Quickly disable a WordPress plugin via the database

by Benny Bottema - Friday, July 22, 2011

http://www.bennybottema.com/2011/07/22/quickly-disable-a-wordpress-plugin-via-the-database/

Recently my WordPress instance crashed due to a faulty plugin update, resulting in a PHP error and rendering my blog useless. After overcoming the initial panic reaction, I realized i didn't need to dive into the PHP code just yet: I could just disable the plugin in the database instead.

Here's how, given you have access to the database.

In the database you are using, mySql in my case, go to the table *"wp_options"*. Now look for the row with the active plugins:

```
SELECT * FROM wp_options WHERE option_name = 'active_plugins';
```

This should give you a row where the *option_value* column is something like the following (reformatted for readability):

```
a:4:{
 i:0;s:19:"akismet/akismet.php";
 i:1;s:36:"google-sitemap-generator/sitemap.php";
 i:2;s:55:"google-syntax-highlighter/google_syntax_highlighter.php";
 i:3;s:29:"wp-swfobject/wp-swfobject.php";
}
```

I think you get the idea: decrease the a:x number by 1, remove a plugin entry and renumber the remaining items. Removing the sitemap plugin would look as follows:

```
a:3:{
 i:0;s:19:"akismet/akismet.php";
 i:1;s:55:"google-syntax-highlighter/google_syntax_highlighter.php";
 i:2;s:29:"wp-swfobject/wp-swfobject.php";
}
```

You can also simply delete the entire field to <u>disable all plugins</u>, as Jeff mentions.

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