

How To Install Webmin on Ubuntu 18.04

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CONTROL PANELS

LET'S ENCRYPT

APACHE

UBUNTU 18.04



By: Theo B

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Introduction

Webmin is a web-based control panel for any Linux machine which lets you manage your server through a modern web-based interface. With Webmin, you can change settings for common packages on the fly, including web servers and databases, as well as manage users, groups, and software packages.

In this tutorial, you'll install and configure Webmin on your server and secure access to the interface with a valid certificate using Let's Encrypt and Apache. You'll then use Webmin to add new user accounts, and update all packages on your server from the dashboard.

Prerequisites

To complete this tutorial, you will need:

- One Ubuntu 18.04 server set up by following [the Ubuntu 18.04 initial server setup guide](#), including a sudo non-root user and a firewall.
- Apache installed by following [How To Install Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP \(LAMP\) stack on Ubuntu 18.04](#). We'll use Apache to perform Let's Encrypt's domain verification and act as a proxy for Webmin. Ensure you configure access to Apache through your firewall when following this tutorial.
- A Fully-Qualified Domain Name (FQDN), with a DNS **A** record pointing to the IP address of your server. To configure this, follow the tutorial [How To Set Up a Host Name with DigitalOcean](#).
- Certbot installed by following Step 1 of [How To Secure Apache with Let's Encrypt on Ubuntu 18.04](#). You'll use Certbot to generate the TLS/SSL certificate for Webmin.

Step 1 — Installing Webmin

First, we need to add the Webmin repository so that we can easily install and update Webmin using our package manager. We do this by adding the repository to the `/etc/apt/sources.list` file.

Open the file in your editor:

```
$ sudo nano /etc/apt/sources.list
```

Then add this line to the bottom of the file to add the new repository:

```
deb http://download.webmin.com/download/repository sarge contrib
```

Save the file and exit the editor.

Next, add the Webmin PGP key so that your system will trust the new repository:

```
$ wget http://www.webmin.com/jcameron-key.asc
$ sudo apt-key add jcameron-key.asc
```

Next, update the list of packages to include the Webmin repository:

```
$ sudo apt update
```

Then install Webmin:

```
$ sudo apt install webmin
```

Once the installation finishes, you'll be presented with the following output:

Output

```
Webmin install complete. You can now login to
https://your_server_ip:10000 as root with your
root password, or as any user who can use `sudo`.
```

Now, let's secure access to Webmin by putting it behind the Apache web server and adding a valid TLS/SSL certificate.

Step 2 — Securing Webmin with Apache and Let's Encrypt

To access Webmin, you have to specify port `10000` and ensure the port is open on your firewall. This is inconvenient, especially if you're accessing Webmin using an FQDN like `webmin.your_domain`. We are going to use an Apache virtual host to proxy requests to Webmin's server running on port `10000`. We'll then secure the virtual host using a TLS/SSL certificate from Let's Encrypt.

First, create a new Apache virtual host file in Apache's configuration directory:

```
$ sudo nano /etc/apache2/sites-available/your_domain.conf
```

Add the following to the file, replacing the email address and domain with your own:

```
/etc/apache2/sites-available/your_domain.conf

<VirtualHost *:80>
    ServerAdmin your_email
    ServerName your_domain
    ProxyPass / http://localhost:10000/
    ProxyPassReverse / http://localhost:10000/
</VirtualHost>
```

This configuration tells Apache to pass requests to `http://localhost:10000`, the Webmin server. It also ensures that internal links generated from Webmin will also pass through Apache.

Save the file and exit the editor.

Next, we need to tell Webmin to stop using TLS/SSL, as Apache will provide that for us going forward.

Open the file `/etc/webmin/miniserv.conf` in your editor:

```
$ sudo nano /etc/webmin/miniserv.conf
```

Find the following line:

```
/etc/webmin/miniserv.conf

...
ssl=1
...
```

Change the `1` to a `0`. This will tell Webmin to stop using SSL.

Next we'll add our domain to the list of allowed domains, so that Webmin understands that when we access the panel from our domain, it's not something malicious, like a Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) attack.

