

Guide to Locales

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Introduction

The locale system localizes text in Perl, Template Toolkit, or JavaScript code. Localization refers to the translation of text in one language into multiple other languages, as well as the addition of cultural adaptations to make a product usable globally.

cPanel & WHM's locale system uses CPAN's `Locale::Maketext` and `Locale::Maketext::Utils` modules to perform the majority of its tasks. For detailed information about the module's methods and options, read [CPAN's `Locale::Maketext::Utils` documentation](#).

Warnings:

- You **cannot** call the locale system directly from PHP applications. If you want localized text in your custom code, we **strongly** recommend that you use Perl or JavaScript, or that you display the text via a Template Toolkit file.
- Custom translations may contain HTML markup which the WHM, cPanel, and Webmail interfaces render to other accounts on the system.
 - To ensure that this functionality does not cause a security risk, cPanel & WHM restricts the ability to provide custom translations to resellers with the *Locales* ACL.
 - Account restorations, backups, or transfers may install custom translations. To disable this behavior, use [cPanel & WHM's *Restricted Restore* features](#).

Locales

Each locale has a lexicon hash, which contains keys and values in bracket notation. Each value is the translated version of the key (or, for the default English locale (`en`), values are specifically empty). Typically, the key in the lexicon hash is the phrase itself, rather than an arbitrary lookup key.

The locale system uses ISO codes from the [Unicode Common Locale Data Repository \(CLDR\)](#) as locale names (for example, `fr` for French or `en_gb` for British English).

- Locale names for base languages may use [ISO 639-1's](#) two-letter system, while region-specific locale names include this two-letter code, an underscore (`_`), and the [ISO 3166](#) two-letter standard.
- `en` is the default locale, and `en_us` (American English) is an alias to `en`. This means that you **cannot** create the `en_us` locale separately, as you could with `en_gb`.
- In order to prevent missing phrases in region-specific locales, we merge regional lexicons with the base language's lexicon. For example, the Mexican Spanish (`es_mx`) lexicon contains some lexicon entries from the Spanish (`es`) lexicon.

To view a list of the available locales on a cPanel & WHM server, navigate to WHM's [View Available Locales](#) interface (*WHM >> Home >> Locales >> View Available Locales*). In cPanel & WHM version 11.46, we expanded the locale system to provide 29 distinct locales.

Important:

- The terms "locale" and "language" are **not** interchangeable. Multiple locales may use the same base language but implement different conventions for specific geographical, dialectical, or cultural distinctions. For example, cPanel, Inc. provides separate locales for Spanish and Latin American Spanish.
- The terms "lang" and "legacy" refer to cPanel & WHM's deprecated `LANG` localization system.

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Localization tasks

Because of its flexibility, the locale system offers the following customization options:

- You can include translated phrases in custom interface templates or command line output. For more information, read our [Basic Usage](#) documentation.
- You can distribute locales. For more information, read our [Distribute a Custom Locale](#) documentation.
- You can delete custom locales. For more information, read our [Delete a Locale](#) documentation.

Warning:

We **strongly** recommend that you **only** create and modify locales through the WHM interface. Manual edits generally result in nonfunctional locales.

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- Change Language
- Configure Application Locales
- Copy a Locale
- Edit a Locale
- Locale XML Upload