WordPress Image Upload Problems: HTTP Error, Broken Images, Size Limits and uploads Folder Permissions

WordPress Guides · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/fix-wordpress-image-upload/

In short Start with the message. **exceeds the maximum upload size**: the file is over the limit, so shrink it or raise the limit. **HTTP error** or **Unable to create directory**: usually `wp-content/uploads` permissions, so set folders to 755 and files to 644. If images upload but show broken, check permissions and the site address in Settings.

Embedded media: https://www.hyyat.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/hyyat-w2-upload-en.mp4?_=1

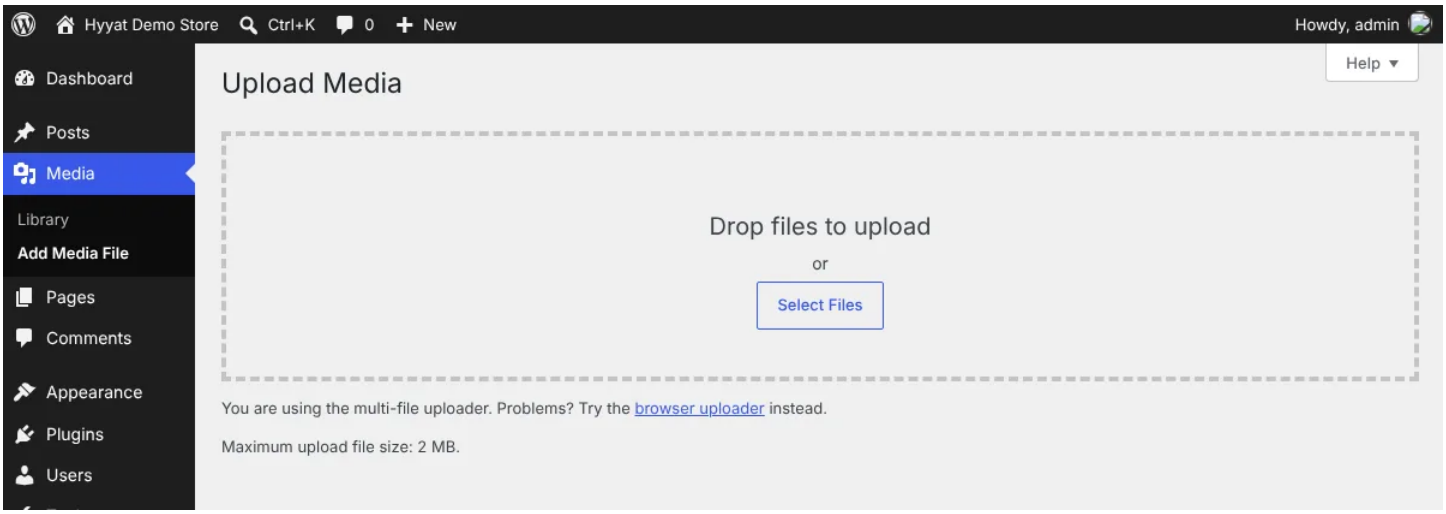
Image uploads are one of the first things to break after a migration or a settings change. The good news is that the error message usually tells you why.

