



Helix Ultimate 2.2.10 Fixes Six Security Areas, Including a Pre-Login Bypass

Helix Ultimate 2.2.10 is a security release for the Joomla template framework. Every version below it is affected. Here is what it fixes and how to update.

Phil E. Taylor | 27 August 2026

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~~TL;DR:~~ JoomShaper released Helix Ultimate 2.2.10 on 27 August 2026. It is a security release, rated High to Medium by the vendor, and every version below it is affected. It fixes six areas: access control on Live Preview and Coming Soon, authorisation on media AJAX actions, Mega Menu settings and layouts, media upload validation, page title and attribute validation, and social sharing and media embeds. Joomla 4, 5 and 6 sites update through the Joomla administrator in the normal way. Joomla 3 sites need a separate package installed by hand. Across the Joomla 4, 5 and 6 sites we monitor, around 92 percent of Helix Ultimate installs are still below 2.2.10, and most of them are on 2.2.9, exactly one release behind.

Helix Ultimate is a Joomla template framework from JoomShaper, installed as the `helixultimate` system plugin plus a template such as `shaper_helixultimate`. It sits underneath the whole front end of a site, which is why a security release for it is worth acting on rather than filing.

If you look after more than a handful of Joomla sites, the hard part is not the update, it is knowing which sites need it. mySites.guru keeps a live inventory of every extension, template and framework on every Joomla and WordPress site in your account, so you can search for Helix Ultimate once and get every affected site with the version each one reports. The figures in this post come from that same inventory.

What Helix Ultimate 2.2.10 Fixes

JoomShaper's advisory gives a severity of High to Medium, an affected range of all versions prior to 2.2.10, and six areas. Reading the published code difference between 2.2.9 and 2.2.10, here is what sits behind each of them.

Access control on Live Preview and Coming Soon. This is the most serious item and the only one reachable with no account at all. Before 2.2.10, adding `?helixMode=edit`

to any URL on a Helix Ultimate site did two separate things for an anonymous visitor. It skipped the Coming Soon redirect, so an unlaunched site was served in full to anyone who knew the parameter. And it made the framework load template settings from the draft cache instead of the saved ones, so the visitor saw the administrator's unsaved work in progress. Both now require an authenticated user with template edit rights.

Authorisation on media AJAX actions. The permission map behind the framework's AJAX endpoints has been tightened. Viewing, uploading, deleting media and creating folders now each require template edit rights plus the matching `com_media` permission, rather than a single looser check.

Mega Menu settings and layouts. The endpoint that saves Mega Menu settings previously checked only that the caller could edit menus somewhere on the site, so anyone past that check could rewrite the Mega Menu settings of any menu item. It is now checked against the specific menu the item belongs to. The layout settings are also escaped on the way out.

Media upload validation. Uploads were accepted on the strength of their file extension. They are now decoded and checked, using `getimagesize`, `finfo` and a full image decode, so a file renamed to `.jpg` is rejected. The path handling underneath was also hardened with real path resolution and a null byte check, which closes a symlink route out of the media folders.

Page title and attribute validation. The page title feature took its heading tag, background colour and background image straight from menu item parameters and wrote them into markup. The heading tag now comes from an allowlist, the colour must match a hex pattern, and the background image URL is quoted and escaped before it reaches the `style` attribute.

Social sharing and media embeds. This one is easy to skip over and should not be. The Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn share buttons were building their URLs by interpolating the article title and URL directly into a JavaScript string inside an `onClick` attribute. The blog video and audio layouts were taking a YouTube or Vimeo identifier out of an article's video field and dropping it, with its query string, straight into an `iframe src`. Both are now built with `http_build_query`, escaped with

`htmlspecialchars` , and the embed identifiers are restricted to an allowlist of characters. Anyone who can create an article can set a title and a video field, so this was a route into the page for a low privilege user.

Three Fixes That Are Not Security

The release also contains three ordinary bug fixes, and JoomShaper is explicit that these apply to Joomla 4, 5 and 6 only, not to the Joomla 3 package.

The Helix system plugin now keeps its disabled state through a template update. Previously an update switched it back on, which is a real annoyance if you had deliberately turned it off. Template style migration no longer overwrites parameters between styles, so a site with several template styles will not find one style's settings stamped over another during an update. And a frontend image lazy-loading bug is fixed.

How Do I Update Helix Ultimate on Joomla 4, 5 and 6?

Through the Joomla updater, in the normal way. Log in to the administrator, go to **System**, then **Update**, then **Extensions**, and update Helix Ultimate to 2.2.10. Nothing needs configuring afterwards. Clear the Joomla cache and your browser cache once it is done.

Take a backup first. That is standard advice for any template framework update, because Helix Ultimate renders your entire front end and a bad update is visible to every visitor rather than tucked away in the administrator.

What About Joomla 3 Sites?

