Content Scheduler

Version 0.9.1 - Updated 2010-12-30
Version 0.9.2 - Updated 2011-03-23 (The author's birthday!)

WordPress Content Management Plugin

By Paul Kaiser (paul@structureweb.co) From Structureweb.co
Note: This documentation is for the Standard (free) version of Content Scheduler.

What Content Scheduler Does

Automatically expire content

With Content Scheduler, you can give your Posts and Pages an expiration date, and tell WordPress what to do with that content when they expire.

Control changes upon expiration

When content expires, it can automatically be deleted, change status, turn off the "stick post to front page," make category changes, and more.

Automatic notification when anything changes

Even if you don't want to make changes to your content, Content Scheduler can send you notifications when the expiration date approaches -- perfect for automatically reminding you when certain content needs checked for freshness.

What else do you want Content Scheduler to do?

Please, don't be shy. Contact the plugin author with any feature requests and questions at paul@structureweb.co

Further updates regarding Content Scheduler and Content Scheduler Pro can be found at:
http://structureweb.co/wordpress-plugins/content-scheduler/

Installation
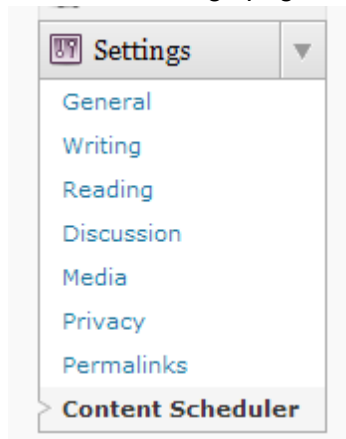
To install Content Scheduler:

1. Upload the "content-scheduler" directory and all its contents to your `/wp-content/ plugins/` directory.
2. Activate the plugin through the 'Plugins' menu in WordPress.
3. Visit the 'Content Scheduler' options through the 'Settings' menu.

Settings Overview

After installing and activating Content Scheduler, you should change global settings to manage your Posts and Pages the way you want.

Accessing Settings

Go to the settings page under "Settings > Content Scheduler"

Content Scheduler Expiration Options

Expiration Status

Expiration status
- ○ Hold — Do nothing upon expiration.
- ◉ Delete — Move to trash upon expiration.
- ○ Apply changes — Apply the changes below upon expiration.

If "Expiration status" is set to "Hold," none of the expiration changes below will be applied. If set to "Delete," content will move to the WordPress Trash upon reaching the expiration date. If set to "Apply changes," the expiration changes that follow on the Settings page will be considered and will alter the content.

Note: Even if "Expiration status" is set to "Hold," you can still use Notifications. This is a great way to alert content authors when their Posts and Pages are getting old and might need updating. See more below in "Content Scheduler Notification Options."

Expiration Frequency

Expiration frequency (in minutes)   Wait [1] minutes between expiration checks.

WordPress checks for scheduled events only so often. Beginning with Content Scheduler version 0.9.1, you can set how often WordPress checks your content for expiration.

Note: Setting this number too low on sites with a lot of content can really slow down your server. This is why version 0.9.0 originally hard-coded the frequency to 60 minutes. However, users requested the ability to change this, so -- here you are.

Change Status To

Change status to:
- ○ No Change — Do not change status.
- ◉ Pending — Change status to Pending.
- ○ Draft — Change status to Draft.
- ○ Private — Change visibility to Private.

This allows you to set the Status of Posts and Pages when they expire. Status can be changed to one of the following:

- Pending
- Draft
- Private

You may also choose to make "No Change" to the status.

Change Stickiness To

| Change stickiness to: | ⦿ No Change — Do not unstick posts. |
| | ○ Unstick — Unstick posts. |

This allows you to unset the "Stick this post to the front page" option available for Posts under Visibility. You may also choose to make "No Change" to the "sticky" option.

Note: This option has no effect on expired Pages.

Apply Category Changes As

This determines how a list of selected categories (shown below) is applied when Posts expire.

- **"Add Selected"** will add the Post to all of the selected categories. If the Post is already in other categories, it will remain in those categories also.
- **"Remove Selected"** will remove the Post from all of the selected categories. If, after applying this change, the Post is in no categories, it will remain only in your site's default category.
- **"Match Selected"** will make sure your Post is in all of the selected categories, and only those categories. If the Post was already in other categories not selected, it will be removed from those categories.
- You may also choose to make **"No Change"** to categories.

Selected Categories

This will list all current categories on your WordPress blog. We're working on a better way to display this list, as some blogs have a large number of categories that would be impractical to list this way.

