

SimpleRisk Installation Guide

Introduction

SimpleRisk is a simple and free tool to perform risk management activities. Based entirely on open source technologies and sporting a Mozilla Public License 2.0, a SimpleRisk instance can be stood up in minutes and instantly provides the security professional with the ability to submit risks, plan mitigations, facilitate management reviews, prioritize for project planning, and track regular reviews. It is highly configurable and includes dynamic reporting and the ability to tweak risk formulas on the fly. It is under active development with new features being added all the time and can be downloaded for free or demoed at <http://www.simplerisk.org>.

Disclaimer

The lucky security professionals work for companies who can afford expensive GRC tools to aide in managing risk. The unlucky majority out there usually end up spending countless hours managing risk via spreadsheets. It's cumbersome, time consuming, and just plain sucks. When [Josh Sokol](#) started writing SimpleRisk, it was out of pure frustration with the other options out there. What he's put together is undoubtedly better than spreadsheets and gets you most of the way towards the "R" in GRC without breaking the bank. That said, humans can make mistakes, and therefore the SimpleRisk software is provided to you with no warranties expressed or implied. If you get stuck, you can always try sending an e-mail to support@simplerisk.org and we'll do our best to help you out. Also, while SimpleRisk was written by a security practitioner with security in mind, there is no way to promise that it is 100% secure. You accept that as a risk when using the software, but if you do find any issues, please report them to us so that we can fix them ASAP.

Hosting Platform

SimpleRisk was designed to be as cost-effective as possible so we believe that running it on an *AMP stack is the best way to run SimpleRisk. The only true requirements here, however, are MySQL and PHP. We will go into more detail on the installation process below, but it's effectively just a matter of extracting the web files into a web accessible directory with PHP extensions installed, importing the SQL file into your MySQL database, and then linking the two together. Because of this, you can run SimpleRisk on just about any hosting platform you desire. Windows...Linux...it doesn't matter.

Obtaining SimpleRisk

SimpleRisk is currently hosted on the Google Code website. To obtain the latest version of SimpleRisk, go to <http://code.google.com/p/simplerisk> and click on the "Downloads" link. Our file naming convention is simple:

simplerisk-<release date>-<version>.<extension>

To install SimpleRisk fresh, you will only require the latest version of the “.tgz” and “.sql” files.

Installing the Web Files

Take the latest SimpleRisk web bundle (ex: simplrisk-20130501-001.tgz) and move it into your web root. Extract the file into the directory. If you are running on a *nix system, the command to do this is going to be “tar -xvzf <filename>”. This will extract all of the SimpleRisk files into a directory in your web root named “simplrisk”. You can rename this directory or place the files wherever you would like. As long as they are web accessible and you have PHP installed on your web server, they should work.

Installing the Database

You will need to have MySQL installed on a server that the system running the SimpleRisk code can access. The hands-down easiest way to install the SimpleRisk database is to use something like PHPMyAdmin to create the new database and import the .sql file. Since that’s not always an option, what follows are instructions to do the database setups manually through the MySQL command line client.

Begin by logging into the server which hosts your MySQL installation. Copy the .sql file that contains the latest version of the SimpleRisk database into a temporary directory and remember the path to that file as you will need it soon. Now, log into MySQL as root on that server and create a new database for SimpleRisk to run in:

```
mysql -u root -p  
  
create database simplrisk;
```

Connect to the database and import the database file:

```
use simplrisk;  
  
\. /path/to/file/<filename>.sql
```

You should hopefully see some messaging indicating that the rows are imported successfully. Now we need to create a user and password with permissions to access the database:

```
GRANT SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE ON simplrisk.* TO 'simplrisk'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED  
BY 'simplrisk_password';
```

Please, please, please do not just use “simplrisk_password” as your database password in the query above. Ideally you should be using something long (I suggest 20+ characters) and random (upper, lower, digits) so that nobody can brute force it. Also, if your web and database servers are on different IP addresses, then you will need to change “localhost” in the query above to the IP address of the web server that hosts SimpleRisk. You should be done with the database now so:

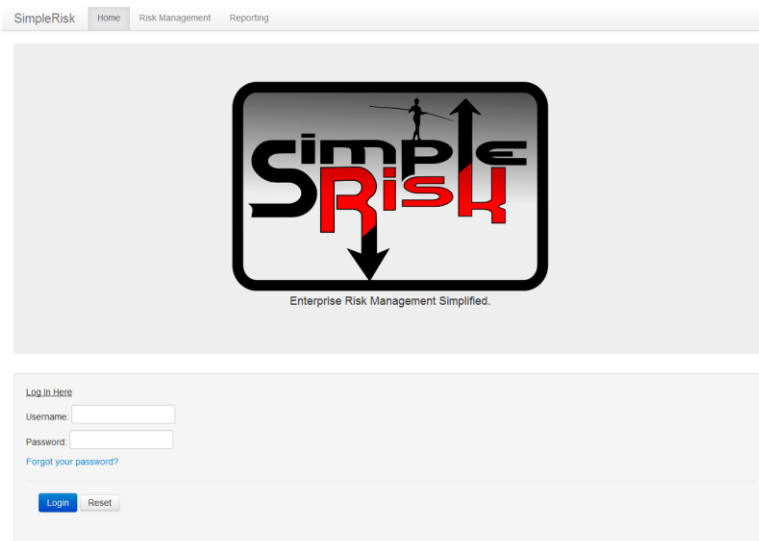
```
quit;
```

Connecting SimpleRisk to the Database

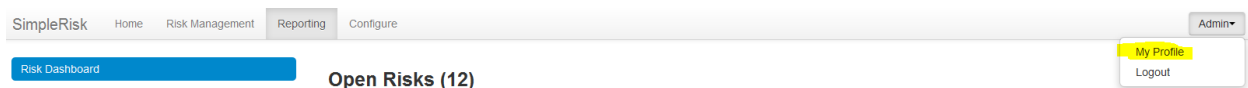
The last step in getting SimpleRisk installed is connecting the web files to the database. To do this, go back to the directory where you put the web files above. In with the SimpleRisk files you will see an “includes” directory and inside that directory you will see a file named “config.php”. This is the configuration file for SimpleRisk. You will need to for sure change the MySQL database password in this file and possibly the user name (if you changed it above) and database host name. There are also a couple of values that you can change in order to modify how long it takes for sessions to timeout and/or renegotiate. I suggest leaving the default values here. Lastly, you can change the timezone so that times are recorded based on wherever you are. The list of supported timezone values can be found at <http://www.php.net/manual/en/timezones.php>.

Logging in to SimpleRisk

You should now have performed all of the steps you need to for SimpleRisk to be up and running. Now is the moment of truth where we hopefully get to see if all of your hard work paid off. You now need to point your web browser to the URL where SimpleRisk would be installed. It might be something like <http://192.168.0.1/simplerisk> or maybe <http://localhost/>. This would be based on how your web server is configured and whether you left the SimpleRisk files in the “simplerisk” directory or not. You will know that you’ve got the right page when you see something like this:



Enter username “admin” and password “admin” to get started. Then, select the “Admin” dropdown at the top right and click on “My Profile”.



Enter your current password as “admin” and place a new long and randomly generated password into the “New Password” and “Confirm Password” fields. Then click “Submit”.

Change Password

Current Password:

New Password:

Confirm Password:

Submit

Reset

You should receive a message saying that your password was updated successfully. If so, then this is your new “admin” password for SimpleRisk. This completes your installation of SimpleRisk. Next you will want to check out the SimpleRisk Configuration Guide to determine if there are any configurations that you need to modify.