mySites.guru

Real-Time Alerts for File Changes & Logins

Get real-time email alerts when files change, admins log in, or SSL certificates near expiry across all your Joomla and WordPress sites with mySites.guru.

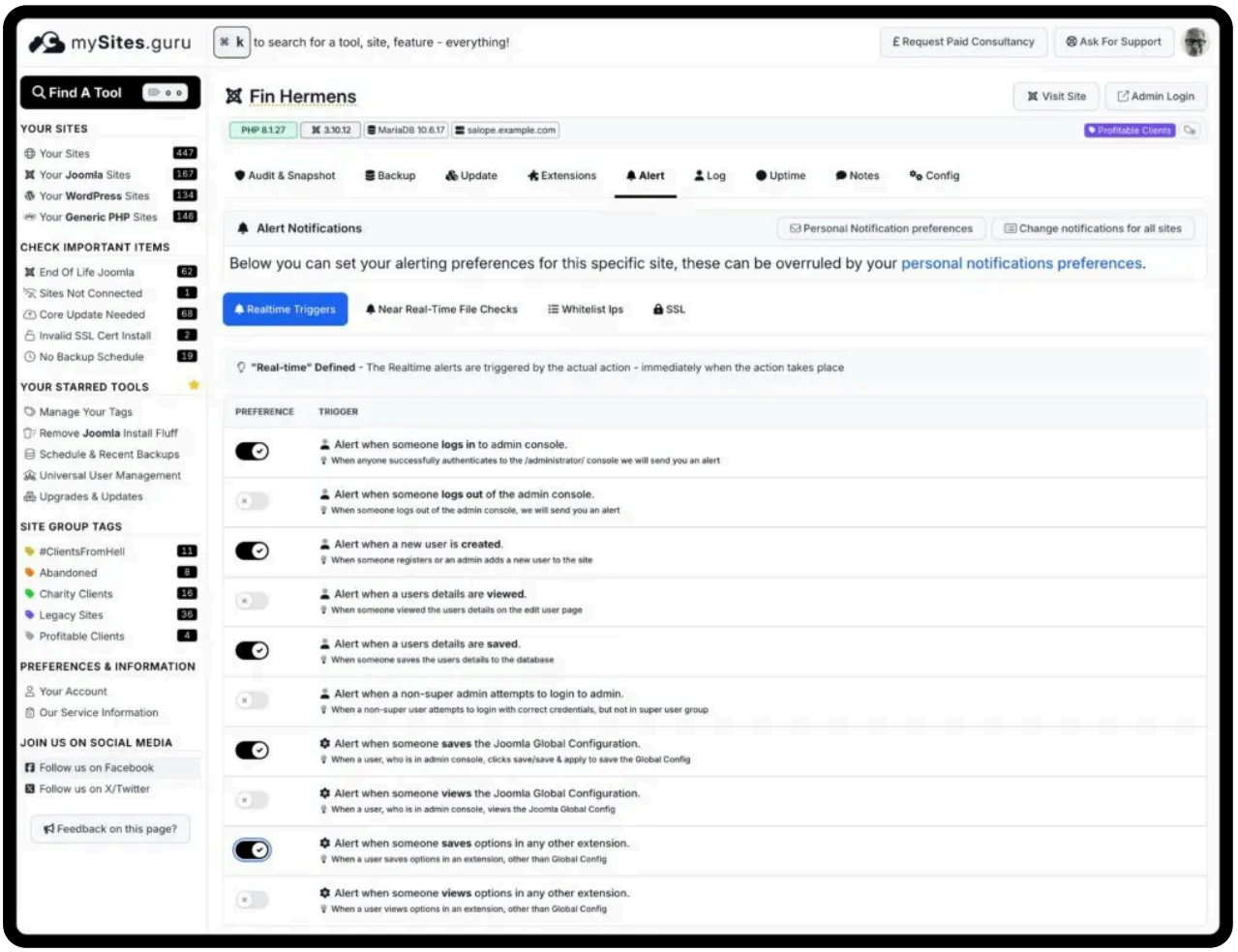
Phil E. Taylor | 16 March 2026

mySites.guru is more than a suite of tools for managing multiple WordPress sites. Used by over 74,000 Joomla and WordPress sites, it also sends you real-time alerts when something happens on your sites - an admin login, a config change, a file that shouldn't have been touched.