Select the categories from this list you want applied when Posts expire, according to the "Apply Category Changes As" rules.

Note: Category settings have no effect on expired Pages.

Add the following tag(s):

Add the following tag(s):	archive tag, christmas
	Comma-delimited list, e.g., 'news, martial arts, old content' (leave blank to add no tags.)

This allows you to add tags to content that supports the "post_tag" taxonomy type.

- WordPress "Posts" support post tags.
- WordPress "Pages" do not support post tags, normally.
- Custom Post Types may or may not support post tags, depending on how the post type is defined.
-

Content Scheduler Notification Options

Enable Notification

Enable notification:	○ Notification on — Notify when expiration date is reached, even if 'Expiration status' is set to 'Hold.' ⦿ Notification off — Do not notify.

This determines whether or not notifications will be emailed based on Post and Page expiration dates. When set to "Notification on," notifications will be sent even if "Expiration Status" is set to "Hold."

Notify Site Administrator

Notify Site Administrator:	○ Notify Admin ⦿ Do not notify Admin

Determines whether notifications are sent to the site administrator email address.

Notify Content Author

Notify Content Author:	○ Notify Author ⦿ Do not notify Author

Determines whether notifications are sent to the Post or Page author's email address.

Notify Upon Expiration

Notify upon expiration:	⦿ Notify on expiration — Notify when expiration changes posts / pages. ○ Do not notify on expiration — Do not notify when expiration changes posts / pages.

Determines if notifications will be sent when a Post or Page has expired and "Expiration Status"

is set to "Delete" or "Apply Changes." Even if "Enable Notification" is turned off, "Notify upon expiration" will notify you when Content Scheduler expires content.

Notify Before Expiration

Notify before expiration: Notify 0   days before expiration.

Determines if notifications will be sent out as an expiration date approaches. That is, sent a number of days before the expiration date is reached.

Notification Example Situations

A. I want to be notified when my content reaches its expiration date, but I don't want anything to automatically change about my content.

1. Set "Expiration status" to "Hold."
2. Set "Enable notification" to "Notification on."

B. I want to be notified 3 days before my content reaches its expiration date, but I don't want anything to automatically change about my content.

1. Set "Expiration status" to "Hold."
2. Set "Enable notification" to "Notification on."
3. Set "Notify before expiration" to "3."

C. I only want to be notified when my content is changed based on its expiration date.

1. "Expiration status" is set either to "Delete" or "Apply changes."
2. "Enable notification" is set to "Notification off."
3. "Notify upon expiration" is set to "Notify on expiration."
3.

Content Scheduler Display Options

Show expiration in columns

Show expiration in columns: ○ Show expiration in columns
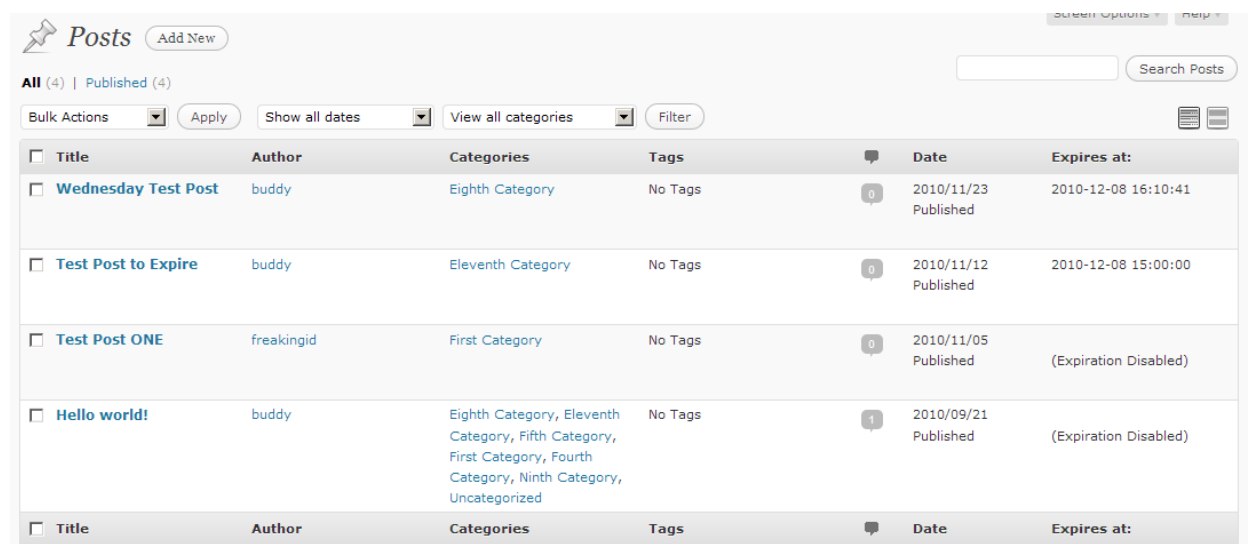   ● Do not show expiration in columns

Determines if the expiration date will be shown in a column when looking at a list of Posts or Pages.

