

phpReel installation

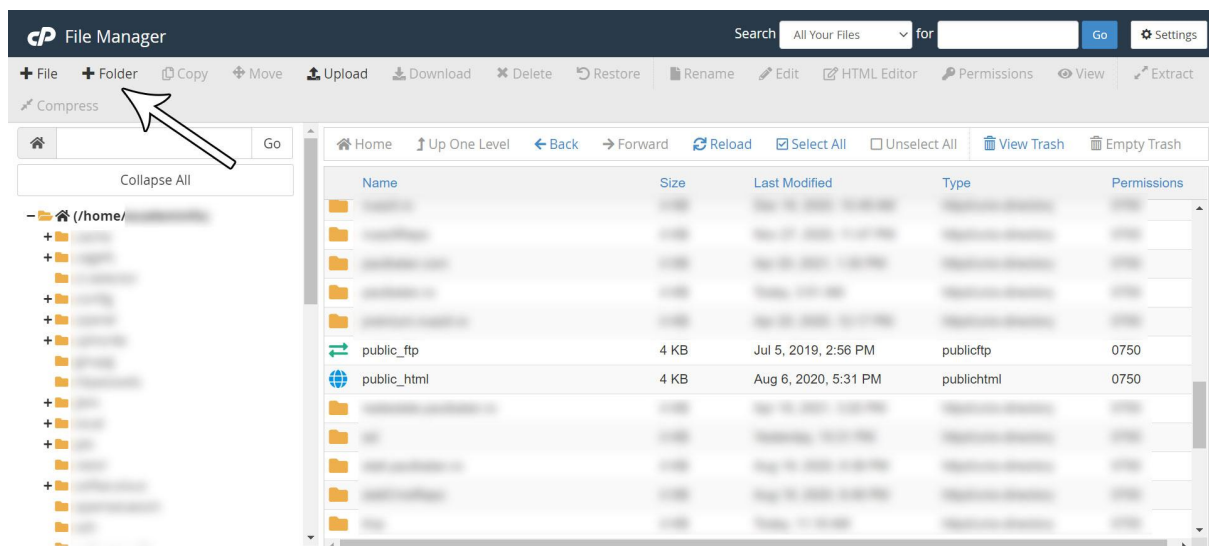
phpReel is developed to be easy to install, use and maintain thus you don't need any advanced hosting solutions to make it work.

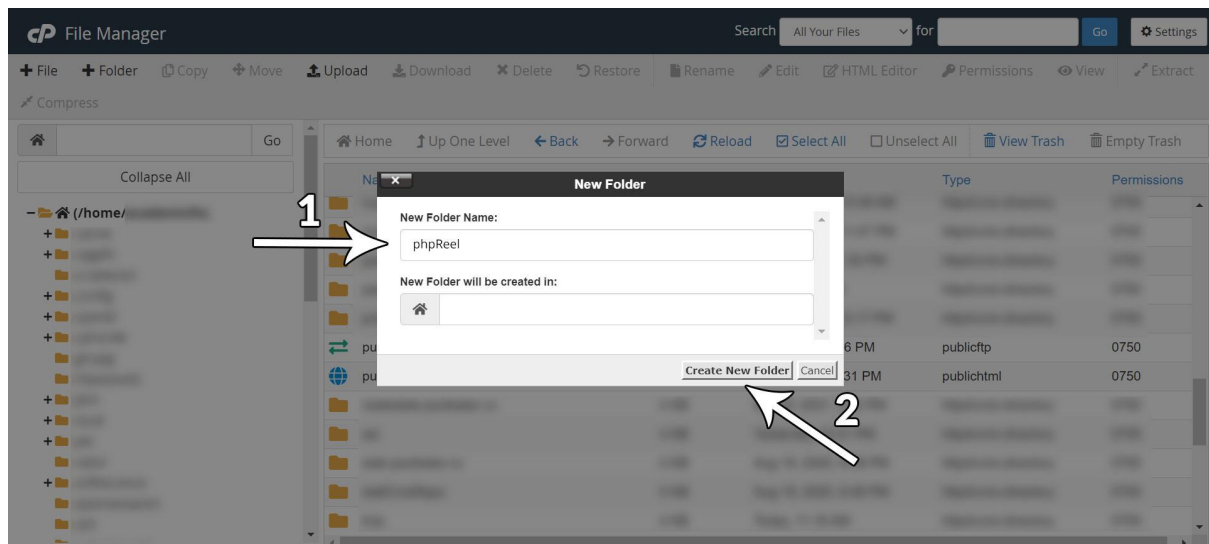
Hosting

Pretty much any modern hosting provider should offer you everything you need no matter what plan do you choose to buy. To follow this installation guide, the hosting company of your choice should offer you the following: PHP, MySQL, cPanel, FTP, or some sort of file manager. For this documentation, we are going to use cPanel File Manager. The process should be very similar on other platforms too.

Open the file manager of your choice and create a folder inside the root folder of your website. By root folder we do not mean "public_html", that's your public folder. We mean the folder that contains that "public_html" folder among other folders.

You must name this folder "phpReel" (without quotes) to make it work. You can use a different name for this folder but if you choose to do so you will have to modify the index.php file located in the public folder of phpReel by replacing the word "phpReel" with the name of your folder.





Double click on the newly created folder. Now we should prepare our files for upload.

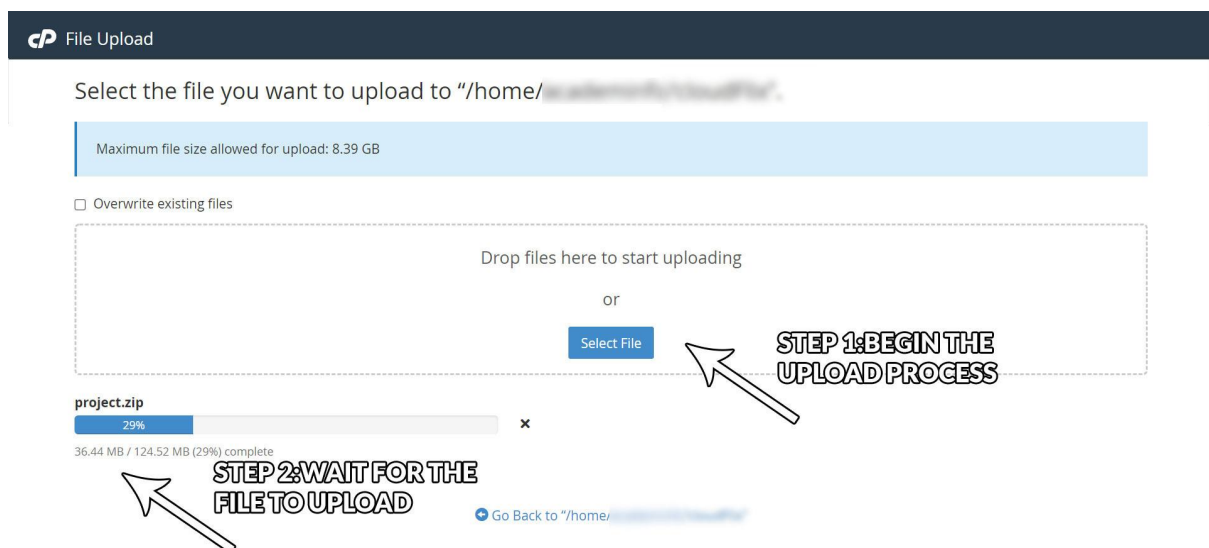
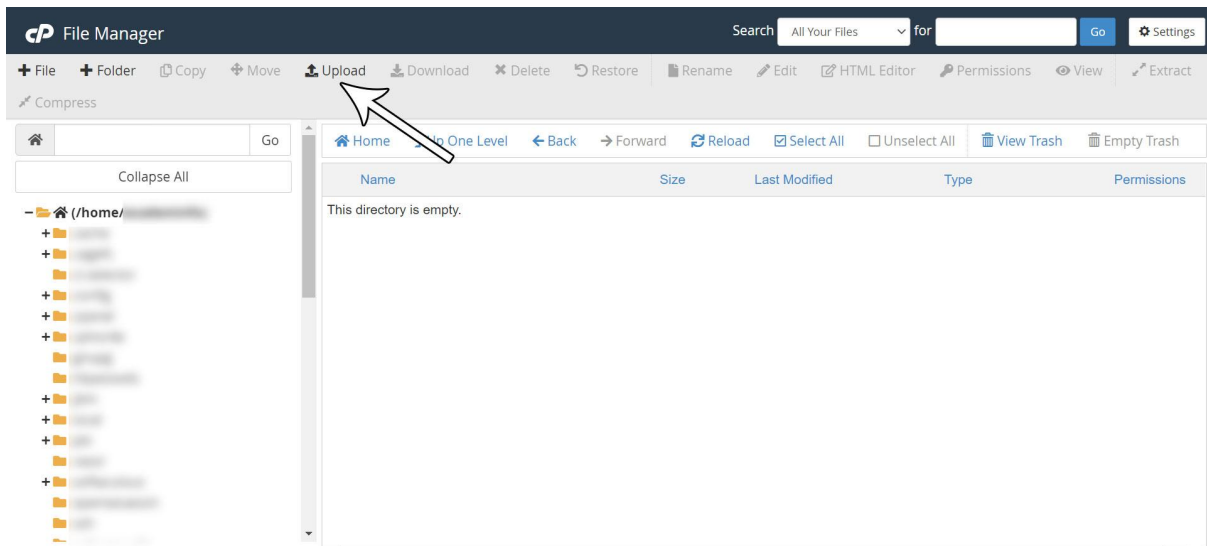
Download the archive from the CodeCanyon website. Inside that archive, you will find multiple files, one of which will be labeled "phpReel.zip". That is the archive where the whole source code of the project is located. Unzip that archive and open the resulting folder.

