

Helm 4 – PHP Support Module

How to configure PHP for use with Helm

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<http://www.webhostautomation.com/>
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About Helm

The Helm 4 Web Hosting Control System is an extremely powerful hosting automation solution for Windows 2000 and Windows .NET servers. Helm is developed by WebHost Automation Ltd, a United Kingdom-based corporation. Their main website is:

<http://www.webhostautomation.com>

Important Information About This Guide

Because of the unique “unlimited user model” that Helm 4 employs, there is no longer a strict tier system. Therefore, the Administrator/Reseller/User layout that existed in the previous version of Helm no longer exists.

As well as this, the addition of Account roles and Login roles means that there are no longer strict permissions attributable to a specific user. Effectively, if a user has the correct permissions, they can see and/or do anything in Helm, even if they are not an administrator.

You should ensure that you have the correct permissions assigned to your login if you wish to make use of the functionality described in this document. You should contact your administrator for further information about this.

Please take some time to read over this guide. Doing so will make your experience as a user much more enjoyable and profitable. We have littered this guide with helpful screenshots and valuable step-by-step walkthroughs.

Installing PHP

Both PHP 4 and 5 can be downloaded via the following link:

<http://www.php.net/>

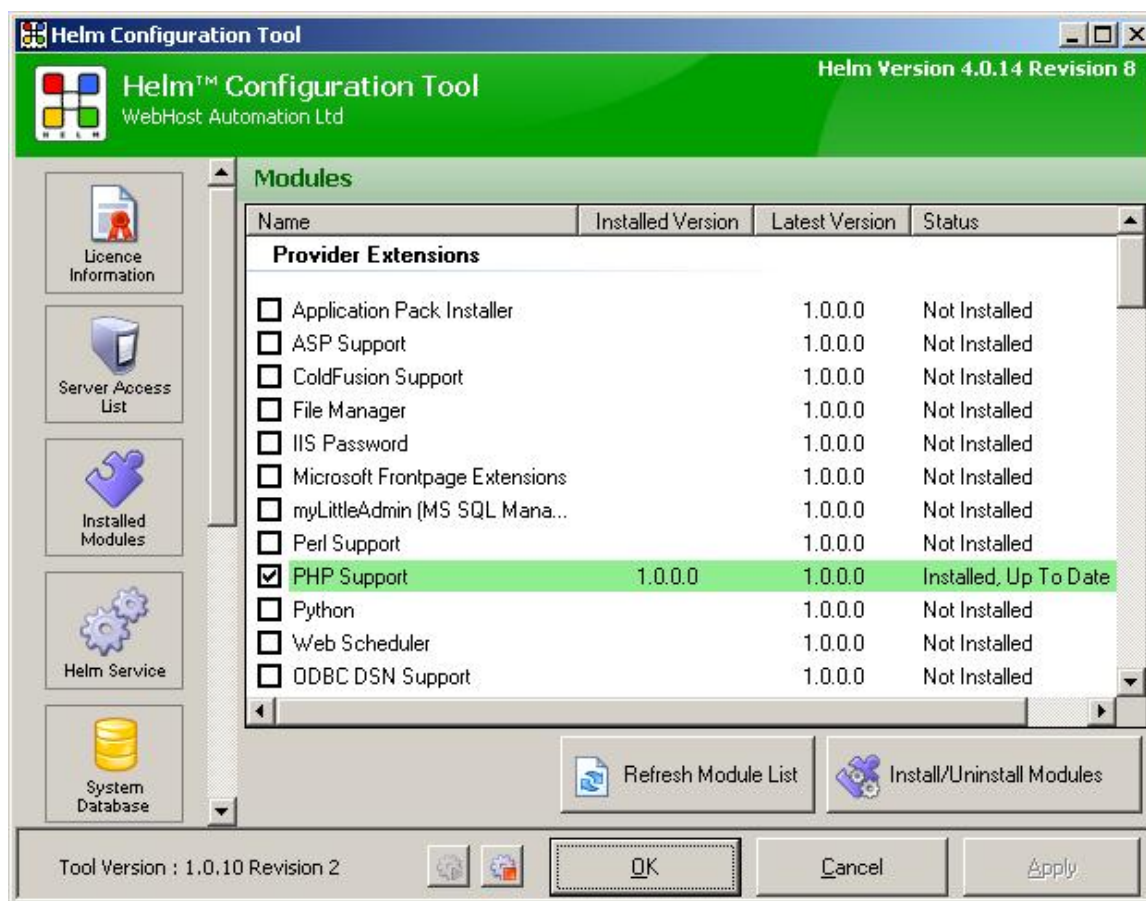
Please refer to the documentation available on the site for PHP installation and configuration advise should you require it. Default PHP install settings should allow PHP functionality provided the PHP paths match those within the Helm service. Details on how to do this are provided within this guide.