Open the file `/etc/webmin/config` in your editor:

```
$ sudo nano /etc/webmin/config
```

Add the following line to the bottom of the file, replacing `your_domain` with your fully-qualified domain name.

```

                                     /etc/webmin/config
. . .
referers=your_domain
```

Save the file and exit the editor.

Next, restart Webmin to apply the configuration changes:

```
$ sudo systemctl restart webmin
```

Then enable Apache's `proxy_http` module:

```
$ sudo a2enmod proxy_http
```

You'll see the following output:

Output

```
Considering dependency proxy for proxy_http:
Enabling module proxy.
Enabling module proxy_http.
To activate the new configuration, you need to run:
    systemctl restart apache2
```

The output suggests you restart Apache, but first, activate the new Apache virtual host you created:

```
$ sudo a2ensite your_domain
```

You'll see the following output indicating your site is enabled:

Output

```
Enabling site your_domain.
To activate the new configuration, you need to run:
    systemctl reload apache2
```

Now restart Apache completely to activate the `proxy_http` module and the new virtual host:

```
$ sudo systemctl restart apache2
```

Note: Ensure that you allow incoming traffic to your web server on port **80** and port **443** as shown in the prerequisite tutorial [How To Install Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP \(LAMP\) stack on Ubuntu 18.04](#). You can do this with the command `sudo ufw allow in "Apache Full"`.

Navigate to `http://your_domain` in your browser, and you will see the Webmin login page appear.

Warning: Do NOT log in to Webmin yet, as we haven't enabled SSL. If you log in now, your credentials will be sent to the server in clear text.

Now let's configure a certificate so that your connection is encrypted while using Webmin. In order to do this, we're going to use Let's Encrypt.

Tell Certbot to generate a TLS/SSL certificate for your domain and configure Apache to redirect traffic to the secure site:

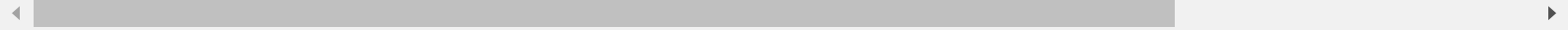
```
$ sudo certbot --apache --email your_email -d your_domain --agree-tos --redirect --noninteractive
```

You'll see the following output:

Output

```
Saving debug log to /var/log/letsencrypt/letsencrypt.log
Plugins selected: Authenticator apache, Installer apache
Obtaining a new certificate
Performing the following challenges:
http-01 challenge for your_domain
Enabled Apache rewrite module
Waiting for verification...
Cleaning up challenges
Created an SSL vhost at /etc/apache2/sites-available/your_domain-le-ssl.conf
Enabled Apache socache_shmcb module
Enabled Apache ssl module
Deploying Certificate to VirtualHost /etc/apache2/sites-available/your_domain-le-ssl.conf
Enabling available site: /etc/apache2/sites-available/your_domain-le-ssl.conf
Enabled Apache rewrite module
Redirecting vhost in /etc/apache2/sites-enabled/your_domain.conf to ssl vhost in /etc/apache2/sites-a
-----
Congratulations! You have successfully enabled https://your_domain
```

You should test your configuration at:
https://www.ssllabs.com/ssltest/analyze.html?d=your_domain



The output indicates that the certificate was installed and Apache is configured to redirect requests from http://your_domain to https://your_domain.

You've now set up a secured, working instance of Webmin. Let's look at how to use it.

Step 3 – Using Webmin

Webmin has modules that can control everything from the BIND DNS Server to something as simple as adding users to the system. Let's look at how to create a new user, and then explore how to update software packages using Webmin.

In order to log in to Webmin, navigate to http://your_domain and sign in with either the **root** user or a user with sudo privileges.

Managing Users and Groups

Let's manage the users and groups on the server.

First, click the **System** tab, and then click the **Users and Groups** button. From here you can either add a user, manage a user, or add or manage a group.

