Network Roles
for
WordPress Networks
(multisite)

by
Ron & Andrea Rennick
http://wpebooks.com

Table of Contents

Introduction

This plugin allows you, the Super Admin, to select users on a case-by-case basis and assign them a global role for access to each site.

While users can be added individually to specific sites, and also assigned roles, there is currently nothing else available that does this: add a specific user with a specific role to all sites. There are other plugins available to add all users to all sites. This plugin is more granular.

A short video of the plugin and its usage is also available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guX0Sz65ofM

Plugin Compatibility

While we have tested this with our own plugins, we have not tested it with the vast amount of plugins available for WordPress.
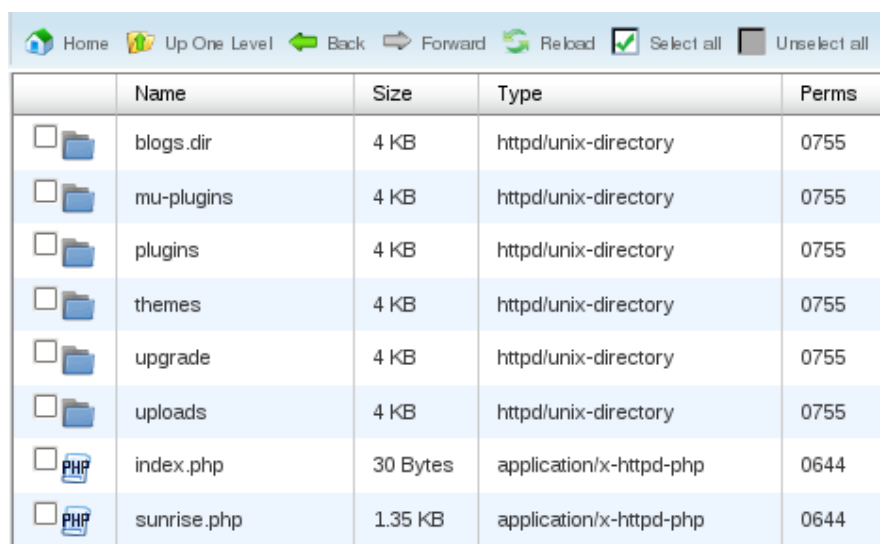
Copyright

The Network Roles plugin functions using function hooks built into WordPress. WordPress is an Open Source project released under the GPL license. Therefore, the GPL is extended to the *source code* of the plugin. The full text of the GPL license is included in this zip archive.

The content of this e-book does not fall under the GPL and is copyright 2010 ©Ron and Andrea Rennick. In purchasing this e-book, the author has granted the purchaser permission to maintain one printed copy and to store two electronic copies of the e-book. Reproduction or redistribution in whole or in part of this e-book in any form is strictly prohibited.

Installation

For this plugin, the installation process is very simple. Upload the ra-network-roles.php file to the mu-plugins folder. If this folder does not exist, create it under the /wp-content/ folder via ftp or your web host's control panel.

	Name	Size	Type	Perms
☐ 📁	blogs.dir	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
☐ 📁	mu-plugins	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
☐ 📁	plugins	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
☐ 📁	themes	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
☐ 📁	upgrade	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
☐ 📁	uploads	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
☐ PHP	index.php	30 Bytes	application/x-httpd-php	0644
☐ PHP	sunrise.php	1.35 KB	application/x-httpd-php	0644

Home Up One Level Back Forward Reload ☑ Select all ☐ Unselect all

The plugin file will reside at yourdomain.com/wp-content/mu-plugins/ra-network-roles .php It will be immediately active and working. You will see it listed in the Network Admin Plugins area under the Must-use tab.

You may also install it in the regular plugins folder, but it must be network activated.

Disabling the plugin

Simply remove the plugin from the mu-plugins folder, or rename the file to .txt instead of .php to quickly disable it. Network roles will disappear, and users will revert to having access solely to the blogs they were specifically added to – usually the chosen site for network roles.

Network user roles

Standard behavior in a network situation is the users have a global login with pseudo-subscriber status on all sites across the network. This means if a site has "Users must be logged in to comment", the user can still comment, as they are logged in to the entire domain and all subsites. They do not, however, have any sort of access to the admin area of each site unless they have been specifically added to that site. The only person able to access the admin area of every site, by default, is the Super Admin.

