View All Files Published to Web in Google Drive with GAT+

Drive Audit & Management · https://gatlabs.com/knowledge/tech-tips/view-all-files-published-to-web-in-google-drive-with-gat/

The "Publish to web" feature

"**Publish to web**" in Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides is a feature that allows you to make your documents viewable to a wider audience on the internet.

Key Features and Functionality:

- **Public Viewing:**
  - It generates a public URL that anyone with the link can use to view your document. This means they don't necessarily need a Google account to access it
- **Read-Only Access:**
  - Viewers can only see the document; they cannot edit it. This is useful for sharing information without granting editing permissions.
- **Real-Time Updates:**
  - If you make changes to your original Google Doc, Sheet, or Slide, those changes are reflected in the published web version (though there might be a slight delay).
- **Embedding:**
  - In addition to generating a link, "publish to web" also provides HTML embed code, allowing you to insert your document directly into websites or blogs.
- **Different File Types:**
    - The functionality varies slightly depending on the Google file type:
      - **Docs:** Creates a simplified, read-only web page.

        - **Sheets:** Allows you to publish entire spreadsheets or specific sheets, and you can control how the data is displayed.
        - **Slides:** Creates a web-based presentation viewer, with options for auto-advancing slides.

- **Sharing control:**
    - Google also provides controls that allow users to stop publishing the files, and to also control if editors of the documents can also share the documents.

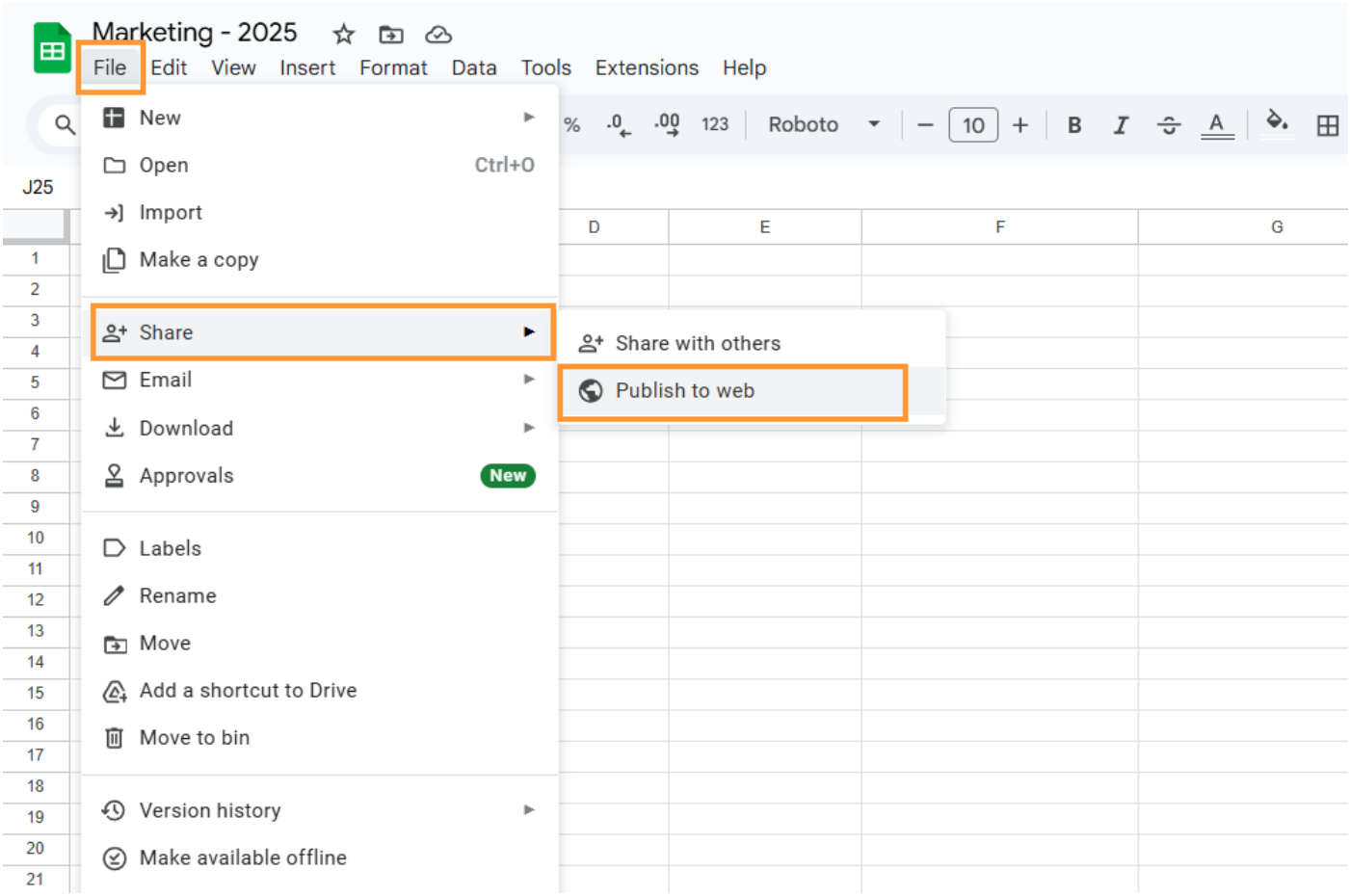
Important note:

