

مجلس الأمن السيبراني  
CYBER SECURITY COUNCIL



**Critical Vulnerability in AdForest WordPress Theme**

Tracking #:432316771

Date:22-01-2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The UAE Cyber Security Council has observed a critical vulnerability in the AdForest WordPress theme that could be exploited to gain complete control over affected websites.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS:

### Vulnerability Details:

- **CVE-2024-12857**
- **CVSS Score:** 9.8 (**Critical**)
- **Vulnerability Type:** Authentication Bypass
- A critical vulnerability exists in the AdForest WordPress theme. This vulnerability allows unauthenticated attackers to bypass authentication and gain complete control over WordPress sites.
- The vulnerability stems from the theme's failure to properly verify user identity during the OTP login process by phone number. This allows attackers to log in as any user, including administrators, without requiring the actual OTP.
- Successful exploitation of this vulnerability can lead to:
  - **Full site compromise:** Attackers can modify content, inject malicious code, and steal sensitive data.
  - **Administrative abuse:** Creation of new admin accounts and lockout of legitimate users.
  - **Phishing campaigns:** Exploitation of compromised sites to distribute malware or phishing pages.

### Affected Versions:

- AdForest theme versions up to and including 5.1.8

### Fixed Versions:

- AdForest theme version 5.1.9 or later

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Keep all WordPress core files, plugins, and themes updated to the latest versions.
- Conduct regular security audits and vulnerability scans
- Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all accounts.
- Monitor website activity logs for suspicious behavior.
- Regularly back up website files and the database

Kindly circulate this information to your subsidiaries and partners as well as share with us any relevant information and findings.

The UAE Cyber Security Council extends its appreciation for the continued collaboration.

## REFERENCES:

- <https://www.wordfence.com/threat-intel/vulnerabilities/wordpress-themes/adforest/adforest-518-authentication-bypass>