Real-time alerting triggers

Your site notifies mySites.guru based on the preferences you configure: someone logging into the admin console, saving Global Configuration, or other triggers you care about.

We're always looking to add more triggers - if you have ideas, let us know.



The available real-time triggers for Joomla and WordPress sites

Near real-time file monitoring

You can opt in to have specific files monitored on your site. When a monitored file is modified, your site informs mySites.guru and you get an alert.

This is “near real-time” because the check runs on every page load. If someone edits a file through the Joomla or WordPress admin, the alert fires immediately - the page request that saves the change is also the page request that detects it. The only time there’s a delay is if someone modifies a file over FTP and nobody visits the site for a while. Same idea as WordPress’s web-cron.

You can add unlimited files to the watch list, but in practice a short list of important files is enough - your configuration file, template files, and other files hackers tend to target. Not sure which files to monitor? Start by understanding what hidden files are already in your webspace - some of them may surprise you.

How the MD5 hash check works (the .myjoomla.configuration.php.md5 file)

If you’ve looked at your Joomla site’s file system and found a file called `.myjoomla.configuration.php.md5`, that’s the mySites.guru plugin doing its job. This is what it does.

When you enable real-time file monitoring for `configuration.php` (or any other file), the mySites.guru plugin calculates the MD5 hash of that file and writes it to a companion file. For `configuration.php`, the companion file is `.myjoomla.configuration.php.md5`. It contains nothing but the 32-character MD5 hash string of the file contents at the time it was last checked.

On every single page load - front-end or back-end, any visitor, any page - the plugin recalculates the MD5 hash of `configuration.php` and compares it to the hash stored in `.myjoomla.configuration.php.md5`. Two outcomes:

Hashes match: The file hasn't changed. Nothing happens. The check adds negligible overhead - calculating an MD5 of a small config file takes microseconds.

Hashes don't match: The file has been modified since the last check. The plugin immediately sends a notification to mySites.guru, which fires an email alert to you (and any team members who have alerts enabled for that site). The plugin then updates `.myjoomla.configuration.php.md5` with the new hash, so the next page load won't trigger a duplicate alert for the same change.

This works the same way for every file you add to the watch list. If you monitor `index.php`, you'll get a `.myjoomla.index.php.md5` file. Monitor `wp-config.php` on a WordPress site and you'll get the equivalent companion hash file from the mySites.guru WordPress plugin.

Why configuration.php matters

`configuration.php` is one of the most important files on a Joomla site. It contains your database credentials, secret keys, error reporting settings, cache configuration, and tmp/log paths. If a hacker modifies this file, they can redirect your database connection, disable error reporting to hide their tracks, or change your tmp path to a location they control.

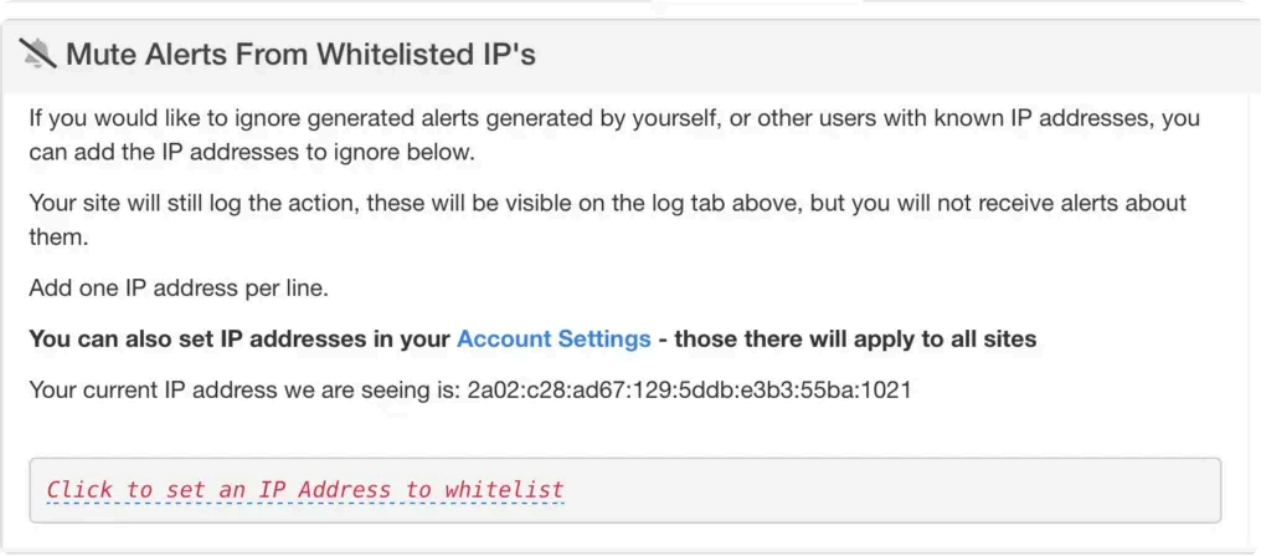
Getting an alert the instant `configuration.php` changes means you know about it before the hacker has time to do anything else. You don't need to wait for a scheduled scan or manually check your files - the next page load catches it.

