Browsing Server Files after ConfigServer Explorer: Safe Alternatives in WHM, SSH and SFTP

WHM/cPanel · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/configserver-explorer-alternatives-whm/

What changed ConfigServer Explorer (cse) let you browse every file on the server from WHM, but it is no longer available since ConfigServer closed, and installing old copies is not advisable. Alternatives: **Terminal** inside WHM, cPanel's **File Manager** for one account's files, or an **SFTP** client such as FileZilla with an SSH key.

Embedded media: https://www.hyyat.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/hyyat-srv-explore-en.mp4?_=1

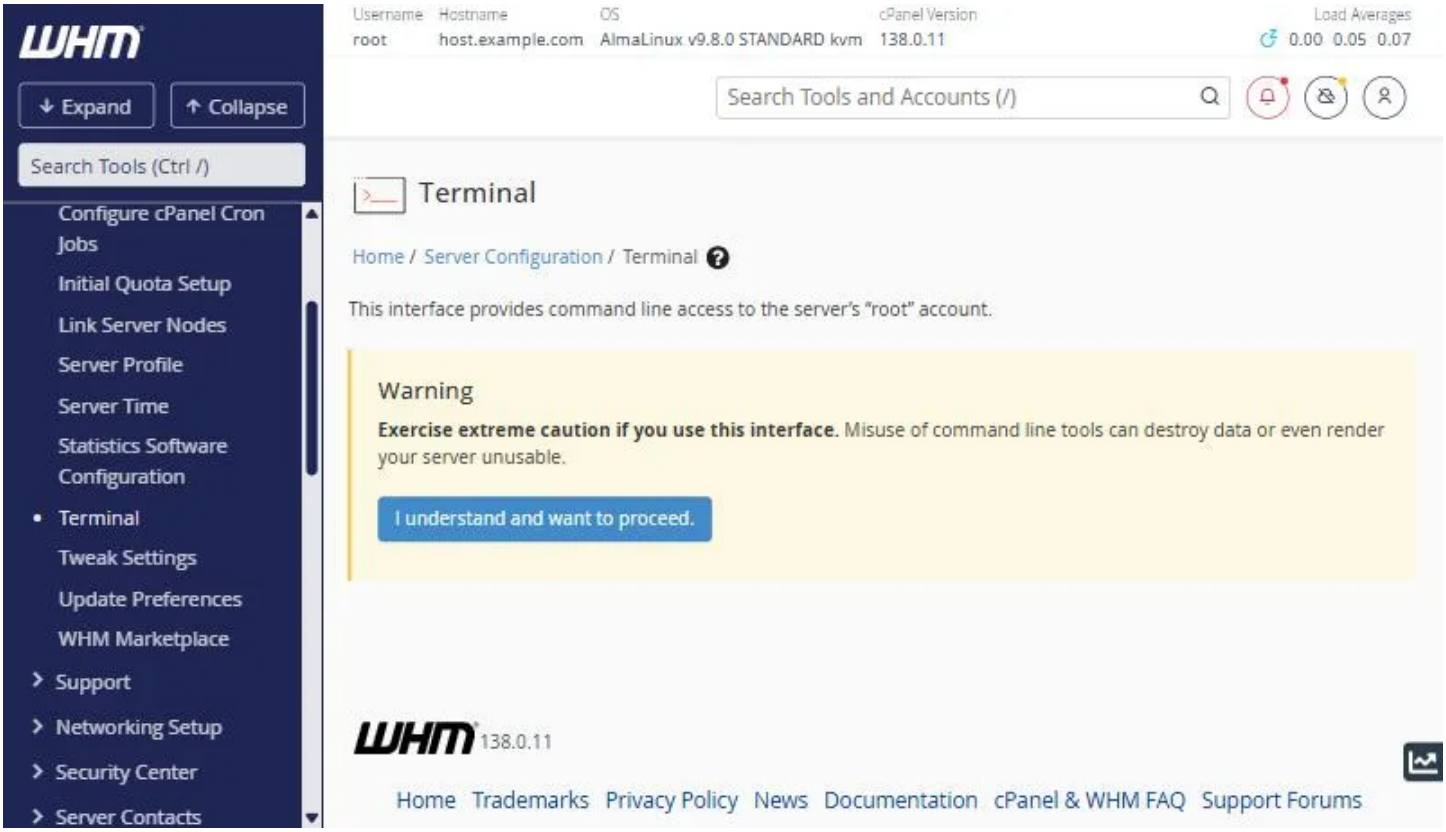
ConfigServer Explorer was a popular WHM plugin that showed the whole server as a file tree: copy, delete, change permissions and ownership, and edit files in the browser. Since ConfigServer closed, it is no longer developed or downloadable. A tool with that much power (root over every file) should not be left running without security updates, so we recommend removing it if installed and using the alternatives below.

