Stack Overflow Enterprise Documentation

Configure the Blockist

How to configure the Stack Overflow for Teams Blocklist to warn or block users when they enter restricted words or phrases.

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PDF VERSION

Tags | **Security** | **Content** | **Blocklist** |

Applies to: Free Basic Business Enterprise

ADMIN PRIVILEGES REQUIRED

*This documentation is for **Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise**. Free, Basic, and Business users can access their documentation here. Find your plan.*

Overview

Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise (SOE) has a Blocklist tool that allows you to create a list of specific words or phrases that the site will watch for as users submit text. If the Blocklist tool finds a match, it will warn the user or even block them from submitting what they wrote. Blocklist can watch for personally identifiable information (PII), passwords, security keys, profanity, and more.

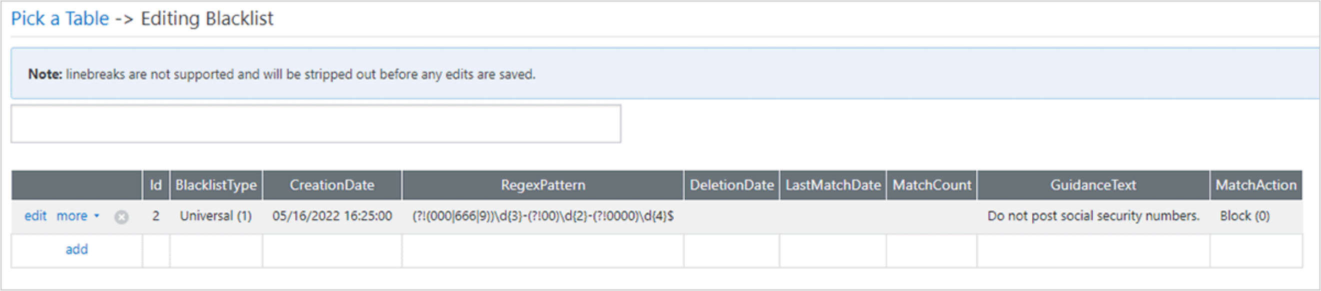
NOTE: *SOE's Blocklist is a rarely used feature with minimal controls. We recommend you use it in limited cases, to block just a few words or phrases. If not used with care, Blocklist could keep your users from entering text anywhere on your site.*

SOE's Blocklist uses regular expressions (RegEx) patterns to perform flexible, case-insensitive matches. RegEx patterns can be tricky to write, so we suggest using the many tutorials and RegEx testers available online. We'll also list some specific patterns in the RegEx patterns section at the end of this article.

NOTE: *Though this feature is now called "Blocklist", the URL and user interface still reference its original name: "Blacklist".*

Blocklist interface

To access the Blocklist, go to https://[your_site]/developer/data-editor/Blacklist (admin access required). Here you'll add Blocklist entries in a table format. There's no limit to the number of entries you can create.

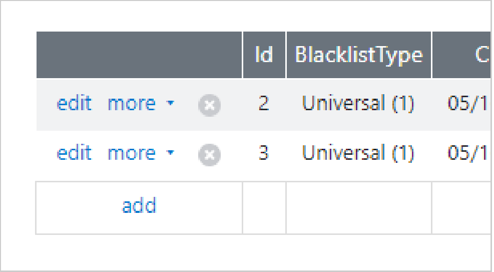


Pick a Table -> Editing Blacklist

Note: linebreaks are not supported and will be stripped out before any edits are saved.

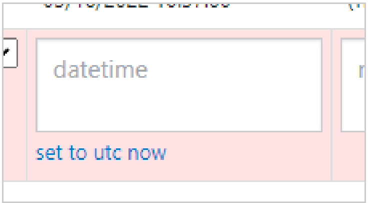
	Id	BlacklistType	CreationDate	RegexPattern	DeletionDate	LastMatchDate	MatchCount	GuidanceText	MatchAction
edit more ▾ ⊗	2	Universal (1)	05/16/2022 16:25:00	(?!(000|666|9))\d{3}-(?!00)\d{2}-(?!0000)\d{4}$				Do not post social security numbers.	Block (0)
add									

To create a new Blocklist entry, click **add**.
To edit an entry, click **edit**.
To delete an entry, click **X**.



