ALDO LATINO

PRIVATE CONTENT

User manual of the WordPress plugin

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This file was written in LaTeX with *ClassicThesis* and the *ArsClassica* style. It contains the entire text of the Wiki with some adaptations. The wiki is available at:

https://github.com/aldolat/private-content/wiki

PLUGIN DEVELOPMENT AND DOWNLOAD

The plugin is developed using:

- GNU/Linux operating system;
- Visual Studio Code as development application;
- Git, as version control system;
- GitHub as development repository;
- GnuPG as signing commits application;
- Apache, MySQL and PHP as development platform;

and can be downloaded from the WordPress official repository:

https://wordpress.org/plugins/private-content

AUTHOR CONTACTS AND FORUMS

The author can be contacted via email at aldolat@gmail.com. For support, please use the official forums:

https://wordpress.org/support/plugin/private-content

LICENSE

The plugin is released under the terms of the GPL License v3.0 and later:

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"Code is poetry"

— WordPress

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Private Content

1 DESCRIPTION

This plugin provides a shortcode to display a portion of a post or page content only to users of a specific role. For example, you can show the hidden text to Editors or to Authors or to any other WordPress role.

The action is performed using a shortcode, for example:

```
[private role="administrator"]Text for administrators[/private]
```

In figure 1 you can see an example of usage.
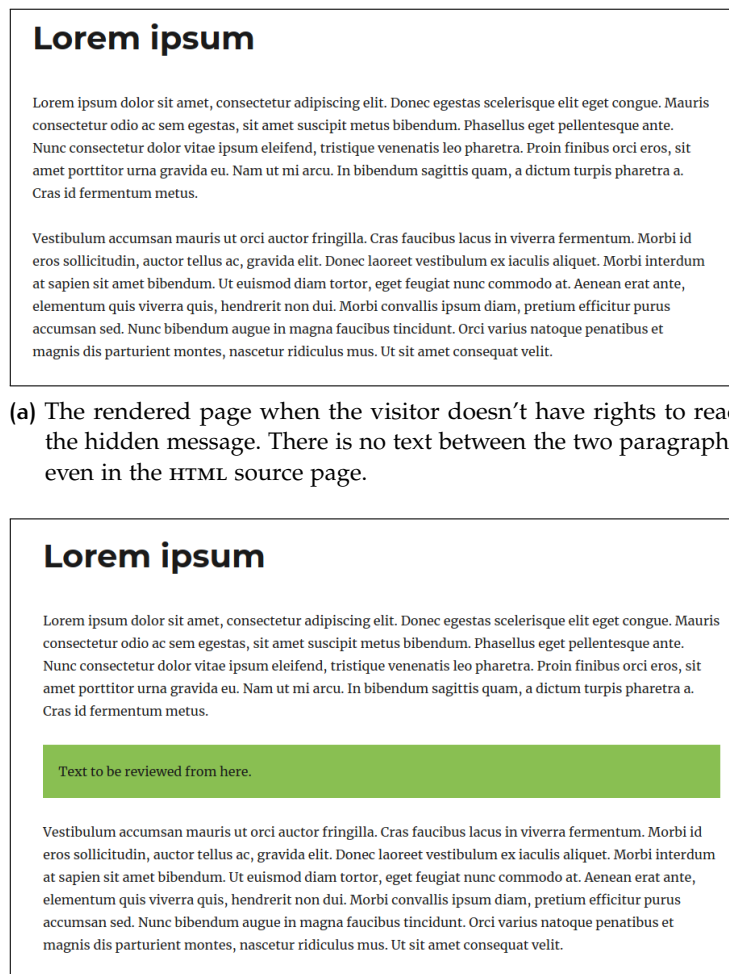
(a) The rendered page when the visitor doesn't have rights to read the hidden message. There is no text between the two paragraphs, even in the HTML source page.

(b) The rendered page when the visitor has rights to read the hidden message. The green background has been added via CSS.

Figure 1: The shortcode in action.

