TW Security Toolkit User Guide

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Version 1.0

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1. Introduction

The TW Security Toolkit helps site owners protect WordPress logins, harden the site, control content workflows, and monitor important security activity from one place.

The plugin is designed for:

- WordPress sites that need stronger login protection
- Sites that want to hide the default login URL
- Teams that need content approvals and edit tracking
- Stores and blogs that must limit risky uploads
- Agencies and site owners who want a clear security score and alerts

Using this plugin, site owners can:

- Hide the default WordPress login page behind a custom URL
- Track successful logins and send login alert emails
- Block repeated failed logins and lock risky IPs
- Block selected visitor IPs
- Require an email one-time code (OTP) at login
- Disable the theme and plugin file editors
- Limit uploads by size, type, and image dimensions
- Track who last edited posts and pages
- Expire links by date or click count
- Control revisions for custom post types
- Notify admins when content is published
- Hold drafts until an administrator approves them
- Run a security health check and improve the security score
- Watch important files for unexpected changes
- Keep a full audit log of key site actions
- Detect suspicious activity
- Send alerts by email, Slack, or Discord
- Receive daily, weekly, or monthly security reports

Important: Activating the plugin does **not** turn any tool on automatically. Every tool stays Off until you turn it On from the Dashboard or Settings.

2. Features

1. **Login Alert & Tracker:** Record each user's last login time and optionally email the site admin after a successful login.

2. **Secure Login Path:** Hide the default WordPress login URL (wp-login.php) behind a custom slug such as /mylogin.
3. **Failed Login & Brute Force Protection:** Lock an IP after too many failed password attempts within a set time window.
4. **IP Blacklist:** Block selected visitor IPs with a 403 Access denied response.
5. **Login OTP & Role Policies:** Require a 6-digit email code after password login, with optional role-based limits.
6. **Login History by User:** Review successful logins, failed logins, and logouts with filters for user, IP, status, and date.
7. **Post Modifier Tracker:** Show who last modified posts, pages, products, and public custom post types.
8. **Post Approval Notifier:** Email the administrator when another user publishes content.
9. **Draft Approval:** Hold writer posts as drafts until an administrator publishes them.
10. **CPT Revisions:** Enable or disable WordPress revisions per custom post type.
11. **Link Expiration:** Expire content by date/time and/or max clicks, then move it to Draft.
12. **Disable File Editor:** Block Theme File Editor and Plugin File Editor in wp-admin.
13. **File Change Detection:** Watch core, admin, includes, themes, plugins, and mu-plugins for unexpected file changes.
14. **Security Health Check:** Run a scan, get a score out of 100, and follow clear fix recommendations.
15. **Upload Guard:** Limit uploads by file size, MIME type, and image dimensions per role (including Guest).
16. **Complete Audit Log:** Record important site actions and export filtered results as CSV or PDF.
17. **Suspicious Activity Detection:** Detects unusual patterns such as rapid failed logins or new administrator accounts.
18. **Email & Slack / Discord Notifications:** Send security alerts to email and webhook channels.
19. **Scheduled Security Reports:** Send daily, weekly, or monthly email summaries.
20. **Security Dashboard:** View score, security level, top IPs, and recent activity in one overview.

3. Installation Guide

3.1. Method 1 — Upload Plugin ZIP

1. Log in to your WordPress admin dashboard.
2. Go to Plugins > Add New.
3. Click Upload Plugin.
4. Select the Security Toolkit plugin ZIP file.
5. Click Install Now.
6. After installation, verify your plugin license and click the Activate Plugin button to complete the activation process.

Quick Tip: You can download your plugin ZIP file at any time via the following:

- The **purchase confirmation email** has been sent to your inbox.
- Your personal **Freemius account** dashboard.

3.2. Method 2 — Manual Installation

1. Place the plugin Zip file in: /wp-content/plugins/
2. Extract the plugin ZIP file.
3. Log in to WordPress Admin.
4. Go to Plugins.
5. After file upload, verify your plugin license and click the Activate Plugin button to complete the activation process.

4. Setup Guide

4.1. Getting Started

Access Plugin Settings:

- Log in to WordPress Admin.
- Navigate to: **TW Security Toolkit > Dashboard**
- Use **Settings** or each module's **Configure** tab to turn tools On and save options.

Default Behavior:

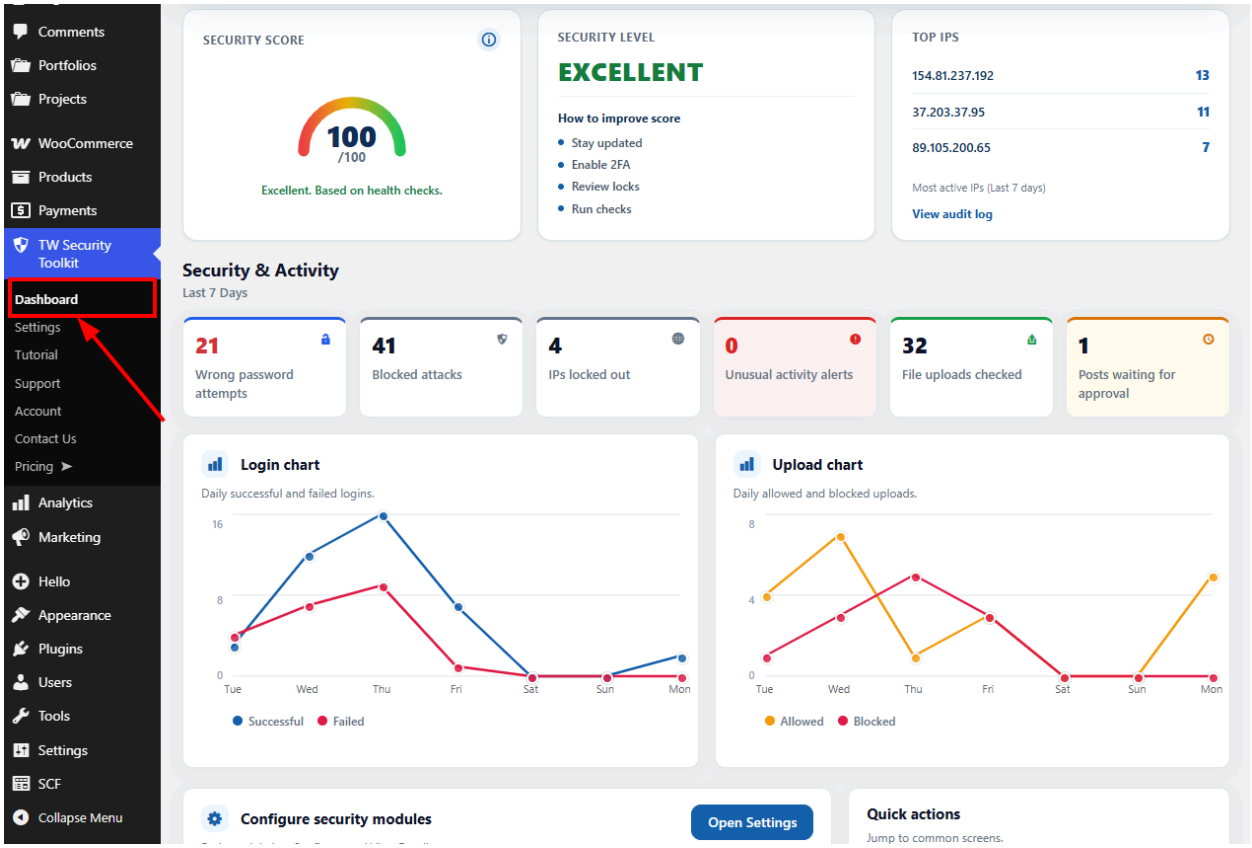
By default:

- All tools remain Off after activation.
- No login, upload, file, or content restrictions are applied until you turn a tool On and save its settings.
- The Dashboard shows an overview only after related tools start recording activity.

Recommended first steps:

1. Open the Dashboard and review the Security Score / Security Level cards.
2. Turn On **Audit Log** so activity can appear in reports and detail pages.
3. Turn On the login tools you need (Secure Login Path, Brute Force, Login Alert).
4. Run **Security Health Check** and follow the recommendations.

Backend Screenshot:



4.2. Authentication & Login Security

Access this module from:

- **TW Security Toolkit > Authentication**
- Or open each feature from Settings / Configure

4.2.1. Login Alert & Tracker

Login Alert & Tracker records last login times and can email the site admin after successful logins.

How It Works

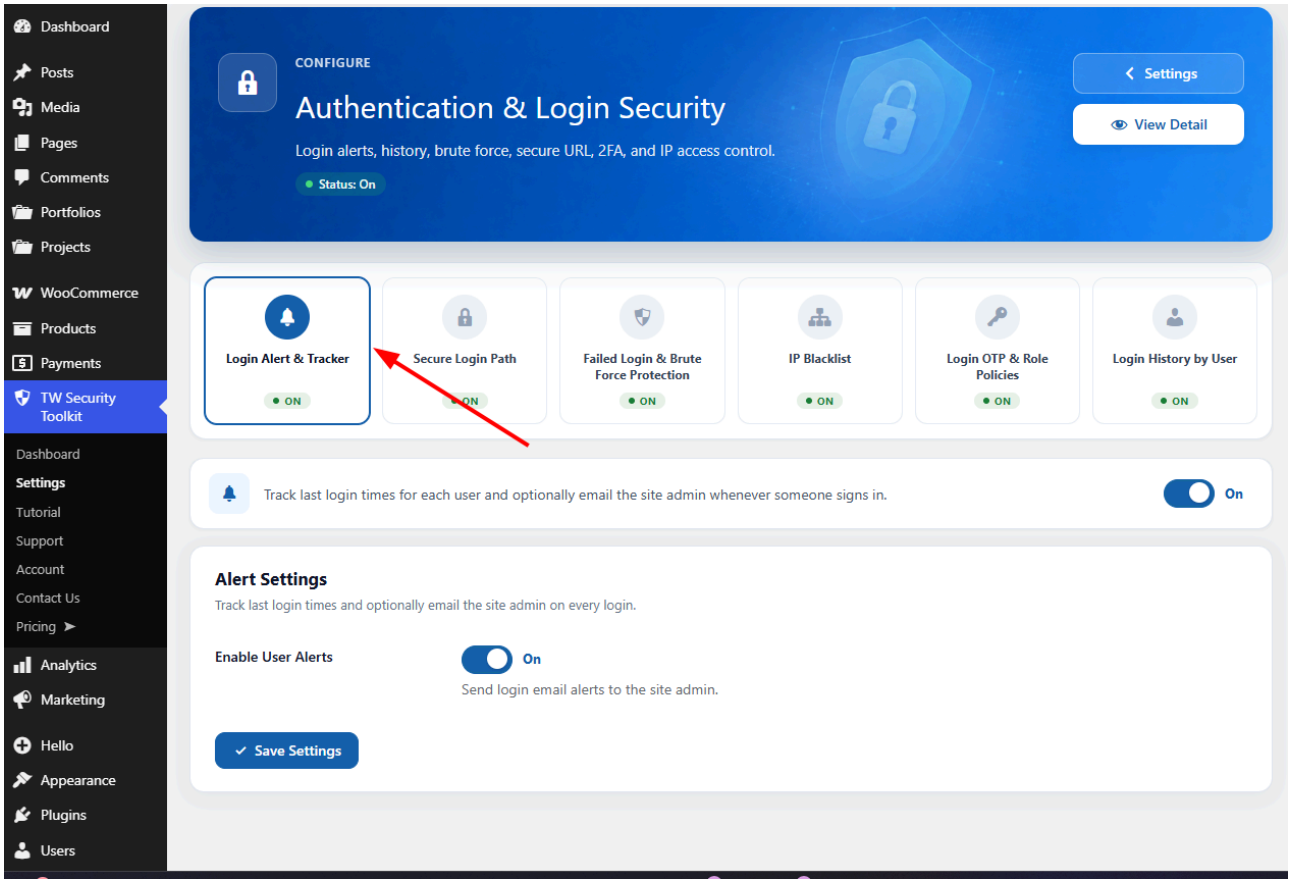
When enabled:

- Each successful login updates the user's last login time.
- An optional alert email can be sent to the site admin.
- A **Last Login** column appears in the Users list.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Login Alert & Tracker** On.
2. Enable login email alerts if needed.
3. Save settings.

Backend Screenshot:



4.2.2. Secure Login Path

Secure Login Path hides the default WordPress login URL behind a custom slug.

This helps reduce automated attacks that target /wp-login.php and /wp-admin.

