
SWsoft, Inc.

Plesk Auto-Installer User's Guide



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CHAPTER 1

Preface

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Documentation Conventions

Before you start using this guide, it is important to understand the documentation conventions used in it. For information on specialized terms used in the documentation, see the Glossary at the end of this document.

Typographical Conventions

The following kinds of formatting in the text identify special information.

<u>Formatting convention</u>	<u>Type of Information</u>	<u>Example</u>
Special Bold	Items you must select, such as menu options, command buttons, or items in a list.	Go to the QoS tab.
	Titles of chapters, sections, and subsections.	Read the Basic Administration chapter.

<i>Italics</i>	Used to emphasize the importance of a point, to introduce a term or to designate a command line placeholder, which is to be replaced with a real name or value.	These are the so-called <i>shared VPSs</i> . To destroy a VPS, type <code>vmctl destroy vpsid</code> .
Monospace	The names of commands, files, and directories.	Use <code>vmctl start</code> to start a VPS.
Preformatted	On-screen computer output in your command-line sessions; source code in XML, C++, or other programming languages.	Saved parameters for VPS 101
Monospace Bold	What you type, contrasted with on-screen computer output.	<code># rpm -V virtuo-1.0-1</code>
CAPITALS	Names of keys on the keyboard.	SHIFT, CTRL, ALT
KEY+KEY	Key combinations for which the user must press and hold down one key and then press another.	CTRL+P, ALT+F4

Shell Prompts in Command Examples

Command line examples throughout this guide presume that you are using the Bourne-again shell (bash). Whenever a command can be run as a regular user, we will display it with a dollar sign prompt. When a command is meant to be run as root, we will display it with a hash mark prompt:

Bourne-again shell prompt \$

Bourne-again shell root prompt #

General Conventions

- Chapters in this guide are divided into sections, which, in turn, are subdivided into subsections. For example, **Documentation Conventions** is a section, and **General Conventions** is a subsection.
- When following steps or using examples, be sure to type double-quotes ("), left single-quotes ('), and right single-quotes (') exactly as shown.
- The key referred to as RETURN is labeled ENTER on most keyboards.
- The root path usually includes the `/bin`, `/sbin`, `/usr/bin` and `/usr/sbin` directories, so the steps in this book show the commands in these directories without absolute path names. Steps that use commands in other, less common, directories show the absolute paths in the examples.

Feedback

If you spot a typo in this guide, or if you have thought of a way to make this guide better, we would love to hear from you!

If you have a suggestion for improving the documentation (or any other relevant comments), try to be as specific as possible when formulating it. If you have found an error, please include the chapter/section/subsection name and some of the surrounding text so we can find it easily.

Please submit a report by e-mail to userdocs@sw-soft.com.

About Plesk Auto-Installer

Plesk Auto-Installer is a utility shipped with and used by Plesk control panel for retrieving and installing software updates and upgrades from the official Plesk update server – <http://autoinstall.plesk.com>. Once Plesk is installed, the front-end to the utility is accessible from the control panel (Server Administration screen > Plesk Updater). The front-end gives you access only to the most frequently used functions, such as specifying the source of installation files and updates, retrieving a list of updates applicable to your Plesk installation and installing them in the background.

If you need to install Plesk on multiple servers, or set up a Plesk update server mirror inside your local network, you should use the Auto-Installer utility command line interface.

Configuring mirrors

- 1 Download the auto-installer binary file from SWsoft download site. The file name should look as follows: `psa_installer_v<auto-installer version>_os_<operating system version>_<platform>`

If you have Plesk installed on the server, you can use the ‘autoinstaller’ binary file, which is stored in the directory `/usr/local/psa/admin/bin/` on Linux systems, and `/opt/psa/admin/bin` on FreeBSD systems.

We recommend using the auto-installer shipped with Plesk, as it is being constantly improved.

- 2 Choose a domain on physical hosting where you want to set up a mirror.
You can use any of your existing domains, or create a new domain specifically for that purpose. Let’s assume you will use the domain `updates.example.com`.

Choose the directory within the virtual host where the auto-installer will store packages and other required files. Let's assume this will be the root directory of the virtual host.

To find out the absolute path to this directory, follow these steps:

- a) Look up the value of the `HTTPD_VHOSTS_D` variable in the `/etc/psa/psa.conf` file. This variable stores the path to the location of virtual hosts. Let's assume that this will be the `/var/www/vhosts` directory.
- b) Within the `/var/www/vhosts` directory, there are subdirectories for each domain. The names of those subdirectories coincide with names of existing domains. In our example we will have the following path to the virtual host: `/var/www/vhosts/updates.example.com`
- c) All documents available via HTTP protocol are stored in the 'httpdocs' subdirectory within the virtual host.

Therefore the absolute path to the directory where the updates will reside will be `/var/www/vhosts/updates.example.com/httpdocs`.

3 Set up the mirror.

As you, probably, will not need a copy of all contents of the official Plesk update server, you should choose what Plesk versions for what operating systems you want to mirror.

