

# Joomla! 4 Updates and Tips

---

Northern Virginia Joomla Users Group  
March 2022

Dorothy Firsching, Ursa Major Consulting, LLC  
[dfirsching@ursamajorconsulting.com](mailto:dfirsching@ursamajorconsulting.com)

# Agenda

---

- ❑ Joomla! 4 Updates
- ❑ Update path to Joomla! 4
- ❑ Upcoming JUG Meetings
- ❑ Topics for Future – Discussion

# Latest Joomla! Updates

---



- ❑ Joomla 4.1.0 – February 15, 2022
  - You can launch a Free Joomla 4 website for testing at [launch.joomla.org](https://launch.joomla.org)
  - Accessibility improvements
  - Better support for code highlighting in TinyMCE
  - Child templates → See presentation at JoomlaDay
  - Task Scheduler (Web Chron)
  - Accessibility Checker for authors
- ❑ Joomla 3.10.6 released – February 15, 2022
  - Bugfixes and improvements
- ❑ Still coming
  - Enhancement of Media Manager Web Service

# From the Joomla Community Magazine

---

- Joomla Performance Tuning, Nicholas K. Dionysopoulos
  - I: Part I
  - II: Basic Settings
  - III: Static Media Optimization
  - IV: Site Building Calisthenics & Template Customization
    - OpenGraph and Twitter Cards (Social Magick or Phoca Open Graph)
    - Prefetch and external resource preloading, font swapping, favicons, avoiding Google Analytics, Dark Mode (myDarkMagic)
  - V: Content Quality & SEO
  - VERY HELPFUL
  - Part 4 of a 5-part series
- Accessibility Add-ons in Joomla 4.1 – Viviana Menzel – March edition
  - Including in-built joa11y accessibility checker

# From the Joomla Community Magazine

---

## □ Joomla 4.1 Task Scheduler

### ■ Chron jobs from Joomla's admin, E.g.,

1. Resizing images uploaded by your authors so your website design remains consistent.
2. Automatically regenerate your sitemap to reflect new articles.
3. To ping Google to tell it you've published new content.
4. To send you daily reports of website activity.
5. To automate Component updates.
6. To automate partial or full backups.

# Migration Helps

---

## ❑ Joomla 4 tutorials Project

- [https://docs.joomla.org/JDOC:Joomla\\_4\\_Tutorials\\_Project](https://docs.joomla.org/JDOC:Joomla_4_Tutorials_Project)
- More to be added; you can help

## ❑ Joomla 3.x to 4.x Step by Step Migration

- [https://docs.joomla.org/Joomla\\_3.x\\_to\\_4.x\\_Step\\_by\\_Step\\_Migration/en](https://docs.joomla.org/Joomla_3.x_to_4.x_Step_by_Step_Migration/en)

## ❑ Potential backward compatibility issues in Joomla 4

- [https://docs.joomla.org/Potential\\_backward\\_compatibility\\_issues\\_in\\_Joomla\\_4/en](https://docs.joomla.org/Potential_backward_compatibility_issues_in_Joomla_4/en)

---

# EVENTS...

# Chicago JUG, London JUG

---

- ❑ Chicago JUG
  - <https://joomlachicagonorth.com>
- ❑ London JUG
  - Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 2pm our time
  - No topic identified right now
  - February 15, 2022, Tuesday, 1900 to 2100 == 2pm our time
    - ❑ <https://www.meetup.com/Joomla-User-Group-London/events/>
    - ❑ <https://www.youtube.com/c/JoomlalondonUk/videos>
    - ❑ January was on YooTheme Pro and Workflows, Excellent, not on YouTube yet



# Joomla Events

---

- Joomla NXT –
  - <https://techjoomla.com/joomla-nxt>
  - March 30, 2022 – Maarten Blokdijk on Cassiopeia
    - 4:00 AM our time, but video will be available
  - February 16, 2022 – Customizing Joomla 4's Smart Search Result Page (video available)
- JoomlaDayUSA –
  - <https://jdayusa.com/>
  - Friday, April 22, 2022 - Sunday, April 24, 2022
  - Go Register!