Setting up the PHP Module

Open up the Helm Configuration Tool, a link for which can be found either on the desktop or in the Tools sub-folder usually located here:

C:\Program Files\WebHost Automation\Helm4\Tools

and click on the 'Installed Modules' button on the left.



Scroll down the list of modules available and ensure that the 'PHP Support' module is checked and that it is 'Installed, Up to date'. If not, you can check the module, and then click the 'Install/Uninstall Modules' button to install the module. Once installed, you can configure PHP within the Web service.

Setting up PHP Support within Helm

In Helm, go to:

Home > Helm System > Servers > [Your Server] > Services > Default Web Service

Scroll down the web service and extend the 'Microsoft IIS 5/6 PHP Extension' and you will be presented with the following settings.

Microsoft IIS 5/6 PHP Extension

☒ Make PHP v4 available to users

PHP Version 4 Path: *

☒ Make PHP v5 available to users

PHP Version 5 Path: *

File Extensions (comma separated): *

Make PHP v4 available to users:- Enable checkbox to allow users to enable PHP4 on a website they host.

PHP Version 4 Path:- Edit the path accordingly for your PHP4 executable in Windows. By default this is usually 'C:\php4\php.exe'

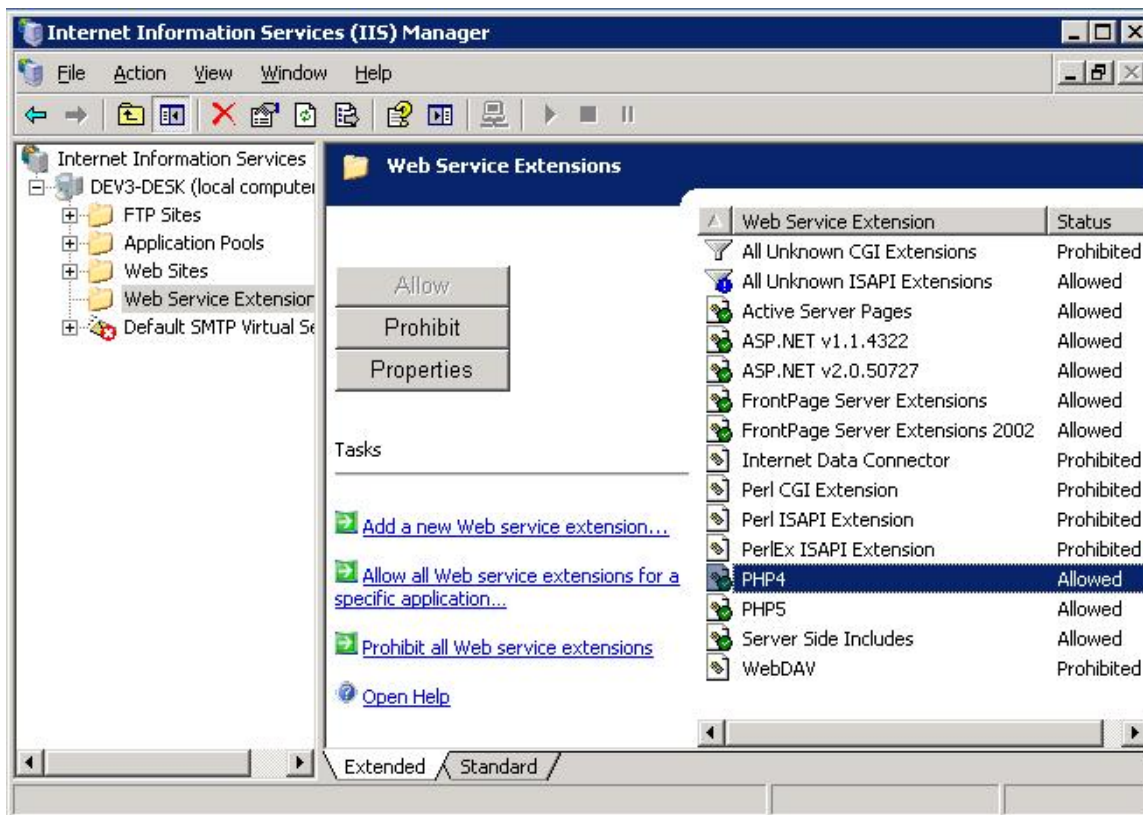
Make PHP v5 available to users:- Enable checkbox to allow users to enable PHP5 on a website they host.

