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Joomla 5.4.8 and 6.1.3 Break the Template Manager

Joomla 5.4.8 and 6.1.3 break four Template Manager actions with a Snooping out of bounds error. Creating component and plugin overrides, and creating and deleting template folders, all fail. Here is the cause, the manual fix, and how to reverse it.

Phil E. Taylor | 23 August 2026

If you have updated a Joomla site to **5.4.8** or **6.1.3** and then tried to create a template override, you will have seen this:

```
Joomla\Filesystem\Path::check() – Snooping out of bounds
```

It is not your site, your template, or your host. Both releases shipped a regression in the Template Manager, and it stops four separate things from working.

Update anyway. 5.4.8 and 6.1.3 are security releases. Between them they close ten advisories, [20260801] to [20260810], including an MFA authentication bypass and unrestricted uploads of SHTML files. If you are still on 5.4.7 or 6.1.2, the right move is to update and then deal with this bug, not to sit on an older release to avoid it. They also fix the regression that made 5.4.7 and 6.1.2 silently ignore every article option, which is a second reason not to stay put. This post is about how to deal with the new one.

What is broken

All four are administrator actions, and all four were confirmed working in 5.4.7 and 6.1.2:

- creating a template override for a **component**
- creating a template override for a **plugin**
- **creating** a folder inside a template
- **deleting** a folder inside a template

Editing template files you already have still works. So does everything outside the Template Manager. If you never create overrides, you may never notice.

What caused it

One file, `administrator/components/com_templates/src/Model/TemplateModel.php`, and one pull request: #48171.

It swapped 33 calls to `Path::clean()` for `Path::check()`. The difference matters more than it looks. `Path::clean()` normalises a path string. `Path::check()` normalises it *and* refuses anything that resolves outside the Joomla root, throwing if it finds one. Several of the swapped calls are handed relative fragments rather than complete paths, so `Path::check()` sees what it reads as an escape attempt and stops the request.

Worth saying plainly, because it changes how you should feel about reversing it: the author of #48171 stated in the pull request itself that it was **not a security fix**. The Template Manager is restricted to super users, who can already edit template files and therefore already execute code. The change existed to stop a stream of automated reports about missing traversal checks. It is also absent from the ten security advisories that accompanied 5.4.8.

That single pull request is the only change to that file between 5.4.7 and 5.4.8, and between 6.1.2 and 6.1.3.

When is it fixed

Pull request #48274 is the fix, and it was **merged on 20 August 2026**, closing issue #48273. It went into `5.4-dev` as commit `eacfb318`, and reached `6.1-dev` the same day through upmerge #48278.

Merged is not released. It is assigned to Joomla 5.4.9, currently due at the end of September 2026, and to 6.1.4 on the other branch. Neither has shipped, so every site running 5.4.8 or 6.1.3 still has the broken file on disk.

So until 5.4.9 and 6.1.4 arrive, you either live with it, replace the file by hand, or have something do it for you. What is not on that list is staying on the older release, for

reasons covered below.

Joomla has now documented it

Four days after the releases, the Joomla project published known issues pages for both, dated 22 August 2026:

- Joomla 5.4.8 Known Issues
- Joomla 6.1.3 Known Issues

Both name issue #48273 and point at #48171 as the cause, and both give the same workaround: replace `administrator/components/com_templates/src/Model/TemplateModel.php` with a copy pinned to a specific commit on GitHub. There is still no installable patcher package of the kind the July article options regression got, which shipped as a ZIP that patched the file and then removed itself. This one is a manual file swap. The file is published and pinned to a commit, though, so you are copying a known file into place rather than reconstructing one from a diff.

That file is, byte for byte, the one our tool already writes. Joomla's recommended replacement is MD5 `8ac7c42c6a821c838699564116b1815e` on 5.4.8 and `5169f093c66b466c411f594e9a72e869` on 6.1.3, and those are the two checksums our patched state reports. Either route leaves the same bytes on your site, so you can check ours against theirs instead of taking our word for it.

