Raising the phpMyAdmin Database Import Size on a cPanel Server: The Right Setting in WHM

WHM/cPanel · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/increase-phpmyadmin-upload-size-whm/

Cause and fixphpMyAdmin inside cPanel ignores the site's PHP settings. Raise the limit in WHM **Tweak Settings**, **PHP** tab: **cPanel PHP max upload size** and **cPanel PHP max POST size** (make POST slightly larger). For very large files, import from the command line.

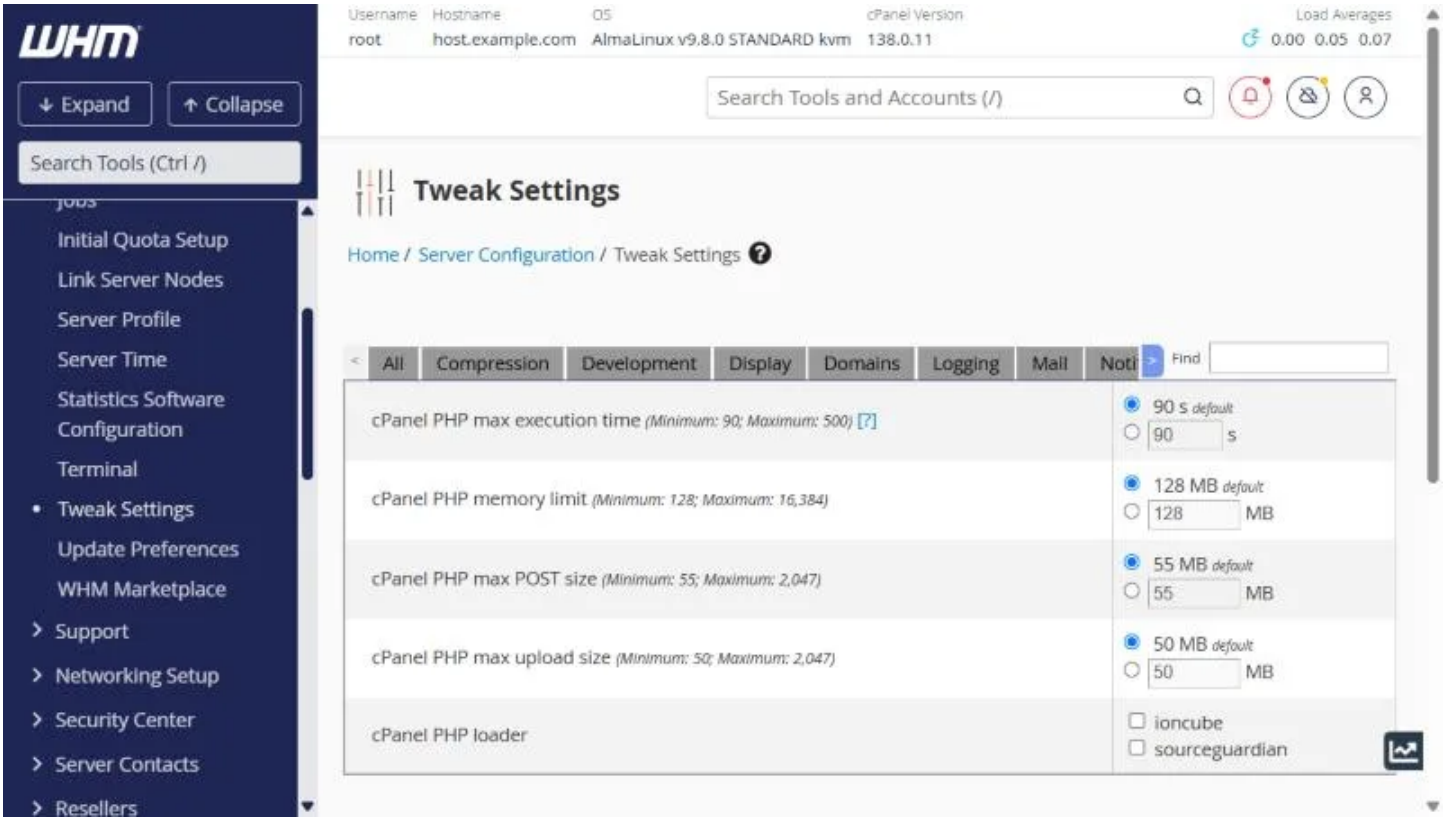
Embedded media: https://www.hyyat.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/hyyat-srv-pmasize-en.mp4?_=1