To obtain a list of available product versions, run the auto-installer with the following options:

```
autoinstaller --show-all-releases
```

A list of product versions will be displayed:

```
PLESK_7_1_7 (Plesk 7.1.7)
PLESK_7_5_2 (Plesk 7.5.2)
PLESK_7_5_3 (Plesk 7.5.3)
```

Release identifiers are shown on the left, and release names are given in brackets. You will need to use these identifiers when working with the auto-installer through command line.

Once you have decided which Plesk version to mirror, you need to choose the operating systems for which you want to obtain packages. To retrieve a list of operating systems supported by the Plesk version of your choice, you should run auto-installer with the following options:

```
autoinstaller --select-release-id <release ID> --show-os-list
```

A list of operating systems will show operating system names, their versions and identifiers:

```
FreeBSD 5.2.1: plesk_7.1.7_fr5.2.1.inf
FedoraCore Linux 1: plesk_7.1.7_fc1.inf
FedoraCore Linux 2: plesk_7.1.7_fc2.inf
SuSE Linux 9.0: plesk_7.1.7_suse9.0.inf
```

For instance, `plesk_7.1.7_fc2.inf` is the identifier of Fedora Core Linux 2 operating system.

You will need to use these identifiers when you run auto-installer for downloading packages to the local mirror.

Now that you have decided which Plesk versions to mirror, run the auto-installer in order to download packages.

For instance, if you wish to set up a mirror for Plesk 7.1.7 for Fedora Core 2 and Plesk 7.5.3 for Fedora Core 1 and Fedora Core 2, run the following command:

```
autoinstaller --select-release-id PLESK_7_1_7
--mirror-os plesk_7.1.7_fc2.inf
--select-release-id PLESK_7_5_3
--mirror-os plesk_7.5.3_fc1.inf
--mirror-os plesk_7.5.3_fc2.inf
--target-directory /var/www/vhosts/updates.example.com/httpdocs
```

Note that when specifying several Plesk versions, the following sequence of options should be preserved:

```
--release id 1 --mirror-os 1 --release id 2 -- mirror-os 2
```

The '--target-directory' option points to the directory where package files are stored. This is the directory within a virtual host that you selected at the step 2.

All releases and operating systems should be specified in a single command line.

To have the contents of the mirror site automatically updated, you should create a cron job and specify the auto-installer execution command there. The cron task should be added to the crontab of the respective FTP user (see the respective section of Plesk Administrator's Manual).

Now, to use this mirror during installation or upgrade, you should configure the Auto Updater through Plesk control panel or command line: select the 'Network Server' option, and specify the URL of the mirror. In our example, this would be `http://updates.example.com/`

Automating installation of Plesk on multiple servers

- 1 Download the auto-installer binary file from SWsoft download site. The file name should look as follows: `psa_installer_v<auto-installer version>_os_<operating system version>_<platform>`

If you have Plesk installed on the server, you can use the ‘autoinstaller’ binary file, which is stored in the directory `/usr/local/psa/admin/bin/` on Linux systems, and `/opt/psa/admin/bin` on FreeBSD systems.

We recommend using the auto-installer shipped with Plesk, as it is being constantly improved.

- 2 Copy the auto-installer binary file to the server where you need to install Plesk. Set the executable bit in file permissions by running the command: `chmod 755 autoinstaller`.
- 3 If you have only a few servers to set up, you can choose to run the auto-installer in the wizard mode. To do this, run the auto-installer without any command line options and arguments. You will be prompted to specify the installation settings. For unattended setups on multiple servers proceed to the step 4.
- 4 Compile a list of auto-installer options and arguments. Further (at the step 5) you will need to add these options to the installation script we have prepared for you.

4.1 To specify what Plesk version to install, you will need to know its release ID. To get a list of versions and their identifiers, run the auto-installer with the option ‘`--show-releases`’: `autoinstaller --show-releases`.

A list of Plesk versions suitable for your operating system will be displayed:

```
PLESK_7_0 (Plesk 7.0.4)
PLESK_7_1_7 (Plesk 7.1.7)
PLESK_7_5_4 (Plesk 7.5.4)
```

Release identifiers are shown on the left, and release names are given in brackets. You will need to use the identifiers when working with the auto-installer. For instance, if you want to install Plesk 7.5.4, you will need to specify the release ID ‘`PLESK_7_5_4`’.

4.2 Decide on the components that you want to install. To retrieve a list of components for the selected product version, use the `--show-components` option. For Plesk 7.5.4 you should type:

```
autoinstaller --select-release-id PLESK_7_5_4 --show-components
```

A list of components will open displaying component identifiers in the left part, and brief descriptions in brackets:

```
base (Base packages of Plesk)
fp (Frontpage 2002 support)
postgresql (PosgreSQL server support)
java (Tomcat Java Servlets support)
asp (ASP support)
```

Therefore, for Plesk 7.5.4 installation comprising the components ‘base’, ‘postgresql’ and ‘asp’, you will need to use the following string of options and arguments: ‘`--select-release-id PLESK_7_5_4 --install-component base --install-component postgresql --install-component asp`’

4.3 If you have set up a local mirror of Plesk updates server (as described in the “Configuring a mirror” section of this guide), you will need to include the following option into the installation script:

```
--source-type network --source <mirror URL>
```

4.4 By default all downloaded packages are stored in the `/root/psa` directory. If you wish to use another directory, you should use the following option:

```
-- target /<directory name>
```

4.5 If you wish to receive installation progress reports by e-mail, you should include the `--notify-email <your e-mail address>` option.

