



Joomla 5.4 Gets Security Fixes Only From 13 October 2026

Joomla 5.4 bug fixes end 13 October 2026 and security fixes end 12 October 2027. What changes, the PHP 8.2 deadline that comes first, and how to plan Joomla 6.

Phil E. Taylor | 3 October 2026

Joomla 5.4 stops getting bug fixes on 13 October 2026 and stops getting security fixes on 12 October 2027. The Joomla Project restated both dates in its [5.4.9 and 6.1.4 release announcement](#) on 29 September: "We'll support Joomla 5.4.x until 13 October 2026 with bugfix patches and until 12 October 2027 with security patches." The same dates are on the [Joomla developer roadmap](#).

5.4 is the last Joomla 5 minor release, so 12 October 2027 is the end of life for Joomla 5 as a whole. In the mySites.guru database, Joomla 5.4 is the most common Joomla version of all, ahead of Joomla 6.1 and Joomla 3.10. This post covers what changes on each date, what our data shows about the sites affected, and the deadline that most 5.4 sites will hit before either Joomla date: their PHP version.

13 Oct 2026

Joomla 5.4 bug fixes end

5.4.10, expected to include security fixes, is due that day

12 Oct 2027

Joomla 5 end of life

Last day of 5.4 security fixes

16 Oct 2029

Joomla 6 end of life

Bug fixes end 17 October 2028

Dates from the Joomla developer roadmap and the 29 September 2026 release announcement.

What changes for Joomla 5.4 sites on 13 October 2026?

From 13 October 2026, Joomla 5.4 moves to security fixes only. Joomla will keep publishing 5.4.x patch releases until 12 October 2027, but only when there is a security issue to fix. General bugs, regressions and most compatibility problems found after that date get fixed in Joomla 6 and nowhere else. Joomla 5.4.10 is scheduled for 13 October itself, the same day as [Joomla 6.2.0](#), and is very likely the last 5.4 release with

general bug fixes in it. We fully expect it to be a security release too, so plan to apply it across your 5.4 sites on the day it ships.

The first practical change is the release rhythm: through the bug fix year, 5.4.x shipped roughly every six weeks, from 5.4.0 on 14 October 2025 to 5.4.9 on 29 September 2026. Joomla 4.4's security-only year had five releases at irregular intervals (January, February, March, April and September 2025), each one shipped when a security fix was ready. Expect 5.4 to behave the same way.

The second is that a broken release stays broken for longer. Joomla 5.4.9 shipped with a [known issue](#) that makes Web Services API edit requests fail with a fatal error, which we covered in the [5.4.9 security release post](#). That fix goes into 5.4.10, just inside the window. The next regression of that kind, like the [5.4.8 template manager breakage](#) or the [5.4.7 article options bug](#), may not get a 5.4 fix at all.

The rule is not absolute. Joomla 4.4.11, released during its security-only year, included a fix for namespace map creation on PHP 8.4. But a compatibility fix in a security release is a bonus, and no one should plan a site's future around one.

Joomla 5.4 is the whole of Joomla 5 now

Joomla ships four minor releases per major version, and the fourth is a "bridge" release. The [software release cycle](#) says you can only upgrade to the next major version from the x.4 release, and "after the x.4.0 release date, we are fixing bugs for one year and making security fixes for two years". 5.4.0 shipped on 14 October 2025, which is where both dates come from.

Only the newest minor release in a series is supported, so Joomla 5.0, 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 are already unsupported. Of the Joomla 5 sites in the mySites.guru database, 2.9% are still on one of those older minors. They have no security support today and no direct route to Joomla 6, because a site has to reach 5.4 before the Joomla 6 upgrade is offered.

5.4 also exists to make the next step smaller. It backports the Joomla 6 API changes, and it ships the "Behaviour - Backward Compatibility 6" plugin, which does nothing on 5.4 except exist and be enabled, so that extensions relying on it keep working on the day a site moves to Joomla 6. We have written about why that plugin is a crutch rather than a fix.

How many Joomla sites are still on Joomla 5?