PHP Version 5 Path:- Edit the path accordingly for your PHP5 executable in Windows. By default this is usually 'C:\php5\php-cgi.exe'

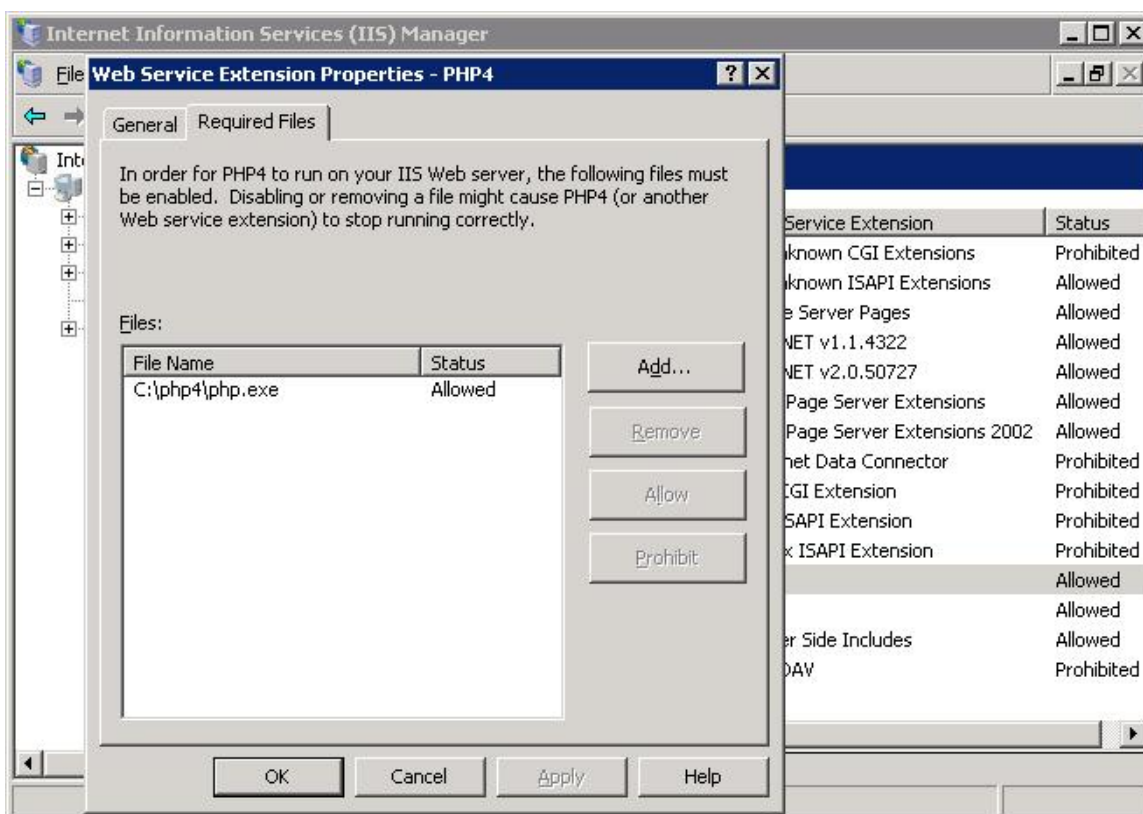
File Extensions (comma separated):- A list of extensions you wish to use for PHP can be added here separated by a comma. The 'php' extension is added by default.

Please note that the PHP4 and PHP5 paths must match the Web Service Extension settings within IIS. To check the extensions carry out the following:

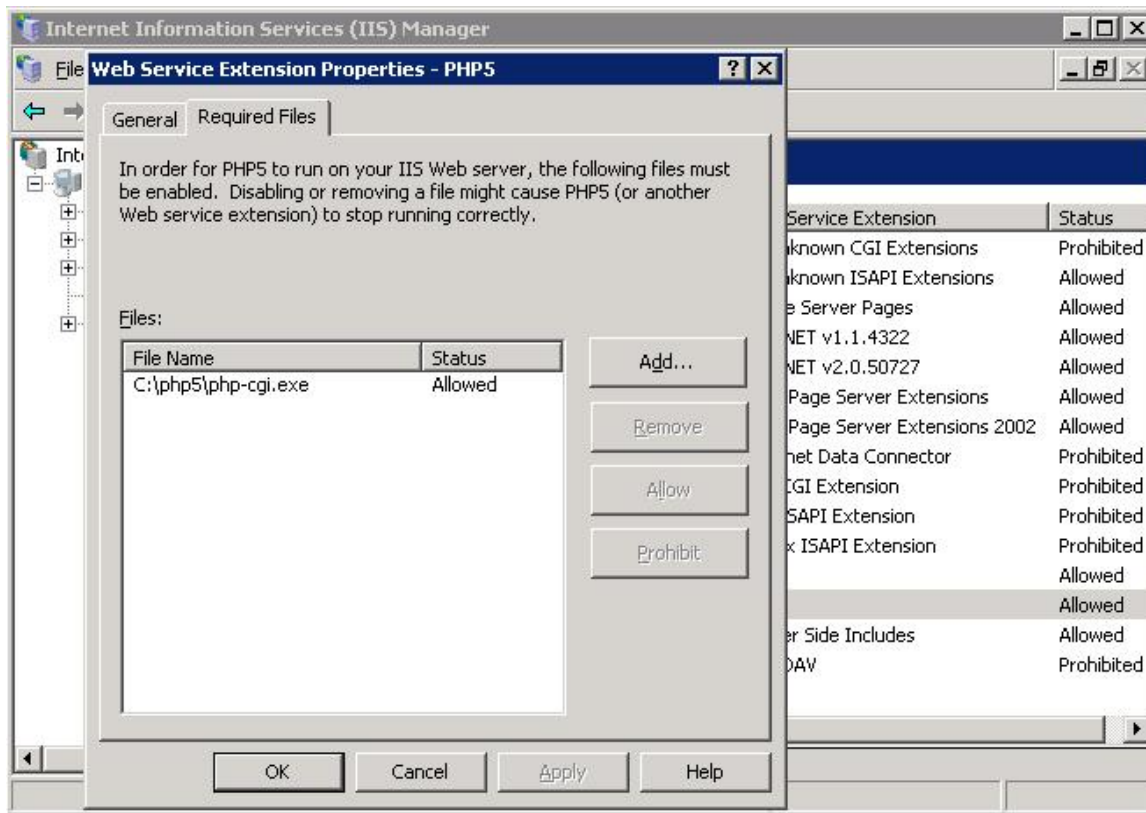
Open IIS and extend the server name in the left hand pane. You will be presented with a number of folders which include Application Pools, Web Sites and Web Service Extensions. Double Click the 'Web Service Extensions' folder and you will be presented with a list of extensions currently available. Ensure the PHP4 and/or PHP5 extensions have been set to 'allowed' as shown:



Right click on the PHP4 web service extension and select properties. Click the 'Required Files' tab. This will show a list of accessible files for PHP4. The file path must be exactly the same as the file path present within Helm. This can be seen in the screenshot on the following page.



To access the PHP5 file you can replicate the PHP4 steps within IIS but select PHP5 instead. The PHP5 screen example can be seen on the following page:



Provided the PHP5 extension matches the PHP5 path within Helm in the IIS Web Service (e.g. C:\php5\php-cgi.exe), PHP5 should function properly when enabled within Helm.

Making PHP available to your customers

If you would like to offer PHP installations to your resellers and users, you will need to increase the amount of installations available in their plans and packages. When you first set up PHP in a plan, the amount is set to 0 by default, so you just need to change it to whatever you require.