- **Sharing:** For controlled access among Google account holders.
- **Publish to Web:** For making a document publicly viewable online.

In essence, "**publish to web**" is a convenient way to share your Google documents with a broad audience in a **view-only format**

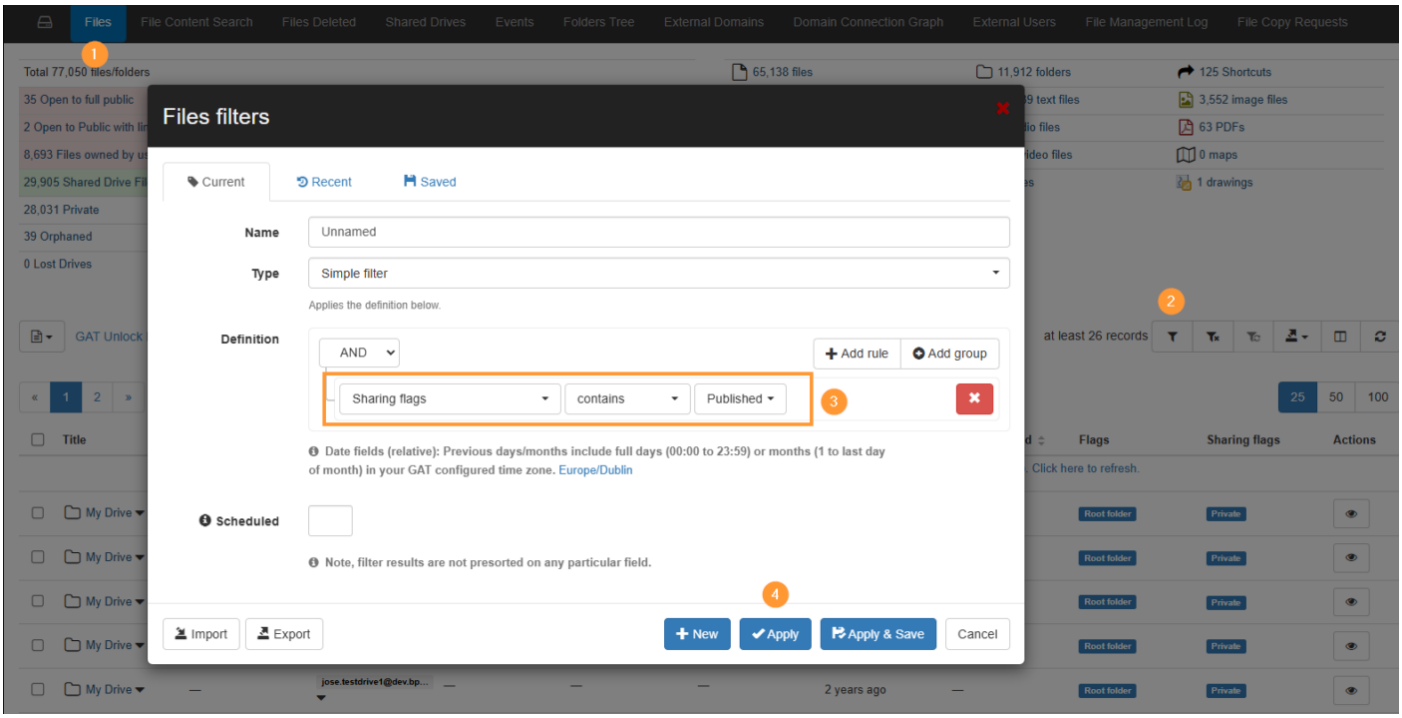
How to set up a file with a publish to web event

Navigate to **Google Docs, Sheets, or Slides > click on File > Share > Publish to web**