Please, note that an Administrator can read an Editor private content or a Subscriber private content, and so on. Same thing for Editor, Author, Contributor, and Subscriber: *a higher role can read a lower role content* (in almost all cases, see the paragraph 3.2.4 *Multiple custom roles* for more information), according to the following WordPress roles schema in descending order:

- Administrator

- Editor

- Author

- Contributor

- Subscriber

Also you can show the hidden text *only* to a certain role. For example, you can mark a text as visible only to Contributors and hide it to higher roles, such as Administrators or Editors and so on.

2   THE SHORTCODE COMMAND

The shortcode is [private]:

```
[private {options}]Text[/private]
```

There is another shortcode available [ubn_private], that can be used just in case private is already taken by another plugin:

```
[ubn_private {options}]Text[/private]
```

3   THE SHORTCODE OPTIONS

3.1   Available options for the shortcode

These are the available options for the shortcode, that will be explained in the next sections of this page:

- role

- custom_role

- recipient

- reverse

- align

- alt

- container

- id

- class

3.2 {role}: display a text portion to a certain role

Accepted arguments:

- `administrator`

- `editor`

- `editor-only`

- `author`

- `author-only`

- `contributor`

- `contributor-only`

- `subscriber`

- `subscriber-only`

- `visitor` or `visitor-only` (they are equivalent)

- `none`

- `custom`

- `custom-only`

Let's see them in detail in the Table 1.

3.2.1 Examples

Display the private text to Administrators:

```
[private role="administrator"]Text for Administrators[/private]
```

Display the private text to Administrators and Editors:

```
[private role="editor"]Text for Editors[/private]
```

Display the private text to Administrators, Editors, and Authors:

```
[private role="author"]Text for Authors[/private]
```

Display the private text to Administrators, Editors, Authors, and Contributors:

```
[private role="contributor"]Text for Contributor[/private]
```

Display the private text to Administrators, Editors, Authors, Contributors, and Subscribers:

```
[private role="subscriber"]Text for Subscribers[/private]
```

Role	Result
administrator	The hidden text is shown to Administrators.
editor	The hidden text is shown to Editors and Administrators.
editor-only	The hidden text is shown to Editors only.
author	The hidden text is shown to Authors, Editors, Administrators.
author-only	The hidden text is shown to Authors only.
contributor	The hidden text is shown to Contributors, Authors, Editors, Administrators.
contributor-only	The hidden text is shown to Contributors only.
subscriber	The hidden text is shown to Subscribers, Contributors, Authors, Editors, Administrators.
subscriber-only	The hidden text is shown to Subscribers only.
visitor / visitor-only	The hidden text is shown only to non-logged-in users. *Administrators can read the hidden text.*
none	When used, it is mandatory to use also the `recipient` option. The hidden text is shown only to users in the `recipient` list. *Administrators cannot read the hidden text.*
custom	When used, it is mandatory to use also the `custom_role` option. The hidden text is shown only to users that have a role in the `custom_role` list. *Administrators can read the hidden text.*
custom-only	When used, it is mandatory to use also the `custom_role` option. The hidden text is shown only to users that have a role in the `custom_role` list. *Administrators cannot read the hidden text.*

Table 1: Who can read the private text when a given role is used.

3.2.2 Text only for specific roles excluding other roles

If you want to show a note only to a certain role, you have to use a `{role}-only` option. In this way, for example, an Administrator or an Editor (roles higher than Author) cannot read a note for Authors only. These are all the cases:

Display the private text to Editors only:

```
[private role="editor-only"]Text for Editors only[/private]
```

Display the private text to Authors only:

```
[private role="author-only"]Text for Authors only[/private]
```

Display the private text to Contributors only:

```
[private role="contributor-only"]Text for Contributors only[/
    private]
```

Display the private text to Subscribers only:

```
[private role="subscriber-only"]Text for Subscribers only[/
    private]
```

Display the private text to Visitors only:

```
[private role="visitor-only"]Text for Visitors only[/private]
```

or the equivalent shortcode:

```
[private role="visitor"]Text for Visitors only[/private]
```

Display the private text to Designers only (Designers is a custom role created by the user):

```
[private role="custom-only" custom_role="designers"]Text for
    Designers only[/private]
```

3.2.3 *{recipient} Text only for a specific user or multiple users*

Accepted arguments:

- login name of the target user. You can use multiple login names, comma separated;

- user ID of the target user. You can use multiple user IDs, comma separated;

- login names and user IDs mixed together.