	Id	BlacklistType	C
edit more ▾ ⊗	2	Universal (1)	05/1
edit more ▾ ⊗	3	Universal (1)	05/1
add			

To quickly set a `datetime` field to the current date and time, click **set to utc now**.



Blocklist fields

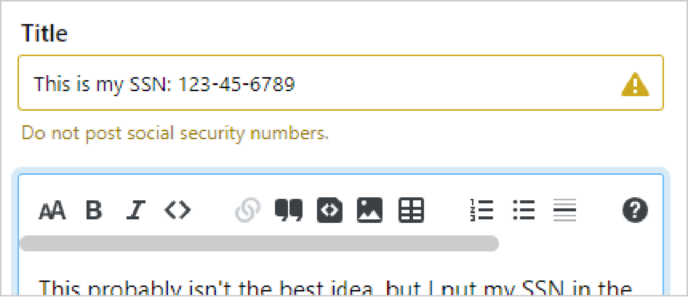
Each Blocklist entry has the following fields:

- **BlacklistType** The specific area that SOE will monitor for this search pattern. Unless you have a reason to choose another type, leave **Universal** selected to monitor all text entry boxes.
- **CreationDate** The date the entry was created.
- **RegexPattern** The RegEx pattern SOE will search for when a user submits text.
- **DeletionDate** The presence of any date in this field will cause SOE to deactivate the entry. The site will later delete the inactive entry (see the Inactive blocklist entries section below).
- **LastMatchDate** The last date, if any, SOE found this search pattern in a user's text entry.
- **MatchCount** The total number of matches for this search pattern.
- **GuidanceText** The message displayed when this search pattern is found in a user's text entry.
- **MatchAction** Whether SOE should warn the user and allow the text submission, or warn and block the submission.

Warn and block

When Blocklist detects a prohibited string in the user's text entry, it will either warn the user or both warn and block the submission. In both cases, SOE displays the **GuidanceText** value.

Here's an example of the **Warn MatchAction**.



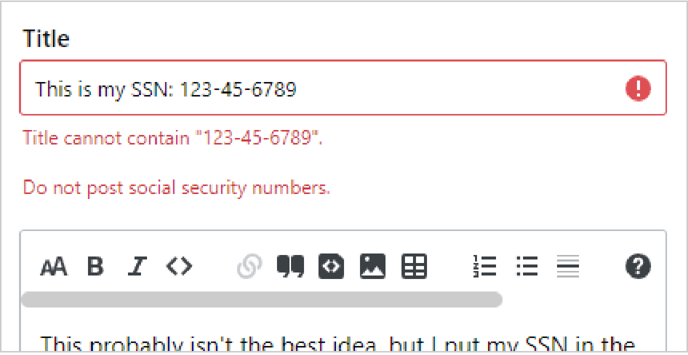
Title

This is my SSN: 123-45-6789

Do not post social security numbers.

This probably isn't the best idea, but I put my SSN in the

Here's an example of the **Block MatchAction**.



Title

This is my SSN: 123-45-6789

Title cannot contain "123-45-6789".

Do not post social security numbers.

This probably isn't the best idea, but I put my SSN in the

***NOTE:** Certain actions (**edit**, **more**), have an **all sites** checkbox. Check this box to make changes across your main Q&A area as well as any teams.*

Inactive blocklist entries

After a period of time with no matches, a scheduled process deletes unused blocklist entries. This process will delete a blocklist entry if:

The entry is at least 30 days old and has never been matched
- *or* -
The entry has been matched at least once but not within the past 90 days
- *and* -
The **BlacklistType** is not **Tag** or **IntrinsicTag**.

