

# CUNY Academic Commons - Feature #9938

## License widget

2018-06-15 01:32 PM - Boone Gorges

<b>Status:</b> Resolved	<b>Start date:</b> 2018-06-15
<b>Priority name:</b> Normal	<b>Due date:</b>
<b>Assignee:</b> Raymond Hoh	<b>% Done:</b> 0%
<b>Category name:</b> WordPress Plugins	<b>Estimated time:</b> 0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b> 1.14	
<b>Description</b>	
From OER planning document:	
After dragging widget to widgetized area, user can select from seven licenses, listed in a drop down menu. Link would be included in the interface to <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/">https://creativecommons.org/licenses/</a> , so users could make informed decision.	
CC-BY CC-BY-SA CC-BY-ND CC-BY-NC CC BY-NC-SA CC BY-NC-ND CC-0	
Widget would them display CC-license.	
n.b. some OER advocates argue that CC-BY is the only OER license	
What we need:	
- A definitive list of the available options (this can be changed later - we'll use the above for now)	
- Some indication of how the front-end should look and/or what text it should contain. CC licenses have little icons, which we may want to use.	
Widget should be in an mu-plugin or network-activated.	
The dev team can probably build an initial version based on best guesses about the above, at which point we'll return to the larger team for feedback.	
Ray, this one is a gimme, you want it?	
<b>Related issues:</b>	
Related to CUNY Academic Commons - Feature #7115: make licensing info clear d...	<b>Reporter Feed</b> 2016-12-16
Related to CUNY Academic Commons - Feature #7112: Add Copyright option/questi...	<b>Resolved</b> 2016-12-16

## History

### #1 - 2018-06-15 01:59 PM - Boone Gorges

- Description updated

### #2 - 2018-06-26 02:00 AM - Raymond Hoh

Do we want to go with a basic listing of available CC licenses?

Or do we want to do something a little more interactive? For example, the Creative Commons site has a questionnaire available here:

<https://creativecommons.org/choose/>

Depending on the answers you give, the page will recommend a CC license that your site should use.

Also of note is the Creative Commons has a license plugin on Github:

<https://github.com/creativecommons/creativecommons-wordpress-plugin/tree/develop>

It's not a widget per se, as it has options to add a license to the sitewide footer, to each post's footer, to each image attachment page, and on each author's page.

### #3 - 2018-07-03 12:10 PM - Raymond Hoh

As I mentioned above, the Creative Commons has developed a license plugin, which we might want to consider using as it encompasses more options instead of our current spec. Would welcome thoughts from the rest of the team.

The following are screenshots of that plugin.

Main settings:

screenshot-1.jpg  
Author license settings:

screenshot-3.jpg  
Post / page license settings:

screenshot-2.jpg  
Media attachment settings:

screenshot-4.jpg

### #4 - 2018-07-03 12:35 PM - Boone Gorges

Thanks for the screenshots, Ray. When you've added a license to a post/page, where does it show up on the front end?

Whether we use the plugin or not, I like the idea that license info could be stored on a per-item basis. If we adopt a custom solution, we could (should?) borrow the conventions set by the plugin for storing license info in the database - certain postmeta keys, whatever.

### #5 - 2018-07-03 12:36 PM - Boone Gorges

One more thought: we might offer a widget that sits on top of this plugin, which shows your "default": "Unless otherwise indicated, content on this site is distributed under the CC-BY license" or whatever.

### #6 - 2018-08-02 12:19 PM - Maura Smale

Boone Gorges wrote:

One more thought: we might offer a widget that sits on top of this plugin, which shows your "default": "Unless otherwise indicated, content on this site is distributed under the CC-BY license" or whatever.

Raymond Hoh wrote:

Do we want to go with a basic listing of available CC licenses?

Or do we want to do something a little more interactive? For example, the Creative Commons site has a questionnaire available here: <https://creativecommons.org/choose/>

Depending on the answers you give, the page will recommend a CC license that your site should use.

