



One-Stop Linux Administration with Webmin

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The Control Panel For Linux

Webmin is like the Windows Control Panel for Linux. It gives you one convenient spot to control almost everything about your system and to top that, you access it via the web! Webmin is a modular program that makes it easy to add functions, just like you'd add a plug-in to Photoshop; and if you're good at Perl, there are some good tutorials and templates on creating your own modules. Below I've listed some of the more commonly used modules in Webmin.

- Apache
- DNS (BIND 4 and 8)
- DHCP
- FTP server
- Majordomo
- MySQL
- Samba
- SendMail
- Squid

It can also help you out with these hardware and system options:

- LILO
- RAID
- Network Configuration (can also do virtual IP's)
- Manage Partitions
- Printer Admin
- System and Hardware time
- Bootup / Shutdown
- Cron Jobs
- RPM Packages (It can install and remove software)
- System Logs
- Users and Groups

Best of all, there's even a File System browser that works like Windows Explorer– you can Edit, Copy, Delete, and even Upload files all from the web.

By now you're probably wondering, "Where do I get it?" You can grab a copy by going to the site: <http://www.webmin.com> or one of their mirrors. At the time this article was written 0.79 was the current version.

In this article we'll talk about installing, setting up basic security, and adding a Virtual IP address and Domain. So hang on tight, Linux is about to get a whole lot easier.



Installing Webmin

Grab a copy of Webmin from <http://www.webmin.com/webmin> and download the most current version. There is a .tar and a .rpm version but I recommend using the .tar version. The .tar file has a very easy setup script that will walk you through the setup process.

If you're at a Linux machine you can just go to the web site and grab it, or if you just have Telnet access you can download it via ftp using the following commands:

```
ftp webmin.com
```

(this basically says your going to ftp to Webmin.com)

```
anonymous
```

(put this in for the username)

```
email@yourdomain.com
```

(Use your e-mail as the password)

```
lcd /usr/local
```

(This tells your computer where to put the file you download)

```
get webmin-0.79.tar.gz
```

exit (This exits you out of the FTP program)

After you've downloaded it, make sure the file is in a directory where it can be stored with easy access. If it's not where you'd like it use this command to move it.

```
mv webmin-0-79.tar.gz /usr/local/. (this moves Webmin to /usr/local and keeps the same name)
```

After you've moved the file go ahead and extract it.

```
tar -xzf webmin-0.79.tar.gz
```

Once you're in the folder just run there little setup script.

```
./setup.sh
```

(remember to put the ./ in front of the command.)

Once the setup script starts it will ask you a series of questions. I've listed the questions below with explanations:

- Webmin configuration directory—This is where it will show all your configuration options. Like most other programs the default is in the /etc/ directory. If you just press enter the program will select /etc/webmin

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- Log file directory – This is where Webmin's log files will be kept. The default is /var/webmin.
- Full Path to Perl – This is just asking where it goes to use Perl. Just except the default /usr/bin/perl unless it's been installed to a different directory.
- Operating System – Every flavor of Linux is a little different and the scripts need to know what version you have for Webmin to work properly. Press the number next to your version
- Version of the OS – If you're using SuSE Linux it will show 8 different versions. Each version can be a little different, so make sure you select the correct one.
- Web Server Port – This is going to be where you access your domain. Don't just select any port, it might be in use by another application. If you don't know what port you have available, use the default of 10000. That basically means to access Webmin you will go to yourdomain.com:10000 or whatever port you choose.
- Web Server login and Password – Webmin uses it's own set of usernames and passwords, so if you want to log into Webmin you need create one here. I strongly suggest using something different than root or your root password.
- Web Server Host Name: This is basically what Webmin will call your machine. You can accept the default, or choose your own name.
- SSL – If you don't have the Perl SSLey library installed it will just skip this option. As a default most Linux distributions don't have SSL installed. You can run Webmin fine without it, but if you're concerned about security I would suggest setting this up.
- Start Webmin at boot time – If you select "Yes" it will install some startup scripts that will have Webmin start automatically on boot.

And that's about it. You should now be able to access Webmin at your domain.
<http://www.yourdomain.com:10000>

Another option is if you're sitting right in front of the machine, you can just type: <http://localhost:10000>

Basic Security

Webmin is a powerful tool; if the wrong person had access they could login to your system and delete partitions, steal files, etc. There isn't anything you can't do with this tool, so you need to make sure you protect it.

