



Best Practice for Joomla & WordPress Sites

Every mySites.guru snapshot and audit check comes with a detailed Learn More page explaining the best practice recommendation, the risk and how to fix it.

Phil E. Taylor | 16 March 2026

Every check in the mySites.guru [Snapshot](#) and Audit - well over 100 of them - has a "Learn More" page explaining what the check looks for, why it matters, and what to do about it.

Not everyone will agree with every recommendation we make, and that's fine. Each check exists for a reason, most of it based on years of involvement with the Joomla project (and more recently WordPress).

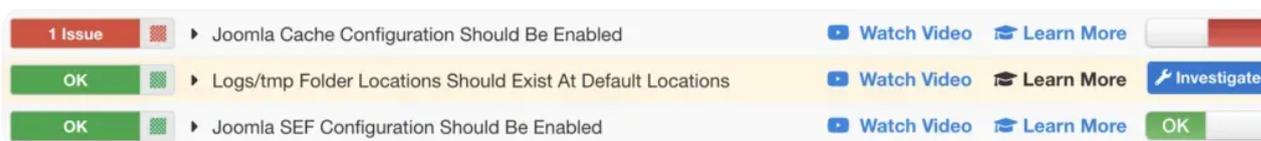
Each "Learn More" page includes most of the following:

- Our Recommendation
- How the audit checks this setting
- Background Information
- A tool to investigate, or an explanation of why no tool is available
- Further Reading
- [Get Expert Assistance](#)

To make this concrete, the rest of this post walks through one check: "Logs/tmp Folder Locations Should Exist At Default Locations" for Joomla sites.

WordPress-specific checks include things like [debug constants](#) and [admin bar logo removal](#), each with a one-click toggle.

This check is in the [snapshot](#), and looks like this:



You can click on the Learn More link to get to that page.

The recommendation

This block states what we consider the correct best practice, with context explaining why.

Our Recommendation

We highly recommend that you leave these paths as the default paths.

The reason we are checking for these paths is because we have seen MANY sites that are developed on local machines, PC's, MAMP, xAMP and development servers, and then when the site is moved to the live environment manually these paths are not being changed and so still point to invalid folders. This will break the installing of extensions and the logging inside of Joomla as the paths would be invalid.

I recommend leaving them set to the /tmp and /logs paths within your distributed Joomla file structure - that way Joomla and custom extensions can use these folders. Also it is no more secure to move them out of your webspace (as other so-called security sites will tell you).

The word LOGS should be plural!

Lots of people complain we get this wrong, when they have a ./log folder - the Joomla default is ./logs which is plural - i.e. has a S on the end of it! - We are not wrong. Akeeba Restores sometimes uses a /log folder instead of /logs to overcome crappy webhosting (1&1 Internet etc...)

If you know you have changed these paths to a valid location from the norm, and you are happy with that - just ignore this warning, I'll not be offended - promise! Just note that this is not standard practice.

Example "Our Recommendation" block on the Learn More page

How the audit checks this

This block explains, in technical and non-technical language how the mySites.guru [snapshot/audit](#) process gets its data for this check.

✓ How the audit checks this

Our audit looked in your Joomla Global Configuration file (/configuration.php) to see what configuration options you had set for the paths to the tmp and log folders.

If we identified that you had changed these paths from the defaults for this site then we have flagged this.

The Technical Bit

I instantiated the JConfig Class and checked the values of \$tmp_path and \$log_path then ensured that these were writable and not some crazy location (Like the path on your local dev site!)

Background information

This block includes any additional background context worth knowing about the issue.

Background Information

The tmp folder is used by Joomla to extract extensions you upload before installing them. If you upload an extension and get error messages like: `Warning! Failed to move file.` then the tmp path is invalid or not writable.

If you have the Joomla! FTP layer enabled, you might get the message `"JFTP::mkdir: Bad response, JFTP::chmod: Bad response, JFTP::store: Bad response, Warning! Failed to move file."`

You might also see files in the tmp folder - you can safely delete these at any time, its common that the Joomla installer doesnt do a good job of clearing up after its self and you will often see folders with `install__*` prefixes - these can all **safely** be deleted.

In latter Joomla versions the tmp moved from `/tmp` to `/administrator/tmp` - our snapshot prefers the latter

Further Reading

Links to relevant documentation, official Joomla or WordPress resources, or third-party guidance. Where licensing prevents us from reproducing content directly, we link out instead.

Tools

Usually a direct link to the Investigate Tool, or back to the [Snapshot/Audit](#) tabs if this check has a toggle.

Get Expert Assistance

If you need help fixing an issue, we offer fixed-fee [paid consultancy](#) to resolve problems identified in a snapshot or audit. Full details and request form at fix.mysites.guru.

Frequently Asked Questions

What information is on a mySites.guru 'Learn More' page?

Each page includes a best practice recommendation, an explanation of how the check works, background information, links to further reading, and a link to request expert assistance.

How many checks does the mySites.guru snapshot and audit cover?

The snapshot and audit together cover well over 100 individual checks, each with its own dedicated Learn More page.

What if I can't fix an issue identified in the audit myself?

mySites.guru offers fixed-fee paid consultancy through fix.mysites.guru to resolve any issues found in a snapshot or audit.

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