---

# UPGRADING TO JOOMLA 4

# Steps to Upgrade to Joomla 4

---

- ❑ Upgrade to Joomla 3.10.6
  - Joomla 3.10+ will be supported until July 2023
  - Make a backup copy of the site
- ❑ Run the Pre-Update Check
  - Change upgrade channel from “Default” to “Next”
  - Run the Pre-Update Check
  - **Make your Upgrade Plan**
  - Change upgrade channel back to “Default”
- ❑ Test upgrades on a copy of the site
  - Update or uninstall templates and components
  - Run Pre-Update Check (repeatedly, sometimes)
  - Rise and repeat before touching the live site
  - Wait a few months before upgrading any production site to ensure all upgrades are working great

# Upgrade Plan: Identify 3 Groups

---

<b>Stoppers: What Fails / No path today / Needs Research or Replacing</b>	<b>Known Path: What Needs Updating or can be uninstalled</b>	<b>What Works</b>
<p>Certain Templates, e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warp 7</li><li>• Gantry less than 5.5</li></ul> <p>Certain Components, e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fabrik</li><li>• Unite Revolution Slider</li><li>• Regular Labs Modals</li><li>• RokSprocket</li></ul>	<p>Many, e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Akeeba Backup</li><li>• Akeeba Admintools</li><li>• Mysites plugin</li></ul>	<p>Many, e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CommunityBuilder</li><li>• RS Forms Pro</li><li>• RL Articles Anywhere</li><li>• RL Cache Cleaner</li></ul>

# Before actually upgrading

---

- ❑ Remove templates that will no longer work with Joomla 4
  - Get a Joomla 4 Compatible Template working
  - Set Protostar for current site default template if your current default template is not compatible
  - Set Hathor or Isis to be backend template
  - Remove all old / incompatible templates
- ❑ Remove extensions that will no longer work with Joomla 4 – or upgrade them!
- ❑ Install Akeeba Magic Eraser

# Akeeba Files

---

- Files you may need to get rid of
  - Plg\_content\_geshi
  - AkeebaStrapper
  - System – Admin Tools Update Email
  - System – One Click Action
  - System – Akeeba GeoIP provider plugin
  - FOF30
  - etc., etc.
- Akeeba Magic Eraser gets rid of old Akeeba files
  - <https://github.com/akeeba/magiceraser/releases>
- It seems that you can actually leave FOF and it will work fine, although the update checker flags it

# Extensions that are Ready

---

- ❑ Akeeba Backup – new version 9.0+
- ❑ Akeeba Admintools – new Joomla 4 version
- ❑ CommunityBuilder – most recent version
- ❑ OSEmbed, OSVimeo, OSYoutube, OS Meta, OSMap – per JoomlaShack these are ready  
<https://www.joomlashack.com/blog/joomlashack/joomla-4/>
- ❑ Joomla Content Editor (JCE) Pro
- ❑ RSForm! Pro – current version
- ❑ JoomlaWorks AllVideos – per Bruce
- ❑ Regular Labs Articles Anywhere
- ❑ Regular Labs Cache Cleaner

# Extensions that you should remove

---

- ❑ Asana's Simple Social Media Stream
- ❑ JCH Optimize -> **Maybe no longer needed**
- ❑ Regular Labs Library, Cache Cleaner, Sliders & Tabs (mid 2022)
- ❑ RokCommon, RokBox, RokPad, RokBooster, RokAjaxsearch, RokCandy, RokSprocket, RokGallery, etc.
- ❑ Simple RSS Feed Reader
- ❑ Slick RSS
- ❑ WDS Twitter Widget Pro
- ❑ J Cal Pro – not ready as of 1/18/2022
- ❑ PWT ACL
- ❑ Mysites.guru plugin



# What didn't work, from Bruce

## (list may be old, from fall 2021)

---

- PHPMailer (really? Isn't this a core library?)
- SimplePie (what is this?)
- Installer (which one?)
- jDownloads and all plugins
- Fabrik and MANY plugins
- JoomGallery and all plugins
- Ads Manager and all plugins
- CB Auto Actions
- CB Activity
- CB Antispam
- CB Gallery
- CB Library
- Kunena
- uddielM
- Gantry 5, Hydrogen, and Helium
- JEvents Bootstrap Modal Library
- Election Voting Management
- Easy Session Killer

- Did not find any Fabrik plans for Joomla 4 in March 2022.
- Have removed some others that were on this list, as they were updated.
- JoomGallery wants assistance in moving to J4.
- Kunena 6 Release Candidate for Joomla 4 was released March 5, 2022.
- Gantry 5.5.11 works on Joomla 4.