Now please select every file and folder located there except the public folder and archive them into a .zip file.

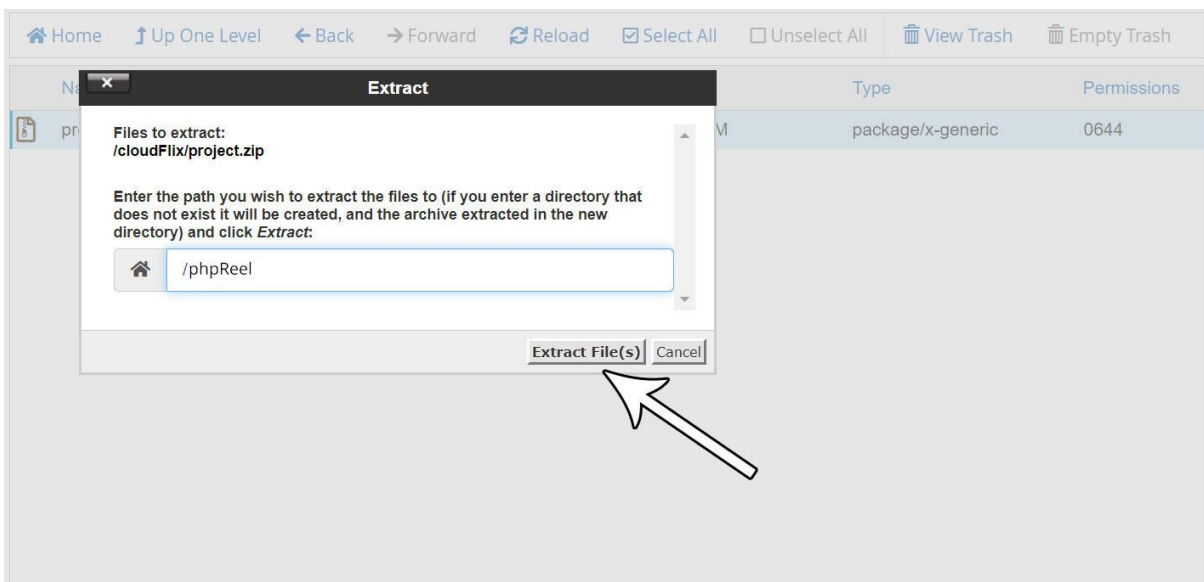
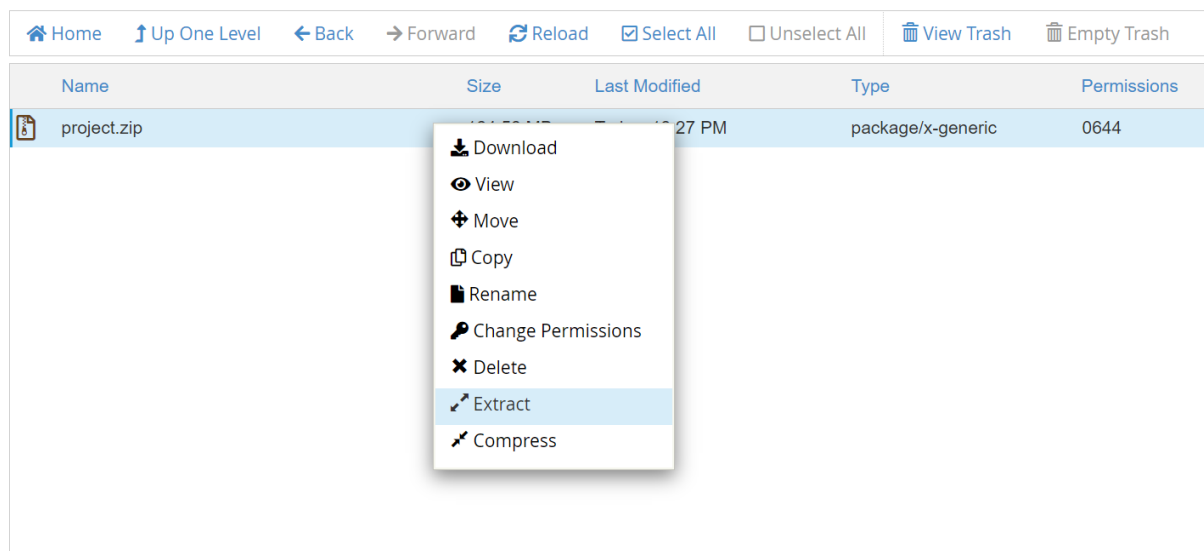
Name	Date modified	Type	Size
app	3/30/2021 8:36 AM	File folder	
bootstrap	3/30/2021 8:36 AM	File folder	
config	4/8/2021 4:45 PM	File folder	
database	3/30/2021 8:36 AM	File folder	
node_modules	3/30/2021 8:39 AM	File folder	
public	3/30/2021 9:10 AM	File folder	
resources	3/30/2021 8:39 AM	File folder	
routes	3/30/2021 8:39 AM	File folder	
storage	4/8/2021 5:09 PM	File folder	
tests	3/30/2021 8:39 AM	File folder	
vendor	4/21/2021 11:43 PM	File folder	
.editorconfig	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	EDITORCONFIG File	1 KB
.env	4/24/2021 11:30 AM	ENV File	2 KB
.env.example	3/27/2021 12:32 AM	EXAMPLE File	1 KB
.gitattributes	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	Text Document	1 KB
.gitignore	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	Text Document	1 KB
.styleci.yml	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	YML File	1 KB
artisan	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	File	2 KB
composer.json	4/21/2021 11:42 PM	JSON File	2 KB
composer.lock	4/21/2021 11:43 PM	LOCK File	292 KB
package.json	3/27/2021 12:43 AM	JSON File	1 KB
package-lock.json	3/27/2021 12:43 AM	JSON File	513 KB
phpunit.xml	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	XML Document	2 KB
README.md	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	MD File	4 KB
server.php	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	PHP File	1 KB
tailwind.config.js	3/27/2021 12:42 AM	JS File	1 KB
webpack.mix.js	3/27/2021 12:42 AM	JS File	1 KB

To create a .zip archive, with the files selected, right-click on the selection->"Send to"->Compressed (zipped) folder or use the archive app of your choice.

Once created, we should upload the .zip file to the server. Let's go right back to cPanel and hit the "Upload" button. Now you should select the .zip file and begin the uploading process. This might take a while depending on your internet connection.

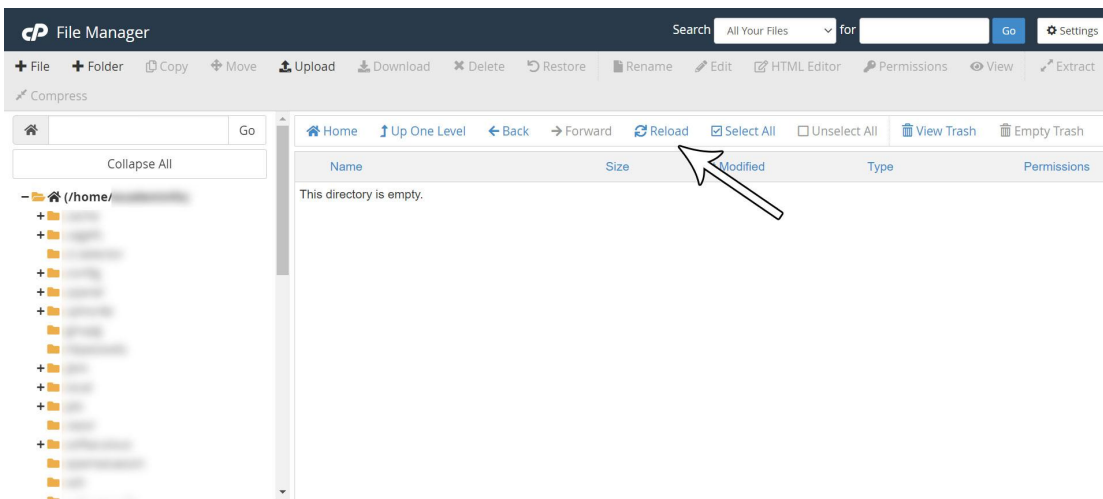


Once uploaded, go back to the file manager where the .zip file is located, right-click on it, and press Extract.



Double-check that the name of that file path is the same as the name of the folder that you created earlier and hit the Extract Files button.

