The Unofficial cPanel Tutorial

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The Unofficial cPanel Guide

Most of us know what cPanel is and what it's used for. Many of us don't however but would like to know more about the program, how it works and what it's really used for. cPanel is one of the most popular server management programs out on the market today and probable more utilized then any other server management software.

Users have migrated to cPanel for the simple fact of how easy it is to use. Almost everything involved within cPanel has an explanation to it, or some form of example. In most cases this would suffice and no other explanation would be needed. There are a few grey areas and some that could use more elaboration. This set of articles will help those of us that are new to cPanel, or existing, understand and utilize cPanel more efficiently.

What is it?

cPanel is a web based control panel that will allow a user to manage their account through a web interface instead of command line. Utilizing a GUI instead of using command line, users are able to do more tasks and accomplish them faster and with more accuracy then if they were being done within a command line environment.

cPanel was designed for the end user. With an array of features, a user can accomplish any task ranging from, adding an email address to managing sub-domain names. There are many features included within cPanel, most of which users really don't know what they are for or do.

The Run Down

Below is a run down of what will be covered in this tutorial.

Mail
- Web Mail
- E-mail Domain Forwarding
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Scripts Library
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Cron Jobs
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Apache Handlers
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IP Deny Manager
Fantastico

Understand the Layout

The first thing we must learn is how to read and understand the layout of cPanel. In most cases the default theme will either be "x" or "x2". A user can determine the style theme by looking in the address bar. A cPanel URL will look similar to this "http://www.server.com:2082/frontend/x2/index.html" notice the "x2" in the URL string. This lets a user know which theme is being used and if it needs to be changed or not. There are quite a few free themes that come with cPanel and in most cases a hosting company will not mind changing a users theme from one to another. Simple ask to switch to either "x" or "x2".

Main Page

The main page of cPanel is the heart of operations. From this one page anything can be accessed. On the left side of the main page there are two boxes that contain vital information about a users account. This portion of the page will allow a user to find out where there accounts resources stand, along with the type of software and versions installed.

General Account Information:

The "General account information" section of the main page allows a user to view his or her usage along with the amount of resources that are available.

Hosting Package: This lets a user know which hosting package they are currently under.

Shared IP Address: This is the IP address of the server in which the users account resides. This is a "shared" IP address, meaning that multiple sites use the same IP address.

Sub-domains: The Sub-domains section lets a user know how many sub-domains are currently being used along with how many are available.

Parked Domains: Parked domains are those that can be used like a normal domain name, but mirror the main domain names content.

Add-on Domains: Add-on domain names are those domain names added to an account and can be used and look like their own site. Many users use these to host friends and family. The domain name works just like any other, but points to a sub-domain on the master account.

MySQL & PostgreSQL: These are the amount of SQL tables that are allowed on each account. It also shows the amount used.

Disk Usage: This is the amount of disk space the account consumes. This number reflects the total amount used. This includes the log files, web site files, and hosted accounts.

SQL Disk Usage: This is the amount of space the SQL tables consume on the account.

Disk Space Available: The disk space available is the amount of space allocated to an account.

Bandwidth Usage (Current Month): This is the amount of bandwidth the account has used for that calendar month. The amount is displayed in Megabytes and not Gigabytes.

Email Accounts: This will display the amount of email address being used along with the total amount that can be used.

Email Forwarders: This will display the amount of email forwarders currently being used. Email forwarders are used to route one email address to another.

Auto-responders: This will show the amount of auto-responders that are being used. Auto-responders are automated messages that are sent when someone emails the email address associated with the address with the auto-responder.

Mailing Lists: This will display the amount of mailing lists currently being used. It will also display the total amount that can be created.

Email Filters: This will display the amount of email filters that are currently setup on the account. Email filters work like a filter for a pop email reader like Outlook, but is done server side.

FTP Accounts: This is the amount of ftp accounts created along with the amount that can be created.

The "General Account Information" section is a basic run down of a users account. It displays very useful information about a users account and can also display errors when

they are present. Users should check these amounts and settings often, as they are very useful when a user doesn't have many resources to work with and over charges can occur if they go over.

General Server Information:

Operating System: This is the operating system currently being utilized by the server.

Server Status: In this section there is a link that will take the user to a page that will display all the servers services and there status. It also has a little information about the swap, memory, and disk usage.

Kernel Version: This is the current version of the kernel being used by the server. Most users will not need this information.

Machine Type: This is the chipset type of the server.

Apache Version: This will display the current version of Apache running on the server. This allows a user to know if it's up to date or not and also if certain functions will work with it or if it's a later version.

PERL Version: This is the current version of PERL running on the server.

Path to PERL: This is the location in which PERL is installed on the server. This information is needed when running CGI and PERL scripts.

Path to Sendmail: This is the path to the sendmail function on the server. This is needed to utilize this function on the server.

Installed Perl Modules: There is a link located in this section for users to click on. Once loaded it displays the current modules installed on the server. This lets a user know which are installed and which can be utilized.

PHP Version: This is the current version of PHP that in installed on the server.

MySQL Version: This is the current version of MySQL installed on the server.

cPanel Build: This will display the current version of cPanel being utilized by the server. This also lets a user know if it is a stable version or not.

Theme: This section lets a user know which theme is currently installed and being used on their account and the current version of that theme.

Documentation: There is a link to the current documentation proved with cPanel. There is very useful information and instructions within the documentation.

Center of Page

In the center of the page we can now see the buttons to each section of cPanel. Each one of these will take a user to a sub section of the control panel and allow them to perform tasks and make changes to their account. Each one of these have a specific function and many have more then one. This is the heart of the control panel and everything revolves around these buttons. These are the user's navigation through the control panel and to their settings.
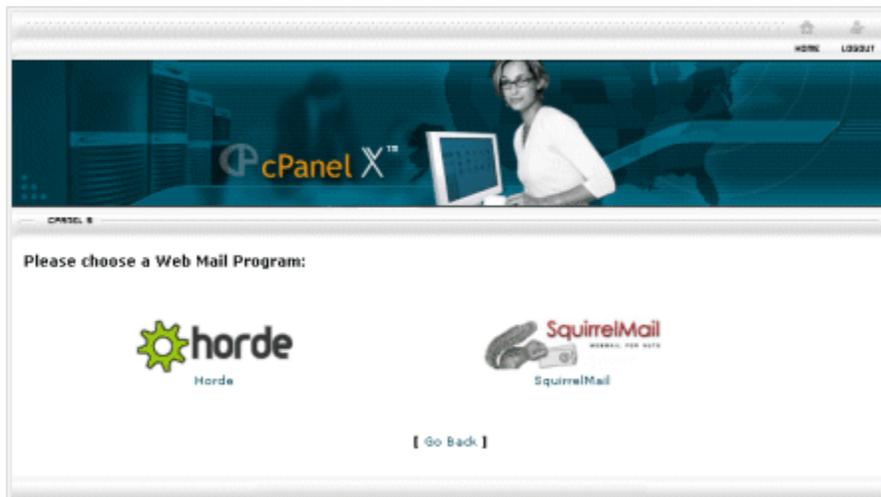
Mail

This section of cPanel will allow a user to accomplish many tasks dealing with the mail on an account. Anything from setting up Email accounts, to setting auto-responders can be accomplished in this area. We'll go over each area in this section and explain its uses.

Web Mail

The web mail section of the main section "Mail" is where a user can check their email through a web GUI "Graphical User Interface". Most users prefer this type of mail client because it's simple to use and very easy and quick to setup. Most servers already have at least one web mail client setup, in some cases there are more.


Email Domain Forwarding

An email domain forwarder redirects all email coming in on a specific domain name to another domain name. For example if we setup dot.com to redirect to dot.net, all email coming in on dot.com will redirect to its corresponding user on dot.net. (mike@dot.com redirects to mike@dot.net). Any pop accounts setup under each domain name will not be affected by this forwarding option.
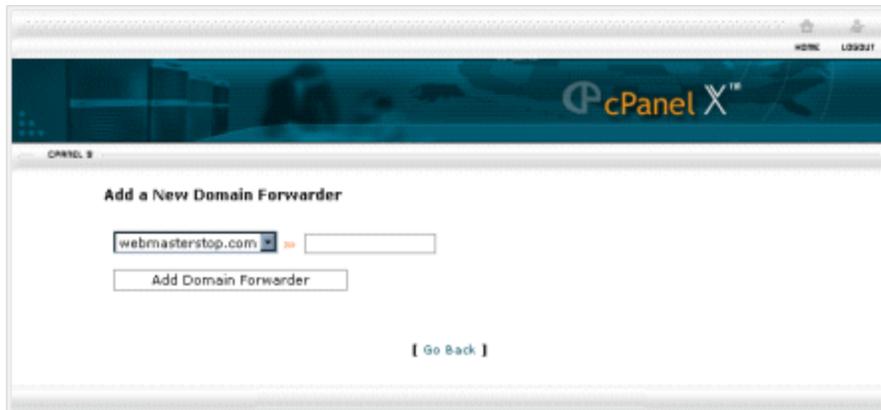
Manage/Add/Remove Accounts

This section of the main section "Mail" will be one of the most used sections. This section is the heart of all Email and this section is used to add, remove and manage any aspect of any Email account.

The first things a user will see are all the Email accounts present on their account, starting with the email address, then the login name for that email address followed by a few other options.
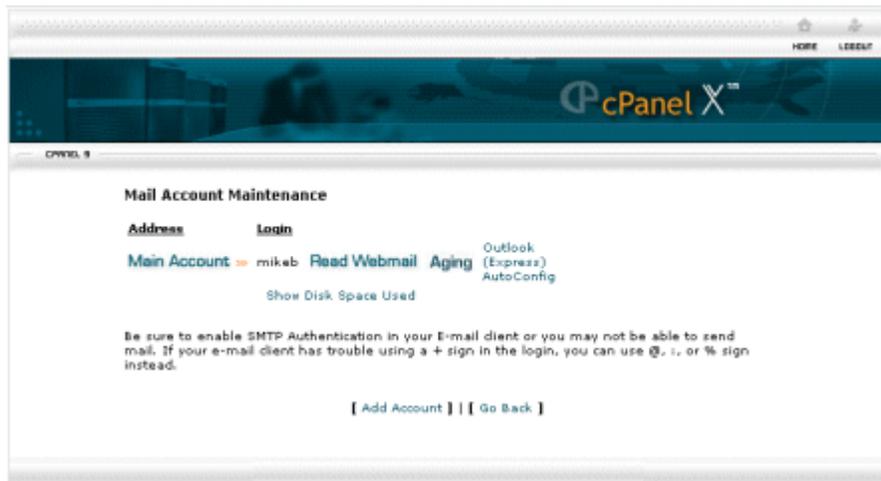
Delete - The first option a user has is to delete an account. This is a very simple step, simply click on delete and confirm account deletion.

Read Webmail - Users can easily access a web mail account simply by clicking on this button. The default web mail client will be loaded and the user name will automatically be loaded in the user name field. All that is needed next is a password.

Aging - The aging section is used to determine when the server should delete email that has already been read. If a user opts to leave their messages on a server and not allow

their email client to delete them, they will build up over time and consume a large amount of disk space. Users can use this option to keep regular maintenance on their email accounts.
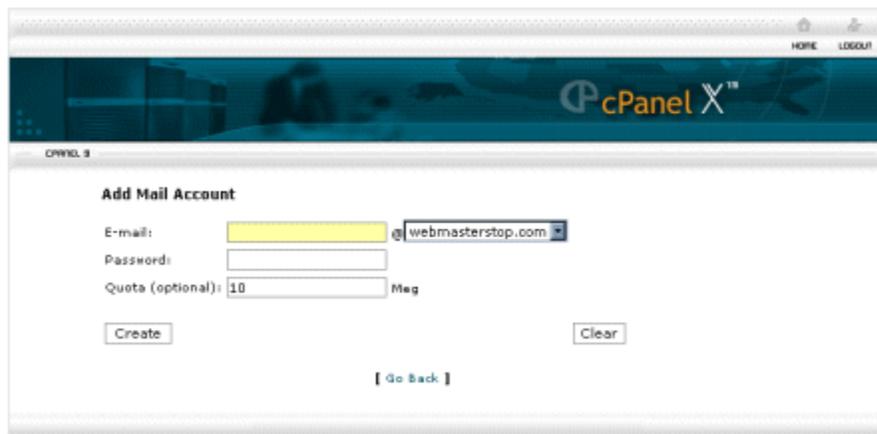
Change Quota - Users have the option to change the amount of disk space that is allocated to each account. The default is 10MB and users can change this value when setting up an account or with this option.

Change Pass - Users can use this option to change a password used for each account. The old password is needed in order to complete the process.

Outlook (Express) AutoConfig - This setting is used to automatically configure Outlook or Outlook Express to work with the corresponding Email address. This is a "quick" configuration meaning it will not assign custom names or settings within Outlook, simple configure it to check the corresponding Email address.

Add Account

There is only one other option that can be used on this page and that is adding an account. This is the section where a user can add accounts for their domain names. All domain names present on the users account are present here and can be used to setup Email accounts for any domain name.

E-mail: Simply specify what name should be used for the Email address. Also in this section a user can choose a domain name to use.

Password: Choose a password to use for this account.

Quota: This will allow a user to decide how much disk space to allocate to this Email account. This is optional as the default is 10MB.

Default Address

In this section a user can specify what the default Email address will be. The default Email address is used to receive all email that is sent to account that are non-existing. For example if someone sent an email to mike@webmasterstop.com and used mik@webmasterstop.com, forgetting the e on Mike, it would send that email to the default email address. This is useful as no Email can be lost using this.

Autoresponders

Auto responders are setup to be used to automatically respond to an email that has been sent to the corresponding email address. Auto responders are very useful for people that are going away for a long period of time and wouldn't be able to answer their emails. An auto responder can be setup to respond to incoming emails with any message specified by the user.
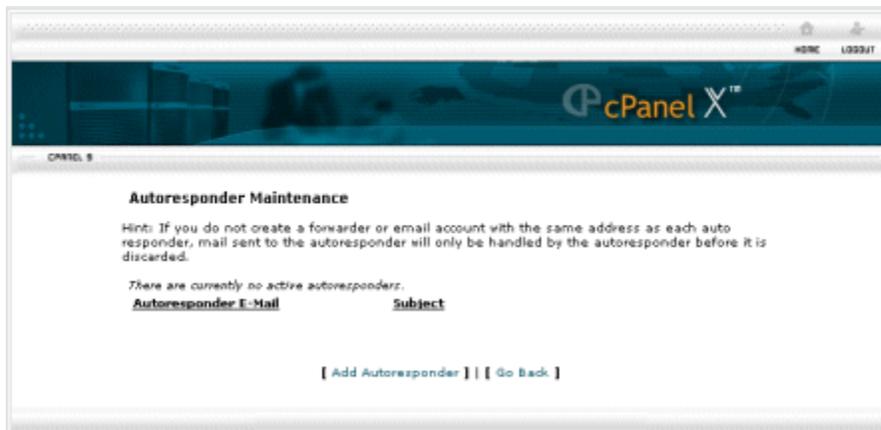
E-mail Filtering

Email filters can easily be setup so users can manage incoming email address. These are very similar to the way Outlook uses filters. Filters are very useful for webmasters with large amounts of spam coming. If Spam Assassin is installed and operational, a custom filter can be setup to automatically delete all email that Spam Assassin deems as spam.

There is also a testing section, to test filters that have been added. Just simply fill out the required information and hit "Test Filter". It will then display how the message will be affected by the new filters that have just been put into place.
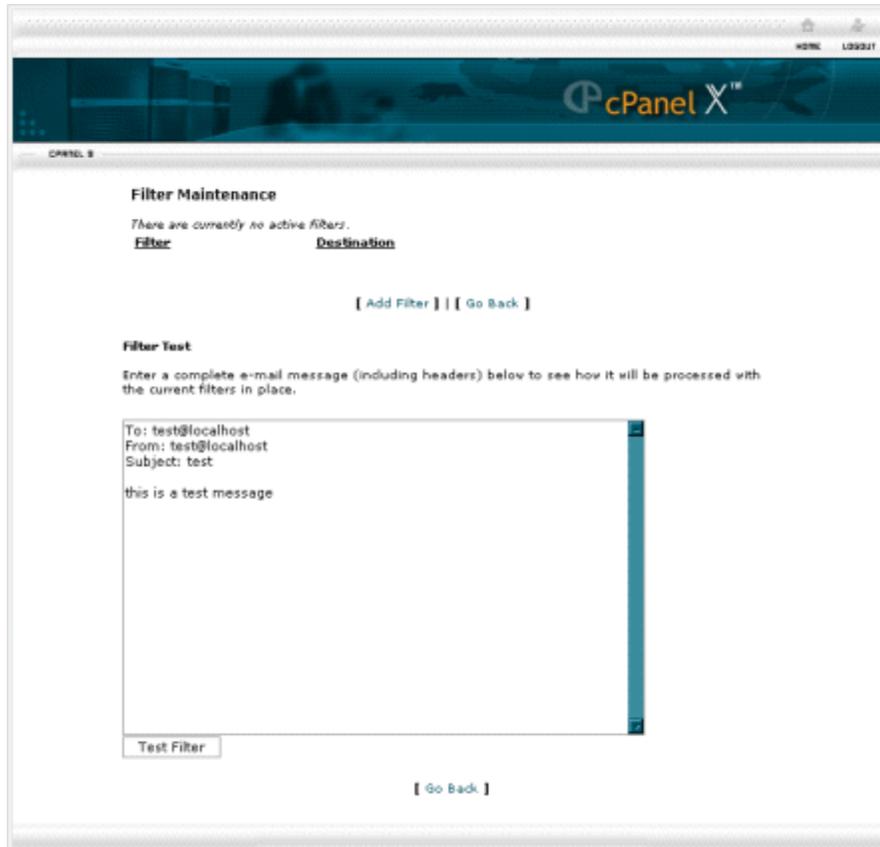
Forwarders

Forwarders are used to direct an email address to another email address or location on the server. This is useful for users that want to direct old email accounts to new email address. Forwarders are very easy to setup, just a few simple steps.
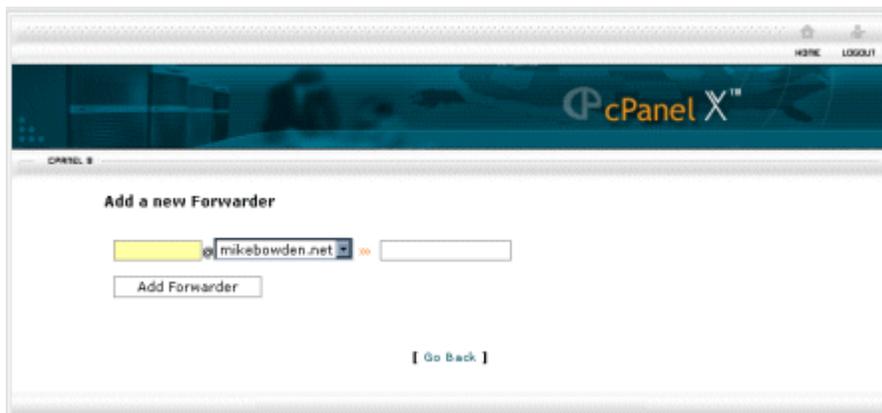
Mailing Lists

This section of the Mail section is used to setup mailing lists. Mailing lists are extremely useful for large sites wanting to email a large number of users at once. It can also be

useful for hosting companies or other companies where customers need to be updated on new services or products.
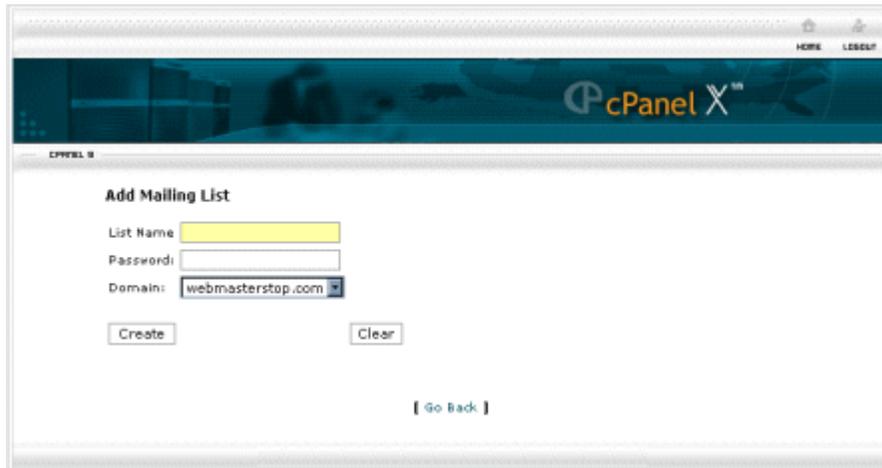
Simply input the mailing lists name, a password to use for it and the domain name that it will be used on and hit create. That's it, that simple. Once a mailing list is setup, email address can be added to it through this same section. There are a lot of scripts available to manage mailing lists easier, there is also a free one that comes with cPanel, check under the scripts section.