Across the Joomla sites connected to mySites.guru that reported in during the week to 3 October 2026, 38.3% run Joomla 5, and nearly all of those (97.1%) are on 5.4. Joomla 6 accounts for 29.4%. Joomla 5 is still the larger group, a year after Joomla 6.0 shipped and ten days before Joomla 5 goes security-only.

38.3%

of Joomla sites run Joomla 5

97.1% of those are on 5.4

29.4%

of Joomla sites run Joomla 6

Almost all on 6.1

6.3%

still run Joomla 4

A year after its security support ended

25.4%

still run Joomla 3

Three years after its end of life

Share of Joomla sites connected to mySites.guru that reported a snapshot in the seven days to 3 October 2026.

The last two figures are what makes the 2027 date worth taking seriously now. Joomla 4.4's security support ended on 14 October 2025, almost exactly a year ago, and one Joomla site in sixteen in our data is still on it. Joomla 3 has been through the same pattern for three years, and a quarter of the Joomla sites we see still run it. If Joomla 5 follows Joomla 4, a meaningful share of today's 5.4 sites will still be on 5.4 in October 2027, and some will still be there a year after that.

Most of those sites were kept on an old version because the upgrade was never booked, and it was never booked because nothing visibly broke on the day support

ended. End of life is a non-event on the day and a growing liability afterwards: every later Joomla security release publishes a fix for a flaw the old version still has. We made the agency version of that argument in [Joomla 3 didn't fail, your retainer did](#).

The PHP deadline comes before Joomla's

Joomla 5.4 supports PHP 8.1 and newer, with 8.3 recommended, per its [technical requirements](#). PHP has its own calendar, published on [php.net](#), and it does not line up with Joomla's:

PHP version	Security support ends	Joomla 5.4 sites in our data
8.1	Ended 31 December 2025	2.5%
8.2	31 December 2026	24.8%
8.3	31 December 2027	43.6%
8.4	31 December 2028	22.9%
8.5	31 December 2029	5.9%

More than a quarter (27.3%) of the Joomla 5.4 sites in the mySites.guru database run PHP 8.1 or 8.2. For those sites the real deadline is 31 December 2026, ten months before Joomla 5's, because that is when PHP 8.2 stops getting security fixes. A Joomla core that is still patched does not help much on a PHP runtime that is not.

Move 5.4 sites to PHP 8.3 first

PHP 8.3 is the cheapest single fix on this list. It is supported until 31 December 2027, which outlasts Joomla 5, and it is the minimum PHP version for Joomla 6. Doing it while the site is still on 5.4 means the PHP change and the Joomla 6 change happen months apart, so when something breaks you know which change caused it.

The other 72.4% are already on PHP 8.3 or newer and meet the Joomla 6 PHP minimum today. For them the remaining questions are the database version and the extensions. [Joomla 6 technical requirements](#) has the full table, and [why PHP 8.5.7 can show amber while 8.4.24 shows green](#) explains how mySites.guru grades PHP branches and patch levels.

Why not wait until October 2027 to move to Joomla 6?

Because the security date is the last possible day, not the planning date. Most sites will be pushed off Joomla 5 well before October 2027, whether or not anyone plans for it.

Extension vendors set their own dates, and they tend to come first. J2Commerce has already set the end of life for J2Store 4, which runs on Joomla 4 and 5, at 19 October 2027, and its current line runs on Joomla 6 only, as we covered in the [J2Store 3 end of life post](#). Smaller projects are following: the Proclaim Bible study component has a public [issue to drop Joomla 5 support](#) around Joomla 5's end of life. Once an extension a site depends on stops shipping Joomla 5 builds, its Joomla 5 support date no longer matters.

New Joomla features only go into Joomla 6. 5.4 was a bridge release with no new features of its own, so everything in the [Joomla 6.1 release](#) stays on the newer branch. One example with security weight: from 6.1 you can [force MFA for Super Users](#), and that option is not coming back to Joomla 5. Clients notice a missing feature long before they notice a support date.

October 2027 is also going to be a crowded month. Joomla's release policy puts a new major version in October of every odd-numbered year, so Joomla 7.0 and Joomla 6.4 are due around the same time Joomla 5 support ends. Every agency that left its Joomla 5 sites until the last quarter will be doing the same upgrades, against the same extension vendors' support queues, at the same time.