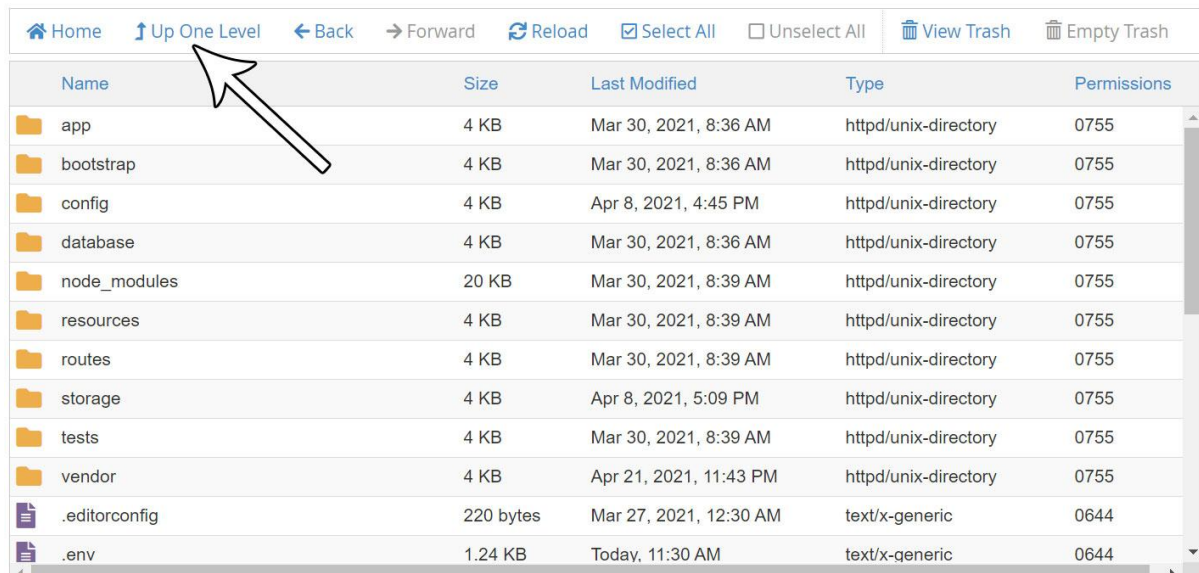
In case any of the files do not show up, click on the Reload option.



Delete the .zip file that you uploaded earlier by right-clicking on it and pressing Delete.

You might also check the Skip the trash option to delete the file permanently and then hit the Confirm button.

The next step is to go back to the root folder of your website by clicking the "Up One Level" button.



Home	↑ Up One Level	← Back	→ Forward	↻ Reload	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Select All	<input type="checkbox"/> Unselect All	🗑 View Trash	🗑 Empty Trash
Name	Size	Last Modified	Type	Permissions				
app	4 KB	Mar 30, 2021, 8:36 AM	httpd/unix-directory	0755				
bootstrap	4 KB	Mar 30, 2021, 8:36 AM	httpd/unix-directory	0755				
config	4 KB	Apr 8, 2021, 4:45 PM	httpd/unix-directory	0755				
database	4 KB	Mar 30, 2021, 8:36 AM	httpd/unix-directory	0755				
node_modules	20 KB	Mar 30, 2021, 8:39 AM	httpd/unix-directory	0755				
resources	4 KB	Mar 30, 2021, 8:39 AM	httpd/unix-directory	0755				
routes	4 KB	Mar 30, 2021, 8:39 AM	httpd/unix-directory	0755				
storage	4 KB	Apr 8, 2021, 5:09 PM	httpd/unix-directory	0755				
tests	4 KB	Mar 30, 2021, 8:39 AM	httpd/unix-directory	0755				
vendor	4 KB	Apr 21, 2021, 11:43 PM	httpd/unix-directory	0755				
.editorconfig	220 bytes	Mar 27, 2021, 12:30 AM	text/x-generic	0644				
.env	1.24 KB	Today, 11:30 AM	text/x-generic	0644				

Right here please open the "public_html" folder (it might have different names such as "www" depending on your hosting provider).

In case you want to set up phpReel on a subdomain or an additional domain you will probably have a different folder to act as the public_html folder for that specific domain. If this is the case, check cPanel to see what that folder is called and use that instead of public_html.

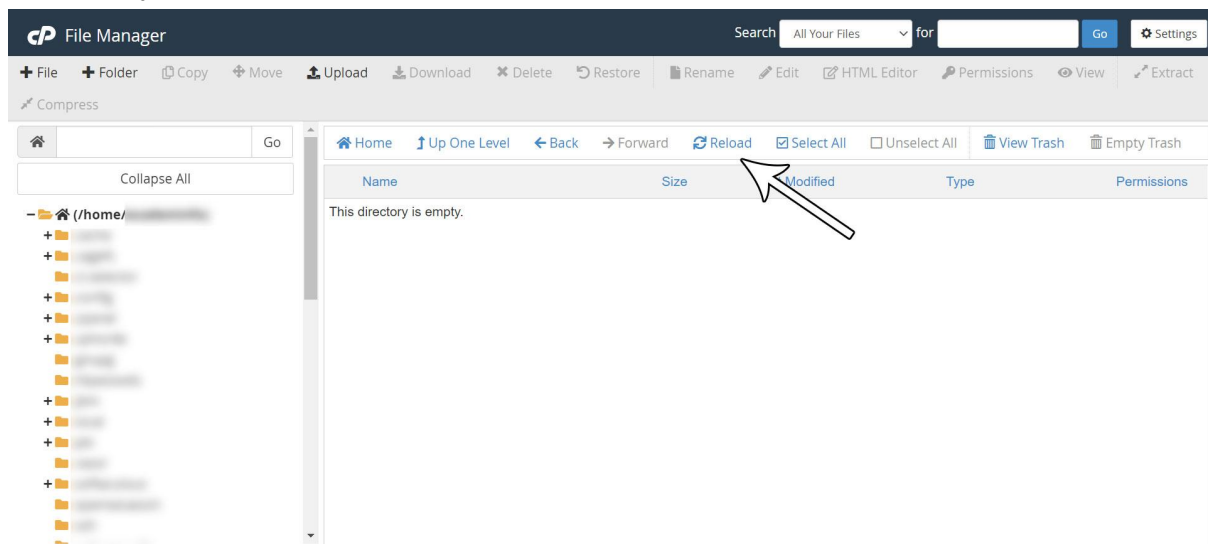
At this point, we have to do exactly what we have done before with the .zip file but instead of creating and uploading a .zip file with all those folders and files, we are just going to zip and upload the contents of the public folder (the one that we left out before).

Open the public folder. It should look similar to the image below.

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
css	4/12/2021 10:13 PM	File folder	
js	4/18/2021 9:40 PM	File folder	
storage	3/30/2021 9:10 AM	File folder	
.htaccess	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	HTACCESS File	1 KB
favicon.ico	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	Icon	0 KB
index.php	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	PHP File	2 KB
mix-manifest.json	3/27/2021 12:43 AM	JSON File	1 KB
robots.txt	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	Text Document	1 KB
web.config	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	CONFIG File	2 KB

Select all, right-click and zip as you did before. Go back to cPanel and make sure you are inside the public_html folder (or the corresponding public folder for your domain) and delete everything that you might find there, by right-clicking and hitting the delete button.

In case any of the files do not show up, click on the Reload option.



Now hit the Upload button and upload the public zip file like before. Extract it and delete the archive.

At this point, you should be able to access the website. It should look like this.

500 | SERVER ERROR

This error is showing up because we haven't configured the application. To start the process go to example.com/install and press "Begin installation" (replace example.com with your domain name).

The next page will check to see if all the required settings for PHP are correct. If everything is green you can press the "Next" button and skip to the next step.



All the boxes should be green. Otherwise, the application might not work properly.

PHP 7.4.16

Minimum version is 7.2.5

BCMath PHP Extension

Ctype PHP Extension

Fileinfo PHP extension

JSON PHP Extension

Mbstring PHP Extension

OpenSSL PHP Extension

PDO PHP Extension

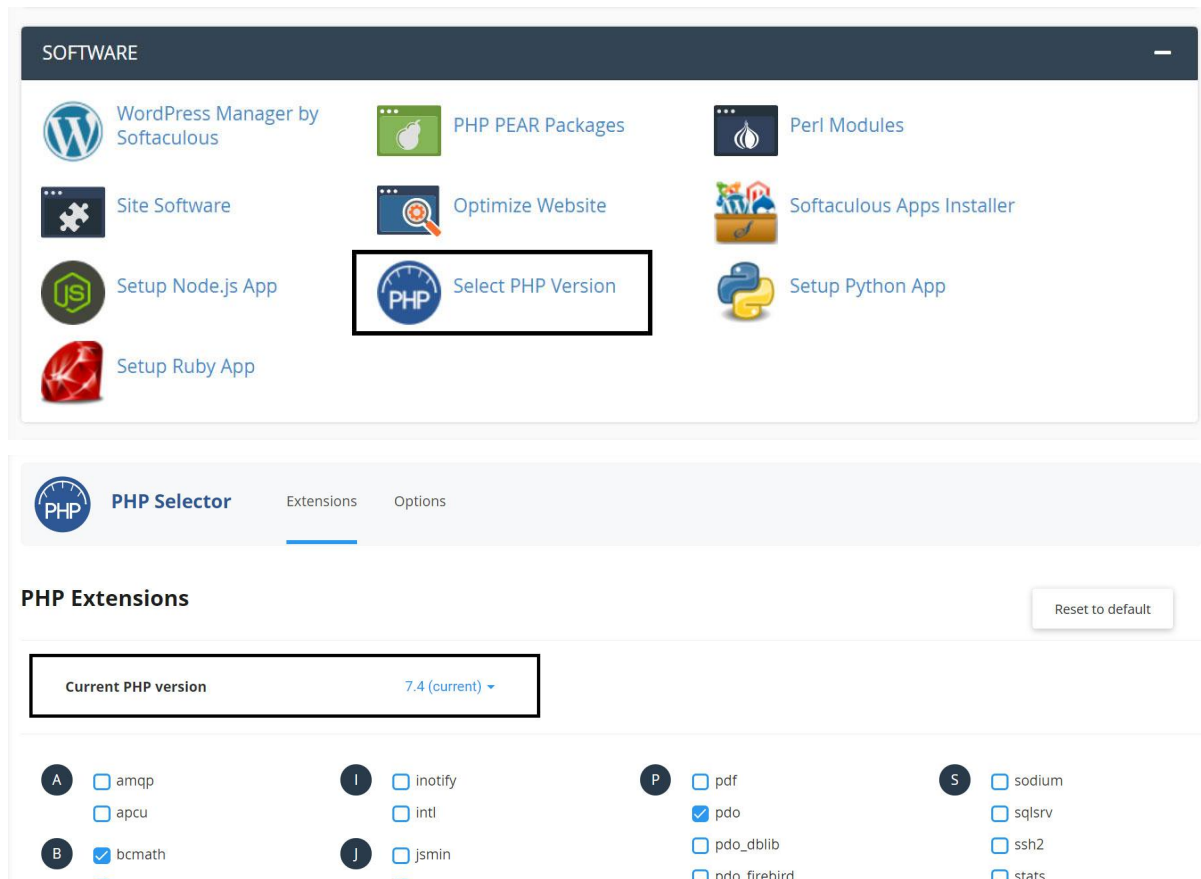
Tokenizer PHP Extension

How to fix the red boxes?