Let's create a new user called **deploy** which could be used for hosting web applications. To add a user, click **Create a new user**, which is located at the top of the users table. This displays the **Create User** screen, where you can supply the username, password, groups and other options. Follow these instructions to create the user:


1. Fill in **Username** with `deploy`.
2. Select **Automatic** for **User ID**.
3. Fill in **Real Name** with a descriptive name like `Deployment user`.
4. For **Home Directory**, select **Automatic**.
5. For **Shell**, select `/bin/bash` from the dropdown list.
6. For **Password**, select **Normal Password** and type in a password of your choice.
7. For **Primary Group**, select **New group with same name as user**.
8. For **Secondary Group**, select **sudo** from the **All groups** list, and press the `->` button to add the group to the **in groups** list.
9. Press **Create** to create this new user.

When creating a user, you can set options for password expiry, the user's shell, or whether they are allowed a home directory.

Next, let's look at how to install updates to our system.

Updating Packages

Webmin lets you update all of your packages through its user interface. To update all of your packages,, click the **Dashboard** link, and then locate the **Package updates** field. If there are updates available, you'll see a link that states the number of available updates, as shown in the following figure:

System hostname	 (127.0.1.1)
Operating system	Ubuntu Linux 18.04
Webmin version	1.881
Theme version	Authentic Theme 19.09.2
Time on system	Thursday, May 17, 2018 10:29 AM
Kernel and CPU	Linux 4.15.0-20-generic on x86_64
Processor information	Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2650L v3 @ 1.80GHz, 1 cores
System uptime	17 hours, 31 minutes
Running processes	99
CPU load averages	0.00 (1 min) 0.01 (5 mins) 0.00 (15 mins)
Real memory	343.07 MB used / 962.42 MB total
Local disk space	1.88 GB used / 27.12 GB free / 29.01 GB total
Package updates	3 package updates are available

Click this link, and then press **Update selected packages** to start the update. You may be asked to reboot the server, which you can also do through the Webmin interface.

Conclusion

You now have a secured, working instance of Webmin and you've used the interface to create a user and update packages. Webmin gives you access to many things you'd normally need to access through the console, and it organizes them in an intuitive way. For example, if you have Apache installed, you would find the configuration tab for it under **Servers**, and then **Apache**.

Explore the interface further, or check out the [Official Webmin wiki](#) to learn more about managing your system with Webmin.



Editor:
Brian Hogan



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17 Comments

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^  [brucefulton](#) August 5, 2018

- o After adding the webmin repository and running update, all packages are up to date, then on `sudo apt install webmin`, I get unmet dependencies, `libauthen-pam-perl`, but it is not installable, and `apt-show-versions`, but it is not installable, unable to correct, you have held broken packages.

^  [eguervos](#) August 13, 2018

- o Yes, me too. Same problem

^  [fjansen04](#) August 15, 2018

- o Same problem here...

^  [Vasile](#) August 16, 2018

- o Hi, you can try:

```
# sudo nano /etc/apt/sources.list

# Add links:
# See http://help.ubuntu.com/community/UpgradeNotes for how to upgrade to
# newer versions of the distribution.
deb http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic main restricted
# deb-src http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic main restricted

## Major bug fix updates produced after the final release of the
## distribution.
deb http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic-updates main restricted
# deb-src http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic-updates main restricted

## N.B. software from this repository is ENTIRELY UNSUPPORTED by the Ubuntu
## team. Also, please note that software in universe WILL NOT receive any
## review or updates from the Ubuntu security team.
deb http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic universe
# deb-src http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic universe
deb http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic-updates universe
# deb-src http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic-updates universe

## N.B. software from this repository is ENTIRELY UNSUPPORTED by the Ubuntu
## team, and may not be under a free licence. Please satisfy yourself as to
## your rights to use the software. Also, please note that software in
## multiverse WILL NOT receive any review or updates from the Ubuntu
## security team.
deb http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic multiverse
# deb-src http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic multiverse
deb http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic-updates multiverse
```

```
# deb-src http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic-updates multiverse

## N.B. software from this repository may not have been tested as
## extensively as that contained in the main release, although it includes
## newer versions of some applications which may provide useful features.
## Also, please note that software in backports WILL NOT receive any review
## or updates from the Ubuntu security team.
deb http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic-backports main restricted universe multivers
# deb-src http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ bionic-backports main restricted universe mul

## Uncomment the following two lines to add software from Canonical's
## 'partner' repository.
## This software is not part of Ubuntu, but is offered by Canonical and the
## respective vendors as a service to Ubuntu users.
# deb http://archive.canonical.com/ubuntu bionic partner
# deb-src http://archive.canonical.com/ubuntu bionic partner

deb http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security main restricted
# deb-src http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security main restricted
deb http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security universe
# deb-src http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security universe
deb http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security multiverse
# deb-src http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security multiverse
```

edited by kamaln7

^ [fjansen04](#) August 18, 2018

o That solved the problem, thank you!