How It Works

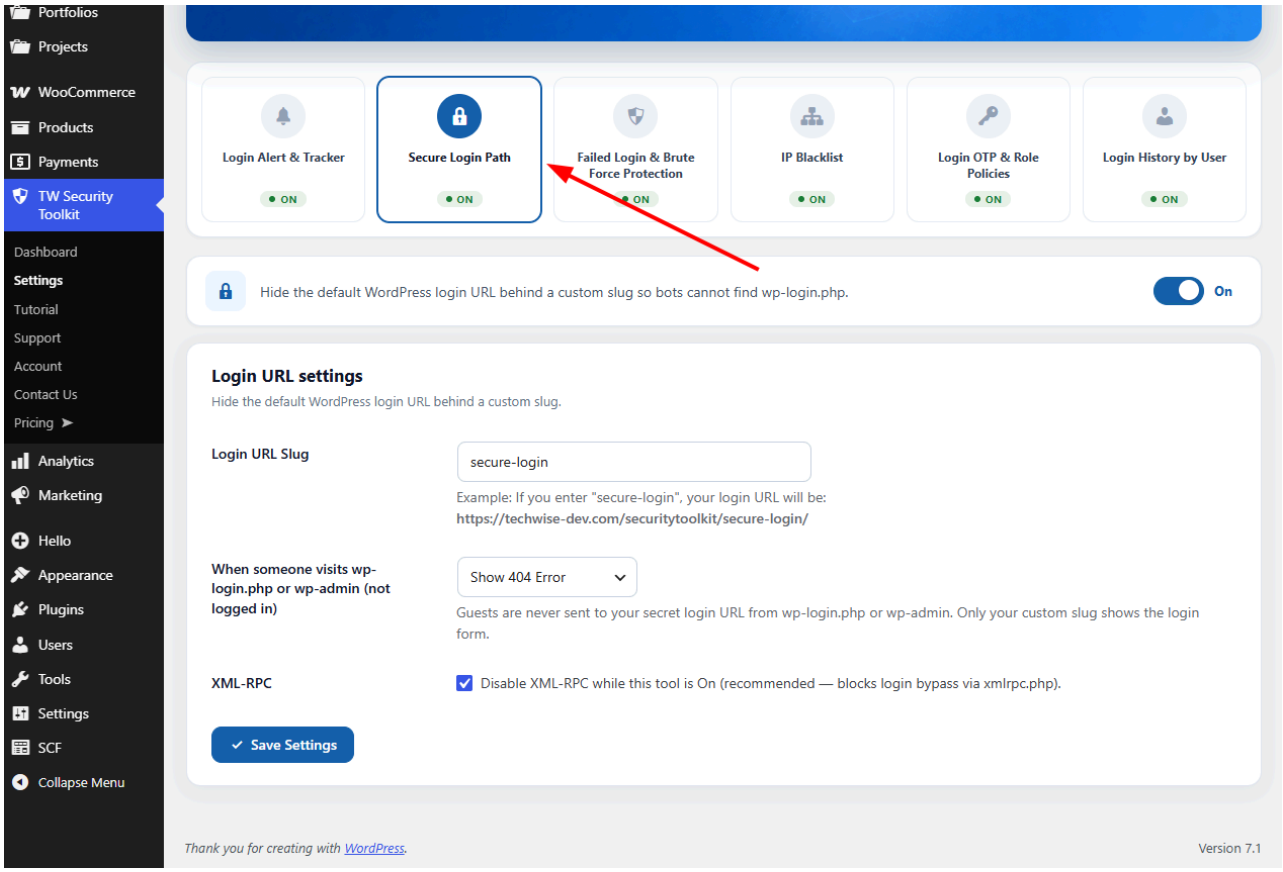
When enabled:

- Guests who open wp-login.php or wp-admin see a 404 page or are redirected to the home page (your choice).
- Only your custom login slug shows the login form.
- Guests are never redirected to the secret login URL.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Secure Login Path** On.
2. Set the custom login slug.
3. Choose old-URL behavior (404 or redirect home).
4. Save settings.
5. Go to **Settings > Permalinks > Save Changes**.
6. Bookmark the new login URL in a safe place.

Backend Screenshot:



4.2.3. Failed Login & Brute Force Protection

Brute Force Protection locks an IP after too many failed password attempts.

How It Works

When enabled:

- Failed logins are counted per IP inside your chosen time window.
- When the limit is reached, the IP is locked for the lockout period.

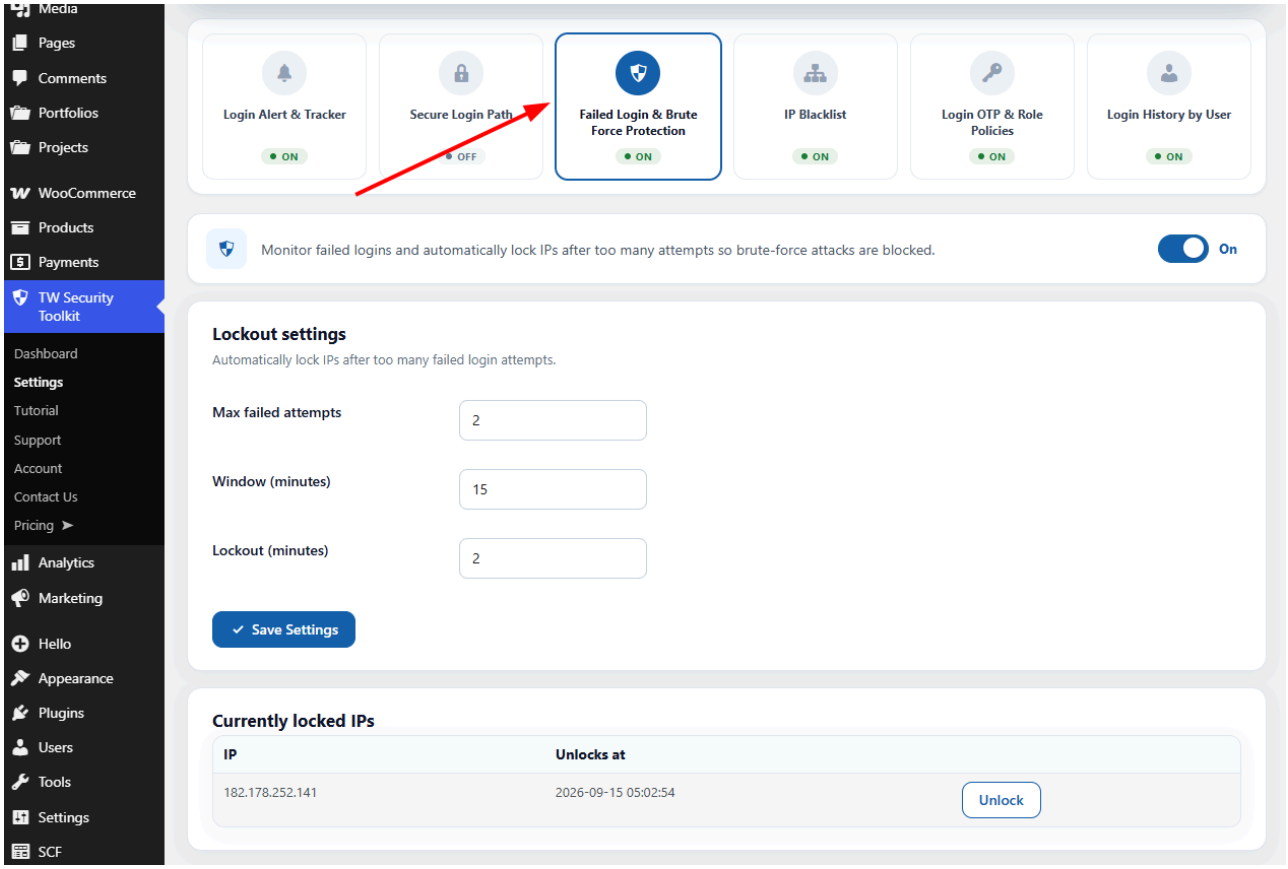
- A successful login clears the fail counter for that IP.
- Currently locked IPs can be unlocked from Settings.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Failed Login & Brute Force Protection** On.
2. Set max attempts, time window, and lockout length.
3. Save settings.
4. Review locked IPs and unlock any trusted address if needed.

Careful: If your own IP is locked, unlock it from Settings.

Backend Screenshot:



4.2.4. IP Blacklist

IP Blacklist blocks visitors whose IP addresses appear on your list.

How It Works

When enabled:

- Listed visitor IPs receive a 403 Access denied response.
- Logged-in administrators are never blocked.
- You cannot blacklist your own current IP.

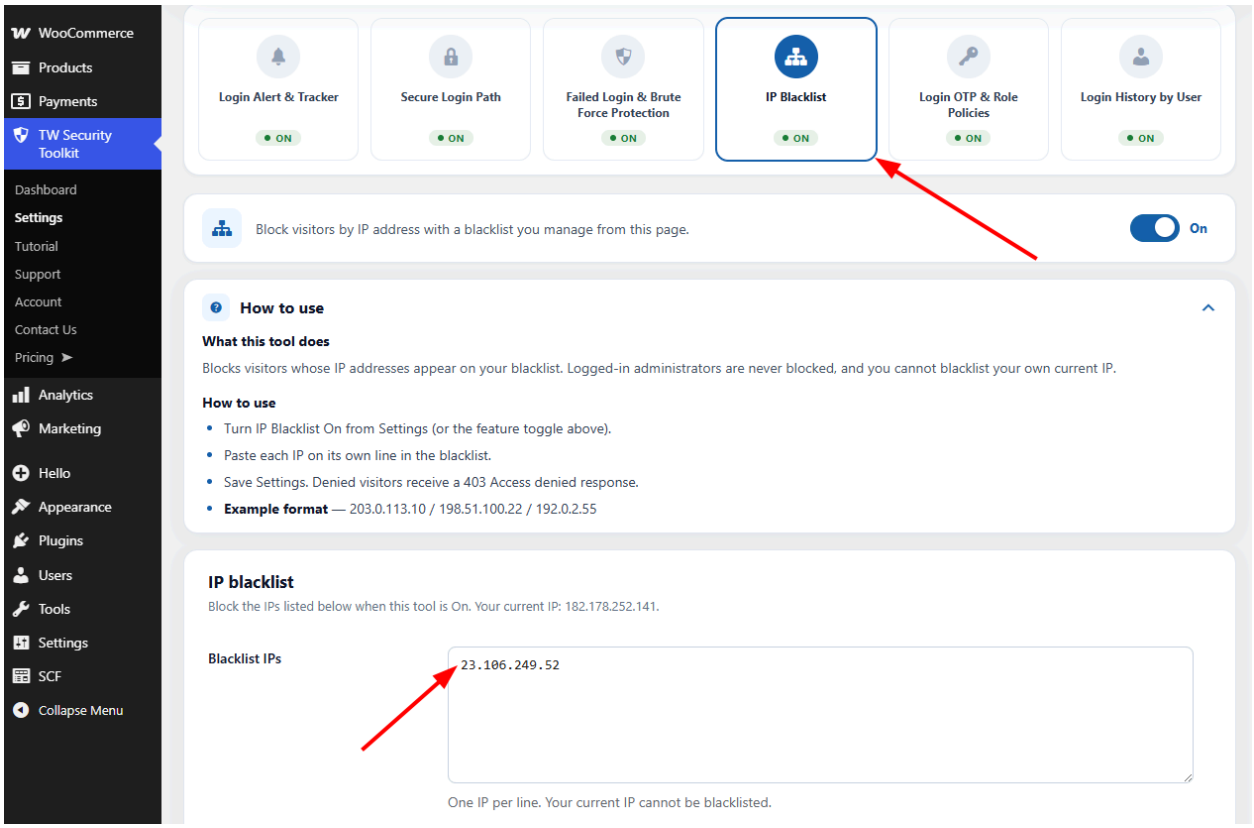
Steps to Enable

1. Turn **IP Blacklist** On.
2. Turn **Block listed IPs** On.
3. Paste one IP per line.
4. Save settings.

Example format:

203.0.113.10
198.51.100.22
192.0.2.55

Backend Screenshot:



4.2.5. Login OTP & Role Policies

Login OTP adds a second step after password login using a 6-digit email code.

How It Works

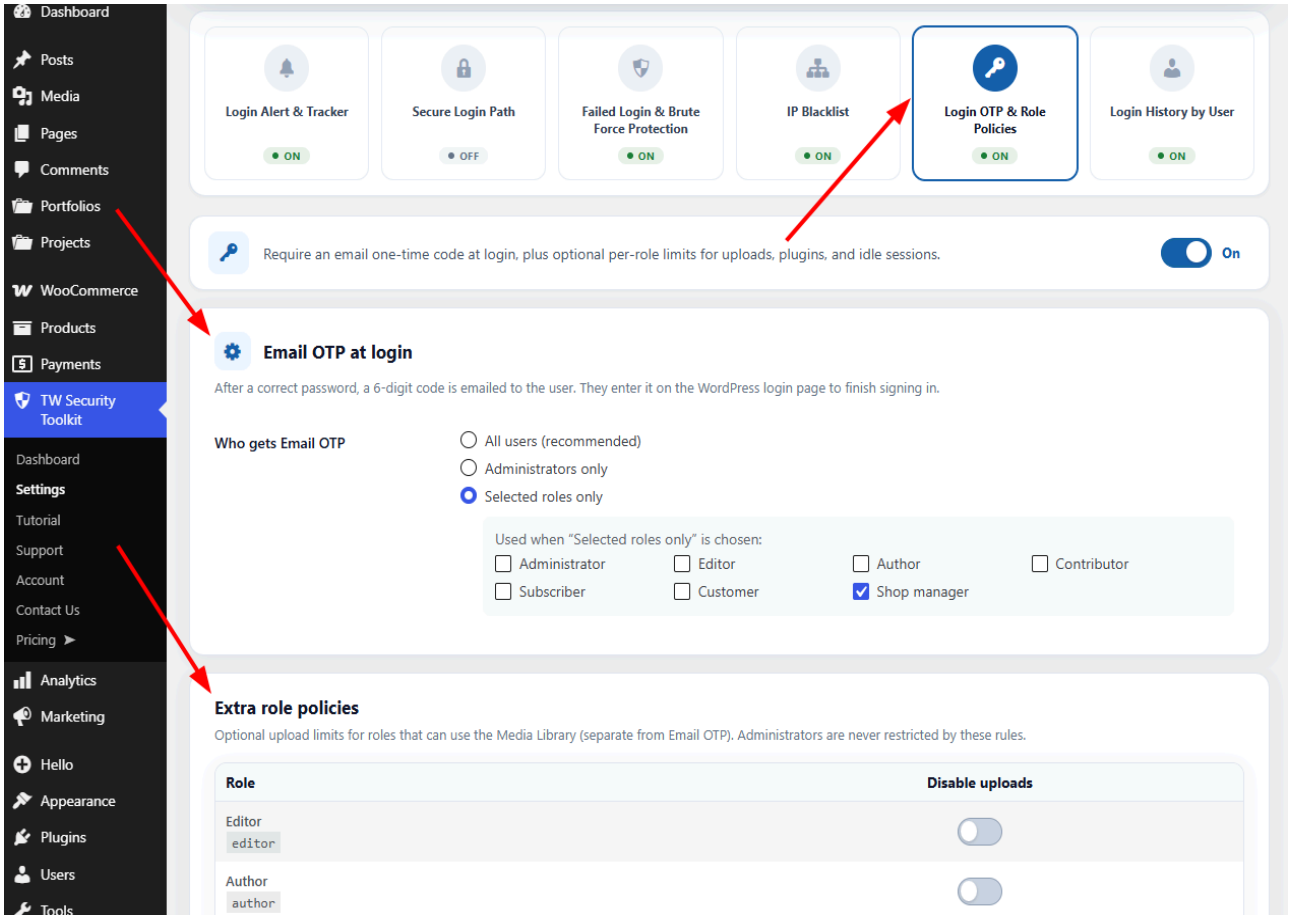
When enabled:

- After a correct password, an OTP email is sent.
- The user must enter the code on the login form.
- You can require OTP for all users, administrators only, or selected roles.
- Optional role policies can limit extra actions (for example uploads).
- Administrators are never limited by the optional role policies.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Login OTP & Role Policies** On.
2. Choose the Email OTP scope.
3. Optionally enable role policies.
4. Save settings.
5. Test login: password → email code → enter code.