Fixing it by hand

Take a copy of the file on your site first. Then download the replacement Joomla links from the known issues page for your version, check its MD5 against the value above, and put it in place of `administrator/components/com_templates/src/Model/TemplateModel.php`.

Two things to know before you do:

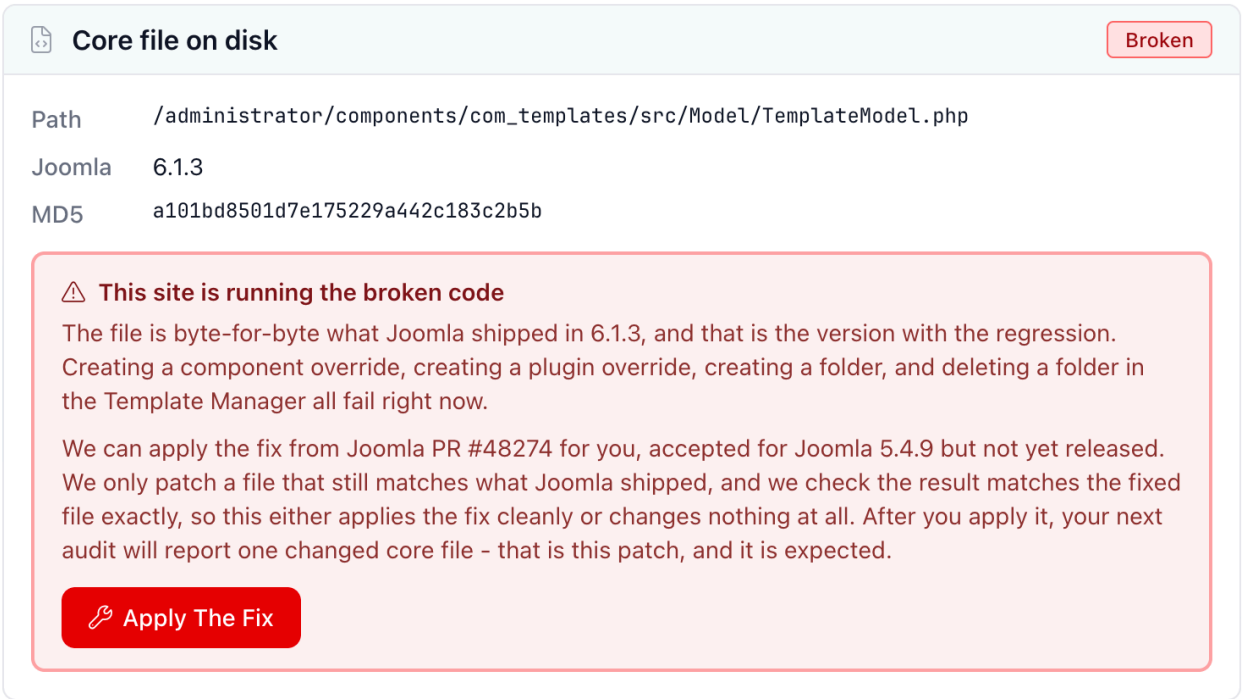
The next Joomla update overwrites it. That is not a problem. That update is the permanent fix, and your hand-edit becomes redundant the moment it arrives.

Your site now has a modified core file. Anything watching for core file changes will say so, and it should. That is the honest answer to the question it was asked.