# Fabrik

---

- Getting it ready for Joomla 4 is no small feat
  - Huge apps built with it
  - Knew I would get that question
- Looking at our options, trying to decide what is the best way forward for it
- Joomla 3 will be supported for an extra year while trying to figure it out
- Will make an announcement by the end of this quarter.

# K2: not yet ready, but soon...

- ❑ **Soon:** "K2 will be available for Joomla 4 IN THE COMING MONTHS. If it's not Jan 2022, it may be Feb 2022. But we'll get there."
- ❑ <https://www.joomlaworks.net/forum/k2-en/63655-k2-and-joomla-4?start=40#179733>
- ❑ "Here's a list of the important things added, changed or updated in K2 v2.10.0."
  - Massive code restructuring, as we pave the way towards Joomla 4 compatibility."
- ❑ <https://getk2.org/blog/k2-v2100-released>



# Template Status – Joomlart

---

- ❑ Framework
  - Joomlart T4 and T3 framework work with Joomla 4.
- ❑ Templates and Extensions
  - <https://www.joomlart.com/joomla4-status/> lists status of many templates and extensions
  - **I did upgrade a site using JA Edenite and it worked fine**
- ❑ Extensions
  - JA Content Listing, JA ACM, JA Masthead, JA Quick Contact, JA Login, JA Facebook Likebox, JA Google Map Plugin all have versions that should work
- ❑ Some Gavick templates will work with Joomla 4.
- ❑ <https://www.joomlart.com/blog/joomla-4-tutorials-all-you-need-to-know-about-joomla-4>

# Template status – Rockettheme /Gantry

---

- Rockettheme's Gantry Framework
  - Gantry 5.5 works with Joomla 4.
  - <https://rockettheme.com/joomla-templates-compatibility-matrix> lists status of 77 templates. Including Joomla and Gantry versions needed.
  - <https://rockettheme.com/forum/announcements-all/287272-gantry-5-5-release-important-notes-before-you-update>
- TL;DR: Don't update to Gantry 5.5.3 until you have updated your RT theme to a compatible version first. For those that updated to G5.5 already and are stuck with it, G5.5.3 has many significant bug fixes - so you should update to that version.
- Because Gantry 5.5.x introduces significant redevelopment of the Gantry 5 menu system we strongly urge you immediately go to Gantry 5 menu editor immediately after the update to G5.5.x and just save each of your menus. This then migrates your existing menus from the old YAML method of storing the menu data in flat files over to the CMS database instead.

# Gantry, continued.

---

## □ Extensions

- Don't forget also that the old RT extensions DO NOT work with Joomla 4 (and won't be made to do so) - so consider this before deciding that you need to Joomla 4 (which requires Gantry 5.5.x too).
- E.g., Rokspocket will not work with Joomla 4 – need other approaches
- Having updated you should clear browser and server cache.
- Some things may look different - there may be some unforeseen cosmetic layout changes after you have migrate which may need you to write/amend custom.scss

## □ Inspiretheme

- “After few months of hard work, we are very happy to announce that our products are now Joomla 4 compatible! All our particles are now Joomla 4 compatible and 11 (out of 18) of our templates are also Joomla 4 compatible. The rest of the templates will receive their Joomla 4 compatibility until the end of January or the very beginning of February.”, January 2022
- GOTCHA: However, some of their templates use Unite Revolution Slider or Rokspocket and those are not compatible! E.g.,

Below you will find the Download link and the Documentation for each extension (Component, Module, Plugin) that we have used in this template.