1. PHP Version Error

phpReel is built on top of the Laravel framework and it requires PHP 7.2.5 as the minimum version. If you are hosting phpReel on your server just upgrade PHP to a version equal or greater than 7.2.5

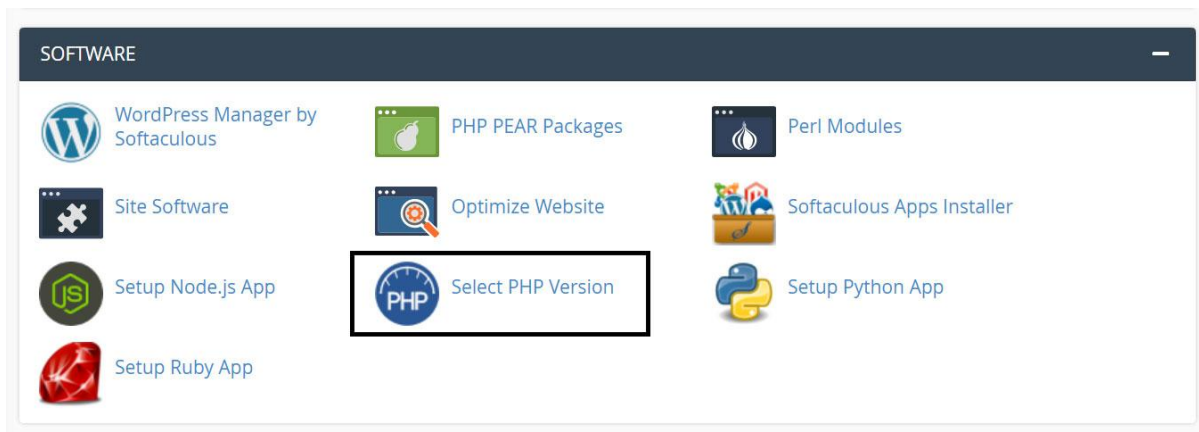
If you are hosting your website at a hosting provider you should check your current PHP version and select a newer version if it's available. To check it, go to cPanel and look for an option similar to "Select PHP Version". From there just select the new PHP version.



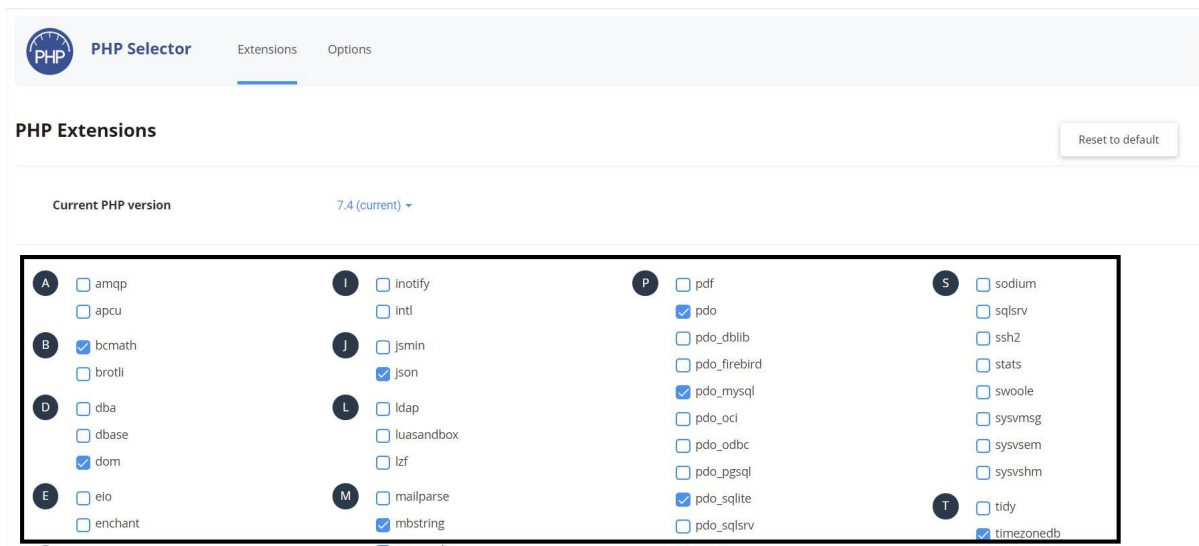
If you don't find the minimum required PHP version you should contact your hosting provider to ask them about PHP updates (if you use a well-known hosting provider you should have no problem with the PHP version because they keep PHP updated on their servers).

2. Any extension error

PHP doesn't necessarily come out of the box with all the required extension enables. To enable an extension go to cPanel and look for an option similar to "Select PHP Version".



From here just check the box corresponding to the missing PHP extension and it should be activated. If any of the missing extensions are not displayed there you should contact the hosting provider regarding this problem.



If every checkbox is green we can proceed to the next step, Database setup. To complete this step we need to create a new database and a user from our cPanel.



Start by creating the database that will hold all the data from phpReel.

MySQL® Databases

Manage large amounts of information over the web easily. MySQL databases are necessary to run many web-base more information, read the [documentation](#).

Create New Database

New Database:

STEP 1: ENTER THE NAME OF THE DATABASE THAT YOU WANT TO CREATE

STEP 2: CLICK ON CREATE DATABASE

For this documentation, we will call the database: "academinfo_phpReeldemo". You should use a different name.

Disclaimer: Database information is considered to be sensitive information so don't share it with anybody.

Next, we are going to create a user that is going to be associated with the database. The user is the middleman between phpReel and the actual database that holds the data. Just scroll down the page and you will find a section dedicated to the creation of new MySQL users.

MySQL Users

Add New User

Username

Password

Password (Again)

Strength ⓘ

Very Weak (0/100)

[Password Generator](#)

Add all the information in the appropriate fields. You should choose a strong username-password combination to ensure safety.

Keep in mind that anybody that has this information on their hands can get access to your database.

Once you finish all the fields, hit "Create user". Our user is called "academinfo_phpReeldemouser". The last step here is to link the user to the database. In order to do that scroll just below the previous section and you will find the "Add user to database" form.

Add User To Database

User:

Database:

Here you should select the user and database that you just created and click on "Add". The last step that we have to take inside cPanel is to set user privileges. Just check "All privileges" and then click on "Make changes".

Manage User Privileges

User:

Database:

☒ ALL PRIVILEGES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTER ROUTINE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREATE ROUTINE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREATE TEMPORARY TABLES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREATE VIEW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DELETE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DROP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EVENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXECUTE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDEX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INSERT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOCK TABLES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REFERENCES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SELECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHOW VIEW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRIGGER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UPDATE

We are done with creating all the database stuff. Now let's go back to the installation wizard and finish it with all the new information that we just created.

Hostname

Port

Username

Password

Database name

Next

The **hostname** differs from one hosting provider to another but is generally an IP address (similar to the one you see in the picture) or something similar to a web URL. Your hosting provider should provide you with this information when you purchase their services (usually they give it to you in an email). If you are not sure about your hostname please contact your hosting provider. If you are installing this on your local computer for testing purposes you might replace that IP address with "localhost".

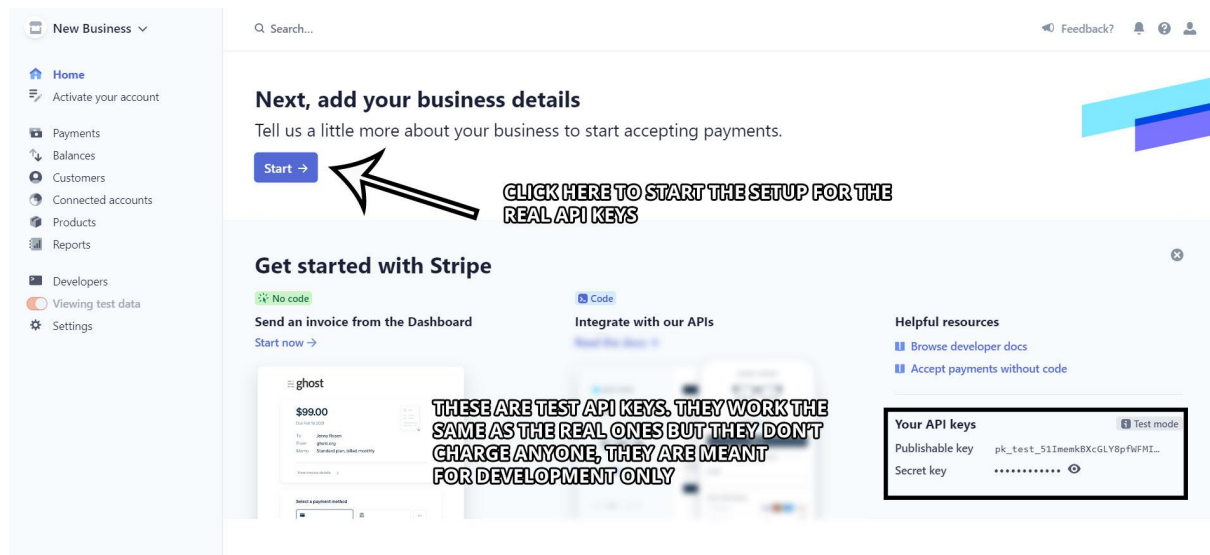
Port is the port number of the MySQL server. This again differs from one hosting provider to another but the default value is 3306. This may or may not work for you. If you can't find information about the port number please contact your hosting provider.

