How to install and switch different versions of PHP in Ubuntu?

506 Nesvin KN March 17, 2026 General 49201



How to install multiple PHP versions in Ubuntu?

Overview: This article explains how to install multiple PHP versions on Ubuntu, switch between them for CLI and GUI, and configure Apache to enable different PHP versions for different applications.

Installing and switching different versions of PHP is important because different applications and websites require different versions of PHP to function properly. For example, an older website may require an older version of PHP to work, while a newer application may require a newer version of PHP.

In addition, some developers may prefer to work with a specific version of PHP for their projects. Being able to switch between different versions of PHP allows developers to work with the version that is best suited for their project.

Step 1. Run the below command to install PPA and enable the PHP repository.

```
root@ubuntu ~]# apt update ; apt install software-properties-common -y ; add-apt-repository ppa:ondrej/php
```

Step 2. Install different versions of PHP by the below commands.

```
root@ubuntu ~]# apt install php8.1 -y
root@ubuntu ~]# apt install php8.2 -y
root@ubuntu ~]# apt install php8.3 -y
root@ubuntu ~]# apt install php8.4 -y
```

Step 3. You can check the **PHP** version from CLI using the below command.

```
root@ubuntu ~]# php -v
```

```
PHP 8.2.18 (cli) (built: Apr 21 2022 10:14:55) ( NTS )
Copyright (c) The PHP Group
Zend Engine v4.0.18, Copyright (c) Zend Technologies
with Zend OPcache v8.0.18, Copyright (c), by Zend Technologies
```

Step 4. You can check the **PHP** version for GUI by adding *phpinfo.php* and accessing with **<server-ip>/phpinfo.php**

```
root@ubuntu ~]# echo "<?php phpinfo()?>" >> /var/www/html/phpinfo.php
```

Step 5. Check all **PHP versions** installed on *ubuntu* by running the below commands.

```
root@ubuntu ~]# dpkg-query -l | grep -i php

root@ubuntu ~]# apt list --installed | grep -i php
```

How to switch PHP version for CLI?

Run the below command and select the **PHP version** you want to switch to. In the below example I'm switching the PHP version to 7.4.

```
root@ubuntu ~]# update-alternatives --config php
There are 4 choices for the alternative php (providing /usr/bin/php).

Selection Path Priority Status
------------------------------------------------------------
  0 /usr/bin/php8.4 84 auto mode
  1 /usr/bin/php8.1 81 manual mode
  2 /usr/bin/php8.2 82 manual mode
  3 /usr/bin/php8.3 83 manual mode
* 4 /usr/bin/php8.4 84 manual mode

Press <enter> to keep the current choice[*], or type selection number:
```

```
root@ubuntu ~]# update-alternatives --config phar
There are 4 choices for the alternative phar (providing /usr/bin/phar).

Selection Path Priority Status
------------------------------------------------------------
  0 /usr/bin/phar8.4 84 auto mode
  1 /usr/bin/phar8.1 81 manual mode
  2 /usr/bin/phar8.2 82 manual mode
  3 /usr/bin/phar8.3 83 manual mode
* 4 /usr/bin/phar8.4 84 manual mode

Press <enter> to keep the current choice[*], or type selection number:
```

```
root@ubuntu ~]# update-alternatives --config phar.phar
There are 4 choices for the alternative phar.phar (providing /usr/bin/phar.phar).

Selection Path Priority Status
------------------------------------------------------------
  0 /usr/bin/phar.phar8.4 84 auto mode
  1 /usr/bin/phar.phar8.1 81 manual mode
```

```
  2 /usr/bin/phar.phar8.2 82 manual mode
  3 /usr/bin/phar.phar8.3 83 manual mode
* 4 /usr/bin/phar.phar8.4 84 manual mode

Press <enter> to keep the current choice[*], or type selection number:
```

After completing above three steps, check **php version** by running the below command.

