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WP\_Role::add\_cap( string \$cap, bool \$grant = true )

Assign role a capability.

Parameters

**\$cap**stringrequired  
Capability name.

**\$grant**booloptional  
Whether role has capability privilege.

Default: true

More Information

Changing the capabilities of a role is persistent, meaning the added capability will stay in effect until explicitly revoked.

This setting is saved to the database (in table wp\_options, field wp\_user\_roles), so it might be better to run this on theme/plugin activation.

Source

wp-includes/class-wp-role.php

Copy

```
public function add_cap( $cap, $grant = true ) {  
    $this->capabilities[ $cap ] = $grant;  
    wp_roles()->add_cap( $this->name, $cap, $grant );  
}
```

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Related

Uses

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wp-includes/capabilities.php

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wp-includes/class-wp-roles.php

Changelog

Version	Description
<a href="#">2.0.0</a>	Introduced.

User Contributed Notes

Codex9 years ago

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Example

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```
function add_theme_caps() {
    // gets the author role
    $role = get_role( 'author' );

    // This only works, because it accesses the class instance.
    // would allow the author to edit others' posts for current theme only
    $role->add_cap( 'edit_others_posts' );
}
add_action( 'admin_init', 'add_theme_caps');
```

NB: This setting is saved to the database, so it might be better to run this on theme/plugin activation

Expand codeCopy

```
function add_theme_caps(){
    global $pagenow;

    if ( 'themes.php' == $pagenow && isset( $_GET['activated'] ) ){ // Test if theme is active
        // Theme is active
        // gets the author role
        $role = get_role( 'author' );

        // This only works, because it accesses the class instance.
        // would allow the author to edit others' posts for current theme only
        $role->add_cap( 'edit_others_posts' );
    } else {
        // Theme is deactivated
        // ...
    }
}
```

To add capability to specific user :

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```
$user = new WP_User( $user_id );
$user->add_cap( 'can_edit_posts' );
```

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Will Skora4 years ago

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Note that add\_cap only accept one string; you cannot add multiple using a single add\_cap call; you need to make multiple add\_cap calls like the following:

```
$your_var -> add_cap( 'edit_others_posts' );  
$your_var -> add_cap( 'upload_files' );
```

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