CUNY Academic Commons - Bug #13657

Activating commentpress-modern theme can cause fatal errors if commentpress-core plugin not active

2020-12-07 11:01 AM - Boone Gorges

Status:	Resolved		**Start date:**	2020-12-07
Priority name:	Normal		**Due date:**	
Assignee:	Raymond Hoh		**% Done:**	0%
Category name:			**Estimated time:**	0.00 hour
Target version:	1.18.1			

Description

See #13656. I haven't taken any steps to confirm what's going on here. It looks like we have a separate wp-content/themes/commentpress-modern directory, added in #12573. But the commentpress-modern theme is also shipped inside of the commentpress-core plugin, which uses register_theme_directory() to tell WP about it. The latter solution means that the situation should never arise where the plugin is inactive but the theme is active. But our separate copy of the theme is probably overriding the call to register_theme_directory()

Ray, could you please look at what's happening here? I think we want to remove wp-content/themes/commentpress-modern, but I'm not sure if sites currently using commentpress-modern will properly switch over to the bundled version of the theme, or whether we need some sort of migration tool. (Also, there's the further question of what happens when you are using a plugin-bundled theme, via register_theme_directory(), but the plugin is then deactivated; I assume that this is not what happened in the case of #13656, and I assume it means that WP will just fall back on the default theme, but this could use a check.)

Related issues:

Related to CUNY Academic Commons - Bug #13656: site down	**Resolved**	**2020-12-06**
Related to CUNY Academic Commons - Bug #12573: CommentPress Core Issues	**New**	**2020-03-24**
Related to CUNY Academic Commons - Bug #13715: https://ulysses.commons.gc.cun...	**Resolved**	**2020-12-16**

History

#1 - 2020-12-07 11:01 AM - Boone Gorges

- Related to Bug #13656: site down added

#2 - 2020-12-07 11:01 AM - Boone Gorges

- Related to Bug #12573: CommentPress Core Issues added

#3 - 2020-12-07 11:02 AM - Boone Gorges

- Description updated

#4 - 2020-12-17 11:43 AM - Boone Gorges

- Related to Bug #13715: https://ulysses.commons.gc.cuny.edu down added

#5 - 2020-12-17 03:11 PM - Raymond Hoh

The likely scenario here is a site admin was browsing through the "Appearance > Themes" list and the admin activated one of the CommentPress themes without having the CommentPress Core plugin activated.

I think we should do the following:

- Network-disable the commentpress-default and commentpress-modern themes so these themes are no longer allowed to be shown in the "Appearance > Themes" screen since they only work with the commentpress-core plugin. (I've just done this, so no need to do it.)
- Remove the commentpress-theme and commentpress-modern themes from /wp-content/themes/. WordPress only stores the theme slug in the database, not the absolute path to the theme directory, so we should be safe. (I haven't done this yet. Wanted to get some confirmation before doing this.)

Sites that have either commentpress-theme or commentpress-modern should have the commentpress-core plugin already activated. It's not possible to activate just those themes without receiving a fatal error as evidenced in the last few tickets (#13715, #13656).

To be sure, I ran a WP-CLI command to see where both themes are active:

```
Sites where commentpress-modern is active:
+---------+------------------------------------------+
```

```
| blog_id | url                                             |
+---------+-------------------------------------------------+
| 1603    | https://disswrkshpf13.commons.gc.cuny.edu/      |
| 1682    | https://cunyfemtech.commons.gc.cuny.edu/        |
| 1800    | https://sicelidas.commons.gc.cuny.edu/          |
| 1921    | https://jk82.commons.gc.cuny.edu/               |
| 2241    | https://techlitfrench.commons.gc.cuny.edu/      |
| 2273    | https://jitpcomments.commons.gc.cuny.edu/       |
| 2309    | https://fragments.commons.gc.cuny.edu/          |
| 2314    | https://techniques.commons.gc.cuny.edu/         |
| 2358    | https://wgs10016.commons.gc.cuny.edu/           |
| 2748    | https://malswrites.commons.gc.cuny.edu/         |
| 3944    | https://ivanhoetest.commons.gc.cuny.edu/        |
| 4004    | https://tristengoodwin.commons.gc.cuny.edu/     |
| 4332    | https://stefanomorello.commons.gc.cuny.edu/     |
+---------+-------------------------------------------------+

Sites where commentpress-theme is active:
+---------+----------------------------------------------------+
| blog_id | url                                                |
+---------+----------------------------------------------------+
| 1063    | https://promockup2.commons.gc.cuny.edu/            |
| 1271    | https://deathofthetermpaper.commons.gc.cuny.edu/   |
| 1313    | https://amstprosemsp13.commons.gc.cuny.edu/        |
| 1394    | https://thesocialpaper.commons.gc.cuny.edu/        |
| 1491    | https://librarians.commons.gc.cuny.edu/            |
| 1506    | https://eshtestcac.commons.gc.cuny.edu/            |
+---------+----------------------------------------------------+
```