4.6 To avoid being prompted for password each time you connect via SSH to the servers where Plesk should be installed, place your public key to the list of authorized keys of user root on each server (see SSH documentation for details on the procedure).

- 5 Prepare the installation script based on the example below. Replace the options in the example script with the ones you prepared, and specify server names in the ‘`SERVERS_LIST=`’ string separated by white spaces:

```
#!/bin/sh

SERVERS_LIST=node1.example.com node2.example.com

for current_server in $SERVERS_LIST; do
scp psa_installer root@current_server:
ssh -f root@current_server "autoinstaller
--source-type network --source http://updates.example.com/
--target /tmp/plesk
--select-release-id PLESK_7_5_4 --install-component base
--install-component postgresql --install-component asp
--notify-email admin@example.com"
done
```

Run the script. It will copy auto-installer to the specified servers and install Plesk.

CHAPTER 2

Appendix: Auto-installer options

Option	Description and possible arguments
<code>--source-type <local network plesk></code>	Specify the location of Plesk packages: type 'local' for local file system, 'plesk' for the official Plesk update server (the URL is hardcoded in the auto-installer binary), and 'network' for any network server (ftp, http and https protocols are supported).
<code>--source <path url></code>	When retrieving Plesk packages from a local file system, specify the <code>--source</code> VPS dashboard option to point to the file that contains the information on the Plesk build you want to install. When retrieving Plesk packages from a network server, specify the <code>--source <URL></code> option to point to the directory where the mirror of Plesk update server resides.
<code>--target VPS dashboard</code>	By default, the auto-installer saves the retrieved files in the directory <code>/<current user name>/psa</code> . For instance, if auto-installer was executed by user root, the <code>/root/psa</code> directory will be created and used. If you want to use a custom directory for storing the retrieved files, use the <code>--target VPS dashboard</code> option. Example: <code>--target /opt/storage/psa</code>
<code>--proxy-host <network address></code>	When using a proxy server or firewall, use this option to specify proxy server domain name or IP address. Example: <code>--proxy-host proxy.mydomain.org</code>
<code>--proxy-port <port number></code>	Default port for connecting to proxy server is 3128. If your proxy server uses different port number, you should specify it using this option. Example: <code>--proxy-port 5741</code>
Proxy authentication options: <code>--proxy-user <user name></code> <code>--proxy-password <password></code>	If your proxy server requires authentication, you should use these options to authenticate auto-installer at the proxy server. Example: <code>--proxy-user smith --proxy-password f1sZ9AnQ4EnO52</code>
<code>--show-releases</code>	Specify this option to retrieve a list of available releases for the operating system where the auto-installer is executed. You will be given a list of release identifiers and release descriptions. The release identifiers are what you will need to deal with.
<code>--show-all-releases</code>	This option shows all releases available from the Plesk updates server.
<code>--select-release-id <release id></code>	Use this option to specify a release version that you want to install or view properties of.
<code>--select-release-latest</code>	Use this option to select the latest release available for your operating system.

--show-components	Specify this to obtain the information on the components available for the selected release. Components' descriptions and names will be displayed. The component names are what you need to specify when selecting additional components to install.
--install-component <component name>	Use this option to specify the components that you wish to install. If you want to install two or more components at once, repeat this option for each component.
--install-everything	Use this option to install all components of the selected release.
--allow-kernel-install	Use this option if you want to allow kernel upgrade. By default, the auto-installer does not make any kernel upgrades. Note that auto-installer installs new kernels to the system, leaving the older kernel aside so that you can revert to it at any time.
--show-os-list	Use this option to find out what operating systems are supported by the Plesk version you selected.
--mirror-os <OS name from OS list>	This option activates the mirroring feature in auto-installer. If you want to mirror releases for different operating systems, you should specify this option per each operating system.
--notify-email <e-mail address>	Use this option to have the auto-installer send you status reports by email. A successful completion report includes a list of installed/upgraded packages with a detailed log.
--enable-xml-output	This option is designed for communicating with the Plesk control panel, and it may be used for interaction with other applications. When you specify this option, all output of auto-installer is XML-wrapped. Note that this option disallows auto-installer to report errors by exit code. Exit code is always zero and all errors are reported inside XML output.
--query-status	Because RPM database does not allow multiple accesses, auto-installer makes a lock on its functionality. Run this option to find out if auto-installer is active. This will check for a lock, and will return either an exit code (0 - auto-installer is idle, 1 - auto-installer is running and busy), or XML-formatted output.
--check-updates	Specify this option to check the updates server for updates applicable to your Plesk version. A list of releases that you can update or upgrade to will be shown.

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