

EasyApache 4 and the ea-php-cli Package

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Overview

The `ea-php-cli` package is EasyApache 4's replacement for the system-provided `/usr/bin/php` binary. This package automatically determines which PHP version that the user's application requires from the system. While the stock version of the `/usr/bin/php` binary assumes a single version of PHP, cPanel & WHM's `ea-php-cli` package determines the correct version of PHP to execute, and is a key component of the MultiPHP environment.

What does the ea-php-cli package do?

The `ea-php-cli` package installs the following PHP binaries:

- `/usr/bin/php` — This executable uses the `php-cgi` binary for the specified PHP version.
- `/usr/local/bin/php` — This executable uses the `php-cli` binary for the specified PHP version.
- `/usr/bin/lspHP` — This executable uses the `lspHP` (Litespeed) binary for the specified PHP version.

These binaries ensure that your system uses the correct PHP handler for your request.

How to call the ea-php-cli binaries

To call the `ea-php-cli` package's binaries, run the `/usr/bin/php <options> filename.php` command, or the `/usr/local/bin/php <options> filename.php` command, where `filename.php` represents the file that you wish to process.

To run PHP from the command line, your command may resemble the following example:

```
php /home/bob/public_html/domain/app/periodic_job.php
```

To determine which PHP version to use, the `PHP` executable checks the `AddType` directive in the local `.htaccess` file. The directive may resemble the following example:

```
AddType application/x-httpd-ea-php54
```

In this example, the system will use PHP 5.4. If an `.htaccess` file does **not** exist in the current directory, or one exists but does not contain the `AddType` directive, the system ascends the directory tree until it finds an `.htaccess` file that contains the directive. If the system cannot find an `.htaccess` file, it uses the default version of PHP.

Override the default ea-php-cli behavior

If you want to override the file's configured version of PHP, use the `-ea_php ##` option, where `##` represents the two-digit PHP version. Your command might resemble the following example:

```
/usr/bin/php -ea_php 56 filename.php
```

**Warning:**

The `-ea_php` option overrides the MultiPHP system's defined PHP settings. If you use this option, you may run the `filename.php` file with the wrong version of PHP.

The system passes all other options that you provide to the PHP binary.

Additional customization

**Important:**

We **strongly** recommend that you do **not** customize your `ea-php-cli` installation. Most setups do not require extra configuration.

You can also perform additional customizations to your PHP setup. To perform additional customizations, create a `php_cli.yaml` file in the `ea-php-cli` executable directory. This file enables alternate MultiPHP configuration files and settings. You can use the following two options in your file:

- `ea_php_yaml` — This option sets the default PHP version if you did not explicitly configure one.
- `php_bin_pattern` — This option relocates the PHP executable file.

A customized `php_cli.yaml` file might resemble the following example:

```
1 ea_php_yaml: /etc/cpanel/ea4/alternate/php.conf.yaml
2 php_bin_pattern: /opt/alternate/ea-php%s/root/usr/bin/php
```

**Note:**

The system replaces the `%s` with the correct PHP version in the above example.

In the above example, the `ea-php-cli` obtains the default PHP value from the `/etc/cpanel/ea4/alternate/php.conf.yaml` file. The `/opt/alternate/ea-php70/root/usr/bin/php` executable processes a `filename.php` file that uses PHP 7.0.

What is the difference between `/usr/bin/php` and `/usr/local/bin/php`?

The `/usr/bin/php` binary calls the PHP CGI handler. The `/usr/local/bin/php` binary calls the PHP command-line handler.

This works with most system's default `PATH` settings, and ensures compatibility with EasyApache 3 behavior.

The system default `ea_php_yaml` file

EasyApache 4's default `ea_php_yaml` file exists in the `/etc/cpanel/ea4/php.conf` directory. The system uses this file to determine the system's default PHP version and the PHP handler that each PHP version uses. An `ea_php_yaml` file might resemble the following example:

```
1 default: ea-php56
2 ea-php54: cgi
3 ea-php55: cgi
4 ea-php56: cgi
5 ea-php70: cgi
6 ea-php71: suphp
```

If a PHP file's PHP version is not explicitly set, the system uses the `default` entry in the `ea_php_yaml` file to determine which version of PHP to use. In the above example, the system uses PHP 5.6 by default. The `ea-php-cli` executables do not use the handling directives of the `ea-php##` entries.

If you remove the `filename.php` file's configured version of PHP, the `ea-php-cli` executable displays a warning message and uses the default version of PHP. If you remove the default PHP version, the `ea_php_yaml` file may become out of date and the default version of PHP will no longer exist. If both a file's configured version of PHP and the system default version of PHP are unavailable, the executable exits with an error.

Additional documentation

[Suggested documentation](#)[For cPanel users](#)[For WHM users](#)[For developers](#)

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