



Be Aware Of Joomla Developer Impersonation Scams

Someone is emailing Joomla site owners as Fotis Evangelou, asking for a Super User account and \$550. I played along for an evening. Here is the thread.

Phil E. Taylor | 15 October 2026

On the morning of Thursday 15 October 2026 an email went out to four addresses at one company, signed "Fotis Evangelou, Founder · K2". It said that "Joomla support" had phoned him about the company's website, that the site needed Joomla core and extension updates before 25 October, and that as the person "currently managing your website" he would like to get on with it. It had a photo that is not of him, a link to the real K2 website and a link to his real LinkedIn profile.

Several people forwarded it to me that morning, worried. It is a scam. It uses a well-known Joomla developer's name to get two things out of you: a Super User account on your Joomla site, and \$550. I spent the evening replying to it so you can see the whole script, every email and every header, before one of these reaches your own inbox.

Fotis Evangelou did not send these emails

This round of emails used Fotis Evangelou's name and public links, with a signature photo of somebody else entirely. He is the person being impersonated, and he had nothing to do with any of it. JoomlaWorks has since published an official notice, [Security notice: emails impersonating the K2 developer](#) (also on [getk2.org](#)), confirming that the Gmail address is not theirs, and that real mail from Fotis or JoomlaWorks only comes from an @joomlaworks.net or @getk2.org address, never Gmail or any other free provider. He is also not the only one: the same kind of email is going out under the names of other well-known people in the Joomla ecosystem. If an email arrives from a famous Joomla name you were not expecting, treat it the way you would treat this one.

Why This Joomla Email Is a Scam

The email fails before you get past the first sentence. Joomla is a volunteer-run open source project. There is no "Joomla support" desk, nobody at Joomla phones developers about other people's websites, and no one gets a phone call from "Joomla Support". Everything after that opening line is built on a claim that cannot be true.

The rest of the tells stack up quickly:

- "As I'm currently managing your website" is false familiarity. The sender does not manage the site; the line is there so that you assume a relationship already exists.
- "Before October 25" is invented urgency. Nothing in Joomla happens on 25 October.
- The sender address is a Gmail account, for someone who owns a domain (getk2.org) and would have no reason to use one.
- The signature borrows real public details, the K2 website and the LinkedIn profile, puts them next to a photo of somebody else (a Greek academic's LinkedIn profile picture, see below), and attaches them to a postal address in the Seychelles. I am not going to say whether that address is real or made up. Real public links are being used to make a fake sender look convincing, and that is the point of them.
- American spelling throughout ("optimization", "prioritized") and pricing in US dollars, from a sender whose signature points at Greece and the Seychelles.
- The first email's HTML includes a hidden, zero-height tracking image from an online email-signature generator (a signature.gif with a user id and an email id in the query string), the kind used to report back when an email is opened. I made a point of not loading it.

And the end goal, once you play along, is a Super User account on your Joomla site. That is full control: install extensions, run code, read the database, create more administrators. The \$550 is almost a side order.

Whose Face Is in the Signature?

The circular photo in the first email is the profile photo from the public LinkedIn profile of Andreas Komninos, an Assistant Professor in Patras, Western Greece, whose profile lists the University of Patras and the University of Strathclyde. Same face, same teal-framed glasses, same office behind him. He has nothing to do with any of this. His face was lifted from his own public profile, which makes him the second person this scam is impersonating.

My reading is that the choice was no accident. Anyone who got as far as checking would see a real Greek man next to a Greek name and move on. The check that beats it takes a minute: a reverse image search on the signature photo leads to a university lecturer's profile, not to K2. Worth doing on any email that asks you for money or an account.



The LinkedIn profile the signature photo was taken from. Same face, same teal-framed glasses, same office behind him.

The Full Thread, Message by Message

Here is every email in order, with what each one gives away. My replies were short and gullible on purpose. All times are BST.

Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Fotis Evangelou <evangelou.getk2@gmail.com>

to info@example.com, office1@example.com, office2@example.com,
office3@example.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 07:27 BST

Hi there,
I hope you're doing well.

I just received a call from Joomla support regarding your website's current Joomla CMS, extensions, and configuration, and I wanted to share the relevant update with you.

Based on the maintenance requirements identified, your website may need several Joomla core and extension updates. I recommend reviewing and completing any necessary updates **before October 25** to help maintain compatibility, security, and reliable website functionality.

As I'm currently managing your website, I wanted to inform you in advance so we have sufficient time to review the existing setup, identify any required changes, and carry out the maintenance carefully.

Alongside the Joomla core and extension updates, this would also be a good opportunity to review your website's **SEO configuration and technical optimization**. This may include checking metadata, indexing settings, URL structure, page performance, and other technical SEO elements to support your website's visibility and overall performance.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience so we can review the necessary updates and plan the work to be completed before October 25.

Kind Regards,



Fotis Evangelou

FOUNDER · K2

 evangelou.getk2@gmail.com

 getk2.org

 gr.linkedin.com/in/fevangelou

Unit 117, Orion Mall, Palm Street, 828 Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles

 K2

07:27. The opening pitch, with the borrowed signature. Recipient addresses redacted.

Four role addresses at one company on a single visible To: line, info@ plus three branch offices. Nobody who actually managed a site would email every office at once about it. The subject, "Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25", does the urgency and the upsell in one breath.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Fotis Evangelou <evangelou.getk2@gmail.com>

to info@example.com, office1@example.com, office2@example.com,
office3@example.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 17:15 BST

Hi there,

I hope you're doing well.

I'm following up on my previous email regarding your Joomla website updates and technical SEO optimization ahead of October 25.

I'd like to ensure your website's Joomla core, extensions, and configuration are reviewed properly so that any necessary updates can be completed safely. This would also give us an opportunity to identify potential technical SEO improvements that could help strengthen your website's performance and search engine visibility.

As I'm currently managing your website, I'd be happy to review the existing setup, discuss the recommended improvements, and outline the next steps before proceeding with any changes.