The same security issues apply to Joomla 3, but 2.2.10 will not install there. JoomShaper ships a separate Joomla 3 package that has to be downloaded from GitHub and installed manually through **System**, then **Install**, then **Extensions**.

That route has problems of its own, and they are worth understanding before you plan a Joomla 3 patching round. We covered them separately in [our write-up of the Joomla 3 package](#): the short version is that the Joomla updater will never offer it to you, so nothing will prompt you and you have to go and fetch it deliberately.

How Many Sites Are Still Below 2.2.10?

Across the Joomla 4, 5 and 6 sites we monitor that run Helix Ultimate, around 92 percent are still below 2.2.10. About 8 percent had already updated within hours of the release, which is what a working update channel looks like.

The version distribution is the part worth knowing. The large majority of the affected installs are on 2.2.9, exactly one release behind, with a smaller group on 2.2.8. Very few are genuinely ancient. So the usual reassurance, that you keep your sites reasonably current, does not help here: JoomShaper's advisory says everything below 2.2.10 is affected, and being one release behind puts you in that group along with everyone else.

Helix Ultimate skews heavily towards the supported Joomla versions, too. Roughly 93 percent of the installs we monitor are on Joomla 4, 5 or 6, where the normal updater works. That makes this an unusually easy security release to close out across a portfolio, provided you know which sites to look at.

Finding Every Helix Ultimate Install in One Place

Searching for an extension across a lot of Joomla sites by hand means logging into each administrator and reading the Manage screen. For twenty sites that is an afternoon.

In mySites.guru, search for Helix Ultimate once in your account and you get every site running it, the version each one reports, and the Joomla version underneath, without logging into anything. From there you can see at a glance which sites are below 2.2.10, which are already done, and which are the Joomla 3 sites that need the manual package instead.

That is the same inventory the percentages above came from, and it is part of the subscription rather than an add-on: GBP 19.99 per month for unlimited Joomla and WordPress sites, a price that has not changed since 2012.

If a site turns out to have been compromised rather than merely out of date, patching will not clean it. fix.mysites.guru handles that for a single fixed fee of GBP 120 per incident, usually same day, and we screen the site before committing so you are not charged in the rare case it cannot be fixed.

The Bottom Line

Helix Ultimate 2.2.10 is a straightforward security release with one item in it that anyone on the internet could have used, and five more that a logged-in user with modest permissions could have. JoomShaper says every version below it is affected, and the install base we can see is overwhelmingly one release behind rather than safely current.

On Joomla 4, 5 and 6 this is a normal update through the administrator, so there is little reason to leave it. Find every Helix Ultimate install you look after, update the Joomla 4, 5 and 6 ones now, and handle the Joomla 3 ones separately with the manual package. Start with a [free audit](#) on one site if you want to see what your Helix Ultimate exposure actually looks like.

Timeline

2026-07-07



Helix Ultimate 2.2.7, the previous security release

A batch of missing permission and token checks across the framework's AJAX handler, fixed and tagged the same day the code became public.

2026-07-15



2.2.9 ships as a maintenance release

		Menu item ID handling, an offcanvas arrow position and a copyright field. Nothing security-related in the release notes, and it is the version most sites are still running today.
2026-07-22	○	Mega Menu sanitisation work is merged The first of the fixes that would become 2.2.10 goes into the repository, five weeks before the release.
2026-08-24	○	Audio and video embed sanitisation is merged Embed identifiers taken from an article's video field stop being written straight into an iframe source.
2026-08-27	●	Helix Ultimate 2.2.10 is released Tagged at 12:07 UTC, covering Joomla 3, 4, 5 and 6. JoomShaper rates it High to Medium and states that every version below it is affected.
2026-08-27	●	Customers are emailed five minutes later The advisory gives a severity, an affected range, a fixed version and a one-line impact summary, and tells Joomla 3 users to install a separate package by hand.

Further Reading

- [Helix Ultimate 2.2.10 on GitHub](#) - the release tag and its pull request list.
- [JoomShaper's third Joomla 3 security patch](#) - the same security work backported for Joomla 3, and why those sites cannot tell whether they have it.
- [Helix Ultimate 2.2.7](#) - the previous security release of the framework, from July 2026.
- [Using the Joomla com_ajax interface](#) - how the AJAX endpoints behind several of these fixes work.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Helix Ultimate 2.2.10?

A security release of the Helix Ultimate template framework for Joomla, published by JoomShaper on 27 August 2026. JoomShaper rates it High to Medium and states that every version prior to 2.2.10 is affected. It covers six areas: access control on Live Preview and Coming Soon, authorisation on media AJAX actions, Mega Menu settings and layouts, media upload validation, page title and attribute validation, and social sharing and media embeds.

How do I update Helix Ultimate on Joomla 4, 5 or 6?

