

Guide to cPanel Plugins - Add Plugins to Version 11.44 and Later

Guide to cPanel Plugins

[The dynamicui Files](#)

[Add Plugins \(11.42 and earlier\)](#)

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Introduction



Warning:

You **must** use this method when you install plugins to the Paper Lantern theme.

cPanel & WHM version 11.44 and later uses an `install.json` file to add icons and groups. This file passes information to cPanel's `dynamicui` files when you install your plugin. While you can also add items directly to Paper Lantern's `dynamicui` files, we **strongly** recommend that you use the `install.json` file method.



Note:

You can also create a cPanel plugin with WHM's [cPanel Plugin File Generator](#) interface (*WHM >> Home >> Development >> cPanel Plugin File Generator*).

The `install.json` file

To create an `install.json` file for your plugin, perform the following steps:

1. Create the `install.json` file.
2. [Add one or more groups](#) to the `install.json` file.
3. [Add one or more icons](#) to the `install.json` file.
4. Include [the complete `install.json` file](#) in your compressed installation file.



Note:

When you use the `install.json` file method, you **must** use [the `install_plugin` script](#) to add your plugin to the cPanel interface.



Important:

Due to the permissions that the `/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/install_plugin` script requires in order to access the necessary files, **only** the `root` user can run this script successfully.

Add groups

Group entries in `install.json` files appear similar to the following example:

```
{
  "name" : "Custom Group",
  "order" : 11,
  "type" : "group",
  "id" : "my_plugins",
  "implements" : "Filemanager_home"
},
```

Use the following parameters to configure groups:

Parameter	Type	Description	Possible values	Example
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cPanel Plugins

About cPanel Plugins

- *cPanel plugins add custom features to the cPanel interface.*
- *Each cPanel theme has different requirements for cPanel plugins.*

Compatible with:

- cPanel 11.32 +

Related Documentation

name	<i>string</i>	Required The name of the group, as it will display in the cPanel interface. In <code>dynamicui</code> files, this parameter becomes the <code>groupdesc</code> key.	A string value.	Custom Group
order	<i>integer</i>	Required The group's order in the cPanel interface. In <code>dynamicui</code> files, this parameter becomes the <code>grouporder</code> key.	An integer that represents the order in which the group displays. Note: Groups with a lower order value display first.	11
type	<i>string</i>	Required The item's type. This value determines whether the installation process converts the item into a group entry or an icon entry in the <code>dynamicui</code> files.	Important: For groups, this value must be <code>group</code> .	group
id	<i>string</i>	Required The group's internal name. In <code>dynamicui</code> files, this parameter becomes the <code>group</code> key.	A string value.	<code>my_plugins</code>
key	<i>string</i>	A key to uniquely identify cPanel interfaces and their associated assets for the cPanel Analytics program. Note: We added this parameter in cPanel & WHM version 78. In <code>dynamicui</code> files, this parameter becomes the <code>key</code> key.	A valid string. Generally, this value matches the item's <code>file</code> value.	<code>feature_name</code>
implements	<i>string</i>	The <code>app_key</code> value that the <code>create_user_session</code> and <code>get_users_links</code> functions use when you register the plugin.	The <code>app_key</code> value to override. Note: For a complete list of the variables to use for the <code>app_key</code> parameter, read our Guide to cPanel Interface Customization - Appkeys documentation.	<code>FileManager_Home</code>

- [Guide to cPanel Plugins - Add Plugins to Legacy cPanel Versions](#) — cPanel & WHM version 11.42 and earlier requires you to manually add items to the `dynamicui` files.
- [Guide to cPanel Variables - The LiveAPI system and dynamicui files](#) can access cPanel's global variables.
- [Tutorial - Create a New Paper Lantern Interface in PHP](#) — This tutorial uses PHP to create a new cPanel interface for the Paper Lantern theme.
- [Tutorial - Add a Link to the cPanel Interface](#) — This tutorial adds an icon that links to an external location to the cPanel interface.
- [Guide to cPanel Plugins - Uninstall Plugins](#) — To uninstall plugins from cPanel & WHM, choose the uninstallation process according to your system's version.