Redownload and update ionCube. Also, ensure that the Zend Engine version is v4.3.30, ionCube PHP Loader is v15.0.0, and Zend OPcache is v8.3.30.

If the versions do not match, remove the existing ionCube Loader and download it again.

Refer to the article below: How to install ioncube on jump server?

```
root@ubuntu ~]# php -v

PHP 8.2.30 (cli) (built: Apr 21 2022 10:16:36) ( NTS )
Copyright (c) The PHP Group
Zend Engine v4.3.30, Copyright (c) Zend Technologies
with the ionCube PHP Loader v15.0.0, Copyright (c) 2002-2025, by ionCube Ltd.
with Zend OPcache v8.3.30, Copyright (c), by Zend Technologies
```

How to switch PHP version for GUI?

Step 1. View current version loaded in GUI by viewing the **PHP** configuration file. Run below command and view the configuration in browser with **<server_ip>/phpinfo.php**

```
root@ubuntu ~]# echo "<?php phpinfo()?>" >> /var/www/html/phpinfo.php
```



System	Linux test 5.15.0-171-generic #181-Ubuntu SMP Fri Feb 6 22:44:50 UTC 2026 x86_64
Build Date	Feb 13 2026 15:57:48
Build System	Linux
Build Provider	Debian
Server API	Apache 2.0 Handler
Virtual Directory Support	disabled
Configuration File (php.ini) Path	/etc/php/8.2/apache2
Loaded Configuration File	/etc/php/8.2/apache2/php.ini
Scan this dir for additional .ini files	/etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d
Additional .ini files parsed	/etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/10-mysqlnd.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/10-opcache.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/10-pdo.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/20-calendar.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/20-ctype.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/20-curl.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/20-exif.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/20-ffi.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/20-fileinfo.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/20-ftp.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/20-gettext.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/20-iconv.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/20-mysqli.ini, /etc/php/8.2/apache2/conf.d/20-pdo_mysql.ini,

