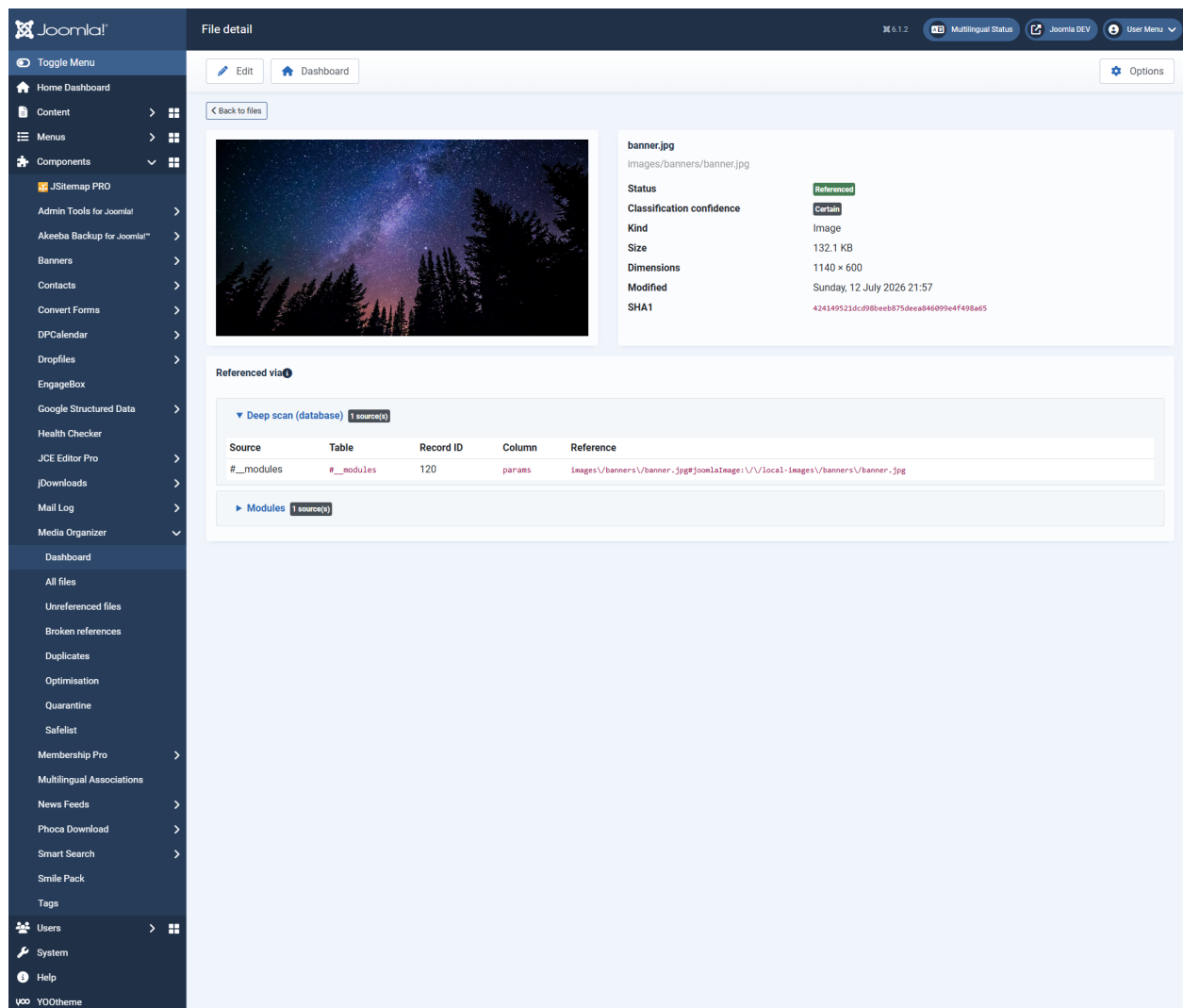


Reading the evidence: why is a file considered orphaned?

The detail view is the heart of Media Organizer — and the reason you can trust a classification without having to believe it. You open it by clicking the file name in the review view.



The screenshot shows the Joomla! Media Organizer interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with the Joomla! logo and a menu. The main area is titled 'File detail' and contains a preview of a file named 'banner.jpg' on the left, and its metadata on the right. Below the metadata is a section titled 'Referenced via' which includes a table of database references and a link to modules.

File detail

[Edit](#) [Dashboard](#) [Options](#)

[Back to files](#)

banner.jpg
images/banners/banner.jpg

Status Referenced
Classification confidence Certain
Kind Image
Size 132.1 KB
Dimensions 1140 × 600
Modified Sunday, 12 July 2026 21:57
SHA1 424149523dc980eeb875deea946899e4f498ae5

Referenced via

[Deep scan \(database\)](#) [1 source\(s\)](#)

Source	Table	Record ID	Column	Reference
#__modules	#__modules	120	params	images\ banners \ banner . jpg # Joomla! Images \ \ V \ local - images \ banners \ banner . jpg

[Modules](#) [1 source\(s\)](#)

The detail view: the preview on the left, the metadata on the right, below them the occurrences with a direct edit link.

The header area

Status	Referenced, without a reference or in quarantine.
Classification confidence	How solid the classification is. "Certain" means: the search areas relevant for this file ran through completely.
Type, size, dimensions, modified	The usual key data.
SHA1	The checksum of the content. Media Organizer detects duplicates by it — and by it the deletion gate notices when a file has changed since the scan.

"Referenced by" — the occurrences

Here you see *who* uses the file. The occurrences are grouped by search area, for example:

- **Articles (com_content)** — the article the file appears in
- **Modules** — module HTML, parameters or folder parameters
- **Version history** — older versions of an article
- **Deep scan (database)** — the safety net that searches the database broadly
- **Extension profiles** — occurrences in third-party extensions

Every row shows the **source** (for example "Article #3 'Welcome to your blog'"), the **table** and the **record**, the **column** as well as the **reference** found in the original text. On the right an **edit link** leads straight to that content — useful when you want to remove or correct a reference.

Several search areas may report the same occurrence. That an article provider *and* the deep scan report the same file is not a fault but two independent pieces of evidence for the same statement.

Why a file counts as "without a reference"

If none of the enabled search areas finds a reference, the file counts as unreferenced. The detail view then shows which areas were checked — and thereby also what was *not* checked.

This is exactly where a second look pays off:

- Are all relevant **search areas enabled**? Switching off the deep scan gives you more candidates — and less certainty.
- Is there a **coverage notice**? Then knowledge about an installed extension is missing.
- Might the file be used **outside Joomla**, in a newsletter, a PDF or from another website? No software can know that. That is what quarantine and the 404 monitoring are for.

Folder references: the most important special case

Some extensions do not point to a file but to a **whole folder** — a random-image module showing "all images from `images/banner`", for instance.

Media Organizer treats such a folder reference as fully valid: **all** files below it count as used, even if none is named individually. Otherwise a single module would be enough to make half an image directory look orphaned by mistake.

Derivatives

Many images have automatically generated variants — thumbnails, scaled-down versions, responsive sizes. Media Organizer recognises such derivatives and treats them like the original: if the original is in use, the derivative counts as used as well. That way no thumbnail disappears whose original is still needed.

Where to go from here

- [Quarantine, restoring, deleting for good](#)
- [Common questions and troubleshooting](#)

Applies to version 1.2.0.

[Deutsche Fassung](#)

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