

Crowdstack Release Notes

The “Easier To Manage” Update

This platform update is focused on improving the usability of the Crowdstack admin control panel (“Manage”). Specifically, we want to make it easier for new admins to get started and for all admins to manage their Crowdstack more efficiently.

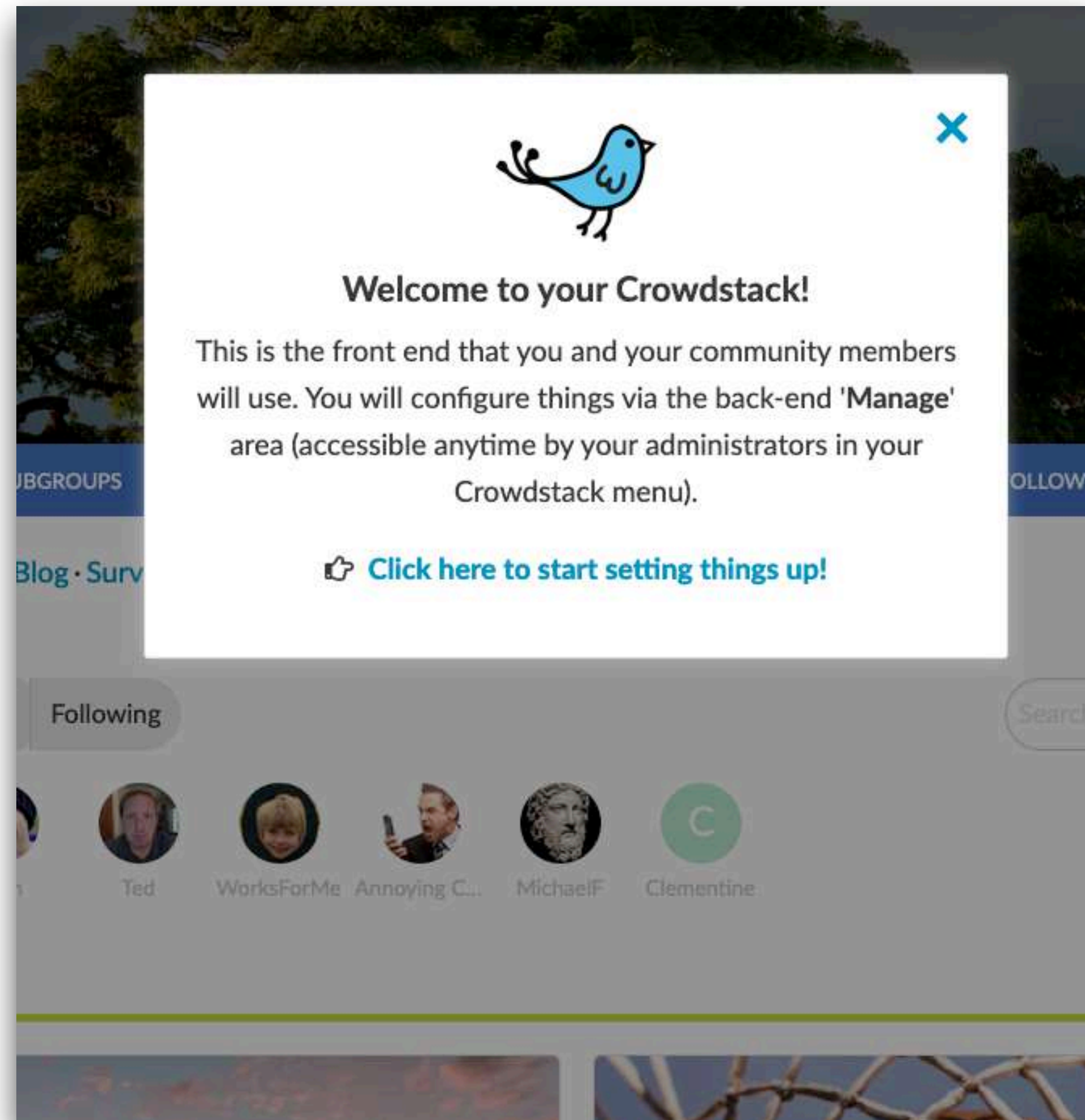
Terminology Changes

We've simplified and clarified some terms used by Crowdstack.

1. Groups -> **Subgroups**
2. Circles -> **Roles**
3. QuestionShark -> **Support**
4. Wordlets -> **Wording**
5. Graemlins -> **Emoticons**
6. Community Points -> **Activity Points**
8. Structure -> **Navigation Menus** (as part of a larger change to decouple the enable/disable functions)
9. "FeePod" Menu Item -> **Premium Memberships** (*though we are still referring to FeePod in the premium membership pages themselves. We are maintaining that brand, since it is separate service, but making the feature title more generic*)
10. Recipes -> **Automation Rules**

New Crowdstack Welcome Message

When someone first visits their new Crowdstack, they will receive a welcome message that clarifies how to configure their 'Stack.



Displayed the first time the Crowdstack owner visits.

