FACET RAPID RESPONSE CHEAT SHEET

How to check your PHP version for PHP2Shell

Where to see the PHP version on common platforms, and what "fixed" means there. Every step comes from the vendor's own documentation, linked under each section. Where a vendor's docs do not say, we tell you to ask your provider rather than guess.

Online version: https://rapidresponse.facetdigital.com/cheat-sheet/ (checked against vendor docs on October 22, 2026).

What "fixed" means

- Fixed releases: **8.5.12**, **8.4.27**, **8.3.36**, **8.2.35**, or newer in the same branch.
- PHP 8.1 and older get no official release from the PHP project. Upgrade, or get a backported fix from your Linux vendor or an LTS provider.
- PHP 8.2 leaves security support on December 31, 2026, so plan an upgrade even after patching.
- Check the PHP that serves web requests (PHP-FPM, mod_php, php-cgi), not only the command line. They can differ.
- After updating, restart PHP-FPM, the web server, or the container so the new build is the one running.

> Linux distributions such as Debian, Ubuntu, and Red Hat Enterprise Linux and its derivatives often backport security fixes without changing the upstream version number, so a distribution package can be patched while showing an older version. For those, check the distribution's security advisory for the package.

Sources: PHP security advisory, October 21, 2026; PHP supported versions; Red Hat: Backporting security fixes; Debian security FAQ; Ubuntu: version banners

A word of caution

Do not download and run "scanners" or other tools from people you do not know during a security incident. That includes us. Nothing here asks you to install or run anything new: every step uses what your server, your host, or your platform already gives you.

Command line on Linux and macOS

WHERE TO SEE THE VERSION

- Run `php -v`. The first line shows the version, for example `PHP 8.3.36 (cli)`. You can paste it into our version checker, which runs in your browser.
- `php -v` reports the command line PHP. Web requests may be served by a different build (PHP-FPM, mod_php). The `PHP_VERSION` constant and `phpinfo()` report the version of the PHP that runs them, so they show what the web server uses when run through it. If you use `phpinfo()` for this, remove it straight after: it shows a lot about your server.

WHAT FIXED MEANS HERE

- Linux packages: update PHP through your distribution's package manager, restart PHP-FPM or the web server, and check your distribution's security advisory for the package.
- macOS with Homebrew: `brew update`, then `brew upgrade php` (or the versioned formula, such as `php@8.3`). Homebrew's formulae list php 8.5.12, php@8.4 8.4.27, php@8.3 8.3.36 and php@8.2 8.2.35.

> Distribution packages may be patched while showing an older version number. Check the distribution's security advisory for the PHP package.

Sources: php.net: command line options; php.net: phpversion and PHP_VERSION; php.net: phpinfo; Homebrew FAQ; Homebrew php formula

cPanel and WHM

WHERE TO SEE THE VERSION

- In cPanel, open **MultiPHP Manager**. It lists each domain with its current PHP version; "Inherited" means the domain uses the server's default.
- Server administrators: **WHM » Home » Software » MultiPHP Manager**.

WHAT FIXED MEANS HERE

- To move a domain to another installed branch: select the domain, choose from the **PHP Version** menu, and click **Apply**.
- Missing versions are installed by the administrator in **WHM » Home » Software » EasyApache 4**. System updates are under **WHM » Home » Software » System Update**.
- cPanel's docs do not say whether MultiPHP Manager shows the full patch number (such as 8.3.36), or when patch releases reach a server. Ask your host, or check with `php -v` or `phpinfo()`.

> If the number looks old or you cannot tell, ask your host whether the October 21, 2026 PHP security release has been applied.

Sources: cPanel: MultiPHP Manager; WHM: MultiPHP Manager; WHM: EasyApache 4

Plesk

WHERE TO SEE THE VERSION

- Go to **Websites & Domains**. The PHP version shows next to the PHP icon on the domain card. Click **PHP** to see or change the version for that domain.
- If the version you need is not in the menu, Plesk's docs say to contact your hosting provider.

WHAT FIXED MEANS HERE

- Administrators install PHP versions under **Tools & Settings** > **Updates** (under "Plesk"), then **Add/Remove Components**, **Web hosting**, **PHP interpreter versions**.
- Plesk ships PHP as a third-party component, and automatic updates of third-party components are off by default. To turn them on: **Tools & Settings** > **Update Settings**, then "Automatically install updates for third-party components shipped by Plesk".
- Plesk's docs do not say whether the domain card shows the full patch number. Confirm with `php -v` or `phpinfo()`, or ask your provider.

Sources: Plesk: PHP settings; Plesk: installing PHP; Plesk: updates and upgrades

Managed WordPress hosts

WHERE TO SEE THE VERSION

- In the WordPress dashboard, go to **Tools** > **Site Health**, select the **Info** tab, expand **Server**, and find **PHP version**. This is the PHP serving your site.