The above is a close-up of the column that would be displayed if "Show expiration in columns" is turned on.


Above is an example of a list of Posts displayed in WordPress, with the expiration column (far right) turned on.

Use datepicker for Date

Use datepicker for Date:
○ Use datepicker
◉ Do not use datepicker

Determines whether the jQuery datepicker is displayed when you set the expiration date in Posts and Pages. If the datepicker is not displayed, you must type the date in the following format:
YEAR-MO-DA HR:MN:SC, such as 2010-12-06 16:10:41.
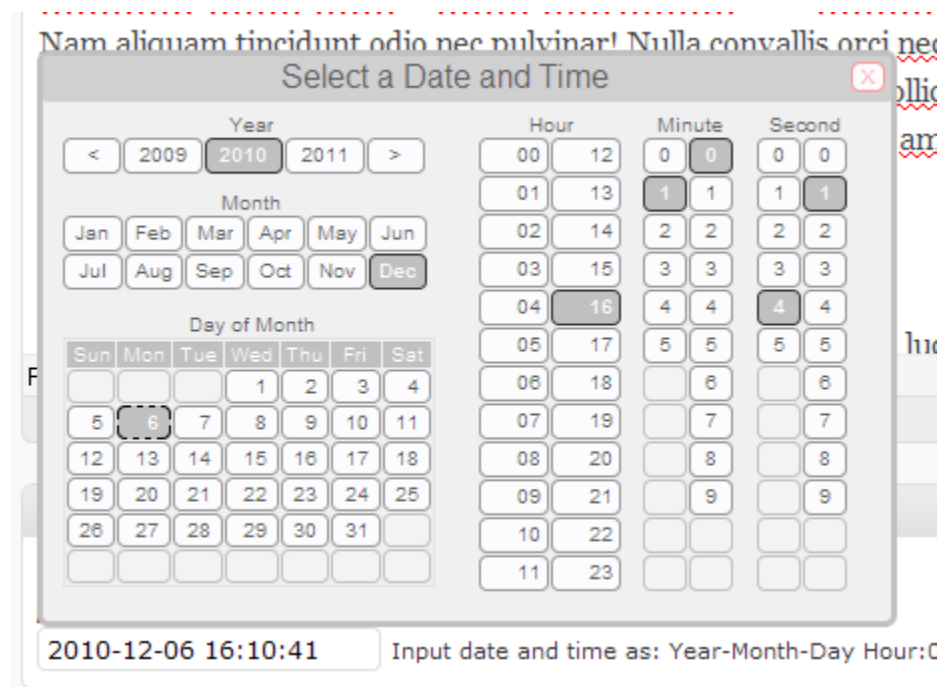
Above shows the datepicker in action.

Remove all Content Scheduler data upon uninstall

Remove all Content Scheduler data upon uninstall:
○ Remove all data
◉ Do not remove data

Determines whether all Content Scheduler data should be removed from your WordPress database when the plugin is deleted through the Plugins panel.

Note: This results in the Content Scheduler options being deleted, as well as the date, time, and enable settings you may have applied to some Posts and Pages. There is no way to get this data back once you have deleted it.
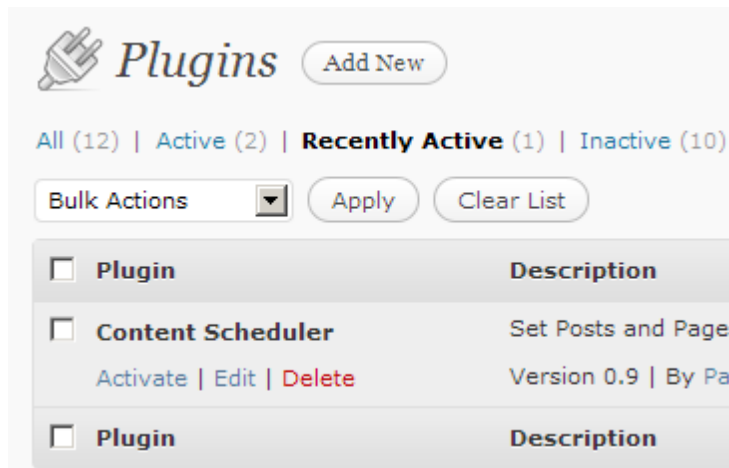
Above is the Plugins panel, showing "Content Scheduler" ready to be deleted. This is the only time when "Remove all Content Scheduler data upon uninstall" has any effect. Only when "Delete" is clicked will data be removed.