Spam Assassin

Spam Assassin is a free program that comes with all cPanel and WHM installations. It's used to filter out incoming email on a server side basis. Meaning it's sorted through as it comes into the server. If this is available to a user, they are able to activate or deactivate it from this section. There is also a Spam Assassin Spam Box that can be enabled also. Meaning that all email that Spam Assassin deems as spam, will be forwarded to this box and can be viewed by the user at a later date.
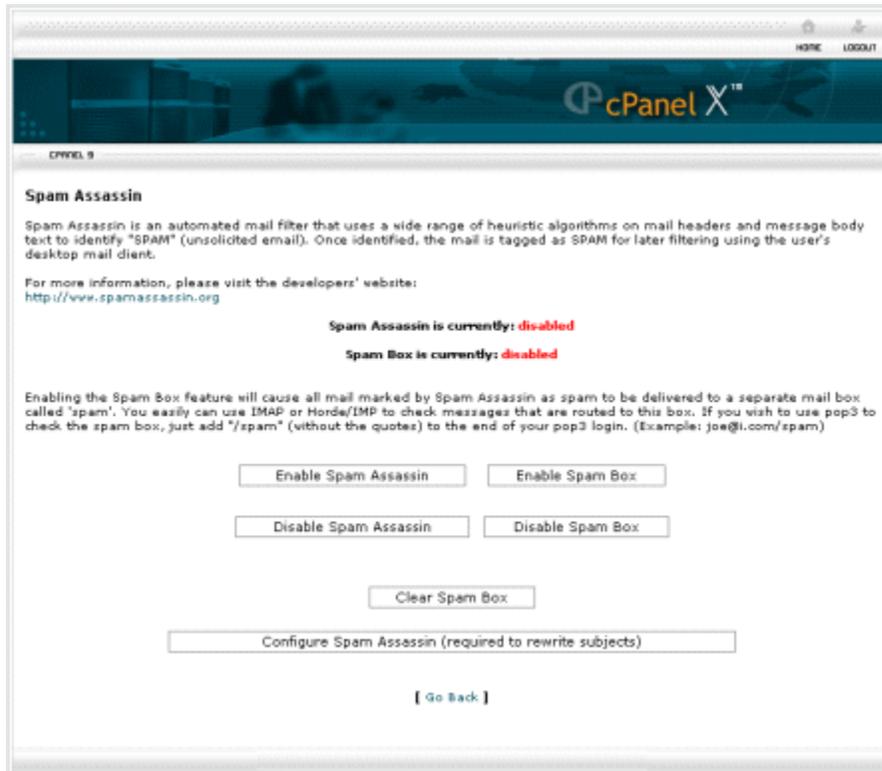
Trace an E-mail Address

Tracing an email address is similar to running a trace route on a user's computer. It will basically map out the paths that an email takes to get to the server. This information can be useful in finding out where an email be getting lost. This information is also very interesting as it will show the complete path from the server to the email address.

Modify Mail Exchanger (MX Entry)

Most users will not need to use this option. This works basically the same as a domain name forwarder, as it will change the direction of email on a server to the specified domain name provided by the user. This inputs the information on the servers MX

records and shouldn't be used unless a user knows what their doing. Incorrectly inputting information could result in loss of email from an entire domain name.

Change Password

This next section is for updating and changing a user's cPanel password. This should be done on a regular basis, as this is a vital part of a web site. A user's password should never be given to anyone else.

A user will need their old password and a new password to change it. It is a fairly easy process and doesn't require much time at all. This will update a user's cPanel password, including the password for the master email address and the master FTP account. So remember to update any programs that need to be updated.

Parked Domains

Parked domains allow a user to part or point a domain name to their account. This will allow the parked domain name to act and work just like the master domain name on the account. It will seem as if it's the same site, but under a different domain names. Many users do this with all of the major TLDs (Top Level Domains). So for instance if a user has domain.com registered and they wanted the .net and .org pointing to the .com and working the exact same way. They would use the parked domain section to achieve this. Each domain name would act just like the other, just under a different extension.

Simple add the domain name that needs to be parked and hit "Add Domain!" It's that simple. Remember to update the DNS on any domain names being added. Once a domain name is added it can be viewed from the same location. Users will be able to remove a domain name once it has been added also.

Addon Domains

Add-on domain names are very similar to "Parked Domains", but they use their own account. Users use these often when start another web site, or hosting a site for a friend of family. Be sure to check to make sure that access to this is available and that there are enough add-on domain name slots available. This is visible from the front page of cPanel.

1) Type in the new domain name.
2) Type in the username, directory, or sub-domain the new domain name will be using.
3) Type in a password.
4) Hit Add Domain!

That's it, once all the above is completed a new domain name and account has been added. This user or account doesn't have access to cPanel, so don't worry about that. They will have FTP access and a new email address if all that is setup in the correct areas. We'll explain that later on.

 FTP Manager

The FTP Manager is the heart of everything to do FTP (File Transfer Protocol). Everything dealing with FTP is all located in this one section of cPanel. FTP accounts, anonymous FTP, FTP messages and session controls can be utilized here. Each one of these sections has a specific function.

FTP Accounts

In this section of the FTP Manager, users can manage, delete and create FTP accounts. Users have the option to delete or change the password for each account. At the bottom of this section are links to each users FTP log files.
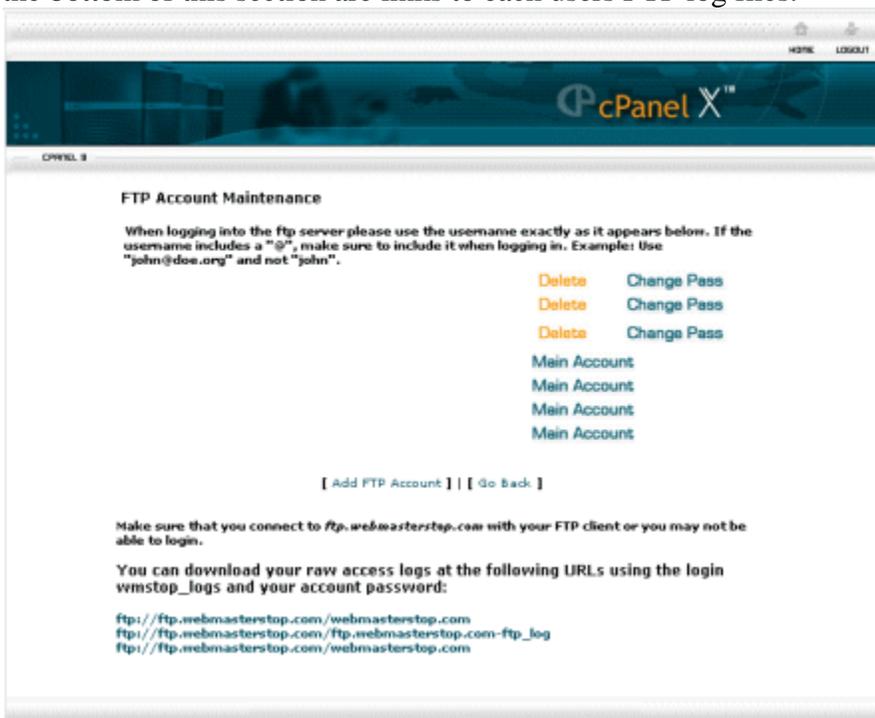
Creating an account is very simple. Only a little information a user needs to input before an account can be created.

Login: This will be the user's username to access the server.

Password: This will their password, the password can be changed as many times as needed at any time.

Directory: This is the directory in which the user's files will reside on the server and also the directory they will be granted FTP access to. This will also work with sub-domain name accounts. Create a sub-domain name with the same name as the user's directory and the user can use the sub-domain name to access their site.

Setup Anonymous FTP Access

In this section users have the ability to setup anonymous ftp access to view files on the anonymous FTP server. They also have the option to allow users to upload files to the anonymous FTP server. Users will not have the ability to delete, rename, or edit any files, only upload.
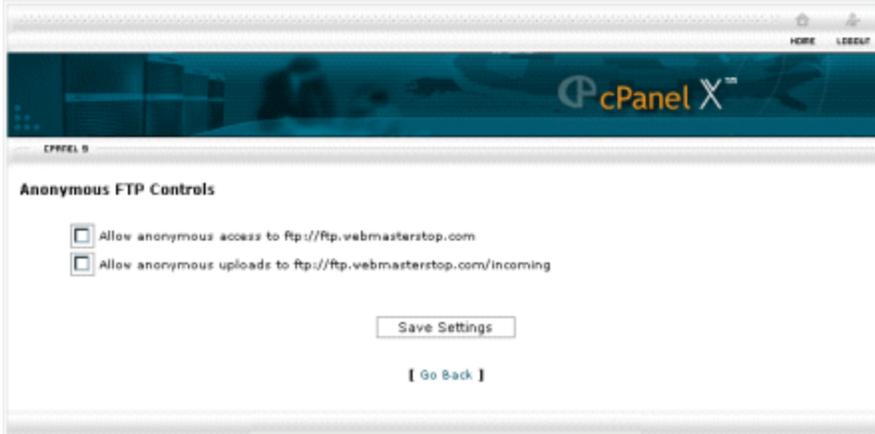
Anonymous FTP Message

The Anonymous FTP Message section is for users to setup the message that is displayed within the users FTP manager when they login to the server. Simply type the message that should be displayed in the box available and hit save message, it's that simple.

FTP Session Control

The next section is a very cool feature in cPanel. It allows a user to view the current FTP accounts that are logged in and disconnect them if needed or wanted. There isn't much to this section; it's more for monitoring user's access and disconnecting them if it is needed. It will display the type of FTP server that the server uses, the user that is logged in, and their IP address. The user's login time is also displayed here.
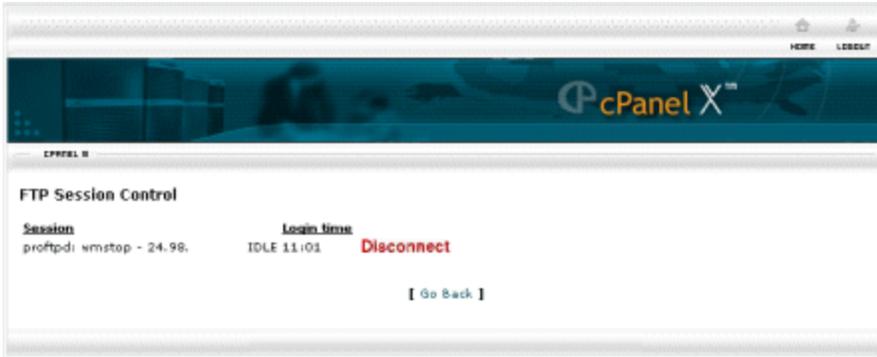
File Manager

The file manager can come in handy for many different things. The most important aspect of the file manager is its ability to replace an FTP program. The file manager was designed to be a stand along file maintenance and management program utilizing a GUI (Graphical User Interface), so users can do common tasks for a site without opening anything more then a browser.

The first thing a user may notice is how simple the layout is. It's opened in a new window so only the file manager is visible. This reduces the amount of clutter on screen and makes it easier for users to navigate and pick up on the script. It's designed to be intuitive, meaning easy to learn and pick up on.
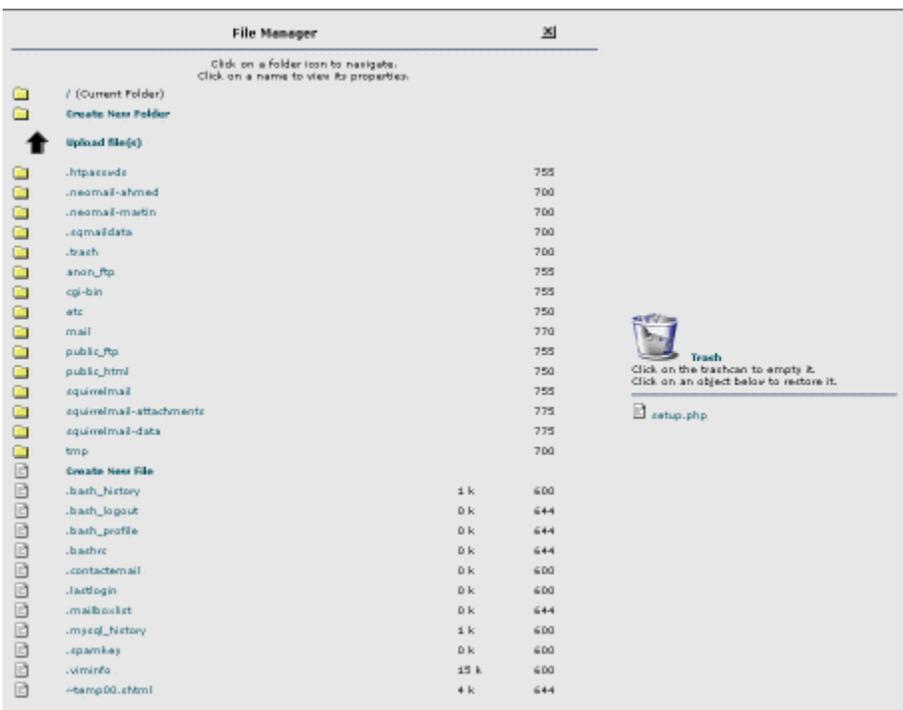
The design is very simple and depicts a traditional file structure. Starting with the folders and then moving to single files. The system puts a user into the "root" directory for their account. There are a few options a user can use right from the start.

Create New Folder: The first option a user may have is to create a new folder within the current directory. Simple click on Create New Folder and a new section of the page appears to the top right.
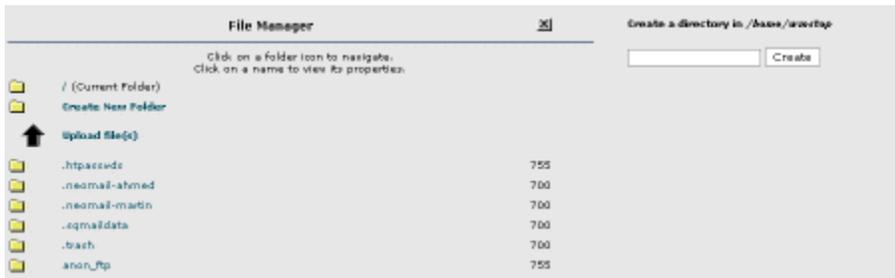
Simple input the new folders name and hit create. It will create a folder with the name specified in the current directory and give it a CHMOD (*change mode)* of 755 by default.

Upload file(s): The next option a user has is to upload a file or folder. Click on the link "Upload file(s)" will bring up a new page with a few options and boxes.

A user has the option of uploading up to twelve files or folders at a time, with the option of overwriting the existing files with the new ones being uploaded. Simple click on "Browser" and select the files that should be uploaded and click on "upload".

If the file(s) were upload successfully, the directory will be loaded with a confirmation of the files upload, there locations, and if it was a successful upload or not.
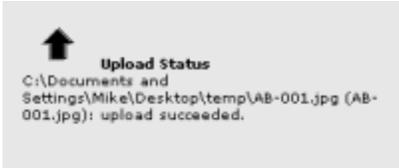
Folder & File Options

When the name of a file or folder is click a new window to the right will appear with many options. A user has many choices and this is how we'll manipulate and edit files, along with assigning new CHMOD values.

In this new section users have plenty of options to choice from.

Show File: The show file section will load a new page and display the contents of the file.

Delete File: Users can delete a file with this option it sends a file directly to the Trash.

Edit File: In this section users can edit a file. Clicking on Edit will load a new page with a very simple WYSIWYG editor and the files contents within it. Users can edit the file and save the file, they also have the option of changing the name. This is useful for creating backup copies of a file.

Change Permissions: In this section a user can assign the CHMOD settings to a file or folder. A new window will appear with easy to read selections of what to change a file to.
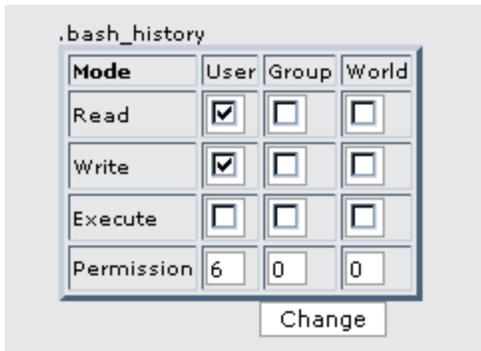
A user can select each box as needed, or if they know the number to CHMOD the file to, they can simple enter that number in at the bottom and click on Change. This will update the files CHMOD settings.

Rename File: As simple as the name, basically an option to rename the current file.

Copy File: This option will allow a user to copy a file into a new location. This is also another easy way to backup a file.

Move File: This allows a user to move a file to a new directory or location within their account.

Trash

The trash is a simple to use tool with in the file manager. If the trashcan image is click, it will empty the contents of it. By clicking on a file within the trashcan it can be replaced to its last known location.

The "File Manager" is a very to utilize tool within cPanel and if learned correctly can be very useful and fast for editing and managing files. It's a robust and useful program for any user, novice or pro. The "File Manager" is a great addition to any cPanel and webmasters tool box.

 Disk Usage

This section of cPanel will allow a user to view all the disk usage within their accounts. Disk usage is very useful for those that host others and want to find out which users are using too much disk space. This section of cPanel will show a plethora of useful information about a user's account, along with a few options to view files and folders easily.

The first things a user may see are all the folders contained on their account. The buttons at the top of this page help navigate and display the information so a user can view it easier.

Show Parent Directories: This will display all the parent directories as individual items.

Show More Directory Depth: This will expand the directories users are currently in one depth lower.

Show Less Directory Depth: This will reduce directories one level lower then the current directory.

Show Top Level: This will bring a user back to the home directories or top level.

Clear File Usage Cache: This will clear all the file usage information from cache and will recalculate all the disk usage information.

Show Small Files: This will show very small files contained in each folder.

Show File Size as bytes/Megabytes: This will change between showing files in bytes or megabytes. There are 1024 bytes for every one megabyte.

 Backup

The backup section of cPanel is a very useful tool for many webmasters. If a user needs to move to a new host, this section could also be very useful. Users have the ability to backup the entire contents of their website along with the MySQL databases. They also have the option to restore them.

Full Backups

Users have the option to generate and download an entire backup file of their account. The link under this section will initiate a copy of the user's account and compress it into one single file for the user to download.

Home Directory

This will do the exact same thing as a full backup, but it will only copy the home directory of a users account. So only the "public_html" or "www" folder will be copied and backed up.

Download a MySQL Database Backup

Users have the option of backing up and downloading their databases. Each database within a users account will be displayed here as a link and simply clicking on a link will generate a backup copy of the database and download it to a user's computer.

Password Protected Directories

In this section users have the ability to password protect as many directories as they wish. This function is very good tool for webmasters that want to password protect certain sections of their site, or for webmasters that sell memberships to sections of their site. This tool will help them create and manage ".htaccess" files that are needed to password protect a folder.
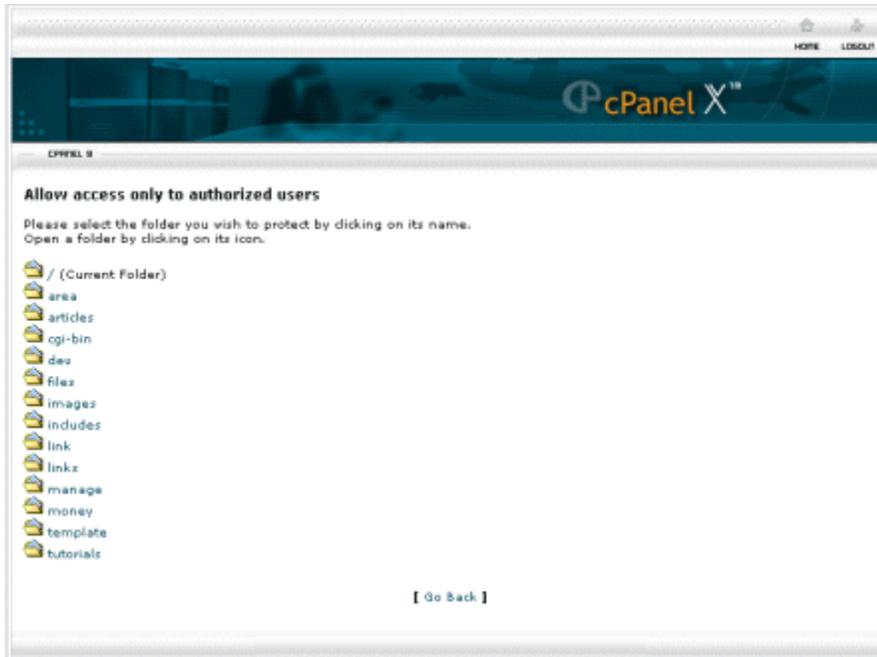
The first thing a user will see is a list of all folders within a site. Simple click on the folder that needs to be password protected.
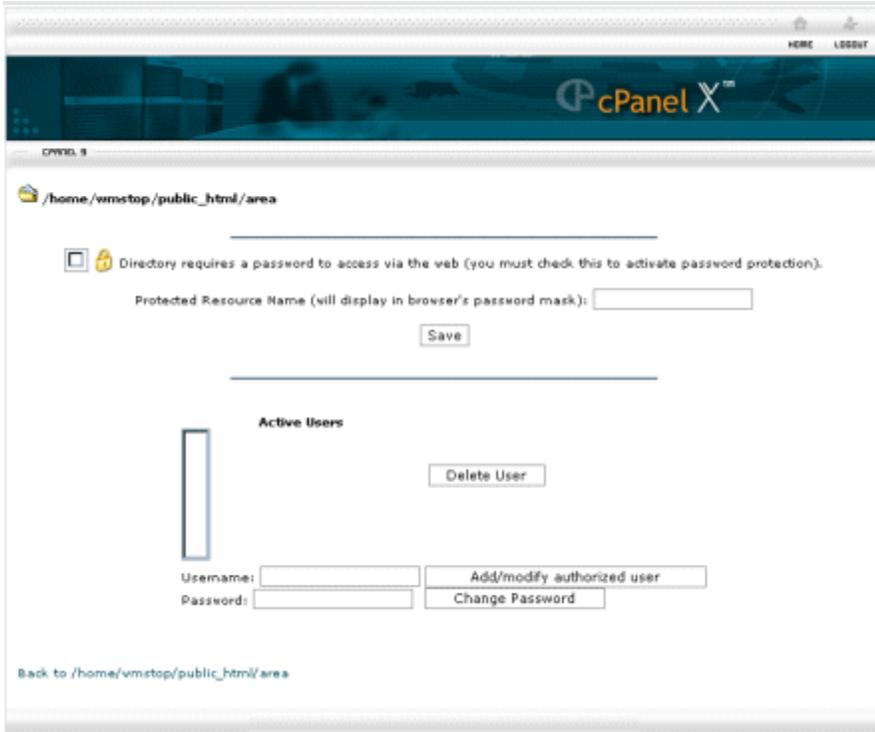
In this section a user can turn on and off the password protect feature. They can also change the display name for the username and password dialog box that will be displayed when a user tries to access the directory. Users can also add and delete users in this section, simply input a user name and a password and it will add the user's information to the ".htaccess" file and the new user will be able to access the new folder.

