

How to Access the Command Line

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Overview

While cPanel & WHM automates many server administration tasks, familiarity with the Linux command line can prove useful for both WHM and cPanel users. This documentation describes how to access the command line.



Note:

- cPanel & WHM requires the `root` user to use BASH by default. System administrators can modify the shell for other users.
- In cPanel & WHM version 72 and later, you can use cPanel's [Terminal](#) interface (*cPanel >> Home >> Advanced >> Terminal*) or WHM's [Terminal](#) interface (*WHM >> Home >> Advanced >> Terminal*) to access the command line from within the interface.

Access the command line

To access your cPanel & WHM server from the command line, perform the following steps:

1. Use the correct method for your computer's operating system to open the command line interface (CLI):
 - **Microsoft Windows®** — Open the Command Prompt program. To do this, click *Start* and enter *Command Prompt* in the *Search* text box. Double-click *Command Prompt* in the list that appears.
 - **MacOS®** — Open the Terminal program. To do this, click the *Applications* icon in the dock, click the *Utilities* icon, and then click the *Terminal* icon.
 - **Ubuntu** — Open the Terminal program. To do this, press the `Ctrl+Alt+T` keys.
2. Your CLI program opens with access to the local computer. You **must** use SSH to access the cPanel & WHM server. To do this, enter the following command and press Enter:

```
ssh username@hostname
```

In this comment, `username` is your account's username, and `hostname` is the server's hostname. For example, to log in as the `root` user on the `example.com` server, run the following command:

```
ssh root@example.com
```

3. The CLI prompts you for the account's password. Enter it and press Enter.
4. The CLI's display will appear similar to the following example.

```
Last login: Fri Feb 6 12:50:38 on ttys000
MyComputer:~ myname$ ssh username@example.com
Password:
Last login: Fri Feb 6 12:52:33 2015 from 10.1.4.202
username@example [~]#
```

You can now navigate the server's file system and run commands, within the limits of your account's permissions on the server.



Note:

If you receive an error message that appears similar to the following example, you may not have SSH privileges enabled on the server.

```
ssh: connect to host example.com port 22: Connection refused
```

Contact your hosting provider or system administrator for more information. Because command line access (shell access) has certain security implications, many web hosting providers restrict this access.

Additional documentation

- [How to Access the Command Line](#)
- [How to Log in to Your Server or Account](#)
- [Getting Started with Linux Commands](#)
- [Problems When You Log Out Of An Account](#)
- [cPanelID](#)