Diagnose it in a minute

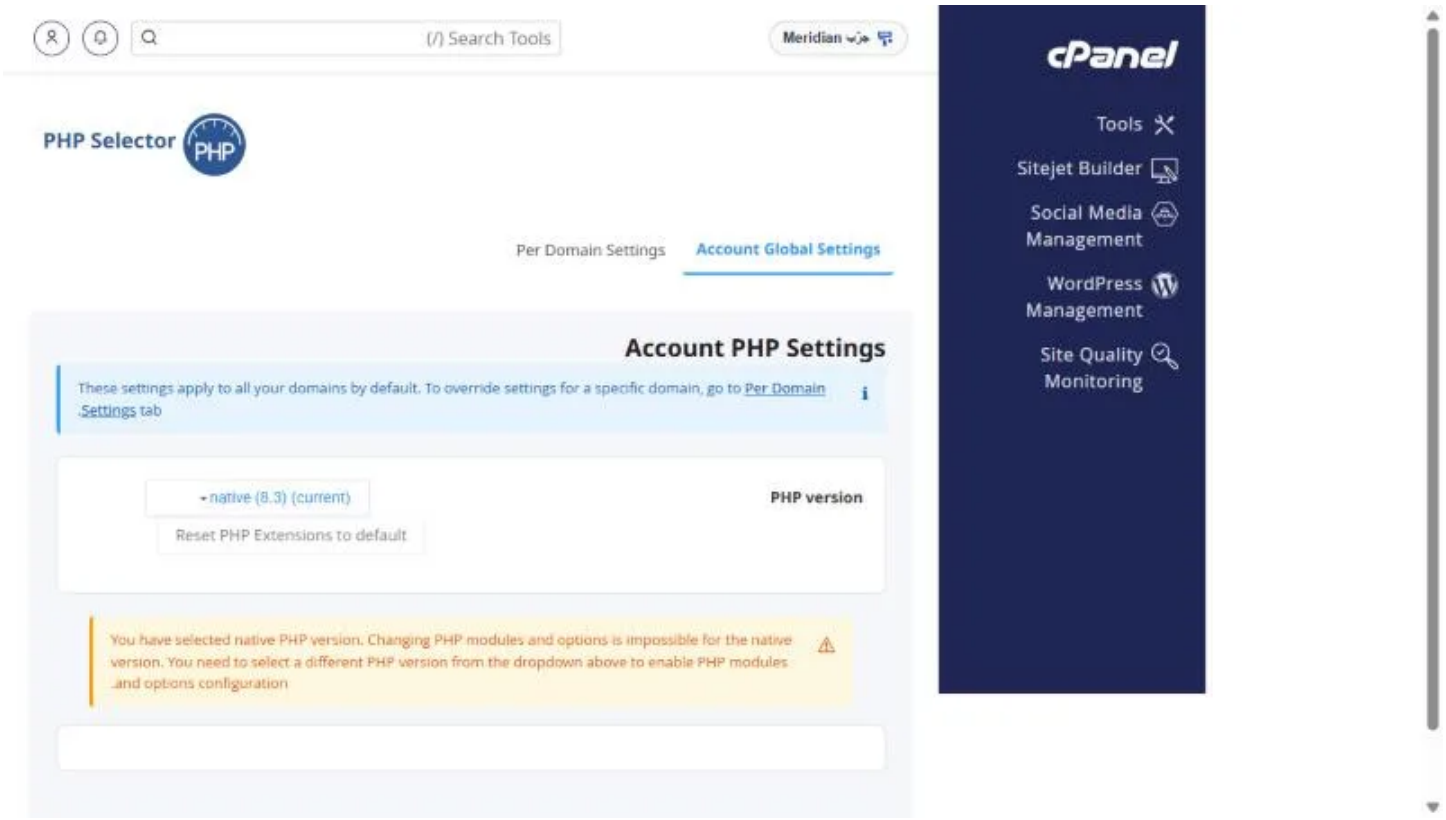
What you see	Likely cause	Fix
`exceeds the maximum upload size for this site`	The file is bigger than the upload limit	Shrink the image, or raise `upload_max_filesize` in PHP settings
`HTTP error` while uploading	PHP memory, huge image dimensions, or a dropped connection	Reduce the dimensions, retry, and check memory
`Unable to create directory wp-content/uploads/...`	uploads folder permissions	Folders 755, files 644
The image uploads but shows broken	File permissions, or a wrong site address after moving	Check permissions and Site Address
`Sorry, you are not allowed to upload this file type`	A format WordPress does not accept	Use JPG, PNG or WebP

Find the current upload limit

Open **Media › Add Media File**. Under the upload box WordPress shows **Maximum upload file size**.