The next three fields are going to contain the database information that we just created inside the cPanel.

Now double-check that all the information you have entered is correct and hit "Next".

This is the last step of the installation. Right here we will set up Stripe. In case you don't know Stripe is the service that lets us have a subscription-based website by charging users their subscription fees, taking care of payment processing, and so on. Even if you don't plan on providing a subscription at the moment you must follow this step to be able to close the installation otherwise the website will not be properly secured because the install page will still be accessible from the browser.

As you can see from the form, we will need two keys, both provided by Stripe. To get them, go to <https://dashboard.stripe.com/register> to create a new account.



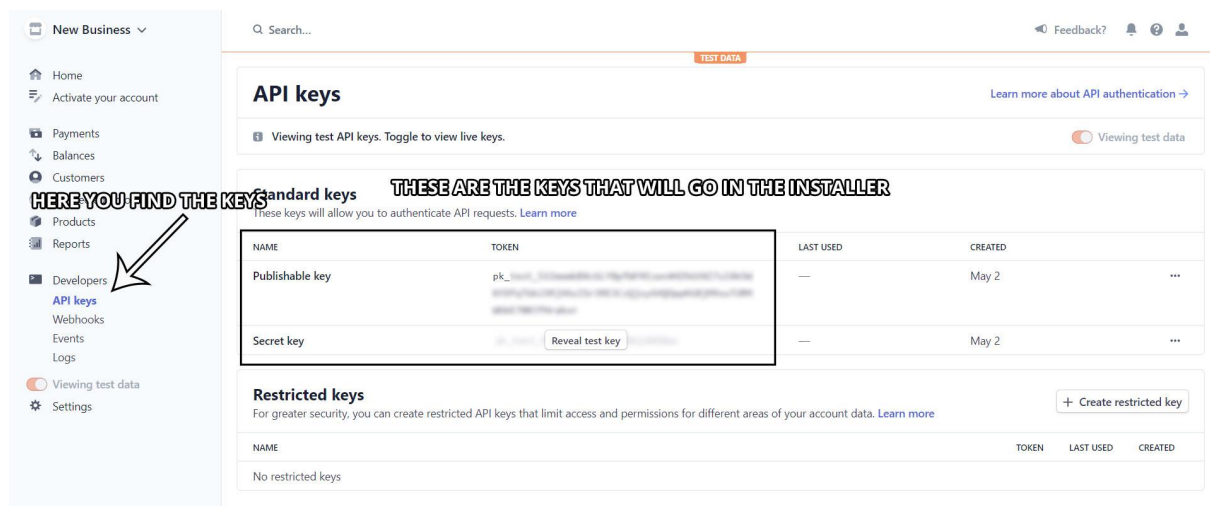
Once you registered don't forget to click the link you received in your email to verify your email.

On the bottom right corner, you will see some API keys. Those are the actual keys that you have to copy and paste in the installer (to see the secret key click on the eye icon).

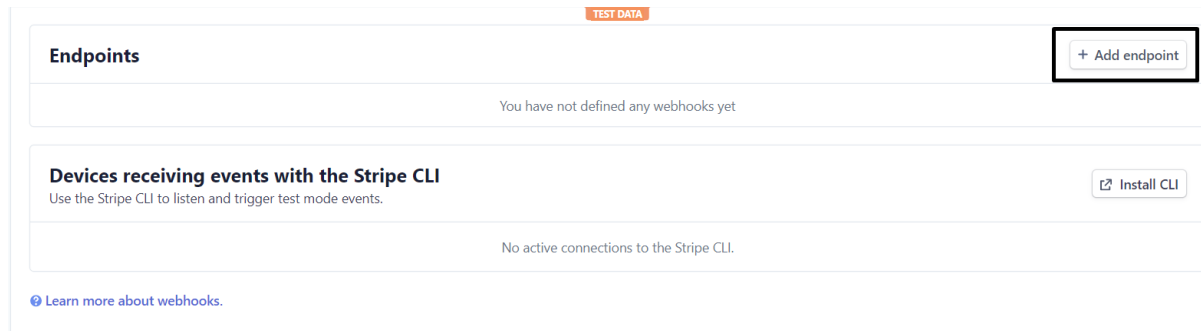
Those keys that you see on the screen are creating just for testing purposes. They don't charge a customer. If that's what you want, you may as well copy those into the installer and be done at this point.

If you do want to charge users for their subscription you will have to set up Stripe with all your details. If that's the case click on the "Start" button or select "Activate your account" from the menu situated on the left side of your screen. Once you completed this setup with all your company/personal information you should be able to get the live API keys that can charge the user.

To get the API keys, click on Developers and then API Keys from the menu situated on the left side of the page.



In the same menu, right under API Keys, you will find the Webhooks. We need to set up these too. We use the API to make our server talk to Stripe and webhooks to let Stripe talk to our server when it has something to say (something like: Stripe tried to charge a customer for a subscription but the customer doesn't have enough funds. In this case, Stripe will send us this message and phpReel will cancel their subscription).



From the Webhooks page click on "Add endpoint".

In the "Endpoint URL" field add your domain name followed by `/stripe/webhook`. Be aware that you should use HTTPS. In case you don't have a secure connection set up for your domain please contact your hosting provider to ask about SSL Certificates.

Next in the "Event to send" section you have to add the 6 events that are listed below.

- `customer.subscription.created`
- `customer.subscription.updated`
- `customer.subscription.deleted`
- `customer.updated`
- `customer.deleted`
- `invoice.payment_action_required`

Your page should look something similar to the image down below by this point. Now click on "Add endpoint".

TEST DATA

Add a webhook endpoint

Endpoint URL

`https://yourdomain.com/stripe/webhook`

STEP 1: REPLACE WITH YOUR DOMAIN AND LEAVE /STRIPE/WEBHOOK AS IT IS

Description

An optional description of what this webhook endpoint is used for.

STEP 2: SELECT ALL THE EVENTS THAT ARE LISTED IN THE DOCUMENTATION

Events to send

Select events... Clear

invoice.payment_action_required	×
customer.deleted	×
customer.updated	×
customer.subscription.deleted	×
customer.subscription.updated	×
6 events	

STEP 3: CLICK ON ADD ENDPOINT

Cancel Add endpoint

You should be redirected to a new page containing information about our webhook. From here we will take our last secret key called "Signing secret" which will be added in the last field of the installer.

Signing secret [Learn more about webhook signing](#)

Click to reveal Expire secret...

Just copy and paste that code and hit "Next".

We are almost done. This is the last page of the installer. Please add all the required information and hit "Finish"

Be aware that this will be your Admin account. The application name will be the name of your website. You can later add more admin accounts. Make sure the account has a valid email address and a solid password.

Application name

phpReelDemo

Name

John Doe

Email

johndoe@domain.com

Password

Confirm password


















Finish

Congratulations! You have finished the installation process. From now on you can access your Dashboard page from yourdomain.com/dashboard

Make sure that all the data is correct because it will be a lot harder to manually fix a mistake later. If you did make a mistake you have two options.

1. Go to yourdomain.com/install/database and try to enter the information once again.
2. If this fails you have to manually "reset" the installation process.

To do a manual reset you have to go to the File Manager and overwrite the .env file with the .env file that you got when you downloaded phpReel. This will reset the whole installer because the .env files actually contain all the information that you entered during the installation.

Home	↑ Up One Level	← Back	→ Forward	↻ Reload	☑ Search
Name					
	app				
	bootstrap				
	config				
	database				
	node_modules				
	public				
	resources				
	routes				
	storage				
	tests				
	vendor				
	.editorconfig				
	.env				
	.env.example				
	.gitattributes				
	.gitignore				
	.styleci.yml				

After you have accomplished this you can just start the installation wizard from step 1 by going to [yourdomain.com/install](#)

Update phpReel

We are constantly working on improving phpReel. That's why from time to time we are going to release new versions. We recommend that you will update your phpReel application every time we release a new update to make sure your app is up to date and secure.

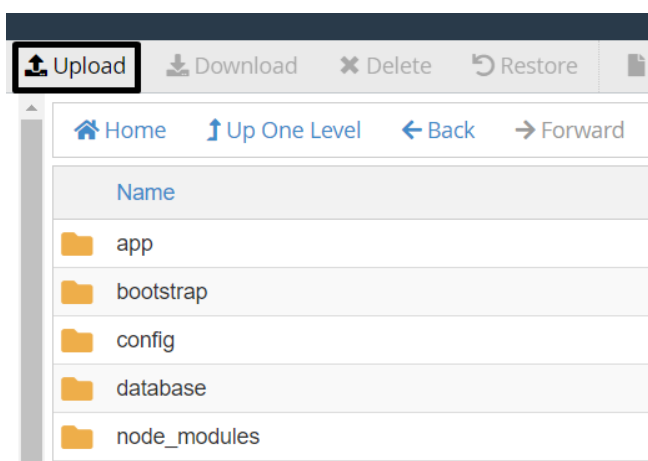
Disclaimer!

