Abilities API Integration

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Enables AI tools and automation platforms to interact with ACF data through the WordPress Abilities API.

Description

ACF 6.8 introduces support for the WordPress Abilities API (introduced in WordPress 6.9). This integration exposes ACF's schema and data through a machine-readable interface, allowing compatible external tools to discover and manipulate ACF field groups, custom post types, taxonomies, and their associated content.

See the ACF 6.8 release post for an overview.

Requirements

- WordPress 6.9 or later
- ACF 6.8 or later
- MCP Adapter plugin or another MCP server implementation
- MCP-compatible client (Claude Desktop, Cursor, etc.)

Setup

Enable the Abilities API

Add this filter to your theme's `functions.php` or a custom plugin:

```
add_filter( 'acf/settings/enable_acf_ai', '__return_true' );
```

Configure AI Access

Once enabled, a new "ACF AI" settings tab appears in the WordPress admin. From here you can:

- Enable/disable AI access globally
- Configure which item types allow AI access
- Set AI descriptions to help AI understand your content structure

Per-Item AI Access

For existing items (field groups, post types, taxonomies), AI access is **disabled by default** and requires manual opt-in. New items created after enabling the feature have AI access enabled automatically.

To enable AI access for an existing item:

1. Edit the field group, post type, or taxonomy
2. Navigate to the "Settings" tab
3. Enable "Allow AI Access"

4. Optionally add an “AI Description” to provide context

Available Abilities

Field Group Abilities

Ability	Description
acf/field-groups	List all field groups that allow AI access
acf/create-field-group	Create a new field group with fields and location rules

Custom Post Type Abilities

Ability	Description
acf/custom-post-types	List all ACF-registered custom post types
acf/create-custom-post-type	Create a new custom post type
acf/{post-type}s	Query posts of a specific type
acf/create-{post-type}	Create a new post
acf/view-{post-type}	Retrieve a single post
acf/update-{post-type}	Update an existing post
acf/delete-{post-type}	Delete a post

Custom Taxonomy Abilities

Ability	Description
acf/custom-taxonomies	List all ACF-registered taxonomies
acf/create-custom-taxonomy	Create a new taxonomy
acf/{taxonomy}s	Query terms
acf/create-{taxonomy}	Create a new term
acf/view-{taxonomy}	Retrieve a single term
acf/update-{taxonomy}	Update an existing term

Ability	Description
acf/delete-{taxonomy}	Delete a term

Ability Categories

ACF registers two ability categories:

- **acf-field-management**: Abilities for managing field groups, post types, and taxonomies
- **wordpress-content-discovery**: Abilities for discovering content types and structure

Permissions

All abilities respect WordPress user permissions. The executing user must have the ACF capability (default: `manage_options`) to access abilities.

Example Use Cases

AI-Assisted Content Modeling

AI tools can inspect existing field structures and suggest or create new field groups based on content requirements.

```
"Create a field group for a Recipe post type with fields for ingredients, cooking time, difficulty level, and instructions."
```

Programmatic Content Import

Import structured data (CSV, JSON) as WordPress content with proper field validation.

```
"Import this CSV of products into the Products post type, mapping columns to ACF fields."
```

Bulk Operations

Update ACF field values across multiple posts while respecting validation rules.

```
"Update all Events with a past date to set their status field to 'archived'."
```

Rapid Prototyping

Automatically generate demo sites with realistic content structures.

```
"Set up a real estate site with property listings, agents, and neighborhood taxonomies."
```

Notes

- AI access is opt-in per item to ensure sensitive data is not exposed unintentionally
- All operations are logged and respect WordPress audit trails
- The API uses JSON Schema for input/output validation
- Destructive operations (delete) require explicit confirmation annotations

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