

Install SimpleRisk on XAMPP Server

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 <https://www.simplerisk.it/>.

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.it 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.

Installing XAMPP Server

Although SimpleRisk can run on just about any platform that runs PHP 7.X and MySQL, for the purpose of this guide we will work in Windows using XAMPP. This guide will from here on out be speaking of setup and installation on this platform. Before we begin the steps to installation first

we must prep the environment. First we must disable IIS these steps can vary differently but on Windows 8 and 10 the following will disable IIS.

Disable IIS

1. Right-Click start menu and click Programs & Features
2. On the left hand border of the menu click "Turn Windows features on or off"
3. Find Internet Information Security tree root and disable it. (This will allow our server to operate traffic on port 80.)

Installing XAMPP

1. To begin installing XAMPP travel to <https://www.apachefriends.org/index.html> in your browser of choice and click on "Download" at the top. On the resulting page be sure to download the version that contains PHP 7.4.16 pictured below.



XAMPP for Windows 7.3.27, 7.4.16 & 8.0.3

Version		Checksum			Size
7.3.27 / PHP 7.3.27	What's Included?	md5	sha1	Download (64 bit)	154 Mb
7.4.16 / PHP 7.4.16	What's Included?	md5	sha1	Download (64 bit)	156 Mb
8.0.3 / PHP 8.0.3	What's Included?	md5	sha1	Download (64 bit)	156 Mb

[Requirements](#) [Add-ons](#) [More Downloads »](#)

Windows XP or 2003 are not supported. You can download a compatible version of XAMPP for these platforms [here](#).

2. Once the download has completed travel to the directory you chose to save the installer in and open “xampp-windows-x64-7.4.16-0-VC15-installer.exe”
3. Follow the prompts of the installation until you see the Select Components screen. For SimpleRisk to function you only need to leave the following checked to install: Apache, MySQL, PHP, and optionally “fake” sendmail (if you would like to be able to use the password recovery feature or Notification Extra in the future).
4. On the next screen for the easiest installation make sure to use something like “C:\xampp” as the directory so you do not experience any issues with User Account Control from Windows.
5. The following screen is advertising and you can uncheck the box and click next.
6. Once the installation has completed click finish and launch XAMPP.

Downloading SimpleRisk

1. Using the browser of your choice download the SimpleRisk software at [“https://www.simplerisk.com/download”](https://www.simplerisk.com/download). You will need both the WEB BUNDLE and the INSTALLER files.
2. Extract the SimpleRisk webundle (i.e. simplerisk-20180627-001) into “C:\xampp\htdocs” then take the installer archive and extract it into “C:\xampp\htdocs\simplerisk” creating “C:\xampp\htdocs\simplerisk\install” .

Setting up XAMPP

1. Open your XAMPP control panel. If you haven’t started XAMPP yet you will need to navigate to your installation folder and run the “xampp-control.exe”.

2. Click the config button in the Apache row. Then click “Apache (httpd-xampp.conf)”. This will open up the virtual hosts config file where we will insert the virtual host configuration for SimpleRisk.