Any updating of phpReel might break your website. We try to make these updates in a way that preserves backward compatibility but we recommend that you backup your database, website files, and stored files to be 100% certain that if the update actually breaks something you will be able to have a functional website until you figure out what is causing that problem. We also recommend that you temporarily shut down the website during the update that a great user experience is preserved.

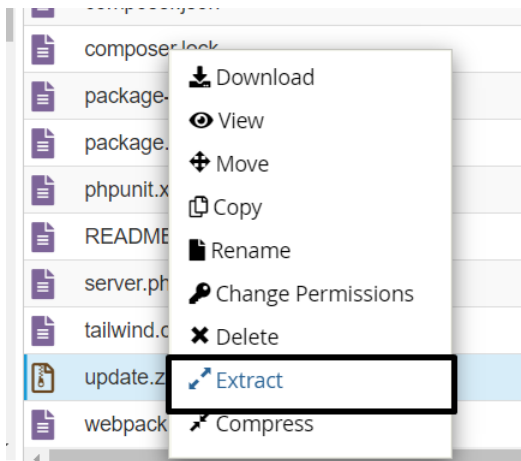
After we backed up everything the next step is to go to [codecanyon.net](#) and download the latest version of phpReel. Unzip the file that you just downloaded. Inside that unzipped archive, you will find a file called "phpReel.zip". Unzip this archive too and you will get access to the source code of phpReel. From there select everything except the following folders: public, storage, and the .env file.

app	3/30/2021 8:36 AM	File folder	
bootstrap	3/30/2021 8:36 AM	File folder	
config	4/28/2021 3:14 PM	File folder	
database	3/30/2021 8:36 AM	File folder	
node_modules	3/30/2021 8:39 AM	File folder	
public	5/2/2021 5:46 PM	File folder	
resources	3/30/2021 8:39 AM	File folder	
routes	3/30/2021 8:39 AM	File folder	
storage	4/8/2021 5:09 PM	File folder	
tests	3/30/2021 8:39 AM	File folder	
vendor	5/2/2021 5:08 PM	File folder	
.editorconfig	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	EDITORCONFIG File	1 KB
.env	5/3/2021 2:00 PM	ENV File	2 KB
.env.example	3/27/2021 12:32 AM	EXAMPLE File	1 KB
.gitattributes	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	Text Document	1 KB
.gitignore	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	Text Document	1 KB
.styleci.yml	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	YML File	1 KB
artisan	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	File	2 KB
composer.json	4/28/2021 3:12 PM	JSON File	2 KB
composer.lock	5/2/2021 5:08 PM	LOCK File	310 KB
package.json	3/27/2021 12:43 AM	JSON File	1 KB
package-lock.json	3/27/2021 12:43 AM	JSON File	513 KB
phpunit.xml	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	XML Documents	2 KB
README.md	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	MD File	4 KB
server.php	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	PHP File	1 KB
tailwind.config.js	3/27/2021 12:42 AM	JS File	1 KB
webpack.mix.js	3/27/2021 12:42 AM	JS File	1 KB

And add them to a zip archive. Now go to your file manager (or use FTP), inside the phpReel folder, and upload the newly created archive.



Once the upload is complete, click on "Go back" and unzip the archive by right-clicking on it and selecting Extract.



Click on Extract files and wait.

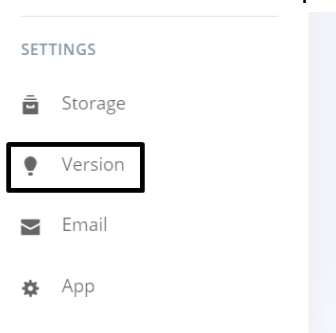
After the extraction is done you can delete the .zip file.

Now you should update the public folder. Open the public folder that you previously left out of the archive, select only the css and js folders, and zip them.

css	4/12/2021 10:13 PM	File folder	
js	5/1/2021 6:49 PM	File folder	
.htaccess	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	HTACCESS File	1 KB
favicon.ico	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	Icon	0 KB
index.php	5/2/2021 5:57 PM	PHP File	2 KB
robots.txt	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	Text Document	1 KB
web.config	3/27/2021 12:30 AM	CONFIG File	2 KB

Now go back to your file manager and open the public_html folder (or the public folder associated with your domain name). From here the process is the same, upload the new zip file, extract the newly uploaded archive and delete the zip archive after the extraction is done.

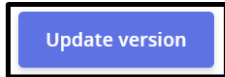
The very last step is to go Dashboard -> Settings -> Version and click on the Update Version button. This is done to update the database.



Update app

Version

Current version: 1.0



Now the update is done and your website is up to date.

Storing files on S3 Amazon Cloud Storage

phpReel comes out of the box with the ability to store your images and videos on Amazon Cloud Storage. With that being said there are a few steps to take if you want to enable cloud storage.

Disclaimer!

Storing files, especially video files on the cloud can be expensive because of their file size. Be careful if you do choose to use cloud storage as we are not responsible for the bill that you might receive from the cloud storage company. More detailed information about this subject in the "Storing videos on local storage or cloud storage" section of this documentation.

phpReel is set up by default to use the local storage (storing the files directly on the web server). In order to switch to another type of storage, inside your dashboard go to Settings -> Storage.

SETTINGS



Version

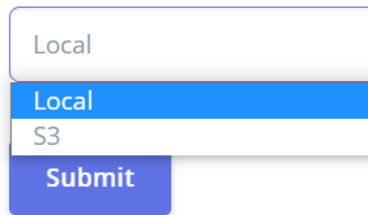
Email

App

Here you will find a section called Storage with the Storage disk set to Local. Select "S3" from the drop-down and fill all the required fields with the appropriate information from your Amazon S3 Bucket.

Storage

Storage disk

A dropdown menu for selecting the storage disk. The menu is open, showing three options: 'Local' (highlighted in blue), 'Local' (in white), and 'S3' (in white). Below the options is a blue 'Submit' button.

Local

Local

S3

Submit

Storage

Storage disk

AWS access key ID

AWS secret access key

AWS default region

AWS bucket

Once you field up all the required information hit "Submit" and from now on all your content will be stored inside Amazon S3 Bucket.

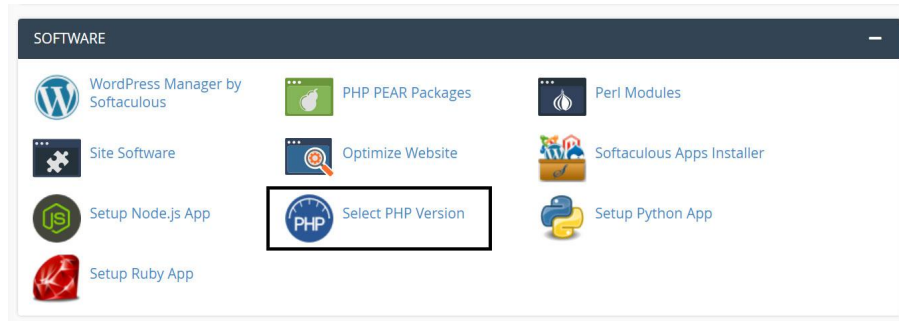
Chunk size settings

No matter what storage disk you will choose to use, you will still face a problem called file uploads. The thing is, your webserver can't really upload files of any size. It has some limitations on how much it can store at once. For most PHP web servers the default limit for uploading files is set to 2 MB. This is quite low, so we found a workaround called chunking. We take your big file, split it up in chunks and upload them one by one, this way keeping the files that are actually being uploaded a lot smaller.

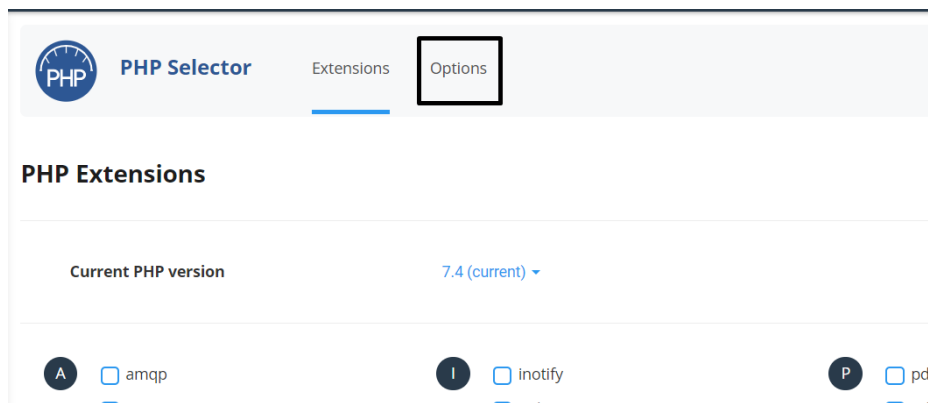
The default chunk size is set to 2 MB. This is not necessarily the value that will bring you the best uploading speeds and it might actually break your server if the file is too big (imagine that for 1 GB there are going to be 500+ upload requests to the server, this is not good). We chose 2 MB because it is the minimum possible value that a web server might have set as the maximum upload file size. We highly encourage you to change this value.

We suggest that the maximum size of the chunk be 100MB. But keep in mind, it's not enough to change the value inside the dashboard. You also have to update some parameters inside the cPanel, thus if we want to set the chunk size to 100 MB we have to do the following modification to PHP.

Search for "Select PHP Version" inside your cPanel.



Click on "Options".



Scroll down and pay attention to these three values.

