

# Introduction to the rpm.versions system

## Overview

- What is an RPM?
  - What is an SRPM?
- rpm.versions files
- rpm.versions system scripts
- Customization options
- Additional documentation

## Overview

The rpm.versions system manages many of the RPMs on your cPanel & WHM server. The packages that the rpm.versions system manages may include the following types of RPMs:

- cPanel-provided RPMs.
- Third-party software RPMs.
- Custom RPMs that system administrators choose to install.

### Important:

The rpm.versions system does **not** manage the packages for your operating system's distribution.

- To install these packages, use WHM's *Install an RPM* interface (*WHM >> Home >> Software >> Install an RPM*).
- To change how your server handles updates for these packages, use the *Operating System Package Updates* section of WHM's *Update Preferences* interface (*WHM >> Home >> Server Configuration >> Update Preferences*).

## What is an RPM?

RPM stands for RPM Package Manager. In our documentation, the term "RPM" may refer to any of the following items:

- The packaged `.rpm` file (for example, `MySQL56-client-5.6.14-1.cp1142.i386.rpm`).
- The software that the package contains (for example, MySQL® version 5.6).
- The package manager itself.

### Note:

For more information about RPMs, visit the [RPM website](#).

## What is an SRPM?

Source RPMs (SRPMs) contain the source code for each RPM on your system. Unlike RPMs, SRPMs are not compiled.

For information on how the rpm.versions system stores SRPM information, read our [The rpm.versions File](#) documentation.

## rpm.versions files

The rpm.versions system manages RPMs based on the settings that it finds in several YAML files on your server. These files use the following priority:

1. The `/var/cpanel/rpm.versions.d/local.versions` file contains settings that system administrators set locally. These settings override all other rpm.versions system settings on the server.
2. Third-party developers can create other `.versions` files in the `/var/cpanel/rpm.versions.d/` directory, which override the cPanel-provided defaults.
3. The `/usr/local/cpanel/etc/rpm.versions` file contains cPanel-provided settings, based on your server's version of cPanel & WHM. All local `.versions` files override these settings.

### Important:

We do **not** recommend that you modify the `/usr/local/cpanel/etc/rpm.versions` file for any reason.

For a more detailed explanation of how to work with these files, read our [The rpm.versions File](#), [RPM Targets](#), and [How to Override the](#)

[rpm.versions System documentation.](#)

## rpm.versions system scripts

The rpm.versions system includes the following scripts:

- The `/scripts/check_cpanel_rpms` script tracks missing or out-of-date RPMs, checks for altered RPMs, and uninstalls unnecessary RPMs. If you experience problems with an RPM on your server, this script can help you find and fix the issue. For more information, read our [The check\\_cpanel\\_rpms Script](#) documentation.
- The `/scripts/update_local_rpm_versions` script allows system administrators to safely edit the `/var/cpanel/rpm.versions.d/local.versions` file's contents, in order to override settings in the rpm.versions system. For more information, read our [The update\\_local\\_rpm\\_versions Script](#) documentation.

## Customization options

In addition to the ability to override settings on a server, you can create and install your own custom RPMs, and modify the RPM installation process. If you wish to modify and replace cPanel-provided RPMs, read our [How to Build and Install Custom RPMs](#) documentation.

## Additional documentation

Suggested documentation [For cPanel users](#) [For WHM users](#) [For developers](#)

- [RPM Targets](#)
- [Third-Party Software](#)
- [The update\\_local\\_rpm\\_versions Script](#)
- [How to Override the rpm.versions System](#)
- [The check\\_cpanel\\_rpms Script](#)

### Content by label

There is no content with the specified labels



- [RPM Targets](#)
- [Third-Party Software](#)
- [How to Set or Unset RPM Management](#)
- [RPM Installation Failures](#)
- [The update\\_local\\_rpm\\_versions Script](#)
  
- [Guide to Standardized Hooks - RPM::Versions Functions](#)
- [WHM API 1 Functions - edit\\_rpm\\_version](#)
- [WHM API 1 Functions - list\\_rpms](#)

- WHM API 1 Functions - package\_manager\_upgrade
- WHM API 1 functions - package\_manager\_list\_packages