

ChiliProject - Feature # 124: User deletion

Status:	Closed	Priority:	Normal
Author:	Derek Montgomery	Category:	User accounts
Created:	2011-02-02	Assignee:	Felix Schäfer
Updated:	2011-11-30	Due date:	
Remote issue URL:			
Affected version:			
Description:	Redmine trunk has the option to delete users on top of being able to deactivate them, this is a much needed option to deal with spambots.		
	(Category should be 'Users & Rights?')		

Associated revisions

2011-08-02 02:26 am - Holger Just

[#124] Validate user status changes

2011-08-02 02:27 am - Holger Just

[#124] Allow to delete users with STATE_REGISTERED

2011-11-25 06:48 pm - Felix Schäfer

Merge pull request #124 from mbreit/bugfix/707-wiki-diff-encoding-error-ruby19

[#707] Fix encoding error on wiki diffs on Ruby 1.9

History

2011-02-02 11:14 pm - Holger Just

While this feature was one of the more often requested ones on Redmine, it is rather difficult to get right. That was probably the reason why it didn't get implemented for that long.

The implementation chosen has some flaws:

- * It tries to has all those places where Users are seemingly referenced hardcoded in a method. That makes it hard for plugins to detect that (and is probably going to break many installations with unaware plugins installed)
- * Activity of the to-be-deleted user is always assigned to anonymous. But this is not what you want most of the time. With that implementation, you can't track issue changes, booked time entries, ... after the deletion.

The last point is actually the trickiest. There are different possible things to do. Some data-retention laws require user-data to be completely removable on request. This `_could_` mean Redmine's approach (but hasn't to, IANAL). In closed corporate environments on the other hand, most often you'd want my described behavior.

Also, (data-retention laws aside) it isn't really clear to my why you'd want to delete users. The don't cost much. If you'd just have a way to "recycle" mail addresses and logins, you'd probably be just fine with letting them live there alone. And it would save us all that hassle of having to find all references to a user id and having to appropriately deal with them.

2011-02-02 11:54 pm - Derek Montgomery

What about a special 'Deleted user' instead of anonymous that could be like a regular user, only gathering all activities from deleted users?

2011-02-03 01:05 am - Eric Davis

- Target version deleted (1.1.0 "Bell")

- Category set to User accounts

Alexandre Nizoux wrote:

> What about a special 'Deleted user' instead of anonymous that could be like a regular user, only gathering all activities from deleted users?

That's what I was thinking too. Maybe even keep the old user around but change their name to "Deleted - Eric Davis" so you have the historic data but they can't login (and the email/login can be reused on another account). There are a lot of things we need to discuss.

(Removing from 1.1.0, there isn't a clear scope yet so we don't want to plan on this for such an early release)

2011-02-03 11:26 am - Felix Schäfer

Eric Davis wrote:

> That's what I was thinking too. Maybe even keep the old user around but change their name to "Deleted - Eric Davis" so you have the historic data but they can't login (and the email/login can be reused on another account).

"Separate" user class: definitely, and would be the "easiest" to make sure nothing goes awry anywhere down the line. The name (or name change rule) should be configurable though, still having the "original" name in the name of the deleted user might not be enough for some legislations to consider the user information to be deleted. The gravatar must be taken into account too: replace all with a custom gravatar? Just keep the hash of the mail address and change the gravatar links thus that they show only the "default" gravatar, not the user-selected one? That could be used to track the original gravatar though and might give away who the user was. Or download the default gravatar, anonymize it and use it? And so on :-)

2011-02-03 12:47 pm - Derek Montgomery

Felix Schäfer wrote:

> The name (or name change rule) should be configurable though, still having the "original" name in the name of the deleted user might not be enough for some legislations to consider the user information to be deleted.

Totally agree on this.

As for the gravatar, I think a generic "deleted user" icon should be used, eventually allowing admin to specify which icon he wants to use for that.

2011-02-08 05:48 pm - Patrick Naubert

For IRCan, the requirement was to have a way via the GUI to delete registrations that were obviously spam accounts. I ended up creating a Rake task, but it has no UI hooks, so my admins cannot use it themselves.

2011-02-25 11:04 am - Ian Freeman

Felix Schäfer wrote:

> still having the "original" name in the name of the deleted user might not be enough for some legislations to consider the user information to be deleted.

Agreed. Make this configurable by the admin. Either Deleted - First LastName or Deleted - User 12200896

2011-05-20 11:57 am - Ammler _

I don't see the difference from that renaming to locking. I would also say, deletion of regular users isn't needed, but deletion of spammers should, and those should be deleted completely, with all related tickets, wikipages, forum posts etc...

2011-05-20 12:31 pm - Felix Schäfer

Ammler _ wrote:

> I don't see the difference from that renaming to locking.

Locking: all person related information is still in the DB and the login is still "in use". Deletion through "renaming": the login is released, and you can remove person related information.

2011-08-02 12:35 am - Holger Just

On <https://github.com/chiliproject/chiliproject/pull/90> I have sent a pull request to allow the deletion of registered users. This solves the simplest part of the problem.

The patch does two things:

- # It enforces the workflow of User statuses via validations (esp. that no active or locked user can ever become registered anymore)
- # Allow to delete registered users.

This happens under the assumption that registered (i.e. not active) users didn't do anything in the system yet and thus have no references anywhere. This assumption is true in the core ChiliProject currently.

2011-10-03 08:42 am - Felix Schäfer

- *Status changed from Open to Ready for review*

Holger Just wrote:

> On <https://github.com/chiliproject/chiliproject/pull/90> I have sent a pull request to allow the deletion of registered users. This solves the simplest part of the problem.

Works for me as a kludge until we have something better.

2011-11-13 08:28 pm - Felix Schäfer

- *Assignee set to Eric Davis*

Eric, final thoughts? I'd merge this otherwise.

On a side-note: we might want to check how Redmine deletes users to cater for any database configuration that are incompatible with our own.

2011-11-14 01:13 am - Eric Davis

- *Assignee changed from Eric Davis to Felix Schäfer*

Felix Schäfer wrote:

> Eric, final thoughts? I'd merge this otherwise.

Code in the pull request looks fine to me. Some of the controller code could be refactored but that can wait until the whole controller is refactored.

2011-11-15 04:30 pm - Eric Davis

FYI: I might be starting on a similar feature for a client. We are going to use cron to delete registered users so I might be able to release that code to automate this process a bit too. Shouldn't affect the acceptance or code in this issue though.

2011-11-25 05:47 pm - Felix Schäfer

- *Status changed from Ready for review to Closed*

Reviewed and merged in commit:03d956c, thanks!

2011-11-30 06:03 pm - Felix Schäfer

- *Target version set to 2.5.0*