

## CUNY Academic Commons - Support #2965

### Spammers on commonsinabox.org

2014-01-18 12:20 PM - scott voth

<b>Status:</b>	Resolved	<b>Start date:</b>	2014-01-18
<b>Priority name:</b>	High	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Assignee:</b>	Boone Gorges	<b>% Done:</b>	0%
<b>Category name:</b>	commonsinabox.org	<b>Estimated time:</b>	0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>			
<b>Description</b>			
<p>Hi - I am trying to figure out the best way to shut down the spammers on commonsinabox.org. Somehow they have figured out that they can go to <a href="http://commonsinabox.org/docs">http://commonsinabox.org/docs</a> and there create buddypress docs filled with spam. The BP docs are not related to groups - I checked and even though members of groups can create BP Docs, the spam is not coming through there. (Maybe we should disable Docs for the groups before they exploit this avenue.) But it seems that the spam is coming through some part of the site wide wiki - that while officially turned off, has some residual vulnerability.</p> <p>Not sure how to proceed. Should I go to the activity stream in the dashboard and mark each one as spam? Should we ban these spammers from the site? Shut down the BP Docs vulnerability? All the above? Thanks.</p>			

#### History

##### #1 - 2014-01-18 12:27 PM - Matt Gold

- Status changed from New to Assigned
- Assignee set to Boone Gorges
- Priority name changed from Normal to High

Thanks for catching this, Scott. Boone, please let us know your thoughts.

##### #2 - 2014-01-18 07:56 PM - Boone Gorges

- Status changed from Assigned to Reporter Feedback

Thanks for the report, Scott.

But it seems that the spam is coming through some part of the site wide wiki - that while officially turned off, has some residual vulnerability.

I'm not totally sure what you mean by this. In what sense is this "officially turned off"? I guess just that we don't have it linked in the navigation?

I don't think this is a vulnerability. It's a case where spammers have successfully created accounts, and then knew enough about BuddyPress to go to /docs/.

Do we have any legitimate use for Docs on commonsinabox.org? Glancing over the Docs directory, there are no non-spam Docs on the site. So I'm going to ahead and turn it off.

Let me know if this is enough to solve the problem.

##### #3 - 2014-01-18 09:05 PM - Matt Gold

sounds like a good solution -- thank you. Can you please make a note of the spam accounts, too, so that we can delete them? Maybe you've already done that. Thanks for taking a look at this on a Saturday, and again, thanks for catching this, Scott.

##### #4 - 2014-01-19 09:45 AM - scott voth

Thanks Boone. That did the trick. Yeah, what I meant was that the wiki wasn't on the menu, but it was still turned on. I made a list of the spammers:  
marklee  
tonychen  
services  
vijay  
jackkronisusa

Also, I have marked as spam the recently created docs in the activity list.

##### #5 - 2014-01-19 02:35 PM - Matt Gold

Thank you, Scott.

Boone, would you agree that the thing to do now is to delete the accounts in question? I think that marking them as spam accounts is possible in WP multisite, but not on a single site.

**#6 - 2014-01-19 02:49 PM - Boone Gorges**

I've marked the users as spam. (profile > Settings > Capabilities)

**#7 - 2014-01-19 02:56 PM - Matt Gold**

- *Status changed from Reporter Feedback to Resolved*

Okay -- thanks, Boone. Confusing that most other admin controls of user accounts are on the dashboard while this is on the frontend, but I appreciate your help with this. Marking as resolved since all spam is gone and users have been marked accordingly. Thanks to you all for your help.