 Error Pages

In this section of cPanel, users have the ability create custom error pages for their site. The most common errors are displayed on the front page for users to select from. Each section will take the user to an editor where they can edit the custom error page right from cPanel.
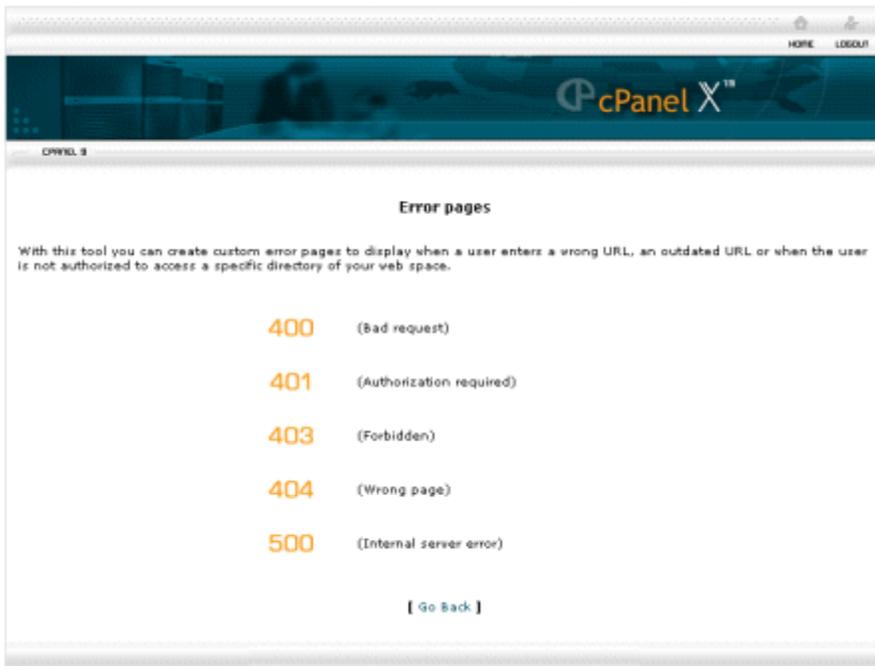
The five most common error codes that are displayed in this section can be seen from the above picture.

400: Bad Request

401: Authentication Required

403: Forbidden

404: Wrong Page

500: Internal Server Error

As seen from the above picture, users have an area to edit the error page to include anything they like. Along the top of this editing box there is a list of buttons, each button corresponds to a function that can be included into the file. Remember that cPanel saves all the error pages as .shtml web pages.

Referring URL: Displays the URL that referred a user to the page.

Visitor's IP Address: Displays the users IP address.

Requested URL: Displays the URL requested by the user.

Server Name: Returns the servers name or websites URL.

Visitor's Browser: Displays information about the user's browser.

Redirect Status Code: Displays the error code associated with the error.

Save as: Users can save the file under a different file name if they'd like.

 Sub Domains

cPanel comes with the ability to create and manage sub-domains. Sub-domains can be used for many different purposes, including hosting friends or clients. Sub-domains are easy to setup and easy to manage.
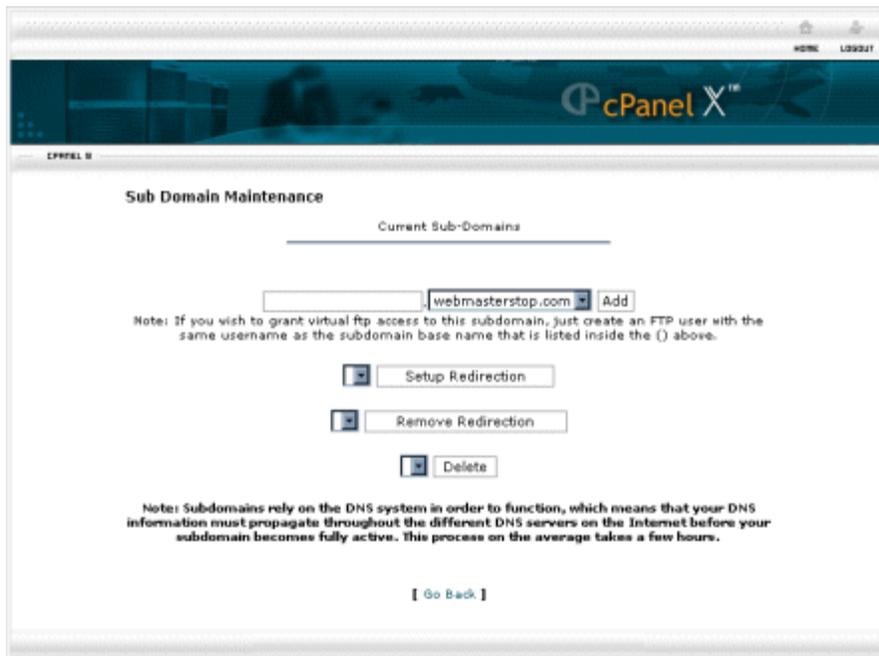
On the main page users can create a sub-domain right off the bad. Simple enter the sub-domain that is wanted or needed and select the main domain name it will reside under, then hit add.

Once a sub-domain name has been setup a user can then chose from three different options.

Setup Redirect: This will allow a user to setup another link for the sub-domain to direct users to. This is useful if a user wants a short URL to something that has a long URL.

Remove Redirect: This will simple remove the redirect allocated to that sub-domain.

Delete: This will delete the selected sub-domain.

MySQL Databases

This section of cPanel is a very useful section for anyone that uses MySQL databases for their site. Users have the ability to create and manage any aspect of a MySQL database right from this section of cPanel.
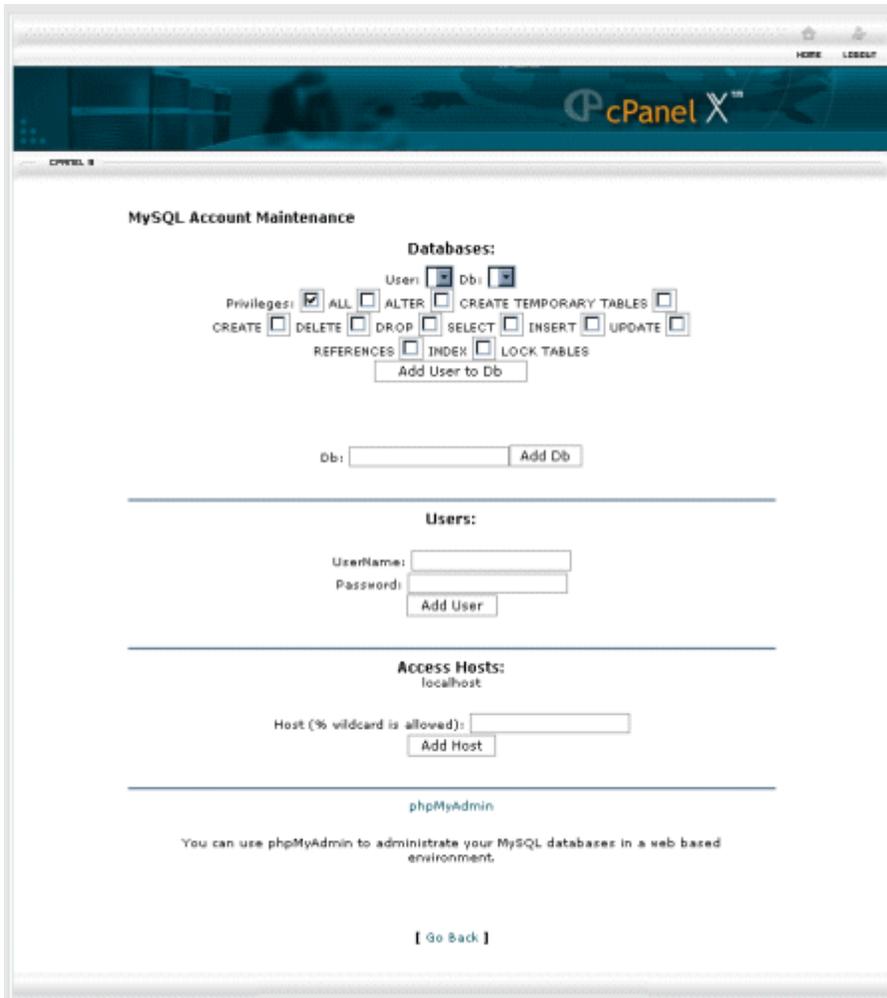
Users can start by adding a MySQL database. Simple go to the "Db:" section and type in the name of that database needed. Users also have the ability to added and remove users to databases in this section. Users can also add a host in this section; this is used for off site access.
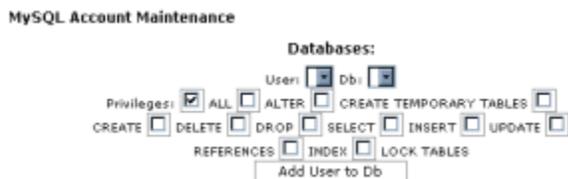
In this above picture users can grant privileges to users and to databases. There are quit a few options to choose from, most just select all as it's the easiest. Remember that access to a database isn't need as long as the master username and password for the account is used. It's a good idea to create a username and password to access each database instead of using the master username and password.

At the bottom of the MySQL section, there is a link to phpMyAdmin. This is a useful database management tool and should be used to manage all databases.

More information on phpMyAdmin can be found here: http://www.phpmyadmin.net/

SSH/Shell Access

In this section users have a java applet that will load and allow them to login to their account via SSH. SSH can be very useful in managing an account, installing software, and doing common tasks associated with web hosting.

cPanel has done a wonderful job of developing this application to be fully featured and allow a vast range of abilities and uses. Anyone running a site or many sites can benefit from SSH.
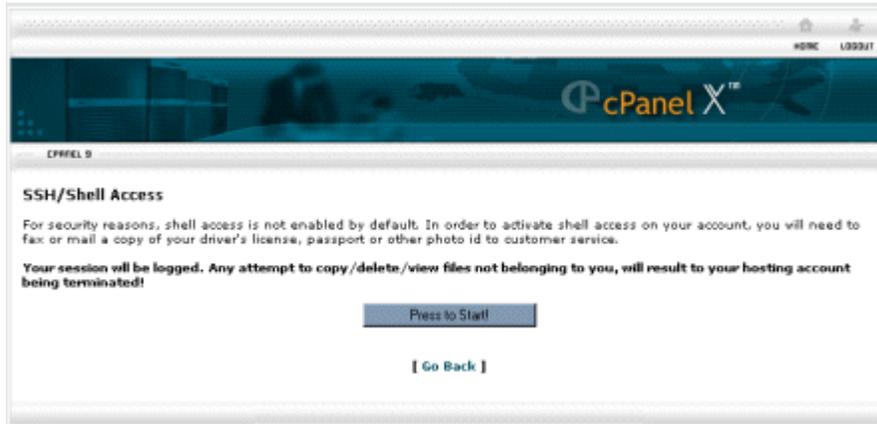
Once the main page is loaded, a java applet will automatically load and ask for the user's username and password. Once a user has typed in the required information, the applet will connect the user via SSH to the server and their account. From here a user will be able to do just about anything SSH will allow.

Redirects

Redirects are very useful for site owners moving from folder to folder, or updating their site. These can be used to direct users to a new section of the site or to a new domain name all together. Webmasters can also set these up for other users to use as short URLs.
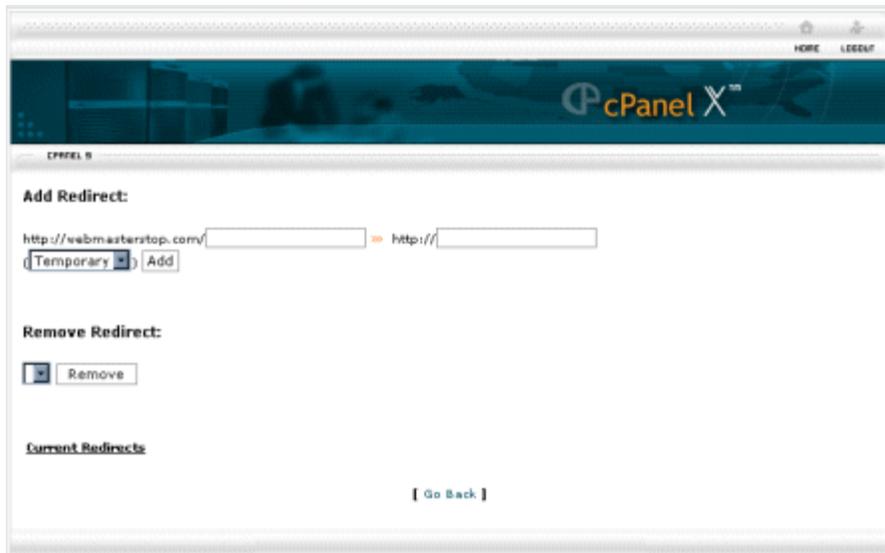
As seen from above, simply enter in the location that should be redirected and the new URL to direct visitors to. Users have the option of making it a temporary redirect, or a permanent redirect.

Temporary: Setting a redirect to temporary will tell the Internet traffic agents (browsers, search engines, ect.) that this is only a temporary redirect and to return to this URL in the future.

Permanent: Permanent redirects will tell the Internet traffic agents (browsers, search engines, ect.) that it is a permanent redirect and when requesting this URL to forward automatically to the new address.

Users also have the option of removing redirects from this section also. Simple select the redirect to delete and hit remove. This will remove the redirect information from the .htaccess file.

FrontPage Extensions

Users have the ability to add and remove FrontPage Extensions from this area. FrontPage extensions allow a user to publish their website directly through FrontPage. Remember that it isn't a good idea to have FrontPage extensions installed unless they will be used.

Keep in mind that if FrontPage extensions are removed, it will remove all traces of the extensions and sub-domains or other accounts on the main account will not be able to use them anymore. It will also remove all the .htaccess files in the "public_html" folder.

Users can see from the front page a list of domain names on the main account, the status of FrontPage extensions and a few options to the right of that. If the extensions are not installed, simply click on "Install Extensions", this will then install all the proper files and scripts to enable a use to publish through FrontPage.

To remove an old installation of FrontPage extensions, simple click on "Cleanup Old Extensions", this will remove any remaining files or scripts on the system and put it back to its original state.

Web/FTP Stats

This section is vital to any webmaster that keeps up with the traffic to their site or sites. This is another main section of cPanel and displays very important information. Users can see a lot that is going on with their web sites and server just from this section. Some of the information can also be used to track users that have accessed sections of a site they weren't allowed to access.
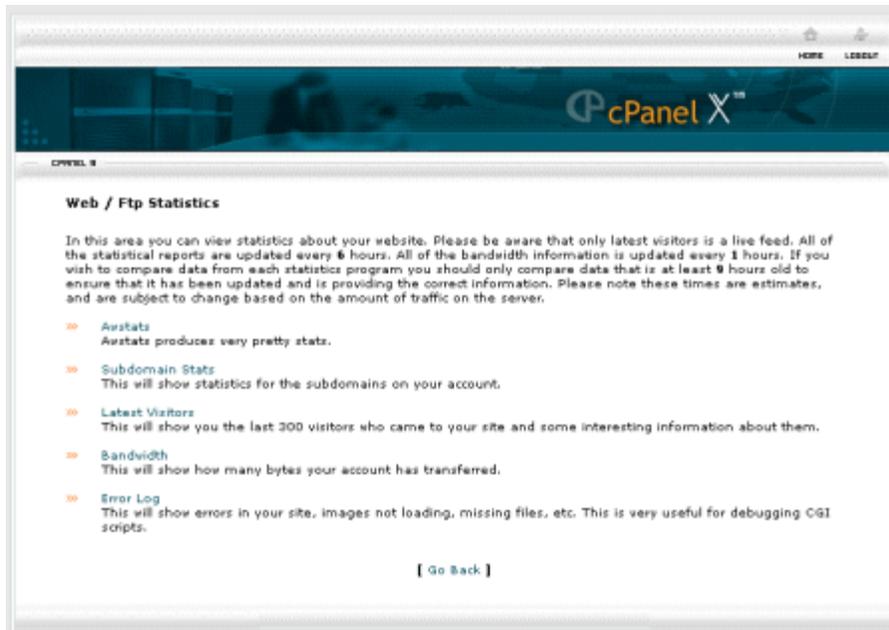
Awstats – Awstats is a great web site tracking system. It will give very useful information about any site on the main account.

More information on Awstats can be found here: http://www.webmasterstop.com/47.html

Sub-domain Stats – This will display useful all the statistics available for any sub-domain name on the account.

Latest Visitors – This will display the last 300 visitors to the site and also where they went on the site. This information is useful for tracking users that may have accessed portions of a site they weren't allowed to access.

Bandwidth – This will display all the traffic for the site in a nice graphical display.

Error Log – This information is vital to any website running correctly. Users can view which files are missing on their account and replace them accordingly, or update any pages that need to be updated.

Raw Access Logs

The "Raw Access Logs" section will give a user the ability to download the raw access logs for any given domain name on their account. This can be very useful information for tracking user's movements and what they are visiting on a site. It's also useful for those users that are accessing sections of a site they aren't supposed to.
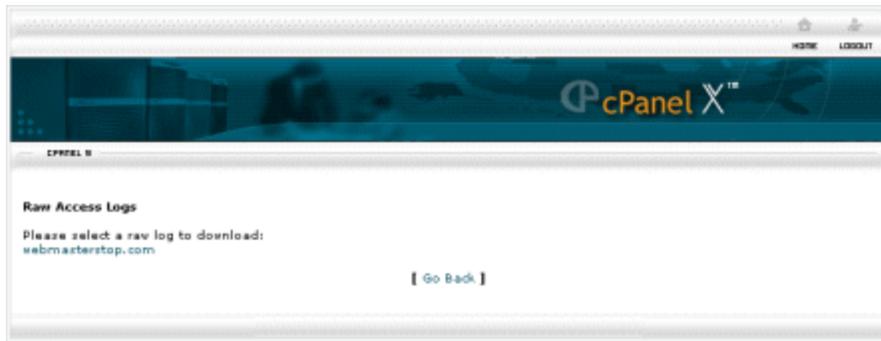
By simple clicking on the domain a user can download the sites' log file directly to their desktop. Once a user clicks on a domain name the system will instantly tar and Gzip the file so that it is compressed and easier to manage. In some cases these files can be very large, so remember this before proceeding.

To extract simple use a compatible program that will un-compress a ".tar.gz" file. Once extracted, Windows will not know what to use to open the file. So renaming the file to a .txt or .doc file could help. This will let windows know to use either Notepad (If the file is small in size) or WordPad (If the file is large and needs to be formatted).

The information contained within these raw log files is very useful for many different aspects. The system logs a lot of information about each user and puts all this information within these log files.

.*.*.223 – – [30/Jan/2005:23:41:01 -0500] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 13670 "-" "Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; DigExt; SV1; .NET CLR 1.1.4322)"

Above is a sample output in a raw access log file. This is one single line and one user. As you can see, there is a lot of useful information contained within this single line.

.*.*.223: This is the users IP address and it can be very useful in tracking users. IP address can give a lot of information about a user and which ISP they are with.

[30/Jan/2005:23:41:01 -0500]: This is the date and time the user accessed the server or file. This will track it down to the second.

"GET / HTTP/1.1": This shows that the user requested an http connection to the server.

