

# PHP MySQL Email Reporter

**Version: 1.6**

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## Requirements

PHP 5 or above  
MySQL 4 or above

## Installation Instructions

Upload the contents of the zip into a folder off your site's root.

For the purpose of these instructions I'm going to assume you have uploaded the contents of the zip file to a folder called **reports**.

You would then be able to access the *report.php* file by accessing...  
<http://www.yourdomain.com/reports/report.php>

Once the files are in place and ready to upload you'll need to make the following changes:

## Configuration

1) First, change the *config.php* file to use your **database details**, your "**from name**" and "**from email address**". At this stage you may want to set TEST\_MODE to **true** as well: this will prevent emails from being sent and show any output and errors on the page until you are ready to send the emails.

```
/* ===== CHANGE THESE TO SUIT ===== */
define('DB_SERVER', "localhost"); //database server, normally "localhost"
define('DB_USER', ""); //database login name, enter the username
define('DB_PASS', ""); //database login password, enter the password
define('DB_DATABASE', ""); //enter the name of the database you want to connect to
define('FROM_EMAIL', "no-reply@mydomain.com"); //Define your standard from address for emails
define('FROM_NAME', "SQL Report Generator"); //Define the "from name" in the email
|
define('TEST_MODE', true); //Test Mode, set to false when you want the reports to send emails.
/* ===== */
```

2) Now open *report.php* and update the following fields:

\$reportName (the subject of the email that is sent)  
\$color (the color scheme the report will use: red, green, blue, or grey.  
\$header (HTML text that will appear above the report within the email)  
\$footer (HTML text that will appear below the report within the email)  
\$query (the SQL Query you will be running)

\$recipient1 (the email address of the first recipient)

If you want to send this email report to multiple recipients, you will need to configure further emails as well as calling `html_email` for that new recipient.

For example, the code below will now send the same report to two recipients.

```
//Setup Email Recipient
$recipient1 = 'person1@somedomain.com';
$recipient2 = 'person2@somedomain.com';
//$recipient3 = 'person3@somedomain.com';

//Send the report
html_email($recipient1,$subject,$report);
html_email($recipient2,$subject,$report);
```

3) Finally, upload your script and test it by visiting the *report.php* page in the browser. For example: <http://www.yourdomain.com/reports/report.php>

If you have turned on `TEST_MODE` in your *config.php* then remember to set it back to **false** for your emails to work.

*If you experience any problems at this stage then skip ahead to the troubleshooting section.*

## Customising Report Header Titles

The script will generate the column names for your report based on the columns in your SQL query.

### Automatic Column Names

Query:

```
SELECT firstName, lastName FROM users
```

Resulting Report:

firstName	lastName
Julian	Young

### Custom Column Names

Query:

```
SELECT firstName AS "First Name", lastName as "Surname" FROM users
```

Resulting Report:

First Name	Surname
Julian	Young

Custom column names will generally look a lot better in your final report.

## Running Multiple Reports

You can run as many different reports as you like. Just copy and rename the *report.php* file to whatever you like. Using custom names for your reports will help you later if you are looking to see what report is running, and when, within a scheduled Cron job. You might rename *report.php* (or any copies you make) to *overnight\_report.php* or *top\_customers\_report.php* for example.

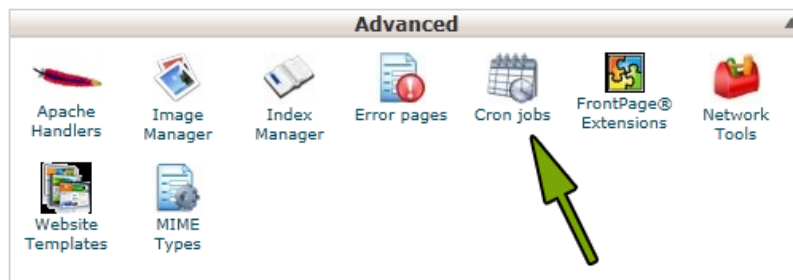
## Scheduling Reports In Cron

For every *report.php* file you have, you will need to add a Cron job to schedule when it will run and trigger the report email.

