

Endpoint for auto-completing Assignee discloses the members of private groups

[HackerOne report #627507](#) by [ngalog](#) on 2019-06-24, assigned to [estrike](#) :

Summary

I have a project, with id `10257668` , and I have invited a private group as a developer to this project. As that group is private, you should not see its membership. However, there is a way to find out project's private membership:

- Correct permission check: https://gitlab.com/api/v4/projects/project_id/members - does not disclose private group's membership.
- Incorrect permission check: https://gitlab.com/autocomplete/users.json?search=&active=true&project_id=10257668¤t_user=true - discloses the members of private group.

Steps to reproduce:

1. Login to gitlab.com.
2. Visit this project members page: <https://gitlab.com/api/v4/projects/10257668/members>. See this project has only one member.
3. Visit https://gitlab.com/autocomplete/users.json?search=&active=true&project_id=10257668¤t_user=true. See this project has more than one member, thus disclosing the private membership.

Impact

Disclosure of members in a private group.

Proposal

The autocomplete endpoint should use the permission check from the Project Members API endpoint ([https://gitlab.com/api/v4/projects/\[project-id\]/members](https://gitlab.com/api/v4/projects/[project-id]/members)).

Edited 1 year ago by [Dan Jensen](#)

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Tasks @ 0

No tasks are currently assigned. Use tasks to break down this issue into smaller parts.

Linked items ▾ 0

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Activity

[GitLab SecurityBot](#) added [HackerOne](#) [security](#) labels 3 years ago

[GitLab SecurityBot](#) added [security-api-label-minimal](#) [security-internal-projects](#) labels 3 years ago

[Ethan Strike](#) added [group](#) [optimize](#) [discuss](#) [manage](#) [priority 1](#) [severity 1](#) scoped labels 3 years ago

[Ethan Strike](#) added [Managing OFFICIALS](#) label and removed [security-api-label-minimal](#) [security-internal-projects](#) labels 3 years ago

[Ethan Strike](#) changed due date to September 23, 2019 3 years ago

[Ethan Strike](#) @estrike · 3 years ago

Developer

This is similar to gitlab-ce#53011, but the information is disclosed through a different endpoint (`/autocomplete/users.json`) that uses different logic (https://gitlab.com/gitlab-org/gitlab-ce/blob/master/app/controllers/autocomplete_controller.rb#L6).

As in the previous issue, the situations is as follows:

- The project is public
- A private group is invited to the project
- The endpoint discloses the members of the private to a user that is neither a member of the project or the private group

The visibility should be according to this comment from Jeremy: <https://gitlab.com/gitlab-org/gitlab-ce/issues/53011#note-181442691>

Please let me know if this is considered a duplicate.

/cc [@valexieva](#) [@lmcandrew](#)

Edited by [Ethan Strike](#) 3 years ago

[GitLab SecurityBot](#) assigned to [@valexieva](#) 3 years ago

[GitLab SecurityBot](#) @gitlab-security-bot · 3 years ago

Author

Reporter

This security issue is currently unassigned, assigning the group PM according to the `group::` label.

Please `/reassign` , if possible.

More information: <https://gitlab.com/gitlab-com/gl-security/engineering/issues/446>

[Virginia Alexieva](#) changed milestone to %12.6 3 years ago

[Virginia Alexieva](#) added [discuss](#) [plan](#) scoped label and automatically removed [discuss](#) [manage](#) label 3 years ago

[Virginia Alexieva](#) added [group](#) [project management](#) scoped label and automatically removed [group](#) [optimize](#) label 3 years ago

[Virginia Alexieva](#) added [group](#) [authentication and authorization](#) scoped label and automatically removed [group](#) [project management](#) label 3 years ago

[Virginia Alexieva](#) added [discuss](#) [manage](#) scoped label and automatically removed [discuss](#) [plan](#) label 3 years ago

[Juan Brouillon](#) mentioned in issue gitlab-ce#65191 3 years ago

[Juan Brouillon](#) marked this issue as related to gitlab-ce#65191 3 years ago

[GitLab Bot](#) changed due date to September 23, 2019 3 years ago

[GitLab Bot](#) changed milestone to %12.6 3 years ago

[GitLab Bot](#) moved from gitlab-ce#63714 3 years ago

[Virginia Alexieva](#) assigned to [@jeremy](#) and unassigned [@valexieva](#) 3 years ago

[Jeremy Watson \(ex-GitLab\)](#) @jeremy-wl · 3 years ago

Contributor

[@mksionek](#) , do you consider this a duplicate of [#24822](#) [closed?](#)

[Gosia Ksionek](#) @mksionek · 3 years ago

Developer

no, it's not, it is identical problem, but touching different parts of code.

[Jeremy Watson \(ex-GitLab\)](#) changed milestone to %12.9 3 years ago

[GitLab Bot](#) @gitlab-bot · 2 years ago

Maintainer

Setting `category:Authentication and Authorization` based on `--group:access`.

