



Disable "Send Copy to Submitter" in Joomla

Use mySites.guru to bulk-disable the Joomla Send Copy to Submitter contact form setting across all your sites to stop it being abused for spam.

Phil E. Taylor | 25 March 2026

We have all been there. The customer calls and says people are telling him that his **Joomla Site is spamming them**, and on investigation the spammer has misused the **Send Copy To Submitter** feature of Joomla. **Well now mySites.guru identifies this setting and alerts you if its not disabled.**

One of the long standing core features of Joomla is the Contact Form.

However, the contact form has been much abused by spammers over the years.

One of the ways spammers abuse the contact form is to use the **Send Copy To Submitter** feature.

This is a simple checkbox on the contact form that, when ticked, and the form submitted, will send the contact form as normal to the Site Admin (or whoever its configured to send to) as well as to the email address provided by the person filling in the form.

That "person" might be a bot, a spammer, and the email address they provide in the "Email" input is the email address destination of their spam target.

Once they put the email of their target in, and check the **Send Copy To Submitter** box they submit the form and Joomla simply honours what they have asked. It sends a copy to the email address provided.

The "victim" then receives spam with a subject line starting "Copy of:"

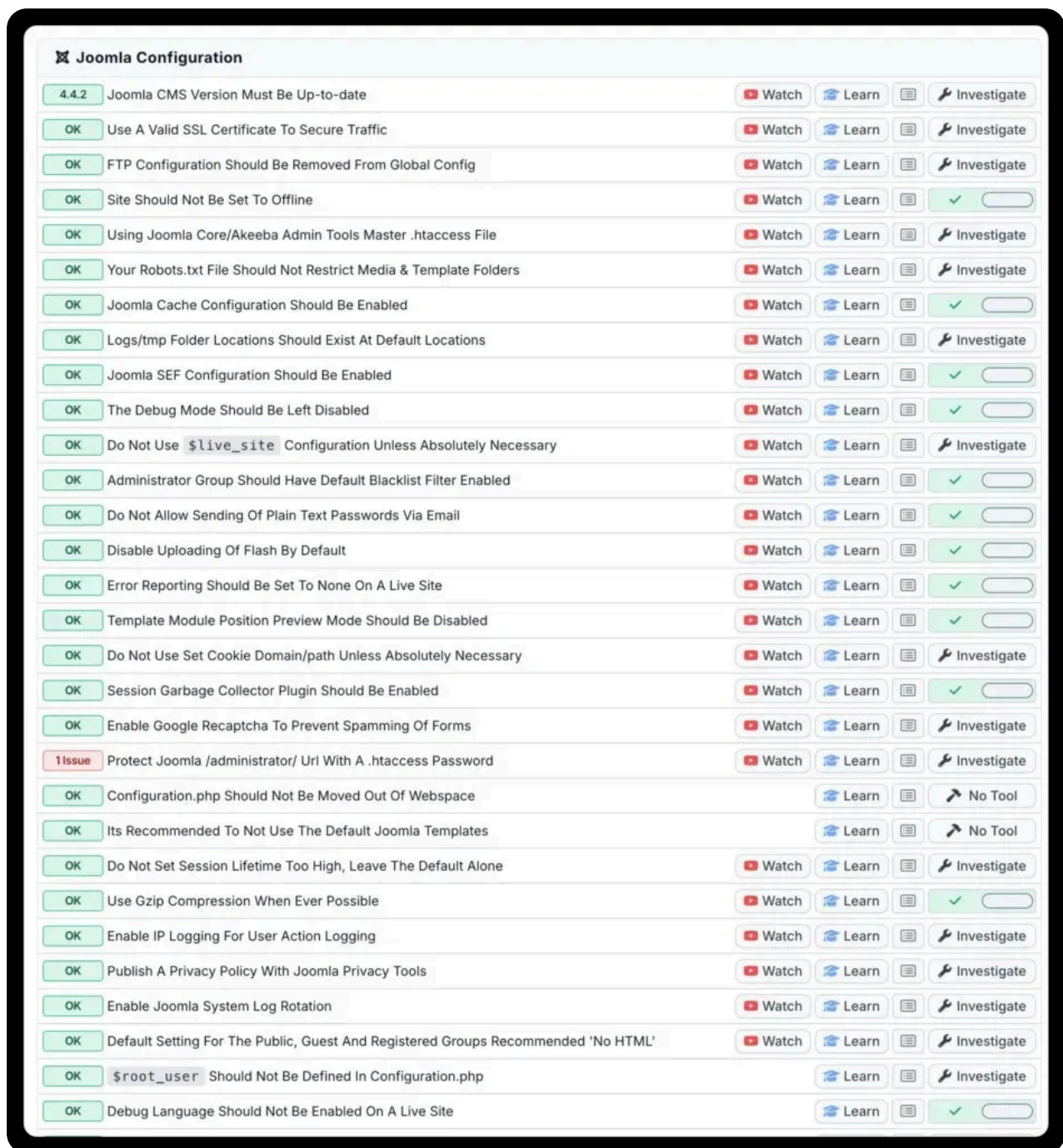
The "victim" then accuses your site of spamming them. Of course, this only works if your site's email configuration is actually sending mail in the first place - see [how to verify your Joomla email configuration](#) for the full checklist.