- Revolution Slider - [Purchase](#) | [Documentation](#)
- ChronoForms - [Download](#) | [Documentation](#)
- RokSprocket - [Download](#) | [Documentation](#)

# Template Status – YooTheme

---

## □ Frameworks

- Warp 7 – will not be updated for Joomla 4
- Yootheme Pro 2.6+ – should work with Joomla 4, beta out soon
- Widgetkit 3.1
- Zoo 4.1 as of September 13, 2021
- “So just to be clear, If I build a Joomla 3 site in Yootheme Pro and Widgetkit 3, when I migrate to Joomla 4 it will be seamless? Assuming other 3rd party extensions are compatible as well.
- Yes, but still make sure to do a backup first, just in case.”

## □ [How to Migrate a Warp 7 Site with Widgetkit to YOOtheme Pro](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxA0i6QgXsg>
- They convert the template to YooTheme Pro while on Joomla 3.9.
- It is a page layout that you reuse across pages – different.

## □ YooTheme now says to get help on Discord!

# Template Status -- Helix

---

According to Joomshaper:

- ❑ Helix Ultimate Framework 2.0.7 is compatible with Joomla 4
- ❑ Helix3 v3.0.2 is out with Joomla 4 Compatibility and some fixes
- ❑ At least some of their templates are compatible with J4
- ❑ **All Other Joomla Extensions:** All other Joomla extensions will be updated within the first half of 2022.
- **Joomla 4 articles:**
  - <https://www.joomshaper.com/blog/joomla4> including Workflow.



# Keeping sites on 3.10.x is safe for up to 2 years

---

- Are users stressing about the need to update to Joomla 4?
  - Turn off emails to site admins in User management
  - Make sure it's on the "Default" channel for updates, to turn off notifications at the top of the control panel
    - If it still seems to be a problem, log out and back in.
  - Add a module in the Admin control panel to explain the situation to admins