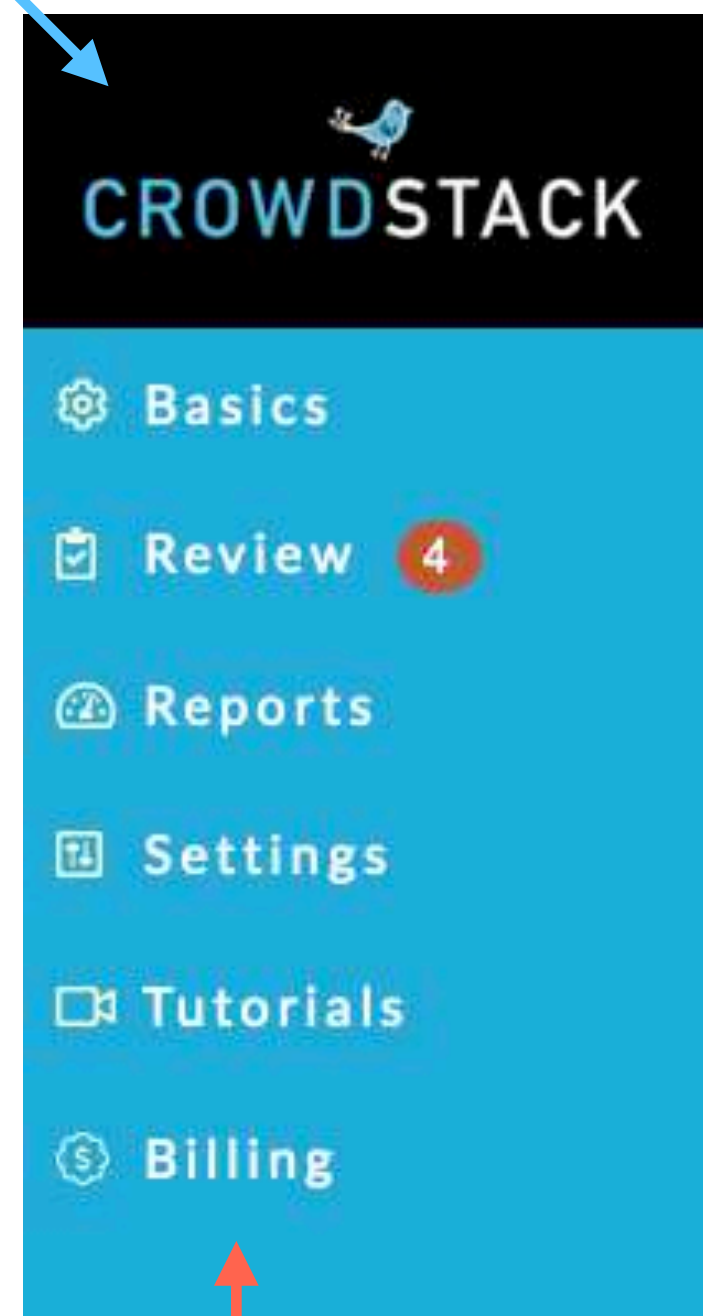
New Control Panel Wrapper/Format

Link back to crowdstack.com

Important news from Crowdstack HQ

Link back to your Crowdstack

Sign out

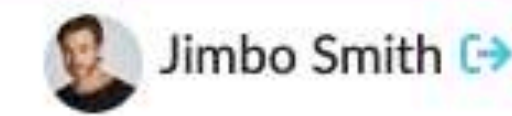


The left sidebar contains the Crowdstack logo at the top, followed by a list of navigation items: Basics, Review (with a red badge containing the number 4), Reports, Settings, Tutorials, and Billing.




A horizontal banner with a dark red background and white text that reads "A special alert here!".

community.acmecompany.com



A user profile card showing a circular profile picture of a man and the name "Jimbo Smith" with a "Sign out" link to the right.

Basics



A warning message in a light red box: "Your Crowdstack has been disabled by a Super Admin. That means that only your admins can currently access your Crowdstack. Re-enable now."



A section titled "Name & Description" with a "Change" button. It contains the text "Acme Crowdstack" and "The best little Crowdstack ever."

Displayed if the Crowdstack has been temporarily disabled by a Super Admin.

Primary Sections

Subgroups Use Same Format



Purple background color for side nav, to differentiate with main control panel

Basics

This is the default landing page in the admin control panel. All of the most fundamental settings for your Crowdstack are configurable here.

Name & Description Change

Acme Crowdstack
The best little Crowdstack ever.

Domain Change

community.acmecompany.com

Public / Private Change

Which Features Should Be Enabled?
Uncheck any features you do NOT want to use. You can always turn them back on later, if you change your mind.

