHP versions supported

Please consult [our Compatibility page](#). It explains our version support policy and lists which versions of our software are compatible with which versions of Joomla and PHP.

## Changelog

### New features

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- .htaccess Maker: Disable client-side risky behavior in static content
- Added default rules to not block DuckDuckGo, Baidu, Yahoo and Yandex indexers
- Explicitly allowed domain names
- Repair and Optimize tables is now possible again on Joomla 4
- You can now choose the protection mode for the Administrator password protection

### Bug fixes

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- [LOW] Backend blocked requests graph would not reload correctly
- [LOW] NginX Conf Maker: Missing 'noserversignature'
- [LOW] PHP File Change Scanner reports: the scan start was no longer reported

- [MEDIUM] The system plugin would perform temporary redirections with HTTP 301 (permanent redirection), causing problem with CDNs and proxies

## Miscellaneous changes

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- Admin password protection will now reset error pages using an even more aggressive method
- Clean temp folder: only files and folders over 60 seconds old will be deleted.
- Updated the default offline.html file contents with modern CSS

# Admin Tools

Version 6.0.6 Stable

**Released on:** Sunday, 23 may 2021

[Show Release Notes](#)



## Release Notes

### What's new?

**Bug fixes and minor improvements.** Please take a look at the CHANGELOG below.

### Joomla! and PHP versions supported

Please consult [our Compatibility page](#). It explains our version support policy and lists which versions of our software are compatible with which versions of Joomla and PHP.

## Changelog

### Bug fixes

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- [HIGH] Fixed wrongly detection of unauthorised security settings modification under NginX and IIS
- [LOW] Default email templates still had GeoIP information even though we removed this feature in January 2020
- [LOW] The system plugin is incompatible with the Joomla 4 API application
- [MEDIUM] The print view of the PHP File Change Scanner report is missing information

# Admin Tools

Version 6.0.5 Stable

**Released on:** Tuesday, 11 May 2021

[Show Release Notes](#)



## Release Notes

### What's new?

**Bug fixes and minor improvements.** Please take a look at the CHANGELOG below.

### Joomla! and PHP versions supported

Please consult [our Compatibility page](#). It explains our version support policy and lists which versions of our software are compatible with which versions of Joomla and PHP.

## Changelog

### Bug fixes

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- [LOW] The Quick Setup Wizard didn't enable the "Reset custom error pages" option when applying the administrator password protection.
- [LOW] The server configuration file was detected as changed when it hasn't.

### Miscellaneous changes

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- Update Chart.js

# Admin Tools

Version 6.0.4 Stable

**Released on:** Monday, 22 March 2021

[Show Release Notes](#)



## Release Notes

### What's new?

**Rewritten installer plugin.** The installer plugin is now using direct database queries instead of going through our backend framework (FOF). This will prevent any issues in future framework updates.

**Converted all tables to InnoDB for better performance.** The database tables are now created using the InnoDB database engine. This wasn't possible before, when we were still supporting older Joomla versions which did not have that requirement. InnoDB is a much faster database table than MyISAM, the previous default, leading to better performance during database heavy operations. Your existing tables will be updated during installation or when you visit the backend control panel page of the component.

**Bug fixes and minor improvements.** Please take a look at the CHANGELOG below.

### Joomla! and PHP versions supported

Please consult [our Compatibility page](#). It explains our version support policy and lists which versions of our software are compatible with which versions of Joomla and PHP.

## Changelog

### Bug fixes

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- [LOW] Administrator Exclusive Allow IP List displayed ordering instead of checkboxes, making it impossible to delete entries
- [LOW] Error dialog if you click on a feature button before the security exceptions graph is fully loaded

### Miscellaneous changes

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- Converted all tables to InnoDB for better performance
- Rewritten installer plugin

# Admin Tools



Version 6.0.3 Stable

Released on: Monday, 08 March 2021

[Show Release Notes](#)

## Release Notes

### What's new?

**New backend and frontend frameworks.** This version of our software has been rewritten using the new versions of our FOF (backend) and FEF (frontend) frameworks. The new framework versions load faster, unify our common CSS and JavaScript among all of our extensions, allow us to load all JavaScript deferred for better performance and help us provide a much better experience on the upcoming Joomla 4 version.

