

Installing Webmin

Webmin is a configuration and management software for Linux that runs in a web browser. This software can manage a host of Linux configuration options. Webmin is not required to run the Linux server being set up but it certainly makes life easier.



Having Webmin is advantageous as it allows the configuration of the Linux box from anywhere in the world.

Obtaining And Installing Webmin

Obtaining Webmin is easy. In fact, it may be installed on the system already. Several Linux distributions now include Webmin as either its primary system administration interface or as an optional package. Also, a large number of Linux hardware vendors use Webmin or a modified version of Webmin as their graphical administration interface. Best of all, because Webmin is free software, even if Webmin is not included, it is only a download away. It can be downloaded from **www.webmin.com**

Installing Webmin

Installation of Webmin differs slightly depending on which type of package has been chosen.

It is available in three forms:

- tar.gz
- rpm
- pkg

Installing from an RPM is easier as only a single command needs to be executed at the Linux Command Prompt:

```
[root@orchid root]# rpm -Uvh webmin-1.050-1.noarch.rpm
```

This will copy all of the Webmin files to the **/usr/libexec/Webmin** and run the install script with appropriate default values. Webmin will then be started on port **10000**. The connection to Webmin can be established through **http://localhost:10000** when a username and password will be prompted. Log in using **root** as the user name and the system root password as the password.

Starting Up Webmin

Logging into Webmin is easy. Open a web browser, such as Netscape or Internet Explorer, on any machine that has network access to the Linux Server. Browse to port 10000 on the IP or hostname of the server (e.g.: **http://localhost:10000**), as shown in diagram 1.1. Having entered the URL, Webmin will respond with either an authentication window, or an authentication web form. This response is used to capture the administrator user name (usually **root** or **admin**) and password. After successful authentication, the Webmin index page prompts a greeting. The type of login form received (either on a web page or in a popup window) depends on the configuration of the Webmin server.

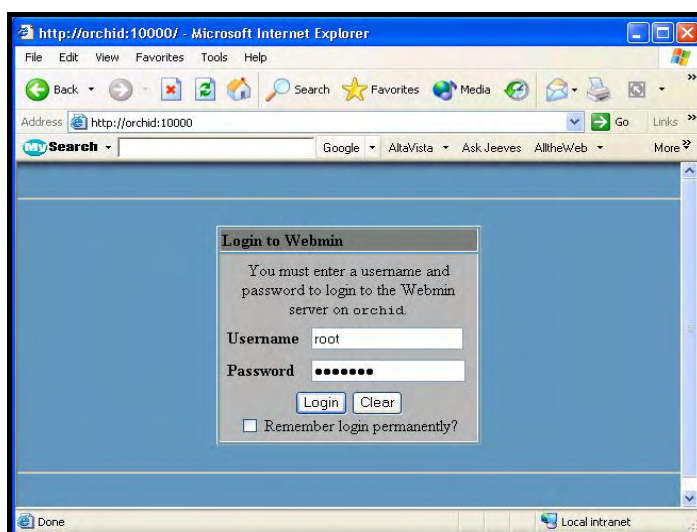


Diagram 1.1

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Changing The Webmin Port From The Command Line

Changing the port on which Webmin runs after installation is also a pretty simple process. Simply edit the file **miniserv.conf** in the **/etc** directory where the Webmin configuration files were installed (this is likely to be one of the following: **/etc/webmin**, **/usr/local/webmin/etc** or **/opt/webmin/etc**). When the port directive is found, change it to whatever port desired for Webmin to listen on and then restart the Webmin web server.

Restarting Webmin From The Command Line

Restarting the Webmin server is usually required when making changes to the **miniserv.conf** file. Some OS versions provide a standard method to stop, start, and restart services, which Webmin often supports. But all versions of Webmin on all OS versions will have start and stop scripts, usually located in the configuration file directory of Webmin. Restarting the Webmin server can be accomplished in a few different ways depending on the OS and version. Under Red Hat Linux and its derivatives, for example, the standard service command would be used:

```
[root@orchid /root]# /sbin/service webmin stop  
[root@orchid /root]# /sbin/service webmin start
```

If the OS does not have a standardized service control tool like service, the standard Webmin stop and start scripts located in the Webmin **etc** directory may be used:

```
[root@orchid /root]# /etc/webmin/stop  
[root@orchid /root]# /etc/webmin/start
```