

# YouTube Widget - Release Notes

Release date: May 3, 2026 Module: `Cms` Widget: `YouTube`

## Summary

The YouTube widget embeds a YouTube video, Short, live video, or playlist with responsive display controls, thumbnail-trigger rendering, popup playback, privacy-enhanced embedding, and editor-friendly configuration.

Main outcome: editors can embed YouTube content using normal URLs or iframe code while keeping layout, playback, privacy, and accessibility settings configurable from the widget editor.

## What's Included

### 1) *Expanded source handling*

- Supports standard watch URLs, short `youtu.be` URLs, embed URLs, Shorts URLs, live URLs, and playlist URLs.
- Accepts pasted YouTube iframe/embed code and extracts the source URL.
- Normalizes source URLs before rendering controlled widget output.
- Preserves start time, end time, and playlist context where available.

### 2) *Responsive display controls*

- Supports inline iframe rendering or thumbnail-trigger rendering.
- Provides common aspect ratios: 16:9, 4:3, 1:1, 9:16, and custom height.
- Supports responsive or fixed width mode with max-width limits.
- Includes left, center, and right alignment plus default, minimal, and framed display styles.

### 3) *Playback and privacy options*

- Configurable autoplay, muted playback, loop, controls, related videos, modest branding, inline mobile playback, and captions.
- Privacy Enhanced Mode uses the `youtube-nocookie.com` player host.
- Optional JavaScript API support enables page scripts to integrate with the player.

### 4) *Thumbnail and popup behavior*

- Thumbnail Trigger mode avoids loading the YouTube iframe until visitor interaction.
- Automatically uses YouTube's high-quality thumbnail when a video ID exists and no custom thumbnail is supplied.
- Can replace the thumbnail inline or open playback in a popup overlay.

## Files Covered

- `controllers/widgets/YoutubeController.php`
- `views/widgets/youtube/form.php`
- `views/widgets/youtube/default/view.php`
- `views/widgets/youtube/documentation.html`

## Documentation Pack

- ``docs/Youtube_Widget_Feature_Technical_Documentation.html``
- ``docs/Youtube_Widget_Feature_Release_Notes.html``
- ``docs/Youtube_Widget_Marketing_Blog_Post.html``

## Upgrade Notes

- Existing legacy URL and autoplay values are normalized into the current property model during load/render.
- Private, deleted, age-restricted, or embedding-disabled YouTube videos may still fail to play because final playback permissions are controlled by YouTube.
- Autoplay behavior remains subject to browser policy; muted playback is usually required.