# So what's your plan?

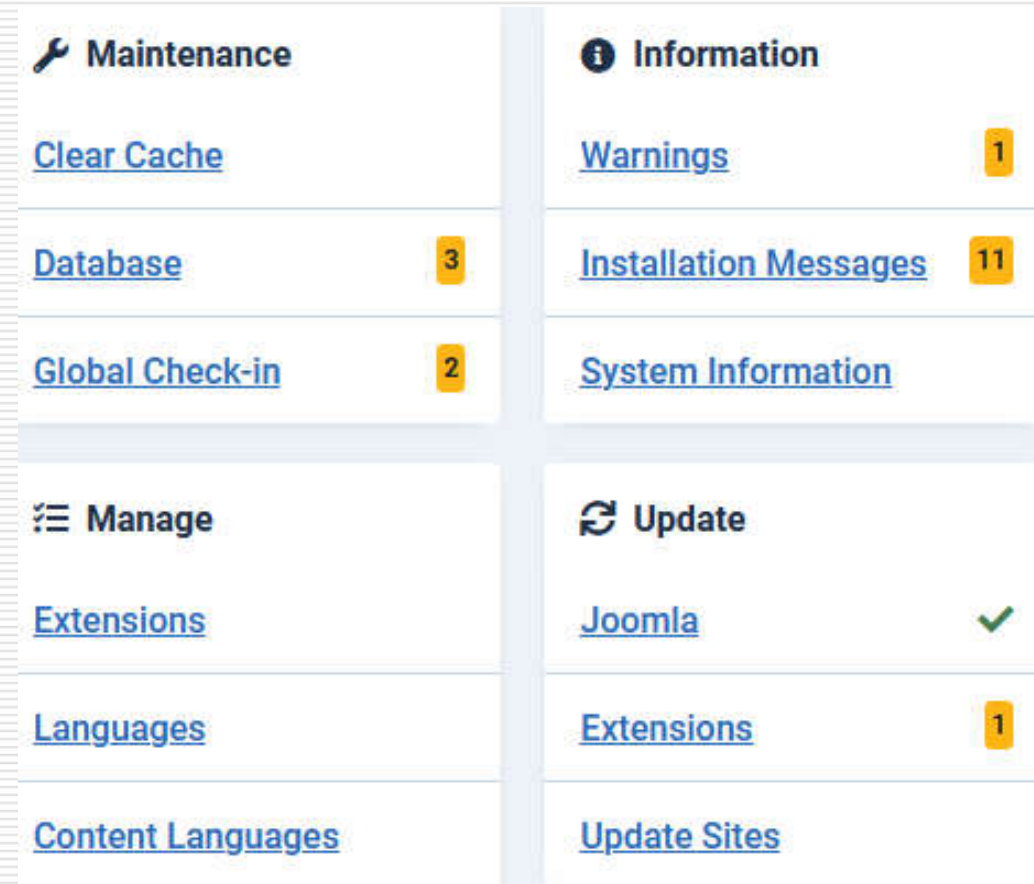
---

- Assess what your site currently uses
  - Template
  - Extensions
- Monitor status of update and decide what is ready / what needs replacement
  - New template or extensions
- Test upgrade on separate server to find out for sure!

# AFTER THE UPGRADE

- If your test site upgraded fine
  - Check System Dashboard
  - Check 404 page
  - Check search

 There are tables not up to date!



The screenshot shows the Joomla! System Dashboard with the following sections:

- Maintenance**
  - [Clear Cache](#)
  - [Database](#) 3
  - [Global Check-in](#) 2
- Information**
  - [Warnings](#) 1
  - [Installation Messages](#) 11
  - [System Information](#)
- Manage**
  - [Extensions](#)
  - [Languages](#)
  - [Content Languages](#)
- Update**
  - [Joomla](#) ✓
  - [Extensions](#) 1
  - [Update Sites](#)

# Search

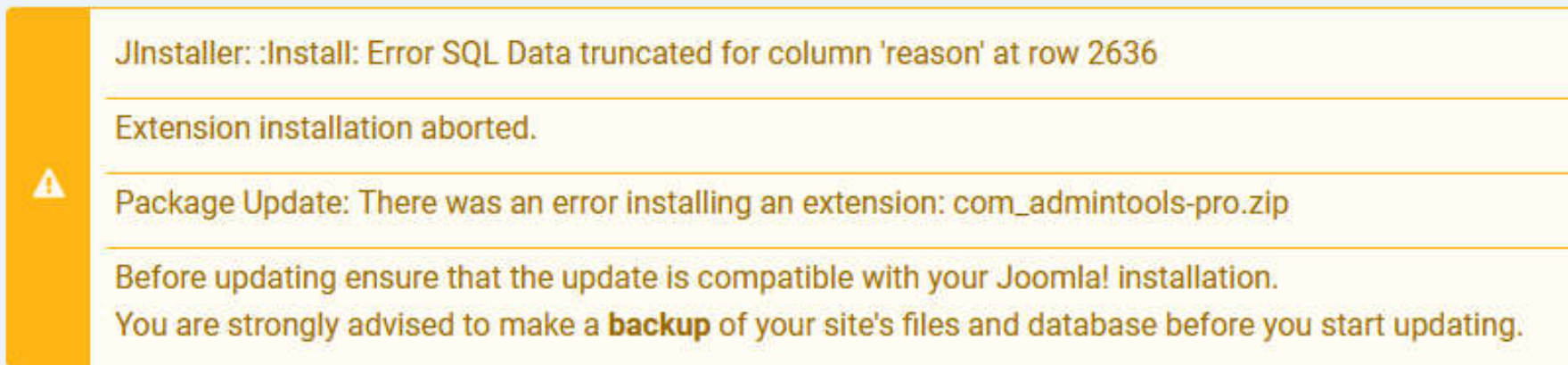
---

- ❑ Site search has been removed from Joomla in lieu of Smart Search
  - I made a menu item to Smart Search and tried to test it out
  - Smart Search needs a plugin enabled and then to be indexed
  - It got errors in doing the index
  - It blew away the site's frontend
- ❑ I unpublished the menu item and reinstalled Joomla and got the frontend back
- ❑ I was able to install the regular search using the updater (could not find it to download, though)

# Could not update Akeeba Admintools

---

- ❑ Attempted to update by click, package, URL



The screenshot shows a Joomla! error message box with a yellow background and a warning icon. The text reads: "J!Installer: :Install: Error SQL Data truncated for column 'reason' at row 2636". Below this, it says "Extension installation aborted." and "Package Update: There was an error installing an extension: com\_admintools-pro.zip". At the bottom, it provides advice: "Before updating ensure that the update is compatible with your Joomla! installation. You are strongly advised to make a **backup** of your site's files and database before you start updating."

