

Configure PHP and suEXEC

This documentation is for a previous release of cPanel & WHM. To view our latest documentation, visit our [Home page](#).

For cPanel & WHM 54

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Overview

This interface allows you to change Apache's PHP handlers configuration, PHP version, and enable or disable suEXEC.

Change the default PHP version

You can define which version of PHP the system uses when Apache serves a `.php` file.

To change the default PHP version, select the version of PHP that you wish to use from the *Default PHP Version (.php files)* menu and click *Save New Configuration*.

Enable or disable Apache suExec

When you enable suEXEC, Apache runs CGI software as the account owner rather than as the `nobody` user.

To enable or disable suEXEC, select *on* or *off* from the *Apache suEXEC* menu and click *Save New Configuration*.

To test your new configuration, select the *Do a dryrun* checkbox. This feature allows you to verify the new configuration before deployment. After you click *Save New Configuration*, click *Apply Settings* in the following interface to apply the new settings to your PHP configuration.

Warning:

This is **not** PHPsuEXEC. This version of suEXEC only pertains to PHP that CGI handles.

Define a PHP handler

A PHP handler calls the PHP libraries that the system requires to interpret the PHP code. The handler that you choose determines the libraries that the system accesses. You may assign different PHP handlers to different versions of PHP.

Note:

If you build Apache without PHP, the interface will **not** display any handlers in the menu.

To define new PHP handlers, perform the following steps:

1. Select the handlers that you wish to handle one or both versions of PHP.
2. In the *PHP 5 Handler* menu, select the handler that you wish to use.
3. Click *Save New Configuration*.

Migrate from DSO to suPHP

To migrate from DSO to suPHP, perform the following steps:

Note:

For more information about PHP handlers, read our [PHP Handlers](#) documentation.

Step 1: Configure WHM for suPHP

In the *PHP 5 Handler* menu, select *suPHP* and click *Save Configuration*.

Step 2: Update permissions and ownership

Perform the following changes inside each user's `public_html` directory:

- Change the permissions of files to 644 and directories to 755.
- Change the ownership of the files and directories within the `public_html` directory to `user:user`. Do **not** change the `public_html` directory owner. The default owner is `user:nobody`.

Warnings:

- Do **not** make any changes to the directory itself.
- If you change ownership or permissions of files outside of the `public_html` directory, you may cause problems with other aspects of the account, such as mail.

Step 3: Edit the .htaccess files

If you previously allowed PHP customizations through `.htaccess` files, you **must** remove or comment out all `php_value` or `php_flag` settings in the user `.htaccess` files.

Warning:

We **strongly** recommend that you perform a backup before you make changes to your `.htaccess` files.

The following commands remove the `php_value` and `php_flag` settings from the `.htaccess` files:

```
find /home -type f -name '.htaccess' -exec grep -Hrn 'php_value' '{}' \;  
find /home -type f -name '.htaccess' -exec grep -Hrn 'php_flag' '{}' \;
```

Step 4: PHP customizations

To allow PHP customization, create a custom `php.ini` file in the user's directory.

To create a custom `php.ini` file, perform the following steps:

1. Copy the server's `php.ini` file (`/usr/local/lib/`) to the user's home directory (For example, `/home/username`).
2. Add the new values to the user's `php.ini` file.

Warning:

If the `php.ini` file in the user's directory is **not** valid, suPHP defaults to the `php.ini` file located in the `/usr/local/lib/` directory.

For each directory that contains PHP scripts that require the custom settings, add `suPHP_ConfigPath /home/username/` to the `.htaccess` file in the folder that contains the PHP script.

Additional documentation

- [PHP Security Concepts](#) — Learn how to increase the security of your PHP implementation.
- [How to Edit Your php.ini File](#) — Learn how to make changes to your `php.ini` file.