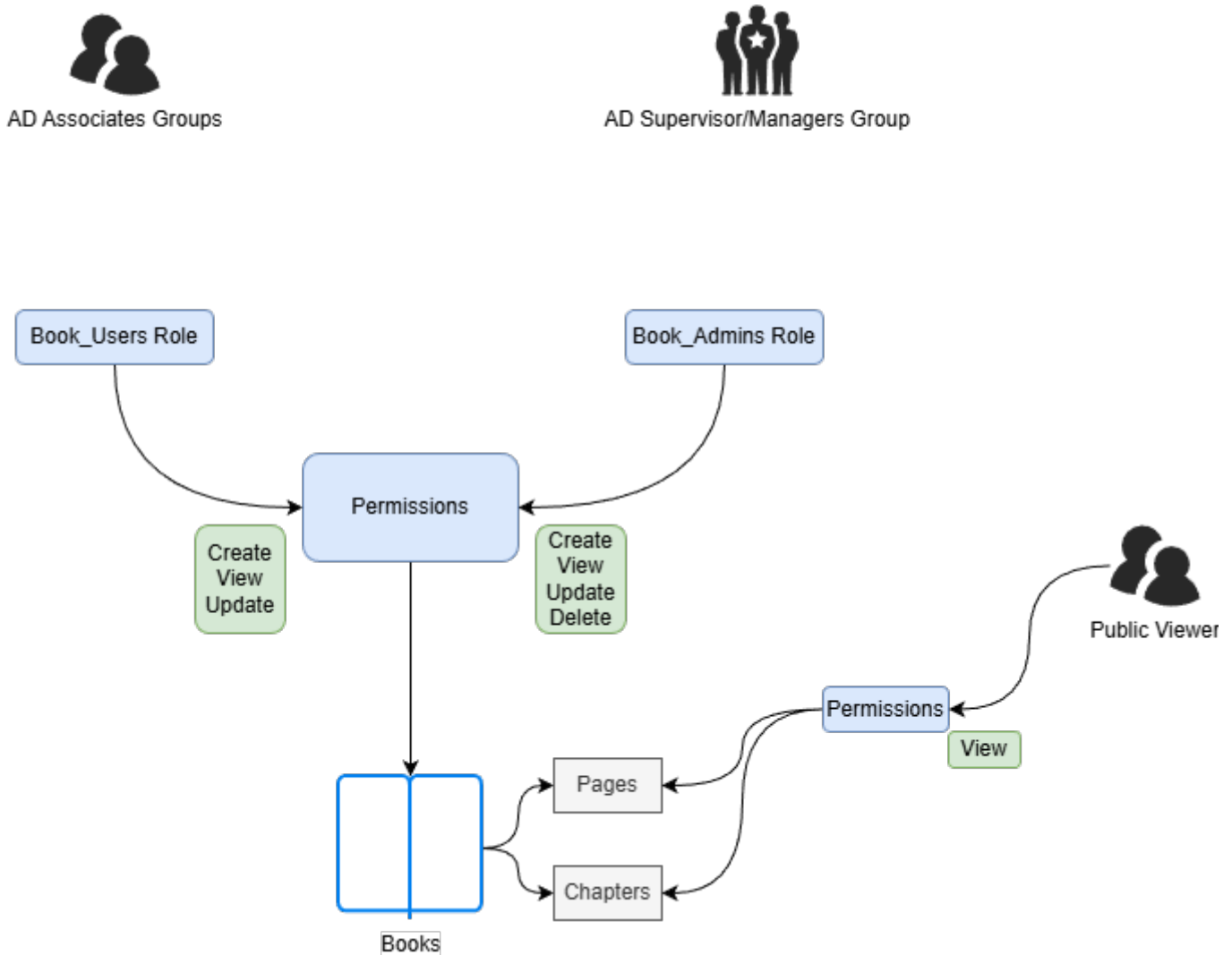


How Role and Permission works



Public access

Hi [@bensulli](#), Thanks for this feature request. Looking into this actually lead me to find a bug in the permission system, Now fixed in v0.16.3.

As far as I can see, This is possible already. Within your users in BookStack you should find a user named `Guest`. This use is the user that any public visitor gets assigned. By default, This user is assigned the `public` role.

To achieve a 'whitelist' approach for public users you can do the following:

1. *Update to v0.16.3 to avoid permission removal bug*
2. Turn on the "Allow public viewing" setting.
3. Edit the 'Public' role and uncheck all permissions then save.
4. Go to the book you want to make visible publicly and edit the permissions via the dropdown to the right of the 'Edit' link.
5. Check 'Enable Custom Permissions' then set all the permissions you want, Ensuring you check the `view` permission for the public role.

While typing out the above, I've realised that, while possible, the permission system is not really set up for this kind of scenario so I've opened up issue [#410](#) to action a better setup. I will close this issue though since what you have asked is still possible using the above steps. Let me know if you have any issues following those steps.

Revision #7

Created 5 November 2025 23:02:56 by Denmark Angeles

Updated 1 September 2026 05:43:21 by Denmark Angeles