Installation Guide - Customize Your Installation

For cPanel & WHM version 58

Overview

Before you begin the installation process, you can customize the configuration for certain portions of cPanel & WHM.

Installation methods

New installations of cPanel & WHM use the fast installation method by default. Some system administrators may wish to override this default in order to use the legacy installation method. The fast installation method handles certain aspects of cPanel & WHM differently, in order to drastically reduce installation time:

- Fast installations use prebuilt locale databases, while legacy installations run the `/scripts/build_locale_databases` script to compile locale databases during installation.

- Fast installations use tarballs to download certain code cPanel & WHM files.
- Fast installations use system RPMs, if they are available, to set up the Perl `local::lib` library.

To disable the fast installation method and use the legacy installation method, create the `/etc/cpanel/disable_fast_install` touch file before you begin the cPanel & WHM installation process.

> **Important:**
> The legacy installation method requires **substantially more time** than the fast installation method. We **strongly** recommend that you use the fast installation method.

EasyApache

cPanel & WHM installs *EasyApache 4* (*Home* >> *Software* >> *EasyApache 4*) by default. If you wish to use *EasyApache 3* (*Home* >> *Software* >> *EasyApache 3*) instead, create the `/etc/install_legacy_ea3_instead_of_ea4` touch file before you begin the cPanel & WHM installation process.

If your chosen version of EasyApache fails to build, the installer will continue and you **must** troubleshoot the issue.

> **Note:**
> If your system runs CloudLinux™, the system installs the CloudLinux EasyApache 4 repository and the default CloudLinux profile. Systems that do **not** run CloudLinux install cPanel & WHM's EasyApache 4 repository and default profile.

Basic server setup

The `/etc/wwwacct.conf` file contains the basic setup information for cPanel & WHM. After you install cPanel & WHM, you can find and edit this information in WHM's *Basic cPanel & WHM Setup* interface (*Home* >> *Server Configuration* >> *Basic cPanel & WHM Setup*).

> **Important:**
> You **must** include all of the parameters in your `/etc/wwwacct.conf` file, even if you do not specify a value for a parameter.

To customize this configuration, perform the following steps:

1. As the `root` user, create the `/etc/wwwacct.conf` file.
2. Enter all of the `wwwacct.conf` file's parameters, with one entry per line.
   - Click for an example file to copy-paste from...

     ```
     ADDR
     ADDR6
     CONTACTEMAIL
     CONTACTPAGER
     DEFMOD
     ETHDEV
     HOMEDIR
     HOMEMATCH
     LOGSTYLE combined
     NS
     NS2
     NS3
     NS4
     NSTTL
     SCRIPTALIAS
     ```

3. Specify values for the following parameters that **require** values:

- LOGSTYLE
- NS and NS2
- SCRIPTALIAS

4. Specify values for any other parameters that you wish to configure.

> **Remember:**
> Separate each parameter and its value with a space. For example:
>
> ```
> CONTACTEMAIL
> user@example.com
> ```

You can configure the following values in the `/etc/wwwacct.conf` file:

- `ADDR` — Your server's shared IPv4 address.
- `ADDR6` — Your server's shared IPv6 address.
- `CONTACTEMAIL` — The system administrator's contact email address.
- `CONTACTPAGER` — The number to which the server sends Short Message Service (SMS) notifications.
- `DEFMOD` — The default cPanel theme that you wish to use.
- `ETHDEV` — The default ethernet device.
    - This parameter's value defaults to `eth0` on Linux servers.
    - Specify `venet0:0` if the server runs Virtuozzo.
- `HOMEDIR` — The path to the default home directory.
- `HOMEMATCH` — A string that determines which partitions to use as home directories for new accounts. (For example, a value of `users` matches system mounts of `users`, `users1`, or `users3`.)
- `LOGSTYLE` — The Apache log format to use.

> **Important:**
> **Always** set `combined` as this parameter's value.

- `NS`, `NS2`, `NS3`, and `NS4` — Nameservers to add to DNS zones by default.

> **Important:**
> If you do not specify values for `NS` and `NS2`, account creation **will** fail.

- `NSTTL` — The default time to live (TTL) value that DNS zones will use.
- `SCRIPTALIAS` — Whether the system aliases a `/cgi-bin/` directory on account creation.

> **Important:**
> You **must** enter a value of `y` or `n`.

Configuration settings

When you install cPanel & WHM, the system reads the `/root/cpanel_profile/cpanel.config` file. This file stores the settings that WHM's *Tweak Settings* interface (*Home* >> *Server Configuration* >> *Tweak Settings*) contains, as well as certain configuration settings for other cPanel & WHM features. The system uses the values here to set the values in the `/var/cpanel/cpanel.config` file.

