

Installing Mcrypt

The *mcrypt* extension is an interface to the *mcrypt* cryptography library. This extension is useful for allowing PHP code using *mcrypt* to run on PHP 7.2+.

The main problem with *mcrypt* extension is that it is based on *libmcrypt* that hasn't been developed since its upstream in 2007. Thus, it has been already 10 years, even though the library has been still used. However, without the proper development and maintenance library has become security alert for many system administrators.

Because of the end of the *mcrypt* extension's development, the extension was also removed from PHP 7.2 and moved to an unofficial PECL repository. However, you can still find the *mcrypt* extension in PHP 5.4 through PHP 7.1. The arrival of PHP 7.2 has been announced but it won't contain *mcrypt* extension. For PHP 7.2+, PHP instead uses *libsodium* as a cryptography library.

To install this extension on PHP 7.2, run the following commands as your server's root user:

Verify php and pecl version

```
php -v
pecl version
```

If your php isn't 7.2 then use `/usr/bin/php7.2` instead `php` command.

Install mcrypt extension

Mcrypt [PECL extension](#)

```
sudo apt-get -y install gcc make autoconf libc-dev pkg-config
sudo apt-get -y install libmcrypt-dev
sudo pecl install mcrypt-1.0.1
```

When you are shown the prompt

```
libmcrypt prefix? [autodetect] :
```

Press [Enter] to autodetect.

After success installing mcrypt through pecl, you should add mcrypt.so extension to php.ini.

The output will look like this:

```
...
Build process completed successfully
Installing '/usr/lib/php/20170718/mcrypt.so'    ---->    this is our path to mcrypt
extension lib
install ok: channel://pecl.php.net/mcrypt-1.0.1
configuration option "php_ini" is not set to php.ini location
You should add "extension=mcrypt.so" to php.ini
```

Grab installing path and add to cli and apache2 php.ini configuration.

```
sudo bash -c "echo extension=/usr/lib/php/20170718/mcrypt.so >
/etc/php/7.2/cli/conf.d/mcrypt.ini"
sudo bash -c "echo extension=/usr/lib/php/20170718/mcrypt.so >
/etc/php/7.2/apache2/conf.d/mcrypt.ini"
```

Verify that the extension was installed

Run command:

```
php -i | grep "mcrypt"
```

The output will look like this:

```
/etc/php/7.2/cli/conf.d/mcrypt.ini
Registered Stream Filters => zlib.*, string.rot13, string.toupper, string.tolower,
string.strip_tags, convert.*, consumed, dechunk, convert.iconv.*, mcrypt.*,
mdecrypt.*
mcrypt
mcrypt support => enabled
mcrypt_filter support => enabled
mcrypt.algorithms_dir => no value => no value
mcrypt.modes_dir => no value => no value
```