Our view, after watching the Joomla 3 and Joomla 4 deadlines pass: move Joomla 5.4 sites to Joomla 6 during the next six months, while 5.4 is still patched and before PHP 8.2 runs out. A site that moves now is supported until 16 October 2029, two more

years of security fixes than one that waits. There is no extended support for Joomla 5 to fall back on. Joomla's paid [extended support for Joomla 3](#) ended in February 2025, nothing equivalent was offered for Joomla 4, and nothing has been announced for Joomla 5.

How mySites.guru tracks Joomla 5.4 sites through the change

Everything below is part of the [mySites.guru subscription](#), and it works the same across five Joomla 5 sites or five hundred.

Which Joomla 5 sites are ready for Joomla 6?

The [Joomla 6 Technical Requirements tool](#) lists all your connected Joomla 4, 5 and 6 sites on one screen, with the installed Joomla version, the update channel, the PHP version and the database type and version. Each PHP and database value is colour-coded against Joomla 6's minimum (PHP 8.3.0, MySQL 8.0.13, MariaDB 10.4) and recommended versions, so the sites needing a PHP or database upgrade before anything else are obvious at a glance. Press **c** then **6** anywhere in mySites.guru to jump straight to it.

Keeping 5.4 sites on the current patch

The security-only releases still matter, and they only protect sites that install them. In our data, 26.9% of Joomla 5.4 sites are behind the current 5.4.9 release.

mySites.guru's "Joomla CMS Version Must Be Up-to-date" check, one of the [Joomla configuration checks](#), shows any site not on the latest patch for its branch in red, and the bulk upgrade applies 5.4.10 (which we expect to include security fixes), and every 5.4.x security release after it, to all your out-of-date 5.4 sites in one action. If you prefer it hands-off, mySites.guru's automatic core upgrade settings can be set to patch releases only, which keeps 5.4 sites patched without ever starting a major upgrade.

Joomla's own [automated core updates](#), a free service run by the Joomla Project, also handle patch and minor releases from 5.4 onwards. The Joomla Project's 6.1

announcement states they do not move a site across a major version, so they will never take a 5.4 site to Joomla 6 on their own.

The two backward compatibility plugins

The Joomla 5 to 6 upgrade depends on two plugins being in the right state. The old Joomla 4 to 5 plugin, "Behaviour - Backward Compatibility", must be disabled before the upgrade, and "Behaviour - Backward Compatibility 6" should stay enabled until every extension runs without it. mySites.guru reports the state of both plugins on each connected site as part of its [extension checks](#), so the sites with the old plugin still switched on show up before an upgrade fails.

Checking extension support across every site

The extension inventory records each extension and its version on all your connected sites. Searching for an extension returns the sites it is installed on, which is how you find out, before booking the work, which Joomla 5 sites depend on something with no Joomla 6 release. The audit then flags any installed extension version with a known vulnerability, and that matters more on a branch that is no longer getting general fixes.

Check whether your Joomla version is current

mySites.guru checks every connected site for this automatically and flags it the moment it appears. It runs on every snapshot, twice a day.

Check your site for free →

How to upgrade Joomla 5.4 to Joomla 6

The Joomla Project calls this an upgrade rather than a migration, and for a site with well-maintained extensions it usually is. Its own [step-by-step planning and upgrade guide](#) covers the details. The order that causes the fewest surprises:

1. Update to the latest Joomla 5.4.x and take a full backup. Joomla 6 is only reachable from 5.4.
2. Move PHP to 8.3 or newer while still on 5.4, and test. If the database is below MySQL 8.0.13 or MariaDB 10.4, sort that out at the same time.
3. Check every extension and template for a Joomla 6 release. Update to it while still on 5.4 where the vendor ships one package for both, and plan replacements for anything abandoned.
4. Disable "Behaviour - Backward Compatibility", the Joomla 4 to 5 plugin. Leave "Behaviour - Backward Compatibility 6" enabled.
5. Switch the update channel to Joomla Next in the Joomla Update options, and work through the Pre-Update Check's required settings, recommended settings and extension list. If the server is below Joomla 6's requirements, the upgrade option does not appear at all.
6. Upgrade, test, then set the channel back to Default. Leaving a site on Joomla Next is how it ends up on Joomla 7 by accident, and [preventing accidental Joomla version jumps](#) covers the channel settings.