Backend Screenshot:



4.2.6. Login History by User

Login History shows successful, failed, and logout events in one place.

How It Works

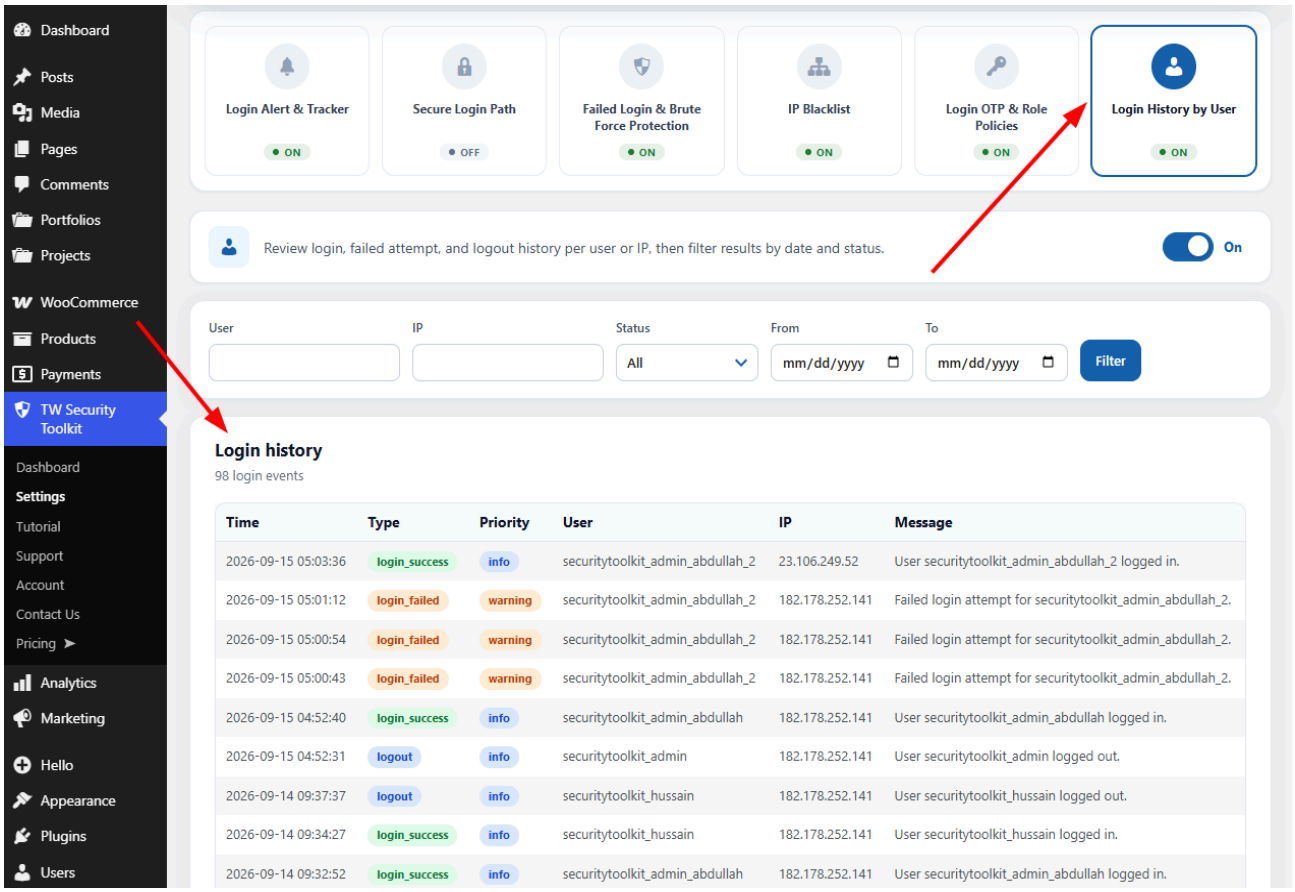
When enabled:

- Login-related events are listed with user, IP, status, and date.
- You can filter by username, IP, status, and date range.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Login History by User** On.
2. Review Login History table to monitor login activity.
3. Optionally use filters to review login activity.

Backend Screenshot:



4.3. Content Workflow

Access this module from:

- **TW Security Toolkit > Content Workflow**

4.3.1. Post Modifier Tracker

Post Modifier Tracker shows who last modified content in the admin lists.

How It Works

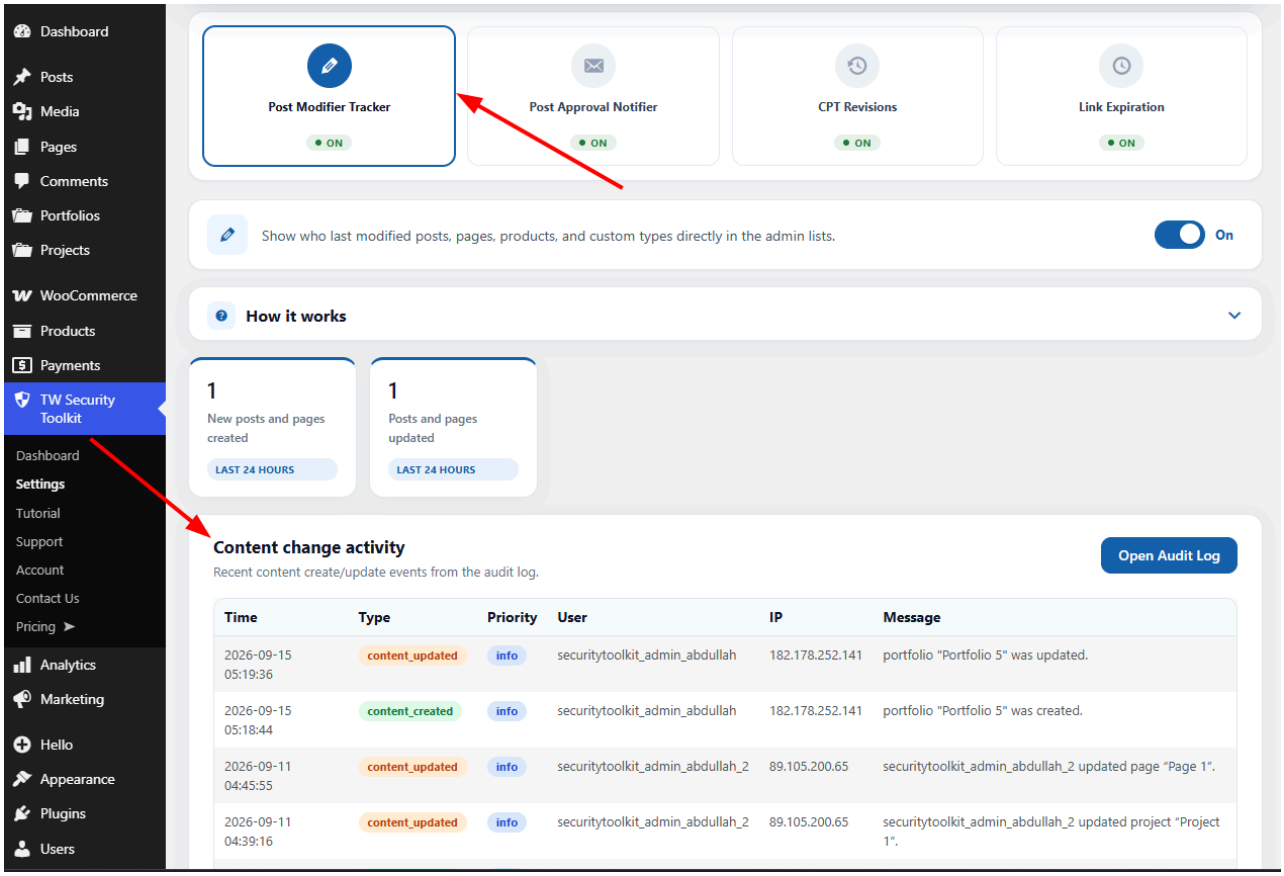
When enabled:

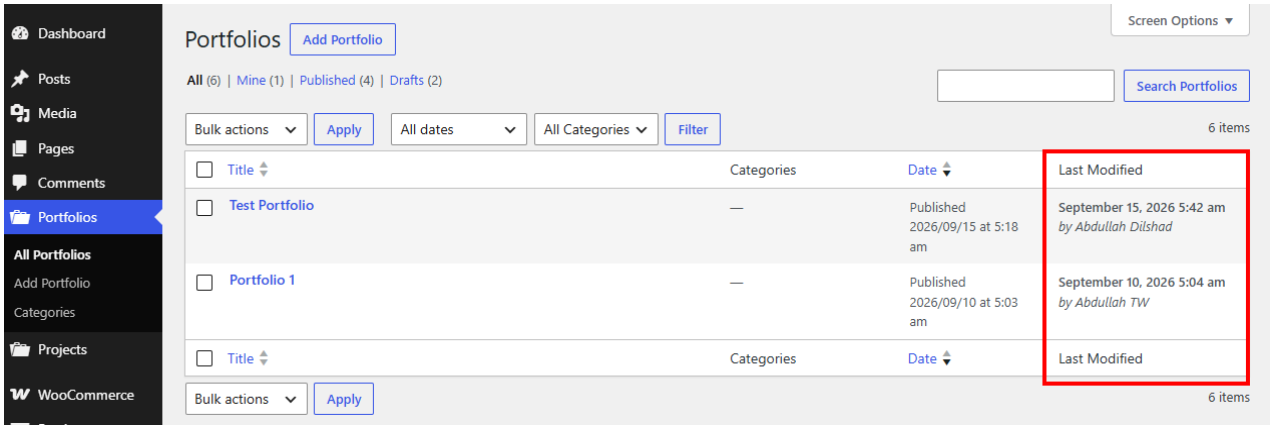
- The last modifier is stored when content is updated.
- List tables show a Last Modified column with date, time, and user.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Post Modifier Tracker** On.
2. Open Posts, Pages, or custom post type lists.
3. Review the Last Modified column.

Backend Screenshot:





4.3.2. Post Approval Notifier

Post Approval Notifier emails the administrator when another user publishes content.

How It Works

When enabled:

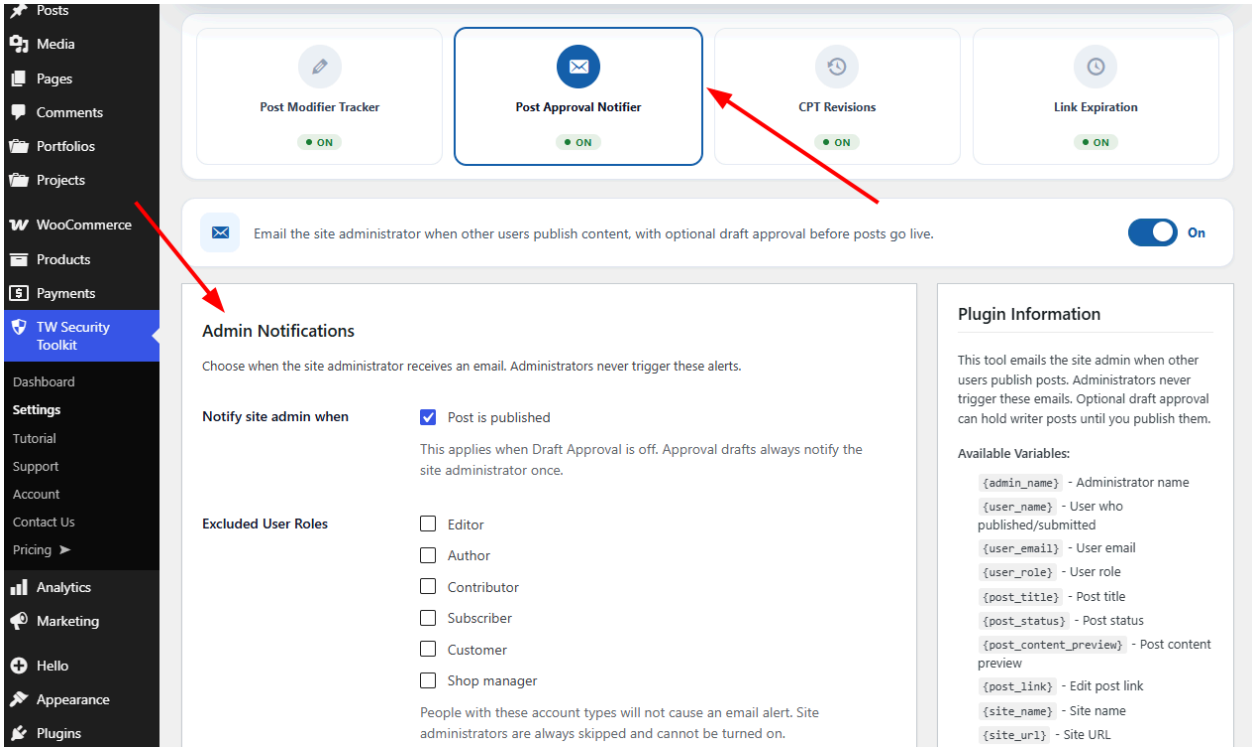
- Publish events can trigger a customized email.