- ❑ Ticket with Akeeba
  - Had to go to Maintenance, Database, Update Structure
  - Resolved 2 of 3 database issues
  - Emptied Akeeba Admintools Blocked Requests Log
  - Update Structure resolved database issues
- ❑ Updated Admintools and also Akeeba Backup again
  - Migrated Akeeba Backup settings and removed J!3 version, all good

# Had some tables to check in...

---

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check-in	
Search	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database Table ▲	Items t
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>wekw_update_sites</i> table	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>wekw_wf_profiles</i> table	4

# URL differences in Latest News

---

- Joomla 4 Test site had:
  - <https://testsiteurl/?view=article&id=203:talltree-south-covid-policies&catid=72>
- Joomla 3.10 Site had:
  - <https://livesiteurl/frequently-asked-questions/72-news/203-talltree-south-covid-policies>
- I did some playing around with it but didn't get it to work properly
  - Turning on "Remove IDs from URLs" In Article Manager / Integration
  - Making hidden menu
- Weirdly, now all Latest News seem to be in the covid policy category although they are not... need to read up on the router changes and test some more.

# Going Live

---

- ❑ Back up your 3.10 site for the last time, restore it into a subdirectory or subdomain if you want
- ❑ Remove the 3.10 site or at least change the robots.txt to block search engine spiders
- ❑ Remove all development sites to avoid hacks



---

# DISCUSSIONS

# Gantry 5 Questions

---

- “From the Shadows” went live in September
  - What is the best place in Gantry 5 to adjust for mobile?
  - What are best practices to ensure updates are not overlaid?
  - Integration of RSForms and Acymailing?
- Observations
  - Use of modules in particle positions vs. data in particles
  - Pulling from articles vs. entry in particles
  - Need to write up a site document to give admins a roadmap as to what is done where!

---

# **Joomla! Tidbits...**

# March 2022 Tidbit:

---

- ❑ Important message for Joomla users hosting on Siteground. The siteground caching service will stop working if you upgrade to Joomla 4. . See attached the full story from the support ticket [tinyurl.com/yaglc9oz](https://tinyurl.com/yaglc9oz)
- Per tweet 3/21/2022 from Simon Kloostra, referencing the full story from the support ticket [tinyurl.com/yaglc9oz](https://tinyurl.com/yaglc9oz) :