200: This is the code the server responded with, which in this case means "OK". So the users request was granted and went through just fine.

"Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; DigExt; SV1; .NET CLR 1.1.4322)": The rest of this will give information about the user. Like what browser was used and even the type of operating system they were using. This is useful information for demographic the type of users viewing a site.

Raw Log Manager

In this section of cPanel, users have a few options to control how log files are stored on their account. Raw log files can become very large and using these options will help to reduce the size of the files. If a user access raw log files often, this section will help them tremendously in keeping the file size low and more efficient.
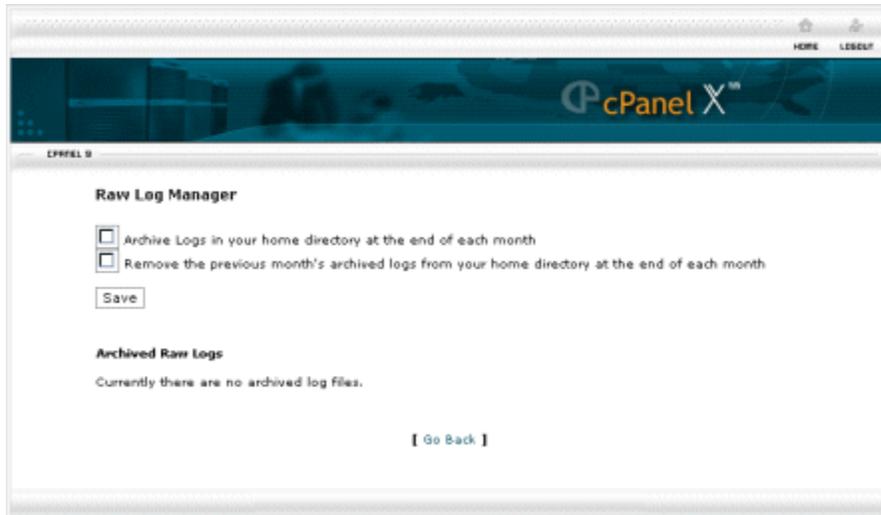
Users have two options once in this section. They can archive the logs files in the home directory at the end of each month or they can remove the previous months log files at the end of every month.

There is also a section that will display all the archived log files, so a user can download them and view them whenever needed or wanted.

Error Log

This is a very useful section of cPanel as it displays all the 404 errors or "File does not exist" error. Webmasters can use this to find out what is missing on their server and correct the problem.
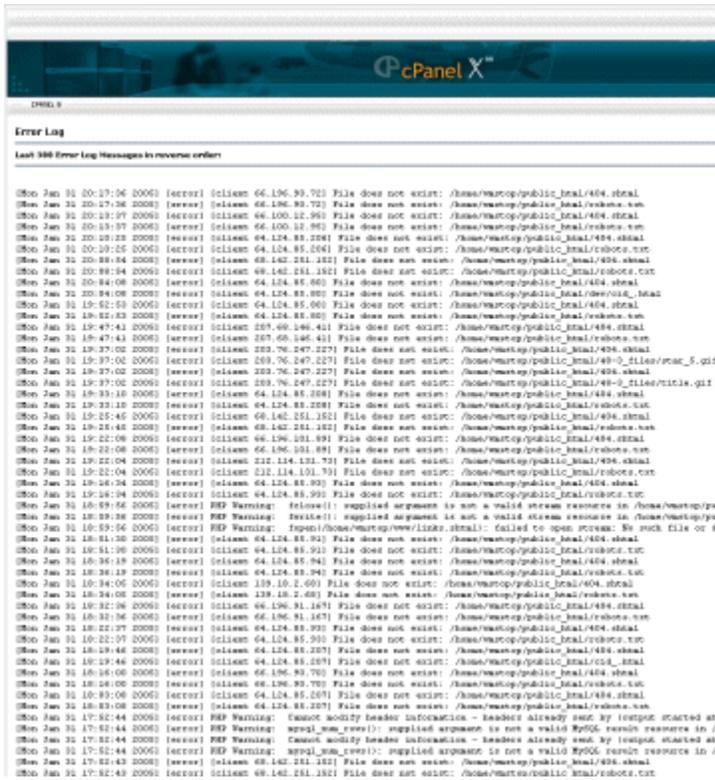
Here is a sample output of this section of cPanel.

[Mon Jan 31 20:17:36 2005] [error] [client **.***.90.72] File does not exist: /home/username/public_html/404.shtml

[Mon Jan 31 20:17:36 2005]: This is the date and time the error occurred.

[error] [client **.*.90.72]:** This shows that it was an error and the IP address that received the error.

File does not exist: /home/username/public_html/404.shtml: This lets the webmaster know that the file does not exist and where on the server it doesn't exist.

Normally by replacing the missing file in the location the server said it was missing will normally correct the error. In some cases this will produce incorrect error messages, so don't be surprised if there are a lot of errors in yours.

In most cases it's the end-user that has caused the problem to occur. Sometimes the users may get disconnected from the site before downloading the correct files or information and the server will return an error to compensate for this.

 Sub Domain Stats

cPanel has made an entire section devoted to nothing but sub-domains stats. This section is very useful for users that have a large amount of sub-domain names that they'd like to view the stats for. Simple go to this section and a list of all the sub-domain names within the account will be located here. There are a few different sections within this main page that a user can choose from.
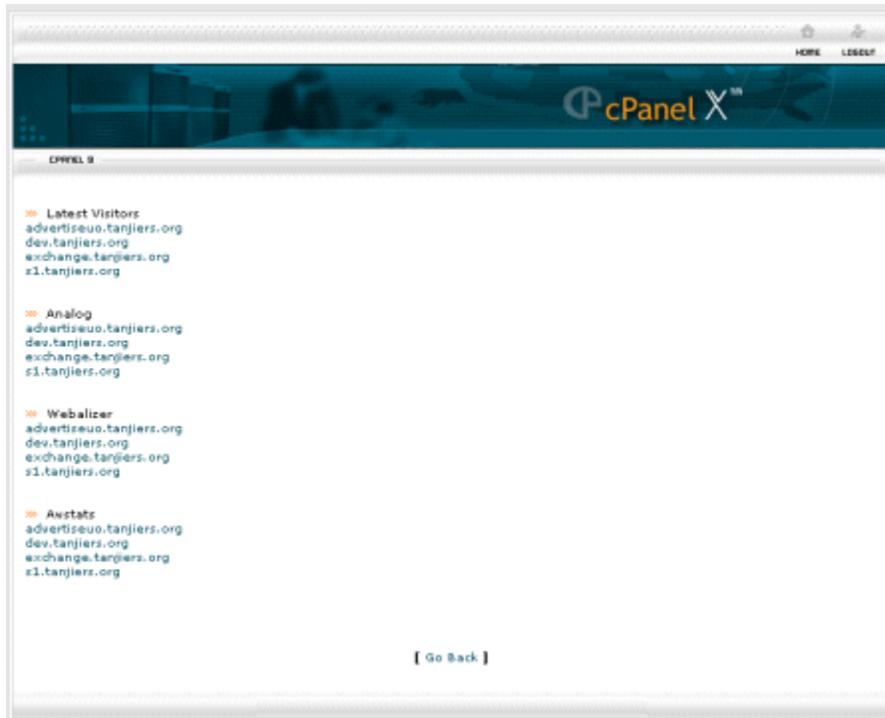
Depending on what is available on the users account, determines what will be displayed in this section. Normally users will have access to the latest visitors, analog, and either Awstats or Webalizer; sometimes both.

Latest Visitors

The latest visitors section will display very useful information about each user that visits the site. This section of the sub-domain stats section can be very useful if read correctly. It contains a lot information about the user and where they have been on the site and where they came from.

Example Output:

```
Host: **.***.72.163
  └ /images/auobanner.gif
        Http Code: 200 Date: Feb 02 14:12:31 Http Version: HTTP/1.1 Size in Bytes: 60518
        Referer: _____view.php?uid=66&cat=0
        Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.0; .NET CLR 1.1.4322)
```

The first thing we can see is the hosts IP address. Next we can see what the user was accessing. In this case it was an image file "auobanner.gif". There is also a good bit of useful information below this.

Http Code: 200 – This shows the code the server returned after the user requested the file or page. In this case the server returned a "200" code which means "OK". So the user was able to download the file successfully.

Date: Feb 02 14:12:31 – The server will display the complete date and time, down to the second, of when the file accessed. This can be useful in many different scenarios.

Http Version: HTTP/1.1 – This basically shows the version of HTTP the server uses.

Size in Bytes: 60518 – This returns the size of the file that the user downloaded. Remember this is in Bytes and there are 1054 Bytes in every Megabyte.

Referrer: This is the location the user came from to access the file or page. This is also very useful information in tracking incoming links and so on.

Agent: This basically shows the "Agent" or browser that a user is using, it will also display the version windows the user is also using.

Analog – Webalizer or Awstats

These programs will format the "Raw Log" files so they are easier to read and understand. There is an enormous amount of information contained in each of theses log files and some will produce more information then others. It's very useful for a user to learn to read at least one or more of these statistic programs in order to track their users. Tracking users will help in the growth of a site and community.

More information on Awstats can be found here: http://www.webmasterstop.com/47.html

 Search Engine Submit

SEO experts don't rejoice just yet. This section isn't one of these mass submission tools that will submit a user's site or URL to thousands of search engines, FFA pages, and link directories. No this is a simple tool to submit a user's site to the top search engines on the net. This is similar to a user visiting the search engines site and filling out the proper information, but this section of cPanel will help them do it much faster. By filling out

their information once and submitting once, a user can submit to the major search engines with one simple step.
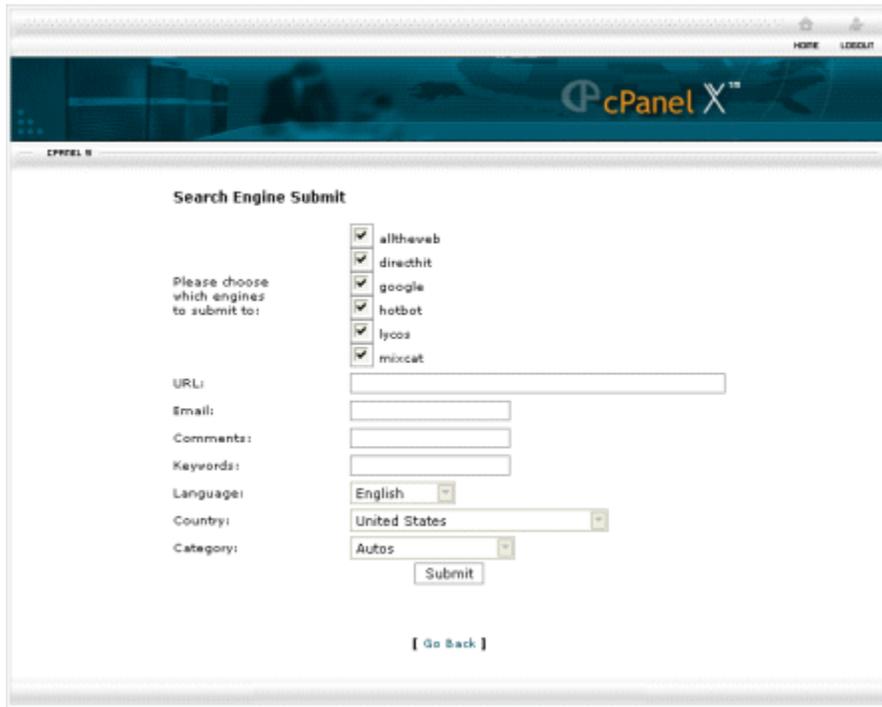
Once in the Search Engine Submit section, a user will notice the search engines they can submit to. There are also a few more options and information a user must submit before continuing.

Search Engines to Select From
AlltheWeb.com
DirectHit.com – Also known as Teoma
Google.com
HotBot.com
Lycos.com
MixCat.com

URL: Simple input the URL that needs to be submitted to the above search engines.

Email: This will be the email used in the submission process, be sure to use an email address that you don't mind spam to be sent to, as it will receive spam after using it for this process. Also remember that most of these search engines will not accept free email address (i.e. HotMail.com).

Comments: Any comments the user would like to submit with their listing.

Keywords: Place the sites keywords in this section. Separate them using a comma.

Language: The default language of the site should be selected here.

Country: The country in which the site resides.

Category: This is important. Make sure to select the correct category for the site to be placed in. Not selecting one will result in the site not being added at all, and incorrect selection can result in the site being deleted.

Once all the above information has been submitted, simple hit submit and the script will take it from there. It's all automated and will produce information as it's submitting to the search engines. This process can take a moment so please be patient. Once complete, it will display the results in an easy to read manner and provide a link to any errors.

 Chatroom

The chat room can offer users a very simple setup to create an online chat room in a matter of minutes for their site. Simply copying the displayed HTML code into a page and uploading it to their account. Above this code there is a sample of what it will look like once the code has been phrased by the user's browser. A user will simply enter in a username and click on "Enter Chat".
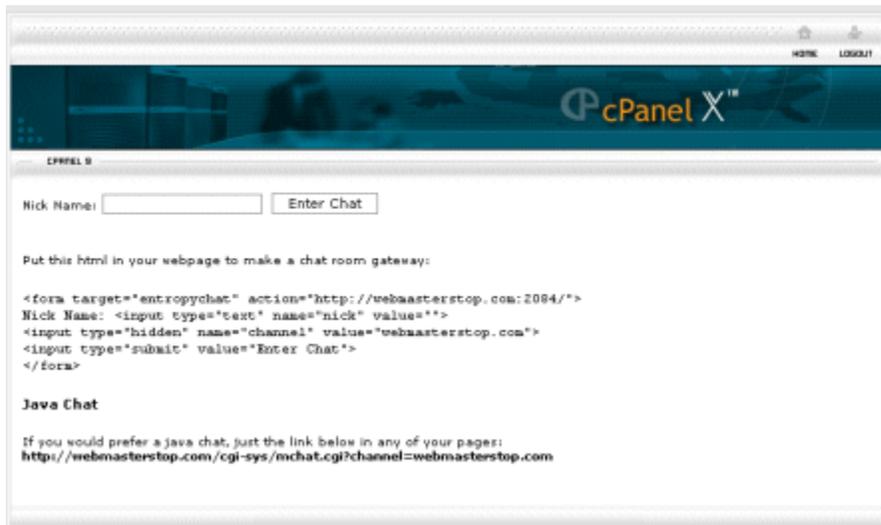

```
<form target="entropychat" action="http://webmasterstop.com:2084/">
Nick Name: <input type="text" name="nick" value="">
<input type="hidden" name="channel" value="webmasterstop.com">
<input type="submit" value="Enter Chat">
</form>
```

This is a sample of the code that will be displayed in a users account. There are values within this code that can be changed to customize the look of the form on a user's site.

Nick Name: – A user can change this to display any text they'd like.

value="webmasterstop.com" – This can be changed to display any channel name wanted. So for instance if a user didn't want to use webmasterstop.com, they could change it to something like "My Chat Room" and so on. Anything will and can work here.

Users also have the option of simply using a link to open a java client that is already present on most systems with this option available.

http://webmasterstop.com/cgi-sys/mchat.cgi?channel=webmasterstop.com

The link simple points to the location of the script, this script can not be modified by the user and shouldn't need to be. Simply replace the "webmasterstop.com" with whatever the channel name should be.

Once a user loads this in their browser a java applet will load and automatically connect the user to the servers' chat room. If there is a connection error then the chat server isn't available on that users account. To resolve this issue, simply email the hosting provider and request that the service is turned on.

Chat Room Commands

The commands within this java applet are similar to those of IRC. Simply use a back slash "/" and type the command and then hit enter. It's a very simple system to use and understand. Remember that typing "/help" at any time will display a list of commands and their functions.

/MSG "username" "message" – This command is used to "whisper" to another user on the server. Simply type the users name and then the message and hit enter. Remember to remove the quotations before proceeding.

/YELL "message" – This will "yell" or broadcast a message across all channels. Remember that any user logged onto the server can read these types of messages.

/SQUELCH "username" – This command will basically mute a user from talking. This is useful for users that talk too much or are being bad and removing their privilege to chat.

/JOIN "channel" – This is used to join a different channel on the server.

/TOPIC "new topic" – This command is used by the channel owner to change the name of the channel.

/NICK "new nick name" – This command will change a user's displayed name. Remember that spaces can not be used on this chat system. There is a section at the very top where a user can change their name without using this command.

/LIST – This command is used to list all the available channels on the server.

/LOCK – This command is used to lock a channel. This can be useful for having a private meeting in a channel, or just blocking anyone else from joining the channel.

/OWN "user name" – This will change the ownership of the channel to whatever is input in the "user name" space.

/KICK "user name" – This command is used to kick a user from a channel.

/INVITE "user name" – This can be used to invite another user to your current channel.

/WHOIS – This command can be used to display all the users in the current channel.

/FINGER – This command is used to show all clients connected to the server.

/VER – This will display the version of the chat server currently being used by the server.

/ME – This command will display useful information about you.

/HELP – This command will display all the commands we just went over and what they are used for.

/TIME – This will display the time of the server and the user, along with the date.

/QUIT – This command can be used to log out of the server.
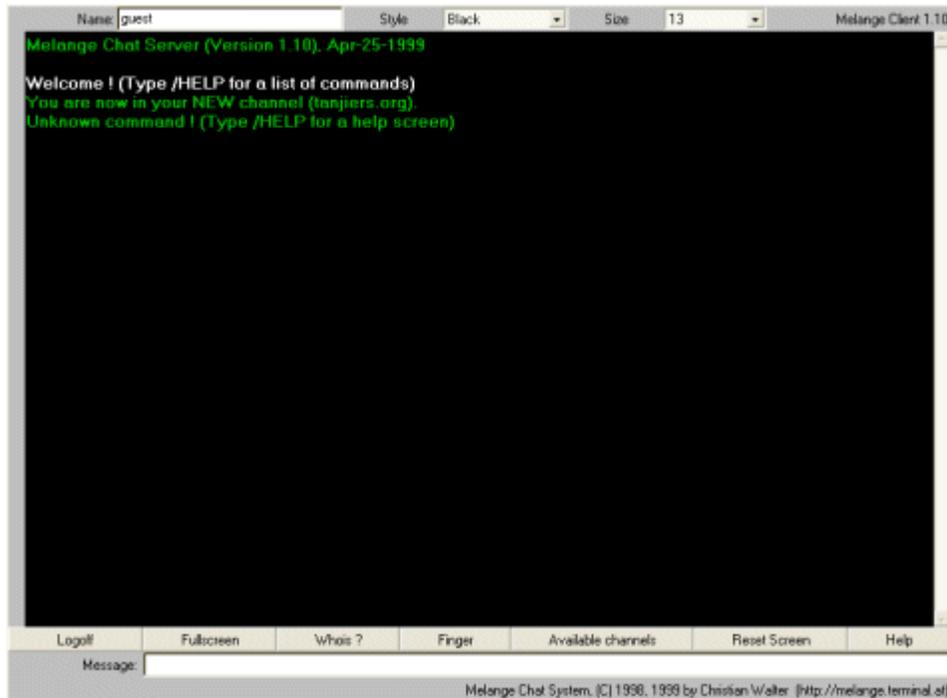
Users can opt to type these commands in manually, or they can use the buttons provided for them above the chat bar. The names of each command are displayed and simply clicking on these buttons will enter in the command automatically and return the results without any work from the user.

PhpMyChat

PhpMyChat is a simple and easy to setup script that will do a very similar thing as the "Chatroom" script does, but users have more features and options with this chat script. Users also have the ability to change the look and feel of the chat room, so that it can be integrated into a user's site.
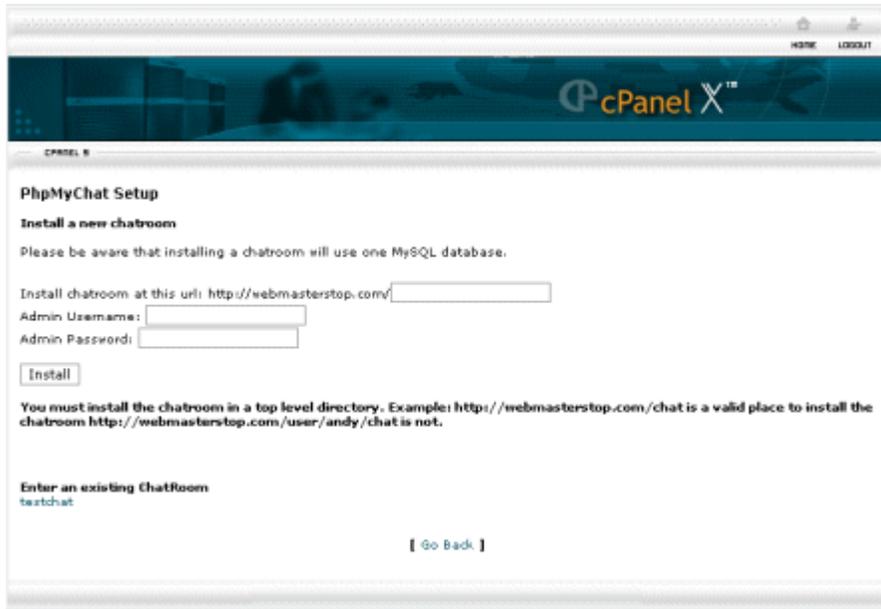
Simply type in the location in which the chat script should be installed, along with the administrator's user name and password and click on "Install". This will then install the script in the specified location and the user can customize it from there. All of the files are accessible by the user once it has been installed.