Please let me know your thoughts when you have a moment. I'd appreciate your feedback so we can determine the best way forward for your website.

Kind Regards,



Fotis Evangelou

FOUNDER · K2

 evangelou.getk2@gmail.com

 getk2.org

 gr.linkedin.com/in/fevangelou

Unit 117, Orion Mall, Palm Street, 828 Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles

• K2

17:15. The follow-up, nearly ten hours later, to the same four addresses.

"I'm following up on my previous email ... As I'm currently managing your website ... Please let me know your thoughts when you have a moment." Same four recipients, same claim. By this point I had already had an interesting morning, so I decided to give the sender some thoughts.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Phil Taylor <phil@phil-taylor.com>
to evangelou.getk2@gmail.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 17:23 BST

Awesome - lets do this !
What do you need?

... quoted text trimmed

17:23. My reply, to the Gmail address.

"Awesome - lets do this ! What do you need?" I did not expect what came back 39 seconds later.

Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25 Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Fotis Evangelou <evangelou.getk2@gmail.com>
to phil@phil-taylor.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 17:23 BST (39 seconds later)

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Hi there,

I hope you're doing well.

I just received a call from Joomla support regarding your website's current Joomla CMS, extensions, and configuration, and I wanted to share the relevant update with you.

Based on the maintenance requirements identified, your website may need several Joomla core and extension updates. I recommend reviewing and completing any necessary updates **before October 25** to help maintain compatibility, security, and reliable website functionality.

As I'm currently managing your website, I wanted to inform you in advance so we have sufficient time to review the existing setup, identify any required changes, and carry out the maintenance carefully.

Alongside the Joomla core and extension updates, this would also be a good opportunity to review your website's **SEO configuration and technical optimization**. This may include checking metadata, indexing settings, URL structure, page performance, and other technical SEO elements to support your website's visibility and overall performance.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience so we can review the necessary updates and plan the work to be completed before October 25.

Kind Regards,



Fotis Evangelou

FOUNDER · K2

✉ evangelou.getk2@gmail.com
🌐 getk2.org
🌐 gr.linkedin.com/in/fevangelou

Unit 117, Orion Mall, Palm Street, 828 Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles



17:23 and 39 seconds. The automatic reply.

This is Gmail's own vacation responder, loaded with the sales pitch. The headers say so: "X-Autoreply: yes", "Auto-Submitted: auto-replied", "Precedence: bulk", and the subject is the pitch subject doubled, "Important: ... Re: Important: ...". Anyone who

emails that address, for any reason, gets the pitch back automatically. It is a nice touch of industrialisation.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25 Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Phil Taylor <phil@phil-taylor.com>
to evangelou.getk2@gmail.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 17:28 BST

Awesome - lets do this!

... quoted text trimmed

17:28. I try again, in case the robot was the only one listening.

"Awesome - lets do this!" A human did turn up, 51 minutes later.



Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Fotis Evangelou <evangelou.getk2@gmail.com>
to phil@phil-taylor.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 18:19 BST

Hi Phil,

Thank you for confirming that you'd like to move forward.

Following our discussion, I've outlined three priority maintenance plans for your Joomla website. These plans are designed to help maintain website security, improve technical performance, ensure extension compatibility, and strengthen your website's technical SEO.

Joomla Website Maintenance & Technical SEO Packages

1. Essential Maintenance Plan — \$350

Best for: Essential updates and website stability.

Includes:

- Review of the current Joomla CMS version and configuration.
- Updates to compatible Joomla core components and extensions, where required.
- Basic website functionality and compatibility checks.
- Website backup before maintenance.
- Basic security configuration review.
- Technical SEO health check.
- Review of page titles, meta descriptions, and indexing settings.
- Post-update testing and a maintenance summary.

2. Priority Optimization Plan — \$450

Best for: Comprehensive maintenance and technical SEO improvements.

Includes everything in the Essential Maintenance Plan, plus:

- More detailed review of Joomla extensions, templates, and configuration.
- Technical SEO audit covering indexing, crawlability, canonical URLs, and URL structure.
- Review of XML sitemap and robots.txt configuration.
- Page performance and loading-speed assessment.
- Identification of broken links and redirect issues.
- Review of metadata and on-page SEO configuration on priority pages.
- Mobile usability and responsive functionality checks.
- Implementation of agreed, feasible technical improvements.
- Final testing and a summary of completed work and recommendations.

3. Premium Maintenance & SEO Plan — \$550

Best for: A more extensive technical review and optimization

Essential Maintenance Plan, Priority Optimization Plan, and a more extensive technical review and optimization.

Includes everything in the Priority Optimization Plan, plus:

- A deeper review of website architecture and technical SEO issues.
- Broader review of important pages for metadata and indexing consistency.
- Additional performance optimization opportunities, where technically feasible.
- Review of structured data implementation where applicable.
- More extensive internal-linking and redirect checks.
- Review of image optimization opportunities.
- Additional testing of key website functionality across desktop and mobile.
- A prioritized technical SEO action plan for future improvements.
- A more detailed final report outlining completed work and recommended next steps.

Timeline

My goal is to complete the agreed maintenance and optimization work before October 25, subject to the initial audit, website complexity, and timely access to the necessary systems.

Next Steps

Please let me know which package best suits your requirements. Once you've selected a plan, I'll confirm the final scope of work, arrange the necessary access, and agree on the schedule before beginning.

Please note that these packages cover the work described above. Any premium extensions, third-party services, major redesigns, or substantial development work would be discussed separately before proceeding.

Thank you again for the opportunity to help maintain and improve your Joomla website.

Kind Regards,



Fotis Evangelou

FOUNDER · K2

✉ evangelou.getk2@gmail.com

🌐 getk2.org

in gr.linkedin.com/in/fevangelou

Unit 117, Orion Mall, Palm Street, 828 Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles



18:19. Three packages, and a discussion that never happened.