Content Types
[Learn more about the different content types \(video\).](#)

Blog Forums Clips Pips Surveys Calendar Chat Rooms / Events Support

Databases

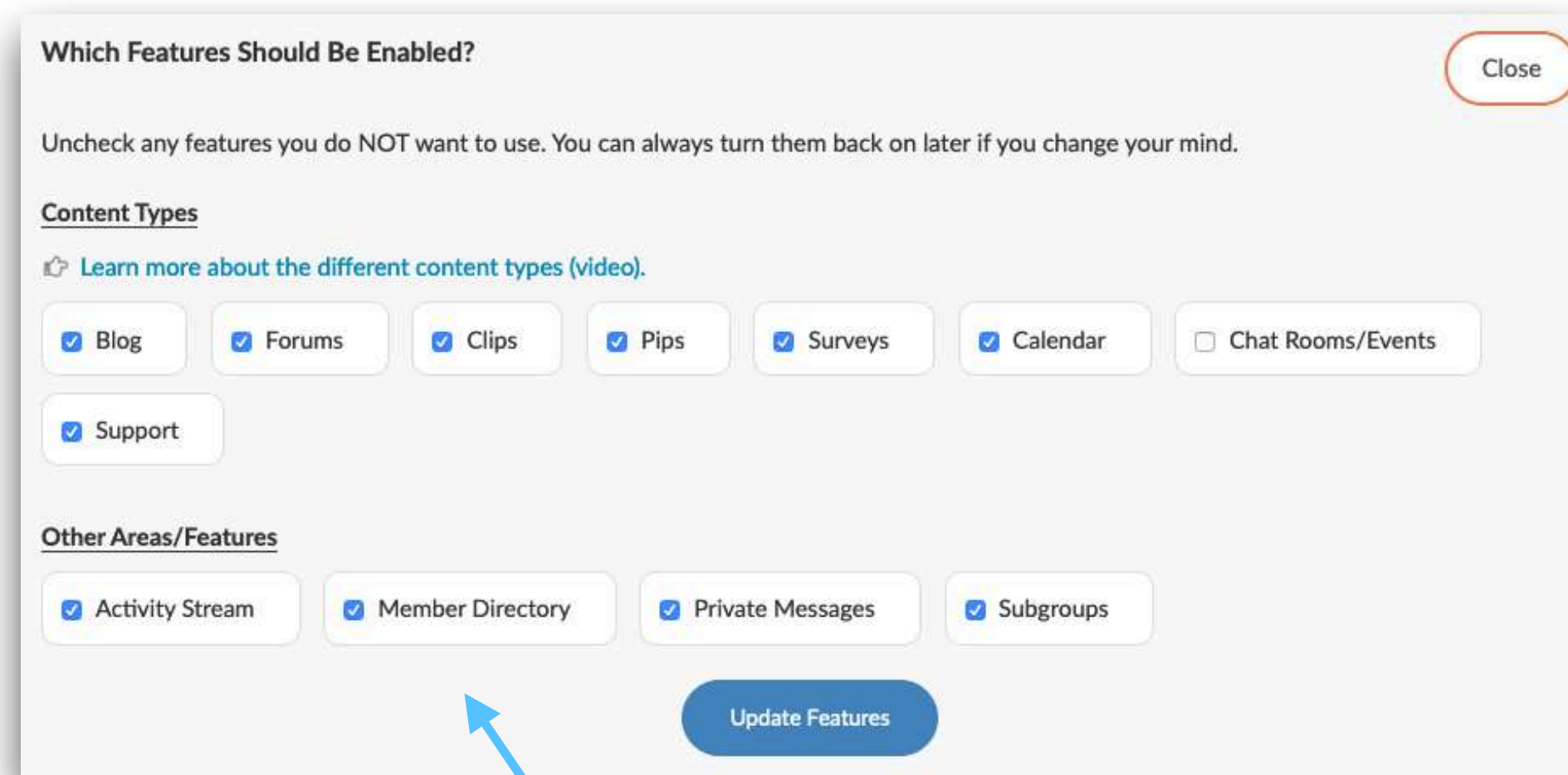
Other Areas/Features

Each setting functions independently. No need for a full-page settings submission.

