



# A New mySites.guru Tool to Find, and Fix, the JCE Profiles Hack (June 2026)

mySites.guru now has a dedicated check that finds rogue JCE editor profiles and webshells across your Joomla sites, then lets you clean and patch them from one screen.

Phil E. Taylor | 9 June 2026

JCE (Joomla Content Editor) ships on more Joomla sites than any other editor extension. It sits in the top two of our [live extension ranking](#), neck and neck with Akeeba Backup. So when the JCE profiles attack started landing on real sites this month, "Are any of the sites I'm responsible for hacked!?" became a question every Joomla agency suddenly needed to answer. mySites.guru now answers it for you, automatically, on every site you manage.

We have added a new dedicated check, **Check for JCE Rogue Profiles & Backdoors**. It runs on every snapshot, twice a day, on each connected Joomla site, and **finds** the fingerprint of this attack automatically: rogue editor profiles and the webshells they drop. When it flags something, **fixing** it is a deliberate, one-click action you trigger yourself, on Joomla 4, 5 and 6 you remove the profiles, delete the backdoors, and update JCE to the patched version, all from one screen. It does not delete anything on its own, because you want to see what is there and take a copy first. This post covers what it checks and how to use it, and the live hack that prompted us to build it.

We built it because we kept finding the real thing. While looking into why a Joomla site was throwing a template error, we found the aftermath of the JCE profiles attack on the live site: a rogue editor profile built to allow file uploads, and a set of webshells dropped through it. The site was running a JCE version old enough to carry the unauthenticated profile upload flaw, [CVE-2026-48907](#). When we swept the rest of that portfolio, two more sites were carrying it too. Doing that sweep by hand across 40 client sites is exactly the work that does not get done, so we automated it.

## TL;DR

- mySites.guru now has a dedicated **Check for JCE Rogue Profiles & Backdoors** that runs on every snapshot, twice a day, on every connected Joomla site
- It **finds** rogue editor profiles and the webshells they drop automatically. When it flags something, you **fix** it manually from one screen: on Joomla 4, 5 and 6 you remove the profiles, delete the backdoors, and update JCE with a click each

- It is scoped to this attack's fingerprint, so a merely permissive profile (one with `allow_php` on for legitimate reasons) is **not** flagged. The discriminator is whether a profile lets you upload a script file
- The attack itself abuses the unauthenticated editor profile upload patched in **JCE 2.9.99.5 (CVE-2026-48907)**: import a rogue profile that allows **php and txt uploads**, then use it to drop a **webshell**
- It started with three sites in one portfolio. We have since seen hundreds, and given how JCE's last unauthenticated upload flaw played out, we expect thousands over the coming days. One compromised site is rarely the only one
- To find every install still on a vulnerable build, pair the check with the [mySites.guru extension search](#) and patch them in one batch with the [mass updater](#)
- Removing the files without updating JCE invites reinfection: **patch the entry point**, do not just clean up after it

## The new tool: Check for JCE Rogue Profiles & Backdoors

Everything in the manual cleanup further down this post (the database query, the file hunt across `tmp`, `media` and `images`, the careful "is this profile rogue or just permissive" judgement) is work that does not get done by hand at scale, repeated for every site you manage. So we built it into mySites.guru as a dedicated check.

It runs on every snapshot, so it is already looking at your connected Joomla sites twice a day. On the site health view it sits in its own **Hacked?** section, with a single OK on a clean site or a red count of threats on a compromised one.

The screenshot shows a dashboard with a navigation bar at the top containing 'Health', 'Alert', 'Manage', 'Activity', 'Notes', and 'Config'. Below this is a 'Snapshot' section showing '7 minutes ago' and 'Jun 9, 2026, 1:43 PM', with 'Hide OK' and 'Refresh Snapshot' options. The main section is titled 'Hacked?' and contains a green 'OK' button and a 'Check For JCE Rogue Profiles & Backdoors' button. To the right of the main button are three smaller icons: a graduation cap, a list, and a wrench labeled 'Investigate'.

When a site is flagged, the whole snapshot leads with a red “This site has been flagged as hacked” banner, and the check shows the threat count, eleven on this site, with an Investigate button to drill in.