"Thank you for confirming that you'd like to move forward. Following our discussion, I've outlined three priority maintenance plans." There was no discussion. The plans are the Essential Maintenance Plan (\$350), the Priority Optimization Plan (\$450) and the

Premium Maintenance & SEO Plan (\$550), all to be completed before 25 October, all priced in dollars. The deadline from the first email is still doing its job.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Phil Taylor <phil@phil-taylor.com>
to evangelou.getk2@gmail.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 18:21 BST

Awesome - I want the Premium Maintenance & SEO Plan — \$550 - send me the payment link and Ill pay right away...

... quoted text trimmed

18:21. Naturally I went for the expensive one.

I told them I wanted the Premium Maintenance & SEO Plan at \$550, asked for the payment link, and said I would “pay right away”. Two minutes after the packages arrived. No real client has ever behaved like this, and the sender did not blink.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Fotis Evangelou <evangelou.getk2@gmail.com>
to phil@phil-taylor.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 18:37 BST

Thank you for confirming your selection of the **Premium Maintenance & SEO Plan at \$550**. I appreciate your confidence, and I'm ready to move forward with the work.

Before we proceed, could you please help me restore my administrator access to the Joomla website? Unfortunately, I no longer have the previous login details saved on my end, so I'm unable to access the administrator dashboard.

For security, the easiest option is to create a new administrator account for me or restore my previous account if it still exists.

Steps to Grant Me Administrator Access in Joomla

1. Log in to your Joomla administrator dashboard, usually at <https://yourdomain.com/administrator>.
2. Navigate to **Users** → **Manage**.
3. Click **New** to create a new user account.
4. Enter the following details:
 - **Name:** Fotis Evangelou
 - **Email:** evangelou.getk2@gmail.com
 - **Username:** Create a suitable username for the account.
5. Under **Assigned User Groups**, select **Super Users** only if full administrative access is necessary for the agreed maintenance work. Otherwise, assign the appropriate permissions.
6. Save the account and securely share the login or account invitation details with me. Please avoid sending passwords in plain-text email.

Once my access has been restored, I can review the current Joomla configuration and prepare to begin the agreed maintenance and technical SEO work.

As you have confirmed your selection of the **\$550 Premium Maintenance & SEO Plan**, I'll arrange the payment link so we can proceed with the project.

Thank you for your assistance, Phil. I look forward to working with you on this.

18:37. The real ask.

This is the message the whole thread exists for. After confirming the \$550 plan: "could you please help me restore my administrator access to the Joomla website?

Unfortunately, I no longer have the previous login details saved on my end". Then step-by-step instructions: log in at /administrator, Users, Manage, New, Name: Fotis Evangelou, Email: evangelou.getk2@gmail.com, "Under Assigned User Groups, select

Super Users only if full administrative access is necessary", and "securely share the login ... Please avoid sending passwords in plain-text email." A security tip from the person stealing your site is a lovely detail. Note also that from this message on, the borrowed photo and the fancy signature are gone. Short plain messages only. The costume comes off once the mark has bitten.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Phil Taylor <phil@phil-taylor.com>
to evangelou.getk2@gmail.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 18:39 BST

Awesome - thanks - send me the payment link asap! Im about the leave the office for a long weekend and want to get the money to you!

... quoted text trimmed

18:39. I apply some urgency of my own.

"Awesome - thanks - send me the payment link asap! Im about the leave the office for a long weekend and want to get the money to you!" I wanted to see which of the two prizes they chased when the clock was ticking.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Fotis Evangelou <evangelou.getk2@gmail.com>
to phil@phil-taylor.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 18:48 BST

Thank you for your quick response! I appreciate your willingness to get the payment sorted before you leave for the long weekend.

I'll send you the \$550 payment link as soon as possible.

Also, just a quick reminder about the Joomla administrator access I mentioned in my previous email. Since I no longer have the previous login details saved on my end, could you please let me know if you'll be able to create a new administrator account for me once you're home?

There's no problem if you need to handle that after the long weekend. I just want to make sure we have the necessary access in place so I can proceed smoothly with the Premium Maintenance & SEO Plan.

Thanks again, Phil. I appreciate your trust and look forward to getting started.

18:48. The link is coming, but have you done the account yet?

"I'll send you the \$550 payment link as soon as possible. Also, just a quick reminder about the Joomla administrator access ... could you please let me know if you'll be able to create a new administrator account for me once you're home? There's no problem if you need to handle that after the long weekend." The money can wait until after the weekend. The admin account is the reminder. That tells you which one they value.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Fotis Evangelou <evangelou.getk2@gmail.com>
to phil@phil-taylor.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 19:13 BST

Hold for the payment link

19:13. Four words.

"Hold for the payment link". Twelve minutes later, something did arrive, and it was not from Fotis.

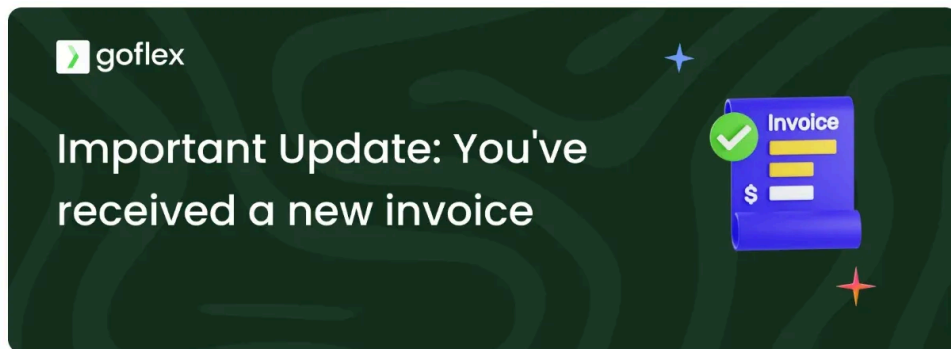


Invoice #206181448604 from David



GoFlex <hello@trygoflex.com>
to phil@phil-taylor.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 19:25 BST



Hello Phil Taylor,

You have received a new invoice from David through our secure invoicing platform, GoFlex.