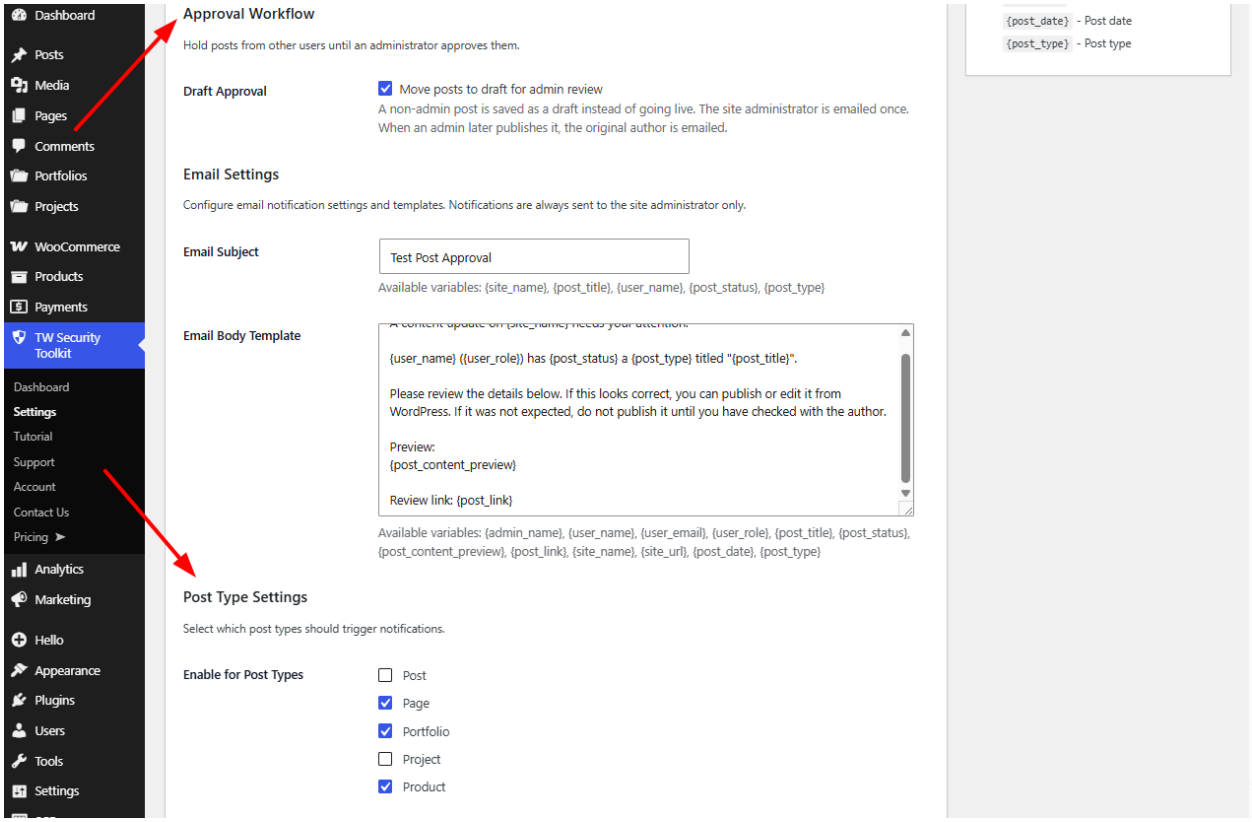
- You can choose post types and excluded roles.
- Optional Draft Approval can hold writer posts until an admin publishes them.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Post Approval Notifier** On.
2. Open **Configure**.
3. Enable publish alerts and/or Draft Approval.
4. Choose post types and excluded roles.
5. Save settings.

Backend Screenshot:





4.3.3. CPT Revisions

CPT Revisions lets you enable or disable WordPress revisions for custom post types.

How It Works

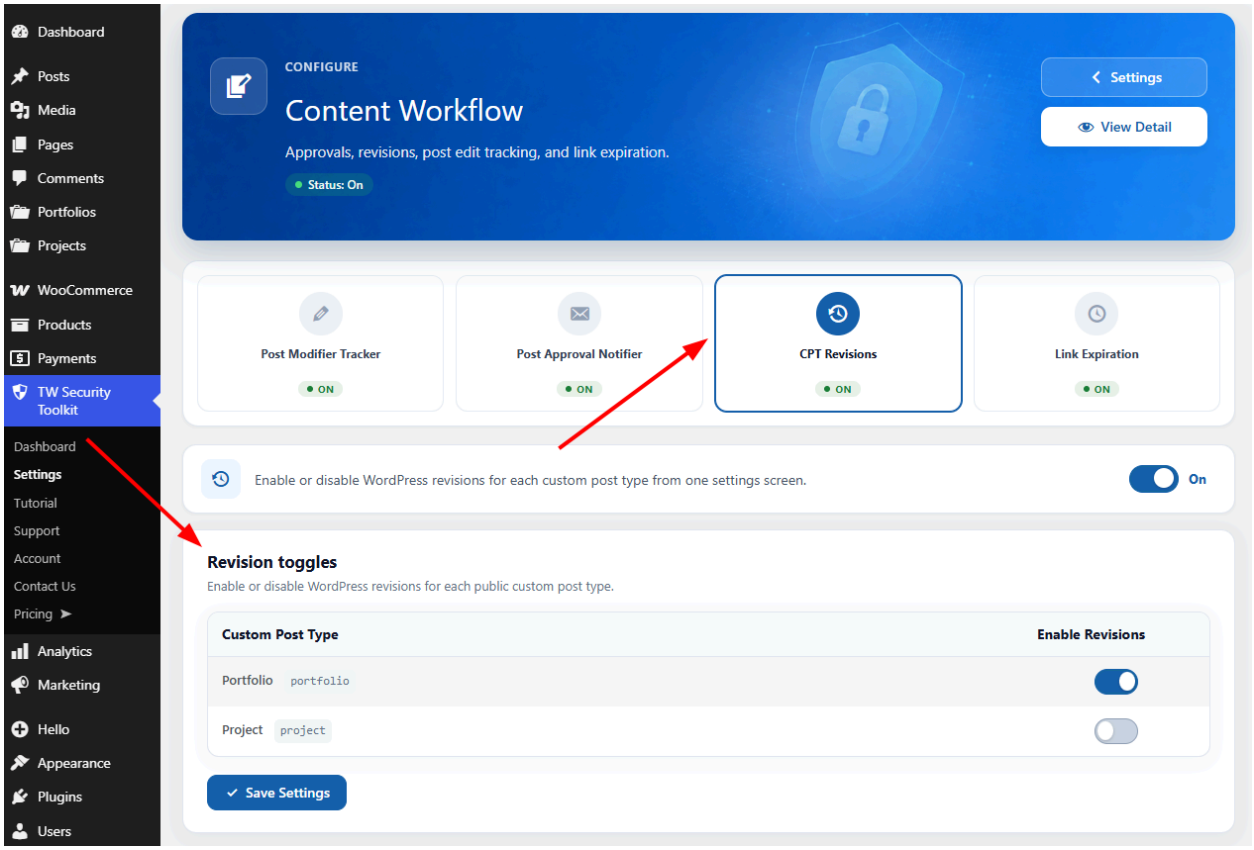
When enabled:

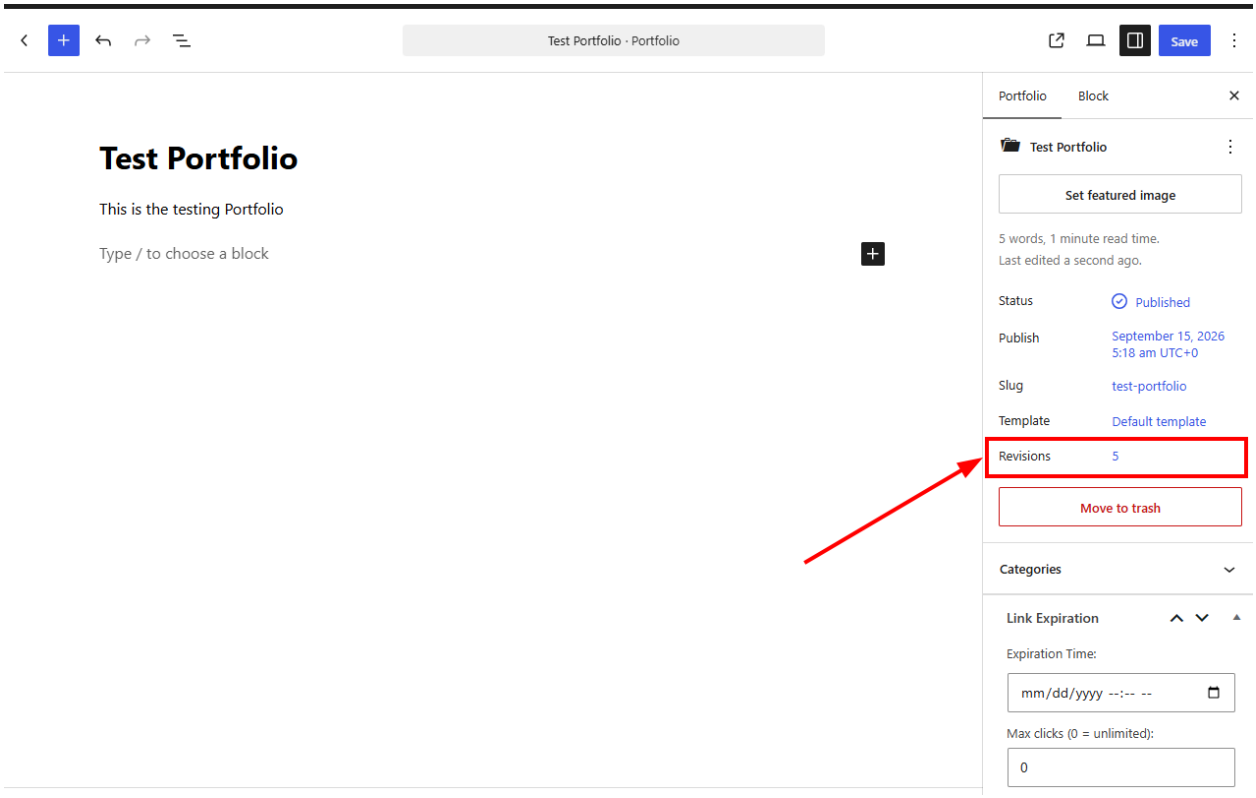
- Nothing changes until you save settings.
- Built-in Post/Page and WooCommerce products are not listed.
- Only checked custom post types keep revisions.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **CPT Revisions** On.
2. Check the custom post types that should keep revisions.
3. Save settings.

Backend Screenshot:


Dashboard
Posts
Media
Pages
Comments
Portfolios
Projects
WooCommerce
Products
Payments
TW Security Toolkit
Dashboard
Settings
Tutorial
Support
Account
Contact Us
Pricing
Analytics
Marketing
Hello
Appearance
Plugins
Users
CONFIGURE
Content Workflow
Approvals, revisions, post edit tracking, and link expiration.
Status: On
Settings
View Detail
Post Modifier Tracker
ON
Post Approval Notifier
ON
CPT Revisions
ON
Link Expiration
ON
Enable or disable WordPress revisions for each custom post type from one settings screen.
On
Revision toggles
Enable or disable WordPress revisions for each public custom post type.
Custom Post Type
Enable Revisions
Portfolio
portfolio
Project
project
Save Settings


Test Portfolio · Portfolio
Save
Test Portfolio
This is the testing Portfolio
Type / to choose a block
Portfolio
Block
Test Portfolio
Set featured image
5 words, 1 minute read time.
Last edited a second ago.
Status
Published
Publish
September 15, 2026
5:18 am UTC+0
Slug
test-portfolio
Template
Default template
Revisions
5
Move to trash
Categories
Link Expiration
Expiration Time:
mm/dd/yyyy --:-- --
Max clicks (0 = unlimited):
0

4.3.4. Link Expiration

Link Expiration expires content by date/time and/or maximum clicks.

How It Works

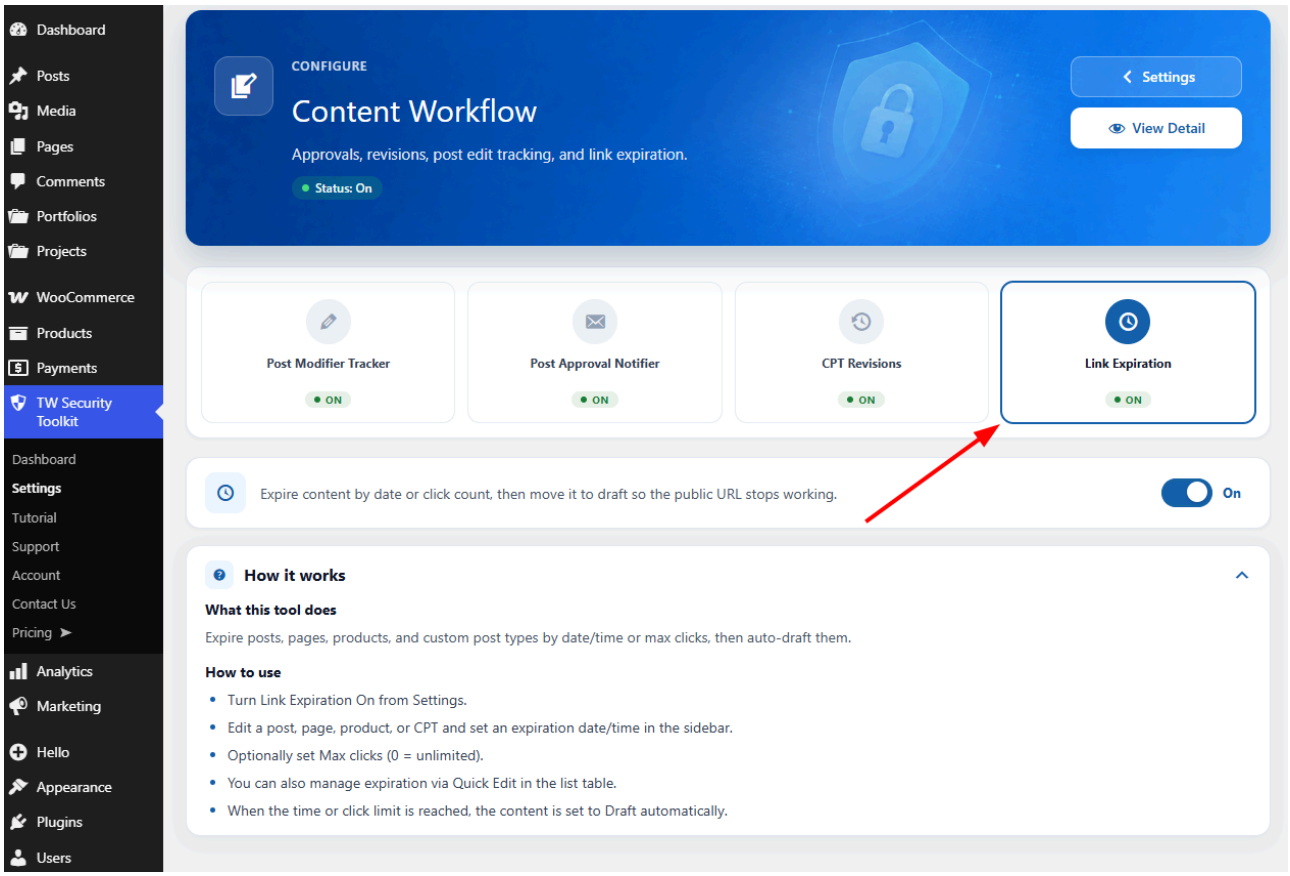
When enabled:

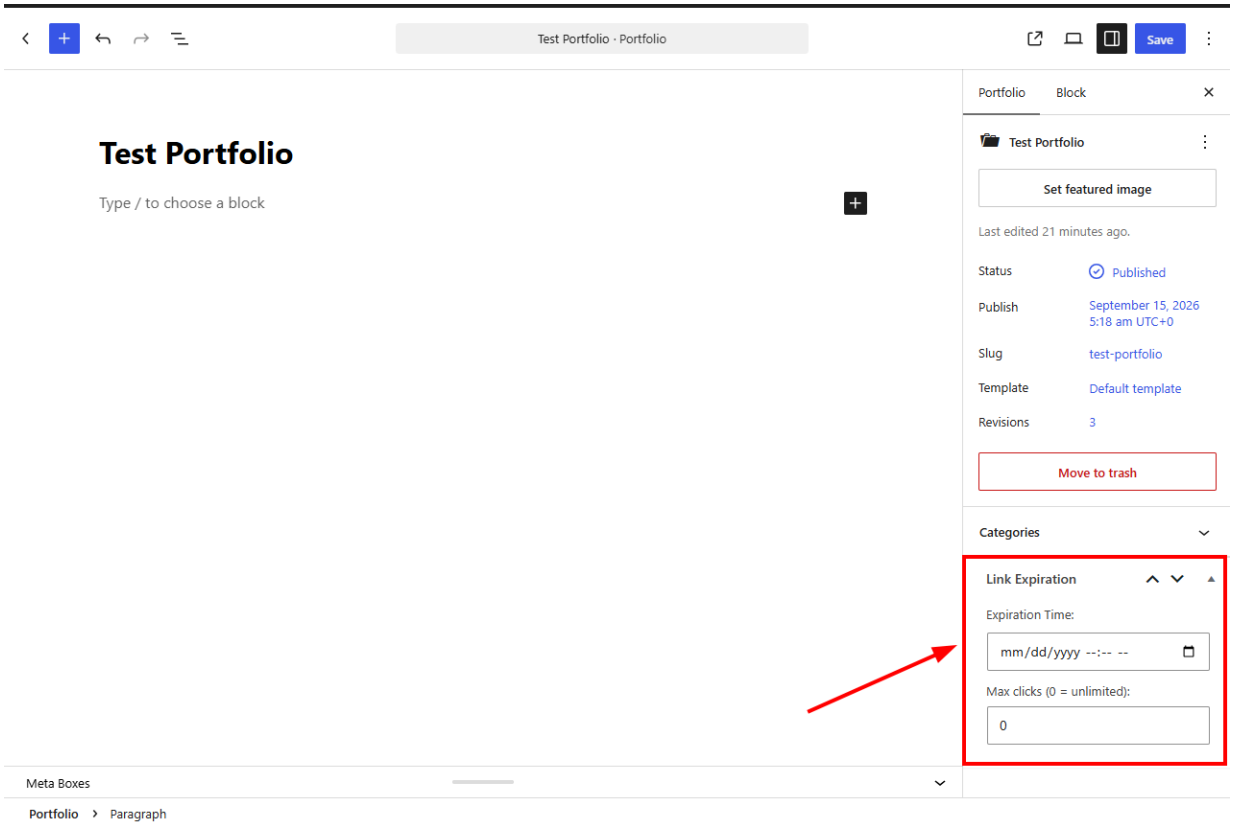
- Expiration rules are stored with the content.
- When the time or click limit is reached, the content moves to Draft.
- The public URL stops working (404).
- You can manage rules from the editor sidebar or Quick Edit.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Link Expiration** On.
2. Edit a post or page.
3. Set expiry date/time and/or Max clicks (0 = unlimited clicks).
4. Update the content.

Backend Screenshot:





4.4. Site Protection

Access this module from:

- **TW Security Toolkit > Site Protection**

4.4.1. Disable File Editor

Disable File Editor blocks the Theme File Editor and Plugin File Editor.

How It Works

When enabled:

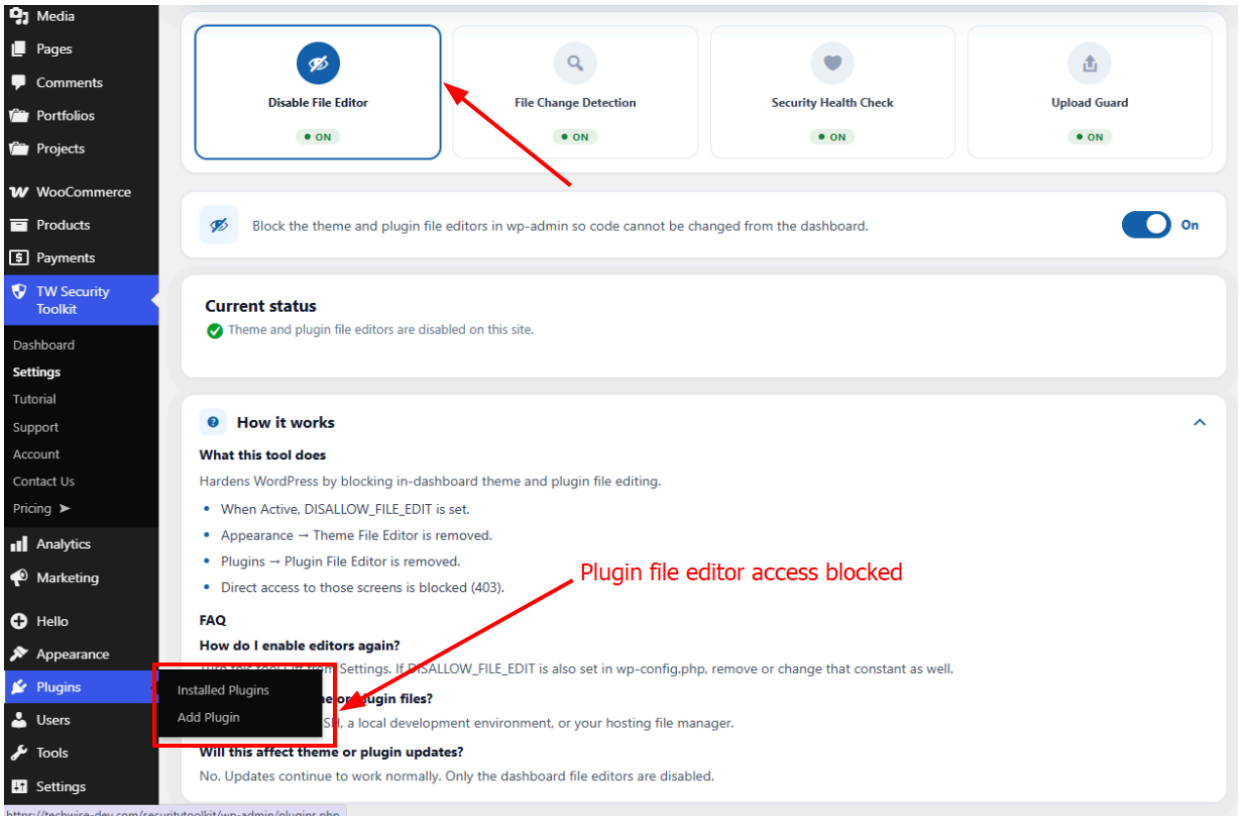
- Theme and plugin file editors are disabled in wp-admin.
- Related menu items are removed.
- Direct access attempts are blocked.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Disable File Editor** On.
2. Now You will see theme and plugin file editor are blocked

3. No extra settings are required.

Backend Screenshot:



4.4.2. File Change Detection

File Change Detection watches important WordPress files for unexpected changes.

How It Works

When enabled:

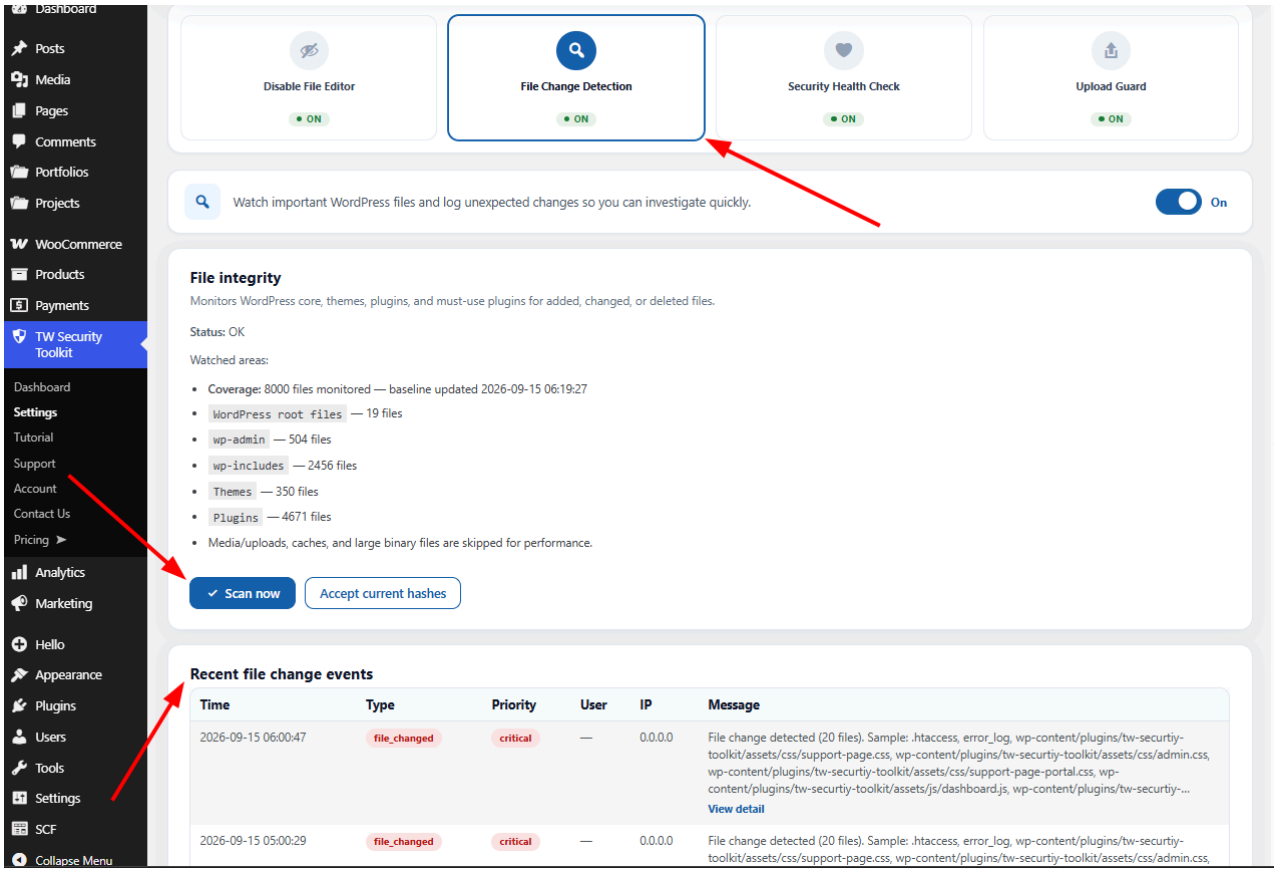
- A baseline of file hashes is stored.
- Automatic scans run on a schedule, and you can also scan manually.
- Status can show OK, Changed, or Unknown.
- After intentional updates, accept the current hashes to reset the baseline.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **File Change Detection** On.
2. Run **Scan now**.
3. Accept the baseline hashes.

4. Re-scan after major updates and accept hashes again when changes are expected.

Backend Screenshot:



4.4.3. Security Health Check

Security Health Check scans your site and shows a score with recommendations.

How It Works

When enabled:

- You can run a security scan from Configure.
- Results show severity, status, and recommended fixes.
- The Dashboard Security Score uses the latest health check when available.
- Optional blocking can help protect public access to sensitive files such as readme.html and license.txt.