Find all published files in GAT+

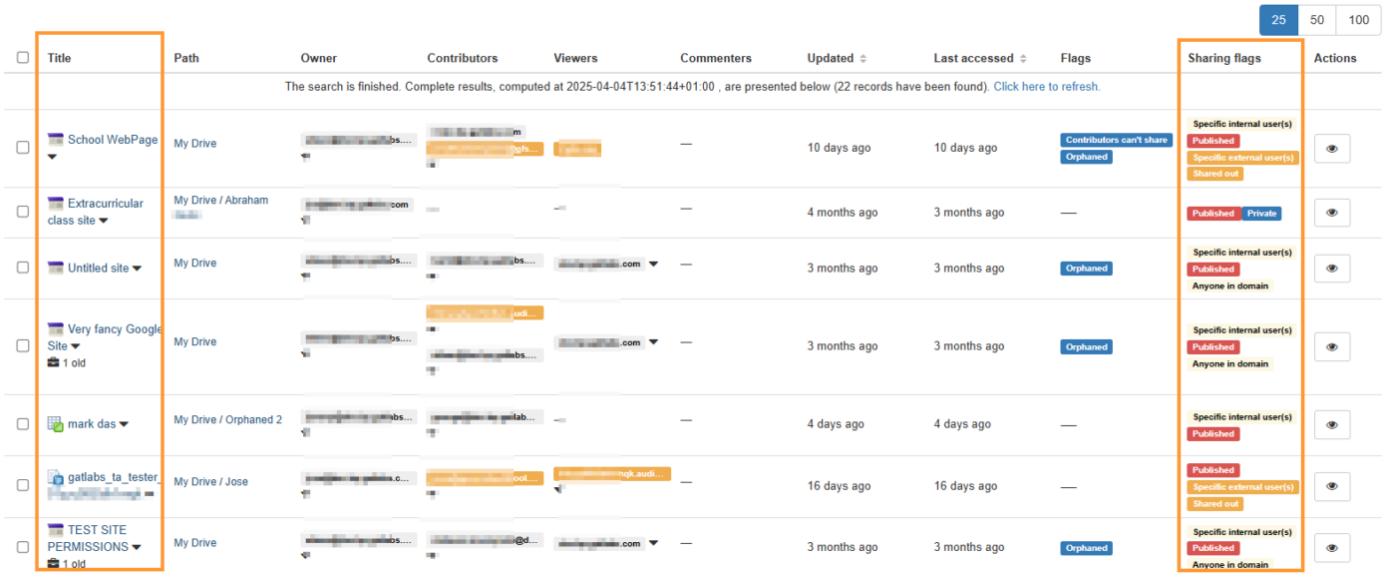
Navigate to **GAT+ > Drive > Files** > apply filter > **Sharing flag contains Published**



Result

As a result, the Admin can view all files that are "published to web".

Each of the files will have a "**published**" sharing flag. The **file types** can be **Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides** as well as Google Sites