**This site has been flagged as hacked** Investigate Hack

We found known security holes, known hacker files/shells/backdoors or insecure files during the last audit.

Run a new audit to clear this flag once you've cleaned up.

We can clean this up for you. [See our fixed-fee options.](#)

Health Alert Manage Activity Notes Config

Snapshot 2 seconds ago Jun 9, 2026, 2:12 PM Hide OK Refresh Snapshot

**Hacked ?**

11 Threats Check For JCE Rogue Profiles & Backdoors Investigate

## What it actually checks

The check looks for the fingerprints of this specific attack, in the specific places it leaves them, rather than scanning your whole site (that is the job of the separate suspect content audit). It looks at three things:

- **The JCE profiles table.** It flags editor profiles that carry the attacker signature: a machine-generated name matching **J** followed by six digits ( **J940401** ), labels such as **Pwned** with a description of **RCE via JCE** , a large negative ordering that forces the profile to the top, or upload filetypes that allow **php** or **phtml** . Crucially, a profile that merely has **allow\_php** enabled is **not** flagged, because that setting governs PHP inside article content, not file uploads. The discriminator is whether the profile lets you upload a script file, which is what makes the attack work.
- **Malicious profile imports.** The rogue profile is usually dropped as an **.xml** file in a writable directory before it is imported. The check looks for those import files in the known drop locations.
- **Dropped backdoors.** It checks the exact locations this kit uses ( **tmp** , **images** , **media/system/js** , **libraries/joomla** ) for hidden **.xml.php** droppers,

`eval(gzinflate(base64_decode(...)))` webshells, `shell_exec` command shells, and `Nxploited` marker files.

When it finds something, Investigate lists every rogue profile (with the reason each one was flagged) and every malicious file (with its path and why it matched), so you can see exactly what is there before you touch anything. Here it is on a compromised site, showing both kits' signatures side by side: the `J940401` machine-generated name and the `Pwned` labels from earlier, plus eight malicious files spanning the hidden `.xml.php` droppers, the `eval(gzinflate(base64_decode))` and `shell_exec($_POST)` webshells, the `Nxploited` markers, and the profile import `.xml` itself, each with a plain-English reason it was flagged.

**⚠ This site shows signs of an active JCE compromise**

The items below are listed so you can see exactly what will be removed. **Removing files and database rows is permanent and cannot be undone. mySites.guru does NOT keep a backup copy.** Take your own copy of anything you want to preserve for evidence before you delete it.

Clean the rogue profile and the backdoor files, then upgrade JCE to close the entry point. Until JCE is upgraded, the site can be re-breached.

### 3 Rogue JCE Profiles

ID	NAME	DESCRIPTION	WHY FLAGGED
2	J940401		Machine-generated name matching the J[0-9]{6} attack pattern
3	Pwned	RCE via JCE	Name or description matches a known attacker label
4	Pwned (2)	RCE via JCE	Name or description matches a known attacker label

**Remove all rogue profiles**

### 8 Malicious Files

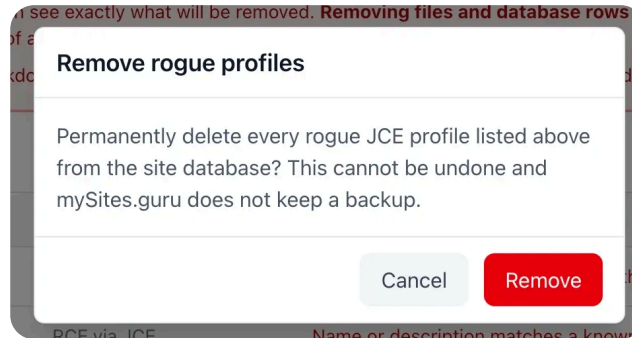
ⓘ These are the files specific to the JCE profiles hack in the locations this attack is known to use. This is **not** a complete list of every backdoor on the site. To scan the whole site for malicious files, run a full [mySites.guru audit](#).