A common mistake: the server owner raises upload_max_filesize in MultiPHP INI Editor, then finds phpMyAdmin still shows a small maximum. The reason is that phpMyAdmin in cPanel runs through cPanel's own service (cpsrvd) with PHP separate from the sites' PHP, and has its own settings in Tweak Settings.

Quick steps

1. Open Tweak Settings.
2. Choose the PHP tab.
3. Raise cPanel PHP max upload size, and cPanel PHP max POST size a little higher.
4. Click Save, then reopen phpMyAdmin.

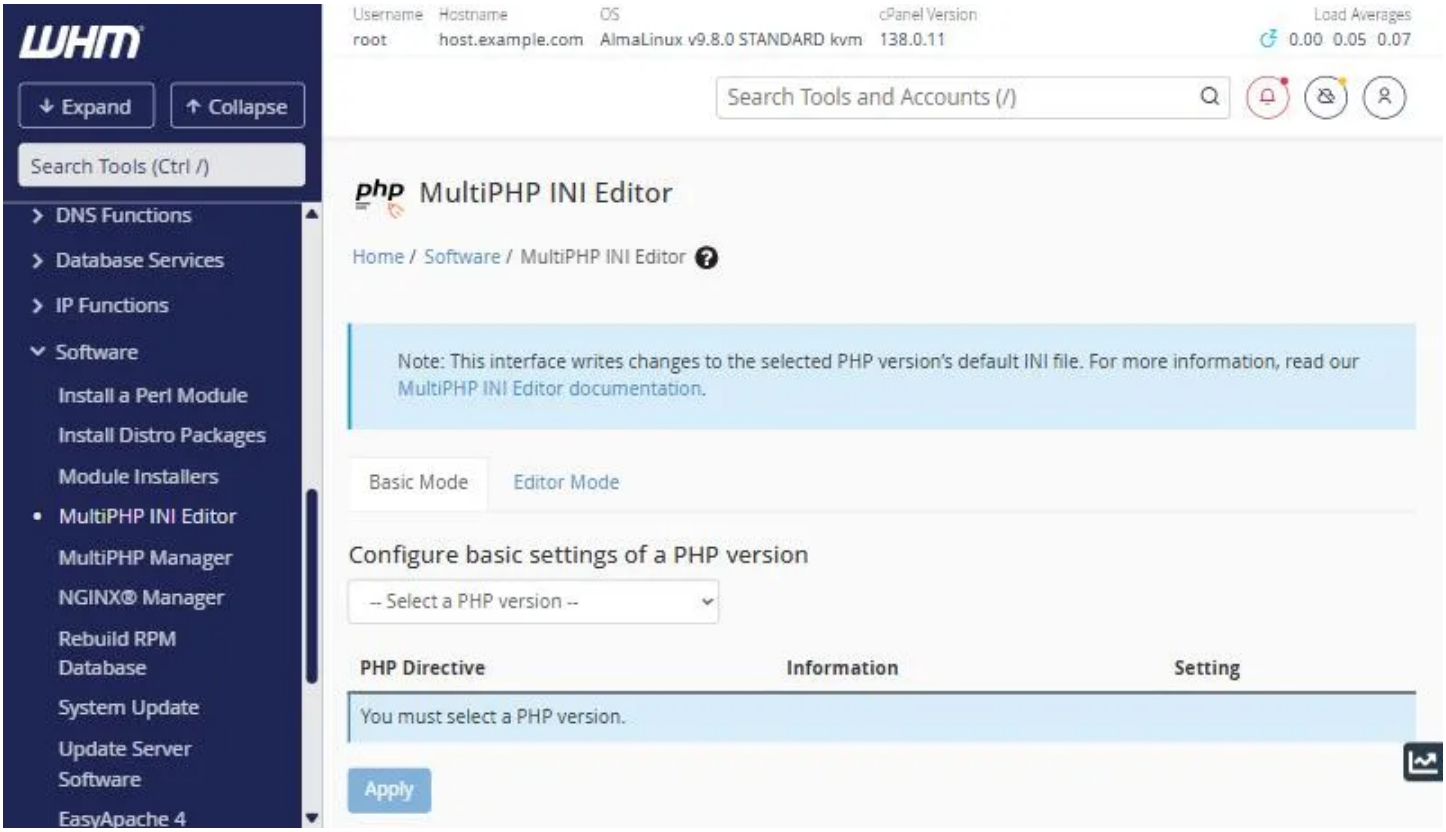
`WHM › Server Configuration › Tweak Settings › PHP`