After the upgrade, check whether the site still needs the Backward Compatibility 6 plugin. Every extension that still relies on it will break on the way to Joomla 7, so finding them now is cheaper than finding them in 2027.

For the wider process of running core upgrades across many sites, including staging, backups and rollback, see our guide to [managing CMS updates at scale](#). For a look at your own sites first, run a [free audit](#), or compare the [plans](#) if you want the Joomla 6 readiness view across every site you manage.

Timeline

2023-08-17	○	Joomla 3 reaches end of life Free security support ends. A paid extended support programme runs until 17 February 2025, and then nothing.
2023-10-17	○	Joomla 5.0 and Joomla 4.4 released Joomla 4.4 becomes the bridge release for the Joomla 4 to 5 upgrade.
2025-10-14	●	Joomla 4.4 security support ends The last Joomla 4 release was 4.4.14 on 30 September 2025. Joomla 6.0 and Joomla 5.4 ship the same day.
2026-09-29	●	Joomla 5.4.9 and 6.1.4 released Sixteen core security fixes. The release announcement confirms the two Joomla 5.4 support dates.
2026-10-13	●	Joomla 5.4 bug fix support ends Joomla 5.4.10 and Joomla 6.2.0 are both scheduled for this day, and we expect 5.4.10 to be a security release. From here, 5.4.x releases ship only when there is a security fix.
2026-12-31	●	PHP 8.2 security support ends Joomla 5.4 still runs on it, but PHP itself stops getting fixes ten months before Joomla 5 does.
2027-10-12	●	Joomla 5 end of life The last day of Joomla 5.4 security fixes. Joomla's release policy also puts Joomla 7.0 in October 2027, though no date has been published.
2029-10-16	○	Joomla 6 end of life Bug fixes for Joomla 6 end on 17 October 2028, security fixes a year later.

Further Reading

- [Joomla 6.1.4 & 5.4.9 Security & Bugfix Release](#) - the Joomla Project's announcement confirming both Joomla 5.4 support dates.
- [Joomla! Roadmap](#) - the official end of bug fix and security support dates for Joomla 5 and Joomla 6.
- [Software release cycle](#) - why the x.4 release is the bridge, and the one-year and two-year support rule behind the dates.
- [Joomla 5 to 6 planning and upgrade, step by step](#) - Joomla's own upgrade walkthrough, including the Pre-Update Check.
- [PHP supported versions](#) - the PHP end of life dates, including PHP 8.2 on 31 December 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions

When does Joomla 5 reach end of life?

12 October 2027. Joomla 5.4 gets bug fixes until 13 October 2026 and security fixes until 12 October 2027, per the Joomla Project's 29 September 2026 release announcement and its developer roadmap. Because 5.4 is the last Joomla 5 minor release and older 5.x minors are already unsupported, the 5.4 date is the end of Joomla 5 as a whole.

Is Joomla 5.4 still safe to use after 13 October 2026?

Yes, for another year, provided you keep applying the 5.4.x releases. Joomla will keep shipping 5.4.x patch releases for security issues until 12 October 2027. What stops is general bug fixing, so a regression or a compatibility problem found after 13 October will usually be fixed in Joomla 6 only.

Will Joomla's automated core updates move my 5.4 site to Joomla 6?

No. Joomla's automated core updates cover patch and minor updates from 5.4 and 6.0 onwards, and the Joomla Project states they are not supported across a major version change. Moving from 5.4 to 6 is a manual upgrade through the Joomla Next update channel.

Is there extended support for Joomla 5 after October 2027?

None has been announced. Joomla 3 had a paid extended support programme that ended on 17 February 2025, but nothing equivalent exists for Joomla 4, whose security support ended on 14 October 2025, and nothing has been announced for Joomla 5.

What PHP version does a Joomla 5.4 site need to upgrade to Joomla 6?