> **Warnings:**
> - Some of the values that the `/root/cpanel_profile/cpanel.config` file contains are dynamic, or require specific values. Before you create a `/root/cpanel_profile/cpanel.config` file, you **must** read our The cpanel.config File documentation.
> - If you set MySQL® to version 5.1 (`mysql-version=5.1`) or lower when you install cPanel DNSONLY, the installation process automatically upgrades the MySQL installation to version 5.5. This is because cPanel & WHM version 11.46 discontinued support for MySQL 5.1 and lower, and cPanel DNSONLY does **not** include an easy way in which to upgrade your MySQL installation.

To set these parameters, perform the following steps:

1. As the `root` user, create the `/root/cpanel_profile/cpanel.config` file.
2. With one entry per line, list the parameters and values that you wish to configure in `key=value` format.

For example, to preconfigure your server to deny the `nobody` user the ability to send email to a remote address, add the `nobodyspam=1` line to the `/root/cpanel_profile/cpanel.config` file before you install cPanel & WHM.

Account restoration

The `/etc/cpanelacctrestore` file contains a list of accounts to automatically restore during the cPanel & WHM installation process. You can use this file to restore accounts to a freshly-installed server.

To restore a list of cPanel accounts during the cPanel & WHM installation process, perform the following steps:

1. As the `root` user, use a text editor to create the `/etc/cpanel acctrestore` file.
2. With one entry per line, list the user account names.
3. Upload the backup file or files to one of the following directories:
   - `/home`
   - `/home2`
   - `/home3`
   - `/root`
   - `/usr`
   - `/usr/home`
   - `/web`

> **Note:**
> The backup's filename **must** use one of the following formats:
>
> - `cpmove-{USER}`
> - `cpmove-{USER}.tar`
> - `cpmove-{USER}.tar.gz`
> - `{USER}.tar`
> - `{USER}.tar.gz`
> - `backup-{BACKUP-DATE_TIME}_{USER}.tar`
> - `backup-{BACKUP-DATE_TIME}_{USER}.tar.gz`

Release tiers

The `/etc/cpupdate.conf` file determines the release tier for your installation of cPanel & WHM. When you preconfigure this file, cPanel & WHM will install the major version that corresponds to the tier that you selected. The chosen release tier also controls when your server performs the automatic upgrades to new major versions of cPanel & WHM.

- For more information about our release tiers, read our [cPanel & WHM Product Versions and the Release Process](#) documentation.
- For more information about the `/etc/cpupdate.conf` file, read our [The cPanel & WHM Update Configuration File](#) documentation.

To preconfigure your release tier, perform the following steps:

1. As the `root` user, create the `/etc/cpupdate.conf` file.
2. In the `/etc/cpupdate.conf` file, use the `CPANEL` parameter to set your desired release tier.

For example, to configure your server to use the **STABLE** tier, add `CPANEL=stable` to the `/etc/cpupdate.conf` file.

The `/etc/cpsources.conf` file

The `/etc/cpsources.conf` file determines the locations from which your server downloads updates. By default, cPanel & WHM servers retrieve updates directly from cPanel, Inc. via our `httpupdate.cpanel.net` pool of update servers.

> **Warning:**
> We **strongly** recommend that you do **not** modify this file unless you understand the full technical ramifications of your actions and can maintain these customizations. Invalid modifications to this file may cause serious problems (for example, servers with invalid `/etc/cp sources.conf` files cannot perform necessary updates).

If you see the following error in your server's logs, your `/etc/cpsources.conf` file likely contains invalid data:

```
[2015-12-08 14:12:54 +0200] ***** FATAL: Unable to retrieve tier version
info: timeout
```

To solve this problem, move the `/etc/cpsources.conf` file to another location, and then run the `/scripts/upcp` script. The system will automatically restore a valid cPanel-supplied version of the `/etc/cpsources.conf` file.

> **Note:**
> To disable FastUpdate on your server, log in to your server via SSH and run the following command as the `root` user:
>
> ```
> touch /var/cpanel/never_ever_use_fast_update_not_even_a_check
> ```
>
> To reenable FastUpdate on your server, run the following command as the `root` user:
>
> ```
> rm /var/cpanel/never_ever_use_fast_update_not_even_a_check
> ```

Yum

Yum (Yellowdog Updater Modifier) is an RPM package management tool for Linux servers. Yum automatically installs with your operating system.

