# Running a Python script from PHP

I'm trying to run a Python script from PHP using the following command:

```
exec('/usr/bin/python2.7 /srv/http/assets/py/switch.py arg1 arg2');
```

However, PHP simply doesn't produce any output. Error reporting is set to E_ALL and display_errors is on.

Here's what I've tried:

- I used `python2` , `/usr/bin/python2` and `python2.7` instead of `/usr/bin/python2.7`
- I also used a relative path instead of an absolute path which didn't change anything either.
- I tried using the commands `exec` , `shell_exec` , `system` .

However, if I run

```
if (exec('echo TEST') == 'TEST')
{
    echo 'exec works!';
}
```

it works perfectly fine while `shutdown now` doesn't do anything.

PHP has the permissions to access and execute the file.

EDIT: Thanks to Alejandro, I was able to fix the problem. If you have the same problem, don't forget that your webserver probably/hopefully doesn't run as root. **Try logging in as your webserver's user or a user with similar permissions and try to run the commands yourself.**

php python linux exec archlinux

edited Sep 23 '15 at 14:46
guaka
**7,325** 4 39 77

asked Nov 1 '13 at 20:54
Abandoned account
**520** 1 9 21

## 4 Answers

Tested on Ubuntu Server 10.04. I hope it helps you also on Arch Linux.

In PHP:

```
<?php

$command = escapeshellcmd('/usr/custom/test.py');
$output = shell_exec($command);
echo $output;

?>
```

In Python file 'test.py' verify this text in first line: (see shebang explain):

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
```

Also Python file should have correct privileges (execution for user www-data / apache if PHP script runs in browser or through curl) and/or must be "executable". Also all commands in .py file must have correct privileges.

```
chmod +x myscript.py
```

edited Sep 18 '15 at 18:19
guaka
**7,325** 4 39 77

answered Nov 1 '13 at 22:34
Alejandro Quiroz
**1,467** 9 16

5 Thank you, that did the trick! There was one more problem - the Apache user wasn't able to execute a command in the Python script but I was able to fix that by using sudo and adding a exception for my script

to the sudoers file. Thanks again! :) – Abandoned account Nov 3 '13 at 11:40

I'm facing same problem of the apache user, can you please guide me? – Emma Jul 29 '15 at 9:11

1 i used your answer, it execute the python script fine but i can't echo the results nothing appear in the web page, can you help me. – Hamdi Charef Aug 18 '16 at 13:37

I recomm er directly:

```
ob_start();
passthru('/usr/bin/python2.7 /srv/http/assets/py/switch.py arg1 arg2');
$output = ob_get_clean();
```

answered Nov 1 '13 at 22:38
Niklas Lindblad
**881** 4 9

Alejandro nailed it, adding clarification to the exception (Ubuntu or Debian) - I don't have the rep to add to the answer itself:

sudoers file: `sudo visudo`

exception added: `www-data ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD: ALL`

answered Jul 27 '14 at 22:19
Colin Miles
**311** 3 4

5 Doesn't seem effective to add www-data to sudoers, and gives apache more permissions that it needs. Giving www-data permissions on the script you're executing would be sufficient. – JasonRDalton Jul 31 '14 at 18:59

If you want to know the return status of the command and get the entire `stdout` output you *can* actually use `exec` :

```
$command = 'ls';
exec($command, $out, $status);
```

`$out` is an array of all lines. `$status` is the return status. Very useful for debugging.

If you also want to see the `stderr` output you can either play with proc_open or simply add `2>&1` to your `$command` . The latter is often sufficient to get things working and way faster to "implement".

edited Sep 19 '15 at 20:05 answered Sep 18 '15 at 18:19
guaka
**7,325** 4 39 77