3. Insert the following at the bottom of your config:

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
    ServerName simplerrisk
    DocumentRoot "c:/xampp/htdocs/simplerrisk"
    <Directory "c:/xampp/htdocs/simplerrisk">
        Options Indexes Includes FollowSymLinks MultiViews
        AllowOverride All
        allow from all
        require all granted
    </Directory>
</VirtualHost>
```

4. Click the Config next to MySQL in XAMPP and select the “my.ini”. In this file find “sql_mode” and set it to the following: sql_mode=NO_ENGINE_SUBSTITUTION

5. Now you may start Apache and MySQL using the start buttons in the XAMPP Control Panel.

Install the SimpleRisk Database

1. In your chosen browser navigate to “<http://simplerrisk/install/>” this should look like the picture shown below.

SimpleRisk Installer - Health Check

PHP Version

✔ Detected PHP >= 5.5 which should function properly for SimpleRisk.

SimpleRisk Version

✔ The SimpleRisk database installer version (20180104-001) matches the SimpleRisk application version (20180104-001).

Connectivity

✔ SimpleRisk connected to https://register.simplerisk.com.

✔ SimpleRisk connected to https://services.simplerisk.com.

✔ SimpleRisk connected to https://updates.simplerisk.com.

✔ SimpleRisk connected to https://vfeed.simplerisk.com.

PHP Extensions

✔ The PHP "mysql" extension is loaded.

✔ The PHP "pdo" extension is loaded.

✔ The PHP "pdo_mysql" extension is loaded.

✔ The PHP "mcrypt" extension is loaded.

✔ The PHP "json" extension is loaded.

✔ The PHP "phar" extension is loaded.

✔ The PHP "zlib" extension is loaded.

✔ The PHP "mbstring" extension is loaded.

✔ The PHP "ldap" extension is loaded.

File and Directory Permissions

✔ The SimpleRisk directory (C:\wamp64\www\simplerisk) is writeable by the web user.

If everything looks alright with the health check above, click "CONTINUE" to proceed with the installation.

CONTINUE

This page will show if any of the most common issues are present in your environment. If everything looks good here you may hit continue at the bottom.

You will now be taken to the database connection stage of the install. This is where you can edit how SimpleRisk connects to your database. For a simple setup and for our demonstration the only thing you should need to fill out on this page is the MySQL "Database Pass:" field, once entered you may hit the "Validate Database Credentials" (By default in XAMPP the MySQL password for root is blank. You will want to change this at some point.) button and it will ensure SimpleRisk is able to make a connection to the database to setup the SimpleRisk user with the least amount of privileges required for the program to function. An example of this page is posted below.

SimpleRisk Installer - Database Check

Enter your database information to proceed with SimpleRisk install:

Database Connection Information

Database IP/Host: localhost

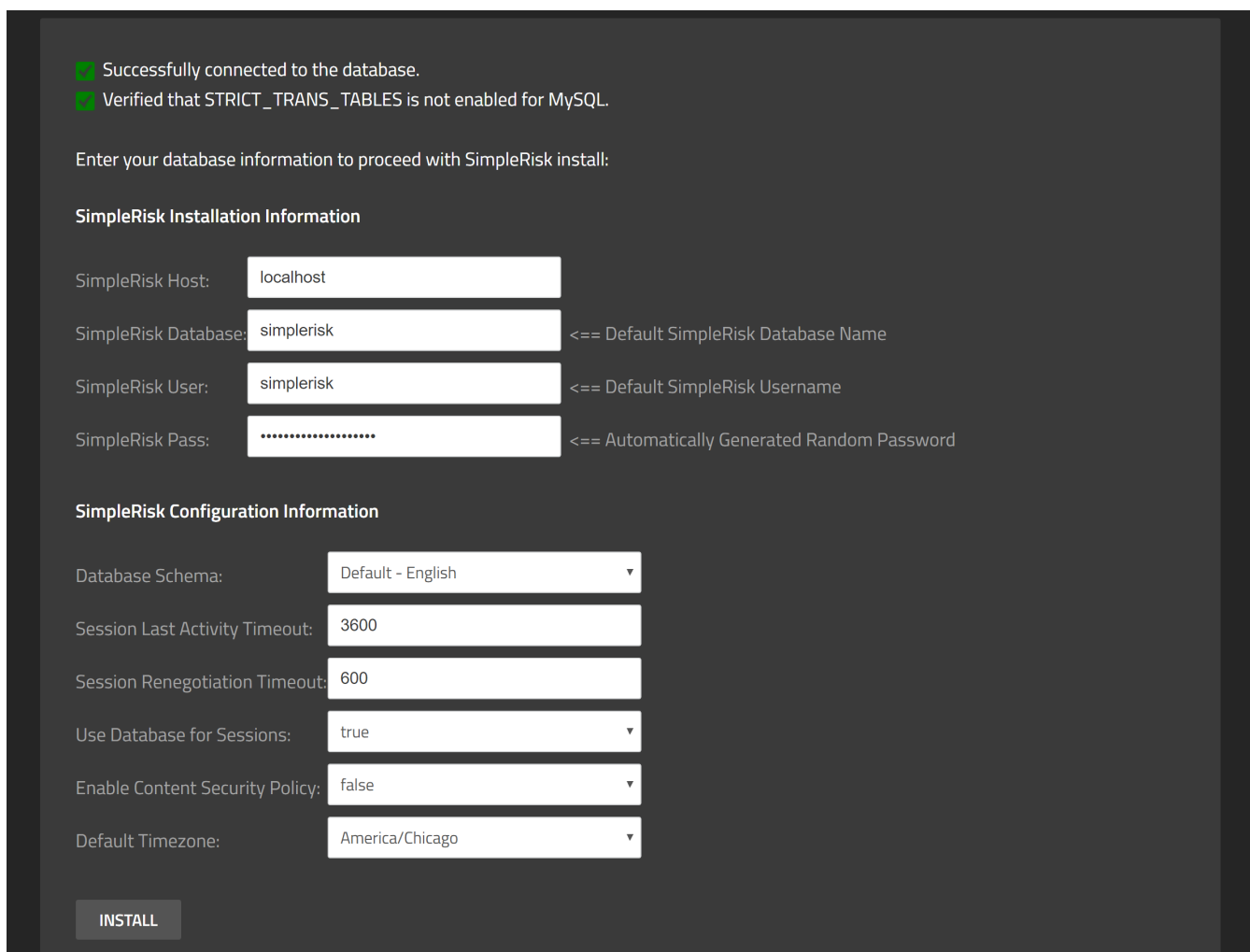
Database Port: 3306

Database User: root

Database Pass:

VALIDATE DATABASE CREDENTIALS