> **Warning:**
> - When you install cPanel & WHM, you must **only** use vendor-provided repositories.
> - Third-party repositories, such as RepoForge, may replace vital parts of the system and cause unexpected results.

Exclude packages

Because cPanel & WHM handles its own installation of services through the rpm.versions system, you **must** exclude several packages before you install cPanel & WHM.

To exclude these packages, perform the following steps:

1. As the `root` user, use a text editor to edit the `/etc/yum.conf` file.
2. Locate the line that begins with `exclude=` and confirm that it contains the following entries:

   ```
   bind-chroot dovecot* exim* filesystem httpd* mod_ssl* mydns*
   mysql* nsd* php* proftpd* pure-ftpd* ruby* spamassassin*
   squirrelmail*
   ```

   If you do not find the line that begins with `exclude=`, add it to the file under the `[main]` line.

   > **Important:**
   > In this document, this code appears as two lines for formatting purposes. In your `/etc/yum.conf` file, make **certain** that you enter it as **one** line of code.

3. Save and close the file. You may then use your preferred method to install yum on your server.

Remove yum groups

Before you install cPanel & WHM, make certain that the following yum groups are **not** installed on your server:
- FTP Server
- GNOME Desktop Environment
- KDE (K Desktop Environment)
- Mail Server or E-mail Server
- Mono
- Web Server
- X Window System

To obtain a list of yum groups, run the `yum grouplist` command.

To remove a yum group, run the `yum groupremove` command. For example, to remove the Mono and Mail Server groups, run the following command:

```
yum groupremove "Mono" "Mail Server"
```

Apache

EasyApache 4

EasyApache 4 allows you to preconfigure your profile before you install cPanel & WHM on your server.

To preconfigure your profile before install, create the `/etc/cpanel_initial_install_ea4_profile.json` file. This file **must** be a valid JSON file and **must** be a valid EasyApache 4 profile. The install process will install this profile and then copy it to the `/etc/cpanel/ea4/profiles/custom/` directory when completed.

> **Note:**
> If your JSON file contains errors, no data, or the installation fails, the system installs the default EasyApache 4 profile instead.

For more information about how to create an EasyApache 4 profile, read our EasyApache 4 - Create a Profile documentation.

EasyApache 3

> **Remember:**
> You **must** create the `/etc/install_legacy_ea3_instead_of_ea4` touch file to install EasyApache 3 by default on a fresh install of cPanel & WHM version 58 or higher.

If you plan to install EasyApache 3 on your system rather than EasyApache 4, you can use EasyApache 3 to configure the Apache web server before installation. To do this, you **must** also access an existing cPanel & WHM server that runs EasyApache. EasyApache allows you to adjust several configuration options.

> **Note:**
> The cPanel & WHM installation process installs Apache 2.4 and PHP 5.5 by default.

To set up a new profile and customize its options and preferences, perform the following steps:

1. Create a new EasyApache profile.
   - **Command line** — Log in to the existing server via SSH as the `root` user, and run the `/scripts/easyapache` script.
   - **WHM** — Log in to WHM on the existing server as the `root` user, and use the *EasyApache 3* interface (*Home >> Software >> EasyApache 3*).
2. Run EasyApache 3.
3. In the *Exhaustive Options List* stage, perform the following steps:
   a. Assign a file name, a display name, and a brief profile description to the new EasyApache profile.
   b. Select *Save Only (Do Not Build)*. Your server stores the new profile in the `/var/cpanel/easy/apache/profile/custom/` directory, but does **not** recompile Apache and PHP.
   c. Run the `scp` command to copy it to the `/etc/cp_easyapache_profile.yaml` file on the new server.
4. To create a `/var/cpanel/easy/apache/prefs.yaml` file, which stores your preferences separately from the build profile, perform the following steps:

a. Set the desired preferences in EasyApache.
b. On your new server, run the following command:

```
mkdir -p /var/cpanel/easy/apache/
```

c. Copy the `/var/cpanel/easy/apache/prefs.yaml` file from the existing system to the `/var/cpanel/easy/apache/` directory on the new server.
d. Place your build profile in the `/etc/cp_easyapache_profile.yaml` file on the new server.

Override customizations

If you wish to override the cPanel & WHM installation system's default settings, or any customizations that you made, run the `/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/copy-etc-files` script. This script performs the following actions:

- Creates copies of the the contents of your current system's `/etc/bashrc`, `/etc/issue`, and `/etc/issue.net` files.
- Stores the copied files in the `/usr/local/cpanel/etc` directory.
- Replaces the customized files with the copied files' content.