Unlike the other chat room script, this script works like a message board. Users must first register their own account before they are allowed into the chat room. Once an account has been made for that user, they can then login and post messages "chat" with other users. The messages are deleted after 96 hours, as to keep space consumption to a minimal.
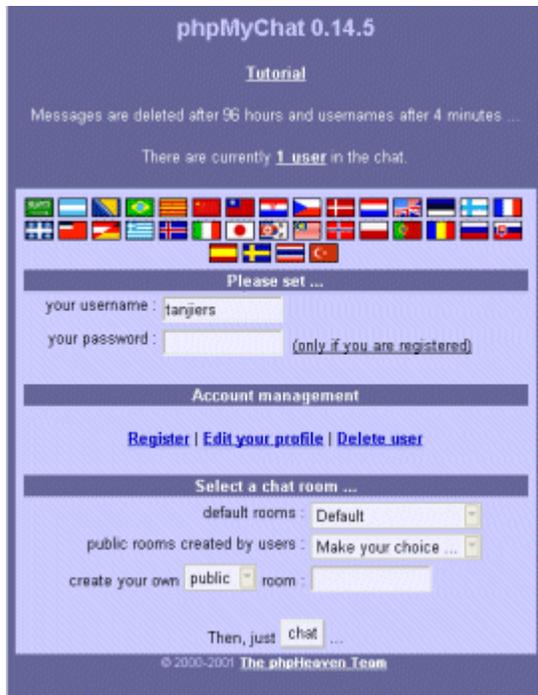
Simply type in your username and password, if a user doesn't have an account; clicking on the "Register" link can solve this problem. After a user logs in, they are displayed with a chat room similar to the "Chatroom" script that comes with a users account. Most of the same commands are the same also. This system can become a bit slow after awhile, so users keep this in mind if there are to be a large amount of users chatting in them.

Bulletin Board

The bulletin board section is for users that would like to setup their own bulletin board system. The system is setup so users do not have to deal with the hassle of actually uploading and configuring all the files need to run a bulletin board system. A user only has a few simple things to fill out and they can have a bulletin board system setup within minutes.
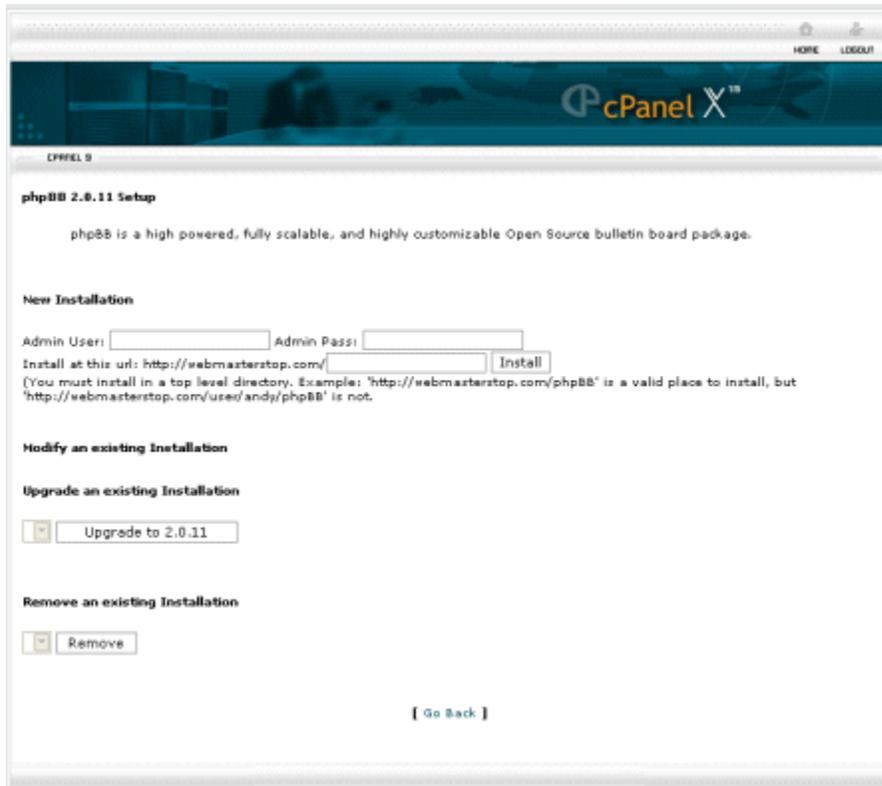
If a user would like to install a new board, they will just need to fill out the information located under the "New Installation" section.

Admin User: This will be the administrator's user name.

Admin Pass: This will be the administrator's password.

Install at this url: http://domain.com/ - This will be the location of the new board. This has to be a new location, meaning the folder cannot already exist.

Once a new board has been installed, a user will be able to come back to this section later on and install a new board in a different location, upgrade an existing board or uninstall a board that has already been installed.

To upgrade a bulletin board, just simple choose the folder name or board that needs to be upgraded and click the upgrade button.

To remove a bulletin board simple select the board that needs to be removed and then click on remove, this will delete the entire folder and all its contents.

More information on phpBB can be found here: http://www.phpbb.com/

CGI Center

The CGI Center is a great resource for any webmaster. Within this section a user has the option to install and utilize a multitude of CGI scripts. Once a user decides which script they'd like to install, simply click on the link corresponding to the script and it will automatically installed the script in the users "cgi-bin".
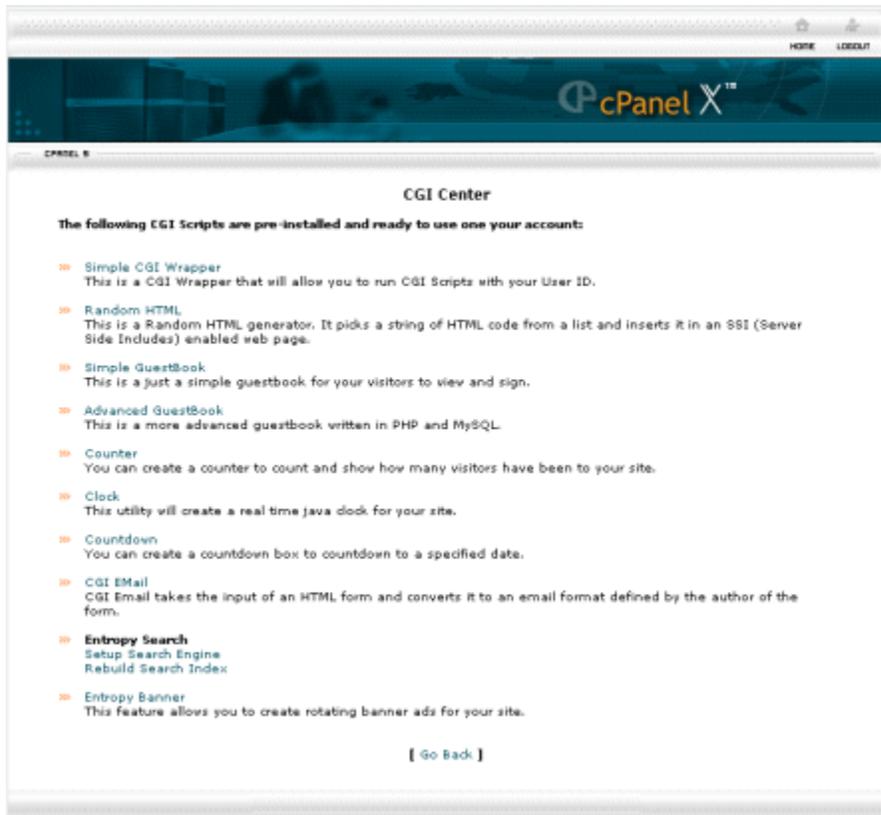
Simple CGI Wrapper: Simple CGI Wrapper will create a scgi-bin at the public_html level of a users account. This will allow a user to run scripts with their own user id.

Random HTML: The Random HTML generator will pick a string of HTML from a list and insert it into a SSI enabled web page.

Simple Guestbook: The Simple Guestbook is just how the name implies. It's a simple guestbook script that can be used on a user's website for visitors to sign.

Advanced Guestbook: The same goes for this script as the Simple Guestbook script. This is also a guestbook script, but with many more options for the users to choose from. This script is written in PHP and MySQL.

Counter: This simple little script can be used as a visitor counter for a user's webpage.

Clock: This script will create a java clock for a user to use on their site.

Countdown: This is a simple little countdown script. A user can place it on their webpage and it will countdown to a specific date set by the user.

CGI Email: CGI Email will take the output from any HTML form and convert it to an email format that is set by the creator of the form.

Entropy Search: The Entropy Search script can be used to create a simple search engine for any user's site. Users have the option to install it and rebuild the index of pages.

Entropy Banner: Made by the same people that made Entropy Search, this script will create a banner rotator for a user's webpage. This is useful for users that have advertisers displayed on their web site.

The CGI Center is a very useful resource for any webmaster. Any user can use at least one of the above scripts and programs to make their site more useful or easier to use for their visitors. Installation is very simple for just about every single one of the scripts and further customization can be done on just about all of them.

Keep in Mind

There are just a few things for users to keep in mind when using CGI scripts. CGI scripts are just like any other programming language used on the Internet today. They allow dynamic and static content to be displayed however the user would like. They also allow webmasters to offer special features to their visitors that others may not be able to do.

1: The pre-installed scripts that come with most cPanel installations are very easy to setup and use. There are however many more scripts available on the Internet, most of which are free, that can do the same if not more then the scripts available to cPanel users.

2: Most scripts will come with documentation or "Read Me" files that will explain how to setup and utilize the script correctly. So be sure to read all available documents that may come with any script.

3: Most scripts need to be CHMOD to 755 in order to work correctly, unless otherwise stated in the scripts' documentation.

4: Many scripts will need to be modified to include the path of Perl and in small cases sendmail. This information can be found on the front page of cPanel.

By following these simple guidelines a user can successfully install and run CGI scripts with no problems. These are just a few simple things to keep in mind when using and installing CGI scripts.

 Scripts Library

The Scripts Library section of cPanel is a special section setup for hosts and other providers to allow certain scripts to be available to their users or clients. It's up to the provider to allow scripts in this section and which ones can be installed. In most cases there are only a few scripts and programs available to users to install from this section. In few cases the provider will allow all of the script that is available to be accessible by their users.

Available Scripts

MamboOpenSource – MamboOpenSource is a content management system (CMS) that users can install to maintain their sites with. MamboOpenSource is free for anyone to use.

PHP-Nuke – PHP-Nuke is one of the more popular content management systems. Boasting almost any feature a user could want; PHP-Nuke is normally the choice for most seasoned webmasters.

PostNuke – PostNuke is based on PHP-Nuke with a few extra features and claiming to have cleaner code. PostNuke is also a very popular content management system.

Xoops – Xoops is an OO (Object Oriented) content management system. More information OOP can be found here: http://www.webmasterstop.com/56.html

e107 – e107 is a simple content management system powered by PHP and MySQL.

phpBB – phpBB is an Open Source message board system driven by PHP and MySQL.

Coppermine – Coppermine is a free PHP based image gallery. Very simple to setup and use. It's very similar to a content management system, but geared toward image galleries.

AdvancedGuestBook – AdvancedGuestBook is the same script available in the CGI Library. It's a more advanced guest book for a user's web site.

InvisionBoard – InvisionBoard is bulletin board system similar to phpBB.

Php Wiki – Php Wiki is a way for anyone to edit pages through an HTML form.

osCommerce – osCommerce is an advanced shopping cart system for users to setup their own online shop. It's Open Source so anything can be changed and added to it.

Each section for installing these scripts has a simple to understand and read layout. There are only a few options that need to be filled in, be a user has a few options they can chose from once a script has been installed.

<u>Installation</u>

The first thing a user will need will be an administrative user name and password, then a location to install the script. Remember the installation location has to be in a top level folder and not in a sub-folder. Meaning it can be installed in a top level folder located in the "public_html" folder or within the root folder.

<u>Example</u>

Acceptable Installation Folder: domain.com/folder/

Not-Acceptable Installation Folder: domain.com/folder/folder/

Once the script has been installed the files can be moved to a new location as long as the configuration files are updated. If a top level folder isn't where you'd like to install the script, it can be moved to a sub folder or any other folder the user would like as long as the configuration file is updated.

Once a script has been installed successfully the user will be given the administrative link (If available) to the administrative section of the script. This is normally where all the script functions, settings, and so on are set. So remember to bookmark that, or write it down somewhere along with the administrative user name and password that was set before. This will be the only means of making changes to the settings and so on.

Once a script has been installed, if a user goes back to that section of cPanel where they installed the script, they will have two options to choose from.

Updating: A user can opt to update an installed program or script from this section, if a newer version is available. Remember that if any modifications to the script files were incurred, this will overwrite all of this and install a fresh copy of the script or program.

Delete: A user can also delete an installed script or program from this location. This will only delete the files that were installed by the installation script so if anything was changed or modified during the installation the script will normally not delete it. They also will not delete folders that have .htaccess files within them. Those will have to be deleted through SSH and then the user can remove the folder themselves.

The Scripts Library is a useful place for webmasters to install scripts and programs to aid in the growth of their sites and communities. It will provide an intuitive place to install all the above scripts (If available) and easy to follow update and delete functions. cPanel has made this section as user friendly as possible so anyone can use it.

 Agora Shopping Cart

In this section of cPanel users can install the feature rich Agora Shopping Cart. The Agora Shopping Cart is a power full online shopping cart system that will allow users to start their own ecommerce style store online. The system is setup so anyone can use it, but is modular based so experienced users can added and expand their stores. Agora Shopping Cart system is an Open Source solution which means users can change and add what they like when they like. It's released under the GNU General Public License.

More information on the GNU can be found here: http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html

Installing the Agora Shopping Cart is very similar to installing any other script through cPanel. A location to install the script, along with an administrative user name and password and clicking on install is all that is needed. Once this is done, the user can customize the installed scripts on their server to their liking. Documentation is provided for every installation, so be sure to read the available information.

Users have the option to purchase a "Members Only" account through Agoras main page for $29 a year. This will entitle them to support along with add-ons and modules to expand and grow their ecommerce store front.

Cron Jobs

Crons are a very use full tool for any webmaster that has a lot of repetitive tasks that they need accomplished often. Crons can be used to automate just about anything from backing up a MySQL database to running a script or program on the server.

Crons basically use the server to accomplish tasks set forth by the user. For instance creating a cron job to handle a backup of a MySQL database can be setup to run at 2:00AM every Monday night. This will run the cron job once a week on Monday night at 2:00AM, which with a server that would be 14:00 hours. A server uses Military style time or a 24 hour clock instead of a 12 hour clock. The only differences in a 24 hour clock and a 12 hour clock is when it's 1:00 it would be 13:00 and so on.

UNIX or the server uses a Cron Daemon to handle the Cron Jobs which are set in the Crontab. I know this sounds confusing and you're wondering why there are so many Crons. Here is a simpler way to look at it. Windows Scheduler is the Crontab, so it's what is used to house or hold the Cron Jobs. The Windows Scheduler is also the Cron Daemon or just plain Cron; it's what runs the "Cron Jobs".

There are two different modes that can be used to create a cron job.

Standard – The standard option will probable be the most useful for many new users. This option offers a range of preset options to choose from, which makes creating a cron job much faster and easier. The standard section uses a 12 hour clock style, so it's easier for the user to decide which times to choose.

Advanced (UNIX Style) – The advanced mode provides the UNIX style of adding a cron job. Users that have utilized cron jobs before, this will probable be the best one for them to use.
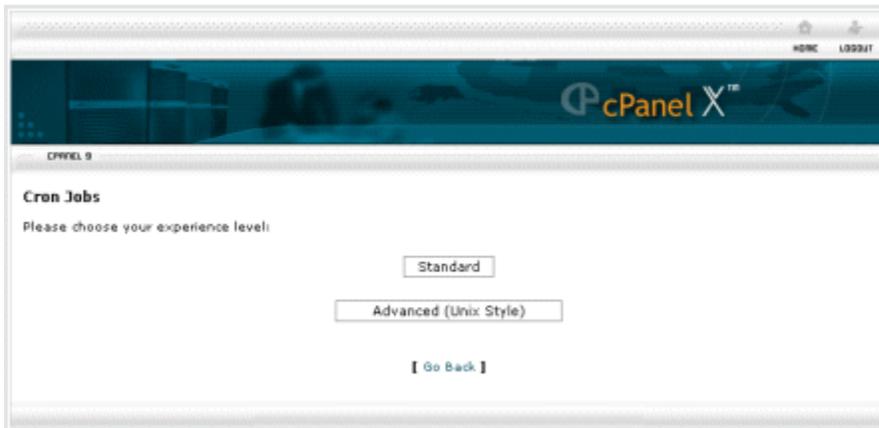
Standard

The standard version of creating a cron job is probable the easiest for most users. Once in this section a user has a vast selection of options to choose from and select. Don't get over whelmed as they are very easy to understand once a moment is taken to read over all of them.
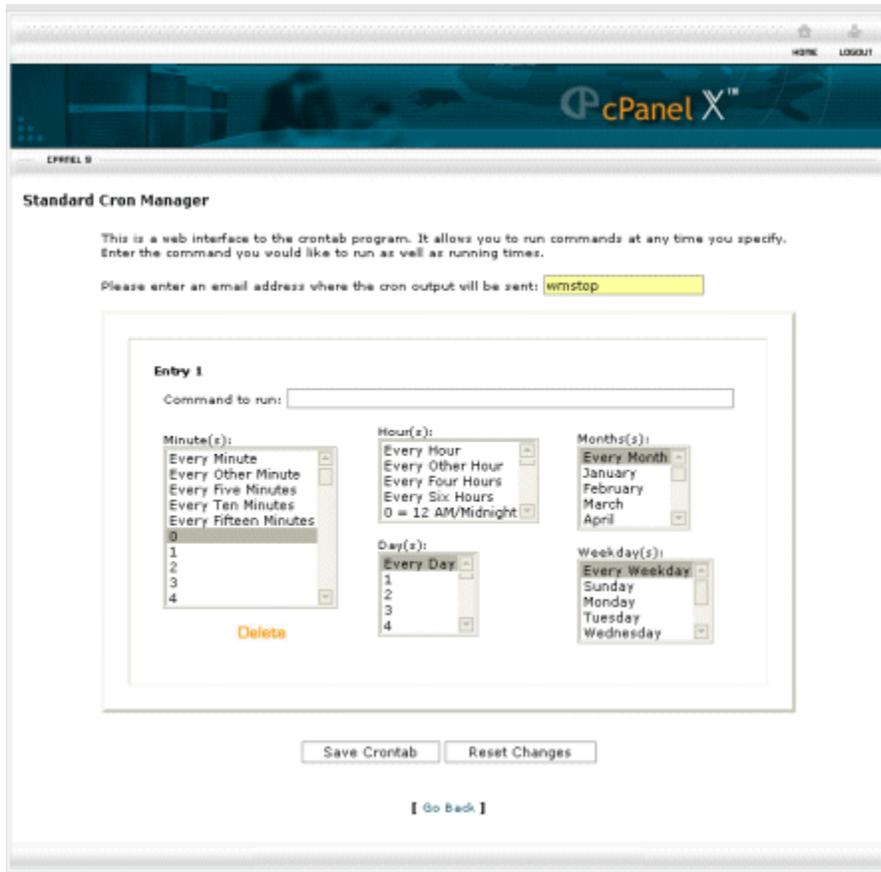
The first option a user will notice is a place for an email address. This will be where the results of the cron job are sent. So use the email address that is relevant for this sort of information.

The next section is for creating a cron job and has all the options needed to continue. The first section has a command line. This will be for the command that will be executed once the cron job activates. This can be any UNIX command, just remember to double check to make sure the command is correct.

A list of common UNIX commands can be found here:
http://www.webhostgear.com/35.html

In this case let's just use the "rm" command, which is used to delete files. We'll use this to clean out the temporary folder once a week.

So our command will look like this: *rm /home/username/tmp/**

Notice the asterisk at the end of the folder location. This is a wildcard, which is used for all files in that folder. So the command "rm" will delete all the files located in the "tmp" folder once a week.

Command to run: rm /home/username/tmp/*

Once the command that will be executed has been established and entered we now need to find out when to run the cron job and how often to run it. The next options are just for that, this can be a bit confusing. Before we continue the best way to decide which options to choose is to find out when the cron job will actually be executed. Does it need to be executed once a day, twice a day, once a week; month, year and so on.. Once that has been decided we can determine which one to actually use.

Let's say it needs to be run once a week and a certain time of day. We'll say every Monday at 2:00AM. Now that we have our time frame set we can move on to choose the options below.

The first window is for setting the minute(s). We don't run it executed on a minute time, so we'll leave this one on zero.