What each setting does

Setting	Effect on imports	Limits shown on the page
cPanel PHP max upload size	The largest file phpMyAdmin accepts	50 to 2,047 MB
cPanel PHP max POST size	Must be larger than the upload limit or the import fails	55 to 2,047 MB
cPanel PHP max execution time	Big files need longer	90 to 500 seconds
cPanel PHP memory limit	Imports use memory	From 128 MB

What about MultiPHP INI Editor?



This tool is for the PHP settings **websites** run with, such as WordPress's image upload size. You do not need it for the phpMyAdmin problem, but knowing the difference stops you editing the wrong place.

A very large file? Skip the browser

Even with higher limits, importing a huge file through the browser can break off. Quicker and surer:

- **The command line**: `mysql user_db < file.sql`; see importing a database over SSH.
- **Compress the file**: phpMyAdmin accepts .gz and .zip, and SQL files shrink a lot.
- **Split the file**: into smaller parts imported in order.

If it does not work

Symptom	What to check
The limit has not changed in phpMyAdmin	Log out of cPanel and back in; the old session keeps the old setting

Symptom	What to check
The import stops halfway	Raise max execution time, or use the command line
`MySQL server has gone away`	max_allowed_packet is too small; change it in Edit Database Configuration in WHM

Importing and exporting from the customer's side is covered in import and export with phpMyAdmin.

Why is phpMyAdmin separate from the sites' PHP?

phpMyAdmin in cPanel is part of cPanel itself, updated with it and running with its own privileges on port 2083. If it depended on the site's PHP, it would break whenever a customer changed their PHP version or settings. So cPanel separates it entirely and gives the administrator its settings in Tweak Settings. The same separation is why cPanel's Terminal and File Manager have their own limits.

The general rule: anything about cPanel's own tools and interfaces is set in Tweak Settings; anything about websites is set in MultiPHP INI Editor or Select PHP Version.

phpMyAdmin questions

Do I need to reboot?
No. Saving in Tweak Settings is enough, with a fresh cPanel login.

Does raising the limit affect security?
A very large value lets the cPanel interface accept huge requests. Choose what you actually need.

A shared hosting customer needs to import a big file
They can ask support, or import it themselves through Terminal in cPanel if it is available to them.

Should I raise the limit temporarily and lower it again?
Yes, that is sensible if it is a one-off need.

Related guides

- How to Import a Large MySQL Database over SSH
- Basic MySQL Commands to Manage Databases over SSH
- Export and Import a Database with phpMyAdmin in cPanel: Backups and Site Moves

- Upgrading MySQL to MariaDB on a cPanel/whm server

All WHM guides →

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