How Do You Disable Send to Submitter in Joomla?

Watch video: <https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/oCXcv8CVFz8>

Does the mySites.guru Snapshot Show This Setting?

Every day the mySites.guru snapshot takes tens of thousands of new snapshots of Joomla and WordPress sites (the **Send Copy To Submitter** issue is a Joomla thing though!)



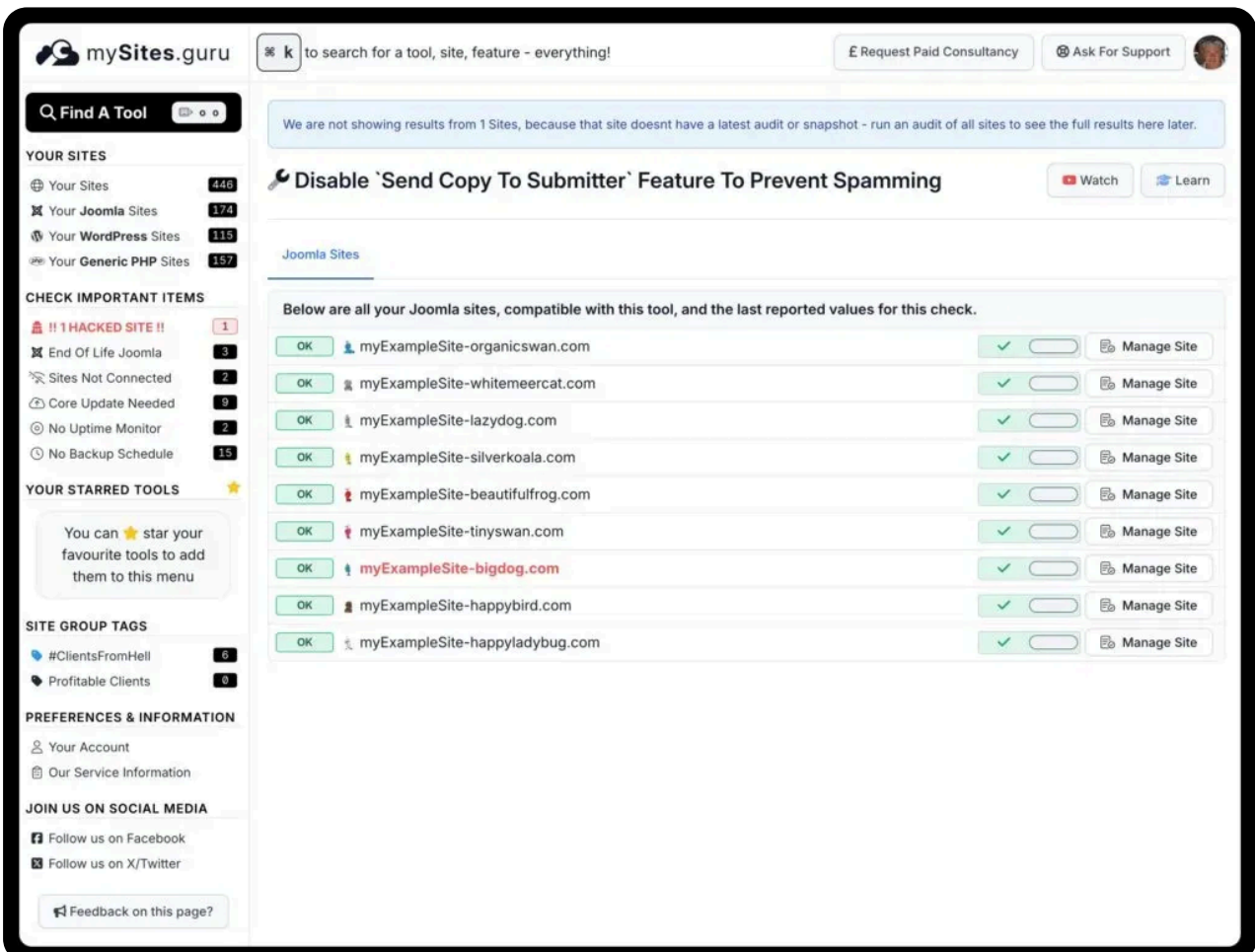
We now report in the snapshot if your site has the **Send Copy To Submitter** setting enabled.