"upload_max_filesize" tells us what is the maximum size of the file that we want to upload. This should be higher or equal to (we recommend going higher) the chunk size set inside the dashboard.





"post_max_size" must be higher than "upload_max_filesize". This is the maximum value that can be sent through a form (files, text fields, select fields, ...).

"memory_limit" is not directly linked with file uploads but the value should be high enough to ensure that the app is working properly.

memory_limit	128M ▾
open_basedir	<input type="text"/>
post_max_size	8M ▾
session.save_path	/opt/alt/php74/var/lib/php/s
short_open_tag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
upload_max_filesize	2M ▾

Now that you updated the PHP config values, you should go to Dashboard -> Settings -> Storage and update the "Chunk size" with a value lower or equal to the "upload_max_filesize" and click on "Submit".

SETTINGS

-  Storage
-  Version
-  Email
-  App

Now that you updated the PHP config values, you should go to Dashboard -> Settings -> Storage and update the "Chunk size" with a value lower or equal to the "upload_max_filesize" and click on "Submit".

If you read the text above the form it will tell you the actual maximum chunk size that is allowed.

Chunk settings

To upload large files, CloudFlix will chop your files into chunks and upload them separately. This is needed because web servers limit the maximum upload size of files.

Important! The chunk size must be lower or equal than 2 MB. For instruction on how to increase it check out the documentation.

Chunk size (MB)

There is no formula for the best values here. It really depends on what hosting do you use, what kind of requirement they have, what limitations they have and in general, how do you plan on using phpReel. You should experiment with different values until you get a sense of what works best.

Storing videos on local storage or cloud storage

Disclaimer!

Please keep in mind that video streaming is a very expensive process, thus we recommend that you will host video files on third parties like Vimeo to keep the overload off your servers or your bill from different cloud storage providers. If you do choose to host your videos locally or on the cloud (such as S3 from Amazon) please monitor your website traffic to make sure you keep costs under control. Also, if you are using a cheap hosting plan the platform might not work properly with stored video files resulting in a poor experience for the end-user.

TL;DR If big streaming companies are spending millions to provide these services don't expect to have the same results using a \$100 plan a year for a shared hosting plan. If you don't have the money to support the cost just use a third-party video hosting provider (such as Vimeo).

Right from the beginning, we wanted to keep phpReel working on as many web server plans as possible, thus making some compromises on lower-end server hosting plans such as shared hosting and going all-in on more advanced (and more expensive) hosting solutions such as VPS (virtual private server) or dedicated servers.

The problem is represented by the size of the files being uploaded and streamed to the user. The sweet spot is keeping the files as small as possible (the lower the better) and the quality of them as good as possible or I should say good enough.

Why is this important?

Let's take a simple example if you upload a 1GB long video and the user watches all of it then he will download that video from your server or cloud provider. That's just for one user. Now imagine you have 100, 1000, 10000 users. It quickly adds up and you might run into problems (huge bills to pay or poor experience for the end-user).

Thus we recommend using third parties to host your videos. If you do choose to host them yourself keep in mind a few things:

- Compress them as much as possible to make sure the file size is small.
- Always monitor the amount of bandwidth the website consumes, storage space, the size of the user requests to the server, the billing fee (if you are using a cloud service).
- Consider using a more powerful hosting solution such as a VPN or dedicated server.
- Just use a third party, it is nothing to be ashamed of.

Images on phpReel

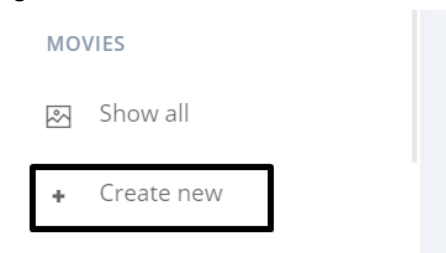
The same applies if we are talking about images. We recommend uploading images that keep the 16:9 aspect ratio with a resolution of 1280x720 and a small file size (the smaller the better).

Content on phpReel explained

phpReel is a subscription-based content platform providing premium movies and series to its users. With this in mind, we can split up the content that can be added to the platform into two categories: movies and series.

Movies on phpReel

Movies are the simplest form of content on the platform. If you want to publish a new movie, go to the Dashboard -> Movies -> Create new.



The form is pretty self-explanatory but we will give some instructions on some of the fields.

The length of the movie should be formatted as hh:mm (02:20 means 2 hours and 20 minutes).

Different cast members or genre types must be separated by a comma like in the example below.

Cast	Genre
<input type="text" value="John Doe, Joe Doe"/>	<input type="text" value="Horror, Comedy"/>

The uploading part is a two-step process. First, you use the Upload files field to select and upload the files and then you assign the right file to each field.

Choose File

vi2.mp4

Browse

Uploaded files

img_snow_wide.jpg

vi.mp4

vi2.mp4

Thumbnail
img_snow_wide.jpg

Select video platform
HTML5

Select trailer platform
HTML5

Video
vi.mp4

Trailer
vi2.mp4

phpReel offers different platform options to store the videos. As of right now, we offer HTML5 (videos stored locally or on S3), Vimeo, and YouTube. To switch between these just select a different platform from the drop-down list.

Select video platform


HTML5
HTML5
Vimeo
YouTube
HTML5


If you select Vimeo or YouTube, there will be no need to upload videos directly on the platform. Just specify the ID of the video inside the Video ID field.

Select video platform
YouTube

Video ID
jNQXAC9IVRw

This is the easiest option of providing videos although keep in mind that YouTube might not be the best option for a subscription-based website because their videos are not really private. A far better option is Vimeo which actually lets you set different settings for each video you upload on their platform that essentially makes your videos unaccessible outside your phpReel app (if you choose this route you might have to pay a subscription to Vimeo but it's pretty cheap, and for sure is far cheaper than what you will pay for cloud storage). How to get ids of YouTube or Vimeo videos?

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNQXAC9IVRw>

 <https://vimeo.com/355388715>

You can also select the visibility of a movie. If it's public then anyone with a subscription can view it, if it's private it will not be shown to the end-user.

Series on phpReel

Series are based on the same concept as movies but they are a bit more complex. The series sits at the core. After you have a series, that series needs one or more seasons. Now that you have created seasons for the series, we will need episodes for those seasons. This is the basic structure from behind the scenes: Series -> Seasons -> Episodes.

Step one is creating a series. To create a series, go to Dashboard -> Series -> Create new.

The form is pretty self-explanatory but we will give some instructions on some of the fields.

Different cast members or genre types must be separated by a comma like in the example below.

Cast	Genre
<input type="text" value="John Doe, Joe Doe"/>	<input type="text" value="Horror, Comedy"/>

The uploading part is a two-step process. First, you use the Upload files field to select and upload the files and then you assign the right file to each field.

Choose File

img_snow_wide.jpg

Browse

Uploaded files

img_snow_wide.jpg


Thumbnail	Select visibility
<input type="text" value="img_snow_wide.jpg"/>	<input type="text" value="Private"/>

You can also select the visibility of a series. If it's public then anyone with a subscription can view it, if it's private it will not be shown to the end-user.

Now that we have a series we have to go and create a Season for that series. In order to do that go to Dashboard -> Seasons-> Create new

SEASONS

 Show all

 Create new

The form is pretty self-explanatory but we will give some instructions on some of the fields.

phpReel offers different platform options to store the videos. As of right now, we offer HTML5 (videos stored locally or on S3), Vimeo, and YouTube. To switch between these just select a different platform from the drop-down list.

Select video platform

HTML5

HTML5

Vimeo

YouTube


HTML5

If you select Vimeo or YouTube, there will be no need to upload videos directly on the platform. Just specify the ID of the video inside the Video ID field.

Select video platform	Video ID
<input type="text" value="YouTube"/>	<input type="text" value="jNQXAC9IVRw"/>

This is the easiest option of providing videos although keep in mind that YouTube might not be the best option for a subscription-based website because their videos are not really private. A far better option is Vimeo which actually lets you set different settings for each

video you upload on their platform that essentially makes your videos inaccessible outside your phpReel app (if you choose this route you might have to pay a subscription to Vimeo but it's pretty cheap, and for sure is far cheaper than what you will pay for cloud storage).
How to get ids of YouTube or Vimeo videos?

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNQXAC9IVRw>

 <https://vimeo.com/355388715>

The last thing you have to do is link the season to the series that we just created by selecting it from the drop-down list. In the future, if you will want to add more seasons to this series you will do the same as before and select the right series to be linked to this Season.

Link season to series

Series new

At this point, we finished adding our first season to our series. The last step is adding episodes to the season. Go to Dashboard -> Episodes -> Create new

EPISODES

 Show all

 Create new

The length of the movie should be formatted as hh:mm (02:20 means 2 hours and 20 minutes).

The process is similar to what we already have done except now we are going to link the episode to a Season instead of a Series.

You can also select the visibility of an episode. If it's public then anyone with a subscription can view it, if it's private it will not be shown to the end-user.

Edit content on phpReel

You can modify any content that you previously added by going to Dashboard -> Movies, Series, Seasons, or Episodes -> Show all and from there just clicking on the Edit button. This process is exactly the same as uploading except that if you don't specify any new thumbnail, video, or trailer files, the old ones are going to be used.

#	TITLE	YEAR	VISIBILITY	CREATED AT	ACTION
1	test	2024	Public	2021-04-27 13:49:05	Edit

Seasons and episodes order on phpReel

By default, every new season or episode is stored one after another. The first season that you add will be the first season displayed to the user, the second season that you add will be the second season displayed to the user, and so on. You can change this order by going to Dashboard -> Series or Seasons -> Show all and clicking on the order button.