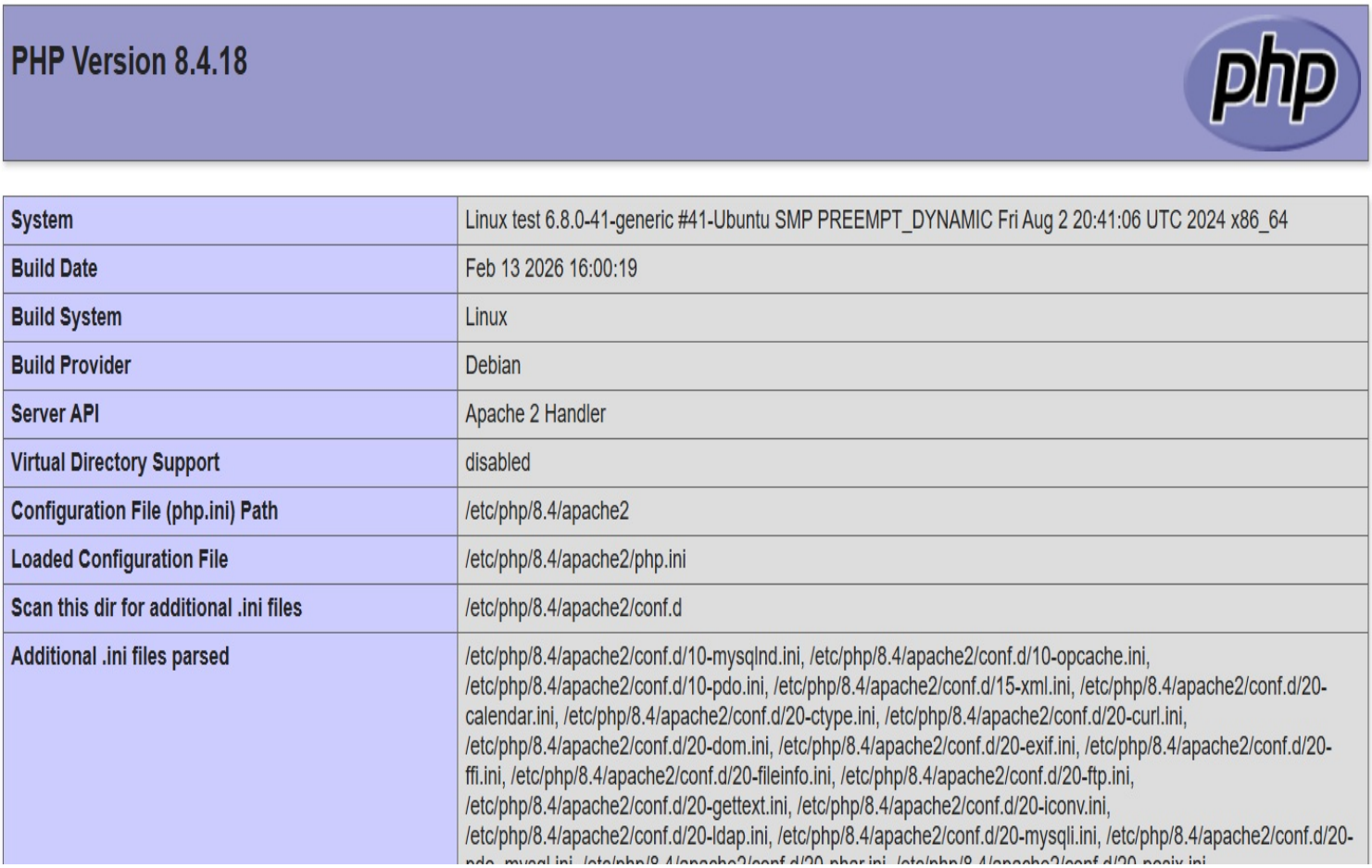
Step 2. Run the below commands to disable and enable multi **PHP versions**.

```
root@ubuntu ~]# a2dismod php*

root@ubuntu ~]# a2enmod php8.4

root@ubuntu ~]# systemctl restart apache2
```

Step 3. Now refresh GUI and confirm the **PHP** version has changed.



PHP Version 8.4.18

System	Linux test 6.8.0-41-generic #41-Ubuntu SMP PREEMPT_DYNAMIC Fri Aug 2 20:41:06 UTC 2024 x86_64
Build Date	Feb 13 2026 16:00:19
Build System	Linux
Build Provider	Debian
Server API	Apache 2 Handler
Virtual Directory Support	disabled
Configuration File (php.ini) Path	/etc/php/8.4/apache2
Loaded Configuration File	/etc/php/8.4/apache2/php.ini
Scan this dir for additional .ini files	/etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d
Additional .ini files parsed	/etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/10-mysqlnd.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/10-opcache.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/10-pdo.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/15-xml.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-calendar.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-ctype.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-curl.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-dom.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-exif.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-ffi.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-fileinfo.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-ftp.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-gettext.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-iconv.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-ldap.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-mysqli.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-pdo_mysql.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-phar.ini, /etc/php/8.4/apache2/conf.d/20-posix.ini

FAQ

1. Can we install multiple PHP versions?

Yes, it is possible to install multiple versions of PHP on the same Ubuntu system. This allows you to switch between different versions of PHP depending on the requirements of your projects or applications.

2. How to install multiple PHP versions Ubuntu 20?

There are different ways to install multiple PHP versions, but one common method is to use a package manager like apt-get to install each version of PHP as a separate package. Refer the article **How to install multiple PHP versions in Ubuntu?**

3. How to switch between multiple PHP versions in Ubuntu?

Refer the article **How to install multiple PHP versions in Ubuntu?**

Related Articles:

How to upgrade PHP to 7.4 on Centos 7

PHP Fatal error

Online URL: https://www.ezeelogin.com/kb/article/how-to-install-and-switch-different-versions-of-php-in-ubuntu-506.html