**View templates are now stored in the tmpl folder instead of ViewTemplates.** This change makes it possible to make template overrides for our software in Joomla 4's template manager. Existing template overrides are not affected. Template overrides are still stored in the same location in your template.

**Could not delete records using an IP as their primary key.** This was a bug in the new version of our backend framework and has now been addressed.

**Joomla was printing out a lot of warnings when installing the extension.** This was a cosmetic issue which did not affect the way our software works. Either way, we addressed it.

**Bug fixes and minor improvements.** Please take a look at the CHANGELOG below.

## Workarounds for common issues during the update to version 6

We have addressed a number of issues occurring or after the upgrade of our extension to a version released after March 2nd, 2021.

- Update could fail on sites with old plugins we had removed years ago still installed. We saw that several sites seemed to have installed plugins we discontinued between 1 and 8 years ago. These plugins depended on the old versions of our FOF framework which are no longer used in the new versions of our extensions. As a result you could experience installation issues or even the inability to access your site after a failed installation. We are now automatically deleting the files of these old plugins before the update begins, using Joomla's ability to run a pre-installation script. This solves this problem. Please note that this problem should normally not happen unless you had used Discover to install a plugin included with an older version of our extension at some point.
- Update fails on some hosts which use opcache if the any of our software's installer plugin is enabled, you have gone through the Joomla Control Panel (with the extension updates quickicon plugin enabled) or the Extensions Update page before installing the new version, either as an automatic update or by manual installation (Upload & Install or Install from URL). While this sounds far-fetched, it's actually fairly easy to happen if you haven't visited your site's backend for 6-24 hours and you logged in to update it. It can also happen when third party services try to find and install updates on your sites. This issue has been extremely tricky to



identify because of the seemingly “random” way it was taking place. It also explains why we did not see it during our testing. The amount of time that elapsed between visiting the Joomla Control Panel page and the update installing was always longer than the opcode revalidation frequency or 5 to 30 seconds. This issue only occurs when PHP is *either* set to never check if the PHP files have been updated (terrible idea if you are running an off-the-shelf CMS on a commercial host!) or have a revalidation frequency longer than how long it takes you to start installing the updates.

- We will no longer uninstall FOF 3, the old version of our backend framework, even if it's no longer used by *our* extensions. The reason is that third party developers who decided to use FOF 3 have not followed our explicit documentation instructions to mark their own extensions as dependent on FOF 3. As a result we would end up uninstalling FOF 3 even though a *third party* extension would need it, possibly breaking your site. Again, this is not a problem with our extensions or our update, it's a problem with a third party developer not following our instructions for using our framework in their software.
- Workaround for Joomla bug which may not install the included FEF version 2 framework completely, leading to the component being broken after the update. Alternatively, the files *were* copied but PHP opcode was configured on the server in such a way that the server wouldn't “see” the new files. We are addressing that by implementing our own mini-installer within the post-installation script Joomla allows us to execute at the end of the installation, copying over any missing files and invalidating PHP OPcache for all of the .php files being installed. This is a workaround for a bad server configuration issue, not something we broke in the update.
- Similar to the above, FOF 4 could be installed but misconfigured PHP opcode on the server would make your server believe that the files are not there, throwing errors about missing classes. Just like with FEF 2, we are now invalidating OPcache for each and every .php file being installed. This is a workaround for a bad server configuration issue, not something we broke in the update.
- Similar to the above, servers with misconfigured opcode may not “see” the new component and plugin files, causing problems up to and including inability to access your site until the opcode is invalidated (either manually or by timing out). We are addressing this the same way, invalidating OPcache for each and every .php file being installed. This is a workaround for a bad server configuration issue, not something we broke in the update.

We have not received any reports indicating any other issues.

## Joomla! and PHP versions supported

Please consult [our Compatibility page](#). It explains our version support policy and lists which versions of our software are compatible with which versions of Joomla and PHP.

## Changelog

### Bug fixes

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- [LOW] Marking a file as safe/unsafe redirects you to an empty scan results page
- [LOW] Master Password causes Javascript message box while loading graphs (gh-240)

### Miscellaneous changes

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- Rewritten installer plugin

# Admin Tools

Version 6.0.2 Stable



**Released on:** Wednesday, 03 March 2021 09:28

[Show Release Notes](#)

## Release Notes

### What's new?

**New backend and frontend frameworks.** This version of our software has been rewritten using the new versions of our FOF (backend) and FEF (frontend) frameworks. The new framework versions load faster, unify our common CSS and JavaScript among all of our extensions, allow us to load all JavaScript deferred for better performance and help us provide a much better experience on the upcoming Joomla 4 version.

