

Configure PHP and suEXEC

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For cPanel & WHM 11.46

(Home >> Service Configuration >> Configure PHP and SuExec)

- Overview
- Change the default PHP version
- Enable or Disable Apache suExec
- Define a PHP handler
- Migrate from DSO to suPHP
 - Step 1: Configure WHM for suPHP
 - Step 2: Update permissions and ownership
 - Step 3: Edit the .htaccess files
 - Step 4: PHP Customizations
- Additional Documentation

Overview

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

Change the default PHP version

You can define which version of PHP that the system will use when a visitor to a site on your server encounters 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 user ID of the account owner rather than as the user `nobody`.

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

When you configure these options, to compile and view the PHP configuration file before you use it on your server, select the *Do a dryrun* checkbox at the bottom of the interface before you click *Save New Configuration*. Use this to check for errors and security flaws before Apache uses this PHP configuration. 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 are necessary for the system 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, you will not see any handlers to select.

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:

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 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 `public_html`, 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 will 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 `php.ini` file in the user's directory is not valid and complete, the suPHP will default to the `php.ini` file located at `/usr/local/lib/`.

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

Additional Documentation

- [PHP Security Concepts](#)
- [Editing Your php.ini File](#)