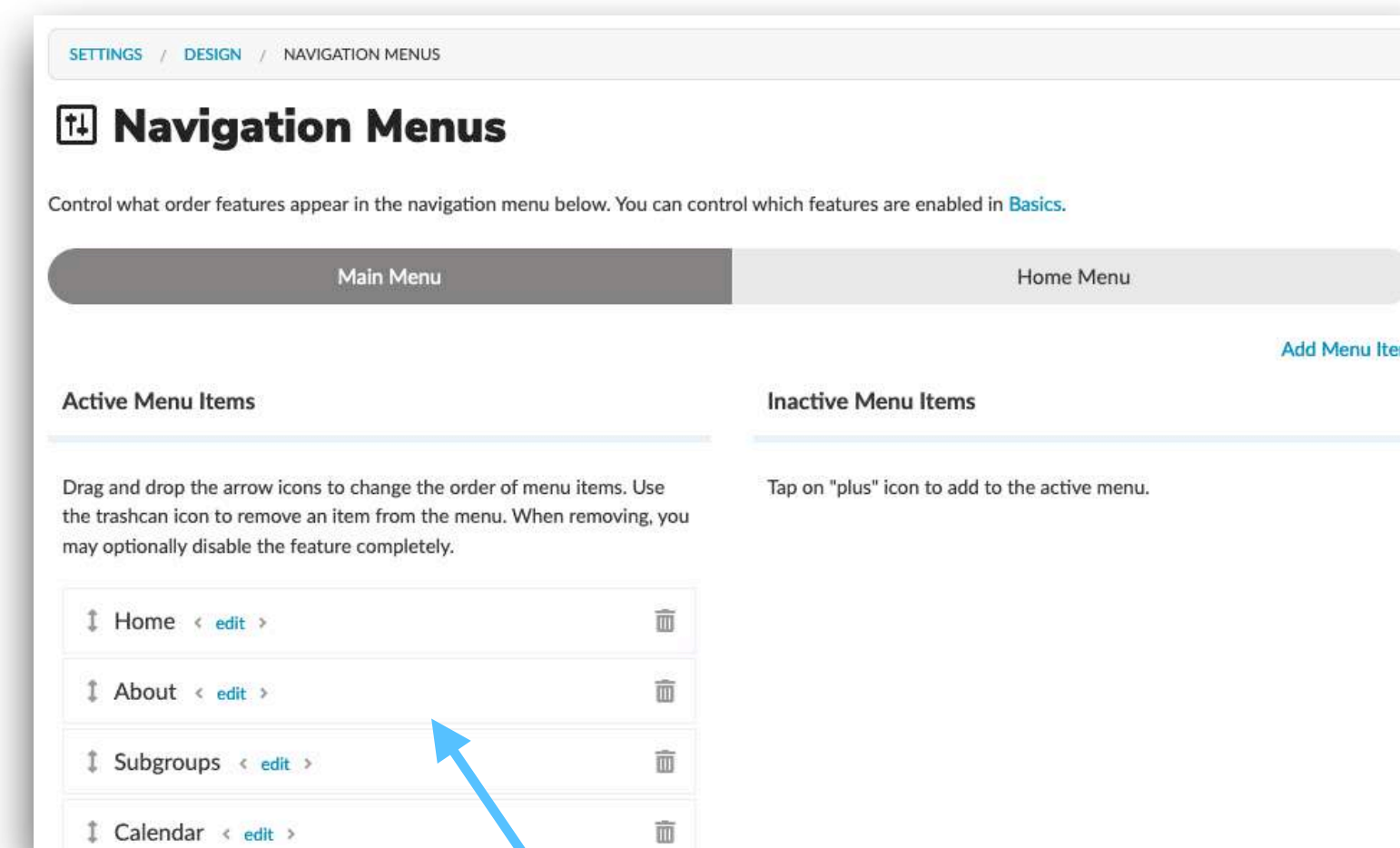
Click to expand to make a change.

Structure / Features / Menu

Previously, we used the “Structure” CP to manage enabling modules and arranging the main nav menu. Now, features are enabled/disabled via Basics and the menu is separately controlled via Settings / Design / Navigation Menus.



In “Basics”



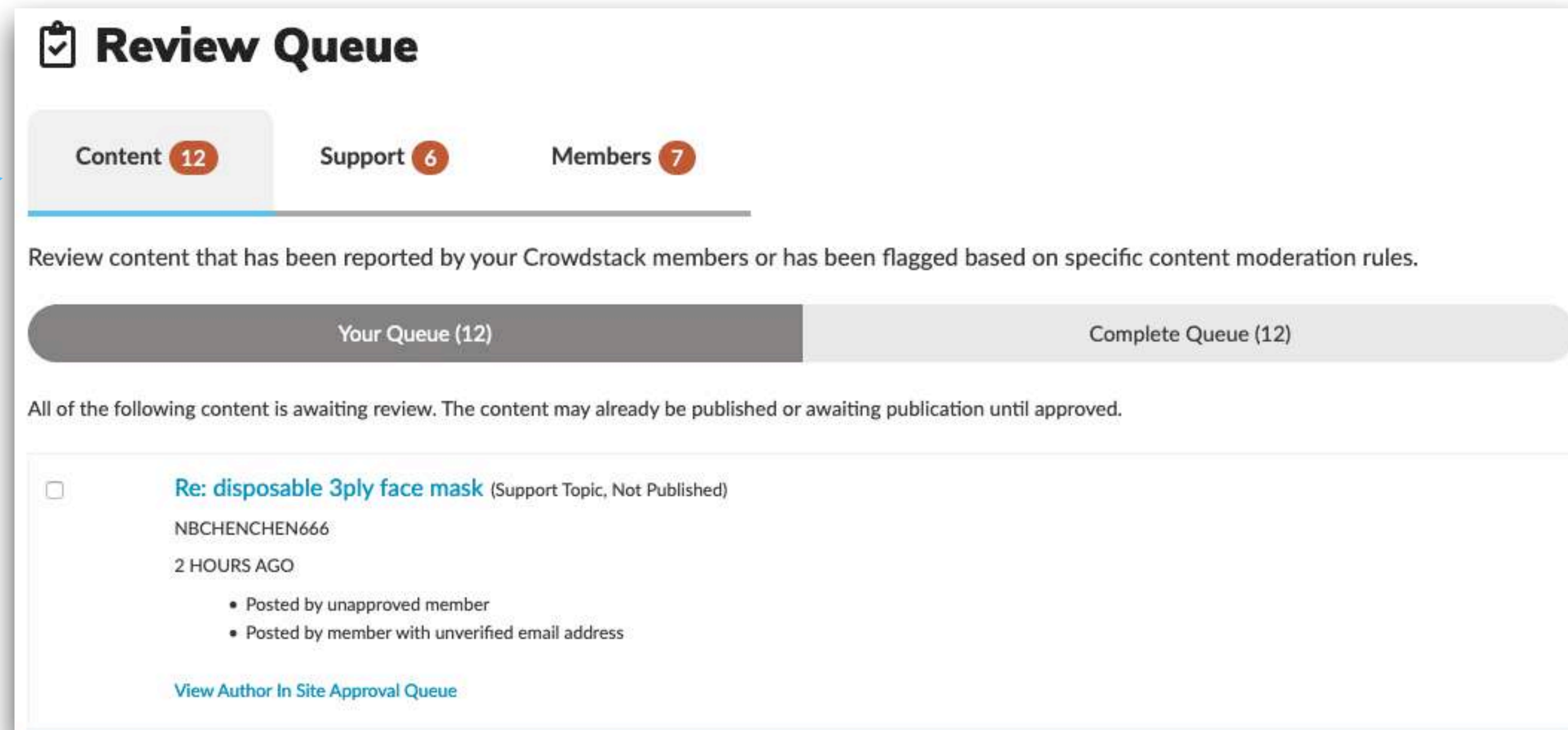
In “Settings / Design”

