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# CaptchaPlugin

A visual confirmation plugin, known as Captcha, for new user registration. This plugin prevents automated scripts in creating users and spam your wiki with their url's to get a better google ranking.

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## Syntax Rules

- The tag `%CAPTCHAURL%` expands to the url of the image containing the scrambled text;
- The tag `%CAPTCHAHASH%` expands to the hash matching the image.

## Plugin Settings

Plugin settings are stored as preferences variables. To reference a plugin setting write `%<plugin>_<setting>%`, i.e. `%INTERWIKIPLUGIN_SHORTDESCRIPTION%`

- One line description, is shown in the `TextFormattingRules` topic:
  - ◆ Set `SHORTDESCRIPTION` = To prevent automated bots from spamming
- Debug plugin: (See output in `data/debug.txt`)
  - ◆ Set `DEBUG` = 0

Additionally, the following settings can be changed in `lib/LocalSite.cfg`, the list below shows the defaults.

- `$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{CaptchaPlugin}{Expiry} = 3600; # Time in seconds after which a Captcha will expire and be removed`
- `$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{CaptchaPlugin}{EnableSave} = 0; # Enable Captcha for topic save`
- `$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{CaptchaPlugin}{SaveForAll} = 0; # Enable Captcha for all users, not just TWikiGuest`
- `$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{CaptchaPlugin}{DeleteAfterSave} = 0; # Delete Captcha after successful topic save`
- `$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{CaptchaPlugin}{ColourSafe} = 0; # Enable for black and white shades only`
- `$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{CaptchaPlugin}{NumberOfCharacters} = 5; # Number of characters on Captcha`
- `$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{CaptchaPlugin}{Characters} = '1234567890'; # Captcha characters, numbers are the safest`

## Plugin Installation Instructions

*Note:* You do not need to install anything on the browser to use this plugin. The following instructions are for the administrator who installs the plugin on the server where TWiki is running.

- Download the ZIP file from the Plugin web (see below)
- Unzip `CaptchaPlugin.zip` in your twiki installation directory. Content:

File:	Description:
<code>data/TWiki/CaptchaPlugin.txt</code>	Plugin topic
<code>data/TWiki/CaptchaPlugin.txt,v</code>	Plugin topic repository
<code>Register.pm-4.1.2.patch</code>	Patch for the register module
<code>edit.pattern.tmpl-4.1.2.patch</code>	Patch for Pattern
<code>edittoolbar.nat.tmpl-3.0-pre13.patch</code>	Patch for NatSkin

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<code>templates/oopscaptcha.tmpl</code>	Error template
<code>templates/editcaptcha.tmpl</code>	Edit template
<code>lib/TWiki/Plugins/CaptchaPlugin.pm</code>	Plugin Perl module
<code>pub/TWiki/CaptchaPlugin/fonts/*</code>	A collection of free fonts to get you started
<code>pub/TWiki/CaptchaPlugin/_db</code>	Hash database directory
<code>pub/TWiki/CaptchaPlugin/img</code>	Image directory

- Apply the patch `Register.pm-4.1.2.patch` to `lib/TWiki/UI/Register.pm` (alternatively, patch `Register.pm` manually, see section below), be sure to make a backup so you can revert the patch if you want to disable the plugin:
  - ◆ `cd /path/to/twiki`
  - ◆ `cp lib/TWiki/UI/Register.pm lib/TWiki/UI/Register.pm.dist`
  - ◆ `patch < ../register.patch`
- Restrict access to the files, for example, by including the following in your `httpd.conf`:

```
<Directory "/path/to/twiki/pub/TWiki/CaptchaPlugin/_db">
  deny from all
</Directory>
<Directory "/path/to/twiki/pub/TWiki/CaptchaPlugin/fonts">
  deny from all
</Directory>
```

- Enable the plugin via the `bin/configure` script
- Install necessary TrueType fonts in to `pub/TWiki/CaptchaPlugin/fonts/`
  - ◆ This allows the plugin to randomly choose the fonts to use
  - ◆ The more you have, the higher the chances of fending off spambots
- Test if the installation was successful:
  - ◆ Create a topic containing `<IMG SRC="%CAPTCHAURL%">` and `%CAPTCHAHASH%`
  - ◆ When loading this topic you should see an obfuscated character string loaded as a png and a hexadecimal hash.
  - ◆ Check whether the hash database is properly protected by going to the url `http://my.twiki.server/my/twiki/path/pub/TWiki/CaptchaPlugin/db/hashes.pag` , you should see a permission denied message.
- Now edit your `TWikiRegistration` topic
  - ◆ Display the image `%CAPTCHAURL%` somewhere in your form, along with a text instructing new users to copy the obfuscated text into the appropriate text input.
  - ◆ Add the appropriate text input as `Twk1CaptchaString`
  - ◆ Add a hidden input as `Twk1CaptchaHash` having as value `%CAPTCHAHASH%`
  - ◆ For example, add this to your `TWikiRegistration`:

```
<tr>
  <td valign="top" align="right"><IMG SRC="%CAPTCHAURL%">: <br /> (..) &lt;/td>
  <td><input type="hidden" name="Twk1CaptchaHash" value="%CAPTCHAHASH%">
    <input type="text" name="Twk1CaptchaString" size="5"></td> =<font color="red">
</tr>
```

- That's it.