[GitLab Bot](#) @gitlab-bot · 2 years ago

Maintainer

Setting Category: Authentication and Authorization based on ~"group:access".

 GitLab Bot added [Category:Authentication and Authorization](#) label [2 years ago](#)

 Jeremy Watson (ex-GitLab) changed milestone to %13.0 2 years ago

 Michelle Gill mentioned in issue [gitlab-com/Product#624 \(closed\)](#) 2 years ago

 Jeremy Watson (ex-GitLab) changed milestone to [%13.12](#) 2 years ago

 Michelle Gill @m_gill · 2 years ago Developer

@johnhope is this actually `devars` `plan`?

 **John Hope** @johnhope · 2 years ago Developer

[@m.q](#) Sorry for the delayed response. This one's to do with members in projects/groups so I think it should stay with `~group:access*`. Looks like they fixed something similar so they may have the context too.

Please [register](#) or [sign in](#) to reply

 [GitLab Bot](#) added [section](#) [dev](#) scoped label [2 years ago](#)

 Ron Chan added `security-backlog` `valid` scoped label 2 years ago

 [GitLab SecurityBot](#) added [Weakness](#) [CWE-284](#) scoped label [2 years ago](#)

 Liam McAndrew added Category:User Management label 1 year ago


 Liam McAndrew removed Category:Authentication and Authorization label 1 year ago

 [Dan Jensen](#) unassigned [@jeremy-ol](#) 1 year ago

 GitLab Bot added [Accepting merge requests](#) label 1 year ago


 Dan Jensen added `workflow` `planning breakdown` scoped label 1 year ago

 Dan Jensen added backend label 1 year ago

 Dan Jensen removed milestone 1 year ago

 Dan Jensen changed the description 1 year ago ·

 Dan Jensen changed weight to 2 1 year ago

 **Dan Jensen** added `workflow scheduling` scoped label and automatically removed `workflow planning breakdown` label 1 year ago

 Dan Jensen added 1 deleted label 1 year ago

 [Dan Jensen](#) added [Epic 6340](#) label [1 year ago](#)

Setting label(s) [Category:Authentication and Authorization](#) based on ~"group:access".

 [GitLab Bot](#) added [Category:Authentication and Authorization](#) label 1 year ago

 [Magdalena Frankiewicz](#) assigned to [@m frankiewicz](#) 1 year ago

 removed [Accepting merge requests](#) label 1 year ago

 Dan Jensen changed milestone to [%14.2](#) 1 year ago

 [Dan Jensen](#) added [workflow](#) [ready for development](#) scoped label and automatically removed [workflow](#) [scheduling](#) label [1 year ago](#)

 Dan Jensen removed Manage (DEPRECATED) label 1 year ago


[Magdalena Frankiewicz](#) @m.frankiewicz · 1 year ago Developer

Note: the url is now https://gitlab.com/-/autocomplete/users.json?search=&active=true&project_id=10257668¤t_user=true

 Magdalena Frankiewicz @m_frankiewicz · 1 year ago Developer

I'm trying to wrap my head around this issue and what the expected behavior here would be, and I'd appreciate help from people with more context on it, maybe [@mksione](#), [@manojm](#) or [@estrike](#)?

I started with checking the urls from issue description: I can see differences described above differences: when I'm logged in to GitLab.com

I started with checking the urls from issue description; I can see differences described above differences: when I'm logged in to GitLab.com <https://gitlab.com/api/v4/projects/10257668/members> returns info on one user only:

```
[{"id":3383044,"name":"rontest1","username":"rontest1","state":"active","avatar_url":"https://secure.gravatar.com"}]
```

◀ ▶

while https://gitlab.com/-/autocomplete/users?search=&active=true&project_id=10257668¤t_user=true lists more users, my user included:

```

[{"id":4826728,"name":"Magdalena Frankiewicz","username":"m_frankiewicz","state":"active","avatar_url":"https://

```

What is more, when checking urls in **incognito** mode, the first url returns **401 Unauthorized** , while the second one returns same result minus my user.

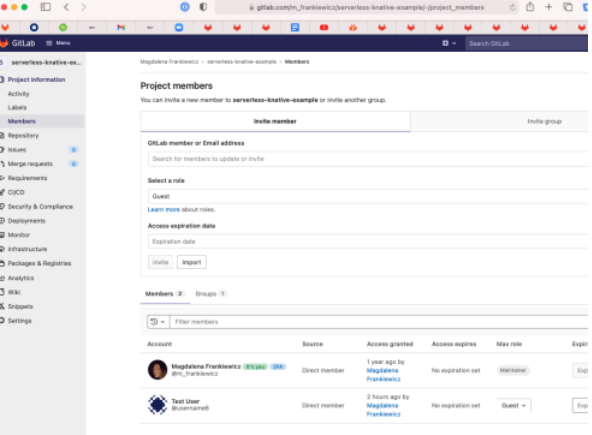
To better understand the current behavior I created a private group and invited it to a public project that I'm a Maintainer on: **serverless-**