In the case you want to show a text only to a specific user, assign `none` to `role` and a login name to `recipient`:

```
[private role="none" recipient="login-name"]Text for a specific
    user only[/private]
```

Change `login-name` with the correct login name of the target user.
You can use a comma separated list of usernames to target certain users:

```
[private role="none" recipient="login-name1, login-name2, login-
    name3"]Text for specific users only[/private]
```

Change login-name1, login-name2, and login-name3 with the correct login names of the target users.

Also, you can use user IDs to target users, for example:

```
[private role="none" recipient="5, 31, 27"]Text for specific
    users only[/private]
```

3.2.4 {custom_role} Display a text portion to a custom role or multiple roles

Accepted arguments:

- the custom role

- the custom roles, comma separated

SINGLE CUSTOM ROLE   If you want to show a text only to users of a custom role, use the option custom_role.

For example:

```
[private role="custom" custom_role="designers"]Text for Designers
    group.[/private]
```

Please, note that texts for custom roles can be read also by Administrators. To avoid this, use the role="custom-only" option, followed by the name of the custom role.

For example:

```
[private role="custom-only" custom_role="designers"]Text for
    Designers only.[/private]
```

The option role=custom can be used also for the WordPress standard roles, for example:

```
[private role="custom" custom_role="author"]Text for role Author
    .[/private]
```

In this case, Authors will read the private text, but higher roles (such as Editors) will not read it. It is like using a role-only option. Anyway, Administrators will read it. For more information, see the paragraph 3.2.4 *Multiple custom roles*.

MULTIPLE CUSTOM ROLES   If you want to show a text to multiple roles, you can enter them separated by a comma. For example:

```
[private role="custom" custom_role="designers,engineers"]Text for
    Designers and Engineers groups.[/private]
```

You can mix custom roles and standard WordPress roles, with a *caveat* explained in the paragraph 3.2.4.

For example:

```
[private role="custom" custom_role="designers,engineers,author"]
    Text for Designers, Engineers, and Authors group.[/private]
```

As you can see, Designers and Engineers are custom roles, while Author is a standard WordPress role. In the above example, Administrator will read the private text. Even in this case, as wrote before, you can use the role="custom-only" option to avoid Administrators can read the private text:

```
[private role="custom-only" custom_role="designers,engineers,
    author"]Text for Designers, Engineers, and Authors group.[/
    private]
```

CAVEAT   A note on using standard WordPress roles with the option `role=custom`. If you use a standard WordPress role with the `custom_role` option, you expect that a higher role can read the private text for lowers roles, i.e. a text for Author role should be read by Editor role (which is a role higher that Author). Actually, Editor role won't read that text. This is normal, because the option `role="custom"` follows a path different than standard WordPress role management. It's like you'd use a `role-only` option, in our example a `role="author-only"` option. For example, this shortcode:

```
[private role="custom" custom_role="designers,engineers,author"]
    Text for Designers, Engineers, and Authors group.[/private]
```

will be read by Designers, Engineers, Authors, and Administrators, but not by Editors (even if Editors is a higher role that Author).

3.3 **{reverse}**: reverse the logic of hiding text

Accepted arguments:

- 1 — Activate the reverse option

The option `reverse=1` is used when you want to hide a private text to some users or to some custom roles. Since it would be uncomfortable to add a lot of users/group in the shortcode, it is more convenient to tell the plugin to show the private text to all users/groups and hide it to some.

