Upgrade PHP to 8.1 or 8.3 on Debian 9, 10, and 11 Servers

597 Nesvin KN October 22, 2026 General 18334



How to upgrade PHP to 8.1 & 8.3 in the Debian 9, 10, and 11 servers?

Overview: This article provides a step-by-step guide to upgrading PHP to version 8.1 or 8.3 or 8.4 on different Debian versions.

Step 1: Run the following command to install essential packages in the Debian server:

```
root@localhost:~$ apt install -y lsb-release apt-transport-https ca-certificates wget
```

Step 2: The **Sury PHP repository** is the recommended source for the latest PHP versions on Debian. Add it using the following commands:

```
root@localhost:~$ wget -O /etc/apt/trusted.gpg.d/php.gpg https://packages.sury.org/php/apt.gpg

root@localhost:~$ echo "deb https://packages.sury.org/php/ $(lsb_release -sc) main" | sudo tee /etc/apt/sources.list.d/php.list
```

Step 3: Run the below to update outdated packages and install PHP 8.1 or 8.3 or 8.4

```
root@localhost:~$ apt update

root@localhost:~$ apt install php8.1 -y

root@localhost:~$ apt install php8.3 -y

root@localhost:~$ apt install php8.4 -y
```

Step 4:. Run the below command to install 8.1 or 8.3 or 8.4 modules

```
root@localhost:~$ apt install php8.1-cli php8.1-xml php8.1-gd php8.1-curl php8.1-mysql php8.1-ldap php8.1-zip -y

root@localhost:~$ apt install php8.3-cli php8.3-xml php8.3-gd php8.3-curl php8.3-mysql php8.3-ldap php8.3-zip -y

root@localhost:~$ apt install php8.4-cli php8.4-xml php8.4-gd php8.4-curl php8.4-mysql php8.4-ldap php8.4-zip -y
```

Step 5:. Run the below command to confirm PHP 8.1 or 8.3 or 8.4 has been successfully installed in the Debian server

```
root@localhost:~$ php -v

PHP 8.2.25 (cli) (built: Mar 13 2025 17:33:36) (NTS)
Copyright (c) The PHP Group
Zend Engine v4.3.19, Copyright (c) Zend Technologies
with Zend OPcache v8.3.19, Copyright (c), by Zend Technologies

PHP 8.3.36 (cli) (built: Mar 13 2025 17:33:36) (NTS)
Copyright (c) The PHP Group
Zend Engine v4.3.19, Copyright (c) Zend Technologies
with Zend OPcache v8.3.19, Copyright (c), by Zend Technologies

PHP 8.4.20 (cli) (built: Apr 8 2026 08:16:38) (NTS gcc x86_64)
Copyright (c) The PHP Group
Zend Engine v4.4.20, Copyright (c) Zend Technologies
```

Step 6:. Add a PHP info page to confirm 8.1 or 8.3 or 8.4 has loaded for the webserver.

```
root@localhost:~$ vim /var/www/html/phpinfo.php

<?php
phpinfo();
?>
```

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