Blocklist logs

You can see Blocklist activity in the developer logs. Check the logs to make sure your Blocklist entries are matching the correct text (and nothing more).

Access the logs with these URLs:

- **Blocked submissions** https://[your_site]/developer/logs/2
- **Warnings** https://[your_site]/developer/logs/42

RegEx patterns

Any standard RegEx pattern will work in the Blocklist, but proceed with caution. Blocklist entries are active as soon as you submit them, so an improperly formed pattern could keep your users from submitting text anywhere on the site.

We recommend starting new Blocklist entries with **MatchAction** set to **Warn**, switching to **Block** only after the pattern has been tested. You may also want to use an online RegEx tester before adding any new patterns to the list.

Below are some RegEx patterns you may find useful.

<table>
<tr><th>Text</th><th>RegEx Pattern</th></tr>
<tr><td>Social security number</td><td>(?!(000|666|9))\d{3}-(?!00)\d{2}-(?!0000)\d{4}</td></tr>
<tr><td>Slack token</td><td>(xox[p|b|o|a]-[0-9]{12}-[0-9]{12}-[0-9]{12}-[a-z0-9]{32})</td></tr>
<tr><td>RSA private key</td><td>-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----</td></tr>
<tr><td>SSH (OPENSSH) private key</td><td>-----BEGIN OPENSSH PRIVATE KEY-----</td></tr>
<tr><td>SSH (DSA) private key</td><td>-----BEGIN DSA PRIVATE KEY-----</td></tr>
<tr><td>SSH (EC) private key</td><td>-----BEGIN EC PRIVATE KEY-----</td></tr>
<tr><td>PGP private key block</td><td>-----BEGIN PGP PRIVATE KEY BLOCK-----</td></tr>
<tr><td>Facebook Oauth</td><td>[f|F][a|A][c|C][e|E][b|B][o|O][o|O][k|K].{0,30}['\\\s][0-9a-f]{32}['\\\s]</td></tr>
<tr><td>Twitter Oauth</td><td>[t|T][w|W][i|I][t|T][t|T][e|E][r|R].{0,30}['\\\s][0-9a-zA-Z]{35,44}['\\\s]</td></tr>
<tr><td>GitHub</td><td>[g|G][i|I][t|T][h|H][u|U][b|B].{0,30}['\\\s][0-9a-zA-Z]{35,40}['\\\s]</td></tr>
<tr><td>Google Oauth</td><td>(\client_secret\:\[a-zA-Z0-9-_]{24}\)</td></tr>
<tr><td>AWS API key</td><td>AKIA[0-9A-Z]{16}</td></tr>
<tr><td>Heroku API key</td><td>[h|H][e|E][r|R][o|O][k|K][u|U].{0,30}[0-9A-F]{8}-[0-9A-F]{4}-[0-9A-F]{4}-[0-9A-F]{4}-[0-9A-F]{12}</td></tr>
<tr><td>Generic secret</td><td>[s|S][e|E][c|C][r|R][e|E][t|T].{0,30}['\\\s][0-9a-zA-Z]{32,45}['\\\s]</td></tr>
<tr><td>Generic API Key</td><td>[a|A][p|P][i|I][_]?[k|K][e|E][y|Y].{0,30}['\\\s][0-9a-zA-Z]{32,45}['\\\s]</td></tr>
<tr><td>Slack webhook</td><td>hooks.slack.com/services/T[a-zA-Z0-9_]{8}/B[a-zA-Z0-9_]{8}/[a-zA-Z0-9_]{24}</td></tr>
<tr><td>Password in URL</td><td>[a-zA-Z]{3,10}://[^/\\s:@]{3,20}:[^/\\s:@]{3,20}@.{1,100}[\'\\s]</td></tr>
<tr><td>IPv4 address</td><td>\d{1,3}\.\d{1,3}\.\d{1,3}\.\d{1,3}</td></tr>
</table>