The `reverse` option is available only with the following options:

- single users: `role=none`, adding also the `recipient` option and the `reverse`;

- custom roles: `role=custom`, adding also the `custom_role` option and the `reverse`.

See here below the two cases.

3.3.1 *Use of the reverse option for single users*

If you want to show a text to all users but not to some, activate the option `reverse`, so that users added in the `recipient` option will not read the note.

For example:

```
[private role="none" recipient="alice,bob,charlie" reverse=1]We
    all read this message while Alice, Bob, and Charlie can't
    read it![/private]
```

This shortcode will show the text to all users, excluding Alice, Bob, and Charlie (which cannot read the text).

3.3.2   *Use of the reverse option for roles*

You can use the `reverse` option also when using roles. In this case you will not use the `recipient` option, but simply in this way:

```
[private role="custom" custom_role="designers" reverse=1]Text for
    all roles, excluding Designers.[/private]
```

With this shortcode, all users will read the private message, while Designers will be excluded. If you define an alternate message with `alt` option, Designers will read the alternate message only.

You can also exclude multiple roles. For example:

```
[private role="custom" custom_role="designers, engineers, author"
    reverse=1 alt="You can't read hidden texts because you are
  part of Designers and/or Engineers and/or Author roles"]Text
  for all roles, excluding Designers, Engineers, and Author
  roles.[/private]
```

Take note that Administrators will read the hidden text, even if the current Administrator has also one or more of the excluded roles. See the section 4 for more information and also the table 1.

3.4   **{align}**: align style

Accepted arguments:

- `left` — Left align the paragraph
- `center` — Center align the paragraph
- `right` — Right align the paragraph
- `justify` — Justify the paragraph

3.5   **{alt}**: alternate text for excluded users

If you want to show an alternate text in case the reader can't read, you can use:

```
[private role="author" alt="You have not rights to read this."]
   Text for authors only[/private]
```

Please, take note that the alternate text, if defined, is always publicly displayed.

The alternate text can contain some HTML tags. The list is:

- `b` or `strong` for bold text;
- `em` or `i` for italic text;
- `a` for links, with `href` and `title` included. For `href` and `title` do not use double quote, but single quote.

For example:

```
[private role="subscriber" alt="<a href='https://www.example.com/
   subscribe' title='Subscribe now!'>Subscribe</a> to read this
  <strong>super powered</strong> text!"]Hidden text.[/private]
```

3.6 **{container}**: the HTML container for the text

Starting from version 2.4, the user can choose the HTML container element for the text.

Accepted arguments:

- p — The default value;

- div — This element allows you use HTML elements like lists, headings, and more.

- span — This element allows you to add private content inline.

Examples:

Wrap the note inside a DIV:

```
[private container="div"]This is the text[/private]
```

Wrap the note inside a SPAN:

```
This is my home I bought a year ago [private container="span"](
    the key is under the doormat)[/private].
```

3.7 **{id}**: adding custom IDs for the HTML container

The user of the plugin can add custom IDs to the HTML container using the option id=name-of-the-id, for example:

```
[private id="myid1, custom-id-2, my_id_3"]Private text.[/private]
```

The single IS names must be separated by a comma, not by a space. Also, if the ID is composed by more words, the words must be separated by a dash or by an underscore, otherwise the words will be considered as separated ID names.

3.8 **{class}**: adding custom classes for the HTML container

The user of the plugin can add custom classes to the HTML container using the option class=name-of-the-class, for example:

```
[private class="myclass1, custom-class-2, my_class_3"]Private
    text.[/private]
```

The single class names must be separated by a comma, not by a space. Also, if the class is composed by more words, the words must be separated by a dash or by an underscore, otherwise the words will be considered as separated class names.

4   THE ADMINISTRATOR ROLE

The Administrator role is a special role in this plugin. This role can always read the hidden texts, unless one of these options has been used:

- a {role}-only option (excluding visitor and visitor-only);

- a none (with recipient) option;

- a custom-only option.

