

# Google Reviews Widget - Release Notes

Release date: May 3, 2026 Module: CmsWidget: Google Reviews

## Summary

This release adds a new CMS Google Reviews widget for owner-managed Google Business Profile reviews. Reviews sync server-side into local cache and render from CMS without exposing Google credentials on public pages.

Main outcome: editors can display more than the public five-review Places limit, style the output, and keep reviews refreshed through the scheduled job runner or a manual sync button.

## New Features

- New **Google Reviews** widget under the CMS Social widget category.
- Owner-managed Google Business Profile credential fields stored on the widget.
- Server-side review sync service and daily **Google Reviews Sync** scheduled job.
- **Sync Reviews Now** button in live mode for manually forcing an immediate cache refresh from the widget Properties tab.
- Local cache model and migration for review payloads, owner replies, ratings, reviewer data, and sync timestamps.
- Test Mode toggle with a built-in 15-review mock payload and hidden live credential fields.
- Grid, Stack, and Carousel layout modes.
- Carousel playback, timing, arrow/dot control selection, and control alignment options.
- Grid/Stack pagination with Reviews Per Page.
- Review count, minimum rating, primary sort, secondary date sort, excerpt length, and text-only filters.
- Design sections for Display Design, Review Elements, and Carousel Button Styling.
- Carousel arrow color pickers, border radius, and CSS class styling.
- Standard Style tab with scoped Custom CSS and `{{WRAPPER}}` support.
- Inline widget documentation in the Social Share tab format.

## Visibility and UX Rules

- Live Google credential fields and the **Sync Reviews Now** button are hidden while Test Mode is enabled but saved values are preserved.
- Carousel options appear only when Layout Mode is Carousel.
- Carousel Auto-Scroll Timing appears only for Auto + Manual playback.
- Carousel Button Styling appears only for Carousel + Arrows.
- Reviews Per Page appears only when pagination is enabled for Grid or Stack.
- Carousel slide status no longer shifts centered arrow buttons; it appears below centered buttons and beside left/right aligned buttons.

## Files Added

- `controllers/widgets/GoogleReviewsController.php`
- `views/widgets/googleReviews/default/view.php`
- `views/widgets/googleReviews/documentation.html`
- `models/GoogleReviewCache.php`
- `services/GoogleReviewsSyncApi.php`
- `packages/5.15.9.5/migrations/Patch5_15_9_5_CreateGoogleReviewCacheTable.php`
- `packages/5.15.9.5/migrations/Patch5_15_9_5_AddGoogleReviewsSyncScheduledJob.php`

## Compatibility Notes

The widget uses the Google Business Profile review API workflow for businesses the user owns or manages. It does not use public Places review data and does not include JSON-LD review markup.

## Documentation Pack

- `GoogleReviews_Widget_Feature_Technical_Documentation.html / .pdf / .docx`
- `GoogleReviews_Widget_Feature_Release_Notes.html / .pdf / .docx`
- `GoogleReviews_Widget_Marketing_Blog_Post.html / .pdf / .docx`