How to upgrade PHP to 8.1 in Ubuntu

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How to upgrade PHP to 8.1 or 8.4 in Ubuntu?

Overview: This article provides the step to upgrade the PHP version.

Prerequisites: Any installed PHP version with apache and nginx web server.

Upgrade PHP to 8.4 in Ubuntu

Enter the following commands on the terminal to upgrade PHP version:

Step 1: To install the latest **PHP 8.4**, you need to install PHP 8 binary packages that are available in the Ondrej Sury PPA repository.

```
root@gateway:~#  add-apt-repository ppa:ondrej/php
```

Press ENTER to add the repository.

Step 2: Install PHP 8.4

```
root@gateway:~#  apt-get update

root@gateway:~#  apt-get install php8.4
```

Step 3: Now install **PHP 8.4** with all necessary modules with the command below:

```
root@gateway:~# apt install php8.4-cli php8.4-xml php8.4-gd php8.4-curl php8.4-mysql php8.4-ldap php8.4-zip
```

Step 4: Restart Apache2

```
root@gateway:~# systemctl restart apache2
```

Step 5: Disable the current version PHP modules whichever you are running and enable the modules for 8.1 version

```
root@gateway:~# a2dismod php* ( eg: a2dismod php7.4 )

root@gateway:~# a2enmod php8.4
```

Step 6:. Restart the Apache2 service.

```
root@gateway:~# systemctl restart apache2
```

upgrade PHP to 8.1 in Ubuntu

Step 1: To install the latest **PHP 8.1**, you need to install PHP 8 binary packages that are available in the Ondrej Sury PPA repository.

```
root@gateway:~# add-apt-repository ppa:ondrej/php
```

Press ENTER to add the repository.

Step 2: Install PHP 8.1

```
root@gateway:~#  apt-get update

root@gateway:~#  apt-get install php8.1
```

Step 3: Now install PHP 8.1 with all necessary modules with the command below:

```
root@gateway:~# apt install php8.1-cli php8.1-xml php8.1-gd php8.1-curl php8.1-mysql php8.1-ldap php8.1-zip
```

Step 4: Restart Apache2

```
root@gateway:~# systemctl restart apache2
```

Step 5: Disable the current version PHP modules whichever you are running and enable the modules for 8.1 version

```
root@gateway:~# a2dismod php* ( eg: a2dismod php7.4 )

root@gateway:~# a2enmod php8.1
```

Step 6:. Restart the Apache2 service.

```
root@gateway:~# systemctl restart apache2
```

```
PHP 8.1.13 (cli) (built: Nov 26 2022 14:07:36) (NTS)
Copyright (c) The PHP Group
Zend Engine v4.1.13, Copyright (c) Zend Technologies
    with Zend OPcache v8.1.13, Copyright (c), by Zend Technologies
```

To upgrade PHP to 8/8.1/8.4 with nginx web server

Step 1: Update and upgrade your system packages.

```
root@gateway:~#  apt-get update -y

root@gateway:~# apt-get upgrade -y
```

Step 2: Allow apt to use the system repository.

```
root@gateway:~# apt install ca-certificates apt-transport-https

root@gateway:~# apt install software-properties-common
```

Step 3: You need to install PHP 8 binary packages that are available in the Ondrej Sury PPA repository.

```
root@gateway:~# add-apt-repository ppa:ondrej/php
```

Press ENTER when prompted while adding the repository.

Step 4: Install PHP 8/ 8.1/8.4 with nginx.

For 8.4

```
root@gateway:~# apt install php8.4 php8.4-fpm
```

```
root@gateway:~# systemctl status php8.4-fpm
```

For 8.1

```
root@gateway:~# apt install php8.1 php8.1-fpm

root@gateway:~# systemctl status php8.1-fpm
```

Step 5: For Nginx to process PHP files, configure your Nginx server block by updating/adding the server section:

For 8.4:

```
root@gateway:~# nano /etc/nginx/sites-available/example

server {
listen 80;
server_name 192.168.0.105;
root /var/www/html;
index info.php;

location ~ \.php$ {
include snippets/fastcgi-php.conf;
fastcgi_pass unix:/run/php/php8.4-fpm.sock;
}
}
```

For 8.1:

```
root@gateway:~# nano /etc/nginx/sites-available/example

server {
listen 80;
server_name 192.168.0.105;
root /var/www/html;
index info.php;

location ~ \.php$ {
include snippets/fastcgi-php.conf;
fastcgi_pass unix:/run/php/php8.1-fpm.sock;
}
}
```

Step 6: Restart the Nginx service.

```
root@gateway:~# systemctl restart nginx
```

Step 7: Install the php8.4 needed packages.

```
root@gateway:~# apt install php8.4-cli php8.4-xml php8.4-gd php8.4-curl php8.4-mysql php8.4-ldap php8.4-zip
```

```
PHP 8.4.27 (cli) (built: Oct 21 2026 14:34:07) (NTS)
Copyright (c) The PHP Group
Built by Ubuntu
Zend Engine v4.4.27, Copyright (c) Zend Technologies
```

Step 8: Install the php8.1 needed packages.

```
root@gateway:~# apt install php8.1-cli php8.1-xml php8.1-gd php8.1-curl php8.1-mysql php8.1-ldap php8.1-zip
```

To check installed version of PHP and set the needed PHP version.

```
root@gateway:~# update-alternatives --config php
```

To confirm the PHP version:

```
root@gateway:~# php -v

root@gateway:~# nano /var/www/html/info.php

<?php

phpinfo();

?>
```

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Online URL: https://www.ezeelogin.com/kb/article/how-to-upgrade-php-to-8-1-in-ubuntu-562.html