^ [VisNec](#) August 25, 2018

o hi i have gone through the entire tutorial to the end and i cannot access webmin. it just loads in the browser and times out after several seconds

image of the terminal after installations are done: <https://ibb.co/gj3df9>

Any help will be much appreciated

Thank you

^ [Jiren](#) September 29, 2018

o So if you get the error unmet dependencies, libauthen-pam-perl, but it is not installable, and apt-show-versions, but it is not installable, unable to correct, you have held broken packages , if you run sudo add-apt-repository universe then re-run the webmin installer it should work.
(reference to issue 955 <https://github.com/webmin/webmin/issues/955>)

^  [mangeshdhulap](#) October 23, 2018

0 Follow The Below Steps To Install Latest Webmin Control Panel in Ubuntu 18.04:

We will first install the dependency packages by running the following command.

```
sudo apt install python apt-show-versions libapt-pkg-perl libauthen-pam-perl libio-pty-perl libnet-ssleay-perl
```

Read More - <https://www.itsmarttricks.com/how-to-install-latest-webmin-control-panel-in-ubuntu/>

^  [eric1986](#) October 24, 2018

0 Solution for webmin install error

On ubuntu 18.04.1 the universe and multiverse repositories are disabled by default
to enable do:

```
sudo add-apt-repository universe
```

```
sudo add-apt-repository multiverse
```

Now you can resolve the webmin dependencies and install it.

All credits to Ribalinix on this page:

<https://sourceforge.net/p/webadmin/discussion/600155/thread/7fdd077d/>

^  [edwardcox02](#) November 21, 2018

0 Huge Thank You to Vasile for the fix on apt-sources!

^  [djedi](#) November 30, 2018

0 "Navigate to http://your_domain in your browser, and you will see the Webmin login page appear."

I can't get past this step. The browser just times out and I don't see any errors in my apache log. Any ideas?
I've been over the steps several times and I can't see what I'm missing.

^  [djedi](#) November 30, 2018

0 I found the problems. 1. I had missed a digit on my IP for my A record and 2. I had to disable the default apache config.

^  [djedi](#) December 2, 2018

0 I'm using webmin with virtualmin and whenever I add a new domain with SSL, it messes up my webmin address and points it to the new domain directory I just created. Anyone know how to fix this?

^  [SirManu](#) 2 days ago

0

Hi. I think for me works changing "ANY" to my public IP under Servers/Apache Webserver and virtual server for 443.

Also I added `ssl_redirect=0` (besides `ssl=0`), but I think that doesn't have any effect.

^ [derrickr](#) January 15, 2019

- 0 After following the tutorial on my existing server (with Let's Encrypt SSL already installed and working), I get an error when trying to access webmin when trying <https://mytargetdomain.com:10000>

'This site can't provide a secure connection mytargetdomain.com sent an invalid response.
Try running Windows Network Diagnostics.
ERRSSLPROTOCOL_ERROR'

However, I CAN access webmin when just using <http://mytargetdomain.com:10000>

Any ideas?

Also what's the best way to implement webmin as a subdomain i.e. <https://webmin.mytargetdomain.com>

^ [derrickr](#) January 15, 2019

- 0 Got the subdomain working by simply adding a new A record in the DNS. Surprised it was so easy.
However, https / SSL still not working.

^ [electrodydy](#) January 21, 2019

- 0 I have a problem:
root@ubuntuserverone:/home/electrodydy# `sudo certbot --apache --email electrodydy@gmail.com -d
electroserver --agree-tos --redirect --noninteractive`
Saving debug log to /var/log/letsencrypt/letsencrypt.log
The requested apache plugin does not appear to be installed

i dont know what is it... help me please :/



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