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- Update fails on some hosts which use opcache if the any of our software's installer plugin is enabled, you have gone through the Joomla Control Panel (with the extension updates quickicon plugin enabled) or the Extensions Update page before installing the new version, either as an automatic update or by manual installation (Upload & Install or Install from URL). While this sounds far-fetched, it's actually fairly easy to happen if you haven't visited your site's backend for 6-24 hours and you logged in to update it. It can also happen when third party services try to find and install updates on your sites. This issue has been extremely tricky to identify because of the seemingly "random" way it was taking place. It also explains why we did

not see it during our testing. The amount of time that elapsed between visiting the Joomla Control Panel page and the update installing was always longer than the opcode revalidation frequency or 5 to 30 seconds. This issue only occurs when PHP is *either* set to never check if the PHP files have been updated (terrible idea if you are running an off-the-shelf CMS on a commercial host!) or have a revalidation frequency longer than how long it takes you to start installing the updates.

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- Workaround for Joomla bug which may not install the included FEF version 2 framework completely, leading to the component being broken after the update. Alternatively, the files *were* copied but PHP opcode was configured on the server in such a way that the server wouldn't "see" the new files. We are addressing that by implementing our own mini-installer within the post-installation script Joomla allows us to execute at the end of the installation, copying over any missing files and invalidating PHP OPcache for all of the .php files being installed. This is a workaround for a bad server configuration issue, not something we broke in the update.
- Similar to the above, FOF 4 could be installed but misconfigured PHP opcode on the server would make your server believe that the files are not there, throwing errors about missing classes. Just like with FEF 2, we are now invalidating OPcache for each and every .php file being installed. This is a workaround for a bad server configuration issue, not something we broke in the update.
- Similar to the above, servers with misconfigured opcode may not "see" the new component and plugin files, causing problems up to and including inability to access your site until the opcode is invalidated (either manually or by timing out). We are addressing this the same way, invalidating OPcache for each and every .php file being installed. This is a workaround for a bad server configuration issue, not something we broke in the update.

We have not received any reports indicating any other issues.

## Joomla! and PHP versions supported

Please consult [our Compatibility page](#). It explains our version support policy and lists which versions of our software are compatible with which versions of Joomla and PHP.

## Changelog

### Bug fixes

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- [LOW] Joomla was printing out a lot of warnings when installing the extension
- [MEDIUM] Could not delete records using an IP as their primary key

## Admin Tools

version 5.9.3 **Stable**

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**Released on:** Friday, 05 February 2021 05:58

[Show Release Notes](#)

## Release Notes

### What's new?

**Joomla 4 improvements.** We applied necessary changes in our code to support Joomla 4 beta 7. Along with that came a few unexpected but welcome improvements. Labels in the tabbed interface elements are more legible. Custom selects are now rendered as native selects. Checkboxes are rendered as native checkboxes. Long lists and multiselect lists are back into using Chosen for easier item selection.

**Darker Dark Mode.** Our Dark Mode was intentionally designed to be somewhat bright. This had two side-effects. On one hand it was brighter than the dark templates most people would use. Moreover, the contrast between the background and the text was inadequate for people with vision-related disabilities. Considering that Dark Mode is (also) an accessibility feature we addressed this concern. Our Dark Mode was intentionally designed to be somewhat bright. This had two side-effects. On one hand it was brighter than the dark templates most people would use. Moreover, the contrast between the background and the text was inadequate for people with vision-related disabilities. Considering that Dark Mode is (also) an accessibility feature we addressed this concern.

**WAF Exceptions and Deny List will consider the URL parameter 'controller' as an alias for 'view' on Joomla 4.** Joomla's new legacy new not-legacy MVC (or whatever they call it now) uses the `controller` URL parameter instead of `view` to denote the view. This use is currently inconsistent and there is no guarantee it will continue being used. So we are treating `view` and `controller` URL parameters as the same thing in Admin Tools to support whatever random change the Joomla project may throw at us in the foreseeable future.

**Multiple selection fields in Configure WAF now use Chosen (J3) or Choices.js (J4) for easier selections.** This makes multiple selections much easier than trying hold down CTRL/CMD and click the right thing the right number of times.