# March 2022 Tidbit:

---



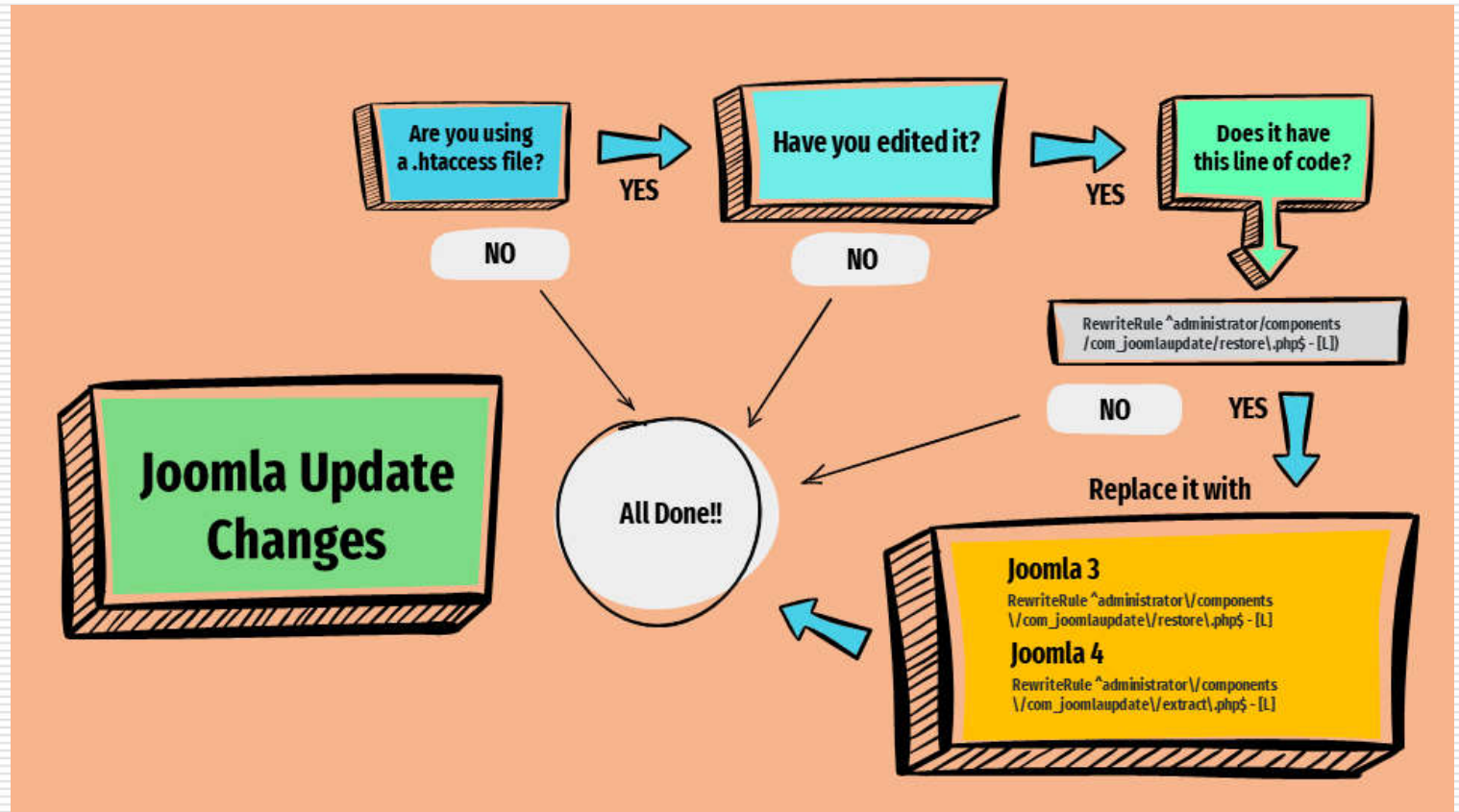
**Elisa Sophia Foltyn** @elisasophia

4 days ago

I move your site to Joomla with Yootheme Pro -  
Apply with your website to get your Website done  
during my 1 hour live session at JoomlaDay USA.  
Drop me a mail with the desired website to  
joomla+joomladayusa@coolcat-creations.com  
and maybe you are the lucky one. #joomla  
#jdayusa

# February 2022 Tidbit:

- ❑ Changes to .htaccess
- ❑ For anyone using Jdocs hardened version or other reasons
- ❑ If you don't make these changes, your updates after Joomla 4.0.4 will be blocked



<https://www.joomla.org/announcements/release-news/5850-changes-to-update-process-that-you-need-to-be-aware-of.html>

# September Tidbit – Joomla Version Missing

---

- ❑ Discovered I had a site not displaying the Joomla version in the footer area of the backend
- ❑ Mod\_version was not in administrator modules list
- ❑ Found old article explaining it for Joomla 2.5.x
  - [https://www.bradkelley.com/2012/05/joomla-2-5-x-versions-module-mod\\_version-not-showing-up-in-administrator-modules-list/](https://www.bradkelley.com/2012/05/joomla-2-5-x-versions-module-mod_version-not-showing-up-in-administrator-modules-list/)
- ❑ Solution was to add it into the database:
  - ```
INSERT INTO `jos_modules` (`title`, `note`, `content`, `ordering`, `position`, `checked_out`, `checked_out_time`, `publish_up`, `publish_down`, `published`, `module`, `access`, `showtitle`, `params`, `client_id`, `language`) VALUES ('Joomla Version', '', '', 1, 'footer', 0, '0000-00-00 00:00:00', '0000-00-00 00:00:00', '0000-00-00 00:00:00', 1, 'mod_version', 3, 1, '{"format":"short", "product":"1", "layout":":default", "moduleclass_sfx":":", "cache":"0"}', 1, '*');
```
  - But needed a few adjustments for my database, quotes, etc., and get it into the right module location.
- ❑ Got it working. No idea why it was missing, or for how long.