

The set_hostname Utility

For cPanel & WHM version 68

Overview

The `/usr/local/cpanel/bin/set_hostname` utility updates the server's hostname, and performs all of the necessary actions to apply this change throughout the system. This utility is useful if you wish to change the server's hostname during a process that requires you to call the binary (for example, automated cloning processes).

Important:

- Do **not** select a hostname that begins with `www` or a number, or a hostname that ends with a hyphen (`-`).
- You **must** use a [fully-qualified domain name \(FQDN\)](#) that uniquely identifies the server (for example, `hostname.example.com` or `hostname.example.co.uk`).
- Do **not** choose a hostname that a cPanel account on your server will use.
- Do **not** choose a potential proxy subdomain as a hostname (for example, `cpanel.example.com` or `whm.example.com`).
- Do **not** select a socially-unacceptable hostname. The hostname will appear in mail headers.
- Only use lowercase, Latin-script letters in hostnames.

Note:

You can also use the following methods to change the server's hostname:

- Enter the new hostname in the [Set Up Networking](#) section of WHM's [Initial Setup Assistant](#) interface.
- Use WHM's [Change Hostname](#) interface (*WHM >> Home >> Networking Setup >> Change Hostname*).
- Call [WHM API 1's sethostname function](#).

If you use these methods, you do **not** need to run this utility.

The set_hostname Utility

To use the `/usr/local/cpanel/bin/set_hostname` utility, run the following command as the `root` user:

```
/usr/local/cpanel/bin/set_hostname newhostname
```

In this command, `newhostname` is the new hostname that you wish to use on the server.

When you run this command, the `set_hostname` utility performs the following actions:

- It updates the hostname in the `/etc/sysconfig/network` file, and in the kernel.
- It updates the server's Apache configuration.
- It updates the cPanel license.
- It updates cPHulk.
- It restarts MySQL®.
- It rebuilds cPanel & WHM's global cache.
- It updates the FTP, Exim, Dovecot, and cPanel SSL certificates.

Notes:

- Run the `/usr/local/cpanel/bin/set_hostname --help` command to view utility information on the command line.
- If you specify the server's existing hostname when you run the command, the utility synchronizes the server's hostname configuration.
- The utility returns an exit code of 0 if it succeeds, or an exit code of 1 if it fails.

Example

To change the server's hostname to `hostname.example.com`, run the following command:

```
/usr/local/cpanel/bin/set_hostname hostname.example.com
```

If the update succeeded, the utility produces the following output:

```
Changing hostname to hostname.example.com...Success!

Hostname set to: hostname.example.com
Output during rename:

Altered hostname in /etc/sysconfig/network
Stopping MySQL during hostname change
Changing hostname in kernel to hostname.example.com
Updating Apache configuration

Updating cPanel license...Done. Update succeeded.
Building global cache for cpanel...Done

Self Signed SSL Certificate for ftp does not match current hostname! ([oldhostname.example.com] != hostname.
example.com).
Creating new Certificate and Key for ftp...Done
Self Signed SSL Certificate for exim does not match current hostname! ([oldhostname.example.com] != hostname.
example.com).
Creating new Certificate and Key for exim...Done
Self Signed SSL Certificate for dovecot does not match current hostname! ([oldhostname.example.com] != hostname.
example.com).
Creating new Certificate and Key for dovecot...Done
Self Signed SSL Certificate for cpanel does not match current hostname! ([oldhostname.example.com] != hostname.
example.com).
Creating new Certificate and Key for cpanel...Done
Updating cPHulkd

hulkdsetup: database schema is up to date.
Waiting for "mysql" to start .....waiting for "mysql" to initialize .....
...finished.

Startup Log
  Starting MySQL...[ OK ]

Log Messages
150123 9:53:45 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: ready for connections.
150123 09:53:43 mysqld_safe Starting mysqld daemon with databases from /var/lib/mysql
150122 22:36:53 mysqld_safe mysqld from pid file /var/lib/mysql/hostname.example.com.pid ended
150122 22:36:53 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: Shutdown complete
150122 22:36:51 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: Normal shutdown
150122 22:29:00 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: ready for connections.
150122 22:28:59 mysqld_safe Starting mysqld daemon with databases from /var/lib/mysql
150122 22:28:58 mysqld_safe mysqld from pid file /var/lib/mysql/hostname.example.com.pid ended
150122 22:28:58 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: Shutdown complete
150122 22:28:57 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: Normal shutdown
150122 22:28:44 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: ready for connections.
150122 22:28:43 mysqld_safe Starting mysqld daemon with databases from /var/lib/mysql
150122 22:28:42 mysqld_safe mysqld from pid file /var/lib/mysql/hostname.example.com.pid ended
150122 22:28:42 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: Shutdown complete
150122 22:28:41 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: Normal shutdown
150122 22:27:38 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: ready for connections.
150122 22:27:37 mysqld_safe Starting mysqld daemon with databases from /var/lib/mysql
150122 22:27:36 mysqld_safe mysqld from pid file /var/lib/mysql/hostname.example.com.pid ended
150122 22:27:36 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: Shutdown complete
150122 22:27:34 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: Normal shutdown
150122 22:23:19 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: ready for connections.
150122 22:23:18 mysqld_safe Starting mysqld daemon with databases from /var/lib/mysql
150122 22:23:17 mysqld_safe mysqld from pid file /var/lib/mysql/hostname.example.com.pid ended
150122 22:23:17 [Note] /usr/sbin/mysqld: Shutdown complete

mysql started successfully.
```

Additional documentation

- [The set_hostname Utility](#)
- [Change Hostname](#)

- [Add an A Entry for Your Hostname](#)
- [Server Information for cPanel](#)
- [Installation Guide - Troubleshoot Your Installation](#)