**All tables now have a PRIMARY KEY.** This makes certain database operations a little bit faster, shaving off a couple milliseconds off the page load time.

**Improve the layout in the Unblock an IP page.** That page started as a proof of concept and its design hadn't progressed much beyond that. We gave it the once over for visual consistency with the rest of our software.

**Improved CHANGELOG layout in the Control Panel page.** Astonishingly, the CHANGELOG rendering in the Control Panel page hadn't changed for the better part of a decade. It was still using a bitmap image and CSS to display different areas of it to render its iconography. We replaced it with labels rendered with simple CSS, making it easier on your browser's renderer.

**Bug fixes and minor improvements.** Please take a look at the CHANGELOG below.

## Joomla and PHP versions supported

Please consult our [Compatibility page](#) to see which PHP and CMS versions are supported by each version of our software. This page is generated from the metadata attached to each version as it is released on our site.

## Changelog

### New features

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- Multiple selection fields in Configure WAF now use Chosen (J3) or Choices.js (J4) for easier selections.
- WAF Exceptions and Deny List will consider the URL parameter 'controller' as an alias for 'view' on Joomla 4

### Bug fixes

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- [LOW] ActionLog and Installer plugins showed the wrong version in Extensions, Manage
- [LOW] Htaccess Maker: Blocking malicious user agents is now case insensitive
- [MEDIUM] Delete Inactive users feature was deleting users waiting for activation

### Miscellaneous changes

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- All tables now have a PRIMARY KEY
- Improve the layout in the Unblock an IP page
- Improved CHANGELOG layout in the Control Panel page
- Releasing the previous version without changes, due to server and CDN issues which resulted in inconsistent updates

# Admin Tools

Version 5.9.0 Stable

Released on: Monday, 17 Novmeber 2020 06:25



## Release Notes

### What's new?

**.htaccess and NginX Conf Maker: Better support for more file types in setting the expiration time.** Even more static file types can now be cached browser-side.

**.htaccess, NginX and WebConfig Maker: added option to reset all the options to default values.** Did you mess up your .htaccess Maker, NginX Conf Maker or Web.config Maker settings? In the past you'd have to do database surgery which is hard, or re-run the quick setup wizard which resets all your settings. Neither option was particularly appealing. We have now added a reset button which will reset the settings for *just* the .htaccess Maker, NginX Conf Maker or Web.config Maker to the defaults so you can start with a clean slate, without affecting all your other Admin Tools settings.

**Removed update notifications inside the component.** In-component update notifications made sense in Joomla 1.5 to 3.1 inclusive, when live updates were either not supported (1.5) or didn't support commercial extensions (1.6 to 3.1). Starting with Joomla 3.2 there's support for updates of commercial extensions and we've been using ever since. The in-component notifications were simply mirroring the information received from Joomla and already displayed in its Control Panel page. No reason to do that anymore.

**Improved unhandled PHP exception error page.**

**Using nullable DATETIME instead of zero dates.** For historical reasons our software was following the Joomla convention of using the fake date "0000-00-00 00:00:00" as a placeholder meaning "no date". MySQL 5.7 and later will, by default, not allow zeroes in the month or day part of the day unless explicitly told otherwise. While Joomla *does* explicitly tell MySQL to allow zeroes in dates, even in Joomla 4, this behavior is deprecated and might be removed in a future version of Joomla. We have now replaced these placeholder dates with a NULL value – a special value which MySQL and PHP understand to mean "a date has not been set yet". All your database tables will be automatically converted upon upgrading our software or, if that fails, when you visit the Control Panel (main component) page. This means that the upgrade or first access to the Control Panel page may appear to take a bit longer than usual. That's normal and there's no reason to be alarmed. If you get a white page wait a minute and retry. On extremely big sites on very slow servers you may have to repeat that a few times. On the vast majority of sites you won't need to do that at all.

**Bug fixes and minor improvements.** Please take a look at the CHANGELOG below.

## Joomla! versions supported

We only officially support using our software with the latest Joomla! release branch, 3.9. We strongly advise you to run the latest available version of Joomla! for security reasons. Older versions of Joomla! have known major security issues which are being actively exploited to hack sites.