Note that in later versions this setting is disabled by default when you install Joomla, and that earlier versions had it enabled by default.

Note also that although we check the Global value of this setting, you can still override the Global setting on a per form basis. We don't check this because that is a deliberate action you would need to take, and we hope you know why you did it. We are just recommending sane Global defaults.

You can also use the pivot button to view this settings current status on ALL your connected sites to mySites.guru (remember that mySites.guru is an UNLIMITED SITES service for only GBP19.99 a month!)



mysites.guru to search for a tool, site, feature - everything! [Request Paid Consultancy](#) [Ask For Support](#)

Find A Tool **Disable 'Send Copy To Submitter' Feature To Prevent Spamming** [Watch](#) [All Sites Results](#) [Manage Site](#)

YOUR SITES

- Your Sites **513**
- Your Joomla Sites **181**
- Your WordPress Sites **188**
- Your Generic PHP Sites **146**

CHECK IMPORTANT ITEMS

- 11 HACKED SITE !! **1**
- End Of Life Joomla **3**
- Sites Not Connected **2**
- Core Update Needed **9**
- No Uptime Monitor **2**
- No Backup Schedule **15**

YOUR STARRED TOOLS

You can star your favourite tools to add them to this menu

SITE GROUP TAGS

- #ClientsFromHell **6**
- Profitable Clients **0**

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Our Recommendation

We highly recommend that you disable 'Send Copy To Submitter' feature unless you specifically know you need it - this will reduce spam

The reason the 'Send Copy To Submitter' setting is recommended to be disabled is to prevent spam.

The 'Send Copy To Submitter' feature can be used by spammers by allowing them to put their targets email address in the form, and to check this box, and then the email content they submit will be sent to their target email address, as well as your Joomla configured contact.

We have seen many waves of this type of spam using the Joomla contact form in the past.

How the audit checks this

Our audit looked in your Joomla Articles Configuration for your 'Send Copy To Submitter' setting

If we identified that you had not yet disabled this feature, we alert about that

Tools

We have a simple toggle switch for this tool, click below to see this for all your sites.

[Investigate & Fix](#)

Get expert assistance

If you would like to secure our professional services to fix your sites then this can be done for a one-time [fee](#)

I can undertake and fix any issue with Joomla or WordPress on the same day! Most of the time within the same hour!

If you would like to take advantage of this service please contact us using the Get Help button below

[Request Professional help](#)

Further reading

The following links are to articles around the internet that I feel are helpful, some will aid you in your quest, some will simply educate you. Please feel free to visit them, they will pop open in new windows.

- [Updated site security recommendations](#)

For more Joomla-specific configuration and security tips for agencies, see the [Joomla agency handbook](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

How do spammers abuse the Joomla 'Send Copy to Submitter' contact form setting?

Spammers submit the contact form with a target's email address and tick the copy checkbox, causing Joomla to forward the message to that address, making your site appear to be the spammer.

How does mySites.guru help with this spam risk?

The daily mySites.guru snapshot now detects whether 'Send Copy to Submitter' is enabled and alerts you, and the pivot view lets you see the setting's status across all connected sites at once.

Does disabling the global setting fully protect all my Joomla contact forms?

The global setting is the recommended default to disable, but individual contact forms can still override it - mySites.guru only checks the global value and assumes any per-form override is intentional.

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

Get in touch

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