

# Bugs & Wish list

tiki-check.php causes crash of rented webpace | Tiki Wiki CMS Groupware :: Development

## tiki-check.php causes crash of rented webpace

Status

● Open

Subject

tiki-check.php causes crash of rented webpace

Version

18.x

Category

- Error
- Bug

Feature

Admin Interface (UI)

Resolution status

New

Submitted by

hman

Lastmod by

hman

Rating

★ ★ ↘ ↗ ★ ★ ★ ↘ ↗ ★ ★ ★ ↘ ↗ ★ ★ ★ ↘ ↗ ★ ★ ★ ↘ ↗ ★ ★ ★ ↘ ↗ ★ ★ ★ ↘ ↗ ★ ★ ★ (0) ?

Description

Calling tiki-check.php (via the drop down menu of control panels) causes my rented webpace to crash. Literally. First, a 500 is thrown (internal server error), and afterwards the entire webpace goes offline for a couple of minutes! Eventually it does recover, but I have no idea by what mechanism of my ISP this happens. Probably a restart of the (assumed) Docker instance.

This can possibly lead to disturbing the online presence of other customers of the same ISP, depending on the grade of encapsulation of the ISP!

Something dangerous is happening inside tiki-check.php. This must never happen, because this spells out that there is something that can lead to a DOS, either involunaterily by co-admins not aware of the danger of the function, or even by attackers who somehow manage to do whatever tiki-check.php does when this happens. Possibly even by attacking other Tikis hosted by the same ISP, if the ISPs encapsulation is weak...

I therefore propose that tiki-check.php be split up into segments that can be called individually (this eases finding the culprit) and then to have an admin configurable set of functions, so admins can disable dangerous

functions.

Importance

10 high

Easy to solve?

10 easy

Priority

99

Demonstrate Bug (Tiki 19+)

Please demonstrate your bug on [show2.tikiwiki.org](http://show2.tikiwiki.org)

Version: trunk  [Create show2.tikiwiki.org instance](#)

Ticket ID

7954

Created

Monday 29 November, 2021 11:06:00 GMT-0000

by hman

LastModif

Monday 29 November, 2021 22:09:55 GMT-0000

## Comments



**hman** 29 Nov 21 11:27 GMT-0000

I opened a trouble ticket with my ISP (lonos = 1&1). I assume they won't e-mail my a core dump, but possibly they have some logs of their inner workings they can share, so I believe either an excerpt of Docker or PHP logs. While I had the support on the telephone, I called tiki-check.php, produced the 500, and after a minute the webspace was back on-line. Too fast to be a complete reboot, would even be fast for a Docker instance. So maybe it is "only" PHP going down.



**Marc Laporte** 29 Nov 21 14:18 GMT-0000

Is this tiki-check.php from Git (latest revision)?

if not, please test that. [Check](#) lets you get one file that you put anywhere on your server.

Thanks!



**hman 29 Nov 21 16:42 GMT-0000**

This was tiki-check from Tiki 18.8 distribution. I can cross-check with the other.



**hman 29 Nov 21 16:53 GMT-0000**

The tiki-check you pointed me to does not seem to be fundamentally different. Indentation was changed throughout the code, here and there some additions. It does not cause a 500, but after a minute it is still running (rendering the webspace inoperative). Looks like it's going to run into the runtime limitation...



**hman 29 Nov 21 16:54 GMT-0000**

Yep, website is offline now "The page you are looking for is temporarily unavailable. Please try again later. "



**hman 29 Nov 21 16:55 GMT-0000**

Still offline... (9 minutes now). This is the longest it has ever been down, so viewed from this point of view, this tiki-check.php is worse than the one distributed with 18.8...



**hman 29 Nov 21 17:12 GMT-0000**

Online again. After FIFTEEN minutes! This seriously looks like a manual reboot of the

Docker instance.  
Hopefully not of the entire VM. Manually, because I suspect this was not an automatic restart, but someone at my ISP might have taken notice of the failure of my webspace (because I called them today, as I wrote further up in this ticket).