All sites have the commentpress-core plugin activated. (eshtestcac.commons.gc.cuny.edu has another unrelated error, but that site is marked as deleted so I'm not going to spend time debugging that site.)

One other thing I encountered is if a site has the commentpress-core plugin activated, the other bundled themes for CommentPress (commentpress-theme and commentpress-flat) are not visible under the "Appearance > Themes" screen. I've just added a commit that will allow these themes to be activated if the commentpress-core plugin is active: https://github.com/cuny-academic-commons/cac/commit/1e1ef9c7da7f13b6e75574d6261280434bf018c3. This should properly solve #12573. I've also reported this issue to Christian (who maintains CommentPress) here.

#6 - 2020-12-17 04:19 PM - Boone Gorges

> Network-disable the commentpress-default and commentpress-modern themes so these themes are no longer allowed to be shown in the "Appearance > Themes" screen since they only work with the commentpress-core plugin. (I've just done this, so no need to do it.)

This sounds good to me.

> Remove the commentpress-theme and commentpress-modern themes from /wp-content/themes/. WordPress only stores the theme slug in the database, not the absolute path to the theme directory, so we should be safe. (I haven't done this yet. Wanted to get some confirmation before doing this.)

This seems right to me too. Please go ahead with this step.

Thanks for identifying that related upstream issue!

#7 - 2020-12-17 08:53 PM - Raymond Hoh

- Status changed from New to Staged for Production Release

> This seems right to me too. Please go ahead with this step.

I've removed the commentpress themes in the following commit: https://github.com/cuny-academic-commons/cac/commit/5179c959f8876031eaac5e15f2ab32c4909ee598.

#8 - 2020-12-17 09:56 PM - Marilyn Weber

I am so relieved!

#9 - 2020-12-18 09:35 AM - Matt Gold

Hi Boone -- can you clarify whether this means that no one will be able to use CommentPress going forward?

#10 - 2020-12-18 10:03 AM - Boone Gorges

- Category name deleted (WordPress Themes)

Thanks, Ray!

> Hi Boone -- can you clarify whether this means that no one will be able to use CommentPress going forward?

No, it's unrelated to whether CommentPress can be used. This change means that it will be impossible to activate a CommentPress theme without first having the CommentPress plugin active.

#11 - 2020-12-18 10:54 AM - Matt Gold

Got it. Thanks, Boone and Ray. Should we document this is some way so that people understand the order of what they have to do? Or can we trigger a warning to people who try to select the CP theme before activating the plugin? Apologies if you've already done this and I missed it

#12 - 2020-12-18 10:57 AM - Boone Gorges

The changes we've made ensure that you won't even see the CommentPress themes in the list unless you have the CommentPress plugin activated. In other words, we are eliminating the possibility of the bad combination that caused the problems in related tickets. I don't think any further action is needed.

#13 - 2020-12-18 11:49 AM - Matt Gold

Okay. I do think we should document this, though. I've cc'ed Scott into the thread. Scott, can you please add something about this to our Help section?

#14 - 2020-12-18 02:29 PM - Matt Gold

Right, but then you won't even know about CommentPress as a possibility unless you see it in the plugin list. My suggestion for Scott to document this was to make sure that users knew about the possibilities CP offers and how to go about implementing it in the right way.

#15 - 2020-12-22 03:32 PM - Boone Gorges

- Status changed from Staged for Production Release to Resolved

#16 - 2020-12-26 05:08 PM - scott voth

For the record - new documentation is available here - https://help.commons.gc.cuny.edu/commentpress/

#17 - 2020-12-26 08:03 PM - Matt Gold

Thanks so much, Scott!