Minute(s):

Every Minute
Every Other Minute
Every Five Minutes
Every Ten Minutes
Every Fifteen Minutes
0
1
2
3
4
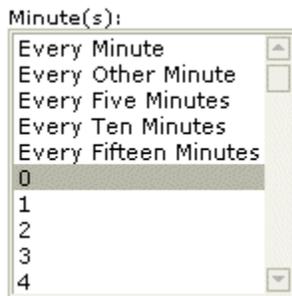
Moving to the right we have hour(s). Now we've decided to run this cron job at 2:00AM. So we'll scroll down until we find 2:00AM. Below this we have the day(s) that it should run. In this case we want it ran every 7 days, so we'll choose 7 from the list.

Hour(s):

0 = 12 AM/Midnight
1 = 1 AM
2 = 2 AM
3 = 3 AM
4 = 4 AM

Day(s):

7
8
9
10
11
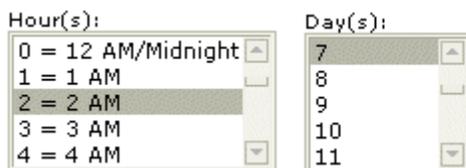
Now for the home stretch, we have the month(s) and weekday(s) to select from. Sense we've decided to run this cron job once a month, we'll use the default option for the month(s) section and that's set for "Every Month". Then we have weekday(s). Sense we want it ran on Monday, we'll select Monday from the list.

Now that we have all of our options and commands set we can now save the cron job. Simple click on "Save Crontab" and that's it. cPanel will then automatically create the cron job. Now when a user visits this section their new crontab will be present.

Advanced (UNIX Style)

The advanced style of adding Cron Jobs is very simple to read and understand as well. The only difference in the Standard version and the Advanced version is they layout of options. They both create and do the exact same thing.
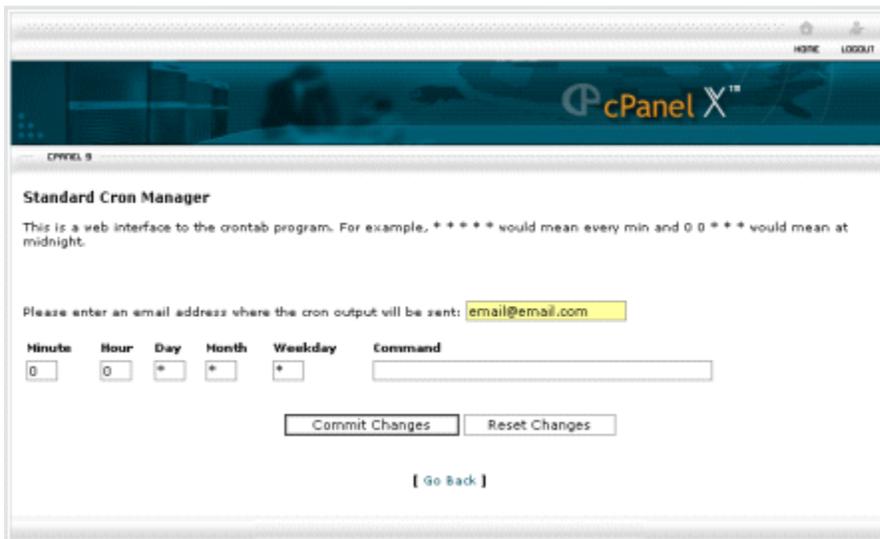
In the advanced style users must know what numbers to place in each box. This can become a bit hard to remember all the options; this is why the standard version was created. But for those die hard UNIX nuts, here is a cheat shit to refer to from time to time if needed.

Minute(s)	Value
Every Minute	*
Every Other Minute	*/2
Every Five Minutes	*/5
Every Ten Minutes	*/10
Every Fifteen	*/15

Hour(s)	Value
Every Hour	*
Every Other Hour	*/2
Every Four Hours	*/4
Every Six Hours	*/6
12AM/Midnight	0

Minutes	
0	0
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10
11	11
12	12
13	13
14	14
15	15
16	16
17	17
18	18
19	19
20	20
21	21
22	22
23	23
24	24
25	25
26	26
27	27
28	28
29	29
30	30
31	31
32	32
33	33
34	34
35	35
36	36
37	37
38	38
39	39
40	40
41	41
42	42

1AM	1
2AM	2
3AM	3
4AM	4
5AM	5
6AM	6
7AM	7
8AM	8
9AM	9
10AM	10
11AM	11
12PM/Noon	12
1PM	13
2PM	14
3PM	15
4PM	16
5PM	17
6PM	18
7PM	19
8PM	20
9PM	21
10PM	22
11PM	23

Day(s)	Value
Every Day	*
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	5
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10
11	11
12	12
13	13
14	14
15	15
16	16
17	17

43	43	18	18
44	44	19	19
45	45	20	20
46	46	21	21
47	47	22	22
48	48	23	23
49	49	24	24
50	50	25	25
51	51	26	26
52	52	27	27
53	53	28	28
54	54	29	29
55	55	30	30
56	56	31	30
57	57		
58	58		
59	59		

Remember that multiple values can be entered into the values; simply separate each with a comma.

Simple select the time frame in which the cron job should be executed, and once again the command that should be executed and click on commit changes. That's all that is needed, cPanel will do the rest.

Please enter an email address where the cron output will be sent: email@email.com

Minute	Hour	Day	Month	Weekday	Command
0	2	7	*	1	rm /home/username/tmp/*

Commit Changes   Reset Changes

Network Tools

The network tools section of cPanel is a great little addition that has a few simple tools that can be very useful at times. The two different options a user has are the ability to lookup information on a domain name and to do a trace route to the server from their computer. Each of these tools can be very useful in different circumstances, depending on how they are used.

Domain Lookup

The domain name lookup tool isn't what most people consider it to be at first. No it's not a WHOIS lookup utility. It's used to determine the IP address that a domain name resolves to along with other useful "Zone" information.

The "Zone" information for a domain name is basically the IP address for; sub domain names, FTP server, and name servers currently being used by the domain name. This information can be used to trouble shoot certain problems with a domain name or DNS servers.

Important: This system will not report the "Zone" information for a domain name not present on the account.

This tool is most popular for giving an IP address for anything typed in. Basically it will process the domain name, name server, or sub domains entered and return the IP address in which it resolves to. This can be useful for many different things, including finding out ISPs or hosting provides.

On the reverse side users can also input an IP address and it will determine what the IP address points to. In most cases this will point to the master domain name on the server or account. This is useful for determining who is hosting someone, as most provides set their users up on a "Shard" hosting package. Basically everyone shares the same IP address and each account is determined by the domain name assigned to it. In some instances this will display the hosts' provider, depending on how the system is setup. It's meant to determine the owner of the IP address.

Example

Let's take "webmasterstop.com" as an example here. We want to find out all the information possible about this domain name or site that we possible can. So the fist thing

we'll do is determine the IP address that the domain name resolves to. So we'll enter the domain name in the "Domain Lookup" tool right on the front page.

Domain Lookup

Enter a domain to lookup: webmasterstop.com   [Lookup]

Once the domain name has been processed we'll now have the IP address in which the domain name resolves to.

DNS Results:

```
webmasterstop.com has address 66.199.183.96
```

Now that we have the IP address we can go back and type the IP address into the "Domain Lookup" tool to see what information that will display.

DNS Results:

```
96.183.199.66.in-addr.arpa domain name pointer 96.183.199.66.prioritycolo.com.
```

As we can see the IP address resolved to "*96.183.199.66.prioritycolo.com*" which is the owner of the IP address currently assigned to us. Prioritycolo.com is where our server is currently housed. Some providers won't add their information to these types of results to keep this type of information private.
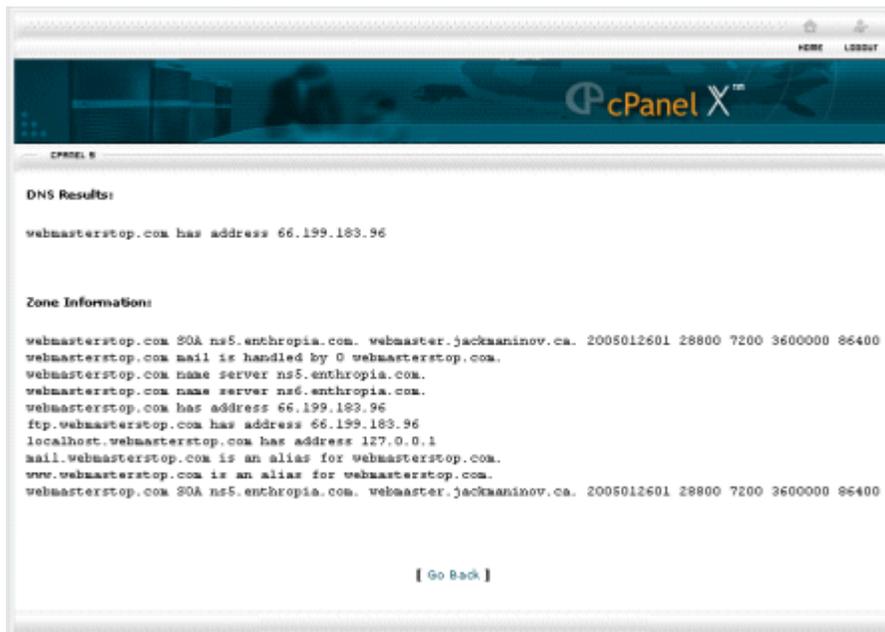
This tool can also be used to determine the IP address of name servers currently being used. Let's say that we wanted to find out the IP address for a hosts name servers. We'll

simply type in the name servers into the "Domain Lookup" tool and it will display the IP address that the name server resolved to. Once an IP address has been obtained, it can be used with most WHOIS servers to determine the owner or who it's assigned to by ICANN *(Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers).*

Trace Route

The trace route tool is used to trace the route that a user's computer takes to reach their site. This can be very useful for users that hare having slow response to their server, loosing email, or other un-explained occurrences. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to use the trace route script provided by cPanel as it wasn't active on our account. I will however still be able to explain it and use other screen shots that display the same information.

Traceroute: Traceroute is a utility that records the route or hops from your computer through the Internet to the destination computer.

A computer can anywhere from one hope up to more then 50 hops or routes to a destination computer. Users will travel through man providers (ISPs) to get to where they are going. This is what the Internet is made up of, a spider web of computers networked together. Each time a request is sent for a domain name or IP address, the information will travel through these different computers or networks to reach its destination. Each time it connects to another computer it is referred to as a "hop". Many ISPs will use trace routes to determine where the problem lies.

This can also be useful if a hosting provider is responding slow or not responding at all. Windows has a trace route utility already installed that can be used at any time.

Open Traceroute Utility

Start >> Run
Enter "cmd" and click Ok
Once the DOS prompt has opened type "tracert domain.com" and hit enter.

The tracert program will automatically run and start the trace route from the user's computer to the destination domain name or IP address.

Sample Output

Microsoft Windows XP [Version 5.1.2600]
(C) Copyright 1985-2001 Microsoft Corp.

C:\Documents and Settings\Mike>tracert webmasterstop.com

Tracing route to webmasterstop.com [66.199.183.96]
over a maximum of 30 hops:

  1   <1 ms   <1 ms   <1 ms 192.168.0.1
  2   10 ms   10 ms   9 ms 10.239.58.1

```
3    11 ms    10 ms    10 ms  c-66-56-66-65.atl.client2.attbi.com [66.56.66.65]
4    11 ms    11 ms    12 ms  12.118.120.89
5    13 ms    16 ms    12 ms  tbr1-p012201.attga.ip.att.net [12.123.21.138]
6    25 ms    26 ms    27 ms  tbr2-cl1.wswdc.ip.att.net [12.122.10.69]
7    33 ms    41 ms    33 ms  tbr2-cl1.n54ny.ip.att.net [12.122.10.53]
8    34 ms    39 ms    39 ms  gar1-p3101.nwrnj.ip.att.net [12.123.0.33]
9    31 ms    32 ms    32 ms  att-gige.esd1.nwr.nac.net [12.119.140.26]
10   36 ms    34 ms    32 ms  3.ge-3-0-0.gbr2.nwr.nac.net [209.123.11.189]
11   53 ms    49 ms    51 ms  0.pos-9-1.esd1.tor.nac.net [209.123.11.226]
12   51 ms    49 ms    51 ms  prioritycolo.customer.nac.net [207.99.1.186]
13   51 ms    50 ms    53 ms  vlan15-0.csr01.prioritycolo.com [204.11.48.246]
14   54 ms    56 ms    51 ms  96.183.199.66.prioritycolo.com [66.199.183.96]
```

Trace complete.

C:\Documents and Settings\Mike>

As we can see from the above, it took 14 hops or routes to get from my system to webmasterstop.com or the IP address 66.199.183.96. The first things we can understand and pick up are the routes that are taken from my ISP to Webmaster Stops' provider.

All the "ms" readings are how long it took the information to get from hop to hop. "ms" stands for milliseconds. There are 1,000 milliseconds in 1 second. So the lower the ms reading the faster.

Sample Bad Output

```
Microsoft Windows XP [Version 5.1.2600]
(C) Copyright 1985-2001 Microsoft Corp.

C:\Documents and Settings\Mike>tracert msn.com

Tracing route to msn.com [207.68.172.246]
over a maximum of 30 hops:

1    <1 ms    <1 ms    <1 ms  192.168.0.1
2    11 ms    11 ms     9 ms  10.239.58.1
3    20 ms    11 ms     9 ms  c-66-56-66-65.atl.client2.attbi.com [66.56.66.65]
4    13 ms    10 ms    13 ms  12.118.120.89
5    16 ms    11 ms    17 ms  tbr2-p013901.attga.ip.att.net [12.123.21.142]
6    35 ms    30 ms    28 ms  tbr1-cl1.dlstx.ip.att.net [12.122.2.89]
7    59 ms    58 ms    58 ms  tbr1-cl2.la2ca.ip.att.net [12.122.10.50]
8    77 ms    67 ms    70 ms  tbr2-cl3.sffca.ip.att.net [12.122.10.25]
9    81 ms    81 ms    92 ms  tbr1-cl1.st6wa.ip.att.net [12.122.12.114]
10   80 ms    80 ms    79 ms  12.122.80.41
11    *        *        *     Request timed out.
12    *        *        *     Request timed out.
13    *        *        *     Request timed out.
```

We used MSN for this example because they block ICMP and it will block our trace route and return a "Request timed out" error. When a user sees this or sees and asterisks in their results, that normally means there was a problem or a loss in packets. This is

normally what ISPs and providers are looking for, as 90% of the time it's the source of the problem.

MIME Types

MIME types or Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions, are used to tell the browser how to handle certain extensions. Most of these are already set on most servers for the extensions that are used most often. For instance text/html is set for htm html and shtml so when a browser loads these types of files it will know how to read or interpret them so that they are displayed properly.

Note: Regardless of the MIME types set to be opened, a browser can only open files that it supports. So be sure to provide 3rd part plug-ins or add-ons for the users browsers if most aren't supported.

MIME types are often used for new technologies and standards that haven't been implemented globally. This section will allow users to add their own MIME types so they can keep up if they'd like or when creating their own extensions.

Most MIME extensions are already set on the server, so be sure to check the list to make sure the MIME type that is being added isn't already there, as this will cost conflicts in adding it again. The pre-set MIME types can not be changed through this section, access to root on the server is needed to change the pre-set MIME types.

Content-Types

There are six main content types; audio, application, image, text, video, and x-world. These are all located in the */usr/share/mimelink/* folder on Red Hat installations. There are many more pre-installed MIME types on most servers, but in most cases half of them aren't in use.

Audio
The audio content types are used for executing audio formats; wav, au, and so on. They are also used for MPEG and RealAudio.

Application
Application content types are used for compressed formats such as; gzip, tar, and zip. They are also used for several document types such as PDF, Postscript and so on.

Image
These subtypes are used for different types of image formats such as; GIF, PNG, JPEG, PBM and so on.

Text
These subtypes are for text and also for HTML files.

Video
These subtypes are used for the common video formats available today, such as; MPEG, Quick Time, and AVI.

X-World
The x-world subtypes are used for VRML or 3D images.

Pre-Set MIME Types	
MIME Type(s)	**Extention(s)**
application/andrew-inset	ez
application/mac-binhex40	hqx
application/mac-compactpro	cpt
application/mathml+xml	mathml
application/octet-stream	bin dms lha lzh exe class so dll
application/oda	oda
application/ogg	ogg
application/pdf	pdf
application/postscript	ai eps ps
application/rdf+xml	rdf
application/smil	smi smil
application/srgs	gram
application/srgs+xml	grxml
application/vnd.mif	mif
application/vnd.mozilla.xul+xml	xul
application/vnd.ms-excel	xls
application/vnd.ms-powerpoint	ppt
application/vnd.wap.wbxml	wbxml
application/vnd.wap.wmlc	wmlc .wmlc
application/vnd.wap.wmlscriptc	wmlsc .wmlsc
application/voicexml+xml	vxml
application/x-bcpio	bcpio
application/x-cdlink	vcd
application/x-chess-pgn	pgn
application/x-cpio	cpio
application/x-csh	csh
application/x-director	dcr dir dxr
application/x-dvi	dvi
application/x-futuresplash	spl
application/x-gtar	gtar
application/x-hdf	hdf
application/x-httpd-php	.php .php4 .php3 .phtml

application/x-httpd-php-source	.phps
application/x-javascript	js
application/x-koan	skp skd skt skm
application/x-latex	latex
application/x-netcdf	nc cdf
application/x-pkcs7-crl	.crl
application/x-sh	sh
application/x-shar	shar
application/x-shockwave-flash	swf
application/x-stuffit	sit
application/x-sv4cpio	sv4cpio
application/x-sv4crc	sv4crc
application/x-tar	tar .tgz
application/x-tcl	tcl
application/x-tex	tex
application/x-texinfo	texinfo texi
application/x-troff	t tr roff
application/x-troff-man	man
application/x-troff-me	me
application/x-troff-ms	ms
application/x-ustar	ustar
application/x-wais-source	src
application/x-x509-ca-cert	.crt
application/xhtml+xml	xhtml xht
application/xml	xml xsl
application/xml-dtd	dtd
application/xslt+xml	xslt
application/zip	zip
audio/basic	au snd
audio/midi	mid midi kar
audio/mpeg	mpga mp2 mp3
audio/x-aiff	aif aiff aifc
audio/x-mpegurl	m3u
audio/x-pn-realaudio	ram rm
audio/x-pn-realaudio-plugin	rpm
audio/x-realaudio	ra
audio/x-wav	wav
chemical/x-pdb	pdb
chemical/x-xyz	xyz
image/bmp	bmp
image/cgm	cgm
image/gif	gif
image/ief	ief
image/jpeg	jpeg jpg jpe

image/png	png
image/svg+xml	svg
image/tiff	tiff tif
image/vnd.djvu	djvu djv
image/vnd.wap.wbmp	wbmp .wbmp
image/x-cmu-raster	ras
image/x-icon	ico
image/x-portable-anymap	pnm
image/x-portable-bitmap	pbm
image/x-portable-graymap	pgm
image/x-portable-pixmap	ppm
image/x-rgb	rgb
image/x-xbitmap	xbm
image/x-xpixmap	xpm
image/x-xwindowdump	xwd
model/iges	igs iges
model/mesh	msh mesh silo
model/vrml	wrl vrml
text/calendar	ics ifb
text/css	css
text/html	html htm .shtml
text/plain	asc txt
text/richtext	rtx
text/rtf	rtf
text/sgml	sgml sgm
text/tab-separated-values	tsv
text/vnd.wap.wml	wml .wml
text/vnd.wap.wmlscript	wmls .wmls
text/x-setext	etx
video/mpeg	mpeg mpg mpe
video/quicktime	qt mov
video/vnd.mpegurl	mxu
video/x-msvideo	avi
video/x-sgi-movie	movie
x-conference/x-cooltalk	ice

Adding a MIME Type

Adding a MIME type is very simple. Once in the MIME type section, simple enter in the MIME type that is being added and its extension(s) and click on add. Users can only edit or delete MIME types that are added by them, so keep this in mind. Once again, double check to make sure the MIME type being added isn't already in the list, as this will cause conflicts between the two, even if it's to the same extension.

To delete a MIME type, simple select it from the drop down list and then click on "Delete". This will remove it permanently from the user's account.

A complete list of MIME types and their extensions can be found here: http://www.webmaster-toolkit.com/mime-types.shtml

Apache Handlers

Apache is a great open source HTTP software set that most UNIX and some Windows servers utilize to run display web pages. Apache Handlers are basically the same thing as MIME Types except they aren't telling the browser how to handle a file, they are telling the server how to handle them.

An Apache "handler" is an internal representation of the action to be performed when a file is called. Most files have specific handlers, which is based on file type. In most cases all files are served by the server, but in some cases file types are handled separately.

Handlers can be built into a server or they can be included in a module, or they can be added with an Action directive. The build-in handlers which are standard in most servers are:

defualt-handler – This will send the file with the "default_handler(), which is the default handler for static content.

send-as-is – Send the file with HTTP headers and as is.

cgi-script – This will teat the file as a CGI script.

imap-file – This is used to parse as an imagemap rule file.

server-info – This will retrieve the server's configuration information.

server-parsed – This is used to parse for server-side includes.