For example, let's say that the role Designers has been excluded from reading a hidden text. If an Administrator is reading that page and he has also the Designers role, he will read the hidden text. In the following example, Administrator (which has the Designer role too) can read the hidden text:

```
[private role="custom" custom_role="designers" reverse=1]Text for
    all roles, excluding Designers role.[/private]
```

In the following examples, instead, Administrators cannot read the hidden texts:

```
[private role="author-only"]Private note for Author.[/private]
```

```
[private role="none" recipient="john"]Private note for John.[/
    private]
```

```
[private role="custom-only" custom_role="engineers"]Private note
    for Engineers role.[/private]
```

5   GIVING A STYLE TO THE TEXT GENERATED BY PRIVATE CONTENT

The text generated by this plugin uses some CSS classes, listed here:

- private — Applied to each HTML element generated by this plugin.

- {role}-content — Applied to the text for a particular role. Here is the complete list:

    – administrator-content

    – editor-content

    – author-content

    – contributor-content

    – subscriber-content

    – visitor-content

    – user-content — When used for specific user(s).

        * user-only — When used for specific user(s). This class is always preceded by user-content class.

        * {user_login}-only — When used for specific user(s). The placeholder {user_login} will be changed into the actual login name. This class is always preceded by user-content and user-only classes.

        * user-only-reverse — When the reverse option is used. This class is always preceded by user-content class.

- – {custom_role}-content — When used for custom roles.
  The placeholder {custom_role} will be changed into the
  actual custom role.

- {role}-only — Applied to the text for a specific role. This class
  is always preceded by {role}-content class.

- {custom-id-names} — Added when specified by the user.

- {custom-class-names} — Added when specified by the user.

- alt-text — Applied to the alternate text.

6 CAPABILITIES CREATED BY PRIVATE CONTENT PLUGIN

These are the capabilities created by this plugin:

- read_ubn_editor_notes

- read_ubn_author_notes

- read_ubn_contributor_notes

- read_ubn_subscriber_notes

These capabilities will be removed when the plugin is uninstalled
using the usual uninstallation command in the WordPress Dashboard.

7 AVAILABLE FILTERS

- ubn_private_align_style — Filters the style string. An example
  of a string is:

```
$align_style = ' style="text-align: justify;"';
```

Please note the leading space before style=.

- ubn_private_containers — Filters the array containing the HTML
  container for the private and alternate text.

An example is:

```
$containers = array(
  'open'  => '<p',
  'close' => '</p>',
);
```

Notice that the first element of the array must not have the closing
>.

- ubn_private_content — Filters the private content.

- ubn_private_alt — Filters the alternate content.

- `ubn_private_text` — Filters the entire private and alternate text, just before the output. The string contains also the HTML container.

- `ubn_private_text_empty` — Filters the text if it is empty, just before the output.

- `ubn_private_class_selector` — Filters the HTML output for the classes.

- `ubn_private_id_selector` — Filters the HTML output for the IDS.

8 TESTING THE SHORTCODE

It could be useful to test if the shortcode is working as intended. To do this, you can use a plugin that lets you temporarily switch between accounts. The plugin is *User Switching* available at:

<div align="center">https://wordpress.org/plugins/user-switching</div>

After having inserted the shortcode in the post/page, switch to the user account in the user management page using the relevant link, then visit the published page — you should see the page as the user will see it.

9 UNINSTALLATION

The plugin can be simply uninstalled from the WordPress Dashboard. During the uninstallation process, the plugin removes its files and the modifications created during the installation. The removed modifications are:

- remove `read_ubn_editor_notes` capability from the *editor* role;

- remove `read_ubn_author_notes` capability from the *author* role;

- remove `read_ubn_contributor_notes` capability from the *contributor* role;

- remove `read_ubn_subscriber_notes` capability from the *subscriber* role.

And then:

> *"So long, and thanks for all the fish."*
> (DOUGLAS ADAMS)