



Integrating your Hosting Business and cPanel

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Introduction

Integration means different things to different companies.

1 Server, 5 Servers, 500 Servers all present a different level of need.

The goal of this presentation is easy and “seamless” integration.



Topics

- »» Easy Account Creation
- »» Easy License Activation
- »» Keeping Your Brand Consistent
- »» Pushing Changes to Multiple Servers
- »» Thoughts on Updates and Business Strategy



Easy Account Creations

When a customer signs up for shared / reseller hosting, they need an account.

Tools required:

» cPanel XML API

» Scripting Knowledge



Shared Hosting Scenario

2 packages are offered:

➤➤ hosting_silver (shared 250GB plan)

➤➤ reseller_gold (reseller 2 TB plan)



Define Those Packages

```
/xml-api/addpkg
```

```
/xml-api/addpkg?
```

```
name=hosting_silver&featurelist=hosting_silver&quot  
a=250000&ip=0&cgi=0&frontpage=0&cpmod=x3&m  
axftp=5&maxsql=5&maxpop=99&maxlst=99&maxsu  
b=2&maxpark=0&maxaddon=0&hasshell=0&bwlimit  
=1000000
```



Creating the Account

/xml-api/createacct

/xml-api/createacct?username=\$username&plan=\$hostingplan&password=\$userpass&contactemail=\$emailaddy&domain=\$domainname



Sounds Simple, But!

Simply creating an account doesn't do any good

- » Check for duplicate username
- » Bill credit card
- » Handle Exceptions



Easy License Activations

When a customer buys a dedicated server, they need a cPanel license.

Tools required:

» cPanel Licensing API

» Scripting Knowledge



Dedicated Server Scenario

Dedicated servers are built and brought online within 48 hours of customer's order. cPanel licenses should already be active when the server is delivered.



Activating the License

```
new cPanelLicensing(user => $user, pass=> $pass);
```

```
$licenseManager->activateLicense(ip => $ip, groupid  
=> $gid, packageid => $pkgid, force => 0);
```



Again with the but's

Adding licenses at random is not good, except for getting charged for a bunch of licenses.

➤➤ Run customer's card

➤➤ Handle Exceptions



Keeping Your Brand Consistent

Customers hate changes!

- » Custom Login Page
- » cPanel Interface Branding
- » cPanel Plugins
- » Custom Logout Location



Custom Login Page

Add an area to your site where clients can login.

```
<form method="POST" action="http://somedomain.com:2083/login/">  
  <input type="text" name="user" /><br />  
  <input type="password" name="pass" /><br />  
  <input type="hidden" name="login_theme" value="default" /><br />  
  <input type="submit" value="Login">  
</form>
```



Custom Login Page

Caveats

- » Send them to the right server
- » What about WHM?
- » What about Webmail?



cPanel Interface Branding

Our Interface gets your company's look

- »» Images
- »» Logos
- »» Icons
- »» CSS
- »» Change Entire Pages



cPanel Plugins

Add Icons / Links to cPanel

- Add a section for Domain Name Registration
- Add a section for AdWords Credits
- Add a custom section to replace an existing one



cPanel Plugins

<http://www.cpanel.net/plugins/dev>

➤➤ Generate a plugin online

cPanel Plugins Install File Generator

Plugin Name:
Name of the Plugin.

Module Description:
Description of the module (used for branding).

Feature Manager?
If enabled, the feature will be an option in the feature manager.

Display Name:
Name displayed in the cPanel Interface.

Display Group:
What cPanel icon group the icon should appear in. (Currently only in x3).

Display Order:
Order within the group.

Access URL:
URL used to access the plugin in cPanel (relative to /usr/local/cpanel/base/frontend/<theme_name>/).

Anchor Content:
Data in this field will be included in the anchor tags, you can use something like target="_blank" etc.

On Click Event:
Data in this field will be included in the anchor tags, you can use something like --JavaScript_HERE_; return false;

Plugin Icon:
Icon to be displayed in cPanel (jpg or png only).



Custom Logout Location

Keep those customers on your site

Simply set the Logout Redirect URL in WHM >> Tweak Settings:

Redirect user to the following URL upon logout of the cPanel interface. A blank value specifies the default logout page.

```
http://www.mybrandedho:
```



DEMO TIME

Let's see it all in action!



Pushing Changes to Multiple Servers

Scripts are your friend

For business continuity changes:

In most cases, simply copy the file from its location on the first server to the same location on each other server.



Brand all your Boxes

Branding packages belong to resellers.

They are located at:

```
/home/$username/cpanelbranding/$themename/  
$brandingname
```



Apache Build Profiles

Central Profile Repository

Save your custom profile

Push to another server in:

```
/var/cpanel/easy/apache/profile/custom
```



Thoughts on Updates and Business Strategy

»» Stay up to date

»» Use ACLs to hide new features

»» Custom themes retain functionality



Questions?