# Pull request: Removes all empty or None values from template\_paths

## The symptom

After adding the "basicgrid" extension, the following error occurred when the system started up:

. . . . . .

File "/home/chuangma/ckan/lib/default/src/ckan/ckan/lib/jinja\_extensions.py", line 129, in parse assert searchpath and current\_path

AssertionError

## After analysis, we discovered the following:

#### 1. Issue location:

In the file ckan/ckan/lib/jinja\_extensions.py, line 120, there's an assertion: assert searchpath and current path

#### 2.Problem:

Sometimes both variables (searchpath and current\_path) are simultaneously empty. These variables originate from config['computed\_template\_paths'].

#### 3. Root cause:

The issue stems from ckanext-basiccharts/ckanext/basiccharts/plugin.py, where the configuration item 'extra\_template\_paths' was modified. The value of this item ends with an extraneous comma.

### 4. Contributing factor:

In ckan/ckan/config/environment.py, lines 205-210, the obtained 'extra\_template\_paths' value is directly converted to a list using split(). This ultimately results in an empty value within config['computed\_template\_paths'].

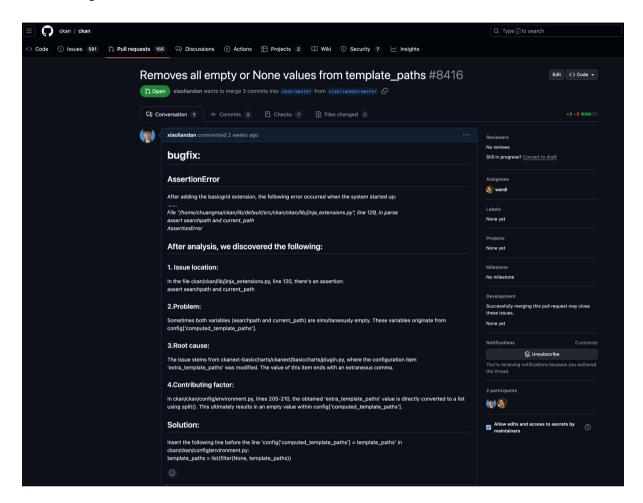
#### 5. Solution:

Insert the following line before the line 'config['computed\_template\_paths'] = template\_paths' in ckan/ckan/config/environment.py:

template\_paths = list(filter(None, template\_paths))

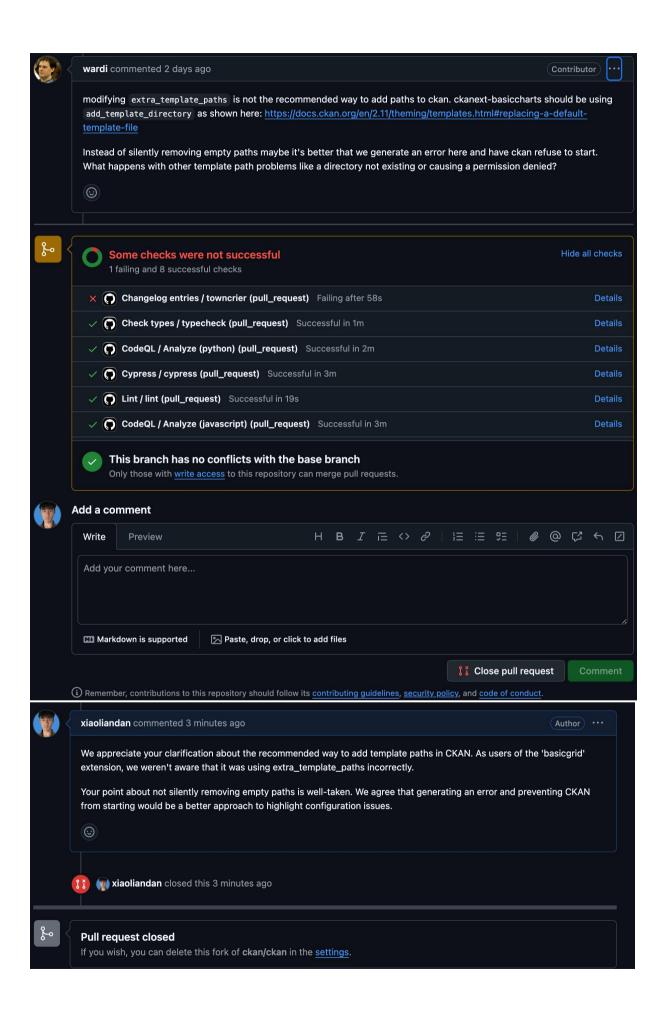
## Pull request

I've completed and submitted a Pull Request addressing a startup error in CKAN that occurs when using certain extensions.



# Close the Pull request

Finally, for the reasons shown in the image below, we have closed this pull request.



#### Reflection

Participating in the CKAN community for the first time through this pull request has been a valuable learning experience. While working to resolve the AssertionError related to the basicgrid extension, we encountered challenges in understanding the underlying configuration and template path management. The analysis led us to pinpoint the root cause of the issue in extra\_template\_paths, and we proposed a solution to handle empty paths more gracefully by filtering them out. However, through feedback from the CKAN community, we realized that modifying extra\_template\_paths is not the recommended practice for adding template paths, and a better approach would be to use add\_template\_directory as per CKAN's guidelines.

This interaction highlighted the importance of adhering to best practices in open-source projects and reinforced the need to carefully consider the broader implications of proposed fixes. The suggestion to generate an error and prevent CKAN from starting in the event of configuration issues was insightful, prompting us to think more critically about the robustness of the system.