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## Advanced Apache Configuration

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### Overview

EasyApache provides multiple methods that you can use to customize your Apache configuration.

#### Important:

- Make certain that you **only** use the methods below to modify your Apache configuration. If you use a method that we do not support, cPanel & WHM and EasyApache can overwrite your custom configuration.
- We **strongly** recommend that you read the Apache Configuration documentation before you customize your Apache configuration.

### How it works

EasyApache builds your global Apache configuration from the following components:

- Global templates — EasyApache uses the global configuration templates in the `/usr/local/apache/conf/includes/` directory to create your global Apache configuration.
- The modules, options, and extensions that EasyApache builds by default for your version of Apache.
- The EasyApache options that you select.

EasyApache builds each `virtualhost` tag from the following components:

- Any custom templates in the subdirectories that are within the `/var/cpanel/templates/2_2/` and `/var/cpanel/templates/2_4/` directories.
- Account information for each domain — When you make a configuration change to an account or domain in the cPanel or WHM interfaces, cPanel & WHM changes the content of the appropriate file in the `/usr/local/apache/conf/userdata/` directory.
- Additional templates for each domain — EasyApache includes the files in the appropriate `/usr/local/apache/conf/userdata/` directory for each domain to build the configuration of each `virtualhost` tag.

### Modify the configuration options for Apache

To modify the configuration options for your Apache build, use raw opts. Raw opts are also known as custom configure flags.

Raw opts are lines of data that advanced users can add to a specific file on the server in order to customize the configuration of Apache or PHP builds. EasyApache allows you to specify any configuration option supported by Apache and/or PHP.

For more information on raw opts, read our [Raw Opts](#) documentation.

#### .htaccess files

When Apache processes a request, it searches for an `.htaccess` configuration file inside the directory that contains the requested file. If the `.htaccess` file exists and is readable by Apache, Apache will use its contents to modify the configuration for the request. For more information about how to use `.htaccess`, read [Apache's HTTP Server Tutorial](#).

Some events in a cPanel & WHM environment will trigger a syntax check of a `.htaccess` file. When it runs the check, Apache will skip any modules that loaded at runtime. Any attempt to reference configuration directives that these modules provide will produce syntax errors. To prevent these errors, you must wrap those directives inside an `<IfModule></IfModule>` block. The following is an example of an `<IfModule></IfModule>` block.

```
1 <IfModule mod_suphp.c>
2     suPHP_ConfigPath /etc
3 </IfModule>
```

### Modify your global Apache configuration

To modify your global Apache configuration, use one of the following methods:

#### Modify the Apache configuration directives via WHM

To modify Apache's global configuration directives that cPanel & WHM builds by default, use WHM's [Global Configuration](#) interface (*Home >> Service Configuration >> Global Configuration*).

#### Modify the Apache configuration files with include files via WHM

To modify the Apache configuration's include files view WHM, use WHM's [Include Editor](#) interface (*Home >> Service Configuration >> Apache Configuration >> Include Editor*).

#### Modify the Apache configuration with include files via CLI

To modify the Apache configuration's include files via the command line interface (CLI), edit the appropriate configuration files in the `/usr/local/apache/conf/includes/` directory.

#### Important:

After you modify an include file, make certain that you restart the Apache service with the `service httpd restart` command.

### Modify the content of specific virtualhosts

You can use the CLI to add include files that modify the content of the virtualhost containers in your Apache configuration. You may wish to do this to modify the configuration of an individual domain or a specific user's domains. For more information on how to modify your virtualhost containers with include files, read our [Modify Virtualhost Containers With Include Files](#) documentation.

### Modify the httpd.conf file directly

#### Warning:

We do **not** recommend that you use this method. cPanel & WHM or EasyApache may overwrite your changes.

If you must modify your `httpd.conf` Apache configuration file directly, perform the following steps:

1. Make the necessary changes to your `httpd.conf` file.
2. Run the Apache configuration distiller script as the `root` user with the following command:

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```
/usr/local/cpanel/bin/apache_conf_distiller --update
```

**ⓘ Important:**

The Apache configuration distiller script does not make changes to your Apache configuration. The distiller script updates the datastores in the `/var/cpanel/userdata` directory.

The Apache configuration distiller script does not guarantee that cPanel & WHM will not overwrite your direct modifications to your `httpd.conf` file.

To test whether cPanel & WHM will overwrite your modifications, perform the following steps:

- Create a copy of your `httpd.conf` file with your direct modifications.
- Run the `/scripts/rebuildhttpdconf` script to rebuild your `httpd.conf` file. If your changes are still present in your `httpd.conf` file, then cPanel & WHM will not overwrite your modifications.

## Change how cPanel & WHM writes virtualhosts

You can use custom templates to change the default content of each virtualhost container. For more information on custom templates, read our [Custom Templates](#) documentation.

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