FILE	TYPE	WHY FLAGGED
/tmp/.system/.xml.php	Backdoor / marker	Hidden .xml.php backdoor dropper in a legitimate directory
/media/system/js/.xml.php	Backdoor / marker	Hidden .xml.php backdoor dropper in a legitimate directory
/libraries/joomla/.xml.php	Backdoor / marker	Hidden .xml.php backdoor dropper in a legitimate directory
/tmp/nx84645.php	Backdoor / marker	Matches known webshell / marker signature (eval(gzinflate(base64_decode)))
/tmp/nx84645.txt	Backdoor / marker	Matches known webshell / marker signature (Nxploited)
/tmp/nx99012.txt	Backdoor / marker	Matches known webshell / marker signature (Nxploited)
/tmp/x.xml	JCE profile import	Malicious JCE profile import that enables .php uploads
/images/default.php	Backdoor / marker	Matches known webshell / marker signature (shell_exec(\$_POST))

**Delete all malicious files**

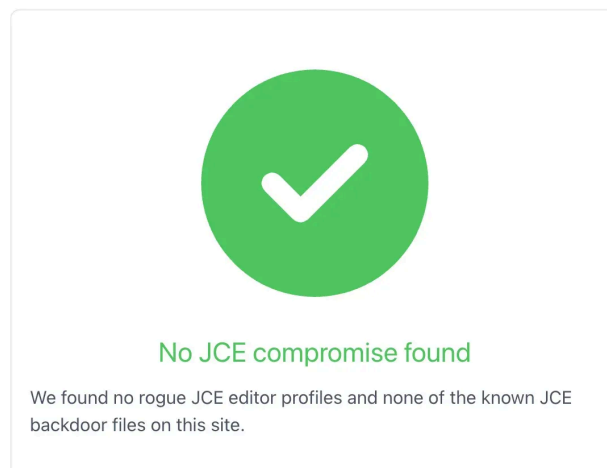
From the same screen you can remove the rogue profiles, delete the backdoor files, and, on Joomla 4, 5 and 6, upgrade JCE to the patched version through Joomla's own

updater to close the entry point. The deletions are permanent and mySites.guru does not keep a backup, so the tool lists everything first, warns you before it acts, and asks you to take your own copy of anything you want for evidence.



It is deliberately scoped to this attack. The file list it shows is the JCE-specific set, not a full backdoor sweep, and it says so: if you want to scan the whole site for malicious files, that is a one-click link through to a full audit.

When a site is clean, which is the common case, the check just confirms it.



## How the JCE profiles attack works

JCE's defining feature is its Editor Profiles system. Rather than handing every logged-in user the same editor, JCE lets an administrator define different profiles for different user groups. A registered user might get a stripped-down toolbar with no file uploads.

A content editor might get image and file managers scoped to one media directory. A super user gets the full editor with broad file operations.

Each profile defines, among other things, which file types may be uploaded and into which directories. A profile is, in effect, a set of filesystem permissions wearing an editor's clothes. Control the profile and you control what file operations JCE will carry out.

The flaw patched in 2.9.99.5 was an access control gap on the action that imports an editor profile: before the patch, an unauthenticated request could reach it. Put the two facts together and the attack writes itself. If an anonymous actor can upload a profile, and a profile dictates which file types may be uploaded, the attacker imports a profile permissive enough to allow a PHP upload, then uses it to upload a webshell. That is the chain the [2.9.99.5 advisory](#) points at with "upload arbitrary files to the server," and it is the chain we saw land.

## What it looked like on disk

The clearest tell was the rogue profile itself, delivered as a JCE profile import file. Stripped down and with the dangerous values redacted, it looked like this:

```
<jce>
  <profiles>
    <profile>
      <!-- machine-generated, e.g. a letter plus six digits -->
      <name>[redacted]</name>
      <published>1</published>
      <!-- forced to the top so it takes precedence -->
      <ordering>-99999</ordering>
      <!-- area 0 applies to all users... -->
      <area>0</area>
      <!-- ...and type 1 is the Public group, i.e. anonymous visitors -->
      <types>1,8</types>
      <!-- the file browser plugin is enabled -->
      <plugins>browser,image,media,link,file</plugins>
      <params><![CDATA[{
        "browser": {
          "filetypes": {
```

```

        "images": "jpg,jpeg,png,gif",
        "_comment": "php is in the upload allow-list",
        "files": "php,txt,..."
    },
    "upload": {
        "_comment": "mime checking switched off",
        "validate_mimetype": "0"
    }
}
]]></params>
</profile>
</profiles>
</jce>

```

It is configured the way an attacker would configure it and no legitimate site ever would. Four lines do all the damage: the **ordering of -99999** forces it to the top of the profile list; the **area of 0** with the **Public type** applies it to anonymous visitors; the **file plugin** turns the upload browser on; and the **upload filetypes include php** with **mime validation switched off**, where a normal profile restricts uploads to images and documents.