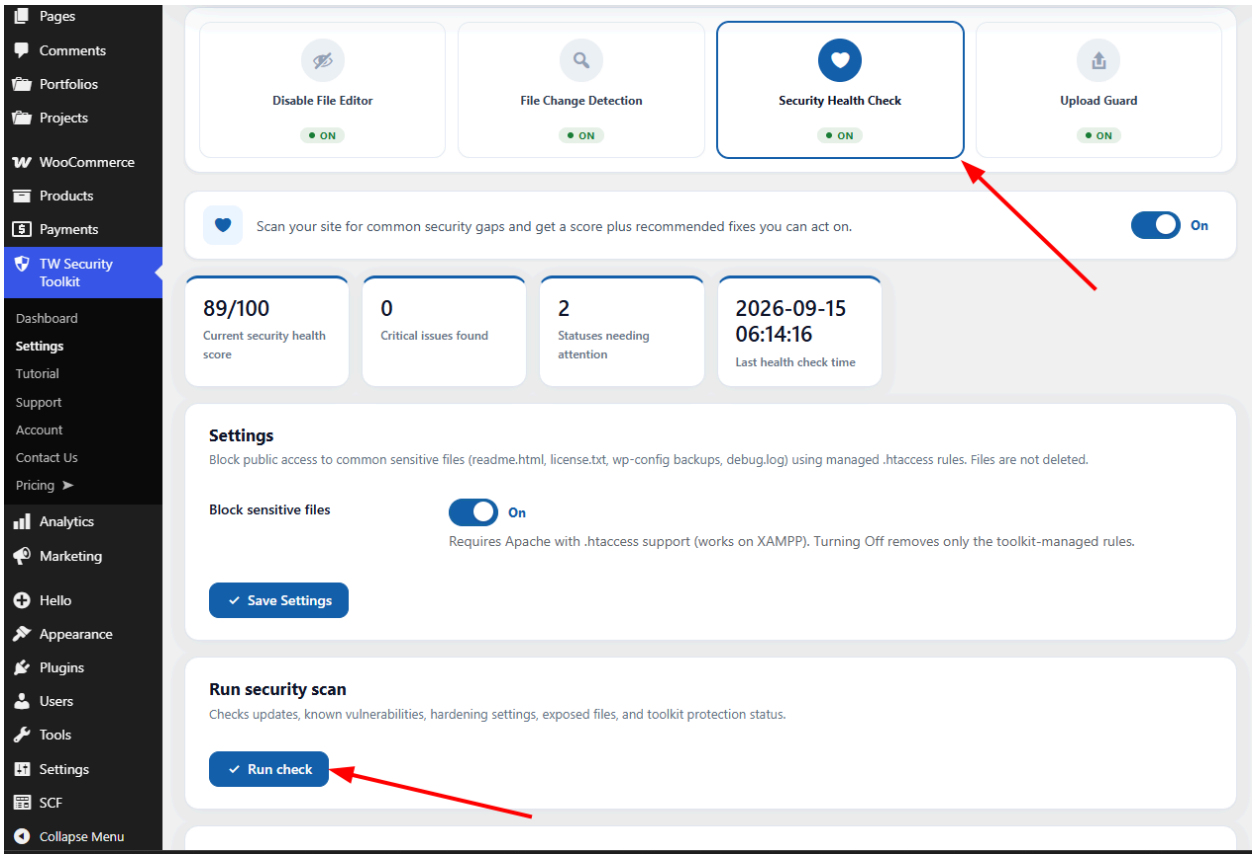
Steps to Enable

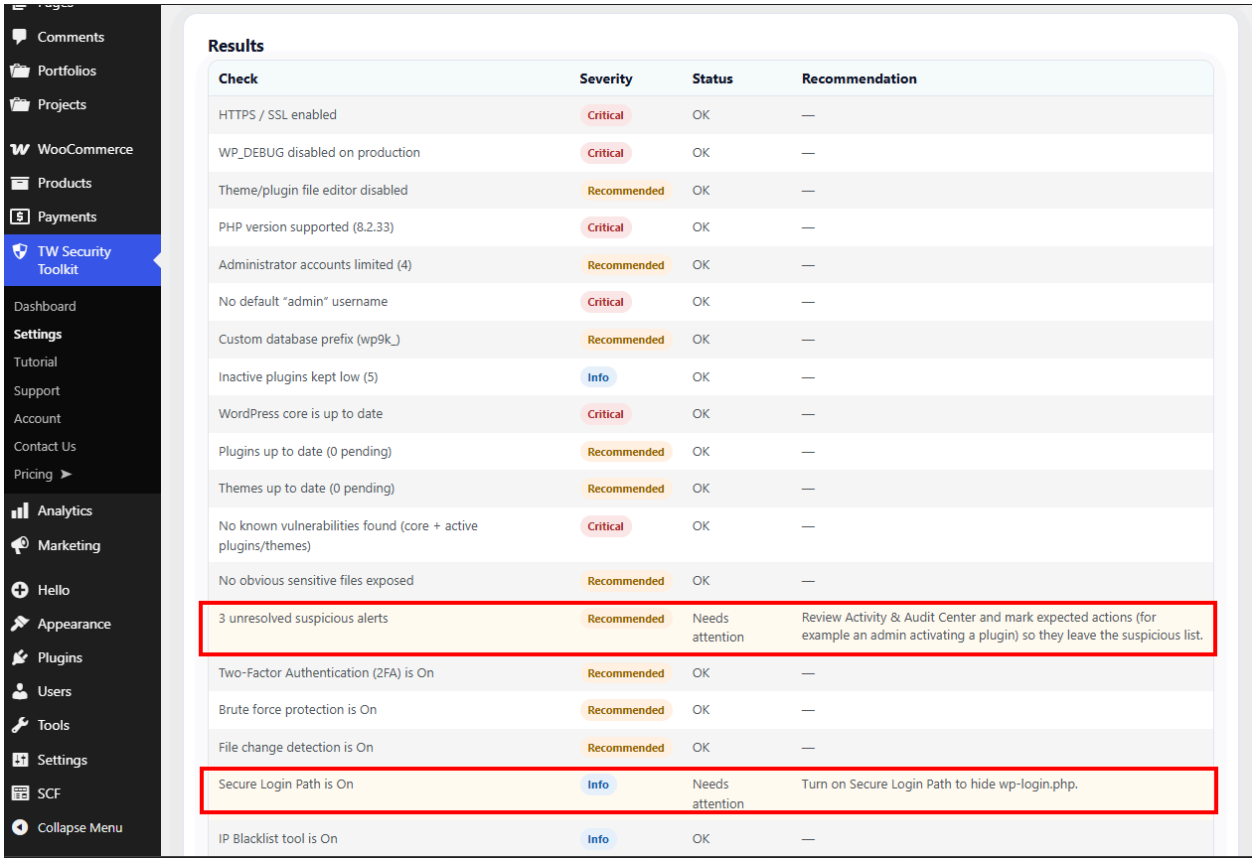
1. Turn **Security Health Check** On.

2. Optionally enable **Block sensitive files**.
3. Click **Run check**.
4. Fix recommended items, then run the check again.

Note: The **Run check** button stays disabled until Security Health Check is turned On.

Backend Screenshot:





4.4.4. Upload Guard

Upload Guard limits uploads by size, MIME type, and image dimensions.

How It Works

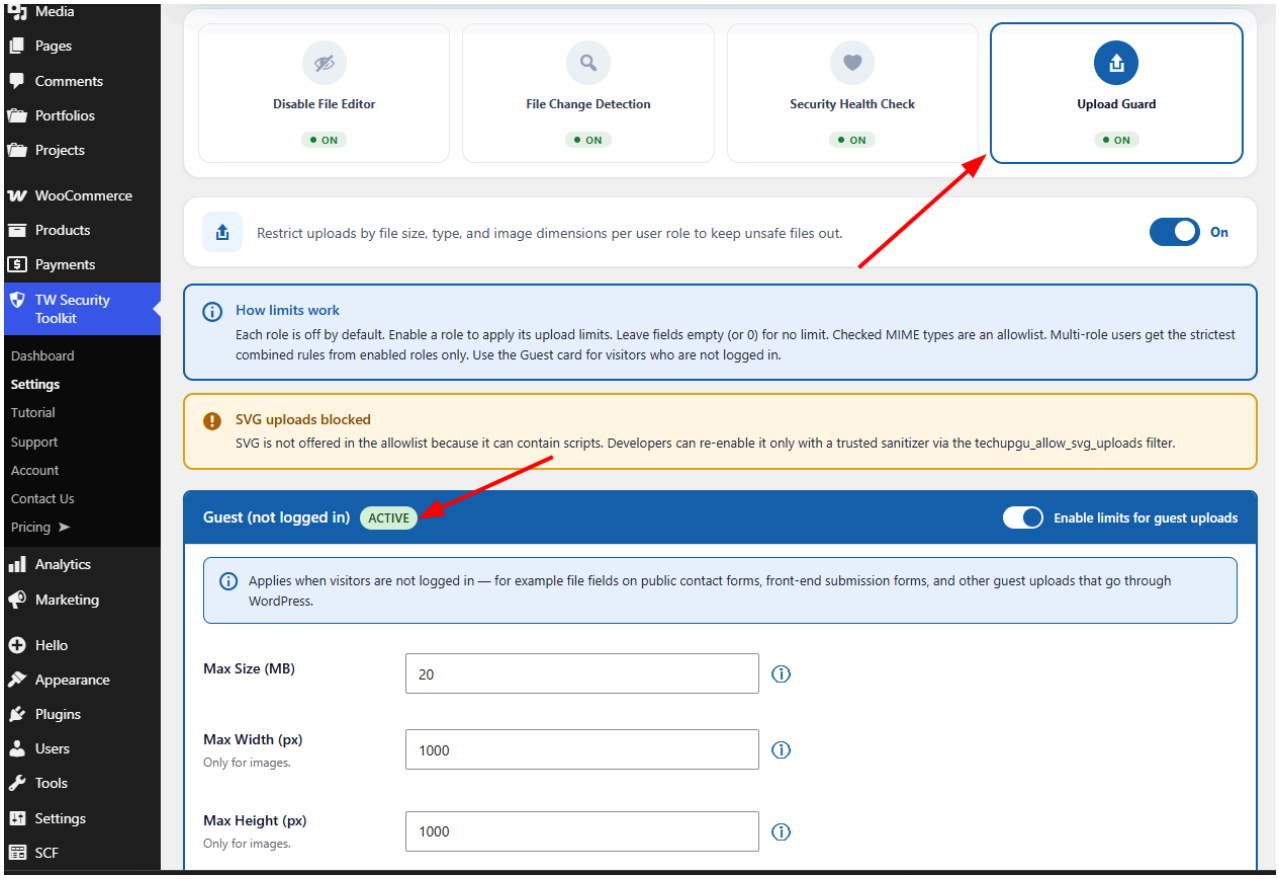
When enabled:

- Checks apply to Media Library uploads and guest uploads where supported.
- Rules can be set per role, including Guest.
- Empty or 0 values mean no limit for that field.
- Multi-role users follow the strictest combined rules from enabled roles.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Upload Guard** On.
2. Open **Configure**.
3. Enable each role or Guest you want to restrict.
4. Set size, dimensions, and allowed MIME types.
5. Save settings.

Backend Screenshot:



4.5. Monitoring & Alerts

Access this module from:

- **TW Security Toolkit > Monitoring & Alerts**

4.5.1. Complete Audit Log

Complete Audit Log records important site actions in a searchable admin table.

How It Works

When enabled:

- Key events are stored and listed with filters.
- You can filter by type, date range, and search text.
- Exports to CSV or PDF respect the current filters.

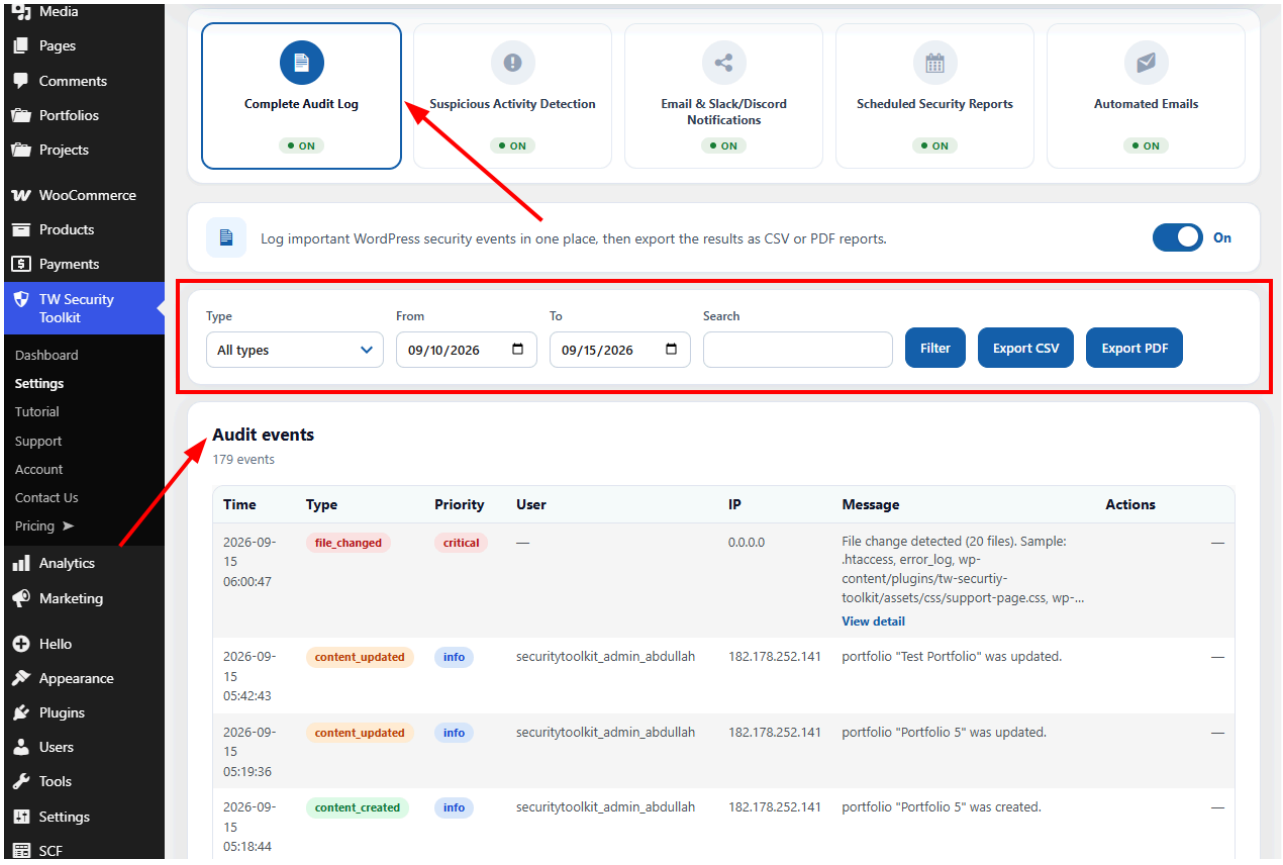
Typical events include:

- Successful / failed logins and logouts
- Post and page updates
- Plugin and theme activate, deactivate, and update actions
- User create, role change, and delete actions
- IP locks, IP blocks, and other high-value security events

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Complete Audit Log** On.
2. Open the Audit Log screen.
3. Use filters to review activity.
4. Export CSV or PDF when needed.