To better understand the current behavior I created a private group and invited it to a public project that I'm a Maintainer on: `serverless-knative-example` with ID 15542921

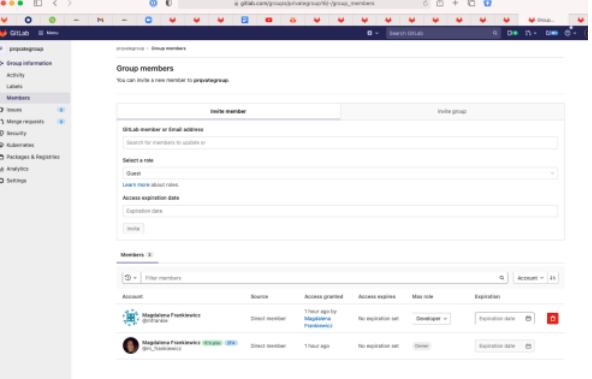


serverless-knative-example

In the UI we can see that the project has two direct members and one group - the private group I've just created.



There is two users in my private group



The [autocomplete url](#) for this project users returns 3 members **both** when I'm logged in and in incognito mode, so it shows the user who is part of the private group.

<https://gitlab.com/api/v4/projects/15542921/members> returns 2 users (like UI) when I'm logged in and 401 in incognito.

This confirms that `autocomplete` endpoint returns information on all users, also private, to anyone that has a project ID.

What should happen here? It seems that `autocomplete` endpoint is used also in situations, that do not require user authentication:

```
class AutocompleteController < ApplicationController
  skip_before_action :authenticate_user!, only: [:users, :award_emojis, :merge_request_target_branches]
  ...
end
```

- Gosia Ksionek** @mksionek · 1 year ago Developer
- [@m.frankiewicz](#) I believe this comment: [gitlab-foss#53011 \(comment 181442691\)](#) from Jeremy still stands. But as I see in the code, it would be a huge change to filter out members of private group (because we use this: <https://gitlab.com/gitlab-org/gitlab/blob/master/app/models/project.rb#L250-250>)
- Magdalena Frankiewicz** @m.frankiewicz · 1 year ago Developer
- Thanks for reply [@mksionek](#). Is seeing any data when checking in incognito mode `https://gitlab.com/-/autocomplete/users?search=&active=true&project_id=[project_id]¤t_user=true` a correct behavior?
- Gosia Ksionek** @mksionek · 1 year ago Developer
- From the Git history I would say it is a really old behaviour... hard to say what was the reasoning behind it.
- But when we have public project we can go to the members page and see all the members, so I would say that there is nothing dangerous about it, apart from the behaviour described in the issue.
- WDYT [@m.frankiewicz](#) ??
- Magdalena Frankiewicz** @m.frankiewicz · 1 year ago Developer
- Right [@mksionek](#), and that would mean, that there should be user authentication on the `autocomplete` endpoint, otherwise how do we know if the [user is a member of the private group](#)? The endpoint should try to authenticate, in case it's not possible, it could return minimum access information. The question here is, if there is a good reason to skip authentication, as it was done in the first place.
- On top of Jeremy's comment there are some other cases that should be clarified, e.g. should the project `Owner` of the shared project be able to see the members of the private group, even if they don't belong to it?
- Could [@qgqolowski](#) help answer those questions?
- Orrit Golowinski** @qgqolowski · 1 year ago Developer
- [@m.frankiewicz](#) can an `owner` not be part of the private group?
- Gosia Ksionek** @mksionek · 1 year ago Developer
- [@qgqolowski](#) Yes, if there are more owners and only one of them are the member of invited private group.
- [@m.frankiewicz](#) but currently we can invoke `current_user` in this endpoint, so we can use it in a context that you've described.
- I believe the only reason to skip it is if some place that uses this endpoint is not requiring being logged in. I think it should not be a problem to list those places.
- Gosia Ksionek** @mksionek · 1 year ago Developer
- [@m.frankiewicz](#) regarding projects we have this kind of documentation: https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/user/project/members/share_project_with_groups.html#sharing-public-project-with-private-group.
- we were also dealing with similar problem here: https://dev.gitlab.org/gitlab/gitlabhq/-/merge_requests/3212/diffs#diff-content-25c9a338c338a2dcd439cc2b346a25d1078264
- Ethan Strike** @estrike · 1 year ago Developer
- [@rshambhuni](#) Can you take this over for me as stable counterpart for this group?
- Rohit Shambhuni** @rshambhuni · 1 year ago Developer
- [@estrike](#) Absolutely. I'll take a look at the issue and this discussion.

Please [register](#) or [sign in](#) to reply

Magdalena Frankiewicz @m.frankiewicz · 1 year ago Developer

Is the title of the issue correct?