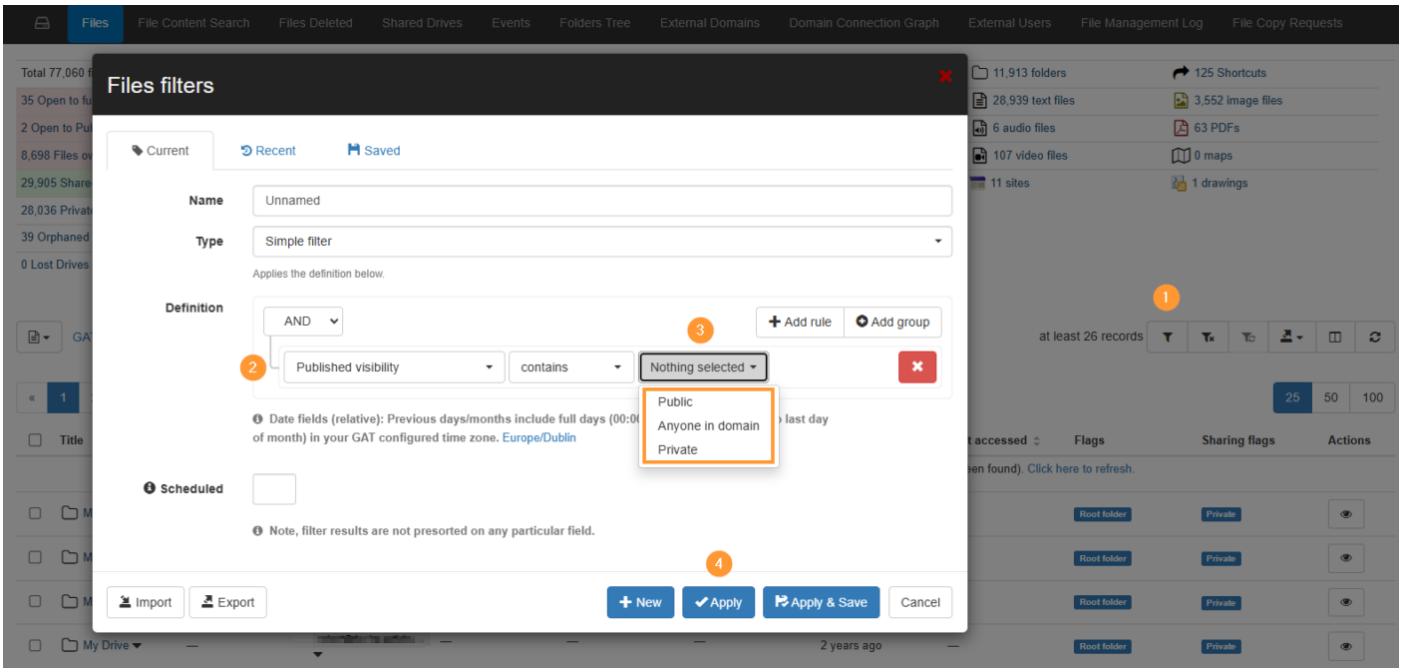


Publish visibility

IMPORTANT: Files can be private and at the same time published on the web

Publish visibility can be **"Public", "Anyone in domain" or "Private".**

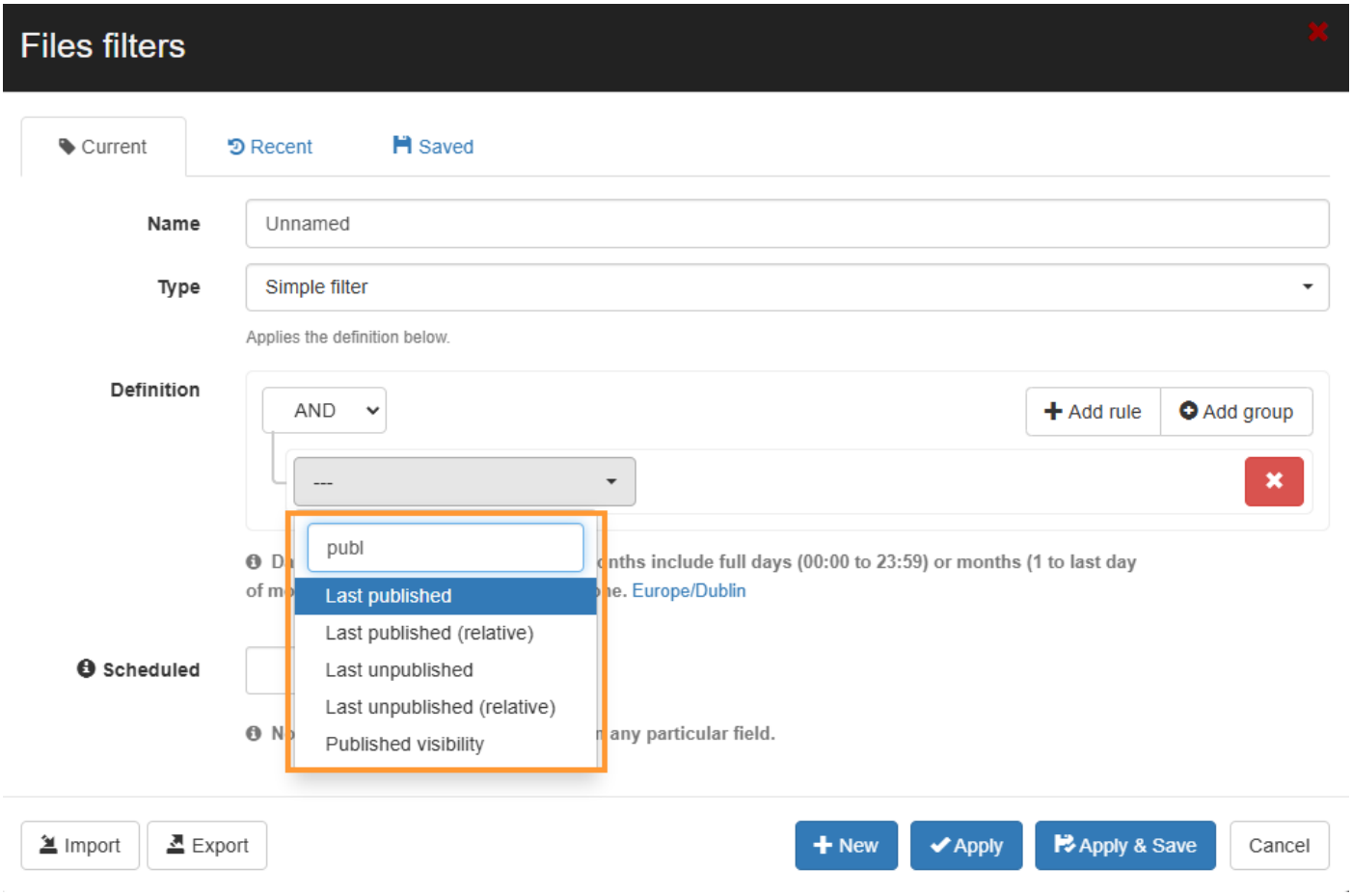
Navigate to GAT+ > Files > Apply filter > Published visibility (Public, Private, Anyone in domain)