Web

☒ Ability to backup domain files

☒ Ability to change default documents

☒ Ability to change directory browsing

☒ Ability to manage HTTP error messages

☒ Ability to manage MIME types

☒ Ability to use pre-propagation

☒ Ability to restore domain files

☒ Ability to change scripting support

☒ Ability to manage virtual directories

☒ Ability to set web forwarding

Isolated App Pools: ☒ Unlimited

Asp.Net Installations: ☒ Unlimited

Maximum Bandwidth (MB): ☒ Unlimited

Maximum Diskspace (MB): ☒ Unlimited

Shared SSL Domains: ☒ Unlimited

☒ Enable File Manager

Secure Folder Installations: ☒ Unlimited

ASP Installations: ☒ Unlimited

Maximum ColdFusion Installs: ☒ Unlimited

Maximum ColdFusion DSNs: ☒ Unlimited

Max Frontpage Users: ☒ Unlimited

Maximum ODBC DSNs: ☒ Unlimited

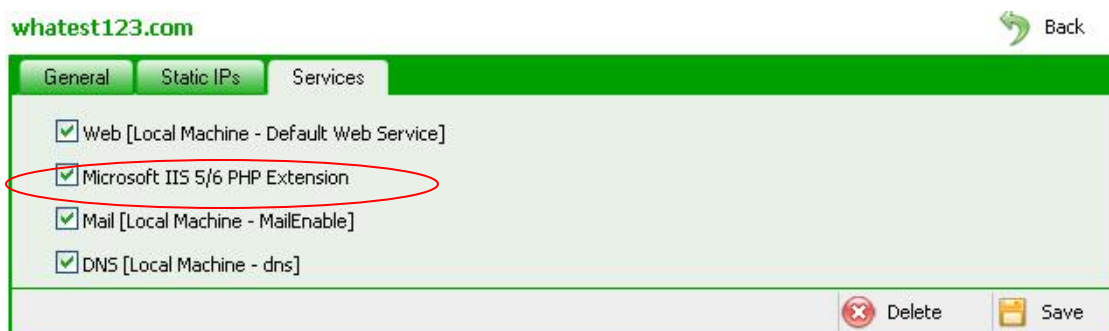
Perl Installations: ☒ Unlimited

PHP Installations: ☒ Unlimited

Python Installations: ☒ Unlimited

Enabling PHP on a Website

Once PHP has been added to a customer's plans/packages it can be enabled on a customer's Web Site. Go to the domain within Helm (e.g. **Home > My Customers > [CustomerName] > Domains > [domain]**) and ensure that the 'Microsoft IIS5/6 PHP Extension' has been enabled. If not, select the PHP extension check box as shown below:



Once the PHP service has been saved, you can now add the PHP extension to a website via the 'Scripting Support' icon under the domain's screen options. Clicking the icon will present the following screen:

whatest123.com
Back

Microsoft ASP.Net Scripting Support

Installed Asp.Net Version: Not Installed

Python Scripting Support

☐ Python Enabled

Perl Scripting Support

☐ Perl Enabled

Microsoft ASP Scripting Support

☐ ASP Enabled

☐ Parent Paths Enabled

PHP Scripting Support

Installed PHP Version: Not Installed

Save

The above screen allows you to setup all the extensions available within Helm. You can select the PHP version that you wish to use on the site via the drop down box for 'Installed PHP version'.

Below is an example screenshot of PHP5 being selected for the domain whatest123.com when saved.

Enable and disable scripting languages on your domain

The scripting support settings have been successfully updated

whatest123.com

 Back

 Microsoft ASP.Net Scripting Support

Installed Asp.Net Version:

 Python Scripting Support

☐ Python Enabled

 Perl Scripting Support

☐ Perl Enabled

 Microsoft ASP Scripting Support

☐ ASP Enabled

☐ Parent Paths Enabled

 PHP Scripting Support

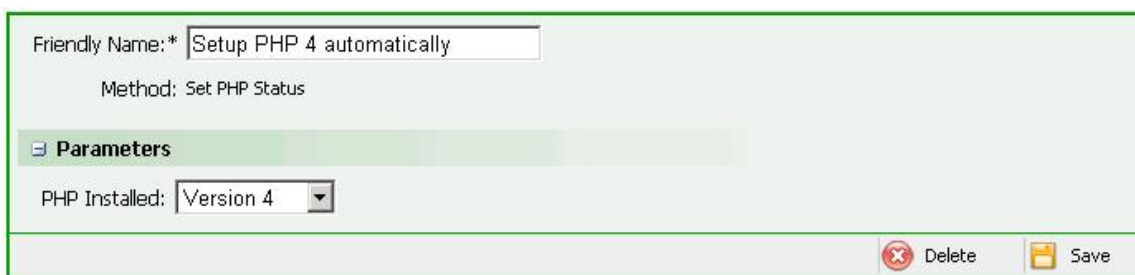
Installed PHP Version:

 Save

Enabling PHP during Domain Creation

PHP can be automatically enabled on newly created domains by setting up a provisioning method for these in the main plan template.

To do this, go to **Home > My Plan Templates > [Template]** and scroll down to the 'Provisioning Methods' section. Click Add and give the provisioning method a Friendly Name (e.g. Setup PHP 4 automatically). Once done, select '(Web Extension) Set PHP Status' from the Available Methods drop down box. A PHP installed parameter drop down box should automatically appear. Here you can select the version you wish to setup automatically (e.g. Version 4 or 5). Once you are happy with the settings you can save the method. The screenshot below demonstrates this feature:



The screenshot shows a web form for configuring a provisioning method. It has a light green header area with the text 'Friendly Name:*' followed by a text input field containing 'Setup PHP 4 automatically'. Below this, it says 'Method: Set PHP Status'. A section titled 'Parameters' is expanded, showing a 'PHP Installed:' label and a dropdown menu currently set to 'Version 4'. At the bottom right of the form are two buttons: 'Delete' with a red 'X' icon and 'Save' with a yellow floppy disk icon.