6. Now that you have setup the SimpleRisk database connection your last step is to setup the SimpleRisk install information and the SimpleRisk configuration information, you do not have to enter or change anything on this page for a standard install. The most important thing to note on this page is that you have 2 checks at the top notifying you that SimpleRisk was able to connect to the database and that STRICT_TRANS_TABLES is not enabled. If everything looks correct you may click the install button. An example of this page is posted below.



The screenshot shows a web interface for SimpleRisk installation. At the top, there are two green checkmarks indicating successful database connection and verification of MySQL settings. Below this, a section titled 'SimpleRisk Installation Information' contains four input fields: 'SimpleRisk Host' (localhost), 'SimpleRisk Database' (simplerisk), 'SimpleRisk User' (simplerisk), and 'SimpleRisk Pass' (masked with dots). To the right of the last three fields are explanatory text strings: '<== Default SimpleRisk Database Name', '<== Default SimpleRisk Username', and '<== Automatically Generated Random Password'. Below this is another section titled 'SimpleRisk Configuration Information' with six dropdown menus: 'Database Schema' (Default - English), 'Session Last Activity Timeout' (3600), 'Session Renegotiation Timeout' (600), 'Use Database for Sessions' (true), 'Enable Content Security Policy' (false), and 'Default Timezone' (America/Chicago). At the bottom left, there is a grey button labeled 'INSTALL'.

Successfully connected to the database.
Verified that STRICT_TRANS_TABLES is not enabled for MySQL.

Enter your database information to proceed with SimpleRisk install:

SimpleRisk Installation Information

SimpleRisk Host: localhost

SimpleRisk Database: simplerisk <== Default SimpleRisk Database Name

SimpleRisk User: simplerisk <== Default SimpleRisk Username

SimpleRisk Pass: <== Automatically Generated Random Password

SimpleRisk Configuration Information

Database Schema: Default - English ▼

Session Last Activity Timeout: 3600

Session Renegotiation Timeout: 600

Use Database for Sessions: true ▼

Enable Content Security Policy: false ▼

Default Timezone: America/Chicago ▼

INSTALL

If everything was installed correctly you will be taken to a page that looks like the image below.

SimpleRisk Installer - Configuration Update

Database Schema Loaded Successfully!

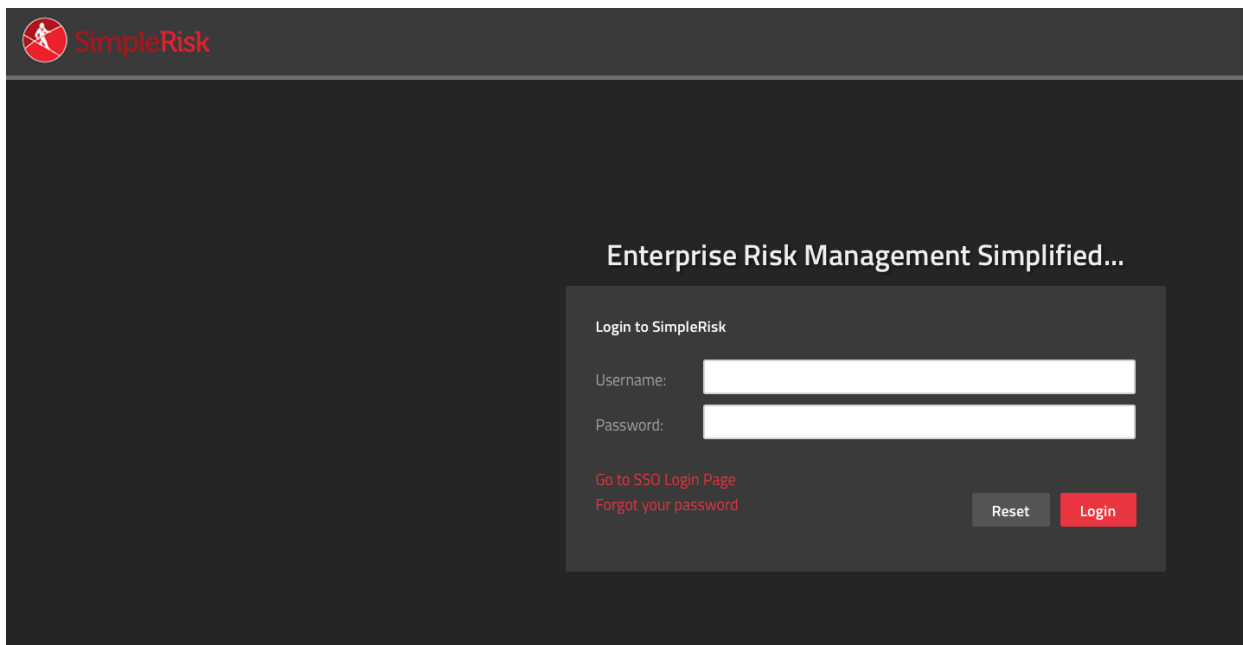
Found a config.php file located at C:\wamp64\www\simplerisk\includes\config.php. Should I update it with the configuration information below?

UPDATE

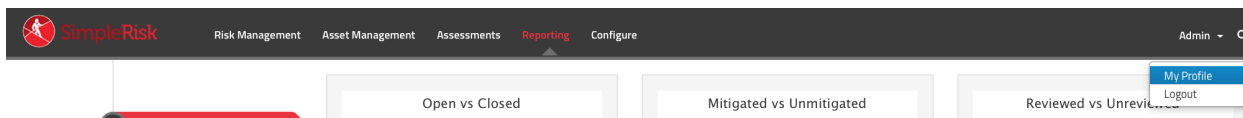
Your final step for setting up the database will be to click the “Update” button and you will have completed your SimpleRisk installation. Next we will cover logging in to your instance.

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. If you followed the optional instructions, then it should be located at <http://simplerisk/>. 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”.

The image shows the "Change Password" form. It has three input fields: "Current Password:", "New Password:", and "Confirm Password:". At the bottom are "Submit" and "Reset" buttons.