Below are the details of your invoice:

- Invoice Number: 206181448604
- Amount Due: \$550.00

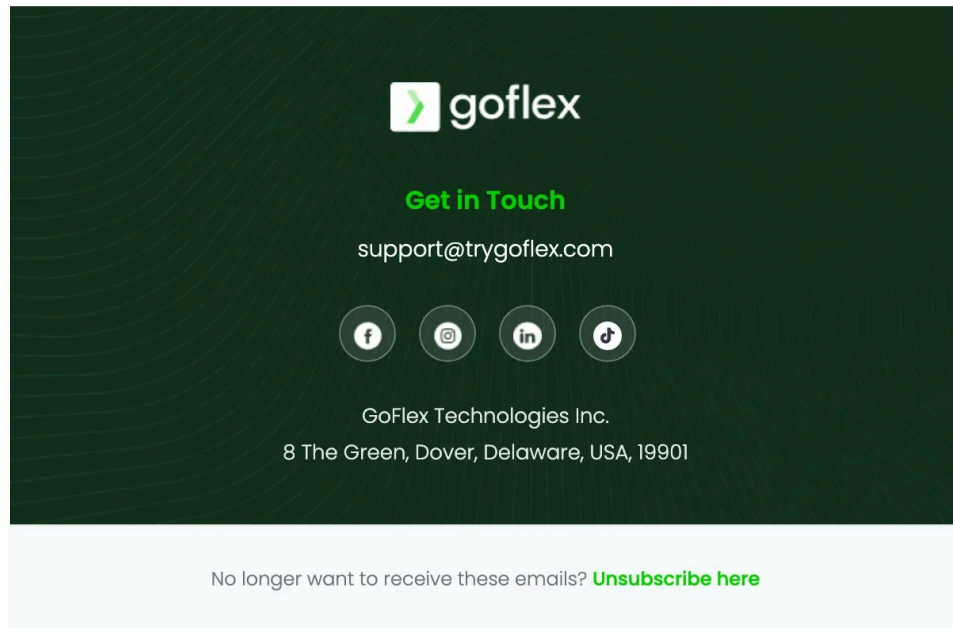
Pay Now

Having issues with the payment link, [click here](#) or copy this URL:
[https://app.trygoflex.com/invoice/checkout/\[redacted\]](https://app.trygoflex.com/invoice/checkout/[redacted])

If you have questions or require assistance regarding this invoice, feel free to reach out to our [support team](#). We appreciate your prompt attention to this payment and are here to support you every step of the way.

Thank you for choosing GoFlex.

GoFlex Team



19:25. The invoice email, from an invoicing platform, for a new invoice from David. Pay link redacted.

The invoice came from GoFlex, an invoicing platform, sent through Amazon SES, with the subject "Invoice #206181448604 from David" and the line "You have received a new invoice from David through our secure invoicing platform, GoFlex". Amount due \$550.00, with a Pay Now button to a checkout page that I have redacted. GoFlex is simply the tool the scammer chose to raise the invoice; I have no reason to think the platform itself is involved.

GoFlex is a West African invoicing and payments platform for freelancers, which is its own small tell. Of all the invoicing tools on the internet, the scammer reached for one rooted in West Africa, and that fits everything else the evidence keeps pointing at: a Lagos address on the merchant account, and a Lagos connection when the link was opened, which you will see further down.

Invoice

David Lazarus

Invoice no: #INV-206181448604

Invoice date: 15th October 2026

Due date: 15th October 2026

Billed from:

David Lazarus

Reg no: 17927500

VAT ID: TA1792750HNK0

Billed to:

Phil Taylor

phil@phil-taylor.com

Services/items

Premium Website Maintenance and SEO Optimization

1 x F

Total Amount \$550.00

Total amount to be paid:

Project amount \$550.00

VAT/GST \$0.00

Total amount \$550.00

Via authorized reseller:  goflex

Page 1 of 1

The invoice itself. Billed from David Lazarus.

"Billed from: David Lazarus". The registration number and VAT ID printed under it are the same fixed numbers GoFlex prints on every invoice it issues, whoever sends it, so they identify nobody; the name is the only sender detail on the page. Billed to Phil Taylor, for "Premium Website Maintenance and SEO Optimization", \$550.00, VAT \$0.00, invoice date and due date both 15 October 2026, footer "Via authorized reseller: goflex". The name on the invoice is not Fotis Evangelou. That is the clearest proof in the whole thread that this is not him, and it is where I stopped. I never created an account and never paid. I have no idea who David Lazarus is, and nor should you assume anything: it may well be a stolen or invented name.

The invoice link opens a GoFlex checkout, and the checkout has a step that gives the whole thing away.

The image shows a GoFlex checkout screen titled "Before you pay". Below the title is a subtitle: "To protect both you and the service provider, please confirm your situation." There are two radio button options. The first option is "I have received the deliverables" with a green dollar sign icon, a "Pay Now" button, and a description: "Payment will be sent to the service provider immediately." The second option is "I have NOT received the deliverables" with a green shield icon, a "Pay with Escrow" button, and a description: "Your payment will be held securely in escrow. We'll securely hold the funds until your deliverables are confirmed. Your merchant will be notified once payment is made." At the bottom is a "Next" button.

Before you pay

To protect both you and the service provider, please confirm your situation.

☐ **I have received the deliverables** [Pay Now](#)
Payment will be sent to the service provider immediately.

☐ **I have NOT received the deliverables** [Pay with Escrow](#)
Your payment will be held securely in escrow. We'll securely hold the funds until your deliverables are confirmed. Your merchant will be notified once payment is made.

Next

The GoFlex 'Before you pay' step. One option pays out at once. The other holds the money in escrow until you confirm the work was done.

GoFlex offers to hold your money in escrow until you confirm you actually received the work. For a real supplier that is a feature. For this one it is a problem, because there is

no work and never will be. So the next email told me, in bold, not to use it.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Fotis Evangelou <evangelou.getk2@gmail.com>
to phil@phil-taylor.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 19:35 BST

Hi Phil,

Thank you for confirming. We can proceed with Option 3 – Full Premium maintenance & SEO (\$550) as agreed.

