Configure PHP and suEXEC

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

Overview

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

Warning:

This interface **only** appears if your server runs EasyApache 3. We **strongly** recommend that you upgrade your server to run EasyApache 4.

In EasyApache 4, you can perform the actions that this document describes in the following interfaces:

- WHM's *MultiPHP Manager* interface (*WHM >> Home >> Software >> MultiPHP Manager*)
- WHM's *MultiPHP INI Editor* interface (*WHM >> Home >> Software >> MultiPHP INI Editor*)

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:

Apache suEXEC differs from PHP suEXEC. Apache 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

Note:

For more information about PHP handlers, read our PHP Handlers documentation.

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

1

Configure WHM for suPHP

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

2

Update permissions and ownership

To update file 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`.

Warnings:

- Do **not** change the `public_html` directory owner. The `public_html` directory defaults to the `user:nobody` owner .
- 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.

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.

Run the following commands to 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' '{}' \;
```

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 `/usr/local/lib/php.ini` to the user's home directory.
2. Add the new values to the user's `php.ini` file.

> **Warning:**
>
> If an invalid `php.ini` file resides in the user's directory, suPHP defaults to the `php.ini` file in the `/usr/local/lib/` directory.

3. 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

- Configure PHP and suEXEC
- Tweak Settings - PHP
- Configuration Values of PHP-FPM
- cPanel PHP
- PHP-FPM User Pools