More information on SSI can be found here: http://www.webmasterstop.com/60.html

server-status – This will retrieve the server's status report.

type-map – This will parse files as a type map file for content negotiation.
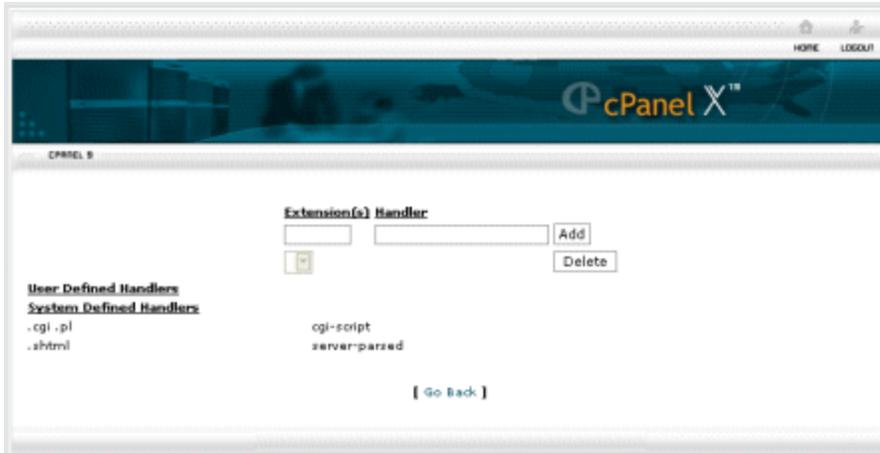
On most systems there are system defined rules already in place. The rules that are already in place on our server are:

.cgi .pl – Treat as cgi-script.
.shtml – Parse server side.

Basically all this is stating is that "cgi and pl" scripts will be treated as cgi-scripts and "shtml" files will be parsed server side.

We can add our own if we like, simple input the extension and the handler that will correspond with it. User can no edit system defined handlers, they are only allowed to add and delete ones they've added themselves.

Let's say we wanted to use "script" instead of "shtml" for all of our SSI files. We could use an Apache Handler for this. We'd simple enter in the extension we would like to use, which in this case will be "script" and then enter the handler for "shtml" or SSI files: server-prased.

Now we can load any ".shtml" file as a ".script" file. This is useful for webmasters that like to totally customize every aspect of their site. This will also be useful for users that do not want their visitors to know what type of programming language they are using.

Note: This will only work with server side scripting. Dynamic programming languages such as PHP will have to be setup as a MIME Type in order for this to work the same way, as it's parsed when a user loads it and not server side.

Important: Check with your ISP or web hosting provider to be sure the handlers that you'd adding won't hinder the functionality of your site. Inputting incorrect handlers or file extensions can cause a site to stop functioning correctly.

Delete Apache Handlers

Remember that system defined handlers can not be deleted by the end user. The system administrator will need to perform this task, which in most cases doesn't need to happen.

Deleting Apache Handlers are very easy. Simple select the user defined extension and then click on delete.

Manage OpenPGP Keys

OpenPGP is a tool used for secure online communication, it's a non-proprietary protocol used to encrypt email using public key cryptography. OpenPGP is based on PGP which was originally developed by Phil Zimmermann. cPanel utilizes GnuPG (Gnu Privacy Guard) for its public-key cryptography.

Traditional methods of in encryption only use one key. Basically a user would encrypt a message using this one key and in order for the receiving party to be able to read the message, the key used to encrypt the message had to be given to them in a way that no one else could obtain it. This method wasn't very un-reliable because if the key was released, anyone that had it could open any message encrypted with it.

Using so called Public Keys can solve this issue. This method works because it utilizes two keys instead of one. The first is a "Public Key" which can be spread through all sorts of media and can be obtained by anyone. The other type of key is a "Private Key". Which works how the name implies, it's private and can not be spread. Now a sender can encrypt a message using the receivers "Public Key" and the receiver can decrypt the message using their private key.

Currently there is very little support for Windows users that would like to use GnuPG. There are plenty of programs out there today that will do a very similar thing as the GnuPG program on UNIX will.

For more information and instructions on using GnuPG in UNIX, please visit:
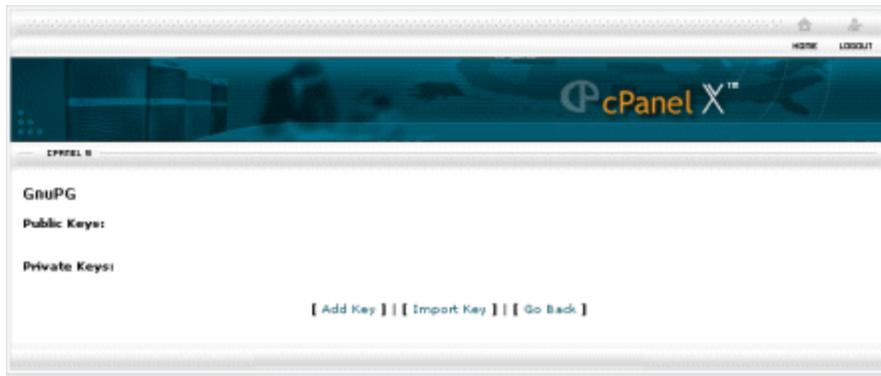
Adding a Key

Adding or setting up a new key is very simple. Simple go to the OpenPGP Keys section of cPanel and locate the "Add Key" link at the bottom of the page. Once a user has clicked this link, a new window will appear with a few simple boxes to fill in.

Your Name: This will be the user's name or the name of the person using the key.

Your Email: This will be the user's Email or the Email of the person using the key.

Comment/NickName: Anything can go here, this is used to mark the key, so it's easier to locate.

Key Password (blank for none): This will be the password for the key, if no password is required or desired, leave this section blank.

Expire Date: This will be the expiration date of the key, or when it will no longer be usable.

The expiration date can be anything from one year to one day.

y – Yeah
w – Week

d – Day

So if we wanted the key to expire in one year, we'd use 1y in this Expire Date box.

Key Size: This will be the size of the key generated. 1024 bytes is the most common size to choose, but there are two other sizes to pick from. The large the key size, the more secure it will be.

Once all this information has been entered in correctly, simply hit "Generate Key". This process normally takes a minute. A successful status will appear if the key was generated correctly.

Now that we have a key generated successfully, we can go back to the main page and the new key will be located there. From this section we have a little bit of information about the key, and options to delete or edit the key.

Sample

1024D/9AA7E02F 2005-02-19 Mike Bowden (Mike) <mike@webmasterstop.com>

Above is a sample of a GnuPG key.

1024D/9AA7E02F – This is the file size of the PGP key and the ID for the key.

2005-02-19 – This is the date the key was created on.

Mike Bowden –The name associated with the key.

(Mike) – The comment or nick name associated with the key.

<mike@webmasterstop.com> - The email address the key is assigned to.

In this section we have a "Public Key" and a "Private Key". Remember to never give your Private Key away, only the Public Key.

If we click on "Edit" we can get the actual key output. This is what most programs will use to encrypt and decrypt messages.

Importing Keys

Importing keys are as simple as creating new keys. Simple go to the OpenPGP Management section of cPanel and select "Import" from the links located at the bottom of the main page.
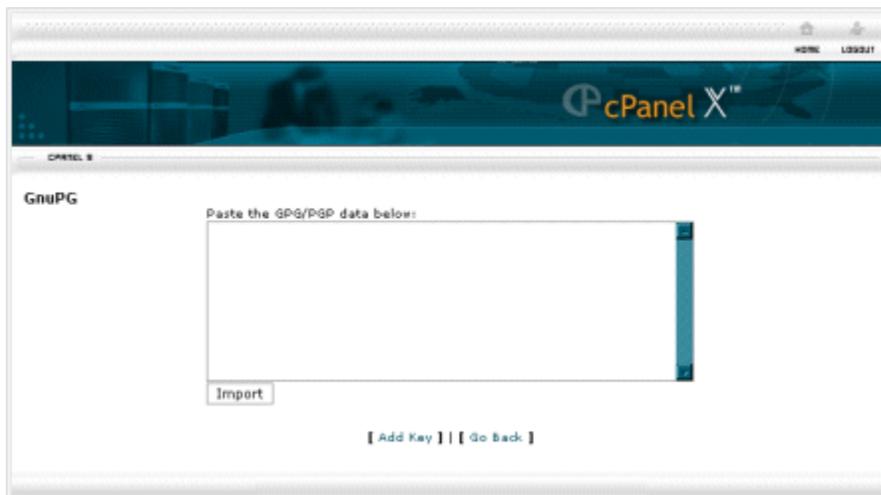
Once there simply past the GPG/PGP key into the available box, and click on "Import" and that's it. Once a key has been added, it will become visible on the main page of the OpenPGP Management section of cPanel. From here it can be edited or deleted.

Deleting Keys

Deleting GnuPG keys is very simple, but has to be done in a certain order for it to be deleted correctly the first time.

Simple locate the key needing to be deleted, and then find the Private counter part and remove it first. If the Private Key isn't removed, the Public Key cannot be removed. So remember to remove the Private Key first, then the Public Key.

Once the delete button has been click, the user will be brought to a confirmation page where they are asked if they are sure they'd like to remove the key. Simple click on "Yes" and the key will be deleted.

Are you sure you wish to delete this key?

Yes | No

A confirmation saying the key was removed successful will let the user know it was removed with no problems. Now that the Private Key has been removed, simple go back and find the Public Key that corresponded to the Private Key and remove it. Now that the Private Key is gone, the Public Key will delete with no problem.

Public Key 9AA7E02F has been deleted

[Add Key] | [Go Back]

Hotlink Protection

Hot linking is probable one of the most popular ways for users to steal bandwidth and copyrighted material from other webmasters. Basically anything that someone links to, that resides on another user's web hosting account is considered hot linking. Users also call it Leeching. This can be anything from images to files.

Most users do not understand that if something is posted on the Internet, weather it's legally copyrighted or not, it's considered covered. This means if I were to post an image on this site, something I created, and someone else linked to it from their site, it would be in violation and I could seek legal action if I choose to. This is considered hot linking and there are ways to protect a site and file from it happening.

Hot linking is a large bandwidth consumer also. Many users do not realize how bandwidth really works. So here is a simple run down of how it works.

Bandwidth Example

Let's say we have an image that is 1MB is file size. Let's also say that the site it's hosted on receives somewhere around 100 hits a day, and each hit downloads this 1MB file.

1MB X 100 Hits = 100MB

So the site would consume 100MB a day in bandwidth. That's 3,000MB or around 3Gigs a month in bandwidth.

Now let's say that another site is linking to the same image and they also receive around 100 hits a day, and each one of those hits downloads the 1MB file.

So now we have two sites downloading the same file and at the same amount of times. This would mean we would take our total bandwidth consumption for the day and times it by two.

100MB a day X 100MB a day = 200MB a day

So now we have 200MB being used a day and only 100MB is actually being used by the account. So that would double the total monthly bandwidth. Now the site isn't using 3Gigs a month, it's using 6Gigs. There is a large difference in bandwidth and the account owner has to pay for the other site using their resources.

Consider this as being a small example. Most sites have more images or files and there will normally be more then just one site linking to them. A good way to figure out who's linking to your images and files is to dig through the web stats. Web statistics can return a lot of good information about a site and how users utilize it.

cPanel has done a very good job a setting up a nice little system that will help prevent other sites and users from linking to images, files, or pretty much anything that doesn't need to be linked to from another place other then the main site. The system works with mod_rewrite, so check with your hosting provider to be sure that this is available.

Note: If mod_rewrite isn't available then this option in cPanel cannot be used.

Settings

There are a few settings that a user can set before setting up hotlink protection through cPanel. The first thing a user will see is weather or not hotlink protection is active or inactive.

Hotlink protection is currently enabled

HotLink protection prevents other websites from directly linking to files (as specified below) on your website. Other sites will still be able to link to any file type that you don't specify below (ie. html files). An example of hotlinking would be using a <img> tag to display an image from your site from somewhere else on the net. The end result is that the other site is stealing your bandwidth. You should ensure that all sites that you wish to allow direct links from are in the list below. This system attempts add all sites it knows you own to the list, however you may need to add others.

Enable Hotlink Protection:

Urls to Allow Access:

```
http://webmasterstop.com
http://www.webmasterstop.com
```

Extensions to allow (separate by commas): `]+jpg,jpeg,gif,png,bmp`

Url to Redirect to: `/index.php?art/id:$1,offset:$2/index.php?ar`

☐ Allow direct requests (ie. entering the url to an image in your browser)

[Activate]

Disable HotLink Protection:

[Disable]

[Go Back]

Next there is a box to type in URLs to allow access to this account. This is for allow certain sites access and also sub-domains within the account. There are a few things to keep in mind when setting up access URLs. First thing to consider is who will need access. Make a small list of what URLs will need access to this account. Add to that list the same URLs but without the www in front of them. Yes there is a difference in the two URLs and if one is present and the other isn't, then only the present URL will have access to the account.

Urls to Allow Access:

http://webmasterstop.com
http://www.webmasterstop.com

Now we have a section that we can determine what is allowed to be linked to. This is for users that use their account to host images they post in forums or on other sites. If those image extensions are not present here, when the images are loaded on other sites it will automatically forward users to the defined URL. So be sure to decide what extensions to allow.

Extensions to allow (seperate by commas): jpg,jpeg,gif,png,bmp

Next we have the URL to redirect users to when they've accessed a file that is protected by the Hotlink Protection script. This can be anything from a webpage to an image, anything can be used here.

Url to Redirect to: http://www.webmasterstop.com/hotlink/

Next in line we have the option to allow direct requests. This is for if a user types in the full location of a file or image in their URL bar, it will display the image correctly and not redirect them.

Example: http://www.domain.com/folder/file.zip

If we had the extension "zip" in the allow list and we also had the option for direct request selected, a user would be able to download this file with no problem. If the extension is present in the allow list, but the direct request option is not set, then it would redirect the user to the redirect URL.

☑ Allow direct requests (ie. entering the url to an image in your browser)

Once we've set all our settings and input everything correctly, we can click Activate. This will create mod_rewrite rules in the .htaccess file located in the root directory of the account. Do not worry as this will not overwrite the file, it will simply add the appropriate information to the bottom of the file.

```
Activate
```

Once activated, a confirmation of what was activated and the information input will be displayed.

HotLink Protection Enabled!

Allowed Referrers:

```
http://webmasterstop.com
http://www.webmasterstop.com
```

Protected Extensions: jpg,jpeg,gif,png,bmp

Deactivate

Simple select Deactivate and it will remove all the entries to the .htaccess file. This will not harm the file if a user has a custom .htaccess file setup, it will simply remove what it added before. So do not worry about that, it can turned off, turned on, and edited as many times as a user would like.

```
Disable
```

Index Manager

The index manager is a great tool for most users that have directories and directories of just plain files, images, or documents. Most users do not want to spend the time to create index files to link all the images, files or documents together and correctly so they can be displayed and served to their users. If there isn't an index setup for a directory, most of the time the server will auto-create a page for users to view. Some browsers do not support this and the page will not display correctly or if at all.

This is where the index manager comes into play. This will allow users to define how directories are handled on their account. They can set directories up to display in four different manners.

Default System Settings – This will use system defined settings to determine how directories are displayed to users accessing them.

No Indexes – This will set the system to not use an index at all and in most cases will return a forbidden error to users trying to access them.

Standard Indexing (text only) – This will use the standard format of indexing and will not display any images at all. This is great for directories with a large amount of files within them and they need to load quickly and not use to many system resources.

Fancy Indexing (graphics) – This will use graphics and format everything so it looks nicely. This is normally the system default for most users.

Any of these settings will work with most browsers with the exception of the "Default System Settings". Not all servers and accounts are setup and configured the same, so there could be something that could cause this option to not work with some browsers or users.

Note: Be sure to check the permissions on each folder before setting up these settings. If it isn't set correctly, nothing can access them. So be sure to check the permissions and CHMOD to the correct setting. In most cases 755 will work just fine.

<u>Setting the Index Settings</u>

Setting up each folder is a very simple process and doesn't take any time at all. Browsing through each folder and into sub-folders can be a bit tricky, so be sure to pay attention to each step correctly.
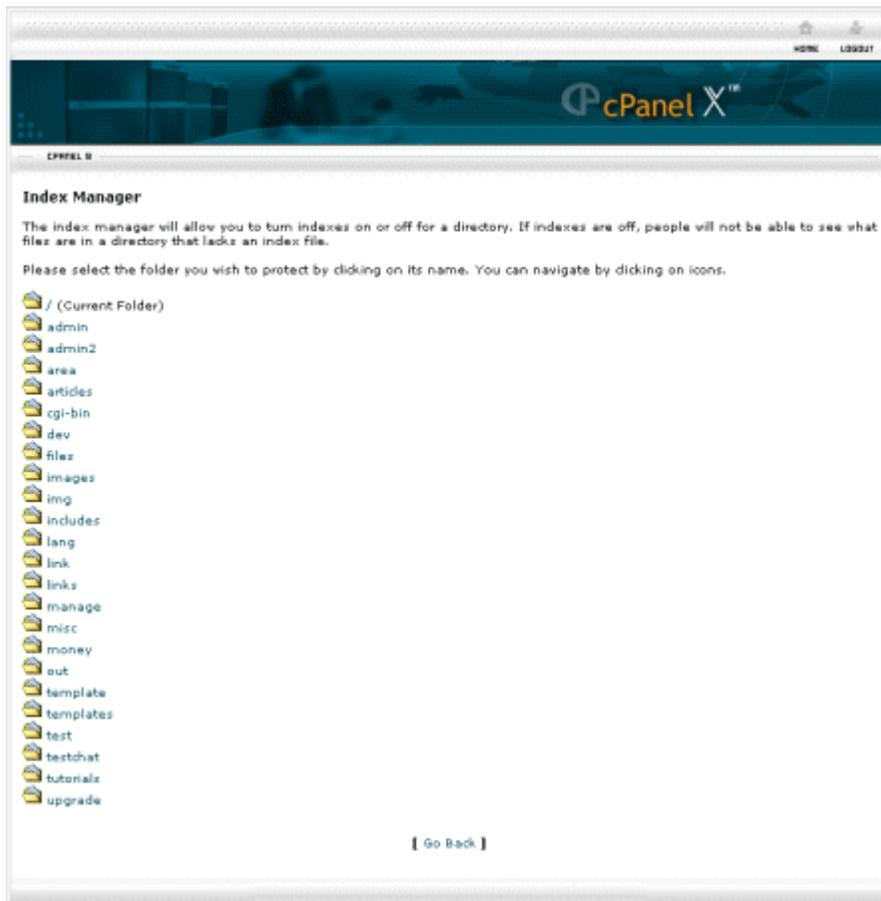
Folders that contain index files do not need any settings placed on them. This can cause problems with existing index files if you're not careful when setting these up.

The first thing we'll need to do is decide which folder we'd like to apply these settings to. If it's a main folder located in the root directory, simply click on the folder that you'd like to set these settings for.

Another page will load with the options we discussed above. Simply choose the option that best fits what you'd like to use and click on save.

If a sub-directory is wanted, simple click on the directory it's in and disregard the settings and locate the link at the bottom of the page that says "Back To /home/username/public_html/folder/". Simply click on this link and it will display a directory listing for that folder. Then the folder that is needed can be selected if it's located within this folder.

Back to /home/wmstop/public_html/admin

Removing Settings

Removing the settings is pretty much the same as setting them up. Simply click on the folder that needs the settings removed and select "Default System Setting". This will set everything back to the default system setting, or back to what it was before setting it before.

IP Deny Manager

The IP Deny Manger is a great little program that's included into cPanel. It can cause big problems for those users that get their IP block, because just as the name implies, it will block an IP address completely from access a site. So please be aware and absolutely positive on who will be getting blocked before adding them.

The IP block tool can be used for any IP address and even domain names. It's a great way to combat existing lechers linking to a sites files or images. The system is designed to

automatically detect the IP address of a domain name, so simply entering the domain name in the IP field will block that site from using anything within the one blocking it. This will instantly stop users from downloading anything from the site linking to the other site blocking it.

How to Find Lechers

Lechers can become a big problem for many sites and can eat up valuable resources and money. There are a few ways to find them and stop them in their tracks, one being the great hotlink protection tool that comes with cPanel.

More information about this tool can be found here:
http://www.webmasterstop.com/107.html

Another good way to combat lechers is to study the log files for the site in question. These can return a great deal of information pertaining to a site and the traffic to a site. Awstats has a great referral feature built in, that is great for this sort of stuff.

More information on Awstats can be found here: http://www.webmasterstop.com/47.html

Awstats can be found in the Web/FTP Stats section of cPanel. Once there Awstats is normally one of the first links located on the page. If Awstats isn't present, contact your provider about this. Normally they can turn this feature on within minutes.

Web / Ftp Statistics

In this area you can view statistics about your website. Please be aware that only latest visitors is a live feed. All of the statistical reports are updated every **6** hours. All of the bandwidth information is updated every **1** hours. If you wish to compare data from each statistics program you should only compare data that is at least **9** hours old to ensure that it has been updated and is providing the correct information. Please note these times are estimates, and are subject to change based on the amount of traffic on the server.

» **Awstats**
  Awstats produces very pretty stats.