First go to your web browser and type in:

`http://www.yourdomain.com:1000` or

`http://localhost:10000` if you're in front of the machine

Now it will ask for your username and password. Type in the one it created for you during setup. If you installed via the .rpm file the default username is root, and password is your current root password.

Now you'll see a couple of different tabs. For the Webmin security files you'll want to select "Webmin Configuration." You should then see a list of options.

The best way to start out security is to restrict what IP address have access to Webmin. This can be done by selecting 'IP Access control.' Here you can select to only allow certain IP's, or you can allow all but certain IP's. Since you should know where your going to access your system from select "Only allow from listed addresses."

Now in the box to the right type in the IP addresses you want to have access from. Press return after every address you add. Remember to add your localhost IP address (127.0.0.1). You need to have that one selected if you want to be able to access Webmin from `http://localhost:10000`. Then click update. That's it. You've now restricted access to every machine that is not on your list. Remember that this only limits access to Webmin not your other programs. If you need security set up for your system as a whole I would suggest using a program called [IP Chains](#).

Adding A Virtual IP and Domain

Binding an IP address to your NIC card, then getting Apache to use it for a virtual domain can be a pretty big headache. Lets run through this process with Webmin and you'll see what a breeze it is.

Binding a additional IP to your NIC

The first thing that needs to be done is to add the additional IP address(es) to your NIC. First log into Webmin then click on the 'Hardware' tab, next 'Network Configuration', then 'Network Interfaces.' Under Network Interfaces, you'll see two sections: 'Interfaces Active Now' and 'Interfaces Active at boot time.' Interfaces Active Now is/are the IP addresses that are currently active. You can add an IP address to this section, but it won't be active if you reboot, so you'll want to add the IP to the Activated at Boot Time area. This binds the IP address every time your machine boots. Now click on 'Add a new interface' under the Activated at Boot Time area. Here you'll see some information you need to fill in.

- Name – Your main IP address is probably eth0. To add additional ones that need to go in this sequence eth0:1, then eth0:2, etc. So if you haven't added an addition IP address before type in eth0:1
- IP address – This is the additional IP address that you're going to bind to your NIC.
- Netmask – This will be the same as your other IP address(es). Usually it's 255.255.255.0
- Broadcast – If you don't know this one (I didn't when I first did this) go back one screen and copy the same thing down you have on eth0.

After you fill in all of the information, click 'Save' and it will take you back to the Network Interfaces screen. Your IP address has now been added so it will bind when you start up. Assuming you want it activated right now, click on eth0:1 (the one you just added) and click "Save and Apply." This will activate the IP address and you should now see it in the Interfaces Active Now section.

Adding a Virtual Domain in Apache

This is really not difficult, so I'll just list the steps then give a couple of explanations. First make sure you're logged into Webmin, next click on the 'Server' tab, then 'Apache.' The first time you click on Apache it will ask you to re-configure know modules. It will list all of the modules in the httpd.conf file and have certain ones selected. Unless you know what you're doing with this area just leave it alone and click 'Configure.' It won't pull this screen up again unless you re-load Webmin.

You should now see the main Apache screen. Down at the bottom there's an option that says 'Create a New Virtual Server.' Just above that, you'll see the virtual servers you already have (if any). Now lets fill in your virtual server (also know as virtual domain) information.

- Address – This is the IP address you want your virtual domain to use. It should be the one you just added in the previous section.
- Port – By default, your browser uses port 80, unless you're doing something a little funky, just leave the default button checked.
- Document Root – This is where Apache will look for the web documents. You can type it in or click the button off to the right to browse your system.
- Server Name – You can leave this on automatic, or you can type something like mydomain.com off to the right. Keep in mind your Domain Name Server (DNS) determines what domain name is attached to your IP address, not this section.



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After you've filled in all of the information, click the 'Create' button. This will add the information to the httpd.conf file. To activate the changes you've made, click the 'Apply Changes' button on the top right of the screen.

Now if everything is setup right, you should be able to see your page through your web browser (assuming you've already registered the domain name and have DNS setup correctly). Have fun and don't tell too many people about Webmin. We don't want people thinking Linux is easy. :)

Webmin Links Home Page– <<http://www.webmin.com/webmin>>

Standard Modules– <<http://www.webmin.com/webmin/standard.html>>

Third Party Modules– <<http://www.webmin.com/webmin/third.html>>