You should receive a message saying that your password was updated successfully. If so, then this is your new “admin” password for SimpleRisk. If you received a message saying that “The password entered does not adhere to the password policy”, you can change the policy by selecting “Configure” from the menu at the top followed by “User Management” on the left side. You will see a “Password Policy” section at the bottom of the page where you can change the policy and try

changing your password again.

Registering SimpleRisk

This step is completely optional, but without it upgrades of SimpleRisk will require manual downloads of the new version, backing up your configuration file, extracting the new files, restoring the configuration file, and a database upgrade. It sounds like more effort than it really is, but we've made the process far simpler if you're willing to tell us who you are. To register your SimpleRisk instance, select "Configure" from the menu at the top followed by "Register & Upgrade" from the menu at the left.

The screenshot shows the SimpleRisk web application interface. At the top is a dark navigation bar with the SimpleRisk logo and menu items: Risk Management, Asset Management, Assessments, Reporting, and Configure (highlighted in red). On the right of the bar are 'Admin' and a search icon. A left sidebar contains a vertical list of menu items, each with a circular icon: Configure Risk Formula, Configure Review Settings, Add and Remove Values, User Management, Redefine Naming Conventions, Asset Valuation, File Upload Settings, Mail Settings, Delete Risks, Audit Trail, Extras, Announcements, Register & Upgrade (highlighted with a red arrow), and About. The main content area is divided into sections. The top section, titled 'Register SimpleRisk', contains explanatory text and a 'Disable Registration Notice' button. Below this is an 'Instance ID:' label. The 'Registration Information' section contains input fields for Full Name, Company, Job Title, Phone, and E-mail Address, followed by a red 'Register' button. To the right of the registration form is a box titled 'Upgrade SimpleRisk' with the text 'Please register in order to be able to use the easy upgrade feature.' At the bottom of the main content area is a light gray box with the same text: 'Please register in order to be able to use the easy upgrade feature.'

Enter your information and select the "Register" button. This will create a unique Instance ID for your SimpleRisk instance and download the Upgrade Extra which enables functionality for one-click backups and upgrades. If you run into issues with the registration process, we recommend that you check to ensure that the "simplerisk" directory and its sub-directories are writeable by the www-data user (or whatever user Apache is running as).

**** This completes your installation of SimpleRisk ****

SimpleRisk Paid Support and Extras

Everything that you've seen up to this point is completely free for you to install and use, forever. That said, we offer a number of ways for you to enhance your SimpleRisk instance with even more functionality. If you like what you see, and find it useful, please consider purchasing one of our inexpensive Paid Support plans or Extra functionality so that we can continue to offer you the best open source risk management tool available. Thank you!