WHAT FIXED MEANS HERE

- On managed hosting, your host runs PHP. Many managed hosts patch for you. Ask yours whether they have applied the October 21, 2026 PHP security release. WordPress's own guidance is that updating PHP means using your host's settings or asking your provider.
- Plugins and themes are a separate question from PHP itself.

Sources: WordPress.org: Update PHP; WordPress.org: Site Health screen

AWS: EC2, Lightsail, Elastic Beanstalk

EC2 ON AMAZON LINUX 2023

- See the version with `php -v`. Amazon Linux 2023 provides PHP 8.1 through 8.5 as packages.
- AL2023 instances are locked to a repository version, and security updates go only to new repository versions. Check with `sudo dnf check-release-update`, then upgrade with `sudo dnf upgrade --releasever=<version>`, and restart PHP-FPM or the web server.
- Amazon publishes PHP package advisories in the Amazon Linux Security Center (ALAS).

LIGHTSAIL

- AWS has a page for this release. Check with `php -v`; on instances from Bitnami blueprints, run `/opt/bitnami/php/bin/php -v`. For WordPress, use **Tools, Site Health, Info, Server**.
- The fixed versions are the same: 8.2.35, 8.3.36, 8.4.27, 8.5.12. On Lightsail-packaged blueprints, update with `sudo apt update` and `sudo apt upgrade`, then restart the web server or PHP-FPM.
- Bitnami blueprints carry their own copy of PHP that `apt upgrade` does not update. Follow the AWS page's steps for those.

ELASTIC BEANSTALK

- The platform version is shown on the environment overview page under **Platform**. AWS's supported platforms page lists the PHP versions each platform version ships; the PHP on Amazon Linux 2023 platform version 4.13.13 ships 8.5.12, 8.4.27, 8.3.36 and 8.2.35.
- To update: on the environment overview page, under **Platform**, choose **Change**, pick the new platform version, and save. With managed updates on, you can apply one now from **Managed updates**, **Apply now**.

> Amazon Linux packages: check the ALAS advisory for the PHP package rather than relying on the version number alone.

Sources: AL2023: PHP; AL2023: deterministic upgrades; Amazon Linux Security Center; Lightsail: update PHP for security vulnerabilities; Elastic Beanstalk: supported platforms; Elastic Beanstalk: updating the platform version; Elastic Beanstalk: managed platform updates

Docker images

WHERE TO SEE THE VERSION

- Look at the base image tag in your Dockerfile's `FROM` line, such as `php:8.3-fpm` or `php:8.3.36-apache`. The official image's tags include the fixed releases, for example `8.5.12-apache`, `8.4.27-fpm`, `8.3.36-apache` and `8.2.35` variants.
- A branch tag such as `php:8.3-fpm` moves to new releases, but an image you built earlier keeps the PHP it was built with. Run `php -v` inside the running container to see what it actually has.

WHAT FIXED MEANS HERE

- Our advice: pin or pull the fixed tag, rebuild with `docker build --pull` (which always pulls the referenced base images), and redeploy every container that uses it.
- If your image is based on another image (for example an application image), check that image's own tag and release notes.

Sources: Docker Hub: official php image; official php image tag list; Docker docs: docker build

Windows and IIS

WHERE TO SEE THE VERSION

- Run `php -v` from the PHP folder, or use `phpinfo()` through IIS to see the build IIS runs. With IIS, PHP runs through FastCGI using `php-cgi.exe`.

WHAT FIXED MEANS HERE

- php.net says to use the Non-Thread Safe (NTS) builds for FastCGI with IIS. Download the fixed NTS build for your branch from php.net's Windows downloads.
- Windows installs should take the `-1` builds (8.5.12-1, 8.4.27-1, 8.3.36-1, 8.2.35-1), which bundle a fixed Brotli; `php -v` will not show the difference.
- Neither php.net nor Microsoft documents an in-place update for IIS. AWS's guidance for this release: replace the existing installation with the fixed build, keep your `php.ini`, restart IIS, and check with `php -v`. If PHP was installed for you, ask your provider.

Sources: php.net: installing on IIS; php.net: Windows downloads; php.net: Updated PHP Windows builds for Brotli security fix; Microsoft Learn: IIS FastCGI; AWS: update PHP for security vulnerabilities

Laravel Forge and similar server managers

WHERE TO SEE THE VERSION

- In Forge, open the server's dashboard, click the **Runtime** tab, then **PHP**. Installed versions are listed there. On the server, each version has its own command, such as `php8.3 -v`.
- Forge only knows about PHP installed through the Forge dashboard.

WHAT FIXED MEANS HERE

- To patch: find the PHP version, open its dropdown menu, and click **Update**. Repeat for each installed version your sites use.
- Changing the server's default PHP version does not move existing sites. Check each site's version.
- Other server managers: ask your provider, or check their docs for how they patch PHP. We have not verified their steps.

Source: Laravel Forge: PHP

Still not sure?

Ask your host or provider whether they have applied the October 21, 2026 PHP security release. If you would rather hand it off, Facet Rapid Response patches and verifies for a fixed fee: email sbradley@facetdigital.com.