That filetypes line is the whole game. A profile that lets you upload a **.php** file through the JCE file browser is a profile that lets you upload a webshell. (The full payload is deliberately redacted here. There is no reason to publish a working copy.) On this first site the profile carried a machine-generated name, **J940401**, a throwaway label no human editor would ever type. That name turned out to be a pattern: across the sites we have looked at since, this particular kit names every profile it imports with a capital **J** followed by six digits, **J938560**, **J991471**, **J940401**, and so on. If you manage Joomla sites, "any JCE profile whose name starts with **J** and is followed by digits" is a fast, specific thing to grep your databases for.

Alongside it were the webshells the profile was used to drop. A short PHP file that ran shell commands straight from a request parameter, the classic one-line backdoor wrapped in **eval(gzinflate(base64\_decode(...)))** so it does not read as obvious code at a glance. Then several copies of a second backdoor hidden behind innocuous **.xml.php** filenames, planted inside legitimate directories like **media/system/js** and

**libraries/joomla** where an extra file is easy to miss. And a scatter of small marker text files, the sort automated kits drop to fingerprint a successful hit and find their way back to it later.

None of this required a login. That is the part worth sitting with. The site had no public registration to speak of, and it did not matter, because the entry point was an unauthenticated profile import, not a user account.

## One vulnerable site rarely travels alone

The single site is where we started, not where it ended. Once we knew the fingerprint, we swept the rest of the Joomla sites in that portfolio, and the same attack was sitting live on two more of them. Same mechanism, same upload-everything profile, but a different kit this time, and this one did not bother to hide. Each affected site carried three of them:

- **Pwned** , description **RCE via JCE**
- **Pwned (2)** , description **RCE via JCE**
- **Pwned (3)** , description **RCE via JCE**

with the upload extensions list padded out to **php,html** . Put that next to the **J940401** profile on the first site and you are looking at two different toolkits doing the same thing. Whoever ran these was not doing it by hand. The throwaway names, the repetition, and the identical config across unrelated sites all point at automated tooling spraying the same profile import at every JCE install it can reach.

That portfolio was just where we started. As the check has rolled out across more connected sites, the count has climbed into the hundreds, and the shape of it (automated tooling spraying a published exploit at every JCE install it can reach) is the same shape that took the 2012 ImageManager bug to tens of thousands of sites. We fully expect this to reach the thousands over the coming days as the scanners keep working through the long tail of un-updated installs.

That is why this is not a single-site story. If one of your sites is running a vulnerable JCE, the others running the same build are not safe by virtue of being a different site.

They are simply ones the scanner has not got to yet, or has, and you have not looked.

## What it looked like in the access logs

The profiles on disk tell you what was installed. The web server logs tell you how it got there, and they are blunt about it. The Apache logs on this site had been dead since 2024, but nginx was fronting the site and had captured everything. Across two days we counted three different attacker IPs, all running the identical exploit: a

`profiles.import` request to create the rogue profile, immediately followed by a `plugin.rpc` upload to drop the shell through it.

The core of the chain is two requests, back to back, and it is unmistakable once you have seen it once (the host is redacted; the attacker IPs are left in so you can block them):

```
# 1. Create the rogue editor profile (unauthenticated, CVE-2026-48907)
107.149.130.5 - POST /index.php?option=com_jce&task=profiles.import
# 2. Use that profile to upload the webshell via the file browser plugin
107.149.130.5 - POST /index.php?option=com_jce&task=plugin.rpc&plugin=brows
# 3. Confirm the shell runs
107.149.130.5 - GET /m.php?cmd=id
107.149.130.5 - GET /images/m.php?cmd=id
```

Three things in there are worth pinning down, because they are what you grep for:

- **The two-request signature.** A `task=profiles.import` POST followed within the same second by a `task=plugin.rpc&...&method=upload` POST is the attack, near enough verbatim. The `id=RCExxx` parameter ( `RCEc37` , `RCE401` , `RCE770` across the IPs we saw) is the attacker's own literal marker, baked into the toolkit.
- **Every upload returned 200.** The exploit succeeded on each attempt, because JCE was unpatched. There was no failed-then-retry pattern to give anyone breathing room.
- **Three distinct source IPs, two days apart.** Two of them sent a `python-requests` user agent, one came through as a browser. Different IPs, same payload, same `id=RCE...` marker. That is a botnet spraying a published exploit, not one person

targeting one site. The IPs we logged were `107.149.130.5`, `92.38.150.143`, and `45.153.129.241`, and the second one alternated between hitting the site by raw IP and by hostname, so the requests carried both a bare-IP and a hostname `Referer`. Block the lot at your firewall, but treat them as a sample, not the whole set.

None of this needed a session cookie. Every one of those requests is unauthenticated, which is the entire point of CVE-2026-48907 and the reason “we have no public registration” buys you nothing here. If you keep nginx or Apache access logs, a search for `task=profiles.import` and `method=upload` across them will tell you fast whether anyone tried this on your sites, and whether they got a `200` back when they did.

## Telling a malicious profile from a merely permissive one

This is where a naive “scan for scary settings” sweep produces noise, because not every permissive profile is an attack.

JCE profiles have an `allow_php` setting. It is tempting to treat any profile with `allow_php` enabled as a smoking gun. It is not. `allow_php` governs whether PHP is allowed to survive inside **article content**, not whether files can be uploaded. Plenty of legitimate, developer-built profiles have it on because the site’s templates or content genuinely use inline PHP. On the very site we investigated, the real, developer-created working profile had `allow_php` enabled and referenced the site’s own template CSS. It was entirely legitimate.

The attacker signature is different, and it is about **uploads**, not content:

	Legitimate profile	Rogue profile
Name	Descriptive (Default, Lightweight, Editors)	Machine-generated, e.g. <code>J</code> plus six digits ( <code>J938560</code> ) or names like <code>Pwned</code>
Ordering	Normal positive value	Large negative, forced to the top
Upload filetypes	Images and documents only	Includes <code>php</code> , <code>txt</code> , or <code>phtml</code>

	Legitimate profile	Rogue profile
How it got there	Created by the site's developer	Imported, often with no matching admin action in the logs
<code>allow_php</code> in content	May be on for legitimate reasons	Irrelevant to the attack

Judge a profile by what it lets you **upload** and by whether anyone on your team actually created it. A profile whose upload filetypes include a script extension is the one to act on, whatever its `allow_php` setting says.

## A note on JCE's history with file uploads

There is a reason an unauthenticated file upload in JCE specifically should make you move quickly, and it predates this year's bug by well over a decade.

Back in 2012, an unauthenticated arbitrary file upload in JCE's ImageManager (tracked as CVE-2012-2902) became one of the most widely exploited Joomla vulnerabilities of its era. Automated bots scanned the internet for vulnerable JCE installs, uploaded an innocuous-looking image, then renamed it to a `.php` extension to drop a web shell. Security vendors including Sucuri and Trustwave documented the campaign, it shipped as a ready-made Metasploit module, and sites were still being compromised through it years after the patch existed, purely because so many were never updated.

The 2026 profiles flaw is a separate, newly patched issue. But the shape rhymes exactly: an unauthenticated JCE file-upload path, a long tail of installs nobody updated, and automated tooling that does not care which site it lands on. The single instance we found this week is what that pattern looks like when it reaches one site. The history is what it looks like when it reaches thousands.

## Finding every site still running a vulnerable JCE

The hard case is the one that matters: "I look after 40 client Joomla sites, one of them just got hit through an old JCE, and I need to know which of the others are still vulnerable, right now."

That is what mySites.guru is built for. Twice a day, a snapshot runs against every connected Joomla site and indexes every installed extension, including its exact version. You can answer the "which sites are on a vulnerable JCE" question in seconds instead of logging into 40 administrator panels in sequence.