For some situations, you may wish to have certain users be able to access all the sites in the network, with a certain user role. User roles such as Contributor, Author or Editor are specific to each site. This plugin fills the gap in allowing a user to have any one of those roles on all sites.

Choose a Site for Network roles

After installing the plugin, you will notice it places a new column on the Network Admin → Sites menu.

This allows you, the super admin, to choose on which site the user has initial permissions. It can be the main site, but it can easily be any of the other sites. If the plugin is disabled at any point, the user will still have a role on the site you have initially chosen.

Once clicking the blue "Use for network role" link, it will change to "Current" as a visual reminder. No other action is needed on this screen. You may wish to change this later, and can do so easily by simply clicking the link next to any other site.

Grant permission

Now that we have chosen a site, we can them grant the user login permission and admin access on the entire network. Find the user in the Network Admin → Users menu.

There will be a column on the right under the heading "Network Role". Click the blue "grant login permission" to give the user access to all admin areas.

Hover over the user's name and click the Edit link that appears. This will send you to the user's profile.

Choose the Role: drop-down and pick the access level you wish to give them across the network.

Click the update button to save the changes. You will now see the wording on the Users menu has changed for that user.

You may also go to Network Admin → Sites, and click the edit button. On the Edit Site screen, click the User tab. You can assign roles to users there as well.

The Network Sites menu

As a Super Admin you will not see this menu. The Network Sites menu is added for users with a network role. The purpose of the screen is to provide links to all sites in the network to users with a network role.
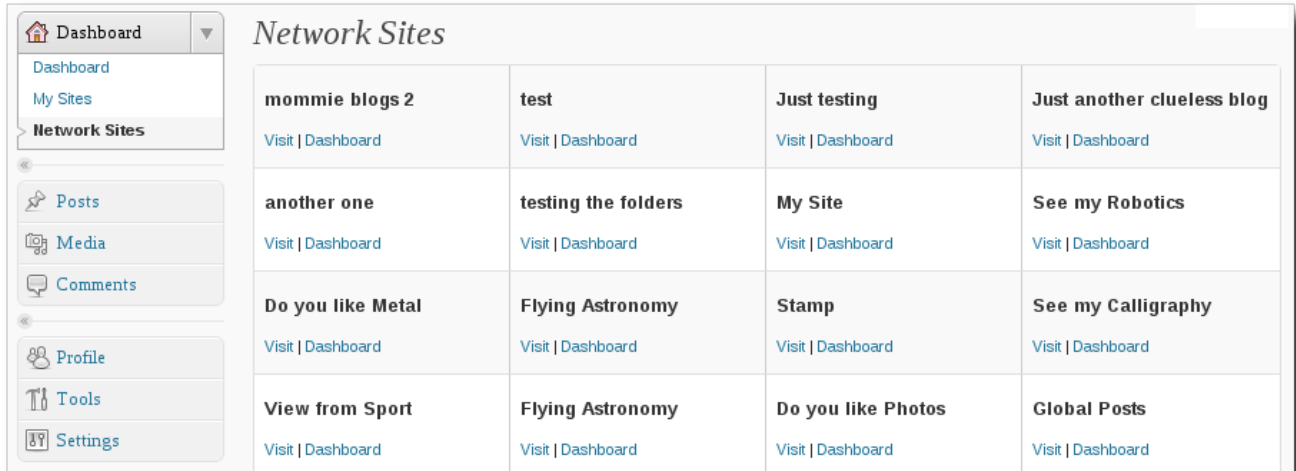
They can reach this menu from their Dashboard → Network Sites menu item. They will still have access to the "My Sites" submenu, which will list the sites they have specific roles on that will stay if the plugin is removed.

Support

Lifetime support is available for this plugin at http://wpebooks.com and is included in the purchase price. WpeBooks.com is operated by Ron & Andrea Rennick of http://wpmututorials.com and is not officially affiliated with WordPress or Automattic.

Credits

Special thanks to Matt Mullenweg, Mark Jaquith, Peter Westwood and Ryan Boren for inviting Ron to work on the merge of WordPress and WordPress MU codebases. Also a shout-out to the Demo Data Creator plugin developer, Chris Taylor. You can get the plugin at http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/demo-data-creator/ .