In other words, if you just "Deactivate" Content Scheduler, no data is removed.

Notification Messages

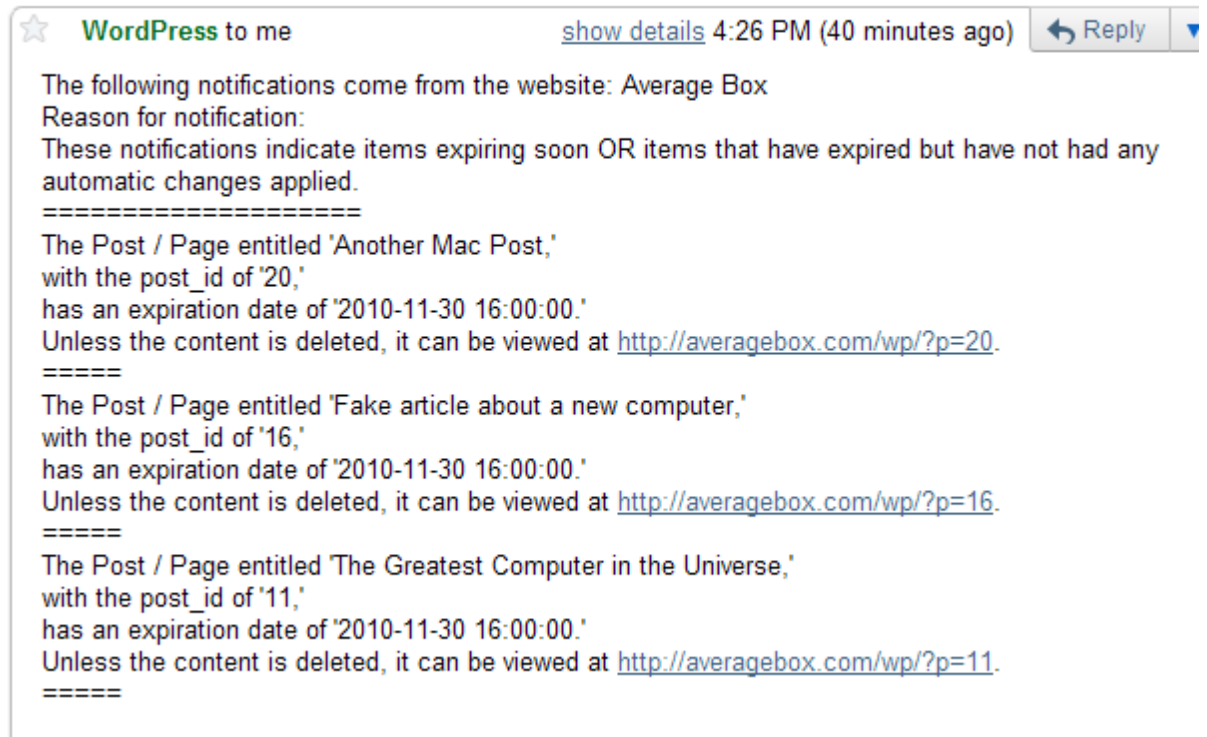Notification messages are sent on a daily basis. When notifications are processed, they will compile all notifications into one email, so you won't receive several individual emails. Notification messages include:
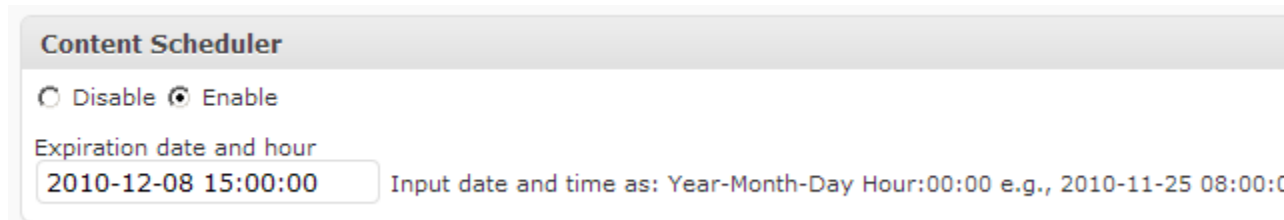
1. The name of the site sending the notification
   ("Average Box" in the example below.)
2. The reason for the notification message
   (Let's you know if things have expired, or if you are just receiving a notice with no changes. The example below indicates no changes have been made.)
3. Title of Posts / Pages you're being notified about.
4. Post ID of Posts / Pages you're being notified about.
5. The expiration date assigned to that Post / Page.

