

Private Content plugin

Aldo Latino

Published on January 4, 2020

Abstract

Private Content is a plugin for WordPress that displays a portion of a post/page content only to users of a specific role or to a single or multiple users. This file is the readme.md file ported to L^AT_EX, with some adaptations.

This document is released under the terms of the [Creative Commons BY-SA 3.0 Unported license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0)¹.

Contents

1	Developing and download	2
2	Description	2
3	Rapid changelog	3
4	The shortcode command	3
5	The shortcode options	3
5.1	Available options for the shortcode	3
5.2	[role] Display a text portion to a certain role	4
5.2.1	Examples	4
5.2.2	Text only for specific roles excluding other roles	6
5.2.3	[recipient] Text only for a specific user or multiple users	6
5.2.4	[custom_role] Display a text portion to a custom role or multiple roles	7
5.3	[reverse] Reverse the logic of hiding text	8
5.3.1	Use of the "reverse" option for single users	8
5.3.2	Use of the "reverse" option for roles	9
5.4	The Administrator role	9
5.5	[align] Align style	10
5.6	[alt] Alternate text for excluded users	10
5.7	[container] The HTML container for the text	10
5.8	[id] Adding custom IDs for the HTML container	11
5.9	[class] Adding custom classes for the HTML container	11
6	Giving a style to the text generated by Private Content	11

¹<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>.

7	Capabilities created by Private Content plugin	12
8	Available filters	12
9	Testing the shortcode	13

List of Tables

1	Who can read the private text when a given role is used.	5
---	--	---

1 Developing and download

The plugin is developed using [GitHub](https://github.com/aldolat/private-content)² and it can be downloaded from the [WordPress official repository](https://wordpress.org/plugins/private-content)³.

2 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]
```

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 below [Multiple custom roles](#)), 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<https://github.com/aldolat/private-content>.

³<https://wordpress.org/plugins/private-content>.

3 Rapid changelog

Version 3.0: you can mark a text as visible only to a certain user, using his login name.

Version 4.0: you can mark a text as visible to multiple users, using their login names comma separated.

Version 4.3: you can use either the usual `private` shortcode or the extra `ubn_private`, in case the first is already in use.

Version 5.0: you can use the new option `reverse` to change the logic of the `recipient` option. If `reverse` is activated, it will not allow users in recipient read the private note.

Version 6.0: you can use custom roles.

Version 6.1: you can use multiple custom roles. Also Administrators can always read text for custom roles, unless a `role="custom-only"` option has been used.

Version 6.2: you can use custom IDs and/or classes for the HTML container.

4 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]
```

5 The shortcode options

5.1 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`

5.2 [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.

5.2.1 Examples

Display this text to Administrators:

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

Display this text to Administrators and Editors:

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

Display this text to Administrators, Editors, and Authors:

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

Display this text to Administrators, Editors, Authors, and Contributors:

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

Display this 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.

5.2.2 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 this text to Editors only:

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

Display this text to Authors only:

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

Display this text to Contributors only:

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

Display this text to Subscribers only:

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

Display this 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 this 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]
```

5.2.3 [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.

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.

5.2.4 [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 below [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](#).

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 about using standard WordPress roles with `role=custom` option.

If you use a standard WordPress role with the `custom_role` option, you expect that a higher role can read the private text for lower roles, i.e. a text for Author role should be read by Editor role (which is a role higher than 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 than Author).

5.3 [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.

5.3.1 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).

5.3.2 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 next paragraph for more information and also the [1](#).

5.4 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]
```

5.5 [align] Align style

Accepted arguments:

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

5.6 [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]
```

5.7 [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].
```

5.8 [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 ID 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.

5.9 [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.

6 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.

7 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.

8 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.

9 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](https://wordpress.org/plugins/user-switching)⁴.

⁴<https://wordpress.org/plugins/user-switching>.