Open the [extension search](#) in your dashboard and look up the **Editor - JCE** entry. You see every version of JCE across your portfolio, grouped by version number, with each site that runs it listed underneath. Anything on 2.9.99.4 or earlier carries the profile upload flaw and needs the update. Sites already on 2.9.99.5 or 2.9.99.6, or which auto-updated overnight, are green.

You can also separate JCE Free from JCE Pro if you run a mixed estate, which matters when you start chasing the stragglers, because Pro updates are gated by a subscription key and lapsed keys are the usual reason a site sits silently on an old version.

mySites.guru subscribers: jump straight to the JCE inventory

[Open JCE Extension Search](#)

Lists every JCE install across your connected Joomla sites, grouped by version. Anything on 2.9.99.4 or earlier needs the patch. Not a subscriber? [Sign up free](#) and connect your sites.

## Patch the vulnerable sites in one batch

Once you know which sites are exposed, you do not patch them one by one. The mySites.guru [mass extension updater](#) lets you select every site running an outdated JCE and trigger the update across all of them at once, straight to 2.9.99.6.

The mass update screen groups every JCE install by the version it can update to, with an "Apply to all" button per group and per-site controls when you want to be selective.

Sites stuck on much older branches get patched in the same sweep as ones already on the 2.9.99.x line. Behind the scenes, the platform calls each site's connector, pulls the package from JCE's update server, installs it, and reports back with a pass or fail per site. Any site that is offline, firewalled, or running an outdated connector surfaces as a clear failure rather than a silent miss.

For agencies running scheduled automation, JCE updates can be enrolled in the same overnight extension auto-update flow as everything else. The Automatic Updates for Any Joomla Extension feature already covers JCE Free and JCE Pro, which means a site enrolled before this all kicked off was patched before anyone had to think about it.

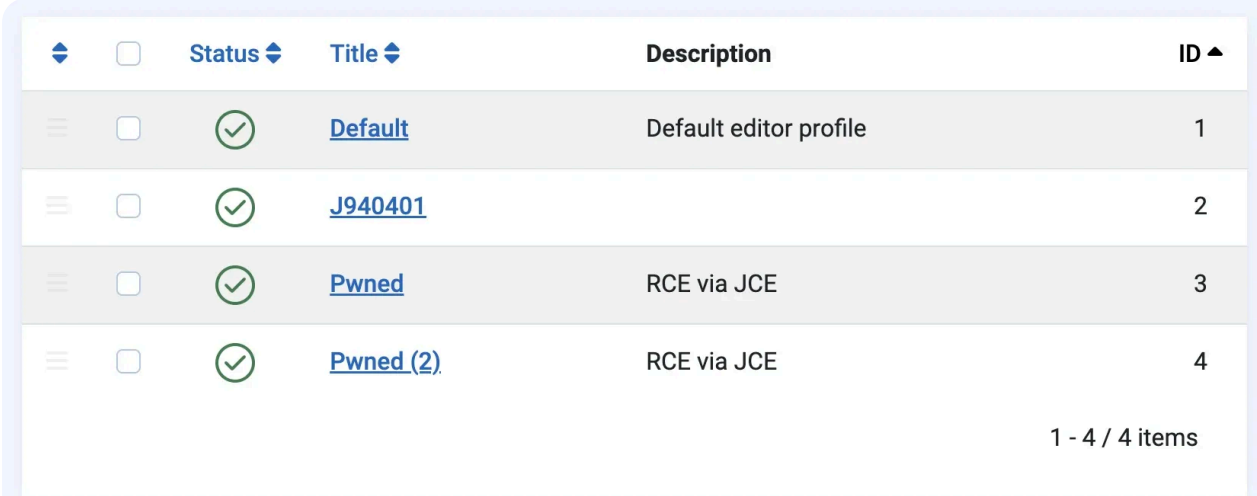
## Cleaning up a hacked site, step by step

Patching closes the door. On older or higher-risk sites, or any site you have reason to suspect, you also want to check whether anyone already walked through it. The profiles attack leaves a fingerprint you can hunt for, precisely because the malicious request needs no session.

