CSF Error “CC Error: Country Code Lookups setting MM_LICENSE_KEY must be set”, and Two Ways to Fix It

WHM/cPanel · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/fix-cc-error-country-code-lookups-setting-mm_license_key-must-be-set/

The fix The message means CSF is set to fetch country data from MaxMind without a key. Easiest fix: set **CC_SRC = "2"** in CSF so it uses sources that need no key, then restart csf and lfd. Or keep MaxMind and add your free key in **MM_LICENSE_KEY**.

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

CSF’s country features, such as CC_DENY and CC_ALLOW, and showing each address’s country in reports, need a database that maps IP addresses to countries. Since MaxMind began requiring a licence key to download the free GeoLite2 database, CSF shows this error when its source is MaxMind and no key is set.

Fix one: a source that needs no key

CSF supports **CC_SRC** to choose the data source. 1 means MaxMind; 2 means open sources such as db-ip, ipdeny and iptoasn, which need no sign-up.



1. **Open Firewall Configuration** from the CSF page in WHM.
2. **Find CC_SRC** and set it to 2.
3. **Save and restart** Change, then Restart csf+lfd.

Fix two: a free MaxMind key

1. **Sign up at MaxMind** for a free GeoLite account.
2. **Create a licence key** on the License Keys page of your account.
3. **Put it in CSF** in **MM_LICENSE_KEY**, leaving CC_SRC at 1.
4. **Save and restart** Change, then Restart csf+lfd.

The key is a secret. Do not paste it into a public ticket or a screenshot.

Which fix should you pick?

	CC_SRC = 2	MaxMind with a key
Needs sign-up	No	Yes

	CC_SRC = 2	MaxMind with a key
Enough for country blocking	Yes	Yes
Suits most servers	Yes	If you rely on MaxMind in other tools

Do you need country data at all?

If you do not use CC_DENY, CC_ALLOW or other country options, the error does not affect the core firewall. Fixing it still removes the nagging message and makes lfd reports show each address's country, which helps when analysing attacks.

Three things to remember

- The error is about the country data source, not the firewall itself.
- Quickest fix: CC_SRC = 2.
- After any change: Change, then Restart csf+lfd.

Example: blocking countries or allowing one

With the data source set, you can use the country options. The best known:

Setting	Example	What it does
`CC_DENY`	`"XX,YY"`	Blocks all connections from both countries
`CC_ALLOW_PORTS`	`"SA,AE"` with `CC_ALLOW_PORTS_TCP = "22"`	Allows the SSH port from those countries only
`CC_IGNORE`	`"SA"`	lfd never auto-blocks addresses from that country

The second is very handy: your site stays open to the world while SSH is reachable only from your own country. Use two-letter ISO country codes and restart the firewall after each change.

Questions about the error

Does the firewall stop because of this error?

No. The firewall runs; only the country options are affected.

Is blocking a whole country a good idea?
It can help against repeated attacks from a known source, but it may block real customers who travel or use private networks. Use it carefully.

Older guides mention Geolocation Settings. Where is that?
That belongs to other software. In CSF the setting is MM_LICENSE_KEY inside Firewall Configuration.

How often is the country data refreshed?
CSF refreshes it periodically from the chosen source; no manual updates needed.

Related guides

- The CSF Firewall on a cPanel Server: What It Does, Installing It from Manage Plugins, and the First Settings
- The “RESTRICT_SYSLOG is disabled” Warning in CSF: Why It Appears, the Right Value, and How to Apply It
- CSF Commands over SSH: Allow, Deny, Find an IP and Restart, in One Reference

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