

Redmine - Feature #42623

Adds initials to the list of default gratavar options

2025-04-24 23:03 - Marius BĂLTEANU

<b>Status:</b>	New	<b>Start date:</b>	
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Assignee:</b>	Marius BĂLTEANU	<b>% Done:</b>	0%
<b>Category:</b>	UI	<b>Estimated time:</b>	0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>	6.1.0		
<b>Resolution:</b>			
<b>Description</b> Gravatar launched this year initials as default avatar option:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://blog.gravatar.com/2025/02/19/initials-avatars-email-signatures/">https://blog.gravatar.com/2025/02/19/initials-avatars-email-signatures/</a></li><li>• <a href="https://docs.gravatar.com/api/avatars/images/">https://docs.gravatar.com/api/avatars/images/</a></li></ul> The attached patch adds this to the list of available options.			
<b>Related issues:</b> Related to Redmine - Feature #29824: Add user initials when Gravatar is disabled <b>New</b>			

History

#1 - 2025-04-24 23:03 - Marius BĂLTEANU

- Related to Feature #29824: Add user initials when Gravatar is disabled added

#2 - 2025-04-24 23:06 - Marius BĂLTEANU

Two points to clarify:

1. I'm aware about the privacy discussions from #29824, but being an option that must be configured manually from the administration, I think it is safe.
2. The patch was inspired by the patch added by Felix in the #29824, but I think it is better to use the display name to generate the initials.

Go MAEDA, what do you think?

#3 - 2025-04-25 04:48 - Go MAEDA

Marius BĂLTEANU wrote in #note-2:

1. I'm aware about the privacy discussions from #29824, but being an option that must be configured manually from the administration, I think it is safe.

I agree, but I think we should display a warning such as the following below the "Default Gravatar image" setting:

When "Initials" is selected, users' names will be sent to https://www.gravatar.com while displaying user icons . "

2. The patch was inspired by the patch added by Felix in the #29824, but I think it is better to use the display name to generate the initials.

I think so too for the following reasons:

- User names are not always displayed with the firstname lastname order. Redmine also supports the "lastname firstname". It is easy to generate initials with the order if the display name (User#name) is used.
- Always displaying the first letters of first and last name may cause a privacy problem. For example, when user names are displayed in the #{login} style on Redmine, the current implementation reveals two characters of user names that are not visible for non-admin users.

To address the above, I suggest the following implementation.

```
def initials
  name_part1, name_part2 = name.split
  if name_part2.present?
    name_part1.first + name_part2.first
  else
    name_part1.first(2)
  end
end
```

end

#### #4 - 2025-04-29 22:31 - Marius BĂLTEANU

- File 0001-Adds-Initials-to-the-list-of-default-gravatar-option.patch added
- Target version changed from Candidate for next major release to 6.1.0

Go MAEDA wrote in [#note-3](#):

[...]

I agree, but I think we should display a warning such as the following below the "Default Gravatar image" setting:

```
When "Initials" is selected, users' names will be sent to https://www.gravatar.com while displaying user icons.
```

In most of the cases, the message is not really correct because we send only the initials to the Gravatar service. Indeed, there are some cases where initials can be the same with the name.

What to you think about a generic message?

```
Users' email addresses and initials (when selected) are sent to https://www.gravatar.com to generate their avatars.
```

[...]

I think so too for the following reasons:

- User names are not always displayed with the firstname lastname order. Redmine also supports the "lastname firstname". It is easy to generate initials with the order if the display name (User#name) is used.
- Always displaying the first letters of first and last name may cause a privacy problem. For example, when user names are displayed in the #{login} style on Redmine, the current implementation reveals two characters of user names that are not visible for non-admin users.

To address the above, I suggest the following implementation.

[...]

I've changed the implementation to generate the initials based on the user display format in order to be more consistent. Please let me know if this works better for you.

I'm assigning this to [6.1.0](#) to discuss it.

#### #5 - 2025-04-30 10:45 - Go MAEDA

Thank you for updating the patch.

Marius BĂLTEANU wrote in [#note-4](#):

In most of the cases, the message is not really correct because we send only the initials to the Gravatar service. Indeed, there are some cases where initials can be the same with the name.

What to you think about a generic message?

```
Users' email addresses and initials (when selected) are sent to https://www.gravatar.com to generate their avatars.
```

Since email addresses are hashed with SHA256 before being sent, it does not cause a privacy issue. A privacy issue only happens when "Initials" is selected, so I think the message should focus on the fact that initials are being sent. I prefer a message like the following:

```
When "Initials" is selected, users' initials are sent to https://www.gravatar.com to generate their avatars.
```

I've changed the implementation to generate the initials based on the user display format in order to be more consistent. Please let me know if this works better for you.

The implementation is more sophisticated than the code I suggested in [#note-3](#). However, it needs a slight fix. The value of :initials for :lastname\_firstname should be '#{lastname.to\_s.first}#{firstname.to\_s.first}' (remove the space between the two characters).

- Assignee set to Marius BĂLTEANU

Go MAEDA wrote in [#note-5](#):

Since email addresses are hashed with SHA256 before being sent, it does not cause a privacy issue. A privacy issue only happens when "Initials" is selected, so I think the message should focus on the fact that initials are being sent. I prefer a message like the following:

[...]

I'm sorry, I totally forgot about the hashing. In this case, I fully agree with you about the message.

I've changed the implementation to generate the initials based on the user display format in order to be more consistent. Please let me know if this works better for you.

The implementation is more sophisticated than the code I suggested in [#note-3](#). However, it needs a slight fix. The value of :initials for :lastname\_firstname should be '#{lastname.to\_s.first}#{firstname.to\_s.first}' (remove the space between the two characters).

Thanks for pointing this out, I will update the patch accordingly.

Files

0001-Adds-gravatar-initials.patch	2.99 KB	2025-04-24	Marius BĂLTEANU
0001-Adds-Initials-to-the-list-of-default-gratavar-option.patch	6.31 KB	2025-04-29	Marius BĂLTEANU