We offer limited support for Joomla 4.0 which is currently in Beta. Akeeba Backup will run on it, back it up and restore it just fine as of Joomla 4 Beta 3. Please note that since Joomla 4.0 is still in beta it may undergo potentially breaking changes between now and its final release. Joomla 4 specific issues are addressed when we are notified about them or observe them ourselves but they will not be treated as urgent until at least Joomla 4 Release Candidate 1 is released by the Joomla! project.

## PHP versions supported

We only officially support using our software with PHP 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 or 7.4. We strongly advise you to run the latest available version of PHP on a branch currently maintained by the PHP project for security reasons. Older versions of PHP have known major security issues which are being actively exploited to hack sites and they have stopped receiving security updates, leaving you exposed to these issues.

At the time of this writing we have only done some preliminary PHP 8 compatibility testing for the backup engine, PHP 8 being in alpha. We expect to be able to fully support PHP 8 around 2-4 weeks after Joomla implements full PHP 8 compatibility. PHP 8 itself is scheduled for release on November 26th. Our prediction for full PHP 8 support is before the end of January 2021, as long as Joomla adds support for it by end December 2020.

Please note that earlier PHP versions including but not limited to PHP 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 and 7.0 are no longer supported and our software no longer works on them.

## Changelog 5.9.0

### Bug fixes

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- [HIGH] template=something blocked for com\_ajax requests (they must always be allowed)
- [HIGH] web.config Maker would block some Joomla index.php URLs whose last parameter ended in ".php"
- [LOW] Remote file change scanner with frontend URL would fail if the secret word contained the plus sign character due to a PHP bug.
- [LOW] Session Cleaner was running only when backend users accessed to the site
- [LOW] Temporary Super Users were blocked by the Monitor Super Users feature
- [LOW] Wrong version query to the namespace.js

### New features

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- .htaccess and NginX Conf Maker: Better support for more file types in setting the expiration time
- .htaccess, NginX and WebConfig Maker: added option to reset all the options to default values

## Miscellaneous changes

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- Improved unhandled PHP exception error page
- Using nullable DATETIME instead of zero dates

## Removed features

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- Removed update notifications inside the component



# Admin Tools

Version 5.8.0 Stable

Released on: Monday, 07 September 2020 09:40



## Release Notes

### What's new?

**Removed support for Internet Explorer.** We have removed support for Internet Explorer from our CSS. IE11 will still work with our software but it will always be displaying its mobile view, even on desktop. Microsoft has already announced that it will stop supporting IE11 in Microsoft Teams beginning November 30, 2020 and terminate all IE11 support in August 2021. We decided to remove IE support starting September 2020 because it was adding unnecessary bloat to our code and prevented us from implementing features we needed. Not to mention that this seven year old browser is barely used anymore.

**Inherit the base font size instead of defining a fixed one.** In the past, our software was setting a base font size of 12.5px. While this is a fairly reasonable size for able bodied users on most desktop and mobile displays it doesn't work well for users with accessibility requirements necessitating a bigger font size or users who otherwise need scaled text for any reason. We changed our CSS framework to inherit the document's base font size to mitigate this issue.

**Improve default header and body fonts for similar cross-platform "feel" without the need to use custom fonts.** Our software used to require two custom fonts Montserrat and Open Sans for header and body text respectively. These fonts were not shipped with it to maintain a reasonable download size. As a result, we fell back to using your platform's default sans-serif font which would sometimes not be the best choice for readability. We are not using your platform's preferred fonts for UI headers and body text, giving our software a more readable and native appearance.

**.htaccess Maker: Automatically compress static resources will now use Brotli compression with priority if it's supported by both the server (mod\_brotli) and the client (accepts encoding "br").** Brotli is a newer compression format which offers better compression ratio than GZip. It is natively supported by Apache 2.4 when the relevant Apache module is loaded. It reduces the amount of data transferred, making your site load much faster. All modern browsers support it. As long as your Apache server loads mod\_brotli all you need to do is regenerate your .htaccess with Admin Tools to support Brotli compression.

**.htaccess and NginX Conf Maker: Neutralise SVG script execution..** This option, disabled by default, applies Joomla 3.9.20 recommendation for disabling script execution in SVG files with some improvements we added on top of it. We recommend against enabling this option if you rely on interactive or animated SVG files. We also believe the attack vector described by Joomla is irrelevant for most sites, seeing that Joomla does NOT allow upload of SVG files unless explicitly configured to do so. If you don't know what SVGs are you don't need to bother with this setting.