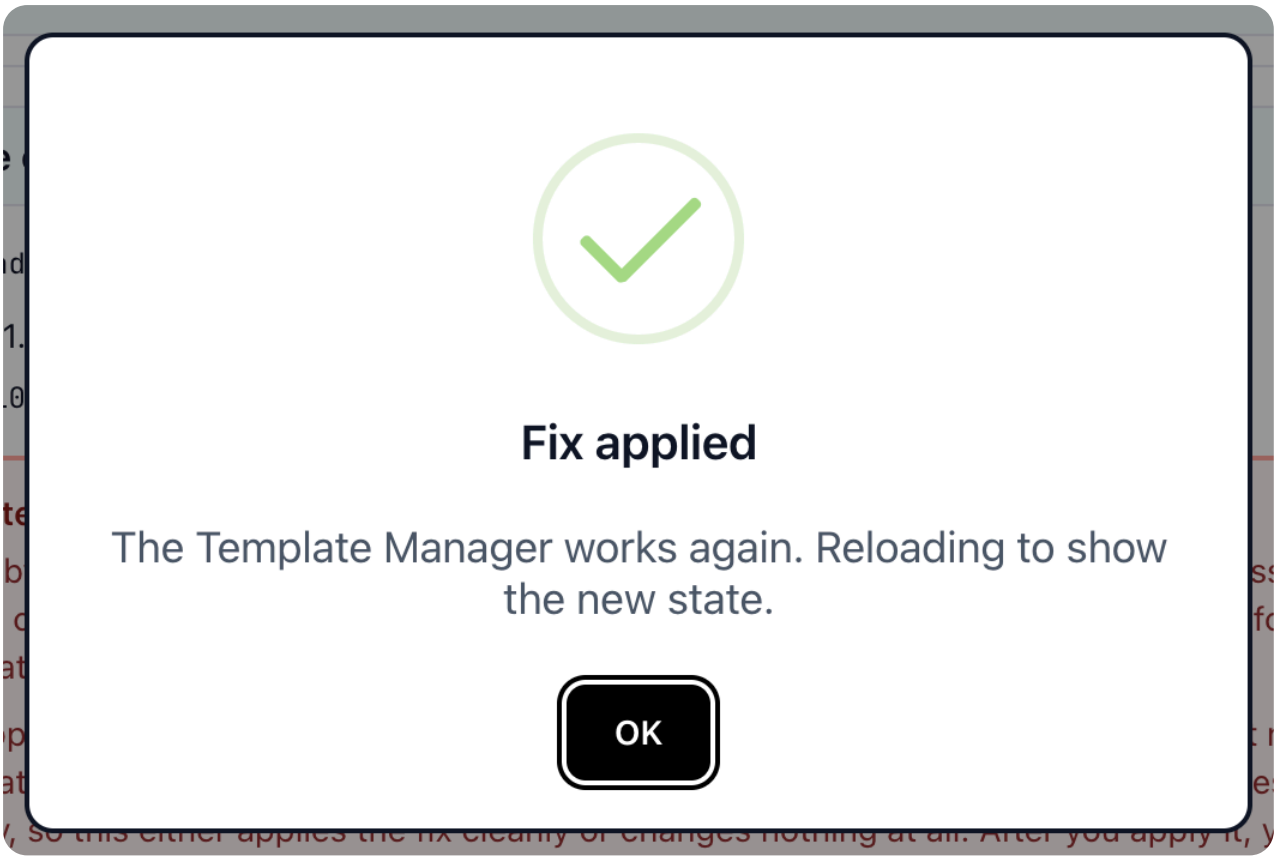
Doing it from mySites.guru

We have added a tool that does both directions. It reads that one file on each connected site, tells you exactly which state it is in, and gives you a button.