---

Also of note is the Creative Commons has a license plugin on Github: <https://github.com/creativecommons/creativecommons-wordpress-plugin/tree/develop>

It's not a widget per se, as it has options to add a license to the sitewide footer, to each post's footer, to each image attachment page, and on each author's page.

This license widget is a great idea, and the screenshots of the Creative Commons plugin look terrific to me, if they work from the implementation side. I know this is part of the OER bundle of features but I also think that the option to choose a license could be useful for other work on the Commons. Mariana and I maintain a project website on the Commons e.g. and we would use this. Thanks!

### #7 - 2018-09-21 11:35 AM - Matt Gold

Update: Luke and Maura, we are going to ask for your help in finalizing this. Ray will be updating the ticket today; please review and give us feedback afterwards. thank you!

### #8 - 2018-09-22 06:13 PM - Raymond Hoh

- *File license-chooser.gif added*
- *File license-widget.png added*
- *Status changed from New to In Progress*

I've installed the Creative Commons official plugin onto cdev for testing.

When in the Plugins panel, the plugin is called "Creative Commons". Once activated, you can navigate to the "Settings > Creative Commons" page to change the license.

Some issues:

### 1. The UX for the license chooser is a little finicky

When you click on the "Change license" button, this opens up a modal with a brief questionnaire that will guide you in selecting an appropriate license.

Confirming the license is the finicky part. I've recorded a GIF to explain what I mean:

license-chooser.gif

In order for your chosen license to show up, you need to click on the "Proceed" text link, which then closes the modal and displays the updated license. If you do not click on "Proceed", the chosen license does not take effect.

If we wanted to get rid of this "Proceed" step, upstream changes are needed to the [creativecommons.org/choose/](https://creativecommons.org/choose/) web app. An alternative would be to create our own questionnaire via JS, which wouldn't require any upstream dependencies.

### 2. License shows up in the site footer poorly

If you enabled "Allow a different license per post/page" on the main settings page, you can set a separate license for each post. I expected the license for individual posts to show up at the end of the post content, but it did not.

It currently shows up out-of-place in the footer with the logo on one line and the license on another line:

45922075-f002bc00-beb1-11e8-8491-3edda9cece43.png

This needs to be changed so the license is displayed after the post content. This block should also be customizable via template overrides.

Also, if you are not on a post page, the site license, by default, shows up in the same footer location. I will probably remove the license from the footer as the widget should be sufficient enough.

### 3. Widget works, but has no options

The widget doesn't offer any display options. Instead, it pulls existing options from the main settings page. This might not be a big deal, but I note it anyway.

This is what it looks like:

license-widget.png

---

A note for Boone, I haven't committed the plugin to 1.14.x yet because I had to fork the plugin in order to fix the license chooser. I've already submitted a pull request and noted the various concerns I mentioned above on their Github repo.

There are a lot of good ideas in this plugin, but the actual implementation can be better. It also hasn't seen much development in the last couple of years. I am very tempted to write my own version of the plugin.

#### #9 - 2018-09-27 05:22 PM - Boone Gorges

- Related to Feature #7115: make licensing info clear during group creation added

#### #10 - 2018-09-27 05:29 PM - Boone Gorges

- Related to Feature #7112: Add Copyright option/question to users on blog creation wizard added

#### #11 - 2018-10-02 12:10 PM - Raymond Hoh

- File license-chooser-new.gif added

A quick update on my end, I started writing my own version of the Creative Commons widget.

Here's a GIF of the license chooser in action:

license-chooser-new.gif

It's almost a complete copy of the current interface at <https://creativecommons.org/choose/>. Let me know what you think.

You'll also be able to use the chooser for selecting individual post licenses if we want to turn on that ability. About integrating the chooser into other parts of the Commons like group and blog creation, that is also possible. Group creation would probably be easier at the moment as blog creation is tied to the new Site Templates functionality.

Should have a preliminary version up on cdev by end of the week.