To move forward, kindly complete the required implementation toolkit purchase using the secure invoice link below:

[https://app.trygoflex.com/invoice/checkout/\[redacted\]](https://app.trygoflex.com/invoice/checkout/[redacted])

Please do not make this payment through escrow. The toolkit payment needs to be completed directly through the invoice so the funds can be available for the required implementation tools and services without additional processing delays.

Once the purchase has been completed, kindly send me the payment confirmation so we can verify everything and begin the implementation process.

Thank you again, Phil. I look forward to getting the agreed updates underway.

19:35. 'Please do not make this payment through escrow.' The quiet part, in bold.

"We can proceed with Option 3 - Full Premium maintenance & SEO (\$550) as agreed. To move forward, kindly complete the required implementation toolkit purchase using the secure invoice link below." Then, in bold: "Please do not make this payment through escrow. The toolkit payment needs to be completed directly through the invoice so the funds can be available for the required implementation tools and services without additional processing delays." Read that against the screenshot above. Escrow holds the money until you confirm the work was done. The one thing a scammer cannot afford is a buyer who waits to see the work. "Without additional processing delays" is the money leaving your reach before you notice nothing arrived.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Phil Taylor <phil@phil-taylor.com>
to evangelou.getk2@gmail.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 19:36 BST

Just getting home... are you going to the JWC26? I bet its far from Greece?!

... quoted text trimmed

19:36. I ask a question the real Fotis could answer in his sleep.

I asked whether they were going to JWC26, the Joomla conference, and said it was "far from Greece". Fotis is Greek and a fixture at these events; the real one would have fired back something about Potsdam. I am still waiting for an answer, along with the payment link.

What Do the Email Headers Give Away?

Less than people hope, and more than the scammer would like. Every message from the sender really is from the Gmail account evangelou.getk2@gmail.com: SPF pass, DKIM pass (d=gmail.com), DMARC pass. That is exactly what you would expect, and it is exactly why authentication does not help you here. Authentication proves which mailbox sent a message. It does not prove who is typing, and anyone can register a Gmail address with a famous name in it.

What we looked at	What it showed
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Sending servers	Google's own outbound servers, mail-sor-f65.google.com (209.85.220.65) and mail-sor-f41.google.com (209.85.220.41)
Sender's IP address	Not present. Gmail does not put the sender's own IP in the headers, so the headers cannot locate the sender. Only Google can, through an abuse report
Message-ID	Every message from the sender starts with the same "CAEguL_" prefix at @mail.gmail.com, consistent with one Gmail account writing all of them

What we looked at	What it showed
Date header	Always -0700, US Pacific Daylight Time, the clock the sending account or device is set to. That fits neither the Greek LinkedIn profile nor the Seychelles postal address in the signature. A clue, not proof of where anyone is
Auto-reply	Gmail's vacation responder loaded with the pitch, marked with the headers below
Tracking pixel	A zero-height signature.gif from email-signature-image.com in the first email, built by an online signature generator that reports opens
Invoice email	From hello@trygoflex.com , Reply-To support@trygoflex.com , sent through Amazon SES in us-east-2, GoFlex Technologies Inc., Dover, Delaware

The automatic reply's headers, for anyone who wants to recognise the pattern in their own inbox:

```
X-Autoreply: yes
Auto-Submitted: auto-replied
Precedence: bulk
```

So the picture from the headers is one Gmail account, on a device set to a US Pacific clock, sending through Google, with a signature built in an online generator and an invoice raised through a third-party platform in a different name. None of it tells you where the sender is sitting. All of it tells you the sender is not who the signature says.

The Invoice Platform Handed Over the Scammer

Here is the part the scammer did not plan for. GoFlex serves the invoice from a public API, and that API has no authentication on it at all. Anyone who has the invoice's id can read the whole record back, including the merchant's own account details. The merchant, in this case, is the person behind "Fotis Evangelou".

This is the endpoint, on GoFlex's beta host:

```
https://goflex-beta.gonomadhq.site/api/v1/goflex/public/invoice/detail/4c1
```

Open it and the `merchant_data` block comes straight back:

```
"merchant_data": {
  "id": 49998,
  "status": "ACTIVE",
  "full_name": "David Lazarus",
  "residential_address": "No 13 oke Ola street Amoyo",
  "email": "davidfundz211@gmail.com",
  "profession": null,
  "specialty": null,
  "linkedin_url": null,
  "phone_number": null
}
```

So the account collecting the \$550 is registered to “David Lazarus”, at davidfundz211@gmail.com, a second throwaway Gmail that has nothing to do with the Fotis Evangelou address used in the emails. The address on the account, “No 13 oke Ola street Amoyo”, is the Ajoke Cybercafe in Amoyo, Nigeria. Not Greece, not the Seychelles, not a call from “Joomla support”. A cybercafe in Kwara State. The same record shows the money: \$550 invoiced, \$519.80 set to pay out to the merchant after the platform’s cut, routed through Stripe (the transaction reference is a Stripe payment id, `pi_3UQtaCJv60GYEdmM1pIDX8x8`).

The same unauthenticated endpoint also read my own details back out, the name, email and address I was billed under, which means this is not only the scammer’s data on show. Any GoFlex invoice served this way exposes both the merchant and the customer on it to anyone holding the id. That is a real data protection problem on GoFlex’s side, and I have reported it to them separately. I am publishing the scammer’s merchant record here because it is the scammer’s, and because it is the clearest proof yet of who is actually behind the Fotis Evangelou costume.