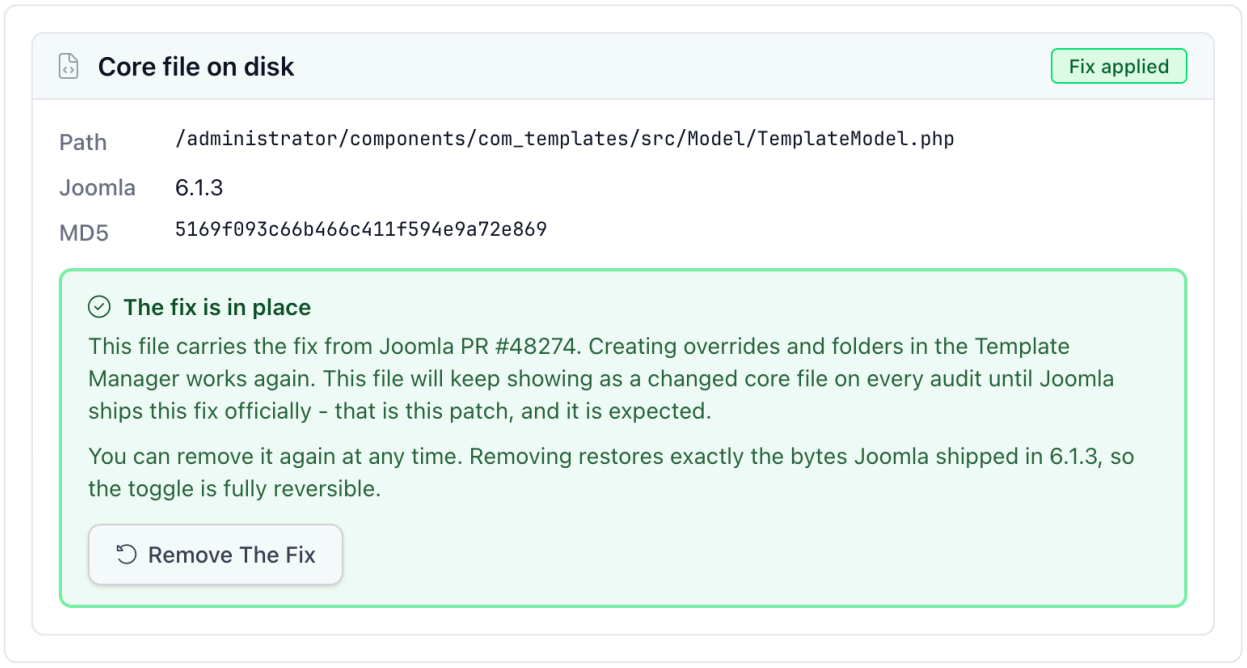
Here is an affected site. The checksum shown is byte-for-byte what Joomla shipped in 6.1.3, which is how we know this is the unmodified broken version rather than something someone has edited:



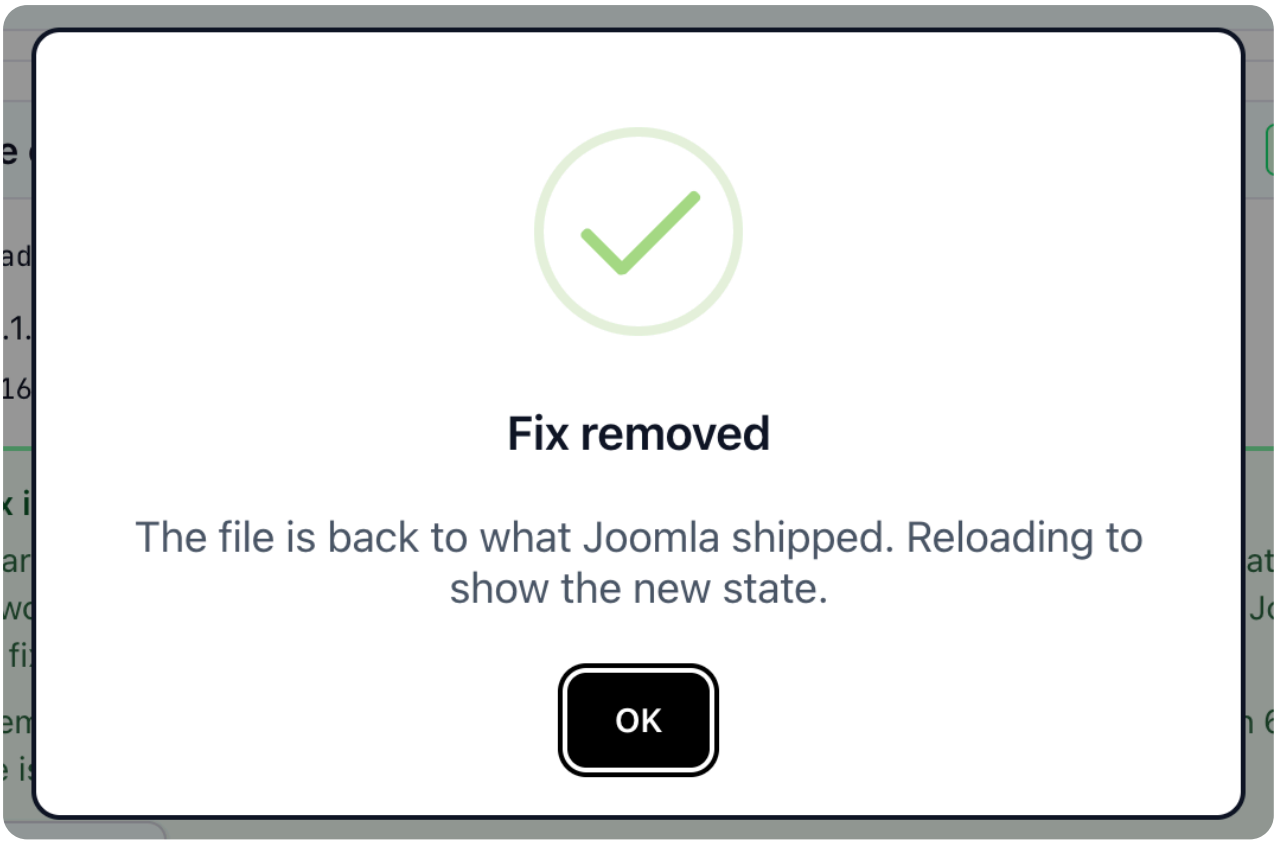
Press Apply The Fix and it patches the file and re-reads it from disk to confirm:



The same card now reads back as patched, with the checksum of the fixed file. The Template Manager works again, and the button has become Remove The Fix:



Removing it puts the file back to exactly the bytes Joomla shipped:



It reports one of six states rather than a yes or no, because “we patched it”, “Joomla shipped it broken and we can fix it”, “it is broken but somebody has already edited this file so we will not touch it”, and “we cannot read the file” are four genuinely different things to be told.

The safety model is the part worth explaining. Before writing anything, we check the checksum of the file already on your site and require it to be exactly what Joomla shipped. If somebody has edited it, we refuse and tell you, rather than overwriting work we cannot see. After building the replacement we check its checksum too, and after writing it we read it back off disk and check it a third time. If any of those three checks disagrees, nothing is written.

Remove puts it back exactly. The reverse direction runs the same three checks and restores the file byte for byte to what Joomla 5.4.8 or 6.1.3 shipped. At no point does your site hold a version of that file that came from anywhere other than Joomla or that pull request.

Because it is targeted at these two releases specifically, the tool disappears by itself once you update to 5.4.9 or 6.1.4.

What to do now

If you are on **5.4.7 or 6.1.2**, update to 5.4.8 or 6.1.3 now, then apply the patch if you need the Template Manager. Do not sit on the older release to dodge this bug. 5.4.8 and 6.1.3 are security releases, and holding back trades ten security fixes for one admin-panel inconvenience. That is a bad trade in every direction: the bug is an annoyance for whoever builds the site, and an MFA bypass is a way in for someone who does not work for you.

If you are already on **5.4.8 or 6.1.3** and you create overrides, patch it, by hand or from here, and expect your next audit to report one changed core file. That is the patch, and it is meant to be there.

If you are already on 5.4.8 or 6.1.3 and you never touch the Template Manager, you need do nothing. You are on the secure release, and the only thing you lose is the ability to create overrides and template folders until 5.4.9 or 6.1.4 arrives.