One related new feature associated with this change is that you can now completely disable Private Messages, if you like.

Review

This is where you review all moderated members and content, as well as activity in Support.

Tabs for navigating between review areas.



Review Queue

Content **12** Support **6** Members **7**

Review content that has been reported by your Crowdstack members or has been flagged based on specific content moderation rules.

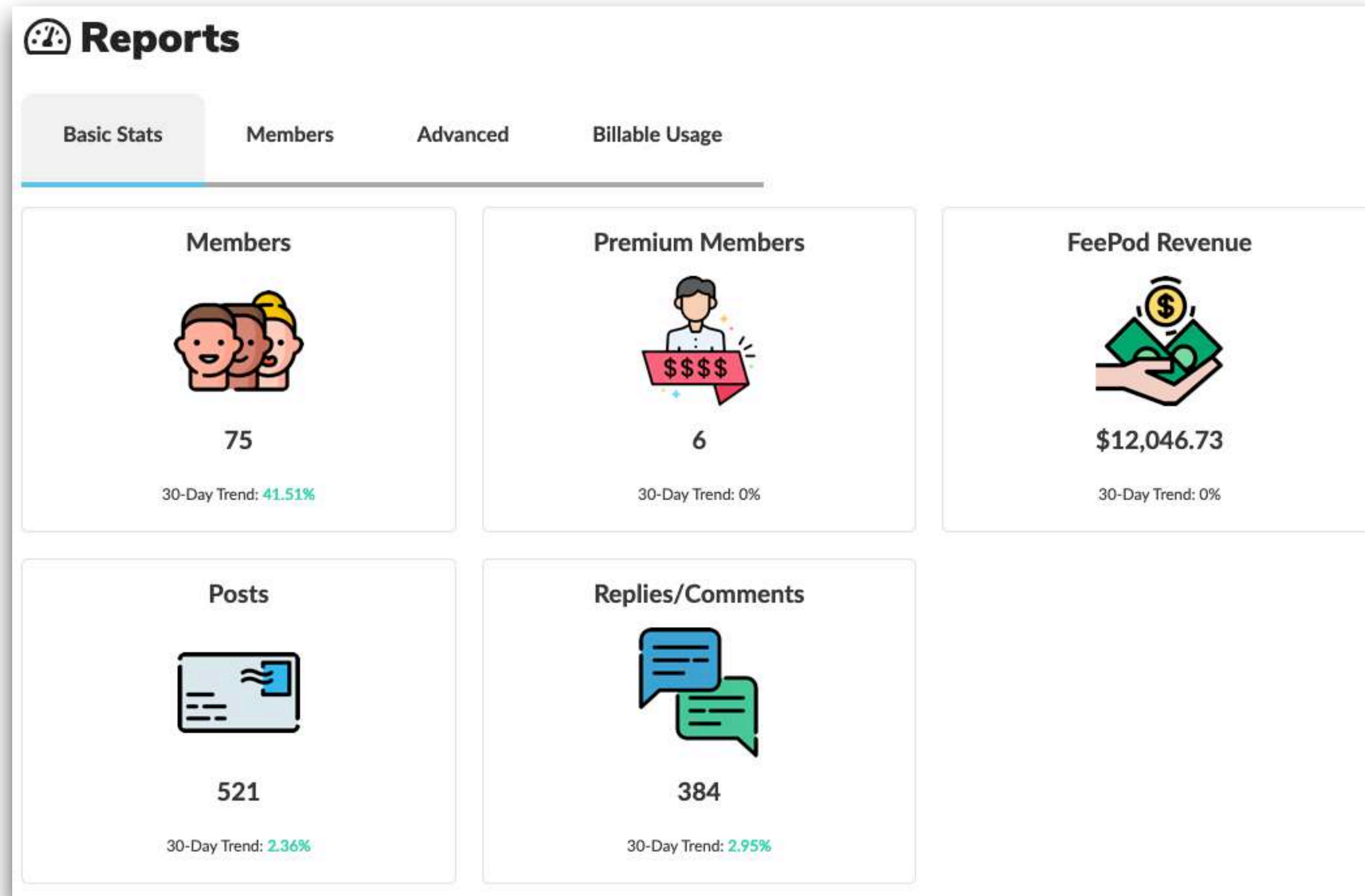
Your Queue (12) Complete Queue (12)