Additional publish filters

Additional publishing filters can be applied.

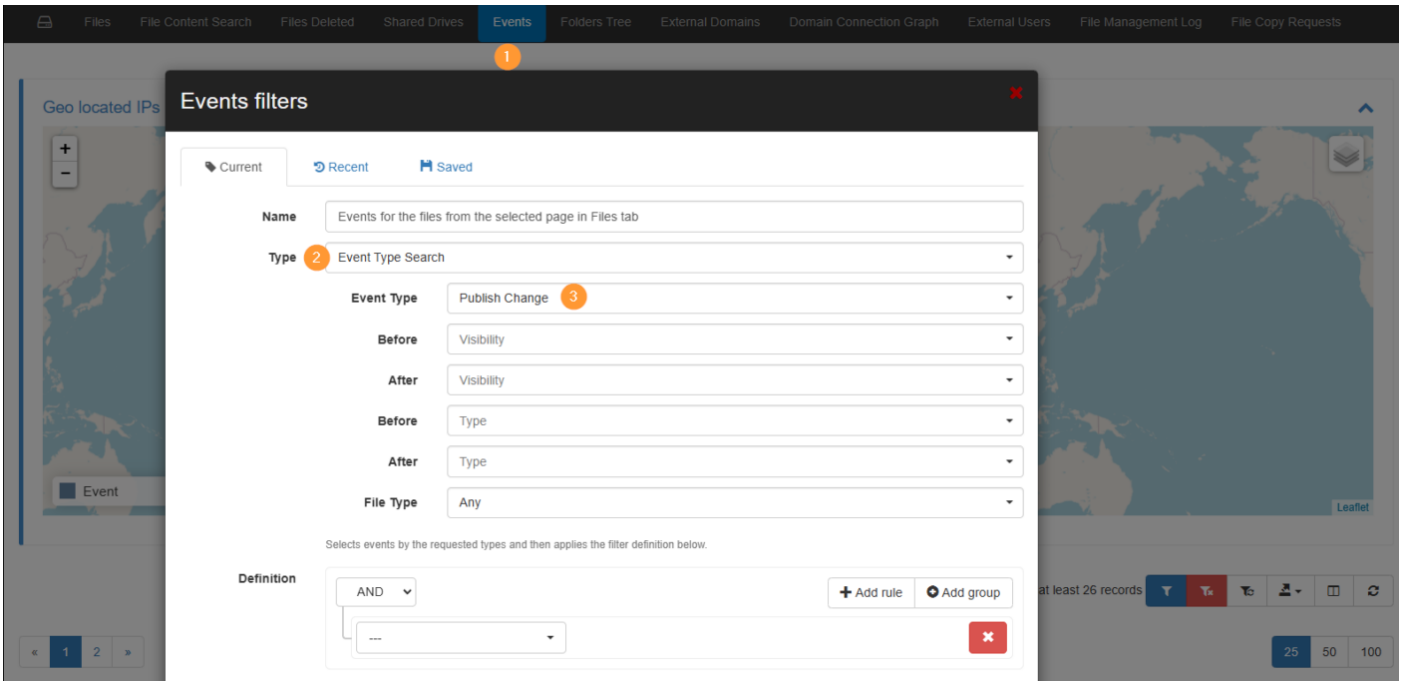
- **Last published** - enter a date before or after the published change was applied
- **Last published (relative)** - search for in the last x hours/days the "published event" has happened
- **Last unpublished** - enter a date before or after the published change was applied (removed)
- **Last unpublished (relative)** - search for in the last x hours/days the "published event" has happened



View "Publish Change" Events

The event of "Publish change" can be audited in **GAT+ > Drive > Events > Event type search > Publish change**

Search for visibility change before and after as well as type of publish visibility before and after



Result

This will show you a list of "Publish changes" of the Google Drive files.