Is it safe to delete .myjoomla.configuration.php.md5?

Yes, deleting it won't break your site. But the mySites.guru plugin will recreate it on the next page load and treat the file as if it's being monitored for the first time. You won't get a false alert - it simply recalculates the hash and stores it fresh. If you want to stop monitoring a file entirely, remove it from the watch list in your mySites.guru dashboard instead of deleting the hash file on disk.

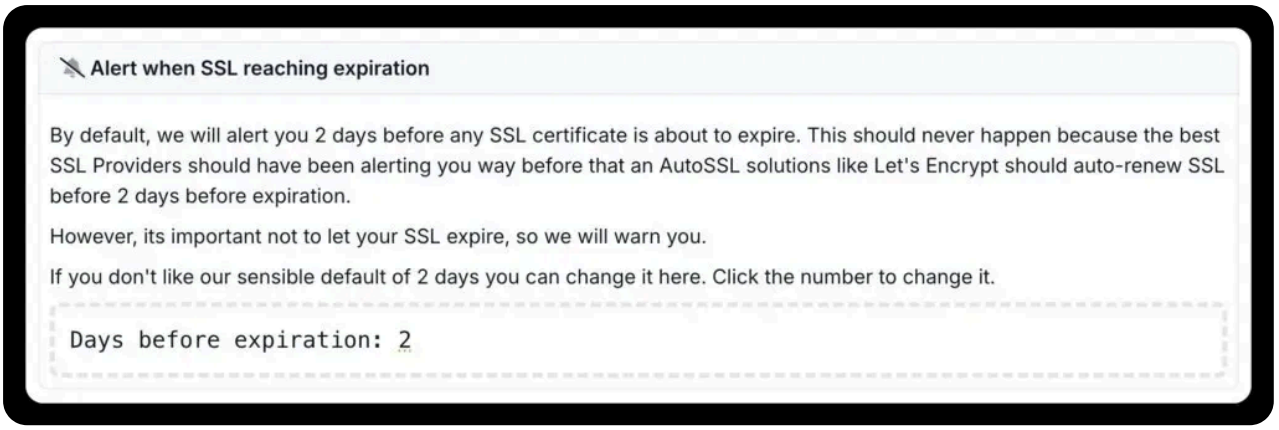
Can You Whitelist Your Own IP?

You can whitelist IP addresses so your own changes don't trigger false alarms. The same principle applies to uptime monitoring - whitelisting our monitoring IP prevents your server's firewall from blocking the uptime checks.