Backend Screenshot:



4.5.2. Suspicious Activity Detection

Suspicious Activity Detection watches for unusual security patterns.

How It Works

When enabled, the tool can detect:

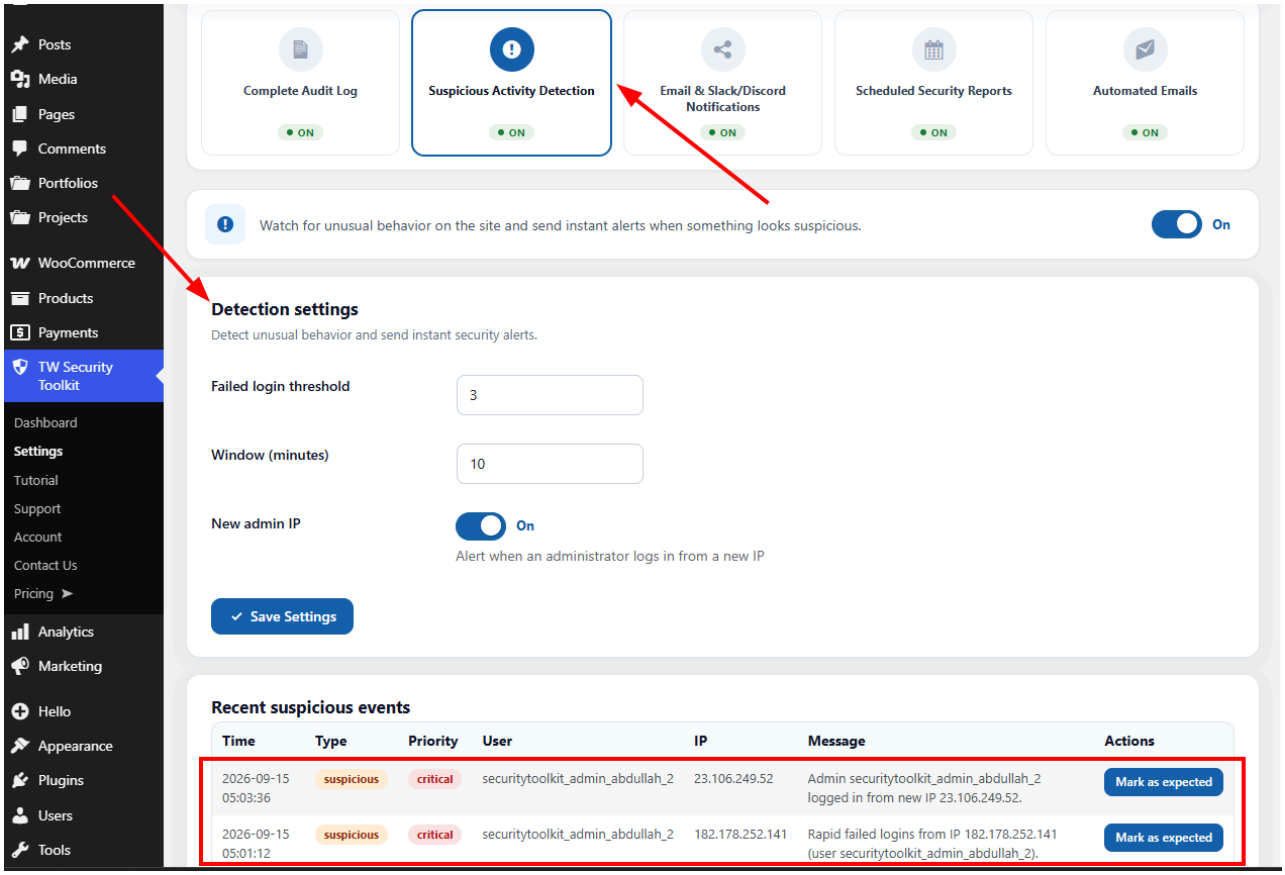
- Failed logins over a threshold in a short window
- Administrator login from a new IP (optional)
- New administrator accounts
- Plugin activations
- File editors enabled while Disable File Editor is Active

Matched events are logged and can also be sent through Notifications when that tool is On.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Suspicious Activity Detection** On.
2. Review detection options.
3. Save settings.

Backend Screenshot:



4.5.3. Email & Slack / Discord Notifications

Notifications send security alerts when important events happen.

How It Works

When enabled:

- Alerts can go to Email, Slack webhook, and/or Discord webhook.
- Only official webhook URLs are supported for Slack and Discord.
- You can choose a minimum severity, such as warning and above or critical only.

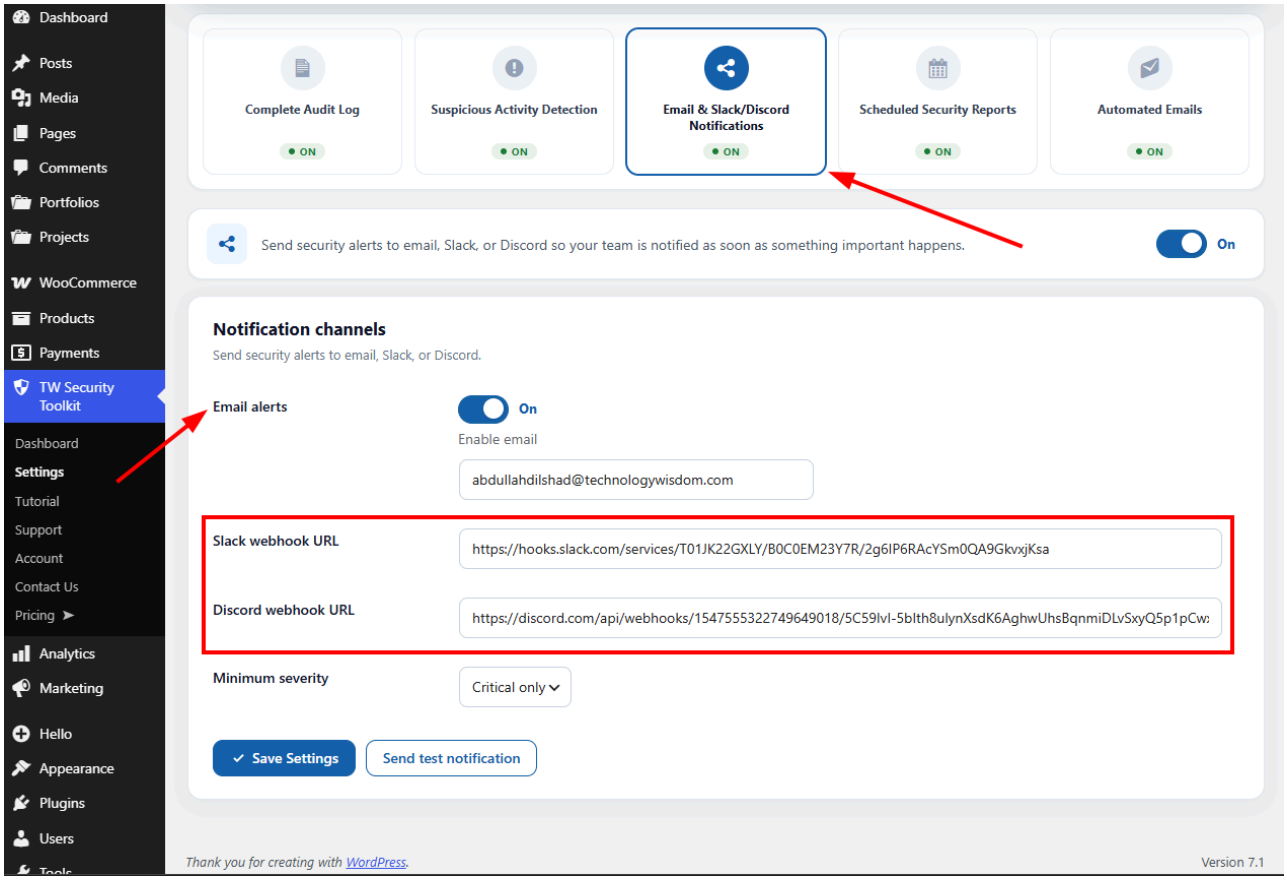
Typical triggers include:

- IP locks
- Suspicious activity
- File changes
- OTP failures
- Other high-severity events

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Notifications** On.
2. Enable email and/or paste webhook URLs.
3. Choose severity settings.
4. Save settings.
5. Optionally send a test notification.

Backend Screenshot:



4.5.4. Scheduled Security Reports

Scheduled Reports send a summary email on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule.

How It Works

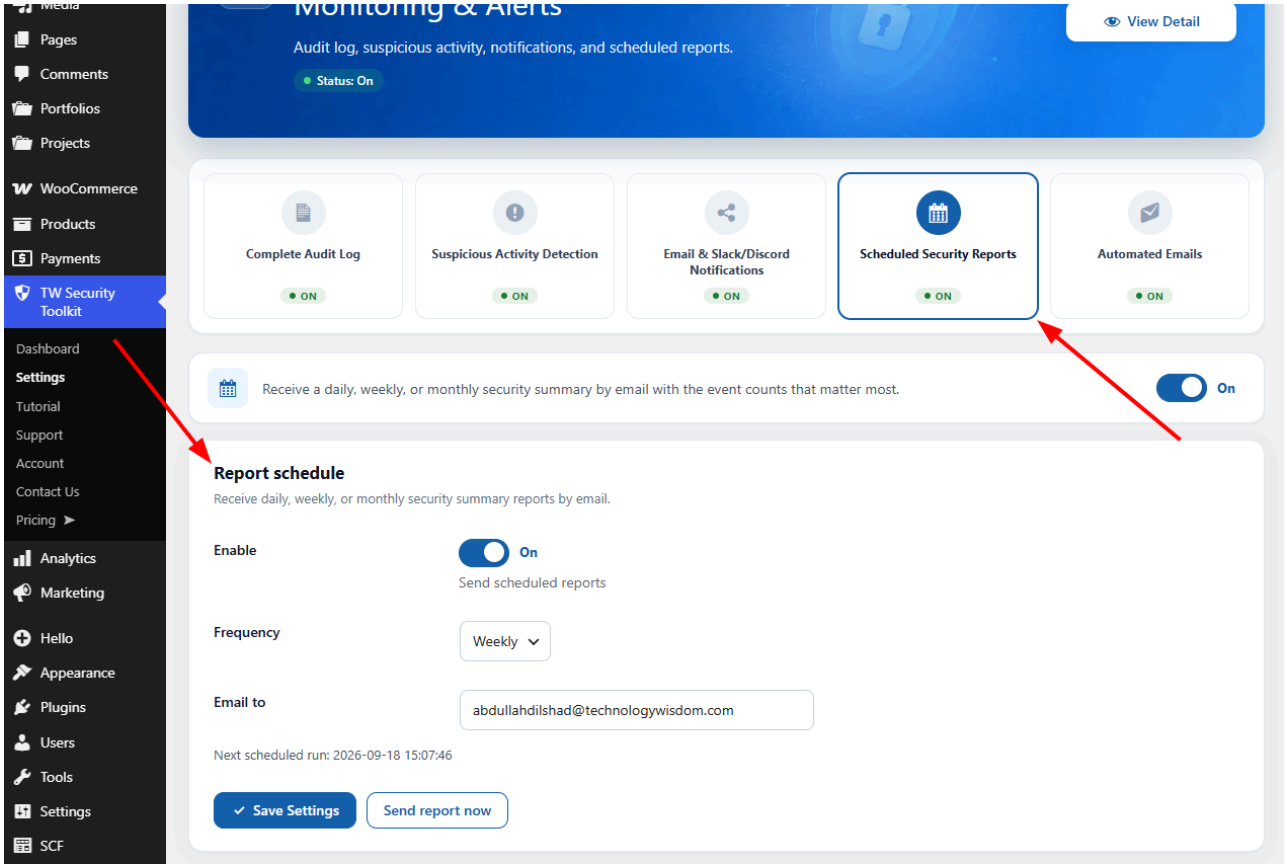
When enabled:

- Reports can include logins, suspicious events, file changes, and health score.
- WordPress cron handles the schedule.
- You can send a report immediately for testing.
- On low-traffic sites, cron runs when the site is visited.

Steps to Enable

1. Turn **Scheduled Security Reports** On.
2. Choose frequency and recipient Email.
3. Save settings.
4. Optionally click **Send report now**.

Backend Screenshot:



4.5.5. Automated Emails

Automated Emails lets you control each email the toolkit can send, one by one.

This is useful when you want a security feature to stay On, but you do not want every related email.

How It Works

When you open this tab:

- You see a list of every automated email the plugin can send.
- Every email starts **On** by default.
- Turning one email **Off** stops that message only.
- Related security features can stay On even if their email is Off.
- Examples include locked IP alerts, suspicious activity alerts, file change alerts, login alerts, login verification codes, and post approval emails.