**.htaccess Maker: Improve "Redirect index.php to the site's root" code.** The previous version of this code was using a hardcoded reference to your site's domain name. We are now using a simpler version that doesn't require a hardcoded reference to the site's domain. This works better when you are also using the non-www to www (or vice versa) redirection or redirecting from old domains to a new one.

**Improve the UX of the URL Redirect form page.** Having already tried naming the fields From/To, Old URL/New URL, Existing URL/New URL in the past it would appear that people are split exactly evenly in their understanding of what is redirecting to what. In this version we are labelling the fields as "Visiting This" and "Takes You Here". There is no room for misunderstanding anymore.

**More clarity in the in-component update notifications, explaining they come from Joomla itself.** We've had a lot of support tickets and bug reports about updates. The thing is, even though we show you an update notification inside our component the actual detection of new versions and their installation (extension update) are carried out by Joomla itself with code we have no control over. We have now changed the wording of the in-component messages to better clarify where this information comes from and what happens when you click the update button.

**Bug fixes and minor improvements.** Please take a look at the CHANGELOG below.

## **Joomla! versions supported**

We only officially support using our software with the latest Joomla! release branch, 3.9. We strongly advise you to run the latest available version of Joomla! for security reasons. Older versions of Joomla! have known major security issues which are being actively exploited to hack sites.

We offer limited support for Joomla 4.0 which is currently in Beta. Akeeba Backup will run on it, back it up and restore it just fine as of Joomla 4 Beta 3. Please note that since Joomla 4.0 is still in beta it may undergo potentially breaking changes between now and its final release. Joomla 4 specific issues are addressed when we are notified about them or observe them ourselves but they will not be treated as urgent until at least Joomla 4 Release Candidate 1 is released by the Joomla! project.

## **PHP versions supported**

We only officially support using our software with PHP 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 or 7.4. We strongly advise you to run the latest available version of PHP on a branch currently maintained by the PHP project for security reasons. Older versions of PHP have known major security issues which are being actively exploited to hack sites and they have stopped receiving security updates, leaving you exposed to these issues.

At the time of this writing we have only done some preliminary PHP 8 compatibility testing for the backup engine, PHP 8 being in alpha. We expect to be able to fully support PHP 8 around 2-4 weeks after Joomla implements full PHP 8 compatibility. PHP 8 itself is scheduled for release on November 26th. Our prediction for full PHP 8 support is before the end of January 2021, as long as Joomla adds support for it by end December 2020.

Please note that earlier PHP versions including but not limited to PHP 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 and 7.0 are no longer supported and our software no longer works on them.

## Changelog 5.8.0

### Bug fixes

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- [LOW] Auto-compression and expiration time didn't work on .js files served with MIME type text/javascript
- [LOW] Removed obsolete country and continent information from the default email templates for new installations.
- [LOW] Rescue URL would trigger an Admin Query String blocked request before sending the email (just annoying, not really causing a functional problem)
- [LOW] There were leftover, non-functional dismiss buttons in some information and warning messages in the backend
- [LOW] web.config Maker: 1 year option for the expiration time did not take effect

### New features

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- .htaccess Maker: Automatically compress static resources will now use Brotli compression with priority if it's supported by both the server (mod\_brotli) and the client (accepts encoding "br").
- .htaccess and NginX Conf Maker: Neutralise SVG script execution. There are major caveats! Please do read the documentation before enabling this option.
- Inherit the base font size instead of defining a fixed one

### Miscellaneous changes

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- Adjust size of control panel icons
- Improve "Redirect index.php to the site's root" code
- Improve the UX of the URL Redirect form page
- More clarity in the in-component update notifications, explaining they come from Joomla itself

### Removed features

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- Removed support for Internet Explorer

# Admin Tools

version 5.7.3 Stable

version 5.7.4 Stable



**Released on:** Wednesday, 17 June 2020 00:16    **Released on:** Tuesday, 14 July 2020 09:28

## Release Notes

### What's new?

**Minimum requirements raised to PHP 7.1, Joomla 3.9.** In an effort to support the upcoming Joomla 4.0 we had to do major and far-reaching changes to our software. Some of the necessary changes were impossible while supporting older PHP versions such as 5.6 and 7.0 – versions of PHP which have been end of life for well over a year. As noted, we consider versions of PHP which went EOL over six months ago to be good candidates for removal. Further to that, our usage statistics show that less than 5% of total sites and less than 0.5% of current Joomla version sites use them, therefore we decided to drop support. On a similar note, Joomla versions lower than or equal to 3.8 represent less than 2% of the Joomla sites of our users so we decided to drop support for them to make it possible to prepare our software for Joomla 4.

