How to Install a PHP Extension Using PECL

Binh Pham - 2025-03-12 - Virtual Private Servers (VPS)

PECL (PHP Extension Community Library) is a repository for PHP extensions that are not included in the core PHP distribution. You can use PECL to easily install and manage PHP extensions.

Step 1: Ensure PECL is Installed

PECL is included with **PHP-PEAR**, so you may need to install it first:

For **cPanel/WHM servers**:

```
yum install ea-phpXX-php-pear ea-phpXX-php-devel -y
```

Replace XX with your PHP version (e.g., `ea-php82-php-pear` for PHP 8.2).

For other Linux distributions:

```
apt install php-pear php-dev -y # Debian/Ubuntu
```

```
yum install php-pear php-devel -y # CentOS/RHEL
```

Step 2: Install the PHP Extension Using PECL

To install an extension, use:

```
pecl install extension_name
```

For specific PHP versions on **cPanel/WHM**:

```
/opt/cpanel/ea-phpXX/root/usr/bin/pecl install extension_name
```

Replace XX with the PHP version (e.g., `ea-php82` for PHP 8.2).

Example:

```
pecl install zstd
```

Step 3: Enable the Installed Extension

After installation, you may need to manually enable the extension in the PHP configuration file.

1. Add the extension to the `php.ini` or create a `.ini` file:

1. `echo "extension=extension_name.so" >> /etc/php.d/extension_name.ini`

2. For **cPanel/WHM**:

    1. `echo "extension=extension_name.so" >> /opt/cpanel/ea-phpXX/root/etc/php.d/extension_name.ini`

3. Restart your web server to apply changes:

Step 4: Verify the Installation

Check if the extension is installed:

```
php -m | grep extension_name
```

or

```
php -i | grep extension_name
```

If the extension appears in the output, it has been successfully installed.