Across a portfolio the awkward part is not the patch, it is knowing which sites are on which release before a developer hits the error and opens a ticket. That is the same problem as the article options regression a fortnight earlier, and the same answer: mySites.guru records the Joomla version on every connected site twice a day, so you can update them in bulk and see at a glance which ones are sitting on a release with a known bad patch. It is also why accidental version jumps are worth guarding against separately.

Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is broken in Joomla 5.4.8 and 6.1.3?

Four actions in the Template Manager, all in the administrator. Creating a template override for a component fails, creating one for a plugin fails, creating a folder inside a template fails, and deleting a folder inside a template fails. Each one stops with an error reading 'Joomla\Filesystem\Path::check() - Snooping out of bounds'. Nothing is silent and nothing is corrupted: the action simply refuses to run. Everything else in the Template Manager, including editing files you already have, is unaffected.

What caused it?

Pull request #48171, which shipped in 5.4.8 and 6.1.3. It replaced 33 calls to Path::clean() with Path::check() in one file, administrator/components/com_templates/src/Model/TemplateModel.php. Path::clean() tidies a path string. Path::check() additionally refuses any path that resolves outside the Joomla root, and throws if it sees one. Several of the swapped calls are handed relative fragments rather than full paths, so Path::check() sees what looks like an escape attempt and stops. The author of that pull request was explicit that it was not a security fix: the Template Manager is limited to super users, who can already edit template files and therefore already run code. It was written to stop repeated automated reports about missing traversal checks.

Which versions are affected, and which are safe?

Joomla 5.4.8 and 6.1.3 are affected. 5.4.7 and 6.1.2 do not have this bug, and neither does anything before them. The change arrived in that single release on each branch. Joomla 6.2.0-beta1 also carries it. But do not read that as a reason to stay on 5.4.7 or 6.1.2. Those same releases fixed ten security issues, including an MFA authentication bypass and unrestricted uploads of SHTML files. Staying on the older version to avoid a Template Manager annoyance means leaving all ten open. Update to 5.4.8 or 6.1.3, then deal with this bug.

Is there an official fix, and when does it arrive?

Pull request #48274 is the fix. It was merged on 20 August 2026, closing issue #48273, and reached the 6.1 branch the same day. Merged is not released, though: it is assigned to Joomla 5.4.9, currently due at the end of September 2026, and to 6.1.4 on the other branch, and neither has shipped. Joomla has since published known issues pages for 5.4.8 and 6.1.3, both dated 22 August 2026, documenting a workaround: replace

administrator/components/com_templates/src/Model/TemplateModel.php with a copy pinned to a specific GitHub commit. There is no installable patcher package of the kind the 5.4.7 article options regression got. Until 5.4.9 and 6.1.4 ship, your options are to live with it on the current release, to install the file Joomla published, or to use a tool that applies it for you. Staying on 5.4.7 or 6.1.2 is not one of the options: those releases are missing ten security fixes.

Can I fix it by hand?

Yes, and Joomla now publishes the file for you. The known issues page for your version links a copy of administrator/components/com_templates/src/Model/TemplateModel.php pinned to a specific commit: download it, check its MD5, and put it in place of the one on your site. Take a copy of the file you are replacing first. Be aware that this is a core Joomla file, so the next Joomla update overwrites it, which is fine because that update is the permanent fix. Also be aware that any tool watching your site for changed core files, including ours, will correctly report that the file has changed.

Will patching a core file get my site flagged as hacked?

Not as hacked, no. A patched core file is a changed core file, and any honest monitoring will say so. In mySites.guru it shows up on the Core File Changes tool and on the two Files Modified tools, which is the correct answer to the question those tools ask. We add the checksum of the patched file to our global whitelist so it is never treated as suspect content and never sent for malware analysis, but we deliberately do not hide the fact that a core file differs from what Joomla shipped. A monitoring tool that hid core file changes because it had made them itself would be worth less than one that told you the truth.