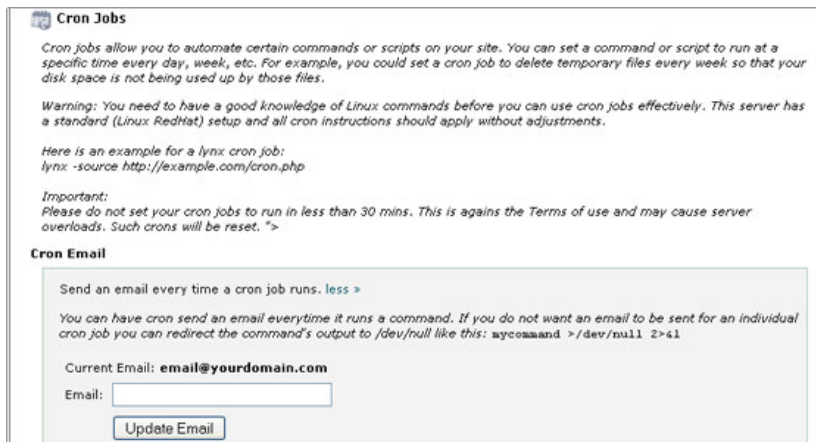
In this example we will use the standard Cron as found in CPanel on most Linux web hosting packages. Remember that most decent hosts will help you set up a Cron job if you log a support ticket; alternatively, check their knowledge base for articles specific to their setup.

1) Login to CPanel

2) To access the Cron Jobs Menu, click on the corresponding icon located on the main screen of your CPanel interface.



3) The upper section of the Cron Jobs interface allows you to specify the email address where you will receive an email each time a Cron job is run for your account. This is optional.

A screenshot of the CPanel 'Cron Jobs' interface. The title bar says 'Cron Jobs'. Below it is a paragraph explaining that cron jobs automate commands or scripts on the site. A warning states that users need a good knowledge of Linux commands. An example command is provided: `lynx -source http://example.com/cron.php`. An important note says not to set cron jobs to run more frequently than every 30 minutes. The 'Cron Email' section has a link to 'Send an email every time a cron job runs. less >'. It explains that cron can send an email every time it runs a command, and provides a command to redirect output to /dev/null: `mycommand > /dev/null 2>&1`. There is a text input field for 'Email:' with the current email 'email@yourdomain.com' displayed above it. An 'Update Email' button is at the bottom.

You can enter the desired email address in the text box and click the Update Email button to apply the changes.

4) The next (lower) section of the Cron Job interface is where you actually set your Cron jobs.

**Add New Cron Job**

Common Settings: Twice a day (0 0,12 \*\*\*) ▼

Minute: 0 :00 top of the hour (0) ▼ ✓

Hour: 0,12 Every 12 hours (0,12) ▼ ✓

Day: \* Every day (\*) ▼ ✓

Month: \* Every month (\*) ▼ ✓

Weekday: \* Every weekday (\*) ▼ ✓

Command: lynx -source http://example.com/cron.php ✓

Add New Cron Job

**Current Cron Jobs**

MINUTE	HOUR	DAY	MONTH	WEEKDAY	COMMAND	ACTIONS
--------	------	-----	-------	---------	---------	---------

There are several common settings that can be used for setting up your Cron jobs. In the example above we are showing how to set up a lynx Cron job to run twice a day.

In the Command field you will need to enter **lynx -source** followed by a link to your report.

For example:

**lynx -source** <http://www.yourdomain.com/reports/report.php>

Once you are ready to setup the **Cron** job click the “Add New Cron Job” button and it will be saved and activated for your account.

## Troubleshooting

If you are experiencing problems, here are a few common checks from users in the past:

### **My script will not run**

Have you introduced a syntax error? Did you introduce any extra apostrophes or speech-marks? For example, if you set the subject of your report as follows, this will cause a problem...

```
$subject = 'Customer's favourite purchases';
```

Why? Because the full text should be encompassed by the apostrophes ('), by introducing the word **Customer's** you add an unexpected apostrophe and this can cause a problem. You can escape an apostrophe as follows to make this work.

```
$subject = 'Customer\'s favourite purchases';
```

The same goes for all the options you have changed both in the report and the config file.

*Double check your apostrophes!*

### **My script still doesn't run / My script is missing**

Have you actually uploaded your modified files? Are you trying to open the report in the correct location?

### **How do I test the script without sending an email?**

You can enable test mode by setting TEST\_MODE to **true** in config.php, re-uploading and opening your report in a browser.

### **The database connection fails**

Double check your database settings in *config.php*: are you 100% sure they are correct? Test using a MySQL GUI like [HeidiSQL](#).

### **I do not get back any results in my report**

Check your SQL query: is it valid? Try running it from the SQL command line or using a GUI like [PHPMyAdmin](#) or [HeidiSQL](#) to see if it returns the result you expect.

### **My report email contains rubbish, especially in Outlook**

Outlook is fussier than Gmail and other online email viewers. You need to ensure that the report output from your SQL query does not contain odd or invalid characters. If you find any particular instances that I might be able to check for in the future then please report them to me and I will do my best to assist.

## Support

*If you have any issues or queries, please do not hesitate to email me at [info@julian-young.com](mailto:info@julian-young.com)  
- I will do my utmost to reply within 48 hours, usually a lot sooner :)*