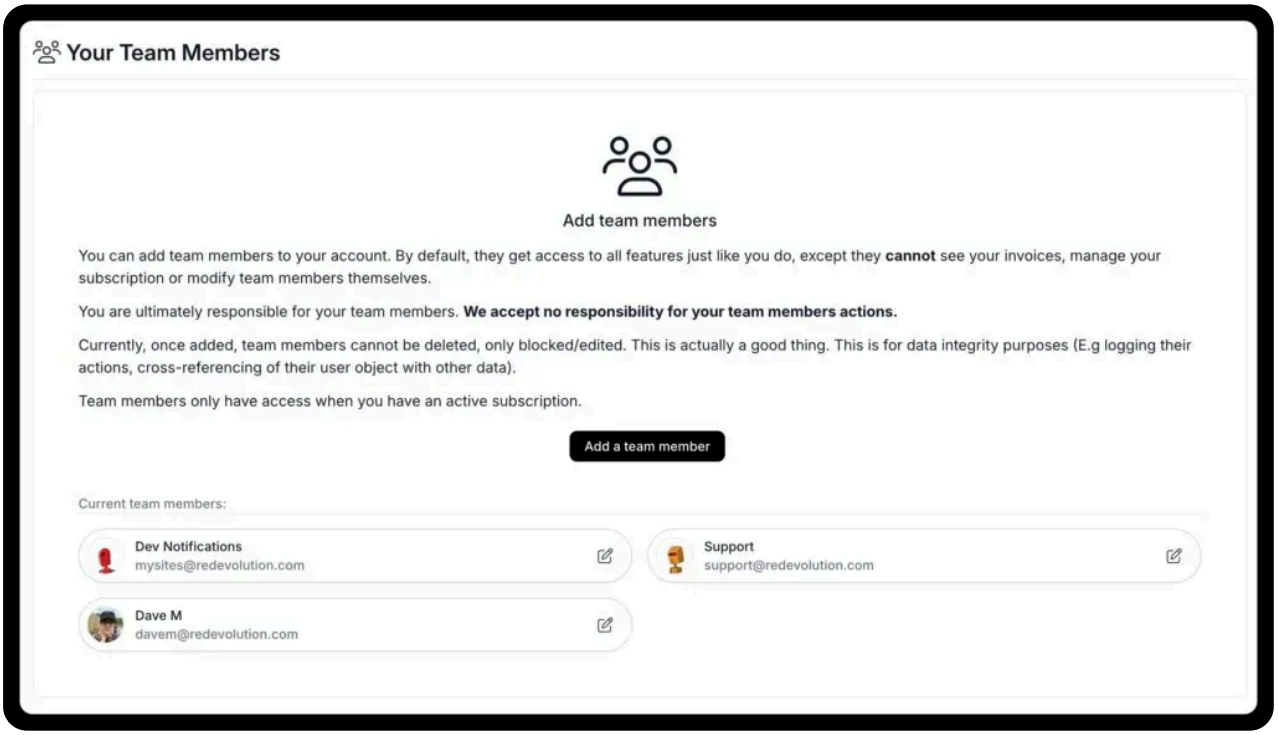
SSL expiration alerting

mySites.guru has included SSL certificate expiration alerts since 2012. If your SSL certificate is approaching expiration, you'll get an alert based on your preferences. You can also set the number of grace days before the alert fires.



Send alerts to multiple people with team members

If you want alerts to go to more than one person, add team members to your account. Each team member can set their own notification preferences per site. You can also impersonate team members and configure their preferences on their behalf.



Alerting is one piece of what mySites.guru does - check the full feature list, or run a free security audit on one of your sites to see it in action.

Real-time alerting is a core feature in our monitoring and alerting guide.

Frequently Asked Questions

What events can trigger a real-time alert in mySites.guru?

Alerts can be triggered by events such as an admin login, saving of Global Configuration, or file modifications - with more triggers planned based on user feedback.

How does mySites.guru detect modified files on my site?

It calculates and stores the MD5 hash of each monitored file on your server, then recalculates it on every page load - if the hash has changed, an alert is sent immediately.

Can alerts be sent to multiple team members?

Yes. You can add team members to your account and each person can configure their own notification preferences per site, or you can set preferences on their behalf using the impersonation feature.

What is the .myjoomla.configuration.php.md5 file on my Joomla site?

It's created by the mySites.guru plugin for real-time file monitoring. It stores the MD5 hash of your configuration.php so the plugin can detect changes on every page load. It's safe to delete - the plugin will recreate it automatically.

How does mySites.guru monitor configuration.php for changes?