All of the following content is awaiting review. The content may already be published or awaiting publication until approved.

- [Re: disposable 3ply face mask](#) (Support Topic, Not Published)
NBCHENCHEN666
2 HOURS AGO
 - Posted by unapproved member
 - Posted by member with unverified email address[View Author In Site Approval Queue](#)

Reports

Track activity, view reports, and otherwise analyze performance for your Crowdstack.



Settings

Drill down to fine-tune your Crowdstack to any degree you require.

Settings

Your Crowdstack works great right out of the box, but you can fine-tune things as much as you want using the settings below.

General	Members	Content
Registration Settings	Member Settings	Manage/Search
Automation Rules	Manage/Search	Censor List
Roles	Profile Settings	Spam Detection
Permissions	Activity Points Formula	Recommendation Engine
Analytics & Ads	Deactivated Members	
Email Settings	Invite Members	
Social Networks	Register Member	
Single Sign-On (SSO)		
API Access		
Mobile Apps		
Temporarily Disable		
Design	Areas	Subgroups
Display Settings	Home Page	Manage
Themes	Blog	Settings
Navigation Menus	Forums	
News Flash	Pips	
Email Theme	Clips	
Emoticons	Surveys	
Web Space	Calendars	

SETTINGS / GENERAL / EMAIL SETTINGS

Breadcrumbs on Settings pages for easily jumping around.

Email Settings

SETTINGS / GENERAL / EMAIL SETTINGS

- Registration Settings
- Automation Rules
- Roles
- Permissions

Settings

Navigate to other areas within the Settings section you are on.

Tutorials

Increase your overall knowledge by watching our video tutorials.



Moderating Content /
Members with
Recipes




How to Send a Private
Message

P.S. We no longer have Quick Start videos in the CP.

Billing

Review or upgrade your current plan, change payment information, or cancel.