So I Sent Him a Link

The invoice pointed at Nigeria. I wanted to see it from his end as well, so I put a short link on one of my own domains that logged whoever opened it, the IP address, the network, the rough location and the browser, then forwarded them straight to his invoice page so the link did exactly what he expected. The clever part was not the link, it was how I got him to click it: I sent it back to him and asked, as an anxious mark would, whether this was the right place to pay.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Phil Taylor <phil@phil-taylor.com>
to evangelou.getk2@gmail.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 19:57 BST

Sorry, is this the right details <https://screenshot.phil-taylor.com/goflex> I need to not choose escrow and enter my details on the right?

... quoted text trimmed

19:57. I send him a link on my own domain and ask if this is where I pay.

He did not just open it. He vouched for it.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Fotis Evangelou <evangelou.getk2@gmail.com>
to phil@phil-taylor.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 19:59 BST

Yes, that's it.
is one of my billing contractor

19:59. 'Yes, that's it. is one of my billing contractor.'

He confirmed a link on my domain as "one of my billing contractor", which is how I got the one thing the email headers would never give me: his real connection. The visit came from 102.88.166.8, a mobile address on MTN Nigeria, from Lagos, on an ordinary

Windows copy of Chrome. No VPN, no proxy, no data centre, just a phone network in Nigeria and a real browser clicking a link. It matches the account address the invoice platform leaked. So the location now has two independent sources that agree: the merchant record he filled in, and the address he connected from. The US Pacific clock in his email headers was only his mail client's setting, nothing more.

He kept the act up afterwards, even softening on the escrow point once I had raised it, now that it might scare the mark off.

Re: Important: Joomla Website Updates and Technical SEO Optimization Before October 25



Fotis Evangelou <evangelou.getk2@gmail.com>
to phil@phil-taylor.com

Thu 15 Oct 2026, 20:32 BST

Yes, that appears to be the GoFlex checkout page you're referring to. Please review the invoice details and make sure the amount and service description match our agreed \$550 Premium Maintenance & SEO Plan.

Regarding escrow, I want you to feel comfortable with the payment process. If GoFlex offers escrow protection for this invoice, please review its terms before deciding which payment option to use. There's no need to enter your payment details until you're satisfied that everything is correct.

Once the payment is confirmed, we can coordinate the Joomla administrator access and agree on the next steps for the maintenance and SEO work.

Thanks again, Phil. I appreciate the update and look forward to working with you.

20:32. The same link is now 'the GoFlex checkout page', and escrow is suddenly fine after all.

Cloudflare attached coordinates to the visit as well, 6.45407, 3.39467, which reverse-geocode to a business centre on Lagos Island, the Azeez Olamileken Business Centre at the Ogun State Institute of Technology's Lagos Island centre. Do not read the pin too literally. A mobile network gives many subscribers the same geo-IP point, usually a carrier node or a city default rather than the actual phone, so this is the network's best guess at a neighbourhood, not his desk, and the building at that point has nothing to do with any of this. What the coordinates are good for is agreement: they sit in the same city as the address on the leaked account and the same country as everything else.

I have taken that link down again. It existed to answer one question, and it did.

What Should You Do If You Receive One of These?

Do not reply, and do not create any account. Then work through this list:

1. Check whether the person really manages your site, using a channel you already trust: an address or phone number you already had before this email arrived, never one printed in the email itself.
2. Report the Gmail address to Google, using Gmail's "Report phishing" option or Google's abuse form. Google is the only party that can see where the account is being used from.
3. If you already created the account they asked for, block or delete it straight away and change your administrator passwords.
4. Check your Joomla Users list for any other Super User accounts you did not create, and your extensions list for anything installed recently that you do not recognise.
5. Open the User Actions Log in your Joomla administrator and look for anything done by the account you created. If it was used for anything at all, treat the site as compromised: restore a backup you know is clean, or have the site audited before you trust it again. That is JoomlaWorks' advice in its notice, and I agree with it.
6. If you paid the invoice, contact your bank or card provider and the invoicing platform and report the payment as fraud.

The bait in these emails is a name you trust. The defence is to never act on an email alone, however familiar the signature looks.

Checking Your Own Joomla Sites for Accounts You Did Not Create

If you look after more than a handful of sites, checking each Users list by hand is the kind of job that does not get done. mySites.guru users can search every connected site for an unexpected account by email address with the [user manager](#), get an [email alert when an administrator logs in](#). And if you want Super User logins harder to abuse in the first place, here is [how to force MFA on Joomla Super Users](#).

Who We Have Told

This is not only a blog post. The impersonation has gone to the people who can act on it. The Joomla Security Strike Team was told first, confirmed the account was impersonating Fotis, and reported it to Google. The Gmail accounts doing the sending have been reported to Google for phishing. The fraudulent invoice and the unauthenticated data leak behind it have gone to the invoicing platform that issued it. And because the payment is processed by Stripe, Stripe has been told the account is collecting money by fraud.

JoomlaWorks has now published its own [security notice about the emails](#), after several of its clients and people in the Joomla community forwarded them copies, and has reported the Gmail account to Google as impersonation with the full headers attached. It confirms that neither Fotis nor JoomlaWorks will ever ask for a Super User account by email or invoice you through a third-party platform under someone else's name. If you are ever unsure whether a message from them is real, write to them through a channel you were already using before the email arrived, or through the contact page on their own site.

If one of these reaches you, report it as well. One report is easy to wave away. A dozen pointing at the same account is not.

Timeline

2026-10-15
07:27



First email arrives

Sent as Fotis Evangelou from a Gmail address to four role addresses at one company. Claims a call from Joomla support and a 25 October deadline. Forwarded to me by several worried people that morning.

2026-10-15
17:15



Follow-up to the same four addresses

"As I'm currently managing your website ... Please let me know your thoughts when you have a moment."