**hman** 02 Dec 21 15:28 GMT-0000

I have received an answer to my trouble ticket with my ISP, however, it is rather unresponsive. "Exhaustion of memory and/or compute time limitations of the chosen service level"...



**hman** 02 Dec 21 19:38 GMT-0000

My ISP has updated the answer, delivering some details. The limits that tiki-check.php breaches are either runtime (60 s), number of concurrent PHP processes (nproc, 16) or memory limit (512 MBytes). If nproc is breached, this can lead to the entire webspace seemingly going offline. Support was able to run tiki-check.php on the command line (via SSH), so it could be a co-dependency with Tiki integration of tiki-check.php. I will have to conduct my own command line run of tiki-check.php in order to get the entire output.



**hman** 02 Dec 21 19:54 GMT-0000

Just an idea that crossed my mind: Is it possible, that tiki-check.php maxes out nproc=16 internally, but wenn Tiki takes over and wants to present the output of tiki-check.php, another PHP process is started that leads to

an nproc breach?



**hman** 02 Dec 21 20:57 GMT-0000

Hm, I guess I am doing something wrong. tiki-check should be runnable standalone, without Tiki. but running php7.3 tiki-check.php just yields

```
Status: 403 Forbidden
X-Powered-By: PHP/7.3.31
Set-Cookie: PHPSESSID=hex_ID_string; path=/;
HttpOnly
Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT
Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-
revalidate
Pragma: no-cache
Set-Cookie:
PHPSESSIDCV=UH4VL%2BM%2FF90ZHYY7lRsvjw%3D%3D;
expires=Fri, 02-Dec-2022 20:47:45 GMT; Max-
Age=31536000; path=/; HttpOnly
Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8
```

(If I do not use php7.3, but just php, then PHP 4.14 gets executed...)

So I guess I miss something? Thanks...



**Torsten Fabricius** 04 Dec 21  
12:08 GMT-0000

I find it unbelievable, that IONOS/1and1 still uses PHP4 in its command line.



**hman** 04 Dec 21 12:19  
GMT-0000

They do (affirmed by customer support).

```
(uiserver):MYUSERID:~$ php -v
PHP 4.4.9 (cgi-fcgi) (built:
Jul 7 2021 07:43:18)
Copyright (c) 1997-2008 The
PHP Group
Zend Engine v1.3.0, Copyright
(c) 1998-2004 Zend
Technologies
```

```
(uiserver):MYUSERID:~$ php7.3
-v
PHP 7.3.31 (cgi-fcgi) (built:
Oct 4 2021 05:35:42)
Copyright (c) 1997-2018 The
PHP Group
Zend Engine v3.3.31,
Copyright (c) 1998-2018 Zend
Technologies
```



**Marc Laporte** 03 Dec 21 07:59 GMT-0000

Here is a fix:

<https://gitlab.com/tikiwiki/tiki/-/commit/37d9c599acdbf30396e4450a0cdb3d8a5fbe69d2>

Please test latest version of Tiki **Check** on your server (Just download one file)



**hman** 04 Dec 21 10:58 GMT-0000

The change in there (dropping of bindec) was already contained in the version I tested above. The files are binary identical, (I just made a diff) so re-testing is pointless...



**hman** 04 Dec 21 11:38 GMT-0000

I tested it anyway. Again, it only results in 1/4 hour total disruption of the webspace's availability. This can be circumvented by logging into the webspace via SSH and killing off all php processes (five to six of them, normally Tiki Wiki has just one).

# Attachments

---

**filename**

**created**

**hits**

**comment**

**version**

**filetype**

---

No attachments for this item

The original document is available at

<https://dev.tiki.org/item7954-tiki-check-php-causes-crash-of-rented-webospace>

Show PHP error messages