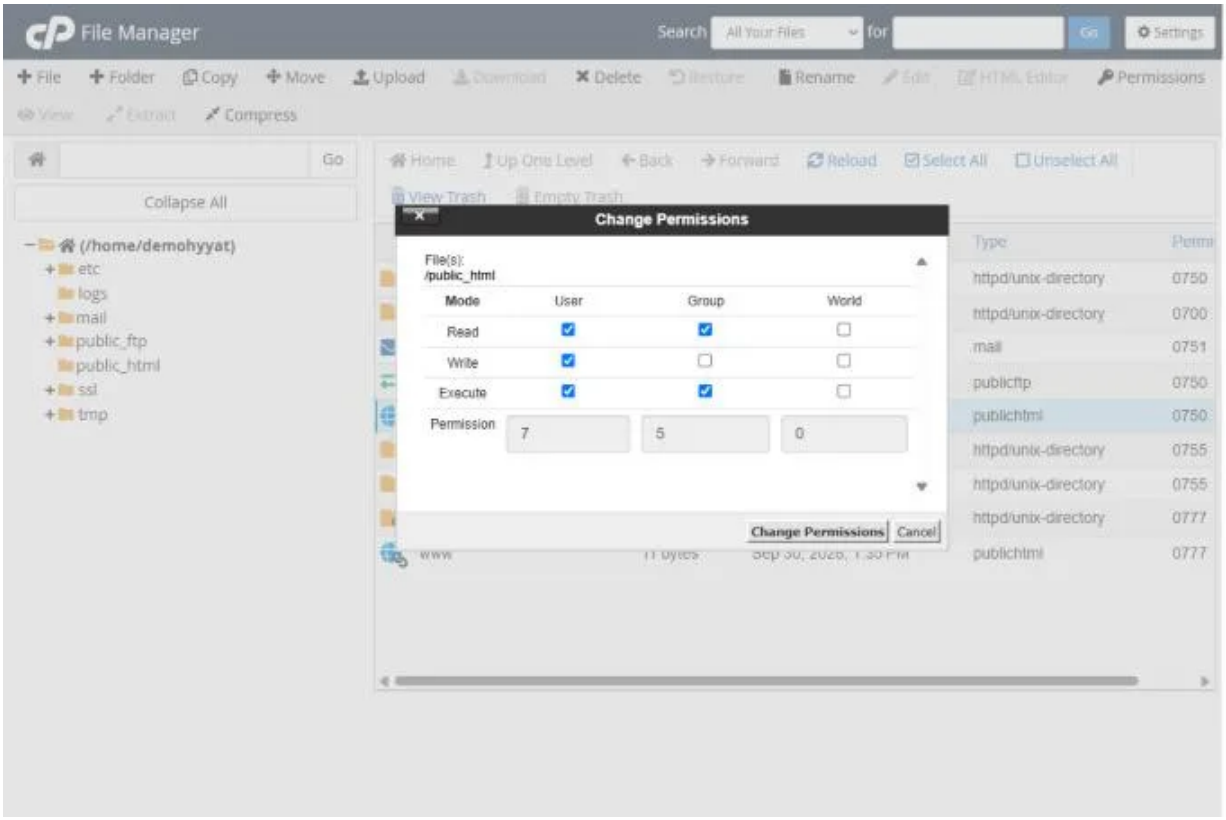
To raise it, change `upload_max_filesize` and `post_max_size` in cPanel: **Select PHP Version › Options** or **MultiPHP INI Editor**, whichever your account shows.