Notification from Average Box ▷ | X Inbox | X

☆ **WordPress** to me   show details 4:26 PM (40 minutes ago)   ↩ Reply   ▾

The following notifications come from the website: Average Box
Reason for notification:
These notifications indicate items expiring soon OR items that have expired but have not had any automatic changes applied.
====================
The Post / Page entitled 'Another Mac Post,'
with the post_id of '20,'
has an expiration date of '2010-11-30 16:00:00.'
Unless the content is deleted, it can be viewed at http://averagebox.com/wp/?p=20.
=====
The Post / Page entitled 'Fake article about a new computer,'
with the post_id of '16,'
has an expiration date of '2010-11-30 16:00:00.'
Unless the content is deleted, it can be viewed at http://averagebox.com/wp/?p=16.
=====
The Post / Page entitled 'The Greatest Computer in the Universe,'
with the post_id of '11,'
has an expiration date of '2010-11-30 16:00:00.'
Unless the content is deleted, it can be viewed at http://averagebox.com/wp/?p=11.
=====

Above is a screenshot of a notification email message.

Adding Expiration to Posts and Pages

Content Scheduler

○ Disable ⦿ Enable

Expiration date and hour

| 2010-12-08 15:00:00 | Input date and time as: Year-Month-Day Hour:00:00 e.g., 2010-11-25 08:00:0 |

Above is the "Content Scheduler" panel, shown on Post and Page edit screens when the plugin is active.

The "Disable" and "Enable" radio buttons determine whether Content Scheduler will consider this Post or Page for expiration and notification. If set to "Disable," the Post or Page will not create any expiration or notification action, even if it has an Expiration date and hour set.

This allows you to set expiration date and hour for content tentatively, and later determine whether you really want to enable Content Scheduler's actions for that content.

Expires at:

2010-12-08 16:10:41

2010-12-08 15:00:00

(Expiration Disabled)

(Expiration Disabled)

Expires at:

If you choose to "show expiration in columns," the column will indicate if a Post or Page has expiration disabled.

Content Scheduler

○ Disable ● Enable

Expiration date and hour

2010-12-08 15:00:00   Input date and time as: Year-Month-Day Hour:00:00 e.g., 2010-11-25 08:00:0

The date and time must be entered in the format shown above. Generally, that is: Year-Month-Day Hour:Minute:Second

Note: Content Scheduler runs hourly, so minutes and seconds have no effect on content expiration. This is done to ease the burden on your WordPress server. If you really need expiration enabled down to the minute, please contact the plugin author with a feature request at paul@structureweb.co.

Displaying the Expiration Time in Post / Page Content

Shortcode support

Version 0.9.2 added a WordPress shortcode to automatically display the expiration date / time. Simple add the following anywhere in the Content of your Post / Page to display the expiration:

`[cs_expiration]`

Content Scheduler Pro

A premium version of Content Scheduler adds a number of powerful features to help manage your content.

What Content Scheduler Pro Does

In addition to the Standard (free) version of Content Scheduler, Pro adds the following features:

1. Assign each Post or Page a specific set of instructions to follow based on its expiration date. (Standard applies the *same* global changes to *all* content set to expire.)
2. Instructions for expiration and notification are stored in profiles, so the same set of instructions can quickly be applied to different posts.
3. Expiration profiles can schedule a new date for Posts and Pages to automatically become published again.
   Example: You have a post you want to run starting a week before Halloween, and you want it to stop running on November 1st. Content Scheduler Pro can expire the post for you November 1st, then schedule the post to begin again next October 24th.
4. Quickly assign an expiration date and instruction profile to multiple Posts and Pages at the same time.
5. Customize the content of notification messages.
6. and more...

When is Content Scheduler Pro available?

Content Scheduler Pro is currently in beta testing. It should be available some time in 2011.

How much does Content Scheduler Pro cost?

The Pro version costs $19 for a single site, or $75 for unlimited sites. Content Scheduler Pro comes with a 90-Day, 100% Money Back Guarantee.

Where can I find more information about Content Scheduler Pro?

Please visit:
http://structureweb.co/wordpress-plugins/content-scheduler/