Generated on 17/10/2026 09:18

KNOWLEDGE BASE · PUBLIC DOCUMENT

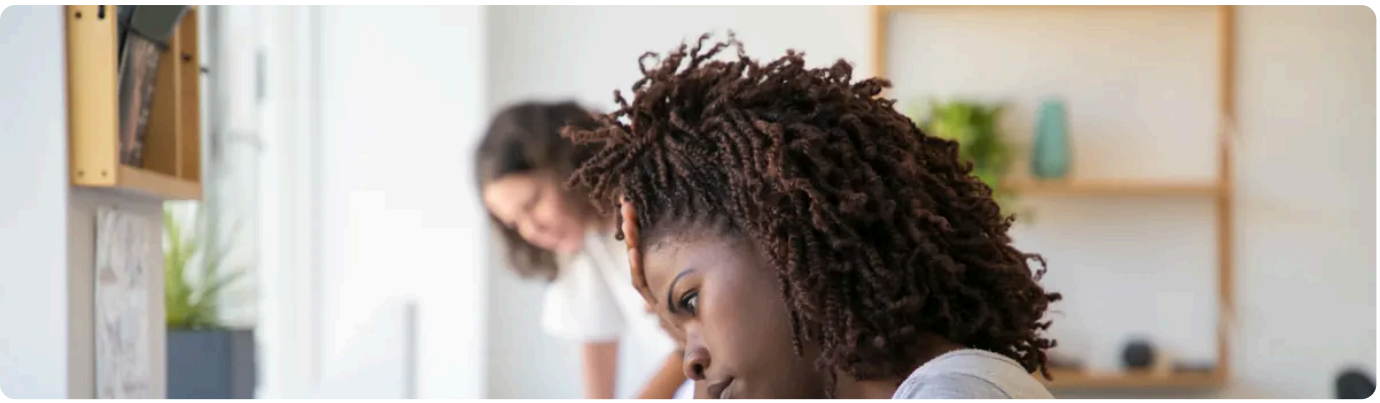
Hiding WordPress usernames: author pages, the REST API and login messages

WordPress & CMS

CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-INT-KB-6042	v2026.10.15	International · English

MozOut International
RLX Holdings (Pty) Ltd. · Group RLX Holdings
Tax no. (SARS) 943 907 6234 · Registration no. (CIPC) 2025/667953/07

https://www.my.mozout.com/knowledgebase/6042



The short answer: WordPress shows, without meaning to, **the usernames** of those who write on the site: on author pages, in the REST API and even in the login error message. A username is not a password, but it is half of what a bot needs to guess its way in. Hiding these clues is easy and costs nothing.

What the site needs

What	What to do
Author pages	Opening **your-domain.com/?author=1** leads to the author's page, whose address contains the username. Repeat with 2, 3, 4…
REST API	The address **/wp-json/wp/v2/users** lists authors with posts, including each one's internal name.
Site map	WordPress's own site map can include a list of users.
Login message	When the name does not exist, the notice says so; when the password is wrong, it says something else. That confirms to the bot that it got the name right.
The visible name	Each user's "display name" should differ from the username they log in with.

Getting started

1. **Change each user's display name** under Users > Profile: use the real name or a nickname, not the login name.

2 **If the administrator logs in as “admin”** or with the company name, create another user with a less obvious name and take the powers away from the old one: **Changing a username**.

3 **Switch off author pages** if the site has a single author, in the options of an SEO or security plugin.

4 **Restrict the REST API user list** to people who are logged in (the options of many security plugins include this). Test afterwards: the address should no longer list anyone.

5 **Use identical error messages** at login (also a common plugin option), and reinforce the entrance: **Protecting the WordPress login**.

This reduces the clues; it is not the defence. Someone who really wants to find a username can, by other means. The real defence is a strong password, two-step verification and the attempt limit. Hiding the name just takes easy work away from bots. **A captcha on the login**.

If the site lets people register, the username problem grows: **Letting visitors register**. Another old door: **XML-RPC**.

Want help hardening your WordPress login? Open a ticket with the address.

Open a support ticket

SEE ALSO

Protecting the WordPress login: three steps in order of effect

Putting a captcha on the WordPress login

Changing a WordPress username

Letting visitors register on your WordPress site: roles, bots and the risks

XML-RPC in WordPress: what it is and whether to switch it off

Online version of this document

MozOut is a leading internet services company, with a mission to help businesses to be born and prosper through technology.

2020	37,000+	130+
FOUNDED	CLIENTS	SIGN-UPS A DAY

MozOut International

RLX Holdings (Pty) Ltd. · Group RLX Holdings

TAX NO. (SARS)	943 907 6234
REGISTRATION NO. (CIPC)	2025/667953/07
REGISTERED OFFICE	1111 Olive Street Saint Louis 63101, Missouri, United States
CONTACT	info@mozout.com · +27 78 823 3325 · www.mozout.com
OPENING HOURS	Monday to Friday - 08 AM to 04 PM Saturday & Sunday - Closed

RLX-INT-KB-6042 · v2026.10.15 · Generated on 17/10/2026 09:18