

Mitigation	Rotate All Credentials Assume credentials may have been compromised. Reset: • WordPress administrator passwords • Hosting control panel credentials • SFTP/FTP passwords • SSH keys • Database credentials • CDN credentials • Cloudflare credentials • API keys and integration secrets Enable MFA wherever available. Identify the Malicious Injection The visible prompt is typically generated by injected JavaScript. Inspect: Theme Files Review: • wp-content/themes/<theme>/ • Pay particular attention to: • header.php • footer.php • functions.php Plugin Files Review: • wp-content/plugins/ Look for: • Recently modified files • Unrecognized plugins • Abandoned or unsupported plugins • Unexpected JavaScript files Database Content Examine: • wp_options • wp_posts • wp_postmeta Search for: • <script
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- eval(
- fromCharCode
- unescape(
- atob(

Large obfuscated JavaScript blocks are a common indicator.

Search for Persistence Mechanisms

Many organisations remove the visible code only to have it reappear days later.

Check for:

Rogue Administrator Accounts

Review all WordPress users:

Users → All Users

Remove:

- Unknown administrators
- Dormant accounts
- Recently created privileged accounts

Malicious Scheduled Tasks

Check for:

- WP-Cron jobs
- Server cron jobs
- Hosting control panel scheduled jobs.

Backdoors

Search the webroot for:

- eval(
- base64_decode(
- gzinflate(
- str_rot13(
- create_function(

While not all occurrences are malicious, unexpected use in plugin or theme files warrants investigation.

Webshells

Look for suspicious files in:

- wp-content/uploads/
- wp-includes/
- wp-admin/

PHP files should generally not exist in upload directories.

Determine the Initial Compromise Vector

Removing malware without addressing the entry point often results in reinfection.

Common entry points include:

- Vulnerable WordPress plugins
- Vulnerable themes
- Stolen administrator credentials
- Supply-chain compromise of abandoned plugins
- WordPress-specific vulnerabilities exploited at scale.

Review:

- Web server logs
- Authentication logs
- WordPress activity logs
 - Hosting provider audit logs

Look for:

- Unexpected admin logins
- New plugin installations
- File modifications
- Requests associated with known vulnerable components

Replace Compromised Core Components

Where practical:

- Reinstall WordPress core from a trusted source.
- Replace themes with clean copies.
- Replace plugins with freshly downloaded versions.
- Remove unused themes and plugins.

A file-by-file cleanup is often less reliable than replacement from known-good sources.

Check for Additional Infrastructure Compromise

While ClickFix is frequently used to deliver credential theft and remote access malware to visitors, threat actors may have broader objectives in leveraging compromised infrastructure.

Look for unauthorised modifications to:

- DNS records
- Cloudflare settings

	• Redirect rules • Email configuration • Analytics scripts • Payment integrations • Third-party JavaScript inclusions Perform Post-Cleanup Validation Validate: • Homepage • Key landing pages • Blog posts • Login pages • Mobile versions Confirm: • No clipboard-copy behaviour • No unexpected JavaScript • No redirects • No fake verification prompts • No suspicious outbound connections Perform testing from multiple networks and user agents to account for conditional malware delivery.
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