

Tutorial - Add a Link to the cPanel Interface

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Introduction

This tutorial adds an icon that links to an external location to the cPanel interface. For the purposes of this tutorial, an "external location" is a location outside of cPanel & WHM (for example, a support or sales website).

Important:

To add icons to multiple themes, you **must** repeat steps 5 and 6 for each theme, and you **must** provide separate icons for each theme, in the appropriate sizes.

Notes:

- This tutorial is for servers that run cPanel & WHM version 11.44 or later.
- For a tutorial to create an authorized integration link, use our [Create an Integration Link](#) tutorial.

Add a link to the cPanel interface

Create an `install.json` file.

To begin, create a blank `install.json` file.

The cPanel interface uses this file to add icons and groups to cPanel's `dynamicui.conf` file system automatically.

Add a custom group to the `install.json` file.

Add the desired group information to the `install.json` file.

In this example:

- Line 3 sets the group's display name to `Support`. This is the name that displays in the cPanel interface.
- Line 4 sets the group's display order to `11`. Groups with lower display orders display higher in the cPanel interface.
- Line 5 sets the group's type. This value **must** always be `group`.
- Line 6 sets the group's internal name as `custom_support_group`. This is the name that cPanel uses to associate a group with its icons.

```
[
  {
    "name" : "Support",
    "order" : 11,
    "type" : "group",
    "id" : "custom_support_group"
  }
]
```

- Tutorial - Create a Custom cPanel Style

Add an icon to the `install.json` file.

Add the desired icon and link information to the `install.json` file.

Note:

For the Paper Lantern theme, the image **must** be 48x48 pixels and image files **must** use the `.png` file format (cPanel & WHM version 58 and earlier) or `.svg` file format (cPanel & WHM version 60 and later).

In this example:

- Line 9 sets this icon as the `supportcontact.svg` file.
- Line 10 specifies that this icon will appear as part of the `custom_support_group` group.
- Line 11 sets the icon's order to 10000. Icons with a lower order appear first in their assigned groups.
- Line 12 sets the icon's display name as `Contact Support`. This text displays with the specified image in the cPanel interface.
- Line 13 sets the icon's type. This value **must** be `link`.
- Line 14 sets the icon's internal name.
- Line 15 sets the link's URL. This link will direct cPanel users to `http://support.example.com`.

```
[
  {
    "name" : "Support",
    "order" : 11,
    "type" : "group",
    "id" : "custom_support_group"
  },
  {
    "icon" : "supportcontact.svg",
    "group_id" :
"custom_support_group",
    "order" : 10000,
    "name" : "Contact Support",
    "type" : "link",
    "id" : "contact_support",
    "uri" :
"http://support.example.com"
  }
]
```

Optional: Add more icons.

You can add multiple icons to the same group and `install.json` file. The example below adds a second icon, which links to an external knowledge base, to the `custom_support_group`.

- Perl Module Installation
- Scripts and Scripting Languages FAQ
- Perl Modules
- Module Installers
- Tutorial - Customize the WHM User Interface with CSS — This tutorial customizes the appearance of a WHM interface theme.

```
[
  {
    "name" : "Support",
    "order" : 11,
    "type" : "group",
    "id" : "custom_support_group"
  },
  {
    "icon" : "supportcontact.svg",
    "group_id" :
"custom_support_group",
    "order" : 10000,
    "name" : "Contact Support",
    "type" : "link",
    "id" : "contact_support",
    "uri" :
"http://support.example.com"
  },
  {
    "icon" : "knowledgebase.svg",
    "group_id" :
"custom_support_group",
    "order" : 10002,
    "name" : "Support Knowledge Base",
    "type" : "link",
    "id" : "support_kb",
    "uri" :
"http://supportkb.example.com"
  }
]
```

Compress the `install.json` file and icon files.

Create a directory that contains the `install.json` file, and the icon files for each icon.

For this tutorial's examples, this directory is the `supporticons` directory, which contains the following files:

- `install.json`
- `knowledgebase.svg`
- `supportcontact.svg`

To compress these files into a `.tar.gz` file, run the following command:

```
tar -cvzf supporticons.tar.gz
supporticons/*
```

Note:

This command compresses **all** of the directory's contents. Before you run this command, make **certain** that the directory only contains the files that you wish to compress.

If the command succeeded, it returns the following output:

```
a supporticons/install.json
a supporticons/knowledgebase.svg
a supporticons/supportcontact.svg
```

Run the `/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/install_plugin` script to install the plugin.

Select a tab to view the correct command for that cPanel theme:

[Paper Lantern x3 \(deprecated\)](#)

To install the icons to the Paper Lantern theme, run the following command:

```
/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/install_plugin
supporticons.tar.gz --theme
paper_lantern
```

If the installation succeeds, the script returns the following output:

```
Installing to paper_lantern
Cleaning up temporary directories
Running sprite_generator
Plugin installed ok
```

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.

To install the icons to the **deprecated** x3 theme, run the following command:

```
/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/install_plugin
supporticons.tar.gz --theme x3
```

If the installation succeeds, the script returns the following output:

```
Installing to x3
Cleaning up temporary directories
Running sprite_generator
Plugin installed ok
```

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.

View the new icons in the cPanel interface.

When users log in to the cPanel interface, the new icons will now display:

The new icons in the Paper Lantern theme.

Remember:

To add icons to multiple themes, you **must** repeat steps 5 and 6 for each theme, with the appropriate icon files and command.
