

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Method # 1- Edit php.ini file using vi text editor 2

Method # 2 - Use ini_set function 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [PHP](#)

Howto: PHP setup include_path

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Q. How do I set PHP include path?

A. The configuration file php.ini is read when PHP starts up. For the server module versions of PHP, this happens only once when the web server is started. For the CGI and CLI version, it happens on every invocation. This file is used to setup include_path.

Method # 1- Edit php.ini file using vi text editor

Edit your /etc/php.ini file using vi text editor, type the following command at shell prompt (some Linux distros store the file at /etc/php.d/cgi/php.ini location):

```
# vi /etc/php.ini
```

Find out include_path directive and change value as per your requirements. For example, the following includes the default path /usr/share/php and current directory. Add /apps/php directory to this path:

```
include_path = ".:usr/share/php:/apps/php"
```

Save and close the file. Restart the web server.

```
# /etc/init.d/httpd restart
```

Method # 2 - Use ini_set function

Use ini_set to set include_path value or the given configuration option. It returns the old value on success, FALSE on failure.

For example, add the following to your own php script:

```
<? ini_set('include_path',ini_get('include_path').':../includes:'); ?>
```

OR

```
<? ini_set("include_path", ".:../include:../include"); ?>
```

Method # 2 is quite useful if your UNIX or Linux hosting provider does not provide access to php.ini file.

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