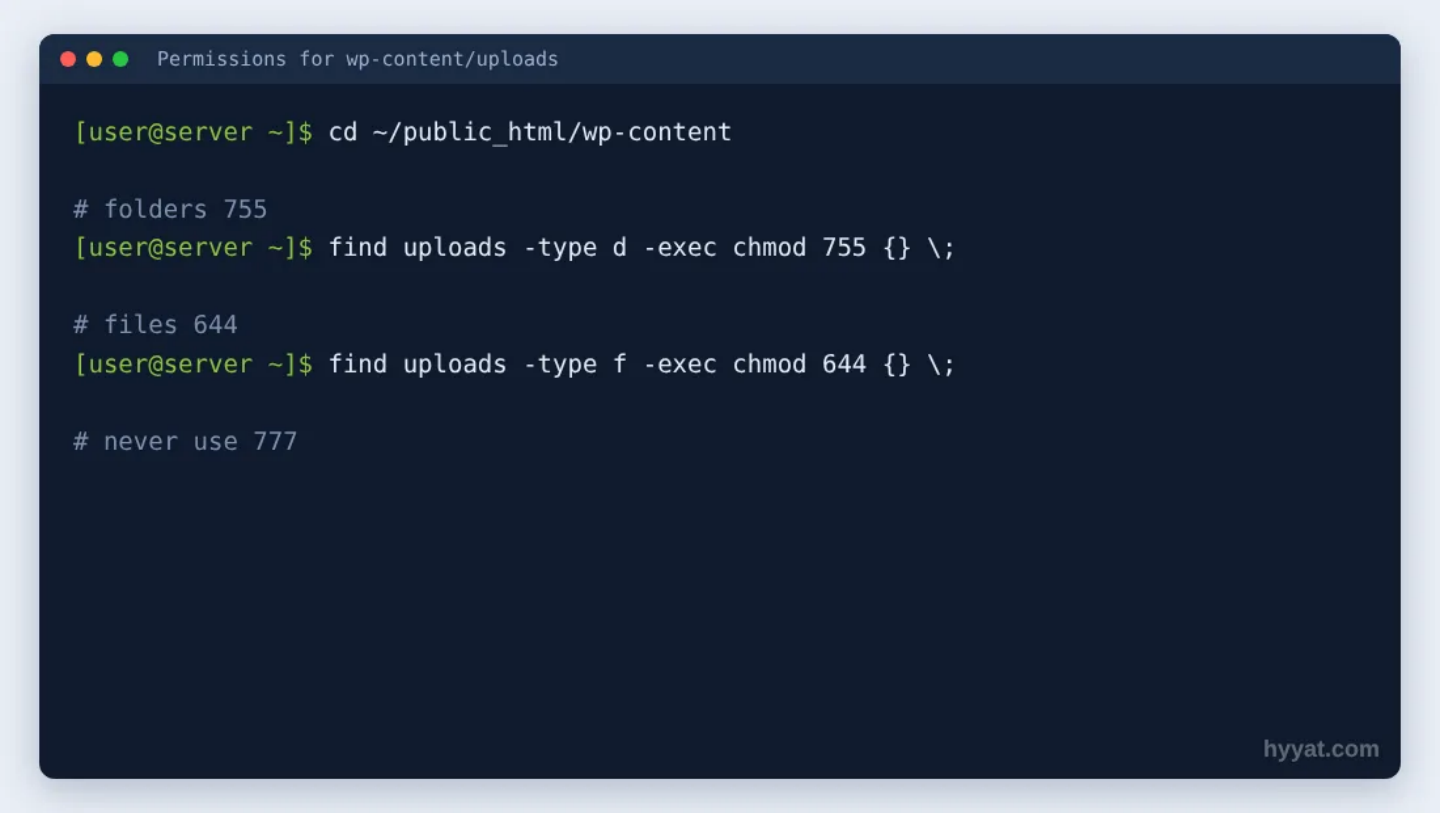
Fixing uploads folder permissions

1. **Open File Manager** then `public_html/wp-content`.

2. **The uploads folder** select it and click **Permissions**: set it to **755**.
3. **Folders inside it** each year and month folder: 755 as well.
4. **Files** the images themselves: **644**.



Changing thousands of files one by one is tiring. If you have SSH, the commands in the card do it at once, or ask us to set them for you.



Do not use 777. Some articles recommend it because it “fixes the problem”. It lets any process on the server write to the folder, and our servers may refuse to run files with that permission at all.

Very large images

A phone photo can have huge dimensions, so WordPress needs a lot of memory to create its thumbnails and the upload fails with HTTP error. Resize images to around 2000 px wide before uploading. If it keeps happening with normal images: raise PHP memory.

From our support desk: After a migration from another host, the most common cause we see is files moved with the wrong owner or permissions. If the problem started after moving, tell us and we fix it on the server.

Contact us if

- Your disk space is full or nearly full
- The problem started after moving your site to us

Open a support ticket with your site address and the exact error.

Running WordPress? See Hyyat Host WordPress hosting.

Questions we get

How high should the upload limit be?

Enough for your real files. For images a few megabytes is usually plenty; upload very large files over FTP.

Should I upload PNG, JPG or WebP?

WebP is lighter at good quality and WordPress accepts it. JPG for photos, PNG for graphics and logos.

Images do not show after moving the site

Check the site address in Settings › General and make sure the whole uploads folder was copied.

I get Failed to write file to disk

That has its own guide: fixing Failed to Write File to Disk.

Need this service from Hyyat Host?Our team handles it for you, with support replying to tickets within 24 hours at most.

WordPress HostingWordPress design