**Improved Apache and IIS server signature removal.** The server signature is now being removed more reliably in many more server setups.

**Improved CORS handling.** In previous versions you could only explicitly enable CORS from all sources. The other option was to let the implied browser and server default which *typically* means that only same-origin requests are allowed. The problem is that “typically” doesn’t mean “always”. If you wanted to explicitly disable cross-origin requests you had to create a manual rule in your server configuration. We now give you the option to explicitly enable all origins, explicitly disable cross-origin requests or let your server and browser decide.

**Added support for Joomla 4 API application in the .htaccess Maker and Web.Config Maker.** Joomla 4 comes with a JSON API application which supports its own SEF URLs. We were asked by the Joomla project to improve their .htaccess file to make that possible. This change reflects the changes we contributed to Joomla itself.

**Added support for automatically serving .css.gz/.js.gz files in the .htaccess Maker and Web.Config Maker.** This is a new feature added in Joomla 4. Core CSS and JavaScript comes in three formats: as-is, minified and a GZipped version of the minified file. Using some Apache and IIS trickery it's possible to server the pre-compressed GZip file instead of the minified file without having Apache compress it on the fly. This provides a marginal performance benefit which is still welcome on very busy sites.

**Removed Change Database Collation and Repair & Optimise Tables features under Joomla 4.** Joomla 4 uses a new database driver which vets the SQL commands which are executed against the database. Unfortunately, it does not support the SQL commands required to repair and optimize tables. Besides, these operations are best performed through a dedicated database tool such as phpMyAdmin or Adminer, provided by your host. Therefore we decided to remove this feature from Joomla 4 and will completely eliminate it when we remove Joomla 3 support from our software around the end of 2022.

**Removed the CSRFShield feature.** This made sense back in 2010 and Joomla 1.5 when extensions didn't always use Joomla's anti-CSRF token. It's now 2020 and not using it is a security issue that lands you out of the Joomla Extensions Directory. Therefore this Admin Tools feature doesn't make sense. Moreover, unlike ten years ago, POST requests are now used for far more than just POSTing forms, a fact that made this feature useless – it ended up blocking way too many legitimate requests.

**Use JAccess instead of DB queries.** This addresses rare cases where Admin Tools would misidentify the Super User groups of your site and makes it possible for our software to work correctly on Joomla 4.

**Improve the rendering of the System - Admin Tools plugin options.** We are now using special CSS classes to render Yes / No options as easier to identify switches. Some aspects of these changes may not work in Joomla 4.0 Beta 1 just yet. There's a known bug in Joomla which is being resolved for 4.0 Beta 2.

**Improve the rendering of the component options.** Similar to the above but for the component's Options.

**Changed the terms blacklist and whitelist to be more clear.** The provenance of these terms actually originates in the Middle Ages where votes were cast by placing a white or black stone (colors commonly found in riverbanks) in a container, the black stone being a vote against and the white stone being a vote for. The terms reappeared in the early 20th century as military jargon during WWI and WWII. The point is, while widely used in IT circles – presumably owing to the military origins of computing in general and the Internet in particular – they don't make intuitive sense anymore. For these reasons we chose to use the more transparent and neutral terms IP Disallow List, WAF Deny List, Exclusive Allow IP List and Allowed Domains with related changes in our documentation.

**Changed the term Security Exceptions to Blocked Requests for clarity.** The term “exception” has the bad habit of meaning two very different things in IT: something went wrong (and was caught) or something was allowed in contravention to another rule. When Admin Tools was first published in 2010 it was mostly expert users, familiar with this weird duality in meanings using it. In the meantime we succeeded in making security a mainstream good which means that more people, who don't intuitively understand this obscure terminology, are using the software. As a result, by using the inscrutable term “Security Exception” we ended up misleading users into thinking that something went through instead of being blocked. This is a disservice to our users so we decided to change the terminology in our software and our documentation to provide more clarity and prevent further misunderstandings.