Add icons

Icon entries in `install.json` files appear similar to the following example:

```
{
  "icon" : "one.svg",
  "group_id" : "my_plugins",
  "order" : 10000,
  "name" : "Support",
  "type" : "link",
  "id" : "plugin_one",
  "uri" : "my_plugin_directory/index.live.pl",
  "target" : "_blank"
},
```

Use the following parameters to configure each icon:

Parameter	Type	Description	Possible values	Example
icon	<i>string</i>	<p>Required</p> <p>The icon file name.</p> <p>In <code>dynamicui</code> files, this parameter becomes the <code>file key</code>.</p>	<p>The icon's filename and file extension.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p> Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In cPanel & WHM version 11.44 through 58, Paper Lantern only supports <code>.png</code> files. In cPanel & WHM version 60 and later, Paper Lantern icons support either <code>.png</code> or <code>.svg</code> files. In cPanel & WHM version 60 and later, we recommend that you upload one of each that uses same root filename (for example: <code>file_manager.png</code> and <code>file_manager.svg</code>). If the <code>.svg</code> file is not available, cPanel will use the <code>.png</code> file. Icons must be 48x48 pixels. </div>	one.svg
name	<i>string</i>	<p>Required</p> <p>The name of the item, as it will display in the cPanel interface.</p> <p>In <code>dynamicui</code> files, this parameter becomes the <code>item desc key</code>.</p>	A valid string.	Support
order	<i>integer</i>	<p>Required</p> <p>The item's order in the cPanel interface.</p> <p>In <code>dynamicui</code> files, this parameter becomes the <code>item order key</code>.</p>	<p>An integer that represents the order in which the item displays.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p> Note:</p> <p>Items with a lower <code>item order</code> value display first.</p> </div>	10000

type	string	<p>Required</p> <p>The item's type.</p> <p>This value determines whether the installation process converts the item into a group entry or an icon entry in the dynamicui files.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p> Important:</p> <p>For icons, this value must be link.</p> </div>	link
id	string	<p>Required</p> <p>The item's internal name.</p>	<p>A string value.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid yellow; padding: 5px;"> <p> Note:</p> <p>This value can only contain letters, numbers, hyphens (-), and underscores (_).</p> </div>	plugin_one
uri	string	<p>Required</p> <p>The location to which the item links.</p> <p>In dynamicui files, this parameter becomes the url key.</p>	<p>A valid URL or a filepath relative to the paper_lantern theme's directory.</p>	my_plugin_directory/index.live.pl
group_id	string	<p>Required</p> <p>The group in which the item will appear.</p> <p>In dynamicui files, this parameter becomes the group key.</p>	<p>A valid group name.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In install.json files, this is the desired group's id value. • In dynamicui files, this is the desired group's group value. 	my_plugins
target	string	<p>Specifies where in the browser to open the plugin.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid yellow; padding: 5px;"> <p> Note:</p> <p>This parameter is only available in cPanel & WHM version 11.50 and later.</p> </div>	<p>A valid HTML target value or frame name.</p>	_blank
featuremanager	string	<p>Whether to register this item in WHM's Feature Manager interface (WHM >> Home >> Packages >> Feature Manager).</p> <p>This parameter defaults to 1.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 — Register this item in the <i>Feature Manager</i> interface. • 0 — Do not register this item in the <i>Feature Manager</i> interface. 	1

feature	<i>string</i>	The plugin's name. This parameter defaults to the <code>id</code> parameter's value.	A string value.  Note: This value can only contain letters, numbers, hyphens (-), and underscores (_).	examplefeature
description	<i>string</i>	The plugin's description. This parameter defaults to the <code>name</code> parameter's value.	A string value.	A test plugin.
key	<i>string</i>	A key to uniquely identify cPanel interfaces and their associated assets for the cPanel Analytics program.  Note: We added this parameter in cPanel & WHM version 76. In dynamicui files, this parameter becomes the key key.	A valid string. Generally, this value matches the item's <code>file</code> value.	feature_name

Add icons to an existing group

You can also add plugin icons to groups that already exist in Paper Lantern. Use the following group names to add an icon to an existing group:

- files
- databases
- domains
- email
- metrics
- security
- software
- advanced

Example

The following example file adds the *My Group* group to the cPanel interface, with icons that link to the *Plugin One* and *Plugin Two* interfaces:

```

[
  {
    "order" : 11,
    "name" : "My Group",
    "type" : "group",
    "id" : "my_plugins"
  },
  {
    "icon" : "one.svg",
    "group_id" : "my_plugins",
    "order" : 1,
    "name" : "Plugin One",
    "type" : "link",
    "id" : "plugin_one",
    "key" : "feature_name",
    "uri" : "my_plugin_directory/index.live.pl",
    "featuremanager" : 1,
    "feature" : "examplefeature",
    "description" : "A test plugin."
  },
  {
    "icon" : "two.svg",
    "group_id" : "my_plugins",
    "order" : 2,
    "name" : "Plugin Two",
    "type" : "link",
    "id" : "plugin_two",
    "key" : "feature_name",
    "uri" : "my_plugin_directory/index.html.pl",
    "featuremanager" : 1,
    "feature" : "plugin_two",
    "description" : "Plugin Two"
  }
]

```

Create a plugin interface for the Paper Lantern theme

To create a plugin that integrates seamlessly with the Paper Lantern interface, read the following tutorials:

- [Create a New Paper Lantern Interface in PHP](#)
- [Create a New Paper Lantern Interface in Template Toolkit](#)