PHP 8.3.0 or newer, with 8.4 recommended. Joomla 5.4 itself runs on PHP 8.1 and up, but PHP 8.1 is already end of life and PHP 8.2 loses security support on 31 December 2026. Moving a 5.4 site to PHP 8.3 now covers the rest of its Joomla 5 life and meets the Joomla 6 minimum at the same time.

How long is Joomla 6 supported?

Joomla 6 gets bug fixes until 17 October 2028 and security fixes until 16 October 2029, according to the Joomla developer roadmap. A site that moves from 5.4 to 6 today gains two more years of security support than one that stays on 5.4.

How do I find every Joomla 5 site I manage and check whether it is ready for Joomla 6?

mySites.guru lists all your connected Joomla 4, 5 and 6 sites on one screen in its Joomla 6 Technical Requirements tool, with the Joomla version, update channel, PHP version and database version, colour-coded against Joomla 6's minimum and recommended requirements. The extension inventory then shows which extensions each site runs, so you can check vendor support before booking the work.

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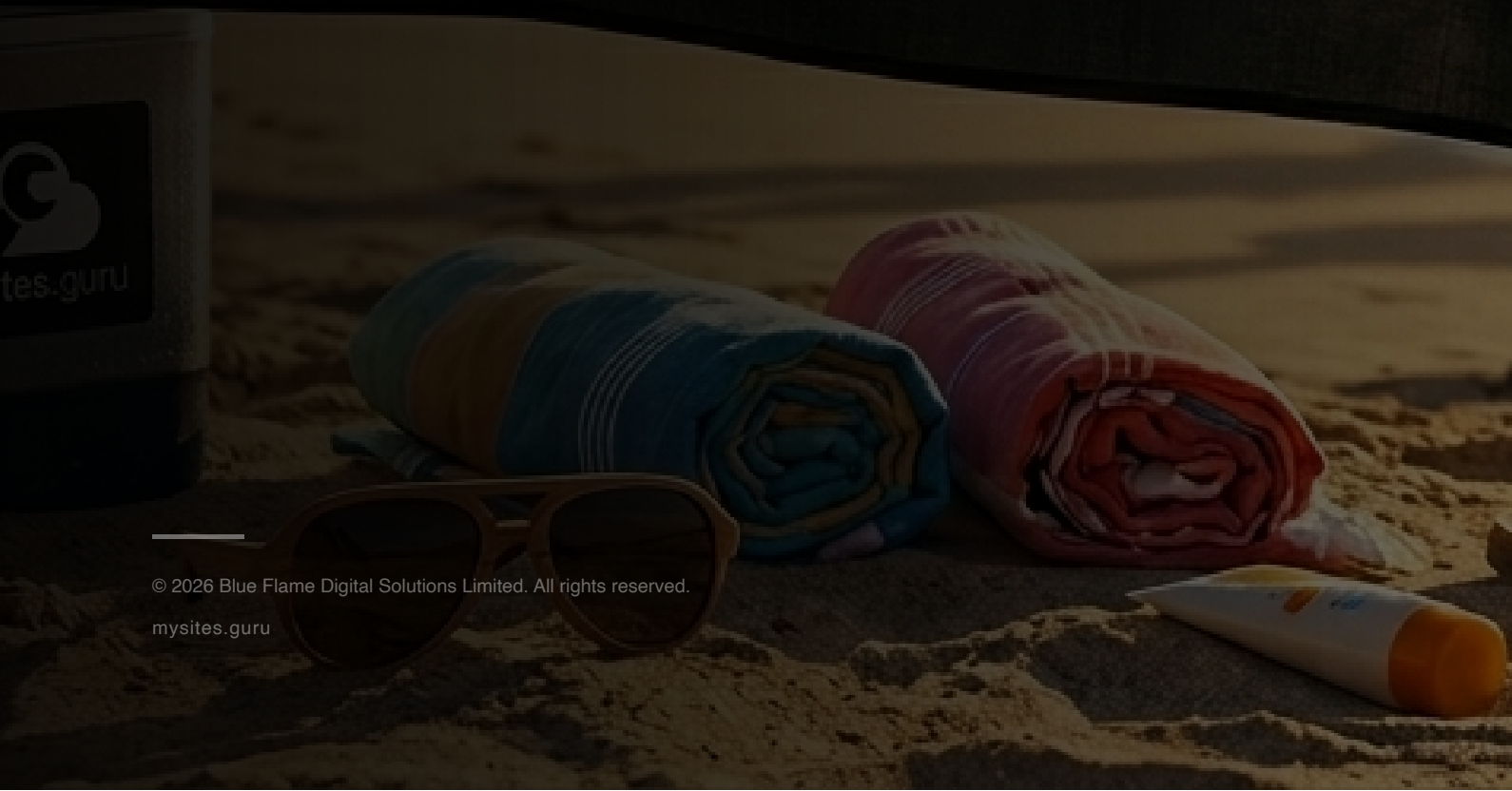
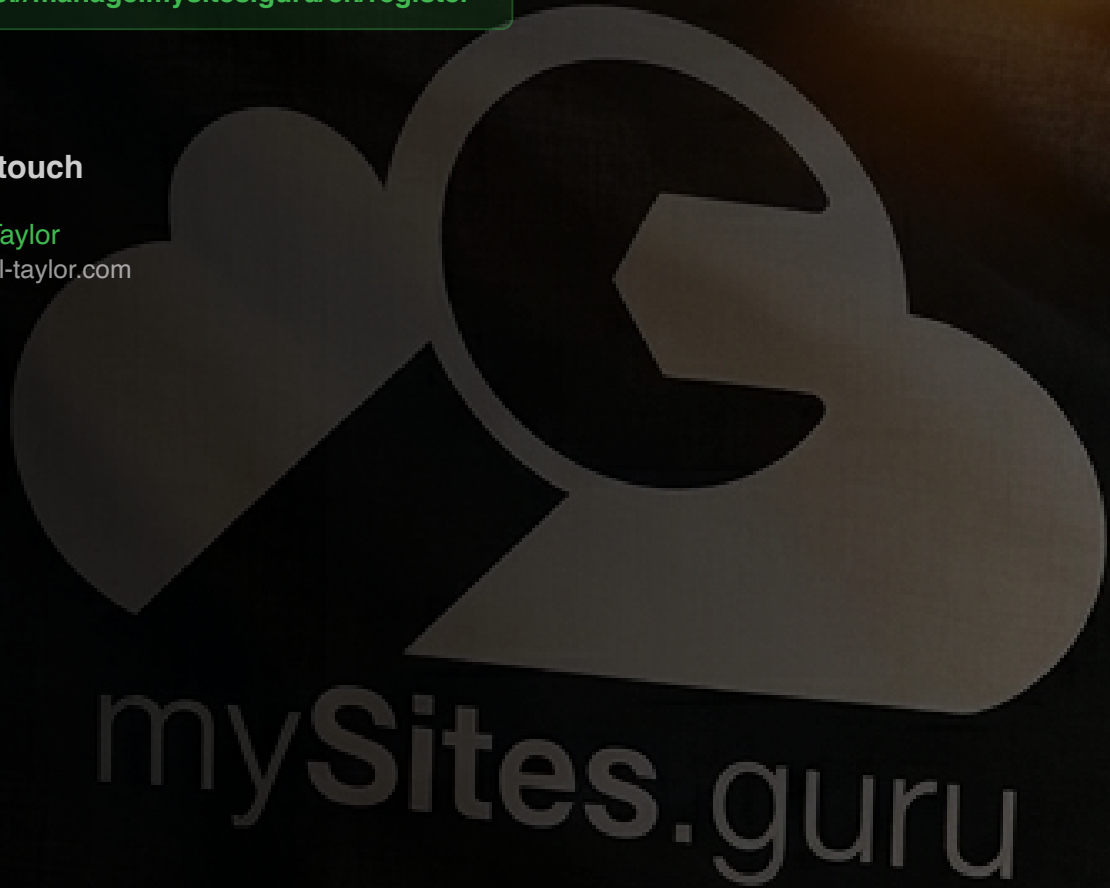
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