The mySites.guru plugin calculates the MD5 hash of configuration.php and stores it in a companion file called .myjoomla.configuration.php.md5. On every page load, it recalculates the hash and compares it. If the hashes don't match, the file has changed and you get an alert immediately.

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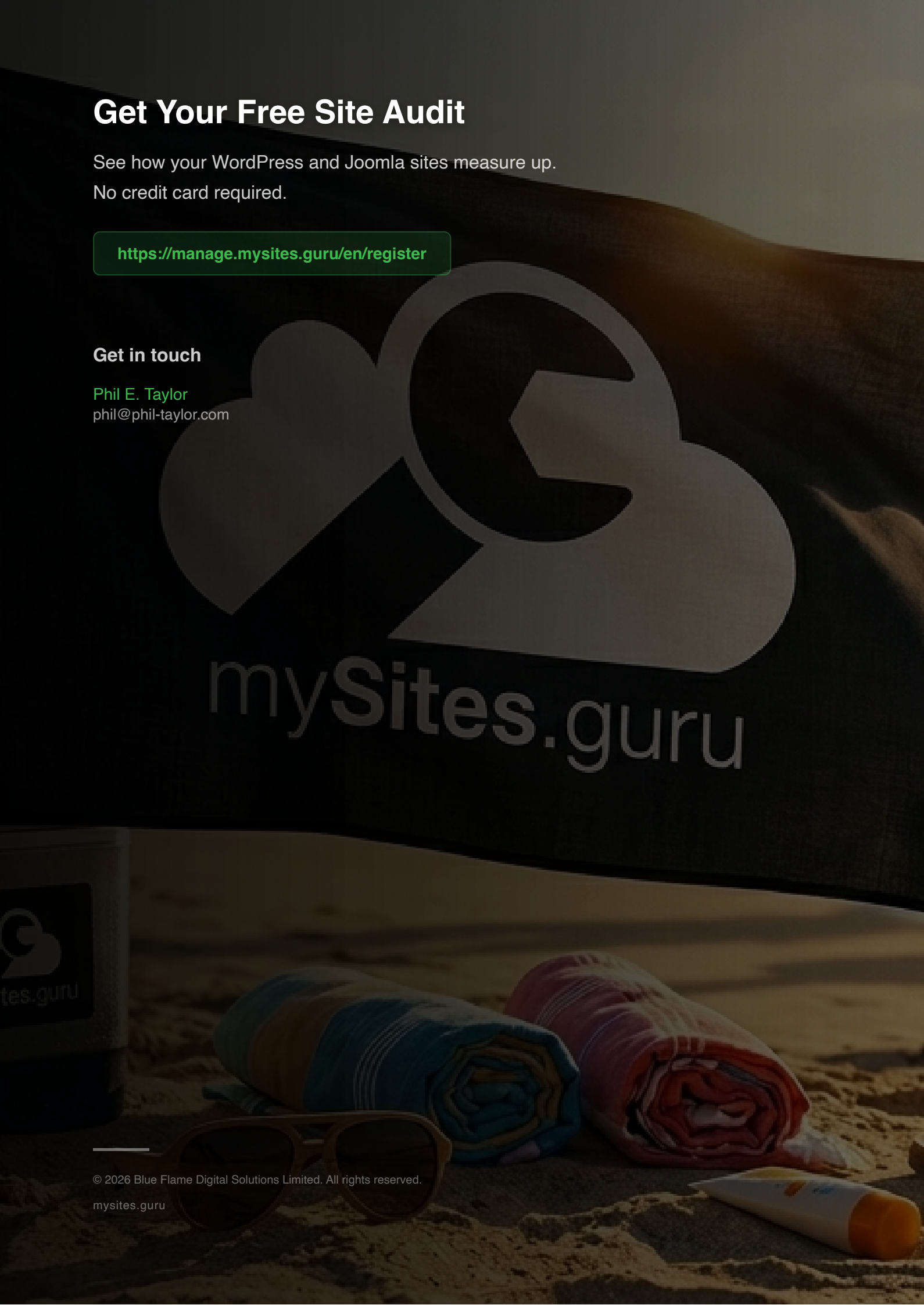
https://manage.mysites.guru/en/register



Get in touch

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