Through the normal Joomla updater. Log in to the administrator, go to System, then Update, then Extensions, and update Helix Ultimate to 2.2.10. No configuration is needed afterwards. Clear your Joomla cache and your browser cache once it is done.

Does this apply to Joomla 3 sites?

The same security issues apply to Joomla 3, but 2.2.10 itself does not install there. JoomShaper ships a separate Joomla 3 package that has to be downloaded from GitHub and installed by hand through System, then Install, then Extensions. It will not be offered to you by the Joomla updater.

Which versions of Helix Ultimate are affected?

All of them below 2.2.10, according to JoomShaper's own advisory. Across the Joomla 4, 5 and 6 sites we monitor, most Helix Ultimate installs sit on 2.2.9, one release behind, so being close to current does not mean you are unaffected.

What is the most serious fix in 2.2.10?

The access control work. Before this release, adding a `helixMode=edit` parameter to any URL let an anonymous visitor skip the Coming Soon holding page and see an unlaunched site, and made the framework serve template settings from the draft cache rather than the saved ones. No login was needed. It now requires an account with template edit rights.

Do I need to check the site after updating?

It is worth a look. Updating closes the routes in, it does not undo anything done through them. Check your Joomla Users list for accounts you do not recognise, review your Mega Menu and template settings for entries you did not add, and check your media folders for files you did not put there.

Are there non-security fixes in 2.2.10 as well?

Three, and they only apply to Joomla 4, 5 and 6. The Helix system plugin now keeps its disabled state through a template update instead of being switched back on, template style migration no longer overwrites parameters between styles, and a frontend image lazy-loading bug is fixed.

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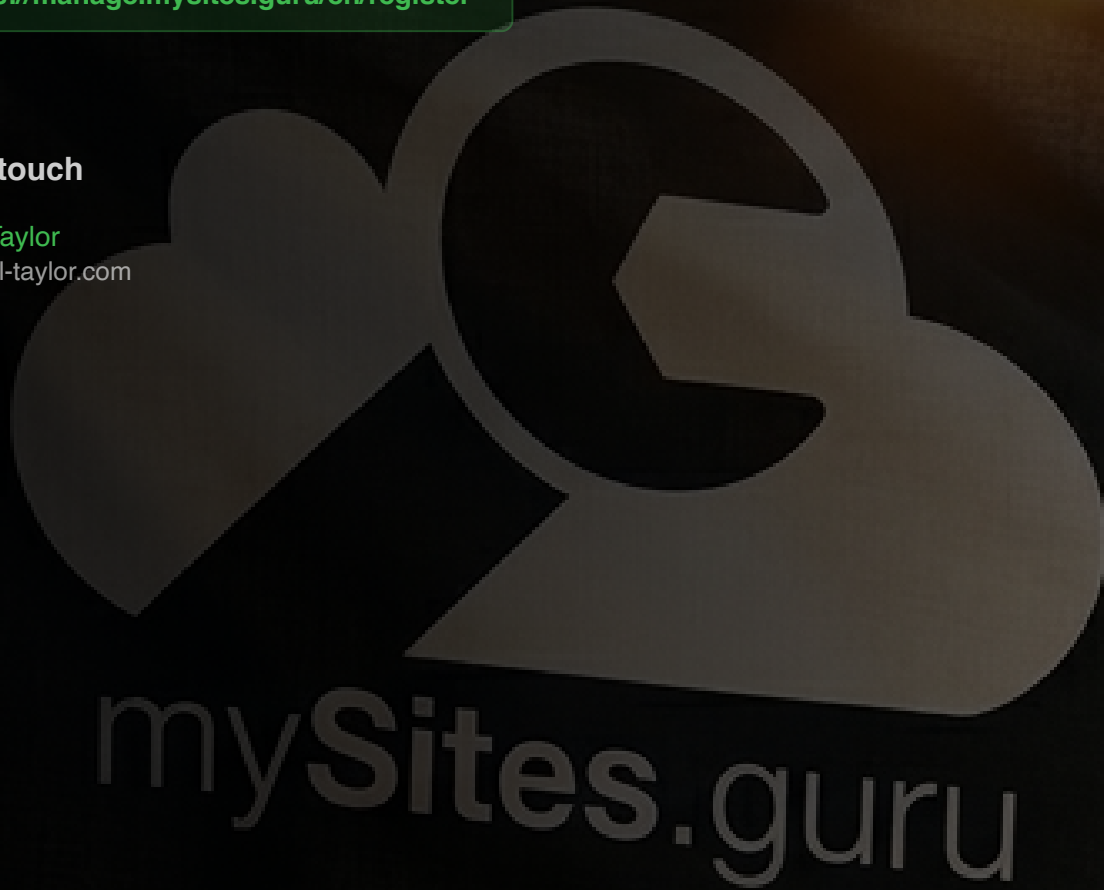
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