Download Plugins and Themes: Developer Hooks and Filters Reference

Developers · https://wpfactory.com/docs/download-plugins-from-dashboard-developer-hooks-filters/

Developer hooks and filters reference

Download Plugins and Themes in ZIP from Dashboard exposes a small but real developer surface: one action, four public filters, two WP-Cron events and a set of custom cron intervals. Every hook listed here is called from shipping code, so a callback you register runs exactly where the plugin runs it. This page is a reference for developers extending Download Plugins and Themes; the settings themselves are covered in the plugin documentation.

All option keys referenced below are stored with the prefix `alg_download_plugins_dashboard_`. For example, the "Add plugin directory" toggle is stored as `alg_download_plugins_dashboard_plugins_add_main_dir`.

Action

Action	Arguments	Fires when
`alg_download_plugins_after_download`	`$zip_file_path`	Right after a ZIP has been streamed to the browser, inside `send_file()`. This covers per-item downloads, the "Download all" tools and the Pro bulk "Download ZIP" action. It does not fire for periodical (scheduled) downloads, which write to disk instead of streaming.

The Pro version uses this action to power the **Auto Delete ZIP files** option: it deletes the served file from the temporary directory once the download finishes. You can hook it to copy the archive elsewhere, log the event, or push it to remote storage.

```
add_action( 'alg_download_plugins_after_download', function ( $zip_file_path ) {
    // Copy every served archive to an off-site backup folder.
    copy( $zip_file_path, '/mnt/backups/' . basename( $zip_file_path ) );
} );
```

Filters

Filter	Filtered value	Purpose
`alg_download_plugins_download_plugin_btn_text`	`'Download ZIP'`	The text of the per-plugin download link on the Plugins screen. In Pro this filter returns the value of the **Text** setting (`download_plugin_btn_text`).
`alg_download_plugins_version_separator_char`	`'.'`	The single character placed between a plugin or theme name and its version in the ZIP filename. The plugin itself returns the **Version separator character** setting; only the first character is used.
`alg_download_plugins_plugins_bulk_period`	`''`	The cron interval used to schedule periodical plugin downloads. An empty string means "do not schedule". In Pro this returns the **Periodical plugins downloads** setting.
`alg_download_plugins_themes_bulk_period`	`''`	The cron interval used to schedule periodical theme downloads. Same contract as the plugins variant.

Filter	Filtered value	Purpose
`alg_download_plugins_settings`	varies	Used throughout the settings screen to unlock the Pro-only fields and strip the upsell copy. In the free build it returns `disabled`, which disables every Pro field; the Pro build removes that behavior.

Change the download link text without Pro

```
add_filter( 'alg_download_plugins_download_plugin_btn_text', function ( $text ) {
    return 'Export ZIP';
} );
```

Use a different version separator

By default a plugin named `my-plugin` at version 2.0.0 is packaged as `my-plugin.2.0.0.zip`. Return a different character to change that. Only the first character of the returned string is applied.

```
add_filter( 'alg_download_plugins_version_separator_char', function ( $char ) {
    return '-'; // my-plugin-2.0.0.zip
} );
```

> **Note:** the plugin's own core registers a callback on `alg_download_plugins_version_separator_char` that returns the saved setting. If you add your own callback, run it at a later priority so it takes precedence, or clear the option first.

Cron events and custom intervals

Periodical downloads run on two WP-Cron events. They are (un)scheduled on plugin activation and deactivation, and again whenever you change a period setting.

Cron event	Runs

`alg_download_plugins_cron`	The periodical plugins download (equivalent to clicking Run now for plugins).
`alg_download_themes_cron`	The periodical themes download.

The plugin registers three custom cron intervals (in addition to WordPress's built-in `hourly`, `twicedaily` and `daily`) via the `cron_schedules` filter:

Interval key	Seconds	Display
`minutely`	60	Once a Minute
`weekly`	604800	Once Weekly
`four_weeks`	2419200	Every 4 Weeks

Run a schedule not offered in the settings

The period filters accept any valid cron interval key. To download plugins on a schedule not listed in the dropdown, return the interval key of a schedule you have registered (or a built-in one):

```
add_filter( 'alg_download_plugins_plugins_bulk_period', function ( $interval ) {
    return 'daily';
} );
```

Because a changed period only reschedules the cron event when it is saved on the settings screen, clear and re-arm the event after adding a filter like this:

```
wp_clear_scheduled_hook( 'alg_download_plugins_cron' );
if ( ! wp_next_scheduled( 'alg_download_plugins_cron' ) ) {
    wp_schedule_event( time(), 'daily', 'alg_download_plugins_cron' );
}
```

Capabilities



DOWNLOAD PLUGINS AND THEMES

See every feature and the pricing on the Download Plugins and Themes plugin page.

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The download endpoints are capability-gated. If you build tooling on top of them, respect the same checks:

- Plugin downloads (per item, Download all, bulk, periodical) require `activate_plugins`.
- Theme downloads (per item, Download all, periodical) require `switch_themes`.

Need a hand?

Questions about extending Download Plugins and Themes? Our developers answer every ticket on the support forum.

Related articles

- Settings Reference: Every Option in Download Plugins and Themes
- Using Download Plugins and Themes on a WordPress Multisite Network
- Download ZIP Link Not Showing on the Plugins or Themes Screen
- Getting Started: Download WordPress Plugins and Themes From Your Dashboard
- Download Plugins and Themes: Free vs Pro Versions Compared