1. **Audit the editor profiles.** Under **Components -> JCE Editor -> Editor Profiles** on each site, look for any profile your team did not create, especially one with a machine-generated name, a forced ordering, or upload filetypes that include a script extension. The kits we have seen leave an obvious tell here: profile names like **J** followed by six digits, or names such as **Pwned** with a description of **RCE via JCE**. If you would rather query the database directly, the JCE profiles live in the **#\_\_wf\_profiles** table, so a **SELECT id, name FROM <prefix>\_wf\_profiles WHERE name REGEXP '^J[0-9]{6}\$'** across each site is a quick way to flush them out. Take a copy before you delete anything.
2. **Look for files you did not put there.** Check **tmp**, **media**, **images**, and any custom upload roots for PHP files, hidden **.xml.php** files, and stray marker text files, especially anything with a recent timestamp that does not match a known change.
3. **Pull the access logs.** Grep nginx or Apache access logs for **task=profiles.import** and **method=upload** requests, the two-request signature

shown above. Unauthenticated requests to those actions, especially a pair within the same second that both returned **200**, are the ones that matter. Remember the Apache logs may be stale if nginx fronts the site, check both.

Step one is the most telling. Here is what it looks like in Joomla's own Editor Profiles list on a compromised site: the legitimate **Default** profile, and then the rogue **J940401**, **Pwned**, and **Pwned (2)** profiles sitting right beside it, the last two labelled **RCE via JCE** by whoever dropped them.



<input type="checkbox"/>	Status	Title	Description	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<a href="#">Default</a>	Default editor profile	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<a href="#">J940401</a>		2
<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<a href="#">Pwned</a>	RCE via JCE	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<a href="#">Pwned (2)</a>	RCE via JCE	4

1 - 4 / 4 items

Doing this by hand across a portfolio is exactly the kind of work that does not happen, which is why automating it matters. Run mySites.guru's [suspect content scanner](#) across your sites to surface webshells and modified files, and lean on [AI-powered malware analysis](#) to triage anything it flags rather than eyeballing obfuscated PHP one file at a time.

If you do find a live compromise, the order of operations matters. Preserve a copy of the rogue profile and the suspect files for evidence, then remove the profile and the webshells, **update JCE to 2.9.99.6 so the entry point is closed**, rotate Joomla secrets and admin passwords, invalidate active sessions, and run a full scan to confirm nothing else was left behind. Our [guide to fixing a hacked Joomla or WordPress site](#) walks through the full recovery. The one mistake to avoid is deleting the files and calling it done: if JCE is still on a vulnerable version, the same automated tooling will be back, and the marker files exist precisely so it can find the site again.

Or skip the manual version entirely and let the [new check](#) at the top of this post do all three steps for you on every connected site.

## How quickly should you act?

Treat this as a patch-now job on any publicly reachable site running JCE, which is almost all of them. Because the profile upload flaw is unauthenticated, the usual “only sites with registered users are at risk” reasoning does not apply. The site we found had no meaningful public registration and was compromised anyway.

**Patch today** to 2.9.99.6 on every site still on a vulnerable JCE. The update is free and config-free for both Free and Pro, and there is no functional change that would justify holding back.

**Check the higher-risk sites** for the fingerprint above as a second pass: older Joomla installs, sites with a history of neglect, anything where the JCE version sat unpatched for a long stretch. For most sites the check comes up empty, which is the point. Close the chapter deliberately rather than assuming nothing happened because nothing was reported.

## Does this affect WordPress?

No. JCE is a Joomla-only editor extension. There is no WordPress build, no shared codebase, and no equivalent profile-import mechanism. WordPress sites use the core block editor or TinyMCE, which have their own separate histories. If you run a mixed estate, the WordPress half is unaffected by this. The Joomla half needs the update and, on the older sites, the check.

The underlying shape of the bug, an access control missing on a request that should have required authorisation, is a recurring one across both platforms. We dug into it in [AJAX Endpoints: The Biggest CMS Security Blind Spot](#), where endpoints that should check who is calling them simply do not.