#### #12 - 2018-10-02 12:11 PM - Matt Gold

That is very cool, Ray -- thank you!! Maura, I'd love to know what you think of this.

**#13 - 2018-10-05 09:42 AM - Maura Smale**

Agreed, this is very cool Ray! A much smoother interface than the official CC widget, I agree. I do like the introductory explanatory text in the CC widget though, since many folks aren't familiar with CC licenses. Can we add in that text (or adapt that text to include)?

**#14 - 2018-10-05 07:34 PM - Raymond Hoh**

- File *license-chooser-new2.gif* added
- File *license-page.png* added
- File *license-group-create.png* added
- File *license-group-manage.png* added
- File *license-widget-options.png* added
- File *license-group.png* added
- File *license-site-create.png* added
- Status changed from *In Progress* to *Testing Required*

I do like the introductory explanatory text in the CC widget though, since many folks aren't familiar with CC licenses. Can we add in that text (or adapt that text to include)?

I was thinking about this myself, Maura! I've added the introductory text as well as some descriptions for each question.

View the following GIF:

<https://redmine.gc.cuny.edu/attachments/9039/license-chooser-new2.gif>

Might benefit from some copy revisions. I'll also need to add some CSS to make things breathe a little more, but I wanted to get something up.

---

Anyway, the plugin is now available for testing on cdev.

For those that are unable to test on cdev, here are some screenshots of the new features:

1. Widget settings - <https://redmine.gc.cuny.edu/attachments/9043/license-widget-options.png>
2. Post settings - <https://redmine.gc.cuny.edu/attachments/9046/license-post-options.png>
3. Widget display and individual post license - <https://redmine.gc.cuny.edu/attachments/9040/license-page.png>
4. Group creation - <https://redmine.gc.cuny.edu/attachments/9041/license-group-create.png>
5. Group settings - <https://redmine.gc.cuny.edu/attachments/9042/license-group-manage.png>
6. Group license display - <https://redmine.gc.cuny.edu/attachments/9044/license-group.png>
7. Site creation - <https://redmine.gc.cuny.edu/attachments/9045/license-site-create.png>

Most websites that use a Creative Commons license do not prominently display the license info. With that in mind, for the group license display, I chose to add the license to the bottom of the group page.

For the individual post license, I've chosen to display the license in the post footer if the license widget is inactive or if the license widget is visible and if the post license differs from the site license.

I also found time to add the license to the "Create a Site" page. Ignore the empty "Site Template" section as I do not have that properly set up in my local dev environment.

Let me know what you think.

**#15 - 2018-10-05 07:47 PM - Raymond Hoh**

- File *license-post-options.png* added

**#16 - 2018-10-08 09:50 PM - Matt Gold**

This looks fantastic. thank you, Ray and Maura!!

**#17 - 2018-10-09 05:16 PM - Maura Smale**

Matt Gold wrote:

This looks fantastic. thank you, Ray and Maura!!

Agreed, thanks Ray!

#18 - 2018-11-14 10:34 AM - Boone Gorges

- Status changed from Testing Required to Resolved

**Files**

---

license-chooser.gif	206 KB	2018-09-22	Raymond Hoh
license-widget.png	7.18 KB	2018-09-22	Raymond Hoh
license-chooser-new.gif	198 KB	2018-10-02	Raymond Hoh
license-chooser-new2.gif	142 KB	2018-10-05	Raymond Hoh
license-page.png	528 KB	2018-10-05	Raymond Hoh
license-group-create.png	85.2 KB	2018-10-05	Raymond Hoh
license-group-manage.png	71.5 KB	2018-10-05	Raymond Hoh
license-widget-options.png	9.24 KB	2018-10-05	Raymond Hoh
license-group.png	90 KB	2018-10-05	Raymond Hoh
license-site-create.png	68.1 KB	2018-10-05	Raymond Hoh
license-post-options.png	8.88 KB	2018-10-05	Raymond Hoh