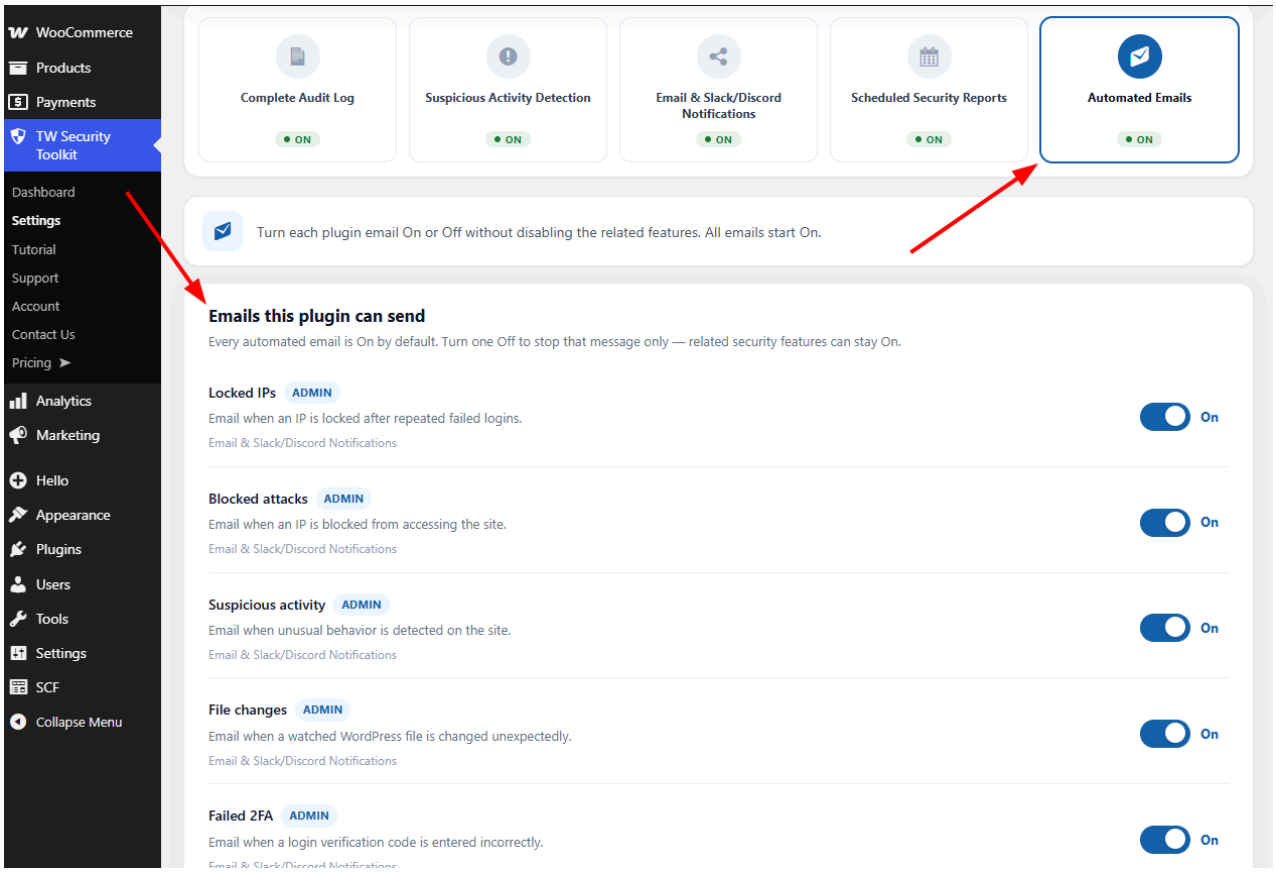
Steps to Enable / Manage

1. Turn **Automated Emails** On.
2. Review the list of emails this plugin can send.

3. Turn **Off** any message you do not want.
4. Leave the rest ON.

Note: Turning Off the **Login verification code** email will block Email OTP logins, because users will not receive the one-time code.

Backend Screenshot:



5. How to View Stats?

Each security module includes a View Detail page.

Use View Detail when you want to review activity for that module only — not the whole toolkit.

What you can see on a View Detail page:

- A short “How it works” overview for the module
- Time filters such as Last 24 hours, Last 7 days, Last 30 days, or All time
- Module stats for the selected period
- Charts and recent activity related to that module

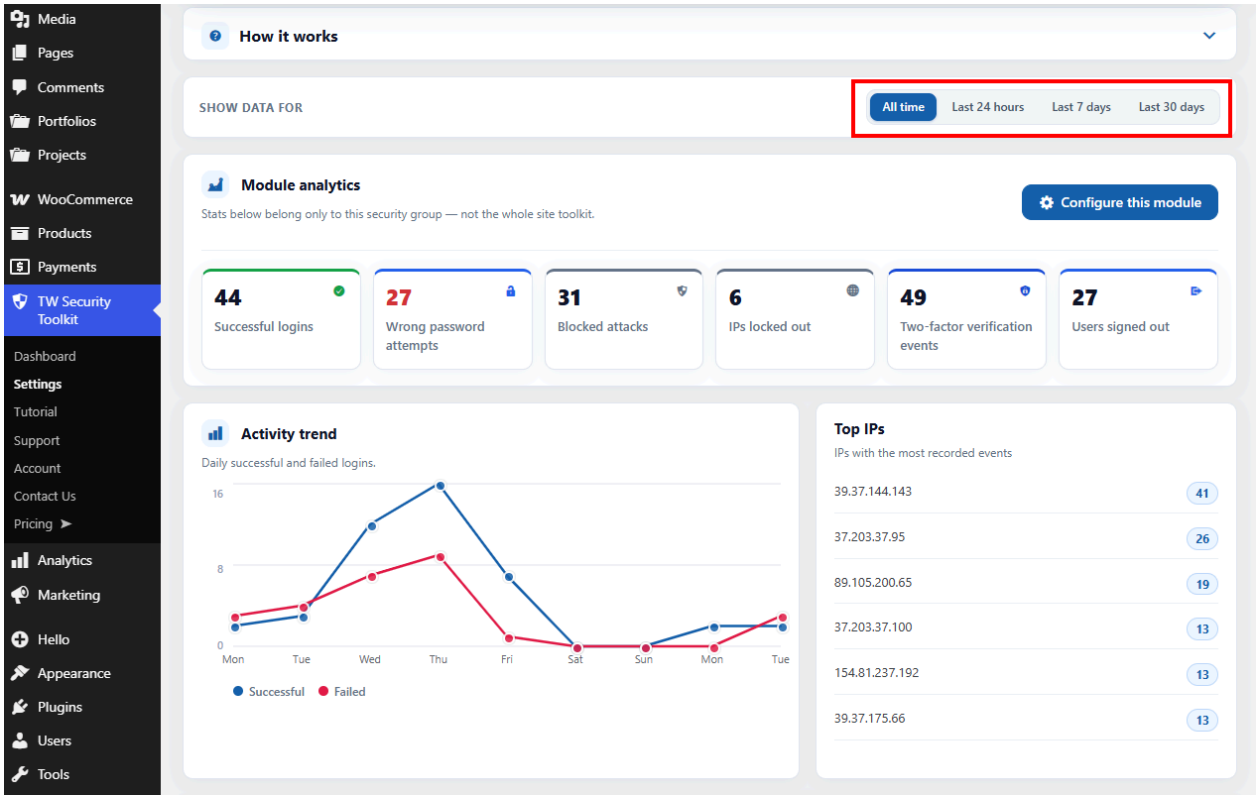
- A quick link back to Configure for the same module

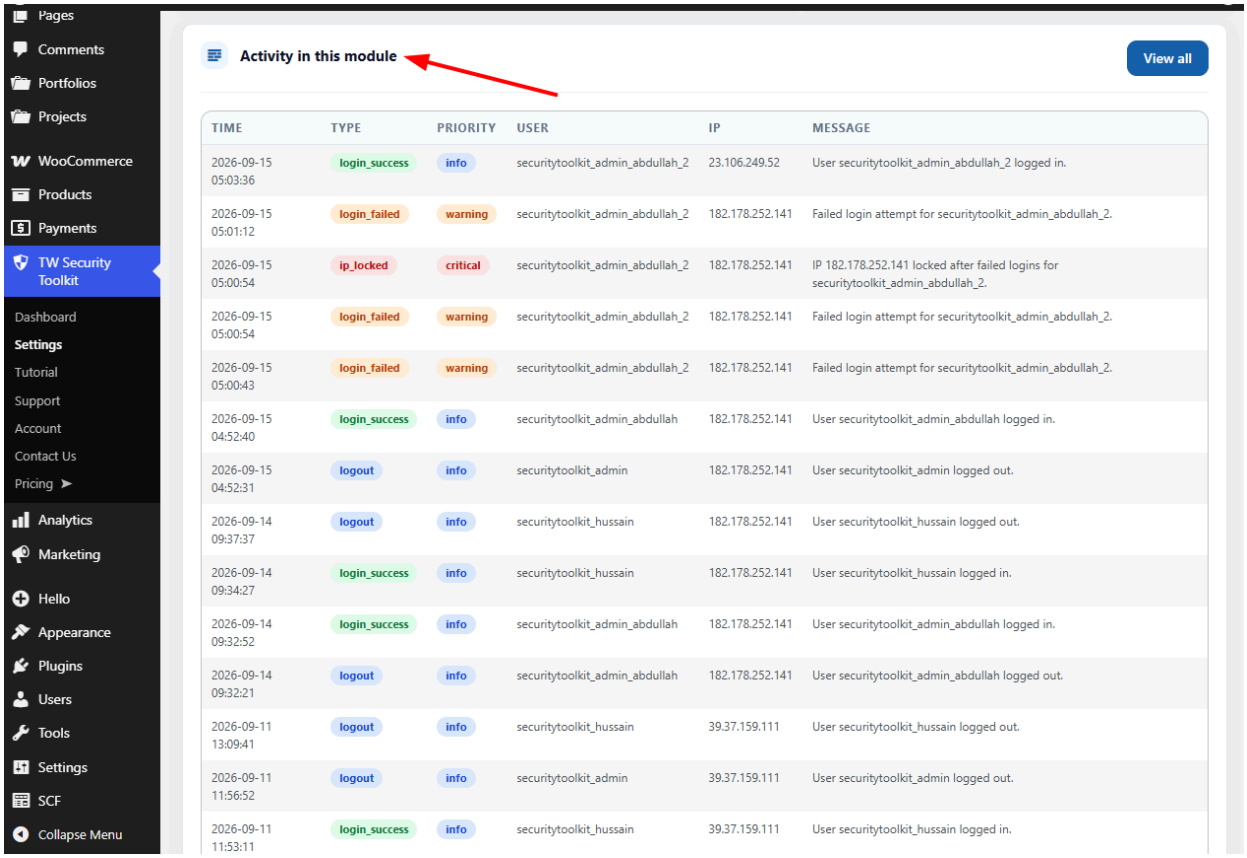
Example: Authentication View Detail

1. Go to TW Security Toolkit > Authentication.
2. Click View Detail.
3. Choose a time range.
4. Review login-related stats, charts, and recent activity for Authentication only.

Other modules work the same way. Open the module, click View Detail, and review activity for that group.

Backend Screenshot:





6. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Does activating the plugin turn all tools On?
No. Every tool stays Off until you turn it On from the Dashboard or Settings.

Where do I manage the tools?
Use **TW Security Toolkit > Dashboard** for the overview, then open each module (**Authentication**, **Content Workflow**, **Site Protection**, **Monitoring & Alerts**) to Configure or View Detail.

Do I need coding knowledge?
No. All features can be configured from the WordPress admin dashboard.

What happens if I forget my Secure Login Path URL?
Deactivate the plugin through FTP or your host file manager. The default wp-login.php URL will work again.

Can administrators be blocked by IP Blacklist?
No. Logged-in administrators are never blocked, and you cannot blacklist your own current IP.

Does Login OTP work for all users?
You choose the scope: all users, administrators only, or selected roles.

Are administrators limited by role policies?
No. Administrators are excluded from the optional role policy limits.

Does Upload Guard work for guests?
Yes. You can enable Guest rules in addition to logged-in roles.

What happens when a Link Expiration rule is reached?
The content moves to Draft and the public URL stops working.

Does CPT Revisions affect Posts and Pages?
No. Built-in Post/Page and WooCommerce products are not listed. Only custom post types you select are managed.

Why is the Run check button disabled?
Security Health Check must be turned On first. When it is Off, Run check stays disabled.

How do I improve the Security Score / Security Level?
Run Health Check, fix the recommended items, then run the check again.

When should I accept File Change Detection hashes?
After intentional core, theme, or plugin updates, accept the current hashes so expected changes do not keep triggering alerts.

Can I export Audit Log data?
Yes. You can export audit log data as CSV or PDF.

Can alerts go to Slack or Discord?
Yes. Add official webhook URLs in Notifications settings.

Will Scheduled Reports always be sent on time?
They use WordPress cron. On low-traffic sites, cron runs when someone visits the site.

What happens when I deactivate the plugin?
Scheduled cron jobs for advanced tools are cleared. Settings remain until uninstalled.

What happens when I uninstall the plugin?
The events table, options, and related user meta are cleaned up.

If free companion TW plugins are installed, what happens when I activate TW Security Toolkit?
The toolkit can automatically deactivate the matching free plugins because those features are already included.

7. Troubleshooting

7.1. Dashboard Shows Little or No Activity

Check:

- Related tools are turned On (especially Audit Log and login tools)
- Users have performed actions after tools were enabled
- You are looking at the correct time range (for example Last 7 Days)

7.2. Secure Login Path Not Working

Check:

- Secure Login Path is On
- Settings were saved
- You visited **Settings > Permalinks > Save Changes**
- You are using the correct custom login slug

7.3. Brute Force Lockouts

Check:

- Max attempts and lockout settings
- Locked IP list in Configure
- Unlock your own IP if needed

7.4. Health Check Cannot Run

Check:

- Security Health Check is turned On
- The Run check button is no longer disabled
- You have administrator (manage_options) access

7.5. File Change Alerts After Updates

Check:

- Recent core, theme, or plugin updates
- Accept current hashes after intentional changes
- Run a fresh scan

7.6. Notifications Not Arriving

Check:

- Notifications tool is On
- Email / webhook settings are saved
- Webhook URLs are official Slack or Discord URLs
- Send a test notification
- Server mail delivery is working for email alerts

8. Best Use Cases

- Business websites that need stronger login protection
- Agency-managed WordPress sites
- Membership or multi-author sites that need publish approvals
- Sites that must hide the default login URL
- Stores and content sites that need upload limits
- Sites that require file integrity monitoring
- Teams that want email, Slack, or Discord security alerts
- Owners who want a clear security score and weekly reports
- Sites replacing several free security helpers with one toolkit

8. Conclusion

TW Security Toolkit provides a flexible solution for login protection, site hardening, content workflow control, and security monitoring. With tools for Secure Login Path, brute force protection, OTP, upload limits, health checks, file change detection, audit logging, alerts, and scheduled reports, site owners can improve WordPress security without complex setup.

Turn on only the tools you need, review the Dashboard regularly, and follow Health Check recommendations to keep your Security Score strong.