» **Subdomain Stats**
  This will show statistics for the subdomains on your account.

» **Latest Visitors**
  This will show you the last 300 visitors who came to your site and some interesting information about them.

» **Bandwidth**
  This will show how many bytes your account has transferred.

» **Error Log**
  This will show errors in your site, images not loading, missing files, etc. This is very useful for debugging CGI scripts.

Once Awstats loads, locate the "Referring Sites" link located under the "Referrers" category. This will bring up the "Links from external pages" section of Awstats. This is a very useful section as it will show what external sites are linking to the site in question. Any links from external pages will be located here from the month.

Links from an external page (other web sites except search engines)				
Total: 935 different pages-url	Pages	Percent	Hits	Percent
http://www.webscriptsdirectory.com	73	1.3 %	73	1 %
http://www.php.ee/foorum/index.php?post=24943	49	0.8 %	49	0.6 %
http://login90.filthserver.com	45	0.8 %	45	0.6 %
http://www.sitepoint.com/blog-post-view.php?id=223760	43	0.7 %	43	0.5 %
http://login96.filthserver.com	42	0.7 %	42	0.5 %
http://login28.filthserver.com	41	0.7 %	41	0.5 %
http://www.myname16.home.ro	41	0.7 %	41	0.5 %
http://login5.filthserver.com	41	0.7 %	41	0.5 %
http://login64.filthserver.com	40	0.7 %	40	0.5 %
http://login2.filthserver.com	40	0.7 %	40	0.5 %
http://login73.filthserver.com	40	0.7 %	40	0.5 %
http://www.asp.org.il/url/\xe4\xee\xf8\xfa-\xf0\xfa\xe5\xf0\xe9\...	40	0.7 %	40	0.5 %
http://login45.filthserver.com	39	0.7 %	39	0.5 %
http://login47.filthserver.com	39	0.7 %	39	0.5 %
http://login10.filthserver.com	38	0.6 %	38	0.5 %
http://login58.filthserver.com	38	0.6 %	38	0.5 %
http://www.myname17.home.ro	38	0.6 %	38	0.5 %
http://login23.filthserver.com	37	0.6 %	37	0.5 %
http://www.myname7.home.ro	37	0.6 %	37	0.5 %
http://login32.filthserver.com	37	0.6 %	37	0.5 %
http://login99.filthserver.com	37	0.6 %	37	0.5 %
http://login50.filthserver.com	37	0.6 %	37	0.5 %
http://login44.filthserver.com	37	0.6 %	37	0.5 %
http://login13.filthserver.com	37	0.6 %	37	0.5 %
http://login35.filthserver.com	37	0.6 %	37	0.5 %
http://www.myname12.home.ro	37	0.6 %	37	0.5 %
http://www.myname13.home.ro	37	0.6 %	37	0.5 %
http://login72.filthserver.com	36	0.6 %	36	0.4 %
http://login61.filthserver.com	36	0.6 %	36	0.4 %
http://login66.filthserver.com	36	0.6 %	36	0.4 %
http://login56.filthserver.com	36	0.6 %	36	0.4 %
http://login63.filthserver.com	36	0.6 %	36	0.4 %

Simply locate sites that would link to files or images on your account and click on the referral link. This will bring up the page containing the link to the site in question, from where a user would be able to tell if the site is linking directly to a file or image, or just to the site in general. If a general link is present and no files are being directly linked to, then the site can be pushed aside and the next site on the list can be checked.

Another useful section is the "Pages-URL" section of Awstats. If files or images are being directly linked to and are producing a lot of traffic, they will show up in this section. This is located under the "Navigation" menu it's called "Viewed". In this section users will be able to gain a lot of useful information on which files are being linked to the most and how much they are being accessed. There is an "Entry" and "Exit" section within this section that displays that amount of direct hits or entries to the file and the exit amount which is how many left from that file or page.

These two sections in Awstats are very useful and can help tremendously in figuring out which sites are leching files or images from your account. Once the sites have been determined and a list made, we can move forward and block them.

Adding an IP or Site to the Block List

Now that we've determined which IP addresses and sites we'd like to block from having access to our site, we'll then move forward and add them to the list. This is very simple and doesn't require much effort at all.
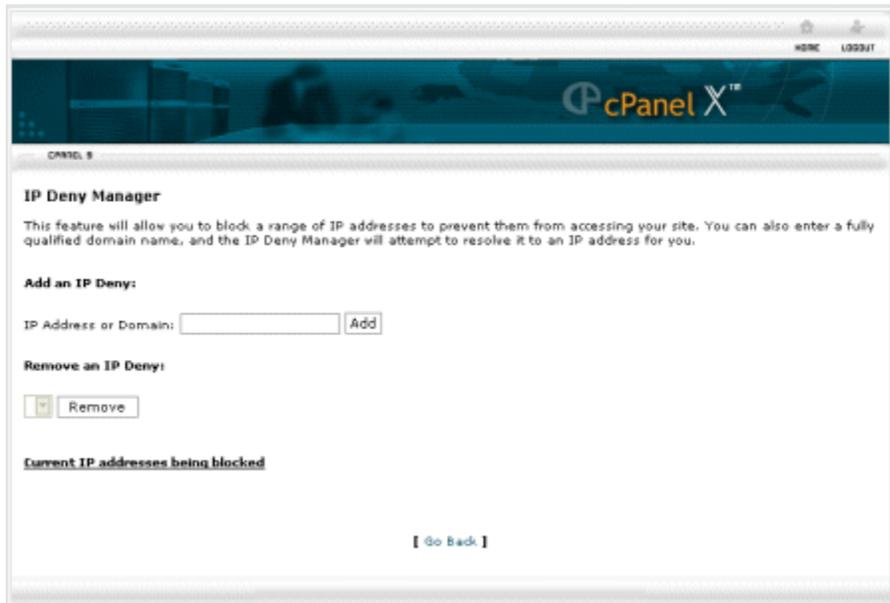
To add an IP address simply type in the IP address that is being blocked and click on Add. Domain names work in the same manner. Just enter the domain name in the box that needs to be blocked and the system will determine the IP address automatically and add it to the block list.

IP Address or Domain: [   ] [Add]

Once we've added an IP address or domain name, a confirmation will be displayed if it was added successfully and the IP address will be visible under the "Current IP address being blocked" section of this page.

Current IP addresses being blocked

Removing Blocked IP Address

Removing blocked IP addresses are also very simple to do. Simple select the IP address to be removed from the drop down box, and click on the Remove button. After that a confirmation will be displayed saying that it was removed successfully. After this the IP address will be removed automatically and the user or domain name can access the site once again.

[▼] [Remove]

Important: Remember to be careful what IP addresses are added to this list. If you add your own IP address you will block yourself and will not be able to access your site or control panel. Your provider would need to remove your IP address manually for you to gain access once again. So please be careful when using this tool and be sure to double check the IP address or domain name being blocked.

Fantastico

Fantastico is just how the name implies it's fantastic. It's one of the more popular 3rd party add-ons that can be purchased and added to cPanel. Fantastico is probable one of the most advanced script installer we've ever seen. Currently it can install a large amount and array of scripts, ranging from bulletin boards to content management systems.
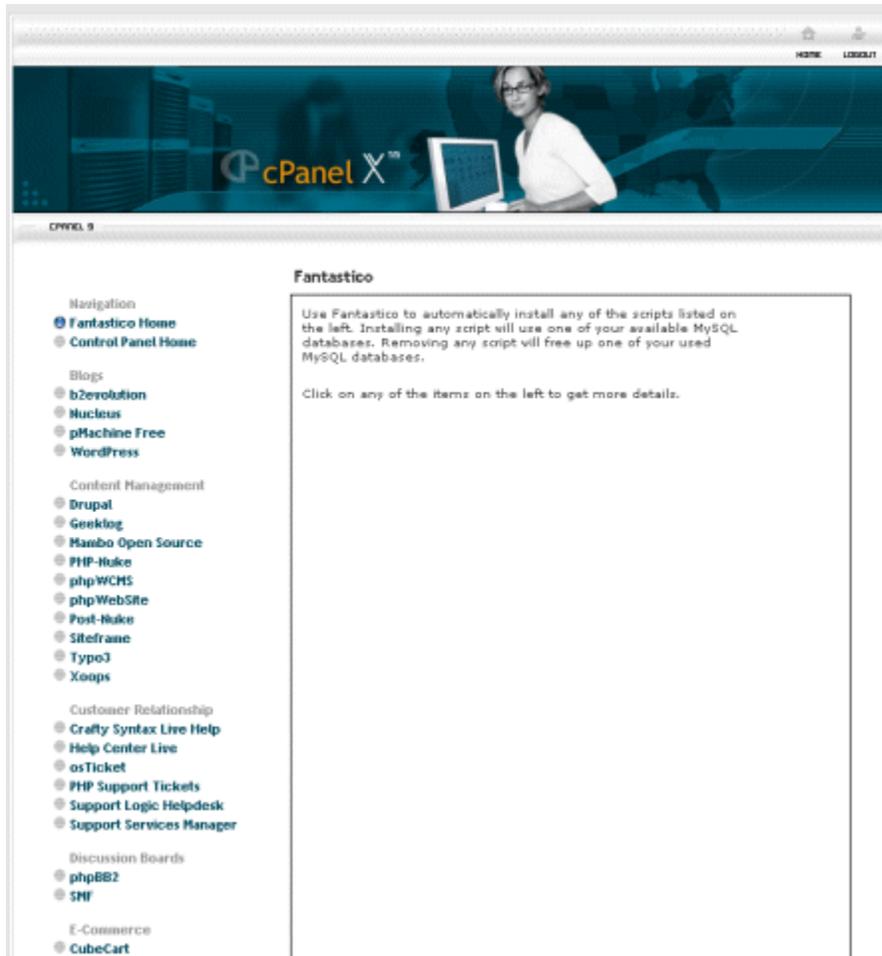
One of the key features to Fantastico is how easy it makes installing programs and scripts. Simply by selecting a program or script to install and offering a small amount of information for each, a user can have a program or script installed within a matter of minutes and sense the system is designed to update these programs with the newest version on a regular basis, users can be assured they are getting the latest stable version of the software and that it's installed correctly and properly.

There are a few options users can change and use for the actual program. These can be found at the bottom of the page under Extras.

Language – This option is used to change the default language set by the administrator of the server.

Current Languages Support
Dutch
English
French
Indonesian
Italian

Polish
Portuguese
Spanish

Side Menu Appearance – This option can be used the change the side menu appearance.

Full List – The full list option is normally set as the default and is used to list all the programs that can be installed and used in one long list categorized by the type of program each are.

Drop down menus – The drop down menu option is used to list the three main categories, Navigation, Scripts and Extras. This will display each main category as a drop down menu users can select from and then select go. This is useful for users with a slower connection and do not want to load a large amount of information at once.

Email Notification – Users can submit their email address in this section and the system will email them when a new script or program has been installed, modified, or even updated. If it's been updated it will inform the user so they can login to the system and update the scripts that are currently installed to the newest versions.

Installations Overview – This section will display the current scripts or programs that are installed, there location and version number.

Navigation – This menu has two links, one for the cPanel home page for that account and one for the Fantastico home page for that account. These are normally located at the top of the page.

The next few categories are those for the scripts. Each one of these scripts do different things and function in different ways. We'll go down the line starting with the first and give the description given in Fantastico about the program.

Blogs

b2evolution - A blog script featuring multiple blogs, categories/sub-categories, skins, search function, multiple languages, search engines friendly URLs.
Homepage: http://www.b2evolution.net/

Nucleus - A powerful blog script featuring multiple blogs, multiple authors, drafts and future posts, bookmarklets.
Homepage: http://www.nucleuscms.org/

pMachine Free - This is a features limited version of pMachinePro.
Homepage: http://www.pmachine.com/

WordPress - WordPress is a personal publishing tool with focus on aesthetics and featuring cross-blog tool, password protected posts, importing, typographical niceties, multiple authors, and bookmarklets.
Homepage: http://www.wordpress.org/

Content Management

Drupal - An advanced portal with collaborative book, search engines friendly URLs, online help, roles, full content search, site watching, threaded comments, version control, blogging, news aggregator.
Homepage: http://www.drupal.org/

Geeklog - A portal system with a wide range of modules.
Homepage: http://www.geeklog.net/

Mambo Open Source - A professional level yet easy to use Content Management System featuring inline WYSIWYG content editors, newsfeeds, syndicated news, banners, mailing users, links manager, statistics, content archiving, and date based content, 20 languages, modules and components.
Homepage: http://www.mamboserver.com/

PHP-Nuke - One of the most popular community-based portals with a big choice of modules and languages.
Homepage: http://www.phpnuke.org/

phpWCMS - phpWCMS is perfect for professional, public and private users. It is very easy to learn and gives you the flexibility to separate layout and content. Lots of powerful but simple implemented features assists publishers and web developers too.
Homepage: http://www.phpwcms.de/

phpWebSite - Very powerful Content Management System with document manager, announcements, menu manager, photo album, block maker, FAQ, web pages maker, polls, information categorizer, calendar, link manager, form generator.
Homepage: http://phpwebsite.appstate.edu/

Post-Nuke - A Content Management System with focus on flexibility and security. A big variety of modules and blocks makes this CMS an all around tool.
Homepage: http://www.postnuke.com/

Siteframe - A straightforward content-management system designed for rapid deployment of community-based websites. Nice-looking templates, oriented toward document-sharing, clean interface.
Homepage: http://www.siteframe.org/

Typo3 - TYPO3 is a free Open Source content management system for enterprise purposes on the web and in intranets. It offers full flexibility and extendibility while featuring an accomplished set of ready-made interfaces, functions and modules.
Homepage: http://www.typo3.com/

Xoops - A very popular advanced portal system.
Homepage: http://www.xoops.org/

Customer Relationship

Crafty Syntax Live Help - A Live Help chat system featuring monitor your visitors, proactively open a chat session, multiple chat sessions, referrer tracking, page view tracking, multiple operators, canned responses/images/URLs, multiple departments each with different icons, leave a message.
Homepage: http://www.cslh.com/

Help Center Live - Very powerful all-in-one help center including Live Help, Support Tickets and FAQ. Features include unlimited operators/departments, monitor visitors, initiate chat, collect visitor's information, track visitor's footprint, autosave chat transcripts, canned messages, and leave a message, auto-assign tickets to operators, unlimited FAQ topics.
Homepage: http://www.helpcenterlive.com/

osTicket - A Support Tickets system featuring email piping, pop3 login, unlimited email addresses, admin/staff/user panels, avoid auto responder loops, limit maximum tickets user can have opened, accept attachments and limit size, pager alerts for admin.
Homepage: http://www.osticket.com/server/

PHP Support Tickets - A simple, one-admin Support Tickets system featuring self-registering, emailing to admin, attachments.
Homepage: http://www.phpsupporttickets.com/

Support Logic Helpdesk - A Support Tickets system featuring multiple email addresses, admin/staff/user panels, canned responses, HTML tags support, email limit on a per user/day basis, attachments.
Homepage: http://www.support-logic.com/index.php

Discussion Boards

phpBB2 - A widely-popular open-source bulletin-board package, works well, simple user interface and admin panel, clean look, scales well, and can be customized.
Homepage: http://www.phpbb.com/

SMF - Elegant. Effective. Powerful. Free. SMF is all of the above. SMF is a next-generation community software package and is jam-packed with features, while at the same time having a minimal impact on resources.

Homepage: http://www.simplemachines.org/

E-Commerce

CubeCart - An easy to use yet powerful shopping cart featuring unlimited categories and products, multiple payment gateways, downloadable products. The design is very easy to modify.
Homepage: http://www.cubecart.com/

OS Commerce - A power-user shopping cart with a big variety of modules and support of almost every payment gateway. A big developer's community is ready to offer custom solutions depending on your needs.
 Homepage: http://www.oscommerce.com/

Zen Cart - Zen Cart truly is the art of e-commerce; a free, user-friendly, open source shopping cart system. The software is being developed by group of like-minded shop owners, programmers, designers, and consultants that think e-commerce could be and should be done differently.
 Homepage: http://www.zen-cart.com/

F.A.Q

FAQMasterFlex - Unlimited categories/questions/answers, web-based administration.
Homepage: http://www.technetguru.net/design/faqmasterflex.php

Guestbooks

ViPER Guestbook - The ViPER Guestbook is a high end guestbook script that is versatile, reliable, very comfortable and easy to use. The perfect choice for the ambitious webmaster!
Homepage: http://www.vipergb.de.vu/

Image Galleries

4Images Gallery - An Image Gallery system featuring unlimited categories/subcategories, web-based and FTP images upload, auto-thumbnails, comments, send a picture, rate a picture, random pictures, extensive administration panel.
Homepage: http://www.4homepages.de/

Coppermine Photo Gallery - An Image Gallery system featuring categories and albums, thumbnails and intermediate size pictures, search feature, new and random pictures, user management (private galleries, groups), user comments, e-cards feature, slideshow viewer.
Homepage: http://coppermine.sourceforge.net/

Gallery - An Image Gallery system featuring albums within albums, thumb nailing specific picture area, captions, rotate, reorder pictures, album-based attributes, album mirroring.
Homepage: http://gallery.menalto.com/

Mailing Lists

PHPlist - A powerful mailing list featuring multiple mailing lists and attachments.
Homepage: http://www.tincan.co.uk/

Poll and Surveys

Advanced Poll - A highly windows-inspired poll script.
Homepage: http://www.proxy2.de/scripts.php

phpESP - PhpESP is an effective, capable, web-based survey application that enables businesses to create complex and advanced surveys, view results in real time, and carry out advanced analysis.
Homepage: http://phpesp.sourceforge.net/

PHPSurveyor - Develop, publish and collect responses to surveys. Display surveys as single questions, group by group or all in one page or use a data entry system for administration of paper-based versions of the survey. PHP Surveyor can produce 'branching' surveys (set conditions on whether individual questions will display), can vary the look and feel of your survey through a templating system, and can provide basic statistical analysis of your survey results.
Homepage: http://phpsurveyor.sourceforge.net/

Project Management

dotProject - Project Management featuring companies, projects, tasks (with Gantt charts), forums, files, calendar, contacts, tickets/helpdesk, language support, user/module permissions, themes.
Homepage: http://www.dotproject.net/

PHProjekt - Project Management featuring optional group system, privileges, calendar, contacts, time card, projects, chat, forum, request tracker, mail client, files, notes, bookmarks, to-do list, reminder, voting, language support.
Homepage: http://www.phprojekt.com/

Site Builders

Soholaunch Pro Edition - From basic, informational websites to robust e-business applications, this script vastly simplifies the creation and management of cutting-edge internet solutions. It installs at the end-users web site and empowers novices and seasoned developers alike with a streamlined development and management process

unmatched by any other software product.
Homepage: http://www.soholaunch.com/

Wiki

TikiWiki - TikiWiki is designed to be an international, clean and extensible Content Management System and Groupware that can be used to create all sorts of web applications, sites, portals, intranets and extranets. TikiWiki also works great as a web-based collaboration tool. TikiWiki has a lot of native options and sections that you can enable/disable as you need them.
Homepage: http://www.tikiwiki.org/

PhpWiki - PhpWiki is a web site where anyone can edit the pages through an HTML form. Linking is done automatically on the server side; all pages are stored in a database.
Homepage: http://phpwiki.sourceforge.net/

Other Scripts

Dew-NewPHPLinks - A Link Directory featuring categories, reviews, popular links, new links, links approval.
Homepage: http://www.dew-code.com/

Moodle - A Course Management System designed to help educators create quality online courses. Available in currently 34 languages, featuring WYSIWYG HTML Editor, teacher has full control over all settings for a course, flexible array of course activities (Forums, Journals, Quizzes, Resources, Choices, Surveys, Assignments, Chats, Workshops), user logging and tracking, mail integration and much more.
Homepage: http://www.moodle.org/

Noahs Classifieds - A classifieds system featuring categories and subcategories in unlimited depth, image upload for categories and classifieds, variable fields per categories, customizable email notifications, locking categories, classifieds approval, auto-thumbnail generation, classifieds management by user, send classified to a friend.
Homepage: http://classifieds.phpoutsourcing.com/

Open-Realty - Real Estate listing system featuring attachments, flexible search, template system, Yahoo Maps interface.
Homepage: http://www.open-realty.org/

phpAdsNew - A highly professional complete ad server featuring different types of ads, display based on keywords, zones, hour of the day, day of the week, extensive statistics, and client statistics.
Homepage: http://www.phpadsnew.com/

PHPauction - The GPL version of PHPauction featuring email notification of bids, attachments, reserve price, minimum bids, standard and Dutch auctions, bid history, send

auction to a friend, highest bids, auctions ending soon.
Homepage: http://www.phpauction.org/

phpCOIN - A full billing/invoicing application, perfect for web hosting resellers.
Homepage: http://www.phpcoin.com/

phpFormGenerator - A form generator featuring up to 100 form fields, all kind of input fields incl. file upload, customizable fields attributes, send submitted data to an email address or store them in a database, admin panel.
Homepage: http://phpformgen.sourceforge.net/

WebCalender - A very powerful webcalendar featuring private and public calendars.
Homepage: http://webcalendar.sourceforge.net/