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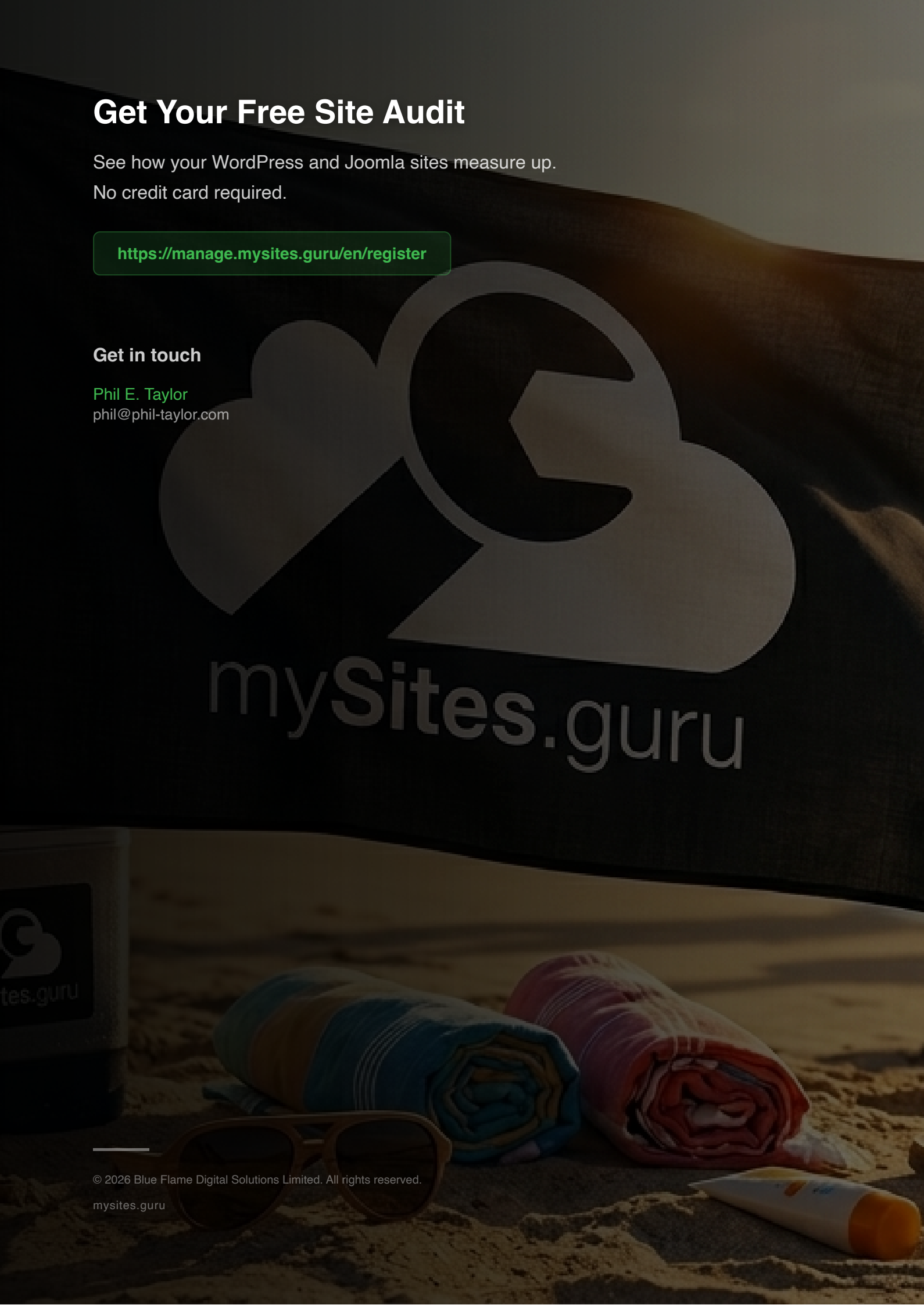

Get in touch

Phil E. Taylor
phil@phil-taylor.com