2	Series new	123	Public	2021-04-25 09:39:04	Edit	Seasons order
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From here click on the blue buttons in the same order you want to display the seasons or episodes.

Seasons order

INITIAL ORDER	SEASON TITLE	SET ORDER
1	Season 1	?
2	Season 2	?

[Update order](#)
[Reset current order](#)

If you made a mistake hit the "Reset current order" button to reset the new order. Once you are done with setting the order click on "Update order" to save your changes.

It's exactly the same process no matter if we talk about the order of the seasons of a series or the order of the episodes of a season.

Creating subscription plans

At the center of a subscription-based website are the subscription plans. They tell phpReel and Stripe how much and how often to charge a customer. Any phpReel application needs at least one subscription plan to work properly but it can have as many as you want.

In order to create a new subscription plan, go to Dashboard -> Subscription plans -> Create new.

The form is pretty self-explanatory but we will give some instructions on some of the fields.

The billing interval sets how often the subscriber will get charged.

The benefits are a way to better describe the subscription plan. You can say here what you will provide, what are the advantages of choosing your platform, and so on. The important

thing to note is the fact that the benefits should be separated by commas like in the image below.

You can also select the visibility of a subscription plan. If it's public then anyone can subscribe to it, if it's private it will not be shown to the end-user.

Name

Description

Price

Currency

Billing interval

Benefits (separated by ,)

Select visibility

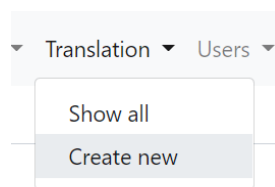
Submit

To see the newly created subscription go to yourdomain.com/subscribe or click on "Subscribe" from the user's main menu.

Translation

phpReel provides you with the ability to translate your application to any language right from the dashboard. You can create as many translations in as many languages as you wish.


To create a new translation go to Dashboard -> Translation -> Create new.



From here just add the name of the translation and begin translating the words.

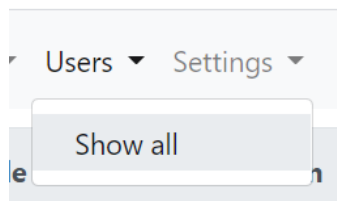
If you want to later update or delete a translation go to Dashboard -> Translation -> Show all and you will see a list of all your created translations.

Now that you added your new translations, any user can go to `yourdomain.com/user` and set their new default language.



Manage registered users

phpReel provides a way to manage your registered users right from the dashboard. Go to Dashboard -> Users -> Show all to see all registered users.



From here you have two options. You can see their Subscription details. Here you will find information such as the status of a user's subscription, if it's canceled or not, and so on.

You also have an Edit button that lets you modify some information about that particular user as well as giving you the ability to create new administrators.

#	Name	Email	Created at	Role	Action
1	Paul Balan	paul@paulbalan.com	2021-04-22 10:52:45	Administrator	Edit Subscription details

Roles in phpReel

At the moment phpReel has two roles for its users. The default role is "user" which is the basic visitor of your application that can subscribe, watch content, and so on. The other available role is "administrator" which is the role that gives you access to the dashboard page.

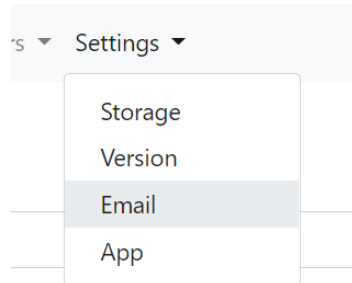
Disclaimer! Be careful who you grant the "administrator" role because they will have access and can modify any aspect of your dashboard.

Application settings

If you wish to change the application name that you set with the installer then you should go to Settings -> App, set the new name, and hit submit.

Email settings

Your application needs an email for password change, confirmation, and so on. If you want to enable these features you have to configure your email. To do that go to Dashboard -> Settings -> Email.

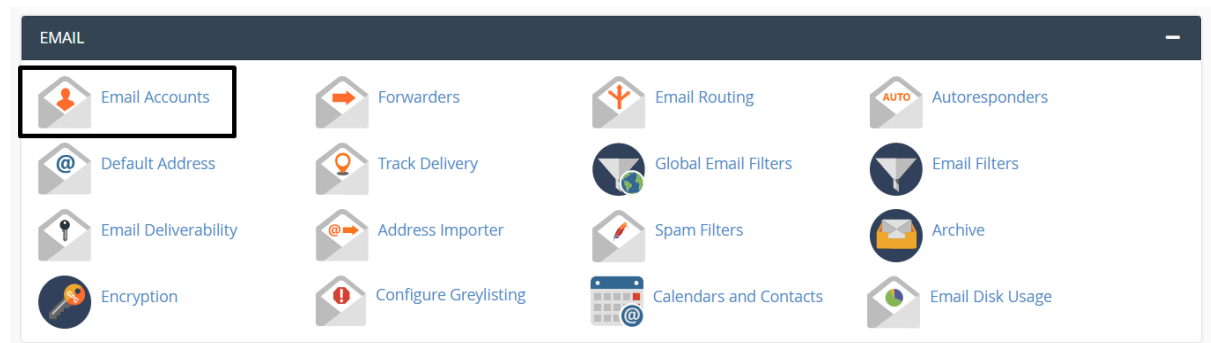


As of version 1.0, phpReel provides only one mailer, SMTP. We plan on supporting more in the future. If you do want to use a different mailer you can still do it but you will have to configure it manually through Laravel.

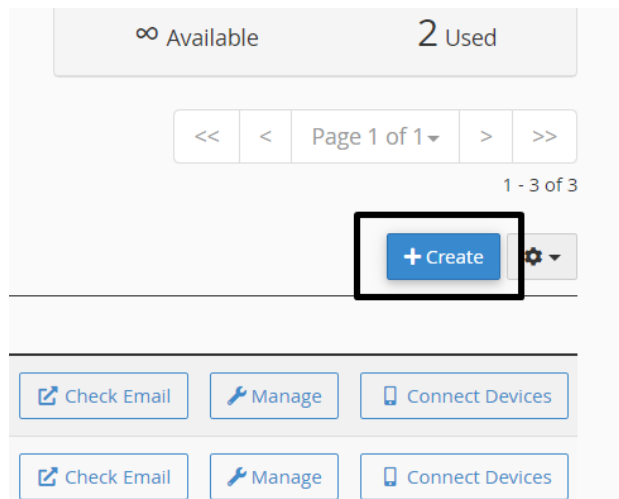
Mail host and mail port are different depending on your hosting provider. If you don't know for sure please contact your hosting provider for more information.

The next three fields are actually configured by you. But before we configure them we have to create a new email address from cPanel.

To create a new email address, open cPanel and look for the email section. From there click on "Email accounts".



Now click on the "Create" button from the right side of the page.

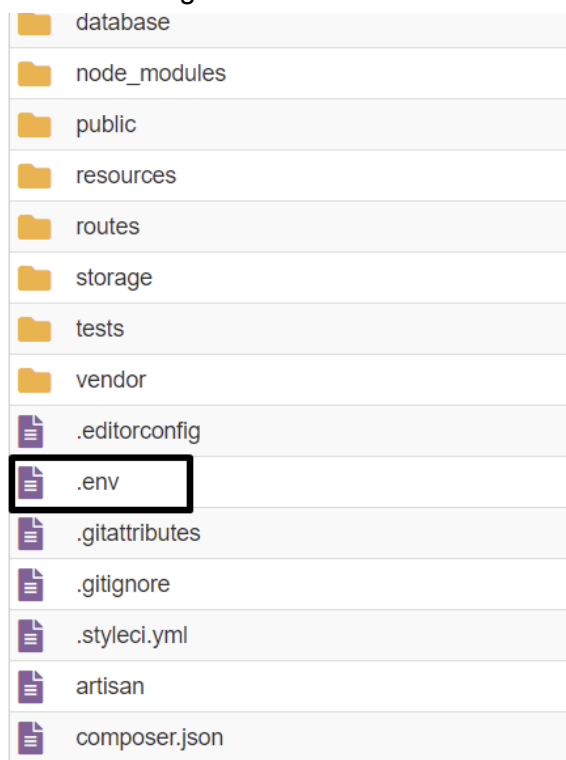


This page will open up where you have to specify the domain that you want to use for your email address (the domain that will appear after @), the username which is the actual email address (the part before @), and a password. Now click on create.

Once you are done with the email creation go back to your phpReel dashboard and fill up the remaining three fields. "Mail username" and "Mail address to send from" should contain your newly created email address (example@yourdomain.com) and the password should contain your email password.

Updating Stripe information

Because these keys are so sensitive we opted not to include access to them right from the backend. But if you do want to change them for any reason you can still do it manually right from the configuration file.



In order to change them go to your File Manager in your cPanel, inside phpReel, right-click and edit on the ".env" file. Scroll to the bottom of the file and update the values that are set to STRIPE_KEY, STRIPE_SECRET, and STRIPE_WEBHOOK_SECRET to your new values.

```
51  
52 STRIPE_KEY=  
53 STRIPE_SECRET=  
54 STRIPE_WEBHOOK_SECRET=  
55
```

Changing the Favicon

The favicon is the little icon right next to the title of the page. If you want to change it then the process is simple. Create a png image that is 16x16 pixels. Upload the image to an online .ico converter (such as <https://convertico.com/>). With the newly converted image, go to your "public_html" folder and replace the "favicon.ico" file with your file (they both should have the same name).

To replace it, click on "Upload" and drag and drop your file, then overwrite the existing file.