 **Billing**

Crowdstack Pro Enterprise

Plan Limits

Monthly Page View Limit	2,000,000
Chat Participant Limit	1,500
SLA	99.9%

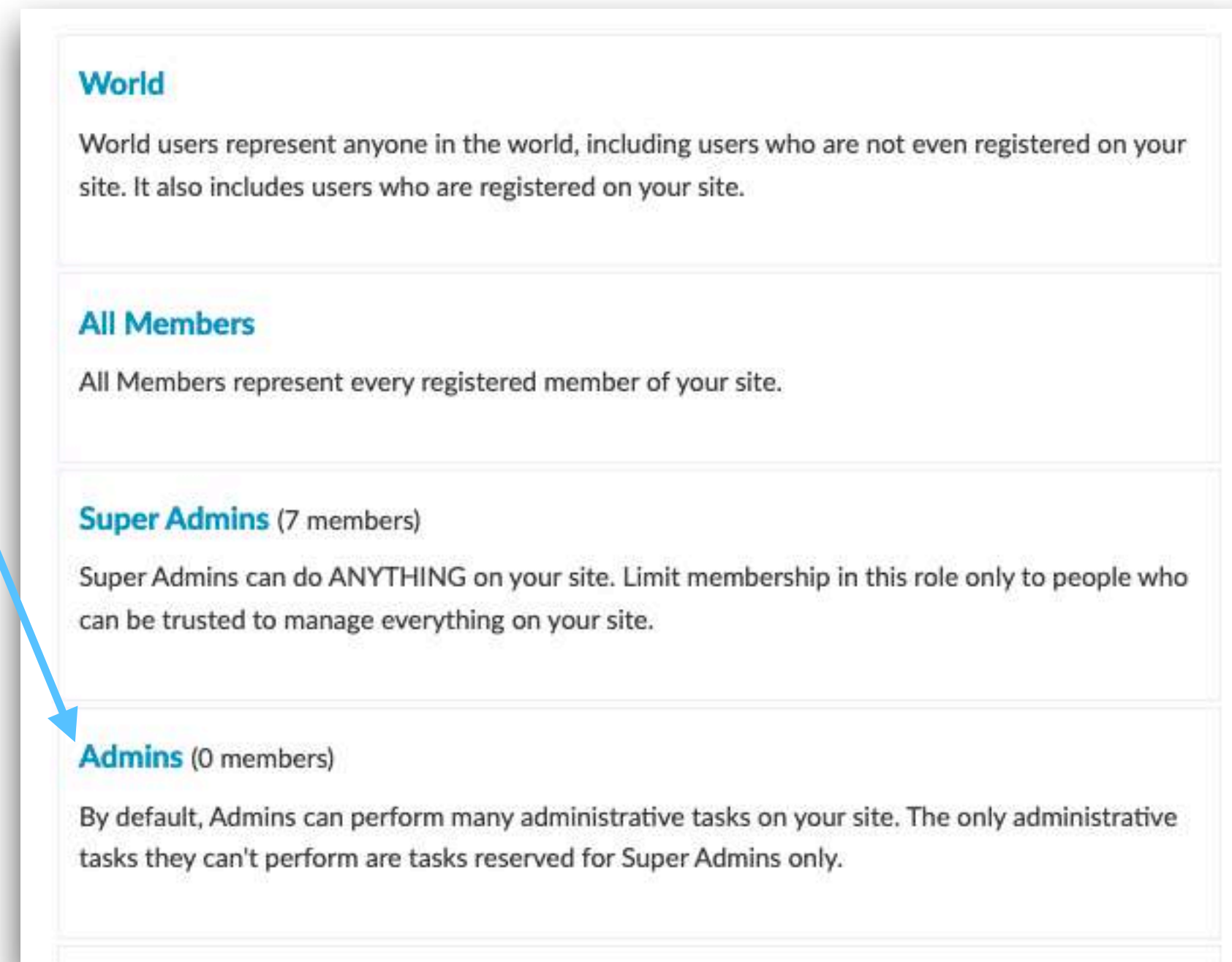
Status: Active

[Update Billing Info](#) · [Change Plan](#) · [Questions About Billing](#) · [Cancel Account](#)

P.S.: All Super Admins now have access to Billing.

New Admin Role

All Crowdstacks now support a default “Admins” role that by default includes all Admin permissions, except for those that are exclusively reserved for Super Admins.



A screenshot of a user management interface showing four roles: World, All Members, Super Admins (7 members), and Admins (0 members). A blue arrow points from the text above to the Admins role description.

World World users represent anyone in the world, including users who are not even registered on your site. It also includes users who are registered on your site.
All Members All Members represent every registered member of your site.
Super Admins (7 members) Super Admins can do ANYTHING on your site. Limit membership in this role only to people who can be trusted to manage everything on your site.
Admins (0 members) By default, Admins can perform many administrative tasks on your site. The only administrative tasks they can't perform are tasks reserved for Super Admins only.

Theme Set Change

The primary theme is now set in Display Settings, rather than in Manage Themes. Accounts that do not have “Custom Themes” allowed, never see the Manage Themes page.

Display Settings

Settings Images

Theme

Crowdstack

Manage Themes

The primary theme is configurable in the [Display Settings](#).

[Add Theme](#)

THEME NAME	
Brian's Theme	Preview · Edit · Delete
Charleston	Preview · Edit · Delete
Clone of Dark Mode	Preview · Edit · Delete

Public/Private Transition Improvement

We've improved things so that underlying permissions never change when a Crowdstack changes status between Public and Private, which means less work re-adjusting permissions if you toggle back from one state to another.

Public / Private Close

Even if your Crowdstack is generally open to the public, you will still be able to control access to specific features/content using permissions. The question here is whether you want to ALWAYS prevent the general public from being able to access any part of your Crowdstack without registering/signing in first. Only choose "Private" if you want all parts of your Crowdstack reserved for registered/signed-in members only.

Public Private

One-Click Enhanced Privacy

Now Super Admins can quickly and easily enforce enhanced privacy settings to allow the Crowdstack to comply with GDPR and other privacy initiatives.

Enhanced Privacy (GDPR): On / Off Close

Crowdstacks with a focus on privacy or that need compliance with the EU's [General Data Protection Regulation](#) will want to enable Enhanced Privacy. Enhanced Privacy ensures your Crowdstack is configured with privacy and GDPR-compliant settings in mind, including: allowing members to delete their own accounts, allowing members to revoke agreement to the Terms of Service (when enabled), enabling Google Analytics IP Address Anonymization, and disabling IP address collection.

On Off

Permissions Reconfigured

We've rearranged some permissions to suit the new layout of the admin control panel. While we do not anticipate major impacts, all existing sites are advised to check their admin-related permissions to make sure they reflect your requirements.

The screenshot shows the 'Permissions' management interface. At the top, there is a title 'Permissions' with a lock icon. Below the title is a paragraph explaining that permissions are assigned to roles, not individuals. A horizontal navigation bar contains tabs for 'Administrative', 'General', 'Forums', 'Calendars', 'Databases', 'Blog Collections', 'Clip Sets', and 'Custom Pages'. Below the navigation bar are links for 'Expand All · Collapse All' and 'Manage Roles'. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'BASICS' (with 'Super Admins' role and a lock icon), 'REPORTS' (with 'Super Admins, Admins' roles, a lock icon, and an 'Update >' button), and 'BILLING' (with 'Super Admins' role and a lock icon).