## Further Reading

- [JCE Free/Pro 2.9.99.5 Security Update](#) - the unauthenticated profile upload, CVE-2026-48907, that this attack exploits
- [JCE Pro 2.9.99.6 Security Update](#) - the hardening release to patch to, not just 2.9.99.5
- [JCE Free/Pro 2.9.99.4 Security Update](#) - the authenticated-only file browser bugs from the same review
- [Find hacked files and backdoors in Joomla and WordPress](#) - the suspect content scanner used to surface webshells like these
- [How to fix a hacked Joomla or WordPress site with mySites.guru](#) - full recovery workflow once you find a compromise
- [AI-powered malware analysis in mySites.guru](#) - triage flagged files across a portfolio without reading obfuscated PHP by hand
- [How to update Joomla, Joomla extensions, WordPress and WordPress plugins from mySites.guru](#) - the mass updater workflow for rolling the patch out
- [Automatic updates for any Joomla extension](#) - enrol JCE so the next advisory patches itself overnight
- [Top 50 Joomla Extensions](#) - live ranking where JCE consistently sits in the top two

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For broader agency guidance on managing Joomla security and updates across a portfolio, see our [Joomla agency handbook](#).

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What does the new mySites.guru JCE check do?

Check for JCE Rogue Profiles & Backdoors is a dedicated check that runs on every snapshot, twice a day, on each connected Joomla site. It looks for the fingerprint of the JCE profiles attack in the specific places it leaves it: rogue editor profiles in the JCE profiles table, malicious profile import files in writable directories, and the webshells this kit drops in tmp, media, images, and the libraries tree. It sits in the Hacked section of the site health view as a single OK or a red count of threats. When it finds something, you can review every rogue profile and file, then remove the profiles, delete the backdoors, and update JCE to the patched version from the same screen.

## What is the JCE profiles hack?

It is a Joomla compromise that abuses the JCE editor's profile system. On a site running a JCE version before 2.9.99.5, an attacker imports a malicious editor profile that re-enables uploads of php and txt files, then uses that profile to upload a webshell. The underlying flaw is the unauthenticated profile upload patched in JCE 2.9.99.5 and tracked as CVE-2026-48907.

## How do I know if my Joomla site has been hit by this?

Look for editor profiles you did not create, especially ones with a machine-generated name, a large negative ordering value that forces them to the top of the list, and upload filetypes that include php or txt. On disk, look for unexpected PHP files in tmp, media, and images directories, hidden files named like .xml.php, and marker text files. Pulling access logs for unauthenticated requests to JCE's profile and upload endpoints confirms the entry point.

## Which JCE versions are vulnerable to the profile upload attack?

All versions of JCE Free and JCE Pro before 2.9.99.5. The unauthenticated profile upload was fixed in 2.9.99.5 on 3 June 2026, and a hardening release, 2.9.99.6, followed on 8 June 2026. Any site still on 2.9.99.4 or earlier carries the flaw, and older branches such as 2.6, 2.7, and 2.8 carry years of additional unpatched issues on top of it.

## Does enabling allow\_php in a JCE profile mean my site is hacked?

No. The allow\_php setting inside an editor profile governs whether PHP is allowed inside article content, not whether files can be uploaded. A legitimate, developer-created profile can have it enabled. The attacker signature is different: a profile that permits uploading php or txt files through the file browser, usually combined with an odd name and a forced

ordering. Judge the profile by its upload filetypes and how it got there, not by allow\_php alone.

### **How does mySites.guru help find vulnerable JCE installs across many sites?**

Two ways. The extension search lists every site with JCE installed, grouped by version, so you can find every install still on a vulnerable build in seconds rather than logging into each administrator panel, then patch them all in one batch with the mass updater. Separately, the new Check for JCE Rogue Profiles & Backdoors check hunts for sites that were already hit, flagging rogue profiles and webshells across your whole portfolio on every twice-daily snapshot and letting you clean and patch them from one screen.

### **What do I do first if I find a rogue JCE profile?**

Treat the site as compromised. Take a copy of the suspect profile and any suspect files for evidence before you remove anything, then delete the rogue profile and the webshells, update JCE to 2.9.99.6, rotate Joomla secrets and passwords, and run a full malware scan. Removing the files without patching JCE just invites reinfection, because the entry point is still open.

### **Does this affect WordPress?**

No. JCE is a Joomla-only editor extension with no WordPress build and no shared codebase. WordPress sites running the block editor or TinyMCE are unaffected by this. The profile-import mechanism that makes this attack work is specific to JCE on Joomla.

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## Get in touch

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