Alternatives by what you need

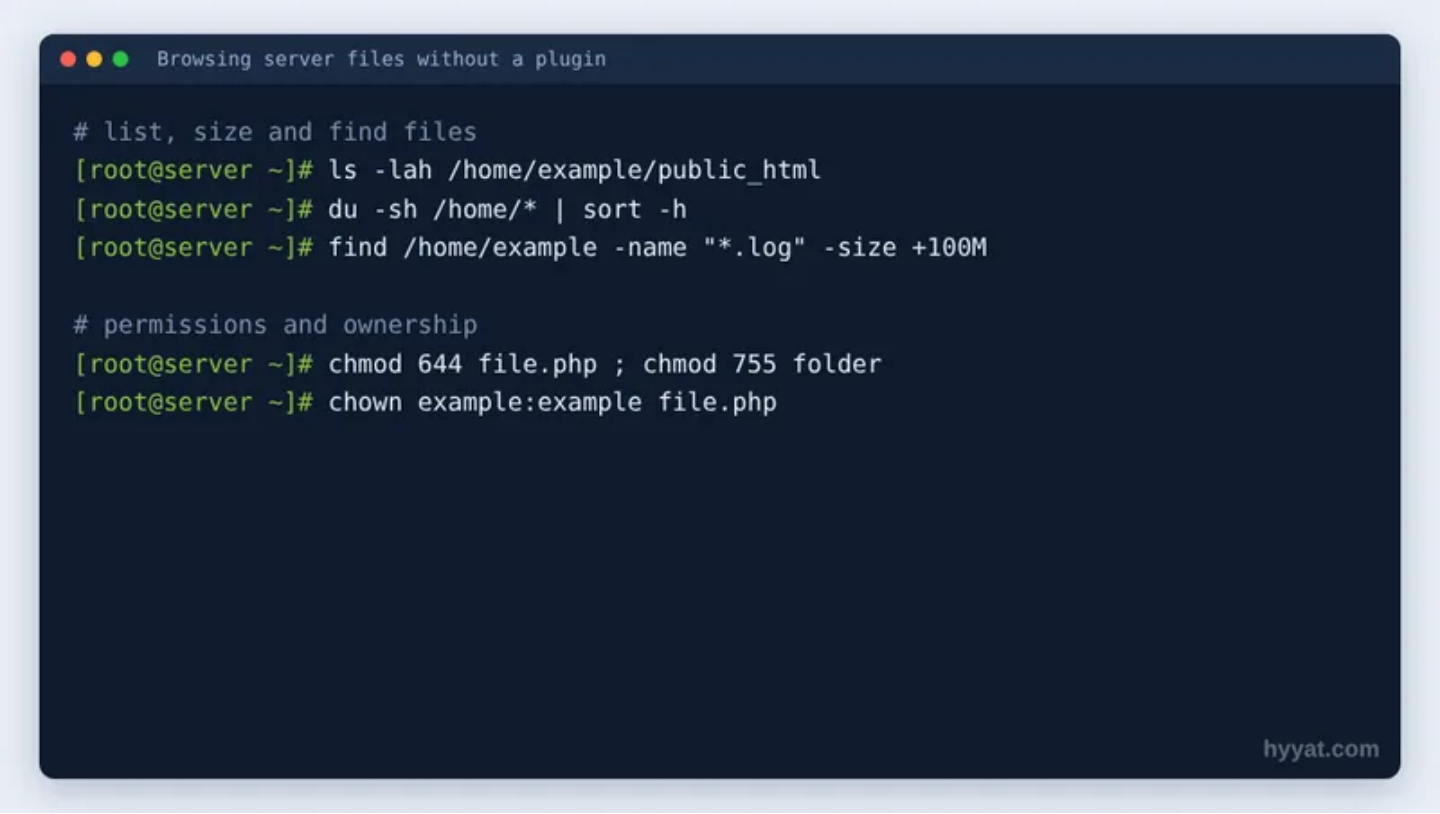
What you want	The right tool	Why
Edit one site's files	File Manager in the account's cPanel	Runs as the account owner only, so file ownership stays correct
Run commands and browse any folder	**Terminal** in WHM	A root shell in the browser with no extra software
Move many or large files	An SFTP client such as FileZilla or WinSCP	Faster, clearer and resumable
Find huge files	du and find	The quickest way on a server with thousands of files

Terminal in WHM

`WHM › Server Configuration › Terminal`



The page opens with a clear warning: this gives a root shell, and one mistake can destroy data. After **I understand and want to proceed** you get a full terminal. If you have never used a command line, start with the SSH guide.



cPanel File Manager per account

From the cPanel icon in List Accounts, enter the customer's account and open File Manager. Anything you create there is owned by the account user, which avoids a common Explorer problem: files created as root that the site can no longer write to. The tool is covered in using File Manager in cPanel .

Removing Explorer if it is installed

If Explorer appears under Plugins in WHM, its folder is usually `/etc/cse` along with its WHM registration. Back the folder up, then use its own removal script if present, or ask our support team for help if your server is under our server management service.

After any root-level change inside an account's folder, give ownership back to the account: `chown -R user:user /home/user/public_html`, or you may see 500 errors or write failures.

Three things to remember

- Explorer is discontinued; do not install old copies.

- For one site: cPanel File Manager. For the whole server: Terminal or SFTP.
- Watch file ownership after working as root.

Common questions

Is there an official cPanel replacement for Explorer?

There is no exact equivalent. WHM Terminal and cPanel File Manager cover most needs.

Is SFTP safe with the root account?

Use an SSH key, and disable password logins for root where you can.

Does WHM Terminal work if SSH is closed in the firewall?

Yes. It runs over WHM’s own connection on port 2087.

Related guides

- How to Connect to a Server via SSH from Windows, Mac and Linux
- The CSF Firewall on a cPanel Server: What It Does, Installing It from Manage Plugins, and the First Settings
- cPanel File Manager: Open It, Show Hidden Files, Change Permissions and More
- 5 Tips to Secure Your cPanel Server

All WHM guides →

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