- 2026-10-15 17:23 ● **I take the bait**
"Awesome - lets do this ! What do you need?"
- 2026-10-15 17:23 ○ **Gmail vacation responder fires**
39 seconds later an automatic reply re-sends the whole pitch. Headers: X-Autoreply: yes, Auto-Submitted: auto-replied, Precedence: bulk.
- 2026-10-15 17:28 ● **I nudge again**
"Awesome - lets do this!"
- 2026-10-15 18:19 ● **Three priced packages**
\$350, \$450 and \$550 plans, "following our discussion". There had been no discussion.
- 2026-10-15 18:21 ● **I pick the \$550 plan**
I ask for the payment link so I can pay right away.
- 2026-10-15 18:37 ● **The real ask: a Super User account**
Step-by-step instructions to create a Joomla administrator account in the name Fotis Evangelou with the Gmail address. The fancy signature disappears from this message on.
- 2026-10-15 18:39 ● **I ask for the link, urgently**
"Im about the leave the office for a long weekend and want to get the money to you!"
- 2026-10-15 18:48 ● **Reminder about the admin account**
Payment link promised "as soon as possible", with a second request for the administrator account, "once you're home" if need be.
- 2026-10-15 19:13 ○ **"Hold for the payment link"**
Four words, no signature.
- 2026-10-15 19:25 ● **Invoice for \$550 arrives**

		Sent by the GoFlex invoicing platform, billed from David Lazarus. Not Fotis Evangelou.
2026-10-15 19:35	●	"Do not pay through escrow" The sender insists, in bold, that I pay the invoice directly rather than use the checkout's escrow option, which would hold the money until the work was confirmed.
2026-10-15 19:36	●	I ask about JWC26 A question the real Fotis could answer without thinking. No real answer comes back.
2026-10-15 19:57	●	I send him a link on my own domain I ask, as a nervous mark would, whether this is the right place to pay.
2026-10-15 19:58	●	He opens it The link records a visit from a mobile address on MTN Nigeria, in Lagos, on an ordinary Windows browser. It matches the Nigerian address on the merchant account.
2026-10-15 19:59	●	He vouches for my link as his own "Yes, that's it. is one of my billing contractor." He confirms a page on my domain as a payment page of his, which is how I got his real connection. I paid nothing and created no account.

Further Reading

- [Security notice: emails impersonating the K2 developer](#) - JoomlaWorks' official statement on the emails, with the domains it really writes from and what to do if you already replied
- [Report phishing and suspicious emails in Gmail](#) - Google's own instructions for reporting a Gmail address used for phishing

- K2's official website - the real K2 site, which the scam signature links to so that it looks real

Frequently Asked Questions

Did Fotis Evangelou send these emails?

No. The emails came from a Gmail address with his name in it, with a signature that borrows the real K2 website and his LinkedIn profile, next to a photo of a different person.

JoomlaWorks has confirmed in an official security notice that it neither owns nor controls that address. He is the person being impersonated, not the person sending them, and the invoice at the end of the thread is in another name entirely.

Whose photo is in the scam email signature?

The profile photo from the public LinkedIn profile of Andreas Komninos, an Assistant Professor in Patras, Greece. He has nothing to do with the scam and no connection to Fotis Evangelou or JoomlaWorks. His face was taken from his public profile to sit next to a Greek name. A reverse image search on a signature photo is a quick way to catch this kind of borrowing.

How do I know if an email from Fotis Evangelou or JoomlaWorks is real?

Look at the sender's domain. JoomlaWorks and Fotis Evangelou only write from an @joomlaworks.net or @getk2.org address, never from Gmail or any other free email service. They do not send unsolicited messages claiming Joomla support contacted them, do not ask for Super User or administrator accounts by email, and do not invoice through third-party invoicing platforms or under another person's name. If in doubt, contact them through a channel you already used before the email arrived, or through the contact page on their own website.

Does Joomla support phone developers about my website?

No. Joomla is a volunteer-run open source project. There is no Joomla support desk that rings developers about other people's websites, so any email that opens with a call from Joomla support is already false.

What does the scammer actually want?

Two things: a \$550 payment through an invoicing platform, and a Super User account on your Joomla site. The account is the bigger prize. A Super User can install extensions, run code, read the database and create more administrators.

The email passed SPF, DKIM and DMARC. Does that mean it is real?

No. Those checks prove the message came from the Gmail mailbox it claims to come from. They say nothing about who registered that mailbox or who is typing. Anyone can create a Gmail address with a well-known name in it.

I already created the account they asked for. What now?

Block or delete that account, change your administrator passwords, and check for any other Super User accounts and recently installed extensions you do not recognise. Then report the Gmail address to Google.

Is it only Fotis being impersonated?

No. This round used his name, but the same kind of email is going out under the names of other well-known people in the Joomla ecosystem. Treat any unexpected email from a famous Joomla name with the same suspicion.

Who is actually behind the emails?

The invoicing platform's own public API exposed the merchant account collecting the money. It is registered to the name David Lazarus, at a second throwaway Gmail address, with an account address that is a cybercafe in Amoyo, Nigeria. Not Greece, not the Seychelles, and nothing to do with the real Fotis Evangelou.

AI MODIFIED

Written and edited by a human, with AI assistance. [Our approach to AI](#)

