

# Advanced Guide to Branding

For cPanel & WHM version 11.50

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## Overview

This document provides information for web hosts who wish to brand their users' cPanel interfaces and require more features than cPanel's [Branding Editor](#) interface ([Home >> Preferences >> Branding Editor](#)) offers.

You can brand your users' cPanel interfaces with your custom logos and images to convey your company's brand message. The system stores your changes to the cPanel default themes as styles. A style has a distinctive appearance, but retains the same functionality as the default cPanel interface.

## Plugins

A cPanel plugin is a custom application that you can link directly from your users' cPanel interfaces. Plugins are style- and theme-independent. As a result, your plugin is available whether you use a cPanel-provided theme or a third-party theme.

To create a plugin for x3, use WHM's [x3 Plugin File Generator](#) interface ([Home >> Development >> x3 Plugin File Generator](#)).

After you generate the installation file, follow the steps in our [Guide to cPanel Plugins](#) documentation.

## Themes

In cPanel & WHM software, the theme is the larger, skeletal framework to which the system applies the style.

We recommend that you use the *x* theme for WHM, the *x3* or *paper\_lantern* themes for cPanel, and the *x3mail* theme for Webmail.

## Styles

The style, also known as a *skin*, contains the graphics that determine the appearance of a user's cPanel interface. Web hosts may also allow resellers to create or use their own styles to reflect their company's brands.

Styles are theme-specific. For example, if you create a style for the *x3* theme or *paper\_lantern* theme, it will **not** work on a third-party theme.



### Note:

The location of each style file uses the following format:

```
/home/reseller/cpanelbranding/theme/style
```

In this example:

- `reseller` is the reseller's username.
- `theme` is the theme for which you created a style (for example, *x3*).
- `style` is the name of your style.

To customize a Paper Lantern style, follow the directions in our [Tutorial - Create a Custom cPanel Style](#) documentation.

## Use cPanel API 2's Branding module to use includes for images and text

You can use cPanel API 2 [cPanel API 2's Branding module](#) functions or [UAPI's Branding module](#) functions to allow components of the graphical interface to indirectly interact with the cPanel source code. These API functions reference files in a particular style's path, and then include the appropriate HTML content in the page.

When you place these files in the style's directory and call them with [cPanel Template Toolkit](#) tags (`<cppt Branding>`), cPanel caches these files into arbitrary textured images, or sprites. This significantly improves performance.



**Warning:**

- cPanel API 2 and UAPI functions that use Template Toolkit tags vary widely in code syntax and in their output. For more information, read our [cPanel Template Toolkit](#) documentation.
- We **strongly** recommend that you do **not** directly link to existing images on your website.

## Change or remove features from cPanel

Some hosting providers, such as those who offer inexpensive hosting with limited features, prefer to charge their users for certain functions. For other web hosts, the technical limitations of their unique setups require them to remove certain functions to prevent user confusion.

To remove features, use WHM's [Feature Manager](#) interface (*Home >> Packages >> Feature Manager*).

### Disable a webmail client

The cPanel webmail interface inherits the CSS of the user's cPanel account.

To disable a particular webmail application for your users, add the following code to the appropriate style's *Edit style-sheet* page:

Webmail client	Code to add
<a href="#">Roundcube</a>	<code>#roundcube_cell{display:none;}</code>
<a href="#">SquirrelMail</a>	<code>#squirrelmail_cell{display:none;}</code>
<a href="#">Horde</a>	<code>#horde_cell{display:none;}</code>

## Login themes

You can edit the interface that your customers see when they log in to cPanel, WHM, or Webmail. These interfaces are the login themes.



**Notes:**

- The login theme also governs the appearance of the logout interface.
- To redirect your users to another URL after they log out, you do **not** need to create a custom theme. Instead, use the *Logout redirection URL* setting in the [Redirection](#) section of WHM's [Tweak Settings](#) interface (*Home >> Server Configuration >> Tweak Settings*).

The following files contain the default login themes:

Service	Default login theme file
cPanel	<code>/usr/local/cpanel/base/unprotected/cpanel/login_cpained.html</code>
WHM	<code>/usr/local/cpanel/base/unprotected/cpanel/login_whoostmgrd.html</code>
Webmail	<code>/usr/local/cpanel/base/unprotected/cpanel/login_webmaild.html</code>

## Create a custom login theme

To create your own theme, perform the following steps:

1. Run the following command to clone the default login theme and create the new `mycpanel` theme:

```
cp -pR /usr/local/cpanel/base/unprotected/cpanel /usr/local/cpanel/base/unprotected/mycpanel
```

2. Edit the themes to customize.

- For more information about how to edit login headers and footers, read the [Headers and footers](#) section below.
  - To edit the login theme's CSS style, edit the `style.css` file in your login theme's directory.
  - To use custom images in your login theme, place them in the `/unprotected/images` file.
3. To display your custom login theme, select a value for the *Default login theme* setting in the *Display* section of WHM's *Tweak Settings* interface (*Home >> Server Configuration >> Tweak Settings*). This value defaults to *cpanel*.



**Important:**

To deploy a custom login theme across multiple cPanel & WHM servers, copy the files to each of your servers. Then, set each server's login theme in WHM's *Tweak Settings* interface.

## Headers and footers

The header and footer files reside in your custom theme's directory. These files wrap code around the login message, and provide the overall theme of the *Login* interface.



**Note:**

The header file provides all of the code **before** the login message, while the footer file provides all of the code **after** the login message.

The following table lists the location of the files for each service:

Service	Header file location	Footer file location
cPanel	<code>header.html</code>	<code>footer.html</code>
Webmail	<code>header_webmaild.html</code>	<code>footer_webmaild.html</code>
WHM	<code>header_whoostmgrd.html</code>	<code>footer_whoostmgrd.html</code>

## Additional resources

- [YUI](#) — cPanel & WHM uses the Yahoo! User Interface library to power the Ajax components of the graphical cPanel interface. It is useful to understand YUI if you wish to add Ajax functionality to cPanel.
- [Quickstart Development Guide](#) — Learn about cPanel & WHM's API functions.