**Joomla 4 related bug fixes.** Some features of our software were broken under Joomla 4. We had held back on the fixes until the first beta was released to make sure that we don't change our code before Joomla's core API was stable enough to warrant such changes.

**The "User groups to check for well-known passwords" feature could cause a PHP notice when modifying the component Options.** The way this information was stored in Joomla's component options storage would confuse Joomla when rendering the component options page, causing information loss and a PHP Notice to be emitted.

**Temporary Super Users feature does not work when Monitor Super Users or Disable Editing Backend Users features are enabled.** There was a chicken and egg problem in the implementations of these three features which caused the Temporary Super Users to trigger the request blocking code in the other two features, essentially rendering the Temporary Super Users feature inactive.

**Some help text blocks were using the wrong class, making them illegible in Dark Mode..** We went through the Dark Mode text again to make sure the colors used allow you to read the help blocks.

**Email Templates help text referenced country and continent which were removed in version 5.5.0..** We removed this information from the default email text. This change CAN NOT be applied retroactively to existing installations. You will have to edit the email templates yourselves.

**Bug fixes and minor improvements.** Please take a look at the CHANGELOG below.

## Joomla! versions supported

We only officially support using our software with the latest Joomla! release branch, 3.9. We strongly advise you to run the latest available version of Joomla! for security reasons. Older versions of Joomla! have known major security issues which are being actively exploited to hack sites.

Our software should run on Joomla 4.0 which is currently in Beta. Please note that Joomla 4 is not stable yet. It should not be used on production sites. Some breakage is expected; we are working on fixing issues on Joomla 4 but it may take a while since it's still changing, albeit not at the rate it was changing pre-Beta.

## PHP versions supported

We only officially support using our software with PHP 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 or 7.4. We strongly advise you to run the latest available version of PHP on a branch currently maintained by the PHP project for security reasons. Older versions of PHP have known major security issues which are being actively exploited to hack sites and they have stopped receiving security updates, leaving you exposed to these issues.

Please note that earlier PHP versions including but not limited to PHP 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 and 7.0 are no longer supported and our software no longer works on them.

# Changelog 5.7.3

## Bug fixes

- [HIGH] Emergency Off-line completely broken under Joomla 4
- [HIGH] Features with modal dialogs would not work under Joomla 4
- [HIGH] Purge Sessions does not work under Joomla 4
- [LOW] Email Templates help text referenced country and continent which were removed in version 5.5.0.
- [LOW] Master Password page incorrectly referenced an UnlockIP view with an untranslated name; the correct is UnblockIP
- [LOW] Missing filtering reason for "Monitor Super User" feature
- [LOW] Notices thrown when plugin loaded in Joomla 4 Console application
- [LOW] Rescue URL doesn't work with Joomla 4
- [LOW] Some help text blocks were using the wrong class, making them illegible in Dark Mode.
- [MEDIUM] Temporary Super Users feature does not work when Monitor Super Users or Disable Editing Backend Users features are enabled
- [MEDIUM] The "User groups to check for well-known passwords" feature could cause a PHP notice when modifying the component Options

## New features

- Added support for Joomla 4 API application in the .htaccess Maker and Web.Config Maker
- Added support for automatically serving .css.gz/.js.gz files in the .htaccess Maker and Web.Config Maker per Joomla 4 recommendations
- Improved Apache and IIS server signature removal
- Improved CORS handling

## Miscellaneous changes

- Changed the term Security Exceptions to Blocked Requests for clarity
- Changed the terms blacklist and whitelist to be more clear
- Improve the rendering of the System - Admin Tools plugin options
- Improve the rendering of the component options
- Minimum requirements raised to PHP 7.1, Joomla 3.9
- Small change in the FOF library to prevent harmless but confusing and annoying errors from appearing during upgrade
- The following items are carried over from the retracted version 5.7.0
- Use JAccess instead of DB queries [gh-223]

## Removed features

- Removed Change Database Collation and Repair & Optimise Tables features under Joomla 4 (not supported by the J4 database driver)
- Removed the CSRFShield feature

# Changelog 5.7.4

## Bug fixes

- [LOW] Clearing the Security Exceptions Log date filters can cause an error on MySQL 8
- [LOW] Expiration time was not being set for WOFF fonts in the .htaccess Maker

## New features

- .htaccess/NginX Conf/web.config Maker: more options for the expiration time

