Opening a Port in the CSF Firewall: From WHM or csf.conf, Plus the Common cPanel Ports

WHM/cPanel · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/open-port-csf-firewall-whm/

In two lines In **WHM, then Plugins, then ConfigServer Security & Firewall** click **Firewall Configuration**, add the port number to **TCP_IN** for incoming connections (or TCP_OUT for outgoing), comma separated, then click **Change** and **Restart csf+lfd**.

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

The situation: A developer has installed an app on port 8443, or a site needs to reach an external service on an unusual port, and the connection fails. Nine times out of ten the port is closed in CSF.

First, know the direction

Setting	Controls	Example
TCP_IN	Connections arriving from the internet	Visitors opening an app on port 8443
TCP_OUT	Connections the server starts outwards	Your site calling a payment service or API on a special port
UDP_IN and **UDP_OUT**	The same for UDP	DNS on port 53
TCP6_IN and friends	The same for IPv6	If the server uses IPv6

Second, from WHM

1. **Open CSF** from **Plugins** in WHM.
2. **Click Firewall Configuration** a long page of settings appears.

3. **Find TCP_IN** with Ctrl+F in your browser.
4. **Add the port** at the end of the list after a comma, such as `,8443`. For a range, use `30000:35000`.
5. **Save and restart** click **Change** at the bottom, then **Restart csf+lfd**.

Third, from the command line



Open the file in any editor, change the line, then run `csf -r`. Do not remove an existing port unless you know it is unused.

Ports you will see on cPanel servers

Port	Service
20, 21	FTP
22	SSH (unless changed)
25, 465, 587	SMTP mail sending
110, 995	POP3 and secure POP3

Port	Service
143, 993	IMAP and secure IMAP
53	DNS
80, 443	Websites
2082, 2083	cPanel
2086, 2087	WHM
2095, 2096	Webmail
2077, 2078	Web Disk

Do not open database ports (3306) to the whole world. If you need an outside connection to a database, allow one address only; see remote MySQL access.

Is the port really open?

- From another machine try `nc -zv server-address 8443`, or an online port checker.
- Make sure something is listening: `ss -tlnp | grep 8443`. A port open in the firewall does not mean a service runs on it.
- If your provider has an external firewall (such as the VPS panel's), open the port there too.

Three things to remember

- TCP_IN is incoming and TCP_OUT outgoing, each with its own list.
- After any change: Change, then Restart csf+lfd, or csf -r over SSH.
- An open port with nothing listening still will not answer.

Passive ports for FTP

FTP clients open a second connection for data on a random port from a set range called passive ports. If FTP connects and then hangs when listing files, that range is usually closed in the firewall. On cPanel with Pure-FTPd the default range is `30000:35000`, added to TCP_IN exactly like that with the colon. If you change the range in the FTP server settings, change it in CSF too.

Before closing any port already in the list, see what uses it with `ss -tlnp`. Closing a running service's port cuts customers off immediately, and you may not connect the two until hours later.

Port questions

I changed the SSH port. What do I do in CSF?
Add the new port to TCP_IN before restarting SSH, and only remove 22 after logging in on the new port.

How do I open a port for one address only?
Add a line to csf.allow such as `tcp|in|d=3306|s=203.0.113.5`, then restart CSF.

I opened the port and it still does not work
Check that a service is listening, check your provider's external firewall, and make sure you restarted CSF after saving.

Should I close the unencrypted ports 2082 and 2086?
If everyone logs in through the encrypted 2083 and 2087, closing them reduces the attack surface, but check nobody depends on them first.

Related guides

- The CSF Firewall on a cPanel Server: What It Does, Installing It from Manage Plugins, and the First Settings
- Important CSF firewall commands via SSH
- How to Enable Remote MySQL Connections in WHM and cPanel
- Firewall: Control the Open Ports on Your VPS

All WHM guides →

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