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```
check_admin_referer( int|string $action = -1,  
string $query_arg = '_wpnonce' ): int|false
```

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Ensures intent by verifying that a user was referred from another admin page with the correct security nonce.

Description

This function ensures the user intends to perform a given action, which helps protect against clickjacking style attacks. It verifies intent, not authorization, therefore it does not verify the user's capabilities. This should be performed with `current_user_can()` or similar.

If the nonce value is invalid, the function will exit with an "Are You Sure?" style message.

Parameters

`$action` `int|string` optional

The nonce action.

Default: `-1`

`$query_arg` *string* optional

Key to check for nonce in `$_REQUEST`. Default `'_wpnonce'`.

Default: `'_wpnonce'`

Return

`int|false` 1 if the nonce is valid and generated between 0-12 hours ago, 2 if the nonce is valid and generated between 12-24 hours ago.

False if the nonce is invalid.

More Information

- Using the function without the `$action` argument is obsolete and, as of [Version 3.2](#), if `WP_DEBUG` is set to `true`, the function will die with an appropriate message (“*You should specify a nonce action to be verified by using the first parameter.*” is the default).
- As of [2.0.1](#), the referer is checked *only* if the `$action` argument is not specified (or set to the default `-1`) as a backward compatibility fallback for not using a nonce. A nonce is preferred to unreliable referers and with `$action` specified the function behaves the same way as [wp_verify_nonce\(\)](#) except that it dies after calling [wp_nonce_ays\(\)](#) if the nonce is not valid or was not sent.

Source

```
wp-includes/pluggable.php
```

```

1287 function check_admin_referer( $action = -1, $query_arg = '_wpnonce
1288     if ( -1 === $action ) {
1289         _doing_it_wrong( __FUNCTION__, __( 'You should specify an a
1290     }
1291
1292     $adminurl = strtolower( admin_url() );
1293     $referer  = strtolower( wp_get_referer() );
1294     $result   = isset( $_REQUEST[ $query_arg ] ) ? wp_verify_nonce
1295
1296     /**
1297      * Fires once the admin request has been validated or not.
1298      *
1299      * @since 1.5.1
1300      *
1301      * @param string    $action The nonce action.
1302      * @param false|int $result False if the nonce is invalid, 1 if
1303      *                          0-12 hours ago, 2 if the nonce is v
1304      */
1305     do_action( 'check_admin_referer', $action, $result );
1306
1307     if ( ! $result && ! ( -1 === $action && str_starts_with( $refe
1308         wp_nonce_ays( $action );
1309         die();
1310     }
1311
1312     return $result;
1313 }

```

[View all references](#) · [View on Trac](#) · [View on GitHub](#)

Hooks

`do_action('check_admin_referer', string $action, false|int $result)`

Fires once the admin request has been validated or not.

Related

Uses	Description
wp_verify_nonce() wp-includes/pluggable.php	Verifies that a correct security nonce was used with time limit.
wp_nonce_ays() wp-includes/functions.php	Displays “Are You Sure” message to confirm the action being taken.
wp_get_referer() wp-includes/functions.php	Retrieves referer from ‘_wp_http_referer’ or HTTP referer.
Show 3 more	

Used by	Description
use_block_editor_for_post() wp-includes/post.php	Returns whether the post can be edited in the block editor.
WP_Privacy_Requests_Table::process_bulk_action() wp-admin/includes/class-wp-privacy-requests-table.php	Process bulk actions.
_wp_personal_data_handle_actions() wp-admin/includes/privacy-tools.php	Handle list table actions.
set_screen_options() wp-admin/includes/misc.php	Saves option for number of rows when listing posts, pages, comments, etc.
wp_dashboard_setup() wp-admin/includes/dashboard.php	Registers dashboard widgets.
Show 7 more	

Changelog

Version	Description
2.5.0	The <code>\$query_arg</code> parameter was added.
1.2.0	Introduced.

User Contributed Notes

Codex 10 years ago

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Usage in a plugin's option page

Here is an example of how you might use this in a plugin's option page. You add a nonce to a form using the [wp_nonce_field\(\)](#) function:

```
<form method="post">
  <!-- some inputs here ... -->
  <?php wp_nonce_field( 'name_of_my_action', 'name_of_nonce_field' )
</form>
```

Then in the page where the form submits to, you can verify whether or not the form was submitted and update values if it was successfully submitted:

```
1  <?php
2  // if this fails, check_admin_referer() will automatically print
3  if ( ! empty( $_POST ) && check_admin_referer( 'name_of_my_acti
4  // process form data, e.g. update fields
5  }
6
7  // Display the form
```

[Log in to add feedback](#)

Codex 10 years ago

^ 1 v

Note – Obsolete usage

script dies if the admin referer is not validated.

```
<?php check_admin_referer(); ?>
```

[Log in to add feedback](#)