## Captcha on topic edit

If you want to protect edits by `TWikiGuest` with a captcha, add the following line to your `lib/LocalSite.cfg`:

```
$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{CaptchaPlugin}{EnableSave} = 1;
```

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A `editcaptcha.tpl` has been prepared for you. All you need to do is `TMPL:INCLUDE` it into your `edit*.tpl`. Two patches are available for `Pattern` (`edit.pattern.tpl`) and `NatSkin` (`edittoolbar.nat.tpl`).

At the moment, `editcaptcha.tpl` requires `TWiki:Plugins.IfDefinedPlugin` to determine whether the user is `TWikiGuest` or not. If you have enabled

```
$TWiki::cfg{Plugins}{CaptchaPlugin}{SaveForAll} = 1; , modify  
editcaptcha.tpl appropriately.
```

## Manually patching the register binary

Refer to the patch file.

### Guide for TWiki 4.0.5

Find these lines in `lib/TWiki/UI/Register.pm`:

```
}  
  
# generate user entry
```

Insert the code below directly **BEFORE** the line containing the curly bracket '{':

```
# verify captcha  
eval { use TWiki::Plugins::CaptchaPlugin; };  
  
my %database;  
my $vcHash = $data->{CaptchaHash};  
my $vcTxt = $data->{CaptchaString};  
  
open(LOCKFILE, ">".&TWiki::Func::getPubDir()."/TWiki/CaptchaPlugin/_db/hashes.lock");  
flock(LOCKFILE, 2);  
  
dbmopen(%database, &TWiki::Func::getPubDir()."/TWiki/CaptchaPlugin/_db/hashes", 0644);  
  
my ($time, $txt) = split(' ', $database{$vcHash});  
  
if ( not(lc($txt) eq lc($vcTxt)) || ($txt eq '') ) {  
    dbmclose(%database);  
    close(LOCKFILE);  
    throw TWiki::OopsException( 'captcha',  
                                web => $data->{webName},  
                                topic => $topic,  
                                def => 'invalid_vcstr',  
                                params => [ "wrong" ] );  
}  
  
dbmclose(%database);  
  
close(LOCKFILE);  
  
TWiki::Plugins::CaptchaPlugin::expire($vcHash);
```

Now find:

```
# 'WikiName' omitted because they can't  
# change it, and 'Confirm' is a duplicate  
push( @{$data->{form}}, $form )  
    unless ($name eq 'WikiName' || $name eq 'Confirm');
```

and change the last line to:

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```
# 'WikiName' omitted because they can't
# change it, and 'Confirm' is a duplicate
push( @{$data->{form}}, $form )
  unless ($name eq 'WikiName' || $name eq 'Confirm' || $name eq 'CaptchaHash' || $nam
```

## Further Development

- Refactor to comply with TWiki's convention
- Adjustable font size range
- Adjustable height and width

## Plugin Info

Plugin Author:	TWiki:Main.KoenMartens , TWiki:Main.KwangErnLiew
Plugin Version:	16 Aug 2007 1.5-pre3
Change History:	
16 Aug 2007:	Added black and white shades only; Added editcaptcha.tmpl; Moved all attributes to LocalSite.cfg; Removed DeleteAfterRegistration
08 Aug 2007:	Added support for captcha on topic save (thanks TWiki:Main.KwangErnLiew ), fixed some minor bugs, added some free fonts
06 Aug 2007:	Colourised fonts; Randomised font type, font size, background colour, and font positioning; Fixed hash display on user pages; Modified oopscaptcha.tmpl
03 Aug 2006:	Renamed to CaptchaPlugin, adapted to Dakar (TWiki 4.0.x).
03 Jan 2006:	Fixed some problems with expiry, also optimised according to TWiki:TWiki.TWikiPlugins#FastPluginHints .
10 Oct 2005:	Strip hash and text from arguments to register binary, or they will end up in the newly created user topic.
07 Oct 2005:	Initial version
TWiki Dependency:	\$TWiki::Plugins::VERSION 1.1
CPAN Dependencies:	GD, Digest::MD5
Optional Dependencies:	TWiki:Plugins.IfDefinedPlugin
Other Dependencies:	none
Perl Version:	5.005
License:	GPL (GNU General Public License )
TWiki:Plugins/Benchmark :	GoodStyle 98%, FormattedSearch 98%, TWikiRegistration (patched) 85%
Plugin Home:	<a href="http://TWiki.org/cgi-bin/view/Plugins/CaptchaPlugin">http://TWiki.org/cgi-bin/view/Plugins/CaptchaPlugin</a>
Feedback:	<a href="http://TWiki.org/cgi-bin/view/Plugins/CaptchaPluginDev">http://TWiki.org/cgi-bin/view/Plugins/CaptchaPluginDev</a>
Appraisal:	<a href="http://TWiki.org/cgi-bin/view/Plugins/CaptchaPluginAppraisal">http://TWiki.org/cgi-bin/view/Plugins/CaptchaPluginAppraisal</a>

**Related Topics:** TWikiPreferences, TWikiPlugins

This topic: TWiki > CaptchaPlugin

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Ideas, requests, problems regarding TWiki? Send feedback

**Note:** Please contribute updates to this topic on TWiki.org at TWiki:TWiki.CaptchaPlugin.