Permissions

Permissions are assigned to [Roles](#), which are subgroups of people that administrators create and manage. Thus, you do not grant permissions to people individually. Instead, you grant permissions to Roles, and then you assign specific people to those roles. There are some default roles, however, like "All Members", which represents all registered members of your site.

Administrative | General | Forums | Calendars | Databases | Blog Collections | Clip Sets | Custom Pages

[Expand All](#) · [Collapse All](#) [Manage Roles](#)

BASICS Super Admins	
REPORTS Super Admins, Admins	Update >
BILLING Super Admins	

Button Groups Now Full-Width (Control Panel)

In the Admin Control Panel, all “button group” tabs are now full-width.

BEFORE

Display Settings



AFTER

 **Display Settings**



Post/Ellipses Buttons Are Now Round

BEFORE

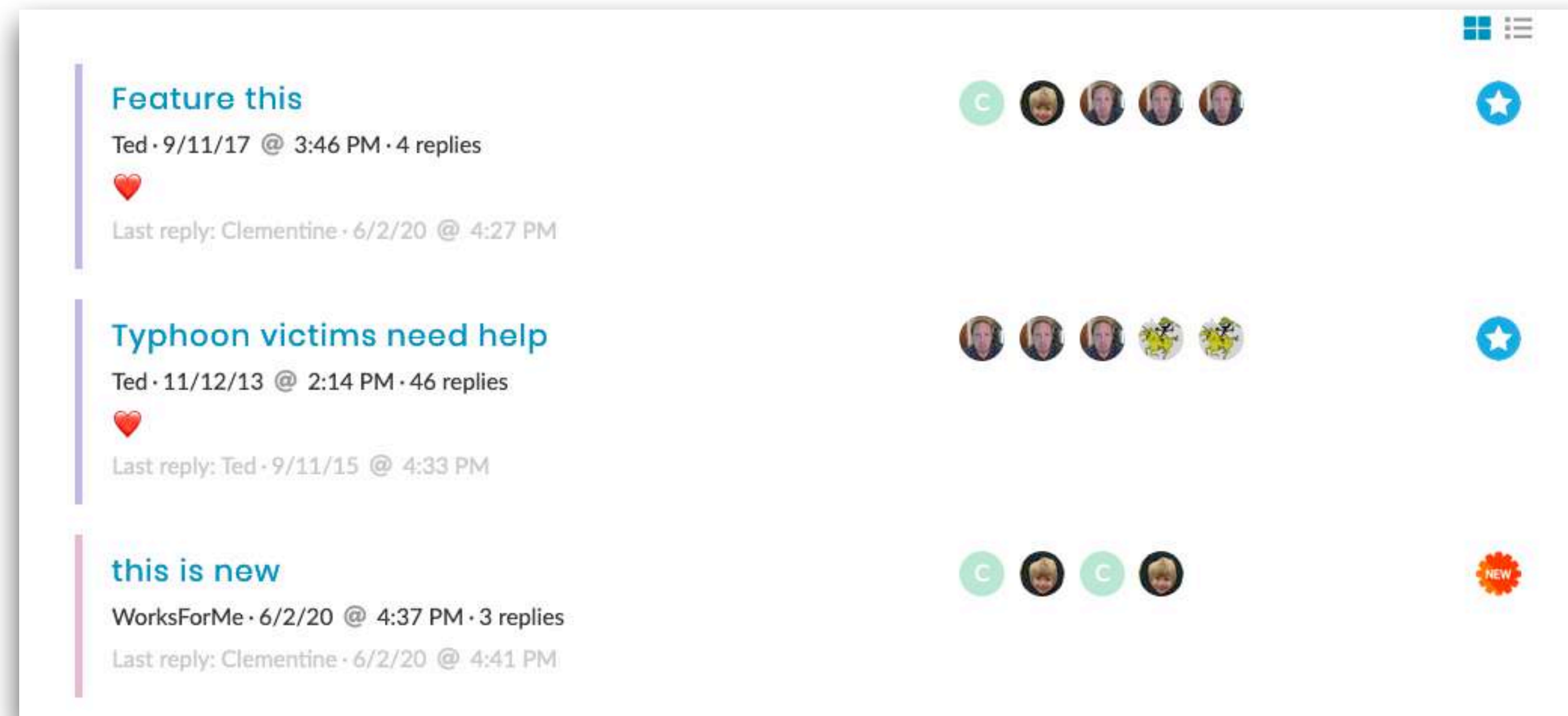


AFTER



List Mode Now the Default For Forums

Forum lists still have two display modes - a card mode and a list mode. We now default to list mode, since most forum topics do not include a title image.



Our Google Analytics Tracker No Longer In Place

We no longer apply our own Google Analytics code to Crowdstack sites. Even though we never used this data for anything but aggregating data across our customer sites to track usage, we'd prefer to reduce any possible privacy concerns for our customers and their members.



Of course, you, as a Crowdstack owner can still choose to apply Google Analytics (and Crowdstack provides you an easy way to do so).