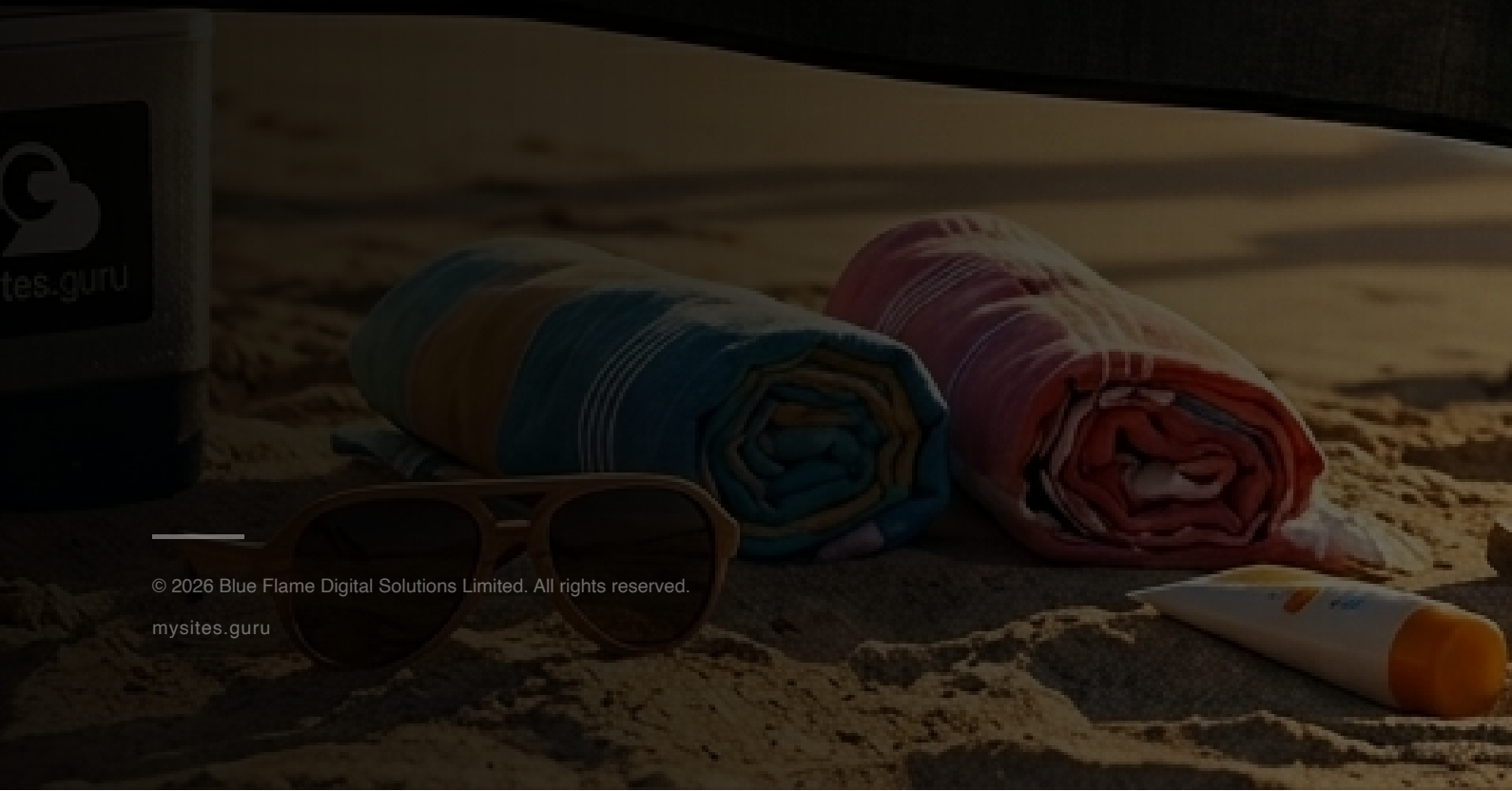
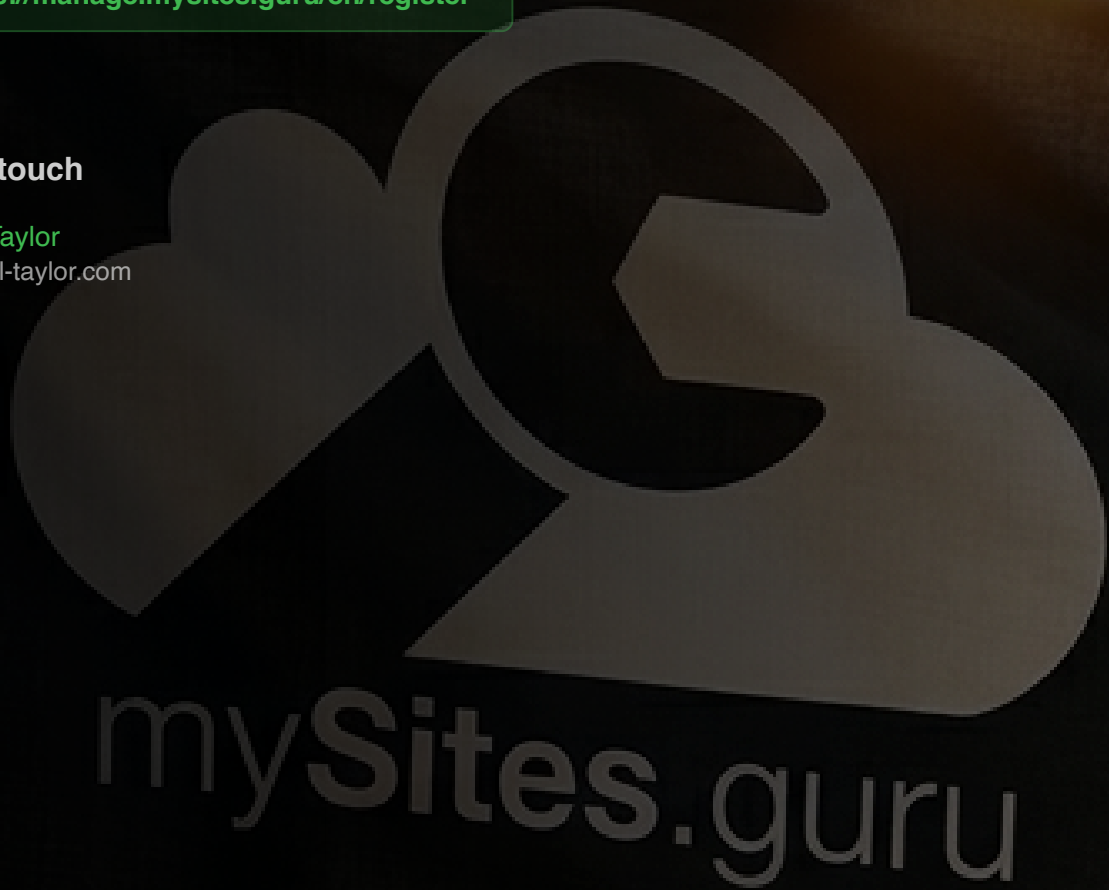
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